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CHESSLIFE

June

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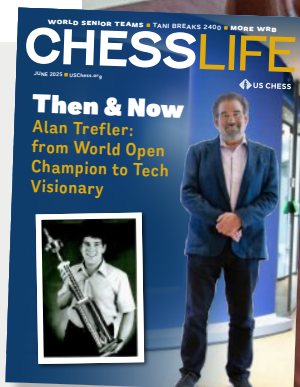
FM Tani Adewumi crosses 2400, his last step toward gaining the IM title.

BY FM TANITOLUWA ADEWUMI

ON THE COVER

Alan Trefler shocked the world in 1975 when he came out of nowhere to tie for first in the World Open. After Trefler left chess for business success, many wondered whether the full tale of his tournament would ever be told. With this cover story, Jon Jacobs has ably filled a gap in American chess history.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM CECIL





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June

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(Cover Story) is working on two books: a biography of Bill Goichberg, the father of U.S. rated scholastic chess, and a collection of brilliant upsets by club players. A top

junior competitor circa 1970, he publishes never-before-told anecdotes about American chess history on his Facebook page, *A Pawn Made Flesh*, inaugurated last December.



DENNIS J. MCGRATH

(First Moves) is a retired Minneapolis Star Tribune reporter and editor. He began playing rated chess in

his 40s, and coached his daughter Cailin's school team, the Glen Lake Knights, to the Minnesota K-6 state championship, where she tied for second place. McGrath is a member of the Chess Castle of Minnesota.



IM STUART RACHELS

(World Senior Teams) is a retired philosophy professor. He capped a glittering career in junior chess with

shared first place in the 1989 U.S. Championship and a mid-table finish at the 1990 Manila Interzonal. His 2020 book *The Best I Saw in Chess* was lauded by the Chess Journalists of America.



FM TANI ADEWUMI

(Over the Top) is one of America's top young chess talents. He has three IM norms to his name and

awaits confirmation of his title from FIDE. As we go to press he has just finished in shared first place in the K-12 Championship at SuperNationals VIII.



RICK MASSIMO

(In Passing, World Senior Teams) is the assistant editor for US Chess publications. He's the author

of two books; he's also working on a novel about a fictional ex-Soviet master, and he lives in Washington, D.C.

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



LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY

▶ WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SCHOLASTIC PLAYERS AND PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK CITY? And why are they doing so well in national competitions?

Jack Moore talks to the movers and shakers in the NYC scholastic scene to find out what's behind their success in a piece you won't want to miss.



ALSO IN JULY: We bring you expert analysis of the 2025 Women's World Championship match from WGM Sabina Foisor, who led our daily coverage at *Chess Life Online*. GM Awonder Liang reports from the Grenke Chess and Freestyle Opens, and learn about WGM Tatev Abrahamyan's love for studies and her new *Chessable* course!



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

Never Too Late

It took Roger Hale more than 70 years to play his first tournament; he has no intention of stopping now.

BY **DENNIS J. MCGRATH**

A

AT THE CONCLUSION OF A Thursday Knighter at the Chess Castle of Minnesota earlier this year, Roger Hale took out his

iPhone and showed a fellow player a photo of himself holding two oversized balloons — one in the shape of a nine; the other, a zero.

The “birthday boy” had just turned 90.

But the fact that this nonagenarian is still playing in tournaments is only part of his remarkable chess journey. He didn’t play his first rated game until he was in his 70s — and his rating peaked in his 80s.

While Roger was a spectacularly late bloomer in terms of rated chess, once he took the plunge he pursued the game with the zeal that comes from making up for lost time. He plays over-the-board weekly, online just about daily, and in occasional weekend events. He has traveled to dozens of out-of-state tournaments from coast to coast. And during his extensive foreign travels, he seeks out parks or other public spaces where chess players gather so he can scratch his chess itch.

The game’s global reach, its ancient history, its complexity, even its difficulty — all have an irresistible pull for him.

“I find that I really enjoy sitting and studying the field of play and trying to figure something out,” Roger said. “I find that a very wonderful way to exercise your mind. But I’m not doing it because I’m exercising my mind. I’m doing it because I really enjoy the activity.”

Chess always intrigued him but as his wife, Nor Hall, put it, the game was “always in the background,” never a priority, during his first seven decades. As a boy, he played many games against his father; he still has — and cherishes — the set they played on.

In high school Roger played against friends, but never took any serious steps.



“Tournament play never entered my vision at all,” he said. “I didn’t even know about tournaments.”

As an ROTC student, he was commissioned as a Navy officer upon graduating from college. On one assignment, his destroyer was positioned in the Pacific to act as a navigational aid for military jets headed to Asia. To help the planes stay on course, the ship had to remain in a roughly one square-mile sector for about a month, an especially tedious task. Fortunately for Roger, a naval doctor had joined the crew, and when it turned out that the doctor was a chess player, Roger pulled out a set he had bought during a port stay in Japan.

The seas were especially rough because of a typhoon in the region, but when Roger and the doctor played, the pieces remained securely on their squares. Like any good player who thinks ahead, Roger had purchased a pegged set.

Chess, Life

After leaving the Navy, Roger attended Harvard Business School, where he continued to play casual games against classmates. Then life intervened.

He joined Tennant Company, which manufactures industrial floor cleaning equipment, and which his maternal great-grandfather had started. Roger eventually took on more and more responsibilities, rising to CEO and leading the company to \$500 million in sales. Outside of work, he was busy raising three daughters, serving on nonprofit and corporate boards, including that of the retail giant Target, and serving on gubernatorial or other public commissions. As such, he found little time for chess.

Even when he turned 65 and stepped down as CEO, chess was not in his retirement plans — until one day when he was vacationing in the Caribbean. At a gathering spot for the resort’s guests, a fellow vacationer asked: Does anyone here play chess?

“And so immediately I stick up my hand,” Roger recalled. “And he and I started playing ... I enjoyed playing with the fellow so much, I thought, ‘Gee, maybe I should take this up.’”

Back home, and 10 days after his 72nd birthday, Roger walked into the Chess Castle of Minnesota and played in his first tournament. He admits to being nervous about venturing into the club, but he also was brimming with the false optimism and overconfidence of the uninitiated.

“I had this idea that well, you know, I’ve been a very successful CEO; I’ve been on the board of directors of four or five major companies; I’ve been on all kinds of community activities and so on, so it won’t be too hard to master the game of chess,” he

recalled, laughing at the notion. “Well, I enjoyed it, but I found out very quickly that one’s professional background doesn’t give you any indication whether a person is a good chess player or not.”

Not surprisingly, Roger finished at or near the bottom of most of his early tournaments. At first, that didn’t sit well with him.

“He would be so upset that he’d be beaten by these little children,” Nor said. “It would affect his mood; the next morning he’d be kind of low. ... But the next day it would turn around and he’d be excited. [He finds] tremendous pleasure in the game and that would just bubble right back up to the surface after a loss.”

Dan Voje, who has directed thousands of tournaments, was the TD for Roger’s first rated event. Dan was impressed not just by Roger’s gumption to begin rated play in his 70s, but by the fact that he didn’t give up.

Dan said he’s seen many a college kid and adult get crushed in their first outing and not return — or sometimes even quit mid-tournament.

“But Roger kept coming back,” Dan said, likening him (in a complimentary way) to “an old man taking up ice skating. Imagine how many times you’d fall down out there. ... You have to be a tough guy to do that.”

A Place to Play

Roger could have been forgiven for not coming back for reasons having nothing to do with wins and losses: When he first showed up, the Chess Castle was at its nadir, hav-

ing lost its lease and relocated to a dark, noisy, cramped, all-around horrible and uninviting space. Attendance plummeted.

Aghast at the playing conditions, the retired CEO put his leadership skills to work, finding a spacious, airy location, negotiating a long-term lease and, all in all, resuscitating the club. He generously spent his own money to help pay club expenses, and topped it off by announcing — at his induction into the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame in 2022 — that he was donating \$50,000 to the Castle.

Roger has stepped down from his official club duties, but he continues to play each week at the Castle’s Thursday Knight, and occasionally in weekend events.

And proving that chess isn’t just for the peach-fuzz set, Roger upped his game through his 70s, hitting a peak US Chess rating of 1546 just before he turned 81 — a true accomplishment for such a late starter.

And while chess used to just hover in the background, it is now front and center. When he and Nor travel, she said, trips can’t start until Friday morning, so that Roger can play in the Thursday Knight. And while their vacations aren’t built around chess, Roger manages to navigate to public places where there are boards and pieces. He’s played casual games in Paris, Havana, Edinburgh, Holland, and the Balkans, to name just a few. On a family trip to Mexico, Roger discovered that taxi drivers played chess at their cab stand between fares.



“I got so involved in playing chess with a couple of guys at the taxi stand ... that I forgot about meeting up with my family. The kids were looking all over for me and finally found me at the taxi stand,” he recalled.

Roger has long ago gotten over the shock of facing little kids across the board. In fact, one of his favorite photos (seen above) is of himself posing after a game with Alice Lee, who is now 15 and an IM, but who at the time of their game stood about half his height and, at age 6, was a whopping 75 years his junior.

“It’s a perfect example of the breadth and range of chess, which is why I like the game so much,” he said.

What advice does Roger have for casual players who are perhaps long in the tooth and hesitant to leap into tournament play?

“Don’t be discouraged if you lose a game, because every chess player loses a lot of games,” he said. “I mean, If I got too discouraged or disheartened by losing games, I wouldn’t be playing any more ... My advice is for people to just grit their teeth and dive in.”

How long does Roger think he’ll continue to play?

“Well, as long as I can,” he said. “My mental powers in a general way seem to be OK, although a rival on the chess board would certainly be aware of the fact that this is not a very strong player. But the fact is I enjoy it tremendously and so I will keep playing as long as I can.” ♦



PHOTOS: COURTESY ROGER HALE

2025 Scholar-Chessplayer Awards Announced

Six Players Honored at SuperNationals VIII

THE US CHESS FEDERATION (US CHESS) AND THE U.S. CHESS TRUST (USCT), both independent 501(c)(3) organizations, are pleased to announce six recipients of the 2025 Scholar-Chessplayer Awards. This includes the winner of the new category introduced in 2022, Scholastic Chess Ambassador, which acknowledges lower-rated but deserving chess scholars.

The Scholar-Chessplayer Awards recognize and encourage outstanding high school juniors and seniors who promote a positive image of chess while excelling in academics and leadership. A total of \$9,000 in scholarship money is being awarded this year. Each recipient will receive \$1,500.

All Scholar-Chessplayer Awards are funded through the U.S. Chess Trust, with a significant contribution from the National Scholastic Chess Foundation. The USCT's vision is that one day every American, from schoolkid to senior citizen, will have the opportunity to learn chess and enjoy its many mental and social benefits.

We extend our thanks to the US Chess Scholastic Committee members who reviewed and evaluated all the applications.

2025 SCHOLAR-CHESSPLAYERS

IM Nico Chasin (2515), 12th grade, New York, New York

FM Jonathan Chen (2265), 11th grade, Diamond Bar, California

IM Evan Park (2521), 11th grade, Wexford, Pennsylvania

FM Vishnu Vanapalli (2408), 12th grade, Charlotte, North Carolina

WCM Vanessa Zhou (2005), 11th grade, Newberry Park, California

2025 AMBASSADORS

WCM Anika Rajaram (1960), 11th grade, San Jose, California

To qualify, applicants must be US Chess members who satisfy these requirements:

- Play at least 25 regular-rated US Chess or FIDE games during the current academic year;
- Show outstanding achievement in academics and chess (Scholastic Chess Ambassadors are not required to be highly rated);
- Have completed at least one year of chess-related community service since starting the ninth grade;
- Describe in an essay of 500 words how being selected as a 2025 Scholar-Chessplayer will enable the recipient to further their education, improve their chess, and allow them to continue contributing to the chess community.

Congratulations to all the 2025 Scholar-Chessplayers!

For more information, please visit www.uschess.org, www.uschesstrust.org, and www.nscf-chess.org. The US Chess Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) organization independent of US Chess.

US CHESS ANNOUNCES NEW EVENTS MANAGER AND NEW GRAPHIC DESIGN ASSISTANT

US CHESS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the addition of Events Manager Erik Czerwin. Erik will be working in the Events Department on national events including the U.S. Open, national scholastic championships, invitational tournaments, and director certification, among other responsibilities. US Chess is excited to add Erik's experience, versatility and knowledge to our staff.

His chess journey began in 2005 as a teacher, coaching as an extracurricular activity. Over his teaching tenure, he has coached in Peoria, Marengo, and Rockford, Illinois. He has also supported and grown scholastic chess programs across the state as secretary of the Illinois Chess Coaches Association. Working in that position, Erik fell in love with directing tournaments and has worked dozens of chess events every year since. In 2024, he left teaching to help Wildman Rocketry launch their in-house fiberglass manufacturing, while maintaining his chess work every weekend.

Erik is thrilled to join US Chess as events manager: "Chess improvement is self-improvement, and coaching chess players makes magic happen. I'll always do whatever I can to support an enriching chess experience for everyone." He devotes himself to chess with inexhaustible effort and deep passion because he believes chess elevates people and communities in ways nothing else can.

US Chess is also pleased to announce the addition of Graphic Design Assistant Brandon Barnes. Brandon will work in the Communications Department to support our marketing and communications efforts by creating engaging visuals for digital and print media. US Chess is excited to welcome Brandon's expertise and talents to our staff.

Brandon is an accomplished designer who has been working in the graphic design field since 2016. Before that, he operated two art galleries and owned a local music venue. As a child, his parents introduced him to chess at a young age and started his lifelong interest in games of strategy. A (mostly) St. Louis native, he received his BFA in 2010 and still enjoys making art in his spare time. Outside of art he also enjoys gardening, cooking, and traveling.

ATTENTION VOTING MEMBERS

The US Chess Governance Office is preparing for the 2025 Election to determine the members of the Executive Board. As part of this process we work to ensure all registered voters have the chance to participate.

The US Chess Governance Office is preparing for the 2025 Election to determine the members of the Executive Board. As part of this process we work to ensure all registered voters have the chance to participate.

All ballots will be sent via email this year. Therefore, any voter must have a valid email address to participate.

Please visit your user dashboard to check your voter registration. Confirm that the email address is accurate, and, most importantly, that your email preferences allow you to receive messages.

Do not hesitate to contact governance@uschess.org if you have any questions or re-

quire further assistance. You may also call us at (931) 248-6064.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Statements for the candidates for election to the US Chess Executive Board are now available online.

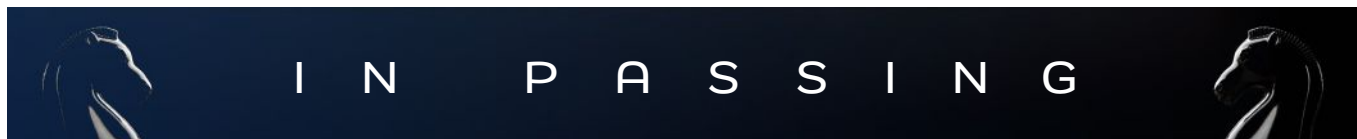
After a change to US Chess Bylaws enacted at the 2024 Delegates meeting, statements from candidates nominated for election to the Executive Board are no longer printed in *Chess Life*. Instead, each candidate is provided opportunity to publish their statements online. Each candidate will be provided space for a 150-word statement by April 10, followed by two 500-word statements no later than May 10 and June 10.

Five candidates — Anand Dommalapati, Alan Kantor, Kevin Pryor, John D. Rockefeller V, and Daniel Serna — are running

for four at-large positions on the Executive Board. All candidate statements can be found at the US Chess elections page: new.uschess.org/2025-election-information. The direct link to the candidate statements is new.uschess.org/2025-candidate-statements.

A voting member for this election is any current US Chess member (active as of June 1, 2025) whose membership expires on or after June 30, 2025; who will be age 16 or older as of June 30, 2025, and who registers to vote by June 1, 2025. Members with memberships of less than one year's duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members. The election will be conducted by electronic ballot; to vote, members must have an email address on file with US Chess.

Emails with voting instructions will be distributed around June 10, 2025, to voting members who are registered to vote as of June 1, 2025. Returned ballots will be counted in July. Terms of elected board members will begin at the conclusion of the 2025 delegates' meeting.



GM Fridrik Olafsson

1935-2025

BY **RICK MASSIMO**

▶ GM FRIDRIK OLAFSSON, ONE OF THE pioneers of Icelandic chess and the fourth president of FIDE, died April 12. He was 90.

Born in Reykjavik, Olafsson won the Icelandic championship six times, the first at age 17. Other early highlights of his career include a tie for first with GM Viktor Korchnoi at the 1955-56 Hastings tournament. (Remarkably, as with GM Vlastimil Hort, also appreciated in this issue, Olafsson also had to spend a night in jail before Hastings because he had nowhere else to go.) A shared fifth place at the 1958 Portoroz Interzonal qualified him for the Candidates Tournament and gave him his grandmaster title.

He also played for Iceland in eight Olympiads, winning the gold medal for Board 1 in 1962, but the idea of a professional player from Iceland wasn't practical during his youth; he



Olafsson at the
Berg en Dal
Zonal, 1960

continued his studies in the law and eventually worked for Iceland's Justice Department.

But the Fischer-Spassky match held in Reykjavik in 1972 produced a chess boom in Iceland, and soon Olafsson had the support he needed to commit to the game.

He won the Hoogovens tournament in Beverwijk — the forerunner of the Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee — in 1976.

In 1978, Olafsson was elected president of FIDE; his term was dominated by the conflict between defector Viktor Korchnoi and the Soviet regime, which, among other things, jailed Korchnoi's son on the eve of the grandmaster's second World Championship match, against Anatoly Karpov in Merano in 1981. Olafsson took a role in the negotiations, delaying the match so negotiations could continue.

Korchnoi's son was freed after it was over; the Soviets, and the bloc of votes they effectively controlled in FIDE, held Olafsson's stance against him, and he was defeated in 1983 by Florencio Campomanes, who presided over FIDE for more than 20 years. Olafsson returned to tournament play, albeit at a slower pace; from 1984 to 2005 he was secretary general of the Icelandic Parliament.

Olafsson won two games over future world champion Bobby Fischer. He also beat former world champions Mikhail Tal and Tigran Petrosian twice each, and took a game from sitting world champion Karpov in 1980, while Olafsson was FIDE president. The breadth of his skill is remarkable — sacrificing the Exchange against Fischer, uncorking a beautiful tactical flourish against Tal, grinding down Petrosian in a rook endgame, and positionally dominating Karpov:

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, RAGOZIN VARIATION (D38)

IM Fridrik Olafsson

IM Bobby Fischer

Interzonal (11), Portoroz, 08.22.1958

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. d4 Bb4 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 c5 8. e3 Nc6 9. Rc1 c4 10. Be2 Be6 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Nd2 Be7 13. b3 g5 14. Bg3 Ba3

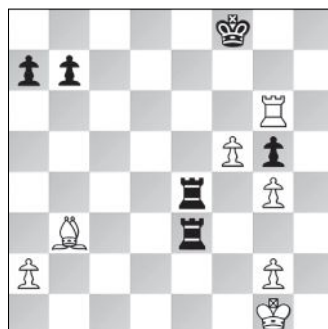
(see diagram top of next column)

15. Rc2 Nb4 16. bxc4 Nxc2 17. Qxc2 dxc4 18. Nb5 Bb4 19. Nc7 Bxd2 20. Nxe6 fxe6 21. Bxc4 Qe8 22. Qxd2 Ne4 23. Qd3 Nxc3 24. hxg3 Rf6 25. Qe4 Rc8 26. Bb3 Qd7 27. Rd1 Re8 28. f4 Qh7 29. Qe5 Qf5 30. g4 Qxe5 31. dxe5 Rf7 32. f5 Rc7 33. Rd6



POSITION AFTER 14. ... Ba3

Rc5 34. Bxe6+ Kf8 35. Bb3 Rxe5 36. Rxh6 Rxe3 37. Rg6 R8e4



38. Rxg5 Rg3 39. Rg8+ Ke7 40. g5 Re2 41. Bd5 Kd6 42. Bf3 Rxa2 43. f6 Ke6 44. Re8+, Black resigned.

PIRC DEFENSE (B06)

GM Mikhail Tal

GM Fridrik Olafsson

Las Palmas (11), 04.19.1975

1. e4 d6 2. d4 g6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Qe2 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. c3 e5 7. Bb5 exd4 8. cxd4 Nd7 9. Be3 Bg7 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Nbd2 0-0 12. Rc1 c5 13. dxc5 Bxb2 14. Rc2 Bg7 15. 0-0 Re8 16. Rd1 Nxc5 17. Bxc5 dxc5 18. Rxc5 Qd6 19. Rdc1 Bh6 20. Rxc7 Rad8 21. R1c2 Bxd2 22. Qxd2



22. ... Qf4 23. Re7 Rf8 24. Qa5 Rd1+ 25. Ne1 Qg5, White resigned.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, RAGOZIN VARIATION (D38)

GM Fridrik Olafsson

GM Tigran Petrosian

Candidates Tournament (8), Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade, 09.18.1959

1. c4 e6 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 Bb4 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Qa4+ Nc6 9. e3 0-0 10. Be2 Be6 11. 0-0 a6 12. Rfc1 Bd6 13. Qd1 Ne7 14. Na4 b6 15. Nc3 Rfb8 16. a4 Nc6

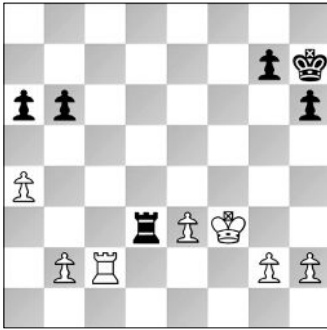


17. e4 dxe4 18. Nxe4 Qf4 19. d5 Qxe4 20. dxe6 Rd8 21. exf7+ Kxf7 22. Qe1 Kf8 23. Rc4 Qe8 24. Rac1 Ne5 25. Re4 Nxf3+ 26. Bxf3 Qf7 27. Re3 Bf4 28. Bxa8 Bxe3 29. fxe3 Rxa8 30. Qg3 Kg8 31. Rxc7 Qf6 32. Qf2 Qe5 33. Rd7 Re8 34. Rd3 Qe4 35. Qc2 Kh7 36. Qd1 Re6 37. Rc3 Rg6 38. Qc2 Qxc2



Olafsson at Wijk aan Zee, 1976

39. Rxc2 Rd6 40. Kf2 Rd3 41. Kf3



41. ... Rb3 42. Ke4 a5 43. Kd4 g5 44. e4 Kg7 45. Rf2 Rb4+ 46. Kd5 Rxa4 47. e5 Ra1 48. e6 b5 49. e7 Rd1+ 50. Kc6 Re1 51. Kxb5 Re5+ 52. Ka4 Rxe7 53. Kxa5 Ra7+ 54. Kb4 Ra8 55. b3 h5 56. Kc5 Rc8+ 57. Kd6 Rd8+ 58. Kc6 Rc8+ 59. Kd7 Rc1 60. Rb2 Rh1 61. b4 Rxh2 62. b5 Rh1 63. b6 Rd1+ 64. Ke6 Rd8 65. b7 Rb8 66. Kf5, Black resigned.

ENGLISH OPENING, SYMMETRICAL VARIATION (A32)

GM Fridrik Olafsson
GM Anatoly Karpov
Buenos Aires, 1980

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. Nf3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Qc7 6. Qd3 a6 7. Bg2 Nc6 8. Nxc6 dxc6 9. 0-0 Be7 10. Qb3 e5 11. Be3 Nd7 12. Nc3 Nc5 13. Qc2 Bg4 14. b4 Nd7 15. b5 0-0 16. bxc6 bxc6 17. Rab1 Be6 18. Qa4 Rfc8 19. Rfc1 Nc5 20. Qc2 g6 21. Ne4 Bf5 22. Bxc5 Bxc5 23. Rb3 Be7 24. Rcb1 Rab8 25. h4 a5 26. Kh2 Rb4 27. a3 Rxb3 28. Qxb3 Rd8 29. e3 Qd7 30. Qc3 Qc7 31. Rb2 Rd1



32. c5 Be6 33. Rb6 Bd5 34. Qxa5 Qd7 35. Qa8+ Kg7 36. Rb7 Qe6 37. Qe8 Bxe4 38. Bxe4 Qf6 39. Qxe7 Qxf2+ 40. Bg2, Black resigned.

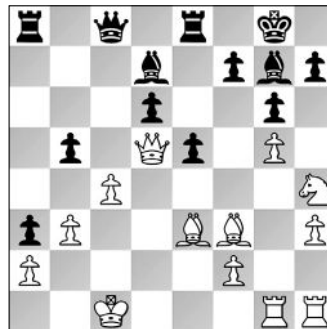
The next game was awarded the brilliancy prize at Hastings 1953/54, and was featured

on the cover of the Swedish chess magazine *Tidskrift för Schack* with no fewer than four diagrams to adorn it. The headline, according to Jürgen Brustkern and Norbert Wallet in *The Chess Battles of Hastings: Stories and Games of the Oldest Chess Tournament in the World*, was “Volcanic game of chess!” — a reference to the volcanic island homes of Wade (New Zealand) and Olafsson (Iceland).

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E71)

IM Robert Wade
Fridrik Olafsson
Hastings (9), 01.08.1954

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 0-0 5. Be3 d6 6. h3 e5 7. d5 Nbd7 8. Bd3 Nh5 9. g3 Nc5 10. Bc2 a5 11. Qe2 Bd7 12. 0-0-0 a4 13. Nf3 Qc8 14. Rdg1 a3 15. b3 Na6 16. Qd2 Re8 17. Nh4 Nb4 18. Bd1 Nf6 19. g4 c6 20. g5 Nfxd5 21. Nxd5 Nxd5 22. exd5 cxd5 23. Qxd5 b5 24. Bf3



24. ... e4 25. Bxe4 Ra6 26. Qb7 Rxe4 27. Qxe4 bxc4 28. b4 Bb2+ 29. Kb1 d5 30. Qxd5 Rd6 31. Qe4 c3 32. Rc1 Bc6 33. Qc4 Qb7 34. f3 Bb5 35. Qf4 Bd3+ 36. Rc2 Qd5 37. Rhh2 Bc4 38. Rxb2 axb2 39. Rxb2 Qd1+ 40. Bc1 Bd3+, White resigned.

And we can't resist showing the wild game the 72-year-old Olafsson won against 17-year-old IM Vincent Rothuis in 2007:

PIRC DEFENSE (B06)

IM Vincent Rothuis (2441)
GM Fridrik Olafsson (2452)
Arnhem (7), 08.24.2007

1. e4 g6 2. h4 h6 3. f4 Nf6 4. e5 Nh5 5. f5 d6 6. e6 fxe6 7. fxg6 Ng3 8. Rh3 Nxf1 9. Qf3 Kd7 10. Qf7 Nc6 11. g7

(see diagram top of next column)

11. ... Bxg7 12. Qxg7 Rg8 13. Qc3 Rxg2 14. Kxf1 Qg8 15. Ne2 Rg4 16. d3 b6



POSITION AFTER 11. g7

17. Bxh6 Bb7 18. Nd2 Nd4 19. Ne4 Nxe2 20. Kxe2 Bxe4 21. dxe4 Rxe4+ 22. Kd3 Qg2 23. Qd2 Qxh3+ 24. Kxe4 d5+ 25. Kf4 Qxh4+ 26. Ke5 Qf6 mate. ♖

GM Vlastimil Hort

1944-2025

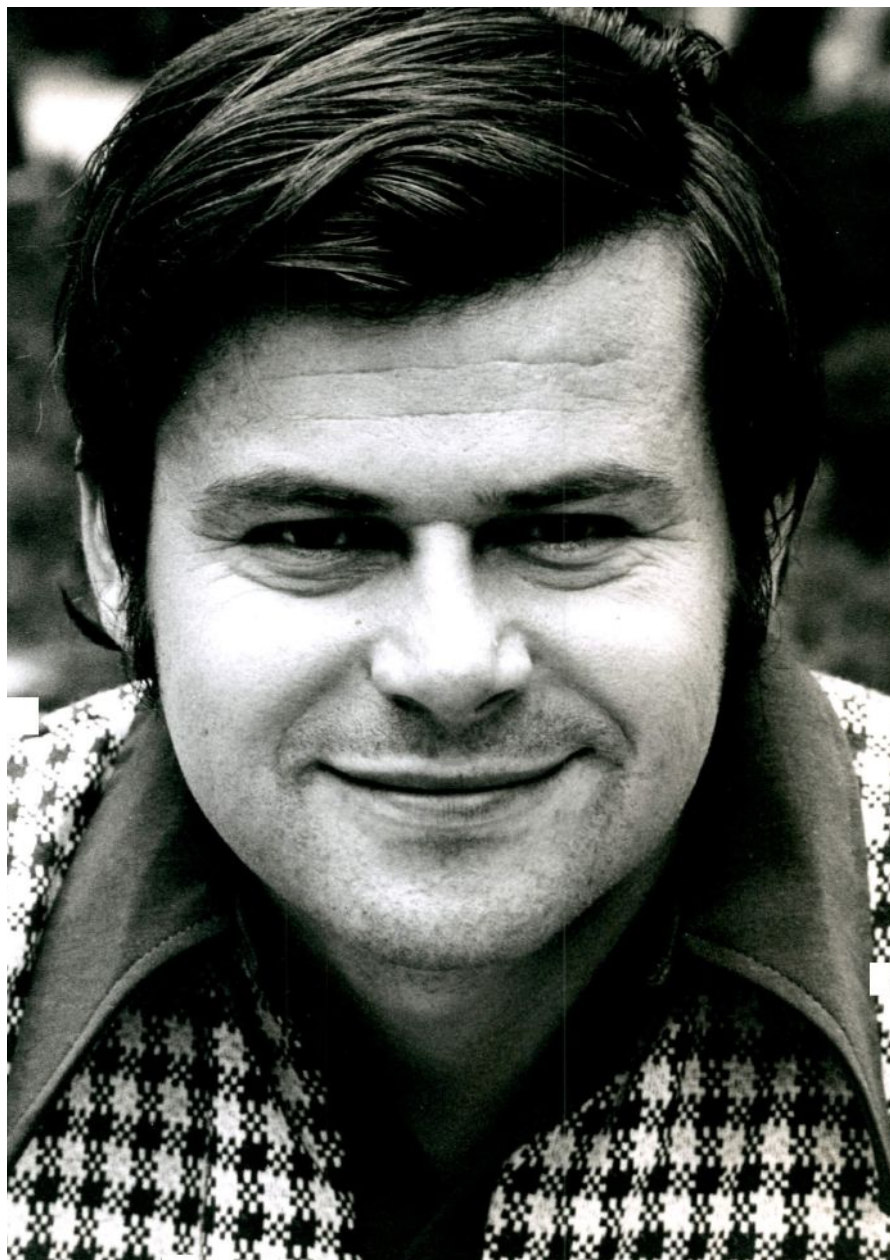
BY RICK MASSIMO

GM VLASTIMIL HORT, ONE OF THE strongest and busiest players in the world during the 1970s and 1980s, died May 12. He was 81.

Born in Kladno, in what became known as Czechoslovakia and is now the Czech Republic, Hort said he learned how to play chess from a doctor during a hospital stay at age 5. He played for the Czech team at the Leipzig Olympiad in 1960 — the first of 11 such appearances — and became a grandmaster in 1965.

In 1970, Hort played on Board 4 in the USSR vs. the Rest of the World match; he peaked at No. 6 in the world in 1977, the same year he played a quarterfinal Candidates match against Boris Spassky. The penultimate game, played as part of a tiebreaker, was probably his best-known: With the score tied, Hort had a winning position with Black, but froze as the last minute drained from his clock. Spassky went up a point, drew the final game and advanced. At the time, Hort called the loss “the blackest day of my life,” and as late as last year he referred to it as the biggest disappointment in his career.

It's perhaps less known that during the match in Reykjavik, Spassky needed to have his appendix taken out, used up all his tim-



Left: Hort in an undated photo from the US Chess archives.

eouts and still hadn't recovered; he would have forfeited the match if Hort hadn't used one of his own timeouts to give his opponent a chance to recuperate and continue. It's perhaps even less known that Hort recovered from the demoralizing defeat in a way few players could even imagine, much less manage: Two days after the match he played a simultaneous against 51 players, then two days later played a then-record 550 opponents over more than 24 hours, also in Reykjavik. (Hort was no stranger to massive exhibitions, later holding the record with more than 600 opponents.)

He said often that he would have left Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion of 1968 (as did future three-time U.S. Champion

Lubomir Kavalek), but wanted to wait until his son had come of age. Hort won six Czech championships between 1969 and 1977, and three West German championships, the last in 1991. He also won the World Senior Chess960 Championship in 2006.

In his commentary on the 1977 Candidates match for *Chess Life & Review*, Kavalek wrote that when they were young players in then-Czechoslovakia, Hort "preferred defensive chess. ... Positions that seemed undefendable for others were quite playable for him. As a teenager I did not really understand how he could play as he did. ... His play was almost too original to be followed by other juniors, and nobody wanted to go through the many terrifying moments

that he was willing to endure. Even now, Vlastimil does not have any followers in Czechoslovakia to copy his style."

But around 1970, Kavalek wrote, Hort diversified his style, and became more ambitious: "There had been times when he would relax after a successful start in a tournament and draw the rest of his games. But now he wanted everything. [Starting in 1975] he was going after first prizes without compromise. He had the guts, the knowledge and the experience to do it successfully."

Hort spent more than 20 years as a chess commentator on German television, and his penchant for telling stories about the games, tournaments and players of his heyday never dimmed — he compiled them in a book and was a frequent commentator on ChessBase.

Hort did an unmissable interview in 2021 with the Perpetual Chess podcast in which he recalled his arrival in England in 1967 for the Hastings tournament — without any money from the Czech federation, he had to sleep in a London park while waiting for the train to the Hastings tournament and was grateful to be picked up by the police. He also recounted his departure for Germany (folding \$200 into his passport for an airport official to "find") and much more.

His winning personality and love of the game were such that ChessBase's Andre Schultz remarked, "If Vlastimil Hort did not exist, one would have to invent him."

"Chess is beautiful," Hort once said, "and it gives you always some idea that maybe you are not so old."

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E18)

IM Werner Hug

GM Vlastimil Hort

20th Olympiad (14), Skopje, 10.11.1972

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. g3 b6 4. Bg2 Bb7 5. 0-0 Be7 6. d4 0-0 7. Nc3 Ne4 8. Nxe4 Bxe4 9. Bf4 d6 10. Qd2 Nd7 11. Rfd1 h6 12. Ne1 f5 13. Bxe4 fxe4 14. Qc2 Nf6 15. f3 g5 16. Be3 Qe8 17. Kg2 Qh5 18. h3 Qg6 19. Rac1 Rf7 20. fxe4 g4 21. h4 e5 22. Qd3 Nxe4 23. Nc2 Raf8 24. Bg1 Bxh4 25. gxh4

(see diagram top of next page)

25. ... Rf3 26. Ne3 Rg3+ 27. Kh1 Rf2, White resigned.



POSITION AFTER 25. gxh4

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, ORTHODOX DEFENSE (D63)

GM Vlastimil Hort (2590)
GM Lajos Portisch
Madrid (4), 11.30.1973

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Be7
5. Bg5 0-0 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Rc1 a6 8. c5 c6
9. Bd3 b6 10. cxb6 Qxb6 11. 0-0 Qxb2 12.
Na4 Qb7 13. Ne5 c5 14. Nxd7 Bxd7



15. Nxc5 Bxc5 16. Bxf6 gxf6 17. Qg4+
Kh8 18. Qh4 f5 19. Qf6+ Kg8 20. Qg5+
Kh8 21. Qf6+ Kg8 22. dxc5 Bc6 23. Qg5+
Kh8 24. Qf6+ Kg8 25. Rb1 Qc7 26. Rb4
Ra7 27. Qg5+ Kh8 28. Qf6+ Kg8 29. Rfb1
Bb5



30. Rg4+ fxg4 31. Qg5+ Kh8 32. Qh6 a5,
and Black resigned.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B19)

GM Vlastimil Hort (2590)
GM Murray Chandler (2470)
Wijk aan Zee (7), 01.23.1982

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5
5. Ng3 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. Nf3 Nd7 8. h5 Bh7
9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 e6 11. Bd2 Ngf6 12.
0-0-0 Be7 13. Ne4 a5 14. Kb1 Nxe4 15.
Qxe4 Nf6 16. Qd3 Qd5 17. Rde1 b5 18.
Ne5 0-0 19. g4 c5 20. g5 c4 21. Qg3 hxg5
22. Bxg5 Ne4



23. Rxe4 Bxg5 24. Qxg5 f6 25. h6, Black
resigned.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, CLOSED VARIATION (B25)

GM Boris Spassky (2590)
GM Vlastimil Hort (2545)
Bundesliga, 12.22.1985

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7
5. d3 e5 6. Nge2 Nge7 7. 0-0 d6 8. a3 0-0
9. Rb1 f5 10. Bd2 a5 11. a4 Be6 12. Nd5
h6 13. c3 Kh7 14. Be3 Bf7 15. f4 Nxd5
16. exd5 Ne7 17. Qb3 b6 18. Rbe1 Ra7
19. c4 Ng8 20. fxe5 Bxe5 21. d4 Bg7 22.
dxc5 bxc5 23. Nc3 Re7 24. Nb5 Rfe8 25.
Bd2 Be5 26. g4 Nf6 27. gxf5 gxf5 28.
Rxf5



28. ... Bd4+ 29. Nxd4 Rxe1+ 30. Bxe1
Rxe1+ 31. Kf2 Qe7 32. Rxf6 Qxf6+ 33.
Kxe1 Qxd4 34. Qg3 Qxc4 35. Qxd6
Qc1+ 36. Kf2 Qxb2+ 37. Kg3 Qg7+ 38.
Kf2 Qd4+ 39. Kg3 Kg7 40. Qf4 Qxf4+
41. Kxf4 Kf6 42. Be4 c4 43. d6 Be8 44.
Bd5 Bxa4 45. Bxc4 Bc6 46. Ba2 a4 47.
Bc4 Bd7 48. Ke3 a3 49. Kd4 Be6 50. d7
Bxd7 51. Kc3 Be6 52. Be2, and White
resigned. ♡

To read more about and from Hort, visit his
ChessBase author page at en.chessbase.com/tagged?tag=Vlastimil%20Hort. You can
learn more about Olafsson in his 2021 book
The Chess of Fridrik Olafsson, co-authored
with Oystein Brekke.



Right: Spassky stops the clock in a game
from his 1977 match with Hort. Spassky won
the match by a score of 8½-7½.

Speed Bumping

Can you rope-a-dope an opening?

BY **GM ANDY SOLTIS**



IF YOU WERE WATCHING THE World Rapid and Blitz Championships in New York you might have been shocked by games

like this.

IRREGULAR OPENING (A00)

GM Robert Hungaski
FM Harold Wanyama
 World Blitz Ch (4), New York,
 12.30.2024

1. h3!? e5 2. e3 d5



Most of the games you may find in databases with this provocative opening were played in the Wall Street speed tournaments. For example, a rapid game, Hungaski – GM Sergey Erenburg, went 3. d4 Nd7 4. Nf3 e4 5. Ng1!? and ended in a draw.

GM Joel Benjamin did not even try to refute Hungaski's 1. h3. He played 1. ... d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. Nf3 g6 4. c4 c6 5. b3 Bg7 and lost after a middlegame blunder.

3. d4 Nc6 4. Bb5 e4 5. c4 a6 6. Bxc6+ bxc6 7. Nc3 Qg5! 8. g3 Nf6 9. Qa4 Bd7 10. c5 h5 11. Bd2

Black's kingside attacking chances look so promising in this position that computer-recommended moves such as 11. ... Be7

and 11. ... 0-0 don't look good enough. Surely he can punish White for 1. h3, can't he?

11. ... h4?? 12. g4 Ng8 13. 0-0-0 f5 14. f4 exf3? e.p. 15. e4!

Suddenly Black is lost (15. ... Qd8 16. exf5 and Nxf3-e5, for example).

15. ... f4 16. Nxf3 Qf6 17. Rde1 Kd8 18. Rhf1 g5 19. Ne5 Be8 20. Qb3! Ne7 21. Qb7 Rc8 22. exd5 Rh6 23. Ne4 Qg7 24. d6 Nd5 25. Nxc6+ Bxc6 26. Qxc6 Nb4 27. Bxb4 Qxd4 28. Nc3, Black resigned.

In the World Rapid Championship, GM Brandon Jacobson beat GM Hikaru Nakamura with 1. a4!?. In another game from the blitz tournament, GM Awonder Liang defeated GM Jose Ibarra Jerez by starting with 1. b3, 2. Bb2, 3. e3, 4. d3, 5. Nd2, 6. a3, 7. g3, 8. Bg2, 9. Ne2, and 10. h3. In these games White's moves looked like the kind Black might adopt — if Black was playing passively.

You might chalk this up to the time control. After all, White can get away with an awful lot in a speed game.

But this also reflects a historical pattern: In matters of strategy — such as chess, war, and competitive sports — there is a constant struggle between offensive thinking and defensive thinking. In some eras, the offense has the upper hand. In others, the defense does.

If we look at chess history, the greatest shifts in the balance between offense and defense have occurred when rules were changed. The reason is that new rules tend to benefit one side or the other.

For example, chess was once a glacial game of maneuvering, because the queen could only move one square diagonally. When the queen acquired its modern powers, it became an attacking game.

But other rule changes have benefitted the

defense. One was *en passant*, which reduced the impact of a two-square pawn advance.

Another defense-friendly rule was the “king's leap,” what we call castling. Here's an ancient example.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B33)

Anonymous
A. Severino
 Naples, 1723

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. Nd5 d6 5. c3 f5 6. exf5 Bxf5 7. Bb5 Qd7 8. d4 cxd4 9. cxd4



When this was played, the castling rule varied from country to country. One version allowed a three-square “leap.” So Black castled queenside by moving his king to b8 and his a8-rook to e8.

But internet databases have trouble with irregular rules. If you look up this game you may find the game score fudged to look like this:

9. ... 0-0-0 10. Ng1 Kb8 11. Nf3 Re8 12. dxe5? Nxe5 13. Bxd7?? Nxf3+ 14. Kf1 Bd3+ 15. Qxd3 Re1 mate.

The last major change in rules was the introduction of faster and faster time controls.

QUIZ FOR JUNE

▶ **ARON NIMZOVICH** WAS one of the world's top five players and Akiba Rubinstein was number eight when they shared first prize in the great Marienbad 1925 tournament 100 years ago this month. They were soon joined in the top 10 by Mexico's greatest player, Carlos Torre Repetto, who tied for third place. In this month's quiz you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play in six positions from Marienbad. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material. For solutions, see page 64.

PROBLEM 1 David Janowski Aron Nimzovich



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2 Rudolf Spielmann Savielly Tartakower



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3 Reginald Michell George Thomas



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4 Karel Opočenský August Haida



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5 Akiba Rubinstein Savielly Tartakower



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6 Carlos Torre Repetto Frank Marshall



BLACK TO MOVE

Conventional wisdom predicted this would benefit offense: A defender would have less time to think.

But there is evidence that it helps the defense more: You can win a lot of one-minute bullet games by just keeping your pieces protected and moving quickly. By the time your opponent finds good attacking moves, their flag falls.

That raises a question: How defensively can you play today and still have realistic chances of winning? Vladimir Kramnik gave us an answer in the 2000 World Championship match.

"Normally when you fight you don't want your opponent to have some advantage," he said afterwards. "But I gave some advantage from the beginning."

Kramnik chose a surprise answer to champion Garry Kasparov's Ruy Lopez, 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5. He played the Berlin Defense (3... Nf6!?) at a time when grandmasters considered it foolishly passive. Kramnik was willing to suffer for the first 15 or so moves because the Berlin can absorb a lot of punishment.

This was compared to Muhammad Ali's "rope-a-dope" strategy of wearing out hard-punching opponents. "Very good analogy!" Kramnik said.

The great Danish GM Bent Larsen suggested that the rope-a-dope can also work for White: If you play a normal opening, Black may play carefully and equalize, he said. If he equalizes, the game is likely to end in a draw. But "if you obtain a slightly inferior position then you have a good chance to win!" Larsen said. Here is one of his last games.

IRREGULAR OPENING (A00)

GM Bent Larsen
Clemente Curatola
Olavarria, 12.08.2008

1. e3 f5 2. b4 e5 3. Bb2 d6 4. Nh3!? Nf6 5. f4



Larsen grew up studying the Hypermodern treatment of the center in Aron Nimzovich's games, and these moves are very Nimzovichian.

Today's skeptical computers suspect Black is at least equal after 5... Nbd7 or 5... Ng4.

5... e4 6. Be2 d5 7. a3 Bd6 8. O-O c5?

This is the same kind of psychological mistake we saw in the Hungaski-Wanyama game. Black tries to punish his opponent for moves that look dubious.

9. c4 cxb4 10. cxd5 O-O

Not 10... bxa3? 11. Nxa3 Nxd5, when White gets a winning attack after, among others, 12. Bc4, 12. Ng5, and 12. Bh5+.

11. Qb3 bxa3? 12. Nxa3 Nbd7 13. Nb5 Nc5 14. Qc4 b6

Now with 15. Be5 White would have a comfortable edge (15... Bb8 16. d6+ or 15... Bxe5 16. fxe5 Nxd5 17. Nf4). This is something he might not have gotten with 1. e4! or 1 d4!.

What awaits us as defensive thinking evolves? Will we soon see best-selling books titled *Winning with 1. h3?* Stay tuned. ♠

You Can't Play That!

Sometimes, the square your opponent's got covered is exactly where you should hit.

BY **WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN**

F

FOLLOWING UP ON THE theme of my last column, and given the lasting impression that Yasser's game against GM

Viktor Korchnoi from the April issue left on me, I decided that the theme of striking the strong square also deserves a full-fledged column. I struggled to come up with a good title, but the idea is that sometimes we can put a piece on a square that is so well defended by our opponent that the possibility does not even cross our mind. I think the mental block behind this is clear and quite natural.

The first example that came to my mind is a position I have seen in many tactics books. I learned that the position arose from a casual game back in the 1800s, and there is not much else I know about it. Nonetheless, it's a striking example.

The black king is clearly not happy on the e7-square but so far it looks like he's surviving, as he is surrounded by his own pawns. But here comes an unexpected move.

CROSSFIRE

Wordsworth Donisthorpe
Mundell
Casual Game, London, 1892



WHITE TO MOVE

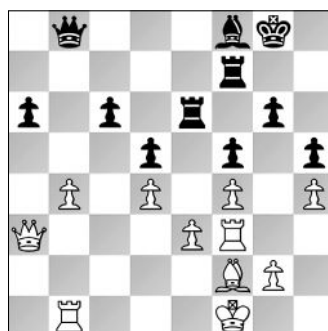
15. Qxe5!!

Even though e5 is the best-defended square on the board, both pawn captures of the queen lead to different bishop checkmates. Black seemingly resigned here: 15. ... fxe5 16. Bg5 and 15. ... dxe5 16. Bc5 are both mate.

The 2025 American Cup was one of my most memorable recent tournaments, not just for personal reasons but for my writing! Once again, the timing worked out perfectly for me; the players conspired to provide more material for these columns.

ONE LITTLE PUSH

IM Alice Lee (2386)
GM Irinia Krush (2378)
American Cup (2), St. Louis, 03.17.2025



BLACK TO MOVE

53. ... a5!

An unexpected shot. The b4-pawn is pinned in two ways — on the b-file and on the diagonal — but so far it looks like White is hanging on to it. So what makes this a difficult move to spot? Obviously, the queen can just take. The white queen was also attacking the pawn when it was on a6. Intuitively, we want to defend the pawn rather than push

it forward and offer it on another square.

Irina played 53. ... Qb5+ in the game, and even though her position is fine, she later blundered and went on to lose a 95-move marathon.

54. Qxa5

Of course, this is the most critical move that we have to refute. If White plays any other moves, Black will simply capture on b4 and be up a very healthy pawn.

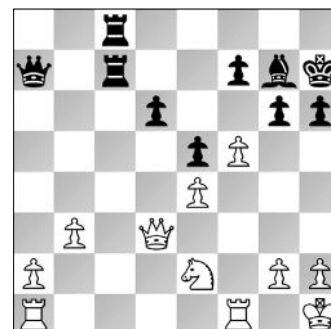
54. ... Ra7

Trapping the queen, which is not an idea that comes to mind so naturally — another reason why the ... a6-a5 pawn push is not so obvious.

Just a few rounds later, Levon found himself in a similar situation — with a weak pawn that was attacked by the enemy queen.

OPENING LINES

GM Fabiano Caruana (2756)
GM Levon Aronian (2745)
American Cup Elim (4), St. Louis,
03.20.2025



BLACK TO MOVE

Black is already down a pawn. His backward pawn on d6 is also under attack, but White doesn't want to capture it just yet, as it would give the rooks another open file. Black's counterplay lies in controlling the open c-file and having active rooks. However, that alone is not enough; Black needs some more active play as White is ready to start pushing the queenside pawns.

34. ... d5!

By putting the pawn under attack twice, Levon forces Fabiano to capture it and open the d-file for Black's rooks. With only two and a half minutes left on the clock for each player, this tactical move put a lot of pressure on Fabiano. Now the two super-GMs show us why they are — well, super-GMs:

Even with so little time on the clock, they go on to play the top engine line.

34. ... Rc2 was also a viable option, but simply defending the pawn with 34. ... Rc6 is too slow. After 35. a4 Black's next move is not even clear at this point.

35. fxg6+ fxg6 36. Qxd5

Of course not 36. exd5? e4 dropping an Exchange.

36. ... Rd7

Levon activates his rooks using the d-file and is getting ready to double on the seventh rank.

37. Qe6 Rc2 38. Ng1!

At this point, I hope we are all partial to backward knight moves!

38. ... Re7 39. Qh3 Rxa2 40. Nf3 Bf6

Amazingly, we are still following the top engine line. White is still up a pawn, but Black clearly has a lot of compensation in the form of the active rook, and the b3-pawn is extremely weak. Of course not 40. ... Rxa1?? 41. Ng5+ and mates.

41. Rad1 Qa6 42. Qg3 Qb5?

As the players get under a minute — there was no second time control in this event — we start seeing more mistakes and missed opportunities. Although Levon went on to lose the game, he could have kept things level with 42. ... Re2 here and his loss was not related to his decision to play ... d6-d5.

43. h4 Qc6 44. Rd5 Qe6 45. Rfd1 Bg7 46. Rd6 Qf7 47. Rf1 Qe8 48. Qg4 Rc2 49. b4 Rc6 50. Rfd1 Rxd6 51. Rxd6 Rb7 52. h5 gxh5 53. Qf5+ Kg8 54. Nh4 Rxb4 55. Ng6 Rb7 56. Qxh5 Rf7 57. Kh2 Rf6 58. Rxf6 Bxf6 59. Qxh6 Qd7 60. Qf8+ Kh7 61. Qxf6, Black resigned.

Sometimes the idea behind putting a piece on a well-defended square is more straightforward and purely tactical. Here, White's king is clearly under a lot of pressure with so many pieces aiming at it. If she can capture on d6 with tempo, it will take care of the issue of the knight's mobility, as it will no longer be a pinned piece.

GUMMING UP THE WORKS

IM Carissa Yip (2430)
WGM Zhu Jiner (2459)
Baer Polgar Challenge (5), chess24.com, 04.08.2021



BLACK TO MOVE

17. ... d5!

This annoying move disrupts the harmony in White's position. Let's see how.

On 17. ... Kh8? 18. Rxd6 White not only gets a tempo, but after 18. ... Qh5 the knight isn't pinned anymore. White can play 19. Ng5 and the king looks a lot safer, and after 19. ... Nxe5 20. Qc3 White just needs couple of moves to play Qc3-g3 and Bc1-e3, when her king will be perfectly safe and she will enjoy her extra pawn.

18. Rxd5

After 18. Qxd5+ Kh8! Black will simply step out of the check. What's the difference between this position and the one without 17. ... d5 first? First, the rook cannot move with tempo, so the f3-knight is still pinned. Second, the threat of ... Ra8-d8, taking advantage of White's back-rank issues, looms in the position. Black is completely winning here: If 19. Kh1 Qh5 carries the big threat of Rf8xf3, and White has to give up the knight for free: 20. Be3 Rxf3 wins.

18. ... Be6

Now it is the rook that is pinned.

19. Ng5 Rad8, White resigned.

There is no way to hang on to the rook now.

And at other times, the idea feels like pure stubbornness! Here's a classic example for us to enjoy.

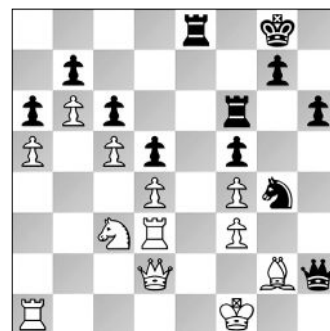
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

GM Vladimir Kramnik (2710)
GM Alexei Shirov (2705)
Linares (12), 1994

(see diagram top of next column)

31. ... Re4!

White's last move was 31. f2-f3, but this doesn't stop Shirov from playing the move he intended.



BLACK TO MOVE

32. Nxd5

Surprisingly, the engine likes 32. fxe4 and says White is winning after 32. ... fxe4 33. Ne2 exd3 34. Qxd3, but who would invite an attack into the game like this?

32. ... cxd5 33. c6

White gave up a piece in order to create a passed pawn on the queenside and distract Black's forces.

33. ... Rxf4 34. cxb7 Re4!

The rook returns! This is more out of necessity as the queen is now controlling the promotion square.

35. Rc1 Kh7 36. b8=Q Qxb8 37. fxg4 Qh2

This time, the queen returns. Amazingly, the rook on e4 is still under attack!

38. Rf3 Rxd4 39. b7?

It is no surprise that a big mistake in an extremely complicated game comes so close to the time control. White could have kept a winning advantage with 39. Rf2! Rfg6 40. Bxd5 Qh3+ 41. Ke2, although from practical point of view, this looks terrifying.

39. ... Rfg6

The bishop is now trapped.

40. Rc2

If 40. Rf2 Black wins with 40. ... Rxd4 41. Rxd4 Qh1+.

40. ... Rxd4 41. Qxd4 Rxd4 42. Rxd4 Qh1+ 43. Kf2 Qb1, White resigned.

Even the slightest hint that there is something in the position makes finding the move so much easier. Analyzing the game with an engine makes everything rather obvious, but we shouldn't forget about the practical aspects of the game, as this game demonstrates so well. Thanks to his imagination and pure determination to make his attack work, Shirov was able to turn the game around. ♠



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2025 U.S.

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MASTER OF PLAY

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MASTER OF PLAY

Charles Houska

MASTER OF PLAY



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Senior Moments

IM Stuart Rachels returns to tournament play and finds a new chess world at the World Senior Teams.

BY IM STUART RACHELS

A

FTER A 31-YEAR HIATUS FROM classical chess (or, as we used to call it, chess), I played in just a few Southern tournaments before entering the World Senior Team Championship (50+), held in Prague in February. The

U.S. team consisted of GMs Jaan Ehlevest (formerly number 6 in the world), Gregory Kaidanov (formerly number 16), Alex Shabalov (formerly number 29), and Igor Novikov (formerly number 50), plus myself, a rusty IM from Alabama (formerly young and promising).

What has changed since 1993? Some differences were evident at the threshold of the playing site. To get in, you had to hold up your arms and stand still for a thorough “wandering” (any artificial plates or cell phones?) and then pull your pockets inside-out to prove you weren’t sneaking in a pen (how you can cheat with a pen is beyond me, and I hope it remains so).

Two other rules were communicated through our captains: Stand behind your teammates when viewing their games, so they can’t see your facial expressions, and leave promptly once your game ends. With these rules in place, “Don’t talk to anyone during the round” went without saying. Gone are the days of running around on my opponent’s time, chatting excitedly with my friends (and if my friends weren’t available, then with some guy I just met).

All these precautions, however, suited me just fine. I don’t want to play a cheater, or be sued, and I liked the unencumbered feeling of having nothing in my pockets except a hotel room key.

The Americans won for the third year running — but just barely. With one round to go, four teams were neck-and-neck, and in the end we won the tiebreak over Italy, with 24 points in our 36 games to their 23. Meanwhile, the 65+ team event was handily won by England, headed by the great GM John Nunn. When I asked Nunn what his best game was, he said he was proud to have beaten GM Anatoly Vaisser with the King’s Indian Defense. Why? Because Vaisser wrote a book called *Beating the King’s Indian*. (The book also explains how to beat the Benoni, but that’s less difficult.)

Unfortunately, my most entertaining

game was the one I lost. Here’s what happened:

FRENCH DEFENSE, TARRASCH VARIATION (C09)

IM Stuart Rachels (2466)

IM Juraj Lipka (2348)

World Senior Team 50+ (4), Prague, 02.20.2025

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5 exd5 5. Ngf3 Nc6 6. Bb5 Qe7+

Before the event, I tried to update my openings by playing online blitz and then checking the openings with an engine. In that way, I compiled 160 single-spaced pages of analysis. (Yes, pages; this was in Microsoft Word, not ChessBase.) During the event, my recollection of those notes was pretty good. For example, when the noted theoretician GM John Emms played the Archangelsk variation of the Ruy Lopez against me, I knew exactly what my notes said about it: “At some point you need to look at this, Stu.”

Someone had surprised me with 6. ... Qe7+ in a three-minute game, and I replied 7. Qe2?!. When the engine suggested 7. Be2, I stopped analyzing and called 6. ... Qe7+ “dumb.”

7. Be2 Qc7

My notes were dumb, not my opponent’s move. Basically, Black has gotten the queen to c7 while moving White’s bishop back to e2. Quite normal.

8. 0-0 Nf6 9. dxc5 Bxc5 10. Nb3 Be7 11. Re1 0-0 12. c3 h6 13. Be3 Re8 14. h3 Bf5 15. Nbd4 Bg6

Why not put the bishop on e4? I thought. And if you’re going to retreat it, why not to



L to R: GM Igor Novikov, IM Stuart Rachels, GM Gregory Kaidanov, GM Jaan Ehlevest, and GM Alex Shabalov.

PHOTO: VALERIA KAIDANOV

h7? Now I can gain time on Black's bishop while getting my knight to f5.

16. Nh4 Bh7 17. Nhf5 Bf8

So I've gotten my knight to f5 while making Black retreat his bishops. Give me a medal. I thought I had an edge, but in fact the position is equal. Miscalculations breed mistakes.

18. Bd3 Ne4



Black's loss of time with his bishops justified some aggression, I thought, so I started looking at 19. Qg4 (threatening 20. Nxh6+). The critical response must be 19. ... Ne5, attacking my queen and bishop and meeting the threat (20. Nxh6+?? Kh8 leaves White with three pieces hanging). Hmmmm. Maybe I can pin his knight with 20. Bf4 or 20. Qf4.

So far, so sane. But when I tried to analyze 20. Bf4 and 20. Qf4, I felt strangely unable to visualize the lines. All those minor pieces seemed confusing! There's no denying it: I was having a senior moment. Which I knew at the time — but I still had to move.

19. Qg4?! Ne5

By now I understood that 20. Bf4 Qb6! favors Black. So I should play 20. Qf4, right? Wrong; I should retreat my queen to e2. But I didn't consider it, given my foggy brain and my belief that White was better.

20. Qf4?? g5! 21. Qh2

Forced, to maintain the pin on Black's knight. Granted, h2 is a terrible square for the queen. But wait; it gets even worse.

21. ... Bxf5 22. Nxf5 Qd7!

Threatening both 23. ... Qxf5 and 23. ... Nxd3. The immediate 21. ... Qd7 would have let me kick and squirm a bit with 22. Bb5, but now I must take on e4, giving Black's knight a beautiful square on d3.

23. Bxe4 dxe4 24. Ng3

Pathetically blocking my queen, but 24. Nd4 loses to 24. ... Bd6 25. g3 Bc5! with the

unstoppable threat of 26. ... Bxd4 followed by 27. ... Nf3+.

24. ... f5! 25. Bd4 Bd6 26. h4 g4



27. Qh1

I would call this the most humiliating move of my career, but it has stiff competition. As I played it, I glanced up at my opponent, half-expecting him to smile. If he had, I would have smiled back, and I might even have made the joke of removing my queen from the board. But his behavior was absolutely correct.

Despite my bad position — in fact, because of it — my stress level declined sharply. I'm obviously lost, so what do I have to lose? Now I can just relax and play. At the same time, I recalled an old game between Karpov and Speelman. At that time, Karpov was the invincible world champion, yet he was lost after 23 moves! So what did he do? He started moving very quickly, in order to keep pressure on his opponent. It worked; he drew. So I thought I would try the same thing; maybe it would work for me. At any rate, I thought, it beats sitting here and thinking about all the ways I should lose.

I also chose Karpov's strategy because my plan seemed obvious: I should hunker down and try to extricate my queen with Ng3-f1, g2-g3, Qh1-g2, Re1-e2, and Nf1-e3. If Black plays ... f5-f4, then my queen will be a good defender on g2; if not, then at some point the queen can go to f1 and see a bit of light.

27. ... Qf7 28. Bxe5 Bxe5

Better was 28. ... Rxe5; Black's bishop belongs on c5.

29. Nf1 h5 30. g3 Rad8 31. Qg2 Rd3 32.

Re2 Rd8 33. Ne3 Bc7 34. c4

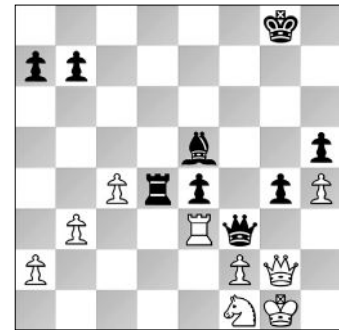
Hoping to bring the knight to d5.

34. ... Be5

Black doesn't permit it (35. Nd5? b5!), but it helped my morale to imagine one of my pieces being well-placed.

35. Rb1 R8d4 36. b3 Rd2 37. Rbe1 Rxe2 38.

Rxe2 f4 39. gxf4 Qxf4 40. Nf1 Qf3 41. Re3

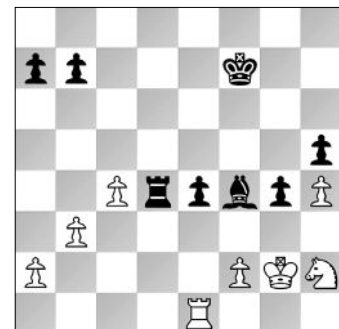


After move 40, we were allotted more time, so I got up from the board. As I walked around, it occurred to me that I wasn't really attacking Black's queen.

41. ... Bf4! 42. Re1

Still imitating Karpov, I played this in about five seconds. On 42. Rxf3? exf3, my queen must return to h1, and this time it won't get out.

42. ... Kf7 43. Nh2 Qxg2+ 44. Kxg2



Black can now increase his advantage with 44. ... e3! 45. Nf1 (not 45. fxe3? Rd2+) 45. ... exf2 46. Kxf2 Rd3, when White's h-pawn is weak; Black's passed g-pawn is strong, and Black's bishop dominates White's knight. Also notice that White can't enter a pawn



ending here because his king would be permanently tied to Black's g-pawn.

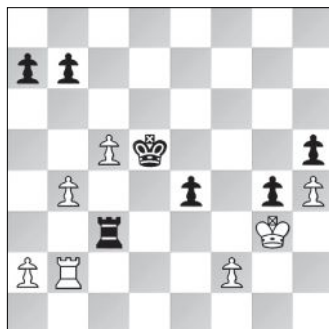
44. ... Bxh2?! 45. Kxh2 Kf6 46. Kg2 Ke5 47. Re2 Rd3

Black should have restrained my queenside pawns with 47. ... a5!.

48. c5!? Rc3 49. b4 Rc4 50. Rb2

"Am I actually going to draw this?!" I thought. Having had that thought, I should have slowed down. Karpov's method is for desperate times; once your position is defensible, you should think hard about how to defend it. But I didn't. I kept moving fast, maybe from inertia, maybe because rapid play had worked so far.

50. ... Kd5 51. Kg3 Rc3+



52. Kf4??

White is fine after 52. Kg2. But I was excited about going on the attack!

52. ... Rf3+ 53. Kg5 g3! 54. fxg3 Rxg3+ 55. Kxh5 e3

A nice sequence by Black. With my king trapped on the h-file, Black's passed e-pawn decides it.

56. Kh6 Kc4 57. h5 Kc3 58. Rh2 Kd3



Peaky Blinders or Ehlvest and Shabalov at the café?

59. Kh7 e2 60. Rh1 Kd2 61. h6 Rg4 62. b5 Rg5 63. c6 Rxb5 64. Kg6 Rb6 65. h7 Rxc6+ 66. Kg7 Rc7+ 67. Kg6 Rc8 68. Kg7 e1=Q 69. Rxe1 Kxe1

It's time to resign; after 70. h8=Q Rxh8 71. Kxh8 Kd2, Black's king mops up my pawns. As a small joke, instead of making a queen, I picked up a captured white bishop and held it up high — displaying it for those who were watching — and placed it on h8. My opponent, who was now playing only on the increment (30 seconds per move), studied the position intently for a second or two and I held out my hand.

70. h8=B, and White resigned.

I tried to console myself with the observation that my opponent still looked tense and was visibly sweating, whereas I felt fine. However, the tournament had no special Sweatless Loser prize, so it really didn't matter.

Losing can feel worse when you have team-

mates. My loss meant that we drew Slovakia instead of beating them. And how did our team captain, Alex Shabalov, react to my pathetic loss with White? In a group message to the team, he referred to my "heroic defense." There's a great team captain for you. At my lowest moment, Sasha called me a hero. Looking back, our margin of victory was so small that those two words — "heroic defense" — might have made the difference in our final result. If I had lost any of my three remaining games, we wouldn't have won.

Of course, Shabalov's play also helped: he scored a ferocious 6½ out of 8, winning the Board 3 prize. For his steady stewardship, I dub Mr. Shabalov "The Pittsburgh Pilot."

Postscript

In the end, I scored 4 points out of 7, which is nothing to brag about, but it was fun to be on the winning team. My long trip home to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, became even longer when I missed my connection in Atlanta and had to sweat out being on standby for the last flight of the day.

So I got home after midnight, but I still kept my date to play bridge the next morning. I arrived at the Birmingham Bridge Club feeling shaky — stressed, sleep-deprived, jetlagged, and (as usual) almost late. The moment I entered the playing site, though, I got a rousing round of applause from all the bridge players. Two of my friends, who had followed the event, cajoled the others to add to their whoops and hollers. It was one of the most surprising and joyful moments of my chess career — in a bridge club. My bridge partner and I came in second that day. ♦



Team USA in Round 9 action against Germany's "Confluenta"

Bronze for U.S. Women

Individual gold for Tsodikova

BY RICK MASSIMO



THE U.S. WOMEN TOOK the bronze medals in the Women's 50+ category of the World Senior Team Championship, and one player took home individual honors as well.

The team — WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia, WFM Natalya Tsodikova, WFM Olga Sagalchik, WIM Alexey Root, and WFM Ivona Jezierska — scored nine match points in nine rounds (wins counted for two points; drawn matches, one). The Czech Republic Women and China Women tied for first with 10 match points each; the Czechs took the gold on tiebreak by half a game point.

In the 65+ category, Latvia Women took gold, Czech Republic Women took silver,

and Poland Women took bronze.

Tsodikova scored plus-one on Board 4 in last year's tournament, in Krakow, Poland; coming off her win in the U.S. Senior Women's Championship last December, she was moved up to Board 2 for this year's championship, which left her feeling "stressed" about the prospect of facing stronger competition.

In the end, she handled it just fine, winning the prize for the highest-scoring woman on Board 2 with an undefeated 6/8.

"It feels amazing," she says, "especially because I was a little nervous."

She says she was only in serious trouble in one game, and managed to draw it. She's also annotated her best game from the tournament:

LONDON SYSTEM (A45)

Jerome Guiot Dorel (2030)

WFM Natalya Tsodikova (2051)

World Senior Team Ch (9), Prague,
02.26.2025

Annotations by WFM Natalya Tsodikova

We were up against the French team in the final round. We knew that a strong result could give us a shot at the podium, so everyone on the team tried their best. I tried to prepare for my opponent, but I couldn't find many recent games.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 c5 3. e3 cxd4 4. exd4 g6 5. Nc3

I wasn't very familiar with this setup, so I continued with development.

5. ... Bg7 6. Qd2

It looks like White is planning to castle long and advance the kingside pawns. That made me think for some time.

6. ... h5

I did not want to get into a very sharp, crazy position; I wanted something safe and to slow down the white pawns, but this turned out not to be the best move.

7. h4

This is an inaccuracy, giving Black a small advantage. The better option would be 7. Bd3, putting pressure on the g6-pawn.



PHOTO: ALEXEY ROOT

7. ... d6 8. Nf3 a6 9. Bc4 b5

Expanding on the queenside with tempo.

10. Bb3 Nc6 11. Ng5 0-0

Finishing my development and defending f7.

12. Nd5 Bb7**13. Nxf6+**

This was an inaccuracy, but I didn't punish it.

13. ... Bxf6

The human move to preserve the pawn structure, but I could have gotten a slight advantage with 13. ... exf6 14. Nf3 Re8+, depriving White of castling.

14. Qd3 d5 15. c3 Bc8

I probably should have opened up the position while White's king was still in the center with 15. ... e5 16. dxe5 Nxe5 17. Bxe5 Bxe5.

16. 0-0 Bf5 17. Qg3 Rc8 18. Rfe1 b4

Sticking to my queenside expansion plan.

19. Re3 bxc3 20. bxc3 Na5 21. Nf3 Qd7**22. Bh6 Rfe8**

22. ... Rfd8 was better.

23. Ne5 Qb5 24. Rae1 Nxb3 25. axb3 Qxb3

I didn't see any reason not to take a pawn!

26. c4 Qb2 27. Qf4

But this is a mistake. Black is only slightly better after 27. cxd5 Qxd4 28. Nc6 Qxh4.

27. ... dxc4 28. Rg3 Qc2 29. d5 Red8

A mistake in time trouble. Black wins after 29. ... c3.

30. Nc6 Rd7 31. Re2

The final mistake. Black is only slightly better after 31. Nd4 Bxd4 32. Qxd4 f6 33. Qa1. From here I confidently converted the advantage and brought home the win.

31. ... Qd1+ 32. Kh2 Qxd5 33. Nb4 Qb5**34. Nxa6 Rd4 35. Nc7 Rxf4 36. Nxb5 Rxh4+ 37. Kg1 Rb8, White resigned.**

But maybe her most memorable game was a nine-move win against Peter Jeute of the Sachsenwölfe team that earned her a screening from the Fair Play officials (most likely, she says with a laugh, because the

round had only been going for 10 minutes and so there wasn't really anyone else to screen). They might have spared themselves the trouble if they'd consulted Stockfish: Black resigned upon losing a queen for two pieces and two pawns, but Tsodikova was in for a shock when she put the game through the engine and found it rated Black's chances slightly better!

SCANDINAVIAN DEFENSE (B01)

WFM Natalya Tsodikova (2051)

Peter Jeute (1951)

World Senior Team (4), Prague, 02.19.2025

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. d3 Bf5 6. Bd2 e6 7. Nd5 Qc5 8. Bb4 Qc6 9. Bb5, Black resigned.

The roll that put Tsodikova on Board 2 isn't over: Since returning from Prague she's won a Tuesday Night Marathon at her home club, San Francisco's Mechanics Institute, and tied for first in the California Women's Championship with FM Ruiyang Yan. Her US Chess rating is over 2200 for the first time in five years.

There are a few reasons for that, she said: Her children are grown and out of the house, and less fortunately she's been unemployed since last summer. For now, that means more time for her and her husband, IM Rostislav Tsodikov, to spend on their chess school, and more time to study and play — and the results have reflected the changes.

"I appreciate chess even more, because I have more free time, and chess is my passion," Tsodikova says. "I can afford to spend more time on chess, and maybe that's why the results — and also a little bit of luck never hurts."

Tsodikova came close to qualifying for the U.S. Women's Olympiad team on several occasions, but never quite made it. Now, as part of the senior team, "I'm just having the time of my life and representing."

She thinks such events set good examples for women, including younger women and girls playing in male-dominated spaces. They may play often in school, but in college and later life "they're gonna forget about it. But we're like an example for the young girls: If you love something, and if you have passion for the game and are just enjoying the game, you can do it at any age, right? We love the game; we're proud to represent the country. Yeah; I think that's very important." ♦



L to R: Belakovskaia, Tsodikova, Sagalchik, Jezierska.

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Faster, More Furious

More games from the World Rapid & Blitz

T

HE WORLD RAPID AND Blitz, held last December in New York, produced more great games than we could fit into one issue — or even two. This month's selection includes a win by American

GM Aleksandr Lenderman over one of the top players in the world; an exciting draw by the United States' latest IM-elect, Tani Adewumi, and a pair of tricky, instructive endgames from WGM Sabina Foisor, all with their annotations. Still more to come!

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E14)

GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2480 FIDE)
GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov (2777 FIDE)
World Rapid (3), New York, 12.26.2024
Annotations by GM Aleksandr Lenderman

After starting with two wins, I was excited to get paired with a super-elite player: top-6 in the world in classical, and the 2021 World Rapid Champion. But I was optimistic, since I knew that in a single game, anything can happen.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 b6 4. e3 Bb7 5. Bd3 c5 6. 0-0 g6!?

I was out of book here and thought for a couple of minutes.

7. Nc3

I chose a safer option. For a while I was considering the principled choice 7. d5! exd5 8. cxd5 Nxd5 (8. ... Bxd5 was another option, but White also has the initiative here after 9. e4 Be6 10. e5) 9. Be4! Nxe3. I calculated up to this point and wasn't sure what the evaluation is, given that I am down two pawns, but it turns out I have a huge advantage here with 10. Bxe3! (I calculated 10. Qd3 but rejected it because of 10. ... d5!) 10. ... Bxe4 11. Re1 followed by Nb1-c3 and Be3-g5.

7. ... Bg7 8. e4 cxd4 9. Nxd4 0-0 10. Be3 d6 11. Rc1 a6 12. Bb1 Nbd7 13. b3 Rc8 14. Qd2 Re8



15. Rfd1?!

I was better off playing 15. Bg5, as we'll see.

15. ... Qe7?!

Here Nodirbek didn't catch my mistake. White is better after 15. ... e5 16. Nde2, but he could have disturbed my harmony and

taken a slight advantage with 15. ... Ng4! 16. Bg5 f6 17. Bh4 (or 17. Be3 Nxe3 18. Qxe3 f5) 17. ... Bh6! 18. f4 e5!.

16. Bg5 Nc5 17. f3

But now I've managed to stabilize my space advantage.

17. ... Red8 18. Nde2 Qc7 19. Qf4 Qe7 20. Qh4 e5 21. Nd5 Bxd5 22. cxd5 b5 23. Kh1 Ncd7 24. Qe1 Qf8 25. Qd2 Nc5 26. Qa5 Ra8 27. Bc2 Rdc8 28. Qd2 Rc7 29. b4 Ncd7 30. Bb3 Rac8 31. Rxc7 Rxc7 32. Rc1 Qc8 33. Rxc7 Qxc7 34. Qc3 Qb8 35. Qc6

It was more accurate to play 35. Be3.

35. ... Qa7!

I underestimated this move. After lots of maneuvering, the game is spicing up.

36. Qxd6



36. ... Qf2?

The decisive mistake. It's the right idea, but the wrong move order. He needed to play 36. ... Bf8! first, when it's equal after 37. Qc6 Qf2 38. Ng1 Bxb4 because the knight is immune: 39. Bxf6? Bc5 40. Qc8+ Nf8 and Black wins.

37. Ng1 Bf8 38. Qxa6 Bxb4 39. Qc8+!

This is the big difference. I got to capture the pawn on a6, and am still able to challenge his queen on f2 in time. Both 39. Qxb5 Bc5 40. Nh3 Qe1+ and 39. Bxf6 still lose to the 39. ... Bc5 idea.

39. ... Kg7 40. Qc2

Or 40. Qc1.

40. ... Qa7 41. Qc1 h5 42. Nh3 Bc5 43. Bh6+ Kg8

(see diagram top of next column)

44. d6!?

This move won me the game, and given that we both had about two minutes left, it was the most logical practical move, opening up



POSITION AFTER 43. ... Kg8

my bishop and creating massive threats. It turned out, though, that Nodirbek did have a very creative way to keep the game going, but, low on time, he couldn't find it. The engine prefers 44. Ng5 Bd6 45. Qc8+.

44. ... Bxd6

I win easily from here, but I was still making sure to be very careful, because I know that Nodirbek is a very resilient player; as the game showed, he still had a few tricks up his sleeve.

He would have had a very good chance to save the game after 44. ... Ne8!. There are three moves to analyze.

(a) After the logical 45. Qg5 Black miraculously gets enough counterplay for equality with 45. ... Qa5!.. After 46. Qxg6+ (or 46. Ng1 Qe1 47. Qc1 Qf2) 46. ... Kh8 47. Qg3 (47. Bd2 Qxd2 48. Qxh5+ Kg7 49. Qxf7+) 47. ... Qc3! 48. Bd1 b4 Black is holding.

(b) If 45. Ng5 Nxd6 holds things together.

(c) 45. g4!! is the only winning move here, and I doubt that I'd find it even in classical, let alone with two minutes on the clock in rapid with a lot of tension. Play continues 45. ... hxc4 46. Qg5 Qa5 47. Qxg6+ Kh8 48. Qxg4 Qe1+ 49. Ng1, winning.

45. Qg5 Bf8 46. Qxg6+ Kh8 47. Bxf7 Qb6

48. Bb3 Qc6 49. Be3

It's never too late to lose: 49. Ng5?? Qc1+.

49. ... Qc3 50. Ng5 Bg7 51. Ne6 Bf8 52. Bg1!

Another trap to avoid: 52. Nxf8?? Qxe3.

52. ... Qb4 53. Ng5 Bg7 54. Nf7+ Kg8 55.

Nxe5+ Kh8 56. Nxd7, Black resigned.

I was on cloud nine after this game. This was the highest-rated and highest-ranked player I've ever beaten in an OTB game, and in a very important tournament to boot. It was a game not without mistakes, but it was a great fight and I was very happy that I kept my nerve during the game, especially during the conversion part.

ENGLISH OPENING (A12)

GM Daniel Naroditsky (2638 FIDE)

FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2262 FIDE)

World Rapid (3), New York, 12.26.2024

Annotations by FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi

1. Nf3 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 g6 5. d4 Bg7 6. Be2 0-0 7. 0-0 Nbd7?!

A little bit dubious, because now my bishop on c8 feels restricted. The better way to play



FM Tanitoluwa
Adewumi

this line is 7. ... Bg4 8. h3 (White can also play 8. cxd5 cxd5 9. Qb3) 8. ... Bxf3 9. Bxf3 e6.

8. b3 Ne4 9. Bb2 Nxc3 10. Bxc3 e6 11. b4 Now White can just freely expand on the queenside.

11. ... Re8 12. Qc2 a6 13. a4 dxc4 14. Bxc4 Nb6 15. Bd3 Nd5



Trying to activate my pieces, but my restricted bishop on c8 is still the problem.

16. Bd2 Qd6 17. Rab1 e5 18. Nxe5 Bxe5 19. dxe5 Qxe5

He has the bishop pair and is comfortable.

20. f4 Qf6 21. e4 Qd4+ 22. Kh1

After 22. Rf2, I have this really nice idea: 22. ... Ne3 23. Qc3 Rd8! and now White will lose the bishop pair. After 24. Qxd4 (Not 24. Rb3? Qxc3 25. Rxc3 Nd1) 24. ... Rxd4 25. Bxe3 Rxd3 Black is OK.

22. ... Ne3 23. Bxe3 Qxe3 24. f5!

A very well-timed move, continuing to restrict my bishop on c8.

24. ... gxf5 25. exf5 f6 26. Rbd1 Kh8 27. Bc4 Qe7 28. Qd2 Qg7

Now I'm just entering into a shell and trying to defend.

29. a5 Qf8 30. Qc3 Re5

Now I'm getting a little more active, but White is still much better after 31. Rd4.

31. g4?

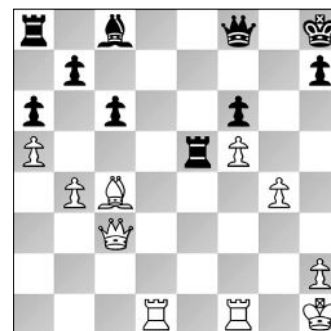
Just as the king opens up comes ...

(see diagram top of next column)

31. ... b5! 32. axb6 e.p. c5! 33. Rfe1?!

The point is 33. Bd5? Rxd5 34. Rxd5 Bb7 35. Rfd1 Rd8 36. Qc4 Rxd5 37. Rxd5 Qd6.

Black actually runs out of counterplay after 33. Be6 Bb7+ 34. Kg1, but in a rapid game all cards are on the table.



POSITION AFTER 31. g4

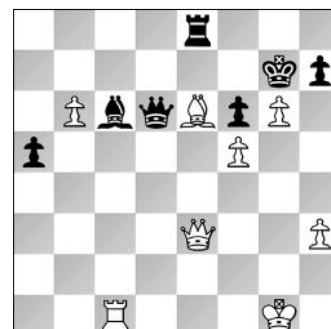
33. ... Bb7+ 34. Kg1 cxb4 35. Qd4 Rxe1+ 36. Rxe1 Rd8 37. Qe3 a5

With low time, it's really hard to maneuver, but the only move is 37. ... Qd6, which activates the queen and takes control of the center.

38. g5 Bc6 39. g6

It would have been game over after 39. Qe7 Qxe7 40. Rxe7 — his pawns are just too fast.

39. ... Re8 40. Be6 b3 41. Qxb3 Qc5+ 42. Qe3 Qb4 43. h3 Kg7? 44. Rc1 Qd6



45. Qc3

White could have won with 45. gxh7 Kxh7 46. Rc4! when the rook can go to d4 or h4. And if 45. ... Kh8 White wins with 46. Qc3.

45. ... Rd8!!

Setting up a repetition.

46. Qxc6 Qg3+ 47. Kf1

White loses after 47. Qg2 Qe3+ 48. Kh2 (48. Kh1 Qxc1+) 48. ... Qf4+ 49. Kg1 Qxc1+.

47. ... Qf4+ 48. Kg1

Again White can't get out of it: 48. Ke1 Qe3+ 49. Kf1 Rd2 wins, and 48. Ke2 Rd2+ 49. Ke1 Qf2 mate.

48. ... Qg3+ 49. Kf1 Qf4+ 50. Kg1 Qg3+, draw.

I thought this was a fighting game and it ultimately came down to time, but it ended peacefully.

ENDGAME ADVENTURE

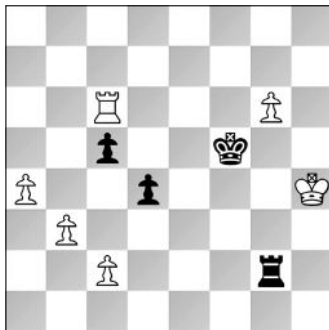
FM Alisa Melekhina (2139 FIDE)

WGM Sabina Foisor (2296 FIDE)

Women's World Rapid (5), New York

12.27.2024

Annotations by WGM Sabina Foisor



WHITE TO MOVE

I had never played in a World Rapid and Blitz event, so I decided to give it a try given that it was organized close to home. I had a very bad start, losing my first three games. I was able to finish the first day with a win, and I was paired in the first game of the second day with a friend.

Alisa and I have played on many occasions against one another and I think we've always been able to create fireworks in our encounters. This game was quite poorly played on my end, but I had a bit of luck as Alisa allowed me to trade pieces into a rook endgame. The saying goes that all rook endgames are drawn, and we coaches like to tell our students that that's not true, but this was my only way to try not to lose another game.

White is up two pawns here, but given the low time we both had at this moment, it was easy to misjudge Black's possible idea of creating a checkmating net.

52. Rc6??

Unfortunately for her, this gives up the win. The way to proceed was 52. a5, as after 52. ... Kf4 53. Kh3 there is no way to checkmate and White can simply push the a- and g-pawns.

It doesn't help to play 52. ... Rxc2 either: 53. a6 d3 54. a7 Ra2 (54. ... d2 55. a8=Q meets the same fate) 55. g7 d2 56. g8=Q and White promotes first and will proceed to check until mate.

52. ... Rxc2

Now the c5-pawn is protected, and Black has counterplay with the d-pawn. The next moves follow the natural sequence of trying to promote first.

53. g7 Rg2 54. Rxc5+ Kf4 55. Kh3 Rxc7

In this position things get a bit tricky and it is White who has to be careful not to lose. Alisa played the natural move.

56. b4??

But this is a bit slow and I could have won.

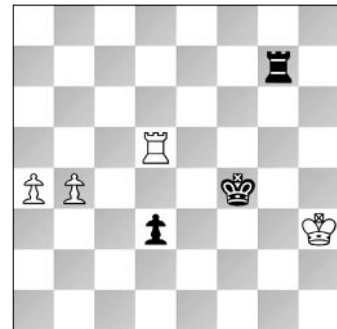
The only move to draw was 56. Rd5: The rook will be sacrificed for the d-pawn while the b- and a- pawns will have time to push forward.

Play can go 56. ... Ke3 57. b4 d3 (57. ... Ra7 doesn't help: 58. b5 Rxa4 59. b6 Rb4 60. Rd6 d3 61. Re6+ Kf2 62. Rd6 Ke2 63. Re6+ Kd1 64. Kg3 d2 65. Kf2 Kc2 66. Rc6+ and White can go shuffle the rook between c6 d6 and Black can't make progress) 58. b5 d2 59. b6 Rg1 60. a5! d1=Q 61. Rxd1 Rxd1 62. a6 and with two pawns on the sixth rank this is a theoretical draw.

Black can try to create a mating net, but there is no win here unless one of the sides makes a mistake. For example, 62. ... Rd8 63. a7 Kf3 64. Kh2 Kf2 65. Kh3 Kf3 66. Kh4 Kf4 67. Kh5 Kf5 68. Kh6 Kf6 69. Kh5! draws, but there's still one more trap: 69. Kh7?? Ra8 70. b7 (70. Kh6 Rh8 mate) 70. ... Rxa7 and the pawn is pinned!

56. ... d3 57. Rd5

This is an important position. Where should Black's king go: e3 or e4?



BLACK TO MOVE

I chose what I thought was the logical continuation, but it is in fact the wrong one as it allows my opponent to draw once again.

57. ... Ke3??

The correct approach was 57. ... Ke4! because 58. Rd8 Rg5! wins (not 58. ... Rg1?? 59. b5 with a draw) 59. a5 (Black also wins after 59. Kh4 Rd5 60. Re8+ Kd4 61. Re1 d2 62. Ra1 Kc3 63. b5 d1=Q 64. Rxd1 Rxd1 65. a5 Kb4 when the pawns are too slow) 59. ... Rd5 60. Re8+ Kd4 61. Re1 d2 62. Rd1 Ke3 63. a6 Ke2 64. Rxd2+ Rxd2 65. b5 Ra2! Right on time to stop the second pawn from making it to the sixth rank! After 66. b6 Rxa6, and on any king move the black king walks over to pick off the pawns.

Alisa followed with the natural continuation.



WGM Sabina Foisor

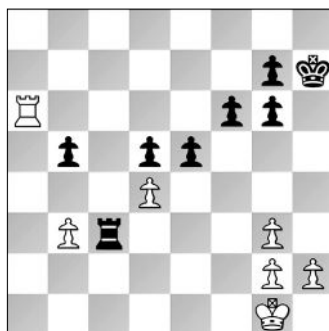
58. a5 d2 59. a6 Rg1 60. b5 Ra1 61. Kg4 Ra5, White lost on time.

Luck was on my side this time. Alisa thought the position was lost, but Black can't make progress after 62. Rd8 Rxb5 63. a7 Ra5 64. Re8+ Kf2 65. Rf8+ Ke1 66. Re8+ Kf1 67. Rf8+ Ke1.

A SEESAW BATTLE

WGM Sabina Foisor (2296 FIDE)
WFM Zarina Nurgaliyeva (2175 FIDE)
Women's World Rapid (6), New York,
12.27.2024

Annotations by WGM Sabina Foisor



BLACK TO MOVE

After somehow surviving a bad opening, my opponent traded into this rook endgame. I think it should be an easy win, but I was given a few chances.

39. ... e5?

This gives away most winning chances. Instead, 39. ... Re3, with the idea of taking the d4-pawn and creating two connected central passed pawns, was the winning way for Black: 40. Rb6 Re4 (40. ... Rxb3 41. Rxe6 isn't as convincing) 41. h3 (41. Rxb5 loses to 41. ... Rxd4) 41. ... g5 42. Rxb5. White has to play this eventually, otherwise Black brings the king to f5 and protects the e6-pawn that way. But after 42. ... Rxd4 43. Rb7 Kg6 44. g4 f5 45. gxf5+ Kxf5 Black's winning.

40. Rd6!

Taking is natural, but it's exactly what Black wants: 40. dxe5?? fxe5 and wins.

40. ... exd4

Or 40. ... e4 41. Rxd5 Rxb3 42. Kf2 f5.

41. Rxd5 Rxb3

Black could have made things more difficult with 41. ... d3, but it should still end in a draw after 42. b4 Rb3 43. Kf2 Rxb4 44. Rxd3. Despite being up a pawn, Black's king is passive, making it difficult to progress.

42. Rxd4 Rb2 43. g4!

I was quite happy with my position here, as I knew pawn trades are in my favor, but also that I would stop Black's king from improving. I could also have drawn with 43. Rd8 g5 44. g4 b4 45. Rb8 Kg6 46. Rb7.

43. ... Kg8 44. Rd8+ Kf7 45. Rd7+ Kf8

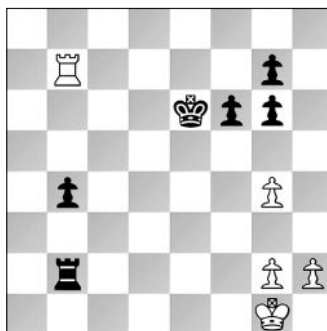
It's a bit too soon to give up g7: White draws after 45. ... Ke6 46. Rxd7 g5 47. Rb7 b4 48. Rb6+ Ke5 49. h3 Rb1+ 50. Kh2 b3 51. Kg3 b2 52. Kh2.

46. Rb7 b4 47. Rb8+?

I made my own life difficult here. Black's king is cut off, so all White has to do is keep it there: 47. h3 b3 (or 47. ... Ke8 48. Rxd7) 48. Kh2 Rb1 49. Kg3 draws.

47. ... Kf7 48. Rb7+ Ke6

Now it is important to realize that White needs to create counterplay, but how: by capturing the g7-pawn or by trying to create a passed h-pawn?



49. Rxd7??

Wrong choice, as the game will show.

The right way was 49. h4! b3 first, and only now 50. Rxd7 as White gets to create a passed pawn. After 50. ... Ra2 51. Rb7 b2 52. Kh2 (to stop the threat of ... Ra2-a1+ and promotion) comes 52. ... Kd5 53. h5 gxf5 54. gxf5 Kc4 55. h6 Kc3 56. h7 Ra8 57. Rc7+. Black's only way to progress is to hide on the a-file, but it won't be enough to win: 57. ... Kb3 58. Rb7+ Ka2 59. Kg3 b1=Q 60. Rxb1 Kxb1 61. Kg4 Rh8 62. Kf5 Rxh7 63. Kxf6 and it's a draw. There is no way for Black to win the g-pawn, even though it's so far from White's king, and Black's king is too far away.

This is all a little too difficult to calculate during a rapid game, which at this point was more like a bullet game with increment, but once Black's king became active, this was the only line that offered any hope.

49. ... b3?

Gives White another shot to draw. Black

can win by stopping the h2-h4 idea with 49. ... g5! and then following through with the plan of bringing the king to free the rook and then support the b-pawn to promotion. White cannot create a passed pawn in good circumstances anymore: 50. g3 b3 51. Rb7 Kd5 52. h4 Ke4 followed by ... Ke4-f3.

50. Rb7 Ke5 51. Rb4

51. h4 would have worked as well: 51. ... Kf4 52. Kh2 (52. h5?? Kg3 and Black wins) 52. ... Kxg4 53. Rb4+ Kh5 54. Kg3.

51. ... g5

And here I inexplicably did the worst thing I could have done in a rook endgame.

52. g3??

Leaving my king completely passive and restricted. White is totally losing here. There was still a draw with 52. h4! gxf4 53. Kh2 Kd5 54. Kh3 Rb1 55. Kxh4 Kc5 56. Rb8 Kc4 57. g5.

My opponent took a few moves to realize that hiding the king on b1 would not bear fruit; instead, the correct winning idea was bringing in the king to the kingside to support putting the rook on h2, stopping White's counterplay with the h-pawn and keeping White's king completely passive and restricted. The rest was just a matter of technique, which she didn't fail to deliver.

52. ... Kd5 53. h4 Kc5 54. Rb8 Kc4 55.

Rc8+ Kd3 56. Rb8 Kc3 57. Rc8+ Kd2 58.

Rb8 Kc2 59. Rc8+ Kd3 60. Rb8 Ke3 61. h5

Kf3 62. h6 Kxg3 63. Kf1 Rh2! 64. Rxb3+

Kxg4 65. Rb6 Rxh6 66. Kg2 Kf5 67. Rb5+

Kg6 68. Kg3 Rh4 69. Ra5 Rb4 70. Ra8

Rb3+ 71. Kg2 f5 72. Rf8 f4 73. Ra8 Kh5 74.

Ra2 Kg4 75. Rc2 Rg3+ 76. Kh2 Re3 77. Kg2

f3+ 78. Kg1 Re1+ 79. Kf2 Re2+ 80. Rxe2

fxe2, White resigned. ♠



MAKE YOUR MOVE

BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

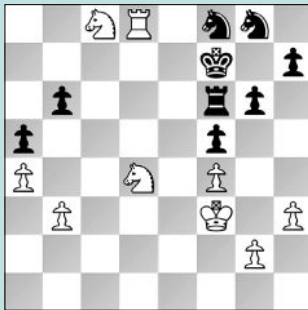
THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM GAMES PLAYED at the annual Reykjavik Open, held in Reykjavik, Iceland, this past April.

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

Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom

of the page. If you're unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in one or two weeks to see whether you can now solve it. That way, you gradually expand your tactical vision and you'll be more likely to spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Solutions are on page 64. 

TACTIC 1.



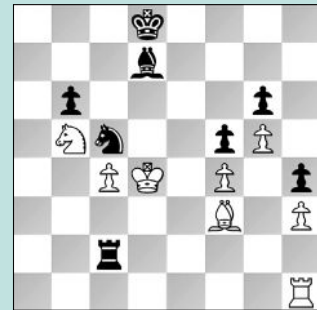
WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 3.



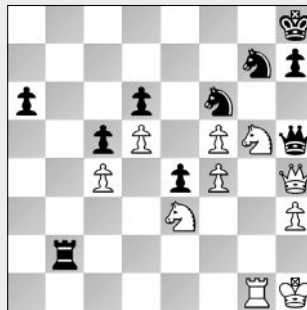
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TACTIC 4.



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TACTIC 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 6.



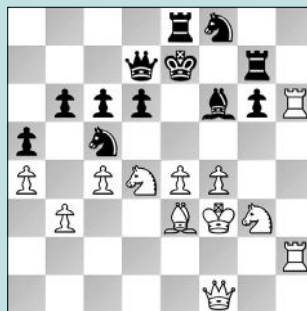
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TACTIC 7.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 8.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 9.



WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: DANCING KNIGHTS

Position 2: UNSTABLE DEFENDERS

Position 3: ELIMINATE THE SCOPE

Position 4: OVERBURDENED DEFENDER

Position 5: NO AIR

Position 6: FACE PUNCH

Position 7: FINDING THE NET

Position 8: THE KING IS A POOR GUARD

Position 9: TOO FEW DEFENDERS



The UNDERDOG Who Scraped the Sky

A half-century ago, **Alan Trefler** had the kind of tournament every amateur dreams of – and then barely played again.
What happened?

BY **JON JACOBS**

THE MOST STUNNING tournament outcome in U.S. chess history unfolded 50 years ago this Fourth of July weekend, when Alan Treffer, rated 2045, tied for first at the third annual World Open with a score of 8/9.

Any remotely similar result would trigger stern calls for a Fair Play investigation today. But in 1975, chess engines worthy of the name did not exist. So Treffer's remarkable achievement inspired admiration and wonder from the chess public, not cynicism.

Sounds like the meteoric launch of a storied chess career, doesn't it? Instead, Alan's immersion and early success in chess placed him on a career path leading away from chess competition. Teaching computers to work out rule-based solutions to business problems carried its own mix of intellectual challenges and rewards, and soon inspired him to start a company where he remains CEO today.

As the author of a future book of great upset games by club players (*The Fish That Roared*), I felt compelled to seek out Alan Treffer, whom I had met at tournaments twice during the 1970s, and to learn his story.

The Starting Point

Alan Treffer grew up in Brookline, Mass., an affluent suburb about a 20-minute train ride from downtown Boston. He learned to play chess from his father, Eric, a Holocaust survivor from Poland. In his freshman year at Brookline High School, members of the school's chess team encouraged him to enter a tournament at Boston's Boylston Chess Club. After losing all five games in his first event, he began reading chess books and improved rapidly.

That school year, the Brookline chess team planned a trip to the 1970 High School National Championships in New York City. "I was strong enough to be fifth board," Treffer remembers. "But because I was a freshman, they didn't send me; they sent a senior instead."

Alan was shut out of his chance to share in a great triumph — Brookline High returned from New York as the National High School champions. "It pissed me off so much, I told them I was going to beat them all," he said. And he did: Within two years he was the school's best player.

The Setting

The World Open has been a fixture in Philadelphia almost continuously since 1977, but the Continental Chess Association started it in New York in 1973. Among the elite non-U.S. GMs it attracted over the years are Anand (at age 16, way back in 1986!), Svidler, Michael Adams, Larsen, Van Wely, Gheorghiu, Yusupov, and many more.

The '75 event was held in the Hotel Roosevelt, a ritzy midtown Manhattan hotel that's now a shelter for migrants. The tournament's two sections that year attracted 815 entrants, a U.S. record for open tournaments at the time. The \$20,000 prize fund — about \$120,000 in today's dollars — also set a record for open chess tournaments. (For comparison, the 2025 World Open's guaranteed prizes total \$208,000 in the top six sections.)

Although lacking world-class names, the 1975 installment attracted much American talent: GMs Pal Benko, Walter Browne, and Nicholas Rossolimo; IMs Arnold Denker and Bernard Zuckerman, and many up-and-coming stars who went on to become GMs or IMs within a few years. (Note that FIDE titles then were far rarer than today, especially among Americans.) I played in the 1975 World Open myself, and two of Treffer's victims are still friends of mine.

For Alan Treffer, entering the World Open

in 1975 was something of a lark. He'd done well in tournaments through high school and his first two years at Dartmouth College and had defeated some masters. But he says, "It was a big deal for me to put together the money" to travel to New York, pay the entry fee and stay four nights in a hotel room, even shared with three friends. "It was a pretty

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I felt like I was playing extremely well, so I wasn't nervous.”
”

arduous thing, but I thought it would be exciting to go. It was being promoted as the biggest chess tournament of the year and I thought that would be fun.”

Round by Round

The first round gave Alan little hint of what was to come. Ranked 115th on the pre-tournament wall chart, the 19-year-old lost to



Treffer gives a simul at Dartmouth as an undergraduate



Orest Popovych (2295), who'd ranked number 13 in the U.S. three years earlier. "I didn't play very well in the first game," Alan says now. "But I decided I would dig in and see what I could do. And the next day it went well."

After fairly routine wins over Mykola Dumyk (1777) and Bill Frangos, Trefler-Small (1700) was a wild affair that saw Trefler in big trouble more than once before pulling out the win.

From there Trefler took off, winning seesaw battles against Lawrence Lipking (2223) and Jon Frankle (2194), then winning with remarkable smoothness against Robert Wachtel (2308). "When I began moving up to be in the top 10 boards, that was really pretty sobering," Alan says. "As I rose on the leaderboard and to the more rarefied tables it did get a lot of attention and comments." At the same time, he remembers, "I felt like I was playing extremely well, so I wasn't nervous."

On the last day, Trefler was paired in Round 8 against Julio Kaplan (2462), an international master from Puerto Rico who won the World Junior in 1967 ahead of future Candidates Robert Hübner and Jan Timman and future GM Raymond Keene. "I'm playing the former World Junior Champion!" Alan remembers thinking. He was basically lost on move 13, but won a wild game of tactical blows.

On the next board Michael Rohde, a 15-year-old future GM, upset GM and future six-time U.S. Champion Walter Browne to move into a first-place tie with Alan and two other contenders before the final round.

And in Round 9, Trefler completed his tournament of a lifetime by knocking off Rohde (2296) in another surprisingly smooth game which has been widely published, including in GM Robert Byrne's *New York Times* chess column soon after the tournament.

But the tournament's greatest drama unfolded only after Trefler had finished dispatching Rohde on Board 2. On Board 1, GM Pal Benko and future IM Robert Gruchacz traded down to a pawnless position where Benko had the theoretically drawn endgame of rook and bishop versus Gruchacz's lone rook. Trefler, assured of at least a tie for first, looked on, hoping it would end in a draw and leave him as sole winner of the tournament and \$3,000 first prize.

"For a long while, it looked like I was going to be sole number one. [Benko] had a draw on his board and he just wouldn't end. He wouldn't give in," Trefler says ruefully.

Pal Benko dominated large opens for much of the 1960s and '70s. He won or tied

for first in eight U.S. Opens between 1961 and 1975. He was also a renowned composer of endgame studies and wrote a *Chess Life* endgame column for decades. So it wasn't a great surprise to see him persevere and bring home the full point. "That was pretty painful to watch," Alan recalls. "But, you know, that's why he's Benko: That's why he's such a great, great player."

Alan's excitement outlived the disappointment of not becoming sole champion: "The whole thing was an amazing experience. I went with some friends to Howard Johnson's in Times Square to celebrate, with pistachio ice cream."

His \$2,250 winnings (equivalent to about \$13,400 today) amounted to about 40% of a year's tuition, room, and board at Dartmouth.

A Turn Toward Computers

Trefler's moment of triumph proved a career watershed that, surprisingly perhaps, ultimately pulled him away from tournament chess. "I had to make a decision as to whether I really wanted to apply myself to a career in chess," he explains. Quickly realizing he could never earn a living from playing the game, he entered only "a handful" of tournaments thereafter. His rating peaked at around 2300, and he never attained a FIDE rating. Alan thinks he played his last tournament before graduating college in 1977.

Instead, his interest in the game led him to get involved with researching computer chess, becoming the subject matter expert for his college's research project. Dartmouth had a computer chess program that's listed in the December 1975 *Chess Life & Review* with a provisional rating of 1210 based on 14 games; Trefler says he helped the program reach 1600 strength — a significant achievement for that era.

The experience led him to explore the broader topic of how to automate strategies for decision-making, and "It was really a fascinating opportunity and it set me on my career," says Alan. "Just thinking about how do you capture the rules and logic that people apply to what they do, and how do you apply that to how a computer can work? You didn't focus on brute force; you focused on trying to use rules of thumb to guide the moves. We didn't have the brute force to be able to do it the way you would do it today."

After graduating from Dartmouth in 1977

and spending a few years working in technology firms, he founded Pegasystems in 1983. It grew into one of the world's largest enterprise software companies, focused on helping its clients automate business processes. Based in Cambridge, Mass., Pegasystems had \$1.5 billion in revenue last year and employs about 6,000 people. Trefler continues to serve as its CEO. His younger brother Leon, also a former tournament chessplayer, is Pega's chief of clients and markets.

Playing With and Against Kasparov and Carlsen

Although his last rated game was decades ago, Alan continues to enjoy playing chess. He gives a simultaneous exhibition each year against 15 to 20 clients at his company's annual PegaWorld conference. And in 2010 he played a pair of tandem games teamed with and against Magnus Carlsen and Garry Kasparov, after bidding \$10,500 in an auction to raise money for Anatoly Karpov's election campaign for the presidency of FIDE.

"In the first game I was teamed up with Kasparov," Alan recalls. "He is incredibly intense. And incredibly competitive in a way that I am not." Even though it was "just kind of a fun exhibition game," Alan says Kasparov "was really passionate about trying to win."

Unlike a consultation game, partners in a tandem chess game aren't permitted to discuss moves with each other. "You could see him trying to predict my mistakes and trying to prevent them," Alan says. "Which worked badly: We ended up losing."

In the second tandem game Alan partnered with Carlsen against Kasparov and hedge fund manager NM Boaz Weinstein. Magnus "was just completely reacting," Alan says. "He was fun, open, played very naturally, and we destroyed Kasparov."

Synergies Among Chess, Technology, and Business

Trefler believes chess can help young people develop an analytical framework for solving technology and business challenges. "Some of the things I learned from chess are in-

credibly valuable in my day-to-day life and were valuable in setting up Pegasystems."

One takeaway from chess was "the whole idea of candidate moves. You identify a set of candidates, typically based on pattern recognition, and then you have the discipline to analyze all the candidates. You don't just go for the first thing that you think of. Having a structured way of considering alternatives is, I think, hugely important" when designing projects. And he says employers today respect a job applicant's interest and ability in chess, making it an asset on resumes.

The 69-year-old CEO isn't thinking about stepping down any time soon. "I like what I do," he says. "Learn new things, lead a team that does hard things, get to make clients and staff happy. Sounds better than retirement."

Games Section

FRENCH DEFENSE, MCCUTCHEON VARIATION (C12)

Orest Popovych (2295)

Alan Trefler (2045)

World Open (1), New York, 07.02.1975

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4

The McCutcheon Variation, though less popular than the main lines 4. ... Be7 and 4. ... dxe4, has always had its share of enterprising adherents.

5. e5 h6 6. Bd2

Trefler's Round 5 game went 6. exf6 hxg5 7. fxg7, as we'll see.

6. ... Bxc3 7. bxc3 Ne4 8. Qg4 Kf8

The alternative is 8. ... g6. Either way, short castling is not in Black's plans.

9. h4 f5!

ChessBase shows no GM practice with this move, even now. Standard is 9. ... c5 10. Bd3 Nxd2 11. Kxd2 with a small plus for White.

10. exf6 e.p.

Stockfish sees a major White advantage after 10. Qf4 or 10. Qd1 but the continuations it gives are not convincing.

10. ... Qxf6 11. Nf3 Nc6 12. Qf4 Nxd2 13. Qxd2 e5 14. dxe5 Nxe5 15. 0-0-0

(see diagram top of next page)

If Black hoped for a messy, double-edged



POSITION AFTER 15. 0-0-0

position when essaying the McCutcheon, he certainly got his wish.

15. ... Be6?

It's equal after 15. ... Nxf3 16. gxf3 Be6 according to Stockfish. The doubled f-pawns prevent White from lifting a rook to f3 — an important avenue for harassing Black's exposed king -- while the half-open g-file is less useful.

16. Nxe5 Qxe5 17. f4?!

Either 17. h5 or 17. Re1 was the right way to go. For example, 17. Re1 Qd6 18. h5 Re8

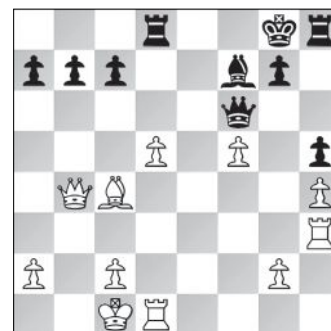
19. Bd3 Bf7 20. Rxe8+ Bxe8 21. Qe3 c5 22. Rh4 (threatening Rh4-f4+) 22. ... Bf7 23. Rf4 Kg8 24. g4 and Black cannot untie himself. If then 24. ... b6 25. Bf5 Qd8 26. Bg6 Bxg6 27. hxg6 will soon lead to forced checkmate.

**“
If Black hoped for
a messy, double-
edged position ...
he certainly got
his wish.”**

17. ... Qd6 18. f5 Bf7

Not 18. ... Bxf5? 19. Qf2 Qf6 20. Rxd5 regaining the pawn with a strong initiative for White, who can meet 20. ... Be6 with 21. Qc5+!, when 21. ... Qe7 22. Bd3! Bxd5 23. Qxd5 leaves Black with no good defense to 24. Rf1+.

19. Rh3 h5 20. c4 Qf6 21. Qb4+ Kg8 22. cxd5 Rd8 23. Bc4



Despite his pawn minus, Black is still holding his own here against his higher-rated opponent. But now he goes overboard, pitching two more pawns in hopes of a counterattack.

23. ... b5?

He could have maintained the balance with 23. ... Qa1+ after either 24. Qb1 Qe5 25. Rf3 Rh6 or 24. Kd2 Qd4+ 25. Rd3 Qxh4.

24. Qxb5 Kh7 25. c3?

Missing the stronger 25. Qb2.

25. ... Qh6+ 26. Kc2 Rb8 27. Qc5 Rb6?, and White won.



Trefler's 2024 simul
at the PegaWorld user
conference

PHOTO: COURTESY PEGASYSTEMS

Alan's notation ends here. The game may have continued, but White is consolidating his material advantage and Black is clearly lost after 28. Qxc7, or other moves such as 28. Qe7 or 28. Bb3.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ACCELERATED DRAGON (BY TRANSPOSITION) (B38)

Alan Treffer (2045)

Mykola Dumyk (1777)

World Open (2), New York, 07.03.1975

A smooth crush. Black got the worse of it in a Maroczy Bind and never found a way to get back in the game.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. Nf3 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 g6 6. e4 d6 7. Be2 Bg7 8. Be3 a6 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Qd2 Re8 11. Rfd1 Bd7 12. Rac1 Rc8 13. h3 h5 14. f4 Nxd4 15. Bxd4 e5 16. fxe5 dxe5 17. Bf2 Bc6 18. Qe3 Qe7 19. Bh4 Qe6 20. Rf1 Kh7 21. Nd5 Ng8 22. Rc3 Rf8 23. g4 hxg4 24. hxg4 f5 25. gxf5 gxf5 26. exf5 Qd6 27. Qh3 Bh6 28. Rg3 Bxd5 29. cxd5 Qxd5 30. f6 e4 31. f7 Qc5+ 32. Kh1 Ne7 33. Qe6 Rc6 34. Qxe4+ Ng6 35. Bd3 Qb6 36. Rxg6 Rxg6 37. Bf6 Qc6 38. Qxc6 bxc6 39. Rg1, Black resigned.

FRENCH DEFENSE, MCCUTCHEON VARIATION (C12)

Bill Frangos (1820)

Alan Treffer (2045)

World Open (3), New York, 07.03.1975

Another blowout. After misplaying the white side of the McCutcheon Variation and handing Treffer a strategic advantage by move 10, Frangos tried to fix his doubled pawns but lost a pawn to a double attack. Black's extra pawn became an advanced passer and White never had much chance, resigning on move 32.

1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4 5. e5 h6 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. Bxc3

Less ambitious than recapturing with the pawn (the normal continuation).

7. ... Ne4 8. Nf3

After the usual 7. bxc3 White could play 8. Qg4, but it's pointless here -- with the bishop off the c1-h6 diagonal, Black can simply castle.

8. ... c5 9. dxc5?! Nxc3 10. bxc3

Black's strategically better: With White's dark-squared bishop having been ex-

changed, the first player lacks the usual compensation for their fractured pawn structure.

10. ... Qa5 11. Qd2 Nd7 12. Bd3 Nxc5 13. Nd4 Bd7 14. c4?



Aiming to trade off one of the doubled pawns is well motivated, but it fails tactically.

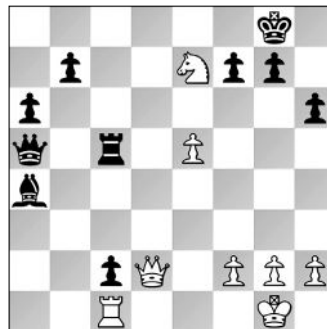
14. ... Nxd3+ 15. cxd3 Qc7

A double attack that nets a pawn.

16. Qe2 dxc4 17. 0-0 c3 18. Rfc1 0-0

Black has a clean extra passed pawn and a winning advantage.

19. a4 a6 20. Ra3 Qc5 21. Nc2 Rac8 22. d4 Qa5 23. Qd3 Rc7 24. Ne3 Rfc8 25. Nd1 c2 26. Ne3 Rc3 27. Rxc3 Rxc3 28. Qd2 Bxa4 29. d5 exd5 30. Nxd5 Rc5 31. Ne7+



31. ... Kh8!

Avoiding the awkwardness that could follow the thoughtless 31. ... Kf8?!. After 32. Qd6 only 32. ... Qc7 preserves the win (32. ... Ke8?? is a selfmate starting with 33. Nf5) and with difficulty at that: 33. Ng6+ Ke8! (33. ... Kg8 34. Qf8+ Kh7 35. Ne7 would be still more awkward for Black, who must trade queen for knight but still wins thanks to his monster c-pawn together with White's weak back rank) 34. Qf8+ Kd7 35. Qxf7+ Kc6 36. Qf3+ Kb6 followed by ... a6-a5 and ... Kb6-a6 when the black king painstakingly reaches shelter, enabling His Majesty's officers to finish the job. This whole line neatly illus-

trates how even hopeless positions such as White's at move 31 often contain real resources that require serious attention to neutralize.

32. Qf4 Rxe5, White resigned.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, SÄMISCH VARIATION (E84)

Alan Treffer (2045)

David Small (1700)

World Open (4), New York, 07.04.1975

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 d6 3. Nc3 g6 4. e4 Bg7 5. f3 0-0 6. Be3 Nc6 7. Nge2 Rb8 8. Qd2 a6 White now embarks on an off-book sequence that lands him in difficulties. He chose the same continuation in his crucial Round 8 game.

9. g4

A rarely seen move that shows poor cumulative results in ChessBase. The main alternatives known to theory are 9. Nc1, 9. h4, and 9. Rc1.

9. ... b5 10. Ng3?! e5 11. Nce2?!

White wants to maintain control over d4, since after 11. d5 Nd4 capturing twice on that square would be disastrous for him. But he pays a high price in lost time for development -- as becomes evident both in the next note and in the actual game by move 16.

11. ... bxc4

Still stronger was 11. ... exd4 12. Nxd4 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 c5, as IM Julio Kaplan played against Treffer in Round 8. Stockfish then accords Black a decisive advantage based on getting the rook to b2, even at the cost of sacrificing a knight in some lines.

12. d5 Nb4 13. Nc3 Nd3+

Better was 13. ... c6 14. dxc6 Be6.

14. Bxd3 cxd3 15. h4 Nxg4!? 16. fxg4 Bxg4 17. h5 f5



A sharp position with dynamically equal chances. But now White gives his opponent an opportunity for a stunning shot.

18. Bh6?

Better was 18. Bg5 Qd7 19. hxc6 hxc6 20. Qg2 — a hairy situation that Stockfish rates as equal but in human terms must favor Black, with three pawns and an attack in return for the sacrificed piece.

18. ... f4?

Overlooking 18. ... Rxb2!! 19. Qxb2 Bxh6 when the prettiest line is 20. hxc6 (better is 20. Nf1 but Black's still winning after 20. ... fxe4 21. hxc6 Qg5) 20. ... d2+, when either 21. Kf1 (or 21. Kf2) 21. ... fxe4+ leads to eventual forced checkmate.

19. Bxg7 Kxg7 20. hxc6

The h-file ends up serving as a Black super-highway. Therefore it was wiser to keep it closed with 20. h6+, or even 20. Nf1.

20. ... hxc6 21. Nf1 Qd7

Better is the immediate 21. ... Rh8.

22. b3 Rh8 23. Rxh8 Rxh8 24. Qxd3 Rh3 25. Qc4



White's small material edge of knight versus two pawns is outweighed by his exposed king and uncoordinated pieces, as well as his opponent's connected passed pawns. But Black's next move gives away his advantage by needlessly allowing White to castle.

25. ... Rf3?!

Best was 25. ... Rh1 followed by ... Bg4-h5 and getting the g-pawn moving.

26. 0-0-0 Qc8?!

Another error, allowing the valuable bishop to be exchanged for the hapless f1-knight. It was wiser for Black to return the rook to h3, admitting his previous move was wrong-headed.

27. Nh2 Rg3 28. Nxc4 Rxc4

White has gained an advantage for the first time in the game. The task for Black is to get the g-pawn going and position the heavy pieces to support that advance.

29. Kb1 Rh4 30. Rc1 Kf6 31. Nd1 Rh7?

Black should ignore the threat against the c-pawn and simply play 31. ... g5. After 32. Qxc7 Qxc7 33. Rxc7 g4 Black's passed pawns are worth more than White's knight, and the black rook can stop the passed d-pawn that White will create after Rc7-d7xd6.

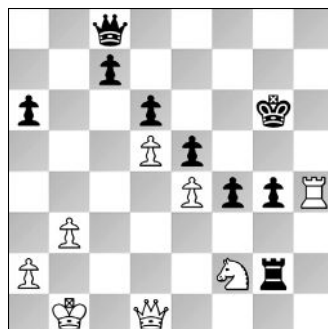
32. Nf2 g5 33. Qc6?!

Straightforward defense, restraining the g-pawn with 33. Rg1 Rh4 34. Qe2, would have kept White on top.

33. ... Rh2 34. Qc2 Rg2?

This awkward placement both impedes its own pawn's advance and exposes the rook to attack when the white queen gets to f1 or f3. Worst of all, it gives up the h-file — which ultimately proves decisive. Best was 34. ... Rh4 with equal chances, since grabbing the c-pawn is still suicide.

35. Rh1 Kg6 36. Qd1 g4 37. Rh4!?



This knight sac is sound, but 37. Qf1 f3 38. Rh4 was even better. Then the desperado tactic 38. ... Kg5, analogous to the next note, would fail to 39. Qc1+! Kxh4 40. Qh6+ Kg3 41. Nh1 mate.

37. ... Rxf2?

The stubborn 37. ... Kg5! baits a trap: Now White's planned 38. Qh1 fails due to 38. ... Rg1+! (on 38. ... Rxf2?? the heavy pieces force checkmate starting with 39. Rh5+) 39. Qxg1 Kxh4 40. Qh2+ Kg5 41. Qh7 f3, leaving White only a tad better. However, White should prevail after the accurate 38. Rh7! Qg8! 39. Rh2!! (39. Qh1 Qxh7 40. Qxh7 Rxf2 is an equal ending according to the engines) 39. ... Rxf2 40. Rxf2 Qh7 41. Qe2.

38. Qh1!

The h-file will be overrun.

38. ... Qf8 39. Rxc4+ Kf6 40. Qh4+ Kf7 41. Qxf2, Black resigned.

A three-ring circus of a game!

FRENCH DEFENSE, MC-CUTCHEON VARIATION (C12)

Lawrence Lipking (2223)

Alan Treffer (2045)

World Open (5), New York, 07.04.1975

1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4

Treffer's third time playing Black in this tournament — and his third McCutcheon French!

5. e5 h6 6. exf6

Surprisingly, the third-most common move in ChessBase, after 6. Bd2 and 6. Be3. The engines assess it as no worse than the main lines, but its historical results are a good deal weaker.

6. ... hxc5 7. fxg7 Rg8 8. h4

The only reasonable try for advantage.

8. ... gxh4 9. Qg4 Qf6 10. Rxh4 Bd7 11. Nf3

White may do better to cling to the advanced g-pawn longer with 11. Rh7.

11. ... Nc6 12. 0-0-0 0-0-0

And here the engines advise Black to recover the pawn while they can: 12. ... Rxc5 13. Rh8+ Ke7 14. Qh4 and then either 14. ... Rgg8 or 14. ... Rxh8 15. Qxh8 Rg4, with Black slightly better in either case.

13. Rh7

Now the engines view the chances as clearly favoring White.

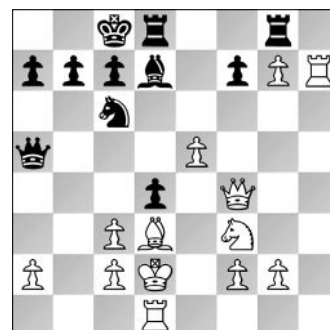
13. ... Bxc3 14. bxc3 e5 15. dxe5 Qe7

Not 15. ... Nxe5? 16. Qd4, winning material.

16. Qf4 Qa3+ 17. Kd2

King in the center notwithstanding, White's two-pawn lead should be sufficient for victory.

17. ... Qa5 18. Bd3 d4



19. Nxd4?

Needlessly complicating matters. White should calmly retreat the king toward the kingside and concentrate on undermining Black's blockade of the g7-pawn: (a) 19. Ke1 Qxc3+ 20. Kf1 Nb4 21. Qxd4 Qa3 22. Bc4; (b) 19. Ke2 dxc3 20. Qf6 Nb4 21. Rh8; or (c) 19. Qf6 dxc3+ 20. Ke1 Qb4 21. Rh8, with a won game in each case.

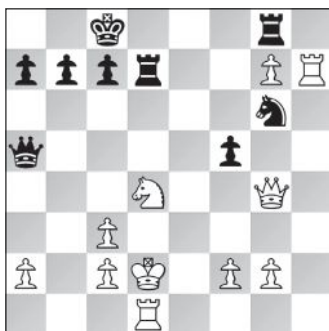
19. ... Nxe5 20. Bb5?!

The simplest way was 20. Be2 with a winning advantage.

20. ... Ng6 21. Bxd7+ Rxd7 22. Qg4?

White would stay on top after 22. Qf6 Rd6 (or 22. ... c5 23. Rh8! Rxd4+ 24. Qxd4! cxd4 25. Rxg8+) 23. Rh8! Rxf6 24. Rxg8+ Kd7 25. Rd8+ Kxd8 26. g8=Q+ Kd7 27. Ke2! when discovered checks with the knight threaten more than just the queen. For example, 27. ... Qa6+ 28. Ke1 Nf4 runs into 29. Qd8+!! Kxd8 30. Nc6+ followed by 31. Rd8 mate.

22. ... f5



23. Qxg6?

A final blunder, allowing a forced checkmate. The best chance was 23. Rh5, though Black's still somewhat better after 23. ... b6 24. Qxf5 (not 24. Rxf5? Rxd4+ 25. Qxd4 Qxf5) 24. ... Qxf5 25. Rxf5 c5.

23. ... Rxd4+ 24. Ke2 Qe5+ 25. Kf3 Qf4+ 26. Ke2 Qe4+, White resigned.

FRENCH DEFENSE, ADVANCE VARIATION (C02)

Jon Frankle (2194)

Alan Treffer (2045)

World Open (6), New York, 07.05.1975

1. e4 e6

Trefler's conduct of this game illustrates at multiple points why the French is Aron Nimzovich's favorite defense.

2. d4 d5 3. e5

The Advance Variation, popular in Nimzovich's time, is less common at top levels today. Nimzovich elaborated Black's optimal strategy of building pressure against the d4-pawn, then opening the f-file and finally sacrificing an Exchange on f3 to capture d4 and dominate the central squares.

3. ... c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2

Decades ago 6. Bd3 was standard. Nowadays that move and 6. Be2 appear equally often, but 6. a3 is far more popular than either, and has yielded superior results for White.

6. ... cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. b3 Nf5 9. Bb2

Bb4+ 10. Kf1 Bd7 11. g4 Nh6 12. h3 0-0

13. a3 Be7 14. b4?!

According to Stockfish, 14. Nbd2 would maintain equal chances. One wild engine continuation goes 14. ... f6 15. exf6 Bxf6!? 16. g5 Bxd4 17. Bxd4 Nxd4 18. gxh6 Nxe2 19. Qxe2 Bb5 20. Nc4 dxc4 21. a4! Ba6 22. b4 Qxb4 23. Qxe6+ Rf7 (23. ... Kh8?? 24. hxg7+ with mate to follow) 24. Ne5 c3+ 25. Kg1 Qe7 26. Qxf7+ Qxf7 27. Nxf7 Kxf7 and the advanced c-pawn assures Black an equal endgame despite a slight material disadvantage.

14. ... f6 15. exf6 Rxf6!



16. Nc3

It doesn't work to play 16. g5?. After 16. ... Rxf3 17. Bxf3 (17. gxh6 Rf7 is even worse for White) 17. ... Bxg5 we reach a structure similar to those explored in Nimzovich's century-old analysis of the 6. Bd3 line. Black's greater central influence (after an eventual ... Be7-f6 and ... Nh6-f5), together with White's vulnerable d4-pawn and weak king position, far outweigh the small material deficit.

16. ... Raf8 17. Na4 Qc7 18. Rc1 Rxf3?!

Hoping to sidestep the threatened b4-b5



without pausing his attack, Black undertakes a sacrifice that erases his advantage.

A tactical solution was available starting with 18. ... Nf7! 19. b5 Ng5! 20. bxc6 Bxc6!, with a further continuation that only an engine could either love or calculate.

But the straightforward human rejoinders 18. ... a6 and 18. ... b5 would also maintain Black's plus. Although 19. g5 (after 18. ... a6) would still force Black to give up an Exchange, both the pawn and the tempo he would pick up in that line are more valuable than the compensation he obtains in the game continuation.

19. Bxf3 Qf4 20. Kg2 Nxd4 21. Bxd4 Bxa4 22. Qd3

The chances have tilted in White's favor. Although the material balance — a pawn for the Exchange — is the same as in previous notes that favored Black, there is a large difference in piece activity here: White's dark-squared bishop is powerfully centralized, rather than being stuck behind a d4-pawn, while the Black knight is denied the f5-square.

22. ... Bc6?!

Better is 22. ... Bd6 or 22. ... Nf7, controlling the crucial e5-square.

23. Qe3 Qf7



This move in conjunction with Black's previous one contains a hidden drop of poison that White overlooks.

24. Rhe1?

White could end Black's resistance with 24. b5! Bxb5 (on 24. ... e5 White can consolidate his material advantage with 25. bxc6 exd4 26. Qb3 bxc6 27. Rxc6) 25. Rc7, but also 24. Be2 and even 24. Rxc6 bxc6 25. Re1 would keep White comfortably on top. In the latter case White is temporarily a pawn behind but his two bishops and strong initiative more than compensate.

24. ... e5!

And here comes Nimzovich again! The cheeky black pawn is taboo. If 25. Qxe5 Qxf3+, and if 25. Bxe5 the d-pawn manifests its "lust to expand" with 25. ... d4!, also winning the f3-bishop.

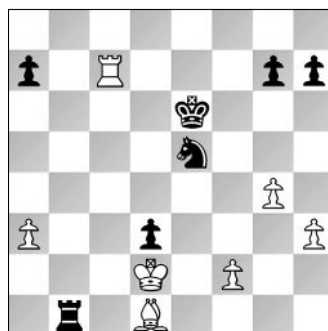
25. b5 exd4 26. Qb3 d3! 27. Re3?

White is understandably flustered by the turn the game has taken in the past few moves. He could maintain equal chances with 27. Qxd3, according to Stockfish. After 27. ... Bxb5 28. Qxd5 Bxa3 29. Rc3! Bb4 30. Qxb5 Bxc3 31. Re3! White regains his piece due to the threat of Bf3-d5, and once again superior piece activity compensates for a pawn minus.

27. ... d4 28. Qxf7+ Kxf7 29. Rxe7+ Kxe7 30. bxc6 bxc6 31. Rxc6

The rook endgame after 31. Bxc6 Nf7 32. Be4 Ne5 33. Rd1 Kd6 34. Bxd3 Nxd3 35. Rxd3 Kd5 is won for Black.

31. ... Nf7 32. Rc7+ Ke6 33. Kf1 Ne5 34. Bd1 Rb8 35. Ke1 Rb1 36. Kd2 Rb2+ 37. Ke1 d2+ 38. Ke2 d3+ 39. Ke3 Rb1 40. Kxd2



40. ... Rb2+??

The final move of the time control. In his notes to this game in the September 1975 *Chess Life & Review*, Treffer says he had anticipated this position three moves earlier and had planned the winning 40. ... Kd5 (with 41. ... Nc4+ to follow), but with his flag about to fall he neglected to play it. While it might appear that the position will soon repeat, Black has unwittingly given his opponent a way out. Actually, two ways out ...

41. Ke3 Rb1 42. Kd2??

White returns the favor, repeating the lost position. Both 42. f4 Rxd1 43. fxe5 and 42. Ba4 Re1+ 43. Kd2 Re2+ 44. Kc3 Rxf2 45. Rxc7 lead to equal endgames.

42. ... Kd5

After this it's all over.

43. Rxc7

After 43. f4 Nc4+ 44. Kxd3 Rxd1+, it doesn't matter whether the king runs rightward or leftward — Black will gradually harvest all the white pawns while holding onto one of his own to eventually bring home the point.

43. ... Kd4 44. Rxh7 Nc4+ 45. Ke1 Nb2 46. Rd7+ Kc4 47. Kd2 Rxd1+ 48. Ke3 Re1+ 49. Kd2 Re2+ 50. Kc1 Kc3 51. Rc7+ Nc4 52. Kd1 Ra2, White resigned.

GRÜNFELD DEFENSE (D91)

Alan Treffer (2045)

Robert Wachtel (2308)

World Open (7), New York, 07.05.1975

A tour de force. White gives his much higher-rated opponent the kind of strategic spanking you expect to see when an established pro faces an amateur.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5

Like Treffer's McCutcheon French, Wachtel's Grünfeld signals his intent to enter a complex strategic and tactical battle and aim for a full point with Black.

4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bg5 Ne4 6. cxd5 Nxc3 7. Nxc3 e6 8. Nf3 exd5 9. e3 0-0 10. b4 a5

Departing from book. The moves 10. ... c6, 10. ... Be6, and 10. ... Qd6 have appeared in GM practice.

11. b5 c5 12. bxc6 e.p. bxc6



The structural goalposts are set: White will target the outpost on c5 and the backward c-pawn; Black will seek to exploit his two bishops and drum up counterplay on the king's wing.

13. Rc1 Qd6 14. Be2 f5?!

The kind of move that in the 1970s was labeled "anti-positional" — Black makes his half-bad light-squared bishop (what author and IM Silas Esben Lund would call a "Double-Edged Bishop," or DEB) still worse. Black's goal is to advance the pawn to f4 at

the right moment. But when he achieves that advance it ends up doing more harm than good. Be careful what you wish for!

15. 0-0 Kh8 16. g3 h6 17. Na4 Ra7 18. Nc5 g5 19. Nd3 f4

As the saying goes, having said A, one must say B. Consistent though it is, Black's idea backfires against his own king's position.

20. exf4 gxf4 21. Nde5

Black was probably looking for something like 21. Nxf4 Rxf4 22. gxf4 Bh3, which Stockfish assesses as greatly in White's favor, but is still rife with attacking possibilities for both sides.

21. ... Rc7?!

Maybe eyeing a ... c6-c5 break. But the lessons Black opened up on his own kingside soon force him to keep his attention on that wing.

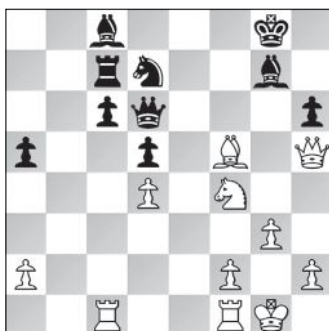
22. Bd3 Rf6

If 22. ... Bf5 23. Nh4 Bxd3 24. Qxd3 Kg8 25. Neg6 fxf3 26. hxf3 Re8 27. Rce1 Qd8 28. Nf5 Rd7 29. Nf4 and the fork threat Nf4-e6 will cost Black material. If 29. ... Bf8?? 30. Nxf6+ leads to mate or great material gain.

23. Nh4 Kg8 24. Qh5 Nd7 25. Nf5 Qf8 26. Ng6 Rxf5

It's even worse after 26. ... Qd8 27. Nfe7+ Kf7 28. Rfe1.

27. Bxf5 Qd6 28. Nxf4



With an overwhelming material advantage that Trefler continues to exploit flawlessly, finishing off without a hitch.

28. ... Nf6 29. Qh3 Bxf5 30. Qxf5 Ne4 31. Qe6+ Kh7 32. Qxd6 Nxd6 33. Ne6 Rc8 34. Nxf7 Kxf7 35. Rfe1 Kf6 36. Kg2 Nb5 37. Red1 Nd6 38. Rc2 Nc4 39. Re2 Nd6 40. Rde1 Nf5 41. Rd1 Rb8 42. g4 Nd6 43. Rde1 Ne4 44. f3 Ng5 45. h4 Nf7 46. Re6+ Kg7 47. Rxc6 Rb2+ 48. Kg3 Rxa2 49. Re7 Kf8 50. Ra7 Re2 51. Rc8+ Re8 52. Rxe8+ Kxe8 53. Rxa5, Black resigned.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, SÄMISCH VARIATION (E84)

Alan Trefler (2045)

IM Julio Kaplan (2462)

World Open (8), New York, 07.06.1975

Trefler and his formidable opponent compose a rich symphony of tactical blows and counterblows.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 0-0 6. Be3 Nc6 7. Nge2 a6 8. Qd2 Rb8 9. g4 b5 10. Ng3?! e5 11. Nce2?!

Repeating Trefler – Small from Round 4. White fared none too well from the opening in that game; he fares worse in this one.

11. ... exd4!

Even stronger than his Round 4 opponent's choice of 11. ... bxc4.

12. Nxd4 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 c5!

Black already has a decisive plus.

14. Bc3

The main alternative, 14. Bf2 bxc4 15. Bxc4, leaves White dead busted after 15. ... Nxf4! 16. fxf4 Rxb2 17. Qf4 Qa5+ 18. Kf1 Rb4 19. Rc1 Rxc4! 20. Rxc4 Qb5.

14. ... b4 15. Bxf6 Bxf6?

From Trefler's notes to this game in the September 1975 *Chess Life & Review*: "Black is hoping for 16. 0-0-0, when ... Bc8xg4 wins. However, 15. ... Qxf6 looks crushing. Now

Black begins to let his advantage slip."

16. h4! Qe7

White equalizes after 16. ... Bxh4? 17. Qh2 Bxg3+ 18. Qxg3 Qe7 19. 0-0-0 Rb6 according to Stockfish.

17. 0-0-0 Bg7 18. h5 Be6!?



Black plans a sacrificial idea to target the white king. Instead he might have headed for a big edge with less risk by playing 18. ... g5 19. h6 Be5 20. Nh5 Kh8, or 18. ... b3 19. a3 h6.

19. Be2?

19. g5! would restore equal chances according to Stockfish. The idea is to continue with f3-f4, Bf1-d3, and then f4-f5. To prevent this, Black must play ... f7-f6 or ... h7-h6. But the former hangs the d6-pawn (since the saving ... Bg7-e5 is no longer available) and the latter gives White chances for counterplay in the center and kingside.



Analyzing positions from the Round 9 game against Rohde

19. ... Bd4

Black misses his chance to keep a big edge by closing up the kingside with 19. ... g5.

20. f4 d5!? 21. f5!?

It's equal after 21. cxd5 Bxd5 22. Kb1 Bxe4+ 23. Nxe4 Qxe4+ 24. Bd3 Qe3 per the engine.

21. ... dxc4!?

White's idea was that on 21. ... gxf5 22. cxd5, Black must retreat the bishop since 22. ... Bxd5? is refuted by 23. Nxf5 Qxe4 24. Qg5+ Kh8 25. Rxd4. But Black could keep an edge in that line with 22. ... Bd7 or 22. ... Bc8. The game move is an enterprising (but not quite sound) piece sacrifice aimed at demolishing the white king's pawn cover.

22. fxe6

It was better to throw in 22. hxg6 first.

22. ... c3 23. exf7+?

Gives Black an important tempo to position his queen for both defense and counterattack. White could have kept winning chances alive with 23. Qh6!.

23. ... Qxf7 24. Qd3

On the alternative 24. Qg5 Black can maintain equality with either the simple 24. ... Qxa2 25. Qd5+ Qxd5 26. exd5, or the complicated and rather funny 24. ... Be3+ (to prevent a forced queen trade after an immediate ... Qf7xa2) 25. Qxe3 Qxa2 26. Bc4+! (one good queen deflection deserves another!) 26. ... Qxc4 27. Qg5 Rf2 28. Rd8+ Rxd8 29. Qxd8+ Kg7 30. Qe7+ Kg8 31. Qe8+ Rf8 32. Qd7.

24. ... b3

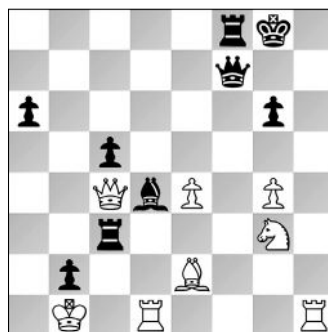
Black's attack looks terrifying but White can survive if he keeps his cool.

25. axb3 Rxb3 26. Qc4 cxb2+ 27. Kb1 Rc3

Not 27. ... Rxb3? 28. Rdf1 Qxc4 29. Bxc4+ Kg7 30. h6+ Kh8 31. Rxf8 mate.

Dynamic equality still prevails. Again quoting Treffer from 50 years ago: "Black

now has less than one minute to get to move 40 and the time control. White tries to complicate to take advantage of this."

28. hxg6 hxg6?

Just the kind of error that comes naturally with time pressure. Black could have held on with 28. ... Qxc4 29. Bxc4+ Rxc4 30. gxh7+ Kh8.

29. Rxd4! cxd4

Not much better is 29. ... Rxc4 30. Bxc4 cxd4 31. Bxf7+ Rxf7 32. Rf1.

30. Qxd4 Qf6

If instead 30. ... Rc1+ 31. Kxb2! (but not 31. Rxc1?? bxc1=Q+ 32. Kxc1 Qf4+ 33. Kd1 Qxg3 and Black wins!) 31. ... Rxh1 32. Bc4.

31. Bc4+ Rxc4

If 31. ... Kg7 32. e5! is even better than 32. Qd7+ Rf7 33. Bxf7.

32. Qxc4+ Kg7 33. Qc7+ Rf7 34. Qb8 Rf8 35. Qxb2 Qxb2+ 36. Kxb2 Rf2+ 37. Kc1 Rf4 38. Rf1 Rxb4 39. Rf3 Rg5 40. Kd2 Rb5 41. Rd3 a5 42. Ke3 a4 43. Ra3 Ra5 44. Ne2, Black resigned.

BENONI DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (A67)

Alan Treffer (2045)
Michael Rohde (2296)
World Open (9), New York, 07.06.1975

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. f4 Bg7 8. Bb5+ Nfd7 9. Bd3 0-0 10. Nf3 a6 11. a4 Nf6 12. 0-0 Bg4 13. h3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Nbd7 15. Bd2 Qc7 16. Rae1 c4 17. Bb1

(see diagram top of next column)

17. ... b5

Engines want Black to grab the b-pawn by playing 17. ... Qb6+. GM Robert Byrne in his *New York Times* chess column said that would



POSITION AFTER 17. Bb1

allow White too strong an attack with 18. Be3 Qxb2 19. Bd4 Qb4 20. e5. But Stockfish points out an ingenious escape route: 19. ... Nxe4!! 20. Bxg7 (Black wins after 20. Rxe4? f5! 21. Bxg7 fxe4) 20. ... Nd2!! 21. Qf2 Kxg7 22. Qd4+ Kg8 23. Rf2 Nb3! with a slight plus for Black.

18. Kh1 Rfe8?!

Here, unlike in the previous note, the engines' move choice reflects Benoni themes: 18. ... b4 19. Ne2 Rab8 or 19. ... a5, with White slightly better in either case.

19. axb5 axb5 20. Nxb5 Qc5 21. Nc3 Rab8 22. Re2

Black lacks real compensation for the pawn.

22. ... Qc7

Of course the b-pawn was immune: 22. ... Rxb2 23. Na4.

23. Nd1 Nc5 24. e5!

The thematic pawn advance in this structure, which together with his next move gives White a winning advantage.

24. ... Nfd7 25. e6! fxe6 26. dxe6 Nxe6

No better is 26. ... Nf6 27. f5 with a won position.

27. f5 gxf5 28. Bxf5 Ne5 29. Qh5 Nf8 30. Bc3 Neg6?

It was slightly better to play 30. ... Nfg6 or 30. ... Kh8.

31. Ref2?

Not the most incisive, but still comfortably winning. But 31. Bxg6 would force Black to part with his queen after either 31. ... hxg6 (or 31. ... Nxg6) 32. Qd5+ followed by Rf1-f7.

31. ... Be5 32. Be4 Rb5 33. Ne3

Renewing the threat of Be4-d5+.

33. ... Re7 34. Nd5 Qd8 35. Nxe7+ Qxe7 36. Qg4 Bxc3 37. Rxf8+ Qxf8 38. Rxf8+ Kxf8 39. bxc3, Black resigned. ♠

Over the Top

FM Tani Adewumi
crosses 2400, his
last step toward
gaining the IM title.

WITH ANNOTATIONS BY
**FM TANITOLUWA
ADEWUMI**





UST FIVE YEARS AFTER learning how the pieces move, 14-year-old FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi has lifted his FIDE rating past 2400. Combined with the norms he's amassed, the New York master will be awarded the IM title at the next FIDE Congress.

Tani passed the barrier at the Spring NYC Norms Invitational, held in March. He won the GM A section with 6/9, missing the GM norm by only a point.

He's annotated two of his games from the tournament: His penultimate-round game against GM Harshit Raja, and his fifth-round game against GM Oliver Barbosa, in which he overcame a massive time disadvantage to pull out the victory, go over 2400 in the live ratings and cement the IM title for himself.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B30)

GM Harshit Raja (2565)

FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2449)

Spring NYC Norms Invitational (8), New York, 03.31.2025

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e6 4. Bxc6 bxc6 5. d3 f6

I spent 19 minutes on this move because I was just stuck. I didn't prepare for 5. d3, but I knew similar ideas and just decided on this even though I knew it wasn't the right continuation.

6. 0-0 d6

This isn't the best move either, but I'm trying to control the center.

7. Nh4 Qc7 8. f4

I would be totally fine after 8. Qh5+ Qf7. In fact, if White's not careful, Black can get the advantage after, for example, 9. Qe2 g5.

8. ... Nh6

I wanted to play this for a long time, but I couldn't because of the annoying c1-bishop.

9. e5?

White had two better alternatives, although I would be fine after either one:

(a) 9. f5 Nf7 10. Nc3 d5 11. fxe6 Bxe6 12. exd5 cxd5 and I thought Black was fine here.

(b) 9. Nc3 Nf7 10. b3 Be7 11. Qe1 0-0 and I get a game, which is what I'm looking for, because I needed to win my last two games for the norm.

9. ... dxe5

Free pawn!

10. fxe5 Qxe5 11. Bf4?

Now I get a chance to catch up in development. White would be OK after 11. Bxh6 Qd4+ 12. Kh1 Qxh4 13. Be3 e5 14. Nc3 Be7.

11. ... Qd4+ 12. Kh1 Nf7

I considered 12. ... g5; the engine says it works, but I thought it was too risky.

13. Nc3 Be7



14. Bg3

White could play the tricky 14. Qf3 when Black could lose it all with 14. ... Bd7?? 15. Nb5! It's equal after 14. ... Bb7 15. Nb5 cxb5 16. Qxb7 Rd8 17. Qxb5+ Qd7, though, and I would have played 14. ... Qd7 and enjoyed my extra pawn.

14. ... 0-0 15. Qh5 f5

I could also have played 15. ... c4 16. Rf4 Qb6 17. Rxc4 (17. Na4 Qb5!) 17. ... Qxb2 18. Rf1 Bd7.

16. Nf3 Qb4 17. Ne5 Qxb2 18. Nxf7 Rxf7

19. Be5 Bf6 20. Qe2

If 20. Bxf6 gxf6 21. Ne2 Qxc2 and I'm up three comfortable pawns.

20. ... Bxe5 21. Qxe5 Qxc2 22. Qxc5 Ba6



23. Rfd1

White could have played 23. Rad1 threatening to trap the queen with Rf1-f2, when I would need to find an absolutely insane

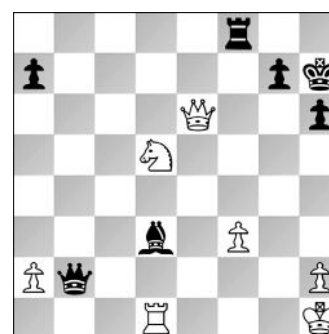
idea that Raja told me about after the game: 23. ... Rb8!! when letting him trap the queen is the only move to win! After 24. Rf2 Rb5!! the white queen can't defend everything. Black wins after 25. Qd4 Rd5!!.

23. ... Bxd3 24. Rac1 Qb2 25. Qxc6 Raf8

26. Qxe6 f4 27. Nd5 f3 28. gxf3 h6 29. Rc8

White missed a way to equalize with 29. Nf6+. The game peters out into a draw after 29. ... Qxf6 30. Qxf6 Rxf6 31. Rxd3 Rxf3 32. Rd7, or after 29. ... gxf6 30. Rc8 Qe2 (not 30. ... Rxc8? 31. Rg1+ Kf8 32. Qxc8+ Ke7 33. Qc5+ Ke6 34. Qe3+ Qe5 35. Qxd3) 31. Rxf8+ Kxf8 32. Qd6+ Re7 33. Qxd3.

29. ... Kh7! 30. Rxf8 Rxf8



31. Re1??

White can save himself with 31. Qe3 although it's difficult to see all the variations: 31. ... Be2 32. Qe4+ Kh8 33. Nf4 Bxd1 34. Ng6+ Kh7 and there's a perpetual after 35. Ne7+ or equality after 35. Nxf8+ Kg8 36. Qd5+ Kxf8 37. Qxd1. Notice that Black can still lose with 34. ... Kg8 35. Qd5+ Rf7 (35. ... Kh7 36. Nxf8+ Kh8 37. Qxd1) 36. Ne7+ Kh7 37. Qd3+! Kh8 38. Qd8+ Rf8 39. Qxf8+ Kh7 40. Qg8 mate!

31. ... Rxf3 32. Qg4 Rf2 33. Qg3 Be4+, White resigned.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B51)

FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi (2449)

GM Oliver Barbosa (2494)

Spring NYC Norms Invitational (5), New York, 03.29.2025

1. e4 c5

I'm surprised on the first move; he usually plays the Caro-Kann.

2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Nd7 4. a4

This is the more solid approach.

4. ... Ngf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. 0-0 Bg7 7. a5 0-0

8. Re1 a6 9. Bf1 b5 10. axb6 e.p. Nxb6

11. d3 Bb7 12. Nd2 Nfd7 13. Nb3

Looking to put the knight on a5, pressuring the queenside.

13. ... Rb8 14. Bg5 Re8

I thought for more than 40 minutes after this move, which is just diabolical at this time control (G/90 with a 30-second increment). I couldn't find a way to stop ... d6-d5.

15. Qg4 Ne5 16. Qh4 Nc6

That was a nice maneuver by Black, making the knight more active.

17. f4

The possible rook lift Re1-e3-h3 haunts Black.

17. ... f6 18. Bh6 e5?

I really disliked this weakening move.

19. fxe5 Nxe5

White is also slightly better after 19. ... fxe5 20. Bg5 Qd7 21. Be2, and 19. ... dxe5 is a mistake: 20. Bxg7 Kxg7 21. Nxc5 Qd4+ 22. Qf2.

20. Be3 Qc7 21. d4 cxd4 22. Bxd4 Nbc4**23. Nd5 Bxd5 24. exd5 a5 25. Bc3 Rec8**

During the game I thought Black would be fine after 25. ... f5 26. Kh1 but it seems Black's pieces are just all over the place while mine are a little more coordinated.

26. Bxc4 Nxc4 27. Bxf6 Bxf6 28. Qxf6 Ne5**29. Nd4 Rf8****30. Qh4?**

It was way more precise to play 30. Qe6+ Kh8 31. Rf1, but with super low time it's difficult to calculate these things.

30. ... Qc5?

Black could have taken: 30. ... Rxb2 31. Rf1 Re8.

31. b3 Rb4 32. Re4

I'm on thin ice!

32. ... Qxd5 33. c4 Qf7 34. h3 a4 35. Rxa4**Rxa4 36. bxa4 Qxc4 37. Kh2 Qa2 38. Ne2**

I was very low on time at this point, and I'm kind of just making sure I don't blunder anything.

38. ... h5 39. Qg3 Kh7 40. Nf4 Qc2 41. Re2**Qb1 42. Rf2**

It's starting to get a little spicy for Black.

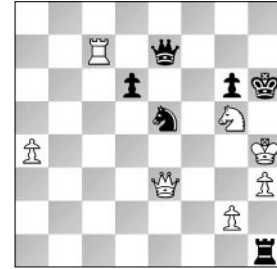
42. ... Rc8? 43. Ne6! Rc1 44. Qe3!

Black's attacking attempt has backfired, and now it's their king who is in dangerous territory.

44. ... Rh1+ 45. Kg3 Qb7 46. Ng5+

I was super close to playing 46. Rc2 but I was calculating this variation with less than a minute left, and I decided to just

give a check. Good thing, because it turns out there's a draw after 46. Rc2 h4+ 47. Kxh4 Qe7+ 48. Ng5+ Kh6 49. Rc7



POSITION AFTER 49. Rc7

49. ... Nf3+!! 50. gxf3 Rxh3+ (not 50. ... Qxe3?? 51. Rh7 mate) 51. Kg4! (not 51. Kxh3?? when now it would work: 51. ... Qxe3 52. Rh7+ Kxg5) 51. ... Rg3+ 52. Kh4 Rh3+ 53. Kg4.

46. ... Kg8 47. Ne6 Qd7?

I was still better after 47. ... h4+ 48. Kxh4 Qe7+ 49. Ng5 Re1 50. Qf4 (not 50. Qxe1 Nf3+), but this loses right away.

48. Qh6

The king is dead.

48. ... h4+ 49. Kxh4 Qxa4+ 50. Rf4, Black resigned. ♠



The Kentucky Lion

A giant of yesteryear goes hunting for kings.

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**



JACKSON SHOWALTER (1859-1935), also known as “the Kentucky Lion,” was one of the top American chess players from the late 1880s to about 1910. He won various tournaments in that stretch, and though he lost two matches to Pillsbury and one to Marshall, he managed to become U.S. Chess Champion five times, gaining the title in 1890, 1892, 1892-94, 1895-96, and 1906-1909. He was creative in the opening phase, and he loved to attack, with some very nice brilliancies to his credit. In this month’s offering played in St. Louis in 1890 against Alexander Robbins (White), we see him fashioning a sharp win with a king hunt and a surprising finale.

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C59)

Alexander Robbins
Jackson Showalter
St. Louis, 1890

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. Ng5



Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing Black’s next move only after trying to guess it. If

you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that Black’s move is on the next line. **

4. **Par Score 5** **d5**

Although not quite as good, you may accept **full credit** for 4. ... Bc5, which was analyzed in print the same year as this game.

5. **exd5 ****

5. **Par Score 6** **Na5**

The best and most natural move. You may accept **full credit** for 5. ... b5. After 5. ... Nxd5, either 6. Nxf7 (The Fried Liver Attack) or 6. d4 give White a clear edge.

6. **Bb5+ ****

6. **Par Score 5** **c6**

Black plays for piece activity. But you may accept **full credit** for 6. ... Bd7, when 7. Qe2 Be7 is fine.

7. **dx6 ****

7. **Par Score 5** **bxc6**

The usual response, but 7. ... Nxc6 is quite playable and gets **full credit**.

8. **Be2**

This is better than 8. Ba4, which runs into trouble after 8. ... h6 9. Nf3 e4 10. Ne5 Qd4. **

8. **Par Score 5** **h6**

As many chess teachers advise, don’t allow an enemy knight to sit in your half of the board. If you can do so safely, drive it away!

9. **Nf3**

Returning to the scene of the crime. While

Steinitz’s idea of 9. Nh3 can seem ugly, it’s certainly playable, as in Fischer – Bisguier, New York State Ch 1963. **

9. **Par Score 5** **e4**

The main variation. Showalter pushes his attack.

10. **Ne5**

Really the only move (10. Ng1 is bad and 10. Nh4 loses a piece). **

10. **Par Score 5** **Qd4**



This is OK. Accept **full credit** for either 10. ... Bc5 or 10. ... Bd6.

11. **Ng4**

More prudent was 11. f4, when 11. ... exf3 e.p. is met by 12. Nxf3. **

11. **Par Score 6** **Bxg4**

Showalter first gets rid of the white knight.

12. **Bxg4 ****

12. **Par Score 6** **e3**

Black unveils a second attack on g4. Note that if Showalter had played 11. ... e3, White would have had 12. Nxe3.

13. **f3**

ABCS OF CHESS

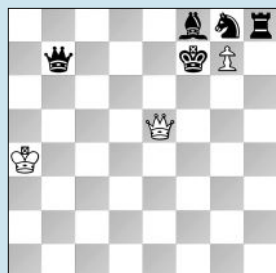
THESE PROBLEMS ARE all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, White is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 64.

JUNE EXERCISE:

Many of the ideas and concepts of chess are best remembered if pictured. So get into the habit of diagramming critical planning points. Examples should be drawn from your own play or from positions you'd like to appreciate more fully. With a notebook of such images, you'll have a volume of important ideas that can be reviewed at your pleasure. View it as creating your own playbook.

PROBLEM 1

Mating net



PROBLEM 2

Mating net



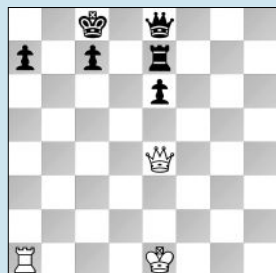
PROBLEM 3

Mating net



PROBLEM 4

Mating net



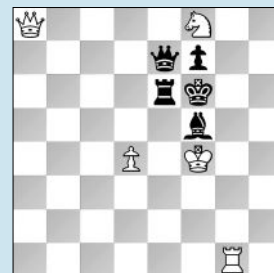
PROBLEM 5

Mating net



PROBLEM 6

Mating net



A provocative defense. Perhaps White might have tried 13. Bf3, allowing 13. ... exf2+. **

13. Par Score 6 h5
This appears to keep the attack going, but you may accept *full credit* for the simpler 13. ... Nxg4, when 14. fxe4 0-0-0 puts Black in a dominant situation.

14. Bh3
Not the best. More resistance could have been put up by 14. Bf5. **

14. Par Score 4 Qh4+
Showalter now cashes in.

15. Ke2
The reply 15. g3 hangs a bishop, while 15. Kf1 is met with 15. ... Qf2 mate. **

15. Par Score 4 Qf2+
The king hunt continues.

16. Kd3 **

16. Par Score 4 Rd8+
An easy move to find, but a strong one at that.

17. Kc3 **

17. Par Score 4 e2
A bulldozing move, which is clearly winning, but you may accept *full credit* for 17. ... exd2, when Black threatens various mates.

18. Qg1
White tries to save his queen and stop the roof from falling, but there's only so much he can do. **

18. Par Score 6 Nd5+
Black forces the white king to walk into a discovery.

19. Kd3 **

19. Par Score 6 Ne3+
With this move Black heads toward a rather

charming *denouement*.

20. Kc3 **

20. Par Score 5 Qxg1
Obviously, 20. ... Nd1+ wins the White queen, but Showalter has more in mind.

21. Rxe1
In chess, if you get taken, you try to take back. **

21. Par Score 7 Nd1+

22. Rxd1
The only move. **

22. Par Score 6 exd1=N mate!



POSITION AFTER 22. ... exd1=N MATE

Checkmate! A very nice and unusual underpromotion. ♠

SOLITARE CHESS SCORING:

Total your score to determine your approximate rating below

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-90	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

Know Your Rules

Instincts often let young players down in the endgame.

BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

W

I GO FROM THE “SUBLIME” OF last month (Boris Spassky) to the “ridiculous” (inexperienced amateurs). One of my students

(talented, rusty, under-rated) had asked me to review rook endgames with him before he entered his most important event in a long time — the Under 1800 section of the New York State High School Championship. The material we covered had an impact in his final game ... at some moments, but not others! Both players made a series of mistakes in both the rook ending and the ensuing pawn endgame.

This game is actually quite instructive because the mistakes made are, from my coaching experience, quite typical and instinctive for players who have not been properly educated. Both players were rated around 1400; the names have been removed to protect the innocent.

A LOT TO LEARN

Other Kid

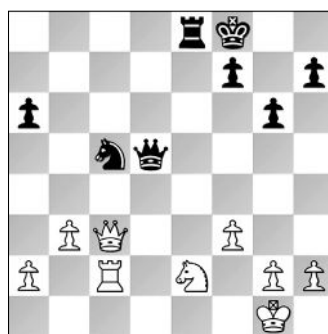
My Student

NY State High School Ch (6), Saratoga Springs, 2025

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3 d6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. c3 a6 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8. Nbd2 c5 9. Re1 0-0 10. Nf1 Re8 11. Ng3 g6 12. d4 cxd4 13. cxd4 exd4 14. Nxd4 Bb7 15. Bd2 Bf8 16. f3 Bg7 17. Bc3 Nd7 18. Rc1 d5 19. exd5 Rxe1+ 20. Qxe1 Bxd5 21. b3 c6 22. Nge2 c5 23. Nc2 c4 24. Ne3 Qg5 25. Nxd5 Qxd5 26. Bxg7 Kxg7 27. Rxc4 Re8 28. Rc2 Nc5 29. Qc3+ Kf8

(see diagram top of next column)

Here we have a major decision point on the cusp of a possible endgame. White has many choices, e.g., 30. Nf4 Qd1+ 31. Kf2 Kg8



POSITION AFTER 29. ... Kf8

32. Qd2 with a queen trade while keeping knights on the board, or 30. Rd2 Qf5 31. g4 Qg5 32. Qh8+ Ke7 33. Qd4 Kf8 34. Nf4 looking for an attack. If then 34. ... Qe5 (not 34 ... Ne4? 35. Nd5! or 35. Nf6+! and White wins) 35. Qxe5 Rxe5 36. Rd5, White can play a knight ending, which might be easier to handle.

30. Qxc5+

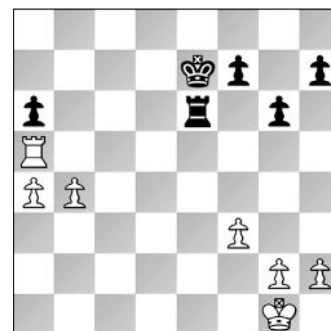
This is certainly not an error; Stockfish 17 finds it not worse than the alternatives, and it does provide what should be a decisive advantage. One piece of knowledge that young players all absorb is to trade when ahead. But not all trades are equal: Rook endings are fundamentally more drawish than other piece assortments. The ending reached in the game has a high win probability because of particular factors, but if you don't understand them, you are likely to make a mess of things. If you don't know how to win an ending, you should not be so eager to enter it!

30. ... Qxc5+ 31. Rxc5 Rxe2 32. Ra5 Re6 33. b4

The computer likes to start with 33. g4, freezing Black's kingside. Then there isn't much for Black to do: 33. ... Rc6 34. Kf2 Kg7 35. h4 Rd6 36. Ke3 and White will keep

making incremental progress. Black's rook is tied down to defending the a-pawn, while White has a plan of invading with the king and ultimately promoting a queenside pawn.

33. ... Ke7 34. a4?



This is the beginning of the blunderfest. White's plan to make an immediate passed pawn makes sense and yet is completely wrong! Lower-rated/inexperienced players often don't appreciate that a two-on-one is better than a one-on-zero: Trading pawns will free the black rook to become active. Young players also tend to over-value passed pawns in rook endings — if the defending rook gets behind a passed pawn, it will rarely go anywhere without king support.

33. ... Kd7?

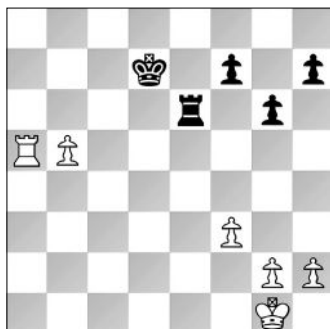
This mistake is also natural for many players. The instinct is often to bring the king to help out against a passed pawn, but this plan often leaves the kingside vulnerable. Improving the rook is the main priority. With 34. ... Re1+ 35. Kf2 Rb1 Black transforms the position and becomes a favorite to draw: 36. b5 (White can try to stabilize the position with 36. Re5+ Kd6 37. Re4 Rb2+ 38. Kg3 h5 but there is no plan to move forward) 36. ... axb5 37. axb5 Rb2+ 38. Kg3

h5 39. Ra7+ Kf6 40. Rb7 g5 and we have a typical position where the b-pawn cannot be supported by the king and doesn't offer any chance to win.

35. b5?

White can shift gears with 35. Rd5+ Kc6 36. Rc5+ Kd7 37. Kf2, maintaining strong winning chances because the opposing rook is still boxed in.

35. ... axb5 36. axb5



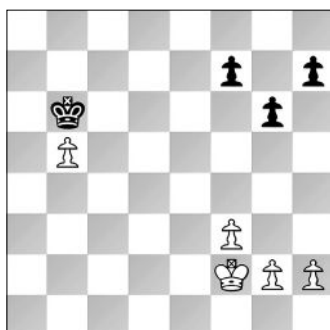
36. ... Rb6?

Sigh. We did talk about rooks belonging behind passed pawns: 36. ... Re1+ 37. Kf2 Rb1 38. Ra7+ Ke6 39. Rb7 Rb2+ 40. Kg3 h5 gets back in the drawing zone.

37. Kf2 Kd6

Technically, this is also a mistake, as we can see the end of the game in the pawn ending. Black can still resist by completing the transfer of duties with 37. ... Rb7 38. Ke3 Kc7 39. Kd4 (39. Kf4 is also good) 39. ... Kb6 40. Ra2, when the b-pawn serves as a decoy to enable White to win on the other side. The classic Botvinnik – Boleslavsky (USSR Ch., 1941) ending, analyzed here in August 2023, shows the blueprint.

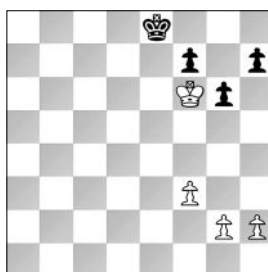
38. Ra6 Kc5 39. Rxb6 Kxb6



40. g4?

We can certainly forgive White for not knowing how to force victory, but 40. Ke3 had to be the start. Then 40. ... Kxb5 41. Kd4 Kc6

42. Ke5 Kd7 43. Kf6 Ke8 brings us to our next thinking point.



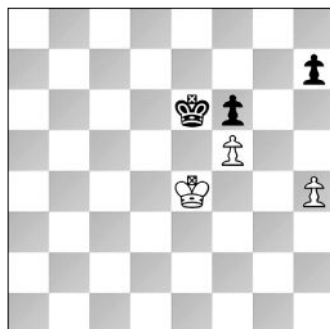
POSITION AFTER 43. ... Ke8

White can win with 44. g4 Kf8 45. f4 Kg8 46. Ke7 Kg7 47. f5 g5 (47. ... gxf5 48. gxf5 h6 49. h3 forces zugzwang) and now the typical tempo-winning motif 48. Ke8! (not 48. f6+? Kg6) 48. ... Kf6 (it's the same result with 48. ... Kg8 49. f6 or 48. ... f6 49. Ke7) 49. Kf8, etc. White has an alternate approach in 44. Kg7 h5 45. Kf6 Kf8 46. g3 Kg8 47. h3 Kf8 48. f4 Kg8 49. f5 and Black pawns start dropping.

40. ... Kxb5 41. Ke3 Kc5 42. Ke4 f6 43. h4 Kd6 44. f4 Ke6 45. f5+?

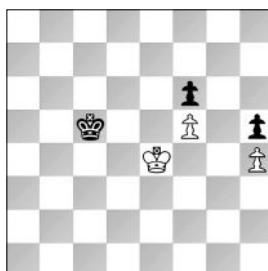
Advancing all pawns can be reckless in pawn endings, as reserve tempo moves disappear.

45. ... gxf5+ 46. gxf5+



46. ... Ke7?

My guy was shocked when I told him he missed an easy win here: 46. ... Kd6 47. Kd4 (47. h5 Kc5 48. h6 Kc4 is pretty much the same) 47. ... h5 48. Ke4 Kc5 nabs the f-pawn.



POSITION AFTER 48. ... Kc5

This is followed by 49. Ke3 Kd5 50. Kf4 Kd4 51. Kf3 Ke5 52. Ke3 Kxf5 (another useful rule: this is always a win if the pawn does not start on h2) 53. Kf3 Ke5 54. Ke3 f5 55. Kf3 f4 56. Kf2 Ke4 57. Ke2 f3+ 58. Kf2 Kf4 59. Kf1 Kg3 60. Kg1 Kxh4 etc.

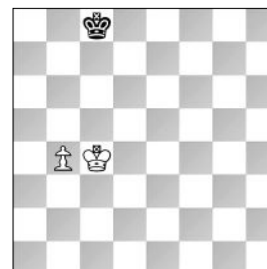
The problem was, he just reckoned the position was a draw and tried to find the "simplest" way to get there. Putting aside his unusual definition of "simple," deciding the proper result without exploring the full potential of your position is a psychological pitfall best avoided.

47. Ke3? h5?

It's a Black win again after 47. ... Kd6 48. Ke4 Kc5.

48. Ke4 Ke8!?

OK, here I have to interject that we had looked at the classic Gligoric – Fischer endgame from the 1959 Candidates Tournament in our pre-Saratoga lesson.

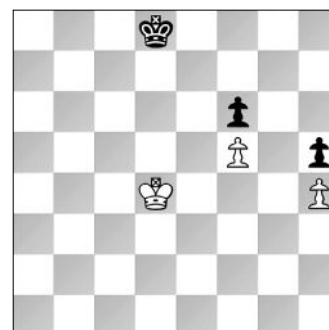


BLACK TO MOVE

Fischer played 57. ... Kb8! and they agreed to a draw.

So I congratulated my student on understanding distant opposition, but couldn't he just play 48. ... Kd6 49. Kd4 Kc6 like a normal person?

49. Kd4 Kd8! 50. Ke4 Ke8 51. Kd4 Kd8 52. Kc4 Kc8! 53. Kd4 Kd8!, draw.



The exclamation-point moves were the only moves to draw. As continuing repetition had become obvious, the players agreed to a draw. ♠

Boring Into the Details

A book that starts where most leave off.

BY IM JOHN WATSON

Y

OU RARELY FIND A CHESS book about a subject that hasn't been covered before, even multiple times. GM Ian Rogers and

IM Laszlo Hazai's *The World's Most Boring Chess Book: The Isolated d-Pawn in the Endgame* is a remarkable exception.

In the extensive literature on isolated

d-pawns (IQPs), the emphasis is overwhelmingly on the opening and middle-game. In fact, Rogers and Hazai's work begins where the others usually end; that is, when the side with the isolated queen's pawn has failed to create activity and counterplay to compensate for the weakness, and great simplification has occurred. Opening books and articles, for example, tend to stop at that point and give an advantage to the side playing against the isolani, sometimes indicating that in particular cases the defender should draw with best defense, but not providing many details. Even books specializing on the IQP

tend to treat just a few standard endings (e.g., knight versus bishop), but only a small subset of the many that Rogers and Hazai systematically examine in their new book.

In spite of the cheeky title, these endings are by no means boring and in fact can be enormously complex, nuanced, and tactically tricky. The book is divided according to the material disposition, with separate chapters about IQP endings covering pawns (king and pawn endings), knights, bishops, knights and bishops, rooks, major pieces, single rook and minor pieces, double rooks and minor pieces, double rooks and multiple minor pieces, queens and minor pieces, and finally, major and minor pieces. The authors manage to fit all this into 80 very densely annotated examples, covering a wide variety of setups in the notes to each.

The pawn endings chapter is fundamental but enormously instructive, since the IQP endings often transpose to unclear, non-trivial pawn endings, some with the isolani liquidated. Often, they go on to become queen endings, which is also instructive. "Contrary to expectations," the authors say, "kings and pawns alone produce the most complex chapter in this book! Tiny changes in pawn structure or timing turn out to be game-changing, and anchor positions (setups that the defender should aim for in order to guarantee safety) are few and far between." Let's look at some basic examples:

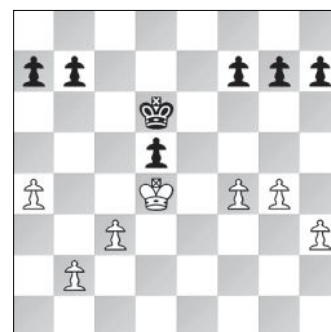
CREEPING FORWARD

GM Dusko Pavasovic (2584)

IM Tadej Sakelšek (2479)

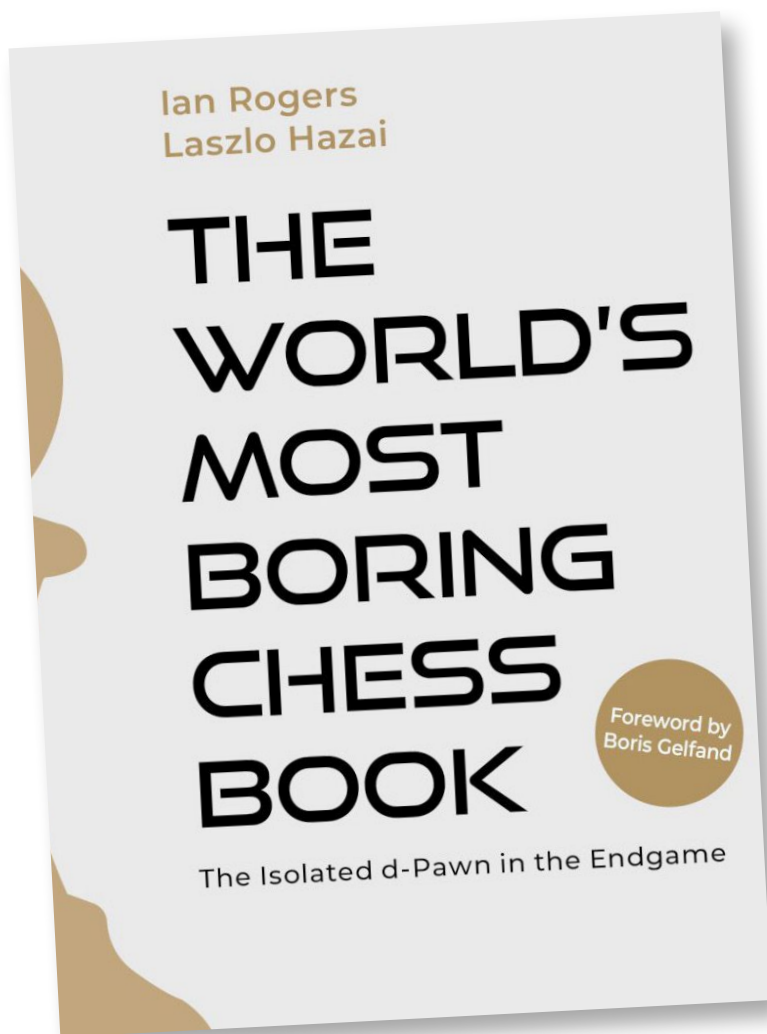
Vidmar Memorial, Ljubljana 2007

Annotations by Rogers and Hazai



BLACK TO MOVE

A generic position where White has some space on the kingside but Black's pawns can be optimally placed to keep out the white king. This should not be too difficult to defend, yet Black is lost after a single ill-advised move.



36. ... a6?

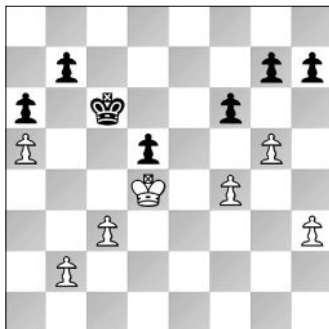
Covering the white king's entry squares with 36 ... b6 or 36 ... f6 would be absolutely fine for Black. White's sole winning plan would be to place pawns on b5 and f5 to run the black king out of moves, but with care Black can avoid being left in such a situation, with Black to move.

(True, but other examples in the book involve this ideal defensive structure and show the superior side getting persistent winning chances anyway. So even in that case, you need to be familiar with the fine details. — John Watson)

37. a5!

Now c5 becomes the white king's first possible port of entry.

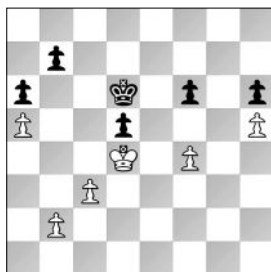
37. ... f6 38. g5 Kc6



38. ... h6 39. gxf6 gxf6 gives White an unexpected winning possibility: 40. c4! dxc4 41. Kxc4 Kc6 42. Kd4 Kd6 43. Ke4 Ke6 44. h4! h5 45. b3! f5+ 46. Kd4 Kd6 47. b4 with a king invasion to follow.

39. c4?

White had a clear path to victory via 39. h4! Kd6 40. h5 h6 (40. ... Kc6 41. h6 gxf6 42. gxf6 Kd6 43. f7 Ke7 44. Kxd5 Kxf7 45. c4! when Black cannot stop White's pawn advances on two flanks) 41. gxf6 gxf6



POSITION AFTER 41. ... gxf6

42. c4! dxc4 43. Kxc4. Now 43. ... Ke6 loses beautifully if White finds 44. Kd4!! (44. Kc5? Kf5 is equal) 44. ... Kf5 45. Ke3 Kg4 46. Ke4! Kxh5 47. Kf5.

(White would have to see this win and others to enter such a line. Maybe it's not such a "clear path to victory"? — John Watson)

39. ... dxc4 40. Kxc4 Kd6 41. Kd4 Kc6 42. Ke4 Kd6 43. h4

43. Kf5 Ke7 is equal.

43. ... Ke6 44. h5 fxg5?

After all that hard work, and perhaps in time pressure, Black misses 44. ... Kd6! 45. Kf5 Ke7 with equality.

45. fxg5 Kd6

45. ... g6 46. hxg6 hxg6 47. b4! Kd6 48. Kd4 Ke6 (48. ... Kc6 49. Ke5) 49. Kc5 and Black loses the pawn race.

46. Kf5! Kd5

46. ... Ke7 47. Ke5 Kd7 48. h6 gxf6 49. gxf6 Ke7 50. b3! (50. b4?? Kd7! 51. Kf6 Kd6 52. Kg7 Ke7 53. Kxh7 Kf7 is equal) 50. ... Kd7 51. Kf6 Kd6 52. Kg7 Ke7 53. Kxh7 Kf7 54. b4 and the White king must be allowed out of his cage.

47. h6 gxf6 48. gxf6 Kd6 49. Kf6, Black resigned.

It's amazing how tricky such a "simple" ending can be. The minute you think it's easy, it's not! Here's another example from the section on pawn endgames:

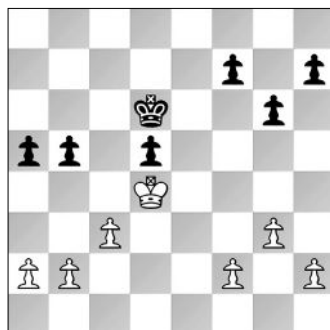
KEEP GRINDING

Dietmar Kolbus (2383)

Ryan Griffiths (2137)

British Ch, Torquay, 2009

Annotations by Rogers and Hazai



WHITE TO MOVE

Though White has no cause to expect to win this position, he can certainly make Black's task extremely difficult.

29. b3

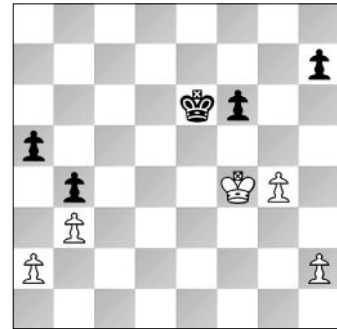
The generic winning plan for White involves

playing b2-b3, a2-a4, and a later c3-c4 at a moment when Black has run out of pawn moves on the kingside.

29. ... b4! 30. f3 f6 31. c4 dxc4 32. Kxc4 Kc6 33. g4 g5 34. Kd4 Kd6 35. Ke4 Ke6 36. f4! gxf4!

36. ... h6? 37. f5+ Kd6 38. Kd4.

37. Kxf4



37. ... Kf7?

Black has two alternatives to the text move which draw, yet it is difficult to criticize Black too much since both drawing methods involve subtleties which are very difficult to see from a distance.

37. ... Ke7 38. Kf5 Kf7 39. g5 fxg5 40. Kxg5 Kg7! 41. Kf5 at first looks even worse than the game continuation, but here 41. ... Kh6!! hangs on. Indeed, 42. Ke5? (42. Kg4 Kg6 is equal) 42. ... Kg5 would actually lose for White.

In addition, Black has the scarcely believable 37. ... Kd5!! leading to a queening race which Black loses — yet still draws! Play would proceed 38. Kf5 Kd4 39. Kxf6 Kc3 40. Kg7 Kb2 41. Kxh7 Kxa2 42. g5 Kxb3! 43. g6 a4 44. g7 Kb2 45. g8=Q b3 resulting in a little-known position in which the two pawns hold the queen because of a stalemate trick in a line such as 46. Qg2+ Ka3 47. Qf3 Ka2 48. Qd5 Ka3 49. Qc4 b2 50. Qc2 b1=Q! 51. Qxb1.

38. Kf5 Kg7 39. g5 fxg5 40. Kxg5 Kf7 41. Kf5, Black resigned.

(Because 41. Kf5 Ke7 42. Ke5 Kf7 43. Kd5 wins the pawn race. — John Watson)

The pawn endings chapter is one of the longest in the book. The chapters on minor pieces, both alone and in combination, are quite practical, explaining clearly which positions favor the knights and which the bishops for both winning and drawing chances. The authors devote the most space to rook endings, both simple and more complex, such as "endings with a single rook and

minor pieces.” This befits the frequent appearance of all types of rook endings in chess. Here again, basic positions that appear to be straightforward draws can confound even strong players.

HOLDING BACK

GM Vladimir Tukmakov (2570)

GM Andrei Sokolov (2605)

Biel, 1992

Annotations by John Watson

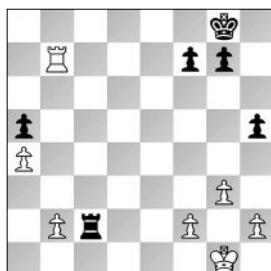


BLACK TO MOVE

21. ... Rd8!

This looks passive and gives up a pawn, but Black understands how to handle the position.

The natural move is 21. ... Rc2, with what looks like enough activity after 22. Rxd5 h5! 23. Rb5 Rxe2 24. Rxb7 a5 25. a4 Rc2.



POSITION AFTER 25. ... Rc2

Then Rogers and Hazai grant that the position may be theoretically drawn, but say that it is “almost invariably lost in practice.” Black’s choice is perhaps counterintuitive, but more practical.

22. e4 Kf8 23. exd5

Things are equal after 23. Rxd5 Rxd5 24. exd5 Ke7.

23. ... Ke7 24. Kg2 Kd6

Now the d-pawn is always a target and Black is ready to activate his rook.

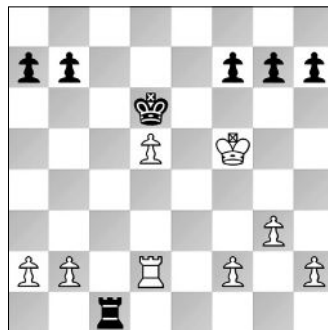
25. Kf3 Rc8

Apparently securing the draw with the double threat ... Rc8-c2 and ... Rc8-c5. Both 25. ... Re8 and 25. ... Ke5 26. Re4+ Kd6! 27. Re3 Rd7 will probably draw, but the game will continue.

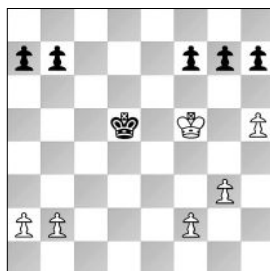
26. Rd2 Rc5

26. ... Re8! is also fine.

27. Ke4 Rc4+ 28. Kf5! Rc1?!



We have reached a critical point. Black undoubtedly spent some time on 28. ... Rc5 29. h4! Rxd5+ 30. Rxd5+ Kxd5 31. h5 and became worried.



POSITION AFTER 31. h5

Then best would be 31. ... Kd4! (a cute line which shows how difficult these positions are is 31. ... h6? 32. g4 Kd4 33. f4 Ke3 34. g5 Kf3 35. Ke5! Kg4 36. g6! f5 37. Ke6 Kxf4 38. Kf7 and White wins the queen ending) 32. g4 (32. h6?? gxh6 33. Kf6 Ke4) 32. ... Kd3 33. f4 Ke3 34. Ke5! Kf3 35. g5 Kg4 36. h6 gxh6 37. gxh6 f5! 38. Kf6 Kxf4 39. Kg7 Ke3. It’s a draw, but it’s no wonder Black was reluctant to go this way.

29. h4 Ra1 30. a3 Re1 31. f4 Re3?!

31. ... Rh1 is more accurate.

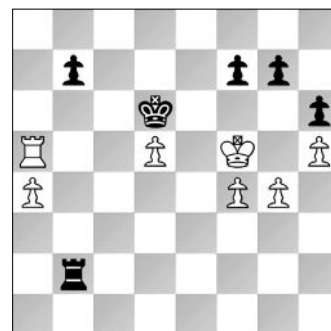
32. g4 Rh3 33. h5 h6 34. Rd4! a5?

Not 34. ... Rb3? 35. Rb4!, but 34. ... Rh2! 35. b3 Rb2 is best.

35. Ra4 Rb3

If 35. ... b6 36. Rc4!.

36. Rxa5 Rxb2 37. a4!



This threatens Ra5-b5. White should win now.

37. ... Rg2!? 38. Rb5 g6+ 39. hxg6 fxg6+

40. Kxg6 Rxb2 41. Kf5 Rg7 42. Rb6+!

Kxd5 43. Rxh6 and White went on to win.

Even though Black was a leading grandmaster and knew what to do, he ultimately dropped the point. This is typical of such endings and arguably one of the main lessons of the book: how alert one must be for both winning ideas and defensive chances. In general, players of all levels will benefit from getting a feel for when to defend patiently and when to become active, as well as which pieces to exchange (or not). As GM Boris Gelfand says in the Foreword, “Such knowledge should help a player to squeeze an extra half-point from the stronger side (I hope more than once!) and to save numerous games from the defending side.”

I really like this book, and went through almost every example on the computer. Time and again I ran across maneuvers and tactics I wasn’t familiar with, and I was shocked to realize that, especially with limited time on the clock, I would have mishandled a clear majority of the positions presented. I attribute that to the fact that my analysis of IQP positions has usually ended when I have gotten to the ending and thought “I can handle that,” simply underestimating how difficult (and interesting!) these positions tend to be.

Thanks to Hanon Russell of Russell Enterprises for producing a book on this rather unconventional subject a reality. With the disappearance of so many chess publishers, we are losing out on the original and overlooked chess material that such smaller publishing houses have always provided. ♠

Rogers, Ian, and Hazai, Laszlo. The World’s Most Boring Chess Book. Russell Enterprises, 2025. 272 pp. ISBN 978-1963885019. Available at uscfsales.com, product code B0161R3, \$24.95.

TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

US Blind Open Championship

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49554
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook Address: 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 Overall Prize Fund: \$5,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Kevin Bachler • Contact@caveman-chess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

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

US Junior Open Championship

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook Address: 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 Overall Prize Fund: \$13,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Kevin Bachler • Contact@caveman-chess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

US Senior Open Championship

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook Address: 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 Overall Prize Fund: \$13,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Kevin Bachler • Contact@caveman-chess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

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

125th Annual U.S. Open Championship

JULY 28-AUGUST 3, 2025 — WI TLA# 49051
Site: Madison Marriott West Address: 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562 Overall Prize Fund: \$60,000 GP Pts: 300 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: US Chess Federation • nationalevents@uschess.org • www.uschess.org/tournaments/2025/usopen

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of May 18, 2025, for the 2025 Grand

Prix. These standings are updated regularly, but should be considered unofficial. Visit www.uschess.org/datapage/GP-standings.php for up-to-date information.

2025 US CHESS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

	Name	State/Ctry	Pts
1.	GM JIANCHAO ZHOU	MA	199.17
2.	THOMAS FANG	NC	86.5
3.	GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ	NY	78.75
4.	GM AWONDER LIANG	WI	61.389
5.	GM JOHN MICHAEL BURKE	NJ	50.25
6.	GM MIKHAIL ANTIPOV	MO	44
7.	GM EMIN OHANYAN	ARM	42
8.	RYAN SUN	MA	40.75
9.	GM BREWINGTON HARDAWAY	NY	34.972
10.	GM GLEB DUBIN	HUN	34

2025 Awards

\$12,500 in cash prizes
First Prize \$5,000

2nd: \$2,500	3rd: \$1,000
4th: \$900	5th: \$800
6th: \$700	7th: \$600
8th: \$500	9th: \$300
10th: \$200	

The Grand Prix continues in 2025. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program

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

33rd Annual Eastern Class Championships

JUNE 6-8, 2025 — CT TLA# 47565
Site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel At Bradley International Airport Address: 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Overall Prize Fund: \$20,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Big June Dragon Knight Grand Prix

JUNE 7, 2025 — NC TLA# 49385
Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000

Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall Prize Fund: \$1124 GP Pts: 15 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Dragon Knight Chess Center • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

18th Continental Chess Cleveland Open

JUNE 13-15, 2025 — OH TLA# 48167
Site: Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport Hotel Address: 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight Dog Dad's Day Grand Prix

JUNE 14, 2025 — NC TLA# 49384
Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall Prize Fund: \$764 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Dragon Knight Chess • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2025 Chicago Summer Open

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL TLA# 48866
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: King Registration And Wilson Chess • info@kingregistration.com • www.kingregistration.com/event/Chisummeropen25

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

29th Annual New York State Open and Senior Amateur

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — NY TLA# 48665
Site: Tiki Resort Address: 2 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,300 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
Site: Holiday Inn Express Akron NW – Fairlawn Address: 3150 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44333 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 b/190 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Kalanithi Bagley • kalanithi@discoverychess.org • 330 475 2964 • discoverychess.org

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight Summer Solstice Grand Prix

JUNE 21, 2025 — NC TLA# 49873
Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall Prize Fund: \$764 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Dragon Knight Chess • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

18th Annual Philadelphia International

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651
Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall Prize Fund: \$20,000 GP Pts: 200 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th Summer Solstice Open

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
Site: Embassy Suites Hotel Address: 10450 Corkscrew Commons Drive, Estero, FL 33928 Overall Prize Fund: \$9,000.00 GP Pts: 40 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Jon Haskel • jon@bocachess.com • 561-302-4377 • www.bocachess.com

GRAND PRIX

2025 Castle Chess Grand Prix

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — GA TLA# 48355
Site: Emory University - Emory Student Center Address: 605 Asbury Circle, Atlanta, GA 30322 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,000.00 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Castle Chess • tournament@castlechess.org • www.castlechess.org/grandprix/

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

19th Annual Philadelphia Open

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567
Site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

48th Annual Green Bay Open

JUNE 28-29, 2025 — WI TLA# 49226
Site: Oneida Hotel (Formerly Radisson Hotel) Address: 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,000 GP Pts: 15 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Luke A. Ludwig • lukealudwig@aol.com • 9204659859 • <https://www.greenbaychess.net>

GRAND PRIX

Nebraska Summer Open 2025

JUNE 28-29, 2025 — NE TLA# 48547
Site: Comfort Inn & Suites Central Address: 7007 Grover Street, Omaha, NE 68106 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: 6 FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Seetharaman Renganathan • chessrockez@gmail.com • 6303623047

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight Global Smurf Day Grand Prix

JUNE 28, 2025 — NC TLA# 49874
Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall Prize Fund: \$764 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Dragon Knight Chess • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th Annual World Open Women's Championship

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121
Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall Prize Fund: \$2,000 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

3rd Annual Independence Day Open

JULY 2-6, 2025 — VA TLA# 47912
Site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Address: 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: 80 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Atlantic Chess Association • director@atlanticchessassociation.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

14th Annual World Open Game/7 Blitz Championship

JULY 2, 2025 — PA TLA# 48878
Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, 201 N 17th Street, Pa Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,500 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

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

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA

TLA# 46655

Site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown Hotel **Address:** 201 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$208,000 **GP Pts:** 300 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

Texas Chess Open

JULY 4-6, 2025 — TX

TLA# 49732

Site: Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel **Address:** 4440 West John Carpenter Frwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$4,050 **GP Pts:** 30 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Coppell Chess Club • scoppell.chessclub@gmail.com • 2145346730 • coppellchessclub.com/tournaments/texas-state-open-chess-tournament%E2%80%93july-4-2025

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

27th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA

TLA# 49355

Site: Holiday Inn Express And Suites **Address:** 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$12,500 **GP Pts:** 40 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** John McCumiskey • sactochess@sbcglobal.net • 916-524-9479 • sacramentochessclub.org/index.htm

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Big July Dragon Knight Grand Prix

JULY 5, 2025 — NC

TLA# 49876

Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center **Address:** 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$1,124 **GP Pts:** 15 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Dragon Knight Chess • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

33rd Annual World Open G/10 Championship

JULY 5, 2025 — PA

TLA# 48879

Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$2,200 **GP Pts:** 20 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

36th Annual World Open Blitz Championship

JULY 6, 2025 — PA

TLA# 48880

Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$3,000 **GP Pts:** 30 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

2025 Houston Chess Festival

JULY 11-13, 2025 — TX

TLA# 49669

Site: Doubletree IAH **Address:** 715747 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$11,550 **GP Pts:** 50 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Peter Craney • cypresschess@outlook.com • 7137252877 • www.kingregistration.com/event/2025HouChessFest

GRAND PRIX

1st Greater Baystate Summer Open

JULY 12, 2025 — MA

TLA# 49155

Site: Auburn/ Webster Elks Lodge **Address:** 754 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$10,000 **B/O 60 Rated Paid Entries GP Pts:** 50 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Greater Baystate Chess • greater.baystate.chess@gmail.com • 4133560303 • www.greaterbaystatechess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight Paper Bag Day Grand Prix

JULY 12, 2025 — NC

TLA# 49875

Site: Dragon Knight Chess Center **Address:** 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$764 **GP Pts:** 10 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Dragon Knight Chess

• jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

18th Annual Chicago Class Championships

JULY 18-20, 2025 — IL

TLA# 48868

Site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$30,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

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

26th Annual Pittsburgh Open

JULY 18-20, 2025 — PA

TLA# 48870

Site: Doubletree Green Tree **Address:** 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$13,000 **GP Pts:** 80 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

10th Annual Chicago Class Blitz Championship

JULY 19, 2025 — IL

TLA# 48869

Site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$500 **GP Pts:** 10 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

Caveman Chess Festival

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL

TLA# 49558

Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook **Address:** 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$40,000 **GP Pts:** 370 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Kevin Bachler • Contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL

TLA# 49550

Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook **Address:** 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$10,000 **GP Pts:** 100 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Kevin Bachler • Contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

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

30th Annual Bradley Open

JULY 25-27, 2025 — CT

TLA# 48871

Site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel At Bradley Aiport **Address:** 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$15,000 **GP Pts:** 120 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

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

33rd Annual Southern Open

JULY 25-27, 2025 — FL

TLA# 48867

Site: Delta Hotels Orlando Celebration **Address:** 2900 Parkway Boulevard, Kissimmee, FL 34747 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$20,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

2nd Annual Wilkins Cup

AUGUST 2, 2025 — NE

TLA# 49653

Site: Ovation Heartwood Preserve **Address:** 470 Maxwell PLZ, Omaha, NE 68154 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$2,500 **GP Pts:** 30 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Bruce G Draney • gambiteer49@yahoo.com • 4023126335 • [kingregistration.com](http://www.kingregistration.com)

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

30th Annual Pacific Coast Open

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — CA

TLA# 48968

Site: Hilton Orange County Airport Hotel **Address:** 18800 Macarthur Blvd., Irvine, CA 92612 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$30,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

55th annual CONTINENTAL OPEN

August 14-17, 15-17 or 16-17, 2025 - \$30,000 Guaranteed prizes!

7 rounds at Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, Massachusetts

Best Western Royal Plaza, 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752. Free parking. 7 sections.

Top 5 sections: August 14-17 or 15-17, 40/80, SD/30; d30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), both schedules merge and play for same prizes within each of the sections.

Under 1300 & Under 1100 sections: August 16-17, G/60, d10.

Premier section: Open to 2000+ (see peakrating.us). Prizes \$3000-1500-800-400-300, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1300-700. FIDE rated. **U2100, U1900, U1700 sections:** .Prizes each section \$2000-1000-500-300-200. Under 2100 is also FIDE rated.

U1500, U1300 sections: Prizes each section \$1400-800-400-300-200.

U1100 section: \$800-500-300-200-100.

Unrated prize limits: U1100 \$100, U1300 \$200, U1500 \$300, U1700 \$400, U1900 \$500, U2100 \$600.

Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team combined score (team average under 2200) among all sections: \$1000-500-300. May play different sections and schedules; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2.

Cannot play below Online Regular rating minus 100 points. August Official ratings used, unofficial or Online Regular ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Players scoring 8 or more in 2025 World Open U2200 or below must play in higher section than World Open.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$158 online by 8/12, \$180 later online or at site until 1 hour before round 1. GMs free, \$150 from prize. Re-entry \$80; no Premier to Premier.

U1100 Section EF: all \$40 less than top 6 sections fee. U1100 re-entry \$60. No checks, credit cards OK.

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

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

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

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

2-day schedule (Under 1300, Under 1100 only): Reg. Sat to 9, rds Sat 10, 1, 4, 7, Sun 10, 1 & 4.

Half-point byes OK all rds (limit 2, must commit before rd 3). Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

Hotel rates: \$134-134, includes hot breakfast, use link at chessevents.us or call 508-460-0700, reserve by 7/30.

Enter online: Chesseaction.com. No mail entry. Refunds, \$15 service charge.

Email: director@chess.us (also see chesstour.info, chessevents.us).

Blitz: Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

30th annual PACIFIC COAST OPEN

August 8-10 or 9-10, 2025 - \$30,000 guaranteed prizes!

6 rounds, Hilton Orange County Airport (Irvine, CA)

6 rounds, 40/80, SD/30; d30 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/35 d10), Hilton Orange County Airport, 18800 Macarthur Blvd, Irvine CA 92612. Parking \$18/day.

Hotel rate: \$169-169-169-169, use link at chessevents.us (or 949-833-9999) reserve by 7/17 or rate may increase.

7 sections (top 2 also FIDE rated), **Premier** (2000/up; see peakrating.us): \$3000-1500-1000-700, clear or tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1400-700.

Under 2100: \$2000-1000-600-400.

Under 1900: \$2000-1000-600-400.

Under 1700: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1500: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1300: \$1600-800-500-300.

Under 1000: \$1000-500-300-200.

Unrated prize limits: U1000 \$150, U1300 \$250, U1500 \$350, U1700 \$500, U1900 \$700. Balance goes to next eligible player(s) in line.

Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male+female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-500-300-200. Team average under 2200; may play in different sections, schedules; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; prize limits don't apply to team prizes.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$158 online at chessaction.com by 8/5, \$180 later or at site until 1 hour before round 1 (no checks, credit cards OK).

Under 1000 section entry fee: All \$20 less than top 6 sections fee.

Cannot play below Online Regular Rating - 100 points. Aug. official ratings used; unofficial or Online Regular USCF ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Players scoring 8 or more in 2025 World Open U2200 or below must play in higher section than World Open.

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

Online entry \$5 less to Southern California Chess Federation members. Join/renew at www.schess.com.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 noon & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg. Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10 am, 12:15 pm, 2:30 pm & 5 pm; Sun 10 am & 3:30 pm.

Half-point byes OK all (limit 2); must commit before round 3.

All: Bring set, board, clock if possible- **none supplied.** Re-entry (no Premier to Premier) \$70.

Enter online: chessaction.com. \$15 charge for refunds.

Email: director@chess.us (see also chessevents.us).

Blitz Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

18th annual Chicago Class

July 18-20 or 19-20, 2025 - Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel

\$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES!

5 rounds, 40/80, SD/30; d30 (2-day option, rounds 1-2 G/60, d10), Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 N Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090. Free parking.

In 7 sections. Unrateds allowed, but not in Master or Expert. No residence requirements. See peakrating.us.

Master (2100/up): \$3000-1500-800-500, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top USCF U2400 \$1200-600. 150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced). FIDE rated. GMs free, \$130 from prize.

Expert (1900-2199): \$2000-1000-600-400. FIDE rated.

A (1700-1999): \$2000-1000-600-400. FIDE rated.

B (1500-1799): \$2000-1000-600-400.

C (1300-1599): \$1700-900-500-300.

D (Under 1400): \$1400-700-500-300.

E (Under 1200): \$800-400-300-200.

Unrated prize limits: \$100 E, \$200 D, \$300 C, \$400 B, \$500 A.

Cannot play below USCF Online Regular rating - 100 points. Players scoring 8 or more in 2025 World Open U2200 or below must play in higher section than World Open.

Mixed doubles: best male+female 2-player team combined score among all sections \$1000-600-400-300. Must average under 2200, different sections OK, register (no extra fee) by 2 pm Sat.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$148 at chessaction.com by 7/16, all \$170 at site, or online until 1 hour before round 1.

Class E Section entry fee: all \$50 less than top 6 sections entry fee.

Re-entry (except Master): \$60.

All: No checks, credit cards OK. Online entry fee \$5 less to ICA members; join/renew at il-chess.org.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine, online at chessaction.com: see chessevents.us. USCF membership required.

3-day schedule: Reg. to Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30.

2-day schedule: Reg. to Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5; Sun. 10 & 3:30.

Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 2.

No mail entries. **Bring clocks, sets, boards** if possible-none supplied.

Hotel rates: \$135-135, use link at chessevents.us or 847-777-6500, reserve by 6/27 or rates may increase.

July official ratings used; unofficial or Online Regular uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Enter online: chessaction.com. Refunds, \$15 service charge.

Email: director@chess.us (see also www.chesstour.com).

Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering).

Blitz Sat 9:30 pm, enter Sat by 9:10 pm.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2025 DKC Heart of the Carolinas FIDE Summer Classic

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — NC TLA# 50328
Site: Winston-Salem Marriott **Address:** 425 North Cherry Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 **Overall Prize Fund:** see online TLA **GP Pts:** 60 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Dragon Knight Chess • jon@dragonknightchess.com • (919) 422-2535 • www.dragonknightchess.com

GRAND PRIX

12th Annual Washington International

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
Site: Rockville Hilton **Address:** 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$45,725 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Michael W Regan • mregan@stsci.edu • 4104195130 • mdchess.com

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

55th Annual Continental Open

AUGUST 14-17, 2025 — MA TLA# 48969
Site: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel **Address:** 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, MA 01752 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$30,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

20th Annual Indianapolis Open

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — IN TLA# 49375
Site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport **Address:** 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis, IN 42641 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$15,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

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

57th Annual Atlantic Open

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel **Address:** 2500 Calvert

St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$30,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th Annual Central California Open

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — CA TLA# 49352
Site: Doubletree Hotel **Address:** 2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA 93710 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$10,000 **GP Pts:** 100 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

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

2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
Site: Holiday Inn Resort **Address:** 3011 Maingate Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34747 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$11,500 **GP Pts:** 50 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Boca Raton Chess Club • jon@bocachess.com • 561-302-4377 • www.bocachess.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 Michigan Open

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 — MI TLA# 49877
Site: Clarion Lansing Hotel & Conference Center **Address:** 7501 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$5,100 **GP Pts:** 40 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Michigan Chess Association • jef-fchess64@gmail.com • 8109557271 • www.michess.org/

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

147th Annual New York State Championship — America's Oldest Annual Tournament!

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 — NY TLA# 49022
Site: Albany Marriott **Address:** 189 Wolf Road, Albany,

NY 12205 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$18,000 **GP Pts:** 150 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

Louisiana State Championship

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 — LA TLA# 47837
Site: Loyola University **Address:** 6363 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$3,000 **GP Pts:** 10 **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Downriver Chess Club & Louisiana Chess Association • info@downriverchess.com • 202-656-9754 • downriverchess.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 Michigan Speed Championship

AUGUST 30, 2025 — MI TLA# 49878
Site: Clarion Lansing Hotel & Conference Center **Address:** 7501 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$600 **GP Pts:** 10 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Michigan Chess Association • jef-fchess64@gmail.com • 8109557271 • www.michess.org

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 Peter P. Lahde Tennessee Open & Blitz Championship

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025 — TN TLA# 49640
Site: The Center at Fairfield Glade **Address:** 128 Stonehenge Dr, Crossville, TN 38558 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$10,000 **GP Pts:** 50 **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Cumberland County Chess Club • cumberland-countychessclub@gmail.com • (931) 200-0875

Regional

ALABAMA

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JUNE 7, 2025 — AL TLA# 49722

Alabama Quick & Blitz State Chess Championships

Site: Evangel Church **Address:** 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36106 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$1,150 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Doug Strout • evangelchess@yahoo.com • www.facebook.com/evangelchessclub

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367

12th Summer Solstice Open

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 19, 2025 — AL TLA# 49723

Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

Site: Evangel Church **Address:** 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36106 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$1,350 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Doug Strout • evangelchess@yahoo.com • www.facebook.com/evangelchessclub

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558

Caveman Chess Festival

See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — FL TLA# 48867

33rd Annual Southern Open

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841

2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship

See Grand Prix.

ALASKA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open

See Grand Prix.

57th annual Atlantic Open

August 22-24 or 23-24, 2025 - Omni Shoreham Hotel, DC

A Heritage Event With \$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES!

5-round Swiss, 40/80, SD/30; d30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008.

7 sections. 150 Grand Prix Points.

Major Section (1900/up): \$3000-1500-700-400-300, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1300-700. FIDE rated.

U2100: \$2000-1000-500-400-300. FIDE rated.

U1900: \$2000-1000-500-400-300.

U1700: \$1800-900-500-300-200.

U1500: \$1500-800-400-300-200.

U1300: \$1300-700-400-300-200.

U1000: \$800-400-300-200-100.

Unrated prize limits: U1000 \$150, U1300 \$300, U1500 \$450, U1700 \$600, U1900 \$750.

Mixed doubles: best male+female 2-player team combined score (team average under 2200): \$1000-500-300-200. Different sections, schedules OK; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm Sat.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$148 at chessaction.com by 8/19, \$170 later or at site until 1 hour before round 1 (no checks, credit cards OK). GMs: \$130 from prize. **Under 1000 Section:** all \$20 less.

Re-entry \$70 (no Major to Major).

Cannot play below Online Regular Rating - 100 points. Aug. official ratings used; unofficial or Online Regular USCF ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Players scoring 8 or more in 2025 World Open U2200 or below must play in higher section than World Open.

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

3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun. 10 am & 3:30 pm.

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm; Sun. 10 am & 3:30 pm.

1/2-point byes OK all (limit 2), must commit before round 2.

Bring set, board, & clock if possible- none supplied.

Hotel rates: \$169-169, use link at chessevents.us or call 202-234-0700, reserve by 8/7 or rate may increase. Hotel parking is valet only: \$45/day; see chessevents.us for more parking.

Enter online: Chessaction.com. \$15 service charge for refunds.

Email: director@chess.us. (see also: chessevents.us, chesstour.info). **Blitz** Sat 9:30 pm, enter Sat by 9:10.

AMER. SAMOA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

ARIZONA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess
Championship
See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — CA TLA# 48968
30th Annual Pacific Coast Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ARKANSAS
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — AR TLA# 49258
Charleston Pro-AM
Site: Charleston Community Center Address: 311
Freedom Road, Charleston, AR 72933 Overall Prize
Fund: \$1,105 b/35 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: N
Residency: N Org: Kirk Petty • knightstorm1957@aol.
com • 4797464582

CALIFORNIA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200
and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6
Sections (Open Through Under 1400
Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess
Championship
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — CA TLA# 48968
30th Annual Pacific Coast Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — CA TLA# 49352
15th Annual Central California Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

COLORADO
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

CONNECTICUT
JUNE 6-8, 2025 — CT TLA# 47565
33rd Annual Eastern Class
Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — NY TLA# 48665
29th Annual New York State Open And
Senior Amateur
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200
and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6
Sections (Open Through Under 1400
Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 12, 2025 — MA TLA# 49155
1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — CT TLA# 48871
30th Annual Bradley Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 14-17, 2025 — MA TLA# 48969
55th Annual Continental Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State
Championship
See Grand Prix.

DELAWARE
JUNE 13-14, 2025 — DE TLA# 49838
Dover Elks Rapids
Site: Dover Elks Lodge Address: 200 S Saulsbury
Rd, Dover, DE 19904 Overall Prize Fund: see online
TLA GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency:
N Org: Delaware Chess Association • aa.legolas@
gmail.com • 4102193179 • www.delawarechessasso-
ciation.org

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200
and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6
Sections (Open Through Under 1400
Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021
57th Annual Atlantic Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

FLORIDA
JUNE 14, 2025 TLA# 49814
The 40+ — FL
Site: Veteran's Park of Delray Beach (Indoor) Address:

802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach, FL 33483 Overall Prize
Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: N Resi-
dency: N Org: 954Chess INC • 954chess@gmail.com •
www.954chess.com

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200
and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6
Sections (Open Through Under 1400
Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 10-13, 2025 — FL TLA# 50020
2025 World Chess Festival (Orlando)
Site: Hilton Garden Inn at Sea World Hotel Address:
6850 Westwood Blvd, Orlando, FL 32821 Overall
Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: N
Residency: N Org: Joe Hanley • hanleychessacad-
emy@gmail.com • hanleychessacademy.com/2025W-
CF(East).html

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — FL TLA# 48867
33rd Annual Southern Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

GEORGIA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under
1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6
Sections (Open Through Under 1400
Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — FL TLA# 48867
33rd Annual Southern Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — LL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State
Championship
See Grand Prix.

GUAM
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

HAWAII
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

IDAHO
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess
Championship
See Grand Prix.

ILLINOIS
JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL TLA# 48866
2025 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 49825
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200
and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 28, 2025 — IL TLA# 49838
Springfield Mid Year Open
Site: Southern View Village Hall Address: 3410 South
5th St., Springfield, IL 62703 Overall Prize Fund: \$400
b/30 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency:
N Org: David Long • 217-726-2584 • www.springfield-
chessclub.com

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections
(Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 18-20, 2025 — IL TLA# 48868
18th Annual Chicago Class
Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 19, 2025 — IL TLA# 48869
10th Annual Chicago Class Blitz
Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 26, 2025 — IL TLA# 49555
Junior Open Blitz
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook Address: 2855
Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 Overall Prize
Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Resi-
dency: N Org: Kevin Bachler • Contact@caveman-
chess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

JULY 26, 2025 — IL TLA# 49557
Senior Open and Caveman Medior Quick
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook Address: 2855
Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 Overall Prize

Fund: \$1,000 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Kevin Bachler • Contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

JULY 26, 2025 — IL TLA# 49548

Caveman Beginner Open #1
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook **Address:** 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Kevin Bachler • Contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

JULY 27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49549

Caveman Beginner Open #2
Site: Hilton, Chicago Northbrook **Address:** 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Kevin Bachler • Contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5245 • www.cavemanchess.com

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444

12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — IN TLA# 49375

20th Annual Indianapolis Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841

2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
See Grand Prix.

INDIANA

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL TLA# 48866

2025 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653

53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 18-20, 2025 — IL TLA# 48868

18th Annual Chicago Class Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558

Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553

US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551

US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550

Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 26, 2025 — IL TLA# 49548

Caveman Beginner Open #1
See Illinois.

JULY 27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49549

Caveman Beginner Open #2
See Illinois.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — IN TLA# 49375

20th Annual Indianapolis Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

IOWA

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL TLA# 48866

2025 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558

Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553

US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551

US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550

Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 2, 2025 — NE TLA# 49653

2nd Annual Wilkins Cup
See Grand Prix.

KANSAS

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 2, 2025 — NE TLA# 49653

2nd Annual Wilkins Cup
See Grand Prix.

KENTUCKY

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558

Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553

US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551

US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550

Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — IN TLA# 49375

20th Annual Indianapolis Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

LOUISIANA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

MAINE

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — MA TLA# 49155

1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

MARYLAND

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651

18th Annual Philadelphia International
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567

19th Annual Philadelphia Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367

12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653

53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121

14th Annual World Open Women's Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119

17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120

4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49122

15th Annual World Open Senior Amateur
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — MD TLA# 49562

12th Annual Potomac Open
Site: Rockville Hilton **Address:** 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 **Overall Prize Fund:** see online **TLA GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** Y **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Michael W Regan • mregan@stsci.edu • 4104195130 • www.mdchess.com

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444

12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021

57th Annual Atlantic Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841

2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
See Grand Prix.

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 6-8, 2025 — CT TLA# 47565

33rd Annual Eastern Class Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — NY TLA# 48665

29th Annual New York State Open And Senior Amateur
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651

18th Annual Philadelphia International
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367

12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653

53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567

19th Annual Philadelphia Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119

17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship.
See Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120

4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 12, 2025 — MA TLA# 49155

1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — CT TLA# 48871

30th Annual Bradley Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444

12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 14-17, 2025 — MA TLA# 48969

55th Annual Continental Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841

2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
See Grand Prix.

MICHIGAN

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JUNE 7-8, 2025 — MI TLA# 47762

2025 Michigan Amateur
Site: Hilton Garden Inn Grand Rapids East **Address:** 2321 E Beltline Ave Se, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Michigan Chess Association • jeffchess64@gmail.com • 810-955-7271 • www.michess.org

JUNE 13-15, 2025 — OH TLA# 48167

18th Continental Chess Cleveland Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL TLA# 48866

2025 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653

53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550
Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
See Grand Prix.

MINNESOTA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550
Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
See Grand Prix.

MISSISSIPPI
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 2, 2025 — NE TLA# 49653
2nd Annual Wilkins Cup
See Grand Prix.

MONTANA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

NEBRASKA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

NEVADA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — CA TLA# 48968
30th Annual Pacific Coast Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — CA TLA# 49352
15th Annual Central California Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — MD TLA# 49155
1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY
JUNE 6-8, 2025 — CT TLA# 47565
33rd Annual Eastern Class Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651
18th Annual Philadelphia International
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567
19th Annual Philadelphia Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121
14th Annual World Open Women's Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119
17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120
4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49122
15th Annual World Open Senior Amateur
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 6, 2025 — PA TLA# 48880
36th Annual World Open Blitz Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — MD TLA# 49562
12th Annual Potomac Open
See Maryland.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 14-17, 2025 — MA TLA# 48969
55th Annual Continental Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021
57th Annual Atlantic Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
See Grand Prix.

NEW MEXICO
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

NEW YORK
JUNE 6-8, 2025 — CT TLA# 47565
33rd Annual Eastern Class Championships
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 13-15, 2025 — OH TLA# 48167
18th Continental Chess Cleveland Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — NY TLA# 48665
29th Annual New York State Open And Senior Amateur
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651
18th Annual Philadelphia International
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567
19th Annual Philadelphia Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121
14th Annual World Open Women's Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119
17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120
4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49122
15th Annual World Open Senior Amateur
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 6, 2025 — PA TLA# 48880
36th Annual World Open Blitz Championship
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 18-20, 2025 — PA TLA# 48870
26th Annual Pittsburgh Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 TLA# 48871
30th Annual Bradley Open — CT
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — MD TLA# 49562
12th Annual Potomac Open
See Maryland.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 14-17, 2025 — MA TLA# 48969
55th Annual Continental Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021
57th Annual Atlantic Open
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT
AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — NY TLA# 49022
147th Annual New York State Championship- America's Oldest Annual Tournament!
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
See Grand Prix.

NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 7, 2025 — NC TLA# 49385
Big June Dragon Knight Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 14, 2025 — NC TLA# 49384
Dragon Knight Dog Dad's Day Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21, 2025 — NC TLA# 49873
Dragon Knight Summer Solstice Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 28, 2025 — NC TLA# 49874
Dragon Knight Global Smurf Day Grand Prix
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 5, 2025 — NC TLA# 49876
Big July Dragon Knight Grand Prix
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — NC TLA# 49875
Dragon Knight Paper Bag Day Grand Prix
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — NC TLA# 50328
2025 DKC Heart of the Carolinas FIDE Summer Classic
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

NORTH DAKOTA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

N. MARIANA ISL.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

OHIO

JUNE 13-15, 2025 — OH TLA# 48167
18th Continental Chess Cleveland Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 18-20, 2025 — PA TLA# 48870
26th Annual Pittsburgh Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — PA TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — PA TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — PA TLA# 9550
Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — IN TLA# 49375

20th Annual Indianapolis Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OKLAHOMA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

OREGON

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

PENNSYLVANIA

JUNE 13-15, 2025 — OH TLA# 48167
18th Continental Chess Cleveland Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651
18th Annual Philadelphia International
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567
19th Annual Philadelphia Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Overall Prize Fund: \$17,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121
14th Annual World Open Women's Championship
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119
17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship
 Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120
4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
 Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49122
15th Annual World Open Senior Amateur
 Site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel Address: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

dress: 201 N 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

JULY 2, 2025 — PA TLA# 48878
14th Annual World Open Game/7 Blitz Championship
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 5, 2025 — PA TLA# 48879
33rd Annual World Open G/10 Championship
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 6, 2025 — PA TLA# 48880
36th Annual World Open Blitz Championship
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 18-20, 2025 — PA TLA# 48870
26th Annual Pittsburgh Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
 See National Events.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 — DC TLA# 49021
57th Annual Atlantic Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — NY TLA# 49022
147th Annual New York State Championship- America's Oldest Annual Tournament
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

PUERTO RICO

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

RHODE ISLAND

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — MA TLA# 49155
1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
 See Grand Prix.

SOUTH CAROLINA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

SOUTH DAKOTA

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

TENNESSEE

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 9550
Caveman Medior Open (Ages 21 thru 49 and Masters)
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025 — TN TLA# 49640
2025 Peter P. Lahde Tennessee Open & Blitz Championship
 See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — TX TLA# 49732
Texas Chess Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49553
US Junior Open Championship
 See National Events.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49551
US Senior Open Championship
 See National Events.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

U.S. MIN. OUT. ISL.
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

UTAH
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

VERMONT
JUNE 20-22, 2025 — NY TLA# 48665
29th Annual New York State Open And Senior Amateur
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 12, 2025 — MA TLA# 49155
1st Greater Baystate Summer Open
 See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA
JUNE 13-15, 2025 — VA TLA# 49975
1st Annual Blue Ridge Open
Site: Holiday Inn Roanoke Airport Conference Center
Address: 3315 Ordway Dr NW, Roanoke, VA 24017
Overall Prize Fund: \$1,600 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club • info.roanokechess@gmail.com • www.roanokechess.club

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 26-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 46651
18th Annual Philadelphia International
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 47567
19th Annual Philadelphia Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL TLA# 49367
12th Summer Solstice Open
 See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA TLA# 46653
53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
 See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49121
14th Annual World Open Women's Championship
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49119
17th Annual World Open Under 13 Championship.
 See Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49120
4th Annual World Open Amateur Championship
 See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025 — PA TLA# 49122
15th Annual World Open Senior Amateur
 See Pennsylvania.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA TLA# 46655
53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 25-27, 2025 — MD TLA# 49562
12th Annual Potomac Open
 See Maryland.

AUGUST 9-13, 2025 — MD TLA# 47444
12th Annual Washington International
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 22-24, 2025 TLA# 49021
57th Annual Atlantic Open — DC
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 29-SEPT. 1, 2025 — FL TLA# 49841
2025 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

VIRGIN ISL., U.S.
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

WASHINGTON
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 4-6, 2025 — CA TLA# 49355
27th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 20-27, 2025 — IL TLA# 49558
Caveman Chess Festival
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 — CA TLA# 48968
30th Annual Pacific Coast Open
 See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WEST VIRGINIA
JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH TLA# 49364
2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
 See Grand Prix.



THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS



US Chess Benefactor Members as of December 2024:

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WISCONSIN

JUNE 20-22, 2025 — IL

TLA# 48866

2025 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 21-22, 2025 — OH

TLA# 49364

2nd Annual Chess For Cure Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — FL

TLA# 49367

12th Summer Solstice Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 27-29, 2025 — PA

TLA# 46653

53rd Annual World Open, Under 1200 and Under 1000 sections
See Pennsylvania.

JUNE 28-29, 2025 — WI

TLA# 49226

48th Annual Green Bay Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 2-6, 2025 — PA

TLA# 46655

53rd Annual World Open, Top 6 Sections (Open Through Under 1400 Sections)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

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PAGE 15 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 15. ... h5! wins the knight (16. Qg3 g5!). **PROBLEM 2.** 29. Qh6! Qxe1+ 30. Bf1 threatens Qh6-g7 mate and wins. **PROBLEM 3.** 37. ... a4! creates a winning passed b-pawn (38. bxa4 b3 and ... b3-b2). **PROBLEM 4.** 28. Re6!, Black resigned. There's no defense to 29. Bxg6! Nxb6 30. Rxb6+ and mate. **PROBLEM 5.** 45. Rc7! threatens, for example, Rc7-g7-g8 mate. Black resigned after 45. ... Bxc7 46. Bxc7 Rc8 47. Bb6! Ra8 (47. ... Kf8 48. Kd7) 48. Ba7! in view of 49. Bb8. **PROBLEM 6.** Black drew after 59. ... Kf4 60. Nd3+! because 60. ... Ke3 61. Ne1 Kf2 62. Nxb2! Bxb2 is stalemate. But 59. ... h5! wins, e.g. 60. Nd3 h4 61. Ne1 h3!.

PAGE 31 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 39. Nd6+ Not the only winning move, but the best and fastest! 39. ... Ke7 Or 39. ... Kg7 40. Ne8+, winning the exchange and the game. 40. Nc6+ Ke6 41. Ne8 White also wins with 41. Nc8 Kf7 42. Ne5+ Kg7 43. Nd6, but the text move is more direct and contains a neat little trap. 41. ... Rf7 He fell into the trap. 42. Rd6 mate. Papp – Migot, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 2.** 23. ... e4! 24. Rde3 If 24. Rxe4 b5! and the queen is overburdened. 24. ... b5! Not

24. ... exf3?? on account of 25. Rxe8 Rxe8 26. Rxe8+ Qxe8 27. Nf6+ and White wins. 25. Qxc5 If 25. Qb3, then 25. ... Kh7, and White is lost, e.g., 26. Rxe4 Rxe4 27. Rxe4 Bxf3 28. gxf3 c4 29. Qxb5 (or 29. Qd1 Rd8!) 29. ... Qxf3 and White can resign. 25. ... exf3 26. Ne7+ Kh7 and Black has won a piece, but White fought on for a considerable time before resigning. Haug – Hjartarson, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 3.** 51. ... Rd2+! Best, but 51. ... Rf2 52. Bd5 Rd2+ also wins. 52. Ke5 Bxb5 53. cxb5 Ke7 54. Bc6 Rd6, White resigned. If 55. Bd5 (the only move to avoid mate) 55. ... Nd3+ 56. Kd4 Nxf4, winning the bishop or forcing White into a lost pawn ending. Terrieux – Gupta, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 4.** 19. ... Nd7! 20. Be5 Because 20. Bxa7 loses to 20. ... Qb7, winning the bishop. 20. ... Ndx5 21. dxe5 h4! 22. Nh1 Rh5! Suddenly, White's position falls apart. 23. Qd4 Qb7! Now, the knight cannot retreat due to the threat of 24. ... Bc5, winning White's queen. 24. Qd3 Rc4 24. ... Rxe5 was also plenty good. 25. b3 Rg5 Black plays in flashy style; 25. ... Rc8 would also do the job. 26. bxc4 Rxb2+ 27. Kf1 Qxa6 White is an Exchange up but his position is completely hopeless. 28. Rad1 Bc5 29. Kxg2 Nf4+ 30. Kf1 Nxd3 31. Rxd3 Qxc4 White has two rooks for the queen, but the position is totally lost. 32. Ke2 Qf4 33. Nf2 Qh2 34. Rf1 Qxe5+ 35. Kd1 Qf4, White resigned. Pisk – Jacobson, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 5.** 35. Qxh5! The beginning of a neat little combination that exploits the black king's lack of breathable air. 35. ... Nfxh5 36. f6! What? 36. ... Nxf6 37. Nf5! Boom! 37. ... Rb1 If 37. ... Nxf5, then 38. Nf7 mate; or 37. ... Rb7, when White plays 38. Nh6 and there is no good defense against 39. Ng7+. 38. Nf7+, Black resigned. After 38. ... Kg8 39. N7h6+ Kh8 40. Rxb1 there is no reason for Black to continue. Muradli – Kirk, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 6.** 28. ... Qg5! A simple threat to start off the fireworks. 29. Nf1 If 29. Kh2, then 29. ... Rxe3 30. Rxe3 Rxe3 31. Nf5 Re6 32. Rf1 Bxd4 wins for Black. 29. ... Bxd4! Boom. 30. Rxc6 Or 30. exd4 Re2. 30. ... Rxe3! 31. Nxe3 Bxe3+ 32. Kh2 Or 32. Kh1 Bxc1 33. Qxc1 Qg3 and White can resign. 32. ... Bf4+ 33. Kg1 Bxc1 34. Qxc1 Qg3 35. Kf1 The only move that prevents 35. ... Re1+, but it's met with 35. ... Rf8+ 36. Kg1 Rf2, White resigned. Ruiz Buendia – Jacobson, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 7.** 24. Qxc6! No tactics this time, just eliminating Black's counterplay. 24. ... bxc6 25. f5! The point behind the previous move. The bishop on g7 is Black's first problem but Black's king is also suffering from a lack of oxygen. 25. ... gxf5 26. exf5 Kg8 Giving the f8-square to the bishop without allowing White's rook in. 27. Kd2! 27. Rh4 is also good, but the text move, activating the king a little, makes excellent sense. 27. ... d5 If 27. ... Bf8 to prevent White's plan in the game, White simply plays 28. Rh4 d5 29. Ra4 with a large advantage in the endgame. 28. Bc5 Bf8 29. Bxf8 Rxf8 30. Rh6! Now the rook penetrates via the sixth rank. 30. ... f6 If 30. ... Rc8, then 31. a4 a5 32. Rd6 Kf8 33. Rd7 and White should win. 31. Rg6+! Black may have forgotten about this sneaky check. Now White wins easily: 31. ... Kh7 32. gxf6 a5 33. a4 d4 34. Kd3 c5 35. Ke4 Rg8 36. f7 White also wins after 36. Kxe5. 36. ... Rf8 37. Kxe5 Rxf7 38. cxd4 cxd4 39. Rd6 Re7+ 40. Kxd4 Rb7 41. Kc3, Black resigned. Gunnarsson – Kavutskiy, Reykjavik Open 2025. **TACTIC 8.** 47. Ndf5+! In the game, White missed her chances and eventually lost after 47.

e5?? dxe5 48. fxe5 Bxe5 49. Bg5+ Kd6 50. Ndf5+? Kc7 51. Nxb7 Bxb7 52. R6h4 Nfe6 53. Bf4+ Kb7 54. Rd2 Qe7 55. Rg4 Nxf4 56. Rxf4 Qe3+ 57. Kg4 Qxd2 58. Rf7+ Nd7 59. Qf4 Qxf4+ 60. Kxf4 Be5+, White resigned. Lu – Kadric, Reykjavik Open 2025. 47. ... gxf5 48. Nxf5+ Kd8 49. Bxc5! Eliminating Black's only active piece. 49. ... dxc5 50. Rxf6! and White wins easily. **TACTIC 9.** 21. Bxb6!! In the game, White missed this shot and instead continued 21. Bg3 Nh7! 22. Bh4 Re8 23. Qg4 Qc7?? (a big blunder by Black; instead, 23. ... Kh8 24. Nxb6 Qxb6 25. Nxb6 Bc8 would have allowed Black to fight on) 24. Nxb7 Bxb7 25. Nf5 f6 26. Bg3 Re5 27. Bxe5 fxe5 28. Rxe5 h5 29. Re7 hxb4 30. Rxc7 with a winning position for White, which eventually was converted in Jacobson – Papadimandis, Reykjavik Open 2025. 21. ... gxf6 22. Ng4! The point behind the previous move. 22. ... Nxb4 Or 22. ... Nh7 23. Nfxh6+ Kg7 24. Qc3+! f6 25. Qg3 Kh8 26. Re7!! Qxe7 27. Ne5!! and it is curtains for Black. 23. Qxb4+ Kh8 24. Ra3! A nice little rook lift, sending the rook to g3 to participate in the assault on Black's monarch. 24. ... f6 If 24. ... Bxd5 then 25. Rg3 f6 26. Re7! as in the game. 25. Re7! Qxe7 26. Nxe7 Bxe7 27. Qg6 Bf8 28. Rg3 Bxd5 29. Qxf6+ Kh7 30. Qf5+ winning the bishop on d5 and the game.

PAGE 47 ABCS OF CHESS

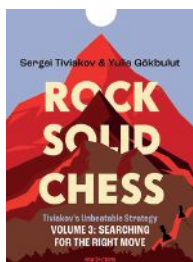
PROBLEM 1. Mating net: White wins immediately with 1. gxh8=N mate. **PROBLEM 2.** Mating net: White mates in 2: 1. Nd8+ Qxd8 2. cxd8=N mate. **PROBLEM 3.** Mating net: White ends it in 2 with 1. Qd5+ Qxd5 2. Bxd5 mate. **PROBLEM 4.** Mating net: Black goes down in 2: 1. Qa8+ Kd7 2. 0-0-0 mate (or 2. Rd1 mate). **PROBLEM 5.** Mating net: White mates in 2: 1. Ne8+ Rxe8 (or 2. ... Qxe8) 2. Qf4 mate. **PROBLEM 6.** Mating net: White ends the game in 2: 1. Nh7+ Bxb7 2. Qh8 mate.

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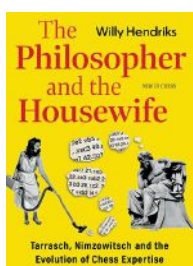


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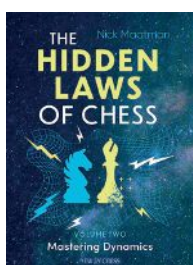
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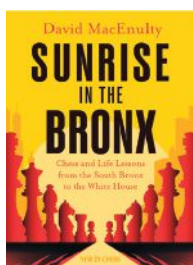
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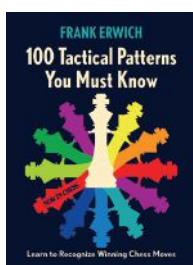
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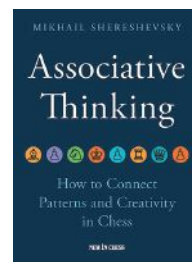


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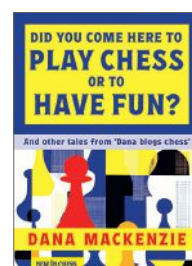
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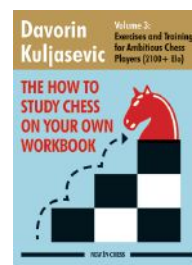
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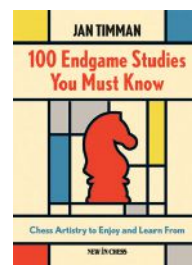
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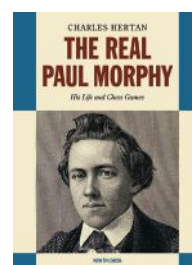
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UNDER 1400: \$7000-4000-2000-1200-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1300 (no unrated) \$1600-800. Unrated prize limit \$500.

UNDER 1200: \$4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. Unrated prize limit \$400.

UNDER 1000: \$2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-200-200-200. Unrated prize limit \$200.

MIXED DOUBLES: Top 6 sections \$2400-1200-700-500-300. Lower 2 sections \$500-300-200. Male/female teams averaging U2200.

Reserve hotel room early! Special chess rate \$152-152-172-192, link at chessevents.us or 215-448-2000, may sell out by early June.

July official USCF ratings used for U2200 to U1400, July FIDE for Open, June USCF for U1200 & U1000. Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Cannot play below USCF Online Regular Rating - 100 points. No mail entries.

Foreign player ratings: see www.foreignratings.com.

Unclaimed prizes usually paid by PayPal (may take around 3 weeks). For tax reporting, withholding info, see chessaction.org.

Entry fees, U1400-U2200 Sections: \$318 at chessaction.com by 5/15, \$328 by 6/28 (U1200 & U1000 by 6/24), \$350 online or at site until 90 min. before rd 1 (1 hr. in U1200/U1000 Sections).

Open Section: same, except \$500 more if rated U2200/Unr. USCF and U2000/unr. FIDE.

U1200 Section entry fees: \$100 less than U1400 to U2200 Sections. **U1000 Section entry fees:** \$200 less.

Seniors 65/up: entry fee \$100 less in U1400 & above.

Titled player entries: see chessevents.us

If any post-event USCF regular OTB or Regular online rating posted 6/30/24-6/30/25 (U1200 & U1000 6/25/24-6/25/25) or current Regular online rating is more than 40 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1000. **See chessevents.us for more rules.**

If under 26 regular OTB total games rated by July 2025 official list (June official for U1200, U1000), prize limit \$500 U1000. \$1000 U1200, \$2000 U1400, \$3000 U1600-U2000.

Entries posted at chessaction.com. Refunds, \$15 charge. **USCF membership required** (see special rates: chessevents.us).

Bring set, board, clock- none supplied.

5-day schedule: 7/2 7 pm, 7/3-4 11 am & 6 pm, 7/5-6 10 am & 5 pm.

4-day schedule: 7/3 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, merges with 5-day 7/3 6 pm.

3-day schedule: 7/4 11 am, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 pm, merges with others 7/5 10 am..

U1200, U1000 schedule: 6/27 1, 4 & 7, 6/28 11, 2 & 5, 6/29 10, 1 & 4.

Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 4.

PAST WINNERS

1973 Walter Browne **1974** Bent Larsen **1975** Pal Benko **1976** Anatoly Lein **1977** John Fedorowicz **1978** Peter Biyiasas **1979** Haukur Angantýsson **1980** Larry Christiansen **1981** Igor Ivanov **1982** Nick de Firmian **1983** Kevin Spraggett **1984** Joel Benjamin **1985** Maxim Dlugy **1986** Nick de Firmian **1987** Boris Gulko **1988** Maxim Dlugy **1989** Mikhail Gurevich **1990** Igor Glek **1991** Gata Kamsky **1992** Gregory Kaidanov **1993** Alex Yermolinsky **1994** Artashes Minasian **1995** Alex Yermolinsky **1996** Alex Yermolinsky **1997** Alex Shabalov **1998** Alex Goldin **1999** Gregory Serper **2000** Joel Benjamin **2001** Alex Goldin **2002** Kamil Miton **2003** Jaan Ehlfest **2004** Varuzhan Akobian **2005** Kamal Miton **2006** Gata Kamsky **2007** Varuzhan Akobian **2008** Evgeny Najer **2009** Evgeny Najer **2010** Viktor Laznicka **2011** Gata Kamsky **2012** Ivan Sokolov **2013** Varuzhan Akobian **2014** Ilya Smirin **2015** Aleks Lenderman **2016** Gabor Papp **2017** Tigran Petrosian **2018** Illia Nyzhnik **2019** Liem Quang Le **2020** P Iniyar **2021** Hans Niemann **2022** Mikhail Antipov **2023** Fidel Corrales Jimenez **2024** Awonder Liang