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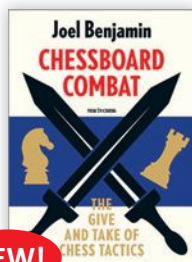
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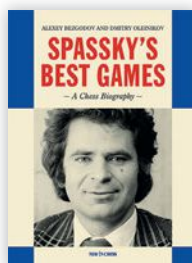


NEW!

The Give and Take of Chess Tactics

Joel Benjamin

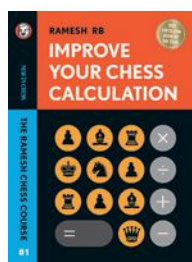
A chess tactics manual with a twist. Usually, tactics training involves puzzles with a clear solution. White wins brilliantly, or Black wins. But in real life, chess is messy. Sometimes tactics work, and sometimes they don't. That's why former US Champion Joel Benjamin tells the complete story of attack, defence, and counterattack!



Spassky's Best Games – A Chess Biography

Alexey Bezgodov & Dmitry Oleinikov

World Champion Boris Spassky was a chess genius and a perfect gentleman. He was, for example, gracious in defeat after he lost his title to the American Bobby Fischer in 1972. This wonderful new biography includes more than fifty of his best games and a biographical sketch of more than 100 pages.

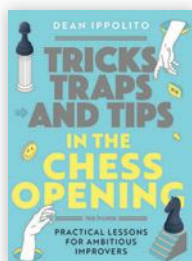


Chess.com 2022 Book of the Year

Ramesh RB

Coach Ramesh has won the 2022 *Chess.com Book of the Year Award*, in a vote with thousands of chess players. It is well deserved. But beware! It is a tough book that will require some real effort. Are you up for the challenge?

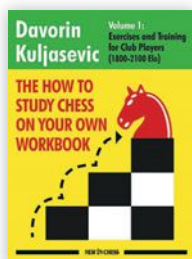
"An absolute divine masterpiece" – Andras Toth.



Exciting Opening Tactics

Dean Ippolito

This book introduces you to exciting weapons such as the *Fried Liver Attack* and the *Center Fork Trick*. Experienced American chess coach Dean Ippolito knows how adult improvers should play the opening, and what they can expect from your opponent. The tactical fireworks will also help you to develop your general understanding of the opening.



The workbook for self-study

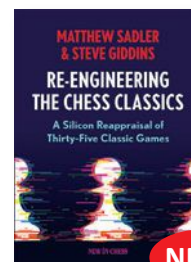
Davorin Kuljasevic

Last year, *How To Study Chess on Your Own*, was a surprise bestseller. Now there is a Workbook with the accompanying exercises and training tools for self-study for all players with an Elo of 1800-2100. Most workbooks offer puzzles and puzzles only. But Kuljasevic has used his experience as a coach to create a much broader and more interesting training schedule with tasks like 'Find the mini-plan'.

New Insights in Classic Games

Matthew Sadler & Steve Giddins

Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins used the collective power of Leela, Komodo, and Stockfish to re-engineer classic games of fan favorites such as Fischer, Spassky, Larsen, and Capablanca. With these modern engines, the authors have generated dozens of new insights and positional chess lessons that will help every club player and expert to improve their game.



NEW!

A White Repertoire vs the Open Sicilian

Ivan Saric

The Open Sicilian is not a phonebook crammed with computer lines, but a textbook full of 21st-century chess wisdom. GM Ivan Saric covers the entire range of Sicilians, from obscure sidelines to the main lines: the Najdorf, the Taimanov, the Rauzer, the Kan, the Sveshnikov and the various Dragons. His approach is very ambitious, and he supports his claims with deep analysis and illuminating and elaborate verbal explanation.



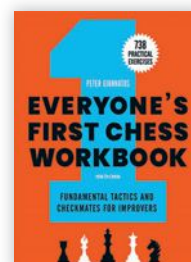
Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers

Peter Giannatos

The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns.

'Beautifully formatted with 3 diagrams per page and tremendous examples.'

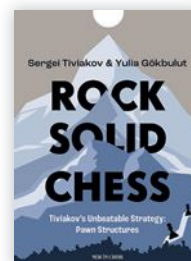
Fred Wilson, *The Marshall Spectator*



The unbeaten grandmaster

Sergei Tiviakov

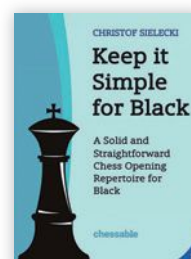
Sergei Tiviakov was unbeaten for a consecutive 110 professional chess games as a grandmaster. Who better to teach you rock-solid chess strategy than Tiviakov? In his first book, he explains everything he knows about the fundamentals of chess strategy: pawn structures.



Another hit repertoire

Christof Sielecki

German coach and IM Christof Sielecki presents a complete solution for Black. With this repertoire, you will not only safely navigate the opening phase, but you will actually understand what is happening and how you can play for a win. Why is the repertoire called simple? For the simple reason that the variations are straightforward, easy to remember, and require little or no maintenance.



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20 EVENTS

WEEKEND AT FOXWOODS

It's All About the Benjamins (and Klempners)

Our weekend at Foxwoods
BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

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A Homecoming

The 2023 U.S. Amateur Team East
BY WIM ELLEN WANG

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The 17th

GM Ding Liren becomes World Champion in a compelling playoff victory over GM Ian Nepomniachtchi.

BY JJ LANG

44 EVENTS

AMATEUR TEAM NORTH

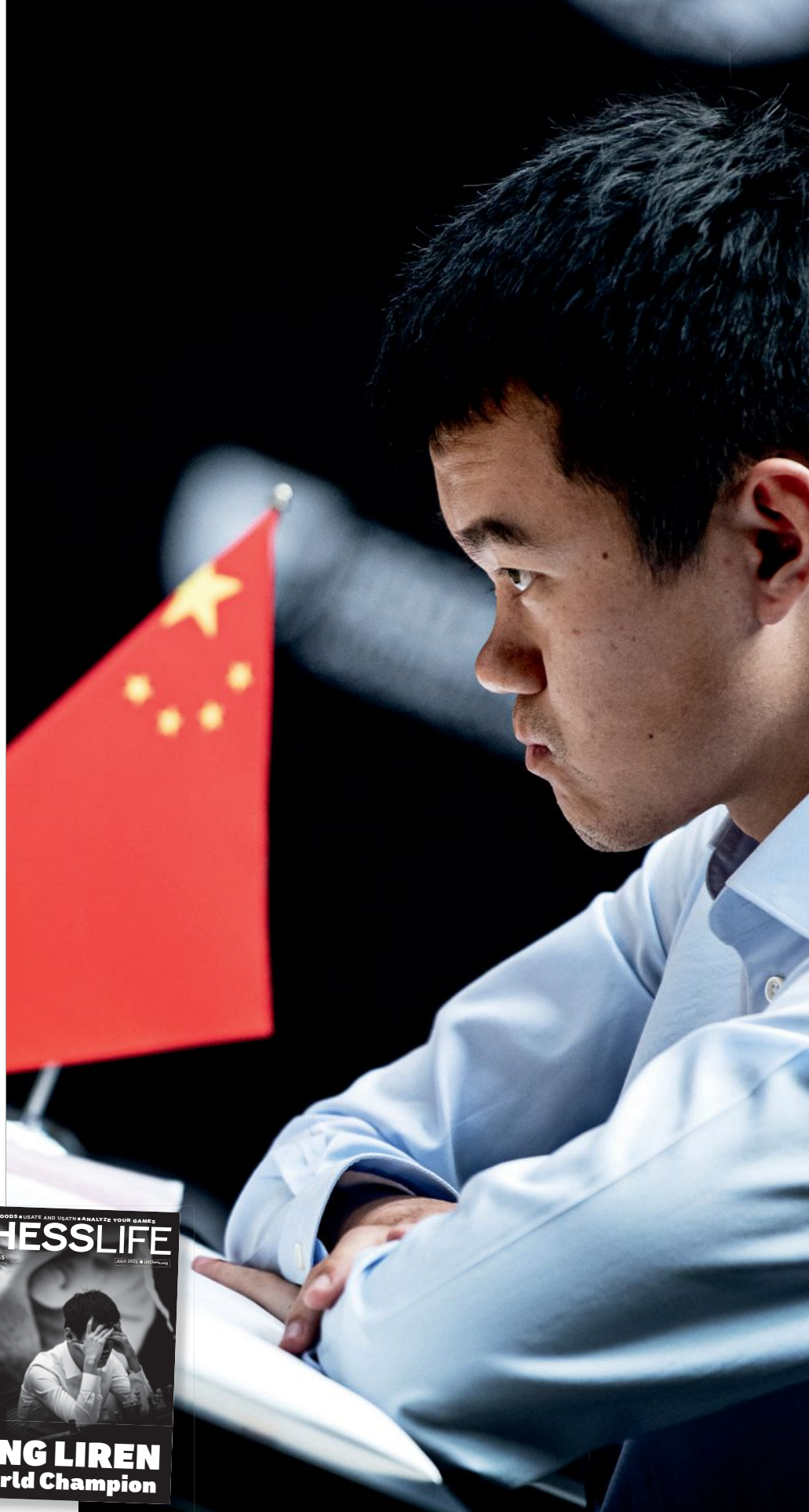
Fun with Friends

Reporting on a record-setting 2023 U.S. Amateur Team North
BY IM MARK HEIMANN

ON THE COVER

Capturing events as they happen is a fine art, and as we see in this month's "First Moves," the chess world is blessed with a number of fine photographers. Stev Bonhage's work (as seen on our cover) at the 2023 World Championship powerfully illustrates the drama and majesty of our game.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEV BONHAGE



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been teaching, writing, and podcasting about chess and its emotional strain on the psyche. He currently serves as Digital Assistant for US Chess, creating much of the content you see on our website. Follow him at @chessfeels on Twitter.



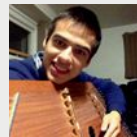
JOEL BENJAMIN
(Weekend at Foxwoods) is a grandmaster and a three-time U.S. Champion. He was a consultant for

IBM, training Deep Blue before the famous 1997 match with GM Garry Kasparov, and in recent years has turned his attention to the world of chess books. He has six titles to his name, including his latest book, *Chessboard Combat: The Give and Take of Chess Tactics*. Elected to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 2008, he is also a *Chess Life* columnist.



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(Amateur Team East) is a rising 11th grader at Horace Mann School in New York and a woman

international master. With success in both national and international youth events, she competed in the 2022 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship. She is a founding member of the Unruly Queens, a group of young women who offer chess lessons online and hold festivals in the New York area. Visit theunrulyqueens.wixsite.com for more.



MARK HEIMANN
(Amateur Team North) is a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Applied Scientific Computing at

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He received a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Michigan in 2020. Now an international master, Mark is a competitive powerlifter and a musician who plays multiple instruments, including the hammered dulcimer.

CAVEMAN SUMMER CHESS Festival



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- ✓ Classes for players from 5 to 85, fundamental and advanced, separated by age and strength
- ✓ Family and chaperone registrations to accompany young campers



**Add'l invited
instructors - TBD soon**

Top Women:

GM Krush, WIM Root PhD, WGM Yu

Top Men:

GM's Lenderman, Novikov, Mitkov

Camp Director:

FM, FT Kevin Bachler

Co-Director: Deb Socha

TOURNAMENTS JULY 21-23

- ✓ US Senior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ Caveman Medior Open
- ✓ US Junior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ US Blind (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ Caveman Beginner Open (7/22)
- ✓ Registration on www.kingregistration.com

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"I'd like to thank the US Chess Trust for their support in my chess career. I have had the honor of receiving the prestigious Samford fellowship, which has given me encouragement and support for my chess."

US Chess Trust Samford Fellow
& Ursula Foster Award Winner



Alice Lee



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COUNTERPLAY



MARVELOUS MAY

First of all, I am a huge Isaac Lipnitsky fan (as well as a historian who adores chess history), and so I was so glad to get to read the first part of this two-part article. It's such a shame that his life was cut so short (and perhaps due to his war-time exposure to toxic materials, to say nothing of Soviet healthcare), and he is not well known enough in the west. It reminds me a bit of my favorite Soltis books from McFarland — his Soviet multibiographies. And *Questions of Modern Chess Theory* is really one of my all-time favorites. Lipnitsky's was the first chess book that really clicked with me and absorbed me all the way through, with all credit due to Quality Chess for condensing the Ragozin opening theory section down from a hundred-something pages, of course.

But more importantly, I have to say, the annotations for Wijk aan Zee and WR Masters, along with the Rapid and Blitz positions, were especially fantastic this issue. It's very rare that I follow variations. All of them were short, to the point, and fascinating. I've honestly never said that about variations before. Kudos to you for soliciting from the players themselves,

which is always ideal.

Just wanted to say how much I appreciate it. Keep up the great work!

Jeff Reger
Via email

PIECE POWER

I was delighted that the 100,000th member of US Chess is the young scholastic player, Luna Thomas. As a collector of Drueke chess sets, I believe she is pictured behind a "Player's Choice" Drueke set, a favorite of Bobby Fischer's. William F. Drueke was the first to manufacture an American-made line of chess sets, as our supply from France was cut off by World War I. He promoted his product by organizing a series of "simuls" in department stores against another "scholastic" player, the nine-year-old Samuel Reshevsky.

Bruce Hedman
Via email

CHESS CRUISES?

I recall ads for chess cruises in old issues of *Chess Life*. Do you know if they still exist?

Bart Lancaster
Via telephone

John Hartmann responds:

To my knowledge, and after a quick Googling, I do not think there are any chess cruises currently running. Perhaps our readers know differently?

OUR BAD

We demoted IM John Donaldson from FIDE Senior Trainer to Developmental Instructor in the yearbook printed in our April issue (page 41). We apologize to him for this error, and note that it is corrected in the full version of the 2022 yearbook, now available at uschess.org.

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

Behind the Lens

Getting to know Austin and Crystal Fuller

BY **ANDREA ROSEN**



T

HERE'S A VISCERAL POWER to a good chess photo. The tension in the room, the emotion on a player's face, the electricity in the tournament hall — a good photo can help you feel a deeper connection to the drama of a chess game.

Most photographers who have done serious chess photography — Lennart Ootes, David Llada, Maria Emelianova, and Eric Rosen are some that immediately come to mind — are also serious players themselves.

But Austin and Crystal Fuller, a delightful young married couple from downstate Illinois, are serious photographers who, through some good karma and being in the right place at the right time, have made their mark in the world of chess photography, despite

having no knowledge of chess when they first started. For the last several years they have worked on contract for the Saint Louis Chess Club (SLCC) and World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), work that includes photographing some of the world's most iconic chess players at the many elite events held in St. Louis. It's a career they would have had a hard time imagining for themselves when they were younger.

Austin got his BFA in 2012 at Chicago's School of the Art Institute, but it was hard to find a job in photography at the time he graduated, so he moved back to the Illinois town where he grew up and took a job at a camera store in O'Fallon, Illinois, not far from the Missouri border. It was there he met Crystal, who was the store's star salesperson.

"As it turned out, I was really bad at selling cameras," Austin recalls. "Photography is my passion, but I quickly realized I'm not a salesman." He quit the job after three months. While he didn't find a career there, he did find the love of his life. Since meeting at the camera store, he and Crystal, who also has a passion for photography, have been inseparable and married in 2016.

Before they met, both had side gigs doing wedding photography. They soon began doing it as a team. While it brought in extra money, it didn't suit their personalities. "We're both pretty introverted, so having to tell the wedding party what to do" was not their cup of tea, Crystal said.

Meanwhile, Austin's best friend and former roommate from his Art Institute days landed

a job at the World Chess Hall of Fame and put in a good word for Austin when an opening came up as a gallery attendant. While working there, he noticed that they hired contract photographers to do a variety of assignments.

"I love portraiture and I'm into film photography and historic photographers, and I ate up everything about photography at that time," he said. He asked if he could work on some of the artifact photography that the museum needed. One thing led to another, and soon he also began working at the Saint Louis Chess Club across the street as a front desk associate. It was there that the club's Executive Director Tony Rich asked him to be the photographer for the 2014 Junior Closed. It opened a whole new world for him. He'd never seen a chess tournament before, and he was amazed.

"This was my first exposure to chess and chess culture and the chess players. And it seemed like I couldn't break their concentration, even if I tried," he said. "I still remember that first tournament very clearly. I stayed in the room with a tripod sitting in a chair in the middle of the room for seven hours pointing my camera at everyone the entire time, just because I didn't know what to capture. And I was trying to be as quiet as I possibly could."

"You did a good job, I'm sure!" Crystal added. The club must have agreed because they kept giving Austin more photo assignments. He would work at his WCHOF and SLCC day jobs at his regular salary, and then bill hourly for the extra photography work. He and Crystal also continued to shoot weddings on the side.

Over time, the photography needs at the chess campus grew as the number of events increased. Because much of the photo work involved editing a high volume of pictures with quick turnaround time, Austin found it hard to keep up and enlisted Crystal's help. Soon, the club added her to their roster as well. The couple eventually incorporated their business as Fuller Photo Inc.

"I was so grateful that they went with it and got me on board," Crystal said. The first tournament that she photographed was the February 2019 Cairns Cup.

Both have developed their own unique style when it comes to visually capturing the high-intensity chess events they photograph. Austin loves documentary photography and strives to focus on moments that convey the feeling of the whole room. "I love the geometry of the frame. So when I'm looking at chess players, I like the interaction of the crowd looking at the person, the person looking at the board, the opponent standing

up next to them staring at the board. And everyone together is part of this moment that is almost cinematic."

Crystal approaches her work with the mindset of a portrait photographer, with the chess pieces as a prop. While she might not understand the position on the chess board, she scans the room and searches for anything visually interesting that's happening. She pays close attention to "the motions and the mannerisms of what would make a good photo," like opponents who are across the board from each other displaying the same body language, or one player looking very intense while the other looks very bored.

At the elite tournaments in St. Louis, they often work alongside fellow chess photographer Lennart Ootes, a master-level chess player who also operates the DGT boards at many of the events. His understanding of the position on the board allows him "to anticipate things that we can't," said Austin, especially in endgame situations. "At first we thought it was overkill, with so many photographers taking pictures of the same event and players. But then once you look at the pictures, everyone has a different perspective ... and I think it creates a good variety."

Spending hours and hours in tournament rooms photographing some of the country's and the world's best chess players has led them to develop a profound respect for the game and the talents of the people who play it. They both say they are awed by the players' ability to focus and concentrate for hours at





a time, and often to conceal their emotions during tense play.

Their favorite players to photograph are the ones who tend to be more expressive. Crystal lists Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aro-nian, and Ian Nepomniachtchi as some of her favorites, especially Nakamura.

“He’ll make the craziest faces!” she said. “With a lot of chess players — you can’t tell if they’re doing well or not because they’re just so stone-faced, but he’s very expressive.”

Also, ever since Hikaru started focusing on chess streaming, “he works the camera

now. He’s so smart that he can totally focus on the chess game but he’s also very aware of the camera and how he’s looking too. So I think he’s next level!”

Austin said he doesn’t have a favorite player to photograph so much as a favorite technique. “I want to get them when they’re in their head and they aren’t aware I’m there.”

Austin also has a favorite lens — a 35 mil-limeter prime. He first experimented with it when he rented one in 2016 for a Junior closed tournament, and a photo he took with it of Jeffery Xiong was a game-changer

Together Austin and Crystal Fuller have shot some of the most iconic images in the Saint Louis Chess Club photo archive. Here is a selection of their favorite photos. Credits, this page: Crystal (Pocket Park, Jennifer Yu); Austin (post-game analysis, summer camp, Onischuk and wife); fac-ing page: Austin (Jeffery Xiong, 2019 STL Rapid and Blitz), Crystal (socially distanced learning, Nakamura).



for him. The lens allowed him to get close to Jeffery and the board for a portrait-style picture, while also capturing the whole position, the time on the clock, and a picture of the opponent. “I think it was a perfect mix between a documentary and a cinematic picture,” he said. After that tournament, he purchased the lens and still uses it frequently.

Photographing the tournaments is only one part of their jobs for the chess campus. Editing and organizing those photos is also time-consuming. For the editing work they do at home, they have an unusual helper. Blue, their five-year-old Quaker parrot, is often perched on one of their shoulders or on their laptop while they’re editing. “She squawks all the time, but I drown it out,” said Crystal.

When they’re not working on tourna-

ment-related photography needs, both the club and the WCHOF keep them busy year-round with other tasks. From headshots of chess classes to museum artifact photography to slideshows for holiday parties to numerous other events, there’s no shortage of work to do. For example, they regularly photograph the monthly music series at the WCHOF and other club programs like C.H.E.S.S. Cops, which pairs police officers with at-risk school children to teach chess and play together.

They’ve developed a certain rhythm to working together. Austin especially appreciates that Crystal is an obsessive planner and organizer. “She makes lists, charges batteries, clears memory cards, and makes sure we have all 200 things we need for a photo shoot,” he said.

“I have our camera bags set and ready to go for every event and will make a headshot list of who we’re photographing,” said Crystal.

It’s clear from a short conversation with them how much they relish their work. “We are incredibly grateful to the chess campus for letting us photograph and make the slide-shows and everything else that we do for them,” said Crystal. “Because otherwise, I feel like we’d still be shooting weddings.” They’re also grateful that they’ve been able to develop new photography skills along the way.

And they’ve even learned to play chess! “I feel like you can’t work at the chess campus and not at least learn to play the game,” Crystal said, adding that while Austin can now beat all their family and friends, “if we played the people we’re around all the time at work, we would lose immediately, I’m sure.”

They consider themselves fortunate to have found an organization to work for that values high-quality photography. Sometimes, though, it’s hard to explain to family and friends that their year-round full-time work is solely focused on chess. While they say the skills they’ve developed may eventually help them branch out into other types of photography, for now the chess campus keeps them busy full-time.

“We do so many little projects for the chess campus — so much more than shooting chess tournaments,” said Austin. They say the chess campus staff have truly made them feel like an integral part of their family. They hope they can remain photographers with the chess club for a long time and continue to grow and do innovative work.

“We want to keep getting better and make content that helps make chess popular.”



"We call him 'Fourth Quarter Charlie,'" Ben Jaffe told me. "He always makes a comeback."

Our meeting happened on “New Orleans time” — we started an hour and a half late at a recording studio owned by Jaffe and Preservation Hall. Jovial upon arrival, Charlie was all business once seated at the board, and he gave me all I could handle.

Regular *Chess Life* readers will recognize Charlie from his September 2020 cover story, written by Michael Tisserand. “Chess is medicine,” he told Tisserand. “It keeps you healthy. All the beautiful things I know that I achieved, chess had a part of it.”

– John Hartmann





Wait, I've Seen this Before...

...or something like it.

BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

M

Y FILES CONTAIN ANOTHER cool bishop ending which I felt did not quite fit the bill last month. It does not feature a

trade of rooks, but liquidation into the pawn ending is still an essential element of the strategy. Indeed, the key to winning is to set up this liquidation in the right manner.

I have found over the years that every time I show a position to students something new comes up. In the case of this classic Smyslov ending, a pawn ending reached in one of the variations turned out to be a lot less trivial than it first appeared. Figuring out the winning path involved summoning analogies to previously traveled endgames.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, FI-ANCHETTO VARIATION (E62)

GM Jan-Hein Donner

GM Vassily Smyslov

Capablanca Memorial, Havana, 1964

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 d6 5. Nc3 0-0 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. d5 Na5 8. b3 c6 9. Bb2 cxd5 10. cxd5 Qb6 11. Qd2 Bd7 12. 0-0 Rac8 13. Nd4 Rc7 14. Rfc1 Rfc8 15. Nd1 Rxc1 16. Rxc1 Rxc1 17. Qxc1 Qc5 18. Nc2 Qc8 19. Qd2 b6 20. e4 Nb7 21. Nd4 Nc5 22. f3 Qa6 23. Bc3 Qd3 24. Qxd3 Nxd3 25. Bf1 Nc1 26. Nc6 Nxa2 27. Bd2 e6 28. Bc4 exd5 29. exd5 a5 30. Be3 b5 31. Bxb5 Nxd5 32. Ne7+ Kf8 33. Nxd5 Bxb5 34. Kf2 Nb4 35. Nxb4 axb4 36. Ke1 Bc6 37. Ke2 Bd5 38. Bd2 Bxb3 39. Bxb4 Ke7 40. Nc3

Bc4+ 41. Ke3 Kd7 42. Ne2 Bxe2 43. Kxe2 Be5 44. Be1 Ke6 45. h3 Kf5 46. Kf2 h5 47. Bd2 Ke6 48. g4 Kd5 49. Ke2 Kc4 50. Be1 Bf4 51. Ba5 d5 52. Be1 d4 53. Ba5 Bd6 54. Be1 Bb4 55. Bh4 Kc3 56. Be1+ Kb3 57. Bf2 Kc4 58. Bh4 Bf8 59. Kd2 Bh6+ 60. Kc2 d3+ 61. Kd1 Kd4 62. Bf2+ Kc3 63. Bb6

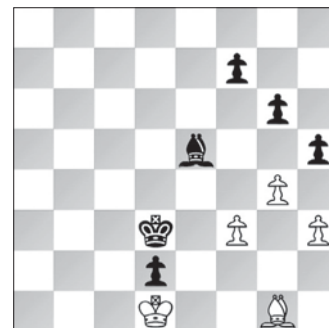


Extra pawns are often insufficient when the pawns are all on one side in bishop endings. But here the d-pawn is a bit to the outside, suggesting an invasion of the kingside by the black monarch. However, with White's pawns smartly placed, it will be a challenge to find a way past the watchful white bishop.

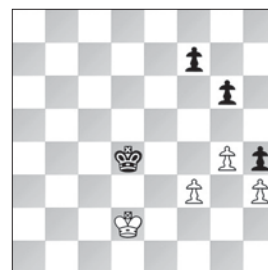
63. ... d2

It's a good policy to avoid pushing pawns rashly, but this is the only way to open a path for Black's king.

64. Bf2 Kd3 65. Bb6 Bf4 66. Bf2 Be5 67. Bg1



Black is almost there; he can challenge bishops on a square that does not take one away from his king. But the immediate 67. ... Bd4 68. Bxd4 Kxd4 69. Kxd2 h4 (69. ... hxg4 70. hxg4 g5 71. Ke2 Ke5 72. Ke3 f6 73. f4+ draws) falls short after



POSITION AFTER 69. ... h4

70. g5!! (70. Ke2 Ke5! 71. Ke3 g5 72. Ke2 Kf4 73. Kf2 f6 transposes to the game) 70. ... Ke5 71. Ke3 Kf5 72. f4 drawing comfortably.

67. ... h4!!

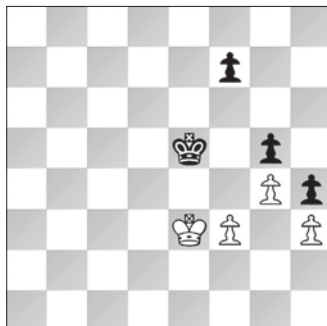
This sets up nicely for the pawn ending.

68. Bf2 Bc3! 69. Bg1
69. Bxh4 Ke3 cleans up.

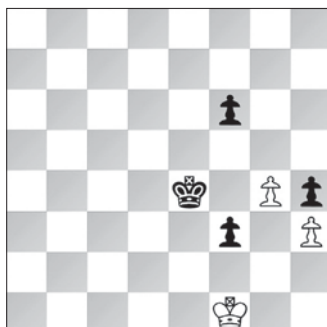
69. ... Bd4 70. Bxd4

It doesn't help to avoid the trade, and ... h5-h4 helps in this variation, too! After 70. Bh2 Ke3 71. Bg1+ Kxf3 72. Bxd4 Kg3 73. Kxd2 Kxh3 74. Bf2 Kxg4 75. Ke1 h3 76. Kf1 Kf3 77. Bg1 f5 the pawns are unstoppable.

70. ... Kxd4 71. Kxd2 Ke5 72. Ke3 g5, White resigned.



When I included this ending in *World Champion Chess for Juniors* I pointed out 73. Ke2 Kf4 74. Kf2 f6! winning with the extra reserve tempo. But I missed a much craftier defense that Donner might have tried: 73. f4+ gxf4+ 74. Kf3 f6 (it appears that this is the end of the story) 75. Kf2 Ke4 76. Ke2 f3+ 77. Kf1!

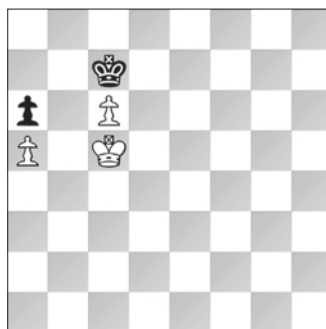


POSITION AFTER 77. Kf1

White is timing his king moves to avert routine defeat. Now 77. ... Kf4 78. Kf2 gets nowhere, and 77. ... Ke3 78. Ke1 f2+ 79. Kf1 Kf3?, the motif I like to call the “fake stalemate,” becomes a real stalemate after 80. g5 f5. So a little subtlety is required here to end the game.

My first thought was that the above diagram resembles the following quite common and oft-misplayed ending. After receiving an education in Jerusalem from the legendary GM Viktor Kortchnoi in 1986, I, too, “know something about triangles.” (See Benjamin's *American Grandmaster* for the full story

behind the endgame in Benjamin – Kortchnoi, Jerusalem, 1986. ~ed.)

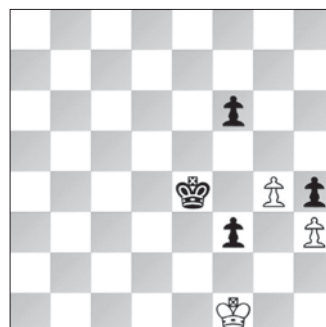


WHITE TO MOVE

Here White breaks down the defense by triangulating: **1. Kd5 Kc8 2. Kd4 Kd8 3. Kc4 Kc8 4. Kd5 Kd8** (or 4. ... Kc7 5. Kc5) **5. Kd6 Kc8 6. c7 Kb7 7. Kd7 Ka7 8. Kc6** (or promote to a rook) and White mates.

The problem is that triangulation requires two squares that access f4 and e4 simultaneously. The g4-pawn takes out the f5-square, and there is no way to rectify that.

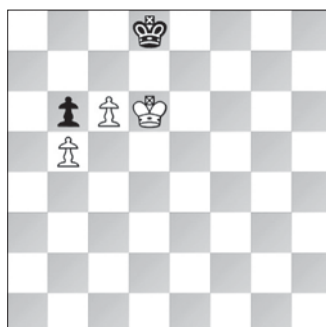
Returning to our analysis of Donner – Smyslov:



POSITION AFTER 77. Kf1

Here we see that 77. ... Ke5 78. Ke1 f5 79. gxf5? Kxf5 80. Kf1 Ke4 allows Black to win in the familiar pattern, but 79. g5 f4 80. Kf2 Kf5 81. Kxf3 Kxg5 82. Ke4 forces a draw.

A different classic endgame provides a more useful analogy.



WHITE TO MOVE

It seems that White's powerful protected passed pawn should produce a mindless finish, but White cannot win the opposition by ordinary means. The winning method is simple ... if you know it.

1. c7+ Kc8 2. Ke6!

White has to part with his pride and joy.

2. ... Kxc7 3. Ke7

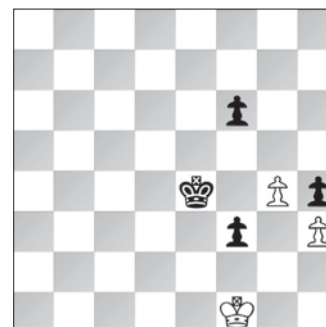
I find it fascinating that White not only wins the b-pawn but forces a queen. Black loses because he has the b-pawn on the board.

3. ... Kb7 4. Kd7 Ka7 5. Kc7 Ka8 6. Kxb6 Kb8 7. Ka6!

With the pawn near the side of the board, there are some tricks. After 7. Kc6 Ka7! 8. b6+? (8. Kc7 Ka8 9. Kb6 Kb8 10. Ka6 gets back on track) 8. ... Ka8! Black uses stalemate to draw.

7. ... Ka8 8. b6 Kb8 9. b7, etc.

Returning to the position after 77. Kf1, we now know the way to go:



POSITION AFTER 77. Kf1

77. ... f2! 78. Kxf2 Kf4

The pawn sac gives Black the opposition.

79. Kg2 Ke3

Here the soon-to-be passed h-pawn is not quite enough to win in itself, but Black will take both white pawns and easily win with his remaining pawn duo.

The finish is not difficult if you know the theme or can keep an open mind about your possibilities. Still, it is instructive and certainly worth pointing out. This is a case where the engines discourage us from finding this nuance, because their scores do not reflect the difficulty in finding certain moves. ♦

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Killer Heuristic

How you store shortcuts – subconsciously

BY GM ANDY SOLTIS



LET'S GO TO A SIMULTANEOUS exhibition. When we arrive, we see a long line of boards, with amateurs seated at each one. A master stands on the other side of the line. He walks from board to board, quickly making moves.

Today he decided to take Black on some boards. He arrives at this position.



WHITE TO MOVE

His amateur opponent wants to stop ... g4-g3. He plays **20. Rh4**.

In seconds, the master replies **20. ... Be1** and walks to the next board. He made a surprising threat, ... Qd4xf2 mate.

As the master makes moves on the other boards, the amateur realizes how bad 21. Qxe1 Qxd3+ or 21. Kxe1 Qc3+ followed by 22. ... Qxa3 would be.

When the master returns to this board, the amateur plays **21. Qc2**.

The master immediately responds **21. ... Bxf2!** and goes on to win. "How did he do that?", we wonder.

Did he have ... Bc3-e1 in mind before he arrived at diagram position? And was he calculating ... Be1xf2 after he moved on to the other boards?

No, he was relying on stored information. So do you.

You store it subconsciously. You begin

doing it in a game when your knowledge of the opening ends and you start thinking on your own.

For example, you store the material situation. Once you know who is ahead and by how much in the current position it is imprinted in the back of your mind. You don't have to keep counting the number of pieces and pawns on the board until one is captured.

As the game unfolds, you add more information, such as the tactical ideas. We can see how this happens by looking at a grandmaster game.

ENGLISH OPENING (A18)

GM Anish Giri

GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda

FTX Crypto Cup, 8.15.2022

1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 d5 4. e5 d4 5. exf6 dxc3 6. bxc3 Qxf6 7. Nf3 c5 8. d4 h6 9. Bd3 Nc6 10. Rb1 cxd4 11. cxd4 Nxd4 12. Nxd4 Qxd4 13. Bb2 Bb4+ 14. Kf1 Bc3 15. Ba3 Bd7 16. Rxb7



Here a tactic could occur to Black: 16. ... Be1, based on the favorable 17. Qxe1 Qxd3+ or 17. Kxe1 Qc3+.

But 16. ... Be1? allows 17. Qf3!. White would win after 17. ... Bxf2 18. Rxd7!.

However, when an experienced player spots the ... Bc3-e1 trick, it makes a lasting impression. Subconsciously, he stores it.

As he studies the position further, he wants to attack the b7-rook with ... Bd7-c6. But he sees how 16. ... Bc6? allows 17. Re7+ Kd8 18. Rxf7.

Instead, Black finds a way in which the ... Bd7-c6 idea works. If he plays 16. ... 0-0-0, then 17. Qb1? Bc6! is strong.

But when he rechecks that variation, he recalls other stored information, including the defensive move Qd1-f3. He sees how 16. ... 0-0-0? 17. Qf3! would favor White.

Instead, play went **16. ... g5 17. Qb1 Rd8 18. h4 g4! 19. h5 Rg8**. This is the position in our hypothetical simultaneous exhibition. (In the real game, White avoided 20. Rh4 but lost after **20. g3 Rg5 21. Be2? Re5**.)

The point of this example is that the tactics of ... Bc3-e1! and ... Be1xf2 had been in Black's mind for some time. That's why the master in our simul could have made those moves instantly.

Storing information sounds like sophisticated, masters-only stuff. But you have been doing it all your chess career. You store into the two types of memory, short-term and long-term.

When you learned how the knight makes that funny L-shaped move it went into the long-term storehouse. You added to that storehouse when you learned mating patterns of the Bxh7+, ... Kxh7, Ng5+ type.

But ... Bc3-e1 doesn't fit into one of those patterns. When it first occurred to the master, it was new information. It went into his short-term storehouse.

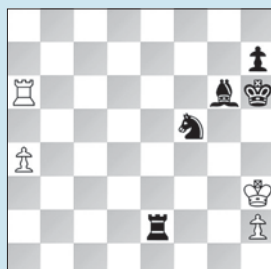
When you store data you are acting like computer. Programmers have given moves like ... Bc3-e1 a cool name: they call it a *killer heuristic*.

A heuristic is a mental shortcut. In chess it is based on the static nature of most chess

QUIZ FOR JULY

THE STRONGEST UNITED
States tournament used to be called the American Chess Congress. The first introduced the world to Paul Morphy. The sixth, in 1889, was the first major international tournament in the Western hemisphere. The Congress series ended with the ninth, held 100 years ago this August in the resort town of Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. It had an international flavor since eight of the 14 players were foreign born. Frank Marshall, who had won the seventh congress, tied for first with Abraham Kupchik. In this month's quiz you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play in six positions from Lake Hopatcong 1923. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material. But watch out for mates. Solutions on page 63.

PROBLEM 1
Horace Bigelow
Abraham Kupchik



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2
David Janowski
John Morrison



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3
David Janowski
Edward Lasker



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4
Oscar Chajes
Horace Bigelow



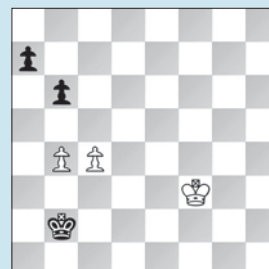
WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5
Edward Lasker
Abraham Kupchik



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6
Morris Schapiro
Oscar Chajes



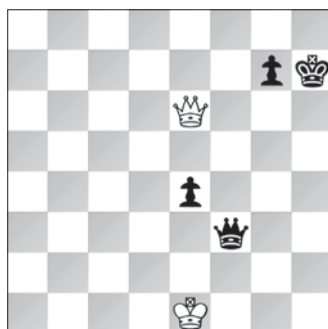
WHITE TO MOVE

positions. They don't change much from move to move. If a tactical idea is strong — a “killer” — in one position, it will probably still be strong a few moves later.

The idea may not be a single move but a concept:

STAY TRUE

GM Michael Adams
GM Vladimir Dimitrov
Burgas, 1993



BLACK TO MOVE

This occurred in the era of adjournments.

Black sealed his next move. White's only hope was that it was 66. ... e3??. Then 67. Qh6+! would force a stalemate.

Of course, White remembered that. But Black sealed a common-sense move, the forcing 66. ... Qe3+. He could study 67. Kf1 scenarios before play resumed.

The one he chose was 67. ... Qf3+ 68. Kg1. White would likely have resigned if Black had played 68. ... Qg3+ 69. Kf1 e3, e.g., 70. Qf5+ Kh6 71. Qe6+ g6.

But Black played 68. ... e3?? and White drew by recalling the related killer heuristic, 69. Qh3+!

After a game ends, we usually don't remember how we used our memory. But we may recall how we used it before the game — by cramming with last-minute opening preparation.

How much cramming will your short-term storehouse allow? The Soviet school of chess concluded it was 30 to 40 minutes. If you study an opening for longer than that you suffer from “tiredness and over-excitement,” as GM and psychologist Nikolai Krogus put it.

One final point about short-term memory.

No matter how prone you are to forgetting, there are times when you wish you could do it better.

For example, if you lose a game by hanging your queen. For hours after the game your blundering move may keep coming back to you. You can't escape it.

This happens with good moves as well. In his wonderful, posthumous memoir, GM Lubomir Kavalek recalled a simul he gave at his college, Georgetown University, shortly after emigrating to America. Fewer than half of students who had signed up to play him actually appeared. There was a big basketball game for the Hoyas at the same time.

So, Kavalek played 15 opponents blindfolded and won every game. “Then the chess torture began,” he wrote in *Life At Play*.

The torture came from stored information. “The next two nights I could not sleep,” he said. “Chess figures were marching in my head.”

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

Analyzing Your Games

The do's and don'ts of learning from your games

BY **WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN**

A

NALYZING ONE'S GAMES is a key component of chess improvement. The purpose of doing game analysis is two-

fold. We try to find common mistakes in our play, and we work to discover the truth in positions we didn't understand.

A word of caution before we begin: I know it is tempting to rush to check lines with an engine immediately after the game, and I would be lying if I said I don't do this too. Remember that this method offers superficial feedback, and it does not help us with improvement. If you really can't fight the temptation, do a quick run through of the game without saving the engine lines and forget about it. You will need to do a deep dive into the game to truly understand the reasons behind your mistakes.

ANALYZE WITH YOUR OPPONENT

It can be challenging to arrange a post-mortem with your opponent during those grueling weekend tournaments, especially when you are scrambling to find food between rounds. However, if you do find the time, it is immensely useful to discuss the game with your opponent as it will give you a full picture of the flow of the game. You will learn about your opponent's unique experience of the game, and vice versa. A good post-mortem also shows mutual respect. It is no wonder that we often see the top players discussing the game after a long battle.

WRITE DOWN YOUR IMMEDIATE THOUGHTS

It is a good idea to write down your raw

thoughts and feelings about the game right after its completion. These notes can be brief, but be sure to include how you felt throughout the game and point out what you felt were key moments. If you are really pressed for time, try to add quick annotations such as "good move", "blunder," etc., after certain moves so you know which moments to come back to. If you have more time to enter the game into a database, include some quick lines that you considered during the game. It's key to avoid using the engine at this time.

After the tournament is over, make sure all games are in your database and begin to take a thorough look. If you have any quick notes you made during the tournament, add them to your files as well. Attend to this as soon as possible after the completion of the tournament so that the games are still fresh in your head.

Remember: at this stage, there is still quite a lot of work to do before checking your game with the engine.

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF

First and foremost, remember that there is no point in making excuses; what's done is done. If you can be honest enough with yourself to admit unpleasant truths — perhaps you were feeling too lazy to calculate, fear of a higher rated opponent, or fear of making mistakes, just to name a few possibilities — then you are well on your way to improvement.

The purpose of analyzing your games isn't to beat yourself up for your mistakes, but to understand your strengths and weaknesses. This means analyzing both your wins and

losses, something that isn't always a pleasant process.

DON'T JUST BLAME THE OPENING

Check the database to make sure you played it correctly, but even if you got a bad position straight out of the opening, it does not necessarily mean that you have found the root cause of your problems. Chances are the game became complicated later on, when mistakes were made.

Many players give up on openings too quickly because of few losses. If you are learning a new opening, it is normal to mis-play it and even lose many games at first. Instead of just jumping to a new system, try to learn a new concept or an extra line in that variation.

MOVE THE PIECES

I find it useful to initially analyze the game on a physical board. This gives a better feel for the game. If there were any lines that you were afraid of, you have an opportunity to look at them with fresh eyes and without the pressure of the tournament. When working on calculation, the general advice is to focus on visualization by not moving the pieces, but during analysis, feel free to make as many moves as you want. Add your lines to your files.

ANALYZE WITH YOUR COACH

I think this is one of the best ways to utilize a coach, as they are very good at spotting mistakes and patterns you may not have considered, and unlike Stockfish, they can explain things in natural language. If you

are able to annotate your games before your lesson — and, at the risk of sounding like a broken record player, doing so without the engine — this will be very helpful for your coach to understand your thinking and suggest improvements.

LOOK FOR PATTERNS

Game analysis allows us to try and locate patterns in our games, both the mistakes, and the things we do well. Key points to look for: the opening, time management, calculation mistakes, and endgame play. Are you prone to overthinking or making impulsive decisions? When you make mistakes in your calculation, is it because you miss moves / resources for yourself or your opponent? Do you utilize your endgame knowledge in concrete endings? How comfortable did you feel in the opening? Focus on questions like these when replaying the moves.

A BLUNDER ISN'T ALWAYS JUST A BLUNDER

"I had a good position but I blundered in one move" is a very common phrase among tournament players. It is easy to dismiss the whole game because it was resolved by a one-move blunder, but you need to get to the root cause of the problem. Did you have a good sense of danger during the game, or did you simply dismiss your opponent's play before being felled by a tactic? Did you scatter your pieces all over the board until suddenly one of them fell? Did you miss an intermezzo? Did you manage your time poorly? Did your emotions get in the way? It is important to dig deeper.

CHECK WITH THE ENGINE

Finally, after all of this preliminary work, check your game with the engine and compare your notes. The key here is to stay realistic. If the engine suggests some unusual long sequence that would have given you the win, what are the realistic chances of you finding it on your own? Once an engine spits out a line, you cannot unsee it and everything seems so simple, but life isn't lived backwards.

Even if you did miss a tactic that you would normally find, remember that these things don't happen in a vacuum. When you are given a tactic to solve, you know that the position has a concrete resolution, whereas during a game, you are on your own. The goal here is to understand the game as a whole rather than focus on a moment or two where the evaluation jumped.

Another point about engines: if Stockfish suggests a line where the evaluation changes

from +0.2 to +0.4, but your move brought it down to 0.00, you did not blunder. Your games do not get resolved because of a tiny shift in the evaluation; these fine margins are only significant for the very top players.

Recently, I looked through one of my favorite games from the 2014 Olympiad. I was surprised by the type of mistakes we both made and the general quality of the game. However, upon reflecting on the high stress situation of playing for your country in a team tournament and all the pressure that it brings, some of the decisions became more understandable to me. Everyone, even the world's best, can have oversights in the pressure cooker that is over-the-board chess.

As an example, I offer you one of my annotated games from the first round of my first tournament in 2022, against my Olympiad teammate and four-time U.S. Women's Champion, IM Anna Zatonskih.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E46)

IM Anna Zatonskih (2393)

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2311)

American Cup – Women (1.4), St. Louis, 04.20.2022

First round games, especially after a long break, are tough on me. The indecision, spending forever on simple moves, and the weighty feeling of every decision all led to my loss in this game. Another reason I experienced difficulty, oddly enough, is because the position was simple. I have often found myself in trouble in those kinds of positions.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0-0 5. Bd2

I suspected she might try this.

5. ... c5



Varying from 5. ... d5 6. Nf3, which would transpose to my game against Krush from 2018 U.S. Championships, and for which I think Anna had prepared. I am happy I chose a new line over-the-board.

6. a3 Bxc3 7. Bxc3 Ne4

I spent eight minutes on this move.

8. Rc1 d6 9. Nf3 Nd7 10. Bd3 Ndf6

I spent 10 minutes on this move, contemplating whether I should take first on c3 or play ... Nd7-f6. This is poor time management on my part. The normal way to finish development is 10. ... Nxc3 11. Rxc3 b6.

11. 0-0 Nxc3

Another 16 minutes on this decision.

The alternative 11. ... b6 12. Be1 rightfully worried me, as White gets to keep the bishop pair, which will potentially be very dangerous for me. But there is no reason to think for so long here.

12. Rxc3 Qe7



Another seven minutes on this move.

My gut feeling was that 12. ... b6 13. e4 cxd4 14. Nxd4 was a good Hedgehog because of the piece trades, but I was not comfortable making such decisions during the game. I was concerned about 14. ... Bb7 15. Qe2 and somehow getting attacked.

13. Ng5

If 13. e4 then 13. ... e5 was my plan to deal with the central expansion. For some reason I was really worried about this move, but after 14. d5 Bg4 the structure is comfortable due to the exchanges and her bad bishop.

13. ... e5 14. dxc5 dxc5 15. Qb1 g6 16. Ne4 Nd7

With the idea of ... f7-f5. This is overly optimistic.

Better is 16. ... Rd8 17. Nxf6+ Qxf6 18. Be4 Bf5, finally finishing the development of my pieces.

17. Rc2

I missed this move, which was the idea behind 15. Qb1.

17. ... f5 18. Nc3!

A nice maneuver by Anna.

18. ... Nf6 19. Nd5 Nxd5 20. cxd5

Here I've completely lost my sense of danger. I thought this position was completely fine for me, but in reality, she has a passed pawn, better development, and my king cover is slightly weak.

20. ... Bd7 21. b4 cxb4 22. axb4



22. ... e4

This move is insane, and worse, I didn't feel good playing it. I knew that it only weakens my king in the long term, but still I was too tempted.

It's time to do damage control and challenge her on the open file with 22. ... Rfc8 23. Rfc1 Qd6 24. h4 and now if 24. ... Rxc2

(slightly better for White is 24. ... Kg7 25. Rc5 and with the better king and passer she can press for a long time) 25. Rxc2 Rc8 26. Rxc8+ Bxc8 27. Qc2 (note that the endgame is pleasant for White after 27. e4 fxe4 28. Bxe4 but it's not clear that she can convert) White can try to force the matters via 27. ... Bd7 28. Qc5 Qxc5 29. bxc5 Kf8 30. f4 e4 31. Bc4 Ke8 and here the engine says 0.00, but I am not so sure how easy it would be to defend.

23. Bc4 Kg7 24. Rd1 Rfc8

It's reckless of me to allow the pawn push. Blocking the pawn with 24. ... Qd6 is absolutely necessary to survive.

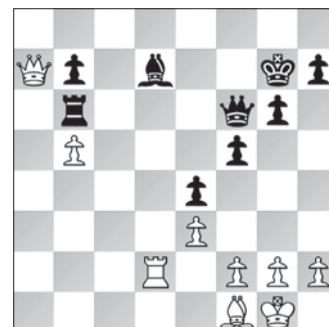
25. d6 Qf6 26. Qa2 Rc6 27. Rcd2 Rb6 28. Qa5 Rc8 29. Bf1

Her king is so secure compared to mine.

29. ... Rcc6 30. b5

The stronger 30. Bb5 wins material on the spot. At the board I thought I had a trick: 30. ... Rxd6 31. Bxd7 Rxd2 32. Rxd2 Ra6. This is the whole idea, trying to exploit the weakness of the back rank. I spotted 33. Qd5! after my 29th move but she didn't see it. After 33. ... Ra1+ 34. Rd1 White successfully defends against my only threat.

30. ... Rxd6 31. Qxa7 Rxd2 32. Rxd2



Despite managing to exchange her passed pawn, I'm still lost. My pieces are stuck and my king is weak. Both of us were low on time, and while her play wasn't precise, I collapsed under the extended pressure.

32. ... Be8 33. Rd4 Kh6 34. Qa5 Kg7 35. h4 Re6 36. g3 Rd6?? 37. Qc7+, Black resigned. ♠

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THE 2023 SAMFORD AWARD

Seven winners announced in award's 37th year.

BY **IM JOHN DONALDSON**

The Frank P. Samford, Jr. Chess Fellowship, marking its thirty-seventh annual award, has selected Grandmasters Hans Niemann of Weston City, Connecticut; Christopher Yoo of Dublin, California; and Abhimanyu Mishra of Englishtown, New Jersey; International Masters Jason Liang of Potsdam, New York; and Carissa Yip of Andover, Massachusetts; Women Grandmaster Jennifer Yu of Ashburn, Virginia; and FIDE Master Alice Lee of North Oaks, Minnesota, as its 2023 Fellows. The Samford has become the richest and most important chess fellowship in the United States having awarded over two million dollars the past three decades.

Since its 1987 inception, the Fellowship has proven very useful. The total value of the Fellowships has been increased several times over the years and is now \$70,000 annually. Niemann will receive \$20,000, Yoo, Mishra, Liang and Lee \$10,000, and Yip and Yu will each receive \$5,000. Fellows are eligible to receive up to a maximum \$84,000 in total support. The winners' term begins June 1, 2023.

The winners were chosen by the Samford Fellowship Committee, consisting of Paul Samford (son of Frank P. Samford III and grandson of Samford Fellowship founder Frank P. Samford, Jr.), former U.S. Chess Champion Grandmaster Yuri Shulman and International Master John Donaldson. The winners' potential was determined based on their chess talent, work ethic, dedication

and accomplishments. The Fellowship is administered by the U.S. Chess Trust with particularly valuable services provided by Al Lawrence.

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

Since its inception the Fellowship has proven very successful. Many Samford Fellows have become strong Grandmasters, members of the United States Olympiad team and U.S. champions. Four of the five members (Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland and Ray Robson) of the 2016 and 2018 U.S. Olympiad teams, which finished respectively first and tied for first, are former Samford Fellows.

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

RECENT SAMFORD WINNERS

2019	Awonder Liang
2019	Samuel Sevian
2019	Christopher Yoo
2020	Nicholas Checa
2020	Awonder Liang
2020	Carissa Yip
2020	Christopher Yoo
2021	Praveen Balakrishnan
2021	Akshat Chandra
2021	Nicholas Checa
2021	Abhimanyu Mishra
2021	Hans Niemann
2021	Carissa Yip
2021	Christopher Yoo
2022	Alice Lee
2022	Abhimanyu Mishra
2022	Hans Niemann
2022	Carissa Yip
2022	Christopher Yoo
2023	Alice Lee
2023	Jason Liang
2023	Abhimanyu Mishra
2023	Hans Niemann
2023	Carissa Yip
2023	Christopher Yoo
2023	Jennifer Yu



Niemann



Lee



Liang



Mishra



Yoo



Yip



Yu

IT'S ALL ABOUT **THE BENJAMINS** (AND KLEMPNERS)

THE PROFESSIONAL



THE NEPHEW



Our weekend at Foxwoods

BY **GM JOEL BENJAMIN**

THE SON



MY PHONE SUGGESTED the text was from “maybe Leah” but I recognized it was my nephew Jonah, starting off succinctly with, “Are you playing in Foxwoods in April?” Well, I wasn’t planning to, as I haven’t played anywhere since the U.S. Senior Championship last July. It’s nothing to do with COVID-19; I just don’t like most tournaments (two games a day) and have a lot of family responsibilities to deal with.

But now Jonah wanted to play in the under 1600 section and shoot for the \$2,000 first prize. He would bring his fiancée Brittany along and make a vacation out of it.

A vacation — what a great idea! Spring break was coming up for my kids and we had to go somewhere. My son Aidan

had been watching a lot of chess videos over the past year, and he is playing frequently on *Chess.com*. So I wasn’t surprised when he said he was up for the tournament.

I started getting ambitious, but my recruitment efforts went no further. My 12-year-old daughter Amy, unfortunately, has never gotten interested in chess. Though a former Olympiad player for Ireland, my wife Debbie would sit this one out and keep Amy amused (as well as making sure everyone got to their rounds on time).

THE NEPHEW

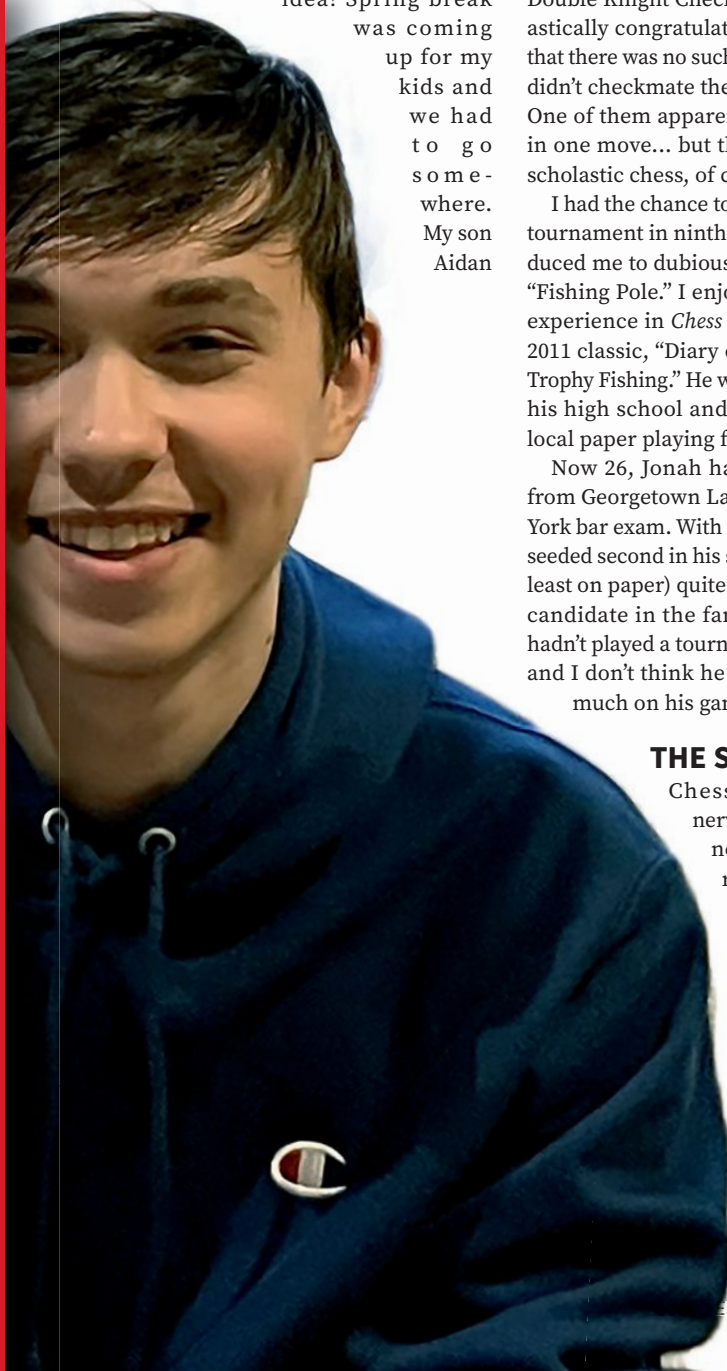
Jonah Benjamin Klempner has had a relatively brief but eventful chess career. He entered his first tournament in third grade where he shocked us by pulling off the “Bobby Fischer Double Knight Checkmate.” While enthusiastically congratulating him, I pointed out that there was no such thing. But darned if he didn’t checkmate the guy with two knights. One of them apparently flew from h4 to f6 in one move... but these things happen in scholastic chess, of course.

I had the chance to chaperone Jonah for a tournament in ninth grade, where he introduced me to dubious kid strategies like the “Fishing Pole.” I enjoyed writing about the experience in *Chess Life Online* in the June 2011 classic, “Diary of a Chess Uncle. ... or Trophy Fishing.” He would go on to represent his high school and get his picture in the local paper playing for said team.

Now 26, Jonah has recently graduated from Georgetown Law and passed the New York bar exam. With a rating of 1571, he was seeded second in his section, making him (at least on paper) quite possibly the best prize candidate in the family. Jonah, however, hadn’t played a tournament in quite a while, and I don’t think he has been working too much on his game.

THE SON

Chess unclehood can be nerve-racking, but it does not compare to mentoring your own child. I introduced Aidan to the game slowly, and by kindergarten he would play games with me. I would carry him along for a while before finishing him off. When you are a grandmaster, it just isn’t plausible to lose to a five-year-old, and



I don't believe in doing that anyway. I have seen enough chess parenting horror stories to know what mistakes to avoid. And yet... one of our early lessons was the four-move checkmate, which I thought would be cool and fun. But when I executed the checkmate, Aidan broke into tears, whining, "Not again!" I thought quickly and switched the board around so that I had the checkmated side, turning the tears into smiles. Phew!

Later in his development, I brought Aidan to a chess class at ICA — International Chess Academy, the top program in Bergen County. The instructor was a bit befuddled as to what he could teach Aidan better than me. But some things you would rather hear from a coach than dear old dad.

At age 10 Aidan was ready to play in tournaments, and his enthusiasm peaked when we won the family prize at an ICA tournament. But after a few more tournaments he was done. Not the end of the world. He's never lacked for activities, be it sports, video games or whatever.

Now Aidan is 14, the same age as Jonah during the "Chess Uncle" story. He has not only outgrown his dad — standing six feet tall now — he has outgrown his little boy rating of 539. With all the videos he has been consuming and all the practice games on *Chess.com*, I could tell he was hundreds of points stronger than his rating. His opponents in the under 1100 section would definitely be within reach.

THE PROFESSIONAL

Even before Jonah's text, it was dawning on me that I had to play in something, somewhere. I was thinking April would be a good time, so the Foxwoods suggestion was somewhat serendipitous. At age 59, I know that my financial equity for most open tournaments is negative. There's too much stress on my body, and too many underrated kids. But family vacations are *supposed* to cost money, so I wasn't concerned about getting in the prize money.

I had a peek at the advanced entries when I entered, and saw a dearth of GMs, or highly rated players in general. Grandmasters often don't enter in advance in Goichberg tournaments because they don't have to shell out an entry fee. But when I arrived on Thursday, I saw that nothing had changed. I was actually number three on the wall chart.

You noticed I said Thursday. The Open sections are often, rather inconveniently, stretched an extra day to get in nine rounds, making title norms possible. In this case the first round of my section was also the first night of Passover. Since I wrote the play this

year I could hardly miss the family Seder.

So I took two half-point byes and rode up on Thursday. The kids had to miss a day of school as spring break did not begin until Friday, but I didn't think their high honor rolls would be in jeopardy.

SO FAR, SO GOOD

The first two days were a rousing success. I managed to win my first three games, albeit with some struggles and less-than-optimal time management. Aidan beat his first adult in round one.

ENGLISH OPENING (A29)

Aidan Benjamin (539)

Jordan Hegel (UNR)

15th Foxwoods U1100 (1), 04.06.2023

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 Bc5 5. Nf3 0-0 6. 0-0 Re8 7. d3 h6 8. Be3!?

Nice creativity, though the follow-up leaves White with some weaknesses.

8. ... Bxe3 9. fxe3 d6 10. d4?! exd4 11. exd4 Ng4 12. Qd2 Ne3 13. Rfe1 Nxe2 14. Kxg2 Qd7 15. Nd5 b6 16. b3 Bb7



17. Qxh6?

Sometimes tactical patterns can be irresistible. Aidan was vaguely aware that his knight could get trapped after 17. ... gxh6 18. Nf6+ Kg7 19. Nxd7 Rad8; fortunately, his opponent wasn't.

17. ... Re6 18. Qd2 Rh6? 19. Qxh6!

The queen is back but now Black's rook is gone. No disrespect to Mr. Hegel, who graciously sent the score when we couldn't find Aidan's sheet. We all start somewhere.

19. ... gxh6 20. Nf6+ Kg7 21. Nxd7 Rd8 22. Nde5 dxe5 23. dxe5 Nxe5 24. Rad1 Re8 25. e4 Ng4 26. Rd7 Rc8 27. e5 Bc6 28. Rd4 Re8? 29. Rxg4+, Black resigned.

After defeating another unrated in round two, Aidan took down an opponent 400

points above him. With Jonah scoring two out of his first three, the family had a whopping 8/9 after three rounds!

INTO THE GRIND

I managed to make it to round six before having to face my first talented youngster. Such is my isolation that I had not encountered, let alone played, FM (and soon to be IM) Brewington Hardaway yet. I was pleased to outplay the 14-year-old star ... for a while.

RUY LOPEZ, DEFERRED STEINITZ VARIATION (C73)

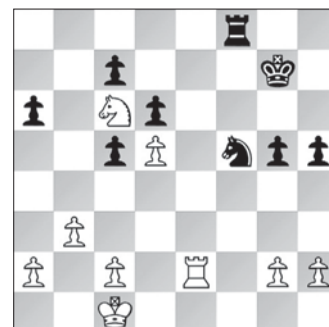
GM Joel Benjamin (2566)

FM Brewington Hardaway (2418)

15th Foxwoods Open (6), 04.08.2023

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. Bxc6+ bxc6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 c5 8. Nc6 Qd7 9. Na5 Qa4 10. Qd5 Rb8 11. Qc6+ Qxc6 12. Nxc6 Rb6 13. Na5 f5 14. f3 fxe4 15. fxe4 Be6 16. Nc3 Ne7 17. b3 g6 18. Bb2 Bg7 19. 0-0-0 0-0 20. Nd5 Bxd5 21. Bxg7 Kxg7 22. exd5 Rbb8 23. Rhe1 Rbe8 24. Re2 Nf5 25. Rde1 Rxe2 26. Rxe2 h5 27. Nc6 g5

The engine says Black is okay here but I have big potential on the queenside, something I wouldn't have had if Brewington had swapped on d5 with the knight. I was proud of my next idea, setting up a potentially decisive pawn breakthrough.



28. a4! h4 29. a5 Kh6? 30. Rf2 Kg7

This was played reluctantly but wisely. I had calculated a beautiful win in a pawn ending (that is my jam, you know) with 30. ... g4 31. Ne7 Kg5 32. c3 Rf7 33. Rxf5+ Rxf5 34. Nxf5 Kxf5 35. b4 cxb4 36. cxb4 Ke5 37. b5 Kxd5 38. bxa6 Kc6 39. g3 and White promotes as soon as Black runs out of pawn moves.

31. Kd2 Kf6 32. c3 Re8 33. Re2 Rg8 34. Re6+ Kf7 35. Kd3?!

The problem is I need five reasonably accurate moves to reach the time control without

ruining anything. I started to get sidetracked and waste precious tempi. After 35. b4! White will soon have a decisive passed a-pawn.

35. ... h3 36. g4 Nh4 37. Ke4??

Dominating the knight — but it's the rook I should be worried about! 37. b4 preserves a winning advantage.

37. ... Rf8!

The win is gone, as Black finds big counter-play just in time.

38. Re7+ Kg6 39. Re6+ Kg7 40. Re7+ Kg6 41. Re6+ Kg7, draw.

The middle rounds were not kind to the family. Aidan stumbled with one draw in his second three games. He was probably winning in round five, but in the other two he realized belatedly that his Black openings were not quite in order. Jonah never managed to win back-to-back games throughout the event.

FINAL EXAMS

After beating the young master Sudarshan Srinaiyer in a long game with mostly bad technique, I found myself already a winner in my book. I would start the final day against another grandmaster, something I rarely manage anymore.

Bartlomeij Maciejka is a fascinating player. The head coach for the chess program at UT Rio Grande Valley has great understanding betrayed by an inability to make moves in any reasonable sort of time. I had already seen him beat the clock in two on-the-delay finishes, and in our game, he went down to the final minute even though I played most of the game with my pieces on the back rank.

ENGLISH OPENING (A15)

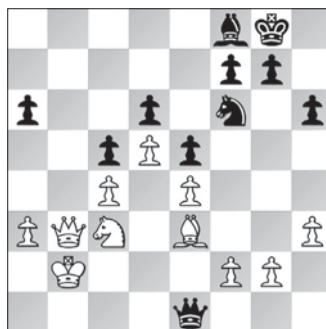
GM Bartlomeij Maciejka (2581)

GM Joel Benjamin (2566)

15th Foxwoods Open (8), 04.09.2023

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb7 4. d4 e6 5. a3 Ne4 6. Nxe4 Bxe4 7. Bf4 Be7 8. e3 d6 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 Nd7 11. e4 0-0 12. 0-0 Qc8 13. b4 Qb7 14. h3 Rfd8 15. Rfe1 a6 16. Rac1 Rac8 17. d5 e5 18. Be3 c6 19. Nd2 h6 20. Nb1 c5 21. Nd2 Rb8 22. Rc3 Rdc8 23. Rb1 Qc7 24. Qc2 Qd8 25. Nf3 Nf6 26. bxc5 bxc5 27. Nd2 Nd7 28. Rxb8 Rxb8 29. Qa4 Rb6 30. Rb3 Nf6 31. Kf1 Rxb3 32. Qxb3 Qa5 33. Ke2 Bf8 34. Kd3 Be7 35. Nf3 Bf8 36. Nd2 Be7 37. Kc2 Bf8

38. Kb2 Nd7 39. Nb1 Qe1 40. Nc3 Nf6



With my own time dwindling, I took a shot at invading with my queen, which suffices for a dynamic equality. Maciejka went back into the tank to risk another time forfeiture.

41. Qa4 Qf1 42. g3 Qd3 43. Qxa6 Nxe4 44. Nxe4 Qxe4 45. g4 Qd3 46. a4 e4 47. a5 g5

This is not strictly necessary, but I began to think I might win, though I was wary of my opponent's time pressure prowess!

48. Qc8 Kg7 49. Qb7 Qxc4

In the nick of time I processed that 49. ... Kg6? 50. Qb3! would lose for me, and decided to buckle down and make a draw.

50. a6 Be7 51. a7 Bf6+ 52. Ka3 Bc3

I thought this was genius but I just missed 52. ... Qc3+ 53. Ka4 Qc4+ 54. Ka5?? Bd8+!.

53. a8=Q Bb4+ 54. Ka4 Bc3+ 55. Ka3 Bb4+ 56. Ka4 Bc3+ 57. Ka3 Bb4+, draw.

My opponent deservedly took home a shared first prize after drawing with one of his college players, FM Jakub Fus. While not quite as old as me, Maciejka was thrilled to win a tournament at the relatively advanced age of 45!

Meanwhile, I earned another game on board one against the co-leader.

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK (A07)

GM Joel Benjamin (2566)

GM Jianchao Zhou (2638)

15th Foxwoods Open (9), 04.09.2023

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. 0-0 e5 5. d3 Ne7 6. e4 Nbc6 7. Nc3 d4 8. Nd5 Nxd5 9. exd5 Ne7 10. Re1 0-0 11. Nxe5 Nxd5 12. Bd2 Re8 13. Qf3 Nf6?! 14. Qf4 c6

(see diagram next page)

I had been surprised by several of my opponent's moves, and sensed I was on the cusp

Brewington Hardaway



Bartlomeij Maciejka



Jianchao Zhou



of a significant advantage. The way there was 15. Qh4!, which leaves Black almost without a useful move. I was vaguely aware of that possibility but decided instead to play a more forcing move.

15. Nf3? Rxe1+ 16. Rxe1 Nd5 17. Qh4 Bd7

Here I realized I had blown any chance for advantage and decided to call it a day. Naturally my opponent had no reason to object.

18. Qxd8+ Rxd8 19. h4, draw.

I should be miffed at throwing away my shot for an extra three grand, but I had already exceeded my expectations at finishing in the money (tied for third through fifth) of an open tournament for the first time in forever. I was also the first in the family to finish, so I finally got to be a nervous chess dad again.

NAIL-BITER

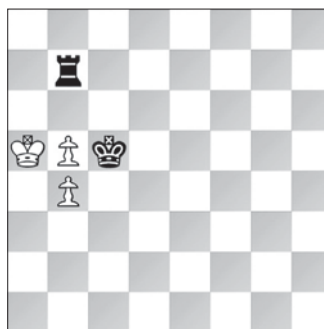
Jason He (969)

Aidan Benjamin (539)

15th Foxwoods U1100 (7), 04.09.2023

(see diagram top of next column)

After a tough endgame struggle, Aidan forced the sacrifice of his opponent's rook and is on the verge of victory. Here he



BLACK TO MOVE

paused for a good chunk of time, wanting to make sure he got things right. Was he considering 68. ... Kc4? 69. b6 when White can salvage a draw? It was all too much for me, and I had to leave the room and sit alone in my thoughts. I returned a bit later after the concluding moves had been played:

68. ... Kd6 69. b6 Rb8 70. Ka6 Kd7 71. Ka7 Kc8 72. b5 Rb7+ 73. Ka6 Kb8 74. Ka5 Ka8 75. Ka6 Rb8 76. b7+ Rxb7 77. b6 Rb8 78. Kb5 Kb7 79. Kc5 Rc8+ 80. Kd5 Rc6 81. Ke5 Kxb6, White resigned.

Here White trusted Aidan to mate with a rook, which (for the record) he can do.

I found Aidan by the pairing charts and gave him a big hug. I also heard his opponent remark (with humor in his tone, thankfully), "If you'll excuse me, I'm going back to my room to cry."

Aidan finished with 4½/7 in 11th place, just outside the prize list, and I'm thrilled that he has found chess again on his own terms. The blitz specialist proclaimed classical chess to be cool — take that, Magnus. After adding 300 points to his US Chess rating, I expect Aidan will enter more events in the future.

The catalyst of the weekend ended up with the most disappointing tournament. Turns out it's not easy to balance business and pleasure. A late-night poker session with

Cousin Rob, an escape room session, and an ice-cream lunch are not the best preparation for the grind of CCA tournaments.

Jonah has retained that happy-go-lucky nature from his youth. One young opponent avoided several blunders by maintaining finger contact on the moving piece. In between moves he danced in the aisle. Did this bother my nephew? "No," Jonah told me. "He was so cute — I wanted to dance with him!"

Jonah may have managed only 50%, but he continued his history of memorable chessboard moments, overcoming a sleepy start to make a brilliant save.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B10)

Jonah Klempner (1571)

Varun Ramanathan (1479)

15th Foxwoods U1600 (6), 04.09.2023

1. e4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. e5 Nc6 5. d4 Bf5 6. Bb5 Bxb1 7. Rxb1?? Qa5+ 8. Bd2 Qxb5 9. Ne2 e6 10. 0-0 Bb4 11. Bg5 Nge7 12. a3 Ba5 13. b4 Bc7 14. a4 Qb6 15. a5 Qb5 16. Qd2 h6 17. Nc3 Qc4 18. Be3 Nxb4 19. Rfc1 Bxa5 20. Ne4 Qxc1+ 21. Qxc1 dxe4 22. Qd1 0-0 23. Qg4 Nf5 24. Bc1 Rfd8 25. Qxe4 Rxd4 26. Qf3 Rad8 27. Be3 R4d7 28. g4 Nh4 29. Qe2 Nc6 30. g5 Nxe5 31. gxh6 Nef3+ 32. Kh1 g6 33. h3 Bd2 34. Bxa7 Bxh6 35. Qc2 Rd2 36. Qa4 e5 37. Bb6 R8d7 38. Rc1 R2d6



39. Bc5!

This is relatively subtle as stalemate traps go; it looks like White wants to take pieces and doesn't see his rook is hanging.

39. ... Bxc1 40. Bxd6 Rxd6??

There goes the last piece! 40. ... Rd8 was still good enough to win.

41. Qe8+ Kg7 42. Qh8+! Kxh8, draw.

I think I will need to gather the clan for Parshipany next February. Especially as there are some good players on Debbie's side of the family, too... ♡

2023 FOXWOODS OPEN AT A GLANCE

APRIL 5-9, 2023 | MASHANTUCKET, CT

OPEN: 1ST-2ND: GMs Bartłomiej Maciejka, Jianchao Zhou, 7/9. **3RD-5TH:** FM Jakub Fus, IM Olivier Chiku-Ratte, GM Joel Benjamin, 6½. **U2200:** Shami Abdullayev, Micah Simon Dubnoff, Nathan Hsichen Chang, Carter Ho, 6/7. **U2000:** John J. Kennedy, Anand Vaneswaran, 6/7. **U1800:** Dmitriy Kovalkov, Timothy R. Bartlett, 6/7. **U1600:** Charles Shen, 6½/7. **U1400:** Cantay Ozkan, Jack Diao, George Cui, 6/7. **U1100:** Charles Edward Pratt, Tommy Kozlek, 6/7. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Charles Shen, Shalini Shankar, 11. **Blitz:** GM Jianchao Zhou, 9/10.



SOUND MOVES

WHERE MUSIC MEETS CHESS

ON VIEW MAY 17, 2023 - JANUARY 28, 2024



ON VIEW MAY 17, 2023 - JANUARY 21, 2024



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A Homecoming:

The 2023 U.S. Amateur Team East

BY WIM ELLEN WANG



E

XUBERANT GREET-ings like “Hey, you made it!” or “I’m so happy to see you here!” were followed by smiles, hugs, and handshakes in a joy-

ful scene in Parsippany, New Jersey. Fueled by the anticipation of meeting friends over and off the board and charged with the excitement of playing their beloved game of chess in a rare team setting, over 1,300 players descended upon the Parsippany Hilton. These enthusiasts — backed by coaches, families, and steadfast supporters — soon permeated every corner of every playing room hallway.

The annual U.S. Amateur Team East Tournament (USATE), also known as the World Amateur Team tournament, is a highlight of the chess calendar: spanning over three days and six rounds each year on President’s Day weekend, the USATE gathers players from across the East Coast and seeks to determine the best four-player team with an average rating under 2200. The winning team then goes on to compete with the victors of the tournament’s equivalents from the other three regions of the country.

As I navigated through the crowds, I found myself saying hello to many familiar faces passing by. The vibrant chatter and cheerful laughter that engrossed the crowds also brought out my reflective side, and I took a quick moment to count the number of years I had partaken in this signature event. (Five times, I believe, or since I was eight.) Flooded with nostalgia, I began to miss my pals with whom I had collected various awards over the years, such as Future Star team, Mixed Doubles team, and Top Female team. However, the USATE is so much more than a tournament for garnering awards — it is a spectacular reunion that creates an unparalleled sense of community and belonging, a place to which every player looks forward to returning.

Amid the buzz of conversation, the rustle of finding seats, and the clatter of setting pieces in the grand ballroom, tournament director and organizer Steve Doyle caught the attention of players and spectators alike with an intriguing announcement: “First one to the microphone with a \$2 bill wins a prize!” Sadly, I was a minute late and two dollars short on that one.

Following the flag ceremony conducted by the Army and Navy teams, FM Nathan Resika commanded the stage with a powerful rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” As his sonorous voice roused hushed

FM Nathan Resika performs the National Anthem before round one.



reverence, the tournament kicked off, quite literally, on a high note.

The combination of electrifying chess games and hilarious contests ensured the tournament maintained its trademark zeal. In most rounds, board one boasted the highest-rated team with the most wins, but the second round saluted a celebrated tradition: the annual matchup between West Point cadets and Naval midshipmen. (For those wondering, “USMA 1” defeated “Navy” by a score of 3-1.) Players and spectators all applauded these heroes, whose courage and focus over the 64 black and white squares mirrored the intensity of their studies.

Another tradition of the USATE that never fails to create a stir is the way players vote for the best team name before the fourth round: by the volume of their clapping! My team went with “How did House of Windsor Promote to A King,” a name invented by our captain, IM Nico Chasin, and unanimously endorsed by my teammates, Max Mottola and Asha Kumar (along with your author), and we were thankfully nominated for the prize.

But the winner was “Hans, Shoulders, Niemann Toes” (IM Alexander Katz, Andrew Ardito, Ethan Klein, Amnon Attali), who received thunderous applause from the audience. What a clever way to embed a controversial chess storyline into a classical children’s song!

For best group skit and gimmick, “Hey Duda, Take a Sad Pawn” (Robert Beckford, Thomas Belke, Cayden Jackson, Robert Jackson, Maddox Jackson) and “Attack Artists” (Dana Sylvander, John Muth, Michael Kohut, Jeffery Krostosky) shared top honors, with their hilarious performances brightening

the atmosphere while the intensity of the competition escalated entering round four.

That round presented quite a few interesting games. Take a look at Clarissa Cao’s victory over an opponent rated almost 800 points higher, a game that exemplified the uncertainties and possibilities of chess. With players hailing from all levels, from unrated to grandmaster, drastic upsets like this one were frequently popping up. In chess, as in life, one wrong move can overthrow all our hopes in an instant.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C01)

Clarissa Cao (835)

Doug Proll (1600)

U.S. Amateur Team East (4), 02.19.2023

1. e4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. d4 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bd6 6. Bb5 Nge7 7. Be3 Bg4 8. Be2

Both sides have a solid position, with the objective evaluation being about equal.

8. ... h6 9. Nd2?!

A slight inaccuracy, retreating the knight back and playing too passively. Better was 9. Qd2 0-0 10. 0-0-0 leading to a sharp, opposite-side castling game.

9. ... Bxe2 10. Qxe2 a6 11. Qf3 Bb4 12. Ne2 0-0 13. 0-0 Qd7 14. c3 Bd6 15. b4?!

Up to this point, both sides have played well, developing all of their pieces. However, 15. b4 is a slight mistake — while White gains space on the queenside, the overextended pawns may prove to be a weakness in the future.

Here 15. Bf4 would have been a better continuation, trading off the bishops. White’s



"Bacon, Egg, and Chess En Passant" are your 2023 USATE champs.

bishop was blocked by the dark-squared pawn on d4, while Black's bishop was more active.

15. ... Nf5 16. Qg4 Rad8 17. Bf4??



An unfortunate blunder, giving Black the chance for a nice tactic. It was the right idea to trade off the bishops, but the execution was off.

17. ... Bxf4

Missing the shot. Now White is back in it.

The right idea was 17. ... Nfxd4!, taking advantage of the overworked and undefended queen on g4. After 18. Qxd7 (or 18. Qh5 Nxe2+ 19. Qxe2 Bxf4) 18. ... Nxe2+ this beautiful intermezzo wins a piece.

18. Qxf4 Nce7 19. Ng3 Ng6?

Giving White a chance to win material. The knight was a useful defender on e7!

20. Qf3

Of course 20. Qxf5! wins a piece.

20. ... Nxc3 21. Qxc3 c6 22. Nf3 Rfe8 23. Rfe1 f6??

The final mistake.

24. Qxc6, Black resigned.

The team aspect of the tournament brought out the best in each player, with everyone fighting until the clocks were stopped to contribute towards the team score. IM Eddy Tian displayed impressive courage in a dynamic position, but his round four game ended in a draw after a surprising show of strength from his opponent:

ENGLISH OPENING (A13)

Ifaz Howlader (1504)

IM Eddy Tian (2477)

U.S. Amateur Team East (4), 02.19.2023

1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. cxd5 exd5 4. d4 Bb4 5. Bd2?!

Passive — bishops usually like long, open diagonals. More usual is 5. Nf3.

5. ... Nf6 6. a3 Bd6 7. Nf3 c6 8. e3 0-0 9. Be2 Re8 10. 0-0

Black has built up a slight advantage out of the opening, with more active pieces. The d2-bishop proves to be a nuisance, restricting White's other pieces from developing normally.

10. ... Ne4 11. h3 Nd7 12. Nxe4?!

I think this is inaccurate. While White does trade off Black's strong knight, the new e4-pawn is an annoying wedge in White's position, paving the way for the rest of the black pieces to attack the kingside.

12. ... dxe4 13. Nh2 Nf6 14. Rc1 Bc7

15. Ng4 Nxc3 16. Bxc3 Qd6 17. g3 f5?

Giving away almost all of the advantage. Although it seems like ... f7-f5 is gaining space and setting up a potential kingside breakthrough, it also weakens Black's king. Instead 17. ... Be6 18. Bxe6 Rxe6 would preserve Black's advantage.

18. Bb4 Qh6 19. Bh5 g6 20. Be2 Qxh3



21. d5!

Now White has an attack of his own! Grabbing the h3-pawn dragged the queen off-sides, so White starts to breakthrough in the center. Who will get their attack going first?

21. ... f4

Tian could have bailed out with 21. ... Bxc3 22. fxc3 Qxc3+ 23. Kh1 Qh3+ but surely, given the players rating difference, he would prefer to take his chances and play on.

22. gxf4 g5!?

A bit of a roll of the dice, but Black wants to complicate at all costs.

23. d6?! gxf4?

After 23. ... Bb6! Black is in the driver's seat. If 24. Bc4+ Kg7.

24. Rc5! Bf5 25. Bc4+?

White missed his chance with 25. dxc7!, grabbing the piece and opening lines. If 25. ... Kg7? 26. Qd4+ Kg6 27. Bc3 with mate to follow.

25. ... Kg7 26. Qd4+?!

While this looks tempting as it drags the king out, it actually takes away control of the g4-square and allows a rook to land on g8 if needed.

26. ... Kg6 27. dxc7 Rg8 28. Bxc7 Rxc7 29. Qd8 Rg7 30. Bc3 Qg4+, draw.

A notable match from my team's odyssey occurred in round five, when we encountered "NYU A Team" (FM Justin Chen, Joseph Han, Anirudh Ganesh, Nirup Kushalnagar). With all boards fairly evenly matched, it was

anyone's match as the clocks were started. Nico drew quickly on board one, while Asha secured a delightful win on fourth board, leaving Max and me to hold down the fort.

A time-pressure induced blunder reduced me into a completely losing position, inciting a moment of panic. I took a glimpse at the next board hoping for some good news from Max's game, but it appeared that his chances remained 50-50. Quickly collecting my composure despite my position being on the verge of collapsing, I utilized every last resource I had over the board and every second left on the clock, and finally managed to make a draw. So did Max, giving our team a slim 2½-1½ triumph, and allowing us both huge sighs of relief!

The nerve-racking last round rallied three teams tying at the top with perfect scores of 5/5: my team, rated 2191; "Never Gonna Give Yoo Up" (GM Brandon Jacobson, GM Andrew Tang, Pedro Espinosa, Julia Schulman), rated 2185; and "Bacon, Egg, and Cheese En Passant" (FM Gus Huston, Nate Shuman, Sumit Dhar, Ryan Peterson), rated 2178. With the top two full scorers challenging each other and the third playing the top seed, "Welcome to the Dojo" (GM Jesse Kraai, FM Dylan McClain, Alan Price, Stephen Hrop) with a dazzling 2199 average, the tournament was anyone's to take home.

I had the honor of playing GM Andrew Tang. Playing on board two, I had estimated my chances of facing such an elite player to be close to zero. After all, the required average rating of under 2200, which accentuates the "amateur" nature of the tournament, pretty much excludes the possibility of seeing two grandmasters on the same team. It is noteworthy that Julia Schulman, a popular chess streamer who played fourth board for "Never Gonna Give Yoo Up," put up an incredible performance. Despite coming in with a rating of a mere 1274, she bested opponents rated over 2000 and played a big part in her team's overall performance!

My game with Tang was expectedly hard-fought. Despite winning a pawn and having a significant advantage out of the opening, I made a wrong choice at a critical position. Andrew fought back and demonstrated why he is a grandmaster, slowly suffocating my position, developing devastating attacks on my king, and finishing it off in the endgame.

LONDON SYSTEM (D02)

GM Andrew Tang (2615)

WIM Ellen Wang (2225)

U.S. Amateur Team East (6), 02.20.2023

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Nf3 c5

5. Nbd2 Nc6 6. c3 Bd6 7. Bg3 0-0 8. Bd3 g6

A move I had prepared, going for a sneaky trap.

9. Ne5 Bxe5 10. dxe5 Nd7 11. f4?

Natural, reinforcing the e5-pawn. But now the trap is sprung.

The engine prefers 11. Nf3 Qc7 12. h4 Ndx5 13. h5, pitching a pawn for the attack.

11. ... c4! 12. Bc2 Qb6

The fork forces White to give up a pawn.

13. Rb1 Qxe3+ 14. Qe2 Qxe2+ 15. Kxe2

A queenless middlegame is reached, where Black is up a pawn, but White has the bishops and the potential for an h2-h4-h5 breakthrough.

15. ... b5 16. Nf3 Bb7 17. h4



Going for the attack.

17. ... f6?!

The first slip.

Much better was 17. ... d4!, taking advantage of the strong fianchettoed b7-bishop and opening the center, where the white king is. The best defense to a flank attack is a counterpunch in the center! After 18. Nxd4 Nxd4+ 19. cxd4 Bxg2 20. Rh2 Bb7 21. h5 Nb6 Black has a strong hold on the d5-square.

18. Rbf1 b4 19. h5 Kg7?

Too slow. Here 19. ... g5 was a nice continuation for Black, undermining the e5-pawn. After 20. fxg5 fxe5 21. g6 h6 all three results are possible.

20. Rh4 gxh5 21. Rxh5 h6 22. Rfh1 Rh8

23. Bh4 Raf8?

The correct 23. ... fxe5 24. fxe5 Rag8 25. Ba4 Kf7 would keep Black in the game.

24. Ba4

Now White has a lot of threats.

24. ... fxe5 25. fxe5 Rf5 26. Rxf5 exf5

27. Bxc6 Bxc6 28. Ke3?

A bit careless, giving away a significant portion of White's advantage.

28. ... bxc3 29. bxc3 Kf7 30. Rb1 Re8 31.

Bg3 Nc5 32. Rh1 Kg7 33. Bf4 Ne4?

A blunder as we scrambled to move 40. Instead 33. ... Rh8 keeps chances for a draw: 34. Nd4 Bd7 35. e6 Re8 36. Nxf5+ Kg6.

34. Rxh6 Bb7 35. Nd4 Bc8 36. e6 Nxc3 37.

Nxf5+ Kg8 38. Nd4 Kg7 39. g4 Ne4 40. g5

c3 41. Be5+ Kf8 42. Rh8+ Ke7 43. Nc6+,

Black resigned.

In the end, both "Bacon Egg and Cheese En Passant" and "Never Gonna Give Yoo Up" won their last rounds, with the former clinching the championship title on tiebreaks. Major congratulations to Gus, Nate, Sumit, and Ryan, who decisively defeated each of their opponents and brought home one more team championship to The Dalton School.

When asked to reflect on his most memorable games of the tournament, Gus chose to share his round four game, which combined superb positional play with tactics to propel his team to victory:

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ALAPIN VARIATION (B22)

FM Gus Huston (2395)

Alan Song (2262)

U.S. Amateur Team East (4), 02.19.2023

Annotations by FM Gus Huston

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. d4

cxd4 6. cxd4 d6 7. Bc4 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9.

Qe2 Nc6 10. a3

Not the main theoretical move. Far more popular are 10. Nc3 and 10. Rd1.

10. ... Qb6 11. Qe4 Na5 12. Bd3 f5

If Black opts to go the slower route with 12. ... g6, after 13. Nbd2 (here 13. Bh6 interestingly runs into 13. ... Nb3! 14. Bxf8 Bxf8! 15. Ra2 Bd7 with enough compensation for the Exchange due to active pieces and a misplaced a2-rook, according to the computer) 13. ... dxe5 14. dxe5 Rd8 15. Re1 Black has very little room to maneuver the pieces.

13. exf6 e.p. Nxf6 14. Qh4

With ideas of Bd3xh7+, utilizing the pin on the f6-knight.

14. ... Nb3 15. Ra2 Nxc1 16. Rxc1 g6 17.

Nc3 Qd8 18. Qh6

Re-routing the queen from h4 where it is no longer useful.

18. ... Nh5

Threatening 19. ... Rxf3 20. gxf3 (relatively best is 20. Bxg6 hxg6 21. Qxg6+ with no more fork) 20. ... Bg5, winning material.

19. Qe3

If 19. Re1, for example, Black has 19. ... Rxf3! and White is forced to sacrifice the bishop on g6 to avoid losing a queen: 20. Bxg6 (worse is 20. gxf3? Bg5 trapping the queen) 20. ... hxg6 21. Qxg6+ Ng7 22. gxf3 Qe8 with an advantage for Black.

19. ... Ng7 20. Re1 Nf5 21. Qd2

Slightly inaccurate.

Better was 21. Bxf5 Rxf5 22. Raa1 Bd7 23. Rac1 with an advantage for White due to the passivity of Black's bishops and the weak pawn on e6.

21. ... Bf6

After 21. ... Nh4 22. Be2 Nxf3+ 23. Bxf3 Bg5 24. Qe2, Black manages to free up their position and equalize.

22. d5

Once again, the counter-intuitive 22. Bxf5 gxf5 23. Raa1 Bd7 24. Ne2 promises White an advantage after the knight re-routes itself to f4, taking aim at the e6-pawn.

22. ... e5 23. Ne4 Bg7 24. Raa1

Finally fixing the problem of the awkward rook!

24. ... Bh6 25. Qb4 b6

By this point, my opponent had less than a minute left on their clock, compared to my 37 minutes. With this weakening move, which gives away the c6-square, it becomes very hard for Black to defend, especially with such little time.

26. Bb5 Bb7

Inviting a trade of light-squared bishops.

Black's best chance was 26. ... a5 27. Qb3 Ng7 28. Rad1 Bf5 29. Nfd2, after which White's advantage is not as large.

27. Qb3 Rc8 28. Bc6 Qe7**29. g4!**

Taking advantage of the fact that once the knight moves, the e7-queen will be overworked, defending the bishop and the d6-pawn. There is also the awkward position of the h6-bishop.

29. ... Nh4

If 29. ... Ng7, the h6-bishop will be trapped after 30. Bxb7 Qxb7 31. g5 Qd7 32. Nfd2!, while after; 29. ... Nd4, White wins an Exchange with 30. Nxd4 exd4 31. Bxb7 Qxb7 32. Nxd6 Qd7 33. Nxc8.

30. Nxh4 Bxc6 31. dxc6+

This discovered check allows White to retain the extra piece.

31. ... Kh8 32. Ng2 Rxc6 33. Rad1 Bf4 34. Qd5 Rc2 35. Qxd6

With one second left on the clock and the delay ticking down, my opponent allowed a swift finish to the game, though the position is already lost.

35. ... Qb7 36. Qxf8, mate.

From being a 1400 on board four when I first participated in the tournament, to now being a national master on board two, I have grown up with the USATE. So have many others throughout the tournament's 50+ year history. Thank you to the tournament directors, especially Steve Doyle, for making the USATE a homecoming for us all, and for outdoing themselves year after year. Competitive but welcoming, this event has taken a special place in our hearts, as it transcends the game of chess and has turned into an awaited annual celebration for the sustained connection shared among chess players. ♠

2023 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2023 | PARSIPPANY, NJ

WINNERS

1st: Bacon, Egg, and Chess En Passant (FM Gus Huston, Nathaniel Shuman, Sumit Dhar, Ryan Peterson). **2nd:** Never Gonna Give Yoo Up (GM Brandon Jacobson, GM Andrew Tang, Pedro Espinosa, Julia Schulman). **3rd:** Second Place (FM Aaron Jacobson, Isaac Chiu, Andrew Titus, Daniel Shen). **4th:** Hans, Shoulders, Niemann Toes (IM Alexander Katz, Andrew Ardito, Ethan Klein, Amnon Attali). **5th:** How did House of Windsor Promote to a King (IM Nico Chasin, WIM Ellen Wang, Max Mottola, Asha Kumar).

CLASS PRIZES

U2100: CMU B. **U2000:** Finding Nepo. **U1900:** KQC Tempo and a Dream. **U1800:** Bluetooth Buzzers. **U1700:** I misclicked. **U1600:** Sacred Heart University. **U1500:** G.O.A.T. **U1400:** Rook and Roll. **U1300:** Pin Doctors. **U1200:** Mouseslip Kings. **U1000:** CKQ Invincibles.

THE TOPS

TOP COLLEGE TEAM: Columbia University. **TOP HS TEAM:** Master Hawks (Hunter College HS). **TOP MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Board Wizards (Millburn Middle School). **TOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Rock N Rooks. **MIXED DOUBLES TEAM:** CKQ A. **SENIOR TEAM:** Welcome to the Dojo. **TOP COACHES:** NYCA – A. **TOP FEMALE TEAM:** Bishop Better Have My Money. **FAMILY:** Chess Funway. **TOP FUTURE TEAM:** Super Knights Force Zugzwang. **TOP MILITARY COLLEGE:** US Military Academy 1 (West Point). **TOP PARENT/CHILD:** Alapin Your Face. **1ST SCHOLASTIC:** Crouching Tigers. **2ND SCHOLASTIC:** Toilet Attack.

STATE WINNERS

CT: In Memoriam: Mr. Melvin Patrick. **MA:** Crouching Tigers. **NJ:** Better Cal Tal. **NY (Benjamin Award):** Bacon, Egg, and Cheese En Passant. **PA:** Master in Two years. **VA:** Toilet Attack. **MD:** Navy.

See complete standings at: njscf.org/usate-2023/

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JULY 15 - 25

2023 U.S. GIRLS'

junior
CHAMPIONSHIP

2023 U.S.

senior
CHAMPIONSHIP

2023 U.S.

junior
CHAMPIONSHIP

USCHESSCHAMPS | YOUTUBE | TWITCH

7.15	ROUND 1	1 PM
7.16	ROUND 2	1 PM
7.17	ROUND 3	1 PM
7.18	ROUND 4	1 PM
7.19	ROUND 5	1 PM
7.20	REST DAY	-
7.21	ROUND 6	1 PM
7.22	ROUND 7	1 PM
7.23	ROUND 8	1 PM
7.24	ROUND 9	1 PM
7.25	PLAYOFF	1 PM



The 17th

GM Ding Liren becomes World Champion in a compelling playoff victory over GM Ian Nepomniachtchi.

BY JJ LANG

GM DING LIREN WASN'T, according to one popular narrative, even supposed to be here.

Looking for a final springboard into the 2022 Candidates, and with only the 2022 Belgrade Grand Prix event remaining, visa troubles prevented Ding from traveling to Serbia, effectively ending his chances of qualifying for the 2023 FIDE World Chess Championship.

Then, after FIDE suspended Russian GM Sergey Karjakin for pro-war comments on March 21, 2022, they decided to give his spot to the highest rated player who had played at least 30 games in the past year as of April 28, 2022. While Ding was the highest rated player, he had played only four FIDE-rated games in that time frame.

Thanks to some creative organizing from the Chinese Chess Federation, Ding nevertheless played 28 — two more games than needed! — FIDE-rated classical games from March 27 through April 24 to qualify for the candidates.

Of course, there was a reason Ding had played so few rated games. Chinese players were cut off from the return to over-the-board chess due to travel restrictions.



Considering that Ding already seemed like a ghost of himself after the quarantined portion of the 2020-21 Candidates Tournament, there was a question as to whether he would be in top form.

These questions were only amplified after he lost with the white pieces to GM Ian Nepomniachtchi in the first round of the 2022 Candidates. “Nepo” went on to win the tournament in convincing fashion, mere months after being written off after his 7½-3½ defeat in the 2021 World Chess Championship.

As Nepo built his lead, the narrative turned to whether GM Magnus Carlsen would defend his title. By the final round, it looked like GM Hikaru Nakamura could also qualify for the world championship if he could hold a draw against Ding.

Fifty-eight moves later, Ding scored an improbable victory to take second place. Three weeks later, Ding scored a second improbable victory: Carlsen announced he would not defend his title.

But a focus on the improbable poses a bit of a recency bias. Before the pandemic, Ding’s appearance in a world championship match felt closer to inevitable. GM Fabiano Caruana had his chance in 2018, but Ding’s play and rating had only increased since then as he gained more experience. Add to that Ding’s rapid playoff victory over Carlsen in the 2019 Sinquefeld Cup, and he was a clear front-runner to become Carlsen’s next challenger. Ding *was* supposed to be here.

Or was he? He seemed out of sorts in the first game and lost the second in disappointing fashion, as our most frequent CLO annotator, GM Elshan Moradiabadi, observed.

IN HIS FEELINGS

GM Ding Liren (2788)

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

2023 FIDE World Championship (2),
Astana, 04.10.2023

Annotations by GM Elshan Moradiabadi



BLACK TO MOVE

20. ... Rxg5!

Well, it is kind of an obvious move, but we should compliment Nepo for getting the kind of position from which this move flows!

21. Nxg5 Nxg4 22. Qh5 f6 23. Nf3??

Effectively resigning already. Ding doesn’t even try to hope for some cheapos with

Ng5xh7, although it must be said that Black is still crushing after 23. Nxh7 Bc5.

23. ... Nxc2 24. Rxc2 Bxe4

The rest is, as they say, just a matter of technique.

25. Rd2 Bd6 26. Kh1? c3

Push ‘em!

27. bxc3 bxc3 28. Rd4 c2 29. Qh6 e5,
White resigned.

Despite the loss, there were two positive signs for Ding. First, he was unusually candid about his own mental state. This is important, as the first step is always admitting that there’s a problem. Second, Ding’s on-site second was Hungarian-Romanian GM Richard Rapport, who seemed to have convinced Ding to abandon his ultra-solid repertoire in favor of pushing the h-pawn up one square just (it appears) for giggles.

Indeed, while Nepo stuck with the Ruy Lopez for almost the entire match, Ding took a strategy of “sampling” numerous offbeat openings, beginning with a fourth-round win in the English. After losing to Nepo’s tremendous attack in the following round, he equalized once again with a positional masterpiece in the London System in game six. WGM Jennifer Yu explains:

SHOWING HIS CLASS

GM Ding Liren (2788)

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

FIDE World Championship (6), Astana,
04.17.2023

Annotations by WGM Jennifer Yu



WHITE TO MOVE

16. a5!

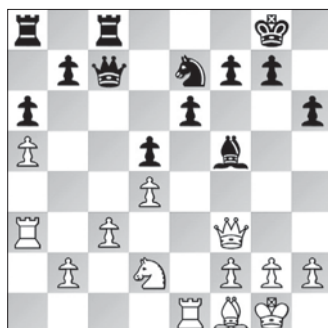
This fixes the queenside and creates the permanent b-pawn target for White to attack. This is a common idea when there’s a pawn push like ... a7-a6, as it prevents the b-pawn from moving forward, in turn



Shaking hands before the start of the fourth match game.

allowing White to take control of the c5-square since there are no more possibilities of Black pushing ... b7-b6 to kick the knight off of its quasi-outpost.

16. ... Qc7 17. Qf3 Rfc8 18. Ra3



Although this move looks strange, there are several different ideas behind it. One is that White has the option to add extra support to the a5-pawn, such as in the case of a Nd2-b3 maneuver to get to c5, when Black might play ... Ne7-c6 and White can now play, e.g., Qd1-a1 to provide backup for the rook on the a-file. The rook has other useful functions on the third rank as well, which we will see later on in the game with Ra3-b3, adding extra pressure on the b7-pawn. It also opens the possibility of a b2-b4 pawn push.

Another reasonable idea would be to prepare the b2-b4 push by protecting the c3-pawn with 18. Rec1, followed by maneuvering the knight to c5, with a clamp on the queenside. After 18. ... Bg6 19. b4 Nf5 20. Nb3, White should be in control.

18. ... Bg6

A smart “waiting move” that opens up the f5-square for the knight and preemptively responds to any attacks on the bishop (such as g2-g4 pushes) that now will no longer come with tempo.

19. Nb3 Nc6 20. Qg3 Qe7

Although the position is evaluated as only slightly better for White, it's hard for Black to find productive moves here. This move avoids the queen trade, after which White could have maintained his pressure on Black's queenside. However, Ding now has time to further improve on his position.

21. h4

No rush! Ding takes the time to grab space on the kingside.

21. ... Re8 22. Nc5 e5

An active move, hoping to create some counterplay and chances.

After something like 22. ... Rac8 23. b4 White can comfortably push on for the rest of the game.

It is important to not play 22. ... Nxa5??



POSITION AFTER 22. ... Nxa5??

This move doesn't work because after 23. Rxa5 b6 24. h5! we discover another reason that the h4-pawn push was so useful.

a) After 24. ... Bxh5 25. Nxe6 fxe6 26. Rxd5! exd5? 27. Rxe7 Rxe7 28. Qh4 the tactics work out in White's favor.

b) Instead, if 24. ... bxa5 then simply 25. hxg6 and Black's kingside will fall apart soon.

c) Finally, after 24. ... Bh7 25. Nxe6 fxe6 26. Rxd5 exd5 27. Rxe7 Rxe7 28. Qd6 then White is winning.

23. Rb3

White forces an exchange of pieces that opens up the center.

A clever, and more accurate, alternative is 23. b4!, defending the c5-knight while threatening to capture on e5.

a) After 23. ... e4 White can put pressure on Black's center without allowing chances of counterplay on the queenside as in the game, and after 24. f3 e3 25. Ra2 the e3-pawn will fall at some point.

b) If Black instead plays a waiting move like 23. ... Bf5 then 24. dxe5 Nxe5 25. Raa1 and Black has too many weaknesses to defend, as White is threatening Nc5xb7 and f2-f4.

23. ... Nxa5 24. Rxe5 Qf6 25. Ra3 Nc4

Or 25. ... b6 26. Nd7 Qc6 27. Rxe8+ Rxe8 28. Ne5 and White is much better.

26. Bxc4 dxc4 27. h5?!

A good alternative is 27. Nxb7, as after 27. ... Qb6 28. Nd6 Rxe5 29. Qxe5 Qxb2 30. Nxc4 White has a solid extra pawn.

27. ... Bc2

A critical moment. Black could have played 27. ... Rxe5! 28. dxe5 Qd8!

(see diagram top of next column)

This is the clever idea behind the trade of rooks, creating counterplay. This move takes



POSITION AFTER 28. ... Qd8!

advantage of the now-awkward position of the a3-rook that would much rather be on the back rank defending against a possible perpetual check.

a) White can try 29. Qf3 Bc2 but after 30. Ra1 (or 30. Nxb7? Qd2! 31. Ra1 Bd3 with good chances of holding a draw due to Black's active pieces) 30. ... b6 31. Nb7 Qd3 there is nothing of substance.

b) White has no edge after 29. hxg6 Qd1+ 30. Kh2 Qh5+ 31. Kg1 Qd1+ 32. Kh2 Qh5+ 33. Qh3, when the position is equal.

28. Nxb7

The b7-pawn finally goes down. At a quick glance, it looks like Black can get the material back quickly, but some clever tactical ideas work out in White's favor, keeping the advantage.

28. ... Qb6 29. Nd6!



A monster square for the knight, attacking the c4-pawn and creating ideas of a kingside attack.

29. ... Rxe5

Not 29. ... Qxd6?? 30. Rxe8+ ending the game instantly.

30. Qxe5 Qxb2 31. Ra5

White's rook is getting back into the game and now he is threatening the deadly Nd6-e8.

The immediate 31. Ne8? doesn't work because of 31. ... Rxe8! 32. Qxe8+ Kh7 and there is no way for White to prevent the perpetual check while still defending the

rook. After 33. Ra5 Qc1+ 34. Kh2 Qf4+ White cannot avoid the repetition.

31. ... Kh7

A useful move to get the king off the back rank and out of some tactical troubles. Ding uses this time to improve his pieces further.

After 31. ... Qxc3??



POSITION AFTER 31. ... Qxc3??

White's attack works now, with 32. Ne8! f6 33. Nxf6+! gxf6 34. Qd5+ Kg7 35. Qb7+! and Black can resign.

32. Rc5?!

I think Nepo's idea was that after 32. Ne8 Rxe8 33. Qxe8 no longer is with check, allowing Black to play 33. ... Qc1+ 34. Kh2 Qf4+.

Worse is 32. Nxf7?? Rf8 33. Nd6 Qb1+ 34. Kh2 Rxf2 and Black is back in the game.

Instead, White should have played 32. Qe1!



POSITION AFTER 32. Qe1

Going backwards in this position is the correct idea. Now that Black has multiple weaknesses that can't be simultaneously covered, White has the time to defend his own weaknesses. Play continues 32. ... Bd3 33. Nxc4! Qb7 (or 33. ... Bxc4 34. Qe4+ winning) 34. Ne5 with a solid advantage.

32. ... Qc1+?

After this, Black loses his opportunities for counterplay. White's superior pieces and Black's weak king will be the deciding factor. Nepomniachtchi did spend nine minutes on this decision, but he still had 36 minutes remaining to Ding's 19 after he played it.

It wouldn't be easy, but after 32. ... Qxc3!, Black has some good ideas that may hold the position.

a) For instance, after 33. Nxf7 Bd3 34. Rc7 Qc1+ 35. Kh2 Re8!!



POSITION AFTER 33. ... Re8!!

This is the idea! The activated black rook is a game-changer, as after 36. Qg3 (or 36. Qxe8 Qf4+ 37. Kg1 Qc1+ with another repetition) 36. ... Re1 equalizes.

b) After 33. Rc7 Qd2! 34. Rxf7 Qc1+ 35. Kh2 Qg5 everything is defended for now, and in the upcoming moves, Black can push his a-pawn to create some counterplay. After a queen trade, there are good chances for Black to hold the endgame.

33. Kh2 f6 34. Qg3 a5 35. Nxc4 a4 36. Ne3 Bb1 37. Rc7! Rg8 38. Nd5 Kh8 39. Ra7 a3 40. Ne7 Rf8 41. d5



Preparing a very sneaky idea...

41. ... a2 42. Qc7!

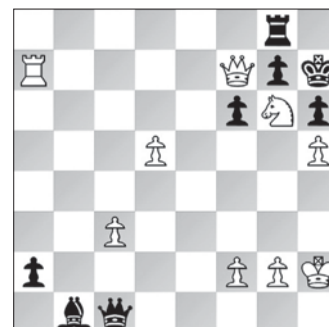
Forced mate is incoming! The d5-pawn takes away the escape square on e6 for Black's king in the situation where White sacrifices the queen for the rook.

42. ... Kh7 43. Ng6 Rg8 44. Qf7!, Black resigned.

(see diagram top of next column)

The point is that Qf7xg8 is coming with a beautiful forced mate.

A tied match after six games was unsurprising. But a tied match with only two draws?! This turned out to just be the appetizer, too. Ding decided to surprise Nepo in game



seven with a French Defense, sacrificing an Exchange for excellent chances until an uncharacteristically committal move under time pressure. GM Christopher Yoo tries to make sense of it all here:

BACK AND FORTH

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

GM Ding Liren (2788)

FIDE World Championship (7), Astana, 04.18.2023

Annotations by GM Christopher Yoo



BLACK TO MOVE

31. ... h4

[Immediately after the game, Nepomniachtchi pointed out 31. ... Kg7 to Ding. I think his point was that Black had no need to change the structure, inducing even more complications, before the time control. I mention this simply to note that certain brave players, such as GM Yoo, seem to have no problem with Ding's choice, provided he finds the proper continuation, while others thought the h-pawn push was already a practical error. ~JJL]

32. gxh4?!

In this critical moment, Ding only had five minutes left and decided to use up four of them, leaving himself 50 seconds to play eight moves! This was very problematic, and partially led to his position collapsing. The right continuation is difficult, but I think he should have moved faster here.

32. ... Rd2

The key continuation was 32. ... Be5! when White has a bit of trouble defending the kingside and the h2-pawn in the long term. After 33. Qf2 Rd2 34. Re2 Rd1+ 35. Re1 Rd2 36. Re2, the worst case was Ding could have repeated moves with ... Rd1-d2, but he can even play for the win with 36. ... Rd3! 37. Re3 Bxh2+ 38. Kh1 Rd5. I doubt you can find all these moves as Black with little time, but if Ding had 15 or more minutes, it would be possible to press with this position.

33. Re2 Rd3??



A panicked blunder under time pressure.

It is necessary to admit the inaccuracy and move back with 33. ... Rd5. This is quite difficult to do in practice, as we do not like to admit our inaccuracies or mistakes. Ding tried to justify his last move, but simply blundered as there was no time to calculate.

34. Qxc5 Rd1+ 35. Kg2 Qd3

Ding might have thought there was an attack, but it does not exist as there are not enough pieces to checkmate.

36. Rf2

Despite Nepo's approach not being completely sound, it put a lot of pressure on Ding, and eventually led to time pressure and a decisive blunder. The risky, but innovative, approach paid off.

36. ... Kg7 37. Rcf4

With the rooks eyeing the f6-bishop and the f7-pawn, there is nothing for Black to do. The game is over.

37. ... Qxc3, and Black resigned.

Ding played this move with seconds on his clock but resigned without waiting for White's reply of trading queens and capturing the f7-pawn with the rook battery.

Ding once again looked ready to level the match until Nepo essayed the most daring escape of the match to preserve a 4½-3½

lead. As GM Awonder Liang put it in his annotations, this game aptly summed up the tenor of the match:

EMBLEMATIC

GM Ding Liren (2788)

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

FIDE World Championship (8), Astana, 07. 04. 2023

Annotations by GM Awonder Liang



BLACK TO MOVE

31. ... Qh4!!

An astonishing bluff, or a stroke of genius? In either case, Nepo's strength as an incredible practical player comes into full force as he brings about a fantastic save.

The normal way to play was 31. ... Qf8, but White is basically getting the game with an extra tempo: 32. Kd1 Qe7 33. Kc2 Qxc5 (other tries are bad too: 33. ... e5 34. Rd5 e4 35. Bh3, and 33. ... Nh4 34. f4 e5 35. Bh3 exf4 36. Qxf4) 34. Qxa7 Qe7 35. Qc7 and White stops ... Nf5-d6, while Black is short on ideas.

32. Kd1

In the post-game interviews, Nepo revealed he didn't see 32. Qxd8!



POSITION AFTER 32. Qxd8

when playing his 31st move, so he definitely rode his luck in this game! As everyone knows by now, this wins for White, and the lines are not particularly difficult to calculate. If Ding had spent a minute to work it out, I'm sure he would have seen the way.

Here are the main ideas: 32. ... Qe4+ 33. Re2 Qb1+ 34. Kd2 Qb2+ 35. Kd3 Qb1+ 36. Rc2 Qd1+ (36. ... Qxf1+ 37. Kd2 Nd6 38. Qh8+ Kxh8 39. d8=Q+) 37. Ke4 Qxc2+ (37. ... Nd6+ 38. Ke5 Nb7 39. Qc7) 38. Bd3 Nd6+ 39. Ke3 Qc1+ (39. ... Nxc4+ 40. Bxc4 Qxc3+ 41. Bd3 Qd4+ 42. Ke2 Qe5+ 43. Kf1 Qa1+ 44. Kg2) 40. Ke2 Qb2+ 41. Kf3 and White wins.

32. ... Qxc5 33. Kc2 Qe7 34. Bg2

(see diagram next page)

White prepares Bg2-c6 before taking on a7; otherwise, Black has ... Nf5-d6.

Two other lines of note: (a) 34. Kb3 e5 35. Rd5 f6 36. Bg2 Nh6 37. Qxa7 Qe6 38. Be4 Nf7





39. Qc7 Qg4 40. f3 Qe6 and White is drifting; (b) 34. Qxa7 Nd6! 35. Qxb6 Ne4! and Black wins the d7-pawn and a bit more.

34. ... e5

Here 34. ... Nd4+! was fine, although with mutual time pressure, it's understandable that Nepo didn't want to make such a decision. After 35. cxd4 Rxd7 36. Qe5+ f6 37. Qg3 Rxd4 Black is alright, with three healthy pawns for the piece.

35. Be4!

Precise, kicking away the black knight before mopping up the queenside.

35. ... Nh6 36. Qxa7 Ng4!

Straining to find counterplay. Other ideas are no better, i.e., 36. ... Qe6 37. Qc7 Qe7 38. Bc6; and 36. ... f6 37. Qxb6 Nf7 38. Bc6.

37. Bf3?



A moment of carelessness, and an inexplicable blunder. Was it nerves or all the pressure? In contrast to the previous wins we've analyzed, here Ding needed to just check carefully for Black's ideas.

Of course conversion wouldn't have been easy, especially against a defender like Nepo, but with Bf3-c6, the game would have been all but over. To wit: 37. Bc6 e4 38. Qxb6 Ne5 39. Bb5 Nd3 40. Qc7 Qg5 (or 40. ... f5 41. a4) 41. Qg3 Qh5 42. a4 Qh1 43. Rd1 and wins.

Note that White also wins after 37. Qxb6 Rxd7 38. Rxd7 Qxd7 39. Qxc5 Qa4+ 40. Kd2! Qb3 41. f3.

37. ... Nxf2!

You don't need to ask Ian twice!

38. Rxf2 e4!



The point — if White had managed to secure the bishop on d5, the game would soon be over, but now the bishop is locked behind Black's phalanx of pawns.

39. Re2

Not 39. Bg4 e3 and Black wins.

39. ... f5 40. Qxb6 Rxd7 41. Qb8 Qd6 42. Qxd6 Rxd6 43. Bxe4 fxe4 44. Rxe4 Kf6 45. Re8, draw.

Before there was even time for his now-customary post-game embrace with Rapport, Ding was whisked away to discuss ... something. While he would not comment on the time, it was clear that he was informed that a Reddit user had discovered a treasure trove of online rapid games by two anonymous players that closely followed Ding's match repertoire.

A series of draws ensued, with Nepo clinging to his lead and Ding scrambling for new ideas. Nepo's determination became palpable as Ding's play grew desperate. In the antepenultimate round, Nepo overcame Ding's speculative attack and looked poised to take a two-game lead. Then, as Ding created unexpected complications, Nepo began to drift, culminating in the blunder of the match. FM Alice Lee has the details:

TURNING POINT

GM Ding Liren (2788)

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2792)

FIDE World Championship 2023 (12),

Astana, 04.26.2023

Annotations by FM Alice Lee

(see diagram top of next column)

26. ... b4?!

Arguably Nepomniachtchi's first error of



BLACK TO MOVE

the day. Here, 26. ... a6! was a very good move. Black prevents White from breaking the pawn chain, and White has no counterplay After 27. axb5 axb5 28. Be4 Rag8 29. f3 f5! 30. Bc6 fxg4 31. hxg4 Rh6, White can resign.

27. Qxc4 Rag8?

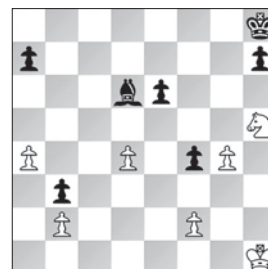
Nepo played this move in less than a minute. This was a mistake as there was a winning variation for Black. However, it was not easy to see from far in advance, and Black is still slightly better here (although it does allow White a chance).

The winning line began with the critical 27. ... Nf3!



POSITION AFTER 27. ... Nf3!

This is necessary for Black to gain an advantage. Nepo was probably worried about 28. Qc6, forcing mass simplifications after 28. ... Nxe1 29. Qxa8+ Rg8 30. Qe4 Nxc2 31. Qxc2 Qh4 32. Qd3 f5! 33. Qf3 fxg4 34. Rxc4 Rxc4 35. Qxc4 Qxc4 36. hxg4 b3!



POSITION AFTER 36. ... b3!

This is the only winning variation for Black, and not easy to calculate from ten moves

away. Black should be winning with ... Bd6-a3 to come next. In other words, Nepo had to calculate through all the trades and find a clever endgame tactic at the end of the sequence. This is why 26. ... a6 was stronger.

28. Qc6?

Interestingly, it turns out that 28. Bxg6! works now, even though the h5-knight is still trapped.

After 28. Bxg6! hxg6 29. Qc6:

a) The right response would be 29. ... gxh5 30. Qxd6 Nf3 31. Qc5 hxg4 32. Qxg5 Rxg5 33. hxg4 Nxg1 34. Rxd1 when Black might be slightly better, but White should hold.

b) The most intuitive move for Black, 29. ... Bb8?, gives White a very nice win after 30. d5!:

b1) The queen recapture 30. ... Qxd5+ fails to a trap with 31. Qxd5 exd5 32. Nf6.

b2) The pawn recapture fails no better after 30. ... exd5 31. Nf6 Rd8 32. Re8+ Rxe8 33. Qxe8+ Kg7 34. Qg8+ Kxf6 35. Qd8+ and Black can resign.

b3) The critical continuation begins after Black captures the knight with 30. ... gxh5 31. dxe6 fxe6 32. gxh5.



POSITION AFTER 32. ... gxh5

Here, the open g-file is worth the knight! After 32. ... Qxh5 33. Rxg8+ Kxg8 34. Qxe6+ Kh8 35. Qf6+ Kg8 36. Rg1+, White is winning.

28. ... Bb8??

Black had a win here, but it was not obvious. After 28. ... Nf5! the key idea involves a queen sacrifice for a mating net!

a) White can take, with 29. gxf5, but will lose.



POSITION AFTER 29. gxf5

After the fantastic 29. ... Qxg1+ (29. ... Qxh5

is quicker per the engine) 30. Rxg1 Rxg1+ 31. Kh2 f3+ 32. Ng3 (not 32. Qxd6?? R8g2 mate) 32. ... Rg2+ 33. Kh1 Bxg3 34. fxg3 R8xg3, White can resign.

b) Black is also better after 29. Rd1 Qh4 30. Qf3 b3 31. Be4 Ng3+ 32. Rxg3 fxg3 33. Bxg6 Qxh3+ 34. Kg1 Rxg6 35. fxg3 Qxg4.

29. Qb7??

White could transpose to variations we looked at earlier with 29. Bxg6!, see lines after note to White's move 28. This is still winning for White after 29. ... hxg6 30. d5 exd5 (alternatives: 30. ... Qxd5+ 31. Qxd5 exd5 32. Nf6 winning; 30. ... gxh5 31. dxe6 Qf6 32. Qd7 wins too) 31. Nf6 with a huge advantage.

29. ... Rh6?!

Again, the very nice idea of 29. ... Nf5! works here, and Black should keep an edge after 30. Rd1 Qh4 31. Qf3 Ng3+ 32. Rxg3 fxg3 33. Bxg6 Qxh3+ 34. Kg1 gxf2+ 35. Kxf2 Qxf3+ 36. Kxf3 hxg6.

30. Be4 Rf8?!

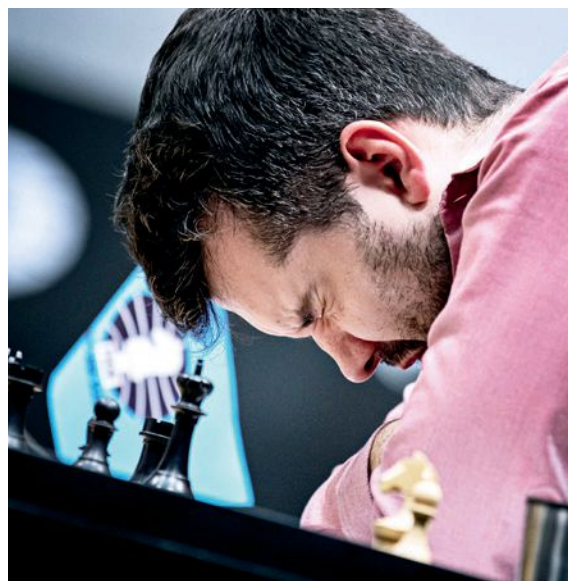
An easier path to equality was to play 30. ... f3 31. Qxf7 Ng2 32. Qxf3 Nxe1 33. Rxe1 Qh4 34. Rg1 Qg5 35. Rf1 Qh4 36. Rg1.

31. Qxb4 Qd8 32. Qc3

White has successfully managed to parry Black's attack, and is up a pawn in a slightly more pleasant position.

A more ambitious move would be 32. d5!?, when after 32. ... e5, Black threatens the dangerous ... f7-f5 with a continued

Right and below: Ian Nepomniachtchi's pain was on display for all to see during his round 12 game and eventual loss to Ding Liren.



attack. White wants to be able to meet this thrust with Qb4-b7, threatening mate on g7. To do this, a prophylactic move is required. The right path is 33. Rc1!.



POSITION AFTER 33. Rc1!

This is the only way to keep an advantage. If play continues with 33. ... a5 34. Qb7 it happens that now that the c7-square is under White's control, the threat of ... f7-f5 has been met.

32. ... Ng6 33. Bg2

No different is 33. Re2 Qh4, transposing to the game.

33. ... Qh4

Black gains nothing with 33. ... Bd6 34. Re4 Qg5 35. d5+ e5 36. Rc4 f5 37. Bf3 fxe4 38. hxe4 Nh4 39. Rc8 Nxf3 40. Rxf8+ Bxf8 41. Qxf3 e4 42. Qc3+ Kg8 43. Qc4 when the computer insists the game is drawn, showing how any attempts from White to push will be met by a perpetual check: 43. ... Kf7 44. d6+ Re6 45. Qc7+ Be7 46. dxe7 Qh4+ with White's king unable to escape.

34. Re2 f5??



Perhaps Nepo saw this idea in advance and decided to play it here. However, this just hangs the e6 pawn.

A safer, but by no means equal, try would be to play 34. ... Rg8, allowing White to begin pushing the extra pawn with 35. b4 Qg5 36. Qc5 Qd8 37. Qc3 Qg5 38. d5+ e5. Now, a key difference with Black's bishop being on b8 instead of d6 is that White can return the pawn to open the central file with 39. d6!?

Bxd6 40. Rd1 f3 41. Qxf3 Bxb4 42. Re4 Bc5 when White should have a small, but enduring, advantage.

35. Rxe6

With d4-d5 and checkmate threatened next, there is no defense for Black now that there is no e-pawn ready to block with ... e6-e5.

35. ... Rxh5

Played after seventeen minutes, most of which Nepo spent not looking at the board.

36. gxh5 Qxh5 37. d5+ Kg8 38. d6, Black resigned.

After two more draws, the rapid tiebreak produced a thrilling four-game mini-match. Ding had great initiative in the first game, but an absolutely spectacular in-between move from Nepo shot the advantage into his favor. Here's Moradiabadi on what could have been the "swindle of the century:"

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD

GM Ding Liren (2788)

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

2023 FIDE World Chess Championship Tiebreak (1), Astana, 04.30.2023

Annotations by GM Elshan Moradiabadi



WHITE TO MOVE

23. Rb1?

A massive oversight by Ding, from which he managed to quickly recover.

Instead, the rook belonged on c1 with 23. Rfc1! Ne5 24. e4 as now ... b7-b6 is met with f2-f4!! For instance, 24. ... b6 25. f4 Ng6 (or 25. ... bxc5 26. fxe5 Rxe5 27. Rd3 winning) 26. e5 and White is happy.

23. ... Ne5! 24. e4 b6! 25. cxb6

(see diagram top of next column)

25. ... axb6! 26. Nb5!

Ding fights back.



The obvious 26. Rxc7??, allowing 26. ... Nf3+ would have been the swindle of the century, but you cannot expect that big of a blunder in the final of the world championship!

26. ... Rxd2 27. Nxc7 Bh3

More annoying would be 27. ... Nd3 28. Rf1 Rc5. This does not give a lot of chances to Black, but it at least could pressure Ding a lot longer than the text, where Ding forces Nepo to take a perpetual in order to avoid losing.

28. Bxh3 Rxh3 29. Kg2 Rh5 30. Rb5 Rd1

31. Nd5 Rdh1 32. Ne7+ Kh7 33. Rxe5

R1h2+ 34. Kg1 Rh1+ 35. Kg2, draw.

In the second game, Nepo watched his great initiative evaporate, and found nothing in the third game. Things seemed headed towards a draw in the final rapid game, with commentators explaining that, with under two minutes on their clock, absolutely nobody would decline the perpetual check Nepo was offering.

But Ding Liren is not nobody. He is the 17th World Champion. He shocked his opponent, "self-pinning" his rook in a way that could not be exploited.

SELF-PIN TO WIN

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (2795)

GM Ding Liren (2788)

2023 FIDE World Chess Championship Tiebreak (4), Astana, 04.30.2023

Annotations by GM Elshan Moradiabadi

(see diagram next page)

46. ... Rg6!!

Ding tries to play for a win with under two minutes on his clock. This time around, his move does not even introduce any threat to his position!

47. Qf5?

Shocked by the move, Nepo reacts poorly.

The best continuation was 47. h4 h5



BLACK TO MOVE

48. Kg2 a4 49. Qf5 Qg4 50. Qd3 a3 51. Bxc5 with equality.



POSITION AFTER 51. Bxc5

But, again, how easy is it to play this with very little time on your clock? Going deeper, after 51. ... a2 52. Bd4 Qd7 53. Qe4, now it is clearer, but we are sitting here with engines running!

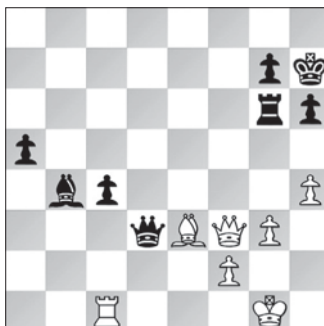
47. ... c4 48. h4??

The beginning of a very dramatic end with

the first in a series of mutual blunders.

Close to balanced was 48. Qf4 c3 49. Qf5, when after 49. ... a4 50. Rb1 Qc4 51. Bf4 c2 52. Rc1 Qe6 53. Qxc2 a3 54. h4 Kg8 55. Qa4 White should be fine.

48. ... Qd3!



49. Qf3

Not 49. Qh3 c3, winning for Black.

49. ... Rf6?!

Better was 49. ... Bd2 50. Rd1 c3 51. Kh2 a4 52. h5 Rf6, when Black wins without much of a fuss.

50. Qg4 c3 51. Rd1 Qg6 52. Qc8?!

White loses a tempo, but he is losing anyway. After the relatively strongest 52. Qe2 Re6 53. h5 Qe4 54. Qa2 c2 55. Rd4 Qxd4 56. Qxe6 Qd3 57. Kg2 a4 58. Bc1 a3 White can resign.

52. ... Rc6 53. Qa8 Rd6?

This squanders a substantial portion of Black's winning advantage.

Instead, Black had a faster win with 53. ... c2 54. Rd8 c1=Q+ 55. Kh2 Qf7!



POSITION AFTER 55. ... Qf7

This move, making *luft*, must have been what Ding missed with just a minute on his clock.

54. Rxd6 Qxd6?!

Black loses a valuable tempo.

Precise was 54. ... Bxd6! 55. Qxa5 Bxg3! 56. h5 Qd3!. Again none of these lines are too hard for Ding, but with a minute on the clock and what is at stake, he can be forgiven.

55. Qe4+ Qg6 56. Qc4 Qb1+ 57. Kh2 a4?!

Now it is a draw!

In a classical game, 57. ... Qf5 58. g4 Qf3 59. h5 Kh8 60. Qc8+ Kh7 61. Qc4 Be7 62. Kg1 Bf6 would likely still be a draw, but it is a solid practical try. Ding's choice is perhaps better for rapid, given the precision required from White to refute it.



The ceremonial first move before game one of the match, made by Askhat Oralov (L) and Arkady Dvorkovich (R).

58. Bd4 a3 59. Qc7??

And here Nepomniachtchi functionally resigns. If 59. Bxg7 was too complex to calculate, then 59. h5 was a very simple, intuitive move, taking away the g6-square from Black's queen.

Objectively the best move was 59. Bxg7 Kxg7 and now White has 60. Qc7+ Kf8 61. Qc8+ Kf7 62. Qb7+ Kf6 63. Qb6+ Ke5 64. Qb8+ Kd4 65. Qd8+ Kc4 with equality.

The simplest was 59. h5.



POSITION AFTER 59. h5

Now 59. ... Bf8 (not 59. ... a2?? 60. Qf7, when White has swindled the title) 60. Qf7 Qe4 61. Bxc3 Qe7 62. Qd5 is equal.

59. ... Qg6

The rest is easy for a player of Ding Liren's caliber.

60. Qc4 c2 61. Be3 Bd6 62. Kg2 h5 63. Kf1 Be5 64. g4 hxg4 65. h5 Qf5 66. Qd5 g3 67. f4 a2 68. Qxa2 Bxf4, White resigned.

Ding sat at the board alone, head in his hands. He looked more exhausted than exuberant, experiencing what he later described as "relief." Excitement followed a few minutes later, but for now, immediately after the handshake, all he could think about was that one of the bravest gambles in chess history paid off. After so much had to fall into place, Ding took his place in the chess pantheon as the 17th world champion. ♠

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GM Awonder Liang
GM Elshan Moradiabadi
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FM Carsten Hansen
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MAIN EVENT

TIE BREAK

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		1	2	3	4	
1	Ian Nepomniachtchi	2795	½	1	½	0	1	0	1	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	7	½	½	½	0	1½
2	Ding Liren	2788	½	0	½	1	0	1	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	7	½	½	½	1	2½

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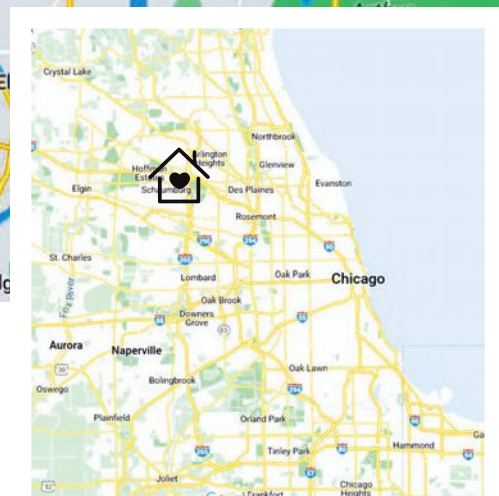
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Fun with Friends

Reporting on a record-setting 2023 U.S. Amateur Team North.

BY IM MARK HEIMANN



RESIDENTS' DAY weekend has a storied American chess tradition: the U.S. Amateur Team championships. Four events are traditionally held for the

north, south, east, and west regions of the country, as teams of four players compete for bragging rights and a chance to face the winning teams from other regions in a later final showdown. In a game that is almost always strictly contested solo, hundreds of players jump at the chance to team up and share in each other's competitive successes and failures.

Flying in from my new home in California, I attended the U.S. Amateur Team North (USATN) Championship in Schaumburg, Illinois, as a chance to return to my midwestern roots. The organizing team, Chess Weekend, and their crew of senior

tournament directors hosted a tournament of record size — over 100 teams — for the first time in the USATN's history.

Teams represented several of the top universities in the Midwest, including Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Michigan (my undergraduate and graduate alma maters, respectively), as well as the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois. These rosters included several internationally titled players looking to spend time with their classmates in an enjoyable break from their studies. Other teams represented high schools, where in some cases students played alongside their teachers. And of course, many teams had no organizational affiliation but were comprised simply of old or new friends.

All teams had to have an average rating below 2200, or that of a national master, in keeping with the tournament's status as an "amateur" event. However, as a team's success in a match depends only on the majority of its members winning their individual games, there are many strategies for assembling a competitive team.

Some consist of several players of similar strength floating just above or below master level, while others have a top-heavy roster

balanced out by a lower-rated player. A prime example of this latter strategy was the University of Chicago's B team: GMs Awonder Liang and Praveen Balakrishnan, along with strong FM Kapil Chandran, would attempt to dominate three games each match, with their fourth board having a rating of 800 to keep the team's average under master level.

The team-based scoring of the event makes it unique in its ability to intertwine the competitive fates of novices and grandmasters. I have always loved the camaraderie between players of many skill levels that team events promote. When I was in college and graduate school, I played as much as I could in the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championships (Pan-Ams), which was instrumental in keeping my chess career alive while my studies were in full swing. Eventually, I used up all my years of eligibility and had to find other ways to get my fix of team chess competition. This weekend three years ago, as I was finishing up my Ph.D., I joined a group of University of Michigan alums to play in the 2020 USATN: our collective outing as "The Wolverines" (named for the university mascot) was our last in-person tournament for a while as the pandemic struck hard shortly thereafter.

This weekend last year, I was moving to California for work, but this year presented an irresistible chance to run it back with The Wolverines.

Team competition is central to my fellow Wolverine Bret O'Brien's chess story, as he played his first-ever tournament game at the Pan-Ams in 2016. Still learning how to write chess notation, his first-ever tournament game was against a strong IM from one of the famous collegiate chess programs — talk about being thrown into the deep end!

Looking back on how consistently active a tournament player Bret has been ever since, I feel confident in saying that Bret is happy he bailed on his ski trip to come to the Pan-Ams with the rest of our UMich squad. In round one of the USATN this weekend, he scored his first-ever tournament win against an expert player to help bring our team a 200-point upset victory:

SCANDINAVIAN DEFENSE (B01)

Langston Tillman (2092)

Bret O'Brien (1772)

2023 Amateur Team North (1),

Schaumburg, 02.17.2023

Annotations by Bret O'Brien

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. d4 Bg4 4. f3 Bf5 5. Bb5+ c6 6. dxc6 Nxc6 7. c3 Qb6 8. Bd3?! Bxd3 9. Qxd3



9. ... 0-0-0?

While not appreciated at the time, here Black should break in the center with 9. ... e5!, and if 10. dxe5? Nxe5 11. Qe2 0-0-0.

10. Ne2?

White should stop Black's plan with 10. f4, leaving me short of ideas. Now if 10. ... e5 11. Qf5+ (stepping out of the pin to avoid ... Nc6xe5; worse is 11. fxe5?! Nxe5 12. Qf5+ Ned7) 11. ... Kb8 12. fxe5 Black can try the wild 12. ... Bb4!?, somehow preserving compensation. If 13. cxb4? Nxd4 and Black wins.

10. ... Kb8?

During the game I misevaluated 10. ... e5 11. Qf5+ Kb8 12. dxe5 What's another pawn with dark squares this juicy? Perhaps best is 12. ... Bc5!? "allowing" 13. exf6? Bf2+ 14. Kf1 Rd1 mate

11. 0-0?

Again shoring up the dark squares with 11. f4 should have been preferred.

11. ... e5

Finally, and with a little help from White, the key break comes.

12. Kh1 exd4 13. Qc4? d3!

A "bone in the throat" for moves to come.

14. Ng3 Ne5 15. Qb3 Qc6 16. Bf4 Bd6 17. Nf5 Nh5! 18. Be3?!

Here 18. Nxd6 is a mistake. After 18. ... Nxf4 19. Nxf7 Qg6 wins.

Relatively best was 18. Nd4 but after 18. ... Qc5 19. Bg5 Black adds more fuel to the fire with 19. ... Nc4! 20. Bxd8 Rxd8 and now the threat of ... Nh5-g3+, tearing open the king's cover, gives Black all the chances.

18. ... Nc4 19. Nd4



19. ... Qc8?

Now 19. ... Qc5! is an unfortunate miss. While I considered it, I discarded this move because after 20. Bf2 (not 20. Bg1 Ng3+ 21. hxxg3 Qh5+ 22. Bh2 Bxxg3 with mate soon) I missed 20. ... Rhe8! and if 21. Nb5? Qxf2 22. Rxf2 Re1+ 23. Rf1 Rxf1 mate.

20. Bf2 Rhe8 21. Rd1 Nf4?! 22. Nd2!

With both clocks ticking away, Black's pressure dissipates as White untangles.

22. ... Ne3 23. Bxe3 Rxe3 24. Nc4 Ree8



Dreams of an e-file incursion are put on hold.

25. Qa4??

While this threatens Nc4xd6 and Nd4-b5, this is the decisive mistake. Now Black finds a way to gain entry to the e2-square.

White had to go for 25. Nxd6 Rxd6 26. Qxf7 (or 26. Nb5 Rf6 27. Qa3 Ra6 28. Qb4 g5! with an unclear position) 26. ... g5 when anything can happen.

25. ... Bc5! 26. Nb3 Re2 27. Nb6 Qf5!

There's no way I'm giving up that beautiful knight!



28. Nxc5 axb6!

The only move, lest the white knights team up to bail White out. I also avoided my opponent's last trick with 28. ... Rxc2? 29. Ncd7+ Rxd7 30. Qxd7.

29. Ne4?!**29. ... Rxc2! 30. Ng3?!**

The belated return to g3 is too little, too late.

30. ... Rxc3

Cleaner is 30. ... Rxh2+ immediately, i.e., 31. Kxh2? Qh3+ 32. Kg1 Qg2 mate.

31. Rd2

Or 31. hxg3 Qh3+ 32. Kg1 Qg2 mate.

31. ... Rxf3 32. Re1 Ne2 33. Rxe2 Rf1+ 34. Kg2 Qf3, mate.

Just as Bret got started in tournament chess by playing on a team with friends, he paid it forward, convincing his work colleague and friend Erik Wruman to play his first tournament ever by taking our fourth board spot the final day. (Ajay Gudivada, our underrated fourth board, could not play the final day, though he did score us a 400-point individual upset before he left.) Like Bret, Erik was thrown in the deep end as our whole team was paired up for both of the matches we played that day. Nevertheless, he has everything to be proud of, playing resourcefully and managing to pose a Class A player some significant problems.

Amateur events are often exciting for this reason, as even the top of the field is not safe from resourceful breakout performers punching above their weight class. US Chess master Trevor Magness, a professional pianist turned actuary, spearheaded such a breakout with a young team of his chess students called Riders of the Pawn Storm. With an average rating of only 1756, leading them to be paired up against higher-rated opposition every match, they had a sensational result, winning three and drawing one of their first four matches. Their draw came

against the stacked University of Chicago B team, as Magness pulled off a stunning upset in board one against GM Awonder Liang:

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B11)

Trevor Magness (2269)

GM Awonder Liang (2719)

2023 Amateur Team North (3),

Schaumburg, 02.18.2023

Annotations by GM Awonder Liang

1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 Nf6 6. Be2 e6 7. 0-0 Be7 8. d4 dxe4 9. Qe3 Nbd7 10. Nxe4 Nxe4 11. Qxe4 Nf6 12. Qd3 0-0 13. Rd1 a5 14. a4

Generally slightly inaccurate, since now with the weakening of the b4-square, White can never expand on the queenside. Anyway, Black is normally fine.

I think White has a slight edge after 14. Bf3 Qc7 15. Qe2 Rfd8 16. g3.

14. ... Qc7 15. Bg5 Rad8 16. c3 Rd7

Breaking in the center with 16. ... e5 17. Bxf6 Bxf6 18. Qf5 Qe7 was too simplified for my tastes.

17. Qc2 Rfd8 18. Bf3 h6 19. Bh4 Qb8 20. Qb3 Qa7

If 20. ... g5 21. Bg3 Bd6 22. Bxd6 Qxd6 with counterplay.

21. Rac1 Nd5 22. Bxe7 Nxe7 23. g3 g6 24. Kg2 Nf5 25. Be4 Nd6 26. Bf3 Nf5 27. Be4 Ne7 28. h4 Kg7 29. Bf3 e5!?

After some shuffling, I finally decided to go for this tactical trick. Unfortunately, it doesn't quite work here: it was better to improve the position with 29. ... h5.

30. Bg4

Avoiding 30. dxe5? Rd2 31. Rf1 Nf5 when Black is crushing.

30. ... f5 31. Be2 e4 32. Qe6 Qb8 33. Bc4**33. ... h5?!**

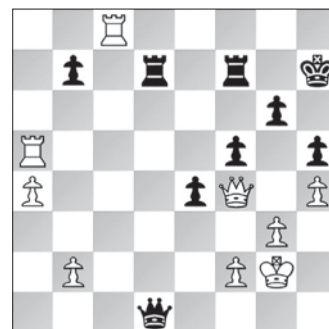
Technically speaking, this probably the first

real mistake in a relatively dry game. Black is of course still completely fine, but now it's difficult to ever create real chances with the static kingside.

After 33. ... Ng8! 34. h5 Nf6 35. hxg6 Kxg6 36. Rh1 Qd6 37. Qxd6 Rxd6 Black retains some slight edge in the endgame, as 38. f3 can be met with 38. ... c5!.

34. Qf7+ Kh6 35. Qf6 Nd5 36. Qg5+ Kh7**37. Bxd5 cxd5 38. c4 Qd6 39. cxd5 Qxd5****40. Rc5 Qb3 41. Rdc1 Rf8!?**

White is level after 41. ... Qf3+ 42. Kg1 Rxd4 43. Qe7+.

42. Rc7 Rff7 43. Rc8 Qd5 44. R1c5 Qxd4**45. Rxa5 Qd1 46. Qf4**

After mainly focusing on the threat of Rc8-h8+ for the past couple moves, I missed the idea here.

46. ... Qd2?

Naturally 46. ... Rd3 47. Rc3 Qf3+ 48. Qxf3 exf3+ 49. Kh2 Rxc3 50. bxc3 Rc7 51. Rb5 Rxc3 52. Rxb7+ is just drawn, which I saw during the game.

47. Qe5 Rg7??

Necessary was 47. ... Rd8 48. Rxd8 Qxd8 49. Rc5 when Black should hold, but it's still difficult.

48. Raa8 Kh6 49. Qf6 Qd6 50. Qg5+, Black resigned.

A well-played game by my opponent, completing an improbable upset. Out of curiosity, I checked my US Chess history to see the last time I'd lost to a player below 2300. I couldn't find any in the past seven years! Sometimes it just suffices to hand your opponent some rope, no matter their strength...

Needless to say, it seems that Trevor's students have been improving rapidly and far outstrip their rating — unsurprising when their teacher leads so powerfully by example! Eligible for the U1800 prize, the Iowa-based "Riders of the Pawn Storm" ac-

tually finished high enough to win the U2000 prize, and their 3½/5 match score tied for fifth place overall.

Another national master and veteran of the Iowa chess scene, James Neal, was looking to form a team to enter USATN when he logged onto Facebook and saw a post from his friend Dritan Zekaj with a similar desire. Out of this was born “Rotisserie Dubs,” which together with some of Neal’s students comprised one of the most diverse teams in terms of race and age — and also one of the top seeds of the event with an average rating of 2148. While they gave up a hard-fought upset loss to the young wunderkinds of “Riders of the Pawn Storm,” they prevailed in a difficult defense on one board to secure a last-round win against us and a respectable 3/5 score.

“Dreamy Knights,” led by prodigious young IM Dimitar Mardov, was another splendid demonstration that chess is for all genders and that all have a place in the game’s future. With rising female talents WFM Nastassja Matus and Irene Jiao, they not only were in contention for the Mixed Doubles prize awarded to teams with gender parity, but also found themselves on board one in the final round playing to win the whole event! Ultimately, they drew their match, allowing the University of Chicago B team (who rebounded with all match victories after their draw with Riders of the Pawn Storm) to win first place outright. Dreamy Knights still finished in third place overall and the highest-finishing mixed doubles team.

Youth was well represented among the top contenders, as other teams playing for first

place in the last round included Stevenson High School, fresh off their victory at the Illinois high school championship, and We SAT Down, which also consisted of talented midwestern high schoolers (the latter clinched the top high school team and the top junior team prize at this event). While none of these teams in the top division could post a perfect match score, the reserve division for teams with an average rating under 1600 saw the Beer Blitzers prevail with a perfect 5/5.

Keeping the competition lighthearted, there were also prizes awarded for Best Team Name (won by team “Mighty Morphy’s Pawn Arrangers”) and best costume (won by team “Good Bish” in their full-body bishop’s regalia). The tournament also gave out individual awards for the top finishers on each board: Timothy Lim of “Midwest Powerhouse” and GM Praveen Balakrishnan of UChicago B took the top board one and two prizes, respectively, with perfect 5/5 scores. Rohit Guha of Stevenson High School and Scot Henderson of “J’adoubé Brothers Reunion Tour” took the top boards three and four prizes respectively, each with dominant scores of 4½/5. As a side event, an individual speed chess tournament was held Saturday night and was won by IM George Li and Joseph Wan, a national master.

Altogether, my own Wolverines finished with two match points. I like to think this modest record belied some of the quality chess that the whole team played. Paired up by an average of 200-300 rating points in four out of five matches, we managed to pull off one team upset, with serious chances for two more.

Special props to Niklas Heglin on third board for not only chauffeuring our whole team around all weekend in one trooper of a Ford Focus, but also for burning the white flag and going all in for the win in double-edged positions against some high-rated players when our team needed the full point. We had some games go our way and created chances that we wish had ultimately gone our way; after all, as every chess player knows, ours is a hard game that can make amateurs of us all. None of us left without moves to kick ourselves for, but all of us produced creative and hard-fought games to be proud of.

For me, this weekend was, in part, good practice for the grandmaster norm tournaments I plan to play this year — practice which Northwestern University engineering graduate student and chess author FM Dache Lin proved I needed in round two!

Much more than that, though, it was the night in Bret’s basement taking drubbing after drubbing in VR table tennis; pregame speed chess and cards at our mutual friend Sagar’s place with the pizza that makes Chicago famous; trying not to get run over in our pedestrian-unfriendly pilgrimage to Shake Shack (which somehow I had never tried) between rounds of the tournament. It was the gym session I had right after my redeye flight with my lifting buddies, powered by a little extra nap in baggage claim; a healthy number of caffeine pills; and good vibes. It was the memories made, the shoulders rubbed with friends from whom I now live far, and the opportunities chess afforded me to keep these friends in my life. ♠

2023 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM NORTH AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2023 | SCHAMBERG, ILLINOIS

WINNERS

OPEN: 1st: U Chicago B GM Awonder Liang, GM Praveen Balakrishnan, FM Kapil Chandran, Will Eastwick, Runzhe Cui). **2nd:** Stevenson High School (Tugstumur Yesuntumur, Ken Wallace, Rohit Guha, Aaron Gan). **3rd:** dreamy knights (IM Dimitar Mardov, Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan, WFM Nastassja Matus, Irene Fei). **RESERVE: 1st:** Beer Blitzers (Michael Tzolov, Brian Thomas Harrigan, Eduardo Elias, Jason Becker). **2nd:** No Champai(g)n no gain (Paul Poovakulam, Elias Clough O’Malley, Brandon Yuan, Manu Mehta). **3rd:** Grob Goblins (Ian Bret Clark, James Friedrich Montella, Paul Scott Hanrahan, Advitya Batta).

CLASS PRIZES

OPEN: U2000: Riders on the Pawn Storm. **U1800:** Eat Sleep Chess Repeat. **RESERVE: U1300:** SWSC Cheese. **U1000:** Central Coast Cobras.

THE TOPS

TOP COLLEGE TEAM: Champaign Problems. **TOP HS TEAM:** WE SAT down. **TOP JUNIORS:** LadueRams. **TOP K-8 (U1600):** TOT. **TOP SENIORS:** J’adoubé Brothers Reunion Tour. **BEST MIXED DOUBLES:** can’t beat them join them.

For complete results, visit chessweekend.com.

Najdorf's Immortal

Test your skills in one of the greatest games in chess history.

BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI

E

DITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTIVE readers will notice something different in this month's column.

Black wins the game! While there are still plenty of miniatures where White takes the full point, the universe of Black victories has been neglected for too long in "Solitaire Chess." Over the coming months we'll turn the tables and enjoy some of the most spectacular wins for Black in chess history. Buckle up!

For about two decades, especially in the 1940s and 1950s, Polish-Argentinian grandmaster Miguel Najdorf (1910-1997) was among the best players in the world. He had many accomplishments, such as being a record holder for simultaneous blindfold play, and surely is remembered for the popular variation of the Sicilian Defense that bears his name. Our game this month, Glucksberg versus Najdorf (Black), played in Warsaw in 1929, is an imaginative brilliancy. Seizing upon his opponent's opening inaccuracy, move after move, Najdorf fashions what now is known as the "Polish Immortal."

DUTCH DEFENSE (A85)

Glucksberg
Miguel Najdorf
Warsaw, 1929

1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. Nf3 d5 5. e3

(see diagram top of next column)

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



BLACK TO MOVE

may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that Black's move is on the next line.**

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

Solidifying the d5-pawn and setting up a stonewall formation. Black's main problem is the light-squared bishop, which is hemmed in by its own pawns. You may accept **full credit** for either 5. ... Be7 or 5. ... Nc6.

6. **Bd3**

White speeds up the possibility of kingside castling. **

6. **Par Score 5** **Bd6**

In turn, Black prepares to castle, assuming the b8-h2 diagonal and fighting for the e5-square. You may accept **full credit** for 6. ... Be7.

7. **0-0**

White gets ready for action, moving the king out of the center.**

7. **Par Score 5** **0-0**

Najdorf follows suit, removing his king from the center as well. Accept **full credit** for 7. ... Ne4.

8. **Ne2**

This prepares to shift the knight over to the kingside, but more logical was 8. b3, with the idea of flanking the queen-bishop.**

8. **Par Score 5** **Nbd7**

A typical placement for the queen-knight, but you may accept **full credit** for either 8. ... Qe7 or 8. ... b6.

9. **Ng5**

White aims at the e6-pawn, but this is a mistake. A better way to assail it was 9. Nf4.**

9. **Par Score 6** **Bxh2+**

A version of the classic bishop sac, clearly winning a pawn. You may take **5 points part credit** for the less good 9. ... Ng4.

10. **Kh1**

This doesn't help. Better to remove the bishop and accept the consequences.**

10. **Par Score 6** **Ng4**

Najdorf defends the h2-bishop and unveils an attack to the g5-knight. Add **1 bonus point** if you analyzed that 11. Nxe6 Qh4 is crushing.

11. **f4**

White anchors the g5-knight, temporarily stopping the intrusion of the black queen to h4.**

11. **Par Score 5** **Qe8**

This shows another way for the black queen to enter the fray, along the e8-h5 diagonal. You may accept **full credit** for the rook lift, 11. ... Rf6.

12. **g3**

Glucksberg hopes to flee with his king to g2. Another try was 12. Rf3, but Black would still have the upper hand.**

12. **Par Score 4** **Qh5**

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 63.

JULY EXERCISE:

Whenever you encounter a winning stratagem, make a diagram of the preceding move, while there still were ways to sidestep the resulting problem. Affix that last defensible position to one side of an index card and write something useful about the possible danger on the other side of the card. Review these key situations as often as you can. Doing so should sharpen your sensitivity to potential threats, and that usually makes one a stronger player.

PROBLEM 1

Mating net



PROBLEM 2

Mating net



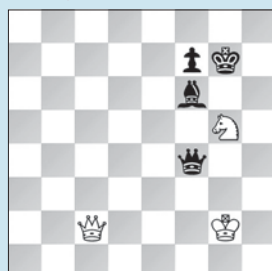
PROBLEM 3

Mating net



PROBLEM 4

Mating net



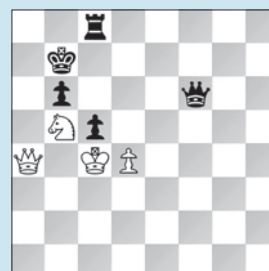
PROBLEM 5

Mating net



PROBLEM 6

Mating net



Najdorf's attack sails along. A discovered check is now threatened.

13. Kg2

Following through on escape plans. Hope breeds eternal.**

13. Par Score 6 Bg1

A clearance sacrifice. Najdorf empties h2 for invasion. You may accept *full credit* for 13. ... Ndxf6, shifting more force over to the battle zone.

14. Nxe1

Add *1 point bonus* if you saw that 14. Rxe1 allows 14. ... Qh2+ and mate next.**

14. Par Score 4 Qh2+

No other moves makes any sense.

15. Kf3**

15. Par Score 6 e5

A serious resource. The threat is 16. ... e4+.

16. dxe5

Taking with the f-pawn doesn't fare any better.**

16. Par Score 6 Ndxex5+

Full credit for taking with the other knight.

17. fxe5**

17. Par Score 5

Ngxe5+

18. Kf4**

18. Par Score 6

Ng6+

This is best.

19. Kf3**

19. Par Score 8

f4

Najdorf explodes the position open. Both the c8-bishop and the f8-rook are poised for the kill.

20. exf4

On 20. gxf4, Black mates in one, two ways.**

20. Par Score 7

Bg4+

A sparkling shot indeed. White's best is simply to surrender the queen with 21. Ke3.

21. Kxe4

Surrendering the queen is never pleasant. The chess world will always be thankful Glucksberg captured on g4.**

21. Par Score 6 Ne5+

The final nicety. White is forced to open the f-file.

22. fxe5**

22. Par Score 5

h5 mate!

What a memorably elegant, timeless, classic gem of a brilliancy! ♠



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

Streamers and the king's pawn, Part I

Kraai and Rozman on 1. e4 e5

BY IM JOHN WATSON

C

HESS HAS MOVED ONLINE to such an extent that we now have millions of players and fans who have seldom or never played in a club, much less attended a tournament in the real world. There are millions of players on sites such as *Chess.com* and *LiChess*, of course, but much of the excitement is being generated by various chess bloggers, who entertain and/or instruct (in wildly varying proportions).

Arguably the most popular of these is IM Levy Rozman, a.k.a. "GothamChess," who appears on Twitch and YouTube; on the latter, he has over three million followers and has recorded over 1,300 videos. Rozman and other internet personalities have said a lot about opening theory, but little of it has been published in systematic and digestible form. In March, Chessable released a 1. e4 repertoire "MoveTrainer" product by Rozman, and a few weeks later another 1. e4 repertoire MoveTrainer was released, this time by GM Jesse Kraai of the popular ChessDojo website. I was curious how these products would fit into the world of electronic chess publications, many of which I have reviewed in this column.

Many years ago, I produced one of the earliest full-length 1. e4 online repertoires for the Internet Chess Club, and I learned how difficult it is to select efficient and practical lines with 1. e4. Traditional mainline theory is too extensive and complex to do justice to in this format, but sidelines tend to have been neutralized over years of practice.

I thought it would be interesting to see what these leading figures in the online chess world would offer, as compared to established active players such as super-GM Anish Giri, who also has a 1. e4 repertoire on Chessable. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that there are no fewer than 16 such 1. e4 courses on Chessable alone! I've either studied or glanced at all of these (many are available for free in an abridged form called "Short and Sweet"), and realized that it's unrealistic to be comprehensive, so I'm going to limit myself to analysis from both Rozman's and Kraai's courses and try to point to some of their strengths and limitations.

The most difficult task for these authors is to offer the reader a manageable system versus **1. e4 e5**. Levy Rozman opts for pure dynamism. After **2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4**, Black will usually play **3. ... Nf6** or **3. ... Bc5**. When I taught a lot of young students, I found that teachers often have their students Rozman's **3. ... Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5**.



He does an extremely thorough job of analyzing the main line **5. ... d5 6. Bb5 Ne4 7. Nxd4**, including recent ideas and much original analysis. At this point, he gives a very long overview of **7. ... Bd7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. 0-0**, when I think Black can hold the balance with perfect play, but White has a wonderfully rich position with many tactical and positional themes.

Rozman also analyzes the gambit line **7. ... Bc5 8. Be3 0-0** (both **8. ... Bxd4** and **8. ... Bd7** are playable, but this is more forcing) **9. Nxc6 bxc6 10. Bxc5 Nxc5 11. Bxc6 Rb8 12. Qxd5 Qe7 13. 0-0 Rxb2** (**13. ... Ba6 14. Rc1 Rfd8** is also fine for Black) **14. Nc3 Rd8 15. Qf3** and here he shows with analysis that **15. ... Ne6!** "is the equalizer."

Rozman freely admits that with perfect play, many lines in his repertoire give no advantage. I've found a number of equalizing improvements for Black, but that is no problem for a repertoire unless there are forced lines leading to drawn or ultra-drawnish positions. You can see why Rozman is such a popular online presenter: he analyzes these lines rapidly, peppering the moves with lively commentary and a lot of humor. There are loads of pretty tactics which would serve a student well even if he or she ultimately didn't want to play these lines.

This is all fun stuff, but over the years, when I found myself trying to help students form an effective repertoire with **5. e5**, I kept running into doubts about the sidelines. Two were particularly irritating. First, Black can play **5. ... Ne4**, when Rozman continues **6. Qe2** (by far the most popular move; he mentions **6. Bd5 Nc5 7. c3 dxc3 8. Nxc3**, but even the immediate **8. ... Nb4** with the idea **9. Bc4 d5!** looks good) **6. ... Nc5 7. c3 d3 8. Qe3 Be7** (after his **8. ... Ne6 9. Bxd3**, I think **9. ... d6! 10. exd6 Bxd6 11. 0-0 0-0** is equal, as is **9. ... Bc5 10. Qe2 d6 11. exd6 Qxd6** with best play) **9. b4 Ne6 10. 0-0 d6** (Rozman says Black shouldn't play **10. ... d5 11. Bxd3 0-0 12. Nbd2**, but **12. ... d4 13. cxd4 Nxb4 14. Bb1 Nd5 15. Qe4 g6** is at least equal) **11. exd6 Bxd6** (**11. ... cxd6** has also been tried by very strong players and looks fine) **12. Nbd2 0-0**.



This is playable for both sides but doesn't strike me as much fun for White. Perhaps best is **13. g3** (13. Qxd3 Nf4!) **13. ... Re8 14. Qxd3 Ng5** (or 14...Ne5 with equality) **15. Nxg5?!** (15. h4 is equal) **15. ... Qxg5 16. Ne4 Qh5!** with the idea **17 Nxd6 Ne5! 18 Bxf7+ Qxf7!**.

That sort of thing is pretty easy for Black to prepare, and in the main line **3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5**, the move **6. ... Nd7** (instead of 6. ... Ne4) is the type of move you'll run into once you're on record as playing this variation and opponents want to prepare solutions that don't lead to 20+ moves of critical theory. To his credit, Rozman talks at some length about it. Play continues **7. 0-0 Be7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Nxd4 Nb8**.



Unfortunately, he has an extremely dismissive attitude towards this move, although Black, with two bishops and a mobile center, has enjoyed a small performance rating advantage here. The position has been played dozens of times over the past year, including by the likes of Aronian, Yu, and Cheparinov as Black.

Rozman gives **10. Nc3 0-0 11. Qf3**. Here he mentions **11. ... a5!** (which scores extremely well, with the idea ... Ra8-a6 and ... c6-c5) saying it's the "only move" and would only be played by 2700 players, so he's not worried about it! In any case, he recommends **12. Rd1 Ra6** (I like **12. ... Qd7!** **13. h3 Ra6**) **13. Nf5 Bxf5** (or **13. ... Qd7!** **14. Nxe7+ Qxe7 15. Re1 Nd7**) **14. Qxf5**, when either **14. ... Qc8** or **14. ... Qd7** are equal.

But I also like Black's center after the direct **11. ... Qd7** intending ... Qd7-g4, when Rozman gives **12. h3 Rd8**, but **12. ... Re8** prevents White's main idea of e5-e6, for example, **13. Re1 Bf8 14. Bf4 Na6 15. Nb3 Nc5 16. Nxc5 Bxc5** as in Jones – Demchenko, *Playchess.com*, 2020.

Upon concluding this look at 6. ... Nd7, he breezily states that "after 6. Bb5, Black has to play 6. ... Ne4" and also says "it's kind of a miracle that Black can play 6. ... Nd7 and not be losing," which strikes me as either positional blindness or wishful thinking.

Still, these positions are playable for White and the whole section will be instructive for the player starting out with the Two Knights. Again, Rozman's presentation is deeply prepared, fast-paced, and humorous.

Rozman's repertoire suggestion versus **3. ... Bc5** is still more radical: **4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Nbd2!?**. This is more respectable than you might think and even been played by a couple of super-GMs, although largely in blitz and rapid. Although I haven't the space to go into the complicated lines, I think it's fair to say that Black has many ways to maintain a balance. Already **7. ... d5** is satisfactory, and after **7. ... Nxe4 8. d5**, Black can choose between **8. ... Nxd2**, **8. ... Bxd2+**, and **8. ... Ne7**, which are all fine.

On the plus side, as far as I can tell, White is never worse with accurate play and again, there are loads of beautiful and instructive tactics for the student. The main disadvantage is that if your opponent knows that you play this line, it's not hard to prepare a forcing line that results in something that may seem a little too simplified for the attacking player's choice. Perhaps this could be a surprise weapon to mix with more conventional alternatives.

GM Jesse Kraai is one of three founders of the chess hub/website ChessDojo, which features training, lessons, and podcasts. He has been contributing excellent online material for many years. For this repertoire, Kraai emphasizes that he's not using supercomputer analysis, but trying to use positions in which intuition and positional reasoning can be most effective. His commentary is easy-paced and considered, with a lot of instruction and general advice, a sharp contrast to Rozman's fast-paced and heavily analytic approach.

His **1. e4 e5** solution is the Bishop's Opening **2. Bc4**, in many cases transposing into the Vienna Game. Several move orders can lead to the position after **2. ... Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d3 Bc5 5. f4 0-0 6. Nf3** (6. f5 allows 6. ... d5!). Then Kraai has a lot of fun with the mind-boggling tactics following **6. ... Ng4 7. Ng5!** with an exciting and apparently sound attack.

Not surprisingly, Black can deviate from this in various ways, e.g., **6. ... Qe7** or **6. ... exf4**, when both sides have plenty of play. And **4. ... Na5 5. Qf3 Nxc4 6. dxc4** has been well-tested over the years — Black stands absolutely fine, but there is always an interesting imbalance, which is as good as you can ask for in a repertoire. Kraai gives similarly fun lines in the order **2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bc5 4. d3 d6 5. f4**, and now the wild **5. ... Ng4 6. f5!**, intending **6. ... Nf2 7. Qh5**.

A more troubling issue arises from this move order, however. Here **2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nc3** (transposing to the Vienna order **2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4**) and allows the famous Frankenstein-Dracula Variation move order **3. ... Nxe4 4 Qh5**. After **4. ... Nd6 5 Bb3**, there's an important fork in the road.



He gives the main line as **5. ... Be7** (the most common move on a GM level, considered safely equal) **6. Qxe5 0-0 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. Qf4**, concluding "Black can try many different moves here, but the dynamic is simple: Black has to do something about their d6-knight, and while that circus horse is prancing about we will castle and use our lead in development to build an attack." But is there really an "attack?" If nothing else, Black can eliminate White's best attacking piece with **8. ... Na5 9. 0-0 Nxb3 10. axb3 Re8 11. d3 b6 12. Bd2 Bb7**.

That's not very inspiring for White, but at least it's a game with some play left. More worrisome is the question mark he assigns to **5. ... Nc6** "?", saying "many strong GMs have made this mistake." The long-established moves **6. Nb5 g6 7. Qf3 f5 8. Qd5 Qe7 9. Nxc7+ Kd8 10. Nxa8 b6** have been played in over 1,000 of my database games (and countless unpublished ones), as well as analyzed in many books and articles, but Kraai strangely opines that "Black clearly fell for a trick" and "obviously didn't want this position."



He continues **11. Ne2 Bb7 12. Qd3 Bxa8 13. 0-0** and approves of White's position.

Well, I like the little-used 11. Ne2 and 12. Qd3 idea, and let's give Kraai credit for spotting this unusual approach which bypasses a lot of theory. Nevertheless, Black has the bishops, a mobile center, and good practical attacking chances as compensation for the Exchange. In fact, of the 22 games in my database arriving at this position, mostly correspondence games where there is heavy use of strong engines, the score is even, and Black even has a small edge in performance rating.

It turns out that another Chessable product by John Chernoff is devoted solely to the Frankenstein-Dracula. He goes into tremendous depth in many positions of this type and demonstrates just how thoroughly and concretely prepared both sides have to be, and how easy it is for White to get overrun if he doesn't know exact theory. If you look at Chernoff's analysis closely, you'll see that Black will be on the verge of equality even against best White play. Furthermore, Kraai doesn't address 8. ... Qf6, when Chernoff's analysis shows White's best line leading to near equality (and in fact that analysis can be improved upon, so that White ends up with no advantage at all).

Fortunately, Kraai has the good sense to offer an alternative order (the only one in the course!) with 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3, a more practical setup that I recommended in my own 1. e4 repertoire course years ago. This tends to transpose into other lines unless Black plays 3. ... c6, when 4. Nf3 d5 5. Bb3 Bd6 goes back to the 19th-century.

Perhaps because it's an alternate line, Kraai's analysis isn't as deep as elsewhere. After 6. Nc3, for example, he dismisses 6. ... d4 with a "?!)" and says it "shows a

poor understanding of chess." In fact, it's a well-established and solid defense. The brief line he gives as good for White, 7. Ne2 0-0 8. 0-0 c5 9. Ng3 Nc6 10. Nh4 g6 11. h3 is ok, but should be fine for Black after 11. ... Na5 eliminating the powerful bishop.

In the main line 6. Nc3 dxe4 7. Ng5 0-0, he prefers 8. Nxe4 Nxe4 9. dxe4!? (I think 9. Nxe4 is objectively better for the repertoire, preserving long-term prospects) 9. ... h6 10. Nxf7 Rxf7 11. Bxf7+ Kxf7 12. Qh5+ Ke7 (other moves lose, so I grant that the attack has practical value) 13. Be3 (White can take a draw with 13. Qh4+ Ke8 14. Qh5+) 13. ... Nd7 (13. ... Qe8 leads to a similar position where White should probably find a drawing sequence before Black completes his development) 14. Be3. He stops here and says the material is "technically equal" (an odd comment — normally White would need two extra pawns, not one), and that he prefers White, who at least has practical attacking chances. I think you'll find that White has to play accurately to bail out with a draw, but that's okay, and White can deviate on move nine anyway. Overall, 3. d3 is an important and practical suggestion, and a developing player will benefit from Kraai's extensive positional advice..

Other related Chessable repertoires are relevant here. IM Yuriy Krykun uses the Vienna 2. Nc3 and meets 2. ... Nf6 3. Bc4 Nxe4 4. Qh5 Nd6 with the immediate 5. Qxe5+ Qe7 6. Qxe7+ Bxe7 7. Be2; this leads to a lot of interesting endgame analysis at the cost of restricted prospects. IM Alexandru Banzea also uses the Vienna 2. Nc3, but answers 2. ... Nf6 with 3. f4 d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. Qf3. That is playable and worth an occasional try, but it's a bit depressing that there's hardly

any natural order of moves in which Black isn't fully equal.

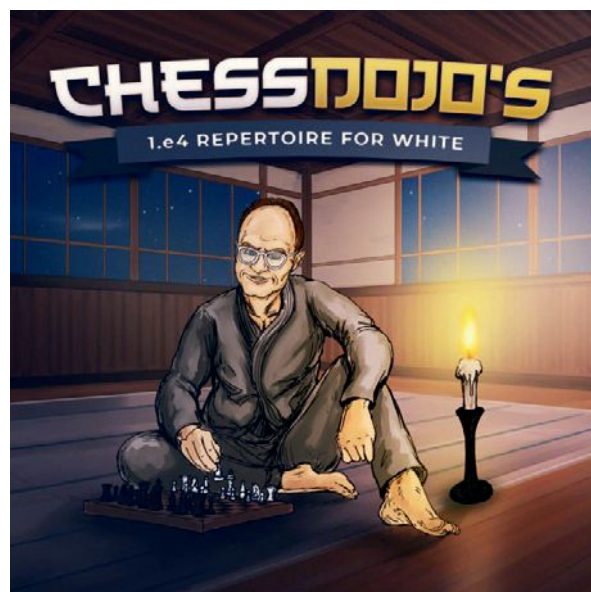
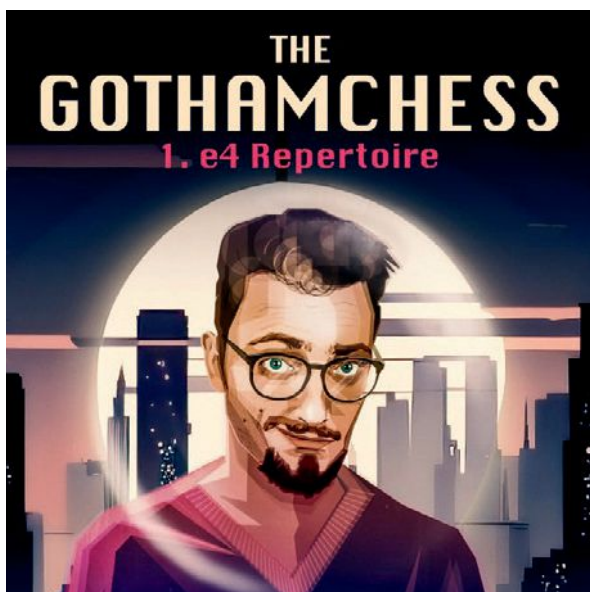
The repertoires above are all designed to avoid the most popular professional variations such as the Ruy Lopez main lines or the Italian positional lines with d2-d3. Other Chessable authors are somewhat more conventional in their choices, although still not entering the thousands of pages of main-line Ruy Lopez theory. GM Anish Giri gives the Italian with 3. Bc4 Nf6 (or 3. ... Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3) 4. d3, which is a terribly popular choice among today's leading GMs. GM Wesley So chooses 3. Bc4 Nf6 (or 3. ... Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. e5) 4. Ng5. IM Christof Sielecki and others give the Ruy Lopez 3. Bb5 with an early d2-d3 (e.g., 3. ... a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3), and of course many authors meet 3. Bb5 Nf6 with 4. d3 to avoid the Berlin.

In next month's column, we will investigate how Rozman and Kraai deal with the Sicilian. ♠

Kraai, Jesse. ChessDojo's 1. e4 Repertoire for White. 24,167 words, 250 variations. 9:02 paid video, 1:07 free video. Available from Chessable.com.

Rozman, Levy. The GothamChess 1. e4 Repertoire. 175,812 words. 1085 trainable variations. 17:12 paid video, 2:03 free video. Available from Chessable.com.

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



MAKE → YOUR → MOVE

BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM VARIOUS ONLINE and over-the-board tournaments in the spring of 2023.

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

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

TACTIC 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 7.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 8.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 9.



WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: PUSH AND LOOSEN

Position 2: NOT ENOUGH SQUARES

Position 3: ISSUES TO THE BACK

Position 4: WHEN THE GUARDIAN GOES

Position 5: SLOW AND BRUTAL ASSAULT

Position 6: EMPEROR'S CLOTHES

Position 7: CREATING ACCESS

Position 8: A LACK OF DEFENDERS

Position 9: NOT ENOUGH SQUARES



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www.sandiegochessclub.org

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shorehschessleague@yahoo.com

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516-739-3907

Mechanics' Institute (CA)

www.milibrary.org/chess

Michigan Chess Association (MI)

www.michess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation (OK)

www.OCFchess.org

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www.regentsaustin.org/chess

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www.chessset.com

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www.spartachessclub.org

TLA CHESS (VA)

tla.chess.llc@gmail.com

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TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through June 30, 2023 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

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

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 • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 National Junior Chess Congress JULY 13-16, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Renaissance Hotel Orlando at Sea World
Address: 6677 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32821
Overall prize fund: \$7,500 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Joe Hanley Email: hanleychessacademy@gmail.com
Phone: 714-925-3195 Website: <http://hanleychessacademy.com/2023NJCC.html> TLA ID: 38716

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Junior Open Championship JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address:
190 S Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126 Overall prize
fund: \$2,400 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com
Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36381

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Senior Open Championship JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address:
190 S Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126 Overall prize
fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com
Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36382

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIZ

2023 U.S. Blind Chess Championship JULY 21-23, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address:

190 S Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126 Overall prize
fund: \$4,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com
Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36386

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

123rd Annual U.S. Open Championship JULY 29-AUGUST 6, 2023, MICHIGAN

Event site: DeVos Place Convention Center Address:
303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49503 Overall
prize fund: \$50,000 b/\$500; \$40,000 gtd. GP Points: 300
FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency
restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: national-events@uschess.org
Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/usopen> TLA ID: 37403

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of December 31, 2022 for the 2022 Grand Prix.

FINAL 2022 GRAND PRIZ STANDINGS

Congratulations to the 2022 Grand Prix Champion

IM JASON LIANG

Name	State/Ctry	Pts
1. IM JASON LIANG	NJ	222.68
2. GM BRANDON JACOBSON	NY	177.20
3. IM JOHN BRYANT	CA	166.43
4. IM SEMEN KHANIN	RUS	152.35
5. GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ	MA	137.17
6. IM MYKOLA BORTNYK	UKR	127.25
7. FM DANILA POLIANNIKOV	MA	124.26
8. GM MARK PARAGUA	PHI	121.20
9. GM ALEXANDER FISHBEIN	TN	103.43
10. GM ANDREW TANG	MD	103.28

The Grand Prix continues in 2023. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIZ

Pacific Southwest Open JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Address:
18880 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA 92612 Overall
prize fund: \$13,000 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated:
N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Charles H. Ensey Email: chucnglo@aol.com
Phone: (858) 432-8006 Website: <http://www.sandiegochessclub.org> TLA ID: 37350.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • GRAND PRIZ

Independence Day Open JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2023, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Address:
45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 Overall
prize fund: \$5,600 gtd GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Atlantic Chess Association Email: director@atlanticchessassociation.com
Phone: 703-975-6032 Website: <https://www.atlanticchessassociation.com/> TLA ID: 38488

ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

2023 DFW FIDE 5

JULY 7-9, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North
Address: 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy., Irving TX
75063 Overall prize fund: \$760 GP Points: 20
FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency
restriction: N Organizer: Luis Salinas Email: infoforcc@gmail.com
Phone: 213-632-9000 Website: <http://www.dallaschess.com> TLA ID: 38485

GRAND PRIZ

Alamo City Summer Open

JULY 8-9, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Weybridge Clubhouse Address: 10280 Dover
Ridge, San Antonio TX 78250 Overall prize fund:
\$800 (\$500 gtd) GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: N Handicap
accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer:
Angel Reyes Email: officialSATXchess210@gmail.com
Phone: 3053239635 Website: <http://www.alamochess.com> TLA ID: 38483

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ

Columbia Tunnelvision X

JULY 8, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA

Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address:
901 St Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210 Overall
prize fund: \$1,000 gtd GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated:
N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction:
N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: info@columbiachess.org
Phone: 8035690938 Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> TLA ID: 38149

GRAND PRIZ

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss

JULY 9-13, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn - Southpark Address:
4808 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 Overall
prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center Email: events@charlottechesscenter.org
Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> TLA ID: 37890

GRAND PRIZ

2023 Charlotte Summer Open

JULY 14-16, 2023, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn - Southpark Address:
4808 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 Overall
prize fund: \$7,500 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Charlotte Chess Center Email: events@charlottechesscenter.org
Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.charlottechesscenter.org/events> TLA ID: 38047

GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

6th Annual Queen City of the Prairie Open including Tarrant County & Fort Worth Championships

JULY 14-16, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek
Address: 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76106
Overall prize fund: \$1,600 gtd GP Points: 20 FIDE
Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction:
N Organizer: Louis Reed Email: louisreedchess@gmail.com
Phone: 8177524788 Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AllianceChess> TLA ID: 38580

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

24th annual Pittsburgh Open

JULY 21-23, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Doubletree Green Tree Address: 500
Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh PA 15205
Overall prize fund: \$13,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE
Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction:
N Organizer: Continental Chess Association
Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us
Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37298

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • JUNIOR GRAND PRIZ

27th annual Pacific Coast Open

JULY 21-23, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: Airtel Plaza
Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys CA 91406 Overall
prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y
Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email:
director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us
Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37297

GRAND PRIZ

2023 Houston Chess Festival

JULY 21-23, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: DoubleTree by Hilton Bush International
Address: 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston TX 77032 Overall prize fund: \$12,150 GP
Points: 60 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible:
Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Francisco
Guadalupe Email: figuadalupe@aol.com
Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/2023HouChessFest> TLA ID: 38435

GRAND PRIZ • ENHANCED GRAND PRIZ • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

Texas Action Championship

JULY 22, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Waco Convention Center Address: 100
Washington Avenue, Waco, TX 76701 Overall
prize fund: \$1,600 (projected); \$700 gtd Open GP
Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y
Residency restriction: N Organizer: Innovative Chess
Solutions, LLC Email: csbrown.entrepreneur@gmail.com
Phone: n/a Website: <https://innovativechess-solutions.com/> TLA ID: 37971

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.

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

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Pacific Coast Open Blitz
JULY 22, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN
 Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 Overall prize fund: \$500 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 38175

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

72nd New Hampshire Open
JULY 22-23, 2023, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 Event site: Nashua Sheraton Address: 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH 03062 Overall prize fund: \$4,172 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: John P Elmore Email: johnpelmor@yahoo.com Phone: 603-918-0386 Website: <https://nhchess.org> TLA ID: 38486

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

28th annual Bradley Open
JULY 28-30, 2023, CONNECTICUT
 Event site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport Address: 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks CT 06096 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37352

GRAND PRIX

JULY 28-30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA
The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic
 Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Ad-

dress: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com> TLA ID: 38203

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

31st annual Southern Open
JULY 28-30, 2023, FLORIDA
 Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort Address: 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37301

GRAND PRIX

2nd Annual Nashville Summer Classic
JULY 28-30, 2023, TENNESSEE
 Event site: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel Address: 2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville, TN 37228 Overall prize fund: \$6,500 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Todd Andrews Email: nashvillechess@gmail.com Phone: 6292544737 Website: <https://ncc.clubexpress.com/> TLA ID: 38155

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

10th annual Southern Open Blitz
JULY 29, 2023, FLORIDA
 Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort Address: 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 Overall prize fund: \$500 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us

chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 38180

GRAND PRIX

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open
AUGUST 4-6, 2023, VIRGINIA
 Event site: Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel Herndon Address: 2200 Centerville Road, Herndon, VA 20170 Overall prize fund: \$5,500 gtd GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com> TLA ID: 38384

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

13th annual Central California Open
AUGUST 11-13, 2023, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN
 Event site: Doubletree Hotel Address: 2233 Ventura St, Fresno CA 93710 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37944

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Columbia Tunnelvision XI
AUGUST 19, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA
 Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 gtd GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: info@columbiachess.org Phone: 8035690938 Website: <https://columbiatunnelvision.com> TLA ID: 38150

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Indianapolis Open
AUGUST 25-27, 2023, INDIANA
 Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport Address: 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis IN 46241 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE

Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37676

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

55th annual Atlantic Open
AUGUST 25-27, 2023, VIRGINIA
 Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel Address: 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 Overall prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37675

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

145th annual New York State Championship
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023, NEW YORK
 Event site: Albany Marriott Address: 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 Overall prize fund: \$18,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: [603-918-0386](tel:603-918-0386) Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 38164

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

2023 New Jersey Open
SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2023, NEW JERSEY
 Event site: Cherry Hill Double Tree By Hilton Address: 2349 Marlton Pike West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 Overall prize fund: \$8,650 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Aaron Kiedes Email: akiedes@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.njcsd.org> TLA ID: 37757

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Columbia Tunnelvision XII
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA
 Event site: First Church of the Nazarene Address: 901 St Andrews Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 Overall

Continental Chess OTB Tournament Schedule

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

PACIFIC COAST OPEN, July 21-23, 6 rounds at Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

PITTSBURGH OPEN, July 21-23, Doubletree Green Tree. \$13,000 guaranteed.

SOUTHERN OPEN, July 28-30, Wyndham Orlando Resort. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes.

BRADLEY OPEN, July 28-30, Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA OPEN, Aug 11-13, Doubletree Fresno. \$10,000 guaranteed prizes.

ATLANTIC OPEN, Aug 25-27, Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Washington, DC. \$30,000 guaranteed prizes.

INDIANAPOLIS OPEN, Aug 25-27, Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport. \$15,000 guaranteed prizes.

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, Sept 1-4 at Albany Marriott. 6 rounds, \$18,000 guaranteed prizes.

CENTRAL NEW YORK OPEN, Sept 22-24, Syracuse. \$5,000 guaranteed prizes.

MIDWEST CLASS, Oct 6-8, Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes.

HARTFORD OPEN, Oct 6-8, Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport. \$10,000 guaranteed prizes.

WASHINGTON CHESS CONGRESS, Oct 20-22, Sheraton Reston Hotel, near Washington, DC. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes.

EASTERN CHESS CONGRESS, Oct 27-29, Westin at Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ. \$25,000 guaranteed prizes.

LOS ANGELES OPEN, Nov 3-5, Hilton Orange County Airport, Irvine, \$20,000 guaranteed prizes.

KINGS ISLAND OPEN, Nov 10-12, Embassy Suites Cincinnati Northeast, Blue Ash, Ohio, \$25,000 guaranteed prizes.

prize fund: \$1,000 gtd GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Columbia Chess Club Email: info@columbiachess.org Phone: 8035690938 Website: https://columbiatunnelvision.com TLAID: 38151

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th annual Central New York Open

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023, NEW YORK

Event site: Quality Inn & Suites Fairgrounds Address: 100 Farrell Road, Syracuse, NY 13209 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38561

GRAND PRIX

CFCC 2023 Autumn Open & Scholastic

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Holiday Inn at Lake Buena Vista Address: 13351 State Road 535 Orlando, FL 32821 Overall prize fund: \$9,000 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Larry Storch Email: larrystorch88@gmail.com Phone: 407-312-6237 Website: https://www.centralflchess.org TLAID: 38641

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th annual Hartford Open

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport Address: 1 Bradley Airport (visible at airport entrance), Windsor Locks CT 06096 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 60 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38519

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

31st annual Midwest Class Championships

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38522

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX

40th Annual Reno Western States Open

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Circus Circus Reno Hotel Casino Address: 500 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 Overall prize fund: \$27,500 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jerome V. Weikel Email: wackyvk@aol.com Phone: 775-747-1405 Website: http://www.renochess.org TLAID: 38535

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual Washington Chess Congress

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023, VIRGINIA

Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel Address: 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38550

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village Address: 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Overall prize fund: \$25,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38532

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

18th annual Los Angeles Open

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Hilton Orange County Airport Address: 18800 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine CA 92612 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38547

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

32nd annual Kings Island Open

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023, OHIO

Event site: Embassy Suites Cincinnati NE Address: 4554 Lake Forest Dr, Blue Ash OH 45242 Overall prize fund: \$25,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38563

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

33rd annual North American Open

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Horseshoe Casino Resort (formerly Bally's) Address: 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$130,000 GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: http://www.chessevents.us TLAID: 38602

Regional

ALABAMA

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 22, 2023

Alabama Dual-Rated State Chess Championship

Event site: Evangel Church Address: 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36117 Overall prize fund: \$1,350 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Doug Strout Email: evangelchess@yahoo.com Phone: n/a Website: http://www.facebook.com/evangelchessclub TLAID: 37583

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ARIZONA

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023

18th annual Los Angeles Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ARKANSAS

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament

See Tennessee.

55th annual Atlantic Open

August 25-27 or 26-27, 2023 - 7 sections at Sheraton Reston

\$30,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES!

5-rd Swiss, 40/80, SD/30, d30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191. Free parking, shuttle to Metro subway and Reston Town Center.

Major Section (1900/up): \$3000-1500-700-400-300, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$1300-700. FIDE rated, 150 GPP.

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.

If Online Regular rating is more than 50 points over section/prize maximum, prize limit \$400.

Unrated prize limits: U1000 \$150, U1300 \$300, U1500 \$450, U1700 \$600, U1900 \$750.

Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team (average under 2200) combined score: \$1000-500-300-200. May play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm Sat.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$148 at chessaction.com by 8/23, \$170 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site or online until an hour before round 1.

Under 1000 Section: all \$50 less.

GMs free, \$130 from prize.

Re-entry (except Major): \$60.

Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

USCF membership required. See chessaction.com or 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 pt bye OK all (limit 2), must commit by rd 2.

Bring set, board, & clock if possible- none supplied.

Hotel rates: \$109-109, \$129-129 including breakfast, link at chessevents.us, reserve by 8/11 or rate may increase.

Entry: Chessaction.com. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering).

Blitz tournament Sat. 9:30 pm, enter by 9:10 pm.

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.

CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021-ONGOING

PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action

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

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 22, 2023

9th annual Pacific Coast Open Blitz (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

13th annual Central California Open (CA-N)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023

18th annual Los Angeles Open (CA-S)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

COLORADO

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

CONNECTICUT

JULY 28-30, 2023

28th annual Bradley Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

12th annual Hartford Open (CT)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DELAWARE

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)
See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)
See Virginia.

AUGUST 27, 2023

2023 United States Founding Fathers Chess Quads

Event site: Rayburn House Office Building Address: 45 Independence Ave SW, Room 2168 Gold Room, Washington, DC 20515 Overall prize fund: \$114 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Malik F. Johnson Email: iconchess@aol.com Phone: 2025578266 Website: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/2774> TLA ID: 38618

FLORIDA

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 29, 2023

10th annual Southern Open Blitz (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

GEORGIA

APRIL 8, 2023-ONGOING MONTHLY

Pizza Scholastic

Event site: The Boardroom Address: 1675 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite #180, Cumming Georgia 30041 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: ThinkChess, LLC Email: info@mythinkchess.com Phone: 770.744.8595 Website: <https://mythinkchess.com/> TLA ID: 37216

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)
See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament
See Tennessee.

JULY 28-30, 2023

31st annual Southern Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ILLINOIS

JULY 8-9, 2023

Missouri Class Championships (MO)
See Missouri.

JULY 16, 2023

Caveman Chess Sunday Blitz

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 37167

JULY 21-23, 2023

2023 Caveman Medior Open

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36383

JULY 22, 2023

2023 Beginner Open

Event site: Elmhurst University, Frick Center Address: 190 S Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, 60126 Overall prize fund: Plaques GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Kevin Bachler Email: contact@cavemanchess.com Phone: 224-985-5245 Website: <https://www.cavemanchess.com/> TLA ID: 36387

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023

Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)
See Indiana.

AUGUST 12-18, 2023

XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival
Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Address: 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Chicago, IL 60616 Overall prize fund: Direct FIDE titles and norms GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Heiser Email: david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://panamyouth2023.com/> TLA ID: 36757

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)
See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

The 40th!! Annual Reno-Western States Open

An American Classic & Heritage Event!

Oct 6-8 & Oct 7-8 (3-day & 2-day schedules)

6SS; 6 Sect; Open-FIDE Rated; A Weikel Tourney

NEW LOCATION: CIRCUS CIRCUS HOTEL/CASINO, RENO, NV

PRIZE FUND \$27,500 (b/275) Gtd. \$17,000

A great tournament - Yes!... But so much more...

IM John Donaldson: "A Weikel Tournament is like a chess festival!"

Just Look! Wed.: GM Kudrin Clock Simul/Analysis! (only \$30)

Thu.: 6-7:15P Lecture by GM Nick de Firmian (FREE)

7:30P GM Khachiyan - Simul (\$20); 7:30P Blitz Tourney (\$25)

Sat.: 3-4:30P GM de Firmian FREE Game/Position Analysis

Plus: Trophies, Sets & boards provided, Wall charts,

5 Demo boards, Entry under \$190!, and site of

tourney is located within a 3-hotel/casino complex

which offers many choices for food and activities!

Player: "I've played all over the US; this is the best organized

chess tournament I've seen."

INFO: Email wackykyk@aol.com or Web: www.renochess.org

SEE TLA on page 57

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

31st annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

32nd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

INDIANA

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman

Event site: Wolf Lake Subdivision in New Albany, Indiana **Address:** Lakehouse, New Albany, IN 47150 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Daro Mott **Email:** launchlouisvillechessclub@gmail.com **Phone:** 15026083571 **Website:** <https://www.launchlouisvillechess.club/> **TLAID:** 38248

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

31st annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

32nd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

KANSAS

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 15-16, 2023

2023 Kansas Open

Event site: Double Tree Hotel (Brazilian Ballroom) **Address:** 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 **Overall prize fund:** \$2,075 b/80 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Kansas Chess Association **Email:** kansaschess105@gmail.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <http://www.kansaschess.org/index.htm> **TLAID:** 37792

KENTUCKY

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament

See Tennessee.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

32nd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MAINE

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

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

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13th annual Washington Chess Congress (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MASSACHUSETTS

JULY 28-30, 2023

28th annual Bradley Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

12th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

32nd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MISSISSIPPI

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

JULY 8-9, 2023

Missouri Class Championships

Event site: Chess Cardinal Center **Address:** 43 Chesterfield Mall, Unit #156, Chesterfield, MO 63017 **Overall prize fund:** See TLA **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Bob Howe **Email:** bhowe@yahoo.com **Phone:** 636 234 7928 **Website:** <https://mochess.org/> **TLA ID:** 38466

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

NEVADA

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

13th annual Central California Open (CA-N)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023

18th annual Los Angeles Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 14-DECEMBER 30, 2023

Hamilton Chess Club Quads

Dates: Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 29, May 20, Jun. 3, Aug. 19, Sep. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 30. **Event site:** Switlik Park Pavilion **Address:** Fischer Place/Joe

Dimaggio Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08610 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Edward Sytnik **Email:** edmendou@aol.com **Phone:** 609-758-2326 **Website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/hamiltonchessclub/> **TLAID:** 35704

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

12th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13th annual Washington Chess Congress (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW YORK

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

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.

SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023

145th annual New York State Championship (NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023

9th annual Central New York Open (NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

12th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13th annual Washington Chess Congress (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ NORTH CAROLINA

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess (TN) Tournament

See Tennessee.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

Coastal Carolina Open

Event site: Jacksonville Station Address: 1300 N. Marine Blvd., Jacksonville, NC 28546 Overall prize fund: \$1,750 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jacksonville Chess Club Email: jacksonvillechess@gmail.com Phone: 9105465250 Website: https://jacksonvillechess.teamapp.com/custom_pages/12698-coastal-carolina-open?_detail=v1 TLA ID: 38315

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

◆ OHIO

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

16th annual Indianapolis Open (IN)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

32nd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

JULY 21-23, 2023

24th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic

Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Address: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/TLAID:38205>

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament

Event site: Sheraton Bucks County Langhorne Address: 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA, 19047 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/TLAID:38204>

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 22, 2023

August Quick Quads

Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/usc/august-quick-2023> TLA ID: 37212

AUGUST 22, 2023

August Blitz

Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: \$475 gtd GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/usc/august-quick-2023> TLA ID: 37213

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023

145th annual New York State Championship (NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023

9th annual Central New York Open (NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ RHODE ISLAND

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13th annual Washington Chess Congress (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ SOUTH CAROLINA

JULY 8, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision X (SC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 19, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision XI (SC)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Columbia Tunnelvision XII (SC)

See Grand Prix.

◆ TENNESSEE

JULY 9-13, 2023

Charlotte Norm Super Swiss (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 15, 2023

2023 Clinton H. Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer Open Chess Tournament

Event site: Fair Park Senior Center, Cumberland County Community Complex Address: 11398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN 38555 Overall prize fund: \$1,700 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Cumberland County Chess Club Email: cumberlandcountychessclub@gmail.com Phone: (931) 200-9038 Website: <http://www.cumberlandcountychessclub.org> TLA ID: 37614

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023 Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

JULY 28-30, 2023

2nd Annual Nashville Summer Classic

Event site: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel Address: 2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville, TN 37228 Overall prize fund: \$6,500 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Todd Andrews Email: nashvillechess@gmail.com Phone: 6292544737 Website: <https://ncc.clubexpress.com/> TLA ID: 38155

◆ TEXAS

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 14-16, 2023

6th Annual Queen City of the Prairie Open including Tarrant County & Fort Worth Championships (TX)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ UTAH

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

◆ VERMONT

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

◆ VIRGINIA

JULY 14-16, 2023

2023 Charlotte Summer Open (NC)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 28-30, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Grand Prix.

JULY 29, 2023

The 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic Scholastic Tournament (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

JULY 29, 2023

Action at the 1st Annual Pennsylvania Classic (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open

Event site: Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel Herndon Address: 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA 20170 Overall prize fund: See TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/TLAID:38385>

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship

Event site: Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel Herndon Address: 2200 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA 20170 Overall prize fund: Trophies GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: josh@dmvchess.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/TLAID:38386>

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

55th annual Atlantic Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 20-22, 2023

13th annual Washington Chess Congress (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

27th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WASHINGTON

JULY 21-23, 2023

27th annual Pacific Coast Open (CA-S)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2023

33rd annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 23, 2023

#166 3 Tables Chess 07.23.2023

Invitational w Aleksandr Lenderman (IN)

See Indiana.

AUGUST 4-6, 2023

The 2nd Annual Beltway Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 5, 2023

Saturday Night Action at the Beltway Open (VA)

See Virginia.

AUGUST 5, 2023

2nd Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship (VA)

See Virginia.

WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

31st annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

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MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PROGRAM

(MAP)

US Chess gratefully acknowledges the support of our our Affiliates and Members and offers congratulations to these 2021 MAP Winners. Look for an upcoming article about the winners in Chess Life.

Name	State	Count	Name	State	Count	Name	State	Count
Overall Affiliate Standings			State Chapter Affiliate Standings			Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings		
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSOC	NY	1,666	WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	269	CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSOC	NY	483
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	332	MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	113	BAY AREA CHESS	CA	295
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	279	MINNESOTA STATE CHESS ASSOC	MN	44	WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	194
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	269	MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	33	NEW ENGLAND CHESS SCHOOL	MA	157
CHESSPALACE	CA	218	IOWA STATE CHESS ASSOC	IA	29	CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	143
NEW ENGLAND CHESS SCHOOL	MA	160	OREGON CHESS FEDERATION	OR	28	CHESSPALACE	CA	142
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	156	MARYLAND CHESS ASSOC	MD	27	CINCINNATI SCHOLASTIC CHESS	OH	112
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	153	PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	18	BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	108
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	151	MAINE CHESS ASSOCIATION	ME	17	CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	96
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER	NY	145	ARKANSAS CHESS ASSOCIATION	AR	14	HAMPTON ROADS CHESS ASSOC	VA	96

Small State Affiliate Standings

ENDGAME CHESS	NM	25
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	22
KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	NH	20
MAINE CHESS ASSOCIATION	ME	17
LIKENS CHESS	SD	9
HAWAII PHOENIX CHESS	HI	7
WVSCA	WV	7
OMAHA CHESS COMMUNITY	NE	4
HARRISON COUNTY CHESS CLUB	WV	4
NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOC	ND	3

Adult Membership Standings

CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSOC	NY	1,183
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	183
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	119
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER	NY	109
VEGAS CHESS FESTIVALS	NV	82
CHESSPALACE	CA	76
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	71
SOUTH MIAMI CHESS CLUB	FL	47
TWIN KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB	MI	47
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	45
DOWNRIVER CHESS CLUB	LA	45

Member Standings

CARTER LARSON	NC	1
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PCT GAIN STANDINGS

State	Dec20	Dec21	PCT
DE	148	423	185.81
ND	64	130	103.13
MT	87	127	45.98
AR	193	274	41.97
SD	59	81	37.29
OK	358	482	34.64
WY	52	68	30.77
LA	409	511	24.94
IA	413	511	23.73
NE	221	273	23.53



CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

7-Player Championship Events

2023 Golden Knights (Postal) | 2023 Electronic Knights (Email)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on order entries received. Players start in Preliminary round and qualify for Semi-final and then Final rounds based on scores in previous round. **ENTRY FEE:** \$25 per entry. Players can enter up to a maximum of 10 times per event. **PRIZES:** Prize fund of \$2300 based on 200 entries. \$10 correspondence chess gift certificate to players knocked out in Preliminary round.

7-Player Round Robins

Victor Palciauskas Tournament (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** \$5 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives a signed certificate.

4-Player Quads

John W. Collins Memorial (Postal) | Walter Muir E-Quads (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as double round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** \$10 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives \$25 correspondence chess gift certificate and signed certificate.

2-Player Matches (Postal or Email)

FORMAT: Players play either 2, 4, or 6 games against the same opponent. Selecting multiple options may facilitate faster pairings. Pairings based on ratings or players may name their own opponent. **ENTRY FEE:** \$5 per entry. **PRIZES:** None.

Two ways to enter:

- Visit us online at uschess.org
- Mail in the form below

GENERAL INFORMATION

- US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of all events.
- Postal events are open only to US Chess members who reside on the contiguous USA, Alaska, Hawaii or have an APO/ FPO postal address.
- Email events are open to all US Chess members with an accessible email account.
- ICCF Server events are open to all US Chess members with access to the ICCF internet based correspondence chess server and an ICCF account (free to create) in good standing.
- For events with groupings based on ratings, the following rating classes will be used:
 - o Class A: 1800 and above
 - o Class B: 1500-1999
 - o Class C: 1200-1699
 - o Class D: 1399 and below
- If you do not have an existing correspondence rating, please estimate your playing strength when submitting your entry.
- Correspondence chess gift certificate prizes can be used on correspondence chess entries only. They cannot be used for membership renewals or at US Chess Sales.

Online entry and payment by credit card is available at new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess

Name _____ USCHESSID# _____ Est. Rating _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ E-mail _____

☐ Golden Knights EF: \$25 ☐ Palciauskas ICCF EF: \$5 ☐ Muir ICCF Quad EF: \$10 2-player matches, EF: \$5 per entry, see above for options

☐ Electronic Knights EF: \$25 ☐ Collins Quad EF: \$10 Postal Match: 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 6 ☐ Email Match: 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 6 ☐

☐ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated (note that this may slow down your assignment).

Make checks payable to US CHESS and mail to: US Chess Correspondence Chess, PO Box 775308, St. Louis, MO 63177

Classifieds

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Wanted

CHESS-PLAYER SCHOLARS

in top 10% of high school class with USCF > 2000 and SAT (math + reading + writing) > 1400 for possible college scholarships to UMBC. Prof. Alan Sherman, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County, 21250. sherman@umbc.edu.

Solutions

PAGE 15 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 40. ... Kg5 and ... Bg6-h5-g4 mate. **PROBLEM 2.** 32. Bh6+! Nxh6 33. Qh8+ and 34. Rf6 mate. **PROBLEM 3.** 40. Be2! threatens Be2-h5+ and mates, e.g. 40. ... Nf6 41. Bh5+ Nxh5 42. Qg5+ Kh7 43. Qxh5 mate. **PROBLEM 4.** 31. b5! cxb5 32. c6+! Kxc6 33. Qf3+ and Black resigned in light of 33. ... Kd7 34. Qb7 mate. Alternatively, if 32. ... Ka8 33. d7. **PROBLEM 5.** White wins with 23. a3! Bc5 23. Qc3! and 23. ... f6 24. Qxc4 or 23. ... Ne6 24. Rxc5! Qxc5 25. Bxe6. **PROBLEM 6.** 59. c5? drew after 59. ... bxc5 60. bxc5 a5 reached a book draw — 61. c6 a4 62. c7 a3 63. c8=Q a2. But either 59. Ke3! or 59. Ke2! win, e.g. 59. ... Kb3 60. c5. Or 59. ... a5 60. c5 and now 60. ... bxc5 61. b5! or 60. ... a4 61. cxb6 a3 62. c7 a2 63. c8=Q a1=Q 64. Qh8+ followed by Qh8xa1+.

PAGE 49 ABCS OF CHESS

PROBLEM 1. Mating net: White mates in two: **1. Qa2+ Kb8 2. Qa7 mate.** **PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** It's mate in two: **1. Bg6+ Kg8 2. Qh7 mate.** **PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** White wins in two with **1. Be6+ Ke8 2. Qd7 mate.** **PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** White wins in two moves: **1. Qh7+ Kf8 2. Qxf7 mate.** **PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** White mates in two: **1. Ng3+ Kf6 2. Bc3 mate.** **PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** It's over in two: **1. Qa7+ Kc6 2. d5 mate.**

PAGE 53 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 10. Qa4!, Black resigned. Shockingly Black has no decent moves; for instance, 10. Qa4 Kf7 (after 10. ... Kf8 11. Nxd6 the knight cannot be recaptured because of Bd2-b4) 11. Nxd6+ Qxd6 12. Ne5+ followed by Bd2-b4. (Laurent-Paoli – Hasenohr, Basel, 2023) **TACTIC 2. 11. Nxf7! Rxf7 12. dxc5!** This was the point behind the previous move. Black's knight only has one square and Black's king is now also more vulnerable. **12. ... Nc4 13. Ng5! Nce5 14. Ne6!** Oh yes, the queen is also out of good squares. **14. ... Qa5 15. Bd2 Qa6 16. Nc7** and **Black resigned** in Li Di – Tabuenca Mendaaurigoitia, La Roda, 2023. **TACTIC 3. 25. ... Bxf4!, White resigned.** This isn't Black's only good move, but it ends everything with a flourish. A possible continuation was 26. Rxd8 (alternatives: 26. exf4 Rxd5 27. Rxd5 Qe1 mate; or 26. e4 Rxd5 27. Rxd5 Qc7 and Black is winning) 26. ... Rxd8 27. Rxd8 Qxd8 and Black wins because of White's back rank. (Livaic – Boyer, Southend, 2023) **TACTIC 4. 19. ... Nc6!** This simple move is enough to make White's sandcastle collapse. The problem is the f3-square and White's inability to keep it guarded, along with all the pieces Black can hit from there is a couple of moves. **20. Kg2** If 20. Nxc6 Nf3+ 21. Kh1 (or even worse 21. Kf1 Nxh2+) 21. ... Nxe1 22. Nd4 Qxf2 and Black is winning. **20. ... Nxd4** and **White resigned.** He will end up a piece

down. (Henriquez Villagra – Cordova, Mexico City, 2023) **TACTIC 5. 19. Bg5!** White is not in a rush; Black's king is not going anywhere, and the defenders are not likely to arrive in time anyway. Therefore, there's no need for 19. Bxh6? gxh6 20. Rxh6+ and Black is able to defend after 20. ... Kg7 21. Qd2 (or 21. Rahl Rh8) 21. ... f4 22. Rf6 Qh5 and Black survives. **19. ... Ng8 20. Rahl** Adding more fuel to the fire. White's attack is warming up and soon the decisive breakthrough will happen whether Black likes it or not. **20. ... Rac8 21. Qd2! Ne7** It was better to play 21. ... Qg6, but even then, after 22. Bxh6 Nxh6 23. Rxh6+ gxh6 24. Rxh6+ Kg7 25. Rgx6+ Kxg6 26. dxc5 bxc5 27. Qf4 White has a decisive advantage. **22. Rxh6+ gxh6 23. Bf6+ Or 23. Rxh6+ 23. ... Kg8 24. Rxh6 Ng6 25. Qg5** and **Black resigned.** The computer is announcing a forced mate. (Vallejo Pons – Anton Guijarro, Chessable Masters, 2023) **TACTIC 6. 19. Nxf6!** Let's rip the robes off his majesty. It quickly becomes apparent that he is naked. **19. ... gxf6** Of course, 19. ... Qxf6 20. Qxd5+ is worse. **20. Qh5+ Kg8 21. Re3!** The queen needs backup, and it is easily available. **21. ... h6 22. Qg6+ Bg7 23. Re7 Rh7 24. Bxh6** and **Black resigned** in Praggnanandhaa – Giri, Chessable Masters, 2023. **TACTIC 7. 16. e4! dxe4 17. fxe4 cxd4** Otherwise, White's central pawns will continue forward. **18. Rxf6!** Boom! All of a sudden, White's pieces will flood Black's kingside which is painfully vulnerable. **18. ... gxf6 19. Nh5** Threatening a nasty fork on f6. **19. ... Qb5 20. Nxf6+ Kh8 21. Nxe8 Rxe8 22. cxd4 Nd8 23. Qf3, Black resigned.** White has won material, Black's kingside is in shambles and White's pieces look wonderful. (Sivuk – Yakubbaeva, Tashkent, 2023) **TACTIC 8. 17. c4!!** The game continuation was **17. Ng5? Qf6??** (Black should have played 17. ... h6 18. Bh7+ Kh8 19. Be4 N7f6 20. Bxf8 hxg5 when White is much better but Black can fight) **18. Bxh7+ Kh8 19. Qg3 Re8 20. Qh4** and **Black resigned** in Espinosa Aranda – Plaskett, La Nucia, 2023. **17. ... N5b6** Or 17. ... bxc3 e.p. 18. Reb1 (Black's queen is trapped) 18. ... f5 19. Rxb2 cxb2 20. Rb1 and White is winning. **18. Ng5** Now Black has no meaningful way to continue the battle. **TACTIC 9. 15. Qc1!** All of a sudden, it becomes clear that Black's activity on the queenside is a problem for Black and not for White. **15. ... Qa4??** Black panics and blunders. It was better to play 15. ... Bb2 when 16. Qc5 Na6 17. Qxa3 Bxa3 18. Ne5 Nb8 19. Rab1 leads to a clear advantage for White. **16. Bd1 Qb5 17. a4** Now Black loses material. The rest is basically desperation. **17. ... Qd3 18. Ra3 Qxe4 19. Re1 Qxd5 20. Bxb4 Rfc8 21. Qe3 e6 22. Rd3 Qc4 23. Rxd7 Qxb4 24. Rxf7** and **Black resigned** in Jumabayev – First, La Roda, 2023.

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MY BEST MOVE

MALIK CASTRO-DEVARONA

PRESIDENT, HOWARD
UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB



“... we all understood the universal language of checks and captures.”



I STARTED PLAYING CHESS when I was in kindergarden. It was the only time my parents could get me to sit still! I played in scholastic tournaments through fifth grade, but I put the game down in middle school, not really picking it back up until the COVID-19 pandemic.

When I moved from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., to attend college at Howard University, I joined the Howard Chess Club, becoming enthusiastically engaged in the local chess scene. In my freshman year I spent a lot of time at a McDonalds near campus where a group of HU graduates would play cards and chess. Every night I'd stop by after classes and test my mettle against these players, and they were tough! On weekends I would play at Dupont Circle, and there I found a chess melting pot. Not all of my opponents spoke English, but we all understood the universal language of checks and captures.

I became president of the Howard club in my sophomore year, and today I'm a junior political science major. I've competed twice in the Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championship for the Howard team, and in April I won the Inaugural HBCU Chess Classic with a perfect score of 5/5! My best game, and the biggest win of my chess career thus far, came at the 2023 Pan-Ams in January.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B90)

Nagrprasad Rudrapatna (1719)
Malik Castro-DeVarona (1266)
Pan-Ams U1800 (1), 01.06.2023

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. a4 e5 7. Nb3 Be7 8. Be2 Be6 9. Bf3 h5 10. h3 Nbd7 11. Be3 a5 12. Qd3 Rc8 13. Qb5 b6

Here I missed the killer 13. ... Bc4!, winning material after 14. Qxa5 b6 15. Qa7 Ra8 16. Qb7 Ba6 17. Qc6 Rc8 18. Bxb6 Rxc6 19. Bxd8 Bxd8. Of course, this is very hard to see over-the-board.

14. Nd2 g6 15. Be2 Qc7 16. f4 Nh7 17. 0-0 f5 18. Kh1 Nhf6 19. g3 Nxe4 20. Ndxex4 fxe4 21. Kh2 Bc4

Now White slips up.

22. Bxb6? Bxb5 23. Bxc7



23. ... Bxe2!

This is **MY BEST MOVE**! My opponent had calculated 23. ... Rxc7 24. axb5, but capturing the bishop gave me a key intermezzo as the c7-bishop lacks time to escape, lest I grab the f1-rook. Now I emerge up a clean bishop.

24. Nxe2 Rxc7 25. Nc3 exf4 26. Rxf4 Rf8 27. Rxe4 Ne5 28. Re2 Kd7 29. Rd1 Nc6 30. Nd5 Rb7 31. b3 Rf5 32. Nf4 Re5 33. Red2 g5 34. Nxh5 Rb4 35. g4 Rbe4 36. Ng3 Re1

37. Rxe1 Rxe1 38. Nf5 Ne5 39. Kg3 Rg1+ 40. Kf2 Rh1 41. Kg3 Bf8 42. Rd5 Rg1+ 43. Kf2 Rc1 44. Ne3 Nc6 45. Rd2 Ke6 46. Nc4 d5 47. Ne3 Bc5 48. Re2 Nd4 49. Re1 Nxc2

I was happy with this move. The rook cannot be taken unless White wants to allow his last pieces to be traded off.

50. Re2 Bxe3+ 51. Kf3 d4 52. Ke4 Nb4 53. h4 gxh4

I missed mate in three. Can you find it?

54. Rh2 Re1 55. Kf3 Rf1+ 56. Ke2 Rf2+ 57. Rxf2 Bxf2 58. Kxf2 d3 59. Kf1 Kf6 60. g5+ Kxg5 61. Ke1 Kf4 62. Kd2 Kg3 63. Kc3 h3 64. Kc4 h2 65. Kb5 h1=Q 66. Kxa5 d2 67. Kxb4 d1=Q 68. a5 Qb7+ 69. Kc4 Qc1+ 70. Kd4 Qd7+, White resigned.

Chess was the first endeavor I ever really committed myself to, and it has brought me a lot of happiness and fulfillment. The friendships I've made through the game have been equally rewarding. My exposure to collegiate chess, and seeing the underrepresentation of Black chess players in the HBCU environment and more broadly at the Pan-Ams, drives me to grow the game at HBCUs and for Black youth more generally. ♠

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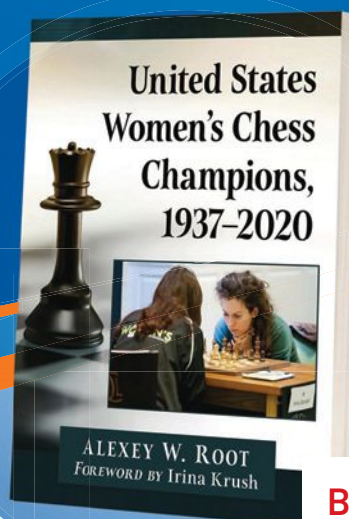
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