

SENIOR, JUNIOR, GIRLS' JUNIOR ■ SENIOR TEAMS ■ WORLD OPEN

CHESSLIFE

OCTOBER 2024
USChess.org

Senior Power
Akopian wins U.S.
Senior; medals for
Americans in Krakow

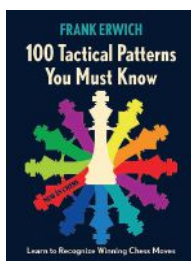
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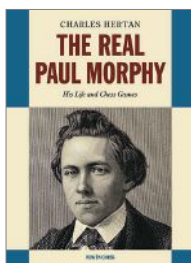
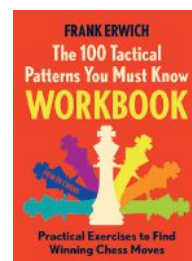


100 Tactical Patterns You Must Know *Frank Erwich*

The long-awaited middlegame companion to the bestseller *100 Endgames You Must Know*. Experienced chess trainer Frank Erwich teaches the most frequent and easy-to-learn tactical patterns. The book offers clear, concise, and easy-to-follow chess tactics instruction, ideal for post-beginners, club players, and candidate masters.

Practical exercises to spot the key moves *Frank Erwich*

The workbook that offers over 500 exercises to accompany the *100 Tactical Patterns You Must Know*. Erwich not only identified the most important tactical patterns, he also collected hundreds of exercises to help you train them. The workbook can be used as a stand-alone training tool since each pattern is summarized.

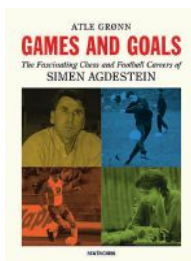
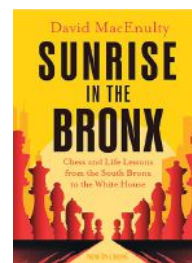


Life and games of Paul Morphy *Charles Hertan*

A comprehensive modern biography that delves deep into Morphy's fascinating career, unearthing new information about his origins, intertwined with an in-depth exploration of his games, often overturning more than 160 years of previous analysis. Hertan uses his experience as a professional psychotherapist to shed new light on Morphy's tragic mental deterioration and also examines the state of chess before Morphy.

Chess and Life Lessons *David MacEnulty*

David MacEnulty dared to dream big. In the 1990s he became a pioneer of chess in the public schools of the Bronx. The obstacles were formidable – poverty, crime, racism, and ignorance. Yet, MacEnulty and his students defied all expectations. In *Sunrise in the Bronx*, MacEnulty describes his transformative journey from fumbling substitute teacher to legendary chess coach.

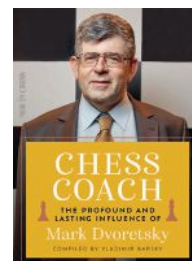


Simen Agdestein: A unique double talent *Atle Grøn*

At the age of eighteen, Simen Agdestein became the youngest grandmaster in the world. He reached his peak as the world's number 12. His talent extended to football, where he played for the Norwegian national team. "I can't choose between my left and my right arm", he once remarked, referring to his passion for both chess and football.

The profound influence of Mark Dvoretsky *Vladimir Barsky*

When Mark Dvoretsky started coaching, he became a kind of doctor, quickly identifying what his students needed help with. He made them better chess players, but also better people. In this book, students such as Yusupov, Kasparov, Anand, Topalov and Carlsen, to name but a few, pay tribute to the most inspiring chess coach of his generation.

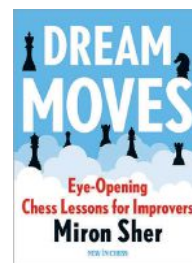


Looking for the unexpected *Natasha Regan & Matt Ball*

The first-ever comprehensive guide to the chess tactic also known as the intermediate move, or intermezzo. This exciting manoeuvre can catch opponents off guard because it is against the expected run of play. You will learn how to spot zwischenzugs, when to look out for them, and how to set them up in your games. On Chessable, the course was awarded 4.82 out of a five stars.

Eye-Opening Lessons for Improvers *Miron Sher*

Legendary chess coach Miron Sher, who trained GMs Robert Hess and Fabiano Caruana, collected hundreds of instructive positions for his students. This book focuses on five topics that Sher considered important for chess improvement, including Dream Moves. If you can dream about the final, decisive move that leads to a winning position, you will find your way there.

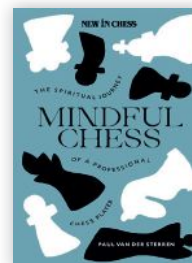


Murder at the North Sea Chess Tournament *Fred Das & Jeroen Terlingen*

For the first time, a player from North Korea takes part in the North Sea Tournament, as well as a cheating Italian, an Icelandic womaniser, a Tunisian fundamentalist and a Dutch talent. The plot thickens when an American player is found dead. This story draws inspiration from the real-life experiences of a sponsor involved in the Tata Steel tournament for over a decade.

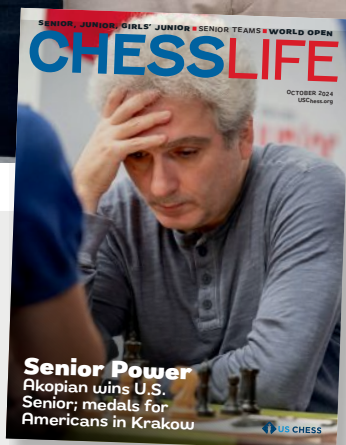
Mindful Chess *Paul van der Sterren*

Van der Sterren was a professional chess player for more than twenty years. He met with both victory and defeat, joy and suffering. When, later in life, he discovered vipassana meditation, he approached meditation with the same devotion as his chess. In only 128 pages, the reader follows his two journeys, asking questions such as: What is chess? What is meditation? Who am I?





Our happy champions,
left to right: Yoo, Lee,
and Akopian.



ON THE COVER

So much attention is paid to the up-and-comers, but our senior stars can still play too. This month's cover features GM Vladimir Akopian, who won his first U.S. Senior title this July in St. Louis. We also bring you news from the World Senior Team Championships, where Team USA brought home the 50+ gold and a total of three medals!

PHOTOGRAPH BY LENNART OOTES

CHESSLIFE

October

14 EVENTS WORLD SENIOR TEAMS

Heavy Hardware

Three U.S. senior teams bring back medals from Krakow.

BY JULIE O'NEILL

22 EVENTS WORLD OPEN

Eight is Enough!

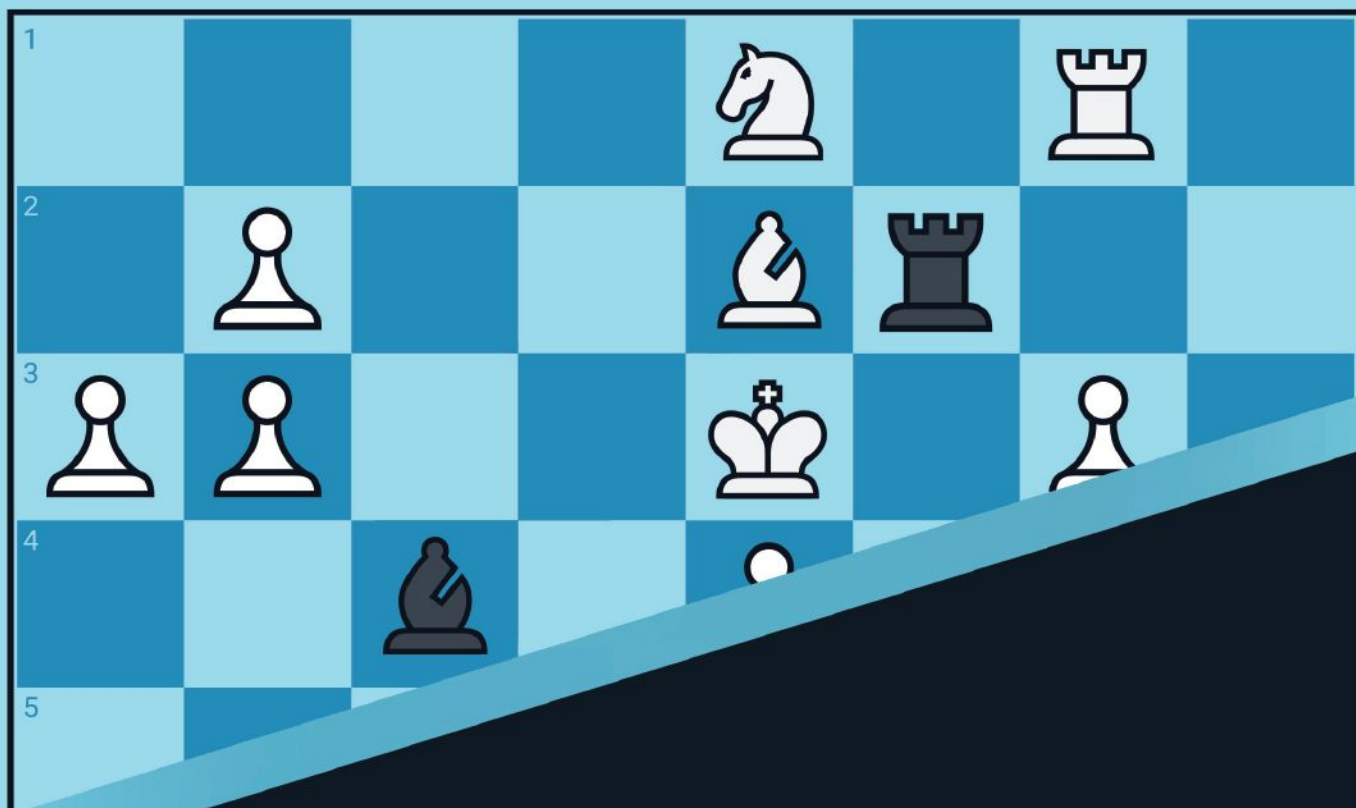
Awonder Liang wins 2024 World Open by a full point at 8/9.

BY GM AWONDER LIANG

32 COVER STORY SMOOTH SAILING AND ROUGH VOYAGES

Favorites rule, but underdogs impress at the U.S. Senior, Junior, and Girls' Junior Championships.

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ADDITIONAL ANNOTATIONS BY
IM ALICE LEE AND
GM CHRISTOPHER YOO



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CHESSLIFE

October

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CONTRIBUTORS



GM JOEL BENJAMIN

(Cover Story) 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 he 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.



JULIE O'NEILL

(Senior Teams) returns to the pages of *Chess Life* after becoming its first woman editor in 1989!

Originally from San Diego, and now residing in Arizona, she has written widely, and worked in the most varied fields you can imagine. She is delighted to see seniors, and senior women in particular, getting their moment in the chess spotlight!



GM AWONDER LIANG

(World Open) was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 2003, and has lived there his whole life. Currently

attending the University of Chicago, he is a two-time world youth chess champion, as well as creator and keeper of many youth records. He qualified for the 2024 U.S. Championship as the top American at the 2024 U.S. Open.



RICK MASSIMO

(In Passing) is the assistant editor for US Chess publications. This is his first piece for *Chess Life*. As a

Rhode Island native, he had the pleasure of playing Lou Giarrusso many times. He's the author of two books; he's also working on a novel about a fictional ex-Soviet master, and he lives in Washington, D.C.

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**Youngest-Ever USA
Female to Earn the IM Title!**

Alice Lee

"I'd like to thank the U.S. 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."



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

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COUNTERPLAY

TIME OUT

I'm writing to appeal to tournament organizers to standardize time controls.

In the good old days before digital clocks, there were fewer time controls (often 40/2 followed by SD/1) and no increments or delays.

For players, it was easy to pace oneself and not have to plan "strategic toilet breaks" (as coined by Joel Benjamin). Setting the clock for the game also took only 10 seconds and required assistance from nobody.

For tournament directors, it was easy to plan the timing of rounds to facilitate pairings (as the games would always be completed within six hours and not drag on with players playing on increments) and also not waste their valuable time setting digital clocks for participants requiring assistance.

For spectators, there would usually be some interesting time scrambles (I remember watching Walter Browne do remarkable things here).

Just because something can be done, doesn't mean it should be done.

Now we have seemingly infinite time controls, along with increments and delays, and therein lies the problem. As a player, it's difficult to adjust to different time controls at different tournaments. Setting the clock (for guys like me anyway) requires the assistance of an assistant TD or the nearest 10-year-old, and can take 40 seconds to two minutes even for them. I was recently at a tournament where even the 10-year-olds were in a long line for assistance.

Let's get back to standardized time controls of 40/2,

SD/60 without the increments/delays. If classical time controls (with analog clocks) were good enough for all the world champions from Steinitz to Kasparov, they are certainly good enough for us.

As an aside, the world doesn't operate on increments/delays. When a university exam is scheduled for two hours, at the end of two hours the instructor says "pencils down" (or more likely "hit submit and laptops closed"). They don't ask you to count how many words you wrote down and award you an extra 10 seconds for each word or sentence. Sporting events don't award extra time based on how many shots on goal a team registered. In the business world, when the deadline expires, it's over.

I think this topic should be open for a lively debate and organizers should welcome all views on the subject.

Brian Fiedler
via email

TIP OF THE BERET

Just a note to tell you that JJ Lang was really rolling with his "Firouza Stomps" final wrap-up on *Chess Life Online*. I am starting to closely look at his notes all the time!

Jude Acers
via email

ERRATA

Luis Salinas was assistant director of the chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas. We gave his title incorrectly in the September issue; we apologize for the error, and we thank Dr. Alexey Root, WIM for pointing it out.

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

Louis Giarrusso

1923-2024

BY RICK MASSIMO

AT THE BOARD AND AWAY FROM IT, Lou Giarrusso kept moving.

Lou passed away Sept. 9 at 101. He was the oldest active player in US Chess, having played in six tournaments this year, the last one in April.

Louis Giarrusso was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1923 and moved to Providence, Rhode Island, at age 9. He served at Leyte and Okinawa — two of the most horrific battles of World War II — and spent three months as part of the U.S. occupation force in Japan. When he returned, he got married, went to college and worked for General Electric for 39 years, converting manual offices to computer-based workplaces.

He didn't start playing chess until he was 40, but he managed to put together a lifetime of experience anyway.

In an interview conducted a couple of weeks before his passing, he said he got interested in the game in 1963, when he saw a picture in James DiDomenico's column in the *Providence Journal*. The game looked "old," he said from his home in Cranston, Rhode Island, and inspired him to think, "Now why in the world would you be looking at something that's very old and trying to figure out [the] problem?" He started going to the Rhode Island Chess Club, in Providence, and he was a constant presence on the Rhode Island chess scene for decades, especially at the Cranston-Warwick Chess Club, which moved to East Providence upon reopening after the pandemic.

"He's a fixture at our club," Mark Neale, president of the East Providence club, said in August. "I think he's been going there longer than I have. If he's not there, everyone's worried, and we want to go check on him."

It was never difficult to spot Lou in a tournament room, with his omnipresent baseball cap (often one commemorating his fellow veterans) and quick, beaming smile. It's also difficult to forget the way he



combined his will to win with his friendly, gentlemanly conduct, neither quality yielding to the other.

"He wants to win," Frank DelBonis, of Ocean State Chess, said during a conversation in August. "He's not just there for moral support." But even after a loss, DelBonis added, Lou's sportsmanship was "at the top level. He makes you feel like he's happy that you won. I'm sure he's not, but he's always got something nice to say."

Neale agreed: "He's always friendly; he's the most humble player, win or lose. I think maybe that's also the secret to a long life: It's just a game."

Lou's computer background showed in his take on chess, which he described as "an incomplete problem that constantly needs to be solved." Referring to the statistic that claims the number of possible chess games is equal to 1 with 120 zeroes after it, he said, "I'm not hitting 120, [but] I feel that I'm there to help solve it."

In this 2014 game sportingly provided by Mark Neale, Lou, 91 at the time, was up against an opponent rated nearly 300 points higher who only needed a draw to take clear

first. The game went back and forth, but thanks to some alert tactical play on the attack and in defense, Lou came out on top.

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C55)

Louis Giarrusso (1371)

Mark Neale (1742)

December Monthly (4), Cranston, 12.23.2014

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7
5. d4 d6 6. d5 Na5 7. Be2 b6 8. 0-0 0-0
9. h3 h6 10. Bd2 Nb7 11. Be3 Nc5 12. Bxc5
bxc5 13. Bc4 Nh7 14. a3 f5





Left: Scenes from the 2023 and 2024 celebrations in Lou's honor. Right: Lou in 2017 (and 1943) heading off on a Honor Flight.

**c3 d4 48. cxd4
cxd4 49. Ke4 g5
50. Kxd4 Kf5 51.
Ke3 g4 52. Rh1
c5 53. Rxh5+,
Black resigned.**

Lou also remained physically active — his daughter, Patricia Giarrusso, says he was driving himself to the gym three times a week until this spring.

All that activity and good health paid off in many ways: Despite being in his late 90s, Lou was able to spend nearly two years caring for his wife, Louise, who was able to stay at home before she passed away in 2022 after 73 years of marriage.

Then Lou returned to the game he loved, and to the chess community that loved him.

"Lou's special," DelBonis said. "Everyone loves Lou."

He wasn't kidding. In 2023, Ocean State Chess organized a tournament for Lou's centennial; it was the most-attended Rhode Island tournament of the year. This year, what could they do but hold another one? And it's the most-attended Rhode Island tournament of this year so far.

Lou said the centennial tournament was "very satisfying," but he couldn't play in this year's edition because "I was involved in too many things" — his way of referring to his health problems.



But he hadn't given up. "My big aim is to become completely done from other things and get into chess again," he said.

In the meantime, he played occasional 10-minute games online (that computer background again) and plotted his return to the game that kept him young — it was very common for people meeting Lou for the first time to underestimate his age by a good 20 years.

Wayne Powers, who came up with the idea for the centenary tournaments, said that Lou once told him "He sat down at his house and watched TV for a few hours and said, 'This doesn't feel right.' And he was 100 at the time. He's an inspiration."

If you knew him, he still is.

"Every time I've reached a new milestone in my age," Lou said, "when I got to be 80 and 90 — and when I got to be 100, wow — the question was 'What do you do to keep the longevity?' I have only one answer to that: Keep active. Don't sit down. If you do, you become a couch potato."

That goes for the brain too, doesn't it?

"It sure does." ♠

**15. Nxe5 Ng5 16. Ng6 Rf6 17. Nxe7+ Qxe7
18. exf5 Bxf5 19. Re1 Qf7 20. h4 Nh3+ 21.
gxh3 Rg6+ 22. Kh2 Bxh3 23. Qe2 Bg4 24.
Qe3 Rf6 25. Ne4 Rf3 26. Qd2 Rh3+ 27. Kg1
Rh1+ 28. Kxh1 Qf3+ 29. Kg1 Bh3 30. Bf1
Bxf1 31. Kxf1 Qh1+ 32. Ke2 Qxe4+ 33. Kd1
Qxh4 34. Qe2 Qd4+ 35. Kc1 Qxd5 36. Qe6+
Qxe6 37. Rxe6 Kf7 38. Re2 h5 39. Kd2 Re8
40. Rxe8 Kxe8 41. Rh1 g6 42. Ke3 Kf7 43.
Kf4 Kf6 44. Rg1 d5 45. b3 a5 46. a4 c6 47.**

Call For Nominations

2025 US Chess Executive Board Election

THE US CHESS FEDERATION (US CHESS) will hold an election in 2025 for four at-large positions on the Executive Board. The top four vote-getters will be elected for a term of four years expiring in 2029.

Any current US Chess member who is not a current US Chess employee or designated contractor (as defined in the US Chess by-laws) may be nominated for election to the Executive Board.

Nominations must be made by submitting a petition containing the signatures of 50 or more members of US Chess who are either registered or eligible to register to vote, and by paying a \$100 filing fee to the US Chess Federation.

The members signing the nomination petition must include at least 15 US Chess delegates (alternate delegates don't count) representing at least five states. Petitions and filing fees must be postmarked by Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. Send petitions and the filing fee to:

US Chess Federation
ATTN: Governance Coordinator
P.O. Box 775308
St. Louis, MO 63117

Petitions may also be submitted electronically to governance@uschess.org.

The nomination petitions must contain the dated signature, printed name, and US Chess ID number of each signer, and should contain the following text:

"We, the undersigned members of the US Chess Federation, nominate (candidate name goes here) as a candidate for election to the US Chess Executive Board in the 2025 election. We also consent to having our names and US Chess ID numbers published as having signed this petition."

A sample nomination form is available at www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/USChess_EB_ElectionPetitionForm_updated_nonfillable.pdf.

A fillable version of the same form is

available at www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/USChess_EB_ElectionPetitionForm_updated_fillable.pdf

Candidates must consent to be on the ballot either by signing their own nomination petition or by separate notice to US Chess.

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

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

NEW US CHESS BOARD

After the 2024 Delegates Meeting was completed on Aug. 4, 2024, the Executive Board elected the following officers:

PRESIDENT: KEVIN PRYOR
VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN FERNANDEZ
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE: CHUCK UNRUH
SECRETARY: MIKE HOFFPAUIR

Completing the nine-member board are:

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: RANDY BAUER
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: LEILA D'AQUIN
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: DAVID HATER
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: LAKSHMANA "VISH" VISWANATH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: RANAE BARTLETT

Please visit new.uschess.org/about/board for more information about the Board and its responsibilities.

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Changes to US Chess Memberships and Event Fees

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2025, US CHESS WILL implement revisions to its membership pricing structure and national event fees.

Chuck Unruh, vice president of finance at US Chess, says the increase in membership dues is necessary to maintain the financial health of the organization: “Over the last three years, US Chess was fortunate with more sponsored and endowed events and programs. Although the financial reports stated yearly surpluses, the operational side of the ledger faced challenges from rising costs in the economy.” The updated dues structure is designed to ensure that US Chess can sustain its operations, and retain staff, he said. “Budget forecasts indicate the increase in entry fees and membership dues leaves operations with a full staff and returns balance between mission costs and revenues in the next two years.”

Revised Membership Rates

The new membership rates will be as follows:

Adult: \$54 for one year, \$105 for two years (up from \$45 and \$87)

Senior: \$48 for one year, \$93 for two years (up from \$40 and \$77)

Young Adult: \$33 for one year, \$63 for two years (up from \$27 and \$51)

Youth: \$24 for one year, \$45 for two years (up from \$20 and \$37)

Family Plan 1: \$102 for one year (up from \$85)

Family Plan 2: \$66 for one year (up from \$55)

Special Blind or Incarcerated: \$22 for one year (up from \$18)

Life Membership: \$1,620, or \$810 for those over 65 (up from \$1,500 or \$750)

Blind Life Membership: \$405 (up from \$375)

National Event Fee Adjustments

Starting with the 2024 National K-12 Grade Championships in December, US Chess will make a significant change to the fee structure for players registering close to the start date of national events.

Several recent national events over the past two years have lost money despite breaking attendance records. Last-minute registrations create a domino effect: A surge in participants necessitates additional staff, leading to increased travel and hotel expenses for US Chess. More importantly, a significant rise in late entries requires more staffing and security regarding potential safety concerns for our young members and their families. This fee structure is designed both to encourage people to enter earlier and to allow US Chess to adjust for late entries to ensure best practices and safety at our national events.

Please note that the first early registration deadline for this December's National Grade Championship is **Monday, Oct. 21**. The entry fee is currently \$100, and it rises after the first deadline to \$150 for registrations postmarked by **Monday, Nov. 11**. Registration then rises to \$225 until **Monday, Nov. 25**, and again to \$350 until the final deadline of **Thursday, Dec. 5**.

Voucher Program Updates

Pricing rates for discounted pre-paid memberships have not been increased for several years, remaining constant even after the last membership dues change. The following increases are to make the program's pricing more proportional to the value of the standard Youth membership, and went into effect Sept. 1, 2024.

According to Director of Member Services

Korey Kormick, the Membership Voucher Program is the most economical way for schools and large tournament organizers to provide US Chess memberships to their participants. However, as an organization that requires membership for participation and that provides member services, the pricing of membership needs to be sufficient to fund the implementation and maintenance of those services. Due to this, the new rates are:

\$12 per membership for a minimum purchase of 300

\$15 per membership for a minimum purchase of 100

\$18 per membership for a minimum purchase of 25

These vouchers, valid for nine months, are intended for K-12 participants and must be claimed online. Resale at a higher cost is prohibited. Schools and organizers with an affiliate can purchase vouchers through the Purchase Group Memberships section in the Affiliate Actions menu.

Additional Membership Programs

US Chess offers travel grants and support for affiliates and Title I schools, such as 16 free US Chess youth memberships and eight sets of equipment for US Chess affiliates serving Title I School chess programs. This program, as well as others, can be found on the Grants and Awards page under the Education tab on the US Chess homepage. This page will soon be updated for the 2024-2025 school year.

For further questions about these changes, email the Membership Department at membership@uschess.org. 📧

Oh-Oh!

How much is castling really worth?

BY GM ANDY SOLTIS

T

HERE ARE QUESTIONS THAT serious players rarely ask, even if the answers might improve their play. For example: *How strong is a king?*

This has nothing to do with a king's "relative value." We know the old metric about a pawn being worth one point, a knight worth three points, and so on. That helps us evaluate a position and an exchange of pieces. But a king cannot be exchanged.

The real question to ask is: How powerful is the king in its prime time — the endgame? That's when it wins enemy pawns and promotes its own pawns.

If you frame the question that way, you can appreciate that a king is much stronger than a bishop or knight and is roughly as powerful as a rook. This insight can add rating points to anyone's endgame skill.

There's another rewarding question we never ask: *How valuable is castling?*

Castling is so natural we rarely wonder what chess would be like without it. When versions of Fischer Random and Chess960 began to catch on, players insisted on retaining castling.

HE DID WHAT!?

GM Levon Aronian
GM Leiner Dominguez Perez
Champions 9LX Showdown (3), St.
Louis, 09.14.2022

(see diagram top of next column)

When White castles queenside in these chess variants, the rule is basically the same: His king ends up on c1; the rook that began the game to its left lands on d1.

So **18. 0-0-0!** is legal: The a1-rook can go to d1, even though that square is attacked by Black's queen. This move also attacked the queen and led to a winning endgame



WHITE TO MOVE

after 18. ... Qc5 19. Qxc5.

Of course, the value of any piece or move depends on the position, so the practical question is: Does it pay to take unusual steps to deny your opponent the right to castle?

We can get one answer from a variation of the Grünfeld Defense (**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5**). It runs **4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bg5 Ne4!** and then **6. cxd5! Nxc5 7. Nxc5 e6!**.

White's knight is attacked. A main line used to go **8. Qd2 exd5** and then **9. Qe3+ Kf8**.



POSITION AFTER 9. ... Kf8

Black can no longer castle and will almost certainly spend tempi to complete his kingside development. But White gave him the bishop pair. Is it worth it?

This position was once thought to be a

major challenge to the Grünfeld. But more recent experience found fairly equal chances, after **10. Qf4 Bf6 11. h4 h6**, for instance.

OK, but what if there are no compensating factors for the loss of castling? That can come about this way: **1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. a4 g6** and now **7. Ra3!? Bg7 8. Re3+ Kf8**.

This occurred in an obscure Russian game between Pavel Ponkratov and Viacheslav Zakhartsov from Izhevsk in 2014. White's only concession is temporarily misplacing his rook and losing pawn control of the b4-square.



POSITION AFTER 8. ... Kf8

Black stood well after **9. Ra3 Na6 10. Nc3 Nb4 11. Bg2 b6 12. Nh3 Ng4 13. O-O**.



Instead of **13. ... h6** and an eventual **... Kf8-g8-h7**, he tried **13. ... h5?** and lost a spirited

QUIZ FOR OCTOBER

“IF I LOST 25 POUNDS I could beat anyone in the world,” a master named Abe Turner told the talk-show host Johnny Carson. Long before speed chess was considered respectable, the chubby Turner was one of its superstar hustlers. At classical time controls his victims included Bobby Fischer, in the tournament in which Bobby won the “Game of the Century.” This month’s quiz remembers Turner, who was born 100 years ago. In each of the six diagrams you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material. But watch out for forced checkmates. Solutions on Page 63.

PROBLEM 1

Abe Turner
Bobby Fischer



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2

Abe Turner
Larry Remlinger



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3

Abe Turner
Hugh Myers



WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4

Eliot Hearst
Abe Turner



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5

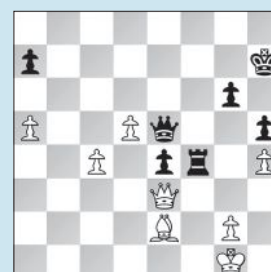
Gerald Schain
Abe Turner



BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6

Herbert Seidman
Abe Turner



BLACK TO MOVE

game after 14. Ng5 Ne5 15. Nce4 Bf5 16. f4 Nc4 17. Rc3!.

You can get your own answer to “How valuable is castling?” by asking your computer. Choose a popular opening position, such as 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. d3 Nf6 5. c3 d6.

This position is among the most common ways that elite GMs begin a game these days. White often castles here and Black often castles in reply. Then White rates a tiny plus.



POSITION AFTER 5. ... d6

But let’s take away White’s right to castle. How? By plugging in moves such as 6. Rg1

Nb8 7. Rh1 Nc6. The only change is White can no longer castle. Your computer may tell you Black now has a small advantage, around -0.20.

If you take away the castling right from both players — by inserting the moves 6. Rg1 Rg8 7. Rh1 Rh8 — White enjoys the same tiny plus as he did after 5. ... d6.

You can try this with other typical opening positions. It may seem counter-intuitive, but the loss of castling appears to count more in closed-center openings, such as after 1. c4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nf3 Nf6. If we take away White’s right (6. Rg1 Nc6 7. Rh1 Nb8) his chances seem to decline more than in the Giuoco Piano position.

What if we take away the castling right from both players at move one? Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik has championed this kind of no-castling chess. He said AlphaZero determined that White’s winning percentage was the same as in normal chess.

In fact, computers (and computer programmers) have tried for many years to quantify the value of castling. GM Larry Kaufman told me that in general the loss of the right to castle is somewhere between

one and two tempi in value. “So typically somewhat more than half a pawn, maybe about 0.6 pawn on average,” he said.

Kaufman, an authority on chess computers, said this makes the loss of castling a way to improve an Armageddon game. Under normal Armageddon rules, Black wins if the game is drawn. Experience indicates this is a significant advantage, even if White starts the game with extra time.

But if Black cannot castle, that edge is sharply reduced. “As far as I can tell with engines this is as close to balanced as we can ask for,” Kaufman added. “Then there is no need for time odds or bidding, and it works well even for classical time limits.”

He added, “Entire tournaments could be run with these rules if we want drawless chess!”

Did you know that Andy Soltis has a new book out? *Deadline Grandmaster: A Chess Memoir* is one autobiography you won’t want to miss. Find it at your favorite bookseller!

Heavy Lifting

There's more than one way to bring a rook into play.

BY **WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN**

T

HE ROOK LIFT IS MY ABSOLUTE favorite idea in chess. When I was 11 or 12 years old, my coach showed a position to

our group where White played Ra1-a3 with the idea of bringing the rook to the kingside. Although I don't remember the exact position, my excitement over this idea is a core memory from my youth days. To my young mind, this was the most brilliant concept imaginable on the 64 squares — foregoing the normal rules of development in order to attack. Even now, whenever the opportunity arises to play a rook lift, I find it difficult to resist the temptation. Given my enthusiasm for this topic, this column is obnoxiously going to include examples only from my own games.

ON THE ATTACK

Rook lifts are typically aggressive: The rook goes to either the second or third rank in order to assist with the attack. This is particularly powerful if the enemy king is already exposed. If the kings are castled on the same side, chances are the rook on that side of the board is already involved in the attack. Thus, swinging the rook from the other flank adds another powerful piece.

INTO THE ACTION

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2304)
Jussi Jakenberg (2019)
2024 Valencia Open (2), Spain,
07.07.2024

(see diagram top of next column)

27. Ra3!

This is the quickest way to bring the rook into the game. The e1-rook is already doing



BLACK TO MOVE

something — defending the e5-pawn. Playing Re1-f1, Ra1-e1 and then either Rf1-f3 or Re1-e3 would take three moves. This is faster, and from a3, the rook can swing to f3 to attack the f5-pawn or e3 to defend the e5-pawn if need be. The weakness of the black king is long-term, so bringing in the rook is useful for me, even if the king has enough defenders for now.

27. ... Rf8 28. c4

I didn't think the weakness of the f5-pawn weakness was enough for me to break through, so I wanted to open another file for my rooks.

28. ... dxc4 29. Qxc4 Rd8 30. Rf3

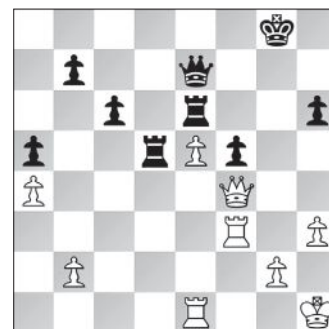
The rook is now putting pressure on the weak f5-pawn. I could have played 30. Rg3+, but I didn't see any benefit in it. The black king still has enough defenders.

30. ... Rd5 31. Qf4 Qe7

(see diagram top of next column)

32. Rfe3

32. Qxf5 wins a pawn, but there would be a lot of work still to do after 32. ... Rdxe5 33. Rxe5 Rxe5 34. Rg3+ Kh8 35. Qc8+ (35. Qg6



POSITION AFTER 31. ... Qe7

Qf8! annoyingly defends everything) 35. ... Qe8 36. Qxb7 Rg5. Thanks to the rook lift, I can rearrange my rooks to get a much better version of this.

32. ... Qh7 33. Rf1 Qe7 34. Qxf5 Rdx5 35. Rg3+ Kh8 36. Qf8+

Transitioning to a winning rook endgame.

36. ... Qxf8 37. Rxf8+ Kh7 38. Rf7+ Kh8 39. Rxb7

I'm up a clean pawn, while Black's king is a problem along with his three weak pawns.

39. ... Rg5 40. Rxc5 hxc5 41. Rb6 g4 42. hxc4 Re4 43. b3 c5 44. Rc6 Re3 45. Rxc5 Rxb3 46. Rxa5 Ra3 47. Kh2 Kg7 48. Ra6 Kh7 49. g3 Ra1 50. Kg2 Ra2+ 51. Kh3 Ra1, and Black resigned.

In the above example, I had two clear targets to focus on: an open king and a weak pawn. Rooks are extremely dangerous in both of these scenarios. Not every rook lift is so direct. It can be a way to double rooks on the kingside in preparation for a pawn break.

SWINGING OVER

FM Julian Landaw (2434)
WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2423)
Pacific Coast Open (3), Agoura Hills,
07.18.2015



BLACK TO MOVE

13. ... Ra6

A rook lift in the French! The idea is to prepare the typical ... f7-f6 pawn break. It is also clear that my opponent is trying to launch a quick attack against my king with ideas such as g2-g4-g5 or simply Qe2-c2, asking me how exactly I am going to defend against the mate threat.

Black can't play 13. ... f6 right away. White can play 14. Qc2 forcing 14. ... f5 (I'd like to play 14. ... Ne4, but the e6-pawn is hanging) and now the position looks scary for Black after 15. g4.

14. g4

Now that e6 is protected, 14. Qc2 is no longer a worry and can be met with 14. ... Ne4!.

White's most logical continuation is to play a rook lift of their own: After 14. Rh3!? the rook will go to g3, attacking the h-pawn. The white king can walk over to g1 where it will be safe, and then I will have to deal with the incoming threats with 14. ... f5 closing the diagonal of the b1-bishop. Otherwise, White was already threatening to take on h6. The position would then be unclear after 15. Rg3 (after 15. Bxh6 gxh6 16. Rg3+ Kh7 the king lives on as White lost access to key squares) 15. ... Kh8.

14. ... f6 15. exf6

The position gets messy, but Black should emerge on top after the most principled continuation 15. g5 fxe5 16. gxh6 exd4 17. hxg7 Rf7 followed by ... d4-d3, shutting down the light-squared bishop even at the cost of a pawn, and then playing ... e6-e5 and bringing the other rook over to the kingside. The game continuation lets me more clearly demonstrate the point of the rook lift.

15. ... Bxf6 16. g5 e5!

The opening of the position can only favor me, as my pieces are more active and I am better positioned for it.

17. Nf5 e4 18. gxf6 Raxf6



Finally, the rook joins its colleague on the

f-file. Most of White's pieces are on the first rank and his position will quickly fall apart.

19. Nxh6+

White is going to lose the piece back regardless — 19. N3d4 Ne5! 20. Ne3 Ned3+ wins material — so tries to create some weaknesses.

19. ... gxh6 20. Rg1+ Kh7

More logical was 20. ... Kh8 to avoid walking into a pin, but I'm still winning.

21. Nd4 Ne5 22. f4 Ncd3+

I am now attacking with a huge force. The white king won't survive for very long.

23. Kd1 Nxc1 24. Bxe4+ dxe4 25. Qxe4+ Bf5 26. Qxe5 Nd3 27. Qe2 Nxf4 28. Qf3 Ne6 29. Qxb7+ R8f7 30. Qb4 Nxd4 31. cxd4 Rd6, White resigned.

PLAYING DEFENSE

A rook is also a useful defensive piece. After castling short, the f-pawn is secured by one rook, but that rook can't defend the other pawns. The other rook can join the defense from the second or third rank from the queenside.

HOLDING ON

**FM Ruiyang Yan (2206)
WGM Tatevi Abrahamyan (2262)
U.S. Women's Ch (10), St. Louis,
10.16.2023**



BLACK TO MOVE

22. ... Rc6!

While my king looks perfectly safe, I was concerned about White's own rook lift idea: Rd1-d3 followed by threats against my king, such as the Ng4-f6+ sacrifice. If White's rook makes it to h3, I have no comfortable way of defending the h7-pawn.

23. Qd3

The position would remain complex after 23. Rd3 Nd4 24. Qh5 Ne2+ 25. Kf1 Qxc2 even though the whole sequence works out for me tactically.

23. ... d4 24. Qf5 Nc7 25. Rd3 Rg6

I was quite pleased with my rook as a defensive piece. I no longer have to worry about knight sacrifices on f6, as the g-file is secured. If my opponent decides to go after my h7-pawn by doubling on the h-file, I can play ... h7-h6 without fear.

26. h3 Ne6 27. h4

My opponent must have felt quite committed to her kingside play and now wants to displace my rook.

27. ... Qd5 28. b3 Qd8 29. Rh3 Qc8 30. Kh1?

This move lets me force a queen trade, leaving my opponent with too many pawn weaknesses.

30. ... Nc5 31. Nh2 Qxf5 32. Rxf5



32. ... Ne4

I actually should have played another powerful rook swing: 32. ... Ra6!, attacking a pawn that cannot be defended. After 33. Nf3 Ne6 White's queenside will start to fall.

33. Nf1 Rg4 34. Rhf3 Rxf4+

The rest of the game is irrelevant to our topic, but I did manage to win without any adventures.

35. Kg1 Nc5 36. Nd2 g6 37. R5f4 Rxf4 38. Rxf4 Ne6 39. Rf3 Rd8 40. Nc4 Rd5 41. Kf1 h5 42. Ke1 Nc5 43. Rf4 d3 44. Kd1 dxc2+ 45. Kxc2 Rd3 46. Nd6 Rg3 47. Rxf7 Rxf7 48. Kd1 h4 49. Rf3 g5 50. Nf5 Ne6 51. Ne7+ Kg7 52. Nf5+ Kh7 53. Ne3 Rg1+ 54. Kd2 Nf4 55. Nf1 Rg2+ 56. Ke3 Rxa2 57. Ke4 Kg6 58. Kd4 Re2 59. Ne3 h3 60. Rf1 h2 61. Rh1 Nh5 62. Ng4 Ng3 63. Rxh2 Re4+ 64. Kd5 Rxf4 65. Rg2 Nf5, White resigned.
Happy lifting! ♠



Heavy Hardware

Three U.S. senior teams bring back medals from Krakow.

BY JULIE O'NEILL



FOR THE FIRST TIME, US Chess sponsored three teams to represent our country at the World Senior Team Championships July 1-12, and all three teams returned from Krakow, Poland, with medals.

In the Open 50+ section, Team USA, an all-GM squad consisting of Jaan Ehvest, Alexander Shabalov, Melikset Khachiyan, Igor Novikov, and Alex Yermolinsky, won gold medals; the Women's 50+ team, comprising WGM Angelina Belakovskaia, WIM Beatriz Marinello, WFM Olga Sagalchik, WFM Natalia Tsodikova, and WFM Ivona Jezierska, captured the silver medal for women in the same section, and the Women's 65+ team (WIM Shernaz Kennedy, Julie O'Neill, Polly Wright, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, and Amy Nunn) brought home bronze medals for women in the 65+ section.

BRINGING HOME GOLD

Team USA was ranked first at the beginning of the tournament, and scored 8/9, but

three other teams had realistic chances at the Open 50+ gold: England and Iceland also fielded all-GM teams (with England, led by GM Michael Adams, taking the bronze), while Italy's team comprised three GMs and an IM, and took silver. In fact, Team USA lost to Italy in the fourth round and only beat England 1 in round five when Khachiyan won an endgame resulting from a quiet Italian Game on Board 3 against GM Glenn Flear.

Unfortunately, Yermolinsky fell ill after the second round and unexpectedly had to leave the tournament. Khachiyan explained how this impacted the team: "It is important to save energy since we have to play every round without a rest day. For example, knowing when to play for a draw and when to play for a win." Ehvest, who played Board 1, confirmed, explaining that he took a draw against Iceland's GM Johann Hjartarson in round seven because "When you play first board, you have a responsibility to keep balance. You probably don't want to take too many risks and you want to play solid."

Unity makes a team strong. According to Shabalov, "We are very good friends, and we support each other. We have known each

other for many years and the atmosphere between us is great." The men also have a good camaraderie with their opponents, many of whom they've known since their days as juniors.

Ehvest said his game against IM Graeme Buckley (England 2) in round six was interesting. "I used to play the Keres Attack when I was young and I think my opponent prepared for this opening. I played a little bit differently and I outplayed him."

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SCHEVENINGEN VARIATION (B81)

IM Graeme Buckley (2311)

GM Jaan Ehvest (2528)

World Senior Teams 50+ (6), Krakow, 07.07.2024

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. g4 h6 7. h4 Nc6 8. Rg1 h5 9. gxh5 Nxh5 10. Bg5 Nf6 11. Qd2 Qb6 12. Nb3 Bd7 13. 0-0-0 a6 14. Kb1 0-0-0 15. Rg3 Kb8 16. f4 Rc8 17. f5 Ne5 18. Be3 Qc7 19. Bg1 b5 20. fxe6 fxe6 21. Nd4 Qb7 22. Qe1 b4 23. Nce2 Nxe4 24. Rb3 a5 25. Bg2 Nc4 26. Nf4 d5 27. Ndx6 Bxe6 28. Nxe6 Re8 29. Bh2+ Bd6 30. Bxd6+ Ncxd6



31. Bh3

31. Bxe4 Nxe4 32. Ng5 Nc3+ 33. Qxc3 bxc3 34. Rxb7+ Kxb7 35. Nf7 keeps the position fairly level. But now Black takes over.

31. ... Rh6 32. a3 Rhxe6 33. Bxe6 Rxe6 34. axb4 a4 35. Rf3 Re8



36. Qf1

It's still tenable after 36. Qg1. Now it's all over.

36. ... Nc4 37. Qg2 Qxb4 38. c3 Ned2+ 39. Rxd2 Re1+ 40. Kc2 Qb3+ 41. Kd3 Ne5+, White resigned.

BRINGING HOME SILVER

The Women's 50+ team won silver with an even score and a roller coaster of results: They won their first-round match against Scotland, lost to second-ranked England 1 the following round (with Belakovskaia losing to super-GM Michael Adams on Board 1), then bounced back with a win against the Hungarian women's team before losing to USA Too, one of two unsponsored American teams in Krakow (see page 17).

The women continued to face tough opponents, losing narrowly to Canada. Belakovskaia took her only rest day in the sixth round against the Polish Amateurs, so the team's line-up included Jezierska, their alternate, who played in three rounds. Jezierska

Top: Ehvest, Shabalov, and Khachiyan smile for the cameras. Middle: the Women's 50+ team with swag bags and silver medals!

and Sagalchik had nice wins to pace the U.S. to another victory.

In the final round the women were paired against Ireland. One of the members of Ireland's team was unable to play and forfeited on Board 3, allowing the women to win the match as the three games that were played ended in draws. They finished a point behind women's gold medal-winner Estonia and a half-point ahead of England.

Beatriz Marinello said it was her first senior team event — "It was a very enjoyable tournament and it was an honor to represent the USA" — and added, "I like the fact that it encourages players who have not been active to return to chess as they can compete on an equal basis." She enjoyed bonding with the other women and sharing nightly team discussions.

Ivona Jezierska agreed: "I stopped playing chess in tournaments for quite a few years and when the possibility of playing here arose, I was very excited. I left Poland 44 years ago and I have not played in Poland until now." This was her key win the sixth round, which helped the team to a match victory:

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ALAPIN VARIATION (B22)

[WFM Ivona Jezierska \(2079\)](#)

[Olgiard Zielinski \(1913\)](#)

[World Senior Teams 50+ \(6\), Krakow, 07.07.2024](#)

[Annotations by WFM Ivona Jezierska](#)

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bf5 6. Be3 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Nxd4 8. cxd4 Nf6 9. Nc3 Qa5 10. Bc4 e6 11. Bb5+ Kd8



12. 0-0



At this point I was feeling pretty good — I am castled and my opponent's king is in the middle of the board. I also considered 12. d5 Bb4 13. O-O Ke7 14. a3 Bd6 15. dxe6.

12. ... Nd5 13. Qb3

Better was 13. Nxd5 Qxb5 14. Nc3 Qd7 15. d5 e5 16. Rc1 Bd6 17. Qb3 Bd3 18. Rfd1 e4 19. f3 Re8 20. fxe4.

13. ... Qb4

Forcing the exchange of queens. I tell my students not to exchange queens if they have an advantage in development and the opponent's king is not able to castle.

WIM Beatriz
Marinello**14. Nxd5 Qxb3 15. axb3**

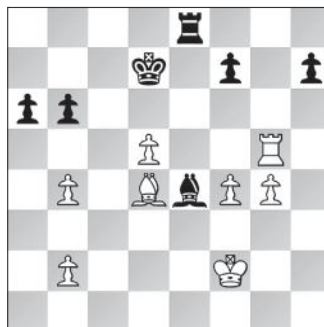
I could also play 15. Bg5+ f6 16. axb3 exd5 17. Bd2 Bd6 18. Rfe1 Kc7. My opponent sensed my unhappiness at seeing the queens come off the board and offered me a draw, but I just continued playing.

15. ... exd5 16. Bd2 Bd6 17. Ba5+ Ke7 18. Rfe1+ Kf6 19. Bd2 a6 20. Be2 Rhc8 21. g4 Be4 22. f3 Bc2 23. Rac1

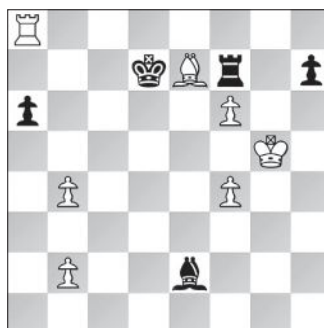
The threat: 24. g5+ Kg6 25. Rxc2 Rxc2 26. Bd3+.

23. ... g5 24. b4 Rc7 25. Bc3 Bg6 26. Ra1 Re8 27. Ra5 Rce7 28. Rxd5 Bxh2+ 29. Kxh2
Another possibility was 29. Kf2 Bf4 30. b5 Be3+ 31. Kf1 Bf4 32. Bc4.**29. ... Rxe2+ 30. Rxe2 Rxe2+ 31. Kg1 Ke6 32. Rxc5 b6**

Now I had to be very careful because my rook doesn't have any safe squares; if I play 33. Re5+, Black trades rooks and the game will end in a draw due to the opposite-colored bishops.

33. d5+ Kd6 34. Bg7 Re8 35. Kf2 Kd7 36. f4 Be4 37. Bd4**37. ... f5**

It was better to sit tight with 37. ... Bg6.

38. Bxb6 Kd6 39. gxf5 Kxd5 40. f6+ Ke6 41. Bd4 Bg6 42. Kf3 Bd3 43. Rg7 Rf8 44. Kg4
Better was 44. Re7+.**44. ... Rf7 45. Rg8 Kd7 46. Kg5 Bc4 47. Ra8 Bb5 48. Bc5 Be2 49. Be7**

Now Black's rook is in jail.

49. ... Bf1 50. Rd8+ Kc7 51. Kf5 Bc4 52. Rd4 Bb3 53. Ke5 Kb7 54. Rd3 Ba2 55. b3 Bb1 56. Rc3 h5 57. Ke6 Bg6 58. f5, Black resigned.

Beatriz Marinello played an instructive endgame in our round three match against the Hungarian women.

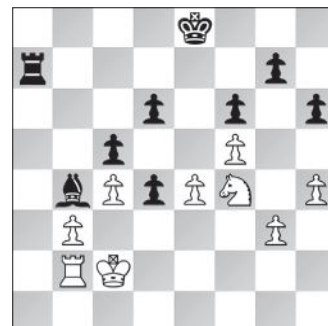
AN ENDGAME SQUEEZE

WIM Julia Horvath (2116)

WIM Beatriz Marinello (2109)

World Senior Teams 50+ (3), Krakow, 07.04.2024

Annotations by WIM Beatriz Marinello



WHITE TO MOVE

After 55 moves, Black has a very slight edge, but it's nearly even. White's knight has a dominating position since it can access the d5- and e6-squares, but the open a-file is the more important factor. White must play 56. Kb1 to prevent Black's rook from entering via a1.

Instead, Horvath played ...

56. Nd3?

This loses. White probably avoided 56. Kb1 because it loses a pawn after 56. ... Be1, but after 57. h5 Bxg3 58. Nd5 Ra3 the position is even. For example, 59. b4 cxb4 60. Rxb4 d3 61. Kb2 d2 63. Rb8+ Kd7 64. Kc2 Ra2+ 65. Kd1 Be1 66. Rb7+ Kc8 67. Rb1 and White is holding.

56. ... Bc3 57. Rb1 Ra2+

Now Black's rook and bishop are extremely active.

58. Nb2 h5!

With *zugzwang*, bringing about a winning pawn endgame.

59. b4 cxb4 60. Kb3 Rxb2+ 61. Rxb2 Bxb2 62. Kxb2 d3, White resigned.GM Alexander
ShabalovJulie
O'Neill

BRINGING HOME BRONZE

The Women's 65+ team started with a first-round bye, and subsequently faced many struggles. This was largely due to tough, closely fought matches, many of which did not end in our favor but also due to illness. Elizabeth and I caught COVID-19. Elizabeth, who received an award for the oldest female in the event (87), was unable to play the last three games, and I played while ill so as not to forfeit. We wore masks, and when we defeated Ireland 2 it was suggested that the masks intimidated our opponents.

Since it was a World Championship event, security at the tournament was very strict. Everyone was searched before they could enter the playing venue: Items such as pens, watches, phones, recorders, and hearing aids had to be checked in, and if you left the playing hall you could not return. There were also random searches of personal items throughout the event.

Unfortunately, the strict security contributed to one of our losses: In round four against New Zealand, Polly Wright's opponent on Board 3 offered her a draw twice and she didn't hear him as she didn't have her hearing aids. Polly also missed a three-fold repetition of position, which was another opportunity to claim a draw. She went on to lose the game, when a draw would have tied the match for the USA.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy was instrumental in the women's teams' presence at this event. She called playing in the inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Championship, held in Berkeley last November, "one of the best decisions I've ever made. I had no idea at the time what it would lead to, nor did I know I would meet a whole bunch of wonderful women."

Do not dismiss 65+ women. "Chess continues to be mentally and physically challenging," Polly said. "Preparing for this tournament, being here, has reignited in me a passion for playing chess again."

The U.S. team ran out of steam in the final round, losing to Israel 2. Among the 65+ women's teams, gold went to the Latvians, silver to the Poles.

USA TOO

Two other American teams competed in the 50+ category: USA Too and USA Five Brothers (see sidebar). USA Too comprised

IMs Leonid Sokolin, William Paschall, and Mark Ginsburg, as well as Mikhail Koganov. "I like the fact that you play one game a day here and the schedule is very reasonable," Paschall said. "I like to play long games that are artistic and beautiful."

Their team name was coined in 2020. "We wanted to make a statement that we exist," Koganov said. He advocated for recognition of unsponsored teams: "Even if a federation cannot financially support a team, they can get information out so that players are aware of opportunities." Ginsburg and the team also discussed the importance of fielding a 65+ team.

USA Too narrowly lost to Team USA and beat the U.S. women. IM Mark Ginsburg and WFM Olga Sagalchik had an exciting game:

ENGLISH OPENING (A15)

IM Mark Ginsburg (2272)

WFM Olga Sagalchik (2128)

World Senior Teams 50+ (4), Krakow, 07.05.2024

Annotations by IM Mark Ginsburg

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c6 3. g3 d6 4. Bg2 Nbd7 5. 0-0 e5

Going for an Old Indian formation, which is somewhat passive.

6. Nc3 Be7 7. d4 0-0 8. e4 Re8 9. h3 Qc7 10. Be3 a6

Black is going for counterplay with ... b7-b5, so White acts accordingly.

11. Rc1 Bf8



12. Re1

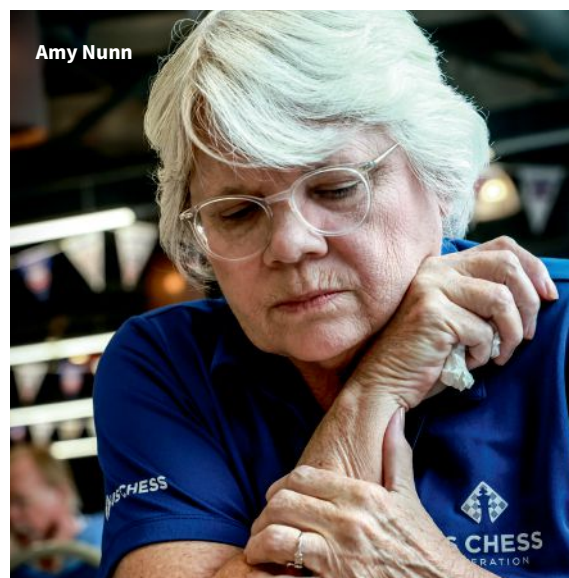
12. b4 right away is better. After the game move, Black would be OK after 12. ... b5! 13. cxb5 axb5 14. Nxb5 Qb8 with the idea of taking on b2. But she missed her chance, and I set everything back in order with my next move.

12. ... Qb8 13. b4 a5?

Inconsistent. Black should try 13. ... b5,



GM Igor Novikov



Amy Nunn



GM Melikset Khachiyan



USA Too, L to R:
Ginsburg, Koganov,
Paschall, Sokolin

although the instructive reaction 14. d5! cxd5 15. exd5! bxc4 16. a3 Nb6 17. Nd2! Bf5 18. Bxb6 Qxb6 19. Nxc4 is still better for White.

14. b5!

Any theoretical weakening of the dark squares is far outweighed by the fact that Black has almost no room to maneuver now.

14. ... exd4 15. Nxd4 c5 16. Nf5 g6
17. Nh6+ Kg7

(see diagram top next column)

18. g4?!

The knight on h6 near the king is a very dangerous attacking piece, but I did not make



POSITION AFTER 17. ... Kg7

full use of this. The best move is the difficult 18. Bd2! Nb6 19. Qf3 eyeing f7. Then if Black tries 19. ... Qc7 (19. ... Nxc4 20. Bg5 Re6 21. Nd5 wins) White gets an overwhelming advantage with 20. Nd5 Nfxd5 21. exd5 Re5 22. g4.

18. ... Nb6 19. g5!?

19. Qf3! is clearly the strongest, but it was not on my radar. Now Black gets rid of the annoying knight — a real accomplishment, but I still have more room to maneuver.

19. ... Ng8 20. Nxg8 Kxg8 21. Nd5 Nxd5

WORLD SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP AT A GLANCE

JULY 1-12, 2024 | KRAKOW, POLAND

50+ OVERALL

1ST: USA (GM Jaan Ehlovest, GM Alexander Shabalov, GM Melikset Khachiyan, GM Igor Novikov, GM Alex Yermolinsky), 16 match points. **2ND:** Italy (GM Alberto David, GM Michele Godena, IM Fabrizio Bellia, GM Lexy Ortega, IM Carlo D'amore), 15 match points. **3RD:** England 1 (GM Michael Adams, GM John Emms, GM Glenn Flear, GM Keith Arkell, GM Nigel Davies), 14 match points.

50+ WOMEN

1ST: Estonia Women (WIM Monika Tsiganova, WFM Regina Narva, WGM Tatyana Fomina, Kersti Korge) 10 match points. **2ND:** USA Women (WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia, WIM Beatriz Marinello, WFM Olga Sagachik, WFM Natalia Tsodikova, WFM Ivona Jerzierska), 9 match points. **3RD:** England Women (IM Susan Lalic, WIM Ingrid Lauterbach, WIM Natasha Regan, WGM Sheila Jackson, WFM Petra Fink-Nunn), 9 match points.

OTHER 50+ AMERICANS

7TH: USA Too (IM Leonid Sokolin, IM William Paschall, IM Mark Ginsburg, Mikhail Koganov), 11 match points. **18TH:** USA 5 Brothers (FM Krishan Jhunjhnuwala, Naresh Jhunjhnuwala, Ramesh Jhunjhnuwala, Suresh Jhunjhnuwala), 9 match points.

65+ OVERALL

1ST: England 1 (GM John Nunn, GM Anthony Kosten, GM Jonathan Mestel, IM Paul Littlewood, FM Terry Chapman), 16 match points. **2ND:** Israel 1 (GM Yehuda Gruenfeld, IM Alexander Mikhalevski, GM Avigdor Bykhovsky, IM Boris Maryasin, IM Leon Lederman), 15 match points. **3RD:** France Cercle d'Echecs de Strasbourg (IM Mehrshad Sharif, IM Daniel Roos, GM Nikolay Legsky, IM Louis Roos, IM Jean-Luc Roos), 14 match points.

65+ WOMEN

1ST: Latvia Women (WGM Tamara Vilerte, Astra Goldmane, WFM Liga Ungure, WFM Ingrida Priedite, Vija Rozlapa), 8 match points. **2ND:** Poland Women (WFM Elzbieta Sosnowska, Zofia Marks, Jadwiga Gasik, Hanna Bartczak), 5 match points. **3RD:** USA Women (WIM Shernaz Kennedy, Julie O'Neill, Polly Wright, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Amy Nunn), 3 match points.

For complete results and additional photos, visit worldseniorteam2024.fide.com.

22. Qxd5 Be6 23. Qd3 Be7?

Wasting time and helping White's attack. Stronger is 23. ... Qc8.

24. f4 Qc8 25. h4!? h5?



White should have played 25. Bd2 and regrouped the queen and bishop on the long diagonal right away. Now 25. ... Bf8 was necessary, but this is the last straw, weakening the kingside too much.

26. Bd2 b6 27. Bc3 Ra7 28. Bb2 Kh7 29. Rf1
White is winning anyway, but 29. f5! was much faster. If 29. ... gxf5, 30. Qf3 wins.

29. ... Bg4 30. Qc3 Rg8 31. f5 gxf5
It's more resistant to play 31. ... Bf8, but after 32. Qd3 and Rc1-c2-f2, White should win.

32. exf5 f6 33. Rce1 fxg5



Now an Excelsior f-pawn run finishes it.

34. f6 Bf8 35. f7 Rg7 36. Re8, Black resigned.

Fans of underpromotion would have liked 36. Be4+ Kh8 37. Qxg7+! Bxg7 38. f8=R+, mating.

USA Too finished the tournament with five and a half points. Ginsburg, who scored seven points, lost the gold medal for Board 3 to GM Margeir Petursson of Iceland, who scored five points. This is because FIDE awards the medals based on performance ratings, not point totals. To quote Ginsburg, "Chess is not an easy game." ♠

ALL IN THE FAMILY

BROTHERS STICK TOGETHER.

At the World Senior Team Championships in Krakow, I had the pleasure of meeting Suresh, Naresh, Ramesh, Krishan, and Rajendra Jhunjhnuwala — an American team of five brothers with an amazing story.

The brothers learned chess as children, forming a unique bond. Fifty years ago, in 1974, these five brothers represented Hong Kong at the World Student Team Chess Championship in Teesside, England, at the ages of 17, 16, 14, 12, and 11. It was their first international event.

Through the years, Krishan became a FIDE Master while Suresh, Naresh, and Ramesh attained FIDE ratings of over 2200. The brothers won the Hong Kong National Chess Championship numerous times in the late 1970s and 1980s. According to Krishan, "We were all Hong Kong champions in some way before moving to the United States." They were featured in "Ripley's Believe It or Not" for coming 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in the 1977 Hong Kong championship before they stopped playing competitively in the late 1980s in order to concentrate on careers and family.

In Krakow, the USA 5 Brothers team (minus Rajendra, who did not play) competed in this FIDE event for the sixth time, finishing in a respectable tie for 13th place. Although they live in different states across the U.S., they meet at this tournament each year and go on vacation together afterward. This year, they went to Edinburgh, Scotland, then to Teesside, England, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their first international event. They then

spent the night in Liverpool and headed out to London before flying back to the U.S.

These brothers share a unique bond, providing a sense of stability and support to each other. "Before learning chess," Naresh said, "we would argue and fight." Now they only fight on the chessboard. They're friends and confidants, and they have memories that will last a lifetime.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ACC. DRAGON (BY TRANSPOSITION) (B38)

FM Jaroslaw Rogowski (2149)
FM Krishan Jhunjhnuwala (2227)
World Senior Teams 50+ (5), Krakow, 07.06.2024

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 c5 4. Nc3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. e4 d6 7. Be2 Nc6 8. Be3 0-0 9. h3 Bd7 10. Nf3 Qa5 11. 0-0 Rfc8 12. Rc1 Qd8 13. Qd2 Be8 14. Rfd1 Nd7 15. Nh2 a5 16. f4 a4 17. Nb5 Qa5 18. Qxa5 Rxa5 19. Rb1 Raa8 20. Nf1 Nb4 21. a3 Na6 22. Nd2 Nac5 23. Bd4 Bxd4+ 24. Nxd4 Nb8 25. g3 Nc6 26. Nb5 Na5 27. Nc3 e6 28. Kf2 Kf8 29. Ke3 Ra6 30. h4 Rb6 31. e5 dxe5 32. fxe5 Ncb3 33. Nxb3 axb3 34. Rd4 Rbc6 35. Rf1 Rc5 36. Kf4 f6 37. Ne4 Rxe5 38. Nxf6 Rxe2 39. Kg5 Nc6 40. Rdf4 Re5+ 41. Kh6 Rf5 42. g4 Rxf4 43. Rxf4 Bf7 44. Nxb7+ Ke7 45. Ng5 Be8 46. Re4 Nd8 47. Kg7 Rc5 48. Rd4 Nc6 49. Rd3 Na5 50. Re3 e5 51. Nf3 Kd6 52. Kf6 Nxc4 53. Rxb3 b5 54. Ng5 Rc8 55. Ne4+ Kd5 56. Nc3+ Kd4 57. Nxb5+ Bxb5 58. Rxb5 Rc6+ 59. Kg5 e4 60. b3 Ne5 61. Rb4+ Ke3 62. h5 Nf3+ 63. Kh6 gxh5+ 64. Kxh5 Rc5+ 65. Kh6 Kd3 66. Rb8 e3 67. Rd8+ Kc3 68. b4 Re5 69. Rf8 Nh2 70. Rc8+ Kb2 71. b5 e2, White resigned.



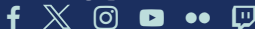
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CHESS GLX

27 OCTOBER
SUNDAY

Ultimate Moves | 2:00 PM

28 OCTOBER
MONDAY

Round 1 | 2:00 PM

Round 2 | 3:15 PM

Round 3 | 4:30 PM

29 OCTOBER
TUESDAY

Round 4 | 2:00 PM

Round 5 | 3:15 PM

Round 6 | 4:30 PM

30 OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY

Round 7 | 2:00 PM

Round 8 | 3:15 PM

Round 9 | 4:30 PM

Playoff | 5:30 PM

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Garry Kasparov



EIGHT IS ENOUGH!

Awonder Liang wins 2024 World Open by a full point at 8/9.

BY **GM AWONDER LIANG**

THE WORLD OPEN'S grand prize fund has attracted illustrious grandmasters for decades. Even with its BYOB (bring your own board) conditions, its timeless impact on American chess history cannot be overstated. Many players have stories based on each of the tournament's venues over the years.

I wasn't planning on playing in this year's edition at all — work and other obligations were taking up most of my time. My friend and teammate at the University of Chicago, IM Kapil Chandran, had been encouraging me to play for a while, but it was only after blundering into a draw at the Chicago Summer Open that I signed up — the chess bug had struck me, and I was desperate to avenge my two lost rating points.

I knew the World Open would be a tough event: Among the horde of GMs would be Luke McShane (the “world's strongest amateur”) and the Azerbaijani GM Vasif Durarbayli, known for his fiery dynamic play. Also present were scary young talents such as GMs Christopher Yoo and Andrew Hong, IM Alice Lee, and many others.

Last summer, I opted out of the U.S. circuit, playing mostly in tournaments abroad. I liked the more relaxed conditions, but I realized that as a young player, tough conditions usually affected my opponents more. To that end, I hauled out my ratty board and set my clock to an extra-dim display in the hopes of exploiting my opponents' old frail eyes.

Nevertheless, I was a bit nervous, as usual

before such tournaments. For one thing, I was the top seed, which meant I'd start on one of the DGT boards and extra-bright clocks on the first four boards. Even worse, the games were broadcast, which meant my weak play would be exposed to the entire world.

Fortunately, I quickly solved these two issues with a timely loss to fellow Chicagoan IM Sam Schmakel (who has been my foil since I was 6), catapulting me outside “the box” and onto the plebian boards.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE, ADVANCE VARIATION (B12)

IM Sam Schmakel (2537)

GM Awonder Liang (2730)

52nd World Open (3), Philadelphia, 07.04.2024

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 Nd7 6. 0-0 h6 7. Nbd2 Ne7 8. c3 Bh7 9. a4 a5 10. Nb3 Nf5 11. Bd3 Qb6



I reached this position against Christopher Yoo earlier in the summer, but this time my opponent was better prepared.

12. Kh1!

Black plays ... Nf5-h4xf3 in certain variations; this avoids a check.

12. ... Be7 13. Bc2 Bd8 14. Ne1?!

Not the most accurate move, but not one that I knew. White has several tries here, but the most testing is the interesting 14. Rg1!? with complicated lines to follow.

14. ... Bc7?!

The return 14. ... Be7! would have been strong, with the idea of pushing ... c6-c5 now that White's knight has left f3.

15. Nd3 Bg6?!

Completely missing White's next — a sign that I was in subpar form.

16. Nf4! Bh7

A sad retreat, but it's the only move.

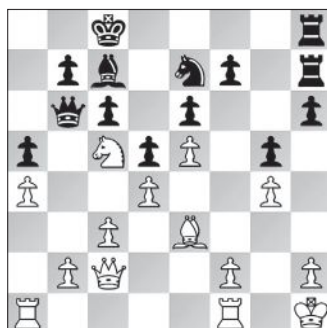
17. g4 Ne7 18. Bxh7 Rxh7 19. Qc2 g6 20. Be3 0-0-0



I was still cautiously optimistic. Black's position remains solid, and although my queen-

side configuration is awkward, I thought a timely ... f7-f6 could open up the kingside while white's queen is tied down to the knight on b3.

21. Nd3 Rdh8 22. Nbc5 Nxc5 23. Nxc5 g5!?



24. f3! h5 25. Rf2!

I had totally missed the concept, and I should have started to get a little worried here. However, I had the usual shiny-eyed optimism of the higher-rated player.

25. ... Ng6 26. Re1!

Another accurate move, defending the bishop and against any sacrifices on e5.

26. ... hxcg4 27. fxcg4 Rh3

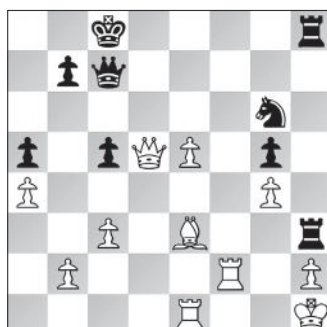
Going all in on a bluff — hey, gambling is fun on occasion! But I should have settled down with 27. ... Bd8! 28. Nxe6 fxe6 29. Qxcg6 Rh6 30. Qc2 Qc7 when I have no winning chances but enough activity for a draw.

28. Qd2!

Covering the threat of ... Bc7xe5 and ... Rh3xe3.

28. ... f6!? 29. Nxe6 fxe5 30. dxe5 c5

31. Nxc7 Qxc7 32. Qxd5



32. ... Qxe5

It was only here that I realized my intended 32. ... Nxe5 failed to 33. Bf4! gxf4 34. Rxe5 and Black's position falls apart.

33. Qxc5+ Qxc5 34. Bxc5 Nf4 35. Ref1 Kd7

36. Rd2+ Kc6 37. Bd6 Nd5 38. Be5 Re8

39. Bg3 Ne3 40. Re1, Black resigned.

After seeing my opponent make the time control with two seconds left, and with my position in tatters, I made a timely resignation.

While I spent the next few rounds dodging the strong players, McShane showcased his classic English technique. Throughout the event, he made a good habit of grinding down long endgames, and this fine win over young FM Rose Atwell was particularly nice.

AN INSTRUCTIVE SQUEEZE

GM Luke McShane (2802)

FM Rose Atwell (2298)

52nd World Open (2), Philadelphia, 07.04.2024



WHITE TO MOVE

29. f3

At this point, I thought Black had easily equalized and McShane would have a very hard time converting this position. However, Atwell made a typical mistake in these kind of endgames — playing a little too passively — and McShane's technique here was incredibly instructive.

29. ... Ke7?!

This allows White to expand on the kingside. Black would get sufficient counterplay with 29. ... b6 30. g4 Bh7 31. Kf2 Rac8 32. b3 c5!. But even more to the point, 29. ... h5! shuts down White's kingside play, which is more than worth having another pawn on the light squares. This kind of decision is really tough, and from my experience, you have to lose a lot of these endgames to become comfortable with making it.

30. g4 Bh7 31. Kf2 Kd6

Black continues to activate the king, but it's not super clear what happens next. McShane, on the other hand, advances on the kingside to induce further weaknesses.

32. f4 Bg8 33. Rce1!

Preventing ... f7-f6. Black is completely passive now.

33. ... b6 34. g5 hxcg5 35. Rxcg5!

Provoking ... g7-g6, which shuts down Black's bishop.

35. ... g6 36. Bd3 Ke7 37. Ke3 Rd5 38. Be4



38. ... Rxcg5?

Black had to play 38. ... Rd6!, when the position is still tenable: After 39. h5 (White can't break through easily after 39. Bf3 Rad8 40. Reg1 Bh7 41. Be4 f5 42. Bb1 c5 with good counterplay) 39. ... f5 40. Bf3 gxh5 41. Bxh5 Rf8 Black's structure is ugly, but all the weaknesses are still defended.

39. fxcg5

Now Black's bishop is shut out for good.

39. ... Rc8 40. Rf1 Kd6 41. Rf6 Rc7 42. c4 Re7 43. d5

The breakthrough. Now White wins.

43. ... cxd5 44. cxd5 Ke5 45. dxe6 Rxe6

46. Rxe6+ Kxe6 47. Kd4 Kd6 48. Bd5

Black is in zugzwang, and the rest is technique.

48. ... Ke7 49. Ke5 Bh7 50. Bb3 Bg8

51. Bd1! Bh7 52. Kd5 f5

If 52. ... Kd7 53. Bg4+! forces Black to pick a side. Both 53. ... Ke7 54. Kc6 and 53. ... Kc7 54. Ke5 are lights out.

53. gxf6+ e.p. Kxf6 54. Kc6 g5 55. hxcg5+ Kxcg5 56. Kxb6 Kf4 57. Kxa5 Be4 58. Kb6 Ke5 59. a5 Kd6 60. Bg4 Kd5, and Black resigned.

Often in these events, one gets to the board and finds their chair is broken or damaged, with the cushion sagging or missing a leg. The correct tactic in this situation is, of course, swapping your chair with the opponent's chair. Minh Le took a more chivalrous approach — replacing it with a chair 20 meters away. As he did so, GM David Brodsky

quipped, “CCA — bring your own chair,” which sent me into a laughing fit.

A WILD ONE

IM Gus Huston (2462)
GM Awonder Liang (2730)
52nd World Open (5), Philadelphia,
07.05.2024



WHITE TO MOVE

We reached this position after a strange theoretical debate. Black has a large material advantage but a very weak king.

28. g6! Bxa2+?

After feeling like I was in a winning position for a while, things suddenly get out of control. The best way to go was 28. ... Kc8! evacuating the king, but it required accurate calculation. After 29. Re1 Qh3 30. Re8+ Kb7 31. Qh7 Qxg3 32. Qxd7+ Kb6 33. Qd8+ Ka7



POSITION AFTER 33. ... Ka7

Black miraculously escapes the perpetual, and now it's White who is getting mated.

29. Ka1 Bd5 30. Qh8+ Qg8

(see diagram top of next column)

Here I sat for a minute panicking, since I didn't feel there was any way to stop the g-pawn.

31. Qh4+?

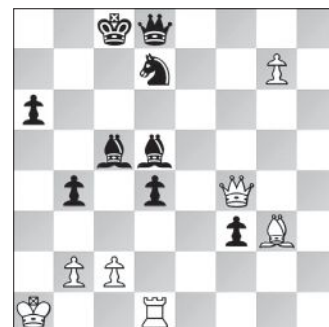
Thankfully, in mutual time pressure, Gus chose a counterattack on the king. After



POSITION AFTER 30. ... Qg8

31. g7! Black is close to lost — 31. ... Nf6 falls to 32. Bh4, and on 31. ... Kc8 there is Re1-e8+, so Black has a hard time improving the position. If 31. ... Kc8 32. Re1 Nf6 33. Bh4 f2 34. Bxf2 Kd7 35. Bh4 Ne8 36. Re5.

31. ... Kc8 32. Qf4 Qd8 33. g7



White can still keep going with 33. b3! a5 34. g7 Kb7 leading to an unclear position.

33. ... b3

Now White is getting mated — a swift reversal!

FM Rose Atwell



IM Gus Huston



34. Kb1 Qa5 35. Rh1 bxc2+ 36. Kxc2 Kb7 37. Rh8 Qa4+ 38. Kc1 Qc4+ 39. Kb1 Qd3+ 40. Kc1 Qf1+ 41. Kc2 Qe2+ 42. Kb1 Qd1+ 43. Qc1 Be4+ 44. Ka2 Qa4 mate.

A typical Najdorf game, and not for the faint of heart! I don't think I'll return to this psychotic opening for a while.

In the meanwhile, the other contenders were playing more serious games. I'd like to highlight some particularly dazzling tactics between GMs Jianchao Zhou and Vasif Durarbayli, who were fighting for the lead in round seven:

BLOW FOR BLOW

GM Vasif Durarbayli (2701)

GM Jianchao Zhou (2659)

52nd World Open (7), Philadelphia, 07.06.2024



BLACK TO MOVE

Vasif and Jianchao are two of the strongest and most combative players on the U.S. circuit, and here they had a sharp theoretical battle in one of the main lines in the

Taimanov Sicilian. Both players were a half-point behind Corrales, and this was a critical round seven matchup. In this position, Black plans to simplify the position, reducing the pressure on the kingside.

21. ... Bxb5 22. Rg3!!

A powerful riposte! White ignores the recapture and goes straight for the king. After something like 22. Nxb5 Qb6+! 23. Be3 Qc6 24. Nxd6 Qxd6 Black would still have a weak king, but would plan to trade most of the heavies on the e-file.

22. ... Rxa4?

An attempt to get counterplay on White's king via the back rank, but this loses.

Black's only defense was 22. ... Bd7! although the key move is really hard to find: 23. Qh5 (23. Qf3 Ra6 24. Rxc7+ Kxc7 25. Qg3+ Kh8 26. Bh6 Ne8 27. Bg7+! Kg8 28. Be5+ Rg6 29. Bxc7 Rxc3 30. Bxc3) 23. ... f6 24. Rh3 h6! 25. Bxh6 Bxh6 26. Qxh6 Kf7!! when Black can block the e-file with ... Nd6-e4 with a winning position.

23. Be5

23. Rxa4! was winning, when White needs to be accurate but the lines are not too difficult: 23. ... Bxa4 24. Rxc7+! Kxc7 25. Nxf5+ Nxf5 (25. ... Kh8 26. Qd4+! f6 27. Bxd6) 26. Qg4+ Kh8 27. Bxc7 and White should convert this position.

23. ... f6 24. Bxd6

Missing a crucial intermezzo.

(see diagram top of next column)

24. ... Rxa1!



POSITION AFTER 24. Bxd6

White wins after 24. ... Qxd6 25. Rxc7+ Kh8 26. Rxa4 Bxa4 27. Qxa4.

25. Qxa1 Qxd6 26. Rxc7+ Kh8

The knight on d4 is overloaded and cannot take both f5 and b5 at the same time.

27. Rxb7 Bd3 28. Qd1 Qa6 29. Re7 Rb8 30. Re1 Be4 31. Qd2 Rg8 32. g3 Qd6 33. Ne2 Rc8 34. Kf2 Ra8 35. Rd1 Kg7 36. Qe3 Qe5 37. Rd2 Qb8 38. Qc5 Qa7, draw.

As is usual in such tournaments, to win requires a lot of luck. After seven rounds, I had somehow clawed my way to first place, with back-to-back wins against GMs Brian Escalante and Fidel Corrales.

BISHOP'S OPENING (C24)

GM Awonder Liang (2730)

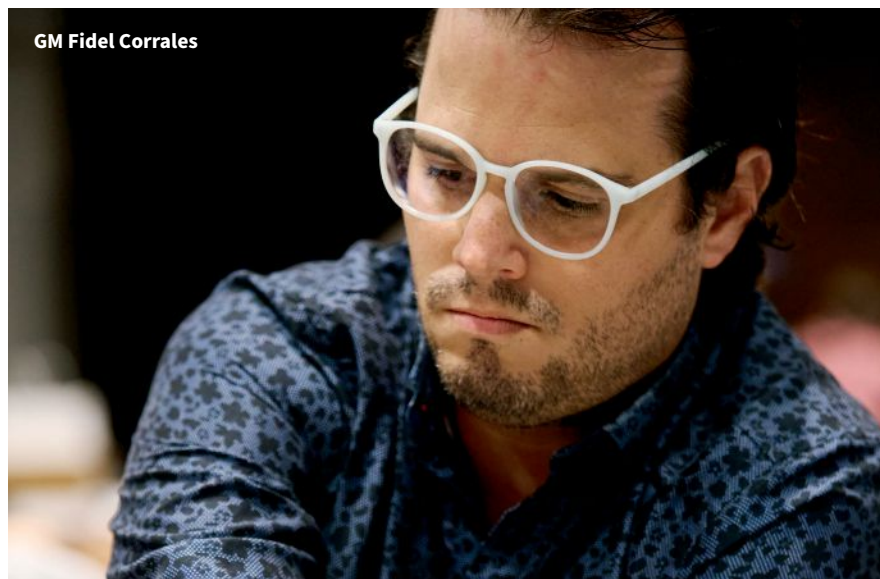
GM Fidel Corrales (2638)

52nd World Open (7), Philadelphia, 07.06.2024

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 c6 4. Nf3 d5



GM Jianchao Zhou



GM Fidel Corrales

5. Bb3 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Bxd2+ 7. Nbx2 Nbd7
8. exd5 cxd5 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Re1 Re8
11. Ba4 Re7 12. Bxd7 Nxd7 13. c4 d4
14. b4 b6 15. Ne4 Nf8 16. a4



After a fairly innocuous opening, we have reached a somewhat imbalanced position where White's light squares could become very weak.

16. ... Bg4?!

Played a bit too quickly. Fidel was trying to put pressure on the clock, but missed my next move.

Instead, I was terrified of 16. ... Ng6 17. a5 Nf4 with ... Bc8-g4, ... Re7-e6-g6, or other moves coming soon, and 18. g3 would weaken my light squares terribly. But 17. ... Rb8! 18. axb6 axb6 would have been even stronger.

17. h3 Bh5 18. Ng3! Bxf3 19. Qxf3

Now White's kingside is safe and I have a substantial advantage.

19. ... Rb8 20. a5 bxa5



21. bxa5?

An interesting moment. I felt that White's advantage was pretty big, but I was worried that after 21. Rxa5, too many pawns would be traded. I played this thinking that after a subsequent a5-a6 I would then gain control over the b-file and my eventual endgame advantage would be substantial. However, it turns out that White's initiative is enough to crash through: 21. Rxa5! Rxb4 22. Nf5! Re6

(22. ... Rd7 23. Raxe5 Ne6 24. c5 leaves White far ahead) 23. Rxa7 Qf6 24. c5 and White's activity is too much.

21. ... Re6 22. Reb1 g6 23. Ne4 Nd7 24. g4 Kg7



The position feels good, but in fact there is no way to take the b-file. I considered 25. Rb5 a6 26. Rd5 Qe7, but it's hard to generate new threats.

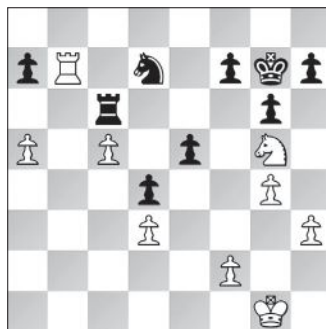
25. c5 Rxb1+ 26. Rxb1 Qc7

Objectively this is fine, but it allows a small combination. I was scared of 26. ... Qa8!, when Black's queen will be well placed on d5. After 27. Kg2 Qd5 28. h4 h6 29. h5 g5 30. Rb2 White has some slight pressure, but it is not too serious.

27. Ng5 Rf6 28. Qd5! Qc6

28. ... Nxc5? loses to 29. Rc1. If 29. ... Rc6 30. Ne4.

29. Qxc6 Rxc6 30. Rb7



30. ... h6?

Strictly speaking, only this was the losing mistake.

Black could have drawn with 30. ... Nxc5! 31. Rxf7+ Kg8 32. Rxa7 Nxd3 33. a6 Nf4 34. Ne4 h5! 35. g5 d3. The interesting thing is that we both reached this position in our calculations, and both assessed it as winning for White. But oddly, White has no way to combine mating threats with the a-pawn to win.

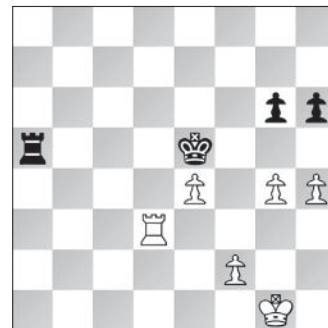
31. Nxf7 Kxf7 32. Rxd7+ Ke6 33. Rxa7 Rxc5 34. Ra8

If White gets the pawn to a7, Black's kingside pawns will be too weak to hold on to.

34. ... Kf6 35. h4 e4 36. dxe4 d3 37. Rd8

I almost played 37. Kg2?? Rd5!! which draws.

37. ... Ke5 38. Rxd3 Rxa5



39. Kg2!

White is just in time; Black can't generate enough counterplay.

39. ... Kxe4

39. ... Kf4! was the best try, but White wins here with 40. Rd6 Kxg4 41. Rxg6+ Kf4 42. Rxh6 Kxe4 43. Kg3 Ra8 44. Rh5.

40. Rd6 g5 41. Rxh6 gxh4 42. Kh3 Ra3+ 43. Kxh4 Rf3 44. Re6+ Kd5 45. Re2, Black resigned.

A critical game to put me in the lead, but one where I admittedly missed quite a few chances and got lucky.

I then faced Durarbayli, who has given me significant trouble in the past. As Black, I decided to just play my standard boring lines. Unfortunately, as it often happens, I mixed up some preparation, and slipped into a position so dire that instead of thinking, I started praying during the game. Fortunately, my prayers were answered.

GIUOCO PIANO (C54)

GM Vasif Durarbayli (2701)

GM Awonder Liang (2730)

52nd World Open (8), Philadelphia,
07.07.2024

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. Bg5!

An interesting opening choice, and one that I didn't expect from my opponent — he showed that he wanted a fighting game. This line has gone a little out of fashion recently, so I struggled to recall my exact lines here.

6. ... h6 7. Bh4 a6 8. Nbd2 g5 9. Bg3 Qe7
10. a4 Ba7 11. 0-0 Nd7 12. b4 Nf8 13. b5
Na5 14. Bd5



This is all well known, but here I got mixed up.

14. ... Ng6?!

14. ... h5! 15. h4 g4 16. Ne1 was played in the high-level game Navara – Praggnanandhaa, Baku 2023, where, as usual, Black makes a draw after memorizing some long lines.

15. h3

Mendonca – Santos Latasa, Wijk aan Zee 2024, went 15. Kh1! h5 16. h3 g4 17. Ng1 Be6 18. bxa6 Bxd5 19. exd5 bxa6 and White had a nice advantage.

15. ... Bb6?!

Much stronger would have been 15. ... g4! 16. hxg4 Bxg4 with ... h6-h5-h4 incoming.

16. Ne1 h5

(see diagram top of next column)

Again missing the powerful 16. ... g4! If 17. hxg4? h5 18. gxh5 Qg5 and Black is winning.



POSITION AFTER 16. ... h5

17. Kh1

One of the most complex positions of the game. In general, White's idea in these structures is to respond to ... g5-g4 with f2-f4, inducing ... exf4. After this exchange, d3-d4 will permanently shut out Black's bishop.

17. ... Be6

With the idea of relieving some of the annoying queenside pressure. The computer says Black is equal after 17. ... g4 18. f4 exf4 19. Bxf4 Nxf4 20. Rxf4 Qg5 21. Rxf7 gxh3, but I was worried by the long-term prospects of my pieces on the queenside.

Meanwhile, 17. ... c6 18. bxc6 bxc6 19. Ba2 seems like an ineffective weakening on the queenside.

17. ... Bd7 would have been a solid waiting move, but I was unsure about 18. d4 (18. bxa6 Rxa6 19. d4 exd4 20. cxd4 g4 21. Nc2 gxh3 22. gxh3 Bxh3 23. Re1 Kd8) 18. ... axb5 19. axb5 Bxb5 20. Rg1 exd4 21. c4 Bd7 22. e5 with sharp play.

18. Bxe6 Qxe6

A little too optimistic. I was trying to play

... g5-g4 and respond to h3-h4 with ... Qe6-e7, but of course now my light squares are horrendously weakened.

The position would have quickly become sharp after 18. ... fxe6! After something like 19. Nc2 (19. d4 g4 20. bxa6 exd4 with a huge mess) 19. ... g4 20. d4 Qg5 (20. ... axb5 21. axb5 21. bxa6 bxa6 22. Ne3 exd4 23. cxd4 Bxd4 24. e5 it's unclear.

19. Nc2 g4 20. h4 Qe7 21. Nb4

Even stronger was 21. d4! Nxh4 22. Ne3! when, in spite of the extra pawn, Black's position will be in a complete shambles once the white knight gets to d5.

21. ... c6

It doesn't work to play 21. ... Nxh4 22. Nd5 Qg5 23. d4 Ng6 24. f4 exf4 25. Bxf4 (25. Rxf4 h4 26. Bh2 h3 27. Rxf4 hxg2+ 28. Kxg2) 25. ... Qh4+ 26. Kg1 Ne5 27. g3 and White's winning.

22. bxc6 bxc6 23. Rb1

After 23. Nb3!? I spent most of my time calculating the unclear 23. ... Rc8 24. d4 Nxh4 25. d5 Ng6 26. Nxa5 Bxa5 27. Nxc6 Qg5 28. Nxa5 h4 29. Bh2 (29. Bxe5 Nxe5 30. Nc6 g3 equalizes) 29. ... g3 along with many other variations that are too incorrect to be given here, and would probably lead to the revocation of my GM title.

23. ... Bd8 24. d4

We both missed the powerful maneuver 24. Nc2!?. For example, 24. ... Nxh4 25. Ne3 0-0? 26. f4 and White's winning.

24. ... Nxh4 25. Nb3

Based on my previous calculations, I had expected this, but it would have been much stronger to play the very thematic 25. f4! exf4 26. Bxf4 Ng6 27. Nd3 when Black's knight on a5 is way out of the game and White has a near-winning advantage.

25. ... Rc8 26. dxe5 dxe5 27. Nxa5 Bxa5 28. Nxc6 Rxc6 29. Qd5 Re6



30. Bxe5??



Although I had been wildly optimistic over the last 10 moves, my opponent correctly felt that his position had been overwhelming. This move, however, is only explained by the psychological shift when a better position suddenly turns equal. There are actually several ways for Black to refute this.

White's still OK after 30. Qxa5 0-0 31. Bxh4 Qxh4+ 32. Kg1 Qf6, but Black can claim an edge after 30. Rb8+ Bd8 31. Rd1 0-0 32. Rxd8 Ng6.

30. ... 0-0

A little funny to castle on move 30, but there's no way Vasif missed this, since it was the response to almost every one of his 30th-move possibilities.

31. Rb7 Qg5

I could also play 31. ... Rxe5 32. Rxe7 Rxd5 with a big advantage, or 31. ... Qe8 32. Bg3 Bd8 also wins.

32. Bg3 Bd8

White is down a piece for little compensation, and the rest is a matter of technique.

33. c4 Ng6 34. f4 gxf3 e.p. 35. Rxf3 h4 36. Bb8 Bf6 37. c5 Qc1+ 38. Kh2 Rd8 39. Qf5 Rd1 40. Kh3 Rh1+ 41. Kg4 h3 42. g3 Re1 43. Bf4 R1xe4 44. Rb8+ Kg7 45. Qh5 Ne5+ 46. Kf5 Rxf4+ 47. Rxf4 Qc2+ 48. Re4 Ng6, White resigned.

In the meanwhile, Corrales, who had been leading after round six, suffered back-to-back blacks against me and McShane. I particularly like his game with McShane because I feel it is emblematic of the World Open. With both players in a must-win situation, the stakes and pressure lead to a lot of blunders, but also fantastic creativity — the type of relentless fighting spirit that is the hallmark of this event. Corrales displayed a creative idea against McShane that I haven't seen before; a few rushed decisions, coupled with fantastic resourcefulness from the British GM, led to a dazzling finish.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, MOSCOW VARIATION (B52)

GM Luke McShane (2802)

GM Fidel Corrales (2638)

52nd World Open (8), Philadelphia, 07.07.2024

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 Nc6 6. Re1 Nf6 7. c3 e6 8. d4 cxd4 9. cxd4 d5 10. e5 Ne4 11. Nbd2 Nxd2 12. Bxd2 Be7 13. Rc1 0-0 14. Rc3 Rfc8 15. a3 b5 16. Rd3 b4 17. a4



17. ... h6

The start of an ingenious idea that I haven't seen in this structure before. Black mirrors Rubinstein's famous ... Qd8-b8-a7 maneuver against Janowski from Karlsbad 1907! The more typical way to play would be 17. ... Rc7 18. h4 Rac8 19. Ng5 Qe8, when Black's invasion on the c-file will provide sufficient counterplay against White's kingside attack.

18. h4 Kh8 19. Nh2

It would have been more prudent for White to protect the b1-h7 diagonal with 19. Ree3 Qe8 20. Ne1 Qg8.

19. ... Qe8 20. Qg4 Qg8 21. Rf3 Rf8 22. Rf4 Qh7 23. Be3 Rac8 24. Nf1 Nd8 25. Nd2

(see diagram top of next column)

25. ... Rc2!

The realization of Black's creativity! White's play over the last couple of moves has been a little uninspired, with a lot of shuffling. Now Black's queen is playing a fantastic defending and attacking role.

26. b3 Rc3 27. Qh5 Qc2!



POSITION AFTER 25. ... Rc2

Correctly going on the offensive. Although White's attack seems dangerous, the threat of ... Rc3xe3 forces McShane to go passive.

28. Qe2

Black is winning after 28. Rg4 Rxe3 29. Rxe3 Qxd2.

28. ... Nc6 29. g3 Qd3?

The start of Black's issues. Fidel is an immensely creative and powerful player, but occasionally plays too quickly. Here there were many ways to increase the pressure, but I like 29. ... Bd8! 30. Kg2 (30. h5 Bg5 wins) 30. ... Ne7! when the appearance of the knight on f5 will quickly collapse White's position, and if 31. g4 Black wins with 31. ... Ng6.

30. Qh5! Kg8

(see diagram next page)

31. Ne4!!

With around a minute on his clock (and no increment!), McShane desperately finds

GM Luke McShane





POSITION AFTER 30. ... Kg8

a brilliant source of counterplay. Black's

queen is cut off, and now White starts a powerful king hunt.

31. ... dxe4 32. Rg4 Rc8 33. Bxh6 Kf8?

Played very quickly as a bluff against McShane's clock. In fact, McShane's time trouble and Corrales' attempts to exploit it explain a lot of what happens over the next moves. There's a perpetual after 33. ... Bf8 34. Rxd7 Bxd7 35. Qg5 Kf8 36. Qxd7 Ke8 37. Qf8+ Kd7 38. Qd6+.

34. Rxd7 Ke8 35. Qxf7+?

The wrong piece! Black would be forced to give away the queen after 35. Rxf7 Kd7 36.

Rd1!, because if, for instance, 36. ... Qc2 37. d5 exd5 38. e6+ Kc7 39. Qxd5 Kb8 40. Bf4+ White will take on e7 next with an overwhelming material advantage.

35. ... Kd7 36. Be3 Re8 37. h5!



White has three pawns for the piece and Black's pieces are very tied down. But White's pieces are not too well coordinated, so we have some kind of dynamic balance. But there's still the clock to contend with ...

37. ... Nxd4 38. Kg2 Nf5

Black could win with 38. ... Nc2 39. Rh1 Nxe3+ 40. fxe3 Qxe3.

39. h6 Rcc8 40. Rg6 Qd5 41. Rxe6 Rc6 42. Qxf5 Rxe6

Now White's winning. Black could hold on with 42. ... Qxe6 43. Qxe4 Rh8.

43. Qg4 Qxe5 44. Bf4 Qf6 45. Rxe4

Missing an immediate win with 45. Rd1+ Kc8 46. Qh5 Rd8 47. Rxd8+ Bxd8 48. h7 Qh8 49. Qd5!

45. ... Bd6 46. h7 Bxf4

Black could hold with 46. ... a5.

47. Rxf4 Qe5 48. Rf7+ Kc8 49. Qf3! Qe4 50. Qxe4 Rxe4 51. Rxa7 Kb8 52. Rg7

Black is up a rook, but there is nothing he can do to stop the white pawns.

52. ... Rh8 53. g4 Rxh7 54. Rxh7 Rxg4+ 55. Kf3 Rd4 56. Ke3 Rd6 57. Rh4 Rb6 58. Rc4 Kb7 59. f4 Ka6 60. f5 Ka5 61. Rc5+, Black resigned.

After this game, I was elated: I had 7/8, McShane was at 6½, and everyone else had 6 and below, which meant that a draw with white was sufficient to clinch first. Unfortunately for McShane, he tried to complicate the matters with the Deferred Steinitz in the Ruy Lopez, an opening that had a combative reputation around 10 years ago. By this point, though, chess nerds have all but figured out the intricacies of even this sideline, and



GM Awonder Liang

perhaps my only decent game of the event came from plagiarizing the work of others (I myself am much too cool to be a theory nerd).

RUY LOPEZ, MODERN STEINITZ VARIATION (C72)

GM Awonder Liang (2730)

GM Luke McShane (2802)

52nd World Open (9), Philadelphia, 07.07.2024

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. 0-0 Bd7 6. c3 g6 7. d4 Bg7 8. h3 Nf6 9. Re1 0-0 10. Bc2 Nh5 11. Be3 Kh8 12. Nbd2 Qe8 13. Nc4



Black's opening is slightly dubious, but keeps a lot of pieces on the board. Unfortunately, I knew this line a little better than he did, and his game went downhill quickly.

13. ... b5?!

A natural move, but White's queenside play accelerates with the hook on b5. Other ideas include 13. ... f5!? 14. exf5 Bxf5 15. dxe5 Bxc2 16. Qxc2 Rxf3 leads to a well-known endgame where White presses with little risk, and 13. ... a5!?, which was recommended in Gawain Jones's *Chessable* course.

14. Ncd2 f5 15. dxe5 f4 16. Bd4 Bxe5 17. a4 Rd8 18. axb5 axb5 19. Bd3



19. ... g5?!

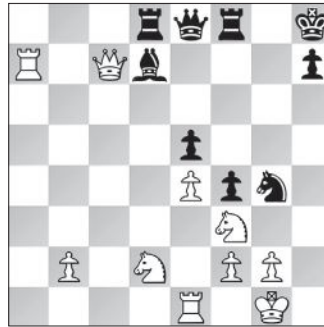
Black's counterplay comes a little too slowly. The best try was passive defense with

19. ... Rb8, although this wasn't suitable for the tournament situation: 20. Bxe5+ Nxe5 21. Nxe5 dxe5 22. Nf3 Nf6 23. Ra7 and White has tremendous activity.

20. Bxb5 Nxd4 21. cxd4 Bxb5 22. dxe5 dxe5 23. Qc2

Black has too many weaknesses, and the kingside counterplay is only illusory.

23. ... Nf6 24. Qxc7 g4 25. hxg4 Nxg4 26. Ra7 Bd7?!



26. ... Rd7 27. Qa5 Qd8! would still provide some resistance; in fact, Black should trade queens in this position, since Black's king is weaker than White's, even though 28. Nb1! would still leave White ahead a clean pawn with no risk.

The nerves were starting to kick in, but I was proud of still being able to find a *petit combinaison*:

27. Rd1 Rf7 28. Nc4 Rc8 29. Nd6! Rxc7 30. Rxc7 Qa8 31. Nxf7+ Kg8 32. Rcx d7 Qxe4 33. Rc7 Qe2 34. Nh6+ Nxh6 35. Rd8 mate.

For the "bubble group" of 16 players at 6/8,

the ninth and final round meant everything. The winners among this group — GMs Viktor Matviishen, Mikhail Antipov, and Arthur Guo, as well as Joseph Zeltsan — came away with \$5,625 (Zeltsan also pocketing an IM norm in the process). The GMs they beat — David Brodsky, Victor Mikhalevski, Bryan Smith, and Jianchao Zhou, respectively — came away empty-handed, as did IM Brewington Hardaway.

Those who drew took home a "mere" \$408.33, although mention should be made of Ryan Peterson, an expert who won his way into the 6½-point group by beating an FM and an IM in the last two rounds.

When a tournament goes badly, I often find myself with extra fire to do well in the next event. After this tournament had gone well beyond my wildest dreams, I only felt a huge sense of relief. Part of it was the breaking of a small chess drought — I hadn't won a tournament in more than a year and had a lot of self-doubt. Between school and work, I hadn't had as much time to work on chess, so I became used to this stagnation. But the truth is that chess is inherently high variance, and sometimes results do depend a lot on luck. It feels a little guilty to do so well in an event that I hardly prepared for and decided to play at the last minute — but I'll take the lucky break.

I'd like to thank Jason "the GOAT" Alt-schuler for very kindly hosting me, and Kapil for giving me the much-needed encouragement. I'd also shout-out Dan and Josh from UPenn for helping me drown my sorrows in Philadelphia's finest \$3 beer after my loss in round three, and playing *Brawlstars* with me in between games. This was one of the most enjoyable events in my recent memory. ♠

52ND WORLD OPEN AT A GLANCE

PHILADELPHIA | JULY 3-7, 2024

OPEN: 1st: GM Awonder Liang, 8/9. 2nd-5th: Joseph Zeltsan, GMs Mikhail Antipov, Viktor Matviishen, Arthur Guo, 7. **U2200:** 1st: Kamran Rawshani, 8/9. **U2000:** Mario Rebano, 8/9. **U1800:** Ariel Crawford, 7½/9. **U1600:** Jake Elwell, 8/9. **U1400:** Hashem Zahedipour, 8/9. **U1200:** Connor Fries, 8/9. **U1000:** Alvin Kirin, 8/9. **BLITZ:** IM Sam Schmakel, 9/10. **BLITZ U2000:** Lance Rheinier Gesla Ni Manalo, 9/10. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Osvaldo Perez / Audrey Zhou, 14.

For complete results and additional photos, visit chessevents.com.

Check out our online report on the 2024 World Open from Matt Clibanoff at new.uschess.org/news/liang-takes-clear-first-2024-world-open.

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



SMOOTH SAILING



and



Rough



Voyages

Favorites rule, but underdogs impress at the U.S. Senior, Junior, and Girls' Junior Championships.

BY **GM JOEL BENJAMIN**
ADDITIONAL ANNOTATIONS BY
IM ALICE LEE AND **GM CHRISTOPHER YOO**

IT WAS THE TOP SEEDS — GM Vladimir Akopian, GM Christopher Yoo, and IM Alice Lee — who took the titles at the U.S. Senior, Junior and Girls' Junior Championships held in July at the Saint Louis Chess Club, but they took different paths to get there. While Akopian led wire-to-wire, a trio of last-round coincidences made Yoo's victory margin seem a lot wider than it really was. Meanwhile, Lee sat with only a half-point after two rounds and had to put on a furious comeback to top FM Rose Atwell, who, along with GM Jesse Kraai in the seniors, put on the most impressive performance among the non-winners.

SENIOR



VLAD THE IMPALER

GM Vladimir Akopian may not be a household name to American chess fans, largely because most of his career exploits occurred as an Armenian before he came to the U.S. in 2021. But let's not forget that he came within an eyelash of becoming FIDE World Champion in 1999, making it all the way to the final before losing to Alexander Khalifman. With a peak rating of 2713 in 2006 and a peak ranking of number 11 in 2003, the question isn't so much about how he dominated this year, but why he didn't do so in his first two tries.

Akopian burst out of the gate with early wins over Novikov, Shabalov, and Christiansen, and he was never really challenged for the top spot. The last of those wins struck an early blow to a potential first-place contender.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B12)

GM Vladimir Akopian (2651)

GM Larry Christiansen (2651)

U.S. Senior Ch (3), St. Louis, 07.18.2024

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nd2 e6 5. Nb3 Nd7 6. Nf3 Ne7 7. Be2 h6 8. 0-0 Bh7 9. a4

The advance of the a-pawn creates a dilemma over where to stop it. Every way leaves a weak square somewhere.

9. ... Nf5 10. a5 Be7 11. c4 0-0 12. a6 b6

13. cxd5 cxd5 14. Bb5 Rc8 15. Bf4 g5

This might weaken the kingside, but Black is a bit squeezed, so he needs to seek counterplay.

16. Bd2 f6 17. Bc3

This is the first new move of the game. 17. Rc1 was played in Azarov – Kunal, Abu Dhabi Open 2016.

17. ... Bg6 18. Qe1 Ng7

18. ... fxe5 19. Bxd7 Qxd7 20. Nxe5 Qe8 is OK too, since White doesn't have much to back up his strong knight.

19. exf6 Bxf6 20. Ne5 Bxe5 21. dxe5 Nc5

22. Nd4 Rc7

Probably 22. ... Nf5 was stronger here. Larry waits too long to challenge White's strong knight.

23. Rd1 Qc8 24. f3



24. ... Nxa6?!

Larry has such a great feel for the initiative

it's surprising he grabs this pawn rather than going for 24. ... Nf5 with somewhat balanced play.

25. Bxa6 Qxa6 26. h4 gxh4 27. Qxh4 Nf5

If Black sidesteps White's trick with 27. ... Bd3 28. Rf2 Nf5 29. Nxf5 Bxf5 then 30. Bd2! (or just 30. g4) 30. ... Qc4 31. g4 is very strong.

28. Nxf5

Both players missed 28. Qg4 Rg7 (28. ... Nxd4 29. Rxd4 Kh7 30. Qxe6) 29. Nxe6 Ne3 30. Qb4, winning.

28. ... Bxf5 29. Qxh6

Now 29. Bd2 Qc4! 30. g4 Bc2 and there is a key check on d4 to save Black.

29. ... Rh7 30. Qe3 Rff7 31. Kf2 Qa4 32. Rd4

White is pushed off his plans to challenge the h-file. It looks like 32. Rh1 Qc2+ 33. Bd2 Qc5 34. Rxh7 Rxh7 35. Rc1 is a bit crisper.

32. ... Qc2+ 33. Qd2 Qxd2+ 34. Bxd2 Rc7

35. Bc3 Rhd7

Black could have tried the interesting nuisance move 35. ... Rh2 to prevent Akopian's next.

36. g4 Bg6 37. Rh1 Rc4 38. Ke3 a5 39. f4



39. ... a4?

Larry is always looking for activity, but here he needs a defensive move, and 39. ... Rh7 looks tenable.

40. f5! Rxd4 41. Bxd4 Rh7

White wins with precise play after 41. ... exf5 42. Rh6 Rg7 43. e6 fxg4 44. Kf4! Bd3 (44. ... Be4 45. Bxg7 Kxg7 46. e7 Kf7 47. Re6 Ke8 48. Ke5) 45. Rh5! (45. Bxg7 Kxg7 46. e7 Kf7 47. Re6 Bb5) 45. ... Rh7 (Otherwise White chops the rook and gets his king in) 46. Rxd5 Kf8 47. Bxb6 Bc4 48. Rd8+ Kg7 49. e7 Bb5



GM Jesse Kraai

50. e8=Q Bxe8 51. Rxe8 and the surviving b-pawn makes the win easy for White.

42. Rc1 exf5 43. Rc6! Be8 44. Rc8 f4+ 45. Kxf4 Re7 46. Bxb6 Kf7 47. Bc5 Re6 48. Rd8 Bc6?

White would still need a bit of maneuvering to reel in the point after 48. ... Kg6 49. Rxd5.

49. Kf5 Re8 50. e6+ Kg7 51. Rd7+, Black resigned.

Black is helpless against the advancing passed pawns.

KRAAI BABY KRAAI

GM Jesse Kraai dubbed Akopian “the Beast” upon learning he had to face him in round five. I tried to bolster Jesse by noting that his opponent put on his pants one leg at a time like the rest of us. It didn’t help: Akopian dominated him to reach 4½/5, where he could more or less coast to the finish line.

For most of the event, the race for second place was tight, with no one mustering a score above +1. The Cinderella story only emerged in the last four rounds, when Kraai shook off memories of “beast mode” and stormed to the finish with four consecutive wins!

He started by outlasting Christiansen in a long game; Larry almost slipped away before Jesse reeled him in. Then came this amazing slugfest.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE, CLASSICAL VARIATION (E36)

GM Gregory Kaidanov (2619)

GM Jesse Kraai (2429)

U.S. Senior Ch (7), St. Louis, 07.23.2024



GM Gregory Kaidanov

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 d5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 0-0 7. e3 b6 8. Nf3 Ba6 9. b3 Nbd7 10. Bb2 c5 11. Be2 cxd4 12. exd4 Rc8 13. Qb4 dxc4 14. bxc4 b5?

Kraai obtains dynamic play with this move, but the queenside majority is too valuable. Holding tight with 14. ... Nb8 was OK.

15. cxb5 Nd5 16. Qd2 Bb7 17. 0-0 Qf6 18. Rfc1 Nf4 19. d5 Qf5 20. Bf1 Bxd5 21. Ne1 h5 22. Qd4 Qg4 23. f3

Kaidanov sidesteps 23. Qxa7 Nh3+ 24. Kh1 Nc5! forcing perpetual check.

23. ... Qg5 24. g3 e5 25. Qxa7 Nf6



26. Qf2?

This defensive move only strengthens Black’s initiative. The right path is to destroy Black before he builds momentum: 26. Rxc8 Rxc8 27. b6 and the b-pawn will cost a piece.

26. ... h4 27. Rxc8 Rxc8 28. Rd1 N6h5

Suddenly Black’s initiative is out of control.

29. g4 f5?

A foreshadowing of Becerra’s mistake in the last round. Black’s attack would be irresistible after 29. ... e4!

30. Rxd5! Nxd5 31. b6 fxg4 32. b7 Rf8

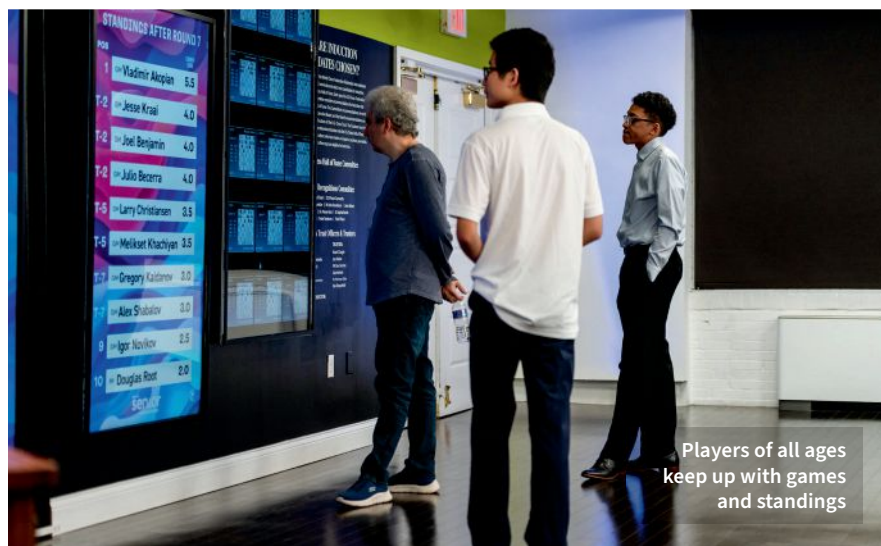
It wasn’t easy to see this is the wrong square. Now White has a chance to crawl up the leaderboard.

33. Qc5 gxf3+ 34. Kh1 e4 35. Qxf8+

Take first, ask questions later. But the computer prefers 35. Bc4! with a clear win. Amazing!

35. ... Kxf8 36. b8=Q+ Ke7?

The difference isn’t obvious, but 36. ... Kf7 was necessary with a non-losing position. Now, I would have been tempted to give a check here and grab some increment, and it turns out that 37. Qa7+ was the winner, e.g. 37. ... Kf8 (37. ... Ke6 38. Bh3+; 37. ... Kd6 38. Bd4) 38. Bb5 Nhf6 39. Qc5+ and White should consolidate.



Players of all ages keep up with games and standings

37. Bb5? Nh6

Curiously, chances are balanced again!

38. Qa7+ Ke6



Several moves will likely produce a draw. 39. Bxf6 forces Black to find 39. ... Kxf6! to hold the balance.

39. Nc2??

Gregory lost this game and drew the other eight. I did the same thing last year. I have also walked into mate in one as a grandmaster — twice. I feel his pain.

39. ... Qg2, mate.

Kraai took advantage of a late blunder by Shabalov for three in a row, then matched up with GM Julio Becerra, who could have taken clear second himself with a victory. It was the Senior Open qualifier versus the wildcard for high stakes.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E90)

GM Jesse Kraai (2429)

GM Julio Becerra Rivero (2503)

U.S. Senior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d6
5. e4 0-0 6. h3 e5 7. d5 a5 8. g4 Na6 9. Be3
Nd7 10. h4 Ndc5 11. Rg1 Bd7 12. h5 c6
13. Nd2 a4 14. a3 cxd5 15. exd5?

Objectively this is too optimistic, while 15. cxd5 and 15. Nxd5 are both about equal.



15. ... f5?

At the closing ceremony Larry Christiansen was musing about this game: “How did Becerra lose? He did everything right!” Well, he needed the bold move 15. ... e4! to get a very promising position. The simple idea is ... Qd8-h4 and ... Nc5-d3+ to win the g4-pawn, so 16. Qc2 and 16. Be2 are ineffective. But taking the pawn is fraught with danger: 16. Ndx4 Qe7 17. Bd3 Rae8, and while there are many paths from here, Black wins material or maintains a huge initiative with proper play.

But now there is enough counterplay against the black king that Black's play never gets going. Kraai plays from here with precision and power.

16. hxc6 hxc6 17. Qc2 e4 18. 0-0-0 Qf6
19. Kb1 Rac8 20. Be2 Rfe8 21. gxf5 Bxf5
22. Bg4 Nd3 23. Bxf5 gxf5 24. Nb5 Nc7
25. Bd4 Ne5 26. Qxa4 Nxb5 27. Qxb5 Re7
28. f4 exf3 e.p. 29. Nxf3 f4 30. Bxe5 dxe5
31. d6 Re6 32. Qd7 Rce8 33. Rxc7 Qxc7
34. Rg1 Qxc7 35. Nxc7 e4 36. Nh3 f3 37.
Ng5, Black resigned.

The Caissic gods seemed to be on Jesse's side (though he didn't get a deserved win against Novikov), but these points were hard earned. Jesse fought to produce problems for his opponents and pounced on opportunities. It didn't hurt that at 52 he is one of the youngest players in the field. He is also by far the fittest, and the only senior I saw in the gym on a regular basis. As the lowest rated player in the field, even with a large rating point gain he will likely not qualify next year without

a wild card. The 2024 U.S. Senior Open was held days before this tournament began, so that route is not available (don't get me started on that wacky scheduling).

I was able to post my best result in St. Louis, and I think the hours on the treadmill made a big difference (I still blundered away some wins — oh well). Beating me out on tiebreaks for the third-place trophy was Larry Christiansen, whose daily step count cannot be matched. The oldest participant at 68, Larry's chess ages like fine wine.

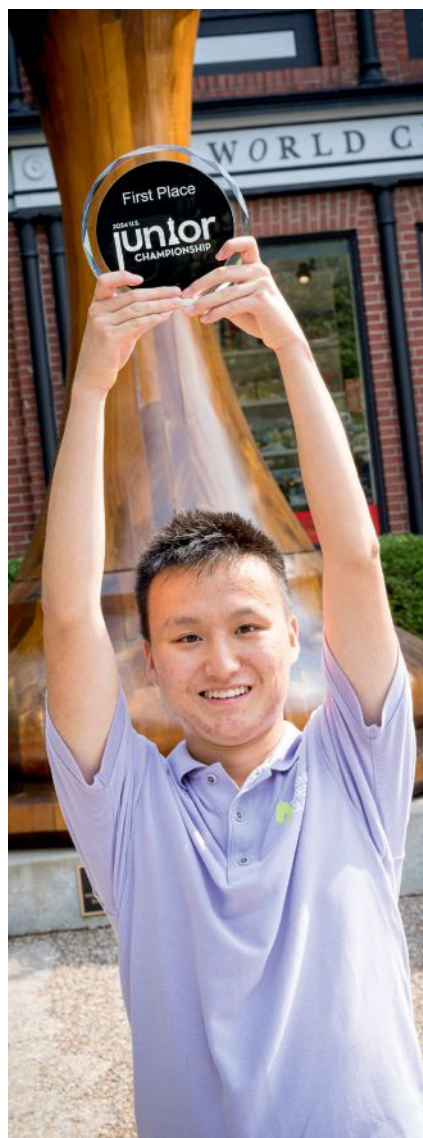


U.S. Senior Championship

ST. LOUIS, JULY 16-26, 2024

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	GM Vladimir Akopian	2651	*	1	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	7/9
2	GM Jesse Kraai	2429	0	*	½	1	1	0	1	½	1	1	6/9
3	GM Joel Benjamin	2580	½	½	*	0	½	1	½	½	½	1	5/9
4	GM Larry Christiansen	2651	0	0	1	*	½	1	½	½	1	½	5/9
5	GM Julio Becerra Rivero	2503	½	0	½	½	*	1	½	1	0	½	4½/9
6	GM Melikset Khachiyani	2500	½	1	0	0	0	*	½	1	½	½	4/9
7	GM Gregory Kaidanov	2619	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	4/9
8	GM Igor Novikov	2562	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	*	½	1	3½/9
9	GM Alexander Shabalov	2508	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½	*	½	3½/9
10	IM Douglas Root	2551	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	*	2½/9

JUNIOR



YOO FIRST

Christopher Yoo is already a high-level grandmaster and came into the event as a clear favorite. He delivered with a strong winning score of 7/9, ensuring clear first place with a last round win. A first-round victory over GM Arthur Guo got him started on the right foot.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE, EXCHANGE VARIATION (B13)

GM Arthur Guo (2636)

GM Christopher Yoo (2691)

U.S. Junior Ch (1), St. Louis, 07.16.2024

Annotations by GM Christopher Yoo

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 e6!?

A sideline in the solid Caro-Kann, locking in the bishop but allowing for an interesting configuration of pieces.

6. Nf3 Bd6 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. Re1 0-0 9. h3

A waiting move that is met with a waiting move. Note that the Greek Gift here is one Black should accept: if 9. Bxh7+? Kxh7 10. Ng5+ Kg6 11. Qd3+ f5 12. f4 Rh8 and Black is ahead.

9. ... h6 10. a4 Qc7 11. Na3 a6

Played to prevent Na3-b5.

12. Nc2 f6 13. Ne3

Stronger is 13. c4! dxc4 14. Bxc4 Nb4 as in Martinez Alcantara – Fedoseev, *Chess.com* 2020; now White should have played 15. Ne3 with advantage.

13. ... Bd7



The opening has been successful for Black, with all three results still possible.

14. c4 Bb4 15. Re2 Be8

A typical rerouting of the bishop that is familiar to fans of the French Defense.

16. cxd5 exd5 17. Nf5 Nxf5 18. Bxf5 Bf7 19. Bc2

With the idea of Qd1-d3.

19. ... Rfe8!

Simple but convincing. Black is safe from all White threats.

20. Be3 Bd6 21. Qd3

21. Nh4 would have been a better try, giving both sides chances after 21. ... Rac8 22. Nf5 Bf8.

21. ... Re4 22. Qd1



22. ... Qd7!?

Offering a dangerous sacrifice.

23. Nd2

If White takes up the challenge with 23. Bxe4 dxe4 24. Nd2 Black obtains plenty of counterplay with 24. ... f5 25. d5 Ne5 26. f3 Bh5 27. fxe4! Re8 28. exf5 Qxf5.

23. ... Rh4 24. Nf3 Rxh3!



25. Qd3?

The only defense is to take: 25. gxf3! Qxf3 26. Bc1! and after 26. ... Bh5 (not 26. ... Qxf3?? 27. Re8+! Rxe8 28. Qxf3) 27. Re3 somehow White is holding! If 27. ... Nb4 28. Bb3 and Black needs to go for a perpetual.

25. ... Rxf3!

If at first you don't succeed ... sac, sac again!

26. gxf3 Qh3 27. f4 Qg4+ 28. Kh2 Nb4?!

The win was much simpler after 28. ... Nxd4! 29. Qxd4 Qxe2 30. Bd1 Qe1.

29. Qh7+ Kf8 30. Qh8+ Bg8

(see diagram top of next column)

31. f3?

White must take desperate measures to save his king. Therefore: 31. Bh7! Kf7 32. Re1 (forced) 32. ... Bxh7 33. Qxh7 Re8 34.



POSITION AFTER 30. ... Bg8

Rg1 Qh5+ 35. Kg2 and Black is better, but nothing is conclusive yet.

31. ... Qh5+?

I should have taken White to fork town with 31. ... Qxf3! 32. Rg2 Qxg2+! 33. Kxg2 Nxc2. The material deficit will be too much for White to overcome.

32. Kg1 Qxf3 33. Rg2

Still on the table was 33. Bh7! Kf7 and now White had the amazing defense 34. Bg6+!, sending the black king on a spacewalk. After 34. ... Kxg6 35. Rg2+ Kf5 36. Bd2! Qh5 37. Qxg7 Bf7 38. Re1! Rg8 39. Qh7+ Rg6 40. Bxb4 Bxb4 41. Re5+ fxe5 42. Qxf7+ Ke4 43. Qxg6+ Qxg6 44. Rxg6 White holds on.

33. ... Qxe3+ 34. Kh1 Qh3+ 35. Kg1 Qxg2+! 36. Kxg2 Nxc2 37. Rg1

How sad the queen on h8 is!

37. ... Bxf4 38. Kf3 Bg5 39. Kg4 Ne3+ 40. Kh5 Kf7!, White resigned.

Mate is unavoidable.

The confidence in Christopher's play was remarkable. He defended a Symmetrical English in round two against U.S. Junior Open Champion Nicholas Ladan. I would be afraid to play something so drawish against the lowest-rated player, but it proved no impediment for Yoo.

In the last round, we see how the courage of his convictions leads Yoo to victory. Neither side plays perfectly, but Yoo was better prepared to deal with complications.

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE, MERAN VARIATION (D45)

GM Christopher Yoo (2691)

GM Balaji Daggupati (2544)

U.S. Junior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Qc2 Bd6 7. g4 h6 8. Rg1 e5 9. Be2

Yoo chooses a relative sideline over the more common 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Nb5.

9. ... e4 10. Nd2 Nf8

Or 10. ... Bxh2 11. Rh1 Qc7 12. Nf1 Bd6 13. cxd5 cxd5 14. g5 with good play for White.

11. h4

Already a new move, though 11. Qb3 only occurred in an obscure e-mail game.

11. ... g5

The engine points out a different way to deter White's g4-g5 idea: 11. ... Bh2 12. Rh1 (12. Rg2 Bc7 13. g5 is problematic due to the back rank) 12. ... Bc7 with a pin helping the cause.

12. cxd5 cxd5 13. Qb3?!



The key to the position is to break down Black's center, and 13. Bb5+ Bd7 14. Qb3 would keep more pressure there.

13. ... Qa5?

13. ... Be6 looks promising for Black, e.g. 14. Qxb7 (14. Bb5+ N8d7) 14. ... Ng6 with excellent compensation.

14. Bb5+

The check seems a no-brainer, yet it is probably a bit premature. Stronger was 14. f3! gxh4 15. fxe4 Bg3+ 16. Kd1 Nxg4 17. Nf1 with a promising position for White.

14. ... Kd8!

Neatly defending the d5-pawn; if 15. Nxd5? Be6. Instead, White wins a pawn cleanly after 14. ... Bd7 15. Nxd5 Nxd5 16. Qxd5.

15. hxg5?!

Opening the h-file is risky, but 15. f3 gxh4 16. fxe4 Bg3+ is less clear.

15. ... hxg5 16. f3



16...Qb4?

Daggupati has been scrambling to protect everything, but this move fails in that regard. White's development is a bit backward and his king exposed, so Black needs to fight for the initiative with both hands. Black has good play after 16. ... Be6! 17. fxe4 dxe4 18. Bc4 Bxg4 19. Qxb7 Rc8. One crazy computer line goes 20. Qa6 (20. Qxf7? Qf5) 20. ... Qc7 21. Nb5? Bg3+ 22. Kf1 Nd5!! 23. Qa3 (23. Nxc7 Nxe3 mate; 23. Bxd5 Be2+! 24. Kxe2 Rh2+ and Black mates) 23. ... Qb8 with killing threats of 24. ... Rxc4 and 24. ... Rh2.



For that matter, 16. ... Bd7 17. Bxd7 N8xd7 18. fxe4 Rc8 might work as well.

17. fxe4 Qxb3

I'm not sure what Balaji missed here, as 17. ... dxe4 18. Qxf7 is a disaster, and 17. ... Rh3 18. Qxb4 Bxb4 19. Nxd5 looks quite bad as well.

18. axb3 dxe4 19. Ndx4 Nxe4 20. Nxe4 Bb4+ 21. Bd2 Bxd2+ 22. Kxd2 Be6 23. Bc4 Rh2+ 24. Kc3

White is easily winning, and Yoo finishes with style.

24. ... b5 25. Bxb5 Bd5 26. Nd6 Kc7 27. Bc4! Bxc4

27. ... Kxd6 28. Ra6+ Bc6 29. d5 is no better.

28. Nxc4 Nd7 29. Ra6 Kb7 30. Rga1 Rg2 31. Nd6+ Kc7 32. Nxf7 Re8 33. Rxa7+ Kc6 34. R1a6+ Nb6 35. Ne5+ Kd5 36. Kd3

Or 36. Rxb6, but mating nets are tight.

36. ... Rb8 37. Nd7 Na4 38. Nf6, mate.

Not that it would happen in a million years, but after 38. bxa4 Rb3 White is mated!

The final crosstable suggests that Yoo didn't need a win in this game, but going into the last round Andrew Hong and Jason Wang trailed by a slim half-point. Surprisingly, both these pursuers lost in the last round:

Wang was upended by our youngest grandmaster, Andy Woodward, who patiently built on the queenside and adroitly rebuffed his opponent's desperate attacking attempts.

BOGO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E11)

GM Andy Woodward (2635)

IM Jason Wang (2606)

U.S. Junior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 0-0 7. 0-0 c6 8. b3 b6 9. Bc1 Nbd7 10. Bb2 a5 11. Qc2 b5 12. c5 b4 13. Ne1 Ba6 14. Nd3 Qc7 15. a3 Bxd3 16. Qxd3 e5 17. e3 e4 18. Qe2 g6 19. Nd2 Nh5 20. Ra2 f5 21. Rfa1 Qb7 22. Nf1 Ndf6 23. Bc1 g5 24. Bd2 f4 25. exf4 gxf4 26. gxf4 Ng7 27. Ng3 h5 28. Bh3 Kh7 29. Qe3 Ng8



Left: IM Justin Wang checks out GM Andrew Hong's move. Below: The games started early at the opening ceremony!



30. f3 h4 31. Nxe4! dxe4 32. fxe4 Nf6
33. Kh1 Rae8 34. axb4 Bd8 35. e5 Nd5 36.
Qd3+ Kh8 37. f5 Nxb4 38. Bxb4 Qxb4 39.
Rg1 Rf7 40. Rag2 Nh5 41. Qf3 Rh7 42. Qxc6
Rf8 43. Qd5 Ng3+ 44. hxg3 Qc3 45. Kh2
Rg8 46. f6 Qe3 47. gxh4, Black resigned.

Hong may still be kicking himself after letting several early opportunities get away.

NEO-GRÜNFELD DEFENSE (D78)

GM Andrew Hong (2674)

IM Justin Wang (2606)

U.S. Junior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. d4 Nf6
5. 0-0 0-0 6. c4 c6 7. Qb3 Qb6 8. Nc3 dxc4
9. Qxc4 Bf5 10. Ng5 h6 11. e4 hxg5
12. exf5 gxf5 13. d5 g4 14. Re1 a5 15. Be3
Qb4 16. Qd3 e6 17. dxe6 fxe6 18. Bd2 Qe7



I remember coming by this board and thinking Black had a miserable opening. 13. Bxg5 and 15. Rxe7 were two promising alterna-

tives, but here 19. Qxf5 would offer a large advantage with little risk. Instead, a series of sub-optimal moves allowed Wang to smartly turn the tables:

19. Ne2 Qd7 20. Qc2 e5 21. Rad1 Nd5
22. Nc3 Nb4 23. Qa4 Qf7 24. Bg5 b5 25.
Qb3 Qxb3 26. axb3 Nc2 27. Re2 Nd4 28.
Re3 e4 29. Be7 Re8 30. Bc5 Ne6 31. Bd6
Nd4 32. Bc5 Nxb3 33. Nxe4 fxe4 34. Rxb3
Na6 35. Bb6 a4 36. Re3 Rab8 37. Ba5 Bxb2
38. Bxe4 a3 39. Bxc6 Rxe3 40. fxe3 b4 41.
Rd6 Nc5 42. Bd5+ Kg7 43. Bc7



43. ... b3 44. Bxb8 a2 45. Rc6 a1=Q+
46. Kg2 Qd1 47. Rc7+ Kg6 48. Rc6+ Bf6
49. Rxc5 Qe2+ 50. Kg1 Qxe3+ 51. Kg2
Qe2+ 52. Kg1 Bd4+, White resigned.
And so Justin Wang leapfrogged into a fine second-place finish.

Right: The impeccably dressed IA Chris Bird keeps watch over the players with a "cuppa" at the ready.



U.S. Junior Championship

ST. LOUIS, JULY 16-26, 2024

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	GM Christopher Yoo	2691	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	7/9
2	IM Justin Wang	2606	½	*	1	0	½	1	½	1	½	1	6/9
3	GM Andrew Hong	2674	½	0	*	1	1	½	0	1	½	1	5½/9
4	IM Jason Wang	2546	½	1	0	*	0	½	1	½	1	1	5½/9
5	GM Andy Woodward	2635	½	½	0	1	*	½	1	0	½	1	5/9
6	IM Brewington Hardaway	2555	0	0	½	½	½	*	1	1	½	1	5/9
7	GM Balaji Daggupati	2544	0	½	1	0	0	0	*	1	½	1	4/9
8	IM Jason Liang	2491	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	*	1	½	3/9
9	GM Arthur Guo	2636	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	0	*	0	2½/9
10	Nicholas Ladan	2314	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	*	1½/9

GIRLS' JUNIOR



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

IM Alice Lee to repeat seemed like the easiest call to make before the action started. With Carissa Yip graduating and Rochelle Wu and Ruiyang Yan sitting out this year, Lee's path seemed relatively clear. While she came through like a champion with a 7-2 score, the winning margin over FM Rose Atwell was razor-thin and just barely achieved.

Alice stumbled out of the gate when WIM Iris Mou rebuffed her uncharacteristically reckless play. After drawing with WFM Yassi Ehsani in round two, Alice needed to pile up points to get back in the hunt.

As in the Senior Championship, the decisive game occurred early and without fanfare. Lee began her comeback over Atwell by winning from an innocuous-looking position.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D31)

IM Alice Lee (2468)

FM Rose Atwell (2299)

U.S. Girls' Junior Ch (3), St. Louis, 07.18.2024

Annotations by IM Alice Lee

1. c4

A surprise on the first move! I usually play 1. d4 exclusively, and she definitely wasn't expecting this.

1. ... e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4

This transposes into a 1. d4 system, but it gets rid of some options such as the Queen's Gambit Accepted, which Rose played in the first round of the tournament.

3. ... Be7 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bf4 c6 6. e3 Bf5



In last year's Girls' Junior, Rose played 6. ... Bd6 and I ended up with a pleasant position after 7. Bxd6 Qxd6 8. Bd3 Nf6 9. Qc2, so it makes sense that she changed things up this time.

7. Bd3?!

Although I didn't want to play the typical g2-g4, there are other moves that make sense. But 7. Bd3 is not one of them. Typically in these Carlsbad structures, the light-squared bishop is useful in both of White's main plans — a central break with e3-e4, and a minority attack with b2-b4-b5. One of Black's main goals is to exchange the light-squared bishops, and in many variations, Black even takes the time to play ... Ng8-f6-h5, ... g7-g6,

and ... Nh5-g7 to enable ... Bc8-f5. While 7. Bd3 shouldn't spoil anything, it does more harm than good. Even 7. h3 would be better.

Alternatives include 7. g4 Be6 8. h4 Nd7 — there is some theory here, but I hadn't looked at it deeply before the game, so I went for a different option. Also possible is 7. Nge2 Nd7 8. h4!? Ngf6 (8. ... Bxh4?! 9. Qb3 b6 10. Rxh4! is a typical idea that's also seen in some lines with g2-g4 and h2-h4. If 10. ... Qxh4 11. Nxd5 cxd5 12. Qxd5 Qd8 13. Qxf5 is great for White with the bishop pair, an open position, and a good center.) 9. Ng3 Be6 10. Bd3.

7. ... Bxd3 8. Qxd3 Nf6 9. Nge2 0-0 10. 0-0 Nbd7 11. h3 Re8 12. Rfd1 a5 13. Rac1 a4 14. Ng3

This is a relatively harmless position. Neither side has a direct plan, so we both spent the next few moves maneuvering and slowly moving forward.

14. ... Bb4 15. Nb1 Ne4 16. Nxe4 Rxe4 17. Nd2 Re6 18. Nf3



18. ... f6?!

This is not a terrible move, but it is a weakening one. Moving pawns is always something like walking around eggshells. In this case, 18. ... f6 weakens the e6-square, one of the main weaknesses I used to create play in the position (as well as essentially the whole a2-g8 diagonal). It does control the e5-square, but there are other ways to do that.

Black was better off playing the cool 18. ... Nf6 defending the h7-pawn while eyeing e4. After 19. Ne5 Ne4 Black would like to play ... a4-a3 next to provoke b2-b3 and create a long-term weakness on a2. She might also consider putting her bishop on d6, where the pressure on the h2-b8 diagonal might raise some questions for White. Play could go 20. Qc2 Bd6 (20. ... a3 21. Rb1 is the point

of 20. Qc2 — now White can take on a3 and the rook recapture does not hit the queen) 21. Nd3 Bxf4 22. Nxf4 Rh6 and Black is OK.

19. Qc2

Now I was looking at Ne1-d3, when the knight can be helpful on the queenside.

19. ... Nb6 20. Ne1 Nc4 21. Nd3 Bf8

22. b3?!

This allows some pressure. I would have been better off playing 22. Nc5 Bxc5 23. dxc5 Qa5 24. Rd4 Rae8 25. Kh2 when Black can never take the pawn on c5 due to b2-b3. This position is hovering near equality, as neither side has much.

22. ... Na3 23. Qb2



23. ... axb3?!

The pawn tension is in Black's favor, so it's better to keep it with 23. ... Nb5, which leads to essentially the game position, but with a-pawns. Here Black can always choose whether she wants to keep the pawn tension, exchange, or play ... a4-a3. After 24. b4 Re8

25. Nc5 Qe7 Black could play on the kingside next with ... Qe7-f7, ... g7-g5, ... Re8-e7, ... Qf7-g6 etc. The position is slow, so Black has time to play her plans.

24. axb3 Nb5 25. b4 Re8 26. Ra1 Qb6

The queen is a bit misplaced here. There wouldn't be much play for either side after 26. ... Rxa1 27. Rxa1 Qc8 — I have control over the a-file, but I can't really use it.

27. Nc5



27. ... Nd6

I thought her best choice was 27. ... Bxc5 28. bxc5 Qd8. I do have slight pressure — her knight on b5 is effective in defending the b7-pawn and a7-square, but it's a bit stuck — so I could try something on the kingside, although there still is not much after 29. Rxa8 Qxa8 30. h4 h5.

Right: Jasmine Su is ready to show her preparation in round one. Below: Something is amusing at the opening ceremony!

28. Qb3 Nc4 29. e4

It might have been slightly more accurate to trade rooks first: 29. Rxa8 Rxa8 30. e4 Re8 31. exd5 cxd5 32. Qf3 Rd8 33. Rb1 Qc6 with a slight advantage.

29. ... Rxa1 30. Rxa1 Bxc5 31. dxc5 Qb5?!

It was more accurate to play 31. ... Qd8, so that Black can recapture with the queen. Now she has to take with the pawn, creating a weakness on d5.

32. exd5 cxd5 33. Rd1 Qc6 34. Qd3 Rd8

35. Re1 Qd7



**36. Bd6?**

Perhaps marking this as a mistake is harsh, but it made my life a lot more difficult than it needed to be. At first I thought it was impossible, but when realized it wasn't, I was drawn to it. But even though it isn't a losing move, it's unnecessary. White still has slight pressure, but barely any. Any other move would have kept a very pleasant advantage; for example, the waiting move 36. Kh2.

The thing is, Black is kind of in *zugzwang*. She can't move her rook because then Bf4-d6 will work. Her queen is stuck defending the e7-square, and also defending against potential b4-b5 ideas. Her knight has no reasonable squares. Moving her kingside pawns creates weaknesses, and moving her king could create serious back-rank issues (in which case, she'd have to move her kingside pawns anyway). There is serious pressure on Black's position. After 36. ... Kh8 37. Re2 it's telling that one of the engine's top choices is going back with 37. ... Kg8, after which 38. Bg3 leaves White with a serious advantage.

36. ... Nxd6 37. Qxd5+ Qf7

She'd be better off playing 37. ... Kf8 38. Rd1 (38. cxd6 Qxd6 39. Qe4 h6 is pretty similar to what happened in the game, and White once again has nothing at all) 38. ... Qb5 39. cxd6 Qxd5 40. Rxd5 b6 41. f4 Ke8 42. Kf2 Kd7. This is pretty concrete — Black's king is in time, and she'll win the d6-pawn.

38. Qd1 Qf8 39. cxd6 Rxd6 40. Qb3+ Kh8**41. Qa4 Rd8 42. Qb5 Qf7 43. Qb6 Qd7****44. Re6 Kg8 45. Qe3 Kf7 46. Rb6**

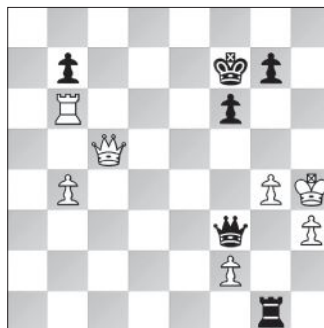
I actually have to be a bit careful here because my rook does not have many squares to go.

46. ... Qc7 47. g4 Rd1+

I'm quite curious why she didn't play 47. ... Re8. The idea is simple — if 48. Qd4 Rd8. At this point, I was planning on accepting a draw because nothing works: 48. Qb3+ (48. Qc5 Qxc5 49. bxc5 Re7) 48. ... Kf8 49. Re6 Rxe6 50. Qxe6 Qc6.

48. Kg2 Qd7 49. Qe4

The engine still shows triple zeros, but there is play here.

49. ... Rd5 50. Qxh7 Re5 51. Qc2 Qd5+ 52. Kg3 Re1 53. Qc5 Rg1+ 54. Kh4 Qf3

This is an incredibly dangerous position for both sides! With my king on h4, a perpetual seems inevitable. Still, I was looking for other options that might be playable while also defending my king from ... g7-g5+ threats.

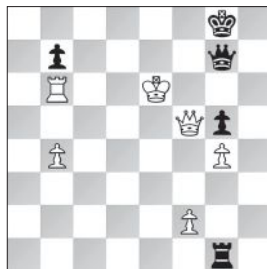
55. Qh5+

I almost played 55. Qe3?? to meet ... g7-g5+ with Kh4-h5, when White's queen defends the pawn on h3. But I realized that Black has a couple of ways to win: 55. ... Rxd4+! (55. ... g5+! is similar. After 56. Kh5 comes 56. ... Qxd4+! 57. hxd4 Rf1+ with mate to follow) 56. hxd4 g5+ 57. Kh5 Qh1+ with mate next — note this is largely because Black's king is on the f7-square, preventing an escape to g6.

55. ... Ke7?

Now the g6-square is open in some variations for my king if I need it!

Most accurate was 55. ... Kg8, basically forcing a perpetual after (a) 56. Qe8+ Kh7 57. Qh5+ Kg8 58. Qe8+. Note that (b) 56. Qf5? would be a blunder after the nice variation 56. ... g5+ 57. Kh5 Qxh3+ 58. Kg6 Qh7+ 59. Kxf6 Qg7+ 60. Ke6 and now we reach a position that is worthy of a diagram.



POSITION AFTER 60. Ke6

It turns out that Black wins with the quiet 60. ... Rd1!. I did not see this, and White is

winning after anything else! For example, after 60. ... Re1+? 61. Kd5 the king miraculously escapes! What a journey: g1-g2-g3-h4-h5-g6-f6-e6-d5, all with queens on the board! Still, I likely wouldn't have gone for this, even without seeing 60. ... Rd1. The king on e6 just doesn't feel right!

Black could play 55. ... Kf8 but the perpetual is not forced. After 56. Qf5 Qxf5 57. gxf5 Rg5 the rook ending is drawn. Black still has to be precise, but it's important to note the key difference between this position and the game position with the king on e7: Here, the rook doesn't take on b7 with check, so Black can pick up the f5-pawn next move.

56. Qc5+?

This allows my opponent to correct her mistake, but she doesn't.

56. ... Kf7 57. Qh5+ Ke7?

This time I didn't repeat!

58. Qf5!

I was down to less than one minute at this point, so this was the way to go.

I could also play 58. Qb5, but then I'd have to calculate whether Black has any perpetual checks. After 58. ... Rxd4+ 59. hxd4 Qxf2+ 60. Kh5 Qh2+ 61. Kg6 Qh6+ 62. Kf5 Qg5+ 63. Ke4 Qxg4+ 64. Kd3 Qf3+ 65. Kc2 Qf2+ 66. Kb3 Qf3+ 67. Ka4 Qd1+ 68. Ka5 Qa1+ 69. Qa4 Qe5+ 70. b5 There's one more check, but I can meet fire with fire: 70. ... Qc3+ 71. Qb4+ winning.

58. ... Qg2

Now the win is forced. Black's best practical try is 58. ... Qxf5, but the rook ending is winning for White: 59. gxf5 Rg5 60. Rxb7+ Kf8 61. Rb5.

59. Qe6+ Kf8 60. Qc8+ Kf7 61. Rxb7+ Qxb7

If 61. ... Kg6 62. Qf5+ Kh6 63. Qh5 mate.

62. Qxb7+ Kg6 63. f4 Kh6

Black is still threatening a mating net beginning with ... g7-g5+, so I have to be a little bit careful!

64. f5, Black resigned.

At the time it seemed that Lee's greatest obstacle would be Jasmine Su, who started with a brisk 3½/4. Unfortunately, a disastrous stretch of "queenside castling" took her out of the running for first. Meanwhile, Lee strung together wins, mostly in technical fashion. The following slugfest was a heart-stopper by comparison.

ENGLISH OPENING (A13)

WIM Omya Vidyarthi (2170)

IM Alice Lee (2468)

U.S. Girls' Junior Ch (6), St. Louis,
07.22.2024

1. Nf3 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Be7
5. b3 b6 6. Bb2 0-0 7. Qc2 Bb7 8. Be2 c5
9. cxd5 exd5 10. d4 Nc6 11. dxc5 bxc5
12. 0-0 Rc8 13. Rad1 Qa5 14. Qf5 g6
15. Qf4 Rfd8? 16. Ne5?

Black's last move carelessly undefended the f-pawn, allowing the tactical blow 16. Ng5! with sudden powerful threats.

16. ... d4 17. Na4 Nxe5 18. Qxe5 Nd5 19. exd4 Bd6?

It's natural to point pieces at the king, but objectively better is 19. ... Bf6 20. Qg3 cxd4 21. Bxd4 Re8 22. Bc4 (not 22. Bf3? Bxd4 23. Rxd4 Rc1!! with a sudden back-rank calamity) 22. ... Bxd4 23. Rxd4 Rxc4 24. Rxc4 Ba6 with a drawish position.

20. Qg5 Qc7



21. g3??

While it's natural to defend the h2-pawn and the f4-square, weakening the long diagonal just makes the king more vulnerable. After the cold-blooded 21. dxc5! Bxh2+ 22. Kh1 Bf4 23. Qh4 Black doesn't have compensation for the pawn deficit.

21. ... Nf4! 22. gxf4?

22. Bg4! f5 23. d5 produces dynamic equality.

22. ... Bxf4 23. Qh4 Rd5 24. Rd3 Re8!

Well-played! Black upsets the defense's coordination.

25. Bf3

It was better to force the rook to g3 with 25. Nc3 Rg5+ 26. Rg3 cxd4, although Black preserves a large advantage.

25. ... Rg5+ 26. Kh1 c4

The engine makes us all geniuses; it was

not at all easy to see that 26. ... cxd4 was much stronger: 27. Bxb7 (27. Bxd4 Qc2 wins) 27. ... Qxb7+ 28. f3 Qe7!! 29. Qxf4 (29. Qf2 Qe2 30. Rdd1 Rh5) 29. ... Qe2 30. Rg1 (30. Qxg5 Qxf1+ 31. Qg1 Qxd3 32. Bxd4 Re2! 33. Qg4 Rc2 34. Bg1 Qf1 35. h4 h5 36. Qg3 Kh7 37. b4 f5 38. f4 g5 39. hxxg5 Kg6 40. Nc5 h4 wins) 30. ... Qg2+! 31. Rxg2 Re1+ and mates.

27. Rc3 Rh5 28. Qxh5 gxh5 29. Rg1+ Kh8
30. d5 Be5 31. bxc4 Qd7

Black needed a more helpful move like 31. ... f6. Now 32. Nc5 Qh3 33. Rg2 holds for White.

32. Bxh5 Bxd5+!?

This is a pretty good try for Black. In contrast, 32. ... Qxa4? 33. Bxf7 Rf8 34. Rcg3 leads to mate for White!

33. cxd5 Qxa4



34. Bxf7?

Played with either too much desperation or optimism. White should play 34. Ra3, trade



FM Zoey Tang



WIM Omya Vidyarthi





bishops and hunker down with rook and bishop against the queen.

34. ... Qe4+ 35. Rg2 Qe1+ 36. Rg1 Qxf2 37. Rc8

One last attempt at confusion, as 37. Rcg3 Qxf7 38. Rg8+ Qxg8! wins for Black.

37. ... Qxh2, mate.

COMING UP ROSES

Atwell pulled a rabbit out of her hat in escaping a losing endgame in round eight against Su, staying in striking distance of Lee. In the last round Rose held up her end by defeating Rachael Li. While she didn't get all the details right, overall it was a pretty powerful effort. Her second-place finish was good in itself, but her score of 6½/9 was noteworthy.

BENONI DEFENSE (A62)

FM Rose Atwell (2299)
WFM Rachael Li (2291)
U.S. Girls' Junior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Nc3 g6 7. Bg2 Bg7 8. Nf3 0-0 9. 0-0 Re8 10. Re1 Ne4 11. Nxe4 Rxe4 12. Qc2 Re8 13. Bg5 Qc7 14. Nd2 h6 15. Bf4 g5 16. Be3 Nd7 17. a4 Nf6 18. Nc4 Bg4 19. Rad1 Bh5 20. Bc1 Re7 21. b3 Rae8 22. Rd2 b6 23. Bb2 Bg6 24. Qd1 a6 25. Qa1 Nh5 26. Bxg7 Nxg7 27. g4 b5 28. axb5 axb5 29. Na5 f5 30. Nc6 Rf7 31. gxf5 Bxf5 32. e4 Bd7



33. e5 Bxc6 34. dxc6 Rfe7 35. Bd5+ Kh8 36. e6 Rf8 37. Re3 Kg8 38. Rh3 h5 39. Rf3 Nf5 40. Qe1 g4 41. Rf4 Nd4 42. Rfxd4 cxd4 43. Qe4 Qa7 44. Qg6+ Kh8 45. Qh6+ Kg8 46. Qxh5 d3 47. Qg6+ Kh8 48. Qxd3 Rg7 49. Qg3 Qc5 50. Qh4+ Rh7 51. e7 Qc1+ 52. Kg2, Black resigned.

When I left the playing hall after my last game, I expected to watch a Girls playoff the next day. But it was not to be: Alice Lee maintained an edge the whole game against WFM Megan Paragua, but with bishops of opposite colors, the game should have been drawn. After a few small errors and one big one, Alice overcame Megan's defenses and took clear first. See this month's "Endgame School" for that finish.

Thank you to Rex Sinquefield and Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield for their continued generosity in supporting these very worthy events. The Saint Louis Chess Club staff, along with the fine broadcast crew and arbiters, have it down to a science. ♠

U.S. Girls' Junior Championship

ST. LOUIS, JULY 16-26, 2024

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	IM Alice Lee	2468	*	1	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	7/9
2	FM Rose Atwell	2299	0	*	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	½	6½/9
3	WIM Iris Mou	2300	1	0	*	0	1	½	½	½	1	1	5½/9
4	Jasmine Su	2262	0	½	1	*	0	1	½	1	0	1	5/9
5	WFM Yassamin Ehsani	2197	½	0	0	1	*	½	½	1	½	1	5/9
6	WFM Rachael Li	2291	½	0	½	0	½	*	1	½	1	0	4/9
7	WFM Megan Althea Paragua	2211	0	½	½	½	½	0	*	0	½	1	3½/9
8	FM Zoey Tang	2339	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	*	½	1	3½/9
9	WIM Omya Vidyarthi	2170	0	0	0	1	½	0	½	½	*	½	3/9
10	WFM Chloe Gaw	2121	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	*	2/9

PHOTO: COURTESY SLCC / OOTES

2025

World Amateur Team & U.S. Amateur Team Championship East

Welcome to the country's favorite event!



February 15-17

Parsippany Hilton

1 Hilton Court

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Open to four-player teams with one optional alternate. Team average must be under 2200 (four highest ratings from 2025 January rating list used for ALL players — no exceptions). Teams rated over 2000 average — no more than 1000 points between boards 3 and 4. No more than two GMs on a team.

Time Control: 6SS, 40/100, SD/30 delay 5. **Rds.:** 1-7:30 Sat., 11-6 Sun., 9-3:30 Mon.

Registration: Online registration opens December 1st at official website www.njscf.org. Advance registration only — no on-site registration.

EF: \$275 online only by 1/15/25; ALL \$335 after. All teams: any changes at site or after entering — \$30 charge. **ENTRY MAXIMUM IS 325 TEAMS.** Enter early!

TEAM PRIZES: 1-5th place teams, plaque and 4 digital clocks; Top team (Denis Barry Award) U2100, 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600, 1500, 1400, 1300, 1200, 1000, each plaque and 4 digital clocks; Top college (same school), 4 digital clocks & plaque; Top high school (grades 9-12 same school), Top middle school (grades 5-9 same school), Top elementary school (grades K-6 same school), Top 2 scholastic teams (mixed schools okay) (Collins Award), Top mixed doubles (2 males, 2 females, no alternates), Top seniors (all players over age 50), Top military, each plaque & 4 digital clocks; Top company (full time only, same employer, noneducational), Top coaches (educational), Top all female, Top family (4 family members), Top

state (CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY (Benjamin Award), PA, VA), each plaque; Top future team (all players under age 10), Top military college, Top parent/child (2 pairs, one parent, one child), each special plaque.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES: Best Player 1-4 and top alternate, all 6-0 scores, each digital clock. Biggest individual upset each round, engraved Cross pen. Entry fee refunded Sunday night to team with best "chess related" name. Best "chess related costumes or gimmick," 1st — gourmet dinner for 4. 2nd — gourmet dinner for 4. Surprises and special giveaways each round.

HR: See link to reserve room at www.njscf.org. Chess rates expire 1/17/2025.

Tournament Director NTD/IA:

E. Steven Doyle (50 years)

Sunday night: Bughouse \$25 per team. Cash prizes.



For help forming teams contact Worldamateurtteam@njscf.org

Visit new.uschess.org/2025-world-amateur-team-us-team-east for more details.



Show us the Money

Did people really throw gold pieces on the board after this move? Maybe not, but perhaps they should have.

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

T

THE GREAT FRANK MARSHALL (1877-1944) is certainly known for the Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez, the “Marshall Swindle” in tactical situations, and the historic Marshall Chess Club in New York’s Greenwich Village. There are also mythical stories about Marshall: Did the Czar really name him as one of the five original grandmasters at the end of the 1914 St. Petersburg International Tournament?

And what about the “gold pieces” game? Did spectators actually award Marshall with gold pieces after his final move? Let’s print the legend, to play off the famous line from John Ford’s *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and take a look at that 1912 fabled encounter.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C10)

Stepan Levitsky
Frank Marshall
Breslau, 1912

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. exd5



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

for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Compare your score with the box on **page 63**. Note that ****** means that Black’s move is on the next line. ******

5. Par Score 4 exd5

Nothing unexpected so far. White has a slight advantage, with Black’s central pawn mass potentially vulnerable.

6. Be2
A quiet but solid continuation. A little more active was 6. Bb5, pinning the c6-knight. ******

6. Par Score 5 Nf6
Marshall wants to develop and get castled so he can continue to attack. You may accept **full credit** for 6. ... c4, ending the central tension.

7. 0-0
Naturally, White castles, hoping to obtain play along the open e-file. ******

7. Par Score 5 Be7
A little better was 7. ... Be6 (**full credit**), solidifying the d5-pawn and closing the e-file.

8. Bg5
Perhaps White should have played 8. dxc5 first, making the dark-squared bishop move again. After the logical 8. ... Bxc5, White could play 9. Bg5 with more oomph. ******

8. Par Score 5 0-0
Marshall opts for development and attack, but you may accept **full credit** for 8. ... cxd4, 8. ... c4, or 8. ... Be6.

9. dxc5
White opens the d-file, hoping to exert pressure against d5. ******

9. Par Score 5 Be6
Black develops and protects d5 before re-

capturing, though 9. ... Bxc5 (**full credit**) was possible. After 10. Bxf6 Qxf6 11. Qxd5 Bb4 12. Qd3 Bxc3 13. Qxc3 Qxc3 14. bxc3 White’s extra pawn, doubled and isolated, does not constitute a great advantage.

10. Nd4
But this is not quite right, allowing Black to equalize. More to the point was 10. Na4, defending the c5-pawn. ******

10. Par Score 5 Bxc5
The position is about equal.

11. Nxe6
The edge now shifts toward Black. Marshall will get attacking possibilities along the f-file and his d-pawn is bolstered. ******

11. Par Score 5 fxe6

12. Bg4
White goes after the fresh weakness, but Black can handle it. ******

12. Par Score 5 Qd6
Marshall defends, develops, and gets out of the pin.

13. Bh3
Levitsky chooses to keep the two bishops, which may afford attacking chances. ******

13. Par Score 5 Rae8
Black activates his last piece. You may accept **full credit** for the useful move 13. ... a6.

14. Qd2
Now the rooks are connected. White hopes they’re slated for central play. ******

14. Par Score 5 Bb4
By pinning the knight, Black may be able to pressure it or exchange it off, inflicting doubled pawns.

ABCS OF CHESS

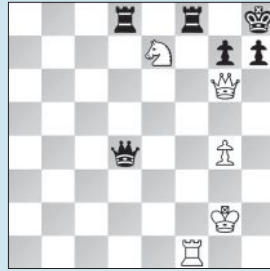
THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALL related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, White is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 63.

OCTOBER EXERCISE:

It's essential to be positive in chess, but the goal is to be objective too. Get into the habit of basing your decisions on the situation and not on your emotions. Naturally, unless you're a computer, it's practically impossible to leave all your feelings at home. But somehow you must analyze concretely and without predisposition. Take a similar approach when you review your games afterward. You may eventually come to understand how you can play better.

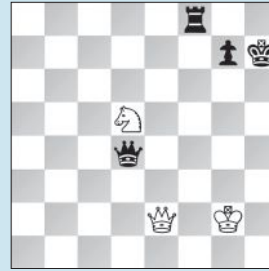
PROBLEM 1

Mating net



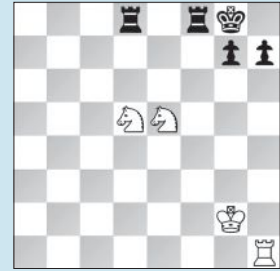
PROBLEM 2

Mating net



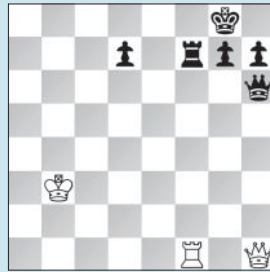
PROBLEM 3

Mating net



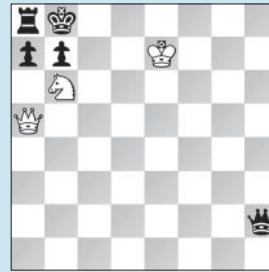
PROBLEM 4

Mating net



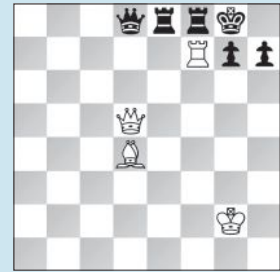
PROBLEM 5

Mating net



PROBLEM 6

Mating net



15. Bxf6

Although 15. ... Ne4 wasn't an immediate threat, since 16. Nxe4 is a possible answer (1 bonus point), White opts to deal with the pesky f6-knight at once. **

15. Par Score 5 Rxf6

Black wants to exploit the half-open f-file, so 15. ... gxf6 made little sense.

16. Rad1

A reasonable developing move, though White might have tried 16. a3. **

16. Par Score 6 Qc5

Marshall, a terrific endgame player, decides to saddle White with a busted queenside.

17. Qe2

There are some tactics associated with this move, but 17. Qd3 was OK. **

17. Par Score 5 Bxc3

Black follows through on his plan.

18. bxc3 **

18. Par Score 5 Qxc3

It's reasonable to do a bit of pawn grabbing here, but you may accept full credit for 18. ... Na5, eyeing the c4-square.

19. Rxd5

This was White's tactical idea, and it's a good one. The position is about even. **

19. Par Score 5 Nd4

There are tricks in the air, though the centralizing 20. Qe4 keeps things dynamically even (if 20. ... Rf4, then 21. Qe5).

20. Qh5

But this is a mistake. It's easy to err in these positions (and chess history is thankful!). **

20. Par Score 5 Ref8

Suddenly White is in real trouble. Marshall is now winning.

21. Re5

This saves the rook, but it doesn't save the day. **

21. Par Score 5 Rh6

This wins, but you may accept full credit (plus 1 bonus point) for seeing 21. ... Rxf2 (22. Rxf2 Qa1+).

22. Qg5

We're heading toward a legendary finish. **

22. Par Score 6 Rxf3

Obviously, 23. gxf3 fails to 23. ... Nf3+.

23. Rxc5

One last complicating try. Are you ready for

one of the most memorable moves in chess history? You can find comparable moves in other games, but this one is especially charming. **

23. Par Score 9 Qg3



An extraordinary queen offering! It can be captured in three ways, but none of them work. Let's examine all the possibilities:

If 24. hxc3, then 24. ... Ne2 mate.

If 24. fxc3, then 24. ... Ne2+ 25. Kh1 Rxf1 mate.

Finally, if 24. Qxc3, then 24. ... Ne2+ 25. Kh1 Nxc3+ 26. Kg1 (26. fxc3 Rxf1 mate) 26. ... Ne2+ and Black keeps his extra knight. So ...

24. White resigned.

I don't know how many gold pieces Marshall supposedly got that day, but 23. ... Qg3 will always remain golden. ♠

Experience Still Matters

The endgame provides hope for veteran players.

BY GM JOEL BENJAMIN

T

HERE MAY BE YOUNG PLAYERS who study endgames night and day, but I suspect more are focused on the openings. In that area they often surpass older players; in the final phase, sometimes there is no substitute for having played and seen more endgames in your lifetime.

Fourteen-year-old IM Alice Lee is one of America's brightest hopes for the future. In the 2024 Cairns Cup, she contested a complicated rook endgame with GM Anna Muzychuk. Though I still picture Anna as a little girl at youth championships, she is now 34 with a wealth of experience. The engine may not agree with all of her decisions here, but she was poised to make better ones thanks to a deeper knowledge of endgame theory.

CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR

GM Anna Muzychuk (2457)

IM Alice Lee (2436)

Cairns Cup (9), St. Louis, 06.22.2024



BLACK TO MOVE

White has something of an optical advantage, but that's about it. Black tries to force a draw, but that can be risky if you don't have all the details worked out.

29. ... Ne5 30. Kc3 Nxc6 31. dxc6 Re6?!

Sometimes doggedly defending a pawn can get in the way of your counterplay. Black should go active with 31. ... Re2! 32. Rd8+ Ke7 33. Rd7+ Ke8 34. Rxc7 Rxf2 when Black is in no danger because her king easily patrols the passed c-pawn.

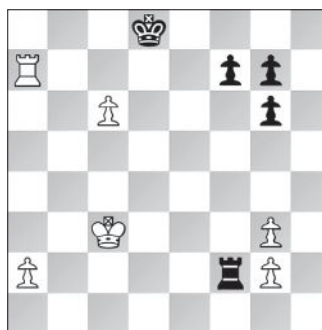
32. Rd8+ Re8 33. Rd7 Re7 34. c5! Ke8!

Lee recovers her poise, avoiding the trap 34. ... bxc5 35. Rd8+ Re8 36. Rxe8+ Kxe8 37. Kc4 Ke7 38. Kxc5 winning as an outside passed pawn is on the horizon, e.g. 38. ... Ke6 39. a4 Ke5 40. Kb4 Kd5 41. Ka5 Kxc6 42. Kxa6 and Black cannot keep the white king contained for long.

35. cxb6 cxb6 36. Rb7!?

Flashy, but objectively probably not the best move. After 36. Rd6! Re5! 37. c7 Rc5+ 38. Kd3 Rxc7 39. Rxb6 White ties down the opposing rook and earns some winning chances.

36. ... Kd8 37. Rxb6 Re2 38. Rxa6 Rxf2 39. Ra7



39. ... Rf6?

Black is overly concerned with the passed c-pawn, which is still under control. 39. ... Rxf2 40. Rxf7 Rxf3+ 41. Kb4 Rg1 produces the notorious rook endgame with rook and bishop pawns, which is drawn in most cases. When White wins these endgames, it's in situations where the bishop pawn is

held back. Here White's king can never find meaningful shelter.

40. Rd7+

I thought this was a strange decision, but it does force Black to make a tricky choice. 40. Kd4 Rxc6 41. Rxf7 Rc2 42. Rxf7 Rxa2 43. Rxf7 Rxf2 is drawn, which probably convinced Muzychuk to give the check. But 40. Kb4! Rxc6 41. Rxf7 Rc2 42. a4 Rxf2 43. Rf3 produces a winning position where White can protect all her pawns and use the a-pawn as a decoy to help win on the other side. I confess I might not have figured that over the board either.

40. ... Kc8?

Understandably, Lee does not want to see her king cut off after 40. ... Ke8 41. Kb4 Rxc6 42. Rd2. However, rook pawns are unwieldy in rook endings, and this pawn hasn't even gotten started yet. Black can draw cleanly with 42. ... Rb6+ 43. Kc5 Ra6 44. Kb5 Ra3 45. Kb4 Rxf3 46. a4 Re3 47. a5 Re1 48. Ra2 (alternatives get nowhere, e.g. 48. a6 Ra1 49. Kb5 Rb1+ 50. Kc6 Rc1+ 51. Kb7 Rb1+ 52. Ka8 g5 and White's king is stuck; 48. Rd5 Rb1+ 49. Kc5 Rc1+ 50. Kb6 Rb1+ 51. Rb5? Rxb5+ 52. Kxb5 Kd7 and Black even wins) 48. ... Rb1+ 49. Kc5 Rc1+ 50. Kb6 Rb1+ and White's king has nowhere to go.

41. Kd4?

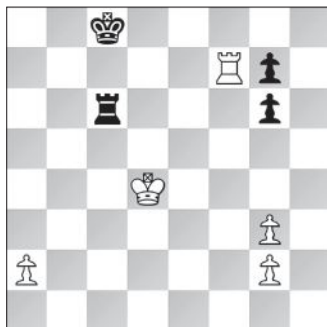
This was the point of the previous move. I hesitate to punctuate it negatively because the refutation is not at all obvious, but objectively 41. Kb4 Rxc6 42. Rxf7 Rc2 43. a4 Rxf2 44. Rf3 was still the right way.

41. ... Rxc6 42. Rxf7

(see diagram top of next column)

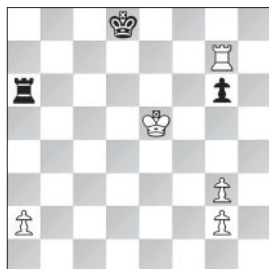
42. ... Rc2??

It's natural to attack both pawns, and we are all a bit hard-wired to occupy the seventh



POSITION AFTER 42. Rxf7

rank. But the rook can be better placed combining attack and defense with 42. ... Ra6! 43. Rxc7 Kd8 44. Ke5 and now:



POSITION AFTER 44. Ke5

(a) 44. ... Ke8 loses but the play is very subtle: 45. Rb7! Rxa2 46. Kf6 Rxc2 47. Rb8+! Kd7 48. Rb3 Ke8 49. Kg7! (49. Kxc6 Kf8 and White cannot advance the pawn) 49. ... g5 50. Re3+ Kd7 51. Kg6 g4 52. Kg5 Rf2 53. Kxc6 Rf8 54. Kg5! Kd6 55. Ra3! (preparing to build a bridge) 55. ... Rg8+ 56. Kf5! Rf8+ 57. Kg6 Rg8+ 58. Kf7 Rg4 59. Kf6 Rg8 60. Rd3+ Kc6 61. Re3 Kd6 62. Re6+ and after one more check the rook will come to the g-file and decide the game.

(b) The draw is there with 44. ... g5!! 45. Rb7 (45. Kf5 Ke8 46. Kxc6 Kf8! 47. Rg6 Rxa2 48. g4 Rxc2 49. Kh6 Rh2+! and White is stopped one move short of the winning setup achieved in the game!) 45. ... Rxa2 46. Kf6 Rxc2 47. Rb3 g4 48. Re3 Rf2+ 49. Kg5 Rf3! and we see why the g-pawn needed to advance!

(c) Black actually has a cleaner draw with the stunning move 44. ... Ra5!! The loose White pawns remain ripe for the plucking, but White's king cannot establish a dominant position: 44. Rxc6 Kd7 45. Rf6 Rxa2 46. Ke5 Rxc2 47. Kf4 Ke7 48. Rf5 Ke6 (not forced but definitely the easiest way to draw; 48. ... Rg1 49. Kg4 Rh1! 50. Kg5 Rh8 is also good enough) 49. g4 Rf2+! 50. Kg5 Rxf5+ 51. gxf5+ Kf7.

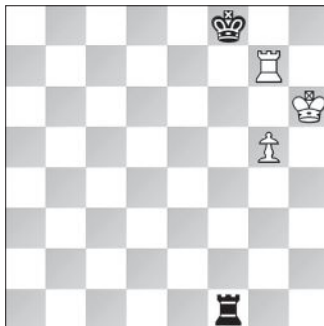
43. Rxc7 Rxa2 44. Ke5!

44. Rxc6 Kd7 lets Black get the king over in time.

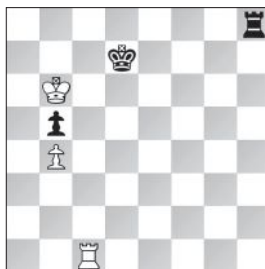
44. ... Rxc2

Black's cause is not helped by 44. ... Kd8 (44. ... Ra6 45. Kf4) 45. Kf6 Ra6+ 46. Kg5 Ke8 47. Rxc6 Ra2 48. Rf6 Rxc2 49. g4, etc.

45. Rxc6 Kd7 46. Kf6 Rf2+ 47. Kg7 Ke7 48. g4 Rf7+ 49. Kh6 Rf1 50. Rg7+ Kf8 51. g5



Black's king is so close, and if it could get to the corner, she would draw no matter how her rook were placed. The theme is known to endgame theory and featured prominently in the classic game Gligoric – Fischer from the 25th round of the 1959 Candidates.



WHITE TO MOVE

Here Gligoric could have won with 53. Rc7+! Kd6 54. Rc6+ Kd7 55. Kxb5 Rb8+ 56. Rb6 Rh8 57. Rb7+ (57. Ka6 also works) 57. ... Kc8 58. Kb6 with a position nearly identical to our game. This endgame can be found in the indispensable classic *Liquidation on the Chessboard* and is thus known to all of my students, but it can also be found in another somewhat popular book, Bobby Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*.

We now return to our regularly scheduled programming.

51. ... Rh1+

After 51. ... Ra1 52. Rb7 Black needs to play ... Kf8-g8 and ... Ra1-a8, but the rules do not allow it.

52. Kg6 Rh2 53. Ra7 Rb2

White would need one more finesse after 53. ... Rg2 54. Ra8+ Ke7, namely 55. Rg8!.

54. Ra8+ Ke7 55. Kg7 Rg2 56. g6 Rg1

57. Kh7 Rh1+ 58. Kg8 Rh2 59. g7 Rg2

60. Ra7+ Ke8 61. Ra1 Rg4

Or 61. ... Rh2 62. Re1+ Kd7 63. Re4 with the Lucena position.

62. Rh1 Ke7 63. Kh8 Kf7 64. Rf1+ Ke7

65. g8=Q Rh4+ 66. Qh7+, Black resigned.

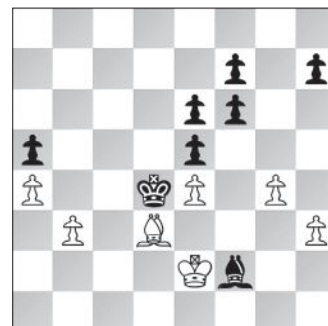
But Lee can occasionally take advantage of someone less experienced than her, as in the pivotal endgame from the last round of the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship.

YOUNG AND YOUNGER

WFM Megan Paragua (2211)

IM Alice Lee (2468)

U.S. Girls' Junior Ch (9), St. Louis, 07.25.2024



WHITE TO MOVE

40. Bc4

One can be proactive in pursuit of a fortress. Paragua never looked to attack Black's vulnerable pawns, e.g., 40. Bb5 Bg1 41. Kf3 Kc3 42. Be8 Kxb3 43. h4 h6 44. h5 Bc5 45. Ke2 f5 46. gxf5 exf5 47. exf5 f6 (47. ... e4 48. f6) 48. Kd3 and Black can make no progress.

40. ... Bh4 41. Kf3 Kc3

Black could have tried 41. ... Bg5 42. Bb5 f5 43. gxf5 exf5 44. exf5 e4+ 45. Ke2 f6, which at least offers some chances.

42. Ke3 Bg5+ 43. Ke2 Bf4 44. Kf2 Kc2 45.

Kf3 Kd2 46. Bb5 Kc3 47. Bc4 Kb4 48. Ke2 Kc5 49. Kf3 Bd2 50. Ke2 Bb4 51. Kd3 Kd6 52. Ke3 Ke7 53. Kf3 Kf8 54. Bd3?!

With more experience, Megan will look to prevent the opponent from gaining any momentum towards a win. After 54. Bb5 Kg7 55. Be8, Black has nothing to try.

54. ... Kg7 55. Ke3 Kg6 56. Kf3 Kg5 57. Bc2 Bc5 58. Bd3 Bd4 59. Bc2 Kh4 60. Kg2 h5 61. Bd1??

(continued on page 52)

Reading Up on Rook Endings

Learn from the hits and misses from the greats of our game

BY IM JOHN WATSON

Y

EARS AGO, I WAS TALKING WITH IM Jeremy Silman about his work in progress that became *Silman's Complete Endgame*

Course, arguably the most user-friendly endgame book ever written. At the time, I had been playing over a great number of games by the early world champions and noticed that their endgames contained far more mistakes than one would imagine, even in some “elementary” positions that are now standard knowledge. I thought it might be interesting to use these as instructive tidbits and sent Jeremy some examples, but in the end they didn't fit into the style and philosophy of his book.

Reading through GM Valentin Bogdanov's *Rook Endgames from Morphy to Carlsen* reminded me of that experience. Bogdanov examines 384 rook endings (each side with one rook and pawns) played by 17 world champions and 11 other chess giants. While we can be confident that these endings are played more accurately on average than those by their contemporaries, it is still astonishing how these top-class players throw away an astonishing number of wins and draws, sometimes swinging the assessment back and forth three, four or even more times in a short span.

The last chapter is called “Games Between Our Champions,” and even when two world champions face off, most contests include decisive errors that could have or did change the result of the game. In Bogdanov's words, “This emphasizes how difficult it can be to play rook endgames ... In some cases the errors came in standard theoretical endgames, which also shows that we can gain many half-points and even full points

by studying and practising the basics.” One example (with his notes) illustrates this:

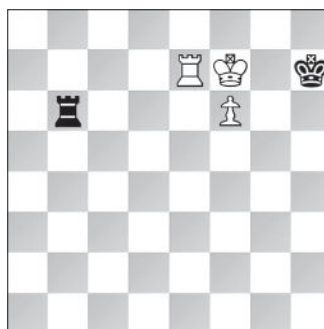
TRAGEDY OF ERRORS

José Raúl Capablanca

Vera Menchik

Hastings 1929/30

Annotations (lightly edited) by Bogdanov



BLACK TO MOVE

55. ... Ra6?

On the b-file the rook has sufficient checking distance, so there was no need to transfer it to the a-file. However, there is an urgent need to put it on a different rank. The textbook defense is 55. ... Rb8 with equality, but other squares along the b-file are also possible, such as the natural 55. ... Rb1, the main point being that after 56. Kf8+ Kg6! 57. f7 Kf6! 58. Kg8 Black can give a check from behind with 58. ... Rg1+!

56. Rd7?

Here 56. Kf8+! Kg6 57. f7 Kf6 58. Kg8! is a simple win.

56. ... Ra8 57. Re7 Ra6?

Stubbornly reoccupying the only losing square. 57. ... Rb8! is equal.

58. Kf8+ Kg6 59. f7! Ra8+ 60. Re8 Ra7

61. Re6+ Kh7 62. Ke8?

The errors continue. 62. Rf6! is the easiest win.

62. ... Ra8+! 63. Ke7 Ra7+?

The final blunder. 63. ... Kg7! is equal.

64. Kf6, Black resigned.

Endgame books come in a wide variety of formats, of course, and I'm convinced that there isn't a “best” one for all students. The most intense and ambitious young players might be inclined to master a reference work such as *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*, Müller and Lamprecht's *Fundamental Chess Endings*, or GM John Nunn's various treatises. That's obviously desirable, of course, but most players, whether students, club-level, or online fanatics, won't have the time, interest, or discipline to invest in such a comprehensive study. In addition, such books are mainly designed to impart fundamental knowledge and don't necessarily prepare one for the real-world challenge of facing random, non-theoretical endgame positions that require general problem-solving skills.

Ideally, players should master as many standard endings as possible while becoming adept at playing positions that don't resemble anything they've seen before. That may sound impossibly hard, but if you're someone who enjoys chess history and the drama of great players duking it out with each other, Bogdanov's approach could provide a way to acquire this balance of concrete knowledge and practical skill in the least painful way. His book includes many lengthy endgame battles, with numerous lessons and a few basic ideas that keep arising. I found seven examples of the outside passed rook's pawn, including these:

CHECK THE GUIDELINES

GM Wolfgang Unzicker

GM Tigran Petrosian

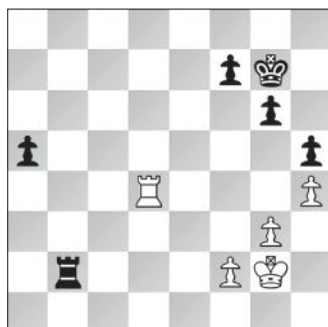
Olympiad Final (9), Varna, 10.06.1962

Annotations (lightly edited) by Bogdanov

(see diagram top of next column)

47. ... Rb6!

Not allowing the white rook to get behind the passed pawn. After 47. ... Rb5? 48. Rd6! [followed by Rd6-a6 – Watson], White should hold the draw.



BLACK TO MOVE

48. Ra4 Ra6?

“Rook behind the passed pawn” can be a misleading guideline! Now that the White rook is stuck in front of the pawn, the black rook has the option of defending the pawn horizontally, and after 48. ... Rb5! the rook is better placed to prevent counterplay. White can again seek to put his rook behind the pawn with 49. Rc4, but after 49. ... Kf6! White has lost too much time and the black king will quickly come across to support the a-pawn.

49. Kf3?!

White should create counterplay by 49. f3! with the idea g3-g4.

49. ... Kf6 50. Ke4 Ke6?

Black should have transferred his rook to the fifth rank with 50. ... Re6+! 51. Kd4 Re5.

51. f3! Ra7 52. g4 Ra6 53. Kf4 f6 54. Ke4 f5+ 55. gxf5+ gxf5+ 56. Kf4 Kf6 57. Ke3 Ke5 58. Kd3 Rd6+ 59. Ke3 Rd5 60. Rc4 Rb5 61. Ra4 Kd5 62. Ra1 Kc4 63. Kf4??

This loses. After 63. Rc1+!, the king cannot advance and must return to d5.

63. ... Kc3 64. Kg5 Kb2 65. Re1 f4+ 66. Kxf4 a4 67. Ke4 a3 68. f4 a2 69. f5 Ka3 70. Kf4 Rb1 71. Re3+ Kb4 72. Re4+ Kc5, White resigned.

THE DECISIVE POINT

Alexander Alekhine

José Raúl Capablanca

WCh (34), Buenos Aires, 11.26.1927

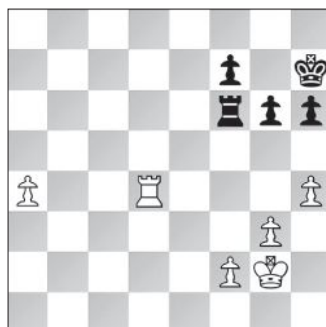
Annotations by Watson; notes in quotation marks by Bogdanov

(see diagram top of next column)

“This was the final game of the match, after which a new champion was crowned.”

50. ... Kg7

Here 50. ... Ra6 51. Kf3! with the idea Kf3-



BLACK TO MOVE

e4-d5 is no better. After 50. ... Kg7, “We have a standard-looking situation with 3 versus 3 on the kingside and an extra passed a-pawn. This is a configuration where the defender can typically hold the draw if he can get his rook behind the passed pawn, but here he cannot, whereas White’s rook is well-placed. Therefore we can assess the position as winning for White.”

51. a5 Ra6 52. Rd5 Rf6 53. Rd4 Ra6

54. Ra4 Kf6 55. Kf3 Ke5 56. Ke3 h5 57. Kd3 Kd5 58. Kc3 Kc5 59. Ra2

“One of the advantages of having the rook behind the passed pawn is the ability to pass the move to the defender as many times as desired. It is like an unlimited supply of tempo moves.”

59. ... Kb5 60. Kb3 Kc5

White wins after 60. ... Rxa5 61. Rxa5+ Kxa5 62. Kc4 Kb6 63. Kd5 Kc7 64. Ke5 Kd7 65. Kf6 Ke8 66. f4 Kf8 67. f5.

61. Kc3 Kb5 62. Kd4! Rd6+

“Black has freed his rook, but now his king is tied up ... and hopelessly far from the kingside.” White went on to win.

63. Ke5 Re6+ 64. Kf4 Ka6 65. Kg5 Re5+ 66. Kh6 Rf5 67. f4 Rc5 68. Ra3 Rc7 69. Kg7 Rd7 70. f5 gxf5 71. Kh6 f4 72. gxf4 Rd5 73. Kg7 Rf5 74. Ra4 Kb5 75. Re4 Ka6 76. Kh6 Rxa5 77. Re5 Ra1 78. Kxh5 Rg1 79. Rg5 Rh1 80. Rf5 Kb6 81. Rxf7 Kc6 82. Re7, Black resigned.

STAY ALERT

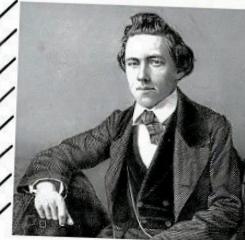
GM Magnus Carlsen (2845)

GM Viswanathan Anand (2779)

Gashimov Memorial (2), Shamkir, 04.01.2019

Annotations (lightly edited) by Bogdanov

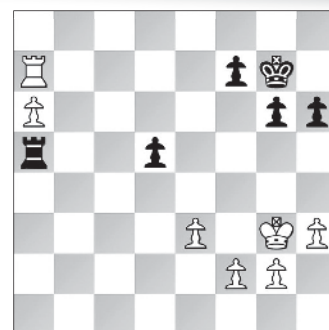
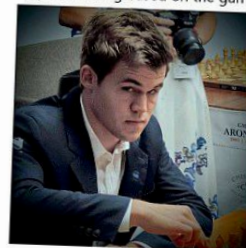
GAMBIT



Rook Endgames from Morphy to Carlsen

Valentin Bogdanov

Lessons from an expert trainer in the most common and important type of ending based on the games of the greatest players of all time



BLACK TO MOVE

Black’s position is difficult, even though his rook is behind the extra outside passed pawn. The fact that we have 4 versus 4 on the rest of the board increases White’s winning chances, as does Black’s isolated d-pawn.

37. ... Kf6?

This move turns a difficult position into a lost one. There was still time to counterattack the enemy structure with the alert and concrete move 37. ... Ra3!. Black intends to eliminate his weakness by playing ... d5-d4, while moving to the fourth rank by 38. Kf4 Kf6! gets the white king nowhere, and 38. Kh2 is met by 38. ... Ra2! 39. f3 Ra3!.

38. Ra8 Ra3 39. Kh2!

Now this move is sufficient, as the black rook will be restricted to the a-file once White plays a6-a7.



39. ... h5 40. a7 Ra2 41. h4 Kf5 42. f3 Ra1 43. g3, Black resigned.

The white king will advance to the c6-square, and Black will have to give up the d5-pawn. Combine these examples and you have a nice tutorial on how to handle both sides of such positions.

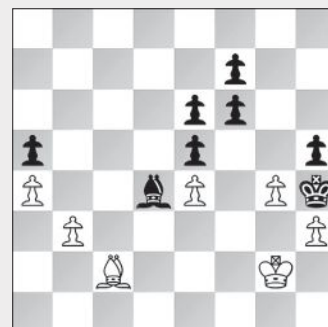
At the end of the book are 68 exercises with positions taken from the main games and notes. An index of themes makes it easy to find a particular type of ending, including, for example, queen endings which arise in the notes after pawn promotions. Bogdanov's analysis is occasionally deep, but usually brief and to the point. He emphasizes verbal guidance in place of listing alternatives

at every juncture. This is appropriate for a general audience; he says that the book "is intended to be useful for chess enthusiasts of a wide range of playing strengths, but is especially suitable for those of good club standard or higher who already have a basic knowledge of rook endgame theory." By implication, inexperienced players should probably have a guide to basic endings at hand for reference.

With this book, Gambit Publications continues their tradition of publishing the highest quality endgame books. Bogdanov himself has written *Understanding Pawn Endings* (also translated by Graham Burgess), and last year GM Ferenc Berkes and IM Tibor Karolyi authored *Secrets of Queen Endgames*, while Nunn's classics on endgames are being reprinted. *Rook Endgames from Morphy to Carlsen* is a fresh take on endgame study, combining theory with the real-world drama of chess history. It's a successful approach which could broaden the appeal of endgame literature to new readers. ♠

Bogdanov, Valentin. Rook Endgames from Morphy to Carlsen, translated by Graham Burgess. London: Gambit Publications, 2024. ISBN 978-1805040712. 304 pp.

BENJAMIN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49)



POSITION AFTER 61. Bd1

Now White must find forced moves to survive — and she may need three of them. After 61. Kf3! Bc5 62. Bd3! Kxh3 63. gxh5 Bf8 64. Bb5! (tempting but losing is 64. b4? Kh4) 64. ... f5 65. Be8 White is out of the woods.

61. ... hxg4 62. hxg4 Kg5

White needs to play Kg2-f3 and Bd1-c2, also prohibited by law.

63. Kg3 f5 64. Bf3 fxe4 65. Bxe4 f5 66. gxf5 exf5 67. Bc6 e4 68. Kg2 Kf4 69. Bd7 Ke5 70. Kf1 f4 71. Bc6 f3 72. Bb5 e3 73. Ba6 Bc3, White resigned. ♠

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FEDERATION

MAKE YOUR MOVE

BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE TAKEN FROM THIS YEAR'S U.S. Senior, Junior, and Girls' Junior Championships.

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.

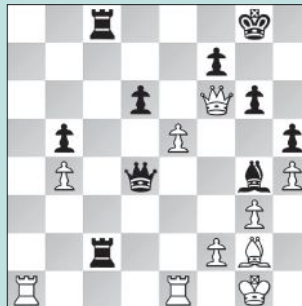
Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in one or two weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics 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.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 4.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 6.



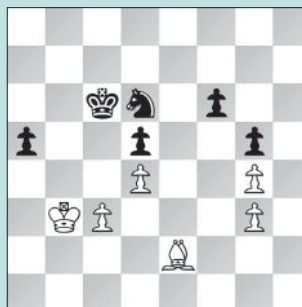
BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC 7.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 8.



WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC 9.



BLACK TO MOVE

Position 1: LOOSE PIECES DROP OFF

Position 2: INTERFERENCE

Position 3: OPEN THE RIGHT PATHS

Position 4: LET THE CLERICS LOOSE

Position 5: HITTING IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Position 6: RIP THE COVER OFF

Position 7: OPEN SESAME!

Position 8: A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Position 9: UNUSUAL SHELTER

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHES.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

HERITAGE EVENT • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

65th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship

OCTOBER 12-14, 2024, MARYLAND

Event site: United States Naval Academy Address: 121 Blake Road, Annapolis, MD 22485 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Robert Getty Email: chess@gettyfamily.com Phone: 540-990-3250 Website: <https://vachess.org> TLA ID: 44568

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2024 National K-12 Grades Championships

DECEMBER 6-8, 2024, MARYLAND

Event site: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center Address: 201 Waterfront St., National Harbor, MD 20745 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: nationalevents@uschess.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2024/k12> TLA ID: 45443

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of Dec. 31, 2023, for the 2023 Grand Prix.

FINAL 2023 GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

Congratulations to the 2023 Grand Prix Champion

GM JIANCHAO ZHOU

	Name	State/Ctry	Pts
1.	GM JIANCHAO ZHOU	MA	562.94
2.	GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ	NY	481.29
3.	GM MIKHAIL ANTIPOV	MO	194.33
4.	GM ARMAN MIKAEVYAN	--	157.10
5.	GM RAHUL P SRIVATSHAV	--	128.74
6.	FM SHARVESH R DEVIPRASATH	TX	121.10
7.	IM SAFAL BORA	MI	115.33
8.	GM ALEXANDER FISHBEIN	TN	111.47
9.	IM JUSTIN WANG	TX	108.62
10.	GM VIKTOR MATVIISHEN	TX	106.09

2023 Awards

\$12,500 in cash prizes
First Prize \$5,000

2nd: \$2,500	3rd: \$1,000
4th: \$900	5th: \$800
6th: \$700	7th: \$600
8th: \$500	9th: \$300
10th: \$200	

The Grand Prix continues in 2024. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024, FLORIDA

Event site: Embassy Suites Hotel Address: 10450 Corkscrew Commons Drive, Estero, FL 33928 Overall prize fund: \$9,000 GP Points: 40 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jon Haskell Email: jon@bocachess.com Phone: 561-302-4377 Website: <http://www.bocachess.com> TLA ID: 45218

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight World Teachers' Day Classic

OCTOBER 5, 2024, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall prize fund: \$764 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Dragon Knight Chess Email: jon@dragonknightchess.com Phone: 919-422-2535 Website: DragonKnightChess.com TLA ID: 44978

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

3rd Skyline Open

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Address: 45020 Aviation Drive, Dulles, VA 20166 Overall prize fund: \$11,500 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Anand Dommalapati Email: so2024@capitalareachess.com Phone: 703-627-5314 Website: <https://www.capitalareachess.com/SkylineOpen> TLA ID: 44786

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

32nd annual Midwest Class Championships

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024, 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: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44668

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2024 Michigan Bottom Half Class Championships

OCTOBER 12-13, 2024, MICHIGAN

Event site: Wyndham Garden Ann Arbor Address: 2900 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103 Overall prize fund: \$2,575 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Michigan Chess Association Email: jeffchess64@gmail.com Phone: 8109557271 Website: <https://www.michess.org/> TLA ID: 44991

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2024 SPICE Cup Open

OCTOBER 13-18, 2024, MISSOURI

Event site: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel St. Louis - Chesterfield Address: 16625 Swingley Ridge Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 Overall prize fund: see on-line TLA GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Webster University Email: awzyzywany@webster.edu Phone: 3142468075 Website: <https://www.webster.edu/spice/> TLA ID: 45111

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

89th Greater Boston Open

OCTOBER 13, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Rd., Westford MA 01886 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Massachusetts Chess Association Email: info@masschess.org Phone: 603-891-2484 Website: masschess.org TLA ID: 44737

GRAND PRIX

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024, SOUTH DAKOTA

Event site: Holiday Inn City Centre Address: 100 W. 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57104 Overall prize fund: \$12,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Glenn Panner Email: glenn@chessweekend.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.chessweekend.com/> TLA ID: 43161

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual Hartford Open

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Sheraton Hotel Address: 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 60 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44669

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

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Westin Princeton at Forrester Village Address: 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Overall prize fund: \$25,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44670

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

1st Origami Open!

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 Overall

prize fund: \$5,500 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Northern New England Chess Association Email: josephtruelson@gmail.com Phone: 651-443-6341 Website: newenglandchess.org TLA ID: 44314

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight "Back to the Future" Day Grand Prix

OCTOBER 26, 2024, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Dragon Knight Chess Center Address: 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 Overall prize fund: \$764 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Dragon Knight Chess Email: jon@dragonknightchess.com Phone: 919-422-2535 Website: DragonKnightChess.com TLA ID: 45415

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2024 PA State Chess Championship - West

OCTOBER 26, 2024, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh Address: 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Overall prize fund: \$690 GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Tom Martinak Email: martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com Phone: 412-908-0286 Website: <http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/> TLA ID: 44970

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

11th annual Eastern Chess Congress Blitz Championship

OCTOBER 26, 2024, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Westin Princeton at Forrester Village Address: 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Overall prize fund: \$500 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44906

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2024 Fredericksburg Open

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024, VIRGINIA

Event site: Country Inn & Suites South Address: 10358 Patriot Highway, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 Overall prize fund: \$4,000 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Mike Hoffpauir, NTD Email: mhoffpauir@aol.com Phone: 757-846-4805 Website: <https://www.vachess.org> TLA ID: 44136

GRAND PRIX

GM Alex Sherzer Memorial Mid-Atlantic Masters

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024, VIRGINIA

Event site: Executive Conference Center Dulles Address: 22685 Holiday Park Dr, Suite 60, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall prize fund: \$7,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Mehler Email: Dmehler@chessctr.org Phone: n/a Website: <https://chessctr.org/midatlanticmasters/> TLA ID: 45203

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

19th annual Los Angeles Open

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024, CALIFORNIA, S.

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: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44671

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Los Angeles Open Blitz Championship

NOVEMBER 2, 2024, CALIFORNIA, S.

Event site: Hilton Orange County Airport Address: 18800 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine, CA 92612 Overall prize fund: \$500 GP Points: 10 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Email: director@chess.us Phone: n/a Website: chessstour.com TLA ID: 44912

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

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

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight National Bison Day Grand Prix

NOVEMBER 2, 2024, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Dragon Knight Chess Center **Address:** 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 **Overall prize fund:** \$764 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Dragon Knight Chess **Email:** jon@drag-onknightchess.com **Phone:** 919-422-2535 **Website:** DragonKnightChess.com **TLA ID:** 45416

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Dragon Knight World Freedom Day Grand Prix

NOVEMBER 9, 2024, NORTH CAROLINA

Event site: Dragon Knight Chess Center **Address:** 2000 Bearcat Way, Suite 104, Morrisville, NC 27560 **Overall prize fund:** \$764 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Dragon Knight Chess **Email:** jon@drag-onknightchess.com **Phone:** 919-422-2535 **Website:** DragonKnightChess.com **TLA ID:** 45417

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

33rd annual Kings Island Open NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024, OHIO

Event site: Embassy Suites Cincinnati NE **Address:** 4554 Lake Forest Dr., Blue Ash, OH 45242 **Overall prize fund:** \$25,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44793

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

11th annual Kings Island Open Blitz Championship NOVEMBER 16, 2024, OHIO

Event site: Embassy Suites Cincinnati NE **Address:** 4554 Lake Forest Dr., Blue Ash, OH 45242 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44914

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2024 PA State Game/15 Championship - West NOVEMBER 17, 2024, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh **Address:** 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 **Overall prize fund:** \$690 **GP Points:** 6 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Tom Martinak **Email:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com **Phone:** 412-908-0286 **Website:** http://www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/ **TLA ID:** 44971

GRAND PRIX

Turkey Shoot 2024 NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024, TEXAS

Event site: La Quinta **Address:** 303 Blum Street, San Antonio, TX 78205 **Overall prize fund:** \$4,600 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** CompleteChess **Email:** completechess@gmail.com **Phone:** 2103933056 **Website:** https://completechesseducation.com/ **TLA ID:** 45419

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2024 Illinois Class State Championship NOVEMBER 24, 2024, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg **Address:** 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 **Overall prize fund:** \$6,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Glenn Paner **Email:** glenn@chessweekend.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** https://www.chessweekend.com/ **TLA ID:** 45421

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

59th American Open NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 1, 2024, CALIFORNIA, S.

Event site: Hyatt Regency Orange County **Address:** 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92640 **Overall prize fund:** see online TLA **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** ChessPalace **Email:** play@americanopen.org **Phone:** 714-643-8828 **Website:** americanopen.org **TLA ID:** 44595

GRAND PRIX

8th Annual Sevan Memorial Tournament NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg **Address:** 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 **Overall prize fund:** \$12,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Glenn Paner **Email:** glenn@chessweekend.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** https://www.chessweekend.com/ **TLA ID:** 45406

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

55th annual National Chess Congress NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Loews Hotel **Address:** 11200 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107 **Overall prize fund:** \$45,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44794

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

15th annual National Chess Congress Blitz Championship NOVEMBER 30, 2024, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Loews Hotel **Address:** 11200 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107 **Overall prize fund:** \$500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44915

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2024 Michigan Action Championship DECEMBER 7, 2024, MICHIGAN

Event site: Oakland Center at Oakland University **Address:** 312 Meadow Brook Rd., Rochester, MI, 48309 **Overall prize fund:** \$2,550 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** jeffchess64@gmail.com **Phone:** 8109557271 **Website:** https://www.michess.org/ **TLA ID:** 44993

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial DECEMBER 15, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center **Address:** 219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 **Overall prize fund:** \$2,500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Massachusetts Chess Association **Email:** info@masschess.org **Phone:** 6038912484 **Website:** http://www.masschess.org **TLA ID:** 45407

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

49th annual Eastern Open DECEMBER 26-29, 2024, VIRGINIA

Event site: Hyatt Regency Crystal City **Address:** 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202 **Overall prize fund:** \$30,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.co **TLA ID:** 44795

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

34th annual North American Open DECEMBER 26-30, 2024, 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:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44741

GRAND PRIX

2nd World Chess Festival DECEMBER 28-31, 2024, HAWAII

Event site: Neal Blaisdell Center **Address:** 777 Ward Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96814 **Overall prize fund:** \$5,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Joe Hanley **Email:** hanleychessacademy@gmail.com **Phone:** 7149253195 **Website:** http://hanleychessacademy.com/2ndWCF.html **TLA ID:** 45182

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

33rd annual North American Blitz Championship DECEMBER 29, 2024, NEVADA

Event site: Horseshoe Casino Resort (formerly Bally's) **Address:** 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103 **Overall prize fund:** \$3,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 44904

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual Boston Chess Congress JANUARY 3-5, 2025, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor **Address:** 101 Harborside Dr, Boston, MA 02128 **Overall prize fund:** \$12,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 45408

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX

2025 Tim Just Winter Open JANUARY 3-5, 2025, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg **Address:** 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 **Overall prize fund:** \$10,000 **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** King Registration **Email:** bill@kingregistration.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** https://www.kingregistration.com/event/timjust25/ **TLA ID:** 45433

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

57th annual Liberty Bell Open JANUARY 17-20, 2025, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sonesta Philadelphia Rittenhouse Hotel **Address:** 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$25,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** n/a **Website:** chesstour.com **TLA ID:** 45412

Regional

ALABAMA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

ALASKA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 12, 2024

National Chess Day in Soldotna, Alaska!

Event site: Cook Inlet Academy **Address:** 145872 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Soldotna, AK 99669 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Alaska Arctic Chess Club **Email:** alaskaarcticchessclub@fastmail.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** twitter.com/ArcticChessClub **TLA ID:** 44724

AMERICAN SAMOA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

ARIZONA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

19th annual Los Angeles Open (CA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 29, 2024

33rd annual North American Blitz Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

ARKANSAS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix..

CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

19th annual Los Angeles Open (CA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

9th annual Los Angeles Open Blitz Championship (CA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 29, 2024

33rd annual North American Blitz Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

COLORADO

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 13, 2024-APRIL 27, 2025

10th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)! (NY)

See New York.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

13th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

8th Annual New York State Girls Championship! (NY)

See New York.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

13th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DELAWARE

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

FLORIDA

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

GEORGIA

APRIL 8, 2024-MONTHLY ON SATURDAY

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: mythinkchess.com/ TLA ID: 37216

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

GUAM

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

HAWAII

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

IDAHO

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

ILLINOIS

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

32nd annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26, 2024

Springfield Jackolantorn Open

Event site: Southern View Village Hall Address: 3410 South 5th St., Springfield, IL 62703 Overall prize fund: \$400 b/30 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Long Email: n/a Phone: 217-726-2584 Website: <http://www.springfieldchessclub.com> TLA ID: 45009

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024

33rd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

2024 Illinois Class State Championship (IL)

See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

2025 Tim Just Winter Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

INDIANA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

32nd annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024

33rd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

2024 Illinois Class State Championship (IL)

See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

2025 Tim Just Winter Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

IOWA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

2024 Illinois Class State Championship (IL)

See Grand Prix.

KANSAS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

KENTUCKY

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024

33rd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

34th annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

Dec 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29, 2024, Las Vegas - GM & IM norms possible!
\$130,000 PRIZE FUND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!

Open Section: 9 rounds, Dec 26-30, 40/90, SD/30; d30.

Other sections: 7 rounds, Dec 26-29 or 27-29, 40/90, SD/30; d30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10).

At Horseshoe Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd So, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking for guests.

In 8 sections. Open Section uses December FIDE ratings, other sections Dec official USCF ratings. Top 3 sections are also FIDE rated.

Open Section: \$10000-5000-3000-2000-1300-1000-800-700-600-500, clear/tiebreak win \$300 bonus, top FIDE U2400/Unr \$3000-2000-1000, 300 GPP.

Under 2300, Under 2100, Under 1900: Each \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-400-400.

Under 1700: \$6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400.

Under 1500: \$5000-2500-1300-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300.

Under 1300: \$4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300.

Under 1000: \$1500-1000-600-400-300-300-200-200-200.

Prize limits: 1) Unrated limit U1000 \$300, U1300 \$500, U1500 \$700, U1700 \$1000, U1900 \$1500, U2100 \$2000. 2) Under 26 games by 12/23 list, limit U1000 \$800, U1300 \$1500, U1500 or U1700 \$3000. 3) If any post-event Regular OTB or Regular Online rating posted 12/20/23-12/20/24 or current Online Regular rating was more than 40 points over section maximum, limit \$1500. 4) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line.

Cannot play below Online Regular rating minus 100 points.

Mixed doubles: \$2000-1000-500-300-200. See chessevents.us.

Top 6 sections entry fee: \$245 at chessaction.com by 9/20, \$275 by 12/23, \$300 later online or at site until 1 hour before round 1. Open Section \$800 additional fee if not USCF-rated 2300+ and if not FIDE rated 2100+.

Special entry fee: U1000 Section \$150 less, Senior 65/over in U1300/up, \$100 less. Re-entry (no Open) \$120.

Titled player entry: See chessevents.us.

Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

5-day late reg. ends 12/26 10 am, rds 12/26-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30, 12/30 10 am (Open Section).

4-day late reg. ends 12/26 5 pm, rounds 12/26 6 pm, 12/27-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 am & 4:30 pm.

3-day late reg. ends 12/27 10 am, rounds 12/27 11, 2:30 & 6, 12/28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30.

1/2-pt byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rds). Must commit before round 3.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

USCF membership required; see chessevents.us for special rates.

Special room rate at Horseshoe \$109-109. Use link at chessevents.us or 800-833-3308. Rooms may sell out by Nov 15.

Entry: chessaction.com. No mail entries, no checks. Refunds, \$15 service charge.

Questions, email: chesstour.info, director@chess.us.

Blitz tournament 12/29 10:30 pm. Enter online by 7 pm 12/29 for lowest fee.

OCTOBER 12, 2024, LOUISIANA

Chess Day Swiss

Event site: Louisiana Bridge Association **Address:** 2709 Edenborn Ave, Metairie, LA 70002 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Downriver Chess Club of New Orleans **Email:** info@downriverchess.com **Phone:** 6(202) 656-9754 **Website:** https://downriverchess.com **TLA ID:** 44965

MAINE

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

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

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

PA Team Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024

55th annual National Chess Congress (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

57th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 13, 2024

89th Greater Boston Open (MA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

13th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial (MA)

See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

13th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MICHIGAN

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

OCTOBER 5, 2024, MICHIGAN

2024 Michigan Women's Championship & Men's Side Event

Event site: Twin Knights Gaming **Address:** 4955 Rochester Rd, Troy, MI 48065 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** jeffchess64@gmail.com **Phone:** 8109557271 **Website:** https://www.michess.org/ **TLA ID:** 44848

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 2, 2024, MICHIGAN

2024 Michigan Scholastic Club Championships

Event site: Lansing Center **Address:** 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI, 48933 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** jeffchess64@gmail.com **Phone:** 8109557271 **Website:** https://www.michess.org/ **TLA ID:** 44992

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024

33rd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MINNESOTA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

MISSISSIPPI

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

OCTOBER 19-20, 2024, MISSISSIPPI

2024 Mississippi State Chess Championship

Event site: CSpire **Address:** 1000 Highland Colony Pkwy, Ridgeland, MS 39157 **Overall prize fund:** \$0 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Mississippi Chess Association **Email:** mark@mcchess.org **Phone:** 615-631-3876 **Website:** mcchess.org **TLA ID:** 44331

MISSOURI

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 13-18, 2024

2024 SPICE Cup Open (MO)

See Grand Prix.

MONTANA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

55th annual NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS

6 rounds, Nov 29-Dec 1 or Nov 30-Dec 1, 2024 - Loews Philadelphia Hotel

\$45,000 prize fund guaranteed, 20 plaques, free entries!

6 rounds, 40/80, SD/30; d30 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/40 d10). U800 & U600 sections play separate 2-day schedule only, 11/30-12/1, G/40 d10. Top 3 sections are FIDE rated.

Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St, Philadelphia PA 19107. Hotel rates \$120-120-145-145, use link at chessevents.us, reserve by 11/14.

In 10 sections (see peakrating.us):

Premier Section: Open to 2000/over. Prizes \$4000-2400-1200-800-500, clear/tiebreak win \$200, USCF U2400 \$2000-1000. 200 GPP.

U2200, U2000: Each \$2500-1300-700-500-300.

U1800: \$2400-1200-600-400-300.

U1600: \$2000-1000-600-400-300.

U1400: \$1600-800-500-300-200.

U1200: \$1400-700-400-300-200.

U1000: \$1200-600-400-300-200..

U800, U600: Each, plaques to top 10. CCA free entry prizes to top 4.

Unrated prize limits: U1000 \$200, U1200 \$300, U1400 \$400, U1600 \$500, U1800 \$600, U2000 \$700.

Mixed doubles prizes: Best male-female 2-player combined score among all sections, averaging under 2200: \$2000-1000-600-400. May enter different sections, register before both begin round 2, teams including an unrated limited to \$400.

December official ratings used; unofficial or Online Regular USCF ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Cannot play** below USCF Online Regular rating - 100 points.

Top 8 sections entry fee: \$138 online at chessaction.com by 11/27, \$160 later online or at site, until 1 hour before round 1.

U800, U600 sections entry fee: \$52 online by 11/27, \$70 later, at site or online, until 9 am 11/30.

All: No checks at site, credit cards OK. Re-entry (except Premier) \$60.

Special USCF membership with magazine if paid online with entry fee: Adult \$43, Young Adult \$26, Youth \$19. USCF membership required.

3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:30.

2-day U1000/up schedule: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10, 12:45, 3:30 & 6; Sun 10 & 3:30.

2-day U800 & U600 sections: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds 10, 12:45 & 3:30 each day.

Half point byes OK all rds, limit 3, must commit before rd 3.

Bring set, board, clock if possible-none supplied.

Cellphones: No possession during play; in bag near your table OK.

Parking: Loews valet about \$38, 25% off regular rate. Gateway Garage, 3/5 mile away at 1540 Spring St, about \$12/day Sat & Sun, \$30 other days.

Entry: chessaction.com. No mailed entries. \$15 charge for refunds.

Email: director@chess.us

Blitz tournament Sat 10:30 pm, enter by 10 pm.

NEBRASKA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

19th annual Los Angeles Open (CA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 29, 2024

33rd annual North American Blitz Championship (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 13, 2024-APRIL 27, 2025

10th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)! (NY)

See New York.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

13th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26, 2024

11th annual Eastern Chess Congress Blitz Championship (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

8th Annual New York State Girls Championship! (NY)

See New York.

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024

55th annual National Chess Congress (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

13th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

57th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 13, 2024-APRIL 27, 2025

10th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)!

Event site: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School Address: 36 West 93rd St., New York, NY 10025 Overall prize fund: \$6,200 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chess Center of New York Email: chesscenter@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: https://www.magnusleague.org TLA ID: 45418

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

13th annual Hartford Open (CT)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26, 2024

11th annual Eastern Chess Congress Blitz Championship (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024, NEW YORK

8th Annual New York State Girls Championship!

Event site: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School Address: 36 West 93rd St., New York, NY 10025 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chess Center of New York Email: chesscenter@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: https://www.chessgirls.win TLA ID: 44899

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024

55th annual National Chess Congress (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

13th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

57th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 5, 2024

Dragon Knight World Teachers' Day Classic (NC)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 26, 2024

Dragon Knight "Back to the Future" Day Grand Prix (NC)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

Dragon Knight National Bison Day Grand Prix (NC)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 9, 2024

Dragon Knight World Freedom Day Grand Prix (NC)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NORTH DAKOTA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

N. MARINA ISLANDS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OHIO

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024

33rd annual Kings Island Open (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

11th annual Kings Island Open Blitz Championship (OH)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OKLAHOMA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OREGON

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

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

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26, 2024

11th annual Eastern Chess Congress Blitz Championship (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

PA Team Championship

Event site: Tuscarora Room, Shippensburg University Address: 110 Lancaster Dr., Shippensburg, PA 17257 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Nathan Zeigler Email: nathzeig@gmail.com Phone: 6197481751 Website: tickettailor.com/events/shippensburguniversitychessclub/1262655 TLA ID: 43247

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

8th Annual New York State Girls Championship! (NY)

See New York.

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024

55th annual National Chess Congress (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 30, 2024

15th annual National Chess Congress Blitz Championship (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

57th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

PUERTO RICO

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

RHODE ISLAND

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

HERITAGE EVENT

OCTOBER 18, 2024

85th Klaus Pohl Memorial South Carolina State Championships 2024

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Columbia/Harborson Address: 434 Columbiana Drive, Columbia, SC 29212 Overall prize fund: \$2675 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Ernest E. Nix, Jr. Email: eenixjr@yahoo.com Phone: 864-905-2406 Website: <https://www.sc-chess.org> TLA ID: 44960

TENNESSEE

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

U.S. MIN. ISLANDS

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

UTAH

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

VERMONT

OCTOBER 5, 2024

Bennington Fall Open

Event site: Bennington Free Library Address: 101 Silver St. Bennington, VT 05201 Overall prize fund: \$780 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Andrew Palmer Email: palmeraf62@hotmail.com Phone: 8026815417 Website: n/a TLA ID: 45095

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

Vermont Open

Event site: University of Vermont, Old Mill #325 Address: 94 University Place, Burlington, VT 05405 Overall prize fund: \$2,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Walter M Chesnut Email: wmc@wmchesnut.com Phone: 8028815602 Website: n/a TLA ID: 45070

VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Gulf Coast October Open, A National Chess Day Event (FL)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

28th annual Eastern Chess Congress (NJ)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2024

55th annual National Chess Congress (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 26-29, 2024

49th annual Eastern Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

57th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

DECEMBER 26-30, 2024

34th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 28-31, 2024

2nd World Chess Festival (HI)

See Grand Prix.

WEST VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

OCTOBER 19, 2024

10th WVCA Senior Championship

Event site: Best Western Plus Bridgeport Inn Address: 100 Lodgeville Rd, Bridgeport, WV 26330 Overall prize fund: \$250 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Harrison County Chess Club Email: greerlaw@aol.com Phone: 3046419241 Website: n/a TLA ID: 44156

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

2024 Fredericksburg Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

32nd annual Midwest Class Championships (IL)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

2024-2025 Wisconsin Junior Open

Event site: Manitowoc Holiday Inn Address: 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible:

N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Steven Erbach Email: terranchess@gmail.com Phone: 9202795688 Website: n/a TLA ID: 44966

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

2024-2025 WCA Veterans Tournament

Event site: Manitowoc Holiday Inn Address: 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220 Overall prize fund: \$1,350 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Steven Erbach Email: terranchess@gmail.com Phone: 9202795688 Website: n/a TLA ID: 44968

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

Manitowoc Tornado 5

Event site: Manitowoc Holiday Inn Address: 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220 Overall prize fund: \$1,100 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Steven Erbach Email: terranchess@gmail.com Phone: 9202795688 Website: n/a TLA ID: 44969

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

2024 Illinois Class State Championship (IL)

See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

2025 Tim Just Winter Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

WYOMING

OCTOBER 10-14, 2024

3rd Skyline Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

2024 South Dakota Governor's Cup (SD)

See Grand Prix.



THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS



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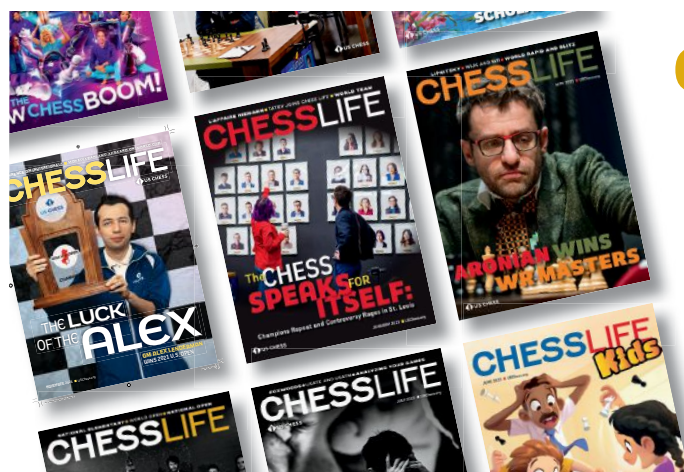
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US CHESS



CHESS LIFE AND CHESS LIFE KIDS

Included with your



US CHESS

Membership!

(MAP)

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PROGRAM

*US Chess gratefully acknowledges the support
of our our Affiliates and Members and offers
congratulations to these 2023 MAP Winners.*

PCT GAIN STANDINGS

State	Dec22	Dec23	PCT
AR	64	109	70.31
VT	194	269	38.66
HI	296	388	31.08
UT	688	894	29.94
KS	776	981	26.42
LA	674	823	22.11
OR	798	929	16.42
MI	1,971	2,280	15.68
MA	303	336	10.89
MN	1,131	1,243	9.90

Name	State	Count	Name	State	Count
Overall Affiliate Standings			State Chapter Affiliate Standings		
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSOCIATION	NY	1,882	WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	242
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	555	MINNESOTA STATE CHESS ASSOC.	MN	191
BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	372	MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	93
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	368	UTAH CHESS ASSOCIATION	UT	84
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	350	MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC.	MA	77
TEXAS CHESS CENTER	TX	314	NEW JERSEY STATE CHESS FED.	NJ	68
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	282	MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	66
SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB	MO	251	FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION	FL	57
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	242	VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION	VA	45
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Solutions

PAGE 11 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 51. Bd6! threatens 52. Bf4+ Kh5 3. hgx4 mate. Fischer prolonged the game with 51. ... Rg8!? 52. Bf4+ Kh5 53. Bf7+ and then resigned. **PROBLEM 2.** 39. Qxc5! dxc5 40. Rxd8 and Black resigned before 41. R1d7+. **PROBLEM 3.** 22. Bd5+! Kg7 (22. ... cxd5 23. Qxb6) 23. Qe7+ Kh6 24. Qxh7+! and Black resigned before 24. ... Kxg5 25. Qh4 mate. **PROBLEM 4.** 25. ... Bh2+ 26. Kh1 Ng3+ 27. Kxh2 Nxh5+. Or 26. Nxh2 Qc5+ and ... Ne4-g3 mate. **PROBLEM 5.** 31. ... Ng6! and the maneuver ... Ng6-h4-f3+ wins. White resigned after 32. Rf2 Nh4 33. Rde2 Nf3+ 34. Rxf3 exf3 (or 34. Kf1 Ngh2 mate). **PROBLEM 6.** Take credit for 51. ... Qa1+! 52. Kh2 Rxh4+ 53. Kg3 Qe1+ only if you saw how 54. Qf2 Rg4+! 55. Bxg4 h4+ wins the queen.

PAGE 47 ABCS OF CHESS

PROBLEM 1. Mating net: White mates in two with 1. Qxh7+ Kxh7 2. Rh1 mate. **PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** White wins in two by 1. Qh5+ Kg8 2. Ne7 mate. **PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** White mates in two: 1. Ne7+ Kh8 2. N5g6 mate. **PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** White mates in two: 1. Qa8+ Rf8 2. Rxf8 mate (or 2. Qxf8 mate). **PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** White triumphs in two with 1. Nd7+ Kc8 2. Qd8 mate. **PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** White wins in two with 1. Rxg7+ Kh8 2. Rg8 mate.

PAGE 53 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 16. ... Bxh2+ 17. Kxh2 Qh4+ 18. Kg1 Rxc4 19. f3 The alternatives also do not work: a) 19. Nxa7 runs into 19. ... Bxg2! 20. f3 Bxf3 21. Qxf3 Ne5 22. Qg2 Rg4 and White can resign. b) 19. Rxd7 is also met by 19. ... Bxg2! 20. f4!? Bc6! 21. Nc3 (or 21. Rd4 Rc5 22. Nc3 Rh5 and Black wins) 21. ... Rxc3! 22. bxc3 Qg3+ 23. Kf1 Bxd7 and Black is clearly winning. 19. ... Ba6 20. Na3 Rxc1 21. Qxa6 Nc5 22. Qxa7 Rxa1 23. Rxa1 Qb4 and Black eventually won (Root – Akopian, U.S. Senior Ch, 2024). **TACTIC 2.** 33. ... Bf5! The bishop blocks the queen's role as a defender, and suddenly White's position falls apart. 34. Rf1 Rxf2 Ouch! White resigned as he cannot recapture on f2 due to the rook on a1. (Ladan – Yoo, U.S. Junior Ch, 2024) **TACTIC 3.** 20. ... g4! A wonderfully strong move, threatening to open further files toward White's king. 21. Nxd4 White has a terrible choice to make. If 21. Qxg4 then 21. ... Rdg8 22. Qe4 (22. Qf4 is also met with 22. ... f5!) 22. ... f5! 23. exf6 e.p. Qg3! 24. Qxe6+ Kc7 25. Qe7+ Kb6 and Black wins. If 21. Nd2, then once again 21. ... f5! 22. Qf4 Qh7, and it is game over for White. 21. ... Rxd4 22. Rxd4 f5! Again this intermediary move, this time securing the g4-pawn and opening the path to h7 for the queen. White cannot capture it due to the mate on h2. 23. Rd7 Qxd7 24. Qf4 Here the game continued 24. ... Kc7 25. f3 Rg8 26. Qe3 gxf3 27. Rxf3 Qd1+ 28. Kh2 Qd4 29. Rh3 Kb6 and Black eventually won in Hong – Daggupati, U.S. Junior Ch, 2024. Much stronger was 24. ... Qh7! 25. f3 gxf3 26. Rxf3 Qh1+ 27. Kf2 Rh4 28. Qg3 Rg4 29. Qh3 Qa1 and Black is winning. **TACTIC 4.** 23. d5! This advance unleashes the full power of the bishops, and Black's position rapidly

falls apart. In the game, White instead played 23. a3?! **b5 24. Ba5?** Once more, 24. d5 would have been very strong, e.g., 24. ... cxd5 25. cxb5 Rc8 26. Bd4 Qe7 27. Bxa7 and White is winning. 24. ... bxc4 25. Bxd8 Rxd8 26. Be2 f5 27. Qf4 Nf6 28. Qxd6 Rxd6 and Black had managed to equalize, but White won anyway in Mou – Ehsani, U.S. Girls' Jr Ch, 2024. 23. ... cxd5 24. cxd5 Qxd5 If 24. ... Bxd5, then 25. Bc4 Nb6 26. Bxd5 Nxd5 27. Rxd5 Qxd5 28. Qxf6 and Black is busted, e.g., 28. ... Kf8 29. Qg7+ Ke7 30. Bf6+ Kd7 31. Bxd8 Kxd8 32. Rxf7 with a clear win for White. 25. Bxg6 Qg5 26. Bc2 Bc4 27. Rfe1 and White has a decisive advantage. **TACTIC 5.** 21. Nxd5! Boom! 21. ... Qg7 Black cannot capture the knight, e.g., 21. ... exd5 22. Bxf5 h6 23. Bxc8 Rxc8 24. Qxd5 Bb8 25. Rc5 Na7 26. Rxc8+ Nxc8 27. Rc1 and White is winning. 22. Nb6! The game continued 22. Nc3 Nxd4! 23. exd4 Qxd4+ 24. Ke2 Bxa3 25. bxa3 Rxc3 26. Rxc3 Qxc3 27. Rd1 Qxa3 and there was still a lot of work to be done, but White eventually won in Wang – Daggupati, U.S. Junior Ch, 2024. 22. ... Rc7 23. Nd7 Rfc8 24. Qf3 h6 25. Kg2! and White has an extra pawn and a clear advantage. **TACTIC 6.** 19. ... Nxb3 In the game, Black played the more careful 19. ... Nf6, but eventually won after 20. Rg1 Rh2+ 21. Kf1 Qf5 22. Nc3 d5 23. Be3 Bb4 24. cxd5 Nxd5 Here 24. ... Bxc3 25. bxc3 Qb1+ 26. Qe1 Qxb3 would have been even stronger. 25. Ra1 Bxc3 26. bxc3 Nxc3 27. Qc4 Ne4 28. Ke1 Nxf2 and Black won in Guo – Ladan, U.S. Junior Ch, 2024. 20. f3g3 Or 20. Kxg3 Rh3+ 21. Kg2 Qc6+ 22. f3 gxf3+ 23. Rxf3 g4 and Black is clearly winning. 20. ... Qc6+ 21. Kg1 Or 21. Rf3 gxf3+ 22. Qxf3 Rh2+ and White can resign. 21. ... Rh1+ 22. Kf2 Rh2+ and Black wins. **TACTIC 7.** 22. d5! Suddenly, Black's shelter is ripped open. This is stronger than the game continuation, which went 22. Rb3 0-0 23. Reb1 Rfb8 24. g3 Rxb3 25. Rxb3 g6 26. Kg2 a5 27. Qc4 Qd6 28. Qa4 Ra6 29. Rb7 Nd5 30. c4 Ne7 31. c5 Qd8 32. Qc4 Ra8 33. Qa4 Ra6 34. Qc4 Ra8 35. Qa4 Ra6 with a draw by repetition in Paragua – Atwell, U.S. Girls' Jr Ch, 2024. 22. ... exd5 23. Qb4 Kf8 23. ... Rd8 is also met by 24. c4, with 24. ... Rd6 running into 25. Qb6. 24. c4 with an irresistible initiative. **TACTIC 8.** 44. Bd3! White has another defense, but it requires spotting the same idea as in our main line: 44. Ka4! Ne4 45. Kxa5 (or 45. Bd3, transposing to the main line) 45. ... Nxc3 46. Bd3! (46. Bf3?? loses after 46. ... Nb5) 46. ... Ne4 47. Bxe4 dxe4 48. Kb4 e3 49. Kc3 e2 50. Kd2 e1=Q+ 51. Kxe1 Kd5 52. Kd2 Kxd4 with a drawn pawn ending. In the game, White instead played 44. Bf3?? and lost after 44. ... Ne4 45. Kc2 Kd6 46. c4 Nxb3 47. cxd5 Nf1 48. Kd3 a4 49. Kc3 Nh2 50. Bd1 a3 51. Kb3 Kxd5 52. Kxa3 Kxd4 and Black wins because White's king is too far away to put up any meaningful resistance (Root – Benjamin, U.S. Senior Ch, 2024). 44. ... Ne4 45. Ka4 Nxc3+ 46. Kxa5 Ne4 After 46. ... Nd1, White plays 47. Kb4 Nf2 48. Bb5+ Kd6 49. Be2 Ne4 50. Bf3 Nxb3 51. Kc3 and White holds the draw. 47. Bxe4 dxe4 48. Kb4 e3 49. Kc3 Kd5 50. Kd3 e2 51. Kxe2 Kxd4 52. Kd2 and once more, we have reached a drawn pawn ending. **TACTIC 9.** 37. ... Kh6!! A brilliant stroke that allows Black to continue his attack against White's king without getting his own king into trouble. In the game, Black missed his chance and played 37. ... Ng4,

allowing 38. Rxf7+ Kh6 39. Rf8 Qg7 40. Rf7 Qg8 41. Rf8 Qg7 42. Rf7 Qg8 43. Rf8 Qg7, draw (Woodward – Hardaway, U.S. Junior Ch, 2024). 38. Rxf6 Qc8!! The point: Black threatens mate starting with ... Qc8-c1+. White can stop the mate, but the cost is ending up in a lost queen endgame: 39. Nd1 Qc1 40. Qb4 Rh1+ 41. Rf1 Rxf1+ 42. Kxf1 Qxd1+ 43. Kf2 Kg7.

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MY BEST MOVE

PAUL MONTAGUE ORDINARY CHESS PLAYER

M

Y FATHER TAUGHT ME TO PLAY chess when I was 5 or 6 years old, and it wasn't too long before I was hooked. I helped found a chess club in my junior high and played consistently until college, joining USCF (as it was called then) and becoming a Life Member.

My personal best in those years was a seventh place finish in the Washington-Baltimore Area Scholastic Open. In college, I placed second in the 4th Virginia Tech Open in 1971 — thanks in large part to a win that was my biggest upset and best comeback.

Unfortunately, the scoresheets for all my games back then were lost over time, and I had been unable to recreate that game from memory, much to my sorrow. But recently, going through a bedside stand, I found a folding travel chess set that I thought I'd also lost — and inside it was a folded page of analysis I had done on this very game! I was thrilled to have it back and to offer it in this column.

PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)

I.J. Good (1900)

Paul Montague (1664)

4th VTI Open, 08.10.1971

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nc4 Nxe4 5. d3 Nf6 6. Bf4 Be7 7. Be2 0-0 8. 0-0 d5 9. Ne5 Nbd7 10. d4 Bd6 11. Bd3 Re8 12. Re1 Nxe5??

I probably spent 20 minutes thinking, only to get so engrossed in calculations that I forgot I had discarded this move immediately, because of ...

13. dxe5



This is where I made **MY BEST MOVE** — I didn't give up! My 12th move was a blunder, but I was determined not to lose so ignominiously. So I looked for an active move that could at least postpone the inevitable, and found one. Then another, then another.

13. ... Bg4 14. f3

The engines say White's winning after 14. Qd2, but in some lines he has to give up the idea of winning a piece. My opponent explained during the post-mortem, "I deserved to win a piece, therefore I played to win a piece." But this left an opening I was able to exploit. Afterward, Dr. Good and I could find no continuation for White after this that would leave him better than equal.

14. ... Bc5+ 15. Kh1 Nh5 16. Be3 Bxe3 17. fxg4 Ng3+!!

(see diagram top of next column)

The move I had to find to finish the escape, exposing White's king.

18. hxg3 Bf2 19. Qd2 Bxg3 20. Bxh7+? Kh8



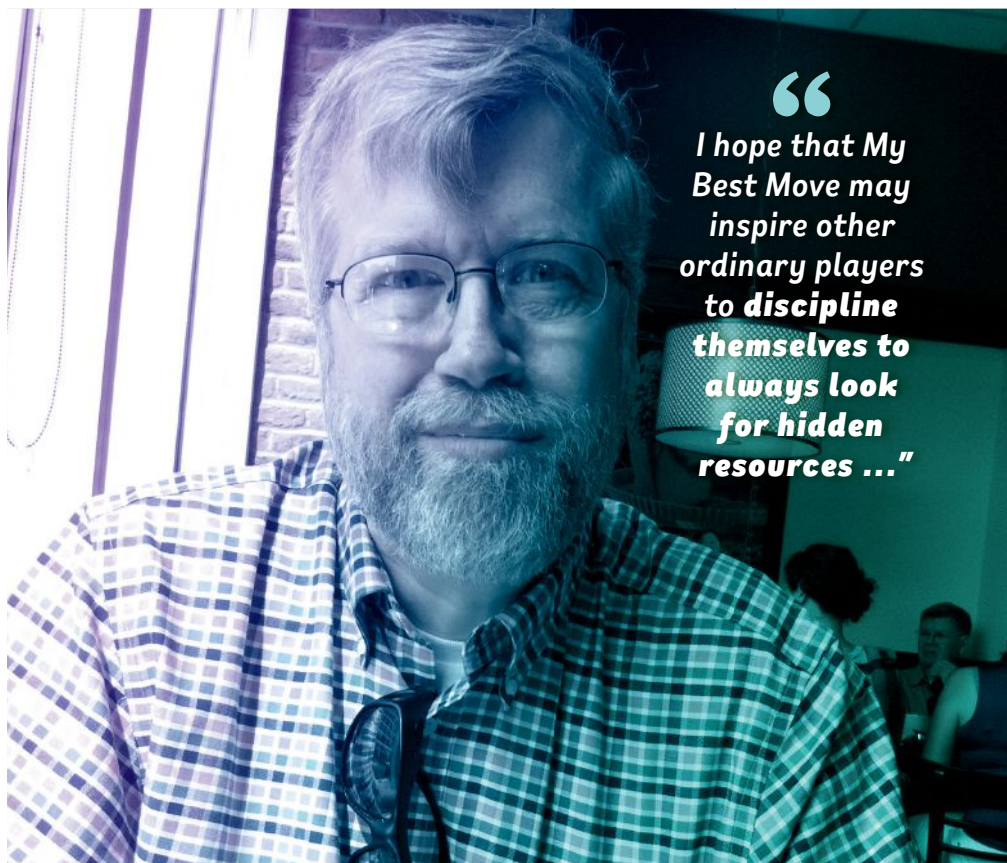
POSITION AFTER 17. ... Ng3+

Avoiding 20. ... Kxh7? 21. Qd3+.

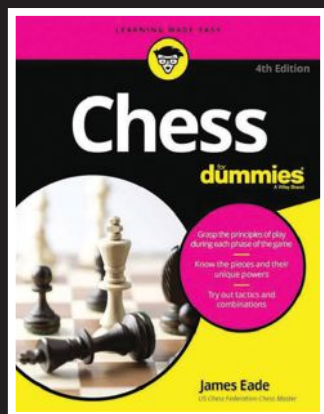
21. g5 Bxe1 22. Qxe1 Kxh7

Amazingly, Black has emerged not only intact but up an Exchange! I remained calm enough to convert; **White resigned** on move 38.

Now that I am retired, I hope to be able to resume my in-person playing career. Meanwhile, I hope that My Best Move may inspire others to discipline themselves to always look for hidden resources, no matter how bad a mistake they may have made — a lesson that applies beyond the chessboard. ♠



“I hope that My Best Move may inspire other ordinary players to discipline themselves to always look for hidden resources ...”

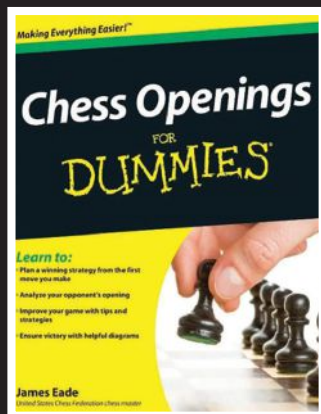


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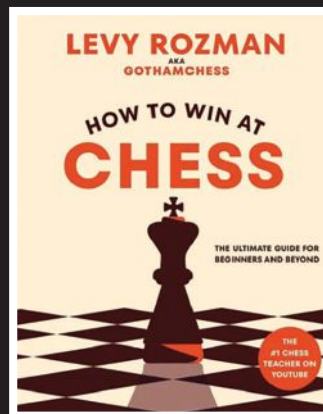


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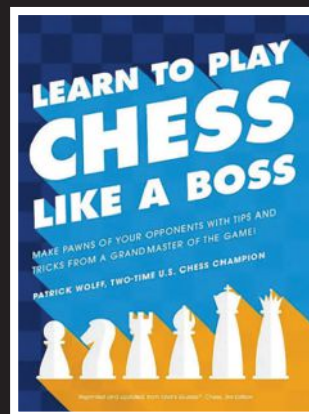
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- Are you tired of the frustration caused by your current chess clock? Is setting it a never-ending battle? Say goodbye to confusing presets and button combinations! The TAP N SET™ Pro is here to revolutionize your chess playing experience!
- The TAP N SET™ technology offers the world's FIRST chess clock settable from your smartphone! Download our Android® or iOS® app, input your desired time controls, and simply touch your phone to the clock. With our patent-pending NFC technology, your clock is instantly programmed. It supports one-, two-, and three-time control games, increment/delay, move counters, and even Freeze for FIDE-rated events. The app features an intuitive menu for setting delay, increment, hour-glass; It even offers Scrabble timing modes, all adjustable from 1 to 40 minutes (New Feature). Choose from three different delay modes!
- Crafted with precision in the USA, the TAP N SET™ Pro Digital Chess Clock is a game-changer that every chess player needs. Simple to use, you'll master its features within minutes. Ideal for players of all ages and skill levels, it boasts a sturdy metal case, a sleek low-profile design, and massive dual displays powered by touch-sensor technology. It's the pinnacle of chess clock perfection!
- DESIGNED AND ASSEMBLED IN THE USA! It is the first ever commercially available chess clock with dual displays, allowing spectators to follow the game. The clock comes with a magnetic cover

for tournament settings. Connect it to the HOS sensory board (coming soon, sold separately) with the included cable. Stainless steel touch-sensitive buttons make your moves precise.

- Embrace the tournament atmosphere with programmable modes, including move counters. Keep three preset settings/modes in memory for quick access. Our clock is incredibly accurate, thanks to a high-precision crystal oscillator. You can even mute the sound and LED indicators, making it suitable for various two-player board games like Scrabble, Shogi, and Go.
- Say goodbye to frequent battery changes – our clock is power-efficient, providing over 900 hours of continuous use under normal conditions.
- Unsure of the time control for your event? Choose from 70 presets for the most popular US Chess time controls or create your own preset for lightning-fast setup!

CLKDZMTAPPRO

\$124.95

Don't worry if you forget your smartphone – you can still manually program the TAP N SET™ Pro clock just like any other ZmartFun chess clock. Experience the easiest chess clock ever designed!

Upgrade your chess game with the TAP N SET™ Pro Digital Chess Clock – the future of chess timing is here! Don't wait – order yours now and elevate your chess experience to new heights!



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Excludes Clearance, Shopworn and Items Otherwise Marked