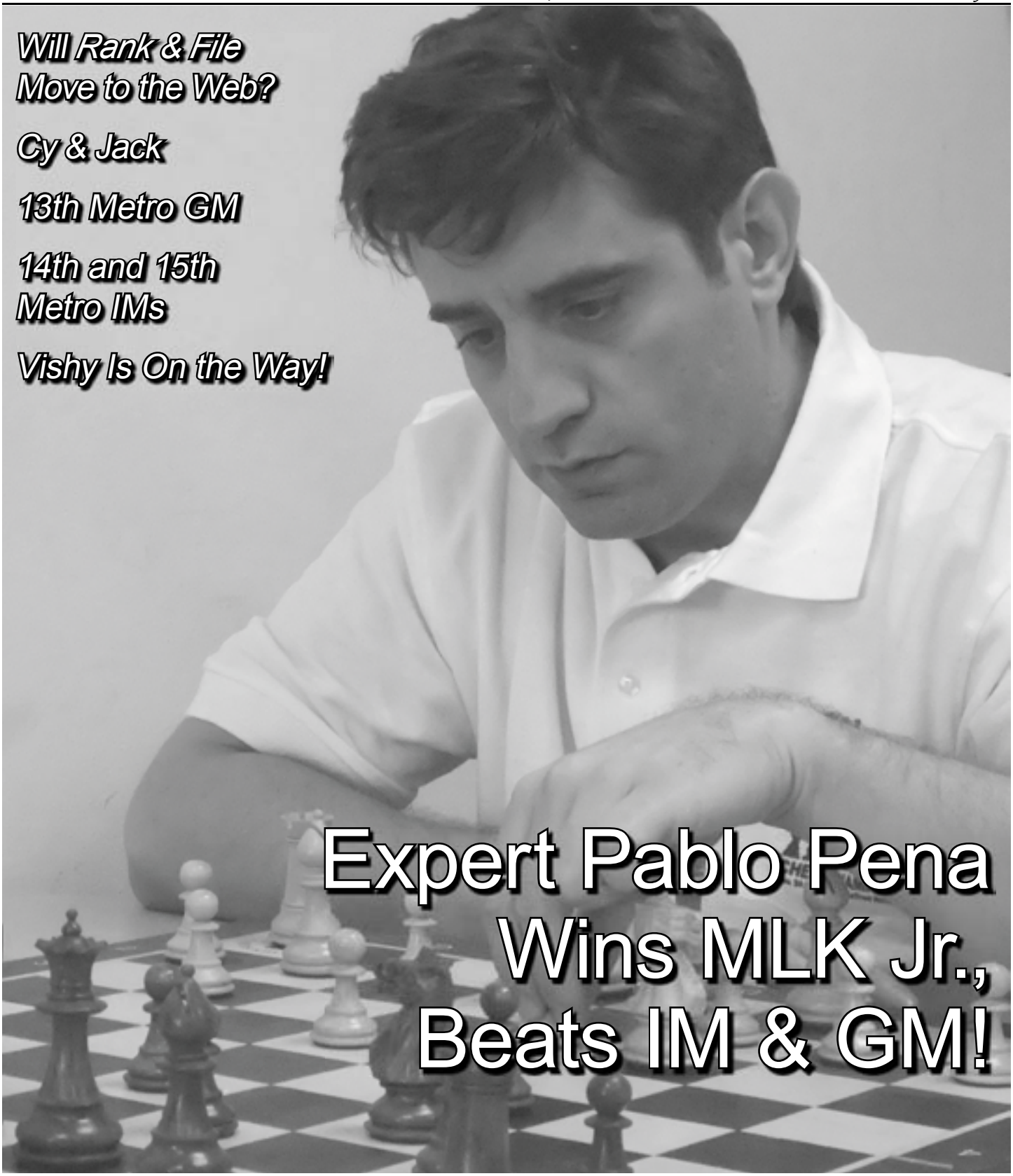
Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

March-April 2012 Volume XXXVI, No. 2 $3.00



Will Rank & File Move to the Web?

Cy & Jack

13th Metro GM

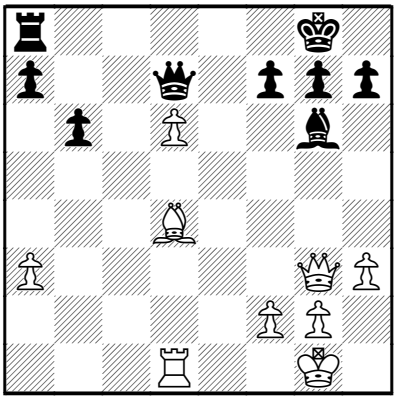
14th and 15th Metro IMs

Vishy Is On the Way!

Expert Pablo Pena Wins MLK Jr., Beats IM & GM!

Inside Moves

A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Start with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve the problems, just playing through the solutions on page 31 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



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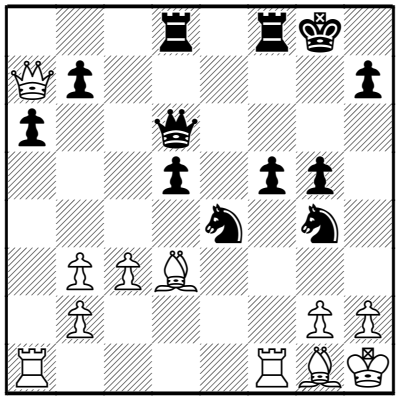

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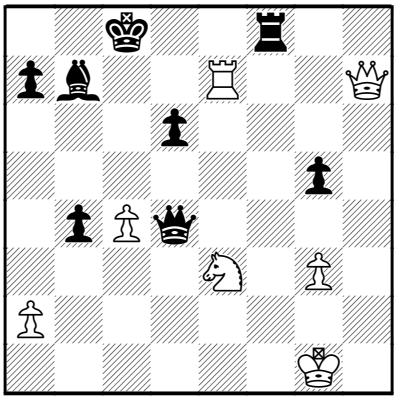

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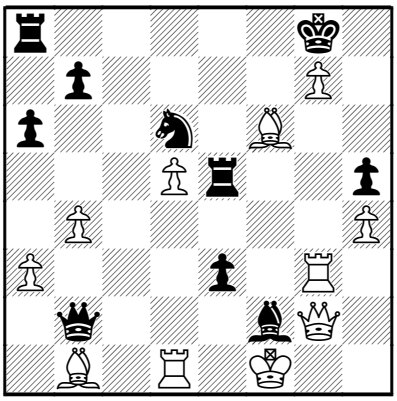

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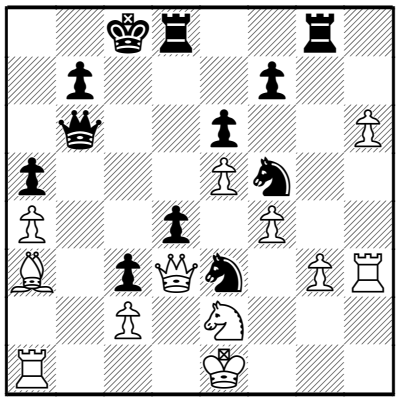

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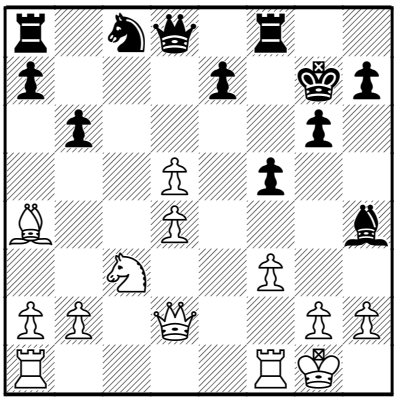

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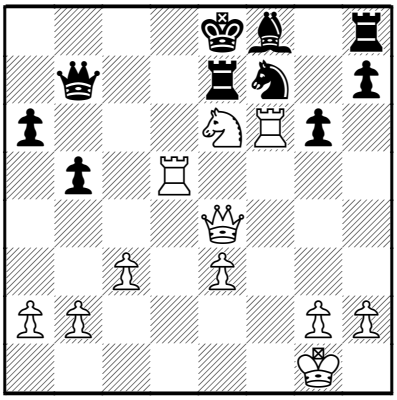

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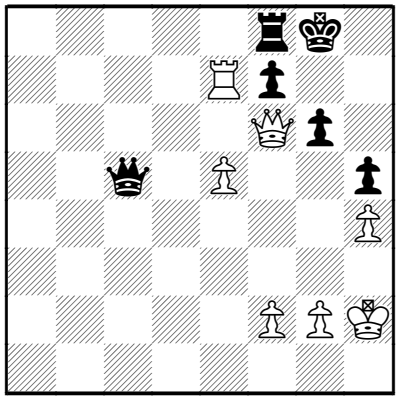

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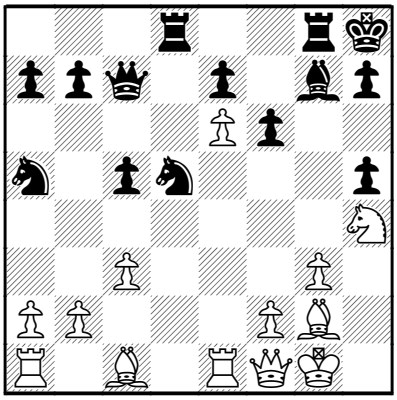

9. White to Play

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Rank & File — ISSN 8750-9164 USPS 59, published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the Southern California Chess Federation, 1300 Ballista, La Puente CA 91744. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. SCCF Memberships: $18 adult, $10 youth (19 years old).

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Rank & File

March-April 2012 **Volume XXXVI, No. 2**

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Back Cover: Outside Shots!
These problems are usually harder.

View back issues of *Rank & File* at ***www.scchess.com.***

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Positions

E-mail your letters to: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com

A note to all SCCF members:

Magazines In The Age Of The Internet

We are living in an era where the printed page is gradually giving way to on-line alternatives. Cost considerations and many new features associated with virtual publications are driving this trend.

Rank & File is an excellent magazine. However, we spend $18.36 per member to develop, print, and mail six issues each year. Since our dues are $18/year for adults and $10/year for students, we have a situation which can not be sustained. We need to either raise membership dues or reduce the cost of the magazine. Were we to reach the point where all issues are on-line only, we would have the option of proposing reductions in dues rather than increases.

In addition to cost savings, an on-line publication would also offer a number of advantages for members. Elimination of printing and mailing time would make the magazine accessible weeks earlier. Additionally, the editor would no longer be restricted to a fixed number of pages, offering the ability to include more games and articles. Given the continuous improvements in on-line technology, it is reasonable to expect we could eventually offer additional options such as interactive games, tournament video clips and other features.

Please feel free to provide the Board feedback on this topic. My e-mail address is garden909@aol.com. The addresses for the other board members can be found on the SCCF website.

- Steve Morford, SCCF President

Editor's note:

As a member, I would like to keep the magazine as it is.

If you agree, and still want Rank & File mailed as a regular paper magazine to read, fold, mark up, or pass around, there's one sure way to keep it going: email our SCCF Board that you would be happy with a $5 increase in annual dues, if it means the magazine stays. Also, you need to get four hundred or five hundred other members to do the same, starting right now!

Good luck.

Do not fail. *- Ed.*

Paper or On-line Publication?

Rank and File is the most tangible benefit of SCCF membership. Count me opposed to making it intangible. Our leaders should instead deal with the pitifully low percentage of USCF members who join the SCCF.

Yours, Jack Peters

La Palma Chess Club

Dear Larry,

I noticed in the *Here and There* section of the current issue, that while every other club was covered, my win in the ***La Palma Chess Club Championship*** (that ended Dec. 2) was not even mentioned! I suppose, given my 7-0 score, you couldn't find a loss to put in! If you have a change of heart, all seven of my wins can be found in my last blog.

Sincerely, Tim Taylor

It looks like the Holiday season is to blame. The championship report is in this month's Here & There.

Congratulations on the sweep!

In addition, the editor encourages interested readers to count the Tim Taylor losses in each of the Rank & File issues that I have edited, but to be fair, please count the wins, too. Also, the editor is prepared for a reader rebuke should any of those losses not prove interesting. *-Ed*

2011 American Open Winners

Dear Sir,

We note an oversight in your report on "**2011 American Open Winners**" in the January-February 2012 Rank and File, page 20. The Under 2000 Section did not include **Ethan Li** or **Brian C. Glover** who both scored 6-2. In fact I suspect my score with 4 wins and 4 draws against a higher opponent rating, without byes, would have made me the winner on tiebreak over the others if that had been in effect. We believe a printed correction is in order and it will be appreciated.

Cordially, Brian C. Glover

Sorry! I must have assumed it was not possible for more than four to tie for first, when checking the MSA table. The winners box has been corrected in the online back issue. *-Ed.*

Coverage of the 12th Metro FIDE

Jan. 21, 2012

Dear Editor:

I noticed a serious journalistic failure in the Jan/Feb issue of Rank and File. This becomes immediately evident if you compare the three major tournament reports: 1. GM Melikset Khachiyan Takes 8th Los Angeles Open 2. FM Akopyan and IM Amanov tie in 12th Metropolitan FIDE and 3. GM Akobian wins 37th American Open.

The Los Angeles Open coverage contains this line, normal and always seen in a tournament report: "directed by Steve Immitt who was assisted by Randall Hough." The American Open coverage contains this line: "ably directed by Anthony and Aaron Ong."

However, the Metro 12 coverage does not mention anything about the director. As the editor well knows, this was an International Tournament, and so is required by FIDE rules to have an International Arbiter in charge. This was supposed to be Randy Hough, however as you also know (you were there) and I pointed out in my blog, Randy Hough was never there. There was no International Arbiter present for any round of the tournament.

In the article, you mention "the first IM norm for Akopyan" but do not mention the fact that since the tournament was not played under FIDE rules, this "IM norm" may not be valid.

Furthermore, while allowing a long self congratulatory letter by Ankit Gupta (pages 4-5) you do not mention that Gupta lied about Metro 12 not having any International Arbiter in his article for Chess Life Online, in which he stated that "the Chief Arbiter was Randy Hough." This "big lie" as I called it in my blog, went out to thousands of readers in an astonishing display of utter disregard for the truth. Such arrogance "goes to character," as they say, and should be considered in any assessment of Gupta's accomplishments.

I look forward to some corrections in the following issue of Rank and File.

Sincerely, Timothy Taylor, IM
www.TimothyTaylorArtist.com

When I wrote up the story for the 12th Metro FIDE tournament last issue, I had already discovered the complaints in your blog, but I did not wish to address them in that article, for I am very grateful to Mr. Gupta for his organizing of the Metro FIDE tournaments.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all of our organizers and tournament directors (Randy himself volunteered for three weekends at the SCCF Candidates and the Finals last year), and to those who run our clubs, even in our smallest Southern California towns. Without these hard working people, we would not have our events!

Randy was readily available to come to the Metro site to handle disputes.

I am printing your letter so our readers can read your criticisms.

You have notified USCF and FIDE, and they have taken no action so far.

In the meantime, FIDE has rated the 12th Metro tournament and approved Mr. Gupta for the FIDE Arbiter title. I will inform our readers if there are any further rulings regarding this tournament. -Ed.

Advertising Rates: Full page $80, half-page $45, ¼ page $25, 1/8 page $15, back cover (¾ page) $80. (All rates are for camera-ready copy.) Flyer insert $50 (advertiser must supply flyers). 50% discount for tournaments requiring SCCF membership. Payment should be sent to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. Display ads should be sent to the Editor, and flyers to the Publisher (addresses at right). SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.Black has a one-two-three punch with ***34...Bxd3+! (***saving the Bishop with check) ***35.Ka1 Rf8! (***taking advantage of the awkward White Queen to force its trade) ***36.Qd4*** (if 36.Bd4, the Queen trade happens differently with 36...Rxf4 37.Bxc5 Rxf3+-) ***36...Qxd4 37.Bxd4 Rxf3 0-1***, winning the Bishop in Amanov - Abrahamyan, 14th Metro IM (7), Los Angeles 2011.

2.White augers in with the forking ***24.Ne6!***.

If now 24...fxe6 then 25.Qxe6+ Rf7 26.Nxe5! is deadly, for example 26...Nxe5 gets mashed by 27.Rxg7+ Kh8 (*27...Kxg7 28.Rxf7*+ +-) 28.Rfxf7 with a mate.

24...Qd6 is similar: 25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Nxf8 (*if 26...Kxg7 then 27.Nxe5*) 26...Rxf8 27.Rxf7, with the threat of 28.Nxe5 opening up the center against the Black King.

Black replied ***24...Nb6*** and now 25.Rxg7+! Kh8 26.Nxe5! opens up the Black King, for example 26... Nxc4 27.Rg8+ Kxg8 28.Rg1+ Kh8 29.Nxf7 mate.

See page 14 for Stopa - Amanov, 14th Metro IM (1), Los Angeles 2011.

3.Check'em and wreck'em! White forces a Queen trade to promote the distant and dangerous a-pawn: ***48.Ne5+ fxe5 49.Qxb5 exf4+ 50.Kf3 axb5 51.a6 1-0.*** Black resigns because if 51...hxg4+ then 52.hxg4 Ne8 53.Be5, and the pawn Queens. Kavutskiy - Akopyan, 14th Metro IM (7), Los Angeles 2011.

4.An admirable Rook over! Black plays ***37...Re8! 0–1.*** Black now threatens 38...Re2+ 39.Kc1 Re1+ and the c-pawn Queens. If 38.Bf1, then 38...Re1 39.Kxe1 c1Q+ 40.Kf2 and now 40...Qd2+ picks off the loose Rook. Remlinger, - Stopa, 14th Metro IM (4) Los Angeles 2011.

5.White played a computer-like wonder: ***41...Nd1!! 0-1***, in Ginsburg - Kekelidze, 13th Metro GM (6), Los Angeles 2011.

The threat is 42...Nxf2, winning the White Queen. White's pieces can't defend the awkward position:

If 42.Rxd1, then 42...Qxf2 mate.

If 42.f3, then 42...Ne3+ 43.Ke1 (*or 43.Ke2 Nxg2*+-) Nxd5 44.Qxd5 Qg1+ 45.Ke2 Qxg2+ +-.

Or 42.Ke2 Nxf2 43.Qe3 Qb5+ 44.Ke1 Nxe4–+.

If 42.Qg3, then 42...Qc1! and it's over quickly in a variety of ways:
43.Qd3 Nc3+ 44.Rd1 Nxd1–+.
43.Ke2 Rxf2+–+.
43.Re2 Ne3 mate.
43.Ke1 Nc3+ 44.Rd1 Qxd1 mate.

6.White starts a little endgame magic with ***46.b6+! Kc6*** (if 46...Kxb6 then 47.Nb3+) ***47.b7! Rb5 48.Be5*** and wins. Aleskerov - Stopa, 14th Metro IM (2) Los Angeles 2011. See the whole show on page 15!

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Eduard Gufeld was a polarizing figure, almost comical in his passion for chess. He had the knowledge of other grandmasters, but he conveyed it with inimitable intensity. I enjoyed listening to him, in small doses.

Gufeld loved to talk, and his limited experience with English did not prevent him from creating some memorable chess phrases. In his lectures, he was fond of saying "Take a loook," extending the last word and rhyming it with "fluke." The former Soviet citizen preached centralization by claiming that the d-pawn was worth a dollar, the c-pawn 90 cents, the b-pawn 80 cents, and the a-pawn only 70 cents. He said that a player who traded a Bishop for a Knight would be "a genius in 20% of his games. And, in 80%, YOU LOSE!" After his own painful losses, he announced "This is not chess!," often at full volume. My personal favorite was his advocacy of a Bxh7+ sacrifice when Black's pieces were huddled on the Queenside. "My friend," he said, "The war is in Europe, and Black's pieces are in New Zealand."

For this issue, Cy and I comment on our victories against the great man.

Gufeld,Eduard (2465) - Peters,Jack (2475)
[A37] English Opening
American Open (7)
Los Angeles, 29.11.1998

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0–0 Bg7 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 Nge7

Jack: A solid system against the English Opening. Black usually follows with ...d7-d5.

7.e3

Jack: Gufeld accompanied this move with a draw offer.

Cy: White's last move is a dirty drawing trick which I (unsuccessfully!) tried to pull on Akobian in a National Open G/10. It doesn't always pay to be a coward.

7...Nf5

Jack: I wanted to win and I had to restrain d2-d4.

Instead, many games have ended in dull draws after 7...0–0 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd4 11.exd4 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 exd5=. **Cy**: Yes, avoid this one at all costs! We reach one of those positions where the 1200 holds the draw against a world champion!

8.a3

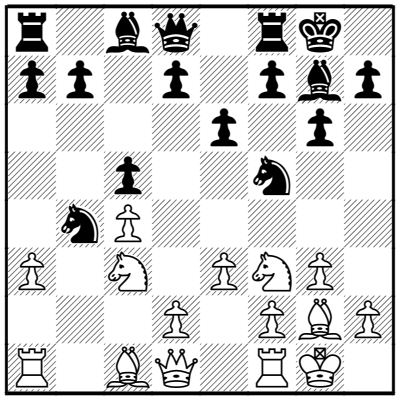
Jack: Not dangerous to Black. White needs a more energetic continuation. Can White go ahead with 8.d4!? cxd4 9.exd4 Nfxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Bf4, with a little compensation?

8...0–0 9.b4!?

Jack: Possibly the best move, but Gufeld had not anticipated my reply.

The logical 9.Rb1 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4 lets Black advance 11...d4 with at least equality.

9...Nxb4!



Jack: Gufeld slumped in his seat and rubbed his forehead as if trying to restart the brain cells that had overlooked this obvious shot.

For the next several moves, his body language suggested that he considered his position ruined and that he was desperately trying to rescue a lost position.

Actually, White's compensation makes the chances almost even.

10.axb4 cxb4 11.Qb3

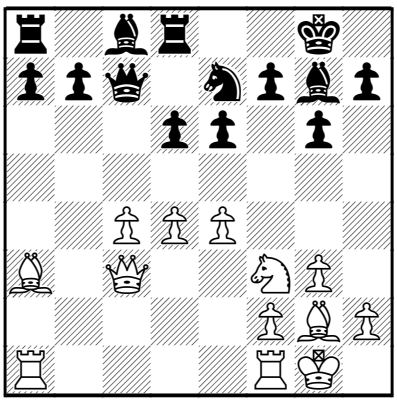
Jack: The database gives four games with the similar 11.d4 bxc3 12.Ba3 d6. A small difference is that White can develop his Queen to d3 or advance e3-e4 more easily.

Cy: I played this position a few times as White but no longer believe in the compensation. Black stands better.

11...bxc3 12.d4 Qc7

Jack: I did not care for 12...d5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Rfc1 because I worried that White could use the c-file.

13.Ba3 d6 14.Qxc3 Rd8 15.e4 Ne7



Jack: White has an imposing pawn center and easier development. Overall, though, I prefer Black's extra pawn!

Cy: I also prefer the pawn up side. Welcome to the dark side, Jack.

16.Rad1

Jack: Here is where White should look for an improvement. After 16.e5!? dxe5 17.dxe5 Nc6 White must avoid 18.Bd6?? Qxd6–+, but 18. Rfe1 seems superior to the game. **Cy**: Even then, I fail to see White's comp.

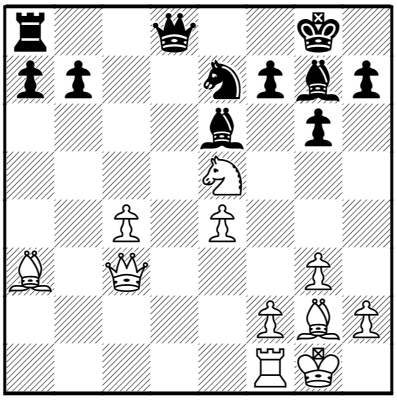
16...e5!

Jack: I am not sure if this is Black's strongest continuation, but I was very happy to contest central squares and open a route to g4 for my Bishop.

17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Rxd8+ Qxd8 19.Nxe5

Jack: White's compensation vanishes after 19.Qb3 Nc6 20.Rd1 Qb6∓.

19...Be6



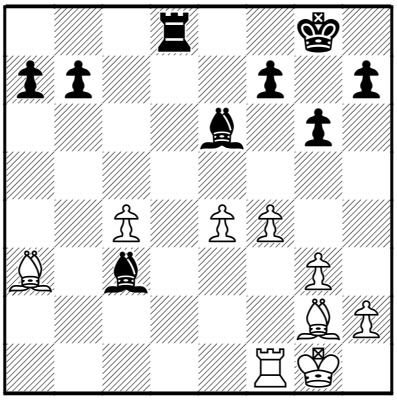
20.f4?!

Jack: I thought this was forced, but the computer reveals another choice.

White can try the surprising 20.Qb3! Bxe5 21.Qxb7, as Black has no good way of saving the Knight. However, Black can preserve some advantage with 21...Rc8 22.Bxe7 Qc7∓ thanks to the passed a-pawn.

Cy: White will be hard pressed to hold that ending. Black's Bishops are perfectly placed, standing silent sentinel in their escort of your passed a-pawn down the board.

20...Nc6!∓ 21.Nxc6 Bxc3 22.Nxd8 Rxd8



Jack: I foresaw this position and the next couple of moves when I decided on 16...e5.

Black's pieces work harmoniously, a great change from 10 moves ago.

White cannot afford to jettison the c-pawn, but protecting it leads to more troubles.

23.Rc1

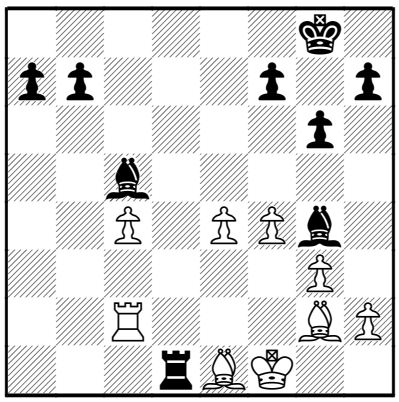
Jack: 23.Rb1 b6 24.c5 fails, to 24...Bd4+ 25.Kh1 bxc5–+.

23...Bd2 24.Rc2 Be3+ 25.Kf1 Bg4!

Jack: A very annoying threat!

Cy: Your move is even stronger than 25...Rd3 26.Bb4 Rd4.

26.Bb4 Rd1+ 27.Be1 Bc5!–+



28.h3

Jack: No better is 28.Rb2 b6 when Black threatens 29...Rc1 or 29...a5 and 30...Bb4.

28...Be6 29.Bf3

Cy: The equivalent of resignation, but no better is 29.Ke2 Rd4 which picks off c4.

29...Rd4

Cy: (!) Amplifying White's anguish.

When c4 falls Black attains two unstoppable passers.

Jack: I considered this clearer than 29...Bxh3+ 30.Ke2 Rb1 31.g4, when I did not see how to extricate the Bishop from h3.

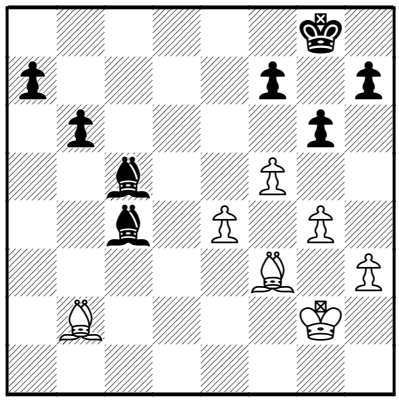
30.Kg2 Rxc4 31.Rb2

Jack: A little tougher is 31.Rd2. White cannot stop Black's Queenside pawns, so he must strive for counterplay.

31...b6 32.g4 Ra4 33.f5 Ra2

Jack: At the least, this keeps me from worrying about back rank mates!

34.Bc3 Rxb2+ 35.Bxb2 Bc4



Cy: From this point White can resign but it's sometimes hard to stick your hand out and do the deed! Do you remember the Black Knight from Monty Python's Holy Grail? He wanted to keep fighting, despite the fact that King Arthur had already severed the Black Knight's arms and legs.

36.Kg3 a5 37.e5

Jack: Or 37.Bd1 b5 and the a-pawn runs.

37...a4 38.Kf4 a3 39.Ba1 b5 40.Kg5 Be7+ 41.Kh6

Cy: When you are lost in the wilderness, one direction looks as good as another.

41...gxf5 42.gxf5 b4 43.e6

Jack: Not even threatening 44. f6, because of the reply 44...Bf8+, but I stopped it anyway.

43...f6 0–1

Cy: I see that I am not the only paranoid player here!

Gufeld,Eduard (2452) - Lakdawala,Cyrus (2442)
[B10] Caro-Kann Defense
Western Class (6)
Los Angeles, 21.01.2002

Cy: This game is from my book *The Caro-Kann: Move by Move*.

I lived in terror of the late Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld. At Los Angeles tournaments he would corner me by putting his arm around me the way a father would when reunited with his beloved only child, destroying all hopes for my escape. Then he would deliver a stirring sales pitch to get me to buy a gigantic number of copies of his last book. His theory was: The lives of my students would be infinitely enriched with a signed copy. His standard speech went: "Ah!

Cyroos! My book is brrrilliant! I give you such a deal, such a deal!"

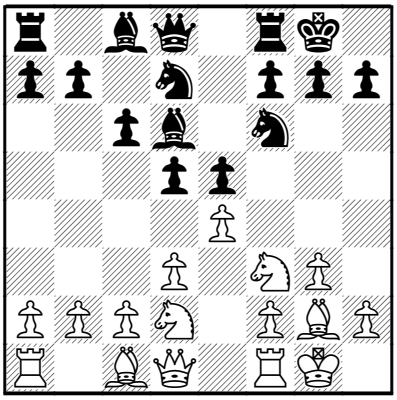
1.g3

Cy: *Question*: Are you on the right chapter, or even the right book?

Answer: Stop freaking out over every transposition! We normally reach our position via the move order 1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 0–0 7.0–0 Nbd7.

After 7...Re8 8.Re1 Nbd7 9.c3 a5 10.Qc2 a4 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Rxe4 Rxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qc2 h6 Black stood at least equal, in Matikozyan,A-Lakdawala,C S Cal Ch, Los Angeles 2001.

1...d5 2.Bg2 c6 3.d3 e5 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.e4 Ngf6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.0–0 0–0

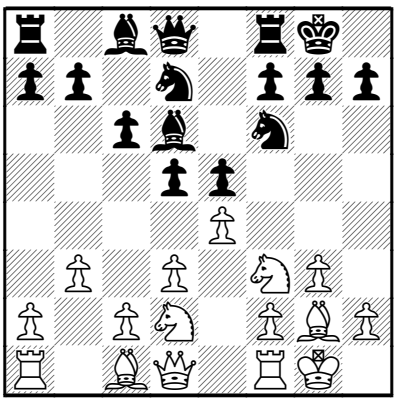


Cy: There we go. Back on track.

Jack: I think this formation, which resembles a Colle System with colors reversed, is one of Black's safest against the King's Indian Attack.

Compare the French Defense setup with pawns at c5 and e6. White intends e4-e5 and an attack on the Kingside, where he controls more space. In this game, though, White can do little on the Kingside.

8.b3



Cy: *Question*: Why does White fianchetto? Your e5 pawn looks adequately defended.

Answer: One of the goals of the KIA side is to force the opponent to clarify the central tension. A Bishop posted on b2 adds another attacker on e5. White hopes this will be enough to induce Black into ...d4 or ...dxe4, in either case a resolution of central tension.

Question: How does resolution of central tension help the King's Indian Attack side?

Answer: In this case, White would love to play for f4 at some point. The trouble is, f4 is not such a great idea as long as there is central tension.

Jack: Developing the Bishop to b2 is surprisingly tame for an aggressive player like Gufeld. But the alternative 8.exd5 cxd5 9.c4 d4, reaching a sort of reversed Benoni, should not give White anything either.

8...Re8 9.Bb2 a5

Cy: Black gains space and attempts to divert White's attention to the Queenside.

Jack: Played like Karpov! When ...c6-c5 isn't part of Black's plan, it's handy to push the a-pawn and see how White will react.

10.a3

Cy: He intends to meet ...a4 with b4.

Question: This looks quite meek. Doesn't 10.a4 halt Black's expansion?

Answer: Only temporarily. 10.a4 weakens dark squares, especially b4. For example: 10...Bb4 (*He wants to induce c3, which loosens White's Queenside and central pawn front.*) 11.Re1 Qc7 12.c3 (*And there it is.*) 12...Bf8 13.Qc2 dxe4 14.dxe4 Nc5 15.Nc4 Be6 16.Bf1. Now Black seized the initiative with 16...b5! 17.axb5 cxb5 18.Ncd2 a4! and left White on the defensive, in Warakomski,T-Gajewski,G Ustron 2007.

10...Bc7

Cy: Tucking in the loose Bishop, just in case I later play ...dxe4.

11.Re1

Jack: Very natural, but does the Rook really belong at e1?

I suppose 11.a4 Bd6 still bothers White, despite Black's loss of time.

And 11.c3? Nc5 leaves White vulnerable at d3.

But maybe White can consider 11.b4 and c2-c3, a bit like Black's strategy in the Pirc or Philidor. The pawn at b4 prevents Black's Knight from reaching c5, so it's not easy for Black to exploit the weak square at d3. After Qd1–c2 and Rf1–d1, White can move forward with c3-c4 or d3-d4. And, if Black replies 11...d4 the response 12.c3 dxc3 13.Bxc3 works much better than in the game.

11...d4

Cy: *Question*: You said earlier that White wanted a resolution in the center. Didn't you just help White?

Answer: My last move did help White reach his goal of clarification in the center, but at a high cost. His Bishop on b2 hits a pawn wall on d4. If he chips away at the wall with c3, Black simply meets this with ...c5. Also, if he is going to play for f4, his Rook needs to be on f1, not e1, so this constitutes another loss of time for White. Lastly, Black's move gains him a space advantage.

12.b4?!

Cy: Gufeld's idea is to play c3, without allowing Black a ...c5 response. The trouble is, White allows confrontation in the heart of Black's territory and he also weakens a4.

Question: All well and good but what plan do you suggest for White?

Answer: I would play 12.Bh3 hoping to swap off Black's good light squared Bishop later on. Then follow up with Nh4, Ng2, Rf1 and only then f4 with typical Kingside KID/KIA play.

Jack: Agreed. White will obtain counterplay if Black reverts to the standard anti-King's Indian plan of ...b7-b5, ...Nd7-b6, and ...c6-c5-c4.

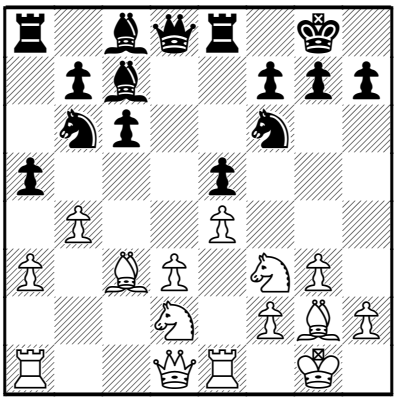
12...Nb6!

Cy: Strategic threat: ...Na4.

13.c3!?

Cy: The GM elects to sac a pawn for piece play rather than endure positional pressure in a line like 13.Rb1 Na4 14.Ba1 axb4 15.axb4 Be6. **Jack**: No one would want this for White! Sacrificing the pawn seems like a much better decision.

13...dxc3 14.Bxc3



Cy: *Exercise* (multiple choice): Black has a choice here but only one path leads to the win of a pawn:

a) 14...Qxd3, to grab the pawn immediately.

b) 14...axb4, to tie up loose ends before taking on d3.

Answer:

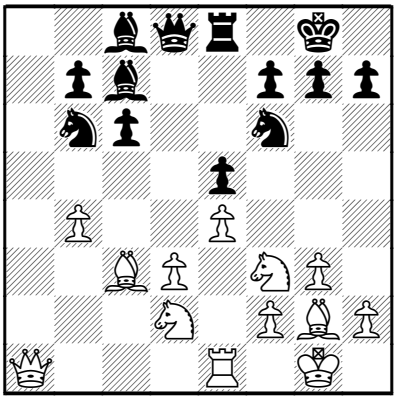
14...axb4

Cy: This move must be tossed in first, before capturing on d3. White doesn't lose a pawn and gains piece activity after 14...Qxd3?! 15.Re3! Qd6 16.bxa5 Nbd7 17.Nc4.

15.axb4

Jack: Houdini prefers 15.Bxb4 Qxd3 16.Bf1 Qd8 17.a4 but White doesn't have enough for the pawn.

15...Rxa1 16.Qxa1



Cy: *Exercise*: White hopes to cover d3 indirectly, through pressure on e5. Should Black take d3 or not?

Answer: He should.

16...Qxd3 17.Nb3

Cy: Black's larceny is above board.

The e5 pawn can't be touched. 17.Nxe5?? Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Qxd2 drops a piece for White.

17...Nfd7

Cy: So Black successfully absconded with a central pawn.

Question: Why the f-knight?

Answer: In order to play ...f6 later on to secure my e-pawn.

Jack: I think 17...Nfd7 should succeed, but Black will have to do a lot of retreating.

Easier appears 17...Nxe4 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Nxe5 Qxb3 20.Rxe4 Rd8∓, comfortably retaining a pawn.

18.Rd1

Jack: Instead, 18.Nc5 doesn't help because 18...Nxc5 19.bxc5 Nd7 hangs on to e5. If White tries 20.Rd1, Black should reply 20...Qe2!∓ rather than fall for the back rank trick 20...Qc4? 21.Nxe5 Nxe5 22.Bxe5 Bxe5 23.Qxe5=.

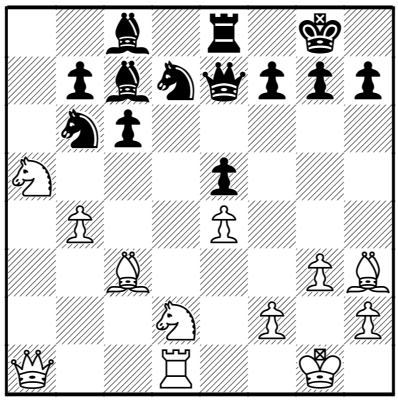
18...Qc4

Cy: I felt I activated his pieces in the line 18...Qxe4 19.Nxe5.

19.Na5 Qe6 20.Nd2

Jack: White has no direct threat. Black's task is to develop his light-square Bishop without dropping the extra pawn.

20...Qe7 21.Bh3!



Cy: *Exercise* (planning): White's last move is annoying. Black is up a pawn but tangled. I can't even move the d7-knight, since Gufeld would trade Bishops on c8 and then pick off b7. Find a way for Black to unravel without dropping the b7-pawn.

Answer: Contort some more!

21...Bb8!

Jack: That's five consecutive backward moves. I do admire this one, though.

Cy: Opening a line of communication between my Queen and b7 once the d7 Knight moves.

Question: Why didn't you play the more active 21...Bd6?

Answer: The tactics forbid it. For example: 22.Ndc4! and now if I naively take on b4, the punishment comes swiftly after 22...Bxb4?? 23.Bxb4 Qxb4 24.Bxd7! Nxd7 25.Nd6 Rd8 26.Nxc8 White wins a piece.

22.Ndb3 Bd6

Cy: Staying flexible by targeting b4.

Jack: At last, a move I can understand!

23.Qa3

Cy: *Exercise* (planning): Black is up a pawn but White's activity makes conversion a tough job. Notice that almost all of White's pieces are on the Queenside, away from his King. Come up with a plan for Black based on this observation.

Answer: Open up a second front while his pieces are on the other wing.

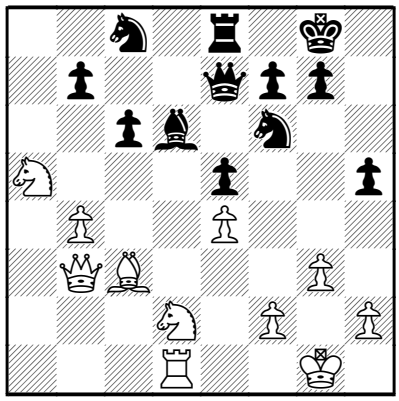
23...h5!

Jack: Very strong. I thought you were planning to move your Knight to f8 or f6, but what's the hurry to simplify?

24.Nd2 Nf6 25.Bxc8

Cy: He voluntarily exchanges a key defender. The GM didn't like the passive 25.Bg2 Bg4.

25...Nxc8 26.Qb3



Cy: *Exercise* (planning): White plans a minority attack on the Queenside with b5 next. How can Black deal with this idea and improve his position by taking control over a key square?

Answer: The offside Knight locks onto the hole on b5, where it eyes c3 and d4.

26...Na7 27.Nac4 Bb8

The Bishop is needed to cover e5.

28.f3

Cy: *Question*: Isn't White's last move a strategic blunder which weakens g3?

Answer: His move does indeed weaken g3, but if all continuations are bad, then is the move really an error? I am hard pressed to come up with a useful move for White.

Let's say White simply waits. After 28.Bb2 Rd8 29.Kg2 Nb5 30.Ba1 Nd4 31.Bxd4 Rxd4 White's position continues to deteriorate:

1. His e-pawn is weak.

2. Black has attacking chances with ...h4 coming.

3. Black owns the d-file and has a grip on the dark squares.;

Jack: I thought of 28.Ne3 Nb5 29.Nf5?!, but 29...Qe6 is horrible for White. Maybe he should settle for 28.Na3 Rd8 29.Re1, still hoping to advance b4-b5.

28...Nb5 29.Bb2 h4 30.Kg2

Cy: 30.g4? leaves gaping holes on g5 and f4, as well as a weak f3-pawn after 30...Nh7.

30...Nh5

Cy: Targeting g3. ...Qg5 is coming.

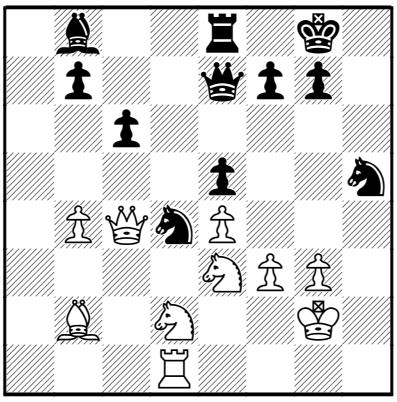
31.Ne3

Jack: Tougher is 31.Nf1, but 31...Qf6∓ sets up ...Nb5-d4.

31...hxg3 32.hxg3 Nd4

Cy: He doesn't dare chop the Knight, since this would allow my dormant Bishop into the attack. 33.Bxd4? yields Black a winning attack after 33...exd4 34.Nf5 Qg5.

33.Qc4



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert/multiple choice): Your positionally competent but combinationally challenged writer missed a win here. My contract stipulates I can't give you the answer. You must decide:

a) 33...Qg5, going for the kill.

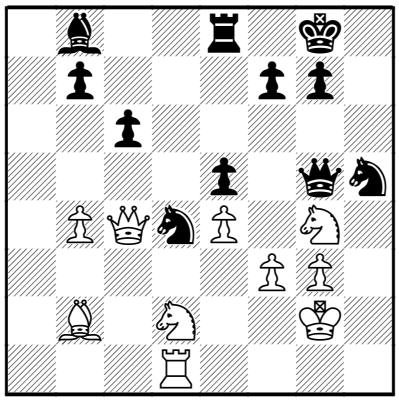
b) 33...b5, displacing the White Queen.

33...Qg5?!

Cy: This natural move is second best.

Answer: I missed b) 33...b5! forcing the win of the b4 pawn, since if White defends with 34.Qc3? Black has the trick 34...Nxg3! when the two Black Knights overlap like a ven diagram.

34.Ng4



Jack: A fine move that keeps White alive. Not 34.Nef1? because 34...Ne2! conquers g3.

Cy: *Exercise* (critical decision): White plants a scarecrow in the field to discourage the attack. Calculate the Knight sac on g3. Should Black go for it or hold back?

34...Nxg3?!

Cy: The Knight may be loyal and brave, but to whom? In this case the Knight works against Black's best interest. The sac is based on the belief that if you place a weapon in storage without use for a long time, it may rust.

In this case, however, the hotheaded sheriff, provoked by the tiniest slight, decides to dole out swift justice to the offender and goes beyond the limits of his jurisdiction.

One must cultivate that pause to reflect between desire and the reaching out to possess the desire. As is my usual habit, I sac when I shouldn't and hold off sacing when I should.

In this case I got carried away and sac'ed incorrectly. The Knight should be talked off the ledge with:

Answer: 34...b5! 35.Qa2 Nf6 when Black is up a pawn and attacking.

Jack: This is the correct continuation, but it requires rare self-restraint to abandon the plan to attack g3, your target since 23...h5.

35.Bc1?

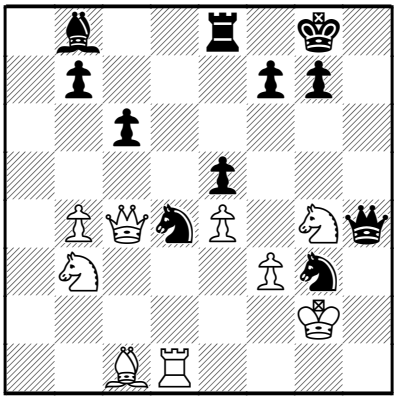
Cy: "Almost" is the most painful word in the chess lexicon. We were both in time trouble.

Gufeld would have escaped if he had graciously accepted the gift. 35.Kxg3! Qf4+ 36.Kf2 Nxf3 37.Nxf3 Ba7+ 38.Ke1! (*Only with this move does White's King survive among the ash and embers all around him. Both Gufeld and I had incorrectly assumed White had to go in for 38.Ke2?? Qxg4 39.Rf1 b5! winning in every variation.*(Not 39...Qg2+? 40.Ke1 Qxb2 41.Ng5 and suddenly it isn't clear who is beating whom.)) 38...Qxf3 39.Rd7! Bd4 40.Bxd4 exd4 41.Nf2. Now Black has nothing better than to force a perpetual check with 41...Rxe4+ 42.Nxe4 Qxe4+.

35...Qh4

Cy: Now Black is completely winning. But 35...Nxf3! was even stronger.

36.Nb3



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): If I spotted this combination then you can too! 36.Qd3 Nge2 is also hopeless.

Answer:

36...Nxe4! 0–1

Cy: Now White's pieces scatter like pheasants in the field who sense the presence of hunting dogs.

Summary: Black's optimal timing for ...d4 is when White's Bishop sits on b2 and his Rook on e1. ♜

GM Mikheil Kekelidze Wins 13th Metropolitan GM

December 7-11, 2011

GM Mikheil Kekelidze of Georgia won the 13th Metropolitan GM norm invitational tournament with a score of 7-2, half a point in front of second place IM Enrico Sevillano, who scored his second GM norm. Third was IM-elect Roman Yankovsky at 6-3, who finished with four consecutive wins. Tied for 4th and 5th were GM Melikset Khachiyan and Macedonia's GM Vladimir Georgiev at 5-4. Sixth at 4-5 was IM Mackenzie Molner, and tied at 7th-9th at 3-6 were FM Keaton Kiewra, IM Andranik Matikozyan, and IM Marc Tyler Arnold. Scoring 2½-6½ and finishing tenth was IM Mark Ginsburg.

Kekelidze led from round 3, followed by Sevillano; they met in the final round, and their draw secured the tournament win for Kekelidze, and the GM norm for Sevillano. Kekelidze scored five straight wins, and started and finished with two draws.

On February 12th, Kekelidze won the Marshall Chess Club Invitational with an 8-1 score. He also is the Marshall's 2011 club champion.

We present the first two of Yankovsky's four consecutive wins. The first is an interesting face-off between White's two connected Queenside pawns and Black's passed, doubled d-pawns. We conclude with Yankovsky's sensational Queen sacrifice game from the next round, annotated by IM Jack Peters. -Ed.

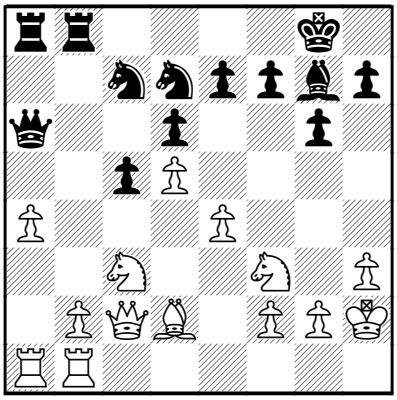
Arnold,Marc Tyler (2504) - Yankovsky,Roman (2397)
[A59] Benko Gambit
13th Metropolitan GM Los Angeles (6), 10.12.2011

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.h3 Bg7 11.Kg1 0–0 12.Kh2 Qa5 13.Qc2

The main line for strong players has been 13.Re1 Rfb8 14.Re2 Ne8 15.Rc2 Nc7 16.Bg5 Kf8 17.Rac1=.

13...Rfb8 14.Bd2 Ne8 15.Rhb1 Nc7 16.a4 Qa6



A good illustration of the Benko Gambit features.

White has the two connected Queenside pawns, but Black has pressure on the two files. White has more space, but Black has that great Bishop on g7, and can choose the right time to play ...e6 to attack the center.

17.Nd1

White gives up on holding d5.

17...e6 18.dxe6 Nxe6 19.Bc3

Houdini calls this a mistake, which Black exploits.

19...Nd4 20.Bxd4 cxd4 21.Qd2 Nc5 22.b4∓

A natural looking move, to make use of White's passed pawns, but it gives Black the opportunity to eventually take advantage of c3.

Still equal was 22.Nxd4 with several possible lines:

22...Nxe4 23.Qe3=.

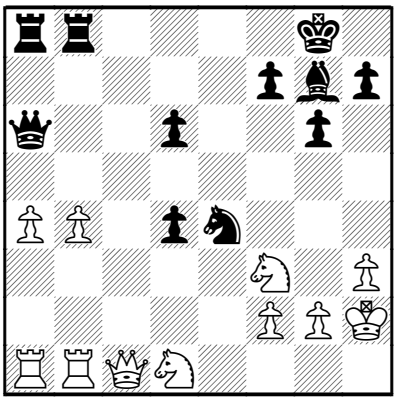
22...Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Nb3 24.Qf6 Nxa1 25.Rxa1 Rb4=.

22...Be5+ 23.Kg1 Nxe4 24.Qc2 Rb4 25.Qxe4=.

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Ginsburg, Mark	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2367		½	**1½**	**2**	2	2	2	2	2½	2½
2	Kiewra, Keaton	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2360		**1**	1	1	2	2½	2½	2½	2½	3
3	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2457		½	1	1½	1½	2	2	2½	3	3
4	Sevillano, Enrico	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2461		½	1	**2**	**3**	3½	4½	5	6	6½
5	Georgiev, Vladimir	MKD	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2553		½	½	1½	2	3	4	4½	4½	5
6	Kekelidze, Mikheil	GEO	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2443		½	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6½**	**7**
7	Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2397		½	**1½**	1½	2	2	3	4	5	6
8	Molner, Mackenzie	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2455		½	1	1	1	2	2½	3	3½	4
9	Arnold, Marc Tyler	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2504		0	½	½	1	1	1	1½	2	3
10	Khachiyan, Melikset	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2474		½	1	**2**	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

22...Nxe4 23.Qc1



Now it's a battle between White's two connected passed wing pawns against Black's two passed doubled central pawns.

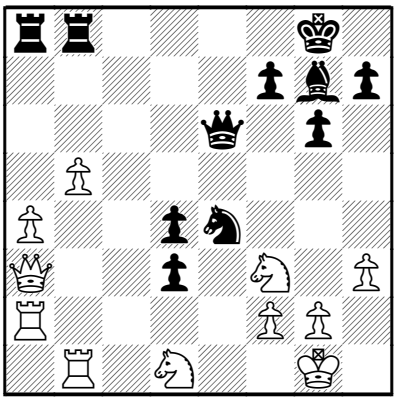
Black's major pieces are inefficient blockaders, but his minor pieces cooperate very well with the two central pawns.

23...d5 24.b5 Qd6+ 25.Kg1?

Much better is 25.g3 d3 26.Ra2 d4 27.Qa3 Qe6∓. This is not nearly as bad as the game position after 27...Qe6 because White can now abandon the first rank with 28.Rbb2! Nc3 29.Nxd4 Bxd4 30.Nxc3, and the White King is not exposed to a back rank check. Black is still better, though.

It's a subtle mistake, but Houdini claims a difference.

25...d3–+ 26.Ra2 d4 27.Qa3 Qe6



28.a5

Black's coming Nc3 is too strong, no matter what White plays:

28.Rab2 Nc3 29.Ra1 Rxa4 30.Qxa4 Nxa4 31.Rxa4–+.

28.Raa1 Nc3 29.Qb3 Nxb1 30.Qxb1 Qe2–+.

28.Qb3 Nc3 and now if 29.Nxc3? then 29...Qxb3 and White's back rank is too weak: 30.Rxb3 dxc3 31.Rb1 c2 32.Rc1 Rxb5–+.

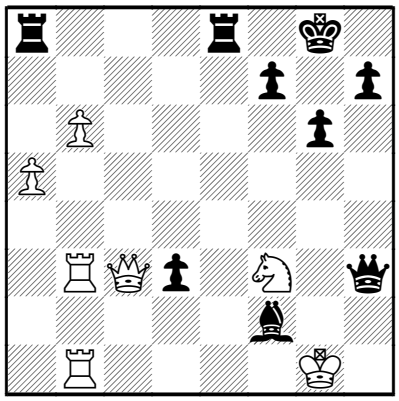
ap

Roman Yankovsky: eventful chess!

28...Nc3 29.Rab2 Bf8 30.Qa1 Bd6 31.b6 Re8 32.g3

White can save the exchange with 32.Nxc3 dxc3 33.Ra2, but the Black pawns are too strong: 33...c2 34.Rf1 Bf8 (*Black relocates the Bishop, threatening to coordinate with the advanced pawns.*) 35.Nd4 Qd5 36.Nxc2 dxc2 37.Rxc2 Rxa5–+.

32...Qxh3 33.Nxc3 dxc3 34.Rb3 Bxg3 35.Qxc3 Bxf2+ 0-1



It's over: 36.Kxf2 Re2+ 37.Kg1 Qg2 mate.

It's quite an interesting game!

Chess is described as an art by some and a science by others. But sometimes it's a great sporting contest, as in the following extraordinarily eventful game. -Ed.

Yankovsky,Roman (2397) - Ginsburg,Mark (2367)
[B56] Sicilian Defense
13th Metropolitan GM (7)
Los Angeles, 10.12.2011

As the annotator of this spectacular game, I tried to find the turning points and identify the mistakes.

You don't have to be so critical - just enjoy it! - IM Jack Peters

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3

A quiet alternative to the Richter Rauzer (6. Bg5) and Sozin (6. Bc4).

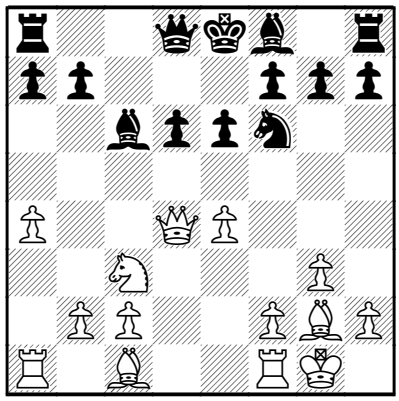
6...Bd7

One of several acceptable replies. Others are 6...e6, 6...g6, and 6...e5.

7.Bg2 Nxd4

More common is 7...g6.

8.Qxd4 Bc6 9.0–0 e6 10.a4±



White secures a potentially useful advantage in space on the Queenside.

White could play for quicker development with 10.Be3 Be7 11.Rad1 0–0± but Black's solid position presents no easy targets.

10...Be7 11.a5 0–0 12.h3 Qc7 13.Be3 Nd7

White has discouraged both ...a7-a6 and ...b7-b6, but Black must still seek Queenside counterplay.

14.a6?!

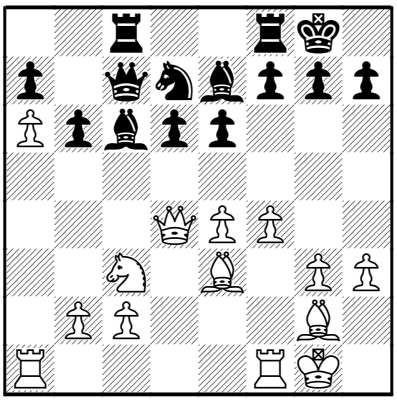
Releasing the bind. Too weakening would be 14.b4? Bf6 15.Qd2 Ne5∓.

The routine 14.Rfd1 keeps a miniscule edge. White could also consider 14.Qb4!? which prepares both 15.Nb5 and 15.Nd5.

14...b6

The superior 14...Rfb8! welcomes the opening of Queenside files.

15.f4 Rac8=



The opening ends satisfactorily for Black. He can dream of fighting back in the center.

White has made no progress on the Kingside, and his small accomplishments on the Queenside (weakening the light squares b7, c6, and b5) should not trouble Black.

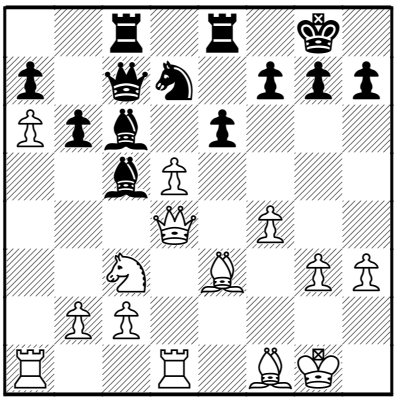
16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Bf1 d5!

Taking the initiative. The computer also likes 17...Nc5 18.Nb5 Qb8, when 19.Nxd6 lets Black recover the pawn favorably by 19...Rcd8 20.e5 Ne4∓.

18.exd5

If White closes the center with 18.e5, Black strikes back, as in the French Defense, with 18...f6 19.exf6 Bxf6∓.

18...Bc5



19.dxc6??

This imaginative move makes the game memorable.

Objectively, it is unsound and should lose. White has little to fear after the correct 19.Qd2 Bxe3+ (*avoiding 19...exd5 20.Bxc5 because White will take the d-pawn*) 20.Qxe3 exd5 21.Qd4 Nf6 22.Bg2∓.

19...Bxd4 20.Rxd4

White cannot escape with 20.cxd7 Bxe3+ 21.Kh2 Red8 22.dxc8Q Qxc8−+.

20...Nf6?!

Black's first inaccuracy.

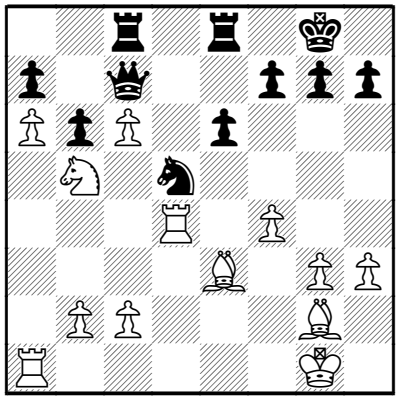
White's Bishops and passed c-pawn can cause a lot of trouble, so Black should look for an opportunity to simplify by returning part of his material advantage.

By far the easiest method is to fall for the X-ray 20...Qxc6 21.Bb5, as 21...Qf3 22.Bf2 Nc5 23.Bxe8 Rxe8 gives him Queen against Rook and Bishop in a dominating position. And he can refute 24.Nb5 by 24...Ne4 25.Rxe4 Qxe4 26.Nd6 Qxc2! 27.Nxe8 Qc6−+.

21.Bg2?!

Stronger is 21.Rc4. The plausible variation 21...Nd5 22.Nb5 Qb8 23.Bd4 f6 24.Bg2 demonstrates that it's not easy for Black to make progress.

21...Nd5! 22.Nb5



22...Qe7?

Preserving material loses most of his advantage!

Instead, Black should give White two Rooks for the Queen by the complicated 22...Qxc6 23.Nxa7 Qxc2 24.Nxc8 (*useless is 24.Rc1? Qe2−+*) 24...Nxe3 25.Bb7 Rxc8 26.a7 g6! (*very calm!*) 27.Rd7 (*similar is 27.a8Q Rxa8 28.Bxa8 Nf5−+*) 27...Qxb2 28.a8Q Rxa8 29.Rxa8+ Kg7. Although White can try to attack f7, Black should win.

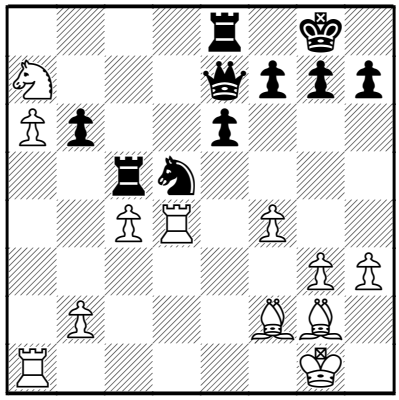
23.Bf2 Rxc6!

Black must eliminate this pawn. Hesitating fares worse. For example, the advantage shifts to White after 23...Red8? 24.c4 Nc7 25.Nxa7 Ra8 26.Rd7! Rxd7 27.cxd7, when 27...Rxa7? actually loses to 28.Bxb6+-.

24.c4 Rc5

If 24...Nb4, White should postpone capturing the Rook and maintain pressure with 25.Rad1.

25.Nxa7!



Transforming the pawn at a6 into a far-advanced passer supported by a pair of raking Bishops. As the Russians say, "all three results are possible."

25...Nb4?

Ginsburg called this a "blunder," a harsh indictment of a logical move in a chaotic situation. But he's right that this move leaves White struggling to draw.

Understandably, Black shied away from 25...Qxa7 26.cxd5 exd5 (*not promising for Black is 26...Ra5?! 27.Rxa5 bxa5 28.Bf1±*) 27.Bxd5 because the a-pawn ties down his Queen. Nevertheless, this line is Black's last opportunity to play for a win. He can force White into passivity by 27...Rc2 28.Bb7 Rxf2!? 29.Kxf2 b5 30.Rad1 Rd8 31.Ke3 f5, yet White seems to draw after 32.g4 g6 33.gxf5 gxf5 34.b4 Qb6 35.R1d3 by shuttling his Rook between d1, d2, and d3.

26.Nb5 Nc2

Don't be misled by Black's enormous material advantage. The a-pawn is so dangerous that ordinary material values do not apply.

27.Ra4 Nxd4 28.Bxd4 Qd7

Black has more hope of drawing after 28...Rcc8 29.a7 g5. He will give up a Rook for the a-pawn and unleash his Queen on White's loose Kingside.

29.a7!

Best. If White sidesteps the coming tactical skirmish by 29.b3, then

Please turn to page 16, ***13th Metro***

Faik Aleskerov Wins 14th Metropolitan FIDE

December 7-11, 2011

Faik Aleskerov of Azerbaijan won his final round game when his opponent's cell phone rang, giving him a tournament win at 6½-2½ and his second IM norm. Second was IM Jacek Stopa scoring 6-3, and third at 5½-3½ was FM Konstantin Kavutskiy.

Tied for 4th at 5-4 were CM Giovanni Carreto of Mexico and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan. Next at 6th was IM Larry Remlinger scoring an even 4½-4½; 7th was IM Zhanibek Amanov at 4-5, 8th was FM Harutyun Akopyan at 3½-5½, and 9th at 2½-6½ were Dan Lee and Robert Akopian.

The final round saw Aleskerov and Kavutskiy tied at 5½ with Carreto and Stopa just behind at 5. Last round wins for Stopa and Aleskerov decided things.

Aleskerov earned his third norm in January's Northern California International. If he raises his rating just a bit to 2400, he gains the IM title.

We present two games, one win by Stopa and one by Aleskerov, with notes by the Editor. We hope you enjoy them. -Ed.

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Akopian, Robert	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2053		0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2½
2	Abrahamyan, Tatev	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2264		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	3	3	4	4½	5
3	Carreto, Giovanni	MEX	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2242		**1**	1	2	**3**	**3½**	**4**	4	5	5
4	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2303		**1**	**2**	2	2	3	3½	4½	**5½**	5½
5	Stopa, Jacek	POL	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2482		**1**	1	1	2	3	**4**	**5**	5	6
6	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2411		0	1	1	1½	2	3	3	3	4
7	Aleskerov, Faik	AZE	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2339		0	1	2	**3**	**3½**	**4**	**5**	**5½**	**6½**
8	Lee, Dan	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2264		0	0	1	1½	2	2	2	2	2½
9	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2409		0	1	2	2	2½	3	4	4	4½
10	Akopyan, Harutyun	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2233		**1**	1	1	1	1½	2½	2½	3½	3½

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

Stopa,Jacek (2482) -
Amanov,Zhanibek (2411)
[A00] Polish Opening
14th Metropolitan IM (1)
Los Angeles, 07.12.2011

1.b4

Known as the Sokolsky, the Orangutan, and/or the Polish opening.

Jacek is from Poland.

Coincidence? You decide.

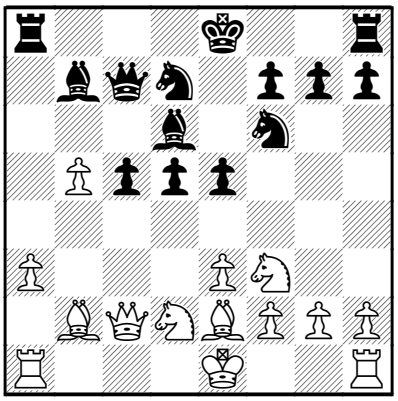
1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.a3 b6 4.Nf3 c5 5.b5 a6 6.e3 d5N 7.c4 Nbd7 8.d4 Bb7 9.Nbd2 Bd6

Black can trade the a-pawn for White's c-pawn, usually a good deal: 9...axb5 10.cxb5∓.

10.dxc5 bxc5 11.Be2 axb5 12.cxb5∓

So Black gets the stronger center.

12...Qc7 13.Qc2 e5



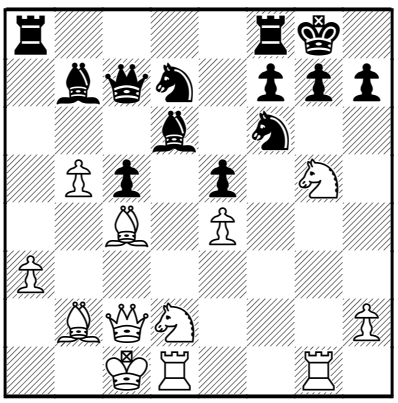
There is much to like about Black's center formation and piece development.

14.e4 dxe4

The center gets blocked up after 14...d4 15.0–0 Nb6 16.a4 Ra5 (*16...c4 17.a5*±) 17.Bc4 0–0=.

Also possible is 14...0–0 15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Nh4= and the Black center is broken up.

15.Ng5 e3 16.fxe3 Bxg2 17.Rg1 Bd5 18.e4 Bb7 19.Bc4 0–0 20.0–0–0



White has all of his pieces ready to go for a Kingside attack, and his King is safe, too. Black's defenders are too far away.

20...Nb6

Perhaps this is Black's last chance to prepare for the coming attack, with 20...h6 21.Ne6 fxe6 22.Bxe6+ Kh8 23.Nc4 Bxe4 24.Qe2 Be7 25.Rxd7 Nxd7 26.Qxe4 and now:
26...Rf4?? 27.Qxa8+ +-.
26...Bf6?! 27.b6+-.
26...Ra4!? 27.Qg6 Bf6 28.Bf5 Kg8 29.Kb1±.

21.Rdf1 Be7 22.Ndf3 Nxc4

Other tries lose: if 22...Bd6 then 23.Nxh7! Kxh7 24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 25.Qg2++-.

Or, if 22...Ra4 then 23.Bxf7+ Rxf7 24.Nxe5 Bxe4 25.Qe2+-.

23.Qxc4

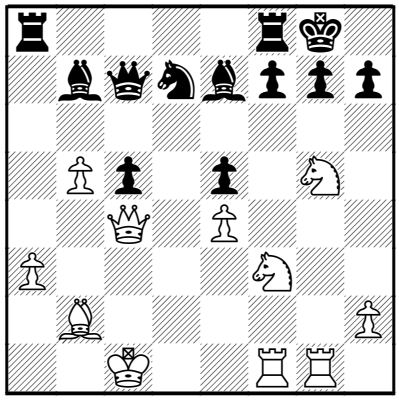
Surprisingly, this position is lost, no matter how Black plays. There are too many White attackers. Although Houdini likes 23...Bd6=/+, when he is walked down each of the subsequent variations, he soon switches to +-.

23...Nd7

Two other tries were:

23...Bd6 24.Nh4!+- heading for f5. 24...h6 25.Nf5! hxg5 26.Rxg5 Ne8 (*26...Kh8 27.Qd3*+-) 27.Rfg1+-.

23...h6 24.Nxf7 Rxf7 25.Nxe5 Bd8 (*if 25...Bd6 26.Rxf6*+-) 26.Rd1 Bxe4 27.Rd7 threatening 28.Qxf7 27...Bd5 28.Rxd5 Nxd5 29.Qxd5+-.



24.Ne6!! Nb6

Best, but still busted was 24...Qd6 25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Nxf8, for example 26...Rxf8 (*if 26...Kxg7 27.Nxe5 Nxe5 28.Qxf7*+ +-) 27.Rxf7 Rxf7 28.Qxf7 Bxe4 29.Rd1 Qh6+ 30.Nd2 Qg5 31.Qe8+ Nf8 32.Re1+-.

25.Qa2

The computer's best win was 25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Nxe5, and if 26...Nxc4 then 27.Rg8+!!! Kxg8 28.Rg1+.

25...fxe6 26.Bxe5 Rxf3 27.Qxe6+ 1-0

It's a quick mate after 27...Kf8 28.Rxf3+ Ke8 29.Rxg7.

Once in a while, there's a little magic in chess! An accurate Knight and Bishop vs Rook ending by Aleskerov follows. It's a really artful endgame win.

Aleskerov,Faik (2339) - Stopa,Jacek (2482)
[C41] Philidor's Defense
14th Metropolitan IM (2)
Los Angeles, 08.12.2011

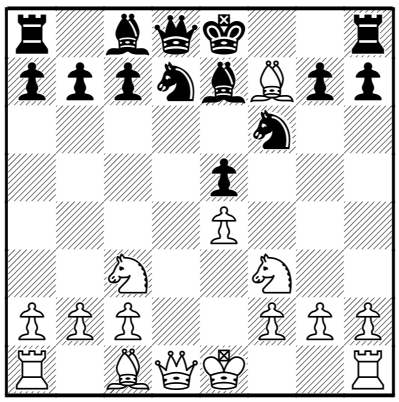
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4

After starting out as a Vienna Game, it's now a Philidor.

4...Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.dxe5

The heavily traveled path is 6.0–0 0–0 7.Re1 c6 8.a4 b6.

6...dxe5 7.Bxf7+



This is one wild line! Well, it certainly scares *me*.

7...Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Kg8 9.Ne6 Qe8 10.Nxc7 Qg6 11.Nxa8 Qxg2 12.Rf1 Nc5 13.Be3 Bh3 14.Qe2 Qxf1+ 15.Qxf1 Bxf1 16.Kxf1

This position is nearly forced after 7.Bxf7+.

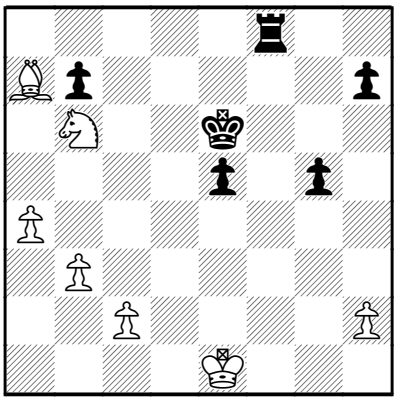
16...Ncxe4

Strong players have more often played 16...Kf7 first, and after 17.Nc7 Black has a choice of three decent equalizing moves: 17...Ncxe4, 17...Nfxe4, and 17...Rc8. White gets the advantage now.

17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Bxa7±

Houdini approves.

18...Kf7 19.Nb6 Ke6 20.Re1 Nxf2 21.Kxf2 Bh4+ 22.Ke2 Bxe1 23.Kxe1 Rf8 24.b3 g5 25.a4



Both sides will plan to improve their pawn majorities.

25...g4 26.Nc4 h5 27.Bf2 Kd5 28.Bg3 e4

Also possible is 28...Rg8, as after 29.Nxe5? Black has 29...h4 30.Bf4 g3 31.hxg3 hxg3 32.Kf1 Ke4 33.Nd3 g2+ 34.Kg1 Rc8=. But White just plays 29.Ke2 or 29.Kd2 instead.

29.Ke2 Rf3

The King invasion 29...Kd4 is halted by 30.Na3, for 30...Kc3?? is a disaster, losing the Rook: 31.Be5+ Kb4 32.Bd6+ +-. Or, if 30...Rf3 then 31.Nb5+ maintains the decisive advantage.

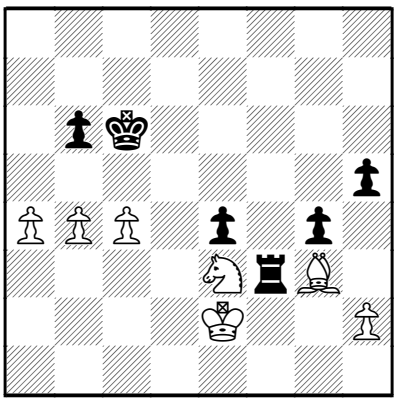
30.Ne3+ Kd4 31.Kd2 Kc5 32.c3

White strengthens his Queenside position.

32...Kc6 33.b4 Rf7 34.c4

White keeps improving his position, but Black has stalled on the Kingside.

34...Rf3 35.Ke2 b6



White begins the magic show, capitalizing on the Queenside pawn majority.

36.c5 bxc5 37.b5+! Kb6 38.Nc4+ Ka7 39.Bd6 Rc3 40.Bxc5+ Ka8

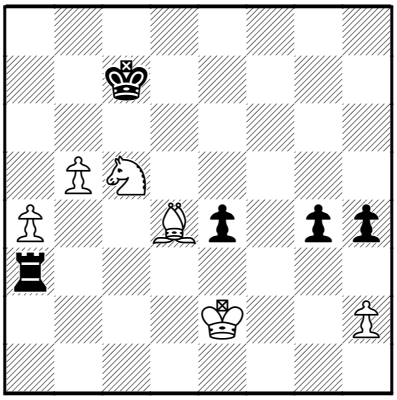
Black can't avoid another check.

41.Nb6+ Kb7 42.Bd4 Ra3 43.Nd7 h4

For if 43...Rxa4 then 44.Nc5+ forks King and Rook.

44.Nc5+ Kc7

White's pawn Queens after 44... Kb6 45.Nb3+ Kc7 46.b6+, for example 46...Kb7 47.Na5+ Ka6 48.b7 Rb3 (*Black can give up his Rook to stop the b-pawn.*) 49.Nxb3 Kxb7 and finally, White Queens the a-pawn.



The time has come to wow the chess fans:

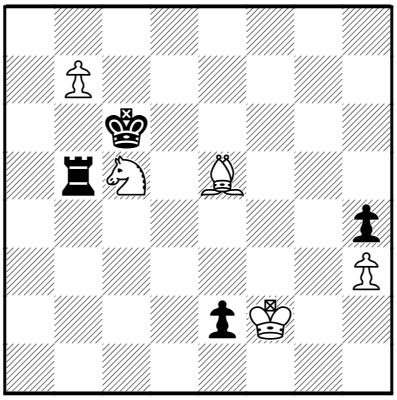
45.a5! Rxa5 46.b6+! Kc6

If 46...Kxb6, then 47.Nb3+ gets the Rook, winning as in the game.

47.b7 Rb5 48.Be5 g3

If 48...Kxc5, then 49.b8Q Rxb8 50.Bxb8 will be similar to the game's actual end.

49.h3 g2 50.Kf2 e3+ 51.Kxg2 e2 52.Kf2 1-0



After 52...Kxc5 53.b8Q Rxb8 54.Bxb8 e1Q+ 55.Kxe1, the Queening square of White's h-pawn can be controlled by the Bishop, so it's a win. If it were a White-squared Bishop, Black could just play his King to h8 and draw easily. ♜

13th Metro, concluded from page 13.

29...g5 30.a7 Rcc8 produces another bewildering position. White should avoid 31.fxg5? because of 31...e5 32.Bxb6 Qd1+ 33.Kh2 Qxb3.

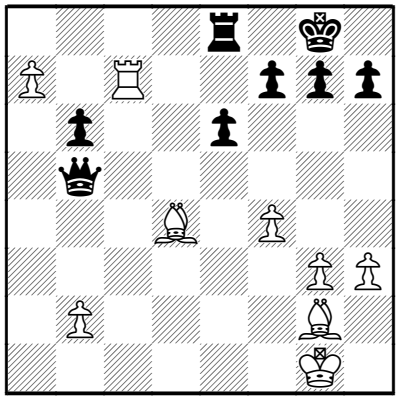
29...Rxc4?!

Rejecting his final opportunity for 29...Rcc8.

30.Rxc4

Not 30.a8Q?? Rxa8 31.Rxa8+ Rc8 which restores Black's advantage.

30...Qxb5 31.Rc7



Winning, although White has only two Bishops for the Queen. Black must play well to lose only a Rook for the a-pawn.

31...Qa5

Black will not escape by 31... Qb4 32.Bf2 Qxb2 because 33.Rb7 g6 34.Bxb6 (*White does not have to rush with 34.Rb8?! Qa1+ 35.Kh2 Qxa7*) 34...Qc1+ 35.Kh2 Qc8 36.Bc7 prepares to interpose on b8 and promote the a-pawn.

32.Rb7 h5 33.h4 Kh7

After 33...f6 34.Bxb6, Black has no defense to Rb7-b8.

34.Bxb6?!

Most convincing is 34.Rxf7. White can pick off the g-pawn and come back to capture the b-pawn later.

34...Qe1+ 35.Kh2 e5 36.fxe5?

Endangering the win, as every trade of pawns increases Black's chance to draw.

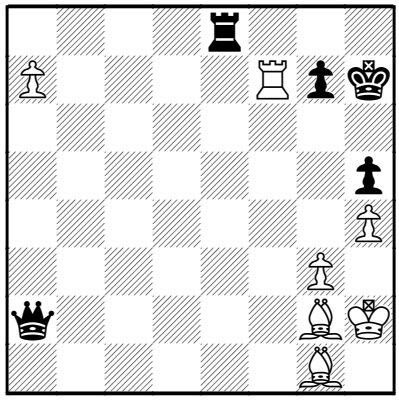
For the same reason, 36.Bc7?! exf4 37.Bxf4 fails to finish off Black. It's doubtful if White can force a win after 37...Re2 (*threatening a perpetual by 38...Rxg2+*) 38.Re7! Rxe7 39.a8Q Qb1±.

However, White can clinch victory by 36.f5! Ra8 (*else 37. Rb8 gets a new Queen*) 37.Rxf7 Rxa7 (*or 37...e4 38.Bd4+-*) 38.Rxa7 Qb4 39.Be3 Qxb2 40.f6+-.

36...Qxe5 37.Rxf7

The computer still claims a win by 37.Bc7 Qd4 38.Bb8 Re2! 39.a8Q Qe4 40.Ra7 Rxg2+ 41.Kh3 Qxa8 42.Rxa8 Rxb2 but I'm skeptical. After 43.Bf4 f6 44.Ra5 Kg6 45.Ra7 Re2 46.Bd6 Re8, how will White attack g7?

37...Qxb2 38.Bg1 Qa2



39.Re7

White should try 39.Rf5!? when all of the obvious defenses lose:

39...Re2? 40.Rf2! Qxa7 41.Rxe2+-

39...Kg6? 40.Rg5+ Kh6 41.Be3!+-

39...g6? 40.Rf4 Ra8 41.Rb4 Rxa7 42.Bxa7 Qxa7 43.Rb7+ Qxb7 44.Bxb7 Kh6 45.Be4 g5 46.Kh3 gxh4 (*hoping to leave White with the "h-pawn and wrong Bishop"*) 47.Kxh4+-.

But 39...g5! may save Black anyway. Black relies on 40.hxg5 h4 41.gxh4 Re2 42.Rf2 Rxf2 43.Bxf2 Qxf2 44.a8Q Qxh4+, drawing.

39...Rd8??

This looks like time pressure. Black missed a simple draw by 39...Rxe7 40.a8Q Qxa8 41.Bxa8 g5 42.hxg5 Kg6.

40.Bd4!+-

Both attacking g7 and stopping 40...Rd2.

40...Kh6

After 40...Rc8 41.Kh3 the Bishop will check at e4, creating threats of checkmate.

41.Kh3 1–0

The finish could be 41...Qa4 42.Bxg7+ Kh7 43.Bf6+ Kg6 44.Bg5 Qg4+ 45.Kh2 with the deadly threat of 46. Be4+. ♜

Expert Pablo Pena Takes MLK Jr. Memorial Open

January 14-16, 2011

Expert Pablo Pena won the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Open, scoring 5-1 and defeating IM Jack Peters and GM Melikset Khachiyan in his final two rounds. After losing in the first round to IM Timothy Taylor, five straight wins did the trick. Second at 4½-1½ was FM Alexandre Kretchetov, and tied for third at 4-2 were Khachiyan, Peters, and Taylor, along with FM Gregg Small and 14-year-old Varun Krishnan.

The tournament was in three sections with 94 players; the **Open** had 25 players, with all but three of them experts and above. Nicky Korba took first with 5-1 in the 55-player **1500-1999** section, followed by a seven-way tie for second at 4½-1½ for Chris Roberts, Wes White, Agata Bykovtsev, David Baran, John Badger, Leo Creger, and Nathan Porter.

John Paul Donovan at 5½-½ won the 18-player **Under 1500** section. Second was Robert Bryan Martin at 4½-1½ and at 4-2 were Vincent Zhenye Lin, Michael Belleville, and Noah Gin.

The Chief TD was Salman Azhar, assisted by Anthony Ong, Yousef Rezwan Azhar, and Aamir Ali Azhar. The Hyatt Regency at Irvine hosted the tournament.

Below is the tournament winner's account of his victory, complete with games and comments. Thanks, Pablo!

My name is Pablo Pena. I've been an expert FOREVER. Ok, not quite that long - more like high school actually. I left the game for some 20 years, only occasionally playing blitz and such. Then in 2002, while spending a year in Hawaii as a beach bum, I came across the Waikiki chess tables where some people were playing this strange game with renaissance pieces on a multi-colored 64 square mat and a chronometric device they kept slamming for no particular reason.

I assumed they were probably amateurs and decided to go win some easy games, as the job search in Hawaii wasn't going well and I needed some distraction.

But I got no easy games.

There were some pretty strong players there actually, Cornelius Rubsamen (2266), Paul Iinuma (Hawaii state scholastic champ - 2146) and Chet Gionson (around 2100 but a clear master on ICC) They beat up on me badly, though I did win some games.

However, it got me interested in chess again and I started playing tournaments in Hawaii; they occur every month or two. But the elusive search for a good job (and more tournaments) soon had me packing my bags and moving to various places such as Portland OR, Boston MA; and now sunny Orange County.

As a computer programmer I don't often get as much time as I'd like to study chess, but I have been hitting the books pretty hard the last few months. I decided I wanted to make master. In fact, I had a dream where this ominous Zeus like figure approached me and pointed his index finger shouting "No! Thou shalt NEVER make master!" and I was like "yo what up hater? Why you gotta be cursing me?"

So it looks like I finally did break 2200 and the Zeus guy said he was just kidding anyhow.

As far as studying I have been working a lot with Dvoretsky's Analytical manual. I get a great deal out of his exhaustive analysis and study technique.

I also stopped playing blitz entirely which I felt was giving me these "knee-jerk" reactions which carried over into real chess.

The last thing and probably most important is switching to 1.e4. Before 2011 I have NEVER played e4 in a tournament game. I had been faithful to 1.d4 my whole life but was just getting frustrated with the overly positional positions I was getting. I wanted tactics!

So, I took a crash course in e4 theory by watching many of the Roman Dzindzichashvili's opening videos on YouTube which, strangely enough, gave me enough understanding to get through the openings.

Ironically, it was the only video that I actually purchased, the Scotch Gambit, where I forgot the theory!

My first round was against IM Tim Taylor and yes, the Scotch Gambit was on the table. I got two different lines mixed up in my head, and soon it went bad.

After that first round loss I wasn't expecting to do well in the tournament, but was pleasantly surprised. I won in round 2.

Then a weird thing happened on Saturday night (weird things ALWAYS happen to me on Saturday nights). Mark Adams and I were analyzing and talking in the hotel when some drunken hoodlums came by and saw the chess tournament.

One of them pointed directly at me and said "THAT MAN he's going ALL THE WAY! He's gonna win it ALL!". Mark and I just kind of rolled our eyes and waited for them to leave but I remember thinking "*wouldn't that be funny if it actually happened like that*".

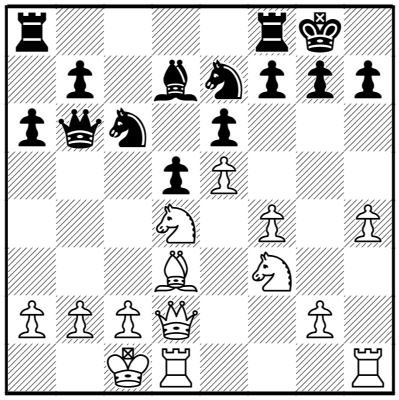
The 3rd round was against Jeff Phillips, whom I've played a few times. It was a weird game and I made assumptions about the opening which were really wrong - I ended up moving my Queen some 7 times in the opening! But in the end an extra pawn made a huge difference.

Round 4 was against Simone Liao. I had only played her once before at the Metropolitan Tournament and she had a nearly winning position against me when, lucky for me, she fell for a tactical shot that ended the game immediately. So I was definitely on guard against her.

In our game she played a French Defense and I chose Roman Dzindzichashvili's recipe calling for 5.Bd2. I don't think she knew the line so well, as she allowed a quick Kingside attack which turned deadly:

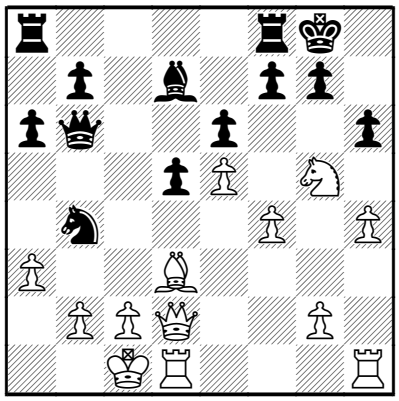
Pena,Pablo (2175) -
Liao,Simone (2124) [C17]
MLK Jr. Memorial Open (4)
Irvine, 15.01.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.f4 cxd4 7.Nb5 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 0–0 9.Nf3 Nbc6 10.Bd3 Qb6 11.0–0–0 a6 12.Nbxd4 Bd7 13.h4!



I could sort of tell the way Simone looked at this move that she thought I was going for the typical h4-h5-h6 caveman style attack. But I had something else in mind.

13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Nc6 15.Nf3 Nb4 16.Ng5 h6 17.a3!



The point. The h-file becomes an issue.

17...Nxd3+

I mused what would happen if she played 17...a5 imitating me? As it turns out Rybka likes this move! 17...a5 18.axb4 axb4 19.Qe1 b3 20.c3 Ra1+ 21.Bb1 Bb5 22.Kd2 Ra4, and here Rybka starts to change its mind, assessing a positive score for White. I had the hunch White would be better but now looking at the computer analysis who knows.

Probably the soundest way to play was simply retreating: 17...Nc6 18.g4 Rfc8 19.Nf3 Na5 20.Kb1±.

18.Qxd3 g6?

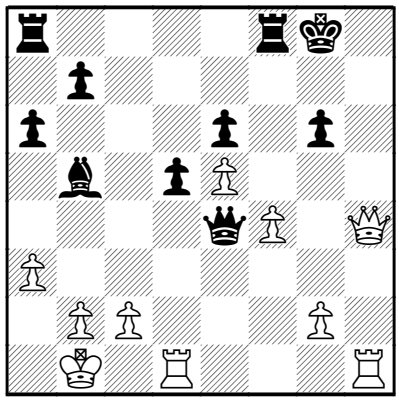
The critical mistake.

The cheeky beast must be taken! 18...hxg5 19.hxg5 Rfc8 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8+ Ke7 22.Qxg7 Be8 23.Kb1. Now White has more than enough comp but is not yet winning. Not 23.g6? as 23...Qb3 forces a perpetual: 24.c3 Rxc3+ 25.bxc3 Qxc3+.

19.h5 Bb5 20.Qg3 hxg5 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Qxg5 Qe3+

No better was 22...Qc7 23.Rh6 Be8 24.Qh4 Qg7 25.Rh1+-.

23.Kb1 Qe4 24.Qh4 1-0



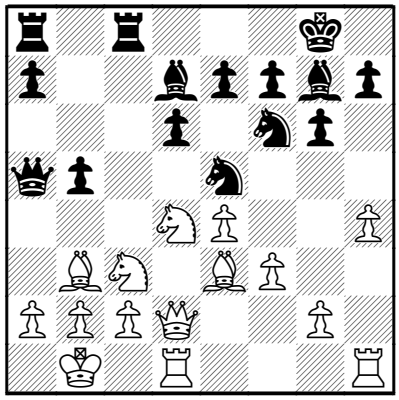
After 24...Kf7, 25.Qf6+ Ke8 26.Qxe6+ Kd8 27.Rxd5+ Qxd5 (27...Kc7 28.Qd6++-) 28.Qxd5+ Kc8 29.Rh7 is curtains.

The final two rounds were against IM Jack Peters and GM Melikset Khachiyan.

The game against Peters was a pet line in the Dragon I had studied from Chris Ward's series *Winning With the Dragon*. I got lucky in that the pawn sac 13…b5 is somewhat straight forward to play and definitely to my liking, assuming White takes the pawn.

After a misstep by Jack with 19.Kc1 (19.Ka1 was much better), I was able to win a piece, and get two Knights for a Rook, and then it was a matter of technique. There just wasn't much play for Jack in that endgame.

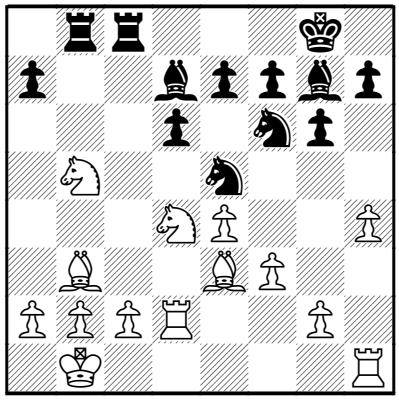
Peters,Jack (2416) -
Pena,Pablo (2175)
[B79] Sicilian Dragon
MLK Jr. Memorial Open (5)
Irvine, 16.01.2012
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0–0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0–0–0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Qa5 12.Kb1 Rfc8 13.h4 b5



Dear Chris Ward, I read your book! This line is from *Winning With the Dragon*, I believe the 2nd volume. He gives this move a modest evaluation saying the jury is still out but that it shows promise.

Incidentally, I played this line against Roman Yankovsky, who refused to take the pawn and just pushed on with h5, beating me rather harshly. But I have since found stronger replies to the h5 idea.

14.Ncxb5 Qxd2 15.Rxd2 Rab8



16.Nc3

This move has the most games. But according to ChessBase, the lesser known 16.a4! has a strong winning percentage for White.

In fact, when I played Jeff Arnold (2400 +) this was his solution: 16.a4 a6 17.Na3 Rb4 18.c3 Rb7 19.Ka1 Rcb8 20.Bd1 Rc7 21.a5 Nc4 22.Nxc4 Rxc4 23.Ne2 Be6 24.b3 Rcc8 25.Ka2 Nd7 26.c4 Nc5 27.Nd4 Bd7 28.Ne2 f5 29.exf5 Bxf5 30.g4 Be6 31.h5.

And here I missed a Rybka specialty 31...Nxb3! 32.Bxb3 Rxc4!! 33.Bxc4 Bxc4+ 34.Ka3 Rb3+ 35.Ka4 Rxe3∓.

Jeff went on to win a nice game after 31...Nd7?!, Arnold - Pena, 5th Metropolitan Qualifier, Los Angeles, 2011.

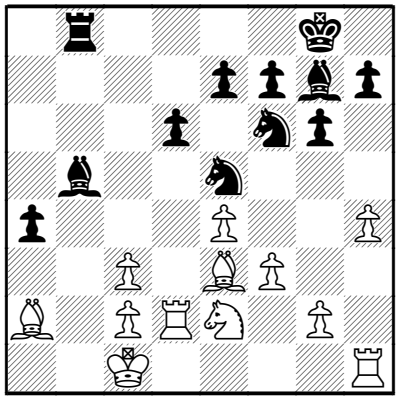
16...a5 17.a4 Rxc3!

Necessary, as after virtually any other move White will just play Ndb5 and consolidate.

18.bxc3 Bxa4 19.Kc1?

Probably a serious mistake, since the a-pawn should be watched by Ka1. I say "probably" as Rybka sees little difference at this point.

19...Be8 20.Ne2 a4 21.Ba2 Bb5



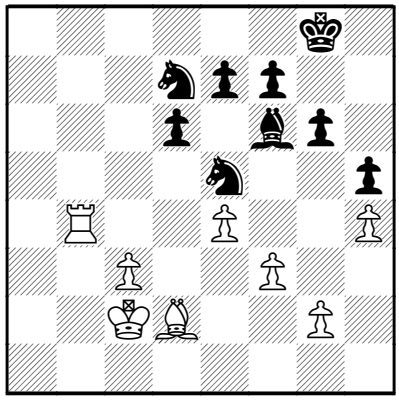
22.Nd4?

Rybka finds a novel exchange sac: 22.Bg5 Bc4 (*In view of this line, maybe a better try is 22...h6 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.f4 Nc4 25.Bxc4 Bxc4 26.Nd4 a3 27.Rdd1 e5 28.Nb3 exf4 29.Rxd6 Bxc3∓; yeah, humans really look at this kind of stuff!*) 23.Bxc4 Nxc4 24.Rd4! a3 25.Rxc4 a2 26.Kd2 Rb1 27.Ra4 Rxh1 28.Rxa2±. It's kind of weird, though.

22...Bc4 23.Bb3

Haha, the computer tries to improve on Jack's line only to end up in a much worse position: 23.Nc6 Rb5 24.Nd4 Rb6 25.Nf5 gxf5 26.Bxb6 Bxa2 27.Be3 (*if 27.Bd4 Bh6–+*) 27... Nc4–+.

23...axb3 24.cxb3 Bxb3 25.Nxb3 Rxb3 26.Kc2 Ra3 27.Rb1 Nfd7 28.Rb3 Ra4 29.Rb4 Ra2+ 30.Kb1 Rxd2 31.Bxd2 h5 32.Kc2 Bf6



33.Bg5

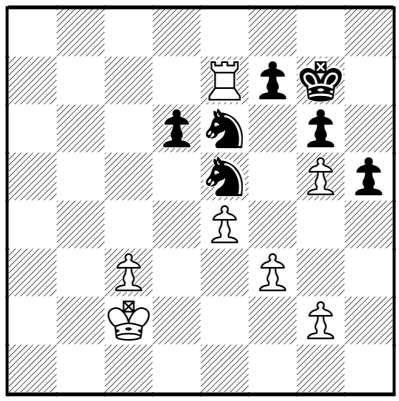
After this move I hit on an endgame plan of exchanging Bishops and working to free the h-pawn, since the White King is far from the future crime scene and the g-pawn will almost certainly fall after Nc5-e6-f4.

An alternative was 33.Be1!?.

33...Bxg5 34.hxg5 Nc5 35.Rb8+ Kg7 36.Re8

It's natural to go active but perhaps passively defending the g-pawn was in order.

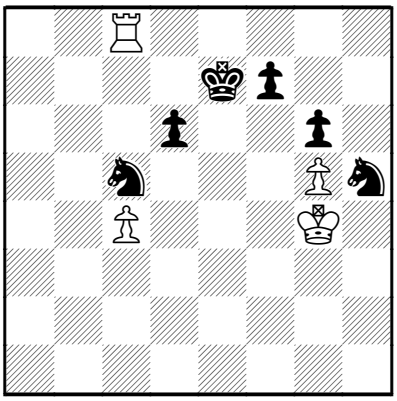
36...Ne6 37.Rxe7



37...h4

Avoiding 37...Nxg5?? 38.f4 Nc6 39.Rc7, which would be an ouchy.

38.Kd2 Nf4 39.Ke3 Nxg2+ 40.Kf2 Nf4 41.Ra7 Kf8 42.Ra8+ Ke7 43.Rh8 Ned3+ 44.Kg1 h3 45.Kh2 Ne5 46.Kg3 Ne2+ 47.Kf2 Nf4 48.Kg3 Nh5+ 49.Kxh3 Nxf3 50.Kg4 Nd2 51.Rc8 Nxe4 52.c4 Nc5



53.Rc7+ Ke6 54.Rc8 Ng7 55.Rg8 Nf5 56.Re8+ Kd7 57.Re2 Ne6 58.Ra2 Ne3+ 0–1

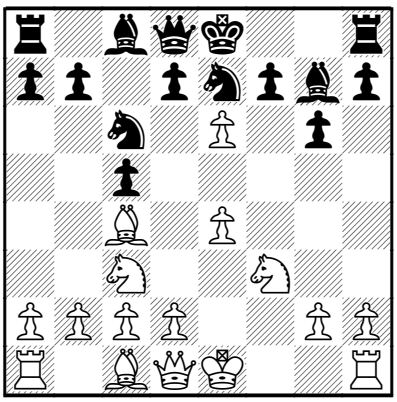
In the final round, it was GM Khachiyan. I had been studying the Grand Prix attack. All of my opponents played into my opening theory! There is luck in chess!

But he got an advantage out of the opening after I carelessly let my light squared Bishop go. But then he started playing on the Queenside instead of the center and lost valuable time while I tried to build up a Kingside attack.

At the critical juncture, when I was getting ready to sac, he missed the precise 28…Bf8! This would have led to small advantage, but he played the horrible blunder 28…Bf6??, after which I sacked and his position was untenable.

Pena,Pablo (2175) -
Khachiyan,Melikset (2556)
[B23] Sicilian Grand Prix
MLK Memorial Open (6)
Irvine, 16.01.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.f5 Nge7 7.fxe6



7...dxe6

Interestingly, the Gawain Jones book on the Grand Prix says Black should take with the f-pawn in order to keep the imposing center and allow for d5, neutralizing White's Bishop. Actually I had intended a piece sac line in that event: 7...fxe6 8.d3 d5 9.Bb3 b5! 10.0–0 (10.Nxb5? Qa5+ 11.Nc3 d4–+) 10...c4 11.dxc4 dxc4 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Nxb5 cxb3 14.axb3⩱.

But anyhow Melikset found an excellent way to deal with White's Bishop.

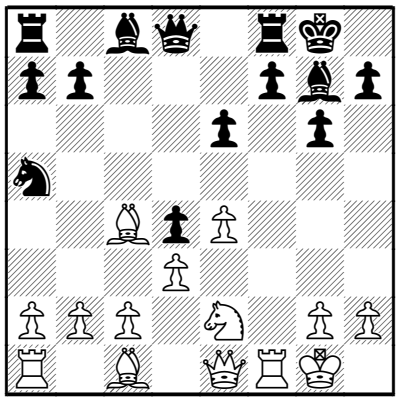
8.0–0 0–0 9.d3 Nd4!

Perfect timing. Not allowing White's usual plan of Qe1–Qh4-Bh6-Ng5-next-game-please. Dealing with the c2 square is problematic. White's imposing setup is not worth a Rook and wasting time to defend c2 didn't work out with the tempos.

10.Nxd4

I think 10.Bg5 is stronger.

10...cxd4 11.Ne2 Nc6 12.Qe1 Na5



At this point I started to think Black is going to be better. Once I lose the Bishop, Black plays ...e5 and ...Be6 and dominates in the center. White's attacking plans go up in a puff of smoke.

13.Qg3?

And here's the mistake. The right line to preserve the Bishop was shown in Nedzad Jakubovic - Gyozo Pataki, Subasic Memorial 2002: 13.Bb5! a6 14.Ba4 b5 15.Bd2! Nb7 (If *15...bxa4 16.Bxa5 and here the computer's evaluation (=) is completely wrong. The weak a-pawn will cost Black dearly later on.*) 16.Bb3.

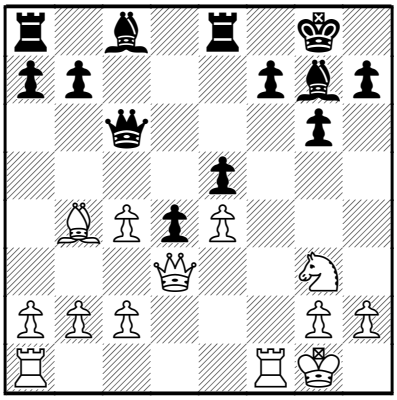
13...Nxc4 14.dxc4 e5!∓

Now White's hope of a Kingside attack is looking pale. Black can easily defend with f6, Be6, the a-rook comes to e-file, etc.

15.Bd2 Qb6 16.Qd3 Qc6 17.Bb4

A simple move just keeping the f7 square "soft" and giving me some possible attacking chances.

17...Re8 18.Ng3



Prophylactic against what I thought Black was going for: ...Bg4, ...f5, and breaking in the center.

18...b6?!

I think Black's plan of attacking White along the White squares is not in the spirit of the position. Why not just ...Be6, followed by ...Rad8 and eventually ...f5 crushing, White in the center? The Queenside play felt wrong to me.

19.b3 a5 20.Bd2 a4 21.h4 Ba6 22.Qf3 Ra7 23.Rf2 b5 24.cxb5 Bxb5 25.Rc1 axb3 26.cxb3 Qa8?∓

Again picking the Queenside over the center.

After 26...Qe6 the Black Queen holds everything together. Still Black has some edge.

Due to Black's advantage on the center and Queenside, I have only once choice - ATTACK.

27.h5 f5

Here I started to get nervous, as taking on g6 does nothing and I couldn't see an easy way forward as any exf5 must fail to the crushing ...e4.

My only hope was to take advantage of a slighly cramped King position and awkward Bishop.

Please turn to page 31, ***MLK***

IM Enrico Sevillano Wins 15th Metropolitan IM

January 25-29, 2012

IM Enrico Sevillano took first by a point and a half in the 15th Metropolitan IM Norm invitational tournament, scoring 7½-1½. Second at 6-3 were IMs Zhanibek Amanov and Andranik Matikozyan. Fourth place at 5½-3½ was FM Konstantin Kavutskiy. Enrico drew the 2nd through 4th finishers and defeated everyone else. Below, we present his final round win, and one by Matikozyan.

Scoring 5-4 and finishing fifth was FM Mark Duckworth, followed by Ankit Gupta with 4-5, and tied for 7th were FM Harutyun Akopyan, Garush Manukyan, and Craig Clawitter at 3-6. Tenth was Vadim Kudryavtsev at 2-7.

We hope you like these two attacking games by the top finishers. -Ed.

Matikozyan,Andranik (2414) - Kudryavtsev,Vadim (2151)
[A08] King's Indian Attack
15th Metropolitan IM (1)
Los Angeles, 25.01.2012

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0–0 0–0 5.d3 d5 6.c3 c5 7.Qa4 Nc6 8.Qh4 Qb6

Houdini likes this position for Black.

9.e4 dxe4 10.dxe4 Bg4 11.Nbd2 Rad8

Several ways to deal with the threat of 12.e5 were: the simple 11... Bxf3 12.Nxf3 Nd7; the Steinitzian 11...Bc8 12.e5 Ng4; and the weird computer variation 11...h6 12.e5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 g5 14.Ndc4 Qe6 15.Bxg5 hxg5 16.Qxg5 Be2.

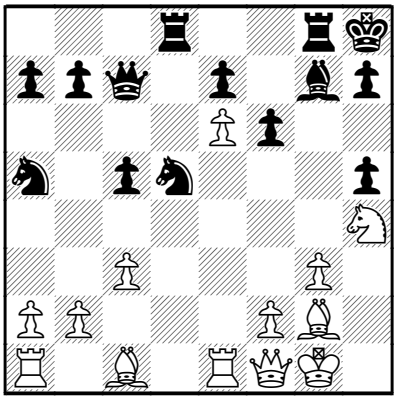
12.e5 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 Nd5 14.Re1

Houdini now likes White, although it's not obvious how to complete the Queenside development. Maybe White won't have to worry about that.

14...f6 15.Qc4

This Queen move allows White to answer 15...Nxe5 with 16.Nxe5+-, and answer 15...fxe5 with 16.Ng5+-. In both cases, the unmasking of the g2 Bishop is decisive.

15...Kh8 16.h4 Na5 17.Qe2 Qc7 18.h5 gxh5 19.e6 Rg8 20.Nh4 Qe5 21.Qf1 Qc7



22.Be4

Houdini loves the seemingly illogical 22.Qd3!!. But it threatens mate with 23.Qxh7+!! Kxh7 24.Be4+ Kh8 25.Ng6+ Kh7 26.Ne5+ f5 27.Bxf5+ Kh8 28.Nf7. Black can't stop it without giving up at least a piece, such as that Knight on d5, so it's lost!

But White is winning anyway, and is not going to suffer because of the delayed Queenside development.

22...Nc6

More stubborn would have been 22...f5 23.Nxf5 Nf6.

23.Bxh7

The computer sees another mate idea with 23.Qh3! threatening 24.Qf5. Black will face heavy material losses.

23...Ne5

There is no way out. It's a fast mate after 23...Kxh7 24.Qd3+.

Also losing is 23...Rgf8 24.Qe2 Kxh7 25.Qxh5+ Kg8 26.Bh6+-.

Another computer line is 23...Bf8 24.Bxg8 Kxg8 25.Qh3 Ne5 26.Qf5 Bg7 27.Bh6 Bxh6 28.Rxe5 Qxe5 29.Qg6+ Bg7 30.Nf5+-.

24.Qe2 Ng4 25.Bc2

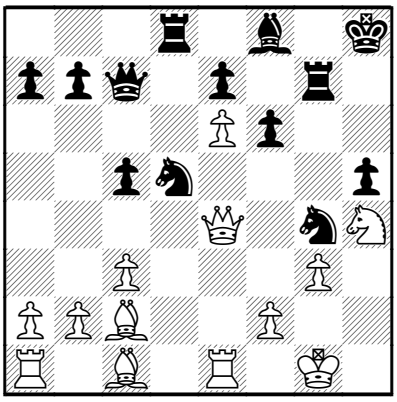
	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2402		½	**1½**	2	2½	3	4	5	5½	6
2	Clawitter, Craig	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2082		**1**	1	1½	2	2	2	2½	3	3
3	Duckworth, Mark	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2313		0	1	1½	2	2	2½	3½	4½	5
4	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2414		**1**	**1½**	**2½**	**3**	**4**	4½	5½	5½	6
5	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2313		½	**1½**	2	2½	3	4	4	5	5½
6	Akopyan, Harutyan	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2279		½	1	1½	1½	2	2	2½	2½	3
7	Kudryavtsev, Vadim	AZE	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2151		0	0	½	1	1	1	1	1½	2
8	Sevillano, Enrico	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2490		**1**	**1½**	2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6½**	**7½**
9	Manukyan, Garush	ARM	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2303		0	0	0	½	1	2	2	2½	3
10	Gupta, Ankit	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2175		½	1	1½	2	3	3	3	3½	4

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

25.Qe4 threatens mate with 26.Ng6+ Kxh7 27.Nf8+ Kh8 28.Qh7 mate. Black only can slow it down for a while with 25...Bf8 26.Bxg8+-.

25...Bf8 26.Qe4 Rg7

Or 26...f5 27.Qxf5 Ndf6 28.Ng6+ Rxg6 29.Qxg6 Qc6 30.Bg5 Qe8 31.Qxe8 Rxe8+-.



27.Nf5

This begins a really cool Knight's tour.

27...Rg6 28.Nd6

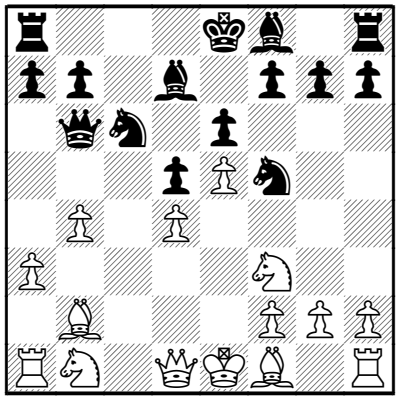
There are many ways to win, for example, 28.Qh1.

28...Rg7 29.Nf7+ Kg8 30.Nxd8 Nxf2 31.Kxf2 Qxg3+ 32.Ke2 f5 33.Qxd5 Qh2+ 34.Kd1 Rg2 35.Qxf5 0-1

White is going to be a Rook and two pieces up after 35...Qd6+ 36.Bd3 Rg7 37.Nf7.

Sevillano,Enrico (2490) - Clawitter,Craig (2082)
[C02] Advanced French
15th Metropolitan IM (9)
Los Angeles, 29.01.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 Nh6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bb2 Bd7



10.Be2

Several games with strong players went 10.g4 Nfe7 11.Nc3 Na5 12.Nd2 Rc8 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.h4 Be7 15.g5.

10...Rc8 11.0–0 Be7 12.Qd2 h5 13.Rd1 g5 14.Bc3 a6 15.Ne1 f6 16.Nc2 Kf7 17.Bd3 Rcg8

White's d-pawn is still guarded, as 17...Nfxd4?? fails to 18.Bxd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Bg6++-.

18.a4 Bd8 19.Nba3 g4 20.b5 Nce7 21.a5 Qa7 22.exf6

22.b6 restricts the Black Queen, but it relieves the pressure on a6.

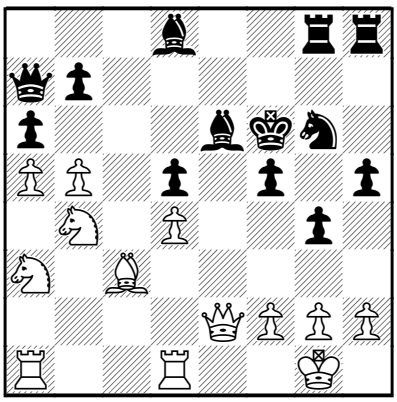
22...Kxf6 23.Qe2 Ng6

Now White breaks open the position against the Black King.

24.Bxf5 exf5

A little better was 24...Kxf5 25.Nb4 Bxa5 26.Nxd5 exd5 27.Bxa5 b6 28.Bb4 a5 29.Bd6±.

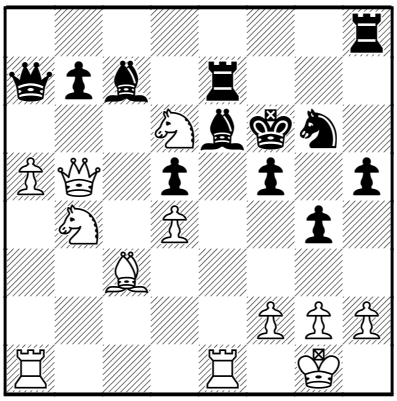
25.Nb4 Be6



26.Nc4! axb5

If 26...dxc4 then 27.d5+ Kg5 28.dxe6+-.

27.Re1 Re8 28.Nd6 Re7 29.Qxb5 Bc7



Enrico's all ready to complete his tournament victory in style!

30.Rxe6+! Rxe6 31.Nxd5+ Kg5

After 31...Kg7 White ends it with 32.Qd7+ Re7 33.Nxe7 Bxd6 34.Nxf5+ Kf8 35.Re1, mating quickly.

32.Nf7+ Kh4 33.g3+ Kh3 34.Ng5 mate.

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Enrico Sevillano: first by a point and a half.

Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

*With "***Here and There***" in your subject line, please send your club or tournament news and notices to the editor at:* RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com.

Los Angeles

The second edition of the ***Metropolitan Chess Invitational Camp*** will run from August 9th to 13th, 2012. **Metropolitan Chess, Inc.** will have the pleasure of hosting GM and **World Champion Viswanathan Anand** as one of the lead instructors. This will mark the first time in 17 years that Vishy visits the US for a chess related purpose. Other instructors -- also notable -- include GM Loek Van Wely, GM Melikset Khachiyan, GM Varuzhan Akobian, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, IM Zhanibek Amanov and FM Aviv Friedman.

For more information, please contact Ankit Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. at **ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com** or visit **www.metrochessla.com**.

The second edition of the widely acclaimed ***Metropolitan Chess International*** (GM/IM/WGM/WIM norm capable), a 9-round SS, will be held from August 14th to 18th, 2012. Already committed are GM Loek Van Wely, GM Varuzhan Akobian, and GM Melikset Khachiyan. There are projected to be 15 or more GMs. $14,100 is guaranteed in prizes, with another $2,500 in best game prizes set aside. The time control is 40/90, SD/30, and 30 second increment from move one.

The tournament will be officially open to players over 2200 FIDE, but exceptional juniors and local players U2200 FIDE may be allowed to play, pursuant to the approval of the tournament organizers.

For details, please contact Ankit Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. at **ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com** or visit **www.metrochessla.com**.

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La Palma

With a perfect score of 7-0, IM Timothy Taylor won **La Palma Chess Club's *2011 Club Championship*** that ended on December 2, 2011. Mehrdad Miralaie, Craig Faber, and Barry Lazarus tied for 2nd-4th place two full points back at 5-2. W. Leigh Hunt, Mark Jackson, and Chris Keefe shared best under 2000 honors at 4½-2½. Newcomer Sid Somasundaram won the best under 1700 and biggest upset (410 point difference) prizes, and newcommer Mark Dockery won the under 1300/unrated prize.

Barry Lazarus won the best game prize (as judged by IM Jack Peters) for his win over Vic Alfaro. The event was held at La Palma's Central Park.

With score of 3½-1½, newcomer Experts Pierre Ducharme and Wes White tied for first place in the club's ***5-round Captain America Open*** that ended on February 3rd. In the lower section, Sid Somasundaram won clear first place by a full point

with an undefeated score of 4½-½. He also won the best under 1600 trophy and the biggest rating gain prize (150 points) with his 1909 tournament performance. Michael Redden won the best under 1300 trophy. Chris Roberts won the best game prize (as judged by IM Jack Peters) for his win over Pierre Ducharme.

See the club's website for standings, a schedule of events, and games at www.lapalmachess.com.

Arcadia

Congratulations to Craig Faber, who won clear first place at the **Arcadia Chess Club** February 13 in the 57-player ***Winter Open*** with a score of 5½-½.

Faber also re-gained his Master rating in the process, going from a rating of 2183 to a new rating of 2201.

On board 2, Oscar Ortiz (2029) bounced back from his loss against Faber the previous week to defeat Gordon Brooks (1905).

Board 3 saw the first of the evening's upsets. John Anderson (1826) held Matthew Hayes (2028) to a draw with the Black pieces, capping off a fine tournament that also saw him beat experts David Argall and Jesse Victoria in earlier rounds.

There were upset results on several other boards, notably Eduardo Linsangan's (1842) win over Dave Matson (2020). Melvin Bond (1713) had already defeated one expert in round 5 and his run continued as he downed Henry Castro (2011).

Ron Morris (1774) had a superb win over expert Dane Hinrichsen (2000), eventually cracking Hinrichsen's French Defense. Stephanie Shao (1788) had a terrific draw with Randy Hough (2000) and is now a Class A player for the first time.

There were a lot of rating points gained in this tournament. The biggest gains were made by Mark Self (121 points), Dan Vanda (93), Xavier Armagnac (90), Melvin Bond (83), John Anderson (62), and Cory Chen (53).

The ***Arcadia Club Championship*** continues Mondays from Feb. 27 until April 2. Check arcadiachessclub.com for more news.

Here is Craig's last round win from ACC's Winter Open:

Carlson,Mike (2112) -
Faber,Craig (2183)
[A89] Leningrad Dutch
Arcadia CC Winter Open (6)
Arcadia, 13.02.2012

Notes by the Editor.

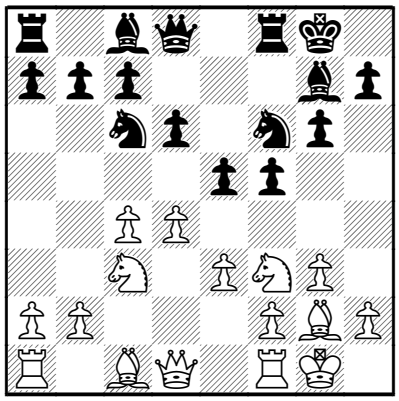
1.Nf3 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d6 4.d4 g6 5.0–0 Bg7 6.c4 0–0 7.Nc3 Nc6

Other main lines are 7...Qe8 8.d5 Na6 and 7...c6 8.d5 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6.

8.e3

The most frequently seen move is 8.d5 followed by 8...Na5, or the equally popular 8...Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qb3.

8...e5



9.dxe5?!

White opens up the cramped Black position.

Better was 9.d5 Ne7, even though it's a successful King's Indian for Black, not having to move his Knight from f6 before playing ...f5.

9...dxe5 10.Qb3 e4 11.Rd1 Qe7∓ 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Nd5 Qf7 14.Bd2 c6 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Bb4 Rd8 17.Bf1

Black has seized space with his pawn chain, and his centralized Knight looks at d3 and f3, two weakened squares in the White position.

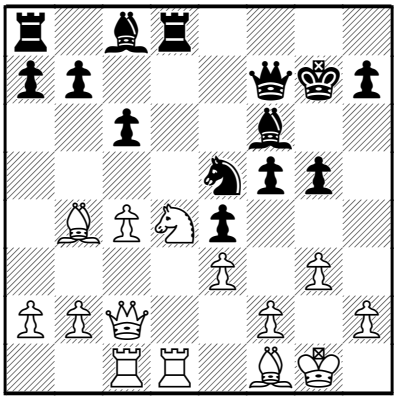
17...Kg7 18.Rac1 g5

The time is not yet right for 18... Rxd4 19.exd4 Nf3+ 20.Kh1 f4 21.d5 Nd4 22.Qa3±.

19.Qc2??

White needed to cover f3 with either Bg2 or Be2.

Now Black can act:



19...Rxd4! 20.exd4

Or 20.Rxd4 Nf3+ 21.Kg2 Qh5 22.h4 gxh4–+.

20...Nf3+ 21.Kh1 Qh5

Black's combination at d4 only became a threat when 18...g5 opened it up for the Black Queen.

Black is winning.

22.h3 f4 23.h4 Bf5

The quickest way is 23...g4! threatening 24...Bxh4–+.

24.Bg2 fxg3 25.fxg3 gxh4

The computer win is 25...Bg4! 26.Bxf3 Bxf3+ 27.Kh2 gxh4 28.g4 Qg5! 29.Rg1 (*if 29.Qd2 e3*–+) 29... Qf4+ 30.Kh3 h5 31.gxh5+ Kh7–+.

26.g4

No help is 26.Bxf3 Qxf3+ 27.Qg2 hxg3 28.Bd6 Qh5+ 29.Kg1 Bg4–+.

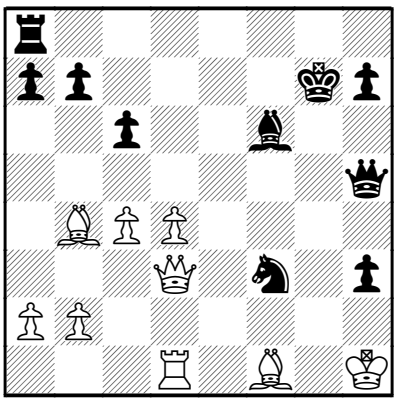
26...Bxg4–+

The threat is 27...h3 28.Bxf3 Bxf3+ 29.Kh2 Be5+ 30.dxe5 Qxe5+ 31.Kxh3 Qh5+ 32.Kg3 Qg4+ 33.Kh2 Qh4+ 34.Kg1 Rg8–+.

27.Qxe4??

More stubborn was 27.Rg1, but Black still has 27...Kf7! which renews the threat of ...h3.

27...h3 28.Bf1 Ng5 29.Qd3 Bf3+ 30.Kh2 Bxd1 31.Rxd1 Nf3+ 32.Kh1



Just enough lines are blocked to stop checks to the Black King.

32...Qg4 33.Qe3 Re8! 34.Qf2 Bh4 0-1

White can't stop the mate without giving up big material.

Garden Grove

ChessPalace won the ***Club Match Team Championship*** by edging the La Palma, San Diego, and Hemet Chess Clubs in this year's edition of the Club Match on January 22. ChessPalace's two victorious matches against Hemet CC and La Palma CC came by just half a point each. The runner-up club, La Palma, finish with 1½/3 match points. La Palma routed San Diego, San Diego routed Hemet, but Hemet drew their match against

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La Palma.

Each team fielded a roster of 12 players in the four-team, round robin, G/60 event.

In addition to competition, there were much camaraderie as players from different clubs discussed games, players, and football. Special raffles for gift cards and ChessPalace gift certificates were picked out by board numbers instead of individually. When board 11 was picked, all board 11's from each club won the prize. It not only saved time, but it ensured every teams had winners.

The event would not have been possible without the constant coordination of ChessPalace and club presidents Chuck Ensey (San Diego), Marcos Montes (Hemet), Brian Scanlon (La Palma). Alfred Ong and Marcos directed. Visit **chesspalace.com/clubteamtournamentrecap.htm** for event details, scores, and pictures.

The ***blitz side event*** of the Club Team Tournament was attended by 18 players, many of whom still had enough energy left from the main event. Jeff Arnold and Alex King topped the field with a score of 8-2, followed by Ken Arnold, Jeff Phillips, and Pablo Pena with seven apiece. Igor Kukavica bested the U2000 with 6½-3½ and Marcos Montes took the Best U1600. The strong field comprised of four masters, three experts, and three Class A in the top 10.

Alex King reigned in a strong

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field at a regular **ChessPalace Saturday event** on February 4th that comprised Life Master Jeff Phillips, newly minted NM Pablo Pena, young experts Simone Liao and Craig Hilby, and a few strong Class A players. A new NM himself, King beat his fellow masters in the second and third round. Pena and Liao tied for second.

In the ***B group***, Merril Chaney and Matthew Shuben tied with 2.5/3 each after a last round draw. Zachary Chandler finished second. ChessPalace organizes regular USCF-rated tournaments on Saturday that groups players in sections based on their most-updated ratings to ensure the closest level of play. Visist **chesspalace.com/calendar.htm** for a schedule of events.

Thirty three players competed in the ***2012 Winter Scholastic*** on February 12th. Jared Hsu swept the ***U600*** section with the only perfect score of the section and event. Shrinidhi Jayakumar also went undefeated with only one draw to take home the ***U1200*** title. Justin Kang and Christina Kao tied for first in the ***Open*** section with 3-1, each with two draws, one to each other, and another to Mitchell Wang, third place finisher.

The ***three-sectioned scholastic event at ChessPalace*** (Open, U1200/U1000, and U600/U500) is becoming popular as beginners find themselves being able to compete with their own level. For a complete list of winners including a strong performance by the CYCL team, visit **chesspalace.com/winterscholasticrecap.htm**.

March Madness Scholastic concluded on March 4 and the upcoming 2-player Scholastic Team Tournament is set for April 1st. Visit **chesspalace.com/scholasticteam.htm** for details.

International Master, coach, and world-renowned author ***Jeremy Silman*** is set to do a ***5-Lecture Mara-***

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thon at ChessPalace on May 20th that will span more than 6 hours. There will also be time reserved for a book signing. **Seating will be limited**, so sign-up early to guarantee a spot. Visit http://chesspalace.com/silman.htm for details.

Upset! was the major theme of the ***February Amateur Open***. Class A's, RC Rice and Alexander Wang each beat an expert in the last round to tie

for first with 3-1. Jean Azcunaga won the U1500 with a perfect 4-0 score and Julia Sevilla took second with 3-1. Fifteen players participated.

Pablo Pena won the ***February Wednesday Knights Club Open***. Pena scored 4½-½ including a half point bye. Pena also won the recent MLK Jr. Tournament ahead of titled players including the last two victories against an IM and GM. Ninth grader Nicky Korba and January winner, Paul Mangone, tied for 2nd/U1900 after grueling last-round wins against higher-rated opponents. Tom Medrek and Nicolas Berbari tied for second U1900.

There was a three-way tie in the competitive ***U1600 section*** with Richard Henri, Eric Lu and Noah Gin with 3½-1½. Twenty four players participated including two masters, nine Class A, and five Class B in the ***Open***; and four Class C, two Class D, one Class E, and an unrated in the ***U1600***.

March Wednesday Knights Club Open is currently underway. Visit http://www.chesspalace.com/wedknight/wedknights.htm for details.

Santa Monica

The **Santa Monica Bay Chess Club** ***February Swiss*** resulted in a tie for 1st/2nd Place between Dmitry Cherkasky (1991) and Simon Kogan (1941) at 3-1 each. Ruben Barbalace (1593) took the U-1600 Prize with 2-2. The event engaged 11 players.

The ***2012 Santa Monica Bay Chess Club Championship*** will take place on four Monday evenings from March 5th to the 26th with a guaranteed 1st Place Prize of $100. Other cash prizes, including class based prizes will be based on entries. Further prizes will include free entry to a future rated tournament.

Entry Fee for the Championship is $20 with annual Club membership of $60. The event will be USCF rated, USCF membership required (you can join at the site). Time Control is Game in 1:55 (5 second delay). Registration is at 7:00 p.m. Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m.

On April 2nd, ***IM Jack Peters*** will hold a ***Simultaneous Exhibition*** for $15 a board, beginning 7:00 p.m. IM Peters, long-time LA Times Chess Editor, will begin with a talk and entertain questions, prior to playing all comers.

An ***unrated G/5 Blitz Tournament*** will take place on April 9th, 7:00 registration, Entry Fee: $10. This event and the IM Simul are open to non-members.

The Club is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 National Blvd. West Los Angeles at corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. Contact: TD Pete Savino (310) 827-2789

Lawndale

The A's had it at **Alondra Park**'s ***first tournament of 2012*** as Ted Roth and Cengiz Ant Vance tied for

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Ted Roth

first with 5-1. Roth beat Ant Vance in round 3 and Roth lost to Matt

ap

Cengiz Ant Vance

Trass in Round 5. Trass drew expert Matt Robertson in the last round to take clear third with 4.5-1.5.

Al Peña, Richard Varela and Dave Martin were top Bs with 4-2. Kanata Yamayoshi and Jacob Roth tied for Best C with 3½-2½, while Paul Henry took Best D with 2½-3½. Thirty four players participated.

The **Alondra Park Chess Club** meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale. For more information contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 or Richard Meller@yahoo.com.

West Hills

The ***2012 West Valley Chess Club Championship*** concluded on February 23rd with a turnout of 41 players including 5 experts. 15-year-old "A" player Shaurya Jain took first with 6½-½, earning an expert rating.

Other winners included Fernando Sevilla at 4½-2½ for Best U2000, Ped Bashi at 5-2 for Best U1800, Bob Selvin, 4½-2½, for Best U1600, Vadim Aliev 4-3 for Best U1400, and talented 10-year-old Julia Sevilla, who gained nearly 200 rating points with 4½-2½ for Best U1200.

Beginning March 1st, in addition to the ***WVCC Tax Time Swiss Championship*** that will be open to all players, the club will also have an exciting and exclusive ***8 player round robin event*** involving all Experts! Along with trophies, NM Mike Leidner is donating a beautiful and elegant chess set as the top prize in both sections.

The round robin roster: John Williams(2138), Max Sorkin(2135), Fereidon Geula(2131), Juan Santacruz(2100), Patrick Bollig(2077), Rusty Krutik(2076), 12 year old Daniel Mousseri(2071), and the recent winner of the 2011 Las Vegas National Open U2100, Alejandro Ruiz (2128). Should be fun!

The **West Valley Chess Club** has been in existence since 1960 when it started in a little house in Van Nuys. It then moved to a recreation center near Valley Junior College. From the late 1970's to 1994 the club met at the Hughes Aircraft facility in West Hills.

When Hughes was sold, the club found its current home at the Milken Jewish Community Center where it has remained for the last 18 years.

Some great players that have played at the club in the past include masters like Ron Hermansen, Robert Hurdle, Tommy Kwee, John R. Williams and Matt Robertson. In recent years, there have been some very talented young players playing at the club as well. Two have even played in international World Youth Championship events, NM Michael Yee and WFM Simone Liao.

The club is currently searching for a new location and will need to move from the Milken JCC after June, due to the recent sale of that facility. It will undergo reconstruction as it transitions into becoming a Jewish high school.

If anyone has information about a possible new site for our club, please email Jerry Yee at **jyee6@socal.rr.com** or call 818-915-5572.

Valencia

California Youth Chess League in conjunction with **Bay Area Chess** will host the **2012 Scholastic SuperStates Chess Championships** March 24-25th at the Valencia Hyatt. Over 200 trophies will be awarded between the 15 sections, blitz and bughouse.

For details, go to www.socalscholastic.com or contact Jay Stallings at **coachjay@cycl.org** or (661) 288-1705.

San Luis Obispo

The **SLO Chess Club** is having a scholastic tournament on March 24th in San Luis Obispo, the ***2012 March Madness Scholastic***.

There will be two sections, one Non-Rated section for beginners and one USCF Rated tournament for intermediate to advanced players.

Current USCF membership is required for the rated section. Trophies to top players and medals for all others. $10 for Non-Rated section and $15 per player for the Rated section.

Full details and registration are available at our website, **www.slochess.com**.

Pasadena

The ***Pasadena Chess Club***'s annual ***Richard Lewis Memorial***, with 67 players, saw ten-year-old Albert Lu, on the verge of masterdom, win by a point with 5½ of 6.

Feiyue Yang headed the 4½ group, along with John Hale, Larry Stevens, Mike Carlson, John Wright, Randy Hough, and Under 2000 winner Jeffrey Ding. Under 1800 laurels were split by five 3½ scorers: Rolando Tenoso, Christopher Hung, Asatour Dovlatyan, Shaileja Jain, and James Jen. Vincent Lin was top Under 1400, and Cory Chen took Under 1200.

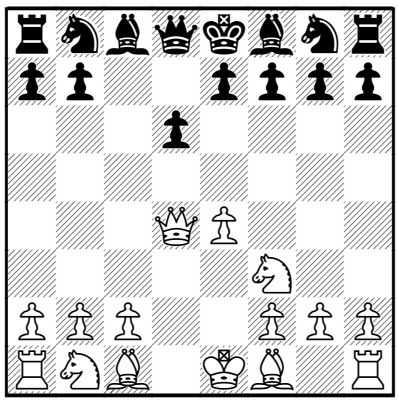
Yang had a measure of revenge a week later, winning the 33-player ***February Quick*** by splitting with Lu and winning his other games for a 9-1 score. Ruperto Dilig, Danny Machuca, John Baumhauer, Xingyu Lu, and Rolf Kuiper won class prizes.

The ***Pasadena Chess Club*** meets Fridays, 7 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. The traditional ***Club Championship*** is now in progress, and a lending library with hundreds of books has opened. For details see **www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html** or contact Randy Hough, **randallhough@yahoo.com** or (626) 282-7412.

Albert, the National K-6 Action champ, annotates his exciting last round win over the K-9 Action winner, with a little help from Houdini.

Lu,Albert (2158) -
Yang ,Feiyue (2093)
[B53] Sicilian Defense
Richard Lewis Memorial (6)
Pasadena, 10.2.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4



This is one of my favorite lines I use for surprise. My other variation is, instead of d4, c3. I don't like playing open Sicilians.

4...Nc6

This is one of the lines. The other is 4...a6 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qd2 Nf6 7.Nc3 g6 8.b3 Bg7 9.Bb2 and I prefer White's solid position.

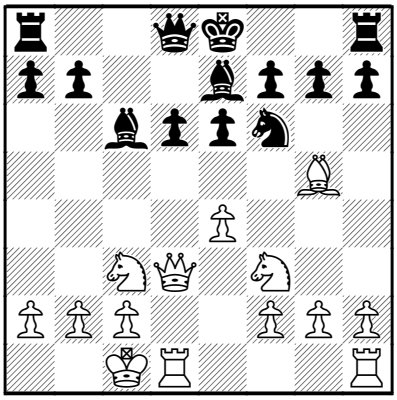
5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6

The other line is 6...bxc6 but I don't think it's that good, because after 7.c4, it's tough for Black because White has a space advantage and has e5/c5 breaks any time: 7...Nf6 8.Nc3 g6 9.Bg5 Bg7 10.Qd2, with a great position, prepared to play c5.

7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.0–0–0

If 9.Bxf6, then 9...gxf6 10.0–0–0 Be7, and Black has 2 Bishops v 2 Knights and has a very hard-to-crack position.

9...Be7 10.Qd3



Going with the normal plan of Nd4 and f4-f5.

The other line with 10.Rhe1, I don't know much about. I believe this line is stronger.

10...Qa5

Gaining a tempo. If 10...0–0 then 11.Nd4 Qa5 12.f4, and I prefer to play White.

11.h4 h6 12.Bf4

Incorrect; I should've gone 12.Bd2 because now Black has 12...d5!

12...Rd8 13.Nd2

Repositioning the Knight.

13...d5

If 13...b5 then 14.Nb3 Qb6, and White has to avoid 15.Nd4?? because of 15...b4! 16.Nxc6 bxc3 17.Qxc3 Rc8–+.

14.e5 Nd7

Now I much prefer White.

15.Nb3 Qc7

If 15...Qb6 my plan was 16.Qg3 g6 (Or *16...Kf8 17.Be3 Qc7 18.f4*=) 17.h5 g5 18.Be3 Qc7 19.f4=.

16.Qg3 Kf8

Forced.

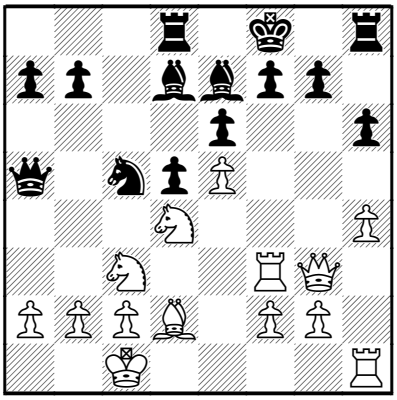
17.Nd4 Qa5 18.Rd3

Lifting the Rook - a common method.

18...Nc5 19.Rf3 Bd7

A bad move; it's a waste of time.

20.Bd2



20...Qb6

Not 20...b5?? because of 21.Qf4! Be8 22.Nc6!!+-.

21.Qf4 Be8

Here I had two plans. One, lift the h1 Rook to h3-g3, then Qg4 destroying the Kingside.

But then I noticed:

22.Rg3

This was my second plan, just hardstyle Rg3 and Qg4 then checkmate, but I missed Black's next move that kept him in the game.

22...Ne4! 23.Nxe4 Qxd4

Best.

24.Qg4 g6

Missing the tricky computer defense 24...Qxe5 25.f4 h5 26.fxe5 hxg4∓.

25.Nf6 Qxg4

Or 25...Qxe5 26.Nxe8 Kxe8!=.

26.Rxg4 Kg7 27.h5 Bb5

Connecting the Rooks. And, after 27...Bxf6 28.exf6+ Kxf6 29.hxg6 fxg6 30.Bxh6± it's hard to stop all the tactics.

28.hxg6 fxg6 29.Nh5+ Kf7!

This is the move I missed. I was expecting 29...Kh7 30.Nf4!+- and Black can't defend all the weak pawns.

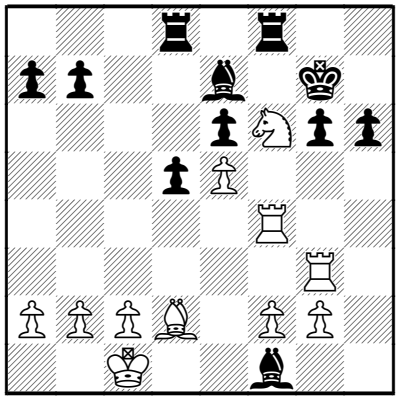
30.Rf4+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kg7

Now I have a worse placed Rook.

32.Rh3 Bf1

A huge mistake, just a waste of tempo.

33.Rg3 Rhf8??



A blunder, allowing...

34.Rfg4! Bxf6

If 34...g5, then 35.Bxg5 hxg5 36.Rxg5+ Kh6 (*or 36...Kf7 37.Rg7 mate*) 37.Rg6 mate.

35.Rxg6+ Kf7 36.Rxf6+ Ke8 37.Rxe6+ Kd7 38.Rd6+ Kc8 39.Rc3+ Kb8

If 39...Bc4 then 40.b3+-.

40.Bxh6! Rxd6 41.exd6! Rd8 42.d7 a6 43.Rc8+! 1–0

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

The ***Bruce Baker Class Championships*** at year end is a favorite event of many players thanks to the prospect of winning a beautiful trophy and of the bragging rights that go with it. ***79 players*** competed for 6 different trophies.

This year Expert Jim Humphrey was the proud winner of ***The Masters***, the Open section that is always hotly contested as it also provides a ticket into the Club Championship for the following year. Jim scored 4½ out of 6, including a draw with NM Carl Wagner who came in 2nd place. Peter Hodges and Robert Defore tied for 3rd Place.

In the ***Class A*** Section, Esteban Escobedo was unstoppable with 5 wins in a row before finally drawing in the last round with runner up Santi Pinon (4½). Edgar Lopez knocked off No. 1 seed Buddy Morris in the last round to tie for second place with Santi.

In the ***Class B*** Section there was a 3-way tie for first between Jerry Qu, Bruce Charnov and Jim Krooskos at 4½-1½, but Jerry won the trophy on tie breaks.

The ***Class C*** trophy was won by Roger Wathen (4½-1½), a full point ahead of Tom Lavoy, Aaron Moman, James Coulston and Evan Fredericksen.

The ***Class D*** trophy was won by Louis Wonnell (5) with a 2 point margin over Bill Murray and Tygan Zeng.

The ***Class E*** trophy went to Ross Blum (4½-1½) ahead of Stephen Zhu (4-2) and Eric Zhou (3½-2½).

The trophies were presented at the ***Alina Markowski Open***, the Club Championship Qualifier that kicks of the New Year.

That 7 round event had ***85 players***, all in one huge section. It was won by Alejandrino Baluran with a 6-1 score, the only loss being to top seed Todd Smith, who tied for 2nd Place, one half point back at 5½, along with Carl Wagner, Peter Hodges (best U2200) and David Whitten (best U2000).

David had a remarkable string of upsets to gain over 200 rating points and secure a spot in the Club Championship (which begins Feb 22 and is also 7 rounds) along with 12 other qualifiers, all of whom scored 5 or more in the Markowski Qualifier with the exception of Joel Batchelor who squeezed in with 4½ points.

Bruce Baker, Raoul Crisologo and John Funderburg, as last years Co-Champions, are seeded into the Club Championship, bringing the field to 16.

Other contenders who scored 5 and made it into the Championship are: Lennart Mathe, David Hart, Aaron Wooten, Mario Amodeo, David Pino, Jim Humphrey and Buddy Morris (tie break order). Joel Batchelor had better tie breaks than other 7 players who scored 4½.

Ron Rezendes won the U1800 and headed the field for the ***Reserve Championship***, which also featured 16 players rated under 1800. Arnold Berlin won the U1400 in the Markowski while Stephen Zhu and Ross Blum tied for best U1200.

See **sdchessclub.multiply.com** for more details on this event.

The SDCC plays on Wednesday nights in Balboa Park in downtown San Diego on 6th Avenue between Ivy and Juniper streets. Call (619) 239-7166 for more information.

The ***January Super Gambito Open*** drew 34 players and was won by IM Cyrus Lakdawala with a perfect 4-0 score.

Cy has recently been threatening to go over 2600. He credits his recent successes to inspiration from a book on Capablanca that he has been working on. Cy has authored four opening books so far, covering the London system, the Veresov, the Slav and most recently, *1…d6 Move by Move*, all from Everyman Chess. The Caro Kann, his 5th, should be out soon. They are all high quality books with question-and-answer formats that make it seem like you are taking a private lesson from the master. Cy's sense of humor also comes through quite well.

But I digress… back to the Gambito, Cy's stomping ground. 2nd Place/U2400/U2200 was split between Expert Venkat Iyer and NMs Kyron Griffith and Peter Graves ($75 each!). Venkat beat Bruce Baker in the last round and also Kyron in round 2. Beating two Masters in one day must be quite a rush. Best U2000 was split between Elkaei Rivera and Madhavan Vajapeyam, and both players went on to earn an Expert rating within a few weeks.

In the ***Reserve*** section Anthony Harbone also scored a perfect 4-0 and boosted his rating well over 1700. Tom Kuhn was 2nd Place with 3-1, while Kenneth Carter and David Whitten were best U1600. Keric Rivas won the top U1400 prize.

Thirty-eight players attended the ***February*** edition, when Ron Bruno defeated Cyrus and scored a perfect 4-0. Bruce Baker, Peter Graves and Varun Krishnan were 2nd/U2400 with 3-1 and Raoul Crisologo was top U2200, also with 3-1. Ben Barquin, Chuck Ensey and Aaron Householder tied for top U2000.

Young Ajay Krishnan scored 4-0 in the ***Reserve*** section, ahead of 2nd Place Jerry Kavanau and best U1600 Jared Weiss, both with 3-1. Watch out for Ajay, at his current pace he will be an Expert in less than a year! Cassidy Liu, Joshua Chung and Alex Householder were tied for top U1400.

- Chuck Ensey

Antelope Valley

Upcoming AV chess events include:

Every Sunday 2p.m.: ***USCF-rated tourney*** for all ages @ Mason Lodge (Cedar & Newgrove in Lancaster) $10 register @ door.

Every Monday 6:30p.m.: **Chess @ BeX** for adults FREE but plan to purchase something from the BeX menu.

Every Wednesday 5-6:30 p.m.: **Checkmate Chess Club** for all ages @ AV Chess House FREE.

The next ***First-Saturday-of-Every-Month*** 10a.m.-2p.m.: USCF-rated QUADs tourney for all ages @ AV Chess House $10 on-or-before 2/25; $15 on-or-before 3/1; $20 after 3/1 (no walk-ins accepted).

March 25 1p.m.: ***USCF-rated Antelope Valley Masters tourney*** for all ages @ Mason Lodge $35 by 3/18, $40 after 2/18.

The AV Chess House and Grace Resource Center have partnered to present free workshops to provide information and assistance to groups which desire to bring the benefits of chess to their youth.

Typically, three or more adults decide that their children would benefit from learning and playing chess. For the first time in the Antelope Valley, there is now a free resource for these adults to guide them in the development of a chess program.

Professional Chess Teacher and Coach, Ms. Daa, presents a free 90-minute workshop which goes over the various steps involved in starting and running a club. Attendees are welcome to email Ms. Daa with further questions as they begin/build/maintain their club.

To schedule a free How to Start a Chess Club workshop for your group, contact daa@mahowald.org (661)466-6907.

Chess @ the Poppy Festival: This year's ***Poppy Festival*** will have a free chess activity in its Adventure Zone! During the April 21-22 annual festival, more than 20 chess sets will be available for fairgoers to use, either to play full games of chess or to learn and play ***Chess Mini-Games©.***

There will also be opportunities to win prizes by beating a Chess Champion. Ms. Daa is donating her time, expertise, and chess equipment to this free event.

However, she is seeking volunteers to assist fairgoers in getting the most of their chess experience. The event is open to the public from 10am – 6pm both Saturday and Sunday. If you can commit to either day, contact daa@mahowald.org. Free entry into the fair is included if you volunteer.

To avoid rental costs, Ms. Daa is seeking to borrow: eight 6' tables, 30 chairs, and 2 or 3 10'x10' canopies. If you or an organization you know can lend any of this from Friday evening, April 20th, through Sunday evening, April 22nd, please email **daa@mahowald.org.**

Ridgecrest

Our ***monthly scholastic tournaments*** continue to be well attended. Although we are a small community, the kids love their chess in this high desert town. Our attendance for the first six tournaments this school year (September - February) averaged 102 students per tournament (K-12).

We hold the monthly tournaments at a different school each month so every school gets a "home court" advantage once during the year. The tournaments are sponsored mostly by school PTO's so the non-rated tournaments are free for all kids. Everyone gets an award. We have awarded over 400 trophies this year. Games are 15 minutes each.

Our tournaments usually run from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our next tournament is Saturday, March 10, at the Ridgecrest Charter School, 325 S. Downs St., Ridgecrest, CA.

For more information contact Dwight Morgan at (760) 377-0034 or **dmorgan178@yahoo.com.** ♜

Upcoming Events in Southern California

March 23-25
Southern California Super States 2012 Scholastic Chess

A State Championship Event!

Site: Valencia Hyatt Regency. Free parking! HR: Rate $109.

Prizes, schedule, & EF:

Main Event: Trophies to top 10 players in each section, top 5 schools & clubs in K-1, K-3, K-6 sections, and Top 3 teams in K-9 & K-12 sections. Trophies to all K-1.

Medals to others. Sat 3/24: K-1 Champ, K-3 u600, K-6 u800 EF: $37 by 3/6. Rds: 9:30a 11a 12:30p 2p 3:30p. Sat & Sun 3/24-25: K-12 u1000, K-3/K-6/K-9/K-12 Champ EF: $47 by 3/6. Rds: 9a 12p 3p both days.

SCCF membership required in K-12 Champ.

Late Entries: Add $10 3/7-20, $20 3/21-23, $30 onsite. Info: **socalscholastic.com**. Questions to coachjay@cycl.org. NS, NC, W.

April 14-15
2rd Annual American Stars Scholastic Chess Championship

Hanley Chess Academy, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach CA 92647. 9 sections including Non-Rated beginner sections. Over 100 Trophies! Register early for best entry fees! For parents, we have activities such as free tennis lessons, free wifi, and bingo.

Please see www.scchess.com and check the scholastic TLAs.

April 27-29
National Junior High (K-9) Championship California Southern

7SS, G/120.

Site & HR: Town and Country, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108, 1-619-291-7131 or 800-772-8527, Chess Rate $125.

In 6 Sections: K-9 Championship, K-9 Under 1250, K-9 Unrated, K-8 Championship, K-8 Under 1000, K-8 U750. April Rating Supplement will be used. Unrated players may play in the Championship or Unrated sections only.

Ent: Mail entries to: U.S. Chess Federation, Attn: Junior High, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Additional details, updates, corrections and on-line registration:
uschess.org/tournaments/2012/jhs

Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 4-6
Western Amateur

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5).

Site: Sheraton Four Points LAX, 9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Special parking $5/day.

Prizes: $$10,000 guaranteed.

In 5 sections.

Under 2300: $1000-500-300-200, top Under 2100/Unr $400-200. FIDE.

Under 2000: $1000-500- 300-200, top Under 1800 $400-200.

Under 1700: $800-500-300-200, top Under 1500 $400-200.

Under 1400: $600-300-200-100, top Under 1200 $300-150.

Under 1100: $400-200-100-50, trophies to top 3,1st Under 900, Under 700, Under 500, Unrated.

Unrated may not win over $200 in U1100, $300 U1400, or $500 U1700.

EF: Top 3 sections EF: 3-day $83, 2-day $82 mailed by 4/26, all $85 online at chesstour.com by 5/1, $90 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/1 (entry only, no questions), $100 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site. U1400 Section EF: All $20 less than top 3 sections EF. U1100 Section EF: All $40 less than top 3 sections EF. All: reentry $60.

Special: 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at www.chesstour.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3. SCCF membership ($18, $10 jrs required for rated Southern Californians.

HR: $89-89, 1-800-529-4683, 310-649-7025; reserve by 4/20 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWDD657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com.

Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. $15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, Director-AtChess.US, 845-496-9658. Advance entries: posted at www.chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 26-28
Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic
FIDE Rated!
40 Grand Prix Points

Ontario, CA. 6-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-3 G/1 then merges. **Hilton Ontario Airport**, 700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. $10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed.

In five sections: **Open**: $$T+1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier** (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. **Amateur** (Under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. **Reserve** (Under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. **Booster** (Under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.)

EF: $88 by 5/24, $99 at door. Booster (U1400) section EF: $72 by 5/24, $85 door.Reg.: ends 10:30am 5/26, 9:30 am 5/27. **Rds**.: 3-day: 11-6,

11-6, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10-1-3:30 (G/1), then merges with 3-day at 6.

All: SCCF membership req. ($18 re, $10 jr), OSA. $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must be requested with entry.

HR: $89, (909) 980-0400, code CHS, ***reserve by May 4th***. Parking **free**. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle.

Info: randallhough@yahoo.com.

Web site, On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

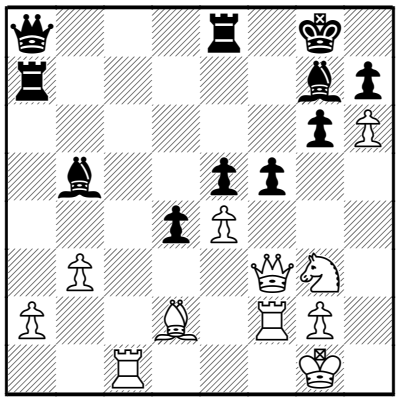
NS. NC. F. State Championship Qualifier.

Chess Magnet School JGP.

Please check the TLA in Chess Life for any corrections, updates or other changes. ♜

MLK, concluded from page 20.

28.h6!



28...Bf6??

A dreadful mistake. Correct was 28...Bf8! with two plausible continuations:

29.a4 Bc6 30.Nxf5 Bxe4 (*30...Rf7 31.Qg3 Bxe4 32.Ng7 Rxf2 33.Qxf2 Re7*∓) 31.Qg3 Bd5∓.

29.Nxf5 Rf7 30.Qg3 (*30.Qg4 Qxa2*) 30...Qxe4 31.a4 Bd7 32.Ng7 Rxf2 33.Qxf2 Rc8 34.Rxc8 Bxc8 35.Ne8∓.

29.Nxf5!

This position required the computer-like defence 29...Ra6, but it's hard to just watch that Knight on f5!

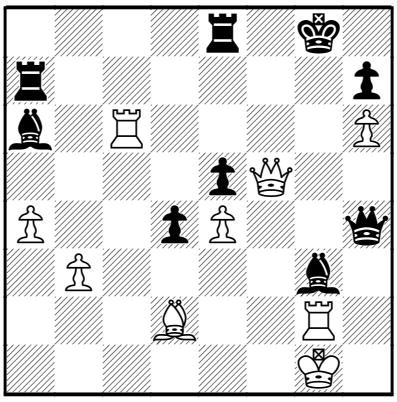
29...gxf5 30.Qxf5 Qd8

Obviously I didn't want the counterplay on the 2nd rank with ...Rxa2.

31.a4 Ba6

Alternatively, 31...Bd7 32.Qxf6 Qxf6 33.Rxf6+-.

32.Rc6 Bh4 33.g3 Bxg3 34.Rg2 Qh4



35.Bg5

I didn't want to play 35.Be1 Rg7 (*35...Qf4 is the best reply*) 36.hxg7? (*I didn't see 36.Bxg3! Rxg3 37.Qf2!!*) 36...Bxe1 even though it's forced mate in 9.

35...Bh2+ 36.Kh1
1-0

So I got lucky, as all the lines seem to favor Black slightly after 28...Bf8!

But a win is a win!

Overall, it was my best tournament to date. But as a postscript I would say that I played in some tournaments since (at the Chess Palace and a Metropolitan FIDE qualifier) and only managed 4 out of 8 points against expert level competition! Ouch!

What's interesting is that when I print out the statistics about my rating from the USCF website I notice that I have done very well against players over 2200 and below 1900.

It's against A/expert level where I get slammed (12.5% for the last year!). ♜

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1.White ends it with ***30.Qe5!***, as the only defense to the mate threat at g7 is 30...f6, which loses the Rook to 31.Qd5+. Sevillano - Georgiev, 13th Metro GM (8), Los Angeles 2011.

2.Black forces it with ***23...Ng3+!*** 24.hxg3 Qh6 mate, in Kiewra - Khachiyan, 13th Metro GM (3), Los Angeles 2011.

3.Black's Queen angles in for a mate with ***36...Qa1+!*** in Akopyan - Amanov, 14th Metro IM (2), Los Angeles 2011. If 37.Nf1, then 37...Qxf1+ 38.Kh2 Qh1 mate.

4.Cave man style worked just fine for White, with ***38.Bh7+ Kf7 39.g8Q+ Rxg8 40.Rg7+ 1–0***, in Kekelidze - Yankovsky, 13th Metro GM (3), Los Angeles 2011.

5.It's a decisive Queen maneuver to f3 or g2: ***23...Qc6! 24.h7*** (*If 24.Bd6, then 24...Qf3 and White is forced to give up material: 25.Nxc3 dxc3 26.Qxc3+ Kd7–+*) ***24...Qg2 0–1***. Matikozyan - Sevillano, 13th Metro GM (6), Los Angeles 2011.

6.Note the loose Rook at a8 and the unprotected Bishop at h4! White did a two-step and created a double attack: ***20.Bc6 Rb8 21.Qf4! 1–0*** and that was all she wrote, in Sevillano - Manukyan, 15th Metro IM (7), Los Angeles 2012.

7.The Knight on f7 is there for the taking: ***26.Rxf7!*** (*threatening mate with 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 28.Rd8+ Kf7 29.Rxf8*) ***26...Kxf7 1-0***, because 27.Qf4+ mates next move. Sevillano - Arnold, 13th Metro GM (3), Los Angeles 2011.

8.White decisively tightened the screws with ***57.e6!*** *(threatening 58.Rxf7 Rxf7 59.Qxf7+ Kh8 60.e7+-)* ***57...Qd6+ 58.f4 Qd8 59.exf7+ Kh7 60.f5 Qb8+ 61.Kh3 1–0*** in Carreto - Amanov, 14th Metro IM (8), Los Angeles 2011.

9.Houdini's magic trick is 22.Qd3!! threatening 23.Qxh7+!! Kxh7 24.Be4+ Kh8 25.Ng6+ Kh7 26.Ne5+ f5 27.Bxf5+ Kh8 28.Nf7 mate. (Wow.) Black can't stop the mate and save the Knight on d5 too, so White wins a piece. See page 21 for Matikozyan - Kudryavtsev, 15th Metro IM (1), Los Angeles 2012.

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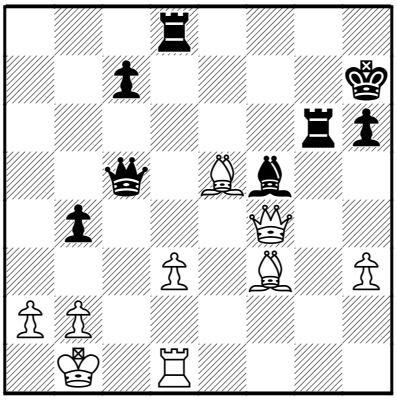
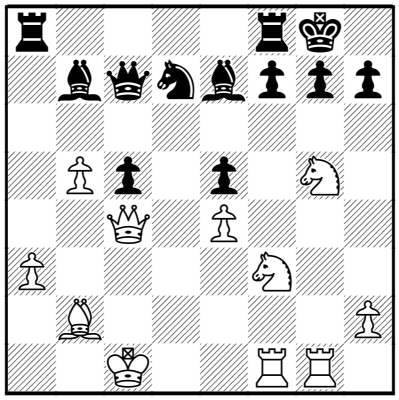
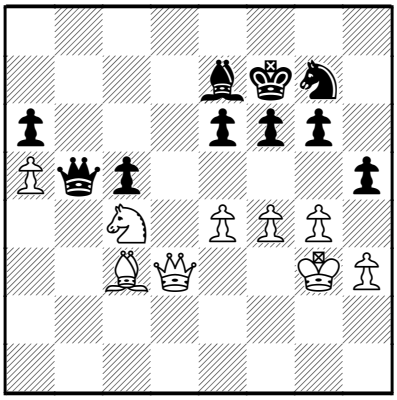


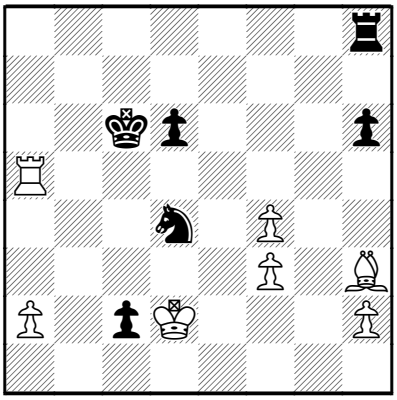
1. Black to Play



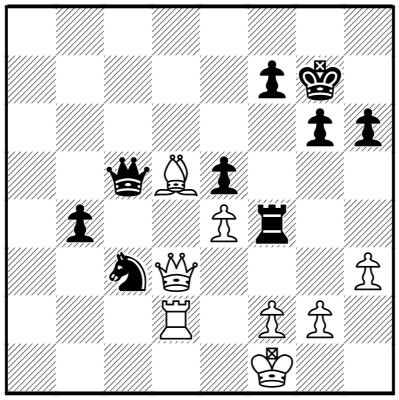
2. White to Play



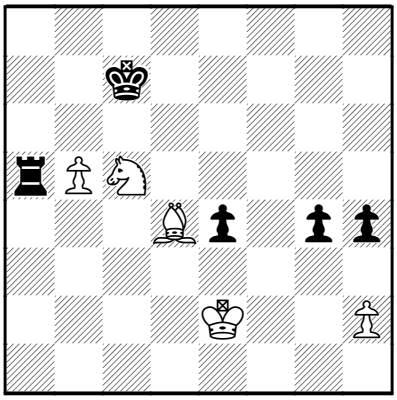
3. White to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

See page 5 for solutions.