Rank & File

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2005 VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 1 $3.00

40TH ANNUAL AMERICAN OPEN

IM MELIKSET KHACHIYAN

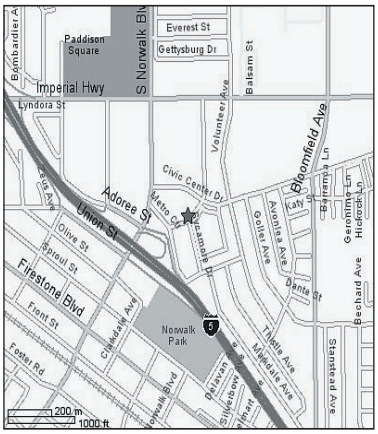
SCCF

22nd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

February 19-21, 2005

Norwalk Marriott, 13111 Sycamore Dr., Norwalk CA 90650



Adjacent to the I-5 Freeway, 17 miles SE of downtown Los Angeles *(San Antonio Dr./Norwalk Bl. exit; 2.5 miles SE of 5/605 intersection, 3 miles NW of Orange County border.)*

A *Fun* Tournament An *Affordable* Tournament
A Tournament for *Everyone!*

Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200. Rating difference between third and fourth player cannot exceed 1000 points.

Entry fee: : $108 per team if received by 2/17, $128 at site, under age 18 $80/$100 at site

Trophies and 4 clocks to top 3 teams, U2100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr.

Trophies (one large, four small) to top college, industrial (if at least 3 teams) junior (U18). **Clocks** to best score each board and alternate. **Gift certificate prizes** for best team names (1st & 2nd).

Registration 8-10 a.m. 2/19 **Rounds** 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30

Hotel rate: $69, (562) 863-5555, mention chess. Reserve by Feb. 5 or rates may go up.

Free parking!

On-line entry, help in forming teams: *www.westernchess.com*

Entries: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles CA 90038

***Also*:** **8th Annual Scholastic Amateur Team, Feb. 20.** 4-SS, G/1. Open to Gr. 12/below, average team rating must be under 1200
USATW Quick Chess Championship, Feb. 18. 5-double SS, G/10. Quick Chess rated. $$500 b/40, else proportional.
USATW Hexes, Feb. 21. 3-SS, G/90. Six-player sections by rating.

See page 25 for details

Around the Nation

Southern Californians Kids Enjoy Sunshine & Success in Florida

About 35 young players from Southern California made the cross-country trip to Orlando for the 2004 K-12 Collegiate Championships in early December.

Christian Tanaka, only 4 points short of being the top-rated player in the 5th Grade section shared the title of National 5th Grade Champion with Zachary Young (1774, NY). He was helped out by fellow Californian Michael Yee, who drew with top-rated New Yorker, Alec Getz (1893). Derek Tan (a student of IM Jack Peters) beat Florida Master Daniel Ludwig in the 9th grade division on his way to an impressive tie for 2nd place. Derek's rating performance after his first round win against an E-player, was 2064.

Below is a list of the Southern Californian trophy winners:

Kindergarten: Cole Riche, (2nd Under 800 with a score of 4-3)

1st Grade: Noah Simon (9th Place at 5-2)

2nd Grade: Danil Fedunov & Steven Porta (tie for 2nd Place at 6-1); Omar Wiseman (12th Place at 5-2)

3rd Grade: Brendyn Estolas & Kali Navea-Huff (tie for 15th Place at 5-2)

5th Grade: Christian Tanaka (Co-National 5th Grade Champion); Michael Yee & Vincent Huang (tie for 8th Place at 5½-1½), Ryan Polsky (tie for 19th at 5-2)

6th Grade: Sean Reader (tie for 14th Place at 5-2)

7th Grade: Jared Tan & Armen Samuelian (tie for 12th Place at 5-2)

8th Grade: Michael Ambartsoumian (tie for 18th Place at 4½-2½)

9th Grade: Derek Tan (tie for 2nd Place at 5½-1½)

10th Grade: Mher Mikayelyan (tie for 14th Place at 5-2)

12th Grade: Harut Keshishian (4th Place at 4½-2½), and Alen Melikadamien (tie for 7th Place at 4-3)

Derek Tan – Daniel Ludwig
USCF K-12/Collegiate Championships, Florida 2004
B85 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e6 7. Be3 Be7 8. f4 0-0 9. 0-0 Nc6 10. Bf3 Qc7 11. Qe1 Re8 12. Rd1 Rb8 13. Qg3 Bf8 14. Rf2 Na5 15. Rdf1 Nc4 16. Bc1 b5 17. b3 Na5 18. Bb2 e5 19. fxe5 dxe5 20. Nd5 Nxd5 21. exd5 Bd6 22. Bh5 g6 23. Rf6 Rb6 24. Rxf7 exd4 25. Rxc7 Bxg3 26. hxg3 gxh5 27. Rff7 Rg6 28. Bxd4 Rd8 29. Rxh7 Kf8 30. Rh8+ Ke8 31.Bc5+ Black Resigns. 1-0. — *Jay Stallings*

Call for Executive Board Nominations

There are four seats on the USCF Executive Board up for election in 2005. These are four-year terms that

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will begin at the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting in August of 2005.

Any USCF member can be nominated for election to the Executive Board of the USCF. Each nomination must be accompanied by a petition containing the signatures of 30 or more Voting Members of the U.S. Chess Federation, and by a filing fee of $250 payable to the U.S. Chess Federation.

Both the petition and the filing fee must be received by either the USCF Secretary or the USCF office by January 10, 2005. A Voting Member of the USCF for the purposes of the coming election is defined as: Any USCF member residing in the USA who will be at least 16 years of age as of June 1, 2005.

Candidates should review Article VI, Section 4 of the USCF's Bylaws to see the complete nomination regulations.

— USCF news release

2004 Olympiad

The USA Men's Olympiad Team, sponsored by the United States Chess Federation, finished fourth in the 36th Chess Olympiad held in Calvia, Spain, October 14-31, 2004. The USA Men's Team nearly earned a place on the medal podium, narrowly losing out to Russia and Armenia.

The Men's division at the Olympiad included 129 teams. The final standings for the Men's leaders were as follows:

1st: Ukraine (39½ points)
2nd: Russia (36½)
3rd: Armenia (36½)
4th: USA (35.0)
5th: Israel (34½)

The USA Men's Team consisted of six top grandmasters: GM Alexander Onischuk, GM Alexander Goldin, GM Gregory Kaidanov, GM Igor Novikov, GM Alexander Shabalov and GM Boris Gulko. GM Kaidanov turned in an especially impressive performance, finishing second in the individual standings for all board four players. He scored eight points in ten games (80%), with a performance rating of 2763.

The 2004 US Women's Olympiad Chess Team made history by capturing Silver, the first ever Olympic medal for the U.S. women. The competition consisted of 87 teams represented the strongest Women's Olympiad since its inception in 1924.

The US team finished second behind China but ahead of Russia, the famous chess powerhouse, who took home the Bronze medal. Although the US Women's team defeated China in a head-to-head match, China's total number of points scored against other teams allowed them to capture their third consecutive Olympic Gold.

The team members included Susan Polgar, Irina Krush, Anna Zatonskih, and Jennifer Shahade.

— USCF news release

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40th Annual American Open

After forty years, the American Open is still going strong.

Though attendance was down a bit, perhaps because of the U.S. Championship in San Diego, the 2004 edition, held November 25-28 at the LAX Renaissance Hotel, saw 193 participants and plenty of fighting chess.

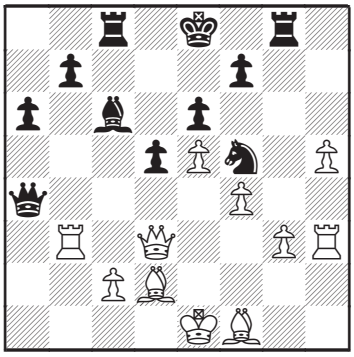
First place in the 31-player Open section went to IM Melikset Khachiyan with 6½-1½. Khachiyan, who also won this event in 2001, defeated IMs David Vigorito and Kong Liang Deng, and, in the final round, top-rated IM Enrico Sevillano. Tied for second at 6-2 were GM Boris Kreiman and IM Andranik Matikozyan. *(See page 7 for a complete list of prize winners.)*

Randy Hough and Elie Hsiao directed.

The decisive last-round game:

IM Melikset Khachiyan (2548) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2550)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
C18 FRENCH DEFENSE, Winawer Variation

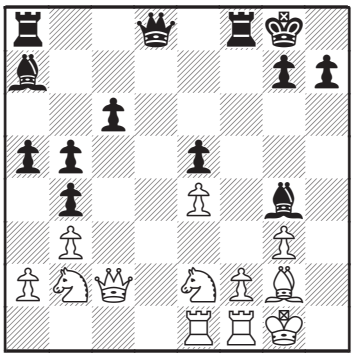
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Qc7 7. Qg4 Ne7 8. Qxg7 Rg8 9. Qxh7 cxd4 10. Ne2 Nbc6 11. f4 dxc3 12. Qd3 Bd7 13. Nxc3 a6 14. Rb1 Rc8 15. h4 Nf5 16. Rh3 Nce7 17. h5 Nh6 18. Bd2 Nef5 19. a4 Bc6 20. g3 Qe7 21. Rb3 Qc5 22. Nd1 Ng4 23. Ne3 Ngxe3 24. Bxe3 Qa5+ 25. Bd2 Qxa4



26. Ra3 Qe4+ 27. Qxe4 dxe4 28. h6 e3 29. Bxe3 Rxg3 30. Rxg3 Nxg3 31. h7 Kd7 32. Rd3+ Kc7 33. Bb6+ Kxb6 34. Rxg3 Rh8 35. Bd3 1–0

Gregg Small (2284) – IM Tim Taylor (2393)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
A10 ENGLISH OPENING

1. c4 e6 2. g3 f5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. d3 0–0 6. e3 c6 7. Nge2 a5 8. 0–0 Na6 9. b3 e5 10. e4 fxe4 11. dxe4 Bc5 12. Na4 Ba7 13. Ba3 Ng4 14. c5 d6 15. h3 dxc5 16. hxg4 b5 17. Nb2 Bxg4 18. Qc2 Nb4 19. Bxb4 cxb4 20. Rae1



20. ... Rxf2 21. Rxf2 Bxf2+ 22. Kf1 Qf6 0–1

IM Walter Shipman (2247) – IM Kong Liang Deng (2519)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
A80 DUTCH DEFENSE

(Notes by Los Angeles Times *chess columnist Jack Peters)*

1. d4 f5

The combative Dutch Defense.

2. Bg5

Intending 2. … Nf6 Bxf6.

2. … h6 3. Bh4 g5 4. e4!?

A wild gambit. Both 4. e3 Nf6 and 4. Bg3 Nf6 5. Be5 Bg7 are satisfactory for Black.

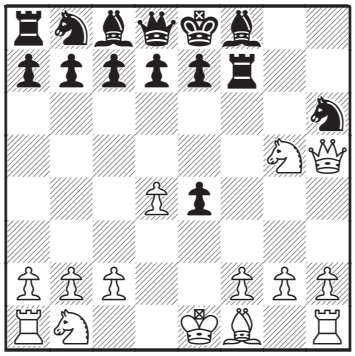
4. … Rh7!?

Apparently a new move. Theory considers 4. … Nf6 5. e5 e6 6. exf6 Qxf6 7. Bg3 f4 nearly even, while 4. … Bg7 5. Bg3 f4 appears dubious for Black after 6. Bxf4 gxf4 7. Qh5+ Kf8 8. Qf5+ Ke8 9. Be2 Nf6 10. e5.

5. Qh5+ Rf7 6. Bxg5 hxg5 7. Nf3 fxe4

Black's position is awkward, and it's uncertain how he should return material. Maybe 7. … Nf6 8. Qg6 Nxe4 9. Ne5 Nd6, followed by 10. … Nc6, survives.

8. Nxg5 Nh6



9. Nc3 c5?

Aiding White's development. Ineffective is 9. … d5?! because of 10. Nxf7 Nxf7 11. Qxd5, but 9. … e6 10. Ncxe4 d5 minimizes White's advantage.

IM Walter Shipman

10. 0–0–0 cxd4 11. Rxd4 Qa5?!

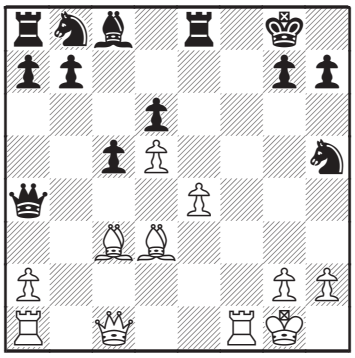
A rough day for the State Champion! However, even the tougher 11. … Nc6 gets thrashed by 12. Bc4 e6 13. Bxe6.

12. Rd5 Qb6 13. Rf5 1–0

Vigorous play by the 75-year-old winner!

Christopher Slupik (2085) – Gennadiy Titkov (2043)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
E20 NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 c5 5. d5 Nh5 6. Nh3 Qh4+ 7. Nf2 Qxc4 8. e4 Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Qxc3+ 10. Bd2 Qd4 11. Qc1 exd5 12. Bc3 Qa4 13. exd5 0–0 14. Bd3 Re8+ 15. Ne4 f5 16. 0–0 fxe4 17. fxe4 d6



[17. ... Nf6 18. Rxf6 gxf6 19. Bxf6 Kf7 20. Qf4]

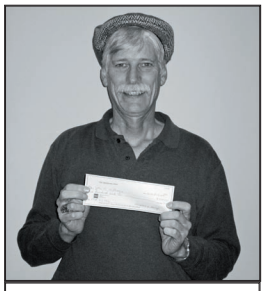
18. Qg5 g6 19. Rf6 Nxf6 20. Qxf6 Re5 21. Qxd6 Nd7 22. Bxe5 Nxe5 23. Qxe5 Bd7 24. Qc3 Rc8 25. e5 Qf4 26. Re1 c4 27. Re4 Qg5 28. Bf1 b5 29. e6 Be8 30. d6 b4 31. Qxb4 a5 32. Qb6 Rd8 33. d7 Bxd7 34. exd7 Rxd7 35. Qe6+ Rf7 36. Bxc4 Qc5+ 37. Re3 Kh8 38. Qe5+ Qxe5 39. Rxe5 Rc7 40. Bf1 Ra7 41. a4 Kg7 42. Bb5 Kf6 43. Rc5 Re7 44. Ba6 1–0

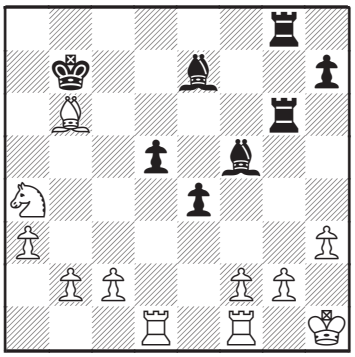
IM Melikset Khachian (2548) – Jouaquin Banawa (2428)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
B31 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Rossolimo Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. Bxc6 bxc6 5. 0–0 Bg7 6. Re1 e5 7. c3 Ne7 8. d4 cxd4 9. cxd4 exd4 10. Nxd4 0–0 11. Nc3 h6 12. Bf4 d5 13. exd5 cxd5 14. Be5 f6 15. Bg3 Kh7 16. Ncb5 f5 17. Nc7 f4 18. Bxf4 Rxf4 19. Nde6 Bxe6 20. Nxe6 Qd6 21. Nxf4 Qxf4 22. Rxe7 d4 23. Qd3 Rc8 24. g3 Qd6 25. Rae1 a5 26. R7e6 1–0

Roger Norman (2151) – John Williams (2105)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
C63 RUY LOPEZ, Schliemann Variation

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 f5 4. d4 fxe4 5. Nxe5 Nxe5 6. dxe5 c6 7. 0–0 d5 8. exd6 Qxd6 9. Bc4 Bf5 10. Be3 Nf6 11. h3 Qb4 12. Qd4 Be7 13. a3 Qd6 14. Qc3 Nd5 15. Bxd5 cxd5 16. Qxg7 0–0–0 17. Qc3+ Qc7 18. Bxa7 Rhg8 19. Kh1 Rg6 20. Qxc7+ Kxc7 21. Nc3 b6 22. Na4 Kb7 23. Bxb6 Rdg8 24. Rad1


John Williams



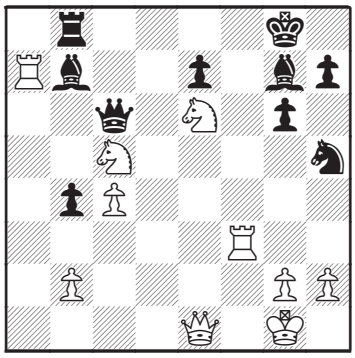
24. ... Bxh3 25. g3

[25. gxh3 Rh6 26. Kh2 Bd6+]

25. ... Bxf1 26. Rxf1 Rxb6 27. Nxb6 Kxb6 28. c3 Kb5 29. Rd1 Rg5 30. Kg2 Bd6 31. Rd4 Bc5 32. c4+ dxc4 33. Rxe4 Rd5 34. Re2 Rd3 35. f4 Ka4 36. f5 Bd6 37. f6 Rxg3+ 38. Kf2 Rg5 39. Re6 Be5 40. Ke3 Bxb2 41. Ke4 Bxa3 42. f7 Kb3 43. Rb6+ Kc2 44. Ra6 Bf8 45. Ra8 Bh6 46. Rh8 Rc5 47. Rxh7 Bf8 48. Kd4 c3 49. Rh8 Rc8 50. Rh2+ Kb1 0–1

IM Tim Taylor (2393) – Giovanni Carreto (2145)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
A03 BIRD'S OPENING
[Tim Taylor]

1. f4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. e3 g6 4. Be2 Bg7 5. 0–0 Nf6 6. d3 d5 7. c3 0–0 8. Qe1 Rb8 9. a4 a6 10. Nbd2 b5 11. axb5 axb5 12. e4 b4 13. e5 Nh5 14. Nb3 Qb6 15. c4 dxc4 16. dxc4 f6 17. Be3 fxe5 18. Bxc5 Qc7 19. fxe5 Nxe5 20. Ra7 Bb7 21. Nfd4 Nd7 22. Ne6 Qc6 23. Bf3 Rxf3 24. Rxf3 Nxc5 25. Nbxc5



25. ... Qb6

[25. ... Bd4+ 26. Kh1 Bxc5 27. Qe5 Bxa7 28. Qxb8+!!+-]

26. Rxb7 Rxb7 27. Qe5 Bf6 28. Qd5 Ra7 29. g4 Ng7 30. Ng5+ 1–0 (in view of 30. ... e6, 31. Rf6!)

GM Boris Kreiman (2526) – Eduardo Ortiz (2409)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
B65 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Richter-Rauzer Variation
(Notes by Los Angeles Times *chess columnist Jack Peters)*

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5

The Richter-Rauzer Attack against the Sicilian Defense.

6. ... e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. 0–0–0 0–0 9. f4 Nxd4 10. Qxd4 Qa5 11. Kb1 h6 12. h4!?

Probably best, as 12. Bh4 e5 does not worry Black.

12. ... Rd8

Sensibly avoiding 12. ... hxg5? 13. hxg5 Ng4 14. Be2 e5 15. Nd5! Bd8 16. Qg1, when White threatens to invade on the h-file by 17. Bxg4 Bxg4 18. Qh2. But 12. ... e5 13. Qd3 exf4 14. Bxf4 Be6 appears safest.

13. Be2 Bd7 14. g4 Rac8 15. Rh3 e5!

Counterplay in the center, the proper antidote to a flank attack.

16. Qg1 Be6?

An inaccuracy with diastrous consequences. The correct 16. ... exf4 17. Bxf4 Be6 18. a3 d5 solves Black's problems.

17. Bxf6 Bxf6 18. g5!

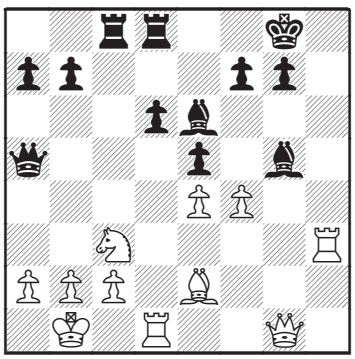
A brilliant refutation. Perhaps Black expected only 18. f5?! Rxc3 19. Rxc3 Bxa2+ 20. Kc1? Bxh4, followed by 21. Bg5+.

18. ... hxg5

White had to foresee 18. ... Bxh3 19. gxf6 g6 20. f5! Rxc3 (or 20. ... Kh7 21. Qg3, snaring the Bishop) 21. fxg6! Rc7 22. Bh5, with an unstoppable attack. Also the desperado 18, Bxg5 19. hxg5 Bxh3 fails, to 20. gxh6 g6 21. Qg5! Kh7 22. Qf6.

19. hxg5 Bxg5

Against 19. Be7, quickest is 20. Rh8+! Kxh8 21. Qh2+ Kg8 22. Rh1 f5 23. Qh8+ Kf7 24. Bh5+ g6 25. Bxg6+ Kxg6 26. Qh7 mate.



20. Qxg5 Bxh3 21. Rg1 g6

Black cannot escape by 21. ... Kf8 22. Qxg7+ Ke7 23. Nd5+ Kd7, as 24. b4! Qa4 25. Qxf7+ Ke6 26. Rg3 sets up 27. Rc3 mate.

22. f5 Rxc3 23. fxg6! f6

Most moves permit 24. gxf7+ Kxf7 25. Qg7+ Ke6 26. Rg6 mate, while 23. ... f5 loses to 24. Qh6 Qc7 25. g7 Bg4 26. Bxg4 fxg4 27. Rxg4 Rf3 28. Qh8+ Kf7 29. g8Q+.

24. Qh6 Qc7 25. g7 1–0

Richard Koepcke (2247) – Jerry Hanken (2200)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
A44 CZECH BENONI DEFENSE

1. d4 c5 2. d5 e5 3. c4 d6 4. Nc3

Prize Winners

Open

1st: Melikset Khachiyan, 6½ - 1½. **2nd/3rd:** Andranik Matikozyan and Boris Kreiman, 6. **4th/5th:** David Vigorito and Alexandre Kretchetov (both Under 2450), 5½. **6th/9th:** Enrico Sevillano, Jouaquin Banawa, Timothy Taylor, and Taksashi Iwamoto (Under 2300), 5.

Under 2200

1st: Ronald Bruno, 6½. **2nd/3rd:** Majid Taherkhani and Vaishnav Aradhyula, 6. **4th/6th:** Mike Zaloznyy, John R Williams, and Gevorg Vardanyan, 5½.

Under 2000

1st: Ted Castro, 7. **2nd/3rd:** Sean Higgins and Kirill Vasyunin, 6. **4th/5th:** Christian Tanaka and Joshua Gutman, 5½. **6th/7th:** Marina Asami and Derek Tan, 5.

Under 1800

1st: John Bryant, 7. **2nd/4th:** Martin Neumayer, Rafael Molina, and Amit Reichman, 6. **5th:** Artur De Peralta, 5½.

Under 1600

1st/2nd: Dingchao Lu and Malachi Black, 6½. **3rd:** Vincent Huang, 6. **4th:** Jaime Cacho, 5½. **5th/11th:** Sunil Deolalikar, Michael Yee, Armen Samuelian, Julie Timokhina, Greg Clark, Phani Kumar Sathiraju, and Yunlin Zhang, 5.

Under 1400

1st: Eric Zhang, 7½. **2nd**: Rachel Dillon, 6. **3rd**: Thomas Glazier, 5. **4th/7th:** Phillip Otero, Krishna Kaliannan, Movses Dermishyan, and Narayan De Vera, 4½.

Under 1200/Unrated

1st/2nd: Ben Slupik and Jason Cruz (Unrated), 6½. **3rd:** Sarkis Moskovyan, 6. **4th/5th:** Keith Emeny and Eleno Afable, 5. **6th:** Haluk Akol, 4½.

Quick

1st/4th: Enrico Sevillano, Boris Kreiman, Ricardo De Guzman, and Eduardo Ortiz, 8-2.

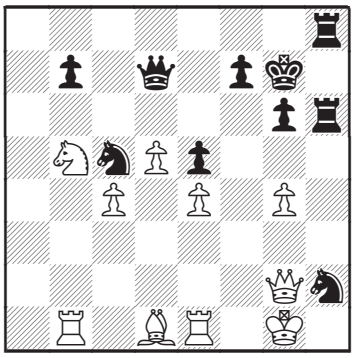
Scholastic

K-12: 1ST: Alexandre Maldague, 4½-½. **K-8:** 1st/2nd: Michael Lau and Jonathan Chen, 4. **K-6:** 1st: Stephen Hurdle, 4½. **K-3:** 1st: John Gardner, 5-0.

Booster

1st: Christopher Kao, 3-0.

Be7 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. e4 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 Bg5 8. Qg4 Bxc1 9. Rxc1 g6 10. Bd3 a6 11. 0–0 h5 12. Qe2 Nf6 13. a3 0–0 14. b4 Nbd7 15. g3 h4 16. Rb1 cxb4 17. axb4 a5 18. Nb5 Ne8 19. Qd2 axb4 20. Qxb4 Nc5 21. Bc2 Nf6 22. Rfe1 Qd7 23. Qd2 Kg7 24. Qe3 Rad8 25. f4 Rh8 26. fxe5 Ng4 27. Qf4 dxe5 28. Qf3 hxg3 29. hxg3 Nh2 30. Qg2 Rh6 31. Bd1 Rdh8 32. g4



32. ... Nd3 33. Re3 Nf4 34. g5 Rh4 35. Qb2 Ng4 0–1

Yoshiharu Habu (2386) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2550)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
B22 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation Deferred

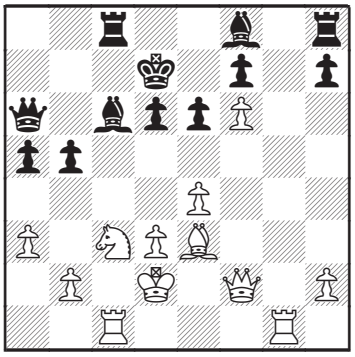
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. d4 Bg4 6. dxc5 Qxc5 7. Be3 Qa5 8. Na3 e6 9. Nc4 Qc7 10. Be2 Nf6 11. Qa4 Be7 12. Nce5 Bxf3 13. Bxf3 Nd5 14. Nxc6 Qxc6 15. Qxc6+ bxc6 16. c4 Nb4 17. 0–0–0 Nxa2+ 18. Kc2 Nb4+ 19. Kb3 a5 20. Ka4 0–0 21. Rd7 Bf6 22. Ba7 Bxb2 23. Kxa5 Rfb8 24. Rb1 Nd3 25. Rxb2 Rxb2 26. Bxc6 Ne5 27. Bxa8 Ra2+ 28. Kb6 Nxd7+ 29. Kb7 Rc2 30. Kc7 Rxc4+ 31. Kxd7 Ra4 0–1

Ron Bruno (2121) – Majid Taherkhani (2064)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
B80 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f3 Qc7 7. Be3 e6 8. Qd2 b5 9. a3 Bb7 10. g4 Nc6 11. Nxc6 Qxc6 12. g5 Nd7 13. f4 Be7 14. Qf2 Rc8 15. Bd3 Nc5 16. Rg1 Nxd3+ 17. cxd3 a5 18. Rc1 Qa6 19. Kd2 Kd7

SUNDAY FEATURED A LECTURE BY NOTED AUTHOR AND TEACHER IM JEREMY SILMAN

20. f5 Bc6 21. f6 gxf6 22. gxf6 Bf8

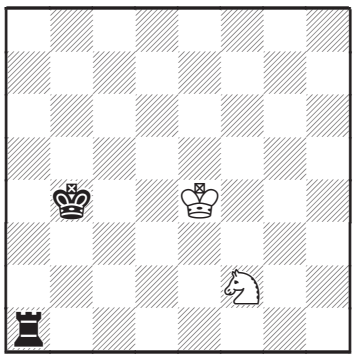


23. Rg7 Ke8 24. Qh4 Qb7 25. b4 axb4 26. axb4 h5 27. Qg5 Bxg7 28. Qxg7 Rf8 29. Ra1 Qb8 30. Ra7 Bb7 31. Nxb5 d5 32. Qg3 Kd7 33. Bf4 h4 34. Qxh4 e5 35. Qh5 exf4 36. Qxd5+ Ke8 37. Rxb7 1–0

"Look in the books, young man," Capablanca used to say when he saw endgames like this.

Ryan Richardson (1934) – Bruce Weiner (1900)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
C82 RUY LOPEZ, Open Deense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0–0 Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6 9. c3 Bc5 10. Nbd2 0–0 11. Bc2 Nxf2 12. Rxf2 f6 13. exf6 Bxf2+ 14. Kxf2 Qxf6 15. Nf1 Ne5 16. Kg1 Rae8 17. Be3 Nxf3+ 18. gxf3 Qxf3 19. Qxf3 Rxf3 20. Bc5 Bh3 21. Bb3 c6 22. a4 h5 23. axb5 axb5 24. Bc2 Bf5 25. Bxf5 Rxf5 26. Ne3 Rf6 27. Rf1 Rxf1+ 28. Kxf1 Re4 29. Nc2 Rc4 30. Bf2 Ra4 31. Nb4 Ra1+ 32. Kg2 Rb1 33. Nxc6 Rxb2 34. Ne7+ Kf7 35. Nxd5 g6 36. Nb4 g5 37. h3 Ke6 38. Kf3 g4+ 39. hxg4 hxg4+ 40. Kg3 Kf5 41. Bc5 Rd2 42. Bf8 Rd8 43. Bg7 Rd7 44. Bd4 Rh7 45. Na6 Rh3+ 46. Kg2 Rd3 47. Nb4 Rf3 48. Nc6 Ke4 49. Ne5 b4 50. cxb4 Rb3 51. Ba1 Ra3 52. Nxg4 Rxa1 53. Nf2+ Kd4 54. Kf3 Kc4 55. Ke4 Kxb4

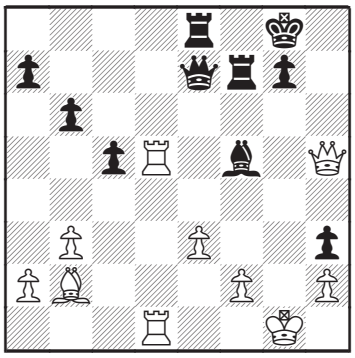


56. Kd5 Ra5+ 57. Ke4 Kc3 58. Kf3 Kd4 59. Nh3 Ra3+ 60. Kg2 Ke4 61. Kh2 Kf3 62. Ng1+ Kg4 63. Kg2 Ra2+ 64. Kf1 Kg3 65. Ne2+ Kf3 66. Ng1+ Ke3 67. Nh3 Ra8 68. Kg2 Rg8+ 69. Kh2 Ke2 70. Ng1+ Kf1 71. Nh3 Rg2+ 72. Kh1 Rb2 73. Ng1 Kf2 74. Kh2 Ra2 75. Nh3+ Kf3+ 76. Kh1 Kg3 77. Ng1 Rb2 78. Ne2+ Rxe2 79. Kg1 Re1# 0–1

Auluvance Tillmon (2011) – Carl Pilnick (2200)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
D02 DUTCH DEFENSE

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 c6 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 f5 5. Ne5 Nf6 6. Nd2 Bd6 7. Ndf3 0–0 8. 0–0 Nbd7 9. b3 Qc7 10. Bb2 c5 11. c4 Bxe5 12. dxe5 Ng4 13. cxd5 Ngxe5 14. Nxe5 Nxe5 15. dxe6 Bxe6 16. Be2 Ng4 17. Bxg4 fxg4 18. Rc1 Qe7 19. Qc2 b6 20. Rcd1 Rf7 21. Rd2 h5 22. Qe4 Re8 23. Qg6 h4 24. Rfd1 Bf5 25. Qh5 h3 26. gxh3 gxh3 27. Rd5

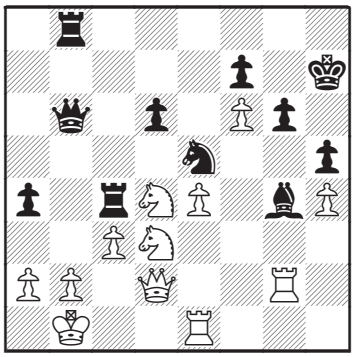
CARL PILNICK, WHO COMPETED IN THE 1942 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND WON THE 1971 AMERICAN OPEN, STILL KNOWS HOW TO PLAY.



27. ... Qe4 28. f3 Qxe3+ 29. Kh1 Qe1+ 0–1

Lonnie Neal (2011) – Chris Lee (2108)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
B76 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Dragon Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. f3 Bg7 7. Be3 0–0 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. Nb3 Be6 10. Bh6 Rc8 11. Bxg7 Kxg7 12. g4 Ne5 13. Be2 Nc4 14. Bxc4 Rxc4 15. h4 h5 16. g5 Nd7 17. 0–0–0 b5 18. Nxb5 Qb6 19. N5d4 Rfc8 20. Kb1 Ne5 21. Rhf1 Bh3 22. Rf2 Bd7 23. f4 Nc6 24. f5 Rb8 25. f6+ exf6 26. gxf6+ Kh7 27. c3 Bg4 28. Re1 Ne5 29. Rg2 a5 30. Nc1 a4 31. Nd3

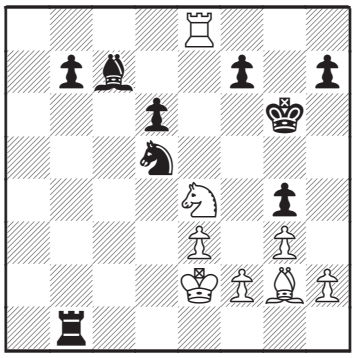


TED CASTRO AND JASON CRUZ DISPLAY THEIR TROPHIES, AS IM RICARDO DE GUZMAN (CENTER) LOOKS ON.

31. ... Rxd4 32. cxd4 Nf3 33. Qc3 Rc8 34. Qa3 Nxe1 35. Nxe1 Qxd4 36. Qd3 Qxf6 37. Rh2 d5 38. Qe3 dxe4 39. Rf2 Bf5 40. Ng2 Rd8 41. Kc1 Rd3 42. Qg5 Qd4 43. Rxf5 Rd1+ 0–1

Mike Zaloznyy (2139) – V. Aradhyula (1996)
40th American Open, Los Angeles 2004
A25 ENGLISH OPENING

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 Bb4 4. Nd5 a5 5. Bg2 Nge7 6. a3 Bc5 7. Qa4 0–0 8. e3 Nxd5 9. cxd5 Ne7 10. b4 Bb6 11. Bb2 d6 12. Ne2 Bf5 13. Qb3 Qd7 14. d4 axb4 15. axb4 Rxa1+ 16. Bxa1 Ra8 17. 0–0 Qa4 18. Qb2 Bd3 19. dxe5 Qa2 20. exd6 Qxb2 21. Bxb2 cxd6 22. Re1 Ra2 23. Nc1 Rxb2 24. Nxd3 Rd2 25. Ra1 g6 26. Nf4 Kg7 27. Kf1 g5 28. Ke1 Rc2 29. Nh5+ Kh6 30. Bf3 Rb2 31. Nf6 Rxb4 32. Ra8 Kg6 33. Ne4 g4 34. Bg2 Rb1+ 35. Ke2 Bc7 36. Re8 Nxd5



37. Rg8+ Kf5 38. Rg5+ Ke6 39. Rxd5 Rg1 40. Ng5+ Kf6 41. Nxh7+ Kg7 42. Be4 Ra1 43. Rg5+ Kh6 44. Rxg4 b5 45. Nf6 b4 46. Ng8+ Kh5 47. Bf3 Ra2+ 48. Kf1 1–0

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

(see page 12)

Problem no. 1: b. Bc3 is incorrect. This is an opening trap of the Englund Gambit, which goes 1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Qe7 4. Bf4 Qb4+ 5. Bd2 Qxb2. If 6. Bc3 then Black play 6. … Bb4, winning, since if 7. Qd2 then 7. … Bxc3 3. Qxc3 Qc1# or 2. Bxb4 Nxb4(!) with a decisive material gain about to follow for Black. Best for White, instead of 1. Bc3, is 1. Nc3 and White will actually get a good game from this suspect gambit line.

Problem no. 2: b. Nbxd5 is correct and Black will equalize. The main line goes: 1. … Nbxd5 2. Bxd5 Nxd5 3. Nxd5 exd5 4. Rxd5 which superficially looks good for White, but then 4. … Bg4! 5. Qd3 Qxd5! 6. Qxd5 Rad8 7. Qb3 Rd1+ 8. Qxd1 Bxd1 9. Be3 Bb3 10. a5 a6 leads to a totally equal position. You really had to look deep into this position to see the finale and congratulations for those who solved this difficult problem accurately.

Problem no. 3: a. White is winning. Here we have a classic example of how striking at the right moment can mean the difference between a successful attack and a failure. Black has grouped his pieces as well as possible to thwart a Kingside assault and, if he can get his Queen Rook to b6 in time, he will have adequate defensive success. White must attack now or forever hold his peace. The main line goes: 1. Bxg6! Rb6 2. Ne6!! (an amazing deflection) Bxe6 (or 2. … Rbxe6 3. Bxh7+ Nxh7 4. Rg4+) 3. Bxh7+ Nxh7 4. Rxh7 Kxh7 5. Rh4+ Kg8 6. Qh8#.

Problem no. 4: c. Equal. Amazingly, White can draw this endgame with brilliant defensive resources. Many players may have given up. which just goes to show you how "thinking like a computer" can help you to find amazing moves. The main line goes: 1. Kf1 d3 (as 1. … g2+ allows 2. Kg1, forcing Kxe2 stalemate) 2. Rf2+ gxf2 and stalemate. If 2. … Ke3 3. hxg3 fxg3 4. Rf8 and White will draw by checking the Black King from behind. Whew!

6th

Joseph Ileto Memorial

December 11-12, 2004

The latest in the SCCF's series of inexpensive weekenders attracted 51 players. First place went to master Ron Hermansen with 4½-½. Hermansen upset IM Tim Taylor in round 4, then secured first with a draw against expert Ike Miller. The latter tied for second, along with Eduardo Ortiz, Ilia Serpik, Gregg Fritchle, Christopher Slupik, and Ryan Richardson.

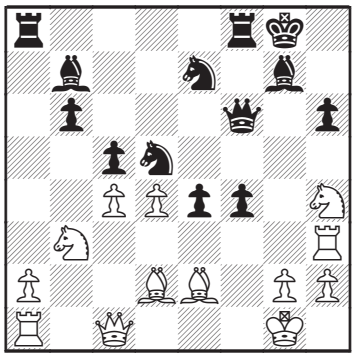
Once again, thanks are owed to the city of Monterey Park for providing a new playing site at Sierra Vista Park. Special thanks also to Bill Conrad, who donated $300 to enhance the prize fund, and $50 for a Best Game prize (not yet determined) in honor of the late Ursula Foster. Randy Hough directed for the SCCF.

Prize Winners

1st: Ron Hermansen, 4½-½; 2nd-3rd: Eduardo Ortiz, Ilia Serpik 4-1; U2200: Ike Miller, Gregg Fritchle, Christopher Slupik, 4-1; U2000: Ryan Richardson, 4-1; U1800: Jacob Alon, 3½-1½; U1600: Nisha Deolalikar, 2½-2½; U1400: Ben Slupik, Philip Voron, 2-3, Unrated: Dennis Bransfield, 2-3

IM Tim Taylor (2396) – Ron Hermansen (2271)
6th Joseph Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2004
A02 BIRD'S OPENING

1. f4 g6 2. Nf3 Bg7 3. e3 d6 4. Be2 e5 5. fxe5 dxe5 6. e4 Nc6 7. 0–0 h6 8. c3 Nge7 9. b4 0–0 10. b5 Na5 11. Ba3 b6 12. d3 a6 13. bxa6 c5 14. Nbd2 Bxa6 15. Nb3 Nac6 16. Bc1 Qc7 17. Qe1 f5 18. exf5 gxf5 19. Nh4 Qd6 20. Rf3 Qe6 21. Be3 Bb7 22. Qf1 Nd5 23. Bd2 Nce7 24. Rh3 e4 25. Qc1 Qf6 26. d4 f4 27. c4



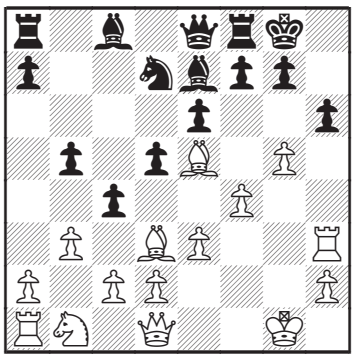
27. ... cxd4 28. cxd5 d3 29. Bg4 Bxd5 30. Rb1 Rxa2 31. Bb4 Bxb3 32. Rxb3 Qd4+ 33. Kh1 Ra1 34. Rb1 Rfa8 35. Bd1 Qxb4 0–1

Francisco Alonso (2006) – Eduardo Ortiz (2409)
6th Joseph Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2004
A04 KING'S INDIAN REVERSED

1. Nf3 c5 2. g3 b6 3. Bg2 Bb7 4. 0–0 Nf6 5. d3 g6 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. e4 0–0 8. Nh4 d5 9. e5 Ne8 10. f4 Nc7 11. Bd2 Nc6 12. Rb1 e6 13. Nf3 f6 14. exf6 Bxf6 15. Re1 Qd6 16. a3 Rae8 17. b4 cxb4 18. axb4 b5 19. Kh1 Bg7 20. Rb3 Nd4 21. Nxd4 Bxd4 22. Ne2 Bg7 23. c3 e5 24. fxe5 Bxe5 25. d4 Bg7 26. Bf4 Qc6 27. Bxc7 Qxc7 28. Nf4 Qc4 29. Ra3 a6 30. Ne6 Rf2 31. Nc5 Rxe1+ 32. Qxe1 Re2 33. Qd1 Bc8 34. Bf1 Bg4 35. Bxe2 Bxe2 36. Qd2 Bh6 37. Qe1 Be3 38. Kg2 g5 39. h3 h5 40. g4 h4 41. Rxa6 Bxd4 42. cxd4 Qc2 43. Qf2 Bf3+ 44. Kxf3 1–0

Ilia Serpik (2265) – Simone Sobel (1815)
6th Joseph Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2004
A03 BIRD'S OPENING

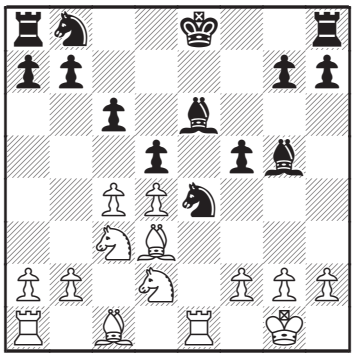
1. f4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. b3 Be7 5. Bb2 c5 6. Ne5 0–0 7. Bd3 Qe8 8. 0–0 Nfd7 9. Rf3 Nxe5 10. Bxe5 b5 11. Rh3 h6 12. g4 c4 13. g5 Nd7



14. Bxg7 cxd3 15. Qh5 f5 16. Qxh6 Bc5 17. g6 Nf6 18. Qh8# 1–0

Joshua Gutman (1847) – Ryan Yeung (1741)
6th Joseph Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2004
C42 PETROFF DEFENSE

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. Bd3 d5 6. Qe2 Qe7 7. 0–0 Nc5 8. Re1 Qxe2 9. Bxe2 Be7 10. d4 Ne4 11. c4 c6 12. Bd3 f5 13. Nc3 Be6 14. Nd2 Bg5



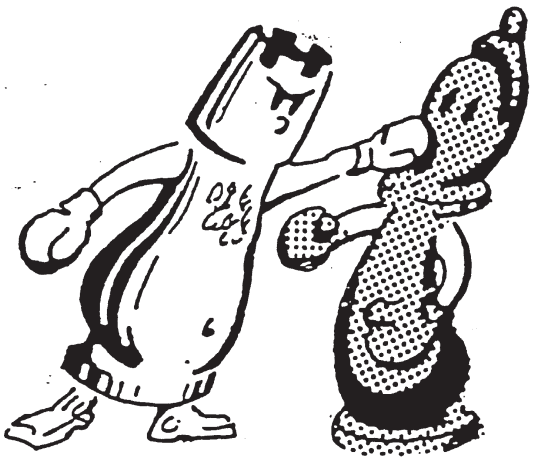
15. Ndxe4 Bxc1 16. Nd6+ Kd7 17. Nxb7 Bxb2 18. Rab1 Bxc3 19. Nc5+ Kc8 20. Rxe6 Bxd4 21. Bxf5 Kd8 22. Nb7+ Kd7 23. Re4+ 1–0

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

Chess tactics has moved to the forefront of importance in the world today, as it is clear the understanding of tactical chess motifs will propel one's ability faster than any other method of chess education, instruction and improvement.

All chess games combine both the elements of strategy and tactics. One basically cannot exist without the other throughout any game. The serious student of chess understands the importance of making a strategic plan and works to recognize the critical elements associated with a particular opening line or defense. Beginners must learn tactical methods or at least be familiar with the principles (and not just the names) in order to improve. It's insufficient to execute deep strategic ideas of mobilization, strengthening of piece placement and capturing board space if you blunder from a simple tactical strike. Every strong chessplayer has to be as good at tactical strikes as in strategy. A deep understanding of chess tactics is the key to the most important chess skill – that is, solving the hard methodologies of chess strategy.



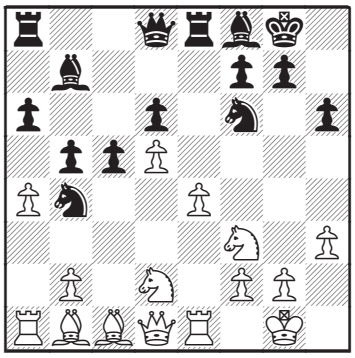
In the case of an attack on the King, the two main factors determining the success of an attack are the balance of forces in the vicinity of the King and the state of the King's general defenses. If the King is severely exposed and lacking adequate defenders, even a relatively modest attacking force, such as with minor pieces associated with a Queen or Rook may be enough to decide the game. Most of the time we'll find the King has some basic defensive cover, usually by shielding Pawns and thus the attacker must mount a considerable superiority of forces in order to break through.

It's clear that the more pieces that take part in the attack the more likely it is to succeed. A very common mistake is to start an attack with insufficient force to drive it successfully. Patience plays a major role in knowing how much build-up is enough to assure success. Along with that is timing, that is, knowing when to employ a tactical strike (such as a sacrifice), since waiting too long will allow counter-attacking opportunities from your opponent or defensive regrouping. Therefore, always make sure you bring as many pieces as possible into aggressive positions before making any irrevocable commitments in your attack. In one of the best games I have ever seen and played over, we see two of the greatest still living World Champions, in **Kasparov vs Karpov, 1990 World Championship, game 20,** demonstrate incredible strategic principles and a variety of tactical motifs that truly instruct (and amaze) us on how to execute an attack and how to best try to defend against one.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 (and here we have the Ruy Lopez, or Spanish Opening, one of the most dependable systems played today) **a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7** (Flohr-Zaitsev or Closed Variation; 5. … Nxe4 leads to the Open Variation) **6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6** (7. … 0-0 8. c3 d5 leads to the famous Marshall Attack, where Black offers a Pawn in return for a lead in development and good Kingside pressure.) **8. c3 0-0 9. h3 Bb7 10. d4** (White succeeds in developing a good center but is behind in development, at least for a while.) **10. … Re8 11. Nbd2 Bf8 12. a4** (Be careful, as 12. Nf1 loses a Pawn owing to the multiple X-ray attack by Black on the White e4 Pawn as -- 12. … exd4 13. cxd4 Na5.) **12. … h6** (12. … Qd7 and 12. … g6 offer decent alternatives for Black as well) **13. Bc2 exd4 14. cxd4 Nb4 15. Bb1 c5 16. d5** (See the diagram below. This position represents a critical juncture for this opening line. In the diagramed position White has aspirations primarily focused on the Kingside, while Black will aim to use his Queenside majority to create counterplay. The strategic concepts for this opening have been explored for centuries and the elite today continue to press for improve-

ments. Computers may ultimately prove (sooner than we think) that this entire line offers no advantage to anyone.

Position No. 1. Black to move.
How would you continue?



The game continued **16. … Nd7** as Karpov decides on a more dynamic strategy beginning with this move and his next one. Sitting across from Kasparov – a true Tactician/ Strategist, Karpov (more a Strategist/Builder) plays into his opponent's strength – which in itself could be classified as tactical mistake.

17. Ra3 (Kasparov is already eyeing the Kingside with amazing long-term vision) **17… f5!?** (Creating imbalances is critical for introducing tactical opportunities and counterplay during your games. 17. … c4 followed by … Nc5 may have been another strategic idea to build pressure against the White Queenside.) **18. Rae3 Nf6 19. Nh2 Kh8?!** Karpov flounders a bit here; better may have been 19. … Qd7. His move offers Kasparov a strong strategic plan aimed directly at the Black King.

What would you plan? The most incredible thing about this game is how quickly things will heat up. Chess can be so exciting and what transpires over the next few moves is nothing less than amazing.

20. b3 (Eyeing the a1-h8 diagonal as entry to the Black King's territory) **20. … bxa4 21. bxa4 c4 22. Bb2 fxe4 23. Nxe4 Nfd5 24. Rg3** (Notice how Kasparov is slowly maneuvering his pieces towards the Black King. All of his moves offer deep strategic insight and ominous purposes.) **24… Re6** (Karpov finds the best defensive moves in what has to be an extremely complex and difficult position to play) **25. Ng4 Qe8?** (Better was 25. … Nd3, which was Black's original defensive plan. But now White must strike to take advantage of Black's inaccuracy. Do you see how to take advantage of Black's mistake?)

26. Nxh6! (Incredible! Just look at this sacrifice. One key line goes 26…. Rxh6 27. Nxd6 Qd7 28. Qg4 Qxg4 29. Nf7+ Kg8 30. Nxh6+ gxh6 31. Rxg4+ Kf7 32. Bg6+ Kg8 33. Bf5+ Kf7 34. Be6+ winning for White. Amazing, and thus) **26. … c3** (A classic intermezzo – but there's no spoiler here) **27. Nf5 cxb2 28. Qg4** (Look at the incredible and overwhelming White piece activity.) **28. … Bc8 29. Qh4+ Rh6 30. Nxh6 gxh6 31. Kh2 Qe5 32. Ng5 Qf6 33. Re8** (Swarming mate threat after mate threat after mate threat. Geez.) **33. … Bf5 34. Qh6+** (Oops, Kasparov missed 34. Nf7+ Qxf7 35. Qxh6+ Bh7 36. Rxh8 forcing mate much more quickly. It's always surprising when you watch games like this and see improved lines embedded in what is already absolutely amazing.) **34. … Qxh6 35. Nf7+ Kh7 36. Bxf5+ Qg6 37. Bxg6+** (Again 37. Rxg6 improves, but I have a feeling a shortage of time may have played a factor for the closing inaccuracies) **37. … Kg7 38. Rxa8 Be7** (Might as well make the time control which I notice sometimes give players a sense of satisfaction upon losing) **39. Rb8 a5 40. Be4+ Kxf7 41. Bxd5+ 1-0**

So, what did you learn from this incredible game?

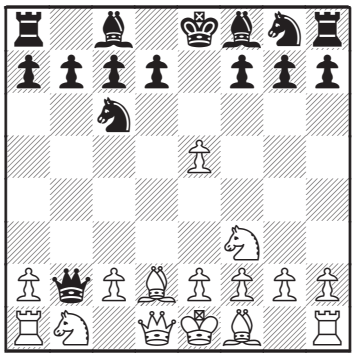
a. Bring as many pieces into as aggressive positions as you can before committing yourself to the attack.

b. As in many competitive sports, and we especially see this so commonly on the gridiron, it is usually more difficult to defend than to attack.

c. The final breakthrough often requires some kind of tactical strike or piece sacrifice. Being patient and executing at the right time are key elements for the success of your attack.

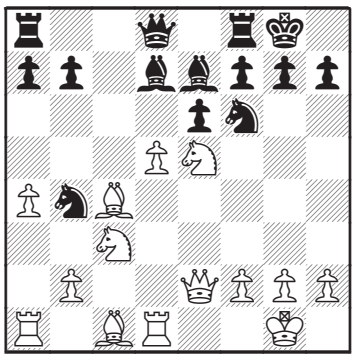
Here are four problems for you to solve. Be alert, play sharp and always remember to do your safety check. Good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 9.

Problem No. 1. White to play.



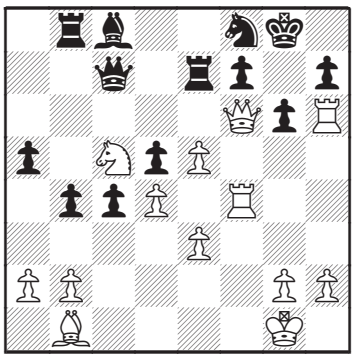
a) 1. Bc3 is correct.
b) 1. Bc3 is incorrect.
Justify your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 2. Black to play.
White has serious threats in the center. What would you do?



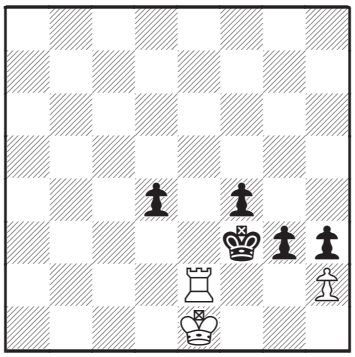
a) 1. … Nbxd5 is incorrect and Black will lose material.
b) 1. … Nbxd5 is correct and Black will equalize.
Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 3. White to move.
How do you assess the position?



a) White has a winning attack.
b) Black has setup a solid defense.
c) The position is unclear.
Prove your answer with a variation.

Position No. 4. White to move.
How would you proceed or would you resign?



The position is:
a) Better for White
b) Winning for Black
c) Equal
Prove your answer with a variation.

Fischer To Iceland?

Bobby Fischer has been offered a residency permit in Iceland -- scene of the greatest triumph of his glittering chess career -- Iceland officials in Tokyo said Thursday.

"The residency permit for Mr. Fischer was approved," said Maki Onjo, a commercial representative for the Iceland Embassy in Tokyo.

Iceland's Foreign Ministry has also reportedly ordered its embassy to help Fischer get to Iceland if he wants to go there.

Fischer is currently detained in the East Japan Immigration Bureau Detention Center in Ushiku, Ibaraki Prefecture, where he is fighting a deportation order issued against him in August.

Immigration officials said they would not actively work to send Fischer to Iceland.

Masako Suzuki, Fischer's lawyer, confirmed Iceland's offer was unlikely to see the chess grandmaster granted an immediate release. He has applied at least twice for provisional release, but remains incarcerated.

— Mainichi Daily News

The San Fernando Valley Chess Club
With the help of AAA Chess Club and School
Present 2 Tournaments

The January 8th New Year Chess Resolution
&
The February 12th Groundhog Day Delight

Yes indeedy, it is time yet again for a new year, and a new effort for establishing chess in our oh so fair city! We invite you to make a New Year's resolution to improve your chess game by coming on out to the beautiful Glendale Chess Park and taking on all comers!

What: 4 Rnd SS, G/40, delay/5sec. If < 30 = 2 sects in half by rating.
When: Sat. Jan. 8th. & Feb 12th. Reg. 10 a.m-10:50 a.m. Rnd 1 at 11 a.m.
Where: Glendale Chess Park, 227 North .Brand Blvd., Glendale.
How much: EF =$25 Donation @ site. Checks and Credit cards ok.

All proceeds go to AAA for youth projects, and to fund an indoor Chess location in the SFV. USCF rated. SCCF membership required of rated S. CA residents ($14 adult, $9 junior) Please bring sets and clocks.

$$500 b/22
If 1 Sect., 1st - $ 125, 2nd - $75
Best U2100 - $75, U1800 -$75, U1500 - $75
U1300 - $75, Unrated plays for 1st or 2nd.

If 2 Sects, 1st in Section 1 - $ 120, 1st in Section 2 - $120
Best U2100 -$70, U1800 -$70, U1500 -$70, U1300 -60

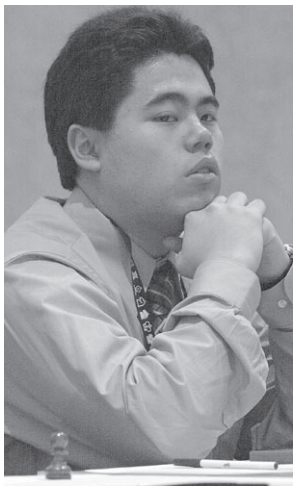
We would like to do a few more of these in the day time while the nice cool temps are around So, please feel most welcome to spread the word around! To pre-register, call Don Silva 818-601-8407. Save $5 – send $20 check to: Don Silva, P.O. Box 370603, Reseda, CA. 91337. We will be having $1 a slice pizza and free hot cocoa. Let's keep the Park jumping for the future! (Rain cancels)

U.S. Championship

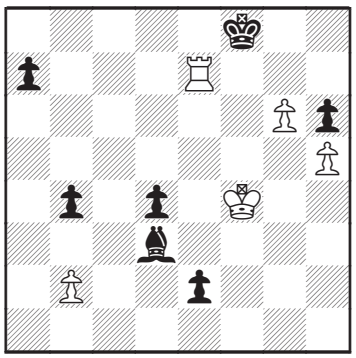
The 2004-2005 U.S. Championship, held from November 24 thriugh December 5, 2004 at the Hilton Torrey Pines in San Diego, saw 64 players compete for a $255,000 prize fund. In an exciting finish, GMs Hikaru Nakamura and Alex Stripunsky both won in the final round to finish with 7-2. Nakamura took the title in a two-game playoff match at SD/20. The Women's title went to Rusudan Goletiani with 4½-4½, again after a playoff victory over Southern California's Tatev Abrahamyan. The tournament was organized by the Seattle-based America's Foundation for Chess (AF4C).

GM Hikaru Nakamura (2620) – GM Ildar Ibragimov (2585)
2005 US Championship, San Diego 2004
C02 FRENCH DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Nge7 6. Na3 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nf5 8. Nc2 Qb6 9. Be2 Bb4+ 10. Kf1 Be7 11. g3 Bd7 12. Bd2 0–0 13. h4 f6 14. g4 Nfxd4 15. Ncxd4 fxe5 16. Nxc6 bxc6 17. Bc3 Bd6 18. Rh3 Rab8 19. Bd3 Qc7 20. Ng5 h6 21. Bh7+ Kh8 22. Qc2 Rf4 23. Qg6 Rf6 24. Nf7+ Rxf7 25. Qxf7 Kxh7 26. g5 Be8 27. g6+ Kh8 28. Qxc7 Bxc7 29. h5 d4 30. Rf3 Kg8 31. Be1 c5 32. Rc1 Bd6 33. Rb3 Rxb3 34. axb3 Bb5+ 35. Kg2 Kf8 36. f3 Bd3 37. Bg3 Ke7 38. b4 cxb4 39. Rc8 e4 40. Rg8 Bxg3 41. Rxg7+ Kf8 42. Rf7+ Kg8 43. Kxg3 e3 44. Rd7 e5 45. f4 exf4+ 46. Kxf4 e2 47. Re7 Kf8



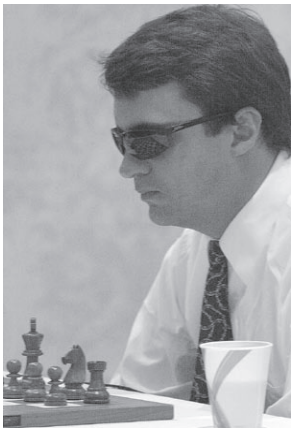
Hikaru Nakamura



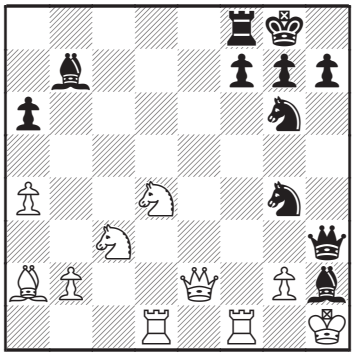
48. Re5 a5? [48. ... Bc4 49. Kf5 d3 *(49. ... Kg7 50. Re7+ Kf8 51. Kf6)* 50. Kf6 d2 (50. ... Bb5 51. g7+ Kg8 52. Rxb5 e1Q 53. Rb8+) 51. g7++-; 48. ... Bb5! 49. Kf5 *(49. Kf3 d3 50. Kf2 d2)* 49. ... d3 50. Kf6 Ba4 51. g7+ *(51. Re7 e1Q 52. g7+ Kg8 53. Rxe1 d2)* 51. ... Kg8–+] **49. Kf3 a4 50. Kf2 a3 51. bxa3 b3 52. g7+ Kxg7 53. Re7+ Kf6 54. Rb7 Bc4 55. Rb4 Bf7 56. a4 d3 57. a5 Bxh5 58. Ke1 Ke5 59. a6 Bf3 60. a7 h5 61. Rxb3 Kd4 62. Rb8 h4 63. Rd8+ Kc3 64. Rc8+ Kd4 65. Kd2 h3 66. a8Q 1–0**

GM Alexander Goldin (2620) – GM Alex Stripunsky (2533)
2005 US Championship, San Diego 2004
B01 CENTER COUNTER DEFENSE

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qd6 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nf3 a6 6. Be3 b5 7. Bd3 Bb7 8. 0–0 Nbd7 9. Qe2 e6 10. Bg5 Be7 11. a4 b4 12. Ne4 Qd5 13. c4 bxc3 14. Nxc3 Qa5 15. Rad1 Rd8 16. Bh4 c5 17. Bb1 cxd4 18. Nxd4 Qb4 19. Bg3 0–0 20. Ba2 Bc5 21. Nb3 Ba7 22. Bd6 Qh4 23. Bxf8 Rxf8 24. Qd3 Ne5 25. Qg3 Qh5 26. Nd4 Ng6 27. h3 Bb8 28. f4 e5 29. fxe5 Bxe5 30. Qe3 Ng4 31. Qe2 Bh2+ 32. Kh1 Qxh3



Alex Stripunsky

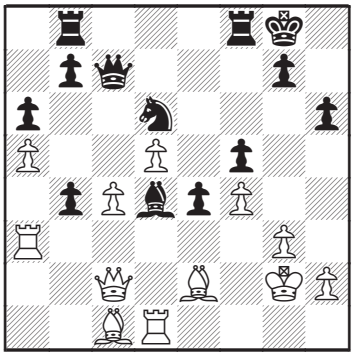


33. Bd5 Qh4 [33. ... Bxd5 34. Nxd5 Qh5 35. Rf5 Qh4 36. Nf3 Nf2+ 37. Qxf2 Qxf2 38. Rd2 Qg3 39. Nxh2 Qe1+] **34. Nf5 Qh5 35. g3** [35. Bxf7+ Kh8 36. Bxg6 hxg6 37. Nxg7 Rxf1+ 38. Rxf1 Qh3! *(38. ... Qh4 39. Qe8+ Kh7 40. Nf5)* 39. Ne4 Qh4 40. Rf8+ Kxg7 41. Rg8+ Kxg8 42. Qxg4 Qxg4 43. Nf6+ Kg7 44. Nxg4 Bf4 -+] **35. ... Bxg3+ 36. Kg1 Bh2+ 37. Kg2 Bc8 38. Bxf7+ Kh8 39. Bxg6 hxg6 40. Nd6 Bxd6 41. Rxf8+ Bxf8 42. Rd8 Qh2+ 43. Kf3 Ne5+ 44. Ke3 Qg3+ 0–1**

Rusa Goletiani (2336) – Anna Zatonskih (2440)
2005 US Championship, San Diego 2004
A34 ENGLISH OPENING

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nc3 e5 4. e3 Nf6 5. a3 d5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. Qc2 Nxc3 8. dxc3 Bd6 9. Bd3 Qe7 10. 0–0 h6 11. Nd2 0–0 12. e4 Rb8 13. a4 a6 14. Nc4 Be6 15. Nb6 Qc7 16. Nd5 Bxd5 17. exd5 Ne7 18. c4 f5 19. Be2 e4 20. g3 Be5 21. Ra3 Rbe8 22. a5 Nc8 23. f4 Bd4+ 24. Kg2 Nd6 25. Rd1 Rb8 26. b4 cxb4

Rusa Goletiani



27. Rxd4 bxa3 28. c5 Rfc8 29. Bxa3 Qxa5 30. Bb4 Qd8 31. Qa2 Qf6 32. Rd1 Nb5 33. d6+ Kh7 34. Qd5 Rf8 35. Qe5 Na7 36. Ba5 Qf7 37. Bb6 Nc6 38. Qc3 g5 39. fxg5 f4 40. Bc4 f3+ 41. Kh1 Qf5 42. gxh6 Ne5 43. d7 Rbd8 44. Bxd8 Rxd8 45. Bf1 Kxh6 46. Rd5 Rxd7 47. Rxe5 Rd1 48. Kg1 Rxf1+ 49. Kxf1 Qh3+ 50. Ke1 f2+ 51. Kxf2 Qxh2+ 52. Ke3 Qxg3+ 53. Kd4 1–0

2005 US CHESSMASTER CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

7 points
1st (won playoff): GM Hikaru Nakamura $25,000
2nd (lost playoff): GM Alex Stripunsky $17,000

6 points (top five places decided by tiebreak formula)
3rd: GM Gregory Kaidanov $13,000
4th: GM Sergey Kudrin $10,200
5th: GM Yury Shulman $8,100

6 points, 6th – 8th
GM Joel Benjamin $5,200
GM Gregory Serper $5,200
GM Alexander Onischuk $5,200

5½ points, 9th – 17th
GM Alexander Goldin $4,294.44
GM Ildar Ibragimov $4,294.44
GM Boris Gulko $4,294.44
GM Julio Becerra $4,294.44
GM Alexander Fishbein $4,294.44
GM Gata Kamsky $4,294.44
GM Varuzhan Akobian $4,294.44
GM Alek Wojtkeiwicz $4,292.44
GM Alex Yermolinsky $4,292.44

5 points, 18th – 31st
IM Renier Gonzalez $3,250
Salvijus Bercys $3,250
GM Igor Novikov $3,250
FM Lev Milman $3,250
GM Dmitry Gurevich $3,250
GM Alexander Shabalov $3,250
GM Nick de Firmian $3,250
IM Levon Altounian $3,250
IM Eugene Perelshteyn $3,250
GM Larry Christiansen $3,250
IM Yury Lapshun $3,250
IM Cyrus Lakdawala $3,250
IM Ben Finegold $3,250
GM Alexander Ivanov $3,250

4½ points, 32nd – 39th
IM Dmitry Schneider $2,693.75
IM Blas Lugo $2,693.75
GM Walter Browne $2,693.75
WGM Rusudan Goletiani 1st Women's (won playoff), $12,500
IM Stanislav Kriventsov $2,693.75
IM Ron Burnett $2,693.75
FM Michael Casella 32th – 39th $2,693.75
WFM Tatev Abrahamyan 2nd Women's (lost playoff), $9,200

4 points, 40th – 47th
FM Dmitry Zilberstein $2,525
FM Joshua Friedel $2,525
IM Irina Krush 3rd Women's, $7,100
WIM Tsagaan Battsetseg 4th Women's, $5,500
FM Marcel Martinez $2,525
FM Matt Hoekstra $2,525
FM Stephen Muhammad $2,525
FM Tegshuren Enkhbat $2,525

3½ points, 48th – 54th
WGM Anna Zatonskih $2,400
FM Robby Adamson $2,400
IM Jesse Kraai $2,400
FM Bruci Lopez $2,400
GM Anatoly Lein $2,400
Iryna Zenyuk $2,400
Chouchanick Airapetian $2,400

3 points, 54th – 60th
FM Fabio La Rota $2,200
FM Laura Ross $2,200
WIM Jennifer Shahade $2,200
WIM Anna Hahn $2,200
WFM Anna Levina $2,200
Tatiana Vayserberg $2,200

2½ points, 61st – 63rd
Jake Kleiman $2,200
Vanessa West $2,200
WIM Esther Epstein $2,200

½ point, 64th
WFM Olga Sagalchik $2,200

Here & There

Arcadia Chess Club

The 40-player "Bill Smith Memorial," ending in October, saw Tim McCarron and Larry Stevens tie for first with 5-1. Class prize winners included John Anderson (A), Ryan Young (B), Issa Razaghi (C), and Richard Luchetta (D-E).

In November, the "Istvanyi Memorial" drew 38. Clear first with 5-0 was Tim McCarron, followed at 4-1 by Gregg Fritchle, Larry Stevens, and Mayar Salehpour. Class prizes went to Ryan Yeung (B), Edgar Rodriguez (C), and Carlos Lopez and Lawrence Polk (D-E-U).

The Arcadia Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mondays in the Senior Citizens building, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. For information, call Fred Brock at (626) 331-1638 or Mel Clark at (626) 447-9355.

West Valley Chess Club

The six-round "Dog Days Swiss Tournament," which concluded October 22, attracted 40 players. Tying for first with 5-1 were Arsham Dolmaian and Fereidon Geula. Class prizes went to David Chow (A), Amit Reichman (B), Ruslan Azbekyan (C), Raphael Silva (U1400), and Westyn Mahle (Unrated).

The West Valley Chess Club meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM at the West Valley Jewish Community Center at 22622 Vanowen Street in West Hills. For information, call John Price (818-363-1379, e-mail johnp67544@aol.com) or Duane Cooper (818-999-0837). -- *John Price*

Pasadena Chess Club

Expert Lawrence Stevens placed first overall with a score of 4½-½ in the recently concluded "Crown City Open" at the Pasadena Chess Club. Among the 22 contestants, there was a tie for second place overall/top under 2000 between teenage Expert Jeremy Stein and veteran Neil Hultgren. Class prizes went to Elston He (another teen) for under 1800, and a tie for top under 1600 between Jaime Luna and Bob Burlingame.

Mikhail Chetverukhin, a Class A player, was the outright first place overall winner in the recently concluded "A Rose for Your Queen" tournament held at the Pasadena Chess Club. In a field of 22 players, there was a four-way tie for second overall/first Expert between Lawrence Stevens, Jeremy Stein, Dave Matson and Timothy Thompson. Also winning prizes were Elston He, top Under 1800, and Jaime Luna, top Under 1600. The Pasadena Chess Club meets on Friday nights at 7:00 PM at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles (corner of Del Mar) in Pasadena. The next tournament will be Dr. Richard Lewis Memorial on January 7.

The Pasadena Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to midnight Fridays at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles Ave. in Pasadena. For information, call Raymond Boncato at (626) 568-0431 or Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412. The club has its own web site at www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/8851/pasadena.html. — *Raymond Boncato*

Riverside Senior Championhip

The 2004 Riverside (City) Senior Championship was held on October 23-24. In the four player, three round swiss, Ali Estilai and Steve Morford drew their individual game and tied for first with scores of 2½-½. Steve Morford then won two of three five minute games, in a play off, to gain the title and first place plaque. Steve Morford also directed the event. — *Steve Morford*

Chess Palace 14th Anniversary Tournament

October 22-24

Taking first place in this 42-player tournament was master Eduardo Ortiz with 4½-½. Next at 4-1 came Randy Hough, Show Kitagami, Mehrdad Miralaie, and Joshua Gutman. Class prizes went to Peter Joseph, Anand Kesavaraju, Alfred Ong, and Chito Lat.

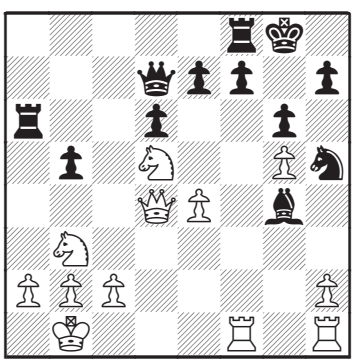
Chess Palace, located at 4336 Katella Ave., is open 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturdays, and 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sundays. In addition to tournament and casual play, they offer a wide selection of chess books and equipment. For further information, call Alfred Ong or Austin Ong at (562) 598-5099. Web site: www.chesspalace.com

Halloween Open
October 31, 2004

This first-time event at the Los Angeles Chess Club in West L.A attracted 32 players, including two IMs. Oddly, a large contingent came up from San Diego, but relatively few from the local area. Prize winners were: **1st:** IM Tim Taylor, 4½-½; **2nd-3rd and U2200:** IM Ganbold Odondoo, Adam Corper, Roger Norman, Ron Bruno, 4-1; **U2000:** James Mahooti, 3½-1½; **U1800:** Chuck Ensey, Zachary Witten, 3-2; **U1600:** Michael Yee, 2-3; **U1400/unrated:** Remigio Pampliega, 3-2.

Roger Norman – IM Tim Taylor
Halloween Open, Los Angeles 2004
B77 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Dragon Variation

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. g4 Ne5 11. Bb3 b5 12. 0–0–0 a5 13. g5 Nh5 14. f4 a4 15. fxe5 axb3 16. Nxb3 Bxe5 17. Kb1 Bg4 18. Rdf1 Qd7 19. Nd5 Ra6 20. Bd4 Bxd4 21. Qxd4



21. ... Be2 22. Rf2 Bc4 23. Nc1 e5 24. Qd2 Bxd5 25. exd5 Rfa8 26. a3 Nf4 27. Na2 Qh3 28. c3 Qf5+ 0–1

West Covina Chess Club

In November, the "King's Indian Summer Swiss," with 23 players, ended in a tie among Thurlo Mishler, Fred Wild, and William Boyer. The West Covina Chess Club meets 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. For information, call Richard Williams at (626) 339-5188.

Exposition Park Chess Club

The monthly free tournament on November 6 saw Kenneth Yeung, Reynaldo Cruz, Jorge Torres, Adnan Chowdhury, and Frank Castellanos win their sections. On December 2, section winners were Lonnie Neal, Bertram Buggs, and Alphonso Boyd. The Exposition Park Chess Club meets at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the Exposition Park Branch Library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles. For information, call the library at (323) 732-0169 or send a message to the club secretary at expochess07@yahoo.com. Website: http://chess.expoparkla.com/

Costa Mesa Octos

Twenty-eight players entered the November 13th Costa Mesa Octo tournament. The top section had eight players with ten in each of the lower sections. In the top section NM Ilia Serpik won with a score of 2½-½. Second place was shared by Mike Zaloznyy and Julian Landaw at 2-1. The second section was won by Ped Bashi with a perfect 3-0 score. Second and third place prize money was split among Ruslan Azbekyan, Kurt Oldenburg and Nisha Deolalikar, all at 2-1. In the bottom section the second perfect 3-0 score was turned in by Julie Timokhina. Second and third was a four way tie among Vincent Huang, Jeffrey O'Malley, Richard Smock and Krishna Kaliannan, all at 2-1.

Twenty-four players showed up for the December 18 Octos. This was perfect for three sections of 8. This is the first Octo that I can remember where all three sections were won with perfect 3-0 scores. It also was the first Octo where every game of every round was decisive -- no draws. In the top section Julian Landaw was clear first. He was very lucky in winning his last two games. Both should have been draws. In his second game his opponent offered him a draw when Julian only had 3 minutes left and his opponent had over 20 minutes in the sudden death part of the game. Julian declined. It got down to where Julian had 1 minute and his opponent 20 minutes. Julian offered a draw and his opponent declined. Well, Julian won on time! Thank God for time delay. Second place was shared between Leo Raterman, Roger Dellaca and Essam Mohamed all at 2-1. The second section was won by Barry Lazarus. Second was a three way tie among Werner Belke, Jason Garfield and Kurt Oldenburg all at 2-1. In the bottom section Richard Martin was clear first. Second place was again a three way tie at 2-1 among Michael Beckham, Michael LaBudda and Krishna Kaliannan.

The next Octo will be January 22nd at the Chess Center. — *Mike Carr*

Newport Masters Round Robin

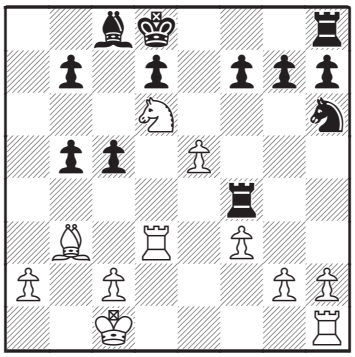
FM Alexandre Kretchetov tied for first with NM Ilia Serpik with 5 points out of 7 in the first Newport Masters round robin tournament, at the Chess Center in Costa Mesa. NM Takashi Iwamoto came clear third with 4½-2½. The 8-player field included FM Mike Casella and NM Eric Chapa,

along with 3 Experts rated over 2100 (Mike Zaloznyy, Leonid Furman and Craig Clawitter).

The tournament was held from October 6th through 17th and was organized by Ilia Serpik and Essam Mohamed. — *Essam Mohamed*

Ilia Serpik (2250) – Mike Zaloznyy (2139)
Newport Masters, Costa Mesa 2004
C45 SCOTCH GAME

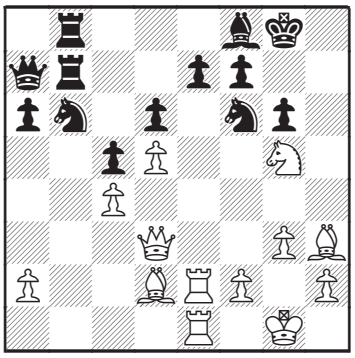
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Be3 Nxd4 6. Bxd4 Bxd4 7. Qxd4 Qf6 8. e5 Qb6 9. Qxb6 axb6 10. Nc3 Ra5 11. Nb5 Kd8 12. 0–0–0 Nh6 13. Bc4 c6 14. b4 Ra4 15. Nd6 Rxb4 16. Rd3 b5 17. Bb3 Rf4 18. f3 c5



19. g3 c4 20. Rc3 Rf5 21. Bxc4 bxc4 22. Rxc4 Ke7 23. Nxc8+ Ke6 24. f4 b5 25. Rc5 Rh5 26. Rd1 Rxc8 27. Rxc8 1–0

Alexandre Kretchetov (2353) – Craig Clawitter (2111)
Newport Masters, Costa Mesa 2004
A50 QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. d5 Bxf3 6. exf3 Ne5 7. f4 Ned7 8. g3 g6 9. Bg2 Bg7 10. 0–0 0–0 11. Be3 Rc8 12. Nb5 a6 13. Nd4 Nb8 14. Bh3 Nfd7 15. Qe2 c5 16. Nf3 Rc7 17. Rab1 Nf6 18. Bd2 Nbd7 19. Rfe1 Qb8 20. Qd3 b5 21. b3 Nb6 22. Re2 Rb7 23. Rbe1 Qa7 24. f5 Rfb8 25. fxg6 hxg6 26. Ng5 bxc4 27. bxc4 Bf8



28. Be6 fxe6 29. Qxg6+ Bg7 30. Nxe6 Ne8 31. Bh6 Nxc4 32. Bxg7 Ne5 33. Bxe5+ Ng7 34. Qxg7# 1–0

Glendale Chess Park Winter Freeze

This new event, held November 20th at the Glendale Chess Park, had 20 players attending. After 4 rounds with some very interesting and strong games, IM Tim Taylor (2394) took first with 4 points after a decisive win over Eduardo Ortiz (2409). Both players had 3 points going into round 4. Ortiz and Paul Clift split the 2nd place prize money with 3 points each. Remigio Pampliega took the best U2100 prize. Mher Mikayelyan took the Best U1800 prize. Haik Muradyan took the Best U1500 prize. Raphael Silva was best U1250.

There will be another 4 round event at the Glendale Chess Park on Saturday, January 8th. Registration is from 10:15 AM to 10:55 AM. Round 1 at 11 a.m. Entry fee is $25 at the site, or you may save $5 and send a $20 dollar check to: Don Silva, P.O. Box 370603, Reseda, CA. 91337. — *Don Silva*

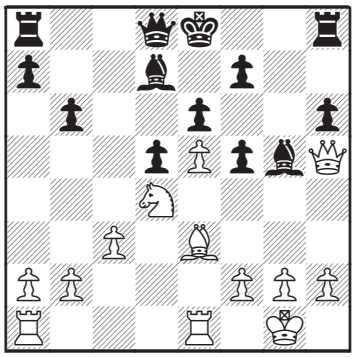
Cardinal Medical Group Championship

This strong tournament at the La Palma Chess Club saw 35 players compete from September through November. Tying for first were Joe Hanley and Louie Rivera with 6-1. Class prizes went to Dane Hinrichsen (X), Chris Roberts (A), and Harold Valery (C, all with 5-2, as well as William Martino and Ernesto Soto (B), and Orlando Guzman James (U1400/unrated). Joe Hanley received the Best Game prize for his win over Dane Hinrichsen. Special thanks to Dr. Harold Valery, for sponsoring the tournament on behalf of the Cardinal Medical Center.

The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St. For information, call Mike Henebry (714) 761-5988, Mike Brady (562) 867-8248, or Leigh Hunt (714) 635-0448. Web site: www.lapalmachess.741.com

Joe Hanley (2219) – Dane Hinrichsen (2000)
Cardinal Medical Group Championship, La Palma 2004
B13 CARO-KANN DEFENSE

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Nf6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Nf3 Be7 8. Nbd2 Bd7 9. 0–0 Nh5 10. Be3 g6 11. Ne5 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Ng7 13. Re1 Nf5 14. Bxf5 gxf5 15. Qh5 h6 16. Nb3 b6 17. Nd4 Bg5?



18. Nxf5! Rh7 [18. ... exf5 19. e6 Bxe6 20. Bxg5 Qxg5 21. Rxe6+ Kf8 22. Qxg5 hxg5 23. Re5] **19. Nd6+ Kf8 20. f4 Bh4 21. Rf1 f5 22. exf6 Bxf6 23. Bd4 Bxd4+ 24. cxd4 Qf6 25. Qe5 Ke7 26. Rac1 Rg7 27. Rc7 h5 28. Rxd7+ 1–0**

AAA Winter Scholastic
December 4, 2004

This scholastic event at the First Lutheran Church in Glendale attracted 89 players. Michael Yee topped the Open (K-12) section with 4½-½. Other section winners included Volodia Muradyan (K-7, 5-0), and Dimitri Chesne (K-5, 4½-½). Harut Keshishian directed.

San Diego Chess Club

In November 48 club members played in the 5 week **Capablanca Open**, along with 7 house players who filled in where needed. In the Open Section, George Zeigler won his first 4 games and drew his last round game to capture First Place. George won games from heavyweights Dimitry Kishinevsky and Ron Bruno along the road to victory. Tied for Second and Third with 4 points were Ed Baluran and John Rinaldo. Best Under 2000 went to Pejman Sagart with 3½; James Malowney, Ramin Sinaee and Ron Soto tied for Best U1900 with 3. Chuck Ensey and Bob Defore tied for BU1800. The Reserve Section was won by Luis Castaneda, who won his first four games and drew in the last round, just like George Zeigler in the Open Section. Second place was won by Fred Borges; Alina Markowski was BU1600, Karen Kaufman BU1500, Anthony Whitt BU1400 and Bradley Ross Best Unrated. In separate match play, NM Bruce Baker defeated NM Robert Richard 4-2. Tom Nelson won the Master/Expert Round Robin that wasn't quite done by the deadline for our last report.

Over the first weekend in November, a new three section, 5 round event, dubbed the **Electoral College Open**, drew a mere 38 players which was a rather low turnout compared to similar events held here in the past. The event was advertised in *Chess Life, Rank & File*, flyers were sent, plenty of notice was given, but the response was still weak. Just what is it that makes players willing to spend a whole weekend at chess? These are the kind of problems chess organizers are continually faced with — risk losing large amounts of money with guaranteed prizes or stay solvent but suffer through patches of low attendance? Offer fast time controls, or very slow ones? Is a one day event preferable to a two or three day?

Cyrus Lakdawala won the Open section with 4½, Bruce Baker was BU2300 with 3½, Dimitry Kishinevsky, Ron Bruno and Rick Aeria were tied for BU2200/Second with 3, while Leonard Sussman won BU2100, also with 3. In the Premier Section (Under 2000), Esteban Escobedo was 1st with 4, Alex Garcia-Betancourt was BU 1900 with 3½, Dennis Succuzzo and John Badger tied for Second Place with 3, Chuck Ensey and Keith Bresee tied for BU1800, also with 3, and Robert Draper also scored 3 to win BU1700. In the Reserve Section, Jerry Kavanau took First Place with 4½, Helmut Keil was Second with 3½, Jesse Orlowski was BU1500 with 3½, Anthony Whitt won BU1400 with 3 and Brennan Lee was the Best Unrated with 2. Jesse Orlowski also won the Biggest Upset Prize (357 points) which was a new digital clock.

The San Diego Chess Club meets on Wednesday nights at 7 PM at 2225 Sixth Avenue in sunny Balboa Park. We are also open everyday for casual play, call (619) 239-7166 for more information or see or website at www.groups.msn.com/sandiegochess.

— *Chuck Ensey*

Santa Monica Bay Chess Club

GM Varuzhan Akobian won 11 games simultaneously at the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club on December 6 for a perfect score against a field that ranged to over 2100. The simul was accompanied by analysis of positions from some of his recent games. The club vows revenge on October 10, 2005.

The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club meets Mondays from 7 to 11 p.m. at 633 Kensington Rd., Santa Monica. For information, call Pete Savino at (310) 827-2789. — *Pete Savino*

Newport Masters G/45

In this five-round, G/45 round robin tournament, held Saturday, December 4 at the Chess Center in Costa Mesa, IM Enrico Sevillano came first with 4½ points and won $250. Second with 4-1 was IM Andranik Matikozyan, winning $200, while expert Craig Clawitter came 3rd with 2½, drawing with FM Ed Ortiz and upsetting NM Ilia Serpik. Lunch and gas expenses were provided by the organizer. Check www.scchess.com for the next tournament. — *Essam Mohamed*

Cesar Chavez Wins Challenge Cup!

When the spectators burst into applause after Kali Navea-Huff's marathon win in the final round, she didn't know why everyone was so excited.

In fact, her victory had capped an unexpected win of the Fall 2004 Champions Challenge Cup for the much improved Cesar Chavez team from Bakersfield. The marquis match-up of the top two rated teams – Thorner (match leaders heading into the final round) and Meadows (the 5-time defending champs) – drew the attention of most, while Cesar faced an uphill battle and a higher-ranked Northpark team. It was the final round of this unique bi-annual match which features the top eight players from the top six elementary school teams from Southern California in a round-robin format.

In retrospect, the scenario was this: If Thorner could get 5½ points

THE WINNING TEAM FROM CESAR CHAVEZ

(out of a possible 8) they would win the Cup. Meadows would need 6½, which seems tough, but a year earlier, they had gone 8-0 against Thorner, so it seemed like a remote possibility. In the end, they split the match, and Cesar Chavez (ranked 4th coming in), dominated Northpark (3rd-ranked), by 6-2, giving them the cup by half a point over Thorner.

Best Board prizes went to: Sean Reader (Meadows, 4½ on Board 1), Jackson Stallings (Mea, 5.0, Bd 2), Sammy Kennedy (Mea, 5, Bd 3), Alexander Pearson (Thorner, 3½, Bd 4), Baylee Wickham (Cesar Chavez, 4, Bd 5), David Gonzales (CC, 4, Bd 6), Alan Roney (Thorn, 5, Bd 7), Geromar Hasta (Thorn, 5, Bd 8).

— Jay Stallings

San Luis Obispo Winter Open

December 11

First place in this 10-player event went to Warren Williamson with 3½-½. Tony Miller took clear second with 3-1, losing to Williamson in the final round. Class prizes went to Kevin Maxwell (U1500), and Jason Mayr and Garrett Hales (unrated). Barbara McCaleb directed.

Holiday Scholastic

This December 18 event at Westwood Charter School attracted forty participants. Tying for first with 3-1 were Volodia Muradyan, Matt Newton, and David Shabsovich. Other section winners included Chad Tanioka, Dimitri Chesne, Dean Tanioka, Russell Miller, Conor Plehn, and Tyler Yeh. John Surlow directed.

Gambito Opens

The November Super Gambito (#198) attracted 29 players in the monthly contest for $600 in prizes. Once again IM Cyrus Lakdawala grabbed the biggest prize for himself, although he barely squeaked by NM Bruce Baker in a Bishops of Opposite Colors ending in the 3rd round. Bruce tied for 2nd with Dimitry Kishinevsky, and also won the Best Game Prize, shown below, with a boa constrictor-like win over Dimitry. In the last round Cyrus beat Carey Milton, who won the Best Under 2200 prize. Tied for Second BU 2200 were Rick Aeria, Ed Baluran, Ron Bruno and Leonard Sussman. Richard Gimeno won the BU 2000 prize by knocking off Experts Lenny Sussman and Ignacio Sainz. Richard has been on fire in all his recent events, and now he has obtained an Expert rating for himself. The Second Best Under 2000 was won by James "The Brilliant" Mahooti. The Reserve Section was won by Richard Jensen, while Priouz Hendi won 2nd Best U1800; James Mitchell was Best U1600, and Aaron Ibarra was 2nd BU 1600.

The Best Game Prize winners:

Dimitry Kishinevsky (2201) – Bruce Baker (2249)
Gambito Open #198, Rd 2, 10/30/04
A20 ENGLISH OPENING

1. c4 e5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 c6 4. Qa4 d6 5. Nc3 Be7 6. e4 0-0 7. Nge2 Nbd7 8. 0-0 Nb6 9. Qb3 Be6 10. d3 d5 11. exd5 cxd5 12. Qc2 dxc4 13. dxc4 Bxc4 14. Bxb7 Bd3 15. Qd1 Rb8 16. Bg2 Qd7 17. b3 Qf5 18. a4 Bc2 19. Qe1 Bxb3 20. Be3 Qd7 21. h3 h6 22. Kh2 Nc4 23. Bc1 Bb4 24. f4 e4 25. Qf2 Rfe8 26. f5 e3 27. Qf4 Qd3 28. Nb5 Qxe2 29. Nd4 Qd3 30. Nc6 Bd6 31. Qf3 Ne5 32. Nxe5 Bxe5 33. Ra3 Bd6 34. Ra1 Bd5 35. Qd1 Qxd1 36. Rxd1 e2 0-1

James Mitchell (1547) – R. Damani Fair (1778)
Gambito Open #198, Rd 2, 10/30/04
B50 SICILIAN DEFENSE

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 e5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. 0-0 a6 7. a3 b5 8. Ba2 0-0 9. Re1 Qc7 10. c4 Bb7 11. Nc3 bxc4 12. Bxc4 Nc6 13. Rc1 Rfc8 14. Ne2 Na5 15. Ba2 Qb616. Rc2 Nb3 17. Rc3 Nd4 18. Nexd4 exd4 19. Rb3 Qa7 20. Qd2 Rab8 21. e5 Bxf3 22. Rxb8 Rxb8 23. exf6 Bxf6? (better was gxf6 24.Qf4 Bh5 25. Bxf6 Bxf6 26. Qxf6 Rf8) 24. Bxf6 Bxg2 Qg5! 1-0

Here's a game from our October Player of the Month at the SDCC, Carey Milton, who has been beating Masters left and right all month. Here he plays a rare positional game against fellow Expert Rick Aeria. Usually Carey's wins are derived strictly from tactics, positional niceties are for lesser creatures:

Carey Milton (2053) – Rick Aeria (2091)
Gambito Open #198, Rd 2, 10/30/04
E90 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. d4 0-0 5. e4 d6 6. h3 c5 7. d5 Na6 8. Be3 e6 9. Qd2 exd5 10. cxd5 Re8 11. Bxa6 bxa6 12. Qc2 Rb8 13. 0-0 Qa5 14. Bf4 Bf8 15. Nd2 Rb4 16. a3 Rb7 17. Nc4 Qd8 18. Rab1 Rd7 19. b4 Qc7 20. b5 axb5 21. Nxb5 Qd8 22. f3 Ba6 23. Qa4 Bxb5 24. Rxb5 Nh5 25. Bh2 Qf6 26. Na5 Bh6 27. Rb3 Rdd8 28. Nc6 Ra8 29. f4 Qh4 30. Rbf3 f5 31. e5 dxe5 32. g3 Qxh3 33. fxe5 Bg7 34. e6 Nf6 35. Qc4 Ng4 36. Qa2 c4 37. Qg2 Qh6 38. Re1 Bf8 39. e7 Bxe7 40. Nxe7+ Rxe7? 41. Rxe7 Qf8 42. Qe2 Rd8 43. Qe6+ Kh8 44. d6 Qh6 45. Re8+ Rxe8 46. Qxe8+ Kg7 47. Qe7+

Kg8 48. Qe2 Nxh2 49. Qxh2 Qc1+ 50. Rf1 Qe3+ 51. Qf2 Qd3 52. Qf4 c3 53. Re1 c2 54. Re8+ Kf7 55. Re7+ Kf6 56. Qh4+ 1-0

The Super Double Gambito in December had 28 players and was a special two day event that we hold once a year with 8 rounds and $2,000 in prizes. The event celebrates four years of continuous Gambito Opens, every Saturday at the SDCC. This was the 202nd Gambito. We have only skipped a few Saturdays in that four year time frame, due to other big weekend events at the club. This year NM Dimitry Kishinevsky won the First Place prize of $300 with a score of 6 points. Cyrus Lakdawala had won in 2003, and Bruce Baker the year before that. This year Cyrus was busy with the US Championship (which hurt our attendance, as many players wanted to watch the famous Grandmasters play in La Jolla) and Bruce was unlucky or slightly off form, losing to both Richard Gimeno and Ron Bruno on the first day, and then Dimitry on the second day. Mariano Lozano scored 5½, and would have won the whole tournament, but he lost to Rick Aeria in the eighth and final round (while Dimitry was losing to Adam Corper!) Bruce and Adam tied for Second & Third with 5 points ($125 each), while Mariano took the BU 2200 ($200). Rick was 2nd BU 2200 with 4½ for $100. There was a 3-way tie for 3rd BU 2200 between Experts Mario Amodeo, Richard Gimeno and Antonio Gonzalez, all with 3½. James Mahooti won $200 for BU 2000 with only 3 points; Chuck Ensey won $100 for 2nd BU2000 with 2½ and Arizonan Daniel Hughan drove back to Yuma not knowing that he won $50, as he withdrew after a Round 6 loss, but he still won 3rd BU 2000 with a mere 2 points! The only other Class A player withdrew after Round 2, so we ended up with a severe shortage of Class A players. Apparently a lot of them were more interested in watching the Chargers beat the Broncos than in playing chess! I can understand that, but why did the biggest Charger game in 10 years have to fall on our Super Double weekend?

In the Reserve Section, the big story was the surprising play of Class C player Phil Gerstoft, who swept to 6 wins in a row, upsetting Class B players with apparent ease. He ended with 6½ for a $200 First Place prize, ahead of Second Place Class B player Esteban Escobedo ($100) by half a point. Third place was won by Art Taylor with 5 points, good for $50. The Best Under 1400 prize of $200 was won by the young, but fast learning Carlos Felipe Martinez, who also scored 5 points. Rob Dolan and Steven Dahl split the Second and Third Place BU 1600 for $75 each by scoring 4 points. Rob also won the Biggest Upset Prize of $50 by beating a player rated 434 points above his 1283 rating.

— Chuck Ensey

2004-2005 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are 2004 Champion IM Konglang Deng, three players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2005 Candidates Tournament.

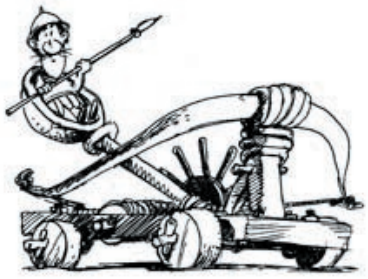
Date	Name	Qualifiers
July 3-5	Pacific Southwest Open	Andranik Matikozyan Francis Chen
July 10-25	State Championship	Jack Peters Tim Taylor Vanessa West Ike Miller Ron Bruno Michael Casella Charles Van Buskirk
July 15-18	Pacific Coast Open	Varuzhan Akobian Melikset Khachiyan Lernik Manukian
August 15	Westwood Open	Brandon Ashe
August 14-15	San Luis Obispo Cty Championship	John Williams Matt Robertson
Sept. 4-6	Southern California Open	Ilia Serpik Gregg Fritchle
Sept. 24-26	Los Angeles Open	Alexandre Kretchetov Zoran Djoric
October 31	Halloween Open	Roger Norman
November 6-7	Electoral College Open	Cyrus Lakdawala Bruce Baker
November 25-28	American Open	Boris Kreiman Jouaquin Banawa Takashi Iwamoto
December 11-12	6th Annual Joseph Ileto Memorial	Ron Hermansen Eduardo Ortiz Christopher Slupik Ryan Richardson
Upcoming		
January 15-17	Western Class Championships	LAX
January 30	Westwood Winter Open	Westwood
March 13	Century West Open	West L.A.
March 25-27	3rd Annual Western Pacific Open	Burbank

Each event qualifies two players (highest scoring Southern California residents not previously qualified) except that 1) In the event of a tie, all tied players will advance; 2) A score of 60% is required to qualify; 3) The SCCF Amateur, SCCF High School and any one-day event will each have *one* qualifying spot; and 4) All one-day tournaments shall require a 75% score and only *one* player shall qualify on tiebreak.

Donations Needed

The SCCF needs *your* help for the 2005 State Championship. Send contributions to: **SCCF, P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.**

Games From Recent Events



Attacking chess Tal style

by GM Boris Kreiman

This was a very original attack in Tal style. I think the sac was incorrect, but it was very difficult to defend as Black during the game.

Kreiman (2550) – Vigorito (2380)
Far West Open, Reno 2004
C67 RUY LOPEZ, Berlin Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. 0–0 Nxe4 5. Re1!?

The more usual continuation is 5. d4.

5. ... Nd6!?

This should equalize. Instead, 5. ... Nf6? 6. Nxe5 Be7 7. d4 0–0 8. Nc3 is slightly better for White.

6. Nxe5 Be7

This gives White more options than 6. ... Nxe5!? 7. Rxe5+ (7. d4 Be7 8. dxe5 Nxb5 9. a4 d6=) 7. ... Be7 8. Nc3 (8. d4 Nxb5=; 8. Bd3 0–0 transposes to the game; 8. Bf1 0–0=) 8. ... 0–0! 9. Nd5 Bf6=. An example of the dangers facing Black may be found in the variation 8. ... Nxb5? *(instead of 8. 0-0)* 9. Nd5 Kf8 and: *a)* 9. ... 0–0 10. Nxe7+ Kh8 11. Qh5 g6 *(or 11. ... h6 12. d4 Kh7* [12. ... d6 13. Bxh6 g6 14. Bxf8 wins] *13. Nf5!+-)* 12. Qh6 Re8 *(12. ... f6 13. Nxg6+ winning)* 13. Rh5+-; *b)* 9. ... d6 10. Rxe7+ Kf8 11. Qf3 f6 12. Qh5 wins; *c)* 9. ... Nd4 10. Rxe7+ Kf8 11. Qh5; *d)* 9. ... Nd6 10. Nxe7 d6 11. Rxb5 Qxe7 12. Rb4 *(better than 12. Rb3 Bg4 13. f3 Bf5 14. Re3 Qf6 15. Rb1 h5 16. b3 h4 17. Bb2 Qg5 18. Qe2 Rh6 19. Re1 Bd7 20. Re4 a5 21. a4 Re6 22. Rxe6 Bxe6 23. Qe3 Qxe3+ 24. Rxe3 Bf5 25. d3 f6 ½–½, as in Valenti-Lanzani, Milan ITA 2004),* with some advantage to White.

7. Bd3!?

This very playable move creates problems for Black, but should equalize with correct play. Alternatives are *7. Bf1* (probably best try for White), *7. Qh5*, *7. Ba4*, *7. Nc3 Nxb5 8. Nd5?* (8. Nxb5=) *8. ... Nbd4 9. Nxc6 Nxc6 10. b4 d6 11. b5 Be6* and Black wins, *7. Bxc6 dxc6 8. Qe2 Be6 (*8. ... 0–0? 9. Nxc6! bxc6 10. Qxe7 Re8 11. Qxd8; 8. ... Nf5 9. Nf3 0–0=), and *7. Nxc6 dxc6,* with equality.

7. ... Nxe5!?

This gives White fewer options than 7. ... 0–0!? (probably equal), or 7. ... Nb4? 8. Qg4 *(8. Bf1!?±)* 8. ... Nxd3 9. Qxg7 Nxe1 10. Qxh8+ Bf8 11. d4 Nxc2 12. Bh6 Qe7 13. Nc3 c6 14. Rc1 Nf5 15. Rxc2 Nxh6 16. Re2 d5 17. Nxf7 Nxf7 18. Rxe7+ Kxe7 19. Qxh7 Be6 20. Qg6±.

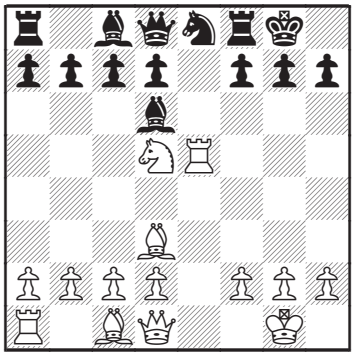
8. Rxe5 0–0 9. Nc3!?

Other moves lead only to equality: 9. Qh5 g6 10. Qf3 *(10. Qh6 Bf6 11. Re2 Bg5 12. Qh3 Ne8=)*; 9. c3 Ne8 10. Bc2 d5; 9. Rh5 f5! 10. Qf3 g6 11. Rh3 Ne4! and Black is even a little better; 9. Qf3 Bf6 10. Re3 Bd4 11. Re2 Re8 12. c3 Bf6 13. Bc2 b6 14. d4 Bb7; 9. Qe2 Bf6 10. Re3 Bg5.

9. ... Ne8!? 10. Nd5

Other tries which offer White little are 10. b3 d6 11. Re1 *(11. Re3 Nf6 12. Ba3 Re8 13. h3 Be6 1/2–1/2 was Gufeld,E-Kavalek,L, Helsinki 1961)* 11. ... Nf6 12. Qf3 d5 *(12. ... c6 13. h3 Be6 14. Bb2 Nd7 15. Ne4 Ne5 16. Qg3 f6 17. Bf1 Bf5 18. d4 Ng6 19. d5 c5 20. Qc3 Rf7 21. Ng3 Bd7 22. Bd3 Qc8 23. Qd2 b5 24. c4 bxc4 25. Bxc4 a5 1/2–1/2 was also led to a draw in Kavalek,L-Filip,M, Kosice 1961)* 13. Bb2 c6 14. h3 Re8 15. Ne2 Nd7 16. Ng3 Bf6 17. Bxf6 Nxf6 18. Nh5 Nxh5 19. Qxh5 h6, and 10. Re1 Nf6 11. b3 d5.

10. ... Bd6!?



Another reasonable defense is 10. ... Bf6 11. Nxf6+ *(11. Qh5 g6 12. Nxf6+ Qxf6 13. Qe2 Ng7 14. c3 d6 15. Re3 d5=)* 11. ... Nxf6 12. b3 d6 13. Re1 Bg4 14. f3 Be6 15. Bb2, with a small advantage for White.

11. Rh5!?

This idea doesn't work tactically, but it's about the only way to continue the attack — 11. Re3 c6 (*11. ... Nf6 12. Qf3 Nxd5 13. Qxd5 Qf6 14. Qe4 g6 15. Bc4 Bc5 16. Rf3 Qd4 17. d3 Qxe4 18. dxe4 Kg7 19. Be3 Bxe3 20. Rxe3 d6 21. e5 dxe5 22. Rxe5 Bf5 23. Re7 gives White a tiny edge)* 12. Bxh7+ *(12. Rh3 g6 13. Ne3 Be5=)* 12. ... Kxh7 13. Qh5+ Kg8 14. Rh3 f5 is clearly better for Black, and 11. Re1!? c6 12. Ne3 Bc7 13. Nf5 d5

14. Ne7+ Kh8 15. Nxc8 Rxc8 16. b3 Qf6 *(16. ... Qg5 17. Qf3 Nd6 18. Bb2 Qxd2? 19. Re3±)* 17. Ba3 Bd6 is equal.

11. ... g6

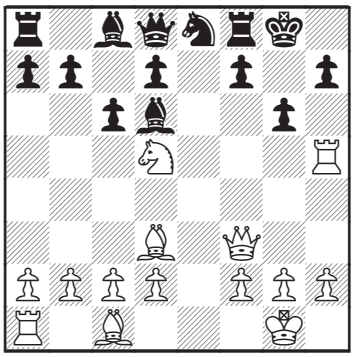
Of course not 11. ... h6 12. Qf3, with the threat of 13. Qf5.

12. Qf3?!

Cowboy chess — and the result is similar to slot machine winnings. With this move, White prevents 12. … Nf6, which would be the answer to 12. b3. Objectively better was 12. Rh3!, which gives white equality, but no chance for an attack after 12. ... c6 13. Ne3 Nf6 14. Rf3 Bc7 15. b3 d5 16. Bb2 d4.

12. ... c6!

A wild position! White has two pieces hanging, yet he takes time to develop the Bishop.



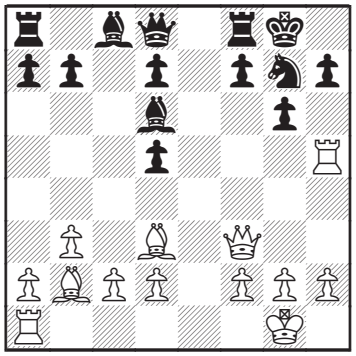
13. b3! cxd5!

Best; after 13. ... f5? 14. Bb2 Rf7, White breaks through with 15. Bc4 gxh5 16. Qc3 Ng7 17. Ne7+ Kh8 18. Bxf7 Qf8 19. Nxf5 Qxf7 20. Nxd6 Qe7 21. d3, winning.

14. Bb2 Ng7?

Correct was the spectacular defense 14. ... Qe7!, fighting to take back the b2-h8 diagonal. Then on 15. Rxd5 *(15. Rxh7 Be5! 16. Bxg6 Bxb2–+)* 15. ... Ba3! *(15. ... h6 is also not bad)* 16. Re5 Qd6 17. Rd5 *(17. Bc3 Nc7 18. Rae1 Bb4 19. Bb2 Qc6 20. Qh3 Bxd2 21. R1e4 d5–+)* 17. ... Bxb2 18. Rxd6 Bxa1 19. Rd5 Nc7 20. Rc5 Ne6 21. Ra5 Bg7, and Black is better!

Note that the other try, 14. ... Be7? loses in a manner similar to the game, after 15. Bxg6 fxg6 16. Qxd5+ Rf7 17. Rxh7 Kxh7 18. Qxf7+ Kh6 19. Re1 Bf6 20. Re3 d5 21. Rxe8 Qxe8 22. Qxe8 Bxb2 23. c3+-.



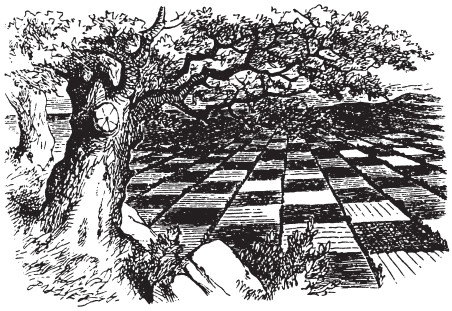
15. Rxh7! Kxh7 16. Qh3+ Kg8

Or 16. ... Nh5 17. Qxh5+.

17. Qh6 d4 18. Bxd4 f6 19. Bxg6 Rf7 20. Qh7+ Kf8 21. Re1!

Cutting off the Black King's escape.

21. ... Be5 22. Bxe5 fxe5 23. Rxe5 1–0



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office: 1-877-257-0031
cell: 1-917-257-5403

Upcoming Events

January 14-17

Western Class Championships. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/50), Los Angeles Airport Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles 90045. $15,000 prize fund, all unconditionally guaranteed. **In 7 sections. Master** (over 2199): $1400-700-400-200, clear winner bonus $100, top U2300 $500. If tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game for title & bonus prize. FIDE. **Expert** (2000-2199): $1200-600-400-200. **Class A** (1800-1999): $1200-600-400-200. **Class B** (1600-1799): $1000-500-300-200. **Class C** (1400-1599): $1000-500-300-200. **Class D** (1200-1399): $800-400-200-100. **Class E** (Under 1200): $700-400-200-100. Rated players may play up one section. Unrated must play in A or below with maximum prize A $500, B $400, C $300, D $200, E $100; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **4-day EF**, if mailed by 1/6: Master, Expert or A $109, B or C $89, D or E $69. **3-day EF,** if mailed by 1/6: Master, Expert or A $108, B or C $88, D or E $68. **2-day EF,** if mailed by 1/6: Master, Expert or A $107, B or C $87, D or E $67. All online at chesstour.com by 1/12: Master, Expert or A $106, B or C $86, D or E $66. All phoned by 1/12 (406-896-2038, entry only, no questions): Master, Expert or A $110, B or C $90, D or E $70. All at site: Master, Expert or A $130, B or C $110, D or E $90. Special EF: All $30 less to unrated. Re-entry (except Master) $50. Advance EF $10 less if paid with $49 USCF dues. SCCF memb. ($14, jrs $9) required for rated Southern CA residents. Advance EF minus $5 service charge refunded for withdrawals who give notice at least 1 hour before rd 1 (no service charge if fee applied to future CCA tmts). **4-day schedule: Reg.** Fri to 6 p.m., **rds** Fri 7, Sat 6, Sun 11-6, Mon 10-4:15. **3-day schedule: Reg.** Sat to 10 a.m., **rds** Sat 11-6, Sun 11-6, Mon 10-4:15. **2-day schedule: Reg** Sun to 9 a.m., **rds** Sun 10-12:30-3-6, Mon 10-4:15. All schedules: Bye all, limit 2, rd 4-6 byes must commit before rd 3. **HR**: $89-89-89-89, 310-410-4000, reserve by 1/7 or rate may increase. **Parking** $6/day. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Questions: 845-496-9658 or 845-234-0386. **Ent**: Continental Chess, c/o Goichberg, Box 661776, Arcadia CA 91066. **GP: 60. State Championship Qualifier.**

January 22

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. The Chess Center, 2651 Irvine Ave., Suite #122, Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $20 advance, $25 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Michael Carr, 25601 Chrisanta Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. (949) 768-3538. NS, NC.

January 22

Joshua Tree Winter Open. 5-SS, G/45. Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252. $$Top 2 Gtd., other prizes b/30. Open: $200-100. Class A: $75, $50, Class B: $75, $50, Class C: $60, $40, under 1400: $60, $40, UNR: trophy. **EF**: $35. **Reg**: 8-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11:30-2:00-3:45-5:30. **Ent**: Mark Muller, PO Box 502, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277. (760) 367-2311. muller29@adelphia.net. W. No time delay allowed. **GP: 6**

January 30

Westwood Winter Open. 5-SS, G/40. Doubletree Hotel, 10740 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90024. **$$1500G**, prize fund increased proportionately if over 64 players. $400-200, Expert 150, U2000 150, U1800 $150, U1600 $125, Under 1400 $125, U1200 $100, Unrated $100 (unr. eligible for 1st-2nd & unr. prizes only). Entry fee: $46 if received by 1-28, $55 at site; all $5 less to unrated. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. SCCF membership ($14, under 18 $9) req. for rated S. CA residents. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: Limit 1, must be req. w/entry. **Reg:** 8:45-9:30 a.m. **Rds:** 10, 12, 1:45, 3:30, 5:30. **HR:** $99, 1-800-222-TREE. **Inf:** admin@westernchess.com. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. **GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.**

February 5-6

Western States Single Grade Scholastic Championships. 6-SS, G/60. Marriott San Diego/Mission Valley, 8757 Rio San Diego Dr., San Diego CA 92108. Open to Gr. 12/below. **13 sections.** $$Trophies to top 15 in each of K-8, top 10 in 9-12, top 5 teams in each of K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12. **Rds**: Sat. 10-1-3:30-5, Sun. 10-1. **EF**: $35 if received by 1-31, $55 later. **HR**: $110 1-4. (619) 692-3800, reserve early, mention chess. **Inf**: Jay Stallings (661) 288-1705, www.chess4children.com, www.aaachessclub.com. **Ent**: AAA Chess Club, re: 2005 Western States, 5317 Virginia Ave., Los Angeles CA 90029

February 12

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. The Chess Center, 2651 Irvine Ave., Suite #122, Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $20 advance, $25 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federa-

tion members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Michael Carr, 25601 Chrisanta Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. (949) 768-3538. NS, NC.

February 12

Groundhog Day Delight. 4-SS, G/30. Glendale Chesss Park, 227 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale. $$500 b/22. Breakdown depends on number of sections. (Will be broken into 2 sections by rating if over 30.) **Reg**: 10-10:50 a.m. **Rd. 1:** 11 a.m. Bring sets and clocks, none supplied. Pizza $1/slice. Free hot cocoa! SCCF membership req. of rated S. CA. residents ($14 adult, $9 junior). **EF**: $20 adv., $25 at site. **Ent**: Don Silva, P.O. Box 37603, Reseda, CA 91337, tel. (818) 601-8407.

February 18

USATW Quick Chess Championship. 5-double SS, G/10. Norwalk Marriott Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Drive Norwalk, California 90650. Quick Chess rated. $$500 b/40, else proportional**:** $$200-100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr each $50. **EF:** $21 if received by 2-17, $25 door. **Reg:** 6-7 p.m. **Rds** 7:15-8-8:45-9:30-10:15. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, on line at www.westernchess.com.

February 19-21

22nd Annual U.S. Amateur Team West. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1. Norwalk Marriott Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Drive Norwalk, California 90650. Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200, rating difference between third and fourth player cannot exceed 1000 points. Dec. list used. **EF**: $108 per team if received by 2-17, $27 individual (on line only), $128 at site, under age 18 $80 by 2-17, $100 site. Trophies and 4 clocks to top 3 teams, U2100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr. Trophies (one large, four small) to top college, industrial (if at least 3 teams), junior (U18). Clocks to best score each board and alternate and any 6-0. Gift certificate prizes for two best team names. **Reg**. 8-10 a.m. 2-19. **Rds**. 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30. **On-line entries, help in forming teams, advance entry list**: www.westernchess.com/atw05/atw05.html. **HR**: $69, 562-863-5555, mention chess. Reserve by Feb. 5 or rates may go up. Free parking. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS, NC, W. FIDE.

February 20

8th Annual Southern California Scholastic Amateur Team. 4-SS, SD/45, Norwalk Marriott Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Drive Norwalk, California 90650. Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200. (Dec. 2004 rating list used.) **EF:** $64 per team received by 2/17, $80 at site. Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U600. **Reg.** 9:00-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:30-1-2:45-4:30. **Info, help in forming teams:** Jay Stallings, (661) 288-1705, coachjay@cycl.org **Web site, advance entry list**: www.westernchess.com/atw05/scholtm.html. **HR:** $69, 562-863-5555, mention chess. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS, NC, W.

February 21

USATW Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. Norwalk Marriott Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Drive Norwalk, California 90650. Six-player sections by rating. **EF:** $20 if rec. by 2-17, $25 door. $$40-20-10 each section. **Reg:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Rds** 10:45-2-5. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, on line at www.westernchess.com

February. 26

Joshua Tree Winter Open. 5-SS, G/45. Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252. $$Top 2 Gtd., other prizes b/30. Open: $200-100. Class A: $75, $50, Class B: $75, $50, Class C: $60, $40, under 1400: $60, $40, UNR: trophy. **EF**: $35. **Reg**: 8-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11:30-2:00-3:45-5:30. **Ent**: Mark Muller, PO Box 502, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277. (760) 367-2311. muller29@adelphia.net. W. No time delay allowed. **GP: 6**

February 28-April 11

SMBCC Club Championship. 8-SS, 30/1:25 and G/30. Santa Monica Bay Chess Club, Joslyn Park, Joslyn Park Community Ctr., 633 Kensington Rd. 5 blocks south of Pico Blvd. 2 blocks west of Lincoln Blvd. **$1000 Prize fund:** $300-$200-$100, plus two $25 Best Game Prizes. **EF**: $25 (with $40 yearly club membership). **Reg**: 7-7:30 p.m. **Rds**: 7:10-11 p.m., Monday nights. **Info**: Pete Savino (310) 827-2789.

March 12

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. The Chess Center, 2651 Irvine Ave., Suite #122, Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $20 advance, $25 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Michael Carr, 25601 Chrisanta Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. (949) 768-3538. NS, NC.

March 13

2nd Annual Century West Open. 5-SS, G/40. Los Angeles Chess Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. $$1000 b/48, 75% of each prize guaranteed: $300-150-50, U2200 100, U2000 100, U1800 100, U1600 100, U1400/Unr 100. Complimentary refreshments **All**: SCCF membership required ($14 reg, $9 jr.), OSA. **EF**: $34 if received by 3/11, $43 at door. **On-line entry**: www.westernchess.com. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: Limit 1, must be requested with entry. **Reg**: 8:45-9:30 a.m. Rds: 10, 11:45, 1:30, 3:30, 5:15. **Inf**: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. **GP: 6. State Championship Qualifier**

March 25-27

3rd Annual Western Pacific Open. 5-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-2 G/75 then merges. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). $$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. **In 3 sections: Open:** 1600-1000-800-400-200 plus $200(G) bonus for clear first, U2400 300, U2300 200, U2200 700-500-300. **EF:** $81 if received by 3/23, $95 door. **Premier** (U2000): $$ 700-500-300-100, U1800 400-200-150, U1600 400-200-150. **EF:** $81 if received by 3/23, $95 door, no unrated. **Amateur** (U1400): $$400+trophy-200-100, U1200 100+trophy, Unr 100+trophy, unrated may win unrated prize only. **EF:** $66 if received by 3/23, $75 door. **On-line entry**: www.westernchess.com. No checks or credit card entries at door. **All:** $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. One half-point bye if requested with entry, rds 4-5 cannot be revoked. SCCF membership req. of S. Cal. res., $14 reg, $9.00 junior. **Reg:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. 3/25, 8:30-10 a.m. 3/26. Rds: 3-day 7 p.m., 11-5:30, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10:30-1:30 (G/75), then merges. **HR:** $89, (818) 843-6000 or (800) 840-6450. Be sure to mention Western Chess. **Parking** $7/day. **Inf:** admin@westernchess.com. **Web site:** www.westernchess.com. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS. NC. F. **GP: 40. State Championship Qualifier.**

March 27

Western Pacific Hexes. 3-RR, G/90. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). 6-player sections by rating. $$40-20-10 each section. **EF**: $20 if received by 3-23, $25 door. **Reg**: 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Rds** 10:45-2-5. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com

March 27

Western Pacific Scholastics. 5-SS, SD/45. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). Open to gr. 12-below. **In two sections: Open**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds** 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if received by 3-23, $20 door. **Inf**: John Hillery, admin@westernchess.com. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

Solutions to Chess Quiz

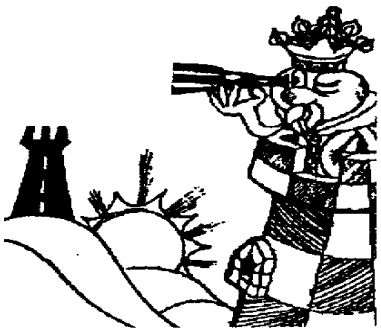
(see page 28)

Miszto - Kloza, Poland, 1955: White wins with an unusual version of the *windmill* after **1. Qh7+ Kxh7 2. Rxg7+ Kh8 3. Rg8+ Kh7 4. R1g7+ Kh6 5. Rg6+ Kh7 6. R8g7+ Kh8 7. Rh6# 1–0.**

Bergez- Gicquel, Fouesnant 1998: Always beware of the *undefended piece*!. White converts his *pinned* Rook to a powerful *discoverer* with **1. Bxf7+ Kxf7 2. Rd7+ Nxd7 3. Rxd7+ Kf6** (or 3. ...Qe7 4. Rxe7+ Bxe7 5. Qc4+ Ke8 6. Na5 trapping another piece) **4. d6+ Kxf5 5. h3+ Kf4 6. Qh2+ 1–0,** for if 6. … Kf5 7. Nd4+.

Mouradian - Ben Khaled, Dubai, 2004: Both Kings are exposed, but White strikes first with the *clearance* sacrifice **1. Re7+ Bxe7 2. Bd4+ Bf6 3. Bxf6+ Kf7 4. Qh7+ Kf8 5. Qe7+ Kg8 6. Qg7# 1–0.**

WESTWOOD WINTER OPEN



Sunday, January 30

Doubletree Hotel
10740 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024

5-SS, G/40

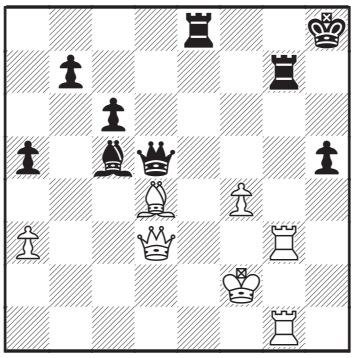
$1500 prize fund!

(Prize fund increased proportionately if over 64 players)

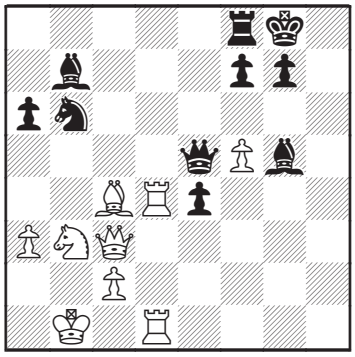
1st: $400	2nd: $200
Expert: $150	Under 1600 $125
Under 2000 $150	Under 1400 $125
U1800: $150	Under 1200 $100
	Unrated $100

- **Registration:** 8:45-9:30 a.m.
- **Rounds:** 10-12-1:45-3:30-5:30
- **Entry fee:** $46 if received by 1-28, $55 at site; all $5 less to unrated. On-line entries: www.westernchess.com
- **Half point byes:** Limit 1, must be requested with entry.
- **SCCF membership** ($14, under 18 $9) req. for rated S. CA residents
- **HR:** $99, 1-800-222-TREE. **Parking** $6.
- **Entries:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038

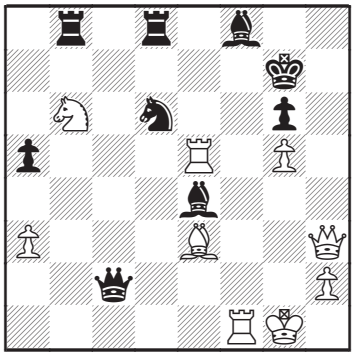
GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier



Miszto - Kloza
Poland, 1955
White to move



Bergez - Gicquel
Fouesnant, 1998
White to move



Mouradian - Ben Khaled
Dubai, 2004
White to move

Solutions on page 27

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754