Rank & File

January-February 2006 Volume XXIX, No. 1 $3.00

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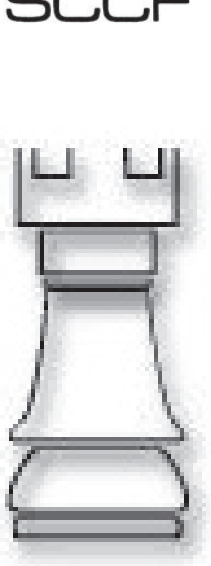

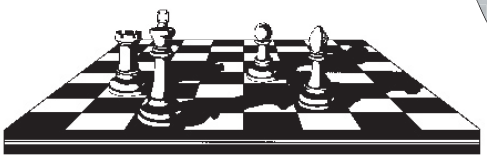

IM Vladimir Mezentsev

41st Annual

American Open

23rd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

February 18-20, 2006

Marina San Pedro, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA 90731

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. *(Diference betrween boards 3 and 4 may noi exceed 1000 points)*

Entry fee: : $116 per team if received by 2/16,
$136 at site,
Under age 18 $84/$104

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

Trophies to top college, industrial (if at least 3 teams), Junior (under 18), Senior (over 55), U1200.

Clocks to best score each board and alternate. **Gift certificate prizes** for best team names (1st & 2nd).

Registration 8-10 a.m. 2/18 **Rounds** 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30
Hotel rate: $89, (310) 514-3344, mention chess.
Reserve by Feb. 1 or rates may go up.

Free parking!

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

Entries: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754

9TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOLASTIC AMATEUR TEAM

4-SS, SD/45

Marina San Pedro Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA 90731

Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200
Dec. 2005 rating list used, Feb. 2006 used for previously unrated players

Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U400/unr.

Full details on p. 23

Around the Nation

K-12/Collegiate Championship

The USCF held its 2005 K12/Collegiate Chess Championship at the Hilton Americas & George E. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas December 2-4.

A total of 1575 players, representing 40 states, participated. The main event offered individual and team championships for each grade level (Kindergarten – College) with participants competing for national title and trophies.

Individual winners:
Kindergarten: Co-winners Dachey Lin (TX), Raymond Sun (TX) and Ian P. Gilchrist (IL) tied with 6 scores.
1st Grade: Christopher Wu (NJ) 7.
2nd Grade: Michael D. Baldyga (NV) 6.
3rd Grade: Darwin Yang (TX) 7.
4th Grade: Daniel A. Naroditsky (CA) 7.
5th Grade: Ray S. Robson (FL) and Lucas Van Beuzekom (FL) 6½.
6th Grade: Michael Lee (WA) 7.
7th Grade: Mark A. Heimann (PA) 6½.
8th Grade: Kevin A. Wang (TX), Thomas Henry Riccardi (NY), Richard E. Herbst (CO) and Grand D. Ho (FL) 6.
9th Grade: Robert M. Lau (HI) and Troy Daly (FL) 6.
10th Grade: Daniel J. Ludwig (FL) 6½.
11th Grade: Christopher Williams (MA), Francisco Guadalupe (TX) and Eric S. Dong (TX), 6.
12th Grade: Atakan Sirin (KS), 6½.
Collegiate: GM Timur Gareev, (TX), 7.

Team Division Winners:
Kindergarten: Americo Paredes of Brownsville, TX
1st Grade: T. H. Rogers of Houston, TX
2nd Grade: Dalton of New York, NY
3rd Grade: T. H. Rogers of Houston, TX
4th Grade: The Village School, Houston, TX
5th Grade: Tampa Palms Elementary, Tampa, FL
6th Grade: Hunter College Campus School, NYC
7th Grade: Hunter College Campus School, NYC
8th Grade: I.S. 318 from Brooklyn, NY
9th Grade: Saratoga H.S. from CA
10th Grade: Catalina Foothills H.S. from Tucson, AZ
11th Grade: Clear Lake High from Houston, TX
12th Grade: Gulliver School of Miami, FL
Collegiate: University of Texas at Brownsville

Jerry Yee reports that top Southern California performers included Danil Fedunov (3rd grade) 8th place, Eric Zhang (4th grade) 6th place, Brendyn Estolas (4th grade) 20th place, Michael Yee (6th grade) 9th place, Christian Tanaka (6th grade) 8th place, Vincent Huang (6th grade) 6th place, Derek Tan (10th grade) 2nd place, and Jared Tan (8th grade) 13th place. The results were a mild disappointments for Christian Tanaka and Michael Yee, as they missed an opportunity to win their last two games which would have given them the co-national 6th grade title. Overall, Southern California players did quite well, as six finished in the top ten of their sections, three in the 6th grade section alone. – *USCF news release*

2005 Armed Forces Open

This event was held at the McGill Training Center on Ft. Meade, Maryland, from October 8 to 10, and was co-sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton Corporation and U.S. Chess Federation. There were sixty-

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three entries, including teams from the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and US Coast Guard Academy.

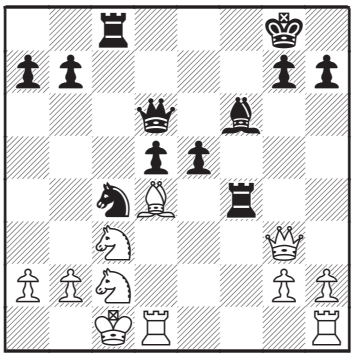
The Champion, with a score of 5-0, was David Jacobs, a cadet from the U.S. Military Academy. Tied for 2nd-3rd at 4½ were Ieva Kuzminaite of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Geoffrey Polizoti, a just graduated Navy corpsman who has orders to duty with the U.S. Marine Corp. The U.S. Army won the service competition at 22½, with the Navy and Air force tied at 21½. The U.S. Military Academy won the Commander in Chief trophy for the top Academy team. – *USCF news release*

National Chess Congress

The 2005 National Chess Congress (to refer to it as the "36th Annual" is to run some risk of terminological inexactitude), held November 25-27 at the Philadelphia Wyndham Hotel, had a good turnout of 546 (though some of these were in low-rated sections which were essentially scholastic side events). Taking first place in the 77-player top section were GMs GMs Ildar Ibragimov, Alexander Goldin, Jaan Ehlvest with 5-1. All three were undefeated. Goldin and Emory Tate earned qualifying spots for the U.S. Championship. Bill Goichberg directed for the Continental Chess Association.

Lein (2354) - Agaian (2180)
National Chess Congress, Philadelphia 2005
B52 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Moscow Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. c4 Nc6 6. d4 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Nf6 8. f3 e6 9. Nc3 Be7 10. Be3 Ne5 11. Qe2 d5 12. cxd5 exd5 13. f4 Nc4 14. e5 Ng4 15. Bg1 0–0 16. 0–0–0 Rac8 17. e6 Qd6 18. Nc2 fxe6 19. Qxg4 Rxf4 20. Qg3 Bf6 21. Bd4 e5



22. Be3 Nxb2 23. Rxd5 Qc6 24. Bd2 Na4 25. Qd3 Nxc3 26. Bxc3 Rc4 27. Bb2 Rxc2+ 28. Kb1 Rxb2+ 29. Kxb2 e4+ 0–1

Time to Team

The Amateur Team West is back! The 23rd Annual edition of the USATW will be held February 18-20 at the beautiful Marina San Pedro Hotel. With 4-player teams with an average rating under 2200, this unique event offers trophies, clocks and camaraderie for all! See page 23 for full details, or go to *www.westernchess.com*. Don't be left out — start planning now for the *only* team event of the year!

Photos: Cover, pp. 6, 7, 8: John Hillery. P. 15: Roel Sanchez. P. 19: Al Pena.

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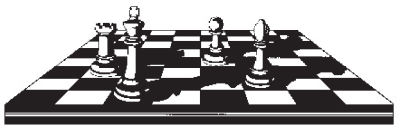
41st Annual American Open



Forty-one years is a long run for any chess tournament. The American Open has had its fat and lean years, but it's still going strong, and this year's version, held at the LAX Renaissance Hotel November 24-27, was the largest tournament of 2005, with 241 players in six sections.

IM Vladimir Mezentsev first place and the Championship trophy with 6½-1½. After a second-round upset by Joel Banawa, he defeated Garush Manukyan and IM Tim Taylor before drawing in the final round with GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz.

Next at 6-2 were IM Levon Altounian, IM Jesse Kraai, GM Boris Kreiman, IM Andranik Matikozyan, GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz and GM Alex Yermolinsky. Henrik Pashayan scored 5½-2½ to earn the expert prize. Yermolinsky and Kreiman earend the two qualifying spots for the U.S. Championship, to be held in San Diego next March.

The accompanying scholastic tournament also attracted an excellent turnout of 114 players. Scott Donchak and Shingo Kihira tied for first place with 4-1 in the K-12 section. Albert Young led grades K-8 with 5-0, Rex Xu scored 5-0 in K-6, and Liam Fairweather won the K-3 section with 5-0. Randy Hough and Elie Hsiao drected.

IM Andranik Matikozyan (2563) – Allan Pleasants (2188)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B06 MODERN DEFENSE

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

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6

The Modern Defense.

4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. Nge2 Nd7 7. 0-0 e6

Not 7. … Ngf6? 8. e5! Bxg2 9. exf6 Bxf1 10. fxg7.

8. Be3 Ne7

Black adopts an odd formation, sometimes called the Hippopotamus.

9. Qd2 h6

Fearing 9. … 0-0 10. Bh6, but now Black will have difficulty castling.

10. a4 a5 11 h3 Nf8

Ugly, but 11…. c5 12 Nb5 is worse.

12. f4 f5 13. Rae1

Both 13. d5 and 13. exf5 favor White too.

13. … d5 14. e5

The closed center shields Black's King, but White intends g3-g4xf5 to open a file for attack.

14. … c6 15. b3 Nd7 16. g4 Ba6 17. Rf3 Qc7 18. Bf2 b5 19. Ng3 b4

Black gets nowhere with 19. … Nb6 20. Ra1. Maybe 19. ... Bf8 20. gxf5 Nxf5 puts up more resistance.

20. Nce2 c5?

Bad timing in a poor position.

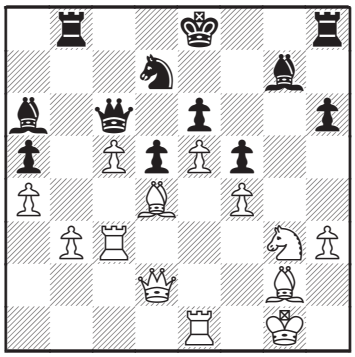
21. c3!

Inviting 21. … cxd4 22. Nxd4, when b4 and e6 hang.

21. … Rb8 22. dxc5 bxc3

Ceding a pawn, as 22. … Nxc5 loses to 23. cxb4 (threatening 24. Rc1) Ne4 24. Nxe4 fxe4 25. Rc3.

23. Rxc3 Nc6 24. Nd4 Nxd4 25. Bxd4 Qc6 26. gxf5 gxf5



27. Nxf5!

Quickest.

27. … exf5 28. Rg3

More direct is 28. e6 Nf6 29. Rg3 Kf8 30. Qc3, recovering material advantageously.

28. … Rh7

If 28. …Kf8, not 29. e6? Bxd4+ 30. Qxd4 Qxc5, but 29. Qc2 Qe6 30. c6 Nb6? 31. Bxb6 Rxb6 32. Qc5+.

29. e6 Nxc5

Avoiding the X-ray 29. … Nf6 30. Bxf6 Bxf6 31. Rg8+. More complicated, but still hopeless for Black, is 29. … Bxd4+ 30. Qxd4 Nf8 31. e7! Ne6 32. Rg8+ Kf7 33. Rxb8 Nxd4

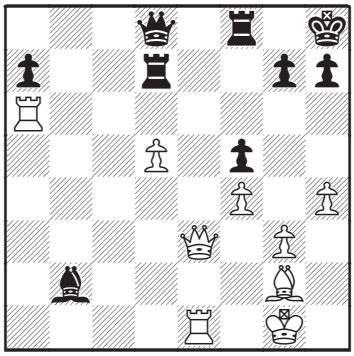
34. e8Q+ Qxe8 35. Rbxe8.

30. Bxg7 Ne4 31. Bxe4 dxe4 32. Be5 Rc8 33. Bd6, Black Resigns.

As 33. … Rh8 34. Qd4 is deadly.

IM Vladimir Mezentsev (2534) – Garush Manukyan (2402)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B10 CARO-KANN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

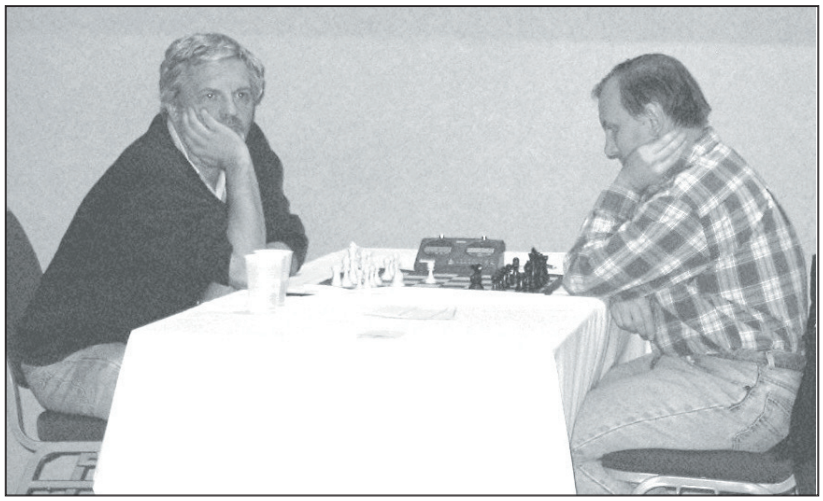
1. e4 c6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. Ngf3 Bg4 5. h3 Bxf3 6. Qxf3 e6 7. g3 Nbd7 8. Bg2 Be7 9. 0–0 0–0 10. Qe2 Qc7 11. d4 dxe4 12. Nxe4 Nxe4 13. Qxe4 Rad8 14. c3 e5 15. Qe2 Bd6 16. Bg5 Rde8 17. Qc4 exd4 18. cxd4 Nb6 19. Qb3 Be7 20. Be3 Rd8 21. Rac1 Qb8 22. Rfe1 Rd7 23. h4 Qd8 24. a4 Kh8 25. a5 Nd5 26. a6 bxa6 27. Rxc6 Nxe3 28. Qxe3 Bf6 29. d5 Bxb2 30. Rxa6 f5 31. f4



31. ... Qc7 32. Kh2 Bf6 33. Rc1 Qb7 34. Qd3 Rfd8 35. Re6 Qb2 36. Rc2 Qd4 37. Qxf5 Rf7 38. Re4 Qd1 39. Rc8 Rff8 40. Rxd8 Rxd8 41. Rc4 Kg8 42. Qe6+ Kf8 43. Rc7 1–0

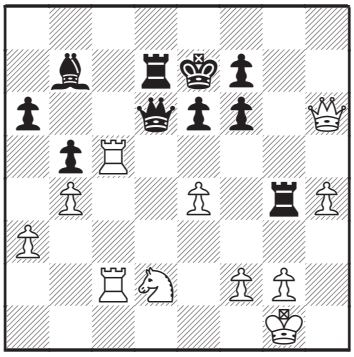
IM Tim Taylor (2410) – IM Vladimir Mezentsev (2534)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
D04 QUEEN'S PAWN GAME

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 c5 4. Nbd2 Nc6 5. dxc5 e6 6. a3 Bxc5 7. b4 Be7 8. Bb2 0–0 9. c4 a6 10. Rc1 dxc4 11. Bxc4 b5 12. Be2 Qb6 13. Qc2 Bb7 14. Ng5 h6 15. h4 Rfc8 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17. Qh7+ Kf8 18. Nge4 Ke7 19. Nxf6 gxf6 20. Qxh6 Ne5 21. 0–0 Rg8 22. e4 Rad8 23. Rc5 Qd6



GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz and IM Vladimir Mezentsev face off in the last round.

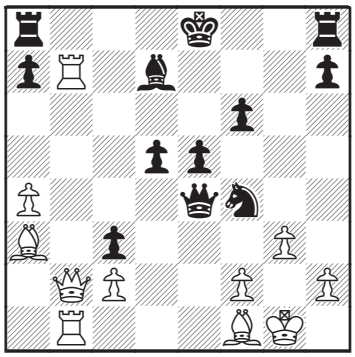
24. Rfc1 Rd7 25. R1c2 Ng4 26. Bxg4 Rxg4



27. Qe3 Bxe4 28. Qxe4 Rxe4 29. Nxe4 Qd1+ 30. Kh2 Qg4 31. Ng3 Qxh4+ 32. Kg1 Rd1+ 33. Nf1 Qd4 34. g3 Qa1 0–1

Reynaldo Del Pilar (2251) – Tatev Abrahamyan (2329)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C19 FRENCH DEFENSE, Winawer Variation

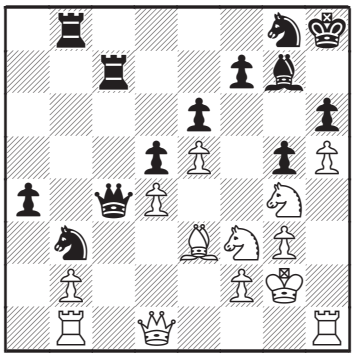
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Nf3 Nbc6 8. Be2 Qa5 9. Qd2 Bd7 10. 0–0 c4 11. a4 f6 12. Ba3 Ng6 13. Rfb1 Nd8 14. exf6 gxf6 15. Qh6 Nc6 16. Rxb7 Qxc3 17. Qc1 Nxd4 18. Nxd4 Qxd4 19. Rab1 Nf4 20. Bf1 e5 21. g3 Qe4 22. Qb2 c3



23. Qb5 Nh3+ 24. Bxh3 Bxb5 25. R1xb5 Qe1+ 26. Bf1 Qd1 27. Re7+ Kd8 28. Rbb7 e4 29. Bb4 a5 30. Bc5 Qh5 31. Be2 Qe5 32. Bb6+ Kc8 33. Bg4+ f5 34. Rbc7+ Kb8 35. Rxe5 Ra6 36. Ree7 Rxb6 37. Bxf5 Rb4 38. Be6 d4 39. Bd5 d3 40. Ra7 1–0

Garush Manukyan (2402) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2521)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
A04 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

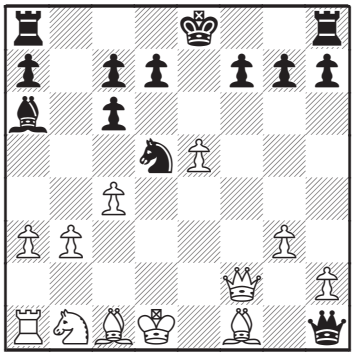
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3 Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. Nbd2 Nge7 7. 0–0 d6 8. c3 0–0 9. Re1 b6 10. Nf1 a5 11. d4 cxd4 12. cxd4 Ba6 13. a3 d5 14. e5 b5 15. Bf4 a4 16. Ne3 Na5 17. Ng4 Nb3 18. Nf6+ Kh8 19. Rb1 Ng8 20. Ng4 Rc8 21. h4 h6 22. Bf1 Qb6 23. h5 g5 24. Be3 Rc7 25. Bd3 b4 26. axb4 Rb8 27. Kg2 Bxd3 28. Qxd3 Qb5 29. Qd1 Qxb4 30. Rh1 Qc4



31. Bxg5 hxg5 32. h6 Bf8 33. Nxg5 Qxd4 34. h7 Nh6 35. Nxh6 Bxh6 36. Rxh6 Qxe5 37. Qh5 Qf5 38. Re1 Nc5 39. Re5 Qxf2+ 40. Kxf2 Nd3+ 41. Kg2 Nxe5 42. Nxe6 1–0

Michael Casella (2340) – Ed Cohen (2077)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C45 SCOTCH GAME

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. e5 Qe7 7. Qe2 Nd5 8. c4 Ba6 9. b3 Qh4 10. a3 Bc5 11. g3 Bxf2+ 12. Qxf2 Qe4+ 13. Kd1 Qxh1



14. Nd2 Nc3+ 15. Kc2 Ne4 16. Nxe4 Qxe4+ 17. Bd3 Qg4 18. Bf5 Qh5 19. h4 f6 20. exf6 0–0 21. Bb2 Qf7 22. Re1 Rfe8 23. fxg7 Re7 24. Qf3 Rae8 25. Bxh7+ Kxh7 26. Qxf7 Rxf7 27. Rxe8 1–0

F. Anchondo (2044) – N. De Silva (2233)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B72 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Dragon Variation

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

Prize Winners

Open

1st: IM Vladmir Mezentsev, 6½-1½; **2nd-6th:** GM Alex Yermolinsky, GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, IM Andranik Matikozyan, GM Boris Kreiman, IM Levon Altounian, IM Jesse Kraai, 6-2; **U2450: 1st:** Garush Manukyan, 5½-1½; **2nd:** IM Tim Taylor, Robby Adamson, Eugene Yanayt, Takashi Iwamoto, 5-3; U2300: Joel Banawa, Reynaldo del Pilar, 5½-1½; **U2200: 1st:** Henrik Pashayan, 5½-2½; **2nd-3rd:** Francis Chen, Chris Lee, Vaishnav Aradhyula, Eric Hansen, 5-3.

U2000: 1st: Alan Bishop, 6½-1½; **2nd-4th:** Vaughan Heussenstamm, Derek Tan, Paul Fricano, 6-2.

U1800: 1st: Alan Murfitt, 7½-½; **2nd:** Jim Chao, 6½-1½; **3rd:** Konstantin Kavutskiy, 6-2; **4th:** Mariano de Medina, Paul Savage, 5½-2½.

U1600: 1st: Warner Wright, 7-1; **2nd:** Armen Samuelian, 6½-1½; **3rd-4th:** Nathan Heussenstamm, Juan Bolanos Montes, 6-2.

U1400: 1st: Ben Slupik, 6½-1½; **2nd:** Robert Xue, 6-2; **3rd:** Alexander Kaliannan, Alan Tsoi, Aram Kavoukjian, 5½-2½; **U1200: 1st:** Stephen Bosch, 4½-3½; **2nd:** Daniel Gong, 4-4.

Unrated: 1st-2nd: Adrian Recinos, Sarkis Kasamanian, 6-2.

Scholastic

K-12: 1st: Shingo Kihira, 4-1; **2nd**: Scott Donchak, 4-1; **3rd**: Gerson Miro, 3½-1½; **4th**: Adarsh Ramakrishnan, 3½-1½; **5th**: Miguel Contreras, 3½-1½.

K-8: 1st: Albert Young, 5-0; **2nd**: Sean Manross, 4-1; **3rd**: Venkat Iyer, 3½-1½; **5th**: Anthony Hung, 3½-1½.

K-6: 1st: Rex Xue, 5-0; **2nd**: Grant Yosenick, 4½-½; **3rd**: Kiri Frankel, 4-1; **4th**: Alexander Dyer, 4-1; **5th**: Kevin Gu, 4-1.

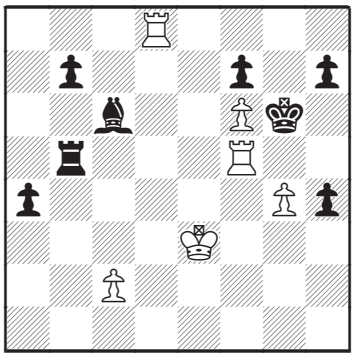
K-3: 1st: Liam Fairweather, 5-0; **2nd**: Jeffrey Ding, 4-1; **3rd**: Joshua Heskel, 4-1; **4th**: Yash Pershad, 4-1.

Action: 1st-3rd: David Kerman, Roger Norman, Bruce Hall, 4-1.

Quick: 1st-2nd: IM Andranik Matikozyan, GM Boris Kreiman, 8½-1½; **3rd**: GM Varuzhan Akobian, 8-2.

Ben Slupik took first place in the Under 1400 section.

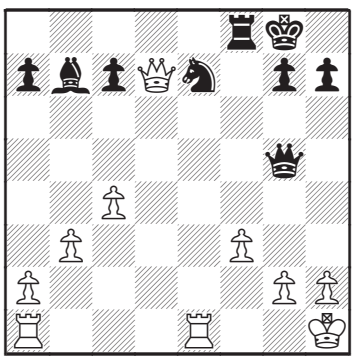
Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. h3 Nc6 8. Qd2 0–0 9. Bc4 Bd7 10. 0–0–0 Rc8 11. Bb3 Ne5 12. Bh6 Bxh6 13. Qxh6 Rxc3 14. bxc3 Qc7 15. Qe3 Rc8 16. f4 Nc4 17. Qe2 Na3 18. e5 Qxc3 19. Qd3 Ne4 20. Qxe4 Nc4 21. Bxc4 Rxc4 22. Qd3 Qa1+ 23. Kd2 Qxd4 24. Qxd4 Rxd4+ 25. Ke3 Ra4 26. exd6 exd6 27. Rxd6 Bc6 28. Rg1 Rxa2 29. Rd2 Ra4 30. Rd4 Ra2 31. Rd2 Rb2 32. g4 a5 33. f5 Kg7 34. Rf1 g5 35. f6+ Kg6 36. Rf5 a4 37. h4 gxh4 38. Rd8 Rb5



39. Rg8+ Kh6 40. Rxb5 Bxb5 41. Kf4 a3 42. Rg7 a2 43. g5+ Kh5 44. Rxh7+ 1–0

Phil Chase (2050) – Frederick Field (1859)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C63 RUY LOPEZ, Schliemann Variation

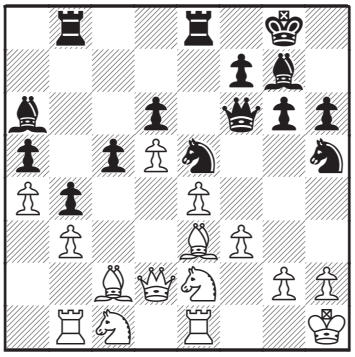
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 f5 4. Nc3 fxe4 5. Nxe4 Nf6 6. d3 d5 7. Nxe5 dxe4 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Bxc6+ Bd7 10. Bxa8 Qxa8 11. Bg5 Qc6 12. 0–0 Be7 13. dxe4 0–0 14. e5 Nd5 15. Bxe7 Nxe7 16. b3 Bc8 17. c4 Bb7 18. f3 Qc5+ 19. Kh1 Qxe5 20. Re1 Qg5 21. Qd7



21. ... Rxf3 22. Rg1 Rf2 23. Qe6+ Kh8 24. Qh3 h6 25. Raf1 Rxa2 26. Rf8+ Kh7 27. Qg3 Qh5 28. Qxc7 Rxg2 29. Rh8+ Kxh8 30. Qd8+ Kh7 31. Rxg2 Qe2 0–1

Kofi Tatum (2108) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2521)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
A65 MODERN BENONI DEFENSE

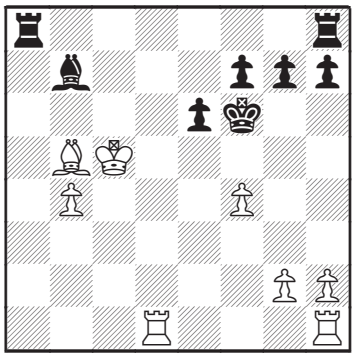
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. Bd3 a6 8. a4 Bg7 9. Nge2 0–0 10. 0–0 Nbd7 11. f3 Re8 12. Kh1 Ne5 13. Bc2 Rb8 14. b3 b5 15. Rb1 b4 16. Na2 a5 17. Bg5 h6 18. Be3 Ba6 19. Re1 Nh5 20. Qd2 Qf6 21. Nac1



21. ... Nxf3 22. gxf3 Qxf3+ 23. Kg1 Rxe4 24. Bxe4 Qxe4 25. Na2 Bxe2 26. Qxe2 Re8 27. Rbd1 Bd4 28. Bxd4 Qxe2 29. Rxe2 Rxe2 30. Nc3 Rb2 31. Nb5 cxd4 32. Rxd4 Rxb3 33. Nxd6 Rb1+ 34. Kf2 b3 35. Rc4 b2 36. Rc8+ Kh7 37. Rb8 Rh1 0–1

Sandy He (1348) – Adi Klein (1523)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B45 SICILIAN DEFENSE

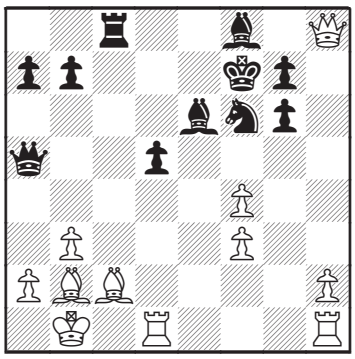
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Bg5 Bb4 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. e5 Qa5 9. Qd4 Ne4 10. Bd2 Nxd2 11. Kxd2 Qd5 12. Qxd5 cxd5 13. a3 Ba5 14. b4 Bb6 15. f4 d6 16. exd6 Kd7 17. Bb5+ Kxd6 18. Rad1 a5 19. Na4 Ba7 20. c4 axb4 21. axb4 dxc4 22. Kc3+ Ke7 23. Kxc4 Kf6 24. Nc5 Bxc5 25. Kxc5 Bb7



26. Bc6 Bxc6 27. Kxc6 Rab8 28. Rb1 Rhc8+ 29. Kd6 Rc4 30. b5 Rd8# 0–1

Michael Langer (2252) – Eric Hansen (1995)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C06 FRENCH DEFENSE, Tarrasch Variation

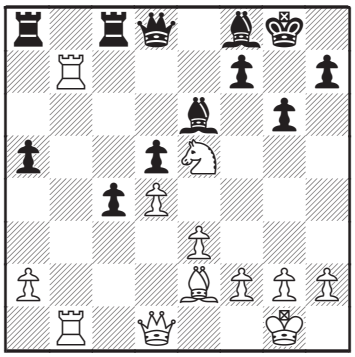
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 f6 9. Nf4 Nxd4 10. Qh5+ Ke7 11. exf6+ Nxf6 12. Ng6+ hxg6 13. Qxh8 Kf7 14. b3 e5 15. Bb2 Nc6 16. 0–0–0 Bg4 17. f3 Be6 18. f4 e4 19. Bxe4 Qa5 20. Bc2 Nd4 21. Nf3 Nxf3 22. gxf3 Rc8 23. Kb1



23. ... Rxc2 24. Kxc2 Bf5+ 25. Rd3 Qc5+ 26. Kb1 Bxd3+ 27. Ka1 Nh5 28. Rc1 Qe7 29. Be5 Bf5 30. Rc7 Bd7 31. Rxb7 a5 32. Rb8 Qc5 33. Qxf8+ Qxf8 34. Rxf8+ Kxf8 35. a4 Ke7 36. Bc7 Ke6 37. Kb2 Kf5 38. Kc3 Nxf4 39. Bxa5 Ne6 40. Bb6 Kf4 41. a5 Bb5 42. Kb4 Ba6 43. Kc3 Kxf3 44. Ba7 Ke4 45. b4 d4+ 46. Kd2 Kd5 47. Bb8 Kc4 48. Bd6 Bb5 49. Kd1 Kd3 50. Be5 Kc3 0–1

IM Levon Altounian (2537) – IM Alex Wohl (2537)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
D91 GRUNFELD DEFENSE, Taimanov Variation

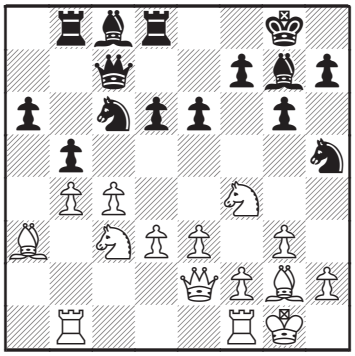
1. Nf3 g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 d5 5. Bg5 Ne4 6. cxd5 Nxg5 7. Nxg5 e6 8. Nf3 exd5 9. e3 0–0 10. b4 Bg4 11. Be2 a5 12. b5 Qd6 13. 0–0 Nd7 14. Qb3 Nb6 15. Na4 Nxa4 16. Qxa4 Bd7 17. Rfc1 c6 18. Rab1 Rfc8 19. bxc6 bxc6 20. Rc5 Qc7 21. Qd1 Bf8 22. Rc2 c5 23. Rcb2 c4 24. Rb7 Qd8 25. Ne5 Be6



26. Bg4 Bxg4 27. Qxg4 Rc7 28. Qf3 c3 29. Nxf7 c2 30. Nxd8 Rxd8 31. g3 Ba3 32. Rc1 1–0

Jerry Hanken (2200) – Zoran Djoric (2047)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
A36 ENGLISH OPENING

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 0–0 5. e3 c5 6. Nge2 e6 7. Nf4 Nc6 8. 0–0 d6 9. d3 Rb8 10. Rb1 a6 11. a3 Qc7 12. b4 cxb4 13. axb4 b5 14. Ba3 Rd8 15. Qe2 Nh5

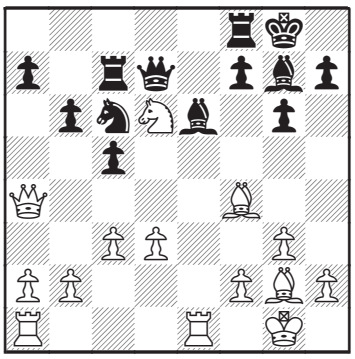


16. Nxh5 Bxc3 17. Rfc1 Bxb4 18. Nf6+ Kg7 19. Bb2 Ne5 20. cxb5 Qa5 21. Ng4 Kg8 22. Nxe5 dxe5 23. Bxe5 Rxb5 24. Bc7 1–0

Garush Manukyan (2402) – GM Boris Kreiman (2542)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
A04 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3 Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. 0–0 Nge7 7. Nbd2 0–0 8. Re1 d6 9. Nf1 e5 10. c3 d5 11. exd5 Nxd5 12. Ne3 Nde7 13. Nc4 Qc7 14. Be3 b6 15. Nfxe5 Be6 16. Nxc6 Nxc6 17. Qa4 Rac8 18. Bf4 Qd7 19. Nd6 Rc7

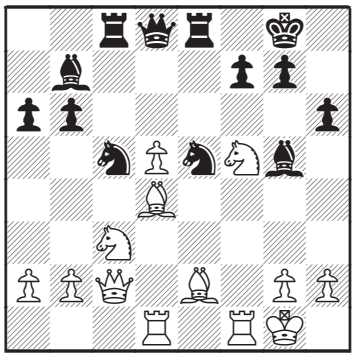
GARUSH MANUKYAN



20. Nxf7 b5 21. Qxb5 Rb8 22. Qxc5 Bf8 23. Nh6+ Kg7 24. Qe3 Re8 25. Bxc7 Qxc7 26. Ng4 Bd6 27. Qh6+ 1–0

Paul Fricano (1927) – Simon Kogan (1900)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
D36 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, Exchange Variation

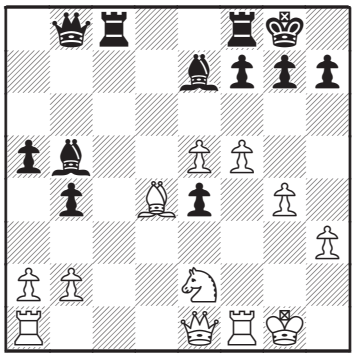
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. e3 e6 6. cxd5 exd5 7. Qc2 Be7 8. Bd3 0–0 9. Nge2 Re8 10. 0–0 Nf8 11. f3 h6 12. Bh4 Ne6 13. Bf2 b6 14. e4 dxe4 15. fxe4 Ng4 16. d5 Nc5 17. Nd4 Ne5 18. Be2 Bb7 19. Rad1 cxd5 20. exd5 a6 21. Be3 Bf6 22. Nf5 Bg5 23. Bd4 Rc8



24. Nxg7 Kxg7 25. Rxf7+ Kxf7 26. Qh7+ Kf8 27. Rf1+ Bf6 28. Bh5 Ncd7 29. d6 Nf3+ 30. Rxf3 Bd5 31. Qh8+ Bg8 32. Qxh6# 1–0

Konstantin Kavutskiy (1767) – Aidan Pickering (1697)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B22 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 e6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Nf3 Nf6 7. Bb5 a6 8. Ba4 b5 9. Bc2 Be7 10. 0–0 0–0 11. h3 Bb7 12. Be3 Rc8 13. Nd2 b4 14. Ne2 a5 15. f4 Qd7 16. g4 e5 17. f5 d5 18. Ba4 Qd6 19. Bxc6 Bxc6 20. dxe5 Qxe5 21. Bd4 Qb8 22. e5 Ne4 23. Nxe4 dxe4 24. Qe1 Bb5

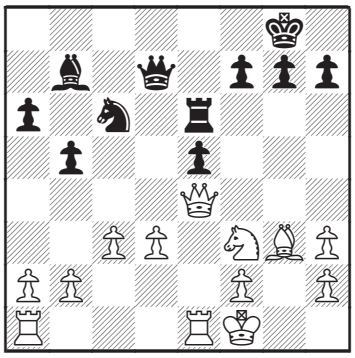


25. f6 Bc5 26. fxg7 Rfd8 27. Bxc5 Rxc5 28. Qf2 Qc7 29. e6 fxe6 30. Qf8+ 1–0

Armen Samuelian (1571) – Nathan Heussenstamm (1577)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C50 HUNGARIAN DEFENSE

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 d6 4. d3 Be7 5. c3 Nf6 6. Nbd2 0–0 7. Nf1

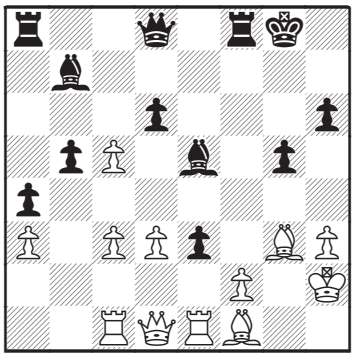
d5 8. exd5 Nxd5 9. Ng3 Na5 10. Bb5 a6 11. Ba4 b5 12. Bc2 Bf6 13. 0–0 c5 14. Re1 Nc6 15. Nh5 Bb7 16. Nxf6+ Qxf6 17. Bg5 Qd6 18. Bh4 Nf4 19. Bg3 Rfe8 20. Qd2 Qf6 21. Qe3 Re6 22. Qxc5 Nh3+ 23. Kf1 Rae8 24. Qe3 Qf5 25. Nh4 Qg4 26. Bd1 Qg5 27. gxh3 Qd8 28. Bf3 Qd7 29. Bg4 Qd5 30. Bxe6 Rxe6 31. Qe4 Qd7 32. Nf3



32. ... Nd4 33. Nxe5 Rxe5 34. Qxe5 Qxh3+ 35. Kg1 Qg2# 0–1

Ped Bashi (1748) – Christopher Zalecki (1705)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
B50 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

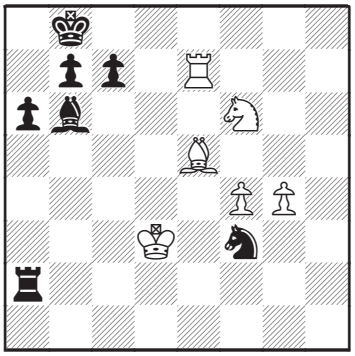
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. c3 Nf6 4. d3 g6 5. Bg5 Bg7 6. Nbd2 0–0 7. Be2 Nbd7 8. Rc1 b5 9. 0–0 a5 10. a3 a4 11. Re1 Bb7 12. Nf1 h6 13. Bh4 g5 14. Bg3 Nh5 15. h3 Nf4 16. Ne3 e6 17. Bf1 f5 18. exf5 exf5 19. b4 Ne5 20. bxc5 Nxh3+ 21. Kh2 f4 22. Nxe5 Bxe5 23. gxh3 fxe3



24. Bxe5 Rxf2+ 25. Kg1 dxe5 26. Rxe3 Qf6 27. d4 Qf4 0–1

Joel Banawa (2288) – Alan Stein (2453)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C69 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Rossolimo Varation

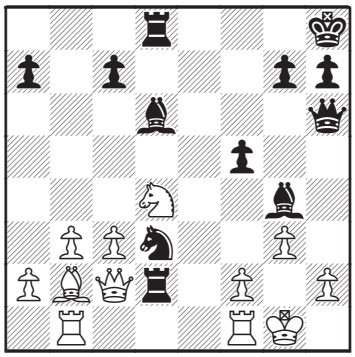
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. 0–0 f6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 c5 8. Ne2 Qxd1 9. Rxd1 Bd7 10. Nbc3 0–0–0 11. f3 Ne7 12. Be3 Nc6 13. Nd5 Ne5 14. b3 c4 15. Rd2 Ba3 16. Rad1 Rhe8 17. Kf2 Bf8 18. Ng3 Be6 19. h3 Nf7 20. Nh5 f5 21. exf5 Bxf5 22. g4 Rxd5 23. Rxd5 Bxc2 24. bxc4 Bxd1 25. Rxd1 Ne5 26. c5 Nc6 27. f4 Re4 28. Rd5 Nb4 29. Rf5 Re8 30. Rf7 Nc2 31. Bc1 Bxc5+ 32. Kg3 Re1 33. Bb2 Re2 34. Bxg7 Ne1 35. Kh4 Nf3+ 36. Kg3 Re3 37. Kg2 Nh4+ 38. Kf1 Rxh3 39. Be5 Bb6 40. Nf6 Kb8 41. Rxh7 Rf3+ 42. Ke1 Re3+ 43. Kd1 Nf3 44. Re7 Re1+ 45. Kc2 Re2+ 46. Kd3 Rxa2



47. g5 Rg2 48. Nd7+ Ka7 49. Bf6 Nh4 50. Rh7 Ng6 51. f5 Rg3+ 52. Kc4 Rg4+ 53. Kd5 Nf4+ 54. Ke5 Be3 55. Ke4 Bc1 56. Kf3 Rg2 57. Rh1 Bd2 58. Rh4 Re2 59. Rxf4 Re3+ 60. Kg4 1–0

Keith MacKinnon (1674) – Richard Henderson (1965)
41st American Open, Los Angeles 2005
C42 PETROFF DEFENSE

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d4 d5 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. 0–0 Be7 8. Re1 Bg4 9. c3 0–0 10. Bxe4 dxe4 11. Rxe4 f5 12. Re1 Bd6 13. Nbd2 Qf6 14. Qb3+ Kh8 15. Qxb7 Rab8 16. Qa6 Nxd4 17. Qd3 Ne6 18. b3 Rbd8 19. Qc2 Nc5 20. Bb2 Nd3 21. Rf1 Rfe8 22. Rab1 Re2 23. Nd4 Qh6 24. g3 Rxd2

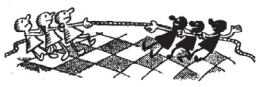


25. Bc1 Rxc2 26. Bxh6 Rxa2 27. Bxg7+ Kxg7 28. Ne6+ Kf6 29. Nxd8 Bf3 30. Ra1 Rc2 31. Rxa7 Nxf2 32. Rfa1 Ng4 33. R7a6 Rg2+ 34. Kf1 Ne3+ 0–1

TD's Corner

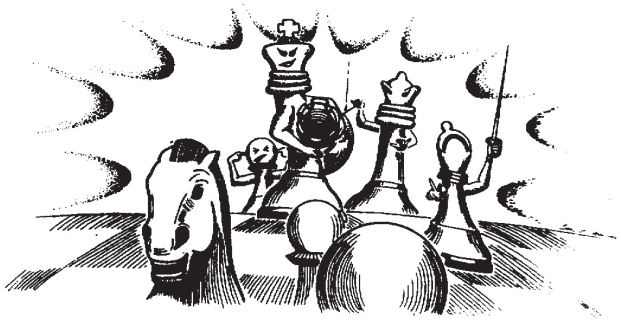
As always, the American Open was a true chess festival. In addition to the three side events, a steady stream of chess videos was available for spectators, and lectures were presented by GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz and IMs Jeremy Silman and John Donaldson, the latter in memory of the late GM Igor Ivanov. In addition to Joe Hanley's Chess Equipment USA display, chess artist extraordinaire Jovan "The Great" Prokopljevic was on hand.

Randy Hough and Elie Hsiao directed, with invaluable assistance from Chris Lee on the Scholastic. – *Randy Hough*



Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks



Henry Nelson Pillsbury (1872 – 1906) was United States Chess Champion from 1898 until his tragic and early death in 1906. His exceptional chess play and achievements ranks him as one of the greatest players in United States chess history. He grew up in Philadelphia and learned chess at the age of 16, rather late by today's standards. Unfortunately, just like Paul Morphy and Bobby Fischer, Pillsbury's chess career was short lived as he died prematurely at the age of 34. Pillsbury's play was exciting, dynamic and full of lively tactics. His study and insight with the Queen's Gambit helped to popularize the opening during the 1890's.

Pillsbury may be best remembered for his exciting games against Dr. Emanuel Lasker and his incredible first place result, at the age of 22, at the Hastings 1895 Tournament, which paired all the greatest players of the time.

Pillsbury was a long-shot for the first Hastings International, but scored fifteen wins, three draws and only three loses against an amazing field of elite and champion players from France, Italy, England and Russia. His first place result was ahead of Mikhail Chigorin, reigning World Champion Emanuel Lasker, Siegbert Tarrasch, and ex-World Champion Wilhelm Steinitz to name only a few.

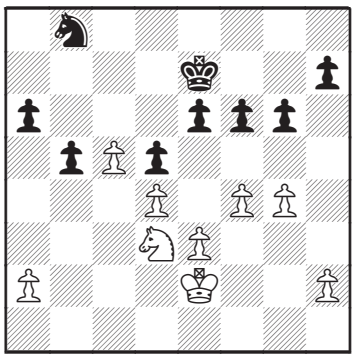
One of the most fascinating games from the event, of which there were many beautiful and hard fought games, paired Pillsbury against Isidor Gunsberg. Assuming a draw would be enough to win the event, Pillsbury opened with a relatively placid Queen's Gambit Declined. Many pieces were quickly traded and soon the game reached what appeared to be a drawn endgame. Just then Pillsbury realized that Mikhail Chigorin was winning and that a win would be required for him to take clear first. The finish of the game, to me, is really sensational and remarkable. To me it exemplifies outstanding courage and confidence for over the board play and what identifies a true champion and genius. Here is the game.

Pillsbury vs Gunsberg
Hastings International 1895
SLAV DEFENSE

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 (clearly a passive opening) **g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bd3 O-O 7. Ne5 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nd5 9. f4 Be6 10. Qb3 b5 11. Bxd5 Bxd5 12. Nxd5 Qxd5 13. Qxd5 cxd5 (=) 14. Nd3 Nd7 15. Bd2 Rfc8 16. Ke2 e6 17. Rhc1 Bf8 18. Rxc8 Rxc8 19. Rc1 Rxc1 20. Bxc1 Bd6 21. Bd2 Kf8 22. Bb4 Ke7 23. Bc5 a6** (here ... a5 may improve, but the game is still quite equal) **24. b4 f6 25.g4 Bxc5?!**

Was this hastiness, carelessness or just a "floundering" move thinking there is no way he could lose? It's not clear why Gunsberg played this. Better was probably just 25. … g5 or 25. … h5, low-type committing moves, with a very long struggle ahead. Now there's a definite imbalance and it creates just the tactical elements Pillsbury needed to win. But to find the winning plan required extremely deep insight and totally accurate calculations.

26. bxc5 Nb8



The game continued **27. f5! g5!?**

At this critical juncture of the game, what else can Black do? 27. … Nc6 would again have put Pillsbury's genius to the test as there could follow 28. Nf4 Nb4 29. a3 Nc2 30. Nxe6 gxf5 31. gxf5 Kd7 (one

of several options to try) 32. Nf4 Kc6 33. Nd3 a5 34. Ne5+ Kb7 35. Nd7 b4! 36. axb4 a4! (Employing a great decoying tactic) 37. Kd2 Ne3! 38. Nf6 Nf5 39. Kc3 a3 and Black is hanging in there. But now, after what Black played, White eyes an ensuing weakness at d5. If this Black pawn falls, the position will be very difficult to defend.

28. Nb4 a5 29. c6!

Amazing calculation. This is a great demonstration on how to play to win and relying on good tactical judgment.

29. ... Kd6 30. fxe6! Nxc6 31. Nxc6 Kxc6 32. e4!

The point! White's advanced passed Pawns will be defended, leaving Black with no counterplay while White has time to go off and gain material. Black is now lost.

32. ... **dxe4** (forced) **33. d5+ Kd6 34. Ke3 b4**

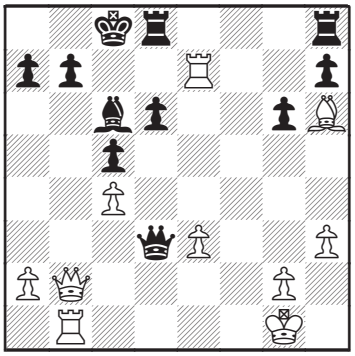
The most complicated aspect of this series of moves and all the subvariations by Pillsbury, was recognizing that the White King stays within "the box" of Black's passed Pawn potential, and that there were no lurking Black Kingside "gotchas" that would ruin his plans.

35. Kxe4 a4 36. Kd4 h5 (Total desperation.) **37. gxh5 a3 38.Kc4 f5 39. h6 f4 40.** h7 1-0.

A very important lesson to learn from this game is to be extra careful, even when positions may appear to be dull or drawish. In symmetrical positions a single tempo can play a decisive role in the outcome. The first to lash out aggressively can force his opponent into a permanently passive role. Thus, seeking counterplay, or tactical complications, even at the cost of material, may be your best defense to save the game.

Improving your ability to calculate and visualize tactical combinations takes practice. Tactical problem solving will help in this development. Avoid moving the pieces when solving problems to strengthen your over-the-board play. Be alert, play sharp and always remember to do your **safety check**. Enjoy the solutions, good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 23.

Problem No. 1. It's White to move and his heavy pieces are actively placed. How would you proceed?

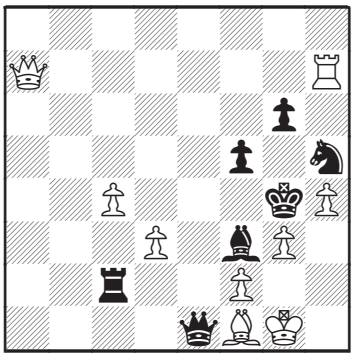


a) No matter what White does, Black has defensive resources. White's heavy piece tension can be neutralized.

b) White has a winning attack.

Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 2.
White to play.

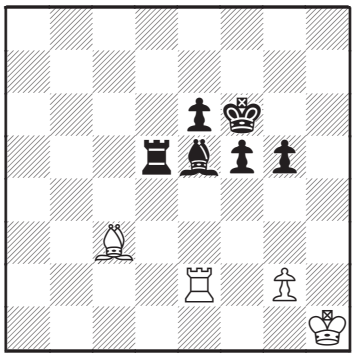


a) 1. Qd4+ is correct and quite strong and White will win.

b) 1. Qd4+ is incorrect.

Validate your choice with a variation.

Problem No. 3.
White to move



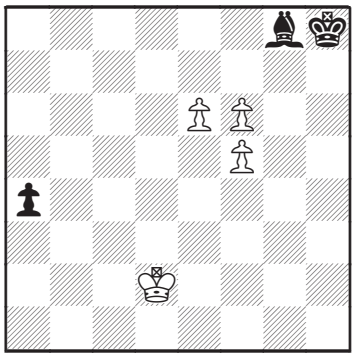
a) Black has a won game.

b) The game is drawn.

c) White has a won game.

Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 4.
White to move



a) 1. Kc3 is correct and White will win

b) 1. Kc3 is incorrect

Prove your answer with a variation.

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www.scchess.com

Here & There

CYCL Scholastic

On October 15 in Stevenson Ranch, Jay Stallings had a very successful event at Rancho Pico JH. There were 28 brand new players and 96 rated players. Included in this 4 round tournament were fun events like a chess piece building contest, a Grandmaster simul with Boris Kreiman, a race to set up pieces, and a jumping balloon outside the playing hall with basketball nets. It seemed fun was had by all. Here are the section winners:

K-2: 1st Danny DiMaria; 2nd Eric Huang; 3rd Noah Simon
3rd Grade: *1st* Ellie Simon; *2nd* Adrian Chang; *3rd* James Kappos
4th Grade: *1st* Brendyn Estolas; *2nd* Boris Kitapszyan; *3rd* Eric Gertner
5th Grade: *1st* Garen Ordoyan; *2nd* Alexandra Simon; *3rd* Jeff Yang
6th Grade: *1st* Cheston Gunawan; 2nd Jackson Stallings; *3rd* John Kitapszyan
7th-12th: *1st* Michael Ambartsoumian; *2nd* Connor Reck; *3rd* Albert Young

– *Joe Hanley*

LA Masters

Winners of the weekly "L.A. Masters" tournaments in October and November were: October 1: Melikset Khachiyan, 4-0; October 8: Melikset Khachiyan, 4-0; October 15: Garush Manukyan, 4-0; October 22: Joel Banawa, 3½-½; October 29: Garush Manukyan, Craig Clawitter, David Zimbeck, 3-1; November 5: Ganbold Odondoo, 3½-½; November 12: Ron Frasco, 3-1.

The Los Angeles Chess Club plans to hold these events, inspired by the long-running New York Masters, every Saturday evening at 7 p.m. The LACC is located on the second floor of 1514 Santa Monica Blvd., above Javan restaurant. For information, call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to mick@lachessclub.com. Web site: www.lachessclub.com.

Costa Mesa Octos

Twenty-six players showed up for the October 22 Costa Mesa Octo. In the top section Julian Landaw was augmenting his college fund again by winning with a perfect score of 3-0. Second place was a two way tie between Jeremy Stein and Alex Gojich at 2-1. In the second section, which had 10 players, young Vincent Huang won with a score of 2½-½. This is his third straight win. This young 11 year old should now have his rating go over the 1800 level. Second and third place was a four way tie between Daniel Alvira, Nisha Deolalikar, Gary Kevin Ware, and Kurt Oldenburg all at 2-1. In the bottom section newcomer Adrian Recinos won with a perfect score of 3-0. I had just signed Adrian up for the USCF the previous Friday at my club. This 17 year old shows very good promise. Second place was a three way tie among Sunil Deolalikar, Richard Martin, and George Stearns all at 2-1.

An interesting event occurred in Adrian's second round against Richard Martin. Dick is a true gentleman over the board. Dick called me over while he was playing against Adrian and told me that he thought that Adrian wasn't aware of the time controls, and that I should explain them to him. At the beginning of every Octo I go over the time controls. I do this becase I am constantly getting new players that are playing in their first tournament. With Dick's permission I went over to the game and stopped the clock and explained the time controls to Adrian. He was up major material and winning. He had to make about 10 more moves with less than 6 minutes. I explained to him that he had to make 35 moves in the first 90 minutes, and that if he even had 9 queens on the board against a lone king and pawn that he would lose if he didn't make the required number of moves. Dick even wanted me to add another 5 minutes back to Adrian's clock. This I wouldn't do. Well Adrian made the time control with a minute to spare, and Dick resigned a few moves later when he was about to be mated. I know many players that would just let their opponent's clock run out and claim the time forfeit, but Dick Martin is not one of those people.

Twenty-one players attended the November 19 Octo. I threw my hat in the ring to make it an even number. In the top section Neil Bershad won

with a score of 2½-½. Second place was shared by Mike Zaloznyy and yours truly at 2-1. The second section saw the only perfect 3-0 score turned in by Frank Olsen. His performance was outstanding. He was the number 7 out of 8 players with a pre-tournament rating of 1552. He defeated the number 1,2,and 3 rated players (1769, 1765, and 1726). Second place was split between Ped Bashi and Kurt Oldenburg at 2-1. The bottom section was a tie for first and second at 2½-½ between two of the younger players, Alexander Kaliannan and Grant Yosenick.

There was some high drama in the top section. From pre-tournament ratings it looked like Mike Zaloznyy (2182) and Christian Tanaka (2112) would run away with the top prizes. After them came two other Experts, Alex Gojich (2026) and Randy Hough (2000). At number 5 and 6 were Neil Bershad and myself. In the first round Bershad defeated Zaloznyy and I defeated Tanaka. I have always had luck against the upcoming young superstars the first time I play them, having defeated Vinay Bhat, Max and Julian Landaw, Austin and Anthony Ong, etc., the first time I've played them. Ususally they get me the second time around. This is my third game against young Christian, and I'm 2½-½. Also in the top section was young Vincent Huang. He had been the scourge of the second section, winning the last three Octos in that section. But now he was moving up. To his credit he drew with Hough in the first round, but lost his second round and then withdrew. In the second round Bershad defeated Gojich, while I drew with Hough. Randy is again the drawing master, ending up drawing all three of his games. In an e-mail to me Randy asked if I noticed the by-play in our game. He had asked me before our game if he played his usual d4 and then c4 if I was going to play the g5 line of the Budapest. I smiled and said I've played it against IM's. He opened d4, and after I played Nf6 he played Nf3. He said he wasn't really up on the Budapest. We got into a Semi-Slav. On move six I played Be7 (rather then Bd6) and he played 7. g4. He said he didn't really know the Semi-Slav, but on the board next to us Christian Tanaka was playing white against Vincent Huang's Bd6 line of the opening and played 7. g4. Randy said "monkey see, monkey do". I wasn't even watching the game next to us. I wonder if this is considered getting advice on a game in progress? In the last round, the two leaders, Bershad and I, squared off for probably the 25th time. The game ended peacefully in 21 moves when I could obtain no advantage and accepted his draw offer.

Eighteen players showed up for the December 17 Costa Mesa Octo. This was the lowest turnout in several years. Many of the regular players had previous engagements during this holiday season. Due the the ratings of the players, the 18 present made a perfect three sections of 6 players each.

This was the first Octo in a long time where the winners of each section scored perfect scores. In the top section Julian Landaw went 3-0. Second place was shared between Show Kitagami and Jeremy Stein at 1½-1½. The second section was won by Krishna Kaliannan at 3-0. Second place was shared by Shawn Williams and Ronald Hoffman at 2-1. The bottom section was won by George Stearns with the third perfect 3-0 score. Second place was shared between Michael Bonham and Alexander Kaliannan at 2-1. I had to play in the first and third rounds in the top section. In the first I played as Neil Bershad had requested a bye and could only play in the last two rounds. In the third round I had to play when Mike Zaloznyy withdrew. I drew both my games with Show Kitagami and Jeremy Stein.

After 14 years of running the Octo tournaments this was my last Octo as organizer/director. The January and future Octos will be run by NM Takashi Iwamoto. I will now be able to play more often as a player and not as a fill in when needed. I will still assist Takashi at the beginning to make the transition smooth. At the 12/17 Octo Takashi was there doing all the pairings and wallcharts by computer. Everything ran very smoothly. The next Octo will be January 14, and the February one will be held on the 11th. The TLA's for these Octos are posted on the SCCF's website. Takashi took photos of all the winners and will be putting them on a website that he is developing for the Octos.

To all the players and friends I have made over the years at the Octos, thank you for all your patience and support. *– Mike Carr*

AAA Fall Scholastic

October 22

Nathaniel Lagemann took first prize with 4½-½ in the K-12 section of this scholastic event, held at First Lutheran Church in Glendale. David Karapetyan and Armen Sarkissian tied with 4½-½ in the K-8 section. Taron Malkhasyan led the K-4 with 4½-½. Los Feliz Elementary School won the team prize in the K-4 and K-8 sections. Harut Keshishian directed the 108-player tournament.

West Valley Chess Club

Mike Zaloznyy scored 5-0 to win the top section of the "Fall Quad/ Swiss Tournament," which ended October 20. Greg Clark topped the Swiss with 5½-½. Class prizes went to Grigory Furman (A), Harold Deutscher (B), Ron Latragna (C), and Alexander Allins, (U1400). There were 27 participants.

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) or Duane Cooper (818-999-0837). *– John Price*

Norwalk Open

October 30

David Zimbeck took first prize in the Norwalk Open, a 43-player tournament held at the Norwalk Marriott with 5-0. He defeated masters Ilya Sterin, Ron Bruno and Gregg Small in the last three rounds. Bruno, Small, IM Tim Taylor, and experts Show Kitagami, Takashi Kurosaki and Craig Milton tied for second place at 3½-½. Paul Clift and James Mahooti shared first U2000. Jak Jonz led the Reserve (under 1800) section with 5-0, a point ahead of Pirouz Hendi. Sandy He, Steven Porta Jr. and Darrell Hensley took class prizes. John Hillery directed.

Pasadena Chess Club

Chris Lee made a triumphant club debut by going 5-0 in the top section of the 32-player "Crown City Open," ending in November. Next at 3½-1½ was Jeremy Stein; Randy Hough and Cesar Marin scored 3. Rafael Jones swept the second section at 5-0, with Sandy He, Danny Machuca, Javid Hasan, Alfonso Montilla, and Spartak Ohanyan tallying 3½ to earn class prizes.

"A Rose for Your Queen," ending in December, with 18 players, was taken by Larry Stevens, with 3½ out of 4. Jeremy Stein, Dave Matson, and Tim Thompson tied for second with 3. Rolando Tenoso and Javid Hasan tallied 2½ to split Under 1800 honors.

The club was graced with a visit by WGM Jennifer Shahade, who gave a simultaneous exhibition and promoted her new book, *Chess Bitch*, on October 21. Out of 27 players, Prasanna Borse, Jerry Harrison, Javid Hasan, Sandy He, and Brian Ofalla won. Tony Milici, Spartak Ohanyan, Rudy Salon, Zohrab Sarkisyan, Rolado Tenoso, and Tai Yoon earned draws.

The Pasadena Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles Ave. For information, call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809 or Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412. Web site: www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html. – *Randy Hough*

30th Annual Staser Scholastic

November 19

This traditional scholastic event, held at Buena Park Junior High, attracted 138 players. Section winners (in tiebreak order) were as follows:

K: Stephen Chang, Riyaz Razi
1: Kevin Qian, Shyan Gandhi, Aakarsh Aithel
2: Shelley Anthopoulos, Joshua Chang, Derek Chao
3 (Sec 1) Anderson Ju, Jordan Rayfield, Jose Ibarra
3 (Sec 2): Christian Rayfield, Javier Vazquez, Alex Monji
4 (Sec 1): Alvin Huang, Belinda Xu, Cheyenne Liu & Francis Yuhico
4 (Sec 2): Tiffany Lopez, Darren Leung, Anna Dressendorfer
5 (Sec 1): Perry Watson, David Sohn, Zeferino Hernandez
5 (Sec 2): Zayn Razi, David Watson, Cole Buzon
6: Rex Xu, Luis Evaristo, Daniel Sauceda & Wesley Liu
7: Archie Monji, Rebecca Sanchez, Austin Chung & Brian Liao
8 (Sec 1): Sean Monross, Paul Li, Michael Lau
8: (Sec 2): David Oawster, Elijah Scull, Botao Jiong
9: Zifan Tan, Trevor Gornick
10: Ben Schuster, Scott Becker, Caleb Molitoris
11: Gerson Miro, Eric Cuevas, Richard Marenco

– *Dewain Barber*

Arcadia Chess Club

Experts David Argall and Larry Stevens tied for first place with scores of 5-1 in the Istvanyi Memorial, the 43-player tournament which finished Monday at the Arcadia Chess Club. Denton Anderson, Frank Cipriani, Cesar Marin and Dave Matson shared Class A honors, Gerry Harrison took best B, Mel Clark and Sandy He split the C prize, and Jim Lee and Terrence Sun tied for best D-E-unrated.

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.

Exposition Park Chess Club

John Graham, Michael Bynum and Ananta Rupa won their sections in the November tournament at the Exposition Park Chess Club. December winners were Dan Fine and Mustafa Dawoodbhoy. The club, which is free to all, meets every Sunday afternoon in the public library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles.

La Palma Chess Club

With an undefeated score of 6-1, Richard Tantioco, a former national chessmaster in the Philippines, won the 28-player 7-round La Palma 2005 Club Championship that ended December 2nd. Chris Roberts took second place with 5½. Class prizes went to Harold Valery, best U1700; Joe Tishy, best U1500; and Tony Gray, best U1300/unrated.

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 Leigh Hunt at (714) 635-0448 or Mike Brady at (562) 867-8248. Web site: www.lapalmachess.741.com. – *Chris Roberts*

Diversity Chess Championship

Cheston Gunawan scored 6-0 to become Diversity's Champion of Champions in the 1st Annual Diversity Chess Championship. Other participants included Anthony Hung (Summer Champion), Liam Fairweather (Winter Champion) and Rebecca Sanchez (2nd Place Spring). Cheston was the champion of the Spring and Fall Scholastics.

Steven Porta Jr. (3rd Place Spring, 2nd Place Fall) Daniel Gong (2nd Place Winter and Summer), and Christopher Hung (3rd Place Fall and Winter) were all invited ahead of Rebecca but they had other commitments. The tournament took place December 3 at Diversity Educational Center in Arcadia. – *Roel Sanchez*

West Covina Chess Club

Eddie Concepcion took first place in the 20-player King's Indian Swiss, ending in December. Bill Boyer and Tom Shortell also won sections. 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.

San Diego Chess Club

In October & November the Fall Swiss drew a total of 52 players in two sections, plus a Round Robin of 6 Masters. Bruce Baker scored 4 out of 5 to win top honors and Adam Corper was 2nd with 3/5. In the Open Swiss, Ben Barquin and Carey Milton tied for 1st with 4/5. George Zeigler, Alex Garcia-Betancourt and Maksim Gusev were close behind with 3½. Ramin Sinaee was BU1900 with 3. In the Reserve Section, Bob Draper was 1st with 4 ½ and Fred Borges tied with Luis Castaneda for 2nd Place with 4. The BU1600 prize was split between Erik Marquis, David Hall and Helmut Keil, all with 3, while Tom Kuhn and Mark Lawless scored 2 to win BU1400.

The club is currently playing the Class Championships where each Class winner will receive a handsome trophy in January right before we kick off the New Year with the annual 7 round Markowski Qualifier for the Club Championship. Whoever wins the Master/Expert Section of the current Class Championships will automatically win a spot in the Club Championship without having to qualify through the Markowski. Todd Smith has already qualified by winning the San Diego Open. A total of 16 qualifiers then go toe to toe in another 7 round Swiss to determine who will be the Club Champion. Another 16 players will play in the Reserve Championship. In 2005, The Club Champion was Adam Corper and the Reserve Champions was Joel Batchelor. Adam also earned Master status in 2005.

The SDCC is located at 2225 Sixth Avenue and we play every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. The club was recently upgraded with a whole new set of ceiling lights and we pride ourselves on our excellent playing conditions. We are nestled in beautiful Balboa Park right near 6th & Ivy and many people take advantage of the extensive club hours to drop by for daily casual games in the sunny afternoons that San Diego is famous for. Our phone number is 619-239-7166. Bruce Baker and other Masters are available for lessons and our website Groups.msn.com/sandiegochess is known as a vast storehouse of games, pictures, stories and an active message board. Club membership is still only $48 a year. – *Chuck Ensey*

Carey Milton (2010) – Ron Rezendes (1914)
Fall Swiss, San Diego 2005
A35 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Accelerated Dragon Variation
[Chuck Ensey]

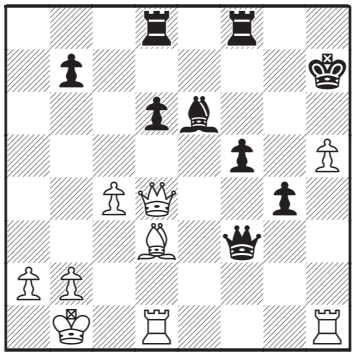
1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nc3 d6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. e4 g6 7. Be2 Bg7 8. Be3 0–0 9. h4 h5 10. Qd2 Kh7 11. 0–0–0 Nxd4 12. Bxd4 Qa5 13. Kb1 Be6 14. Bxf6 Bxf6 15. Nd5 Qc5 16. Nxf6+ exf6 17. g4 hxg4 18. h5 g5 19. f4 gxf4 20. Qxf4 Rad8

[20. ... Qe5!?]

21. Qxf6

[21. Rd5!?]

21. ... Qe5 22. Qf2 f5 23. Qxa7 Qxe4+ 24. Bd3 Qc6 25. Qd4 Qf3



26. Rdf1 Qg3 27. h6 Rg8? 28. Rxf5! 1–0

Carey Milton (2010) – George Zeigler (2095)
Fall Swiss, San Diego 2005
A30 ENGLISH OPENING
[Chuck Ensey]

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 d6 3. Nc3 e5 4. e3 f5 5. d4 e4 6. Nd2 Nc6 7. Nb3 Nf6 8. Be2 Be7 9. 0–0 0–0 10. f3 Qe8 11. dxc5 dxc5 12. fxe4 fxe4 13. Nxe4 Nxe4 14. Qd5+ Kh8 15. Qxe4 Rxf1+ 16. Bxf1 Qh5 17. Qd5 Ne5?!

[17. ... Qe5!?]

18. Nxc5 Bg4 19. Nd3 Bf6 20. Nf4 Qe8 21. h3 Rd8 22. Qxb7 Bc8 23. Qxa7 Rd1 24. Kf2 g5 25. Nd5?

[25. Be2 Rxc1 *(25. ... Rd7 26. Qb6 Qf8 27. Ne6 Bd8+ 28. Nxf8 Rf7+ 29. Kg1 Bxb6 30. Nxh7 Kxh7)* 26. Rxc1 gxf4 27. exf4]

25. ... Qf8 26. Ke2 Bg7 27. Nf4

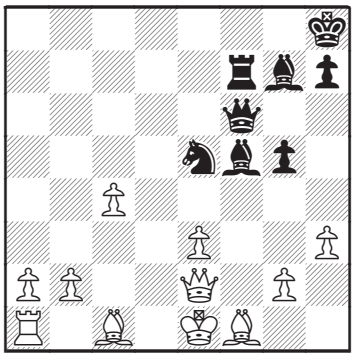
[27. Kxd1 Qxf1+ 28. Kd2 Qxg2+ 29. Kc3 *(29. Kd1 Qf1+ 30. Kd2 Nf3+ 31. Kc2 Qxc4+ 32. Nc3 Bf5+ 33. e4 Bxe4+ 34. Kd1 Qf1#)* 29. ... Nc6+]

27. ... Rd7 28. Ne6 Qf5 29. Qa4?

[29. Nd4 Rxa7 *(29. ... Qd3+ 30. Kf2 Rxa7 31. Bxd3 Nxd3+)* 30. Nxf5 Bxf5 31. Ke1]

29. ... Qxe6 30. Ke1 Qf6 31. Qc2 Rf7 32. Qe2 Bf5

[32. ... Be6!]



33. Qf2 Qe6 34. Qd2 Nxc4 35. Bxc4 Qxc4 36. Qd8+ Rf8 37. Qxg5 Bc2

[37. ... Bg4!]

38. Qf4 Rxf4 39. exf4 Qe4+ 40. Kf1 Bd4 41. a4 Bd3# 0–1

Gambito Opens

Twenty-six competitors matched wits in the November Super Gambito and once again Cyrus Lakdawala prevailed with 4 wins in a row to win $125, defeating NM Ron Bruno, Experts Dimitry Kishinevsky and Leonard Sussman, plus Class A player Felipe Camacho in the first round. Carey Milton won Second Place for $75, Leonard Sussman ($75) was BU2200, Ben Barquin also won $75 for BU2000. In the Reserve Section 3 players tied for First Place with 3 points: Jemar Fragante, Kyron Griffith and Daniel Grazian. Khris Juroshek and Gene Arnaiz tied for BU1600.

In December, the 5th Annual Super Double Gambito (#251) had $2,000 in prizes. Once a year we have a two day Gambito (8 rounds) and we have come to think of it as the Gambito Open Championship for the year. The turnout was good, with 37 players in all, 24 in the Open and 13 in the Reserve. Joel Banawa won First Place ($300) with 7 points, drawing only with Cyrus Lakdawala and Enrico Sevillano and winning against all others. Enrico was Second ($150) with 6 ½ and Cyrus was Third ($100) with 6. This was Joel's first Gambito Open and we hope he comes back more often next year. This year we had a total of 7 Masters in the Open Section, a record for us. Another record was broken in that we have paid out more than $22,000 in prizes in 2005. Carey Milton won BU2200 ($200) with 5, and Jorge Balares ($75) and Raoul Crisologo ($75) tied for Second/Third U2200 with 4 ½. The U2000 prizes were split between John Bryant, Jesus Orozco and Felipe Camacho (4 points and $117 each). Thirunathan Sutharsan won $25 for the biggest upset, winning against a player rated 322 points higher.

In the Reserve Section, Chris Borgan won First ($200) by scoring 6 points, and Khris Juroshek also won $200 for BU1600 with 5 ½ points. Anthony Whitt took home $100 for Second Place with 5 ½ points and Ricardo Rios also won $100 for 2nd U1600 with 5. Daniel Short was Third Place ($50) and Tom Kuhn and Jesse Orlowski split 3rd U1600 for $25 each. Tom Kuhn also won the Upset Prize of $25 for winning despite spotting his opponent 366 points. Tom's rating has been slowly climbing recently and it seems only a matter of time before he makes it to the ranks of Class B players.

Ed Baluran (1982) – Ben Barquin (1979)
Super Double Gambito, San Diego 2005
B90 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

[Chuck Ensey]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. a4 g6 7. Be2 Bg7 8. Be3 Nc6 9. 0–0 Bd7 10. g4 h6 11. f4 Qc7 12. g5 hxg5 13. fxg5 Nh5 14. Nd5 Qd8?

[14. ... Qb8]

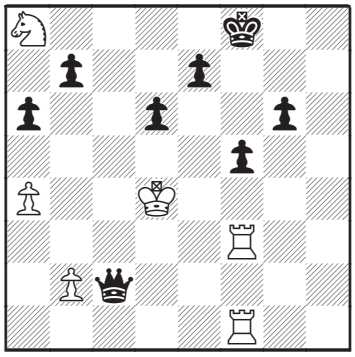
15. Nxc6 Bxc6 16. Bb6 Qc8 17. Nc7+ Kf8 18. Nxa8 Bxe4 19. Bf3 Qf5 20. Bxe4 Qxg5+ 21. Bg2 Nf4 22. Qf3 Be5 23. Kh1?

[23. Rae1!]

23. ... Rxh2+! 24. Kxh2 Nxg2+ 25. Kh1 Qh4+ 26. Kg1 Qh2+ 27. Kf2 Nh4+ 28. Ke3 Nxf3 29. Rxf3 Qxc2 30. Raf1 f5 31. Bd4 Bxd4+

[31. ... Qe4+]

32. Kxd4



32. ... Qxa4+ 33. Kc3 Qc6+ 34. Kb3 b5 35. Rh3 Qc4+ 0–1

The Super Gambito Open has a $600 guaranteed prize fund and is held on the first Saturday of every month at the San Diego Chess Club. These are usually 4 round events of G/45, but every so often we like to have a 5 rounder at G/40 with extra prizes. The next one of these "Special" Gambito Opens will be on February 4th 2006 with $1,800 in prizes. See the SDCC website for more details. The Gambito is named for Ron Gambito, a player who we fondly remember for his generous yet competitive spirit. – *Chuck Ensey*

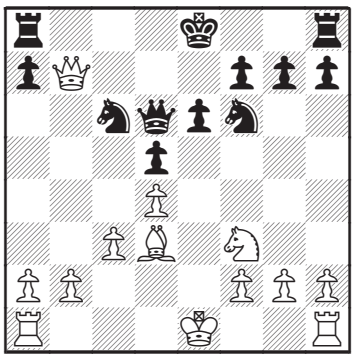
Joseph Ileto Memorial

The latest in SCCF's series of inexpensive weekend tournaments, held on December 1-11, attracted 52 players. IM Tim Taylor took clear first with 5-0, followed at 4-1 by Eduardo Ortiz, Ike Miller, and Alan Bishop. Class prize winners included Joshua Gutman, Henry Castro and Bob Goldberg (U2000), Aidan Pickering, Ryan Yeung and Roel Sanchez (U1800), Philip Otero (U1600), Terrence Sun and Patrick Dailey (U1400), and Sarkis Kasmanian and Ioannis Angouras (Unrated). Nisha Deloalikar was top Scholastic.

Randy Hough directed. Thanks once again to the city of Monterey Park for providing the playing site at Sierra Vista Park.

Alan Bishop (1920) – IM Tim Taylor (2359)
7th Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2005
B13 CARO-KANN DEFENSE

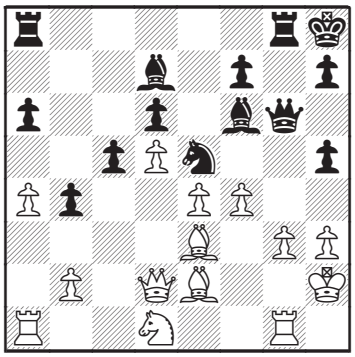
1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Nf6 6. Bf4 Bg4 7. Qb3 Qd7 8. Nd2 e6 9. Ngf3 Bxf3 10. Nxf3 Bd6 11. Bxd6 Qxd6 12. Qxb7



12. ... 0–0 13. Bb5 Nb4 14. Ne5 Rab8 0–1

Danyul Lawrence (2053) - Henry Castro (1924)
7th Ileto Memorial, Monterey Park 2005
E81 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, Saemisch Variation

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 0–0 6. Be3 c5 7. Nge2 Nc6 8. d5 Ne5 9. Ng3 e6 10. Be2 exd5 11. cxd5 a6 12. a4 Nh5 13. Nxh5 gxh5 14. 0–0 Bd7 15. h3 Qh4 16. Qd2 Qg3 17. Bf4 Qg6 18. Kh2 Kh8 19. Be3 Rg8 20. Rg1 Bf6 21. g3 b5 22. f4 b4 23. Nd1



23. ... Qxe4 24. fxe5 Rxg3 25. Rxg3 Bxe5 26. Bd3 Qh4 27. Qg2 Rg8 28. Bf2 Qg5 29. Qf3 h4 30. Be3 Qxg3+ 31. Qxg3 Rxg3 32. Kh1 Bxh3 33. Be4 f5 34. Bf2 fxe4 35. Bxg3 hxg3 36. Ne3 Bxb2 37. Re1 Bc3 38. Rg1 Be5 39. Re1 b3 0–1

Westwood Charter Holiday Scholastic

December 17, 2005

First place in the Championship section went to Steven Porta with 4-0. Junior Varsity sections were won by Conner Harold and Tyler Hakomori, while Elementary winners included Kento Orii and Patrick Murphy. John Surlow directed the 22-player event.

2005-2006 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are 2005 co-champions Andranik Matikozyan, Cyrus Lakdawala, and Melikset Khachiyan, Southern California Open champion Enrico Sevillano, and four from the 2006 Candidates Tournament.

Date	Name	Qualifiers
July 2-4	Pacific Southwest Open	Michael Casella Ilia Serpik
July 9-17	State Championship	Jack Peters Alaa-Addin Moussa Craig Clawitter Ron Bruno
July 21-24	Pacific Coast Open	Boris Kreiman Greg Hjorth
August 13-14	San Luis Obispo County Championship	John Williams Steven Tomak Francisco Anchondo
August 21	Westwood Open	Tatev Abrahamyan
Sept. 4-6	Southern California Open	Kongliang Deng Francis Chen Alen Melikadamian
October 30	Norwalk Open	David Zimbeck
Nov. 24-27	American Open	Garush Manukyan Joel Banawa Reynaldo del Pilar Henrik Pashayan
December 10-11	Joseph Ileto Memorial	Tim Taylor Eduardo Ortiz Ike Miller Alan Bishop

Upcoming

January 20-22	Western Class Championships	Agoura Hills
April 14-16	4th Annual Western Pacific Open	LAX
April 29-30	SCCF High School Championship	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.

Igor Ivanov

1947-2005

by John Donaldson

Igor Ivanov passed away on November 17 at 1 p.m. in St. George, Utah. He died from cancer of the esophagus that was diagnosed this past spring.

Igor's most famous victory, his win from the 1979 Spartakiad, may be seen below. The notes are Igor's from the magazine *64*. Jonathan Berry translated them from the Russian. This win helped him to get the invitation to play in Cuba and the opportunity to jump ship in Gander, Newfoundland, a year later.

Igor received his Grandmaster title earlier this year for results achieved in the early 1990s thanks to FIDE Qualification Committee members Mikko Markkula and Stewart Reuben. It meant a lot to Igor that he played the last major tournaments of his life—the National, US and Western States Opens—as a Grandmaster, a title he richly deserved almost his entire career.

Igor nearly received the title and a place in the Candidates at the Toluca Interzonal in 1982 where he was fourth on tiebreak. A two-time member of the Canadian Olympiad team and a record nine-time winner of the USCF Grand Prix, Igor also won several major tournaments in the Soviet Union before defecting in 1980. Among his triumphs were the Zaitsev Memorial in Vladivostok in 1978, Yaroslavl 1979 and the Tashli Taliev Memorial in Tashkent the same year. His score in the latter was 12 from 13 (!), three points ahead of second place finisher Kakadgeldyev. Igor tied for first in the 1978 Soviet Championship Qualifier with a young Garry Kasparov but lost the Soviet Championship spot on tiebreak.

Igor spent the last few years of his life in St. George with his wife Elizabeth and their two cats. He kept busy giving lessons to kids at the local chess club and battling computer programs on the Internet Chess Club. An excellent pianist with a strong singing voice, Igor also gave several performances for the local community. When he was healthy he loved to hike in the surrounding area less than an hour from Zion National Park.

Here is Igor's most famous game, his victory over World Champion Anatoly Karpov.

Igor Ivanov (2415) – Anatoly Karpov (2705)
Spartakiad, Moscow 1979
B43 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Paulsen Variation
Notes by the winner

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Nc3 b5

A reasonable but provocative move.

6. Bd3 Bb7 7. 0–0 Ne7 8. Kh1

8. Nb3 leads to a more complicated struggle.

8. ... Nbc6 9. Nxc6 Nxc6 10. Qg4 h5 11. Qe2 Ne5

Otherwise after 12. f4 Black will have no compensation for his weakened K-side.

12. f4 Ng4 13. Rf3 Qh4 14. h3 Bc5 15. Bd2

I was not filled with unwarranted optimism. I would have been content if Karpov had given a perpetual check. The world champion's decision is easily understood, but with his next move White completes his development, while the Black King is not very safely placed.

15. ... g6 16. Raf1 Qe7 17. a3

Preparing counterplay on the Q-side.

17. ... f5 18. Re1

Played on general considerations. Now I had no regrets about my opponent's refusal to repeat moves.

18. ... Qf8

Loosens the coordination between Black's pieces, therefore White decides to play actively. After 18. ... 0–0 White would be wise to limit himself to the more modest 19. Ref1. Also not bad was 18. ... Kf7, for example 19. b4 Bd4 20. exf5 gxf5 21. Bxf5 Bxf3 22. Qxf3 Nf2+ 23. Kh2 Qf6 24. Ne4 Nxe4 25. Bxe4 with chances for both sides.

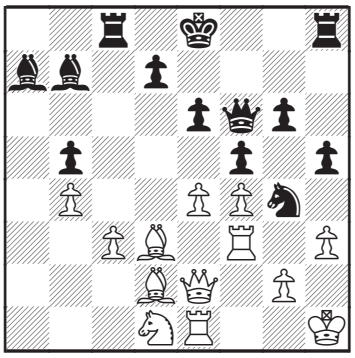
19. b4 Bd4 20. a4 Rc8 21. Nd1

The f2 square is now safely defended, but the White Knight does not stand too well.

21. ... Qf6

Unclear was 21. ... bxa4.

22. c3 Ba7 23. axb5 axb5



24. exf5

The Bishop on b7 is very strong, and in order to initiate successful maneuvers on the Q-side. I decided to sacrifice my Rook for it. The decision to sacrifice was made much easier because of the fact that White doesn't really have much else to do.

24. ... gxf5 25. Bxb5 Bxf3 26. Qxf3 Rc7

Weaker is 26. ... Rb8 27. Qd5 with threats against d7 and e6.

27. c4

Threatening to cut off the Bishop with the pawns.

27. ... Bd4 28. Qd5 Kd8 29. Qd6 Nf2+

Also after 29. ... Rg8 30. c5 Qg7 31. Bf1 Nh6 32. Ne3 Nf7 33. Qb6 White has enough compensation for the pawn.

30. Nxf2 Bxf2 31. Be3

After 31. Re2 Qd4 32. Qxd4 Bxd4 33. Be1 an equal ending would arise.

31. ... Bxe3

31. ... Bxe1 32. Bb6 with mating threats.

32. Rxe3 Qe7 33. Qd2

If 33. Qd4 Rg8 and probably 34. ... Qg7.

33. ... Ke8 34. Qd4

Black's troubles grow. Perhaps the World Champion was not pleased that after 34. Ra3 White can draw with 35. Ra8+ Rc8 36. Ra7 Rc7 37. Ra8+. I feel that in this position White, without great risk, can attempt to create bigger threats. First a threat, then a double-threat that cannot be neutralized.

34. ... Rg8

Also not safe is 34. ... Rh6 35. Rg3.

35. Qb6 Qg7

Or 35. ... Kd8 36. Ra3.

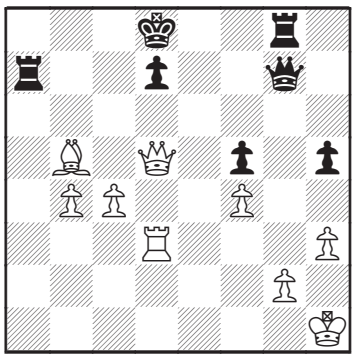
36. Qxe6+

For the first time in the game I felt I might win, and just here I made a mistake. After 36. Rxe6+ Kf7 37. Re2 the Rook on c7 is out of play and White wins easily. Everyone knows you must keep your composure until the very end, but how many of us actually do?

36. ... Kd8 37. Qd5 Ra7

I realized what I had done and felt just awful. But I calmed myself with the thought that 36. Qxe6+ was my payment for 33. ... Ke8.

38. Rd3



38. Re1 Ra1 39. Rxa1 Qxa1+ 40. Kh2 Qg7 41. Bxd7 Qg3+ would draw.

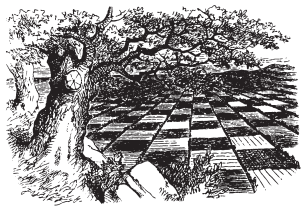
38. ... Ra1+?

After this it's a loss. Correct was 38. ... h4 and White can choose between two draws: 39. Rd1 Ra1 40. Rxa1 and then as in the example above, or 40. Qxg8+ Qxg8 41. Rxa1 etc. White could even mate himself with 39. Kh2 Qg3+. Also bad for White is 39. Qf3 Qg3.

39. Kh2 Ra2 40. Bc6 Ra7 41. Qc5 Rc7 42. Qb6

The threat is 43. Rxd7+. If 42. ... Ke8 then 43. Qa6+ Kd8 44. Qa8+ Ke7 45. Re3+ Kf6 46. Qa1+.

42. ... Kc8 1–0



Igor Ivanov: *A personal reminiscence*

by Elie Hsiao

I first met Igor Ivanov during the 1993 American Open. No, I wasn't playing in the main event; I had just started playing in scholastic tournaments a bare eight months before, and the thought of spending four days in a hotel playing chess was still a very foreign one. My friends and I had played in the Scholastic and Booster side events (I had managed a then-respectable plus score in both, while Sherif Toma swept the events 9-0, taking first in the Scholastic, and tying for first in the Booster), and afterwards, we wandered about the hotel.

It was then that I picked up a strain of piano music. Not your normal Muzak, but someone playing on a piano, live. Now, I've been force-fed classical music throughout my childhood, and while I don't appreciate it as much as I should, I adored watching someone play. A few turns later brought us to the level beneath the main lobby, where a distinguished-looking man was playing a Chopin nocturne from memory on an upright piano.

We stood and listened for a minute before he stopped and turned on the bench to greet us. Recognizing that we were chess players (the chess bags and the trophy Sherif was lugging around was a bit of a giveaway, I grant you), he mentioned that he had been playing in the tournament, and had come downstairs to play piano after his game was done. I admit that at the time, I was more interested in getting him to play some Beethoven (he knew the Moonlight Sonata from memory as well), but my friends were avid to talk to him about chess—they had seen the main tournament wall charts, and realized who he was, as soon as he introduced himself.

Igor Ivanov. International Master. USCF rating: 2584.

When he offered to look over

our games, my friends were over the moon. I was too embarrassed to take him up on it—my defeats consisted of me missing a mate in one and giving away pieces like they were going out of style, and my victories were mostly cases of my opponents having more Christmas spirit than me ('tis better to give than to receive)—but we spent the next hour listening attentively as he broke down game scores, pointing out mistakes, missed opportunities, and improvements, as well as praise for the moves where it was warranted. He then spent the next hour and a half posing us chess puzzles and talking about chess before bidding us good night and good luck in our chess endeavors.

It was not until several months later, when I read the *Chess Life* coverage of the tournament, when I found out that Igor had come down from the playing hall after losing to Loek Van Wely, the eventual tournament champion, in the final round. It still seems incredible to me now, that after losing a game where he was playing for (had he won) a share of the American Open title, Igor would be willing—nay, glad—to spend much of the rest of the evening with a group of chess neophytes, going over their games, and talking about chess.

I am very glad that FIDE finally awarded Igor a well-deserved GM title several months ago, before he passed away, for results he earned in the early 90s, as he had been one of the strongest players not to have received the title in the past few years. Thank you, Igor, for showing a novice chess player just how much *fun* chess could be.

May your heaven be a place where a chess board is always set, a concert grand sits off to the side, and children are clustered around, waiting for you to teach them about the wonders of chess.

Oh, and when the little tykes are gone, may there be a well-stocked liquor cabinet as well.

Ave atque vale.

The Long View

by John Hillery

Lasker scores a brilliant victory over arch-rival Pillsbury. The players castle on opposite wings, but White loses time with his prematurely developed Queen — time which Black uses to make a profound Rook sacrifice.

Pillsbury - Lasker
St. Petersburg, 1895-96
D50 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

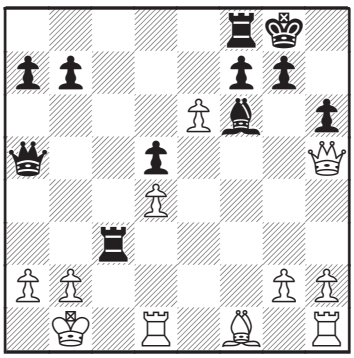
1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 c5 5. Bg5 cxd4 6. Qxd4 Nc6 7. Qh4

Better is 7. Bxf6, which Pillsbury played with success against Lasker at Cambridge Springs 1904.

7. ... Be7 8. 0-0-0 Qa5 9. e3 Bd7 10. Kb1 h6 11. cxd5 exd5 12. Nd4 0-0 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. Qh5

Aiming at a Kingside attack with f2-f4 and g2-g4, but the Queen would be better posted for defensive purposes at f4 or g3.

14. ... Nxd4 15. exd4 Be6 16. f4 Rac8 17. f5 Rxc3! 18. fxe6



Better than 18. bxc3 Qxc3 19. fxe6 *(19. Qf3 escapes to an ending, but after 19. … Qb4+ 20. Qb3 Bxf5+ 21. Bd3 Qxb3+ 22. axb3 Bg4, Black has two pawns for the Exchange and a clear advantage*) Qb4+ 20. Kc2 *(or 20. Ka1 Rc8 21. Qg4 Rc2)* 20. ... Rc8+ 21. Kd3 Qxd4+ 22. Ke2 Rc2+ 23. Kf3 Rf2+ 24. Kg3 Qe3+ 25. Qf3 Be5+ 26. Kg4 h5+ and wins.

18. ... Ra3! 19. exf7+

Also insufficient are: *i*) 19. bxc3 Qb6+ 20. Ka2 Bxd4+ 21. Rxd4 Qxd4+ 22. Kb1 fxe6 23. Be2 Qe4+ 24. Ka1 Rff2 25. Re1 Qd4+ 26. Kb1 Qd2 and wins; *ii*) 19. e7 Re8 20. bxa3 Qb6+ 21. Kc2 Rc8+ 22. Kd2 Qc3+ 23. e8=Q+ Rxe8 24. Bd3 Qa5+ 25. Kc1 Rc8+ 26. Bc2 Rxc2+ 27. Kxc2 Qc3+.

19. ... Rxf7 20. bxa3 Qb6+ 21. Bb5

Forced, as 21. Kc2 loses to 21. ... Rc7+ 22. Kd2 Qd4+ 23. Ke1 Qc3+ 24. Rd2 Re7+ 25. Be2 Bg5.

21. ... Qxb5+ 22. Ka1 Rc7 23. Rd2 Rc4 24. Rhd1 Rc3 25. Qf5 Qc4 26. Kb2 Rxa3 27. Qe6+ Kh7 28. Kxa3

A bit more tenacious was 28. Kb1, but Black is still winning after 28. ... Bxd4 29. Qf5+ g6 30. Qf7+ Bg7 31. Qxb7 Ra4.

28. ... Qc3+, White resigns

Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 24)

1) Suba - Andres Gonzalez, Spain 2005: White wins with the *double attack* **1. d6**, for if 1. ... exd6 2. Bxf7 Qxf7 3 .Bh6+ leads to mate.

2) Sigurjonsson – Timman, Wijk aan Zee, 1980: Black begins with the attracting sacrifice **1. ... Rxb2 2.Kxb2** (*or 2. Re1 Rxc2+ 3. Kd1 Rxc3*) **2. ... Qb7+ 3. Kc1** *(not 3.Ka3 Nxc2+ 4.Ka4 Qb4#*), and now he *overloads* the White Queen: **3. ... f5 0-1**, for if 4. Qxg6 Ne2+ 5. Nxe2 Qb2#, or 4. Be3 fxg4 5. Bxd4 Bxd4 6. Rxd4 Qh1+ 7. Rd1 Qxh4.

3) Rojahn – Angos, Munich Olympiad 1958: White offers both Rooks with **1. Rh5,** for mate cannot be avoided -- 1. ... Qxa1+ 2. Kg2 gxh5 3. Nf5 Qxa2 3. Nxe7+ Kh8 4. Qxf8#.

Upcoming Events

January 1

Golden Goose Open. 5-SS, G/45, Full-K. LA Chess Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. $$1,500 GTD. Sections: Open, Reserve (open to U1800). $$: **Open**: 1st $500, 2nd $250, 3rd $100, U2200 $125, U2000 $125. **Reserve**: U1800 $150, U1600 $100, U1400 $75, U1200/Unr 3 trophies. **All, Reg**: 8:45-9:30. **Rds**: 10-12-1:45-3:30-5:30. **EF**: $52 ($35 LACC memb). Juniors/Seniors $42 ($25 LACC memb). **Adv. Ent:** 310-795-5710, Mick@LAChessClub.com. NS, NC, W. GP: 15

January 13-February 24

Cardinal Medical Group Open. 7SS, G/120, La Palma CC, 7821 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623-1720. **EF**: $45($40 before 1/13). $$: 1st $750 (winner take all), 2nd $300, U2000 $200, U1800 $100, trophies: C, D, E/unr., Best Game $50, Biggest Upset $50 + trophy, perfect score $250. **Reg**: 6-7 p.m., 1/13. **Rds**: 7 p.m. Fridays. **Info**: (714) 761-5988. GP: 20

January 14

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, **2476 Newport Blvd.,** Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $27 advance, $32 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:** Takashi Iwamoto (takashi@cox.net), 24275 Tama Lane, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Home: (949) 643-2981 Cell: (949) 689-3511. NS, NC.

January 20-22

Western Class Championships. 5-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75), Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301. $13,000 prize fund, all unconditionally guaranteed. In 7 sections. Master (over 2199) $1200-600-300-200, top U2300 $500. Expert (2000-2199): $1000-500-300-150. Class A (1800-1999): $1000-500-300-150. Class B (1600-1799): $1000-500-300-150. Class C (1400-1599): $1000-500-300-150. Class D (1200-1399): $600-300-200-100. Class E (Under 1200): $600-300-200-100. Rated players may play up one section. Unrated must play in A or below with maximum prize A $400, B $300, C $200, D $150, E $100; balance goes to next player(s) in line. Top 5 sections entry fee: 3-day $108, 2-day $107 mailed by 1/13, all $106 online at chesstour.com by 1/18, all $110 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 1/18 (entry only, no questions), all $120 at site. Class D or Class E entry fee: 3-day $68, 2-day $67 mailed by 1/13, all $66 online at chesstour.com by 1/18 (entry only, no questions), all $80 at site. Entry fee if unrated (A, B, C, D or E Section): 3-day $38, 2-day $37 mailed by 1/13, all $36 online at chesstour.com by 1/18 (entry only, no questions), all $50 at site. All: 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 $10 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). 3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 7 p.m., rds Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 11-6, Sun 10-4:30. 2-day schedule: Reg Sat to 10:30 a.m., rds Sat 11-2:30-6, Sun 10-4:30. All schedules: Half point byes OK all rounds, Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: $78-78-78-78, 818-707-1220, reserve by 1/6 or rate may increase. Free parking. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658 or 845-234-0386. Entry: Continental Chess, c/o Goichberg, Box 661776, Arcadia CA 91066. GP: 50. NS. NC. F. State Championship Qualifier.

January 28

Joshua Tree Winter Open. 5SS, G/45. Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252. $$Top 2 Gtd., other prizes b/20. Open: $200-100. U2000: $75, $50, $30, U1600: $50, $30, 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 11

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, **2476 Newport Blvd.,** Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $27 advance, $32 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:** Takashi Iwamoto (takashi@cox.net), 24275 Tama Lane, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Home: (949) 643-2981 Cell: (949) 689-3511. NS, NC.

February 11

San Luis Obispo February Open. 4-SS, G/60. Colonial Manor Mobile Park, 1255 Orcutt, San Luis Obispo. $$440 b/20. **2 sections: Open** and **Reserve (U1400)**. **EF;** both $30 in advance ($5 more at site); less $5

SCCF or SLOCC; or Scholastic (U age 15) in Reserve. **Prizes: Open** $$125-65; B/C $50-30. **Reserve** $$90-50; U1000/Unr. $30. **Reg:** 9-9:30 a.m. **Rds.** 10-12:15-2:45-5. One ½ pt. Bye any rd. with entry. No visitor parking in the park – you must park on Orcutt. **Ent:** Payable to S.L.O. Chess Club, 234 Via La Paz, S.L.O., CA 93401. **Info:** (Barbara) 805-544-0717, bmccaleb@calpoly.edu.

February 18-20

23rd Annual U.S. Amateur Team West. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1. Marina San Pedro Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA 90731 Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200, diff. between bds. 3 & 4 may not exceed 1000. Dec. list used. **EF**: $116 per team if received by 2-16, $29 individual (on line only), $136 at site, under age 18 $84 by 2-16, $100 site. Trophies and 4 clocks to top 3 teams, U2100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr. Trophies (1 large, 4 small) to top college, industrial, junior (under 18), Senior (over 55), U1200. Clocks to best score each board, alternate, and any 6-0. Gift certificate prizes for best team names (1st/2nd). **Reg**. 8-10 a.m. 2-18. **Rds**. 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30. **On-line entries, help in forming teams, advance entry list:** www.westernchess.com. **HR**: $89, 310 514-3344, mention chess. Reserve by Feb. 1 or rates may go up. Free parking. **Ent**: SCCF, P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. NS, NC, W. FIDE.

February 19

9th Annual Southern California Scholastic Amateur Team. 4-SS, SD/45, Marina San Pedro Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA 90731. Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200. (Dec. 2005 rating list used, Feb. 2006 used for previously unrated players.) **EF**: $68 per team received by 2/16, $84 at site. Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U400/unr. **Reg**. 9:00-10 a.m. **Rds**. 10:30-1-2:45-4:30. **Info, help in forming teams**: Joe Hanley, 714-925-3195, scholteam@westernchess.com. **Web site, advance entry list**: www.westernchess.com. **HR**: $89, 310 514-3344, mention chess. **Ent**: SCCF, P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. NS, NC, W.

February 20

At Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. Marina San Pedro Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA 90731. Six-player sections by rating. **EF**: $20 if rec. by 2-16, $25 door. $$40-20-10 each section. **Reg**: 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds** 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. on line at www.westernchess.com

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

(see page 13)

Problem no. 1: b. White has a winning attack. In fact the game ends quickly. The main line starts with the forcing **1. Qxb7+!** (not 1. Rxb7 due to Black's clever counter 1. … Qxb1+, when after 2. Qxb1 Bxb7 Black may actually be better once his Rooks get active) **1. … Bxb7 2. Rbxb7 Rd7** (if 2. … Rdf8, then 3. Rec7+ Kd8 4. Bg5+ Ke8 5. Rb8#) **3. Rexd7 Qf5 4. Rdc7+ Kd8 5. Rf7 1-0**

Problem no. 2: **b. 1. Qd4+ is incorrect.** This is a classic case of where "see a check, give a check" can work against you. The Black King is so precariously placed it looks like there's no defense against mate by the White Queen. But if 1. Qd4+ Be4 2. dxe4 Rd2! (there's that classic gotcha move) 3. Qb6 Kf3 4. 4. Qb3+ Kg4 5. Qb6 draw. Winning for White is simply 1. Re7, when after 1. … Qd1 2. Qd4+ Be4 3. Rxe4+ and mate follows.

Problem no. 3: b. The game is drawn. From this game we learn that greed, in the long run, does not pay off. Black is up material, but at best all he can do is draw. The main line goes: **1. Rxe5!** (of course) **Rxe5 2. g3!** Now this is where Black must be careful and not try to be greedy. Attempts to salvage the Rook with moves like 2. ... g4 (*3. Kg2*) or 2. ... f4 (*3. g4*) are quickly refuted and White will win. Thus Black must return the Rook with **2. … Kg6! 3. Bxe5 Kh5 4. Kg2 Kg4 5. Bf6 f4** draw!

Problem no. 4: b. Kc3 is incorrect. White is winning – but extremely (!) careful technique is necessary to finish the game. As incredible as it looks, a simple and careless move like 1. Kc3? (or even 1. Kc1?) leads to a draw. Notice that both the Black King and Bishop are trapped in the corner. If they move away a White pawn will simply advance for promotion. White must avoid Black sacrificing his Bishop for the Pawns and so must avoid stepping on bad squares to prevent this defensive strategy. If 1. Kc3? (a bad square) then 1. … a3 2. Kb3 a2 3. Kxa2 Bh7 4. e7 Bg8+ 5. Ka3 Bf7 drawn. This same sequence plays out if 1. Kc1 as well. So, the winning line requires absolutely accurate play and timing. **1. Kd1!** (the only way to win) **a3 2. Kc1 Kh7 3. Kb1 Kh8 4. Ka1!! a2 5. Kb2 Kh7 6. Kxa2 Kg8 7. Ka3** and the White King marches to e7 for the easy win.

Scholastic Chess Calendar
(prepared by Joe Hanley)

January
21 – AAA Scholastic, Glendale
28 – MLK Jr. Classic, Bakersfield
28 – SPA Winter Scholastic
29 – Diversity Ed. Ctr. Winter Scholastic

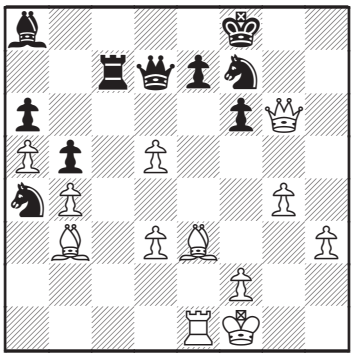
February
4 – Warner Winter Scholastic
11 – So. Cal Scholastic Chess League
19 – US Amateur Team Scholastic
25 – President's Day Classic, Bakersfield

March
11 – Morrison Scholastic, Buena Park (Dewain Barber)
18 – AAA Scholastic (Glendale)
25 – Bakersfield
26 – Diversity Ed. Ctr. Winter Blitz
31-Apr. 2 – Western States Scholastic (Ventura)

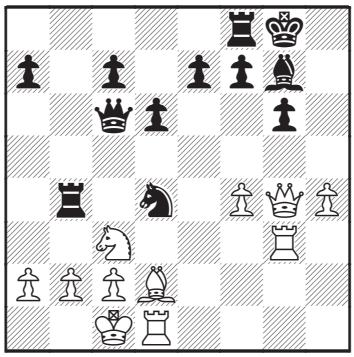
April
1 – So. Cal Scholastic Chess League
7-9 – U.S. K-9 Championships
16 – WPO Scholastics (LAX)
21-23 – U.S. K-12 Championships
29 – Super State Scholastics (Burbank)

May
6 – American Heritage Spring Classic, Bakersfield
12-14 – U.S. K-6 Championships, Denver, CO
20 – CYCL Championships

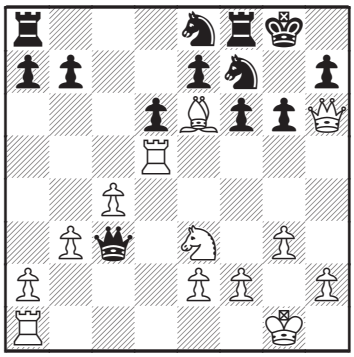
June
3 – AAA Scholastics, Glendale
3 – Warner Summer Scholastic
10 – Westwood Charter Summer Scholastic



Suba – Andres Gonzalez
Spain 2005
White to move



Sigurjonsson – Timman
Wijk aan Zee 1980
Black to move



Rojahn – Angos
Munich Olympiad, 1958
White to move

Solutions on page 21

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