Rank & File

July=August 2006 Volume XXIX, No. 4 $3.00

Sevillano, Wojtkiewicz top

Memorial Day Classic

SCCF

Los Angeles Open

October 6-8, 2006

$8,000 Prize Fund

(based on 200 players, 50% of each prize guaranteed)

at the

LAX Hilton

5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045

Five Rounds — Swiss System

3-day schedule 40/2, SD/1; 2-day schedule rounds 1-2 G/75

Entry Fees:

$68 if received by 10-5, $78 at door

SCCF membership required of rated state residents ($14, jr. $9)

Registration: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, 8:30-10 a.m. Saturday

Rounds: 3-day 7 p.m., 11-5:30, 10-4:30; 2-day 10:30-1:30 Saturday (G/75), then merges

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

HR: $94 single or double. (310) 410-4000. Be sure to mention Western Chess.

Parking $7/day

On-line entry, advance entry lists:

www.westernchess.com

Open

1st: $1400

2nd-5th: $700-$400-$300-$200

U2200: $600-$300-$150

U2000: $600-$300-$150

Amateur

(Under 1800/unr)

$600-$300-$150

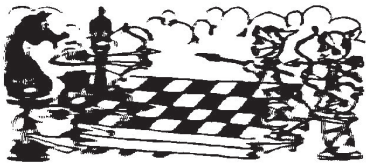
U1600: $500-$250-$150

U1400: $400-$250

U1200: $150

Unrated: $150

(Unrated may win Unrated prize onlyu in this section)



LAO Scholastics

October 8

5-SS, G/45

Reg: 8:30-9:15, Rds: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4.
EF: $16 if received by 10-5, $20 at door.
On-line entry: www.westernchess.com.

LAO Hexes

October 8

3-SS, G/90

6-player sections by rating, $$40-20-10 each section.
EF: $20 if received by 10-5, $25 door.
Reg: 9:30-10:15 a.m., Rds 10:30-1:30-4:30.

Around the Nation

National Open

Grandmasters Aleks Wojtkiewicz, Lubomir Ftacnik, Varuzhan Akobian, Nikola Mitkov and Merab Gagunashvili tied for first with 5 points each at the 2006 National Open, part of the Las Vegas International Chess Festival held at the Riviera Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas June 16-18.

Going into the final round there were no less than 13 players tied at the top of the standings. This ensured that there was a lot of fighting and aggressive chess played in the final round as a draw assured nobody of a big payday. Six of the top seven boards ended in decisive results, an unusual feat in such a tournament, and hence we had a five way split at the top. Aleks Wojtkiewicz was awarded the Edmondson Cup on tiebreaks.

A total of 695 players participated in the main National Open tournament, which contained sections from the Open down to the Under 1200. Only Santiago Lunas (Under 1600), Robert Clarke (Under 1400) and Aaron Asay (Under 1200) were able to go through the entire tournament with perfect scores.

There were other events going on as part of the Las Vegas International Chess Festival, including the prestigious Susan Polgar World Open Championship for Girls. This event was run in cooperation with the Susan Polgar Foundation. Winner of the Under Age 21 section was none other than Batchimeg Tuvshintugs, famously remembered for her upsets over various Grandmasters at the recent US Championships. All the section winners were awarded computer systems for their efforts.

The National Open Blitz Championship was won by Grandmaster Merab Gagunashvili, who scored 11½ points to secure the title from last year's joint winner Varuzhan Akobian, who finished just a point behind in second.

Grandmasters Walter Browne and Susan Polgar both gave simultaneous exhibitions on the Thursday before the tournaments. Walter Browne conceded just 3 draws out of 23 boards and did not lose a game, while Susan Polgar gave up just one loss, to Allan Crow, and four draws from the 33 games that she played.

For complete results and standings from all the events, visit the Las Vegas International Chess Festival website at www.lvchessfestival.com. – *USCF news release*

SCCF Election

Six members will be elected to the SCCF Board of Directors this year. Ballots with candidate statements are included in this issue. You may vote either by mailing your ballot to the address indicated, or in

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person at the Southern California Open Labor Day weekend.

World Youth Chess Championship

FIDE has just released the details for the 2006 World Youth Chess Championship scheduled for October 18-29 in Batumi, Georgia. The tournament will include the age categories Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18. The deadline for registration has been set for August 18th. The players listed below have qualified to play in this year's event. The top players by rating in each age category are considered the official candidates. In addition, Alex Lenderman qualifies by right as the winner of the Gold medal in the Under 16 Male section of the 2005 World Youth Championships in Belfort, France.

Players may qualify to represent the United States by being established as one of the three highest rated candidates by peak post-tournament rating in the previous 12 months ending with events included in the April Rating Supplement. This year they may also qualify by being within 50 rating points or less from the third qualifying spot from either 2006 or 2005 (see below for 2005 3rd place ratings by category). A player may also qualify by personal right by achieving a medal at the World Youth in a previous year or by achieving a Gold Medal at the previous Pan American Youth Festival. The coaches scheduled for this year's team are Michael Khodarkovsky – Head of Delegation, Aviv Friedman, Joel Benjamin, and John Fedorowicz. Regulations in PDF format for the 2006 World Youth Chess Championships can be found at http://www.fide.com/news/download/WY06_Regulations.pdf.
– USCF news release

U-18 Boys		
Salvijus Bercys	NY	2501
Alex Lenderman	NY	2496
Igor Schneider	NY	2421
Mackenzie Molner	NJ	2383
Joel Banawa	CA	2381
U-16 Boys		
Robert Hess	NY	2403
Daniel Ludwig	FL	2338
Evan Ju	NJ	2221
James Critelli	CT	2203
Francis Chen	CA	2177
Sarkis Agaian	NY	2177
U-14 Boys		
Marc Arnold	NY	2242
Alexander Heimann	PA	2177
Mark Heimann	PA	2146
Michael Lee	WA	2141
Victor Shen	NJ	2139
Jeffrey Haskel	FL	2139
Michael Thaler	NY	2123
Christian Tanaka	CA	2113
U-12 Boys		
Ray Robson	FL	2213
Parker Zhao	NY	2208
Daniel Naroditsky	CA	2003
Michael Yang	MN	1965
Zachary Young	NY	1962
Christopher Heung	FL	1957
U-10 Boys		
Darwin Yang	TX	1943
Brian Luo	WI	1937
Lucas Van Beuzekom	FL	1799
Fernando Spada	TX	1779
Fernando Mendez, Jr.	TX	1760
Aleksandr Ostrovskiy	NY	1757
Brennen Lee	AZ	1753
Kevin Bu	MN	1735
Eric Zhang	CA	1726
Eric Liao	NJ	1705
Jonathan Chin	TX	1700
Atulya Shetty	MI	1690
Sam Schmakel	IL	1688

Continued on page 19...

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2006
Lina Grumette

Memorial Day Classic

Burbank Hilton
May 19 – 21, 2006

Though problems finding a site made it necessary to move the 2006 Memorial Day Classic off the Memorial Day Weekend (and shorten it to five rounds), it still attracted a respectable turnout of 114. The 44-player Open section was quite strong, with one GM and five IMs.

Tying for first with 4½-½ were GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz (who took home the trophy on tiebreak), and IM Enrico Sevillano. Taking the remaining place [prize with 3½-1½ were IMs Jack Peters, Melikset Khachiyan, Andranik Matikozyan and Tim Taylor, along with Emory Tate and top U2300 Joel Banawa.

In other action, class section winners included Bobby Hall (for the second year in a row!), U2000, Nathaniel Lagemann (1800), Michael Bynum (U1600), and Tim Yee, David Karapetyan, and Matt Rittorno (U1400), though newcomer Dinakar Kotyan finished with 4½-½.

Side events also did well. In the 56-player Scholastic, sections were won by Dinh Tu Richard Truong and Devon Watson. Steve Sholomson topped the Action (G/30), and Richard Henderson the Hexes (G/90).

John Hillery directed for Western Chess.

Jack Peters – IM Enrico Sevillano
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
B84 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Scheveningen Variation

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

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e6 7. 0-0 Be7 8. f4 Qc7

A standard position in the Scheveningen Sicilian.

9. a4 Nbd7

Possibly less accurate than 9. ... Nc6 or 9. ... b6.

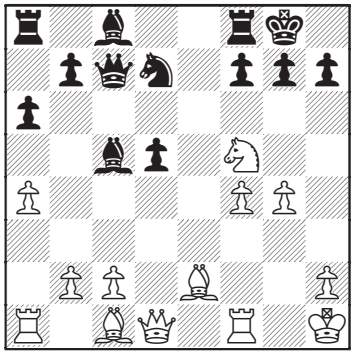
10. g4 d5!? 11. exd5

Black would not mind 11 e5 Ne4.

11. ... Nxd5 12. Nxd5 exd5 13. Nf5

I thought I was winning.

13. ... Bc5+ 14. Kh1 0-0



15. Qxd5

Risky. I rejected 15. b4!? Bxb4 16. Bb2 because of 16. ... Nf6 17. Qd4 (or 17. Nxg7 Bc3) Bxf5 (not 17. ... Bc5?? 18. Nh6+ Kh8 19. Qxf6!) 18. gxf5 Be7, but 1.9 Rg1 Rfe8 20. Rg2 appears promising.

15. ... Re8 16. Bf3?

Now Black takes over. White had to try 16. Qg2 Nf6 17. Bf3. Sevillano's suggestion of 16. ... Rxe2!? 17. Qxe2 Nf6 can be met by 18. h3 b6 19. Kh2.

16. ... Nf6 17. Qb3 Be6! 18. Qxb7

Against 18 c4, Sevillano planned 18. ... Nxg4! 19. Bxg4 Bxf5 20. Bxf5 Qc6+ 21. Qf3 Re1!!, gaining material.

18. ... Qxb7 19. Bxb7 Nxg4 20. b4

The only chance, as 20. Bxa8

Rxa8 21. Nh4 Bd5+ 22. Ng2 Re8 is gruesome.

20. ... Bxb4

Inviting 21. Bxa8? Rxa8 22. Ne3, as 22. ... Bc5! 23. Re1 Re8! recovers the material and more.

21. Ne3?

Not so clear is 21. Nd4! Rab8 22. Bf3 Bc3 23. Nxe6 Bxa1 24. Nc7 or 22. ... Bc4 23. Rg1 Bc3 24. Nc6.

21. ... Rab8 22. Bc6

Similar is 22. Bg2 Bc3 23. Ra3 Nxe3 24. Bxe3 Bb2 25. Rd3 Bc4.

22. ... Rec8 23. Be4 Bc3 24. Ra3 Nxe3 25. Bxe3 Bb2 26. Rd3 Bc4 27. a5 Re8!

Much stronger than 27. ... Bxd3 28. Bxd3.

28. Rb1?!

Tougher is 28. Ba7.

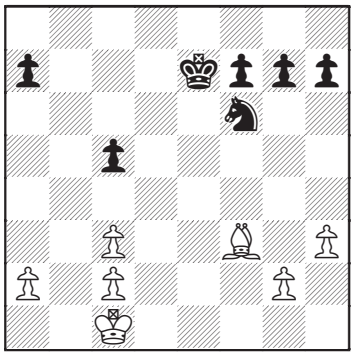
28. ... f5!

Avoiding 28. ... Rxe4?? 29. Rxb2.

29. Bc6 Bxd3 30. Bxe8 Bxc2 31. Ba7 Be4+ 32. Kg1 Rb7 33. Rd1 Rxa7 34. Rd8 Bf6 35. Rc8 Ra8, White Resigns.

Larry Snyder – IM Tim Taylor
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
B00 NIMZOVICH DEFENSE

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. Be2 e5 6. Be3 Be7 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Bxf3 exd4 9. Bxd4 Nxd4 10. Qxd4 0–0 11. 0–0–0 Re8 12. e5 dxe5 13. Qxd8 Raxd8 14. Bxb7 Bc5 15. Bc6 Rf8 16. Rxd8 Rxd8 17. Rd1 Bd4 18. Re1 Rd6 19. Ba8 Bxc3 20. bxc3 Nd7 21. Re4 Kf8 22. Rc4 c5 23. Bb7 Rf6 24. f3 Rf4 25. Be4 Rf6 26. Bb7 Rg6 27. f4 exf4 28. Rxf4 Rb6 29. Bd5 Rf6 30. Rxf6 Nxf6 31. Bf3 Ke7

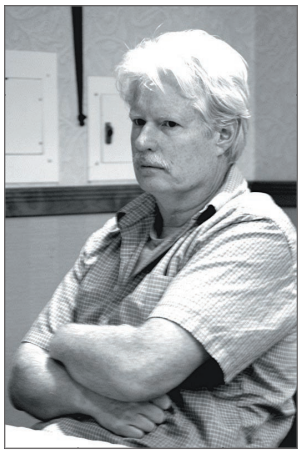


32. Kd2 Kd6 33. Kd3 Nd7 34. Ke3 Ke5 35. Be2 f5 36. Bf3 Nb6 37. Bc6 Nc8 38. Bf3 Nd6 39. Kd3 Kf4 40. Bd5 g5 41. c4 h5 42. Ke2 Kg3 43. Kf1 h4 44. Kg1 g4 45. hxg4 fxg4 46. Kf1 h3 47. gxh3 gxh3 48. Ke2 h2 49. Kf1 Nxc4 50. Ke2 Nd6 51. Bh1 Nf5 52. c3 Kf4 53. Kd3 Ng3 54. Bg2 Ke5 55. Kc4 Kd6 56. Kb5 h1Q 57. Bxh1 Nxh1 58. Ka6 Nf2 59. Kxa7 Ne4 0–1

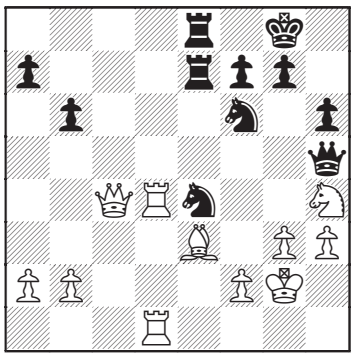
IM Melikset Khachiyan

Randy Hough – Joel Banawa
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
E09 CATALAN SYSTEM

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c6 4. Nbd2 Nf6 5. g3 Be7 6. Bg2 Nbd7 7. 0–0 0–0 8. Qc2 c5 9. Rd1 b6 10. e4 Bb7 11. exd5 exd5 12. dxc5 Nxc5 13. Nf1 Qc8 14. Ne3 dxc4 15. Nf5 Re8 16. Nxe7+ Rxe7 17. Qxc4 Qf5 18. Nh4 Qh5 19. Be3 Bxg2 20. Kxg2 Nce4 21. Rd4 Rae8 22. Rad1 h6 23. h3



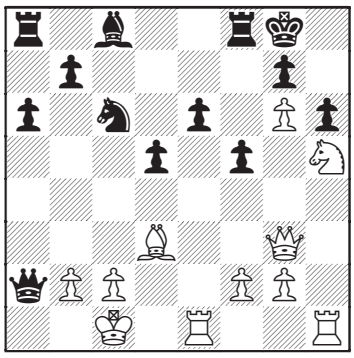
IM Tim Taylor



23. ... Nxg3 24. Kxg3 Ne4+ 25. Kg2 Qxh4 26. Rd8 Qh5 27. Rxe8+ Rxe8 28. Rd4 Qf5 29. Qd3 Re6 30. Rd8+ Kh7 31. Qd1 Rg6+ 32. Kh2 Qe5+ 33. Kh1 Nxf2+ 0–1

IM Melikset Khachiyan – Randy Higa
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
C13 FRENCH DEFENSE, Alekhine-Chatard Attack

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5 e6 4. e4 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. h4 a6 7. Qg4 Bxg5 8. hxg5 c5 9. g6 f5 10. Qf4 h6 11. Nf3 0–0 12. 0–0–0 Nc6 13. Ne2 Qe8 14. Qg3 cxd4 15. Nfxd4 Ndxe5 16. Nxc6 Nxc6 17. Nf4 Qe7 18. Re1 Qb4 19. Bd3 Qa5 20. Nh5 Qxa2



21. Nxg7 Qa1+ 22. Kd2 Qa5+ 23. c3 Qb6 24. Kc1 Kxg7 25. Rxh6 Rg8 26. Rh7+ Kf8 27. Qd6+ 1–0

IM Jack Peters – Christian Tanaka
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
B01 CENTER COUNTER DEFENSE

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nf3 Qxd5

IM Jack Peters

Prize Winners

Open

1st-2nd: GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, IM Enrico Sevillano, 4½-½; **3rd-5th & 1st U2400:** IM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Jack Peters, Emory Tate, IM Tim Taylor, Joel Banawa, 3½-1½; **U2200: 1st-2nd:** Chris Lee, Takashi Kurosaki, 3½-1½; **3rd:** Marian Nick Nita, John Daniel Bryant, Joachim Van Leeuwen, Sargis Hakobyan, 3-2.

Premier

1st: Bobby Hall, 4½-½; **2nd-3rd:** Lonnie Neal, Sargis Kasmanian, 4-1; **4th:** John Anderson, 3½-1½.

Amateur

1st: Nathaniel Lagemann, 4½-½; **2nd:** Peter Joseph, 4-1; **3rd:** Harold Deutscher, 3½-1½; 4th: Nader Atoufi, Gabriella Kay, Russell Crenshaw, 3-2.

Reserve

1st: Michael Bynum, 4½-½; **2nd-4th:** Rodolfo Salon, Stewart Yanez, Bertram Buggs, 4-1.

Booster

1st-2nd & 1st U1200: Tim Yee, David Karapetyan, Matt Rittorno, 4-1; **3rd:** Carl Dolson, Richard Yang, Robert Vidor, Kenneth John Lutz, 3-2; **Unrated:** Dinakar Kotyan, 4½-½.

Scholastic Open

1st: Dinh Tu Richard Truong, 4½-½; **2nd:** David Liau, 4-1; **3rd:** Adrian Urias, 3½-1½; **4th:** Jared Ogassian, 3-2; **5th:** Michael Zhou, 3-2.

Scholastic Reserve

1st: Devon Watson, 5-0; **2nd:** Perry Watson, 4½-½; **3rd:** Happy Ullman, 4-1; **4th:** Liam Fairweather, 4-1; **5th:** Javier Vazquez, 4-1.

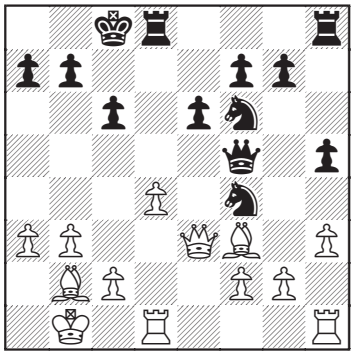
Action

1st: Stephen Sholomson, 4-1; **2nd-3rd:** Jak Jonz, Spartak Ohanyan, Prasanna Borse, Zohrab Sarkisyan, 3-2.

Hexes

1st: Richard Henderson, 2½-½; **2nd:** Timothy McCarron, 2-1; **3rd:** Michael A Yee, 1-2.

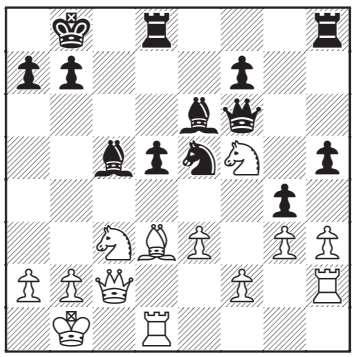
4. Nc3 Qh5 5. d4 Bg4 6. Bf4 c6 7. Be2 Nbd7 8. h3 e6 9. Qd3 Bxf3 10. Bxf3 Qa5 11. 0–0–0 0–0–0 12. Kb1 Nb6 13. Bd2 Bb4 14. a3 Bxc3 15. Bxc3 Qf5 16. b3 Nbd5 17. Bb2 Nf4 18. Qe3 h5



19. d5 N4xd5 20. Qxa7 Nc7 21. Rd4 Nb5 22. Qa8+ Kc7 23. Rxd8 Rxd8 24. Qa5+ b6 25. Qb4 Nd5 26. Qe1 Nd6 27. Bxg7 f6 28. Bxd5 exd5 29. Qe7+ Rd7 30. Qxf6 Qh7 31. Bf8 Ne4 32. Qe5+ Kb7 33. f3 Nf2 34. Rf1 Nd3 35. Qd4 Qf5 36. Qxd3 Qxf8 37. a4 Re7 38. f4 Re4 39. f5 Qf6 40. g3 Ka7 41. Qf3 c5 42. Rd1 Qf7 43. f6 Re6 44. Qxd5 Qxf6 45. Qd7+ Ka6 46. Ka2 Qf2 47. Qd3+ Ka7 48. Qh7+ Ka6 49. Rd7 Ka5 50. Ka3 1–0

Ike Miller – IM Enrico Sevillano
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
D36 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, Exchange Variation

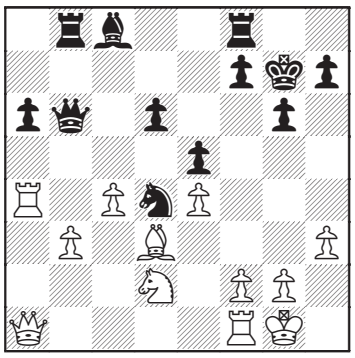
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 c6 6. Qc2 Be6 7. e3 Nbd7 8. Bd3 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Nh5 11. Nge2 Nxg3 12. Nxg3 h5 13. Nf5 Qf6 14. h3 0–0–0 15. 0–0–0 g4 16. g3 Kb8 17. Rh2 c5 18. dxc5 Bxc5 19. Kb1 Ne5



20. hxg4 hxg4 21. Rxh8 Rxh8 22. Nd4 Bxd4 23. exd4 Nxd3 24. Rxd3 Bf5 25. Qd2 Bxd3+ 26. Qxd3 Rh1+ 27. Kc2 Qxf2+ 28. Kb3 Rh2 0–1

Harutyun Akopyan – IM Melikset Khachiyan
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
B53 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Accelerated Dragon Variation

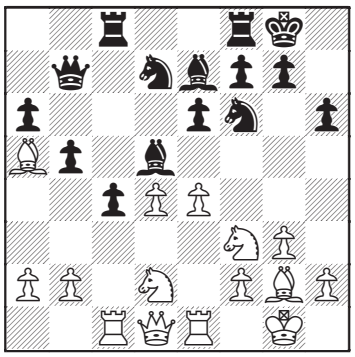
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Qxd4 a6 5. c4 Nc6 6. Qd2 Nf6 7. Nc3 g6 8. b3 Bg7 9. Bb2 0–0 10. Be2 Qa5 11. Rb1 b5 12. a3 b4 13. axb4 Qxb4 14. h3 Rb8 15. Ba1 Qa3 16. Qd1 Nd7 17. 0–0 Nc5 18. Nd2 e6 19. Bb2 Qa5 20. Ra1 Qb6 21. Na4 Nxa4 22. Bxg7 Kxg7 23. Rxa4 Nd4 24. Qa1 e5 25. Bd3



25. ... f5 26. exf5 gxf5 27. c5 Qxc5 28. Bxa6 Bd7 29. Rc1 Qb6 30. Ra2 Be6 31. Rc3 Ra8 32. Bf1 Rxa2 33. Qxa2 f4 34. Kh2 Bd5 35. f3 Nf5 36. Nc4 Qb4 37. Qa7+ Kf6 38. Nb6 Be6 39. Qc7 Ne3 40. Be2 Rg8 41. Nd7+ Bxd7 42. Qxd7 Rxg2+ 43. Kh1 Qxc3 44. Qxd6+ Kg7 0–1

IM Tim Taylor – Carlos Garcia
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
E03 CATALAN SYSTEM

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 dxc4 5. Qa4+ Nbd7 6. Qxc4 a6 7. Bg2 b5 8. Qc2 Bb7 9. Bg5 c5 10. 0–0 Rc8 11. Qd1 Be7 12. Nbd2 0–0 13. Nb3 h6 14. Bd2 Qc7 15. Ba5 Qb8 16. Rc1 c4 17. Nbd2 Bd5 18. Re1 Qb7 19. e4



19. ... Nxe4 20. Nxe4 Bxe4 21. Rxe4 b4

(21. ... Qxe4 22. Ne5 Qf5 23. Nxd7 Rfe8 24. Bb7)

22. d5 Nf6 23. Rexc4 Rxc4 24. Rxc4 Qb5 25. d6 Qxc4 26. dxe7 Re8 27. Ne5 Qxa2 28. Bxb4 Qxb2 29. Bd6 Rxe7 30. Nd3 1–0

Joel Banawa – IM Melikset Khachiyan
Memorial Day Classic, Burbank 2006
D85 GRÜNFELD DEFENSE, Exchange Variation

1. Nf3 g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Be3 Nc6 9. Rc1 Qa5 10. Qd2 Bg4 11. d5 Rd8 12. Be2 0–0 13. c4 b6 14. Qxa5 Nxa5 15. Nd2 Bxe2 16. Kxe2 f5 17. f3 e6 18. Rhd1 Nb7 19. a4 Rfe8 20. Kd3 Na5 21. Ke2 h5 22. h3 Kh7 23. g4 Bh6 24. gxf5 gxf5 25. Bxh6 Kxh6 26. Kf2 Rd7 27. h4 Nb7 28. exf5 exf5 29. Re1 Rde7 30. Rxe7 Rxe7 31. f4 Nd6 32. Re1 Rxe1 ½–½

Scholastic Open winner
Dinh Tu Richard Truong

Lina Grumette
1908-1988

Many players today may not have made the acquaintance of Lina Grumette. The loss is theirs. As a tournament player and organizer, chess promoter, and inveterate skittler, she was the most beloved woman in American chess.

In 1953, Lina and her family moved to Los Angeles, where she ran a public relations firm. After the death of her husband, Lina decided to open a chess club in her Hollywood home. "The Chess Set" began as a meeting place for Lina's many friends in show business, but soon attracted more players who appreciated Lina'a unparalleled hospitality. Lina encouraged and befriended most of the masters in the area, and welcomed those who were just visiting southern California. She hosted a series of Futurity tournaments in the 1970's and 80's that introduced two generations of masters to international play.

Lina was very proud of the Chess Set Educational Trust, a non-profit organization that she set up to promote chess. With its backing, she organized the first Memorial Day Classic in 1980. Ignoring many warnings that Los Angeles wasn't ready for a big-money event, Lina soon made the Memorial Day Classic a success.

The Chess Set Educational Trust also ran programs for youngsters, and, with the help of Chevron, for teenage alcoholics. Lina persuaded corporations to contribute when most chess organizers said it couldn't be done.

Lina gained world-wide fame at the first Fischer-Spassky match in 1972. When Fischer forfeited the second game of the match, most fans expected him to quit. Lina, who had known Fischer since he was a teenager, talked to him privately for several hours. Somehow she persuaded him to play, and he went on to become World Champion. (Lina's own account of their conversation: "But I'm right," Fischer said. "So be right -- and be ruined!" Lina replied.)

Lina Grumette died in 1988. She is greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Super State Scholastics

For the second year in a row, the Southern California High School, Junior High, and Elementary Championships were combined in the Super States Scholastics, hel;d at the Burbank Hilton April 28-30. A total of 233 players competed.

Francis Chen, the 2005 champion, and Derek Tan tied for with 6-1 in the High School section. Chen took the first place trophy (and invitation to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions) on tiebreak. Next at 5½-1½ were Anthony Ong and Dingchao Lu. Vanessa West with 5-2 earned a trip to the Polgar Tournament as the highest-scoring girl.

Other section winners included: **Junior High** — Jared Tan, Armen Samuelian, Michael Yee, Max Chou and Tianye He; **Elementary** — Brendyn Estolas and Ryan Polsky (K-6); Eric Huang, Omar Wiseman and Matthew Mullen (K-3); Kevin Qian, Shyam Gandhi, Ranon Roberto and Curtis Clemmensen (K-1); Devon Watson (K-6 Under-850); Scott Xue (K-3 Under-550); David Mao, Austin Webb and Bill Feng (non-rated K-12); Zheng Zhu and Randy Tseng (non-rated K-6 section); and Robert Eli Lawrence (non-rated K-1). Joe Hanley directed for chess4children.com.

Derek Tan & Francis Chen

Jeremy Stein (2053) – John Bryant (2093)
SCCF High School Championship, Burbank 2006
A70 MODERN BENONI DEFENSE

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

1. d4 c5 2. d5 e6 3. c4 exd5 4. cxd5 d6 5. Nc3 g6 6. e4 Bg7 7. Nf3 Nf6

The Modern Benoni, a risky counterattack.

8. h3 0-0 9. Bd3

One of White's most popular treatments.

9. … a6 10. a4 Re8 11. 0-0 Nbd7 12. Re1 Qe7 13. Bf4 Qf8!? 14. Qc1

Alternatives include 14. a5 and 14. Nd2.

14. … Nh5 15. Be3

As 15. Bh2 Bh6! 16. Qc2 Nf4 17. Bf1 Ne5 lets Black command the dark squares.

15. … h6 16. g4

Ambitious. If 16. Rb1 b6 17. b4, Black would fight back with 17. ... f5.

16. … Nhf6 17. Rb1 b6 18. b4 h5 19. g5 Nh7 20. h4?!

Unnecessary. Chances remain about even after 20 Kg2.

20. … f6!

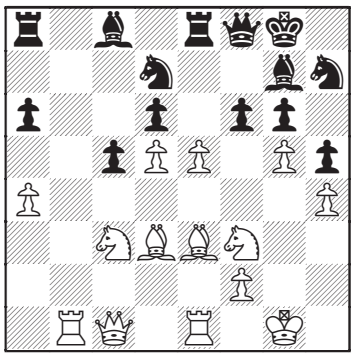
While White is busy opening the b-file, Black reminds him of his exposed King.

21. bxc5

Not 21 gxf6?? Qxf6, dropping a Knight.

21. … bxc5 22. e5??

Black can afford to ignore the threat to g6. White had to try 22. Kg2 Qf7 23. gxf6, which is uncomfortable but not losing.



22. … fxg5! 23. Bxg6 Qxf3! 24. Bxe8 Nxe5

Threatening 25. ... Bh3. Suddenly White is lost.

25. Qd1 Qh3!

Even stronger than 25. ... Bh3.

26. Bxh5 g4 27. Bf4 Nf3+ 28. Qxf3 gxf3 29. Re8+ Nf8 30. Bxf3 Qxf3 31. Bxd6 Bh3 32. Rxf8+ Bxf8, White Resigns.

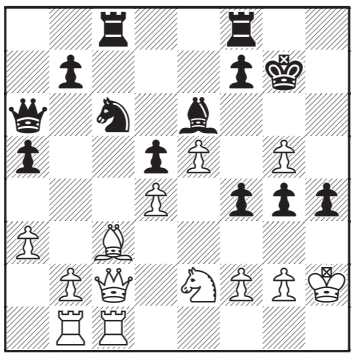
Vanessa West (2022) – Derek Tan (2088)
SCCF High School Championship, Burbank 2006
C99 RUY LOPEZ

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4.

Ba4 Nf6 5. 0–0 b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. Re1 d6 8. c3 0–0 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. Nbd2 cxd4 13. cxd4 Nc6 14. d5 Nb4 15. Bb1 a5 16. a3 Na6 17. b4 Bd7 18. Qb3 Rfc8 19. Bb2 Qb6 20. Bd3 Nh5 21. Nf1 Nf4 22. Be2 Ra7 23. Bc1 Nxe2+ 24. Rxe2 Rac7 25. Be3 Qb7 26. bxa5 Nc5 27. Bxc5 Rxc5 28. a4 Rc3 29. Qb2 b4 30. Re3 Rc2 31. Qb3 Bd8 32. a6 Qxa6 33. Qxb4 R2c4 34. Qd2 Bb6 35. Re2 Rxa4 36. Rxa4 Bxa4 37. Ne3 Bb5 38. Nf5 Bxe2 39. Ne7+ Kf8 40. Nxc8 Bc5 41. Qb2 Bb5 42. Ng5 h6 43. Nh7+ Kg8 44. Nf6+ gxf6 45. Ne7+ Kf8 46. Nf5 Bd7 47. Nxh6 Kg7 48. Qd2 Qa1+ 49. Kh2 Qd4 50. Qc1 Qxf2 0–1

Francis Chen (2178) – Anthony Ong (2022)
SCCF High School Championship, Burbank 2006
C02 FRENCH DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 a5 7. Bd3 Bd7 8. Bc2 Nh6 9. 0–0 cxd4 10. cxd4 Nf5 11. Bxf5 exf5 12. Nc3 Be6 13. Qa4 Rc8 14. Bd2 Be7 15. Rfc1 h6 16. Rab1 0–0 17. h3 g5 18. Ne2 Kg7 19. Bc3 f4 20. Qc2 Qa6 21. Kh2 h5 22. h4 g4 23. Ng5 Bxg5 24. hxg5 h4



25. Nxf4 Nxd4 26. Qd1 g3+ 27. fxg3 hxg3+ 28. Kxg3 Nf5+ 29. Kf3 Rc4 30. Qd2 Rfc8 31. Rh1 d4 32. Bxa5 Qc6+ 33. Kg4 Rc2 34. Rbc1 Rxc1 35. Rh2 Ne3+ 36. Kg3 Nf1+ 0–1

Los Angeles County Open

Peters And Ong Tie For LA County Title

The 8th Annual Los Angeles County Open attracted a good turnout of 53 players to Monterey Park the weekend of May 6-7. The top seed, IM Jack Peters, was joined at the top by Austin Ong, the ninth-seeded Chess Palace front man who rarely has time to play these days. Both tallied 4½ of 5, drawing their hard-fought game in the third round.

This tournament is one of the few weekenders that allow everyone to play in one section, thus making upsets especially notable. Ike Miller, the highest rated Expert, downed IM Tim Taylor (who tried to win a drawn ending and suffered a drastic fate) in Round 4, at which point he had a perfect score. Peters proceeded to bring him down to earth in the finale. Ong beat Experts Show Kitagami and Gregg Fritchle on the final day.

Ong joined Fritchle, Danyul Lawrence, Christian Tanaka, and "A" winner Chris Roberts, all of whom scored 3½, in qualifying for the State Championship Candidates. Fortunately for these last three, the 4 pointers (as well as Kitagami) had already qualified. A full list of prizewinners, including the scholastic players who paid a lower entry fee and competed for trophies only, appears below. (Final standings are posted at www.scchess.com.)

This event was the latest in a series made possible through the good offices of former Councilman Francisco Alonso (who played but had to take two byes Sunday to press the flesh at a community event). Randy Hough directed. – *Randy Hough*

Prize Winners

1st/2nd: Jack Peters and Austin Ong, 4 ½ - ½. 3rd/6th: Tim Taylor, Joel Banawa, Ike Miller, and Marian Nick Nita, 4. 1st U2000: Chris Roberts, 3½. 1st/3rd U1800: Rolando Tenoso, Gary Ware, and Ryan Yeung, 3. 1st U1600: Charles Marshall, 3. 1st U1400: Richard Yang, 2. 1st Unrated: Robert Kay, 1. 1st/2nd Scholastic: Sunil Deolalikar and Aaron Ong, 3. 3rd/5th Scholastic: Nicholas Hammond, Anthony Hung, and Richard Truong, 2.

IM Tim Taylor -- Francisco Alonso
Los Angeles County Open, Monterey Park 2006
A51 BUDAPEST DEFENSE

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

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5

The Budapest Gambit. Alonso, the former mayor of Monterey Park, specializes in offbeat openings.

3. e3

Varying from the customary 3. dxe5 Ng4 4. Bf4.

3. ... Bb4+ 4. Nc3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Qe7 6. Ne2 0-0 7. Ng3 d6

Now the position resembles a Nimzo-Indian, with about even chances.

8. Be2 Nc6 9. 0-0 Re8 10. Rb1

Taylor craftily delays f2-f4, White's thematic attacking thrust.

10. ... Rb8 11. Qc2 g6 12. d5 Na5 13. e4 Nd7 14. Be3 Nc5?

Black has little to fear after 14. ... b6, as he can parry 15. f4 with 15. ... exf4 16. Rxf4 Ne5.

15. f4! exf4?!

Not 15. ... f6?! 16. fxe5 fxe5 (worse is 16. ... dxe5? 17. Rb5! b6 18. Bxc5) 17. Bh6!, and White will dominate the f-file. But 15. ....b6 may survive.

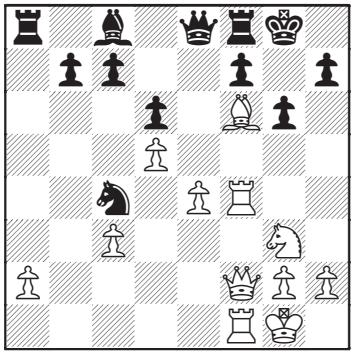
16. Rxf4 Nd7 17. Rbf1 Ne5 18. Bxa7 Ra8 19. Bd4 Naxc4

Permitting a brutal attack. Only 19. ... Rf8 hangs on.

20. Bxc4 Nxc4 21. Qf2 Rf8 22. Bf6

With unstoppable threats on the dark squares near Black's King.

22. ... Qe8



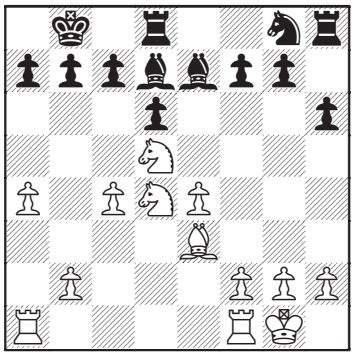
23. Nf5! Bxf5 24. Qh4! h5

Else 25. Qh6.

25. Qg5 Kh7 26. Rh4 Bg4 27. Qxg4 Ne3 28. Rxh5+, Black Resigns.

IM Jack Peters - Rolondo Tenoso
Los Angeles County Open, Monterey Park 2006
C62 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Moscow Variation

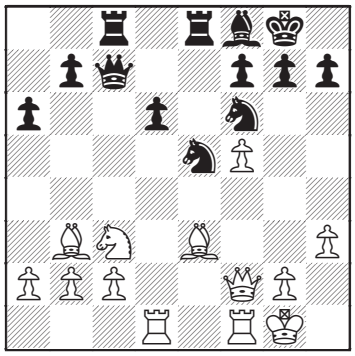
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 d6 4. d4 exd4 5. Qxd4 Bd7 6. Bxc6 Bxc6 7. Nc3 Qf6 8. 0–0 Qxd4 9. Nxd4 Bd7 10. Nd5 0–0–0 11. c4 h6 12. Be3 Kb8 13. a4 Be7



14. Nb5 Bxb5 15. axb5 b6 16. Nxc7 Kb7 17. Nd5 Bf6 18. Ra2 Ra8 19. Rfa1 Bd8 20. Bf4 Nf6 21. Nxf6 Bxf6 22. Bxd6 Bd4 23. Rd1 Bf6 24. e5 Bd8 25. b4 Bc7 26. c5 Rhc8 27. c6+ Kb8 28. Bxc7+ Rxc7 29. Rd8+ Rc8 30. Rad2 a5 31. R2d7 Rxd8 32. Rxd8+ Ka7 33. c7 axb4 34. Rxa8+ Kxa8 35. c8Q+ 1–0

Gregg Fritchle – Austin Ong
Los Angeles County Open, Monterey Park 2006
B88 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Sozin Variation

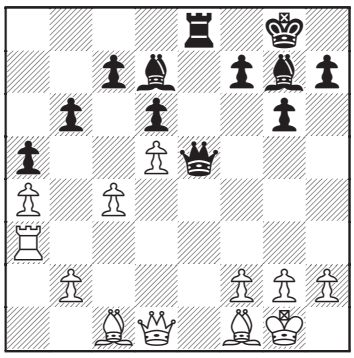
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bc4 Qb6 7. Ndb5 a6 8. Be3 Qd8 9. Nd4 e6 10. Bb3 Be7 11. f4 Qc7 12. Qf3 Bd7 13. f5 Ne5 14. Qe2 exf5 15. Nxf5 Bxf5 16. exf5 Rc8 17. 0–0 0–0 18. Rad1 Rfe8 19. h3 Bf8 20. Qf2



20. ... Neg4 21. hxg4 Nxg4 22. Qg3 Nxe3 23. Nd5 Nxf1 24. Rxf1 Qc5+ 25. Kh1 Qd4 26. f6 Re4 27. Rf2 Qd1+ 28. Kh2 Qh5+ 29. Kg1 Re1+ 30. Rf1 Rxf1+ 31. Kxf1 Re8 32. Ne7+ Kh8 33. Qxd6 Bxe7 34. fxe7 Qh1+ 35. Ke2 Qxg2+ 36. Kd3 Qg6+ 0–1

Joaquim Van Leeuwen – Vadim Kudryavtsev
Los Angeles County Open, Monterey Park 2006
E70 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

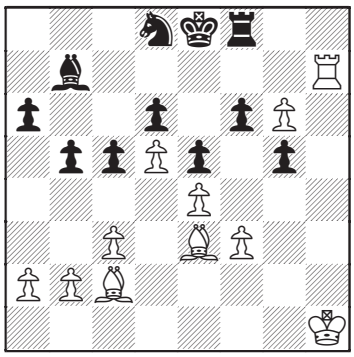
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Bd3 0–0 6. Nge2 Nc6 7. 0–0 e5 8. d5 Nd4 9. Nxd4 exd4 10. Ne2 Re8 11. Nxd4 Nxe4 12. Ne6 Bxe6 13. Bxe4 Bd7 14. Bd3 Qf6 15. a4 a5 16. Ra3 b6 17. Re1 Rxe1+ 18. Qxe1 Re8 19. Qd1 Qe5 20. Bf1



20. … Qd4 21. Qxd4 Bxd4 22. Rd3 Bg7 23. b3 Bf5 24. Rg3 Re1 25. Bg5 Be5 26. Rf3 Be4 27. Re3 Rxe3 28. Bxe3 Bc2 29. f4 Bf6 30. Kf2 Bxb3 31. Bd3 Bxa4 0–1

Charles Marshall – Vincent Huang
Los Angeles County Open, Monterey Park 2006
C77 RUY LOPEZ

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3 b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. c3 d6 8. Nbd2 0–0 9. 0–0 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. h3 Nc6 12. Re1 Bb7 13. Nf1 Rc8 14. Be3 Qc7 15. Rc1 Rfd8 16. Qe2 Ne8 17. Ng3 Bf6 18. Ng5 h6 19. Nf3 Qd7 20. Rcd1 Nc7 21. d4 Qe7 22. Nf5 Qf8 23. d5 Ne7 24. g4 Ng6 25. Qd2 Ne8 26. Kh1 Be7 27. Rg1 f6 28. Rg2 Nh8 29. N3h4 g5 30. Nxe7+ Qxe7 31. Nf5 Qf8 32. h4 Nf7 33. Rh2 Rd7 34. hxg5 hxg5 35. Rg1 Ng7 36. Rg3 Nxf5 37. gxf5 Qg7 38. f3 Kf8 39. Rgh3 Ke8 40. Rh7 Qg8 41. Qg2 Kd8 42. Qh3 Kc7 43. Qh5 Rf8 44. Qg6 Qxg6 45. fxg6 Nd8 46. Rxd7+ Kxd7 47. Rh7+ Ke8



48. b4 cxb4 49. cxb4 Bc8 50. Bb6 Bd7 51. Bxd8 1–0

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

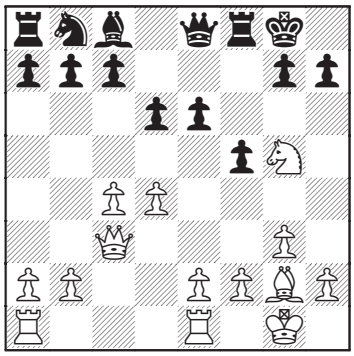
It's all about winning a pawn. The rest "is just a matter of technique."

Yes, that's a catchy and often annoying phrase, but in top-level chess the player who wins a single pawn, and holds on with prudent play in the endgame, tends to win more often than not. The tactical combination for winning the pawn, in fact, may go very deep and take many moves, and when the dust finally settles the player has emerged a clear pawn ahead with a theoretically won endgame.

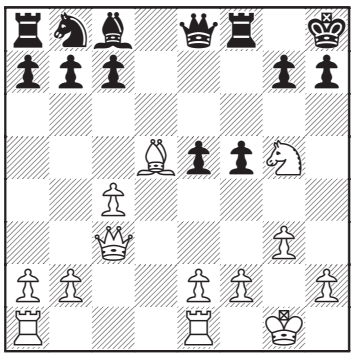
Remember the phrase from Emanuel Lasker, one of all-time greatest players in chess history, that "the hardest game to win is a won game." How many times have you played so well and felt your opponent was totally lost, only to blow it and either end up drawing or worst losing at the end? This happens to us all, even the very best in the world. But for many a GM being a pawn ahead is all they need to finish off an opponent and score the point. The fewer the pieces, the more important are the Pawns. So … on these aspects alone top players understand the importance of knowing endgame techniques – and thus create combinations that allow them to close out a won game almost effortlessly!

Enough cannot be emphasize to students that succeeding with tactics is very important, but only part of the total equation in winning any game of chess. What good is winning material during the opening or middlegame with a brilliant or clever combination, only to botch up a clearly better game when you have little or no knowledge of how to finish the game? Any top-level player will tell you that in order to improve your game, you must study the endgame before anything else; for whereas the endings can be studied and mastered by themselves, the middlegame and the opening must be studied in relation to the endgame. All the tactical elements of chess play right into this profound axiom.

Let's look at the following game (Larsen – Neivergelt, Amsterdam 1954, ECO A97) that demonstrates how to take a combinative win of a Pawn all the way to victory with the "proper technique." **1. Nf3 e6 2. g3 f5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. 0-0 Be7 5. c4 0-0 6. d4 d6 7. Nc3 Qe8 8. Re1 Ne4 9. Qc2 Nxc3 10. Qxc3 Bf6 11. Bg5 Bxg5 12. Nxg5**. See diagram 1. The opening and early middlegame have moved along well, with each side maneuvering to establish potential breaks in the center. Black's best plan now is (i.e. *should be*) to get his Queenside developed, beginning with a move to repel the White Knight such as 12. … h6. A possible continuation would be 13. Nf3 Nd7 14. e4 fxe4 15. Rxe4 Nf6 16. Re2 Qh5 17. Rae1 with a dynamic middlegame ensuing with chances for both sides. Black, however, neglects prudent development and prematurely expands in the center before his Queenside has been developed. This creates the potential for subtle tactics that White looks to execute given the smallest opportunity. White is currently ahead in development and would plan more towards central and Queenside play as his primary strategy to seek an advantage.

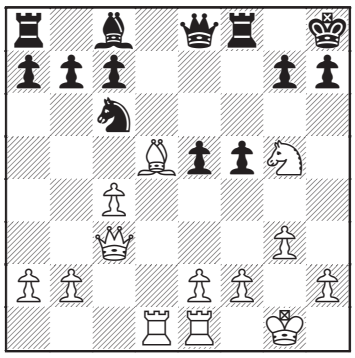


The game continued **12. … e5!?** This early central expansion is probably a dubious plan and may be blamed as the losing move. With that said … how does White exploit this before Black finds time to consolidate? **13. dxe5 dxe5** If 13. … Qxe5, Black loses at least the Exchange owing to 14. Bd5+ etc. **14. Bd5+ Kh8** See diagram 2. It's White to move. What would you do?

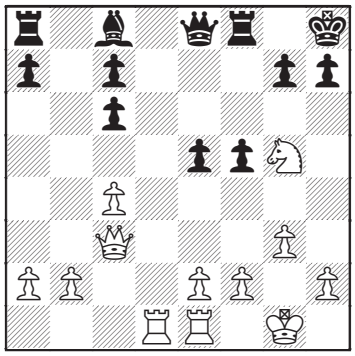


White plays **15. Rad1,** a very practical but strong developing move – with a tricky threat that Black cannot "easily" defend against. So let's review the current position and compare the activity of each of the players' pieces. Both of White's Rooks are actively participating in the middlegame, while Black has yet to develop his Queenside at all. This is typically a recipe for some kind of disaster. The game continued **15. … Nc6** What else is there for Black? 15. … h6? loses to 16. Nf7+ Rxf7 17. Bxf7 Qxf7 18. Rd8+ Kh7 19. Rxc8 totally winning for White, or if 15. … c6? 16. Nf7+ Rxf7 17. Bxf7 winning the Exchange with more material loss to follow. I really cannot see any other move, which indicates that 12. … e5, at a critical junction of the late opening phase, was most likely a mistake. This also exemplifies how being underdeveloped can often create difficulties when your opponent has more active pieces in play during the middlegame. Always remember in the opening to develop, get your pieces to active posts, and castle to connect your Rooks as soon as possible.

It's White to move. Can you find a tactical motif that exploits Black's underdeveloped position, not only winning material, but setting up decisive infiltration to win the ensuing endgame?



16. Bxc6! Correct, as any other move may allow Black to complete his development and solidify. **16.… bxc6** Perhaps not expecting White's next move, as 16… Qxc6 is better than what was played – but White would still have the much better game. For example, 17. Qxe5 Qxc4? (… *h6*) 18. Qe7 Qg8 (what else?) 19. Rd8! Rxd8 20. Nf7+ and White is winning.



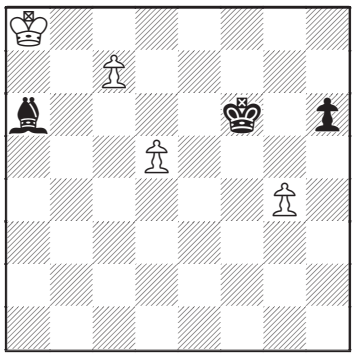
17. Qxe5! There it is! That nice tactical move we all look for that in this game wins a clear pawn for White. White exploits Black's vulnerable back rank with a dramatic Queen sacrifice. **17. … Qxe5**(If 17. … Qg6. White continues with 18. f4 sustaining a dominating position for the Knight with a good initiative. The Black Queenside is riddled with weaknesses that would be quickly exploited. **18. Nf7+ Kg8** Not 18. … Rxf7??, as 19. Rd8+ allows mate in 2. Remember to do your safety check! **19. Nxe5 Be6 20. b3** An important rule to remember is that when you're up material, keep the position simple and *symmetric*. When down material, create imbalances and look to *complicate* – even if it means giving up more material. After all, what have you got to lose and your opponent may make a mistake by floundering or feeling over confident. **20. … Rf6 21. Rd2** This move marks the beginning of that important "winning technique" we often hear about. White's Rooks dominate the open file and will infiltrate seeking further material gain without allowing any worrisome counterplay from Black. **21. … Re8 22. Red1 Bf7** Perhaps a better try for Black was 22. … Bd5 – seeking to complicate (!) and mix things up a bit – hoping White would make a mistake with 23. cxd5? (better is 23. f4) Rxe5 24. dxc6 Rxc6 and Black has improved his drawing chances with a very difficult-to-win double-Rook endgame. Stronger players will notoriously employ complications when they are losing against weaker opponents and many times will actually turn the game entirely around. **23. Rd8 Rfe6 24. Nxf7 Kxf7 25. e3 a5** Black can basically only "wait" – as it's hard to find active counterplay or create tactical complications and imbalances. **26. R1d7+ R8e7 27. Rxe7+ Kxe7** With every exchange, White draws closer to sealing an easier win. **28. Ra8** White's Rook is quite active and Black cannot afford the loss of any more material or the exchange of his Rook at this stage. **28. … Re5 29. Kf1 h6 30. Rg8 Kf6 31. Rc8 a4** Without much hope, Black now seeks to create totally desperate imbalances – but White's Rook is just too active for this to matter much. **32. Rxc7 c5 33. bxa4 g5 34. a5 f4 35. exf4 gxf4 36. gxf4 Rf5 37. a6** Black has had enough and resigns. **1 – 0.**

"Pawns are the soul of chess," stated by Andre Philidor of the 18th Century. Throughout the early history of modern chess, emphasis was predominantly seen in the style of the Italian School, where games involved gambits and swift attacks on the King. Naturally this often led to early resignations, well before

the game would reach any kind of endgame. From this most players focused on the openings, practically neglecting endgame study and practice. In those days, the endgame was boring and tedious, so any available literature devoted to endgames was quite small. Over the years, and certainly much more today, with computers and huge game databases a part of all serious players, games are becoming longer and endgames are more exciting and inspirational. As computers increase in speed and strength so does the mathematical computation capability. Think about how Reuben Fine would feel today – if he had a computer to check all his work from *Basic Chess Endings*. Computers can quickly calculate the endgame winning lines – and this is helping younger players to realize what they must know and how important the tactics of just winning a pawn means in the course of finalizing any single victory.

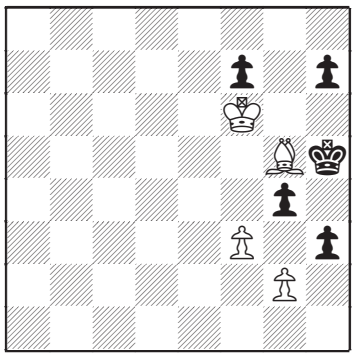
Improving your ability to calculate and visualize tactical combinations takes practice. Tactical problem solving will help in this development. The following exercises will test your tactical awareness. Avoid moving the pieces when solving problems so as to strengthen your over-the-board play. Be alert, play sharp and always remember to do your **safety check**. Good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 21.

Problem No. 1. White to move. Assess the position and what do you conclude?



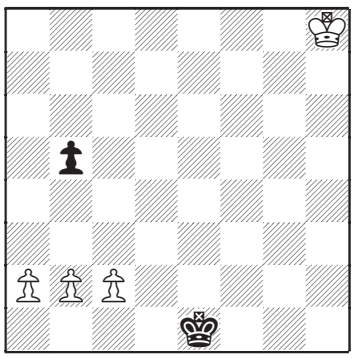
a) Black is winning.
b) White is winning.
c) The game is drawn.
Prove your conclusion with a variation.

Problem No. 2. White to play.



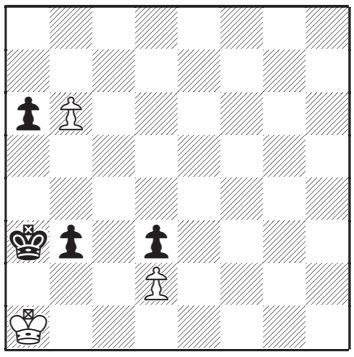
a) The game is a draw.
b) White wins.
c) Black wins.
Validate your choice with a variation.

Problem No. 3. White is up 2 pawns, but the Black King can attack them quickly. It's White to move … what say you?



a) Black can win all White's pawns and will win.
b) The position is a draw.
c) White wins.
Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 4. Black to move – what result?



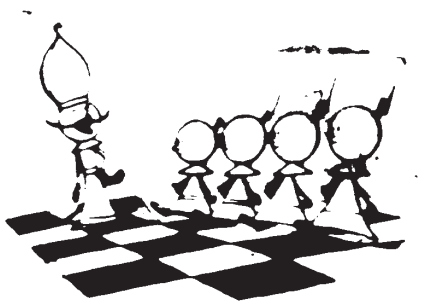
a) The game is a draw.
b) White wins.
c) Black wins.
Prove your answer with a variation.

Late news

With the completion of the Candidates Tournament, the field is set for the 2006 SCCF State Championship. The participants will be IMs Cyrus Lakdawala and Andranik Matikozyan (2005 co-champions), IM Enrico Sevillano (Southern California Open champion), GM Boris Kreiman (invited on the basis of rating), and four from the Candidates: IM Jack Peters, Francis Chen, Eugene Yanayt, and Christian Tanaka.

The tournament will take place from July 8 through 16 at the law offices of Cheong, Denove, Rowell & Bennett in Los Angeles. The site is not open to the public, but results and games will be posted on line daily at ***www.scchess.com***.

Here & There



Los Angeles Chess Club

Winners of recent "L.A. Masters" tournaments were: April 22: Garush Manukyan, 3½-½; April 29: Show Kitagami, 3½-½; May 6: Emory Tate, 3½-½; May 13: Tim Taylor, 4-0; May 27: Sargis Hakobyan, 3½-½; June 3: Ganbold Odondoo, 3½-½; June 10: Ganbold Odondoo, 3½-½.

The Los Angeles Chess Club 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

Wildflower Fest

April 29

Kermit Norris took first place in this Joshua Tree event with a score of 4½-½, followed at 4-1 by Alex Gojich. Class prizes went to Axel Vandervelden, Mark Muller, and Steven Dahl.

The Joshua Tree Chess Club meets 5:30 p.m. to midnight Fridays at Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd. in Joshua Tree. For information, call Mark Muller (760-367-2311) or Henry Schmit (760) 367-7173), or e-mail muller29@adelphia.net.

Exposition Park Chess Club

Fernando Corona, Gem Malinao and Stanley Allen won their sections in the monthly free tournament on May 6. On June 3, winners were Lonnie Neal and Patrick Dailey. For photos of the club, see chess.expoparkla.com. The club meets every Sunday afternoon in the public library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles.

Pasadena Chess Club

The Pasadena City Open, a 24 player tournament in two sections, ended May 12. The Open section was won by Dave Matson with 3½ of 4, just ahead of Ike Miller and Tianyi He. In the Reserve, Rolando Tenoso, Terrence Sun, Robert Xue, and Thomas Hogue all tied for first at 3-1. The club will hold a one-night Quick tournament May 26 and will begin the four-round Mt. Wilson Open on June 2.

The Pasadena Club meets 6:45 p.m. Friday nights at Throop church, 300 S. Los Robles. For information, call Randy Hough, (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com. – *Randy Hough*

Westwood Charter Scholastic

This April event at Westwood Charter School in Los Angeles drew 28. Section winners included David Coles (grades K-12) section, Tim Roofian (K-8) section, and Ray Mueller, Naveen Bandarage, Stefano Watchi and Charlie Cooper (grades K-5) sections. Ivona Jezierska of Chess for Success directed.

AAA Spring Scholastic

A good turnout of 137 players participated in the AAA Chess Club's Spring Scholastic on June 3 at the First Lutheran Church in Glendale. Michael Ambartsoumian (grades K-12), Gevorg Papoyan (K-8) and Evan Anthopoulos (K-5) won their sections with 5-0 scores. Harut Keshishian directed.

Warner Summer Scholastic

The 13th annual Warner Summer Scholastic, held June 3 at Warner School in Westwood, attracted 66 players. Ivan Popilyanu and Jonathan Lee led the two Championship (grades K-12) sections. Other sections were won by Christian Rayfield, Theo Valaise (on tiebreak over Jordan Rayfield), Sanandama Pronk, Adam Semprevivo, Joshua Super, Will Bucksbaum, J.R. Olofson, Jacob Raspe (on tiebreak over Chris Park) and Bryan Mack. John Surlow directed.

Costa Mesa Octos

The May Octos, held May 28 at the Chess Center in Costa Mesa, attracted 30 players. Craig Clawitter, Roger Bowen, Richard Henri and Isaac Kamgar led their sections with 3-0 scores. The next Octos are scheduled for June 24.

High School Invitational Chess League

The Southern California Invitational High School Chess League held its third tournament since its founding at the International Santa Monica Beach Chess Park on May 27. The tournament was hosted by Long Beach Jordan High School and organized by faculty sponsor Dan Satorius. Oakwood school won the team championship. For more information regarding the next tournament please contact league director and founder Philip Voron at philster12@earthlink.net. – *Philip Voron*

Springtime Woodpushers

Thurlo Mishler and Rolando Gaetos tied for first place in the Springtime Woodpushers, held April 29 at Danny's Kosher Pickle in Covina. Fifteen players competed.

La Palma Chess Club

Expert Robert Hutchinson took first place with 4-1 in the 24-player Bird Flu Opening Swiss, ending in May. Class prizes went toMike Henebry, Brenda Nardi, Carmen Childress, and Emma Fonseca.

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.

Arcadia Chess Club

The "Spring Open," with 47 players, saw Ike Miller take first place with 5½-½. Tim McCarron and Robert Goldberg finished with 5-1. Class prizes went to Matthew Hayes, Thurlo Mishler and Ryan Yeung (B), Terrence Sun (C), and Richard Yang (D/E)

The Arcadia Chess Club meets at 6:30 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. Web site: www.geocities.com/arcadiachessclub.

Westwood Summer Scholastic

Jonathan Laks scored took first place in the Championship (grades K-12) section of this 37-player scholastic event, held June 10 at Westwood Charter School in Los Angeles. Other section winners included Happy Ullman and Jonathan Gunn (Junior Varsity, grades K-8), and Michael Moradi, Grant Lee, Adam Semprevivo, Chris Park, and Marshall Shackelford (Novice, grades K-5). John Surlow directed.

San Diego County Championships

Forty-seven weekend warriors gathered in Balboa Park for the 5 round annual test of chess skills. A new wrinkle was added this year with a ten second time delay per move added to the three G/90 games on Saturday. Everyone seemed to like the idea. On Sunday the last two critical games were played at the more traditional weekend time control of 40/2, SD/1. In the Open section the field was strong with four Masters, seven Experts, and four Class A players. Sixteen year old NM Joel Banawa got off to a great start by winning his first two games and then upsetting #1 ranked IM Enrico Sevillano on Saturday night. He followed up on Sunday with a 5 hour-plus victory over NM Romeo Ignacio and clinched the big $450 First Place prize by drawing with Expert John Bryant in the last round. John has been slowly gathering rating points over the last year and seems destined to be a National Master by next year. He won Second Place for $250 with a 4/5 score. Bruce Baker was Best Under 2300 with 3½ for $200; he managed a draw with Enrico Sevillano in Round 2, but blundered in a time scramble with Romeo Ignacio in Round 3. Bruce did win the title of San Diego County Champion, as he posted the best score of any county resident. BU2200 was Leonard Sussman, with 3 points for $200, and BU2100 was Alex Garcia-Betancourt with 2½ , also for $200. Finally Ben Barquin scored 2½ to win $200 for BU2000, a prize he has been winning with regularity for several years now. In the Premier (U1900) section, Ron Soto scored 4½ to win $300. Lennart Mathe won BU1800 with 3½ for $200 and three players tied for Second Place, also with 3½: John Badger, Hercules Madriaga and Esteban Escobedo ($50 each). Keith Bresee won BU1700 for $200 with 3 points. In the Reserve Section, Sonny Lunas, following the example of the other section winners, also scored 4½ points to win the $250 prize. Varun Krishnan and Richard Martin shared Second Place and BU 1500 with 3½ points for $112 each. Pratik Khanna won best U1400 with 3 points for $100. – *Chuck Ensey*

Joel Banawa

John Bryant

Ben Barquin (1974) – John Bryant (2130)
SD County Championships, San Diego 2006
A46 QUEEN'S PAWN GAME
[Chuck Ensey]
1. d4 c5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3

cxd4 4. Nxd4 d5 5. Bg5 Nc6 6. e3 e5 7. Bxf6 gxf6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. a3 f5 10. Qh5 Rb8 11. b4 Qf6 12. Rb1 e4 13. Nd1 a5 14. c3 axb4 15. axb4 c5 16. b5 d4 17. c4?

17. Bc4 d3 18. Bd5 makes White's struggle much easier to bear

17. ... d3 18. g3 Be6 19. Bh3 Rg8 20. Kd2

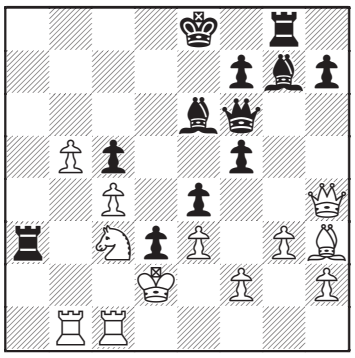
Of course not 20. Qxh7? Rh8 traps the Queen

20. ... Ra8 21. Nc3 Ra3 22. Rhc1 Bg7!

Adding more fuel to the fire. Lame would be 22. ... Bxc4? 23. Qxf5

23. Qh4?

An attempt to relieve the pressure, but there is a fatal flaw in this variation which John exploits. A better try was 23. Nd5 Ra2+ 24. Kd1, still with large advantage for Black. One variation might be 24. ... Qg6 25. Nf4 Qxh5+ 26. Nxh5 Be5 27. b6 Bd7! 28. Rb5 (if 28. b6 Ba4+ 29. Ke1 d2+)



23. ... Qxh4 24. gxh4 Bxc3+ 25. Rxc3 Ra2+ 26. Ke1 Rg1+ 27. Bf1 Re2+ 1–0

San Diego Club

In April and May sixty-six players (plus nine house players) competed in the annual five-round Spring Swiss. First place was won by Dimitry Kishinevsky with 4½ points. John Funderburg was Second with 3½. Nikolay Arutyunov and Ben Barquin tied for BU2000 with 3 points. In the Premier Section (U1900), Ron Soto was 1st with 4½, followed by Dayne Freitag (BU1800) and Shaun Sweitzer (BU1700), both with 4 points. Tied for Third with 3½ were Nathanael Plapp, Chuck Ensey, Fred Borges, Damani Fair and Vincent Broman. In the Reserve Section (U1600), David Hall, Albert Anderson and Karen Kaufman (BU1400) tied for First with 4. Morgan Fox was Third with 3½, along with Rocio Murra (2nd U1400) and Jason Qu (BU1300). James Aranda was 2nd U1300 with 2½ while Monica Ness was BU1200, and Jason Flar took Best Unrated, both with 2.

Mike Nagaran

On the last weekend in April the club hosted the SCCF Senior Open with $1,600 in prizes. 20 players over 50 years old fought for prizes and glory without having to worry about being upset by some teenager rated 1200 who really plays like 1750! First Place was split between Mike Nagaran and Carey Milton, who both took home $400 in hard earned cash. Mike lost to Carey in Round 2, but Carey lost to Leonard Sussman in Round 5, playing aggressively for the win by sacrificing a Knight, but his brashness did not payoff against Lenny, who is known for his careful defensive play. Lenny tied for BU2100 with John Rinaldo with 3½ ($100 each), while Bruce Baker and Rick Aeria also scored 3½ and tied for the lesser prize of Third Place ($75 each). Chuck Ensey scored 2½ and won BU1900 for $150, while Art Taylor also scored 2½ and won $150 for BU1700. Jerry Soelberg was 2nd U1900 for $50 with 2 points and Ronaldo Salenga was 2nd U1700 with 1½, also for $50. Carey Milton won the Best Game Prize for an upset win over NM Bruce Baker. Next year we hope to attract even more players. This is the third year in a row the event has been held in San Diego. Only two players ventured down from Los Angeles to participate, Bill Conrad and John Rinaldo, both of whom are big fans of the Senior circuit. More stories, pictures and games can be found on the SDCC website, http://Groups.msn.com/sandiegochess.

REMEMBERING DAN WONG

By Jerry Yee and Karen Payne

Dan Wong passed away recently at the age of 54. A fixture at the West Valley Chess Club, he was a class A player. He was the first chess teacher for a few of Los Angeles' brightest young players, including Omar Wiseman, Ryan Polsky, and Michael Yee (all three won state titles recently at the Super States). One interesting chess highlight of Dan's was that he once defeated Pal Benko in a simul with the Benko Gambit. As a chess player, Dan was known for fighting until the end, so it was no surprise that he did the same in life, ultimately losing his long battle with poor health.

Dan influenced the lives of many people, as he endeavored to share his love and knowledge of the game of chess. When working with young students, he was deliberate in his intentions to not only teach the skills of the game but also to share the deeper messages of patience, ethical play and respect for your opponent. Dan was a very honest man who shared enough of himself to allow families to know him as a person and trust him with their children. For this, he will be remembered as well. His New York style and wit was a welcome addition to the Southern California lifestyle, as he left any semblance of pretentiousness at the door. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known Dan will hold our positive memories of him and know that his time with us will be forever influential and meaningful.

The May Super Gambito was a special five-rounder at G/40 with $1,800 in prizes and drew thirty-nine players. Cyrus Lakdawala and Enrico Sevillano tied for first, each winning $250. They met in Round 3 and drew that game, while winning all their other games. Jorge Balares was BU2200 with 3½ for $150 and John Funderburg was 2nd U2200 for $75. Richard Jensen and Ben Barquin scored 3 points each and tied for BU2000 for $112 each. Bruce Baker was 3rd for $70. In the Reserve Section (U1800), Norlino Tagalog took home $250 for a 4½ point score. Anthony Whitt and Aaron Ibarra tied for 2nd/3rd with 4 points for $75 each. Alan Tsoi and Santiago Lunas tied for BU1600 with 3½ points for $50 each. Rick Aeria and Norlino Tagalog won Best Game Prizes of $20 each.

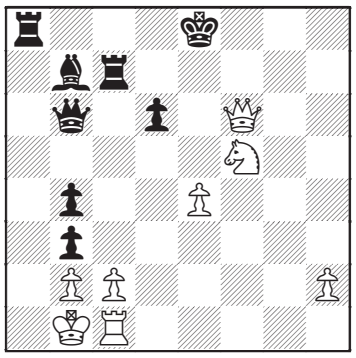
NORLINO TAGALOG

The next 5 round Special Super Gambito with $1,800 in prizes will be on October 7, 2006. Normal Super Gambito Opens have a guaranteed $600 prize fund and are 4 rounds at G/45 on the first Saturday of every month, although occasionally they are pre-empted by bigger tournaments. For instance, there was no June Super Gambito Open due to the San Diego County Championships, and also there will be no Super G in September due to the Southern California Open. By the way, mark your calendar for that one, over the Labor Day weekend, because you do *not* want to miss it! - $25,000 in guaranteed prizes and in an exciting casino setting at a luxury resort halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego (the Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula), see flyer in this issue.

Regular Gambito Opens are on all the other Saturdays and feature a low $20 entry fee. Almost all the fees are paid out in prizes, with the club keeping only $30 to $50, depending on the turnout. Turnout generally varies from 20 to 40 players, with skill levels from International Master to rank beginner. There is often a well balanced field of several Masters, 5 or 6 Experts, 5 or 6 Class A players and similar numbers of Class B, Class C and/or D players. We often use the McMahon pairing system which groups players into loose Class categories. Other times we split the field into two sections. Many younger players are finding the Gambito Open (named after the late Ron Gambito) a great way to gain experience with tournament chess in a low key environment. – *Chuck Ensey*

Rick Aeria (2120) – John Bryant (2130)
Gambito #271, San Diego 2006
B96 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

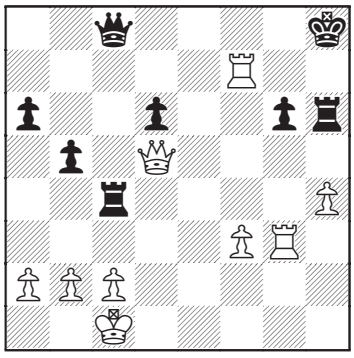
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Nbd7 8. Bc4 Qb6 9. Bb3 Be7 10. Qd2 Nc5 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. 0–0–0 0–0 13. Kb1 Nxb3 14. axb3 Qc7 15. f5 b5 16. g4 b4 17. Nce2 Bb7 18. Ng3 Rfc8 19. Rc1 a5 20. g5 Be5 21. fxe6 fxe6 22. g6 a4 23. Nxe6 Qb6 24. gxh7+ Kh8 25. Ng5 Rc7 26. Rhf1 Bf6 27. Rxf6 gxf6 28. Qf4 fxg5 29. Qf6+ Kxh7 30. Nf5 axb3 31. Qh6+ Kg8 32. Qxg5+ Kf8 33. Qf6+ Ke8



34. Nxd6+ Kd7 35. Qf7+ Kc6 36. cxb3+ 1–0

Norlino Tagalog (1796) – Kyron Griffith (1751)
Gambito #271, San Diego 2006
B76 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Dragon Variation

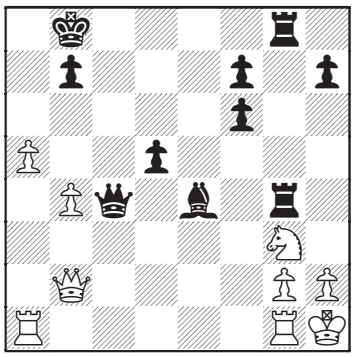
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 Nf6 8. Qd2 0–0 9. h4 h5 10. 0–0–0 Bd7 11. Be2 Rc8 12. g4 a6 13. gxh5 Nxh5 14. Rdg1 Ne5 15. Bh6 Nc4 16. Bxc4 Rxc4 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Nf5+ Bxf5 19. exf5 Qe8 20. Qg5 Rh8 21. Ne4 b5 22. fxg6 fxg6 23. Re1 Qd8 24. Rhg1 Rh6 25. Ng3 Nxg3 26. Rxe7+ Kg8 27. Rxg3 Qf8 28. Qd5+ Kh8 29. Rf7 Qc8



30. Qg5 Rxc2+ 31. Kb1 Kg8 32. Qxh6 Kxf7 33. Qxg6+ 1–0

Bruce Baker (2230) – Carey Milton (1959)
SCCF Senior Open, San Diego 2006
B30 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Rossolimo Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e6 4. Nf3 d5 5. exd5 exd5 6. d4 Nf6 7. 0–0 Be7 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. Bg5 Be6 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. Nd4 Qd6 12. Na4 0–0–0 13. Nb3 Bb6 14. Nxb6+ axb6 15. Nd4 Ne5 16. f4 Nc4 17. Qd3 Nxb2 18. Qc3+ Nc4 19. Kh1 Kb8 20. a4 Rhg8 21. f5 Bd7 22. Bxc4 Qc5 23. a5 Qxc4 24. Qb2 b5 25. Rfb1 Rg4 26. c3 Rdg8 27. Rg1 b4 28. Ne2 Bxf5 29. cxb4 Be4 30. Ng3



30. ... Rxg3 31. hxg3 Rxg3 32. Kh2 Qc7 33. Rgc1 Rxg2+ 0–1

... continued from page 4

Alexander Katz	NJ	1679
Albert Ho	FL	1677
James Shao	NY	1670

U-8 Boys

Nicholas Nip	CA	1716
Benjamin Moon	GA	1611
Christopher Wu	NJ	1579
Jeevan Karamsetty	VA	1527
Tom Shutzman	NY	1496
Jonathan Chiang	TX	1483

U-18 Girls

Tatev Abrahamyan	CA	2338
Laura Ross	NY	2248
Hana Itkis	NJ	2153
Katharine Pelletier	NY	2117

U-16 Girls

Alisa Melekhina	PA	2104
Medina Parrilla	NY	1965
Abby Marshall	VA	1946
Louiza Livschitz	CA	1946
Julia Kerr	NY	1943
Marina Asami	CA	1912
Courtney Jamison	TX	1899

U-14 Girls

Karsten McVay	NJ	2005
Anjali Datta	TX	1901
Gayatri Vempati	TX	1879
Yang Dai	VA	1851

U-12 Girls

Alena Kuzniatsova	NY	1762
Darrian Robinson	NY	1664
Kathleen Zhou	NJ	1637
Helen Chu	TX	1629
Eve Litvak	NJ	1624

U-10 Girls

Sylvia Yang	TX	1759
Eve Zhurbinskiy	NJ	1601
Caroline Zhu	TX	1571
Sarah Chiang	TX	1568
Eileen Dai	TX	1551
Megan Lee	WA	1537
Ellen Xiang	TX	1505

U-8 Girls

Jyotsna Bitra	IL	1295
Evan Xiang	TX	1207
Abie Brauner	CA	1182

Burt Hochburg 1933-2006

Ww are saddened to leanr of the death of Burt Hochberg, who passed away on May 13, after a long illness. Burt was a distinguished and well-liked chess editor and journalist who seemed to know virtually everyone in the chess world. As editor of *Chess Life* from 1966-1979, he built the magazine into the information highway of its day for American chess players.

In the 70's, he also served as acquisitions editor and managing editor of R.H.M. Press, an important publisher of theoretical works on chess openings by foreign and U.S. grandmasters when such material was sparse in the United States. More recently, he was a chess consultant and editor for the McKay Chess Library, a division of Random House.

For the better part of two de-

The Long View

by John Hillery

Alexander Petroff is the first Russian player of master strength of whom we have record. Among other accomplishments, he wrote the first Russian book on chess, in which he discussed the games of Philidor, and made the then-novel observation that the advantage of the first move should be more easily exploited in symmetrical positions. It is difficult to judge his strength, for he never encountered the best of his contemporaries. In this game, Black refutes a premature foraging expedition by the White minor pieces with an amazing sacrifice.

Hoffman – Petroff
Warsaw, 1844
C54 GIUOCO PIANO

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. e5

A move now known to be premature, but the correct answer is 6. ... d5, combining development with counterattack.

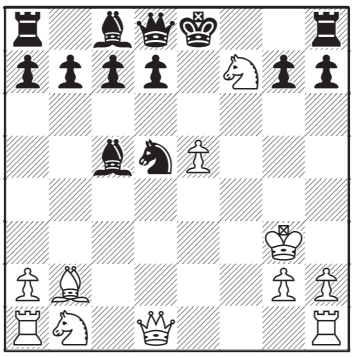
6. ... Ne4 7. Bd5 Nxf2

Sacrificing a piece for three pawns and a dislocated White King. It should not be quite sufficient.

8. Kxf2 dxc3+ 9. Kg3 cxb2 10. Bxb2 Ne7 11. Ng5?

White has a number of good moves, including 11. Be4 and 11. h3. He now hopes for something like 11. ... 0-0 12. Qh5 h6 13. Nxf7, relying on the tactical point 11. ... Nxd5 12. Nxf7 Kxf7? 13. Qxd5+. But an important principle of these open games is that the player will have the advantage who first brings his Rooks into play ...

11. ... Nxd5 12. Nxf7



12. ... 0-0!

Legal, startling and very strong. The sacrifice must be accepted, for if 13. Qxd5 Rxf7 14. Qxc5? Qg5+ 15. Kh3 d6+ wins and 14. h3 Qg5+ 15. Kh2 Qf4+ leaves Black well on top.

13. Nxd8 Bf2+ 14. Kh3

No better is 14. Kg4—14. ... Rf4+ 15. Kg5 h6+ 16. Kh5 Rh4+ 17. Kg6 Ne7 mate.

14. ... d6+ 15. e6 Nf4+ 16. Kg4 Nxe6

A Queen behind, Black can afford the time to set up the discovered check. Now Black threatens 17. ... Rf4+ 18. Kh5 Rh4 mate, and 17. Bc1 fails to 17. ... Nxd8+ 18. Kh5 (18. Kg5 Rf5+ 19. Kg4 h5+ 20. Kh3 Rf3 mate) 18. ... g6+ 19. Kg5 Rf5+ 20. Kh6 (20. Kg4 h5+ is the same as the last note) 20. ... Nf7 mate.

17. Nxe6

A little trickier is 17. g3, but Black has a mating pattern similar to the last note—17. ... Nxd8+ 18. Kg5 (or 18. Kh4 Rf4+ 19. Kh5 g6+) 18. ... Rf5+ 19. Kg4 Rf6+ 20. Kh4 (20. Kg5 Be3+ 21. Kh4 Rh6+ 22. Qh5 g5 mate) 20. ... Rf4+ 21. Kg5 Ne6+ 22. Kh5 g6+ 23. Kh6 Rh4 mate.

17. ... Bxe6+ 18. Kg5 Rf5+ 19. Kg4 h5+ 20. Kh3 Rf3 mate

cades, Burt was the editor of *Games* magazine, adding to his reputation as a dedicated and attentive professional.

As an established editor and friend to all in the chess world, he was always generous in offering a hand to junior editors trying to secure work. In addition to his journalistic and editorial activities, Burt authored several chess books.

Those who knew him will remember him also for his kindness and his enthusiasm for life, and for his passion for music. Although he was trained in classical piano, he loved to play Scott Joplin rags for his wife, Carol, and his friends. He will be deeply missed by friends, family, and an entire generation of chess enthusiasts. – *USCF news release*

New FIDE titles

FIDE recently announced several new international titles, including two to Southern Californians. IM Melikset Khachiyan of Glendale received his GM title, and Alan Stein of Santa Monica was awarded the title of International Master. In addition, former Southern Californian Kamran Shirazi was given a "conditional" GM title, apparently contingent upon his obtaining a FIDE rating over 2500.

Olympiad: U.S. Strong Third

The United States team earned the bronze medals at the 37th Olympiad, held in Turin, Italy between May 21 and June 4th. 150 teams from six continents competed in the biennial competition. The U.S. squad earned more points than higher ranked teams such as Russia, Ukraine and France. Armenia won the gold medals, and China won the silver.

IM John Donaldson from San Francisco captained the U.S Men's team which included six Grandmasters: Gata Kamsky, Alexander Onischuk, Hikaru Nakamura, Ildar Ibragimov, Gregory Kaidanov, and Southern California star Varuzhan Akobian.

In the last round the team crushed the Norwegians 3½-½ to catapult into third place. Last round winners were Nakamura, Onischuk and Akobian.

The women's team had an excellent but bittersweet result. They came in fourth place, narrowly missing medals of their own. The team included current U.S. Women's Champion IM Anna Zatonskih, IM Irina Krush, WGM Rusudan Goletiani, and WGM Camilla Baginskaite with GM Yury Shulman, from Chicago, serving as captain. Goletiani and Krush were the big scorers for the team. They both scored plus five. Medal winners in the women's section were Ukraine (gold), Russia (silver) and China (bronze).

The United States combined placing (women and men) was the second best of the entire Olympiad, only after China.

The United States Chess Federation would like to thank the Kasparov Chess Foundation, who was the official sponsor for the US Men's and Women's teams. We would also like to recognize the Internet Chess Club as a supporting sponsor. Many thanks also go out to the dozens who lent individual support. – *USCF news release*

State Championship Patrons

The following have helped support the 2006 SCCF State Championship with donations of $250 or more.

Eric Ferguson
Chuck Ensey
San Diego Chess Club
Jacques Landry
Bill Conrad

Contributions (in any amount) may be sent to SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, or go to *www.scchess.com*.

2006-2007 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are the 2006 champion(s), up to three players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2007 Candidates Tournament.

Upcoming

July 1-4	Pacific Southwest Open	LAX
July 20-23	Pacific Coast Open	Agoura Hills
September 2-4	Southern California Open	Temecula
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	San Luis Obispo Cty Champ.	San Luis Obispo
October 6-8	Los Angeles Open	LAX
November 23-26	American Open	LAX

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.

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

(see page 14)

Problem no. 1: c. The game is drawn. Tactics in the endgame involves drawing the game in many cases as well. Profound knowledge of King and pawn endings is required to save White in this problem. The main line goes **1. d6!** (anything else simply loses) **Ke6 2. d7!** (there's the tactical element you had to find) **Kxd7 3. Ka7! Be2 4. Kb8 Ba6 5. Ka7 Bc8 6. Kb8 Ba6 7. Ka7 Kxc7** (Black's best try) **8. Kxa6 Kd6 9. Kb5 Ke5 10. Kc4 Kf4 11. Kd3 Kxg4 12. Ke2 Kg3 13. Kf1 Kh2 14. Kf2** and draws since the Black King will be boxed in, impeding the advancement and promotion of the Rook pawn.

Problem no. 2: **b. White wins.** White forces a pretty mate with very careful maneuvering. The main line goes **1. g3!** (Other attempts will pretty much end in a draw) **h6 2. Be3 h2 3. Kf5 gxf3 4. Bf2 h1=whatever 5. g4#** (Chess can be so beautiful -- when you win!)

Problem no. 3: c. White wins. This problem not only tests your tactics but your understanding of how to win a basic Queen vs pawn on the 7th endgame. The main line goes **1. a3** If you carelessly played 1. b3??, then after 1. … b4 White is totally lost. Remember … do your safety check! In the problem, White must create a passed pawn and avoid allowing Black to set up a drawn Q+K vs P+K ending. If you tried 1. c4? Black draws.) **1. … Kd2 2. b3 Kxc2 3. a4 b4** (best chance) **4. a5 Kxb3 5. a6 Kc2 6. a7 b3 7. a8=Q** and wins. If you do not know the winning technique, consult your computer to show you how to play this out.

Problem no. 4: b. White wins. The main line goes **1. … b2+ 2. Kb1 a5 3. b7 a4 4. b8=N!** (The correct promotion, as if b8=Q or R it's stalemate and if b8=B this would only draw) **Kb3 5. Na6 a3 6. Nc5+ Kb4 7. Ne4 Kb3 8. Nc3** and wins. White will win all the Black pawns and eventually promote his.

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
January 20-22	Western Class Championships	Ron Hermansen Steven Van Enk Gregg Small
April 14-16	4th Annual Western Pacific Open	Takashi Kurosaki Allan Pleasants Eugene Yanayt Christopher Slupik Show Kitagami Marian Nick Nita Joshua Gutman Jeremy Stein
April 29-30	SCCF Senior Open	Carey Milton Mike Nagaran
April 29-30	SCCF High School Championship	Derek Tan
May 6-7	Los Angeles County Open	Austin Ong Christian Tanaka Danyul Lawrence Gregg Fritchle Chris Roberts
May 19-21	Memorial Day Classic	Chris Lee Harutyun Akopyan Julian Landaw Joachim van Leeuwen John Daniel Bryant Sargis Hakobyan

Upcoming Events

July 7-August 18

A Midsummer Knight's Dream. (Sponsored by Harold Cardinal Valery, M.D., Inc.) 7-SS, G/120, La Palma CC 7821 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623-1720. Prizes: $1,350 GTD. 1st $750 (winner take all), 2nd $300, U2000 $200, U1800 $100, trophies: C, D, E/unr., Best Game $50, Highest Rating Gain $50 + trophy, perfect score $250. **EF**: $45 ($40 before 7/1). **Reg**: 6-7 p.m. **Rds**: 7 p.m. Fridays. **Info**: (714)761-5988. **GP: 20**

July 15

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 30/75, 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.

July 20-23

Pacific Coast Open. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/60). Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit). Free parking. Prizes $30,000 based on 280 paid entries (unrateds, U1200 Section players, re-entries count as half entries), minimum $20,000 (2/3 each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections. **Open**: $3000-1500-700-500-300, U2400 $1200, U2300/Unr $1200. FIDE. **Under 2200**: $2000-1000-500-300-200. **Under 2000**: $2000-1000-500-300-200. **Under 1800**: $2000-1000-500-300-200. **Under 1600**: $2000-1000-500-300-200. **Under 1400**: $1700-900-500-300-200. **Under 1200**: $1000-500-250-150-100. Unrated may play in any section, with maximum prize U2200 $1200, U2000 $1000, U1800 $800, U1600 $600, U1400 $400 U1200 $200; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **EF**: 4-day $144, 3-day $143, 2-day $142 mailed by 7/12, all $141 online at chesstour.com by 7/17, $150 phoned by 7/17 (406-896-2038, entries only, no questions), $160 (no checks, credit cards OK) at tmt. SCCF membership ($14, jrs $9) required for rated Southern CA residents. **Special EF**: All $60 less for rated players in U1200 Section. All $90 less to unrateds in any section U1200 through U2200. Re-entry (except Open) $80. Advance EF $10 less if paid with $49 USCF dues. 4-day schedule: **Reg** Thu to 6:30 p.m., **Rds** Thu 7 p.m., Fri 7 p.m., Sat 12-7, Sun 10-4:30. 3-day schedule: **Reg**. Fri to 11 a.m., **Rds** Fri 12-7, Sat 12-7, Sun 10-4:30. 2-day schedule: **Reg** Sat to 9 a.m, **Rds** Sat 10-1-4-7, Sun 10-4:30. All schedules: Bye all, limit 2, Open Section must commit before rd 2, other schedules before rd 4. **HR**: $78-78-78-78, 818-707-1220, reserve by 7/6 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent**: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. $10 charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9648. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. **GP: 100**. **State Championship Qualifier**

July 29

Chess Union Summer Quads II. 3-RR, G/75. Back to the Grind Cafe (lower level), 3575 University Ave. Riverside, CA 4-player sections by rating. $$60 1st each section. **Reg**: 9:30-10:10 a.m. **Rds**: 10:30-1:15-4:00. EF: $24 online/mail received by July 20, $30 at door. **Ent**: Mail checks to the "Blueprint Association," PO Box 1313, Bloomington, CA 92316. **Info**: at TheChessUnion.com or call Tyrone Liddell (951) 990-7990. No checks or credit card entries at door.

August 19

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 30/75, 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.

Sept 2-4

28th Annual Southern California Open. Pechanga Casino/Hotel, 45000 Pechanga Pkwy Temecula CA 92592. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1. No re-entries, no "fast" schedule, only the traditional time control for pure quality chess. **Prizes: $25,000, All 100% Gtd.** In 5 Sections. **Open:** $3000-2000-1000-600-500-300, U2400 $1,000-500, U2300 $1,000-500, U2000 $1,200-800-600-300. **Premier U2000** $1,200-800-600-300. **Amateur U1800** $1,200-800-600-300. **Reserve U1600** $1,200-800-600-300. **Booster U1400** $1,000-750-250, U1200 $400-$100, Best unrated $300. Plus Best Game Prizes $100, $50, $50, one reserved for non-Open games. **EF**: $130 if rec'd by 8/30, or only $75 if rating is under 1400 or unrated. All entries after 8/30 add $25. $50 extra for players rated U2000 playing in the Open Section, Unrated must play in Open (eligible place prizes only)

or in the U1400 Section (can only win the unrated prize). **Reg:** 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **1st Rd** 11 a.m.! **Rds:** Sat & Sun 11 a.m & 6 p.m, Mon 10 a.m & 5 p.m. **All:** SCCF membership Req'd, ($14 Adult/$9 Jr), for all So. Calif. Residents. Only one ½ point bye is available in Rds 1-4, none in Rds 5-6. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1 Los Angeles CA 90038, or enter online at www.westernchess.com For more Info call Bruce Baker (619) 239-7166, after 3 p.m., or see website http://www.groups.msn.com/sandiegochess . **HR**: call 888-732-4264, prices vary, avg. rate is $199 a day to stay in the luxurious AAA 4 Diamond Pechanga Resort. Consider sharing a room with a friend so you can be close to the action and enjoy all the fine amenities such as the health club, 7 restaurants and fabulous spa. Or you can stay just 3 miles away in the historic old downtown of Temecula at the Ramada Inn 951-676-8770 ($129, if you book 3 nights) or the Roadway Inn 909-676-4833 ($109 a night for 3 nights). Please reserve your room ASAP as they may sell out by mid August. NS, NC, W, F. **GP: 120. State Championship Qualifier**.

September 30 – October 1

San Luis Obispo County Championship. 5-SS, rds 1-3 G/90, rds 4-5, G120. 169 Granada, #3, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 In 2 sections: **Open,** $275/b10, $150-75, U1700 $50. **Reserve,** open to U1500/Unr, $200/b10, $100-50, U1200 $30, Unr. $20. **EF**: Open $35, Reserve $30, paid by September 26. All $10 more at site. Cash only at site. $5 discount to SCCF, Cal Chess, or junior members. **Reg.** 8:45-9:30 Sat. **Rds.** 10-2-6 Sat., 9-2 Sun. One ½-pt. bye any rd with entry. **Inf:** Barbara (805) 544-0717, bmccaleb@calpoly.edu, cell at site (805) 540-0747; Warren (805)-438-5510. **Ent:** San Luis Obispo Chess Club, c/o Barbara McCaleb, 234 Via La Paz, SLO, CA 93401. **NS. NC. W. State Championship Qualifier**

28th Annual Southern California Open

5 Sections, 6-SS, All at 40/2, SD/1

September 2-4, 2006

$25,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Pechanga Resort & Casino

45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula CA 92592

Details, on-line entry: *www.westernchess.com*

(advertisement)

October 6-8

Los Angeles Open. 5-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-2 G/75 then merges. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$8,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. **In 2 sections: Open**, $$1400-700-400-300-200, U2200 $600-300-150, U2000 $600-300-150. **Amateur** (open to U1800/Unr): $$600-300-150, U1600 500-250-150, U1400 400-250, U1200 150, Unr. 150. Unr. may win Unrated prize only. **All**, EF: $68 if received by 10/5, $78 at site. SCCF memb. required of So. Californians ($14, jrs. U18 $9). **Reg**: 5:30-6:30 p.m. 10/6, 8:30-10 a.m. 10/7. **Rds**: **3-day** 7 p.m., 11-5:30, 10-4:30. **2-day** 10:30-1:30 (G/75), then merges. **HR**: $94, (310) 410-4000. Be sure to mention Western Chess. **Parking** $7/day. **Info**: admin@westernchess.com. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS. NC. F. **State Championship Qualifier. GP: 30**

October 8

LAO Scholastics. 5-SS, SD/45. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. **In two sections: Open:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated, best each grade 12-11-10-9/below. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated, best each grade 6-5-4-3-2-1/below. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if received by 10/5, $20 door. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com. **Info**: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

October 8

LAO Hexes. 3-SS, G/90 LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 6-player sections by rating. $$40-20-10 each section. **EF**: $20 if received by 10/5, $25 door. **Reg**: 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds**: 10:30-1:30-4:30. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com.

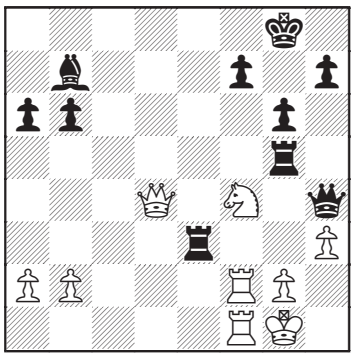
Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 24)

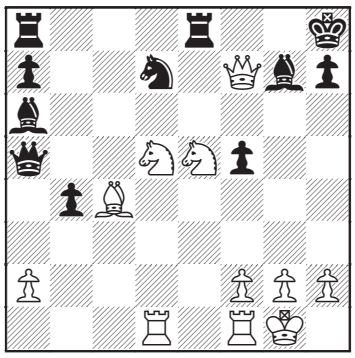
Nagy – Rotaru, Rumania, 1963: Black exploits a *pin* with **1. ... Rxg2+** (but not 1. ... Rxh3? 2. Qd8+ Kg7 3. Ne6+) **2. Rxg2 Rxh3 3. Nxh3 Qxd4+ 0–1**

Podtserov – Kuntsevich, USSR, 1968: The minor pieces triumph after **1. Qg8+ Kxg8** (Or 1. ... Rxg8 2. Nf7#) **2. Ne7+ Kf8** (Again, if 2. ... Kh8 3. Nf7#) **3. N5g6+ hxg6 4. Nxg6# 1–0**

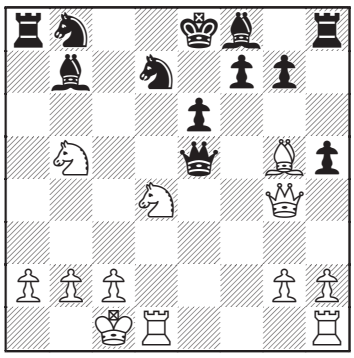
Szilagyi – Busa, correspondence, 1980: Black's lack of development tells after **1. Nc7+ Qxc7 2. Nxe6 1-0** -- 2. ... hxg4 3. Nxc7#, 2. ... fxe6 3. Qxe6+; 2. ... Qe5 3. Nc7+! Qxc7 4. Qe2+ Ne5 5. Qxe5+ Qxe5 (Black holds out a bit longer with 5. ... Be7 6. Qxc7 Bxg5+ 7. Kb1 0–0 8. Qxb7) 6. Rd8#.



Nagy - Rotaru
Rumania, 1963
Black to move



Podtserov - Kunstsevich
USSR, 1968
White to move



Szilagyi - Busa
Correspondence, 1980
White to move

Solutions on page 23

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754