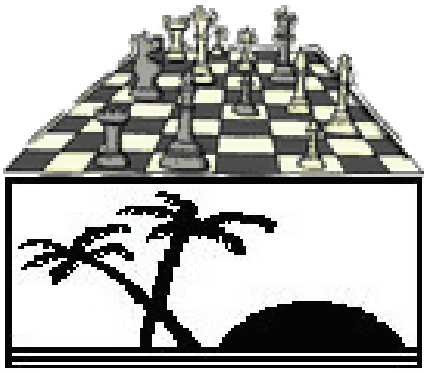
Rank & File

July-August 2007 Volume XXX, No. 4 $3.00

Sevillano Tops Memorial Day Classic



29th Annual

Southern California Open

September 1-3, 2007

$10,000 Prize Fund!

(based on 200 players, 60% of each prize guaranteed)

at the

LAX Hilton

5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045

Six Rounds — Swiss System

3-day schedule 40/2, SD/1;

2-day schedule rounds 1-3 G/1

Entry Fees:

$83 if received by 8-31, $95 at door

Under 1400 or unrated *(may play in either section)*: $67 by 8-31, $80 door

On-line entry: **www.westernchess.com**

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

On-Site Registration: 9-10 a.m. 9-1 (3-day), 8:30-9:30 a.m. 9-2 (2 day)

Rounds: 3-day 10:30-5 Sat. & Sun, 10-4:30 Mon.; 2-day 10-12:15-2:30 Sunday (G/60), then merges

Entries: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038, or on line at *www.westernchess.com*

HR: $95 single or double. (310) 410-4000, mention chess. *(Reserve by 8-24 or rates may rise.)*

Parking $8/day

More details, advance entry lists: *www.westernchess.com*

Open

1st: $1700 + T

2nd-5th: $1000-$800-$450-$300

U2400: $400

U2300: $200

U2200: $600-$300

U2000: $600-$300

Amateur

(Under 1800)

1st: $750 + T

2nd-5th: $400-$200-$150-$100

U1600: $500-$300-$200-$100

U1400: $300-$150

U1200: $100

Unrated: $100

(Unrated may win Unrated prize only in Amateur section)

Best Game Prize: $25 (both sections eligible)

Also:

SCO Scholastics — Sunday, 9-2

SCO Blitz — Sunday, 9-2

SCO Action — Monday, 9-3

SCO Hexes — Monday, 9-3

(see page 23 for full details)

Around the Nation

National Open:

Shining Stars In Las Vegas

The 700+ player annual National Open, June 8-10, was notable mainly as another triumph for GM Hikaru Nakamura, who downed the leader, IM Renier Gonzalez, in the last round to tally 5½ - ½ for clear first place. The tournament's special guest, 76-year-old GM Viktor Korchnoi, was in the tie for second place with 5, having played something of a "Swiss gambit" by drawing with rook against rook, f-, and h-pawns in the first round, then scoring four wins before a quick draw with GM Gregory Serper in the finale.

Two Southern Californians, IMs Enrico Sevillano and Andranik Matikozyan, joined Korchnoi, Gonzalez, Serper, and IM Josh Friedel in the second place tie. Sevillano drew Nakamura and downed Israeli GM Sergey Erenburg enroute to a stellar performance. Matikozyan took down Serbian GM Bosko Abramovic. GM Varuzhan Akobian, who accounted for Sevillano's last-round draw, tied for eighth with 4½. FM Eugene Yanayt was in that tie with a last-round upset of GM Melikset Khachiyan; Eugene earned clear Under 2400 honors. Despite this loss (and one to Nakamura), Khachiyan had the satisfaction of beating US Champion Alex Shabalov in the third round.

A number of our other players also shone. Rick Aeria, despite a painful last-round loss, tied for fourth place, along with Danyul Lawrence, in the Under 2200 section. Louie Rivera tied for fourth in Under 2000 with 5 points, while Gregg Fritchle, Branko Sretenovic, Bobby Hall, and Eric Zhang were equal seventh a half point behind.

Sevan Toroussian tallied a perfect 6-0 in Under 1800, while Michael Angelo Purcell tied for second with 5½. In Under 1600, Grant Yosenick and David Karapetyan earned a tie for third with 5 points. We had first place winners in Under 1400 (Alex Kayfetz-Gaum with 5½) and Under 1200 (Anna Karapetyan with 5 ½; John Kitapszyan tied for second a point behind). – *Randy Hough*

IM Enrico Sevillano – Tom Brownscombe
National Open, Las Vegas 2007
C02 FRENCH DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 d5 4. e5 Nc6 5. Nf3 Be7 6. Bd3 Bd7 7. 0–0 Qb6 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. a4 Qc7 10. b4 Be7 11. Bf4 h5 12. Qd2 Nh6 13. Na3 a6 14. Rfe1 Rc8 15. h3 Qb8 16. Nc2 Bf8 17. Ne3 Qa7 18. Rad1 Rd8 19.

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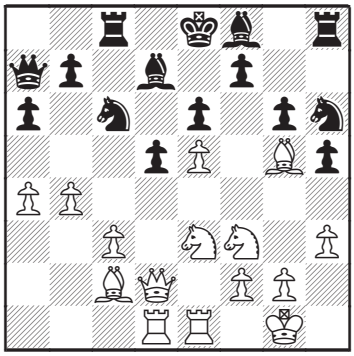
Bc2 g6 20. Bg5 Rc8



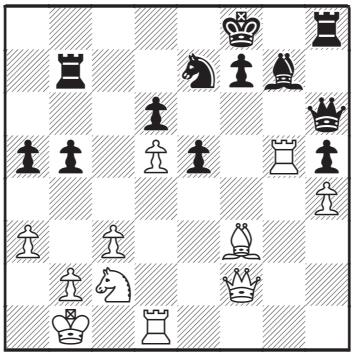
21. Nxd5 exd5 22. e6 Bxe6 23. Qxd5 Be7 24. Rxe6 fxe6 25. Qxe6 Nf7 26. Qxc8+ 1–0

Christian Tanaka – IM Emory Tate
National Open, Las Vegas 2007
E10 BOGO-INDIAN DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nf3 e6 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 a5 6. Bg2 0–0 7. 0–0 Re8 8. a3 Bxd2 9. Nbxd2 a4 10. e4 d6 11. Qc2 e5 12. d5 Nb8 13. Ne1 c6 14. Nd3 b5 15. cxb5 cxd5 16. exd5 Bd7 17. Nb4 Bxb5 18. Rfc1 Na6 19. Nc6 Qb6 20. Rab1 Nc5 21. b4 Nd3 22. Rf1 e4 23. Nc4 Qc7 24. Ne3 Ne5 25. Rfc1 Bd3 26. Qd2 Qb6 27. Ra1 Neg4 28. Nf5 Bb5 29. Qd4 Qxd4 30. Ncxd4 Bd3 31. h3 Ne5 32. Ne3 Red8 33. Rc7 g6 34. Rac1 Nfd7 35. Nc6 Re8 36. Na5 Nb6 37. Nb7 Kg7 38. Nxd6 Red8 39. Nxe4 Nxd5 40. Nxd5 Rxd5 41. Nc5 1–0

GM Melikset Khachiyan – GM Alexander Shabalov
National Open, Las Vegas 2007
B33 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Sveshnikov Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Nd5 f5 11. c3 Bg7 12. g3 h5 13. Bg2 f4 14. Nc2 Kf8 15. Qe2 Qg5 16. Bf3 Rb8 17. h4 Qh6 18. 0–0–0 fxg3+ 19. Kb1 gxf2 20. Qxf2 a5 21. a3 Be6 22. Rhg1 Rb7 23. Rg5 Bxd5 24. exd5 Ne7



25. Bxh5 Qf6 26. Qg2 Bh6 27. Rf1 Bxg5 28. hxg5 Qxf1+ 29. Qxf1 Rxh5 30. Qf6 Rd7 31. Ne3 Rh7 32. Ka2 Ke8 33. Qf1 Rb7 34. Nf5 Rd7 35. Ng3 b4 36. Ne4 Ng8 37. Qb5 Ke7 38. Nf6 Nxf6 39. gxf6+ Ke8 40. Qb8+ Rd8 41. Qc7 Rd7 42. Qc8+ Rd8 43. Qc6+ Rd7 44. cxb4 axb4 45. axb4 Rh4 46. b5 Ra4+ 47. Kb3 Ra5 48. b6 1–0

SCCF Annual Meeting & Election

Enclosed with this issue you will find your ballot for the election of the SCCF Board. Those whose membership is current as of July 31 may vote by mail. Or, you may vote in person on September 3 at the Southern California Open (*see page 23 for details*). If voting by mail, please place your ballot in a blank sealed envelope, and place this in a mailing envelope with your name on the outside. Mail your ballot to: SCCF Ballot c/o Michael Nagaran, 17360 Caminito Canasto, San Diego, CA 92127. Ballots must be postmarked no later than August 31.

Continued on page 14 ...

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2007

Lina Grumette

Memorial Day Classic

LAX Hilton
May 26 – 28, 2007

Returning to its traditional date and format, the 2007 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic attracted a respectable turnout of 112. The 40-player Open section featured one GM and five IMs.

Taking clear first with 5-1 was last year's co-champion IM Enrico Sevillano. Splitting the remaining place prizes with 4½-1½ were IM Andranik Matikozyan, Joel Banawa, Alexandre Kretchetov, and Leonid Furman, In other action, class section winners included Jason Childress (U2000), Magesh Matapathy (1800), Austin Hughes (U1600), and Harrison Zhao and Robert Khachatryan (U1400).

Side events also did well. In the 79-player Scholastic, sections were won by Gerson Miro and Samuel Gong. William Pennucci topped the Action (G/30), and Randy Hough and Paul Clift tied for first in the Hexes (G/90).

John Hillery and Elie Hsiao directed for Western Chess.

IM Andranik Matikozyan was awarded the Best Game prize for his 5th-round victory over master Ron Hermansen.

IM Andranik Matikozyan – Ron Hermansen
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
B30 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Rossolimo Variation

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

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5

The Rossolimo Attack against the Sicilian Defense.

3. ... Nf6 4 Nc3 Qc7 5. 0-0 e5?!

A poor idea that Hermansen credited to Nakamura.

6. d3

Threatening to dominate d5 by Bc1-g5xf6.

6. ... h6

Or 6. ... a6 7 Bc4.

7. Nd5! Nxd5 8. exd5 Ne7

Worse is 8. ... Nd4?! 9. Nxd4 cxd4 1.0 f4! a6 11. Ba4 b5 12. Bb3, when 12. ... d6 loses to 13. fxe5 dxe5 14. d6 Bxd6 15. Rxf7.

9. Re1 a6?

Only 9. ... f6 hangs on.

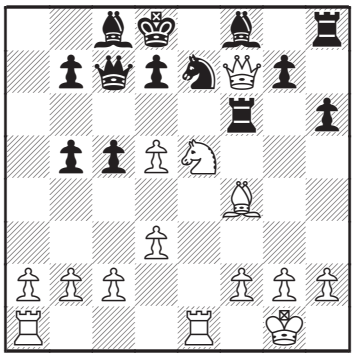
10. Nxe5!

The first of several sacrifices.

10. ... axb5 11 Qh5 Ra6

Black gets no relief from 11. ... g6 12. Nxg6 Rg8 (as 12. ... fxg6 13. Qxg6+ Kd8 loses to 14. Qf6 Rg8 15. d6) 13. Nxf8 Rxf8 14. Bxh6, threatening 15. Bg5 or 15. Rxe7+. Also 11. ... d6 12. Nxf7 costs Black material.

12. Qxf7+ Kd8 1.3 Qf4 Ke8 14. Qf7+ Kd8 15. Bf4 Rf6



16. Qxf6! gxf6 17. d6! fxe5

Best, although the endgame is hopeless. After 17. ... Qa5 18. Nf7+ Ke8 19. Nxh8, Black must drop two pieces.

MATIKOZYAN AND HERMANSEN PREPARE FOR BATTLE

18. dxc7+ Ke8

Avoiding 18. ... Kxc7 19. Bxe5+.

19. Bxe5 Rg8 20. a4 b4 21. Bd6 Kf7

If 21. ... Rg5 22. Re4 Kf7 23. Rae1, a Rook reaches e7 or e8.

22. Bxc5 Nd5 23. Bxf8 Rxf8 24. Re4 Nxc7 25. Rxb4 Nd5 26. Rd4 Nf6 27. Ra3 Re8 28. Kf1 d5 29. Rc3 Ke6 30. Rc7 Kd6 31. Rf7 Ke6 32. Rg7 h5 33. Rb4, Black resigns.

Robert Xue – Stewart Yanez
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
C89 RUY LOPEZ, Marshall Gambit

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

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0-0 8. c3 d5!?

The Marshall Gambit against the Ruy Lopez.

9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 12. d4 Bd6 13. Re1 Qh4 14. g3 Qh3 15. Qf3?!

Inferior. White should rely on the main line 15. Be3 Bg4 16. Qd3 or the newer 15. Re4.

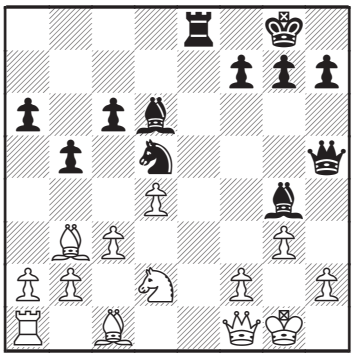
15. ... Bg4 16. Qg2 Qh5 17. Nd2?

Necessary is 17. Be3 Bf3 18. Qf1, although Black attacks strongly with 18. … f5! 19. Nd2 f4.

17. ... Rae8 18. Rxe8 Rxe8

White can no longer defend his back rank and the weak squares f3 and h3.

19. Qf1



19. ... Nf4!

Inviting 20. gxf4 Bh3 21. Qd1 Qg6+.

20. Bc2

After 20. h4 Bh3 21. Qd1, Black finishes quickly with 21. … Ne2+, anticipating 22. Kh2 Qxh4 or 22. Kh1 Qf5.

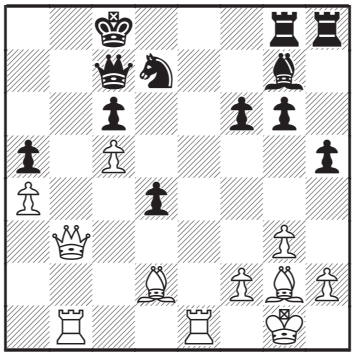
20. ... Nh3+ 21. Kg2

Or 21. Kh1 Bf3+.

21. ... Re2 22. Be4 Rxf2+ 23. Qxf2 Nxf2 24. Kxf2 Qxh2+ 25. Kf1 Bxg3 26. Bxc6 Qf2 mate.

IM Jack Peters – Christian Tanaka
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
B16 CARO-KANN DEFENSE

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ gxf6 6. c3 Bf5 7. Nf3 e6 8. g3 Bd6 9. Bg2 Nd7 10. 0–0 Qc7 11. Re1 0–0–0 12. b4 Rdg8 13. Qb3 h5 14. Nh4 Bg6 15. c4 a6 16. a4 a5 17. c5 Bf8 18. b5 e5 19. bxc6 bxc6 20. Bd2 Bg7 21. Nxg6 fxg6 22. Rab1 exd4



23. Bxa5 Nxc5 24. Re7 Qd6 25. Qb6 1–0

IM Enrico Sevillano – Alaa-Addin Moussa
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
B17 Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Bc4 Ngf6 6. Ng5 Nd5 7.

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.

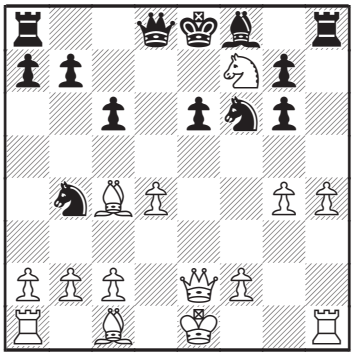
Lina was very proud of the Chess Set Educational Trust, a non-profit organization that she set up to promote chess. With its backing, she organized the first Memorial Day Classic in 1980. Ignoring many warnings that Los Angeles wasn't ready for a big-money event, Lina soon made the Memorial Day Classic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

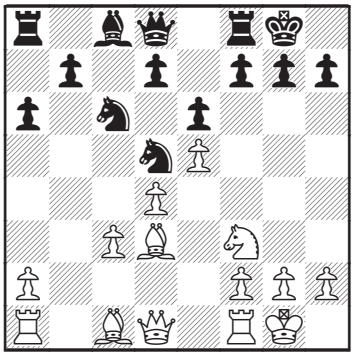
Qe2 N7f6 8. N1f3 Bg4 9. h3 Bh5 10. g4 Bg6 11. Ne5 e6 12. h4 Nb4 13. Nxg6 hxg6 14. Nxf7



14. ... Nxc2+ 15. Kf1 Nxd4 16. Nxd8 Nxe2 17. Nxe6 Nxc1 18. Nc7+ Kd7 19. Nxa8 Bd6 20. Rxc1 Nxg4 21. Rg1 Ne5 22. Ke2 Re8 23. Kd1 Rf8 24. Ke2 Re8 25. Bb3 g5 26. hxg5 Rxa8 27. f4 Ng6 28. f5 Nf4+ 29. Kf3 Rf8 30. Bc2 Ne6 31. Ke4 Nf4 32. Rcd1 Nd5 33. Kf3 Kc7 34. Be4 Bc5 35. Rge1 Ne7 36. Kg4 Nc8 37. Bc2 Bd6 38. Bb3 Ne7 39. Be6 c5 40. Rh1 Nc6 41. Rh7 Ne5+ 1–0

Jason Childress – Daniel Alvira
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
B21 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 Nc6 4. cxd4 e6 5. Nf3 Bb4+ 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. Bd3 0–0 8. 0–0 Bxc3 9. bxc3 a6 10. e5 Nd5



11. Bxh7+ Kxh7 12. Ng5+ Kg6 13. Qg4 f5 14. exf6 Nxf6 15. Qg3 Qa5 16. Nxe6+ Kf7 17. Qxg7+ Kxe6 18. Re1+ Kd5 19. Qxf8 Nh5 20. Qf7+ Kd6 21. Bf4+ Nxf4 22. Qxf4+ 1–0

Prize Winners

Open

1st: IM Enrico Sevillano, 5-1; **2nd-4th & U2400**: IM Andranik Matikozyan, Joel Banawa, Alexandre Kretchetov, Leonid Furman, 4½-1½; **5th**: Ilia Serpik, Ron Hermansen, 4-1; **U2200**: Jeremy Stein, Show Kitagami, Robert Lau, 3½-2½.

Premier

1st: Jason Childress, 6-0; **2nd**: Eric Zhang, 4½-1½; **3rd**: Vardan Betikyan, 4-1; **4th**: B.rtanko Sretenovic, Chris Roberts, Vincent Huang, Joseph Roth, Barry Lazarus, 3½-2½.

Amateur

1st: Magesh Matapathy, 6-0; **2nd**: Michael Taylor, 5-1; **3rd-4th**: Stewart Yanez, Michael Brown, Michael Ambartsoumian, 4-2.

Reserve

1st: Austin Hughes, 5-1; **2nd-4th**: Grant Yosenick, Cleofas Rojas, Ying Nip, Jeffrey Ding, 4-2.

Booster

1st-2nd: Harrison Zhao, Robert Khachatryan, 5-1; **3rd**: Anna Karapetyan, 4½-1½; **U1200**: Bob Selvin, 4-2; **Unrated**: William Pearce, 2-4.

Scholastic

Open: 1st: Gerson Miro, 4½-½; **2nd-5th**: Sean Manross, Weilin Tan, Jonathan Laks, Conrad McKinnon, 4-1.

Reserve: 1st: Samuel Gong, 5-0; **2nd**: Liam Fairweather, 4½-½; 3rd-5th: Scott Xue, David McCann III, Rianne Sanchez, 4-1.

Action

1st: William Pennucci, 4½-½; **2nd**: Anthony Ong, 4-1; **3rd**: Roger Norman, Henry Castro, 3½-1½.

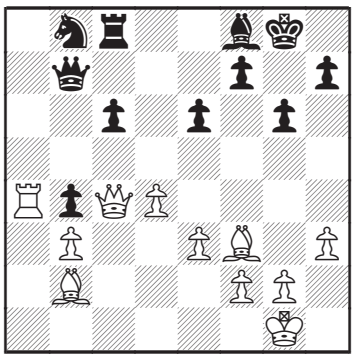
Hexes

1st-2nd: Randall Hough, Paul Clift, 2½-½; **3rd**: Antonio Martin, John Morrison III, 2-1.

Alaa-Addin Moussa – Joshua Gutman
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
D94 SLAV DEFENSE, Schlechter Variation

ALAA-ADDIN MOUSSA

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Nc3 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. Be2 0–0 7. 0–0 Bg4 8. b3 e6 9. Bb2 a5 10. Re1 Re8 11. Qd2 a4 12. Nxa4 dxc4 13. Qb4 b5 14. Nc5 cxb3 15. axb3 Rxa1 16. Rxa1 Nfd7 17. h3 Nxc5 18. Qxc5 Bf8 19. Qc3 Bxf3 20. Bxf3 b4 21. Qc4 Qb6 22. Rc1 Bg7 23. Ra1 Rc8 24. Ra8 Qb7 25. Ra4 Bf8



26. d5 cxd5 27. Qd4 Rc3 28. Bxc3 bxc3 29. Qxc3 Nc6 30. Be2 Bb4 31. Qd3 Bd6 32. Qa6 Qc7 33. Qb5 Bh2+

Continued on page 11 ...

2007 Frank K Berry

U.S. Championship

With the withdrawal of sponsorship from AF4C, the fate of the 2007 U.S. Championship seemed uncertain. But former Southern Californian Frank Berry saved the day with a generous donation of $50,000, and the Championship took place at the Quality Inn in Stillwater, Oklahoma from May 15 to 23.

Taking first place in the nine-round event was GM Alexander Shabalov with 7-2. Shabalov jumped into the lead with five straight wins, but lost in round six to defending champion GM Alex Onischuk. Shabalov regained the lead only in the final round, as he defeated GM Sergey Kudrin, while Onischuk could only draw against veteran GM Boris Gulko.

Southern California participants included GM Varuzhan Akobian (5½-3½), GM Melikset Khachiyan (5-4), and IM Enrico Sevillano (4½-4½).

Frank Berry directed, with the assistance of Jim Berry and Alex Relyea.

IM Michael Mulyar – GM Dmitry Gurevich
U.S. Championship, Stillwater 2007
B65 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Richter-Rauzer Variation

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

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

The Richter-Rauzer Attack against the Sicilian Defense.

6. ... e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. 0-0-0 0-0 9. f4 h6 10. Bh4 Nxd4 1.1 Qxd4 a6

Less common than 11. ... Qa5. One point is that 12. Be2 Nxe4! 13. Bxe7?! Nxc3 favors Black.

12. Bd3

Reasonable. Theory concentrates on 12. g4!? Nxg4 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Qxd6.

12. Qc7 13. e5 dxe5 14. fxe5 Rd8 15. Qf4 Nd5 16. Nxd5 Rxd5!?

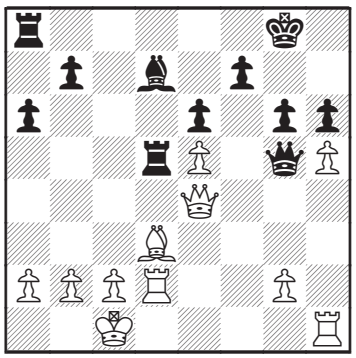
Trying to prove that e5 is weak. The safer 16. ... exd5 clears e6 for the Bishop, equalizing.

17. Bxe7 Qxe7 18. h4 Bd7 19. Qe4

White would welcome 19. c4!? Qc5! 20. Rhf1 Be8 21. Qe4 g6?! 22. h5 Rxe5 2.3 Qxb7, but Black escapes with the cold-blooded 21. ... Kf8! 22. Qh7 b5 23. Qh8+ Ke7 24. Qxg7 Qe3+ 25. Kc2 Qxe5.

19. ... g6 20. h5 Qg5+ 21. Rd2?!

Allowing an unexpectedly swift counterattack. The drawish 21. Kb1 Bc6 22. hxg6 fxg6 23. Qxg6+ Qxg6 24. Bxg6 Rxe5 is the logical outcome.



21. ... Bb5! 22. hxg6

Very dangerous. White should brave the complications of 22. c4 Rxe5 23. Qxb7 Rd8, as 24. hxg6 fxg6 25. cxb5 Rxd3 26. Qb8+ Kg7 27. Qxe5+ (not 27. Qc7+? Kf6 28. Rf1+ Rf5) Qxe5 28. Rxd3 reaches a defensible endgame.

22. ... Bxd3 23. gxf7+ Kf8 24. cxd3 Rc8+ 25. Kd1 Rdc5!

White would not mind 25. ... Rxe5?! 26 Qh4.

26. Rh4?

Losing. White hangs on with 26. g4! Rc1+ 27. Ke2 Rxh1 28. Qxh1 Qxg4+ 29. Qf3.

26. ... Rc1+ 27. Ke2 Qg3! 28. Qb4+ R8c5

Avoiding 28. ... Kxf7?? 29. Rf4+ Kg8 30. Rg4+.

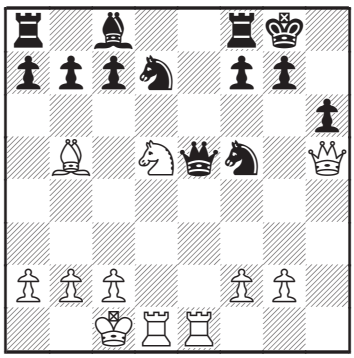
29. Rd1 Qxg2+ 30. Ke3 Qg3+ 31. Ke2 a5! 32. Qg4

Or 32. Qa3 R1c2+ 33. Rd2 Qg2+.

32. ... R5c2+, White resigns.

GM Melikset Khachiyan – GM Varuzhan Akobian
U.S. Championship, Stillwater 2007
C14 FRENCH DEFENSE, Classical Variation

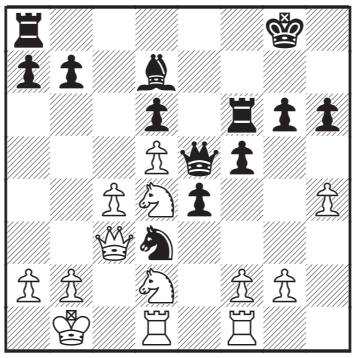
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. h4 Bxg5 7. hxg5 Qxg5 8. Nh3 Qe7 9. Nf4 Nc6 10. Qg4 Nxd4 11. 0–0–0 Nf5 12. Nfxd5 exd5 13. Nxd5 Qxe5 14. Bb5 0–0 15. Qh5 h6 16. Rhe1



16. ... Qxd5 17. Rxd5 Nf6 18. Qf3 Nxd5 19. g4 Nfe7 20. c4 Nb6 21. Rxe7 c6 22. c5 cxb5 23. cxb6 axb6 24. Qe2 Be6 25. b3 Ra5 26. f4 Rfa8 27. f5 Rxa2 28. Qxb5 R2a5 29. Qxb6 Bd5 30. Rd7 R5a6 31. Qe3 ½–½

GM Hikaru Nakamura – GM Alexander Shabalov
U.S. Championship, Stillwater 2007
B03 ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. exd6 cxd6 6. Be3 g6 7. d5 Bg7 8. Bd4 Bxd4 9. Qxd4 0–0 10. h4 e5 11. Qd2 f5 12. Nf3 Qf6 13. Nc3 Na6 14. Qh6 Qg7 15. Qd2 h6 16. Nb5 Rf6 17. Qa5 Nd7 18. Qa3 Qe7 19. Be2 e4 20. Nd2 Ne5 21. 0–0–0 Nc5 22. Kb1 Ncd3 23. Bxd3 Nxd3 24. Rhf1 Bd7 25. Nd4 Qe5 26. Qc3



26. ... b5 27. cxb5 Rf7 28. f3 Rc8 29. Nc4 Qxd5 30. fxe4 Qxc4 31. Qxd3 Qxd3+ 32. Rxd3 fxe4 33. Rxf7 exd3 34. Rf1 Rc4 35. Nc6 d2 36. Ne7+ Kg7 37. Rd1 Kf7 38. b3 Rc1+ 0–1

IM Enrico Sevillano – IM Jay Bonin
U.S. Championship, Stillwater 2007
C41 PHILIDOR'S DEFENSE

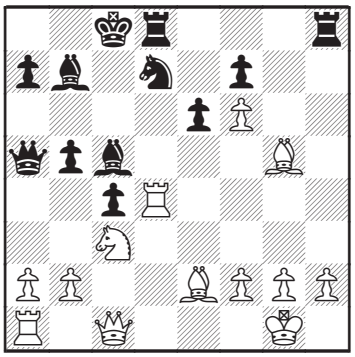
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nbd7 5. Be2 g6 6. dxe5 dxe5 7. Bg5 Bg7 8. Nxe5 Nxe5 9. Qxd8+ Kxd8 10. Nd5 c6 11. Nxf6 h6 12. 0–0–0+ Kc7 13. f4 hxg5 14. fxe5 Bxf6 15. exf6 Be6 16. h3 Rh4 17. Bf3 Re8 18. g4 Bc8 19. Bg2 Rhh8 20. Rd3 Re6 21. Rf1 Rd8 22. Kd2 Rdd6 23. Ke3 c5 24. Rxd6 Kxd6 25. Rd1+ Kc7 26. Rd5 b6 27. Rxg5 Rxf6 28. h4 Re6 29. h5 Bb7 30. Kf4 Rf6+ 31. Kg3 Re6 32. h6 Re8 33. Kf4 Rh8 34. Re5 Kd6 35. g5 Bc6 36. c4 a5 37. Rd5+ Bxd5 38. e5+ Ke7 39. cxd5 b5 40. Ke4 Kd7 41. d6 Kc6 42. Kd3+ Kd7 43. Bd5 f6 44. gxf6 Rxh6 45.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1 GM Alex Shabalov	2671	W29	W19	W12	W11	W3	L2	D10	D7	W6	7
2 GM Alex Onischuk	2712	W25	D15	W13	D3	D10	W1	W11	D6	D7	6½
3 GM Greg Kaidanov	2686	D24	W16	W6	D2	L1	D5	W17	W13	D4	6
4 GM Yury Shulman	2667	D16	W24	D14	D8	W18	D12	D13	W15	D3	6
5 GM Julio Becerra	2608	W33	L12	W29	D7	W8	D3	D19	D10	W11	6
6 GM Sergey Kudrin	2612	W31	D11	L3	D24	W32	W9	W12	D2	L1	5½
7 GM Boris Gulko	2660	D26	D30	W22	D5	D14	D17	W24	D1	D2	5½
8 GM Varuzhan Akobian	2651	W23	D14	D17	D4	L5	W25	L15	W31	W18	5½
9 GM Alex Stripunsky	2664	W28	W18	L11	L17	W25	L6	D14	W21	W10	5½
10 GM Jaan Ehlvest	2683	W22	D17	W15	D12	D2	D11	D1	D5	L9	5
11 GM Hikaru Nakamura	2738	W27	D6	W9	L1	W17	D10	L2	W19	L5	5
12 GM Ildar Ibragimov	2680	W20	W5	L1	D10	W19	D4	L6	D14	D13	5
13 GM Alex Ivanov	2623	D30	W26	L2	D14	W20	W21	D4	L3	D12	5
14 GM Melikset Khachiyan	2550	W35	D8	D4	D13	D7	D18	D9	D12	D15	5
15 GM Eugene Perelshteyn	2611	W21	D2	L10	D20	D24	W28	W8	L4	D14	5
16 Joseph Bradford	2457	D4	L3	D27	D22	D23	L20	W35	W30	W24	5
17 GM Alex Yermolinsky	2588	W34	D10	D8	W9	L11	D7	L3	D24	D20	4½
18 IM Enrico Sevillano	2566	W36	L9	D23	W30	L4	D14	D20	W26	L8	4½
19 GM Dmitry Gurevich	2583	W32	L1	D28	W23	L12	W26	D5	L11	D21	4½
20 Robert Hess	2472	L12	D33	W31	D15	L13	W16	D18	D27	D17	4½
21 Michael Langer	2334	L15	L25	W33	W29	W22	L13	W28	L9	D19	4½
22 IM David Pruess	2473	L10	W34	L7	D16	L21	D30	W32	D25	W31	4½
23 IM Ron Burnett	2396	L8	W35	D18	L19	D16	D29	L27	W34	W36	4½
24 IM Irina Krush	2488	D3	L4	W26	D6	D15	W27	L7	D17	L16	4
25 GM Walter Browne	2520	L2	W21	D30	W28	L9	L8	L26	D22	W33	4
26 IM Michael Mulyar	2420	D7	L13	L24	W33	W31	L19	W25	L18	D27	4
27 IM Joshua Friedel	2542	L11	D31	D16	L32	W35	L24	W23	D20	D26	4
28 IM Bryan Smith	2441	L9	W36	D19	L25	W30	L15	L21	W35	D29	4
29 IM Justin Sarkar	2470	L1	W32	L5	L21	W34	D23	L31	W36	D28	4
30 IM Jay Bonin	2383	D13	D7	D25	L18	L28	D22	W36	L16	D34	3½
31 Ray Robson	2378	L6	D27	L20	W36	L26	W32	W29	L8	L22	3½
32 Iryna Zenyuk	2229	L19	L29	W34	W27	L6	L31	L22	L33	D35	2½
33 Michael Aigner	2300	L5	D20	L21	L26	L36	L35	W34	W32	L25	2½
34 Movses Movsisyan	2274	L17	L22	L32	W35	L29	W36	L33	L23	D30	2½
35 Tom Braunlich	2136	L14	L23	D36	L34	L27	W33	L16	L28	D32	2
36 Chouchanik Airapetian	2188	L18	L28	D35	L31	W33	L34	L30	L29	L23	1½

f7 Rh8 46. Ke3 a4 47. a3 b4 48. Kf4 1–0

GM Alex Onischuk – GM Alexander Shabalov
U.S. Championship, Stillwater 2007
D44 SLAV DEFENSE, Anti-Meran Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6 5. Bg5 dxc4 6. e4 b5 7. e5 h6 8. Bh4 g5 9. Nxg5 hxg5 10. Bxg5 Nbd7 11. exf6 Qa5 12. Be2 Bb7 13. 0–0 0–0–0 14. Qc1 c5 15. Rd1 cxd4 16. Rxd4 Bc5



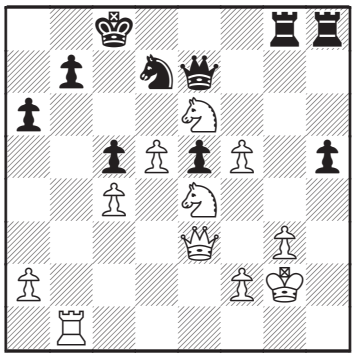
17. b4 Qxb4 18. Rb1 Qxb1 19. Qxb1 Bxd4 20. Nxb5 Ne5 21. Bf4 Nc6 22. Nd6+ Rxd6 23. Bxd6 c3 24. Bf3 Bb6 25. Bb4 Bd4 26. Bxc3 1–0

... continued from page 7

34. Kh1 Bd6 35. Kg1 Bh2+ 36. Kh1 Bd6 37. Ra1 Nb4 38. Qa5 Qc3 39. g3 Qb2 40. Qd8+ Kg7 41. Rg1 Bf8 42. Bb5 Qxb3 43. Qg5 f6 44. Qg4 e5 45. Rc1 f5 46. Rc7+ Kg8 47. Qh4 1–0

Michael Yee – Takashi Kurosaki
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
A44 CZECH BENONI DEFENSE

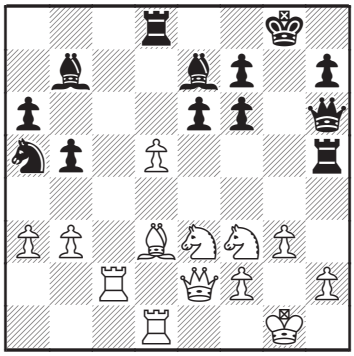
1. d4 c5 2. d5 e5 3. c4 d6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. e4 Bg5 6. Bxg5 Qxg5 7. g3 Qe7 8. Bh3 Bxh3 9. Nxh3 Nf6 10. Qe2 Nbd7 11. 0–0 h5 12. Kg2 a6 13. Ng5 Ng4 14. h4 0–0–0 15. Rab1 Rdg8 16. b4 f6 17. Ne6 g5 18. Rh1 gxh4 19. Rxh4 f5 20. exf5 Ne3+ 21. Qxe3 Qxh4 22. Ne4 Qe7 23. bxc5 dxc5



24. f6 Nxf6 25. Nxf6 Rg6 26. Ne4 h4 27. d6 Qd7 28. N6xc5 Qf5 29. d7+ Kb8 30. Rxb7+ Ka8 31. Ne6 1–0

Nick Lita – Jesse Victoria
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
A47 QUEEN'S PAWN GAME

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 b6 4. Bd3 Bb7 5. Nbd2 c5 6. b3 Nc6 7. Bb2 Be7 8. 0–0 Qc7 9. a3 Rc8 10. Rc1 0–0 11. Qe2 d5 12. Rfd1 Rfd8 13. c4 cxd4 14. exd4 Qf4 15. cxd5 Rxd5 16. Nf1 Rcd8 17. g3 Qh6 18. Rc4 b5 19. Rc2 a6 20. Ne3 Rh5 21. d5 Na5 22. Bxf6 gxf6



23. Nf5 Qf8 24. dxe6 Nxb3 25. exf7+ Kh8 26. Nxe7 Qxf7 27. Rc7 Ba8 28. Ng6+ 1–0

IM Jack Peters – GM Melikset Khachiyan
Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2007
C67 RUY LOPEZ, Berlin Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0–0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 h6 10.Rd1+ Ke8 11.h3 Ne7 12.Ne2 Ng6 13.Ng3 c5 14.Re1 Be6 15.Nh5 Kd7 16.Nh2 Kc6 17.f4 Nh4 18.Be3 g6 19.Nf6 h5 20.Bf2 Nf5 21.Nf3 Rd8 22.Rad1 Bh6 23.g3 a5 24.a3 b6 25.Kg2 Ne7 26.Be3 Bf5 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Rc1 Nd5 29.Nxd5 Rxd5 30.Ng1 Bg7 31.Kf3 f6 32.g4 hxg4+ 33.hxg4 Be6 34.exf6 Bxf6 35.c3 Rd3 36.Re1 Bd5+ 37.Kg3 b5 38.Nf3 b4 39.axb4 cxb4 40.cxb4 axb4 41.Ne5+ Bxe5 42.fxe5 Rb3 43.Re2 Bc4 44.Rc2 Kd5 45.Kf4 g5+ 46.Kf3 Bd3 47.Rc5+ Ke6 48.Bxg5 Rxb2 49.Rxc7 ½–½

2007-2008 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are the 2007 champion(s), up to three players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2008 Candidates Tournament.

Upcoming

July 29-July 1	Pacific Southwest Open	Burbank
July 19-22	Pacific Coast Open	Agoura Hills
August 11-12	San Diego County Open	San Diego
September 1-3	Southern California Open	LAX
October 19-21	Western Pacific Open	LAX
November 22-25	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.

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

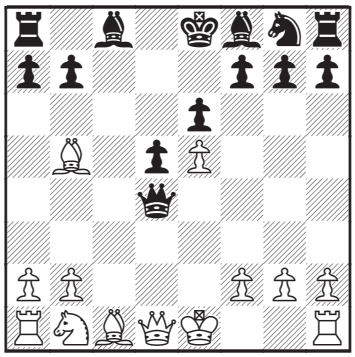
Only the player with the initiative has the right to attack! Wilhelm Steinitz (World Champion 1886–94) coined this phrase. Having the initiative usually indicates who is in control of the game and sometimes defines who may be winning. One of the most common ways of getting the initiative is by some kind of opening gambit or tactical sacrifice often played during the first few moves.

A very common method of gaining a strong initiative is to sacrifice a pawn or two for rapid development. Usually when your opponent declines he yields the initiative anyway and finds himself fending off some kind of early attack or positional inadequacy. Move accuracy becomes very significant since if the initiative is neutralized or lost the material deficit may result in a lost game.

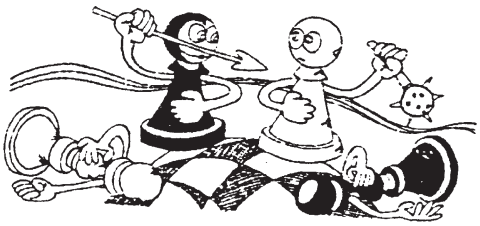
Take a look at **game No. 1. Trunov vs. Bessonov, Moscow 1982**. In this game White sacrifices two central pawns in the opening moves to develop a strong initiative due to gaining important tempi against the Black Queen. This led to a winning and decisive attack.

The game begins with the ever reliable and solid French Defense. **1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5** The Advance Variation – where White strives to contain Black. **3. ... c5 4. c3 Qb6 5. Nf3 Nc6** Black's developing strategy is to attack the White pawn chain and the d4 square. **6. Bd3** Also a3 or Be2 are often played, but White is already aiming at some kind of gambit play as you'll see.) **6. ... Bd7** Avoiding voraciousness, owing to the sneaky trap *6. … cxd4 7. cxd4 Nxd4? 8. Nxd4 Qxd4?? 9. Bb5+* which wins quickly for White, as the Black Queen is lost. (*see diagram*)

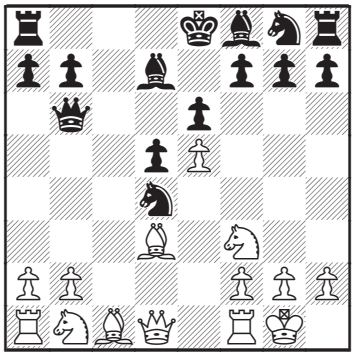
Black has snatched a poison Pawn and now will lose his Queen.



The game continued **7. 0–0 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nxd4** (*diagram*)



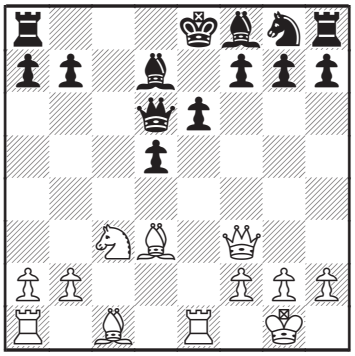
Black has accepted White's gambit Pawn with 8. … Nxd4 and is safe. Does White have enough compensation for the Pawn? Time will tell.



This pawn capture by Black is safe since there is no check by White on b5. Realize that if the pawn is not captured then White will have a clear opening advantage, as Black will experience Kingside development problems. **9. Nxd4 Qxd4 10. Nc3** Opening tactics! White is trading pawns for development and is demonstrating a deep understanding on how important having the initiative is during the early phase of a game. **10. ... Qxe5!?** This looks risky to me. Perhaps playing 10. ... a6 improves. Even if Black can survive with holding the extra pawns, White will pose a flurry of challenging threats for many moves any of which, if not parried correctly, may be fatal. It is my belief that Black under-estimated his opponent and this amazing and aggressive opening strategy. **11. Re1 Qd6 12. Qf3** (*diagram*)

White continues to amount central pressure and now threatens 13.

Nxd5. Can Black find a way to neutralize this initiative? What would you do?

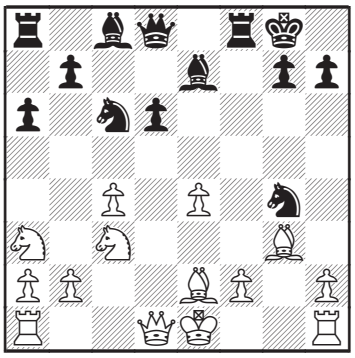


Another try for White, instead of 12. Qf3 was *12. Nb5 Bxb5 13. Bxb5+ Kd8 14. Qh5 Qe7 15. Bf4 Nf6 16. Qe5 Qc5 17. a4 Qxf2+ 18. Kxf2 Ng4+ 19. Kf3 Nxe5+ 20. Bxe5 f6 21. Bc3 a6 22. Bf1 Kd7 23. Rad1*, and White has the edge although he will need precise technique to win. Returning to the game -- Black continued with **12. ... Bc6** Needed to reinforce the center. This was probably best. **13. Bf4** Another developing move with tempo. **13. ... Qd7 14. Be5 f6?!** Black is faced with a very difficult defensive job owing to White's strong initiative and constant central pressure. In general we find that by being sometimes overly cautious or outright scared the defender often makes a mistake. Better may have been *14. ... d4!? 15. Ne4 f6 16. Bc4!? fxe5 17. Qh5+ g6 18. Qxe5 Bg7 19. Nd6+ Kd8 20. Qf4 Nh6 21. Rxe6 Rf8 22. Qh4+ Kc7 23. Re7* with a wild and unclear position. Can you imagine the time it takes to keep track of your candidate moves and to figure this out? **15. Bd4 e5 16. Bf5 Qf7** Black is trying hard to defuse White's initiative. Thus if he succeeds to develop or exchange off some pieces Black will actually be winning. Therefore White must constantly look for moves to maintain pressure. **17. Qh3 Bd7** When you're being attacked, seek to exchange off pieces and simplify the position. Black is hard-pressed to stop White's threats and now realizes he must return some material. **18. Bxe5!** There's no time to waste. White must strike fast. **18. ... Bxf5** If *18. ... fxe5? 19. Rxe5+ Kd8 20. Bxd7 Qxd7 21. Rxd5*, and White will win. **19. Bf4+ Be4 20. Nb5 Rd8??** The overwhelming pressure finally takes its toll and Black blunders. However, even with a more accurate defense, White maintains the edge. For example if *20. ... Qd7 21. Nc7+ Kd8 22. Qb3 Rc8 23. Rxe4 dxe4 24. Rd1 Rxc7 25. Bxc7+ Kxc7 26. Rxd7+ Kxd7 27. Qxb7+ Ke6 28. Qxe4+ Kd7 29. Qd5+ Bd6 30. Qb7+ Bc7 31. Qb5+*, and the White Queen will dominate the endgame owing to Black's lacking piece coordination, Kingside underdevelopment and exploitable weaknesses. **21. Nc7+ Ke7 22. Qa3+** Ka-boom! Long-range lateral moves like this are often the most startling when played. They even look good as animated on your computer screen when played in slow motion. **22. ... Kd7 23. Qa4+ Ke7 24. Qb4+** White could win more quickly with *24. Rxe4+ dxe4 25. Qxe4+ Kd7 26. Qf5+ Ke7 27. Re1+ Qe6 28.Qxe6#* **24. ... Kd7 25. Qxb7 Bd6 26. Bxd6 Kxd6 27. Nb5+ Ke5 28. Qxf7 1–0** Black resigns as mate will follow soon. A remarkable game conducted in fine style especially since the young Alyosha Trunov was only thirteen when the game was played.

In the next game we have **Nunn vs. Nataf, France 1998**. Black employs an ambitious opening pawn sacrifice that results in taking the initiative that leads to a strong attack on the uncastled White King. Often some players are unwilling to make pawn sacrifices for fear that if things don't work out the thought of being down material may mean losing the game. If you go over many of the top games today you'll often see sacrifices (mostly just pawns -- unless you're Topalov, then it's Exchange sacs) that yield excellent compensation as a result of gaining an attacking initiative. This shows confidence in one's calculating ability and the more you do this the better you'll get. This game opens with a sharp variation of the Sicilian Defense.

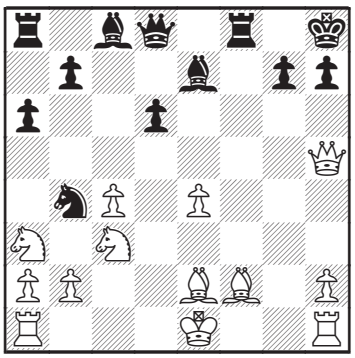
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e5 5. Nb5 d6 And here we have the Kalashnikov Variation, named after General Mikhail Kalashnikov, who invented the AK-47 rifle by the way. This line is a close cousin of the Sveshnikov variation which employ somewhat similar opening strategies for Black. **6. c4 Be7 7. N1c3** White wants to re-position his Knights and thus Black must pay attention or end up in quite an inferior (if not losing) position. Here White already threatens Nd5! **7. ... a6** Clearly best. **8. Na3 f5** 8. ... Be6 is common here, but Black is looking to create dynamic play with his pieces and taking the initiative. This is bold play that requires creativity even if it means "loosening" control in the center or even perhaps sacrificing a pawn. Already you begin to see how a strategy that involves taking some risk means having the courage to play energetically right from the start. **9. Bd3 f4** The position, in my opinion, has already reached a critical juncture. White must find a way to activate his Queen Bishop and prevent being stifled on the Kingside. **10. g3 Nf6!** Okay – clearly Nataf has courage. So here we have a classic pawn sacrifice with the attempt to take the initiative (and thus begin forcing an attack). **11. gxf4** White probably saw no danger by accepting and most likely felt good about exerting his own pressure on the Kingside. **11. ... exf4 12. Bxf4 0–0** Cleverly taking the initiative with the x-ray attack on White Bishop. **13. Bg3** So now White wants to castle on the Queenside and then launch an attack with the open Knight file. Therefore, Black must react quickly and forcefully and that means making accurate moves with direct threats against specific weaknesses. **13. ... Ng4!** And here we go. **14. Be2?** (*diagram*)

Black is striving to mount a strong initiative and attack. It's Black to move. What would you do?



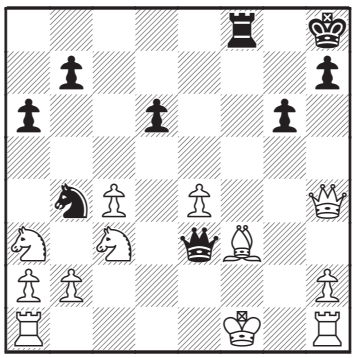
White's last move is a careless mistake so common when you play "routinely." When you watch the great players in tournaments most of the time they are focused intensely and never take any move for granted. By the way … do not believe your chess computer program if it gives White the advantage here. Black's strategic threats will take affect way beyond most software analyses horizons. Better was probably 14. 0-0, although Black would still have compensation, the initiative and a good game. **14. ... Nxf2!** White had to be shocked with this move and probably now intensified his attention. If you like edge of your seat amusement rides, then let the fun begin. **15. Qd5+ Kh8 16. Bxf2?** Perhaps 16. ... Rf1 improves, but Black is better already. **16. ... Nb4!** Here's that move (pretty much missed on your chess software analysis horizon) that now gives Black a clear advantage. In fact, White may already be lost. **17. Qh5** (*diagram*)

White has a material plus and wants to castle to safeguard his King. It's Black to move. What would you do?



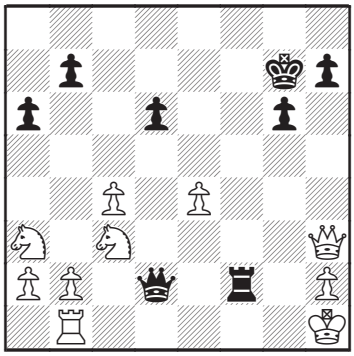
17. ... Rxf2! Sorry about all the exclaims – I can't help it. Did you consider this move? Just look at the position. White has what appears to be adequate defenses around his King. What gives Black such confidence that he can break through when at best all he has is a couple of active minor pieces himself? Can you visualize what it will take to sustain the initiative and to get some material back as a minimum in case the attack fails? Realize that as you play over theses moves in minutes, the game may have lasted several hours. **18. Kxf2 Bh4+ 19. Kg2 g6** Absolutely beautiful. It's these deceptively simple moves that many times win games. Notice that White's options are limited as Black is forcing everything with pin-point precision. **20. Qf3** What else? For example, if 20. Qh6 then Bg5 and the White Queen is lost. **20. ... Qg5+** Here come the reinforcements. **21. Kf1** If instead *21. Qg3 Bxg3 22. hxg3 Be6 23. Rad1 Rf8 24. Rxd6 Qc5 25. Rxe6 Rf2+ 26. Kh3 Qg5 27. Re8+ Kg7* and White will be mated soon. **21. ... Bh3+!** A powerful deflection. **22. Qxh3 Rf8+ 23. Bf3 Qe3 24. Qxh4** (*diagram*)

Black is down a lot of material and if not accurate here will most certainly lose the initiative and maybe even the game. It's Black to move. What would you do?



24. ... Nd3!! Another amazingly quiet move, sort of like putting the icing on the cake, that forces a decisive win of the game. What's important to realize is that if this move was not seen several moves back, probably around move 17, then Black's entire attack would have been at best "wishful thinking." That's not the way to play chess. For example, if *24. ... Rxf3+?? 25. Kg2 Rf4 26. Qd8+ Kg7 27. Rhf1 Nd3 28. Qd7+ Kg8 29. Qe6+ Kh8 30. Qc8+ Kg7 31. Qh3 Qd2+ 32. Kh1 Nf2+ 33. Rxf2 Rxf2 34. Rb1* and Black is completely lost. (*diagram*)

After totally brilliant play Black's attack has fizzled out all because of one inaccurate move. So, always include a back-up plan so if your attack looks to fail at worst you get a draw, such as a perpetual.



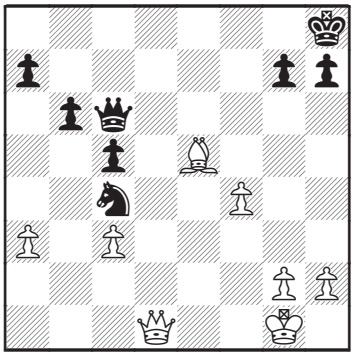
The game concluded with **25. Nd5 Qxf3+** Being low on time was probably a factor here as Black could have forced a quick mate with *25. ... Rxf3+ 26. Kg2 Qe2+ 27. Kg1 g5 28. Re1 Nxe1 29. Qxh7+ Kxh7 30. Nf6+ Rxf6 31. h4 Qg2#* **26. Kg1 Nf2 27. Kf1 Qxh1+ 28. Ke2 Qxa1 and White resigned**.

These games provide an important lesson on the significance of opening tactics to harness the initiative for an early attack. Whether you're down a pawn or several pieces a strong initiative will often lead to a winning attack. Strive to take the initiative in your games and seek to execute forceful dynamic energy with precise moves so your opponent cannot regroup or develop counterplay. Of course … work on your tactical skills since this kind of chess play requires deep calculating ability and nerves of steel!

Improving your ability to calculate and visualize tactical com-

binations takes practice. Tactical problem solving will help in this development. 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. Black to move.

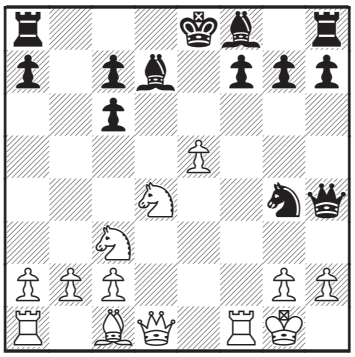


a) 1. … Qxg2+ is correct and Black is winning.

b) 1. … Qxg2+ is incorrect.

Prove your answer with analysis and a variation.

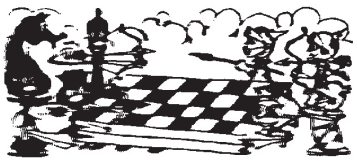
Problem No. 2. White to move.



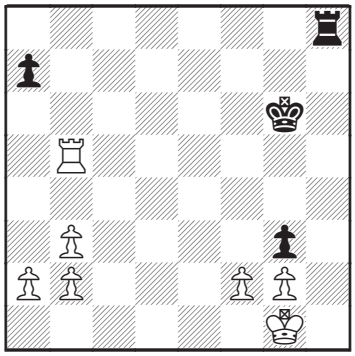
a) 1. Nf3 is incorrect

b) 1. Nf3 is correct

Validate your choice with analysis.



Problem No. 3. Black to move. What's your assessment of the position?



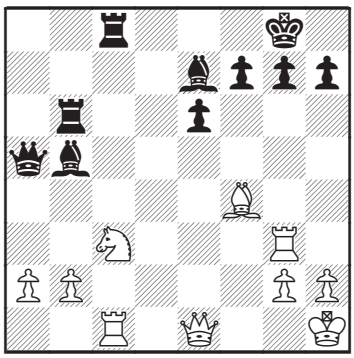
a) Black is winning.

b) The game is a draw

c) White is winning.

Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 4. White to move.



a) White is winning.

b) Black is winning.

c) The position is unclear.

Prove your answer with a variation.

... continued from page 4

World Championship: Picking up the pieces

After more than adecade of chaos, FIDE at last seems to be making a serious effort to restore the credibility and prestige of the World Championship. Plans now call for an eight-player tournament in Mexico City in September, including GMs Alexander Grischuk, Boris Gelfand, Peter Leko, Levon Aronian, Viswanathan Anand, Peter Svidler, Alexander Morozevich, and World Champion Vladimir Kramnik. If *Kramnik* wins the tournament, he will retain the title and face Topalov in a rematch next year. The winner of that match will then face the winner of the "2007 World Cup," a 126-player tournament scheduled for November 2009.

If someone *other than Kramnik* wins, the winner will play a match with Kramnik for the title, while Topalov will face the World Cup winner. The winner of *that* match will then meet the winner of the Kramnik-Other match some time in 2008.

Will all this work out? It could. For the good of chess, it should. But it all depends on FIDE – and the players – showing the stability and resolution to stick it out for the next three years. Time will tell.

Late News: SCCF Candidates Tournament

The 2007 SCCF Candidates Tournament, held at Chess Palace in Buena Park June 23-24, saw 24 players compete for four spots in the 2007 State Championship. Ron Hermansen, Reynaldo del Pilar, Julian Landaw and John Funderburg scored 3-1 to advance, joining IMs Enrico Sevillano, Andranik Matikozyan, Jack Peters and Tim Taylor. Robert Akopian and John Daniel Bryant also finished with 3-1, but lost out on tiebreak. The 2007 State Championship will take place July 7-8 and 14-15. Results and games will be posted at www.scchess.com.

Photos. Cover: Lola Nunn. Pp. 5, 7: Tim Hanks. P. 18: San Diego Chess Club.

Here & There

Los Angeles County Open

April 28-29

The ninth edition of this Monterey Park tournament, one of the rare "pure opens," drew 65 players the last weekend in April. The favorite, GM Melik Khachiyan, took a quick last-round draw with his student Robert Akopian, leaving them tied with Joel Banawa and FM Eugene Yanayt for first place with 4½ of 5. Yanayt held a difficult ending against Banawa in a critical Round 4 game. Khachiyan's key win came against Ron Hermansen in that same penultimate round.

Carlos Garcia and John R. Williams took Under 2200 honors, and the two state championship qualifying spots, with 4 points. Ryan Richardson also deserves mention, going 3½ of 4 before losing to Banawa in the finale. Henry Castro, Barry Lazarus, and Konstantin Kavutskiy were top Under 2000s with 3½. Notably, Lazarus scored 2½ of 4 versus Experts, and Kavutskiy, 2 of 3.

Under 1800 also produced a tie, with Daniel Alvira, Kelly Zhang, and Cheston Gunawan (who made an even score in three games against Experts) scoring 3. Ron Morris and Shirolly Anand made even scores for Under 1600 and Under 1400 honors respectively.

The series of tournaments have been co-sponsored by the City of Monterey Park through the efforts of former City Councilman Francisco Alonso, who was unable to play this time. Randy Hough directed. – *Randy Hough*

Costa Mesa Octos

Ryan Yeung and Robert Khachatryan took first prize in their sections at the April 21 Costa Mesa Octos. On May 19, section winners were Jason Garfield and Peter Joseph. The June 16 Octo saw Craig Clawitter and Craig Allen Faber tying for first with 2½-½.

For crosstables of past Octos and information about future events, see http://members.cox.net/octochess.

Pasadena Chess Club

The Pasadena City Championship drew 22 players. Ike Miller went 4-0 to win the open section, trailed by Randy Hough with 3. Greg Hall and Neil Hultgren split A honors. Jerry Harrison and Robert Xue tied in the Under 1800 section at 3-½. Bertram Buggs and Dave Galfond tied for the C prize, and Guanyang Yu earned D laurels.

The club meets Friday nights at Throop Church, 300 S. Los Robles. The club will be closed May 18 and 25. For details, call Randy Hough, (626) 282-7412 or e-mail randallhough@yahoo.com. – *Randy Hough*

La Palma Chess Club

For a third event in a row, Craig Allen Faber dominated the field at the La Palma Chess Club. In the 34-player "On Golden Pawn," a 6-round, 34-player event that ended May 25th, Mr. Faber claimed clear first place by a one point margin with a fine undefeated score of 5½. Class prize winners were Joma Packing, newcomer Austin Hughes, and Joe Tishy. Since coming to LPCC, Mr. Faber has scored 10+ 0- 2= in regular events, and 7+ 0- 1=. Who will be the first to end Mr. Faber's reign of terror on the LPCC?

Henry Wang won LPCC's "Jack B. Quick" 30-player G/10 event with a performance rating gain of 135 points. The 8-round event was held in La Palma's Central Park on June 1st. Honorable mention to Mehrdad Miralaie and Craig Faber for an overall score of 6½. For complete standings and a schedule of events, see the club's website at <<<link to home page http://www.lapalmachess.741.com/. – *Chris Roberts*

Joshua Tree Summer Open

June 2

This 12-player event in Joshua Tree had a remarkably strong field, as IM Tim Taylor took first with 4-1, half a point ahead of IM John Donaldson and master Joel Johnson. Class prises went to Austin Cambon (U2000) and Higinio Garcia and Jerry Snitselaar (U1600). The Joshua Tree Chess Club meets Friday evenings in Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd. in Joshua Tree.

Exposition Park Chess Club

On May 6, Marc Conde, Mark Mehlert, David Alday and Antonio Malapira topped sections in the monthly free tournament at the Exposition Park Chess Club. Winners on June 3 were Auluvance Tillmon, Peter A. Nguyen, Sargis Alaverdyan and Ernesto Lim. 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.

Arcadia Chess Club

Winner of the 57-player Arcadia Spring Open, ending in May, was Matthew Hayes with 6-0. Ike Miller and top Dave Matson tied for second at 5-1. Class prize winners included Thurlo Mishler (B), Richard Yang (C), and Eduardo Linsangan, Joel Pasternack and Wendell Salveron (D-E-unrated).

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.

Western States Single Grade Chess Championships

May 4-6

This scholastic event at the Crwone Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel in Ventura attracted 296 players. Grade winners were: Drew Frerichs, grade 12; Derek Tan, 11; Allan Sung, 10; Armen Samuelian and Jared Tan, 9; Albert Young, 8; Daniel Bryant, 7; Sammy Kennedy, 6; Boris Kitapszyan, 5; Michael W. Brown, 4; Eric Huang and Levi Ormonde, 3; Aaron Chow, 2; Joshua Scrivner, 1; and Aaron Householder, kindergarten. Jay Stallings and the AAA Chess Club organized the event Harut Keshishian directed.

3rd Annual Westwood Charter Spring Scholastic

April 21

This Westwood event attracted 33 players. Section winners included David Coles, Evan Anthopoulos, Jesse Halpern, Jonathan Yasharel, Andrew Weitz, Reid Whitney and Juliana Crotta-Cox. Ivona Jezierska directed.

Southern California High School Chess League

April 28

The fifth running of this event attracted eight teams to Temple City High School. Jim Lee took first place individually, and his team, Temple City High, had the best team result. Danny Muchaca of Maranatha High finished second, and Dante Allen of George Washington Preparatory was third. For more about the league, e-mail founder Philip Voron at philipvoron@yahoo.com.

San Diego Chess Club

Fifty-nine chess players matched wits in the 2007 Spring Swiss, a 3 section event with 5 rounds. The Open Section was won by Expert Richard Gimeno with 4 points. George Zeigler and Mario Amodeo tied for Second Place with 3½ while Rick Aeria, Ed Baluran, Fawsi Murra Jr and Thomas Fries were tied for 3rd with 3 points. In the Reserve Section Roberto Aiello made a clean sweep of it with 5 wins in a row. Marty Lower also had a good tournament was BU1800 with 4 points. Fausto Robles and Ron Rezendes tied for 2nd/3rd with 3½, and Fred Borges and Pejman Sagart tied for 2nd U1800 with 3. Also scoring 3 were Damani Fair and Chuck Ensey, and they tied for BU1700, followed by Erik Marquis with 2½ for 3rd U1700. The BU1600 prize was won by Julian Rodriguez with 2½, while Jachin Tyrell, Steven Perry and Robert Samuel came in with 2. In the Booster Section there was a surprising 4 way tie for First Place between William Murray, Daniel Bagliazo, Morgan Fox and Mark Lawless, all with 3½ points. The club meets on Wednesday nights at 7 PM in Balboa Park at Sixth and Ivy, near downtown San Diego. We currently have about 160 members and are looking forward to the next big weekend event, the San Diego County Championship on August 11-12, with a $3,200 Guaranteed Prize fund, including a $500 First Place prize. Newly elected Club Officers are President Ron Rezendes, Vice President Jim Malowney, Treasurer Richard Jensen, Secretary Thomas Webb, Sergeant At Arms Chuck Ensey and Members At Large Rick Aeria and Tom Kuhn. Bruce Baker is the Building Manager and Park Liaison. See our website at http://Groups.msn.com/sandiegochess for more details, games and photos – *Chuck Ensey*

Erik Marquis (1645) – Robert Draper (1760)
Spring Swiss, San Diego 2007
B06 PIRC-ROBATSCH DEFENSE

[Notes by IM Cyrus Lakdawala]

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 a6!?

The risky Tiger's Modern.

5. Bc4 e6!

GM Tiger Hillarp thinks this is Black's best reaction to the Bishop posting on c4.

6. 0–0 b5 7. Bb3 Bb7

This weakens the e6 square and temps white. Safer is 7. ... Ne7 8. Re1 0–0.

8. Qe2 Nd7 9. Be3!

This pawn sac is sound.

9. ... Ngf6!

Weaker is 9. ... b4!? 10. Na4 Bxe4 11. Ng5 Bd5 12. Bxd5 exd5 13. Rfe1 Ne7 14. Bd2 Bf6 15. Nf3 c5 16. Bf4 Qc7 17. dxc5 Nxc5 18. Nxc5 Qxc5 19. Bg5 Bxg5 20. Nxg5 Ra7, giving White compensation for the pawn.

10. Bg5?!

Better 10. e5! Bxf3 11. Qxf3 dxe5 12. Rad1 0–0 13. Rfe1.

10. ... h6 11. Bh4 g5 12. Nxg5?!

This sac is not so sound, but as the saying goes, fortune favors the brave! Instead,12. Bg3 b4 13. e5 dxe5 14. dxe5 bxc3 15. exf6 Qxf6 16. bxc3 Bxf3 17. gxf3 0–0 is slightly better for Black.

12. ... hxg5 13. Bxg5 Qc8?

But 13. ... b4! totally refutes White's piece sac after 14. e5 *(14. Na4 Bxe4)* 14. ... bxc3 15. exf6 Bxf6.

14. e5 Nh7 15. f4!

Now white has a nasty attack for the piece

15. ... d5

15. ... Nxg5 16. fxg5 dxe5 17. g6! gives white a strong attack.

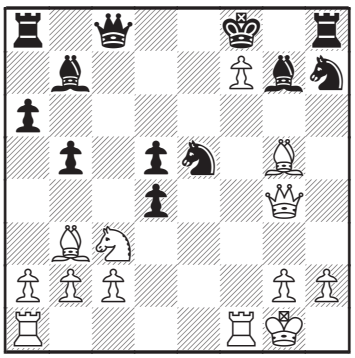
16. Qg4 c5

Or 16. ... Nxg5! 17. fxg5 c5 18. g6 f5 19. exf6 Nxf6 20. Qg5 Rh5 21. Qf4 c4.

17. f5!? cxd4

I like black's chances after 17. ... Nxg5! 18. Qxg5 Bh6 19. Qg4 Be3+ 20. Kh1 Bxd4 21. fxe6 Nxe5 22. exf7+ Kf8.

18. fxe6 Nxe5 19. exf7+ Kf8?



The alternative 19. ... Nxf7 20. Rae1+ Be5 21. Rf5! Nhxg5 22. Rexe5+ Kd8 23. Nxd5 once again gives White a very strong attack for the material investment, but Black is very much alive in this line.

20. Be7+!

A nice shot which sends the Black King out of hiding.

20. ... Kxe7 21. Qxg7 Rf8 22. Qxe5+ Qe6 23. Qc7+ 1–0

Gambito Open News

June 2007

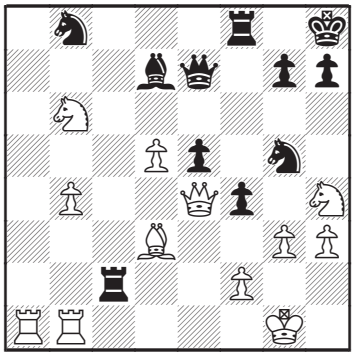
The May Super Gambito Open featured 28 players, including 3 Masters and 6 Experts. IM Cyrus Lakdawala won once again with a 4-0 score, but the story of the day was the great performance by the young Varun Krishnan (9 years old), who pumped up his rating a whopping 80 points, from 1897 to 1977, by defeating two Experts and a Master before finally losing to Cyrus in the last round. The Gambito Open has been a real boon for Varun, giving him experience playing against high rated competition in pressure situations and his rating over the last year has soared from 1500 to near Expert status now. His rapid progress has placed him near the top of the list of nine-year-olds in the USA.

Tying with Varun for Second Place/BU2200/BU2000 were Experts Ryan Richardson and Dimitry Kishinevsky, all three players scored 3 out of 4 points in the tough Open Section. The mysterious Jacoby Johnson scored 2½ to win 2nd U2200 (he only plays infrequently and then disappears to who knows where) and there was a 4 way tie for 2nd U2000 between Ben Barquin, Hercules Madriaga, Richard Jensen and Ed Baluran. In the Reserve Section Roberto Rivera was First Place with a 4-0 score, but being unrated, he only won a book prize. Roberto's rating after 16 games has now settled out to 1968, so he has been playing in the Open Sections and still doing pretty well. He is one of several military players we have had join us in the last few months; this can be a great source for new players for many clubs. Chuck Ensey and Jesse Orlowski tied for BU1800 while Pratik Khanna and Michael Chen tied for BU1600. There are so many good young players these days it is scary for the older ones, especially since the young players improve so fast that it seems they are always underrated. At least with weekly tournaments like the Gambito Open, their ratings have a better chance of keeping up.

The June Super Gambito (#323) drew 32 players, including 5 Masters, 6 Experts and 9 Class A players. Bruce Baker tied for First Place with Cyrus Lakdawala, as each player won $150 for scoring 3½ points. Rick Aeria won the BU2200 prize of $75, and a victory over Varun Krishnan in the last round was the key, as Rick didn't succumb to the jitters while playing Varun as many other Experts have done (it's almost like Fischer Fear now!). Dimitry Kishinevsky, Richard Gimeno and Jorge Balares tied for 2nd U2200. There was a rare 5 way tie for BU2000 between Varun Krishnan, Ben Barquin, Hercules Madriaga, Ed Baluran and James Mahooti. In the Reserve Section, Chuck Ensey won First Place with 4 points and Nestor Dagamat was BU1600 with 3. Pratick Khanna, James Sofianos and Caleb Guy tied for 2nd U1800/1600 with 2. – *Chuck Ensey*

Dimitry Kishinevsky (2182) – Ed Baluran (1999)
Gambito #323, San Diego 2007
D30 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, Irregular Variation

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+?! 4. Bd2 Qe7 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Nbxd2 Nc6 7. g3 Nf6 8. Bg2 0–0 9. 0–0 e5? 10. cxd5?! Nxd5 11. e4 Nb6 12. d5 Nd8 13. a4 Bg4 14. Qb3 Kh8 15. Nh4 Qg5 16. Ndf3 Qe7 17. Nd2 Nd7 18. h3 Nc5 19. Qa3! Bd7? 20. Rfc1 b6 21. b4 Na6 22. Rcb1? Rc8! 23. Bf1 Nb8 24. a5 c6 25. axb6 axb6 26. Qe3!? cxd5 27. exd5 f5 28. Nc4 Nf7 29. Nxb6 Rc2 30. Bd3 f4 31. Qe4 Ng5



32. Qxh7+! 32. ... Nxh7 33. Ng6+ Kg8 34. Nxe7+ Kf7 35. Bxh7!? Rd2 36. Nc4 Rd4 37. Ng6! fxg3 38. fxg3 Bxh3 39. Rf1+! Bxf1 40. Rxf1+ Ke8 41. Rxf8+ 1–0

Chuck Ensey (1721) – Tom Kuhn (1459)
Gambito #323, San Diego 2007
A90 DUTCH DEFENSE

1. d4 e6 2. g3 f5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. c4 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Bxd2+ 6. Nxd2 0–0 7. e3 d5?! 8. c6 9. 0–0 Bd7 10. Nf4 Qe7 11. Rc1 Be8 12. cxd5?! exd5 13. Qc2 Ne4 14. Nf3 Nd7 15. a3! a5 16. Nd3 Ng5 17. Nfe5 Nf7 18. Nxd7 Bxd7 19. Nc5 Nd8 20. b4 axb4 21. axb4 b6?! 22. Nxd7 Qxd7 23. Ra1?! Nb7] 24. Ra2?! Nd6 25. Rfa1 Qb7! 26. Ra4 b5 27. Ra5 g6 28. Qc5! Rxa5 29. Rxa5 Ne4? 30. Bxe4! fxe4 31. Ra7 Qc8 32. Qe7 1–0

Varun Krishnan (1897) – Ron Bruno (2295)
Gambito #319, San Diego 2007
B80 SICILIAN DEFENSE, English Attack

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Be3 Be7 7. f3 0–0 8. Qd2 a6 9. g4 Nc6 10. 0–0–0 Qc7 11. h4 b5 12. h5 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 b4 14. Ne2 Nd7!? 15. g5 Ne5 16. Bxe5? dxe5[3] 17. Rg1 Rd8 18. Qe1 Rxd1+ 19. Qxd1 Qd8?! 20. Qxd8+ Bxd8 21. g6 fxg6 22. hxg6 h6 23. Kb1 Bg5 24. Nc1 Bxc1! 25. Kxc1 Bd7 26. Kd2 a5 27. Bc4 Rf8? 28. Ke3 Rf6?? 29. Rd1! 29. ... Be8 30. Rd8 Rxg6 31. Rxe8+ Kf7 32. Ra8 Rg2 33. Bb3 h5 34. Rxa5 h4 35. Rxe5 g5 36. Rxe6 Kg7 37. Re7+ Kh6 38. Be6! Rxc2 39. Bf5! g4 40. Kf4! 1–0

VARUN KRISHNAN

Chess Palace

The June Super 2x Quads held on June 9th proved another success. ChessPalace's Super Double Quads is a unique tournament where players are awarded by their own performance. Each particular score receives a guaranteed prize for each individual so those players are not dividing up the prizes into small fractions. Perfect four points receive $99.99, 3½ points receive $64.99, 3 points receive $44.99, and 2½ point receive a $25 ChessPalace store gift certificate. In the first section, prizewinner included Neil Bershad, with a perfect score. Eren Karadayi followed with just a half point behind to capture the 3½ point award. The next ChessPalace Super Double (2x) Quad is scheduled for July 14th.

Chess Palace is located at 12872 Valley View, Suite 5, in Garden Grove. Call Anthony at (949) 307-2618 for more information or registration, or go to www.chesspalace.com. – *Alfred Ong*

Golden Goose Open

GM Melikset Khachiyan took first prize in the Golden Goose Open, held May 5-6 at the Los Angeles Chess Club. Khachiyan scored 5½-½, drawing with second-place winner Joel Banawa (4½-1½). Show Kitagami and IM Tim Taylor shared third place at 4-2, and Jennifer Acon won six straight games to lead the under-1800 section.

The Los Angeles Chess Club meets on the second floor of 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., above Javan restaurant. For information, call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to Mick@LaChessClub.com, or go to www.lachessclub.com.

Chess for Success Benefit Tournament

May 19

This scholastic tournament to benefit Autism Speaks drew 48 players to Westwood Charter School. Ashkon Soroudi topped the Championship (grades K-12) section, Liam Henry Fairweather, Elijah Ullman and Julian M. Walker won K-8 sections, and Jesse Halpern, Karinne Robbins, Jacob Tucker and Jordan Tan-Say took first prizes in sections for younger players. Ivona Jezierska directed.

Warner Summer Scholastic

June 2

This traditional scholastic event saw 134 players compete at Warner Elementary School in Westwood. Jonathan Gunn and Ricky Demer won Championship (grades K-12) sections. K-8 sections went to Elijah Ullman, Jordan Remba, Evan Anthopoulos, Owen Fahey, Jack Bramson, Robert Leeds, Jordan Semprevivo and David Phu. Other section winners included Brian Mack, Christian Rayfield, Christopher Dobosi, Kenneth Shapiro, Graham Moffet, Jovanni Scagliotti, Gabriel Sarnoff, Bryan Toubi, Tommy Buonfiglio, Nicholas Williams, Hunter Smith, Max Katzman, Ariella Hedvat and Charlie. John Surlow and Vicki Feldmar directed.

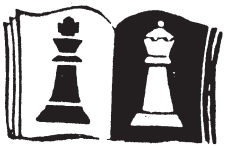
Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 24)

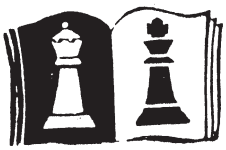
Denker - Baker, New York, 1937: White combines the motifs of *deflection* and *attraction* with **1. Rg8+ Rxg8 2. Bxf6+ Rg7 3. Bxg7#.**

Sindik - Cebalo, Zagreb, 1978: Black's pieces are *overloaded* after **1. Rb4**, e.g. 1. ... Bxb4 2. Qxb6; 1. ... Qxb4 2. Qd8#; 1. ... Qc7 2. Rxb7; 1. ... Bxe4+ 2. Rxe4.

Stoyko - Mitchell, Warminster, 1990: The passed pawn rules, but only with the help of a *pin* — **1. Qxe6 fxe6** (1. ... Qc6 2. Qxf7+ Kh8 3. Qd5 wins easily) **2. f7+ Kh8** (2. ... Kg7 3. Ne8+] **3. Bf6+ Bg7 4. Ne8 1–0**



Reviews



Silman's Complete Endgame Course: From Beginner to Master, *by* Jeremy Silman. Los Angeles: Siles Press, 2007, 530 pages. $24.95.

(Review by Randy Hough)

Los Angeles IM Jeremy Silman has added to his string of useful instructional books. *Complete Endgame Course* includes eight rating class-based chapters which build on one another. Thus, the opposition is introduced in "Endgames for Class E," distant opposition is covered under Class D, and further finesses are discussed in the C chapter. The latter chapter also presents the Lucena and Philidor positions in rook endings. Many other concepts are displayed in similar building blocks.

In his introduction, Silman points out that "Jumping from book to book is a fast track to nowhere," certainly true of endgames. Queen endings, except for fortresses and Queen vs. pawn on the seventh, are pretty much ignored. And Silman explicitly declines to present the Bishop and Knight mate because of its paucity in practical play. (Ah, but like many veterans, I went for 40 years without one – and then had three within a year!) A selective recommended reading list of ten books invites the student to go further.

The final chapter, "Endgames for Pure Pleasure," is less didactic and can be profitably read by the majority of readers, including those who don't achieve the master level in endings or other phases of the game! It includes examples from endgame virtuosos Lasker, Rubinstein, Capablanca, Smyslov, and Fischer.

Each chapter (through Experts) concludes with Tests and Solutions, the diagrams appearing twice for easy reference. Two very minor quibbles: a bit of the material appears in Silman's other work, and he has a problem with homophones (e.g., "Chicken coup," his term for the situation where the stronger side's King, the fox, rushes to the other side and feasts on the chickens while the opposing king is stuck tending to an outside passed pawn). But on the whole, this is an excellent work and should be the first endgame book for both players and teachers. Highly recommended.

Chess and Education: Selected Essays from the Koltanowski Conference, Tim Redman, ed. The Chess Program at the University of Texas at Dallas, 2006. 230 pages. $25.

(Review by Randy Hough)

The Koltanowski Memorial Conference on Chess and Education, held in 2001, was one of many worthy tributes to its namesake. With some additions, this compendium presents the academic papers from that conference, for a total of 17 essays.

In his introduction, Redman points out that the focus is on chess as a vehicle for the improvement of academic skills, as opposed to simply developing good players. Section headings include Chess Program Values, Educational Practice, Training and Teaching, Theory, and Problems. Appendices include Robert Ferguson's extensive annotated bibliography on chess and learning, and resources for teachers, compiled by Tom Brownscombe.

Contributions range from the highly theoretical ("What is Known about What Occurs in the Brain When People Play Chess? An Introduction to the Neuroscientific Basis of Chess Playing") to the extremely practical ("Chess Crying: Children's Preparation and Tournament Structure"). David MacEnulty, the model for Ted Danson's character in *Knights of the South Bronx* (though this fact goes unmentioned) has useful essays on developing a successful program and "Tips and Tricks for Teaching Total Beginners: Six Big Ideas and a Lot of Little Things to Do."

To cite at random one paper I found interesting, Michael Potts discusses "The Peripatetic Caissa: Chess as a Supplement to Teaching Aristotle's *Ethics*." With all the recent focus on chess's value in, e.g., teaching math skills, it's refreshing to see a discussion of value ethics. Potts concludes, albeit with caveats, that knowledge of chess can help one "see" more in a moral situation, appreciate that correct moral decisions can be uncertain without being relativistic, and, through its social component, assist in character development.

Of course, not all the essays in such a varied collection will be of interest to everyone. But there's much of value in *Chess and Education* to parents, chess teachers and coaches, and anyone who would like to help get chess into school curricula – there's plenty of intellectual ammunition here when that opportunity arises. A book very much worth owning and dipping into.

Games From Recent Events

Mutatis Mutandis

Many players know "their" openings well, but that ins't enough. What if one opening changes into an entirely different one? You must learn tom play the board, not the opening

Bruce Baker – IM Cyrus Lakdawala
Gambito 318, San Diego 2007
C04 FRENCH DEFENSE, Tarrasch Variation

(Notes by IM Cyrus Lakdawala)

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nc6 4. Ngf3 Nf6 5. e5 Nd7 6. c3 f6 7. exf6 Qxf6 8. Bb5 Bd6 9. 0–0 0–0 10. Nb3

This move is designed to prevent Black from playing ... e5 because the d5-pawn will hang.

10. ... e5!

An improvement over the last time we met in this position – in an earlier Gambito, I continued less strongly with 10. ... a6?! 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Bg5 Qg6 13. Bh4 c5 14. dxc5 Nxc5 15. Nxc5 Bxc5 16. Bg3.

11. Bxc6

An example of how not to play this for White is 11. dxe5 Ndxe5 12. Nxe5 *(12. Qxd5+? Be6 13. Qe4 Nxf3+ 14. gxf3 (14. Qxf3?? Qe5–+) 14. ... Rae8 15. Bd3 g6 16. Bc4 Bf7 17. Bxf7+ Qxf7 18. Qa4 (18. Qh4 Ne5–+ 19. Nd4 Nxf3+ 20. Nxf3 Qxf3 21. h3 Re4 22. Qh6 Rg4+! 23. hxg4 Qxg4+ 24. Kh1 Rf3–+) 18. ... Qxf3–+)* 12. ... Nxe5! 13. Qxd5+?! *(13. f4 Nf7 14. Be3 c6 15. Bd3 Bf5 16. Bd4 Qg6 17. Bxf5 Qxf5)* 13. ... Be6 14. Qxb7 Rab8 15. Qa6 Nf3+! 16. gxf3 Qg6+ 17. Kh1 Qh5 18. f4 Qf3+ 19. Kg1 Bd5 20. Bc4 Qg2#.

11. ... bxc6 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Nxe5 Qxe5 14. f4 Qe7

Lures the Rook to e1 which leaves his f4 pawn weak.

15. Re1

If 15. Nd4 Bd7.

15. ... Qh4

Better was 15. ... Bg4! 16. Rxe7 (16. Qd2 Qh4) 16. ... Bxd1 17. Re1 Bxb3 18. axb3 a5 19. g3 Rfb8.

16. Nd4 Bg4 17. g3

Not 17. Qd2?? Bxf4–+.

17. ... Qh5

Of course it's silly to allow White to swap Queens here with 17. ... Bxd1?! 18. gxh4 Bh5 19. Nxc6 Rae8 20. Bd2 a6.

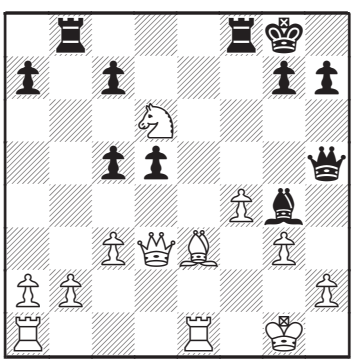
18. Qd3

The position now is like a Marshall Gambit of the Ruy, with the difference that Black is not down a pawn!

18. ... c5 19. Nb5 Rae8 20. Be3 Rb8!

This is strong, but Black has a powerful attack with 20. ... Bf3! 21. Nxd6! (21. Nxa7? g5! 22. fxg5 *(22. Qd2 gxf4 23. Bxf4 Bxf4–+)* 22. ... Bxg3! 23. Qc2 Bxh2+! 24. Qxh2 Qg4+ 25. Kf2 Bh1+ 26. Bf4 Rxf4+ 27. Qxf4 Qg2#) 21. ... cxd6 22. b4 d4! 23. cxd4 Bd5 24. Bd2 cxd4! 25. Rxe8 Rxe8 26. Re1 Rxe1+ 27. Bxe1 Qh3 28. Qe2 Kf7.

21. Nxd6??



Correct was 21. b3 Bf3 22. Nxa7 c4! 23. Qd2 *(23. bxc4?? Rb2 24. Bd2 Bc5+ 25. Re3 Qh3–+)* 23. ... Be4 24. Qe2 Qxe2 25. Rxe2 cxb3 26. axb3 Rxb3.

21. ... Rxb2!–+ 22. h4

Not 22. Bf2? Rxf2! 23. Kxf2 Qxh2+ 24. Ke3 Qxg3+ 25. Kd2 Qf2+ 26. Re2 Qxf4+ 27. Qe3 Bxe2 28. Qxf4 Rxf4 29. Nb7 Bc4–+; 22. Bd2 cxd6–+.

22. ... cxd6 23. Bc1 Be2! 24. Qe3 Re8 25. Qf2!

Accurate defense. If 25. Qxe8+? Qxe8 26. Bxb2 Qe3+ 27. Kg2 Bf3+ 28. Kh3 Qf2 29. Rg1 h5! 30. g4 hxg4+ 31. Rxg4 Bxg4+ 32. Kxg4 Qg2+ 33. Kf5 Kf7 34. h5 g6+ 35. hxg6+ Qxg6#.

25. ... Rc2 26. f5 Bf3!

A very cool shot but other moves win for Black too.

27. Rxe8+ Qxe8

Black's pieces are all hanging but White can't take any of them!

28. Bd2

Not 28. Qxc2?? Qe1+ 29. Kh2 Qh1#, or 28. Qxf3?? Qe1+ 29. Qf1 Qxg3+ 30. Kh1 Rh2#.

28. ... Be4 29. Re1 Qf8 30. g4 h5 31. Rxe4

Or 31. gxh5 Qf7 32. h6 gxh6 33. f6 Qg6+ 34. Kh2 Kf7 35. Re3 Rxa2 36. Rg3 Qxf6–+.

31. ... dxe4 32. g5 Qf7 33. g6 Qd5 0–1

2006-2007 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are the 2006 co-champions Enrico Sevillano and Andranik Matikozyan, two players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2007 Candidates Tournament.

July 1-4	Pacific Southwest Open	Michael Casella Julian Landaw
July 8-16	State Championship	Jack Peters Cyrus Lakdawala Eugene Yanayt Christian Tanaka Francis Chen
July 20-23	Pacific Coast Open	Tim Taylor Elliot Liu
September 2-4	Southern California Open	Varuzhan Akobian Joel Banawa Melikset Khachiyan
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	San Luis Obispo Cty Champ.	James Humphrey Vadim Kudryavtsev Chris Roberts
October 6-8	Los Angeles Open	Ilya Sterin Mikhail Ginzburg Takashi Kurosaki Craig Clawitter Robert Akopian Marian Nick Nita Francisco Alonso Bobby Hall
Nov. 18-19	SCCF November Open	Derek Tan Roger Dellaca
Nov. 23-26	American Open	Reynaldo del Pilar Ron Hermansen Ilia Serpik
Dec. 10-11	Joseph Ileto Memorial	Ike Miller Show Kitagami Mike Zaloznyy Leo Raterman
January 12-15	Western Class Championships	Matthew Beelby Jerome Hanken
January 27-28	SCCF January Open	John Daniel Bryant John Funderburg Leonard Sussman Dimitry Kishinevsky
March 3-4	SCCF HS Champ	Jeremy Stein
April 21-22	SCCF Senior Open	Carl Wagner
April 28-29	Los Angeles Cty Open	Carlos Garcia John Williams
May 28-30	Memorial Day Classic	Alex Kretchetov Leonid Furman

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: b) Qxg2+ is incorrect. The main line goes 1. … Qxg2+?? 2. Kxg2 Ne3+ 3. Kf2 Nxd1 4. c4 and wins, as the Black Knight is trapped and quickly lost. The lesson here is that if you think you see a good move … go back and review carefully to look for any "gotchas" that may be lurking. Better was 1. … Kg8 with a difficult endgame and chances for both sides.

Problem no. 2: b) Nf3 is correct. White sets a trap with 1. Nf3 since if Black accepts the bait with 1. … Bc5+ 2. Kh1 Nf2+?? (if 2. ... Qf2 then 3. Ne4) 3. Rxf2 Qxf2 4. Ne4 winning the Black Queen. Remember to always looks past the initial combination, sometimes as much as two or three moves further to be sure everything will remain.

Problem no. 3: c) White is winning. If you thought Black was winning and played 1. … Rh1+?, White wins with 2. Kxh1 gxf2 3. Rf5!! Kxf5 4. g4+! (there's that gotcha again) Kxg4 5. Kg2 and White will win the relatively easy Pawn endgame. Also if 1. … gxf2+ 2. Kxf2 Rc8 3. Rb7 and White will win the relatively easy Rook ending as well.

Problem no. 4: a) White is winning. From the game Spassky vs Averkin, Moscow 1973. Boris Spassky was truly a master of the initiative. In this game he takes advantage of Black's last move (… Rb8-b6) and the somewhat disoriented Black pieces all jumbled up on the Queenside. The main line goes **1. Bc7!** (Simple and best. Other tries are not as forcing.) 1. … **Rxc7 2. Qe5 g6?!** (A horrible weakening. Better was 2. … Bf8 and Black can hang in there with hopes that White might go astray.) **3. Qxc7 Bh4?** (better was 3. … Bd6, but White was already winning.) **4. Rf3** (Better was 4. Rg4! which wins faster and avoids any counterplay or a long endgame.) **4. … Be8 5. Rxf7!** (This is Spassky sustaining the initiative as best he can.) **5. … Bxf7 6. Rf1 Be8** (There's nothing better.) **7. Qc8 Kg7 8. Qxe8 Bf6 9. Ne4 e5??** (This loses immediately. Better was 9. … Qb5 10. Qxb5 Rxb5 11. Rxf6 Rxb2 12. h4 Rxa2, and although White is up a piece it will take some time to cash in the win.) **10. Nxf6!** and **Black resigns** since if 10. … Rxf6 then 11. Qe7+ wins the Black Rook and sets a mating net.

Upcoming Events

July 7

Chess Union Summer Quads III. 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**: 9:00-10:10 a.m. **Rds**: 10:15-1:00-4:00. EF: $24 online/mail received by June 30, $30 at door. **Ent**: Mail checks to the "Chess Union," PO Box 1313, Bloomington, CA 92316. **Info**: Call (951) 990-7990. No checks or credit card entries at door. NS. NC. Web site: www.TheChessUnion.com

July 15

Diversity Summer Scholastics. 5-SS, 30 SD, no delay. Tie-break: 5-4-3 min. speed game. 1012 S. Baldwin Ave. #A, Arcadia, CA 91007. July rating list used. Please bring clocks. Sets provided. Trophies to top 3, top U1200, top U1000, top U800, top U600, top U400/unrated. 1st place winner qualifies for the 2007 Diversity Chess Championship. **Rds**: 10-11:15-1-2:15-3:30, Awards at 5 p.m. **EF**: $16, $20 onsite. Two 1/2-pt byes for rounds 1-4 is allowed. **Ent** : Diversity Educational Center, 1012 S. Baldwin Ave. #A, Arcadia, CA 91007. **Inf**: roel@diversityeducationalcenter.com website: www.diversityeducationalcenter.com

July 27-August 31

Mid Summer Knight's Dream #2. 6-SS, G/120. La Palma Chess Club, Central Park Community Center, 7821 Walker Street, La Palma, CA 90623-1720. Guaranteed prize fund: 1st Place $750 Winner take all (If there is a tie score for 1st place, then one player will win the entire $750 prize based on tiebreak), 2nd Place $300 (If there is a tie for 1st Place, the player(s) that loses the tiebreak will equally share the 2nd Place prize money.) Other prizes:1st U2000: $200 (split equally if there is a tie), 1st U1800: $100 (split equally if there is a tie) Trophies: Best "C", "D", and "E"/Unrated, Best Game (as judged by IM Jack Peters) $50. Highest Rating Gain (as judged by Swiss Sys Computer) Prize $50 + trophy. $250 prize will be awarded to every player that achieves a perfect score. **EF**: $40 at site. $5 discount to La Palma residents. EF includes 6SS that precedes the Mid Summer Knight's Dream No. 2, i.e., two tournaments for the price of one. **Reg**: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Rds: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., one each Friday night from 7/27 to 8/31. **All**: Free parking & coffee. Sets & boards provided. Bring your own clock. Byes: One half-point bye may be taken. An irrevocable last round half-point bye is allowed only if declared before the first round starts. **Ent**: La Palma Chess Club c/o Michael Brady, 9426 Flower St., Bellflower, CA 90706. **Inf**: Mike Henebry (562) 370-2146, Mike Brady (562) 867-8248, or Leigh Hunt (714) 635-0448 or wlhunt@earthlink.net NS. NC. **GP: 20.**

July 19-22

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). Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains, 26 miles west of Burbank, 12 miles from Malibu, 28 miles from Ventura. Free parking. Prizes $20,000 based on 250 paid entries (re-entries count as half entries, U800/Unr Section as one-third), minimum $16,000 (80% of each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections. Open: $2000-1000-500-300, U2300/Unr $1200-600. FIDE. Under 2100: $1500-700-500-300. Under 1900: $1500-700-500-300. Under 1700: $1500-700-500-300. Under 1500: $1500-700-500-300. Under 1200: $1200-600-400-200. Under 800/Unr: Trophies to top 8. Unrated may play in any section, with maximum prize U2100 $700, U1900 $600, U1700 $500, U1500 $400, U1200 $300; balance goes to next player(s) in line. Top 6 sections **EF: 4-day** $104, **3-day** $103, **2-day** $102 mailed by 7/11, all $105 online at chesstour.com by 7/16, $110 phoned by 7/16 (406-896-2038, entry only, no questions), $120 (no checks, credit cards OK) at tmt. SCCF membership ($14, jrs $9) required for rated Southern CA residents. **U800/Unr Section EF: 4-day** $24, **3-day** $23, **2-day** $22 mailed by 7/11, all $25 online at chesstour.com by 7/16, $30 phoned by 7/16 (406-896-2038, entry only, no questions), $40 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site. Re-entry $50; not available in Open Section. Advance EF $10 less if paid with $49 USCF dues. GMs free, $100 deducted from prize. **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 must commit before rd 2, other sections before rd 4. **HR**: $82-82-82-82, 818-707-1220, reserve by 7/5 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. NS. F. **GP: 80. State Championship Qualifier.**

August 11-12

San Diego County Championship. 5-SS, G/90 w/10 sec time delay in games 1-3, games 4-5: G/120 w/10 sec TD. San Diego Chess Club, 2225 Sixth Avenue, San Diego 92101. $$3,200 Guaranteed Prize Fund. **In three sections: Open** $500-250, U2300 $200-50, U2200 $200-50, U2100 $200-50. **Reserve** (U2000) $300-150, U1900 $200-50, U1800 $200-50, U1700 $200-50. **Booster** (U1600) $150-75, U1500 $75-25, U1400 $75-25. Best Game Prize $25 for each section. **All**: one ½ point bye available in Round 1-4 only. SCCF membership req. ($14, jr. $9) for all So. Californians, WEB (most current USCF website ratings used). **Reg**: 9 to 9:45 a.m. on 8/11, free street parking. Arrive early for closest spots. **Rds**: Sat 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. **EF**: $50 if received by 8/10, or $60 at door: Special reduced entry fee for U1500 or unrated: $25 adv, or $30 at door, unrated can win only a book prize. **Ent**: San Diego Chess Club, POB 120162, San Diego CA 92120. **Info**: Bruce Baker (619) 239-7166 or chucnglo@aol.com NS, W. **State Championship Qualifier**

August 14-19

2007 U.S. Senior Open. 6-SS, 40/2 SD/1, open to USCF members born before August 14, 1957. La Quinta Resort & Club, 49–499 Eisenhower Drive, La Quinta (Palm Springs) CA. 92253 **EF**: $90 if received by July 16, $100 by July 30, $110 after July 30 or onsite. Make out checks to USCF. **Prize Fund:** 85 or more paid entries: guaranteed $5,000 (or 70% return) 1st: $1200, 2nd: $700, 3rd: $450, 4th: $350; 5th $250; 6th 150; U2200 $300-150, U2000 $300-150; U1800: $250-150, U1600: $200-100, U1400 $200-100, Unrated $200-100. Trophies: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Prizes for each Age champions 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74 and over 75. **Reg**: ends 12 noon August 14 for Senior Open. Traditional Schedule: Tuesday – Saturday one round daily 2 p.m.. Sunday, 11 a.m. Alt Schedule: G/60 Thur Rd: 1 3 p.m., Rd 2 6 p.m., Fri Rd 3 10 a.m., merge with Traditional Schedule 2 p.m.. 1/2 pt. byes available except final Rd. Awards reception 6 p.m. HR: $105 800-589-3828. www.uschess.org/tournaments/2007/senior/ or mail USCF P.O. Box 3967 Crossville, TN 38557.

September 1-3

29th Annual Southern California Open. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 G/60, then merges). LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$10,000 b/200, 60% of each prize guaranteed. In two sections: Open: $$T+1700-1000-800-450-300, U2400 400, U2300 200, U2200 600-300, U2000 $$600-300. Amateur (Under 1800/unr): $$T+750-400-200-150-100, U1600 $$500 -300-200-100, U1400 $$300-150, U1200 100, Unr 100. (Unrated may win Unr. prize only in this section.) Best game prize $25, both sections eligible. **All**: half-pt bye available in rds 1-4 if requested with entry, limit 2. SCCF membership req ($14, jr. $9), OSA. No checks or credit cards at door. SCCF Annual Membership Meeting: 2:30 p.m. Sept. 3. **Reg: 3-day** 9-10 a.m. 9-1. **2-day** 8:30-9:30 a.m. 9-2. **Rds: 3-day:** 10:30-5 Sat-Sun, 10-4:30 Mon. **2-day:** 10-12:15-2:30 Sun, then merges. **EF**: $83 if rec'd by 8-31, $95 door, U1400/unr. $67 by 8-31, $80 door. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. HR: $95, (310) 410-4000, use group code SOU. Parking $8/day. Info: admin@westernchess.com. NS, W, F. **GP: 50. State Championship Qualifier.**

September 2

SCO 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, top 3 in grades 12-11-10-9/below. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated, top 3 in grades 6-5-4-3-2-1/below. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if rec 'd by 8-31, $20 at door. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. Info: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

September 3

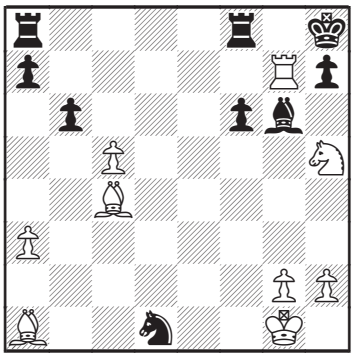
SCO Action Swiss. 5-SS, G/30. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$500 b/40, else proportional: $150-70-40, U2100/Unr $80, U1800 $80, Under 1500 $80. **EF**: $20 if received by 8-31, $25 at door. Reg: 9-10 a.m. **Rds**: 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com.

September 3

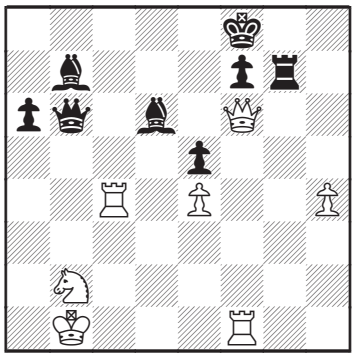
SCO Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 6-player sections by rating. $$40 -20-10 each section. **EF**: $20 if received by 8-31, $25 door. **Reg**: 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Rds**: 10:45-2-5. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com.

September 15

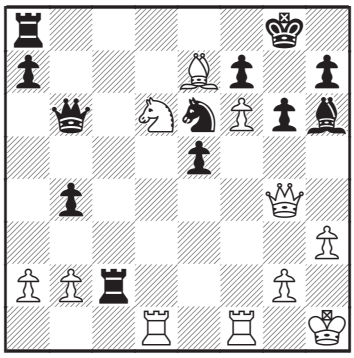
Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, G/80. (Digital Clocks with delay G/75). 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, 2476 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA. EF: $27 advance, $32 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. $$ prizes per entries. **Reg**. 9:45-10:15 a.m. **Rds**. 10:30-1:45-5:00. (New Times) Rounds may start earlier if your opponent is present and ready. **Info/Ent**: Takashi Iwamoto (takashi@cox.net), 24275 Tama Lane, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Home: (949) 643-2981 Cell: (949) 689-3511. Web site: http://members.cox.net/octochess/. NS, NC.



Denker - Baker
New York, 1937
White to move



Sindik - Cebalo
Zagreb, 1978
White to move



Stoyko - Mitchell
Warminster, 1990
White to move

Solutions on page 18

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