Rank & File

May-June 2005 Volume XXVIII, No. 3 $3.00

Charles Van Buskirk

Tim Hanks

22nd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

Let's Mate Those Fockers

Ron Hermansen

Rory Valle

SCCF

Vote for Joel Channing for the USCF Executive Board

"I know how to make a business succeed, I know how to work harmoniously with others and I've made enough money to give chess the amount of time it deserves."

Joel Channing

Business Experience:

Channing and Channing, Architects and Engineers 1963 to 1971; Channing Corporation, President 1971 to 1991, Chairman of the Board 1991 to present. Channing Corporation develops and sells roughly 40 million dollars of real estate annually. Currently building shopping centers along PGA Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens and luxury homes in Vero Beach. Channing Corp. sells single family homes and retains ownership in commercial developments, leasing facilities to upscale stores, restaurants, offices and apartments.

Membership, Public and Professional Service

Director US Chess Trust. Mensa. Miami Beach Planning Commission, 1970 to 1973. State of Florida Condominium Advisory Board, 1979 to 1983. Community Associations Institute, National Speakers Bureau, 1980 to 1984. Florida Home Builders Association Legislative Committee, 1979 to 1982, North Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Committee 1988 to 1990. Best in America Living Award Judge, 1993. City of Palm Beach Gardens Planning and Zoning Board, member 1996, Vice Chairman 1997, Chairman 1998 to 2000. Florida, Advisory Council to the Commission on Human Relations, 1999.

Recent Chess Experience

I love chess, especially what it does for children. God must love lower rated players -- he made so many of us. Nevertheless, I study each morning and am dedicated to raising my rating. My favorite chess tournaments are the US Senior and the Amateur Team Championship. I have started the PBG Chess Club in Panera's restaurant in Palm Beach Gardens. Starting a club takes time. I actively recruit players, call them to remind them and on Saturdays I stay there from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As a major project, I'm working with Susan Polgar to organize a 350 board simul for her which will break the current world record of 330 boards!

Endorsements

Joel Channing, currently a director of the US Chess Trust, will bring to the USCF Executive Board a wealth of business experience know-how. We strongly recommend that you vote for Joel Channing!

Dale F. Frey, Treasurer, General Electric (ret.); Chairman, General Electric Investments Inc. (ret.)

World Champion Susan Polgar

Erik Anderson, President AF4C

GM Yasser Seirawan

Bill Goichberg, Former USCF Exec Director

Don Schultz, Former President USCF

GM Arthur Bisguier

Harvey Lerman, *floridaCHESS* Editor

IM John Donaldson

Dan Lucas, Editor Georgia Chess

Mike Cavallo, Former USCF Exec Director

Frank Brady, USCF Board Member

Franc Guadalupe, President, Florida Chess

Jon Haskel, Director Boca Raton Chess Club

Paul Truong, Capt. US Ladies Olympiad Team

Bob Smith, former USCF President

International Arbiter Carol Jarecki

Robert Tanner, US FIDE Zonal President

Fabio LaRota, U.S. Senior Champion

Dr. Joe Wagner, Former Exec Board Member

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Help support the SCCF State Championship! Each $20 donation entitles you to one entry in a drawing for these great prizes:

- Lesson with IM Jack Peters
- Lesson with IM Cyrus Lakdawala
- Autographed copy of "Pal Benko -- Life & Games," by Jeremy Silman *(BCF & ChessCafé Book of the Year!)*
- Autographed copy of "Amateur's Mind" set, by Jeremy Silman
- Free entry to the 2005 Southern California Open
- Four $25 gift certificates from Chess Palace
- Chess Timer ™ digital chess clock
- One-year membership in the Los Angeles Chess Club

Drawing will be held during the State Championship in July.
Mail contributions to SCCF, P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754, or go to ***www.scchess.com***

Around the Nation

Far West Open

Suat Atalik and Alex Yermolinsky tied for first in the Far West Open, held March 18-20 in Reno, with scores of 5-1. The two GMs drew with each other in the middle of the tournament in a tough battle, and drew in the last round with GM Gregory Serper and IM Igor Ivanov respectively. Vladimir Mezentsev was alone in third with a score of 4½. This excellent result included a win over GM Serper and a draw with GM Sergey Kudrin. Mezentsev's only loss was to Atalik. Tying for fourth at 4 in the multi-section event which attracted 192 players five GMs and five IMs were Kudrin Ivanov and Serper.

NTD Jerry Weikel, his wife Fran and Barbara Woodward of the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino organized the event which attracted 192 players. The Western States Open will be held this October in the same venue.

For complete standings go to the Reno Chess Club website (http://www.renochess.org/) where webmaster Ernie Hong does an excellent job. Contact Jerry Weikel at wackyykl@aol.com for a mailed copy of the Games Bulletin for $6 including 116 games from the Open section. — *Mechanics Institute Newsletter*

IM Ricardo DeGuzman – GM Suat Atalik
Far West Open, Reno, 2005
A46 TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 cxd4 6.exd4 b6 7.c3 Bb7 8.Bd3 Qc7 9.0–0 d6 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.a4 a6 12.Qb1 h6 13.Bh4 0–0 14.h3 Rfe8 15.Ne4 e5 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Be4 Bxh4 19.Nxh4 Rad8 20.Re3 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Nf6 22.Qc2 e4 23.Nf5 Qd7 24.Ng3 Qd2 25.Qb3 b5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Rae1 Re5 28.Nxe4 Nxe4 29.Rxe4 Qxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 31.Kh2 Re5 32.Qb4 Rd2 33.Qf4 Ree2 34.Qb8+ Kh7 35.Qxb5 Rxf2 36.b4 Rxg2+ 37.Kh1 g6 38.Qc4 Kg7 39.Qf1 Rg3 40.c4 Rgd3 41.Qf4 Rc2 0–1

Largest Tournament At Largest Hotel

The world's largest scholastic chess tournament in history recorded 5270 entries in Nashville, TN, this past weekend. Students from 1300 schools in 48 states representing over 600 cities gathered at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center – the largest non-casino hotel in the U.S. – for 4 days of intense competition with pride, trophies, and scholarships on the line. A special thanks to Nashville Chess Center and Tennessee Chess Association for the support.

The 5270 students smashed the old record of 4606 entries recorded in Kansas City in 2001. National scholastic tournaments are held each year but are divided by location into elementary, middle school, and high school events. Every four years all three are gathered at one

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site for a "Super" National. The 2005 event is the third such event organized by the USCF.

"This event highlights the tremendous enthusiasm for chess among students of all backgrounds in the United States," stated Jerry Nash, USCF Scholastic Director. "The over 46,000 students who are members of the United States Chess Federation represent a remarkable growth of scholastic chess in recent years. Teachers have discovered chess to be an excellent tool for teaching math and developing critical thinking skills. Parents have discovered the value of chess in teaching self-discipline and character development."

The University of Texas at Dallas awarded scholarships to the winners of each championship section (elementary, middle, and high school) each valued at about $48,000 to non-Texas residents. The winners were Joel Banawa, age 15, from Los Angeles, California; Ray Robson, 10, from Largo, Florida; and Xiao Cheng, 15, from Alpharetta, Georgia. The students must meet the university's entrance requirements.

Other notable results by Southern California players included Jouaquin Banawa (tied for first in the K-12 section), Christian Tanaka (clear first in K-5), Jared Tan (tied for seventh in K-8), and Michael Yee (tied for sixth in K-6). — *USCF news release*

K-12 :
Cheng, Xiao 2178/6
Yang, Ruixin 2152/6
Bercys, Salvijus 2453/6
Kahn, Aaron E 2101/6
Banawa, Jouaquin B 2447/6
Gulamali, Kazim 2203/6
Gossell, Thomas G 2189/6
Klegon, Matthew L 2000/6
Goldstein, Brian 2010/6

K-12 Under 1500 :
Henchey, David P 1495/6.5
Nguyen, Quan 1369/6.5

K-12 U1200 :
Sahoury, Samer 1146/7

K-12 U900 :
Sweatland, Christopher 709/7

K-12 Unrated :
Rothschild, Ben J Unrated/7

K-9 Championship :
Banawa, Joel Cholo B 2211/6
Zhao, Parker Bi Gu 2111/6
Hilton, Jonathan L 2027/6

K-9 Unrated :
Fernandez, Xavier Unrated/6.5
Rojas, John Unrated/6.5

K-8 Championship :
Weser, Adam 1907/6.5

K8 U1250 :
Jesch, Isaiah D 1077/7

K-8 U1000 :
Anwar, Gohar 869/7

K-8 U750 :
Chavez, Christian 747/7

K-6 Championship :
Robson, Ray S 2036/7

K-6 U1000 :
Diaz, Linda 775/7

K-6 Unrated :
Narula, Gautam R Unrated/7
Vera, Yurian Unrated/7
Marshall, Jaron Unrated/7

K-5 Championship :
Tanaka, Christian 1926/6.5

K-5 U900 :
Ledzian, Patrick W 711/7
Stylianou, Nikolas 818/7
Liu, William Lin 836/7

K-3 Championship :
Naroditsky, Daniel A 1688/7

K-3 U800 :
Baerman, Elliot A 798/7
Hertz, Matthew F 680/7

K-1 Championship :
Gurevich, Daniel 1173/7

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22nd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

It was youth versus experience at the 22nd Annual U.S. Amateur Team West – and this time, experience won. Taking first place on tiebreak were four veterans – Charles Van Buskirk, Ron Hermansen, Tim Hanks, and Rory Valle -- competing under the Hollywoodish name "Let's Mate Those Fockers."

The 2005 running of this now-traditional event took place at the Norwalk Marriott February 19 through 21. The turnout of 47 teams (along with 25 more in the Scholastic) did not quite match the glory days of the mid-90's, but represented a welcome upturn in attendance, despite torrential rains which washed away several pieces of Los Angeles.

Another welcome sign was the continued growth in college activity. Finishing second on tiebreak was the USC 1 team (named, ahem, "Caltech Football Sucks"), led by IM Jack Peters, who teaches two popular courses on "Chess and Critical Thinking." In the final round, they downed rivals (and last year's champions) "CCCP – Caltech Champion Chess Players," while on Board 2 the "Fockers" overcame the even more veteran "Rusty Knights." And two of the other three (!) USC teams earned class prizes as well.

A unique feature of the USATW is the awarding (by player vote) of special prizes for best team name. This year we had some good ones – "Aladdin and the Genies of the Chessboard" (led by master Alaa-Addin Moussa), "Chess Palace Is Not In Elista" (it's actually in Los Alamitos, despite what Kirsan may think), "Eternal Sunshine of the Amateur's Mind" (since the movie is about erasing memories, not necessarily a compliment). "Absolut Zavodka" probably suffered from newer players not being familiar with the colorful Brian Zavodnik, returning after an eight-year layoff. The winner, however – and we must abide by the will of the majority – was "Shush! Quiet!!!," perhaps a comment on the chief TD's, ah, energetic efforts.

John Hillery and Elie Hsiao directed for the SCCF. Complete standings are available at www.westernchess.com.

First of the first

The Best Game prize went to IM Jack Peters for his last-round victory (on Board 1 of Baord 1) over SM Patrick Hummel. A new opening idea by White leaves the Black King precariously placed, though not immediately vulnerable. But when the Black pieces venture too far in search of counterplay, the jaws snap shut.

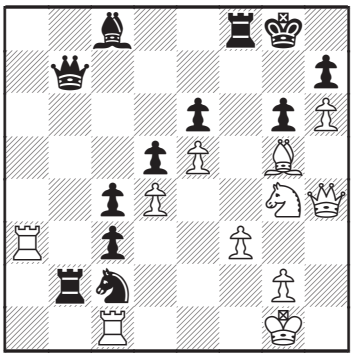
IM Jack Peters – Patrick Hummel
USAT West, Norwalk 2005
C18 FRENCH DEFENSE, Winawer Variaton

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0–0 8.Bd3 Nbc6 9.Qh5 Ng6 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Be3 c4 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Qg4 Bd7 14.h4 Rf5 15.Qh3 Raf8 16.Ng1 b5 17.Ne2 a5 18.Ng3 R5f7 19.h5 g5 20.h6 g6 21.0–0 Qd8 22.f3 Qe7 23.Nh1 b4 24.axb4 axb4 25.Nf2 bxc3 26.Ng4 Rb8 27.Qg3 Rff8 28.Bxg5 Qf7 29.Qh4 Bc8 30.Ra3 Rb2 31.Rc1 Qb7 32.Be3 Nb4 33.Bg5 Nxc2

SECOND ON TIEBREAK — ***CalTech Football Sucks (USC):*** **Danyul Lawrence, IM Jack Peters, Simon Nielsen, Karim Seada**

1	**Let's Mate Those Fockers (2194.5) W12 D15 W21 W5 D2 W10**	**5**
	Charles Van Buskirk (2319) 3.5	
	Ron Hermansen (2271) 6.0	
	Tim A Hanks (2230) 4.0	
	Rory Omar Valle (1958) 4.0	
2	**Cal-Tech Football Sucks (USC) (2148.8) W30 D7 W31 W15 D1 W3**	**5**
	IM Jack Peters (2461) 4.5	
	Karim Mahe Seada (2060) 1.5	
	Simon Nielsen (2047) 5.0	
	Danyul Lawrence (2027) 5.0	
3	**CCCP—Caltech Champion Chess Players (2138)**	
	W27 W26 D5 W17 W8 L2	**4½**
	Patrick A Hummel (2443) 4.0	
	Eugene Yanayt (2239) 4.0	
	Howard Liu (2023) 4.5	
	Joshua Gutman (1847) 3.0	
4	**AAA-1 (2147.8) W18 W24 W14 D8 L10 W15**	**4½**
	Garush Manukyan (2298) 3.5	
	Minas Nordanyan (2167) 4.0	
	Alen Melikadamian (2108) 5.0	
	Harut Keshishian (2018) 3.5	
5	**3 Bagels And A Fortune Cookie (2087.3)**	
	W42 W44 D3 L1 W25 W21	**4½**
	Alan R Stein (2410) 5.5	
	Jamie Schloss (2135) 5.0	
	Dennis Uchimura (2039) 4.5	
	Michael Jeffreys (1765) 3.5	
6	**Kretchetov Team (2199.8) W11 D20 W29 H-- D7 W12**	**4½**
	Alexandre Kretchetov (2369) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	Ilia V Serpik (2265) 4.5	
	Takashi Iwamoto (2218) 4.5	
	Marina Asami (1947) 3.0	
7	**I Put Baby Has Helpy Pikey Dike Doo (1950.5)**	
	W43 D2 D10 W23 D6 W16	**4½**
	David A Zimbeck (2219) 4.0	
	Craig Clawitter (2107) 5.0	
	Vaughan Heussenstamm (1762) 4.0	
	David Cody Oldham (1714) 2.0	
8	**The Manila Heat, With Saki, Lo'neal (2187.5)**	
	W28 W19 W9 D4 L3 D11	**4**
	Jouaquin Banawa (2436) 3.0	
	Joel Banawa (2213) 5.0	
	Takashi Kurosaki (2096) 3.0	
	Lonnie Neal (2005) 4.0	
9	**6 Grams Of AAA Fat (2136.5) W22 W13 L8 L12 W27 W25**	**4**
	Tatev Abrahamyan (2286) 4.0	
	Mike Y Zaloznyy (2142) 3.0	
	Vanessa A West (2096) 4.5	
	Arkadiy Onikul (2022) 0.0	
	Santy B Wong (1923) 4.0	
10	**Rusty Knights (2105.3) W38 D31 D7 W13 W4 L1**	**4**
	Robert Hurdle (2211) 3.5	
	Spencer R Kell (2130) 2.5	
	Ivona Jezierska (2115) 3.0	
	Chris Roberts (1965) 4.5	
11	**The Four Mastertiers (1856.0) L6 W33 W22 D14 W41 D8**	**4**
	Robert W Richard [Sting] (2219) 5.0	
	David A Saponara [Baroque] (2015) 1.5	
	Shomari Mosi [Capa] (1334) 3.0	
	Franco Alejandrino [Monster] (Unr.) 5.0	
12	**On The Road To Minnesota (1828.3) L1 W37 W42 W9 W14 L6**	**4**
	Cau Duong Le (2089) 3.5	
	Kevin M Sevilla (1972) 3.5	
	Chris Alarcon (1702) 3.5	
	Jeff Lindley (1550) 1.5	
	Donald Dabdub (1400) 1.0	

Third place — *CCCP: CalTech Champion Chess Players* – Joshua Gutman, Eugene Yanayt, Patrick Hummel, Howard Liu



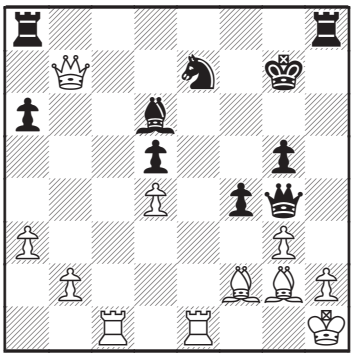
34.Be7! Rf7 35.Bc5 Qc7 36.Ra7 1–0

Another strong contender was this fine effort by unrated Franco Alejandrino. Two sound Rook sacrifices are followed by a well-calculated King hunt.

Top U1800 — *Your King Would Rather Play On My Side Of The Board:* Dingchao Lu, Randy Hough, John Quach, Jeremy Stein

Jared Tan – Franco Alejandrino
USAT West, Norwalk 2005
B13 CARO-KANN DEFENSE, Panov-Botvinnik Attack

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 dxc4 5.Bxc4 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0–0 Nf6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Bf4 0–0 10.Rc1 a6 11.Qd2 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Bd3 Bb4 14.Qc2 h6 15.a3 Bd6 16.Be3 Bg4 17.Nd2 Qh4 18.g3 Qh5 19.Rfe1 f5 20.f4 Rfe8 21.Qb3 Qf7 22.Bf2 g5 23.fxg5 hxg5 24.Kh1 f4 25.Bf1 Kg7 26.Bg2 Ne7 27.Nf3 Rh8 28.Ne5 Qh5 29.Nxg4 Qxg4 30.Qxb7

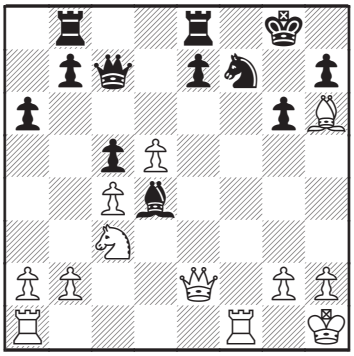


30...Rxh2+ 31.Kg1 Re8 32.Rc6 fxg3 33.Be3 Rxg2+ 34.Kxg2 Qe4+ 35.Kf1 Rf8+ 36.Ke2 Rf2+ 37.Kd1 Qb1+ 38.Bc1 Qd3+ 39.Bd2 Qxd2# 0–1

… f7, the square of doom?

Nick Matelli – Zachary Witten
USAT West, Norwalk 2005
E91 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

1.d4 d6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e4 Bg4 6.Be2 0–0 7.0–0 c5 8.d5 a6 9.Nd2 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Nbd7 11.f4 Qc7 12.Nf3 Rab8 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Ng4 15.e6 Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Nde5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Bh6 Rfe8 19.exf7+ Nxf7



20.Rxf7 Bf6 21.Qe6 Qc8 22.Rf8# 1–0

13 Merciless Peppers of Quetzlzacatenan (1907.3)
W46 L9 W38 L10 W42 W24 **4**
Andrew C Lee (2216) 5.0
Damon Mosk-aoyama (1811) 2.0
David W Taylor (1806) 5.5
Peter F Newhall (1796) 4.0

14 Rook-ies (1959.3) W34 W17 L4 D11 L12 W29 **3½**
Julian W Landaw (2096) 3.0
David M Bennett (1944) 2.5
Derek J Tan (1907) 3.0
Christian Tanaka (1890) 5.0
Jared E Tan (1642) 0.5

15 Aladdin And The Genies Of The Chessboard (2042.5)
W37 D1 W16 L2 W29 L4 **3½**
Alaa-addin Moussa (2209) 2.5
Ralph A Gholmieh (2122) 4.0
Rasool Bayati (1985) 3.0
Essam E Mohamed (1854) 3.0
Moheb H Boules (1757) 1.0

16 The Half Million Dollar Gambit (2167.8) W25 D21 L15 W18 W20 L7 **3½**
Mitchel Goldberg (2239) 2.0
John F Riddell (2200) 3.5
Craig Allen Faber (2161) 3.5
John J Kelly (2071) 1.0
Robert Feldstein Esq (2000) 3.0

17 Drill, Mill, Fill, Bill And Thrill (2149.3) W23 L14 W20 L3 D18 W22 **3½**
Dimitry Kishinevsky (2220) 1.0
Ronald Bruno (2159) 3.0
Adam L Corper (2114) 4.0
Ulric E Aeria (2104) 3.0
James J Mahooti (1969) 2.0

18 Your King Would Rather Play On My Side Of The Board (1792.5)
L4 W34 W26 L16 D17 W32 **3½**
Randall D Hough (2016) 4.0
Jeremy A Stein (2005) 3.0
John Ngu D Quach (1611) 2.5
Dingchao Lu (1538) 4.0

19 Chapa Team (2078.8) W36 L8 D30 W33 L21 W31 **3½**
Eric F Chapa (2262) 3.5
Eric M Ferguson (2160) 1.0
Darrell Y Yap (1968) 2.0
Roger D Dellaca (1925) 5.0
Randy K Higa (1848) 4.0

20 Chesspalace Knights Of The Square Table (2004.5)
W41 D6 L17 W32 L16 W33 **3½**
Anthony Ong (2083) 3.0
Mehrdad Miralaie (2045) 3.0
R C Rice (1982) 3.5
Herbert F Faeth (1908) 2.5
Joe Scherzinger (1805) 2.0

21 Absolut Zavodka (2003.5) W39 D16 L1 W30 W19 L5 **3½**
Brian S Zavodnik (2200) 3.5
Gary A Hill (2174) 3.0
Stephen A Boak (1839) 1.5
Al R Pena Jr (1801) 3.0

22 Trojan Horsies (USC 2) (1766.3) L9 W40 L11 W34 W26 L17 **3**
Craig Berger (1921) 1.5
Colin Field-Eaton (1734) 4.5
Reza Gholizadeh (1730) 3.5
Leland T Farrar (1680) 2.5

23 "I Think You're Playing A Genius!" (1816.3) L17 W36 W41 L7 L24 W37
Louie G Rivera (1932) 2.5 **3**
Daniel V Alvira (1867) 3.0
John Dimercurio (1761) 4.5
James Houzvicka (1705) 3.0

24 Akiba Rubinsteam A (1935.3) W40 L4 W27 L25 W23 L13 **3**
Jerome B Hanken (2200) 4.0
Gene L Rubin (1954) 2.5
Douglas W Sefton (1837) 2.0
Jacob Alon (1750) 3.0

25 La Palma Chess (1823.0) L16 W39 W35 W24 L5 L9 **3**
W Leigh Hunt (1900) 2.5
William Martino (1829) 1.0
Michael E Brady (1813) 2.5
Brian E Scanlon (1750) 1.5
Alan D Holmes (1629) 2.5

26 Pawn Attack Wins Nicely [P.A.W.N] (1918.8)
W45 L3 L18 W37 L22 W38 **3**
Dane Hinrichsen (2000) 1.0
Dave E Matson (1952) 3.0
L Gordon Brooks (1900) 4.0
John R Anderson (1823) 4.0

27 Sometimes The Dragon Wins (1802.3)
L3 W45 L24 W39 L9 W41 **3**
Edward Townsend (1951) 2.5
Barry J Lazarus (1787) 3.5
Matthew Hernandez (1757) 0.5
Peter Holzer (1714) 3.0
Robert Escalante (1656) 3.0

28 Chess For Tigers (1825.7) L8 L41 L33 W45 W39 W42 **3**
Donald R Cotten (2019) 2.5
Dan J Lewis (1772) 1.5
Raymond Sollars (1686) 5.0
Yu-kai Chou (Unr.) 3.0

29 Mars Attacks (2079.8) D35 W32 L6 W31 L15 L14 **2½**
Richard L Borgen (2269) 2.5
Lawrence Stevens (2121) 3.5
Julio-Cesar Marin (2015) 2.0
Timothy Thompson (1914) 3.5

30 Eternal Sunshine Of The Amateur's Mind (1793.0)
L2 W43 D19 L21 L33 W36 **2½**
Chris Lee (2108) 3.0
Zachary Witten (1773) 3.0
Artho Ter-Matevosyan (1682) 1.0
Roger W Aramayo (1609) 4.5

31 Fifth Street Playas (1906.8) W47 D10 L2 L29 W35 L19 **2½**
Kofi Odell Tatum (1984) 3.5
Terry Payne (1916) 2.5
Kenneth Flewellyn (1877) 2.0
Jerry Maxwell (1850) 3.0

32 Akiba Rubinsteam B (1959.5) D33 L29 W44 L20 W36 L18 **2½**
Sidney J Rubin (2200) 2.5
Ronald V Hanoian (2000) 3.0
Eion M Faelten (1938) 4.0
Joseph Wagner (1700) 1.5
Paul B Shively (1517) 0.0

33 The Four Musketeers (USC 3) (1471.5)
D32 L11 W28 L19 W30 L20 **2½**
Musheg Muradyan (1538) 2.0
Arnulfo Gonzalez (1512) 2.0
Nick Matelli (1464) 1.5
John G Garvey (1372) 2.5
Munchul Shin (Unr.) 0.0

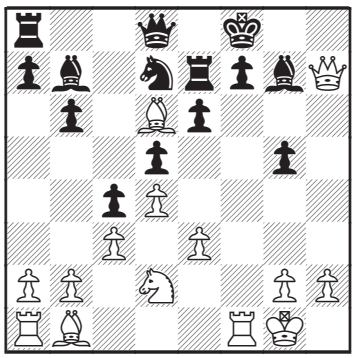
34 Off The Juice (1537.0) L14 L18 W45 L22 D44 W43 **2½**
Jay S Stallings (2022) 4.5
Brendan Kennedy (1394) 1.0
Sean C Reader (1391) 1.5
Jackson Stallings (1341) 2.0
Tymothy Belanger (1088) 2.0

35 It Runs In The Family (1597.3) D29 H-- L25 H-- L31 W44 **2½**
Christopher Slupik (2088) 4.0
Scott Slupik (1603) 2.5
Billy Slupik (1478) 3.0
Ben Slupik (1220) 2.0

36 AAA-3 (1477.8) L19 L23 W43 W38 L32 L30 **2**
Michael A Yee (1564) 1.5
Armen Samuelian (1555) 0.5
Michael Ambartsoumian (1445) 4.0
Haik Muradyan (1347) 4.5

James Houzvicka – David Cody Oldham
USAT West, Norwalk 2005
D03 TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 d5 4.Nbd2 Be7 5.e3 b6 6.c3 0–0 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.Qc2 h6 9.Bh4 c5 10.Ne5 Bc8 11.Qa4 Bb7 12.Bd3 c4 13.Bb1 g5 14.Bg3 Nfd7 15.Qd1 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Bf6 17.f4 Nd7 18.Qc2 Re8 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Bd6+ Re7 21.0–0 Bg7 22.fxg5 hxg5

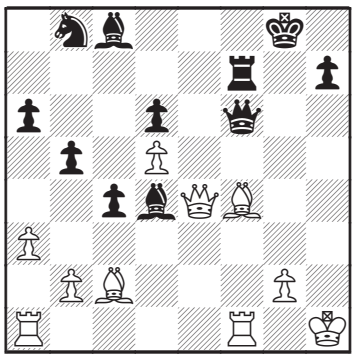


23.Rxf7+ Kxf7 24.Bg6+ Kf8 25.Rf1+ Nf6 26.Rxf6+ 1–0

Not all draws are dull …

Alexandre Kretchetov – David Zimbeck
USAT West, Norwalk 2005
A65 BENONI DEFENSE

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 Be7 7.f4 0–0 8.Nf3 Re8 9.Bd3 c4 10.Bc2 b5 11.a3 Ng4 12.0–0 f5 13.h3 fxe4 14.hxg4 exf3 15.Qxf3 Bf6 16.g5 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 a6 18.f5 Ra7 19.f6 gxf6 20.gxf6 Rf7 21.Ne4 Re5 22.Bf4 Rxe4 23.Qxe4 Qxf6



24.Bxd6 Qxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 26.Kh2 Bg1+ 27.Kg3 Bf2+ ½–½

Top Junior Team — *ROOK-ies:* Jared Tan, Christian Tanaka, Derek Tan, Julian Landaw

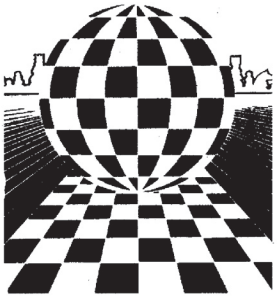
Prize Winners

1st: Let's Mate Those Fockers 5-1
2nd: Cal-Tech Football Sucks (USC) 5-1
3rd: CCCP–Caltech Champion Chess Players 4½-1½
U2100: 3 Bagels And a Fortune Cookie 4½-1½
U2000: I Put Baby Has Helpy Pikey Dike Doo 4½-1½
U1800: Your King Would Rather Play On My Side Of The Board 3½-2½
U1600: The Four Musketeers (USC 3) 2½-3½
U1400: Codilian Team 2-4
Industrial: Absolut Zavodka 3½-2½
Junior: ROOK-ies 3½-2½
College: Trojan Horsies (USC 2) 3-3

Board prizes:
1st: Alan Stein
2nd: Ron Hermansen
3rd: David Taylor
4th: Danyul Lawrence
Alternate: Randy Higa

Team Name
1st: Shush! Quiet!!!
2nd: Preparation H File

Scholastic
1st: Chesspalace Warriors 4-0
2nd AAA Troublemakers 3½-½
3rd: Academic Chess 1 3½-½



37 Luke And The Jedi Knights (1588.3)
L15 L12 W40 L26 W47 L23 **2**
Amanda R Mateer (1817) 3.5
Alex Curry (1649) 2.5
Luke Curry (1456) 1.0
John M Williams (1431) 4.5

38 West Valley Chess Team (1728.3)
L10 W47 L13 L36 W40 L26 **2**
Ped Bashi (1755) 0.5
Jose M Ruelas (1754) 1.0
Ruslan Azbekyan (1748) 0.0
Mark D Witte (1656) 4.0
Jabbar M Hicklin (1550) 1.5
David A Rawlings (1527) 2.5

39 Chesspalace Is Not In Elista (1562.8)
L21 L25 W46 L27 L28 W45 **2**
Ryan Yeung (1741) 2.0
Peter Joseph (1711) 3.5
Alan Murfitt (1460) 1.5
Richard R Henri (1339) 2.0
Aaron Ong (1227) 0.0
Joseph Gonzales (1146) 1.0

40 Codilian Team (1382.8) L24 L22 L37 W46 L38 W47 **2**
Raffi Codilian (1838) 2.5
Dale A Nielsen (1461) 3.5
Marshall T Laws (1417) 3.0
Sam W Bowman (815) 2.5

41 Pawnchained Melody (1575.0) L20 W28 L23 W44 L11 L27 **2**
Aezed S Raza (1638) 2.5
Daniel Gertmenian (1613) 1.0
Stanley C Chao (1558) 1.0
Carey Fan (1491) 3.0

42 Shush! Quiet!!! (1608.5) L5 W46 L12 W47 L13 L28 **2**
Robert B Tanner (2100) 2.0
Anthony Sherwood (1601) 3.0
Ryan R Sherwood (1410) 2.0
Frederico De Luna Y Aragon (1323) 3.0

43 Preparation H File (1412.0) L7 L30 L36 H-- W46 L34 **1½**
Antonio C Martin (2100) 3.5
Jose Gomez (1706) 2.0
Bonifacio J Lara (1255) 1.5
Joseph Calderon (587) 1.5

44 1. f3! e5 2. g4! Qh4??# (USC 4) (1150.0)
B-- L5 L32 L41 D34 L35 **1½**
Robert A Zych (1150) 1.0
Nate J Houk (Unr.) 2.5
James Lefort (Unr.) 2.0
Rocky Martinez (Unr.) 1.0

45 Battered Pawns In Garlic Sauce (1336.5)
L26 L27 L34 L28 B-- L39 **1**
Christopher Zalecki (1515) 2.0
Scott Eldredge (1158) 1.5
Nancy Smith (Unr.) 2.0
Carl Schmidtmann (Unr.) 1.0

46 The Vera Menchik Revival (1363.0)
L13 L42 L39 L40 L43 B-- **1**
Colette Mc Gruder (1826) 2.5
Julie Timokhina (1426) 2.5
Constance Mc Clendon (1206) 1.0
Stewart Yanez (994) 1.0
Debra R Rothman (724) 0.0

47 Rialto Chess Club Inland Empire Emperors and Empresses (1282.0)
L31 L38 B-- L42 L37 L40 **1**
Donald E Cuerdon (1462) 1.5
Ric Cuerdon (1102) 1.0
Tina Cuerdon (Unr.) 1.0
Michael Sandoval (Unr.) 0.0
Francia Cuerdon (Unr.) 1.0
Earnest Chappell (Unr.) 0.0

IBAR Invitational:

Four Norms In Santa Monica Round Robin

by Randy Hough

IM Melikset Khachiyan is not one to miss an opportunity on the chessboard or in life. When he learned that Macedonian GMs Vladimir Georgiev and Nikola Mitkov (both in the process of relocating to Chicago) were available, he promptly got to work and organized a round robin tournament on very short notice, rounding up the requisite players to make it a Category 9 international with GM norms available. It's probably not a coincidence that Melikset was one norm short of the GM title himself!

The biggest step was finding a sponsor, and he enlisted Askar Karabayev, an émigré from Kazakhstan who went from building palaces in Central Asia to designing and developing distinctive custom homes in the upscale Newport Coast area of Orange County, California. Through his company, IBAR Development, Karabayev donated $5000, and the IBAR Invitational became a reality.

The ten players who gathered in Santa Monica from February 23 to 27 were mostly locals: GM Varuzhan Akobian, IMs Andranik Matikozyan and Khachiyan; FMs Alan Stein (who found a playing site), Alexandre Kretchetov, and David Lucky; and the talented but as yet untitled Jouaquin Banawa. Matikozyan, Kretchetov, and Banawa still represent, respectively, Armenia, Russia, and the Philippines. They were joined by visitors Georgiev, Mitkov, and FM Lev Milman, 17, of New York, who was coming off a huge success in the North American Open where he scored 3½ of 5 against GMs.

The ultimate result was an amazing *four* title norms in the ten-player field – secured by *three* players. Playing confidently and accurately, the undefeated Khachiyan won first place with 7–2, securing his final norm. Matikozyan scored the necessary 6½ to also earn a norm. Akobian, undefeated, also finished with 6½. And so did Milman, also undefeated, earning his final IM norm *and* his first GM norm! Lev, who's still in high school, recently told *Chess Life* readers that he didn't intend to make chess his profession; maybe he'll reconsider?

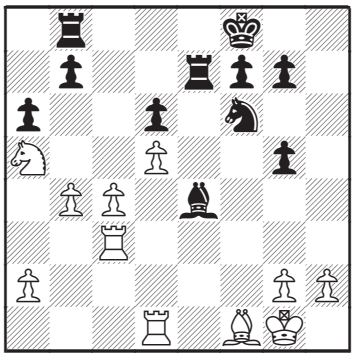
IM Melikset Khachiyan

Milman clearly came to play, starting off by taking the advantage with Black against Georgiev and having first three pawns, then two connected passed pawns for the Exchange. Unable to find the road to victory in sudden death, he had to accede to a draw in 92 moves. We'll spare readers that game! Draws against Akobian and Stein followed, before he upset Matikozyan in the fifth round. Note how White cleverly trades his d5 pawn for a new, passed pawn on d6, which soon demonstrates its "lust to expand."

Lev Milman – IM Andranik Matikozyan
IBAR Invitational, Santa Monica 2005
B92 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Opocensky Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 e5 7. Nb3 Be7 8. Be3 Be6 9. Nd5 Nxd5 10. exd5 Bf5 11. Qd2 Nd7 12. 0–0 0–0 13. Na5 Rb8 14. c4 h6 15. b4 Bg5 16. f4 exf4 17. Bxf4 Bg6 18. Rac1 Re8 19. Bxg5 Qxg5 20. Qxg5 hxg5 21. Rfe1 Nf6 22. Bf1 Kf8 23. Red1 Be4 24. Rc3 Re7

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	IM Melikset Khachiyan	USA	2462	X	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	7
2	GM Varuzhan Akobian	USA	2571	½	X	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	6½
3	IM Andranik Matikozyan	ARM	2496	½	½	X	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	6½
4	FM Lev Milman	USA	2434	½	½	1	X	½	½	½	1	1	1	6½
5	GM Vladimir Georgiev	MAC	2517	0	½	0	½	X	½	1	1	½	1	5
6	GM Nikola Mitkov	MAC	2539	0	½	0	½	½	X	1	½	1	½	4½
7	GM Alan Stein	USA	2362	½	0	½	½	0	0	X	1	½	1	4
8	Jouaquin Banawa	PHI	2319	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	X	1	1	2½
9	FM Alexandre Kretchetov	RUS	2326	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	X	½	1½
10	FM David Lucky	USA	2335	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	X	1

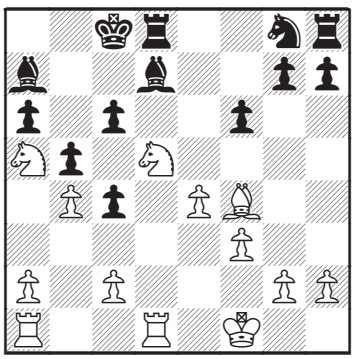


25. c5 Nxd5 26. Rh3 Kg8 27. cxd6 Rd7 28. Rd4 Re8 29. Bc4 Nf6 30. Re3 Bf5 31. Rxe8+ Nxe8 32. g4 Be6 33. Bxe6 fxe6 34. Nxb7 e5 35. Rd2 Kf7 36. a4 e4 37. Kf2 Kf6 38. Nc5 1–0

Khachiyan broke strongly from the gate, upsetting the two visiting GMs en route to a 4-0 start. In this game, Black is "outbooked," reminding one of the fat man chasing a bar of soap in the bathtub. Unable to trap either of White's pesky knights, he emerges down a clear pawn with a lost position.

IM Melikset Khachiyan – GM Vladimir Georgiev
IBAR Invitational, Santa Monica 2005
C69 RUY LOPEZ, Exchange Variation

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. 0–0 f6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 c5 8. Nb3 Qxd1 9. Rxd1 Bg4 10. f3 Bd7 11. Bf4 0–0–0 12. Nc3 c4 13. Na5 b5 14. Nd5 Bc5+ 15. Kf1 c6 16. b4 Ba7

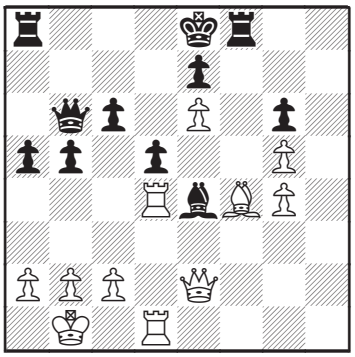


17. Nc7 Bb8 18. Ne6 Bxf4 19. Nxc6 Re8 20. Na7+ Kb8 21. Nxf4 Re7 22. Nd5 Re6 23. Nf4 Re7 24. Nd5 Rf7 25. Nb6 Be6 26. Nc6+ Kc7 27. Nd8 Kxb6 28. Nxe6 Ne7 29. Rd6+ Nc6 30. a4 bxa4 31. Nd4 Rc8 32. Rxa4 Rfc7 33. Ke2 Kb7 34. Ne6 Re7 35. Nc5+ Kc7 36. Rd5 1–0

After a draw with Mitkov, young Milman downed Lucky and Banawa to reach the desired 6½ points. Khachiyan took two of his last three to top out at 7. After the loss to Milman, Matikozyan had a harder row to hoe, but three of four, including a last round upset of Mitkov, brought him to the necessary 6½ level. Against Kretchetov, he opens the d-file and leaves Black paralyzed with a nice Exchange sac.

IM Andranik Matikozyan – Alexandre Kretchetov
IBAR Invitational, Santa Monica 2005
B15 MODERN DEFENSE

1. e4 c6 2. d4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. h3 Bg7 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. e5 Nfd7 7. h4 h5 8. e6 fxe6 9. Bd3 Nf8 10. Bf4 Nbd7 11. Qe2 a6 12. Ng5 e5 13. dxe5 Nc5 14. 0–0–0 Nxd3+ 15. Qxd3 Bf5 16. Qe2 Ne6 17. Nxe6 Bxe6 18. Ne4 Qa5 19. Ng5 Bf5 20. Kb1 Bh6 21. e6 Bxg5 22. hxg5 Rg8 23. f3 Rf8 24. g3 b5 25. Rd4 Qb6 26. Rhd1 a5 27. g4 hxg4 28. fxg4 Be4



29. Rxe4 dxe4 30. Qxe4 Rg8 31. Be3 Qa6 32. Rd7 b4 33. a4 bxa3 34. Bc5 Rg7 35. Bxa3 Qb5 36. Qd4 Qf1+ 37. Ka2 Rh7 38. Qc5 1–0

Stein came close to the IM norm of 4½, but losses to all three GMs and a draw with Kretchetov were fatal to his chances.

Alan Stein – Jouaquin Banawa
IBAR Invitational, Santa Monica 2005
B30 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Rosso–limo Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. Bb5 Nd4 5. a4 a6 6. Bc4 Nf6 7. d3 d5 8. Ba2 Nxf3+ 9. Qxf3 d4 10. Ne2 Be7 11. 0–0 0–0 12. c3 e5 13. Qg3 Bd6 14. Bg5 Be6 15. Qh4 Be7 16. Bxe6 fxe6 17. Qh3 Qd6 18. f4 Nd7 19. fxe5 Nxe5 20. Bxe7 Qxe7 21. cxd4 cxd4 22. Nxd4 Qc5 23. Qxe6+ Kh8 24. Qd5 Qxd5 25. exd5 Nxd3 26. Ne6 Rxf1+ 27. Rxf1 Ne5 28. Rf5 Nc4 29. Rf7 b5 30. b3 Nd6 31. Rxg7 bxa4 32. bxa4 Re8 33. Ra7 Nc4 34. Rxa6 Ne3 35. d6 1–0

Here is Khachiyan's victory over the unlucky Lucky. Notes by *Los Angeles Times* chess columnist Jack Peters.

IM Melikset Khachiyan – David Lucky
IBAR Invitational, Santa Monica 2005
C16 FRENCH DEFENSE, Winawer Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4

The Winawer variation of the French Defense.

4. e5 Qd7

An odd alternative to the normal 4. ... c5.

5. a3 Bxc3+ .6 bxc3 b6 7. Qg4 f5

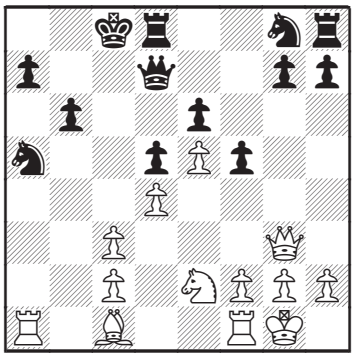
Defending g7, thanks to his fourth move.

8. Qg3 Ba6 9. Bxa6 Nxa6 10. Ne2 0-0-0

The trade of Bishops leaves White vulnerable on the light squares, but Black has serious problems completing development. He has tried 10. ... Qf7 and 10. ... Kf7 without much success.

11. a4 Nb8 12. a5 Nc6 13. axb6 cxb6 14. 0-0 Na5

White will not let the Knight reach c4! The patient 14. ... Kb7 15. Nf4 Rc8 offers more resistance.



15. Rxa5! bxa5 16. Ba3

Intending 17. Rb1 and 18. Bd6.

16. ... Kb7?!

Trying to hide at a8. There is still a little hope with 16. ... Ne7 17. Rb1 (or 17. Qd3 Rhe8 18. Qa6+ Kb8) Ng6 18. Qd3 Qc6 19. Rb5 Kd7.

17. Nf4 Nh6 18. c4! dxc4

If 18. ... Ka8, then 19. cxd5 exd5 20. e6 Qc7 21. e7 Rc8 22. Bc5 blocks the c-file and prepares to capture on d5.

19. Rb1+ Ka6 20. Nd3!

White finds new ways to get at Black's King.

20. ... Rc8 21. Nc5+ Rxc5 22. Bxc5 f4 23. Qc3

A clever Queen maneuver wraps it up.

23. ... Qa4

Similar is 23. ... Qd5 24. Qb2.

24. Qb2 Qd7 25. Qa2! Qd5 26. Qa4, Black Resigns.

Among the other players, the Macedonian visitors were clearly tired and showed little of the form that had enabled Georgiev to win his section of the recent CORUS tournament in the Netherlands ahead of three GMs, or Mitkov to tie for first in the North American Open in 2002.

Banawa and Kretchetov (both perhaps tired from having played in the Amateur Team West the preceding weekend, but after all, so had Stein, and Milman had played in the Team East!) and Lucky all got valuable experience! Randy Hough directed. Congratulations to Melik Khachiyan, who appears set to join Akobian and Boris Kreiman as Los Angeles' resident Grandmasters!

3rd Annual

Western Pacific Open

Though not the largest, the Western Pacific Open continues to be among the strongest tournaments in Southern California. The third edition of this now-traditional event, held at the Burbank Airport Hilton March 25-27, counted two GMs and three IMs in the 119-player field.

Tying for first were top-ranked GMs Alex Yermolinsky and Suat Atalik, fresh from their joint victory at the Far West Open in Reno the previous week. Atalik defeated IMs Melikset Khachiyan and Andranik Matikozyan, while Yermo downed Alexandre Kretchetov and IM Enrico Sevillano. The two leaders then drew in the final round to reach 4½-½. Next at 4-1 were Sevillano and Matikozyan, the latter after a marathon last-round win over Kretchetov.

The other sections all featured clear winners, as Vaughan Heussenstamm scored 5-0 in the Premier (U2000), while Eric Lee Tuttle swept the Amateur (U1400). In the Sunday scholastics, Stephen Pulley scored 4½-½ in the Open, and Terrence Sun 5-0 in the Reserve. John Hillery directed

GM Alex Yermolinsky (2634) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2588)
Western Pacific Open, Burbank 2005
A07 RETI OPENING

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

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2

The King's Indian Attack. Black chooses a solid formation.

3. … **c6 4. 0-0 g6**

Often Black tries 4. ... Bf5 or 4. ... Bg4, followed by ... e7-e6.

5. d3 Bg7 6. Nbd2 0-0 7. e4 Bg4 8. Qe2 dxe4

Or 8. ... Nbd7 9. h3, with an edge to White.

9. dxe4 Qc8 10. Nc4 Na6 11. Nce5 Nc5

Black cedes Bishop for Knight because the natural 11. ... Bh3 12. Bxh3 Qxh3 13. Nxc6! favors White after 13. ... bxc6 14. Qxa6 or 13. ... Qe6!? 14. Nfd4 Qd7 15. c3 Nc5 16. Ne5.

12. Nxg4 Qxg4 13. e5 Nd5

Probably 13. ... Nfd7 14. Re1 Rad8 improves.

GM Alex Yermolinsky, organizer John Hillery, and GM Suat Atalik

14. c4! Nb6 15. b3

White's Bishops, ably commanded by the former U.S. champion, will outplay Black's awkwardly placed Knights.

15. ... Rfe8 16. Ba3 Ncd7 17. Rae1 Nf8

Black hopes to prevent e5-e6 without creating a hole at d6 by ... e7-e6.

18. h3 Qd7 19. Ng5!

Anticipating 19. ... h6 20. e6.

19. ... Ne6 20. h4!

Threatening 21. Bh3.

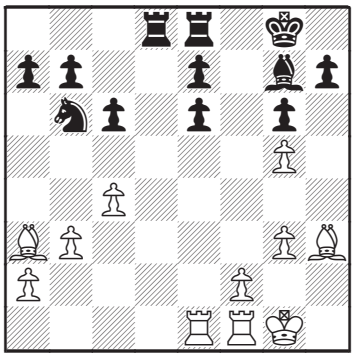
20. ... Nxg5?!

Perhaps Black can survive 20. ... Nd4 21. Qe4 f5.

21. hxg5 Rad8 22. e6! Qxe6

Or 22. ... fxe6 23. Bh3.

23. Qxe6 fxe6 24. Bh3



The Bishops are deadly! After 24. ... e5 25. Be6+, Black cannot stand 25. ... Kh8 26. Bf7 Rf8 27. Bxe7 Rxf7 28. Bxd8 or 2.5 ... Kf8 26. Re3! e4 27. Rxe4 Rd4 2.8 Re3.

24. ... Rd2 25. Bxe6+ Kh8

Now White refutes 25. ... Kf8 26. Re4 Bd4 attractively by 27. Rf4+ Kg7 28. c5! Nd5 29. Rxd4! Rxd4 3.0 Bb2. More complicated is 26. ... Bc3, but 27. Bc5 Rxa2 28. Re3 Ba1 (avoiding 28. ... Bb2 29. Re2) 29. Rf3+ Kg7 30. Rxa1! Rxa1+ 31. Kg2 still leaves Black helpless. The finish could be 31. ... Rd8 32. Rf7+ Kh8 33. Bd4+! Rxd4 34. Rf8+ Kg7 35. Rg8 mate or 31. ... Rd1 32. Rf7+ Kh8 33. Bxe7 Nd7 34. Bxd7 Rxd7 35. Bf6+ Kg8 36. Rxd7.

26. Bf7 Rf8

After 26. ... Rb8 27. Rxe7 Rxa2 28. Bd6 Rd8 29. Bf4, White will capture at b7.

Prize Winners

Open

1st-2nd: GM Alex Yermolinsky, GM Suat Atalik, 4½-½; **3rd-4th:** IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Andranik Matikozyan, 4-1; **U2400:** Garush Manukyan, 3½-1½; **U2200:** Drake Wang, Leonardo Martinez, Christopher Slupik, 3½-1½; **5th:** Alexandre Kretchetov, Tatev Abrahamyan, Alaa-Addin Moussa, Ron Bruno, Mike Zaloznyy, Craig Clawittwer, Takashi Kurosaki, Craig Anderson, Gevorg Vardanyan, Sargis Hakobyan, Christian Tanaka, 3-2.

Premier

1st: Vaughan Heussenstamm, 5-0; **2nd:** Andrei Deocampo, 4½-½; **3rd-4th**: Auluvance Tillmon, Zachary Witten, John Daniel Bryant, 4-1; **U1800: 1st:** Moheb Boules, 4-1; **2nd-3rd:** David Cody Oldham, Ashu Thakur, Nisha Deloalikar, Mark Witte, Philip Gersoft, Sevan Toroussian, 3-2; **U1600: 1st-3rd:** Eric Zhang, Billy Slupik, Marshall Laws, 3-2.

Amateur

1st: Eric Lee Tuttle, 5-0; **2nd:** William Zakis, 4-1; **3rd:** Ryan Polsky, 3½-1½; **U1200:** Holly McRoberts, 2½-2½; **Unrated:** Alexander Kayfetz-Gaum, 2-3.

Scholastic

Open: 1st: Stephen Pulley, 5-0; **2nd:** Allan Sung, 4-1; **3rd:** Venkat Iyer, 3-2; **4th-5th:** Danny Machuca, Frank Martinez, 2½-2½. **Reserve: 1st:** Terrence Sun, 5-0; **2nd:** Jared Ogassian, 4-1; **3rd:** Adrian Chang, 3½-1½.

27. Rxe7 Bd4

Overlooking White's combination, but 27. ... Rxa2 28. Bc5 would not save Black.

28. Rxb7 c5 29. Rxa7 Rxa2

White wins routinely after 29. ... Ra8 30. Rxa8+ Nxa8 31. Bc1 Rxa2 32. Be3.

30. Bxc5!

Simplifying to an easy endgame.

30. ... Bxc5 31. Rxa2 Rxf7 32. Kg2 Rb7 33. Ra5 Nd7 34. Rb5 Rc7

Black cannot maintain the blockade after 34. ... Rxb5 35. cxb5 Kg7 36. Rd1 Nb6. One method is 37. Rc1 Nd7 38. b4! Bb6 39. Rd1 Nb8 40. f4, planning to create a Kingside passer.

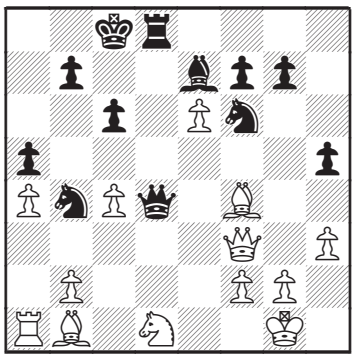
35. Rd1 Nf8 36. Rd8 Kg8 37. Rdb8 Be7

Or 37. ... Bd4 38. f4, and the Queenside pawns roll.

38. R5b7! Rxb7 39. Rxb7 Bxg5 40. c5, Black resigns.

IM Melikset Khachiyan (2556) – Zoran Djoric(2048)
Western Pacific Open, Burbank 2005
B17 CARO-KANN DEFENSE

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ndf6 6. Ng3 Bg4 7. c3 e6 8. Bc4 Bd6 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Qxf3 Qc7 11. 0–0 h6 12. a4 a5 13. Bd2 Ne7 14. Bd3 Ned5 15. c4 Nb4 16. Bb1 0–0–0 17. Ne2 h5 18. Rd1 Be7 19. Bf4 Bd6 20. Bg5 Be7 21. Nc3 Rd7 22. Bf4 Bd6 23. Be3 Be7 24. d5 Rhd8 25. Bf4 Qb6 26. dxe6 Rxd1+ 27. Nxd1 Qd4

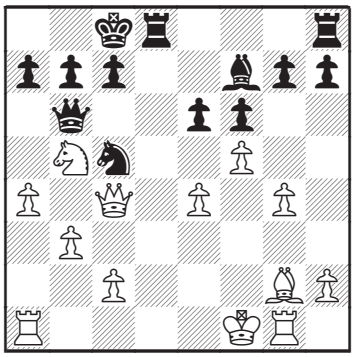


28. Bf5 g6 29. Ne3 gxf5 30. Nxf5 Qc5 31. Be3 1–0

Francisco Alonso (2057) – Alaa-Addin Moussa (2209)
Western Pacific Open, Burbank 2005
A00 DUNST OPENING

1. Nc3 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d3 Bg4 4. Ne5 Bh5 5. Rg1 Qd6 6. f4 e6 7. g4

Bg6 8. Bg2 Be7 9. e4 Qb6 10. Kf1 dxe4 11. dxe4 Nbd7 12. Nxd7 Nxd7 13. Qe2 f6 14. b3 0–0–0 15. f5 Bf7 16. Be3 Qa5 17. Nb5 Bc5 18. Bxc5 Nxc5 19. Qc4 Qb6 20. a4

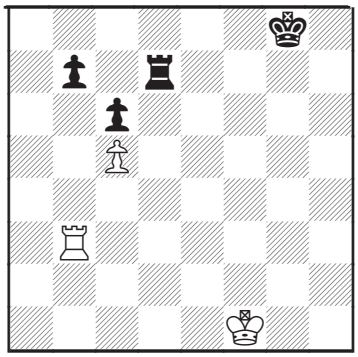


20. ... Rd2 21. a5 Nd3 0–1

Alexandre Kretchetov (2401) – IM Andranik Matikozyan (2570)
Western Pacific Open, Burbank 2005
E61 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Nf3 0–0 5. Bg5 d6 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Be2 h6 8. Bh4 e5 9. Qc2 g5 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. Bg3 Qe7 12. a3 c6 13. Nd2 a5 14. Rb1 Ne8 15. Bg4 Nc5 16. Bxc8 Rxc8 17. b4 axb4 18. axb4 Ne6 19. f3 f5 20. Bf2 Rd8 21. 0–0 h5 22. c5 g4 23. Nc4 gxf3 24. gxf3 Ng5 25. Be1 e4 26. fxe4 fxe4 27. Bg3 Rf3 28. Ne2 h4 29. Bf4 Nh3+ 30. Kh1 Qe6 31. Ng1 Rxf1 32. Rxf1 Rd3 33. Nxh3 Qxh3 34. Qe2 Rc3 35. Rg1 Qf3+ 36. Qxf3 exf3 37. Nd6 f2 38. Rf1 Nxd6 39. cxd6 h3 40. Bg3 Rxe3 41. Bxf2 Rd3 42. Bc5 Be5 43. Kg1 Rd2 44. Rf3 Bxh2+ 45. Kf1 Bxd6 46. Rxh3 Bxc5 47. bxc5 Rd5 48. Rb3 Rd7

KRETCHETOV AND MATIKOZYAN FACE OFF IN THE LAST ROUND



49. Ke2 Kf7 50. Ke3 Ke8 51. Ke4 Kd8 52. Rb1 Kc7 53. Rb2 Rd5 54. Rc2 Rd1 55. Rh2 b5 56. cxb6+ Kxb6 57. Rb2+ Ka5 58. Ra2+ Kb6 59. Rb2+ Kc5 60. Rc2+ Kd6 61. Rh2 Rd5 62. Ra2 Kc5 63. Ra1 Rd4+ 64. Ke3 Kd5 65. Rc1 c5 66. Rc2 Rh4 67. Rg2 Kc4 68. Kd2 Kb3 69. Rg3+ Kb2 70. Rg5 Rd4+ 71. Ke3 Rc4 72. Rg8 Rc3+ 73. Ke4 (later) 0–1

GM Suat Atalik (2644) – GM Alex Yermolinsky (2634)
Western Pacific Open, Burbank 2005
A30 ENGLISH OPENING

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. 0–0 Be7 7. d4 cxd4 8. Qxd4 d6 9. Bg5 a6 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. Qf4 0–0 12. Rad1 Be7 13. Ne4 Bxe4 14. Qxe4 Ra7 15. Nd4 Qc7 16. b3 Qc5 17. a4 Rc7 18. Qb1 Rfc8 19. e3 Bf8 20. Rd2 Qb4 21. Rfd1 Nd7 22. Nc2 Qc3 23. Rd3 Qf6 24. Nd4 ½–½

One Hundred Years Ago

by John Hillery

The post-Steinitz era was seen by many as a time of dull play in comparison to the previous century, culminating in Capablanca's prediction of a "draw death." But the greatest masters of the period were still able to rise above the uniformity of style and produce such sprightly games as this.

Schlechter - Marco
Monte Carlo, 1904
D63 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e3 0-0 6. Nf3 Nbd7 7. Rc1 a6

With the obvious intention of meeting 8. Bd3 with 8. ... dxc4 9. Bxc4 b5 and 10. ... Bb7.

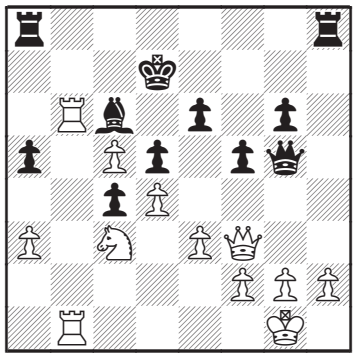
8. c5 b5 9. b4 c6 10. Bd3 a5 11. a3 Re8

The difference between the respective Queen Bishops is enormous, and the opening of the a-file is of little value to Black, for open lines will always benefit the better developed side. Strategically, Black's only hope is to enforce ... e6-e5.

12. 0-0 Nh5 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Ne5 Nxe5 15. Bxh7+ Kf8 16. Qxh5 Nc4 17. Bd3 Qf6 18. Bxc4 bxc4

The extra pawn means little, but every exchange exacerbates the problem of the Bishop at c8. White must avoid the position becoming to blocked, though, for his Rooks will need open files.

19. b5 Bd7 20. bxc6 Bxc6 21. Rb1 g6 22. Qh6+ Ke7 23. Rb6 Kd7 24. Qh3 Qg5 25. Rfb1 Rh8 26. Qf3 f5



27. Rxc6! Kxc6 28. Nxd5!

The second sacrifice cannot be accepted -- 28. ... exd5 29. Rb6+ Kc7 30. Qxd5 and Black will be mated, e.g. 30. ... Rhb8 31. Qd6+ Kc8 32. Rc6+ Kb7 33. Qc7#.

28. ... Rab8 29. Nf4+ Kd7 30. Rb7+ Rxb7 31. Qxb7+ Ke8 32. c6, Black resigns

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

What a finish! We hear this phrase time and time again in just about every sport and in chess it's just as common. Watching two players fight out the final moves of a close game can be thrilling to watch, and if you're in the game, the intensity and excitement is that much more awesome. People who claim chess offers very little to the spectator have a ways to go in understanding just how exciting chess can be.

In this years' Masters Golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia, several news commentators kept repeating "What a finish" as Chris DiMarco gave his all against Tiger Woods in a thrilling and sensational final round. Chris' competitive and aggressive strategy was everything you could ask for in his attempt to win this prestigious event over a very tough competitor who some claim may become the greatest golf player of all time.

During the final round one of the commentators made a comment that the match between Tiger and Chris was like a chess game. I enjoyed the commentary and the reference to chess; however, I considered this to be a bit odd for the circumstances. In golf it's mainly you against the course itself and as long as you're hitting the ball well and minimizing your shots for each hole you will probably beat your opponent. As in bowling; if you keep striking you're bound to win every game, unless your opponent is doing the same thing.

Clearly, though, much more is going on in these sports. Strategies and tactics directed towards the opposition are a part of the game, too. Just deciding who "goes first" plays into the psychology of the match – and therefore the strategy.

In recent years Tiger has not been winning much. In his last two holes of the final round, he played dreadfully. He relinquished a good lead and pretty much choked down the stretch. The disgust with his "endgame" performance was clearly displayed from his facial expressions and mannerisms.

How many times have you felt this way in a game of chess? It happens to all of us. The "never give up" strategy of DiMarco was brilliant and exciting to watch as he was making it clear Tiger would have to beat him to win the tournament. This is competition at its best!

In recent attempts to reclaim his position as the best, Tiger made changes to his golf swing, which, he feels, will help to propel him to sustain in the top rankings. Only time will tell if this change in execution was correct.

In chess as well, if you are not doing well or struggling to better your game, it's probably time to try something different. To improve your game, it's important to recognize what you may be doing wrong or not doing at all. Studying your games and understanding your mistakes and shortcomings will help to isolate problems and identify weaknesses (or areas that need reinforcing) in your playing style.

It's not enough to recognize deficiencies in your game; you must also decide just how much desire and impetus you have to improve. Studying chess tactics, working on your opening lines and variations or improving your basic endgame skills, will all help to strengthen your abilities. Some of the players in my work chess club say they have absolutely no desire to change their game or work on improving their overall strength. They're "content" with what they are doing and the joy and satisfaction they feel is "good enough." Most important to them is the enjoyment of the game and just to have fun.

Generally though, the real issue is not they do not want to improve; it's that they do not want to work on improving. We all want to play stronger; it's just that only some of us are willing to do what it takes. In my life, chess is an absolute passion and I'll be playing for as long as I can. I'm always working on ways to improve and I expect I'll always be learning more about chess as time goes on. Most important is that I will be having fun. There comes a time, as we all age, that gaining rating points is insignificant. Mostly, we just want to play. There's so much entertainment when playing over games – sometimes so much we simply can't wait to look at the moves. There is no easy road to getting stronger in chess. Basically, hard work and lots of studying and playing are the proven successful methods to this end.

But most important, regardless of what you decide, make sure that you remember that it's all about having fun. Chris DiMarco was so close to capturing a major title and toppling a golf giant. The most impressive thing about all of this was his attitude after he lost. He was gracious and a gentleman in his defeat. This is where he exemplified a man worthy of being a champion and in today's sometimes wickedly competitive world, that's more important than anything else.

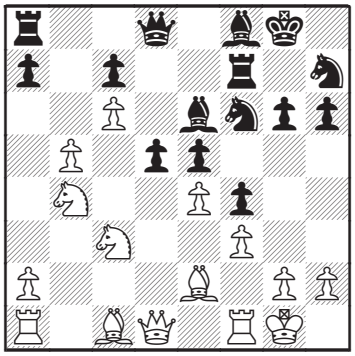
In this month's featured game between Nikolai Krogius and Leonid Stein (Kiev 1960) we see how never giving up, when down material and basically losing, can sometimes result in a sensational turnaround and brilliant victory. This game has all the splendor and excitement of watching the Masters Golf match between Chris DiMarco

and Tiger Woods. This is chess at its best. I can just hear the crowd roar *"What a finish"*!

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 0-0 5. Be2 d6 6. Nf3 e5 7. d5 and here we have the Petrosian System against the King's Indian Defense. A very common line seen in tournaments today. **7. ... h6!?** More common are 7. ... a5, 7. … Nd7 or 7. ... Na6. This plan by Black looks dubious – so let's see how White responds. **8. 0-0 Nh7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Nd3** White has responded well and has the better position as the Black Knight on h7 appears misplaced). 10. ... **f5 11. f3 f4 12. b4 Rf7 13. c5 Ndf6 14. c6!** White has done well with his opening strategy and is way ahead with a Queenside initiative. Black is floundering on the Kingside. **14. ... bxc6** (notice that if 14. ... b6, then 15. b5! g5 16. a4 h5 17. a5 Rb8 18. axb6 axb6 19. Ra7 g4 20. Nb4 with advantage to White as the Black Queenside is under major attack. 1**5. dxc6 Be6 16. b5** Planning get a Knight to d5. **16. ... Bf8 17. Nb4**

White has a strategic advantage on the Queenside, owing to an advanced Queenside majority and control of the key d5 square. Black must create active counterplay (i.e. like mate threats) or else be slowly squeezed to a losing position. Here Black finds a good plan for this beginning with **17. ... d5!?**

Black wants to mix things up and create complications. Black's plan is the correct plan – for the circumstances.

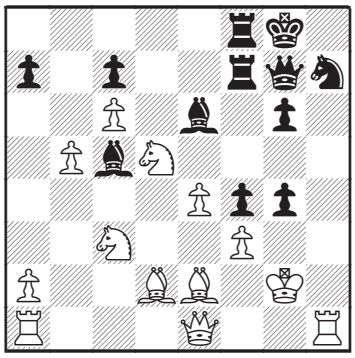


18. Nbxd5!? Thematic, but the move is not best. Better is 18. exd5 with the following simple continuation. 18. … Bf5 (forced) 19. Na6!, which prevents the Black Bishop from reaching c5 and creating nasty tactical nonsense on the dark squares. However, not 19. Nd3, which would play right into Black's tactics with 19. … Nh5 20. Bb2 Bxd3 21. Bxd3 Bc5+ 22. Kh1 Ng3+ 23. hxg3 fxg3 winning for Black. Another wild line that Black could have tried after 18. exd5 is Bc5+ (first) 19. Kh1 then Nh5 20. dxe6 Ng3+ 21. hxg3 Qg5 22. exf7+ Kg7 23. Qd7 and the White Queen will be able to defend against any mating threats. However, this is exactly the kind of mixing up that will throw off an opponent as the idea of defending against any kind of mate threat is a very uncomfortable feeling.

18... Bc5+ 19. Kh1 Ng5 20. Qe1 Ng3+ What else? Once you've started an attack there can be no going back. White is being forced to defend, which for many is very uncomfortable. Computers simply refute attacks like this – so don't even try. Tal would have struggled seriously against computers. Petrosian would have excelled!

The best thing you can do when being furiously attacked is to remain calm. I put on my "Petrosian hat." You'd be surprised how creating a state of mind related to a player can help you to do what's best to ride out the storm and get things settled. **21. hxg3 Qg5 22. g4 h5 23 g3 hxg4 24. Kg2 Raf8 25. Bd2** Better may have been 25. fxg4, although the position is still complicated. **25. ... Qh6 26. Rh1** Again better is most likely 26. fxg4. The analysis is very deep and unfortunately goes way beyond the scope of this article) **26... Qg7 27. gxf4 exf4**

White is up a whole piece and has a Queenside Pawn majority that should win in the endgame if he can guard his weakened Kingside. Can he?



28. Rd1? There it is! That blunder Black was hoping and waiting for. Better was 28. Na5 (to work on getting rid of the nasty Bishop on c5 and stifle Black's counterplay) Bd4 (forced) 29. Bc3 g5 30. Bxd4 Qxd4 31. Qd1 Qxd1 32. Raxd1 gxf3+ 33. Bxf3 (seeking to simplify to a won endgame) g4 34. Bxg4 Bxg4 35. Rdg1 and, whew, White emerges with a won endgame. But the pressure of defending begins to take a toll. **28. ... g5 29. e5** This give White some room to maneuver his White Bishop from the advancing Black Pawn storm. **29. ... Qe5 30. fxg4 30. ... Qxe2+!** Brilliant – as this Queen sacrifice eliminates all Black's problems and makes things truly difficult for White to figure out. **31. Qxe2** Best – but the damage to Krogius' psyche is done. **31. ... f3+ 32. Qxf3 Rxf3**

So here you have it, Stein has fought back in spectacular fashion and is menacing to continue havoc around the White King and perhaps pick up an exchange. What is White's plan? First and foremost is to re-group and reassess the position. Take a deep breath and calm down. Black's startling recovery (by never giving up!) and White's floundering at move 28 have allowed a truly amazing comeback. But the game is not lost and in fact White can emerge with an advantage if he can re-group and concentrate on a strategic plan. Of course, this is easier said than done – especially when you're wounded in the head. White's advantage has been reduced to a pawn (after being up a piece). This alone can create a self-

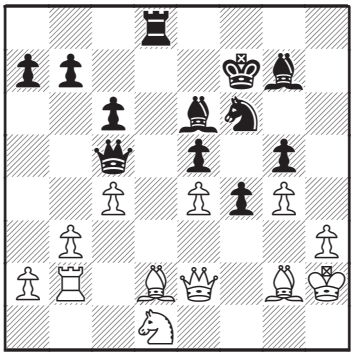
destructing sense of disappointment in your gut (just as Tiger felt after blowing a 2 shot lead over DiMarco down the stretch of the final round). What needs to be recognized here is that White has advanced Queenside pawns and a well placed Knight on d5. Black's Knight on h7 is still out to lunch (since move 8!) – so White can offer back material and actually regain the initiative with definite winning chances, but at worst a draw. Computers just love to do this when you switch sides with them when you're losing.

The game continued **33. Rhf1??** Horrible. Simply 33. Be1 would have avoided disaster. Easy for us to see, but, with a clicking clock, hard to consider. **33. … Bg4,** and Stein begins to smile as his prolonged tactical battering against Krogius is paying off. **34. Ne4?** Simply dreadful – and typical of what can happen when your emotions take over your concentration. A better try was to revert to a "computer mode mentality" (there were none back then) and go for 34. Rxf3 Bxf3+ 35. Kh2 Bxd1 36. Nd1 Rf5 37. N5c3 Nf6 – certainly Black is better, but at least White is still in the game and can have hope. **34. … Bh3+ 35. Kh2 Rf1 36. Rxf1 Bxf1 37. Nxc5 Rf2+ 38. Kg1 Rxd2 39. Nxc7 Bh3 40. a4 Rg2+ 41. Kh1 Nf6** Alas the Knight re-enters the game. **42. a5 Ng4 43. Ne4 Re2 0-1**

Stein demonstrated a very important concept in this game. He recognized he had to get busy fast or else suffer a slow agonizing defeat from a Queenside onslaught. He got busy and created tactical complications, even at the cost of a whole piece. Once he started his attack, there was no turning back. Keeping the pressure on will work to break down your opponent. As for Krogius he needed to realize that prolonged defense will take a psychological toll that may become unrecoverable. Better is to find any way possible to ward off the attack, even if it means giving back material. One last thing: whenever you blunder – and usually you know when this happens – take a time out. Get up, take a walk, and get away from the game to re-group your senses. Even if just for two minutes. If you do not regroup the chances are very high that you will blunder again (in short time) – and the second time will seal your doom when the game could have been saved.

Here are some problems that besides testing your tactical awareness all have one main similarity and that is you will really enjoy how they finish. Be alert, play sharp and always remember to do your **safety check**. Enjoy the moves, good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 25.

Problem No. 1. Black to play. There's no time to waste. What would you do?

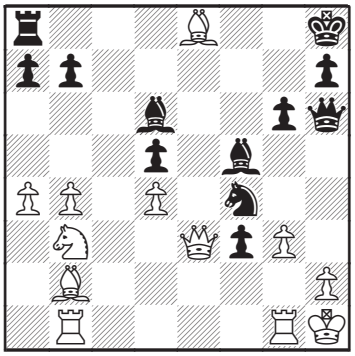


a) 1. ... Rh8 is correct and Black has an overwhelming attack.

b) 1. ... Rh8 is not correct.

Justify your choice with a variation.

Problem No. 2. Black to move.

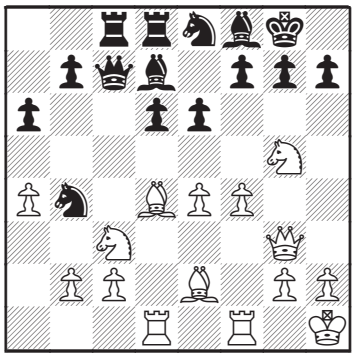


a) 1. ... Be4 is the best continuation.

b) 1. ... Be4 is not the best continuation.

Validate your choice with a variation.

Problem No. 3. Black to move

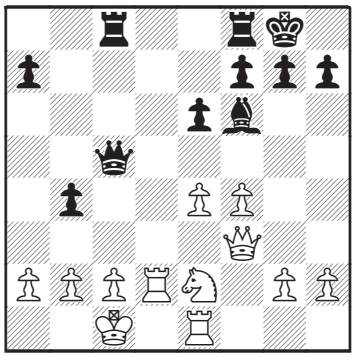


a) 1. … h6 is correct and Black is better

b) 1. … h6 is incorrect

Prove your answer with a variation.

Position No. 4. Black is down material and White threatens to shut out the Bishop with e5 then launch his own wing attack. As Black, what would you do?



a) 1. … Qa5 is correct and Black is better.

b) 2. … Qa5 is incorrect.

Prove your answer with a variation.

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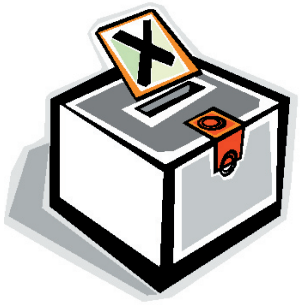


AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM RANDY HOUGH

Your June *Chess Life* will include ballots for USCF's third "one member (16 and over) one vote" election. It's the most important we've had, and as a 30-year organizer and director, former USCF employee, and former Executive Board member, I hope you'll let me explain why.

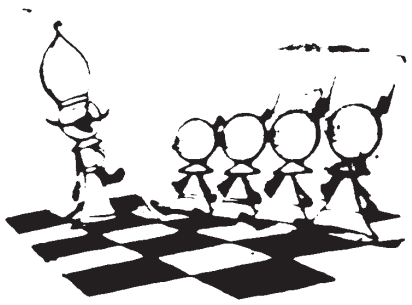
The classic case of *chutzpah* used to be the boy who killed his parents and then pleaded for mercy as an orphan. But a new contender is the current Executive Board majority, which forced out the best executive director we've ever had, installed its own president in that slot (kind of like someone being both President and Speaker of the House), and then rushed to move the Federation office to Crossville, Tennessee, without considering plausible alternatives. This decision has already incurred much greater costs than they had projected. *These same folks are now running a slate as the "US Chess Success" team!* One is taking credit for financial improvements during Fiscal Year 03-04, when she wasn't even on the Board. Another approvingly cites fee reductions that he opposed when the Delegates were ready to approve them. And yet another voted against necessary staff cuts in August 2003, when the wolf was at the door.

The candidates who *will* bring honesty and sanity back to Federation decision-making are:

- ✓ BILL GOICHBERG. Our premier organizer (founder of national scholastic championships and the World Open), active in USCF affairs for over 40 years. As acting Executive Director during 2004, Bill improved membership retention and service to members, and was primarily responsible for a $600,000 turnaround in finances. He regularly has extensive personal contact with members around the country.
- ✓ ROBERT TANNER. Also a National TD and International Arbiter, Robert has a professional background in accounting and business management. His special interests are scholastic chess and FIDE (he's Zonal President). Robert is also active as an organizer, teacher, and chess historian.
- ✓ GREG SHAHADE. An IM and product of our scholastic program, Greg is now working hard to revive the US Chess League we had in the 70s. He's also active as a scholastic coach and organizer of the NY Masters, a concept being replicated in LA that lets promising juniors match wits with masters.
- ✓ JOEL CHANNING. Chairman of the Board of a highly successful real estate development corporation and a US Chess Trustee, Joel will bring business expertise and know-how lacking on previous Executive Boards. He believes that chess is the only pure (untainted) sport for children, the future of our country. He plans to retire soon from business and devote his time to chess and family.

PLEASE – pick up that ballot in your June *Chess Life* and vote for Goichberg, Tanner, Shahade, and Channing. The future of an efficient, responsive USCF is at stake!

Here & There



Arcadia Chess Club

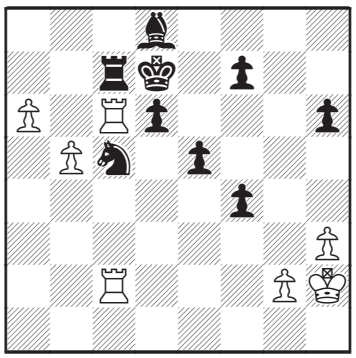
Brian Ofalla scored 5-1 to win the Arcadia Winter Open, a 42-player tournament at the Arcadia Chess Club ending in February. Next at 4½-1½ were Gregg Fritchle, Robert Goldberg, Melandro Singson, Lawrence Stevens, and top Class A Thurlo Mishler. Class prize winners included Gerry Harrison and Andras Mohai (B), Edgar Rodriguez and Robert Salwet (C), and Carlos Lopez, (D/E/unrated).

The Arcadia Club Championship, ending in March, saw Tim McCarron take first place with 5½-½ in a 45-player field. Tied for second at 5-1 were Gregg Fritchle, Dave Matson (top "A"), and Jeff Schroeder (top "B"). Class prizes went to Issa Raghazi and Zohrab Sarkisyan (C), and Roel Sanchez (D/E/U).

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

Brian Ofalla – Gregg Fritchle
Arcadia Winter Open, Arcadia 2005
B98 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. Be2 Nbd7 10. Qg3 h6 11. Bh4 Rg8 12. Qe3 b5 13. a3 Bb7 14. Bg3 Nb6 15. b3 0–0–0 16. Bf3 Nfd7 17. Bf2 g5 18. Ncxb5 axb5 19. Nxb5 gxf4 20. Qd2 Qb8 21. Qa5 Bc6 22. Na7+ Kb7 23. Nxc6 Kxc6 24. c4 e5 25. b4 Qa8 26. Qb5+ Kb7 27. c5 Qa4 28. c6+ Kc7 29. Qxa4 Nxa4 30. cxd7 Kxd7 31. 0–0 Ra8 32. Rfc1 Rgb8 33. Bg4+ Kd8 34. h3 Nb6 35. Rc6 Nd7 36. Bh5 Nf6 37. Bb6+ Rxb6 38. Rxb6 Nxh5 39. a4 Nf6 40. a5 Nxe4 41. a6 Ra7 42. b5 Bh4 43. Ra2 Kd7 44. Rc6 Bd8 45. Rac2 Nc5 46. Rd2 Ne4 47. Rdc2 Rc7 48. Kh2 Nc5



49. R6xc5 dxc5 50. b6 51. bxc7 Bxc7 52. Rxc5 Kd7 53. a7 Bb6 54. Rd5+ 1–0

La Palma Chess Club

Experts Robert Hutchinson and Dane Hinrichsen, along with A-player and TD Mike Henebry, tied for first place with 3½ in the top section at La Palma Chess Club's 5-round Meta Four Swiss that ended February 4. In its new, experimental format, LPCC's top section includes the six highest rated players plus those in the lower section willing to pay a $5 premium to play in the top section. The new format turned out to be well received. In the second section, newcomer Primo Estillomo took top honors with a fine undefeated score of 4. Class prizes went to Donovan Dunn, Best "B", with a score of 2 and Donald Binnix, Best "C", with a score of 2½. Orlando Guzman with a score of 3½ beat out Robert Gonzales on tie breaks for the Best "D/E/Unrated" prize.

Lorin Miesse won LPCC's "We're Still Alive in 2005: La Palma Chess Club's 30th Anniversary Chessfest," a 27-player 6-Round Swiss that ended March 25, with a fine score of six wins and one bye. Other winners were Leigh Hunt in second place with 5, 1st "B" newcomer Scott Young with 4, 1st "C" Don Binnix with 3½, and 1st D/E/unr. Newcomer Primo Estillomo with 3½. Other prize winners:

1st Place: Lorin Miesse 5½
2nd Place: Leigh Hunt 5
1st B: Scott Young 4
1st C: Don Binnix 3½
1st D/E/unr. Primo Estillomo 3½
Biggest Upset: Donovan Dunn (over Robert Hutchinson)
Quickest Checkmate: Brady-S. Binnix in 7 moves.
Highest Performance Rating Gain: Orlando Jaimes Guzman +73

The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p. m. to 11:00 p. m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St. For information, call Mike Henebry (714) 761-5988, Mike Brady (562) 867-8248, or Leigh Hunt (714) 635-0448. Details on LPCC schedule and its Grand Prix can be found at http://www. lapalmachess. 741. com/Index. html — *Chris Roberts*

Joshua Tree Opens

First place in the "Joshua Tree February Open" on February 26 went to Stan Karfiloski with 4½-½, followed at 3½-1½ by Alex Gojich and Austin Cambon. Class prizes went to Kermit Norris, Fred Parks, and Warren Williamson (A), and Garrett Graves (U1400). The "Joshua Tree March Open," on March 26, saw IM John Donaldson score 5-0. Stan Karfiloski was next with 4-1. Class prize winners included Kermit Norris, Austin Cambon, and Danny Machuca. Mark Muller directed.

Costa Mesa Octos

Thirty-three players entered the March 12 Costa Mesa Octo tournament. I decided to play to make it an even number. As it turned out, after I had made the first round pairings and got the games started, one player didn't show up, so I wouldn't have had to play. The player took sick, but I didn't get the message before the tournament. This caused an uneven number in this lower section and I had to give a full point bye in the second round. Also, my normal assistant, Elliot Landaw didn't come as his son Julian decided not to play. Needless to say I was worn out by the end of the day. Still I was tied for the lead in the top section after two rounds before losing to young Kevin Sevilla in the final round.

In the top section Kevin Sevilla and Roger Dellaca tied for first and second with scores of 2½-½. The second section was won by Jason Garfield at 2½-½. Nisha Deolalikar was leading the section with 2 points after two rounds and declined a draw from Jason in the final round. This would have given her clear first and her third consecutive win in my Octos. As it was she lost the game and tied for second with Roger Bowen at 2-1. In the third section Arnold Baldwin and Krishna Kaliannan tied for first and second at 2½-½. The bottom section had ten players and I put a third prize in. In this section we had the only perfect 3-0 score turned in by Michael La Budda. Richard Smock, Ron DeWilde, Edward Yragui and Samuel Lee tied for second and third place money at 2-1.

Forty players showed up for the April 16 Costa Mesa Octo. This was a fitting conclusion to the Octos being held at the Chess Center. After a number of years at this location the new owners wanted to double the rent. The proprietor of the Chess Center, Al Massip, said no to this ridiculous increase. Fortunately, Al Massip has found a new location. The May 21 Costa Mesa Octo will be held at: **2476 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627-1316.** This is at the **Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall**. A map was given to all players. The location is only a little over a mile away from the current location. The new location has double the space of where we currently are. We could have certainly used it for this Octo, as forty players is more than can be put in the Chess Center comfortably.

I decided to make four sections of ten players each. This worked out very well. In the top section young Julian Landaw decided to come and augment his college fund. He won with a perfect score of 3-0. Second and third place money was split between Randy Hough, Danyul Lawrence, and Neil Bersahd at 2-1. In the second section newcomer to my Octos, Colin Field-Eaton, also scored a perfect 3-0. Second and third was again a three way split between Werner Belke, David Cody Oldham, and Jason Garfield at 2-1. In the third section Ronald Hoffman scored another perfect 3-0. Second and third was again a three way tie between Arnold Baldwin, George Stearns, and Krishna Kaliannan all at 2-1. The bottom section was won by young newcomer Donald Bolt Jr., again (surprise-surprise) with a perfect score of 3-0. He even won his last game with a Queen and four pawns against two Queens and five pawns. Strange things happen with the lower rated players. Second and third place was shared between Michael Beckham, Jeffery O'Malley,

3rd L.A. Masters

The L.A. Masters resumed on April 4 at the Los Angeles Chess Club. IM Tim Taylor took first with 3½-½, defeating top-rated IM Melikset Khachiyan in the final round. Next at 3-1 were Garush Manukyan and IM Ganbold Odondoo. The club plans to hold these events, inspired by the long-running New York Masters, every Monday evening at 7 p.m.

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.

1	**IM Tim Taylor**	2418	W6	D2	W9	W4	**3½-½**
2	**Garush Manukyan**	2501	W11	D1	D4	W5	**3-1**
3	**IM Ganbold Odondoo**	2400	W7	L4	W11	W9	**3-1**
4	**IM Melikset Khachiyan**	2570	W10	W3	D2	L1	**2½-1½**
5	**Roberto Perez Garcia**	2276	W8	L9	W7	L2	**2-2**
6	**Lonnie Neal**	2013	L1	L11	B---	W10	**2-2**
7	**John Dimercurio**	1984	L3	W10	L5	B---	**2-2**
8	**Sevan Toroussian**	1697	L5	B---	L10	W11	**2-2**
9	**Takashi Kurosaki**	2114	H---	W5	L1	L3	**1½-2½**
10	**Gevorg Vardanyan**	2084	L4	L7	W8	L6	**1-3**
11	**Joshua Gutman**	2028	L2	W8	L3	L8	**1-3**

and Michael Bonham with scores (you guessed it) of 2-1. — *Mike Carr*

Century West Open

The 2nd Annual Century West Open, a G/40 tournament held March 13 at the Los Angeles Chess Club, had a good turnout of 39 players. Jouaquin Banawa took first place with 4½-1½, ahead of three IMs. John Hillery directed.

Prize Winners

1st: Jouaquin Banawa, 4½-½; **2nd-3rd**: IM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Ganbold Odondoo, IM Tim Taylor, Joel Banawa, 4-1; **U2200**: Leonid Furman, 4-1; U2000: Colette McGruder, 3½-1½; **U1800**: Greg Brown, 3-2; **U1600/U1400/Unr**: Danil Fedunov, Bertram Buggs, Paul Lazarte, 2-3

Exposition Park Chess Club

The monthly free tournament on March 13 saw twenty-seven players compete. Section winners included Donald Bolt, Adnan Chowdhury, Hunter Merritt, Miranda Acosta, Jose Quiros and Oneil Sawyers (tied), Pedro Garcia, Excell Peoples and Ken Philipson (tied), and Ramon Nestor and Gregg Walterman (tied). On April 3, section winners were Donald Bolt, Excell Peoples, Ramon Nestor, Alan Alvarez, and Excell Peoles III.

The Exposition Park Chess Club meets at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the Exposition Park Branch Library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles. For information, call the library at (323) 732-0169 or send a message to the club secretary at expochess07@yahoo.com. Web site: http://chess.expoparkla.com/

Rialto Chess Club

Winner of the first Rialto Chess Club Championship, ending in March, was Steve Dahl with 5-1. Next in the 13-player field at 4½-1½ were Don Cotton and Romeo Reario. For inforation on the Rialto Chess Club, call DEC Cuerdon at (909) 641-4337 or (909) 820-9335.

Pasadena Chess Club

Expert Randy Hough won outright first place with a score of 5½ out of 6 games in the recently concluded Pasadena Chess Club Championship. Among the field of 29 players, Alen Melikadamian, another Expert, finished in Second Place Overall. Top under 2000 players were Class A players Dave Matson and Greg Hall. Other place prize winners were Vrezh Zohrabian, top under 1800; Danny Machuca, top under 1600; and Cleo Rojas, top under 1400.

The Pasadena Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to midnight Fridays at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles Ave. in Pasadena. The annual Club Championship, a 6-round event with a $750 prize fund, will begin March 4. For information, call Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412 (randallhough@yahoo.com). The club has its own web site at www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/8851/pasadena.html. — *Raymond Boncato*

Two World-class Grandmasters Visit Chesspalace

March 25, 2005

The tandem simul given by Grandmasters Alex Yermolinsky and Suat Atalik at Chesspalace that was held on March 25th, 2005 attracted 36 players. This event introduced a very exciting feature to many people because an added twist was presented in this much anticipated simultaneous exhibition. Young and old, novice and experts crowded the club to get a once in a lifetime chance to match wits against these two world-class grandmasters as the GMs took turns alternating at every move among the 36 contenders.

Prior to the simultaneous exhibition, which started at 8:30 p.m.,

GMs "Yermo" and Atalik gave a very entertaining and revealing lecture/commentaries on the current events of the chess world, in particular, the still shocking retirement announcement of Garry Kasparov. The fact that what was supposed to be an hour lecture ended up to be an 90-minute one was testament to how much, both the presenters and the audience very much enjoyed their time. After the serving of refreshments, the players assembled in their chairs for the long-awaited tandem simul presentation.

Only three contestants were able to draw our visiting Grandmasters! Mark Folsom, Carl Hyne, and Herbert Faeth can forever tell their stories of how they drew two Grandmasters in one night! Congratulations to everyone, including to all the participants who joined us. You showed these world-class Grandmasters what being a Chesspalace player really means!

Chesspalace would like to thank Grandmasters Alex Yermolinsky and Suat Atalik for taking the time to visit Southern California's Premier Chess Club and sharing with everyone in the club their personal anecdotes and experiences through the lecture and the simultaneous exhibition.

Chesspalace would also like to special thank Garret Graves for his special contribution and to all who made this event a success!

For complete list of participants, club schedules, etc., please visit www.chesspalace.com. — *Alfred Ong*

Gambito Opens

Bruce Baker and Cyrus Lakdawala both scored 3½ out of 4 and split

the first and second place prizes for $150 each at the March Super Gambito. Cy was held to a draw in Rd 3 by Alan Sebeckis while Bruce took a first round bye. Tied for BU2200 with 3 points were Dimitry Kishinevsky, Ron Bruno and Rick Aeria. Fidel Gonzalez took the $80 Best Under 2000 prize. Ben Barquin won all four of his games to win the Reserve Section and he also took home $80, as did Santiago Lunas with 3 points to win the BU1600. A total of 36 players competed for the $810 prize fund. The Best Game Prize winner spotlights Bruce Baker in wild game:

Bruce Baker (2256) – Ed Baluran (2032)
Gambito #214, San Diego 2005
B03 Alekhine's Defence

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Bc4 dxe5 5. dxe5 e6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. Qe2 0-0 8. Bd2 Nd7 9. Nc3 N7b6 10. Bd3 Nxc3 11. Bxc3 Nd5 12. Qe4 g6 13. Bd2 c5 14. 0-0-0 Qb6 15. Bh6 Rd8 16. Bg5 Bd7 17. Qh4 Bxg5+ 18. Nxg5 h5 19. g4 Qb4 20. c4 Nc3 21. Nxf7 Nxa2+ 22. Kb1 Nc3+ 23. Kc2 Ba4+ 24. Kc1 Na2+ 25. Kb1 Nc3+ 26. Ka1 Be8? (26…Rf8) 27. Nh6+ Kh8 28. Qf6+ Kh7 29. Qe7+ Kh8 30. Qf8+ Kh7 31. Qg8+! Kxh6 32. Qh8+ Kg5 33. h4+ Kxg4 34. Rdg1+ 1-0

The Reserve Section Best Game winner features the sharp tactical eye of Pejman Sagart:

Pejman Sagart (1769) – Angelo Esposito (unrated)
Gambito #214, San Diego 2005
A01 Nimzowitch-Larsen Opening

1. b3 d6 2. Bb2 e5 3. d3 Nf6 4. Nd2 Be6 5. Ngf3 Be7 6. g3 Nbd7 7. Bg2 Rb8 8. 0-0 Nb6 9. e4 0-0 10. Re1 Re8 11. d4 exd4 12. Nxd4 Bd7 13. c4 Bf8 14. N4f3 Bc6 15. Qc2 a5 16. e5 dxe5 17. Nxe5 Bxg2 18. Kxg2 Nbd7 19. Nxd7 Nxd7 20. Qc3 Qg5 21. Nf3 Qh5 22. Rad1 Nf6 23. Qd3 Rbd8? 24. Qxd8 Rxd8 25. Rxd8 Qc5 26. Bxf6 gxf6 27. Ree8 Kg7 28. Rxf8 Qxf8 29. Rxf8 Kxf8 30. Nd4 1-0

At the April Super Gambito, Cyrus Lakdawala and Elliott Liu drew in the second round and then ended up tied for first place with 3½ points each. It was a strong field with 4 Masters (including NM Richard Costigan, who was visiting from New Jersey), 7 Experts and 9 Class A players in the top section. Dimitry Kishinevsky won the Best Under 2200 and Jesus Orozco was second BU2200. Hercules Madriaga continued his strong drive to Expert status by winning the BU2000 once again with a solid 3 points, beating two Experts in the last two rounds. In the Reserve section, two Class C players tied for first place and put the Class B players to shame. Aaron Ibarra and Carlos Martinez both won 3 games and draw one. Richard Jensen won 2nd BU1800 and Rolando Gaciagutierrez won 2nd BU1600. Here is the Best Game Prize Winner. Remember these are G/45!

Robert Richard (2237) – Cyrus Lakdawala (2495)
Gambito #218, San Diego, 4/02/05
D05 Colle System

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 c6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bd3 Nbd7 5. Nbd2 Be7 6. 0-0 b6 7. b3 Bb7 8. Bb2 0-0 9. Ne5 Ne4 10. f4 f5 11. Qe2 Nxd2 12. Qxd2 Nf6 13. Rad1 c5 14. Qe2 Qc7 15. c4 Rad8 16. g4 cxd4 17. exd4 Ne4 18. gxf5 exf5 19. Bxe4 fxe4 20. Qe3 Qc8 21. cxd5 Bxd5 22. Rc1 Qf5 23. Rc7 Bd6 24. Rxa7 Bb8 25. Re7 Bd6 26. Ra7 Ra8 27. Rxa8 Rxa8 28. a4 Rf8 29. Rf2 Qe6 30. b4 Bxb4 31. Ba3 Qd6 32. Bb2 Qh6 33. Bc1 Qh5 34. Rf1 Rc8 35. f5 Be7 36. Qg3 e3 37. Qxe3? Rc2 38. Bd2 Bb4! 39. Nf3? 40. Kh1 Rxd2 0-1

The Super Gambito Open has a $600 guaranteed prize fund and is held on the first Saturday of every month at the San Diego Chess Club. Regular Gambito Opens now alternate locations between San Diego and National City with the second and fourth Saturdays at the National City (Macaspac) Club and the third Saturday at the SDCC. For more details, games and pictures from San Diego, see our website at http://Groups.msn.com/sandiegochess. — *Chuck Ensey*

San Diego Chess Club

The Club Championship wound up in April with a single club champion (unlike last year when we had two co-champions, Rick Aeria and Robert Richard). This year Expert Dr. Adam Corper won the coveted title with 5½ points, bypassing four masters on his way to the top. Rated #7 at the start of the tournament, Adam was the only player not to lose a single game in the full 7 rounds, and in fact, Adam has a streak of 24 games going without a loss. He defeated masters Todd Smith and Robert Richard and also drew with NM Carl Wagner. Two years ago Adam finished in last place for the Club Championship, but now he has reached the pinnacle of local chess stardom. Another player that finished at the bottom two years ago also did very well this year. That would be Leonard Sussman, who won clear second place with 5 points. Four players tied for third with 4½, Dimitry Kishinevsky, Robert Richard, Carl Wagner and Thomas Nelson. Expert Mario Amodeo lost all six of the games he played, but maybe he can look forward to next year, when he will be more experienced and can hope for the kind of turn around that Adam and Lenny had.

The Reserve Champion Joel Batchelor scored an impressive 6 out of 7 points, and like Adam, was the only player not to lose a single game. Damani Fair was second with 5½, and Sunny Chu was third with 5. While the two 16 player Championship sections were battling, the rest of the club competed in the Lasker Open, which was split into three sections. A total of 45 players competed here, along with 32 in the Championships, for a grand total of 77 players filling up the club each Wednesday night, and that doesn't count house players, of which there were many. In the Upper Lasker, Hercules Madriaga won first place with 5½, followed by Carey Milton and Ed Baluran, who tied for second with 5. Franco Alejandrino won BU1875. In the Middle Lasker,

Jason Clevenger won all six of his games, along with one bye to easily win first place. Luis Castaneda was second with 5 and Jerry Kavanau was third with 4½. Tyler Gale was BU 1550 with 4, and Erik Marquis was BU 1450 with 3½. In the Lower Lasker, Sam Barboo won first place, although he was tied by the unrated John Goes, who also scored 5 points. David Whitten was BU 1200 with 4.

Here is one of the games from the Club Championship, and some say it is one of the best games played at the club in years! — *Chuck Ensey*

George Zeigler (2098) – James Mahooti (1955)
San Diego Club Championship, San Diego 2005
B01 Scandinavian Defense

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. h3 Bh5 7. g4 Bg6 8. Ne5 e6 9. Bd2 c6 10. h4 Qb6 11. h5 Be4 12. Nxe4 Nxe4 13. Qf3 Nxd2 14. Qxf7+ Kd8 15. 0-0-0! Ne4 16. Qxe6 Ng5 17. Qf5 Be7 18. d5 c5?! 19. d6 Bf6 20. f4 Re8 21. Nc4 Qc6 22. fxg5 Bxb2+ 23. Nxb2 Qxh1 24. Bb5 Qe4 25. Bxe8 Qxe8 26. Nd3 Nd7 27. Re1 Qf8 28. Re7 Qxf5 29. gxf5 c4 30. Nf4 Nc5 31. Ne6+ Nxe6 32. fxe6 Rb8 33. Rxg7 1-0

Chesspalace Junior Invitational Attracts Top Chess Stars and Newcomers

The 2005 Chesspalace Under 15 Junior Invitational Championship held on April 10, 2005 hosted by Chesspalace, Southern California's premier chess club, attracted 55 juniors. Topping a very strong field in the advance section was up and coming junior star, 3rd grader Christopher Kao. Following him were Ashkon Soroudi, Brett Gonzales, and Venkat Iyer who all tied for 2nd place with 3 points. Christopher Kao will hold the 2005 title as Chesspalace U15 Junior Champion until next year's championship.

The Knights I section saw Jayo Cacho, another up and coming chess whiz, edged Danny Duran and Frank Castellanos on tiebreaks to take first place with a score of 4 out of 5. Danny and Frank are both part of the Boys and Girls Club of Burbank which has been producing many prize winners in recent events. Much of the credit is due to the tireless efforts of the club's Games & Recreations director, Kevin Bulone, who can always be seen encouraging his kids in local scholastic events. Behind the three co-champions were Benjamin Quincey and Nathan Kernik.

In the next section, Knights II, three brothers, Mitchell, Marco, and Matteo Miralaie swept the field by taking 1st, 2nd, and the last one sharing third place respectively. Newcomer Salem Munos was the only who prevented the Miralaie brothers

Profile: Rick Aeria, We Miss You!

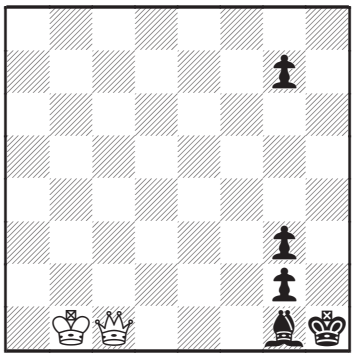
By Steven B. Dowd

Probably the most telling comment about Rick Aeria is that the night I met him, we had three tournaments planned, and I hadn't even been certified as a TD yet! The club I was running at the time, the UAB Chess Club, was extremely fortunate to have Rick living in the area at the time. He wasn't just an "idea man," he had the ability to make things happen, and especially, an infectious enthusiasm for not just chess, but the chess club.

Rick did all kinds of things for our club, tripling our previous attendance average, and developing most of the ideas for our most popular tournaments, such as the so-called "Olympic Quads," a G/10 event in which you represented a country, often of your heritage. Rick gave me and most other players in the club nicknames; I was the "Irish Bear," even before GM Baburin took on the name.

When Rick left Alabama, it was difficult to sustain the same enthusiasm in our club, and I too had to drop back on my club activities due to various other commitments that fell my way. But it was a grand ride! He developed our club website, and I have watched his current one (groups.msn.com/SanDiegoChess/) grow from a few pages to all kinds of tournament reports, featured players of the month, and so on. Alabama's loss was San Diego's gain. He is the only elected Life Member of the UAB Chess Club, and probably will remain so, for no one else did so much for the club.

I don't get to play much these days, but have taken up chess composition for the "chess fix" Rick left me with. In honor of Rick, I offer the following chess problem, White to play and mate in 5. I beat Rick rarely, even though I outrated him, and he had the darndest way of getting me, a player who normally plays quickly, into time pressure. When you solve the problem, you will see why I composed it especially for him.



White to play and mate in 5

Solution: 1.Qd1 g6 2.Qc1 g5 3.Qd1 g4 4.Qc1 Kh2 5. Qh6#

The Queen moves back and forth in a pendulum, just like the ticking of my clock whenever I played Rick!

from a clean sweep by sharing the third place prize with Matteo.

In the K-3rd, Pawns section, another newcomer 5 year-old Shyham Gandhi scored 4.5 out of 5 to clinch his first place championship trophy of what is bound to be the start of a fantastic chess career!

Special awards were also distributed:

Best Grade Level for Knights I - 1st grader Brad Gonzales

Knights II – 3rd grader Brian Shefflete & Kindergartner Christina Kao

Pawns - 1st grader Andrew Ascencio

An additional Best Sportsmanship Award was also given to Ashley Alameida. Special door prizes went to Adnan Chowdhury, Brad Gonzales, and Andrew Ascencio.

Much thanks goes to the parent volunteers and coaches for helping make the event run smoothly. Deserve mentioning goes to Kirk Martin, Carmen Childress, Kevin Bulone, and Mike Kao. Austin Ong directed and assisted by Nic Reiner.

For complete results and standings please visit www.chesspalace.com.

Chesspalace is located at 4336 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos CA 90720. A couple of miles from the exit off of the 405, 605, and 91 freeways. Call Alfred at 310-594-3475 to get a complete listings of the club's events and schedules. — *Alfred Ong*

2005 SCCF Senior Open

This event had an odd twist in the first round – last year's Co-Champions, Bruce Baker and Alejandrino (Ed) Baluran were paired on the top board in round one! Bruce won the encounter this year and went on to score 4½ points out of 5 to take first place all for himself.

This year's prize fund was enhanced beyond the guaranteed $1,000 by several generous donors, including Bill Conrad and several others, who felt that this prestigious

Bruce Baker

event should have bigger monetary rewards for the winners. The extra funds made up for a low turnout and allowed Bruce to go home with a $500 check instead of the projected $300.

Raoul Crisologo of Murrieta came in second place with 4 points after losing only to Bruce in round 2 and defeating 4 other opponents, including Rick Aeria in a very long and close last round game. Leonard Sussman took third place with 3½, and four players tied for Best Under 2100 with 3 points: Carey Milton, Dennis Succuzzo, Ed Baluran and Michael Nagaran. The Best Under 1900 went to Keith Wilson with 2½, and Best Under 1700 was Robert Henderson, who also won the $50 Biggest Upset Prize for a win in Round 1 over Expert Carey Milton.

Two former title holders had rough outings. Carl Wagner lost to Leonard Sussman and also blundered badly against Raoul Crisologo. Robert Richard lost to Bruce and to the suddenly very hot Leonard Sussman. But even Lenny couldn't hold back Bruce in the last round despite having the White pieces. Bruce won with his favorite Dutch Defense as Black even though he had prepared and expected to play with White himself. — *Chuck Ensey*

Riverside Gambit

The Riverside Gambit, a scholastic tournament, was held at North High School in Riverside, on March 5th. The 25-player event was conducted as a four round swiss, in three sections.

In each section, the first place winner scored a perfect 4-0, Austin Cambon in high school, Johnny Stephens in middle school, and Austin Hughes in elementary. Also playing in the elementary section, second grader Ryan Hughes scored 3-1 to claim the first place trophy among primary students. His only loss was to his older brother, Austin.

Steve Morford directed. He was assisted by Tyrone Liddell. — *Steve Morford*

West Covina Chess Club

Winner of the top section in the March "Winter Ladder Swiss" was Thurlo Mishler with 6-0. In the second section, Randy Chambers, Richard Luchetta and Fred Wild tied, while Romy Foley and Howard Kleiser split first plalce in section 3. The West Covina Chess Club meets 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. For information, call Richard Williams at (626) 339-5188.

AAA Scholastic Championship

April 2

This scholastic event, held at the First Lutheran Church in Glendale, attracted 117 participants. Mher Mikayelian took first place in the K-12 section with 5-0. George Shanazaryan topped the K-7 section, while the K-3 ended in a tied among Karo Boladjian and Edward Galamdarian. Harut Keshishian directed.

Glendale Chess Park Open

April 9

This outdoor event (where else but in Southern California?) attracted 14 players. IM Tim Taylor and Alen Melikadamian tied for first, while Haik Muradyan, Holly McRoberts, Donald Bolt, and Igor

2004-2005 State Championship

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

Date	Name	Qualifiers
July 3-5	Pacific Southwest Open	Andranik Matikozyan Francis Chen
July 10-25	State Championship	Jack Peters Tim Taylor Vanessa West Ike Miller Ron Bruno Michael Casella Charles Van Buskirk
July 15-18	Pacific Coast Open	Varuzhan Akobian Melikset Khachiyan Lernik Manukian
August 15	Westwood Open	Brandon Ashe
August 14-15	San Luis Obispo County Championship	John Williams Matt Robertson
Sept. 4-6	Southern California Open	Ilia Serpik Gregg Fritchle
Sept. 24-26	Los Angeles Open	Alexandre Kretchetov Zoran Djoric
October 31	Halloween Open	Roger Norman
November 6-7	Electoral College Open	Cyrus Lakdawala Bruce Baker
November 25-28	American Open	Boris Kreiman Jouaquin Banawa Takashi Iwamoto
December 11-12	6th Annual Joseph Ileto Memorial	Ron Hermansen Eduardo Ortiz Christopher Slupik Ryan Richardson
January 15-17	Western Class Championships	Enrico Sevillano Eugene Yanayt
January 30	Westwood Winter Open	Takashi Kurosaki
March 13	Century West Open	Leonid Furman
March 25-27	3rd Annual Western Pacific Open	Tatev Abrahamyan Alaa-Addin Moussa Mike Zaloznyy Craig Clawitter Craig Anderson Gevorg Vardanyan Christian Tanaka Sargis Hakobyan
April 9-10	SCCF Senior Open	Raoul Crisologo
Upcoming		
April 23-24	Los Angeles County Open	Monterey Park
May 7-8	Orange County Open	Costa Mesa
May 7-8	SCCF High School Championships	Costa Mesa
May 14-15	San Diego County Open	San Diego
May 29-31	Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic	LAX
June 4-5	Harold Cardinal Valery, M.D., Inc. Primavera Open	Los Alamitos

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.

Skurskiy earned class prizes. The Glendale Chess Park, located at 227 N. Brand Ave., is open for play day and night.

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

(see page 17)

Problem no. 1: b. 1. ... Rh8 is incorrect. In fact, 1. … Rh8 loses as after 2. Bf3 White has the advantage. So how does Black press and execute for the fastest win? The best move is **1. ... Nxg4+!** The main line continues **2. hxg4 Rh8+ 3. Bh3 Rxh3+ 4. Kxh3 Qg1 5. Qf3 Bxg4 6. Qxg4 Qh1#.**

Problem no. 2: **b. 1. ... Be4 is not the best continuation.** Although 1. … Be4 is probably winning for Black, 1. … Nh3 is much stronger and wins more convincingly. Did you consider this move? The main line goes… **1. ... Nh3 2. Rge1 f2 3. Qxh6 f1=Q+ 4. Rxf1 Be4+ 5. Rf3 Bxf3#.** When you see a good move, wait a minute and look for a better one. People have been known to overlook a checkmate in 1 because they were so inclined to win material. Mistakes like that are really dreadful "blunders" – especially in blitz.

Problem no. 3: b. 1. ... h6 is incorrect. White is mounting a strong Kingside attack and h6 allows for an awesome finish. 1. … Nc2 may be better; however, White will still have a good Kingside initiative with attack. If **1. ... h6** the main line goes **2. Bh5!** (did you consider this move in your safety check?) **2. ... hxg5** (if 2. … g6 3. Nxf7 with a clear advantage for White) **3. fxg5 g6 4. Bxg6 fxg6 5. Rxf8+ Kxf8 6. Qf3+ Kg8 7. Rf1 Nf6 8. Qxf6 e5 9. Qxg6+ Kh8 10. Rf7** 1-0 as mate is unavoidable.

Problem no. 4: b. 1. ... Qa5 is incorrect. With victory so close these are the kinds of positions we all dream to have so we can execute a fantastic finale. If 1. … Qa5, White responds with 2. Qb3 and Black's attack is over. The correct continuation means forcing open the Queenside and never looking back. **1. ... b3** starts an amazing sequence of forced moves. The main line goes **2. a3 Qxc2+ 3. Rxc2 Rxc2+ 4. Kb1** (forced) **Rxb2+ 5. Kc1 Rc8+ 6. Kd1 Rb1+ 7. Kd2 Rc2+ 8. Kd3 Rxe1 9. e5 Rd1+ 10. Ke3 Be7 11. Qb7 Bc5+ 12. Kf3 Rd3+ 13. Kg4 Rxe2 14. h4 h5+ 15. Kxh5 Rg3** 0-1 as mate follows shortly (e.g. g6+/Bf8#). What a finish!

Upcoming Events

May 15-16

San Diego County Championships. 5-SS, Rds 1-3 30/1, SD/1; Rds 4 & 5 40/90, SD/1. 2225 Sixth Avenue, in San Diego's Balboa Park. $3,000 in 3 Sections, based on 80 players. **EF**: $45 by 5/13, $50 at site, Scholastic (<19) $25 any section. **Open:** $450-150, U2300 $200, U2200 $200, U2100 $200 **Premier (U2000):** $300-150, U1900 $200, U1800 $175, U1700 $175 **Reserve (U1600):** $300-$150, U1500 $125, U1400 $125, Best Scholastic U1200 $100, Best Unrated in Reserve Section wins a book prize and a free lesson. SCCF membership required ($14 reg/Under 18, $9) for all So. Calif. Residents. **Reg:** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Rds** Sat 11-3:30-8, Sun 10-4. Free parking, arrive early for best spots, One ½ point bye available in rounds 1-4, no last round byes. **Ent:** San Diego Chess Club, P.O. Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112-0162, **Inf**: Bruce Baker (619) 239-7166, after 3 p.m., or see our website at http://www.groups.msn.com/sandiegochess Or email chucnglo@aol.com. NS, NC, W **GP: 20. State Championship Qualifier.**

May 21

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 35/90, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, 2476 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $20 advance, $25 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Michael Carr, 25601 Chrisanta Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. (949) 768-3538. NS, NC.

May 27

MDC Quick Chess Championship. 5-double RR, G/10. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Quick Chess rated. $$500 b/40, else proportional: $$200-100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr each $50. **EF**: $21 if received by 5-26, $25 door. **Reg**: 6-7 p.m. **Rds** 7:15-8-8:45-9:30-10:15. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, on line at www.westernchess.

May 28-30

2005 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1, 2½-day schedule rds 1-2 G/60. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$10,000 b/200, 60% of each prize guaranteed. In five sections: **Open**: $$T+1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier** (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. **Amateur** (Under 1800): $$750-300-200-100. **Reserve** (Under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. **Booster** (Under 1400/unrated): $$T+400-200-100, U1200 T+150, Unr T+150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) Best game prize $25, all sections eligible. **All**: half-point byes available, limit 2, rds 5-6 must be requested with entry & cannot be revoked. SCCF membership req ($14, jr. $9), OSA. No checks or credit cards at door. **Reg:** 3-day 8-9:30 a.m. 5-28, 2½-day closes 6 p.m. 5-28. **Rds:** 3-day 10:30-5 Sat, 10-4:30 Sun-Mon, 2½-day: 6:30-8:45 p.m 5-28, then merges. **EF**: $81 if received by 5-26, $95 door, Booster section $66 adv, $75 door. **On-line entry:** www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. **HR**: $89 (310) 410-4000, mention chess. Parking $6/day. **Inf**: admin@westernchess.com. NS, W, F. **GP: 40. State Championship Qualifier**

May 29

MDC 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. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds** 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if received by 5-26, $20 door. **Inf**: John Hillery, admin@westernchess.com. **On-line ent:** www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

May 30

MDC Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 . Six-player sections by rating. **EF:** $20 if received by 5-26, $30 door. $$ 40-20-10 each section. **Reg:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Rds** 10:45-2-5. **Ent:** SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com

May 30

Memorial Day 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 5-26, $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.

June 3-5

Harold Cardinal Valery, M.D., Inc. Primavera Open. 6-SS, G/90 (no time-delays used). 4336 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos CA 90720. $$500+Trophy, 250, 90; U2250 $120+Trophy, 50; U2000 $120+Trophy, 50, 25gc; U1750 $100+Trophy,

45, 20gc, U1500 $100+Trophy, 45, 20gc; U1250 $90+Trophy, 40, 15gc; U1000 $80+Trophy, 20gc; Unrated $70, 20gc. BEST UPSET: $25 gift certificate per round. **Rds**: 3-day Fri-7:30p, Sat 2-5:30, Sun 10:30-2:00-5:30; 2-day Sat Rd. 1-11:00 and then merge. Up to three 1/2pt byes if requested before Rd. 1. Free T-Shirts to all participants. **EF**: $52 regular before May 31st. $65 on-site registration. **Special EF:** U1000, Unrated & Juniors (19 & younger-eligible only for Top 3 HS trophies)-$10 less. Chesspalace members $10 less. Unrated players can only win Open and Unrated prizes. Special door prizes and raffles throughout the event. SCCF membership required of S. CA residents, $14 regular, $9 junior. Limited seating, so please register ASAP. **Inf**: www.chesspalace.com, Alfred @ 310-594-3475. **Ent**: Obtain form online, or call 562-598-5099. Chesspalace point system used, please inquire or visit website www.chesspalace.com. **GP: 20. State Championship Qualifier.**

June 25

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

July 2-4

45th Annual Pacific Southwest Open. 6-SS, $$8,000 b/240, half of all prize guar. Choice of 2 schedules: 3-day schedule plays all rounds at 40/2, SD/1. 2-day schedule plays first 3 rds at G/1, others at 40/2, SD/1. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505 (corner of Thornton). **In 2 sections: Open,** $$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:** $52 if received by 6/30, $62 at site. SCCF memb. required of So. Californians ($14, jrs. U18 $9, includes Rank & File magazine). **Reg**: 9-10 am (3-day), 8:45-9:30 a.m. (2-day). **Rds**: 10:30-4:30, 10:30-4:30, 10-4:30 (2-day plays Rds 1,2,3 at 10, noon, 2, then merges). One or two 1/2-pt. byes with advance notice. **HR**: $92 (818) 843-6000 or (800) 840-6450, mention chess. **Parking** $8/day. **Info**: Randy Hough (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com. Ent: Santa Monica Bay CC, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. **F. GP: 30. State Championship Qualifier.**

July 21-24

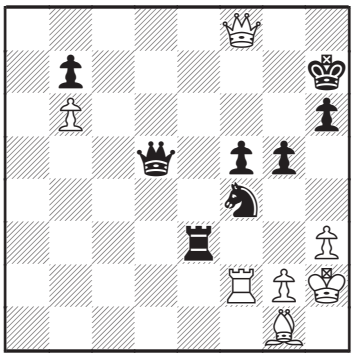
10th Annual Pacific Coast Open. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/60), Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit). Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains, 26 miles west of Burbank, 12 miles from Malibu, 28 miles from Ventura. Free parking. Prizes $40,000 based on 320 entries; minimum $30,000 (75% each prize) guaranteed. **In 7 sections. Open:** $4000-2000-1000-600-400, clear winner bonus $200, U2400 $1500, U2300/Unr $1500. If tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game (white 7 min, black 5 min and gets draw odds) for title & bonus prize. FIDE rated. **Under 2200:** $2500-1200-600-400-300. **Under 2000:** $2500-1200-600-400-300. **Under 1800:** $2500-1200-600-400-300. **Under 1600:** $2500-1200-600-400-300. **Under 1400:** $2500-1200-600-400-300. **Under 1200:** $1600-900-600-400-300. 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. **Top 6 sections EF: 4-day** $164, **3-day** $163, **2-day** $162 mailed by 7/13, all $161 online at chesstour.com by 7/18, all $170 phoned by 7/18 (406-896-2038, entries only, no questions), all $190 (no checks, credit cards OK) at tmt. SCCF membership ($14, jrs $9) required for rated Southern CA residents. **Under 1200 Section EF**: all $40 less. **Re-entry** (except Open) $80, count as half entries. Advance EF $10 less if paid with $49 USCF dues. **4-day schedule: Reg** Thu to 6:30pm, **rds** Thu 7 pm, Fri 7 pm, Sat 12-7, Mon 10-4:30. **3-day schedule: Reg.** Fri to 11am, **rds** Fri 12-7, Sat 12-7, Sun 10-4:30. **2-day schedule: Reg** Sat to 9am, **rds** Sat 10-1-4-7, Sun 10-4:30. **All schedules:** Bye all, limit 2, rd 4-6 byes must commit before rd 3. **HR**: $79-79-79-79, 818-707-1220, reserve by 7/7 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent**: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Advance EF minus $5 service charge refunded if you withdraw and give notice at least an hour before rd 1. **Questions:** www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com 7/20. **GP: 120. State Championship Qualifier.**

Solutions to Chess Quiz (see page 28)

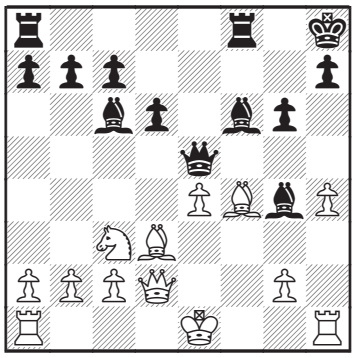
Conquest – Bologan, Warsaw 2004: The Black King is exposed, but the White King is hemmed in, and Black wins by *removing the guard* on h3: **1. ... Qxg2+! 2. Rxg2 Rxh3#**

Pogrebinskaya – Rodionov, Kiev 2004: Black wins a piece with an *attracting sacrifice* followed by a *discovered attack*: **1. ... Qxf4 2. Qxf4 Bxc3+ 3. Qd2 Bxd2+ 4. Kxd2 Rf2+ 5. Kc3 Raf8 0–1**

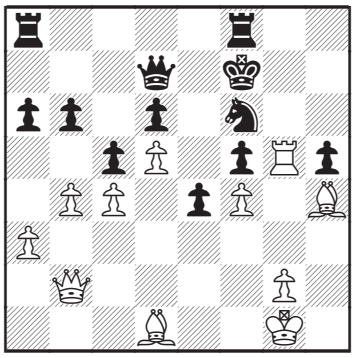
Shengelia - Calistri, Capelle La Grande 2005: The Black King os drawn into a mating net with the attracting sacrifice **1. Qxf6+ Kxf6 2 .Bxh5** (or 2. Rg3+ Kf7 3. Bxh5#) **2. ... Ke7** (a computer would prolong matters with the pointless 2. ... Qg7 3. Rg3+ Qg5 4. Rxg5) **3. Rg7#**



Conquest–Bologan
Warsaw, 2004
Black to move



Pogrebinskaya–Rodionov
Kiev, 2004
Black to move



Shengelia-Calistri
Capelle la Grande, 2005
White to move

Solutions on page 27

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754