Rank & File

May-June 2006 Volume XXIX, No. 3 $3.00

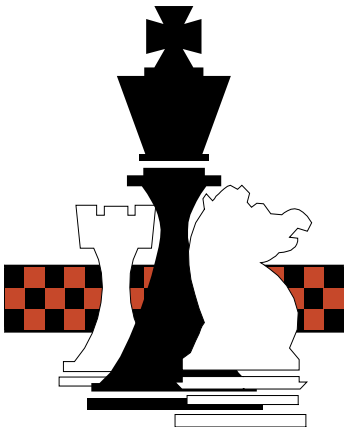
23rd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

Caltech:

Howard Liu, Patrick Hummel, Joshua Gutman, Eugene Yanayt

SCCF



2006 Lina Grumete

Memorial Day Classic

May 19-21, 2006

$10,000 Prize Fund!

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

at the

Burbank Airport Hilton

2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA

(adjacent to Burbank Airport)

Five Rounds — Swiss System

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

Entry Fees:

Open, Premier (U2000)**, Amateur** (U1800)**, Reserve** (U1600)**:** $81 if received by 5-18, $97 at door

Booster (U1400): $66 by 5-18, $80 door

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

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

Registration: 5:30-6:30 p.m. 4-14, 8:30-10 a.m. 4-15

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

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

HR: $99, (818) 843-6000 or (800) 840-6450. Be sure to mention Western Chess.

Parking $8/day

More details, advance entry lists:

www.westernchess.com

Open

1st: $1700 + T

2nd-5th: $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/unr.)

T+$400-$200-$100

U1200 T+$150

Unrated T+$150

Best Game Prize: $25 (all sections eligible)

Also ...

MDC Scholastics

May 21

5-SS, G/45

Reg: 8:30-9:15.
Rds: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4.
EF: $16 if received by 5-18, $20 at door.
On-line entry: www.westernchess.com.

MDC Action Swiss

May 21

5-SS, G/30

$$500 b/40, else proportional
Reg: 9-10 a.m.
Rounds: 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45.
EF: $20 if received by 5-18, $25 at door.

MDC Hexes

May 21

3-SS, G/90

6-player sections by rating.
$$40-20-10 each section.
EF: $20 if received by 5-18, $25 door.
Reg: 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Rds 10:30-1:30-4:30.

Around the Nation

East wins Amateur Team playoff

The playoff between the winners from the four 2006 Amateur Team Chess Championships held on Presidents Day weekend in February 2006, met their chess opponents on April 2 in cyberspace on the Internet Chess Club website. In Round 1 Team East beat Team South with 3 points and Team West scored 2½ against Team Midwest's 1½. In Round 2 Team East scored 2½ to beat Team West who scored 1½ which gave them claim to the title.

The 16 players were:

TEAM EAST—MY G-8 Predecessors

1. Charles Riordan 2276 (Captain)
2. Alex Cherniack 2252
3. Lawyer Times 2174
4. Charles Mays 2039

TEAM SOUTH—Excaliber Electronics

1. GM Julio Becerra 2624
2. Jorge Reynaldo 2091
3. Javier Gonzalez 2027
4. Gil Luna 1961 (Captain)

TEAM MIDWEST—2 FMs and 2 Losers

1. Shivkumar Shivaji 2336
2. John Langreck 2226
3. FM Jim Dean 2219 (Captain)
4. Les Kistler 1971

TEAM WEST—CalTech

1. FM Patrick Hummel 2439
2. Eugene Yanayt 2312 (Captain)
3. Howard Liu 2043
4. Joshua Gutman 1993

In addition to *Team East - My G-8 Predecessors* winning the title of 2006 Amateur Team Playoff Champions, each member of the team will receive a wrist watch engraved with their title commemorating their outstanding achievement. The USCF would like to recognize Chief Tournament Director and International Arbiter Carol Jarecki and Internet Chess Clubs Technical Director Duncan Oxley for their director and technical expertise which helped make this years event sensational. – *USCF news release*

U.S. Junior Chess Congress

A record turnout of 260 chess enthusiasts under the age of 19 participated in the 2006 U.S. Junior Chess Congress. The six round national chess championship was held February 25-26 at the East Middle School in Anderson, Indiana under the direction of Chief Tournament Director Scott Reisinger. The 260 chess players represented eight US states!

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The championship was divided up into six sections for individual winners as well as team competition. The winners of each section were:

18 & Under:

1st - Matthew Fouts (IN) 5 points.

Team winner: Terre Haute South Vigo HS (Terre Haute, IN)

16 & Under:

1st - Evan Hanley (IN) 5 points.

Team winner: Lafayette Jefferson HS (Lafayette, IN)

14 & Under:

1st - Gautam Nagendra 5 points.

Team winner: Canterbury School (Ft. Wayne, IN)

12 & Under:

1st - Boris Xu (GA) 6 points (perfect score)

Team winner: Sycamore School (Indianapolis, IN)

10 & Under:

1st - Sean Vibbert 5½ points.

Team winner: Evansville Chess Club (Evansville, IN)

8 & Under:

1st - Stevan Kriss (KY) 5½ points.

Team winner: Kentucky Knights Chess Club (KY)

Congratulations to all players and event organizer and staff for making history with breaking the attendance record. – *USCF news release*

SCCF Board

The Southern California Chess Federation is now seeking candidates for six positions on its Executive Board. The election will take place at the Southern California Open over the Labor Day weekend, and terms will last two years. (The twelve Board members, including six elected last year, will elect four officers from among themselves.) If you don't like what's happening in Southern California chess – or if you think you can do better – here's your chance to make a difference!. Call or write Election Committee Chairman Randy Hough (randallhough@yahoo.com, 626-282-7412, P.O Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754). Chess in California needs new ideas and new blood – you could be it!

Far West Open

A slightly disappointing 182 competed in the 2006 Sands Regency Far West Open, held in Reno April 7-9. In the top section, GMs Jaan Ehlvest and Alex Yermolinsky tied for first with 5-1. Ehlvest won a blitz tiebreaker for the title. Next at 4½ were IM Enrico Sevillano and GMs Petr Kiriakov and Gregory Serper. Other section winners included John Jaffray and Todd Imada (A), Jeffrey Cohen and Timothy Brennan (B), Tom Allen and Anthony Blessing (C), and William Stevenson (D). Jerry Weikel directed.

National Junior High

The USCF held its 2006 National Junior High Chess Championship at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky between April 7-9, 2006. A total of 1123 young chess enthusiasts competed, representing 38 states.

Continued on page 15...

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The SCCF Web page is located at:

WWW.SCCHESS.COM

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Rank & File — ISSN 8750-9164 USPS 738-230, published bimonthly by the Southern California Chess Federation, 1300 Ballista, La Puente CA 91744. Periodical postage paid at Industry, CA. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. Subscriptions: $14 adult, $9 junior.

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23rd Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

This year's ATW, the 23rd annual (where *does* the time go?), saw 46 teams and 200 players gather at the Marina San Pedro Hotel February 18-20. For the third time in four years, Team *Caltech* (Patrick Hummel, Eugene Yanayt, Howard Liu, and Joshua Gutman) captured first place. Their victory was hard-fought and well-deserved, as they faced teams 2, 4, 7 and 8. (Team 3 dropped out after two rounds, and 5 and 6 were never in contention.) Their dynasty may be in jeopardy, though, as three of their players will be graduating this spring.

Clear second with 5-1 went to *The Knight the King Smacked My Bishop*, an Arizona team (Robby Adamson, Leonardo Martinez, Jonathan Cox, and Sean Higgins), who promised to come back and win next year. Third on tiebreak were *Good Knight and Good Rook* (Michael Casella, Mike Zaloznyy, Gevorg Vardanyan, and Chris Lee), which also took the Best Team Name prize by vote of the players.

The one-day Scholastic Team attracted a remarkable 33 teams, and was won by *Excellence in Education* (Dsanny Machuca, Anthony Hung, Nicholas Hammond, Adrian Chang) with 4-0.

John Hillery and Elie Hsiao directed. Complete standings and a selection of games may be found on line at www.scchess.com.

Andrew Lee of *Gata Kamsky Reunion Tour Roadies* received the Best Game prize for his victory over Robby Adamson. Notes by *Los Angeles Times* chess columnist Jack Peters.

Andrew Lee (2282) – Robby Adamson (2405)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
A58 BENKO GAMBIT

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6 g6 6. Nc3 Bxa6 7. g3 d6 8. Bg2

The Fianchetto system against the Benko Gambit.

8. ... Nbd7 9. Nf3 Nb6

Also 9. ... Bg7 10. Rb1! Nb6 11. b3 reaches the game.

10. b3 Bg7 11. Rb1

Theory considers this popular position slightly favorable for White. Often Black tries 11. ... Bb7 to induce 12. Nh4, as 12. e4 Ba6! 13. Bf1 Qc8 doesn't bother Black.

11. ... 0-0 12. 0-0 Bb7 13. e4

Even here, 13. Nh4 makes sense because it discourages ... e7-e6.

13. ... Ne8

Sharpest is 13. ... e6 14. dxe6 Nxe4.

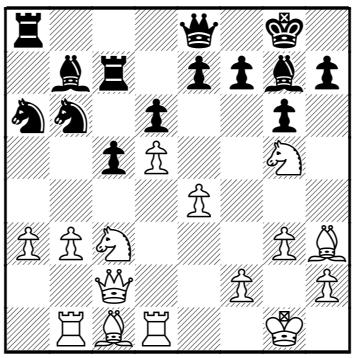
14. Qc2 Nc7 15. Rd1 Na6?!

Black fails to apply pressure to White's center. If he doesn't trust 15. ... e6, he should risk 15. ... f5 16. exf5 Rxf5.

16. a3 Qd7 17. Bf1 Rfc8 18. Ng5!?

Very energetic and probably correct. White could maneuver patiently on the Queenside, hoping to advance his extra pawn, but he prefers a quick strike against Black's King.

18. ... Qe8 19. Bh3 Rc7



20. Nxf7!? Kxf7 21. Be6+ Kf8

Not 21. ... Kf6? 22. e5+!, mating.

22. Qe2 Nd7

Forced. Black cannot stand 22. ... Bxc3? 23. Bh6+ Bg7 24. Qf3+ or 22. ... Qb8? 23. Qf3+ Bf6 24. Bh6+ Ke8 25. g4 g5 26. Qf5.

23. Qf3+ Nf6 24. g4 Bc8?

Giving back the piece is hopeless. Only 24. ... h6 25. h4 g5 or 24. ... g5 resists. The latter might continue 25. Bxg5 Bc8 26. e5!? dxe5 27. Bxc8 Rcxc8 28. d6 Qg6 29. dxe7+ Ke8 30. Bxf6 Qxf6 31. Qxf6 Bxf6 32. Nd5 Bxe7 (or 32. ... Rc6 33. b4!) 33. Nb6, when White's advantage may not be sufficient to insure a win.

25. g5 Rb7

The problem with 25. ... Bxe6 26. dxe6 Kg8 27. gxf6 Bxf6 is 28. Nd5.

26. gxf6 exf6 27. Bf4 Bxe6

Activating White's Rook, but neither 27. ... Qe7 28. Qg3 nor 27. ... Qd8 28. Qh3! h5 29. Bxc8 Rxc8 30. Qe6 Rd7 31. Nb5 saves Black.

28. dxe6 Qxe6 29. Rxd6 Qf7

Black drops more material with 29. ... Qe8 30. e5! Rf7 31. exf6, as 31. ... Bxf6 runs into 32. Rxf6! Rxf6 33. Bh6+ Kf7 34. Qb7+ Qe7 35. Qxa8.

30. Qd3! Nc7

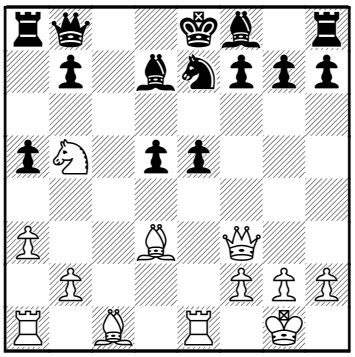
White refutes 30. ... Rba7 by 31. Nb5 Re7 32. Rxa6! Rxa6 33. Nd6 or 31. ... Rb7 32. Rd8+ Rxd8 33. Qxd8+ Qe8 34. Qxe8+ Kxe8 35. Nd6+.

31. Rd7 Qe6 32. Rxc7 Qxg4+ 33. Qg3, Black Resigns.

Another contender was this spectacular Rook sacrifice by Richard Borgen of *Mars Attacks*.

Richard Borgen (2250) – Anthony Ong (2035)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
C02 FRENCH DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 a5 7. Bd3 Bd7 8. 0–0 cxd4 9. cxd4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 Qxd4 11. Nc3 Ne7 12. Nb5 Qxe5 13. Re1 Qb8 14. Qf3 e5

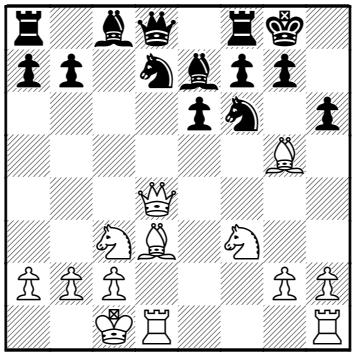


15. Rxe5 Qxe5 16. Bf4 Qxb2 17. Nd6+ Kd8 18. Nxf7+ Ke8 19. Nd6+ Kd8 20. Be5 d4 21. Nxb7+ Ke8 22. Nd6+ Kd8 23. Qxa8+ Nc8 24. Rb1 Qxa3 25. Nf7+ Ke8 26. Qf3 Rg8 27. Ng5 Qa2 28. Bxd4 Bb4 29. Ra1 Qd2 30. Qf7+ Kd8 31. Qxg8+ Kc7 32. Qc4+ Kd8 33. Nf3 1–0

Also deserving of mention was David Zimbeck's upset of Michael Casella.

David Zimbeck (2270) – Michael Casella (2330)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
D00 BLACKMAR-DIEMER GAMBIT

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 e6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. Qd2 0–0 8. 0–0–0 Nbd7 9. Bd3 c5 10. Qf4 cxd4 11. Qxd4 h6



12. Qh4 hxg5?

Too optimistic. Better was 12. … Nd5, e. g. 13. Nxd5 Bxg5+ 14. Nxg5 Qxg5+ 15. Qxg5 hxg5 16. Ne7+ Kh8 17. h4 g4.

13. Nxg5 g6

Interesting variations arise after 13. … Nh5 14. Bh7+ Kh8 15. Nce4 e6 16. g4 Qb6 17. gxh5 Qe3+ 18. Kb1 Bxg5 19. Nxg5 f6 20. hxg6 Qxg5 21. g7+! Kxg7 22. Rhg1

14. Qh6 Qb6 15. Rhf1 Bc5 16. Nce4 Be3+ 17. Kb1 e5 18. Rf3 1–0

Though clearly a bit rusty, GM William Lombardy – a former Team East champion and veteran of the 1960 World Student Team – had many tales to tell of the "good old days."

IM Jack Peters (2473) – GM William Lombardy (2507)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
C41 PHILIDOR'S DEFENSE

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nbd7 5. Bc4 Be7 6. 0–0 0–0 7. Re1 c6 8. a4 b6 9. Qe2 a6 10. Bg5 h6 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. d5 c5 13. Bd3 Be7 14. Nd2 Nf6 15. Nc4 Ne8 16. Rab1 Qc7 17. b4 Bd8 18. bxc5 Qxc5 19. Qe3 Qxe3 20. fxe3 b5 21. axb5 axb5 22. Nxb5 Ra6 23. Ra1 Be7 24. Na7 Rxa1 25. Rxa1 Bd7 26. Rb1 f5 27. Rb7 fxe4 28. Bxe4 Nf6 29. Bg6 Be8 30. Bxe8 Rxe8 31. Nc6 Bf8 32. Rb5 h5 33. h3

Prize Winners

1st: *Caltech*, 5-½-½
2nd: *The Knight the King Smacked My Bishop*, 5-1
3rd (*TB*): *Good Knight and Good Rook*, 4½-1½

U2100: *Zimbeck Is Dumb … Clawitter Rules*, 4½-1½
U2000: *Pleasantville*, 3½-2½
U1800: *We Love the Chronic .. What! … les of Narnia*, 3½-2½
U1600: *AAA* , 2½-3½
U1400: *USC Football Secondaries*, 2½-3½

College: *We're USC … Trophy, Please?*, 4½-1½
Junior: *The Cool Sacs Combo*, 4-2
Senior: *Los Angeles Angels of San Pedro*, 2½-3½

Board Prizes
1) Allan Pleasants (*Pleasantville*)
2) Eugene Yanayt (*Caltech*)
3) Gevorg Vardanyan (*Good Knight and Good Rook)*
4) Joshua Gutman (*Caltech*)
Alt: Aldrich Ong *(Chess Pals and Aces)*

Best Team Name: *Good Knight and Good Rook*
Honorable Mention: *Double, Isolated, Backward and Passed: Our Love Lives*, and *Dick Cheney's Hunting*

Scholastic:
1st: Excellence in Education, 4-0
2nd: Roth Team, 3½-½
3rd (TB): OC-Chess 1, 3-1

U1000: AAA West, 3-1
U800: Ivy Institute -- -Irvine, 2-2
U400/Unr: Cascade, 1½-2½

Individual Achievement: Kevin Gu, Ryan Vetter, Eric L. Huang, Hubert Jung, all 4-0

Second place went to **The Knight the King Smacked My Bishop** (Robby Adamson, Jonathan Cox, Leonardo Martinez, Sean Higgins).

Taking third on tiebreak were **Good Knight and Good Rook**. Pictured: Chris Lee, Mike Zaloznyy, Gevorg Vardanyan. Absent: Michael Casella.

Los Angeles Angels of San Pedro took the Senior Prize. Pictured: Jerry Hanken, Joe Wagner, Ron Hanoian.

1 Caltech (2196.8) W11 W9 W6 W8 W12 D3 5½
Patrick A Hummel (2439) 3.5
Eugene Yanayt (2312) 5.0
Howard Liu (2043) 3.5
Joshua Gutman (1993) 5.5

2 The Knight The King Smacked My Bishop (2163.3) W25 W13 L12 W7 W8 W9 5
Robby Adamson (2405) 4.5
Leonardo Martinez (2149) 5.0
Jonathan Cox (2074) 3.5
Sean K Higgins (2025) 5.0

3 Good Knight And Good Rook (2171.8) W18 D20 W17 W28 D5 D1 4½
Michael Casella (2330) 3.5
Mike Y Zaloznyy (2182) 2.5
Gevorg Vardanyan (2093) 5.5
Chris Lee (2082) 4.5

4 Mars Attacks (2119.8) W24 W26 L28 W19 W10 D5 4½
Richard L Borgen (2250) 4.0
Ike S Miller (2153) 3.5
Lawrence Stevens (2093) 2.0
Julio-Cesar Marin (1983) 3.5
Timothy Thompson (1905) 3.0

5 Zimbeck Is Dumb, ... Clawitter Rules . (2072.3) W38 W23 W14 D12 D3 D4 4½
David A Zimbeck (2270) 4.5
Craig Clawitter (2150) 5.0
Vanessa A West (2031) 3.5
David Cody Oldham (1838) 2.5

6 We're USC ... Trophy, Please? (2172.5) W37 W15 L1 D27 W16 W12 4½
IM Jack Peters (2473) 3.5
Etan J Ilfeld (2238) 4.0
Simon Nielsen (2066) 3.5
Craig Berger (1913) 1.0
Colin Field-Eaton (1907) 3.5

7 The Dreadful Fossae Of The Chessboard (2086.3) D35 W46 W20 L2 W27 W14 4½
Alaa-Addin Moussa (2223) 3.0
Ralph A Gholmieh (2135) 2.5
Mehrdad Miralaie (2055) 3.5
Rasool Bayati (1932) 2.5
Essam Mohamed (1890) 1.5

8 Orange County Chess Club (2193.8) W36 W27 W10 L1 L2 W19 4
Alexandre Kretchetov (2337) 3.5
Ilia V Serpik (2308) 4.0
Takashi Iwamoto (2264) 5.5
Michael R Carr (1866) 2.0

9 The Cool Sacs Combo (2034.8) W32 L1 W36 W26 W28 L2 4
Julian W Landaw (2132) 3.5
Christian Tanaka (2112) 3.5
Derek J Tan (1993) 5.5
Jared E Tan (1902) 4.0
Elston He (1883) 0.0

10 March Of The Pawnguins (2098.3) W30 W29 L8 W13 L4 W22 4
Eric F Chapa (2231) 2.0
Eric M Ferguson (2152) 2.5
Roger D Dellaca (2047) 5.0
Darrell Y Yap (1963) 3.0
Randy K Higa (1890) 2.5

11 SDCC Pawnderers (2117.5)
L1 W35 L19 W40 W15 W23 4
Ronald Bruno (2265) 3.0
Ulric E Aeria (2117) 2.0
Carey Milton (2079) 3.5
Ryan Richardson (2009) 5.0

12 A Priest And A Bishop (2196.5)
W19 W16 W2 D5 L1 L6 3½
GM William Lombardy (2507) 2.5
Craig Faber (2159) 1.5
Patrick Mihelich (2119) 4.0
Robert Feldstein Esq (2001) 4.0
Alan M Bishop (1920) 0.0

13 Gata Kamsky Reunion Tour Roadies (1937.8)
W34 L2 W18 L10 D24 W33 3½
Andrew C Lee (2282) 5.0
David W Taylor (1864) 2.5
Taylor A Curtis (1812) 4.0
Damon Mosk-Aoyama (1793) 4.0

14 Fil-Am Connection (2177.0)
W21 W31 L5 D16 W17 L7 3½
Hugo Villanueva (2290) 2.5
Jose Romero (2202) 2.0
Hermogenes Ramirez (2129) 3.5
Andre Felix (2087) 4.0
Aldrin J Vidal (1998) 2.0

15 Pleasantville (1952.0)
W39 L6 D21 W24 L11 W32 3½
Allan Pleasants (2356) 5.0
Randal Smolensky (1867) 3.0
Antonio Lucero (1866) 3.0
Leonel P Campoy (1719) 3.5

16 The Fighting Roustabouts (2033.0)
W41 L12 W23 D14 L6 W21 3½
IM Timothy W Taylor (2359) 4.0
Dennis Uchimura (2039) 4.0
Robert Hutchinson (2031) 4.0
Jeff A Yee (1703) 1.5

17 End Of The Pawn Chain (2004.0)
W40 D28 L3 W39 L14 W29 3½
John R Williams (2124) 3.5
Matthew Robertson (2075) 3.0
Chris Roberts (1970) 4.0
James D Castro (1847) 3.0

18 We Love The Chronic ... What! ... les of Narnia (1706.5) L3 W44 L13 D33 W39 W27 3½
Kevin M Sevilla (2006) 4.0
Chris Alarcon (1752) 4.0
Jeff Lindley (1618) 3.0
Donald Dabdub (1450) 2.0

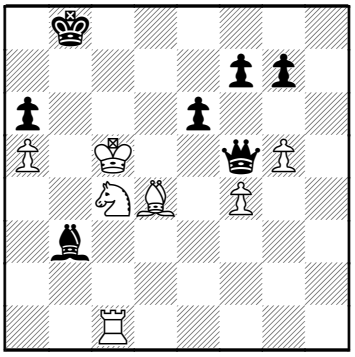
19 The G-File Units (1801.3)
L12 W41 W11 L4 W31 L8 3
Jeremy A Stein (2000) 3.5
Zachary Witten (1844) 4.5
Nisha Deolalikar (1795) 2.5
Sunil Deolalikar (1566) 2.0

20 Peter Piper Picked A Poison Pawn (1923.5)
W44 D3 L7 D21 L22 W36 3
Dane Hinrichsen (2000) 1.0
Dave E Matson (1963) 4.0
L Gordon Brooks (1900) 3.5
John R Anderson (1831) 4.5

g5 34. Nd2 g4 35. c4 Kf7 36. Kf2 Kg6 37. h4 Ra8 1–0, time

Etan Ilfeld (2238) – Dennis Uchimura (2039)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
B90 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f3 Qb6 7. Nb3 Qc7 8. Be3 Nc6 9. g4 h6 10. Be2 e6 11. f4 b6 12. Bf3 Bb7 13. Qe2 Be7 14. a4 Nd7 15. h4 Bf6 16. Kf2 0–0–0 17. Qd2 Nc5 18. Kg2 Kb8 19. g5 Be7 20. Qf2 Nb4 21. a5 b5 22. Nd4 d5 23. e5 Ne4 24. Bxe4 dxe4 25. Nb3 hxg5 26. hxg5 Nd3 27. Rxh8 Nxf2 28. Rxd8+ Bxd8 29. Kxf2 b4 30. Na4 Qxc2+ 31. Nd2 Bc6 32. Nc5 Bb5 33. b3 Be7 34. Ncxe4 Bc6 35. Nd6 Bxd6 36. exd6 Qd3 37. Rc1 Qxd6 38. Ke2 Qd5 39. Nc4 Qg2+ 40. Kd3 Be4+ 41. Kd4 Bc2 42. Kc5 Qd5+ 43. Kxb4 Qb5+ 44. Kc3 Qxb3+ 45. Kd4 Qd3+ 46. Kc5 Bb3 47. Bd4 Qf5+



48. Be5+ Ka7 49. Nd6 Qd3 50. Rc3 Qd5+ 51. Kb4 Bd1 52. Nc8+ Kb7 53. Rc7+ Kb8 54. Rc5+ Kb7 55. Rxd5 1–0

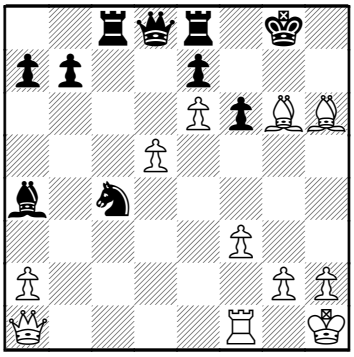
Neil Bershad (1951) – Mehrdad Miralaie (2055)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
B24 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nge2 e6 6. d3 Nge7 7. Be3 Nd4 8. Nf4 d6 9. Qd2 Rb8 10. 0–0 0–0 11. Nd1 b5 12. c3 b4 13. Nh3 Ndc6 14. f4 f5 15. Kh1 Bb7 16. e5 h6 17. Ng1 Nd5 18. Bf2 bxc3 19. bxc3 Qe7 20. d4 cxd4 21. cxd4 dxe5 22. dxe5 Rfd8 23. Qc1 Bf8 24. Ne3 Ncb4 25. Nxd5 Bxd5 26. Bxd5 Rxd5 27. h3 Qb7 28. Kh2 Nd3 29. Qc2 Qb2 30. Qxb2 Rxb2 31. Kg2 Bc5 0–1

Andrew Lee (2282) – Eric Chapa (2231)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
D89 GRÜNFELD DEFENSE, Exchange Variation

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bc4 c5 8. Ne2 0–0 9. 0–0 Nc6 10. Be3 Bg4 11. f3 Na5 12. Bd3 cxd4 13. cxd4 Be6 14. d5 Bxa1 15. Qxa1 f6 16. Kh1 Bd7 17. Bh6 Re8 18. e5 Rc8 19. Nf4 Nc4 20. e6 Ba4 21. Nxg6 hxg6 22. Bxg6

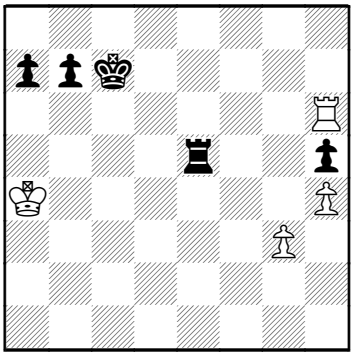
Amazingly enough, we are still in the book. Black's next is an error, losing at once. The correct reply is supposed to be 22. … Ne5, which is now thought to lead to a draw(!)



22. ... Qa5 23. Bf7+ Kh8 24. Qd4 Bc2 25. Qh4 Bh7 26. Bd2 1–0

IM Tim Taylor (2359) – IM Jack Peters (2473)
USAT West, San Pedro 2006
E79 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, Four Pawns Attack

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f4 0–0 6. Nf3 c5 7. Be2 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nc6 9. Be3 Bg4 10. Nxc6 Bxe2 11. Nxd8 Bxd1 12. Nxf7 Rxf7 13. Rxd1 Ng4 14. Bc1 Rc8 15. h3 Bxc3+ 16. bxc3 Nf6 17. e5 Ne4 18. Rd4 Nxc3 19. Bd2 dxe5 20. fxe5 Na4 21. Ke2 Rf5 22. Bf4 Nc5 23. g3 g5 24. Be3 Rxe5 25. Rd5 Rxd5 26. cxd5 Ne4 27. Kd3 Nf6 28. Bxg5 Nxd5 29. Kd4 Nb4 30. Rb1 Nc6+ 31. Ke4 Rc7 32. Rf1 Nd8 33. h4 Nf7 34. Be3 Rc4+ 35. Kd5 Ra4 36. Rc1 Nd6 37. Bg5 Kf7 38. Rf1+ Ke8 39. Re1 Ra5+ 40. Kd4 Nf5+ 41. Kc4 h6 42. Bf4 Rxa2 43. Re5 Nd6+ 44. Kb3 Ra6 45. Re6 Rb6+ 46. Ka2 h5 47. Rh6 Rb5 48. Bxd6 exd6 49. Rxd6 Re5 50. Rh6 Kd7 51. Kb3 Kc7 52. Ka4



52. ... a6 53. Kb4 a5+ 54. Ka4 b6 55. Rg6 Kb7 56. Rg5 Re4+ 57. Ka3 Ka6 58. Rxh5 Re3+ 59. Kb2 Rxg3 60. Rh8 Rh3 61. h5 Kb5 62. h6 Kb4 63. h7 b5 64. Kc2 a4 65. Kb2 a3+ 66. Kc2 Rh2+ 67. Kc1 a2 68. Ra8 Kb3 69. Ra5 b4 70. Ra7 Rxh7 0–1

21 L.O.T (Lots Of Topalov) (1760.5)
L14 W43 D15 D20 W26 L16 3
Joel F Johnson (2200) 4.5
Walter Schreiner (1702) 2.5
Phillip Terrill (1623) 2.5
Austin J Terrill (1517) 2.0

22 Trojan Horsies (USC) (1771.8)
L28 W32 L27 W41 W20 L10 3
Danyul Lawrence (2053) 3.5
Reza Gholizadeh (1757) 2.0
Leland T Farrar (1678) 2.5
Madhav Vajapeyam (1599) 2.0
Henrik Makaliwe (Unr.) 1.0

23 School Of Rook (1796.8)
W46 L5 L16 W35 W38 L11 3
John Daniel Bryant (2000) 3.5
Michael A Yee (1864) 3.0
Vincent Huang (1779) 3.5
Armen Samuelian (1544) 1.5

24 It Runs In The Family (1686.3)
L4 W45 W29 L15 D13 D31 3
Christopher Slupik (2106) 3.5
Billy Slupik (1697) 4.0
Scott Slupik (1635) 1.5
Ben Slupik (1307) 1.5

25 Vera Menchik Brigade "A" (1696.5)
L2 W34 L31 L29 W45 W38 3
Colette Mc Gruder (1829) 2.0
Elisha Garg (1826) 3.0
Elizabeth Shaughnessy (1587) 2.5
Julie Timokhina (1544) 4.0

26 Chess Pals and Aces (1840.8)
W45 L4 W38 L9 L21 W35 3
Anthony Ong (2035) 3.0
Jerry Maxwell (1872) 2.0
Stephen A Boak (1831) 2.5
Aldrich Ong (1625) 4.0

27 Schach And Law (1981.8)
W33 L8 W22 D6 L7 L18 2½
Jeff M Klein (2087) 3.5
Edward Townsend (1966) 2.5
Neil J Bershad (1951) 2.0
Jerome A Levin (1923) 5.5

28 Oh, Brother! (2181.3) W22 D17 W4 L3 L9 U-- 2½
Eduardo N Ortiz (2359) 2.5
Joel Cholo Banawa (2287) 4.0
Takashi Kurosaki (2121) 2.5
Lonnie Neal (1958) 2.5
Eric Zhang (1641) 0.0

29 Chesspalace GMs 2.b.1. (A.1.2.b.1.2) (1861.5)
W42 L10 L24 W25 D32 L17 2½
R C Rice (2002) 3.0
Wayne K Griffin (1913) 2.5
Joseph Scherzinger (1849) 3.5
Ryan Yeung (1682) 4.0

30 Desperate Wood Pushers (1632.5)
L10 D39 L40 W34 L33 W41 2½
Joseph L Roth (1830) 1.5
Joshua Freeland (1755) 3.0
Michael R Bynum (1519) 3.0
Excell L Peoples (1426) 1.0
Stewart H Yanez (1345) 4.0

31 Los Angeles Angels Of San Pedro (1940.5)
W43 L14 W25 U-- L19 D24 2½
Jerome B Hanken (2200) 1.5
Ronald V Hanoian (1981) 2.5
Douglas W Sefton (1800) 2.0
Robert J M Dietz (1781) 3.0
Jacob Alon (1774) 1.0
Joseph Wagner (1690) 0.0

32 AAA 3 (1556.5)
L9 L22 W43 W37 D29 L15 2½
Santy Wong (1906) 3.0
Danil Fedunov (1532) 3.0
Brendyn Estolas (1484) 2.0
Eva Keshishian (1304) 0.0
Omar Wiseman (1298) 1.0

33 USC Football Secondaries (1323.3)
L27 L36 W42 D18 W30 L13 2½
John G Garvey (1451) 1.5
Nate J Houk (1367) 0.0
M. Diekhoff (1152) 0.0
Riddhi Shah (Unr.) 3.0
Benjie De Vera (Unr.) 3.0

34 Chesspalace Knights In Squared Armor (1381.5)
L13 L25 W45 L30 D42 W40 2½
William H Warren (1488) 1.5
Alev Karadayi (1463) 1.0
Alfred T Ong (1377) 5.0
Kele D Perkins (1198) 0.0
Carlton Mason (1099) 2.0
Travis Hatley (Unr.) 0.0

35 AAA Second To Nunn (1618.0)
D7 L11 D37 L23 W43 L26 2
Nathaniel Lagemann (1707) 0.5
Melinda M West (1683) 3.0
Michael Ambartsoumian (1622) 1.5
Ryan P Polsky (1460) 2.5
Aram Kavoukjian (1281) 2.0

36 All Ranks Lead To Chess Palace (1791.5)
L8 W33 L9 L38 W40 L20 2
Randall D Hough (2000) 2.0
Dingchao Lu (1875) 2.5
Sandy He (1650) 2.5
Eric R Zhang (1641) 3.5

37 Be A Champion (1740.3)
L6 D40 D35 L32 D41 D39 2
Barry J Lazarus (1922) 2.5
Peter Holzer (1700) 2.5
Christopher Zalecki (1688) 0.5
Robert Escalante (1651) 4.0

38 Doubled, Isolated, Backward, And Passed: Our Love Lives (1580.3)
L5 W42 L26 W36 L23 L25 2
Aezed S Raza (1668) 1.0
Daniel Gertmenian (1588) 3.0
Stanley C Chao (1538) 2.5
Carey Fan (1527) 1.5

39 Pawn Cheneys (1398.0)
L15 D30 W46 L17 L18 D37 2
Michael Purcell (1764) 2.0
Bill Conrad (1686) 2.0
Michael P Sierze (1274) 2.0
Sam W Bowman (868) 3.0
David Zuckman (862) 0.0

40 Four Spicks and Span-ish (1427.8)
L17 D37 W30 L11 L36 L34 1½
Antonio C Martin (2100) 2.5
Jose Gomez (1750) 2.5
Bonifacio Lara (1250) 2.5
Joseph Calderon (611) 0.0

41 Dick Cheney's Hunting Buddies (1517.0)
L16 L19 W44 L22 D37 L30 1½
Jay S Stallings (2034) 3.0
Cheston Gunawan (1408) 0.5
Jackson Stallings (1387) 2.0
Tymothy Belanger (1239) 2.0

42 Vera Menchik Brigade "B" (1156.5)
L29 L38 L33 D43 D34 D44 1½
Stephanie Pitcher (1744) 3.5
Katharine Kormanik (1334) 4.0
Monica Ness (931) 0.0
Debra R Rothman (617) 0.5

43 Ratner Team (1389.0)
L31 L21 L32 D42 L35 W45 1½
Ed Ratner (1737) 2.0
Cleofas Rojas (1392) 1.5
Daniel Bagliazo (1386) 3.0
Sapphire Ratner (1041) 3.0

44 Reggie Bush Is Our Backup (USC) (1255.5)
L20 L18 L41 L45 B-- D42 1½
Nick Matelli (1591) 1.5
Munchul Shin (1265) 4.0
Martin Diekhoff (1152) 1.0
William Wong (1014) 2.5

45 Jeet Kune Do (1069.3)
L26 L24 L34 W44 L25 L43 1
Marcos Perez (1200) 0.0
Miguel Contreras (1145) 2.0
Roberto Zuchini (1086) 2.0
Jesse Moya (846) 1.5

46 AAA 1 (2196.0)
L23 L7 L39 U-- U-- U-- 0
Garush Manukyan (2412) 1.0
Minas Nordanyan (2205) 0.5
Alen Melikadamian (2157) 1.0
Harut Keshishian (2010) 0.5

Top Junior team was **The Cool Sacs Combo** (Jared Tan, Julian Landaw, Christian Tanaka, Derek Tan).

4th Annual

Western Pacific Open

IM Enrico Sevillano

IM Nikolay Andrianov

FM Emory Tate

IM Andranik Matikozyan

Though attendance was off a bit this year, the Western Pacific Open continues to be among the strongest tournaments in Southern California. The fourth edition of this now-traditional event, held at the LAX Hilton April 14-16, counted five IMs in the 96-player field.

Tying for first with 4-1 were IMs Enrico Sevillano, Andranik Matikozyan and Nikolay Andrianov, along with visiting FM Emory Tate. Andrianov and Matikozyan led the field by a half-point after four rounds, and a battle was expected for the $200 "clear first bonus." But they chose to play the percentages, enabling Sevillano and Tate to catch up.

The other sections all featured clear winners, as Steven Morford scored 4½-½ in the Premier (U2000), and Gregory Roudebush did the same in the Amateur (U1400). In the Sunday scholastics, Maxwell Chou scored 4-1 in the Open, while Terrence Sun topped the Reserve with 4½. Allan Duldulao topped the Hexes with 2½-½. John Hillery directed.

The Best Game prize went to IM Melikset Khachiyan. Notes by *Los Angeles Times* chess columnist Jack Peters.

IM Melikset Khachiyan (2539) – Show Kitagami (2128)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
A45 VERESOV ATTACK

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 c5 3. Bg5 cxd4 4. Qxd4 Nc6 5. Qh4 e6 6. 0–0–0

White develops very rapidly, but Black's position remains solid.

6. ... Be7 7. e4 d6 8. f4 Qa5 9. Bb5 0–0?

Castling into trouble. The correct 9. … Bd7 10. Nf3 h6 makes 11. … 0-0-0 a real threat.

10. Nf3

Threatening 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. e5.

10. ... h6

Black has little choice. He can barely move after 10. … e5 11. f5.

11. Bxh6! gxh6

Forced, as 11. … Nxe4 loses too much material to 12. Qg4 g6 13. Nxe4 Qxb5 14. Bxf8.

12. Qxh6

Intending 13. Ng5. If 12. … Nh7, then 13. h4! renews the threat.

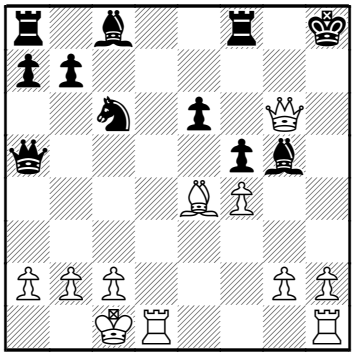
12. ... Nxe4

Only 12. … Ng4 13. Qh3 f5 resists. Nevertheless, White's attack appears decisive after 14. exf5 exf5 15. Rhe1.

13. Bd3! d5

No better is 13. … f5 14. Nxe4 fxe4 15. Qg6+ Kh8 16. Bxe4 Rf5 17. g4, or 13. … Nf6 14. Ng5 (threatening 15. Nce4) d5 15. Bh7+ Kh8 16. Bf5+ Kg8 17. Rd3.

14. Nxe4 dxe4 15. Bxe4 f5 16. Qg6+ Kh8 17. Ng5 Bxg5



18. Rd3!

More convincing, and much more spectacular, than 18. Qh5+ Kg7 19. Qxg5+ Kf7 20. Bf3 Rh8.

18. ... Bh4?!

Black can only delay mate by 18…. Bxf4+ 19. Kb1 Qxa2+ 20. Kxa2 Nb4+, but it won't change the result.

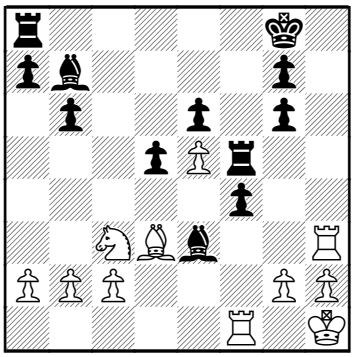
19. Rg3! Qc7 20. Qh6+ 1–0

An impressive performance, especially for a 75-minute game.

Marian Nick Nita (2123) – IM Tim Taylor (2374)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
A80 DUTCH DEFENSE, Stonewall Variation

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 f5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 d5 5. Bxf6 Qxf6 6. Qd2 Be7 7.

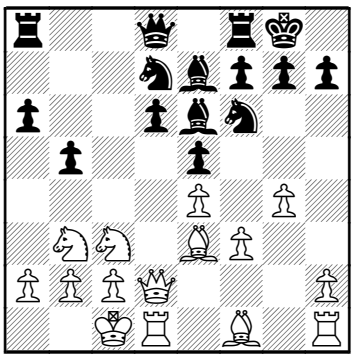
Ne5 0–0 8. f4 c5 9. e3 Nc6 10. Be2 Nxe5 11. fxe5 Qh6 12. 0–0 cxd4 13. Qxd4 b6 14. Rf3 Bc5 15. Qd3 f4 16. Raf1 Bb7 17. Rh3 Bxe3+ 18. Kh1 Qg6 19. Qxg6 hxg6 20. Bd3 Rf5



21. Bxf5 gxf5 22. Rh4 d4 23. Nd1 Rc8 24. c3 dxc3 25. bxc3 Rd8 26. Nxe3 fxe3 27. Rd4 Rc8 28. Rc1 Rc5 29. Rd8+ Kh7 30. Rd7 Bc6 31. Rxa7 Rd5 32. c4 Rd2 33. Rg1 Rxg2 0–1

IM Melikset Khachiyan (2549) – IM Andranik Matikozyan (2543)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
B90 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Najdorf Variation

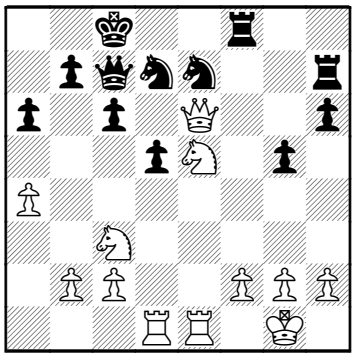
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. Qd2 Nbd7 9. f3 Be7 10. 0–0–0 0–0 11. g4 b5



12. Nd5 Bxd5 13. exd5 Nb6 14. Bxb6 Qxb6 ½–½

Mike Zaloznyy (2085) – Allan Pleasants (2362)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
B06 IRREGULAR DEFENSE

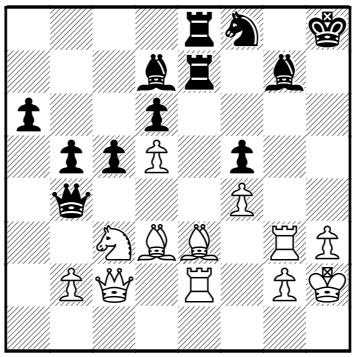
1. e4 g6 2. d4 c6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Nf3 d6 5. Be2 Bg4 6. 0–0 Nd7 7. Ng5 Bxe2 8. Qxe2 h6 9. Nf3 Qc7 10. a4 e6 11. Be3 Ne7 12. Qd2 g5 13. d5 a6 14. dxe6 fxe6 15. Rad1 d5 16. exd5 exd5 17. Rfe1 0–0–0 18. Bd4 Bf6 19. Qe2 Rh7 20. Bxf6 Nxf6 21. Qe6+ Nd7 22. Ne5 Rf8



23. Ne4 Kd8 24. Nxd7 Qxd7 25. Nc5 Qc8 26. Qd6+ Ke8 27. Qg6+ Rhf7 28. Rxe7+ Kxe7 29. Re1+ 1–0

Eugene Yanayt (2313) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2548)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
A65 MODERN BENONI DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. f3 a6 8. a4 Bg7 9. Be3 0–0 10. Nge2 Re8 11. Ng3 h5 12. Be2 Nbd7 13. 0–0 Rb8 14. Qd2 Nf8 15. h3 Bd7 16. a5 h4 17. Nh1 Nh5 18. f4 Ng3 19. Nxg3 hxg3 20. Bd3 f5 21. Rae1 Qxa5 22. exf5 gxf5 23. Rf3 Re7 24. Rxg3 Rbe8 25. Kh2 b5 26. Qd1 Qb4 27. Qc2 Kh8 28. Re2



Continued on page 24 ...

Prize Winners

Open

1st-4th: IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Nikolay Andrianov, Emory Tate, 4-1; **5th:** IM Melikset Khachiyan, 3½-1½; **U2400:** Joel Banawa, 3½-1½; **U2300:** Gregg Small, 3-2; **U2200: 1st:** Takashi Kurosaki, 3½-1½; **2nd-3rd:** Trevor Jackson, Christopher Slupik, Show Kitagami, Marian Nick Nita, Joshua Gutman, Jeremy Stein, 3-2.

Premier

1st: Steven Morford, 4½-½; **2nd-3rd**: Mark Wisniezski, Edimero Grefiel, 4-1; **4th**: Michael Yee, Sarkis Kasamanian, Vincent Huang, David Cody Oldham, Jim Chao, 3½-1½; **U1800**: Eric Zhang, Michael Rocke, Richard Ding, Peter Joseph, Mike Maready, 3-2; **U1600: 1st:** Ed Isler, 3-2; **2nd**: John Rowe, 2½-2½; **3rd**: Michael Bynum, Ryan Polsky, Ben Slupik, 2-3.

Amateur

1st: Gregory Roudebush, 4½-½; **2nd**: Grant Yosenick, 4-1; **3rd**: Dax Tucker, Ricahrd Smairat, 3½-1½; **U1200**: Daniel Shaw, 2½-2½; **Unrated**: Dinh Tu Richard Truong, 3-2.

Scholastic

Open: 1st: Maxwell Chou, 4-1; **2nd-3rd**: Adam Roth, Eric Yang, 3½-1½; **4th-5th**: Dennis Neymit, Zacahry Hall, 3-2; **U1200: 1st-2nd**: Benjamin Brown, Alexander Dyer, 2½-2½; **3rd**: Adam Tucker, 2-3; **Unrated: 1st**: Orion Gullett, 2-3; **2nd**: Adrian Urias, 0-5.

Reserve: 1st: Marlon Merjos, 4½-½; **2nd-4th**: Vincent Kee, Arian Chang, Kenneth Zhou, 4-1; **5th**: Wesley Liu, 3½-1½; **U700: 1st-2nd**: Anderson Ju, Darren Chow, 3-2; **3rd**: Jamal Moon, 2½-2½; **Unrated: 1st**: Dustin Kee, 3-2; **2nd**: Christop[her Siegrist, 2-3.

Hexes

1st: Allan Duldulao, 2½-½; **2nd-4th**: Gregory Hall, Amit Reichman, Werner Belke, 2-1.

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

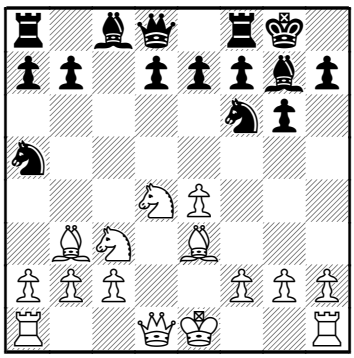
Opening chess tactics has to be one of the most enjoyable as well as important aspects for any chess player. It cannot be emphasized enough about the criticality of being careful and as accurate as possible during the first few moves of any game. It's well known that there are basically three traditional phases to the game of chess. There's the opening, middlegame and endgame. Computers are helping to extend the numbers of moves that establish the typical opening phase for many different lines. However, this is primarily seen at the top level since there are so many subvariations that many amateurs still do not understand.

Beginners have a long way to go before truly grasping the deep fundamentals for most openings. There's been an ongoing debate by chess instructors over which of at least 2 phases beginners should primarily focus on. For the students I teach I keep things simple and focus on basic "endgame principles" first. I employ my favorite learning tool called the "Pawn's Game" where all you have are pawns to move. The player who first gets a pawn across the board to the eighth rank is the winner. No Kings or other pieces are used in the game. The move *en passant* is learned as well as other basic concepts such as how to create a passed pawn and what constitutes a draw. This is "chess" teaching at its simplest form, which makes for a fun, less complex and less intimidating way of learning for many people.

The Pawn's Game and chess learning is expanded by adding the Kings, then a Knight, etc., but the winner is still determined by who "promotes" a Pawn first. Don't laugh, as you'd be surprised at how much strategy goes into the Pawn's Game. Teaching students how to use their Kings to go and gobble up pawns, as well as defend, is much easier than at first explaining how to combat White opening with 1. e4 using the Sicilian Defense. Depending on the learning speed of the student eventually all the pieces are set up and the student is ready to play a "real game" of chess. Over the years, I've discovered students to be less discouraged and apt to stick to the game and improve much faster with this simple method of learning chess. Once the beginner has a solid fundamental understanding for how to move the pieces and strategize an idea, I then focus on the opening phase and the multitude of various lines.

The opening is a fight for time, the control of territory and search for material gain. By studying openings, you quickly discover the importance of chess tactics and what can happen if a slight mistake occurs. From this you learn the significance of following basic opening principles to avoid making early and costly blunders. Look at the following example that arises from the Sicilian Dragon: **1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0-0 8. Bb3 Na5?!** Black's last move is suspect at best. How would you continue?

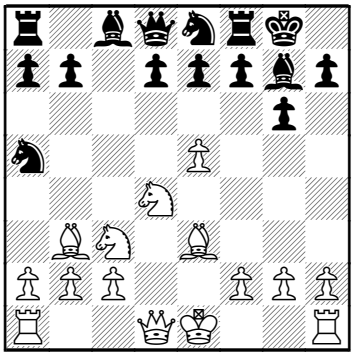
Position No. 1. White to move.



Black has violated some basic opening principles like moving pieces twice, decentralization, and failing to develop and open lines. 8. … d6 was a better move as this controls space and activates the Bishop on c8. The move 8. … Na5, which serves to capture the sometimes annoying and pesky White Bishop in the line, can be exploited tactically. Do you see how? White continues **9. e5! Ne8?** (note: If 9. … Nh4, then 10. g4 wins for White as the Black Knight is trapped. Not as bad is 9.

… Nxb3, but White will gain the upper hand with 10. exf6 Nxa1 11. fxg7 Nxc2+ 12. Nxc2 Kxg7 and White is clearly better, with 2 pieces for the Rook (White's active minor pieces will dominate the middlegame).

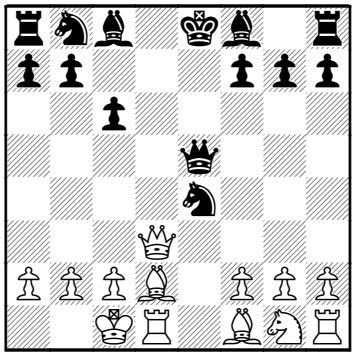
Position No. 2. White to move. Do you see the winning plan?



White wins with **10. Bxf7+! Rxf7** (If 10. … Kxf7, then 11. Ne6!! Kxe6 12. Qd5+ Kf5 13. g4+ Kxg4 14. Rg1+ and mate will follow in a few moves. And if 10. … Kg8, then 11. Ne6! and White wins, for the Queen is trapped.) **11. Ne6!** (exploiting the pin on the d-file) **Qc7 12. Nxc7 Nxc7 13. f4,** and White has very comfortable material advantage and should win with prudent play.

In the next example Black pays dearly for being outright greedy instead of being at least a bit suspicious. The opening is a line from the Caro-Kann Defense: **1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Qd3 e5?!** (Interesting for sure … but wait and let's see how White responds to this.) **6. dxe5 Qa5+ 7. Bd2 Qxe5 8. 0-0-0 Nxe4?** Did White make a mistake by castling or has Black underestimated White's plan? Many players often accept gambits that include pawns and material in the opening and then find themselves totally losing after just a few more moves. In this case the penalty is much worse –the game ends with a jolt! See Position No. 3, with White to move. What would you do?

Position No. 3. White to move.

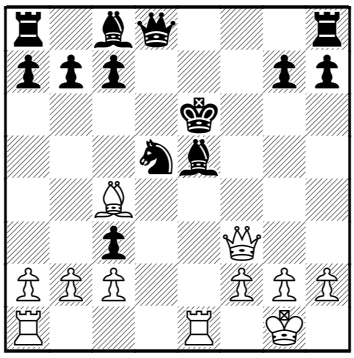


White wins with **9. Qd8+!! Kxd8 10. Bg5+** (a devastating double check!) **Kc7 11. Bd8#**. Nothing is more shocking than seeing this kind of quick victory at the highest levels of chess competition. However, if you search history, you'll discover that Reti caught Tartakower with this very line, at Vienna in 1910.

In our next example you see how a slight opening mistake can end up taking you for a wild, irritable and defensive ride for the rest of the game.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 (this is the Two Knights Defense) **4. d4** White's strategy and approach against this defensive arrangement is to open lines and provide a clearance for the White pawn at e5 to advance. **4. … exd4 5. Ng5 d5** (if instead 5. … Ne5, then 6. Bb3 h6 7. f4 with an interesting fight) **6. exd5 Nxd5?!** – and there it is, an opening mistake that allows White to expose the Black King. For those familiar with this line, better, of course is 6. … Na5. The game continued **7. 0-0 Be7 8. Nxf7!** Of course. There's no turning back now. **8. … Kxf7 9. Qf3+ Ke6** If 9. … Ke8, then 10. Bxd5 Ne5 11. Qe4 with a dominating position, for White has pressure on the e-file which will become overwhelming. **10. Nc3!** a clever deflection and introducing more pressure on the pin at d5; thus giving Black no time to regroup or solidify. **10. … dxc3 11. Re1+ Ne5 12. Bf4** White's strategy is straightforward, that is, to pile up pressure along the open e-file – as the Black King is stuck in the center and any attempts to move away don't make things any easier. **12. … Bf6 13. Bxe5 Bxe5** Black has just about neutralized White's pressure. To succeed, White must continue forcefully.

Position No. 4. White to move.

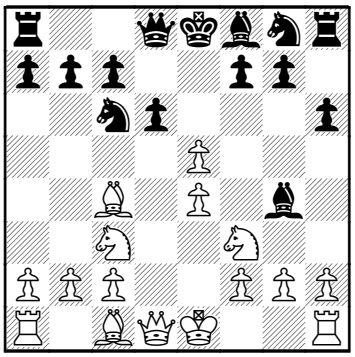


White forces home the victory with **14. Rxe5+ Kxe5 15. Re1+ Kd4 16. Bxd5 Re8 17. Qd3+ Kc5 18. b4+ Kxb4 19. Qc4+ Ka5 20. Qxc3+ Ka4 21. Qb3+ Ka5 22. Qa3+ Kb5 23. Rb1#.**

It has been said that tactics are what you use when there's something to do in a particular position. Strategy is what's employed when there is nothing "clear cut" to do. In the opening phase of chess it's very important to understand the underlying principles so as to capitalize on even the smallest mistake your opponents may make. So strategy and tactics are always a part of the opening. As the examples from this article show, sound play involves sticking to fundamentals. Develop your pieces as fast as possible, avoid moving pieces twice, play to dominate the center of the board, safeguard your King by castling early and seize to open lines. Sticking to these rules will keep you out of trouble, strengthen your game and lead you to many more victories.

Improving your ability to calculate and visualize tactical combinations takes practice. Tactical problem solving will help in this development. The opening phase is one of the most important to understand and tactics play a very important part of almost all opening lines and variations. The following opening tactical exercises will test your awareness. Avoid moving the pieces when solving problems so as to strengthen your over-the-board play. Be alert, play sharp and always remember to do your **safety check**. Good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 25.

Position No. 1. Black to move.

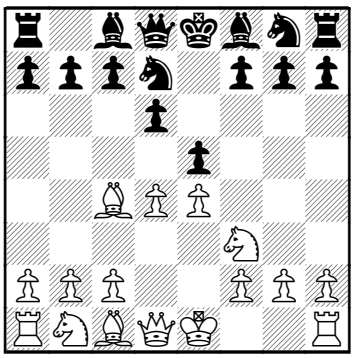


a) 1. ... Nxe5 is correct and Black will equalize.

b) 1. ... Nxe5 is incorrect

Prove your answer with a variation.

Problem No. 2. Black to play.

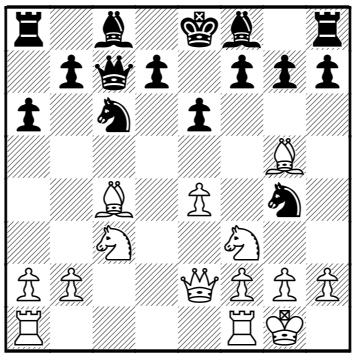


a) 1. ... Be7 is correct and leads to equal play.

b) 1. ... Be7 is incorrect

Validate your choice with a variation.

Problem No. 3. White to move.

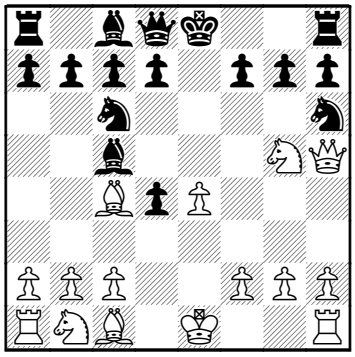


a) 1. h3 gains time and White has good compensation for the pawn.

b) 1. h3 is a mistake.

Prove your answer with a variation.

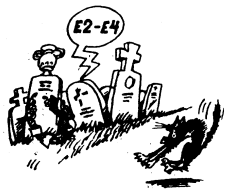
Problem No. 4. Black to move.



a) 1. ... Ne5 is correct and will help to solidify the Black fortress.

b) 1. ... Ne5 is incorrect

Prove your answer with a variation.



... contiued from page 4

Section champions were:

K-9 Championship: Ray S. Robson (FL) scored 6½.

K-9 Under 1250: Krystof Mezgiel (NY) and James Matthew Novak (NC) tied with 6½.

K-9 Unrated: Kayeen Kemp (MI) finished with a perfect score 7.0.

K-8 Championship: Thomas Henry Riccardi (NY) finished 6½.

K-8 Under 1000: Dylan Liu Chen (NY) had a perfect score of 7.0.

K-8 Under 750: Michael Peguero (NY) perfect score 7.0.

Team Competition winner were:

K-9 Championship: Hunter College (NY) won with 17.0.

K-9 Under 1250: I.S.318 (NY) finished with 23.0.

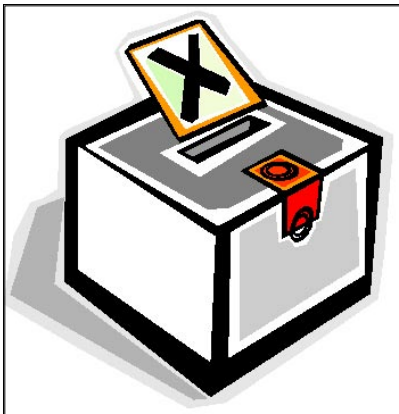
K-9 Unrated: Middle School 118 (NY) won with 22½.

K-8 Championship: Odle Middle School (WA) finished with 19½.

K-8 Under 1000: Rockway Middle School (FL) won with 23.0.

K-8 Under 750: I.S. 318 9 (NY) finished with 24½.

USCF's Scholastic Director Jerry Nash said, "As I walked the tournament halls throughout the weekend, I received numerous compliments about how smoothly the event was run. This, of course, is due in large part to the fine staff headed by the USCF's Event Coordinator, Diane Reese. The skills and experience of these men and women are deeply appreciated by the scholastic community. I also had the opportunity to meet with many of the coaches, teachers, and parents who attended the tournament. I was again reminded of the dedicated adults from across the country who invest so much time throughout the year. They not only provide consistency for their programs, but more importantly they make an enormous impact on the lives of their students." *– USCF news release*



RANDY HOUGH

FOR U.S. CHESS FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

USCF voters (members at least 16 years of age) will be filling two vacancies on the Executive Board, with candidate statements and ballots included in the June *Chess Life*. Most of you know me, and I hope to earn your vote.

My credentials include National Tournament Director, International Arbiter, membership on several USCF committees (publications, TD certification, and bylaws), and participation in 22 Delegates meetings over the years. I'm an organizer, scholastic coach, longtime SCCF board member, president of the Pasadena Club, have published many articles in *Chess Life*, and served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Chess Journalists of America for the past ten years.

Also, having worked as technical director in the USCF office for three years during the Eighties and served on the Board for three years in the Nineties, I have a good understanding of how things work (or sometimes don't). My non-chess activities include being president of my homeowners association.

Though generally supportive of the Board majority elected last year, I would like to add the perspective of an active player. (I'm a former Master.) My number of rated games in 2005 approached 200; the current Board members averaged fewer than ten.

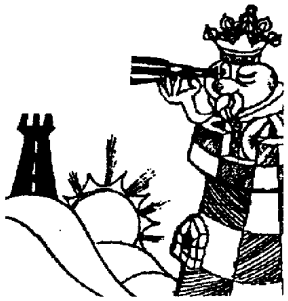
My retirement last year from my job as a government affairs representative for the City of LA gives me more time to devote to the game that has meant so much to me, and I'm eager to serve. I'll be addressing the issues and responding to questions raised by members (send to randallhough@yahoo.com) on my website, www.randyhough.com.

Thanks for considering my candidacy.

Randy Hough

(advertisment)

Here & There



La Palma Chess Club

In February, IM Tim Taylor scored 6-1 to take first prize in the Cardinal Medical Group Open at the La Palma Chess Club. Mick Bighamian and Robert Hutchinson (the only players who to hold Taylor to a draw) shared second with 5½ - 1½. Chris Roberts, tournament sponsor Dr. Harold Valery, Jeff Yee, Chris Zalecki, Tony Gray and Aron Hochhauser received class prizes in the 36-player tournament. Joe Tishy took the upset prize for an upset of 637 points.

Taylor also won the Best Game prize. Notes by *Los Angeles Times* chess columnist Jack Peters.

IM Tim Taylor – Harutyun Akopyan
Cardinal Medical Group Open
E59 La Palma, 2006

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 d5 5. e3 0-0 6. Bd3 c5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. a3 Bxc3 9. bxc3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 Qc7

A Nimzo-Indian Defense *tabiya*.

11. Bb5

Preventing ... e6-e5. Other tries include 11. Bd3 and 11. Ba2.

11. … **Rd8 12. Qe2 Ne4?!**

Black should settle for 12. ... a6 13. Bd3 e5.

13. Bd3

Safer is 13. Qc2 Nd6 14. Bd3, but Taylor, a habitually aggressive attacker, invites Black to suffer with 13. ... Nxc3 14. Qc2 cxd4 15. exd4 Nd5 16. Bxh7+ Kf8 17. Be4.

13. ... Nf6 14. e4!?

Another bold decision.

14. ... e5?!

Meek. After 14. ... cxd4 15. e5 Ne8 16. cxd4 Nxd4 17. Nxd4 Rxd4 18. Bb2 Rd8 19. Qe4 g6, Black at least has a pawn for his troubles.

15. d5 Ne7 16. Nh4!

Strategically overwhelming. White intends f2-f4, opening the center and activating his dark-square Bishop.

16. ... Bg4

Also unpleasant is 16. ... Ne8 17. f4.

17 f3 Bh5

Temporarily restraining f2-f4, but Black has no real hope for activity.

18. c4 Re8

Not 18. ... Ng6?! 19. Nf5 Nf4? because 20. Bxf4 exf4 21. e5 breaks through. Bolstering the dark squares by 18. ... Ne8 19. Qf2 f6 appears best, although 20 f4 still strongly favors White.

19. Bd2

The immediate 19. g4 Bg6 20. f4 is attractive too.

19. ... h6 20. g4! Bg6 21. Kh1 Nh7

Trying to protect g5, an important square in the plausible variations 21. ... Nd7 22. f4 f6 23. g5 and 21. ... Nd7 22. f4 exf4 23. Bxf4 Ne5 24. Nf3 f6 25. g5! hxg5 26. Bxe5 fxe5 27. Nxg5.

22. Qg2 Qd7 23. f4 exf4

Ceding his central strongpoint because 23. ... f6 24. fxe5 fxe5 25. Qg3 turns e5 into a target. However, 25. ... Nf6 26. Nxg6 Nxg6 27. Bxh6 Qxg4 seems no worse than the game.

24. Bxf4 Rad8 25. Nf5 Kh8 26. Be3 b6 27. e5 b5?!

Black must fight back. Toughest is 27. ... Nc6!, although White keeps control with 28. Nxg7! Nxe5 29. Bxg6 Kxg7 30. Bf5.

28. Bxc5

Even stronger is 28. Bxh6! gxh6 29. e6! Qb7 30. exf7, setting up 3.1 Qb2+. If 28. Bxh6! Bxf5, then 29. Bxg7+! Kxg7 30. gxf5+ Kh8 31. e6 Qd6 32. f6 Rg8 33. Qh3 Ng6 34. Rf3 threatens 35. Qxh7+.

28. ... Bxf5 29. gxf5 bxc4 30. Bxc4 Nxd5?

Necessary is 30. ... Nxf5, but White should win with 31. e6 Qc7 32. Rxf5 Qxc5 33. Rg1.

31. Rad1 Qc7

White wins a lot of material after 31. ... Rxe5 32. Bd4.

32. Rxd5 Rxd5 33. Qxd5 Rc8

Not 33. ... Rxe5 34. Qa8+.

34. Rd1

Relying on 34. ... Qxc5 35. Qxc5 Rxc5 36. Rd8+.

34. ... Ng5 35. Ba6

As 35. ... Qxc5 3.6 Bxc8 Qxc8 37. Qd8+ wins routinely.

35. ... Re8 36. Qd6 Qa5 37. Bb4 Qa4 38. Qd7 Qc2!?

A good try.

39. Qxe8+ Kh7 40. Rd3!

Clearer than 40. Re1 Nf3 41. Re2 Qc1+ 42. Kg2 Nh4+.

40. … **Qe2**

White refutes 40. ... Qf2 41. Rg3 Ne4 by 42. Rxg7+! Kxg7 43. Bf8+ Kg8 44. Bxh6+ Kh7 45. Qxf7+ Kxh6 46. Qg6 mate.

41. Qh8+!, Black Resigns.

Joe Hanley and W. Leigh Hunt tied for first with 4-2 in the 30-player "March Madness Swiss," which ended March 31. Section winners included Primo Estillomo, (U1800), Carmen Marie Childress (U1500), and Michael Searcy (U1200). with

1½ points. The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St. Complete standings and a schedule of future club events are on the club's web site http://www.lapalmachess.741.com/index.html. – *Chris Roberts*

Ventura County Chess Club

For the seventh consecutive year, Tony Miller has won the championship of the Ventura County Chess. Miller defeated Alan Bishop in two rapid games after they tied, 2-2, in slower chess. Charles Scolieri took first place in the concurrent "Where's Winter?" tournament with 4-0. The club meets on most Tuesday evenings in the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road in Ventura. Call Chuck Smith at (805) 654-8472 or Jimmy Sweet at (805) 659-0356 for details.

Exposition Park Chess Club

Lionel Hernandez took first place in the March 5 free tournament at the Exposition Park Chess Club, followed by Jose Quiroz. For photos of the club, see chess.expoparkla.com. The club, meets every Sunday afternoon in the public library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Chess Club

Winners of the weekly "L.A. Masters" tournaments in March and April were: March 4: Julian Landaw, Show Kitagami, Mike Zaloznyy, Sargis Hakobyan, 3-1; March 11: Gregg Small, 3½-½; March 18: Tim Taylor, 3½-½; March 25: David Zimbeck, 3½-½; April 1: Emory Tate, 4-0; April 8: Tim Taylor, 4-1.

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.

Pasadena Chess Club

The Pasadena Club Championship attracted 35 players, the best turnout in four years. Three players finished on top with 5-1, with Chris Lee declared champion on tiebreaks over Larry Stevens and Tianyi He. The latter, only 12, was seeded only 17th but upset the first and sixth ranked players.

Class winners included Prasanna Borse (Under 2000, with 4½), Roger Aramayo (Under 1800, with 4), Terrence Sun (Under 1600, with 3), and Cheston Gunawan, Anthony Warmuth, and Anthony Hung (Under 1400, with 2½).

The club meets Friday nights at Throop Church, 300 South Los Robles. The next weekly tournament, a five-round swiss, begins April 14. For information call Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412. – *Randy Hough*

AAA Spring Scholastic

The AAA Chess Club's Spring Scholastic, held March 18 in Glendale, attracted 129 players. Armen Samuelian (grades K-12), Edward Nersisyan (grades K-8) and Ryan Barseghyan (grades K-5) led their sections with 5-0 scores. Harut Keshishian directed.

2006 Western States Single Grade Scholastic Chess Championships

The Western States Single Grade Scholastic Championships, held March 31st - April 2nd at the Crowne Plaza in Ventura, attracted 288 players. Section winners were: Zachary Witten (High School), 6-0; Jared Tan (Grade 8), 6-0; Tianyi He, (Grade 7), 6-0; Dennis Neymit and John Kitapszyan (Grade 6), 5-1; Alexander Kaliannan (Grade 5), 5½-½; Christopher Kao (Grade 4), 5½-½; Michael Brown and Varun Krishnan (Grade 3), 5½-½; Maadhav Shah (Grade 2), 6-0; Shyam Gandhi (Grade 1), 6-0; and Leo Kamgar (Kindergarten) 6-0. The tournament was run jointly by AAA Chess Club and California Youth Chess League.

Riverside Gambit

The Riverside Gambit was held at North High School in Riverside, on March 4th. The scholastic tournament doubled in participants this year, attracting 50 players. The event was conducted as a four round swiss, G/30, in two sections.

In the high school section, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were, Austin Cambon 4-0, Dwayne Edwards 4-0, and Winston Malcome 3½. In the K-8 section the intermediate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies went to Zachary Hall 3½, Colton Smith 3½, and Justine Duran 3. Elementary trophies 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place went to Mark Hawkins who scored a perfect 4, Jacob Durocher 3½, and Tariq Abdul-Rahman 3. The K-3 winner was Griselda Vargas 2½. Tyrone Liddell directed and was assisted by Steve Morford. – *Tyrone Liddell*

Chess Union Spring Open

On March 25th, 25 players showed up for the Spring Open which took place at "Back to the Grind Café" in Riverside. The lower level room of the vintage-style coffee shop was new to chess, and like any new location had its pluses and minuses. The unexpected turnout made it hard to accommodate all the players, and the lighting was average. Future events will include better lighting, accommodations

for more players, and more cooling fans. The event was conducted as a three round swiss, G/75, and ended with Alex Gojich and David Hinckley tying for 1st and 2nd with 3. The U1800 class prizes went to David Bischel and Daniel Wolfe tying with 2. Tyrone Liddell directed – *Tyrone Liddell*

Diversity Spring Scholastic Tournament

Fourteen players competed in this Arcadia event. First with 5-0 went to Orion Gullett, followed by Anthony Zohrabian (4-1). Class prizes went to Harrison Chen (U1000), David Glassburn (U700), and Vince Ho (U400/Unrated). – *Roel Sanchez*

San Diego Chess Club

The qualifier for the Club Championship, known as the Markowski Open, was wrapped up on Feb 15. 86 players competed along with 4 house players that filled in when needed. There is only one section in this annual 7 round event, so in the beginning low rated players get a chance to play much higher rated players. First Place was won on tiebreaks by Bruce Baker, with 5½ points. Tying him were Robert Richard, David Hart, Richard Russell and Adam Corper. Adam won the BU 2200 prize. Chris Borgan won the BU2000 prize with 5 points, and was the only Class A player to qualify for the Club Championship, along with 5 Masters and 10 Experts, including several former masters. Robert Draper and Fred Borges won the BU1800 with 4 points each. Erik Marquis was the BU1600 with 3½, and Monica Ness was BU1400, also with 3½. Jason Qu won BU1200 with 2½. Mayra Murra and Fausto Robles were the Best Unrated with 3.

The Club and Reserve Championships were just completed on April 5th and were also 7 rounds. The new Club Champion is Ron Bruno, who won with 5½ points, including 5 wins in a row to start with. His only loss was to last year's Club Champion, Adam Corper in Round 6, and then he drew with Todd Smith in the last round. Adam Corper finished in Second Place with 5, and Carl Wagner was Third Place with 4½. Carl nearly tied with Ron, but unfortunately he lost on time in the last round while in a much better position. The Reserve Championship (for players U1800 rating) was oddly also decided by a time forfeit, when Pejman Sagart called the flag of Fawsi Murra Sr, who was just trying to complete his 40th move. Pejman won the Reserve title with an impressive score of 6 out of 7. His only loss was to Second Place winner Lennart Mathe, who scored 5½. Chuck Ensey was Third Place with 5 points.

While the two 16 player Championship events were going on, the rest of the club, another 40 players (there were 72 players in all) played in the Lasker Open. The Open section featured a tie for First Place between Ramin Sinaee and Andrew Bell, who both scored 6 out of 7 points. Ramin beat Andy in the 1st round, but then Andy reeled off 6 wins in a row, while Ramin gave up 2 draws and won 4 more. Third Place was won by Ed Baluran with 5½ points. Ron Soto was BU1900 with 4½ and then there was a 4-way tie for BU1800 between Joel Batchelor, Carl Newell, Khris Juroshek and Jemar Fragante. In the Reserve Section, Robert Samuel won clear First with 6 out 7 points. David Hall was Second with 5, and Justin Colon also scored 5 to win BU1400. Jacquelyn Egger was BU1200 with 4½ and then Karen Kaufman and Morgan Fox tied for Third with 4.

More details, pictures and games from these events can be found on our website, which is groups.msn.com/sandiegochess. There have been a lot of great games played so far this year, here are some of the best:

Adam Corper (2182) – Richard Russell (2352)
Markowski Open, 2006
B22 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation

[Cyrus Lakdawala]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 b6 7. Bc4 Bb7 8. 0–0 Na6 9. Ng5!?

Adam, Rick and I worked a bit on this position in our pre-game preparation.

9. ... Rc8!

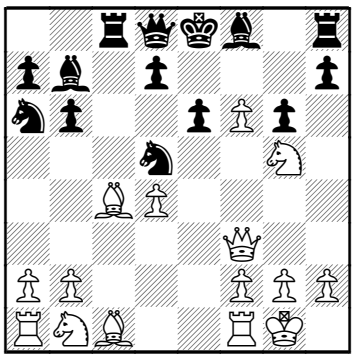
We had not counted on this excellent move. White now must watch for . ... Rxc1 tricks.

10. Qh5

10. Bb3?! Be7 11. Qh5? (11. Ne4) 11. ... g6 12. Qg4 h5 13. Qg3 h4 14. Qg4 Rxc1 15. Rxc1 Bxg5.

10. ... g6 11. Qf3 f5 12. exf6!!

A very deep piece sac!



12. Qb3?! Nac7 and Black stands better due to his iron grip on the d5 square.

12. ... Rxc4

12. ... Qxf6?? 13. Bxd5!

13. f7+ Ke7 14. Nxe6!

The point of the sacrifice.

14. ... Rxc1?!

It's almost impossible to find the correct defense in this situation over the board. Correct was 14. ... Kxe6 15. Re1+! *(15. Qe2+?! Kxf7 16. Qxc4 Bg7 17. Nc3 Nac7 18. Re1 Re8 19. Bf4 d6 20. Rxe8 Kxe8 21. Re1+ Kf8 22. Bg3 Qd7 23. Ne4 Ne8 24. Ng5 Kg8 25. Ne6 Bf6)* 15. ... Kd6 16. Bf4+ Kc6 (16. ... Nxf4 17. Qxf4+ Kc6 18. d5+! Kc5 *(18. ... Kb5 19. a4+ Kc5 20. Qe3+)* 19. Qe3+ Kxd5 20. Qe5+ Kc6 21. Qxh8 Kc7 22.

Nc3 Qg5 23. g3 Qh6 24. Nb5+ Kc6 *(24. ... Kb8 25. Re8+ Rc8 26. Qe5+ Ka8 27. Nc7+! Nxc7 28. Qxc7+-)*) 17. Be5! Bd6 18. b3 Rc2 19. Bxd6! Kxd6 20. Na3 Kc7 *(20. ... Rc8? 21. Nb5+ Kc6 22. Nxa7+ Kc7 23. Qg3+ d6 24. Rac1+ Kb8 25. Rxc8+! Bxc8 26. Nc6++-)* 21. Qg3+ d6 22. Nxc2 Rf8 23. Na3 Qf6 24. Nb5+ Kd7 25. Qh3+ Qf5 26. Qxf5+ gxf5 27. a3 Rxf7 28. Nxa7 Nac7 unclear. Not 14. ... dxe6?? 15. Bg5+ Kd7 16. Bxd8.

15. Nxd8 Rxf1+ 16. Kxf1 Kxd8

Black has enough material for the Queen here, but the pawn on f7 prevents him from unraveling.

17. Nc3 Nac7 18. Nxd5 Nxd5 19. Qg3 d6 20. Re1 Be7 21. Re6! Kd7 22. Qg4

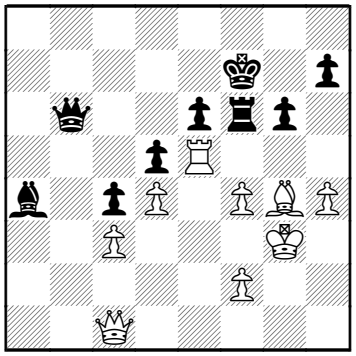
22. Qh3! Nf4 (22. ... Kd8 23. Rxg6! Rf8 *(23. ... Nf4? 24. Rg8+ Kc7 25. Qe3+-)* 24. Rg8 Nf6 25. Qe6 Nd7 *(25. ... Bd5?? 26. Rxf8+ Bxf8 27. Qxf6++-)* 26. f4! d5 27. f5 Ba6+ 28. Kf2 Bc4 29. f6! Bb4 *(29. ... Bxf6 30. Rxf8+ Nxf8 31. Qxf6+; 29. ... Nxf6 30. Rxf8+ Bxf8 31. Qxf6++-)* 30. a3+-) 23. Rxe7+! Kxe7 24. Qh4+ Kxf7 25. Qxf4+ Ke7 26. Qh4+.

22. ... Kd8 23. Qg3 Kd7 24. Qg4 Kd8 25. Qg3?

Adam's only error in the game was agreeing to the draw here. Black is completely tied up. A clear winning plan is: 25. Re1! Rf8 26. Qe6 a5 *(26. ... Kc7 27. f4 Ba8 28. Rc1+ Kb8 29. Qd7 Bb7 30. Qe8+ Bc8 31. Rxc8++-)* 27. f4! b5 28. g4! Bc6 29. f5 gxf5 30. gxf5 Kc7 *(30. ... b4 31. f6!+-)* 31. Rc1 Kb6 32. f6! Bxf6 33. Qxd6+. ½–½

David Hart (2206) – Ron Bruno (2228)
SDCC Championship Finals, 2006
D02 QUEEN'S PAWN GAME

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bf4 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. c3 d5 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. Ne5 0–0 8. Bd3 Qc7 9. Ndf3 Ne4 10. 0–0 f6 11. Nxc6 Bxf4 12. Ne7+ Qxe7 13. exf4 Qc7 14. g3 b6 15. Qe2 Re8 16. Nd2 Nxd2 17. Qxd2 c4 18. Be2 Bd7 19. Bf3 f5 20. Rfe1 b5 21. Re3 a5 22. a3 Ra6 23. Kg2 Rb8 24. Re5 Qd6 25. h3 b4 26. axb4 axb4 27. Rxa6 Qxa6 28. g4 bxc3 29. bxc3 g6 30. Qe1 Qb7 31. Kh2 fxg4 32. Bxg4 Qc7 33. Kg3 Rf8 34. h4 Rf6 35. Qe3 Qd6 36. Bh3 Kf7 37. Bg4 Ba4 38. Qc1 Qb6



39. Qd2 Qb1 40. Qe3 Qg1+ 41. Kh3 Bc2 42. Rxe6 Be4 43. Rxf6+ Kxf6 44. h5 gxh5 45. Bc8 Qh1+ 46. Kg3 h4+ 47. Kg4 Bf3+ 0–1

Gambito Opens

The March Super Gambito was held outdoors at the site of the US Championship during the "Chess Fest" on Saturday March 4th. The US Championship itself was new to this site, known as the NTC Promenade, the home for this event for the foreseeable future. During the Chesstival, the only off day for the players in the big event, chess was promoted to the general public in various ways. There were lectures, art displays, blindfold exhibitions, a large simultaneous exhibition for kids and a kid's tournament. The Gambito Open was just one of the side events, but it gave the wandering public a real live view of a fast paced chess tournament. In fact we had to shorten the time control to G/30 from our normal G/45 to fit into the NTC schedule.

The turnout was fantastic with 49 players braving the bright sun and the swirling winds early in the day, and then the cold breezes and fading sunlight at the end of the day. Next year we hope to secure an indoor location, but this year we were surprised to be moved outside at the last minute. It was kind of fun that way, and probably many more of the tourists witnessed a live chess tournament than if we had been indoors. One of the US Championship players, GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, even participated, and of course he won with a perfect 4-0 score, pocketing $225. The Open section was quite strong and included 6 Masters, 8 Experts and 14 Class A players. Second place went to IM Cyrus Lakdawala and IM Enrico Sevillano. There was a 3-way tie for BU2200 between Rick Aeria, John Bryant and Raul Crisologo. In the U2000 category, David Saponara won clear first for $100. It was Dave's first Gambito; he has always been leery of fast time controls, but he was there volunteering to help with sign-ups at the kid's simul, so he decided to join in once that was done. This was Gambito #262, so what took you so long Dave? We have been cajoling him to play for years, but he usually had conflicts from umpiring little league baseball. The Best Game Prize was won by Dimitry Kishinevsky.

In the Reserve Section, there was another surprise winner, Norlino Tagalog, who has only occasionally played in past Gambito Opens. 2nd U1800 went to more frequent players Vincent Broman, Jemar Fragante and Kyron Griffith, plus one other irregular, Ronaldo Salenga. BU1600 was won by newcomer Justin Colon, and 2nd U1600 by Arsenio Caccam. BU1400 was a tie between Morgan Fox and Tom Kuhn. $1,160 in all was paid out from the generous prize fund; see our website for more details. After it was all over, some players were still thirsty for more chess and headed back to the San Diego Chess Club. After all who would want to miss a rare dual simul being held by Alexander Shabalov and Alex Yermolinsky, who alternated moves against the enthralled club members. They ended up granting 3 draws to the large group of players. It was a great night with lots of funny stories told by the two famous GMs of the old Soviet school. Yermo, while describing Shabba's early career penchant for winning with extremely sharp lines, remarked that

"Lots of blood was split…" Lots of good will was created that night, as everyone admired the two GMs who were so willing to give of their time to help promote chess, even in the midst of an important tournament for each of them.

The April Super Gambito was held on April Fool's day at the SD Club and we featured a "Worst Game" prize in both sections in honor of the day. Only the Reserve section was in the spirit, with several games submitted, but the Open Section players were not going for that one and didn't turn in a single worst game. Tom Kuhn won the $10 prize for his loss to Shaun Sweitzer in 15 moves, losing two pieces in that brief span of time. That still doesn't break my personal record; I once lost 2 pieces in 11 moves at the Southern California Open! 35 players turned out for this Gambito Open, which was won by Cyrus Lakdawala and Enrico Sevillano (for $150 each), two IMs who dominate the field whenever they play. BU2200 were John Bryant and Dimitry Kishinevsky, BU2000 Esteban Escobedo and Thomas Victory. In the Reserve Section, William Delaney won clear first, with Chuck Ensey and Gene Arnaiz tying for second. Gene Fernando was BU1600 and Alan Tsoi 2nd U1600. Best games were won by Dimitry Kishinevsky and William Delaney. – *Chuck Ensey*

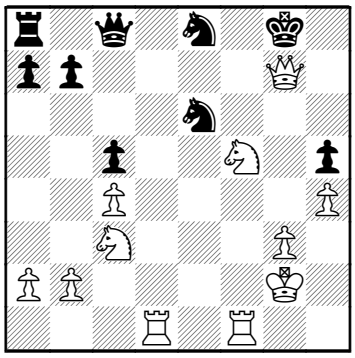
Dimitry Kishinevsky (2115) – Ben Barquin (1948)
Gambito #262
A11 ENGLISH OPENING
[Chuck Ensey]

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 c6 3. d3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nc3 0–0 6. e4 d6 7. Nge2 Bg4 8. f3 Bd7 9. 0–0 Ne8 10. Be3 Qc8 11. Qd2 Na6 12. d4 Nac7 13. Rad1 Bh3 14. Bg5 Bxg2 15. Kxg2 f6 16. Be3 e5 17. h4 h5 18. f4 f5 19. dxe5 dxe5 20. Bc5 Rf7 21. fxe5 Bxe5 22. Qh6 Rg7 23. exf5 gxf5 24. Bd4 Bxd4 25. Nxd4 c5?!

Maybe not the best, but it is hard to find anything much better. Black is in an awful position.

26. Nxf5 Ne6?!

A little better was 26. ... Qe6 27. Qxe6+ Nxe6 28. Nxg7 N6xg7 29. Rd7 but Black probably saw this and did not relish the prospects of this endgame.



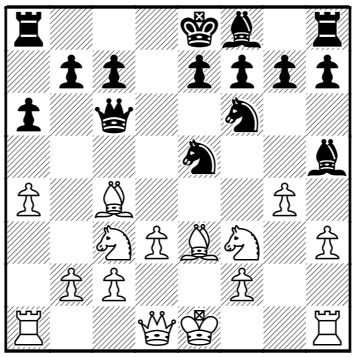
27. Qxg7+!

27. Nd5 or 27. Rde1 are also crushing. 27. Qxg7 just wins the Exchange, but gets the Queens off the board and allows lethal penetration to the 7th rank by both of White's Rooks. Allowing two pigs on your 7th rank spells doom in most cases.

27. ... N8xg7 28. Ne7+ Kh7 29. Nxc8 Rxc8 30. Rd7 Kg6 31. Nd5 Re8 32. Rf6+ Kh7 33. Rff7 Kg6 34. Rxb7 1–0

William Delaney (1648) – Shaun Sweitzer (1734)
Gambito #266
B01 CENTER COUNTER DEFENSE

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qd6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bc4 a6 6. a4 Bg4 7. h3 Bh5 8. d3 Nc6 9. Be3 Ne5 10. g4 Qc6



11. Bd5 Nxd5 12. Nxe5 Nxc3 13. Nxc6 Nxd1 14. Rxd1 Bxg4 15. hxg4 bxc6 16. Rh5 e6 17. Kd2 Bd6 18. Rdh1 Rb8 19. b3 Rb4 20. f3 h6 21. g5 Bf4 22. gxh6 Bxe3+ 23. Kxe3 Rxh6 24. Rxh6 gxh6 25. Rxh6 Ke7 26. Rh8 e5 27. Ra8 Rb6 28. a5 Rb5 29. Rxa6 Kd6 30. Ra8 f5 31. a6 Ra5 32. a7 1–0

Chess Palace

The first-ever Super Ultimate Double Quads, an innovative format organized by Chess Palace, attracted 39 participants on April 1, 2006. Masters and amateurs alike contended in this unique format that enabled every player a chance to win the top prize. The prize fund, which was set up based on performance, inspired hard-fought battles from start to finish. In the Championship round, the players were assembled into three groups. Master Rey Del Pilar and Class B player Vikram Kumar topped the field as "Ultimate Champions" with perfect scores. Following prize winners included, Alen Melikadamyan, Chris McKay, Paul Lazarte, Anand Kesavaraju, Alev Karadayi, Alfred Ong, Joseph Gonzales, Brett Gonzales, Robert Khachatryan, and Richard Henri. Congratulations!

2006 Annual Spring Scholastic

To start off the Spring season, Chess Palace hosted the 2006 Spring Scholastic Chess Tournament on April 8, 2006. With an unexpected turnout of over forty participants, the club had to enlarge the tournament area to accommodate everyone. In addition, an interesting occurrence resulted that was hard to miss…a series of sibling and twin rivalries and co-champions were present in almost every section!

In the Pawns section, twin brothers Aaron and Darren Chow received 1st and 2nd with 4 points. Titan Burl and Angel Wilkins followed in 3rd and 4th place. Aakarsh Aithal with 3 points received 5th place.

In the Knights section, Carlos

and Juan Torres, (another sets of twins!) received 1st and 2nd place. First graders Jonathan Chen and Zak Dossi received 3rd and 4th place. Douglas Griffin finished 5th place.

In the Bishop section, a strong field of contenders fought for top prizes. Devon Watson received clear 1st with 4 points. A six-way tie for second included Andy Ju, Perry Watson (Devon's brother), Tai Eubank, Ryan Hughes, Ryan Schmitt, and Benjamin Quincey. Tiebreak system determined the trophy places.

Lastly, in the Rooks section, Austin Hughes topped the field with a perfect 5-0. (Austin's brother, Ryan also tied for 2nd place in the Bishops section.) Brett Gonzales, Orion Burl, Kiki Frankel, and Ashkon Soroudi completed the field of trophy winners.

Special Awards went to first grader Shyam Gandhi, Sakshi Walia, and Abigail Cantor.

Chess Palace would like to congratulate all the families for participating in this super fun event. Special thanks to the parent volunteers, notably Mr. Keltner and Travis Hatley.

Chess Palace has weekly chess events for players of all level. Please visit the club website at www.ChessPalace.com or call 949-307-2618 for upcoming events and news. – *Austin Ong*

Costa Mesa Octos

lia Serpik and Joshua Gutman shared first prize in the top section of the March Octos in Costa Mesa. Other sections of the 34-player event were won by Nisha Deolalikar; Peter Joseph and Shawn Williams; and Sunil Deolalikar. The April 23 Octo saw 22 players compete. Sections winners included Leo Raterman, Eric Zhang, and Michael W. Brown. For information on future Octos, call Takashi Iwamoto at (949) 689-3511 or write to takashi@cox.net.

28th Annual

Southern California Open

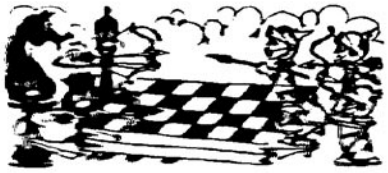
Sept. 2-4, 2006

AT THE PECHANGA CASINO/HOTEL
CALIFORNIA'S FIRST AAA 4 DIAMOND RESORT/CASINO
45000 Pechanga Parkway Temecula, CA 92592

$25,000 PRIZE FUND
100% GUARANTEED
6 Round Swiss, 5 Sections, 40/2, G/1

1.OPEN SECTION: 1st $3,000, 2nd $2,000, 3rd $1,000
4th $600, 5th $500, 6th $300
BU2400 $1,000, 2nd $500
BU2300 $1,000, 2nd $500
BU2200: 1st $1,200, 2nd $800, 3rd $600, 4th $300
2. BU2000: 1st $1,200, 2nd $800, 3rd $600, 4th $300
3. BU1800: 1st $1,200, 2nd $800, 3rd $600, 4th $300
4. BU1600: 1st $1,200, 2nd $800, 3rd $600, 4th $300
5. BU1400: 1st $1,000, 2nd $750, 3rd $250,
BU1200 $400, 2nd $100, Best Unrated $300
Plus Best Games $100, $50, $50, one reserved for non-Open Sections
Directions: Easy, take Hwy 79 South from 1-15 for 1/2 a mile, then turn right on Pechanga Parkway for 2 miles to the free parking at the casino.
Registration: 9:00 to 10:30 AM, Round 1 will start at 11AM sharp!
Rounds: 11 AM & 6 PM Sat, 11 & 6 Sunday, 10 & 5 Monday
Entry Fee: $130 if rev'd by 8/30/06, or only $75 if rating is <1400
All: add $25 for entries after 8/30/06, $50 more for players rated U2000 playing in Open, Unrateds must play in Open or U1400

Information and entries: http://Groups.msn.com/sandiegochess or www.westernchess.com



Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 28)

Vladimirov – Smyslov, USSR Championship, 1961: A surprising *mating net* appears after **1. Rg7,** and there is no defense to the threat of Bd7 mate.

Damjanovich – Hort, Kecskemet, 1964: In this seemingly complex position, White wins by *removing the guard* – **1. Rxh7+ Rxh7 2. Nf6 Rg7** (else 3. Qg6#) **3. Nxd5 1–0**

Gersman – Gusev, USSR, 1968: The pawn must promote, but **1. ... Rxf3** removes the White King's last defender – **2. d8Q Qf2+ 3. Kh1 Rb3 4. Qg8+ Kxg8 5. Qxb3+ Kh7 0–1**

Boney Mountain Chess Club's Tortuga Pirates' Ball

Hyatt Westlake Plaza

G/60, 5-SwissSys Saturday, June 17th

Onsite Registration: 9 a.m. $35 cash only. Round 1 begins at 9:30 a.m.
Round 2 at 11:45 a.m. Round 3 at 2 p.m.
Round 4 at 4:30 p.m. Round 5 at 6:45 p.m.
Sets & Boards provided. Please bring other tournament equipment.
1st Place: Grand Champion plaque + $100. Club Challenger Trophy plaque to Board 1 finalist who does not win the championship. Other handsome plaque awards to U1600, U1200, U1000, and Women's Champions. The beautiful Hyatt Westlake Plaza is located in Thousand Oaks: 880 S. Westlake Blvd. Take the 101 towards the City of Thousand Oaks. Exit at Westlake Blvd., south/west, towards the ocean. Make an immediate left at the 1st light onto Townsgate Road, and enter (free) parking lot on your left. Advanced Registration $30, if, received by June 15th. Must be a current member of the USCF. Single ½ point bye for one round only. Mail checks payable to ChessDreams, 587 N. Ventu Park Road #E313, Newbury Park, CA 91320. Send your current USCF ID# to Akagi prior to the event(s).
chessdreams@earthlink.net 805.230.9919 for more info.

Please mark your calendar now for our Boney Mountain Chess Club events:
BLACK TALON ELITE OCTOS: 2-day Octo (G/150) November 18th & 19th
starts at 10 a.m., Saturday; held at our new location: Hyatt Westlake Plaza $35
BATTLE ROYALE: Weekly 5-round Swiss (G/75) starting June 28th at 6 p.m., Oak Park CC $30
TORTUGA PIRATES' BALL: 1-day, 5-round Swiss (G/60) June 17th 9:30 a.m. Hyatt Westlake $35
BIG SKY OPEN: Weekly 5-round Swiss (G/120) started Feb. 24th at 6 p.m. $30

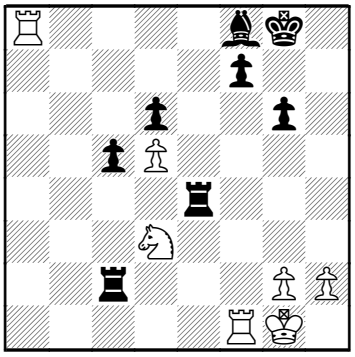
(advertisment)

... continued from page 12

28. ... Rxe3 29. Rexe3 Rxe3 30. Rxe3 Qxf4+ 31. Rg3 Be5 32. Ne2 Qg5 33. Qc3 Qxg3+ 34. Nxg3 Bxc3 35. bxc3 a5 36. Kg1 a4 37. Ne2 Ng6 38. Kf2 Ne7 39. c4 a3 40. Nc1 b4 41. Bc2 Ng6 42. g4 Ne5 0–1

Michael Yee (1934) – David Cody Oldham (1815)
4th Annual Western Pacific Open, Los Angeles 2006
E81 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, Saemisch Variation

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 0–0 6. Be3 Nbd7 7. Nge2 c5 8. d5 Nb6 9. Nc1 e6 10. Qd2 exd5 11. cxd5 Re8 12. Be2 a6 13. 0–0 Qe7 14. a4 Nbd7 15. a5 Ne5 16. Na4 Rb8 17. Nb6 Ned7 18. Nc4 b5 19. axb6 Nxb6 20. Bg5 Nxc4 21. Bxc4 h6 22. Bxh6 Nxe4 23. fxe4 Rxb2 24. Qg5 Bxh6 25. Qxe7 Rxe7 26. Nd3 Rc2 27. Bxa6 Bxa6 28. Rxa6 Rxe4 29. Ra8+ Bf8



30. Nf4 g5 31. Ng6 fxg6 32. Raxf8+ 1–0

The Long View

by John Hillery

A game which illustrates the dangers of symmetry and the value of the initiative.

Marshall – Schlechter
Ostend 1907
D28 QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bxc4 e6 5. Nf3 a6 6. 0-0 c5 7. Nc3 Qc7 8. Qe2 Nc6 9. a3 b5 10. Ba2 Bb7 11. dxc5 Bxc5 12. b4 Bd6 13. Bb2 0-0 14. Rac1 Qe7

As a result of the inaccurate 7. ... Qc7, Black must lose time.

15. Bb1 Rac8

Better was 15. ... Ne5, with the tactical point that 16. Nxe5 Bxe5 17. Nxb5 leads only to a draw after 17. ... Bxb2 18. Rc7 Qe8 19. Nd6 Qd8 20. Rxb7 Qxd6 21. Qxb2 Qc6, with "perpetual check" on the Rook.

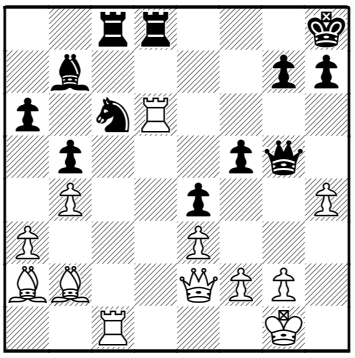
16. Ne4 Nxe4 17. Bxe4 f5 18. Bb1 e5 19. Rfd1 e4

Opening too many lines, and White's more active Rooks suddenly become decisive. Necessary was 19. ... Bb8.

20. Ba2+ Kh8 21. Ng5! Qxg5

There was no other defense to the dual threats of 22. Qh5 (22. ... h6 23. Qg6 hxg5 24. Qh5 mate) and 22. Nf7+, winning the Exchange (that hanging Bishop on d6).

22. Rd6 Rfd8 23. h4!



23. ... Qg4

Black is lost. Some clever variations pointed out by Marshall are i.) 23. ... Qxh4 24. Bxg7+! Kxg7 25. Qb2+ Kf8 26. Qh8+ Ke7 27. Re6+ Kd7 28. Qg7+ Ne7 29. Rd1+ Kc7 30. Qe5+ and mate next, and ii.) 23. ... Qe7 24. Re6 Qd7 25. h5 Qd2 26. h6! Qxe2 27. hxg7+ Kg8 28. Re8 mate.

24. Qd2 Rxd6 25. Qxd6 Rd8 26. Qc7 Ba8 27. Bb3 f4 28. Rxc6 Rf8 29. Qe7, Black resigns.

Scholastic Chess Calendar
(prepared by Joe Hanley)

May
6 – American Heritage Spring Classic, Bakersfield
12-14 – U.S. K-6 Championships, Denver, CO
20 – CYCL Championships
21 – MDC Scholastics (Burbank)
20-21 – CalChess Championships (San Jose)

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

July
3 – PSW Scholastics (LAX)

2006-2007 State Championship

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

Upcoming

July 1-4	Pacific Southwest Open	LAX
July 20-23	Pacific Coast Open	Agoura Hills
September 2-4	Southern California Open	Temecula
October 6-8	Los Angeles Open	LAX
November 23-26	American Open	LAX

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

State Championship Patrons

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

Eric Ferguson
Chuck Ensey
San Diego Chess Club
Jacques Landry

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

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

(see page 15)

Problem no. 1: b. 1. … Nxe5 is incorrect. The main line goes 1. … Nxe5? 2. Nxe5 Bxd1? ("better" is 2. … dxe5, to avoid immediate disaster. White continues 3. Qxg4 with an advantage in any event.) 3. Bxf7+ Ke7 4. Nd5#. Better is 1. … dxe5 with roughly equal chances.

Problem no. 2: **b. 1. … Be7 is incorrect.** The main line goes 1. … Be7? 2. dxe5 Nxe5 (not 2. … dxe5?, since 3. Qd5 wins at least a piece) 3. Nxe5 dxe5 4. Qh5! and White wins at least a Pawn with a strong middlegame to follow. Correct for Black is 1. … c6 with an ensuing struggle.

Problem no. 3: b. 1. h3 is a mistake. The main line goes 1. h3? Nd4! 2. hxg4 (not 2. Nxd4 as 2. … Qh2 is mate) Nxe2+ 3. Bxe2 and Black has a good material advantage and is clearly winning. A better try for White may be 1. Rad1 or 1. g3.

Problem no. 4: b. 1. … Ne5 is a mistake. The main line goes 1. … Ne5? 2. Ne6! dxe6 3. Qxe5 (threatening Qxc5, Qxg7 and Bxh6, etc.) Bb4+ 4. c3 Qh4 5. Qxg7 Ng4 6. Qxh8+ Bf8 7. g3 and White wins. 1. … Qe7 is better for Black and leads to a equal game.

2005-2006 State Championship

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

Date	Name	Qualifiers
July 2-4	Pacific Southwest Open	Michael Casella Ilia Serpik
July 9-17	State Championship	Jack Peters Alaa-Addin Moussa Craig Clawitter Ron Bruno
July 21-24	Pacific Coast Open	Boris Kreiman Greg Hjorth
August 13-14	San Luis Obispo County Championship	John Williams Steven Tomak Francisco Anchondo
August 21	Westwood Open	Tatev Abrahamyan
Sept. 4-6	Southern California Open	Kongliang Deng Francis Chen Alen Melikadamian
October 30	Norwalk Open	David Zimbeck
Nov. 24-27	American Open	Garush Manukyan Joel Banawa Reynaldo del Pilar Henrik Pashayan
December 10-11	Joseph Ileto Memorial	Tim Taylor Eduardo Ortiz Ike Miller Alan Bishop
January 20-22	Western Class Championships	Ron Hermansen Steven Van Enk Gregg Small
April 14-16	4th Annual Western Pacific Open	Takashi Kurosaki Allan Pleasants Eugene Yanayt Christopher Slupik Show Kitagami Marian Nick Nita Joshua Gutman Jeremy Stein
Upcoming		
April 29-30	SCCF High School Championship	Burbank
May 6-7	Los Angeles County Open	Monterey Park
May 19-21	Memorial Day Classic	Burbank

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

Upcoming Events

May 6-7

8th Annual Los Angeles County Open. 5-SS, rds. 1-3 30/85, SD/30, rds. 4-5 40/2, SD/1. Sierra Vista Community Center, 311 N Rural Dr, Monterey Park, CA 91755. **EF**: $30 rec'd by 5/4, $40 door. **Special EF**: $10 for juniors not competing for cash prizes (trophies to top five). $$1100 Gtd: $300-200-100, U2200, U2000, U1800, $100 each, U1600, U1400 $75 each, Unr $50. SCCF mem. req. ($14 reg, $9 jr), OSA. **Reg**: 8:45-9:40. **Rds**: 10-2-6, 10-4. Up to two half-pt byes if requested w/entry. **Info**: Randy Hough (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com. **Ent**: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754**. NS. NC. W. GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.**

May 19-21

2006 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic. 5-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-2 G/75 then merges. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). $$10,000 b/200, 60% of each prize guaranteed. **In five sections: Open:** $$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.) **EF**: $81 if received by 5/17, $97 door. Premier (U2000): $$ 700-500-300-100, U1800 400-200-150, U1600 400-200-150. EF: $81 if received by 5-17, $97 door, no unrated. **Amateur** (U1400): $$400+trophy-200-100, U1200 100+trophy, Unr 100+trophy, unrated may win unrated prize only. **EF**: $66 if received by 5-17, $80 door. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. No checks or credit card entries at door. **All**: $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. One half-point bye if requested with entry, rds 4-5 cannot be revoked. SCCF membership req. of S. Cal. res., $14 reg, $9 junior. **Reg**: 5:30-6:30 p.m. 5/19, 8:30-10 a.m. 4/15. Rds: 3-day 7 p.m., 11-5:30, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10:30-1:30 (G/75), then merges. HR: $99, (818) 843-6000 or (800) 840-6450. Be sure to mention Western Chess. Parking $8/day. Info: admin@westernchess.com. Web site: www.westernchess.com. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. **NS. NC. F GP: 40. State Championship Qualifier.**

May 21

MDC Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). 6-player sections by rating. $$40-20-10 each section. **EF**: $20 if received by 5/17, $25 door. **Reg**: 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds**: 10:30-1:30-4:30. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. On-line ent: www.westernchess.com.

May 21.

MDC Action Swiss. 5-SS, G/30. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport). $$500 b/40, else proportional: $150-70-40, U2100/Unr $80, U1800 $80, Under 1500 $80. **EF**: $20 if received by 5-17, $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.

May 21

MDC Scholastics. 5-SS, SD/45. Burbank Airport Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (adjacent to Burbank Airport).Open to gr. 12-below. **In two sections: Open:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated, best each grade 12-11-10-9/below. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated, best each grade 6-5-4-3-2-1/below. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if received by 5/17, $20 door. On-line ent: www.westernchess.com. Info: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

May 27

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 30/75, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, **2476 Newport Blvd.,** Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $27 advance, $32 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Takashi Iwamoto (takashi@cox.net), 24275 Tama Lane, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Home: (949) 643-2981 Cell: (949) 689-3511. NS, NC.

June 3

Chess Union Riverside Swiss. 3-SS, G/80. Back to the Grind Cafe (lower level), 3575 University Ave Riverside, CA 92501 $$Top 2 and Over 2200 Gtd., U1800 and U1600 prizes b/30 **EF:** $24 online/mail received by 5-23, $30 at door. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rds: 10:00-12:45-3:30. **Ent:** Checks out to the "Blueprint Association," PO Box 1313, Bloomington, CA 92316. **Info:** www.TheChessUnion.com or call Tyrone Liddell (951) 990-7990 No checks or credit card entries at door.

June 17

Tortuga Pirates' Ball. 5-SS, G/60 Hyatt Westlake Plaza, 880 S. Westlake Blvd., Thousand Oaks. 1st Place: Grand Champion plaque + $100. Club Challenger Trophy plaque to Board 1 finalist who does not win the championship. Other handsome plaque awards to U1600, U1200, U1000, and Women's Champions. **EF**: $30 if received by June 15th, $35 door (cash only). **Reg**: 9 a.m. **Rds**: 9:30-11:45-2-4:30-6:45. Single ½ point bye for one round only. Sets & Boards provided. Please bring other tournament equipment. Free parking. Mail checks payable to ChessDreams, 587 N. Ventu Park Road #E313, Newbury Park, CA 91320. Inf: chessdreams@earthlink.net, 805-230-9919.

June 24

Costa Mesa Octos. 3-SS, 30/75, SD/30. 8 player sections by rating. Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, **2476 Newport Blvd.,** Costa Mesa, CA. **EF:** $27 advance, $32 at site, $2 disc. to all Southern Calif. Chess Federation members. **$$** prizes per entries. **Reg.** 9:15-10 a.m. **Rds.** 10:15-2:45-6:45. **Info/Ent:** Takashi Iwamoto (takashi@cox.net), 24275 Tama Lane, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Home: (949) 643-2981 Cell: (949) 689-3511. NS, NC.

July 1-4

46th Annual Pacific Southwest Open. 7-SS, LAX Radisson, 6225 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. **$$8,000 b/240, half of all prize guaranteed**. Choice of 2 schedules: 3½ day schedule plays all rounds at 40/2, SD/1. 2½ day schedule plays first 3 rds at G/1, others at 40/2, SD/1. 2 sections: **Open,** $$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** $59 if rec'd by 6/29, $69 at site. SCCF memb. req'd of So. Californians ($14, jrs. U18 $9, includes *Rank & File* magazine). **Reg**. 8:30-10 a.m. (3½ day), 9-9:30 a.m. Sunday (2½ day). Rds. 10:30-4:30, 10:30-4:30, 7, 10-4:30 (2½ day sched. plays Rds 1,2,3 at 10, 12, 2 Sunday, then merges). One or two 1/2-pt. byes rds. 1-5 with advance notice. **HR**: $99, (310) 670-9000 or toll-free at (800) 333-3333, mention Pacific Southwest Open, on line at www.radisson.com (use group code CHESS). **Parking** $5/day. **Inf**: admin@westernchess.com. **Online ent**: www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS. NC. F. **GP: 30. State Championship Qualifier.**

July 3

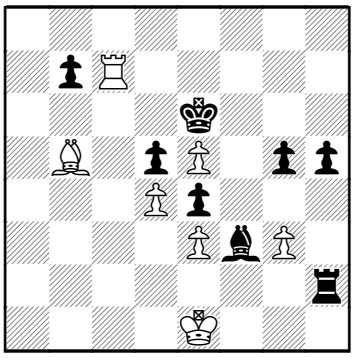
PSW Action Swiss. 5-SS, G/30. LAX Radisson, 6225 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$500 b/40, else proportional: $150-70-40, U2100/Unr $80, U1800 $80, Under 1500 $80. **EF**: $20 if received by 6-29, $25 at door. **Reg**: 9-10 a.m. **Rds**: 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com.

July 3

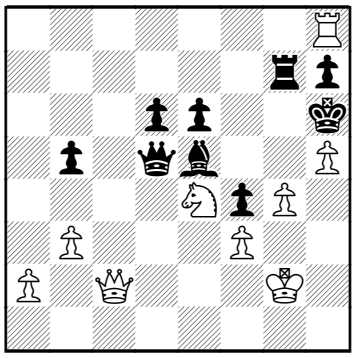
PSW Scholastics. LAX Radisson, 6225 W. Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. **In two sections: Open,** 4-SS, G/45**.** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Rds**: 10:30-12:15-2:15-4. **Grade 6/below U1000,** 5-SS, G/30**.** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Rds**: 10:30-11:45-12:45-2:15-4.**Reg**: 9-10:15. **EF**: $16 if received by 6-29, $20 door. **Online ent**: www.westernchess.com. **Info**: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

July 20-23

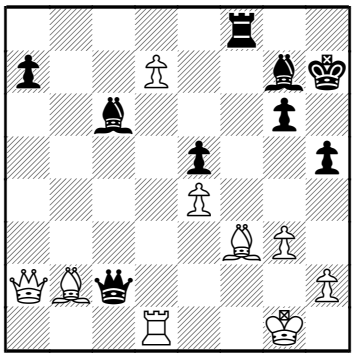
Pacific Coast Open. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/60). Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit). Free parking. Prizes $30,000 based on 280 paid entries (unrateds, U1200 Section players, re-entries count as half entries), minimum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



Vladimirov - Smyslov
USSR Championship, 1961
White to move



Damjanovich - Hort
Kecskemet, 1964
White to move



Gersman - Gusev
USSR, 1968
Black to move

Solutions on page 22

SCCF
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Monterey Park CA 91754