

Illinois Chess Bulletin

Volume 28, Issue 1

January February 2005

GM Nakamura wins the 2005 US Championship!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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1st Annual ILLINOIS CLASSIC

Tune Up for the HB Global Chess Challenge & the Chicago Open!!!

Lincolnwood, IL (immediately north of Chicago)

6-round Swiss, April 22-24 or 23-24, 2005

\$20,000 Projected Prizes (b/300), \$10,000 minimum Guaranteed.

6R-SS – 30/90 SD/30 in 3-day schedule; Rds 1-3 G/75 for 2 day then merge with 3 day

Location: Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Ave. (1 mile east of I-94), Lincolnwood, IL 60712.

Prizes: \$20,000 based on 300 paid entries (special EF counts as partially paid).

In 8 sections – you face only those in your section.

Open (above 2200): \$2000, \$1600, \$1200, \$800, \$400

Expert (2000-2199): \$1600, \$1200, \$800, \$400, \$200

Class A (1800-1999): \$1200, \$800, \$400, \$200, \$100

Class B (1600-1799): \$1200, \$800, \$400, \$200, \$100

Class C (1400-1599): \$600, \$400, \$200, \$100, \$40

Class D (1200-1399): \$600, \$400, \$200, \$100, \$40

E/F (1199 and below): \$400, \$200, \$100, \$40, \$20

Unrated: \$200, \$100, \$40, \$20, \$20

Registration: Fri Reg. 5:30-6:30pm STRICT! Sat Reg. 8-9am STRICT. Entries after 6:30pm or 9am must take 1st round ½ bye. NO EXCEPTIONS.

3 day schedule - Fri: 7pm; Sat: 9:30, 2, 6:30; Sun: 12, 4:30

2 day schedule - Sat: 9:30, 12:30, 3:30 then merge with 3 day in Rd 4

EF: Adults - \$125 mailed by 4/1/05; Juniors (18-20) \$100 mailed by 4/1/05; All \$150 onsite.

Special EF: Scholastic Players under the age of 18 receive a free 1 year membership to the ICA or a \$14 discount off of the Junior Early EF (if you are already an ICA member) either mailed entry or onsite. Free Entry to FIDE TITLED PLAYERS - \$150 deducted from any prizes won.

All: USCF membership required. ICA membership required for IL players. Byes available in all rounds. Max 2 byes; Commit to byes by end of Rd2; 1 class up for \$5 extra; D/E/F can play 2 classes up for \$5 extra. Re-entry: \$75 for Adults, \$50 for Juniors/Scholastic. Re-enter in new schedule and play Rd 1 or re-enter current schedule with ½ bye in Rd 1. Max 2 byes. No smoking. Bring sets, boards, and clocks – none supplied. April supplement used. Unrated plays only in Unrated section. Provisional players are not unrated (April supplement used)!

Hotel Rates: \$75 single/double, 847.677.1234. Mention chess tournament. Reserve by 4/1/05

Entries: Sevan A. Muradian 5119 N. Kenneth Ave. Chicago, IL 60630. sevanmuradian@hotmail.com or 847.919.0431 with questions. Checks and cash accepted onsite. **Credit card thru PayPal only BEFORE 4/17/05.**

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Submissions

Send contributions to:

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Electronic submissions are preferred. Preferred formats for articles, stories or advertisements are Microsoft Word.

Game submissions are also preferred in electronic format. Games should be submitted in ChessBase archive format (.cbv) or in pgn. ChessBase 8 will automatically send archive format if you e-mail from ChessBase 8. In earlier versions of ChessBase you may archive a database to create a single file to e-mail. See your help materials.

If you need a simple program to create pgn files. Most chess databases will also produce text files in pgn format, as will many chess playing programs. The main font for the ICB is Arial, and also using the Figurine Aries font and the US Diagram font from ChessBase.

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Inside Front:	\$115
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¹ / ₂ Page:	\$65
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There is a \$20 design charge for ads that are not camera-ready. Allow 7 days for design. Allow additional time if ad proofing is required. ICA affiliates receive a ¹/₃ discount and ads that appear in consecutive issues receive a 10% discount. Payment must accompany the ad. The ICA and the ICB reserve the right to refuse any specific advertisement.

Membership Information

The Illinois Chess Bulletin (ICB) is published by the Illinois Chess Association (ICA). ICA membership includes a subscription to the ICB. Memberships marked 1st receive their magazine first class. Memberships marked P also receive a plaque. Affiliates also receive discounted advertising rates, event advertising on Chess Phone and the ICA website, and the right to run Tour events.

Corporate	\$500	1 st Class & Plaque
Organization	\$200	1 st Class & Plaque
Business	\$200	1 st Class & Plaque
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Gold Card	\$50	1 st Class
Patron	\$35	1 st Class
Affiliate	\$25	Affiliate benefits
Regular	\$18	
Junior	\$10	
Family	\$6	No magazine
ICCA Coach	\$19	Also a member of ICCA
Cochess	\$19	Also a member of Cochess

FIDE Master **Albert Chow**
Accepting games for the ICB
Games can be sent to:

Albert Chow
3513 N Seminary, Chicago 60657. 773-248-
4846, ChowMasterAl@yahoo.com.

Outgoing President's Podium



By Larry Cohen

This is my final podium. There were a lot of things I hoped to achieve, none of which happened. Fortunately most of these plans/ideas I kept to myself. The ICA was incorporated back in the 1960's, so it may be time to look at the Constitution and Bylaws in a more modern light. At the October meeting I started this with 1 or 2 motions to eliminate some of the out-dated parts of the Constitution and Bylaws. This is something that probably needs to be worked on further.

By the time you get this we will have a new set of officers in place. I will continue to serve on the board and the ICA as past president. This position has not often been used in the past, but I have seen that it really should mandatory for at least 1 year. Unfortunately, it is easy to make mistakes and to run afoul of misfortune and errors no matter what precautions are taken. I wish the new officers the best of luck and may they avoid any and all pitfalls along the way.

The Amateur Team Midwest is fast approaching, so start working on forming your teams now. Also, it appears that in 2006 the US Open will be returning to the Chicago area. The ICA passed resolutions favoring this at both the June and October meetings, so it is good to see this event back home in Chicago. Don't forget that the Illinois Tour for 2004-2005 will be over at the end of March, so start looking for those tour events now. Also, I would like to announce that added to the Tour for 2005-2006 will be a special prize or prizes for the top female player on the tour.

I'm sure I will see some of you at future tournaments such as the Tim Just Winter Open or the Amateur Team. One goal I did achieve was to not lose any rating points while being an ICA officer [a regular occurrence I have been told]. Of course the fact that I started office at my 2000 floor sure helped.

Best "Chess" Regards

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<http://www.illinoischess.org>

Incoming President's Podium

By Bill Brock

For at least half of 2004, the Illinois Chess Association rendered atrocious service to our chess community. What did members get in return for their \$18? In some cases, little more than a cancelled check and broken promises. If you were one of the many who were affected, I would like to apologize to you personally.

Fortunately, a group of new volunteers intervened and literally saved the ICA, for which they deserve our gratitude. I'd like to single out one volunteer for special thanks: our new Membership Secretary, Jeff Smith. Let's also thank the outgoing officers for their efforts.

Volunteers are human beings, and we the incoming officers promise to make *our* share of *brand-new* mistakes. But we also promise not to forget that we're here to serve the membership. Frankly, I don't know how to serve you if we don't communicate. Please don't hesitate to contact me at billbrock@billbrock.net (please put "chess" or "ICA" in the subject header, along with something more descriptive). The discussion forum at www.ilchess.org is another good place to offer feedback to ICA officers.

Random thoughts:

- When I left office as Treasurer in December 2000, ICA had nearly \$20,000 in unrestricted funds; as I write, net unrestricted funds are close to zero. I think the long-term answer is simple: if ICA gets its act together, then the members will come back and the dollars will take care of themselves. Metro VP Les Bale is in charge of our membership drive. Please help us put the word out at your local club. Early renewals would be appreciated; multi-year renewals doubly so; patron memberships deeply appreciated. We'll use this money wisely.
- The ICA Warren Junior Program (on hiatus) will resume soon, and will focus exclusively on master-level instruction to the top junior players in Illinois. Fourteen-year-old Zhe Quan (a product of the Warren Junior Program) just finished equal 12th in the World Junior Championships, and he's eligible to play in the World Juniors for five more years! I want the next teenager with a 2700 FIDE rating to come from Illinois.
- By the time you read this, a test issue of the *ICB Online* should be up at www.ilchess.org. The Web has certain advantages over print (cost, interactivity), but we realize that print ain't dead. Your ideas and input are appreciated—we want to hear from both the tech geeks and the Luddites. And we really need a Web editor!

- We're pleased to announce that, thanks to a generous site donation by Sevan Muradian, ICA will host qualifiers for the 2005 Denker Tournament of High School Champions and the 2005 Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls on March 19-20. I've penciled in a minimum budget of \$1,000 for this event. Otherwise, how meaningful would it be for two of our top young players to win the qualifier, then find out that we expect them to raise the money to represent us in Phoenix? Remember, top prize in *each* of the national events is a four-year scholarship to the University of Texas at Austin. A pipe dream? Our own William Aramil won the Denker in 2003 and is now a freshman at UT Austin! Your help in obtaining corporate sponsorship is appreciated: as the ICA is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible!
- Also, we're in need of a dedicated server, the Year One cost of which is in excess of \$1,800. When this is in place, we'll be able to distribute website maintenance tasks, currently performed by Sevan, among several folks. Interested? Please visit the discussion forum.
- Please check out David and Sheila Heiser's classy new home away from home, the Renaissance Knights Chess Club, which meets Sunday evenings at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook. Learn from their example: start a great club in your hometown!
- Sevan and Glenn Panner have organized several exciting new events, including the first of a series of FIDE round-robin tournaments to give local masters the chance for international titles. Please play in them, give them your support, and then organize some events of your own!
- All ICA members are invited to come to the next board meeting on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6th 2005, at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights (take I-90 to Route 53 North, take 53 North for two miles, exit at Euclid East). The general meeting starts at 1:30; we'll have you out of there by 4 p.m.

Life sometimes puts trivial things like state board game associations in perspective: the sadness one feels after reading accounts of the South Asian disaster is inexpressible. Vishy Anand is heading back to India to assist relief efforts there: "only" 200 have been accounted dead in his home city of Chennai. How can we help, halfway around the world? For those with funds to spare, dwb.org and redcross.org are good places to start. We'd all do well to remember the motto of FIDE, the World Chess Federation: *gens una sumus*: we are one people.

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Hansen, Steven E LaGrange
Harvey, Frank Wheeling
Henderson, S E, Jr Bolingbrook

PEORIA WINTER TORNADO

AN ICA MINI-TOUR & EX- URBAN EVENT

WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 2005

WHERE: Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614

ENTRY FEE: \$14 by January 29, \$17 at the site, free to players rated 2200 or over

WHAT: 4 Round Swiss

TIME CONTROL: Game/80

SECTIONS: Open to all

MEMBERSHIPS REQUIRED: USCF & ICA (other states honored)

PRIZES: 75% of EF's distributed as follows:
25% First, 15% Second.
10% each to A/B, C/D, under 1200
5% to biggest Upset

REGISTRATION: 8:00-8:45 AM

ROUND TIMES: 9, 12, 2:45, 5:30

NOTE: A limit of one "1/2 point" bye is available in any Rd., but Rds. 3 or 4 must be elected by the end of Rd. 2

NO SMOKING. BRING SETS, BOARDS & CLOCKS.

ADVANCE ENTRIES: Fred Malcome, 1200 E. Partridge St., Unit 56A, Metamora, IL 61548, (309) 367-4833
e-mail: fmalcome@bwsys.net

ICB Games

By FM Albert Chow

FM Albert Chow's generous selection of games features games from the 13th Annual Midwest Class Championships, held in Oak Brook on October 8th-10th. There was a five-way tie for first place at 4-1; GM Dmitry Gurevich won the blitz playoff and the \$850 prize. Tied for second were GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, Stanislav Smetankin, IM Angelo Young and top under-2400 John Cole.

Larry Cohen (2012) – Stephen Wygle 2212) [A13]

13th Annual Midwest Class (2), 09.10.2004

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.e3? 4.Nf3 transposes to the Catalan 4...dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Nc3?

6.Qxc4 needed to be played, since 6...Ne5 7.Qb5+! prevents the invasion at d3.

6...a6! 7.Nge2 Rb8 8.Qxc4 Ne5! 9.Qd4 Nd3+ 10.Kf1 Qxd4 11.Nxd4 c5 12.Nc2 Be7 13.b3 0-0 14.Ke2 Rd8 15.Ne1 Nb4! 16.Bb2 b5 17.Rc1 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Rxb7

Black is better due to the holes on the light squares in White's camp.

19.a3 Nc6 20.Nb1? Na5! 21.Nf3 Nxb3 22.Rcd1 c4 23.Ne5 Rc8 24.Nc3 Nd7 25.d4 cxd3+ 26.Nxd3 Bf6

Winning more material, so White resigned. 0-1

Mark Korin (1951) – Guy Kittilsen (1816) [B01]

13th Annual Midwest Class Championship (3), 07.12.2004

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5

The Scandinavian defence.

4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Nf3 e6 7.0-0 Nc6!? 8.Bb5 0-0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qd3 Bd6 11.Ng5 Bh5 12.Bd2 Bg6 13.Qc4 Qb6 14.b3 h6 15.Nf3 Nd5 16.Rfe1 Rhe8 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Nxc3 19.Qxc3 Kb7 20.Be3 Qb5 21.a4 Qd5

An interesting example of playing with opposite-color bishops.

22.h3 c5? 22...Rd7 intending Red8 was solid

23.Rac1 Qc6 24.Bxc5 Rd5 25.b4 Red8 26.Qe3 a6 27.Qb3 Qd7 28.c3 Bf5 29.Bd4 g5 30.Re3 h5 31.Rce1 h4 32.Bc5

32.f3! preventing counterplay

32...g4! 33.hxg4 Bxg4 34.Qc4 Rg8 35.Qe4 Kb8 36.c4 Rd2 37.b5 a5 38.b6 c6 39.Bd6+ Kb7 40.c5 Rd5 41.Qc4

41.Qh7! , forking g8 and h4, was good.

41...Qd8 42.Qc3 Qa8 43.Kh2 Bf5 44.Qc4 Rd2 45.R1e2 Rxe2 46.Qxe2 Rg4! 47.Qf3 Qg8 48.Be7 Rd4! 49.Bf6 Qg6 50.Qe2 Be4! 51.f4 Bd5 52.Qf2 Rxf4! 53.Qd2 Rxa4 54.Rd3! Ra2

White is almost losing, but look again: White to play is able to force a draw!

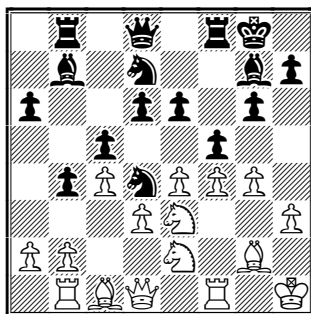
55.Qxa2! Bxa2 56.Rd7+ Ka6 57.Ra7+ Kb5 58.b7 Qg3+!

Draw agreed, as Black can force perpetual check. 1/2-1/2

Angelo Young (2462) – Dmitry Gurevich (2551) [A30]

Midwest Class Blitz playoff, 10.10.2004

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.d3 0-0 8.e4 d6 9.Ne1 Nc6 10.Nc2 Rb8 11.h3 a6 12.f4 e6! 13.g4 Nd7 14.Kh1 Nd4 15.Ne3 b5! 16.Rb1 b4 17.Ne2 f5!



18.gxf5 exf5 19.Nd5 Qh4 20.Be3 Nxe2 21.Qxe2 Bxd5 22.cxd5 Rbe8 23.Bf2 Qh6 24.Bg3 Nf6 25.e5 Nh5 26.Bh2 dxe5 27.fxe5 Bxe5! 28.Qxe5 Rxe5 29.Bxe5 Qe3 30.Rfe1 Ng3+ 31.Kh2 Ne2 32.Bd6 f4 33.Rxe2 Qxe2

White lost on time. 0-1

Win Moe (2346) – Stephen Muhammad (2445) [A83]

13th Annual Midwest Class (4), 10.10.2004

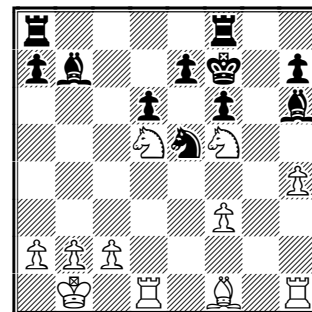
1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6

The Staunton Gambit creates winning chances in the Dutch...for Black!

5.d5 Ne5 6.Qd4 Nf7 7.h4 c6 8.0-0-0 Qb6! 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Qxe4 Qxf2! 11.Nf3 Bh6+ 12.Kb1 Qe3 13.Qg4 d6 14.Qh5 0-0 15.Nd4 Qe5 16.Qf3 Qf4 17.dxc6

17.Qxf4 Bxf4 18.dxc6 was a small improvement

17...Qxf3 18.gxf3 Ne5! 19.Nd5 Kf7 20.cxb7 Bxb7 21.Nf5



21...Bxd5 22.Nxh6+ Kg6 23.Rxd5 Kxh6 24.f4 Ng6 25.Rd4 e5! 26.Rxd6 Nxf4 27.Bb5 Rad8 28.Ra6 Rf7 29.Bc4 Rc7 30.b3 Rf8 31.Kc1 Kh5! 32.Kd2 Rg7 33.Rh2 Kg4! 34.Ke3 Kg3 35.Rh1 Ng2+ 36.Ke2 f5! 37.Bd5 e4 38.Rc6 f4! 39.Bxe4 Re7 40.Rc3+ f3+ 41.Kd3 Rd7+ 42.Kc4 Rc8+ 0-1

Esao Elezaj (2205) – Andrew Karklins (2346) [A85]

13th Annual Midwest Class (4), 10.10.2004

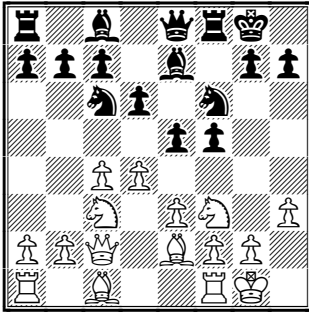
1.Nf3 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Qe8!? 7.0-0 Qh5 In using the counterattacking Dutch, Black makes no secret of his aggressive intentions.

8.Be2 Ng4!?

Investing a tempo to provoke a

potential weakness in White's castled structure.

9.h3 Nf6 10.Ne5?! Qe8 11.Qd3 d6 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.Qc2 e5!



14.a3 e4 15.Nd2 Bd8 16.b4 Ne7 17.Bb2 Qg6 18.Rad1 Kh8 19.Kh2 Qh6 20.d5 Ng6 21.Nb5 Nh4 22.Rh1? f4! 23.Bxf6 Bxf6

A critical moment. Black has an attack, but White could at least eat some gambit pawns with 24. Nxc7 or 24. Nxe4. Instead, he further weakens his kingside and Black easily invades.

24.g3?? fxg3+ 25.fxg3 Qxe3! 26.Nxe4 Be5 27.Rhf1 Bf5 0-1

Jon Burgess (2171) – Albert Chow (2193) [B23] Mensa Game/15 (3), 30.12.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Qe1 0-0 8.d3 d5 9.Bb3 Na5

Sharp counterplay in the Grand Prix Sicilian.

10.f5!? dxe4!? 11.Nxe4 Nxf5 12.g4??

12.Nxc5 regains the pawn. Black is better, but I do not see any clearly winning tactic since the a7 - g1 diagonal can be defended with Qf2

12...Nd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 14.Kh1 Nxb3 15.axb3 f5! 16.gxf5 exf5 17.Ng5 Bd7 18.h3 Bc6+ 19.Nf3 Qd5 20.Qg3 f4! 21.Qg2

21.Bxf4 Qf5! wins a piece.

21...Rae8 22.Bd2 Be3! 23.Rae1 Bxd2 24.Qxd2 Re3! 25.c4 Qh5 26.Kh2 Rxf3 27.Rxf3 Qxf3 28.Kg1 Qh1+ 29.Kf2 Qg2# 0-1

Nicolau Dos Santos (1342) – Richard Vondruska (1529) [B15] 13th Midwest Class C (4), 10.10.2004

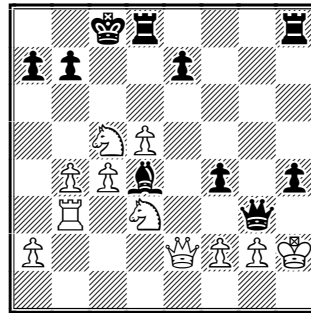
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 h6

A novelty on move four of the Caro-Kann ?!

5.Bc4 Bf5 6.Ng3 Bh7 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.0-0 Nb6 9.Bb3 Qc7 10.Re1 Nf6 11.Qe2 Nfd7 12.Bd2 Nd5 13.c4 Nf4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4 15.Rad1 0-0-0 16.d5 c5 17.Bc2 g5 18.Bxh7 Rxh7 19.Qc2 Rh8 20.Re4? 20.Qf5 was better for White. 20...Qf6 21.Rb1 h5 22.b4 g4 23.Ne1 h4 24.Nf1 Qg6 25.Qe2?

25.Re2 was more solid.

25...Nf6! 26.Nd2 Nxe4 27.Nxe4 f5 28.Nc3 Bg7 29.Na4 f4 30.Rb3? Bd4 31.Nxc5 g3 32.Ned3 gxh2+ 33.Kxh2 Qg3+!



34.Kh1 f3 35.Qe6+? Kb8 36.fxg3 hxg3+ 37.Qh3 Rxh3+ 38.gxh3 g2+ 39.Kh2 g1Q# 0-1

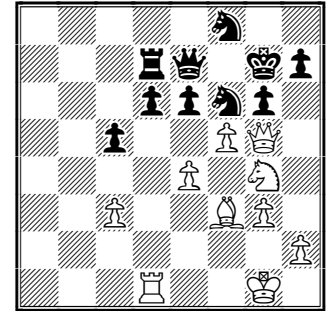
Ed Zelkind,E (2231) – Jason Doss (2326) [B30] 13th Annual Midwest Class (2), 09.10.2004

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 Rb8 6.a4 a6 7.0-0 b5 8.axb5 axb5 9.c3 b4 10.Be3 d6 11.Qc1 Nf6 12.Bh6 0-0 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nbd2 bxc3 15.bxc3 Bg4

White's King Indian Attack has only equalized against the Sicilian Defense.

16.Nc4 Nd7 17.Ne3 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 e6 19.Be2 Qe7 20.f4 f5 21.Bf3 Rfc8 22.Qe1 fxe4 23.dxe4 Rb3 24.Bd1 Rbb8 25.Qd2 Nf6 26.Bf3 Rd8 27.Ra6

Rbc8 28.Qa2 Nb8 29.Ra7 Rd7 30.Rxd7 Nbx7 31.Rd1 Nf8 32.Qd2 Ne8 33.f5 Rd8 34.Ng4 Nf6 35.Qg5 Rd7



36.Rxd6? Nxc4?

36...Rxd6! 37.e5 exf5! 38.exf6+ Rxf6 39.Nxf6 Qxf6 nets Black one pawn!

37.Rxd7 Qxd7 38.fxe6?

38.Bxg4 was better for White. 38...Qxe6 39.Qxg4 Qe5! 40.Qf4 Qxc3 41.Bg4 Qd4+ 42.Kf1 h5 43.Bh3 Qa1+ 44.Kg2 Qb2+ 45.Kg1 Qd4+ 46.Kf1 Qa1+

draw agreed. 1/2-1/2

Pete Karagianis,P (2171) – Ed Zelkind (2231) [E61]

13th Annual Midwest Class (4), 10.10.2004 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 c6 7.Be2 a6 8.h3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Rc1 Nf8 11.Qc2 b6 12.b4 N6d7 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.b5! Nb8 15.bxc6 Nxc6 16.Nd5 Qa7 17.c5 dxc5 18.dxc5 b5 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.exd4 Bf5 21.Bd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Rad8 23.Qe4 f6 24.Bh4 g5 25.Bg3 e6 26.Nb4 f5

The remaining moves are missing from the scoresheet; White eventually won. 1-0

ICB Games From FM Albert Chow

John Cole (2331) – Tony Cao (2000)
[B80]

13th Midwest Class (3),
10.10.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6
7.g4 h6 8.Bg2 Nc6

8...e5!? 9.Nf5 g6 is met with
10.Nxh6! Bxh6 11.Bxh6 Rxh6
12.g5

9.h3 Be7 10.Qe2 Qc7

The Keres Attack shows its
advantage over the
Scheveningen Sicilian; here,
Black fails to find any exact road
to equality.

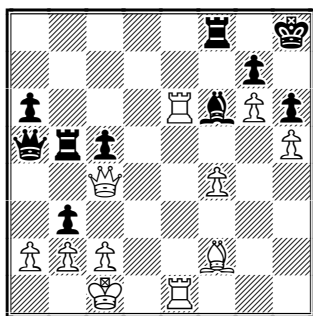
11.0-0-0 Nd7?!

11...Nxd4! 12.Bxd4 e5! 13.Be3
Be6 was a better way to create
counterplay

12.f4 Rb8?! 13.h4 b5 14.g5 b4
15.Na4 Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5
17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.g6!? f6?
19.e5! Qc7 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Qc4
Rb5 22.Bh3 Qe7

The sad weakness at e6 needs
help.

23.h5 0-0 24.Rhe1 Kh8 25.Bf2
Qc7 26.Bxe6 Bxe6 27.Rxe6 Qa5
28.Rde1 b3



29.Rxf6! Rd8

29...gxf6 30.Re7 soon mates.

30.Rd6 Rbb8 31.Rxd8+ Rxd8
32.Qe2 Qa4 33.cxb3 Qxf4+
34.Be3 Qf5 35.Bd2 Qd7 36.Bc3
1-0

Jon Burgess (2299) – Ed
Zelkind (2231) [C00]

13th Annual Midwest Class (3),
09.10.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d3 c5 3.Nd2 Nc6
4.Ngf3 d6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7

7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 Rb8 9.a4 a6
10.Nf1 0-0 11.c3 e5 12.Be3 b5
13.axb5 Rxb5 14.Qd2 Na5
15.Ra3 Nb3 16.Qc2 Qb6 17.Rb1
d5?? 18.exd5 Nxd5 19.c4!

Winning with a fork after
19...Nxe3 20.Nxe3 Rb4 21.Nd5,
so Black resigned. 1-0

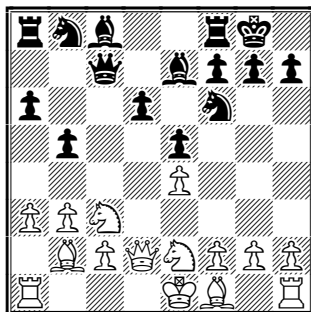
Karklins, A (2346) - Cole, J (2331) [B90]

13th Annual Midwest Class (5),
10.10.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.b3!?

This is amazing! It seems Andrew
Karklins has created a novelty on
the 6th move of the overanalyzed
Najdorf Sicilian! Without a doubt,
Mr. A. Karklins is one of the most
interesting and original Masters
that Chicago has ever produced.

6...e5 7.Nde2 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0
9.Qd2 b5 10.a3 Qc7



11.Ng3

11.g3!? and 12. Bg2 seems good
as well, so it seems the 6. b3
("Karklins variation.") proves its
right to exist and may be seen
again!

11...Be6 12.Bd3

12.Be2!? is also playable.

12...Nbd7 13.0-0 Nc5 14.Rae1
Rac8 15.Re2 Qb7!

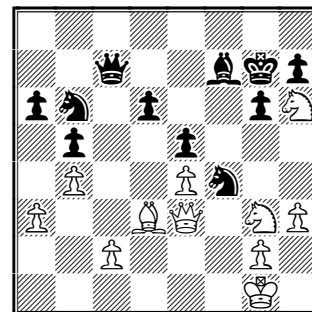
After all, White's weird opening
system is no big deal. With
common sense moves black
again obtains the usual Sicilian
counterplay.

16.b4

16.f4!? Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Bc4!
18.bxc4 bxc4 19.Qf3 Qxb2 20.Nf5
16...Ncd7 17.f4 g6 18.f5 Bc4

19.fxg6?! fxg6 20.Nd1 Be6
21.h3 Nb6 22.Qh6 Rf7 23.Ref2
Rcf8 24.Bc1 Qd7 25.Bg5 Ne8
26.Rxf7 Rxf7 27.Rxf7 Bxf7
28.Ne3 Qd8 29.Bxe7 Qxe7
30.Ngf1 Ng7! 31.Ng4 Ne6
32.Qe3 Qc7 33.Nh6+ Kg7
34.Ng3 34.Nxf7 Kxf7 35.g3! was
solid

34...Nf4



35.Ng4?

35.Nxf7! Kxf7 36.Ne2 is equal.

35...Nc4 36.Qc1 Qb6+! 37.Nf2??

37.Kh2 was forced, when white
may yet defend.

37...Ne3! 38.Bf1 h5! 39.h4 Bc4!
40.Bxc4 bxc4 41.Qd2 Qd4
42.Qc1 Qc3 43.Kh2 Nexg2
44.Qg1 Qxc2 45.a4 Qxa4
46.Nh3 Nxh4 47.Qa7+ Kh6
48.Nxf4 exf4 49.Ne2 Qc2 50.Qf2
f3 0-1

Andrew Karklins (2346) – Ed Zelkind
(2231) [C15]

13th Annual Midwest Class (1),
09.10.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Nge2 dxe4 5.a3 Be7 6.Nxe4
Nd7 7.g3 Ngf6 8.Nxf6+ Nxf6
9.Bg2 e5!? 10.0-0

10.dxe5? Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 Ng4
obviously favors Black.

10...exd4 11.Nxd4 0-0

Andrew Karklins seems to have a
slight advantage from his favorite
4.Ne2 Winawer French, but Ed
Zelkind shows solid defense,
looking for a chance to make
counterplay.

12.b4 c5 13.bxc5 Bxc5 14.Nb3
Bb6 15.Bf4 Bf5! 16.Rc1

16.Bxb7 Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bxc2
equalizes.

16...Qxd1 17.Rfxd1 Be4! 18.c4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Rac8 20.Kf3 Bc7 21.Bg5 Be5 22.a4 Rc7 23.Be3 b6

23...a6 may be better.

24.c5 bxc5 25.Rxc5 Re7

25...Rxc5 26.Bxc5 Rb8 was also playable, with a slight White edge. 26.Ra5 Bb8 27.Bc5 Rb7! 28.Rb5! Rxb5 29.axb5 Rc8 30.Na5! g5! 30...Rxc5?? 31.Rd8+ Ne8 32.Rxe8#

31.Nc6 g4+ 32.Kg2 Kg7

With very high-level positional play, A. Karklins has built a superior advantage despite the fact that Black has made no obvious blunders. But as often happens, as the time control nears at move forty, it is tempting to rush the tempo and blitz without deep thinking.

33.Bxa7?!

33.Ra1! would win the a7 pawn at White's leisure, without allowing Black counterplay.

33...Bxa7 34.Nxa7 Rc2 35.Rd4?

35.Rb1! posting a rook behind the passed pawn, gives the best chance for a positive result.

35...Rb2!

Thanks to the offside Na7, Black has excellent activity, and in fact white has problems finding a reasonable plan.

36.Ra4?! h5 37.Rd4?! Kg6

Black intends 38...Kf5 and 39...Ne4, then f2 falls. White should admit it's time to draw and go 38. Nc6 Rxb5 39. Rd2. but instead time pressure ruins an otherwise excellent effort.

38.h3?? gxh3+ 39.Kxh3 Rxf2 40.b6 Ng4! 41.Rxg4+ hxg4+ 42.Kxg4 Rb2

Let's also give Ed. Zelkind credit in showing how patient defense in an unpleasant middlegame can pay off with steady nerves and a little luck!

43.Nc8 Rb4+ 44.Kf3 Kf6 45.Nd6 Rxb6

The tables have turned and now it is Black who will push his technical advantage while denying any counterplay.

46.Ne4+ Kf5 47.Nf2 Rb3+ 48.Kg2 Rb2 49.Kf3 Ra2 50.Kg2 f6 51.Kf3 Ra3+ 52.Kg2 Ke6 53.Ne4 Ke5 54.Nf2 f5 55.Nh3 Ke4 56.Ng5+ Ke3 57.Kf1 Ra2 58.Kg1 Ra4 59.Kg2 Rb4 60.Kh2 Kf2 61.Nh3+ Kf3 62.Nf4 Rxf4 63.gxf4 Kxf4 64.Kh1

Black will win this pawn ending, so White resigned. 0-1

Joey Fishman (1607) – Roger Blaine (1735) [C05]

13th Annual Midwest Class (3), 09.10.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4!?

A favorite of Chicago area expert Bill Smythe. It is an interesting alternative to the main line 4...Nfd7.

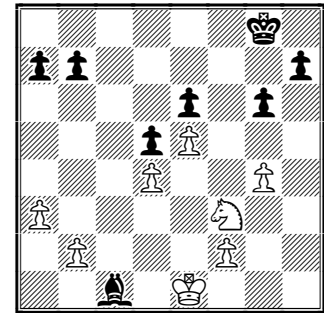
5.Bd3 Nxd2 6.Bxd2 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Qb6

Thematic counterplay in the French.

9.Qb3 Qc7 10.Qc2 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qb6 12.Bc3 Nb4 13.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 14.Ke2 g6 15.h4 Bd7 16.Rac1 0-0 17.a3 Rfc8 18.Qb1 Bf8 19.h5 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Bb5 21.hxg6 fxc6!?

21...hxg6 is equal. Instead, Black creates the possible outside passed h-pawn for the endgame.

22.Rc3 Bxd3+ 23.Rxd3 Rc8 24.Rd2 Bh6 25.Rc2 Qb5+ 26.Ke1 Rc6 27.Rxc6 Qxc6 28.g4 Qc1+ 29.Qxc1 Bxc1



30.b3 h6

30...Bxa3!? 31.Ng5! Bb2 32.Nxe6 Kf7 33.Ng5+! Ke7 34.Nf3 also seems good for Black.

31.a4 Kg7 32.Kd1 Ba3 33.Kc2 Be7 34.Ne1 h5! 35.gxh5 gxh5 36.Ng2 h4 37.Nf4 Kf7 38.Kd3 Bg5 39.Nh3 Kg6 40.f4 Bh6 41.Ke3 Kf5 42.Kf3 Bf8?

42...a5! is an easy endgame win for Black.

43.Ng5 Ba3 44.Nf7 Bc1 45.Nd6+ Kg6 46.Kg4 h3 47.Kxh3 Bxf4 48.Nxb7 Be3 49.Nc5 Kf5 50.Nd7 Bxd4 51.b4 Bxe5 52.b5 Bc7 53.Kg2 e5

Black is better, but lets the win slip away against White's stubborn defense.

54.Kf3 Ke6 55.Nc5+ Kf5 56.Nd7 e4+ 57.Ke3 Bf4+ 58.Kd4 e3 59.Kd3 Ke6 60.Nc5+ Kd6 61.Nb3 Bh6 62.a5 Bg5 63.Nd4 Kc5

A draw was agreed, in view of 64.Ne6+ Kxb5 65.Nxg5 Kxa5. 1/2-1/2

Larry Cohen (2012) – Tony Cao (2000) [C10] 13th Annual Midwest Class (4), 10.10.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Ne7?! 4.Nf3 b6 5.e5 c6?! 6.Bd3 Ba6 7.Qe2 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 a6?! 9.Ne2 Nd7 10.c3 Ng6 11.Ng3 Be7 12.Bd2 c5 13.0-0 0-0

Despite some very questionable moves in the opening, Black has managed to obtain a playable game.

ICB Games From FM Albert Chow

14.Rfe1 b5 15.a4 b4 16.cxb4 cxd4?!

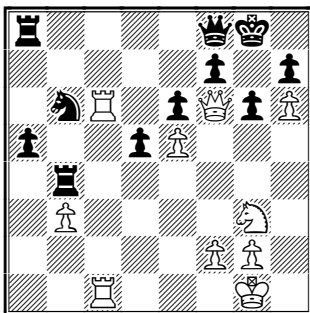
The normal recapture 16...cxb4 was better.

17.Qxd4 Qb8 18.h4 Rc8 19.h5? 19.b3! preventing counterplay.

19...Rc4 20.Qe3 Ngf8 21.b3! Rg4 22.h6! g6 23.Nd4 Bg5 24.Qe2 Bxd2 25.Nc6 Qc7 26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Qxd2 Nb6?!

27...Nxe5! was good.

28.a5 Qxe7 29.axb6 Rxb4 30.Qe3 Nd7 31.Rec1 Nxb6 32.Rc6 Qd8 33.Rac1 a5 34.Qf3 Qf8 35.Qf6+ Kg8



36.Rc7 Qxh6??

36...d4! is better for Black.

37.Qxf7+ Kh8 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Nh5! a4 40.Rg7+ Qxg7 41.Qxg7# 1-0

Jason Duncan (2129) – Andrew Karklins (2346) [C92]

13th Annual Midwest Class (2), 09.10.2004

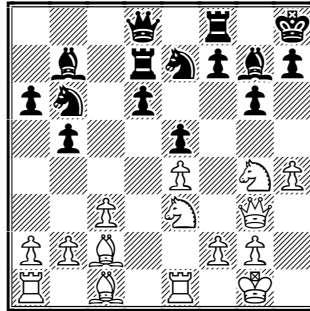
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nd7 10.d4 Bf6

A solid closed variation in the Ruy Lopez.

11.d5 Na5 12.Bc2 Nb6 13.Nbd2 c6! 14.dxc6 Nxc6 15.Nf1 Ra7 16.Ne3 Rd7?!

16...Be6! was more natural

17.Nh2 g6 18.Qf3 Bg7 19.Nhg4 Bb7 20.Qg3 Kh8 21.h4! Ne7



22.h5! gxh5! 23.Nh2 f5!? 24.exf5 Bf6 25.Qh3 Qe8 26.Bd1! Rg8 27.Bxh5 Qa8

Looking to attack down the g-file aiming at g2. Very bold and very risky.

28.Bf7 Rg7 29.Be6 Rc7 30.f3 Ned5 31.Nxd5 Nxd5 32.Bh6 Qa7+ 33.Kf1 Bg5!? 34.Bxg5 Rxg5 35.Qh6! Rcg7 36.Ng4! Qa8 37.Rad1! Rxg4!? 38.fxg4 Rxg4 39.Bxd5 Bxd5

If Black is allowed to capture on g2, his caveman attack would hurt big time, so White bails out with a sac of his own.

40.Rxd5! Qxd5 41.Qf8+ Rg8 42.Qf6+ Rg7 43.Qf8+ Rg8 44.Qf6+

Draw by perpetual check. 1/2-1/2

Al Chow (2239) – Mehmed Pasalic (2390) [D60] 13th Annual Midwest Class (5), 10.10.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c6 9.Qc2 Re8

A solid Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

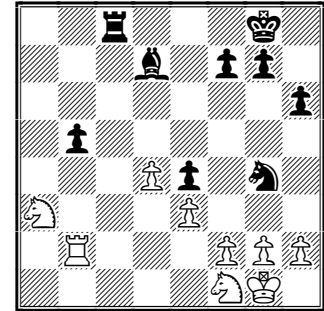
10.0-0 h6 11.Bh4 Ne4! 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.b4 a6 14.a4 Ndf6

White aims for a minority attack against Black's queenside pawns.

15.b5 axb5 16.axb5 Rxa1 17.Rxa1 Ng4! 18.Bxe4

18.Nd1!? is also good

18...dxe4 19.Nd2 Qc7! 20.Nf1 cxb5 21.Qb2! Bd7 22.Nxb5 Qb6 23.Rb1 Rc8 24.Na3 Qxb2 25.Rxb2 b5



26.f3

26.Nxb5?? Rb8! pins and wins for Black. But sooner or later this passed, isolated b-pawn will be weak.

26...Nf6 27.Kf2 Ra8 28.Nc2 exf3 29.gxf3 Nd5 30.e4 Nf4 31.Ke3 g5 32.Ng3 Rc8 33.Ne2 Ng6 34.Nb4 Rc4 35.Nd5! Bh3! 36.Rxb5 Rc2!

White has indeed won a pawn, yet Black retains excellent piece activity with counterplay against the White king.

37.Rc5 Rb2 38.Rc1 Nh4! 39.Ndc3 f5!

White should be better with something like 40.Rb1! but with one move till time control and my clock winding down, it seemed dangerous to allow Black to push 40...f4 with check.

40.exf5 Bxf5 41.Ra1 Ng2+! 42.Kf2 Nf4 43.Ke3

43.Ra2? Nxe2! 44.Rxb2 Nxc3 favors Black.

43...Ng2+ 44.Kf2

Here, a draw was agreed due to three-time repetition of moves. 1/2-1/2

O'Donnell,R (2143) - Wygle,S (2212) [E59]

13th Annual Midwest Class (4), 10.10.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0 0-0 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7

Black obtains counterplay in this Nimzo-Indian.

11.Bd3 e5! 12.Qc2 Re8 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.h3

15.f3! seems better, as it prevents

...Ng4 and covers the important central square e4.

15...Bd7 16.Bd2 Rad8 17.c4 Ba4! 18.Qxa4 Rxd3 19.Ra2 Red8 20.Bc1 a6 21.Bb2 Qe8 22.Qxe8+ Nxe8 23.Be5 f6 24.Bg3 Rb3!

With his rooks on the open files targeting White's pawn weaknesses, Black is enjoying an endgame advantage.

25.Rc1 Kf7 26.Kf1 Rdd3 27.a4 Ke7 28.Ke2 Nd6 29.Bxd6+ Kxd6 30.a5 Kc7 31.g4 Ra3 32.Rb2 Rd7 33.Rg1 h6 34.h4 Rxa5 35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5 b5 37.gxf6 gxf6 38.Rg6 Rf7 39.cxb5 axb5 40.e4 b4 41.f4 Kd6 42.e5+ Ke6 43.Kd3 Kf5 44.Rbg2 Rd7+ 45.Kc4 Rd4+ 46.Kb3 fxe5 47.fxe5 Rd3+ 48.Kb2 Kxe5 49.R2g5+ Kd4 0-1

Stanimir Ilic (2149) – Jon Burgess (2090) [B12]
Mensa Game/15, 25.09.2004

1.d4 c6 2.e4 d6 3.c4 Qc7 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Ngf6 7.f3 Be7 8.Nh3 a5 9.Nf2 Nc5 10.Be2 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0

After transposition of moves we have a Saemisch system against the Old Indian.

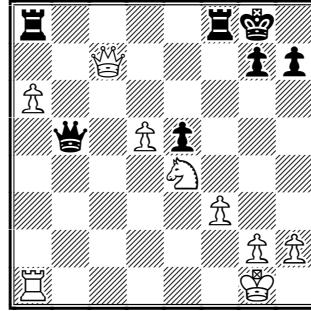
12.b3 cxd5 13.cxd5 Rab8 14.Nb5 Bxb5 15.Bxb5 Nfd7 16.a3 f5?

16...Rfc8 is correct

17.exf5 Rxf5 18.b4?

18.Qc2! Rf7 19.b4! Na6 20.Qxc7 Nxc7 21.Bxd7 wins a piece.

18...axb4 19.axb4 Na6 20.Qa4 Nb6 21.Qb3 Ra8 22.Bd3 Rff8 23.Rfc1 Qd8 24.Ne4 Nd7 25.Bxa6 bxa6 26.Rc6 Nb8 27.Bb6 Qd7 28.Rc7 Qe8 29.b5!? Nd7 30.bxa6 Nxb6 31.Qxb6 Bd8 32.Qxd6 Bxc7 33.Qxc7 Qb5



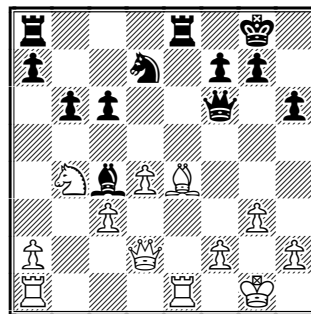
34.a7?

34.Qxe5 Rxa6 35.Rxa6 Qxa6 36.h4 was good; 34.Qa5 is good

34...Qxd5 35.Ra5 Qd4+ 36.Kf1? Qxe4! 37.Rxe5 Qd3+ 38.Kf2 Qd4+ 39.Kg3 Rxa7 40.Qc5 Qf4+ 41.Kh3 Ra4 42.Qd5+ Kh8 43.Rh5 g6 44.g3 Qf7 45.Qb5 gxh5 46.Qxa4 Qxf3 47.Qa1+ Qf6 48.Qa4 Qf5+ 49.Kg2 Qf1# 0-1

Cohen,L (2012) - Loncarevic,R (2008) [D35]
13th Annual Midwest Class (5), 10.10.2004

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.g3 Bb4 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Bd2 Bxc3 8.bxc3 c6 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Nb6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Ne5 Nd7 14.Nd3 Re8 15.Qd2 b6 16.Rfe1 Ba6 17.Nb4 Bc4 18.e4! dxe4 19.Bxe4



19...Rac8?

19...a5! was better.

20.Bxc6! Red8

20...Rxe1+ 21.Qxe1! Rxc6 22.Qe8+ Kh7 23.Qe4+ is good for White

21.Bg2 Nc5 22.Re3 a5 23.Nc2 Na4 24.Na3 Qd6 25.Nxc4 Rxc4 26.Bf1 Rc7 27.Rae1 Qc6 28.c4 Nc5 29.Bg2 Qa4 30.Bd5! Na6 31.Re7! Rxe7 32.Rxe7 Qb4 33.Qe3 Qb1+ 34.Kg2 Qxa2 35.Bxf7+ Kf8 36.Re8+! Kxf7 37.Qe6# 1-0

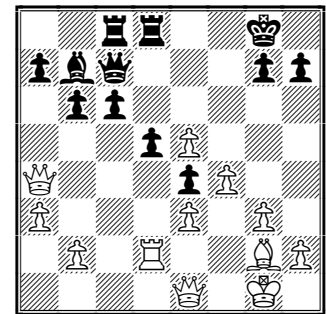
Muhammad,S (2445) – O'Donnell,R (2143) [E18]

13th Annual Midwest Class (3), 10.10.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 Ne4 7.Bd2 f5 8.0-0 0-0

A solid main-line Queen's Indian.

9.Qc2 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Bf6 11.Rfe1 d5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Ne5 Bxe5 14.dxe5 c6 15.Rad1 Qe7 16.f4 Na6 17.a3 Nc5 18.e3 Rfd8 19.Qc2 Ne4 20.Nxe4 fxe4 21.Rd2 Rac8 22.Qa4 Qc7



23.Red1 c5??

A blunder in an equal position. Better was 23...Kh8 or 23...a5.

24.Bh3! Ra8 25.Be6+ Kh8 26.Bxd5 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Rxd5 c4 29.Qd1 h6 30.Qd4 c3 31.Qxc3 Qxc3 32.bxc3 Rc8 33.e6 Kg8 34.e7 1-0

TACTICS FROM THE U.S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

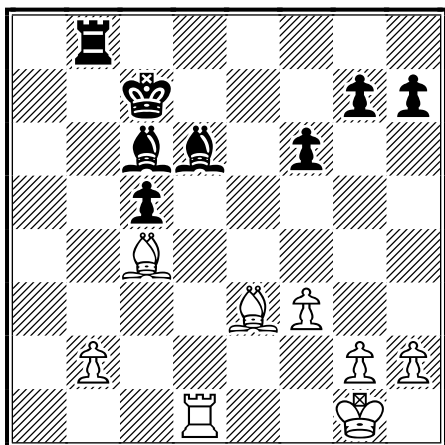
TACTICS FROM THE 2005 U.S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Dr. Rajen Gandhi

The 2005 U.S. Chess Championship, held in San Diego from November 23 to December 5, 2004, produced a 16-year-old champion: Hikaru Nakamura from White Plains, New York. Hooray for Hikaru! As the youngest to win since Fischer and a non-Russian, Hikaru could signal a new era in U.S. chess. He played complicated variations in most of his games and challenged his opponents to respond accurately. This must be his lucky year, as he came back to win from an inferior position against GM Ibragimov in the last round of the championship. Hikaru then knocked out Stripunsky 2-0 with superb play in the tie-break. As for the women, Anna Zatonskih caused a sensation by beating Shabalov in round one, but ultimately, it was Rusudan Goletiani who knocked out Tatev Abrahamyan 2-0 in a tie-break to win the women's crown.

While there was a lot of good chess, it was amazing to see a number of amateur-level blunders (as the reader will see below). The championship produced some very good examples of tactics for the average player. After I selected the following examples, I found that some of them were also coincidentally selected by the ChessBase.com website. Some are easy to solve, while others require thinking. The answers are given at the end of the article.

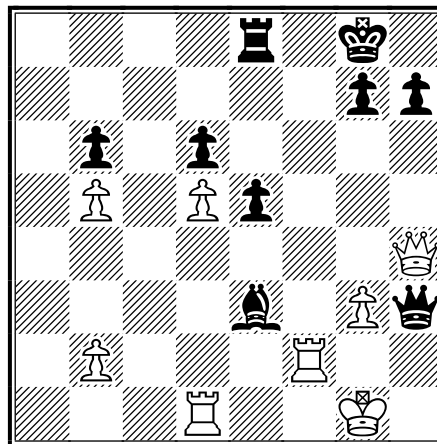
S. Muhammad (2455)



H. Nakamura (2676)

Black just blundered withRb8? **White** punishes him dearly. How?

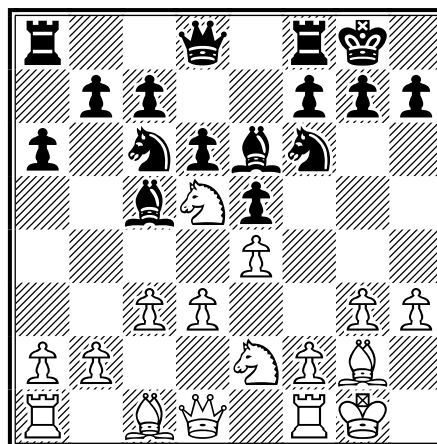
D. Gurevich (2551)



L. Ross (2195)

Here, GM Gurevich has one passed and another potential passed pawn. With **Black** to play, he teaches us not to fool around—just simplify to win.

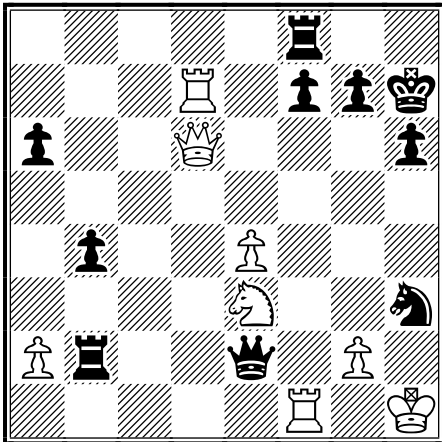
C. Airapetian (2149)



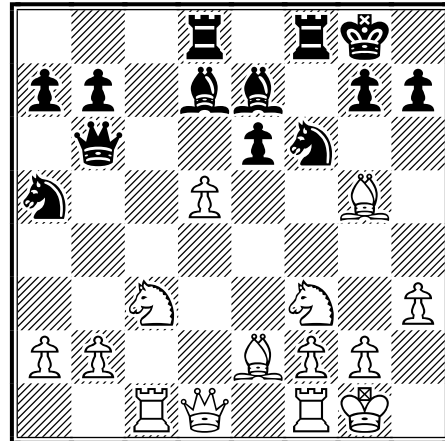
R. Gonzalez (2538)

With simple tactics, **White** wins a piece. How?

L. Ross (2195)



A. Hahn (2256)



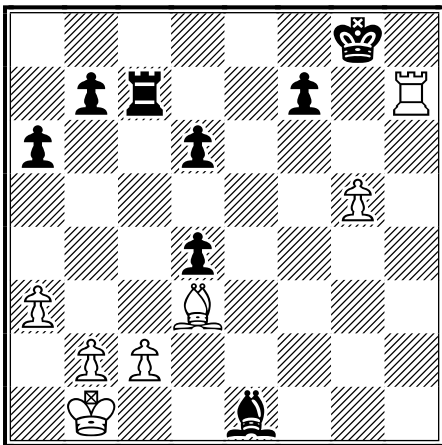
S. Muhammad (2455)

White, an IM, grabs the rook on f8. **Black**, an expert, teaches white a beautiful lesson in checkmate. Can you find it?

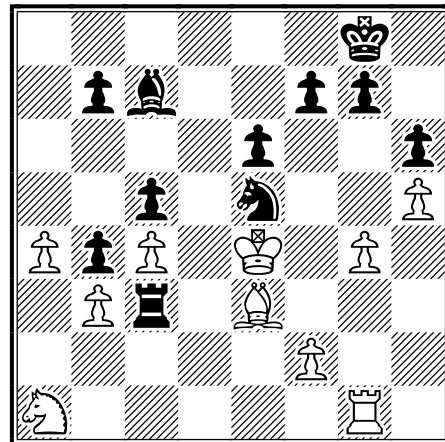
G. Serper (2598)

Serper as **White** puts pressure on the Black queen and tempts Black into committing a blunder.

N. DeFirmian (2626)



A. Shabalov (2689)



A. Zatonskih (2459)

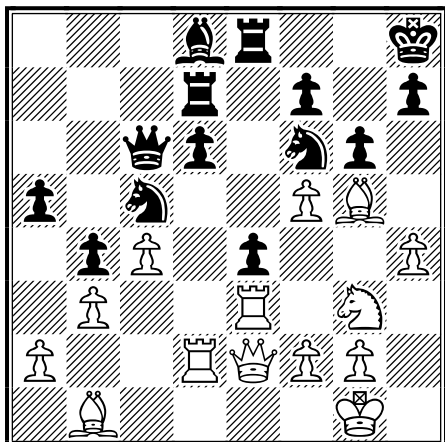
White manages to win Black's f-pawn and draw the game. What did she play?

R. Gonzalez (2536)

White just played Rg1 to defend his g-pawn. **Black** shows no respect. What'd he play?

TACTICS FROM THE U.S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

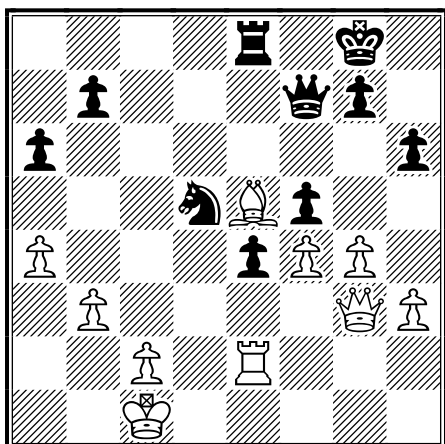
Y. Lapshun (2527)



G. Kamsky (2777)

Black just played ...e4. What? This is a good exercise for juniors to develop their calculating ability. Count how many forces each player has on the e4 pawn. Then see how **White** can reduce Black's total number of forces and win the pawn.

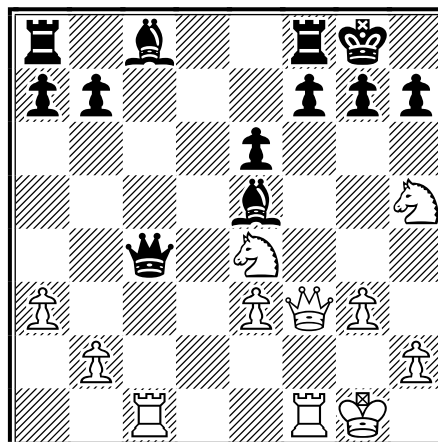
H. Nakamura (2676)



N. DeFirmian (2626)

White just played Qg3. **Black** comes up with a fine tactical shot to make his position better and win. What is it?

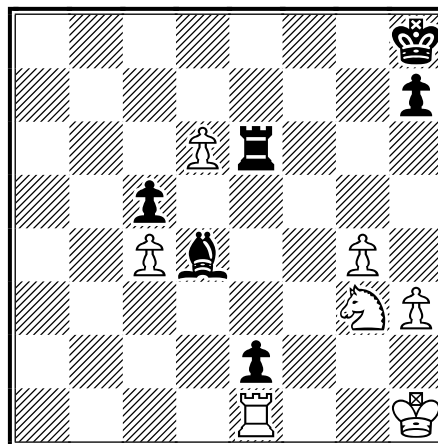
W. Browne (2508)



A. Zatonskih (2459)

When you harass your opponent's key pieces, chances are the opponent (even a GM) would make a blunder. Here Black played Qd3. **What did White play** to force Black to resign immediately?

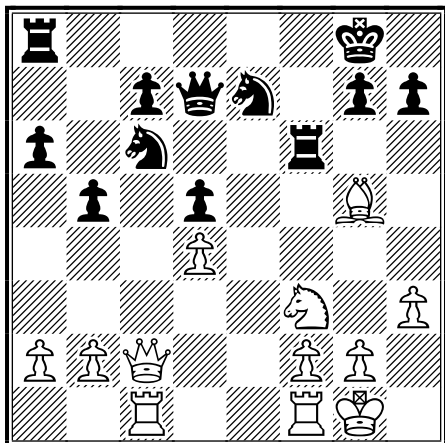
T. Battsetseg (2238)



B. Finegold (2621)

Finegold played here 1.Rxe2 and Black replied 1...Rxd6?? Black was taught a fine lesson in very fundamental tactics. What did **White** play?

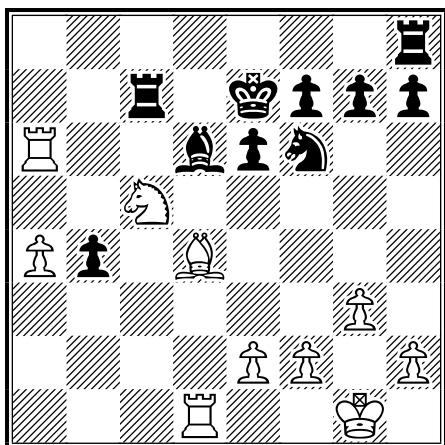
R. Lugo (2413)



A. Ivanov (2633)

Black to play and he is getting edgy here. GM Ivanov miscalculates in his response and pays a heavy price- a loss in a game that lasted only 22 moves! **What did Black play?**

D. Schneider (2503)



V. Akobian (2665)

This position arose after Black played 1...Rd7 2. Nc5 Rc7. Now it's **White to play** and pick up a pawn with nice tactics which obviously Black didn't see.

Answers as they appear in the games:

Nakamura-Muhammad

1.Rxd6 Black resigned as he loses the rook on b8 if he captures White's rook with the skewer 2.Bf4+.

Ross-Gurevich

1...Qxh4 2. gxh4 Rf8 and White resigns, as the pawn ending is hopeless.

Gonzalez-Airapetian

Airapetian falls for a beginners' trap: 1. d4 exd4 2. cxd4 Ba7 3. Nxf6+ Qxf6 4. d5 and Black loses a piece to the pawn fork. The game is over in 17 moves, making it the shortest of the championship.

Muhammad-Ross

1. Qxf8? Qh5! 2. Kh2 Nf2+ 3. Kg3 Qe5+ 4. Kf3 Qxe4+ 5. Kg3 Qxe3+ 6. Kh2 Qf4+ 7. Kg1 Nf3+ and White resigns as checkmate is inevitable.

Zatonskih-DeFirmian

Using the simple pinning tactic, 1. g6 Ba5 2. Rxf7 Rxf7 Bc4 White wins the f-pawn and the rook back and later settles for a draw.

Serper-Hahn

Former U.S. women's champion Anna Hahn falls for a simple "removal of guard" tactic and gets her Bishop trapped just like a beginner! 1. Be3 Qxb2? 2. d6 and Black's Bishop on e7 is gone. 2...Bc6 is met with 3.dxe7!

Gonzalez-Shabalov

Black plays...Nxc4! and White resigns. Bxc5 leads to a checkmate by Black with Nf6# and Rxc4 leads to pawn fork with f5+.

Kamsky-Lapshun

Why would an IM sac a pawn here? Beats me! Kamsky gladly accepted it with 1. fxc6 fxc6 2. Bxf6 Bxf6 3. Nxe4 Nxe4 4. Bxe4 Qb6 5. Qf3 Kg7 6. Qg4 Re7 7. h5 Kh8 8. hxc6 Bd4 9. Rh3 Black resigns

DeFirmian-Nakamura

1...Rxe5 (BAM! Take that! Anand and Kasparov do this all the time) 2. fxe5 f4 3. Qe1 e3 4. c4 Qc7 and Black wins a few moves later.

Zatonskih-Browne

1.Rcd1 and Black resigns since checkmate is inevitable; once the Black queen leaves the d-file, White continues with 2.Qxf7+! followed by back-rank mate.

Finegold-Battsetseg

1. Re8+ Kg7 2. Nf5+ Black resigns due to a simple fork that makes one wonder: shouldn't Black have foreseen this?

TACTICS FROM THE U.S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Ivanov-Lugo

1...Rxf3 2. Bxe7? Nxd4 3. Qxc7 Qf5 4. gxf3 Qxh6 and White resigns.

Akobian-Schneider

This game probably made history. Schneider had to forfeit the game because his cell phone rang. However, he acknowledged he had an inferior position anyway. 1. Nxe6 fxe6 2. Bxf6 Kxf6 3. Rdxd6 Rf8 and, as mentioned above, White wins seven moves

Congratulations to 14-year-old Zhe Quan, our former Illinois junior (and alumnus of the ICA Warren Junior Program) Now living in Toronto, for an excellent performance of 8 out of 13, tying for 12th place, in the 2004 World Junior Championship held in November in Kochin, India. Pentala Harikrishna of India won the championship with a score of 10 points.—*Dr. Rajen Gandhi*

Please see the calendar for details on these upcoming Jan. & Feb. events!

- Jan. 29: Peoria Winter Tornado.
- Feb. 5: Tuley Park Quick #2
- **Feb. 18-20: U.S. Amateur Team!**
- Feb. 20 Tuley Park Quick #3
- **Feb. 26-27: Greater Peoria Open!**

The U.S. Open returns to Chicago!

August 5-13, 2006

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There will be an ICA board meeting on Feb. 06,2005 at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest located at 3400 W. Euclid Ave. in Arlington Hts, IL.

The hotel is located just west of the Arlington Park Racetrack.

(General directions - take I90/I290 to Rt53 North to the Euclid exit. Go East about 1 mile to hotel).

Agenda:

Officers mtg 1:00 - 1:30PM

ICA board mtg 1:30 - 4:00PM

The 2005 budget

Bids for 2005 IL, Open & Class

ICB magazine

These will be some of the many items to be discussed.

An Interview with the Latest, Greatest, American Chess Icon.

By NM Blair Machaj



Its one week before my first article for the Illinois Chess Bulletin is due. I need something special, and interesting, something that everyone will enjoy reading. How about an interview with the new U.S. Champion GM Hikaru Nakamura? I would need to contact him before he leaves for Mexico for a match with young Ukrainian GM Sergey Karjakin.

Sounds easy? Well, the U.S. Championship has finished and 16 year old Hikaru Nakamura has won the title. He is the 2nd youngest U.S. Champion, after

Bobby Fischer. Hikaru Nakamura is currently rated 2700 USCF and 2620 FIDE. This places him 4th in the country by USCF rating, and in the top 70 in the world according to FIDE rating, but both ratings will be increasing after his wonderful performance in the U.S. Championship. Nakamura has accomplished much by the age of 16. At the age of 10, he became the youngest American to obtain a USCF master's rating. At age 15, a year younger than Bobby Fischer was when he reached GM ranking, Nakamura he became the youngest American GM ever.

Nakamura has come close to breaking nearly every record Fisher set when he was considered by many to be the best player in the world. Aside from his strength as a classic chess player, Nakamura is considered one of the best blitz players in the world. On the Internet Chess Club (ICC) he has the highest ratings ever in the following categories: Blitz, Standard, 5-m, and 1-m. (Just after completing this article an untitled account belonging to GM Roman Dzindzichashvili has taken the 5-m title back. Nakamura replied not for long!)

While he has been considered one of the great bullet players in the world, he is also one of the best blitz players. He is competitive with players such as Alexander Morozevich FIDE 2747, Peter Svidler FIDE 2735, Alexei Shirov FIDE 2727, and Alexander Grischuk FIDE 2704. He has faced many of these opponents on ICC. They have challenged him, yet

have not prevented him from achieving the Highest Blitz rating ever.

Logging onto the ICC, I hoped to find him on line. I knew that he was just returning from San Diego, and had to prepare for his upcoming match, but I hoped he would respond to my request for an interview. I have played a few games of blitz, and bullet against him, and have been his partner for numerous bughouse games. I thought maybe my charm and persuasion would be enough to get him to agree to an interview. Nakamura was on line. He said he was very busy and he needed to do a Chessbase interview, along with a few others, but since it was me he would grant the request. So here is our conversation.

BM: Well I want to start off by thanking you for allowing me to do this interview. I know your time is valuable; that you must get ready for your match. Congratulations on winning the 2005 U.S. Championship, truly a great feat!

HN: Thank you it's a great feeling to be the champion!

BM: I am glad you could take time out to do this interview!

HN: Yes, I am missing Smallville (the WB television show based on superman) right now!

BM: Shouldn't you be studying for the upcoming match?

NH: Everyone needs a break.

BM: What was your toughest match in the U.S. Championship?

HN: My toughest game had to be yesterday's against Ibragimov. So many tricks in the endgame, one move he wins, one he loses. I got a little lucky. I don't think I was losing in any of my other games, at least not a forced loss. I had a cold for the first 2/3 of the tournament and slowly got better. It felt like I gained energy as the tournament went on. I scored 2.5/3 in the final two rounds, so that seems to be true.

BM: At what age did you begin playing chess? Who was your first chess teacher?

HN: I began playing chess at 7 1/2 years old. I have never really had a chess teacher. I got into the game because my brother Asuka Nakamura and stepfather FM Sunil Weeramantry both played the game, and I was around it a lot so I just picked it up.

BM: Ah, that makes sense your brother has been a very strong player for many years, and your father is

Interview with the Latest, Greatest, American Chess Icon

most likely the most well respected chess coach in the U.S. Who was your idol, or whose games did you study and enjoy reviewing?

HN: Unlike most top players I have not studied the games of most world champions. However, I have studied Fischer's 60 memorable games and have looked at quite a few of Kasparov's games. So those 2 players are probably my idols.

BM: Your style of play seems to be that of a great attacker, like both of those players. It seems like their style has rubbed off on you.

HN: Yes!

BM: What was your best moment as chess professional?

HN: Although there have been many moments that have stood out in my career; this latest win has most definitely been the highlight thus far. To win the strongest US Championship ever is awesome, and to be the 2nd youngest ever to win is remarkable.

BM: What was your worst moment as a chess professional?

HN: As far as my worst moment ever...I am not sure if I can recall right off as I have played so many tournaments.

BM: I like that answer! I never seem to remember any losses I might have had either!

HN: Ha, yes strong players never remember them!

BM: If you can name one thing you did or studied which propelled you to the top what was it?

HN: I don't believe that I have reached my peak yet. I believe that as far as my progress in chess goes my opening preparation has helped me

BM: Would your peak be World Champion?

HN: ☺

BM: It seems like the best goal now that you have become U.S. Champion and your FIDE rating is on the rise!

HN: Time will tell.

BM: Does playing on ICC help or hinder your game? How?

HN: I play ICC for fun, and it does not hinder my game because 95% of the time I don't play my main openings there. However, it's the premier site on the web and I enjoy the competition and the chatting!

BM: Yes it is! It's a great deal of fun getting to play strong players, and chatting with your friends! Also some bughouse and crazyhouse on occasion!

HN: Yes bughouse is fun to play with the right partner!

BM: It's been fun playing with you and against you in Bughouse. Still I am amazed you have the highest Blitz rating ever and yet you don't play your real openings. That is impressive! What other Hobbies or interests do you have besides chess?

HN: Other hobbies I have besides chess are: tennis, baseball, and studying the financial markets.

BM: What is the best time control for chess? Why?

HN: I believe that the classical time controls with 40/2 SD1 are better than the current faster controls with increments. The main problem with fast controls is that the level of chess goes down quite a bit. I understand that in order to make chess more favorable for spectators you need faster controls, but the level of chess needs to stay at high quality.

BM: Interesting response, especially since many consider you one of the best Blitz players in the world.

HN: Classical Chess is still the most important.

BM: Besides yourself, who are the best 5 players in the world right now in order of strength, and why?

HN: The top 5 players right now are probably Kasparov, Anand, Kramnik, Leko, and maybe Adams or Morozevich. They have all proved over the past 5-10 years that they are the strongest players ever.

BM: What are your present chess and non-chess goals?

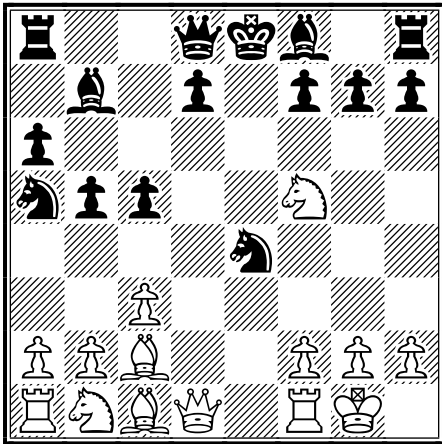
HN: My present goal in chess is to just keep on improving and see where I go from here. As far as non chess goals go I don't have any right now.

BM: Well I want to thank you again for agreeing to do this article. We will enjoy your games from the U.S. Championship! Good Luck in your upcoming match, in your future tournaments, and in one day winning a World title!

(1) Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) - Muhammad, Stephen (2387) [C78]

2005 US Championship San Diego (1), 24.11.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

The start of the 2005 U.S. Championships we find GM Nakamura playing a very strong opponent in FM Stephen Muhammad.. Muhammad is from Georgia and has all 3 IM norms, but needs to get his FIDE rating above 2400 to receive his title. Nakamura, like all the entrants, wants to start out strong in the first few rounds of this event.. This way they can draw a few more games later on and still stay in first place. Nakamura has a tough task because at this point he is ill with the flu. **1.e4 C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.c3 Nxe4 8.d4 Na5 9.Bc2 exd4 10.Nxd4 c5 11.Nf5!?** Diagram



The home preparation looks great so far, white is still in book. I like his position, his King is safe yet he is ready to attack on the open e file. The only moves now seem to be Qf6 and d5, unfortunately both of these moves score well below 40% for black!

11...d5

[11...Qf6 12.Nd2 d5 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ng3 Be7 15.Nxe4 Qc6 16.Qh5 Nc4 17.b3 g6 18.Qh3 Nd6 19.Re1 0-0 20.Bf4 Nf5 21.Ng5 Bxg5 22.Bxg5 Ng7 23.Be7 Rfc8 24.Rad1 Qb6 25.Re3 Re8 26.Qh6 Nh5 27.Re5 Ng7 28.Rd6 Rxe7 29.Rxb6 Rxe5 30.h3 Bd5 31.Qf4 Re2 32.Rb8+ Rxb8 33.Qxb8+ Ne8 34.Bd3 Re1+ 35.Kh2 c4 36.bxc4 bxc4 37.Qd8 Bxg2 38.Bxc4 Bc6 39.Qc8 Rh1+ 40.Kg3 Rg1+ 41.Kf4 Ba4 42.Bb3 g5+ 43.Kf3 1-0 Almasi, Z-Beliavsky, A/Dortmund 1998/CBM 66/[Wedberg] (43)]

12.a4 [12.Nd2 Qf6 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ng3 Be7 15.Nxe4 Qc6 16.Qh5 Qg6 17.Qe2 Qc6 18.Qh5 Qg6 19.Qxg6 hxg6 20.Be3 Rc8 21.b3 f5 22.Ng5 0-0 23.h4 Bf6 24.Rac1 Rfe8 25.c4 Bxg5 26.hxg5 bxc4 Efimenko, Z-

Kaidanov, G/Aeroflot Open, Moscow RUS 2004/1-0 (44)]

12...Qd7 N Qd7 is a new move. In other games g6 has been played to displace the strong Knight on f5. I think this still appears to be the best move. It appears as if moving the Queen to do this job gives up some important diagonals, and I am not sure the Queen really wants to be on d7.

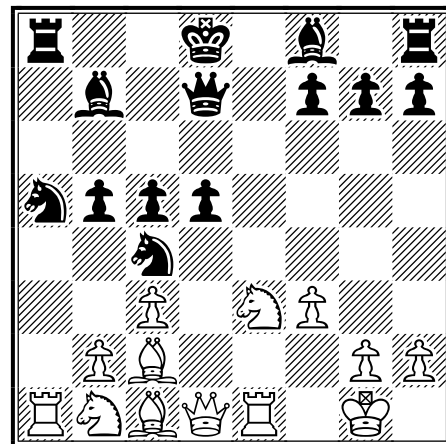
[12...g6 13.f3 Ng5 (13...Nf6 14.Qe2+ Kd7 15.axb5 axb5 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4 gxf5 18.Bxf5+ Kc6 19.Na3 Bd6 20.Qxb5+ Kc7 21.b4 Bc6 22.bxc5 Bxb5 23.Nxb5+ Kc6 24.Nxd6 Nb3 25.Rab1 Nxc5 26.Nb5 Ne6 27.c4 dxc4 28.Be4+ Nxe4 29.Bxd8 Nd2 30.Bf6 Nxb1 31.Bxh8 Rxb8 32.Rxb1 Kc5 33.Nc3 Nf4 34.Kf2 Re8 35.Ne4+ Kd4 36.Rb7 Nd3+ 37.Ke2 f5 38.Rd7+ Ke5 39.Nd6 Ke6 40.Nxe8 Kxd7 41.Ng7 ½-½ Ivanovic, B-Mikhailchishin, A/Herceg Novi 1999/EXT 2001 (41)]

14.axb5 axb5 15.Qe2+ Ne6 16.Ng3 Qb6 17.f4 f5 18.Re1 Kf7 19.Bxf5 gxf5 20.Qh5+ Ke7 21.Nxf5+ Kd8 22.Qh4+ 1-0 Bezgodov, A-Malaniuk, V/Cap d'Agde 2002/EXT 2004 (22)]

13.f3 Qxf5 seems to be the only good move for Black. Black will still need to be very careful but it looks like he can give the pawn back and achieve equality. The position will be a bit unbalanced because black will have better development, but some of the pieces will be on weak squares such as his knight. White will still need to get his pieces out but he will have space, and some open files to attack on. This would be a very interesting game!

13...Nd6? [13...Qxf5?! 14.fxe4 Qd7 15.exd5 Be7 (15...Bxd5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Qe2+ Be7 18.Rd1 Qc6 19.Qe5+) 16.Be4 0-0 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qf3 Bd6=]

14.Re1+! Kd8 15.Ne3 Ndc4 16.axb5 axb5 Diagram



GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

17.Bf5?! White seems to have a few options that keep a solid advantage. This is a tough position. Nakamura doesn't want equality. After the following trades he wins back a pawn but black is well developed, while white still needs to get most of his pieces out. Black is going to stand better. In retrospect Nf5 was the other move considered and should have been played.

[17.Nf5?! g6 18.Ng3 Kc7 19.b3 Nb6 20.Bf4+ Bd6 21.Bxd6+ Qxd6 22.Na3 Bc6²; 17.b3?! Nxe3 18.Bxe3 Kc8 19.Na3 Bd6 20.Qb1 Kb8²; 17.Na3?! Nxe3 18.Bxe3 Bd6 19.Qe2 Nc4 20.Nxc4 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 bxc4²]

17...Nxe3!³ 18.Bxd7 Nxd1 19.Bxb5 Bd6 [19...Nxb2!? 20.Re8+ Kc7 21.Rxa8 Bxa8 22.Rxa5 c4μ]

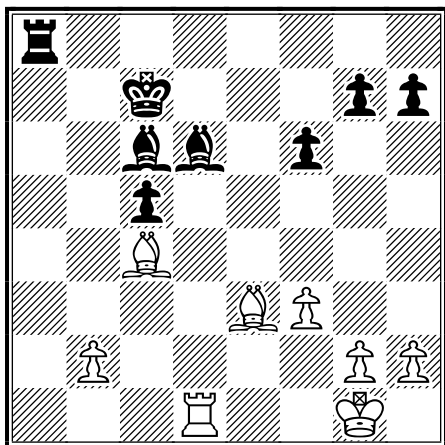
20.Rxd1³ Kc7 21.Nd2 Bc6 22.Bd3 Rhe8 This is a very hard position for white to play, still he cannot get out all of his pieces and is struggling to find good moves.

23.c4 dxc4? This move makes very little sense, breaking up the black center and trading off the pieces black needs to keep the bind only helps white. Black should be looking to keep the pieces on the board and to continuing to squeeze white. [23...Be5! 24.cxd5 Bxd5 25.Kf2 Kc6-+]

24.Nxc4! Nxc4 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Bxc4² Now the c pawn is blockaded, White has traded off many of his bad pieces, and can now use both Bishops and his rook without any problems. It should be a draw, but I like white's chances.

26...f6 Sometimes being the champ means you are better than anyone else. In most cases it means you are very good and you have luck on your side. Now it seems as if Black fell asleep and missed tactics 101 class. Nakamura, however, majored in sharp tactics!

27.Be3 Diagram



27...Rb8?? [27...Ra4 28.b3 Ra5²]

28.Rxd6!+- Annihilates a defender: d6[28.Rxd6 Bb5 29.Bxc5 Bxc4 30.Rd4 Rxb2 31.Rxc4+-] **1-0**

(2) Lakdawala, Cyrus (2422) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) [A45]

2005 US Championship San Diego (2), 25.11.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

In game 2 Nakamura has to face the always pleasant IM, Cyrus Lakdawala. He is a solid IM rated over 2500 USCF from California. Nakamura noticed that the IM was pointing to the sky asking for some help before the game. Unfortunately the chess gods were not on his side as he was quickly disposed of. This game lasted 42 moves but in time it lasted slightly over an hour, because Nakamura knew the position quite well and blitzed off his moves to perfection!

1.d4 A45: Trompowsky Attack 1...Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 gxf6 4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 Bg7 6.g3

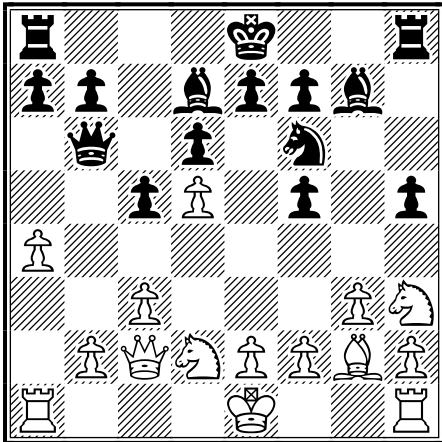
[6.Nd2 f5 7.Rb1 d6 8.e3 Nd7 9.Nh3 Nf6 10.c4 Qa5 11.Bd3 b5 12.0-0 bxc4 13.Bxc4 0-0 14.Nf4 Re8 15.Rd1 Rb8 16.Qc2 Bd7 17.Nf1 Bb5 18.Ng3 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Rb4 20.Qe2 e5 21.Nfh5 Nfh5 22.Qxh5 f4 23.Nf5 Qd8 24.Rd3 Qf6 25.Ra3 Qg6 ½-½ Giaccio, A-Lima, D/Nigran 1993/EXT 2004 (25)]

6...d6 [6...0-0 7.Bg2 f5 8.c3 d6 9.Nh3 Nd7 10.Na3 Nf6 11.0-0 Qa6 12.Qd2 b5 13.Nc2 Bb7 14.Ne3 Ne4 15.Qd3 c4 16.Qc2 e6 17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Qxe4 exd5 19.Qg4 Kh8 20.Ng5 Qc6 21.Qf5 1-0 Dumitrescu, D-Schoen, R/Marianske Lazne 2003/CBM 92 ext (21)]

7.Bg2 f5 [7...Na6 8.Nh3 Nb4 9.Nf4 h5 10.c3 Na6 11.h4 Bh6 12.e3 Bxf4 13.exf4 Bg4 14.0-0 c4 15.Nd2 Be2 16.Re1 Bd3 17.b4 Nc7 18.Re3 0-0-0 19.a4 e5 20.Rxd3 cxd3 21.Nc4 Qa6 22.b5 Matsuura, F-Kaniak, U/Curitiba 2001/EXT 2002/1-0 (35)]

8.c3 Nd7 9.Nd2 Nf6 10.Nh3 h5 11.Qc2 Bd7 So far everything in this position has been seen before. The last time this position had been seen (well, the only time after 11.. Bd7) was in June 2004 in an IM tournament in Hungary. Right after Bd7 a draw was agreed upon. Right now I would say the position is even but rather unbalanced. I would assume a4 was played so black can keep the Bishop out of b5 and possibly can play a5 driving the Queen back. I would play Nf4 to prevent a break in the center and so I could solidify my d5 pawn.

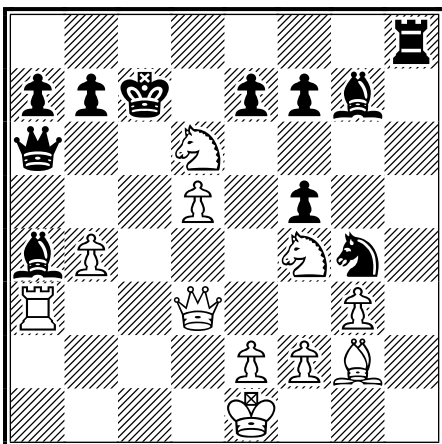
12.a4= Diagram



12...h4 13.Nf4 hgx3 14.hgx3 Rxh1+ 15.Bxh1 0-0-0= 16.Nc4?! This seems like the wrong idea because it forces the black Queen to the diagonal it wants to be on, and now white needs to move his Queen into a pin. The white pieces are getting a little stuck.

16...Qa6 17.Qd3 Rh8μ [Inferior is 17...Bxa4 18.b3! White takes the lead (18.Qxf5+?! Kb8 19.Ne3 Rh8=) 18...b5 19.Nd2+- (19.bxa4 bxc4 20.Qxf5+?)]

18.Bg2 Kc7 19.Ra3 Ng4 Black stands better but the position is still a little unclear, with white lacking some activity, and black a knockout blow. White decides to open the game up and get some attacking chances, most likely the best move.. [Not 19...Bxa4 20.b3 b5 21.Nb2² (19.bxa4 bxc4 22.Qxf5 Bh6³)] 20.b4 cxb4 21.cxb4 Bxa4 22.Nxd6! Diagram



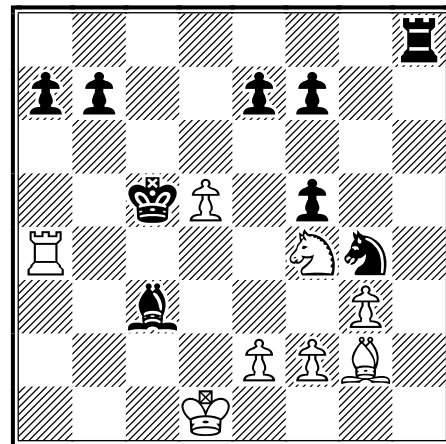
After a reasonably long think IM Lakdawala plays this move which I had not considered. My first thought was what is going on? Nakamura took roughly 5 seconds to play his reply which in a few moves secures a winning advantage. [122.f3! is noteworthy 22...Nf6 23.Ne3 Qxd3 24.Nxd3 Bd7 25.Rxa7 Nh5 26.Nf1 Bc3+

27.Kd1 Rg8-+]

22...Qb6!-+ [22...Qxd6?! 23.Rxa4 Kb8 24.e3= (24.Qxf5 Qc7 25.Nd3 Qc2 26.Qf4+ Ne5 27.Nxe5 Qb1+ 28.Kd2 Bh6 29.Nd3+ Bxf4+ 30.gxf4 Rc8-+)]

23.Qc4+™ [23.Rxa4? Qxf2+ 24.Kd2 Kxd6 25.Bf3 Ne5 26.Qc3 Kd7 27.Ra2 Rc8 28.Qb3 Qd4+-+]

23...Kxd6 24.Qc5+ Qxc5 25.bxc5+ Kxc5 26.Rxa4 Bc3+ 27.Kd1-+ Diagram



Black now has a winning endgame, but it still needs a little attention to not let it slip away. Nakamura plays this endgame with such precision its fun to watch and learn:

27...a5 28.Nd3+ Kd6 29.Rc4 Bg7 30.Bf3 Ne5 31.Nxe5 Bxe5 [31...Kxe5?! 32.Rc7 Kd6 33.Rxb7?]

32.Kc2 Rh2 33.Kb3 Rxf2 34.Ka4 Bxg3 35.Kxa5 Rf1 36.Rc8 Rb1 37.Ka4 Ke5 [37...e5 38.dxe6 fxe6 39.Ka3-+]

38.Rf8 Kd4 39.Ka3 Kc3 The mate threat is Ra1 40.Rc8+ Kd2 41.Rf8 [41.Ka2 Rb5 42.Bh5 Rxd5 43.Re8 e5 44.Re7 b5 45.Rxf7 e4 46.Bg6 Kxe2 47.Rxf5 Rxf5 48.Bxf5 e3 49.Bg4+ Kd2 50.Kb3 Bd6-+]

41...Be5 42.Rc8 [42.d6 doesn't improve anything 42...exd6 43.Bd5 Kc2-+]

42...b5 [42...b5 43.d6 b4+ 44.Ka4 Bxd6-+; 42...Bc3! seems even better 43.Ka2 Rb2+ 44.Ka3-+] 0-1

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

(3) Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) - Stripunsky, Alex (2533) [B42]

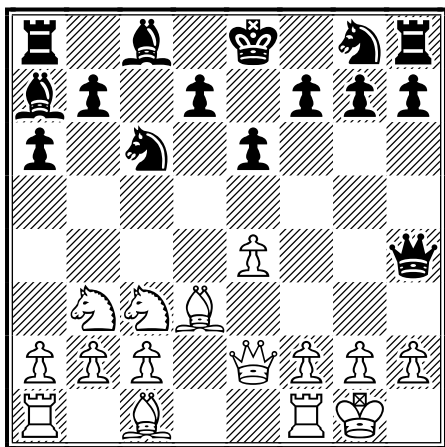
2005 US Championship San Diego (3), 26.11.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

After 2 impressive wins, Nakamura has to sit down against an opponent he has played thousands of times, GM Alex Stripunsky. This GM also lives in New York and has faced Nakamura many times. Stripunsky was wearing some dark shades for most of the event. He was in a serious car crash about a month ago and he is still regaining his sight in one of his eyes. Hopefully, he will soon be fully recovered. I was glad to see him playing so well in this event.

1.e4 B42: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 Bd3 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qh4?! Very rarely is this move played. Nge7 and Nf6 are the 2 main moves in this line. Stripunsky might have planned this because he has played Nakamura so many times he needs to play something new to put the pressure on Nakamura.

[8...Nf6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Qxe3 b6 12.f4 d6 13.Qg3 0-0 14.Rae1 Nd7 15.Rf3 Bb7 16.a3 b5 17.Qh3 e5 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.f5 f6 20.Qh4 Rf7 21.Rh3 Nf8 22.Qf2 Ne7 23.c4 Ree, H-Hecht, H/Wijk aan Zee 1974/MCD/1/2-1/2 (46); 8...Nge7 9.Qe2 Ne5 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Qxe3 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 0-0 13.e5 b5 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.f4 f6 16.Qd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 fxe5 18.fxe5 Rxf1+ 19.Kxf1 Ng6 20.Nc5 Nxe5 21.b3 Kf7 22.N3e4 Ke7 23.h3 Llamas Prado, R-Cueto Aller, J/Asturias 1986/EXT 2002/0-1 (56)]

9.Qe2N Diagram



[9.Nd2 Ne5 10.Nf3 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Nf6 12.Bf4 d5 13.exd5 exd5 14.Rae1+ Be6 15.h3 0-0 16.Re5 h6 17.Bf5 Bxf5 18.Rxf5 Rac8 19.Bg3 Qc4 20.Rxf6 gxf6 21.Nxd5 Qxc2 22.Qxf6 Kh7 23.Ne7 Rc5 24.Bf4 Rh5

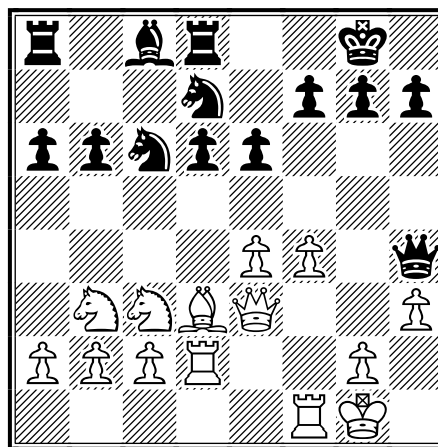
25.g4 Rxh3 26.Nf5 1-0 Kaminsky, O-Shofman, M/Leningrad 1970/EXT 2001 (26)]

9...Nf6 10.h3 Prevents intrusion on g4

[10.Nd5?! One very sharp try is Nd5?! This with proper play leads to a very small advantage in a boring endgame. This would not fit Nakamura's style since he likes sharp tactics, and the ability to attack. 10...exd5 11.exd5+ Kf8 12.dxc6 dxc6 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 g6 15.Rfe1 Kg7 16.Rad1 Bg4 17.f3 Rhe8 18.Qf2 Qxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Be6?]

10...d6 11.Be3 0-0 12.Bxa7 Rxa7 13.Qe3 Ra8 14.Rad1 Rd8 15.f4 White needs to make some type of break to get some play. e5 would be one way to achieve his goal.

15...Nd7 16.Rd2 b6 Diagram



17.e5?! Rfd1 might be the way to go first. In this position trying to attack the weak d6 seems best because it's hard for black to defend without throwing away his position. [17.Rfd1! Qe7 (17...Bb7 18.Bf1±; 17...b5 18.Bf1 b4 19.Ne2+; 17...Nc5 18.Nxc5 bxc5 19.e5+) 18.e5 d5 19.Ne4 f6 (19...dxe4? 20.Qxe4!) 20.exf6 gxf6±]

17...dxe5= 18.Be4 Bb7 19.fxe5 Ndxe5 20.Qxb6 Rxd2 21.Nxd2 Qd8 [21...Qe7 22.Nb3=]

22.Qe3 [22.Qxb7 Ra7 23.Qb3 Qxd2=]

22...Qc7 23.Nf3 Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Ne7 25.Bxb7 1/2-1/2

(4) DeFirmian, Nick (2550) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) [B01]

2005 US Championship San Diego (4), 28.11.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

Nakamura has to go toe to toe with three-time US

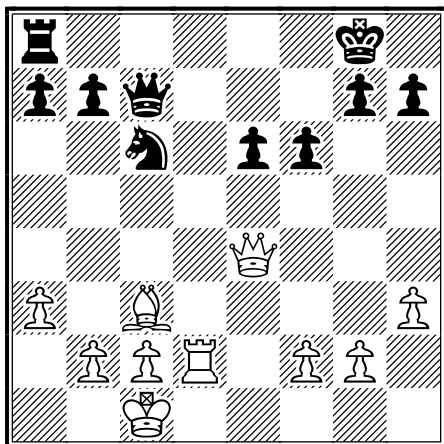
Champion GM Nick De Firmian. The game stays very close until time control, when Nakamura lashes out with some tactical combinations and GM De Firmian has some trouble.

1.e4 B01: Scandinavian Defence 1...d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bc4 Bf5 6.Bd2 e6 7.Qe2 Bb4 8.0-0-0 Nf6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qc7 11.d5 cxd5 12.Bxd5N

[12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Bxd5 Nc6 14.Bb3 Qe5 15.Qc4 Qe4 16.Qb5 Rb8 17.Nf3 0-0 18.Rd7 Ne5 19.Nxe5 fxe5 20.f3 Qe3+ 21.Kb1 a6 22.Qb4 b6 23.Re1 Qf2 24.Qd2 Qc5 25.Qg5+ Bg6 26.h4 e4 Schork,S-Schwertel,H/Bad Breisig 2000/EXT 2002/1-0 (61)]

12...Nxd5= 13.Rxd5 0-0 14.Rd2 Nc6 15.Nf3 Rfd8 16.Rhd1 Bg4 17.h3 Rxd2 18.Rxd2 [18.Bxd2?? Nd4!? 19.Nxd4 Bxe2 20.Nxe2 Rc8-+; 18.Qxd2? is clearly weaker 18...Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rd8?]

18...Bxf3 19.Qxf3 f6= The game left book and after a few routine trades the game is very even. It is hard to see how GM Nakamura could get any winning chances with little material left on the board and few avenues to drive home an advantage. This is what is so special about this player, he can beat anyone tactically, or positionally. 20.Qe4 Diagram

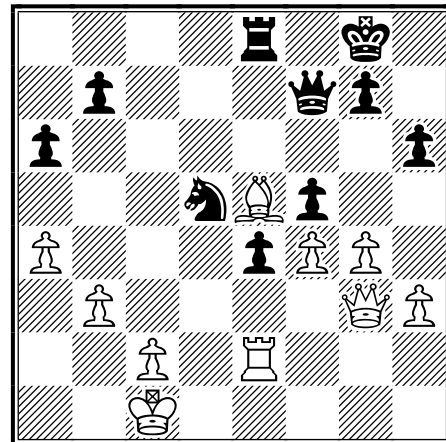


20...Re8 21.f4 Qe7 22.Qc4 Qf7 23.Re2 h6 24.b3 a6 [24...e5 25.Qe4 Qd7 26.Kb2 Re7 27.Rd2 Qc7 28.fxe5 Nxe5=]

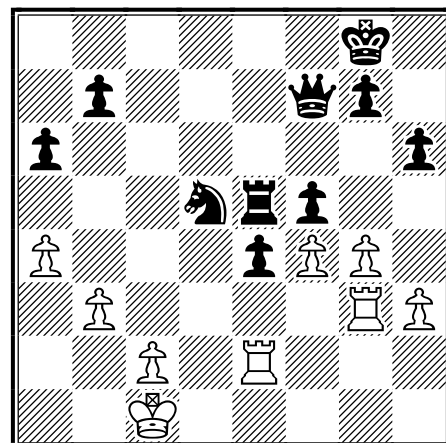
25.a4 e5 Black is looking to expand to create some weakness in the center or on white's queenside.

26.Qe4 f5 27.Qe3 e4 Black gets the space he needs. 28.g4 Ne7

29.Be5 Nd5 30.Qg3 Diagram



[30.Qd2!? is interesting 30...fxg4 31.hxg4 g5 32.Rxe4 Nxf4 33.Qd4 Re7 34.Kb2 Qe8=] 30...Rxe5!³ Diagram



Nakamura didn't even think twice before giving up the exchange. This move will decimate white's pawns and allows black to get some dangerous passers.

31.fxe5 f4 32.Qe1 e3 With the decisive threat f3 33.c4 Qc7 [33...Ne7!? 34.Qd1 Nc6 35.Qd6 Qe7 36.Qd5+ Kh8 37.e6 Qf6 38.Qf5 Qc3+ 39.Qc2 Qa1+ 40.Qb1 Qe5 41.Qf5 f3 42.Qxe5 Nxe5 43.e7 fxe2 44.e8Q+ Kh7 45.Qxe5 e1Q+ 46.Kb2 Qd2+ 47.Ka3 Qd3=]

34.Qh1?? Huge blunder, now the black pieces are coming in and supporting the pawns and white is helpless. [!34.e6!? this is the best way to fight back 34...Nf6 35.Qd1 Qe5 36.Kc2 Qxe6 37.Qd8+ Kh7 38.Qd3+ Ne4μ]

34...Nc3!-+ 35.Re1 [35.Rh2 e2 36.Rxe2 Nxe2+ 37.Kd1 Qxe5 38.Qxb7-+]

35...Qd7 36.Qh2 Qd4 37.e6 Ne4 [37...Nxa4 38.Kb1 e2

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39.Rxe2 Qd1+ 40.Ka2 Nc3+ 41.Ka3 Nxe2 42.e7 Qd6+ 43.b4 Qxe7 44.Qf2-+]

38.e7 [38.Qb2 is not the saving move 38...Qd2+ 39.Qxd2 exd2+ 40.Kd1 dxe1R+ 41.Kxe1 f3-+]

38...Qd2+ 39.Kb1 [39.Qxd2 hoping against hope 39...exd2+ 40.Kd1 dxe1R+ 41.Kxe1-+]

39...Nc3+ [39...Qxh2?? Black goes after material, which is his undoing 40.e8Q+ Kh7 41.Qxe4+ Kg8 42.Rd1+; 39...Qxe1+ succumbs to 40.Ka2 Nf6 41.Qxf4 Qf2+ 42.Qxf2 exf2 43.h4-+]

40.Ka1 Qxh2 [40...Qxh2 41.e8Q+ Kh7 42.Qe4+ Nxe4 43.Rc1 Qd2 44.b4 Qxc1+ 45.Ka2 Qc2+ 46.Ka1 e2 47.a5 e1Q#] **0-1**

(5) Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) - Kudrin, Sergey (2528) [D82]

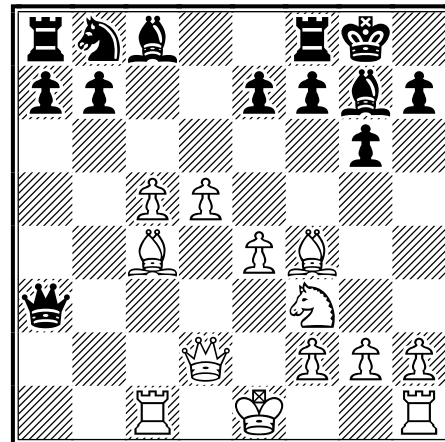
2005 US Championship San Diego (5), 29.11.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

GM Nakamura has an impressive 3.5/4 and the white pieces. If he can defeat GM Sergey Kudrin he would improve to 4.5/5 and be on top of the leader board. The following game shows some unbelievable preparation in which it appears he found a winning line. However he plays a move he analyzed with his computer which appears winning but in fact allows black to defend. The game will continue in a wild fashion. This is definitely a fighting draw!

1.d4 D82: Grünfeld: 4 Bf4 **1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Rc1 Ne4 8.cxd5 Nxc3 9.Qd2 Qxa2 10.Rxc3?! Rxc3** has not been played a great deal however it is a very interesting try. As seen in the following line Bxc3 is not advised because black's dark squares will become very weak. [10.bxc3 Another try is bxc3 which is seen most often. This following line occurs most often with White holding just the slightest advantage. 10...Qa5 11.Bc4 Nd7 12.Nf3 Nxc5 13.Be5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 f6²]

10...0-0 [10...Bxc3? 11.Qxc3 Qa1+ 12.Kd2 0-0 13.Bh6 f6 14.d6! Re8 15.Nf3 Qa4 16.Qc4+ Qxc4 17.Bxc4+ Kh8+]

11.Bc4 Qa1+ 12.Rc1 Qxb2 13.e4 Qa3N [13...a5 14.Ne2 a4 15.Rc2 Qa1+ 16.Rc1 Qb2 17.Rc2 Qa1+ 18.Nc1 Na6 19.Be3 Qb1 20.Ba2 Qb4 21.f3 Qxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Nb4 23.Rc4 Nxa2 24.Nxa2 e6 25.d6 Bb2 26.Rb1 a3 27.Rb4 e5 28.R4xb2 Seirawan, Y-Nakamura, H/Seattle2003/CBM93/ [Krasenkow] 1/2-1/2 (63)] **14.Nf3** Diagram

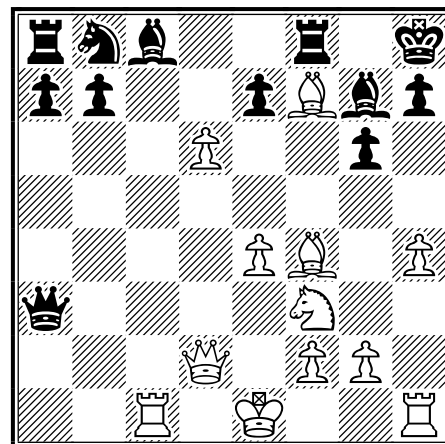


14...Qxc5?! It is very hard to tell if this is a blunder or not. It seems after Qxc5 d6! that white has some amazing activity. It might be a better idea to try Nd7 to get some solid development instead of randomly taking pawns. [14...Nd7!? is worth consideration 15.c6 Nb6²]

15.d6± Qa3 16.Bxf7+ Demolishes the pawn shield

16...Kh8 [16...Rxf7?? Theme: Deflection from c8 17.Rxc8+ Bf8 18.0-0+; 16...Kxf7 17.Ng5+ Kg8 18.Rxc8 Qa1+ (18...Rxc8?? 19.Qd5+ Kh8 20.Nf7+-) 19.Rc1 Qf6+]

17.Bg5? I am giving a question mark to a move that still leaves white better. It's hard to do but it is correct since now black can defend against the powerful attack. [17.h4!! Diagram



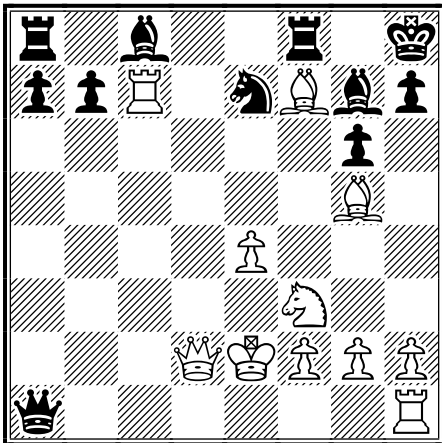
h4 This move is crushing; black has no good replay. I wish I could say I came up with this move but I didn't. After the game GM Gata Kamsky suggested this move and after careful study this move leaves black with a lost game.

17...Nc6 18.Ng5 Bf6 (18...h6 19.h5 gxh5 20.d7 Bxd7 21.Qxd7+-) 19.h5 gxh5 (19...Rxf7 20.Nxf7+ Kg7 21.e5 Kxf7 22.hxg6+ Kxg6 23.Rh6+ Kf7 24.exf6+-) 20.Rxh5 Rxf7 (20...Bxg5 21.Rxg5 Rxf7 22.Rxc6 bxc6 23.Be5+ Rf6 24.dxe7 Qxe7 25.Qd4+-) 21.Nxf7+ Kg7 22.Ne5 Nxe5 23.Bxe5+-]

17...Nc6= [Not 17...Qxd6 18.Qxd6 exd6 19.Be7±]

18.dxe7 [18.Rxc6?! bxc6 19.dxe7 Bg4 20.exf8Q+ Rxf8=]

18...Nxe7 19.Rc7 Qa1+ 20.Rc1 Qa3 21.Rc7 Qa1+ 22.Ke2?? Diagram



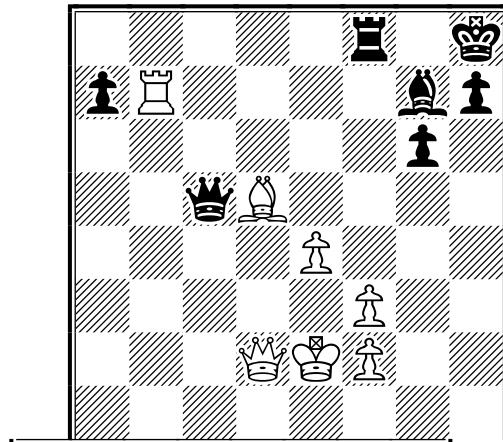
Here it appears best if white accepts the draw. A draw was not in GM Nakamura's plans. Instead he decides to wildly sac a rook. After taking a great deal of time looking at this position, it looked losing for white. I asked a few GMs to look at it and they all concurred. Yet, Nakamura played some marvelous chess and emerged with a draw!

22...Qxh1!! 23.Bxe7 Bg4 [23...Rxf7?? too greedy 24.Qd8+ Rf8 25.Bxf8 Qd1+ 26.Kxd1 Bd7 27.Bxg7+ Kxg7 28.Qxd7+ Kf6 29.Qe7#, 23...b6! 24.Bxf8 Ba6+ 25.Bc4 Bxc4+ 26.Rxc4 Rxf8 27.Qg5 Qb1µ]

24.Bxf8 Rxf8 [Weaker is 24...Bxf8 25.Rxb7 Qxh2 26.Rxa7²]

25.h3 Bxf3+ 26.gxf3 Qxh3 [26...Qb1?! 27.Qd7 b5 28.Rxa7 b4 29.Qe7=]

27.Rxb7 Qc8 28.Bd5 Qc5 Diagram



29.e5?? Weakening the position [²29.Qb4 and white can hope to survive 29...Qxb4 30.Rxb4=]

29...Bxe5+ [²29...Rd8 secures the win 30.Qa2 Bh6+ (30...Qxd5?! 31.Qxd5 Rxd5 32.Rb8+ Bf8 33.Rxf8+ Kg7 34.Re8+)]

30.Qh6 Bc7 31.Kf1 [³31.Qd2 Rf5 32.Be4+] 31...Rb8?? Black loses the upper hand [³31...Rf4 A shame that Black overlooked this excellent chance 32.Be4 Qc1+ 33.Kg2 Rg4+ 34.fxg4 Qxh6 35.Rxc7 Qf4 36.Rc8+ Kg7+]

32.Qh4= Threatening mate: Qf6 32...Qc1+ [32...Qxd5?? Black must not take the bishop, otherwise he will bring himself grief 33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.Rxc7 Qc4+ 35.Rxc4 Rf8 36.Qe6+ Kg7 37.Rc7+ Kh6 38.Qe3+ Rf4 39.Qxf4+ g5 40.Qf6+ Kh5 41.Rxh7#] 33.Kg2 Qf4 34.Qxf4 ½-½

(6) Serper, Gregory (2542) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) [D12]

2005 US Championship San Diego (6), 30.11.2004 [NM Blair Machaj]

After a draw last round Nakamura could use some wins to propel him ahead of the field. However, this round he has the black pieces and finds himself against the rock solid GM Gregory Serper. A few years ago we brought in Mr. Serper to play in Master Challenge. Some young chess players will remember him from Wis Chess where he was one of the favorite instructors. Serper is truly one of the nicest players you will meet in the chess world. This game was very strange, you will see white reaching a very solid position, then moving his bishop back and forth. Watching the game many seemed traumatized watching him play this way. I wasn't so harsh; at this point a draw would be a good way to keep Serper on top with a few others. He is playing a very dangerous

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

opponent who is on top of his game and very sharp. Serper after getting married, has found himself playing very few events. He only played 2 events in 2004 and 3 events in 2003. It would seem that he has not been studying and playing enough to be up to his full potential. So a draw would be a good result for him. You have to look over this game and see the ending. Nakamura works very hard to achieve an advantage in a position that appears drawn. Suddenly Serper comes up with a brilliant sac which leads to a fortress!

1.d4 D12: Slav Defence: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 Bf5 1...d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 b5!? This is a very unique way to play the Slav. 7.. e6 is seen in almost every game. Nakamura plays the Slav with an early b5 in almost all of his ICC games. He seems to get an unbalanced position with good winning chances with black in every game! [7...e6 8.e4 (8.0-0 Be7 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 Nbd7 11.e4 b5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.e5 ½-½ Mikhalchishin,A-Henrichs,T/Dortmund 2001/EXT 2002 (13))

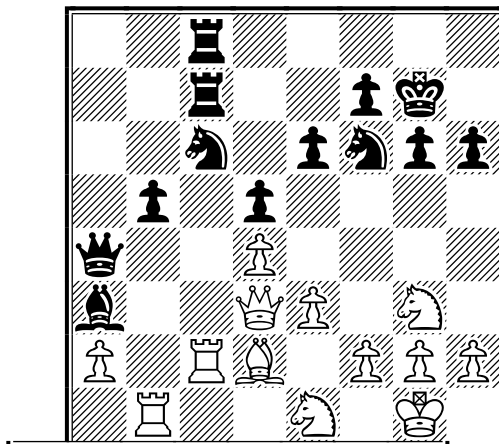
8...Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Re8 (10...b5 11.c5 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Qd5 14.Qxd5 cxd5 15.Bf4 Nc6 16.Ne5 Nb8 17.Rd3 Rc8 18.Re1 Bf6 19.Ng4 Nc6 20.Nxf6+ gxf6 21.Bg3 Kg7 22.Bh4 Ne7 23.g4 Ng6 24.Bg3 a5 25.Bd6 Kramnik,V-Morozevich,A/Dortmund 2001/CBM 85/[Huebner,R]/1-0 (38))

11.Bd2 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Nd7 14.Bc3 Bf6 15.Ne5 Qc7 16.Ng4 Bg5 17.Qd3 Qf4 18.Qe2 Nf6 19.Ne5 Qe4 20.Kf1 Bf4 21.Rd3 Rac8 22.Rf3 Arencibia,W-Ramirez,A/Capablanca Mem Elite 2004/1-0 (41))

8.cxd5N cxd5 9.0-0 e6 10.Bd2 Bd6 11.Rfc1 0-0 12.Ne2 Qb6 13.Rc2 Nc6 14.Rac1 Rac8= We have reached a very even position. I am not sure if this was his plan but here it seems like Serper could easily offer a draw. However, Nakamura could refuse, so possibly white decided to gain time on the clock, not to create any weaknesses in his position, and hope black overextends himself allowing white a winning opportunity.

15.Be1 Rc7 16.Ng3 Rfc8 17.Bd2 h6 18.Be1 g6 19.Bd2 Kg7 20.Be1 a5 21.Bd2 a4 22.Be1 Ra8 23.Bd2 Rac8 24.Be1 Qa6³ Nakamura never thinks of a draw; he finds a good way to grab the advantage and break through the position.

25.Bd2 a3 26.bxa3 Bxa3 27.Rb1 Qa4 28.Ne1
Diagram



28...Nb4! Setting up some exciting tactics! **29.Rxc7** [29.Bxb4? Bxb4 30.Rxc7 Rxc7µ]

29...Rxc7 [29...Nxd3?! Black still has most of the play but the 2 rooks can defend much better than 1 queen can attack. 30.Rxc8 Nb2 31.Rc2 Nc4 32.Rb3 Ne4 33.Nxe4 dxe4 34.f3 f5³]

30.Qb3 Rc4 31.Bxb4 Bxb4 [31...Qxb4 32.Qxb4 Rxb4 33.Rxb4 Bxb4 34.Nd3=; 31...Rxb4 32.Qxa4 bxa4 33.Rxb4 Bxb4 34.Nd3=]

32.Nd3 Bd6 33.Qxb5 Qxa2= Black still has some small edge because his pieces are much more active than white, yet this position is still a draw.

34.Qb2 Qa5 35.Qb6 Qa3 36.Qb3 Qa8 37.Qd1 h5 38.Ra1 Qc8 39.Nf1 Rc3 40.h3 Ne4 41.Ne1 Qd8 42.Nf3 Qc7 43.Ne1 Be7 44.Nd2 Nd6 45.Nef3 Bf6 46.Rb1 Rc2 47.Ne1 Rc3 48.Nef3 Nf5 49.Nb3 Be7 50.Rc1 Ba3 51.Rxc3 Qxc3 52.Nbd2 Bd6 53.Nf1 Bc7= 54.Qa4 Nd6 55.Qd1 Ne4 56.N3d2?! This move doesn't seem bad however ne1 does not give black a little bit of play. [56.Ne1 Bd6 57.Nd3 Qc4 58.Nb2 Qa2 59.Nd3 Nc3 60.Qd2 Qxd2 61.Nxd2 Kf6=]

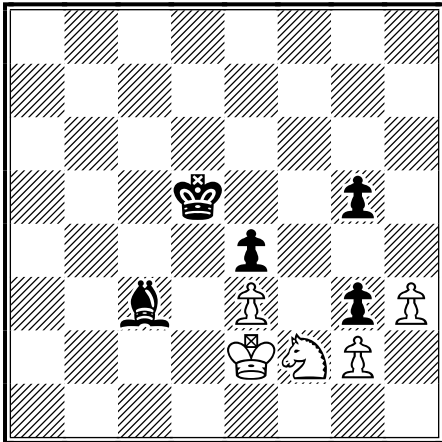
56...Qd3 57.Qb1 Qxb1 58.Nxb1 Ba5 59.f3 Nd6 60.Kf2 f6 61.Nbd2 e5 62.dxe5 fxe5 63.Ke2 h4 [63...e4 64.Nb3 Bb4 65.Nd4³]

64.Nb3 Bb6 65.Nc1 Kf6 66.Nd3 Ke6 67.Nf2 Nb5 68.Kd3 Nd6 [68...Ba5 69.e4=]

69.Nh2 [69.Ke2 Nc4³]

69...Nf5 70.Nf1 Ng7 71.Ke2 Nh5 72.Nd3 Ba5 73.Nc5+ Ke7 74.Nd3 Kd6 75.Nf2 g5 76.Nd3 e4 77.fxe4 dxe4 78.Nf2 Kd5 79.Ng4 Bc3 80.Nf2 [180.Nh6!?³ and White hangs on]

80...Ng3+³ 81.Nxg3 hxg3 Diagram



Black has a great deal of pressure and white still has to be very careful. Yet white plays an amazing sac to force a draw. Can you see it? While watching this game on ICC many of the people following using Fritz, Chessmaster, etc started screaming that white had just blundered horribly and now the game was 0-1. It took a great deal of time for some reasonable players to convince them Fritz was wrong black is not up -3.00 since white has a fortress and it cannot be broken into. As good as chess programs are, they aren't perfect and you need to use a little common sense when using their evaluations.

82.Nxe4!! !! have to give this move a triple exclaim, yet Chessbase does not have that option, this move is just beautiful. [!82.Ng4 Bg7 83.Kd2=] **82...Kxe4 83.Kf1 Be5 84.Kg1 Kd3 85.e4 Ke3 86.Kf1 Kd4 87.Kg1 Kc4 88.Kh1 Kd3 89.Kg1 Ke2 90.Kh1 Bd4 91.e5 Bxe5 92.Kg1 Ke1 93.Kh1 Kf2 94.h4 gxh4 1/2-1/2**

(7) Kaidanov, Gregory (2611) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) [D87]

2005 US Championship San Diego (7), 02.12.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

Nakamura has to face the power GM Gregory Kaidanov. GM Kaidanov has been one of the strongest players in the US for a number of years. He is almost always above 2700 USCF, and 2600+ FIDE. Many felt he would be one of the favorites in this event because of his steady play and ability to win the big games. GM Kaidanov just finished the US Chess Olympiad where he put up an unimaginable 6 wins and 0 losses. Both players in top form must have had the same thoughts on their mind. Win this game, eliminate the competition, and take first place!

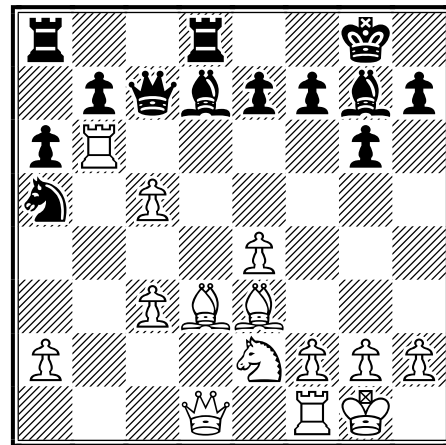
1.d4 D87: Exchange Grünfeld: Classical Line: Variations without ...cxd4 **1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2**

Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bd7!? Finally Nakamura deviates from the lines usually played in this position. This is not a new move, but is gaining popularity even though it is not played as much as the following lines.

[10...Qc7 11.Rc1 Rd8 12.Qd2 Qa5 13.Rfd1 Bd7 14.Bh6 cxd4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7=; 10...Bg4 11.f3 Na5 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.d5 (14.Rc1 Bxa2 15.Qa4 Be6 16.d5 Bd7 17.Qb4 e6 18.Nc3 exd5 19.Nxd5 Be6 20.Rfd1 Bxd5 21.exd5 Re8=) 14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 16.Bh6 Re8 17.Kh1 Rc8 18.Nf4 Bd7÷]

11.Rb1 a6 12.dxc5 Na5 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.Rb6N Interesting new move by GM Kaidanov looking to get some play on the b file while preventing any expansion on the queenside. [14.Nd4 Rfd8 15.Qe2 e6 16.Nb3 1/2-1/2 Gulko, B-Shabalov, A/Seattle2003/CBM;

14.f4 Rfd8 15.c6 Qxc6 16.Bb6 Bg4 17.Bxd8 Rxd8 18.Qc2 Nc4 19.Nd4 Qc5 20.Bxc4 Qxc4 21.Rbc1 Bxd4+ 22.cxd4 Qxd4+ 23.Kh1 Rc8 24.Qb1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 b5 26.Rc7 Be6 27.h3 Qd6 28.Qc1 b4 Shirov, A-Vallejo Pons, F/XXI SuperGM, Linares ESP 2004/1/2-1/2 (51)] **14...Rfd8±** Diagram



Nakamura felt white was much better in this position, now he needs to try to get all of his pieces out and unwind from this bind that GM Kaidanov has on him. **15.Qb1** [15.Qc2!? e5 16.c4 Be6 17.Rfb1 Rab8 18.Qc3 Bf8²; 15.Nf4?! e6 16.Qc2 Bf8 17.Rfb1 Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Qxc5=]

15...e6 16.Bg5?! Bg5 might be a blunder in a few moves because suddenly all of white's pawns will be hanging. White needs to hold his weak pawns because right now they are taking some crucial squares away from Black. [16.f4! Rac8 17.Qb4 Nc6 18.Qb2 Na5 19.Qa3 Be8 20.Bd4 Nc6±]

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

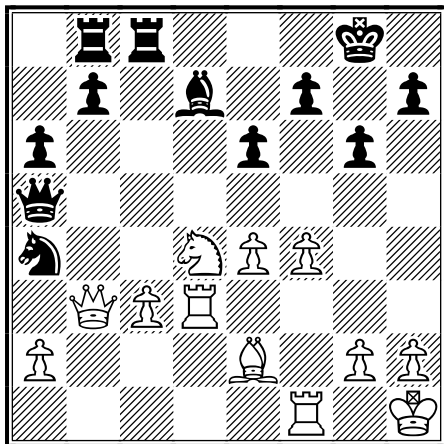
16...Re8= 17.Qb4 Nc6 18.Qa3 Ne5 19.Bf4 Bf8³
 Everything is falling apart for white now. He can't defend all of his weakness, and has a hard time breaking into black's position.

20.Rbb1 Bxc5 21.Qb3 Rab8 22.Kh1 Red8 23.Nd4 Bd6 24.Be2 Rdc8 25.Rbd1 Nc4 [25...Qxc3? doesn't solve anything 26.Nf3 Qxb3 27.axb3 Nxf3 28.Rxd6 Nxb2 29.Kxh2+~]

26.Bc1 [26.Bxd6 Nxd6 27.e5 Ne4³]

26...Bf8 27.f4 Nb6 28.Rd3 Na4 29.Ba3 Bxa3 30.Qxa3 Qc5 This is a very unbalanced game. White has more weakness, but black has some inactive pieces and some unguarded pieces. Even when Black wins something the counter attacks leave the position unclear. I feel as if black is better, but he must be extremely careful! [Instead of 30...Nxc3 31.Rc1 Qxf4 32.Rxc3 (32.Rdxc3?! Rxc3 33.Rxc3 Qf2=) 32...Rxc3 33.Qxc3±]

31.Qb3 Qa5 Diagram



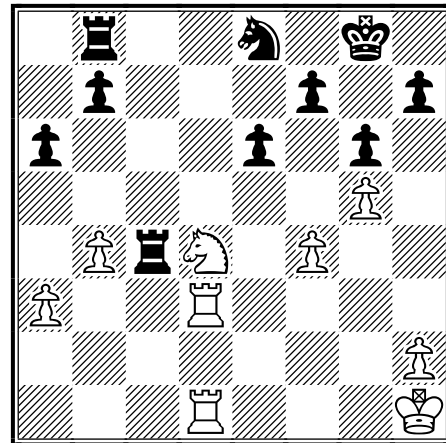
[Weaker is 31...Nxc3 32.Rc1 Nxe4 33.Rxc5 Nxc5 34.Qb2 Nxd3 35.Bxd3±]

32.Qb4 [32.Qa3!? is an interesting alternative 32...Rxc3 33.Rxc3 Qxc3 34.Qd6 Rd8 35.Nb3 Qc6 36.Qd4 Qc2³]

32...Qxb4³ 33.cxb4 Nc3 34.a3 [34.Bf3? Nxa2 35.Rb1 Rc4 36.b5 Bxb5 37.Nxb5 axb5 38.Rxb5 Rc1+ 39.Rd1 Rxd1+ 40.Bxd1 Nc3~+] **34...Nxe4 35.Bf3 Nf6 36.g4 Ba4 37.g5** This push gains space.

37...Ne8³ 38.Bd1? [38.Rf2!? should be considered 38...Nc7 39.Kg2 Nb5 40.Rfd2 Nxd4 41.Rxd4 Bc6 42.Bxc6 Rxc6 43.Rd7 Rc3³]

38...Bxd1μ 39.Rfxd1 This looks like a mistake. Now black can penetrate and attack the weaknesses on f4 and a3. Black still needs to be careful because he has an inactive rook on b8, and an inactive knight. I still don't like white's position because black can develop his bad pieces to strong squares whereas white can never fix his pawns. **39...Rc4** Diagram



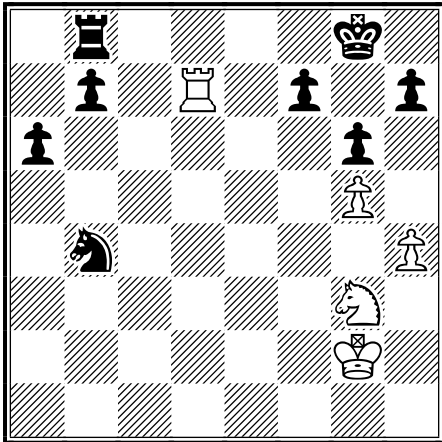
40.Ne2 Re4 41.R1d2 Nc7 42.Nc3?! [42.Kg2!? Black is still much better but at least white has his king in the game trying to hold things together. 42...Nd5 43.Kf3 Rc4 44.Rd4 Rbc8 45.Rxc4 Rxc4μ]

42...Rxf4 43.Rd7 Nb5 44.Ne2 [44.Nxb5?! This trades it all off into a losing endgame. 44...axb5 45.Kg1 Ra8 46.Rxb7 Rxa3 47.Rxb5 Rb3 48.Kg2 Rfxb4 49.Rxb4 Rxb4~+]

44...Rf1+~+ [44...Rg4! This might even be stronger than what he played in the game. 45.a4 Na7 46.Rb2 Rxc5 47.Nc3 Nc6~+]

45.Kg2 Rf5 46.h4 Nxa3 47.Ng3 Rd5 [47...Rf4! This also might be a slight improvement. The white pawns are just so weak that just attacking them means they will fall. 48.Kh3 (48.Rb2 Rxc4~+) 48...Rxb4~+]

48.R2xd5 exd5 49.Rxd5~+ Nc2! 50.Rd7 Nxb4 Diagram



Black has 3 extra pawns. White can only hope and pray that black blunders and he can draw this.

51.Ne4 a5 52.Nd6 a4 53.Nxf7 [53.Nb5 Nc2 54.Rc7 Ne3+ 55.Kf2-+]

53...a3 54.Nh6+ Kf8 55.Rxh7 Nc6 [‘55...Rd8!? might be the shorter path 56.Rxb7 a2 57.Ra7-+]

56.h5 a2 [56...gxh5?? the pawn must remain untouched 57.g6 Ne7 58.g7+ Ke8 59.Rh8+ Kd7 60.Rxb8+-]

57.Rf7+ Ke8 58.Rf1 Ra8 [‘58...gxh5 and Black can already relax 59.g6 Ne7-+]

59.Ra1 [59.hxg6 praying for a miracle 59...Ra5 60.Kf3 Rxc5 61.Ra1-+]

59...Nd4 60.Re1+ Kf8 61.Rf1+ Nf5 62.hxg6 a1Q 63.Rxa1 Nh4+ 64.Kg3 The mate threat is Rxa8

64...Rxa1 65.Kxh4 Rf1 66.Kg4 b5 67.Nf5 b4 68.Ne3 [68.g7+ there is nothing else anyway 68...Kg8 69.Nd4-+]

68...Rc1 0-1

(8) Nakamura,Hikaru (2620) - Goldin,Alexander (2620) [B59]

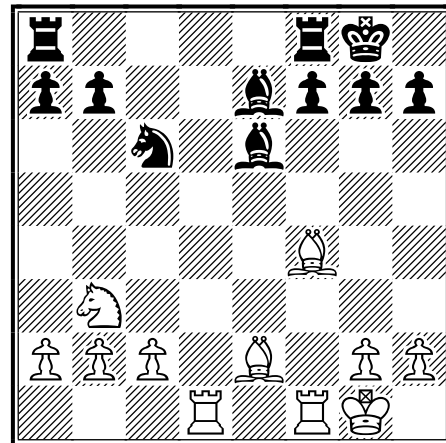
2005 US Championship San Diego (8), 03.12.2004 [NM Blair Machaj]

Nakamura could use a win with the white pieces to try to stay even (or get ahead) of Alex Stripunsky. In this game white could not get much of an advantage and decided to take a draw.

1.e4 B59: Classical Sicilian: 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 1...c5

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 [6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 exf4 10.Bxf4 Be6 11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxd5 ½-½ Spassky,B-Pitselis,G/Kalamata 2002/EXT 2004 (14)]

6...e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 exf4 11.Bxf4 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5 15.Rad1 Be6= Diagram



16.Bf3N [16.c3 Rfd8 17.Bf3 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Be3 a5 21.Kf2 Ne5 22.Bxb7 Nd3+ 23.Kf3 Nxb2 24.Ke4 a4 25.Nc1 f5+ 26.Kf3 Nd1 27.Bd4 Bg5 28.Nd3 Bxa2 29.Ke2 Bc4 30.Kxd1 Bxd3 31.Bc6 Be4 32.Bxa4 Bxg2 33.Be5 Be7 34.Bd7 Be4 35.Be6+ Kf8 36.Ke2 g5 37.c4 Bc5 38.Bf6 h6 39.h3 f4 40.Bg4 Kf7 41.Be5 Kg6 42.h4 h5 43.Bf3 Kf5 44.hxg5 Kxe5 45.Bxe4 Kxe4 46.g6 f3+ 47.Kd2 Bb4+ 48.Kc2 Bf8 49.Kd2 Bh6+ 50.Kd1 h4 51.c5 h3 0-1 Kalinina,V-Zozulia,A/Kiev 1998/EXT 2002 (51)]

16...Rac8 I am not sure what to make of this game. Looking at many games in the line 10. f4 the percentage of games drawn is very high. I was wondering if Mr. Nakamura has a new move based on some home preparation. Bf3 has not been seen before but it doesn't appear to cause black any problems.

17.c3 Rfd8 18.Be3 [18.Kf2!? Kf8 19.Rfe1 Ke8 20.Be3 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 b6 22.Bxc6+ Rxc6 23.Nd4 Rd6 24.a3 Bf6 25.Re1 Be5 26.Nxe6 Rxe6=]

18...Rxd1 19.Rxd1 b6 20.Bf4 [20.Bxc6 Rxc6 21.Nd4 Rd6 22.Kf2 h6 (22...Kf8 23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.Rxd6 Bxd6?) 23.Ke1 Bc8=]

20...Kf8 21.h3 a5 22.Kh1 [22.Kf2 a4 23.Nd2 Bc5+ 24.Kf1 Ne7 (24...Bxa2 25.Ra1 Bb3 26.Nxb3 axb3 27.Bd5) 25.b4 axb3 26.axb3 Nf5=]

22...a4 23.Nd2 Na5 24.a3 b5 25.Be2 Nc4 26.Nxc4 Bxc4 27.Bxc4 Rxc4 28.Bd6 Bxd6 29.Rxd6 Rc5

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

30.Rd7 Re5 31.Rb7 g5 ½–½

(9) Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) - Ibragimov, Ildar (2585) [C02]

2005 US Championship. San Diego (9), 04.12.2004
[NM Blair Machaj]

The final game! At the start of this game I assumed Nakamura would have a great chance to take sole possession of first place. At this point he was still tied with GM Alex Stripunsky. However, the pairings this round made all the difference. GM Nakamura has the white pieces against a good opponent, but GM Nakamura has a great score in match play versus GM Ibragimov. GM Stripunsky has the black pieces against GM Goldin. I was that thinking that best Stripunsky would draw and GM Nakamura has good winning chances. Instead GM Stripunsky launches an incredible attack which devastated Goldin and put the pressure on GM Nakamura. GM Nakamura's game was truly amazing. He will get a worse position out of the opening but then the tactical chances for both sides are remarkable. This is a great game to go over and try to figure out what is going on with so many possible threats for both sides.

1.e4 C02: French: Advance Variation 1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nge7 6.Na3 [6.Bd3 Seen most often is as follows. 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Bxf5 exf5 9.Nc3 Be6 10.0–0 Be7²]

6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Nc2 Qb6 9.Be2 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 [10.Bd2?! Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Qxb2 12.0–0 Qb6 13.Bd3 0–0 14.g4 Nfe7³]

10...Be7 After the check, it is better to bring the bishop back to e7 instead of leaving it out to be attacked.

11.g3 Bd7 [11...0–0 12.h4 Qd8 13.Ne3 Nxe3+ 14.Bxe3 f6 15.Bf4 Qb6 16.Rb1 Bd7 17.Kg2 fxe5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Bf6 20.f4 Bxe5 21.fxe5 Bb5 22.Bxb5 Qxb5 23.Qd2 Rf7 24.Rhf1 Raf8 25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Rc1 Angelopoulos, P Spirakopoulos, I/Athens 2001/EXT 2003/0–1 (45)]

12.Bd2?!³ Bd2 is a new idea. It is interesting but doesn't seem best. The b pawn can be taken, but does white have anything better than a draw? It doesn't appear so. Also black can ignore it and play normal moves and it does not seem as if the Bishop is on the best square.

[12.Kg2 h5 (12...Rc8 13.h3 (13.b3 Nb4 14.Nxb4 Bxb4 15.Bb2 Bb5 16.Rc1 0–0 17.Rc2 Rxc2 18.Qxc2 Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Rc8 20.Rc1 Rxc1 21.Bxc1 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Qxd4 23.Be3 Qe4+ 24.f3 Qxe5 25.Qb5 Qxe3 26.Qxb4 Qe2+ 27.Kg1 Qxf3 Da Rosa, J-Rial, D/Pan American 1998/EXT 2002/0–1 (40))

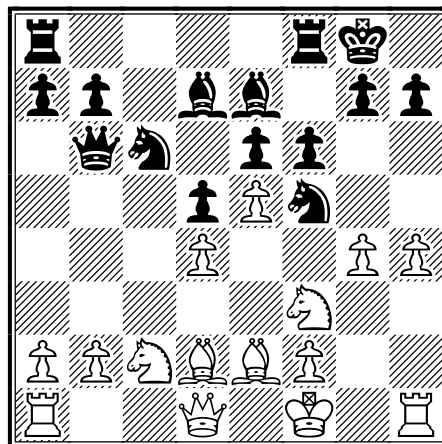
13...Nb4 14.Nxb4 Qxb4 15.a4 Qb6 16.h4 h5 17.Bg5 f6 18.Bf4 Kf7 19.Bd3 Rc4 20.Bxc4 dxc4 21.d5 exd5 22.Qxd5+ Be6 23.Qb5 Qxb5 24.axb5 Bd5 25.Rhd1 Rd8 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxa7 Morris, P-Farago, I/Hastings 1989/TD/0–1 (42))

13.h3 Rc8 14.b3 Nb4 15.Nxb4 Bxb4 16.Bb2 h4 17.g4 Ne7 18.Rc1 Rxc1 19.Bxc1 Qa5 20.Qc2 Bb5 21.a3 Bxe2 22.Qxe2 Bxa3 23.Bxa3 Qxa3 24.Qb5+ Kf8 25.Qxb7 g5 26.Nxg5 Rg8 Klaman, K-Chistiakov, A/Tbilisi 1949/MCD/1–0 (42); 12.b3 Rc8 13.Bb2 0–0 14.Kg2 f6 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Qd2 Be7 17.Rhd1 h6 18.Bc3 Rf7 19.Ne3 Nxe3+ 20.Qxe3 Rcf8 21.Rf1 Qc7 22.Bd3 Rxf3 23.Qxf3 Rxf3 24.Kxf3 Qb6 25.Rad1 Bf6 26.Bg6 Nxd4+ 27.Bxd4 Bxd4 28.Rc1 e5 29.Kg2 Qxg6 0–1 Knox, A-Berg, T/Novi Sad 1990/EXT 97 (29)]

12...0–0 [12...Ncxd4? 13.Ncxd4 Nxd4 14.Be3+–]

13.h4!? [13.Kg2!? Rab8 14.b4 a6 15.a4 Rfc8 16.h4 Bf8 17.g4 Nfe7²]

13...f6? [13...Bd8!? Creating space for the knight might be a better idea, f6 and black's position might become very loose. 14.g4 Nfe7 15.h5 f6 16.h6 g6 17.exf6 Rxf6³] **14.g4!?** Diagram



14...Nfxd4! [14...fxe5?! 15.gxf5 e4 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Rxf5 18.Be3 Bc5 19.Nd4 Rxe5²; 14...Nh6?! 15.exf6 Rxf6 16.g5 Rxf3 17.Bxf3 Nf5 18.Bc3 Rf8 19.Kg2 Bd6²; 14...Nxh4?! 15.Nxh4 fxe5 16.Be3 e4 17.Kg1 Rac8 18.Ng2 Bd6²]

15.Ncxd4 fxe5 16.Nxc6 bxc6 [16...Bxc6!? 17.Qb3 Qc7 18.Rc1 Bd6 19.Kg2 Qf7=]

17.Bc3 Bd6 [17...d4? 18.Be1 Bd6 19.Qc2 Rab8

20.Ng5 g6±; 17...e4!? This might be another good try in this position. The black pawns are incredibly powerful. It is hard to see how white will get any play or how he will stop the pawns from running over him. 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 c5 20.Nb3 Bd6 21.Rc1 e5 22.Ke1 Be6 23.Nd2 Rf4 24.g5 Raf8 25.Rh2³]

18.Rh3?! The rook lift might be wrong since h5 can break up the white pawns and the black center pawns can roll forward. Black, it seems, can gain a huge advantage with the move h5!

18...Rab8?!³ I don't get this move. what is it attacking b2? I guess he is trying to keep the bishop locked on c3 and hoping he can get a break to deflect it and pick up b2. It doesn't seem like this will be a good idea since white allows him to take on b2 but it looks like white would get a crushing position if this happens. [18...h5! 19.gxh5 e4 20.Bd4 c5 21.Ne5 Bb5 22.Bc3 d4µ; 18...e4; 18...Rf7!? 19.Kg1 e4 20.Ne5 Qxf2+ 21.Kh1 Bxe5 22.Bxe5 Qb6 23.Rb3 Qd8 24.Qe1²; 18...Rf4!? Even this move seems to give black some great attacking chances or the ability to run over his opponent in the center of the board. 19.Bd2 Rf7 20.Kg1 e4 21.Be3 c5 22.Ng5 Re7µ]

19.Bd3 Qc7 [19...d4? Now the pawns will get easily blockaded and the black bishops appear to be stuck. 20.Be1 Qxb2 21.Nd2 Bc7 22.Nc4 Qb7 23.Rb1 Qa8 24.Rxb8 Qxb8 25.Qc2+]

20.Ng5 h6 21.Bh7+ Kh8 22.Qc2 Rf4 23.Qg6 [23.Bg8?! Does this cute move work?! 23...e4 (23...Kxg8 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Qxg7+ Kd8 27.Qxh6 Kc8 28.Nxe6 Bxe6 29.Qxe6+ Kb7±) 24.Bxe6 Rbf8 25.Bd4 Qc8 26.Qc3 Bxe6 27.Bxg7+ Kg8 28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.Nxe6 Qxe6 30.Rc1 (30.Qxc6 e3-+) 30...c5-+ Answer NO! unless black decides to take the bishop.]

23...Rf6µ [23...Rbf8?? 24.Bg8!!]

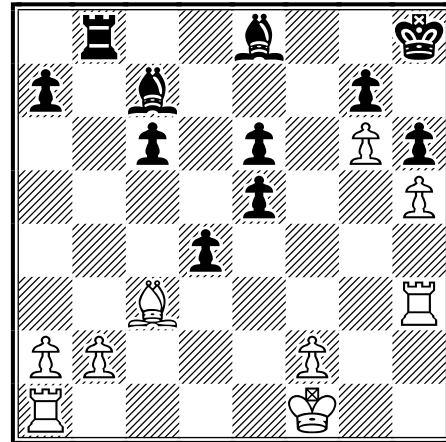
24.Nf7+ [!24.Qc2 and White hangs on 24...Rbf8 25.Bg6°]

24...Rxf7-+ 25.Qxf7 Deflection from h7

25...Kxh7 26.g5 [26.h5 Rf8 27.Qg6+ Kh8-+]

26...Be8?! [!26...Rf8! 27.Qh5 Be8-+]

27.g6+ Kh8 28.Qxc7 Bxc7 29.h5 d4-+ Diagram



[29...c5!? 30.Rc1 e4 31.Ke1 Bf4 32.Rd1 Bb5 33.b3 Rf8 34.Bd2 Bd6-+]

30.Rf3 White's pieces are very uncoordinated; black has an amazing center which will be hard to stop. When black gets his bishops out to support his center it looks like it will be 0-1. [!30.Bd2!? should be examined more closely 30...Rxb2 31.Ra3³]

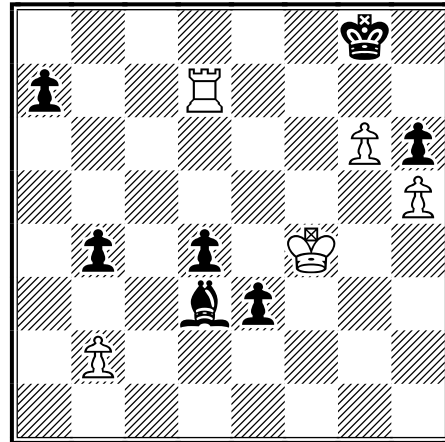
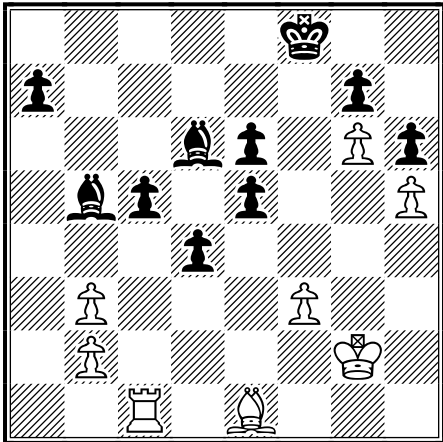
30...Kg8 31.Be1 c5 32.Rc1 Bd6-+ White is looking for some shot, yet there is nothing. The center is still impossible to stop and the d6 Bishop is supporting the center very well. The black rook on the open file is pesky. Now if black can slide the light squared bishop, I don't see how white has a chance. [32...Rxb2?! 33.Rxc5 e4 34.Rf7 Bxf7 35.gxf7+ Kxf7 36.Rxc7+ Kf6 37.Rxa7=]

33.Rb3!? On ICC more than a few observers were chiming in with Fritz saying that now black's advantage had jumped well over 2. This doesn't seem to be accurate. Although trading when up and white getting double pawns seems good, white actually gets a lot of play and now his rook has another open file, and black does not have a rook to counter the white rook.

33...Rxb3?! [33...Bb5+! 34.Kg1 c4 35.Rf3 Rb7-+]

34.axb3 This move doesn't look great; white will have doubled pawns. However, white will have another open file for his rook (the a file), also the double b pawns stuff the black c pawn, and white might be able to set up some kind of blockade on the pawns.

34...Bb5+ 35.Kg2 Kf8 [35...e4?! 36.Bd2 Be2 37.b4 c4 38.Ra1 Bf3+ 39.Kg1 Bxh5 40.Ra6 Bf8 41.Rxe6±] **36.f3= Diagram**



Look what has happened! Black is having some trouble containing the white rook. Also, the black pawns have stalled and now black has to be careful of what to play next.

36...Bd3 [36...Be2 37.Kf2 Bd3 38.b4 cxb4 39.Rc6=]

37.Bg3 Ke7 38.b4 cxb4 [38...c4? losing 39.Ra1! Bb8 40.Ra5! Kf6 41.Bh4+ Kf5 42.Rb5 Bd6 43.Rb7±]

39.Rc8 e4?+- 40.Rg8 Bxg3 [40...exf3+? losing 41.Kxf3 Bxg3 42.Rxg7+ Kf6 43.Rf7+ Kg5 44.Kxg3 Kxh5 45.g7 Bh7+-]

41.Rxg7+ Kf8 42.Rf7+ Kg8 43.Kxg3 e3 44.Rd7?! [44.Rxa7! This might be the simplest way to win. The black pawns are stuck and the rook will be unstoppable. 44...e5 45.f4 exf4+ 46.Kxf4 e2 47.Ra1 Kg7 48.Kf3 Bc4 49.Kf2 d3 50.Ke1 Be6 51.Ra7+ Kg8 52.Rh7+-]

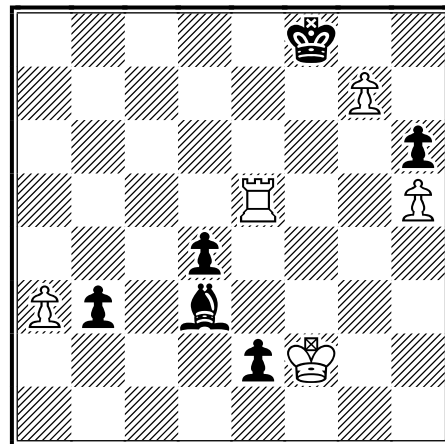
44...e5! 45.f4?? [‘45.Rd5! is just about the only chance 45...Bc2 46.Kg2 Bb3 47.Rd8+ Kg7 48.f4 Kf6 49.fxe5+ Kxe5 50.g7 Ke4 51.g8Q Bxg8 52.Rxg8 Kd3 53.Rd8 a5 54.Kf1 a4 55.Ke1 b3 56.Ra8 Kc2 57.Rxa4 d3 58.Rd4 Kxb2 59.Rxd3 Kc2 60.Rd6 b2 61.Ke2 b1Q 62.Rc6+ Kb2 63.Rb6+ Kc2 64.Rxb1 Kxb1 65.Kxe3=; 45.Kg2? Bf5 46.Rd5 d3 47.Kf1 Bh3+ 48.Ke1 e4+-]

45...exf4+-+ In just a few short moves the game has gone for 0–1, 1–0, 0–1. .5-.5, and now 0–1. Both players are very strong, but the position is truly one of the most complicated games of the entire event. The pressure to win in the last round in such a strong event can make even the best players falter. **46.Kxf4** Diagram

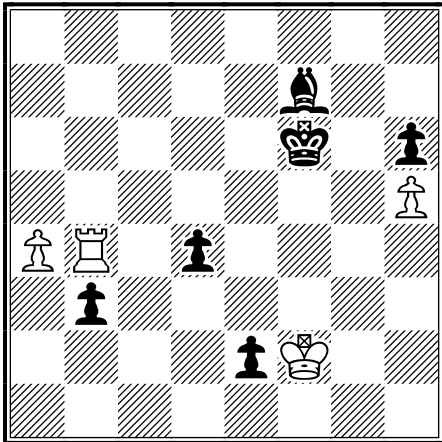
46...e2 47.Re7 Kf8 Threatening mate: Kxe7

48.Re5 a5?? [48...Bb5!! secures the point 49.Kf5 d3-+]

49.Kf3!+- a4 50.Kf2! a3 51.bxa3 b3 52.g7+!! Diagram



52...Kxg7 53.Re7+ Kf6 54.Rb7 Bc4 55.Rb4 Bf7 I thought white had to be careful. It seems like he is winning, but a silly blunder would be devastating. I was assuming white would start taking pawns, yet GM Nakamura proved me wrong. He blitzed out the following moves showing tablebase like perfection. [55...b2 56.Rxb2 d3 57.Rb6+ Kg5 58.Ke1 Kxh5 59.a4+-] **56.a4** Diagram



[56.Kxe2! Bxh5+ 57.Kd3 Bf7 58.Rxd4 h5 59.a4 Ke5 60.Rb4 Kd6 61.a5 Kc5 62.Kc3 h4 63.Rxh4 Kb5 64.Rh7 Bg8 65.Rg7 Bd5 66.Rg5 Kc6 67.a6 Be4 68.Rg4 Bd5 69.Rb4 Kc7 70.a7 Bb7 71.Kxb3+]

56...d3 57.a5 Bxh5 58.Ke1 Ke5 59.a6 Bf3 60.a7 h5 [60...b2 61.Rxb2 Kf4 62.Rb6+]

61.Rxb3 Kd4 62.Rb8 h4 [62...Bc6 is the last straw 63.Kd2 Ke4+]

63.Rd8+ Kc3 64.Rc8+ Kd4 65.Kd2 h3 66.a8Q! [66.a8Q Bxa8 67.Rxa8+] **1-0**

(10) Stripunsky, Alex (2533) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2620) [B25]

2005 US Championship Playoff San Diego (1), 05.12.2004 [NM Blair Machaj]

The playoff games are set to begin. The time control will be a bit faster and both players will get to play each color. The winner will get \$25,000 and become the US Champion. The loser will receive \$17,000 so we won't feel too badly for him. GM Nakamura decided to take black in the first game. Hopefully he will get at least a draw and then will look to break Stripunsky with the white pieces.

1.e4 B25: Closed Sicilian: 3 g3, lines without early Be3 1...c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Nh3?! Nh3?! Is a unique line in the Closed Sicilian. In most cases white looks to play Nf4-into d5 or will break with f4-f5 and then the knight will proceed into g5. Stripunsky, however, plays an ultra solid variation where he looks to castle quickly, play Kh1 then Ng1 then slowly develop his pieces. In closed systems like this a bit more maneuvering is possible.

6...Nh6?! Wow! Well if white can do it, I guess black

can also. Usually moves such as e6, Nf6, e5, Rb8 are seen most often.

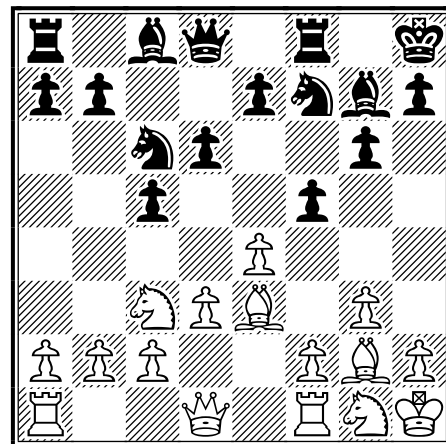
[6...Rb8 7.0-0 Bd7 8.f4 b5 9.f5 Nf6 10.Nf4 Ne5 11.Ncd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 e6 13.f6 Bf8 14.Ne3 h5 15.c3 Qb6 16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 Nc6 18.Nc2 Bh6 19.Bxh6 Rxh6 20.Qd2 Rh8 21.Qf2Casper,T-Hesse,P/Plauen 1980/MCL/1/2-1/2 (40)]

7.0-0 [7.f4 Bg4 8.Qd2 f6 9.Nf2 Bd7 10.0-0 Nf7 11.Nd5 0-0 12.c3 e6 13.Ne3 f5 14.b3 Qa5 15.Bb2 b5 16.Rfd1 Rac8 17.exf5 gxf5 18.d4 cxd4 19.cxd4 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 d5 21.Rad1 Rc7 Babb,J-Drake,J/Winnipeg 2003/EXT 2004/0-1 (41)]

7...0-0 8.Kh1 Kh8N [8...Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Bg5 Nd4 11.Nd5 f6 12.Bd2 b5 13.c3 Nc6 14.axb5 Rxb5 15.Ra2 Ng4 16.f4 e6 17.Ne3 Nxe3 18.Bxe3 Na5 19.Qe2 Nb3 20.Bg1 Qb6 21.Nf2 Bd7 22.Ng4 Rb8 23.Ne3 Karl,H-Weindl,A/Koenigsfeld 1985/EXT 2004/1-0 (40)]

9.Ng1 f5 10.Bg5?! Ok white can waste some tempos since the position is closed but this is bad now. Black is getting some significant tempos and the position is about to be opened a bit.

10...Nf7 [10...fxe4 11.dxe4 Ng4 12.f3 Nge5] **11.Be3³** Diagram



11...Bd7 [11...fxe4!? White is playing this so slowly I am surprised black is not attempting to violently rip the position open. 12.dxe4 b5 13.Rb1 (13.Nxb5 Rb8 14.a4 a6 15.Nc3 Rxb2) 13...b4 14.Nd5 Ba6 15.Re1 e6]

12.Qd2 Rb8 13.Rae1 [13.f4! b5 14.Rae1 b4 15.Nd1 a5 16.Nf3 a4 17.c3 bxc3 18.bxc3 e5=]

13...b5 14.a3 a5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.Nh3 b4μ Being a closed Sicilian player, this makes me want to scream. This should not be happening. White has no space, no play, and no active pieces. It seems as if white needs

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

to play some brilliant moves just to get equal!

17.Nd1 e6? [17...Nfe5! 18.Nf4 Nd4 19.f3 Ng6 20.Nxg6+ hxg6³]

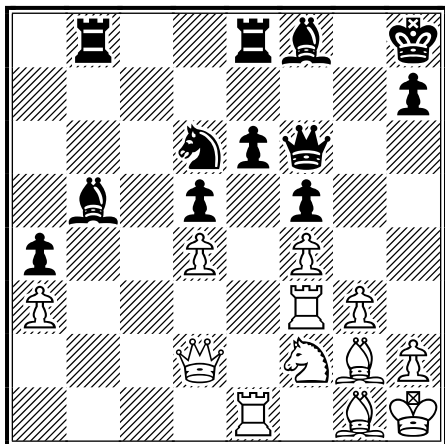
18.Nf4 Re8 [18...Nce5 19.Nh5 Bc6 20.Nxg7 Bxg2+ 21.Kxg2 Kxg7 22.f4 Nc6 23.d4μ]

19.Nh5 Bf8= 20.c3 bxa3 21.bxa3 Nce5 22.f4 Ng4 23.Bg1 Nf6 24.Nxf6 Qxf6= White is starting to get his pieces set up in a strong pattern. The bishops are defending the king but also cutting across the board. The white knights needs to find a post, while the rooks want to be on an open file. Black it seems is happy to take a draw and has not pushed the issue with any move. This is very unlike GM Nakamura but the pressure of the playoff is immense!

25.d4?! [25.Ne3!? I would like to see white try to get his knight out and look for a break with d4. It seems as if white can get some wonderful play! 25...Bb5 26.Rb1 a4 27.Rfc1 Bg7 28.c4 Bd7 29.Nc2 Rec8 30.d4 cxd4 31.Bxd4 e5 32.fxe5 dxe5 33.Rxb8 Rxb8 34.Be3 Be6 35.Nb4 e4²]

25...Bb5!³ 26.Rf2 cxd4 27.cxd4 d5 28.Rf3 a4 [28...Nd6! Nd6 seems like it is the best move. Black will get his pawn back and then some, while his pieces will become very active! 29.Qxa5 Nc4 30.Qc3 Bxa3 31.Ne3 Bb2 32.Qc2 Bxd4 33.Nxc4 Bxc4 34.Bxd4 Qxd4→+]

29.Nf2 [29.Nc3 Bd7 30.Qd1 Ra8 31.Rfe3 Nd6μ] **29...Nd6μ** Diagram



30.g4 [30.Rc3!? Bg7 31.Nd3 Ne4 32.Bxe4 fxe4³]

30...Bg7 Black has only the weak pawn on e6 to attack, but his pieces are fairly active. Whites pieces still need to get out. They are doing nothing. [30...Ne4 31.Nxe4 fxe4 32.g5μ]

31.gxf5 exf5 32.Re5 Nc4 [32...Ne4 33.Qd1 Qf8 34.Rxe8 Bxe8 35.Qc1 Qd6 36.Nd3 Bh5 37.Rf1μ]

33.Qe1 Nxe5 34.fxe5 Qe7 35.Nh3 [35.Nd3 Bxd3 36.Rxd3 Qd7 37.Be3 Rb2 38.Rc3 Reb8μ]

35...Bc4→ 36.Qa5 Qd7 37.Ng5 [37.Nf4?! Bh6 38.Nd3 Bxd3 39.Rxd3 Qb5 40.Qxb5 Rxb5→+]

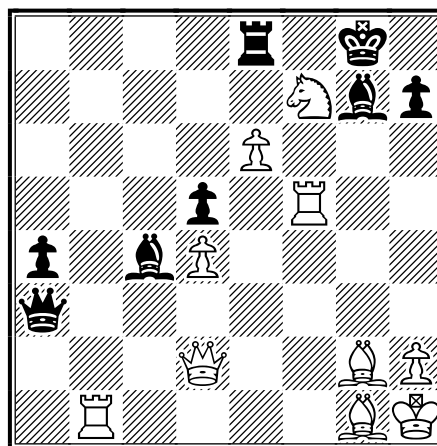
37...Rb3 [37...Rb1!? 38.Qc3 h6 39.Nh3 Reb8 40.Nf4 R8b3 41.Qc2 R3b2 42.Qc3 Ra2→+]

38.e6→ Qe7 39.Rxf5 [39.Qxa4 Rxf3 40.Bxf3 Kg8μ]

39...Rb1 [39...Bf6!? 40.Rxd5 Bxd5
a) 40...Qxa3? Doesn't lead to the expected results. 41.Qc7 Qe7 42.Nf7+ (42.Qxc4?! is clearly weaker 42...Bxg5 43.Qxa4 Ra3²) 42...Kg7 43.Qxc4+-;
b) 40...Rxa3?? The pawn is something. Black will choke on 41.Rd7 Kg7 42.Qf5+-; 41.Nf7+ Kg7 42.Bxd5 Rxa3→+]

40.Qd2 [40.Qxa4! White missed this opportunity to regain equality in the position. 40...Reb8 41.Qd7 Bxd4 42.Bf1 Qxd7 43.exd7 Bxg1 44.Kxg1=]

40...Qxa3 41.Nf7+ [41.Bxd5?! Bxd5+ 42.Rxd5 h6 43.Nf7+ Kg8 44.Qf2 Qe7 45.Rd6 a3 46.d5 Qf6 47.Qg2 Reb8→+] **41...Kg8** Diagram



Qa1 is a huge threat!

42.Nh6+ Again white misses an opportunity for equality but this time it's extremely complex. White really needs to come up with some creative attacking chances if he wants to draw.

[42.Qg5! h5 43.Nh6+ Kh7 44.Qxh5 Rxcg1+ 45.Kxg1 Qc1+

(45...Bxd4+ 46.Kh1 Qc1+ 47.Bf1 Qxh6 48.Qxe8 Bxf1 49.Qf7+ Kh8 50.Rxf1+-; 45...Rxe6 is easily refuted 46.Ng4+ Rh6 47.Nxh6 Qc1+ 48.Bf1 Qxh6 49.Bxc4 dxc4 50.Kf2±)

46.Bf1 Qe3+ (46...Bxd4+ 47.Kh1 Qxh6 48.Qxe8 Bxf1 49.Qf7+ Kh8 50.Rh5 Qxh5 51.Qxh5+ Kg7 52.Qf7+ Kh6 53.Qxf1+-; 46...Rxe6 47.Ng4+ Rh6 48.Nxh6 Qxh6 49.Bxc4 dxc4 50.Qxh6+ Kxh6 51.Ra5+-)

47.Rf2 Qxh6 (47...Qxe6 48.Nf7+ Bh6 49.Ng5+ Kh8 50.Nxe6 Rxe6 51.Rf8+ Kh7 52.Qf7+ Bg7 53.Qg8+ Kh6 54.Qxe6+ Kh7 55.Qh3+ Kg6 56.Qg4+ Kh6 57.Rf5 Kh7 58.Rf7 Kh6 59.Rxc7 Bxf1 60.Qg5#)48.Qxe8 Bxd4=]

42...Kh8 [42...Bxh6 43.Qxh6 Rxcg1+ 44.Kxg1 Qa1+ 45.Kf2 Qxd4+ 46.Kg3 a3--]

43.Nf7+ Kg8 44.Nh6+ [44.Qg5! White can draw the same way as before. 44...Rxe6 45.Nh6+ Rxh6 46.Qd8+ Bf8 47.Bxd5+ Bxd5+ 48.Qxd5+ Kh8 49.Qe5+=]

44...Bxh6!--+ 45.Qxh6 Rxcg1+ 46.Kxg1 Qa1+ 47.Bf1 [47.Kf2!/? Qxd4+ 48.Kg3--]

47...Qxd4+ 48.Rf2 Kh8 The mate threat is Rg8

49.Bxc4?? Shortens the misery for White [49.Qf4 Qxf4 50.Rxf4--]

49...Rg8+ [49...Rg8+ 50.Qg6 (50.Kh1 Qe4+ 51.Rg2 Qxc2#) 50...Rxc7+ 51.Kh1 Qe4+ 52.Rf3 Qxf3#] 0-1

(11) Nakamura,Hikaru (2620) - Stripunsky,Alex (2533) [B42]

2005 US Championship Playoff San Diego (2), 05.12.2004 [NM Blair Machaj]

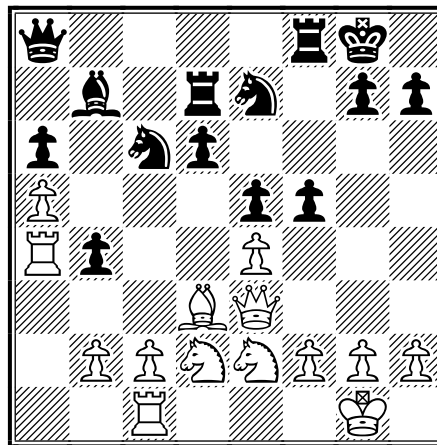
GM Stripunsky is now down a game and needs to win. The problem he has is that he has the black pieces. This makes the task far more difficult. I predict that black will be looking for a sharp opening while White will look for utter equality and will look to trade the pieces off.

1.e4 B42: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 Bd3 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nc3 d6 9.Qe2 Nge7 10.Be3 b5 [10...e5 11.Nd5 0-0 12.c4 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 a5 14.Rad1 a4 15.Nc1 Nd4 16.Ne2 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Nxe2+ 18.Bxe2 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.f4 Re8 21.Bb5 Re7 22.Rfe1 Qa5 23.Bd3 Rf8 24.Bf1 h6 25.Kh1 Shahade,G-Stripunsky,A/New York 2003/CBM 94 ext/0-1 (47)]

11.Bxa7 [11.a3 0-0 (11...Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Qc7 13.f4 f6 14.Kh1 e5 15.f5 Bb7 16.Rad1 0-0 17.Be2 Rfd8 18.g4 b4 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Bxd5 Ne7 22.Rf2 Nxd5 23.exd5 Qc4 24.Qd3 Qxc4 25.Rg1 Qh4 26.Rfg2 Andrade,M-Sustach,M/SantaCruz2003/EXT 2004/0-1 (37)) 12.f4 Re8 13.Bxa7 Rxa7 14.Qf2 Ng6 15.Rad1 Rd7 16.Rfe1 b4 17.axb4 Nxb4 18.Bf1 Bb7 19.g3 h6 20.Bg2 Qc7 21.Re2 Nf8 22.Qd4 Nc6 23.Qf2 Ba8 24.Ra1 Nb4 25.Qd4 Rb8 Ingunza Lopez,T-Vehi Bach,V/San Sebastian 1999/EXT 2002/0-1 (35)]

11...Rxa7 White has a very solid position and is more than happy to trade the pieces off.

12.Qe3N 0-0 13.a4 b4 14.Ne2 Rd7 15.a5 Bb7² 16.Rfc1 Qa8 17.Ra4 e5 18.Nd2 The idea is Nb3-d2-c4-b6 [18.c3 bxc3 19.Nxc3 Nd8 20.Qh3 Ne6 21.Nd5 Qd8 22.Nb6 Rc7 23.Rxc7 Nxc7 24.Rc4 Ne6²] 18...f5!?² Diagram



Not sure if this is the best move but black must open lines, and look for an attack. Anything less than a win will not do! [18...Qd8 19.Ng3 Qc7 20.Nc4 d5 21.Nb6 d4 22.Qe2 Rdd8 23.c3 bxc3 24.bxc3 dxc3 25.Rxc3 Qd6=]

19.Nc4 Qe8 20.Nb6 Praise the knight! 20...Rd8 21.f3 Kh8 22.Bc4 Qg6 23.Nd5 Nxd5

[23...Rb8 Even now black is in a bit of a bind. The Bb7 is stuck defending the knight and the a6 pawn. The Nc6 is stuck defending b4. d6 somehow needs to be held. The rooks can't really get active. Even in this wild variation if black musters an attack and can throw everything at him, white can play it very safe and come out unscathed. 24.Rd1 h5 25.Nb6 Rbd8 26.c3 bxc3 27.bxc3 f4 28.Qf2 Qh6 29.Nd5 g5 30.Qb6 Bc8 31.Bxa6 Bxa6 32.Qxa6 g4 33.Qd3 Rg8 34.Kh1 Ng6 35.Ng1 Nh4 36.Ra2 Rd7 37.a6 Rdg7 38.Nb4 Nxb4 39.cxb4+-]

GM Nakamura 2005 US Championship Games

24.**Bxd5** [24.exd5 Ne7 25.Qb3 f4 26.Rxb4 Bc8?]

24...**fxe4** [24...Rb8 25.Rd1=]

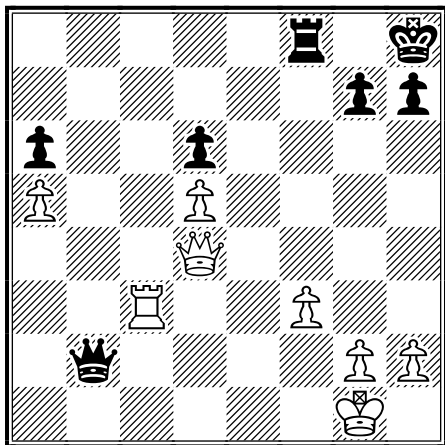
25.**Qxe4** [25.Bxe4!? Qf7 26.Bxc6 Bxc6 27.Rxb4±]

25...**Qe8 26.c4 Nd4** Great outpost for the black knight; it's a shame that this move gives up a pawn. [126...bxc3!? White is slightly better, but black has zero play. 27.bxc3 Ba8 28.c4 Rc8 29.Raa1 Qe7?]

27.**Rxb4±** Too many pieces are coming off the board. Now it's white to play and win!

27...**Bxd5 28.cxd5 Rc8 29.Rc3** [29.Rxc8 Qxc8 30.Nxd4 Qc5+-] **29...Rb8** [29...Nb5 30.Rxc8 Qxc8 31.Rc4 Qd8 32.b4±]

30.**Rxb8 Qxb8 31.Nxd4 exd4 32.Qxd4 Qxb2** Diagram



33.**Rd3?!** [33.Qf4! Kg8 34.Qe3 Qa1+ 35.Rc1 Qxa5 36.Qe6+ Kh8 37.Qxd6 Rd8 38.Qe5 Qb6+ 39.Kh1 a5+-] **33...Qb5 34.Qc3 h6** [34...Qb1+! Objectively white is still winning but this line actually scares me a bit if I am white. It's hard to find a safe square for the king. 35.Kf2 Qh1 36.h3 Qb1 37.Rd4 Rb8+-]

35.**Rd4 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Re8** [36...Rb8!? 37.Rd2 Qh1 38.h3 Qb1+-; 36...Qh1? 37.Rg4 Rg8 38.Kg3+-]

37.**Re4+- Rb8 38.Kg3 Qb7 39.Qc6!!** Now either black trades queens or the game is over. If he moves the queen and drops a few more pawns the game is over.

39...**Qxc6 40.dxc6 Rc8 41.Rb4** [41.Rc4 Kg8 42.Kf4 Kf7+-]

41...**Kg8** [141...Rxc6 42.Rb6 Rc5 43.Rxa6 Kg8+-]

42.**Rb6 Kf7 43.Rxa6 Ke6 44.Rb6 Kd5 45.a6 Kc5** [45...Rc7 46.Kg4+-]

46.**Rb1 Rc7 47.Kf4** [147.Kg4!? White can already relax 47...d5 48.Kf5 Kd6+-]

47...**d5??** A blunder in a bad position [47...Rf7+ 48.Ke4 Kxc6 49.Rc1+ Kb6+-]

48.**Ra1** Congratulations 2005 U.S. Champion GM Hikaru Nakamura! [48.Ra1 Ra7 49.c7!!] **1-0**



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Road Warrior



by NM Pete Karagianis

This issue's installment of Road Warrior is brought to you in similar fashion to a Star Wars episode – from a long time ago in a land far, far away.

I was talked into playing into a tournament called the “Catfish Days” by my friend and fellow tournament enthusiast, Ivan, this past summer. At first I had not been too keen on heading up to Minnesota for what appeared, in both name and location, to be more of a backwoods chess hoedown rather than a serious tournament.

“But look, man, you can even send entries in to Farmer James!” Ivan said. I suppose this was some kind of argument *in favor* of me going, but I did not see how it helped his case.

For the inquisitive among you, Minnesota is that state to the north of Iowa that the Vikings play in. For Chicagoans, think “Canada.” It has a lot of lakes, a couple airports, and one or two cities.

“And they also have a cookout after the first round if you’re hungry! Free food and chess, you can’t pass that up.” Ivan could see I was unimpressed. “They’ve even got the Catfish Days festival, it’s like a tradition. How many people can say they’ve played in the Catfish Days?” He put his arms on his hips and stood as if he’d made a profound point.

“Do you even *know* what that festival is?”

“No, but I’m sure it has something to do with Catfish.”

“You don’t say.”

“Maybe they go fishing or something in between rounds.”

Franklin, MN, the site of the Catfish Days, was not even a dot on the map. To get there, one must travel (coming up I-35 from Iowa) seventy miles of

back-road, small-town highway on US-14, MN-4, and Route 68. The drive itself is actually quite scenic, after you get off the interstate, if you can avoid the typical summer construction and, while en route, do not become hopelessly lost in a maze of detours and dirt roads.

How had I been talked into this tournament - a small, chess “reunion” held, seemingly, in the middle of nowhere? The convincing had not come at the hands of Ivan’s varied arguments concerning nostalgia, experience, or even catfish. What had ultimately changed my mind was a couple sheets of paper Ivan handed me Wednesday, two nights before the tournament.

“Here are the cross tables from the past few years,” he said, “have a look.”

I took the papers. Usually, when I consider playing in tournaments, the first things I look at are the prize fund ratios and the possibility of competition. Particularly in the Midwest, it is difficult to find either of the two aforementioned commodities in large quantities, especially since the former always tends to affect the latter. However, the information Ivan procured struck me and spoke for itself.

The past two annual Catfish Days tournaments had featured a plethora of experts and masters, as well as a guaranteed prize fund, supported not by entry fee, which was a paltry twenty dollars (twenty-five at the door) but by outside sources. Here, I thought, was a man who knows how to organize.

And he goes by the name of Farmer James.

Father of the town’s pageant winner, amiable, picture-friendly, twelve-year organizer of the Catfish Days reunion, and finder of outside, *financial* support for chess, a sport that is not exactly at its height of popularity, Farmer James gets International Masters, FIDE Masters, National Masters, and various other strong players to travel to the middle of nowhere and fight it out on small, seven-year old sized tables (which my knees banged into quite a bit) in a non-air conditioned elementary school library the size of a small apartment.

I had a blast.

For the past year I had been lobbying in the state I go to school, Iowa, for precisely this type of thing, and now I had found it in a town two-thirds the size of my high school graduating class. In Illinois, the problem is often the same. One is stuck (one might say) between a rock and a hard place – either a very high entry fee with lots of prizes and lots of competition, or a more modest entry fee with equally proportionate prizes and turnout. Recently, organizers

in the Chicago area (and elsewhere) have been turning to sponsorship – trying to find outside funding for their efforts. Unfortunately, chess is not college football and this undertaking is not the simplest route available.

At first I was surprised that the Catfish Days tournament could promise so much, but after appending the weekend in Franklin, the answers slowly presented themselves.

I didn't need to ask Farmer James how he had done it, how he had gotten the support he needed, how he drew the strong class of players year after year, how he could give so *many* awards to long-time returnees (You get a clock for ten years and a wooden carving for five years straight of playing in the Catfish Tournament). All I had to do to get let in on his "secret" was receive one handshake and a smile.

Here was an organizer, excuse me, a farmer, (for I don't believe he would appreciate any other title) who realized the importance of respecting the players, of thanking them for coming, of giving them a *reason* to come not just for chess, but for what chess was meant for: to have a great time.

I remember crowding around the top board (located between the *Encyclopedia Brown* series and the *Hardy Boys* collection) during the tournament, watching IM Viktor Adler play, surrounded by chess players from all walks of life, each leaning in to watch quietly, respectfully the master. But my eyes were not on the board or the squares or the pieces, for the moment anyway. I looked instead at the clock trophy in the background reserved for the ten-year Catfish veterans thinking "Nine more years."

I smirked, because I knew that I would be back. *Oh yes, I would.*

You can bet the farm on that.

NM Pete Karagianis

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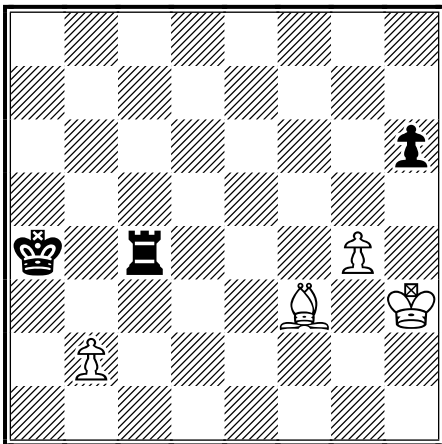
Decoy



By Ilya Korzhenevich

In the last issue, I wrote about deflection. As you remember, deflection is making an opponent's piece move in order to have it abandon an important defensive duty.

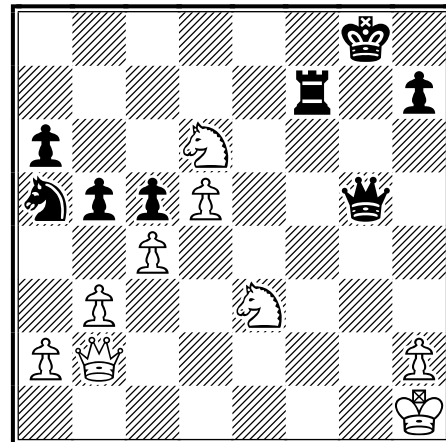
This time, I am going to introduce another important tactical trick – *decoy*. Decoy is similar to deflection in making an opponent's piece move. However, the goal of decoying is different: it is luring an opponent's piece *into* a certain square rather than just luring it *away*. The following elementary example should make the definition of decoy clear:



White to move.

In this position, it would be nice to pin Black Rook to Black King. If only they were on one light-squared diagonal! Is there any way to turn this fantasy into a reality? Yes! White wins with **1.b3+!**, and after the forced **1...Kxb3**, **2.Bd5** leads to a winning pawn endgame for White.

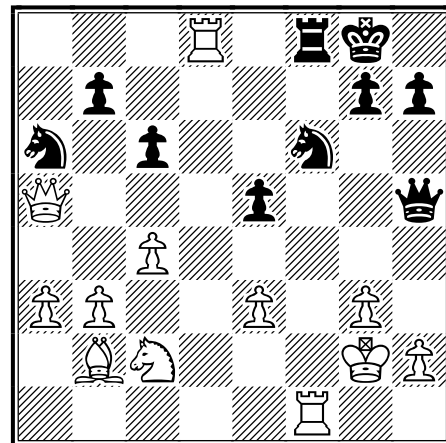
In the example above, the decoy was used to lure the opponent's piece into a pin. Forks are also often used as the decoy's objective:



Petrosian-Spassky, 1966

Looking at this position, you might be wondering why White does not simply play **1. Nxf7**, winning the exchange. The spectators watching this World Championship Title Match game must have expected that move from Petrosian. Well, they were in for a surprise! White played **1.Qh8+!**, forcing the Black King into a deadly Knight fork. Black resigned, since **1...Kxh8 2.Nxf7+ Kg7 3.Nxg5** leaves Black a piece and a pawn down.

Discovered attacks are also used frequently in conjunction with decoy.

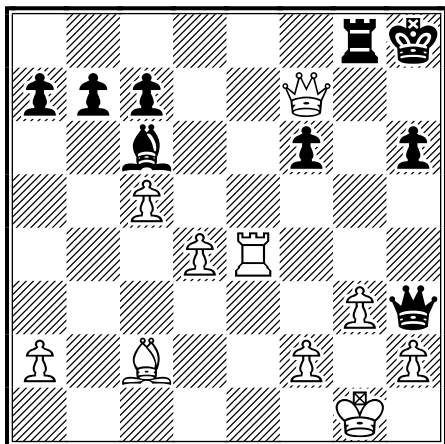


Mititelu-Stanciu. Black to move.

White had just captured the Rook on d8 and expected an immediate recapture. But Black conceived an idea: if only White King were on the "f" file, he could win both the Queen and the Rook by playing **Bxd8+!** Having noticed this, Black then found a way to make his wish come true: **1...Qe2+ 2. Kg1 Qxf1+** (if **2.Rf2**, then **2...Qxf2+**), and Black has the decisive advantage.

Tactics

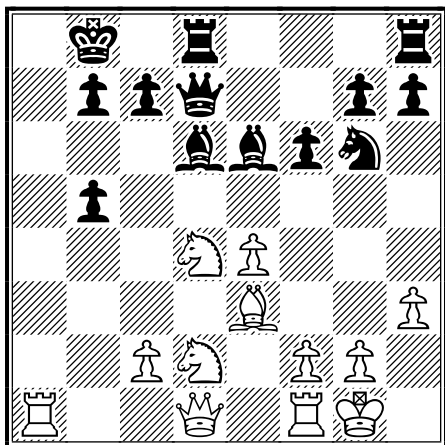
The preceding combinations are pretty, but my favorite is decoying into a double check. Double checks are often deadly, as in the following position:



Lurie & Wagenheim-NN, White to move.

By playing 1.Qh7+!!, White lures Black King into a square where a lightning bolt strikes it down: 1...Kxh7 2. Re7++ Kxh8 (forced) 3.Rh7#.

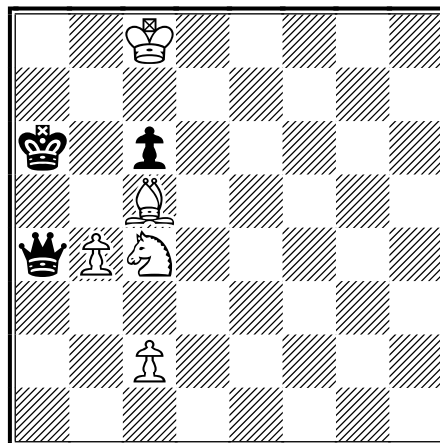
Sometimes, it takes more than one move and a large amount of sacrificed material to "convince" the opponent to move to a certain square:



Waals-Bjarnason. White to move.

White sacrifices a Queen and a Rook (!!) in order to force Black King into a double check: 1.Ra8+!! Kxa8 2.Qa1+ Kb8 3.Qa7+!! Kxa7 (if 3 Kc8, then 4.Qa8#) 4.Nc6++ Ka8 (or Ka6) 5.Ra1+ with a mate in 2.

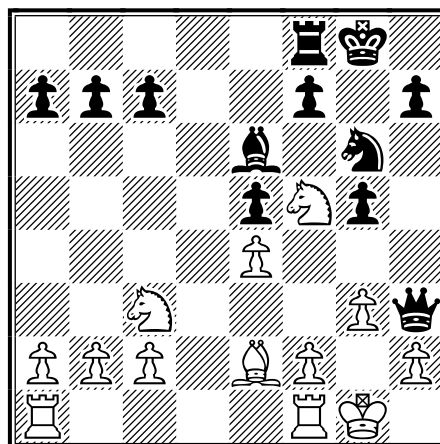
In conclusion, I would like to present a very unusual example in which a decoy works due to zugzwang:



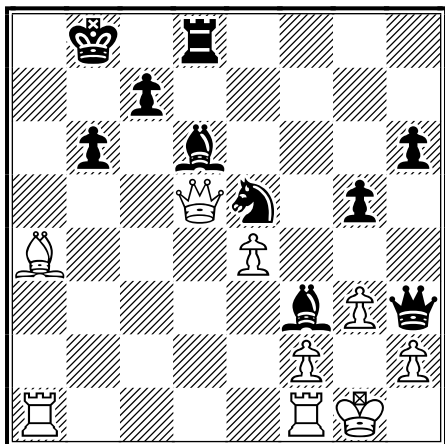
A study by Kubbel (line). White to move.

A cursory glance at this position would give one the impression that White is fighting for the draw. Nothing could be farther from the truth! In fact, it takes only one move for White to get the decisive advantage: 1.Na3!. If Black takes the Knight, 2.b5+ wins for White. But what if Black does not capture the Knight? Well, he has to – his King has no legal moves and his Queen is locked up in a cage!

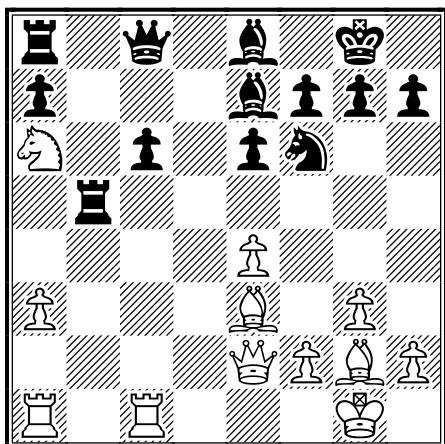
Now it is your turn to make a Trojan gift. The side to move checkmates or wins material.



White to move.



White to move.



White to move.

Solutions to the problems in the last issue:

Problem 1: 1.Qa7!!

Problem 2: 1...Na2+ 2. Kd1 Nxc3+ 3. bxc3 Qxd2+
4.Kxd2 Rxe4

Problem 3: 1...Rxd4!! 2.Qxd4 (or 2.Rxd4) Qc1+, with
a mate in 2.

Problem 4: 1.Qf3!! Qxf3 2. Rg1+ Kh8 3.Bg7+ Kg8
4.Bf6+, with a mate on the next move.

If you have any questions or comments about this article or if you would like to see a specific tactical theme covered in future issues, please feel free to email me at ilya@ChessScholars.com.

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Knight Moves Chess Club Update



Hector R. Hernandez

Our club held its **Chicago Latino Chess Championship XII** on Saturday, October 2, 2004. Forty-nine players participated in it. Thirty were elementary school children, ten were high school students and nine were adults. Trophies were the prizes that everyone was competing for. The top ten children, and top ten adults would get trophies at the end of the tournament.

Prior to the start of the tournament, Jose Rodriguez was the favorite to win the adult section. This time he managed to go through the tournament undefeated with a perfect 5-0 score. Besides the first place trophy, which he earned for the first time, Jose also won a \$100 prize. He and his father, also Jose Rodriguez, have played in this tournament eleven consecutive years. They only missed the very first one in 1993. The rest of the winners were: Julio Lara, Emilio Tallada, Juan P. Avalos, Miguel Lopez, Andrew Riojas, Jerry del Real, Mario Rocha, Sterling Carrington and David Kaehler.

Winners in the elementary school section were: Andy Pena, Cuitláhuac Pineda, Cristián Pena, Valentín Urbina, Guadalupe Martinez, Jesus Martinez, Luis Perez, Adrian Abaunza, Oliverio Saucedo, and Miguel Bocanegra.

Larry Cohen did a wonderful job directing this tournament.

Rotary Club-Midwest

The Pilsen community Rotary Club-Midwest, with help from other District 6450 Rotary Clubs, has been sponsoring chess programs in local schools. At the beginning of the school year, and with collaboration from our library chess club, they put together a

simultaneous exhibition. The exhibition was held Benito Juarez Community Academy just a few blocks down the street from the library. A group of outstanding masters and strong juniors were invited to take on all comers. The masters were: I.M. Roberto Martin del Campo and I.M. Alfonso Almeida, (both National Champions of Mexico); I.M. Angelo Young (2004 Illinois State Champion), F.M. Albert Chow, Al Stamnov, Marvin Dandridge, and Ken Wallach. The juniors were Jason Duncan, Jose Rodriguez and Julio Lara. Approximately one hundred children and adults played with great enthusiasm attempting to defeat the masters and juniors. All the amateurs were soundly defeated.

Josh Flores coordinated this event.

Chess programs are currently in place at St. Pius, City As Classroom, Perspectives and St. Jane de Chantal schools and at our library. Classes for beginners and intermediate players are held at the library every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and Friday at 3:00 p.m..

Several of our club members played in the **Chicago Latino Book and Family Festival chess tournament** held at Unity Middle School in Cicero, Illinois on November 28. I managed to get first place while Juan P. Avalos earned second and Fabian Ramos settled for third. Adrian Abaunza got second place among the children participants. Josh Flores was the tournament director.

The **KMCC Winter Open** was held on December 11. Thirty players participated, 20 children and 10 adults. Books were given out as prizes to the top ten children and top three adults. Juan P. Avalos took first place in the adult group, Julio Lara was second and Benny Rivera ended up in third. Avalos lost only to Mario Rocha, but defeated a solid player in Julio Lara. Julio in turn beat Mario Rocha. All three are high school students.

Josh Flores graciously donated his second place prize to the next player in line. The top children were: Valentín Urbina, Adrian Abaunza, Guadalupe Martinez, Alejandro Landeros, Jesus Martinez, Miguel Bocanegra, Juan Escobedo, Matthew Gonzales, Daniel Velazquez, and Armando Bocanegra.

Our chess club meets at the library every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

FM Jon Burgess

FM Jon Burgess wins 2004 Northbridge Baptist Open;

Larry Cohen and William Naff tie for 2nd place; Bradley Watts shocks tournament in round 1.

by Dennis Bourgerie

Normal, IL, Oct. 23, 2004. Jon Burgess (2299) of Glenview, IL ran off 4 straight wins to win the Northbridge Baptist Church Oct. Open. This is the FIDE Master's 3rd tournament win in a row in Normal, IL tournaments and with 12 straight wins he is really handing out the punishment.

Larry Cohen (2012) and William Naff (2008) followed closely with 3.5 points. Larry gave up a draw to Rob Nunez in round 2 and Bill took a bye in round 4.

Bradley Watts (1820) of Channahon, IL created a huge buzz in round 1 as he won 2 pawns and the exchange in the opening from IM Angelo Young (2462) and with a cool hand survived time trouble to pocket the point. Their round 1 encounter has to be a game that would go into any "A" player's scrapbook.

Tied for the Under 2000 prize with 3 points each were Jon Bonwell (1729) of Normal, IL, Bradley Watts (1820) of Channahon and Martin Wilber (1640) of Buffalo Grove.

Aaron Barton (1361) of Normal, Seth Chiles (1367) of Bloomington, Wayne Zimmerle (1551) of Peoria, Eric Meier (1437) of Bloomington and Gordon Ruan (1582) of Champaign tied for the Under 1600 prize with 2.5.

Dylan Canavan (1163) of Oak Park and Saba Krishnamoorthy (1087) of Bloomington each scored 2.0 to take the Under 1200 honors.

Much thanks is due to Reverend William Barton and his congregation for providing space for the tournament.

I directed the 39 player mini-tour tournament and Peter Stroyan assisted with registration. 15 players plus 1 affiliate renewed or joined the Illinois Chess Association.

Here are some of the games and pictures from the event:

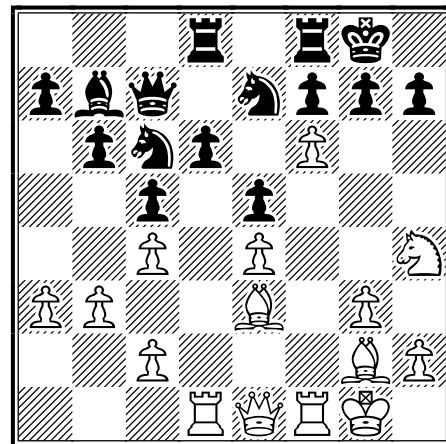


Michael Leali (1991) of Peoria. The two previous pictures are not from their individual game.

FM Burgess, Jon (2299) - Leali, Michael (1991) [B23] 2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (3)

In round 3, Michael drew the thankless task of trying to stop Jon Burgess.

1.e2-e4 c7-c5 2.Nb1-c3 d7-d6 3.f2-f4 Nb8-c6 4.Ng1-f3 e7-e6 5.g2-g3 Bf8-e7 6.Bf1-g2 Be7-f6 7.0-0 Ng8-e7 8.Qd1-e1 Bf6xc3 9.d2xc3 0-0 10.Bc1-e3 Qd8-c7 11.Ra1-d1 b7-b6 12.c3-c4 Bc8-b7 13.a2-a3 Ra8-d8 14.Nf3-h4 restrains ...d6-d5. 14...Nc6-a5 15.b2-b3 Na5-c6 16.f4-f5 White starts his aggression on the kingside. 16...e6-e5 17.f5-f6 with the double attack on e7 and g7, White gets the f-file opened.



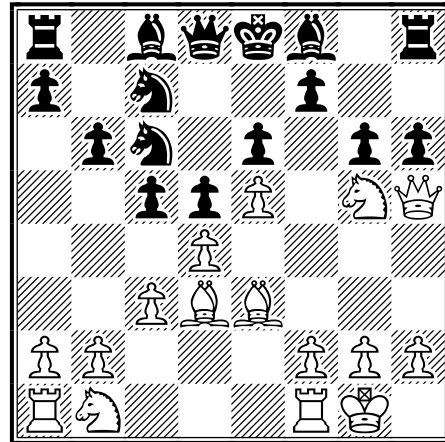
17...g7xf6 18.Rf1xf6 Ne7-g6 19.Be3-h6 Rf8-e8 20.Qe1-f2 Nc6-d4 A knight on d4 is usually strong, but here it is largely irrelevant as the action is on the f-file. **21.Rd1-f1** Tripled heavy pieces on the f-file must mean trouble for Black. **21...Re8-e7 22.Nh4-f5 Re7-d7 23.Nf5xd6 Rd7xd6**

Northbridge Baptist Open

[Even if Black ignores the knight on d6, he is still in trouble. 23...Ng6-h8 24.Nd6xb7 Qc7xb7 25.c2-c3 Nd4-c6 (25...Nd4-e6 26.Rf6xe6 f7xe6 27.Qf2-f8+ Rd8xf8 28.Rf1xf8#) 26.Rf6-g6+ Nh8xg6 (26...h7xg6 27.Qf2-f6 Rd7-d1 28.Qf6-g7#; 26...f7xg6 27.Qf2-f8+ Rd8xf8 28.Rf1xf8#) 27.Qf2-f6 Nc6-a5 28.Qf6-g7#]

24.Rf6xf7 Qc7-b8

[If the Black rook interposes by 24...Rd6-d7 then White checkmates with a sacrifice of the queen. 25.Rf7-f8+ Rd8xf8 26.Qf2xf8+ Ng6xf8 27.Rf1xf8#]
25.Rf7-g7+ Kg8-h8 26.Qf2-f7 Nd4-e2+ 27.Kg1-h1 Ng6-f8 28.Rg7-g8# 1-0



Bradley Watts

Watts,Bradley (1813) – IM Young,Angelo (2462) [B22]

2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (1), 23.10.2004

This game was a sensation as Bradley Watts fulfills every "A" players dream of defeating a titled player.
1.e2-e4 c7-c5 2.c2-c3 Ng8-f6 3.e4-e5 Nf6-d5 4.d2-d4 e7-e6 5.Ng1-f3 Nd5-c7

[The most common continuation from this position is: 5...c5xd4 6.c3xd4 b7-b6 7.Nb1-c3 Nd5xc3 8.b2xc3 Qd8-c7 9.Bc1-d2 Bc8-b7 10.Bf1-d3 d7-d6;
6.Bf1-d3 d7-d5 7.0-0 Nb8-c6 8.Bc1-e3 b7-b6 9.Nf3-g5 h7-h6 10.Qd1-h5

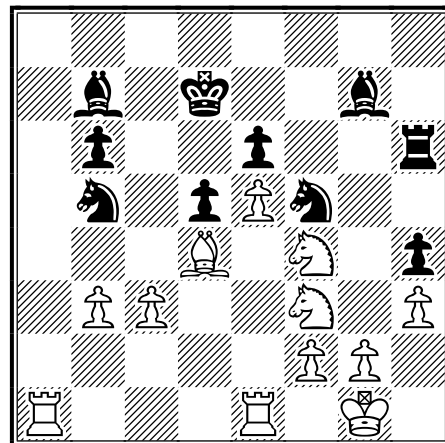
A strong move, putting the hurt on Black. Retreating the knight to f3 or h3 would be insipid.

10...g7-g6 Now White crashes through with a sacrifice on g6.

11.Bd3xg6 f7xg6 12.Qh5xg6+ Ke8-d7 13.Ng5-f7 The fork of the Black queen and king rook makes the sacrifice work. **13...Qd8-e8 14.Nf7xh8** and the knight protects its' queen. **14...Qe8xg6 15.Nh8xg6 Bf8-g7+** The smoke has cleared and White has 2 extra pawns and has won the exchange.

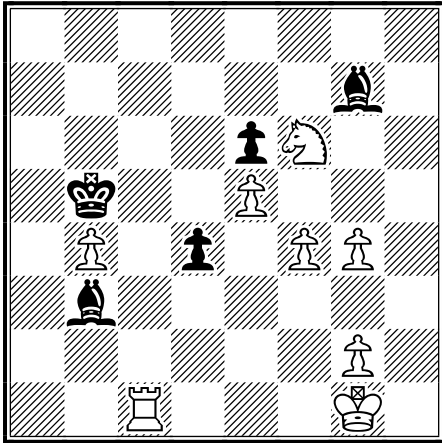
16.Nb1-d2 Bc8-a6 17.Rf1-e1 c5xd4 18.Be3xd4 h6-h5 19.Nd2-f3 Ra8-g8 20.Ng6-f4 Rg8-h8 21.Ra1-d1 Nc6-e7 22.b2-b3 h5-h4 23.h2-h3 Ne7-f5 24.a2-a4 Ba6-b7

The White pawn on e5 and the Black pawns on e6 and d5 keep the Black bishops at bay. **25.Rd1-a1 Rh8-h6 26.a4-a5 Nc7-b5 27.a5xb6 a7xb6**



28.Bd4xb6 Nb5xc3 29.Nf3-d4 Nf5xd4 30.Bb6xd4 Nc3-b5 31.Bd4-b2 Kd7-c6 32.Re1-c1+ Kc6-b6 33.Rc1-d1 Bb7-c6 34.Ra1-c1 Bc6-b7 35.Nf4-d3 Bg7-f8 36.b3-b4 Rh6-g6 37.Nd3-c5 Bb7-c6 38.Bb2-d4 Nb5xd4 39.Rd1xd4 Bf8-g7 40.Rd4xh4 d5-d4 41.Rh4-g4 Stopping the threat to g2 and forcing the Black rook off of the board.

41...Rg6xg4 42.h3xg4 Bc6-d5 43.Nc5-d7+ Kb6-b5
44.Nd7-f6 Bd5-b3 45.f2-f4 and White went on to win,
eventually promoting a pawn on the g8 square. A fine
game by Bradley Watts.



1-0



Larry Cohen

Cohen, Larry (2012) - Reddivari, Dushyan (1866) [A16]

2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (4),
23.10.2004

The game starts out with an open c-file and for awhile both sides maneuver trying to get or frustrate control of that file.

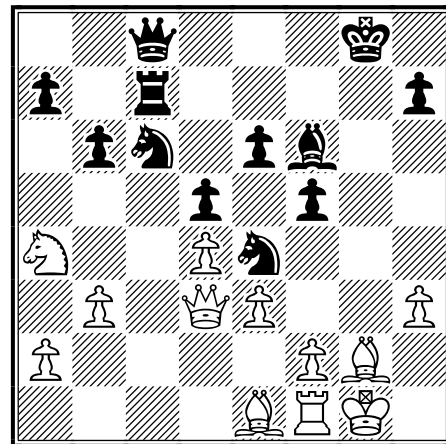
Then at move 32, White plays e3-e4, breaking in the center, and that plus a queen maneuver to h6 gains an advantage. White then concludes the game with a sharp attack against the Black king.

1.c2-c4 (Larry's favorite first move) Ng8-f6
2.g2-g3 g7-g6 3.Nb1-c3 Bf8-g7 4.Bf1-g2 0-0 5.e2-e3 c7-c6 6.Ng1-e2 d7-d5 7.c4xd5 c6xd5 8.d2-d4 e7-

e6 9.0-0 Nb8-c6 (All book so far.) 10.Bc1-d2 Bc8-d7
11.Ne2-c1 Ra8-c8 12.Nc1-d3 Nf6-e8 13.Nd3-c5 Ne8-d6
14.Nc5xd7 Qd8xd7 15.b2-b3 Rc8-c7 16.Ra1-c1 Rf8-c8

Right now this game looks like it is going to be another one of those dull and dreary struggles over who is going to control the c-file and so it is for the next 15 moves or so, until White conceives the plan of f2-f3 and e3-e4 and breaks in the center.

17.Qd1-e2 Nc6-e7 18.Nc3-a4 b7-b6 19.Rc1xc7 Rc8xc7
20.Qe2-d3 Qd7-c8 21.g3-g4 f7-f5 [21...Rc7-c2? 22.Na4-c3 and the rook is trapped!] 22.h2-h3 Nd6-e4
23.Bd2-b4 Ne7-c6 24.Bb4-a3 Nc6-a5 25.Ba3-b4 Na5-c6
26.Bb4-a3 Nc6-a5 27.g4xf5 g6xf5 28.Ba3-b4 Na5-c6
29.Bb4-e1 Bg7-f6



30.f2-f3 Ne4-d6 31.Be1-g3 Bf6-e7 32.e3-e4 Nc6-b4
33.Qd3-d2 a7-a5 34.Na4xb6 Qc8-b7 35.Nb6-a4 Rc7-c2
36.Qd2-h6

The White queen is well-placed on h6. 36...Nd6-f7 [36...Rc2xa2? 37.Bg3xd6 Be7xd6 38.Qh6xe6+ Qb7-f7 39.Qe6xd6 winning a piece. 39...Qf7-g7 40.Qd6-d8+ Kg8-f7 41.Qd8-d7+ Kf7-g8 42.Qd7xg7+ Kg8xg7 43.Na4-c3 and White is winning.]

37.Qh6xe6 f5-f4 38.Qe6-g4+ Kg8-f8 39.Bg3xf4 Nb4xa2
40.Na4-c5 Be7xc5 41.d4xc5 Rc2xc5 42.e4-e5 Na2-c3
43.e5-e6 White's attack has reached decisive mass. 43...Nc3-e2+
44.Kg1-h1 Ne2xf4 45.Qg4xf4 Rc5-b5 46.e6xf7 Qb7xf7
47.Qf4-e3 d5-d4 48.Qe3xd4 Qf7xb3 49.Rf1-d1

It's hard to believe that Black's poorly protected king will survive for long with White's queen, rook and bishop still on the board and soon it concedes defeat. 49...Qb3-b2 50.Qd4-d6+ Kf8-f7 51.f3-f4 The bishop is invited to join the party. 51...Rb5-b6 52.Bg2-d5+ Kf7-g7 53.Rd1-g1+ and Black resigns. The finish would have gone like this: 53...Kg7-h8 54.Rg1-g8# 1-0

Northbridge Baptist Open



Michaela Kitson

Kitson,Michaela (100) - Barton,Aaron

(1361) [A04] 2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (2), 23.10.2004

1.g2-g3 c7-c5 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3.Bf1-g2 g7-g6 4.0-0 Bf8-g7 5.e2-e3 Ng8-f6 6.g3-g4 0-0 7.Nb1-c3 d7-d5 8.Bg2-h3 Bc8xg4 9.Bh3-g2 e7-e5 10.d2-d3 e5-e4 11.b2-b3 e4xf3 12.Bg2-h1 Qd8-d7 13.d3-d4 Bg4-h3 14.Rf1-e1 Qd7-g4+ 15.Bh1-g2 Qg4xg2# 0-1



Wayne Zimmerle of Peoria, IL

Zimmerle,Wayne (1551) - Bauer,Lucas

(1300) [B07] 2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (1), 23.10.2004

1.e2-e4 d7-d6 2.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6 3.Nb1-c3 c7-c6 4.d2-d4 Qd8-a5 5.Bc1-d2 Qa5-b6 6.Nc3-a4 [6.a2-a4 Qb6xb2? 7.Ra1-b1 Qb2-a3 8.Rb1-b3 and the Black queen is trapped!] 6...Qb6-c7 7.e4-e5 d6xe5 8.d4xe5 Nf6-e4 9.Bd2-f4 b7-b5 10.Qd1-d4 Qc7-a5+ 11.Na4-c3 Ne4xc3 12.b2xc3 e7-e6 13.Ra1-d1 Nb8-d7

14.Bf1-d3 Bf8-c5 15.Qd4-e4 Bc8-b7 16.0-0 0-0-0 17.c3-c4 f7-f5 18.e5xf6 Nd7xf6 19.Qe4xe6+ Rd8-d7 20.Nf3-e5 Rh8-e8 21.Qe6-h3 Qa5xa2 22.Bd3-f5 Black resigns. 1-0

Honor,Richard (1438) - Kibler,Michael

(852) [A02] 2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (1), 23.10.2004

1.f2-f4 Nb8-c6 2.e2-e4 d7-d5 3.e4xd5 Qd8xd5 4.Nb1-c3 Qd5-f5 5.Bf1-b5 Bc8-d7 6.d2-d3 e7-e5 7.Ng1-e2 Bf8-b4 8.0-0 Bb4xc3 9.b2xc3 a7-a6 10.Bb5-a4 Ng8-f6 11.Bc1-a3 e5-e4 12.Ba4xc6 Bd7xc6 13.Ne2-d4 Qf5-a5 14.Ba3-b4 Qa5-b6 15.Ra1-b1 Qb6-a7 16.Kg1-h1 Bc6-d5 17.d3xe4 Bd5xa2 18.Rb1-b2 Ba2-c4 19.e4-e5 Bc4xf1 20.e5xf6 Bf1xg2+ 21.Kh1xg2 g7xf6 22.Qd1-e2+ Ke8-d7 23.Qe2-e7+ Kd7-c8 24.Qe7xf7 b7-b6 25.Nd4-c6 Qa7-b7 26.Qf7-e6# 1-0

Bauer,Lucas (1300) - Bloomberg,Cole

unrated [B01] 2004 Northbridge Baptist October Open Normal, IL (2), 23.10.2004

1.e2-e4 d7-d5 2.e4xd5 Qd8xd5 3.Nb1-c3 Qd5-d8 4.d2-d4 e7-e5 5.d4xe5 Qd8xd1+ 6.Nc3xd1 f7-f6 7.f2-f4 f6xe5 8.f4xe5 h7-h5 9.Ng1-f3 Rh8-h6 10.Bc1xh6 Ng8xh6 11.Bf1-d3 Bc8-f5 12.0-0 g7-g6 13.Nd1-e3 Nh6-g4 14.Ne3xg4 h5xg4 15.Bd3xf5 g6xf5 16.Nf3-g5 Nb8-c6 17.Rf1xf5 0-0-0 18.Ng5-e6 Nc6-d4 19.Rf5xf8 Nd4xe6 20.Rf8xd8+ Kc8xd8 21.Kg1-f2 Ne6-g5 22.Kf2-g3 Ng5-e4+ 23.Kg3xg4 b7-b5 24.Ra1-e1 Ne4-d2 25.Re1-d1 c7-c5 26.Rd1xd2+ Kd8-c7 27.e5-e6 b5-b4 28.e6-e7 c5-c4 29.e7-e8Q c4-c3 30.Qe8-d7+ Kc7-b6 31.Rd2-d6+ Kb6-a5 32.b2-b3 a7-a6 33.Qd7-a4# 1-0

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St. Charles chess Club

by Dan Pradt

Knights' Cup Paul Freidel dropped a second round game to brother Jesse, but decided the tournament with a fifth round win over Jeff Wiewel, to finish 6-1. Jesse took second, 5.5-1.5, and Jeff third, 4.5-2.5.

Squires' Cup I expected this tournament to be close, with at least four contenders having a reasonable chance to win. However Wally Alberts ran off six straight wins to clinch the trophy 6-1, then dropping his last round game to Nathan Mc Coy, which made it look close. Dan Pradt came in second at 5-5-1.5, and Mc Coy took third with 4.5

Jim Little won the five round concurrent Swiss, 4.5.-0.5. Jim met Gary Jansen in the last round, needing just a draw to hold first place, and pulled in a full point. Jansen still finished second with 3.5-1.5

KNIGHTS' CUP

Name	Rating	Score
Paul Freidel	1866	6-1
Jesse Freidel	1788	5.5-1.5
Jeff Wiewel	2032	4.5-2.5

Jeremiah Freidel	1685	4-3
Marcus Stinson	1789	3-4
Clive Hutchby	1651	2.5-4.5
Aivras Stoskus	1329	1.5-5.5
Rudy Padilla	1530	1.6

SQUIRES' CUP

Wally Alberts	1700	6-1
Dan Pradt	1635	5.5-1.5
Nathan Mc Coy	1509	4.5-2.5
Mark Mc Gee	1479	4.-3
Vladim Djordevic	1441	3.5-3.5
Carl Staples	1603	2.5-4.5
Dennis Freidel	1372	1.5-5.5
Ralph Mc Graw	1562	1-6

St. Charles took advantage of the Chicago Chess Leagues generous offer and joined league play this year. Currently SCCC is tied with Fermi Lab for first with three wins and a draw apiece. SCCC has played 18 individual match games with the other clubs, and used a total of 18 different players! Jeff Wiewel and Jim Marshall have each played 3 games, tolead in participation.

Player Name	Rating	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	TOTAL	
1 McGowan, Andrew	10356814	1940	W 9	W 7	W 8	W 5	4
2 Barnard, Thomas	10359985	1750	W 10	L 8	D 16	H	2
3 Bourgerie, Dennis	12439224	1726	D 11	W 6	D 4	H	2.5
4 Blickhan, Gary	12533302	1684	W 12	D 14	D 3	H	2.5
5 Ferguson, Leonard	12432635	1659	W 13	D 16	W 14	L 1	2.5
6 Renze, John	12777141	1629	L 14	L 3	D 12	D 9	1
7 Zimmerlee, Wayne	11315844	1551	W 15	L 1	W 9	W 8	3
8 Bennett, Jerry	12770213	1416	W 17	W 2	L 1	L 7	2
9 Tuttle, Daniel	12040910	1376	L 1	W 13	L 7	D 6	1.5
10 Soucie, Robert	12466014	1338	L 2	L 15	L 13	L 12	0
11 Naszodi, Laszlo	12587387	1327	D 3	L 18	W 17	W 13	2.5
12 Ladd, Daniel	12556673	1247	L 4	L 17	D 6	W 10	1.5
13 Coulter, Larry	12736224	1244	L 5	L 9	W 10	L 11	1
14 Dorosheff, Evan	12900714	1132	W 6	D 4	L 5	L 16	1.5
15 Terlizzi, Calvin	12676640	1131	L 7	W 10	L 18	U	1
16 Schlosser, Brad	12893194	1120	W 18	D 5	D 2	W 14	3
17 Ruth, James	12755681	1106	L 8	W 12	L 11	H	1.5
18 Knoedler, Thomas	10360374	1500	L 16	W 11	W 15	U	2

ICA Tour Points

ICA Tour Points

By Mark Engelen ICA Statistician

Note: In the November-December ICB, the tour point standings included the results of both the Illinois Open and the Midwest Class; however, these events were not included in the events listing.

ICA Tour Events

These standings reflect the following 2004-2005 Tour Events:

4/17/2004 Mini	James Ruth Birthday Open, Springfield (XU)
4/24/2004 Mini	Peoria Spring Tornado (XU)
5/31/2004 MAXI	13th Annual Chicago Open, Oakbrook
6/12/2004 Mini	Springfield Summer (XU)
6/26/2004 Mini	Peoria Summer Tornado (XU)
8/21/2004 Mini	Springfield August Open (XU)
9/5/2004 MAXI	2004 Illinois Open State Championship, Lake Villa
10/9/2004 Mini	First Annual David Mote Memorial Open, Springfield (XU)
10/10/2004 MAXI	13th Annual Midwest Class Championship, Oak Brook
10/23/2004 Mini	Northbridge Baptist Church October Open, Normal (XU)
10/30/2004 Mini	Peoria Fall Tornado(XU)

MASTER TOUR POINTS:

1 BURGESS, JON L	41.0
2 YOUNG, ANGELO	33.5
3 PASALIC, MEHMED	25.0
4 DUNCAN, JASON T	21.0
5 ELEZAJ, ESAO	21.0
6 GUREVICH, DMITRY	21.0
7 STAMNOV, ALEKSANDAR	19.0
8 CHOW, ALBERT C	17.0
9 COHEN, LAWRENCE S	16.5
10 KARKLINS, ANDREW	(2) 12.0

EXPERT TOUR POINTS:

1 LEALI, MICHAEL E	31.0
2 COHEN, LAWRENCE S	24.0
3 NAFF, WILLIAM A	22.5
4 DUNCAN, JASON T	21.0
5 NIENART, CHRISTOPHER	20.0
6 CAO, TONY	(2) 18.0
7 CAVENEY, GEOFFREY	18.0
8 BENESA, ARNULFO	(2) 17.0
9 LUNG, RICHARD E	16.0
10 REDDIVARI, DUSHYANTH	15.5

MASTER EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 BURGESS, JON L	14.0
2 COHEN, LAWRENCE S	7.5
3 NAFF, WILLIAM A	7.5
4 BONWELL, JONATHAN J	4.0
5 WATTS, BRADLEY S	(2) 4.0
6 WILBER, MARTIN W	4.0
7 BARTON, AARON	(1) 2.5
8 CHILES, SETH D	2.5
9 DONDON, JOSITO C	2.5
10 FETT, RODDNEY	(1) 2.5

EXPERT EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 LEALI, MICHAEL E	31.0
2 NAFF, WILLIAM A	22.5
3 COHEN, LAWRENCE S	15.0
4 SCHMIDT, SCOTT	(1) 14.0
5 BOURGERIE, DENNIS A	11.0
6 VAN BUSKIRK, DOUGLAS	(2) 10.0
7 RUAN, GORDON J	8.5
8 MILES, KYLE J	(2) 8.0
9 WILBER, MARTIN W	8.0
10 BONWELL, JONATHAN J	6.5

CLASS A TOUR POINTS:

1 PEKOVIC, JUSUF	36.0
2 LEALI, MICHAEL E	31.0
3 HILL, ROBERT N	(2) 21.0
4 MALONEY, MICHAEL A	21.0
5 DONIS, CAMERON L	(1) 20.0
6 MC DONALD, JORDAN M	19.5
7 HERNANDEZ, HECTOR R	17.5
8 SPARKS, DEREK	17.5
9 BOURGERIE, DENNIS A	16.0
10 LUNG, RICHARD E	16.0

CLASS B TOUR POINTS:

1 BONWELL, JONATHAN J	30.0
2 CHIEN, JASON W	25.5
3 RUAN, GORDON J	21.5
4 BARBIN, JOSEPH	21.0
5 PEKOVIC, JUSUF	20.0
6 GANNON, DAN I	19.0
7 MC NALLY, DANIEL M	19.0
8 ZHENG, XIDA	19.0
9 KASIURAK, ZACHARY	18.0
10 DUBIN, JOSHUA	17.0

CLASS C TOUR POINTS:

1 MC NALLY, DANIEL M	31.0
2 LAUGER, JUDD E	(2) 29.0
3 CHIEN, JASON W	25.5
4 FENG, JUSTIN L	23.0
5 RUAN, GORDON J	21.5
6 HAMILTON, MARK P	20.0
7 VONDRUSKA, RICHARD	(2) 20.0
8 AUGER, MICHAEL W	19.0
9 SEJKO, TEME	(2) 19.0
10 COLLINS, JEREMY D	(2) 15.0

CLASS D TOUR POINTS:

1 GIRARDO, CHRISTOPHER	26.0
2 HELLER, MICHAEL L	22.0
3 BARBIAN, MATTHEW R	(2) 21.0
4 BIALER, GERSHON	(1) 20.0
5 BOSKEY, CRAIG A	20.0
6 KACZYNSKI, THOMAS	20.0
7 MEEROVICH, ILAN	20.0
8 PLACEK, ARTHUR C	(1) 19.0
9 LANGE, RICHARD C	18.0
10 CHILES, SETH D	16.5

CLASS A EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 LEALI, MICHAEL E	31.0
2 BOURGERIE, DENNIS A	16.0
3 MCGOWAN, ANDREW	(1) 14.0
4 SCHMIDT, SCOTT	(1) 14.0
5 SPARKS, DEREK	11.5
6 BLICKHAN, GARY L	11.0
7 ZIMMERLE, R WAYNE	10.5
8 BONWELL, JONATHAN J	9.0
9 RUAN, GORDON J	8.5
10 BARNARD, THOMAS A	8.0

CLASS B EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 BOURGERIE, DENNIS A	16.0
2 SCHMIDT, SCOTT	(1) 14.0
3 BLICKHAN, GARY L	11.0
4 ZIMMERLE, R WAYNE	10.5
5 BONWELL, JONATHAN J	9.0
6 RUAN, GORDON J	8.5
7 BARNARD, THOMAS A	8.0
8 MILES, KYLE J	(2) 8.0
9 NASZODI, LASZLO	8.0
10 WILBER, MARTIN W	8.0

CLASS C EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 SCHMIDT, SCOTT	(1) 14.0
2 RUAN, GORDON J	7.5
3 ZIMMERLE, R WAYNE	6.0
4 NASZODI, LASZLO	6.0
5 KNOEDLER, THOMAS B	5.5
6 AYLER, PETER W	(2) 5.0
7 CREMEENS, MATTHEW K	(2) 4.5
8 DOROSHEFF, EVAN JAMES	4.5
9 BENNETT, JERRY	4.5
10 RUTH, JAMES	4.0

CLASS D EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 NASZODI, LASZLO	8.0
2 AYLER, PETER W	(2) 6.0
3 DOROSHEFF, EVAN JAMES	5.5
4 RUTH, JAMES	5.0
5 CHILES, SETH D	4.5
6 KRISHNAMOORTHY, SABAREESH	(2) 4.0
7 WINKS, MATTHEW	(1) 4.0
8 LEALI, DOMINICK CHRISTIAN	(2) 3.0
9 BARTON, AARON	(1) 2.5
10 KIBLER, MICHAEL E	(2) 2.5

ICA Tour Points

CLASS E TOUR POINTS:

1 GAUDINO, STEVEN J	(1)	28.0
2 GARIVALTIS, ALEXA	(1)	20.0
3 KWAN, RANDY G	(1)	20.0
4 LANGE, RICHARD C		20.0
5 METZ, VERONICA	(2)	20.0
6 PANN, CARTER N	(1)	19.0
7 PLACEK, ARTHUR C	(1)	19.0
8 TAYLOR, HOUSTON	(1)	19.0
9 ZADEREJ, VICTOR V	(2)	18.0
10 PLACEK, PHILIP C		17.0

CLASS F TOUR POINTS:

1 GAUDINO, STEVEN J	(1)	28.0
2 LAURILA, DANIEL J	(1)	10.0
3 HU, YAODI	(2)	9.0
4 PANN, CARTER	(1)	9.0
5 KUDARAVALLI, THEJA	(2)	8.0
6 SERINE, STEPHANIE	(1)	8.0
7 LANGE, RICHARD C		7.0
8 MEDURI, VISHAAL	(2)	7.0
9 AVALOS, JUAN P	(1)	6.0
10 GROSS, NATHANIEL F	(1)	6.0

CLASS E EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 AYLER, PETER W	(2)	6.0
2 DOROSHEFF, EVAN JAMES		5.5
3 RUTH, JAMES		5.0
4 KIBLER, MICHAEL E	(2)	2.5
5 TERLIZZI, CALVIN J		2.5
6 CANAVAN, DYLAN P	(2)	2.0
7 KRISHNAMOORTHY, SABAREESH	(2)	2.0
8 TSAO, FELIX	(1)	1.5
9 TSAO, MATTHEW W	(1)	1.5
10 GAYAM, SAJJAN	(1)	1.0

CLASS F EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

1 GAYAM, SAJJAN	(1)	1.0
2 GUHA, PRASHANT S	(1)	1.0
3 KIBLER, MICHAEL E	(2)	1.0
4 PARUPALLI, ASHWIN N	(1)	1.0
5 SCHUCK, JASON	(1)	1.0
6 STRICKLAND, WILLIAM A	(1)	1.0
7 KITSON, MICHAELA M	(1)	0.5
8 NOOKALA, PARTHA R	(1)	0.5

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All tournaments are USCF-rated, unless otherwise noted (Quick-rated if game/29 or faster) and require USCF membership. ICA Tour events also require ICA membership. Memberships may be purchased at most tournaments. Most tournaments prohibit smoking in the playing rooms.

ICA Tour events are generally listed as such in Chess Life and in the Calendar below. Players are responsible for checking both Chess Life and the Illinois Chess Bulletin to determine which events are Tour events. Call ChessPhone (630-832-5222) a few days before any tournament to verify its Tour status, or check the web at www.illinoischess.org.

Organizers: Please clear your events through the ICA Tournament Calendar. Do not send calendar entries to the ICB editor. If you are running a Tour event, make sure it is listed as such in both Chess Life and the ICB. Deadlines for ICB calendar submissions are as follows:

Event starting date:	Deadline:	
To appear in:		
Jan 15 - Mar 14	Dec 10	Jan-Feb issue
Mar 15 - May 14	Feb 10	Mar-Apr issue
May 15 - Jul 14	Apr 10	May-Jun issue
Jul 15 - Sep 14	Jun 10	Jul-Aug issue
Sep 15 - Nov 14	Aug 10	Sep-Oct issue
Nov 15 - Jan 14	Oct 10	Nov-Dec issue

January 15, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #1 (Medium). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$14, u19 \$7, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 330: \$80-50-35, 1899-1650 \$40, 1649-1400 \$35, 1399-1150 \$30, 1149-900 \$25, 899-100 \$20, Unrated \$15. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

January 16 & 23, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club - The Charge of the Knight Brigade Tournament. 5SS, G/60. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel 933 Skokie Blvd. Northbrook, IL. 60062. Registration Jan. 16, 4:00-4:45 pm. Round 1 at 5:00 pm. Round 3 at 3:30 pm on Jan. 23. EF = \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers. \$5 late fee

after 4:45 pm on Jan. 16. 80% of EF returned as prizes. USCF membership required. Info: WWW.RKNIGHTS.ORG or E-mail RKNIGHTSCCC@AOL.COM

January 17, 2005. MLK Tournament, scholastic event, Cultural Center, AKA Scottish Rite Temple (Oakland School) contact Garret Scott

January 22, 2005. Parkside Jr. High, scholastic event, Contact Greg Debo and Kelly Leak lyleak@unit5.org or normaldebo@verizon.net

January 29, 2005. Holy Trinity, scholastic event, Corner of Lincoln & Mercer, Bloomington contact Jamia Jones, jamianj@aol.com

January 29, 2005. PEORIA WINTER TORNADO AN ICA MINI-TOUR & EX-URBAN EVENT : Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614 EF: \$14 by January 29, \$17 at the site, free to players rated 2200 or over . 4SS. Game/80, SECTIONS: Open to all MEMBERSHIPS REQUIRED: USCF & ICA (other states honored) PRIZES: 75% of EF's distributed as follows: 25% First, 15% Second. 10% each to A/B, C/D, under 1200 5% to biggest Upset REG: 8:00-8:45 AM, ROUND TIMES: 9, 12, 2:45, 5:30 NOTE: A limit of one "1/2 point" bye is available in any Rd., but Rds. 3 or 4 must be elected by the end of Rd. 2 NO SMOKING. BRING SETS, BOARDS & CLOCKS. ADVANCE ENTRIES: Fred Malcome, 1200 E. Partridge St., Unit 56A, Metamora, IL 61548, (309) 367-4833 e-mail: fimalcome@bwsys.net

January 30, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club. 5SS, G/25. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel 933 Skokie Blvd. Northbrook, IL. 60062. Registration, 4:00 - 4:45 pm. Round 1 at 5:00 pm. EF: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. \$5 late fee after 4:45 pm. 80% of EF returned as prizes. USCF membership required. Info: WWW.RKNIGHTS.ORG or E-mail RKNIGHTSCCC@AOL.COM

February 5, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #2 (Tiny). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$10, u19 \$5, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 210: \$50-35-25, 1799-1500 \$25, 1499-1200 \$25, 1199-900 \$20, 899-100 \$15, unr \$15. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

February 5, 2005. Colene Hoose, scholastic event, contact Charlie Bates cmbates50@yahoo.com

ICA Calendar

February 06, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club. 4:30 - 6:30 pm - Group lesson by Master Jon Burgess, Free to club members, \$10 non-members. 7:00 pm - G/15 Quads. EF: \$15. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel 933 Skokie Blvd. Northbrook, IL. 60062. 80% of EF returned as prizes. USCF membership required. Info: WWW.RKNIGHTS.ORG or E-mail RKNIGHTSCCC@AOL.COM

Saturday February 12, 2005. Renaissance Knights Scholastic Chess Tournament.

Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL. Grades K-4, 5SS G/30; Grades 5-8, 4 SS G/45. 25 Individual and 3 Team awards in each section. EF: \$20 postmarked by 1/28/05, \$30 after 1/28/05, Registration 8-8:30 am. First round at 9 am. Ent: Check payable to Renaissance Knights. [Registration Form](#). Mail registration to Renaissance Knights, P.O. Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Questions: see web site RKNIGHTS.ORG or call (847) 526-9025, David or Sheila Heiser.

Saturday February 12, 2005. Illinois State Bughouse Championship.

Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL. 1 section, 6SS G/5. 15 Team awards. EF: \$20 per team postmarked by 1/28/05, \$30 after 1/28/05, Registration 5-5:30 pm. First round at 6 pm. Ent: Check payable to Renaissance Knights. [Registration Form](#). Mail registration to Renaissance Knights, P.O. Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Questions: see web site RKNIGHTS.ORG or call (847) 526-9025, David or Sheila Heiser.

Feb. 12, 2005. Rockford College Second Saturday Open. 4SS, G/60. Starr Center. 5050 East State Street, Rockford, IL. EF: \$15 by February 5. \$18 at site. EF's distributed as 25% 1st, 15% 2nd, Top B 10%, Top C 10%, Top D/Below 10%. USCF Membership Req'd. Registration 9:30 - 9:50. Rd. 1 at 10:00 a.m. Each round thereafter paired once previous round is completed with a break for lunch. One ½ Point Bye in First or second rounds only. Ent. Gary N. Sargent 2764 Panorama Dr. Rockford, IL. (815-397-9186). Checks payable to: Rockford Chess Association.

February 13, 2005. Rockford College Second Sunday Open. 4SS, G/60. Starr Center, 5050 East State St. Rockford, IL. EF: \$15 by Feb. 6, \$18 at site. EF's distributed as 25% 1st, 15% 2nd, top B 10%, top C 10%, topD/below 10%. USCF membership required. Reg: 12:30-12:50. Rd. 1 at 1:00 pm. Each rd. thereafter paired once previous rd. is completed. One ½ point bye in 1st or 2nd rds. only. Ent. Gary N. Sargent 2764

Panorama Dr. Rockford, IL. 815-397-9186. Checks payable to: Rockford Chess Association.

February 13, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club. 5SS, G/25. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel 933 Skokie Blvd. Northbrook, IL. 60062. Registration, 4:00 - 4:45 pm. Round 1 at 5:00 pm. EF: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. \$5 late fee after 4:45 pm. 80% of EF returned as prizes. USCF membership required. Info: WWW.RKNIGHTS.ORG or E-mail RKNIGHTSCCC@AOL.COM

February 18-20 or 19-20. Illinois

U.S. Amateur Team Championship Midwest. 5SS, G/120 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60), Renaissance Chicago north Shore, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook 60062. Free parking. Open to 4-player teams, one alternate optional. February supplement used for ratings. Team must play in rating order; alternate must be lowest rated and may play only Board 4 In 3 sections. Amateur, average rating of 4 highest players under 2200. Reserve, average rating of 4 highest players under 1800. Booster, average rating of 4 highest players under 1400. Unrateds not counted in team averages. Absent player counts as one loss only for team, teammates are not required to move up. EF: Amateur \$116, Booster \$115, Reserve \$114 if postmarked by 2/5 and all team members current/new/renewed USCF members. \$150 at site. No phone entries. Any changes at site \$20 charge. Individuals seeking teams sign up at site until 1 hour before rnd. 1. Prizes: 4 digital clocks with engraved plates to top 2 teams each section, Top under 2000 team in Amateur, Top under 1600 team in Reserve, Top under 1200 team in Booster. Clock with engraved plate to top scorer each board and all 5-0 scores. Book prizes to best team name. 3-day reg. Ends Fri. 7 PM, rds Fri. 7:30 PM, Sat 11-4, Sun 9-1:30. 2-day reg. Sat. 10 AM rds Sat. 11-1:30-4, Sun 9-1:30. 3 day and 2 day merge rnd 3. HR: \$83-83, 847-498-6500, reserve by 1/30. Ent: Chess Central, 37165 Willow, Gurnee, IL 60031, www.midwestamateurteam@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/mr_just/midwestamateurteam.htm. Questions: 847-244-7954 before 6 PM. Bring sets, boards, clocks. Bookseller: Cajun Chess. Organizers: Walter Brown, Wayne Clark, Tim Just.

February 19 2005. Metcalf Chesscats Classics contact Mark Nibbelin mnibb@yahoo.com

February 19, 2005. 2nd Annual Knights of the Forest <http://www.ilcochess.org/2ndKnights.pdf>

February 20, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club is closed

February 20, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #3 (Medium).

6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$14, u19 \$7, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 330: \$80-50-35, 1899-1650 \$40, 1649-1400 \$35, 1399-1150 \$30, 1149-900 \$25, 899-100 \$20, Unrated \$15 . Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

February 26-27, 2005. Glenn Tournament @

Chiddix Jan Meadows meadowjv@unit5.org

February 26-27, 2005. Greater Peoria Open, USCF heritage event, ICA maxi-tour & ex-urban event. 5SS, G/120, Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake, Peoria, IL. 61614. Cash prizes: 80% of EF's = prize fund, with \$500 min. guaranteed. 1st place = 15% of prize fund, 2nd = 10%, 1st expert, A,B,C,D/under = 7%, 2nd expert, A,B,C,D/under = 3%, best unr = 2%, best individual upset & best cumulative upset = 1.5%, Sections: open to all, USCF and ICA membership required. Other states honored. EF: \$35 in advance (if received by Feb. 22, 2005) \$45 at site, \$20 if unr. Joining USCF to play. Players rated 2200 or over play for free. Reg: 8:30-9:30 am. Sat., Rds: Sat. 9:45, 2:15, 6:30, Sun. 9:30, 2:00, A limit of one "1/2 pt. Bye" is available in rds. 1 & 4 if requested in advance. no smoking. Bring sets, boards & clocks. Adv. Ent: Wayne Zimmerle: 514 W. Loucks, #2, Peoria, IL. 61604. Days: 309-692-4480/nights: 309-686-0192. Make checks to Wayne Zimmerle, go to www.gpcf.net for further info.

Feb. 26-27. GPP: 10 Iowa

Hawkeye Mind Challenge XI (IA GP Qualifier). 5SS, 30/75, SD/60. Country Inn & Suites. 2571 Heartland Place, Coralville, IA 52241. Hotel Phone: 319-545-8464. \$69 chessrate for 1-2, \$6 per extra person up to 4 (mention chess). (Coral Ridge Mall Exit off of I-80. North 1 mile. Off of highway 965). Open to all. Prizes: b/40, Top 3 Guaranteed. 1st \$400 + Trophy; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$125; U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200 each \$100; Upset Prize. EF: \$40 if rec'd by 2/21, \$35 Jr. & Sr. if rec'd by 2/21. \$55 at site, Jr. & Sr. \$45 at site. IMs and GMs Free (DF). All Out-of-State Entries \$10 off. IASCA membership req'd. \$15, \$10 Jr. or Sr. OSA. Reg: 8:30am-9:30am. Rds: 10:15-2:30-7:30; 9-2:30. Ent: Hawkeye Chess Club, c/o Mark Capron, 3123 Juniper Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245. Info: mcapron243@mchsi.com or 319-337-4141. NC, W.

February 27 & March 06, 2005. Renaissance Knights Community Chess Club – Castle Conquest Chess Tournament

5SS, G/60. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel 933 Skokie Blvd. Northbrook, IL. 60062. Registration Feb. 27, 4:00 - 4:45 pm. Round 1 at 5:00 pm. Round 3 at 3:30 pm on Mar. 06. EF = \$30 members, \$35

nonmembers. \$5 late fee after 4:45 pm. 80% of EF returned as prizes. USCF membership required. Info: WWW.RKNIGHTS.ORG or E-mail RKNIGHTSCCC@AOL.COM

March 5-6, 2005. Illinois State Scholastic Chess Tournament for information <http://www.gpcf.net/>**Mar. 12, 2005 Rockford College Second Saturday**

Open. 3SS, G/80. 8-man Sections. Starr Center. 5050 East State Street, Rockford, IL. EF: \$15 by March 7. \$18 at site. EF's distributed as \$50 1st, \$35 2nd. Smaller Sections will be proportionally less. USCF Membership Req'd. Registration 9:30 – 9:50. Rd. 1 at 10:00 a.m. Each round thereafter paired once previous round is completed with a break for lunch. No byes. Ent. Gary N. Sargent 2764 Panorama Dr. Rockford, IL. (815-397-9186). Checks payable to: Rockford Chess Association.

March 19-20, 2005**2005 ICA Denker Qualifier: Open to the top 16 high school students in Illinois by invitation or qualification only.**

To choose the Illinois representative to the 2005 Denker Tournament of High School Champions during the 2005 U.S. Open (August 7-12, Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa, Phoenix, AZ). Top 10 from December 2004 rating list; 3 to be determined by ICCA HS Individual Championship 2/26/05; 3 wild card TBD by ICA President. Up to three junior high players not eligible to represent ICA in the Denker may be invited *hors concours*; pairings would be modified accordingly. The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712. 40/90, SD/30 (5-second increment from move one). **Rounds:** Sat. 9:30, 2, 6:30; Sun. 12, 4:30. **Prizes:** First, \$500 expense reimbursement for representing Illinois at the 2005 Denker, trophy; other prizes TBA. *By accepting his or her invitation, each participant agrees to be the Illinois representative in Phoenix if he or she wins the event.* **Entry fee:** No entry fee is required; however, a \$50 forfeiture deposit is required; this money will be returned to participants upon completion of their full tournament schedule. (A postdated check is sufficient.) All invitees must be members of the Illinois Chess Association and the United States Chess Federation by March 4, 2005. Potential invitees who have not joined because of financial need should contact the organizers immediately; limited assistance is available. The Illinois Chess Association believes in promoting excellence within a framework of sportsmanship, mutual respect, and good citizenship, and expects its representatives to adhere to these values. Organizers: Illinois Chess Association and Larry Cohen. **Info:** Bill Brock, 205 W. Randolph, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60606. (312) 252-1300.

ICA Calendar

March 19-20, 2005

2005 ICA Polgar Qualifier: to choose the Illinois representative to the 2005 Susan Polgar National Invitation for Girls during the 2005 U.S. Open (August 7-12, Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa, Phoenix, AZ). The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712. 40/90, SD/30 (with 5-second increment from move one) Field limited to twenty-four participants. Open to first twenty girls under age 19 and currently enrolled in an Illinois school (or home-schooled) who register by March 12, 2004; plus four wild cards.

Prizes: First, \$500 reimbursement for representing Illinois at the 2005 Polgar, trophy. *By accepting her invitation, each participant agrees to be the Illinois representative in Phoenix if she wins the event.*

Rounds: Sat. 9:30, 2, 6:30; Sun. 12, 4:30. **Entry fee:** No entry fee is required; however, a \$50 forfeiture deposit is required; this money will be returned to participants upon completion of their full tournament schedule. (A postdated check is sufficient.) All invitees must be members of the Illinois Chess Association and the United States Chess Federation by March 4, 2005. Potential invitees who have not joined because of financial need should contact the organizers immediately; limited assistance is available. The Illinois Chess Association believes in promoting excellence within a framework of sportsmanship, mutual respect, and good citizenship, and expects its representatives to adhere to these values. Organizers: Illinois Chess Association and TBA. **Info:** Bill Brock, 205 W. Randolph, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60606. (312) 252-1300.

March 19, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #4 (Bigger). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$18, u19 \$9, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 450: \$125-80-50, 1899-1650 \$45, 1649-1400 \$40, 1399-1150 \$35, 1149-900 \$30, 899-100 \$25, unr \$20. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

April 16, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #5 (Medium). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$14, u19 \$7, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 330: \$80-50-35, 1899-1650 \$40, 1649-1400 \$35, 1399-1150 \$30, 1149-900 \$25, 899-100 \$20, Unrated \$15. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

May 7, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #6 (Medium). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$14, u19 \$7, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 330: \$80-50-35,

1899-1650 \$40, 1649-1400 \$35, 1399-1150 \$30, 1149-900 \$25, 899-100 \$20, Unrated \$15. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

May 14. 2005 Bloomington, IL May Open, sponsored with the State Farm Employees Activities Association. An ICA Mini-Tour and Ex-Urban Tour Event. 4SS, G/70. State Farm Headquarters, 1 State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61701. Located on the east side of Bloomington, just off of Veterans' Parkway, north of Oakland Ave. and south of Washington St. Enter the building from the south. EF \$14 if rec'd by 5/11, \$18 at site. Free entry to 2020+, must register in advance. \$480 b/30: 1st \$150, 2nd \$90, U2000 \$90, U1600 \$80, U1200 \$70. Bye 1-4. ICA mbrship req'd. OSA. Reg: 8:30-9:30, Rds: 10-12:45-3:30-6:15. Ent: Advance entries must include name, address, and telephone number. Dennis Bourgerie, Box 157, Normal, IL 61761. 309-454-3842. Cell: 309-531-1723. Dennis9942@wmconnect.com

June 4, 2005. Tuley Park Quick #7 (Tiny). 6-SS, rds 1-2 game/8, d/3 (game/10 if d/0), rds 3-6 game/20, d/3 (game/22 if d/0). 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago 60619. EF \$10, u19 \$5, \$1 off before 11:30. \$\$G 210: \$50-35-25, 1799-1500 \$25, 1499-1200 \$25, 1199-900 \$20, 899-100 \$15, unr \$15. Reg 11-11:50, rd 1 at 12. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr #6-D, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

September 3-5, 2005, Illinois Open. An ICA Tour MAXI-event. ICA membership required.

Oct 5. 2005 Bloomington, IL October Open, sponsored with the State Farm Employees Activities Association. An ICA Mini-Tour and Ex-Urban Tour Event. 4SS, G/70. State Farm Headquarters, 1 State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61701. Located on the east side of Bloomington, just off of Veterans' Parkway, north of Oakland Ave. and south of Washington St. Enter the building from the south. EF \$14 if rec'd by 10/5, \$18 at site. Free entry to 2020+, must register in advance. \$480 b/30: 1st \$150, 2nd \$90, U2000 \$90, U1600 \$80, U1200 \$70. Bye 1-4. ICA mbrship req'd. OSA. Reg: 8:30-9:30, Rds: 10-12:45-3:30-6:15. Ent: Advance entries must include name, address, and telephone number. Dennis Bourgerie, Box 157, Normal, IL 61761. 309-454-3842. Cell: 309-531-1723. Dennis9942@wmconnect.com

November 5, 2005. The 2005 Harper College Fall Scholastic. For more information call Ilya at (773) 286 - 2941
Maintained by Howard Fried
Last Modified 12/10/2004

Club Affiliates

Organizations wishing to be listed here should mail an affiliation fee of \$25.00 for one year (check payable to Illinois Chess Association) to the ICA membership secretary, Jeff Smith: 202 South Adelaide St, Normal, IL 61761 ICAMembership@msn.com

Include a short paragraph, similar to those below, listing your club's activities.

Alternativa Group, Peter Pelts, 7135 Greenleaf Av, Niles 60714. 847-965-6469.

American Postal Chess Tournaments sponsors postal events. Jim or Helen Warren, PO Box 305, Western Springs 60558. 630-663-0688, apct@aol.com. Organizers of the U.S. Masters.

The **Center Chess Club** meets 3rd Saturday of each month, 7-10 pm, Crystal Lake Park District, One East Crystal Lake Av (intersection of Walkup), Crystal Lake 60014. Also rated tournaments on most of these same dates, 4 rounds, game/60, register by 8:45 am, round 1 at 9 am. Jeff Buchman, 815-455-5288, buchadolph@aol.com.

Chess Central sponsors rated tournaments in the Grayslake / Zion area. Tim Just, 37165 Willow, Gurnee 60031. 847-244-7954, timjust@Lnd.com.

Chess-Now Ltd. Is a training and development company that provides customized chess experiences for business, education and recreational clients. 551 Roosevelt Road #129 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. 630-209-5072. Information about our activities can be found at www.Chess-Now.com

Chess in Chicago is dedicated to developing and promoting chess in Chicago, and scholastic players are the priority. Lamarr Wilson, email@chessinchiago.org, www.chessinchicago.org.

Chess Scholars offers professional individual, group, and school chess instruction at reasonable rates. We will travel to any location in the Chicago area. Ilya Korzhenevich, Director, 4310 1/2 N. Keystone Av. #1D, Chicago 60641, 773-286-2941, ilya@ChessScholars.com, www.ChessScholars.com.

Chess Utopia sponsors rated tournaments in the Lake County area, Fridays 6 pm. Frank Swindell, 847-816-0869, Swinchess@aol.com, www.ChessUtopia.org.

Chessterton Chess Club meets at Westchester Public Library, 200 W Indiana, Chesterton IN. Joe Alford, Joe.Alford@Kemper.com.

Chicago Industrial Chess League organizes frequent competition among commercial or government teams with awards, ratings, and special events. Pat Sajbel, 847-391-2134.

Chicagoland Community Chess Club (formerly Concordia) meets Tuesdays 6-11 pm, Border's (Cafe Espresso), 7100 Forest Preserve Dr, Norridge. Howard Fried, 773-889-8553, hfried1@sbcglobal.net, or Robert Loncarevic, 773-282-5148, TLSchgo@speedsite.com.

FIDE Master **Albert Chow** gives private lessons by appointment. 3513 N Seminary, Chicago 60657. 773-248-4846, ChowMasterAl@yahoo.com.

Continental Chess Association runs major tournaments nationwide, including the annual World Open in Philadelphia and the Chicago Open in late May each year. PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Bill Goichberg. www.chesstour.com.

Crossroads Chess Club meets Tuesdays 6 pm, K Square Mall Food court, I-57 / I-70 exit 160, Effingham. Cameron Feltner, 217-844-2645.

Evanston Township High School Chess Club, 1600 Dodge Av, Evanston 60204. Ken Lewandowski, 847-492-7932.

Greater Peoria Chess Federation meets Mondays 7 pm, Lakeview Museum, 1125 W Lake Av, Peoria 61614. Wayne Zimmerle, 514 W Loucks Av #2, Peoria 61604. 309-692-4480 (day), 309-686-0192 (evenings), wzim@bwsys.net.

Hammond Chess Club, Charles Higgins, 116 Crestview St, Crown Point IN 46307. 219-663-8938.

Highland Park High School Chess Team, 433 Vine Av, Highland Park 60035. Tesc Schultz, tschultz@d113.lake.k12.il.us.

House of Chess meets Saturdays 4:30 pm, 1st Baptist Church, 146 S Main St, Glen Carbon 62034. Paul Holland, 618-288-4117, <http://members.aol.com/houseofchess>.

ICA Affiliates

Illini Chess Club meets Thursdays 7-10 pm, College of Education Building, Room 37, 6th & Pennsylvania), Urbana. www.uiuc.edu/ro/uichess. Jeff Davis.

Illinois Chess Coaches Association is open to scholastic chess coaches in Illinois. Mike Zacate, 708-479-9380, mezacate@aol.com.

Illinois Valley Chess Association meets Thursdays 7-10 pm, Illinois Valley YMCA, Adult Lounge, 300 Walnut St, Peru 61354. Bill Schulte, 520 First St, LaSalle 61301. 815-223-1505, bschulte@rivalins.com.

Illowa Chess Club meets Tuesdays 6:30-10 pm, St Ambrose University, Davenport IA. Matt Nemmers, qcchess@mchsi.com, www.quadcitychess.com.

Joliet Junior College Chess Club meets Thursdays 6:30 pm, Joliet Junior College, Building J, cafeteria, 1215 Houbolt Rd (I-80 exit 127), Joliet. Maps www.jjc.edu/maps/maincampus.html. Tim Owens, c/o JJC-IET, 214 N Ottawa St, Joliet 60432. 815-280-1513, towens@jjc.edu. Or Steve Decman, 1418 Devonshire Dr, Joliet 60435. 815-744-5272, www.jjc.edu/clubs/chess.

Lakeview Cuyler Chess Club meets Wednesdays 7-10 pm, Cuyler Covenant Church, Fellowship Hall, 3901 N Marshfield Av (corner of Byron St), Chicago 60613. Drew Morissee, 1614 W Byron St, Chicago 60613. 312-494-1300 x12, WindyCityKnight@yahoo.com, <http://LakeviewCuylerChess.tripod.com>.

Mahomet-Seymour High School Chess Club, Dan Pirtle, 302 W State, Mahomet 61853. 217-586-4962, dpirt@ms.k12.il.us.

Mid-America Chess Association sponsors the popular website at www.64.com, and brings national tournaments to the Chicago area. midam@64.com.

Midway Chess Enterprises, PO Box 388765, Chicago 60638, whizline@home.com.

Murphysboro Chess Club, Murphysboro 62966. <http://mysite.verizon.net/res0bz47/>.

New Lenox Chess Club, c/o Vince Berry & Cindy Misiak, 815-463-9975, leave message. VWBerry@aol.com.

Park Forest Chess Club meets Thursdays 7-10 pm, Freedom Hall (next to the library), Lakewood Blvd just west of Orchard, Park Forest. Larry Cohen, 630-834-2477. www.tuxdomain.com/pfcc_club.html.

Rudy Lozano Library Chess Club, 1805 S Loomis, Chicago 60608. Hector Hernandez, 312-746-4329, hernande@chipublib.org.

Smythe Dakota Competitions encourages and offers financial support for Plus-Score Mini-Tours at sites in Chicago and adjoining suburbs. Bill Smythe, chichess@rcn.com.

St Charles Chess Club meets Thursdays 7-11 pm, Baker Community House, 101 S 2nd (Rt 31), St Charles. Jeff Wiewel, 1931 Dunhill Ct, Arlington Heights 60004. 847-818-8913, jwiewel@ntnusa.com.

The South Suburban Chess Club of Greater Chicago meets Fridays 7-11 pm, Oak View Recreation Center, 110th & Kilpatrick, Oak Lawn. Joe Bannon, 773-445-0631.

Springfield Chess Club meets Wednesdays 6-10 pm, American Legion Post 32, 5th & Capitol, Springfield. Thomas Knoedler, 2104 S Fourth St, Springfield 62703. 217-523-7265.

SquareHopper, Joshua Flores, Chess Professional. Available for any chess-related activity at reasonable rates. Specialties are tournament directing/organizing, coaching and teaching. Willing to travel. 630-430-CHES(s)

State Farm Employee Activities Chess Club 1 State Farm Plaza Corp. HQ C-4 Bloomington, IL, 60701 Colley Kitson 309-766-9493.

Tuley Park Chess Club holds frequent Saturday tournaments at Tuley Park Field House, 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago. Tom Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr, Chicago 60649. 773-721-3979, www.home.earthlink.net/~maxine57.

Twin City Chess Club meets Tuesdays 7-10 pm, Lincoln Leisure Center, 1206 S Lee St, Bloomington 61701. Dennis Bourgerie, PO Box 157, Normal 61761. 309-454-3842 Dennis9942@wmconnect.com

West Middle School Chess Club, 1900 N Rocktoon Av, Rockford 61103. Ralph Sullons, 815-966-3220.

Wicker Park Chess Club meets Wednesdays 7 pm to 1 am, Myopic Books, 1468 N Milwaukee Av, Chicago. Pat Jones, 773-772-1369, pjones@artic.edu.

Woodfield Country Chess Club, Carl Troyer, 723 N Main, Eureka 62530. 309-467-6055.

RENAISSANCE KNIGHTS SCHOLASTIC K-8

February 12, 2005

Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL

Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 am. First round starts at 9:00 am

Sections: Grades 5-8 4-round SS, Game 45
 Grades K-4 5-round SS, Game 30

Awards: 25 Individual & 3 Team awards in each section

Entry fee: \$20 postmarked by January 28, \$30 after / on site

USCF membership required, available at site. Limit 200 Players

Top 3 players from school count for team score. Tie breaks for awards.

Food & drinks available at site for purchase - Bring your chess clock, chess sets will be provided.

For more information: www.RKnights.org, or contact David or Sheila Heiser @ 847-526-9025, E-mail RKnightsCCC@aol.com

Mail entries to: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Include Player's Name, USCF # & Exp. Date, School, & Grade.

Illinois State Bughouse Championship Open to All Ages

February 12, 2005

Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL

Registration: 5:00 – 5:30 pm. First round starts at 6:00 pm

Section: 1 Section 6-rounds SS, Game 5

Awards: 30 Team awards.

Entry fee: \$20 per team by January 28, \$30 after / on site

Food & drinks available at site for purchase - Bring your chess clock, chess sets will be provided.

For more information: www.RKnights.org, or contact David or Sheila Heiser @ 847-526-9025, E-mail RKnightsCCC@aol.com

Mail entries to: Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Include Player's Name, USCF # & Exp. Date, & Bughouse partner.

2005 Illinois Amateur Championships

Lincolnwood, IL (immediately north of Chicago)

5-round Swiss, March 19-20, 2005

\$4,000 Projected Prizes (b/125), \$2,000 minimum Guaranteed.

5-SS, 40/90 SD/30. Sat: 9:30, 2, 6:30. Sun: 12, 4:30.

Location: Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Ave. (1 mile east of I-94), Lincolnwood, IL 60712.

Prizes: \$4,000 based on 125 paid entries (special EF counts as ½ entry).

In 6 sections – you face only those in your section.

Class A (1800-1999): \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100

Class B (1600-1799): \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100

Class C (1400-1599): \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50

Class D (1200-1399): \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50

Class E/F (1199 and below): \$200, \$100, \$50, \$50

Unrated: \$150, \$100, \$50

Registration: Reg. ends 9am SHARP! Entries after 9am must take 1st round ½ bye.

EF: Adults - \$60 mailed by 3/1/05; Juniors (18-20) \$55 mailed by 3/1/05; All \$70 onsite.

Special EF: Scholastic Players under the age of 18 receive a free 1 year membership to the ICA or a \$14 discount off of the Junior Early EF (if they are already ICA members) either mailed entry or onsite.

All: USCF membership required. ICA membership required for IL players. Byes available in all rounds. Max 2 byes; Commit to byes by start of Rd2; 1 class up for \$5 extra; D/E/F can play 2 classes up for \$5 extra. Re-entry: \$50 after Rd 1 only (you take ½ bye in Round 1). Max 2 byes. No smoking. Bring sets, boards, and clocks – none supplied. Feb supplement used. Unrated plays only in Unrated section. Provisional players are NOT unrated.

Hotel Rates: \$75 single/double, 847.677.1234. Mention chess tournament. Reserve by 3/1/05

Entries: Sevan A. Muradian 5119 N. Kenneth Ave. Chicago, IL 60630.

sevanmuradian@hotmail.com or 847.919.0431 with questions. No Checks onsite. **Credit card thru PayPal only BEFORE 3/17/05**

GREATER PEORIA OPEN
February 26 & 27, 2005
USCF Heritage Event
ICA Maxi-Tour & Ex-Urban Event

WHAT: 5 Round Swiss

TIME CONTROL: Game/120

WHERE: Lakeview Museum; 1125 W. Lake; Peoria, IL 61614

CASH PRIZES: 80% of EF's = Prize Fund, with \$500 minimum guaranteed

1st Place = 15% of Prize Fund

2nd Place = 10% of Prize Fund

1st Expert, A, B, C, D/under = 7% of Prize Fund

2nd Expert, A, B, C, D/under = 3% of Prize Fund

Best Unrated = 2% of Prize Fund

Best Individual Upset & Best Cumulative Upset = 1.5% of Prize Fund

SECTIONS: Open to all

MEMBERSHIPS REQUIRED: USCF & ICA (other states honored)

ENTRY FEE: \$35 in advance (if received by February 22, 2005) \$45 at the site
\$20 if unrated & joining the USCF to play in this tournament. Players rated 2200
or over play for free.

REGISTRATION: 8:30-9:30 AM Saturday morning

ROUND TIMES: Saturday 9:45, 2:15, 6:30 Sunday 9:30, 2:00

NOTE: A limit of one "1/2 point bye" is available in Rounds 1 to 4, if requested
in advance.

NO SMOKING. BRING SETS, BOARDS & CLOCKS.

ADVANCE ENTRIES: Wayne Zimmerle; 514 W. Loucks, #2; Peoria, IL 61604.

Days: (309) 692-4480/Nights: (309) 686-0192 e-mail: wzim@sbcglobal.net

(make checks payable to Wayne Zimmerle)

Go to www.gpcf.net for further information.

Feb. 18-20 or 19-20

U.S. Amateur Team Championship Midwest.

5SS, G/120 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60)

Renaissance Chicago North Shore, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook 60062. Free parking.

Open to 4-player teams, one alternate optional. February supplement used for ratings. Team must play in rating order; alternate must be lowest rated and may play only Board 4 In 3 sections. Unrateds not counted in team averages

Amateur

Average rating of 4 highest players under 2200.

Reserve

Average rating of 4 highest players under 1800.

Booster

Average rating of 4 highest players under 1400..

Absent player counts as one loss only for team, teammates are not required to move up.

EF: Amateur \$116, **Booster** \$115, **Reserve** \$114 if postmarked by 2/5 and all team members current/new/renewed USCF members. **\$150 at site. No phone entries.** Any changes at site \$20 charge. **Individuals** seeking teams sign up at site until 1 hour before rnd. 1.

Prizes:

4 digital clocks with engraved plates to top 2 teams each section **plus** top under 2000 team in Amateur, top under 1600 team in Reserve, and top under 1200 team in Booster.

Clock with engraved plate to top scorer each board and all 5-0 scores. Book prizes to best team name.

3-day reg. Ends Fri. 7 PM, rds Fri. 7:30 PM, Sat 11-4, Sun 9-1:30.

2-day reg. Sat. 10 AM rds Sat. 11-1:30-4, Sun 9-1:30. *3 day and 2 day merge rnd 3.*

HR: \$83-83, 847-498-6500, reserve by 1/30.

Ent: Chess Central, 37165 Willow, Gurnee, IL 60031, www.midwestamateurteam@yahoo.com,
www.geocities.com/mrjust/midwestamateurteam.htm

Questions: 847-244-7954 before 6 PM.

Bring sets, boards, clocks.

Bookseller: Cajun Chess.

Organizers: Walter Brown, Chess For Life LLC Wayne Clark, Tim Just.

The Official Illinois State Elementary Chess Championships

Info and Pre-orders at www.gpcf.net

Saturday, March 5th- Sunday March 6th

Pere Marquette Hotel

501 Main Street

Peoria, IL 61602

Reservations 800-447-1676

Rounds

Primary (K-1) 7 round Swiss- Time Control G/40

Primary (2-3)-7 round Swiss- Time Control G/45

Elementary (4-5)-7 round Swiss-Time Control G/55

Jr. High (6-8)-7 round Swiss-Time Control G/60

Trophies

Top 15 teams per division

Top 20 Individuals per division

Top 10 per grade

Largest Upset per division

Medals for all players tying for 10th place grade level.

Plaques and four medals to top 5 teams per division

Participation Ribbons for all

ROUNDS BEGIN AT 9:30 AM SATURDAY AND 9:00am SUNDAY

Other rounds will begin as soon as possible. Please arrive by 8:30 AM to verify entries.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION ONLY!!!

Please register including: Division, name, grade, USCF ID # and expiration date, contact name, phone number, most recent rating, and e-mail.

Entry Fee: \$30 if postmarked by February 28th, 2005

No late entries will be accepted!

Please make checks payable to: **GPCF** and mail to:

Attn: Michael E. Leali

7319 Edgewild Dr.

Peoria IL 61614

***Please send only one check.**

Questions: Mike Leali at leali0@insightbb.com

ALLSTATE INSURANCE

Time Value Material

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Jeff Smith
202 South Adelaide St,
Normal, IL 61761

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