

Illinois Chess Bulletin

June 2009





FIDE World Chess Championships Coming to the Chicago North Shore!



Through a collaborative effort between the United States Chess Federation, the Illinois Chess Association, the North American Chess Association, and the International Cultural and Education Services, we have proudly submitted a bid to FIDE to host the World Amateur Chess Championships and the World School Team Chess Championships in 2010.

World Amateur Chess Championships

Skokie, IL
March 17-25, 2010

Tournaments for players with FIDE rating 2000 or lower

World School Team Chess Championships

Skokie, IL
March 25-29, 2010

Tournaments for school chess teams - U10, U12, U14, U16

Detail information about the tournament will be available on
WWW.WORLDCHESSCHAMPS.COM

For more information contact Sevan Muradian and/or Mikhail Korenman, event organizers at intecsus@yahoo.com or sevan.muradian@nachess.org

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Next Deadline: June 30, 2009

Please send contributions to president@il-chess.org

Please submit games in cbv or pgn format.

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Membership Information

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM
ON INSIDE BACK
COVER**

PLEASE JOIN ICA!

Just as the print version of the **Chicago Tribune** has economic woes, so too the **ICB**. Look for the next issue on the Web at www.il-chess.org.

We need your financial support, your games, articles, reports, and photos, and (not least) your friendship and good will. If you enjoy this issue, please let us know. —Bill Brock

In Memoriam: Frank Skoff

Frank Skoff, 1916-2009

Raymond Kuzanek

When many initially learned of Frank Skoff's passing, a common reaction was a comment about his advanced age of 92. However, those who knew Frank best would recall how he spent his life. His values, as reflected in his actions, characterized a man whose dominant theme of life was giving to others.

This characteristic was apparent during a thirty-year career as an English teacher. He wrote his thesis on George Bernard Shaw and particularly enjoyed discussing Shaw and Shakespeare. Only a few months ago, a student on his 1964 chess team at Lake View High School in Chicago called to inquiry as to Frank's health. Frank enjoyed the game of chess in which he was near-master strength. His organizational activities included Gompers Park on the north side of Chicago, state, and national tournaments. As President of the United States Chess Federation from 1972 to 1975, Frank took office just as Bobby Fischer won the world championship, and he was USCF's leader during the subsequent "Fischer boom."

Years ago, during an Illinois Chess Association banquet, Frank received an award for his lifetime contribution to chess—indeed, back in 1961, Frank had been one of the five founding directors of ICA. During the presentation, when another man would have dwelt upon stories about himself and relished the limelight, Frank's thoughts centered on what he could give to his audience. Anticipating (a skill honed by every chess player!) their curiosity about Fischer, he told how after playing a chess game with Spassky, Fischer wanted to play table tennis in the evenings. No one in the American delegation was a player, but fortunately an accomplished Icelandic player was found.

Frank was a chess historian and contributed articles to the **Illinois Chess Bulletin**, **Chess Life**, and **Chess Notes**. It was in the last publication that Frank engaged in a spirited debate with the English chess historians Ken Whyld and Geoffrey Diggle regarding Paul Morphy and Howard Staunton. [For a synopsis, see <http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/edge.html> & <http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/fiske.html> — Ed.] Frank maintained a respect for Whyld's research efforts on other topics and both men enjoyed a 4½ hour luncheon at O'Hare Airport. Frank maintained a correspondence with chess historians around the world. I was privileged to serve as the conduit for emails from

Richard Forster in Switzerland and Robert Meadley in Australia.

Late in life, Frank still had the capacity to appreciate listening to details of the presentation of Russian chess historians Linder and Averbakh at the 2007 Conference of Chess Historians in Kornik, Poland, enjoyed photos of Paul Morphy's home in New Orleans, and he was eager to learn about computers. In 2008, after intently viewing the movie, **The Last Samurai**, Frank posed the question: "What would you say was the theme of that story?" Always the English teacher!! ☺

Frank cultivated many interests beyond chess including history, politics, literature, and the aging process. He kept fit by walking and even in September 2008 could easily walk two hundred yards, but also permitted himself two desserts with lunch or dinner. Frank was an excellent conversationalist with a command of words, ideas, and was ever alert to exercise his quick wit. Last year, I mentioned that my friend's girlfriend was named Rosetta. Frank could not resist the temptation of inquiring whether her last name was "Stone?" ☺ Frank was part of my life for thirty years and I am grateful to have known him.



With ever-present cigar

Jim Brotsos was kind enough to share his March 7, 2009, email to International Master John Donaldson:

Hello John,

A year ago you asked "Is Frank Skoff doing OK?"

I'm sorry to say that Frank passed away last Tuesday. I received this news from Raymond Kuzanek, his closest friend. Frank was 92. He had a case of pneumonia during the holidays, but recovered. Apparently, his kidneys failed last week and he died alone rather quickly & peacefully.

I attended his funeral yesterday. [...] He was buried in the St. Joseph cemetery in Joliet, his home town.

Frank was of Croatian and Slovenian heritage. His cousin told me that their Croatian forebears' arrival to the USA dated back to the 1700s. Frank was a successful English teacher in Chicago's Lakeview High School. He loved the language and used it very effectively & with good humor. In his excellent eulogy, Mr. Kuzanek mentioned that when an acquaintance told Frank of a new lady friend named Rosetta, he asked "Is her last name Stone?"¹ His writing ability shown in the regular column called "Frankly Skoffing" he included in the *Illinois Chess Bulletin*.

Frank, of course, was an Expert chess player and a top chess organizer, administrator, & tournament director. He founded and headed the large, strong Gompers Park Chess Club (Chicago) for many years. He eventually was elected President of the U. S. Chess Federation in the early 1970s.

I met Frank in 1960. He asked me to help revive the state chess organization. He, several others, & I worked to create a unit that would ensure annual Chicago & Illinois Open chess tournaments and provide a periodical of local chess news. The Illinois Chess Association and the **ICB** were born the following year. A string of successful local tournaments followed. Most of these were directed by Frank. I sometimes assisted. By 1963, when Frank was President of the ICA, Chicago was ready for a major tournament and hosted a very successful U.S. Open Chess Championship event. Frank continued to create well-organized tournaments that attracted many Masters for several years. Frank always displayed calm competence, objectivity, enthusiasm, courtesy, and humor in dealing with chess matters.

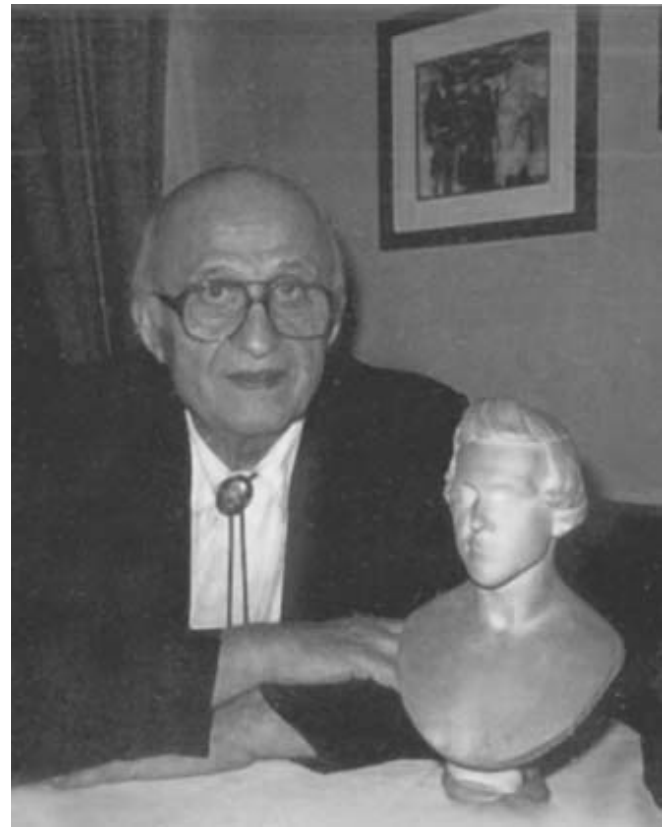
¹ Those of you who are fond of bad puns should note that you run the risk of having one of your worst ones mentioned twice in *your* obituary—Editor.

In his later years Frank concentrated more on his early hobby, chess history. He was in touch with several top chess historians such as Chicago's Ray Kuzanek and England's Ken Whyld and had a large collection of chess books and magazines.

Frank Skoff boosted chess awareness, prestige, and enjoyment in a way few can appreciate. He will be missed for that. He'll also be missed as a well-balanced gentleman full of charm and great conversation.

Best wishes,

Jim Brotsos



The historian: with a bust of Morphy

In addition to Tim Redman's obituary in the May 2009 issue of Chess Life, Edward Winter calls our attention to the following articles on Frank Skoff's life and accomplishments: Chess Life, June 1969, pp. 239-240, Chess Life & Review, October 1973, pp. 556-557, Chess Life, December 1981, p. 31.—Ed.

Frank Skoff (1916-2009)

Edward Winter (www.chesshistory.com)

With much sadness we have learned of the death earlier this month of Frank Skoff, who was one of **Chess Notes'** most valued contributors in the 1980s. He developed a particular interest in the 'Staunton-Morphy controversy', and some extracts from his writings can be read in the Edge, Morphy and Staunton feature article. In all, he penned the equivalent of a small monograph on the subject.

A fine chess historian, Frank Skoff abhorred speculation. He combined knowledge (both deep and broad) with outstanding research skills, an ear for the English language and an eye for cant. His contributions to Chess Notes began 27 years ago, and our personal debt to him is enormous.

1964: Bobby Fischer's Simuls At Chicago's Edgewater Beach Hotel

Frank Skoff, *Illinois Chess Bulletin* 1964.3 (April 1964); © Illinois Chess Association 1964, 2001, 2009.

This issue (*the April 1964 ICB*) will be devoted entirely to the first simultaneous exhibitions in Chicago of the nonpareil of American chess, the brightest star since the meteoric splendors of Morphy, 21-year-old Robert J. Fischer, U. S. Champion since he was 14 and an International Grandmaster at 15, the youngest in history!

On Sunday, March 22, there were 71 opponents and an appreciative crowd gathered in the spacious grand ballroom of the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Promptly at 2 p.m., Fischer entered, and (after some preliminary remarks by the genial emcee, Bob Lerner) gave an hour's lecture on a victory of his over the ex-world champion Tahl. He then went through 7½ hours of play, without sitting down or stopping to eat; and amassed a score of 56 wins, 4 losses, and 11 draws, a fine record against what he later called "the toughest" opposition he had ever faced in a simul. It included 2 masters, 5 experts, 7 A's, 13 B's, 10 C's, and 34 unrated. (Bobby averaged about 10 seconds per move compared with 10 min. per move for his opponents.)

On Monday, he repeated his performance at 7 p.m. in the Michigan Room of the Edgewater. His lecture covered a crucial game with Reshevsky. Then he pol-

ished off 54 games in 3½ hours (!), winning 49, losing 1, and drawing 4. His opposition, though not as strong as Sunday's, included 3 experts, 2 A's, 5 B's, 3 C's, and 41 unrated.

Fischer, by the way, was born in Chicago on March 9, 1943, and learned the game at the age of 6.... His lectures were received with close attention and applauded at the end, as was his exhibition play, by spectators and players alike.... He autographed score sheets, chess boards, etc., for young and old. Frequently he showed opponents who had lost or drawn how they could have drawn or won.... One must dismiss as untrue all the articles on Fischer depicting him as brash, offensive, impolite, a juvenile delinquent rampant. Actually, he was always courteous though reserved; showed a sense of humor; answered questions as honestly as he could; and never lost his aplomb, even when the questions were foolish ones. He was very popular here and made a good impression on all.... He never objected to any of the oddly hued and shaped sets used by some players (some sets were very confusing, especially in color; in fact, Bobby laughingly admitted that he made a capture on one board of what he thought was his opponent's Queen. It turned out to be a Knight! But he won anyway).... After the grueling 8½ hours on Sunday, he wanted to go out and play billiards!! Unfortunately Bob Lerner couldn't find a place open. But Bobby looked a bit exhausted after the Monday display; perhaps the accumulation of his efforts finally told on him.... He has tremendous energy and drive, a burning absorption in the game, a natural for a future world champion should he be given a fair chance [...]

1972: The Glamorous Life of an Executive Officer of the U. S. Chess Federation [Fischer-Spassky, Reykjavik]

(from **Bobby Fischer Goes to War**, by David Edmonds and David Eidinow, page 223).

Fred Cramer [*a USCF past president who had taken over Ed Edmonson's role as Fischer's emissary*] completes a timetabled daily duty roster, which he writes on Lofleidir stationery and sends to Frank Skoff, with a copy to [*Fischer's second, Grandmaster William*] Lombardy. They are a reminder to Skoff of his numerous tasks, though these vary day to day. He must regularly comb the playing hall for cameras. He must chase up the Mercedes-Benz automatic-shift car, as promised by the Icelandic organizers. He must arrange

the laundry. He must ensure there is a tennis or table tennis or bowling partner for Fischer, available at all times, and that the facilities are unlocked and ready for Fischer to walk straight in.

In general, have each activity so set up that Bobby can be doing it on thirty minutes notice or less. Don't leave any blank spots. Don't leave anything thing to anybody else, even Sammy [*Pals-son, an Icelandic friend of Fischer's*]. (Of course, we count

on him—and various others—heavily, but you must, in all cases, be so set up that Bobby can go, regardless of any other individual. Always have at least three or four backup men at each point.

Skoff should always have suitable clothing ready for Bobby's activities. He should try to ensure the facilities are not used "for other persons or other activities." He should always be looking to add to the list of potential playing partners for Bobby. "Bear in mind that people do other things. Some even leave Iceland." Ω



Frank Skoff and Ken Whyld flank the first "pride and sorrow" of U.S. chess

**Illinois Chess Association
web site**

www.il-chess.org

bookmark our new address!

Write for the ICB and the ICA web site!

Please send us games/analysis, event reports, club news. If it's in Illinois, and it's about chess, we want to hear about it.

president@il-chess.org

Warren Program Update

35 students named Warren Junior Scholars; Warren Program continues growth

Andrea Rosen, ICA Warren Junior Director

In February, a record-breaking 35 Illinois students ages 7 to 17 were named as ICA Warren Junior Chess Scholars. To earn that honor, all students had been ranked in the top 35 or better for their age or gender in the country during 2008, and remained in the top 50 or better on the February 2009 USCF top 100 list by age or gender.

All students who earned that distinction were presented with bound scorebooks with their names inscribed inside. Students in grades 1 to 8 received their awards at the state K-8 championship in Bloomington in March; and high school students received their awards at the high school state tournament in Peoria in February.

The Warren Program was founded many years ago by former ICA President Helen Warren, to provide funding and individual instruction for top-level youth chess players to help make them competitive at the national and international level. When Mrs. Warren retired, the program was dormant for awhile, but it was revived in 2006 when then-ICA President Bill Brock asked me to run it under the auspices of the ICA. The program has been evolving since then. In addition to providing some private subsidies to students based on financial need, the program provides the following:

Recognition

In addition to receiving awards, all students' names are publicized on the ICA website, and letters are sent to school principals informing them of their students' achievement.

Group Programming

Warren Scholars are invited to periodic group seminars with top-level instruction. Most recently, this included a December seminar with GMs Alex Yermolinsky and Dmitry Gurevich, a get-ready-for-supernationals seminar in March (see next column), and a chess meet over the summer with players from the Chicago Industrial Chess League with on-site game analysis by Gurevich and GM-elect Mesgen Amanov.

Invitational Tournaments

For the second year in a row, the Warren Program helped organize and provide prize money for the Illi-

nois Chess Association Denker Qualifier Tournament. The winner of that tournament moves on to play in the National Denker High School Tournament of Champions. For the first time ever, the Warren Program also sponsored a girls' invitational event, where the state's top eight female youth chess players competed for the chance to represent Illinois at the Polgar National Girls' Invitational in July in Texas.

Community Outreach

For the fourth year in a row, the Warren Chess Scholars have been invited to participate at the City of Chicago's Taste of Chicago Festival. This summer, they will be at the festival on Saturday, June 27, from 3:30 to 7 p.m., offering drop-in chess and informal instruction to festival visitors.

The Warren Program has also strengthened both its fundraising and publicity efforts in the past year, developing a fundraising letter and brochure, and providing updates about the program on the ICA website. Those efforts have been met with very generous donations, which has enabled some of the expanded programming noted above. Names of all the Warren Scholars, and our donors, can be found on the ICA website:

http://il-chess.org/junior_2009.htm#90214

Get Ready for Supernationals Seminar

Twenty of the state's top youth chess players attended an intensive one-day seminar on March 28 in Skokie to help prepare them for the upcoming Supernational competition in Nashville, Tennessee. Dmitry Gurevich and Jan Van de Mortel were the instructors for the day-long program held March 28 at McCracken Middle School in Skokie. The day began by matching the students with an opponent of similar strength to play a G/25 warmup game, which the instructors then analyzed. Students then broke up into two groups for lectures, reviewing interesting and instructional games; and also getting some practical advice for nationals: get enough sleep, eat well, and almost never offer a draw. This was the second year in a row that the ICA Warren Jr. Program sponsored a spring get-ready-for-nationals seminar. Students came from across the state, including far southern Illinois, Champaign, Peoria and Rockford.

Michael Auger (2021) - Eric Rosen (2131) [C21]

Illinois Denker Qualifier (1) [ICB]

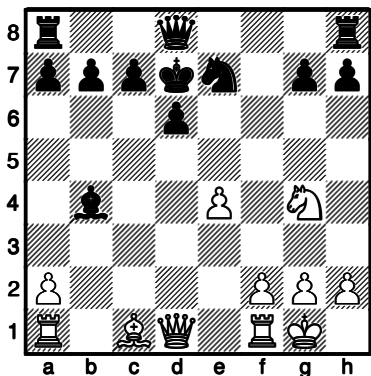
1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3!? dxc3 4.Nxc3

White reaches a Scotch Gambit by a Danish Gambit move order. Black might try to take advantage by omitting ...Nc6 and prioritizing kingside development.

4...Bc5 5.Bc4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4?

If I only had a dollar for every time I've made the same blunder.... Black would be ready to castle after 6...Nf6: for example, 7.e5 Qe7 8.0-0 dxe5 9.Nxe5 0-0 10.Re1 Be6.

7.Bxf7+! Kxf7 8.Ne5+ Ke8 9.Nxg4 Nc6 10.0-0 Nge7 11.Nd5 Kd7 12.b4 Nxb4 13.Nxb4 Bxb4



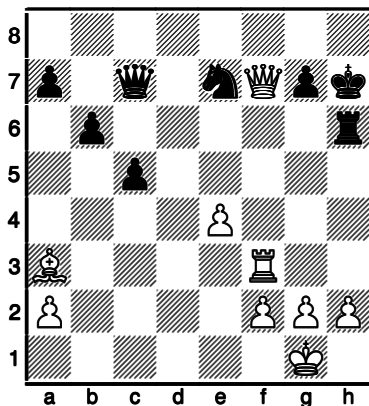
14.Ne5+! Ke8 15.Qa4+ c6 16.Qxb4 dxe5 17.Ba3

[17.Qxb7]

17...Qc7 18.Rad1 b6 19.Rd6 Rd8

Black has a pawn for his troubles.

20.Rfd1 Rxd6 21.Rxd6 h5!? 22.Qd2 Rf8?! 23.Qg5! c5 24.Qxh5+ Rf7 25.Qxe5 Rf6 26.Qh5+ Kf8 27.Rd3! Rh6 28.Rf3+ Kg8 29.Qf7+ Kh7



30.Bb2!

Fearlessness or simply accurate calculation?

30...Qxh2+ 31.Kf1 Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Qxg2 33.Qxe7 Rh1 34.Ke3 Re1+ 35.Kd2 Rd1+ 36.Kc2! Rg1 37.Rf7 Kh8 38.Qf8+ Kh7 39.Rxg7+ Qxg7 40.Bxg7 Rxg7 1-0

Trevor Magness (2143) - Zack Kasiurak (2059) [B90]

Illinois Denker Qualifier (1) [Trevor Magness]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 9.Qd2

9.g4 is more accurate in my opinion. It is not important for White that he castle as quickly as possible, while g4 limits Black's options, particularly the h5 line, but also the b5, Nb6, and Nfd7 setup.

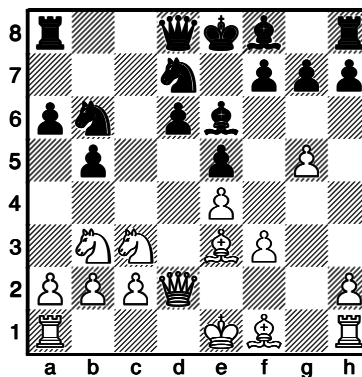
9...b5

Or 9...h5: if I remember theory correctly, White has some trouble getting an advantage here.

10.g4 Nb6 11.g5 Nfd7

11...Nh5 allows 12.Nd5 when the weakness of the b6 knight forces Black to take. 12...Nxd5 (If 12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 bxc4 14.Bb6 Qb8 15.Nc7+ Ke7 16.Qb4! Ra7 (16...cxb3 17.0-0-0 Kd7 18.Qa4+ Kc8 19.Nxe6+- And White is winning. If fxe6, then Qc6 checkmates.) 17.Nc5!

with a winning attack.) 13.exd5 Bd7 (13...Bf5 14.Na5 leaves the c6 square weak.) 14.Na5 And white is a little bit better due to Black's weaknesses on squares like c6 and b4. Black is not in any big trouble, though.



12.Nd5

12.Na5!? Is the best move here, targeting the c6 square and guarding c4. It was actually the move I wanted to play, but I mistakenly thought that it would lose material. 12...Rc8 (12...b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Nc6 Qc7 15.exd5 Bf5 (Here I thought that 15...Bxd5?? won material for black, missing that after 16.Qxd5 Nb6 white has Bxb6 and Qe4, both preserving white's extra piece.) 16.Qxb4 Bxc2 17.Rc1 Bg6 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Qxf8+ Rxf8 20.Rxc7 and white is a pawn up.) 13.0-0-0 (13.Nd5? Nxd5 14.exd5 Bxd5 gives black a pawn for free.) 13...Qc7 14.Kb1 Be7 15.h4 0-0 16.h5 b4 17.Nd5 And white has the initiative. This was played by Morozovich last year against Karjakin.]

12...Rc8

[12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 bxc4 14.Na5 and black's c4 pawn is a big weakness.]

13.0-0-0?!

Challenging black to find another good move, (Be7 gives up an important defender and the d6

Games from the 2009 Denker and Polgar Qualifiers

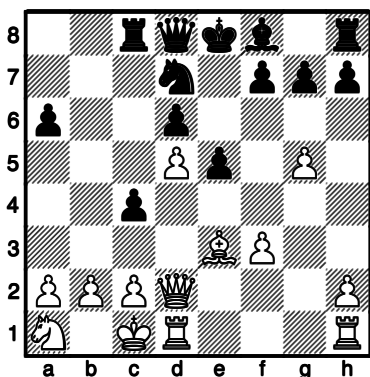
pawn after Nxe7) I guessed Black had to take on d5, but forgot a tactic that gives black an advantage. 13.Na5? Nxd5 once again loses material due to the weak a5 knight. 14.Nc6 Rxc6 15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Rxc2; 13.Nxb6 was probably the best, leading to about an equal position. 13...Nxb6 14.Qa5 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Qxd8+ Kxd8 17.Na5 Be7 Black's c4 pawn is safely defended in this line, and while it and the d6 pawn are both still weak, Black has compensation in the two bishops and White's weakened kingside structure.

13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Nc4 15.Bxc4?!

After 15.Qf2 white might still be okay, but it is sad to part with the e3 bishop.

15...bxc4 16.Na1

16.Na5?? loses to 16...c3 I saw this when I was first calculating variations, but I got mixed up and forgot about it when I decided on my move.



White's knight is now the ugliest piece on the board. Instead of getting an outpost on c6, the knight is kept in the corner by the c4 pawn.

16...c3?

Black is too eager to force his advantage. After this move White is able to repel Black's attack, particularly because

White's knight can return to b3. 16...Be7 was better, planning to castle and then start an attack on White's king with an eventual c3. If White plays c3 himself, then the d3 square is weakened. 17.h4 0-0 18.h5 (18.c3 Qa5 19.Kb1 f5 20.gxf6 Bxf6 and at some point Black will open up the position with e4, opening up his dark-square bishop and hopefully granting his knight passage to d3. Black is much better.) 18...f5! closing the kingside up and leaving Black with all the chances. 19.exf6 e.p just opens the f-file for Black and gives his bishop a great square. 19.g6 h6 and Black will play f4, Bf6, and c3, and after White takes the pawn, Qa5 and e4 will set Black's pieces loose. For example, 20.Kb1 f4 21.Bf2 Bf6 22.Rhe1 e4 23.Rxe4 c3 24.bxc3 Bxc3 25.Qd3 Ne5+ In all of these lines Black's bishop becomes very powerful, while in the game it was not able to do much.

17.bxc3 Qa5 18.Kb2 Nb6 19.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 20.Nb3 Be7 21.Rhe1!?

White plans to transfer his rook to the fourth rank, stopping black from penetrating and planning to swing over to defend the queenside and attack the a6 pawn. 21.h4 gives White a potential weakness too readily. White's hopes don't lie in a kingside attack as black will always have f5. 21...0-0 22.h5 f5 Black counters g6 with h6, and h6 with g6.; 21.f4 is met simply by exf4 21...exf4 (but even 21...0-0 transposing into 21.Rhe1 0-0 22.f4 is fine for Black. 22.Rhe1 a) 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.d6 Rfd8 (23...Bd8) 24.d7 Rc6 and all of White's pawns are falling.; b) 22.f5 f6 23.g6 hxg6 24.fxg6 f5; 22...f6 23.gxf6 a) 23.fxe5 fxe5 And Black's rook penetrates the

f-file.; b) 23.Qe3 Qb7 and white will have trouble making progress.(23...Qc7; 23...Qxe3 24.Rxe3 fxg5? 25.fxe5±) ; 23...Bxf6 24.fxe5 Bxe5 is horrible for White.) 22.Rhe1 Qc7

21...Rc4

This looks like the best at first, but I think 0-0 was stronger, because Black wants two rooks on the board in order to create counterplay. 21...0-0 22.Re4 f5 23.Rb4 Qc7 24.h4 (24.f4 Rfd8 (24...exf4? allows White to penetrate. 25.Nd4 Qd7 (25...Bxg5 26.Ne6 f3 27.Nxg5+-) 26.Ne6 Rf7 27.Qxf4+-) 25.Re1 (25.fxe5 dxe5 and White's pawn is not as dangerous as it might look.) 25...a5 26.Ra4 Rb8 27.Qe3 e4 28.Ka1 Rb5 and White cannot make progress.) 24...a5 25.Ra4 Rb8 26.Ka1 Ra8 and I am not sure how White can improve his position.

22.Re4 Rxe4

22...Qc7 was an interesting try, but White preserves an advantage with 23.Rg1! bringing a second rook to the fourth rank. a) 23.Qd3 Rxe4 24.fxe4 Bxg5 25.Qxa6 trades weak pawns and leaves white without an advantage.; b) 23.h4 0-0 24.Qd3 Rc8 (24...Rxe4 25.Qxe4 (25.fxe4 Rc8 26.Nd2 Rb8+ 27.Ka1 Qa5 28.c4 Bd8! and once Black's bishop gets into the game, White's advantage will be gone. 29.Rb1 Bb6 (29...Rxb1+? 30.Nxb1 allows white room to mobilize his forces. 30...Qe1 31.c5 dxc5 32.Qxa6 Qxh4 33.Qc6 Be7 34.Qe8+ Bf8 35.d6 Qxg5 36.d7) 30.c3 (30.Nb3 Qa4) 30...Rc8 31.Nb3 Qa4 32.Nd2 Qa5 and Black's piece activity compensates for the pawn.) 25...f5 26.gxf6 Bxf6 is good for black, thanks to white's abundance of weaknesses.) 25.Rxc4 Qxc4 and Black takes over the fourth rank.; 23...0-0 24.Qd3

Rc8 25.Rxc4 Qxc4 26.Rg4±.

23.fxe4 0-0 24.h4

24.c4? Rc8 25.Qa5 leaves Black with two strong replies, both based on the weakness on g5. 25...Qxa5 (25...Qb7 and Black wins a pawn.) 26.Nxa5 Rc5! (26...Bxg5 27.Kc3 Kf8 28.Nb7 Ke7 29.c5 dxc5 30.Kc4±) 27.Nc6 Bxg5 therefore White finally plays h4.]

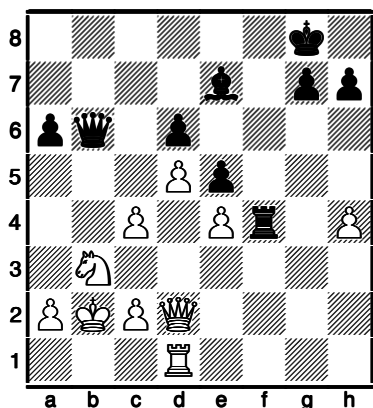
24...f5

Now if Black does nothing, for example 24...Re8 then 25.c4 Rc8 26.Qa5 Qb7 27.Qa4 and White has made progress.; 24...Rc8 stops c4, but concedes any chance of counterplay on the f-file. 25.Qd3 a5 26.a4 Qc7 27.Rf1 and White is beginning to outmaneuver Black, taking advantage of his a pawn and h3-c8 diagonal weaknesses.; 24...a5]

25.gxf6 Rxf6

25...Bxf6 26.h5 and White will get an advantage by targeting the a6 pawn and e6 square, along with the continual possibility of pushing the c4 pawn forward. 26...a5 27.a4 Qc7 28.Qe3 Qc4 29.Ra1 Qc7 30.h6 g6 31.Qh3± and White now has prospects on both sides of the board.

26.c4 Rf4



27.c5! Qc7

27...dxc5 28.d6 loses quickly.

28...Bxh4 29.d7 Rf8 30.Qd5+.

28.c4

Planning cxd6 followed by c5, but this lets Black back into the game, thanks to the weak king on b2. 28.c6?! Rxe4 is ineffective, because there is not a clear way to get the c6 pawn through, thanks to the rook on e4. 29.h5 (29.Qa5 Bd8) 29...Bf6; 28.Qb4? would give White the advantage after Rxh4 29. c6, but dxc5 at least equalizes for Black. 28...dxc5 29.d6 Bxd6 30.Qc4+ Kh8 31.Qd5 Bf8; 28.Qd3 was the correct move. 28...Rxh4 29.c6± and the c6 pawn is very strong.]

28...Bxh4 29.cxd6?

29.Qb4 Rxe4 30.cxd6 Qd8 was still better for White, but the position is less clear than after 28.Qd3.

29...Qxd6?

29...Qxc4! would have saved Black. The passed pawn(s) on the d-file has lost its support. 30.d7 Qb5 (30...Bd8? 31.d6 Qxe4 32.Nc5 Qb4+ 33.Qxb4 Rxb4+ 34.Kc3 Rb8 and white is still better. Black must try to remain active.; 30...Rf2?? 31.Qxf2! and the pawn queens.) 31.Qa5 Rf2+ 32.Ka1 Qxa5 33.Nxa5 Rf7 and now white's pawn is lost. 34.Nc6 Rxd7= White's center pawn fully compensates for Black's extra pawn, but White should not be winning this position.

30.c5

Now White's pawns roll.

30...Qg6 31.Qb4 Qxe4?!

31...Qg4 was the last chance to try to create counterplay against the White king. 32.Rc1 Rxe4 33.Qb8+ Kf7 34.Qb7+ Kf8 35.d6±

32.Qxe4 Rxe4 33.c6

Now it is over by force.

33...Rf4

33...Rc4 34.Rc1; 33...Bg5

34.Nc5 Rc4 35.Nxa6.

34.c7 Rf8 35.d6 Rc8 36.Rc1

White could still go wrong: 36.d7?? Rxc7 37.d8Q+ Bxd8 38.Rxd8+ Kf7 would leave White with a draw. Black's king and pawns will occupy white's pieces, allowing Black to capture White's last pawn and reach the drawn rook and knight verses rook endgame.

36...Bd8 37.Na5 e4 38.Nc6 Bf6+

[38...Bxc7 39.Ne7+]

39.Kb3 e3 40.Na7 1-0

Gordon Ruan (2088) - Josh Dubin (1946) [A08]

Illinois Denker Qualifier (1) [ICB]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 e5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1 f6 10.c3 Bg4 11.Qa4 Qd7

It was safer to play 11...Be6 with a solid-looking Maroczy Bind.

12.Nxe5! Nxe5!

[12...fxe5 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxg4±]

13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Bxd5 Nxd3 15.Re3! Nxc1 16.Rxc1 Rab8 17.Rce1 Bd8 18.Nb3

Rybka suggests a big edge for White after the mysterious computer move 18.b4! (sometimes the player without the two bishops wants to open the position when he has a developmental lead). For example: 18...cxb4 19.cxb4 a6 20.Nb3±

18...b6 19.c4 Kc7 20.Nc1 Rc8 21.Nd3 Kb8 22.b4 Bf5

Black has made progress, but still can't contest the e-file.

23.b5 Bc7 24.Nc1 Be5

Now both king bishops have beautiful posts.

25.Nb3 g5 26.a4 h5 27.a5 h4

Both players open the rook file to get at the enemy king. It's easier for White, whose monster bishop on d5 controls the attacking square a8 and the defensive square h1.

28.axb6 axb6 29.Nd2 hxg3

Games from the 2009 Denker and Polgar Qualifiers

30.hxg3 Rh3 31.Ra3

White could have served an eviction notice with 31.Nf3! Bd6 32.Ra3 Rch8 33.Nh4! setting up a powerful skewer on a8.

31...Rch8 32.Ra8+ Kc7 33.Rxh8 Rxh8 34.Nf3 Bd6 35.Ra1

With a pair of rooks gone from the board, Black is OK.

35...Kd7 36.Ra7+ Bc7 37.Nd2

A heartbreaking moment: after achieving full equality through strong defensive play, Black slips.

37...Re8?? 38.Bc6+

Game over.

38...Kd8 39.Bxe8 Bb8 40.Ra8 Kxe8 1-0

Josh Dubin (1946) - Trevor Magness (2143) [E15]

Illinois Denker Qualifier (2)

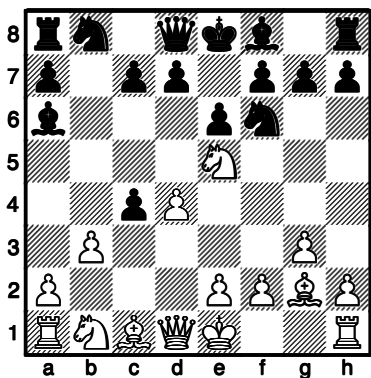
[Trevor Magness]

This game would fit in a book on how not to defend the Queen's Indian. Although it's not my most brutal defeat, it's probably in the top five.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 b5 6.Bg2

Not the most challenging line against b5, as long as Black knows what he is doing! 6.cxb5 is the main line.

6...bxc4 7.Ne5



7...d5?

This move leaves Black defending his d5 pawn. The g2 bishop is slicing down the h1-a8 diagonal.

nal, and placing Black's bishop on b7 is problematic now because of the open b-file. The b-file will favor only White, whose development is quicker than Black's. 7...Bb4+ is the best move for black. After 8.Kf1 (8.Bd2 cxb3! 9.axb3 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 d5 is good for black.) 8...d5 9.bxc4 0-0 Black gets his king to safety and is ready to battle on the queenside.

8.bxc4 Nbd7

Or 8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ [a) 9...Be7 10.Qa4+ Nfd7 11.cxd5; b) 9...Bd6 10.Qa4+ Kf8 (10...Nfd7 11.cxd5 wins at least a pawn for White.) 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 leaves Black in sad shape] 10.Nxd2 0-0± was Black's best, but White still has the advantage. He is more developed, has a little more space, and Black has some problems down the h1-a8 diagonal. 11.Qa4 stopping c6. 11...Qc8 12.Rc1 c6 13.Qa3 Bb7 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Qe7 And Black is nearly immobile.

9.Qa4 Bb7 10.Nc3 c5?

This loses. c6 had to be played in order to cement the d5 pawn and clog the diagonal. 10...c6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rb1 Nb6 13.Qc2 Bd6 and Black is still holding, although White is better developed and Black has a bad weakness on c6.

11.Rb1

Seizing the open file and targeting the b7 bishop, which is countering the bishop on g2.

11...Qc8 12.cxd5

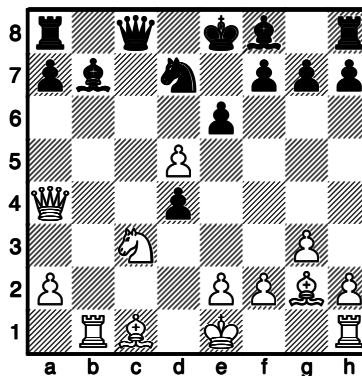
Not the most accurate move order, but it is not a big deal. [12.dxc5? Bxc5 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.cxd5 0-0! 15.0-0 Nb6 16.Qb3 exd5 17.Nxd5 Rd8 gives Black drawing chances; 12.Be3!? was probably also sufficient for a win, but not as strong as the key move. 12...Bd6 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.cxd5 wins a pawn for White.;

12.Nxd7 Nxd7 13.cxd5 leaves Black without his best chance.

12...cxd4?

12...Bxd5 had to be played, but 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.0-0 will not let black hold for very long. The rook on a8 cannot move, and thus the knight on d5 is frozen. (Ndb6 fails due to Rxb6 followed by Bxa8) Black cannot castle because of his knight on d7. Black will have to create weaknesses in his camp in order to free his pieces.

13.Nxd7 Nxd7



14.Rxb7!

I thought White was going to play 14.Qxd4 when 14...e5 (14...Be7 fails to 15.dxe6 (15.Bd2 0-0 16.0-0 Bf6 leaves black with some fight left.) 15...Bxg2 16.exd7+ Qxd7 17.Qxg7 and White is winning.) 15.Qd2 Rb8 16.0-0 Qc4 leaves Black with some hope.

14...Qxc3+

Black has no defense, as these lines show. [14...Qxb7 15.dxe6 Qc7 (15...Qxg2 16.Qxd7#) 16.exd7+ Kd8 17.Qxd4 Rb8 18.Bg5+ f6 (18...Be7 19.Bxe7+ Kxe7 20.Nd5+) 19.Bxf6+ leaves White with a winning attack and extra material. 19...gxf6 20.Qxf6+ Kxd7 21.Qxh8; 14...exd5 15.Bxd5 does not change anything. Black has just helped white open up his bishop.; 14...Kd8 15.dxe6 Nc5 16.Qa5+ Ke8 17.exf7#; 14...e5

15.d6! wins in the same way.
15...Bxd6 16.Rxd7 Qxc3+
17.Kd1 0-0 18.Bxa8+-; 14...Ba3
15.Bxa3 Qxc3+ 16.Kd1 Qa1+
17.Bc1+-.

15.Kd1 0-0-0

15...Rd8 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Bc6
loses a piece.] **16.Qxa7 Bd6**
[16...e5 17.d6 Bxd6 18.Rb8+.

17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Rb8+

18.Rc7+ also won. 18...Qxc7
19.Qa6+ Kb8 20.Qa8#

18...Bxb8 19.Qb7# 1-0

James Pavese (2081) - Michael Auger (2021) [D87]

Illinois Denker Qualifier (2) [ICB]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3
Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.0-0
cxd4 10.cxd4 Nd7 11.Be3 Nb6
12.Bb3 Bd7 13.Qd2 Bb5
14.Rfd1 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4
16.Rac1 Rc8 17.d5 Qd6 18.f4
Qa3

Black is doing quite nicely in this unconventional Grünfeld.

19.e5 Bxd5 20.Nc3 Be6 21.Nb5
Qxa2 22.Qxa2 Bxa2 23.Nxa7
Rxc1 24.Rxc1

And hey, Black is a pawn up, just like that!

24...Bd5

Some noodling with Rybka suggests 24...f6 25.Rc7 fxe5 26.fxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe7 Bc4! (threatening mate on f1) 28.g4 Bd6 29.Rd7 (29.Rxb7? Rf1+ 30.Kg2 Ra1—easy for Rybka to see!) 29...Rf1+ 30.Kg2 Re1±.

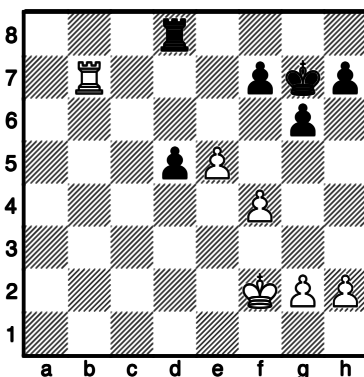
25.Rc7 Re8 26.Nc8!

And hey, White is OK, just like that!

26...Bf8 27.Bc5 e6 28.Bxf8
Rxf8 29.Ne7+ Kg7 30.Nxd5
exd5 31.Rxb7

And hey, White is slightly better!

31...Rd8 32.Kf2



32...h6

The thematic defense is 32...h5. White wants to turn the extra kingside pawn into a steamroller, so Black wants to inhibit g2-g4 (supporting f4-f5).

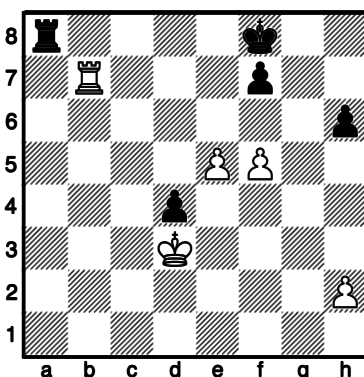
33.Ke3

33.e6 Rf8 34.Ke3 Kf6 35.exf7 Rxf7 36.Rxf7+ Kxf7 37.Kd4 Ke6 38.g4 h5 39.h3=.

33...d4+ 34.Kd3 Kf8 35.g4!

Too late!

35...Ra8 36.f5! gxf5 37.gxf5



Can Black draw this position?

37...Ra2 38.f6! Ke8 39.h4 Rh2
40.Re7+ Kf8 41.Rd7 Kg8

[41...Ke8 42.Rxd4±]

42.Rd8+ Kh7 43.e6!+- Rh3+
44.Kc4 Rc3+ 45.Kxd4 Rc1
46.e7 Rd1+ 47.Kc3 Re1 48.e8Q
Rxe8 49.Rxe8 Kg6 50.Rh8 1-0

Eric Rosen (2131) - Fedya Titov (1601) [C05]

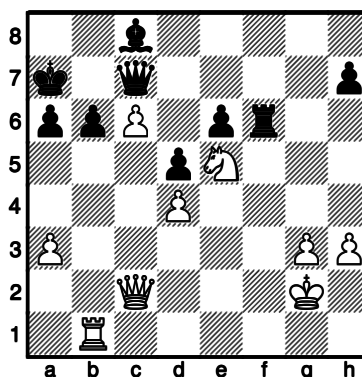
Illinois Denker Qualifier (2) [ICB]

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

Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3
Qb6 8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+
10.Kf2 g5 11.h3 Rg8 12.Kg2
gxf4 13.Bxf4 Nf8 14.Bd3 Be7
15.Qd2 Bd7 16.Ne2 0-0-0 17.a3
Ng6 18.Kh2 Kb8 19.b4 Ka8
20.Rhf1 f6 21.Bxg6 Rxg6
22.Nc3 fxe5 23.Bxe5 Rf8
24.Bf4 Bc8 25.Rae1 Qd8
26.Nb5 a6 27.Nc7+ Ka7 28.b5
Bd6 29.bxc6 Qxc7

29...Bxf4 30.gxf4 Qxc7±

30.Bxd6 Qxd6 31.Ne5! Rgf6
32.Rxf6 Rxf6 33.Qb2! Qf8
34.Kg2 Qg7 35.Qc2 b6 36.Rb1
Qc7



The next few moves are a textbook example of alternating play: White probes the queenside, then the kingside, then back to the queenside....

37.Qb3 h5 38.Qe3 Qg7 39.h4
Rf8 40.Qb3 Qc7 41.Qb4 Rg8
42.Rf1 Rg7 43.Qf8 b5 44.Qh8
Rh7 45.Qe8 Re7 46.Qxh5 Qa5
47.Qg5 Qxa3 48.h5 Rc7
49.Qd2 b4 50.Rf3 Qa1 51.Qxb4
Qd1 52.Rf2 Qxh5 53.Rb2 1-0

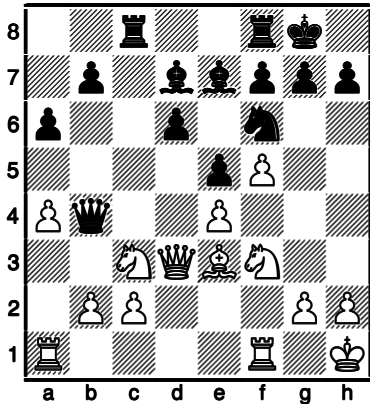
Fedya Titov (1601) - Zach

Kasiurak (2050) [B86]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (3) [ICB]

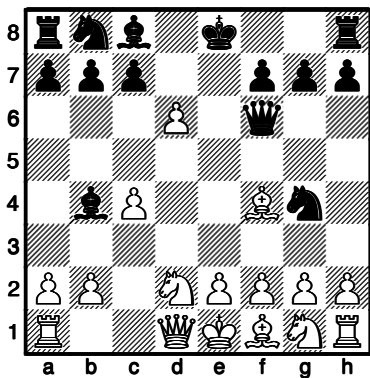
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6
7.a4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 Qc7
10.Qe2 Nc6 11.Be3 Bd7 12.f4
Rac8 13.Ba2 Na5 14.f5 e5
15.Nf3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Qxc4
17.Qd3 Qb4

Games from the 2009 Denker and Polgar Qualifiers



18.Ra3!= Qc4 19.Bg5 Qxd3
 20.cxd3 Bc6 21.Nd2 d5!
 22.Bxf6
 [22.Raa1 Nxe4! 23.Ndxe4 f6!♣]
 22...Bxa3 23.bxa3 d4 24.Bxe5
 dxc3 25.Bxc3 Bxa4+ 26.Nb1
 Bc2 27.Bb4 Rfd8 28.Nc3 Bxd3
 29.Re1 Rd4 30.Kg1 Rxb4 0-1

Josh Dubin (1946) - Eric Rosen (2131) [A52]
 Illinois Denker Qualifier (3) [ICB]
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4
 4.Bf4 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 d6 6.exd6
 Qf6



And people ask me why I play 1.Nf3 :-). Objectively, White is fine, but subjectively, the player of the White pieces is already suffering.

7.g3
 7.Nh3 Nxf2 8.Kxf2 Bxh3 9.g3
 Bxf1 10.Rxf1 Qd4+ 11.Kf3 Bxd6
 12.Ne4 Qxd1 13.Raxd1 Bxf4
 14.gxf4 Nd7 15.Rd3 0-0-0

16.Rfd1 h6 17.h4 Rhe8 18.h5
 Rxe4 19.Kxe4 Nc5+ 20.Kf5
 Nxd3 21.exd3 Rd6 22.d4 Rf6+
 23.Ke4 Re6+ 24.Kf3 Kd7 25.d5
 Rf6 26.Ke4 g6 27.Rh1 Kd6
 28.b4 b6 29.Rh4 g5 30.fgx5
 hxg5 31.Rh1 Rh6 32.a4 c6
 33.c5+ bxc5 34.bxc5+ Kd7
 35.d6 Ke6 36.Kd4 f5 37.Re1+
 Kd7 38.Re7+ Kd8 39.Rxa7 Rxh5
 40.a5 g4 41.a6 g3 42.Rg7 1-0
 Akobian, V (2665)-Kujovic, M
 (2309)/Reno 2004/EXT 2009]
7...Bxd6

7...g5 8.dxc7 Nc6 9.a3 (♠9.Be3
 Nxe3 10.fxe3 Qxb2 11.Ngf3 g4
 12.Rb1 Qxa2 13.Rxb4 Nxb4
 14.Ne4♞) 9...gxf4 10.axb4 fxg3
 11.f3 g2 12.Bxg2 Qh4+ 0-1 Go-
 dart, D-Bogdanov, E/Juvisy
 1995/EXT 2004

8.Nh3 Bxf4 9.Nxf4 Qxb2
10.Bh3 0-0 11.0-0=
 All these moves look bizarre to me, but Rybka nods sagely.
 [11.Bxg4 Bxg4 12.Rb1 Qxa2
 13.Rxb7=]
11...Na6 12.Nf3 Ne5 13.Nxe5
Qxe5 14.Bg2 c6 15.Rb1 Nc5
16.Nd3 Qe7 17.Rb2 Rd8
18.Rd2 Bf5 19.e4

Perhaps White should play for equality with 19.Nxc5 Rxd2 20.Qxd2 Qxc5 21.Rd1= Black has the pawn structure; White has the d-file.

19...Be6
 In the variation after 19.Nxc5, Black couldn't play ...Qxc5 because of the back rank mate. But here, Black is threatening to take with the bishop, and 19.e4 decreases the scope of the White bishop.
20.Nxc5 Rxd2 21.Qxd2 Qxc5
22.Rd1

A better try per Rybka is 22.Rb1 b6 23.Bf1.
22...Bxc4 23.a4 Be6 24.Rb1
Qe7 25.Qb2 b6 26.Qc3 c5
27.a5 Qc7 28.Qa3 Rd8

With simple moves, Black is very

close to winning.
29.axb6 axb6 30.Qa6 h6 31.f4
 31.Qxb6?? Qxb6 32.Rxb6 Rd1+
 33.Bf1 Bh3 followed by mate.;
 31.Bf1!?
31...c4!+ 32.Qxb6 Qxb6+
33.Rxb6 c3 34.Bf1 Rd1 35.Rc6
Bh3 36.Kf2 Rxf1+ 37.Ke2 Rc1
38.f5 c2 39.Kd2 Rh1 40.Kxc2
Rxh2+ 41.Kd3 Rg2 42.Kd4
Rxg3 43.Ke5 Rd3 44.Rc8+ Kh7
45.Rc7 f6+ 46.Ke6 Re3 47.Kf7
Rxe4 48.Rc3 Bxf5 49.Rg3
Bg6+ 50.Rxg6 Re7+ 51.Kxe7
Kxg6 0-1

Trevor Magness (2143) - Michael Auger (2021) [B03]
 Illinois Denker Qualifier (3)
 [Trevor Magness]

After my loss in round two, I had to win both of my final games to have a chance of winning the tournament. After my second round I calculated that I would play Eric, and spent the evening studying his openings. Finding out the next morning that I was playing Michael was a highly unpleasant surprise. Fortunately, I told myself, I knew Michael's opening well...

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6
4.Bc4 dxe5

Suprise! Michael usually plays Nb6 here, which is the main line. dxe5 is rare to the highest extreme, and I got the idea I had to refute it somehow. 4...Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6 is the line I was expecting.

5.dxe5 c6 6.Nc3?! after this move Black equalizes. 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 would transpose into the 4...c6 main line, where White has done well. The two bishops give him some advantage.

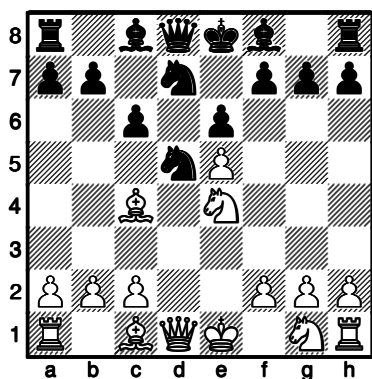
6...e6
 6...Be6 7.Nf3 leaves Black in a rather awkward position. (7.Nxd5? Bxd5 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Qxd5 cxd5=; 7.Ne4) 7...Nxc3

is bad for Black, but otherwise it is hard for Black to develop. 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.bxc3 Black has weaknesses on e6 and f7, and his bishop is locked in by his pawns on e7 and e6.]

7.Ne4

White hopes to take advantage of black's weak dark squares. For example, after Be7 white has Qg4, and castling for black then loses the exchange after Bh6. Unfortunately, I didn't appreciate the weakness of my e5 pawn.

7...Nd7



8.f4??

Totally missing Black's response. [8.Nf3 Qc7 9.Qd4 c5 10.Qd3 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Bb5+ leaves white with compensation for the pawn.]

8...Nxe5!

White loses his most important pawn for nothing. Black is practically winning now.

9.Bxd5

9.fxe5 Qh4+ 10.Nf2 Qxc4.

9...Qxd5

9...exd5 10.fxe5 dxe4 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Be3 would be similar to the game.(12.Bg5+? only helps black develop. 12...Kc7 and with Bc5 threatened, stopping any blockade of the e-pawn, the bishop must retreat to e3.) ; 9...cxd5? 10.fxe5 dxe4 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 leaves the e-file

closed so that the e5 pawn is kept safer.

10.Qxd5 exd5 11.fxe5 dxe4 12.Ne2 Bf5?!

Hoping to bring his bishop to g6, but the e4 pawn is very hard to defend. [Black should target the e5 pawn with 12...Bc5 13.Ng3 Bd4 14.Nxe4 Bxe5 and Black has a pawn and the two bishops, while White has no compensation to speak of. In the game White at least has a potential outpost on d6 along with a weak pawn on e4 to target.

13.Be3

13.Ng3 Bg6 14.0-0? Bc5+ and White's position is hopeless. Re1 loses to Bf2, and while white plays Bd2 and Rhe1, Black castles and opens the f-file with f6, after which the e4 pawn becomes powerful. 15.Kh1 0-0 16.c3 Rae8 17.Bf4 f6-+]

13...Be7 14.Rd1

14.0-0 Bg6 15.Nf4 was better, since once the g6 bishop is gone the e4 pawn has no protection. 15...Bg5 (15...0-0? 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Rf4=) 16.Rae1 Bxf4 17.Bxf4 and white now has drawing chances.]

14...0-0 15.Ng3 Bg4

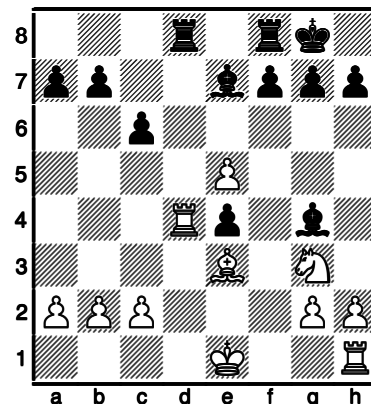
This move is the strongest, thanks to an interesting idea. [15...Bh4!? was an interesting move. After 16.0-0 Bg4 however, (16...Bg6 17.Nf5 Bd8 18.Rd7 gives White counterplay.) 17.Rd4 Bxg3 18.hxg3 Rae8 19.Rxe4 f5 20.Ra4 Rxe5 21.Bf4 Re2 22.Rxa7 and white is surviving.]

16.Rd4

White has to go for the pawn to have chances for survival.

16...Rad8!

(see top of next column)



The key move for Black.

17.0-0

17.Nxe4 Rxd4 18.Bxd4 Rd8 19.Bg1 Rd1+ 20.Kf2 Bf5 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.exd6 Rxd6 leaves White's pieces in an extremely ugly position.; 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Nxe4 Rd1+; 17.Rf1 Rxd4 18.Bxd4 Rd8 19.Be3 Rd1+ 20.Kf2 Rd5 wins for black.; I had been planning on playing 17.Rxe4 but then realised that Black has the move 17...f5! after which all the lines open up against White's king. (17...Rd1+ 18.Kf2 Rxh1 (18...f5) 19.Nxh1 and White has gained his pawn back, although the advantage still rests with Black due to the two bishops and White's weak pawn on e5.) 18.Rd4 (18.exf6 Rd1+ 19.Kf2 Rxf6+ 20.Rf4 Rxf4+ 21.Bxf4 Bc5+ 22.Be3 Rd2+-; 18.Rf4 g5) 18...f4! 19.h3 (19.Rxf4 Rd1+ etc.) 19...fxe3 20.Rxg4 Rd2-+]

17...Bc5?

After this move Black is no longer winning. [17...Rxd4 18.Bxd4 Rd8 19.Be3 Rd5-+ was the strongest.]

18.Rxe4 Bxe3+ 19.Rxe3 Rd2

Black has gotten a rook to the second rank, but he is no longer up a pawn and white can force the rook out with Rf2.

20.Rc3

I was hoping to make use of the d6 square in order to target the

Games from the 2009 Denker and Polgar Qualifiers

weak pawns on b6 and f7. [20.Rf2 was white's best. 20...Rd1+ 21.Rf1 Rd5#; 20.Rb3 b6 21.Rc3 c5 just improves black's pawn structure.]

20...Re8 21.Ne4 Re2

[21...Rd7?! 22.Rg3 f5 23.Nc5 (23.Nf6+? gxf6 24.Rxf5?? Rg7 25.exf6 Re1+ (25...Bxf5? 26.Rxg7+ Kf8 27.Rxb7 and white still has drawing chances.) 26.Kf2 Re2+ 27.Kg1 Rg6+) 23...Rd2 24.h3 Bd1 25.Nb3 Rdd8 26.Nc5 leaves black with only a small advantage.] **22.Nd6**

[Now 22.Rf4 Rxe5 23.Rxg4 R5xe4 24.Rxe4 Rxe4 25.Rd3 f5 26.Rd7 would have brought White to a drawn rook endgame, although Black still has winning chances. White's active rook provides sufficient counterplay.]

22...Re7 23.Rg3?

After this move White cannot save all his pawns, and all the Nf6 ideas here do not amount to anything. [23.Nc4 Rd7 24.Rd3 Rxd3 25.cxd3 b5 26.Na5 Rxb2 and Black should win.; 23.Rc5! This move keeps black from making progress, thanks to the weak f7 and b7 pawns. 23...R7xe5 24.Rxe5 Rxe5 25.Nxb7 Rb5 26.Nd8 Rxb2 27.Rxf7 And white will survive.]

23...Be6 24.Rd1 h6

Now all of White's threats are stopped. [24...Rxe5? 25.Nxb7]

25.b3

Daring Black to take on c2, and luckily for me he declines. After Rxe5 the b3 pawn supports my pawn on c4 in order to deny Black the d5 square.

25...Rxe5?

25...Rxc2+ 26.Ne4 Kh7 27.Rd8 looks scary for Black, but after 27...Bd5 White can't play (27...Rxa2?? 28.Nf6+! gxf6 29.exf6+- was White's idea.)

28.Nf6+ gxf6 29.exf6 because of 29...Re1#]

26.Kf2 Black's rook must be kept off the second rank.

26...Bd5?!

Wasting tempi.

27.c4 Be6

Now White can hope to prevent Black from making any progress. The knight on d6 has managed to stay, and will give Black some coordination problems.

28.Rd2 Kf8 29.Rc3 b6

Stopping c5 was probably not necessary, as c5 lets black's bishop have the d5 square.

30.b4 c5 31.a3

Now Black needs to decide on a plan. His advantage is on the kingside with his extra pawn, so he should have started advancing with g5.

31...Rd7 [31...g5 32.Kf3 f5 33.Rcd3 White doesn't have any way to improve his position. 33...f4 34.h3 Kg7 35.Kf2 Kg6 36.Kf3 h5 37.Kf2 g4 and Black will win.]

32.Kf3 h5 33.Kf4 f6 34.h4

Now Black's pawn advance is stalled, and it is harder for Black to find a winning plan. However, with White's pawn weakness on c4 and the bishop advantage along with the extra pawn, Black will be able to win as long he finds a way to roll back White's current defensive setup.

34...Rf5+

34...Rc7 35.b5 (35.Rc1 cxb4 36.axb4 Ke7 37.Rd4 a5 38.bxa5 bxa5+ and now Black has an outside passed pawn to add to his list of advantages. White will not hold.) 35...Re7 and White can not defend against all of Black's threats. 36.Kg3 (36.Rcc2 Bg4 with g5 coming anyway.; 36.Rcd3 Bxc4! 37.Nxc4 Re4+;

36.Rdd3 Re2) 36...g5 37.hxg5 fxc5 and Black has succeeded in advancing his pawns.]

35.Kg3 g5

Black finally advances his pawns, but he has made the mistake of abandoning the e-file, where white can hope to get counterplay.

36.Re3 gxh4+?!

This leaves Black's pawns isolated and harder to advance. [36...Bf7 and black should still have a win.]

37.Kxh4 Rf4+ 38.Kg3 Rg4+ 39.Kf2 Re7??

Pretty much losing on the spot. 39...Bf7 was best, though black has made his winning task harder by giving white the e-file and isolating his own pawns. 40.bxc5 bxc5 Also, moving his rook off the fifth rank allows white to open the b-file and close the c-file, strengthening the c4 pawn and giving white more hope at counterplay.]

40.bxc5??

[Missing 40.Rde2 in time trouble. 40...cxb4 41.axb4 Bxc4 42.Rxe7 Bxe2 43.Rxe2 Rf4+ 44.Kg1 Rxb4 and White should win. 45.Re8+ Kg7 46.Re7+ Kg6 47.Rxa7]

40...bxc5??

[40...Bd7 was necessary, when the position is a draw. 41.cxb6 axb6]

41.Rb2?

Again missing the correct move, though now White's threats still bring him to a position where he is a pawn up.

41...Rf4+ 42.Kg3 Rg4+ 43.Kf2 Rg5

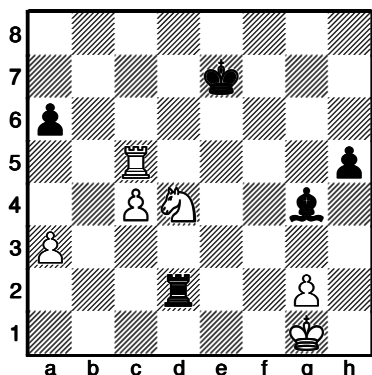
[43...Rf4+ 44.Kg1 Rd4 45.Rb8+ Kg7 46.Nf5+]

44.Rbe2

Finally playing the right move,

but now Black's rook can interpose.

44...Re5 45.Rxe5 fxe5 46.Rxe5 Bg4 47.Rxc5 Re2+ 48.Kg1 Ke7 49.Nb5 a6 50.Nd4 Rd2



Although White is up a pawn now, it is very hard to make progress. Black's rook will make it hard for white to advance his pawns. White would like to get his king into the game, but Black has succeeded in getting it stuck in the corner.

51.Rd5

51.Nf5+ Kd7 52.Ne3 Be2 53.Ra5 Kc6 54.Rxa6+ Kc5 55.Ra5+ Kd4 56.Nf5+ Kxc4 57.Ng3 Bd3 58.Nxh5 Kb3 59.Nf6 Rd1+ 60.Kf2 Rf1+ 61.Ke3 Rxf6 62.Kxd3 Rg6= is one example of a drawing line.

51...Ra2?!

White's pieces are no longer tied up, and his rook will be happy on a5. 51...Kf6 52.c5 Ra2 53.Rd6+ otherwise the a-pawn is lost. 53...Ke5 54.Nc6+ Ke4 55.Rd4+ Ke3 56.Ra4 and Black has sufficient counterplay for a draw.

52.Ra5 Kd6 53.Kh2 Rd2??

This finally loses the game for good. 53...h4 54.Rxa6+ Ke5 55.Nc6+ Ke4 56.Nb4 Rb2 gave Black drawing chances. 57.Nd5 Bf3 58.Rg6 Kd4; 53...Bc8 was best. 54.Rxh5 Rxa3 55.c5+ Ke7 56.Rh8 Bg4 and Black can still draw.

54.Rd5+ Kc7 55.Ne6+ Bxe6

56.Rxd2 Kc6 57.Rd4 Kc5 58.Re4 Bg4 59.Kg3

59.Rxg4?? hxg4 60.Kg3 Kxc4 61.Kxg4 Kb3 62.Kf4 Kxa3 63.g4 a5 64.g5 a4 65.g6 Kb2 66.g7 a3 67.g8Q a2=.

59...a5 60.Kf2 a4 61.g3 Bd1 62.Ke3 Bg4 63.Rf4 Be6 64.Kd3 Bh3 65.Kc3 Bg4 66.Rf8 Be6 67.Rh8 Bg4 68.Ra8 Bd1 69.Rc8+ Kd6 70.Kd4 Kd7 71.Rh8 Kd6 72.Rh6+ Kd7 73.Ke5 Bg4 74.c5 Kc7 75.Kd5 Bf3+ 76.Kc4 Be2+ 77.Kb4 Bd1 78.Kb5 Kb7 79.Rh7+ Kc8 80.c6 1-0

James Pavese (2081) - Trevor Magness (2143) [E12] Illinois Denker Qualifier (4) [Trevor Magness]

With 2 points out of 3 at this point I still had a chance to finish in first place, but I had to win my game as Black and have the game on the first board go the right way.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3

When James played the Queen's Indian instead of the Ruy Lopez which he played against me in the Illinois Open, I figured he was going for the line Josh played against me in round 2. Since I hadn't had time to look up that line yet, I was planning on going to my back up Bb7.

3...b6 4.a3

That wasn't his plan though. The line he played equalized the position pretty quickly, and allowed me to focus on developing an advantage.

4...Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.e3

The main line here is 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Qc2 preparing e4. e3 is undesirable because it gets in the way of the c1 bishop.

6...Be7 7.Bd3

7.cxd5 exd5 and unlike the lines after 6.cxd5 exd5, white does not have the moves Bf4 or Bg5.

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 0-0 9.0-0 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5

10...Qc7!? is interesting, hoping to bring the queen to a square like f5 and bothering white's c4 bishop. 11.Qe2 (11.b4?! bxc5 12.b5 Nbd7 gives black a passed pawn and easy development.) 11...Qxc5 12.e4 Nbd7 and the position is about equal.

11.b4

Due to having played e3 earlier, White must play this to activate his c1 bishop, but this pawn advance will give White some problems later in the game.

11...Be7 12.Bb2 Qc7

Black's queen will get in to trouble on this file. Better was simply Nbd7.

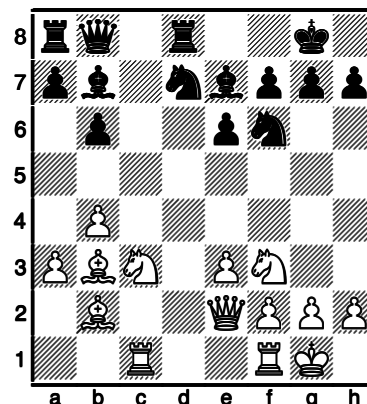
13.Bb3

13.Bd3 is a better square for white's bishop, and would probably have left White with a small advantage. 13...Nbd7 14.Nb5 Qd8 15.Rc1±]

13...Rd8 14.Qe2 Nbd7

Black's queen will have to retreat to b8, but Black can play a5 to try and activate his rook. The position is about equal. [black would like to play 14...Ba6 15.b5 Bb7 weakening the c5 square, but after 16.Rac1 black cannot bring his knight to c5 because of 16...Nbd7 (16...Bc5 17.Na4 Nbd7 18.Rfd1 and white is a little better.) 17.Nd5±]

15.Rac1 Qb8



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16.e4?

This move is a mistake. The pawn doesn't want to end up on e5, and on e4 it will be a target. Also, f4 is weakened. Black could have taken advantage of all of these factors with correct play. 16.Nb5 a5 17.bxa5 Rxa5 18.Nfd4 Nc5 19.Bc4 Na4 20.Ba1 with an equal position.; 16.Rfd1 a5 and the position is about equal, although the b4 pawn weakness gives Black the preferable position.

16...a5 17.b5

17.bxa5?! Rxa5 leaves black with the threats of Ba6 and Bxa3.

17...Nc5 18.Bc2 Rd7?

Here Black should have taken his chance and played 18...Qf4! preparing Rac8, after which all of Black's pieces are nicely developed. 19.Rfe1 (19.g3 Qg4 20.Ne5 Qxe2 21.Nxe2 Ncxe4 22.Bxe4 Bxe4 leaves Black a pawn up.(22...Nxe4? 23.Rc7 Bc5 24.Rxb7 Rd2 25.Nc3 Nd6 26.Rd7 Rxb2 27.Nd3 Nxb5 28.Nxb2 Nxc3 leaves White with an Exchange for two pawns.)) 19...Rac8 20.Rcd1 Rxd1 21.Qxd1 Rd8 22.Qe2 Ncd7 and Black is better.

19.e5 Nd5 20.Ne4?

This move allows Black's knights to penetrate to d3, after which Black has a big advantage. After 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Nd4 Qb7 Neither side can improve much more and the likely result is a draw.

20...Nf4 21.Qe3 21.Qe1 Nfd3 with hanging pieces everywhere.; 21.Qc4!? was another try, hoping for Bd5. But after 21...Ncd3 **a)** 21...Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Ncd3 (22...Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Nd3 24.Rcd1 Nc5 25.Qg4 Qc7) 23.Bxa8 Ne2+ 24.Kh1 Nexc1 25.Bxc1 Qxa8 26.Be3 And black's advantage is no longer decisive.; **b)** 21...Bd5? after

which white equalizes. 22.Nf6+! Bxf6 (22...Kh8 23.Nxd5) 23.Qxf4 Be7 24.Qg4 Qb7=; 22.Bxd3 Nxd3 23.Rc2 Qf8 The threat of Rc8 wins for black. 24.Rd2 Rc8 25.Qa4 Nxb2 26.Rxb2 Bxa3+ Black is up a protected passed pawn and controls the open files.

21...Nfd3 22.Nf6+

Probably White's best practical chance.[22.Nxc5 Bxc5 23.Qd2 Nxe5 (23...Bxf3? 24.Bxd3! (24.gxf3 Nxe5) 24...Qd8 25.Rc3 Be4 26.Rd1 lets White back into the game.) 24.Bxe5 Rxd2 25.Bxb8 Bxf3 26.Bf4 Rd4 27.Be5 Rg4 28.Bg3 Be2 29.Rfe1 Bxb5 gives Black a winning endgame.; 22.Bxd3 Rxd3 23.Qe2 Bxe4

22...gxf6?

This makes the win a lot tougher. 22...Bxf6 won pretty much instantly. 23.exf6 Nxb2 and Black's knight will return to d3 and block White's pieces from getting into any last ditch attack. 24.Ne5 (24.fxg7 Nbd3 25.Rcd1 Nf4 26.Rxd7 Nxd7+; 24.Qg5 g6 25.Qh6 Qf8) 24...Rd5 25.f4 gxf6 26.Qh3 Kf8 27.Qxh7 Qe8 28.Be4 fxe5 29.Bxd5 Bxd5 30.fxe5 Nbd3 winning.

23.exf6 Qf4

23...Bf8?! would have given Black problems after 24.Ne5! Nxb2 (24...Nxe5 gives White at least a draw. 25.Bxe5 Qd8 26.Qg5+ Kh8 27.Bxh7 Kxh7 28.Rc3 Rd3 29.Qh5+) 25.Qg5+ (25.Bxh7+ Kxh7 26.Qh3+ Bh6+) 25...Kh8 26.Qh5 Bh6 27.Nxd7 Qg8 28.g3 Nxd7 29.Qxh6=

24.Qxf4 Nxf4 25.fxe7 Ne2+ 26.Kh1 Nxc1 27.Rxc1 Rxe7 28.Bf6?!

And now 28.Ne5 would have allowed White to fight on. 28...Rc8 29.Nc4 Rec7 30.Be5 although Black should still win. (30.Nxb6? Nd3 31.Nxc8 Nxc1+) 30...Be4! 31.Bxc7 Rxc7 32.Bxe4

(32.Kg1 Nd3 33.Bxd3 Bxd3) 32...Nxe4 33.Rc2 Nxf2+ 34.Rxf2 Rxc4+

28...Rc7 29.Ne5?!

Losing material, but Black was winning anyway. 29.Bd1 Rac8 30.Be5 Rd7 31.Be2 Rdd8 32.h3 Ne4 and Black is up a solid Exchange.

29...Ne4 30.f3 Rac8

30...Nxf6? 31.Bxh7+ Nxh7 32.Rxc7 Rc8 also looks winning at first glance, but after 33.Rxc8+ Bxc8 34.Nc4! Black has trouble with his queenside pawns. 34...Bd7 35.a4. But after 30...Rac8, White cannot save the c2 bishop. **0-1**

Eric Rosen (2131) - Gordon Ruan (2088) [C05]

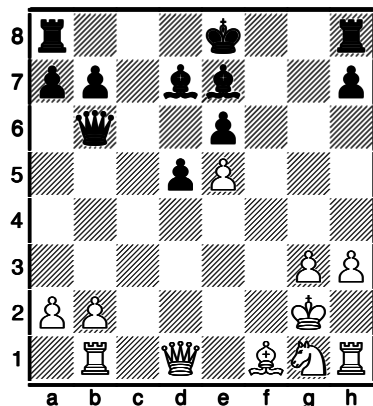
Illinois Denker Qualifier (4)

[Eric Rosen]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 g5!?

The best option for Black in this position; 10...f6 11.Kg2 0-0 12.Bd3 Kh8 13.Ne2 is another possibility, but White has a comfortable position.

11.h3 gxf4 12.Bxf4 f6 13.Kg2 Be7 14.Rb1 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Ndx5 16.Bxe5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bd7



18.Qh5+!?

Taking away Black's right to castle .

18...Kd8 19.Bd3 Qe3 20.Qe2 Bc5 21.b4 Qxe2+ 22.Nxe2 Bb6 23.Nf4 Ke7 24.Rbc1 Bd4 25.Rhe1 Rac8 26.Rxc8 Rxc8

Allowing White to take the h7 pawn and have two connected passed pawns [26...Bxc8 27.Re2 Bd7 28.a3=].

27.Bxh7 Bc3 28.Re2 Bxb4 29.h4 Bc3 30.h5 Bb5 31.Bd3 Bxd3 32.Nxd3 b5 33.g4 Rc4 34.Kf3 b4

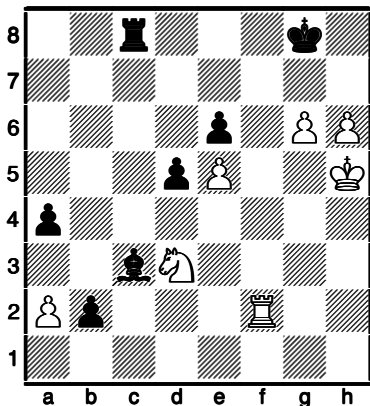
Black's queenside pawns are too slow

35.h6 Kf7 36.Rh2 Rc8 37.g5 a5 38.Kg4 a4 39.Kh5 b3 40.Rf2+ Kg8

[40...Ke7 41.g6 Rf8 42.Rxf8 Kxf8 43.h7 Kg7 44.Nc5! Bxe5 45.Nxe6+ Kh8 46.Ng5 Kg7 47.Nf7+--]

41.g6

b2



42.h7+ Kg7 43.Rf7+ Kh8 44.Kh6 Bd2+ 45.Nf4 Rg8 46.g7+ 1-0

Cheryl Liu (1406) - Adele Padgett (1496) [E70]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (1) [ICB]

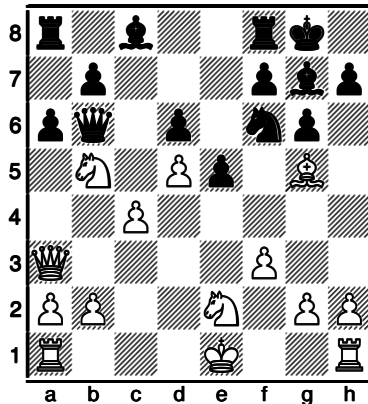
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2 e5 7.d5 c6 8.f3 cxd5 9.exd5

It might be more logical to keep the King's Indian pawn structure with 9.cxd5 In the Benoni structure that arises after the game move, it's not clear to me what the pawn on f3 is accomplishing.

9...Nbd7 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Qd2 Nc5

Black is doing very well in this opening.

12.Nb5 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 a6! 14.Qa3?!



Objectively, this move should lose. But Liu creates a problem for Padgett.

14...Rd8?

Understandably, Black wants to hang on to her valuable d-pawn, but the rook takes a crucial Luft square away from her queen. [After 14...axb5! 15.Qxa8 bxc4! Black would have two bishops, a monster c4 pawn, threats against b2 and d5, and an enemy queen completely out of play. It's hard to find a playable continuation for White. For example, after 16.Qa3 Nxd5 17.0-0 Be6 once Black gets the d-pawn rolling, one suspects the White position won't hold.; Even after the inferior 14...Nxd5!?

15.Be3!

Nice shot!

15...axb5! 16.Bxb6 Rxa3 17.Bxd8

White has won the Exchange, but Black has partial compensation in the two bishops. 17...Ra4 Generally, the player who is down the Exchange wants to

avoid swapping rooks. [17...Rd3?! looks active, but Rybka suggest that it's bad after 18.cxb5 Nxd5 (Or 18...Rxd5?! 19.Nc3 Rd4 20.Rd1 and Black's rook will be swapped.) 19.Kf2]

18.b3 Ra8 19.0-0?! bxc4! 20.bxc4 e4 21.Rae1 exf3 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Rxf3 Bg7

There was a more natural square for the bishop on e5, where it dominates the Ne2, clogs the e-file, and leaves an airhole for the king on g7. 23...Be5 After a continuation like 24.a3 Ra4 25.Rb3 Rxc4 26.Rc1 Rxc1+ 27.Nxc1 Bd4+ 28.Kh1 White is still probably much better because of the b-file pressure, but it's anybody's game. (28.Kf1!? b6!).

24.Nc3 Bf5 25.Re7 Ra3

Even here, 25...Be5 26.Rxb7 Rc8 27.Nb5 Rxc4 gives Black some chances.

26.Nb5!+-

White is winning, but the game was somehow drawn.... 1/2-1/2

Caeley Harihara (1351) - Cheryl Liu (1406) [C00]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (2) [ICB]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Bb4 5.c3 Be7 6.g3 0-0 7.Bg2 dxe4 8.dxe4 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Re1?!

This rook is overloaded: it can't defend both the Qd1 and the Pe4.

10...Bc5?!

Black had the shot 10...Nxe4! 11.Nxe4 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bxe4 with a slight advantage.

11.b4!

Can't let the bishop occupy the beautiful g1-h7 diagonal.

11...Be7 12.Nh4 c5 13.a3 a5 14.e5 Nd5!

[14...Bxg2? 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Nxg2 wins a piece, but not the game: Black has good compensation after 16...axb4 (After

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16...Bxc3?! Rybka suggests 17.Qf3!?)]

15.Qb3 Bxh4 16.c4!?

Or 16.gxh4 Nc6 (now 17.c4 doesn't win material) 17.bxc5 and the game is unclear. With the move in the game, White is trying for more.]

16...Bg5! 17.cxd5 axb4

17...Bxd2! 18.Bxd2 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Qxd5 20.Qxd5 exd5 and Black is a clear pawn up. Perhaps Black did not want to give up a bishop for a knight and help White develop, but the ending does seem very attractive.]

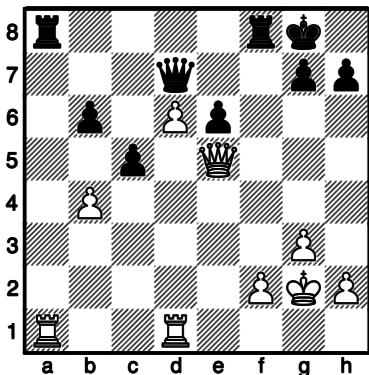
18.d6!? Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Nc6 20.Nf3 Bxc1 21.Rexc1 Na5 22.Qe3 f6

22...b3! gains a tempo with the threatened fork.

23.Rd1 Nc4 24.Qe2 Nxe5

24...Nxa3 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Ne5! Qd8 27.d7 is murky.

25.Nxe5 fxe5 26.Qxe5! Qd7 27.axb4



And suddenly, White is just fine, perhaps even slightly better!

27...Rf5??

A *fingerfehler*: Black almost certainly intended to take on a1 first.

28.Rxa8+ Kf7 29.Qa1 (and White won in 52 moves) 1-0

Shiny Kaur (1453) - Penny Xu (1639) [A48]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (2) [ICB]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7

4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.c3 Nbd7 7.Ne5?!

Castling or 7.h3 is probably more thematic.

7...c5 8.Nd2 cxd4 9.Nxd7 Nxd7 10.cxd4

White may seem to have played logically enough, but Black takes control with a nice series of active moves.

10...e5! 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Be2 d4! 13.exd4 Qxd4

The Black queen is like a giant octopus, and the White king is still stuck in the middle of the board. White realizes that she's in trouble and finds a nice way to bail out into a tenable ending.

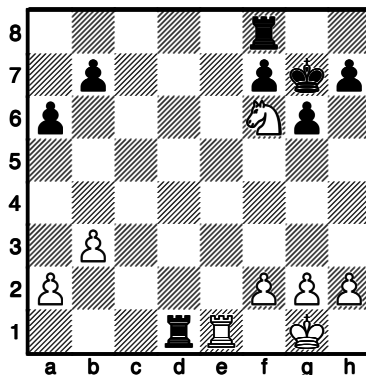
14.Bxe5! Bxe5 15.Nc4! Qxd1+

It might be a little better to try something like 15...Be6 16.0-0 Rad8 17.Qxd4 Bxd4 18.Rad1 Bxc4 19.Bxc4 Bxb2± White has good drawing chances because of the opposite-color bishops, but Black still has rooks on the board.

16.Rxd1 Bg7 17.b3 Bf5 18.0-0=

Now that White has fully neutralized Black's advantage, she can dream of more....

18...Be4 19.Nd6 Bc6 20.Bc4 Bf6 21.Rfe1 Rad8 22.Bb5 Bxb5 23.Nxb5 a6 24.Nd6 Rd7 25.Ne4! Rxd1 26.Nxf6+ Kg7



27.Nh5+!

Very nice technique: unfortunately, White's pull in the rook ending is purely symbolic.

27...gxh5 28.Rxd1 Rc8 29.g3 Rc2! 30.Rd7! Rxa2 31.Rxb7 Rb2 32.Rb6 a5 33.Ra6 Rxb3 34.Rxa5 Kg6 35.h4 Rf3 36.Rg5+ Kh6 37.Kg2 Rf6 38.Rd5 Kg6

Well played by both players. ½-½

Adele Padgett (1496) - Victoria Bian (1396) [C01]

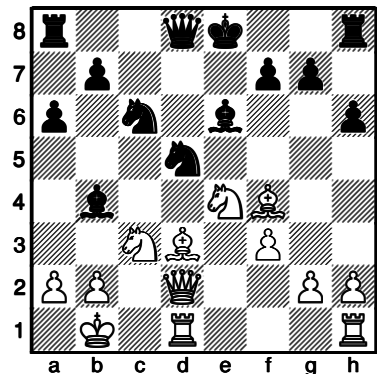
Illinois Polgar Qualifier (2) [ICB]

The tournament winner demonstrates her tactical prowess.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Nc3 h6 7.Bf4 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.f3 a6 11.0-0-0 Be6 12.Nge2 d4! 13.Ne4 Bb4! 14.c3 dxc3 15.N2xc3 Nd5!?

Bian pounces on the opportunity to make her minor pieces hyperactive. The tradeoff is leaving her royal couple on open central files.

16.Kb1



Perhaps White should put the question to the annoying bishop 16.a3! Nxf4 (if 16...Nd4?! White can cover the weakness on b3 with 17.Bc4!±) 17.Qxf4 Bxc3 18.Nxc3=

16...f5!

Black is willing to expose her own king in order to force White to recapture on c3 with the b-pawn and thus break open the enemy position. [16...0-0 is natural and good, but less forcing.]

17.Nf2?!

White could hold on with the temporary piece sacrifice 17.Nd6+! Bxd6 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Bc4=

17...Bxc3! 18.bxc3 Qb6+ 19.Ka1 Nxf4 20.Qxf4??

An understandable blunder, as it's not simple to visualize the threat to a2 from the current position. But even after 20.Rhe1! which probably regains the piece for White, Black seems to retain a strong initiative. For example: 20...Nd8!? [Or even 20...Qc7!? 21.g3 (21.Bxf5) 21...Kf7; however, 20...Nxd3? 21.Rxe6+ Kf7 22.Qxd3 would allow White to equalize, as 22...Kxe6?? 23.Qd7+ Kf6 24.Rd6+ leads to mate]; 21.Qxf4 Qxf2 22.Bc4 0-0 23.Bxe6+ Nxe6 24.Rxe6 Rad8. **20...Qxf2 21.Rhe1 Qxa2# 0-1**

Madeleine Reiches (1340) - Adele Padgett (1299) [C11]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (3), 23.03.2009 [ICB]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0

This is a tabiya in the Steinitz Variation of the French.

9.0-0-0

Svidler recently played 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.0-0-0 Qa5 11.Bxc5 Nxc5 12.h4; 9.Be2 and; 9.g3 have also been played recently by top GMs.]

9...a6 10.Qf2

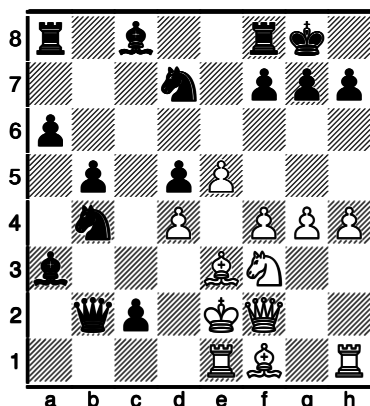
[10.dxc5]

10...c4! 11.a3 b5! 12.Kd2?!

White has to generate kingside play: maybe 12.f5!?

12...Qa5 13.Ke2 Bxa3! 14.Ra1 Qb4 15.Nxd5 Qxb2!+ 16.Rd1 exd5 17.h4 Qxc2+ 18.Rd2 Qb3 19.g4 c3 20.Rd1 c2 21.Re1 Nb4 22.Nd2 Qb2 23.Nf3

Can you find the move that forces mate in three?



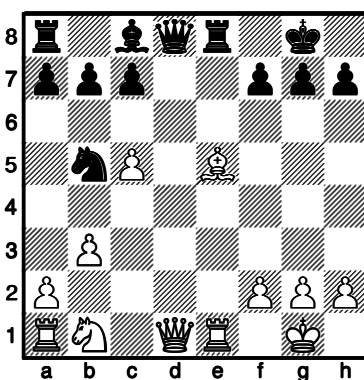
23...c1N+ 24.Kd1 Qb3+ 25.Kd2 0-1

Penny Xu (1639) - Caeley Harihara (1351) [C67]

Illinois Polgar Qualifier (3) [ICB]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nxe5 Be7 8.b3 0-0 9.Bb2 Bf6 10.c4 c5 11.d4 cxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxe5 13.Bxe5 Re8 14.c5!? Nb5!?

[14...f6]



15.Qxd8! Rxd8 16.a4!

Ouch!

16...f6!

Harihara finds the only move.

17.axb5

A materialist might prefer the desperado 17.Bxf6.

17...fxe5 18.Nc3±

White emerges with a small but real endgame plus: the pawn on

e5 is a weakie.

18...Be6 19.b4 Bc4 20.Rxe5 Re8 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.h3 a6 23.bxa6 bxa6 24.Kh2 Rb8 25.Rb1 Bd3 26.Rb2 a5 27.b5!

Ms. b-pawn wants to be boss.

27...a4!?

Caeley finds a reasonable practical try....

28.Nxa4

...that works![One thematic idea is 28.b6! a3 29.bxc7+- White prefers the slow torture method.

28...Rxb5 29.Rxb5 Bxb5

30.Nc3 Bc6

White has a pleasant plus, which she exploits with energetic and logical play.

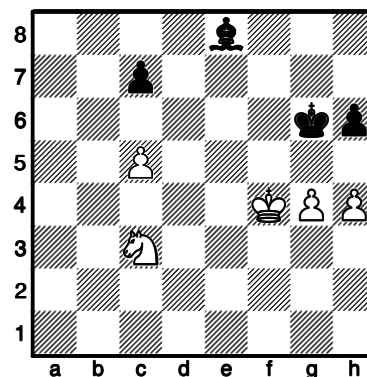
31.g4 Kf7 32.f4 h6 33.h4! Bd7

[33...g6!?

34.f5! g6 35.fxg6+ Kxg6

36.Kg3 Be8 37.Kf4!

Material is reduced, but not the danger.



37...h5

37...Bc6 38.Ke5! Bf3 39.Nd5 Bxg4 40.Nxc7 Bd7 41.Nd5! Ba4 42.Nf4+! probably wins, too.

38.g5!

Now it's a clear technical win because White has two weaknesses to exploit.

38...Kf7 39.Nd5 c6 40.Nf6 Ke7

41.Nxe8 Kxe8 42.Ke5 Ke7

43.g6!

Using the protected passer as a decoy is the fastest road to victory.

43...Kf8 44.Kd6 Kg7 45.Kxc6

Games from the 2009 Denker and Polgar Qualifiers

Kxg6 46.Kb7 Kf5 47.c6 Kg4
48.c7 Kxh4 49.c8Q Kg3
50.Qg8+ Kh4 51.Qb3 Kg4
52.Qd1+ Kh4 53.Qh1+

Practical advice for beginners: if you've reached a position like

this one, you're probably tired from a long game. Putting the queen on the opponent's queening square and bringing your king over is a energy-saving way to win: not much

thinking required!

53...Kg4 54.Kc6 h4 55.Kd5 Kg3
56.Ke4 h3 57.Ke3 h2 58.Ke2
Kh3 59.Kf3

Absolutely beautiful endgame play by Penny Xu. 1-0

Magness wins Denker qualifier; Bian wins Polgar qualifier

Andrea Rosen

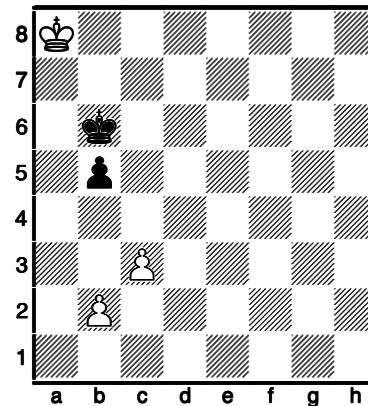
Trevor Magness, a home-schooled sophomore from Bolingbrook, and Victoria Bian, a sixth-grader from Lincolnshire, both won the right to represent Illinois at prestigious national scholastic chess tournaments this summer. Magness will play in the National Denker High School Tournament of Champions in Indianapolis in August and Bian will play in the National Girls Polgar Invitational in Lubbock, Texas in July. Magness won the Illinois Denker qualifier, and Bian won the Illinois Polgar qualifier, both held the weekend of March 21-22 at Niles North High School in Skokie.

In the Denker qualifier, Magness and Niles North freshman Eric Rosen tied for first at the qualifier with 3 out of 4 points, with Magness getting the edge on tiebreaks. Champaign senior Gordon Ruan and Barrington junior Zach Kasiurak were the next highest finishers, at 2.5 points each, with Ruan taking the third place trophy on tiebreaks. Other Denker players included James Pavese, Michael Auger, Josh Dubin and Fedor Titov.

In the Polgar qualifier, Bian took clear first with 3 points, and Champaign 6th grader Penny Xu took 2nd place on tiebreaks with 2.5 points. The other Polgar players were Cheryl Liu, Shiny Kaur, Adele Padgett, Caeley Harihara and Madeleine Reiches. Top-seeded Sonya Vohra was unable to attend at the last minute due to illness.

ICA president Tom Sprandel volunteered his time as tournament director for the weekend event, the ICA Warren Program provided funding for prizes and trophies, and Niles North Chess Coach Harry Kyriazes arranged the free tournament space.

A simple pawn ending?



Grigoriev 1930
White to play and win

1.b3!

But not 1.b4? Ka6=, as the White King would be trapped on the back rank; 1.Kb8? b4! 2.c4?? b3! -+.

1...Ka5!?

This is the best try: not 1...Ka6? 2.b4 Kb6 3.Kb8 Kc6 4.Ka7+-.

2.Kb8!

2.b4+? Ka6=; 2.Ka7? b4 3.c4 is stalemate

2...b4 3.c4 Kb6 4.Kc8 Kc6 5.Kd8 Kd6 6.Ke8 Ke6 7.Kf8 Kf6 8.Kg8 Kg6 9.Kh8! Kf6!

9...Kh6? leaves the square of the pawn, allowing 10.c5.

10.Kh7 Kf7 11.Kh6 Kf6 12.Kh5 Kf5 13.Kh4 Kf4 14.Kh3! Kf5 15.Kg3 Kg5 16.Kf3 Kf5 17.Ke3 Ke5 18.Kd3 and wins

**Yury Shulman (2639) – Michael Aaron (1923)
[D31]**

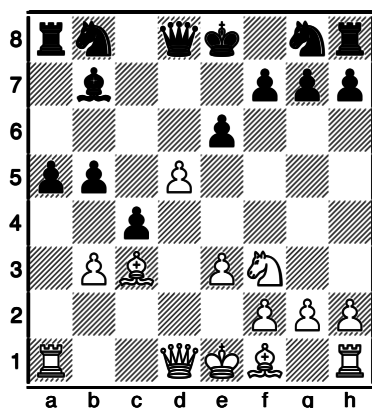
Simultaneous Exhibition, Univ. of Chicago Chess Club [Michael Aaron]

On Feb 28, 2009, current U.S. Champion GM Yury Shulman gave a brief lecture followed by a simul at the University of Chicago. There were about 36 boards, with some additional players joining in as games were completed.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 c6 4.Nc3

A slight surprise. Shulman allows the Noteboom Semi Slav, which often leads to sharp, messy positions. In a simul a GM will often prefer strategically clear positions where his better judgement allows him to outplay weaker opponents more easily. Therefore I was sort of expecting 4. cxd5, 4.e3 or even 4.Qc2.

4...dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.d5!?



Another surprise. This is a well-known sharp turn off the main line, 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2 Nf6, which is very unbalanced but a bit less wild. After the game I did a quick ChessBase search and found that Shulman has played this line as White at least twice before, in '93 vs Petrov and in '94 vs Tregubov, a long time ago: Shulman would have been about 19 then. 11.bxc4

11...Nf6

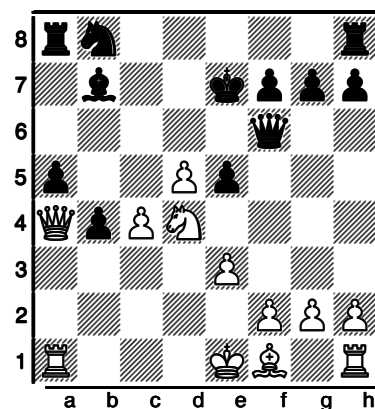
Of course Black cannot touch the d-pawn as he must attend to the threat unleashed by the bishop.

12.bxc4 b4 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qa4+ Ke7!?

This may just amount to a matter of move order/transposition. According to the databases it's been played a number of times before, but I had no idea during the game. My idea was to delay ...Nd7 so as to not to present a forking target at c6,

and maybe save a tempo for swinging the king R to c8 or b8. Black has to be watchful for a sudden advance of the c pawn which can be devastating. More usually seen is 14...Nd7 15.Nd4 e5 16.Nb3 Ke7 as in Shulman–Tregubov, Gausdal 1994.

15.Nd4 e5



16.Qb5?

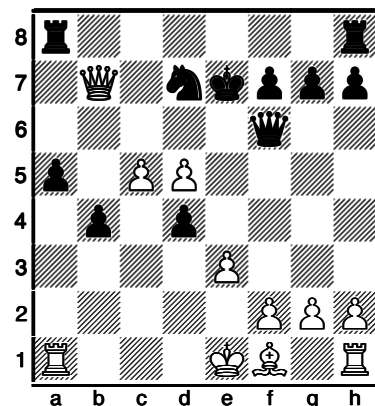
The turning point. Perhaps he was trying to exploit the early ...Ke7 which places the king in line with the bishop. But I think it's a near-decisive mistake. Instead, 16.Nb3 is typical and logical: the N fights for c5, covers the R on a1 and hits the a5 pawn. Black would continue to have problems to solve. Play might continue 16...Nd7 17.Be2 (17.Qb5!? Ba6 18.Qxa5 Rhb8) 17...Rhc8 (or 17...Qd6 If Black can manage to blockade the c and d pawns he usually stands well – unless of course White can open the e or f files against his king. Chess is hard.)

16...exd4 17.Qxb7+ Nd7

A tense position, typical of this crazy semi slav. But this one is tilting in Black's favor.

18.c5?!

Maybe 18.d6+!? Qxd6 19.Rd1 should be tried?



Yury Shulman Simul at the U of C

18...Rhb8?!

A human move. Fritz likes 18...Rhd8!! after which it's evaluation is Black holds a decisive advantage. It protects the Nd7 allowing the K to flee to f8 in one move rather than stopping first at e8. The subtle difference (which completely escaped me during the game) is the white Q cannot pick up a tempo-giving check on e4 en route to successfully harrassing the kingside—some seven moves later! But we humans like to put our rooks behind our passed pawns—especially when we do it with tempo. Some sample lines with 18...Rhd8: 19.Bc4 (or 19.Bb5 dxe3 20.0-0 exf2+ 21.Kh1 Rab8 22.d6+ Kf8 23.Qc6 Ne5 24.Qc7 Ng4; 19.c6? dxe3 20.Ra2 Qc3+ 21.Ke2 b3 and wins) 19...dxe3 20.d6+ Kf8 21.0-0 (≤21.0-0 Qc3+ 22.Kb1 Qxc4+) 21...exf2+ 22.Kh1 (22.Rxf2 Qxa1+ 23.Rf1 Qd4+) 22...Nxc5+ 23.Qd5 Nd7 24.Ra2 Nb6 25.Qe4 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 Qe6+

19.d6+ Ke8

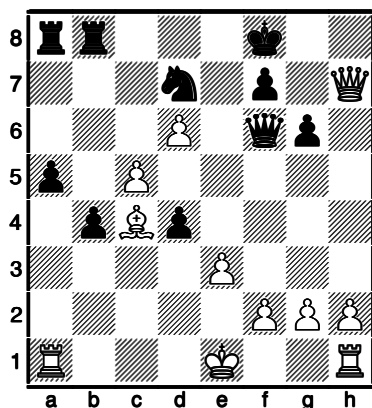
No good is 19...Kf8? 20.Qxd7 dxe3 because of 21.Qe7+ Qxe7 22.dxe7+ Kxe7 23.fxe3.

20.Qe4+ Kf8 21.Qxh7

After Black's forced reply the Q is out of play. Or at least it seems that way! Fritz shows that in combination with Bc4 and the d6 pawn, the Q can participate in a perpetual check scheme. Some I certainly never considered during the game. I don't think Shulman saw this idea either. Of course not 21.exd4? Re8; While 21.Qxd4? runs into 21...Nxc5+; 21.Bc4 Nxc5 22.Qxh7 g6

21...g6 22.Bc4

[After the game Shulman mentioned 22.Rd1 as a possible improvement, but after 22...dxe3 23.fxe3 Nxc5 Black is clearly better.



Now despite both players' ambitions to the contrary, the game should end in a draw.

22...Ne5!?

My first impulse was to capture the dangerous c5 pawn, but then I was attracted to the idea of attacking the B and the d3 checking square. I didn't calculate deeply, but the threat to the king posed problems for White. After 22...Nxc5 23.0-0 d3 Fritz gives 24.Bd5! (The immediate 24.Bxf7 allows Black to keep the game alive with 24...Qg7 25.Qxg7+ Kxg7 26.Bd5 Ra6) 24...Ra6 and White can set up a perpetual with 25.Bxf7! Qxf7 26.Qh8+ Qg8 27.Qf6+ Qf7 (27...Ke8?? 28.Qe7#) 28.Qh8+ draw. So, computer assisted post mortem shows 22...Nxc5 was at least as strong, but 22...Ne5!? had a psychological impact.

23.Rc1?

All too human, and in a simul situation, the GM doesn't want to allow the dangerous looking ...Nd3+ and overlooks the Fritzian resources in the position: [23.Bd5! Nd3+ 24.Ke2 Qxf2+ (24...Nxc5 25.Rhd1 d3+ 26.Kf1 Ra6 27.Bxf7!)=) 25.Kd1 (Not 25.Kxd3?? Qxe3+ 26.Kc2 b3+ and White is getting mated.) 25...Nb2+ 26.Kc1 and he faces mate in 1, Black must take a perpetual with either 26...Nd3+ (or 26...Qxe3+ 27.Kxb2 Qc3+)]

23...b3!

Now Black's pawns are just too strong.

24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.exd4 Nxc4+

Unable to recapture or stop the pawns, White is finished.

26.0-0 b2 27.Rcd1 a4 28.d5 a3 29.d7 a2 30.c6

Cute. This position reminds me of one of those wacky 19th century Labourdonnais - McDonnell encounters!

30...b1Q 31.c7 Qxd1 32.Rxd1 a1Q

It's not often that one gets to promote twice against a GM while still in the middle game. Yury resigned, smiled warmly and congratulated me. We shook hands and chatted briefly about some critical moments in the game. Yury Shulman is a very gracious and likeable fellow. 0-1

As of May 12, the gracious and likable GM **Yury Shulman** is tied for first with GM Vazhman Akobian in the **2009 U.S. Championships** with impressive 4-1 scores. For the final results, check out

www.saintlouischessclub.org

In tying for first at the US Game/60 Championship on June 29, 2008, FM Albert Chow beat three International Masters in one day! Chow annotates his key wins for ICB readers.

FM Albert Chow (2222) - IM Mehmed Pasaalic (2392) [B07] U.S. G/30 (2)

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7

In our previous encounters, Pasaalic had only used the Sicilian. This Pirc variant is known as "The Lion," and it was exciting to see an IM display this exotic animal. White could transpose to Philidor's defence with 4.Nf3 e5 6.Bc4 Be7. Instead Rapid time control tempted me to experiment with a more aggressive space gaining advance...

4.g4! h6! 5.h3! e5 6.Nge2 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Be3!?

Most dangerous is aiming for a quick Qd2 hitting h6. The routine 8.0-0 is good and solid, but the threat of White castling queenside caused Black to decide to look for central counterplay

8...exd4

In the hunt to capture kings castled on opposite sides 8...0-0 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.0-0-0 c6 White seems to enjoy better development. But this is what I would have gone for—counterplay based on pushing b7–b5.

9.Nxd4 Nb6 10.Qe2 Qe7

Where and when to castle is a most important strategy! 10...0-0! was most flexible.

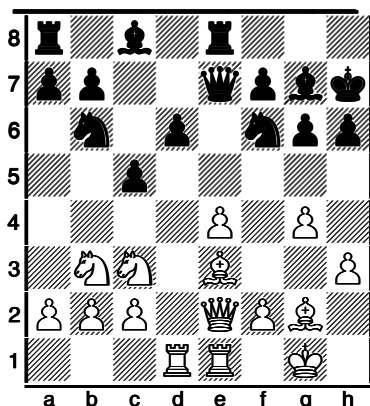
11.0-0

Also good is 11.0-0-0!?

11...c5?!

Better developing moves were available such as: 11...0-0 or 11...Bd7.

12.Nb3± 0-0 13.Rfe1 Re8 14.Rad1 Kh7



Black's opening of lines in the center actually aid-white's initiative aimed at tactical weaknesses.

15.Bf4! Rd8 16.e5! dxe5 17.Qxe5 Qxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxd1 19.Rxd1!±

19.Nxd1±

19...Nc4! 20.Bg3 Nxb2 21.Rd8!≡

Despite sacrificing a gambit pawn, White is almost winning because Black is unable to develop his pinned queenside.

21...Nd7?

21...c4! 22.Nc5± (22.Na5; 22.Nd4; 22.Nd2)

22.Nd5 Nb6?

22...c4! 23.Na5±

23.Nc7+- Bf6

If 23...Rb8 24.Ne8! Ra8 25.Nxg7 Kxg7 26.Be5+ forks the knight that ate the poison pawn.

24.Rf8! Kg7 25.Bd6! Bd7 26.Nxa8 N6c4 27.Bxc5 Na4 28.Rb8

Down a whole rook, Black resigned. **1-0**

IM Mesgen Amanov (2388) - FM Albert Chow (2222) [A34] U.S. G/30 (3)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Be7 9.Be3 0-0

As often happens in Symmetrical English opening systems, play has transposed, Black obtaining the Maroczy Bind vs. White's Sicilian Dragon. GM-elect Amanov now made a rare for him positional error, wasting some tempi sidelining his queen's knight and forfeiting the initiative.

10.Na4? b6!

This is the best defence of c5, as the tactics work in Black's favor after 11.Nxe5? Nxe5 12.Bxa8 Nxa8.

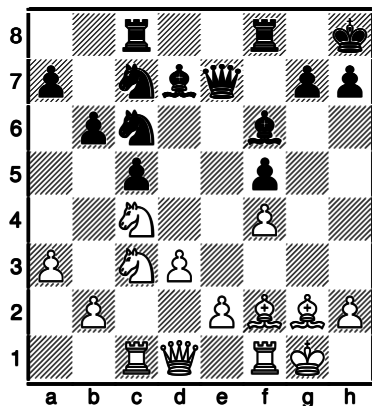
11.Rc1 Bd7 12.a3 Rc8 13.Nc3 f6 14.Nd2 Kh8

Black has neutralized White's counterplay along the long diagonals a2–g8 & h1-a8 by removing targets, preparing the key outpost advance Nd4.

15.f4 exf4! 16.gxf4 f5! 17.Nc4 Bf6

Hoping for 18.Nd6? Qe7!

18.Bf2 Qe7



Unable to contain his optimism, White actively advances into danger of being overextended.

19.e4 fxe4

Trading off the bishop pair wins a pawn but offers White some compensation after: 19...Bxc3!? 20.bxc3 fxe4 21.dxe4 Rxf4 22.Qd6! 20.Nxe4

After 20.dxe4 besides Bxc3 Black also has 20...Bd4 with good chances.

20...Bd4 21.Qh5 Be8

Eating the poisoned f-pawn only opens lines of attack against Black's king: 21...Rxf4? 22.Bxd4! Rxf1+ 23.Rxf1 Nxd4 24.Ne5! Kg8 (24...Be8 25.Qg5!+-) 25.Rf7!+-

22.Qh3 Bd7

Maybe now the higher-rated player should have repeated moves with 23.Qh5 to draw.

23.Qg3 Bxf2+ 24.Rxf2 Nd4 25.Ne5

Better was 25.Ncd6! Rcd8 26.b4!= with counterplay.

25...Bf5 26.Re1 Rce8 27.Bh3 Nce6

Black builds winning pressure against the isolated f4 pawn weakness.

28.Bxf5 Rxf5 29.Qh3 Kg8! 30.Qg4 30.Nc6

30...Ref8 31.Ref1 Nxf4!+-

31...Rxf4! 32.Rxf4 Nxf4!+-

32.Rxf4? Rxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.Qh5 Qxe5!

The centralized Nd4 has the fork after 35.Qxe5 Nf3+, so White resigned. 0-1

Albert Chow (2222) - Emory Tate (2390) [C10]
U.S. G/30 (4) [Albert Chow]

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 e6

Accepting the Gambit with 3...dxe4 4.d5 Ne5 invites risky variations best prepared in advance at home.

4.Nf3 Bb4

A transposition to a Winawer French where Black has blocked his c pawn delaying the c7-c5 counterthrust.

5.e5 f5 6.Bd2 Bxc3

It seems a bit early to exchange before White has played a2-a3.

7.Bxc3 Nge7 8.Bd3 a5 9.h4! h6 10.h5! 0-0 11.Bd2 b6! 12.c3 Ba6! 13.Bxa6

Avoiding exchanges with 13.Bc2!? is possible, but against Tate it is risky to find one's king unable to escape.

13...Rxa6

The exchange of light-squared bishops favored Black and reveals a deep strategical plan begun with Tate's 5th+6th moves: aim for a good knight over bad bishop pawn chain blockade.

14.g3

Better was the active 14.Qe2±.

14...b5= 15.Nh4 Qe8 16.Ng2 b4 17.Nf4 Qf7 18.0-0

18.Kf1 followed by Kg2 was more accurate.

18...a4 19.a3

19.Rc1±]

19...b3!?

Blockading the bad dark squared bishop. Opening lines with 19...bxc3 seems unclear after 20.Bxc3 (or 20.bxc3).

20.Qe2 Rb6 21.Kg2 Na5 22.Rh1 Nc4 23.Be3 Rb7 24.Nd3 Rb5 25.Rh4 Kh8 26.Rah1 Rfb8 27.Bf4 Nc6 28.Bc1 N6a5 29.Qf3 Rf8

All these moves cost both players time on the clock when blitz blunders ruin the quality of play.

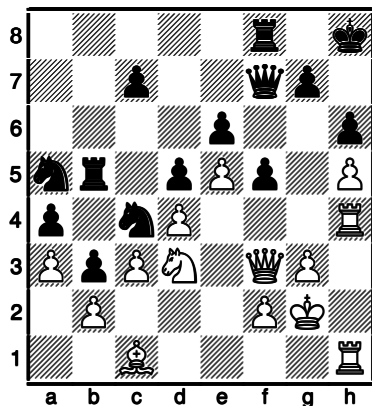
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or email william@midwaychessclub.org



30.Rf4!

Threatening a future g4 pawn break. Tate finds an active counter:

30...c5!?

Also good was 30...Nb7!?=

31.dxc5

Black claims counterplay for a gambit pawn after: 31.Nxc5 Nxe5 32.dxe5 Rxc5 33.Rxa4± Nc4

31...Nc6?

In time pressure it is unclear what might happen after: 31...Qc7!± 32.Re1 Nb7

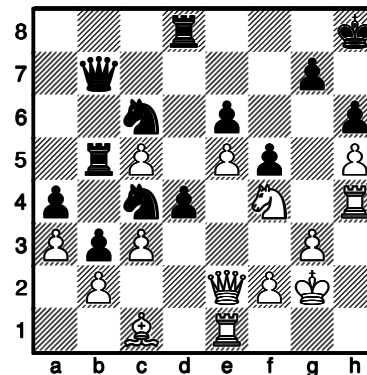
32.Re1?

Sad to miss the best 32.Rxc4! dxc4 33.Qxc6+--

32...Qc7 33.Qe2± Rd8 34.Rh4 d4??

A better way to prepare the d4 break is: 34...Qb7∞ with unclear compensation.

35.Nf4!+- Qb7



36.Kh3??

Best was 36.Qxc4!+- Nxe5+ 37.c6! gaining material.

36...dxc3??

Here Black missed powerful tactics: 36...Rxc5□ 37.Nxe6 (37.Rd1 dxc3±) 37...Rxe5± 38.Be3! (38.Qf1 Rxe1 39.Qxe1 Re8!+-; 38.Qxe5 N4xe5 39.Nxd8 Nxd8 40.Rxd4 Ne6) 38...Rxe6 39.Qxc4 Qd7! 40.Rd1! (40.Bd2 Rxe1 41.Bxe1) 40...Re4!±

37.Qxc4+- c2 38.Nxe6 Nxe5 39.Nxd8 Qa8 40.Qxb5 Nf3 41.Qe8+ Kh7 42.Qg6+ Kg8 43.Re8# 1-0

Martin Franek Wins Springfield Tourney

David Long

The first SCC tournament in nine months drew 17 chess players to the Carpenters Local 16 union meeting hall, on the southwestern edge of downtown Springfield. Although some out-of-towners had difficulty finding it, the site is free, enabling us to pay a higher prize fund than we could at the Signature Inn. It will be easier to find the second time around!

Martin Franek, of Oak Lawn, won the tournament with 3½ points out of 4. There was a six-way tie for second place. Timothy Oltman, of Pleasant Plains, Daniel Parmet, of Naperville, Dennis Bourgerie, of Normal, Cesar Nunez, of Bloomington, Brian Villarreal, of Streator, and Evan Gresen, of Springfield, all scored 2½ points. Evan is considered the winner of the class C-D prize, and not part of the tie, on a technicality. The other five shared the second and class A-B prize. Chad Smith, of Bloomington, won the Class E prize with 2 points. No unrated players participated.

Special thanks to the sizeable Bloomington-Normal contingent!

Springfield's next tournament is scheduled for June 27, 2009 at Carpenters Local 16.

Events Calendar

June 7, 2009. Whitney Young Scholastic Tournament. All sections unrated. Whitney Young High School, 211 S. Laflin, Chicago, IL 60607. Enter from back of building on Loomis Avenue. 4 Rounds, G/30. **Sections:** K-2, K-5, and K-8, K-12. **Schedule:** First round starts at 10:00am. Other rounds progress as completed with a 15 min lunch break between rounds 2 and 3. **Awards per section:** Top five individuals receive trophies, all others receive a participation ribbon, top team (3 players from same school) receives trophy. **Registration:** 8:30-9:30am. **Entry Fee:** \$15, For easier check-in, email player name, age, desired section, and school name to pjkash@cps.edu by the prior evening, Concessions on site.

June 13, 2009. Evanston U1200. 4SS G/45. USCF Dual Rated. Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. **One Section.** Evanston Chess Club wants to help under-1200 club players improve their game. They will play against similar-strength opponents from the very first round. There will be at least one 2000+ player and several other club players on hand to analyze games and answer questions. Published USCF Regular Rating determines eligibility; accelerated or decelerated pairings at TD discretion. Digital clocks are preferred and will be set to G/40 plus 5 seconds delay. **Schedule:** Registration 9:00-9:30 am, first Round 9:45 am, last round ends roughly 5:30 pm. Players who check in after 9:30 am will receive a half-point bye for the first round. You may take one half-point bye in any round but the last. **Entry Fee:** \$5.00, please pay cash (no checks) at the door. **Your Prize:** Four games of quality rated chess for the newer player in a congenial atmosphere! **Entries:** send your name, USCF number, rating and phone number to Tom Sprandel tom@evanstonchess.org. Other information: Junior players (under fourteen years) rated 900+ are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent throughout the event. Sorry, but we do not accept junior players rated under 900. Bring clocks. Wheelchair accessible. No Smoking. For more information: www.evanstonchess.org

June 13, 2009, 2009 U.S. Game/15 National Championship. 6SS, G/15. Joliet Jr. College, Bldg J, 1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431 (Park in J lot) \$1,600 b/80 paid entries, \$200-100, A,B,C,D,E/F each 130-80-50, unrated \$25 book prize, based on 4 per class. **EF:** \$30 if by June 9th, \$40 at site (over 60 \$5 discount EF), one half pt bye max. **Reg.:** 9:50am-10:50am. Rds.: 11:00-11:45-12:30-2:15-3:00-3:45. **Checks Payable to:** Dennis R. Doyle, c/o JJC Chess Club, 536 Springwood Drive, Joliet, IL 60431. No phone or credit card entries, bring chess sets and clocks, none provided. Bring USCF id card to tournament. NTD: G.Panner. E-mail questions only: ddoyle@jjc.edu

June 14, 2009, Scholastic Chess Tournament, Northbrook, IL, sponsored by Renaissance Knights.

June 20, 2009. Mc Henry Swiss Tournament. 4SS,G/60. Holiday Inn Hotel, 495 Airport Road, Elgin, IL 60123. (Intersection of I-90 & Rt. 31.) Entry fee \$20 (cash or check only), cash prizes based on entries. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. Round times are 9:30, 11:35, 2:25, 4:30. Two sections if attendance warrants, otherwise one section with class and upset prizes. For more information see: www.mchenryareachess.org, or call Bob at 815-519-3323.

June 26-28, 2009. 5th Billy Colias Invitational. Contact [Glenn Panner](mailto:Glenn.Panner) to request an invitation.

June 27. Sixth Annual David Mote Memorial Open. 4SS, G/75 (1st round G/60). Carpenters Local 16, 211 W. Lawrence Ave., Springfield 62704. **Reg:** 9-9:45 **Rds:** 10,12:30,3:15,6. **EF:** \$17 by 6/24, \$20 at site, \$2 less for SCC members. **Prizes:** \$400 b/30. 140-80, 1600-1999 60, 1200-1599 50, Under 1200 40, Unrated 30. **Ent/Info:** David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield 62704. 217-726-2584. Information and directions at <http://springfieldchessclub.110mb.com>.

June 27, 2009. Evanston Chess Club Rapid. Levy Activity Center, 300 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL. 5 round

SS, G/29. USCF Quick-rated. **Schedule:** Registration from 9:00 to 9:30 am, players who check in after 9:30 am will receive a one-half point bye for the first round. First Round 9:45 am, last round over roughly 4:30 pm. Players may take one half-point bye in any round but the last. **Entries:** Entry fee is \$5, please pay cash (no checks) at the door. **Your Prize:** Every player gets a day of great chess in a congenial atmosphere! **Please reserve your spot** by sending Name, USCF number, phone number to Tom Sprandel, tom@evanstonchess.org. **Other information:** Junior players (under fourteen years) rated 900+ are welcome, and must be accompanied by a parent throughout the day. Sorry, but we do not accept junior players rated under 900. Bring clocks. -- Wheelchair accessible. No Smoking. For more information: www.evanstonchess.org

July 10-12 2009. U.S. Junior Open Championship. Milwaukee Marriott West, W231N1600 Corporate CT, Waukesha, WI 53186. **Three sections based on age:** Under 21, Under 15, Under 11. 5SS, G/90. Chess Rate of \$85.99 is valid until July 1st. Reserve early. (262)-574-0888. **U21:** \$300+entry to 2010 Junior Closed-\$150. Individual trophies: 1st overall, best player for ages 17-18, 15-16, under 15. Team trophies: top three high schools, top club. **U15:** Individual trophies: top 3 overall, best player for ages 11-13, under 11. Team trophies: top three middle schools, top club. **U11:** Individual trophies: top 3 overall, best player for ages 9, 8, 7, 6&under. Team trophies: top three elementary schools, top club. All participants receive commemorative medals. **EF:** \$35 (\$30 per player if 4 or more pre-register together) advance; \$50 after July 10th. Cash only at site. **Schedule:** Opening ceremony: Friday at 2:45pm. Rounds: Friday 3:00pm, Saturday 10:00am and 2:00pm, Sunday 10:00am and 2:00pm. Closing ceremony: Sunday 5:30pm. **Side Events:** (\$20/event) BLITZ: Friday at 7:00pm. BUGHOUSE: Saturday at 7:00pm. SIMUL: Friday at 7:00pm and Saturday at 7:00pm. PARENTS AND COACHES TOURNEY: 3SS G/30 (not rated) Saturday 10:30am,

2:15pm, 3:30pm. Info/questions: ashish@vajachess.com or 414-234-1005, abetaneli@hotmail.com or 608-334-2574. Make Checks Payable to and Send Entries to: VICA, 6822 North Crestwood Dr., Glendale WI 53209 or online registration at www.wscachess.org.

July 11, 2009. Evanston Swiss Groups. Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave. Evanston, IL 60201. 3SS, Game/70. USCF Regular Rated. **Multiple Sections.** Digital clocks are preferred and will be set to G/65 plus 5 seconds delay. Accelerated or decelerated pairings at TD discretion. **Swiss Group Sections:** Players will be assigned to sections by rating, eight players to a section, starting from the highest-rated player. The lowest section will contain between six and thirteen players. Unrated players will usually be assigned to the lowest section but may be assigned higher at TD discretion. Playing strength will be estimated by regular ratings from the latest USCF ratings supplement. Late arrivals will be added to the highest section in which they are not stronger than the highest rated player. If the late arrival is the strongest player in the tournament, then s/he shall be added to the highest section. Registration from 9:00 to 9:30 AM, players who check in after 9:30 am will receive a one-half point bye for the first round. First Round 9:45 am, last round over roughly 5:30 pm. Players may take one half-point bye in any round but the last. **Entries:** Entry fee is \$5, please pay cash (no checks) at the door. **Your Prize:** Every player gets a day of great chess in a congenial atmosphere! **Please reserve your spot** by sending Name, USCF number, phone number to Tom Sprandel, tom@evanstonchess.org. **Other information:** Junior players (under fourteen years) rated 900+ are welcome, and must be accompanied by a parent throughout the day. Sorry, but we do not accept junior players rated under 900. Bring clocks. -- Wheelchair accessible. No Smoking. For more information: www.evanstonchess.org

July 12, 2009, Scholastic Chess Tournament, Northbrook, IL, spon-

sored by Renaissance Knights.

July 17-19 or 18-19, 2009 2nd Annual Chicago Class Championships. 5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75). **Under 1000 & Under 700 Sections:** 6SS, G/75, 7/18-19 only. Doubletree Hotel Chicago/Oak Brook, 1909 Spring Rd (near I-88 Cermak Rd exit), Oak Brook IL 60521. Free parking. No residence requirements. **\$20,000 guaranteed prizes** and trophies. In 9 sections; no unrated in Master, unrated allowed in Under 700 only if age 15 or below. **Master** (2200/up): \$2000-1000-500-300, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100, top U2300 \$800-400. **FIDE. Expert** (2000-2199/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. **Class A** (1800-1999/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. **Class B** (1600-1799/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. **Class C** (1400-1599/Unr): \$1200-600-400-200. **Class D** (1200-1399/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. **Under 1000:** \$200-100-60-40, trophies to top 7. **Under 700:** Trophies to top 7. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Unrated** prize limit \$80 U1000, \$140 E, \$200 D, \$400 C, \$ 500 B, \$600 A. **Top 7 sections EF:** 3-day \$93, 2-day \$92 mailed by 7/9, all \$95 online at chesstour.com by 7/13, \$100 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 7/13 (entry only, no questions), \$120 at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK. **U1000 & U700 EF:** \$27 mailed by 7/9, \$28 online at chesstour.com by 7/13, \$30 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 7/13 (entry only, no questions), \$40 at site. **All:** ICA memb. (\$15, scholastic \$10) required for rated Illinois residents. **FREE ENTRY TO UNRATED** in Class D, E, U1000 or U700 if paying 1 year USCF dues with entry. GMs free, \$90 deducted from prize. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with Chess Life if paid with entry- \$30 online at chesstour.com, \$40 if mailed, phoned or paid at site. Re-entry \$60; not available in Master Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings based on 4 or more games used if otherwise unrated. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11-6, Sun 9-3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11-2:30-6, Sun 9-3:15. **U1000 & U700 schedule:** Reg. ends 9:30 am, rds. Sat

10-1:30-5, Sun 9-12:30-3:15. **Bye:** all, Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. **HR:** \$93-93, 800-528-0444, 630-472-6000, reserve by 7/3 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. WCL JGP.

August 1-9, 2009. U.S. Open, Indianapolis. www.uschess.org

August 8, 2009. Evanston Tri-Level. 4SS G/45. USCF Dual Rated. Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60202. **Three Sections:** Gold: 1600 and over; Silver: 1200-1599; Bronze: Under 1200 and Unrated; 1500 - 1599 may play up to Gold; 1100 - 1199 may play up to Silver; published USCF Regular Rating determines eligibility; unrated players will be placed at TD discretion; sections may be combined at TD discretion; accelerated or decelerated pairings at TD discretion.. Digital clocks are preferred and will be set to G/40 plus 5 seconds delay. **Schedule:** Registration 9:00-9:30 am, first Round 9:45 am, last round ends roughly 5:30 pm. Players who check in after 9:30 am will receive a half-point bye for the first round. You may take one half-point bye in any round but the last. **Entry Fee:** \$5.00, please pay cash (no checks) at the door. Masters and Experts play free. **Your Prize:** Four games of quality rated chess in a congenial atmosphere! **Entries:** send your name, USCF number, rating and phone number to Tom Sprandel tom@evanstonchess.org. **Other information:** Junior players (under fourteen years) rated 900+ are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent throughout the event. Sorry, but we do not accept junior players rated under 900. Bring clocks. Wheelchair accessible. No Smoking. For more information: www.evanstonchess.org

August 9, 2009, June 14, 2009, Scholastic Chess Tournament, Northbrook, IL, sponsored by Renaissance Knights.

Events Calendar

August 15, 2009. McHenry Quad Tournament. 3 rounds, G/80. Holiday Inn Hotel, 495 Airport Road, Elgin, IL 60123. (Intersection of I-90 & Rt. 31.) Entry fee is \$20 (cash or check only). Cash prizes of \$40 for first and \$20 for second in each Quad. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. First round starts at 9:30, and this single day event ends by 6:30. For more information see: www.mchenryareachess.org, or call Bob at 815-519-3323.

August 22, 2009. 2009 U.S. Game/60 Championship. 4R-SS G/60 - \$5000 b/150 fully paid entries. Holiday Inn Chicago - North Shore. 5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077 (see tournament website for directions). Free Parking. In 6 sections: **M/X:** \$500-300-200-100 Top U2400, U2300, U2200 each \$150, **Class A:** \$350-250-150-75, **Class B:** \$350-250-150-75, **Class C:** \$300-200-100-50, **Class D:** \$300-200-100-50, **Class E/F/U:** \$200-100-50-25, Unrated Prize - Book Prize Only. Unrated must play in M/X or Class E/F/U sections. Trophies for 1st - 3rd place, scholastic players with non-cash prize entry fee. \$10 extra to play 1 class up. **Entry Fee:** \$80 adult, \$40 scholastic (K-12), \$20 anyone but not eligible for cash prizes thru 6pm 8/21. Onsite \$100 adults, \$60 scholastic (K-12), \$20 anyone but not eligible for cash prizes. \$5 refund at tournament with proof of ICA membership (Scholastic entries count as 1/2 entry, No-cash prize entry does not count towards based on) - *non-cash prize entry fee not eligible for any discounts.* **SPECIAL COMBINED ENTRY FEES:** Discounted Entry fees available for registering for the US G/60 & US G/30 (\$5 off each tournament) - *non-cash prize entry fee not eligible for any discounts.* **SPECIAL OFFER FOR ILLINOIS OPEN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Enter either the US G/60 or US G/30 and receive a \$5 rebate for your early registration to the 2009 Illinois Open State Championships. For more information visit <http://www.chessforlife.com>. **Mail payments (made payable to) and registration information to:** North American Chess Association, 2516 North Waukegan Road Suite 342,

Glenview, IL 60025. Byes: One 1/2 pt bye allowed. Rd 4 bye must commit by start of Rd 2. Re-enter with 1/2pt bye in Rd 1 for \$50. August Supplement used. **Schedule:** Reg: 8:15am - 9:15am, Rds 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30. **Hotel rates:** \$99+tax, 847-679-8900. Mention North American Chess Association rate. Reserve by 8/7 or as available only. **Car rental:** Hertz, 800-654-3131, Hertz CDP#178693. BRING BOARDS, SETS, CLOCKS - NONE PROVIDED. USCF membership required. NS,NC,W. **Information:** Sevan A. Muradian 888.80.CHESS or info@nachess.org. For further information, online registration and payment please visit <http://www.nachess.org/g60>. Checkmate Chess Supply Co will be book-seller onsite. Support local Illinois Organizers.

August 23, 2009. 2009 U.S. Game/30 Championship. 5R-SS G/30 - \$2500 b/150 fully paid entries. Holiday Inn Chicago - North Shore. 5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077 (see tournament website for directions). Free Parking. In 6 sections: **M/X:** \$250-150-100-50 Top U2400, U2300, U2200 each \$75, **Class A:** \$175-125-75-40, **Class B:** \$175-125-75-40, **Class C:** \$150-100-50-25, **Class D:** \$150-100-50-25, **Class E/F/U:** \$100-50-25-25, Unrated Prize - Book Prize Only. Unrated must play in M/X or Class E/F/U sections. Trophies for 1st - 3rd place, scholastic players with non-cash prize entry fee. \$10 extra to play 1 class up. **Entry Fee:** \$60 adult, \$40 scholastic (K-12), \$20 anyone but not eligible for cash prizes thru 6pm 8/22. Onsite \$80 adults, \$60 scholastic (K-12), \$20 anyone but not eligible for cash prizes. \$5 refund at tournament with proof of ICA membership (Scholastic entries count as 1/2 entry, No-cash prize entry does not count towards based on) - *non-cash prize entry fee not eligible for any discounts.* **SPECIAL COMBINED ENTRY FEES:** Discounted Entry fees available for registering for the US G/60 & US G/30 (\$5 off each tournament) - *non-cash prize entry fee not eligible for any discounts.* **SPECIAL OFFER FOR ILLINOIS OPEN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Enter either the US G/60

or US G/30 and receive a \$5 rebate for your early registration to the 2009 Illinois Open State Championships. For more information visit <http://www.chessforlife.com>. **Mail payments (made payable to) and registration information to:** North American Chess Association, 2516 North Waukegan Road Suite 342, Glenview, IL 60025. Byes: One 1/2 pt bye allowed. Rd 4 bye must commit by start of Rd 2. Re-enter with 1/2pt bye in Rd 1 for \$50. August Supplement used. **Schedule:** Reg: 8:15am - 9:15am, Rds 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30. **Hotel rates:** \$99+tax, 847-679-8900. Mention North American Chess Association rate. Reserve by 8/7 or as available only. **Car rental:** Hertz, 800-654-3131, Hertz CDP#178693. BRING BOARDS, SETS, CLOCKS - NONE PROVIDED. USCF membership required. NS,NC,W. **Information:** Sevan A. Muradian 888.80.CHESS or info@nachess.org. For further information, online registration and payment please visit <http://www.nachess.org/g30>. Checkmate Chess Supply Co will be book-seller onsite. Support local Illinois Organizers.

September 5-7 or 6-7, 2009 Illinois Open Championship 6SS, 2 Schedules, 2 Sections, New Site: DoubleTree Hotel: 1909 Spring Road, Oakbrook, Illinois 60523, (630) 472- 6020, (630) 472-6000, \$89 room rate limited availability (group code CHS). **Prizes:** \$10,000 B/200 paid players, \$\$\$ increased to maximum as attendance increases! Open (open to all/FIDE rated for Classic schedule): \$1200-800- 600; U2400: \$500-400-375; U2200: \$350-325-300; U2000: \$275-250-200, Un can win top 3 only. Reserve (U1800): \$1000-700-550; U1600: \$450-400-350; U1400: \$300-250; U1200: \$225-\$200, Un can win top 3 only. **Classic Schedule** G/120 inc 30 or G/150: Sat-Sun: 11-5, Mon. 10-4. **Busy Person Schedule:** Sun (rnds 1-3) G/45: 11-1-3, Sun 5 pm (rnd 4, merged), Mon. 10- 4. **EF:** Early \$80, \$5 rebate on site for pre-entries upon request for current or renewing ICA members. \$5 rebate on site for pre-entries upon request for USCF G/30 and/or G/60 Championship play-

ers, (\$10 extra to play up from Reserve to Open section) if postmarked by August 31, no e-mail/phone entries available (check Web page for extended online CC entry deadline), **Include:** USCF id #, current USCF & ICA, Section, Schedule. **EF ALL:** \$90 at door (\$10 to play up): 9/5 or 9/6, 9:30-10:30 AM, \$100 after 10:30 AM 9/5 or 9/6. No phone or e-mail entries available, please use USPS and online entries. Re-entry: \$50 with 1/2 point bye rnd 1 or alternate schedule with no byes. **Entries** (checks payable only to Chess For Life, LLC): Tim Just, 37165 Willow, Gurnee, IL 60031. **Info:** 847-244-7954 (before 6 PM), 2 side events! U1000 Trophy Tournament, Sat. daytime & G/25 Quick Chess, Sat. PM (look for our TLAs or go to our web page for more info). <http://chessforlife.com>. Book Dealer on site. WCL JGP. GPP: 30

September 19, 2009. Evanston Chess Club Rapid www.evanstonchess.org

October 3, 2009. Evanston Swiss Groups. www.evanstonchess.org

October 17, 2009. McHenry Swiss Tournament.

www.mchenryareachess.org, or call Bob at 815-519-3323.

November 7, 2009. Illinois All Grade Scholastic Championships. Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington, IL. Hosted by BNASC.

November 7, 2009. Evanston Tri-Level.

November 20-22, 2009. 2009 National Youth Action. 9SS, G/30, DoubleTree hotel, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523,

December 5, 2009. Benjamin Scholastic. West Chicago, IL

December 19, Mc Henry Quad Tournament.

January 16, 2010. Glenbard South High School.

January 23, 2010. Eisenhower Scholastic. Hoffman Estates.

January 30, 2010. Knights of the Forest Scholastic, Des Plaines.

February 13, 2010. Midwest Scholastic Class Championship. Hadley Junior High. Glen Ellyn.

February 27-28, 2010. Greater Chicago Scholastic. Sponsored by the Kasparov Foundation and the Renaissance Knights Foundation.

March 13-14, 2010. Illinois State Scholastic Chess Championship. Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling, IL. Hosted by Illinois Chess Teachers.

Note: The listings on this web page are provided as a convenience to the Illinois chess community by the Illinois Chess Association and do not represent sponsorship, endorsement or an affiliation between the ICA and any entity, person or Web site listed or otherwise referenced on this page. The Illinois Chess Association and its officers and volunteers are not responsible for errors or omissions on this calendar

ILLINOIS CHESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 USCF ID _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone # _____
 E-mail address _____

Membership Type		
Century Club	\$100.00	_____
Patron	\$ 50.00	_____
Regular	\$ 15.00	_____
Scholastic	\$ 10.00	_____
Corporate	\$120.00	_____

Please return to:
 Bill Brock, Membership Secretary membership@il-chess.org
 230 W. Monroe, Suite 330
 Chicago, IL 60606

See inside for details on these major events!

June 13, 2009, U.S. Game/15 National Championship, Joliet

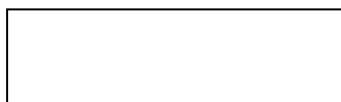
June 27, 2009, Sixth Annual David Mote Memorial Open, Springfield

July 17-19, 2009, 2nd Annual Chicago Class, Oak Brook

August 1-9, 2009, U.S. Open, Indianapolis

August 22, 2009, 2009 U.S. Game/60 Championship, Skokie

August 23, 2009, 2009 U.S. Game/30 Championship, Skokie



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bill Brock
Membership Secretary
Illinois Chess Association
230 W. Monroe, Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60606

