

CALIFORNIA Chess Journal

ISSUE 2005.6

PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 27 2005

POSTED: DECEMBER 27

Contents

CalChess Calendar	2
Scholastics Code of Conduct	4
2006 CalChess Scholastics Rules	5
East Bay Masters	6
CalChess Cuisine: Italian I	2
Stockton Scholastics	21
Stockton Photos	24
National Grade Level Championship	25
The 35th Carroll Capps Memorial	27
EBCCThanksgiving Festival	29
Jim Hurt Under 1800 Memorial	31
Notes from the Mechanic's Institute CC	32
Book Reviews	33
Bhat Annotates	34
Photos courtesy Richard Shorman, David Pruess, John Donaldson, Joe Lonsdale and Chessworks Unlimited.	

CalChess Board

President: Richard Koepcke
 Vice President: Eric Hicks
 Secretary: Roger Poehlmann
 Treasurer: Robert Blatt
 Board Member: Jacob Green
 Board Member: Salman Azhar
 Board Member: Elizabeth Shaughnessy
 Board Member: Eric Schiller
 Clearinghouse: Michael Aigner
 Webmaster: Eric Hicks

Happy Holidays to all!

From all of us at CalChess, your hosts for chess in Northern California!



CalChess Calendar

by Michael Aigner

Check www.calchess.org for all the details and additional listings!

Jan 07	Sat	6th Bob Burger Open G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Jan 14-16	Sat-Mon	East Bay Chess Club MLK Weekend Swiss (EBC)	Berkeley
Jan 14-16	Sat-Mon	East Bay Chess Club New Year's Swiss (EBC)	Berkeley
Jan 21	Sat	3rd Pacifica Chess Open (PAC)	Pacifica
Jan 28	Sat	4th Saturday Mechanics' Institute Blitz * (MIC)	San Francisco
Jan 29	Sun	East Bay Chess Club Open Quads (EBC)	Berkeley
Feb 04	Sat	6th Henry Gross Memorial G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Feb 11	Sat	East Bay Chess Club Open Quads (EBC)	Berkeley
Feb 18-20	Sat-Mon	People's Open	Berkeley
Feb 25	Sat	4th Saturday Mechanics' Institute Blitz * (MIC)	San Francisco
Mar 04-05	Sat-Sun	6th A.J. Fink Amateur (under 2000) (MIC)	San Francisco
Mar 11-12	Sat-Sun	East Bay Chess Club March Swiss (EBC)	Berkeley
Mar 18	Sat	6th Max Wilkerson G/45 (MIC)	San Francisco
Mar 19	Sun	East Bay Chess Club Open Quads (EBC)	Berkeley
Mar 25	Sat	4th Saturday Mechanics' Institute Blitz * (MIC)	San Francisco

Jan 07	Sat	East Bay Chess Club Scholastic Quads (EBCC)	Berkeley
Jan 08	Sun	Sojourner Truth Scholastic Girls Tournament	Menlo Park
Jan 14	Sat	ClubSport Fremont Scholastic Swiss #5	Fremont
Jan 21	Sat	Merced Scholastic Chess Tournament #2	Merced
Jan 21	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)	San Francisco
Jan 21	Sat	Berkeley Chess School Quads (BCS)	Walnut Creek
Jan 21	Sat	2nd Annual North Bay Girls Chess Championship	San Rafael
Jan 28	Sat	Sacramento Elementary Championship (SCC)	Sacramento
Feb 04	Sat	Saint Mark's Scholastic Quads	San Rafael
Feb 05	Sun	East Bay Chess Club Scholastic Quads (EBC)	Berkeley
Feb 11	Sat	Sacramento Scholastic Chess Championship (SCC)	Sacramento
Feb 11	Sat	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads (MIC)	San Francisco
Feb 18	Sat	ClubSport Fremont Scholastic Swiss #6	Fremont
Feb 20	Mon	Young People's Tournament	Berkeley
Feb 25-26	Sat-Sun	E. Bay Chess Club February Scholastic Swiss (EBC)	Berkeley

BCC	Burlingame Chess Club	www.burlingamechessclub.com
BCS	Berkeley Chess School	www.berkeleychessschool.org
CCC	Coastside Chess Club	www.coastsidechess.us
EBC	East Bay Chess Club	www.eastbaychess.com
KCC	Kolty Chess Club	www.angelfire.com/ca2/kolty/
MIC	Mechanics' Institute CC	www.chessclub.org
SCC	Sacramento Chess Club	www.sacramentochessclub.org
SAK	Success Chess,/Alan Kirshner	www.calnortheyouthchess.org
VAC	Vallejo Chess	firrstbjb@juno.com
VIC	Visalia Chess Club	fifiela@aol.com

A NEW ERA BEGINS.

**CALCHESS STATE
SCHOLASTIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**SAN JOSE
MAY 20-21, 2006**

- * A UNITED COMPETITION**
- * CERTIFIED TD'S IN EACH SECTION**
- * NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOLLOWED**
- * CALCHESS COACHES REGS SET**
- * FAIR COMPETITION**
- * FUN FOR ALL**
- * 11 SEPARATE DIVISIONS**
- * 1000+ COMPETITORS**
- * NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

For an more info and an application go to:

<http://www.CalChessScholastics.org>

For information on financial aid for these States go to:

<http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/FinancialAid.html>

PRODUCED BY CALCHESS

DIRECTED BY ALAN M. KIRSHNER, PH.D.

Scholastics Code of Conduct

by Ray Orwig

TOURNAMENT RULES FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS AND COACHES

The United States Chess Federation's Rule Book establishes the regulations for this tournament. We are supplementing them with the following:

1. No interference in any individual's game.
2. No disruption of the tournament either inside or outside of the playing rooms.
3. No using a pay telephone without a staff monitor present.
4. No running in hallways, throwing things or playing on the elevators or escalators.
5. No entering the computer/Tournament Director area. The only individuals allowed in this area are the directors and the liaisons for the tournament.
 - a. Any question about the tournament--pairings, placement, seeding, location--should be directed to a TD, preferably the Chief TD.
 - b. The appropriate TD will return with an answer and if need be a resolution to the question at a designated area outside the computer room.
5. The Chief TD, the organizer or the sponsor of the tournament may expel from the site anyone who violates the rules. If a player continues to be disruptive s/he may be required to forfeit all of their completed games. A parent who continues to be disruptive may have his/her child or children removed from the tournament. A coach who continues to be disruptive may have his team disqualified, however, no players will be disqualified because of the actions of a coach. An appeal by the player, parent or coach to his/her removal may be heard by a committee headed by the Chief TD and consisting of the organizer and the sponsor of the tournament.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. A coach should remember at all times that they are working in and around children. They should never engage in words or deeds that ruin a child's joy of the game.
2. A coach should keep in mind that disputes are best settled by discussion among intelligent adults. Never engage in behavior that is unproductive in the peaceful settling of a dispute (especially in front of the children).
3. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and the parents of those players. Educate them in the proper rules of the game, and the codes of conduct and ethics.

2006 CalChess Scholastics Rules

by Alan Kirschner

We will run the CalChess Scholastic Championships according to the United States Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, 5th Edition, 2003 with any modification established by the coaches over the years in Northern California. These can be found at <http://www.calnorthyouthchess.org/CalChessStates/Regulations.html>.

SPECIAL RULES-INFORMATION (Thanks to Allan Fifield, USCF Senior TD)

Missing Opponent: Player who is present must remain at or near their board for 30 minutes after the actual start of the round and are then given a forfeit win.

Cell Phones: All cell phones must be turned off. The penalty for a first violation is a warning. The penalty for a second violation is the forfeit of the game in progress.

Keeping Score: Players in the Kindergarten, all K-3 divisions and the K-6 Junior Varsity do not have to keep score. However, it is strongly recommended that if they can they should. Claims cannot be made without a correct score sheet or unless a TD observes the game. Translation, all players in the K-6 Varsity and all Junior High School and High School players **MUST** keep score. If a player keeping score loses his place, s/he may copy from his opponent's score sheet on his/her time. In the meantime, the player must make checkmarks on their score sheets. Time penalties **WILL** be imposed for players who do not keep score or stop keeping score. Neither player is required to keep score if either player has less than 5 minutes left.

Restroom Breaks: A player must request permission before leaving for a restroom break. The only restrooms to be used by the players are those within the tournament playing room. The clock does not stop while a player goes to the restroom.

Playing Area: At no time are players to leave the playing room unless accompanied by a TD unless their games are completed. When the games are completed the player **MUST** leave the playing room and cannot return until the next round is scheduled to get underway.

Clocks: Chess clocks are part of the game. Players will use clocks when clocks are available. A player refusing to use a clock is forfeited and withdrawn.

Recording Results: When a game is over both players must raise their hands and a tournament director will come over and ask if there is agreement on who won the game or if the game is a draw. Players will circle the result, sign the sheet and hand it to the TD who will initial the result sheet. Pieces will then be set back to the start position and the players will leave the room.

Bad Sportsmanship:

1. Refusing to move—two TD's witnessing the action can intervene and declare the result.
2. Stalling to annoy opponent—in extreme cases two TD's can declare a game lost.
3. 'Bullying'—in extreme cases two TD's can determine time penalties or declare a game lost.

When making a claim, or in the event of any dispute: either player may stop the chess clock and raise their hand and to summon a tournament director.

"Insufficient Losing Chances:" A player may claim this type of draw if it is their move and they have less than five minutes left. This is a draw offer, as well. If the TD believes the claim is frivolous, the player will lose a minute from their clock and could lose on time. The TD has the option of either making an immediate decision; watching the progress; or inserting a delay mode clock. In the latter case, the game continues with the claimants' time being reduced by one-half (time remaining not to exceed two minutes) and both players having five second grace period (the time delay) for each move.

If you wish to withdraw or skip a particular round: You should sign the sheet at Chess control (Room G) at least a half hour before the start of the round. If you forfeit without notice, you will be withdrawn from the tournament.

Disputes-Appeals: Must be presented in writing with details and redress requested within an hour after the specific round of the alleged grievance. A \$25 bond may be request for an appeal that will be forfeited if the appeal is denied. A committee of three or more certified and currently licensed USCF TD's will be convened to hear the appeal.

East Bay Masters

by David Pruess with annotations by Eric Schiller

The week before Christmas, from December 17th-23rd, the East Bay Chess Club brought together strong players from around the country and the world with local chess masters for the 1st annual Berkeley Masters (yes, the plan is to hold another next year!). The tournament attracted 23 players, including 3 Grandmasters and 7 International Masters. Next year we hope to attract 30 players as the event will be better known to the country's top players. Players in the event competed for \$3400 in prize money, best game and endgame prizes, FIDE ratings and title norms, as well as experience against strong opponents.

Accelerated pairings for the first two rounds increased the competitiveness of the early rounds of the tournament and allowed players competing for norms to face more appropriate competition from the get-go. That competitiveness could be seen in 7 draws out of 11 games in the first round. The first day also proved tougher than expected for the invited GMs: in the first round only former US Champion Alex Yermolinsky was able to win by outplaying IM Vladimir Mezentsev in an endgame. While GM John Fedorowicz drew with FM David Pruess, the big story of the round was the tremendous game played by FM Alan Stein with black against top seed and former world #3 GM Jaan Ehlevest. Stein gained the upperhand in a complicated middlegame and then prevailed in the time scramble. The second round that day did not offer any easier work for the GMs. Yermolinsky could not break through the defenses of IM Vinay Bhat on board 1, Fedorowicz was again dissatisfied with his position out of the opening against Shivkumar Shivaji and agreed to a quick draw, while Ehlevest lost again, this time in a complicated game against Pruess.

This led in round 3 to the strongest bottom board match-up I have ever seen in a U.S. tournament: GM Ehlevest (2678 USCF) against IM Ricardo De Guzman (2483 USCF)! By this round, the GMs settled down, and began to work their way up the tournament chart, as Ehlevest and Fedorowicz both won while Yermolinsky drew with Pruess. Meanwhile, an important game was being played on board 1 where IM Josh Friedel escaped a horrible position against Bhat, to win and move to 3-0, maintaining a half point lead over IM Jesse Kraai and NM Roger Poehlmann.

Round 4 was the last round of the 2-games-per-day segment of the tournament. Many of the players had to be tired at this point (I certainly was after having to face 3 GMs in a row during this stretch!) but there was no evidence of dampened fighting spirit despite this: all games were decisive with the single exception of Shivaji-Pruess which went about 5 hours 55 minutes with Pruess finally unable to convert an extra pawn against Shivaji's tenacious defense. On the top board, Friedel won again, this time against one of his closest pursuers, Poehlmann. A plus-4 immediately put Friedel in serious contention for a GM norm (depending on the strength of opposition, it had been projected that a plus-4 or 5 score would be required for the norm).

In round 5, Friedel conceded his first half point, drawing with Fedorowicz. Meanwhile, another GM title aspirant, IM Jesse Kraai made his move, coming out on top in what he described as "one of the most complicated games of my life" against Yermolinsky. Ehlevest won his third game in a row, and moved into the plus range.

In round 6, Friedel faced his second GM in a row, Yermolinsky, and held a draw in a long game, where despite being down a pawn, Yermolinsky seemed to have the pressure on him for quite a while. On board 2, the other frontrunner for the GM norm, Kraai faced the merciless advance of Ehlevest up the tournament board, and went down. Elsewhere in the tournament, Stein and Pruess, each already with 2 IM norms, both won their games to put themselves in great position to complete their title qualification at this event.

In round 7, the leading Friedel met with his first disappointment, as he too was run over by the rampaging top seed on first board. Stein drew comfortably with Fedorowicz on board 2, while Pruess showed more determination than skill in collecting a very lucky point against Mezentsev in a pawn down endgame, and thus, due to the strength of the field he had played up to that point, clinching his third and final IM norm. Kraai kept his GM-norm hopes alive by executing in a must-win with Black against Bhat, and IM Ricardo de Guzman won his fourth in a row (against Yermolinsky) since his defeat at the hands of Ehlevest in round 3 to move up the tournament chart.

In round 8, Friedel and Kraai won against Mezentsev and Zavadsky respectively to put them in position for GM norms. On top board, Ehlevest was finally held despite a great position by the defenses of Fedorowicz. And in another key game, Pruess lost his chances for a GM-norm when he was slaughtered by NM Tigran Ishkanov,

who thus kept alive his own hopes for an IM-norm. Stein and de Guzman drew a long struggle that slightly favored Stein and was only agreed drawn once there were no pieces left on the board.

In the final round, Friedel won with black against IM Sandor Kustar to take clear first in the tournament and make a GM-norm! It was a fantastic performance for the young player from New Hampshire, who got off to a hot start and then weathered a series of extremely tough opponents as he held down board 1 through most of the event. Unfortunately, three other norm hopefuls succumbed in the final round, under pressure from the situation and the play of their opponents. Kraai lost to IM Justin Sarkar, taking 2nd place in the U2400 FIDE category; meanwhile, Stein, needing only a draw, lost to Peter Zavadsky who played quite well through most of the event and took the 1st U2300 prize by reaching an even 4.5-4.5 score with this win. Yermolinsky showed himself to be a great fighter, turning down an early draw offer from his GM colleague Fedorowicz despite the fatigue of a long event. Unfortunately, Fedorowicz was intent on preserving his distinction as the only player to go through the event undefeated, and he delivered a tremendous win, which brought him to a tie for 3rd-4th in the final standings with Kraai. De Guzman never let Pruess settle in during their game, handing the newly minted IM his second straight slaughter, and thus earning top U2400 honors for himself. Shivkumar Shivaji secured 2nd U2300 after he drew his last round game with Bhat.

The 2005 Berkeley Masters was extremely strong for a US tournament, and definitely the strongest available to aspiring Bay Area players this year. Hopefully next year the field will feature even more strong players! After such tough games, definitely some amount of fatigue was beginning to set in on some of the players towards the end; however, within 2 days, about half the field will be off to Las Vegas to play in the North American Open.

This terrific high level tournament could never have occurred without a lot of time and effort put in by the organizers and TD staff. And in this case, most of that effort came from EBCC director Jamie Sawhill, who deserves the thanks and praise of all the participants, and all spectators who enjoyed the event. Jamie simultaneously helped direct the event, relayed several top games to an eagerly awaiting crowd on the Internet Chess Club, and maintained the club's facilities. Jamie was also at the event longer than even the most fighting of players, showing up at least an hour early to set up, and prepare coffee and tea for the players, and staying on after all the games had finished to clean up and work out pairings for the next day, and calculate the players' performances so those in the title-norm-hunt knew where they stood. Jamie earned a norm towards being an International Arbiter for his work in this event, which was overseen by IA Mike Goodall. Thanks to Mike for his help. Also, thanks are owed to Vinay Bhat who did most of the work of inviting players to the event, and to the detriment of his own chances, stuck around late at the club as well, uploading pairings, games, and standings to the website every night.





No.	Name	FIDE	Pts
1	Friedel, Joshua E	2453	7.0
2	Ehlvest, Jaan	2618	6.5
3	Fedorowicz, John P	2502	6.0
4	Kraai, Jesse	2428	6.0
5	de Guzman, Ricardo	2383	5.5
6	Pruess, David	2400	5.0
7	Stein, Alan R	2422	5.0
8	Sarkar, Justin	2315	5.0
9	Yermolinsky, Alex	2549	4.5
10	Mezentsev, Vladimir	2409	4.5
11	Bhat, Vinay S	2429	4.5
12	Ishkhanov, Tigran	2350	4.5
13	Zavadsky, Peter	2268	4.5
14	Kustar, Sandor	2375	4.0
15	Shivaji, Shivkumar	2299	4.0
16	Poehlmann, Roger	2230	3.5
17	Lobo, Richard	2263	3.0
18	Pearson, Michael	2173	3.0
19	Panjwani, Raja	2209	3.0
20	Perepelitsky, Edward	2123	3.0
21	Perepelitsky, Philipp	2116	3.0
22	Jahedi, Salar		1.5
23	Lee, Andrew C	2256	0.5
24	Moskow, Eric D	2238	0.0

Justin Sarkar - John Fedorowicz

0:1 (East Bay Masters) 12/20/2005

Benko Gambit [A59]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 a6!? 3. Nc3

3. Nf3 c5 4. d5 b5 reached a Benko Gambit in F.Portisch - Barczay, Budapest 1976 Hungarian Championship.

3... c5 4. d5

4. dxc5!? Qa5 (4... e6 5. e4 Bxc5 would be a Kan Sicilian, but White's knight is still at g1 instead of d4. 6. e5!? Qb6 7. Qf3 Ng8 Black will play ...Nc6 and drop the queen back to c7, and Nge7-g6 followed by castling. White has no lead in development and Black's position is probably safe enough.) 5. Nf3 e6 6. Nd4 Qxc5 7. e4 Qc7 is a Sicilian Maroczy Bind, Kuligowski - Barczay, Warsaw Zonal 1979.

4... b5 We now have a Benko Gambit position, compare 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nc3 a6!? 5. cxb5 axb5 6. Nxb5

6. e4 b4 7. Nb5 d6 is another way to play, as in Farago - Barczay, Budapest 1976 Hungarian Championship.

6... Ba6 7. Nc3 d6 8. Nf3 g6 9. e4 This is one of the most popular methods of dealing with the Benko Gambit. 9... Bxf1 10. Kxf1 Bg7 11. h3 O-O 12. Kg1 This is known as the King Walk variation, because White's king strolls to h2 so that the rook can get into the game on the e-file. 12... Na6!? Black usually puts the knight at d7, but this is a more active plan.



13. Kh2 Nb4 14. Re1 A new move, but not an improvement.

14. Be3 e6 15. a3 Na6 16. Qd2 exd5 17. exd5 Re8 18. Bh6 Bxh6 19. Qxh6 Rb8 20. Rab1 Nc7 21. Rhd1 gave White a better game in Harmon - Basanta, Vancouver 1989.

14... Qa5 15. Bg5

15. a3 Qa6 (15... c4 16. Nd4 Nd3 17. Nc6 Qc7 18. Re2 e6 19. Qc2 Rfe8 20. Nb5 gave White a strong initiative in Graf - Suhendra, Jakarta .1997) 16. Qe2 Rfb8 17. Qxa6 Rxa6 18. Re2 Nd3 19. Ne1 Nxc1 20. Rxc1 Nd7 and the powerful Black bishop compensates for the missing pawn, Akkerman - Van Der Sterren , Netherlands 1974.

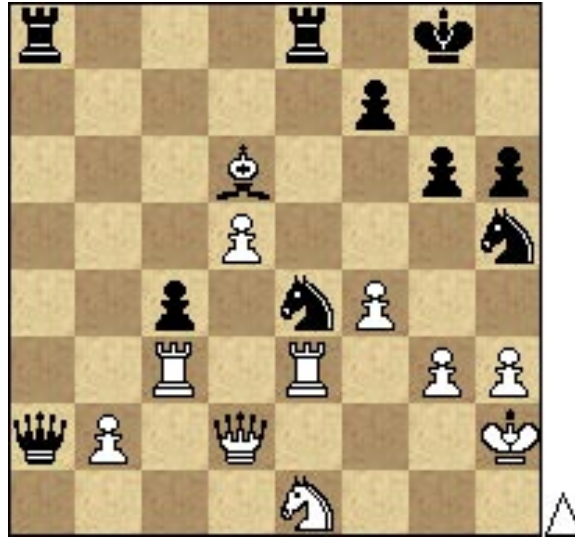
15... Qa6 16. Qd2 Nd3 17. Re3 c4 18. Ne1 Nc5



19. f4? This creates a weakness on the second rank that is deftly exploited by Fed. **19... h6 20. Bh4 Nh5 21. g3 Rfb8 22. Rc1 Bxc3! 23. Rcxc3 Qxa2** Black has invaded the seventh rank and regained the pawn. The dark square bishop was useful, but the decision to part with it was correct. **24. Bxe7** White will regret opening up the e-file.

24. Re2! would have helped out at e2. Sometimes passive defense is the best strategy.

24... Re8 25. Bxd6 Nxe4 White loses the exchange, but that is just the beginning of the problems.



26. Rxe4 Rxe4 27. Be5 Rxe1 White won. ...
28. Qxe1 Qxb2+ 29. Kh1 Ra1 wins easily.

Joshua Friedel – Vladimir Mezentsev,
1:0 (East Bay Chess Club) 12/22/2005
Sicilian Dragon [B35]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 g6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 O-O 8. Bb3 d6 9. f3 Bd7 10. h4 Na5 11. Qd2 Rc8 12. h5 Nc4 13. Bxc4 This Dragon position is considered better for White. 13... Rxc4



14. hxg6 fxg6 15. O-O-O Black hasn't found a way to equalize from this position. 15... Rf7?!

15... Qc8 16. Nde2 b5 17. Bd4 Rf7 18. Kb1 b4 19. Nd5 Nxd5 20. Bxg7 Kxg7 21. Qxd5 Be6 is not too bad for Black, but there is no clear plan of attack, and White is free to pursue a kingside attack as in Madl - Battsetseg, Azov (Russia) 1990.;

15... Qa5 16. Nb3! Qc7 17. Bh6! Bxh6 18. Qxh6 Rxc3 19. bxc3 Qxc3 20. e5! Rc8 21.

Qd2 dxe5 22. Qxc3 Rxc3 23. Kb2 Rc7 24. Rhe1 Bf5 25. Rxe5 Rxc2+ 26. Ka3 Kf7 27. g4 Bc8 28. Rde1 Rc7 29. g5 Ne8 30. Rh1 Kg8 31. Rc1 Kf8 32. Rxc7 1-0, Djurasevic - Averbakh, Vienna 1957.;

15... b5!? 16. e5! b4 17. exf6 bxc3 18. Qd3 cxb2+ 19. Kb1 Rxd4 20. Bxd4 Bxf6 21. Bxf6 Rxf6 22. Rh4 Bf5 23. Qb5 Qc7 24. Rc4 Qd8 25. Qb7 d5 26. Rxd5 Rd6 27. Rxf5 1-0, Garcia Luengo- Andres Terrado, World Youth, Oropesa (Spain) 1998.

16. Nde2 Up to here it was all theory. Friedel decides to change from the established ideas with an early e5.

16. e5!? dxe5 17. Ne6 Qc8 18. Nxg7 Kxg7 19. Bg5 (19. g4!?) 19... h5 20. g4 Qc6 (20... Bc6!) 21. gxh5 Rd4 22. Bh6+ Kh8 23. Qe3 Rxd1+ 24. Rxd1 gxh5 25. Qxe5 Kh7 26. Bg5 Qxf3 1/2-1/2, Mrva Martin - Jirovsky Milos, Presov (Slovakia) 1999.



16... b5 17. Bh6 b4 18. Nd5 Nxd5 19. Bxg7 Qa5 20. Rxh7 Nf4

20... Kxh7?? 21. Qh6+ Kg8 22. Qh8#

21. Nxf4 Kxh7 22. Rh1+ Kxg7 23. Nd5 Black is a rook up, so should have looked at the sac at c2. I teach students that a capture check is always a candidate move and must be examined! **23... Kg8?**

23... Rxc2+!! 24. Kxc2 b3+! 25. axb3 Qxd2+ 26. Kxd2² White's extra pawn is of no real significance, unless White can do something about the pawn at a7. 26... Be6 27. Ra1 Bxd5 28. exd5 Rf5 29. Rxa7 Rxd5+ 30. Kc3 Rc5+ 31. Kd3 Rd5+ Black should be able to hold this rook endgame, if the Black king can get over to the queenside quickly.

24. Qg5 White targets the e7-square and wraps things up quickly. **24... Bf5 25. exf5 Rg7 26. Nxe7+** White wins.

CalChess Cuisine: Italian

by Eric Schiller

CalChess Cuisine: Italian Dishes

by Eric Schiller

For the holiday season, I present six Italian treats, including Evans Gambit. Even a rare Bobby Fischer loss! All the games are drawn from the CalChess Collection at www.chessdryad.com, though the notes are my own.

Mlotkowski, Stasch - Lovegrove

1:0 (Los Angeles) 1914

Italian Game: Evans Gambit [C52]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Ba5 6. d4 d6 7. Qb3 Nxd4!? This is one of the many interesting variations of the Evans Gambit. It hasn't been explored much. 7... Qd7 is the most common move.



8. Nxd4 exd4 9. Bxf7+ Kf8 10. Bxg8 Rxg8 11. O-O Bb6

11... d3!?

12. Bb2 Qf6

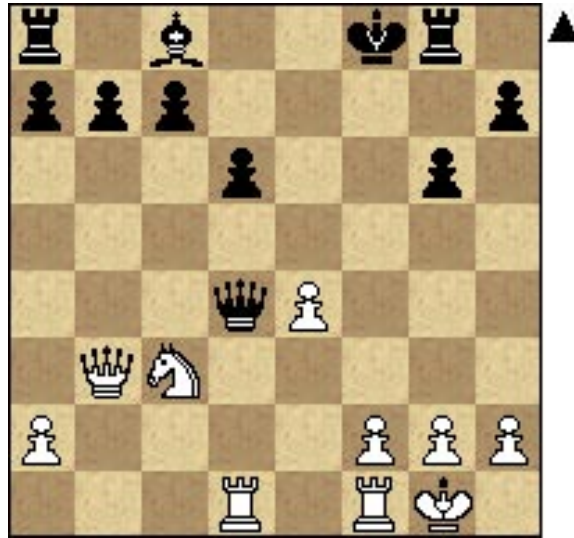
12... Qe7!?

13. cxd4 Bxd4 14. Bxd4

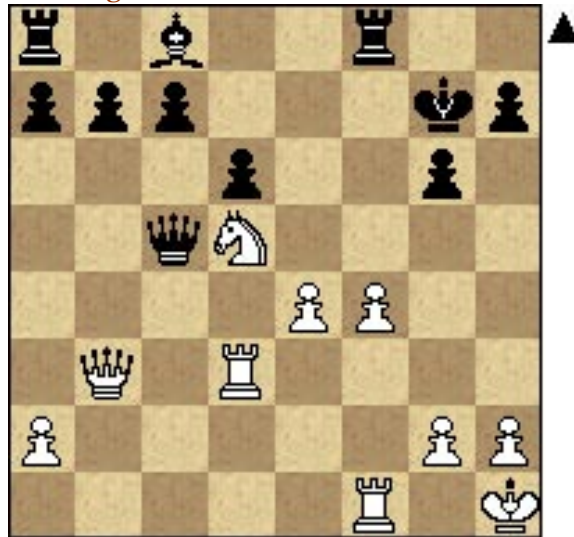
14. Nc3!? Qf7 **15. Rad1 Qxb3 16. axb3 Bxc3 17. Bxc3 Be6** looks like the simplest plan, but White really doesn't have much for the pawn.

14... Qxd4 15. Nc3 g6 An attempt to get the rook into play by moving the king out of the way. **16. Rad1**

White clearly has plenty of compensation for the pawn, with much more active pieces and a strong initiative.



16... Qe5 17. Rd3 Kg7 18. f4! Qc5+ 19. Kh1 Rf8 20. Nd5! Black is now regretting his decision to weaken the kingside dark squares with ...g6.



20... Rf7

20... Bd7 is better but White presses the attack with 21. f5

21. Qb2+ Kg8 22. Rc1! Black's queen will be trapped if she flees to the a-file, so there is no way to avoid catastrophic loss of material. 22... Qxc1+ 23. Qxc1 Be6 Black resigned. 1:0

Donovan, R. - McIntyre, R.

1:0 (Berkeley: UC Feb) 1972

Italian Game: Max Lange Attack [C55]

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. d4 exd4 5. O-O Bc5 6. e5 Ng4 This is an acceptable alternative to the complex 6...d5 variation. 7. Bf4 d6 The most popular move, despite miserable results. Opening the e-file is just asking for trouble! 8. exd6 Bxd6

8... cxd6 9. Re1+ Kf8 10. h3 Nf6 11. Nbd2 gives White more than enough for the pawn.

9. Re1+ Ne7?

9... Kf8 10. Bxd6+ Qxd6 11. Nbd2 is better for White.;

9... Be7! is the best defense. White has nothing forcing, but has enough to justify the gambit.

10. Qxd4 O-O 11. Bg5! A crushing pin! 11... c5 12. Qe4 Qc7?

12... Nf6 13. Bxf6 gxf6 would have been a lesser evil.;

12... Re8?! 13. Bd3 f5 14. Qc4+ Kf8 15. h3!

13. Bxe7 Bxh2+ 14. Kf1 Re8 15. Nc3 Bd6? Black thinks he has found a trick to escape the pressure, but it leads to a forced mate.



16. Bxf7+!! Kxf7 17. Ng5+ Kg8 18. Qxh7# 1:0

Levin, Eugene - Smook

1:0 (Hollywood) 1954

Italian Game: Classical Variation [C53]

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. O-O Bc5 5. c3 Bb6 6. d4 Qe7 7. Re1 d6 8. h3 h6 9. b4 a6
10. a4 Nb8 11. Nbd2 O-O 12. Ba3 Nbd7 13. Nh4 Qd8 14. Ndf3 c6 15. b5 Nxe4 16. Rxe4 d5 17.
Bxf8 dxe4



18. Bxf7+ Kxf7?

18... Kxf8 19. Qb3 g5 20. Ng6+ Kg7 might have been salvageable.

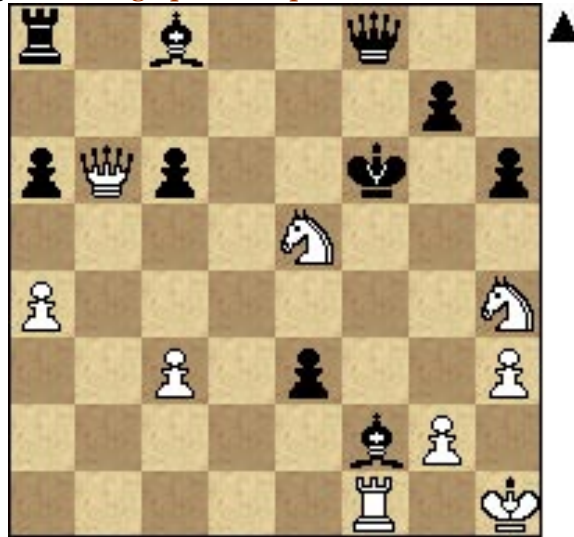
19. Qb3+ Kf6 20. dxe5+ Nxe5 21. Nxe5 Qxf8

21... Kxe5 22. Bxg7+

22. bxc6 Bxf2+ 23. Kh1

23. Kxf2 Kxe5+ 24. Ke3 should also win.

23... bxc6 24. Rf1! e3 25. Qb6 Setting up the simple threat of Rxf2+.



25... Bf5 The block on the f-file is only temporary. 26. Nxf5 Kxe5 27. Nxe3 c5 28. Rxf2! Black resigned.

...

28... Qxf2 29. Ng4+ wins the queen.

1:0

Banerjee, Abheek - Yang, Edith

0:1 (Foster City: Cal Chess Season Opener) 1996

Italian Game: Two Knights: Polorio Variation [C58]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 Nxc6 8. O-O Bg4!?

8... Bd6 9. Nc3 O-O is safer.

9. Be2 Bf5 10. d3 Bc5 11. Nc3 O-O Black has some compensation for the pawn, with easy development.

But White's position has no weaknesses. 12. Be3 Bxe3 13. fxe3 Bd7 14. Bh5 Ng4?

14... Be8!?



15. Qf3?? Qxg5 16. Bxf7+ Rxf7 17. Qxf7+ Kh8 18. Qxd7 White is up a rook and two pawns for a knight, but has a terrible weakness at f2. 18... Qxe3+ 19. Kh1 Nf2+



20. Kg1??

20. Rxf2! Qxf2 21. Qxb7 Rf8! was best, though after 22. Rg1 Nd4 23. Qxa7 Qxc2 24. Qe7 White will hang on to the extra pawns. 24... Rg8? (24... Qf2!?) 25. Ne4 Qxb2 26. Nd6 h6 27. Qxe5 and White will consolidate.

20... Rf8

20... Nh3+! 21. Kh1 Qg1+ 22. Rxg1 Nf2# was available immediately.

21. Rae1??

21. h3!

21... Nh3+ 22. Kh1 Qg1+ White resigned, because of the smothered mate.



...

23. Rxg1 Nf2#

0:1

Chase, G. - Morrow, Steve
1:0 (Los Angeles: Cosmo Club) 1951
Italian Game: Scotch Gambit [C54]

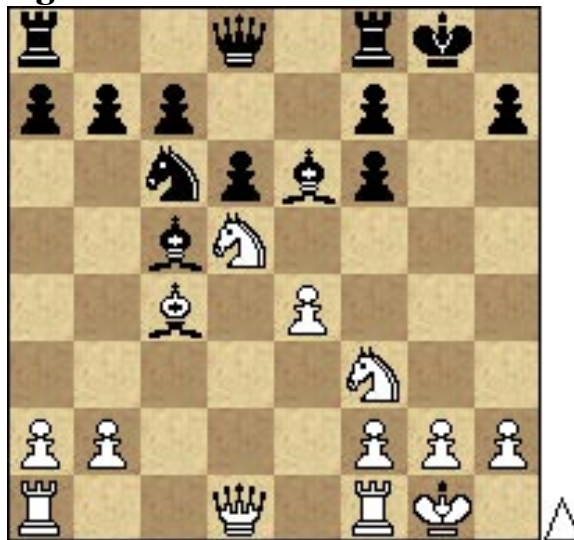
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bc5 5. c3 Nf6 6. Bg5 A rare line. **6... dxc3 7. Nxc3 d6!**
 Black prevents e5.



8. O-O

8. Nd5 isn't a problem. 8... Bxf2+!? 9. Kxf2 Nxe4+ 10. Kg1 Nxc5 11. Nxc5 Qxc5 12. Nxc7+ Kd7
 White's attack isn't worth two pawns, especially with the rook shut in at h1.

8... O-O 9. Nd5 Be6 10. Bxf6 gxf6



11. Bb3

11. Qd2 is more ambitious, taking advantage of Black's weak dark squares. For example: 11... Kh8
 12. Qh6 Bxd5 13. Bxd5 Qe7 14. Nh4! Rg8 15. Nf5 Qd7 (15... Qd8 16. Bxf7 Rg5 is uncomfortable
 for Black, who has to defend against Rd1-d3-h3.) 16. Qxf6+ Rg7 17. Qxg7# 1-0, Huelsewig Jessica
 1695 - Fridman Polina, Siegburg (Germany) 1996

11... Kh8 12. Nh4 Rg8 13. Rc1 Bh3?

13... Nd4! would have brought Black the advantage.

14. Rc3! Bg4 15. Qd2



15... f5?

15... Nd4! 16. Rd3 c6! 17. Rxd4 Bxd4 18. Qxd4 cxd5 19. Qxd5 Be6 20. Qxb7 Rb8 21. Qxa7 Bxb3 22. axb3 is a long forcing variation, but after 22... Qe8 Black still has the advantage, because White's b-pawns are weak. The weak Black pawns should give White enough resources to hold the draw, as the knight will have an unassailable position at f5.

16. Nxf5 Bxf5 17. exf5 Nd4 18. f6!



18... c6?

18... Rg6 19. Re1;

18... Qd7!? 19. Re1 Qf5! with counterplay, for example. 20. Nxc7 Nf3+! 21. Rxf3 Qxf3 22. Bd5 Rxc7+ 23. Kh1 Rxc2+ 24. Kxh2 Qh5+ 25. Kg1 Rg8+ 26. Kf1 Bb6 and Black is still in the game.

19. Ne7 Black has to give up the exchange, at least. 19... Rf8?

19... Re8 20. Qh6!

20. Qd3 Setting up a brilliant finish. Moving the queen to h6 would have accomplished the same goal, a bit more obviously. 20... d5 21. Qxh7+ Black resigned, since capturing the queen allows the rook to give checkmate at h3.



1:0

Blando, Benidict - Nicolas, Ronald

1:0 (Hayward Quads) 1994

Italian Game [C55]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bc5 5. O-O d6 6. d3 Bg4 7. Bg5 Nd4! 8. Nd5 In this position both sides have pressure on the defending knight that insures that the g-file can be opened. The question is, who can get to a position to take advantage of the open file first. This is a very instructive example of such a strategic race.

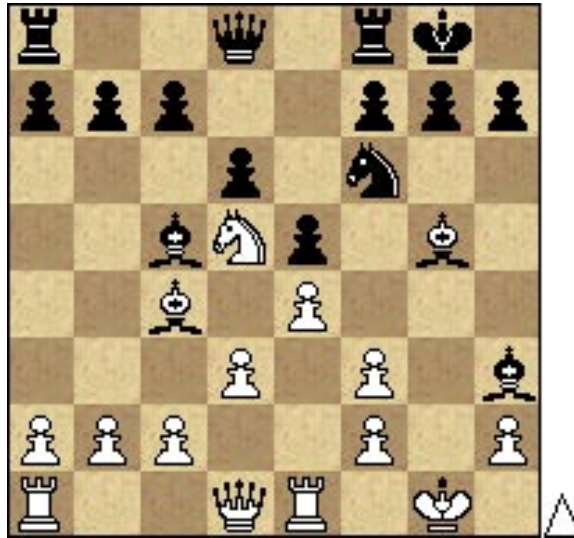


8... Nxf3+

8... c6!? 9. Nxf6+ gxf6 10. Bh6 Nxf3+ 11. gxf3 Bh3 12. Kh1 Rg8 13. Rg1 Ke7 14. Rxg8 Qxg8 15. Qg1 Qxg1+ 16. Rxg1 Bxf2 17. Rg7 Be6 18. Bxe6 Kxe6 19. Rxh7 Rg8 20. Rg7 Rxg7 21. Bxg7 f5! 22. Bf8 f4 was eventually drawn in Van Splunter - Van Akkeren, Hengelo (Netherlands) 2000.

9. gxf3 Bh3 10. Re1 O-O?!

10... c6! 11. Bxf6 gxf6 12. Ne3 Rg8+ 13. Kh1 was Halbrstat - Dioszegi, Svetla nad Sazavou (Czech Republic) 1998, and here simply 13... Bxe3 wins, because of 14. fxe3 Bg2+ 15. Kg1 Bxf3+



11. Nxf6+ gxf6 12. Bh6 Re8 13. Kh1 White gets to the g-file first!
 13. f4 Qd7 14. f5 Kh8 15. Kh1 Rg8 16. Qd2 Bg2+ 17. Kg1 Bxe4+ 18. Kf1 Bxf5 led to a Black win in Lamb
 - Karaisaridris, Schoeneck (Germany) 1999.

13... f5



14. Rg1+ Kh8 15. Bg7+ Kg8 16. Bf6+ White wins the queen. 16... Kf8 17. Bxd8 Raxd8 18. Rg3 Bxf2?? 19. Rxh3 fxe4 20. fxe4 Ke7 21. Rxh7 Rg8?? 22. Qf3 Bc5 23. Qxf7# 1:0

Stockton Scholastics

by Joe Lonsdale

Grade Level Championships, A great Tournament in Stockton!

By Joe Lonsdale

The North Stockton Rotary once again put on an excellent Northern California Grade Level Championship Tournament on the University of the Pacific campus in Stockton the weekend of December 3rd and 4th. A record total of 296 students battled for Northern California team and individual grade level championships.

One of the reasons for the success of this tournament is that the North Stockton Rotary has put their objectives in writing and they are actively working on accomplishing them. Their objectives include:

- 1) Bring a State Class Tournament to Stockton yearly. (I'd say they have already accomplished this.)
- 2) Raise local player participation through active solicitation and scholarships.
- 3) Enhance Stockton's reputation to a larger California audience by attracting players from around the state. This was certainly accomplished in the elementary sections, most of the big guns (Weibel, Mission, St Marks') of Northern CA elementary school chess were at the tournament. Participation in grades 10 to 12 is still a little light.
- 4) All profits from the event are used for local scholastic chess and future scholastic tournaments.

Directions to the parking areas and the playing area were well marked. The tournament site was spacious and well lighted. Trophies were plentiful and of reasonable size. John McCumiskey did his usual excellent job of directing. Scholastic tournaments offer different challenges for directors (Kindergarten students hitting the clock out of turn and other children talking during the games.) John handled all of these challenges with his usual professionalism.

The first round was late getting started, but the organizer and the tournament director have said that they are aware of what caused the delays and they will avoid these problems and start on time next year.

Grades 10 to 12 had a total of 14 entries and these were combined into one section. Gabe Gordon, grade 10, of Tamalpais High School was the top rated player at 1689. Gabe scored a perfect 6-0. Arnold Hua (1532), grade 11, of San Francisco Charter School was the second highest rated player. Arnold scored 4.5 to take the second place trophy. The team trophy was won by Emery Secondary School. Their team consisted of Gurdeep Singh, King Ma, and Gurdish Singh.

Grade 9 had eight participants. Michael Cohen of El Dorado High School was the top rated player at 1554. Michael scored a perfect 6-0 to take first place. There was a three way tie for second place with four points. Keaky Ma (rated only 820!) of Emery Secondary School took the second place trophy, Howard Siu (1210) of Chinese Christian School (San Leandro) took the third place trophy, and Tyler Bard (1343) of Castro Valley High School took fourth place.

In championships by individual grades the team score is the score of the three top scoring players from each



Mission Grade 6 Team (Co-Champions): Vincent Tian, Kevin Hsu, Guman Shokar, and Arthur Liou (Grade 6 Champion)

school in that grade.

Grade eight has 25 competitors. Ray Orwig has been coaching St. Marks of San Rafael to championships (both state and national championships) since the 80s. It looked like his team of seven players would easily sweep the field in grade eight. Going into the last round I asked Ray about Grade 8 and he said, "I've never even heard of Crocker Middle School (Hillsborough). They've been nipping at our heels all weekend and now we are tied going into the last round." Ray was both concerned and surprised because Crocker only had one player rated over 800 and St Marks had seven players rated over 900!

St. Marks came through with two points in the last round to take the first place trophy 11 points to 10 points for Crocker Middle School. Cruickhank School (Merced) was third.

Elliott Bezdecheck (1076) of Leonardo Da Vinci School and Robert Hsu (1275) of Crocker tied for first place with 5 points. Elliot took the first place trophy on tie breakers. Trevor Showalter (1566) of Cruickhank took the third place trophy with 4.5.

In grade seven Rohan Agarwal (1705) of Horner Jr. High (Fremont) had more than 300 rating points on the rest of the field. Rohan scored a perfect 6-0 to take the first place trophy. Joseph Goodman (1063) of Marin County Day school scored 5 points (losing only to Rohan) to take the second place trophy. Mathew Bell (881) also of Marin scored four points to take the third place trophy on tie breakers.

Marin County Day school took first place by half a point (12.0 to 11.5) over Horner. St. Marks took the third place team trophy.

Grade six has 33 participants. Arthur Liou (1580) of Mission San Jose (Fremont) was rated more than 300 points higher than the rest of the field. Arthur scored a perfect 6-0 to take the first place trophy. The top six players finished in the exact order of their rating! Puneeth Gadangi (1257) of St Marks was second with five points, losing only to Liou, Kevin Leong (1243, 4 points) of Warm Springs (Fremont) was third, Ryan Olver (1114) of Hoover was fourth, Jose Godinez (1106) of St Marks was fifth, and Vincent Tian (1085, 4 points) of Mission was sixth.

The six grade team competition was a battle between Mission, Weibel, and St. Marks.

Weibel had the most players (10, versus 5 for Mission and 5 for St. Marks), but their top player was only rated 893. St Marks had two players rated above 1100 and Mission had four players rated above 950 including Arthur Liou at 1580. Weibel took an early lead on Saturday, but fell behind during the third and fourth round. Going into the last round Mission and St. Marks were tied. They both had two point rounds to tie for first place with 13 points (Co-champions). Mission took the first place trophy on tie breaks. Weibel was third with 11 points. Below is the round four game between the two top rated sixth graders.

Puneeth Gadangi (St. Marks) 1257 - Arthur Liou (Mission) 1580

Round 4

1. d4 e5 2. e3 d5 3. Nc3 Be6 4. dxe5 Nc6 5. Nf3 f6 6. Bb5 a6 7. Bxc6 bxc6 8. Bd2 Bc5 9. 0-0 Bg4 10. h3 Bxf3 11. Qxf3 Qe7 12. Ne2 fxe5 13. Bc3 Nf6 14. Qg3 Bd6 15. Rad1 0-0 16. Qg5 Qf7 17. Ng3 h6 18. Qh4 Rab8 19. Rfe1 Nd7 20. Rf1 Bc5 21. a3 Qe6 22. Qh5 Rf6 23. Qh4 Rbf8 24. Nh5 Rf5 25. Qg4 Qf7 26. Nxf7 Rg5 27. Qe2 Qxg7 28. f3 Rg3 29. Kh2 Bd6 30. Qf2 Rg6 31. f4 exf4 32. Bxg7 fxe3+ 33. Kh1 Rxf2 34. Bd4 Rgxg2 35. Bxe3 Rh2+ 36. Kg1 Rfh2#

As many will be able to tell from the style shown by Arthur Liou in this game, Arthur is a student of Richard Shorman.

The fifth grade championship was the largest with forty-eight players. Three schools (Tierra Linda Middle School (San Carlos) -13, Weibel -7, and St. Marks 6) entered large teams. With only four players and a top rating of 1018 Mission looked like an also ran on paper. Going into the last round I was delighted to be only one point behind Weibel in second place. At the time I would have gladly settled for second place as three other teams (Tierra Linda, St Marks, and Valley Oak, Davis) were close. The four Mission players Chris Cai (858, 5 points), Gordon Tom (1018, 4 points), Cory Yang (479, 4 points), and Jason Liu (829, 4 points) all won their games to give Mission a perfect three point round and a 13 to 11 victory over second place Weibel. Tierra Linda Middle School of San Carlos scored 10.5 points to take the third place trophy.

Tierra Linda Middle School of San Carlos scored 10.5 points to take the third place trophy.

William Cheung of Gomes (Fremont) scored 5.5 points to take the first place individual trophy in fifth grade. There was a four way tie, at 5 points, for second between Isaac Zhang (1307 Valley Oak second place trophy), Justin Lew (952, Deliane Easton Elementary, third place trophy), Ted Xiao (879, Valley Oak, fourth place trophy) and Chris Cai (858, Mission, fifth place trophy).

Fourth grade had forty-six players. Alex Grossman (1351) of Ouveneck Elementary had more than 200 points on the rest of the field. Alex scored a perfect 6-0 to win the fourth grade championship. Second place was a three way tie at 5 points between Matthew Lai (982 second place trophy, Oak Meadow Elementary) Warren Tian (963, third place trophy, Mission) and Primus Lam (812, fourth place trophy, Weibel)

In the fourth grade team competition Mission was once again first with 13 points. Weibel and Coyote Creek Elementary tied for second with 11.5 points with Weibel getting the second place trophy on tiebreaks. A very large (10 players) Heather (San Carlos) team came in fourth with 11 points and St Marks (six players) came in fifth with 9.5 points. There will be more team trophies next year as I have explained to the organizers that if Ray Orwig (St Marks) brings a six person team in any grade and does not win a team trophy, it is proof that you are not giving enough team trophies!

Thirty-eight players competed in grade three. Six of the top nine players including the top two (Jerome Sun 1373 and Hemang Jangle 1355) were from Mission. The Mission team did not disappoint. Their winning score of 12 points was three full points better than second place Weibel. Heather Elementary scored 7.5 points to take the third place team trophy. The K-3 tournaments are only five rounds.

Hemang Jangle won his first four games and was paired against teammate Jerome Sun (3.5 points after four rounds) in the final round. Team pairing restrictions are removed for the last round for individual championship purposes. Jerome won the inter-Mission battle to take first place with 4.5 points. Hemang (four points, second place trophy) tied for second place with Hessen Schmidt (1104 Third place trophy, Nixon Elementary) Michael Meng (1122 Weibel, fourth place trophy), Alex Zinoman (1143 Kingston Hill Top Elementary, fifth place trophy), David Hakobian (Unrated, Blanche Sprentz Elementary, sixth place trophy), and Benjamin Huey (804, Saint Albans, seventh place trophy).

In grade two the Weibel team won a convincing victory with 10.5 points far outdistancing second place Heather Elementary (5.5 points) and third place Mission (5 points) Jordon Ford (1289 Oakview Elementary) was the top rated player in the section and won the section with 4.5 points. There was a four way tie for second place with 4.0 points between Jessica Zhu (1083, second place trophy), Clarence Lai (923, Oakview Elementary, third place trophy) Steele Lai (923, Art Freiler Elementary, fourth place trophy) and Anthony Luo (590, fifth place trophy).

Grade one had fifteen entries. Armaan Kalyanpur of Mission (Unrated) took the first place individual trophy with a perfect 5-0. Alex Yin of Mission took second place, losing only to Armaan. Even with the top two finishers the Mission team barely beat out Weibel (10.5 points to 10 points) for the first place team trophy. Benjamin Wang of Weibel tied for second with 4.0 and took the third place trophy. Nathan Chan (346, Weibel) and Sahlik Khan (Unrated, Weibel) took the fourth and fifth place trophies with three points each. Heather Elementary took the third place team trophy with 7.5 points. The scoring players for Heather were Schafer Kraemer (unrated, 3 points, sixth place trophy) Wesley Pham (unrated, 2.5 points, seventh place trophy) and Hunter Manter (506, 2 points, ninth place trophy)

Only seven students entered the Kindergarten section. This was a disappointment to me as K children can play chess if they are given a little training and the chance to compete. The top kindergarten players were first Alvin Kong, Mission 4.5 points, second Rawat Rahul Mission 4.0 points, third Shalin Shah, Mission 3.5 points, fourth Yousef Azhar, Granda 3.0 points, fourth Brent Xiao, Mission 2.0 points.

Again congratulations to Organizer Thomas Biglione of the North Stockton Rotary and to tournament director John McCumiskey for a great tournament.

Stockton Photos



Daniel Naroditsky sitting at board 1.



Daniels brother Alan also had a good time.



Mission Grade 4



Mission Grade 5



Marvin Shu got 5th place in 10th grade.



Jeff Young got 5th place in 9th grade



Weibel School 2nd Grade Champions

National Grade Level Championship

By NM Michael Aigner

Basking in warm weather at a spacious convention center, hundreds of young wannabe Kasparovs transformed the Houston convention center into a veritable chess heaven on earth. 1575 players from 40 different states competed in sections ranging from Kindergarten to Collegiate at the 2005 National Grade Level Championship on December 2-4. Roughly 20 of those children hailed from Northern California, with the vast majority playing in the 9th and 10th grade sections. This author made the pilgrimage to coach a team of eight players from Saratoga High School.

I had a lot of fun coaching the kids, going over games between rounds and consoling the unhappy losers. For those who have never been to a nationals, I have to say that this is an experience like none other. Nothing can prepare someone for the stiff competition other than having been there before. Ratings are often entirely meaningless. There's no such thing as a "guaranteed win", even in the early rounds. The letters "NY" (as in New York) strike fear in the hearts of everyone. Other strong scholastic states include Florida, Arizona, Illinois, Texas and, of course, California (northern and southern). On the other hand, the tournament is much more than a competition; it is an opportunity to socialize with people around the country who share your enthusiasm and passion for chess.

The competition began on Thursday with the bughouse and blitz championships. Northern California was well represented in the former, with two teams sharing first place. David Chock and Neph Diaz (Texas) became national bughouse champions on tiebreaks ahead of Jojo Zhao and Benjamin Francis (Georgia). Congratulations to David and Jojo (both 10th graders at Saratoga High School) for sharing a national title!

The blitz tournament on Thursday evening was brutal with 14 games testing both the stamina and mental stability of all players. One could argue that the blitz tournament was stronger than the main event, in part because all junior high and high school kids played together in one section. There were roughly 20 experts in this tournament! Moreover, upsets were the norm. Only four local players managed to win trophies (top 25 only). Congrats to Jeff Young (19th place), Sam Shankland (21st place) and Jojo Zhao (25th place) for playing well in the K-12 section. Hugo Kitano took 15th place in the K-6 section. Saratoga High School (Jeff Young, Jojo Zhao, David Chock, Aaron Garg) took second place in the K-12 team category behind a team of three experts from Florida.

The main event began on Friday afternoon with two rounds on Friday, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. The time control was G/90. The tournament was held in a huge ballroom at the Houston convention center. Binoculars were necessary to see the announcer standing on the stage from the main entrance. Impressively though, all of the rounds began within 10 minutes of the scheduled time. The tournament was extremely well organized with pairings usually available 30 minutes before the round time. The USCF's national scholastic organizers seem to have learned from the disaster last spring at Supnationals in Nashville.

For northern California, the biggest story was the repeat success of Daniel Naroditsky, rated 1880 and ranked #1 in the nation for age 9 and under. Daniel always stayed calm despite the whirlwind of activity surrounding him. He was on a mission to add another first place trophy to his victory in K-3 nationals last spring. Still he had time to share a smile for this photographer. Daniel sat down on top board in the first round and returned to the same board in each subsequent round. Seven opponents came to challenge him and seven opponents went home disappointed. With an convincing 7-0 performance, Daniel Naroditsky became the national champion for 4th grade. Congratulations to "Danya" for a job well done!

Eric Hicks shares the following paragraph about his top prodigy. Nicholas Nip went to Houston as one of the favorites to win the second grade section. According to the December Supplement he was 1575; board one was 8 year old Alexander Velikanov, rated 1578. Here is the dilemma for a kid playing and rated this high: Nicholas not once was paired with anyone over 1100! Moreover, many of his opponents were underrated. In round 3 both Nicholas and Alexander fell to kids rated 500 points lower. Nicholas was guilty of complacency against the weaker players and, of course, was playing too fast. Both top seeds won their round 4, 5 and 6 games and went into the final round with a chance to win a share first or second place. Here disaster struck as Nicholas drew a 1100 player, rifling off 70 moves in 30 minutes. If he had won, he would have tied for second with Alexander. Instead, his score of 5.5 points out of 7 was good enough for 6th place and Nicholas ended up taking home a trophy nearly as big as he was.

The 9th grade division was packed with players from northern California. In fact, eight out of the top 20 in the final standings came from CalChess. During one of the early rounds, one local player sat on each board from 2 to 7. Perhaps our biggest local stars are in 4th and 2nd grades, but the strongest competition might be in 9th grade. In the end, none of the 9th graders won, but two shared third place. Kudos to Jeff Young and Sam Shankland for taking home the 5th and 6th place trophies respectively on tiebreaks. Jeff's result is especially impressive as he faced both of the co-champions (defeating one) and four expert strength opponents in all, scoring 2.5 out of 4 in up pairings. Also earning a trophy were Louiza Livschitz (8th place) and Ted Belanoff (11th place).

Two local players also had success in 10th grade. Marvin Shu scalped his first ever opponent over 2000, crushing an expert from Massachusetts in the final round. He tied for fourth with 5.5 out of 7 and took home the fifth place trophy on tiebreaks. Saratoga High School top board David Chock had an up and down tournament, unfortunately facing all three players from a strong school in Arizona. In the final round, David held a draw against the section's #2 seed, thereby earning the 7th place trophy.

With a total of eight players, Saratoga High School was competitive in the 9th and 10th grade team categories. No school from northern California had won a team championship at the national level in many years, but that changed last weekend. With an impressive 14.5 points that was 3.5 points ahead of second place, the Saratoga High School 9th grade team of Jeff Young, Alexander Lun, Avinash Kumar and Aaron Garg won the national championship! The 10th grade team of Marvin Shu, David Chock, Jojo Zhao and Robert Chen was locked in a tough struggle against the aforementioned school from Arizona and, in the end, finished in second place by 0.5 points. Congratulations to all these players and to team manager Stayton Chock. It was a pleasure for me to coach all of these kids at such a challenging tournament. :-)

Summary of Northern California trophies:

Nicholas Nip 5.5 for 6th place in 2nd grade
Daniel Naroditsky 7.0 for 1st place in 4th grade
Hugo Kitano 5.0 for 17th place in 5th grade and 15th place in K-6 blitz
Jeff Young 5.5 for 5th place in 9th grade and 19th place in K-12 blitz
Sam Shankland 5.5 for 6th place in 9th grade and 21st place in K-12 blitz
Louiza Livschitz 5.0 for 8th place in 9th grade
Ted Belanoff 5.0 for 11th place in 9th grade
Marvin Shu 5.5 for 5th place in 10th grade
David Chock 5.0 for 7th place in 10th grade and 1st place in bughouse
Jojo Zhao 25th place in K-12 blitz and 2nd place in bughouse

Saratoga High School 9th grade team got 14.5 for 1st place
Saratoga High School 10th grade team got 14.0 for 2nd place

Complete standings: <http://www.alchess.com>
Photo gallery: <http://www.calchess.org>

The 35th Carroll Capps Memorial

November 5-6, 2005

The Prize Winners:

First and Second Overall: Cusi and De Guzman - \$325 each.

Third Overall: Shipman, Zavadsky and Margulis - \$50 each.

Best Under 2200: Malkiel, Vayntrub and Shankland - \$66.66 each.

Best Under 2000: Konda, Mc Daniel, Bukh, L.Livschitz, Oza, D.Naroditsky, Young, Da Cruz and Ogush: \$16.66 each.

Best Under 1800: Krubnik, Reyes and Agarwal - \$41.66 each.

Best Under 1600: Zhu - \$115.

Best Under 1400: Mohan - \$110

Best Under 1200: Wanlass - \$60

Unrated: Lamstein - \$40

Final Standings:

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Ricardo De Guzman	2458	2454	W48	W47	W5	D2	W8	D7	5.0
2	Ronald Cusi	2334	2340	W24	W12	W36	D1	W18	D5	5.0
3	Walter Shipman	2208	2210	W42	H---	D8	H---	W17	W10	4.5
4	Peter Zavadsky	2202	2196	W27	W14	W7	L8	D15	W18	4.5
5	Igor Margulis	2200	2205	W49	W16	L1	W14	W21	D2	4.5
6	Daniel Malkiel	2095	2091	W37	L15	W42	W23	W16	H---	4.5
7	Dmitry Vayntrub	2075	2092	W29	W17	L4	W19	W9	D1	4.5
8	Sam Shankland	2001	2028	W38	W23	D3	W4	L1	W15	4.5
9	Tony D'Alosio	2215	2209	H---	H---	W49	W12	L7	W20	4.0
10	Adarsh Konda	1993	1989	W44	D19	H---	H---	W27	L3	3.5
11	Keith Mc Daniel	1951	1933	W25	D18	H---	D27	L20	W30	3.5
12	Yefim Bukh	1928	1930	W32	L2	W29	L9	W24	D16	3.5
13	Louisa Livschitz	1891	1876	W26	L36	D44	L21	W33	W27	3.5
14	Nikunj Oza	1886	1885	W39	L4	W38	L5	W29	D21	3.5
15	Daniel Naroditsky	1860	1879	W33	W6	H---	H---	D4	L8	3.5
16	Gregory Young	1852	1868	W45	L5	W26	W36	L6	D12	3.5
17	Michael Da Cruz	1804	1798	W50	L7	D22	W44	L3	W31	3.5
18	Michael Ogush	1800	1825	W52	D11	W30	W35	L2	L4	3.5
19	Ewelina Krubnik	1758	1783	W34	D10	D35	L7	W26	H---	3.5
20	Rojer Reyes	1681	1700	L36	D33	W51	W30	W11	L9	3.5
21	Rohan Agarwal	1676	1769	W46	L35	W47	W13	L5	D14	3.5
22	Kevin Zhu	1285	1403	L23	W37	D17	W43	H---	H---	3.5
23	Gary Luke	1831	1811	W22	L8	W41	L6	D32	D25	3.0
24	Boris Ladyzhensky	1721	1709	L2	D25	W50	D33	L12	W32	3.0
25	Harold Parker	1547	1570	L11	D24	L43	W50	W28	D23	3.0
26	Albert Martin Starr	1521	1555	L13	W48	L16	W49	L19	W41	3.0
27	Tab Salvo	1712	1735	L4	W32	W46	D11	L10	L13	2.5
28	Alan Naroditsky	1687	1666	D35	L30	H---	H---	L25	W52	2.5
29	John Chan	1613	1612	L7	W45	L12	W40	L14	H---	2.5
30	Craig Yamamoto	1577	1592	H---	W28	L18	L20	W34	L11	2.5
31	Hugo Kitano	1545	1546	L47	L46	W45	D42	X---	L17	2.5
32	Arthur Liou	1544	1562	L12	L27	W52	W47	D23	L24	2.5
33	Vijay Mohan	1355	1421	L15	D20	W48	D24	L13	H---	2.5

34	Ari Lamstein	unr.	1608	L19	L44	W39	H---	L30	W49	2.5
35	Paul Gallegos	2200	2176	D28	W21	D19	L18	U---	U---	2.0
36	Edward Perepelitsky	2125	2114	W20	W13	L2	L16	U---	U---	2.0
37	Marika Litras	1654	1616	L6	L22	L40	H---	W39	H---	2.0
38	Thomas Boyd	1595	1592	L8	W52	L14	W41	U---	U---	2.0
39	Vincent Saguid	1486	1462	L14	L49	L34	W52	L37	W45	2.0
40	Andrew Yeh	1361	1378	U---	L42	W37	L29	H---	H---	2.0
41	Jennifer Livschitz	1230	1254	H---	H---	L23	L38	W49	L26	2.0
42	Carl Woebecke	1718	1712	L3	W40	L6	D31	F---	U---	1.5
43	Ed Ratner	1714	1701	U---	H---	W25	L22	U---	U---	1.5
44	Nat Crawford	1552	1571	L10	W34	D13	L17	F---	U---	1.5
45	Ojas Chinchwadkar	1287	1268	L16	L29	L31	H---	W52	L39	1.5
46	Philipp Perepelitsky	2111	2085	L21	W31	L27	U---	U---	U---	1.0
47	George Sanguinetti	1941	1913	W31	L1	L21	L32	U---	U---	1.0
48	Nelson Sowell	1733	1696	L1	L26	L33	W51	F---	U---	1.0
49	Rico Adkins	1682	1630	L5	W39	L9	L26	L41	L34	1.0
50	Ken Wanlass	276	276	L17	B---	L24	L25	U---	U---	1.0
51	Sapphire Ratner	1033	1031	U---	H---	L20	L48	U---	U---	0.5
52	Seth Perlman	unr.	887	L18	L38	L32	L39	L45	L28	0.0

EBCC Thanksgiving Festival

by Vinay Bhat

103 players came to Berkeley for this year's EBCC Thanksgiving Festival. Seventy played in the main tournament, and thirty-three played in the Scholastic Swiss. The Open section was a close affair, finally finishing in a four-way tie between NM Michael Aigner, NM Nic Yap, October Swiss winner Daniel Schwarz, and rising junior Adarsh Konda. Drake Wang, Philipp Perepelitsky, and Sam Shankland also finished in the money with 4/6.

The U2000 section also featured a tie for first, this time between two players, Steven Krasnov and Iris Kokish with 5/6. Iris's performance was particularly impressive, as she was the 18th seeded player in the section at the start of the tournament. Arnav Shah, Sreekar Jasthi, Nelson Sowell, Greg Sarafian, and Isaac Mayhew finished with 4/6 to round out the prize winners in this section.

The two-day option was a popular choice among players in the U1600 section, as 19 of the 24 players chose this option. Again, two players tied for first, Arnold Hua, who started in the 3-day, and Tom Boyd, who played in the 2-day. Both scored 5/6. At 4/6 were Vijay Jasthi, Vincent Saguid, Kevin Garbe, and Jerome Sun.

The only section with a clear winner was the 4th-8th grade section in the Scholastic Swiss. Here Austin Lloyd scored a perfect 6/6 and saw his rating increase by 200 points! Andrew Chen fought through a tough field to finish with 4.5/6, Henry Eastman finished in clear third with 4/6, and 5 players finished with 3.5/6. Everyone in the section scored at least one win, and some of the players rated well over 1000 had difficulty getting to 3/6!

The K-3 section ended in a tie with two players having 5/6. Joshua Chan got 1st place on tiebreaks, winning a trophy almost as big as him! Anthony Chen finished second, and Steele Langland and Jacqueline Garbe finished tied for 3-4 with 4/6 points.

Finally, the side events: the bughouse tournament ended in a tie between the team of Sam Shankland/Ted Belanoff and the team of Vinay Bhat/Aviv Adler. Not many players attended Vinay's simultaneous exhibition, but those who came were treated to multiple games against the EBCC director.

Thanks to everyone who came to play, watch, or help out, and we look forward to hosting the tournament again next Thanksgiving.

Nicholas Nip - Rohan Agarwal

Englund Gambit [A40]

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 f6 4. exf6 Nxf6 5. Nc3 d5 6. e3 Bd6 7. Be2 Be6 8. O-O Qd7 9. Nd4 O-O 10. Bd2 h5 11. Nxe6 Qxe6 12. Nb5 g5 13. Nd4 Nxd4 14. exd4 g4 15. a4 h4 16. Bg5 Bxh2+ 17. Kxh2 g3+ 18. Kg1 h3 19. fxg3 Ne4 20. Bh4 Rdg8 21. Rf4 Rxh4 22. Rxh4 Rxc3 23. Bf3 Qg6 24. Rg4 h2+ 25. Kxh2 Qh6+ 26. Kg1 Qe3+ 27. Kh2 Qh6+ [1½:1½]

Daniel Schwarz - Nicholas Yap

Closed Sicilian [B26]

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 d6 6. Be3 e6 7. Qd2 Qa5 8. Nge2 Nd4 9. Nc1 Bd7 10. O-O Ne7 11. f4 O-O 12. Qf2 Qb6 13. Nd1 Rac8 14. c3 Ndc6 15. Rb1 Qa6 16. Qd2 b6 17. Bf2 d5 18. Ne3 d4 19. Nc4 dxc3 20. bxc3 Na5 21. Ne3 Rcd8 22. Re1 Bc6 23. Qc2 Rd7 24. g4 f5 25. gxf5 exf5 26. e5 Bxg2 27. Nxg2 Nd5 28. Ne2 Re8 29. Qa4 Qc8 30. Rbd1 Bf8 31. Rd2 Qc6 32. Qxc6 Nxc6 33. Red1 Red8 34. Bh4 Rc8 35. Kf1 Kf7 36. Bf2 Be7 37. c4 Nc7 38. Ne3 Rcd8 39. Nc3 Nd4 40. Kg2 g5

41. Ned5 Nce6 42. Bxd4 cxd4 43. Ne2 Rg8 44. Kf3 gxf4 45. Nexf4 Bg5 46. Rg2 Rg7 47. Rdg1 Bxf4
48. Nxf4 Rxc2 49. Rxc2 Nc5 50. Rg5 Ke8 51. Rxf5 Rg7 52. Rh5 Rf7 53. Kg4 Ke7 54. Rh6 Rg7+ 55.
Kf5 Rf7+ 56. Rf6 Rxf6+ 57. exf6+ Kf7 58. Ke5 Nd7+ 59. Kxd4 Kxf6 60. Kd5 Kf5 61. Ne2 Ne5 62. d4
Ng4 63. c5 Ne3+ 64. Kc6 Ke4 65. cxb6 axb6 66. Kxb6 Nc2 67. Kc5 Kd3 68. a4 **Black resigns [1:0]**

Adarsh Konda - Daniel Schwarz

Leningrad Dutch [A87]

1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. g3 Bg7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. Nf3 d6 7. O-O Qe8 8. d5 Na6 9. Rb1 Bd7 10. b4
c6 11. dxc6 bxc6 12. a3 Nc7 13. Bb2 a5 14. Re1 axb4 15. axb4 Rb8 16. Ba1 h6 17. c5 dxc5 18. bxc5
Rxb1 19. Qxb1 **Game drawn by mutual agreement [½:½]**

Louiza Livschitz - Daniel Schwarz

Leningrad Dutch [A87]

1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. g3 O-O 6. Bg2 d6 7. O-O Qe8 8. d5 Na6 9. Re1 Nc5 10. b4
Nfe4 11. Nb5 Na6 12. Nfd4 c6 13. Bxe4 fxe4 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. Nc3 Nxb4 16. Rb1 c5 17. Ndb5 Qf7
18. Be3 Qxc4 19. a3 a6 20. axb4 axb5 21. Nd5 Ra7 22. Rc1 Qa2 23. bxc5 dxc5 24. Bxc5 Rd7 25.
Nb4 Rxd1 26. Nxa2 Rxe1+ 27. Rxe1 Be6 28. Nb4 Kf7 29. f3 Rc8 30. Bf2 exf3 31. exf3 Bc4 32. Nc2
Bd5 33. Nd4 b4 34. Rb1 Rc4 35. Nb3 Rc3 36. Nd4 b3 **White resigns [0:1]**

Daniel Schwarz - Edward Perepelitsky

Closed Sicilian [B24]

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 e6 6. Be3 Nd4 7. Nce2 d5 8. exd5 exd5 9. c3 Ne6 10.
d4 c4 11. Qd2 Ne7 12. Bh6 Nf5 13. Bxg7 Nexg7 14. Nf4 Be6 15. h4 h5 16. Ngh3 O-O 17. O-O Ne7
18. Rfe1 Rb8 19. Nxe6 Nxe6 20. Re5 Qd7 21. Rae1 Rfe8 22. Rxe6 fxe6 23. Qh6 Nf5 24. Qxg6+ Qg7
25. Qxh5 Re7 26. Nf4 Rbe8 27. Nxd5 exd5 28. Bxd5+ **Black resigns [1:0]**



Actually, we were here first, and the California Chess Journal is still free! But this is a very interesting and ambitious project, and you might want to check out their website and see if their eZine is worthwhile. They describe the publication this way *It contains theoretical analysis, opening surveys, chess novelties, and well-annotated games, as well as instructive theoretical material from Grandmasters and International Masters.* That seems accurate. They even have Ivanchuk writing for them. I helped them translate one article, and it was very interesting. Like *Chess Today*, a well respected publication that has been around for years, it comes in both PDF and PGN format. —Eric Schiller

5th Jim Hurt Under 1800 Memorial

December 10-11, 2005

Prize Winners:

1st Overall: Belanoff - \$200

2nd and 3rd Overall: Ling and Woebcke - \$100 each.

1st Under 1600: Saguid - \$67.50

2nd Under 1600: Yamamoto - \$57.50

1st Under 1400: Sandberg - \$62.50

2nd Under 1400: Donovan - \$50

1st Unrated: Perlman - \$37.50

2nd Unrated: Triptow - \$25

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Ted Belanoff	1770	1783	L12	W24	W17	W16	W5	W3	5.0
2	Charles Ling	1753	1773	W7	W8	W16	D11	L3	W4	4.5
3	Carl Woebcke	1670	1703	W15	W18	D4	W14	W2	L1	4.5
4	Ewelina Krubnik	1751	1759	W17	W6	D3	H---	W11	L2	4.0
5	Tab Salvo	1740	1736	L18	W15	W7	W8	L1	W11	4.0
6	Marika Litras	1654	1676	W14	L4	W13	H---	W9	H---	4.0
7	Vincent Saguid	1478	1552	L2	W20	L5	W18	W10	W14	4.0
8	John Chan	1659	1650	W26	L2	W18	L5	W13	H---	3.5
9	Craig Yamamoto	1524	1557	W10	W23	L11	D21	L6	W15	3.5
10	Chuck Dupree	1772	1726	L9	D13	D21	W17	L7	W18	3.0
11	Dan Litowsky	1700	1687	D13	W21	W9	D2	L4	L5	3.0
12	Albert Starr	1496	1498	W1	L16	L14	L13	W24	X---	3.0
13	Evan Sandberg	1353	1420	D11	D10	L6	W12	L8	W24	3.0
14	Lloyd Stephenson	1782	1742	L6	W19	W12	L3	H---	L7	2.5
15	John P. Donovan	1324	1348	L3	L5	D20	W24	W21	L9	2.5
16	Nelson Sowell	1736	1722	W19	W12	L2	L1	U---	U---	2.0
17	Kevin Garbe	1365	1357	L4	W26	L1	L10	H---	H---	2.0
18	Ojas Chinchwadkar	1362	1371	W5	L3	L8	L7	X---	L10	2.0
19	Hemang Jangle	1355	1338	L16	L14	L22	B---	H---	H---	2.0
20	Nikita Shenkman	1278	1258	L25	L7	D15	W26	H---	F---	2.0
21	John Steele	1533	1511	H---	L11	D10	D9	L15	U---	1.5
22	Shawn Tse	1487	1496	U---	H---	W19	U---	U---	U---	1.5
23	Rico Adkins	1682	1668	W24	L9	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
24	Stephen Lupton	1326	1284	L23	L1	W26	L15	L12	L13	1.0
25	Frank Li	1203	1225	W20	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
26	Seth Perlman	unr.	878	L8	L17	L24	L20	F---	U---	0.0



During the holidays, why not drop in on Chessgames.com? This unique website give an individual discussion page to each player, event and game in its extensive database, where members post questions and comments. Most of the features are free, but there are some premium features that let you explore the database more deeply. Among the regular participants are Susan Polgar, Ray Keene, Lawrence Day and Your Humble Editor. Because the site is moderated, the discussions only rarely get out of hand. The database is extensive and contains many games with full commentariese — Eric Schiller.

Notes from the Mechanic's Institute CC

Fischer R. vs. MacDonald, Jonathan
Simultaneous Exhibition, Montreal (Canada). 2/23/1964
1:0, SICILIAN def. NAJDORF var.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f4 e5 7. Nf5 Bxf5 8. exf5 Nc6 9. g4 Be7 10. g5 Nd7 11. h4 Nd4 12. Bg2 Nxf5 13. Bxb7 Ra7 14. Bg2 Qb6 15. Nd5 Qd4 16. c3 Qxd1+ 17. Kxd1 exf4 18. Bxf4 Ne5 19. Be4 g6 20. Bxf5 gxf5 21. Re1 Nd3 22. Re2 Nxf4 23. Nxf4 h6 24. Kc2 Kd8 25. g6 fxe6 26. Nxe6 Rh7 27. Rae1 h5 28. Re6 Rb7 29. Nxe7 Rbxe7 30. Rxd6+ Kc7 31. Rxe7+ Rxe7 32. Rxa6 Re4 33. Rf6 Rxh4 34. Rxf5 Rh1 35. b4 h4 36. Rh5 h3 37. a4 h2 38. Kb2 Kb7 39. Rh6 [1:0]

Fischer, Robert J. vs. Zaly, Ignas
Simultaneous Exhibition, Montreal. 2/23/1964
0:1, KING'S gam.

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 c6 5. Bb3 d5 6. exd5 cxd5 7. d4 Bd6 8. Nge2 f3 9. gxf3 Nh5 10. Be3 Bb4 11. a3 Ba5 12. Qd3 a6 13. O-O O Be6 14. Ng3 Nxe3 15. hxe3 h6 16. f4 Bxc3 17. Qxc3 Nd7 18. g4 Bxg4 19. Rdg1 Nf6 20. Bf2 Ne4 21. Qb4 Qd7 22. Bh4 a5 23. Qe1 f5 24. Kb1 b5 25. Rg3 h5 26. Bg5 Kf7 27. Re3 Rhe8 28. c3 Ra6 29. Bc2 Rae6 30. Ka1 Nxe3 [0:1]

Chess in Oakland is starting to grow. Many (many) years ago the city of 400,000 had a thriving chess scene but that has not been the case for more than 30 years. The Mechanics' Institute, as part of its program to help chess in the Bay Area gave 25 sets to NM Robert Hammie for his program in the Oakland Public Schools. In Newsletter #253 we reported on the work of MI member Demetrius Goins, who with donations from the Institute, has started a program at the Lakeview Branch library (550 El Embarcadero) every Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5:15pm (contact Mr. Goins or Mary Farrell at (510) 238-7344 for more information).

Now Robert Johnson and Jose Guerrero have started up a club at the Cesar Chavez Public Library a half block from the Fruitvale BART station which meets Mondays from 5pm to 7:45pm, thanks in part to a donation of sets, boards, books, magazines and score sheets from the Mechanics. For more information contact them at (510) 684-9696/(510) 535-1241 or by e-mail chess_oakland@yahoo.com or rtdjohnsonii@yahoo.com .

USCL All League Teams:

Team 1:

Board 1 - IM Pascal Charbonneau - 2506 (Baltimore)
Board 2 - IM Lev Milman - 2474 (Carolina)
Board 3 - FM Gregory Braylovsky - 2376 (New York)
Board 4 - NM Elvin Wilson - 2239 (Philadelphia)

Team 1 Average Rating - 2399

Team 2:

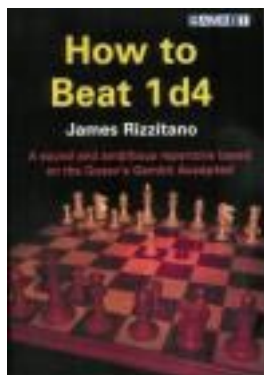
Board 1 - GM Julio Becerra - 2622 (Miami)
Board 2 - FM Tegshsuren Enkhbat - 2453 (Baltimore)
Board 3 - FM David Pruess - 2432 (San Francisco)
Board 4 - WGM Katerina Rohonyan - 2309 (Baltimore)

Team 2 Average Rating - 2454

Book Reviews

by Eric Schiller

How to Beat 1 d4
by James Rizzitano
Gambit 2005
160 pages, Paperback
\$27.50
ISBN: 1904600336



Jim Rizzitano's new book is an excellent, classical treatment of a major opening repertoire. The author provides a complete repertoire against the Queen pawn openings based on the Queen's Gambit Accepted. The material is exceptionally well researched and the author needs the stringent criteria he sets forth for selecting an opening repertoire. Indeed, the Queen's Gambit Accepted is played regularly by strong players, has a healthy theoretical reputation, is solid, and is at least to some extent dynamic.

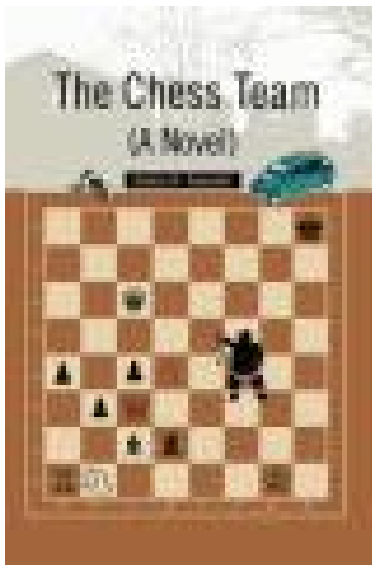
The book contains everything needed to play the Queen's Gambit Accepted even in professional competition, including many other Queen Pawn openings that do not involve an early c4. I didn't see any gaps in the coverage and all of the suggested lines seem quite playable. Rizzitano clearly achieved everything he set out to do and this book should be in the library of anyone who plays either side of the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

I strongly believe that books should be reviewed on the basis of the goals set by the author, not in terms of some ideal book existing in the fantasy of the reviewer. So, having given that the author full credit for achieving his goals I am left with the task of indicating the appropriate audience for the book. Here I do have some reservations. Although the book is a superb volume for any player rated over 2000, I do not feel it is appropriate for lower level players. It is certainly true that Rizzitano supplies great lines, but in order to use the repertoire properly it will be necessary to learn, that is, memorize, a vast amount of material. There are no chapters on typical strategies tactics and illustrated gains. Without these, it is going to be very difficult for lower rated players to know how to carry out the middle game. Studying this book will get you to a good position, but there is very little indication of what you should do next. Most lines end simply with an informant evaluation. I'm not criticizing the author for this, because additional information was not part of his overall approach and it would not be fair to lower the overall evaluation of the book, which is one of the best and most comprehensive books on any Queen's Gambit line. However, I would strongly caution lower rated players that if they want to play the Queen's Gambit Accepted on the basis of the material in this book, they will have to add considerable study of complete games and will have to work to figure out appropriate plans and strategies.

The if the Queen's Gambit Accepted as part of your repertoire already, then go out and buy the book immediately. If you are evaluating the opening for possible use as part of a repertoire, you will not find a better source of information, but keep in mind that you will have to do additional work to master the strategy.

On a personal note, I find it difficult to get excited about this opening, the main lines strike me as far from sexy and many of the positions are, to my mind, simply boring. But if the lines he gives appeal to you, you'll benefit greatly from studying this book. You might take a year or two to get through it, but in the end you will have a very solid opening repertoire indeed.

The Chess Team (A Novel)
James H. Sawaski
iUniverse 2005
\$11.95
136 pages, softcover
ISBN 0595346308



Chess Exam and Training
Guide
Igor Khmel'nitsky
IamCoachPress 2004
\$24.95
318 pages, softcover
ISBN: 0975476122



This first novel by James H. Sawaski is not easy to review. To be honest, fiction about chess isn't easy to evaluate. Most books with chess as a central theme are reviewed in chess periodicals according to the accuracy of their chess content. The Chess Team has no problems in that area. It is the story of a chess player in a remote area, who had a traumatic experience after blundering into a draw in an important team competition when he was a youth. He experiences the trials and tribulations of the scholastic chess world and a growing up in general, when he is drawn to coach the local high school team. The story of the inevitable success of the underdog chess team is well told, believable throughout with well drawn and interesting characters. I think that many young chess players and some older ones will enjoy the story, which, while not containing any major surprises, has enough small twists and turns to keep the reader interested.

This is a first novel, and reads like one. It would not be fair to compare the writing to that of established authors. It gets a bit chunky and clunky at times, so those accustomed to reading polished literature may experience a few bumps in the road. It is difficult to objectively evaluate the quality of a novel. My own tastes and preferences for my favorite authors are not the standard to which this book should be held. As I was reading the book, at times I thought how Terry Pratchett might handle this, thinking of a possible comic means of exploiting some of the situations.

The novel will appeal most to those interested in reading about adolescents competing in a scholastic chess setting. The author strives to write in such a way that knowledge of chess is not necessary, but does occasionally presuppose some chess terminology which is not always obvious from context. Of course, for any chess player it is hard to avoid that since chess terminology is part of our core lexicon. I can recommend the story as a chess tale worth reading for the story.

This is an excellent book for working by yourself to improve your game. Going through the 200 exam positions will definitely improve your game, thanks especially to the detailed discussion of both correct and incorrect answers. The book works best for personal training, though instructors will find many of the positions suitable for use in classroom settings, too. There is a system for approximating your rating based on your results in the exam, though I'm not particularly convinced by the results. Many of the questions are tricky or quite difficult, and it is easy to see quite strong players making quite a number of errors. The multiple-choice format makes it easy to rule out some incorrect answers and improve the results gained by guessing. Perhaps working through this book will help prepare students for standardized tests. There are many useful tips included in the book, and while the presentation is not systematic, you can learn quite a lot by just trying to remember as many of them as possible.

I can strongly recommend this book to motivated players who are willing to put in work to improve their play. This is not a course of instruction. The book is exactly what its title says it is, an examination of chess skills combined with a training guide. A book like this is only one component of a good chess improvement program. This unique book is well worth the price of admission, especially if you are rated between 1600 and 2000.

This was one of the most interesting games of the Thanksgiving tournament, a hard fought round one battle. Despite the mistakes, both players took advantage of some nice ideas in the position.

Michael Ogush - Philipp Perepelitsky

0:1 (EBCC Thanksgiving Swiss) 11/25/2005

Pirc Defense B07

1.e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Be3 c6 5. Qd2 Nbd7 6. Bd3 b5

This is an important finesse against white's aggressive system. Rather than castle straight into the attack, black takes some time to make white a little less comfortable about putting his king on the queenside. Only later will the two sides actually commit to castling.

7. Nf3 e5



8. dxe5?!

Releasing the tension in this position only helps black free his game. It would have been better to castle.

8... dxe5 9. O-O Bg7 10. h3 Bb7 11. Ne2 O-O 12. Ng3?!

This maneuver does not make a lot of sense, given that white immediately stops playing on the kingside and instead directs his attentions to the weaknesses on black's queenside. Thus, it would have been better to leave the knight on e2 and immediately proceed with a4 and b4.

12... Qe7 13. a4 a6 14. c4 b4 15. c5!

An excellent idea, splitting black's pawns and preventing his pieces from coming to good squares.

15... a5

15... Nxc5?? 16. Qxb4 Nfd7 17. Rfc1 and the pin costs black a piece.

16. Rac1 h5?

This move is not justified by the position. Black should be trying to develop his rooks and putting pressure on c5 rather than weakening his own kingside.



17. Bh6!?

This idea has some tactical trickery behind it, but it is not really in white's interest to trade the dark-squared bishops, as his is necessary to defend c5.

17... Ne8!

A good decision. 17... Nxc5?? 18. Bxg7 Kxg7 19. Qg5 with the threat of Nxh5 next is quite annoying; 17... Bxh6? 18. Qxh6 Nxc5 19. Rxc5! Qxc5 20. Nf5! gxf5 21. Qg5+ Kh7 22. Qxf6 is also curtains. Black must tread very carefully in light of his mistake with h5.

18. Be3

18. Bxg7 Kxg7 19. Qe3 is probably only equal, so white admits that his Bh6 idea was a mistake.

18... Nc7 19. Bc4 Rad8 20. Qc2?!

20. Qd6! Qxd6 21. cxd6 Ne8 22. Rfd1 Ndf6 23. Bb6 Rxd6 24. Bc5 Rxd1+ 25. Rxd1 is an enterprising alternative to the text, as white shows exactly why his dark-squared bishop is more useful than black's.

20... Ne6 21. Rfd1 Nb8

21... Ndxc5 looks tempting, but white gets it back with a little nagging pressure after 22. Rxd8 Rxd8 23. Bxc5 Nxc5 24. Bxf7+ Kxf7 25. Qxc5 Rd1+ (25... Qxc5 26. Rxc5 Rd1+ 27. Kh2 Rb1 28. Rxa5 Bc8 29. Rc5 is also slightly better for white.) 26. Kh2 Rxc1 27. Qxc1, as black still has trouble keeping track of all his weak squares on the queenside.

22. Ne2

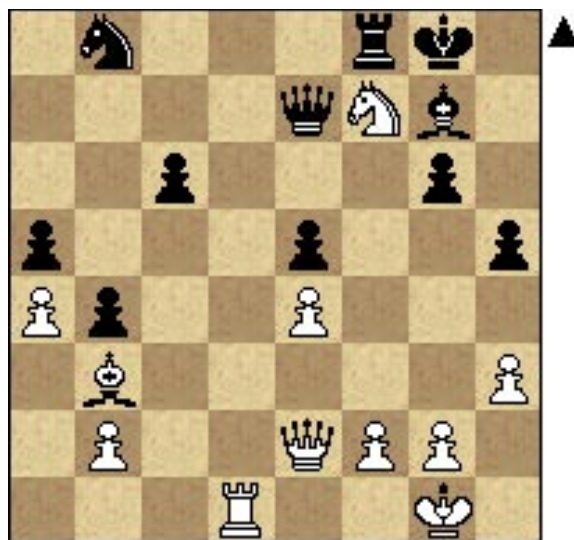
So now the knight comes back to e2, having done nothing on g3.

22... Ba6 23. Bb3 Rxd1+ 24. Rxd1 Bxe2 25. Qxe2 Nxc5

Black has won a pawn, but his position is still somewhat worse, still due to all his queenside weakness and the relative ineffectiveness of his minor pieces.

26. Bxc5 Qxc5 27. Ng5 Qe7 28. Nxf7!

An imaginative tactical idea from white.



28... Kh7

28... Rxf7 is more testing, but probably no better: 29. Qc4 Bf6! (29... h4?? 30. Qxf7+ Qxf7 31. Rd8+ Bf8 32. Bxf7+ Kxf7 33. Rxb8 and white wins easily) 30. Rd8+! Qxd8 31. Qxf7+ Kh8 32. Qxg6 (now black must meet the threat of Qh6#!) 32... Qf8 33. g4! hxg4 34. hxg4 Na6 35. Qh5+ Kg7 36. g5 Bxg5 37. Qxg5+ and black is still scrambling for a draw. A nice example of a long-term initiative, again provoked by black's weakening push of the h-pawn.

29. Qc4

29. Nd6 is much simpler, allowing white's knight to easily exit the black position. Now some black gets to try to trap the Nf7. However, with Qc4 white has an amazing tactical idea in mind.

29... Bf6 30. f3

A wasted move as white makes time control.

30... Kg7 31. Nd6 Rd8

Now it appears that black has the knight nicely trapped. White can still defend it with Qc5, but...



32. Nf5+!!

He has yet another shot, creating a mating attack with just two pieces!

32... gxf5 33. Rxd8 Qxd8 34. Qf7+ Kh6

34... Kh8 is no better, for example: 35. exf5 Qd4+ 36. Kh1 Qd8 37. Qxh5+ Kg7 38. Qg6+ Kh8 39. Qh6#

35. exf5

Simply threatening mate on g6.

35... Kg5

So the black king must run.

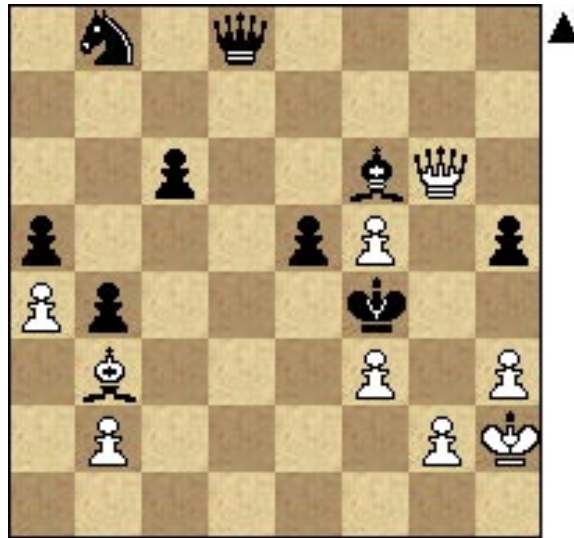
36. Qg6+??

But white loses the thread and lets the black king escape. 36. g3 Qd4+ 37. Kh1 , and black cannot stop Qg6#!

36... Kf4

Now the tables have turned and black is winning, his suddenly good (!) king position one of the reasons for his quick victory.

37. Kh2



37... Bh4?

37... Ke3 liberating his king.

38. g3+?

38. f6! (freeing the white queen to continue the attack) 38... Qxf6 39. g3+ Ke3 (39... Bxg3+ 40. Qxg3+ Kf5 41. Bc2+ Ke6 42. Qg8+ Ke7 43. Qxb8 Qf4+ 44. Kg2 Qd2+ 45. Kg3) 40. Qe4+ Kf2 and now black must take the draw with 41. Qc2+ Ke3 as the alternatives lose. (41... Kxf3?? 42. Qd3+ Kf2 43. Bc4!!)

38... Kxf3 39. gxh4

Now white's queen is doing very little and black can being a successful counterattack, even with this equal material ending.

39... Qd2+ 40. Kh1 Qc1+ 41. Qg1

The queens must come off, but now black's king position becomes a tremendous advantage.

41... Qxg1+ 42. Kxg1 Nd7 43. Bd1+ Ke3 44. Bxh5 Nf6 45. Bf7 e4 46. h5 Kd2 47. h6 e3 48. Bc4 e2 White resigned.