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Remembering Hans Poschman

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our great local chess hero Hans Poschmann and the great Russian chess genius David Bronstein, both of whom passed away this fall.



CalChess Information

Michael Aigner's updated chess calendar is online at www.calchess.org.

Major upcoming events include

CalChess Girls' Championship in San Rafael, Jan. 20-21

People's Chess Tournament, in Berkeley, Feb. 17-19

Sojourner Truth Women's Tournament in Palo Alto, Mar. 3-4

National Junior High School Championship in Sacramento, Mar. 29-Apr. 1

CalChess Scholastics in San Mateo, April 28-29

CalChess Officers

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Ryan Ko

The CCJ thanks Chess Dryad and photographers Richard Shorman and Mark Shelton and Michael Aigner for the photographs, and John Donaldson and Eric Hicks for newsfeeds. We are grateful for their contributions and all the others we have received.

On a personal note I'd like to thank everyone who stopped by and visited me when I was in the hospital were covering from my stroke, and for all the cards and good wishes from our chess community. I'm pleased to report that I'm mostly recovered from the stroke with just a few lingering issues to overcome. I'm extremely grateful for the support of the chess community during this difficult time, and I'm sorry that it took me so long to put this issue together, though I hope that it's extended length will make up for it. Best wishes for the holiday season and I hope that you all have a healthy and productive new year.

In Memoriam Hans Poschmann

On September 22, 2006 Hans Poschmann passed away less than a month after his 74th birthday. Hans was a good friend and a man who was admired and respected by all that knew him both within and outside the chess community. A few hours back, a chess mother called me to ask me a question and I told her about Hans' death. She broke down in tears much like so many of us have done-if not externally than inside.

Hans was born in Germany in 1932 and as a young man his parents moved to Berlin. He was trained as a Cabinet Maker, but joined the Berlin police force at 19. There he loved to compete in track and field events. However, one of his fellow officers told him he had to develop his mind as well and taught him how to play chess. Hans took to the game with a passion even taking lessons from a German champion. He, his wife and baby daughter emigrated to the United States around 1959. His second daughter was born in the U.S.

Hans and his family settled in Fremont where he became part of the local chess scene. He helped to organize the Fremont Chess club and continued, up until his death, to be the moving spirit behind its continued life. He got involved in the politics of Northern California and help draft the motion to separate the State into two. He held every office there was to hold over the years in the Northern California Association that later was renamed CalChess. He started the organizations journal and ran numerous tournaments-another of his passions. He became a senior Tournament Director. Across the chess board he reached the A level and through the mail he became a correspondence Chess Master. In recent years, he continued playing correspondence chess internationally via e-mail.

Hans for the last 9 years developed a new passion-teaching. His ever present smile and the warmth he exuded made him a natural. The kids loved him in the same manner we all did. He enjoyed taking photographs of his charges and posting them on the net.

The thing I loved most of about Hans was that he was real. His smile, his laugh, his warmth, his love of people and his extrovert personality in social situations was really him. Damn he will be missed.

A little over a year ago a short while after he was diagnosed with a form of leukemia I asked him to allow me to produce his oral autobiography. I have placed a four minute QuickTime video on the web: <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/Hans-Condensed.mov>. You can view the complete interview at <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/HansPoschmann-2005.mov>

NOTE: <http://www.ChessDryad.com> has set up a page a memorial page where you can post your feelings & thoughts. Please send them to Mark Shelton for posting: marks26thmed@yahoo.com



In Loving Memory Of

Hans S. Poschmann

Entered into Life

August 29, 1932
Liegnitz, Germany

Entered into Rest

September 23, 2006
Fremont, California

Spread Love Everywhere You Go

“Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor.....Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.”

- Mother Teresa

Eulogy for Opa

by Hans' Family and Friends

I always loved working with Hans. Now, I feel incredibly fortunate and lucky to have worked with him as much as I did. Everything that I wanted to say about Hans has already been said... (how he always smiled and how great he made people feel when we were around him). I will not speak of him with tears but with smiles. I will always Love and Miss you Hans.

Tuong Mai

Hans was a gentleman in life as well as at the chess board. I told him so often when he resigned with plenty of time left on his clock. Well, Hans did not resign from life, his time just ran out too soon. The last words I heard from him, as we left his Fremont Chess Club and he struggled to climb into his truck, were, in effect, "I am going to need some help to keep this club going." We had played three or four games of blitz that evening, and he did beat me one on time, I think it was the last one. One week later he was gone forever. Who knows, maybe I'll catch up with him somewhere in this universe and try to "get even."

I met Hans on a plane going to Germany in 1991. Noticing what looked like a German chess book in his hand, I yielded to my curiosity and gathered enough courage to approach him and to introduce myself in my obviously very rusty German. Hans politely responded about his "Tischlerei" business and the chess activities in Fremont before I realized that it was better to let him "counter my opening" in fluent English. Thanks to him, I returned to active chess play after about a 30-year absence from tournaments. I followed Hans wherever he was able to set up a club, in spite of lack of support from this multi-national city we live in; we played in community centers, in coffee shops, in book stores, in libraries, but wound up home-less most of the time in short order again. We both coached for Success Chess School, we went to Kasparov's lecture at Stanford, listened to the chess-computer experts when the chess exhibit opened at the Computer History Museum, and Hans even offered to come out of his way to give me a ride to his club when, before my cataract operation, I didn't feel comfortable traveling the dark roads into Niles. He was a true "Schachfreund" and personal friend to me.

Hans was a fine craftsman in woodworking. When he still had his shop on Osgood Drive in Fremont, he showed me picture albums of his work, but I may be the only person who has a picture autographed by Hans, showing the world's largest yo-yo, built for Dr. Tom Kuhn by Hans at Haas Woodworking, in the late 1970s, I believe. I thought I should mention it, in salute to Hans's sense of humor.

To illustrate Hans's appreciation of the art of chess, I shall add another item, a chess problem, that he called a "Beauty--the power of knights." It was one of his favorites to show to his students. In Forsyth notation, it is: 8/2Q5/8/7n/8/1N1NK3/8/5knr. White to move and checkmate the black king in five moves.

Farewell, Hans! I thank you for sharing the joy of chess with me and I also wish to thank you for the inspiration to chess that you passed on to the many children who loved to have you for a coach.

Henry Vinerts

It was more than 20 years ago at a USCF delegates meeting when I was approached by a soft spoken man with a German accent. He asked me if I would support his motion on some obscure and I thought inconsequential point. I readily consented thinking I would do this foreign gentleman a favor on an issue of no importance. How wrong I was. With Hans idea passed, the rest of a complicated problem had its pieces tumble into place. Such was the depth of Hans thinking.

Hans had a way of seeing to the heart of an issue and putting the problem in terms of its simplest common denominator.

Hans loved his wife and was a dedicated woodworker who more than once saved the tranquility of a tournament with a strategically placed piece of wood. Who else would have thought to bring along small pieces of wood just in case the tables weren't quite level?

His kindness was legendary and he was quick to perceive when someone was trying to manipulate him into the midst of a controversy.

Chess has lost a friend and so have I.

Richard Peterson

Hans will be missed. He was always a tireless volunteer on behalf of chess. He did just about everything possible to support chess in Northern California, from editing and publishing a magazine, serving on the board of CalChess, to running tournaments for students and adults alike. Nearly always affable and friendly, I can still picture him in one of his rare fits of agitation, shifting his weight back and forth from foot to foot. He was nearly hopping mad! I liked Hans, and I will miss him.

Jim Eade

It was with tremendous sadness that I learned today of the passing of my dear friend Hans Poschmann! Hans helped to spark my chess passion, as he did for so many others, over 33 years ago, when I first visited his Fremont Chess Club. His genuine love of the game was instantly contagious and the chess bug bit ever deeper. Having lived the better part of 20 years in Fremont and the Bay Area chess community, I have many fond memories of Hans. But the most memorable one will always be his hearty laugh as he ... played 1. b4 against me .. For over 30 years... always 1.b4 and "the laugh"! I will miss that!

Hans crafted one of his beautiful, one of a kind, chess tables for my wife to present to me on my 40th birthday. It is, and always will be, a cherished keepsake. A keepsake of a master wood craftsman ... to be sure ... but more so, a keepsake of one of my dearest chess friends and one of the best human beings I have had the pleasure to have known!

Farewell Hans! You will be sorely missed! I promise to play 1. b4 (maybe with a smile instead of a laugh!) in a tournament game soon, as a tribute to a wonderful man!

Chris Mavraedis

It is sad to hear the news of Hans the bpawn. The b4 opening style typified Hans the person. He was a unique person who was always willing to go off the beaten path to try something different. My lasting memory of Hans is barely a few months old when I saw him, a seventy-three year old gentleman who was struggling to walk but smiling as he carried a bunch of chess to set up for the Fremont Chess Club.

Hans may not be seen again but his memories will live deeply in our hearts forever. We love you Hans!

Salman Azhar

Since I learned about Hans' untimely passing, I have been remembering - remembering the first time I met Hans (at an Ohlone chess tournament he was directing - such a kind and friendly TD); remembering a late night Bart ride back from the People's Chess tournament where Hans cheered me up after a loss; remembering when the Fremont Chess Club was at Borders and the timid child watching others play chess was motioned over to the board by Hans, who of course proceeded to spend the whole night teaching the child how to play. There are many more memories, but all are of a completely wonderful and compassionate human being.

Hans was funny, enthusiastic, selflessly giving - in everything he showed a pureness of heart, basic goodness, and caring nature. And although he was always modest about his accomplishments, it is impossible to be modest in our praise for everything Hans did for the chess community, for his co-workers, for his friends, for his family. His sudden absence is tragic and deeply saddening, as I can not help but think how much he had left to give - when I saw him last just recently he was as vibrant as ever, with that familiar twinkle in his eyes and cheerful smile. Perhaps somewhere and somehow Hans is serving another purpose now; but in this world, in chess and in life, we have lost one of our best.

Hans - noble and gentle soul, Godspeed.

Bela Evans

Hans was one of the most influential figures in my chess career. He was my coach at Montessori Elementary before I was even taking classes from Success Chess. From the beginning, I remember him beating me w/ the Orangutan and wondering how I could lose to this genial old man this way. Over time, Hans was a boss, co-worker, and even employee for my Clubsport Swisses. I remember always waiting for Friday nights so I could go to the Fremont Chess Club that Hans ran. Whenever there was anything he could do to help chess, he did it, sometimes at great personal sacrifice. His presence will be very missed.

Ryan Ko

Not only did Hans make a huge impact in CA chess, he made a huge impact in my life. I knew him since I was 5 years old, and as I grew up he would guide me through my chess career. I saw him every week at Weibel Elementary for Chess Club or Team and took his classes. He was such a friendly good-hearted man, and I loved talking to him. I remember one time I played him and actually won, and I was so happy that I told everybody of my achievement. But...now that I think about it I'm pretty sure he let me win.

When I volunteered at the chess club in Weibel, I also saw him weekly. However, even when we said "hi" to each other, every time I knew, he had forgotten who I was. I really regret not telling him or reminding him it was me. Maybe he remembered, maybe he didn't but I will never know. Hans was a great man, whom I was very close with throughout my childhood. He was friendly and courteous, always having a smile on his face and always ready to lend a helping hand. I knew him for 10 years, and I will never forget him.

Rest in peace, Hans Poschmann.

Sharon Tseung

Hans was my very first chess teacher. He was a great man, and I will never forget those classes. In the last few months of his illustrious life, I watched him suffer to even walk down stairs. Yet he was at every chess tournament--always ready to lend his commentary to anything. I remember, in second grade, him asking me what the third rule of chess was (out of the 30 rules, as anyone acquainted with Mr. Shorman will know), and I remember answering "Knights before bishops." I remember playing a game of chess against him, when I lost miserably. Those moments are forever. He was eager to help students, and forever will he live on in our hearts. I will never forget Hans-- a master carpenter, a chess teacher, and an extraordinary person. Thanks, Hans.

Ranjeetha Bharath

Hans was loved by all. I knew him as a player, TD, organizer, politician and teacher. One of my last discussions with him focused on the USCF rule book--it was too complex and he had ideas to improve it. In everything, his goal was quite simple: if there was a way that he could contribute to the chess community, he would do it. Hans

was not selfish; Caissa always came before his personal needs.

What I will remember about Hans is his smile. He loved chess. He made it his business to make sure all chess players were happy. If he saw that you were not smiling, he would ask why--sometimes to the point of being nosy. The motto "life's short, play hard" definitely applies to this great man.

Hans will be missed by many. Auf wiedersehen! God bless!

Michael Aigner

I first met Hans at Alan Kirshner's summer quads when I began tournament directing. Never had I met such a kind and courteous man like Hans. I could tell he loved the game of chess and that he loved promoting the game. The way he taught you something showed his wonderful enthusiasm for the game.

Over the past 6 years I have worked with Hans at tournaments and he played at one of my events. It was always a pleasure to work with him. He was a genuine man and whenever you saw him he had a big smile on his face. He was always willing to help you and always willing to be there for you. He was one of the finest men I have ever met.

Everyone loved him and he will truly be missed. Goodbye Hans

Jacob Green

I first met Hans in 1970 as CFNC (Chess Friends of Northern California) team captains, when his Fremont team played and beat my Chabot Junior College team. We became good friends in the mid-1980's when I gave a number of simultaneous exhibitions at his Fremont Chess Club. In the 1990's, I would often go over to his home in Fremont to work on his computer and, in turn, he would make me chess or computer tables built to my specifications. He owned and operated his own cabinetry business; he was a master craftsman with wood.

An over-the-board class A player and an ICCF master, he was passionately involved with correspondence chess. Another passion of his was the Orangutan Opening, which he played whenever the opportunity presented itself, both in correspondence and over-the-board play. Often, he would show me an interesting position (usually an Orangutan) with a request for my input and we spent many an enjoyable hour going over such positions.

Hans: I will miss your acerbic wit and ready smile. Goodbye old friend.

Kerry Lawless

Hans was a club and tournament director in southern Alameda County for many, many years. I attended his club in Fremont when I was in high school, and badgered him into helping me with my German homework. He taught chess to little kids, and as an adult I badgered him for teaching his favorite 1. b4.

My last conversation with Hans was the best one, and the one I won't forget. At the Stockton Grade Level tournament last year, Hans and I were sitting at a chessboard, and he started showing me a chess lesson he gave to a kid.

Hans, are you really going to show ME a chess lesson you gave to a little kid?, I thought, but I watched Hans have so much fun explaining this and that, and it was enjoyable even when he forgot things, or stumbled a bit.

Hans was the finest woodworker I knew, crafting a dollhouse chess table for a woman I liked, and the great demonstration board that I still use (though I lost his wonderful pieces years ago; one of the stupidest things I ever did). Hans helped me learn some of his native German, and he helped me learn that it's more than OK to watch other people have fun.

Frisco Del Rosario

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Alan M. Kirshner

I will always remember Hans for his quick smile and good nature. A true champion of the game, a teacher, and a good friend.

Mark Shelton



I first met Hans Poschmann shortly after I moved to the Bay Area in 1993. I knew right away that here was a man whose love of chess was unbounded and who was committed to sharing it with others. Some players impress you with their skill and lofty titles, but Hans was a different sort of special chess player. He loves original and creative play and could find as much pleasure watching chess games as competing. In so many ways he represented the best of Bay Area chess and it is unlikely that we will see people with such passion again. He will be sorely missed.

Eric Schiller



Photos by Hans Poschmasnn



Games by Hans Poschmann

Poschmann H. vs. Caccam A.

It (open), California (USA), 1993

1.b4 The Polish opening was always Hans's favorite, and he played it very effectively. **1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 c6 4.a4 Qa5 5.e3 Ne4 6.f3 Qb4 7.Ra2 Nc5 8.c4 Qb3 9.Qxb3 Nxb3 10.Ba3 Bxa3 11.Rxa3 Na5 12.d4 O-O 13.Nh3** White has a small but clear advantage.

13...d6 14.Nf2 Nd7 15.Ne4 d5 16.Nd6 Nb6?! The knight should head to the kingside. 17.c5 Nbc4 18.Nxc4 dxc4 19.Rc3?!

19.Nd2 Would have been more effective.

19...e5 20.Bxc4?!

20.Nd2!

20...exd4 21.exd4 Re8+?! Forcing the king to move is not much of a benefit at this point and Black would have been better off targeting the pawn at d4 immediately. 22.Kf2 Nxc4 23.Rxc4 Be6?!

23...Bf5 Would have been wiser.

24.Rb4 Bd5 25.Nc3 Re6 26.Nxd5 cxd5 27.Re1 It is just a matter of technique now. The extra pawn on the queenside is decisive.

27...Rae8 28.Rxe6 Rxe6 29.Rb3 Kf8 30.h3 g5 31.Rc3 Ke7?? Black walks right into a losing King and pawn endgame. To have any chance to draw black had to keep Rooks on the board. **32.Re3! f5 33.g3 h5 34.a5 Kd7 35.Rxe6 Kxe6 36.Ke3 a6? 37.c6!** The most efficient winning plan. **37...Kd6 38.cxb7 Kc7 39.bxa6 Kb8 40.f4 h4 41.fxg5 hxg3 42.g6 f4+ 43.Kf3** Black resigned. [1:0]

Poschmann H. vs. McEnroe G.

California (USA), 1993

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Nc3 O-O 7.Be2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.O-O Qe8 10.d3 b6 11.Qc2 c5 12.b5 axb5 13.axb5 Rxa1 14.Rxa1 White owns the a-file, a significant advantage in this position.

14...Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3?! Black will regret parting with this bishop. 16.Bxf3 Qe7 17.Ra8 Rd8 18.Qa4 e4?! Punting a pawn does not improve Black's position. 19.Nxe4?! Nxe4 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Bxe4 Qf8 22.Ra7 Rd7 23.Bd5 Qe7 24.Ra8! This knight has no future.

24...Rd8 25.Kf1 h5 26.Ra7 Rd7 27.Rxd7 Qxd7?! It was necessary to capture with the knight, of course.

28.Qa1+ Kg8 29.e4 Qe7 30.d4 Kh7?! 31.dxc5 dxc5 32.Qa8 Qc7

32...Nd7 33.Qa7 Qf6 34.g3 Ne5 35.f4 g5 36.f5±

33.g3 Kg7 34.f4 There was no way to make further progress on the queenside so white had to shake things up on the kingside to create opportunities to win.

34...Qc8 35.Kg2 Qc7 36.Qa1+ Kg8 37.Qf6 Qa7 38.g4 hxg4 39.hxg4 Kf8 40.Kg3! The king is going to take care of this game almost all by himself. **40...Kg8 41.Kh4 Qc7 42.Kg5 Qd7 43.Kh6! Kf8** Now it is just a matter of finishing things off.

44.Qh8+ Ke7 45.Qxb8 Fittingly, the knight is consumed on its own square, never having had an influence on the game **45...Qxg4 46.Qc7+ Qd7 47.Qxd7+ Kxd7 48.Bxf7** Black resigned. [1:0]

Poschmann H. vs. Pigg C.

CalChess Championship, California (USA), 1994

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 d4 3.Nf3 e5 4.Nxe5 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.Qb3 Qf6 7.cxd4 Bb6

7...Bxd4?? 8.Qa4+

8.e3 Ne7 9.d5 O-O? This allows a powerful discovered attack that wins at least the exchange. **10.Nd7! Qg6**

11.Nxf8 Qg5

11...Kxf8 12.Ba3±

12.Nxh7!! A useful desperado tactic. **12...Kxh7**

12...Qh6 13.Qb4 Ng6 14.Nf6+ gxf6 15.Qe4±

13.h4 Qf5??

13...Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Nxd5 15.Bd3+ Kh6 16.Be4 c6 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.O-O±

14.Bd4 Ba5??

14...Bxd4 15.Bd3 Bxa1 16.Bxf5+ Nxf5 17.Qc2 Kg8 18.Qxc7±

15.Bd3 Black resigned. [1:0]

Poschmann, Hans vs. Long, Jerry

CFNC Ch , Oakland , 2/29/1964

1.b4 Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 c5 4.bxc6 Nxc6 5.e3 Qb6 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.c4 e5 8.Qb3 Qc5 9.d3 b6 10.Nf3

Bb7 11.Be2 O-O-O

11...Qb4+=

12.O-O Ne7 13.d4 exd4 14.exd4 Qh5 15.d5 d6

15...Rg8!?

16.Nd4 Nf5?? 17.Bxh5 [1:0]

Poschmann, Hans vs. Weber, Gary

CFNC Ch , Oakland , 3/ 1/1964

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 c6 8.O-O Nd7 9.c4 Ngf6 10.fxe5

Nxe5 11.Qe2 O-O 12.d4 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 d5 14.Nd2 Qd7 15.c5 Qg4 16.a4 Qxf3 17.Rxf3 Bh6

18.h3 Rae8 19.Re1 Ne4 20.Nxe4 Rxe4 21.Bc1 f5 22.g3 Rfe8 23.Kf2 Bg7 24.Rf4 h5 25.Rxe4 Rxe4

26.h4 Kf7 27.Bd2 Ke8 28.Rb1 a6 29.b5 axb5 30.axb5 Kf7 31.bxc6 bxc6 32.Rb6 Re6 33.Ba5 Bf6

34.Rb7+ Re7 35.Rc7 Rxc7 36.Bxc7 Ke7 37.Bf4 Kd7 38.Kf3 Kc8 39.Bh6 Kd8 40.Kf4 Ke7 41.Bg5

Kf7 42.Bxf6 Kxf6 43.Kf3 g5 44.hxg5+ Kxg5 45.Ke2 Kg4 46.Kf2 Kh3 47.Kf3 Kh2 48.Kf4 Kg2

49.Kxf5 Kxg3 50.e4 h4

50...dxe4 51.d5 cxd5 52.c6 e3 53.c7 e2 54.c8=Q e1=Q 55.Qg8+ Kh2 56.Qxd5 should be drawn.

51.e5 h3 52.e6 h2 53.e7 h1=Q 54.e8=Q Qh7+ 55.Qg6+ Qxg6+ 56.Kxg6 Kf4 57.Kf6 Ke4 58.Ke6

Kxd4 59.Kd6 [☒:☒]

Poschmann, Hans vs. Cornwell, Jim

CFNC Ch , Oakland , 2/29/1964

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 f6 3.e4 Bxb4 4.Bc4 Ne7 5.f4 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.fxe5 fxe5 8.Bxe5 Qh4+ 9.g3 Qe4+
10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Nxe2 Nf6 12.O-O Be7 13.Bxc7 Nc6 14.d4 Bh3 15.Re1 Rc8 16.Be5 Nxe5
17.dxe5 Rxc4 18.exf6 gxf6

18...Bc5+! 19.Kh1 O-O 20.fgx7 Rf2!-+

19.Nf4 Bf5

19...Rxf4!? 20.gxf4 Rg8+ 21.Kf2 Kf7 with compensation for the exchange.

20.Nd5 Re4 21.Nbc3

21.Rxe4 Bxe4 22.Nxe7 Kxe7 23.Na3

21...Bc5+ 22.Kg2 Rxe1 23.Rxe1+ Kf7 24.Ne4 Re8

24...Bxe4+ 25.Rxe4 Rd8 26.Nf4 Rd2+ 27.Re2 Rxe2+ 28.Nxe2=

25.Ndx6 Bxe4+ 26.Nxe4 Kg6 27.Kf1 Bb4 28.Re2 Re5 29.c3 Ba5 30.Nd6 Rxe2 31.Kxe2 Bxc3

32.Nxb7± Bd4 33.a4 Kg5 34.h3 h5 35.Kf3 Bc3 36.Nc5 Be5 37.Ne4+ Kf5 38.a5 a6 39.Nc5 Bc3

40.Nb7 Bb4 41.Ke3 Ke5 42.Nd8 Kf5

42...Kd5!=

43.Nc6 Be1 44.Kf3 Bc3 45.Ke3 Be1 46.Kf3 Bc3 47.Nb8 Bxa5 48.Nxa6 Be1 49.Nc5 Bd2 50.Nd3

Bg5 51.Nf4 h4 52.g4+ Kf6 53.Ke4 Bh6 54.Nh5+ Kg5 55.Ke5 Kg6 56.Ke6 Bg5 57.Ke5 Bh6

58.Nf4+ Kg5 59.Ne6+ Kg6 60.Nd4 Bg7+ 61.Ke4 Bxd4??

61...Bf6 62.Nf3 Be7 63.Ke5 Bd8 and it isn't easy to make progress.

62.Kxd4 Kg5 63.Ke4 B



The artistry of David Bronstein

by Eric Schiller

Bondarevsky I. vs. Bronstein D.

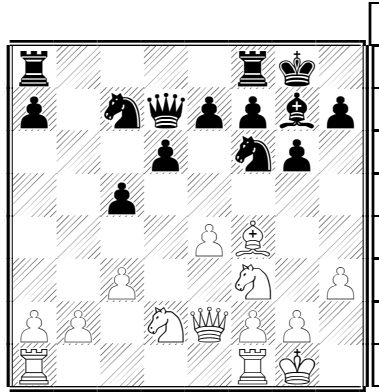
31st Soviet Championship, , 1963

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 O-O 5.Nbd2 b6 6.c3 c5 7.h3 d6

Bronstein adopts the King's Indian formation against White's London System. It is an interesting example of hypermodern play against a very solid centre.

8.Be2 Ba6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 Although this knight now sits on the edge of the board, it is headed for a more useful post, at c7, from which it can operate in the centre at e6. **10.O-O Qd7 11.Qe2 Nc7 12.dxc5 bxc5**

13.e4 White seems to have a nice central position, and threatens to advance the e-pawn further. But Bronstein comes up with a surprising shot.



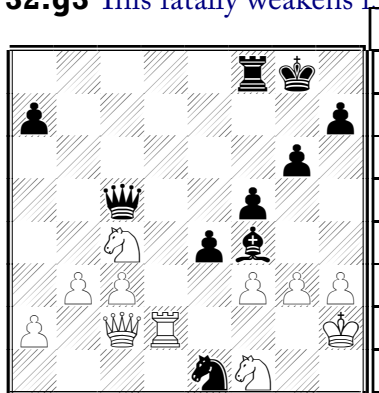
13...e5!? This creates a temporary weakness at d6, but Bronstein appreciates that pawns which operate with hypermodern modesty in the opening can later be advanced with great effect. **14.Be3 Rab8 15.b3 Qc6!** Even the powerful queen takes part in the pressure game. **16.Qc4 Nd7!** It seems strange, at first, to move this knight, which had supported the d5- square. But because of White's previous move, Black will be able to reposition the knight at b6, and then advance his d-pawn. **17.Nh2 Nb6! 18.Qd3 d5! 19.f3**

19.exd5 Ncxd5 would give Black a great game.

19...Rbd8 20.Qc2 f5! With the dark squares firmly under his control, Bronstein now acts on the light squares. **21.Rad1 Ne6** Finally the horse completes the ride from the edge of the board to the centre. **22.exd5 Nxd5 23.Nc4 Nef4 24.Rf2 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 e4! 27.Qc2 Bh6 28.Nhf1 Nd3** White's position is no longer tenable. **29.Rd2**

29.Re2 exf3 30.gxf3 Ne5 and the kingside is going to be demolished.

29...c4 30.Nxc4 Qc5+ 31.Kh2 Bf4+ 32.g3 This fatally weakens f3. **32...Ne1!** White resigned.



[0:1]

Bronstein D. vs. Gufeld E.

Tallinn, , 1981

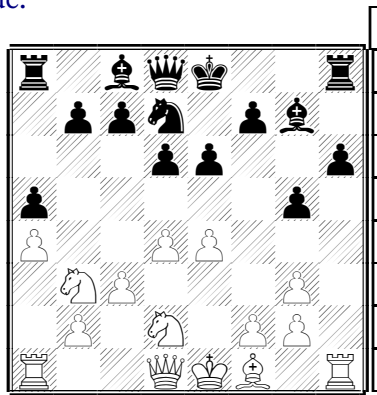
1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d6 This is a classical sort of King's Indian setup.

4...b6 5.e4 Bb7 6.Bd3 O-O 7.c3±

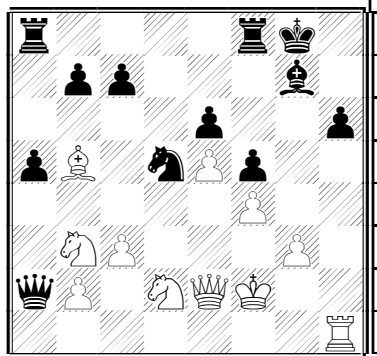
5.e4 h6 6.Bh4 The best retreat in this line, although 6.Bf4 can transpose if Black plays g7- g5, but there are then other plans available, aiming at e7-e5 with tempo. **6...g5 7.Bg3 Nh5 8.c3**

8.Bd3? Bg4 9.Nh4 Bxd4 10.c3 Bf6 11.Nf5 Nxc3 12.fxc3?! (12.hxc3 e6) 12...e6 13.Ne3 Bh5 Hort - Fischer, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970.

8...e6 Black can play 8...Nbd7 first, if he chooses, and then after 9.Nc4 he can play e6. **9.Nb3!?** The knight often goes to c4, but this plan also makes a lot of sense. **9...Nd7 10.Nfd2 Nxc3 11.hxc3 a5 12.a4** White has control of the center and the queenside.

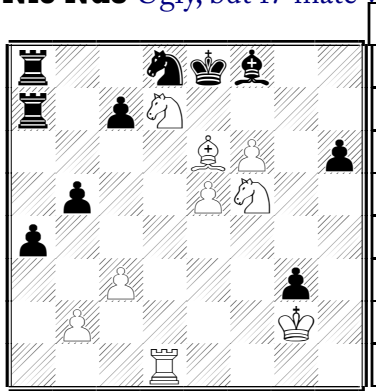


12...O-O 13.Bd3 f5 14.Qe2 Nf6 15.f4! gxf4 16.gxf4 Bd7 17.e5 Nd5 18.g3 White's position is very solid, but Black has real weaknesses on the kingside, and no counterplay anywhere. **18...Qe8 19.Kf2!** If the king went to the queenside, then Black might have opened up the game. **19...dxe5 20.dxe5 Bxa4** Did White hang a pawn? Hardly! He has something very clever in mind. **21.Rxa4!! Qxa4 22.Bb5 Qa2™**



23.Bd7! This is what Bronstein saw far in advance. **23...Ra6 24.Rb1 Ne7 25.Qc4** The pressure mounts at e6, while Black's forces are scattered. **25...a4 26.Nc5 Qxc4 27.Nxc4** An endgame, but on White's terms. **27...Ra7 28.Rd1!** Again, an admirable display of patience, taking control of an important file in the center before grabbing the Pe6. **28...Rfa8** Black prepares to advance the a-pawn after kicking the horse. **29.Bxe6+ Kf8 30.g4 b5 31.Ne3 fxc4 32.f5! g3+ 33.Kg2!**

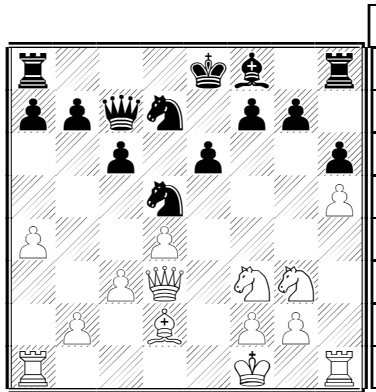
33.Kxg3 Bxe5+ followed by a4-a3 gives Black some chances.
33...Nc6 34.Nd7+ Ke8 35.f6 Bf8 36.Nf5 Nd8 Ugly, but f7 mate was threatened.



37.f7+! Anyway! **37...Nxf7 38.Nf6#** [1:0]

Panchenko A. vs. Bronstein D.
 Moscow Ch, , 1981

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3
10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.c3 Ngf6 13.a4 In this line White intends to castle short, so that his king does not become a target on the kingside. **13...c5** is normal but Bronstein's move is also appealing. **13...Nd5!?**
14.Bd2 Qc7 Black follows the normal strategy of keeping control of f4. White's position already seems artificial, especially the pawn advances on the kingside. **15.Kf1** So now White decides to attack on the kingside, and figures that the ♖ is better on h1.



15...a5 16.Qe2 Be7 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.Qxe5

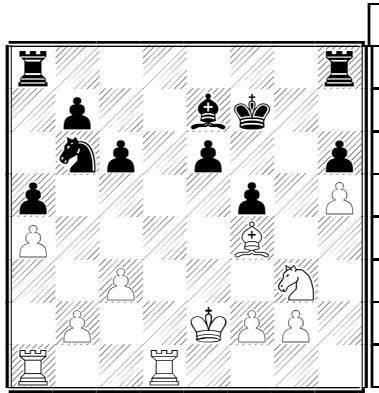
18.dxe5 Bg5!? **19.Bxg5 hxg5** and Black controls f4.

18...Qxe5 19.dxe5 Nb6 This bishop will be effective on the light squares on the a6-f1 diagonal, and in particular, the weakness at c4. **20.Bf4 f5!?** It is not clear that this radical move was necessary.

20...Nc4!?;

20...O-O-O!?

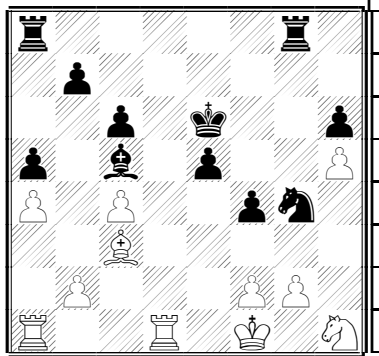
21.exf6 gxf6 22.Ke2 Kf7 23.Rhd1 f5 Bronstein seems obsessed with this move!



24.Be3

24.Be5 Rhd8 \triangle Nc4 .

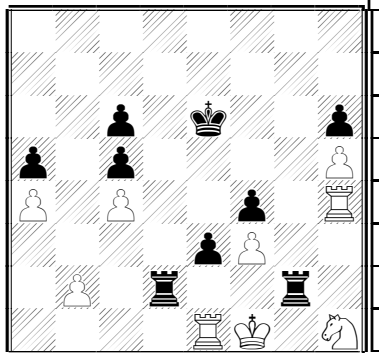
24...Nd5 25.Bd4 Rhd8 26.c4 The powerful knight must be dislodged, but this is achieved only at a great cost to the queenside structure. **26...Nf6 ... f5-f4 xh5. 27.Be5 Ng4 28.Bc7 Rdc8! 29.Bf4 e5 30.Bd2 Ke6 31.Bc3 Bc5** μ **32.Nh1 Rg8! 33.Kf1 f4!** The weakness of the pawn at h5 is now a critical liability for White.



34.Rd3 Rg5 35.Rh3 b6 By defending the pawn at a5, Black now frees the \uparrow to join its colleague, by traveling to f5. **36.Re1 Rd8 37.Ke2 e4 38.f3 Ne5 39.Bxe5 Rxc2+! 40.Kf1 Rdd2 41.Bd4 e3!**

41...Bxd4 42.Rxe4+ Kf5 43.Rxd4

42.Bxc5 bxc5 43.Rh4 and White resigned (presumably at adjournment) since the K is permanently trapped and Black can simply defend his f-pawn and then eradicate the kingside pawns.



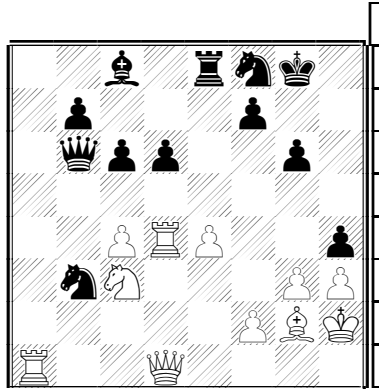
[0:1]

Pachman L. vs. Bronstein D.

Moscow-Prague Team Tournament, , 1946

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.O-O O-O 8.b3 Re8 9.e4 exd4
10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Re1 a5 12.Bb2 a4 13.Rc1 c6 14.Ba1 axb3 15.axb3 Qb6 16.h3 Nfd7 17.Rb1 Nf8
18.Kh2 h5 19.Re2 h4 20.Rd2 ♣ 20...Rxa1!! 21.Rxa1 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Nxb3

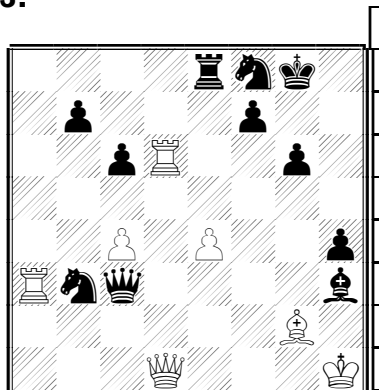
White's game is falling apart. The rook should retreat to d2, yielding to the enemy knight, rather than leave f2 without protection.



23.Rxd6?!

23.Rd2 Nxd2 24.Qxd2 hxg3+ 25.fxg3 Qc5 26.Bf1 Nd7 followed by ...Ne5 should eventually win for Black.

23...Qxf2 24.Ra2 Qxg3+ 25.Kh1 Qxc3 Black has a pair of knights and a pair of pawns for the rook, and the rest is just mopping up. 26.Ra3 Bxh3!



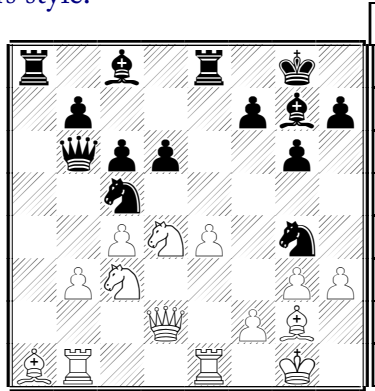
27.Rxb3 Bxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Qxc4 Four pawns for the exchange! 29.Rd4 Qe6 30.Rxb7 Ra8 31.Qe2 h3+
[0:1]

Zita F. vs. Bronstein D.

Moscow-Prague Team Tournament, 1946

1.d4 1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.O-O e5 8.e4 c6 9.b3 Re8
10.Bb2 exd4 11.Nxd4 Qb6 12.Qd2?

12.Na4! Qc7 13.Qc2 is perhaps marginally better for White.
 12...Nc5 13.Rfe1 a5 14.Rab1 a4 15.Ba1 axb3 16.axb3 Ng4 17.h3 Perhaps White thought that the knight would retreat. That's not Bronstein's style!



17...Rxa1!! 18.Rxa1 Nxf2!! Once the dark-squared bishop is gone, the devastation on the dark squares begins. 19.Re3

19.Qxf2 runs into a fork on 19...Nd3;
 19.Kxf2 allows a different fork with 19...Nxb3

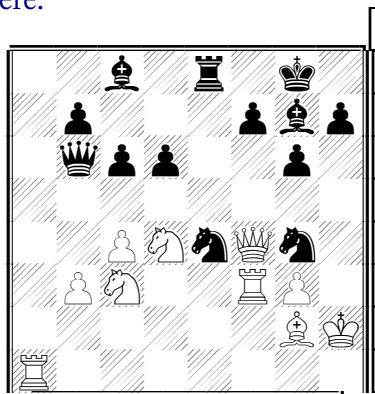
19...Nxb3+ ♖ 20.Kh2

20.Bxh3 Bxh3 and Black has extra pawns, while White has to worry about all those pieces on the dark squares!

20...Nf2 21.Rf3 Ncxe4 22.Qf4

22.Nxe4 Nxe4 and another piece falls.

22...Ng4+ White could have resigned here.



23.Kh1 f5 24.Nxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxd6 Rxd4 26.Qb8 Rd8 27.Ra8 Be5 28.Qa7 Qb4 29.Qg1 Qf8
 30.Bh3 Qh6 [0:1]

Bisguier, Arthur vs. Bronstein, David

Goteborg Interzonal, ?, 1955

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nd2 #This awkward looking move was practiced by the American players in the fifties. The key idea is that the knight on d2 can reach e5 via c4. However this takes time and when playing a gambit, time is of the utmost importance. 3...Nf6 4.g4 d5 5.g5 Nfd7 6.f3 e5 7.fxe4 Qxg5 Although not a bad move the queen does lose time after 8.Ng3 that's why we recommend playing 7...Be7.

7...Be7 8.h4 O-O 9.Ngf3 exd4 10.exd5 Nb6 This position is better for Black due to his lead in development and the exposed nature of White's king.

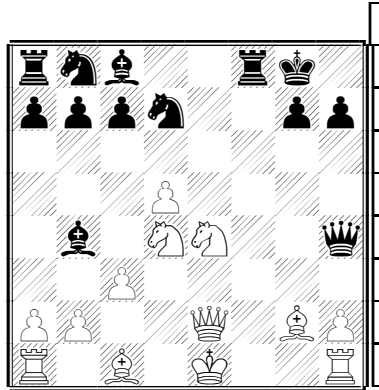
8.Ngf3 Qh5 9.exd5 White gets carried away with the taking of pawns when he should be concentrating on getting his king to safety with 9.Bg2 followed by castling. **9...Bd6**

9...Be7 is another with the idea of taking advantage of the weakened e1-h4 diagonal with 10... Bh4+.

10.Ne4 O-O 11.Bg2 Qg4 12.Qe2 Bb4+ 13.c3 exd4 14.Nxd4

14.cxb4 d3 15.h3 Qg6 16.Nh4 dxe2 17.Nxg6 hxg6 When both sides weaknesses would cancel each other out leading to play with equal chances.

14...Qh4+



15.Kd1

15.Nf2 Qxd4 16.cxb4 Qxb4+ Is winning for Black due to his extra pawn and the exposed nature of White's king.

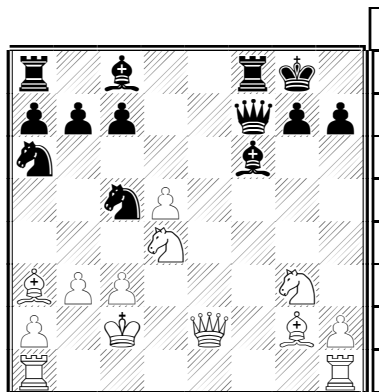
15...Be7 The first battle has ended with Black on top due to White's king being trapped in the center. **16.Ng3**

16.Ne6 Ne5 Would only create problems for White since 17.Nxf8 could be answered by 17... Bg4 winning the White queen.

16...Nc5 17.Nf3 Qa4+ 18.b3 Qd7

18...Nxb3 19.axb3 Qxa1 20.Qxe7 Allows White chances, having two pieces for the rook.

19.Kc2 Bf6 20.Ba3 Nba6 21.Nd4 Qf7 # Although material is even, the precarious position of White's king gives Black a winning advantage.



22.Ne4 Re8

22...Nxe4 23.Bxe4

23.Rhf1

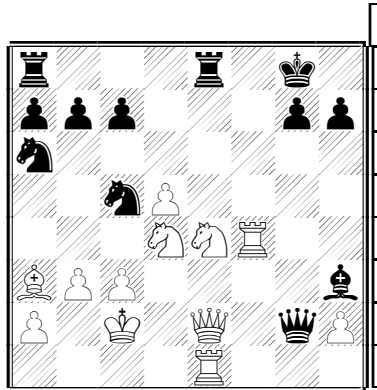
23.Bxc5 Nxc5 24.Nxf6+ gxf6 When White's position would collapse on the light squares for example... 25.Qd2 Qg6+ 26.Kb2 Nd3+

23...Qg6 This move puts more pressure on the pinned knight. **24.Rae1 Bh3 25.Rxf6**

25.Bxh3 Rxe4

25...Qxg2 26.Rf4#

26.Qxg2 Bxg2 Wins material for Black due to the knight being pinned on the e-file.



26...Rxe4 The beginning of a combination with the idea of exploiting White's queen being tied down to the second rank. **27.Rxe4 Nxe4 28.Qxg2 Bxg2 29.Re2 Bh1 30.Re1 Nf2 31.Ne6**

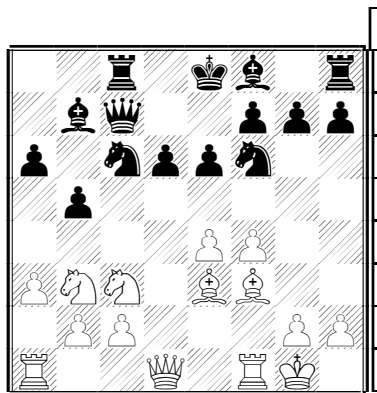
31.c4 Be4+ 32.Kd2 Bg6

31...Bxd5 [0:1]

Bronstein, David vs. Kinzel, Alfred

Krems, ?, 1967

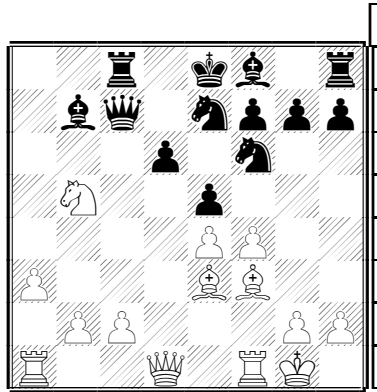
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.a3 Qc7 7.Be3 a6 8.f4 d6 9.Nb3 b5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.Bf3 Rc8 Black has played entirely on the queenside and is still two moves away from castling. **12.O-O**



12...Ne7? This move is as bad as it looks. **13.Nd4 e5** This allows the standard Sicilian sac at b5, which is often effective when Black can't castle.

13...d5 must have been Black's original intention. **14.e5 Nd7 15.Ncxb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Qd8 17.Nd6#** could have been the result.

14.Ndxb5! axb5 15.Nxb5



15...Qxc2 16.Nxd6+ Kd7 17.Nxb7+ Black resigned.

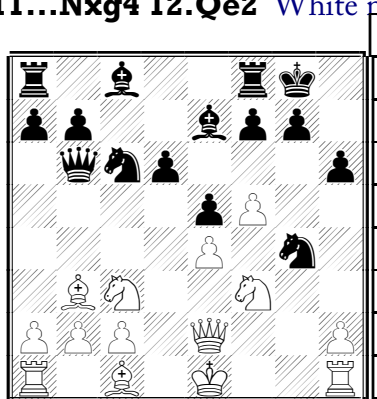
Bronstein, David vs. Barczay, L.
Szombathely, 1966

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.f4 The game has transposed to a Classical Sicilian. Black adopts a standard defensive formation by advancing to e5. 6...e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 O-O 9.f5 9.Bb3 a5 is a more common continuation.

9...Qb6

9...Qa5 is a bit better.

10.Bb3 h6 11.g4 Let the brawl begin! 11...Nxcg4 12.Qe2 White need not worry about ...d5.



12...Nd4 But d4 is another story! 13.Nxd4 Bh4+

A big intermezzo. White won't be castling.

14.Kf1 Qxd4 15.Rg1 Safe at last! Not only that, but Black has real problems retreating the minor pieces. Remember, the f-pawn is pinned, so ...g6 won't be playable. 15...Qf2+?? What's this, a queen trade?

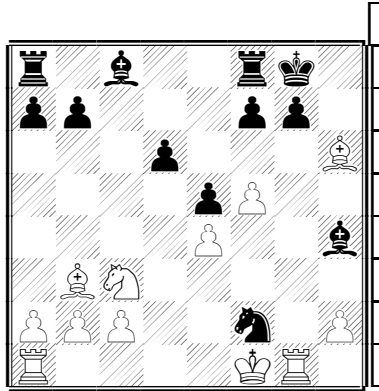
15...h5 16.h3 b6!! (16...Qf2+ 17.Qxf2 Nxf2 would still have been better than the game.)

17.Nb5 (17.hxg4 Ba6!! 18.Nb5 (18.Qxa6 Qf2#) 18...Bxb5 19.c4 Bc6 20.gxh5 Bxe4 21.Be3!

Qd3 22.Rd1 Qxe2+ 23.Kxe2 Bxf5 24.Rxd6) 17...Qf2+ 18.Qxf2 Nxf2 19.Bd5 Ba6! 20.a4 (20. Bxa8 Bxb5+ 21.Kg2 Rxa8) 20...Rac8 21.Be3 Nxh3 22.Rh1 Bg5 23.Rxh3 Bxe3 24.Rxe3

Rxc2 This forcing variation is the best White can do, and the three pawns may not be worth the piece, but if Black can trade off enough pawns a draw is possible.

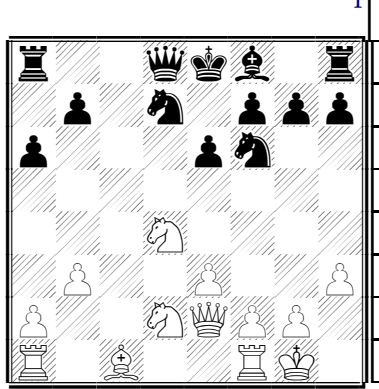
16.Qxf2 Nxf2 17.Bxh6! Uh-oh, problems on the g-file.



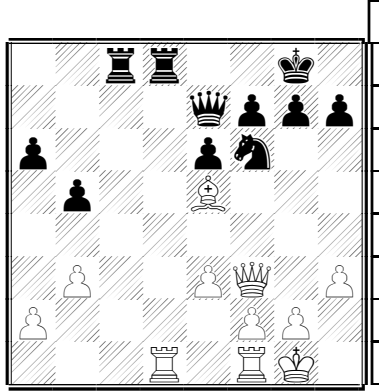
17...Kh7 18.Bg5! Black resigned. Material is even, but just for a moment. The knight can't escape.
18...Nh3 19.Bxh4 Nxf1 20.Kxf1 White has two pieces for a rook, and only one defense against **Be7**. **20...f6 21.Rd1 Rf8 22.Nb5** The d-pawn falls.

Bronstein, David vs. Anagnostou, J.
 Olympiad, Amsterdam, 1954

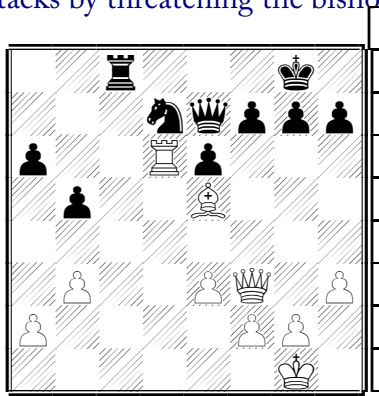
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 a6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Bxc4 e6 6.Nbd2 Nd7 Black chooses a rather slow system in the Queen's Gambit Accepted. **7.h3 Bh5 8.O-O Ngf6 9.b3 c5 10.Be2 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Bxe2 12.Qxe2** White does not mind all the exchanges and symmetrical pawn structure. Black has yet to castle and will need time to do so. Therefore White can look forward to a small initiative at some point.



12...Bc5 13.Bb2 Qe7 14.Nc4 O-O 15.Qf3 White takes advantage of the extra time to launch an attack at b7. **15...Bxd4 16.Bxd4 b5 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Rac8** White does not seem to have much to work with here. Bronstein is patient, however. He has a good position, the bishop is better than the knight and Black has some problems on the dark squares. **19.Rad1 Rfd8** Still trying to swap pieces, hoping for an eventual draw.



20.Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.Rd1 Qe7 22.Rd6! The weakness of d6 allows Bronstein to attack the weak a-pawn from the side. **22...Nd7** Black counterattacks by threatening the bishop at d5.

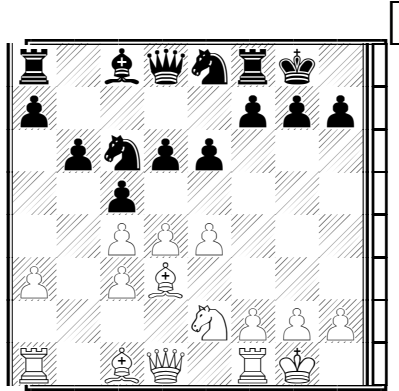


23.Qb7! A pin which leads to the win of material. **23...Rd8 24.Qc7 f6 25.Bc3** The bishop is happy to “retreat. **25...Kf7 26.Ba5!** Black resigned. The defense of d7 cannot be maintained.

Bronstein, David vs. Najdorf, Miguel

Candidates Tournament, Budapest , 1950

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.e3 Nc6 7.Bd3 O-O 8.Ne2 In this line of the Saemisch Variation the knight will go to g3 to take part in a kingside attack. **8...d6 9.e4 Ne8 10.O-O b6** Black employs the standard strategy of ...Ba6 and ...Na5 to win the c-pawn. However, the kingside must be kept under observation, and Black has no pieces there.



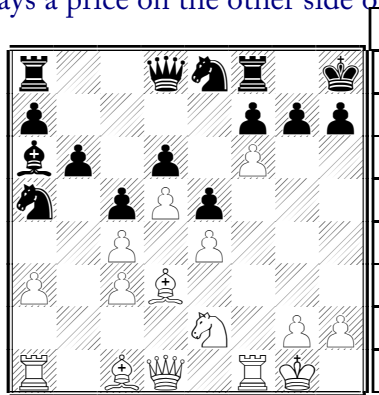
11.f4 Ba6 12.f5 e5 Black closes the center. The battle will be decided on the flanks. **13.f6!?** An interesting sacrifice. Black has three ways to take the pawn. It is very difficult to determine the correct strategy for Black, who also has to look at the two different ways of capturing the d-pawn! In the end, Najdorf just threw up his hands, left the enemy pieces alone and tucked his king into the corner. **13...Kh8**

13...cxd4 14.fxg7 Nxg7 15.cxd4 Rc8!?

A messy position, not easy to evaluate.;
 13...Nxf6 14.Bg5 cxd4 15.cxd4 exd4 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Rf5 White has a strong attack, and Black's pawns are a mess, even if there are more of them.;

13...gxf6 14.Bh6 Ng7 15.Ng3 Kh8 16.Nh5 Nxh5 17.Bxf8 Nf4 18.Bh6 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 cxd4
 20.Qg3 Qg8 21.Qh4±

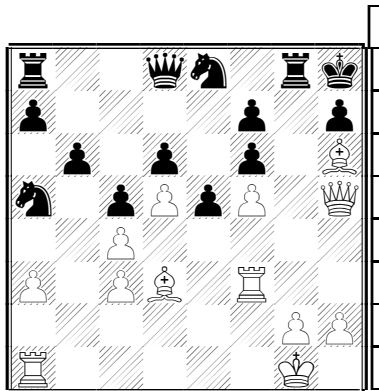
14.d5 Na5 Black wins the c-pawn but pays a price on the other side of the board.



15.Ng3 gxf6 16.Nf5 Bc8

16...Ng7 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.Qh5 Kh8 19.Qh6 Bxc4 20.Bxc4 Nxc4 21.Rxf6 White will obtain a crushing position after Bg5, with possibilities of a rook lift Rf1-f3-h3.

17.Qh5 Bxf5 18.exf5 Rg8 Black can control the g-file, but not g6, and that makes defense difficult. The knight has been sitting uselessly at e8 all game. Now it blocks the queen from getting over to help. **19.Rf3 Rg7 20.Bh6 Rg8**



21.Rh3 Black resigned. The rook lift was used to create unstoppable threats at h7. The best Black could do is delay the inevitable. **21...Ng7 22.Qh4 e4** It really wouldn't have mattered what Black did. **23.Bg5 Nh5** 23...h5 is refuted brilliantly. **24.Qxh5+!! Nxh5 25.Rxh5+ Kg7 26.Bh6+ Kh7 27.Bf8#**
24.Qxh5 Rg7 25.Bh6 Qg8 26.Bxg7+ Qxg7 27.Bxe4 White would have an extra rook. [1:0]

Aloni, Izak vs. Bronstein, David

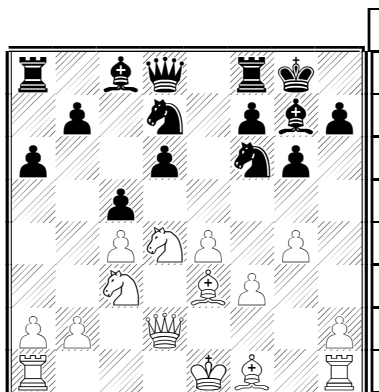
Olympiad, Moscow, 1956

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 6.Nge2 O-O 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 a6 Bronstein played the Saemisch as it was in vogue at the time, with the knight at d7. White over-reacts with a rash kingside advance that only leads to trouble. **9.g4?**

9.d5 is correct. In general, the center should be closed if White wants to attack before castling, or with the intention of castling queenside as in this game.

9...exd4 10.Nxd4 c5!

This creates a backward d-pawn and concedes control of d5. But it grabs control of d4, a magic square in the King's Indian!



11.Nc2 Ne5 12.Be2 Be6 13.Na3 Nfd7 14.O-O-O b5! Why wait? 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Ncxb5 c4! Black willingly concedes the d-pawn, to gain more space. **17.Qxd6 Qa5**

17...c3! was more accurate, according to Bronstein. **18.Nxc3** looks pretty solid. **18...Nxf3 19.Bxf3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qf6!** may provide enough compensation.

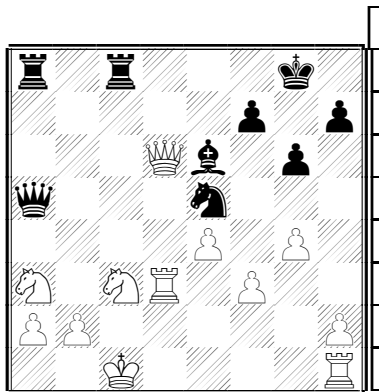
18.Bd4?

18.Bd2! c3 19.Nxc3! (19.Bxc3 Rfc8 20.Kb1 Rxc3!) **19...Rfc8 20.Nc2 Bf8** is less clear, but

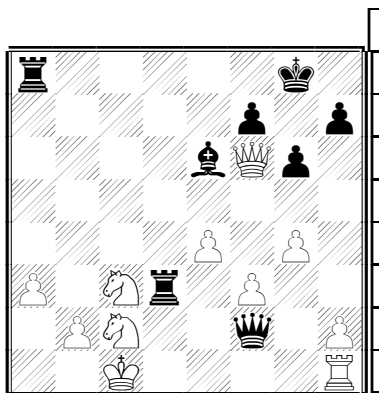
Black still has a good attack.

18...Rfc8 19.Bc3 Nd3+! More lines open, and another pawn is just a small price to pay. **20.Bxd3 Bxc3 21.Nxc3 cxd3 22.Rxd3 Ne5**

Black's attack is worth three pawns, at the very least! The dark squares are weak, and even without the mighty bishop White cannot defend them.



23.Re3 Rd8 24.Qe7 Rd7 25.Qf6 Qc5! 26.Nc2 Nd3+ White must give up the exchange. **27.Rxd3 27.Kb1 Rd6** threatens ...Bxa2+. **28.Qh4 Qb6!** The threat of mate at b2. leaves White without a useful move, so the sacrifice will have to be exchanged.
27...Rxd3 28.a3 Qf2!



29.Re1??

29.f4 Rd2 30.Nb4 Rxb2 wouldn't hold out for long, either.

29...Rd2 White resigned. [0:1]

World Youth Championship

Three of our local youth stars play in the World Youth Championships in Batumi Georgia and posted respectable results:

Daniel Naroditsky in Boys U12 6.0/11 = 30th out of 91 (tied for 29th place)

Nicholas Nip in Boys U8 6.0/11 = 29th out of 82 (tied for 27th place)

Jessica Zhu in Girls U8 6.0/11 = 20th out of 47 (tied for 16th)

The 3rd California Classic Championships

Fierce Competition in the Expert section led to a three-way tie for the first place. Ricardo De Guzman, Romulo Fuentes, and Lev Pisarsky split first, second and third place prizes. Raleigh Foster placed fourth with 2.5 points.

The reserve section saw Ted Belanoff go undefeated with four straight wins and standing a clear one point ahead of the field. Sreekar Jasthi, Mark Kokish and Krassen Mitev tied for second place. In the Amateur section Daniel Quan went undefeated with a perfect score raising his provisional rating by over 200 points. Jonathan Hecht, Alexander Lun, Vishal Dasari, and Don Kim tied for the second place with 3.0/4.0.

The Blitz Open was won by top seeded Romulo Fuentes with 7.5/10. Ted Belanoff placed second with 7.0/10.0.

The Scholastic Tournament had over 80 competitors with battles in 3 different grade separated groups (K-3, K-6, and K-12). Vishal Dasari finished one point ahead of the field with 4.5/5 in the K-12 section, yielding a draw. Christopher Clayton, Evan Ye, Arun Pingali, and Brandon Young tied for the second place.

In K-6, Andrew Yeh swept the field finishing with a perfect score in five rounds. Hemang Jangle, Aamir Azhar, Michael Meng, Dennis Tan, and Yigong Tian tied for the second place with 4.0/5.0.

In K-3, Sophia Luo surprised the section finishing 5/5, one point ahead of the field. She went in to the tournament rated 350 points below top seed Daniel Ho, but clinched the first place after defeating John Guiragossian in the last round. Guiragossian defeated Daniel Ho the round before in a close game. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for coming. Join us for the Thanksgiving Festival on November 24-26 (flyer is at <http://www.geocities.com/sfchessclassic/TCF1.doc>).

Francesca Berlin

Ilford-based, 17 year old and a fresh talent in singer songwriting.

Francesca composes ballads, pop and rock songs, draws inspiration from Eva Cassidy and at gigs performs her own original songs along with Eva Cassidy's songs. She gave up her other passion, chess, after winning the British Girls' Chess Championship in 2000 so she could devote her free time to songwriting, singing and acting. Francesca is related to the great songwriter Irving Berlin.

Demo tracks in MP3 format are available free; please email francescaberlin@aol.com or visit her website at www.francescaberlin.co.uk.

She performs regularly in clubs around London & Essex with her band or sometimes just with an acoustic guitar.

Francesca started working with producer Paul Page three years ago. Francesca first received acclaim with her stunning cover **of American Tune** (title track of Eva Cassidy's last album). From this there has been massive interest from Eva Cassidy fans around the world. Francesca has since written 10 new songs and has started work on her debut album.

Francesca launches her debut single on 7th August 2006. It's a 2 track single featuring two great tracks, Colours Faded and Stronger. Colours Faded is a song about Eva Cassidy. Pre Orders are available for download via Francesca's website.

Sergey Kudrin wins Western States Open

by Michael Aigner

The annual Western States Open took place at the Sands Regency Hotel & Casino in Reno on October 6-8. This was the 24th year that Jerry Weikel and his wife Fran have put together a big chess tournament. Some things never change from year to year: friendly atmosphere, good chess, free lectures and simuls, large number of GMs and IMs and nearly 100 prizes paid in cash on Sunday night. A weekend tournament in Reno is almost like a mini vacation--many players bring their spouses, parents, children and non-chess friends to join in the fun.

Unfortunately, this year's turnout was somewhat lower than in the past. Many chess enthusiasts appear to be reluctant to take a day off work (on Friday) in order to play a weekend of chess. Perhaps Reno needs a 2-day schedule to invigorate the attendance. This year's event was also impacted by the last minute illness of special guest GM Boris Spassky. After suffering a stroke in San Francisco less than a week before the tournament, Spassky followed doctor's orders and flew home to France rather than endure a weekend of lectures and public appearances.

Nonetheless, 315 people came to Reno to play chess. Players competed in class sections ranging from Open to under 1400. The 56 player Open section was conquered by GM Sergey Kudrin of New Jersey, who scored an undefeated 5.0 out of 6. IM Enrico Sevillano of southern California, who led for most of the weekend, finished tied for second place at 4.5 together with GMs Eugene Perelshteyn, Jaan Ehlevest, Ildar Ibragimov and Gregory Serper. At the last minute, America's Foundation for Chess announced that two qualifying spots were available for the 2007 US Championship. These went to GM Kudrin and IM Sevillano.

The top northern California finishers were GM Alex Yermolinsky, IM Josh Friedel, IM Vladimir Mezentsev and expert Dana Mackenzie, all at 4.0/6. IM Friedel, the 2006 CalChess state champion, faced four Grandmasters with a 50% score and ultimately lost to Kudrin in the money game of the last round. Mackenzie likely completed the tournament of his life, winning his last three games including scalps of FM Renard Anderson and IM David Pruess, the latter following a prepared queen sacrifice.

To read more about the Western States Open and to view some games from the Open section (e.g. Kudrin-Friedel and Mackenzie-Pruess), please visit the USCF homepage. IM Friedel has added blogging to his bag of tricks and filed two reports in his own unique writing style.

rounds 1-3: http://beta.uschess.org/frontend/news_7_140.php

rounds 4-6: http://beta.uschess.org/frontend/news_7_146.php

The lower sections saw plenty of action as well, including many local players. How often do you see a pairing in an adult tournament between a 10 year old and an 8 year old, both ranked #1 in the nation for their age? In this case, 10 year old Daniel Naroditsky and 8 year old Nicholas Nip squared off in the expert section. (Daniel won, in case anyone is keeping score).

Many local players won money, but only one managed to win his section. Congratulations to Michael O'Brien of the South Bay for winning the B section outright! Please see below a list of northern California players who finished in the top of their section

Open:
4.0 GM Alex Yermolinsky, IM Josh Friedel,
IM Vladimir Mezentsev, Dana Mackenzie (top
U2300)

Expert: 4.5 Batsaikan Tserendorj
A section: 4.5 Kevin Storms
B section: 5.0 Michael O'Brien (champion!)
C section: 5.0 Jesse Turner
D section: 5.0 Daniel Ho

Mechanics' Institute wins USCL Title

SAN FRANCISCO WINS THE TIEBREAK

by NM Sam Shankland

The Mechanics are now US CHESS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS! In our most intense and definitely scariest match yet we managed to fight back hard in worse positions and draw the long chess part 2-2. On board 1 Josh was playing very well and got an advantage but blundered badly with Ne7 passing the advantage over to Charbonneau. He pushed hard and actually had slight winning chances at the end but the endgame was just drawn with best play, which Charbonneau demonstrated. On board 2 we were missing Vinay but David stepped up to the plate, played a new opening, and defeated Irina Krush in a long, hard game. Dima was looking good out of the opening but somehow his position got bad and he lost. My game was ridiculous. after I played 19...f5(?)20. Rg3! Qxh4 21.Bg5! should be great for White. Fortunately Herman missed this shot. 2 moves later after Be2 I repaid the favor with Nxe2? - Nxc2+! would have won on the spot. ...Nxc2+ Kf1 Rxd2 or ...Nxc2+ Kd1 e3 I then repaid the favor again the very next move with Qxe2+? I wrote down Nxf5 on my scoresheet then somehow decided it was bad and took on e2. The resulting ending was slightly better for me until a pair of Rooks came off. Once that happened I was worse, and Herman showed great technique and soon after that I was dead lost. I somehow managed to miracle draw with a cheap tactic, I'm such a lucky patzer.

So then we went in for the blitz. I'm a better blitz player than regular chess and it showed when I beat Herman (with the help of having White) and then drew Hess. I think i was winning against Hess for a while in the endgame and I really wanted to beat him but oh well, I can't do everything. With those 2 out of the way Dima made a quick draw with Krush and then David and Josh each get a chance to play Charbonneau.

David got a great position and had what looked like a crushing attack. He misplayed it mildly but maintained a better position. Then Charbonneau defended VERY well and somehow managed to beat David. My heart sank the same time Josh sank into the chair of the computer with the best(!) mouse. and got to work. To make a long story short, Josh solidly defeated Charbonneau and gave us the USCL championship. Way to go Josh!

Folks, That is all for this year. I'd personally like to congratulate New York for playing so well and they deserved to win the championship, and their team will only get better. Hopefully I'll see you all around next year.

CalChess Labor Day Championships

Master Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	IM Joshua E Friedel	2528	W10	W4	W3	L2	W5	W9	5.0
2	GM Alex Yermolinsky	2602	W17	W9	W13	W1	D3	D4	5.0
3	IM Vladim Mezentsev	2485	W12	W7	L1	W9	D2	W10	4.5
4	IM David Pruess	2453	W5	L1	W19	W13	W8	D2	4.5
5	Samuel Shankland	2161	L4	B---	W15	W7	L1	W11	4.0
6	Edward Perepelitsky	2070	L8	D18	W17	W19	D7	W14	4.0
7	IM Ricardo De Guzman	2472	W19	L3	W10	L5	D6	W13	3.5
8	Andy C Lee	2287	W6	L13	D18	W11	L4	W17	3.5
9	WIM Batchimeg Tuvshintugs	2303	B---	L2	W14	L3	W13	L1	3.0
10	Nicolas A Yap	2281	L1	W15	L7	W18	W16	L3	3.0
11	Adarsh Konda	2019	W18	D14	D16	L8	W17	L5	3.0
12	Daniel W Schwarz	2217	L3	L19	B---	D17	W15	U---	2.5
13	Philipp Perepelitsky	2127	W20	W8	L2	L4	L9	L7	2.0
14	David Chock	2072	D16	D11	L9	L15	W18	L6	2.0
15	Daniel Naroditsky	2055	H---	L10	L5	W14	L12	D18	2.0
16	Michael Aigner	2311	D14	H---	D11	H---	L10	U---	2.0
17	Mike Y Zafoznyy	2091	L2	W20	L6	D12	L11	L8	1.5
18	Joshua Gutman	2125	L11	D6	D8	L10	L14	D15	1.5
19	Paul A Gallegos	2200	L7	W12	L4	L6	U---	U---	1.0
20	Daniel Naroditsky	2055	L13	L17	B---	U---	U---	U---	1.0

Expert Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Jason M Drake	2134	D17	W13	W24	W4	W2	D5	5.0
2	Nicholas Nip	1852	D29	W30	W6	B---	L1	W4	4.5
3	Gregory Young	1988	L15	W26	W19	W22	W12	D8	4.5
4	Carlos A D'Avila	2143	W26	W15	W8	L1	W9	L2	4.0
5	Lev Pisarsky	1982	W23	D6	W16	D9	D15	D1	4.0
6	Dana N Mackenzie	2108	W18	D5	L2	W13	D7	W11	4.0
7	Ilan Benjamin	2010	L22	W25	W27	D11	D6	W12	4.0
8	Michael G Zehr	2037	D20	W10	L4	W23	D11	D3	3.5
9	John N Petrison	2029	W25	W11	D12	D5	L4	D10	3.5
10	James E Jones	2010	W19	L8	L14	W16	W18	D9	3.5
11	Kayven Riese	1833	W21	L9	W17	D7	D8	L6	3.0
12	Batsaikhan Tserendorj	2139	H---	W22	D9	W14	L3	L7	3.0
13	Jeff A Young	1918	D28	L1	W21	L6	W22	D14	3.0
14	Rohan S Sathe	1898	H---	D20	W10	L12	D17	D13	3.0
15	William R Davis	2150	W3	L4	W20	H---	D5	U---	3.0
16	Arthur Liou	1801	D30	W29	L5	L10	D21	B---	3.0
17	Matt B Zavortink	1950	D1	D28	L11	W27	D14	H---	3.0
18	Charles Sun	1926	L6	L27	W25	W19	L10	W22	3.0
19	Sreekar Jasthi	1803	L10	B---	L3	L18	W27	W23	3.0
20	John G Cohen	1898	D8	D14	L15	D26	D23	H---	2.5
21	Brendan Purcell	1962	L11	D23	L13	D25	D16	W27	2.5
22	Prashant Periwal	1866	W7	L12	W28	L3	L13	L18	2.0
23	Michael A Ogush	1856	L5	D21	W29	L8	D20	L19	2.0
24	Chris Mavraedis	1961	W27	H---	L1	H---	U---	U---	2.0
25	Nikunj C Oza	1895	L9	L7	L18	D21	B---	U---	1.5
26	Martin Marshall	1964	L4	L3	B---	D20	U---	U---	1.5
27	Jennifer T Acon	1827	L24	W18	L7	L17	L19	L21	1.0
28	Larry Snyder	2093	D13	D17	L22	U---	U---	U---	1.0
29	Mingson Chen	1962	D2	L16	L23	U---	U---	U---	0.5
30	Martin Marshall	1964	D16	L2	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5

A Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Ian C Bourg	1953	W30	W9	W15	W5	W2	D3	5.5
2	Aaron Garg	1724	W27	W12	W13	D4	L1	W5	4.5
3	Yefim Bukh	1929	L17	W26	W6	W11	W7	D1	4.5
4	Felix Rudyak	1901	W26	W17	L5	D2	W15	W8	4.5
5	Kevin Davidson	1923	W7	W14	W4	L1	W6	L2	4.0
6	Arnav S Shah	1789	W16	W24	L3	W10	L5	W14	4.0
7	Andy Lin	1774	L5	W16	W24	W14	L3	W13	4.0
8	Iris R Kokish	1750	L29	D20	W12	W9	W18	L4	3.5
9	Marvin Shu	1832	W22	L1	D19	L8	X27	W20	3.5
10	George Sanguinetti	1922	W28	L13	W25	L6	W20	D11	3.5
11	Jamie Brett	1777	L24	W23	W26	L3	W21	D10	3.5
12	Steven L Krasnov	1931	H---	L2	L8	W22	X24	W18	3.5
13	Charles Kleiman	1804	W19	W10	L2	L15	W17	L7	3.0
14	Ted Belanoff	1835	W23	L5	W17	L7	W19	L6	3.0
15	Martin J Whalley	1802	W18	W29	L1	W13	L4	U---	3.0
16	Partha M Vora	1616	L6	L7	W23	X30	H---	H---	3.0
17	Edward Wu	1775	W3	L4	L14	W28	L13	D21	2.5
18	Krassen Mitev	1665	L15	B---	D21	W25	L8	L12	2.5
19	Joe R Russell	1675	L13	W28	D9	D21	L14	D23	2.5
20	Arun Gomatam	1654	U---	D8	W30	W27	L10	L9	2.5
21	Julian Standen	1694	D25	H---	D18	D19	L11	D17	2.5
22	Robert E Berry	1680	L9	D30	L27	L12	B---	W26	2.5
23	Kevin E Hwa	1698	L14	L11	L16	B---	D26	D19	2.0
24	Rob Nicholson	1996	W11	L6	L7	H---	F12	U---	1.5
25	Rohan Agarwal	1862	D21	W27	L10	L18	U---	U---	1.5
26	John Chan	1768	L4	L3	L11	H---	D23	L22	1.0
27	Alexaner Francisco	1890	L2	L25	W22	L20	F9	U---	1.0
28	Mark G Kokish	1762	L10	L19	B---	L17	U---	U---	1.0
29	Rohan S Sathe	1898	W8	L15	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
30	Jonathan Soo Hoo	1799	L1	D22	L20	F16	U---	U---	0.5

B Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Zachary H Cohn	1793	W6	W13	W22	W4	W2	D5	5.5
2	Yian Liou	1482	D25	W27	W8	W7	L1	W14	4.5
3	Percival Adsuara	1702	L4	W26	W20	H---	W11	W8	4.5
4	Vijay M Mohan	1555	W3	D8	W6	L1	D7	W10	4.0
5	Alan Naroditsky	1742	D9	W17	D11	D19	W10	D1	4.0
6	Kyle Shin	1593	L1	W23	L4	W16	W12	W18	4.0
7	Nelson M Sowell	1721	D27	W25	W15	L2	D4	W13	4.0
8	Steven Liu	1643	W26	D4	L2	W18	W9	L3	3.5
9	Samuel Bekker	1660	D5	L19	B---	W27	L8	W21	3.5
10	Willie Campers	1693	W21	D11	D19	W12	L5	L4	3.0
11	Franklin Ng	1664	W29	D10	D5	W15	L3	U---	3.0
12	Robert Duran	1567	W14	L22	W13	L10	L6	W23	3.0
13	Michael V Lico	1602	W16	L1	L12	W20	X22	L7	3.0
14	Calixto Magaoay	1710	L12	H---	D24	W28	W21	L2	3.0
15	Alan F Howe	1667	W23	W24	L7	L11	H---	H---	3.0
16	Adam W Goldberg	1439	L13	L20	B---	L6	W26	W25	3.0
17	Kevin F Zhu	1421	B---	L5	W28	W22	U---	U---	3.0
18	Max G Rodel	1704	L30	D28	W29	L8	W25	L6	2.5
19	Thomas E Boyd	1663	D28	W9	D10	D5	U---	U---	2.5
20	Alexander Lun	1577	L22	W16	L3	L13	D24	D26	2.0
21	Stephen D Young	1642	L10	D29	H---	W24	L14	L9	2.0

22	Jason Gurtovoy	1792	W20	W12	L1	L17	F13	U---	2.0
23	Jerome Sun	1497	L15	L6	W26	L25	B---	L12	2.0
24	Kevin Garbe	1405	B---	L15	D14	L21	D20	U---	2.0
25	Albert Martin Starr	1633	D2	L7	L27	W23	L18	L16	1.5
26	Avinash Kumar	1495	L8	L3	L23	B---	L16	D20	1.5
27	Christopher Tsai	1577	D7	L2	W25	L9	U---	U---	1.5
28	Ryan Ko	1572	D19	D18	L17	L14	U---	U---	1.0
29	Igor Royzen	1639	L11	D21	L18	H---	U---	U---	1.0
30	Arun Gomatam	1654	W18	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0

C Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Vishal R Dasari	1486	W15	D3	W13	W19	W2	W4	5.5
2	Jessica T Lauser	1462	W17	W22	W4	W7	L1	W3	5.0
3	Curtis Liang	1404	W5	D1	W6	W18	W7	L2	4.5
4	Isaac Zhang	1439	W9	W10	L2	W13	W14	L1	4.0
5	Andrew Yeh	1586	L3	L6	W27	W12	W15	W11	4.0
6	Kevin Liu	1447	L13	W5	L3	W25	W21	W14	4.0
7	Kenneth Voss	1574	W28	W14	W8	L2	L3	D9	3.5
8	Matthias Grabiak	1495	W23	W11	L7	L9	W13	D10	3.5
9	Felix Chen	1332	L4	B---	W22	W8	L11	D7	3.5
10	James G Kwok	1360	W16	L4	W15	L14	W19	D8	3.5
11	Nitin M Gomatam	1373	W19	L8	H---	W24	W9	L5	3.5
12	Matthew Piper	1412	W24	D18	L19	L5	W22	W20	3.5
13	Andrew Chen	1355	W6	W27	L1	L4	L8	W18	3.0
14	Stephen D Lupton	1465	W26	L7	W25	W10	L4	L6	3.0
15	Hemang Je Jangle	1380	L1	W20	L10	W16	L5	W23	3.0
16	Vijay Jasthi	1481	L10	L17	W20	L15	B---	W21	3.0
17	Alex Grossman	1357	L2	W16	H---	H---	D18	H---	3.0
18	Cesar Tamondong	1526	W21	D12	D24	L3	D17	L13	2.5
19	Tom Allen	1541	L11	W23	W12	L1	L10	H---	2.5
20	Harold J Parker	1535	L22	L15	L16	W23	W25	L12	2.0
21	Kimberly J Tom	1356	L18	L24	B---	W27	L6	L16	2.0
22	Ake Gullmes	1400	W20	L2	L9	H---	L12	U---	1.5
23	John A Wyatt	1303	L8	L19	H---	L20	W27	L15	1.5
24	Vincent Saguid	1565	L12	W21	D18	L11	U---	U---	1.5
25	Michael Meng	1298	H---	H---	L14	L6	L20	U---	1.0
26	Jessica F Zhu	1092	L14	W28	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
27	Bekhtur Bayaraa	1473	H---	L13	L5	L21	L23	U---	0.5
28	Kevin Liu	1447	L7	L26	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0

D/E/Unr Standings

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Nikita Shenkman	1296	W26	W25	W19	D2	D5	W6	5.0
2	Gabriel W Lee	1241	W24	W28	W4	D1	L3	W10	4.5
3	Jerry Chen	1381	D21	D7	W23	W12	W2	D5	4.5
4	Justin Hsu	1369	W15	W6	L2	W14	W7	H---	4.5
5	Aamir Azhar	1117	X---	W11	W9	H---	D1	D3	4.5
6	Gabriel S Ki	1238	W13	L4	W28	W20	W11	L1	4.0
7	Binderiya Tuvsanaa	unr.	H---	D3	W25	W16	L4	W14	4.0
8	Charles G Falk	1340	L10	H---	W18	W21	D9	W15	4.0
9	Eugene Kwok	1204	D22	W21	L5	W29	D8	W13	4.0
10	Alex Radermacher	1220	W8	L20	W29	D19	W12	L2	3.5
11	Daniel Ho	1281	W17	L5	W27	H---	L6	W19	3.5
12	Daniel Benjamin	1268	W30	D29	W20	L3	L10	W22	3.5
13	Anthony Luo	1010	L6	B---	L14	W23	W16	L9	3.0
14	Brandon Lee	1203	L19	W22	W13	L4	W20	L7	3.0

15	Roland Zhu	1169	L4	L23	W26	W27	W19	L8	3.0
16	Tyson F Mao	1256	W23	L19	W17	L7	L13	W24	3.0
17	Saleem Karamali	1161	L11	W24	L16	H---	W30	D18	3.0
18	Rebekah Liu	1277	L20	W30	L8	D24	W29	D17	3.0
19	Richard Zhang	912	W14	W16	L1	D10	L15	L11	2.5
20	Steven Hjerrild	786	W18	W10	L12	L6	L14	D21	2.5
21	Jessica L Jones	1196	D3	L9	W22	L8	D24	D20	2.5
22	David Ju	992	D9	L14	L21	W25	W26	L12	2.5
23	Jerry Wu	1154	L16	W15	L3	L13	W27	L26	2.0
24	Howard Siu	1111	L2	L17	B---	D18	D21	L16	2.0
25	Grant E Jones	1239	W27	L1	L7	L22	L28	W29	2.0
26	Ralph W Crawford	1165	L1	L27	L15	W28	L22	W23	2.0
27	David Ma	1044	L25	W26	L11	L15	L23	W28	2.0
28	Andrew Luo	885	B---	L2	L6	L26	W25	L27	2.0
29	Jason Park	696	B---	D12	L10	L9	L18	L25	1.5
30	Stephan A Mixsell	1382	L12	L18	B---	H---	L17	U---	1.5

Mezentsev, Vladimir vs. Yermolinsky, Alex

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.c3 Nf6 5.e5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Qd5 7.Nxc6 Bd7 8.O-O

8.Qf3 Qxf3 9.gxf3 Bxc6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.d3 was tried in Sulskis vs. Degraeve, Cappelle la Grande (France) 2001

8...Bxc6 9.Bxc6+ Qxc6 10.d4 e6 11.Be3 Nd5 12.Nd2 Be7 13.Qf3 O-O 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Bxc5 Qxc5 16.Rfd1 Rad8 17.Ne4 Qc6 18.Rd3 f5 19.Ng3 Ne7 20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.Rad1 Rxd3 22.Rxd3 Rd8 [$\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$]

Lee, Andy vs. Pruess, David

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4

The most aggressive plan.

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 e5 9.Bd2 exd4



10.Ne4?!

10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Be2 is the usual continuation, sacrificing the g-pawn.

10...Nxe4 11.Qxe4+ Qe7 12.Qxd4 Ne5! 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 Black now picks off the b-pawn. 14.Qe4

Bxb2 15.Qxe7+ Kxe7 16.Bb4+ Ke8

Black can't castle but White does not have enough attacking force to threaten the king



17.Rb1 Bf6 18.Rg1 a5! 19.g5 Be5 20.Bc5 b5! 21.Bd3 Be6

Black's centralized bishops are wonderful and both of White's rim pawns are under attack.



22.a3 Bxh2 23.Rh1 Be5 24.Rc1 Kd7 25.f4 Bd6 26.Bd4 Bxa3

Black eats the third pawn and now holds a decisive advantage.

27.Rd1 Bb3 28.Bf5+ Kc7 29.Be5+ Kb6 30.Rd7 g6 31.Be4 Be6 32.Bd4+ Bc5 33.Rd6 Rac8 34.Rxc6+ Rxc6 35.Bxh8 Rc8 36.Rxh7 Bxe3

White could resign here.

37.Be5 Rc4 38.Bd3 Rc8 39.Ke2 Bc5 40.Kf3 a4 41.f5 gxf5 42.Kf4 Ba3 43.Bd4+ Ka5 44.Ke5 Rd8 45.g6 Rd5+ [0:1]

Shankland, Sam vs. Kondra, Adarsh

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006

Disaster at g7.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Qg4 Ne7 6.Nf3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Qg3 Bd7 10.Ba3



10...Nf5??

10...Na6 11.Bd6 Qa5 12.Be2 Nc8 13.Nb5 Bxb5 14.Bxb5+ Qxb5 15.Qxg7 Kd7 16.Qxh8 Qc4 17.Qxh7 Qxc3+ 18.Ke2 Nxd6 19.exd6 Qe5+ 20.Kf3 Qf6+ 21.Ke2 1/2-1/2, Schmidt - Friedrich, Willingen (Germany) 2003;

10...Nbc6 11.Bd6 Qa5=

11.Nxf5 exf5 12.Bd6 Qa5

12...f4! 13.Qxg7 Qxc3+ 14.Kd1 Qxa1+ 15.Kd2 Qd4+ 16.Bd3 Qxf2+ 17.Kc3 Be6 18.Qxh8+ Kd7 19.Bb5+ Nc6 20.Qxa8+-

13.Bb4



13...f4??

13...Qa4 14.Qxg7 Kd8 15.Qxh8+ Be8 16.Bd3+-

14.Qxg7 [1:0]

Mao, Tyson vs. Siu, Howard

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006

Disaster at g7.

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 h6?! 5.Bd2 e6 6.O-O Nf6 7.Re1 Be7 8.b3 O-O 9.c4 c5 10.d5 exd5 11.exd5 d6 12.Nc3 Re8 13.Nh4 Nh7 14.Nf5



14...Kf8?

14...Bc8 15.Qg4±

15.Nxe7 Rxe7 16.Rxe7 Qxe7 17.Bxh7 Nd7 18.Qe2 Qf6 19.Re1 a5 20.Nxb5 a4 21.Nc7 Ra7??
22.Qe8# [0:1]

Falk, Charlises vs. Zui, Roland

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006

Wandering king

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.b5 Bd7 4.e3

4.a4 a6 5.e3 axb5 6.axb5 Rxa1 7.Bxa1 c6 8.c4 cxb5 9.cxb5 Qb6 And Black was already better
in Bittner - Hubrig, 1986.

4...c6 5.a4 a6 6.Nc3 axb5 7.axb5 Rxa1 8.Qxa1 cxb5 9.Nxb5 Nc6 10.Ba3 Qa5



11.Qb2

11.Qc3!? Qxc3 12.dxc3 Looks pretty good for White.

11...Nf6 12.Bd3 e4 13.Be2 Bg4 14.f3 exf3 15.gxf3 Be6 16.Bxd6 Kd7 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Na3 Kc7
19.Nb5+ Kd7 20.Nd4 Rb8 21.Nxc6 Kxc6 22.Bd3 Rd8 23.Ne2 g6



24.Nd4+

24.Qxf6 was an easy win.

24...Kd6 25.O-O Ba2 26.Nb5+ Ke6 27.Rf2 Rd5 28.Bc4 Ke7 29.Bxd5 Nxd5 30.Qe5+ Kf8 31.f4 Qb4 32.Qd6+ Qxd6 33.Nxd6 Black resigned. [1:0]

Liu, Kevin vs. Lupton, Stephen

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 4/2006
Wandering king

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 Black tries to play it safe. 4.exd5 c5 5.Nf3

5.dxc6 Nxc6 6.Bb5 Bc5 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Qc2 O-O 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.O-O d3 11.Qd1 Bf5 12.Bg5 Bg4 13.Nbd2 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Rc1 Rad8 16.Ne4 1-0, Fredgaard Jonathan 1563 - Bennedsen Soren 1252, Esbjerg (Denmark) 2004.07.06

5...Qxd5 6.cxd4 Bg4 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.O-O

9.a3 dxc3 10.axb4 cxb2 11.Bxb2 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 f6 13.O-O With compensation for the pawn in Rerabkova - Batelkova, Plzen (Czech Republic) 1998.

9...Qa5 10.Qxd4 Nf6 11.Bb5+ Nc6?!

11...Nbd7

12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Re1+ Be6 14.Ng5

White's attack is relentless.

14...Rd8 15.Qc4 Rd6



16.Nxe6 Bxc3

16...Rxe6 17.Rxe6+ fxe6 18.Qxe6+

17.Nxg7+! Kf8 18.bxc3 Kxg7 19.Bf4 Re6 20.Rxe6 fxe6 21.Qxc6 White has an easily winning position. 21...Re8 22.Qf3 e5 23.Bg5 Nd5 24.c4 e4 25.Qg3 Kf7 26.cxd5 Qxd5 27.Qf4+ Kg6 28.Qf6+ Checkmate is now forced. 28...Kh5 29.Qh6+ Kg4 30.h3+ Kf5 31.g4+ Ke5 32.Qf6# [1:0]

Zhang, Richard vs. Mao, Tyson

CalChess Championship, San Francisco, 9/ 3/2006
 Classic finish

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.O-O Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bf4 Be7? 9...e5 10.Be3 Rb8=
10.e5 dxe5 11.Bxe5 O-O 12.Bf3 Qb6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Qb5 15.f4 f6 16.Qh5 g6



17.Bxg6! hxg6 18.Qxg6+ Kh8 19.Rf3 a5 20.Rh3# [1:0]

John Donaldson:

David Bronstein, who came within one draw of becoming world champion, died at age 82 on December 5 in Minsk, Belarus. The Russian Chess Federation reported the cause as a stroke.

From the end of World War II to the late 1950s, Bronstein was one of the top three players in the Soviet Union and among the five best in the world. He was at or near his peak when he drew a world championship match with Botvinnik in 1951.

In spite of this remarkable accomplishment Bronstein was perhaps best known for his authorship of a book on the 1953 Neuhausen-Zurich Candidates event which was widely acclaimed and is on the shortlist of the greatest tournament books of all time.

Bronstein visits to the United States in the later years of his life confirmed his reputation as a true lover of the game who would talk about chess to players of all levels day and night. It's doubtful that there has ever been a more egalitarian top level player.

David Pruess Game from USCL final

Krush,I (2445) - Pruess,D (2459) [D45]

USCL San Francisco vs New York Internet Chess Club (13), 29.11.2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Rd1 Qe7 10.b3 dxc4 11.bxc4 e5 12.a4 e4 13.Nd2 Nf8 14.Nf1 Bg4 15.Qb3 Rad8 16.Ba3 Ng6 17.Ng3 Bxe2 18.Ncxe2 Bxa3 19.Qxa3 Qe6 20.Qb3 Rd7 21.h3 h5 22.Nc3 h4 23.Nge2 Red8 24.a5 Qf5 25.Qc2 c5 26.f3 cxd4 27.fxe4 Qc5 28.exd4 Qxc4 29.Qa2 Qxa2 30.Rxa2 Re7 31.e5 Nd5 32.Nxd5 Rxd5 33.Nc3 Rd8 34.Kf2 Red7 35.Rb2 a6 36.Ke3 Nxe5 37.dxe5 Rxd1 38.Nxd1 Rxd1 39.Rxb7 Rd5 40.Ke4 Rxa5 41.Ra7 Ra2 42.Kf3 Ra4 43.Ke3 Ra2 44.Kf3 Kf8 45.g4 Ra4 46.Ke3 a5 47.Kf3 g6 48.Ke3 Kg8 49.Kf3 Kf8 50.Ke3 Ra3+ 51.Kf4 Rxh3 52.Kg5 Re3 53.Rxa5 h3 54.Kh4 h2 55.Ra1 Rxe5 56.Kg3 Re2 57.g5 Ke7 White resigns 0-1

CalChess Scholastics 2007 Information

32nd ANNUAL CALCHESS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCHOLASTIC SECTIONS:

231 Kindergarten, FIRST through THIRD Grade NOVICE AND JUNIOR VARSITY Sections: Saturday, April 28, 2007; 1-3 CHAMPIONSHIP, 4-5 CHAMPIONSHIP, ALL 4-6 GRADE Sections, ALL 7-8 GRADE Sections and ALL 9-12 GRADE Sections: Saturday and Sunday, April 28 & 29, 2007; BUG-HOUSE on Friday night April 27; BLITZ on Saturday night April 28.

LOCATION: SaN MATEO EXPO CENTER, OAK & CYPRUS Halls, 2495 South DELAWARE St., San Mateo, parking is \$7 at the site (with in and out privileges). [CLICK HERE FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

TOURNAMENT HOTEL: The closest hotel to the site and the only one within walking distance is the San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo. We have obtained a group rate of \$95 a day that includes parking (with in and out privileges). They also provide a courtesy shuttle bus to and from the airport. Call 1-800-228-9290 and inform them you are with CalChess Scholastic group. The room block is being held until April 6. If rooms are available after that date you may be able to get the same rate. Again please tell the Marriott that you are with CalChess Scholastics.

GENERAL INFO: All players must be members of the United States Chess Federation. To check active membership please go to <http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrLst.php>. Non-members may join when they send in their entry form. We will run the tournament according to the USCF Rule Book and the modifications codified in 2006 for our scholastic competition: <http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/CalChessStates/Regulations.html>. Please check the FAQ's online for any other information and special rules that will apply to this event. <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/States2007/FAQS.html>

ENTRY FORM: All entries must be done online this year. Go to <https://CalChessScho.powweb.com/States2007/CCEntry.html>. After you complete all the information on the form you will be able to pay by credit card or find out how to pay by check.

Cost: Kindergarten & Primary School Grades 1-3 Novice and Junior Varsity Divisions=\$35*, All Other Divisions=\$40* After 4/25 all entries are \$70. No internet registrations will be accepted after Thursday, April 26. All other late entries must be done at the special late registration that will be held in the Meeting Pavilion Room at the San Mateo Expo Center between 6 and 7 PM on Friday, April 27. Registrations will be accepted on Saturday, 4/28, only after the first round has begun and a zero point bye will be given for that round. A \$10 fee will be charged for any changes requested after 7:00 PM on Friday, 4/27. Only a one half round bye (half point non-rated draw) will be permitted if requested before 7 PM on Friday, 4/27. No half point byes can be requested for the final round. Any other byes (missing a round by request) will be listed a non-rated loss. Please check our internet site for confirmation of your entry and to be sure you are listed in the correct division with the proper information. (<http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/States2007/entries.html>)

* no refunds for entries after Friday, 4/13. Exceptions will be made with a physicians form indicating sickness.

SECTIONS: PLAYERS CAN MOVE UP A DIVISION--NEVER DOWN! CONFUSED ON WHICH SECTION TO ENTER? GO TO OUR FAQ'S.

KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY SCHOOL NOVICE (GRADES 1-3 players that have a rating under 500 or are unrated) and PRIMARY SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY (GRADES 1-3 players that have a USCF rating under 800) SECTIONS will be on Saturday, 4/28. 5 rounds (each player will have a maximum of 30 minutes per round: Game/30), rounds at 9:30, 11:15, LUNCH, 1:00, 2:45, 4:30. AWARDS at 6:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked online to see if your application arrived.

PRIMARY SCHOOL VARSITY(GRADES 1-3 open championship) SECTION will be on Saturday, 4/28 and Sunday, 4/29. 6 rounds (each player will have a maximum of 60 minutes per round: Game/60). Saturday rounds at 9:30, 12:15, LUNCH, 3:00. Sunday rounds at 9, 11:45 LUNCH , 2:30 AWARDS at 5:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked online to see if your application arrived.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOVICE (GRADES 4-6 players that have a rating under 600 or are unrated) and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY(GRADES 4-6 players that have a USCF rating under 900) SECTIONS will be on Saturday, 4/28 and Sunday, 4/29. 6 rounds (each player will have a maximum of 60 minutes per round: Game/60). Saturday rounds at 9:30, 12:15, LUNCH, 3:00. Sunday rounds at 9:00, 11:45, LUNCH, 2:30 AWARDS at 5:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked online to see if your application arrived.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE VARSITY(GRADES 4-5 open championship) & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VARSITY(GRADES 4-6 open championship) SECTIONS will be on Saturday, 4/28 and Sunday, 4/29. 6 rounds (each player will have a maximum of 75 minutes per round: Game/75). Saturday rounds at 9:30, 12:45, LUNCH, 3:45. Sunday rounds at 9:00, 12:15, LUNCH, 3:15. AWARDS at 6:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked online to see if your application arrived.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY(GRADES 7-8 players that have a USCF rating under 900 or are unrated), JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY(GRADES 7-8 open championship) SECTIONS will be on Saturday, 4/28 and Sunday, 4/29. 6 rounds (each player will have a maximum of 75 minutes per round: Game/75). Saturday rounds at 9:30, 12:45, LUNCH, 3:45. Sunday rounds at 9:00, 12:15, LUNCH, 3:15. AWARDS at 6:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked online to see if your application arrived.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY(GRADES 9-12 players that have a USCF rating under 1000 or are unrated), HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY(GRADES 9-12 open championship) SECTIONS will be on both Saturday, 4/28 and Sunday, 4/29. 6 rounds (each player has a maximum of 75 minutes per round: Game/75), Saturday rounds at 9:30, 12:45, LUNCH, 3:45. Sunday rounds at 9:00, 12:15, LUNCH, 3:15. AWARDS at 6:30 PM. Please arrive 1/2 hour before the first round (9:00 AM) to check the posted list if you have not checked

online to see if your application arrived.

PRIZES:

Trophies to top 25 players in each Section. Trophies will also be awarded to each player who is tied for 25th place. In the Novice sections we will have an extra 25 trophies for unrated players who do not place in the Top 25. In the case of a tie the US Chess Federation tiebreak method will be used. Trophies will also go to the best in each specific grade and medals to best in each rating class after Top 25 trophies are awarded for each section. We will give a maximum of one trophy or medal per player in each section. Trophies will be awarded to the top 8 schools in all but the Kindergarten division (team score=4 best from each school). The 4 top point recipients and their coach of first and second place teams will receive a plaque. First place Varsity Division winners will receive the title of State Champion if they reside in Northern California. NOTE: Pins to every participant.

BUGHOUSE:

A Bughouse tournament on Friday night, April 27 will be held in the Meeting Pavilion Room at the San Mateo Expo Center from 6:45 until 10 PM. Late registration for Bughouse will be held starting at 6 PM in the Meeting Pavilion. The cost for pre-entry will be \$15 per team or \$8 per person. Individuals can enter without a partner and one will be assigned to them at the competition. Registration on Friday night will be \$19 per team or \$10 per person. Two trophies will be awarded to the first place, second place and third place overall teams in the K- 6 Section and two trophies will be awarded to the first place, second place and third place overall teams in the 8-12 Section + two for best team in each of the K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 grades. Highest grade of either team member will determine section for award. Rules: <http://www.fremontchessclub.org/bughouse/index.htm>

BLITZ:

A Blitz (5 minute speed chess) tournament on Saturday night, April 28 will be held in the Cypress Hall at the San Mateo Expo Center from 6:45 until 10 PM. Late registration for Blitz will be held starting at 6:30 PM in Cyprus. The cost for pre-entry will be \$10. Registration on Saturday night will be \$15 per player. Trophies will be awarded to the first three place winners in K-6 Section + first three place winners in 8-12 Section and then for the top two players in each of the K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 grades. Rules: <http://www.fremontchessclub.org/blitz/index.htm>

NOTES:

1) Late arrival forfeits will occur 30 minutes from the announced round start time or 15 minutes from the actual start time, whichever is later. 2) Players should bring chess clocks. "At the CalChess State Scholastic Championships the analog clocks have preference in all sections. Both players can agree to use a digital clock. All other U.S. Chess Federation regulations applying to clock use must be followed." 3) All games in Elementary School Varsity (4-5 & 4-6), Junior High School (7-8) and High School (9-12) Sections must be recorded. Players in all other divisions are encouraged to record. 4) In the last round, or when score groups demand it, players from the same school may face each other to determine individual championships even if it affects team championship prospects. 5) The tournament organizer has the right to immediately expel any player using a convention site telephone without a monitor or a TD present. The same applies to players in the competition area using a cell phone. 6) A limited number of multi-colored tournament logo commemorative T-shirts for sale: Pre-purchase=\$15 at tournament=\$18. 7) Vendors will have chess equipment and books available for purchase at discount prices at the tournament. 8) CalChess State Scholastic sets and boards will be available

for sale at tournament. 9) Team Areas (not rooms) are available for a fee of \$25 a day plus our cost for pipe and drape(\$1 a running foot per day) plus our cost for 8 foot tables (\$7 each for the weekend) and chairs(\$1 each for the weekend) See the link below for more information.

DIRECTORS: Tournament Organizer: Alan M. Kirshner, Ph.D.; Chief Tournament Director: John McCumisky, Associate National TD; ASSOCIATED CHIEF TD, Richard Koepcke, Senior TD plus Allan Fifield, Senior TD; LOCAL TD'S: Fred Leffingwell, Bill Bynum, Albert Rich, Frisco del Rosario, Andrew Lee, Robert Blatt, Alan Kirshner; CLUB TD'S: Tom Langland, Steven Seegmiller, Jacob Green, Jamie Sawhill, Salman Azhar, Henry Cate, David Lee, David Donaldson, Alicia Fulk, Micah Fisher-Kirshner, Eric Hicks, Jason Gurtovoy, Tony Pabon, Eric Landrum, Ted Castro; Staff SupervisorS: Stephanie Blatt & Kathy MacLennan; **COMPUTERS:**Salman Azhar, Jason Gurtovoy, Jacob Green, Jeremie Hansen, Prakash Narayan, Micah Fisher-Kirshner; **Sensory Board:** Mark Shelton; **INFORMATION:** Michael Aigner; **TROPHY DISTRIBUTION:** Lanette Chan-Gordon.

CHESS EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS: Jay Blem of National Chess and Games will be selling chess equipment, chess books and commemorative chess sets at the tournament.

FURTHER INFO: Call Alan Kirshner (510) 659-0358 (please leave a clear message and repeat your telephone number) or E-mail him at: Info@CalChessScholastics.org

COACHES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS MEETING: Sunday 4/29, 10:00 AM to Noon, Location: Cypress Hall. All coaches, teachers and parents are welcome to come to discuss the tournament and other scholastic chess issues. On any motion pertaining to future CalChess Scholastic Championships, only coaches will be voting.



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San Mateo Expo Center Driving Directions

From the South Bay

* From 101 - Take 101 North to Highway 92 West. Exit Delaware Street. Bear right on Concar Dr. Right on Delaware to 2495 S. Delaware Street, 4 blocks (located on the left side of street)

* From 280 - take 280 North to Highway 92 East. Exit Delaware Street. Right on Delaware to 2495 S. Delaware Street, 4 blocks (located on the left side of street)

From the North Bay

* From 101 - Take 101 South to Highway 92 West. Exit Delaware Street. Bear right on Concar Dr. Right on Delaware to 2495 S. Delaware Street, 4 blocks (located on the left side of street)

* From 280 - Take 280 South to Highway 92 East. Exit Delaware Street. Right on Delaware to 2495 S. Delaware Street, 4 blocks (located on the left side of street)

From the East Bay

* Take the San Mateo Bridge (Highway 92) West. Exit Delaware Street. Bear right on Concar Dr. Right on Delaware to 2495 S. Delaware Street, 4 blocks (located on the left side of street)

From El Camino

* From El Camino South - Go North on El Camino Avenue. Turn right on 25th Avenue. Left on Delaware (Expo Center is on right side)

* From El Camino North - Go South on El Camino Avenue. Turn left on 25th Avenue. Left on Delaware (Expo Center is on right side)

Public Transportation

* Visitors heading to the Expo Center are encouraged to take public transportation. SamTrans and Caltrain provide convenient and cost-effective service.

* Three SamTrans routes provide service to the Expo Center from throughout the county and San Francisco. Route 292 provides direct service. Routes 390 and 391 offer service along El Camino Real with a stop at 25th Avenue, two blocks west of the Expo grounds.

* Caltrain stops at the Hillsdale station, close to the Expo Center, as well as at the adjacent Bay Meadows station during horse racing.



IM David Pruess Wins 2006 Samford Prize

from USCF



The Frank P. Samford, Jr. Chess Fellowship, marking its 20th annual award, has selected IM David Pruess of Berkeley, California as its 2006 Fellow. The Samford is the richest and most important chess fellowship in the United States, providing brilliant young American chess masters the support and resources to enhance their skills and reach their full potential. The total value of the Fellowship is approximately \$32,000 per year. The prize is awarded for one year, renewable for a second. The winner was chosen by the Samford Fellowship Committee, consisting of Frank P. Samford III (son of Samford Fellowship founder Frank P. Samford, Jr.), former U.S. Champion GM Arthur Bisguier and IM John Donaldson. The winner's potential was determined based on his chess talent, work ethic, dedication and accomplishments.

David began playing chess at age 12 and earned his master rating at age 16. He shared second place in the 2001 U.S. Junior Chess championship and qualified for the 2003 U.S. Championship. He was the winner of the Quebec Invitational Championship and the Mark Pinto International. In addition to his competitions, David has been active as a chess organizer, having founded the East Bay Chess Club in 2004. He is particularly interested in promoting the game among youngsters and amateur players.

An unusual feature of David's success is his lack of training by professional chess coaches. Busy with school and work, he has not had the opportunity to compete in as many strong tournaments as he would like. Yet, in spite of these limitations, he has beaten some of the strongest players he faced, including several grandmasters.

The Samford Chess Fellowship was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Samford was a distinguished attorney and CEO of Liberty National Life Insurance Company (now Torchmark). Mr. Samford was active in civic, business, political, educational and cultural affairs. He was also an enthusiastic competitor in chess tournaments.

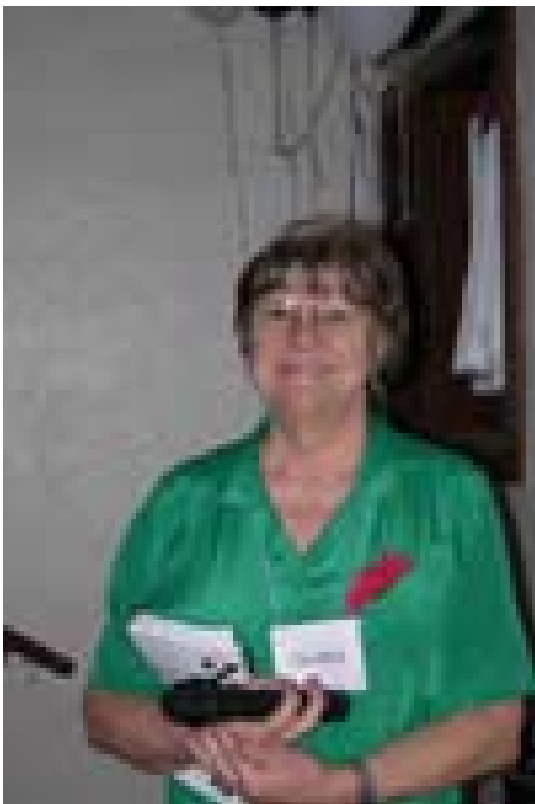
The purpose of the Samford Fellowship is to identify and assist the best young American chess masters by providing top-level coaching, strong competition and access to study materials. The Fellowship also provides a monthly stipend for living expenses so that the winners may devote themselves entirely to chess without having financial worries. We expect these benefits to be especially productive for David, supplying the resources he needs to continue his chess development.

Since its inception the Samford Fellowship has proven very successful. Several of the Fellows have become grandmasters and a few have won the U.S. Chess Championship and played on the U.S. team in the chess Olympiad. David's term as Samford Fellow will begin on July 1, 2006. The Fellowship is administered by the U.S. Chess Trust.

See one of David's victories on page 40. And read about his American Open victory on page 51.

Berkeley Chess School turns 25

Elizabeth Shaughnessy's Berkeley chess school recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The school has provided chess education, competition, and assorted fun for children and we wish you all the best as it continues to pursue its mission of spreading chess throughout the Bay Area.



Scholastic Bay Area Ches Grade Level Ch

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 2nd and 3rd. A record total of 347 students battled for Northern California team and individual grade level championships. Not only is this a great event but, the North Stockton Rotary uses all profits from the event for local scholastic chess and future scholastic tournaments.

This was the second year in a row that all the big guns of Northern California scholastic chess (Mission, St. Marks', Berkeley Chess School, Weibel, Tierra Linda) showed up in Stockton. They were not disappointed. Every thing that was done correctly last year, a great TD job by John McCumiskey, well marked directions to parking and playing areas, a spacious and well lighted playing area was repeated this year. The one minor problem from last year, a late start to some rounds, was corrected, just as the organizer Tom Biglione said it would be.

Seventeen children competed in the kindergarten section. Tanuj Vasudeva of Bunker Elementary in Newark, CA scored a perfect 5-0 to take the first place trophy and title on Northern CA Kindergarten Chess Champion. Alisha Chawla of Weibel finished second and Leonardo Cardarelli of St Marks finished third.

There were 22 competitors in grade one. This competition resulted in a four-way tie for first place (4 out of 5) between Linus Li, of Stratford school, Cameron Wheeler of Regnert, and Shalin Shah and Rahul Rawat of MSJE (Mission San Jose, Fremont). All four players earn the title of Grade One Champion. A speed play-off was held for trophies. Linus finished first and Cameron finished second in the speed play-off.

In grade level competition the team score is the score of the top three players from the same school in that grade. The team championship for grade one was decided before the last round began as MSJE took a four point lead into the last round. MSJE took first with 11.5 points. Granada School took second place with 7.5 points and St Marks was third with 6.5.. Salman Alzhar is to be congratulated on creating a team for Granada and leading them to trophies in grades one and four and coming close to trophies in grades 5 and 6. Since Salman has a son playing in grade one we expect he will be involved in youth chess for quite a few more years.

There were 39 competitors in grade two. Armaan Kalyanpur of MSJE had the top rating at 1019. Armaan was drawn by Allan Beilin of Baywood Elementary, San Mateo, CA in the fourth round. This left Julie Yeung (842 County) and Alex Yin (709 MSJE) as the only perfect scores. Julie beat Alex in the last round to win the title of Grade two champion. Armaan and Allan tied for second with 4.5 points and Alex took the fourth place trophy with 4.0.

In the team competition Weibel and MSJE tied for first with 11.0 points. Weibel took the first place trophy in tie breakers. Heather Elementary took third place with 9.5 points.

Grade three had 54 competitors. Kyle Shin (1660) of SSFS (San Francisco Friends School) had over 300 points on the number two participant. Kyle scored a perfect 5.0 to win the first place trophy and the title of grade three champion. Kyle is a student of Eric Hicks. Moadhav Shah of Rock Rocklin Academy (Roseville, CA) scored 4.5 to take the second place trophy.

Weibel had 11 participants in grade 3, Heather Elementary had 12 participants, but their top rating was 521 in the #25 spot, St Marks had 4, and MSJE had 7 participants, but three of the MSJE participants were unrated, (playing their first tournament). This looked like the grade in which Weibel could prevent a MSJE sweep as the top two Weibel players were rated above the top MSJE player (by almost 500 points on the top board). Also, the top eight Weibel players were all rated above the #3 MSJE player.

With one round to go MSJE and St Marks were tied with 9.0, Weibel was third with 7.5 and Heather Elementary was fourth with 6.5. Anton Wang of Mission won his last round game to finish 5th with 4.0 points.

This was the leading score of the top three teams and let MSJE take the first place trophy with 10 points. Weibel scored 2 wins in the last round to move to 9.5 to take the second place trophy and St Marks did not add to their score in the last round and ended in third.

Grade four had 43 competitors. The top two rated players were the co-captains of the MSJE team, James Kwok (1499) and Hemang Jangle (1425). James and Hemang each won their first five games. They played to a draw in the last round to share the title of grade four champion. James Kwok, who is a student of Michael Aigner, won the speed play-off for the first place trophy.

Once again the team competition was MSJE, Weibel, and St Marks. The team competition in grade four did not have much excitement as MSJE had a three point lead after round 4 and a 2.5 point lead after round 5. Since MSJE was assured a full point in round six regardless how the James-Hemang battle on board one came out, the team championship was decided before the last round began.

MSJE took the first place trophy with 15 points, Weibel was second with 13.5 points, St Marks was third with 11.5 points, Heather Elementary was fourth with 9.5 points and Granada School was fifth with 8 points.

Grade five had 54 competitors. The grade 5 competition was won by Austin Lloyd (1318 of the Berkeley Chess School) with 5.5 points. Austin is one of the 30 members Elizabeth Shaughnesseys' Berkeley Chess School that attended the tournament. These 30 students took home an amazing 19 trophies. Elizabeth has done more for youth chess than anyone in Northern California. She is also a very classy lady and a serious chess player. She has played as a member of the Irish National team.

The other top finishers in grade five were Jerry Wu (1202, MSJE, 2nd place trophy), Kevin Zhu (1511, of Faria School, Cupertino, CA, 3rd place trophy) and Angus Wu (922, Weibel, 4th place trophy) all tied for second place with 5 points.

The team competition was once again MSJE, Weibel, and St Marks. With one round to go MSJE was in first with 11.5 points, Weibel was second with 10.0, and St Marks was third with 8.5. I took a quick look at the pairing and saw Angus Wu (922) of Weibel playing a 1405 player and Ankur Gupta (772) of Weibel playing MSJE player David Ma (1057). A good last round for Weibel seemed very unlikely with these pairings.

In 2005 MSJE came from behind in grade 5 with a three point last round to beat Weibel. This year Weibel scored three points in the last round (including upset wins by Angus Wu and Ankur Gupta) to defeat MSJE 13.0 to 12.5. St Marks was third with 10.5, Bob Blatts' Tierra Linda team of San Carlos was fourth with 9.0 and Jon Frankles' Blossom Hills team was fifth with 8.0.

Grade six was the largest section with 58 competitors. Nikita Shenkman (1382) of San Francisco won the first place trophy and the title of Grade six champion with 5.5 points. Samyukta Bhat (1281 2nd place trophy) of Brookvale Elementary, Fremont, Chris Cai (1032 3rd place trophy) of MSJE, and Nicholas Huey (959 St Albans in Roseville) 4th place trophy) all tied for second place with 5 points.

The grade six team competition saw Tierra Linda school join MSJE, Weibel, and St. Marks just like they did in the grade five competition last year. After three rounds MSJE and Tierra Linda were tied for first with 8.0 with St Marks at 6.5 and Weibel at 5.5. Going into the final round MSJE had a comfortable 2.5 point lead with 12 points. Weibel was second with 9.5, Tierra Linda was third with 8.5 and St Marks was in fourth with 8.0.

MSJE took first place in grade six with 13.5 points. Tierra Linda put on a 2.5 point surge in the last round to tie Weibel for second place at 11.0 points. Tierra Linda took the second place trophy on tie breakers, Weibel taking the third place trophy. St Marks was fourth with 10 points and Gomes of Fremont was fifth with 8.5 points.

The Gomes team of Brian Chao (1046, 4.5 points 6th place) and William Cheung (1224, 4 points, 12 place) deserves a special mention as they were only a two person team and they beat several teams of five or more play-

ers for the fifth place trophy.

The grade 7 competition was a continuation of last years' grade six competition which, like many of this years elementary school grades, was a tough competition between Mission San Jose, St. Marks, and Weibel. The differences were that the Mission players are now Hopkins students and the Weibel players are now at Horner. Early in the tournament Vincent Tian (1295) of Hopkins complained to me, "We'd win easily if Arthur was here." Last year Arthur Liou (was 1580 last year) scored a perfect 6.0 and led Mission to a first place tie with St. Marks and the first place trophy. Arthur is now rated over 1900 and decided that playing in a section where the second rated player was < 1400 would not be a good use of two days.

I told Vincent that he was now the big gun for the team and he had to carry the load if Hopkins was going to win. Puneeth Gadangi (1346 up from 1257 last year) was the top rated player from St. Marks. Apparently, Ray Orwig, the well-respected coach of St Marks, said the same thing to Puneeth as Puneeth was a one man wrecking crew working on the Hopkins team. In round 2 he gave the 4th rated Hopkins player, Gurman Shoker (1082) his first loss. In round three he gave the second rated Hopkins player, Ray Hua Wa (1258) his only loss, and in round 4 he gave the third rated Hopkins player, Kevin Hsu (1220) his first loss. In round five Vincent Tian was paired with Puneeth. This made four Hopkins/Mission players in a row for Puneeth! Vincent won a tough game (shown below) to put Hopkins a comfortable two points ahead.

I have two comments about this game, first apologies to Puneeth for publishing your only loss. Puneeth scored 5 out of 6 and won three of four games against Hopkins players. The four-person Hopkins team lost only six games and three of those losses were to Puneeth. Second, to me this looks a lot more like two 1800 players, than two players below 1400. If you two keep working at it I expect to see each of you above 1800 very soon.

White: Vincent Tian Hopkins 1279

Black: Puneeth Gadang, St Marks 1349

Date: Dec. 3, 2006

Event: CalChess Grade Level Championships, Stockton

Round: 5

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ed ed 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. c4 c6 6. Nc3 Be6 7. cd Nd5 8. Bd3 Bb4 9. Bd2 Nd7 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Re1 Qb6 12. Qc2 N7f6 13. a3 Bc3 14. bc3 Rac8 15. c4 Ne7 16. Bg5 Ng6 17. Rab1 Qc7 18. Ne5 Ng4 19. f4 N4e5 20. de5 h6 21. Bh6! Kh7 22. Bg5 Qd7 23. f5 Qd4 24. Be3 Qg4 25. fe6 Qe6 26. Bf5 Qe7 27. Bc8 Rc8 28. Ba7 Rh8 29. Rb3 Kg8 30. Qf5 Nh4 31. Qg4 f6 32. Rbe3 f5 33. Qd4 Rh6 34. Bc5 Qg5 35. Rg3 Qh5 36. Qf4 g5 37. Rg5 resigns 1-0

Vincent drew his last round to take a clear first with 5.5 points. Puneeth and Ray Wa tied for second with 5.0 points with Puneeth taking the second place trophy.

Hopkins took first place in grade seven with 14.5 points, St. Marks was second with 12 points and Horner was third with 9 points.

Grade eight has 23 competitors. Steven Zierk, (1527) Fisher Middle School of Los Gatos, CA, was the top rated player by over 200 points. Steven was drawn by Carlos Penikis, 1094, in the second round. Steven won the rest of his games to score 5.5 and win a clear first place and the title of Grade 8 State Champion. Joey Goodman, 1290 Marin County Day School lost only to Steven and took second place. Carlos Penikis finished with 4.5 to take third place. In the team competition, Marin County Day School took first place, Fisher Middle School took second place, and Tierra Linda took third place.

I have always felt the success of a chess coach should be measured both by the success of the teams that are in the school, but also by how many of the players continue playing after they leave the school. Applying this important criteria to the results of grade 8, Bob Blatt at Tierra Linda won an important victory in grade 8 by having two participants and winning a team trophy. MSJE is represented by Hopkins in grade 8 and we only had one player. St Marks also only had one player in grade 8, and Horner (Weibel) had no players.

Participation in the high school section is still a little light. Grades 9 through 12 had a total of 16 participants. It was combined into one section for playing purposes. Individual trophies and championships were still handed out by grade. Gabe Gordon, grade 11, of Tamalpais High School was the top rated player at 1720. Gabe scored a perfect 6-0 to take the first place. He is the grade 11 State Champion.

Second place in the High school section went to Brandon Lee (1418 Grade 9) of Mount Vista High and the Berkeley Chess School. This makes Brandon the Grade 9 Northern California Champion.

Sharon Tseung (1354, grade 11) of Mission High (Fremont) came in third. Don Pham (UNR, grade 10) of Edison High School came in fourth and won the title of grade 10 Champion.

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

Khachiyan and Pruess tie for First at American Open

by IM John Donaldson

The 42nd American Open, held in Los Angeles over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, was a triumph for Mechanics' members as they took three of the first six places led by IM David Pruess who shared top honors with Los Angeles GM Melik Khachiyan. Pruess and Khachiyan also earned spots in the US Championship. Long-time MI member Dmitry Zilberstein had the distinction of facing the first four finishers but his good friend GM Eugene Perelshteyn did him better playing number 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7!! (he was #3 on tiebreak) in an eight round tournament - and there were 51 players including 5 GMs and 7 IMs in the Open. Beware of short schedules and fast starts! Randy Hough directed the 246 player event with assistants from Elie Hsiao.

1-2. IM David Pruess and GM Melik Khachiyan 6-2

3-6. GMs Yermolinsky, Perelshteyn, Rogers and IM Zilberstein 5 1/2

Miscellaneous Chess News

USCF Executive Board member resigns after Ethics Committee conviction

USCF executive board member Robert Tanner has resigned after his conviction by the ethics committee on a charge of manipulating ratings. He has also resigned his FIDE positions as zonal president and a member of the ethics and the qualification committees. His replacement as zonal president is our own IM John Donaldson, who brings a long record of experience in major international events to his new job. Those interested in the details of the ratings scandal can visit the USCF website and look in their forums.

Bluetooth trouble for chess player

by Mohammad Amin-ul

NEW DELHI, Dec 4: Technology and sports have been going well in modern times. But how technology can also play spoilsport was demonstrated in a rather bizarre manner during a chess game in the Capital on Tuesday.

When International Master Rahul Shetty sensed something wrong with a cap which his opponent Umakanth Sharma was wearing as they competed in a Round 7 game of the Subroto Mukherjee memorial chess tournament, he immediately reported it to the organisers. And much to everyone's astonishment, a bluetooth device was discovered from Sharma's cap.

"Though his guilt hasn't been proved yet, he was caught with a bluetooth which was tucked inside the cap during the game," said one of the officials.

According to a Delhi Chess Association (DCA) official, "Sharma's action goes against FIDE ethics which strictly prohibits players from carrying any electronic gadget."

In its Clause B of Article 12.2, FIDE, the world chess body, clearly forbids players from bringing mobiles or any other electronic means of communication, which is not authorised by the arbiter, into the playing venue. In fact, the rule says that If a player's mobile phone rings within a venue during play, the offending player would lose the game.

When Sharma was questioned, he failed to come up with a convincing explanation but claimed that the device was switched off when the game was on.

Sharma, who enjoys an impressive ELO rating of 2484 and was doing well in the tournament, has been barred from participating in the tournament. The matter has been reported to the All India Chess Federation (AICF) for further action.

hAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO ALL OUR
CHESS FRIENDS

