

California Chess Journal

Winter 2009

Edited by
Eric Schiller

Sam Shankland: New CalChess Champion!



International Master Sam Shankland is the new CalChess Champion!. Not new, really, since he won the title last year too! The former World Youth under-18 Bronze medalist continues his meteoric rise with yet another title, which he won on tie-breaks over GM Jesse Krai.



Youth Stars Shine in 2009

Tanuj Triumphant!

It was quite a year for our young star Tanuj Vasudev, who excelled. It was quite a year for our young star Tanuj Vasudev, who excelled locally, nationally, and in international competition!



National K-12

Bounty

A weekend of great promise at the National K-12 Championships in Dallas ended with a group of 20 CalChess juniors collecting ten big trophies and one national title! The youngsters from the Bay Area



Kicking off the New Year

The New Year got off to a fine start, with a new event organized by Salman Azhar of Bay Area Chess at the luxurious Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara. Many players opted for the 2-day schedule as the event started inconveniently on New Year's Day, but the healthy turnout



bodes well for the new event, which will hopefully be an annual event.

played on the top boards in every section from 1st grade to 6th grade, competing against kids from New York, Texas and across the country. Congrats to 2nd Grade National Champion Rayan Taghizadeh for finishing at the top with a perfect 7-0 sweep! (CalChess website)

CalChess Journal

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Bill Haines

1939?-2009

by IM John Donaldson

William (Bill) Cutler Haines, one of the pioneers of electronic chess databases, died in early December in Vallejo where he had been living for many years.

Most Bay Area players first got to know Bill in the 1980s, but he actually got his start at the Sacramento Chess Club in 1955. Two years after joining he played his first USCF rated tournament in the auditorium of the Spreckles-Russell Dairy Company located at 1717 Mission Street in San Francisco. Winning his first three games gave Bill the honor of playing 14-year-old Bobby Fischer who would win the event with a score of 8.5-.5, drawing only with second place finisher Gil Ramirez. Bill finished the event with a fifty percent score against strong opposition to earn an initial rating of 1950. He soon made it over 2000 and became an Expert. Haines was rated in the 2100s for much of his career but never quite earned the Master's title.

Bill left California for Missouri sometime in the mid to late 1960s and appears to have spent the next twenty years of his life there. Former USCF Executive Director Al Lawrence and International Master Elliott Winslow remember Bill from his days in Kansas City where he had an ongoing rivalry with fellow Expert Jack Winters, proprietor of the Chess House. The two players had a clash of styles with Haines always preferring positional play and Winters the role of the attacker.

Before he devoted himself to Chess Database work Bill Haines was a professional studio photographer. He once told IM Winslow that his two most famous clients were the Hearst family and Barbi Klein. The latter was a teen department store model in Sacramento when he photographed her. Later, under the name Barbi Benton, she became better known as a Playboy's Playmate of the Month and the girlfriend of Hugh Hefner.

A friendly and witty man, standing 6 feet tall and weighing over 350 pounds most of his life, Bill Haines was a colorful character who would often arrive at tournaments on his motorcycle. More than once he brought his bulldog to spectate at the People's Open in Berkeley.

Eric Schiller adds: His legacy is the many bulletins he did enriching our databases. A friend who was always offering to help, but whose physical ailments limited his work, which wasn't properly appreciated or rewarded. He investigated openings very deeply, especially his beloved King's Indian Defense and French Defense and English Opening.

Here are three of Bill's games from the 1957 US Junior Open., including his game against Bobby Fischer and one game from 1993.

Wilcox,R vs Haines, William Cutler

Ruy Lopez [C99]

USA-Jr San Francisco, CA (3), 1957

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.d5 Nb4 15.Bb1 a5 16.a3 Na6 17.b3 Bd7 18.Ra2 Rfc8 19.Rc2 Qb7 20.Re3 Rxc2 21.Qxc2 Rc8 22.Rc3 Rxc3 23.Qxc3 Qc7 24.Qxc7 Nxc7 25.Nf1 Na6 26.Be3 Be8 27.N3d2 Nd7 28.f3 Bd8 29.Kf2 Bb6 30.Bxb6 Nxb6 31.Ke3 Nc5 32.Ba2 f5 33.Ke2 f4 34.Nh2 h5 35.Nhf1 Bd7 36.Nh2 Kf7 37.Nhf1 Kf6 38.Nh2 Kg5 39.Nhf1 Kh4 40.Kd1 g5 41.Kc2 Bxh3 42.gxh3 Kxh3 43.Kd1 g4 44.fxg4 hxg4 45.Ke2 Kg2 46.Bb1 a4 47.bxa4 Nbx4 48.Bc2 Nc3+ 49.Ke1 Kg1 White lost on time 0-1

Fischer, R vs. Haines,William Cutler

Ruy Lopez[C97]

USA-Jr San Francisco (4) 1957

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Bd7 13.Nf1 Rfe8 14.Ne3 cxd4 15.cxd4 Nc4 16.Nxc4 bxc4 17.Bd2 Rad8 18.Bc3 Bf8 19.Qd2 g6 20.Ba5 Qb8 21.Bxd8 Qxd8 22.b3 cxb3 23.Bxb3 Qb6 24.Rab1 Qd8 25.Bc4 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Bf5 27.Ree1 Bxb1 28.Rxb1 e4 29.Nh2 Qh4 30.Rb7 Bh6 31.Qe2 Rf8 32.Ng4 Qg5 33.Qe3 Qxg4 34.hxg4 Bxe3 35.fxe3 h6 36.Rd7 Kg7 37.Rxd6 Rc8 38.Bb3 1-0

Haines,William Cutler -vs. Bennett,J

Sicilian Rauzer [B66]

USA-Jr San Francisco (6), 1957

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.O-O-O a6 9.f4 Qd7 10.Bc4 Na5 11.Be2 O-O 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ne8 14.Ne4 Nc6 15.Qe3 Nxd4 16.Rxd4 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Qe7 18.Bd3 g6 19.g3 Ng7 20.Nxh7 Rd8 21.Nf6+ Kf8 22.Qh6 Qc7 23.Rxd8+ Qxd8 24.Qh8+ Ke7 25.Qxg7 Qa5 26.Bxg6 Qxe5 27.Ng8+ 1-0

Haines, William Cutler vs. Ford

English Opening A27

California, 1993

[Source ""]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 f5 4.d4 e4 5.Ng5 h6 6.Nh3 g5 7.f3 Nf6 8.Nf2 exf3 9.exf3 Bg7 10.d5 Ne5 11.f4 Nf7 12.Bd3 d6 13.O-O O-O 14.Qc2 Qd7 15.Nh1 Ng4 16.Ng3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Ne3 18.Bxe3 Bxe3 19.Bxf5 Qd8 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.Qg6+ Kh8 22.Nf5 1-0

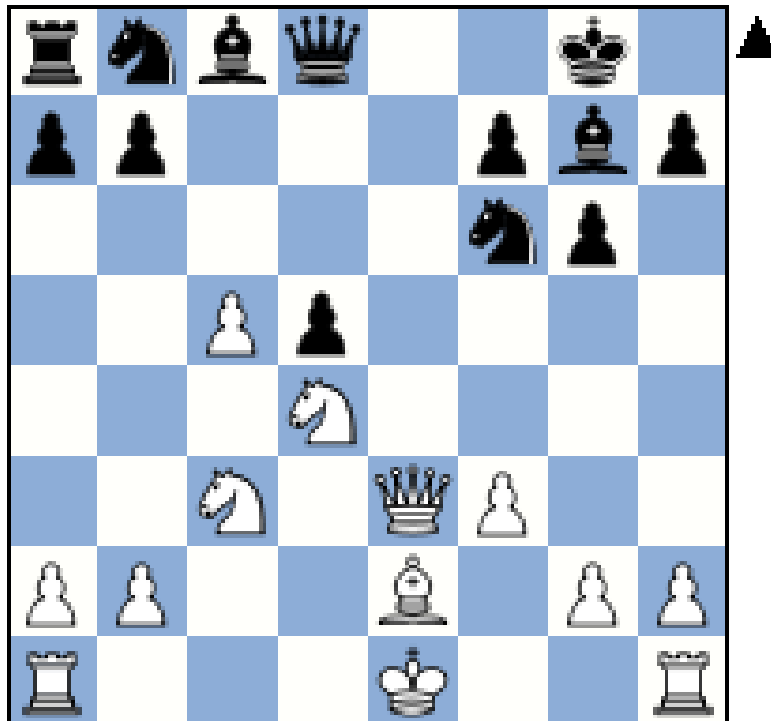
Games from the New Year Open

Shankland, Sam vs. Lee, Andy

Round 6, King's Indian Saemisch

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 O-O 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 exd4 Black usually chooses to move a knight here. The central capture is rare but is considered equal.. 8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 c6 10.Qd2 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.c5 Rxe3 This sacrifice is not new, and was probably prepared by Black, though it came as a surprise to White. Usually, though, Black develops a the knight from b8.

13.Qxe3



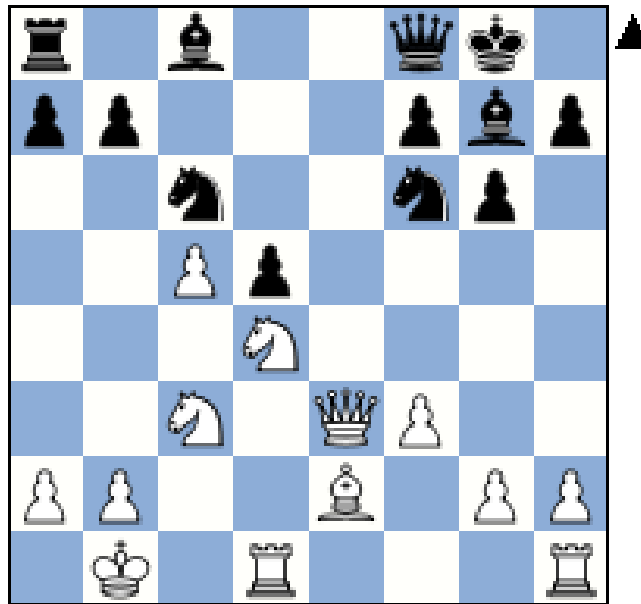
13...Nc6

13...Qf8 14.Rc1 Qxc5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Rxc8 Bf8 17.O-O Kg7 18.Bc4 Qa5 19.Kh1 (19.Bxf7! wins. 19...Nc6 (19...Kxf7 20.Qe6 Kg7 21.Rxf8! Kxf8 22.Qxf6 Ke8 23.Qe6 Kd8 24.Rc1) 20.Ne6 Kxf7 21.Rxa8) 19...Bd6 20.g4 h6 21.Bxf7? (21.Ne6! fxe6 22.Qxe6 wins.) 21...Qe5 22.Qd2 (22.Qxe5 Bxe5 23.Re1!! Bxd4 24.Bc4) 22...Kxf7 White has a small advantage but Black eventually won in Van Rijn vs. Duchene, 1998.

14.O-O-O

14.Rd1 Qf8 15.Ndb5 a6 16.Nd6 d4 17.Rxd4! Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Be6 19.Nxb7 Nd5 The game is about even and was eventually drawn in Paterek vs. V. Zaitsev, 2004

14...Qf8 15.Kb1!?



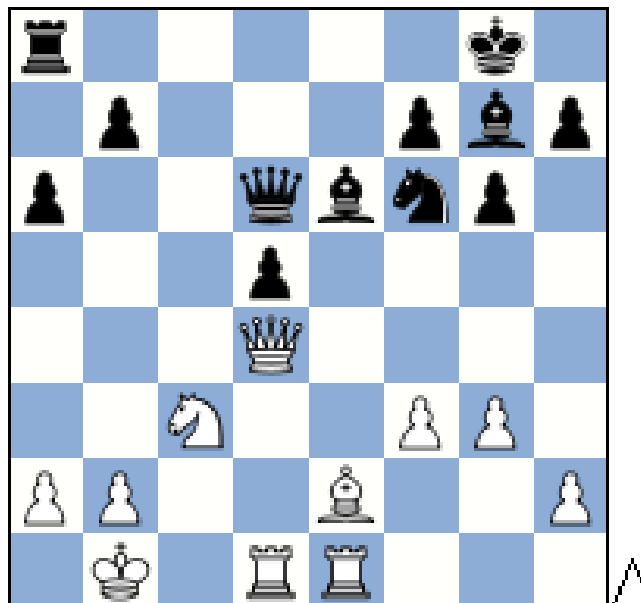
15.Nb3 Bf5 16.g4 d4 17.Nxd4 Re8 18.Qg1 Nd5 19.Nxf5? (19.Nxc6!) 19...Nxc3 20.bxc3 Rxe2 21.Nxg7 Qxg7 22.Rd3 Qe5? 23.Kb1 Qe6 0-1, Kachar vs. Miskulin , 2004.

15.Nxc6!? bxc6 16.g4 Be6 17.h4 Nd7 18.Na4 Rb8 led to a draw in Legemaat vs. Schuurman, 1995.

15...Qxc5 16.Qd2 a6 17.Rhe1 Qd6 18.g3

18.g4!?

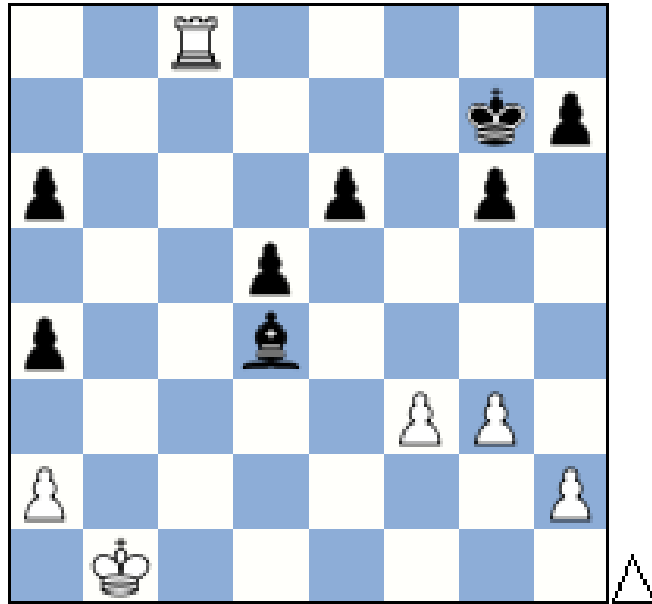
18...Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Be6 I'd rather have Black here. I think that the isolated pawn is a strength rather than a weakness and the power of Blacks minor pieces makes up for the small material deficit.



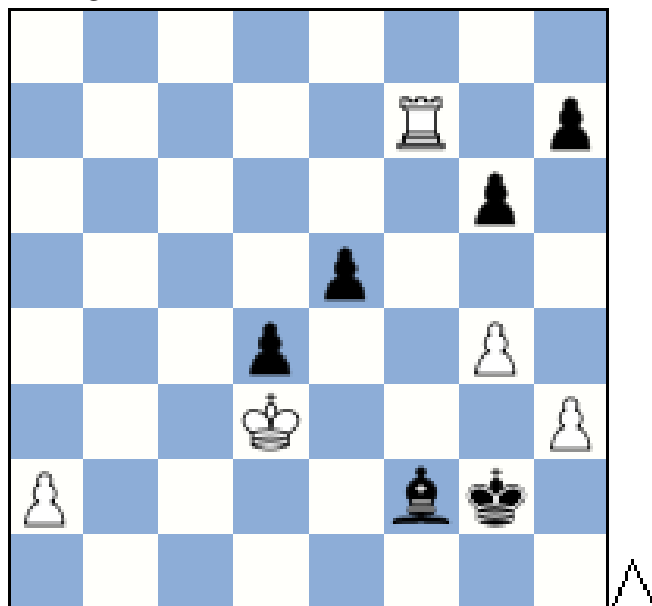
20.Qd2 Rc8 21.Bd3 Nd7 22.Ne2 Nb6 23.Rc1 Rd8 24.Rc2 Na4 25.Qa5 b5 26.Nf4 Rb8 27.Nxe6 fxe6 28.Rec1? White should be trying to exchange pieces to exploit the material advantage in the endgame.

28.Qc7 Qxc7 29.Rxc7 Is clearly better for White.

28...Qe5?! 29.Qc7! Qxc7 30.Rxc7 Bxb2 31.Rc8 Rxc8 32.Rxc8 Kg7 33.Bc2 Bd4 34.Bxa4 bxa4



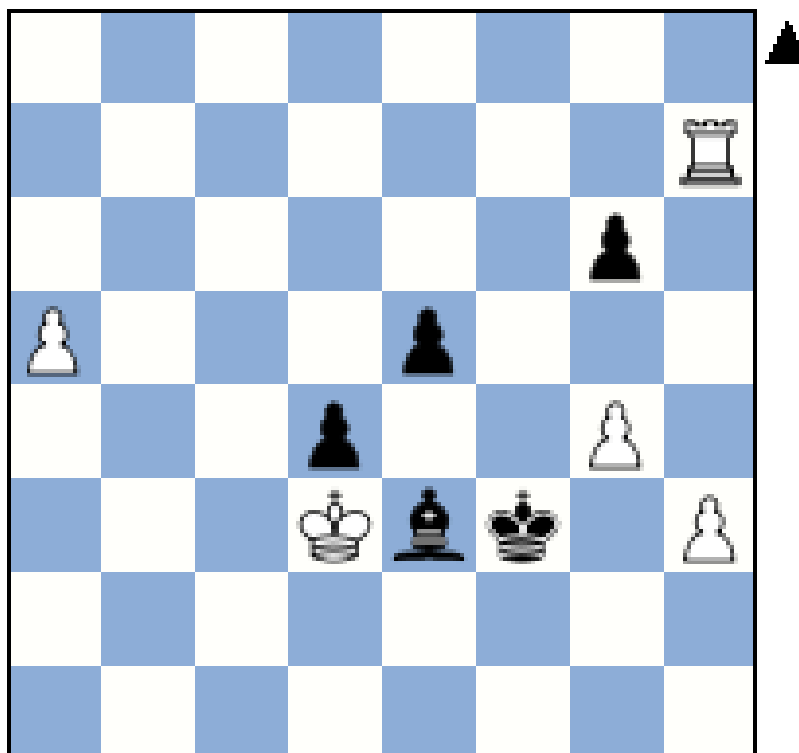
35.Rc6 Kf6 36.Rxa6 Bg1 37.h3 Bf2 38.g4 Ke5 39.Rxa4 d4 40.Kc2 Kf4 41.Kd3 Kxf3 42.Ra7 e5 43.Rf7 Kg2



44.Rxh7

44.Rxf2 Kxf2 45.a4 Kf3 46.a5 e4 47.Kxd4 e3 48.a6 e2 49.a7 e1=Q 50.a8=Q+0.00 would draw.

44...Be3 45.a4 Kf3 46.a5 Black resigned.



Tate, Emory vs. Pupols, Viktor

Round 1, French Defense

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.Ne2 Nc6 7.c3 b5 8.Nf4 b4 9.Bb5 Qb6 10.Qa4 Bb7 11.Be3 c4 12.O-O a6 13.Bxc6 Bxc6 14.Qc2 h6 15.Nd2 bxc3 16.bxc3 Qa5 17.Nb1 Be7 18.Nh5 g6 19.Nf4 Kd8 20.Bc1 Kc7 21.Ne2 Rab8 22.Qd2 Ba4 23.Qf4 Rh7 24.Qd2 Rb7 25.Ba3 Bxa3 26.Nxa3 Bc6 27.Qc1 Rh8 28.Nc2 Qa4 29.Nb4 a5 30.Na6 Kb6 31.Nc5 Nxc5 32.dxc5 Ka6 33.Nd4 h5 34.Rb1 Rhb8 35.Rxb7 Rxb7 36.Qh6 Bb5 37.Qf8! Ka7 38.c6 Black resigned.

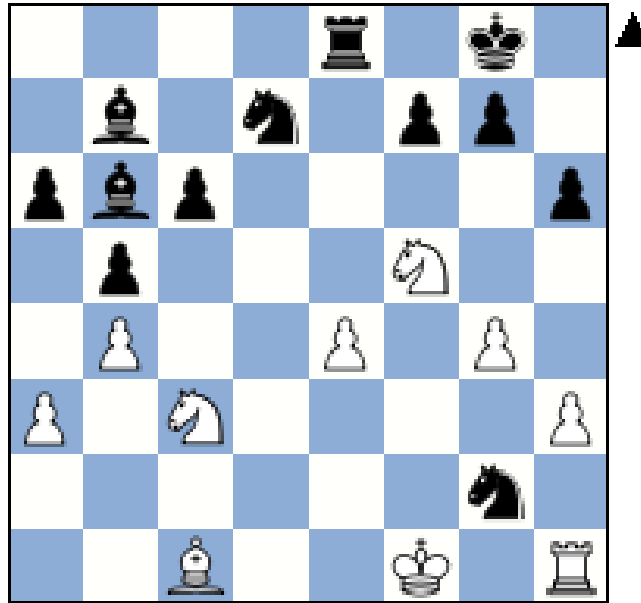
Aigner, Michael vs. Shankland, Sam

Round ?, Slav Defense

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.Ne5 Michael eschews the normal 5. a4. 5...Nbd7 6.Nxc4 b5 7.Ne3 Bb7 8.f3 I'm not sure what this is supposed to accomplish. 8...e5! This central break ensures equality. 9.dxe5 9.Nf5!?

9...Nxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.g4 This creates serious weaknesses. 11...h6 12.Bg2 Bc5 13.h3 The kingside ugly

but White will be able to repair it by advancing the f-pawn. 13...O-O 14.f4 Of course! After all, Michael's nickname is "fpawn!" 14...Ng6 15.Nf5 a6 16.a3 Rfe8 17.b4 Bb6 18.Ra2 Rd7 19.Rd2? Nxf4! 20.Rxd7 Nxc2! An important intermezzo. 21.Kf1 Nxd7 22.e4



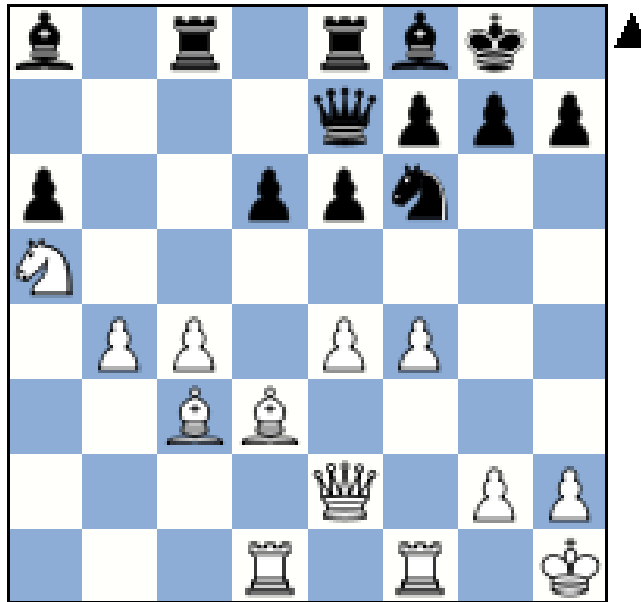
22...Nh4! 23.Nxh4 c5! 24.Rh2 cxb4 25.axb4 Nf6 White's pawns are so weak that his fate is sealed 26.Rd2 Be3 27.Rc2 Bxc1 28.Rxc1 g6 29.Ng2 Nxe4 30.Re1 White resigned.



Tate, Emory vs. Shankland, Sam

Round 3, Sicilian Defense: Scheveningen

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.f4 d6 7.Qf3 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Bd2 Nd7 10.a4 bxa4 11.Nxa4 Ngf6 12.O-O Be7 13.b4 O-O 14.c4 Rac8 15.Kh1 Rfe8 16.Nb3 Bf8 17.Na5 Ba8 18.Rac1 Qb8 19.Rb1 Nb6 20.Nxb6 Qxb6 21.Bc3 Qd8 22.Rbd1 Qe7 23.Qe2



23...d5! The classic Sicilian break. **24.exd5?!**

24.e5 dxc4 25.exf6 cxd3 26.Rxd3 gxf6 27.Qg4 Kh8 28.Rg3 Bh6 29.Qh5 is given by Shankland. 29...Rxc3! 30.Rxc3 Qxb4 31.Qxf7 would likely lead to a draw.

24...Nxd5 25.cxd5 Rxc3

25...exd5? 26.Qxe7 Bxe7 27.Bd2!

26.d6 Qa7! 27.Qb2!?

27.Be4? Re3!

27...Rxd3 28.Rxd3 Bd5 Now the pawn at d6 is doomed. Still, White might have been able to hold on to the game.

29.Qe5 Qd7 30.Re1?

30.Rc1! Better to take the open file.

30...Rc8 31.f5

31.Rd4!? Bxd6 32.Qe2 would have been better.

31...Qxd6 32.Qxd6 Not much choice.

32.Qd4 Qxb4

32...Bxd6 33.fxe6 fxe6 34.Rd4

34.Nb3 Bxb4 35.Rc1 Rxc1 36.Nxc1 offers more resistance.

34...Rc2! Now it is all over. The pawn at g2 is under too much pressure. **35.Kg1 Rxc2 36.Kf1 Rxc2 37.Rxe6 Bxe6 38.Rxd6 Bh3 39.Ke1 Rb2**

Zildzic, Kenan vs. Shankland, Sam

Round 5, Closed Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.Nge2 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 e5 8.Nf5 Nf6 9.a3 A bit defensive.

9.Bg5 g6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Ne3!?

9...g6 10.Ne3 Nbd7 11.Ned5 Rc8 12.Nxf6

12.O-O

12...Nxf6 13.O-O h5 14.h4?!

14.Bg5!?

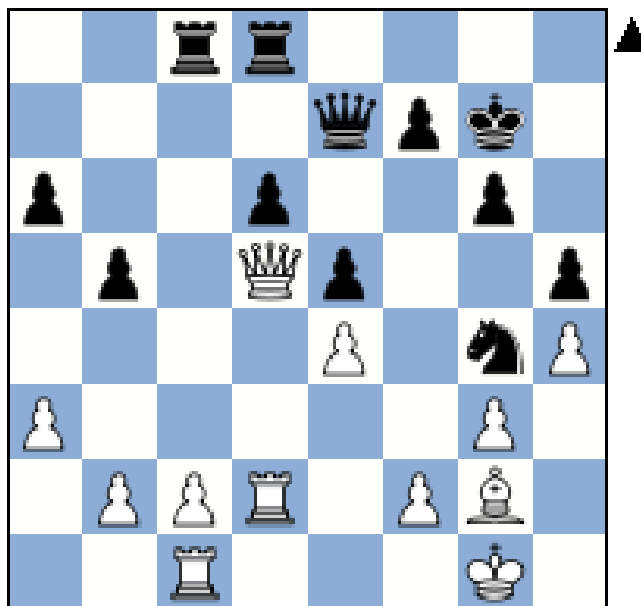
14...Be7 15.Qd3 Qc7 16.Rd1 O-O 17.Bg5 Finally! 17...Rfd8 18.Rac1 Why?

18.Bh3 Rb8 19.Qf3 Nh7 20.Be3 seems more logical.

18...Kg7 19.Rd2 Ng4 20.Bxe7

20.Bh3!?

20...Qxe7 21.Nd5 Bxd5! 22.Qxd5



22...g5 Black decides to attack. 23.hxg5 Qxg5 24.Qd3 Nf6 25.Rcd1 Rc4! Black provokes the weakness. 26.b3 Rc6 27.c4 bxc4 28.bxc4 Rdc8 29.Rc2

29.c5!? dxc5 30.Qc4 is suggested by Rybka.

29...R8c7 I don't really understand this move.

29...h4 could be played right away.

30.Bh3 h4! 31.Kh2 hxg3 32.fxg3 Rb6 Black will use the open file for the invasion that will finish off White's king 33.Qf3 Rcb7 34.Qf5 Qg6 35.c5 Rb2! 36.Rdd2 Rxc2 37.Rxc2 Rc7 White has beaten off the attack but the pawns are pathetically weak 38.c6?

38.Qxg6 fxg6 39.c6 Could still be defended. 39...Nxe4 40.Bg2

38...Nxe4 39.Qxg6 Kxg6 40.Bg2



Eric Schiller

Gaffagan, Steven vs. Schiller, Eric

Round 3, Caro-Kann

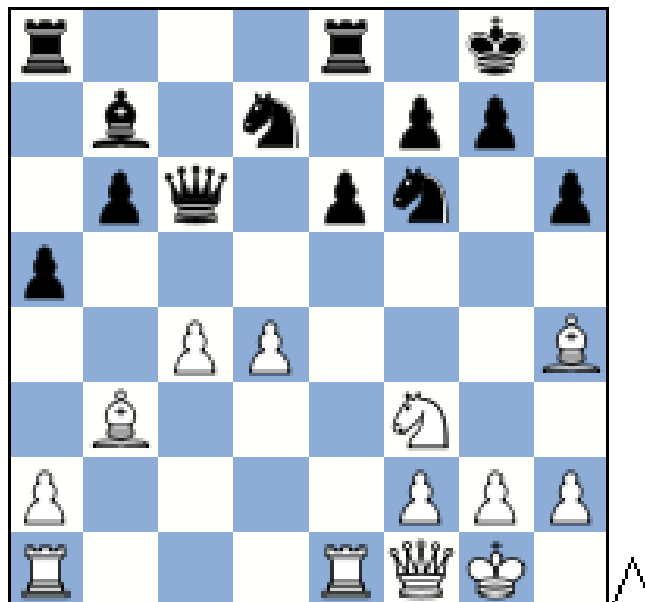
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 I decided to steer for a Nimzo-Indian line. 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 O-O 9.O-O b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.Bb3 Passive.

12.Rac1

12...h6 13.Bh4

13.Bf4!?

13...Bxc3 This exchange usually takes place sooner or later, so why not now? 14.bxc3 Qc8!? 15.c4 Qc6 16.Rfe1 Rfe8 17.Qf1 a5 To provoke ...



18.a3? This will soon cause trouble for White. 18...Rac8 19.Rac1 Qd6! 20.Qd3

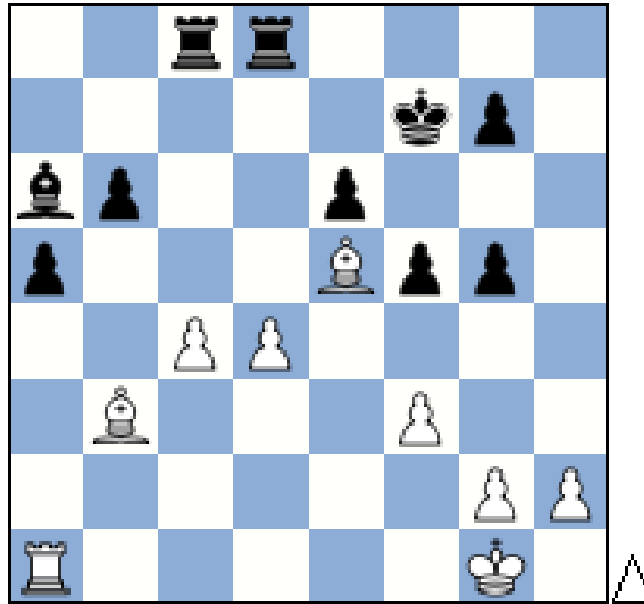
20.a4 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qxd4

20...Qxa3 21.Ra1 Qd6 22.Ne5 Nxe5 23.Rxe5 Ng4! 24.Qe2

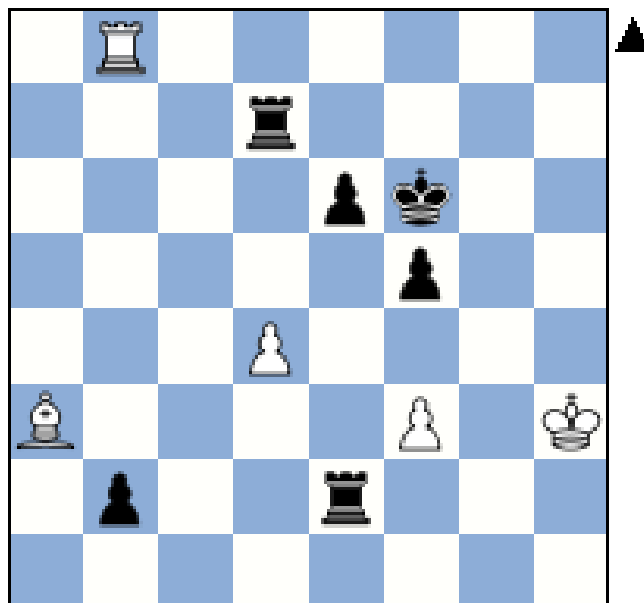
24.Re2 Qxh2 25.Kf1 Qh1#

24...f5 25.Bg3 Nxe5 26.Bxe5 Qe7 27.Qe3?

27...Qg5! 28.Qxg5 hxg5 29.Ba4 Red8 30.Bb3 Kf7 31.f3 Ba6



32.c5 .bxc5 33.Rxa5 c4! 34.Rxa6 cxb3 35.Ra7 Ke8 36.Rb7 36...Rc1 37.Kf2 Rc2 38.Kg3 b2 39.h4 gxh4 40.Kxh4 Rxg2 41.Kh3 Re2 42.Bxg7 Rd7 43.Rb8 Ke7 44.Bf8 Kf6 45.Ba3

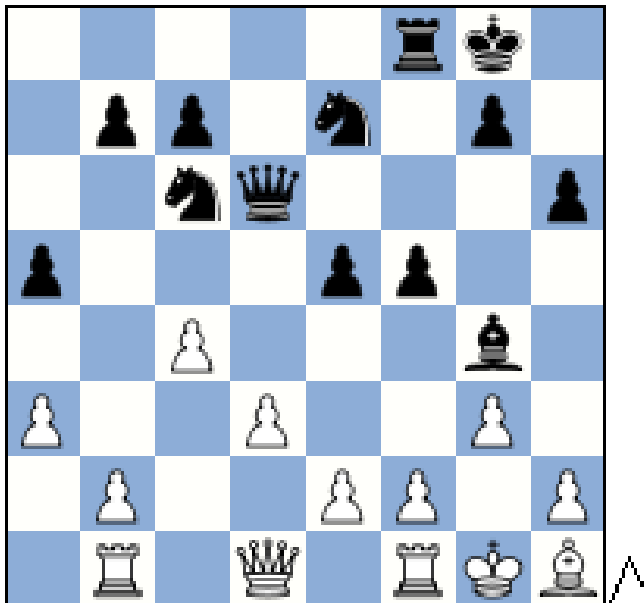


45...Kg5! 46.Rb5 b1=Q White resigns. If he takes the queen it is mate in 2.

Russo, Robert vs. Wai, Brian

Round 5, King's English

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bg2 Be6 6.d3 Nge7 7.O-O O-O 8.a3 a5 9.Rb1 Qd7 10.Bh1 Bg4 11.Na4 f5 12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.Be3 Qd6 14.Ng5 h6 15.Bxc5 Qxc5 16.Ne6 Qd6 17.Nxf8 Rxf8



18.Qb3? Just doesn't work. The discovered check is not a problem.

18.Bg2 Nd4 19.f3

18...Nd4! 19.c5 Nxb3 20.cxd6 cxd6 21.Rfe1 b6 22.Bg2 Kf7 23.e3 Nd2 24.Rbc1 Nf3 25.Bxf3 Bxf3 26.d4 Ke6 27.dxe5 dxe5 28.Rc7 Rd8 29.Rec1 Rd2 30.R7c2 Rxc2 31.Rxc2 Bd5 32.h4 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Kf1 Be4 35.Rc3 Kd6 36.Ke2 Nd5 37.Rc1 g4 38.Kd2 Nf6 39.Ke1 Bd5 40.Rc8 b5 41.Rf8 Ke7 42.Rb8 Bc6 43.Rc8 Bd7 44.Rc1 a4 45.Rd1 Be6 46.Ke2 Bd5 47.Ke1 Kd6 48.Rc1 Bc4 49.Rd1 Nd5 50.Kd2 Kc5 51.Rh1 Nf6 52.Ke1 Ne4 53.Rh5 Be6 54.Rh8 Kc4 55.Re8?!

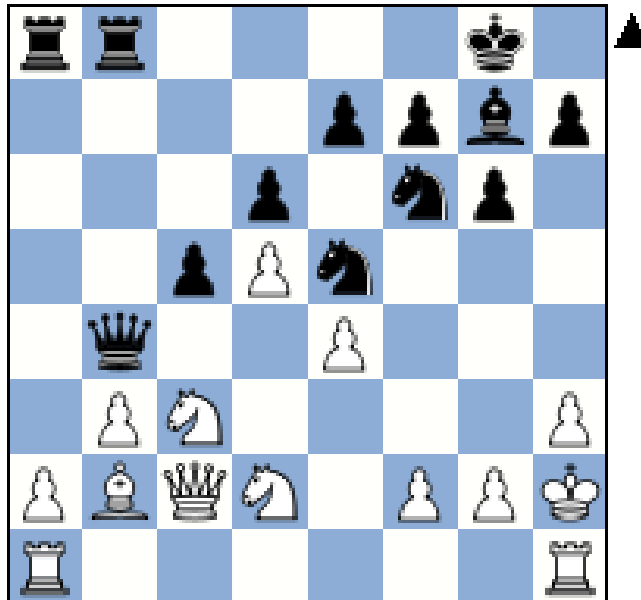
55.Rb8

55...Nc5 56.Kd2 Kb3 57.Kc1 Nd3 58.Kd2 Bc4 59.Rf8 Nxb2 60.Rxf5 Nd3 61.Rf8 Kxa3 62.Kc3 e4 63.Rh8 Ba2 64.Kd4 b4 65.Kxe4 Nxf2 66.Kd4 b3 67.Rc8 b2 68.e4 b1=Q

Li, Edward vs. Lagier, Teri

Round 6, Benko Gambit

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.h3 Bg7 10.Nf3 Nbd7 11.Qc2 Qb6 12.Kg1 O-O 13.Nd2 Rfb8 14.b3 Qb4 15.Bb2 Ne5 16.Kh2



16...c4?

16...Qd4 looks dangerous but is strong.

17.f4 Nd3 18.Nxc4 Nxb2 19.Nxb2 Rc8?

19...Ng4! 20.hxg4 Qxc3 21.Qxc3 Bxc3 22.Rab1 Rxa2 23.Nc4 Re2 gives Black sufficient counterplay.

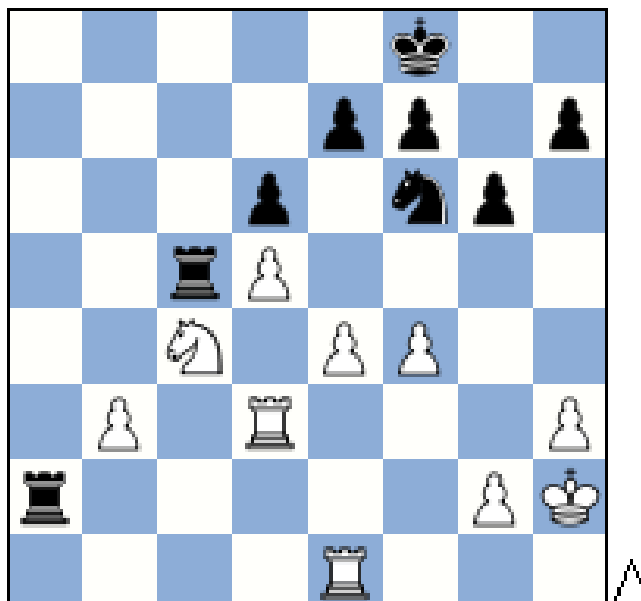
20.Nc4 Nd7 21.Rac1 Qxc3?!

21...Nb6 22.a3 Rxa3! 23.Nxa3 Rxc3 24.Qf2 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Qxa3 26.Rc7 would have been even.

22.Qxc3 Bxc3 23.Rxc3 Rxa2 24.Rhc1

24.Re3!

24...Nf6 25.Re1 Kf8 26.Rd3 Rc5



27.Kg3?

27.Rd4

27...Nh5! 28.Kf3 Rxc2! 29.Ree3

29.Kxc2 Nxf4 30.Kf3 Nxd3

29...Rg3?

29...Rh2! wins a pawn.

30.Kf2 Rxe3 31.Kxe3 Nf6 32.Kd4 Ke8

32...Rb5!

33.b4 Rb5 34.Rb3 Kd7 35.Na3 Rb6

35...Rb8 is better. Rooks like distance.

36.b5 Nh5 37.Ke3 Nf6 38.Nc4! Rb7 39.b6! e6?

39...h6 40.Na5 Rb8 41.b7 Kc7 42.Nc6 Rxb7 43.Rxb7 Kxb7 44.Nd8! Kc8 45.Nxf7 h5 46.Nh8!

40.Kd4?!

40.Ra3! Ne8 41.Ra6 exd5 42.exd5 and Na5 follows.

40...exd5 41.exd5 Ng8

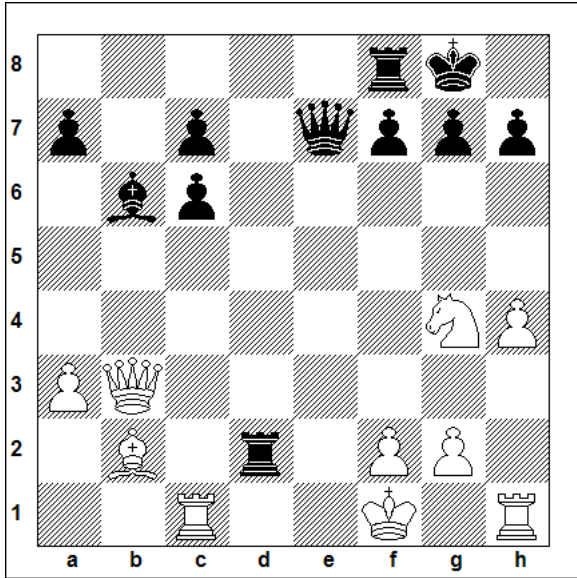
41...Rb8

42.Ra3 Ne7 43.Ra7 Black resigned, not seeing that 43...Nf5 solves the immediate problem. But the position is in any case lost.

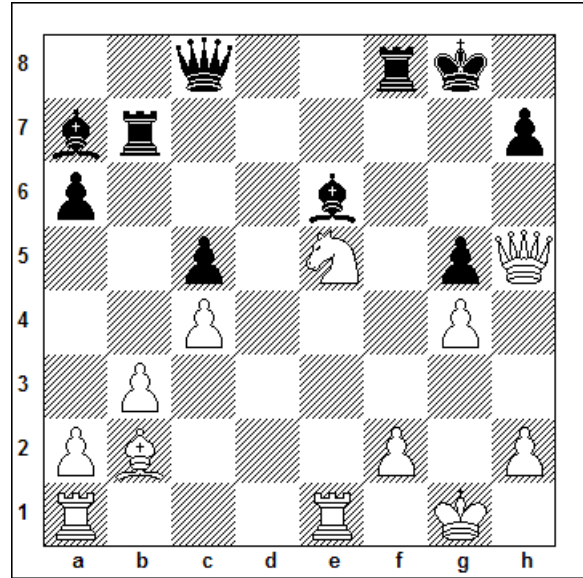


Brian Wai

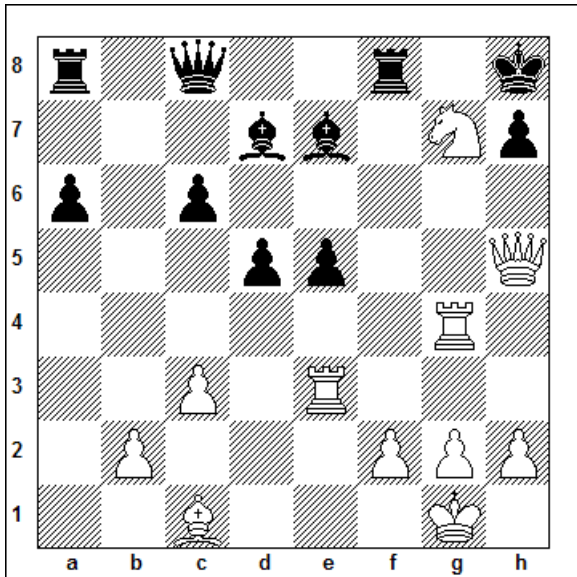
California Combos



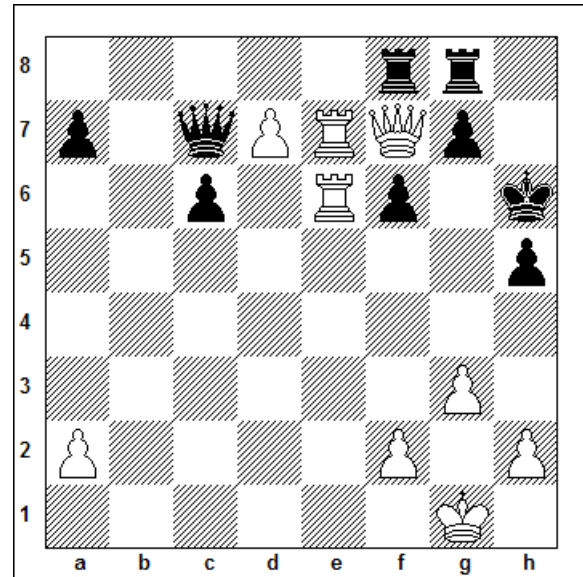
1: White to move and f win



3: White forces a winning endgame



2. What's the best finish for White?



3: White forces mate .

1: 1.Nh6+!! Kh8 2.Bxg7+!! Kxg7 3.Nf5+, Marthall vs. Mlotkowski, California 1913
 2: 1.Ne6!! Alekhine vs. Borschov, Hollywood 1932
 3: 1.Nd7!! Qxd7 2.Qxg5+ Qg7 3.Bxg7 Rxg7 4.Qxg7+, Alekhine vs. Steiner, Pasadena 1932
 4: 1.Rxf6+!! gxf6 2.Qh7+ Kg5 3.h4+Kg4 4.Re4+ Kh3 5.Qf5+ Rg4 6.Rxg4 hxg4 7.Qd3 and Qf1#, Fischer vs. Osburn, Davis 1964

New Year Open



Tournament Directors Salman Azhar and Tom Labglad

#	Name	Prize	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	IM Samuel Shankland	700.00	2549	2566	W12	W19	W6	D2	W3	W5	5.5
2	FM Steven C Zierk	300.00	2401	2409	D17	W18	W10	D1	D4	W6	4.5
3	FM Kenan Zildzic	167.00	2259	2272	D15	W14	W19	W8	L1	D4	4.0
4	NM Viktors Pupols	167.00	2221	2242	L6	W20	W13	W7	D2	D3	4.0
5	NM Andy C Lee	167.00	2314	2317	L8	W17	W18	W12	W11	L1	4.0
6	IM Emory A Tate		2375	2371	W4	W16	L1	D11	W12	L2	3.5
7	NM Arjoe B Loanzon		2230	2227	W9	D8	L11	L4	W18	W13	3.5
8	Ankit ^ Gupta		2149	2165	W5	D7	W9	L3	H---	H---	3.5
9	Phillip ^ Seitzer		2073	2096	L7	W21	L8	W18	W17	D14	3.5
10	Yian Liou		2197	2211	W23	D11	L2	W17	H---	H---	3.5
11	Samuel # Sevian		2123	2142	W21	D10	W7	D6	L5	L12	3.0
12	NM Michael Aigner		2244	2243	L1	W15	W16	L5	L6	W11	3.0
13	NM Paul A Gallegos		2215	2206	L19	W22	L4	W16	W15	L7	3.0
14	FM Eric A Schiller		2200	2193	H---	L3	W20	D15	H---	D9	3.0

CalChess Champs

Santa Clara Convention Center, November 27-29, 2009

Championship

c	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
1	IM Samuel Shankland	2538	2549	W7	D4	W6	D2	D3	W9	4.5	750.00
2	GM Jesse Kraai	2571	2575	W9	W16	D3	D1	W6	D4	4.5	750.00
3	IM Ricardo De Guzman	2469	2478	D8	W9	D2	D4	D1	W10	4.0	233.67
4	FM Steven C Zierk	2333	2361	W17	D1	W10	D3	D8	D2	4.0	233.67
5	NM Gregory Young	2272	2277	L13	W17	W15	L6	W12	W14	4.0	233.67
6	IM Dmitr Zilberstein	2432	2429	W19	W13	L1	W5	L2	D8	3.5	
7	IM Walter J Shipman	2227	2228	L1	D12	D14	D16	W13	W15	3.5	50.50
8	Robin +m Cunningham	2279	2288	D3	B---	H---	H---	D4	D6	3.5	50.50
9	Gregory Kotlyar	2448	2433	L2	L3	W16	W14	W11	L1	3.0	
10	NM Michael Aigner	2246	2243	D11	W14	L4	D12	W15	L3	3.0	

Expert

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
1	Karim Seada	2087	2121	D7	W8	W3	W2	W4	W6	5.5	500.00
2	Hayk Manvelyan	2051	2060	H---	W13	W6	L1	W7	D3	4.0	201.00
3	Walter Chan	2165	2151	W5	D4	L1	W8	D6	D2	3.5	133.67
4	Gaudenci Delacruz	2000	2004	W10	D3	W7	L6	L1	W9	3.5	133.67
5	Daniel Liu	1937	1933	L3	D7	L8	B---	W9	W10	3.5	133.67
6	Jack Qijie Zhu	1912	1923	D13	W12	L2	W4	D3	L1	3.0	100.00
7	WIM Ruth Inez Haring	1924	1917	D1	D5	L4	W12	L2	D8	2.5	
8	Theodore Biyiasas	1707	1753	D9	L1	W5	L3	D12	D7	2.5	
9	Tanuj Vasudeva	1904	1891	D8	H---	W10	H---	L5	L4	2.5	
10	Paul ^ Richter	1850	1836	L4	B---	L9	W13	H---	L5	2.5	

A

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
1	James G Kwok	1848	1915	W12	W9	W20	W8	D3	D5	5.0	500.00
2	Ted Xiao	1900	1912	W22	W27	D5	D11	D8	W10	4.5	133.33

3	Hovik Manvelyan	1967	1978	H---	D19	W37	W29	D1	W11	4.5	133.33
4	Sinan Kaptanoglu	1900	1912	L9	W23	W27	D14	W26	W8	4.5	133.33
5	Ojas Chinchwadkar	1819	1871	W13	W18	D2	D20	D11	D1	4.0	100.67
6	F Hernandez-campos	1834	1840	L33	W40	D10	D28	W18	W12	4.0	100.67
7	Julian Michae Lin	1742	1774	L29	D38	B---	W21	D20	W22	4.0	100.67
8	Daniel ^ Steiner 1746	1799	W40	W29	W14	L1	D2	L4		3.5	
9	Andrew \$? Chen 1786	1808	W4	L1	L15	W23	W19	D17		3.5	
10	Kesav Viswanadha	1705	1752	D17	D21	D6	W24	W15	L2	3.5	

B

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
1	Thadeus Frei	1790	1863	W39	W18	W7	W16	W2	W6	6.0	500.00
2	Nelson M Sowell	1721	1783	W17	W32	W9	W3	L1	W8	5.0	200.00
3	Edward Li	1681	1737	W24	W28	W11	L2	W10	D4	4.5	134.00
4	Daniel Ho	1583	1680	W38	D5	D13	W32	W16	D3	4.5	134.00
5	Vo Motschenbacher	1689	1732	W34	D4	L6	W36	W23	W12	4.5	134.00
6	Fred Leffingwell	1700	1738	D23	W25	W5	W9	D12	L1	4.0	16.67
7	Taylor McCreary	1494	1589	B---	W15	L1	L8	W18	W20	4.0	16.67
8	Juan Carl Ventosa	1678	1692	L31	W35	W17	W7	W11	L2	4.0	16.67
9	Barbara Goodkind	1796	1791	W35	W30	L2	L6	W33	W14	4.0	16.67
10	Benjamin X Tong	1543	1610	L15	B---	W20	W18	L3	W16	4.0	16.67

C

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
1	Jonathan Uesato	1496	1575	W17	W6	W12	D2	W4	D3	5.0	350.50
2	Udit Iyengar	1454	1552	W16	W3	W8	D1	D5	W6	5.0	350.50
3	Joshua Cao	1361	1481	W9	L2	W17	W10	W11	D1	4.5	150.50
4	Navee Janarthanan	1491	1539	W21	W10	W20	D5	L1	W15	4.5	150.50
5	Jeffrey Tao	1512	1531	D13	W25	W19	D4	D2	D7	4.0	66.67
6	Bryan Lingf Huang	1381	1447	W26	L1	W18	W20	W9	L2	4.0	66.67
7	Justin Wang	1487	1488	D28	L18	W26	W25	W12	D5	4.0	66.67
8	Audrey Jin N Zhao	1387	1394	W24	W14	L2	L9	W22	D11	3.5	
9	Warren Willi Tian	1320	1348	L3	W31	W23	W8	L6	D10	3.5	
10	Ken Tsao	1451	1444	W29	L4	B---	L3	W23	D9	3.5	

DE

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot	Prize
---	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----	-------

1	Leyton Ho	1340	1427	D34	W35	W7	W5	W3	W6	5.5	300.00
2	Tyler Leswing	1314	1395	W27	W13	W6	W4	H---	H---	5.0	200.00
3	Alan Kaptanoglu	1222	1320	W22	W5	W28	W14	L1	D4	4.5	100.00
4	Rupa L Gudiseva	905	1185	W20	W25	W19	L2	W8	D3	4.5	201.00
5	Hugo A Galeana	1350	1351	W26	L3	W10	L1	W12	W14	4.0	20.00
6	Charles Lin	1084	1219	W36	W9	L2	W15	W17	L1	4.0	50.50
7	Aakaash Rao	1348	1342	D13	W27	L1	W16	W14	D9	4.0	20.00
8	Gabriel R \$po? Sison	1227	1285	W10	W29	L14	W11	L4	W15	4.0	20.00
9	Hansel Teoh	1268	1269	W24	L6	W32	D12	W20	D7	4.0	20.00
10	Chris Xiong	1133	1229	L8	W38	L5	W23	W29	W17	4.0	50.50

F (800-999)

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Joel Chri Alcaraz	862	1084	W29	W18	W4	W9	W2	5.0
2	Justin J Tan	828	1026	W27	W19	W10	W14	L1	4.0
3	Sophia Li	896	1031	D8	W24	W18	W19	D5	4.0
4	Sophia Leswing	815	980	W5	W7	L1	D6	W16	3.5
5	Steven Li	915	981	L4	W26	W20	W10	D3	3.5
6	Joanna ^ Liu	674	902	W16	W13	L9	D4	W14	3.5
7	Shawye Ho	962	973	W26	L4	D15	W17	W9	3.5
8	Jaysen Shi	685	914	D3	L14	W24	W21	W13	3.5
9	Kevin Lin	866	881	W23	W28	W6	L1	L7	3.0
10	Jennifer Li	975	978	W15	W20	L2	L5	W18	3.0

G (600-799)

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Andy Sheng	767	936	W23	W15	W6	D2	W3	4.5
2	Charles Tang	771	920	W17	W16	W18	D1	W7	4.5
3	Samuel Veytser	629	849	W19	W22	W5	W12	L1	4.0
4	Alex Berlaga	749	844	L15	W9	W17	W6	W8	4.0
5	Dhanush Venkatesh	762	819	W25	D12	L3	W19	W13	3.5
6	Ashley Wang	695	749	W14	W24	L1	L4	W18	3.0
7	Albert Pun	756	761	L16	W23	W22	W10	L2	3.0
8	An Paraiso-arroyo	752	753	L12	W25	W16	W18	L4	3.0
9	Julia Wang	626	658	L10	L4	X25	W22	W15	3.0
10	Misha Reswick	719	720	W9	L18	W24	L7	W12	3.0

We beat Bobby!!

Fischer, Robert J vs. Burger, Karl

San Francisco. 1963. TWO KNIGHTS' def. C57

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nd4 6. c3 b5 7. Bf1 Nxd5 8. cxd4 Qxg5 9. Bxb5+ Kd8 10. Qf3 Bb7 11. O-O e4 12. Qxe4 Bd6 13. d3 Bxh2+ 14. Kxh2 Nf4 [0:1]

Fischer, Robert J vs. Burger, Robert

San Francisco. 1964. TWO KNIGHTS' def. C57

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nd4 6. c3 b5 7. Bf1 Nxd5 8. cxd4 Qxg5 9. Bxb5+ Kd8 10. Qf3 Bb7 11. O-O exd4 12. Qxf7 Nf6 [0:1]

Fischer, Robert J vs. Henry, R. & Thacker

San Francisco. 1964. TWO KNIGHTS' def. C57

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 Bc5 5. Bxf7+ Ke7 6. Bd5 Rf8 7. O-O h6 8. Nf3 d6 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. d4 exd4 11. Nxd4 Kf7 12. Nc3 Kg8 13. Nxc6 Qe8 14. Nd5 Nxd5 15. exd5 Ba6 16. c4 Bxc4 17. Bxh6 Bxf1 18. Qg4 Bxf2+ 19. Kh1 Bxg2+ 20. Qxg2 Qf7 21. Rf1 Rae8 22. h3 Bg3 23. Rxf7 Re1+ 24. Qg1 Rxc1+ 25. Kxc1 Rxf7 26. Be3 a6 27. Kg2 Be1 28. b4 Kh7 29. a3 Rf5 30. Nb8 a5 31. bxa5 Bxa5 [0:1]

Fischer, Robert J vs. Larsen, B.

Santa Monica. 1966. RUY LOPEZ. OPEN def. C82

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6 9. c3 Bc5 10. Nbd2 O-O 11. Bc2 Bf5 12. Nb3 Bg4 13. Nxc5 Nxc5 14. Re1 Re8 15. Be3 Ne6 16. Qd3 g6 17. Bh6 Ne7 18. Nd4 Bf5 19. Nxf5 Nxf5 20. Bd2 Qh4 21. Qf1 Nc5 22. g3 Qc4 23. Qg2 Nd3 24. Bxd3 Qxd3 25. Bg5 c6 26. g4 Ng7 27. Re3 Qd2 28. b3 b4 29. Qh3 bxc3 30. Qh6 Ne6 [0:1]

Fischer, Robert J vs. Rogosin, Donn

Hollywood. 1964. SICILIAN def. SOZIN ATTACK B86

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. O-O Be7 8. Bb3 O-O 9. f4 Qc7 10. Qf3 Nc6 11. Be3 Nxd4 12. Bxd4 b5 13. e5 dxe5 14. fxe5 Bb7 15. exf6 Bxf3 16. fxe7 Qxe7 17. Rxf3 Rad8 18. Be3 Qb7 19. Raf1 Rfe8 20. Ne2 a5 21. c3 Qe4 22. Ng3 Qg6 23. Rxf7 a4 24. Bc2 Qxc2 25. Nh5 Rf8 26. Rxc7+ Kh8 [0:1]

Fischer, Robert J vs. Wilkerson, Max

San Francisco. 1964. CARO-KANN B14

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. d4 cxd5 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. c5 e6 7. Bb5 Be7 8. Nf3 O-O 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. O-O a5 11. Bf4 Ra6 12. Re1 Nd7 13. Na4 Re8 14. Ne5 Nxe5 15. Bxe5 Bf8 16. Nb6 f6 17. Bg3 e5 18. dxe5 Bxc5 19. Nxc8 fxe5 20. Rc1 Bb4 21. Rxe5 Qxc8 22. Rxd5 Re1+ 23. Qxe1 Bxe1 24. Bh4 Qe6 25. Rd8+ Kf7 26. Rcd1 Ra7 27. a3 c5 28. R1d3 Bd2 29. g3 g5 30. Rxd2 gxh4 [0:1]

Mechanics' Games

Comments by IM John Donaldson

Victor Todortsev - Arthur Dembling

Winter TNM (8) 2010

Nimzo-Indian Saemisch [E29]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3

The Saemisch variation was a longtime favorite of MI Trustee IM Vince McCambridge who enjoyed considerable success with it in the mid-1980s.

4... Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.e3 0-0 7.Nf3 d6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 b6 10.d5!? Na5 11.e4 h6?

The threat of Bg5 needs to be met but the traditional way of doing so with 11...Ne8 looks much better than creating a big target on h6. White's next few moves are not the most energetic way to try to punish it.

12.h3 e5 13.Rb1 Ba6 14.Qe2 Qd7 15.Nh4 Qa4 16.Nf5 Rfd8 17.f4 Bxc4 18.Rb4!!?

This is a wonderfully creative move by Victor who is still playing very interesting chess in his mid-70s. The objective soundness of the move may be in question but it is undoubtedly difficult to meet over the board. The following notes are just a quick first impression of the craziness that is about to unfold.

18...Bxd3

The text is motivated by a well founded desire to simplify but has the objection of bringing White's Queen to the third rank where it gains access to the key g3 square. Black might possibly have improved with 18...cxb4 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.axb4 Kh7.

19.Qxd3 cxb4 20.axb4

20.fxe5 looks to be more accurate to ensure that the c1-h6 diagonal is opened as quickly. For example: 20...Nb3 (20...dxe5 21.Qg3 Nh5 22.Nxh6+ Kh7 23.Qxe5) 21.Bxh6 winning.

20...Nb7?

20...Nb3 21.fxe5 Nxc1 might have refuted White's attack.

21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Bxh6

22.Qg3! Nh5 23.Nxh6+ Kh7 24.Qxe5 was cleaner but the text is difficult to meet as well.

22...Nd6

This looks like the best defense but proves to be insufficient.

23.Bxg7 Ndx4 24.Bxf6 Nxf6 25.Qg3+ Kf8 26.Qg7+ Ke8 27.Qxf6 Qd7 28.Qh8 mate!

CALCHESS TOP 20 LISTS

Generated from USCF Top 100 Lists
Send corrections to michael(at)fpawn.com

USCF Ratings: FEBRUARY List
Includes tournaments rated by first Friday of previous month.
Age given as of the first day of previous month.
Rating Change calculated over previous two months.

TOP 20 ELEMENTARY (Age 11 & under)

Ranking	Age	Name	Rating	Change
1	9	Sevian, Samuel	2123	27
2	11	Zhu, Jack	1999	78
3	8	FM Vasudeva, Tanuj	1906	-20
4	10	Viswanadha, Kesav	1784	90
5	11	Apte, Neel	1783	-17
6	9	Wheeler, Cameron	1783	8
7	9	Panchanatham, Vignesh	1782	24
8	10	Beilin, Allan	1770	52
9	11	Ho, Daniel	1696	87
10	10	Chow, Colin	1666	-6
11	11	Klotz-Burwell, Hunter	1660	61
12	7	Taghizadeh, Rayan	1608	41
13	11	Janarthanan, Naveen	1607	27
14	9	Tao, Jeffrey	1600	49
15	11	Yu, Leland	1598	-13
16	11	Wang, Justin	1596	92
17	9	Yi, Richard	1581	-35
18	10	Kalyanpur, Armaan	1580	-5
19	9	Bik, Russell	1580	115
20	9	Iyengar, Udit	1579	72



Sam Sevian

TOP 20 JUNIOR HIGH and HIGH SCHOOL (Age 12-17)

Ranking	Age	Name	Rating	Change
1	14	FM Naroditsky, Daniel	2426	51
2	16	FM Zierk, Steven	2417	30
3	14	NM Young, Gregory	2282	10
4	12	NM Liou, Yian	2211	-15
5	16	NM Agarwal, Rohan	2204	0
6	16	Sandberg, Evan	2162	77
7	16	Manvelyan, Hayk	2064	12
8	12	Shin, Kyle	2052	-14
9	16	Karas, Nicholas	2042	-3



Steven Zierk

10	15	Liou, Arthur	2010	-4
11	17	Lin, Michael	1974	0
12	14	Yeh, Andrew	1972	0
13	14	Bekker, Sam	1953	0
14	12	Liu, Daniel	1940	11
15	14	Xiao, Ted	1930	41
16	12	Kwok, James	1919	71
17	15	Chillakanti, Mukund	1907	0
18	12	Sun, Jerome	1907	0
19	13	Li, Changhe	1904	0
20	16	Frei, Thadeus	1903	113



Arthur Liou

TOP 20 ADULTS

Rank	Name	USCF	FIDE
1	GM Bhat, Vinay	2606	2540
2	GM Friedel, Josh	2601	2549
3	GM Kraai, Jesse	2549	2509
4	IM Shankland, Sam	2546	2491
5	FM Chumachenko, Andrey	2449	2325
6	IM DeGuzman, Ricardo	2443	2406
7	SM Kotlyar, Gregory	2435	2306
8	IM Zilberstein, Dmitry	2429	2391
9	FM Naroditsky, Daniel	2425	2337
10	IM Pruess, David	2423	2391
11	FM Zierk, Steven	2417	2359
12	FM Strugatsky, Vladimir	2414	2390
13	IM Donaldson, John	2390	2394
14	IM Mezentsev, Vladimir	2380	2367
15	IM Tate, Emory	2380	2322
16	NM Schwarz, Daniel	2349	2232
17	FM Cusi, Ronald	2325	2322
18	IM Ganbold, Odondoo	2322	2346
19	NM Lee, Andy	2315	2273
20	FM Cunningham, Robin	2289	2304



Ruth Haring

TOP 5 WOMEN

Rank	Name	Rating
1	Livschitz, Louiza	1994
2	WIM Haring, Ruth	1933
3	Goodkind, Lauren	1859
4	Bhat, Samyukta	1817
5	Goodkind, Barbara	1794

Regional Age Champions

4-5

1 Advait Budaraju	502	CHESSW	4.0
2 Antarish Rautela	226	WEIBEL	4.0
3 Jayesh Thiagarajan	504	FOREST	4.0

6

1 Evan Leach	747	BANCRO	5.0
2 Andrew Cheng	445	FOSTER	4.0
3 James Pflaging	563	BAC	4.0

7 Year Old

1 Anthony Zhou	995	WEIBEL	5.0
2 Howard Tang	876	BAC	4.0
3 Daniel George	657		4.0
4 Kimberly Liu	750	ZOKA	4.0
5 Michael Ryaboy	731	RAS	4.0
6 Pranav Sethi	537	CARDEN	4.0

8 Year Old

1 Lawrence Wong	1169	FOLSOM	5.0
2 Alexander Makhratchev	831	WEIBEL	4.5
3 Mishra Reswick	914	CHESSW	4.0
4 Justin Tan	1008	BCS	4.0
5 Desiree Ho	809	WEIBEL	4.0
6 Andrew Zhang	unr.	MUIR	4.0
7 Saicharan Bandikallu	unr.	COLLIN	4.0
8 Armon Olae	unr.	WEIBEL	4.0

SwissSys Standings. 2010AgeLevel: 9 Year Old

1 Abhishek Handigol	956	WEIBEL	5.0
2 Steven Li	1088	WEIBEL	4.5
3 Aleksander Kozminski	1203	BAC	4.5
4 Dan Yamada	1106	BELAIR	4.0
5 Joseph Zhang	1000	WEIBEL	4.0
6 Eric Liu	628	BAC	4.0
7 Ishas Kekre	898	WEIBEL	4.0
8 Arthur Cai	345	FOSTER	4.0
9 Forrest L Windeler	785	QUEST	4.0

wissSys Standings. 2010AgeLevel: 4-9 Year Old Open

1 Anirudh Seela	1426	BAC	3.5
2 Seaver Dahlgren	1315		3.0
3 Charles Lin	1298	FOSTER	3.0
4 Chris Xiong	1253	FOSTER	3.0

SwissSys Standings. 2010AgeLevel: 10 Year Old

1 Calvin Tam	909	WEIBEL	4.0
1 Sameer Vijay	932	WEIBEL	4.0
3 Abraham Canafe	916	BETHAN	3.0
4 Jaysen Shi	976	WPORTA	3.0
5 Joel Christopher Alcaraz	1313	BCS	3.0
6 Aaron Canafe	661	BETHAN	3.0
7 Praneeth Kumar Madhu	880	FOSTER	3.0
8 Schafer M Kraemer	559	QUEST	3.0

11 Year Old

1 Kevin Zhu	1080 MOHR	3.5
1 Austin Cheng	1402 DILWOR	3.5
3 Joshua Chan	1375 GOMES	3.0
4 Justin Wei Wang	1587 WEIBEL	3.0
5 Brian Lai	804 JORDAN	3.0
6 Andy Sheng	1007 CHABOY	3.0
7 Matt Ross Stecklow	1204 BELAIR 11	3.0



Advait

12 Year Old

1 Rahul Iyer	1179 MILLER	4.0
1 Brett Beardsley	1027 WEIBEL	4.0
3 Daniel Ho	1676 WEIBEL	3.5

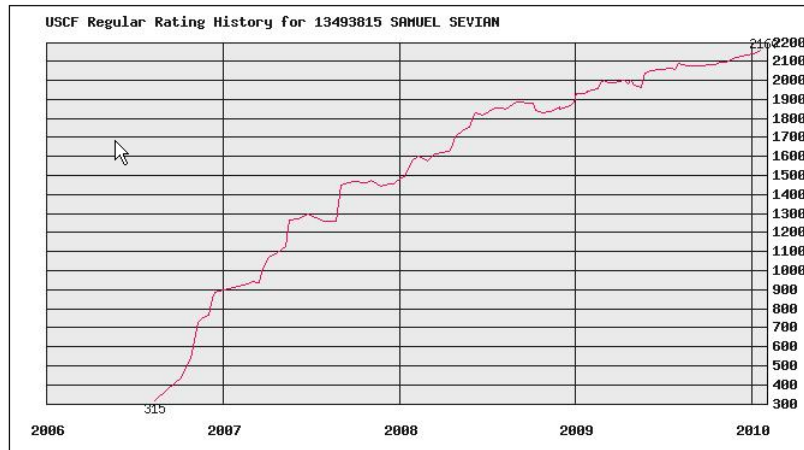
13 Year Old

1 Shiv Bhandari	1204 CHABOY	4.0
2 Michael Meng	1351 WEIBEL 13	3.0
3 Rohan Kasiviswanathan	1360 CHESSW	3.0

Teams:

- 6: Bay Area Chess (10.0)
- 7: Weibel (11.5)
- 8: Weibel (12.5)
- 9: Weibel (13.5)
- 10: Weibel (10.5)
- 11: Weibel 8.0
- 12: Weibel (10.5)
- 13: Weibl (only team)

Sam Sevian: Top 8-year old in the country!



Samuel was born on December 26th, 2000 in New York and learned chess at age 5. In just several months he played his first National Scholastic Championship held in Orlando Florida in the K-section where he came second. When Samuel turned 6 he won the Florida State Championship in the K-3 section with the perfect score 6/6. Since then Samuel only competed in adult tournaments. By the time his family moved to California he already had a US Chess Federation rating of 1650 (age 7). At age 8 years and 2 months Samuel reached an important milestone, he broke an all time US record by becoming youngest ever Expert crossing US Chess Federation rating of 2000. From then on Samuel started to compete in the Open Master Section of strong National tournaments. Samuel just turned 9 and has the highest FIDE Rating (live over 2150) in the World under age 10. Samuel has consistently been rated # 1 in his age category of US rating lists leading his peers by several hundred points. His Current USCF is 2160, and he has a very strong chance (9-months) to break yet another US record to become youngest ever National Master which is set at 2200 USCF. Samuel has been on an All-American Chess team for the last two years and qualified to represent US at world Youth Championships. This year Samuel is planning to play in the World Youth Championship for the first time.

Apart from serious competition, Samuel has been giving simuls and working on his own chess compositions in spare time.

Samvel, Sevian (2094) - Howard, Chen (2215)

American Open 2009 (2), 26.11.2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.Qb3 Qe7 8.0-0 Bb6 9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Nc3 d6 12.Qa4+ Bd7 13.Bxf7+ Qxf7 14.Qxd4 Ne7 15.Rb1 Bc6 16.Nb5 Ng6 17.Nxa7 0-0 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.a3 c5 20.Qc3 Ra4 21.Qe3 Re8 22.f3 Ne5 23.Rb7 Nc6 24.Rxc7 Qxc7 25.Qb3+ Kh8 26.Qxa4 Rb8 27.Be3 Ne5 28.h3 c4 29.f4 Nd3 30.f5 Ne5 31.f6 gxf6 32.Rxf6 c3 33.Rf2 Rc8 34.Qc2 Qc4 35.Bg5 Rb8 36.Bf6+ Kg8 37.Qc1 Qxe4 38.Qxc3 Rf8 39.Bxe5 1-0

Chess Technology

At any given moment in time one particular piece of software tends to dominate. In the 1980s it was clearly a combination of Chessbase and Fritz. In the 1990s, other engines emerged to relegate Fritz to a lower tier. The rise of Ribka took chess world by storm and as we complete the first decade of the 21st century there are some new rivals for the title of most powerful chess engine.

I focus on engines here because the world of chess processors has changed radically in the past few months. Until recently chess players had to choose between just two all-purpose chess processors: chessbase and chess assistant. I personally used chess assistant in my work because it offered me a more useful set of features for my particular needs, and because I was able to customize the program to put all of the needed features at my fingertips.

Unfortunately, chess assistant suffered a major blow when it brought out its 10th version which simply does not work and causes great damage. The trees in chess assistant, arguably the most important feature, breakdown constantly. I have urged all of my students to stick with version 9, but if you put old versions on the same machine chess assistant and destroys the functionality of chess assistant nine. This product should not be on the market, and to some extent it isn't because the website for the program has been down for months and technical support is non-responsive. So chessbase now has a complete monopoly on the chess processing software. If all you're interested in is manipulating trees, then the chess openings wizard program might be sufficient.

Rybka Aquarium is still pretty primitive in terms of features, ionly slowly acquiring the power of Chess Assistant, with which it seems to want to avoid a rivalry. I expect that it will expand rapidly.

So the question these days is which engine should you use for your most serious analysis. the ancient standbys Fritz and Shredder our strong enough for casual use but in recent years Rybka has become the gold standard, arguably over 3000 strength. But two new arrivals are threatening that supremacy.

One of these comes with the fascinating program Toby Chess. the engine is called Toby-Tal. The most amazing thing about this engine is its small size. There is no bloat in this program and it is streamlined and tremendously efficient. It will soon be available in a form that can be plugged into any other program that supports the standard interface.

People have their own tests and standards for chess engines and I'm not going to get into the results of test suites and so on. This new engine simply outperforms everything else I have seen. At a recent tournament one user of Fritz stopped by the demonstration area and claimed that rather snidely that Fritz would clobber the new program. In a series of battles, Toby-Tal mopped the floor with Fritz and handily defeated Rybka. Personally, I don't find head-to-head challenges particularly useful because it often comes down to who has the better opening book.

Robolito, a free program, is almost as good. It has already been discussed here at Chess.com. it is not my intention to compare these two engines and give my personal opinion. I have not yet installed RobleLito and put it through its paces. My aim in this brief article is simply to make you all aware of these two products so that you can investigate them for yourselves and see if they fit your needs.

I do suggest that you check out the Toby Chess site because it's quite a different program than most Chess processors. It is called Deep Tactics for a reason. It has dozens of features not found in other programs but does support trees so that you can explore the openings. It also comes with a pile of different chess engines so that you can choose the one that best suits you.

Eric Schiller

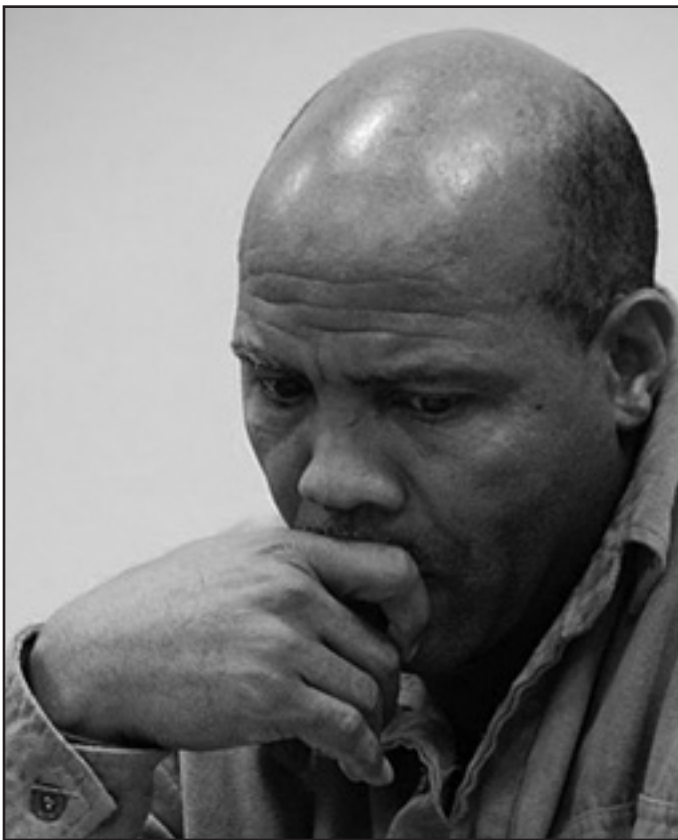
Photo Gallery



Daniel George



Aajash Rao



Bobby Carnage



Carol Mayer-Kleist

UPCOMING EVENTS

Below are some upcoming events which may be of interest. Our full calendar has all the details of these and many more competitions and is always available at www.calchess.org.

Scholastic events

Friday, March 19 – Sunday, March 21

Bay Area Regional Scholastic Championship @ Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara

CalChess Denker Qualifier Tournament @ Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara

Friday, April 16 – Sunday, April 18

CALCHESS STATE SCHOLASTIC Championship

Saturday, May 29

Memorial Day (Chaudhry Azhar Memorial) @ Marriott in Santa Clara

Open events

Saturday, March 13 – Sunday, March 14

The 10th A.J. Fink Amateur Championship @ Mechanics Institute in San Francisco

Saturday, March 27

10th Annual Max Wilkerson Open G/45 @ Mechanics Institute in San Francisco

Friday, April 2 – Sunday, April 4

Far West Open @ Hilton in Reno, NV

Saturday, May 29 – Monday, May 31

Memorial Day (Capablanca Memorial) @ Marriott in Santa Clara

Magnus Carlsen, Youngest #1 ever!@

Magnus Carlsen of Norway is the youngest #1 ranked player in chess history with a rating of 2810 on the January, 2010 rating list.

Coached by no less than Garry Kasparov he now outranks the current and previous World Champions.

Whether he becomes the youngest orld Champion ever really

depends on whether he gets a shot at the title in the near future.

Carlsen dominated the tournament arena in 2009 and has demonstrated the ability to win top competitions with his uncompromising play.

He is a big hero in his native country, where chess has been a major activity for decades

but which, until now, had not produced a major star.

Carlsen is raising the profile of chess even further in his native land.

As we go to press Magnus is competing in the Corus Super-tournament, where he will directly confront World Champions Anand and Kramnik.



A great year for scholastic chess!

I believe that Northern California can boast of the best environment for young chess players. It seems that we have a competition for young players every weekend and most schools offer chess instruction from one of our well-established enrichment programs. We have many established tournament venues ranging from elementary schools to high class hotels and convention centers.



A little note from the editor

I hope you have enjoyed this relaunch of the California chess journal. As you can see, the contents of focus on local news and events. I welcome all readers to submit interesting games for publication. The goal is to present many games that will not be found in databases or other publications. Some of these will be from recent events, while others will reflect the rich history of chess in Northern California and our neighbors to the south. Please send all submissions to EricSchiller, eric@ericsschiller.com in PGN format.

We have a rich chess culture and I hope that we will be able to present many different perspectives. It is always nice to feature local chess players even if they are not masters. There are many fascinating games played in local tournaments that are lost forever because no one submitted them for publication. Please help preserve these games by bringing them to my attention.