

California Chess Journal

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**International
Master
Ricardo De
Guzman
Wins Swisses
in
Sunnyvale,
Sacramento,
and San
Francisco**



**How We Spent Our Summer Vacations—
CalChess Players Travel the World**

California Chess Journal



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The *California Chess Journal* gladly accepts submissions pertaining to chess, especially chess in Northern California. Articles should be submitted in electronic form, preferably in text format. Digital photographs are preferred also. We work on a Macintosh, but articles and photographs created in lesser operating environments will be accepted at 126 Fifteenth Ave., San Mateo CA 94402-2414, or cattekin@best.com. All submissions subject to editing, but we follow the unwritten rule of chess journalism that editors shouldn't mess with technical annotations by stronger players. Submission deadline for the January/February 2002 issue is December 10.

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CalChess Patron Program

Recent financial problems at the USCF have impacted a variety of programs, including those which formerly provided some funding to state organizations. Traditionally, the USCF returned \$1 of each adult membership and 50 cents of each youth membership to the state organization under its State Affiliate Support Program, but SASP was eliminated last year.

This resulted in a \$2,000 shortfall to the CalChess budget — its primary expense is production and mailing of the *California Chess Journal*, which has been expanded from four to six issues per year.

Members of CalChess or interested parties who wish to support the quality and growth of chess as worthwhile activity in Northern California are encouraged to participate. Please send contributions to CalChess, 126 Fifteenth Ave., San Mateo CA 94402.

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De Guzman's Romp through California Continues with Sacramento Swiss

| Sacramento Chess Club Weekend | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| Swiss #7 | | | |
| September 15–16, 2001 | | | |
| Championship | | | |
| 1–2 | Ricardo De Guzman | 4.5 | \$225 |
| | Philip Wang | | |
| 1 Exp | Michael Aigner | 3.5 | \$75 |
| 1–2 A | Duane Catania | 3 | \$63 |
| | Monty Peckham | | |
| Reserve | | | |
| 1 | Teodoro Porlares | 4.5 | \$350 |
| 1 C | Bob Baker | 3 | \$48 |
| | Cuzear Ford | | |
| | Michael Haun | | |
| | Ruturaj Pathak | | |
| 1–3 D | Corey Chang | 3 | \$42 |
| | Brian Hall | | |
| | Trevor Showalter | | |
| 1 Junior | Michael O'Brien | 3.5 | \$50 |

By Michael Fitzgerald

The terror of September 11 didn't stop Sacramento tournament director John McCumiskey from holding the Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #7 on Sept. 15 and 16, the weekend after the attack on the World Trade towers and Pentagon, but it gave everybody something more to think about than whether to sacrifice on f7.

Three pre-registered participants withdrew, and the talk around the Best Western Expo Inn, where 60 players competed in two sections, was as much about Osama as openings.

Although major sports events were cancelled nationwide, "I only had one person call me and ask me why I wasn't canceling the event," McCumiskey said. "Everybody else was of the opinion we should go on."

Visiting Filipino international master Ricardo De Guzman and FM Philip Xiao Wang won the open section with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ each. De Guzman has won four Northern California tournaments since August, two at the Mechanics'

Institute, the LERA Sunnyvale Championship, and Sacramento #7.

Top-ranked De Guzman took a first-round bye, then won all his games despite facing the tournament's ruggedest schedule: De Guzman played against four masters, including IM Walter Shipman, and second seed FM Andrey Chumachenko, a Sacramento-area Russian immigrant. "Patience prevails," De Guzman said, sighing in relief when Chumachenko resigned in the last round.

To share the top prize, Wang had to defeat his Stanford teammate Michael Aigner, which he did despite being two pieces down in a wild fracas, and Wang also held a pawn-down draw against Shipman.

In the reserve section, Bob Baker boasted the tournament's only perfect score going into the last round but gagged on a "Fried Liver" attack that Teodoro Porlares somehow managed to serve up even though the opening was a Ruy Lopez. "I was told before the game to play a quiet positional game," gnashed Baker, whose king was driven sadistically across the board. "It didn't turn out that way."

Porlares—another first-round bye who finished with $4\frac{1}{2}$ —took \$350 home to Fairfield.

White: Ricardo De Guzman (2479)
Black: Jim MacFarland (2299)

Torre Attack

Notes by IM Ricardo De Guzman

1. d4

I had quite a tight game with the seldom-used Torre Attack against MacFarland in round four. The game hinged on White's timely bishop sacrifice on f5 to pave the way for his passed g-pawn.

1...e6 2. Nf3

An option is 2. e4, transposing to the French Defense.

2...Nf6 3. Bg5 Be7

An aggressive try is 3...c5 4. e3 Qb6 5. Bf6 gf6 6. Nbd2 Qb2 7. Bd3, with an imbalanced position — Black has a pawn but a weak pawn structure, White has development.

4. Nbd2

A logical continuation is also 4. Bf6 Bf6 5. e4 d5 6. Nbd2 de4 7. Ne4 Nd7 8. Bd3 b6 9. Qe2 Bb7.

4...d5 5. c3 b6 6. e3 Bb7 7. Bb5 Nfd7

Black does not want to play 7...c6, minimizing the strength of his bishop. In reply, White does not want to help Black free his game by exchanging on e7.

8. Bf4 a6 9. Bd3 c5 10. Ne5 Nc6

The black castled position comes under pressure after

On the Cover

International master Ricardo De Guzman of the Philippines scored a hat trick between Sept. 15 and Oct. 7, winning three Northern California tournaments in four weeks. At the Mechanics' Institute Howard Donnelly Memorial, the Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss No. 7, and the LERA Sunnyvale Championship, De Guzman won 11 games (six against masters) against no losses and one draw with 1763-rated Yefim Bukh in the last round of the Donnelly.

Show Goes On in Sacramento the Weekend Following WTC Attack

10...Ne5 11. Be5 0-0 12. h4 Nd7 13. Qg4 (a dubious sacrifice is 13. Bh7 Kh7 14. Qh5 Kg8 15. Bg7 Kg7 16. Rh3 Bd6 17. f4 Qf6! 18. Rg3 Qg6 and Black has sufficient material for his queen) 13...Ne5 14. de5 Qd7 15. 0-0-0 Rac8 16. Bc2 Qc7 17. Nf3 with possibilities of the Greco sacrifice, Bh7 followed by Ng5.

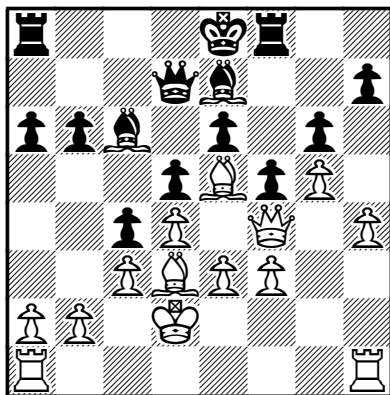
11. Nc6 Bc6 12. Qg4 g6

Again castling is scary after 12...0-0 13. Bh6 Bf6 14. h4.

13. h4 Nf6 14. Qf3 Nh5 15. Be5 f6 16. Bh2 f5 17. g4 Nf6 18. g5!?

I think it is much better to open more lines by 18. gf5 ef5 19. Be5 Rf8 20. h5! Qd7 (if 20...Nh5?, then 21. Rh5 gh5 22. Qh5 Kd7 23. Bf5 wins) 21. hg6 hg6 22. Rh6 Rg8 23. 0-0-0), and Rg1 will continue to target the g6-pawn.

18...Ne4 19. Be5 Rf8 20. Qf4 Qd7 21. f3 Nd2 22. Kd2 c4



23. Be2!

Otherwise Black will have some chance of counterplay following 23. Bc2 Ba4 24. b3 cb3 25. ab3 Bb5 26. h5 Rc8 27. hg6 hg6 28. Rh6 Qc6, aiming at c3.

23...0-0-0 24. h5 Bd6 25. hg6 hg6 26. Rh6 Rg8 27. Rah1 Be5 28. Qe5

White's main strength at this stage is his absolute control of the open h-file. An added attraction is his towering queen on e5, but Black's next move is understandable, forcing the exchange of queens. However, his main headache is still the h-file.

28...Qd6 29. Qd6 Rd6 30. Ke1! Rd7 31. Kf2 Kc7 32. Kg3 Rgg7 33. Kf4 Kd6 34. Rh8 b5 35. Rb8 Rh7 36. Rh6 Rdg7 37. Rd8 Bd7 38. Rh8

White had to be extra careful: 38. Rh7? Rh7 39. Kg3 (39. Ra8 Rh2 is also bad) Rh1 40. Ra8 Rg1 41. Kf4 Rg2 favors Black.

38...Rh8 39. Rh8 Bc6 40. Bd1!

Preparing for a break on the strategic e4-square.

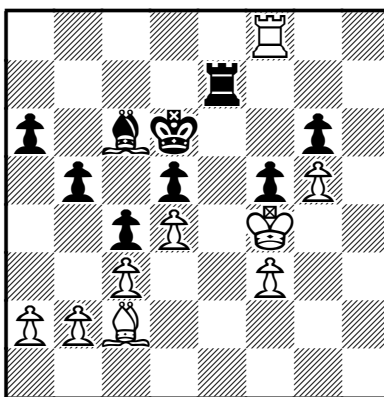
40...Re7 41. Bc2 Rg7 42. Rh6 Be8 43. e4!

Brings the bishop into active play.

43...Bd7 44. Rh8 Bc6

Black is reduced to waiting moves, for there aren't many options left. On 44...fe4 45. fe4 Rf7 46. Ke3, Black's a- and g-pawns are vulnerable.

45. ef5 ef5 46. Rf8! Re7



47. Bf5!

The decisive blow. Black has no defense against White's passed

pawns on the f- and g-files.

47...gf5 48. Rf6 Re6

A good try, but also a losing cause is 48...Kc7 49. g6 Re2 50. Rf5 Bd7 51. g7 Be6 52. Re5.

49. Kf5 Bd7 50. Re6 Be6 51. Kf6 Kd7 52. f4 Bg4 53. g6 Resigns

White: Teodoro Porlares (1735)
Black: Bob Baker (1566)
Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 b5 6. Bb3 d6 7. Ng5 d5 8. ed5 Nd5 9. Nf7 Kf7 10. Qf3 Ke6 11. Nc3 Ne7 12. d4 c6 13. Bg5 Bb7 14. Ne4 Kd7 15. de5 Kc7 16. Nd6 Qd7 17. Rfd1 Ng6 18. Nb7 Kb7 19. Rd5 cd5 20. Bd5 Kc7 21. Ba8 Be7 22. Rd1 Qd1 23. Qd1 Rd8 24. Qf3 Ne5 25. Qb7 Resigns

White: Tyler Wilken (1396)
Black: Corey Chang (1142)
Stonewall Dutch

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bg5 e6 4. Nbd2 d5 5. e3 Bd6 6. Ne5 Nbd7 7. Ndf3 c6 8. Bd3 Qa5 9. c3 Ne4 10. Bf4 Ne5 11. Ne5 Be5 12. Be5 Nf6 13. Bf6 gf6 14. Qh5 Ke7 15. Qh6 Kd6 16. Qf6 Bd7 17. Bf5 Rhf8 18. Qe5 Ke7 19. Bh7 Rf7 20. Qg5 Kd6 21. Bg6 Rff8 22. 0-0 Rg8 23. c4 Raf8 24. Qe5 Ke7 25. Qg5 Kd6 26. c5 Kc7 27. Qe5 Kc8

Blessed with too much good fortune, White puts his pieces away, then weakens his king position enough for Black to break in. A good example of not giving up, according to Corey's dad.

28. Bb1 Qd8 29. h3 Rg5 30. Qh2 Rfg8 31. g4 e5 32. de5 Bg4 33. f4 Bh3 34. fg5 Qg5 35. Kh1 Bg2 36. Kg1 Bh3 37. Kf2 Qh4 38. Ke2 Bf1 39. Resigns

De Guzman Wins Again at LERA, 17th-Seed Drake Wang Clear Second

LMERA Sunnyvale Chess Championships October 6-7, 2001 Championship

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Ricardo De Guzman | 3.5 | \$270 |
| 2 | Drake Wang | 3 | \$200 |
| 3-7 | Michael Aigner | 2.5 | \$110 |
| | David Blohm | | |
| | Michael Pearson | | |
| | Agnis Kaugars | | |
| | Frisco Del Rosario | | |
| | Reserve | | |
| 1 | Jahangir Ahmed | 4 | \$180 |
| 2-3 | Jeff Mallett | 3.5 | \$120 |
| | Gary Smith | | |
| 1-2 B | Todd McFarren | 3 | \$110 |
| | Nicolas Yap | | |
| 3 B | Cal Magaoay | 2.5 | \$60 |
| | Booster | | |
| 1-3 | Aaron Wilkowski | 3.5 | \$90 |
| | Raymond Canivel | | |
| | Glenn Leotaud | | |
| 1-3 D | William Parker | 3 | \$50 |
| | Tom Reale | | |
| | Nathan Wang | | |



Eric Peng played white against Durai Chinniah in round four of the LMERA Sunnyvale Championships. In the background, Matthew Haws is many moves away from holding the infamous rook-pawn-plus-wrong-colored-bishop ending.

Some of us who have played at the LMERA chess tournaments over the past 30 years never bother to learn that LMERA stands for Lockheed Martin Employees' Recreation Association, and that the chess events have been organized by Lockheed employees.

The late Jim Hurt, who established these tournaments as a mainstay on the Bay Area chess calendar for 30 years, was a longtime Lockheed worker, and Rod McCalley, who directed and organized the 34th LMERA Sunnyvale Chess Championship held Oct. 6 and 7, has been at Lockheed for 22 years.

McCalley said he played in his first LMERA chess tournament in 1980, one year after he began working at the Sunnyvale location in 1979, and that he will maintain these events with "dedication and with great respect for what [Hurt]

did — we're trying to keep his spirit alive."

McCalley, Richard Koepcke, and Peter McKone directed 76 players in three sections. McCalley paid the entire advertised prize fund of \$2100, which was based on 90 paid entries. The Lockheed facility accepted no money for site maintenance, and McCalley donated that part of the budget—between \$150 and \$200—to the Red Cross.

Like he did three weeks before at the Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss, international master Ricardo De Guzman took a first-round bye, then won the rest of his games to finish 3½-½, and earn the \$270 first prize. The talk of the tournament, however, was De Guzman's third round escape against 14-year-old expert Michael Pearson. Pearson won a couple of pawns in the middlegame before

both players successfully raced to the first time control at move 40—Pearson maintained a winning advantage up through move 60, but was not aware that the second time control was at move 70. He banged out the 10 moves in eight seconds, but dropped a knight while doing so, and De Guzman went on to win.

Drake Wang, who was seeded 17th in the 20-player championship section, finished in a clear second place for his 3-1 score. The second-ranked 11-year-old in the state with a rating of 1912, Wang drew master David Blohm and defeated master Bob Sferra.

Sixty-seven games were played in the championship section over the weekend, and 24 of them resulted in draws.

McCalley and McKone are looking ahead to March for the next LMERA chess tournament.

White: Bob Sferra (2214)
 Black: Drake Wang (1912)
 Larsen's Opening
 Notes by NM Richard Koepcke

1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 c5 3. e3 e6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Ne5 a6!?

As far as I know, this is a new move, but the idea is logical enough. Black denies White his preferred deployment, which would occur after the more common 5...Bd6 6. Bb5 Nbd7 7 f4.

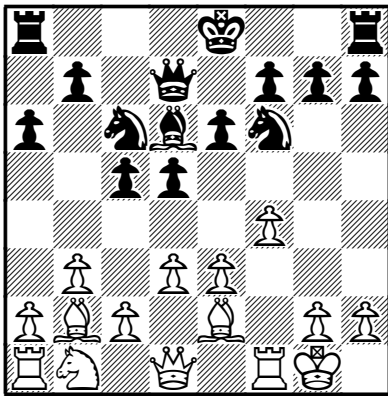
6. f4 Bd6 7. Be2 Nc6 8. 0-0

Nimzo-Indian fans would probably prefer 8. Nc6 bc6 9. 0-0 followed by c4, Nc3-a4 and Ba3.

8...Bd7 9. d3

If White wanted to maintain his outpost at e5, a reversed Stonewall Dutch with 9. d4 was in order. Like his previous move, the text is OK but somewhat passive.

9...Qc7 10. Nd7 Qd7



11. Nd2 0-0-0!?

Castling queenside enables Black to throw his kingside pawns into an attack there, and also removes the possibility that White has of generating a quick mating attack. However, White's kingside play is not that fearsome considering that his king bishop is passively placed on e2, and a queenside attack by Black should be easier to execute considering that he enjoys a space advantage there. Hence 11...0-0 should be preferred over the text.

12. Bf3

White makes no attempt to interfere with Black's plan. Alternatively, 12. e4 e5 (better than 12...de4 13. Ne4) 13. fe5 Ne5 14. Nf3 Rhe8 (14...Nf3 15. Bf3 de4? 16. Bf6 costs Black the exchange) 15. Ne5 Be5 16. Be5 Re5, after which White's best option is to reach a marginally better endgame by 17. Rf6 gf6 18. Bg4 f5 19. Bf5 Rf5 20. ef5 Qf5 21. Qe2=. Also OK for White is 12. Nf3 Rhe8 13. Ne5 Qc7 14. d4.

12...e5 13. fe5 Ne5 14. Re1 h5 15. d4!? Neg4 16. Nf1 Qc7 17. g3

An unfortunate necessity, as Black was threatening 17...Bh2 18. Kh1 Nf2 mate.

17...c4

It is unclear whether the immediate sacrificial breakthrough 17...Nh2 18. Nh2 h4 19. Nf1 hg3 20. dc5 Bc5 21. Bd4 will succeed. Black's problem is that he has insufficient control over the center.

18. bc4 Qc4 19. Qe2 Qe2

Black should have lost his mating attack after this exchange. However, the queen retreat to c7 would have left Black's own king in as much danger as White's after a subsequent 20 c4.

20. Re2 h4 21. a4?

White's sense of danger escapes him. 21. h3 Nh6 22. g4 Ne4 23. c4 was essential.

21...hg3 22. Ng3 Rh3!

22...Nh2 23. Rh2 Bg3 wins a pawn, but enables White to fight on in a long ending. The text looks toward a knockout blow.

23. Bg4?

This exchange does not help, though it is hard to suggest an improvement. Perhaps White should give up the doomed h-pawn with 23. Bg2 in order to gain time for counterplay elsewhere. For example, 23... Rh2 24. Nf1 Rh6 25. c4.

23...Ng4 24. Nf5 Bh2 25. Kg2 Rdh8 26. Rh1

26. Re1 would have prolonged the game by providing the king with an escape route through e2. Now White is trapped in a mating net.

26...g6 27. Ne7 Kd8 28. Nd5 Rg3 29. Kf1 Rf3 30. Kg2 Rhh3 31. Resigns

White: Michael Aigner (2200)
 Black: Robert Whitaker (2000)
 Closed Sicilian

Notes by NM Richard Koepcke

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 g6 5. f4 d6 6. d3 Bg7 7. h3 Nh5

In conjunction with his next move, this is a mistake. More common are 7...0-0, 7...Rb8, and 7...h5!?

8. Nge2 0-0?

8...f5!? is more consistent with Black's 7th, though White gets a better position after 9. ef5 gf5 10. d4 0-0.

9. g4 Nf6 10. 0-0 Rb8 11. Be3 Bd7 12. Ng3 b5 13. Nce2 Qa5 14. c3 b4 15. Bd2

An unnecessary prophylactic move.

15...Qb6?

The queen is misplaced. Black should take advantage of White's miscue by forcing matters on the queenside by 15...bc3 16. Bc3 (alternatively, 16. bc3 Rb2 17. g5 Ne8 18. a4 Nc7 with chances for both sides) Qa6 17. d4 cd4 18. Nd4.

16. Kh1 a5 17. g5 Ne8 18. f5 Ne5 19. Nf4 Bc6 20. c4!

After this, Black has no counterplay anywhere on the board and can only look forward to grim defense on the kingside.

20...Nc7 21. Qe2 Bd7 22. Be3 Nc6 23. f6 ef6 24. Nfh5 fg5

Black probably ends up in a mating net if he grabs the knight: 24...gh5 25. Nh5 (25...Bh8 26 gf6 with Qf2-g3 to come) 26. Nf6 Bf6 27. Rf6 Kg7 28. Raf1 Ne6. 29. Qh5

LMERA Events Carry On in Hurt's Honor



Drake Wang started the weekend seeded 17th among 20 players at the LMERA Sunnyvale Chess Championship, but scored two wins and two draws on the way to a clear second place in the Championship Division. Photo by Shorman

Ncd8 30. Bg5 Ng5 31. Qg5 Kh8 32. Qh6 Rg8 33. Rf7 and mate follows.

25. Ng7 Kg7

25...h6 26. N7h5 gh5 27. Nh5 f5 is difficult, but offers greater hope to save the game.

26. Bg5 h6 27. Nh5! gh5 28. Qh5 hg5?

Loses immediately. The best hope is 28...f5, though mate is not far off after 29. Qh6 Kf7 30. Qh5 Kg7 31. e5+.

29. Qg5 Kh7 30. Rf6 Resigns

White: Walter Wood (2001)

Black: Craig Mar (2447)

Colle System

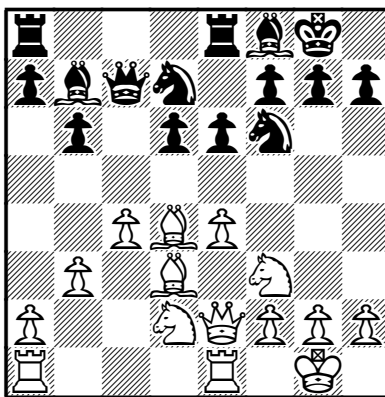
Notes by NM Richard Koepcke

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 c5 4. Bd3 b6 5. O-O Bb7 6. Nbd2 Be7 7. b3 d6

Black sets up a Hedgehog in response to the Colle System. In doing so, he takes advantage of White's move order, which has ruled out plans involving Bg5xf6.

8. Bb2 Nbd7 9. c4 O-O 10. Qe2

Re8 11. Rfe1 Bf8 12. e4 cd4 13. Bd4 Qc7



14. Rac1

Premature is 14. e5 Ng4 (White is happier after 14...de5 15. Ne5 Bd6 16. f4) 15. ed6 Bd6 16. h3 Ngf6=, when White does not have a satisfactory way to prevent ...e5 by Black. A disaster would be 17. Ne5? Ne5 18. Be5 Be5 19. Qe5 Qe5 20. Re5 Rad8.

14...Rac8

White has completed his development and has a space advantage, but he cannot improve

his position without rearranging his pieces. Which pieces to redeploy? Possible are Bb2-a3, Nb1-c3, and b4 followed by Nb3. The move played seems pointless, though it does remove the king bishop from a potentially exposed file should White eventually follow up with e4-e5.

15. Bb1 Qb8 16. h3 Ba8 17. Qe3

Inconsistent with previous play. Better is 17. e5 de5 18. Ne5 Bd6 19. Ndf3 Bf3 20. Nf3 e5, with a sharp position and chances for both sides.

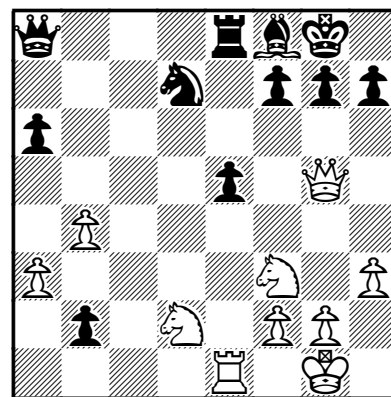
17...e5!

An excellent decision that puts an end to any kingside attacking plans White might harbor.

18. Bb2 a6 19. a3 b5 20. Ba2

Based on an idea with a tactical flaw. An improvement is 20. Bd3 bc4 21. Bc4 d5 22. ed5 Nd5 23. Qe2 with a slight edge to Black.

20...bc4 21. b4? d5 22. ed5 Nd5 23. Qg5 c3 24. Bd5 cb2 25. Rc8 Qc8 26. Ba8 Qa8



27. Ne5?

Loses on the spot. White cannot let the black b-pawn live, though the alternatives are dim: 27. Nc4 Qd5 28. Nb2 Qb3 29. Qc1 Qa3 with advantage, or 27. Rb1 Qc6 28. Nf1 Qc2 29. N3d2 a5+.

27...Qd5 28. Ndf3 Ne5 29. Resigns

9

Shorter Schedule, Lower Entry Fee Attracts 54 Back to Jessie Jean's

| Jessie Jean's Sonoma County Open September 1-2, 2001 Open | | | |
|--|------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Eugene Levin | 4 | \$250 |
| 2-7 | Ben Gross | 3 | \$83 |
| | Dean Howard | | |
| | John Jaffray | | |
| | Alex Setzepfandt | | |
| | Robert Sferra | | |
| | Erik Stewart | | |
| Reserve | | | |
| 1-2 | Weston Leavens | 3.5 | \$125 |
| | Jeremy Touma | | |
| Upset Prize (333 points) | | | |
| | Michael Gosk | | \$50 |

By Bleys W. Rose

If after thrice, you don't succeed... give it a rest and give up.

If Santa Rosa café owner Keith Givens and veteran Bay Area tournament organizer Mike Goodall had followed that advice, there would have not been a fourth attempt this year at a tournament at Jessie Jean's Coffee Beans.

"I needed 42 players to break even, so getting a dozen more than that allowed me to make a little money and kick some over to the café owner," said Goodall, a long-time organizer of the Berkeley People's Tournament. "In Santa Rosa, this is a success. In Sunnyvale, it would be a big failure."

Tournament turnout was just about all anybody talked about, especially since the topic had been heavily debated on a CalChess e-mail discussion group for much of the summer.

Reno chess organizer Jerry Weikel had already tried hosting three tournaments at Jessie Jean's this year and each time came away financially distressed that this suburban Sonoma County city

wasn't producing higher attendance. Some players complained about the \$80 entry fee, while others moaned that five long games over three days was too much. Weikel shifted his sights to a San Francisco hotel site later in the summer and said he still lost money.

Meanwhile, the Santa Rosa sponsors cut the entry fee in half, shortened the time control and ran a four-round tournament that netted a total of 54 players in what was the only holiday weekend event in Northern California. Although Labor Day events are normally six rounds over three days, the sponsors left Monday off the schedule.

"We tried to make it attractive by giving everybody one of the holiday weekend days off and giving them entry fees in the \$35-40 range that they are used to," Goodall said

Impetus for the event started with the frustration of Andy Milburn, a Santa Rosa player who could not find a Labor Day event on the Northern California schedule. With the weekend off and no place to play, Milburn said helping organize an event and watching some good games was better than no chess at all.

Eugene Levin of Sunnyvale captured sole first place in the open section, winning all four games and pocketing a \$250 prize. Weston Leavens of Sebastopol and Jeremy Touma of Santa Rosa shared first place in the under-1600 reserve section, scoring 3½ points and winning \$125 each.

Goodall and Givens say they will go for another Jessie Jean's event over the Martin Luther King weekend next January, knocking

\$5 off the entry fee and retaining the two-day, four-round format.

White: Ben Haun (1809)

Black: Eugene Levin (2200)

Torre Attack

Notes by NM Eugene Levin

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. c3

A bit too cautious.

5...h6 6. Bh4 d5 7. Bd3 Qb6 8. Qc2?

Better would have been 8. Qc1, to leave a good square for the bishop.

8...c4 9. Be2 Ne4 10. Nbd2 g5 11. Bg3 Ng3 12. hg3 Bg7 13. e4

White was getting a bit crowded for space.

13...f5!?

A bit wild, but White is cramped, so it looks safe.

14. e5 Bd7 15. 0-0-0

Neither side looks safe for castling, but probably 0-0 was better, for Black's pawn chain points toward the queenside. If White plays b3 to attack the extended pawn chain, the c3-will become backward and very weak after an exchange on b3 followed by ...Rc8.

15... 0-0-0 16. b3?

Especially not now with the king and queen lined up on the weak c-file.

16...cb3 17. ab3 Kb8

Black's attack will be ready before White's.

18. Kb2 Rc8

Ouch! Threatening ...g4 followed by ...Nd4.

19. Qd3 g4 20. Nh2?

The knight is out of play. Better was Ne1-c2.

**20... a5 21. Ra1 Rc7 22. b4 Nc4
23. Nc4 Rc4**

Not 23...dc4?, which closes the weak c-file.

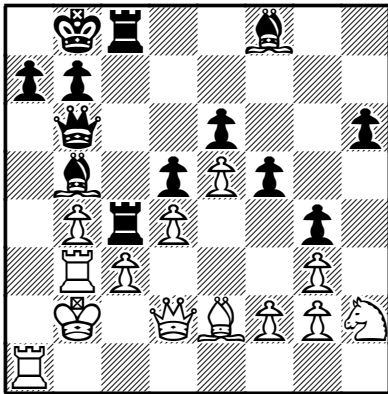
24. Ra3 Rhc8 25. Rha1 Bf8

Menacing ...Bb4.

26. Rb3 Bb5

Now all of Black's forces are in the attack.

27. Qd2



27...Rc3!!

Although the game has been a bit ragged up to here, this is really a very pretty combination with several branches.

28. Rc3 Rc3!

The point of the previous move.

29. Kc3

If 29. Qc3, then 29...Be2, after which the white b-pawn will fall and Black has an easy endgame. On 29. Bb5 Bb4, White loses his queen or is checkmated; for instance, 30. Ba4 Ba5 31. Ka2 Ra3, or 30. Qe2 Qd4, and White is busted.

29...Bb4! 30. Kb4 Bc4

Mate is next.

31. Resigns

White: Eugene Levin (2200)
Black: Dean Howard (2120)
Advance French
Notes by NM Eugene Levin

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5

Not the most exciting line of the French, but it is hard for White



National master Bob Sferra was in a second-place tie at the Sonoma County Open held Labor Day weekend in Santa Rosa. Photo by Shorman

to lose in this variation. It soon got a bit wilder than I had planned.

3...c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 Bd7 7. a3

Forces Black to make a decision about the c5-pawn, since White will continue with b4.

7...f6!? 8. 0-0

Perhaps 8. b4 was better.

8...c4 9. Nbd2 fe5 10. Ne5 Ne5 11. de5 Ne7 12. Bc4! Nc6

If 12...dc4 then 13. Nc4 followed by Nd6 and Nf7.

13. Bd3

13. Ba2, tucking the bishop away, was probably much better in retrospect.

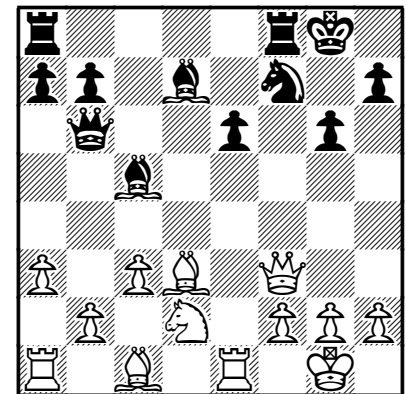
13...Ne5 14. Qh5 Nf7 15. Re1?

This is madness! White is undeveloped and has a huge weakness on f2. Much better is 15. Nf3.

15...g6 16. Qd5

It wasn't worth it!

16...Bc5 17. Qf3 0-0



Oy vey! Now I am in for it! White has four reasonable tries, but unfortunately each one is complicated and consumes precious time:

A) 18. Ne4? Ne5! (much better than 18...Ng5 19. Nf6 Rf6 20. Qf6 Rf8 21. Qg5 Bf2 22. Kh1 Be1 23. Be3! Bh4! 24. Bb6 Bg5 25. Ba7 and White is better) 19. Qe2 (Black also wins after 19. Nf6 Rf6 20. Qf6 Nd3) Nd3 20. Qd3 Bf2 21. Kh1 Be1 and Black wins;

B) 18. Rf1 Ne5 19. Qe2 Bf2 20. Kh1 (not 20. Rf2? Nd3++) Nd3 21. Qd3 Rad8 and Black is much better since material is even, while Black has better development, the bishop pair, control of the d-file, and the initiative;

Continued on Page 29

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How We Spent Our Summer Vacations

Summertime is for getting out of town and doing things. Chessplayers, though, tend to go out of town to, um, play chess. This summer, young players from Northern California took their breaks from school to travel to Asia and Europe—Daichi Siegrist of Orinda won the All Japan Junior Chess Tournament in Tokyo, while Eric Soderstrom of Belmont represented the Burlingame Chess Club at a club tournament in Stockholm.

A trio of young masters—Vinay Bhat of San Jose, David Pruess of Berkeley, and Philip Wang, a Nevada product attending school at Stanford—were invited to the U.S. Junior Championship in Tulsa, OK, at the end of July. Pruess annotates four games from that event.

Steven Zierk of Blossom Hill trekked across the country to join 1,300 others at the 29th World Open in Philadelphia on Independence Day weekend, and Zierk left the City of Brotherly Love with a check for \$3,667 after tying for



first place in the Under 1400 Section of the Bill Goichberg Sweepstakes.

California Chess Journal editor Frisco Del Rosario missed the Jessie Jean's tournament in

Santa Rosa on Labor Day weekend in order to fly to Birmingham, Alabama, and participate in the Alabama state championship, where he won the expert prize and the brilliancy prize.

Pruess Second, Bhat Fourth at U.S. Junior Championship in Tulsa

By David Pruess

Three Northern California players—international master Vinay Bhat, FIDE master Philip Wang, and I—were invited to compete in this year's U.S. Junior Championship held July 24–29 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For Vinay, this must be old hat, but for Philip and myself, it was a dream come true. Finally we had our chance to prove that east coast juniors are overrated relative to their west coast counterparts.

We had two goals: for the three of us to score more than half the score of the other seven players, and for me to win the tournament (actually, the latter was only my goal). Philip and I got off to good starts, but could not keep it up, while Vinay started poorly before dominating. In the end, we had convincingly attained the first goal. West Coast 16 - Rest of the Nation 29. Unfortunately, I played what must be one

of the worst games of the year, losing in the showdown for first place with eventual champion Hikaru Nakamura. A crushing blow, but of course, I refuse to regret taking the draw.

The tournament was a great experience, so now that I am too old to play again, I have to urge Northern California juniors: get into this tournament, and then go win it!

Now for some games...

In the second round, Philip quickly busted a higher-rated east coast opponent, IM Justin Sarkar.

White: Philip Wang (2349)
Black: Justin Sarkar (2448)
Catalan Opening
Notes by SM David Pruess

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 dc4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Qa4

Philip likes this move in general, and he knew that Sarkar would play the following line, so was ready for it.

6...Nd7 7. Qc4 Nb6 8. Qd3 e5 9. Be3 Nb4

9...Bb4 is also a main line.

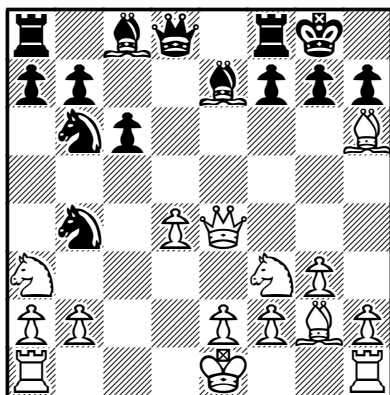
10. Qb5 c6!?

The more usual move is 10...Bd7. I have never seen this, but it does not seem worse.

11. Qe5 Be7 12. Na3 0-0 13. Qe4

White must hasten to extricate the queen before ...f5 traps her.

13...Be6



14. Qb1

Black's active pieces give him some compensation, but it is not clear how to proceed. One idea is 14...Qc8 15. 0-0 Bf5 16. Qc1 Qe6, focusing on the weak pawns at a2 and e2, when the discovered attack 17. d5 Qd5 18. N moves falls short against 18...Be4. Instead...

14...Qd5? 15. Ng5!

An original attack that gives White a big advantage.

15...Bf5?!

Philip pointed out Black's best chance: 15...Qf5! 16. Be4 Qa5, which interferes with White's mate threat, then makes a double threat of his own. Therefore, White should settle for 16. Ne6 with the bishop pair as well as an extra pawn.

16. Bd5 Bb1 17. Bf7 Kh8

17...Rf7? loses the exchange.

18. Rb1

18. Bb3 Bg6 (18...Bf5? 19. Nf7+) 19. Ne6 Rfc8 was a strong option.

18...Bg5 19. Bg5 Rf7 20. Bd2

With two extra pawns, Philip won easily.

Here we see Vinay doing his thing in a game that I really enjoyed.

White: Vinay Bhat (2496)
Black: Steven Winer (2407)
Moscow Sicilian
Notes by SM David Pruess

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5 Nd7

Most players prefer the less ambitious 4...Bd7.

4. 0-0 Ngf6 5. d4

I do not quite know what is going on with this gambit. How does White continue after 5...Ne4 6. Re1 Nef6? Perhaps 7. d5 a6 8. Bf1 b5 9. b3 b4 10. c4 bc3 11. Nc3 Nb6 12. Bg5 Bb7 13. Bf6 gf6 14. Nh4 with compensation. I am certain that Vinay would know what was going on there.

5...a6

Black secures the bishop pair; White has time and space.

6. Bd7 Nd7

6...Qd7 7. dc5 dc5 8. Qe2 Qc6 also looks playable, though I prefer White.

7. Nc3 e6 8. Bg5 Qc7

Black needs to play ...f6 eventually, in order to develop the bishop to e7 while avoiding the trade, so the immediate 8...f6 suggests itself.

9. dc5 Nc5

It is not a good idea to try to develop the bishop by 9...dc5 10. Re1 Bd6 because of 11. e5.

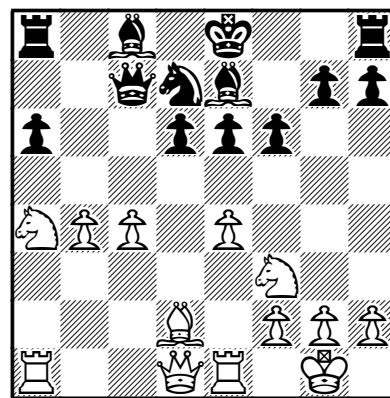
10. Re1 f6 11. Bd2

Defending the knight in anticipation of b4. Now if 11...Be7, then 12. Nd4 b5 13. b4 Nb7 leaves the black knight poorly placed.

11...b5 12. b4 Nd7 13. a4

Hurrying to gain the upper hand on the queenside.

13...ba4 14. Na4 Be7 15. c4



15...Rb8

The pawn is immune: 15...Qc4? 16. Rc1 Qa2 (16...Qb5 17. Nd4 followed by Ne6) 17. Nc3 Qa3 (17...Qc4 18. Nd5) 18. Rb1, and the queen is trapped.

16. h4

A useful move. White is looking around to see what he can do on the whole board. ...f6 has weakened the black kingside, and perhaps the h-pawn can worsen

**2001 U.S. Junior Invitational
Championship
July 27-29 • Tulsa, OK**

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------|-----|
| 1 | Hikaru Nakamura | New York | 7.5 |
| 2-3 | David Pruess | Berkeley | 6.5 |
| | Dmitry Schneider | New York | |
| 4 | Vinay Bhat | San Jose | 5.5 |
| 5 | Andrei Zaremba | Texas | 4.5 |
| 6-8 | Todd Andrews | Tennessee | 3 |
| | Justin Sarkar | New York | |
| | Philip Wang | Stanford | |
| 9 | Steven Winer | Vermont | 2.5 |
| 10 | Asuka Nakamura | New York | 2 |

Northern California Masters Achieve Their Collective Aim at U.S. Junior

that situation. Now if 16... Qc4?, then 17. Rc1 Qa2 18. Nc3 Qa3 19. Nb1 Qa2 20. Rc2 Qa1 21. Bc3 Qa4 22. Bf6, with threats of 23. Bg7 and 23. Rc8.

16...0-0 17. Rc1 Rd8

Black posts his pieces to strike back in the center after White plays c5 eventually.

18. h5 Bf8

Obviously, ...h6 by Black would give up g6, a juicy square.

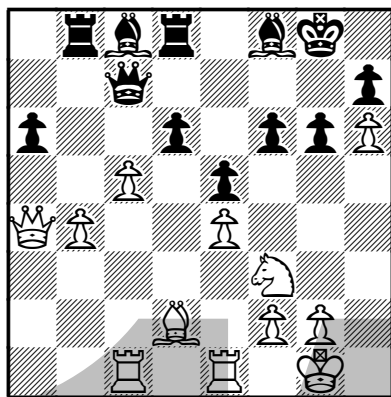
19. Qc2 Nb6 20. c5

20. Nb2 d5 is not at all what White wants.

20...Na4 21. Qa4 e5

To advance ...d5 at some point without the answer e5 by White.

22. h6 g6



23. Qa2

Perhaps 23. Be3, and then 23... d5 (23... Qb7? 24. c6 Qb4? 25. c7+) 24. ed5 Rd5 25. Red1 with a promising position for White.

23...Qf7 24. Qa4 Re8

Black is not trying to avoid a draw, but he knows White won't repeat, so he tries to improve his position by getting the rook out of the way of the c-pawn.

25. c6 Rb5 26. Red1 Re7 27. Be3 Rc7

Black has set up his blockade, so White sends the knight around to break it down.

28. Nd2 Qe8 29. Qa2 Qf7 30. Qa4 Qe8

Black offered a draw here, but White has a tactical resource for defending the pawn.

31. Nb1 Rb8

31...Rc6?? 32. Na3 wins an exchange.

32. Qa5 Rf7 33. Qa4

White is patient. Eventually he will hit upon a way to win. His opponent still has the chance to err, and it is much harder for Black to remain patient in this position.

33...Bb7?!

Black is playing to prevent Nc3-d5—which is why we don't see ...f5 here—but the bishop is unfortunately placed on b7 or a8, so he should've repeated with 33...Rc7.

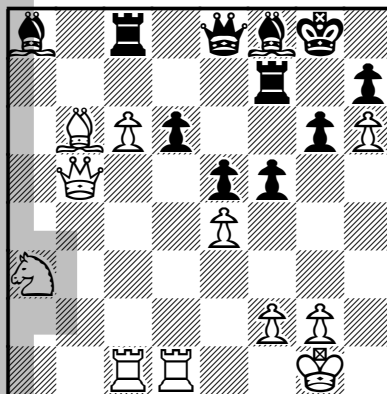
34. Na3 f5

Finally, the first sign of black counterplay.

35. b5 ab5 36. Qb5 Ba8 37. Bb6

A good square for the bishop. The pin will disappear after the pawn goes to c7.

37...Rc8



38. c7 Qe6

After 38...Qb5 39. Nb5, the threat of Na7 wins on the spot.

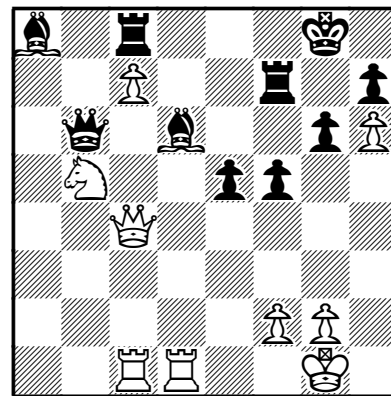
39. Qc4!!

The queen trade would end matters: 39...Qc4 40. Nc4 Rf6 (else Nd6, and if 40...Rd7, then 41. Ne5) 41. Ba5 with Nb6 to follow. Black tries a tactical chance, for he cannot stop Nb5-a7, but White has foreseen the following.

39...d5 40. ed5 Qb6 41. d6 Bd6

Or else 42. d7.

42. Nb5



42...Bc7

Or 42...Be7 43. Rd7 Kf8 44. Rcd1 and Rd8, winning. Black has successfully captured one extra piece and the two dangerous pawns, but...

43. Nd6

And White takes everything.

43...Bd6

43...Rf8 44. Nf7 Rf7 45. Rd7+.

44. Qc8 Bf8

Or 44...Rf8 45. Qe6.

45. Qa8 e4 46. Rd8

White even demonstrates a simple plan to checkmate. The h-pawn does its job.

46...Qf6

46...e3 47. Rf8 Rf8 48. Qd5 and mate follows.

47. Qd5 Qe7 48. Rcc8 Kh8 49. Qe5! Resigns

On the first day, I had to play against the two highest-rated players. The tone for the whole tournament could have been set there, and if I lost against one of them, I might not have had the chance to catch them. Time for some nerves.

White: Vinay Bhat (2501)
Black: David Pruess (2376)
Advance French
Notes by SM David Pruess

1. e4 e6 2. d4

The first time that Vinay has not played some kind of King's Indian Attack against me.

2...d5 3. e5 b6

An uncommon but very strong answer to the dubious Advance variation. White's reply is also uncommon.

4. Bb5 c6 5. Ba4 Ba6?

Black is doing great after 5...b5 6. Bb3 c5.

6. Ne2 Qh4?

Black's "point." Clearly I was overexcited going into the first game.

7. Nf4

From here on, Black is struggling.

7...g5

Else the queen must retreat to d8, after which it will be clear how little sense Black's position makes.

8. g3

8. Qh5 is also fairly strong, but I guess White felt that one of Black's problems is the awkward placement of his queen, and preferred to keep the queens on the board.

8...Qh6 9. Nh5 Qg6 10. Nd2

During the game I was more worried about 10. Be3, which makes White's development



There are no short handshakes for senior master David Pruess (right), whose Internet Chess Club finger notes once said draws are the death of chess. His game against regional compatriot Vinay Bhat at the U.S. Junior Championship in July resulted in a win for Pruess. Photo courtesy Green Country Chess

easier, but the moves are probably of equal value.

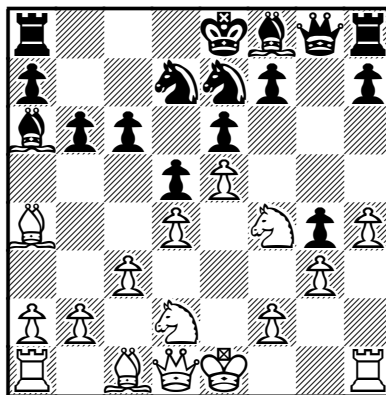
10...Ne7 11. c3

Of course 11. Nf6 only serves to misplace the knight, and move the king in the right direction, but 11. h4 was already possible, and if White wants to play c4, then that is the way to go. Still, after 11.h4 g4 12.Nf4 Qg8 13.c4 Bh6, I do not see what White has.

11...Nd7 12. h4 g4

12...gh4 13. Rh4 was too dangerous, for the white pieces become more active, while Black remains disorganized.

13. Nf4 Qg8



14. c4?

This move is bad, on the board and psychologically. If he had continued with either slow plan, 14. Bc2 or 14. h5, I would have been unhappy about defending my position, and he would have been at home squeezing me. Now comes a burst of tactics, along with activity for Black, so I become a happy man.

To get a good idea of how bad Black's position was, look at the positions after 14. Bc2 c5 15. Bd3 Bd3 16. Nd3 Nf5 17. Qa4 or 14. Bc2 0-0-0 15. Bd3 Bd3 16. Nd3 and 17. 0-0. Black is so lacking in ideas in those positions, that I would imagine White's advantage to be sizable.

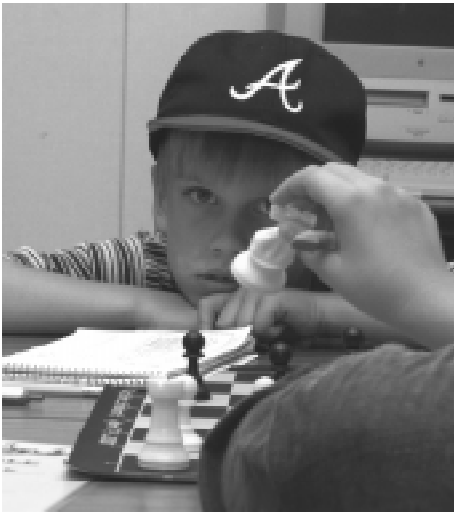
14...Bh6!

The threat of capturing either knight forces White down the tactical road.

Continued on Page 17

Submission Deadline
The submission deadline for the January/February 2002 issue of the California Chess Journal is December 10. We're not kidding.

State 3rd-Grade Champion Steven Zierk Wins \$3,667 at World Open



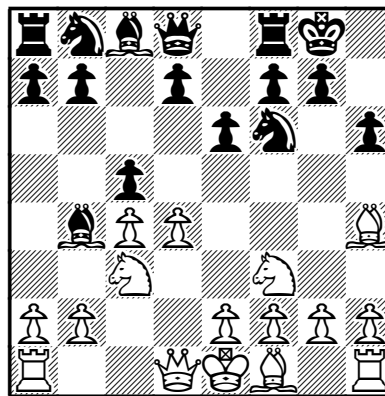
rounded kid involved in soccer and baseball, according to his dad.

White: Sang Kim (1317)
Black: Steven Zierk (1234)
Nimzo-Indian Leningrad
Notes by Steven Zierk and NM Jon Frankle

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bg5 0-0

Though Black's 5th and 6th moves are standard, most theory involves postponing or even omitting kingside castling.

5. Nf3 h6 6. Bh4 c5



7. e4

White might be better after 7. d5 or 7. e3, or the sacrificial 7. Qb3 cd4 8. Qb4 Nc6 9. Bf6 Nb4 10. Bd8 Nc2 11. Kd2 Na1 12. Be7 Re8 13. Bd6 a5), where Black is tied down.

7...g5 8. Ng5

An understandable attempt for double-edged play, as 8. Bg3 Ne4 simply looks good for Black.

8...hg5 9. Bg5 cd4 10. a3

Also possible is 10. Qd4 Nc6 11. Qd3 (11. Qf6 does not win a piece due to 11...Be7) Bc3 12. bc3.

10...Be7

Black missed the strong continuation 10...Bc3 11. bc3 Qa5

(11...dc3 12. Qf3 is trouble for Black) 12. Bf6 Qc3 13. Ke2 d3 14. Ke3 Qf6.

11. Qd4 Nc6 12. Qd2 d5

Black can consider 12...Re8 to avoid the loss of the exchange. However, the text does free Black's pieces, making the game easier to play than some of the cramped positions that might result with the extra knight for two pawns.

13. Bh6

13. ed5 ed5 14. Bh6 is a pawn better than the game.

13...Ne4 14. Ne4 de4 15. Bf8 Qd2 16. Kd2 Bg5 17. Kc3 Kf8

Black seems better after these exchanges.

18. h4 Bf6 19. Kb3 Nd4 20. Ka2 Bd7 21. Re1 Bc6 22. Be2 Ne2

A questionable decision, because the knight is more active than the bishop. 22...Nc2 is possible.

23. Re2 Ke7 24. h5 Rh8 25. g4 e3 26. Rg1

A mistake. White can keep fighting with 26. Rh3 ef2 27. Rf2. The text enables Black to turn a small advantage into a clear lead.

26...ef2 27. Rf1 Bd4 28. Rd2 Bg2 29. Rff2 Bf2 30. Rf2 Bh3 31. Rf4 f5 32. gf5 Bf5 33. Rh4 Rh6 34. b4 Bg6

Taking advantage of the pin.
35. c5 Rh5 36. Rh5 Bh5

Black is happy to simplify.

37. Kb2 e5 38. Kc2 Ke6 39. Kd3 Kd5 40. Kc3 e4 41. a4 a6 42. a5 Bg4 43. Kd2 Kd4 44. Kc2 e3 45. b5 ab5 46. c6 bc6 47. a6 Bc8 48. a7 Bb7 49. Kd1 Kd3 50. Ke1 e2 51. a8(Q) Ba8 52. Kf2 Kd2 53. Resigns

Steven Zierk, Northern California's reigning 3rd-grade champion, went to Philadelphia on the July 4th holiday to play in the 29th annual World Open. Zierk scored 7½-1½ in the Under 1400 Section to finish in a tie for 1st-3rd place and a \$3,667 prize. He also earned the right to share father Jon's Palm Pilot whenever he wants it.

The elder Zierk uses the Palm for work, but Steven likes to use it for games — "I told him, 'If you score more than seven points at the World Open, I'll get you your own Palm Pilot.' Boy, did I get schnookered on that one," said Jon, but they did arrange not to have to buy another digital assistant. "Now I have to share it whenever he wants to borrow it," he said.

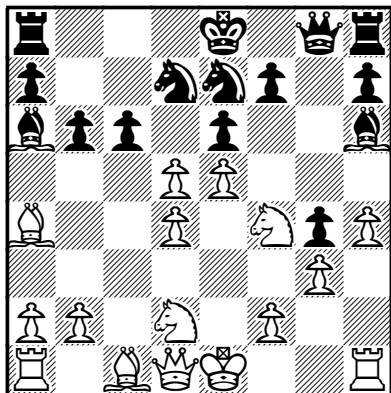
The prize check sits in the bank, out of the 7-year-old's reach, but his dad did say that he has a photocopy that he looks at occasionally. Steven's next event is the National Youth Action tournament in Rockford, Ill., in November.

At 1553, Steven is ranked second on the USCF's list of players under 8. In July, he was rated 1234. He studies chess every day, but remains a well-

French Defenders and Compatriots Pruess and Bhat Collide at U.S. Junior

Continued from Page 15

15. cd5



15...ed5

15...Bf4? is a mistake: 16. dc6 Bd2 17. Bd2 Nf8 18. c7 b5 (Black can resign after 18...Nd7 19. Bd7 Kd7 20. Qa4 Kc7 21. Qa6) 19. Qb3 Nd7 (19...ba4 20. Qa4 Nd7 21. Qa6 Qg6 22. 0-0 Qe4 23. Rac1 Rc8 24. Rfd1 Qa8 [Black cannot play 24...Qd4 25. Be3 Qe4 26. Rd7 Kd7 27. Qd6 Ke8 28. Bg5] 25. Bb4 Nd5 26. Bd6 leaves White in full control) 20. Bb5 Bb5 21. Qb5 Qg6 22. 0-0 Qe4 23. Rac1 Qd5 (23...Qd4 24. Rfd1 Qd5 [24...Qe5 25. Qb7] 25. Qa6 Rc8 26. Be3 Qa8 27. Qd6 Nb6 28. Bg5 Ned5 29. a4 Rg8 30. a5 Rg5 31. hg5 Nd7 32. a6!+-) 24. Qa6 Rc8 25. Rfd1 and Black cannot do much, while 15...cd5? loses a piece to 16. Bd7, and 15...Nd5? 16. Nd5 ed5 17. Bc6 probably loses just as much.

16. Nd5

White cannot back down now. Black's bishops would be very strong after 16. Nf1 0-0-0, for instance.

16...Nd5

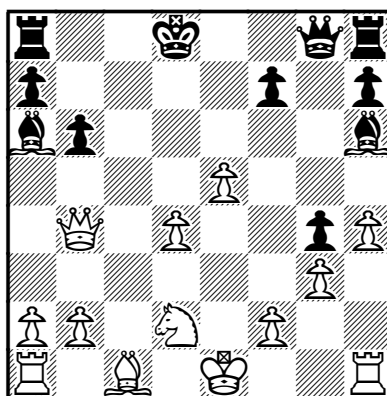
16...ed5 17. Bd7+-.

17. Bc6 Nb4

Interesting is 17...0-0-0, with the idea of 18. Bd5? Ne5 19. Qa4

Nd3 20. Kd1 Nf2 21. Ke1 (21. Kc2 Qg6 22. Be4 Bd3 23. Kb3 [23. Kc3 Be4+] Ne4 24. Ne4 Qe4+) Qe8 22. Qe8 Rhe8 23. Kf2 Re2+, but instead 18. Qa4! Nc7 (18...Nb8 19. Ne4 is a similar situation) 19. Ne4 Bc1 20. Rc1 with an overwhelming attack.

18. Bd7 Kd7 19. Qa4 Kd8 20. Qb4



20...Qg6

The smoke has cleared, and a new game begins. White has to play most accurately to avoid disaster, starting with 21. Qa3! Then Black has:

A) 21... Bb7? 22. 0-0! Bd2? 23. Bd2 Qe4 24. Bg5 leads to mate;

B) 21... Bd2 22. Kd2 Qe4 23. Qa6 Qh1 24. Qe2 h5 25. Kd3 Kd7 26. b3 with a complicated fight but Black's chances should be preferred;

C) 21... Bd3 22. f4 gf3 23. Kf2 Rg8 (Black must also be careful: 23...Rc8? 24. h5!) 24. Rg1 (24. Qd6 Qd6 25. ed6 Rc8+) and this is too complicated. One important line might be 24...Rc8 25. h5 (25. Qd6 Qd6 26. ed6 Rc2 27. Kf3 f5+) Qh5 26. Qd3 Qh2 27. Kf1 Rc2 28. Qf3 Bd2 29. Qd5 (also 29. Qe4 Bc1+ and 29. Qa8 Ke7 30. Qa7 [30. Qg8 Bc1+] Kf8+) Ke8 30. Qa8 Ke7+, but perhaps I am missing some defensive resource.

21. f4?

Now Black wins, which would also be the case after 21. Qd6? Qd6 22. ed6 Re8 23. Kd1 Be2 24. Kc2 Rc8 25. Kb3 Bd3, and White will soon lose a piece.

21...gf3 22. Kf2 Rc8 23. Qa3

White can no longer offer any resistance: 23. Qd6 Qd6 24. ed6 Rc2 is easy.

23...Rc2

Now 24. Qa6 Bd2 leads to mate.

24. Rd1 Be2 25. Qa7

The game continues because of time trouble.

25...Bd1 26. Qa8 Kd7 27. Qb7 Ke8 28. h5 Qc6 29. Qb8 Qc8 30. Qb6 Bd2 31. Bd2 Rd2 32. Ke3

The alternatives all lead to checkmate immediately.

32...Re2 33. Kf4 Rg8 34. Qb5 Kf8 35. Qb4 Kg7 36. Qe7

36. Rd1 Kh8 and mates.

36...Kh8 37. Qf6 Rg7 38. Qh4 Qa8 39. Kf5 Bc2 40. Resigns

Going into round 2, I am just as nervous. Having some clue about the opening for once helps that, however, and I soon got comfortable in the game.

White: David Pruess (2376)
Black: Dmitry Schneider (2494)
Stonewall Dutch
Notes by SM David Pruess

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e3

Avoiding the Noteboom.

4...Bd6 5. Bd3 f5

I had seen that Schneider plays this transposition to the Stonewall, but had the feeling that the position which arises on move 7 is dubious for Black.

6. g4 Nh6 7. gf5 0-0

Continued on Page 19

Daichi Siegrist Captures All Japan Junior and Elementary Titles

In Japan, Go and *shogi* are far more popular than chess, so just seven players participated in the All Japan Junior Chess Championship held July 27 and 28 in Tokyo. Daichi Siegrist, 11, from Orinda, Calif., and top-ranked T. Sano tied for first place with 4½-1½ scores. Siegrist, one of the United States' top 50 players under 13, defeated Sano in their game, and won the event on tiebreaks.

Daichi's younger brother Yuki finished near the bottom of the crosstable in the junior championship, but redeemed himself in the All Japan Elementary Championship on July 29, finishing in second place, losing only to Daichi, who won his second national title in as many days.

The brothers maintain dual American/Japanese citizenships, but there was no residency requirements to play in the All Japan events. By winning the All Japan Junior title, Daichi qualified to lead the Japanese junior Olympiad team, but according to his mother Mitsuko, there is not enough interest in the country to field a team—one of the other qualifiers from the All Japan Junior said he would not travel to Europe for a FIDE junior team tournament.

In fact, according to Mrs. Siegrist, attendance at the Japan junior championships dropped from last year's 12 players, because 11 of those players all came from the same high school, and this year they opted to attend college preparation seminars.

As a result of his win in the junior championship, Daichi was invited to play in a FIDE-sanctioned open tournament, but the Siegrists, who were in Japan visiting family, could not stay long enough for still another chess event.



The Berkeley Chess School added two international titles to its collection when Daichi Siegrist won the All Japan junior and elementary championships in Tokyo in July.

Photo by Shorman

White: T. Sano (1800)
Black: Daichi Siegrist (1600)
Englund Gambit

1. d4 e5 2. de5 Nc6 3. Nf3 f6 4. e4 d6

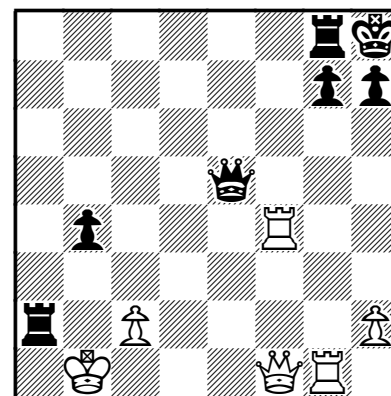
No doubt this position is familiar to Englund gambiteers, so 4...d6 isn't a sudden inspiration, but it doesn't make a lot of sense. By inviting White to play ed6—and White should—the f6-pawn remains to hinder the king knight.

5. Nc3 Be6 6. ef6 Nf6 7. Bb5 Be7 8. Be3 0-0 9. Qe2 a6 10. Bc4 Bc4 11. Qc4 Kh8 12. 0-0-0 Qe8 13. Nd4 Nd4 14. Bd4 c5 15. Bf6 Bf6 16. Rd6

That looks like one of those weak pawns that Cecil Purdy said we shouldn't take, so that our opponents would be left to worry about them. 16. Nd5 threatens 17. Nc7, and also 17. Nf6, an ex-

change that would well consolidate White's extra pawn.

16...b5 17. Qe6 Qg6 18. Kb1 Qg2 19. Rdd1 Bc3 20. bc3 Qf2 21. Rdg1 c4 22. Qg4 Qf6 23. Rg3 b4 24. Rhg1 Ra7 25. cb4 a5 26. e5 Qe5 27. Qc4 ab4 28. Rf3 Raa8 29. Qf1 Rg8 30. Rf4 Ra2!



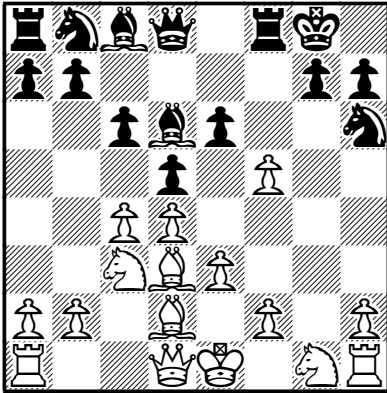
31. Resigns

Breaking Down the Stonewall Dutch

Continued from Page 17

So far following a game between Seirawan and Schneider, but instead of 8. Nge2, I proceeded to castle queenside as quickly as possible.

8. Bd2



8...Nf5 9. Qe2

The queen must defend f2 and f3 in order to castle. 9. Qc2 would not work so well: 9...Qh4 10. Nf3

Qh3 11. Be2 Nh4 12. Ng5 Ng2 13. Kd1 Qh6 14. f4, and White's task has been complicated (Black might try 14...c5). After 9. Qe2, Black is faced with a dilemma. Dmitry spent about 40 minutes convincing himself that the following ideas are insufficient:

A) 9...c5 10. dc5 Bc5 11. cd5 ed5 12. Nd5 Nc6 (12...Be6? 13. Nf4) 13. Nf3 Kh8 14. Nf4 with a sound extra pawn;

B) 9...e5 10. de5 Be5 11. Nf3 Bf6 12. 0-0-0 and White's lead in development is significant. For example, 12...Kh8 13. e4 de4 (13...Nd4 14. Nd4 Bd4 15. ed5 with a pawn and the attack) 14. Ne4 Nd4 15. Nd4 Bd4 16. Ng5 is crushing;

C) 9...a6 10. 0-0-0 b5 11. c5 Bc7 12. f4 and Black's play is insufficient;

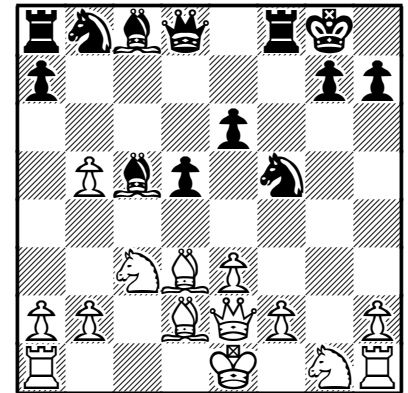
D) 9...Nd7 10. 0-0-0 Qf6 11. f4 (11. Nf3? Ne7) and again there is not much play for Black.

White's position plays so easily and naturally in these positions that one gets the impression that it is already a won game.

9...b5 10. cb5 c5

This pawn sacrifice should not work, but given the alternatives, it certainly cannot be criticized.

11. dc5 Bc5



Continued on Page 22



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Soderstrom's Summer Travel Includes Stockholm Chess Tournament

Eric Soderstrom, a student at the Ralston Middle School in Belmont, Calif., traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, in July to visit his father. While he was there, Soderstrom represented the Burlingame Chess Club at the 2001 Hasselbacken Open, where he won one game. 130 players participated in the event, who played one game per day for a week.



Eric Soderstrom and international master Pia Cramling, for years one of Sweden's top players.
Photo courtesy the Soderstrom family

White: Carsten Cedelard (1210)
Black: Eric Soderstrom (1090)
Kan Sicilian

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 a6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. a3

A non-developing move that should also perk up Black's tactical eyes. Occasionally in the Kan Sicilian, Black is able to uncork ...Ba3!? when it threatens ...Bb2, and if White answers ba3, then ...Qc3 mops up the queenside. Now White has put a pawn there to capture.

6...Nc6 7. Be3 b5 8. b4

A mistake, permanently weakening the c-file, which is Black's primary line for counterplay in open Sicilians. ...b4 was not a threat for Black in any case.

8...Nb4 9. Bd2

9. Qd2 would not enable Black to withdraw his knight with a threatening move. Then 9...Nc6 10. Be2 gives White three developing moves for the pawn, but Black's solid position doesn't suggest an attack, and eventually White's weak queenside will tell.

9...Nc6 10. Nc6 Qc6 11. Be2

Again Black's most obvious reply will make a threat. 11. Bd3 would leave room for the queen to develop, and perhaps show some

ambition to play e5 and Ne4 in the future.

11...Nf6 12. Bf3 Qc7 13. 0-0 Rb8

13...Bb7 and ...Rc8 puts both pieces on natural squares, but the text renews White's fear of ...b4.

14. Qe1 d6 15. Qe3 Be7 16. Rfe1 0-0 17. Qd3 Bb7 18. Rac1 Rfd8 19. Nb1 Rbc8 20. c3

A very odd sequence of moves by White, sealing up his minor pieces.

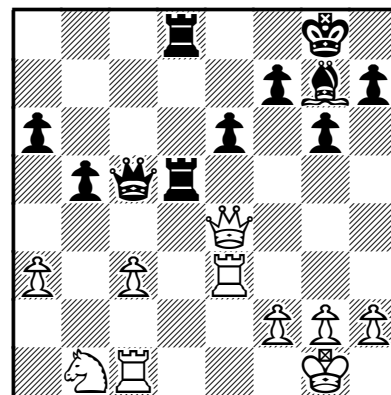
20... Qc4 21. Qc2 Nd7 22. Be3 Bf6 23. Red1 Nc5 24. Bc5 Qc5 25. Rd3 d5 26. ed5 Bd5 27. Bd5 Rd5 28. Rh3 g6 29. Rf3 Bg7 30. Qe4

Weakening his back rank, of which Black takes winning advantage.

30...Rcd8 31. Re3

Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Overheard at the chess club: "The first one to e-mail me that 'chess nuts boasting on an open foyer' joke gets a kick in the butt, I swear."



31...Bd4! 32. Re2 Bf2 33. Kh1 Rd1 34. Re1 Re1 35. Re1 Be1 36. Qe1 Qd5

If Black tried to bore in more deeply with 36...Qe3?, White interposes usefully after 37. Qe3 Rd1 38. Qg1.

37. h3

White's self-immolated knight is doomed by another back rank threat.

37...Qd1 38. Qd1 Rd1 39. Kh2 Rb1 40. Resigns

Editor Wins Alabama Brilliancy Prize

California Chess Journal editor Frisco Del Rosario visited Alabama on Labor Day weekend, and won the first expert prize and the brilliancy prize at the 2001 Alabama State Chess Championship held Sept. 1-3 in Birmingham.

National master Bill Melvin, the Alabama chess federation president, won the 62-player event with a 5½-½ score, defeating the Californian in the last round.

White: Charles Smith (1875)
Black: Frisco Del Rosario (2015)
Two Knights Defense
Notes by Frisco Del Rosario

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Ng5

White has moved the knight twice, but his threat of 5. Nf7 is troublesome enough to supercede the general principle.

4...d5

The only move to block the c4-f7 diagonal, though 4...Bc5, sacrificing the f7-pawn, is worth a try.

5. ed5

Now 5...Nd5 brings the black king under fire by 6. Nf7 Kf7 7. d4, so instead of capturing on d5, Black must move his knight to a5 (or to d4 with the pawn attack ...b5 to follow) to attack the white bishop, but it is also OK to make the pawn attack first.

5...b5 6. Bb5 Qd5

Black's pawn sacrifice has scattered White's pieces a bit, and taken White out of the center, but he does not have full compensation for the gambit.

7. Qe2

At once guarding the bishop and threatening 8. Bc6 Qc6 9. Qe5, or simply 8. 0-0 with an extra pawn.

7...Qg2

The only move to prevent White from castling. Keeping the

white king in the center will justify White's capturing check.

8. Qe5

8. Qf3 Qf3 9. Nf3 Bd7 10. d3 Rb8 11. Ba4 Bc5 looked good for Black in Miklosi-Braun, 1999 Hungarian championship.

8...Be7 9. Bc6 Qc6

White's two captures with check are done, and now Black's threat of ...Qh1 plus his ability to castle followed by ...Re8 give him the initiative.

10. f3

Weakening the kingside, but f3 is also required after 10. 0-0 Bb7 11. f3. Neither did White like the looks of 10. Rg1 0-0 and ...Re8.

10...0-0 11. Ne4

It seems White's idea with 10. f3 was to block the e-file with Ne4,

but he is falling further behind in development. 11. 0-0 is still possible, but 11. Qe7 is not, for 11...Re8 pins the queen.

11...Ne4 12. Qe4

12. fe4 Bh4 is also good for Black, but the e-file would be closed. White probably viewed the queen-and-rook skewer as affording him a tempo for castling.

12...Bh4

If 13. Qh4, then 13...Qf3 makes two threats: ...Qh1 and ...Re8. If 13. Kd1, then 13...Qe4 14. fe4 Bg4 is checkmate.

13. Kf1 Bh3 14. Kg1 Rae8 15. Resigns

In view of 15. Qc6 Re1 mate, or 15. Qh4 Qf3 16. Qf2 Re1 17. Qe1 Qg2 mate.

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Senior Master David Pruess Reports on the U.S. Junior Invitational

Continued from Page 19

12. 0-0-0 Qc7

12...a6 was more complicated. White would continue 13. Nf3 ab5 14. e4 de4 (14...Nd4 15. Nd4 Bd4 16. ed5 is not tenable) 15. Ne4 Be7 (15...Qc7 16. Kb1 merely loses time for Black, while 15...Ra2 16. Nc5 Nd4 [again if 16...Qc7, 17. Kb1, or 16...Ra1 17. Bb1 Qc7 18. Qe5 Qc6 19. Bc3] 17. Nd4 Qd4 18. Be3 and Black has nothing.) Now White must play actively because his own king is quite exposed. 16. Neg5, immediately focusing on e6, seems to do the trick, and then 16...Qb6 17. Rhe1.

13. Nf3 Nd7

13...Bb7 14. Rhg1 Nd7 15. e4 is similar to the game. White might even improve by 15. Ng5 Rac8 16. Qh5 Nf6 (16...h6 17. Ne6+) 17. Qh3 and Black has no defense against the idea of Ne6.

14. e4 Nd4

Or 14...de4 15. Qe4 Nf6 16. Qc4 Nd6 17. Qh4 Nf5 18. Qh3 and the decisive attack is near.

15. Nd4 Bd4 16. ed5 Ne5

16...ed5 17. Kb1 Bb7 (17...Bc3 18. Bc3 Nf6 leaves White with the bishop pair as well as an extra pawn) 18. Bh7 Kh7 19. Qd3 Kg8 20. Qd4 gives White a solid two-pawn advantage.

17. Bh7?

After 17. Bc2, Black is out of moves.

17...Kh7 18. Qe4 Rf5

Best.

19. Qd4 ed5 20. Kb1

20. Qd5 does not win a third pawn because of 20...Bb7 21. Qe6 Raf8 22. Rhg1 Rf2. However, 20. Qd5 and 20. f4 were serious alternatives.

20...Nf3

How else to save the pawn?

21. Qd3 d4

Black avoids 21...Qd6 22. Be3, blockading the weak d-pawn.

22. Ne2 Qe5

If 22...Qd8 or 22...Qd6, then 23. Be3. On 22...Qd7, 23. Ng3 is the reply, while 22...Qc5 23. Bf4 Qd5 transposes.

23. Bf4 Qd5 24. Nd4 Nd4 25. Qd4 Be6 26. b3

One last trick: 26. Qd5? Bd5 27. Rhe1 Ba2 28. Ka2 Rf4 is technically difficult.

26...Qd4

Black has nothing better than to trade queens because his king is more exposed than White's.

27. Rd4 Rb5 28. Kb2

The rest is simple. White will win one of Black's remaining pawns on g7 or a5. A trade of one pair of rooks makes the task simpler.

28...Bf5 29. Rc1 Re8 30. Rc7 a5 31. Be3 Re6 32. Ka3 Rg6 33. h4 Rg1 34. h5 Resigns

I made a critical mistake in my selection of opening in round 5, and lost a well-played game by Todd Andrews. In round 6, I waited with bated breath to see if I would collapse completely.

White: David Pruess (2376)

Black: Andrei Zaremba (2376)

Sicilian Sozin

Notes by SM David Pruess

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bc4 Qb6 7. Nb3 e6 8. 0-0 Be7 9. Bg5?

A bad line which I have played before, but whose time to retire has come and passed. Unfortunately, I did not know anything else, so I gave it one last go.

9...a6 10. Kh1 Qc7 11. f4 b5! 12. Bd3 b4 13. Ne2?!

I suppose I should have acquiesced to 13. Na4 with an unpleasant position, but I angrily refused. Now Andrei missed his big chance to reach a favorable Najdorf structure with 13. Ne2 Ng4 14. Be7 Qe7 15. Qd2 e5.

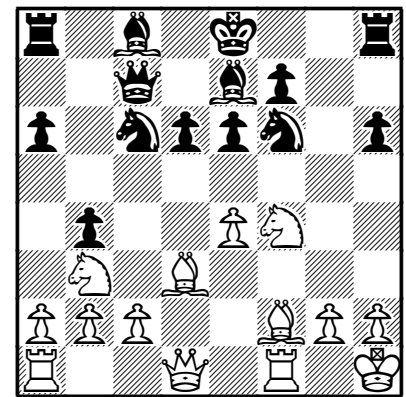
13...h6 14. Bh4 g5?

He still could have played ...Ng4, while ...g5 really hurts the black position because the king no longer has an attractive home. This is sufficient basis to claim a significant white advantage from here on.

15. Bf2 gf4

I thought 15...Nh5 was more challenging, with the idea of 16. f5 e5, locking the center. White should still be better.

16. Nf4



16...h5

Preventing Nh5, which would give White play along the f-file, and trying to organize counterplay against the white king. This is Black's best strategy.

17. Qe2

17. a3 immediately was not as good because of 17... ba3 18. Ra3? d5.

17...Ng4

Here Black had a major alternative in 17...Bb7 18. a3 0-0-0, but

it is probably bad in view of 19. ab4 Nb4 20. Ra4 d5 (20...Nd3? 21. cd3 Kb8 22. Rc1 Qd7 23. Qe3 is a disaster for Black) 21. e5 Ng4 22. Bd4 and there isn't much for Black to do. For instance, 22...Nc6 23. Ba6 Nd4 24. Nd4 and the e5-pawn is immune: if 24...Ne5 or 24...Qe5, 25. Bb7 with 26. Qa6 to follow.

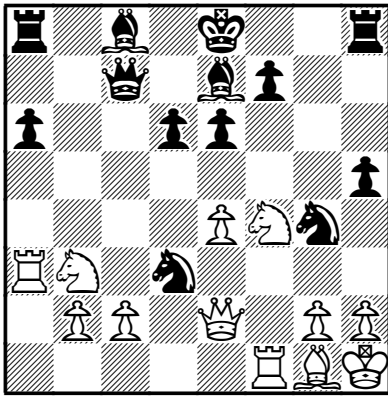
18. Bg1 Nce5

An important element in this position is the tactic Nh5, which removes the guard of the g4-knight, so Black defends it again.

19. a3

To discourage Black from castling queenside.

19...ba3 20. Ra3 Nd3



21. cd3 d5

Black seizes the opportunity provided by 19. a3 to weaken the diagonals leading to the white king. This idea is not sufficient with best play by White, but certainly provides better chances than waiting for White to improve his position.

22. Ra1

This is what I had planned when I played 19. a3. Highly complicated is 22. ed5, but I did not think it was time to cloud the issue, and did not accord it much thought. 22...Ba3 is probably too risky a reply: 23. de6 fe6 (if 23...Be7, then 24. ef7 Kd8 25. Nd5 and Bb6, winning, and 23...Bd6 24. ef7 Kd8 25. Ng6 also seems to win) 24. Ne6 Be6 (24...Qe7 25.



David Pruess at the San Francisco Firecracker Open

Photo by Kevin Batangan

Nc7 with two extra pawns) 25. Qe6 Be7 (25...Qe7 26. Qc6) 26. Qf7 Kd7 (26...Kd8 27. Qd5) 27. Qd5 Qd6 28. Nc5 Kc7 29. Qb7+-). Therefore, Black would probably go in for 22...e5 23. d6 Bd6 and Black is holding on, though 23...Qd6 24. Bc5 Qd7 25. Be7 Qe7 26. Nd5 gives White some advantage.

22...de4 23. de4 Qb8

I expected 23...Bd6 24. g3 Bb7 25. Rac1 Qb8 26. Na5, where White has prevented tricks with ...h4, and Black's position is still bad.

24. Nc5

Stronger was 24. Na5 Bd6 25. g3 (25. Nh5? Nh2 26. e5? Nf1+) Bb7 (25...f5 26. ef5 Bb7 27. Nb7 Qb7 28. Ng2+-) 26. Nh5 f5 27. Ng7 Ke7 (27...Kf8 28. Nf5+-) 28. Nb7 Qb7 29. Rf5! Nh2 (29...Nh6 30. Rff1 Rag8 31. Ra6+-) 30. Bh2 ef5 31. Nf5+-.

24...Bd6 25. g3 Bc5 26. Bc5 Bb7 27. Qc4 Qc8

Time pressure has set in already, but the last few moves were accurate until a major mis-

step occurs. White should continue with 28. Rfe1, reinforcing the e-pawn. Then 28...Nf2 (Black also looks stuck after 28... Qc6 29. Nd5 Rc8 30. b4) 29. Kg1 Ne4 30. Re4 Be4 31. Re1 f5 (31...Bf5 32. Nd5) 32. Ne6 doesn't work for Black.

28. Rad1? Qc6 29. Nd5 Rd8?

Here Black could have gotten right back into the game with 29...Rc8 30. b4 a5, when White might have to run for a draw with 31. Rf4 ab4 32. Rg4, and then 32...Qc5 33. Nf6 Ke7 34. Rd7 Kf8 35. Rd8 Ke7 36. Rd7, etc., or 32...ed5 33. Qd4 (33. Rd5? hg4 34. Re5 Kd8 35. Qf7 Rc7+-) hg4 34. Qh8 Kd7 35. Rd5 Qd5 36. Qc8 and White can hold. On the other hand, 29...ed5? only leads to a grim death after 30. ed5 Qe6 (30...Qb5 31. Qe4 Kd8 32. Qe7 Kc8 33. Rf7+- or 30...Qc7 31. Rfe1 Kd8 32. Qd4 Rh6 33. Re7+-) 31. Rfe1 Ne5 32. Qa4 Kd8 33. Qe4+-.

30. Qd4

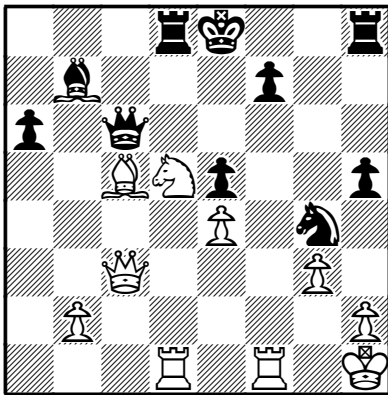
The threats of Qh8 and Nf6 force ...e5, after which Black cannot generate pressure on the

Berkeley Star Urges NorCal Juniors to Win Invitational Title in the Future

long diagonal. White is again on top.

30...e5 31. Qc3

31. Nf6 Nf6 32. Qe5 Qe6 33. Rd8 Kd8 does not lead to anything.



31...Qc8?? 32. Qf3??

A mutual oversight allows Black to play a defense that is not in the position. Both players missed 32. Qe5! when it was a theme I was looking for every move, showing what time trouble can do. I suppose "proper play" would have been something along the lines of 31...Rc8 32. b4 a5 33. Qf3 Qg6 34. Kg1 ab4 35. Bb4, and now 35...Rc2 is easily rebuffed by 36. Qd3, while 35...h4 loses to 36. Qg4, and 35...Bd5 36. Rd5 h4 37. h3 is also a win. Black has probably run out of resources.

32...Bd5

32...Rh7 33. Nf6 Nf6 34. Qf6 fails to 34... Be4, but simply 33. Qg4 wins on the spot.

33. Rd5 f6

33...Rh7 was an alternative, but Black is lost in any case, because there is no escape for his king.

34. Qb3!

Though I missed 32. Qe5, I managed to calculate the line with

31...Rc8, and this idea as well. What one sees and doesn't see in time trouble does not make sense!

34...Rd5

Forced, as White was threatening 35. Rd8.

35. Qd5

Now White is dominating. He can eventually kick the knight with h3, then play Rf6. 35...Qd7 36. Qa8 Qd8 37. Qa6 threatens Qe6, and creates the possibility of Ra1 for White. Black cannot resist for long.

35...h4 36. gh4

Simple. The black pieces still can't do anything. I think a computer recommended ...a5 when it saw this position, so Black might as well find out what happens if he takes on h4...

36...Rh4 37. Qg8 Kd7 38. Qd5

Gaining time on the clock. Get closer to move 40, in case something was overlooked.

38...Ke8 39. Qg8 Kd7 40. Qf7 Kc6 41. Qd5 Kb5

41...Kc7 42. Qd6 Kb7 43. Qb6 Ka8 44. Qa7 mate.

42. Be3 Resigns

One of the toughest psychological tasks for me is playing good chess immediately after losing a critical game. The inclination is just not there to fight any longer. Down a full point—rather than half a point—in the last round, the chances of coming back to tie for first were fairly small, but Philip said he would fight as hard as he could against Hikaru, and I decided to try my hardest as well. This might be the first time I have handled this psychological situation.

White: David Pruess (2376)
Black: Justin Sarkar (2448)

French Winawer
Notes by SM David Pruess

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 Ne7 5. a3 Bc3 6. bc3 c5 7. h4 Qc7 8. h5 h6

I would also prefer this to accepting the gambit by 8...cd4.

9. Nf3

The other move I have tried here is 9.Bd3, but my opponent then did not play 9...b6, which is the move I was concerned about. Useless is 9.Bd2 (same idea: keep the possibility of Qg4) Nbc6 when 10.Qg4 Nf5 11.Bd3 cd4 leads to the collapse of White's game. And on 11. Nf3, Black can even try 11...cd4 12. cd4 Ncd4 13. Nd4 Qe5 14. Be3 Ne3 15. fe3 Qe3 16. Be2 0-0 with fair chances.

9...b6 10. a4

The common maneuver 10. Bb5 Bd7 11. Bd3 c4 12. Be2 Ba4 did not appeal to me. I was in the mood for a more open fight. I have no idea what theory recommends.

10...Ba6 11. a5 Bf1

11...ba5 12. Ba6 Na6 13. 0-0 0-0 would have been another game.

12. ab6 Qb6

No reason to get fancy with 12...ab6 13. Ra8 Ba6 14. dc5 bc5 15. Be3 Qb7 16. Rb8 Qb8 17. Bc5, when the rook's activity on the fourth rank might confer an advantage to White.

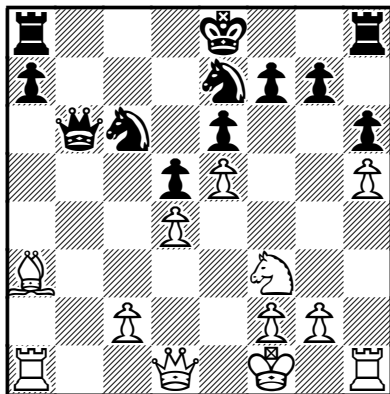
13. Kf1 Nbc6

13...Nd7 to keep the a3-f8 diagonal closed should have been strongly considered.

14. Ba3 cd4

14...c4 would kill Black's most obvious counterplay along the c-file.

15. cd4



15...Kd7?

A questionable decision. 15...0-0 16. Rh3 was unclear, but now Black's position is suspect.

16. Kg1!

A most useful move, waiting to see if Black will play ...f6, ...g6, or along the c-file.

16...Na5

Black's alternatives are not awe-inspiring:

A) 16...f6 17. ef6 gf6 18. Qe2 Nf5 (18...Nd4?? 19. Nd4 Qd4 20. Qb5 Kd8 21. Qb7+, or 18...Rhg8 19. Bc5 Qc7 20. c4 [20. Re1? e5 21. de5 fe5 22. Ne5 Ne5 23. Qe5 Qc5+] Rg4 21. Re1 e5 22. cd5 Nd5 23. Qc2 Rag8 24. g3, and Black's king is too exposed) 19. Bc5 Qb2 20. Kh2 Ncd4 21. Nd4 Nd4 22. Qg4 Nf5 23. Qa4 Kd8 24. Rhb1 with mate soon;

B) 16...g5 17. Bc5 Qb5 18. Nh2 with a big advantage;

C) 16...g6 17. Qd2 is not an improvement;

D) 16...Rhc8 17. Qd2 and then what?

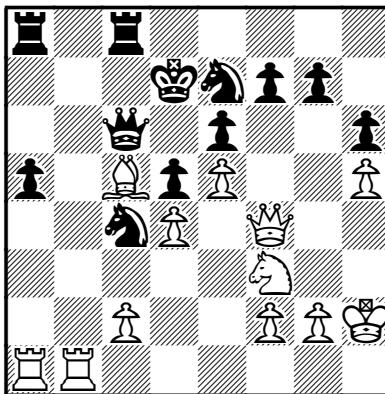
17. Bc5 Qb5?!

White has more trouble in the lines after 17...Qc7; for instance, 18. Bd6 Qb6 19. Qd2 Nc4 20. Qf4 f5 (20...Nd6 21. ed6 Qd6 22. Ne5 Kc7 23. Qf7 is very good for White) 21. Bc5 Qc7 and White cannot yet break through, though his position remains preferable.

18. Qd2 Nc4

18...Nb7 19. Ba3 changes nothing.

19. Qf4 Rhf8 20. Kh2 a5 21. Rhb1 Qc6



22. Nd2 f5

If 22...g5, then 23. Qf6 Ng8 24. Qg7 Nd2 25. Bf8 Nb1 26. Qf7 decides.

23. Nc4 dc4 24. Rb6 Nd5

24...Qc8 25. Qg3 Rf7 26. Rab1 Ke8 27. Rb7, and there is no defense to the threat of trading twice on e7 followed by Qg7 and Rb7, because 27... Qd8 loses to 28. R1b6.

25. Qg3 Nb6 26. Qg7 Kc8 27. Qf8 Kb7 28. Qh6

Cleanest.

28...a4 29. Rb1 a3

29...Ra6 30. Qg7 Ka8 31. h6 a3 32. h7 and so forth.

30. Qg7 Ka6

30...Kc8 31. Rb6 is easy.

31. Ba3 Nd5 32. Bc5 c3 33. h6 Re8

Black resigned before 34. Qa7 mate.

I felt I had to throw one King's Gambit in at the Juniors, just as I want to throw one King's Gambit into this article. Without annotations here it is:

White: David Pruess (2376)
Black: Asuka Nakamura (2176)
King's Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. f4 ef4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bc4 h6 5. d4 g5 6. 0-0 Bg7 7. g3 g4 8. Nh4 f3 9. Nc3 Nc6 10. Be3 Bf6 11. Nf3 gf3 12. Qf3 Be6 13.

Be6 fe6 14. e5 de5 15. de5 Ne5 16. Qh5 Nf7 17. Rad1 Qc8 18. Ne4 Ke7 19. Bc5 Nd6 20. Nd6 cd6 21. Bd6 Kd8 22. Bf8 Kc7 23. Qc5 Resigns

This Issue's Obligatory Wing Gambit

Burlingame Chess Club Quick Quads

August 23, 2001

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|---|
| Quad 1 | Michael Aigner | 3 |
| Quad 2 | Svetoslav Olujic | 3 |
| Quad 3 | David Alzofon | 2 |
| | Lawrence Kueffer | |
| | Daichi Siegrist | |
| Quad 4 | Tyson Mao | 3 |
| Quad 5 | Li-Yiao Miao | 3 |
| Quad 6 | Grigoriy Trofimov | |

At press time, the Burlingame/San Mateo Chess Club is in the midst of its annual championship, the 13th Wilfred Goodwin Open. The two top seeds, national masters Peter Thiel and Mike Splane, are leading the field, followed by defending champion NM Rudy Hernandez and NM Richard Koepcke.

On August 23, the club conducted a quadrangular at a time control of game in 30 minutes. Tyson Mao, the leading player at the Crystal Springs School chess club, played this issue's obligatory Wing Gambit on the way to winning his quad.

White: Tyson Mao (1104)
Black: Phillip Semenko (1036)
Sicilian Wing Gambit

1. e4 c5 2. b4 cb4 3. a3 e5 4. ab4 Bb4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Ba3 Ba3 7. Ra3 a6 8. Bc4 Nf6 9. 0-0 Ne4 10. d4 d6 11. Re3 d5 12. Ne5 Ne5 13. de5 dc4 14. Qd8 Kd8 15. Re4 Re8 16. Rd1 Bd7 17. Red4 Re7 18. f4 Ke8 19. Nc3 f6 20. ef6 gf6 21. Nd5 Bg4 22. Nf6 Kf8 23. Ng4 b5 24. Rd8 Rd8 25. Rd8 Kg7 26. Ra8 Re4 27. g3 h5 28. Ra7 and White won.

The Best-Known Petite Combination

By Frisco Del Rosario

Chess writers have made a big deal over the years about Capablanca's *petite combinations*, little sleights of hand that result in the gain of one square, or one move, or some other small positional gain. Every chessplayer should know this one by Morphy:

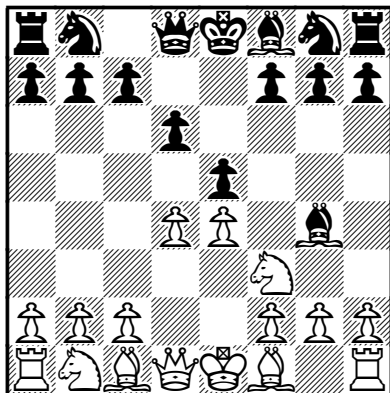
Paris 1858

White: Paul Morphy

Black: Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard

Philidor Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Bg4



4. de5

All combinations are based on a double threat. White's first threat is to take a second pawn by 5. ed6, and if Black recaptures by 4...de5, White runs away with one by 5. Qd8—breaking the pin—5...Kd8 6. Ne5. Black, therefore, captures the knight.

In a 1929 simultaneous exhibition, Alekhine played the much less forceful 4. Bc4. He was probably distracted by his efforts to duck a rematch with Capablanca.

4...Bf3 5. Qf3

The second point to White's small combination is just a gain of a move. Black has swapped his only developed piece, while White's queen replaced his knight.

5...de5 6. Bc4

White has two extra moves in development, plus a threat to checkmate. The rest of the game you know!

6...Nf6 7. Qb3 Qe7 8. Nc3 c6 9. Bg5 b5 10. Nb5 cb5 11. Bb5 Nbd7 12. 0-0-0 Rd8 13. Rd7 Rd7 14. Rd1 Qe6 15. Bd7 Nd7 16. Qb8 Nb8 17. Rd8 mate

In an informal game against Mr. Brett in 1909, Capablanca employed the same tactic with the same result: a gain of time, which Capablanca combined with other small advantages until they rolled slowly into a typically straightforward and instructive win. This game is not included in any of the standard Capablanca anthologies!

New Orleans 1909

White: J.R. Capablanca

Black: Brett

Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. 0-0 d6 5. Nc3

A quieter move than the immediate 5. d4, but if we had reached this position by the Four Knights move order 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bb5 d6 5. 0-0, this game would stand out as one of Capablanca's examples of how to win with the tame Four Knights Game.

5...Be7 6. d4 Bg4

Every student should recognize White's opportunity to duplicate the trick that wins the better minor piece plus gain of tempo. Mr. Brett had not done that much chess homework!

7. de5 Bf3

Of course, 7...de5 8. Qd8 Rd8 9. Ne5 is very good for White.

8. Qf3 de5 9. Bg5

3. Bb5 was played with a view toward controlling e5 and d4.

Similarly, 9. Bg5 is played before posting a knight on d5. White's rooks are connected, while Black is two moves away from the same.

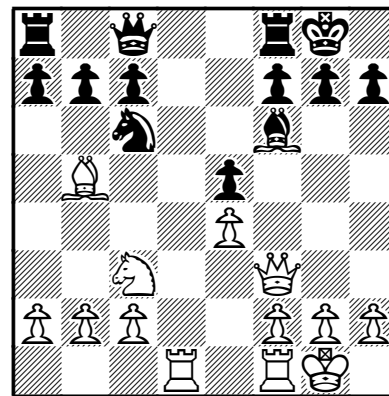
9...0-0 10. Rad1

Very simple. In the opening, American champion Fine instructed, whenever possible, make a good developing move that threatens something.

10...Qc8 11. Bf6

To gain control of d5.

11...Bf6



12. Nd5

The obvious threat is to capture on f6, and the secondary menace is to play 13. Qc3 with hard pressure on the c-file. If Black moves the queen to guard f6, it costs rook for knight (12...Qe6 13. Nc7, or 12...Qd8 13. Nb6) — 12...Bd8 is probably best, saving the kingside structure and guarding the c7-pawn, after which 13. Bc6 bc6 14. Nb4 leaves White well placed.

12...Nd4

Losing a pawn and allowing his king position to be wrecked.

13. Nf6 gf6 14. Qf6 Qe6

White wins a second pawn after 14...Nb5 15. Rd3 Rd8 16. Rg3 Kf8 17. Qh8 Ke7 18. Qe5 Qe6 19. Qb5.

15. Qe6 Ne6 16. Bc4

The simple kind of move for which Capablanca was famous. Hurrying to the seventh rank by 16. Rd7 would not make a threat, but 16. Bc4 does threaten to trade a piece while a pawn ahead, and then Rd7 will follow more strongly.

16...Rad8

Black chooses to take on another weakness rather than be invaded on the seventh rank.

17. Be6 fe6 18. f3

The only piece White can improve is his king, so the f-pawn makes room.

18...Rd4

If 18...Rd6 19. Rd6 cd6 20. Rd1 Rd8 21. c4, Black could not fix his backward pawn by ...d5 without permitting an exchange of rooks on d5 and an easily-won pawn ending for White.

19. c3 Rdd8 20. Kf2

White will not trade rooks until he is ready to play his f1-rook to d1, fighting for control of the open file.

20...Kf7 21. Ke2 Ke7 22. Rd8 Kd8

Or 22...Rd8 Rd8 23. Rd1 Rf8.

23. Rd1 Ke7 24. Ke3 Rf7 25. g4

Purdy wrote that passed pawns and potential passed pawns should be pushed only after each piece is improved to its best square, and White's pieces are optimal. Capablanca wrote that the unopposed pawn in a pawn majority should advance first, so the g-pawn goes before the h-pawn. Black has no play.

25...Rf6 26. h4 Rf8 27. g5 Rg8 28. Rg1 Kf7

Here or on his next move, Black should play ...Rd8 with a view toward getting behind White's kingside pawns.

29. h5 h6 30. f4

Before going further on the kingside, White gives Black the option of making a pair of passed pawns by 30...hg5 31. fg5, or

bringing the white king closer to the fight by trading on f4.

30...ef4

It's too late for 30...Rd8, because 31. hg6 moves closer to queening and opens the line for the rook's encroachment, while if Black maintains his pin by 30...Rg7, 31. Rd1 looks to skewer on d7 and to capture on h6.

31. Kf4

Now g6 is a mature threat, to be followed by Ke5 or Rd1-d7 or Rf1-f7.

31...hg5 32. Rg5 Rh8

Black should still consider 32...Rd8, but his king is unluckily placed: 33. h6 Rd2 34. Rg7, and Black is pushed to the back rank because 34...Kf6 35. e5 is mate.

33. e5

Gaining more territory—the black king is held to two ranks.

33...Rh6 34. Kg4 Rh7

Conceding the important square g6, but if Black marked time on the queenside, White could follow suit until he played the trump card Kh4, after which Black's king or rook would have to give ground.

35. Rg6 Ke7 36. h6 Kf7 37. Kg5 Ke7 38. Rg7

Finally White can simplify into the easiest type of ending to win, a pure pawn ending.

38...Rg7 39. hg7 Kf7 40. Kh6 Kg8 41. Kg6 c5 42. c4 a6 43. a4 b5 44. ab5 ab5 45. cb5 c4 46. b6 c3 47. b7 Resigns

Thanks to the folks at chessdryad.com, who maintain a database of California games, we see that the famous combination happens at the local level, too.

Livermore 1992
White: Jordy Mont-Reynaud
Black: Charles Pigg
Philidor Defense

1. e4

Was Jordan already the country's youngest master in

1992, or was he still merely gaining 100 rating points a week?

1...e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Bg4 4. de5 Bf3

If Black prefers to lose material instead of time, 4...Nd7 5. ed6 Bd6 is not the worst gambit.

5. Qf3 de5 6. Bc4 Qf6

This is an improvement over Morphy-Allies, because 7. Qb3 does not make a double threat.

7. Qb3 Bc5 8. O-O Bb6

White's pressure along the b-file means that this bishop is pinned.

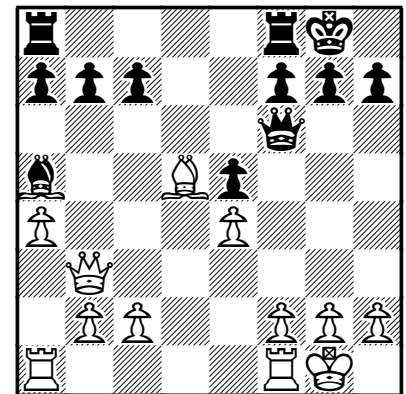
9. Nc3 Ne7 10. Bd2

The safest square for the bishop, where it also watches over the forking square a5.

10...O-O 11. a4 Nbc6 12. Nd5 Nd5 13. Bd5 Na5

Perhaps 13...a5 keeps the queenside whole.

14. Ba5 Ba5



15. Qb7 Rfc8

Better is 15...Rab8, skewering queen and b2-pawn, and White cannot grab a second pawn by 16. Qa7, because 16...Bb6 17. Qa6 Bf2 wins the queen.

16. Qb5 c6 17. Qa5 cd5 18. Qd5 Rab8 19. Rab1 Qe7

Black can recover one pawn and establish an active rook, worth another pawn, by 19...Rc2.

20. c3 Rc5 21. Qd3 Rd8 22. Qe3 Qd7 23. Qc5 Resigns

An Argument with a Grandmaster

By Ed Bogas

Once upon a time, during the later days of Imperial Russia, there lived the son of a wealthy landowner named Fyodor Fyodorovich. As part of his son's education, the landowner employed a famous grandmaster—though the title did not exist in those days—to instruct him in the art of chess.

Fyodor Fyodorovich, no brilliant student, pleased his father by demonstrating some aptitude for the game. He learned a few opening systems, some elementary endgame technique, and attacking patterns in the middlegame, but then he hit a wall, and improvement came very slowly. He found himself unable to beat a certain level of player, try as he would.

The landowner questioned the grandmaster as to his son's lack of progress, but was assured that soon the boy would make a breakthrough and advance to the next level. The landowner implied, as people in power often do, that this breakthrough had to come by such and such a date, or the employment would be terminated. Powerful people seem to feel that such prodding is useful—that events in this world can be manipulated by spending or withholding money. The grandmaster knew this was not necessarily true, having once tried to bribe a rook into leaping over a wall of pawns in the manner of a knight. The rook had replied that money could not overcome nature, and the grandmaster had lost the game. He did not share this anecdote with the landowner, though, on the basis that life itself would someday make this point.

It so happened that Fyodor Fyodorovich had played a game with someone he had never beaten one Tuesday night, and that his lesson was the following morning.

When the grandmaster arrived at the family's *dacha*, the boy was in a state of agitation.

"I almost beat him!" he announced. "Let me show you the game!"

They sat at an ornate chessboard that the boy's father had purchased for him in France. The grandmaster watched as the boy went through the moves of the



"Common Ground," courtesy E.B. Rothwell

game as recorded on a sheet of paper during the contest.

"You see," said Fyodor, "I followed the plan we had discussed... and here I am, ready to advance on the kingside..."

"Yes, I see," said the grandmaster, "you are doing quite well..."

"But then I noticed that my knight could go *here*, and threaten to fork his major pieces..."

"What!?" The grandmaster's eyebrows shot up. "You are going in the wrong direction! That knight belongs on the kingside, where your attack is!"

"But didn't you yourself tell me," said the boy, "that one has to abandon general strategy if a concrete possibility arises?"

"Yes, but what are you achieving here? You are not checkmating him, but only going after a little bit of material. In the process, you are dismantling your attack."

Fyodor Fyodorovich sat silently, his lower lip quivering.

"You are like the drunken man who lost a *ruble* on a dark street," said the master, who often resorted to such stories in their lessons. "Hours later, a policeman found him searching the gutter. 'What are you doing, *Ivan Groznie*, commanding an army of gutter rats?' asked the policeman. 'I am searching for my lost *ruble*,' the drunk said with dignity. 'Where did you lose it?' 'On Volga Avenue about three hours ago.' 'Then why are you searching here, *durak*? This is St. Petersburg Boulevard!' said the officer. 'Because, tool of the oppressor, the light is better here than on Volga Avenue!'"

The grandmaster chuckled at his own story, but the boy exploded in a rage: "I try to follow your advice, and you laugh at me!"

"No, Fyodor Fyodorovich, I am not laughing at you. But you must learn to search for tactical strokes that are in harmony with your general plan."

At this moment, the boy's father passed by, and heard his son in distress. Without a moment's thought, he banished the grandmaster from his house.

As a result of this event, two things happened, or, rather, didn't happen. One, the grandmaster, deprived of income, was unable to travel to Minsk to participate in an international tournament. The other was that Fyodor Fyodorovich never became a master.

The moral of the story? That the *landowner* should have followed the grandmaster's advice, and not been drawn into a skirmish that went against his general strategy of educating his son.

CalChess Members Elect New Directors

CalChess members elected a new board of directors at their annual membership meeting held Oct. 7 in Sunnyvale. Tom Dorsch was voted back to the CalChess presidency after a stint as U.S. Chess Federation treasurer and

some time away from politics. Past president Richard Koepcke took the vice-president seat, Hans Poschmann was elected secretary, and Frisco Del Rosario was named treasurer.

Michael Aigner, Doug Shaker, Chris Torres, Carolyn Withgitt, John McCumiskey, and Dr. Alan Kirshner were named Members at Large.

Dorsch said his primary goal as president is to fill up the CalChess tournament calendar, especially the holiday weekends in which Northern California has not conducted tournaments lately.

San Luis Obispo Winners Include Local Kid Corey Chang

The 9th annual San Luis Obispo County Championship held August 24-25 in San Luis Obispo attracted 38 players. Charles Van Buskirk scored $3\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ to win the open section, followed by Matt Robertson at 3-1, qualifying both for the 2002 Southern California State Championship. Tying for 3rd place at $2\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ were James Al-Shamma and Tony Miller. Steven Craig won the U1900 prize. Matt Robertson became the new county champion.

Karl Bohlmann won the U1700

Section with 4-0. Ramesh Mantri was next at $3\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$. At 3-1, there was a tie for 3rd place and the U1400 prize among Ross Truesdell, 10-year-old Corey Chang, and Glen Pantaleon. Cash prizes totaling \$700 were awarded in the top two sections.

Trophies in the U1200 Section were won by Benny Wu, Leonard Nelmida, and Daryl Carey.

Barbara McCaleb, assisted by Dennis Steele, directed the event, which was sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Chess Club.

Sonoma County Open

Continued from Page 11

C) 18. Qe2 Ng5 19. Nf3 Nf3 20. gf3 Bc6! 21. Qe6 Rf7 and White is in big trouble due to the dual threats of ...Bf2 and ...Re8; for example, 22. Bh6? Bf2 23. Kf1 Be1 24. Re1 Bd7.

So, the only other try is...

18. Nc4!

The only move to save the game. There are lots of tricky variations, and I used up most of my time at this point, but it seems that White survives in all cases and ends up with a winning endgame.

The most testing variation is 18...Ne5!? 19. Nb6 (not 19. Re5? Rf3 20. Nb6 Rd3, and the mate threat wins a piece) Rf3!? (On 19...Nf3 20. gf3 Bb6 [if 20...Rf3, 21. Nd7 and Black cannot gobble enough material to catch up] 21. Be4 and White is a pawn ahead and his doubled pawns will soon be fixed, else Black will lose a second pawn) 20. Nd7! (much better than 20. Na8?) Bf2 21. Kf1 Nd3! 22. Rd1! and Black ends up behind a piece.

18...Qd8

Whew! Now White has time to consolidate.

19. Be3 Bc6 20. Qd1 Be3 21. Re3 Qf6 22. Qe2 Rad8 23. Re6 Qg5 24. f3 Nh6 25. Re5 Qf4 26. Be4 Bb5??

Black resigned before 27. Rb5.

Wolff Revises His Book, Launches Web Site, Moves to East Coast



The Bay Area lost another grandmaster when two-time U.S. champion Patrick Wolff moved to Washington, D.C., at the end of October. Wolff took a job with a large bank, but said he hopes to return to the west coast.

Wolff is pictured at left autographing a copy of his *Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess*. The second edition of the *Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess* was released last month, with new and revised material—*California Chess Journal* editor Frisco Del Rosario served as the editor for the technical, chess-related material.

Wolff recently launched a web site—wolffchess.com—which presents hundreds of tactical exercises based on those presented in *The Complete Idiot's Guide*.

Letters to the Editor

Where's My Membership Card?

Dear Frisco:

On August 21, I sent you a check for a one-year renewal in CalChess. As of Oct. 3, that check had not been cashed, and I have not received my membership card. What's up?!

Myron Johnson

The membership secretary took on the job of treasurer so there is one fewer stop between the mailbox and the bank. Membership cards are mailed in the same envelopes as the magazine—Ed.

Where's My Picture, Old Buddy?

Dear Allan:

We've known each other for a number of years. I have a question for you, pal! How come my picture wasn't in the September/October issue for my first-place finish in Fresno? That was my first tournament ever in which I went undefeated.

Jack Backes

Frisco Del Rosario has been the editor of the California Chess Journal for six issues. He enjoyed your news from the Esposo Chess Club very much.—Ed.

More on the Firecracker Open

Dear Editor:

Sometimes, the final standings don't tell the whole story. At the Sequoia tournament, I was losing outright in every game; and, at the Firecracker, because of the low turnout, I was the only player over 1800 in my section.

I exchanged correspondence with Jerry Weikel following his tournament. Obviously, he was disappointed in the turnout, but I found his tone exceedingly bitter and insulting toward players in general, and Northern California players, in particular.

Mike Maloney

Dear Editor:

I got a bad hair day when I read the article about this moronic big-time organizer ranting and raving about Bay Area chessplayers. Let me give him a little lesson about organization here in the Bay Area.

Big-time organizers always talk about bringing a "prestigious, major, high-quality" tournament to the Bay Area, and when they fail miserably, they get so disgusted with Bay Area chessplayers that we are called hard to please and fickle-minded. Why do you think smaller tournaments attract more players than the big-time Firecracker Open?

Major organizers think that paying a ludicrous \$3000 site fee to major hotel and offering a huge "based on" prize fund will make chessplayers here drool like those chessplayers on the East Coast, but even a Class F player who does the math can smell a ripoff. Why not hold the tournament in a decent location (like a school or a dance hall) and add the \$3000 to the prize fund while reducing the entry fee, and chessplayers would be glad to part with \$50-70.

Also, most Bay Area chessplayers are not professional players, so we don't have to worry about making a couple thousand bucks in order to put food on the table, OK? Next time you think about organizing a tournament here in the Bay Area, think like a Bay Area chessplayer.

Name withheld

Remembering Jim Hurt

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for publishing such fine issues of the *California Chess Journal*. The featured game in the September/October issue between Philip Wang and Mike Arné is perhaps

the finest tactical game I have seen!

My first tournament was at LERA about 35 years ago, where our good friend Jim Hurt organized three or four tournaments a year. What few people know is that Jim always paid the full prize fund, even when the turnout was low. In the last few years of his life, Jim traveled 1,000 miles from his home in Colorado just to put on the LERA tournaments!

Thanks to people like you and Jim and many other dedicated chess lovers, my life, along with those of thousands of other chess nuts, has been tremendously enriched.

Dr. Don Lieberman

Capablanca, Corzo, and the Library

Dear Editor:

Loved your article on the Hayward library tournament. The children's director at the library and I had no idea it ran as far back as four decades or even 28 years. Gave away your age, by the way, and I had no idea that Mark Shelton went that far back with chess. Thanks again for the history.

Dr. Alan Kirshner

Dear Editor:

I liked your article on Capablanca-Corzo. Well written.

Fred Leffingwell

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your piece on the Capablanca-Corzo match very much, particularly the anecdote at the beginning!

Marc Newman

Berkeley Chess School

Alex Setzepfandt a Pressman Candidate

Dear Editor:

Alexander Setzepfandt has been selected as a candidate for the Pressman All American Chess Team. Out of 45,000 scholastic players in the U.S., only 37 are chosen.

Alexander is 11 years old. His accomplishments include taking first place in

five California state championships: K-3 under 750, K-3 Open, K-6 Open, First Grade Level, and Second Grade Level. While in the 4th grade, Alex took 2nd in K-6 Open at the CEA Nationals, winning a \$350 savings bond. In February 1998, Alex took Best Under 9 at the Young People's Tournament in Berkeley. In March 1998 he took Best Under 10 at the Mechanics' Institute. Regarding Alex's character: When he won the state championship at 8 years old and his higher-rated opponent cried, Alex put his arm around him and said, "You're better than me. I got lucky."

Alexander studies chess two hours daily, after completing his schoolwork. When I get "chess crazy," he reminds me that school comes first. He has been independently studying a college-level course in microbiology over the past two years. Alex has been the top-rated 11-year-old in the state of California over the past year. Currently rated 1983, he is number 6 nationally for ages 11-12.

Alex studies with national master David Blohm. David is an outstanding teacher and a strong support. I believe that David's positive attitude has influenced Alex's progress.

Alex has won several open tournaments in the Bay Area, including two Monterey Open—where he defeated two masters—and most recently tied for 1st Under 2000 in Santa Rosa and 2nd overall. Alex also took first in the open section last March in Santa Rosa and 1st place A last January.

Most admirable about Alex is his upbeat personality, wonderful sense of humor, good sportsmanship, and commitment to school and chess. His 4th grade teacher described him as a friend to all who treats others fairly with a great sense of humor.

Patty Levin

Sorry. Ran out of space.—Ed.

Places to Play

Send changes and new information to californiachessjournal@cattekin.vip.best.com.

Arcata

Tuesdays 6:30-11 p.m.
Arcata Community Center
321 Community Park Way
James Bauman
(707) 822-7619

Benicia

Larry Whitlow
(707) 642-4725

Berkeley

Fridays 7 p.m.
Epworth United Methodist Church
1953 Hopkins
Alan Glasscoe
(510) 652-5324

Burlingame

Thursdays 7 p.m.
Burlingame Lions Club
990 Burlingame Ave.
Tom Dorsch
(650) 322-0955
www.burlingamechessclub.com

Campbell

Thursdays 7-11:30 p.m.
Campbell Community Center
Fred Leffingwell
fleffing@cisco.com
(408) 732-5188, (408) 526-7090 work

Carmichael

Mondays 6-10 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
4701 Gibbons

Fremont

Fridays 7:30-11 p.m.
Borders Books and Music
Hans Poschmann
hspwood2@home.net
(510) 656-8505

Fresno

Carl's Jr.
3820 N. Cedar at Dakota
Fresno
(559) 275-0905

Hayward

Mondays 9 p.m.
Lyon's Restaurant
25550 Hesperian Blvd.

Humboldt County

Bob Phillips
(707) 839-4674

Livermore

Fridays 8 p.m.-midnight

Lawrence Livermore Lab
Building 415, Yellowstone Room
103
Charles Pigg
(510) 447-5067

Merced

Fridays 6:30 p.m.
Merced Mall Food Court

Modesto

Tuesdays 7 p.m.
Doctors' Hospital Cafeteria
1441 Florida Ave.
John Barnard
(209) 785-7895

Monterey

Daily except Mondays
430 Alvarado St.
Ted Yudacufski
(408) 646-8730

Mount Shasta

Wednesdays 7 p.m.
George Washington Manor
Dick Bolling
(530) 926-3608

Oakhurst

Saturdays 4 p.m.
Cafe Baja
40029 Highway 41
(559) 642-6333

Palo Alto

Thursdays 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Avenidas Senior Center
450 Bryant St.
(650) 327-2811

Palo Alto

Cafe La Dolce Vita
299 California Ave.
(650) 323-0478

Paradise

Tuesdays 7-10 p.m.
Paradise Senior Center
Bans Nelson
(916) 873-3107

Porterville

Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
Henderson at Indiana
Hans Borm
(559) 784-3820

Reno, Nevada

Sundays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

2850 Wrondel Way, Suite D
(775) 827-3867
Jerry Weikel
(775) 747-1405

Richmond

Fridays 6 p.m.
Richmond Library
26th at MacDonald

Ross Valley

POB 69
Ross CA 94957

Sacramento

Wednesdays 6-10 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
915 27th St.
Stewart Katz
(916) 444-3133

Salinas

Weekend afternoons
Carl's Jr.
1061 N. Davis Rd.
Abe Mina
(831) 758-4429

San Anselmo

Tuesdays 7 p.m.
Round Table Pizza
Red Hill Shopping Center
Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Jim Mickle
(415) 457-2719

San Francisco

Daily
Mechanics Institute
57 Post St., Fourth Floor
John Donaldson
(415) 421-2258

San Jose

Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 noon-4 p.m.
Willows Senior Center
2175 Lincoln Ave.
Jerry Marshall
(408) 267-1574

San Leandro

Saturdays 12 noon
Everybody's Bagel Shop
1099 MacArthur Blvd.
(510) 430-8700

Santa Clara

Second Saturdays 2:15-6:15 p.m.
Mary Gomez Park
Francisco Sierra
(408) 241-1447

Santa Rosa

Tuesdays 6-10:45 p.m.
Sonoma Coffee Company
521 Fourth St.
Keith Halonen
(707) 578-6125

Santa Rosa

First and last Saturdays
Rincon Valley Library
6959 Montecito Blvd.
Mike Haun
(707) 537-0162

Stanford

Meets weekly during school year
Michael Aigner
maigner@stanford.edu

Stockton

Fridays 6-11 p.m.
St. Andrews Lutheran Church
4910 Claremont Ave
Jacob Green
(209) 942-2812
jacobgreen@msn.com
<http://www.geocities.com/jacobgreen87/STKNCHES.html>

Stockton Delta Knights

Sundays 1-4 p.m.
First Baptist Church
3535 N. El Dorado
Jacob Green
1-209-942-2812

Visalia

Tuesdays 7 p.m.
Borders Books and Music
Mooney at Caldwell
Allan Fifield
(559) 734-2784
hometown.aol.com/visaliachess/myhomepage/profile.html

Woodland

Sundays 3-9:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
630 Lincoln Ave.
Milo Nelson
(530) 792-1064
www.geocities.com/MJG99/CHESS/WCG/

Yuba City

Mondays and Wednesdays 7-11 p.m.
Carl's Jr.
Bridge St. and Highway 99
Tom Giertych
(916) 671-1715

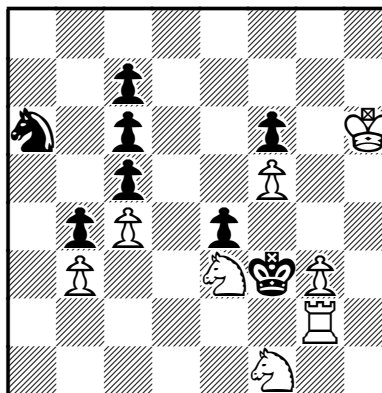
Tournament Calendar

Events marked with an star ☆ offer discounted entry fees for CalChess members, and/or the organizers are making a contribution to CalChess from the entry fees. The *California Chess Journal* encourages participation in those events.

| Date | Event | Location | CalChess |
|----------------|--|---------------|----------|
| November 17 | St. Marks Scholastic Quads Ray Orwig, (510) 223-7073 rorwig@saintmarksschool.org | San Rafael | ☆ |
| November 17-18 | CEA All America Cup Scott Freneaux, 10801 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix AZ 85028, (602) 482-4867 ascachess@aol.com | Scottsdale AZ | |
| November 18 | Monterey Sunday Open Ted Yudacufski, Monterey Chess Center, 430 Alvarado Street, (831) 646-8730 | Monterey | |
| November 30 | Stockton Regional School Championships Jacob Green, (209) 942-2812 jacobgreen@msn.com | Stockton | |
| December 1 | Pierre St. Amant Memorial John Donaldson, 57 Post St., Mechanics Institute Room 408, San Francisco 94101, (415) 421-2258 imwjd@aol.com | San Francisco | |
| December 1-2 | Fresno County Championship Bonnie Yost, 3701 W. Floradora, Fresno 93722, (559) 275-0905 bonnieyost@mediaone.net | Fresno | ☆ |
| December 8 | Chess for Kids—La Joya School Allan Fifiel, P.O. Box 27, Visalia 93279, (559) 734-2784, fifiela@aol.com | Visalia | ☆ |
| December 8 | Weibel Scholastic Quads Dr. Alan Kirshner, (510) 657-1586, info@successchess.org | Fremont | ☆ |
| December 8-9 | 2nd Koltanowski Masters/Experts Memorial John Donaldson, 57 Post St., Mechanics Institute Room 408, San Francisco 94101, (415) 421-2258 imwjd@aol.com | San Francisco | |
| December 12 | UPSCL G/10 Championship Steve Cohen, POB 8024, Foster City 94404, (650) 349-7746, upscl@pacbell.net | San Mateo | ☆ |
| December 15-16 | Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #8 John McCumiskey, 6700 50th St., Sacramento 95823-1306, (916) 428-5532, jmclmc@lanset.com | Sacramento | ☆ |
| January 5 | Bob Burger Open G/45 John Donaldson, 57 Post St., Mechanics Institute Room 408, San Francisco 94101, (415) 421-2258 imwjd@aol.com | San Francisco | |
| January 12-13 | Region XI Women's Open | Menlo Park | ☆ |
| January 12-13 | Sojourner Truth Tournament for Girls Doug Shaker, 2030 Mills Avenue, Menlo Park 94025, (650) 854-2545, doug@theshakers.org | Menlo Park | ☆ |
| January 19-20 | Santa Rosa Championship Mike Goodall, 461 Peachstone Terrace, San Rafael 94903 (415) 491-1269 mike.goodall@worldnet.att.net Andy Milburn (707) 538-4806 | Santa Rosa | ☆ |

Problem

Kevin Begley is now an editor for unorthodox chess problems—fairies—with StrateGems. Their web page is www.hometown.aol.com/tuzlak/myhomepage/index.html.



White to play and mate in 6.

Solution from September issue:

- a) helpmate in 3
 1. Re7 fxe7. Kd4 e8=Q3.
 Sxe5+ Qxe5#
- b) both Rooks swap positions with the Knights then helpmate in 3
 1. Kd4 Kf7. Ke4 f3. Kf5 e4#