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## Ragin' in Reno: Californians score in Western States

Many CalChess members slipped across the border to compete in the 22nd Western States Open in Reno, held October 15-17 at the Sands Regency Hotel. The event, organized by Jerry Weikel, featured Boris Spassky as the guest of honor.

GM Hikaru Nakamura ran away with the event, winning his first 5 games before agreeing to a draw in his last round game against Alexander Ivanov. But second place went to our local Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky. At 4.5, tied with GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, IM Enrico Sevillano, GM Alexander Ivanov, Andran Matikozyan, GM Ildar Ibragimov and GM Dmitry Gurevich.

Other CalChess scores included Belmont's IM Vladimir Mezent-

sev, who overcame an early stumble to finish in 14th place with 4 points., joined by FM Tigran Ishkhanov of Mountain View, IM Bela Evans of Newark scored 3.5, while FM Richard Kelson (Clayton) and FM Eric Schiller (Moss Beach) tied for 2nd-3rd under 2300 with 3 points. FM Dmitry Zilberstein also wound up with 3. Additional CalChess players in the open section included NM Michael Aigner, Shivkumar Shivaji, IM Walter Shipman, Roger Popehlmann, IM Ricardo de Guzman, IM John Donaldson, Ankit Gupta, GM Walter Bowne and Luis Busquets.

Impressive results in the lower sections include San Francisco's Victor Todortsev, 3rd place in the A section, Rico Adkins of

Emeryville, who tied for first in the B-section. Vallejo's Calixto Magaoay and Santa Clara's Randolph Moore tied for 5th in the B group. In the C-section, Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City took clear first with 5.5, followed by Cupertino's James Burns and Alan Naroditsky on 5.

—Michael Aigner

Event Website:

<http://home.nvbell.net/wayern/renochess/wso/>



## New Home for CalChess State Scholastic Championship

The official CalChess State Scholastics are getting a major upgrade in 2005! The event is moving to San Francisco's Fort Mason, May 6-8. The new venue is the magnificent Herbst Pavilion, right on the waterfront. With Fisherman's Wharf and all of San Francisco's tourist attractions

nearby, the event is sure to draw more families than ever!



Details on page 9



## California Chess Journal goes digital

As you can see, the California chess Journal has taken on a new form. In order to reduce costs and take advantage of some of the opportunities given to us by the latest technology, we are now presenting the Journal in a digital form. All CalChess members will now receive its printable digital publication. In this way we can reduce our fees, while at the same time offering those who prefer a printed version the opportunity to subscribe at a rate which will simply cover

the additional costs involved in producing the printed version. This first issue of the digital couch as journal is a big experimental, and it will take some time for us to work out the best possible presentation of material. We welcome your comments and criticisms and have set up a web page at the CalChess site for your use.

The PDF format is cross-platform and universal, and most of you probably have software to read the files. We

feel it is the best format to reach all of our members. It is a big file, especially when we use a lot of color photographs. So we have emailed a special link for downloading the file, rather than sending it by email. If you are online when reading this, you can click on links to take you directly to web pages.

Remember, this issue is highly experimental. We rely on your feedback to help create an ideal publication.

Eric Schiller, [Editor](#).

### CalChess Board of Directors:

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Roger Poehlmann, Secretary  
Michael Aigner (Clearinghouse)  
Jacob Green  
Joe Lonsdale  
John McCumiskey  
Eric Schiller  
Steve Smith

## Chess is booming in California!

**Although both the United States chess Federation and the world chess Federation are facing major challenges at the moment, just in California is doing very well indeed. We have a chess playing governor, the tournament calendar is nearly full, and more kids than**



**ever are involved in scholastic chess programs.**

**Traditional chess tournaments are adapting their formats to make it possible to participate even taking into account how busy most people are. There are unlimited opportunities to play chess online, most of them for free. 2005 is going to be a banner year for chess!**

## Matthew Ho at World Youth Championships

**San Jose junior NM Matthew Ho was selected to represent the United States at the World Youth Chess Championship in Crete, Greece on November 4-13. Matthew is the highest rated junior in Northern California, with current ratings of 2259 USCF and 2277 FIDE.**

**He has his work cut out for him in Greece, since he is seeded 41st out of 116 players in the B16 (boys 16-and-under) section, with two Grandmasters sitting at the top boards. Matthew joins the 24-player delegation of American kids who play in five age categories. Southern**

**Californians NM Elliott Liu (B16) and WFM Tatev Abrahamyan (G16) are the only other west coast participants. Full results available [online](#). Michael Aigner**

**Matthew finished with an even score in the impressive field.—ed.**

## DeGuzman dominates local scene

In many chess communities throughout the United States, and indeed all over the world, one expects to find a player with a Russian, Armenian, or it Georgian taking top honors in the local competitions. However, here in San Francisco a member of the Filipino community is the man to beat. International master Ricardo de Guzman has been winning tournament after tournament in the Bay area.



International Master  
Ricardo DeGuzman

DeGuzman vs. Michael Aigner, Black Knight Halloween Swiss  
1. c3 f5 2. d4 Nf6 3. f3 d5 4. Nh3 c5 5. Nf2 Nc6 6. e3 Qb6 7. Qb3 Qxb3 8. axb3 e5 9. Bb5 cxd4 10. exd4 exd4 11. cxd4 Kf7 12. Bxc6 bxc6 13. Nd3 Bd6 14. Bf4 Bxf4 15. Nxf4 Bd7 16. Nd3 Rhb8 17. Nd2 Ke7 18. Kf2 Kd6 19. h4 Ne8 20. b4 f4 21. Ra4 Rb6 22. Nb3 Nc7 23. Rha1 Bf5 24. Nbc5 Bxd3 25. Nxd3 Nb5 26. Nxf4 Rb7 27. Rd1 Re8 28. Rd2 Rbe7 29. h5 Re1 30. Ne2 Rh1 31. Ng3 Rcl 32. Nf5+ Kc7 33. Nxc7 Reel 34. Nf5 Kb6 35. g4 Nc7 36. Ra3 1-0

*There just seems to be no stopping IM Ricardo DeGuzman, who has been dominating the Bay Area Chess scene lately.*

Filipino IM Ricardo DeGuzman won the top section of 2004 Burlingame Open outright with a perfect 4-0 score. The other two section winners were Julian Standen in the Reserve Section ( U1800 ), also with a perfect 4-0 score and

Philipp Semenenko in the Booster Section ( U1400 ) with a 3.5 - 0.5 score. The tournament drew 53 players which is slightly less than the 60 player the organizers had hoped for, but a respectable showing for a first tournament at a new

site. The event was directed by the Author and Robert Blatt. The Burlingame Chess Club was the host for the site. On December 4, IM DeGuzman was again victorious the 4th annual Guthrie McClain Memorial, scoring 4.5 from 5.

Yefim Bukh was second at 4 followed by Nicolas Yap, Dmitry Vayntraub, Sam Shankland, Ewelina Krubnik and Ramathan Thirupathy at 3.5. Anthony Corrales directed the 28-player event for the Mechanics'.

## DeGuzman wins Black Knight Halloween Tourney

International Master Ricardo de Guzman came out on top of the October Open at the Academic Chess BlackKnight Palace in San Jose with a score of 3.5/4. In his classic "trick or treat" playing style, DeGuzman defeated NM Michael Aigner on Halloween morning with the rare Saragossa opening (1. c3). Only FM Eric Schiller managed to escape

with a half point after a difficult endgame against de Guzman. Second place went to Aigner with 3.0/4 while Schiller and Amarnath Mukherjee shared third place with 2.5. Mukherjee won the top under 2200 honors.

40 players took part in this event, which was capably directed by Albert Rich. Half of

those players were in the competitive booster (1600-1999) section. Amazingly, nobody managed to score more than 3.0/4, resulting in a six-way tie for first place and top under 1800 between Jan De Jong, Eric Madriaga, Patrick Shepherd, Arnav Shah, Stephen Young, and Ken White. The only person to achieve a perfect score in the tournament

was reserve section champion Alberto Calderon. The under 1400 honors went to Albert Gu, Jonathan Pak, and Yukihiro Suda.

—Michael Aigner

IM John Donaldson reports:

oris Spassky vs. George Stone (1719) [B39]

Reno Simul 15.10.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Be2 Qa5 12.Rc1 d6 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rfd1 Bc6 15.f3 Rfe8 16.b3 Rac8 17.Nd5 Qxd2 18.Rxd2 b6 19.b4 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nf8 21.Bd1 Rc7 22.Ba4 Rec8 23.Bb5 Nd7 24.Rdc2 Nf6 25.Ba4 h5 26.Kf2 Kh7 27.Ke2 Bh6 28.Bxh6 Kxh6 29.Kd3 e6 ½-½

The following game between GM-elect Boris Kreiman of Los Angeles and David Vigorito of Henderson, Nevada, who has three IM norms, was the most spectacular of the event even if it later proved to be unsound.

Boris Kreiman vs, David Vigorito

Reno Western States Open, 16.10.2004

Spanish Game [C67]

1.e4 e5. A new look by Vigorito who is a well-known Najdorf aficionado. 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1. Trading the Queen's by 6.d4 Nd6 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.dxe5 Nf5 9.Qxd8+ is not to Kreiman's taste. Interestingly in IM Larry Kaufman's The Chess Advantage in Black and White he suggests that Black answer the Ruy Lopez with the Berlin in one section of the book and in another he advocates opening 1.e4, recommending 5.Re1 against the Berlin! 5...Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bd3. Kaufmann prefers the more positional 7.Bf1. Such is not the way that Ironman Boris "Bench Press" Kreiman plays chess. 7...Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.Nc3. This position was familiar to players in the early 1900s. 9...Ne8. More common are 9...c6, 9...Bf6 or 9...Re8. Kaufmann credits the text to GM Alex Sherzer. 10.Nd5 Bd6 11.Rh5?!! Normal here is 11.Re1 with equal chances and a not very exciting game. The text is incredibly imaginative unfortunately it doesn't quite work.. 11... g6 12.Qf3. There is no turning back. If 12.Rh3 has 12...c6 13.Nc3 Be5 and with ...d5 and possibly ...Bg7 Black is doing very well. 12... c6. As 12...gxh5 13.Qf5 loses instantly. Can you find White's next move? 13.b3. White wants the long diagonal. 13...cxd5 14.Bb2 Ng7? There was only one move here, 14...Qe7, but it works: 15.Rxh7 Be5 16.Re1 d6 17.Bxg6 Qf6 and the defense triumphs. GMs Yermolinsky and Serper spotted this defense during the game but it was very easy to miss. 15.Rxh7! Now that tables have turned and Black is lost. 15...Kxh7 16.Qh3+ Kg8 17.Qh6 d4 18.Bxd4 f6 19.Bxg6 Rf7 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Re1 Be5 22.Bxe5 fxe5 23.Rxe5 Black resigned.



Grandmaster Boris Kreiman



Position after 14...Ng7?



Dear CalChess Members,

This letter will try to respond to the many questions from you on the troubled situation created by Richard Peterson at the end of August and since. Because the matter is now in litigation, on counsel advice, we cannot commit to answer all questions at once, as we would like. We will try to keep you informed by future newsletters, as appropriate.

Most of you are aware of the unfounded charges made by Mr. Peterson against me and the other directors, once he found out in mid-August that he was ineligible to run for the Board of Directors. As most of you know, he was then Treasurer and withdrew virtually our entire bank account (just under \$26,000). He now claims he has given this to an un-named committee to use in some unspecified manner. All this was of course unauthorized, and in violation of 2-signature rules he himself had agreed to. This misconduct has prevented publication of the California Chess Journal, as he must have known. He then claimed that CalChess was "defunct" and no longer existed, and that he planned to start a new organization using the CalChess name. In doing so, and in making his various false charges, Peterson violated the covenant of good faith and fair dealing implied in law in any contract, and thus voided any agreement he previously had with CalChess as to the 2005 scholastic tournament. Cal Chess has therefore withdrawn any sponsorship of this event. Peterson claims it will be held anyway.

We were forced to engage counsel, to seek to protect our rights. Neil Falconer, an attorney and longtime Bay Area chess player, and his firm (Piper Rudnick) are representing us.

The official CalChess Scholastic State Championships tournament will be held in San Francisco in the Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason on May 6, 7, and 8, 2005. It appears there are some four other tournament directors claiming to run "State Championships" scholastic tournaments in 2005. We remind you that CalChess is the official State affiliate of the USCF for Northern California, and we believe the only entity entitled to award official State championship titles. Our board members are all volunteers, democratically elected at the annual meeting. The profits, if any, of this tournament will not go to any individual, but to CalChess.

We have received a great deal of support from people in the chess community, all of which help us get back on our feet. However, by reason of Peterson's gross misconduct we were left with virtually no money. We decided nonetheless that it was incumbent upon us to hold our 2005 Scholastic Chess State Championships; that it had to be on a date other than a date that conflicted with other large tournaments and that we had to do it with the faith that the chess community would help us out financially. Please show us that our faith was well placed.

We have had for many years now, a CalChess Patron Program in which we ask interested parties who wish to support the quality and growth of chess in Northern California to participate. For \$100 or more you can be a "Gold Patron" and have your name published in our magazine, which will become an emagazine starting in time for the holidays. There is no more opportune time to become a Patron. Please send contributions to our treasurer, Richard Koepcke at CalChess, c/o Richard Koepcke, P.O. Box 1432 Mountain View, CA 94042.

Another way in which you can help get us over this lean time is to renew your membership, whether it is due now or not. You should send your renewal check to CalChess P.O. Box 136, Berkeley, CA 94701. The rates are: Scholastic: \$10.00: Family: \$17.00: Adult: \$12.00

And of course if you are in school, Kindergarten through twelfth grade, please play in our tournament. With Peterson out of the picture, we hope this will be our best tournament ever and that the fog of misconduct and false accusations will by then have dissipated. .

Thank you.

Elizabeth Shaughnessy,  
President, CalChess.



# Chess Assistant 8.0: The best gets better!

Available from [Convetka](#). \$109 or 129 Euros, Direct. Also available at [Chess Central](#). Free "light" version [here](#).

**Pros:** Very fast. Capable of handling millions of games without problems. Huge database of over 2 million games included. Opening tree, engine analysis, board position and commentary visible simultaneously. Flexible classification scheme. Good handling of PGN import, able to open native files in other formats, including ChessBase. Excellent HTML and RTF output, easy to transfer to word processors and web page editors. User-definable keyboard shortcuts. Great graphics!

**Cons:** Unwieldy menu structures, "round-trip" PGN is messy when used with other programs. Can't save multiple layout and print specifications. No XML support yet.

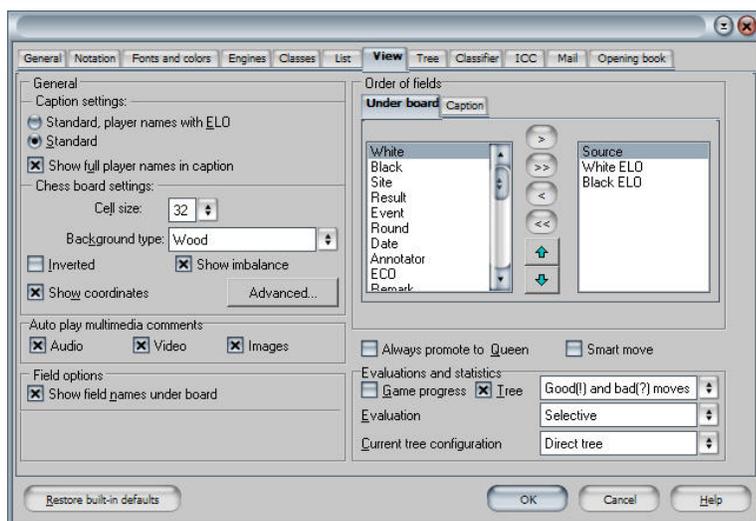
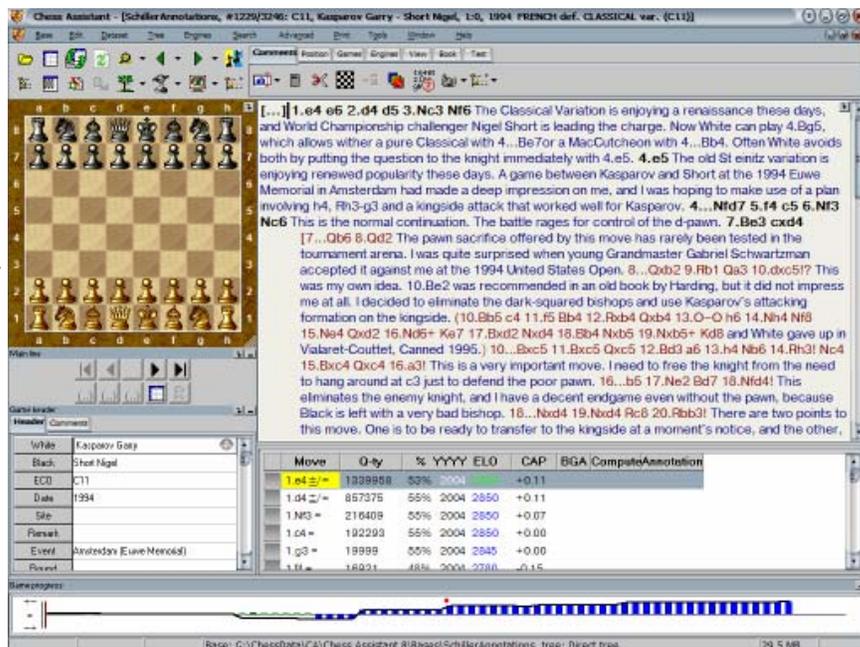
When playing through a game, you can see all the commentaries, information about the game, the current position with attractive graphics (many to choose from) and a list of all the moves available in the included huge database. You can see the stats for the move of the game, highlighted in yellow as you play through the game, you can invoke one of the powerful chess engines included with Chess Assistant, including a new version of Tiger.

For more intensive work, the program can perform all the usual database functions, such as calling up a list of all games where the current (or any other) board position was seen. You can search for specific maneuvers, material balance, and an almost unlimited number of players, tournaments, and openings. This function truly shines, you are not limited to a single set of players. For example, you could search for all games played from a specific position by a whole list of players, such as all the World Champions. You can save searches for re-use.

You can customize the display in many ways. Indeed the power of the program and its almost unlimited customization can make Chess Assistant a bit intimidating. The help file is helpful.

Since Chess Assistant is the basis of a wide range of instructional offerings it has many useful features for commenting games and highlighting aspects of the game. It can automatically highlight the move it considers best for each position. Editing is easy, though you need to learn a few tricks, as some shortcuts aren't easy to find. Pressing the Control and F3 key takes you to a window where you can enter long commentary, while CTRL and A brings up a window for symbols or short commentary. You can enter text before or after moves, enter diagram markers which show as true diagrams, and customize display and output as far as your imagination will take you!

Just look at all the options you can set in the collection of tabbed dialogs at left! There are detailed options for each tab along the top of the window. You can email games directly, not having to save and then attach a file. You can customize the notation, including the fonts and colors. You can create your own classifications for openings or other searchable items. Notice the ICC tab. If you play at the Internet Chess Club, you can use the program as an interface to log on, read messages, chat, and play games (but make sure the engine is turned off unless you are registered as a Computer player). Whether you are a beginner, or a power user, Chess Assistant provides a wide range of tools which will help you learn, study, or seek out chess wisdom.



The import and export of data is easy, and the output is highly customizable, even supporting stylesheets. You can set up and save specific layouts for different types of exports, for example to word processors or web pages. If you have appropriate software, you can print directly to PDF files to email to friends or post on the web!

Overall, chess Assistant is the finest chess processor available on the market today. It has far more useful features than its rivals, and has a great deal of flexibility, allowing the user to customize many features, including all of the keyboard shortcuts. While there are still a few areas that could use some improvement, chess Assistant is clearly capable of performing any chess task you require, from full game and analysis with a powerful engine to complex searches.

Chess Book Reviews

# A First Book of Morphy

by Frisco Del Rosario.

Reviewed by Eric Schiller

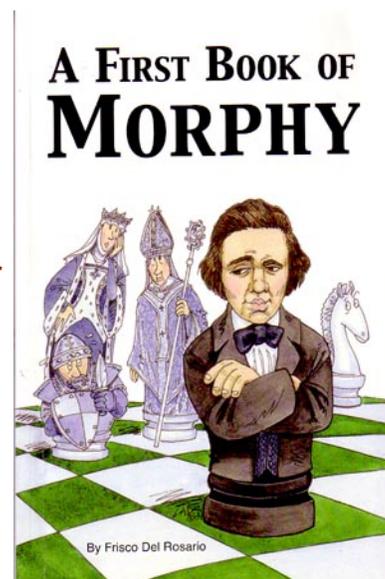
Trafford, 2004. 213 pages. \$18.95



Frisco Del Rosario, former editor of the *California Chess Journal*, possesses considerable skills as a writer and teacher. This collection of annotated games benefits greatly from his excellent prose. The author combines Morphy's games with instructional chess concepts from Reuben Fine and Cecil Purdy. The volume is chock full of helpful tips and advice (with some exceptions, noted below). Explanations are available for all important moves, and this is without doubt the most accessible and readable collection of Morphy games. In addition, entire sections are devoted to explaining key concepts of the game, and the author doesn't hesitate to use examples from other players when necessary. The layout of the book is very readable.

Unfortunately, there are a few things which render the book inappropriate for beginners, making the title of the book a bit misleading. For some reason, abbreviated notation without capture or check indicators is used, and the diagrams do not include coordinates. Morphy's games are ideal for beginners, no doubt about it. However, some of the games are presented in chapters headed by "rules" that have long been discredited. For example, we see such things as "Don't move the same piece twice in the opening if you can help it." This of course rules out 4.Ng5 in the Two Knights, a very popular and effective opening for beginners. Develop knights before bishops? That hasn't applied for a long, long time. "The easiest endgames to win are pure pawn endgames" is just nonsense! The easy endgames are things like queen and rook vs. bare king. Pawn endgames can be tremendously complex, unless you have a few extra. The uncritical repetition of bad or unjustified advice really takes the book down a peg. Many of the rules are just advice. How can you have a rule "develop with threats" when in most cases that simply isn't possible. I have dealt with many of these issues in my *Encyclopedia of Chess Wisdom*, pointing out numerous cases where the ancient chestnuts don't apply, or are simply wrong.

I highly recommend this book to players with a skill level high enough not to be misled by some of the "rules". Most students who have achieved a rating of 1000 or higher will benefit most from the book. The book can be used in courses or private instruction, as long as there is a teacher who can warn against some of the misleading "rules". Get it as a well-written collection of Morphy games, ignore the "rules", and you will have an enjoyable learning experience.



## WebWatch: Spotlight on useful Internet Sites

There are so many interesting and useful chess related sites on the World Wide Web that you can easily spend a weekend browsing just to visit them. In each issue we will select a few sites that we consider worthy of your attention. Just click on the image to visit each site.



## 2005 Official Scholastic Championships in San Francisco!

CalChess is thrilled to announce that our official scholastic championships will be held in beautiful Fort Mason, San Francisco, in the Herbst Pavilion, May 7-8, 2005. The new site, on the waterfront, is close to many of San Francisco's most popular attractions, including Fisherman's Wharf, The Exploratorium, museums, marinas, galleries, the Presidio and more! Bring the whole family for a fantastic Mother's Day weekend in America's most popular city!

The 2005 CalChess State Scholastics will include:  
Official USCF State Championships with sections for:

- K-12, K-8, K-6, and K-3 (Saturday through Sunday)
- Unrated beginner events (Saturday and Sunday)
- Official state scholastic blitz championship (Friday evening)
- Official state bughouse championship (Friday evening)
- Grandmaster simultaneous exhibition.

This is the only qualifying tournament for the United States Chess Federation's Denker and Polgar national championships.

### The NORCALs are back!



A spectacular venue within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, with plenty of free parking and easy access via mass transit.

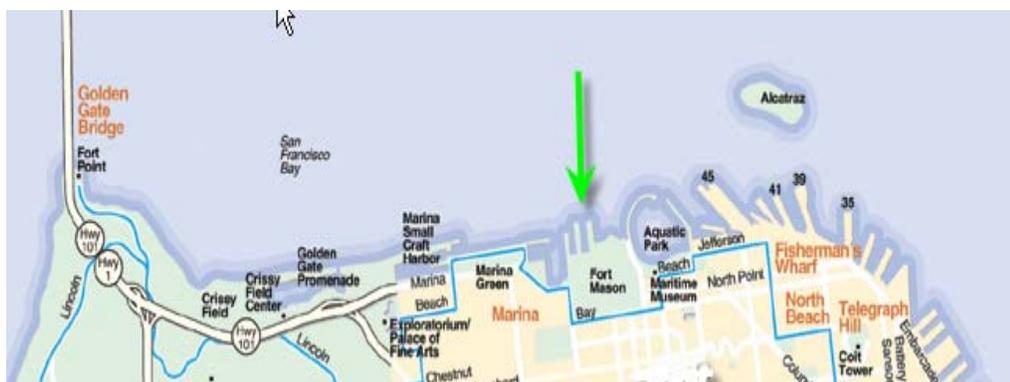
The beautiful waterfront at Fort Mason, CalChess's new site in San Francisco!

Everyone is welcome!



Whether you are an experienced player or have never played in a formal competition, we have an appropriate section for you. Beginners may play in an unrated section with no USCF membership requirement.

The Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason, our new playing site!



FOR ENTRY FORMS OR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CALCHESS.ORG](http://WWW.CALCHESS.ORG), OR CONTACT US BY SENDING EMAIL TO [SCHOLASTICS@CALCHESS.ORG](mailto:SCHOLASTICS@CALCHESS.ORG).

Your CalChess leadership is hard at work, with a goal of making the 30th State Scholastics the best ever! We'll have the best playing site, best books and t-shirts, great food and a top-notch directing team. Because the event is being organized by your elected CalChess board, we can tap the immense resources of talent in our community to achieve our goal of maximum quality and fun. So get ready to experience the greatest Scholastic Championships ever!

## Alexander Stripunsky,vs. Hikaru Nakamura

Marshall Chess Club 2/19/1998

Here is a game that grabbed national attention for Hikaru

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 cxd4  
7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Be2 Be7 9.O-O O-O 10.Nd2 I don't know  
whether Hikaru was familiar with the previous tries in this po-  
sition, which were played long before he was born!

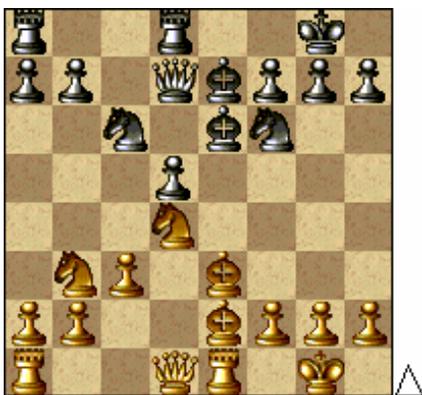
10...Be6.

10...Re8 11.Re1 Bd7 (11...h6 12.h3 Bd6 13.Bf1 a6  
14.Rc1 was agreed drawn in a game between Vlastimil Hort and World Champion Anatoly Karpov, at Tilburg 1977.) 12.h3 Ne4 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Nxe4 dxe4 gave Bolack a good game in Mueller vs. Paetz, from the 1974 East German Championship in Potsdam.

11.N2b3

11.Qc2 Rc8 12.N2f3 Ne4 13.Rad1 was a bit better for White in Hausmann vs. Heymann, Halle (Germany) 1993

11...Qd7 12.Re1 Rfd8 Black has protected the isolated pawn with three pieces. White cannot increase the pressure enough, so he captures the bishop at e6.



13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Bg5 e5 15.Bf1 h6 16.Bh4 a6 17.Qc2 Rac8  
18.Rad1 b5 Black's position has a few holes. White clearly has the better game, since Black is reduced to passive defense. 19.Qg6 Qe6 20.Rd3 Qf7 The kingside attack is repulsed, but at the cost of going into an endgame where Black's pawns are weak. 21.Qf5 Ne8 22.Qxf7+ Kxf7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 Black's position is a little suspect. There are three groups of pawns, known as pawn islands, compared to two for White. In general, the fewer islands, the better. The pawns are under attack from rooks on open files, and White can infiltrate with Nc5. All in all, a tough defense awaits Black.

24.Nc5 Ra8 25.h4 Nf6 26.f3 g5 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Rde3 Re8  
29.b4 Kd6 30.Rd1 a5!/? The best practical chance. Black's position is under pressure and only by opening up lines can Hikaru get into the game. Understanding that his rooks are inactive, he gives up the pawn at b5 to open up the a-file.  
31.Bxb5 axb4 32.cxb4 Rxa2! The point. Not

32...Nxb4 33.Nb7+ Kc7 34.Bxe8 Rxe8 35.Rc3+ Kxb7  
36.Rb1 and Black is the exchange down.



33.Rc3 Wrong move order!

33.Nb7+! would have won material. 33...Kc7  
34.Rc3 Re6 35.Na5 piles on the pin, and Black would have been forced to play 35...Rxa5 36.bxa5 d4 37.Rxc6+ Rxc6 38.Bxc6 Kxc6 39.Rb1 Black would go down to defeat.

33...Nd4 Because White played Rc3 before Nf7, Black has time to react and climb back into the game.

34.Nb7+ Ke6 Hikaru's bold play reaps its rewards. The rook on e8 is hanging, but if the bishop takes it, then the Black knight jumps to e2, forking the king and rook, and creating additional threats. White can't easily avoid losing material. 35.Rxd4

35.Bxe8 Ne2+ 36.Kh2 Nxc3 37.Rc1 Nxe8  
38.Rxc3 d4 is a horrid endgame for White.;  
35.Nc5+ Kf5 36.Bxe8 Ne2+ 37.Kh2 Nxc3  
38.Rd3 Nxe8 39.Rxc3 d4 is not much of an improvement.

35...exd4 36.Rc6+ Ke5 Black's king is in the middle of the board but it is in no danger. 37.Nc5!/?

37.Rxf6 Kxf6 38.Bxe8 wins material but the d-pawn flies. 38...d3 39.Bb5 d2 40.Be2 allows Black to win the bishop by promoting the pawn and pinning along the first rank, but picking off the b-pawn first is even stronger. 40...Rb2 41.Nc5 Rxb4 42.Kf2 Rb1 43.Ke3 d1=Q 44.Bxd1 Rxd1 45.Nd3 Ke6 should win for Black in the long run..

37...Re7 White is in serious trouble. 38.Nd3+

38.g4!/? would have allowed Black to infiltrate. 38...Kf4!! 39.Rxf6+ Kg3 and the White king is doomed. 40.Re6 Ra1+ 41.Bf1 Rh7 with mate in four, the immediate threat being ...Rh1+ and ...Rxf1.

38...Kf5 39.Nc1 This is a very awkward defense. It allows Hikaru to make the most of the rooks.

39...Re1+! 40.Kh2 Ra1 41.Ne2 Rh1+ 42.Kg3 Nh5+ White resigned, because of [...]

43.Kf2 Rhf1#

# Vladimir Mezentsev is 2004 CalChess Champion!

BY MICHAEL AIGNER

Senior Master Vladimir Mezentsev scored an undefeated 5.0/6 while facing most of his nearest competitors to win the annual Labor Day tournament. Mezentsev played in the two-day schedule and gave up draws to second place IM Ricardo DeGuzman in round 2 and third place IM John Donaldson in a pivotal round 5 showdown. DeGuzman was the only person to score 4.5/6 while Donaldson shared third place with FM David Pruess and improving teenager Drake Wang. As the top finisher representing the USA according to FIDE, Donaldson earned a spot in an internet qualifier for the 2004 US Championship. 15-year-old Wang, rated merely 2093 in a field of five players over 2300, impressed more than a few people by being tied for first with Mezentsev after round 5, and thus playing for the state title on top board in the last round.

State champions were crowned in five other sections as well. The competition in the class sections was as fierce as that in the Master division. However, there was a clear winner for each trophy, eliminating the need for tie breaks. Congratulations to everyone listed below!

Class D: Bekhtur Bayaraa (5.5)

The Labor Day tournament was once again capably organized and directed by Richard Koepcke with assistance from John McCumiskey and Bob Blatt. Roughly 165 players came to the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn on Van Ness in San Francisco on what turned out to be a rather warm September weekend.

## WEBLINKS

TOURNAMENT CROSSTABLES: [HTTP://WWW.CALCHESS.ORG/TOURNAMENT\\_RESULTS/](http://www.calchess.org/tournament_results/)

PICTURES BY MARK SHELTON: [HTTP://WWW.CHESSDRYAD.COM/PHOTOS/SANFRAN/](http://www.chessdryad.com/photos/sanfran/)

PICTURES BY MICHAEL AIGNER: [HTTP://WWW.FPAWN.COM/CALCHESS2004/PAGE1.HTML](http://www.fpawn.com/calchess2004/page1.html)



Photo by Michael Aigner



# Nakamura wins US Championship



Chess Patron Eric Anderson with US Champions Nikaru Nakamura and Women's Champion Rusadan Goletiani

**IM Hikaru Nakamura** recently caused a sensation in American chess by becoming the youngest **US Champion** since **Bobby Fischer**.

Nakamura has already broken several of Fischer's records, including becoming the youngest master at 10 years old. This summer, he advanced to the round of 16 in the world championship before succumbing to the #1 seed. Those of you who played in the Reno tournament in October will remember the amazing power of

Nakamura as he defeated three Grandmasters in a row to finish in first place a full point ahead of a field including a dozen GMs. And now he is the **US Champion**, having achieved this honor two days before his 17th birthday.

Nakamura, who plays frequently on the Internet Chess Club under the name 'Smallville', is making the talk show circuit this weeking. Rumor has it that he will appear on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, but the date is not yet known. Yesterday, he was interviewed by Melissa Block of National Public Radio. Among other questions, Nakamura an-

swered whether or not his goal is to become **World Champion**. You can listen to this interview by clicking on the "[Listen Now](#)" button.

What will Nakamura do to celebrate his accomplishment? Starting on Dec. 9, he will play a six game match against the youngest Grandmaster in history. **Sergey Karjakin** of the **Ukraine** earned the **GM** title two years ago at the age of 12

All these teenage GMs make 30 somethings like me feel **REALLY OLD!** :-)

—MichaelAigner



Hikaru at 1998 World Youth Championship  
Photo by Eric Schiller.

## Young blood battle-tested in Mexico

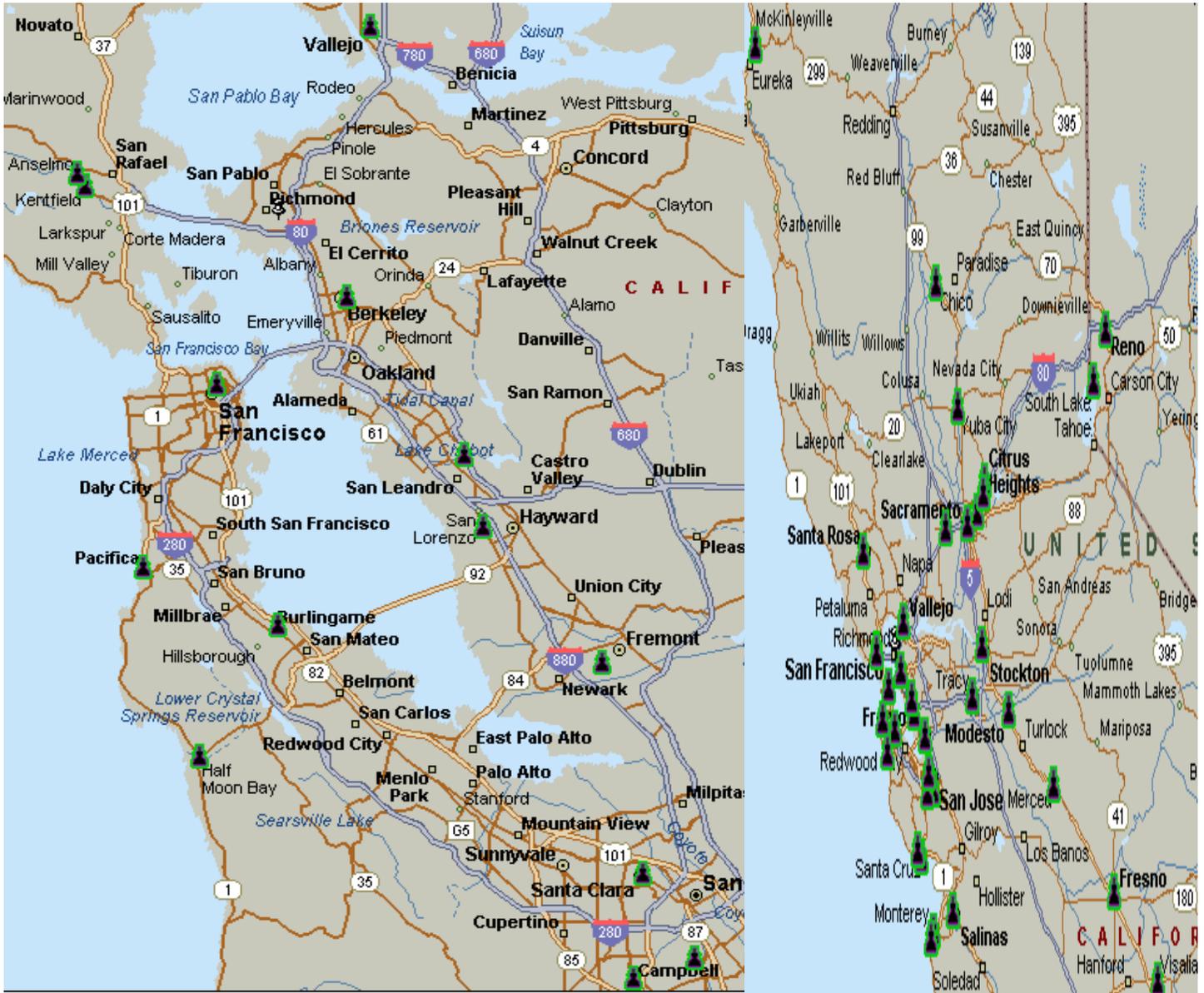
16-year old phenomenon Hikaru Nakamura and 14-year old Ukranian prodigy Sergey Karjakin faced off in a six-game battle sponsored by the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico.

Hikaru jumped out to a 2-0 lead but Sergey rebounded to take the third game. A pair of exciting draws followed. In the final game, Hikaru won a pawn and drove the point home to finish with an impressive 4.5-1.5 win.

—Eric Schiller

**Weekly Chess Club Events**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
East Bay Chess Club Mini-Marathon Fresno Carl's Jr.	Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon Visalia CC	Sacramento Chess Club	Burlingame Chess Club Kolty Chess Club	East Bay Chess Club BCC event



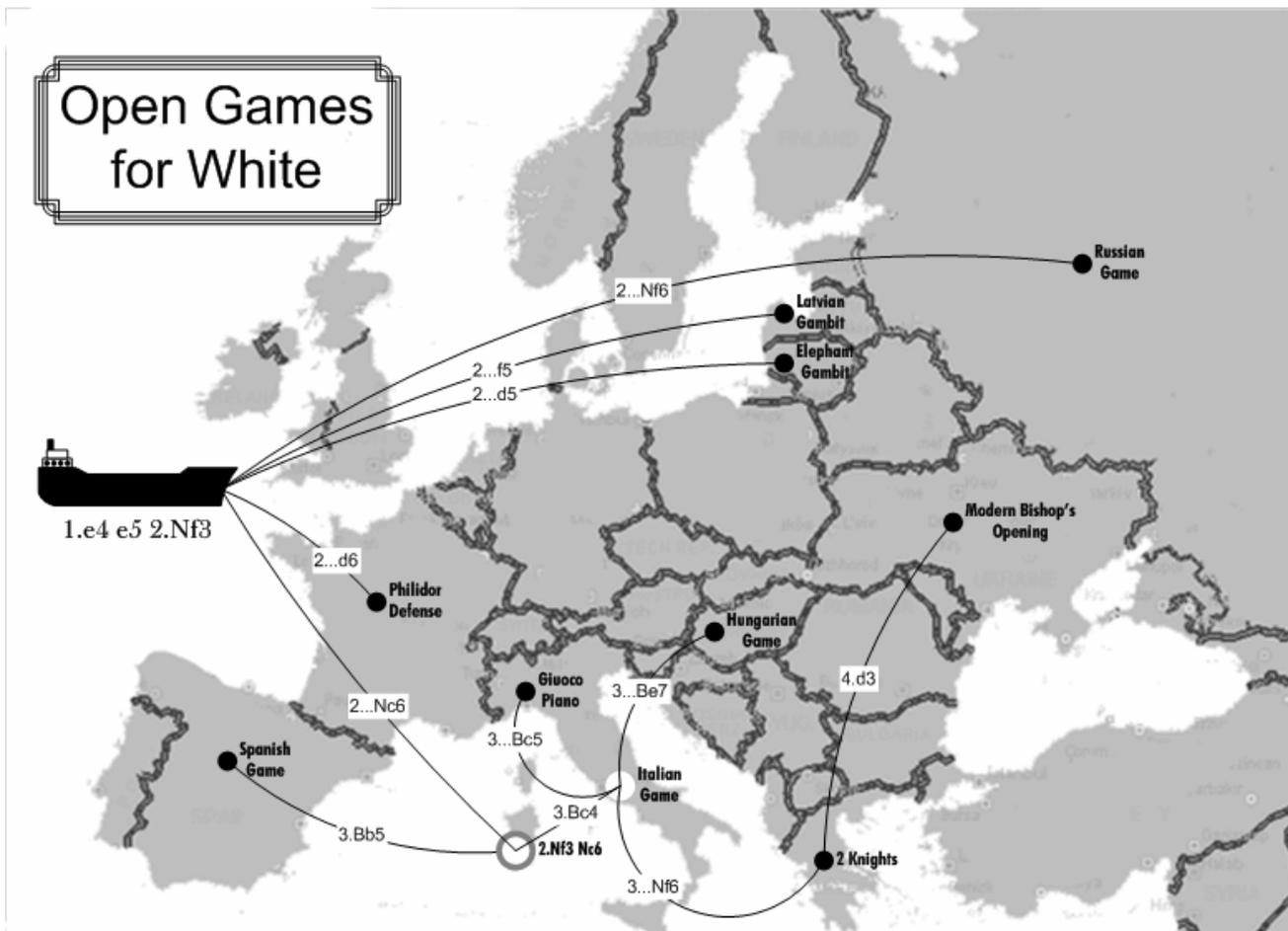
**VISIT THE CALCHESSE WEB SITE FOR DETAILS OF CLUB LOCATIONS, MEETINGS, AND CONTACTS.**

## Chess in the Cinema

Here are scenes from a number of films from the 21st century. Can you recognize each film? Here is a list of the films:

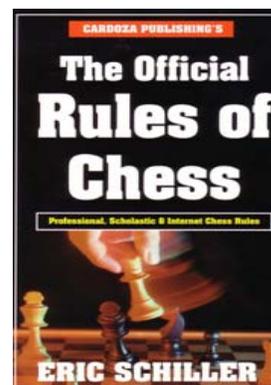
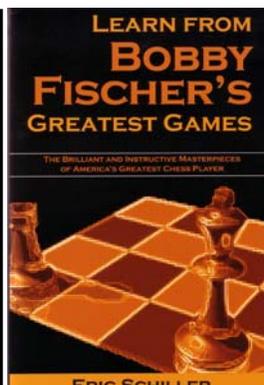
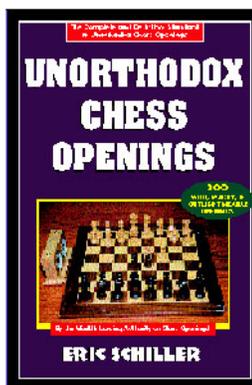
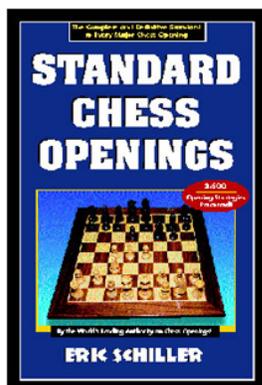
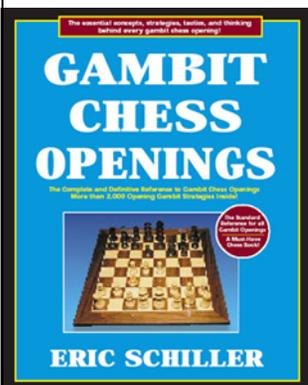
- Matchstick Men
- The Luzhin Defense
- X-Men
- Bedazzled
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
- Shaft 2000
- The Stepford Wives
- Bad Company
- Two Week's Notice



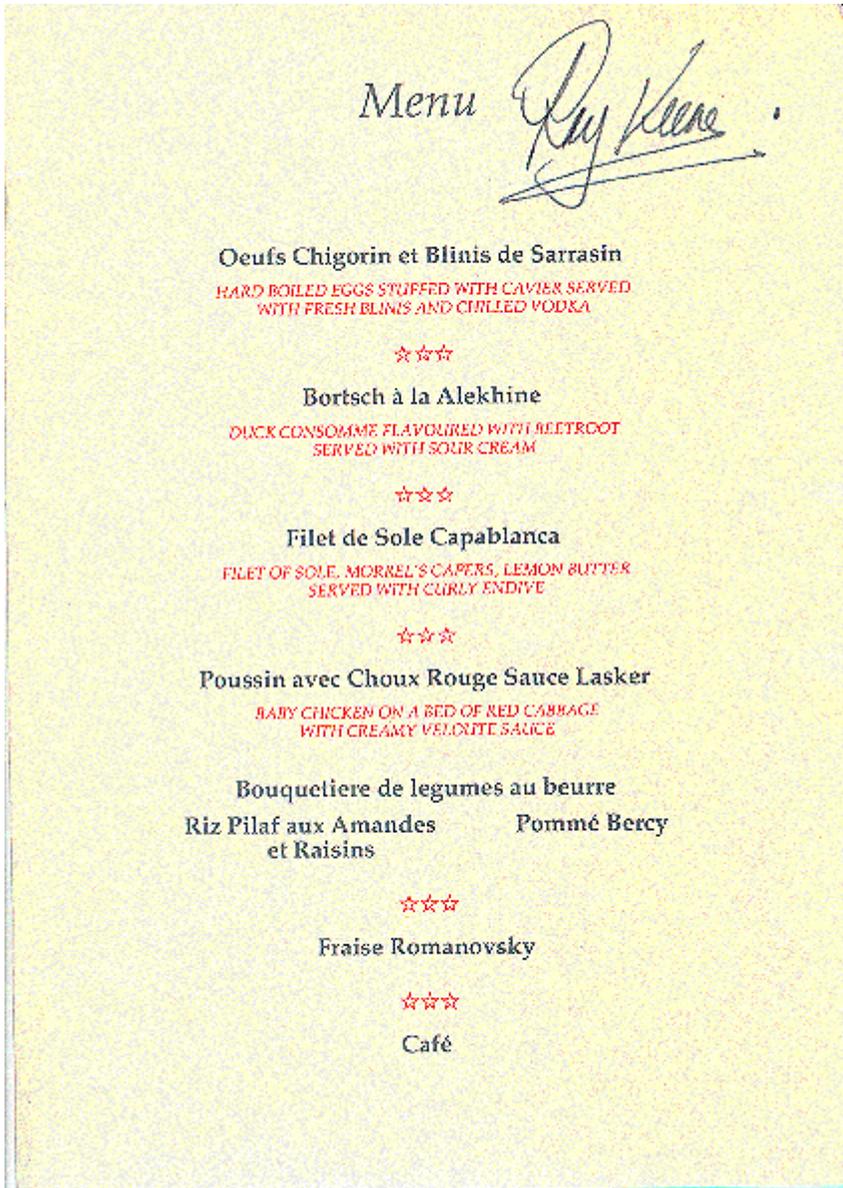


Advertisement

## Great reading for the holidays from Cardoza Publishing



Available wherever fine chess books are sold, in major chain stores, independent bookstores, and online. (Not currently available through the USCF or its vending operation.)



Clockwise from lower left: Jon Tisdall and Ray Keene at the construction site of the 1984 USSR vs. World Match; The official dinner menu for the same event; Karpov and Kasparov face off in their marathon World Championship match; Ace Reporter Tisdall checks out the food at the WC match; Florencio Campomanes, the FIDE President who cancelled the 1984 World Championship match after 6 months of play. (All photos by Eric Schiller, menu provided by Ray Keene)

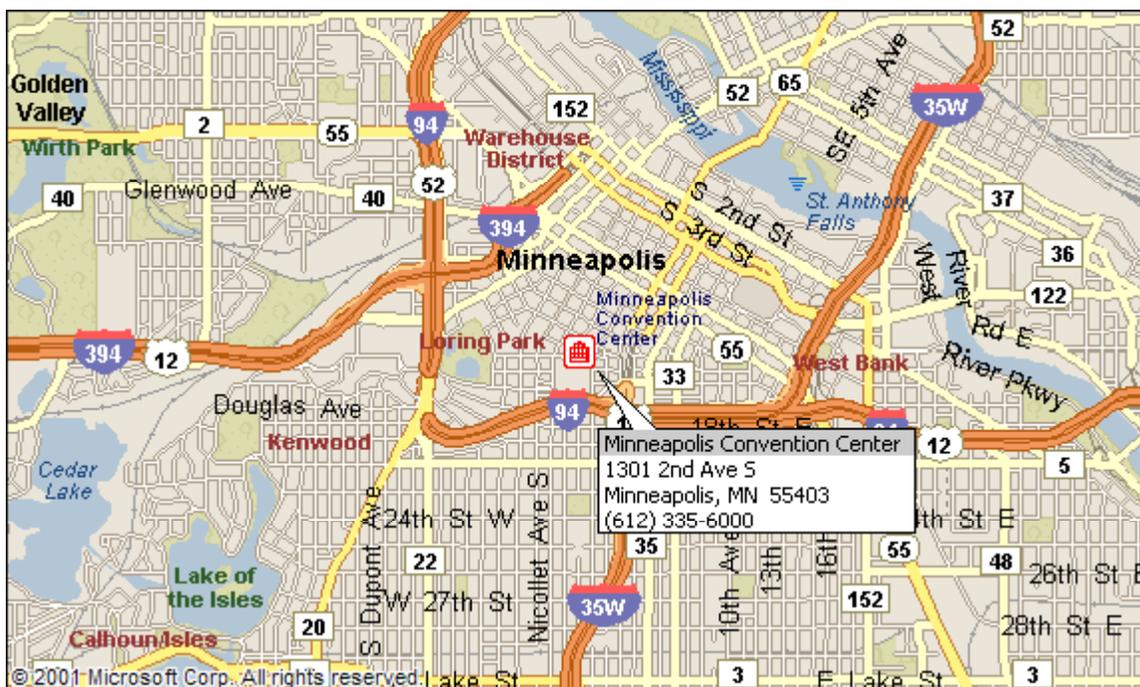
# Record-breaking prize fund to be offered at HB Global Chess Challenge in May, 2005

A new event, with its \$500,000 prize fund, will be a complete chess festival, with lots of attractions. Grandmaster Maurice Ashley has unveiled a series of innovations including a new honor for the most accomplished college teams. The May 18-22, 2005 tournament, expected to attract some 4,000 players, is sure to draw many of those competitive people who belong to chess clubs or are on school teams, said Ashley, the tournament organizer. Brian Molohon, the executive director of the HB Foundation, is sponsoring the tournament.

The HB Global Chess Challenge will be held at the spacious Minneapolis Convention Center and is expected to draw more competitors than ever before for any open chess tournament. The impressive cash prizes, including the first place award of \$50,000 in the Open section, are sure to draw many of the world's best players, together with a broad array of nonprofessionals. There will be 56 cash winners in the Open section, with most of the other sections giving away up to 50 cash prizes, including first place prizes of \$20,000.

The HB Global Chess Challenge, which has been endorsed by the U.S. Chess Federation and the Association of Chess Professionals, is sponsored by the Minneapolis-based HB Foundation, a nonprofit foundation that promotes the cognitive and academic benefits that children and youth gain from learning and playing chess. This biggest ever chess tournament will have multiple side events, including lectures, simultaneous exhibitions, autograph signings by leading GMs, live game analysis of the top boards, musical entertainment, silent and live auctions, drawings, and gift memberships in the U.S. Chess Federation.

Those who wish to get more information or to register are urged to go to the HB Foundation [website](#), or to contact the Call Center at 205-941-4448 or 1-800-964-2448. For more information about the activities of the HB Foundation, call 651-209-3067.



## CalChess Calendar

Weekly		Event	site
	<i>Mon</i>	East Bay Chess Club Mini-Marathon	Berkeley
	<i>Tue</i>	Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon	San Francisco
	<i>Tue</i>	Visalia Chess Club	Visalia
	<i>Wed</i>	Sacramento Chess Club	Sacramento
	<i>Thu</i>	Burlingame Chess Club	Burlingame
	<i>Thu</i>	Kolty Chess Club	Campbell
	<i>Fri</i>	Berkeley City Chess Club (hosted by East Bay Chess Club)	Berkeley
	<i>Fri</i>	Berkeley Chess School Quads	Walnut Creek & Berkeley
Jan 8	<i>Sat</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Bob Burger Open G/45	San Francisco
Jan 15-17	<i>Sat-Mon</i>	East Bay Chess Club New Year's Swiss	Berkeley
Feb 5	<i>Sat</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Henry Gross Memorial G/45	San Francisco
Feb 19-21	<i>Sat-Mon</i>	32 <sup>nd</sup> People's Chess Tournament	Berkeley
Mar 5-6	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	A.J. Fink Amateur (Under 2000)	San Francisco
Mar 12	<i>Sat</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Max Wilkerson Open G/45	San Francisco
Mar 18-20	<i>Fri-Sun</i>	Far West Open	Reno, NV
Apr 2-3	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	North Central California Chess Championships	Stockton
Apr 2-3	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	Walter Lovegrove Senior Open	San Francisco
Apr 16	<i>Sat</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Imre Konig Memorial G/45	San Francisco
Apr 23-24	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	Vallejo Chess Tournament	Vallejo
<b>Scholastic Events</b>			
Jan 8	<i>Sat</i>	Sojourner Truth CEA Girl's Championship (NR)	Menlo Park
Jan 22	<i>Sat</i>	North Bay Girls Scholastic Tournament	San Rafael
Jan 22	<i>Sat</i>	Chess for Kids (Farmersville Jr. High School)	Farmersville
Jan 29	<i>Sat</i>	Sacramento Elementary Championship	Sacramento
Jan 29	<i>Sat</i>	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Feb 5	<i>Sat</i>	Saint Mark's Scholastic Quads	San Rafael
Feb 5-6	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	Santa Clara County High School and Junior High Chess Championship	San Jose
Feb 12	<i>Sat</i>	Sacramento Scholastic Championship	Sacramento
Feb 12	<i>Sat</i>	Chess for Kids (Jackson Elementary School)	Selma
Feb 12	<i>Sat</i>	BCS Quad (Bancroft School)	Walnut Creek
Feb 19	<i>Sat</i>	SUSD K-8 Chess Championships	Stockton
Feb 21	<i>Mon</i>	Young People's Tournament	Berkeley
Feb 26-27	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	CalNorth Youth Scholastic Chess Weekend	Milpitas
Feb 26	<i>Sat</i>	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Mar 5	<i>Sat</i>	Saint Mark's Scholastic Quads	San Rafael
Mar 5	<i>Sat</i>	Chess for Kids (Tulare Western High School)	Tulare
Mar 12	<i>Sat</i>	Lake Forest Elementary Scholastic	Sacramento
Mar 13	<i>Sun</i>	Fox School Scholastic Chess Tournament	Belmont
Mar 26	<i>Sat</i>	Calaveras County Scholastic	Calaveras
Mar 26	<i>Sat</i>	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco
Apr 2	<i>Sat</i>	Chess for Kids (Sanger Academy)	Sanger
Apr 2-3	<i>Sat-Sun</i>	North Central California Chess Championships	Stockton
Apr 15-17	<i>Fri-Sun</i>	California Northern Regional Scholastic Championships	San Jose
Apr 30	<i>Sat</i>	St. Albans Scholastic	Sacramento
Apr 30	<i>Sat</i>	Mechanics' Institute Children's Quads	San Francisco

THE COMPLETE CALCHESS CALENDARS WITH DETAILS OF REGULAR AND SCHOLASTIC EVENTS ARE ONLINE AT WWW.CALCHESS.ORG.

# California Northern Grade Level Championship



On a cold but sunny Saturday morning in Stockton, 246 eager youngsters showed up for the annual California Northern Grade Level Championship.

This event is unique since players compete in one of 13 sections ranging from kindergarten to 12th

grade and thus do not have to face any opponents who are older or younger. The tournament was previously held each

year in May, but has been moved to December in the hopes of attracting more participation. This year's venue at the beautiful campus of the University of the Pacific provided plenty of space for players to run around and eat, parents to sit and chat, and directors to relax in peace and quiet.

*Overheard: "I saw that my rook was hanging, but figured I could beat him without it. So I guess it was a sacrifice."*

The K-3 sections played five games on Saturday while the 4-12 sections completed six rounds over two days. The following individuals and school teams earned the title of State Champion for their grade! In case of a tie for 1st place, the person listed first won a blitz playoff.

The event was once again capably organized by Tom Big-

lione and the rest of the North Stockton Rotary. Dozens of volunteers from the Rotary, both young and old, assisted to make the rounds proceed as smoothly and on-time as possible. The tournament directing staff was headed by John McCumiskey of the Sacramento Chess Club and Jacob Green of the Stockton Chess Club.

—Michael Aigner



Kids do battle for the Grade Level honors

## THE WINNERS:

- Kindergarten: Jeffery Ko and Leon Kitano
- 1st grade: Nicholas Nip  
team: Weibel Elementary
- 2nd grade: Jonathan Gilbert  
team: Mission San Jose Elementary
- 3rd grade: Alex Grossman and Aamir Azhar  
team: Mission San Jose Elementary
- 4th grade: Isaac Zhang  
team: Heather Elementary and Gomes Elementary
- 5th grade: Mukund Chillakanti  
team: Mission San Jose Elementary
- 6th grade: Tatsuro Yamamura and Logan Su  
team: St. Mark's School

- 7th grade: John Miller  
team: St. Mark's School
- 8th grade: Ted Belanoff  
team: St. Mark's School
- 9th grade: Matt Zavortink  
team: Stagg High School
- 10th grade: Evan Eyster and Michael Liu  
team: Stagg High School
- 11th grade: Wesley Chen  
team: Edison High School
- 12th grade: Jason Gurtovoy  
team: Edison High School





**CalChess.org**  
the northern california chess association

**CalChess**

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**Serving the Northern California Chess  
Community**

**CalChess is the official United States Chess Federation recognized organization for chess in Northern California. As the only authorized state affiliate of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), we conduct chess competitions and exhibitions throughout Northern California. CalChess cooperates with local chess clubs, schools, the public and other groups to promote and develop chess instruction and play.**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR  
CHESS FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

