

# California CHESS Journal

Fall 2010



## Naroditsky 2nd at U.S. Open, Zierk Wins Denker, Shankland Takes U.S. Junior

GM Ramirez 1st at Irvine, 14-Year-Old Daniel leads the FIDE Masters

Grandmaster Alejandro Ramirez, a Costa Rican attending the University of Texas at Dallas, scored 8-1 to win clear first place at the 111th Jerry Hanken Memorial US Open held July 31-August 8 in Irvine, Calif.

In rounds 6-8, Ramirez scored 2.5 against grandmasters Khachiyan, Akobian and Shabalov, and then a draw with  
**Continued on Page 3**

Los Gatos High Senior Earns Scholarship to Chess Powerhouse UTexas Dallas

FM Steven Zierk, representing Northern California, won the Denker Tournament of High School Champions held July 31-Aug. 3 concurrently with the U.S. Open in Irvine.

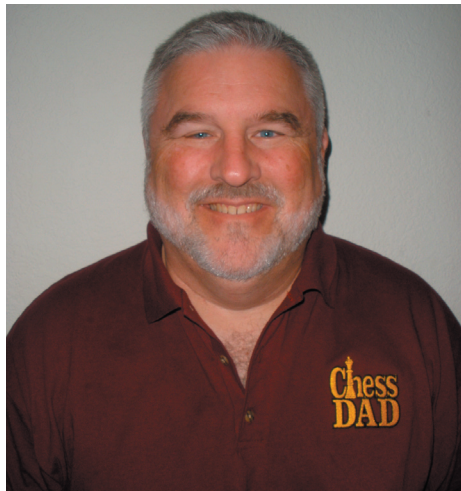
The Los Gatos High School senior scored 5.5-0.5. Zierk's draw in round four dropped the tournament's only senior master into 2nd place for a day, but Zierk beat Colorado expert  
**Continued on Page 6**

IM Shankland Starts Slow, Finishes Strong at St. Louis Junior Invitational

IM Sam Shankland went to the U.S. junior championship in St. Louis in July after having announced his retirement from chess on his blog.

Seeded second behind GM Robson, Shankland lost his first two games, but — perhaps after rethinking his career plans — scored five wins and two draws in seven rounds. Meanwhile, Robson — who led the field by  
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# CalChess President's Message



With summer coming to an end, I am sure we are all looking forward to some notable tournaments coming up starting with CalChess State Open Championship this Labor Day weekend organized by Richard Koepcke. Salman Azhar will again be conducting a large tournament over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, and then on New Year's weekend. Soon after that is the return of Bill Goichberg's Golden State Open in Concord over the Martin Luther King Jr weekend.

This is the last year of the 3-year arrangement Bill has with the hotel, so I especially want to encourage one and all to support this tournament.

I had the opportunity to work as a member of the tournament staff at the US Open in Irvine. Even though I was very busy, it was a pleasure to see and meet the Northern California players in attendance. I felt privileged to watch our Northern California representative FM Steven Zierk win the Denker Tournament of State High School Champions and with that, a full scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas. Another dazzling performance by a Northern Californian was Daniel Naroditsky's second place finish in the main event. After his penultimate round win over 2008 US Open Champion IM Enrico Sevillano, I had the chance to congratulate Daniel, who was anxious about his last round game. That hard-fought draw against GM Akobian cost the grandmaster a couple thousand dollars, and may have gained Daniel an invitation to the US Closed Championship!

The USCF Delegates Meeting is always held in conjunction with the US Open. CalChess was represented by a full delegate contingent of myself, Mike Goodall, Richard Koepcke, Tony Pabon, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, and John McCumiskey. Also from Northern California were USCF Executive Board member Ruth Haring, and US Chess Trust official Jim Eade. Delegates' decisions that will impact general players: in order to vote in future USCF elections, a member will be required to register. This will save the USCF from mailing ballots to the majority of members that do not return a ballot. The procedures for USCF voter registration will be announced no later than the November 2010 issue of *Chess Life*. Rule 5fa (subtracting 5 minutes on a delay clock) was almost eliminated, but its eradication will be deferred for one year.

At the US Open Awards Luncheon the Berkeley Chess School was recognized with a Scholastic Service Award. Michael Aigner was awarded the Frank J. Marshall award as a Chess Ambassador.

## California CHESS Journal

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# FM Naroditsky Annotates Win U.S. Open Win vs. IM Sevillano

Continued from Page 1

IM Sadorra in round 9 secured at least a tie for first.

14-year-old FIDE master Daniel Naroditsky of San Francisco could have pulled even with Ramirez but his draw with GM Akobian left the pair at 7.5-1.5, tied with Sadorra and Shabalov for 2nd-5th.

Naroditsky drew with GM Paragua, beat IM Sevillano, and drew GM Akobian, but did not earn a grandmaster norm because he didn't play as many FIDE-titled players as required. "That's why Daniel plays mostly in Europe nowadays — there are just a few tournaments where you get the norm in the U.S., regrettably," said his father Vladimir.

White: Daniel Naroditsky (2453)

Black: Enrico Sevillano (2536)

Closed Sicilian

Notes by FM Daniel Naroditsky

**1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 d6 6. Be3 Nd4!?**

An interesting and underestimated way to fight the Closed Sicilian. Black's aim is to impede White's kingside development, and also to advance the b-pawn, cramping White's pieces. The battle usually revolves around whether or not

White can successfully evict the d4 knight from its post.

## 7. Qd2

Preparing the typical maneuver Nd1 followed by c3.

## 7. ... Qa5

Black follows up on his previous move. Now 8. Nd1 is impossible (8. Nd1?? Nxc2-+) and White must seek other ways to develop his kingside pieces.

## 8. f4

In this position, Black has many ways to continue. Black chooses a logical continuation but I was more afraid of moves such as 8...Nf6.

## 8. ... Rb8

8. ... Nf6 9. h3 O-O 10. Nge2 Nxe2 11. Nxe2 Qxd2+ 12. Bxd2 Bd7 13. Bc3 Bc6 14. a4 Rfc8 with an equal ending in Paschall-Sutovsky, Port Erin 1999.

8...e6 is the main continuation, but in my view, White manages to retain an edge with accurate play: 9.Nh3! Ne7 10.o-o Bd7 11.Rae1 f5 12.e5 Qc7 13.exd6 Qxd6 14.Nb1! Rc8 15.Na3 b6 16.c3 Ndc6 17.Ng5 and White manages to make inroads into Black's position (Conquest-Cvitan, Forli 1992).

## 9. Nf3 b5 10. O-O Bg4

Black's pieces are in perfect harmony and there is no reason why White should be better. However, in the long term, if White manages to repel Black's

### 111th US Open July 31-Aug. 8, 2010

1	GM A. Ramirez	8
2-5	GM V. Akobian	7.5
	GM A. Shabalov	
	IM Julio Sadorra	
	FM D. Naroditsky	
1-6 M	FM Matt Beelby	7
	FM J. Banawa	
	Ankit Gupta	
	Jim Dean	
	Giovanni Carreto	
	Paulsen Williams	
1 Exp	Vanessa West	7
1-6 A	John Harwell	6
	Steven Cooklev	
	Roland Feng	
	Christopher Pascal	
	Kesav Wiswanadha	
1-2 B	Solomon Ruddell	5.5
	Daniel Shaw	
1-3 C	Anthony Mack	4.5
	Kevin Qian	
	Bryan Huang	
1-6 D	Robert Soul	3.5
	John Yu	
	Kyle Perkovich	
	Danial Asaria	
	Alonzo Sanchez	
	Harini Balakrishnan	
1-2 E	Trevor Stearman	3.5
	Alvin Cao	
1-3 U	Chengming Lei	3
	Irina Nizmutdinova	
	Ziyi Wang	

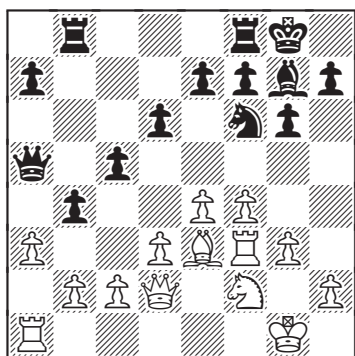
knight, he will have interesting ideas on the queenside connected with the opening of the a-file.

## 11. a3

# NM Gallegos 1/2 GM Gareyev with Romantic King's Gambit at U.S. Open

Essentially, a good waiting move. If Black ever plays ...b4, he will have to deal with an annoying pin after White's knight moves away.

**11. ... Bxf3 12. Bxf3 b4 13. Nd1 Nxf3+ 14. Rxf3 Nf6 15. Nf2 0-0**



**16. Qe1 Rfe8?!**

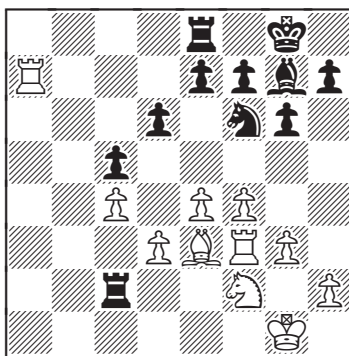
This allows White to obtain an edge in the endgame. Instead, had Black retreated with his queen, the position would have been approximately level. 16...Qc7 17.axb4 Rxb4 And now upon turning on Fritz, I could not believe my eyes when I saw its recommendation: 18.Bd4!!

Obviously, a completely inhuman move, but a very effective one! White transfers his bishop to c3, thus defending the b2 pawn and obtaining a small edge. 18.Rxa7?? is tempting, but after 18...Qxa7 19.Qxb4 Qa1+! White loses his queen!

**17. axb4 Qxb4 18. Qxb4 Rxb4 19. Rxa7 Rxb2 20. c4**

Due to the unpleasant threat of e5, Black has to play ...h5. In that case, the position remains about level (maybe a very slight pull for White). However, Black ignored the threat and played:

**20. ... Rc2?**

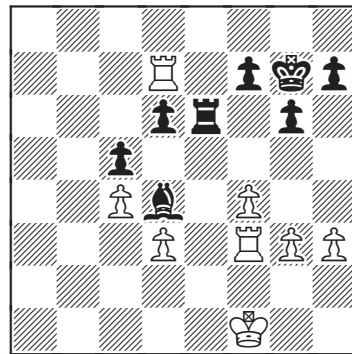


A big mistake, after which White will be an exchange up. Usually, blunders like these occur when a player sees the threat and later forgets about it. Obviously, I was very happy to see ...Rc2 played on the board! 20...h5 21.h3 Rd8 22.g4 (22. Rxe7 Nd7) 22...hxg4 23.hxg4 And White's space advantage guarantees him a small advantage.

**21. e5 Rxf2 22. Bxf2 Ng4 23. exd6 exd6 24. h3 Nxf2 25. Kxf2 Bd4+ 26. Kf1 Kg7**

An interesting endgame has arisen. White is an exchange up, but winning is not easy, as Black does not have any accessible weaknesses and White's f3 rook is temporarily stuck. Therefore, in order to win, it's vital to create a weakness in Black's camp.

**27. Rd7 Re6**



**28. f5!**

This is the point. Black must trade pawns, and the f7 pawn will become a serious weakness.

**28. ... gxf5**

28...Rf6 29.g4 h6 30.h4 g5 (30...gxf5 31.g5 hxg5 32.hxg5) 31.hxg5 hxg5 32.Rh3 and White wins easily.

**29. Rxf5 Bf6 30. Rf4**

Black has managed to re-group his pieces and defend f7. However, he has done so at a price. Now, the bishop is chained to f6, and Black must defend against the idea of pawn pressure on the kingside.

**30. ... h5 31. g4 hxg4 32. Rxg4+!**

An important part of White's plan. The passed pawn will be very hard to stop later on.

**32. ... Kf8 33. Rf4 Kg7 34. Rf3 Be7**

A golden opportunity has been created: If I manage to transfer my rook to e2, the trade

of rooks will be forced, and the resulting endgame will be easily won. This explains my next few moves.

**35. Ra7 Kg6 36. Ra2 Bh4  
37. Rg2+ Kh6 38. Re2 Kg6**

Trading on e6 was very tempting, but I could not find a clear way to win(!) in the resulting endgame.

**39. Rg2+**

39.Rxe6+ fxe6 40.Rf4 Bg5 41.Rg4 Kf5 42.Ke2 Bf4 (42... d5 43.Rxg5+ Kxg5 44.d4!+-) 43.Kf3 Bh6 44.h4 Bd2 and although White should win, I didn't see any necessity to go for this line when there was a much simpler win.

**39. ... Kh6 40. Rg4 Re1+**

40...Bf6 41.Rf5! A great move which wins on the spot. Black is in zugzwang!

**41. Kg2 Re2+ 42. Kg1 Re1+  
43. Rf1 Rxf1+ 44. Kxf1**

The rest is easy, as Black not only has to restrict White's passer he also has to defend the weak d6-pawn.

**44. ... Bg5 45. Re4 Kg6 46. Kg2 Bf6 47. Kf3 Be5 48. Rg4+ 1-0**

...Kh5 allows the penetration of White's king, while ...Kf5 allows the h-pawn to advance. In my opinion, a nice, simple game that illustrates the many ideas available to White in the Closed Sicilian.

White: Paul Gallegos (2206)  
Black: Timur Gareyev (2689)  
King's Gambit Declined  
Notes by NM Paul Gallegos

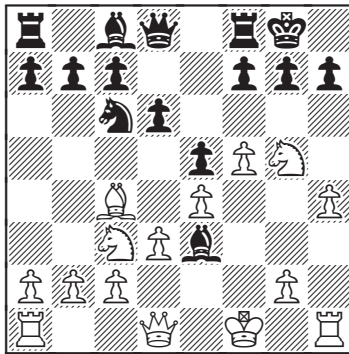
**1. e4 e5 2. f4 Bc5**

The best way to decline the gambit.

**3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Bc4 Nc6 6. d3 Ng4**

6...a6 and 6...Bg4 are more common. Gareyev's move is supposed to lead to an advantage for White.

**7. Ng5 O-O 8. f5 Bf2+ 9. Kf1 Ne3+ 10. Bxe3 Bxe3 11. h4**



**11...g6**

11. ... Bxg5 12. hxg5 Qxg5 13. Rh5 gives White good compensation for the pawn.

**12. Qg4?**

12. Nxf7! Rxf7 13. Qf3! d5 14. Bxd5 Bc5 15. fxf6 Qxd5! 16. gxh7+ Kxh7 17. Nxd5 Rxf3+ 18. gxf3 with advantage to White.

**12. ... Ne7 13. Qf3 Bxg5 14. hxg5 Nxf5**

14. ... d5! 15. Bb3 h5 16. gxh6 Kh7 17. g4 was better than the game continuation.

**15. exf5 Qxg5 16. fxf6 hxg6 17. Ne4?!**

17. Nd5 was better, conferring a clear advantage.

**17. ... Qf5 18. Qxf5 Bxf5  
19. g4 Bxe4 20. dxe4 Kg7  
21. Ke2 f6 22. Rh2 Rh8 23. Rah1 Rxh2+ 24. Rxh2 c6  
25. Kf3 Rd8 26. Rd2 f5 27. gxf5 gxf5 28. exf5 d5 29. Bf1 Kf6 30. Bh3 Rh8 31. Kg3 e4 32. Rh2 Kg5 33. Bg4 Rxh2 34. Kxh2 d4 35. Kg2**

35. a4 would have led to an easy win for White.

**35. ... c5 36. Kf2 b5 37. Ke2 a5 38. a3 Kf6 39. Kd2 b4 40. axb4 axb4 41. b3 Kg5 42. Bh3 Kf6 43. Ke2 Ke5 44. Kf2?**

White now has no better than a draw. 44. Bg4 would have maintained a winning advantage.

**44. ... c4 45. Ke2 c3 46. Bg4 1/2**

Black agreed to a draw on White's request.

## San Francisco Mechanics Off to a 2-0 Start in US Chess League Play

The San Francisco Mechanics team in the U.S. Chess League won its first two matches.

On Aug. 25, the Mechanics beat the Dallas 3.5-0.5 behind wins by GM Patrick Wolff, FM Daniel Naroditsky, and FM Andy Lee.

Then on Aug. 30, San Francisco beat Miami 3-1. Naroditsky won for the Mechanics, and so did U.S. cadet champion FM Yian Liou.

The Mechanics play their matches online from the Mechanics Institute Chess Club.

# Zierk Zaps Zhang at Tourney of HS Champs

Continued from Page 1

Richard Herbst in round 5 and Arizona NM Kevin Zhang in the last round to keep ahead of Washington expert Alex Guo, who finished clear second at 5-1.

Zierk earned a full scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas. The uschess.org blog said Zierk expects to accept the scholarship.

The field was made up of 49 high school champions — every state but Montana sent a champion — rated from 921 to 2425.

White: Steven Zierk (2425, Northern California)

Black: Kevin Zhang (2202, Arizona)

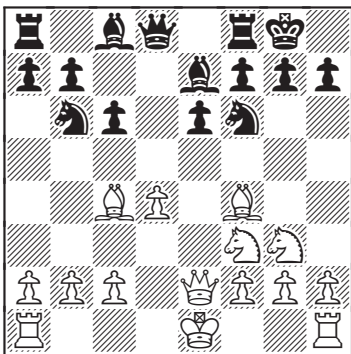
Caro-Kann Defense

Notes by FM Steven Zierk

**1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Ng3 e6 7. Bf4**

An unusual move, trying to stop ...Bd6. I didn't remember the theory, since I'd never played this line in a game before. The main move is 7. Bd3.

**7. ... Be7 8. Bc4 O-O 9. Qe2 Nb6**



**10. Bb3**

Black has difficulties developing, so for now, White has a solid advantage.

**10. ... Nbd5 11. Bg5?!**

Both players miss the shot 11... Bb4+! forcing awkward concessions from White. 12. c3? Nxc3 is losing, and 12. Bd2? leads to the nice tactical shot 12... Nf4! 13. Qf1 Bxd2+ and it is hard to decide whether 14. Kxd2 or 14. Nxd2 is less appealing. White has to play 12. Nd2, and after 12... h6 Black is fine.

**11. ... Qc7?! 12. O-O-O**

I didn't particularly want to play this, but White has to do something about the threats of ...Bb4+ and ...Nf4 followed by ...h6. From here the game is extremely complicated.

**12. ... b5 13. c3 a5 14. Bc2 a4 15. Qd3 Nf4 16. Bxf4 Qxf4+**

Both sides want to attack on opposite wings.

**17. Kb1 b4?!**

He should have prevented White's next move, perhaps by 17. ... g6, or ...Qh6 immediately.

**18. Nh5! Qh6 19. Nxf6+ gxf6**

After 19. ... Bxf6 20. cxb4 followed by a3, it is hard for Black to break through White's pawns, while g4 and h4 and so forth are easy moves for White.

**20. cxb4**

I preferred this to allowing ...bxc3, but it doesn't look right. One should very rarely move pawns on the weaker side.

Perhaps 20. c4, allowing ...b3, is best.

**20. ... Bxb4 21. g4 Ba6?! 22. Qe4**

Now White has two threats: 23. g5 fxe5 24. Nxe5, and the one which my opponent missed.

**22. ... Qg7 23. d5!**

The position is still very dangerous, but White wrecks Black's pawns.

**23. ... Rab8 24. dxe6 Ba3 25. b3**

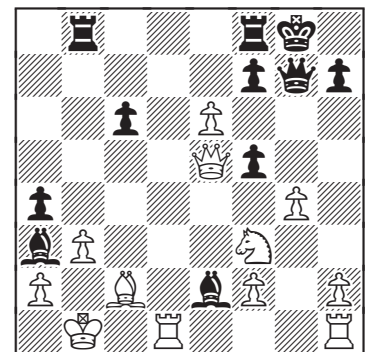
25. e7?! Rxb2+ 26. Ka1 is worth serious consideration, and my longest think was deciding between these two moves. Ultimately I chose against e7 since even if it was good, my opponent could make massive threats. 25. b3 was much safer.

**25. ... f5 26. Qe5**

Black's position is very difficult - his attack has stalled, and thanks to the d5 trick, White is smashing through in the center. Kevin finds some ingenious moves, but it is not enough.

**26. ... Be2!?**

Before you look ahead, a little puzzle for you: see if you can find White's next move.



## 27. Rdg1!

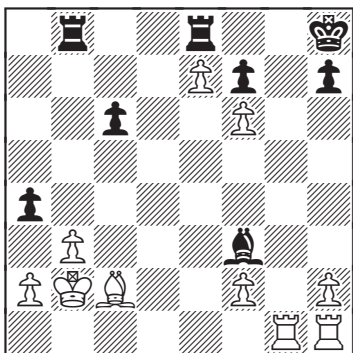
Now Black's king and queen are the ones in danger. There is no defense short of entering an endgame down several pawns.

## 27. ... Bb2 28. Qxb2?

I considered this, the materialistic but dangerous 28. Qxe2, as well as 28. Qxg7+ and 28. gxf5. However, my mind completely shut out the simple 28. Kxb2, winning instantly. Perhaps I had just considered the black queen to be protecting the bishop, but this is a simple mistake.

In the end I decided I could comfortably win the coming endgame and there was no reason to risk 28. Qxe2, while 28. Kxb2 did not even enter consideration.

## 28. ... Qxb2+ 29. Kxb2 Bxf3 30. gxf5+ Kh8 31. e7 Rfe8 32. f6



## 32...Bxh1?!

A little note - the rook can't run, why not wait for White to waste a move with the g1-rook first?

## 33. Rxh1

Materially is technically even, but a protected passer on the seventh and a weak king for

your opponent is enough to win almost any game.

## 33. ... c5 34. Kc3 Rg8 35. Rd1

Black's king is literally caged, and the rooks are confined to the first rank because otherwise White plays Rd8, trading a set of rooks and further limiting Black's counterplay.

## 35. ... Rbc8 36. bxa4 c4 37. Rd4 Rc6

White could now play the Rd8 and trade mentioned earlier, but he has a nicer move in mind.

## 38. Rh4! Re8 39. Rxh7+ Kg8 40. Rg7+ 1-0

41. Rxf7, threatening 42. Rh7+ plus 43. f7#, is too much.

# GM Kaufman iWns istrF US npOe chrFsie modRan Enetv

## US Open Fischer Random Tournament August 3, 2010

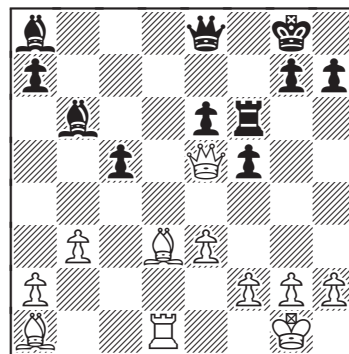
1-2	Larry Kaufman	3.5
	William Duckworth	
3-4	Damian Nash	2.5
	Frisco Del Rosario	

## By Frisco Del Rosario

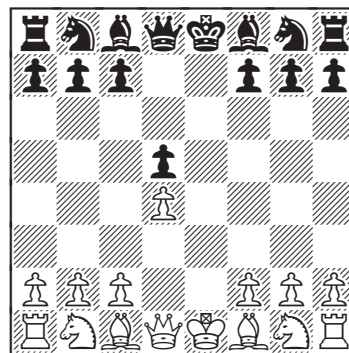
GM Larry Kaufman won the first Fischer Random tournament held at a U.S. Open on Aug. 3. Kaufman's tiebreaks were better than those of SM William Duckworth, who also scored 3.5 of 4.

Utah tournament organizer Damian Nash, a Fischer Random enthusiast, suggested the side event for the 111th U.S. Open schedule. It attracted 14 players.

In Kaufman's blog entry at uschess.org, he said he recognized a Dutch Defense structure in this Fischer Random position:



A most typical structure came about in my first-round game.



arising most commonly in the Exchange French

## 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5

while those wacky Englund gambiteers also see it occasionally

# Pattern Recognition in Fischer Random Chess

## 1. d4 e5 2. e3 exd4 3. exd4 d5

For one to get a central superiority, it's necessary to play P-QB4. Alekhine played 4. c4 a few times, while the inclusion of N-KB3 for both sides increases the number of transpositions:

Exchange French

## 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. c4

Albin Countergambit

## 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. e3 exd4 4. exd4 Nf6 5. Nf3

Budapest

## 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. e3 exd4 4. exd4 d5 5. Nf3

Center Counter

## 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. d4 exd5 5. Nf3

Petroff

## 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d3 Nf6 6. d4 d5 7. c4

The paradox in the Petroff move order is that it's better for White not to play d2-d3-d4. If White plays d2-d4 in one step:

## 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d4

which is the same as

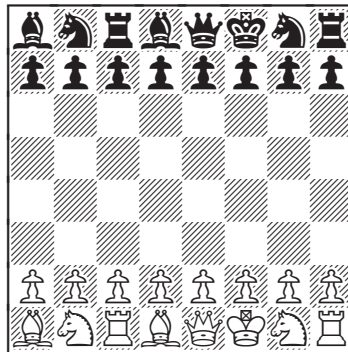
## 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Ne4!

then Black has gained a whole move in the Exchange French, but when White eventually plays c2-c4, Black's structure is weaker — there is no knight on f6 to support d5, while the knight itself can be attacked on e4.

Not only does a well-timed c2-c4 in these Petroff positions confer the better center to White, the first player will also gain an advantage in time when Black moves the e4-knight to safer ground.

White: Frisco Del Rosario (2093)

Black: Yong Soo Kim (1395)  
Scharnagl position #225



## 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 Bg5

The point should be that Black connected his majors.

## 4. Nd2

Now Black can play 4...exd5, threatening 5...Qxe1+, while 5. Qxe8+ results in a gain of time for Black instead of the loss of his castling privilege.

## 4. ... Bxd2

Bad, losing time and quality.

## 5. Qxd2 exd5 6. Bg4

6. Nf3 and 7. o-o was good.

## 6. ... Qb5+ 7. Be2 Qc6 8. Nf3 Nf6 9. O-O

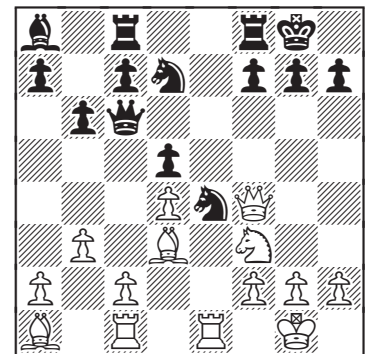
White refrains from Ne5 not so much because d4 is weakened, but because the black

queen is sitting uncomfortably when White advances c2-c4.

## 9. ... O-O 10. b3 b6

Now White has to consider that c2-c4 plus d5xc4 frees Black's diagonal battery along a8-g2. Meanwhile, there are developing moves to make.

## 11. Rfe1 Nbd7 12. Bd3 Ne4 13. Qf4



## 13...Qf6

White gets a strong initiative on 13. ... Nc3 14. Bxc3 Qxc3 15. Bf5. Black's queen is embarrassed by 13. ... Ndf6 14. Ne5: 14...Qd6 drops a piece, 14...Qe8 puts the queen on a dangerous file, and the "queenchetto" 14...Qb7 is awkward at best.

## 14. Qg4 Bc6 15. c4

Thematic and winning, but 4. Bxe4 dxe4 5. d5 Bxd5 6. Bxf6 Nxf6 7. Qf4 exf3 was simplest and most direct. Tactics takes precedence over positional niceties, always.

## 15. ... Rcd8 16. cxd5 Nxf2 17. Kxf2 Bxd5 18. Qh5 g6 19. Qxd5 Nc5 20. Qc4 Ne6 21. d5

White won in a few moves.



# Shankland Survives Two Armageddon Games to Win U.S. Junior Closed

Continued from Page 1

a full point — suffered his first loss in the last round, and SM Parker Zhao also landed in the tie at 6-2 with a draw.

Shankland won both armageddon-style playoff games against Zhao and Robson on July 20 to win the title. Shankland told a Chess Club of St. Louis reporter that his retirement could turn into a hiatus, possibly ending next year.

At press time, Shankland was not registered in the CalChess Labor Day State Championship, which he won the last two years.

White: Sam Shankland (2513)

Black: Conrad Holt (2402)

Slav Defense

Notes by IM Sam Shankland

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. Nh4**

6. e3 and 6. Ne5 are the main moves.

**6. ... Bg4!?**

A sharp variation, employed twice by myself.

**7. h3 Bh5 8. g4 Bg6 9. Nxc6 hxg6 10. e4!?**

Much more aggressive than the timid 10. e3.

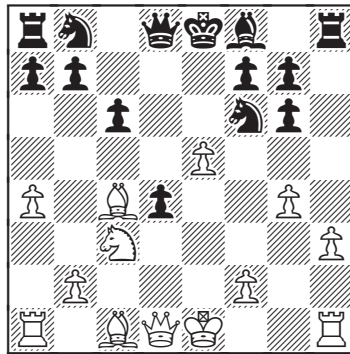
**10. ... e5**

Black strikes back in the center.

**11. Bxc4!**

Sacrificing a pawn for a strong initiative.

**11. ... exd4 12. e5**



**12...dxc3??**

In a position as sharp as this one, one mistake throws it all away. 12. ... Bb4! and the position remains extremely complicated. I won't divulge any more of my preparation here or give my final assessment.

**13. Bxf7+ Ke7 14. exf6+ gxf6 15. Qb3! +-**

Black's king won't survive too long.

**15. ... Bh6**

15. ... Qd7 16. O-O followed by Re1+ and Rd1; 15. ... Qc7 16. Qe6+ Kd8 17. Qe8# ; 15. ... Qd6 16. bxc3 Nd7 17. Ba3 c5 18. Bxg6.

**16. Bxh6 Rxh6 17. Rd1 Qc8**

17. ... Qc7 18. Qe6+ Kf8 19. Qe8+ Kg7 20. Qg8# ; 17. ... Nd7 18. Qe6+ Kf8 19. Rxd7.

**18. O-O Kf8**

18. ... Nd7 19. Qe6+ Kd8 20. Qxf6+ Kc7 21. Qf4+ Kb6 22. Qxh6.

**19. Rfe1 c2**

19. ... Kg7 20. Re8 Qc7 21. Rg8+ Kh7 22. Rdd8 ; 19. ... Nd7 20. Re8+.

**20. Bg8! Qc7**

20. ... Kg7 21. Qf7+ Kh8 22. Qxf6+ Kxg8 23. Rd8+ ; 20. ... cxd1=Q 21. Qf7#.

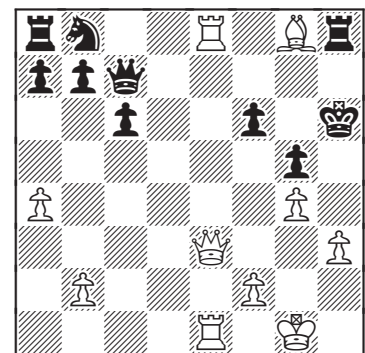
**21. Rd8+ Kg7 22. Rde8**

Facing threats of Re7 while his queenside pieces are permanently passive, Black has no chance to save the game.

**22. ... c1=Q**

Distracting the one of the white rooks.

**23. Rxc1 Rh8 24. Rce1 Kh6 25. Qe3+ g5**



**26. Re7 Qd8**

26. ... Nd7 27. Be6 Rad8 28. Bxd7 Rxd7 29. Qe6 Rxe7 (29. ... Qd6 30. Qxd7 ) 30. Qxf6+ ; 26. ... Qf4 27. Qd3 with mate on h7.

**27. Qe6 1-0**

One sample variation might go Rxg8 Qxf6+ Rg6 Qxg6+! Kxg6 R1e6#.

# DeGuzman Captures Championship in California's Capital City

## Sacramento Championship July 3–5, 2010

Master/Expert Section		
1	Ricardo DeGuzman	5
2	Evan Sandberg	4.5
U2200		
1	Philip Seitzer	4
2-3	Brendan Birt	3.5
	Alonzo McCaulley	
Reserve Section		
1	Udit Iyengar	5.5
U1800		
1-2	Fatmir Keqi	5
	Greg Sarafian	
3	Naveen Janarthanan	4
U1600		
1-2	Bob Baker	4
	Alan Howe	
U1400		
1	Sean Cole	4
2	Rajendra Hegde	3.5
Junior		
1	Benjamin Tong	4.5

IM Ricardo DeGuzman beat IM Walter Shipman in the last round of the 2010 Sacramento Chess Championship to nose ahead of NM Evan Sandberg.

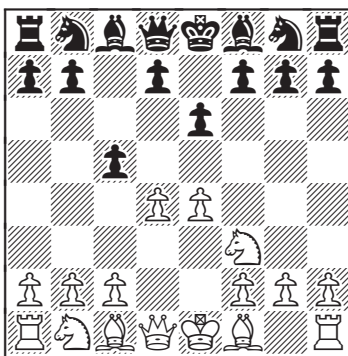
National tournament director John McCumiskey directed 65 players and paid \$1300 in prize money at the Best Western Expo Inn July 3-5.

White: Evan Sandberg (2211)  
Black: Zoran Lazetich (2261)  
Kan Sicilian

### 1. e4 c5

Each side has four rows of space going north-south. White has more space going east-west. 1...c5 doesn't do as much for Black's development as 1...e5.

### 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4



### 3...cxd4 4. Nxd4

The side whose pieces come forward gets the better of a materially-equal swap. 4. Nxd4 brought White forward with a gain of time. Black was reduced from four rows of space to three with the exchange of c5-pawn.

White has made small gains in time and space at the cost of giving up a center pawn for a lesser wing pawn. People who don't understand that much oughtn't recommend or play either side of an open Sicilian.

### 4. ... a6

...a6 is usually a helpful move for Black, preventing a white minor from reaching b5 while preparing to gain queenside space with ...b7-b5.

### 5. Bd3

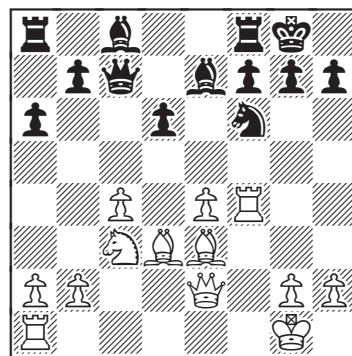
It looks very odd to stuff the bishop behind the e4-pawn while leaving the d4-knight open to a hit.

The other bishop developments are not as logical — 5. Bc4 enables Black to eventually gain time with ...d7-d5 or ...b7-b5, while the bishop bites granite on e6 and White can't make a bind with c2-c4. After 5. Be2, the e4-pawn can be attacked, and a defensive Nc3 is pinned by ...Bb4 or ...Qa5.

### 5. ... Nf6 6. O-O Qc7 7. c4 d6 8. Nc3 Be7 9. Qe2 O-O 10. f4 Nc6 11. Be3 Nxd4

Leko and Movsesian played 11. ... Nb4 12. Bb1 Bd7 13. a3 Nc6 14. Nxc6 Bxc6 15. Bd3 in the 1994 world under 16 championship. Lazetich's move is based on a most common positional theme in such Sicilian positions: ...e5xf4 to secure e5 as an outpost.

### 12. Bxd4 e5 13. Be3 exf4 14. Rxf4



### 14...Be6

It's unprincipled and risky to make the ...Nd7-e5 maneuver before the rest of the pieces are working. Black was unfortunate that White's position snow-balled in the meantime. Black is OK, but not necessarily correct, on 14. ... Nd7 15. Nd5 Qd8 16. Raf1 Bg5 17. R4f3 Bxe3+ 18. Qxe3 Ne5.

**15. Nd5 Bxd5**

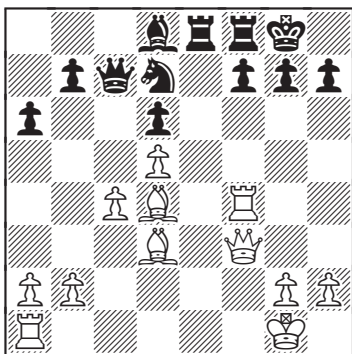
If 15. ... Qd8 16. Bb6 Qd7 17. Bd4, then the knight fork is back in view, while White threatens to capture twice on f6. And then if Black goes for ...Bxd5, it's in a position where White's dark-squared bishop is improved.

**16. exd5 Rae8**

Like before, the ...Nd7-e5 maneuver is doable, but again preferred a developing move: 16. ... Nd7 17. Qh5 g6 18. Qh6 f5 plus ...Ne5.

**17. Bd4 Bd8 18. Qf3 Nd7**

Now ...Nd7 is too late because White's initiative demands that the knight stand in defense of the kingside. 18. ... Qa5 with the idea ...Bb6 to neutralize the d4-bishop is a thought.



**19. Bxh7+! Kxh7 20. Qh5+ Kg8 21. Bxg7! f6**

21. ... Kxg7 22. Rg4+ +-.



Walter Shipman, 2005 Peoples' Tournament.

Shelton photo

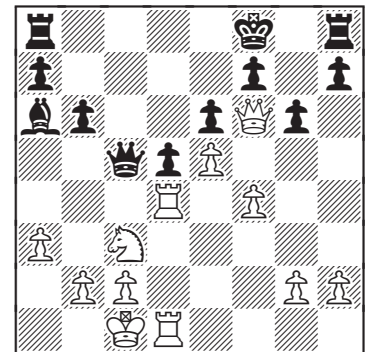
**22. Qh8+ Kf7 23. Qh7 Re5 24. Bxf6+ Ke8 25. Qg6+ Rf7 26. Qxf7+ Kxf7 27. Bxd8+ 1-0**

White: Walter Shipman (2217)  
Black: Alan Beilin (1877)  
French Defense

**1. d4**

Black is a promising junior. IM Shipman has been dispensing chess lessons to promising juniors for a long time.

**d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bg5 e6 4. e4 Be7 5. Bxf6 Bxf6 6. e5 Be7 7. Qg4 Kf8 8. Bd3 c5 9. dxc5 Nc6 10. f4 Nb4 11. O-O-O Qa5 12. a3 Nxd3+ 13. Rxd3 Bxc5 14. Nge2 b6 15. Nd4 Bxd4 16. Rxd4 Qc5 17. Rhd1 g6 18. Qg5 Ba6 19. Qf6**



**19...Rg8**

White answers 19. ... Kg8 the same way.

**20. Nxd5! Bb7**

20. ... Rc8 21. Nc7 Qxc7 22. Rd8+ Rxd8 23. Rxd8+ Qxd8 24. Qxd8+ Kg7 25. Qd7 is also winning for White. Instead, White forces mate.

**21. Nc7! Qxc7 22. Rd7 Qxd7 23. Rxd7 Rg7 24. Rd8+ Rxd8 25. Qxd8# 1-0**

# IM Tate is Most Chessically Fit at the ClubSport Fremont Open

## Fremont Open July 31–Aug. 1, 2010

Open Section	
Emory Tate	3.5
Phillipp Perepelitsky	3
Edward Perepelitsky	
Paul Richter	
A/B Section	
Craig Andries	3.5
Rohan Sathe	
Richard Yi	3
Udit Iyengar	
Reserve Section	
Justin Wang	3.5
Raymond Drummer	
Rahul Swaminathan	3
Charles Tang	2
Evan Wong	
Vignesh Varadarajan	
Swaminatha Sankar	

### By Aditya Kumar

The Fremont Chess Club attracted 62 players to the Fremont Open at the ClubSport fitness center July 31-Aug. 1. ClubSport gave the players free use of its swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts.

Ken Zowal, Richard Koepcke, and Aditya Kumar directed the three-section event in a 30/90 G/60 four-round Swiss System. Although the turnout was less than projected 70 players, the Fremont Chess Club doled more than \$2,000 in prize money.

Top seed IM Emory Tate emerged victorious in the Open

section, winning \$305. In the A/B section, W. Craig Andries, Rohan Sathe, Udit Iyengar, and Richard Yi earned \$157 each. In the Reserve section, Raymond Wang and Justin Drummer each won \$157.

White: Hayk Manvelyan (2175)  
Black: Edward Perepilitsky (2109)  
Closed Sicilian

**1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 e6 6. f4 d6 7. Nf3 Nge7 8. O-O O-O 9. Rb1**

9. g4 seems tempting here, but fails to 9... f5 which prevents white from pushing f4-f5. As GM Dorian Rogozenko would say, the tension created on the kingside in this position is beneficial for black, as black has more control over the center.

**9. ... Rb8**

Preparing ...b5, starting to expand on the queenside.

**10. Bd2**

10. Be3 prepares the d3-d4 push, gaining more control of central squares. After 10... b5 11. d4 b4 12. Ne2, White's position is respectable.

**10. ... b5 11. a3 b4**

11. ... a5 also could have been played, after which Black can recapture on b4 with his a-pawn rather than his c-pawn. 12. a4 b4 13. Nb5 Ba6 14. c4 +/- . 11. ... Qd7 reaches a respectable posi-

tion after 12. Kh1 a5 13. a4 b4 14. Nb5 Na7 15. Nxa7 Qxa7 16. Be3 d5 =.

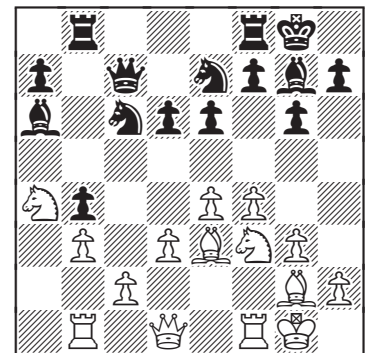
**12. axb4 cxb4 13. Na4?**

The knight has little use (or scope) on a4; as the basic chess proverb states, "a knight on the rim is dim". 13. Ne2 is slightly worse for white, but playable: 13...Qb6+ 14. Kh1 a5 15. b3 (preventing the a5-a4 pawn push, almost essential for limiting Black's play) f5 =/+.

**13. ... Ba6**

Notice that the d3-pawn is the only obstacle between the a6-bishop and f1-rook; it would be in Black's best interest to exploit this diagonal with ...f5 (or ...d5).

**14. b3 Qc7 15. Be3**



**15...Bb5**

15. ... f5 is slightly superior, threatening fxe4, when White is reluctant to capture the pawn back with dxe4 because of ... Bxf1, showing the significance of ...Ba6. 16. Ng5 Qc8 17. Re1 Bb5 18. Nb2 (18. e5 is a dynamic alternative: 18...Bxa4 [18. ... dxe5

isn't possible due to the powerful 19. Nc5! Nd8 20. fxe5 Bxe5 21. d4 Bf6 22. Bf4 e5 23. Bxe5 Bxg5 24. h4! — essential, as the g5-bishop guards the e7-knight — 24...Bh6 25. Bxb8 Qxb8 26. Rxe7 Qxg3 27. Qe1 = ] 19. exd6 Nd5 20. Bxd5 exd5 21. Qf3 Bxb3 22. cxb3 Rb5 23. Bf2 is an exciting position; White's d6-pawn is unguarded but his e-rook is on a strong open file. It would be safe to say that White has serious potential in this position!) 18. ... Bc3 19. Bd2 h6 20. Nf3 Nd4 21. Nxd4 Bxd4+ 22. Kh1 =/+.

### 16. Nb2 d5

Better was 16. ... f5, as e4-e5 is hindered by the d6-pawn.

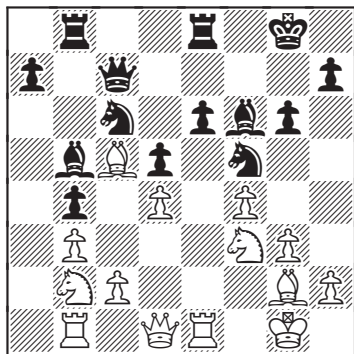
### 17. e5 f6

17. ... Nf5 is tempting, taking advantage of the newfound hole in White's position. However, after 18. Bf2 (18. Bc5? Nxe5 19. Bxf8 Nxf3+ 20. Qxf3 Rxf8 21. g4 Nd4 -+ ) 18. ... f6 19. g4 Nfe7 20. exf6 Bxf6, White has a space advantage on the kingside.

### 18. exf6 Bxf6 19. Re1 Nf5 20. Bc5

White is free to make this move because the e5-pawn has been traded off the board.

### 20...Rfe8 21. d4?



Chessplayers weren't allowed to leave the ClubSport fitness center until they did 10 pushups. Many of them are still there.

Shorman photo

A seemingly solid move, but it is met by the surprising

### 21...Ncxd4! 22. Bxd4 Bxd4+ 23. Nxd4 Qc5 24. Kh1 Nxd4

Black has a winning advantage.

### 25. Rc1

25. Nd3 would have probably been the better move, but in any case, Black is still ahead: 25... Qxc2 26. Nxb4 Qxd1 27. Rxd1 Nf5 28. Ra1 Be2 29. Rd2 -+.

### 25. ... Qc3 26. Nd3 Bxd3 27. cxd3 Qxb3 28. Qg4

Correct. White must generate some play on the kingside and hope for a miracle, or he will end up dying a slow death!

### 28...Qxd3 29. Rc7 Nf5 30. Qg5 Rbc8 31. Rb7 Qd2 32. Rg1 Qc3

An understandable move, but 32. ... Rc1 would have won the game more quickly. White's attack burns out and Black's kinghunt begins after 33. Qf6 Rxg1+ 34. Kxg1 Qe3+ 35. Kf1 Rf8 — kicking the queen out of black territory — 36. Qg5 Qd2.

### 33. g4 Nd6 34. Rxa7 Qd4 35. Re7 Ne4 36. Rxe8+ Rxe8 37. Bxe4 Qxe4+ 38. Rg2 b3 39. Qf6 d4 0-1

## CCJ Editor to Teach Friday Nights at BayAreaChess Center

CCJ editor Frisco Del Rosario, a chess teacher who lectures weekly at the Koltz Chess Club in Campbell, will lead the Friday night program this fall at the Bay Area Chess Center at 1590 Oakland Rd. in San Jose.

# Splane Wins Kolty Club Championship for the Fifth Time in Six Years

## Kolty CC Championship June 10–July 22, 2010

1st	Mike Splane	6
2nd	Frisco Del Rosario	5.5
1 A	Eric Steger	5
2 A	Richard Roubal	
1 B	Jim Bennett	5
2 B	David Bischel	
1 C	Wolfgang Behm	4.5
2 C	Salman Azhar	4
1 D	Aaron Ge	3.5
2 D	Carl Lumma	3
1 E	Anne Saldich	2.5
2 E	Aidan Quast	1.5

Life master Mike Splane won his fifth Kolty Chess Club championship in six years, scoring 6-1 from June 10-July 22 in Campbell. Five experts were in the field — Splane had to play four of them, making three wins and one draw.

Chief director Fred Leffingwell paired and organized 53 players.

The Kolty Club — the oldest public chess club in the Bay Area after Mechanics' Institute and the San Mateo-Burlingame club — is back in Campbell at the United Methodist Church following a season at the Bay Area Chess headquarters in Alviso.

The club is named for George Koltanowski, the Belgian IM whose spectacular blindfold feats and storytelling made him a leading chess ambassador in

San Francisco and beyond for more than 50 years.

An incomplete list of Kolty Club champions (does anyone remember who won in 1996 and earlier?):

2010	Mike Splane
2009	Frisco Del Rosario
2008	Mike Splane
2007	Mike Splane
2006	Mike Splane
2005	Albert Rich
2004	Albert Rich
2003	Lev Pisarsky
2002	Frisco Del Rosario
2001	Alexander Levitan
2000	Kavyashree Mallanna
1999	Alexander Levitan
1998	Albert Rich
1997	Steve Jacobi
1995	Christopher Black

White: Mike Splane (2200)

Black: Jan DeJong (2010)

Tarrasch French

Notes by Frisco Del Rosario

### 1. e4

The players with 4-0 scores knew they'd be playing each other. Jan's repertoire is limited, while Mike specializes in an offbeat line of the French. I believed Mike would vary first.

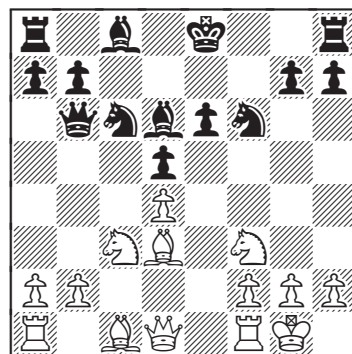
### 1. ... e6 2. d4 d5

In January, they played 3. Bd3 dxe4 4. Bxe4 Nf6 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Nf3 cxd4 8. cxd4 Be7 9. Nc3 O-O 10. O-O Qb6, and Black is comfortable.

### 3. Nd2

Departing from 3. Bd3. I suspected some psychology — suppose Black fears a homecooked surprise in the Tarrasch, and instead of 3...Nf6, opts for 3...c5. That could fall into a trap of sorts, because Splane plays isolated d-pawn games better than most.

**3. ... Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 Qb6 8. Nf3 cxd4 9. cxd4 f6 10. exf6 Nxf6 11. O-O Bd6 12. Nc3**



All book, so the metagame — the game around the game — is a draw. White was persuaded to prepare a main line, which is good for White, but Black is in a familiar place, which is good for Black.

### 12. ... Bd7

12...O-O is seen more often, and 12...Bd7 shouldn't have any independent significance (13. Be3 O-O or 13. Re1 O-O 14. Be3 are typical transpositions), but it caught a hole in White's preparation.

### 13. Bg5

“Don’t trust openings books,” said life master Splane, who probably would’ve seen the tactics on his own if he hadn’t been trapped in his own book.

**13. ... Nxd4 14. Nxd4 Qxd4**

I thought this was homecooking, a position similar to the Milner-Barry Gambit (1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Bd3 cxd4 7. cxd4 Bd7 8. O-O Nxd4 9. Nxd4 Qxd4).

But when Mike wrote 15. Bg6+ on his scoresheet, and then reconsidered because 15... hxc6 Qxd4 16. Bxh2+ is at least a draw (Moiseev-Arkhipov, Nettetal 1991; Vega Holm-Matamoros, 6th Young Masters 1998; and Zude-Holzke, Germany 1993 were all drawn in that fashion), it was clear he was thinking on his own.

The position suits both players because there are good winning chances on each side — White has open lines plus some initiative; Black has a pawn, and a pawn center.

**15. Re1**

A developing move that makes 16. Bg6+ a genuine threat. The danger is that Black can try 15...Bxh2+ 16. Kxh2 Ng4+, and White’s king is in greater peril than Black’s. Mike said he rejected 15. Nb5 Qe5 16. f4 Qe3+ 17. Kh1 because of 17... Ne4, but White is winning there after 18. Qh5+. 17...Qb6 was Howell-Luther, Hastings 1994, 0-1 in 40.

**15. ... O-O-O**

Splane’s notes say that White regains the pawn on 15. ... Qg4 16. Bxf6 Qxd1 17. Raxd1 gxf6 18.

Nxd5 Kf7, but Black is preferable for the open position for his bishops, better center control, and no outpost squares for the white knight. Therefore, Splane was going to continue in gambit fashion with 16. Qf2.

**16. Rc1**

Again White can regain the pawn by 16. Be3 Qh4 17. g3 Qh3 18. Bf1 Qh5 19. Bxa7, but opted to develop with a threat. (Splane).

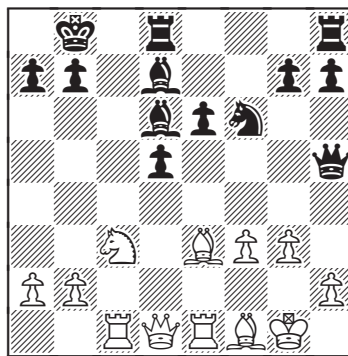
**16. ... Kb8 17. Be3 Qh4 18. g3 Qg4**

18...Qh3 saves a move, very important in this position — one, because 18. g3 is useful for keeping the knight out, and two, because “in games of opposite castling, sacrifice anything but time”—Purdy.

**19. f3 Qh3 20. Bf1**

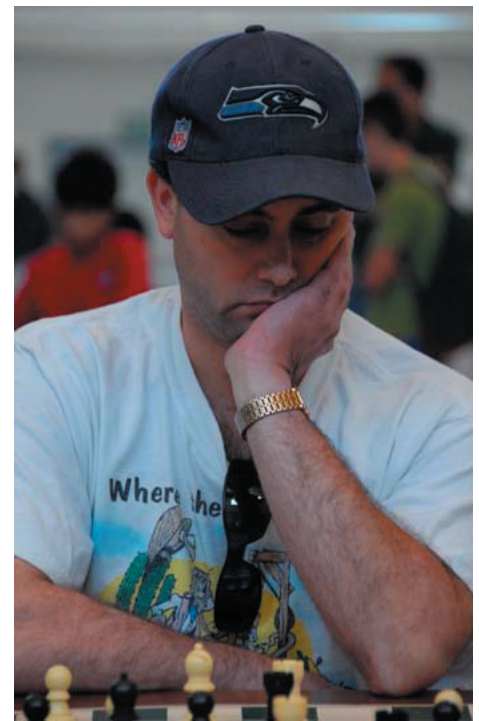
Driving the queen back, and providing time and space for Qd4.

**20. ... Qh5**



**21. Na4**

With the idea 22. Qd4 b6 23. Nxb6, but for delaying the threatening move, Black can prevent it with a move that gets his center going. 21. Qd4 b6 22.



Eric Steger was at the top of the wallchart the whole way, and won the Class A prize in this year’s Kolty CC championship.

Shorman photo

Bf4 — two threatening moves — looks better.

**21. ... e5**

21...Bxa4 loses time to 22. Qxa4.

**22. Nc5 d4**

Black’s strong central push gives him positional trumps to go along with his material advantage. If Black can finish his development and turn back White’s initiative, he’ll be winning in the way he envisioned when he grabbed the pawn at move 13.

**23. Bf2**

Black threatened 23...Bxc5 before 24...dxe3.

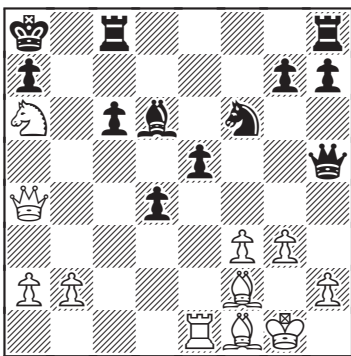
**23. ... Bc6**

It makes sense for Black to keep his good bishop and aim at f3, but 23. ... Rhf8 completes his development, and if 24. Nxd7+, then 24...Rxd7 and Black threatens to win by 25...Bb4 26. Re2 d3 27. Re3 Ng4 28. fxe4 Qf7.

**24. Na6+ Ka8 25. Rxc6**

White must keep up his initiative, or he'll lose. The exchange sacrifice loosens Black's king position and gives White some targets.

**25. ... bxc6 26. Qa4 Rc8**



**27. f4**

A good move born of necessity. 27. f4 improves the lives of White's three least active pieces — the threat 28. fxe5 Bxe5 29. Bxd4 enlivens one bishop, while the h1-a8 diagonal is opened for the other, and the rook is bettered after the e5-pawn vanishes.

**27. ... Ng4**

28...Qxh2+ and 28...Nxf2 are both threats that can be ignored, which means 27...Ng4 is a wasted move, and — again — in games of opposite castling, lose anything but time. Splane prefers 27...Nd5 to gum up the long diagonal and to aid the queenside defense. I like 27. ... Rhe8, using inactive force, and

defending against 28. fxe5 Bxe5 29. Bxd4 because 29...Bxd4+ discovers.

**28. Bg2 e4 29. Rxe4**

Best. 29. Bxe4 gets mated, or 29. Qxd4 Nxf2 (29...Qxh2+ is greedy: 30. Kf1 Nxf2 31. Kxf2 threatens to trap the queen) 30. Qxf2 and White is stalled, or 30. Qxd6 invites ...Rhd8.

**29. ... Nxf2**

The best chance, threatening 30...Qd1+ and 30...Nxe4.

**30. Rxd4 Nh3+**

30...Qe8 was the only move, but White plays 31. Kxf2 plus Nb4 to follow, and the c6-square will crack.

**31. Kf1 Kb7 32. Rxd6 Qe8**

**33. Qb5+ Ka8 34. Rxc6 1-0**

White: Andre Paradela (1827)

Black: Chris Waroff (1648)

Latvian Gambit

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5**

Morphy preferred to interpolate 2...d6 before 3. d4 f5, and then White couldn't make the centralizing capture Nxe5.

**3. Nxe5**

3. Ng5 Qxg5 0-1 happened in a correspondence game. You cannot play a move like 3. Ng5 if you have three days to think about it, so you know what that was? A typo. A weird typo, because "e" and "g" use different fingers, but that must be the only explanation for Tobor-Stamer, East German correspondence 1984.

**3. ... Qf6**

I've played 3...Nc6, which develops a small piece before a

big piece, which is desirable, but the whole thing is weaker than 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 Nc6 in the Petroff, because Black's 2...f5 was a pawn move, not a threatening piece move.

**4. d4 d6 5. Nc4 fxe4 6. Nc3 Qg6**

Serving three purposes: 1 to guard e4; 2 to open f6 for the knight; 3 to hinder White's bishop development by pressing on g2. This move sorta kept the Latvian in business — before they found it, Black was getting killed every time.

**7. Nd5 Qf7 8. Nde3 Nf6 9. Be2 Be7 10. b3 O-O 11. O-O b5 12. Nd2 c6**

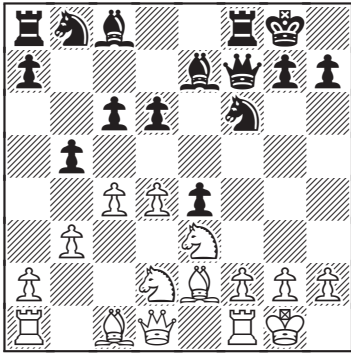
Would you believe this has played before? In the 1958 correspondence game Goncalves-Grivainis, 11 moves were the same, but without b3 for White and o-o for Black.

Kon Grivainis is one of the leading Latvian Gambiteers in chess history — partly because the Latvian felt some kinship with the opening, and partly because as the world correspondence champion, he had nearly unlimited time to save himself from bad positions.

**13. c4**

Gonsalves played f3, and then ...exf3 Nxf3 brought a knight forward and made room for f1-rook and c1-bishop to move. Andre's position is a little different — for having played b3, White already has a square for the queen bishop, and b3 drew attention to the queenside.





### 13. ... bxc4

White was threatening to take twice on b5, but that should feel like a threat that can be ignored. Suppose Black passes his move, then White carries out his plan:

13. ... Pass 14. cxb5 cxb5 15. Bxb5 wins a pawn. Black thinks about his move: *Where are the threats? What can I do to control the center? What can I do to bring up more new force?*

The first thing to notice about 15. Bxb5 is that it exposes the bishop to a combination. Black's dream would be to play ...Ng4 plus ...Qh5 to fork h2, f2, and b5. The likelier fork, which takes less preparation, is ...Qd5 to fork bishop and center pawn, made possible because White captured away from the center.

What can Black do to develop with a threat? Obviously ...Bd7 and ...Ba6. White might swap on the grounds that he is material ahead, and that he is discarding his exposed piece, but Bxa6 Nxa6 ushers the knight toward b4 and d3. But if White doesn't swap, then Bb5 is exposed to ...Rb8, a developing move that threatens.

An improved move order is the knight before the bishop:



Boards 1 and 2 during the last round of the 2010 Kolty Club championship (clockwise from upper left): Mike Splane playing white against Lev Feldman; Eric Steger as white vs. Frisco Del Rosario.  
Carl Lumma photo

...Na6, after which White is sort of darned if he does and darned if he doesn't swap. If Bxa6, then Black gets the better minor piece, and ...Bxa6 hits Rf1, which guards f2. If he doesn't trade, then Black has ...Rb8 in store, and even ...Nc7, which harries the bishop, prepares the centralizing ...Ncd5, and — ironically — guards the b5-pawn. So, if we agree that the threat cxb5 plus Bxb5 can be ignored, then Black can mostly play as he pleases.

What about playing ...Na6 immediately? The analysis engine Fruit 2.2.1 evaluates 13...Na6 14. cxb5 cxb5 15. Bxb5 Rb8 16. Be2 as .81, and 13...Na6 14. f3 as .89. In other words, White did worse by carrying out his threat — he gained a pawn, but Black's positional gains very slightly

outweigh the pawn, according to a strong computer.

In other words, 13...Na6 enables White to make a mistake — 14. cxb5 plus 15. Bxb5 would be a hair worse than 15. f3 — if you recognize that your opponent is heading for trouble, and let him go off the cliff, then you don't have to win games by making strong moves every time; you can let him do some of the work in beating himself.

Compare 13...Na6 — ignoring the threat — with 13...bxc4, a move that is the opposite of ignoring the threat. Fruit 2.2.1 evaluates 13...bxc4 as .51, one-third of a pawn better than 13...Na6. That is, the computer thinks the b5-pawn is worth one-third of a pawn. In this position, can you as Black

risk one-third of a pawn for queenside piece activity, tactical opportunities by exposing an enemy piece, and the psychological exclaims of making a sound pawn sacrifice on positional grounds while not dancing for the enemy threat?

Chessplayers tend to fall into three camps: those who think of chess as art, science, or sport — 13...Na6 should appeal to all of them. 13...Na6 should suit the chess artists who so admire Tal's ability to make unsound sacrifices work.

The bottom line is that 13...Na6 is an unsound sacrifice, but the scientists ought to agree that the rewards are worth the risk of one-third of a pawn. The sportsmen, who believe the point above all is the score on the wallchart, might not be persuaded until the point comes homes — if they are chess-educated enough to understand that using inactive force is the winning principle in every position, then they can be sold on 13...Na6 for its primary notion of developing Black's queenside.

#### 14. Nexc4

This move isn't so bad for its isolating of the d-pawn, it's suspect because it concedes White's central advantage (which becomes clearer after he plays f3 to knock down the e4-pawn).

One might think those are the same things in this position, but imagine the pawn being isolated were on the wing — then White wouldn't care so much if Black posted a piece in front of the isolani; when the outpost square

is central, it is much more significant.

#### 14. ... Nbd7 15. f3 d5

Black has ignored White's threat while sacrificing a pawn, but it isn't as logical as 13...Na6 would have been. The earlier sacrifice was a wing pawn, with the plan of making queenside developing moves that threaten. 15...d5 gives up a center pawn, while White's acceptance of the sacrifice does not help Black introduce unused force. 15...exf3 was better; White would own a slight advantage for having greater space.

#### 16. fxe4 Qg6 17. exd5 Nxd5 18. Nf3

Better to reduce with 18. Rxf8+, when Black won't recapture 18...Nxf8 to free the queen bishop, because 19. Ne5 is easy. So 18...Bxf8 19. Nf3 Nc3 20. Bd3, and White's got a fairly clean pawn.

#### 18. ... Bb7 19. Bd2

Passive developing moves are more acceptable when an active developing move like 19. Qd3 is not available. In this position, the active 19. Na5 — the knight's third move — is better than the passive 19. Bd2.

#### 19. ... c5 20. Nce5 Nxe5 21. dxe5

If 21. Nxe5, then 21...Qe4 is a strong move.

#### 21. ... Rad8 22. Qe1

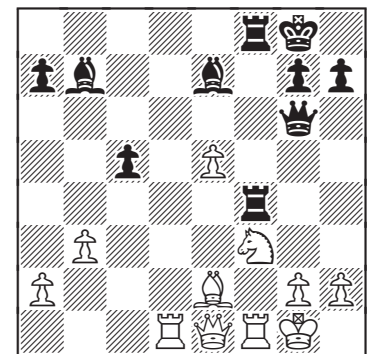
Another passive move. 19. Bd2 did nothing to slow Black from his plan to spring his bishop with ...c5. 22. Qe1 does

not threaten, so Black is enabled to go as he pleases. The opponent is never quite so comfortable as when your move does not threaten. 22. Qb1 is better.

#### 22. ... Nf4 23. Bxf4

23. Bc4+ threatens, while improving bishop and queen. 23. Bxf4 is not a threatening move, and Black's recapture foreshadows the doubling of rooks, but it is fine if White threatens at move 25.

#### 23. ... Rxf4 24. Rd1 Rdf8



#### 25. Rd3

When there are attacking moves to be made, defensive moves are weak. 25. Rd7 Bxf3 26. Bxf3 Rxf3 27. Rxf3 Rxf3 28. Rxe7, and White is ahead.

#### 25. ... c4

Now 26. Rd7 is a day late: 26...Bc5+ 27. Kh1 Bc6.

#### 26. bxc4 Bc5+ 27. Kh1 Rg4 28. g3

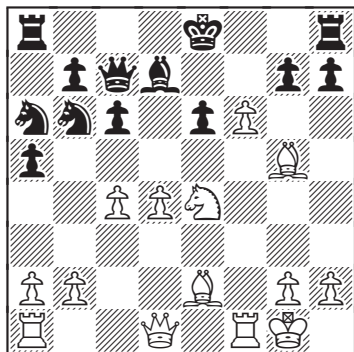
White's final passive move is the last straw. The attacking move 28. Rb3 keeps the ship afloat.

#### 28. ... Qxd3! 29. Bxd3 Rxf3 30. Kg2 Rfxg3# 0-1

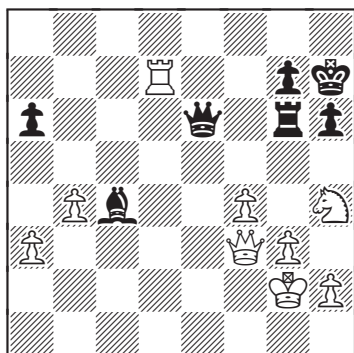
# Kolty Club Championship Tactics

Arranged roughly in order of increasing difficulty. Answers at bottom of page 22.

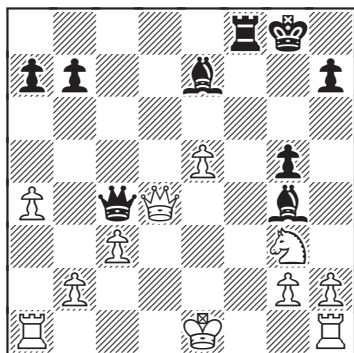
1. Paul Savage-Robert Peterson  
White to play.



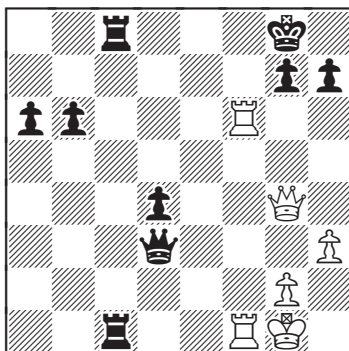
2. Jim Bennett-A. Levitan  
White to play.



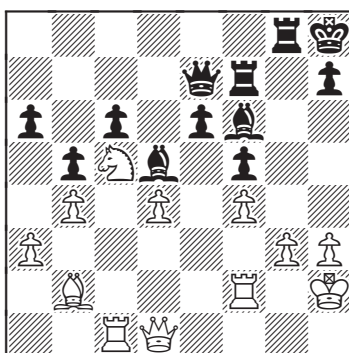
3. Terje Blocher-Roland Araj  
Black to play.



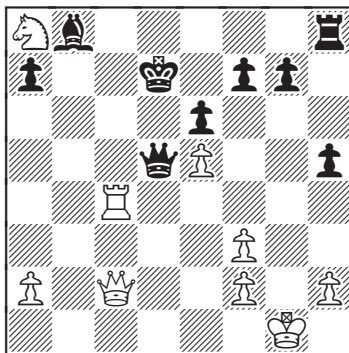
4. A. Paradela-Patrick Benedicto  
White to play.



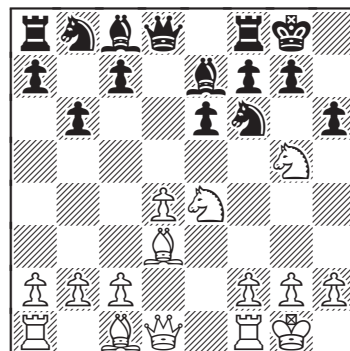
5. Gene Adams-Andre Paradela  
Black to play.



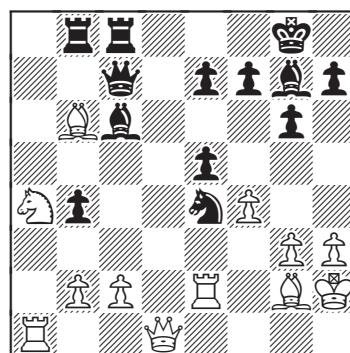
6. Chris Waroff-Iris Kokish  
White to play.



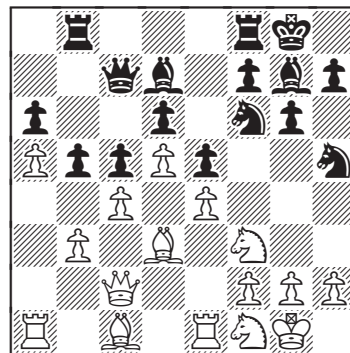
7. Mike Splane-Lev Feldman  
White to play.



8. Eric Steger-F. Del Rosario  
Black to play.



9. Alexander Levitan-E. Steger  
Black to play.



# Behind Every Successful Man

By Frisco Del Rosario

People tell me that they liked Capablanca's *Last Lectures* best among his books.

For my desire to write about Capablanca's games from 1935-41, I re-read *Last Lectures* to get a handle on what Capa was talking about at the time. I saw what people like about the book.

*Last Lectures* is a pleasant read with amusing anecdotes, much more engaging than anything he wrote before. For instance, *Chess Fundamentals* is terse, and demands serious work by the reader. Chessplayers like to read, but they never like to work.

Capablanca delivered the last lectures on the radio, so they had to be rather chatty. Perhaps the main reason for the warmth in *Last Lectures* was that Mrs. Capablanca was involved.

Capablanca retired from tournament play in 1931, no doubt weary of chasing Alekhine around the planet in hopes of a world championship rematch. Capa's second wife Olga persuaded him to get back to business — successfully — in 1935.

Then in 1941, the year before his death, Olga assisted with Capablanca's radio lectures by typing his dictation. They enjoyed working together, which shows in the narrative.

The primary instructions in Capablanca's radio addresses

were that the student does best to learn the endgames first — repeated often in each of his books — and that the initiative is an advantage; fight to get it, fight to keep it.

---

Informal game, Pinar del Rio, 1941  
White: J.R. Capablanca  
Black: A. Rodriguez Carnero  
Queen Pawn Game

## 1. d4

In *Masters of the Chessboard*, Reti compared 1. d4 to 1. e4: “the Queen's Pawn Opening creates essentially different conditions in regard to the opening fight in the center”.

In other words, after 1. e4 e5, White can play 2. d4, ensuring at least an advantage in space. But after 1. d4 d5, the e2-e4 advance is riskier — because White cannot automatically recover the pawn in case of ...d5xe4 — so White usually relies on the wing action c2-c4 to fight for center control.

## 1. ... Nf6

In modern master practice 1...Nf6 is almost three times more popular than 1...d5. Both moves control e4, but 1...d5 is more committal, and then 2. c4 confers an initiative to White.

## 2. c4

2. e4 is most unsound, so 2. c4 is the best White can do at placing two pawns in the center.

## 2. ... e6

2. ... e5 looks like a slip of the finger, but Black has piece activity after 3. dxe5 Ng4.

## 3. Nc3

Now White is ready for 4. e4, which Black usually prevents with 3...d5 or 3...Bb4, while 3...c5 — enabling 4. d5 — is a provocative alternative.

## 3. ... c6

Gives White too much leeway in the center, but Petrosian tried it against Korchnoi in 1958.

## 4. e4

White is obviously better in the center, but the trick is converting the advantages in space and mobility into threats.

## 4. ... d6

Lasker and Marshall met over the board 26 times. The American champion Marshall won two games: their first game in 1900 and their last in 1940. As Black in 1900, Lasker played 4...d5. Marshall didn't swap on d5, because ...cxd5 opens c6 for the knight, and ...exd5 frees the c8-bishop.

White maintained his advantage by 4. ... d5 5. Bg5 dxe4 6. Nxe4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 c5 8. a3 Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Qa5 10. Bd2 Ne4 11. Nf3 Nxc3 12. dxc5 Nxd1, leading to a terrific tactical skirmish over whether the black knight could get out alive. There followed 13. Bxa5 Nb2 14. a4

Bd7 15. c6 Bxc6 16. Ne5 Be4 17. f3 f6 18. Bc3 Bc2 19. Kd2 Nxa4 20. Kxc2 Nxc3 21. Nd3 Nd5 22. cxd5 exd5 23. Nc5, when Black has three pawns for the piece, but White's lead in development is too great, 1-0 in 58 moves. Then it took 40 more years for Marshall to beat Lasker again.

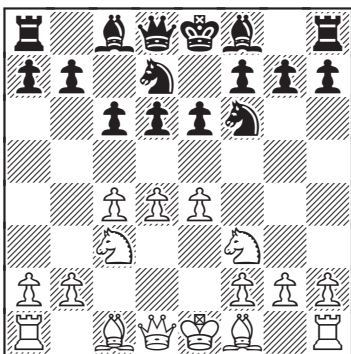
### 5. Nf3

A very general formula for winning a chess game: Start with better center control. Get better development. Get better king safety. From that superior position, attack the enemy king by opening files for the heavy pieces.

At move 5, White already has the better center, so there is no need to be greedy with 5. f4, though White could have preserved the option by 5. Bd3, 6. Nge2, 7. O-O, and later opened the f-file with f2-f4-f5.

### 5. ... Nbd7

The position is similar to — but not as good as — the Old Indian 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 d6 3. Nc3 Nbd7 4. e4 c6 5. Nf3 e5, where Black has more of the center.



### 6. Bd3

In the short term, the bishop has greater vision on e2, but

in the bigger picture, it will be easier for White to coordinate queen and bishop when the bishop is on d3. 6. e5 is premature: 6. ... dxe5 7. dxe5 Ng4 perhaps with ...Bc5 to follow.

### 6. ... Be7

6...Qc7 is better, to stop White from playing e4-e5, and to aid in pushing ...e6-e5 himself.

### 7. e5

The story of this game is White's capture of the board, rank by rank.

### 7. ... dxe5

Whether Black trades or not, White's advantage will increase some. Black chose to swap, because he might find some play on the f2-b6 line, post a knight on c5, or attack the e5-pawn. But before any of those dreams can be realized, Black has to get his pieces out, a tough task in such a congested position.

### 8. dxe5

8. Nxe5 doesn't threaten, and if 8. ... Nxe5 to relieve Black's cramp, then 9. dxe5 Nd7 is a more convenient retreat.

### 8. ... Ng4

8. ... Nh5 loses a piece to 9. g4, and 8. ... Ng8 is miserable.

### 9. Qe2

Two moves guard the pawn. 9. Qe2 gives Black the chance to make a mistake.

### 9. ... Qc7

Not 9. ... O-O, which runs into 10. Bxh7+ Kxh7 11. Qe4+, forking.

### 10. Bf4 h5

In case of h3, Black wants to play ...Nh6 when Bxh6 won't ruin his pawns.

### 11. O-O

In the absence of threatening moves, then castle as soon as possible.

### 11. ... b6

Black oughtn't castle king-side: 11. ... O-O 12. h3 Nh6 13. Bxh6 gxh6 14. Qe4 is ruinous, and Black shouldn't trust 11. ... Nc5 12. Bc2 Bd7 13. b4.

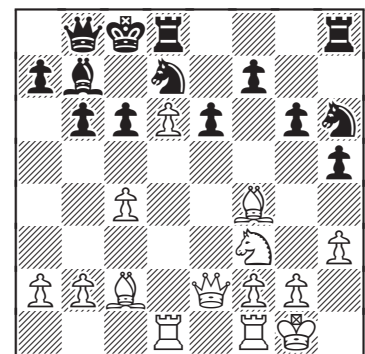
### 12. Rad1 Bb7 13. h3

Before the Ne4-d6 maneuver, White has to nudge the g4-knight away from the e5-pawn.

### 13. ... Nh6 14. Ne4 g6

14. ... Nf5 is an improvement — redeveloping the knight, and sidestepping Bxh6 so Black can castle short — but White keeps a good lead on 15. Bc2 O-O 16. Nd6.

### 15. Bc2 O-O-O 16. Nd6+ Bxd6 17. exd6 Qb8



### 18. Be4

The immediate 18. Ne5 (18... Nxe5 19. Bxe5+-), threatens 19. Bxh6 plus 20. Nxf7. Bringing up the (relatively) unused bishop means that Ne5 will also hit c6.

### 18. ... Ng8

# Tournaments

## Sept. 9-Oct. 7

Burlingame

22nd Wilfred Goodwin

Memorial Club Championship

<http://bit.ly/cWPY7k>

## Oct. 9

San Francisco

Mechanics Institute JJ Dolan

Memorial

<http://bit.ly/cOzDCv>

## Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 11

Fremont

Weibel Fall Scholastic Quads

<http://bit.ly/aMgKZx>

## Nov. 6

San Francisco

Mechanics Institute Carroll

Capps Memorial

<http://bit.ly/cKD8Bk>

## Nov. 26-28

BayAreaChess California Class  
Championship

Burlingame

Ratings more than 1000

<http://bit.ly/aTALwF>

Ratings less than 1000 <http://bit.ly/c3v8MJ>

## Dec. 31-Jan. 2

BayAreaChess New Year Open  
Santa Clara

[http://www.uschess.org/  
tlas/5830.ctla](http://www.uschess.org/tlas/5830.ctla)

## Jan. 14-17

CCA 2nd Golden State Open  
Concord

[http://www.chesstour.com/  
gso11.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/gso11.htm)

# Capablanca in 1941

Continued from Page 21

A little more resistant is 18. ... c5 19. Ne5 Bxe4 (19...Rdf8 20. Bc2 plus 21. Ba4 keeps the pressure on) 20. Qxe4 Qb7. Then the combination 21. Qxb7+ Kxb7 22. Bxh6 doesn't work because of 22...Nxe5.

## 19. Ne5 Rf8 20. Qf3

Simple and logical and strong. White used his board room

most economically. The e4-e5 advance made space for Nc3-e4-d6 with threats, which in turn led to e5xd6 plus Nf3-e5 with threats, which opened up Bc2-e4 plus Qe2-f3 with threats.

## 20. ... c5

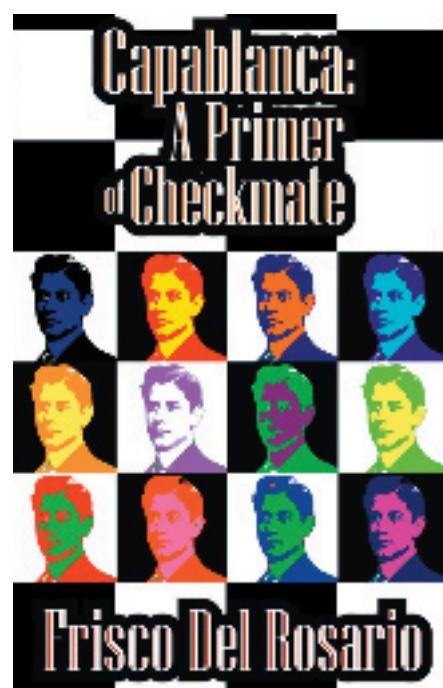
Black saves his pawn, but his king is overworked.

21. Bxb7+ Qxb7 22. Qxb7+ 1-0

*"Frisco Del Rosario describes and explains the great games of Capablanca in a very entertaining style." – GM Peter Biyiasas*

From the back cover:

In this groundbreaking work, chess coach and author Frisco Del Rosario shines a long-overdue light on a neglected aspect of Capablanca's record: the attack against the enemy king. He illustrates how Capablanca used positional concepts to build up irresistible king hunts, embodying the principles of good play advocated by the unrivaled teacher, C.J.S. Purdy. The author also identifies an overlooked checkmate pattern – Capablanca's Mate – that aspiring attackers can add to the standard catalogue in Renaud and Kahn's *The Art of the Checkmate*.



  
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**Answers for Page 19** 1: 1. fxe4 Rg8 2. Bh5#; 2: 1. Nxe4 Qxd7 2. Nf8+ forks; 3: 1...Qxd4 2. cxd4 Bb4#; 4: 1. Qe6+ Kh8 2. Qxc8+ Rxc8 3. Rf8+ mates; 5: 1...Rxc3 2. Kxc3 Bh4+ wins at least a pawn; 6: 1. Qa4+ Ke7 2. Qb4+ pins on the d-file or skewers the back rank; 7: 1. Nxf6+ Bxf6 2. Nh7 Re8 3. Qf3 c6 4. Nxf6 gxf6 5. Bxh6 wins; 8: 1...Rxb6 2. Nxb6 Qxb6 3. Bxe4 Bxe4 4. Rxe4 Qf2+ 5. Kh1 Rxc2 mates; 9: 1...Nxe4 2. Bxe4 f5 gives Black the lead.