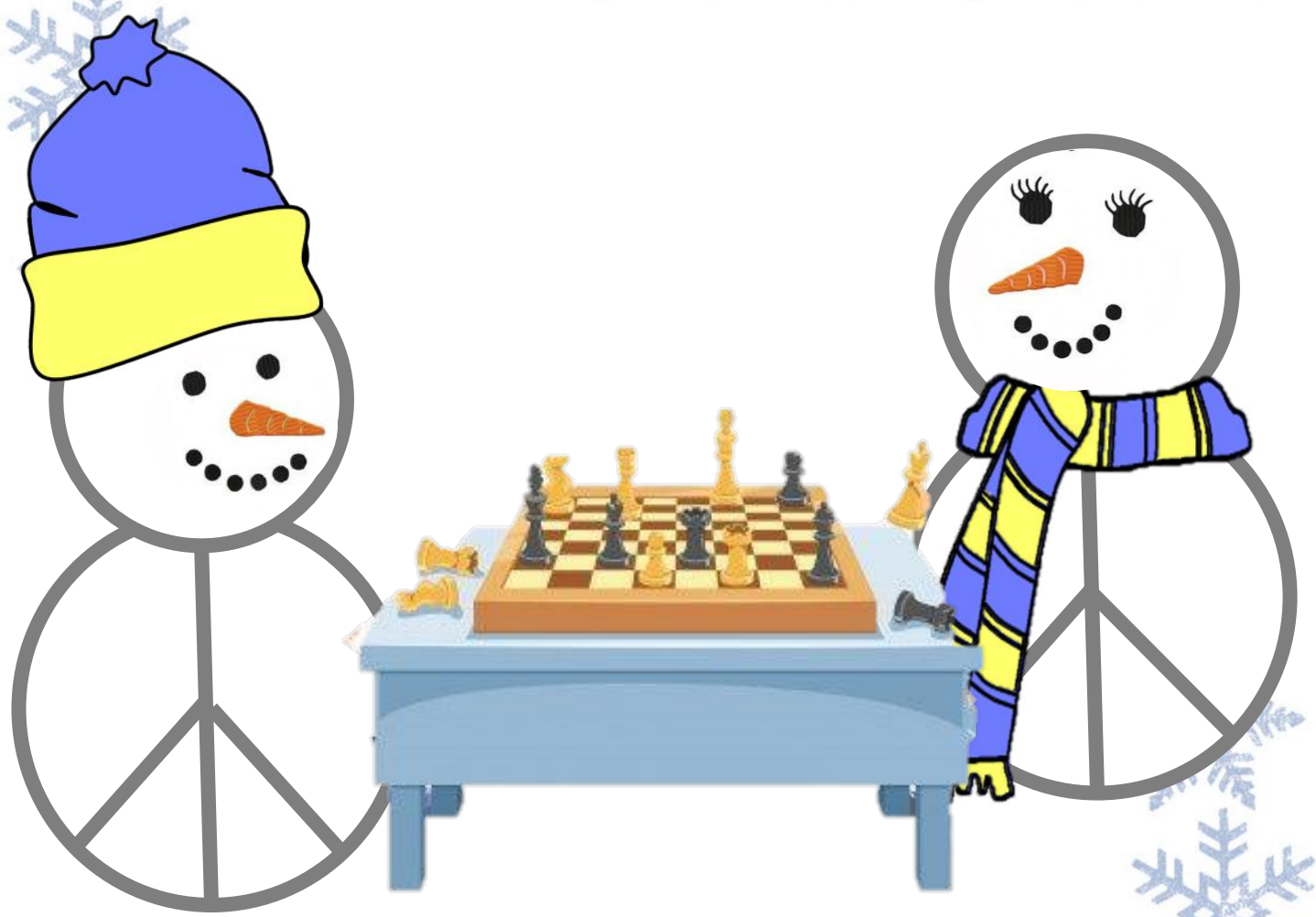
The CalChess Journal



Winter 2022

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Editor Chris Torres
Assistant Editor Kevin Pan

Letter From the Editor

For many of us in Northern California the news and newsfeeds are our first exposure to Ukrainian art and culture. The magnificent cities, sandy beaches and classic architecture seem like the perfect scenery for artists to flourish including those who practice the art of chess.

Tragically, as you are all aware, Ukraine is a country that is being forced to defend itself against invaders and millions of innocent Ukrainians are at risk of becoming casualties of war. Chess is a global community so in a show of support for our Ukrainian friends, I am sharing my favorite chess game and chess puzzle from the rich chess history of Ukraine.

If you are able to, please consider donating to:

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

unicef

gofundme

1 RUY LOPEZ. BERLIN def.

Korchmar, Efim - Poliak, Evsey

1:0, 7/ 9/1937.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♗b5 d6 The Old Steinitz Defense to the Ruy Lopez. **4. d4 ♗d7** Breaks the pin while keeping tension in the center. **5. ♘c3 ♘f6** Black can also play the immediate exd4 here.

[5... exd4!? 6. ♘xd4 ♘f6 7. ♘xc6 bxc6 8. ♗d3 g6 9. ♗g5 ♗g7 10. ♕d2 ♖b8 11. O-O-O O-O 12. ♗h6 ♗xh6 13. ♕xh6 ♖e8 14. f3 Slightly favors white but completely playable.]

6. O-O ♘xd4 Black has also played 6... Be7 and 6... exd4 in games worthy of study.

[6... ♗e7 7. ♗xc6 ♗xc6 8. ♕d3 ♘d7 9. ♗e3 b6 10. ♖ad1 ♕c8 11. ♕c4 ♗b7 12. dxe5 ♗a6 13. ♘b5 c6 14. ♘c7 ♕xc7 15. ♕xa6 dxe5 16. ♖d3 O-O 17. ♖fd1 ♖fd8 18. ♕c4 ♘f8 19. ♕c3 ♘g6 20. g3 ♖xd3 21. cxd3 ♕d7 22. ♔g2 c5 23. ♖d2 f6 24. a3 ♕b5 25. ♕c4 ♕xc4 26. dxc4 ♔f7 27. ♘g1 ♖d8 28. ♘e2 ♖xd2 29. ♗xd2 ♔e6 30. ♘c3 ♘h8 31. ♘b5 ♘f7 32. ♔f3 ♘d6 33. ♘xd6 ♗xd6 34. g4 g5 35. h3 ♔d7 36. b3 ♔c6 37. a4 a5 1/2-1/2, So Wesley (USA) 2770 - Nakamura Hikaru (USA) 2736 , Internet 12/12/2020 It "chess.com Speed";

6... exd4 7. ♘xd4 ♘xd4 8. ♕xd4 ♗e7 9. ♗xd7 ♕xd7 10. b3 O-O 11. ♗b2 c6 12. ♖ad1 ♕c7 13. ♘e2 ♖fe8 14. ♘g3 ♗f8 15. ♕d3 ♖e6 16. f4 ♘d7 17. f5 ♖ee8 18. ♘h5 f6 19. ♕c4 ♔h8 20. ♘f4 ♘e5 21. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 22. ♘e6 ♕e7 23. ♖fe1 ♖e8 24. ♕d4 a6 25. ♘xf8 ♕xf8 26. ♕xd6 ♕f7 27. ♕d7 ♖5e7 28. ♕d4 h6 29. ♖e3 ♖e5 30. h3 ♕e7 31. ♔h2 ♖xf5 32. exf5 ♕xe3 33. ♕xe3 ♖xe3 34. ♖d7 ♖c3 35. ♖xb7 ♖xc2 36. a4 a5 37. b4 axb4 38. ♖xb4 c5 39. ♖b5 ♖a2 40. ♖xc5 ♖xa4 41. g4 h5 42. ♔g3 hxg4 43. hxg4 ♔h7 44. ♖c8 ♖b4 45. ♔h4 ♖a4 46. ♖b8 ...1/2-1/2, Adhiban B (IND) 2668 - Andriasian Zaven (ARM) 2603 , Internet 3/21/2018 It (team) "PRO League" (KO Stage)]

7. ♗xd7 ♕xd7 8. ♘xd4 exd4 9. ♕xd4 Black's method of exchanging leaves white with a wonderfully positioned queen.

The Ukrainian Immortal

9... ♗e7 10. ♖d1 O-O 11. e5 ♘e8 Black retreats the knight as capturing the pawn

[11... dxe5? 12. ♕xd7 ♘xd7 13. ♖xd7]

12. ♗f4 a5 A clever move which opens the possibility for Ra6 but black has plenty of reasonable options.

[12... ♖d8 13. exd6 ♗xd6 14. ♗xd6 ♘xd6 15. ♕xa7 b6 16. ♕a4 ♕xa4 17. ♘xa4 ♘c4 18. b3 ♘a3 19. c4 b5 20. cxb5 ♘xb5 21. ♔f1 ♖xd1 22. ♖xd1 ♖c8 23. ♖d3 ♘a7 24. ♔e2 ♔f8 25. ♖e3 f6 26. ♘c3 ♔f7 27. ♘d5 ♘c6 28. ♖e4 h6 29. ♖c4 ♘e5 30. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 31. ♘xc7 ♔e7 32. ♘d5 ♔d7 33. ♘e3 ♔e6 34. h3 ♔d7 35. ♘f5 g6 36. ♘xh6 f5 37. f4 ♘c6 38. ♘f7 ♔e7 39. ♘e5 ♘xe5 40. fxe5 ♔d7 41. ♔e3 ♔c6 42. ♔f4 ♔d5 43. a3 ♔c6 44. ♔g5 1-0, Voloshinsky Liubomir - Polulikh Stepan, Lvov 5/ 6/2011 Ch Region (open);

12... ♕e6 13. ♘d5 g5 14. exd6 ♗xd6 15. ♖e1 ♕g4 16. ♖xe8 1-0, Enersen Eirik S (NOR) 1911 - Ali Karim (NOR) 1755 , Oslo 10/ 6/2017 It (open);

12... ♕c6 13. ♘d5 ♗d8 14. exd6 ♘xd6 15. ♘b4 ♕c4 16. ♗xd6 ♕xd4 17. ♖xd4 cxd6 18. ♖xd6 ♗e7 19. ♖d4 ♗f6 20. ♖d7 ♗xb2 21. ♖b1 ♗a3 22. ♖xb7 ♗xb4 23. ♖1xb4 h6 24. g3 ♖fc8 25. c4 a5 26. ♖a4 ♖c5 27. ♖b5 ♖ac8 28. ♖axa5 ♖xc4 29. ♖a7 ♖c1 30. ♔g2 ♖8c7 31. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 32. a4 ♖a7 33. a5 ♔f8 34. ♔f3 ♔e7 35. ♔e4 ♔e6 36. f4 ♔d6 37. ♔d4 ♔c6 38. ♔c4 ♔d6 39. ♖b6 ♔c7 40. ♔b5 ♔c8 41. a6 ♔c7 42. ♔c5 ♔c8 43. ♖c6 ♔d7 44. ♖b6 ♔c8 45. ♖d6 ♔c7 46. g4 ♖a8 47.

♖b6 ♔c8 48. f5 ♖a7 49. ♖b7 ♖xa6 50. ♖xf7 g6 51. ♔d5 gxf5 52. gxf5 ...1-0, Zavivaeva Emilia (RUS) 1705 - Spirkova Marija (LAT) 1435 , Bratislava 8/ 9/2019 Ch Europe (juniors) (under 14) (g);

12... a6 13. ♗g3 ♖d8 14. ♘d5 ♔h8 15. ♕b4 c5 16. ♕e1 dxe5 17. ♘xe7 ♕xe7 18. ♖xd8 ♕xd8 19. ♕xe5 ♕c8 20. ♕c3 f5 21. ♗e5 ♘f6 22. h3 ♖f7 23. ♖d1 h6 24. ♕a5 ♖d7 25. ♖xd7 ♘xd7 26. ♗c3 ♘f8 27. ♕b6 ♘e6 28. ♕d6 ♘d4 29. ♕e5 ♔h7 30. h4 ♔g6 31. ♕d6 ♕e6 32. ♕xc5 ♘e2 33. ♔h2 ♘xc3 34. ♕xc3 ♕xa2 35. h5 ♔xh5 36. ♕xg7 ♕a4 37. ♕f7 ♔g5 38. g3 ♕xc2 39. ♔h3 ♕e4 40. f4 1-0, Aepfler Christian (GER) 2252 - Koksch Robert (GER) 2108 , Finsterbergen 4/16/2001 Ch Thueringen]

13. ♖d3 White's rook gets on the elevator first.

13... ♖a6?! This was Black's intention after 12... a5 however given that his opponent has already played Rd3, 13... Qe6 should be considered an improvement.

[13... ♕e6!? 14. exd6 ♗xd6 15. ♗xd6 ♘xd6 16. ♘d5 ♖fe8 17. h3 ♖ac8 18. ♕c3 ♕e5 19. ♖ad1 ♕xc3 20. ♖xc3 c6 21. ♘b6 ♘e4 22. ♖e3 ♖b8 23. ♖de1 With white having a small advantage.]

14. ♖e1 All of White's pieces have activated nicely. **14... ♕f5 15. ♘d5** White's knight is very powerful on d5 threatening the obvious Nxe7+ royal fork.

15... ♗d8 This is one way to handle the threat. 15... Qd7 is also possible.

[15... ♕d7 16. exd6 ♗xd6 17. ♖h3! ♕d8 18. ♕d3 f5 Would also strongly favor white.]

16. exd6 ♘xd6 17. ♖g3 Threatens mate.

17... f6 Stops white from checkmating on g7 but creates weakness around black's king. **18. ♗h6** White targets g7 a second time.

18... ♖f7 19. ♘b4! Threatening Nxa6 and Qxd6 simultaneously. Taking the knight on d6 would remove the guard allowing Re8+!

19... axb4

20. ♕xd6!! White offers his queen for the first time. **20... ♕d7** Black declines capturing the white's queen because:

[20... ♖xd6 21. ♖e8 ♖f8 22. ♖xg7 ♔h8 23. ♖xf8#;

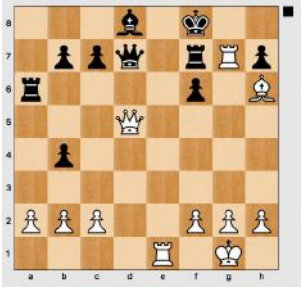
20... cxd6 21. ♖e8 ♖f8 22. ♖xg7 ♔h8 23. ♖xf8#]

21. ♕d5!!! One of the most brilliant moves in the history of chess. White again offers up his queen which can not be captured while pinning the rook on f7.

21... ♔f8 Again, black could not capture the queen without being checkmated.

[21... ♕xd5 22. ♖e8 ♖f8 23. ♖xg7 ♔h8 24. ♖xf8 ♕g8 25. ♖fxg8#]

22. ♖xg7!!



22... ♕xd5 With no good options, black takes the poisoned queen.

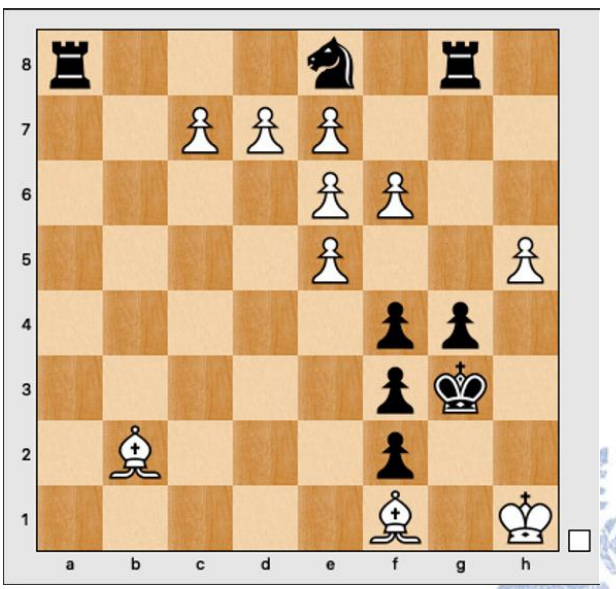
[22... ♖e6 23. ♖xe6 ♕xe6 24. ♕xd8 ♕e8 25. ♖g8 ♔xg8 26. ♕xe8 ♖f8 27. ♕xf8#]

23. ♖g8! Black resigns here as 23... Kxg8 24. Re8+ Rf8 and 25 Rxf8+ is mate. Ukranian chess master Efim Korchmar's victory here constitutes one of the most truly beautiful games of chess ever played!

[1:0]

To Win, White Must Promote a Pawn to a Bishop 5 Times!

For this issue I am sharing an absolutely brilliant puzzle as a tribute to the great chess problem composer Mikhail Afanasievich Zinar, who was Ukrainian. In my humble opinion, the two endgame study composers who mastered the pawn better than all the rest in history are Nikolai Grigoriev and Mikhail Afanasievich Zinar. And now as partial proof to this assertion, I present a puzzle by Mikhail Afanasievich Zinar first published in 1983.



Check out out YouTube video for the solution

Mission 360 Foundation

Mission360 Team got Top Club award in 2022 Amateur Team West Championship!

We believe everyone, regardless of their backgrounds, should have equal access to opportunities, being it playing chess tournaments, or access to AI training.

We understand this is not happening today for many reasons causing disparity in many different ways.

We envision if there is a way to connect people together, a master chess player from Europe with a kindergartener from California, a research scientist in silicon valley with a high schooler from Mexico, ..., we create opportunities to level the playing ground and we will be one step closer to our vision - everyone should have equal access to opportunities!

Does it sound right to you? If so, explore our website and join us!

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California has Got Talents!

#1: GM Christopher Yoo

By FM Kevin Pan

Youngest National Chess Master at age 9, 3 years after he started chess.

Youngest International Master at 12 years and 2 weeks.

He is also the youngest Northern California State Champion – beating the record set by US Champion Sam Shankland, 2020 US Cadet Champion, …… the list goes on.

On Dec. 12, 2021, a week before his 15th birthday, he gained 5.2 rating points in the historic Marshal Chess Club by defeating four masters and drawing one GM. In the short six months of the second half of 2021, he has achieved three GM norms from three prestigious events – the Memorial Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational, the Labor Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational, and the 2021 US Masters. With the 5.2 points he crossed 2500 FIDE completing all the requirements for the Grand Master title. Christopher Yoo has once again proved himself to be one of the greatest chess phenomena in California!

GM Christopher Yoo US Chess Federation

Are you wondering how he did it? Why did GM norms appear to be so "simple" for him? Can others replicate his success? I had the luxury to talk with him on zoom recently and see behind the scene of his success.

[KP] Christopher, thanks for taking the time and being with us today.

[CY] Thank you.

[KP] In a matter of six months, you accomplished something many people tried their whole life and couldn't do: three GM norms and 45 FIDE rating points from 2455 pre-Covid to 2500 on Dec. 12, 2021. How do you feel so far?

[CY] I feel great… Just the feeling of working that hard and getting GM is very special.

[KP]Yeah. All your hard work paid off right?

[CY] Yes

[KP] We can talk about rating all day long but at the end of the day chess is about the games themselves. Was there a game you particularly liked in the entire journey?

[CY] I am not…not particularly but I had a few must-win situations for my GM Norm that I managed to win. I think that's one of the things I am most proud about –

doing it in the must-win situation.

[KP]Right you didn't let the pressure gets to you…doing very well under pressure situations.

[CY] Yes.

[KP] Recently you were at the Marshall Chess Club, and you needed 5 points to get over 2500. As we talked about pressure, were you nervous when you were there?

[CY] I was a bit nervous, but I was also pretty excited. I think it was a mixture of emotions.

[KP] That was cool. So…how did you keep yourself composed during the games, or you just go along as usual as all other tournaments?

[CY] I just went along as usual.

[KP]Now let's talk about your overall chess journey. Your dad has kindly shared all the coaches you've worked with over the years. What are the main differences in your own experience, working towards NM, IM vs. GM? For example, as you worked towards NM you could've focused more on tactics… So, are there any differences in your training repertoire?

[CY] I think when I was working towards IM and GM, I needed a stronger opening [repertoire]. Up till about NM was mostly…playing a lot and tactics. I actually became more of an overall player, positionally, end game wise and opening wise, for IM and GM.

[KP]That's a very good advice! Your chess journey seems so smooth to the rest of us. You managed to achieve a lot at a very young age. Was there any moment that you felt challenged or frustrated? How did you get over it?

[CY] I think there were a couple of moments. One when I hit 2000 but went down to 1900… I kept working hard and eventually the results started to go my way. The other time was during Covid. It was a little frustrating to not be able to play tournaments for one and a half years.

[KP] Right… all us chess players experienced that…

[CY] Yeah…

Christopher playing at a FIDE Hybrid Tournament in Jan 2022. PC Lin Wang

[KP]So what part of chess do you like the most?

[CY] I like the tactics. I am a relatively tactical player. I just enjoyed sacrifices and combinations, and the geometry of everything!

[KP] So is there anything you dislike about chess, or you love everything?

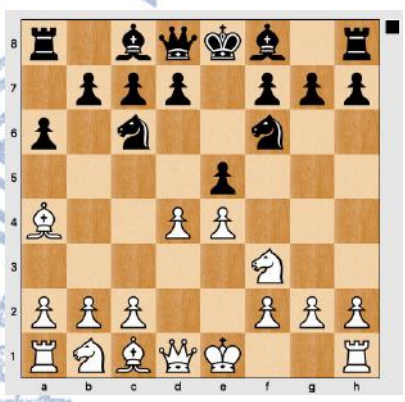
[CY] Mostly losing. There is hardly anything I dislike about chess.

Yoo,Christopher Woojin (2455) - Ringoir,Tanguy (2474) [C84]

Charlotte Invitational | Memorial Day | chess24.com (9.4), 31.05.2021

Annotated By Kevin Pan

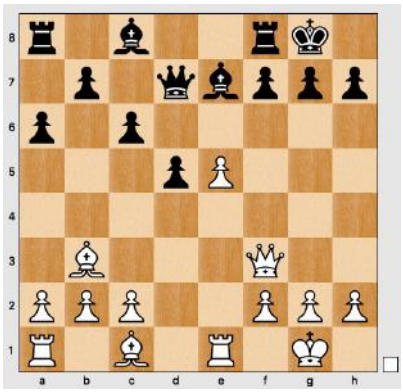
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 [Christopher goes for a sideline of the Ruy Lopez]



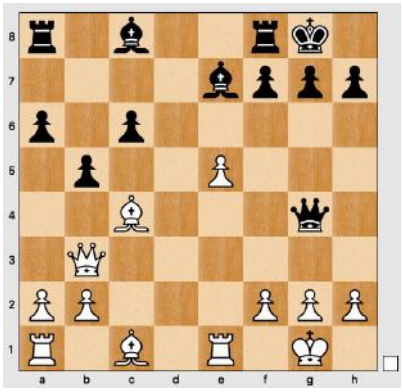
5...exd4 6.0–0 Be7 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nxd4 0–0 9.Re1 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Nc5 [His opponent understands the opening well, and is going for trades]

11.Nc3 d6 12.Bb3! [Allowing Nxa4 would drag the queen or knight to the corner of the board, so Bb3!]

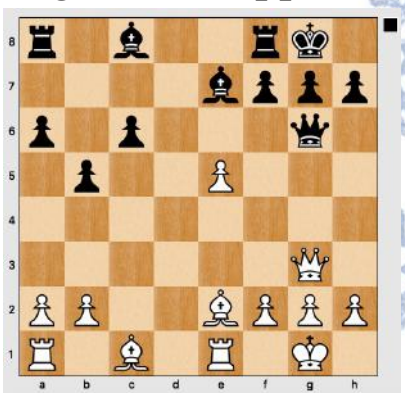
12...c6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 d5 15.Qf3 Qd7 [Preparing Qf5 - Christopher must win for the norm, so this is not an ideal position]



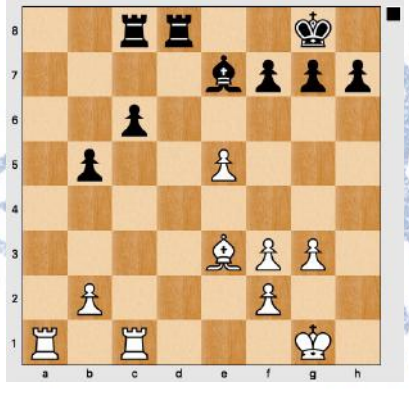
16.c4 dxc4 17.Bxc4 Qg4 18.Qb3 b5? [Creates imbalance and a target on c6 for Christopher]



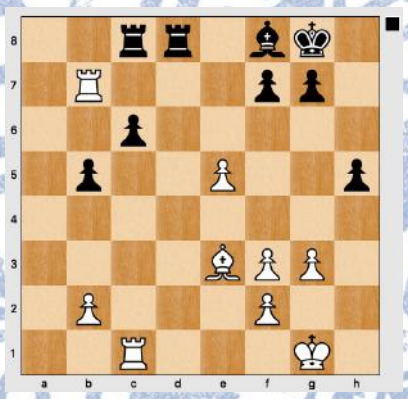
19.Be2 Qe4 20.Qe3 Qg6 21.Qg3 [The queen on g6 is powerful - Christopher is forced to go for a trade and grind his opponent out]



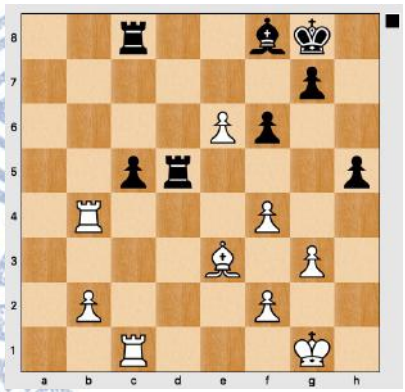
21...Qxg3 22.hxg3 Be6 23.Bf3 Rac8 24.Be3 Rfd8 25.a4 Bd5 26.axb5 Bxf3 27.gxf3 axb5 28.Rec1 [Targeting the weakness on c6 created earlier!]



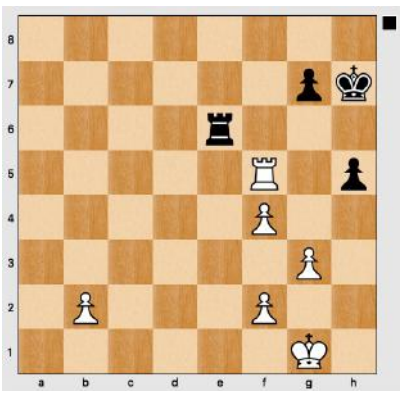
28...h5 29.Ra7 Bf8 30.Rb7! [Immobilizing black's queenside]



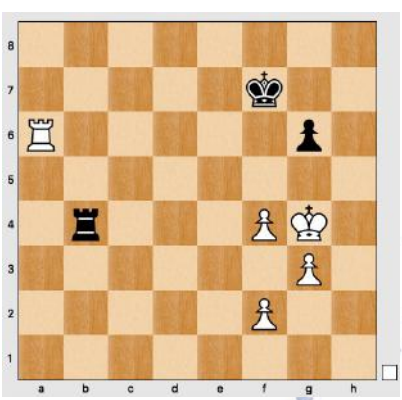
30...Rd5 31.f4 b4 32.Rb6 f6 33.e6 c5 34.Rxb4! [Black's position is starting to show some cracks]



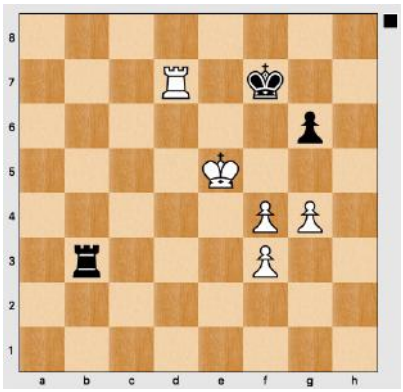
34...Re8 35.Rb6 Kh7 36.Rc6 f5 37.Bxc5 Bxc5 38.R1xc5 Rxc5 39.Rxc5 Rxe6 40.Rxf5 [Christopher is up two pawns, and for a player of his caliber this is an easy conversion]



40...Rb6 41.Rxh5+ Kg6 42.Re5 Rxb2 43.Kg2 Kf6 44.Kf3 g6 45.Re2 Rb4 46.Ra2 Rc4 47.Kg4 Rb4 48.Ra6+ Kf7



49.Kh4 Rc4 50.Rd6 Rb4 51.Kg4 Ra4 52.Kf3 Ra2 53.Ke3 Rb2 54.g4 Ra2 55.f3 Ra3+ 56.Ke4 Rb3 57.Rd3 Rb5 58.Rd5 Rb4+ 59.Ke5 Rb3 60.Rd7+ 1–0

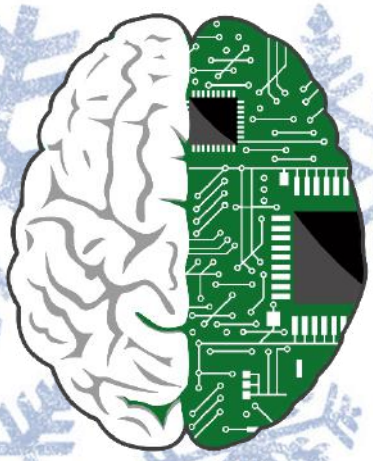


The Chess Files: The Answers are Out There

By James Eade
Eadefoundation.org

Is chess better off or worse off in the age of the Internet and Chess Engines? The answer is that it depends. We cannot make a blanket statement one way or the other unless we agree on a value system. Do we weigh technical accuracy over the spirit of competition? Or is it the other way around?

How would these questions be answered by a person who grew up before the Internet age? How would they be answered by someone who grew up only knowing chess in the age of the Internet and chess engines? We may never agree on a wide variety of factors. Does that mean we shouldn't try and answer the question? Heck, no!



In the last issue we looked at the positive impacts, so let's look at the negative ones in this issue. Don't think I am being a grumpy old man. That's beside the point, even if true. There really have been some negative impacts.

The first one that occurs to me is the false sense of precision engines give us. What does plus point four really tell me? Is it actually better than point 3? Give me a break. Besides, what does it mean in terms of actually playing the game? Does it give me significant winning chances? It sort of detracts away from the relative strength of the opponents and doesn't tell me anything about whether the position is complicated or fairly easy to play for me.

Do I want a risky position that an engine indicates I am better but will be difficult for me to find the best moves? Do I want a quiet position where I am only a little better, but I know how to proceed? The engine is no help here, and if I am a slave to this false sense of precision, I will not be maximizing my chances. I was sick of opening preparation back in the 1970s! How deep do you have to go nowadays to be prepared? I want to play chess moves according to my ability. I don't want to play chess moves that have been predetermined best by GMs or engines. OK, I had to learn to deal with opponents who knew the latest GM moves, but now I must deal with opponents who have the fastest engines and the biggest databases? What does that have to do with chess?

I want to play chess as early as possible. I don't want to wait to move 16 to start playing my opponent! I want to play my moves not someone else's. Of course, this is an idealized concept today. But so much preparation is not fun. It is work! It sucks the joy out of the game for me.

This type of preparation can mask a lack of understanding. Mechanically making the moves that have been predetermined as best can hold a player back from acquiring that deeper understanding. This is why I still like endgame studies. Yes, engines can solve those too, but I don't use them! I don't have to.

Yes, kids have coaches today (we didn't have them back in my day when we had to walk through two-foot snow drafts just to get to school! Oops, my grumpy old man is showing) and they can help them acquire the understanding that engines cannot give them. They really are better in all aspects than we were back in the day.

One of my biggest pet peeves is that engines allow wood pushers to think less of players such as Capablanca. So-and-so wasn't very good my engine says move 24 was a blunder! Sheesh!

José Raúl Capablanca wins in San Sebastián

There may be other downsides today, but I will finish with my last major complaint. World Championship matches are no longer must-see TV for me. Kasparov was involved in the last match I watched with much interest. The last truly compelling match, where I followed every move, was Kasparov-Karpov!

The games are mostly drawn and any new opening move is generally one that I wouldn't consider playing. A true chess fan such as myself is not riveted by the matches today. Granted, Carlsen might be the greatest player of all time, and the match conditions might play a role in leading to less fighting chess. (Avoiding risks is more prudent than taking them.) Still, I used to anticipate these matches and found them to be compelling viewing.

I just don't find them as interesting now. I blame the age of the Internet and chess engines. Or, I could be just a grumpy old man!

Chess champion Gary Kasparov 1997, training for his rematch with a smarter version of Deep Blue
Ted Thai—The LIFE Picture Collection/Gett

The Eade Foundation

The Eade Foundation wants to enhance chess literacy and chess excellence. Chess literacy means the ability to read and write chess notation. Reading notation opens the vast world of chess literature to the reader. Writing notation allows you to preserve your games for later study and to receive advice and counsel from other more advanced players. Chess excellence advances the state of the art and inspires others to achieve excellence on their own.

The Eade Foundation will provide chess sets and boards to organizations that cannot otherwise afford them. It considers chess to be a social good. Introducing or expanding chess literacy and chess excellence will lead to incremental improvement in any society. The Eade Foundation has provided chess sets and boards to organizations throughout the world, from Uganda to Nicaragua.

If you are interested in supporting or contacting the Foundation, please send an email to jimeade@eadefoundation.org.

Connecting the World with Chess

2021 World School Chess Tournament

By FM Kevin Pan

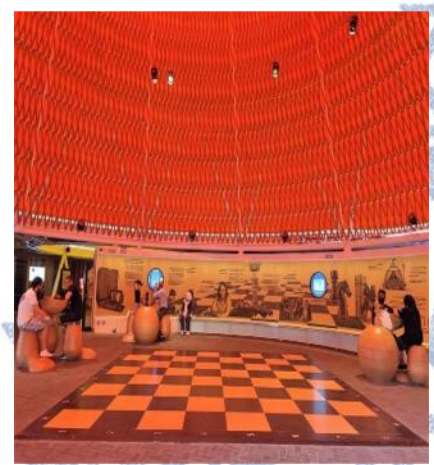
Can you imagine meeting the most legendary chess players of the modern era, playing the world's best players of your age, being interviewed live during a world championship game with half a million people watching, and representing the USA on the world stage, over a period of one week? I was fortunate enough to experience this participating in the final stage of the World School Chess Tournament from Nov. 23rd to Nov. 30th in Dubai, UAE.

The Spain Pavilion organized the World Online School Chess Tournament as part of Dubai World Expo 2020 with the goal to **promote chess as an educational tool among K-12 students**. Around 300 teams from over 50 countries participated. The tournament started in 2020, and I teamed up with my eight friends and teammates from Mission San Jose High School, a local public high school in Fremont, California. After three phases of intense online competition over a year, **our team booked our place as the only US team among the 12 final qualifiers.** Along the way we defeated chess powerhouse and reigning National K-9 Team Champion **Dalton School from New York**, and across-bay area rival prestigious private school and 2015 National High School Team Champion **Harker School**. Dubai, here we come!

Caption: Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE

PC: Spanish Pavilion

Caption: Team Mission San Jose High School proudly representing USA. PC Hui Wang



Caption: Spanish Pavilion, featuring a giant size chess board and pieces. PC Spanish Pavilion

World Champion Encounter

Before we began battling it out on the board with the best schools of the world, we explored the various activities around the Expo and Dubai. The World School Chess Tournament coincided with the World Chess Championship with both held at the Dubai Expo. Our very first event was a photo shooting opportunity with world championship challenger GM Ian Nepomniachtchi. See how excited we all were to kick off an amazing week like this!

GM Ian Nepomniachtchi with chess kids participating in World School Chess Tournament final. PC Hui Wang

One of my team members was lucky enough to be chosen to ask the only question from the 118 participants to world champion GM Magnus Carlsen in his pre-game press conference. Ashley Pang proudly represented our team - “How do you apply the lessons you’ve learned in chess to your day-to-day life?” The reigning world champion chose decision making as the most useful skill - “… To be able to make relatively quick decisions based on the data that you have, which I think is useful in almost any endeavor!”

After meeting Nepo, all of us wanted to meet Carlsen. The world champion certainly didn’t disappoint. He showed up together with GM Judit Polgar for a group photo with all participants of the World School Chess Tournament Final. It was amazing to see the best male and female players of all time in the same frame with chess kids from twelve countries, and all kinds of backgrounds including Christians, Muslims, Jewish and Hindus. Chess connects people!

GM and world champion Magnus Carlsen and GM Judit Polgar with chess kids PC Spanish Pavilion

A few days later at the playing hall of the world championship, our team got the chance to pose with GM Viswanathan Anand, the former world champion and 2022 world championship commentator. The chess pilgrimage is near complete!

GM Viswanathan Anand with our Team. PC Hui Wang

USA Pride

On Nov. 27th, the USA Pavilion hosted Team Mission San Jose High School. We were so proud to see our home country's showcase and how our innovation and technology has supported freedom and prosperity for all. Under a 1 to 1 replica of the Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket, we played a blitz tournament with GM Hans Niemann and NM Evan Rabin.

Team Mission San Jose High School with US Pavilion Commissioner General Robert Clark, GM Hans Niemann, and NM Evan Rabin. PC Hui Wang

Team Mission San Jose High School under 1 to 1 replica of Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket. PC Hui Wang

To top the whole experience off, we had a surprise visit by …… GM Garry Kasparov! Now our chess pilgrimage is really complete!

What started at the chess board needs to end at the chess board!

GM Gary Kasparov with Team Mission San Jose High School. PC Hui Wang

There was no lack of superstars at the World School Chess tournament final stage. Most of the teams are from special chess schools including the famous Velanmal Nexus School from India boasting three GMs on the team! GM Gukesh Dommaraju headed their team at first board, with GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa and GM Leon Mendonca on boards two and three. We knew the competition would be intense, but we were determined to put up our best.

Twelve teams were put in two groups and each team would decide rankings through a round-robin. The top two finishes from each group would compete for places 1 to 4 in the knockout stage, the next two for places 5 to 8, and the last two for places 9 to 12. Each game was played in a 20 minute 10 second increment time control, ensuring many surprises due to the relatively short time.

Being in the same group as Velanmal Nexus School and Saco

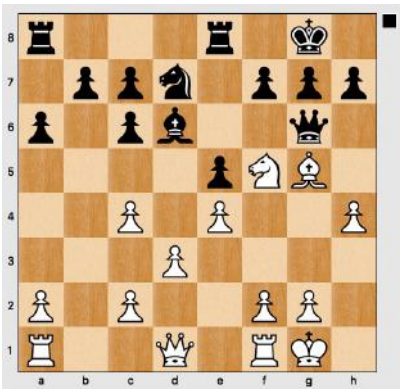
Oliveros, the final tournament winner and the runner-up, didn't make our lives easy. We didn't perform well in the group stage ending up at No. 5. We can blame it on not knowing that the board order doesn't have to follow rating, or the unfortunate moment when my opponent had an illegal move while at check with seconds left on the clock causing confusion between me and the TD which flipped the game result, but in the end our best was simply not good enough. We did have our shining moments though. In our head-to-head encounter with Velanmal Nexus, our board 3, Nicholas Jiang, dragged his 700 points higher-rated opponent GM Leon Mendonca into 30 seconds remaining on the clock and lost with a lot of respect. Personally, my best game was the one I played against Savo Oliveros' board 1 FM Rojas Salas.

FM Kevin Pan (2300) - FM Steven Rojas (2220) [C77]

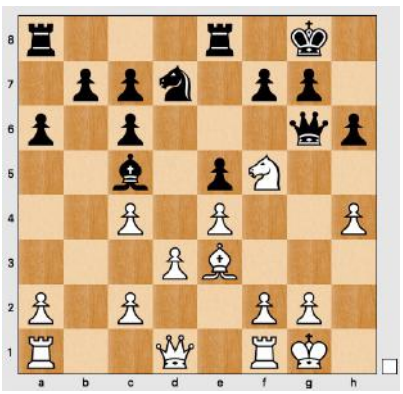
World School Chess Tournament
Final Dubai, 26.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.d3 Bd6 7.Nbd2 0–0 8.b3 Qe7 9.0–0 Be6 10.Nc4 Bxc4 11.bxc4 Nd7 12.Bg5 [Aiming for Nh4 - f5 15:45]

12...Qe6 13.Nh4 Rfe8 14.Nf5 Qg6 15.h4! [Interesting move with two goals - protect g5 and threaten h5 15:57]



15...h6 16.Be3 Bc5?? [Missing h5 16:03]



17.h5! [The queen is running out of moves! 16:00]

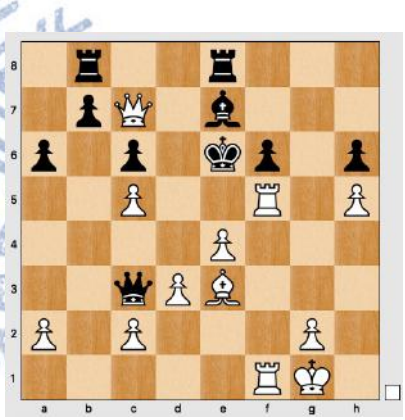
17...Qf6

[17...Qe6 18.Bxh6 Bf8 19.Bxg7 Bxg7 20.Qg4 Qf6 21.Nxg7 Qxg7 22.Qxd7+–; 17...Qh7 18.Nxh6+ gxh6 19.Qg4+ Qg7 20.Qxd7+–]

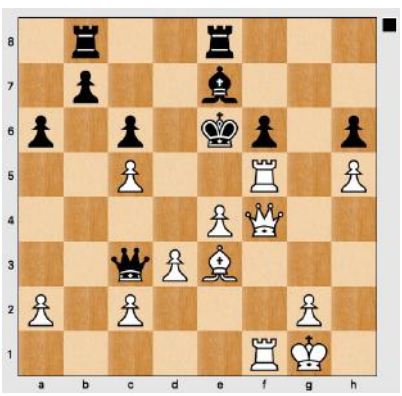
18.Nxh6+! [Opening up the king for checks! 15:49]

18...gxh6 19.Qg4+ Kh7 20.Qxd7 Bd6 21.c5 Rad8 22.Qh3 Be7 23.Rab1 [Completely tying down black's position, all white pieces serve a purpose now 16:08]

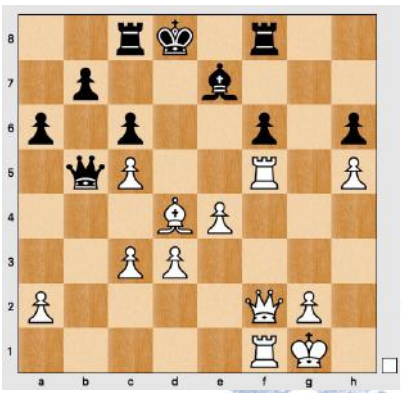
23...Rb8 24.f4 Kg8 25.fxe5 Qxe5 26.Rf5 Qc3 27.Rbf1 f6 28.Qg3+ Kf7 29.Qxc7 Ke6! [Surprisingly not that easy to find a concrete win 16:50]



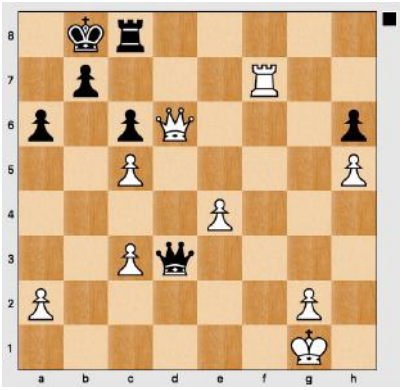
30.Qf4 [Better was... 30.e5 fxe5 31.Rf6+ Bxf6 32.Qd6+ Kf7 33.Rxf6+ With mate soon]



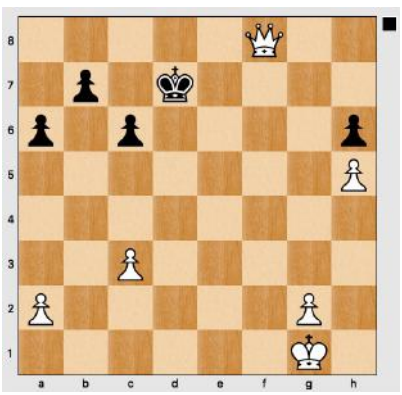
30...Kd7 31.Qg4 Kd8 32.Qf4 Rc8 33.Qf2 Rf8 34.Bd4 Qb4 35.c3 Qb5



36.Bxf6 Rxf6 37.Rxf6 Qxd3 38.Rf8+ Bxf8 39.Qxf8+ Kc7 40.Rf7+ Kb8 41.Qd6+! [Simplifying into a completely winning endgame 17:07]



41...Qxd6 42.cxd6 Re8 43.d7 Rd8 44.e5 Kc7 45.e6 Rg8 46.e7 Kxd7 47.Rf8 Rxf8 48.exf8Q 1–0



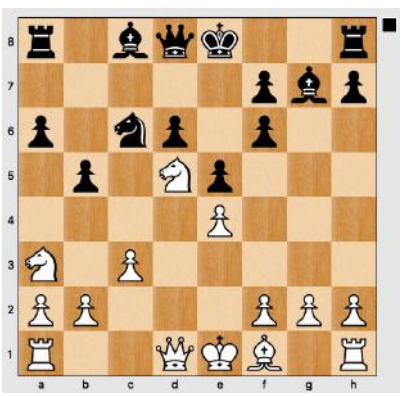
Going into the knockout stage, our jet lag had dissipated. Our spirits were up from the visit to the USA Pavilion. We were determined to fight for our dignity! We beat Csanyi Alapitvany Gyermekekert from Hungary in the semi-final and Green Village Chess Academy from Israel in the final, ending up winning our bracket. Here is a game played by our board 2 Maurya Palusa that decided our final match against Green Village Chess Academy.

Maurya Palusa (1862) - Gal Shapira (1990) [B33]

World School Chess Tournament
Dubai, 29.11.2021

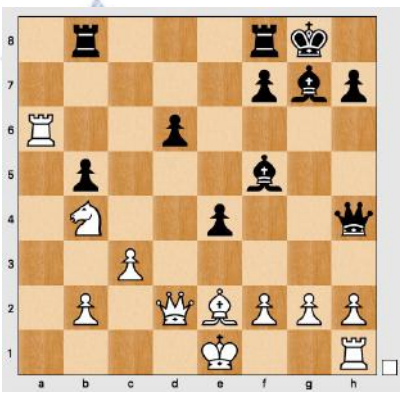
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Na3 a6 8.Bg5 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 [Blacks position is unpleasant at first glance, but if he manages to play f5 his position opens 15:35]

11.c3 [Stopping f5 is better... 11.Bd3 0–0 12.0–0 Be6 13.Qh5²]

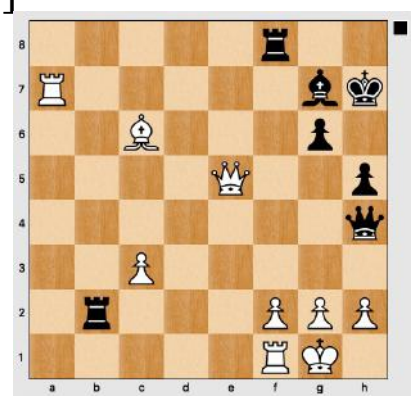


11...0–0 12.Nc2 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.a4 Rb8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Ra6? [A little too soon, castling the king is required 16.Be2 Qg5 17.Nce3]

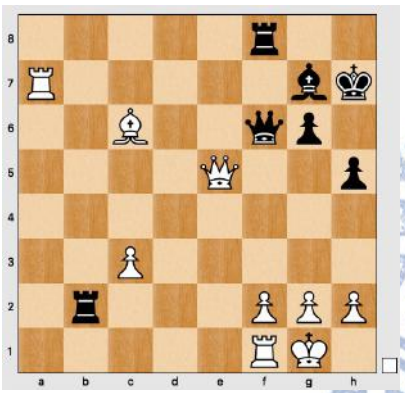
16...Ne7 17.Ncb4 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Qg5 19.Qd2 Qh4 20.Be2 e4? [Although intimidating, a quick calculation reveals that Qxd6 is possible 16:12]



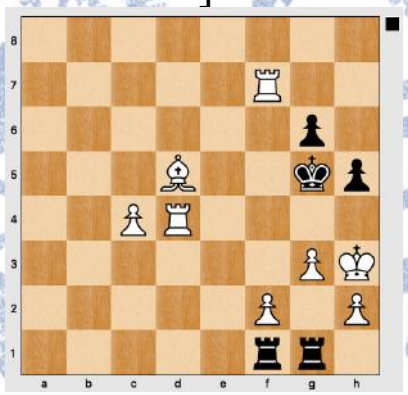
21.Qxd6 e3 22.0–0! Rbd8 23.Qc5 Bg6 24.Bxb5 Rd2 25.Qxe3 Rxb2 26.Bc6 h5 27.Nd5 Kh7 28.Nf4 Bh6 29.Nxg6 fxg6 30.Ra7+ Bg7 31.Qe5?? [In time trouble white misses a simple mate, can you find it? 16:53]



31...Qf6?? [Black, in time trouble, also misses the mate! 16:52]



32.Qxf6 Rxf6 33.Bd5 Rc2 34.c4 Kh6 35.Rf7 Rb6 36.g3 Bd4 37.Rd1 Bc5 38.Rd3 Rb1+ 39.Kg2 Rcc1 40.Rdf3 Rg1+ 41.Kh3 Kg5 42.R3f6 Bd4 43.Rf4 Rbf1 44.Rxd4 [Despite the complexity, Maurya holds on and wins the final round for us! 17:40] **1–0**



In the middle bracket, the two Mongolian teams School #1 and 33rd Secondary School, faced off. They drew their rapid match, then drew their first blitz tiebreak, and then amazingly drew their blitz tiebreak as well! They ended up sharing 3rd - 4th. On the other side, Velanmal Nexus School beat Saco Oliveros in the final and won the tournament while Saco Oliveros took second place in the world final. To many peoples' surprise, Saco's FM Rojas Salas beat Velanmal's GM Leon Mendonca. Here is my analysis of this interesting game.

GM Leon Luke Mendonca - FM Steven Rojas Salas [D32]

World School Chess Tournament Final

Dubai, 29.11.2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 Be7 5.Bb2 O-O 6.Nc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 [Playing against the isolated d5 pawn with the d4 knight blocking its passage 0:15:39]

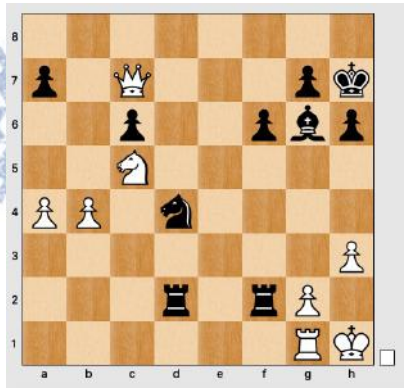
9 … Nc6 10.Be2 Be6 11.O-O Qd7 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rc1 [Shifting plans into utilizing the weakened dark squares (c5, d4) 0:15:49]

13 … Rac8 14.Na4 Ne4 15.Ba6 Rc7 16.Be5 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Qc2 Bc8 19.Bd3 Nf6 20.Qc5 Qe5 21.Qd4 Qg5 [If black trades on d4, the c5 square is forever in white's control and the c6 pawn will eventually fall 0:16:13]

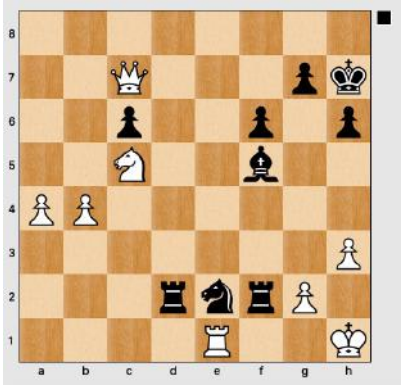
22.Rc2 Bf5?? 23.Qe5! Bxd3 24.Qxg5 Bxc2 25.Rc1 Bg6 [Despite winning the queen, black's position is quite solid - not easy to win ever for a GM 0:16:30]

26.Qf4 Rfc8 27.h3 h6 28.Nc5 Be4 29.b4 Bg6 30.Qd6 Ne8 31.Qe5 Nf6 32.a4 Kh7 33.Qd6 Ne8 34.Qf4 Re7 35.Qh4 f6 36.Qf4 Rd8 37.Qd4 Nd6 38.Na6 Nf5 39.Qb2 [39.Qc5 d4 40.g4]
39 … d4! [Black begins to take the initiative as both players get into time trouble 0:17:23]

40.exd4 Nxd4 41.Kh1 Re2 42.Qc3 Rxf2 43.Qe3 Re2 44.Qf4 Nf5 45.Nc5 Rdd2 46.Rg1 Rf2 47.Qc7 Nd4 [All of black's pieces have arrived, computer still says 0.00 but playing this as a human with little time is almost impossible 0:17:54]



48.Qxa7 Bf5 49.Qc7 Ne2 50.Re1 [50.Qxc6 Nxg1 51.Kxg1 Bxh3 52.gxh3 Rfe2 53.Kf1 Rf2+ 54.Kg1 Rfe2]



50 … Nf4 51.Ne4?? Bxe4 52.Rxe4 Rf1+ 0-1

It was such an amazing week and once-in-a-lifetime experience for us to remember for many years. I felt like all my dreams as a chess player have been fulfilled. We also got to connect with chess kids from all over the world on the chessboard. The vision to leverage chess as an education tool among K12 students is now engraved on our minds. I look forward to riding the wave with my fellow team members. Proudly representing USA and Mission San Jose High School in Fremont California are **FM Kevin Pan**, **Maurya Palusa**, **Stephen He**, **Nicholas Jiang**, **WCM Ashley Pang**, **CM Aghilan Nachiappan**, **Yesun Lee**, and **Atul Kamath**.

I'd like to thank Kingdom of Spain Pavilion for organizing the tournament, US Department of States Expo Unit for hosting us in the USA Pavilion, our school Mission San Jose High for the support, and, last but not least, our coaches and parents for their unconditional love and support for our chess careers and the whole World School Chess Tournament journey.

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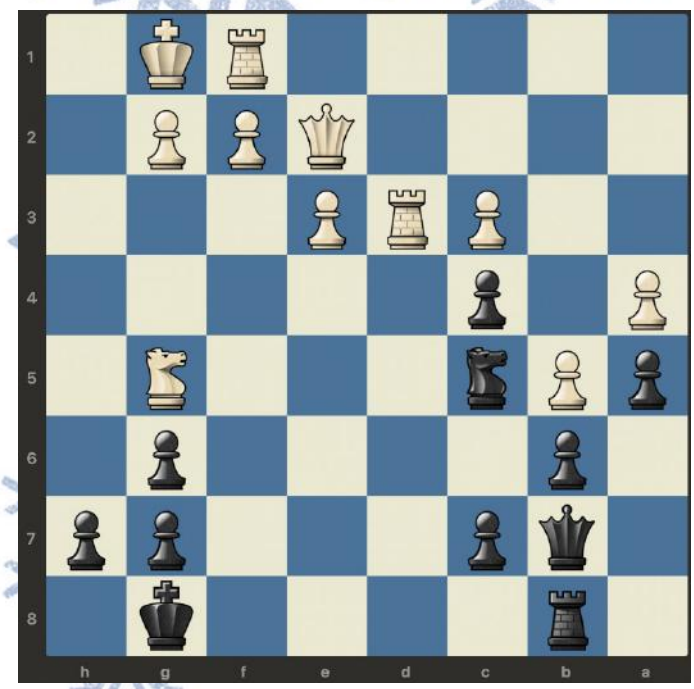
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL

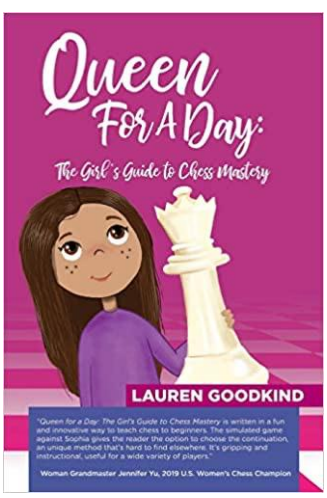
Though this is an adult class, your daughter is welcome to attend with you. Children cannot attend alone!

Chess Puzzles
By Lauren Goodkind
Advanced Beginner
Answers on Pages 34 & 35

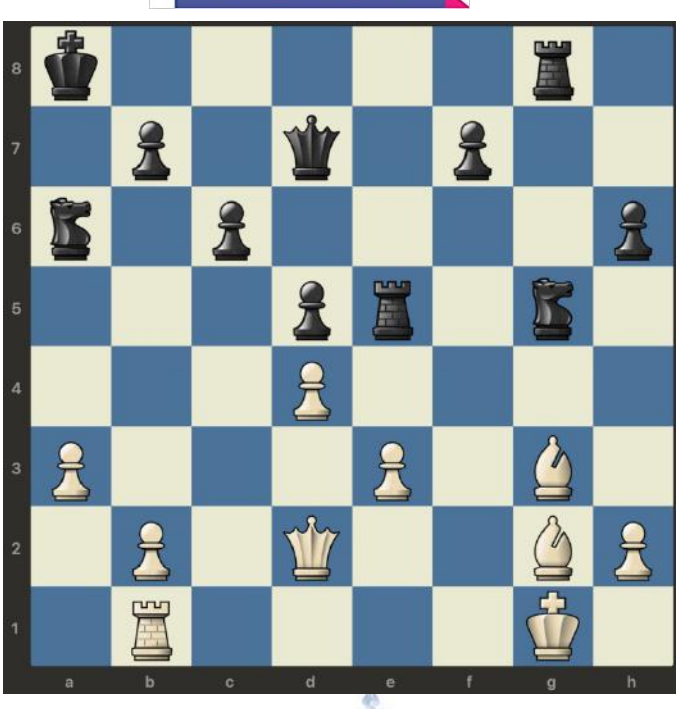


Follow the Code to go to Chess By Lauren!

Puzzle 1: Black to move. Should the c4 pawn or the c5 knight capture white's rook on d3?



Puzzle 2: White to move: Should the queen on d3 or the bishop on h3 capture black's knight on f5?



Puzzle 3: White to move. Should the d4 pawn or the g3 bishop capture black's rook on e5?

The Eade Foundation's Fall Scholastic Chess Classic
By Chris Torres

The Eade Foundation supports building chess communities through enhancing chess literacy and chess excellence. An important part of this objective is encouraging young chess players which is why tournaments such as The Eade Foundation's Scholastic Chess Classics are an important opportunity for talented young chess players to represent their local communities with their own chess excellence.

Held on November 20, 2021, The Eade Foundation's Fall Scholastic Chess Classic attracted top young chess players from around the United States and, of course, a bunch of local talent from Northern California. This online Swiss Style chess tournament used the G/15+10 and was broadcast internationally for all to see on the popular Daily Chess Musings YouTube channel. Everyone who tuned in was treated to lots of excellent chess from talented young chess players and expert commentary from the tournament organizer and CalChess Journal Editor, Chris Torres. Included below, are two very exciting games from this prestigious tournament.

1 **VIENNA GAME**
Nosarev, Vladislav - Yu, Macallan
0:1, 11/20/2021.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘c3 Less common than Nf3 this is the start of the Vienna game. **2... ♘c6** After 2... Nf6, 3. f4 and 3.Bc4 are both very tactical options for white. **3. ♗c4 ♗c5?!** Macallan oppts for a symmetrical and sharp contunation. 3... Nf6 can transpose into a Four Knights.

[3... ♘f6!? 4. d3 ♗b4 5. ♘f3 d6 6. O-O]

4. ♕g4 This is strong Tobasco! Nigel Short and Alireza Firouzja have chosen less spicy continations as seen below.

[4. ♘f3 ♘f6 5. d3 d6 6. ♗e3 ♗b6 7. ♗b3 ♗e6 8. O-O O-O 9. h3 ♖e8 10. ♗xb6 axb6 11. ♘e2 h6 12. ♘g3 d5 13. c3 b5 14. ♖e1 d4 15. ♕c2 dxc3 16. bxc3 ♕d7 17. ♖ad1 ♘a5 18. d4 exd4 19. cxd4 ♘xb3 20. axb3 c6 21. d5 cxd5 22. e5 ♘h7 23. ♘d4 f6 24. ♕d3 fxe5 25. ♘xe6 ♕xe6 26. ♕xd5 ♘f6 27. ♕xb5 ♖a6 28. ♕xb7 ♖b6 29. ♕c7 ♖xb3 30. ♖d6 ♕f7 31. ♕c5 e4 32. ♖c6 ♖d3 33. ♖c8 ♖xc8 34. ♕xc8 ♔h7 35. ♕f5 ♕g6 36. ♕xg6 ♔xg6 37. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 38. ♖xe4 ♖d2 39. ♖e5 ♔f6 40. ♖h5 ♔g6 41. g4 ♖a2 42. ♔g2 ♔h7 43. ♖f5 ♖a3 ...1/2-1/2, Short Nigel D (ENG) 2698 - Carlsen Magnus (NOR) 2826 , London 12/12/2011 It (cat.20);

4. d3 d6 5. ♘f3 ♘f6 6. h3 a6 7. a3 ♗a7 8. O-O h6 9. ♗e3 g5 10. ♘h2 g4 11. hxg4 ♖g8 12. ♕f3 ♕e7 13. ♘d5 ♘xd5 14. ♗xd5 ♘d4 15. ♕h3 ♘xc2 16. ♖ac1 ♘d4 17. ♔h1 ♘e6 18. ♗xa7 ♖xa7 19. ♕e3 ♖a8 20. b4 ♘d4 21. f4 ♗e6 22. ♗xb7 ♖b8 23. ♗c6 ♔d8 24. f5 ♗d7 25. ♗d5 f6 26. ♗xg8 1-0, Firouzja Alireza (FID) 2723 - Narayanan S L (IND) 2637 , Internet 4/10/2020 It "Chess24 Banter Blitz Cup"]

4... ♕f6?!± Macallan defends g7 and threatens f2 while inviting white to play Nd5.

[4... g6!? 5. ♕g3 d6 6. ♘ge2 +0.56 Stockfish]

5. ♘d5 Vladislav accepts the invitation. **5... ♕xf2 6. ♔d1 ♘a5** Threatens the dangerous bishop on c4. **7. ♘h3** Vladislav sees Macallan threat and reraises with a threat on black's queen.

7... ♕d4 Black had two interesting counter threat options but both seem to also favor white.

[7... ♘f6 8. ♕xg7 ♕h4 9. ♕xh8 ♗f8 10. ♘xf6 ♕xf6 11. ♕xf6 1-0, Urban Szilveszter (HUN) 2127 - Tan Richard 1086 , Churchill 2000 Ch Australia (juniors) (under 18);

7... d6 8. ♘xf2 ♗xg4 9. ♘xg4 O-O-O 10. ♗b3 ♘xb3 11. axb3 h5 12. ♘ge3 c6 13. ♘c3 ♘f6 14. d3 d5 15. exd5 cxd5 16. ♘e2 h4 17. ♗d2 h3 18. g3 ♖h5 19. b4 ♗b6 20. ♖f1 ♗xe3 21. ♗xe3 d4 22. ♗g1 ♘g4 23. ♖xf7 ♘h6 24. ♖f1 e4 25. ♖xa7 exd3 26. cxd3 ♖d7 27. ♘f4 ♖f5 28. ♖a5 ♖xa5 29. bxa5 ♖f7 30. ♖e1 ♔d7 31. ♗xd4 ♘f5 32. ♗g1 ♖f6 33. d4 b6 34. ♘d5 ♖d6 35. ♘xb6 ♔c6 36. ♔c1 ♔b5 37. ♖e5 ♔a6 38. ♖xf5 ♖c6 39. ♔d2 g6 40. ♖f3 g5 41. d5 g4 42. dxc6 gxf3 43. c7 ♔b7 44. c8=♕ ♔a7 45. ♕a8# 1-0, Cruz Guerra Samuel (ESP) 1738 - Diaz Bangueses Mario, Ourense 7/ 8/2009 It (open)]

8. d3 ♘xc4 9. c3?? Play with fire and you might get burned! Vladislav misses the winning continuation and commits a horrendous mistake.

[9. ♕xg7 Was the correct choice for white. 9... ♘xb2 10. ♔e2 d6 11. ♖f1 ♗g4 12. ♕xg4 ♘xd3 13. cxd3 ♕xa1 14. ♘xc7 ♔d8 15. ♗g5 ♔xc7 16. ♖xa1 h5 17. ♕h4 ♖f8 18. ♕e1 ♔b8 Easily winning for white.]

9... ♕xd3 The tables have turned. **10. ♔e1** Vladislav may be down but he is not out as white has the best threats on the board of Nxc7+ and Qxg7! **10... g6** Macallan takes Qxg7 off the table which leaves Nxc7+ for black. **11. ♘xc7 ♔d8?** Kf8 was the better option.

[11... ♔f8 12. ♘xa8 ♘a3! 13. ♕e2 (13. bxa3 ♕xc3 14. ♔d1 ♕xa1) 13... ♘c2 14. ♔f1 ♕xe2 15. ♔xe2 ♘xa1]

12. ♘xa8 b6

[12... ♘a3 13. bxa3 ♕xc3 14. ♔e2 b6]

13. ♗g5 f6 14. ♖d1 ♕c2 15. ♖f1

[15. ♕f3 ♗e7 16. ♗c1 ♗b7 17. ♘xb6 axb6]

15... fxg5?? And this time it is black that commits a critical error that places his advantage at stake.

[15... ♘xb2 Is the correct way for black to continue doen the path to victory. 16. ♖xf6 ♘xf6 17. ♗xf6 ♗e7 18. ♗xe7 ♔xe7 19. ♕h4 ♔f7 20. ♕f2 ♕xf2 21. ♘xf2 ♘xd1 22. ♔xd1 ♖f8 23. ♘c7 ♗b7 24. ♔e1 ♖c8 25. ♘b5 -5.50 Stockfish]

16. ♕xg5?? Vladislav misses the opportunity.

[16. ♘xg5! ♘f6 17. ♕f3 ♖f8 18. ♘e6 ♔e7 19. ♘xf8 ♕xe4 20. ♕xe4 ♘xe4 21. b4 ♗d6 22. ♖d3 ♗b7 23. ♘c7 ♘b2 24. ♖h3 ♘g5 25. ♖xh7 ♘xh7 Is a complicated but roughly even endgame.]

16... ♘e7 17. ♕f6 Loses quickly but white's alternatives were also losing. **17... ♕xe4#**

[0:1]

1 **ITALIAN GAME & HUNGARIAN def.**
Mcalister, Pema - Desai, Dhritee
0:1, 11/20/2021.

1. e4 e5 2. ♗c4 ♘c6 3. ♘f3 ♘d4? The objectively bad Blackburne Shilling Gambit does show up in scholastic chess with some frequency likely because of that one famous victory by Kostics over Muhlock in 1912.

[3... ♗c5 Is a much better third move choice for black. 4. c3 (4. ♘c3 ♘f6 5. d3 a6 6. ♗g5 h6 7. ♗xf6 ♕xf6 8. ♘d5 ♕d8 9. c3 ♗a7 10. d4 exd4 11. cxd4 d6 12. h3 ♘e7 13. ♘xe7 Is interesting food for thought.) 4... ♘f6 5. d3 d6 6. O-O h6 7. ♖e1 O-O 8. ♘bd2 a5 9. ♘f1 ♗e6 10. ♗b5 ♘e7 11. d4 exd4 12. cxd4 ♗b6 13. ♘g3 d5 14. e5 ♘e4 15. ♗e3 ♘f5 16. ♘xf5 ♗xf5 17. ♘d2 ♘xd2 18. ♕xd2 a4 19. b4 axb3 20. axb3 c6 21. ♗e2 ♕e7 22. h3 ♖a3 23. b4 ♖fa8 24. ♖xa3 ♖xa3 25. ♖c1 ♖b3 26. b5 ♕b4 27. ♕d1 ♖b1 28. ♖xb1 ♕xb1 29. ♕xb1 ♗xb1 30. bxc6 bxc6 31. ♗d1 ♗d3 32. f4 f6 33. ♔f2 ♔f7 34. ♗a4 fxe5 35. fxe5 ♗b5 36. ♗c2 ♗a5 37. g4 ♗c3 38. ♗f5 c5 39. e6 ♔f6 40. dxc5 g6 41. ♗c2 g5 42. ♗f5 d4 43. ♗c1 ...1/2-1/2, Carlsen Magnus (NOR) 2872 - Nakamura Hikaru (USA) 2736 , Internet 5/29/2020 It "Lindores Abbey" (Final 8);

3... ♘f6 4. ♘g5 d5 5. exd5 ♘a5 6. ♗b5 c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. ♗d3 ♘d5 9. ♘f3 ♗d6 10. ♘c3 O-O 11. ♗e2 ♘f4 12. O-O ♗g4 13. d3 ♘xe2 14. ♕xe2 f5 15. h3 ♗h5 16. g4 fxg4 17. ♘g5 ♕d7 18. ♘ce4 ♗e7 19. ♘g3 ♗g6 20. ♕xg4 ♕xg4 21. hxg4 c5 22. ♘5e4 ♘c6 23. ♗e3 ♘d4 24. ♖ac1 ♖ac8 25. ♔g2 c4 26. ♗xd4 exd4 27. f3 ♖c6 28. b3 ♗a3 29. ♖ce1 cxd3 30. cxd3 a5 31. ♖f2 ♗c1 32. ♘d2 ♗xd3 33. ♘c4 ♗f4 34. ♘e5 ♖c3 35. ♘xd3 ♖xd3 36. ♘f5 g6 37. ♖e4 ♗g5 38. ♘e7 ♔h8 39. ♘c6 ♗e3 40. ♖e2 ♖d1 41. ♘xa5 ♖g1 42. ♔h2 ♖c1 43. ♔g2 ...1/2-1/2, Van Foreest Jorden (NED) 2644 - Carlsen Magnus (NOR) 2872 , Wijk aan Zee 1/14/2020 It (cat.20)]

4. ♘xd4 The most popular continuation and with good reason.

[4. ♘xe5 ♕g5 5. ♘xf7 ♕xg2 6. ♖f1 ♕xe4 7. ♗e2 ♘f3# Is how the famous game Muhlock vs Kostic, 1912 went.]

4... exd4 5. O-O d6 6. c3 dxc3?!

[6... ♘f6!? 7. cxd4]

7. ♘xc3 ♘f6 8. d3 As is almost always the case against the Blackburne Shilling Gambit, white gains an advantage in the opening with rational play. Having said this, 8. Qb3 is the most exact punishment white can issue.

[8. ♕b3 ♕e7 9. ♖e1 h6 10. d4 d5 11. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 12. ♗xd5 g6 13. ♗xb7 ♗xb7 14. ♕xb7 ♕d8 15. ♕c6 ♔e7 16. b3 ♗g7 17. ♗a3 ♕d6 18. ♕xc7 ♔f8 19. ♗xd6 ♔g8 20. ♖ac1 ♔h7 21. ♕xf7 ♖ag8 22. ♖c7 h5 23. h4 ♔h6 24. ♗f4 ♔h7 25. ♖ec1 1-0, Abdulrahim Salem (UAE) 1305 - Alexiou-Karakasidis Stylianos, Rio Patra 7/ 9/2013 Ch Greece (juniors) (under 10);

8. d4 ♕e7 9. ♖e1 ♗d7 10. e5 dxe5 11. ♖xe5 ♗e6 12. d5 O-O-O 13. ♕b3 ♘g4 14. ♖e1 ♕h4 15. ♗e3 ♕xh2 16. ♔f1 ♗f5 17. ♘d1 ♕h1 18. ♔e2 ♕xg2 19. ♗b5 ♖xd5 20. ♖c1 ♘xe3 21. ♕xe3 ♗b4 22. ♕xa7 ♖e8 23. ♗xe8 ♕e4 24. ♘e3 ♖a5 25. ♕b6 ♕d3 26. ♔f3 ♗e4 27. ♔g4 c6 28. ♖cd1 f5 29. ♔h3 ♖b5 30. ♖xd3 ♖xb6 31. ♖b3 ♔d8 32. ♗h5 g6 33. ♗e2 f4 34. ♖d1 ♔c7 35. ♘c4 ♖b5 36. ♗d3 ♗d5 37. a3 ♗e6 38. ♔g2 ♖g5 39. ♔f3 ♗e7 40. ♖e1 ♗g4 41. ♔xf4 ♔d7 42. ♖xe7 ♔xe7 43. ♔xg5 ♗c8 44. ♘b6 ♗e6 45. ♗c4 ♗f5 46. ♗g8 ♔f8 47. ♗c4 h5 ...1-0, Maciulaityte Barbora - Arnelian Nanor, Al-Ain 12/28/2013 Ch World (juniors) (under 10) (g);

8. b3 ♗e7 9. ♗b2 O-O 10. ♘d5 ♗e6 11. ♕e2 c6 12. ♘xe7 ♕xe7 13. ♗xe6 fxe6 14. d4 ♖f7 15. e5 dxe5 16. dxe5 ♘d5 17. ♕g4 ♖af8 18. ♗d4 ♖f4 19. ♕d1 a6 20. a3 ♖4f5 21. ♕c2 ♕c7 22. g4 ♖f4 23. ♗c5 ♖xg4 24. ♔h1 ♖f7 25. ♗d6 ♕d8 26. ♖g1 ♕h4 27. ♕c5 ♖xg1 28. ♖xg1 ♕e4 29. ♖g2 ♕e1 30. ♖g1 ♕xf2 31. ♕xf2 ♖xf2 32. ♖d1 ♖xa2 33. b4 ♖b2 34. ♗c5 ♔f7 35. ♖d3 g5 36. ♖f3 ♘f4 37. h3 ♖d2 38. ♗e3 ♖d3 39. ♔g1 ♔g6 40. ♔f2 ♔f5 41. ♔g3 ♔xe5 42. ♔f2 ♔e4 43. ♖g3 h6 44. ♖f3 ♖b3 45. ♔g3 ♖b2 46. ♔g4 ♖g2 47. ♖g3 ♖xg3 ...0-1, Abderrahaman Nadia - De Leon Navarro Claudio, Vecindario 7/ 7/2013 Ch Gran Canaria (juniors)]

8... h6? Black can't afford to burn a tempo on a slow pawn move while already signifigantly behind in completing the opening goals.

[8... ♗e7 9. ♕b3 O-O Was black's best plan.]

9. ♕b3! A most effecting queen and bishop battery targeting black's bellybutton.

9... ♕e7 10. ♘d5 Pema moves the knight into checking distance with a threat on black's queen. **10... ♘xd5 11. exd5 ♕f6** Now white has two dangerous checks. **12. ♗b5**

[12. ♖e1 ♗e7 13. ♗d2 and now white has a neat tactic if black castles. 13... O-O 14. ♗c3 ♕g6 15. ♖xe7]

12... ♗d7 13. ♗xd7 ♔xd7 14. ♕xb7 ♖e8

15. ♕xa7 Qc6+ was also a winning move.

[15. ♕c6 ♔d8 16. ♗d2 ♕e7 17. ♗a5 ♕d7 18. ♕a8 ♕c8 19. ♗xc7! ♔e7 20. ♖ae1 ♔f6 21. ♖xe8 Would be resignable for black.]

15... ♗e7 16. ♕a4 ♔d8 17. ♕b3 ♕g6 18. ♗d2 ♗f6 19. ♗a5 ♖e5 20. ♖ac1 ♖e7 21. ♕b8 ♔d7 22. ♕xh8 Pema, who has been exhibiting excellent attack technique misses a mate in 1.It's always dangerous to give your opponent a second chance.

[22. ♖xc7#]

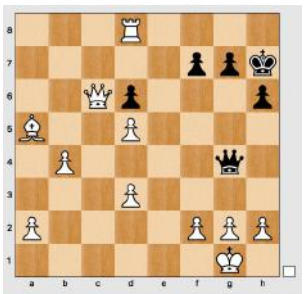
22... ♖e8 23. ♖xc7 ♔d8 24. ♖b7 ♔c8 25. ♕xe8 ♔xb7 26. ♕e3 Misses a common mating pattern.

[26. ♕c6 ♔b8 27. ♗c7 ♔c8 28. ♗b6 ♔b8 29. ♕c7 ♔a8 30. ♕a7#]

26... ♔c8 27. ♖c1 ♔d7 28. ♖c7 Again, white could end this in simple fashion.

[28. ♕a7 ♔e8 29. ♕a8 ♔e7 30. ♖c7#]

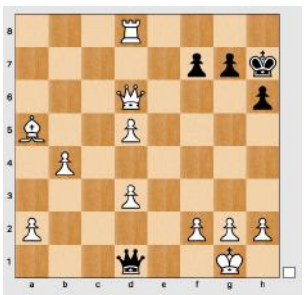
28... ♔d8 29. ♕a7 ♔e8 30. ♕a8 ♗d8 31. ♕c6 ♔f8 32. ♖c8 ♔g8 33. ♖xd8 ♔h7 34. b4 ♕g4



35. ♕xd6?? All of the extra chances white gave black led to a most improbable comeback for Dhritee.

[35. h3 ♕d1 36. ♔h2 ♕xd3 37. ♕xd6 ♕f5 38. ♕g3 ♕c2 39. ♕f4 f5 40. ♖f8 ♔g6 41. ♕g3 ♔h7 42. ♕f3 ♔g6 43. g3 h5]

35... ♕d1#



[0:1]

Click here to see the tournament crosstable

Cal Wins Back-to-Back US Amateur Team West Championship

By Dr. Salman Azhar
& FM Kevin Pan

USATW 2022 Champion Cal A Team. Left to right: NM Christopher Pan, Michael Franco, IM Kesav Viswanadha, NM Daniel Lin, Sadia Qureshi.

The ever-popular Amateur Team West Championship returned to in-person after going online last year, amid a global pandemic. After three days of intense competition, The Cal A team emerged as the ultimate winner taking home back-to-back wins for their school over two consecutive years. Over the board or online, Cal players proved themselves to be the chess powerhouse everyone in the chess world should watch out for!

Every year over President's day weekend, chess players around the nation would gather and participate in four editions of the National Amateur Team Championship at West, East (called World Amateur Team), North and South. The winning teams from all four regions will then come together and compete later in the spring for the National Amateur Team title.

Each team has four players and a couple substitutes are allowed. Every round four boards will compete and the team with the majority (2.5 points or higher) would win, and 2 points would lead to a draw.

This year USATW was held at the Juniper Hotel in Cupertino, CA in the heart of Silicon Valley. It drew more than 300 players across the open section and the scholastic section. College chess was very well represented in terms of both number of participants and strength. Cal and Stanford each sent two teams led by two strong IMs, IM Kesav Viswanadha and IM Bryce Tiglon, with many masters. Not letting the bay area take all the spotlight, UCLA and UC Davis also fielded strong teams led by National Masters. However, the top seed of the tournament was Mission 360, a local club with K12 students boasting an average rating of 2198. On the list there were also Team En Passant led by IM Timothy Taylor, seven teams from local scholastic club Learning Pawns, and a couple all girls' teams. This tournament is a great showcase of both the depth and breadth of bay area chess!

Playing Venue - Covid protocol was observed.
Picture By Salman Azhar

The first three rounds went by not without stress and excitement, however the pressure really built up at round 4, when the 2-day and 3-day sections merged.

Cal A (2173) was paired with top seed Mission 360 (2197), where intense games were expected. Stanford A (2177) was paired with the team You Sneeze You Lose (YNYL 1931), and everyone was expecting a smooth cruise for Stanford.

IM Kesav Viswanadha quickly took care of his business by beating FM Eric Li. Mission 360's board 2 FM Kevin Pan was able to beat Cal's NM Daniel Lin to even the score. After board 3 drew all eyes were on board 4 where two top women players faced off.

Pang,Ashley (2038) - Qureshi,Saudia (1893) [B13]

2022 US Amateur Team West (4), 20.02.2022

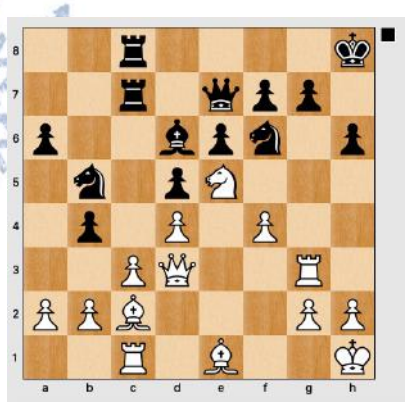
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Ne5 [Ashley goes for the exchange Caro-kann]

5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxd7 [White immediately gets the double bishops in exchange for slower development]

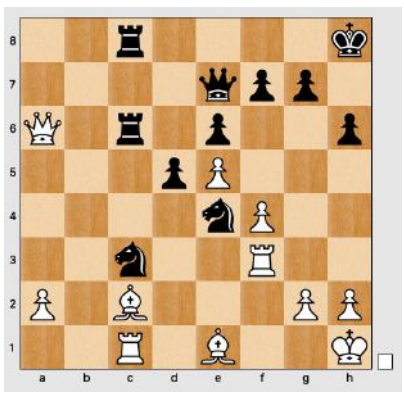
7...Qxd7 8.c3 e6 9.Nd2 Bd6 10.Nf3 h6 11.0–0 0–0 12.Ne5 [Replacing the old knight!] **12...Qc7 13.f4 a6 14.Bd3 b5 15.Rf3 b4 16.Bc2?** [A little unnecessary, the Bishop c2 Qd3 battery doesn't come with any direct threats] [16.Qc2 bxc3 17.bxc3 Rab8 18.Rg3=]

16...Rfc8 17.Kh1 Na7 18.Rg3 Kh8 19.Qe2 Nb5 20.Bd2 Qe7 21.Be1 [Interesting Bg6 move provoking the rook to move into an undesirable position 21.Bg6 Rf8 22.Bd3]

21...Rc7 22.Rc1 Rac8 23.Qd3? [Although a tempting move, allowing Ne4 places too much pressure on c3 and white's overall position]
[23.Qe3 bxc3 24.bxc3 Nxc3 25.Bxc3 Rxc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Rxc3 Ne4 28.Bxe4 dxe4–+]

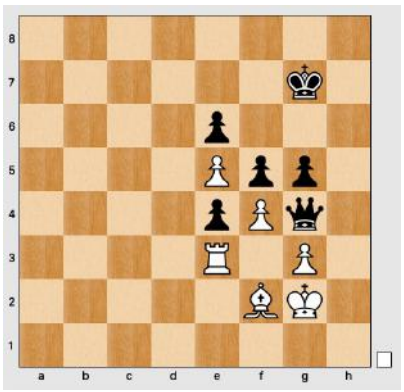


23...bxc3 24.bxc3 Ne4! 25.Rf3 Nbxc3 26.Qxa6 Bxe5 27.dxe5 Rc6! [White's queen is running out of moves and is forced to sack]



28.Qxc8+ [28.Qa5 Ne2; 28.Qd3 Nxa2]

28...Rxc8 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Rfxc3 Rxc3 31.Rxc3 Qa7 32.a3 Qd4 33.g3 Qd1 34.Re3 Qc1 35.Re2 f5 36.a4 Qd1 37.Re3 Qxa4 38.Kg2 Qc2+ 39.Bf2 Qa2 40.h4 g5 41.hxg5 hxg5 42.Rc3 Qe2 43.Ra3 Kg7 44.Re3 Qg4 [With the infiltration of the queen white's fortress collapses...]



45.fxg5 f4 46.Rb3 e3 [Solid win for Sadia, securing Cal A the win over Mission 360] **0–1**

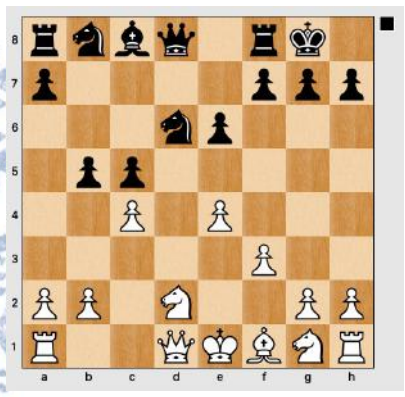
At the end Cal's experienced players prevailed over the K12 kids with a score of 2.5 vs 1.5.

On the other hand, YNYL delivered the biggest upset of the tournament beating Stanford A rated almost 300 points higher with a score of 2.5 vs 1.5! Here is the brilliant game YNYL's board 2 Advay Bansal (2019) played against his 300 points higher opponent Stanford's WIM Emily Nguyen (2348).

WIM Emily Nguyen (2348) - Advay Bansal (2019) [A45]
2022 Amateur Team West, 07.03.2022

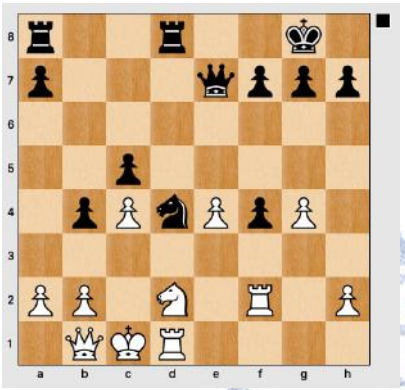
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.d5 Ne4 4.Bf4 e6 5.f3 Bd6! [Strong in between move freeing the e4 knight while also trading off the dark square bishop]

6.Bxd6 Nxd6 7.e4 b5 8.dxe6 dxe6 9.Nd2 0–0 10.c4? [Weakens the d4 square]
[10.a4 b4 11.Nc4 Nxc4 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Bxc4–+]

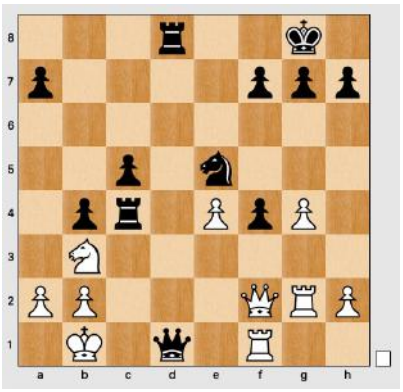


10...b4 11.Nh3 Qc7 12.Be2 Rd8 13.Qc2 Nc6 14.0–0–0 Nd4! 15.Qd3 e5! [Further solidifying the d4 knight outpost, and opening up the bishop]

16.f4 Bxh3 17.gxh3 exf4 18.Bg4 Qe7 19.Rhf1 Ne8 20.Rf2 Nf6 21.Qb1 Nxg4 22.hxg4 [White has almost no moves and will soon lose material]



22...Nc6 23.Qc2 Ne5 24.Rg2 Rd4 25.Rf1 Rad8 26.Kb1 Qd7 27.Nb3 Rxc4 28.Qf2 Qd1+! [Brilliant finish by Advay!] **0–1**



YNYL and Cal A were the only two perfect scorers going into round 5. YNYL was not able to continue their amazing run and lost to Cal A 0.5 vs. 3.5. At round 6, Cal A, being half a point above the field, faced off with another strong college team UCDeezDubs led by NM Derek Wu. Cal A's board one IM Kesav Viswanadha delivered this convincing win over NM Derek Wu which inked the back-to-back US Amateur Team West Champion into Cal's record.

Kesav Viswanadha (2457) - Derek Wu (2301) [C65]

2022 USATW Cupertino, CA (6), 21.02.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d5 [A relatively rare move in the anti-Berlin system. Black hopes for activity, potentially at the cost of a pawn.]

6.Nxe5 0–0 7.Bxc6 [I decided to play it safe and not grab too many pawns given my lack of development.]
[7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bxc6 is way too dangerous for white. Black can get a significant advantage with 8...Bxf2+! 9.Kxf2 Ng4+ 10.Ke1 Qf6 and once black wins back the bishop white's king is simply too weak.]

7...bxc6 8.d4 Nxe4? [During the game I thought this was still theory and the bishop was off-limits because of the uncastled king.]

9.0–0? [It turns out white is much better after just taking the bishop: 9.dxc5 Re8 10.Qd4 Qe7 11.Nxc6 Qe6 12.0–0 Qxc6 13.Be3± White is up a pawn with no obvious compensation for black.]

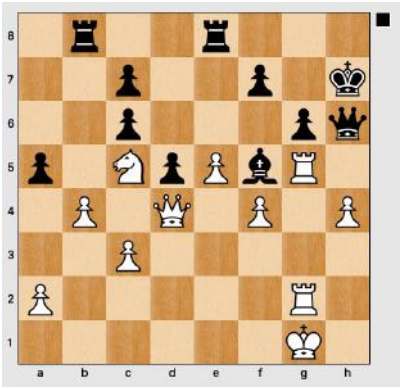
9...Bd6 [Black has solved all their opening problems and has good attacking prospects with two bishops and better development.]
10.f3 Bxe5?! [It was not necessary to give up the bishop pair right away.]
[10...Nc5! keeps the tension and makes it harder for white to consolidate.]

11.dxe5 Ng5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.f4 [My plan was to essentially play the rest of the game with a dark square bind. At this point white is doing pretty well and black likely has to act quickly with either a c5 or f6 break at a timely moment.]

13...Qf5 14.Nd2 Rb8 15.Nb3 Qg6 16.Qd4 Rb6 17.Rf2 [Now white has the perfect setup and black has very little play.]

17...Bf5 18.Nc5 h5 19.Re1 Re8 20.b4 Ra8 21.Re3 h4 22.h3 a5 23.Kh2 [Surprisingly, black has no way to infiltrate on the queenside so white continues with the plan of attacking the king.]

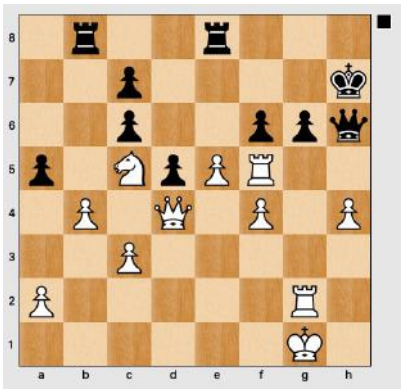
23...Kh7 24.g4 hxg3+ 25.Rxg3 Qh6 26.Rfg2 g6 27.Kg1 Re8 28.h4 Rbb8 29.Rg5? [I regretted this move almost instantly after playing it.]
[I realized just a tad too late that 29.h5 right away was by far stronger, as there are too many threats for black to deal with and white is crashing through.]



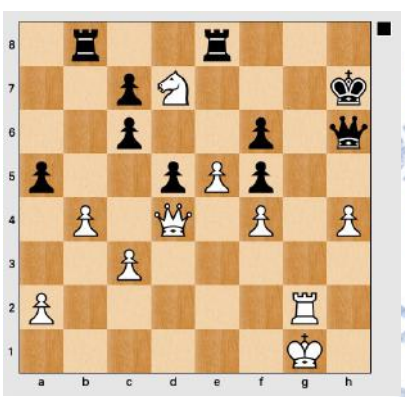
29...f6! [I saw this move as soon as my hand let go of the rook on g5. Black strikes back in the center and it turns out that the white king is not so safe after all.]

Champion's prize! Picture By Dr. Salman Azhar

30.Rxf5! [Fortunately, white has this resource to maintain advantage.]
[30.exf6?? allows black to launch a brutal counterattack with 30...Re1+ 31.Kf2 Qxh4+ 32.R5g3 Rbe8 and white will have to give up significant material to avoid getting mated.]



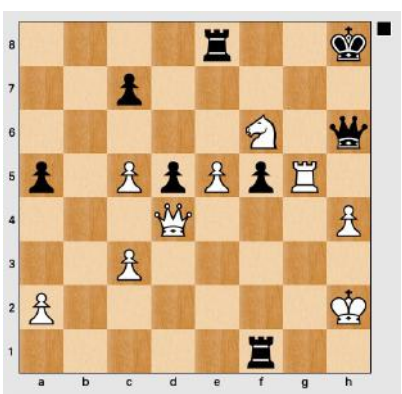
30...gxf5 31.Nd7 [The knight creates several threats which are very difficult to stop. White will definitely be able to win the exchange back at the least, and black's center is likely collapsing too.]



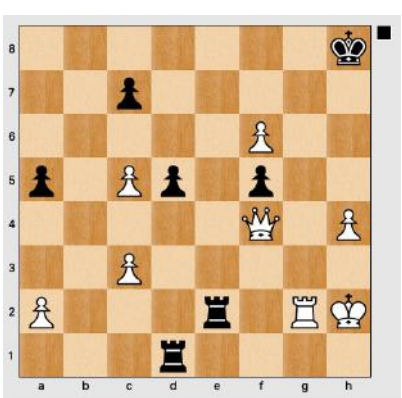
31...fxe5 32.fxe5 c5 [An interesting defensive try which I missed over the board. Black attempts to divert the queen away from d4, which is key to the success of White's kingside attack.]

33.bxc5 Rb1+ 34.Kh2 Rf1 [White has to be extremely careful to not allow perpetual check or worse.]

35.Nf6+ Kh8 36.Rg5! [This was essentially the final resource that I had to find. With this, black's hopes of either playing Rf4 or infiltrating with the queen are gone and white can successfully finish the attack.]
[36.Nxe8? Rf4! and white actually has to give up the queen to avoid getting mated, leading to a position that is likely drawn.]



36...Rd1 37.Qf4 Qxf6 38.exf6 Re2+ 39.Rg2 1-0



Champion Cal A team with Chief TD Jordan Langland (left) and Assistant Chief TD Tom Landland (right) and Chief Organizer Dr. Salman Azhar (back). Picture By Zhaoxiang Pan

The weekend ended with lots of prizes given away. While Cal A took the title, Stanford A and YNYL got 2nd and 3rd place. UCLA took top college, Mission 360 took top Club, Proof School from San Francisco took top K12, TreacherousDevil took top K6, and The Checkmating Cheetahs took top female team. The U2000 section was won by Roasting Chestnuts on an Open Fire, U1800 by Knight's Fork, U1600 by Bishop Falcons, U1400 by Learning Pawn, and U1200 was won by, of course, We Are U1200 Team!

The USATW event was directed by Jordan Langland and assisted by IA Thomas Langland and NTD John McCumiskey. The event was organized by the Bay Area Chess, with chief organizer Dr. Salman Azhar.

Click here for full results of the 2022 USATW and check out the event crosstable here:

Chess Puzzles
By Lauren Goodkind
Advanced Beginner
Answers

Answer Puzzle 1: Black should capture the d3 rook with the knight to avoid checkmate! Notice that white's queen cannot check black's king on a2, thanks to black's pawn on c4. The knight is also on a strong square too since the piece is controlling a lot of squares in white's territory. Capturing white's rook with the c4 pawn looks very tempting, since black will get a passed pawn and also attacks white's queen too! Surprisingly, capturing the white rook with the pawn leads to checkmate! Notice that once the c4 pawn captures the rook, then white's queen can check black's king on a2. Here is the line that leads to checkmate: 1…cxd3 2.Qa2+ Qd5 Black can also just move the king too. 3. Qxd5+ Kh8. (If 3…Kf8, then 4. Qf7 checkmate) 4.Nf7+ Kg8 5. Nh6 + This is double check since the knight and the queen are checking black's king at the same time. Therefore, black's pawn on g7 cannot capture white's knight on h6. 5…Kh8. If 5…Kf8, then Qf7 checkmate. 6. Qg8+ This move looks crazy since white's queen gets sacrificed. 6…Rxg8. Black's only move is to capture white's queen with the rook on b8. 7. Nf7++. This is called Smothered Mate, which is a special checkmate delivered by the knight! Black's king cannot move anywhere!
Tip: Learn the smothered mate pattern if you haven't done already.

Visit Checking Time on Daily Chess Musings to see more checkmating patterns

Answer Puzzle 2: White should capture black's knight with the queen to avoid checkmate, which is 1. Qxf5. If white's bishop captures black's knight, this leads to a checkmate in one by 1…Qxg2 ++. This is checkmate because white's rook cannot capture black's queen due black's rook on h8. Black's rook on h8 is pinning white's h2 rook to white's king. Therefore, white's h2 rook cannot move.
Tip for beginners: In the opening and the middlegame, there are a lot pieces on the board. Overlooking a piece or pieces is easy to do. Before moving, spend time to pay attention to what pieces are on the same lines as the king and the queen. Be aware of what pieces are being pinned.

Answer Puzzle 3: White's pawn on d4 should capture black's rook on e5 to prevent black from executing a deadly knight fork on f3. White now has double isolated pawns on e3 and e5, which is not good for white's pawn structure, but this is much better than 1.Bxe5. If 1.Bxe5, then 1…Nf3+, forking white's queen, king, bishop, d4 and h2 pawns. Black's knight is suddenly very strong now! White's g2 bishop cannot capture black's knight on f3 since black's g8 rook is pinning white's g2 bishop to white's king. In other words, after white's bishop captures black's e5 rook, white's g2 bishop cannot move. Once white's king gets out of check, then black's knight on f3 can simply capture white's queen on d2. Ouch!

Tip: Before moving, always ask, "If I move here, where is my opponent going to move?" As I mentioned before, be aware of what pieces are on the same lines as the king and the queen.

About Lauren Goodkind

Lauren Goodkind was born and raised in the San Francisco bay area. She started playing in USCF chess tournaments in 1999 and has won and done well in local chess tournaments. In her free time, she likes to play tennis, do improv, play other board games, and travel. She hopes her work will inspire more girls and women to play chess since chess is a male-dominated game. She is also available for book talks.

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NorCal Invitational Online Championship

Sponsored by the Eade Foundation

By James Eade

For the second year in a row, the Eade Foundation has sponsored the NorCal Invitational Online Championship. Last year's winner, GM Sam Shankland, once again lead the field. This year, he had to settle for co-champion status, as both he and GM Stephen Zierk tied for first with 4 points out of a possible 5.

The total prize fund was $1,000, as it was last year, but perhaps next year we will need to account for inflation! Judit Sztaray was the TD, as she was last year, and the commentators were GM Nick de Firmian and FM James Eade.

The Eade Foundation

Have a Story to Share

If you have a story or game that you would like to share in the next CalChess journal, please email it to DailyChessMusings@gmail.com and it may be selected as a feature.

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SwissSys Standings. 2021 Northern California Invitational Online: Open

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	GM Sam Shankland	2784	W4 (w)	W2 (w)	D6 (b)	D3 (b)	W5 (w)	4	$400
2	GM Steven Zierk	2584	W5 (w)	L1 (b)	W4 (b)	W6 (w)	W3 (b)	4	$400
3	GM Andrew Hong	2610	W6 (b)	D4 (w)	W5 (b)	D1 (w)	L2 (w)	3	$200
4	IM Balaji Daggupati	2496	L1 (b)	D3 (b)	L2 (w)	W5 (w)	W6 (b)	2.5	
5	IM Josiah Stearman	2482	L2 (b)	W6 (w)	L3 (w)	L4 (b)	L1 (b)	1	
6	IM Alexander Katz	2513	L3 (w)	L5 (b)	D1 (w)	L2 (b)	L4 (w)	0.5	

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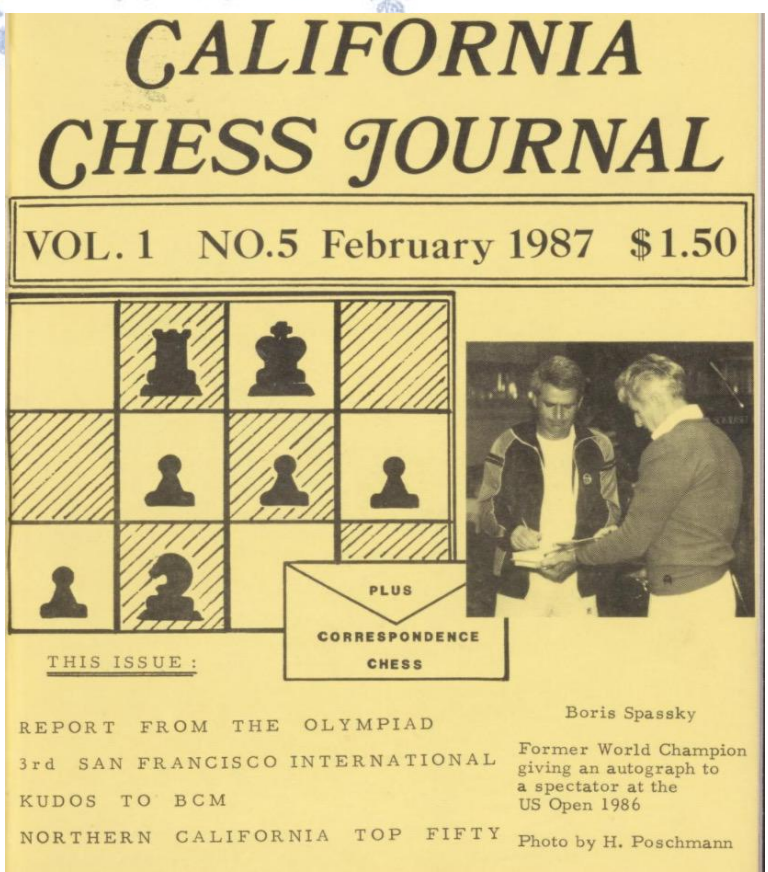
Turning Back the Clock - February 1987



Northern California TOP 50, Dec. 1986

1.	Nick De Firmian	2630
2.	Walter Browne	2573
3.	Jay Whitehead	2550
4.	John Donaldson	2501
5.	Peter Biyiasas	2497
6.	Cris Ramayrat	2483
7.	Julio Kaplan	2480
8.	Craig Mar	2464
9.	Elliott Winslow	2454
10.	Guillermo Rey	2452
11.	Paul Whitehead	2442
12.	David Glueck	2430
13.	Victor Baja	2378
14.	Jon Frankle	2373
15.	Zaki Harari	2368
16.	Avinash Awate	2367
17.	Richard Kaner	2363
18.	Mark Buckley	2361
19.	Ray Schutt	2355
20.	Gabriel Sanchez	2339
21.	Richard Lobo	2338
22.	Frank Thornally	2336
23.	Loal Davis	2335
24.	Steven Jacobi	2332
25.	Bill Chesney	2328
26.	Subu Subramanian	2328
27.	George Kane	2327
28.	James MacFarland	2327
29.	Peter Cleghorn	2325
30.	Arthur Braden	2322
31.	Harry Radke	2322
32.	Richard Dost	2308
33.	Benjamin Ferrera	2303
34.	Dennis Fritzinger	2303
35.	Arthur Thompson-Motta	2302
36.	John Hoggatt	2301
37.	William Orton	2300
38.	Charles Powell	2297
39.	Douglas Sailer	2297
40.	David Blohm	2296
41.	John Pope	2294
42.	James Eade	2292
43.	Richard Kelson	2292
44.	Martin Sullivan	2290
45.	Eward Kennedy	2283
46.	Lev Zaitsev	2275
47.	Renard Anderson	2272
48.	Steven Schonhaut	2267
49.	Boris Siff	2266
50.	Paul Cooke	2262

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News from the San Jose Chess Club:

A match between International Women Master Ruth Haring (2090) vs. Barry Curto (2010) ended in a win for Barry Curto 3.5-.5 .

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Calendar
March 26 & 27
The Real Bay Area Championship ($10,000 b/117)
May 28 - 30
Memorial Day Tournament
Scholastic
March 26, 27, April 2, 16, 17, 22, 30, May 1, 20, 21
Quadsly (BAC @ Santa Clara)
April 9 & 10
2022 CalChess SUPER STATE Championship (K-8)
April 23 & 24
2022 CalChess SUPER STATE Championship (K-12)
Sunday, May 22
2022 CalChess GRADE LEVELS Championship (K-12)
Saturday, May 28 - 30
Memorial Day Tournament

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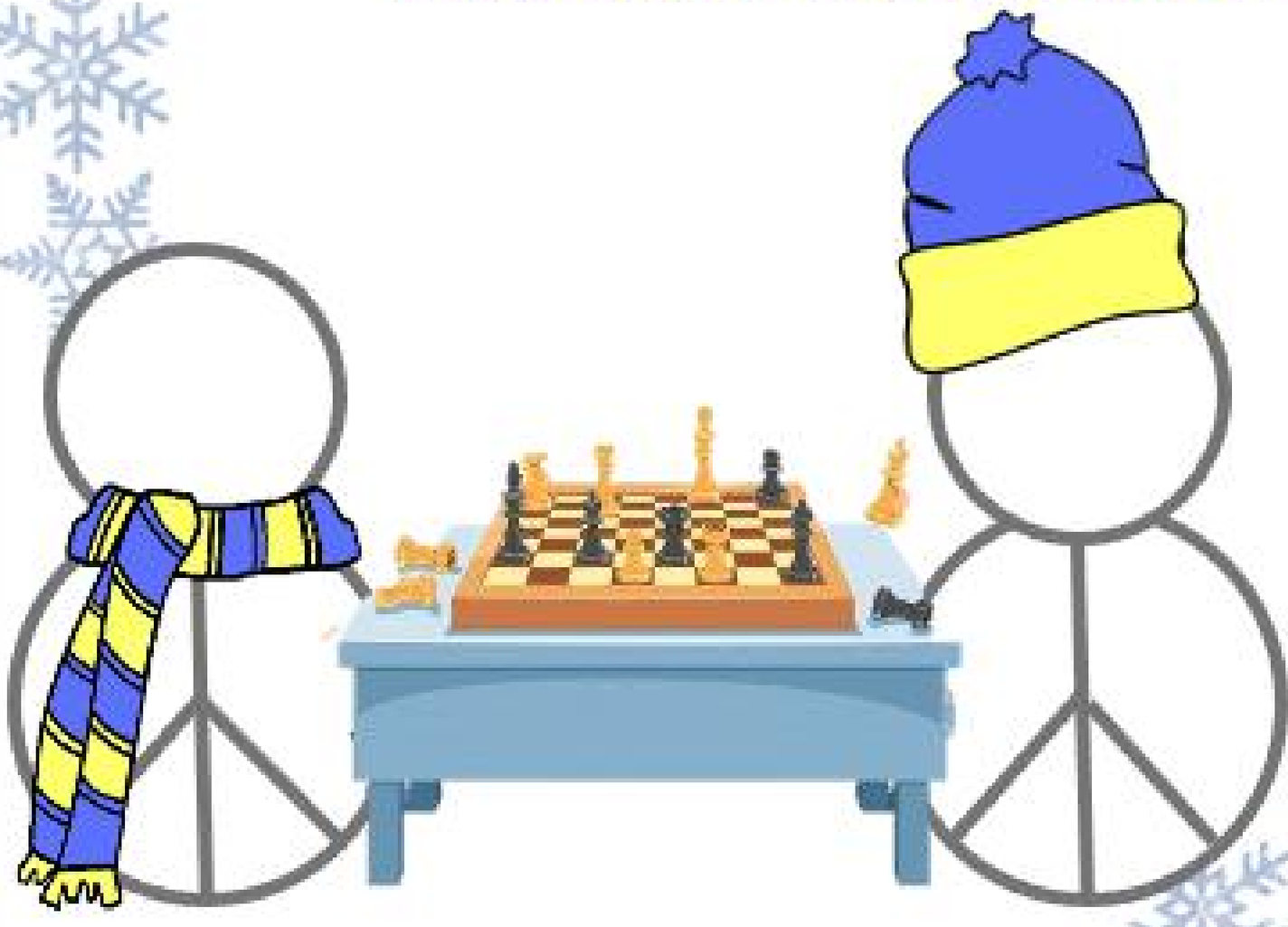

SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!