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Texas Team Champions: "The Underpromoted"



Gray Bullis, Richard Ketcham, Mikhail Langer and John Bell

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TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

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President: Selby Anderson, POB 501, Helotes, TX 78023-0501; (210) 695-2324; txchess@connecti.com
Vice President: Gary Gaiffe, POB 161052, Austin, TX 78716-1052, (512) 328-3638; ggaiffe@worldnet.att.net
Secretary: Forrest Z. Marler, 2109 Ave. T, Huntsville, TX 77340-4930; (409) 291-7625; fmarler@myriad.net
Treasurer: Greg Wren, POB 501, Helotes, TX 78023-0501; (210) 695-2324; txchess@connecti.com
Scholastic : Al Woolum, 7505 Terry Ct., North Richland Hills, TX 76180-6745; (817) 656-3841
woolumal@flash.net **Texas Knights editor:** Selby Anderson **Webmaster:** Greg Wren
Historian: J.C. Thompson, 301 Stewart Court, Billings, MT 59105.

Postal Chess: Steve Lynn, 3503 Aspen Leaf, Round Rock, TX 78681; SLYnn1@compuserve.com

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Contributors this issue: Dee Carter, Brenda Hardesty, Jimmy Irvin, David P. Lynn, B.L. Patteson, Alexey Root, José Luis Silva, Katie Stone, Greg Wren, Noureddine Ziane.

Send submissions (paper or disk) with your phone number to P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023-0501; or e-mail to txchess@connecti.com. Fax available (voice call first). Deadline next issue: April 15.

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Cover photo: Selby Anderson



1. White to move
Young-Emrich, Texas Open 1997



2. White to move
Hanna-Madison, Texas Open 1997



3. White to move
S. Hobart-Rios, Texas Open 1997



4. White to move
Golden-Henderson, Texas Open 1997



5. White to move
Hernandez-Kunadze, Texas Open 1997



6. White to move
D. John-B. Lynn, Texas Open 1997



7. Black to move
Gallagher-Anderson, Tx. Open 1997



8. White to move
Clark-Tidwell, Texas Open 1997



9. White to move
Vergara-Gallagher, Texas Team 1998

Top chess educators attend planning conference in Dallas

by Alexey Root

I attended a Chess in Education Planning Conference held January 31 and February 1 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Dallas. Professor Tim Redman of the University of Texas at Dallas chaired the meetings. Planners included John Jacobs, Jim Stallings and Rodney Thomas of Dallas Area Chess-in-the-Schools; Katie Stone, recruiting coordinator for the UT-Dallas chess program; Beatriz Marinello, USCF Scholastic Director; Professor Robert Ferguson, director of the American Chess School; Helen Warren, founder and Director of the Illinois Chess Association's Warren Junior Chess Program; Howard Prince of Borough of Manhattan Community College; Alan Kaufman of Chess-in-the-Schools; and myself.

Redman stated that the conference will pursue "the truth about chess in education" as well as provide educators with practical chess teaching tips. In line with those general goals, we planners considered who should present, what topics to include, when to hold the conference, and in what language(s) conference sessions should be offered. The last two considerations were relatively simple. The conference will be in November 2000, unless it is in 1999. The languages of the conference will be English and Spanish, unless French is also included.

Now we planners moved on to the harder questions: who should the speakers be, and on what topics should they speak? Quite helpful regarding possible speakers from the chess community was Howard Prince, a social science professor from the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). Dr. Prince hosted the first United States Chess in Education conference at BMCC in 1995. His list of BMCC conference participants featured top New York City chess coaches: Svetozar Jovanovic, Shernaz Kennedy, Bruce Pandolfini, and Sunil Weeramantry to name a few.

Topics that the New York coaches spoke on (i.e. how to interest children in chess, what to teach first, etc.) had a natural appeal to other coaches, parents, and teachers. Dr. Prince advised us to have the UTD conference alongside a scholastic event, so that coaches and parents would be a built-in audience for our conference. He also recommended having a hall of chess vendors (selling computers, books, videos, etc.).

The UTD conference will include speakers versed in the latest research on chess in education. Robert Ferguson

was our planning meeting specialist on who's who in the world of chess research. (Dr. Ferguson's 14-page summary of research done on chess in education is available from USCF for free: call 1-800-388-KING. Or e-mail Dr. Ferguson at rcf1+@pitt.edu). In Dr. Ferguson's own research, greater gains in critical thinking, creativity, and cognitive skills were found in chess students versus those who pursued computer study or other gifted curriculum activities. Alan Kaufman, Executive Director of Chess-in-the-Schools, cited research done on his New York City program. That study, conducted by Dr. Stuart Margulies, showed phenomenal reading score gains for chess-playing youth.

According to Dr. Ferguson, these impressive and intriguing results are not widely disseminated. To Dr. Ferguson's knowledge, top American academic journals have not published studies about chess and education. Publication of chess study findings in academic journals will raise interest among university people in attending the UTD conference. College credit and/or continuing education credit could draw college students and education professionals as conference participants. Leading academics whose work touches on chess may be invited as conference speakers. By taking steps to attract university participants, the UTD conference will elevate the status of chess research in academic circles.

Having planned to include speakers from the chess community and from the academic world, as well as those (like Dr. Ferguson) whose work appeals to both audiences, we planners turned to creating lists of potential topics. Helen Warren, director of the Illinois Chess Association Warren Junior Chess Program, develops top chess players. Chess as a lifetime sport with intrinsic value was her suggestion for a panel discussion. Beatriz Marinello and I suggested females and chess as a topic. Allen Kaufman was intrigued by the suggestion of some educators that young children not pursue the competitive aspect of chess. Developmental appropriateness of chess competition was thus suggested as a topic. Al Woolum and Selby Anderson mentioned the legislative status of chess in the schools as an important topic. In addition to the educational effects of chess, some of these other topics may be included in the conference.

Other activities surrounded the chess in education planning meeting. The USCF Policy Board met in the

same hotel. On Saturday night, the Policy Board joined the planners to hear Rodney Thomas and the Dallas Area Chess-in-the-Schools presentation. Mr. Thomas, an IBM employee, impressed Board members, planners, and school teachers (who had been invited to attend) with his well-rehearsed comments. Overhead transparencies reinforced his main points: that chess provides Dallas school children with a unique learning experience appropriate and educational for all. The teachers listening asked Mr. Thomas the most questions, many along the lines of "The chess program is so popular at my school. When can I get more chess tutors or volunteers to help?"

After Mr. Thomas spoke, UTD hosted a wine and cheese party. A highlight of that gathering was the UTD squad (led by Nouredine Ziane) trouncing the Policy Board (led by Jim Eade) at 10 minute chess. Final score: UTD 10.5, Policy Board 1.5.

At the end of planning day two, Dr. Redman thanked our group for our ideas. Much remains to be done, of course, between now and 2000 (or 1999). If you are interested in the UTD chess and education conference, please contact Tim Redman, redman@utdallas.edu. ♣

WIM Alexy Root chairs the USCF Women's Chess Committee, and has advanced to candidacy for Ph.D. in Curriculum (Graduate School of Education, UCLA).

Dallas hosts Policy Board meeting

The USCF Policy Board met in Dallas on Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, across the hall from the Chess in Education Planning Conference.

Executive Director Mike Cavallo reported that USCF was \$294,000 in the black for the seven month period just ended. On the revenue side he noted the new phone systems and an increase in member discounts (from 4% to 10%) on merchandise.

Tim Redman made a presentation on College Chess and Dallas Area Chess-in-the-Schools. He announced that UTD has been awarded the bid for the 1998 Pan American Intercollegiate. He said that co-organizers Luis Salinas and Katie Stone will seek to increase participation to over 26 teams. Don Schultz proposed getting the event FIDE rated.

Redman said he has been working with the nascent Internet Collegiate Chess League to bring it into USCF, and proposed offering a \$125.00 package fee to cover individual memberships plus the affiliate fee.

During the Policy Board forum, Luis Salinas read three proposals by George John: (1) Get rid of rating norms. (This was already passed by the Delegates, it was noted.) (2) Offer a simplified rule book for school

coaches. (3) Graduate the rating fees to discourage late tournament reports. (Bill Goichberg suggested phoning tardy organizers, as has been done before.)

Alexy Root noted the discrepancy in requirements for the US Championship and US Women's Championship, of which only the latter requires participants to have played ten rated games per year. A proposal would require participants in both events to play 20 games in the two intervening years, or have 100 rating points subtracted for purposes of admission. The matter was referred to Grandmaster Affairs liaison Jim Eade.

Don Steigman, father of young chess talent A.J. in Florida, proposed removing "dollar floors" as applies to Top 50 ranking lists. (While rating floors have been removed by the Delegates, so-called dollar floors are used where people win class prizes of \$1,000 or more, to prevent them from repeating.)

Mike Cavallo modified this to apply only to players who were assigned a 2200 floor. The motion passed, 6-1. Jim Eade offered a substitute motion to abolish all dollar floors, and it passed 4-3. The next day, Cavallo moved to reconsider the motion. This time Fan Adams switched his vote to join Schultz, Goichberg and Scott. As a result, only the 2200 dollar floor is abolished.

Toward the end of the second day's meeting, I penned a revised version of Richard Driggers' motion to allow homeschool teams to play in national scholastic events. This would let state affiliates set their own standards for certifying homeschool teams. The motion was introduced by Rachel Lieberman, and with my consent was referred to the USCF Scholastic Committee.

— Selby Anderson

UTD offers full scholarship to Texas high school winner

The University of Texas at Dallas is offering a full four-year scholarship to the winner of the 1998 Texas High School Championship, with tuition and general fees paid at the present value — \$1,500 per semester for eight semesters, or a \$12,000 prize all told. The winner must meet UTD's entrance requirements and maintain a 3.0 average to continue eligibility for the scholarship. This prize is non-transferable: if the winner does not qualify academically, the scholarship does not go to the highest scorer who meets entrance requirements. The Texas high school event is restricted to players who are Texas residents or attend school in Texas.

The same four-year scholarship is being offered to the highest sixth grader in this April's Dallas Area Chess-in-the-Schools tournament.

UTD places second at Pan Am despite harsh conditions

COLLEGE CHESS

Katie Stone



This year's Pan American Championship was not what all expected it to be. The Pan American Championship is essentially the collegiate National Championship; therefore one's perspective of the tournament should be one of respect and full of high expectations. Although UTD had excellent results this year, taking clear second place, having the event in Bowling Green, Kentucky turned out not only as a geographical disaster, but an organizational one as well.

The first flaw of the event was the tournament site itself. Bowling Green does not have a major airport, so participants who were flying to the tournament had to fly into Nashville International Airport in Tennessee, a two hour drive from Bowling Green, and then figure out how to get to there. Normally in a situation like this, where the event site is not close to the airport, the tournament organizers arrange ahead of time for some type of transportation whether it be a shuttle service or hotel vans. But the Pan Am organizers did not realize until very late in the game (around October, 1997) that there would be a transportation problem in getting air travelers from Nashville to Bowling Green. After requests from several different parties, the Pan Am organizers arranged for shuttle service for anyone who made reservations.

Heat is a necessity for regions of the country where it snows. It snows in Kentucky, but there was no heat at the tournament. The tournament started on Friday night, December 26th, and from then until the last day of the tournament, Monday, December 29th, the temperature fluctuated between a mere 55 to 65 degrees. Most of the time the temperature was around 55 degrees, forcing players to dress for outside weather in the tournament rooms. It was definitely a sight standing in the tournament room and looking at roughly 200 players sitting at their games wearing heavy overcoats, scarves, hats and even gloves. With confused maintenance men standing under air vents that were blowing cold air, nothing was done about the heating problem until Monday, the last day of the tournament. The heat was obviously working then, because players were having to strip down to tee-shirts. Not only was the heat now working, but it was working too well causing the rooms to be very hot.

The most standard "no-no" of chess occurred at the 1997 Pan Am. One day of the tournament was scarred by the presence of a very large and noisy party taking place in the neighboring ballroom. The "breakdown" walls in hotel ballrooms are known to be fairly thin and are in no way sound barriers. During the second round of the tournament, sound checks from the live band were demonstrative of what was to come later that evening. The party began with the company speaker giving his speech just on the other side of the wall that was next to the board one teams. There was nothing that could be done about the noise. Granted, it was bad planning on the part of the hotel, but perhaps mostly the fault of the tournament organizers who obviously did not stress the importance of having absolute silence in the surrounding rooms.

I asked some of the players if the noise was drastically bothering them and got mixed answers. Obviously the music became a very "important" factor for players who were not able to finish their games in a favorable way. But it was a totally different story when the blitz tournament came around. By that time in the evening, the music had gotten louder and faster. Blitz players did not seem to mind - in fact, it was quite common to see many of the players dancing in their seats while playing their games!

One of the smaller flaws had to do with one of the most basic procedures in a chess tournament, posting the results and pairings. When they were posted, it was done in the middle of the next round, which certainly did not help. Overall organizational procedures like this were met with unmistakable lackadaisical attitudes by the organizers.

Throughout the tournament, our program advisor Tim Redman and I busied ourselves doing research with the past and present Pan Am organizers. We will be hosting this event in December 1998, and we want to be as prepared as possible; so finding and discussing the flaws and mistakes made by past and present organizers was very helpful.

Despite all the hardships encountered by all the teams during the tournament, everyone still played chess. UTD played very good chess as a matter of fact, placing a clear overall second place in this year's Pan

American Intercollegiate Chess Championship – an improvement from ninth place last year.

UTD convincingly won five out of the six rounds played. The Rochester Institute of Technology was UTD's first victim, with UTD gaining 3.5 out of 4 points. UTD had the same score during the second round versus the University of Toronto "B" Team. The third round brought on the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania with their team roughly the same strength as UTD's. On a personal note, I had a bet with my mother, who graduated from Penn, that UTD would beat Penn. She held her ground that her alma mater would prevail, but it turned out that UTD crushed Penn with a score of 3-1. It was a very satisfying win not only for me personally, but for the team as well since Penn is a very respected academic institution.

As the fourth round came around, there were only two teams with perfect scores: UTD and 1994 Pan Am champs Manhattan Community College. Naturally, the two were paired against each other and ended up being the match which would decide the national championships. Unfortunately, UTD was not able to pull off a win this time with the rating difference showing on board one and a game lost on time to a lower rated player on board three. The fifth and sixth rounds versus the two teams from Peru were won impressively by UTD with scores good enough to secure a tie break in the event one happened.

Manhattan Community College placed first and UTD placed second in this year's Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship. Nevertheless, we are very proud and encouraged with this year's finish. An improvement of seven places from last year's ninth place finish is impressive and has only served as grounds for more support of UTD's chess program from the university's administration. Work has already begun for improving the team and the prospects of some extremely talented players joining the UTD team in the coming months seem very probable. With UTD hosting next year's event in partnership with the Dallas Chess Club, the team will not only have the luxury of improvement, but the home court advantage as well.

A total of 26 teams participated in the event, which was co-sponsored by USCF, local organizer Chris Dillingham, and Western Kentucky University Chess Club

Katie Stone coordinates recruitment and publicity for the chess program at UTD, and is co-organizer of the 1998 Pan American Intercollegiate.

See next page for games.

UTD vs. USCF team match

On the evening of Jan. 31 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Dallas, a 10 minute quick chess match was held between the UT-Dallas team and USCF Policy Board and staff members. The result was a blowout in UTD's favor:

| UT-Dallas | | | USCF | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Noureddine Ziane | 1.5 .5 | Jim Eade | |
| 2 | Jason Doss | 1.5 .5 | Beatriz Marinello | |
| 3 | Jim H. Dean | 2 0 | Bill Goichberg | |
| 4 | Shivkumar Shivaji | 1.5 .5 | Tom Dorsch | |
| 5 | Taras Odushkin | 2 0 | Mike Cavallo | |
| 6 | Jacob Gurwitz | 2 0 | Don Schultz | |
| TOTAL: | | 10.5 1.5 | | |

Luis Salinas brought an auto-sensory chess set which he is developing. It was used on board one of the match to record the games in a laptop computer, which displayed the current position. The image could easily be fed into a big screen display for major tournaments.

Noureddine Ziane (2307) vs. Jim Eade (2326) [A00]:
 1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 d4 3.Nce2 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.d3 g6 6.cxd4 cxd4
 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 Nf6 9.h3 0-0 10.f4 e5 11.Nf3 exf4 12.
 gxf4 Nh5 13.0-0 f5 14.e5 Be6 15.Qa4 Qb6 16.Nexd4
 Rfd8 17.Be3 Ng3 18.Nxf5 Qxb2 19.Nxg3 Rxd3 20.
 Rfb1 Qc3 21.Rc1 Qb4 22.Qxb4 Nxb4 23.Ng5 Rxe3 24.
 Nxe6 Rxc3 25.Rc7 Bf8 26.Rxb7 Nc2 27.Rc1 Ne3 28.
 Kf2 Rxc2+ 29.Kxe3 Rxa2 30.Rcc7 Ra3+ 31.Ke4 Rxb3
 32.Ng5 Rh1 33.Nxh7 a5 34.Nf6+ 1-0



UTD's Ziane, Doss and Dean, with Dr. Redman in back.

Pan Am games

Notes by NM Nouredine Ziane

Sicilian Scheveningen B83

Marvin Huckaby 2131
University of Texas at Dallas
Jesse Liu 1907
University of Pennsylvania

Pan Am Team 1997 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0
8.Be3 Nc6 9.f4 e5 10.Nxc6

Two better alternatives were 10.
Nb3 and 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Nf5.

10...bxc6 11.Qe1 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5
Black is equal. Also good is 12...
Nd7 13.Rf1 Bg5.

13.exd5 cxd5 =

Or 13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 =,
14.Rd1 Bd6 15.Rh4 Re8 16.Qf2
Qe7

16...Rb8 17.Bg5 Be7 = (17...Rxb2
18.Nxd5 Rxc2 19.Bxf6 ±).
17.Bd4



17...Ne4? (17...Be5 =) 18.Nxe4
dxe4 19.Bc4

19.Bb5 Bd7 20.Bc4 ±.
19...Bc7?

19...Qc7 is Black's best option.
20.Rxe4 Be6 21.Rde1 +- Qd7 22.
Bxe6

23.Qe3!? Bb6 24.c3 +.
22...fxe6 23.c3 Rf8 24.Qe3 Qf7
25.Rxe6

25.Bxa7?? Rxa7!

25...Bf4 26.Qe2 Bg5 27.Rf1 Be3+?
(27...Qxf1+) 28.Rxe3 Qxa2 29.Re7
1-0

QGD Semi-Slav D46

David Arnett 2381
University of Pennsylvania
Nouredine Ziane 2307
University of Texas at Dallas

Pan Am Team 1997 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3
e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.e4
dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 e5!?

A new move found at the board.
10.0-0 exd4 11.Nxd4

Or 11.Qxd4 Qf6 12.Be3.
11...Nf6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bg5 h6 14.
Bh4



14...Bc5

Black could have won the game
by simply playing 14...g5! 15.Bg3
Bxg3 16.hxg3 (16.fxg3? Re8 -+)
16...Re8 17.f3 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Rxe4
19.fxe4 Bg4 and ... (a) 20.Qd2 c5
followed by exchanging queens and
playing ...Rd8 is a technically won
endgame for Black; (b) 20.Nf3 Qc7
or 20...Qe7!? or even 20...Qb6+ all
look like winning continuations for
Black with precise play.

15.Nb3 Qxd1 16.Raxd1 Bb4 17.
Re2 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 f5!? 19.Re2 g5
20.Bg3 f4 21.a3 fxg3 =

21...a5! 22.axb4 axb4 23.Bxf4
Rxf4 24.Rd8+ Rf8 25.Rd6.

22.axb4 gxf2+ 23.Rxf2 Be6 24.
Na5 Rad8

24...Rxf2!? is worth looking at:
25.Kxf2 Rf8+ 26.Kg1 Bc8 =.
25.Rxf8+ Rxf8 26.Rd6
26.Nxb7 Bxc4 27.Ra1 Be2 =,
26...Re8 27.c5

27.b3 Bc8 28.Rxh6.
27...Bd5 28.Nxb7 Re2 29.b5 Rxg2
30.Kf1 Rxb2 31.bxc6 Bxc6
31...Bg2+!? 32.Kg1 Kg7 =.
32.Rxc6 Rxb7 33.Ra6 Rc7 34.c6
Kf7 35.Ra5 Draw

Sicilian Four Knights B45

Adolf Abcoy 2300
Universidad Nacional de Trujil
Nouredine Ziane 2307
University of Texas at Dallas

Pan Am Team 1997 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5
Nd5 8.Nxd5 cxd5 9.Bd3 Ba6 10.
0-0 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Rc8 12.Re1 Qc7
13.c3 Qc4 14.Qg3 h5! 15.h3 g6 16.
Bg5 Bg7 17.b3 Qc7 18.Racl

An interesting try is 18.c4 dxc4
19.Racl ∞ = (SKA).

18...Qa5 19.a4 Qb6 20.b4 Rc4 21.
Be3 Qc7 22.Bc5 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Kxf8
24.Qg5 h4!



25.Qf6 Rh5 26.Re3 Rf5 27.Qh8+
Ke7 28.Rd1 g5 29.Rdd3 Re4 30.a5
Rfxe5 31.Qa8 g4 32.hxg4 Rxg4 33.
Kf1 Rxe3 34.Rxe3 Qc4+ 35.Kg1
d4 36.cxd4 Rxd4 37.Re1 Qxb4 38.
Ra1 Qc3 39.Rb1 Qxa5 40.Qh8 Re4
41.Rb7 Qe1+ 42.Kh2 Qxf2 43.Rb1
Qg3+ 44.Kg1 Re2 0-1

“The Underpromoted” win Texas Team title

Twelve teams competed Jan. 24-25 in San Antonio in the first Texas Team Championship since 1996. The Methodist Hospital conference site was not only first-rate; it was free. Consequently, the prize fund was the most generous yet for the Texas Team – \$1,000.

An Austin team, *The Underpromoted* (Richard Ketcham, Mikhail Langer, John Bell and Gray Bullis) edged out the San Antonio team *Sandbaggers VI: The Resurrection* (Selby Anderson, Jim Gallagher, Eric Dimazana and Robert Barber) to win the first place trophy.

The two teams drew each other in Round 2, winning their other three matches to finish with 3.5 and share \$700 (1st + 2nd). The tiebreak margin (game point total) was just half a point!

The under-1900 trophy and \$200 was won by *Whiskey and Mystics* (David John, John Hendrick, Daniel Robbins and Matt Willis), scoring 2.5 out of four. The team, mostly from Houston's Bellaire HS, included present and former Texas high school champs. Willis had the biggest rating gain (47), with a win and draw against ~2200 players.

Second under-1900 was *Spice Power*: Jason Doss, Matt Bradford, Jonathan Walsh and Brad Bradford scored 2 match points to split \$100.

The most creative team name was *Numbicus Butticus*, composed of Dallas players Jim Dean, Steven Grubbs, Jacob Gurwitz and Eric Wiggins. (Wasn't that a character in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*?)

Jim Dean and Jason Doss played on different teams, but they are normally teammates. As boards 2-3 for UT-Dallas, they helped their school win second place at the recent Pan-Am Intercollegiate in Kentucky. (See Katie Stone's article, page 6.)

A total of 50 players participated, with George John and Greg Wren directing for the San Antonio Chess Club. Thanks also to Dr. Al Miller for finding an excellent playing site.

See page 27 for the crosstable.

BOARD PRIZES

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Selby Anderson | 3.5 |
| 2. Don Sutherland | 4.0 * |
| 3. John Bell | 4.0 |
| 4. Robert Barber | 3.0 † |

* On tiebreaks over Mikhail Langer.

† On tiebreaks over Steve Young and Matt Willis.

Round 1

Whiskey and Mystics score an upset draw with top-rated *Four Pawns Attack*. On board one, NM John Patty misses an easy win against David John, and is still winning when he agrees to a draw. But David's teammate Daniel Robbins returns the favor when he accepts Rohrbaugh's draw offer, declining to pounce on a massive swindle! Board two goes as expected, with NM Don Sutherland racking up yet another win against Hendrick. The big shocker is on board four, where Marcott fumbles an advantage of two rooks, minor piece and two pawns vs. queen, and lets freshman Matt Willis take over the game.

QGD Slav D18

Daniel Robbins 1629

Whiskey and Mystics

Jim Rohrbaugh 2200

Four Pawns Attack

Texas Team 1998 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Bd3

A harmless alternative to 9.Qe2, 9.Qb3, and 9.Nh4.

9...Bxd3 10.Qxd3 0-0 11.e4 e5

The pawn grab 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nc5 leads to complications after 13.Qb1! Nxe4 14.Qxb7 Nxc3 15. Ba3 Re8 16.Ne5 Qxd4 17.Qxf7+ Kh8 18.Nxc6 Qxa4, where Black seems to come out better.

12.Bg5 exd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Qc4 Ng4 15.Bf4 Bc5 16. Bg3 Be7 17.a5 Qc5 18.Qd3 Rad8 19.Qe2 Bf6 20. Rfc1 Qe7 21.Rd1 Nge5 22.Nd4 Qc5 23.Nf5 Nb8 24.Bf4 Rxd1+ 25. Qxd1 Rd8 26.Qe2 Qc4 27.Qe3 Nd3 28.Bxb8 Rxb8 29.Ra4

29.Qxa7! Be5 30.Rd1 Qc5 (30... Nxb2?? 31.Qxb8+) 31.Qxc5 Nxc5 32.f3 +=.

29...Qa6 30.Ne2 Nxb2 31.Ra2 Rd8 32.h3 Qc4 33.Ra3 h6 34.Neg3 Nd3 35.Ne2 Nc1 36.Neg3 Bb2 37.Nh5 Bxa3 38.Qxa3 Rd1+?

38...Ne2+! takes g3 away from White's queen. After 39.Kh2 Qxe4 40.Qb2 Nd4, Black is winning.

39.Kh2 Qxe4??

39...Nd3! is still winning.



As the minutes ticked by to under five in sudden death for Robbins, Rohrbaugh made a well-timed draw offer. By that time, several spectators (myself included) were feeling an urge to play tag team and take over White's game!

Draw?

White wins with 40.Qg3! Kf8 (40... g5 41.Nf6+) 41.Qxg7+ Ke8 42.Nf6+, winning the queen.

Almost as strong is 40.Qb2 Δ 40... f6? 41.Qxb7. Rohrbaugh said he would have played 40...Rd4 and tried to survive the minor piece ending a knight down.

From's Gambit A02

Don Marcott 2174

Four Pawns Attack

Matt Willis 1627

Whiskey and Mystics

Texas Team 1998 (1)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4. Nf3 Bg4!? 5.e4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Nge7 7. 0-0 0-0 8.c3 f5 9.Qb3+ Kh8 10.Ng5 Ng6 11.d4 f4 12.Nf7+ Rx7 13. Qxf7 Qh4 14.Bxc6 f3 15.e5 Rf8



If White saves his queen, there follows 16...f2+ and 17...Nxe5! 16.Qxf8+! Bxf8 17.Bxf3 Be7 18. Nd2 Nf4 19.g3 Nh3+ 20.Kg2 Nf4+ 21.gxf4 Qh3+ 22.Kg1 Bh4 23.b3 (23.f5!?) Bf5 24.Ne4?

With time control at move 30, Marcott's nerves take over. 24.Ba3 Bd3 25.Rfd1 is winning. 24...Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Qxc3 26.Bxb7? (26.Ba3) Qxa1 27.Be3 Qxa2 28. Bd5 Qe2 29.Rf3 Qd3 30.f5 e5 31.f6 gxf6 32.e6 f5 33.Bc4 Qe4 34.dxc5 Qg4+ 35.Rg3 Bxg3 36.hxg3 Qxg3+ 37.Kf1 Qxe3 38.c6 Qf3+ 39.Kg1 Qxc6 0-1

Round 2

The eventual co-winners meet on top boards, and the Sandbaggers are all over their Austin opposition. Ketcham drops a piece to me, and Barber gets a winning R+P ending. But strange things happen on the middle boards: Gallagher turns a brilliancy against Langer into a loss by trying to avoid a perpetual that isn't there. Dimazana, two pawns up against John Bell, blunders the exchange and loses in 67 moves. By a miracle, *The Underpromoted* tie the match and stay in the running.

Knightmares take the lead with a 3-1 win over *Numbicus Butticus*. Four teams are tied at 1.5 each after 4PA and *W&M* win their matches.

English Opening A36

Jim Gallagher 2282

Sandbaggers VI: The Resurrection

Mikhail Langer 2207

The Underpromoted

Texas Team 1998 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nge2 e6 7.d3 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Qd2 Re8?!

Preserving the KB against exchange might seem natural, but in fact is good for neither rook nor king. I learned this lesson once from the White side of an English against Miles Ardaman.

11.Bh6 Bh8 12.f4 Qa5 13.Rae1 Nec6 14.g4 Bd7 15.Ng3 b5

Normally Black plays ...f5 to stop White's offensive, but it is best when Black can put his king in the corner to use the g-file when it opens.

16.f5 Ne5 17.h3 bxc4 18.dxc4 Nxc4 19.Qg5 Qd8 20.f6 Ne5 21. Nh5 Qb6 22.Bg7 Bxg7 23.Nxg7 Kh8 24.Nxe8 Rxe8 25.Qh6 Rg8 26. g5

The threat is 27.Rf4 and 28. Qxh7+.

26...c4 27. Kh1 Nd3 28.Rd1 Qxb2



29.Rb1!

29.Rxd3? cxd3 30.Rf4 Qc1+ +-.

29...Nf2+ 30.Kg1?

Gallagher was concerned about a perpetual check after 30.Rxf2 Qxf2 31.Rb8 Qe1+ 32.Kh2 Nf3+ 33.Bxf3 Qf2+ 34.Bg2 Qf4+ 35.Kh1 Qc1+, but he missed 36.Nd1! Qxd1+ 37. Kh2 when Black runs out of checks. 30...Qxc3 31.Rxf2 Bb5 32.a4 Qd3 33.Rff1 c3 34.axb5 c2 35.Rbc1 Ne2+ 36. Kh2 Qg3+ 37.Kh1 Nf4 38.Bf3 Nd3 39. Ra1 Nf2+ 40.Rxf2 Qxf2 41.Bg4 Qe3 42.Rf1 Qxe4+ 43. Kh2 Qc4 44.Rg1 Qf4+ 45.Kg2 Qd2+ 46.Kf3 Qd1+ 47. Kf2 Qxg1+ 48.Kxg1 c1(Q)+ 49.Kf2 Qf4+ 50. Kg2 Qd2+ 51.Kf1 Qc1+ 52.Kg2 Qb2+ 53.Kf3 Qxb5 54.Kg3 a5 55. Kh4 Qe5 0-1

Sicilian Dragon B70

Jim H. Dean 2309

Numbicus Butticus

José Luis Silva 2203

Knightmares

Texas Team 1998 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7. Bb5+ Nbd7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 a6 11.Bc4 Ne5 12.Bb3 Bd7 13.h3 Re8 14.f4 Nc6 15.Nf3 Rc8 16.e5 Nh5 17.Nd5 Be6 18.Qe4 Na5

Or 18...Bf5 19.Qe3 Na5 20.Nd4! keeping White on top.

The text allows White to win with 19.Nxe7+! Rxe7: (a) 20.exd6

Nxb3+ 21.axb3 Bf5 22.dxe7 Qe8
 23.Qxf5 gxf5 24.Rd8 ±; (b) 20.
 Bxe6! fxe6 21.exd6 Qb6 22.dxe7,
 and Black will run out of checks.
 19.g4 Nxb3+ 20.axb3 Qa5 21. Kb1
 21.Nxe7+ Rxe7 22.Bxe7 Ng3 =.
 21...f5 22.exf6 exf6 23.Qxg6 Bxd5
 24.Qxh5 f5



25.Rhe1

25.Qxf5! Rc5! (a) 26.Qd3? Be4
 -/+; (b) 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Qg6 +=;
 (c) 26.Rhe1 Be4 27.Rxe4 Rxf5 28.
 Rxe8+ Rf8 29.Rxf8+ Bxf8 30.f5 ±.
 25...Be4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Qg6
 Qc7 28.Nd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Qxc2+
 30.Ka2 fxd4 31.f5 Rc5 **Draw**

Steve Young was beaming with admiration at Matt Willis' sacrificial attack. Guys, I hate to burst your bubble! White (Matt) to play:



21.Rxg7+!? Kxg7 22.Rg1+ Kh8??
 Or 22...Kf8?? 23.Bh6 mate!



Photo by Greg Wren

U1900 team winners Whiskey and Mystics

Matt Willis, David John, Daniel Robbins and John Hendrick

But 22...Bg4! 23.cxd4 Qxa2 24.
 fxd4 Qa1+ 25.Kd2 (25.Bb1 Rac8+)
 Qxb2 leaves Black up the exchange,
 with a nasty attack on the way.
 23.Bxd4! **1-0**
 23...Rxe2 24.Bxf6 is mate.

Round 3

Knightmares stay on top with a 2.5-1.5 win over *Four Pawns Attack*. *Sandbaggers* and *The Underpromoted* also win, setting up a dead heat.

Nimzo-Indian E31

Selby Anderson 2325

Sandbaggers VI: The Resurrection

David John 2170

Whiskey and Mystics

Texas Team 1998 (3)

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

John played the King's Indian in our previous game – see Texas Open. I chose a line he would probably not have studied in a quick cram on the Nimzo-Indian. As it turned out, I was right – but it didn't matter!
 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 c5 6.d5 d6 7.e3 exd5

I have played this, but my recent experience is with 7...e5.
 8.cxd5 0-0 9.Nge2??!

Revealing my ignorance. White soundly offers a pawn with 9.Bd3!, e.g., 9...g5?! 10.Bg3 Nxd5 11.Nge2

Qf6 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.
 Be4 Nxc3 15.Nxc3 Qxc3 16.Qxd6 ±
 Fuller-Cooper, 1956.

9...Nbd7 10.a3 Ba5 11.f3 b5 12.e4

I imagined this would work out like an Averbakh King's Indian – White may castle late, but he keeps a space advantage. David proves my optimism is not justified.

12...Ne5 13.Nc1 g5! 14.Bf2 b4 15.
 axb4 cxb4 16.Nb1

Forced, to block 16...b3+ with 17.Nd2.

16...Bb6 17.Nb3 Bxf2+ 18.Kxf2 a5
 19.Qd4 Nh5 20.Bb5 f5 21.exf5

I didn't like the looks of 21. N1d2 g4!, and didn't ponder long.
 21...Bxf5 22.h3 Nf4 23.N1d2 h5
 24.Ne4 a4! 25.Rxa4 Rxa4 26.Bxa4
 Qe7 27.Nbd2 g4 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.
 Bd1 Qg7! **Draw?**



I did not take long to accept the offer, which allowed the Baggers to clinch the match. In fact, White is busted! The threat is ...gxf3 with the idea of ...Ng4+ winning White's queen. Play is of a forcing nature: 30.Kf1 gxf3 31.Bxf3 Rc8! and there is no good answer to the threatened ...Rc1+, e.g. 32.Nb3 Rc4 winning the knight at e4. In a word: whew!

Alekin's Defense B02

Jim H. Dean 2309

Numbicus Butticus

Richard Ketcham 2264

The Underpromoted

Texas Team 1998 (3)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nc3 Nxc3 4. dxc3 d6 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.Nf3 e6(?)

6...dxe5 7.Qxd8+ Nxd8 8.Nxe5 f6 =.

7.Bf4 Be7 8.Qe2 a6

8...0-0 9.0-0 d5 10.h4 ± Cvetko-
vic-Marangunic, Yugoslavia 1970.

9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bd3 d5 11.h4 Bd7
12. Ng5 g6

On 12...h6 13.Qh5 0-0 14.Rh3 Δ
Rdh1, Rg3, and if Black tries 14...f5
or 14...f6 the reply is 15.Qg6! +-.
13.Rh3



13...Na5

On 13...h6 White has the attrac-
tive double piece sacrifice 14.Nxf7!
Kxf7 15.Bxg6+! Kxg6 16.Rg3+ . . .
(a) 16...Kh7? 17.Qd3 mate!; (b) 16...
Kf7 17.Qh5+ also mates; (c) 16...
Bg5 17.hxg5 h5 18.Qd3+ Kg7 19.g6

h4 20.Rg4 Rh5 21.Qe3! Δ Bg5-f6+,
with a withering attack and a mo-
bile kingside pawn mass.

14.Qf3 h6 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Rg3
Qg8 17.Bg5+ Ke8 18.Bxe7 Bc6 19.
Bf6 Kd7 20.Rxg6 Qf8 21.Bf5 Rg8
22.Bxe6+ Kxe6 23.Qg4+ Kf7 24.
e6+ 1-0

Modern Defense B06

Jacob Gurwitz 2008

Numbicus Butticus

John Bell 2169

The Underpromoted

Texas Team 1998 (3)

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.c3 d5 5.
dxc5 dxe4 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Bc4
Nh6 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Nd2 Ng4 10.
Ke2 e5 11.Nxe4 exf4 12.Nd6
Nxe3 13.Nxf7+ Ke7 0-1

QGD Slav D18

Alfred Zerm 2108

Knightmares

Jim Rohrbaugh 2200

Four Pawns Attack

Texas Team 1998 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4
8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bg6 10.Rd1 0-0
11.Na2 Bd6 12.Bd2 Qe7 13.Nc3
e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5
16.g3 Rfe8 17.Re1 Rad8 18.f3 Bc5
19.Kg2 h5 20.e4 Bd4 21.Bf4 Qc5
22.Rec1 Nd5 23.Nxd5 Rxd5 24.
Bxd5 Qxd5 25.Re1 Qb3 26.Ra3
Qb4 27.Qd2 Qb6 28.Rd1 c5 29.Qc2
Qxb2 30.Qxb2 Bxb2 31.Rb3 Bd4
32.Rb7 a5 33.Ra7 f5 34.e5 Bf7 35.
Rxa5 g5 36.Bxg5 Rxe5 37.Rxd4
1-0

Sicilian Defense B22

Jonathan Walsh 1767

Spice Power

Raymond Smith 1752

Resistance is Futile

Texas Team 1998 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4
Bg7 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Nf3 0-0
8.Bf4 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nc6

11.Qe3 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Bg5
Nd4 14.Qd2 Rc8 15.Bd5 Qa5 16.
0-0 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd2 18.Bxd2
Rc2 19.Bb4 Re8 20.Bc3 Ne2+ 21.
Kh2 Nxc3 22.bxc3 f5 23.f3 Kf7 24.
Rfb1 b6 25.a4 Bf8 26.a5 Rb8 27.
axb6 axb6 28.Ra7+ Ke8 29.Rd1
Bh6 30.Nf6+ Kf8 31.Nd7+ Ke8
32.Nxb8 . . . and 1-0 in 48

Round 4

The *Sandbaggers* narrowly pull off
the win against *Knightmares*, with
the outer boards (Barber and my-
self) delivering the points. Gallag-
her walks into a nice combo against
Vergara (see "Test Your Tactics"),
but on board three Dimazana holds
Zerm to a draw.

A rusty Ketcham loses his third
game for *The Underpromoted*. But
Langer and Bell pull through with
wins against their much lower
rated *Spice Power* opponents, and
Bullis draws Brad Bradford. When
all the scores are tallied, the Austin
team edges out the *Sandbaggers* by
half a tiebreak point.

Whiskey and Mystics sweep the
mismatch with *Three Men and a
Big Baby* to win U1900 race by half
a match point over *Spice Power*.

Torre Attack A48

Selby Anderson 2325

Sandbaggers VI: The Resurrection

José Luis Silva 2203

Knightmares

Texas Team 1998 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.
Nbd2 c5 5.e3 0-0 6.c3 b6 7.Bd3
Bb7 8.0-0 d6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Ba6

I know Silva, and I'm taking no
chances with a potential attacking
piece.

10...Qc8 11.Bxb7 Qxb7 12.e4 h6
13.Bh4 Rac8 14.Rfe1 cxd4 15.
Nxd4 e5?!

It would have been good to
throw in 15...a6 first. Besides pre-
venting Nb5, it prepares the minor-
ity attack ...b5-b4.

16.Nb5 Qb8 17.c4

Black hoped for 17.Nc4 d5!
17...Nc5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nc3
Ne6 20.Nd5 Bg5 21.Nf3 Qb7 22.
h4 Be7 23.Rad1 Rc5 24.b3 Kg7 25.
Rd2



25...Rxd5!??

On 25...f5 26.exf5 Rxf5 (26...
gxf5? 27.Nxe5! +-) 27.g4! Nf4! 28.
Qe4 Rf7 29.Nxf4 Qxe4, White gets
a superior ending, e.g. 30.Rxe4 Rxf4
31.Rxf4 exf4 32.Rd4. g5 33.Re4
Bf6 34.hxg5 hxg5 35.Nd4 ±.
26.exd5 Nf4 27.Qe3 f6 28.g3 Nh5
29.Nd4 Rf7 30.Ne6+ Kh7 31.b4 f5
32.c5 bxc5

Or 32...f4 33.Qb3.

33.bxc5 Nf6 34.c6 Qc8 35.Qb3?!

I was wary about ...Nxd5, but
35.Qxa7! Nxd5 36.Rxd5 Qe6 37.c7!
is an easier win than the game con-
tinuation.

35...Bd8 36.Nxd8 Qxd8 37.Qb4
Ng4 38.Rc2 e4 39.Rb1 e3



40.c7! exf2+ 41.Kf1 Qe7!?

My main idea was 41...Rxc7 42.
Rxc7 Qxc7 43.Qb7 and White's a-
pawn will decide matters, e.g. 43...
Qg7 44.Qxg7+ Kxg7 45.Rb7+ Kf6
46.Rxa7 Ke5 47.a4 Kxd5 48.Rb7 +.
42.c8(Q) Ne3+ 43.Kxf2 f4 44.Qbc3
fxg3+ 45.Kg1 1-0

Sicilian Closed B23

Richard Ketcham 2264

The Underpromoted

Jason Doss 2345

Spice Power

Texas Team 1998 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 g6 4.g3
Bg7 5.Bg2 e5 6.Nd5 Nge7 7.Nec3
0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.d3 Be6 10.Be3 Rb8
11.Qd2 Nd4 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.
Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nf5 15.c3
Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Rbe8 17.Rae1 Qd7
18.Re2 f5 19.Rfe1 f4 20.gxf4 Bh6
21.Qh3 Qxh3 22.Bxh3 Rf4



White clearly stands a little
worse, but he should be able to hold
a draw if he plays actively: 23.Be6+
Kg7 24.Re4 Rf3 25.d4.

Ketcham's line of play is more
passive, but seems solid enough for
a while. Gradually, though, Black
tightens his grip on the position to
the point that White runs out of
useful moves.

23.Bg2? Ref8 24.Be4 Rh4 25.f3
Bf4 26.Rg2 Kg7 27.Ree2 Kf6 28.
Kf1 g5 29.Rg4 Rh3 30.Kg1 h5 31.
Rgg2 Rg8 32.Bh7 Rg7 33.Be4 g4

34.fxg4 hxg4 35.Kf1 Kg5 36.Kg1
Rf7 37.Re1 Rf6



38.Ree2?

Or 38.Rge2? Rfh6 winning the
h-pawn without a fight.

Even the best defense, 38.Rc2,
lands in a squeeze when Black's
king enters: 38...Rfh6 39.Ree2 Be3+
40.Kf1 Kf4 41.Rg2 (41.c4 g3 42.
hxg3 Rxg3 43.Bg2 Rh1+ 44.Bxh1
Rg1 mate) 41...c4 42.Rce2 cxd3 43.
Bxd3 e4 44.Bc2 Rf3+ 45.Ke1 g3 46.
hxg3+ Rxg3 47. Rxg3 Rh1+ +-.

38...Be3+

0-1

Pirc Defense B07

Al Fulton 1780

Lewkowski/Fulton

Mark McCue 1865

Tomorrow Never Dies

Texas Team 1998 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Bc4
Bg7 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.e5 Nxd4?!

6...Ng4 7.Bb5 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6
9.h3 Nh6 10.Nf3 c5 ∞ Sigurjonsson-
Timman, Wijk aan Zee 1980.

7.exf6!! Nxe2 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.
Ngxe2 Rxg7 10.Bh6 Rg8 11.0-0-0

Fulton says this is a theoretical
position!

11...c6 12.Rhe1 b5 13.Bb3 a5
14.a4 bxa4 15.Bxa4 Qb6 16.Nd5
Qb7 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.Rxe7+ Kd8
19. Bxc6 Bxc6 20.Rxb7 Bxd5
21.Bg5+ Kc8 22.Re7 f6 23.Bf4
Bxg2 24. Bxd6 h5 25.Rc7+ Kd8
26.Nb5 Bf3 27.Be7+ 1-0

Q&A

What are homeschool support groups? Why does TCA allow them to enter teams in scholastic chess tournaments?

Homeschooling is a growing practice all over the United States, so more and more homeschoolers are playing in chess tournaments. Recently I have heard many questions about homeschooling and chess. While no one is accusing homeschoolers of any improprieties (and for this I am grateful!), many coaches and parents are confused about how homeschool teams are formed and about how some of the less structured aspects of homeschooling affect students' participation in chess tournaments. I will attempt to answer some of the most common questions and concerns.

Can homeschoolers play in scholastic chess tournaments?

Homeschoolers can compete as individuals in most, if not all, scholastic chess tournaments. While national tournaments do not yet allow homeschool associations to field teams, the Texas Chess Association (TCA) has inclusive policies. Public schools, private schools, and homeschool support groups can enter teams in TCA scholastic events.

National tournaments allow homeschoolers to play as members of their local public school's team. Isn't that a good way to put homeschoolers on teams?

In some states, homeschoolers regularly participate in extracurricular activities at their local public school. (This is rare in Texas.) In these situations, it could be appropriate for homeschooling students to play on their public school's chess team, since they could attend that school's chess club, play on its sports teams, and otherwise participate in school events.

In areas where there is little or no relationship between homeschoolers and their local public schools, it is not appropriate to insist that homeschoolers join the public school team, any more than it would be reasonable to make private school students do the same, or to have students at a public magnet school play for their neighborhood schools rather than for the school across town where they actually attend classes.

Just what are these homeschool support groups and how do they work?

A "local homeschool support group" is a voluntary association of families who join together to support one another in their efforts to educate their children. This sort of organization has frequent, in-person meetings of children and/or parents. Depending on how many homeschoolers live in that geographic area, the group might draw its members from just one part of a large city, or from an entire city and also surrounding small towns. Some local homeschool associations are very small – just a few families. Others might include a few hundred students. The geographic areas covered by such homeschool groups are generally equivalent to the areas served by private schools; for practical reasons, students need to live within a reasonable commuting distance of the group's meeting place(s).

These local homeschool groups have many purposes, but one major goal is to give homeschoolers a way to participate in group activities like sports, classes, drama, chess, etc., (since most families are not big enough to form their own baseball teams. . . .). Group classes and coops form as needed, so some local homeschool associations have many meetings and classes, while other organizations might offer only a few group activities. Here are some examples of the ongoing activities of my own local homeschool association: twice-a-week soccer, weekly drama classes, twice-a-month chess club, weekly park days for younger children, twice-a-month social activities for teenagers, twice-a-month book club, etc.

As you can see, these groups are not formed just for the purpose of fielding chess teams. Local homeschool support groups are simply the means by which homeschoolers engage in group activities, which is the reason that it is appropriate for such an association to enter a chess team (if it has one) into a scholastic chess competition.

How much time does a student have to spend at the homeschool support organization to be considered a part of the organization?

Membership requirements vary from group to group, but I can't imagine any local homeschool association that would have attendance requirements. Some students attend only a few of the group opportunities offered by the support group. Others participate in many different activities.

Is there any way to verify that a group is really a legitimate homeschooling support association, not just a stacked team made up of students who really

attend different schools? Is there any way to prove who is really a member of the homeschool association?

If necessary, the legitimacy of a homeschool group could be verified by seeing copies of its publications, such as group newsletters, or by showing that the association is listed on one of the many national or statewide lists of homeschool groups. Most groups that have been in existence for any length of time have a membership/participant/ mailing list and a secretary who maintains that list, so membership in the group also could be verified, if questions arose.

It would not be appropriate to **always** verify the status of homeschool teams (in the absence of any indications of possible cheating), since TCA does not usually verify the legitimacy of public and private schools. It would be just as easy for an illegitimate team to call itself a public or private school as to claim to be a homeschooling group. Organizers of a statewide tournament cannot be familiar with all the different schools throughout the state; however, the local competition of any team knows whether or not it is a legitimate group. This ensures honesty by public, private, and homeschool teams.

Don't homeschoolers have a built-in advantage in forming teams?

While homeschool support groups draw from a wider geographic area than many public schools, these areas are often equivalent to the areas served by many public magnet schools or private schools. Living a practical commuting distance from the association's meeting place is the limiting factor. Political boundaries like school districts, city limits, or county lines have little relevance for homeschoolers, just as they have little meaning for commuting private school students.

The fact that homeschool associations serve areas with rather undefined boundaries does not mean that these groups serve a huge population and can therefore create super-teams. In any given community, a relatively small number of children are homeschooled. The majority of those children are not interested in chess (like the majority of students in any public or private school). Of those who play, only a small percentage are particularly talented.

Recruiting from local schools is not likely to occur, since few parents would be willing to choose homeschooling just so their children could be part of a strong chess team. Homeschooling requires a substantial investment of time and money, so it is not a choice that parents make lightly.

What if homeschoolers created a statewide group and recruited the best homeschoolers from all over the state?

While statewide homeschool organizations do exist (for political lobbying, publications, etc.), such groups are not at all equivalent to the **local** homeschool support groups that I have described above. I believe it would be unfair for a statewide group to enter a team, but I know of no instance where any such group has tried to field a chess team in a scholastic tournament. Most homeschoolers will not be opposed to reasonable regulations that would prevent such team-stacking, if TCA finds it necessary to pass such rules.

Aren't most homeschoolers highly advanced educationally because of the individual attention they receive? Don't most of them perform above grade level, and doesn't this give them an unfair advantage?

The homeschooling pool of students is no stronger than the students in many public and private schools. Homeschoolers are an extremely varied group; some perform above the level of their peers, while others are average students. Some parents choose homeschooling because their children are extremely gifted; others choose to homeschool because their children are lagging behind educationally and therefore need individual help. Other parents choose homeschooling for reasons unrelated to the academic ability of their children.

How do homeschoolers determine their children's grade levels? How can we verify that they are playing in an appropriate section in a chess tournament?

Some homeschooling parents have no difficulty assigning their children to specific grade level, based on the level of curriculum used or on the age of the children. Other parents rarely even think about their children's grade level until they need to fill out a chess entry form, a Boy Scout registration form, or other paperwork that calls for a grade level. These ungraded students are subject to the TCA's current rule that regulates all ungraded schools; the regulations state that these students will play at the appropriate grade level for their age.

Remember that TCA and tournament organizers do not routinely verify ages and grades for any scholastic players. We ask for such proof only when questions or suspicions arise. While a public school probably requires a birth certificate when the child is admitted to the school, tournament organizers rarely see this document-

(Continued on page 28)

1997 Texas Open

by NM Selby Anderson

After many tries, I won my first Texas Open title the weekend after Christmas in San Antonio, scoring 5-0. In the final round I faced Jim Gallagher, and for once in our ten-year rivalry I didn't choke in the money game. He was clearly better for much of the middle game, but after time control he self-destructed. My theory for this startling role-reversal? El Niño.

On board two, Mitch Vergara had a shot at clear second, if only he could convert his advantage of two minors and pawn versus Rohrbaugh's rook. But the position was fraught with technical difficulties, compounded by the time factor in sudden death, so they drew to finish in a huge tie at 4-1. The nine players in the point group also included Igor Shtern, Jim Gallagher, Don Sutherland, experts David John, Steve Hobart, Robert Clark and Andres Hernandez (1424!).

Andres, a freshman at San Antonio College, won his last round game against the Texas grade 4 champion Brad Sawyer (1243) of Spring. That may sound like a "back door" result, but Sawyer had defeated Pete Gibson (1809) and Robert McGregor (1890). Andres also defeated McGregor, and could easily have beaten expert Stephen Tidwell (2107) in their first round endgame instead of drawing. (See "Endgame Focus," page 22.)

Like Vergara, John Hendrick could have won second by winning his last round game. He only had to go through SM Igor Shtern! Hendrick had a promising middlegame position, but was outplayed in the ending.

Two of the state's top high school freshmen played each other in round 5. Chris Oakman of Houston won his game with Jonathan Walsh of Dallas to finish with 3.5 and the U1600 prize.

The woman's prize (donated by Mark McCue) was won by Leica Tilton with 2.5 points.

A total of 75 players played in the event, which was held Dec. 27-28 at the Comfort Inn Airport. The advertised prize fund of \$1,000 was increased by 23% because of the good turnout. The tournament was organized by the San Antonio Chess Club and directed by National TD Andrew Thall.

Texas Open Prizewinners

1st: Selby Anderson, 5. *2nd + U2200:* Jim Gallagher, Don Sutherland, Jim Rohrbaugh, Mitchell Vergara, David John, Igor Shtern, Steve Hobart, Robert Clark, 4. *U2000:* Andres Hernandez, 4. *U1800:* Raymond Smith, 3.5. *U1600:* Chris Oakman, 3.5. *U1400:* Brad Sawyer, 3. *1st woman:* Leica Tilton, 2.5.

QGD Tchigorin D07

Igor Shtern 2437

Richard Lopez 1593

Texas Open 1997 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.e4!?

This gambit, which can also arise from a Nimzovich Defense, takes the game out of my books.

3...dxe4 4.d5 Ne5 5.Nc3 Nf6 6. Be3 Bf5 7.h3 h6 8.Qd4 Ned7 9.0-0 e5 10.Qd2 Bb4 11.g4 Bg6 12.a3 Bc5 13.Nge2 Qe7 14.Ng3 Bxe3 15. Qxe3 Qe5

Better is 15...Nc5, with an edge to Black.

16.Nb5! Qxe3+ 17.fxe3 0-0 18. Nxc7 Rac8 19.Nb5 a6 20.Nd6 Rc7 21.Kb1 Rd8 22.Ndf5 Nb6 23.b3 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Kh7 25.Be2 g6 26. Ng3 Nbd7 27.h4 Nc5 28.Ka2 Kg7 29.g5 hxg5 30.hxg5 Nh7 31.b4 Na4 32.Kb3 b5 33.Nxe4 Nb6 34.c5

Nxd5 35.Rxd5 Rxd5 36.Rxh7+ Kf8 37.Nf6 Rd8 38. Rh8+ Ke7 39. Rxd8 Kxd8 40.Bf3 Kc8 41.Kc3 Kb8 42.Kd3 Re7 43.Ke4 Re6 44. Bg4 Re7 45.Kd5 Kc7 46.c6 1-0

Caro-Kann B13

Jim Gallagher 2282

Leica Tilton 1574

Texas Open 1997 (1)

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.Nf3 Bg4

By a roundabout move order we have a position from the Caro-Kann, Panov 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4.

7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Nb6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Qd1 Nf5

ECO gives 11...e5 12. dxe6 Qf6 13.f4 Qxe6+ 14. Be3 Rd8 = Ligternik-Christiansen, Wijk aan Zee 1976 - but the text does not work out

badly either. Only Gallagher's superior blitz play in the SD/1 after time control wins him the point.

12.Bb5+ Nd7 13.Bf4 a6 14.Ba4 g6 15. Qe2 b5 16.Bxb5 axb5 17.Nxb5 Rc8 18. d6 Bg7 19.0-0 0-0 20.Rad1 exd6 21. Nxd6 Nxd6 22.Rxd6 Rb8 23.b3 Qh4 24.Bg3 Qh3 25.Rfd1 Nf6 26.Qd3 Ra8 27.a4 Qc8 28.Be5 Ne8 29.Bxg7 Nxc7 30.Rd7 Rb8 31.a5 Rb7 32.Rd8 Qc7 and ... 1-0

French Advance C02

Steve Hobart 2107

Ben Lehrer 1472

Texas Open 1997 (1)

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bd7 7.Bd3 Qb6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Nc3 Qxe5 11.Re1 Qd6! (11...Qb8 =)

As Steinitz said, "A pawn ahead is worth a little trouble."

12.Nb5 Bxb5 13.Bxb5+ Kd8 14. Qf3 Qb4? (14...Nf6)



15.Bd2! Qxb5?

After 15...Qe7 White must be better, but I don't see a forced win.

16.Qxf7 Qe8

Or 16...Be7 17.Rxe6 Bf6 18.Qf8+ Kd7 19.Rd6+ Kc7 20.Rc1+, etc.

17.Qxb7 Qd7 18.Qxa8+ Qc8 19. Ba5+ Kd7 20.Qxa7+ Ke8 21.Rac1 Qd7 22. Rc7 1-0

Sicilian B51

Steve Young 1817

Leigh Emrich 1311

Texas Open 1997 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Ngf6 6.Nc3 a6 7. Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.0-0 e6 9.Bg5 Qb6 10.Rad1 Qxb2??



11.Nd5! Qxd4 12.Nc7 mate 1-0

The state's high school player narrowly escapes a 500 point upset:

King's Indian E90

Alan Bast 1679

David John 2170

Texas Open 1997 (2)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 Na6 7.Bd3 e5 8. 0-0 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.Re1 Nc5 11.Bg5 a5 12.Qc2?!

White overlooks a tactic based on his loose d4 knight. Better is 12.Bc2 followed by Qd2.

12...h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3



14...Nfxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxd4 17.Rad1 Bc5 18.Bd5! Rxe1+

White gets the file anyway after 18... Kg7 19.Qc3+ f6 20.Rxe8 Qxe8 21.Re1 Qf8, but his compensation is doubtful.

19.Rxe1 Qf6?

Of course not 19...c6?? 20.Qg6+. But better is 19...Kg7 20.Qc3+ f6, and White lacks a convincing breakthrough. After the text, White's rook proves more than irritating.

20.Re8+ Kg7 21.Qe2 c6 22.Bf3 Bb6 23.Qd2 Bd4 24.b3 Bc5 25.Bg4

The back row pin bears fruit. 25...Bxg4 26.Rxa8 Bb4 27.Qe3 Be6 28. Rb8 h5 29.Rxb7?

White is stricken with back row blindness. Simply 29.h4 gxh4 30. Bf4 is winning.

29...h4 30.Bh2?? Qa1- 0-1

Notes by B.L. Patteson

Trompowsky Attack A45

B.L. Patteson 2047

Duane Solley 1616

Texas Open 1997 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bf5 6.g4 Bg6 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.e3 Nc6 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 e6 12.Bg3

Trying to give myself some "unbalancing options" in the event that Black plays ...Bd6. Objectively, 12. Nge2 has to be a better move.

12...Qd7 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Bh4 0-0-0 15.Nge2 Rde8 16.Bxf6

Consistent with the plan started by 12.Bg3, but play in the center by a3, in-tending e4, looks like a better plan here.

16...gxf6 17.e4 Nb4 18.Qd2 Qc6?!

I would have preferred 18...c6, to maintain a pawn at e6 - Ed.

19.a3 dxe4?

Silman preaches not going along with your opponent's plan, but hard-headedness can only go so far. My opponent refuses to play the sad move ...Na6, going so far as offering a piece.

20.Nxe4?

Proving my head is just as hard as his! Suddenly I develop a bad case of "weakpawnpheobia." I should just play 20.axb4 exf3 21.b5! and Black has some comp, but not nearly enough for his piece.

20...Nd5 21.Nxd6+ Qxd6

A strong alternative is 21...cxd6 22. Kb1 Kb8 23.Rc1 Qc4!, making it harder for White to gain space with c4 - Ed.

22.Kb1 Kb8 23.c4 Ne7 24.Rc1 Rd8 25. Rhd1 Rd7?!

Probably better here is 25...f5. But the real value of a move sometimes cannot be determined until certain future events have been settled. His move weakens the back rank, and this caused me to begin a "grand plan" that was completely

unsound. So maybe ...Rd7 was not so weak after all?

26.Qe3 Qb6 27.Qf4 f5 28.g5!?

Beginning the "grand plan". More solid was 28.Qe3 ±.

28...hxg5 29.Qxg5 Qc6 (29...Qb3!?) 30. Qg7?

I can still keep the better position by 30.d5 and play in the center. But the back rank problem has me hypnotized now.

30...Rxb5 31.Qf8+ Nc8 32.c5

The first sign something may be awry, but ...Qd6 had to be stopped.

32...a6?

The one tempo I need to win. We both missed the defense by 32...Qxf3 33.Rg1 c6 34.Rg8 Rc7, ending White's dream.



33.Rg1 Re7 34.Rg8 Qd7 35.Nf4 +- Rh2 36.c6! bxc6 37.Nd3 Ka7 38. Qxc8 Qxc8 39.Rxc8 Rd7 40.Ne5 Kb7 41.Nxd7 Kxc8 42.Ne5 Rd2 43.Rc4 f6 44.Nxc6 Rf2 45.Rc3 f4 46.a4 Re2 47.b3 Kb7 48.Kc1 Kc8 49.Kd1 Rh2 50.Ke1 Rg2 51.Nb4 Kb7 52.Nd3 and White won, 1-0

Torre Attack D03

Bret Lynn 1601

Aaron Golden 1865

Texas Open 1997 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bf5 5.e3 e6 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.Ne5 Qb6 8.Qa4 Rc8 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Nd2 Ne4

10...Bxe5 11.dxe5 Ng4!? or 11...Nd7 holds the balance.

11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Bf4 Bxe5 13. Bxe5 Rd8?!

Better is 13...0-0 14.Bd6 Nxd4! 15.Bxf8 Nxb5 16.Be7 f6 with hopes of trapping the bishop. What follows now is pure power play by Lynn, who shows what an inspired Class B player can do.



14.dxc5 Qxc5 15.Bd4 Qe7?

Black can resist better with 15... Qd6 16.Qxa7 0-0, when 17.Qxb7?! Nxd4 18.cxd4 Rb8 19.Qc6 Qxc6 20. Bxc6 Rxb2 offers some chances to hold the ending.

16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Qxc6+ Rd7 18. f3 Bf5 19.e4 dxe4 20.fxe4 Bg4 21. Bxg7 Rg8 22.Bf6 Qd6 23.Qc8+ 1-0

Vergara catches a four-time Texas champion off form, and is rewarded by having to prove the win in a R+3P vs. R ending (!)

Nimzo-Inaidan E26

Igor Shtern 2437

Mitch Vergara 2150

Texas Open 1997 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Nc3 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.e3

On 7.Bg5 Black has 7...Qa5! followed by ...Qxc3+ or ...Ne4.

7...b6 8.Bd3 d6 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.0-0 e5

Black's Nimzovich/Huebner setup is so solid that Black often plays

...Bxc3+ without prompting from a2-a3.

11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Ng5 h6 13.Ne4 Be6 14.Nxf6+?

The "grail" White seeks in such positions is the Botvinnik bishop, a monster at d5 which makes the doubled pawns worthwhile. To that end, White needed to try 14. Rd1 Qe7 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Qa4! intending Be4-d5.

14...Qxf6 15.f4!?

Perhaps Shtern only now saw that 15.Be4? is met by 15...Bxc4. Compared to the text, passive lines are bound to lose the c4 pawn anyway after Black piles on ...Na5 and (eventually)...Qf7.

15...Na5! 16.e4

Perhaps the best try for compensation is 16.Qe2! (a) 16...e4 17. Bxe4 Bxc4 18.Qc2! ∞; (b) 16...exf4 17.exf4 Qxc3 18.Bb2 Qb3 19.f5 (19. Rab1 Rfd8) 19...Bxc4 and nothing quite works for White, including the heroic sac 20.Bxg7.

16...Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Qa2 Na5 19.f5 Rad8 20.Qe2 Nb3 21. Rb1 Nxc1 22.Rbxc1 Rd6 23.g3 Rfd8 24.Rcd1 Qg5 25.Rd5 Rxd5 26.exd5 Rxd5 27. Qe4 Qd2 28.f6 Qd3 29.Qg4 g6 30.Qc8+ Rd8 31. Qc7 Qe3+ 32.Kh1 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Qe3+ 34.Kh1 Qe4+ 35.Kg1 Rd2 36.Qc8+ Kh7 37.Qh3 h5

Squeeze play - White is out of good moves.

38.g4 Qxg4+ 39.Qxg4 hxg4 40.Re1 Rd6 41.Rxe5 Rxf6 42.Re7 a6 43.a4 Kg7 44.a5 b5 45.Rb7 c4 46.Rb6 Rf3 47.Rxa6 Rxc3 48.Rb6 Rb3 49. Kf2 b4 50. a6 c3 51.Ke3 Rb2 52.a7 Ra2 53.Rxb4 Rxa7 54.Rc4 Ra2 55. Rxc3 Rxh2 56. Kf4 Rg2?

Much quicker is 56...f5 57.Rc7+ Kh6 58.Rc8 Rf2+ 59.Kg3 Rf3+. White's king must retreat on pain of mate, while Black's will take cover at g5.

57.Rc8 Rg1 58.Ra8 g3 59.Kg4 f6 60.Rb8 and ... 0-1

French Defense C11

Steve Hobart 2107

Selby Anderson 2325

Texas Open 1997 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.f3!? e6 4.e4 Be7 5.Bb5+?!

Black is happy to have his queenside provoked. I was expecting 5. exd5 exd5 6. Bg5 Δ Qd2, 0-0-0 with a form of deferred exchange variation. The move f2-f3 is useful for controlling e4 and preparing a kingside pawn storm, as I learned on the wrong side of a game with New Orleans master Al Carlin.

5...c6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 b4 8.Nce2 dxe4 9.Ng3 exf3 10.Nxf3 Nbd7

Played automatically to prevent 11. Ne5. Possible was 10...c5!? trying for the more active knight development at c6, but after 11.Be3! cxd4 12.Nxd4 the opening of lines favors White's pieces: 12...0-0 13. Qf3 or 12...Bb7 13.Ba4+.

11.0-0 Ba6 12.Re1 0-0 13.c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 c5 15.Bb2

On 15.d5, simplest is 15...Nxd5 16. Bxd5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Bf6. 15...Rb8 16.Rb1 c4 17.Bc2 Nd5 18.Ne5?! Nxe5 19.Rxe5

This sets up a winning combination, while 19.dxe5 Bc5+ 20.Kh1 Ne3 -/+ is a positional atrocity for White.

19...Bf6 20.Re1



If Steve had seen what was coming, he might have gone for broke: 20.Rh5!? g6 21.Qd2!, hoping that I would fall for 21...gxh5? 22.Qh6 Bxd4+ 23.cxd4 Nf6 24.Nh5 +-. The problem is that 21...Bg7! leaves several White pieces looking silly. Then 22.Rh3 Rxb2! 23.Rxb2 Nxc3! is as bad as the game.

20...Rxb2! 21.Rxb2 Nxc3 22.Qc1 Qxd4+ 23.Kh1 h6!?

I was toying with my opponent a bit, since I saw so many ways for White to hang himself. One idea behind the text is ...Bg5 herding the queen to oblivion at a1.

The tempting 23...Be7? would catch a rook except for 24.Nf5! exf5 25.Rxe7.

However, 23...Nd1! wins the exchange on the spot, since 24.Rb1 falls into smothered mate: 24... Nf2+ 25.Kg1 Nh3+ 26.Kh1 Qg1+! 24.Rb4

On 24.Bb1 to let the rook out, Black has a winning knight maneuver: 24... Nd1! 25.Rd2 Nf2+ 26.Kg1 Nd3+ 27. Kh1 c3 +. 24...Be7! 25.Nf5 exf5 26.Rxe7 Qc5 27.Rbb7 Bxb7 28.Rxb7 Re8 29.h3 Qf2 30.Bxf5

Hoping for 30...Re1+ 31.Kh2 Rxc1?? 32.Rb8 mate. However, 31... Qg1+ 32. Kg3 Ne2+ makes White walk the plank.

30...Ne2

0-1

Caro-Kann B14

John Hendrick 2035

Jim Rohrbaugh 2200

Texas Open 1997 (3)

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Qd2 Rc8 12.Rfe1 Qb6 13. Rad1 Rfd8 14. Na4 Qc7 15.h3 f6 16.Bh6 Bf7 17.Bf1 Bh8 18.h4 Qa5 19.Nc5 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 Nxd4 21. Nxb7 Nxf3+ 22.gxf3 Rd7 23.Na5 Draw

King's Indian E94

Selby Anderson 2325

David John 2170

Texas Open 1997 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 exd4

Like 7...Nbd7, this gets around the Bayonet Attack (7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4).

8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 c6 10.Nc2

This restrains ...d5 and prepares Be3 without having the e-pawn pinned.

10...Na6 11.Be3 Nc7 12.Qd2 Ne6 13.Rad1 Bf8 14.Kh1 a5 15.g4?!

I was so pleased with my plan that I neglected a bit of "house-keeping" with 15.b3! to solidify the queenside and answer 15...a4 with 16.b4.

15...a4 16.g5 Nd7 17.f4 Nec5 18. Bf3 Qb6 19.Rb1 Qa5 20.b4 axb3 21.axb3

White has shaken off the irritation on the queenside, but Black can take heart in the freeing of his queen rook.

21...Qc7 22.h4 Ne6 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Qd8 25.h5 Qe7 26.Rf2

Safer is 26.Ra1.

26...Nc5 27.Bf6 Qc7 28.b4 Nd7 29.Bd4 Nb6 30.hxg6 fxg6 31.c5 dxc5 32. bxc5 Nd7 33.Qe3



Forced, if not pretty. White does have a nice threat in 34.Nb5! Δ Qb3+, but Black can foil this and

thoroughly scramble the position.
33...Be7?

Black should sac a piece for three pawns: 33...Nxc5! 34.Bxc5 Bxc5 35.Qxc5 Qxf4 36.Be2 Qh4+ 37.Rh2 Qg3, with an unclear position.

34.Be2! Nf8 35.f5 gxf5 36.exf5 1-0
There is no defense against 37.Bc4+.

Sicilian Defense B23

Don Sutherland 2205

Jim Gallagher 2282

Texas Open 1997 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 d5 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Qe2 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Bxb5 7.Qxb5+ Qd7 8.Qe2?! (9.Qxd7+) 8...Nc6 9.Nf3 Nf6 10.d3 Be7 11.Ne5 Qc7 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rb1 Rac8 15.b3 Nxe4 16.dxe4 c4 17.b4? Bxb4 18.Kh1 Bc5 19.f5 exf5 20.Rxf5 Rfe8 21.Qxc4 Re6 22.Qf1 f6 23.Rb5 b6 24.a4 Qxe4 0-1

QGD Slav D10

Jim Rohrbaugh 2200

Robert Chalker 1900

Texas Open 1997 (4)

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Qxb6 axb6 8. Bf4 Nd7 9.e3 h6 10.Be2 Ngf6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Nd2 0-0 13.f3 Bb4 14.g4 g5? 15.Bxg5 hxg5 16.gxf5 Rfe8 17.Kf2 Nh7 18.Rg1 Re7 19.h4 f6 20.hxg5 fxg5 21.e4 Rf8 22.Bd3 1-0

English Opening A17

Jim Gallagher 2282

Selby Anderson 2325

Texas Open 1997 (5)

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Bb4

This move order avoids the line with 2...Nf6 3.e4.

3.Qc2 c5

Possible is 3...b6 4.a3 Bxc3 5.Qxc3 Nf6, when 6.Nf3 (6.e4!?) transposes to a line I have explored with Dimazana.

4.a3 Ba5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.d3 a6

Both players are on their own now. Karpov has played 9...h6 to prepare ...e5 without allowing White the Bg5 pin: 9...e5 10.Rb1 e5 11.e3 Be6 12.Na2 Qd7 13.b4 Bd8 14.Nc3 Rc8 15.bxc5 dxc5 16.e4 Bg4 17.Nd5 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nxd5 19.exd5 Nd4 20.Qd1 Ba5 = Kamsky-Karpov, Reggio Emilia 1991.
10.Bd2 Bd7 11.Rfd1 Rb8 12.Ne4!



12...Ne8?

This is horrible, since the center is about to open up. Black is doing fine with 12...Bxd2 13.Qxd2 Qe7 14.Qg5!? (Gallagher) 14...b5! 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Qxf6 gxf6 17.Nd2 f5 =; or 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Rfd8 =.

13.d4?!

I had expected 13.Bxa5 Qxa5 14.d4, which secures an advantage on the d-file without complications: 14...f5 15.Neg5 Nf6 (15...h6 16.Nxe6!) 16.dxc5 dxc5 17.Rd6 Qc7 18.Rad1±±.

13...f5 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Nxd6?!

Another surprise - I had expected 15.Bc1 or 15.Bd2.

15...Qxd6?

15...Nxd6! (a) 16.Bf4 cxd4 17.c5 e5 18.cxd6 Qxd6 -/+; (b) 16.dxc5 Ne4 17.b4 Nxg5 18.Nxg5 h6 19.Nf3 Nxb4 -/+.

16.dxc5 Qc7 17.b4 e5 18.bxa5 h6 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Bf4 Nf6

Forced - on 20...g5? 21.Rxd7! Qxd7 22.Bxe5 the bishops rule: 22...

Rc8 23. Bd5+ Kh7 24.Rb1 +-.

21.Rd6 Rbe8

Worse is 21...Qxc5 22.Bd5+; the text only delays this tactic for a move, but it does improve the rook placement.

22.Qc3 Qxc5



23.Bd5+ Nxd5

On 23...Nf7 24.Rxf6! gxf6 Black is a rook ahead, but he has to return material to stop mate: 25.Qxf6 Rxe2 26.Rf1 Qe7 27.Qg6+ Kh8 28.Bxh6 Rg8 29.Qxf7 ± with an edge to the bishops and pawns.

A fantastic variation we looked at in the post mortem was 23...Kh8 24.Bxe5 Rxe5 25.Qxe5 Ng4 (if it had been ...Kh7 earlier, then 26.Bg8+ would now win) 26.Qf4 g5 27.Rxh6+ Nxh6 28.Qe5+ Kh7 29.Bg8+ +-.

24.Rxd5 Qxc4 25.Qxc4 Nxc4 26.Rxd7 Nxa5

With my flag hanging (the time control was 30/90) I offered a draw. I didn't expect mercy, as Jim is a keen competitor who has never choked in a money game against me. 27.e3

I would have played 27.Kf1, but the difference is not critical.

27...Rf7 28.Rad1 Re6?

The purpose is to play ...b5 and have the a6 pawn covered. But as the next note makes clear, 28...Nc4 was better.

29.h4?

Jim later said he saw (but passed on) 29.Rxf7 Kxf7 30.Rd5 Nc4 31. Rxf5+ Kg6 32.g4 Nxa3 33.h4 Δ h5+. Black's king gets cornered, and the bishop is far superior to the knight. My connected queenside passers were surprisingly ineffective in the post-mortem.

29...b5 30.a4 bxa4?

On the last move of time control I miss a finesse: 30...Rxd7 31. Rxd7 bxa4, and Black's passed a4 pawn is awkward.

After the text, White could pick it up advantageously with 31.R7d4! Re4 32.Rxe4 fxe4 33.Ra1, etc.

31.Rxf7? Kxf7 32.Rd5 Nb3

Just out of time control – but now all the pressure is on White to stop the a-pawn from skating to its goal.

33.Rd7+ Kf6 34.Rb7 Rc6 35. Bc7??

35.Kg2! allows no immediate forced win: 35...g5 36.hxg5+ hxg5 37.Bc7 Nc5 38.Bd8+ Kg6 39.Rb1 Ne4 =+.

35...a3 36.Bd8+ Ke6 0-1

After 37.Rxb3 a2 38.Ra3 Rc1+ 39. Kg2 a1(Q) 40.Rxa1 Rxa1, the bishop will eventually have to give itself up for the passed pawn.

A wild ride for both sides.

QGD Slav D18

Mitch Vergara 2150

Jim Rohrbaugh 2200

Texas Open 1997 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Bd2

Not very challenging, but a shrewd choice against a well-booked player.

9...Bg6 10.Rc1 0-0 11.Qb3 c5!?

11...a5 resembles the book line after 9.Qb3, but Rohrbaugh wants to play more ambitiously.

12.Rfd1 Qa5 13.d5!

Maybe 11...a5 was best after all.

13...e5 14.Be2 h6 15.Be1 (15. Nb5!?) 15...e4 16.Nd2 Bxc3 17. Rxc3 Nb6 18.Bb5?

This weaves a tangled web which Black fails to exploit. Best is the simplifying 18.Nc4! Qxa4 19. Nxb6 Qxb3 20.Rxb3 axb6 21.Rxb6 Rfd8 22.Rxb7 (22.Bc4 Bh5!) 22... Rxd5 23.Rc1, with an edge to White's bishop pair.

18...Nbx5 19.Rxc5



A critical moment. Black can force matters with 19...a6! 20.Nxe4 (not 20. Nc4?? Qd8 trapping the bishop on a4) 20...Qb6, and White's pieces are a tangle. The problem with 21.Nxf6+ Nxf6 22.Bb4 axb5 23.Rxb5 is 23...Qc6! 24.Bf8 Bc2, and Black emerges a piece up. If 21.a5 Qa7! and White must part with the exchange for a pawn: 22.Bd3 Bxe4 23.Bxe4 Qxc5 24.Bxd5 Nxd5 25. Rxd5 Qc7 -+.

19...Qb6? 20.Rxd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Rfd8 22.Qa2 Rac8 23.b3 Qc5 24. Bc4 Bh5 25.Ra1 Qe5 26.h3 a6 27. Bf1 Rc6 28.Nc4 Qe6 29.Qb2

To be considered was squeeze play with 29.a5, shutting down the rooks while White's pieces find good squares, e.g., Bc3-d4, Nb6 and Bc4.

29...b5 30.Na5!?

Simpler is 30.axb5 axb5 31.Na3 with Nxb5-d4 to follow.

30...Rc7!?

He doesn't want to hold the pawn! By sidelining White's pieces and opening files, Black can muddy the waters.

31.axb5 axb5 32.Bxb5 Qd5 33.Be2

33.Bf1 is better, keeping control over the light squares.

33...Rb8 34.Bxh5 Qxh5 35.Rc1 Rxc1 36.Qxc1 Rd8



Now you can see what I meant by technical difficulties. If only White had his pieces centralized . . .

37.Kf1

37.Kh2!?! Rd1 38.Qc8+ Kh7 39. Bc3 Rc1 40.Qc4 Qf5 41.Qd4 f6 is unclear.

37...Rd1 38.Qc8+ Kh7 39.b4 Qd5 40.Qc2 Qd3+ 41.Qxd3 exd3 42. Nc4 Rc1 43.Nd2 Rc2 44.f4 Rb2 45.Nf3 f6 46.f5 g6 47.fxg6+

There was a lot of talk about how easy White's win should be, but I don't agree. Another try, 47.e4 Re2 48.Nd2 gxf5 49.exf5 Re5 50.g4 h5, is likewise full of practical problems.

47...Kxg6 48.e4 Re2 49.Nd2 f5 50. exf5+ Kxf5 51.b5 Ke6 52.Nf3 Kd5 53. Bd2 h5 54.b6 Re6 55.Kf2 Re2+ 56.Kf1 Re7 57.Kf2 Re2+ 58.Kf1 Re7 59.g3 Kc6 60.Bg5 Rf7 61.Bf4 Kxb6 62.Ke1 Rd7 63.Kd2 Kc5 64.Ne5 Rd5 65.Kc3 d2 66.Be3+ Kb5 67.Bxd2 Rxe5

And after a scramble too fast for a lone stenographer . . . Draw

(Continued on page 23)

ENDGAME FOCUS

The Outside Passer

Two king and pawn endings from the Texas Open illustrate an important winning technique: using an outside passed pawn to decoy or distract the opponent's king, so that your king can go after the "herd".

In both games, the players with winning positions failed to utilize the outside passer's potential.

Andres Hernandez 1424
Stephen Tidwell 2107

Texas Open 1997 (1)



Black to move

In general, Black stands better because of White's isolated d-pawn. Complicating matters is the fact that White can create an outside passed pawn with g3 and h4.

With that in mind, the logical move is 34...f4! to stifle this counterplay. Both kings then race to the center, and the result is a standoff: 35.Kf2 Kf6 36.Ke2 Ke7 37.Kd3 Kd6 38.Kc4 =.

34...Kf6? 35.Kf2? (35.g3) 35...Ke7? (35...f4) 36.g3!

Now Black is in trouble.

36...f4 37.gxf4 gxf4 38.Ke2 Kf6 39.Kf2?! =

Hernandez sees that he can't lose if he holds onto the h-pawn. The

game ended in a draw after 39...Kg5 40.Kg2 f5 41.Kh2 Kf6 42. Kg2.

Let's return to the position after 38...Kf6, and in the safety of the lab work out the consequences of going for the full point with 39.Kd3!:



39.Kd3 Kg5 40.Ke4 Kh4

On 40...f6, White too has a useful "waiting" move: 41.b4!

41.Kxf4 Kxh3 42.b4 b5

Or 42...Kg2 43.Ke4 Kf2 44.f4 with the idea of 45.f5.

43.Ke5 Kg3 44.f4 Kf3 45.f5! Ke3 46.fxe6 fxe6 47.d5 exd5 48.Kd5 Kd3 49.Kc5 +-

White wins the race to queen.

Leica Tilton 1574
Alex Kunadze 1633

Texas Open 1997 (5)



Black to move

Black seeks to create a passed b-pawn to divert White's king. What is the right way to go about this? 37...a6??

Black intends to play ...b5 without delay. The only problem is that White's reply gives Black a backward pawn, creating a "one pawn stops two" scenario.

The right way was 37...b6 first, and only then ...a6. Just the threat to create a passed pawn with ...b5 is enough to tie down White's king. Play might continue 37...b6 38.g3 a6 39.Kc3 Ke4 followed by 40...g6 and 41...Kf3 (not 40...Kf3?? 41.f5 +-). 38.a5!

Now if Black wants to create a queenside passer, he must divert his own king.

The game ended in a slam dunk: 38...f6 39.exf6 gxf6 40.g4 Kc5 41.h4 b5 (41...Ke5 42.h5!) 42.axb6 Kxb6 43.g5 1-0.

If Black just bides his time he will be forced to retreat: 38...h5 39.g4 hxg4 40.hxg4 g6 41.Ke3 g5 42.Kf3 gxf4 43.Kxf4 Ke6 44.Ke4 and White has the opposition.

The most interesting attempt to save Black's game is 38...b6, which I wrongly assessed as narrowly winning for Black. But San Antonio city champion José Silva set me straight:

A "simple" pawn ending

by José Luis Silva

In *San Antonio Chess Club News* from Jan. 8, 1998 on your comment after 38.a5 from the game Leica Tilton vs. Alex Kunadze (Texas Open 1997 (5)):

"Black is winning with 38...b6! 39.axb6 Kc6 40.f5 Kxb6 41.Kc4 Kc6 42.g4 a5 43.h4 a4 44.g5 hxg5 45.hxg5 Kd7 46. Kb4 g6!! 47.e6+ Ke7 48.exf7 gxf5 and White cannot stop both of the widely separated passed pawns."

In my opinion, after 38...b6?? Black is lost!

First, let's prove that White has at least a draw if she wants (I better say, if she knows how).

On your sequence after 38...b6? 39.axb6 Kc6 40.f5 Kxb6 41.Kc4 Kc6 42.g4 a5 43.h4 a4:



I. 44.g5 hxg5 45.f6!! [instead of 45.hxg5] gxf6 (or 45...g6 46.e6! wins) 46.h5 g4 47.h6 g3 48.h7 g2 49.h8(Q) g1(Q) 50.Qxf6+ with an edge to White. The queen endgame may be better for White or at least equal but not worse.

After discovering 45.f6!! we can try to improve this idea with something like ...

II. 44.h5! Kd7 45.g5 hxg5?! 46.f6! gxf6 47.h6, winning because White just won a tempo compared to 44.g5 hxg5 f6, etc. That's enough to queen a pawn and prevent Black from doing the same.

Unfortunately it's not the end of this "simple" ending. Black can improve this, too, with 44.h5! Kd7 45.g5 Ke7 (instead of 45...hxg5?) and now 46.f6+ loses to 46...gxf6 (also 46...Kf8, which could transpose) 47.exf6+ Kf8 (not 47...Ke6 48.gxh6 Kf6 49.Kb4 when White wins because Black is forced to let the pawn promote) 48.gxh6 Kg8 49.Kb4 Kh7 50.Kxa4 Kxh6 51.Kb4 Kxh5 52.Kc5 Kg5 53.Kd4 Kxf6 54.Ke3 Kg5 +, winning.

Does this mean that White is lost after 45...Ke7?

No!! She can save herself with 46.gxh6 gxh6 47.Kb4 Kd7 48.Ka4 Kc6 49.Kb4 Kd5 50.e6 fxe6 51.fxe6 (51.f6 Kd6) Kxe6 52.Kc4 Kf5 53.Kd4 Kg5 54.Ke3, when the h-pawn doesn't win.

Now, the main point of the f6! idea. I believe White is winning with 44.h5! Kd7 45.Kb4! (without forcing matters with 45.g5, which though ingenious is not winning.)



Position after 45.Kb4

(a) If 45...g6, 46.g5!! is a typical pawn sacrifice to force a promotion.

(b) 45...Ke7 46.Kxa4 and Black just has to wait for the execution.

(c) He can't go around White's pawns with 45...Kc6 because of the joke 46.g5! Kd7 47.f6, etc.

Of course, it's unrealistic to think that a 1600 player (even a master) can see all this under tournament conditions, but I still believe it's an instructive ending.

Silva brings up an important exception which is needed to complete this discussion. Any consideration of the outside passed pawn as decoy requires this caveat:

Beware the possibility that your opponent's majority is of the "self-enforcing" type! In that case you gain nothing by creating a lone outside passer. ♣

Texas Open

(continued from page 21)

Gruenfeld Defense D93

John Hendrick 2035

Igor Shtern 2437

Texas Open 1997 (5)

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.c4 0-0 7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nd7 9.Nc3 Nb6 10.Bb3 Bf5 11.Qe2 (11.h3!?) 11...e5!

A tactical freeing move, which answers 12.dxe5? with 12...Bd3 -/+. 12.Bg5 Qd7 13.d5 Na5 14.e4 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 h6 17.Bf6 Nxb3 18.axb3 a6 19.Rfc1 Qd6 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Na4 Nd7



22.Qe3

23.b4! f5?! 24.Qc3 Rac8 25.Nc5 ±; 23...Rfd8 24.Nc5 +=.

22...f5 23.Nc5 Nxc5 24.Qxc5 Rf7 25.exf5 gxf5 26.Qxd6 cxd6 27.b4 Rd8 28.b5 axb5 29.Ra5 e4 30.Rxb5 Kf6 31.Kf1 h5 32.Rc4 Rdd7 33. Ke2 Rg7 34.g3 Ke5 35.b3

Black's excellent king position and ability to break through on the kingside add up to a winning game. 35...h4 36.Rc3 Rc7 37.Rxc7 Rxc7 38.gxh4

Or else 38...Rh7 happens anyway. 38...Rh7 39.b4 Rxb4 40.Rxb7 Rxb3 41.b5 Rb3 42.b6 Rb2+ 43.Ke1 Kxd5 44.Rb8 Kc6 45.Rf8 Rb5 46. Rf6 Rd5

0-1

1996 Texas Postal Champion: JIMMY IRVIN

Editor's note: I have known Jimmy Irvin for almost ten years as an affable Class C player and TD in San Antonio tournaments. Lately a difficult recovery from an arm injury has him scarce in over-the-board chess events. It is good to see him baring his fangs in postal play.

I started in postal chess about 15 years ago on a whim. The Internet was just starting to bloom, and it satisfied my craving for some chess games when there were no tourneys going on. It wasn't until about five years ago that I started taking it seriously, and then on the advice of my teacher NM Jim Gallagher. He saw I was no longer getting as much enjoyment out of OTB play as I had been and instructed me to get that enjoyment wherever I could find it. I then turned my attention to postal, which I had only been toying with. I found it a completely different and a most enjoyable atmosphere.

The '96 tourney was especially a good one for me, not because I failed to lose a single game but because I had lost my mother and father-in-law to cancer, and postal chess helped me to cope with this very difficult time. I made some very good friends in this tourney – this is true of all postal, however. Especially kind was Eugene Kohnitz of Houston, who gave me two very good games and many pleasurable letters and pictures.

If you get any enjoyment from these games thank Mr. Gallagher, my only teacher, who spent so many years trying to pound chess into my slow brain. He took me from 1...c5 "Uh, that's a Sicilian, ain't it?" to 1...c5 "Yea, a Sicilian! Boy are we gonna have some fun now!!" My only regret is that I don't have half the knowledge and ability as he.

Many are the times I look up from the board and wish I had him across the board for some advice, especially when the endgame approaches. He strove so hard to convey this knowledge and I resisted it so vehemently – the loss was great and mine! "The endgame is the true strength of a player!" he would say, and never more than now do I realize the wisdom of that one sentence. I'm sure you will find many errors in my play, for that I am the only one to blame.

I'm always available at my e-mail address: jimmye@juno.com. If you have any questions about postal chess please feel free to contact me there. If I can be of help I will be glad to share whatever meager knowledge I have obtained.

Notes by NM Selby Anderson

King's Indian Bayonet E97

Jimmy Irvin 1947

Steve Lynn 2074

Texas Posal Chp. 1996

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Nh5 10.Re1 f5 11.Ng5 11.c5 Nf6 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Rc1 Kh8 15.a4 a6 16.a5 Bd7 17.Bd3 Ng8 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Na4 Rc8 20.Rxc8 Bxc8 21.Nb6 fxe4 = Kramnik-Topalov, Novgorod 1996. 11...Nf4

11...Nf6 12.Bf3 Kh8 13.Bb2 a5 14.b5 Rb8 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Ne8 17.Qb3 c5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Bh5 ± Kramnik-Polgar, Vienna 1996.

12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Rc1 fxe4

13...Bf6 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.dxe6 Bxc3 16.Rxc3 fxe4 17.Bf1 e3 18.fxe3 a5! = Browne-Fedorowicz, U.S. Championship 1997.

14.Ncxe4 Nf5 15.Qd2 Nd4 16.Nf3 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Qh4 18.c5 Be5 19.cxd6 cxd6



Black's plan of ...g5-g4 must be met with active defense.

20.Nc5! g5 21.Rxe5!

This liquidates the dangerous e5 bishop. If Black accepts the exchange, White's d-pawn and bishop turn nasty: 21...dxe5 22.d6 Bg4 23.Bxb7 Rab8 24.Qd5+ Rf7 25.Qxe5 with two pawns for the exchange, and if 25...Rbxb7 26.Nxb7 Rxb7 then 27.f3! (Δ 27...Bd7 28.Qd5+) regains the piece favorably.. 21...g4 22.g3! Qf6 23.Re4 fxd3 24.hxd3 gxf3 25.Ne6 Bxe6

If 25...Rf7, then 26.Rg4+ Kh8 27.Rf4 Qg6 28.Qd4+ forcing mate. Or 25...Re8 26.Rg4+ Kh8 27.Rf4 and Black must allow Qc3+ or Nc7. 26.dxe6 Qf5 27.Qd4 h5 28.Rc7 Rf6 29.Rf4 1-0

Modern Benoni A79

Jimmy Irvin 1947

Eugene Kohnitz 2100

Texas Posal Chp. 1996

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 exd5 4.cxd5 d6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Nd2 Na6 11.f3 Nc7 12.a4 Nd7 13.Kh1 b6 14.Nc4 Ne5 15.Ne3 f5

Theory prefers 15...Rb8 preparing queenside operations, not fearing is 16.f4 Nd7 17.Nc4 Nf6 18.e5 dxe5 19.d6 Ne6 20.fxe5 Nd7 = (Platonov-Savon, USSR 1970).

(Continued on page 25)

LETTERS

"Bust the editor" returns, Ardaman leaves

Just a couple of comments about the Jan-Feb '98 "Test Your Tactics!" column:

#5 position (Ozden-Shtern) had another method that was pretty, namely 1...Bh4!, with the idea of ...Bg3. If 2.Nh4, then 2...f3!! → (clearance device for ...Qf4).

#7 position (Gaiha-Grubbs) offered bad analysis I think: after 1...Nh5, white has 2.Ne5 (right away) with advantage. [Alan Laverty also pointed this out.] The big difference is that Black will be left with the h5 knight *en prise* after 2...Bg5 3.Nc6 Rc6.

I also wanted to let you know that I'm leaving Texas at the end of June, 1998. My wife, Thuy, and I have accepted positions as hospital-based pathologist and psychiatrist, respectively, with Self Memorial Hospital in Greenwood, South Carolina. I must say I've enjoyed my time (it will be 10 years on the nose come June) in Texas. I found chess to be well organized and with a large number of enthusiastic aficionados. I would've hoped Houston, however, could have been more active with offering tournaments during my time here. As the country's fourth largest city we really suffer from a severe paucity of high caliber tourneys.

I also want to congratulate and encourage you further with your extraordinary efforts as *TK* editor, obviously a labor of love, but a labor no less. I hope I can continue to contribute occasionally with articles or annotated games, perhaps as your 'foreign correspondent' :-)

Miles Ardaman
Houston

A real patzer move

Robert G. Wright of Houston writes:

"Enclosed is the score of a postal chess game I played during 1997. It shows the power of the Dragon variation against passive play.

"I played Nxc6 against some player at the Detroit Chess, Checkers and Bridge Club when I was learning the game. He told me very scornfully that I had made a "real patzer move." He was right.

[It didn't work for Anand against Kasparov in their last title match either! See Game 13 in Chess Life, Feb. 1996, p. 44.]

"This was my first postal game since 1964 when I quit playing postal chess."

"P.S. - I gave *Chess Life's* postal dept. my OTB rating, but they put me in as unrated."

Notes by Robert G. Wright

King's Indian Bayonet E97
S.L. Chase, Jr. 1587
R.G. Wright (unr.)
1997 Golden Knights Prelim.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Bd7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.h4 h5



11.Nxc6

I was told that this is a patzer move when I was learning chess about 1940.

11...bxc6 12.Be2
12.Bc4 would give the king a defender.
12...Qa5 13.Rdg1 Rfb8 14.g4 hxg4
15.fxg4 Rxb2 0-1
16.Kb2 Nxe4 is hard to answer.

Postal (continued from page 24)

16.f4 Nf7 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Bd2
18.Bd3 was played in Najdorf-Fischer, Havana Olympiad 1966: 18...Qf6 19.Ne2 Nh6 20.Ng3 Qg6 21.Qc2 Rf8 22.Bd2 ±. Note how White keeps the Bc8 passive by going after the weak f5 pawn.
18...Nh6 19.Re1 a6 20.Qb3 Rb8 21.h3 Bd4 22.Bh5 Rf8 23.g3 b5

White has misplaced his queen and light square bishop, allowing Black to pluck out the d5 thorn.
24.axb5 axb5 25.Ne2 Bb7 26.Nxd4 cxd4 27.Ng2 Bxd5 28.Qd1 Ra8?

Black has excellent play with 28...Qf6, e.g. 29.Bb4!? Be4! Δ ...Nd5, or 29.Ra7 Ne6 30.Bb4 Nc5.



29.Ba5! +- Ra7 30.Qxd4 Bxg2+ 31. Kxg2 1-0

The threat of 32.Bc3 costs Black the exchange.

Note: Jimmy Irvin finished first with 8.5-1.5. Peter Murphy took second with 6-4. Two games are still in play in the 6-player section.

Crosstables

Texas Open San Antonio, December 27-28

Open

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | total |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 Selby K. Anderson | 2325 | +52 | +18 | +8 | +6 | +2 | 5.0 |
| 2 James J. Gallagher | 2282 | +38 | +31 | +13 | +3 | -1 | 4.0 |
| 3 Don C. Sutherland | 2205 | +15 | +44 | +9 | -2 | +21 | 4.0 |
| 4 James Rohrbaugh | 2200 | +30 | +22 | =12 | +16 | =5 | 4.0 |
| 5 Mitchell Vergara | 2150 | +43 | +33 | +7 | =11 | =4 | 4.0 |
| 6 David C. John | 2170 | +25 | +45 | +49 | -1 | +18 | 4.0 |
| 7 Igor Shtern | 2437 | +26 | +42 | -5 | +39 | +12 | 4.0 |
| 8 Steve Hobart | 2107 | +36 | +58 | -1 | +46 | +22 | 4.0 |
| 9 Robert W. Clark | 2053 | +47 | +28 | -3 | +49 | +19 | 4.0 |
| 10 Andres Hernandez | 1424 | =19 | +35 | +59 | H | +20 | 4.0 |
| 11 Larry L. Moss | 2200 | +27 | +17 | =14 | =5 | =13 | 3.5 |
| 12 John Hendrick | 2035 | +41 | +46 | =4 | +14 | -7 | 3.5 |
| 13 B.L. Pateson | 2047 | +34 | +37 | =2 | +52 | =11 | 3.5 |
| 14 John W. Ade | 1951 | +50 | +29 | =11 | -12 | +33 | 3.5 |
| 15 Christopher Oakman | 1566 | -3 | +57 | =23 | +59 | +31 | 3.5 |
| 16 Robert P. Chalker | 1900 | +66 | =24 | +53 | -4 | +40 | 3.5 |
| 17 Raymond H. Smith | 1752 | +54 | -11 | +43 | H | +32 | 3.5 |
| 18 Jesse Vasquez | 1775 | +61 | -1 | +27 | +25 | -6 | 3.0 |
| 19 Stephen R. Tidwell | 2107 | =10 | +20 | =39 | +37 | -9 | 3.0 |
| 20 Bradley J. Sawyer | 1243 | +23 | -19 | +35 | +42 | -10 | 3.0 |
| 21 Aaron Golden | 1865 | +62 | -49 | +24 | +26 | -3 | 3.0 |
| 22 Enrique Rios | 1708 | +68 | -4 | +36 | +41 | -8 | 3.0 |
| 23 Paul W. Morgan | 1800 | -20 | +55 | =15 | +38 | =24 | 3.0 |
| 24 William Henderson | 1609 | +70 | =16 | -21 | +53 | =23 | 3.0 |
| 25 Pierce Tilton | 1489 | -6 | +56 | +44 | -18 | +46 | 3.0 |
| 26 Richard C. Lopez | 1593 | -7 | +48 | +65 | -21 | +43 | 3.0 |
| 27 Gerald Castleberry | 1539 | -11 | +54 | -18 | +55 | +41 | 3.0 |
| 28 Daniel S. Robbins | 1629 | +51 | -9 | -41 | +65 | +34 | 3.0 |
| 29 Frank M. Roberts | 1607 | +60 | -14 | -32 | +48 | +47 | 3.0 |
| 30 Charles Cunningham | 1502 | -4 | +68 | -31 | +61 | +45 | 3.0 |
| 31 Jonathan R. Walsh | 1767 | +64 | -2 | +30 | =34 | -15 | 2.5 |
| 32 James F. Sennett | 1326 | +74 | -39 | +29 | =33 | -17 | 2.5 |
| 33 Diego Gamboa | 1649 | +69 | -5 | +47 | =32 | -14 | 2.5 |
| 34 William Molina | 1397 | -13 | +51 | +45 | =31 | -28 | 2.5 |
| 35 R.F. McGregor | 1890 | =40 | -10 | -20 | +63 | +50 | 2.5 |
| 36 Ben J. Lehrer | 1472 | -8 | +72 | -22 | +54 | =37 | 2.5 |
| 37 Duane E. Solley | 1616 | +67 | -13 | +62 | -19 | =36 | 2.5 |
| 38 Leica Tilton | 1574 | -2 | +64 | =42 | -23 | +59 | 2.5 |
| 39 Steven D. Young | 1817 | +65 | +32 | =19 | -7 | U | 2.5 |
| 40 Christopher Hobart | 1344 | =35 | -59 | +63 | +44 | -16 | 2.5 |
| 41 James E. Fleener | 1382 | -12 | +67 | +28 | -22 | -27 | 2.0 |
| 42 William P. Gibson | 1809 | +55 | -7 | =38 | -20 | =53 | 2.0 |
| 43 Allison C. Kistler | 1479 | -5 | +69 | -17 | +57 | -26 | 2.0 |
| 44 Greg Vega | 1762 | +57 | -3 | -25 | -40 | +62 | 2.0 |
| 45 Alan J. Bast | 1679 | +56 | -5 | -34 | +66 | -30 | 2.0 |
| 46 Clay A. Kistler | 1618 | +73 | -12 | +66 | -8 | -25 | 2.0 |
| 47 Stillman Anderson | 1400 | -9 | +73 | -33 | +60 | -29 | 2.0 |
| 48 Joseph Molina | 1249 | -71 | -26 | +72 | -29 | +69 | 2.0 |
| 49 Brett Lynn | 1601 | +75 | +21 | -6 | -9 | U | 2.0 |
| 50 Dennis E. Pierce | 1349 | -14 | -60 | +68 | +51 | -35 | 2.0 |
| 51 Barbara Ade | 961 | -28 | -34 | +64 | -50 | +66 | 2.0 |
| 52 Claudell Madison | 1575 | -1 | +61 | +60 | -13 | U | 2.0 |
| 53 Michael LaBelle | 1476 | H | +63 | -16 | -24 | =42 | 2.0 |
| 54 James Neilsen | 1115 | -17 | -27 | +75 | -36 | +65 | 2.0 |
| 55 James B. Moos | 1267 | -42 | -23 | +69 | -27 | +70 | 2.0 |
| 56 Sarkis Agaian | 1079 | -45 | -25 | =74 | +73 | =58 | 2.0 |
| 57 Alfred S. Molina | 1136 | -44 | -15 | +70 | -43 | +67 | 2.0 |
| 58 Lowell McCormack | 1632 | +72 | -8 | U | =62 | =56 | 2.0 |
| 59 Alex Kunadze | 1633 | H | +40 | -10 | -15 | -38 | 1.5 |
| 60 Stacy Bullock | unr. | -29 | +50 | -52 | -47 | =61 | 1.5 |
| 61 Arthur D. Hanna | 1197 | -18 | -52 | +67 | -30 | =60 | 1.5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 62 George C. John | 1328 | -21 | +75 | -37 | =58 | -44 | 1.5 |
| 63 Dan Kistler | 1007 | H | -53 | -40 | -35 | +73 | 1.5 |
| 64 Wayne Sampson | 1197 | -31 | -38 | -51 | +72 | H | 1.5 |
| 65 Leigh H. Emrich | 1311 | -39 | +74 | -26 | -28 | -54 | 1.0 |
| 66 John DeMott | 1347 | -16 | +70 | -46 | -45 | -51 | 1.0 |
| 67 David Parr | 937 | -37 | -41 | -61 | +68 | -57 | 1.0 |
| 68 Martha Ade | 1113 | -22 | -30 | -50 | -67 | +75 | 1.0 |
| 69 John M. Ade | 1052 | -33 | -43 | -55 | +75 | -48 | 1.0 |
| 70 Sergio Lopez | 787 | -24 | -66 | -57 | B | -55 | 1.0 |
| 71 Greg Wren | 1806 | +48 | U | U | U | U | 1.0 |
| 72 James Kersbergen | 961 | -58 | -36 | -48 | -64 | H | 0.5 |
| 73 Lauren Oppenheim | 960 | -46 | -47 | H | -56 | -63 | 0.5 |
| 74 Charles E. Barbour | 1826 | -32 | -65 | =56 | U | U | 0.5 |
| 75 Randy J. Mora | unr | -49 | -62 | -54 | -69 | -68 | 0.0 |

Texoma Open Dallas, January 17-18

Open

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 1 Noureddine Ziane | 2307 | +2 | +5 | +3 | +7 | 4.0 |
| 2 José O. Trevino | 1891 | -1 | +10 | +6 | +9 | 3.0 |
| 3 Andrew J. Bar-Jona | 2108 | +7 | +6 | -1 | =5 | 2.5 |
| 4 David M. Buhner | 2093 | +8 | H | =5 | U | 2.0 |
| 5 John Hendrick | 2035 | +9 | -1 | =4 | =3 | 2.0 |
| 6 Steven M. Grubbs | 2013 | +11 | -3 | -2 | B | 2.0 |
| 7 Jonathan Cearly | 1793 | -3 | =11 | +9 | -1 | 1.5 |
| 8 Jonathan R. Walsh | 1767 | -4 | H | +10 | U | 1.5 |
| 9 Joe T. Gilbert | 1746 | -5 | B | -7 | -2 | 1.0 |
| 10 George M. Tolliver | 1727 | H | -2 | -8 | U | 0.5 |
| 11 Jason Kindred | 1627 | -6 | =7 | U | U | 0.5 |

Class A

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | total |
|----------------------|--------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 Mark Gracey | 1830 | +2 | +3 | B | 3.0 |
| 2 Samuel T. Irby | 1879 | -1 | +4 | =3 | 1.5 |
| 3 Neal Bonrud | 1842 | +5 | -1 | =2 | 1.5 |
| 4 Joe T. Gilbert | 1746 | H | -2 | U | 0.5 |
| 5 George M. Tolliver | 1727 | -3 | U | U | 0.0 |

Class B

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 1 B.G. Dennison | 1717 | +5 | H | =2 | +3 | 3.0 |
| 2 Eric A. Wiggins | 1622 | =8 | +10 | =1 | +6 | 3.0 |
| 3 Larry Carroll | 1730 | +10 | =6 | +7 | -1 | 2.5 |
| 4 Lloyd M. Uhler | 1675 | =6 | =8 | +10 | =7 | 2.5 |
| 5 Wilson Neil | 1600 | -1 | +11 | =8 | +9 | 2.5 |
| 6 Matthew Bradford | 1793 | =4 | =3 | +9 | -2 | 2.0 |
| 7 Ratnasami Raman | 1702 | +11 | H | -3 | =4 | 2.0 |
| 8 Lionel Richard | 1774 | =2 | =4 | =5 | U | 1.5 |
| 9 Salvador Luna | 1650 | H | H | -6 | -5 | 1.0 |
| 10 Robert W. Smeltzer | 1609 | -3 | -2 | -4 | U | 0.0 |
| 11 Charles Cunningham | 1502 | -7 | -5 | U | U | 0.0 |

Class C

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|---------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 Antonio R. Blanco | 1568 | +6 | +4 | +2 | +3 | 4.0 |
| 2 Roy Gonzalez | 1459 | B | +5 | -1 | +6 | 3.0 |
| 3 Greg Utan | 1469 | =5 | +8 | +4 | -1 | 2.5 |
| 4 Roger Gaiha | 1594 | +8 | -1 | -3 | B | 2.0 |
| 5 Paul J. Huspeni | 1517 | =3 | -2 | B | =7 | 2.0 |
| 6 Michael Harvey | 1482 | -1 | B | =7 | -2 | 1.5 |
| 7 Russell N. Brown | 1385 | U | H | =6 | =5 | 1.5 |
| 8 Alex Salas | 1510 | -4 | -3 | U | U | 0.0 |

Class D/under/Unrated

| name | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 Taras Odushkin | 1444 | +6 | +5 | +2 | =3 | 3.5 |
| 2 Javier Cal | 1188 | +8 | +7 | -1 | +6 | 3.0 |
| 3 Jorge Munguia | 1012 | =5 | +8 | =4 | =1 | 2.5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 4 | Cliff Stevens | 1236 | H | H | =3 | =5 | 2.0 |
| 5 | Susan F. Strahan | 1222 | =3 | -1 | +8 | =4 | 2.0 |
| 6 | Martin Alexander | 1157 | -1 | B | +7 | -2 | 2.0 |
| 7 | Elvis C. Vest | 950 | B | -2 | -6 | -8 | 1.0 |
| 8 | Peter Pitchlynn | unr. | -2 | -3 | -5 | +7 | 1.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 45 | Ray A. Aguilar (12) | 1491 | -21 | -36 | -50 | -40 | 0.0 |
| 46 | Alex Lewkowski (10) | 1488 | -35 | -30 | U | U | 0.0 |
| 47 | Ryan C. Park (12) | 1362 | U | U | U | U | 0.0 |
| 48 | Alfred Miller (8) | 1324 | -37 | -50 | -28 | -12 | 0.0 |
| 49 | Jack Campbell (12) | 1314 | +42 | =43 | X | U | 2.5 |
| 50 | Ben Lewkowski (10) | 961 | -39 | +48 | +45 | -28 | 2.0 |

Texas Team Championship San Antonio, January 24-25

| # | team name (game pts.) | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 | The Underpromoted (10.5 pts.) | 2088 | +8 | =2 | +7 | +6 | 3.5 |
| 2 | Sandbaggers VI (10) | 2187 | +11 | =1 | +5 | +3 | 3.5 |
| 3 | Knightmares (11) | 2089 | +9 | +7 | +4 | -2 | 3.0 |
| 4 | Four Pawns Attack (10) | 2196 | =5 | +6 | -3 | +8 | 2.5 |
| 5 | Whiskey and Mystics (10) | 1865 | =4 | +11 | -2 | +12 | 2.5 |
| 6 | Spice Power (8) | 1885 | +10 | -4 | +9 | -1 | 2.0 |
| 7 | Numbicus Butticus (7.5) | 1988 | +12 | -3 | -1 | +9 | 2.0 |
| 8 | Doug, Ernie, Greg and Al (6) | 1813 | -1 | +10 | =11 | -4 | 1.5 |
| 9 | Resistance is Futile (6.5) | 1795 | -3 | +12 | -6 | -7 | 1.0 |
| 10 | Lewkowski/Fulton (6) | 1508 | -6 | -8 | =12 | =11 | 1.0 |
| 11 | Tomorrow Never Dies (4.5) | 1865 | -2 | -5 | =8 | =10 | 1.0 |
| 12 | Three Men and a Big Baby (4) | 1526 | -7 | -9 | =10 | -5 | 0.5 |

Individuals are listed in wall chart order, by ratings not final standings.

| # | name (team #) | rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | total |
|----|-----------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 | Jason Doss (6) | 2345 | +31 | =8 | =18 | +5 | 3.0 |
| 2 | Selby Anderson (2) | 2325 | +23 | +5 | =13 | +10 | 3.5 |
| 3 | Jim H. Dean (7) | 2309 | +38 | =10 | =5 | =18 | 3.0 |
| 4 | James J. Gallagher (2) | 2282 | =26 | -7 | +19 | -15 | 1.5 |
| 5 | Richard A. Ketcham (1) | 2264 | =16 | -2 | -3 | -1 | 0.5 |
| 6 | Eric Dimazana (2) | 2242 | +27 | -14 | =40 | =17 | 2.0 |
| 7 | Mikhail Langer (1) | 2207 | +22 | +4 | +20 | +32 | 4.0 |
| 8 | John Patty (4) | 2206 | =13 | =1 | =10 | =16 | 2.0 |
| 9 | Don Sutherland (4) | 2205 | +19 | +32 | +15 | +22 | 4.0 |
| 10 | José Luis Silva (3) | 2203 | +18 | =3 | =8 | -2 | 2.0 |
| 11 | James Rohrbach (4) | 2200 | +40 | +35 | -17 | =30 | 2.0 |
| 12 | Don Marcott (4) | 2174 | -41 | +39 | -25 | +48 | 2.0 |
| 13 | David C. John (5) | 2170 | =8 | +23 | =2 | +38 | 3.0 |
| 14 | John G. Bell (1) | 2169 | +30 | +6 | +21 | +35 | 4.0 |
| 15 | Mitchell Vergara (3) | 2150 | +34 | +20 | -9 | +4 | 3.0 |
| 16 | James (Doug) Huddleston (8) | 2137 | =5 | =31 | +23 | =8 | 2.5 |
| 17 | Alfred Zerm (3) | 2108 | +36 | +21 | +11 | =6 | 3.5 |
| 18 | Timothy Beszczyński (9) | 2037 | -10 | +38 | =1 | =3 | 2.0 |
| 19 | John Hendrick (5) | 2035 | -9 | =26 | -4 | +44 | 1.5 |
| 20 | Steven M. Grubbs (7) | 2013 | =44 | -15 | -7 | -34 | 0.5 |
| 21 | Jacob Gurwitz (7) | 2008 | +45 | -17 | -14 | +36 | 2.0 |
| 22 | Ernie L. Shown (8) | 1985 | -7 | +33 | +26 | -9 | 2.0 |
| 23 | John W. Ade (11) | 1951 | -2 | -13 | -16 | -31 | 0.0 |
| 24 | Robert R. Barber (2) | 1900 | -28 | +37 | +41 | +25 | 3.0 |
| 25 | George De La Rosa (3) | 1893 | +43 | =42 | -12 | -24 | 2.5 |
| 26 | Mark E. McCue (11) | 1865 | =4 | =19 | -22 | -33 | 1.0 |
| 27 | Charles E. Barbour (11) | 1826 | -6 | =40 | U | U | 0.5 |
| 28 | Steven D. Young (11) | 1817 | +24 | -41 | +48 | +50 | 3.0 |
| 29 | Paulus Muljadi (11) | 1814 | U | U | +30 | X | 2.0 |
| 30 | Gregory S. Wren (8) | 1806 | -14 | +46 | -29 | =11 | 1.5 |
| 31 | Bruce E. Lewkowski (10) | 1803 | -1 | =16 | -38 | +23 | 1.5 |
| 32 | Matthew Bradford (6) | 1793 | =33 | -9 | +34 | -7 | 1.5 |
| 33 | Albert Fulton (10) | 1780 | =32 | -22 | +44 | +26 | 2.5 |
| 34 | Jesse Vasquez (9) | 1775 | -15 | +44 | -32 | +20 | 2.0 |
| 35 | Jonathan R. Walsh (6) | 1767 | +46 | -11 | +36 | -14 | 2.0 |
| 36 | Raymond H. Smith (9) | 1752 | -17 | +45 | -35 | -21 | 1.0 |
| 37 | Gray Bullis (1) | 1714 | +48 | -24 | =42 | =39 | 2.0 |
| 38 | Enrique Rios (12) | 1708 | -3 | -18 | +31 | -13 | 1.0 |
| 39 | Brad R. Bradford (6) | 1633 | +50 | -12 | -43 | +37 | 1.5 |
| 40 | Daniel S. Robbins (5) | 1629 | =11 | =27 | =6 | +45 | 2.5 |
| 41 | Matthew Willis (5) | 1627 | +12 | +28 | -24 | +47 | 3.0 |
| 42 | Eric A. Wiggins (7) | 1622 | -49 | =25 | =37 | +43 | 2.0 |
| 43 | Duane E. Solley (9) | 1616 | -25 | +49 | +39 | -42 | 1.5 |
| 44 | Richard C. Lopez (12) | 1593 | =20 | -34 | -33 | -19 | 0.5 |

B=bye H=1/2 pt. bye U=unplayed X=forfeit win F=forfeit loss
r/e = re-entered Players in each point group are listed by tiebreaks.

Tournament Calendar

March 14-15. Texas Scholastic Championship. Four sections: HS, MS, Elem., Primary. Double Tree Hotel, 6505 IH-35 North, Austin. Late EF: \$35. Ent: ACE, 7805 Doncaster, Austin, TX 78745; 512-328-3638. <http://www.austinchess.org>; dharde@worldnet.att.net

March 29. A&M Spring Open. 3-SS, 30/60, SD/30. 110 Koldus Bldg., Texas A&M University College Station. \$\$/entries. EF: \$20, TCA memb. required. Reg. 10-10:30 a.m., Rds. 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: Dusan Djuric, 1018 Holt St., College Station, TX 77840; (409) 696-5504. NS. NC. W.

April 5. Region X Women's Championship. 4-SS, G/30. Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney, Denton. EF: \$15/advance, \$20/site, or \$5 if joining or renewing USCF. Free USCF membership to new members (limit first 10). \$\$(\$350 gtd.): \$120-70, U1600 \$60, U1300 \$50. Consolation prizes. Reg. 9-9:45, Rds. 10-11:15-3-4:15. Ent: Bill Trowbridge, 1811 Maple #15, Denton, TX 76201. WIM Alexey Root simul 12:30 p.m., EF \$10, \$5 if entered in women's tournament; prizes (\$40-30-20) to those who defeat Root in simul. Free grade K-8 junior tournament. Reg. 9-9:45, Rds. 10-11:15-3. Info: Alexey Root, 408 Foxwood Circle, Denton, TX 76207, ddr0003@jove.acs.unt.edu, 940-484-2265. NS, NC, W.

April 7-12. 44th Mexican International. 9-SS. Crown Plaza Hotel, Mexico City, phone 5-128-5000, \$60/rm. Prize fund: \$15,465, 1st prize \$2,500, EF \$50. Web info: www.geocities.com/Colosseum/7578/ajedrez.htm. For more information, e-mail: fenamac@netservice.com.mx (Jorge Vega Fernandez).

Apr. 18-19. Texas Senior Championship. See ad, p. 30.

Apr. 25. Texas Action Championship. See ad, p. 30.

May 23-25. Texas State and Amateur Championship. See back cover ad.

Sept. 5-7. 64th Southwest Open. Austin.

Nov. 27-29. Texas Open. San Antonio.

Coaches' Corner (continued from page 15)

tation. Any dishonest coach or parent (whether public, private, or homeschool) could lie about a player's age or grade level. Even if TCA decided to require documentation for all players, determined cheaters could find ways around our procedures.

When suspicions arise, it is important to remember that there is quite a bit of variation in the ages of students in all schools. In Texas, many public school children (particularly those with summer birth dates) do not start Kindergarten until they are six years old. Others may start Kindergarten in a private school when they are four. It is also important to remember that children develop physically and mentally at very different rates, so many children appear older than they really are. It is unfair to accuse any chess team of cheating based solely on their players' appearance or playing strength. However, all chess teams, whether public, private or homeschool, should be willing to present verification of their players' eligibility to play at a designated grade level if legitimate questions arise.

Don't most homeschoolers have lots of free time to devote to chess? Doesn't this give them an unfair advantage?

One of the advantages of homeschooling is that parents can build the educational program around the interests of their children. They can recognize chess as a part of their curriculum, just as some public and private schools do. However, most homeschooling students are busy with a wide variety of academic, social, and service activities. My own homeschool support group's chess club meets only twice a month, in contrast to many public school chess clubs that meet at least weekly.

Public schools have to deal with permission forms, insurance issues, problems reserving school buses, working around scheduled TAAS testing, etc. Don't unfettered groups like homeschool associations have an unfair advantage, since they do not have to deal with all these problems?

Homeschoolers are relatively unfettered, and that does give us a few advantages, but we also have to deal with a few disadvantages. We do not have to worry about reserving a school bus because we have no buses. Our students are not already on the same campus every day, so parents have to make a concerted effort to bring their children to the chess club. This sometimes causes irregular attendance. Many support groups have to pay for their meeting spaces. How many public school chess

clubs have to charge dues in order to rent a space to meet? (Our club does.)

Yes, homeschoolers have a few advantages, but they also face a few extra challenges. The same is true for public schools and private schools. Each system has its own strengths, and its own problems. The best chess teams come from any type of school where coaches, teachers, and parents have made the effort to develop a quality program. The real advantage for students – no matter what kind of schools they attend – is **adults who care!**

Brenda Hardesty is a Local Tournament Director in Austin, and has been a homeschooling parent for eight years. Her e-mail address is dharde@worldnet.att.net.

If you have a question or article that you feel is appropriate for Coaches' Corner, please send it to Forrest Marler, 2109 Ave T, Huntsville, TX 77340, or e-mail to fmarler@myriad.net.

Solutions

- 1.Nd5 Qxd4 (1...exd5 2.Qxb2 +-) 2.Nc7 mate, 1-0.
2. White missed a sweet win with 1.Nf6+, with mate to follow after 1...gxf6 2.Qg4+ Kh7 3.Qh5, or 1...Kh8 2.Qd2 Δ Rxb6+. Black can only prolong his misery by parting with his queen: 1...Qxf6 2.exf6 Rxd4 3.Qe2 +-.
3. Black's last move (...b6??) was punished with 1.Rxf6 Qxf6 (on 1...gxf6 the answer is the same) 2.Qe4 1-0. Black must give up his rook at a8 to stop 3.Qxh7 mate.
4. 1.Qd4 (threat: 2.Qxg7 mate) 1...Nf5 2.Qxg4 Qxg4 3.Rxg4 and Black soon resigned.
5. 1.Bf4 Qxf4 2.d6+ Kh8 3.dxe7 wins at least a whole rook, e.g. 3...Rg8 4.Bxg8 Kxg8 4.Qd5+. The game continued 3...Rf7 4.Bxf7 Bb7 5.Bxe8 Rxe8, and now 6.Qd7 would have put an end to the fighting.
6. 1.Ne6 forces Black to sac the exchange, but stronger is 1.Nh5! Δ Nxf6+. The game ended 1.Nh5 Rb7 2.Nxf6+ Kh8 3.Rhxh6+ gxh6 4.Rxh6+ Rh7 5.Rxh7+ 1-0. More stubborn was 1...Kh8 2.Nxf6 gxh6 3.Rgxh6+ Qxh6 4.Rxh6+ Rh7, but 4.Qh4 winning the f6 pawn gives White an overwhelming advantage.
7. 1...a3 wins the exchange with one a-pawn left to go: 2.Rxb3 a3 3.Ra3 Rc1+ 4.Kh2 a1(Q). White resigned after the spite check 2.Bd8+ Ke6.
8. White forces mate with 1.Bxg6 hxg6 2.Qxg6+ Ng7 3.Rh7 Rf7 4.Qh6. Not as clean (although winning) is the game continuation 1.Rxh5 Kf7, which led White on a merry chase for over ten moves before Black resigned.
9. 1.Nd4 Qc8 2.Rd8+ Qxd8 3.Ne6+ fxe6 4.Rxd8+ Ke7 5.Qd3 f5 6.f3 1-0. Or 6.Qd7+ Kf6 7.Re8 +.

TCA Advance Agenda

The next TCA Business Meeting will be held March 15 at 7:30 a.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin.

1. (Wren): Create a new category of foreign membership, to accommodate transatlantic postage cost, amending Article III, Section 3 to read: *Persons from Canada or Mexico may join TCA at \$12.50 a year. All other foreign memberships are \$17.50.*

2. (Wren): Shorten the TCA bidding cycle for Major Events to two years, amending Article IX, Section 3, B. by changing "three (3)" to "two (2)".

3. (Salinas): Add two amendments to Article IX, Section 1 (tournaments), to be effective for the 1999 bidding cycle as Major Events.

N. Texas Collegiate Championship. This tournament shall be held in the fall, and shall be open to students enrolled full-time or part-time in colleges or universities in Texas.

O. Texas Grade Championships. This event shall be held in the fall concurrently with the Texas Collegiate Championship, with a separate tournament for each grade K-12. There shall be individual and team trophies. A team shall consist of any three players from the same school, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school. Sections may be combined if deemed necessary, but trophies shall be awarded for all grades represented. This is a Major Event.

4. (Anderson): Form a standing committee for scholastic affairs and development, amending Article VII (committees) with Section 2. Scholastic Committee.

Discussion: Al Woolum's idea was to form a committee to "articulate policy and develop a plan of action for the development of scholastic chess . . . This may or may not mean focusing on the UIL or USCF-rated chess activities. It will also have to have short and long-term goals and the cooperation of the various factions in Texas chess."

5. (Woolum): Amendment to Article IX, Section 1, E (Texas Scholastic Championship). After the sentence defining a scholastic team, insert the following: "Each team must submit a form showing the name, grade and date of birth for each player, and signed by the school principal or administrator; said form shall be made available by the tournament organizer or the TCA Secretary."

Back cover solution: 1.Nc5! 1...dxc5 2.Qc7#; 1...Rxe7 2.Qxe7#; 1...cxb5 2.Qe4#; 1...Nf2 2.Bf6#; 1...Ng2 2.Bf5#.

44th Mexican International slated

The 44th Mexican International Chess Championship will be held April 7-12 in Mexico City. The tournament will be a nine round Swiss with a prize fund of 130,000 pesos, or about \$15,476. First prize is \$2,500, and entry fee is \$50. The site will be the Crown Plaza Hotel (\$60 a night), with several cheaper hotels nearby.

See the Mexican Chess Federation web page at www.geocities.com/Colosseum/7578/ajedrez.htm. Further information is available from fenamac@netservice.com.mx (Jorge Vega Fernandez).

Playing for keeps

No game between two mortals
Ever lasted fifty years.
No single move was hurried,
Yet we knew an end must come.

I played the white and made first move;
Tradition gave an edge,
However slight; with proper play,
At least an even game.

No time in my experience
Was there a game like this.
I'd won and lost and drawn,
But here was something new.

When days and months and years had passed,
My side was less than even.
No chance to win or even draw;
Yet I stubbornly continued.

Playing better than I ever had,
I made some brilliant moves.
As water wears away a rock,
I'd need ten thousand years.

No matter what I tried,
No weakness was discovered.
When forty years went by, I knew
My plight could not improve.

I could be crushed at any time;
A gentleman would resign.
Not understanding yet his mercy,
I never thought to quit.

The game goes on as I grow old.
Perhaps there is a reason.
Not having something better to do,
I'll play another season.

— Dee Carter

Texas Action Championship

April 25 • 5 Round Swiss • Game/30 Rated at 1/4 K

Methodist Hospital, 7700 Floyd Curl Dr., San Antonio

North tower, 5th floor conference room. South Texas Medical Center, 1 mile north of N Loop 410.

Exit north on Fredricksburg Rd., turn left on Louis Pasteur, right on Floyd Curl. Parking validated. 692-4546.

\$750 in prizes (b/40) • **First prize: \$250**

Second: \$100 U1700: \$80

U2100: \$100 U1500: \$70

U1900: \$90 U1300: \$60

Entry fees: \$25 if rec'd by 4/23, \$30 at site. TCA membership required.

Junior entry: \$12.50 by 4/23, \$15 at site. Age 18 or under. Counts as 1/2 toward "based on."

TCA membership required: \$10, \$7.50 jr. Other state memberships OK.

Registration: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Rounds: 12 - 1:15 - 2:30 - 3:45 - 5

1/2 point bye available any one round, notice with registration.

Entries: San Antonio Chess Club, P.O. Box 501, Helotes, Texas 78023

Information: <http://www.connecti.com/~txchess/> **Phone:** (210) 695-2324

e-mail: txchess@connecti.com *No smoking, no computers. Wheelchair access.*

Texas Senior Championship

Huntsville, April 18-19 Open to age 50+

4 Round Swiss • Time control 40/2, 20/1

University Hotel, Avenue H at 16th St., Huntsville

Hotel Rates: \$34 sgl., \$39 dbl. Phone: (409) 291-7625,

\$310 in prizes (based on 25 players)

1st: \$100

2nd: \$75

3rd: \$50

U1700

1st: \$60

2nd: \$25

Special Side Event

The Sam Houston Folklife Festival will be held Apr. 17-19 at Houston's home, The Steamboat House.

Entry fees: \$25 if rec'd by 4/9, \$30 at site. TCA membership required (o.s.a.)

Registration: 8-9:45 a.m., Rds. 10-4, 9-3 Info: fmarler@myriad.net

Entries: Forrest Marler, 2109 Ave. T, Huntsville, TX 77340. Phone: (409) 291-7625

Texas State Championship

May 23-25 6 round Swiss, 40/2, 20/1, SD/30

Hotel Faust, 240 S. Seguin St., New Braunfels

From IH-35 take exit 187, go 1 mile west. Room rates start at \$59, reserve before April 22.

Reserve early! This is the tubing weekend of the year, at the tubing capital of the world!!

\$4,000 in prizes (based on 150 entries)
2/3 of prizes guaranteed

Championship (open to 2000+)

Amateur (open to U2000)

| | Top | Expert | Top | B | C | D/under |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| First: | \$750 | \$400 | \$600 | \$300 | \$300 | \$250 |
| Second: | \$400 | \$200 | \$300 | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Third: | \$200 | | | | | |
| | | | | | Unrated limit: \$100 | |

Entry Fees: \$40 if postmarked by May 16, \$50 at site.

Junior entry (under 19): \$25 advance, \$35 at site. Counts as 1/2 toward "based on."

USCF & TCA membership required, other states accepted. Checks payable to "SACC".

Registration: 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 23

Half point bye available any one round with notice before Round 1.

Rounds: Sat. 11:30 - 6, Sun. 10 - 6, Mon. 9 - 3:30

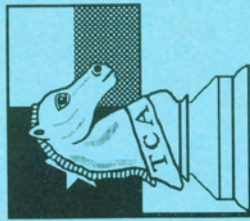
Make checks payable to SACC. Send entries to:

San Antonio Chess Club
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023

Information: (210) 695-2324 e-mail: txchess@connecti.com

Web site: <http://www.connecti.com/~txchess/>

No smoking, no computers. Wheelchair access.

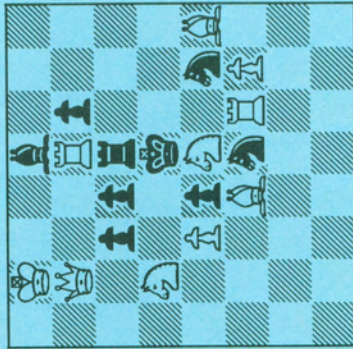


Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023-0501

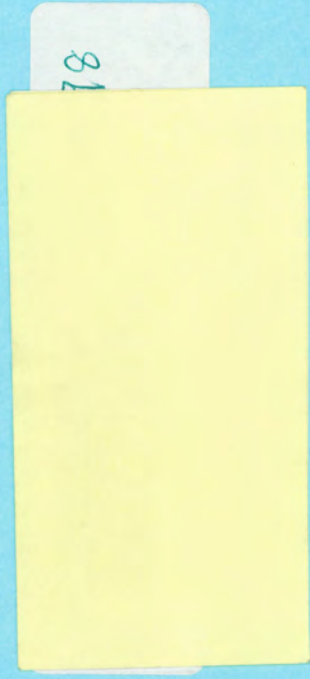
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See inside front cover for
TCA membership information.

David P. Lynn



Mate in two
Solution: page 29



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