

TEXAS KNIGHTS

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**GM Yuri Shulman,
Texas Champion**

**Amateur Champion:
Kelvin Shih**

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— Your TCA ballot is enclosed —

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Contributors this issue: Angela Alston, Brad Bradford, Eugene Kohnitz, Mikhail Langer, Alexey Root, Luis Salinas, Yasser Seirawan, Paul Weatherall, Mark Weese, Greg Wren.

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

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Shulman wins Texas Championship

GM Yuri Shulman easily won the state championship, held May 27-29 in Dallas. The UT-Dallas student from Minsk defeated NM's Weaver, Doss, Shtern, Langer and Whatley, taking Rd. 4 draw with fellow GM Babakuli Annakov (pronounced "a knock-off") to finish a point ahead of the field with 5.5 out of 6. Annakov, who has been on a tour of U.S. tournaments, came at the invitation of Jason Doss through the Internet Chess Club. Annakov lost a difficult Rd. 5 game to three-time state champion Igor Shtern, who tied with Doss for second.

Top high school player John Sneed had a watershed performance, with two master scalps en route to an undefeated 4-2 score and first expert prize. Texas high school champion David John was out of the running after he lost on time in a winning position against UTD freshman Andrew Whatley in Rd. 5.

Kelvin Shih, a high school freshman from Houston, won the Amateur Championship cleanly with 5.5. Six

players tied for second with 5, including three Class B's: Tom Chi, Walt Wright and Gary Carlson.

George John directed for Southwest Chess Enterprises. Thanks to co-organizer Brad Bradford for entering games (Championship and top Amateur boards) as they were turned in. Luis Salinas was chief organizer.

Prize Winners

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1st: Yuri Shulman, 5.5 2nd-3rd: Igor Shtern, Jason Doss, 4.5. 1st Expert: John Sneed, 4. 2nd Expert: Steven Grubbs, 3.5.

AMATEUR: 1st: Kelvin Shih, 5.5. 2nd: David Phillips, Mircea Grancea, Xiao Yu, 5. 1st-2nd Class B: Tom Chi, Walt Wright, Gary Carlson, 5. 1st C: Matthew Berki, 4.5. 2nd C: Victor A. Flores, Brian Shicoff, 4. 1st-2nd D/under: Erick Vallarino, Gene Pershwitz, 3.5. Unrated: David Merrill, 2.5..

Round 1

King's Indian E73

Richard Weaver 2200

Yuri Shulman 2602

Texas Chp. 2000 (1)

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Qd2 e5 8.dxe5?! dxe5 9.Nd5 c6 10.Nxf6+ Bxf6 11.Qxd8 Bxd8 12.Bd2 Nc5 13.Bb4 Bb6 14.f3 Rd8 15.Rd1 Be6 16.h4 f6 17.Nh3 a5 18.Ba3 Bxh3 19.Rxh3 Rxd1+ 20.Kxd1 Ne6 21. c5 Rd8+ 22.Ke1 Nxc5 23.Bc4+ Kg7 24.Bxc5 Bxc5 25.Ke2 a4 26. Rh1 Bd4 27.Rd1 f5 28.exf5 gxf5 29.b3 axb3 30.Bxb3 h5 31.g4 hxg4 32.fxg4 fxg4 33.Rd3 Rh8 34.Rg3 Rxh4 35.Be6 Kf6 36.Bc8 Kg5 37. Bxb7 Rh2+ 38.Kf1 Rf2+ 39.Ke1 Rh2 40.Rd3 c5 0-1

Nimzo-Indian E33

Babakuli Annakov 2619

Lester Van Meter 2200

Texas Chp. 2000 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.g3 Qe7 6...e5! 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Bg2 0-0 9.

0-0 Bxc3 10.Qxc3 e4 11.Ne5 Nd4 12.Re1 Re8 = Oliveira-Alekine, Montevideo 1938.

7.Bg2 a5 8. 0-0 Bxc3 9.Qxc3 Ne4 10.Qe3 f5 11.Nd2 Nxd2 12.Bxd2



12...0-0

This was the last opportunity to play 12...e5, with a slight edge to White after 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Bc3 e4.

13.Bc3 Re8 14.f4 Nb8 15.Qd2 a4 16.e4 Nd7 17.Rae1 Qf8 18.e5 Nb6 19.b3 axb3 20.axb3 d5

This seals the center against the bishop pair, but at a terrible price.

21.c5 Nd7 22.Ra1 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Nb8 24.b4 c6

Or 24...Bd7 (dream on!) 25.Bf1. 25.Bf1 Qf7 26.Ra7 Qc7 27.Qa2 Rf8 28.Bd2 h6 29.Bd3 Bd7 30.Qa4 Rc8 31.Qa5 Kf7 32.Qb6 Qxb6 33. cxb6 Ke8 34.Rxb7 Kd8 35.Ra7 1-0

Sicilian Kopec B50

John Sneed 2035

Mikhail Langer 2285

Texas Chp. 2000 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Bc2 Bg4 6.d3 d5 7.Nbd2 e5 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nf1 h6 11. Ne3 Be6 12.Nh4 Bc7 13.Qf3 Ne7 14.Nef5 Nxf5 15.Nxf5 Bxf5 16. Qxf5 d4 17.c4 Qd7 18.Qxd7 Nxd7 19.Bd2 a5 20.a4 Rfe8 Draw

Round 2

Dutch Leningrad A87

Yuri Shulman 2620

Jason Doss 2312

Texas Chp. 2000 (2)

1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.c4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.d5 c6 9.Be3 Ng4 10.Bd4 Ne5 11.e4 f4

12.gxf4 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Bxd4 14. Qxd4 Rxf4 15.Bg2 Nd7 16.Ne2 Rh4 17.f4 cxd5 18.cxd5 Nf6 19. Rae1 Bg4 20.Ng3 Qf8 21.e5 Nd7 22.exd6 exd6 23.f5 Qh6 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Rf4 Ne5 26.h3 g5 27.Rxg4 Rxg4 28.hxg4 Qh4



29.Rxe5 dxe5 30.Qxe5 Qxg4 31. Nf5 Qd1+ 32.Kh2 Qh5+ 33.Kg3 Qh7 34.d6 Kf8 35.Bd5 1-0

There is no defense to the threat of 36.d7 followed by Qf6+ (or if 36...Qxd7 37.Qh8 mate) – e.g. 35... Rd8 36.Qe7+.

Blumenfeld Countergambit E10
Selby Anderson 2260
Babakuli Annakov 2619

Texas Chp. 2000 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c4 b5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Nc3 b4 8.Nb5 Kd8 9.e4 e5

This is a suggested improvement over 9...g5 10.e5 Qg7 11.g4 Bb7 12. Qa4 a5 13.0-0-0 f5 14.gxf5! g4 15.f6 Qg8 16.Nd2 exd5 17.Bg2 ± Adorjan-Farago, Magyarorszag 1987.

10.Qa4 a5 11.Be2 d6 12.h4 Bg4

Annakov criticized this move after the game.

13.Qd1 Nd7 14.Nd2 Bxe2 15. Qxe2 Be7 16.0-0-0 h5 17.g3 g6 18. Nf1?!

The "thread" of the game should continue 18.Nf3 Bf8 19.Ng5 Bh6 20.Kb1 Ke7 21.f4 ±.

18...Bf8 19.Kb1 Bh6 20.Ne3 Qe7 21.f3 Nb6 22.Ng2 Re8 23.Rhe1 Qd7 24.g4 Rb8 25.g5 Bf8 26.b3 a4 27.Kb2 Ra8 28.Ra1 Bg7 29.a3 Ke7 30.axb4 cxb4 31.Qd2



31...Kf8 32.Qxb4 Kg8 33.Qxd6 Qh3 34.Ne3 Rab8 35.bxa4 Qxf3 36. Qb4 Qxe4 37. Kb3 Bf8 38.d6 Rec8 39.Rac1 Nd7 40.c5 Qc6 41.Nc4 Nxc5+ 0-1

QGD Slav D15

Igor Shtern 2375
Jeffrey Ashton 2219

Texas Chp. 2000 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 Nxc3 7...e6 is the main line.

8.bxc3 Be6? 9.Ng5 Bd5 10.h4

10.e6 fxe6 11.Bf4 ± (Taimanov).

10...e6 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qg4 h6 13. Ne4 h5 14.Qf4 Bxe4 15.Qxe4 Qd5 16.Qf4 Nd7 17.Be2 Bh6 18.Qg3 Qe4 19. Bxb6 Rxb6 20.axb5 cxb5 21.Qf3 Qxf3 22.Bxf3 Rb8 23.Rxa7 Rb6 24.Kd2 Ke7 25.Rha1 Kd8 26. Ra8+ Nb8 27.R1a7 Rh7 28.d5 exd5 29.Bxd5 Rg7 30.f4 Rh7 ... and White went on to win. 1-0

English Opening A33

James Rohrbraugh 2212
Sonny Kamberi 2366

Texas Chp. 2000 (2)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.g3 Qb6 7.Nb3

Ne5 8.e4 Bb4 9.Qe2 d6 10.Bd2 0-0 11.Bg2 Qc6 12.f4 Nxc4 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 15.Nxd2 exd5 16. Nxc4 Qxc4 17.Qxc4 dxc4 18.exd6 Bf5 19.0-0-0 Bd3 20.Bxb7 Rad8 21.Rhe1 Rxd6 22.Be4 g6 23.Bxd3 cxd3 24.Kd2 Rb8 25.b3 Ra6 26. Ra1 Rc8 27.Kxd3 Rd6+ 28.Ke3 Rc2 29.Rad1 Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Rxa2 31. Rd2 Draw

King's Indian E97

Drew Sarkisian 2239
Alex Shaffer 2000

Texas Chp. 2000 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11. b4 Bg7 12.c5 f5 13.Nd2 f4 14.Bg4 h5 15.Bxc8 Rxc8 16.f3 g5 17.Rc1 Rf6 18.Qe2 Rg6 19.a4 g4 20.a5 Kh8 21.Nc4 dxc5 22.bxc5 Ng8 23. d6 c6 24.Rb1 Qd7 25.Kh1 Nh6 26. a6 bxa6 27.Na5 h4 28.Rb7 Qd8 29. Ra1 h3 30.gxh3 gxh3 31.Re7 Bf6 32.Qxa6 Bxe7 33.Nxc6 Rxc6 34. Qxc6 Qg8 35.Qd5 Qxd5 36.Nxd5 Bh4 37.Rc1 Nf7 38.Ne7 Re6 39. Nc6 a6 40.Nb4 Nxd6 0-1

Round 3

King's Indian E92

Igor Shtern 2375
Yuri Shulman 2620

Texas Chp. 2000 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 a5 8. Nd2 Na6 9.h4 Nd7 10.g4 f5 11.g5 Ndc5 12.f3 h6 13.gxh6?

Shtern may have overlooked the reply. On 13.Nb3 Nxb3 14.Qxb3 Nc5 15.Qc2, Black must lock the center to challenge control of g5: 15...f4 16.gxh6 Bf6 followed by ...Bxh4, similar to the game except that White's king is much safer. 13...Bf6 14.Nf1

White used 35 minutes for this move.

14...Bxh4+ 15.Kd2 fxe4 16.Nxe4
Nxe4+ 17.fxe4 Nc5 18.Bd3 Rf4
19.Rg1 Qf6 20.Kc2



20...Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Rxe4 22.Nd2
Rg4 23.Rxg4 Bxg4 24.Ne4 Qf5 25.
Be3 Qh5 26.Rg1 Rf8 27.Kc3 Rf3
28.Rf1 Bf5 29.Rg1 Kh8 30.Kd2
Bf2 0-1

QGD Slav D15

Babakuli Annakov 2619
David John 2346

Texas Chp. 2000 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
a6 5.g3 dxc4 6.a4 Bf5 7.Bg2 e6 8.
Ne5 Bb4 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nxc4 Bxc3
11.bxc3 Be4 12.f3 Bd5 13.Ne5 c5
14.Ba3 Nfd7 15.e4 Nxe5 16.exd5
Nc4 17.Bxc5 exd5 18.Bxf8 Ne3
19.Qe2 Nxf1 20.Ba3 1-0

French Defense C00

Shivkumar Shivaji 2217
James Rohrbaugh 2212

Texas Chp. 2000 (3)

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Ne4 5.Ne2 Bc5 6.d4 Be7 7.Ng3 c5
8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.h4 Qc7
11.Bf4 Bd7 12.Qd2 0-0-0 13.0-0
Be8 14.a4 h6 15.Rfe1 Nxd3 16.
Qxd3 f6 17.exf6 Qxf4 18.fxe7 Rd6
19.Qc3 Qf6 20.Qc5 Rd7 21.Ne5
Rxe7 22.Nxc6 bxc6 23.c4 Rc7 24.
cxd5 exd5 25.Ra3 Bf7 26.Rf3 Qd8
27.Nf5 Kb8 28.Rb3+ Ka8 29.Re7
Bg6 30.Rxc7 Qxc7 31.Ne7 Bf7 32.



GM Yuri Shulman

Rf3 Bh5 33.Re3 Rd8 34.Re6 Re8
35.Nxd5 Qd7 36.Rxc6 1-0

Bd6 16.Rac1 Qb6 17.Qd3 g6 18. h4
Bxe5 19.fxe5 Draw

Round 4

QGD D37

Yuri Shulman 2620
Babakuli Annakov 2619

Texas Chp. 2000 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3
Nbd7 5.Bf4 dxc4 6.e3 Nd5 7.Bxc4
Nxf4 8.exf4 c6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1
0-0 11.Qe2 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nd5 13.g3
Qa5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Ne5



Sicilian Dragon B78

Mikhail Langer 2285
Shivkumar Shivaji 2217

Texas Chp. 2000 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3
Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9. Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0
Qc7!? 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Bh6 Nc4 13.
Bxc4 Qxc4 14.h4 e5?

14...b5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Kb1 e6
17.h5 b4 18.hxg6 ± (ECO).



15.Nf5! gxf5 16.Bxg7 Ne8 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.Qh6+ Ke7 19.Nd5+ Kd8 20.Qg5+ f6 21.Nxf6 Qxa2 22.Nxd7+ Kxd7 23.Qxf5+ Kc6 24.Rhe1 Nc7 25.Re3 Nb5 26.Rb3 a5 27.Qf7 Qa4 28.Qd5+ 1-0

Sicilian B30

Larry Moss 2200
Igor Shtern 2375

Texas Chp. 2000 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Qc7 6.h3 h6 7.Nc3 e5 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.Nh4 c4 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5 cxd3 13.Qxd3 Rd8 14.Qc4 Qd7 15.0-0 Qxf5 16.Bxa7 Qxc2 17.Rae1 Qd3 18.Qxd3 Rxd3 19.Rxe5



19...Kd7 20.Be3 Ra8 21.Bc5 Bxc5 22.Rxc5 Kd6 23.Rc4 b5 24.Rb4 Re8 25.f3 Rd2 26.Kh2 Kc5 27.a3 Rd4 28.Rxd4 Kxd4 29.Rd1+ Kc4 30.Rd6 Re6 31.Rd2 Kb3 32.Kg3 g5 33.h4 gxh4+ 34.Kxh4 Re5 35.g4 Re3 36. Kg3 Re6 37.Kf4 Kd4 38.Ne4 Nxe4 39.fxe4 Kb3 40.e5 c5 41. Rd6? Kxb2 42.Kf5 Re8 0-1

King's Indian E90

David John 2346
John Sneed 2035

Texas Chp. 2000 (4)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nbd7 10.Qe2 e6 11.0-0 exd5 12.cxd5 a6 13.a4 Ne8

14.g3 Nc7 15.f4 f5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.Kg2 Qf6 18.g4 Rae8 19.Qf3 fxe4 20.hxg4 h6 21.Bf5 Nb6 22.a5 Nc8 23.Rh1 Qf7 24.Bd2 Ne7 25.Be4 Ng6 26.Raf1 Nb5 27.Qd3 Ne7 28.Rh5 Nd4 29.f5 Nc8 30.Bxh6 Qxh5 31.gxh5 Bxh6 32.f6 Re5 33.Bg6 Rg5+ 34.Kh1 Rg4 35.Rg1 Rh4+ 36.Kg2 Rxf6 37.Ne4?

37.Qg3 wins with the double threats Qxh4 and Bf5+.
37...Rff4 38.Ng3 Ne7 39.Bh7+ Kf7 40.Bg6+ Kg7 41.Be4 Rhg4 Draw

Round 5

French Defense C08

Mikhail Langer 2285
Yuri Shulman 2620

Texas Chp. 2000 (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.c3 c5 5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.Nb3 Bb6 7.exd5 exd5 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Bd3(?)

White's aggressive posture does not ensure that he can continue the blockade at d4, as he can with 9.Be2.
9...Nf6 10.0-0 0-0 11.h3 Ne4 12.Nbd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.cxd4 Qb6



15.Bc2 Bf5 16.Qf3 Bg6 17.Bb3 Rfd8 18.Rd1 a5 19.Ba4 Qb4 20.Qb3 Qxb3 21.axb3 Nd6 22.b4 axb4 23.Bf4 Nc4 24.Bb3 Nxb2 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rd2 Nc4 27.Ra2 Rxa2 28.Bxa2 Bc2 29.Bxc4 dxc4 30.d5 b3 31.Be5 f6 0-1

QGD Chigorin D07

Babakuli Annakov 2619
Igor Shtern 2375

Texas Chp. 2000 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Qc2 Nc6!? 6.e3 0-0 7.a3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.0-0 e5 10.h3 a6 11.Ba2 Qd7 12.d5 Ne7 13.Nd2 Qf5 14.Qxf5 Bxf5 15.e4 Bg6 16.Re1 b5 17.b4 Nd7 18.Nb3 f5 19.Nc5



19...Nf6 20.f3 fxe4 21.fxe4 h6 22.Be3 Kh7 23.Bf2 Rfb8 24.Bb3 Be8 25.Red1 Ng6 26.Bc2 Nf4 27.Kh2 Bh5 28.Rd2 a5 29.Rb1 Be8 30.g3 Ng6 31.Bd3 axb4 32.axb4 Ra3 33.Rc1 Nh8 34.Nb1 Raa8 35.Nc3 Nf7 36.Rdc2 Ng5 37.Be3 Ra3



38.Bxg5 hxg5 39.Nb1 Ra7 40. Ne6 Bg6 41.Nc3 Ra3 42.Bf1

42.Bxb5 Rxc3 43.Rxc3 Rxb5 44.
Nxc7 Rxb4 -+.

42... Rb3 43.g4 Rxb4 44.Bg2 Kh6
45.Re1 Ra8 46.h4 Nh7 47.Kg3 Bf7
48.Rh1 gxf4+ 49.Rxf4+ Kg6 50.
Rf2 Bxe6 51.dxe6

51.Rxf7 Kxf7 52.dxe6 c6.
51...Rb3 52.Rf3 Ng5 0-1
53.Ne2 Nxf3 54.Bxf3 Raa3
55.Ng1 Bc5 56.e7 Kf7 -+.

Scotch Game C45

Jason Doss 2312

Sonny Kamberi 2366

Texas Chp. 2000 (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.
Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Qf6 7.
Qd2 Nge7 8.Qf4 Qxf4 9.Bxf4 d6
10.f3 0-0 11.g4 Nd4 12.Nxd4 Bxd4
13.Nb5 Bb6 14.0-0-0 Be6 15.Nd4
Nc6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Bg2 d5 18.
Rhe1 d4 19.Kb1 c5 20.Bc1 Rad8
21.h3 c4 22.f4 f6 23.b3 cxb3 24.
axb3 c5 25.Bf1 Rc8 26.f5 Bf7 27.e5
fxe5 28.Rxe5 c4 29.bxc4 Bxc4 30.
Bxc4+ Rxc4 31.Bb2 Rd8 32.Rd3
Kf7 33.Re4 h6 34.Rb3 Rdc8 35.
Re2 R8c7 36.Rb5 Rd7 37.Rbe5
Bd8 38.Rb5 Bb6 39.Re6 Rdc7



40.h4 Rxc2 41.g5 hxg5 42.hxg5 g6
43.Rf6+ Ke8 44.Re5+ Kd8 45.
Rf8+ Kd7 46.fxg6 Kd6 47.Rff5
Rg2 48.Ba3+ Kc6 49.Rf7 Rc8 50.
g7 Rg8 51.Rf6+ Kb7 52.Re7+ Ka6
53.Rf8 1-0

London System A48

Andrew Whatley 2300

David John 2346

Texas Chp. 2000 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3
0-0 5.h3 d6 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 Qe8
8.c4 e5 9.Bh2 h6 10.Nc3 Nh7 11.
Rc1 Ng5 12.b4 Kh7 13.a4 f5 14.c5
dxc5 15.Nb5 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Qd8
17.bxc5 a6 18.Na3 e4 19.Be2 Nf6
20.Qb3 c6 21.Nc4 Nd5 22.Nd6 f4!



23.Bc4

If 23.Nxe4 then 23...fxe3 24.
fxe3 Re8 25.Bf3 Nxe3! (John).
23...f3 24.Bxd5 Qg5 25.Bg3 cxd5
26.Nxc8 Raxc8 27.Qxb7 fxg2?

This takes the heat off the king-
side. Better is 27...h5!! 28.h4 Qg4 29.
Qxd5 Rf5 30.Qe6 Rcf8 Δ ...g5 -+
(John).

28.Rfe1 Qf5 29.Kh2 g5 30.c6?

White needs to consolidate with
30.Rg1! (John), e.g. 30...h5 31.Rxg2
Rf7 32.Qa6 h4 33.Bd6 +-.

30...Rf7 31.Qxa6 h5 32.Qe2

32.h4 gxf4 33.Bxf4 Qg4 34.Bg3
h4 -+.

32...h4 33.Qh5+ Kg8 34.Bxf4 gxf4
35.Qxf5 Rxf5 36.Rc2 Rg5 37.a5
Bf8 38.a6 Bd6+ 39.Kg1 Rc7 40.
Rb2 Rxc6 1-0 (time)

Black's flag fell as he was mak-
ing move 40. David reportedly kept
his score move by move, and a few
check marks might have saved him.

French Exchange C01

Shivkumar Shivaji 2217

Selby Anderson 2260

Texas Chp. 2000 (5)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.d4
exd5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.cxd5 Nbd7 7.
Nc3 Nb6 8.Bd3 Nbxtd5 9.0-0 0-0
10.h3 c5!?

A "normal" continuation like
10...h6 11.Ne5 Be6 runs into 12.f4!,
so I took the rare step of liquidat-
ing White's isolated pawn.

11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.dxc5 Rd8 13.
Qe2! Bxc5 14.Bc4 Qh5 15.Bg5 Re8
16.Qd3 Ne4 17.Rae1 Bf5



Black may feel proud of posi-
tion, but the hurdles aren't over.

18.Qd5! Bg6! 19.Be3

19.Rxe4? Bxe4 20.Qxc5 Bxf3
21.gxf3 Rec8 22.Qd5 Rxc4 =+.

The text move simplifies with
some leftover pressure.

19...Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Qxd5 21.Bxd5
Nd6! 22.Rfe1 Rxe3 23.Rxe3 Kf8

Black is just holding on.

24.Ne5 Rc8 25.Nxg6+ hxg6 26.
Re2 Rc1+ 27.Kh2 Rd1 28.Bf3 Rc1
29.Rd2 Ke7 30.g3 b6 31.Kg2
Rc5?!

I was making moves quickly to
make time control. There is no
reason to let White's king out so
easily via the f1 square.

32.Bd5 g5 33.Re2+ Kf6 34.Bf3 a5
35.b3 Rc3 36.Rd2 Ke6 37.Bd5+
Ke7 38.Bf3 Rc5?! 39.Kf1 Rc3 40.

Bd5 Rc5 41.Ke2 Rc3 42.Kd1 Kf6
43.Bg2 Ke6 44.Rd5 f6 45.Kd2 Rc7
46.Rd3 Ke5 47.Re3+ Kd4 48.
Rd3+ Ke5 49.Re3+ Kd4 50.f4



50...gxf4

I suspected that Shivaji had overlooked 50...Rc2+ (he admitted this after the game), but I still had to analyze it on the merits. As it turns out, the queening race that results favors White: 50...Rc2+ 51.Kxc2 Kxe3 52.fgx5 fgx5 53.g4 Kf2 54. Bc6 Kg3 55.Kc3 Kxh3 56.Bd7 Ne4+ 57.Kc4 Nf2 58.Kb5 Nxc4 59.Kxb6 Kh4 60.Kxa5 +-.

51.Rd3+ Ke5 52.gxf4+ Ke6 53.Bf3 Rc5 54.Bg4+ f5 55.Bf3 Ne4+ 56. Ke3 Nc3 57.a4 Nd5+ Draw

Round 6

QGD Slav D15

Yuri Shulman 2620

Andrew Whatley 2300

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 Bf5

Nunn's Chess Openings touts 5... e6 6.g3 Nbd7 7.Bg2 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qb3 a5 10.Rd1 b6=, 6.Qb3 Ra7

Hodgson jokes in his book that 4...a6 is played to prepare this move! Here NCO gives 7.Bf4 e6 8.e3 ±, after which my database gives two games, both won by White. Shulman's move 7.Nh4 also looks good.

7.Nh4 Bg6 8.a5 dxc4 9.Qxc4 Nbd7 10.g3 e5 11.Bg2 exd4

Black gives up the center because he has the counterpunch ...e5 – a side-effect of White's 7.Nh4.

12.Qxd4 Bc5 13.Qc4 Qe7 14.0-0 Ne5 15.Qb3



15...Neg4?

A strange decision, since Black doesn't follow up with ...Nxf2.

On 15...Ra8 (to answer Na4 with ...Ba7) 16.Bf4! the b-pawn is ticklish.

However, 15... 0-0 16.Na4 Bd6 looks playable.

16.h3 Ne5

So White gets two free moves which help trap the bishop at g6 – first 16.h3 and now 17.Na4 to shake off the pin on the f-pawn.

17.Na4 Bb4 18.f4 Ned7 19.Qe3! Ra8 20.f5 Bh5 21.g4 Bxg4 22. Qxe7+ Bxe7 23.hxc4 Nxc4 24. Nf3 Nc5 25.Nd4 Rd8 26.Rf4 h5 27. Nxc5 Bxc5 28.Re4+ Kf8 29. Ra4 Nf6 30.Bg5 Rd5 31.Bxf6 gxf6 32. Kh2 Kg7 33.Bf3 Bxd4 34.Raxd4 Rhd8 35.Rxd5 Rxd5 36.Rb4 Rxa5 37.Rxb7 Rxf5 38.Rb6 a5 39.Rxc6 a4 40.Ra6 Rb5 41.Rxa4 Rxb2 42. Bxh5 Rb5 43.Bf3 Re5 44. Kg3 Re7 45.Kf4 Kg6 46.Be4+ Kg7 47.Rb4 Rd7 48.Rb7 Rd6 49.Bf5 Rd2 50. Bd3 Rd1 51.Rc7 Rf1+ 52. Ke3 f5 53.Bc4 Kf6 54.Rxf7+ Ke5 55. Re7+ Kf6 56.Rb7 Ke5 57.Rb5+ Kf6 58.Bd3 1-0

QGD Exchange D36

Igor Shtern 2375

Jason Doss 2312

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Qc2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 c6 8.a3 b6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 Re8 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rad1 Ne4 14.Bg3 Nxc3 15.hxc3 Nf6 16. Rfe1 Qc7 17.Nh4 Rad8 18.Qa4 Qb8 19.Rc1 Bf8 20.b4 Qa8 21.Bb1 Re6 22.Qc2 Rde8



23.Nf3 Bd6 24.Ne2 Ne4 25.Nf4 R6e7 26.Nd2 g6 27.Nf1 Qb8 28. Red1 Qd8 29.Qb3 Qd7 30.a4 Bb8 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.b5 g5 33.Nd3 Kg7 34.Rc3 R4e6 35.Rdc1 cxb5 36.axb5 a6 37.bxa6 Bxa6 38.Nd2 Bb7 39.Nf3 f6 40. Nb4 Qb5 41.Qb1 Bd6 42.Rb3 Qd7 43.Qf5 Bc7 44. Rbc3 Bd8 45.Ne1 R8e7 46.Ned3 Qb5 47.Ra1 Re4 48. Ra7 Rf7 49. Rc1 Ree7 50.Qg4 Qd7 51.Qh5 Qe6 52.Qe2 Qd6 Draw

Sicilian Dragon B70

Lester Van Meter 2200

John Sneed 2035

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.Nc3 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.d4 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Nde2 Nf6 7. g3 0-0 8.Bg2 d6 9.b3 Qa5 10.Qd2 Bd7 11.Bb2 b5 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.a3 Rab8 14.h3 Be6 15.Rfd1 Nd7 16.f4

b4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.Na4 Bxb2 19.
Nxb2 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 Nc5 21.Nd1



21...Bxb3 22.cxb3 Nxb3 23.Rda2
Nxa1 24.Rxa1 Rb4 25.Rc1 e6 26.
Kf1 a5 27.Ke1 Kf8 28.Kd2 Ke7
29.f5 Na7 30.Rxc8 Nxc8 31.fxe6
fxe6 32.Kc3 Nb6 33.Ne3 Na4+ 34.
Kd2 Nc5 35.Nc3 Kd7 36.Nc2 Rb3
37.Bf1 Rb8 38.Bg2 Kc7 39.Ne3
Rb2+ 40.Nc2 a4 41.Bf1 a3 42.
Nb5+ Kd7 43.Nbxa3 Nxe4+ 44.
Kc1 Rb3 45.g4 Rg3 46.Nc4 Rg1
47.N2e3 Ng3 48. Nd2 d5 49.Kc2
Nxf1 50.Nexf1 Rh1 0-1

Caro-Kann Classical B19

David John 2346

Drew Sarkisian 2239

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.
Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.
h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.
Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.Qe2 Qc7
13.0-0 Bd6 14.Nf5 Bf4 15.Ne3



15...Nd5

ECO gives 15...Ne4 16.Be1 Ndf6
17.g3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 0-0=.

16.Nc4 0-0-0 17.Nfe5 Bxd2+ 18.
Rxd2 Rhf8?!

Black wants free his queen from
the defense of f7 so he can play the
freeing move ...c5; but first he needs
to play 18...N7f6, with ...Rhf8 and
...c5 to follow.

19.Qg4 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Rg8 21.
Nd6+ Kb8 22.c4 Nb4 23.a3 Qa5
24.Rhd1 Na6 25.Qg3 f6 26.f4 fxe5
27.fxe5 Rdf8 28.Rf2 Qc7 29.Rdf1
Qe7 30.Rf7 1-0

Sicilian B52

Selby Anderson 2260

Mark Dejmek 2121

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.
Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.e5 dxe5
7.Nxe5 Qc8 8.b3!? (8.Qf3) 8...g6
9.Bb2 Bg7 10.Ng4 Nh5 11.Bxg7
Nxf7 12.Re1 h5 13.Ne5 Nc6 14.
Nc3 0-0 15.Nd5 Kh7! 16.Nxc6
Qxc6 17.Nxe7 Qd6 18.c4 Rfe8 19.
Nd5 Rxe1+ 20.Qxe1 Re8 21.Qf1
Nf5? (21...Qe5 ∞/=) 22.Re1 Re5
23.d3 b5 24.f4 Rxe1?! (24...Re6)
25.Qxe1 b4 26.Qe5 Qe5 27.fe5
Nd4 28.Kf2 g5 29.Ke3 Kg6 30.
Ke4 Ne2 31.Ne7+ Kg7 32.Kd5
Nf4+ 33.Kxc5 Nxd3+ 34.Kd6 Kf8
35.Nc6 Ne1 36.g3 Nf3 37.Nxa7
Nxf2 38.c5 Nf3 39.e6!? (39.c6)
39...fxe6 40.c6 Nd4 41.c7 Nf5+
42.Kd7 Ne7 43.Nc6 1-0

QP Opening D02

Steven Grubbs 2029

Ali Morshedi 2127

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.Bg5 f6 4.Bf4
Nd7 5.e3 e6 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.cxd3
Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Ne7 9.a3 Bd6 10.
Bxd6 cxd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qb3 a6
13.Ne2 g5 14.Ra1 b5 15.Rc2 Nb6
16.Rfc1 Ng6 17.Nd2 f5 18.Qb4
Nc8 19.Nb3 f4 20.exf4 gxf4 21.f3
Qg5 22.Kh1 Nh4 23.Ng1 Ra7 24.

Nh3 Qg6 25.Qe1 Nxf3 26.gxf3
Qxd3 27.Rc3 Qf5 28.Rxc8 Qxb3
29.Qg1+ Rg7 30.Rxf8+ 1-0

Caro-Kann B12

Aidan Rawlinson (unrated)

John M. Jarrett 2000

Texas Chp. 2000 (6)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6
5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 c5 7.h4 h6 8.Be3
cxd4?!

Better is 8...Nc6 or 8...Qb6.
9.Nxd4 Nc6 10.f4 Nge7 11.Ncb5
Nc8 12.f5 exf5 13.gxf5 Bh7 14.e6
a6 15.exf7+ Kxf7 16.Ne6 Qf6

Or 16...Qa5+ and (a) 17.c3? axb5
18.Qxd5 Ke8 19.Bf4 N8e7 20.Qd6
Rc8 -/+; (b) 17.Bd2 Bb4+ 18.c3 Bd6
19.Nxd6+ Nxd6 20.c4 ±.



17.Qxd5

Also good is the flashy 17.Ng5+
when 17...hxg5? 18.Qxd5+ Ke7 19.
Bc5+ Ke8 20.Nc7 is a cheap mate.
Better is 17...Ke7 18.Bc5+ Ke8 (18...
Kd7 19.Qxd5+ Bd6 20.Bxd6 +-)
19.Nc7+ Kd7 20.Nxa8 Qe5+, but
White's material advantage should
prevail.

17...Qxf5

If 17...axb5?? then 18.Nc5+ and
mate next.

18.Ng5+ Kf6?

18...Ke7 19.Bc5+ Kf6 20.Nxf7+
Rxf7 (20...Qxh7 21.Bh3 +-) 21.
Qxf5+ Kxf5 22.Bd3+ +-.

19.Qf7+ Ke5 20.Nf3+ 1-0
20...Ke4 21.Bd3+ +-.

AMATEUR GAMES

QGD Tarrasch D40

Michael Simpson 1995

Doyle Lobaugh 1522

Texas Amateur 2000 (1)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nc6 10.Re1 a6 11.Bb3 b5 12.d5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Qxd5 Bd7 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh6 Re8 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7 18.Qxh7+ Kf6 19.Bg5+ Kf5 20.Qh3 mate 1-0

Robert Bistany 1934

Albert Meyer 1509

Texas Amateur 2000 (1)



54.e4? fxe4+ 55.fxe4 dxe4+ 56.Kxe4 Nf5 57.Nc3 Nxe4 58.d5 Nf5 59.dxc6+ Kxc6 60.Nd5 Ng3+ 61.Kd4 h4 62.Nxf6 h3 63.Ng4 Nf1 64.Ke5 Ne3 65.Nf2??

65.Nh2 draws – the knight can only get trapped in the corner.

65...h2 66.Nh1 Kxc5 67.Kf6 Kd4 68.Kxg6 Ke4 69.Kg5 Kf3 70.f5 Nxf5 (71.Kxf5 Kg2 -) 0-1

Caro-Kann B18

Tyson Slesnick 1362

Gary Blanchard 1839

Texas Amateur 2000 (1)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bc4 Ngf6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6 exf6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nh4 Bh7 12.Re1 0-0 13.

Nhf5 Re8 14.Qg4 Bg6 15.Qxg6 1-0

French Defense C11

Jason Howell 1941

Gary Carlson 1670

Texas Amateur 2000 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.f4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Qa5!?

Compare to 9...Qb6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 12.Qd2 ± Tarrasch-Noa, Hamburg 1885.

10.Nf3 Nb6

Dr. Noa did not have this move available!

11.Nc3 Nc4 12.Bxc4 dxc4 13.0-0 Bd7 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qd5 16.Bc1 0-0 17.a4 Ne7 18.Qe2 a6 19.Nd2 Rfc8 20.Ne4 Nf5 21.Kh1 Bc6 22.Re1 b5 23.Ba3 bxa4 24.Qg4 Kh8 25.Re2 h6 26.Qh5 Be8 27.g4? 27.Qh3 Bc6 28.Rd1 Δ 29.g4.



27...Nxd4 28.Rd1 f5 29.Qh3 Nxe2 30.Rxd5 exd5 31.Nd6 Rcb8 32.Nxe8 Rb1+ 33.Kg2 Nxf4+ 34.Kg3 Nxe3 35.Nc7 Rc8 36.Nxd5 Ng5 37.gxf5 Rd8 38.Ne7 Rd3+ 39.Kg2 Rxc3 40.Ng6+ Kg8 41.e6 Rxa3 0-1

Budapest Defense A52

Heather Flewelling 1641

Kelvin Shih 1842

Texas Amateur 2000 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bf4 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.a3

Nge5 8.axb4?? Nd3 mate

0-1

French Defense C14

Mike Berki 1800

Ratnasami Raman 1601

Texas Amateur 2000 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 a6 8.Nf3 c5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.0-0 0-0?

Black must play 11...f5.



12.Bxh7+! Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg6 14.Qg4 f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Nxe6+ Kh6 16...Kf7 17.Qh5+! Kg8 (17...Ke6 18.Qd5 mate) 18.Qg6+ Kh8 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Rf3 Qxe6 21.Qg6+ Kh8 22.Rg3 Qg8 23.Qh6+ +-.

17.Qh4+

17.Rf3! would end the game.

17...Kg6 18.f5+ Kf7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.Nxd5 Qf7 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Rf3 Nxe6 24.fxe6 Qh7 25.Rg3+ 1-0

Bird's Opening A03

Neal Bonrud 1796

Marc Weinberg 1470

Texas Amateur 2000 (3)

1. g3 d5 2. Bg2 Nf6 3. d3 c5 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Qe1 Nc6 8.e4 Qc7 9.b3?!

The first false step, preparing to misplace the QB which is already semi-developed where it sits.

A plausible alternatives, 9.Nc3 meets with the irritating 9...Nd4!.

I would try to gain space with 9.e5 Nd7 10.c4, when 10...Nb4 and 10...Nb6 are both met by 11.Qe2. Best seems 10...d4 11.Na3 =. 9...Nb4 10.Qe2 Rb8 11.a3 Nc6 12. Bb2 d4

The non-participation of the Bb2 will be a factor in this game. 13.Nbd2 b5(?)

Allowing 14.h3; more accurate is 13...Ng4 14.Nc4 b5 15.h3 bxc4 16. hgx4 cxb3 17.cxb3 Rxb3 -/+ 14.h4?

A textbook error in pawn management - better is 14.h3. 14...Ng4 15.Rfe1?!

Casually parting with the light squared bishop invites trouble. It is still a game after 15.Rfc1 Ne3 16. Bh3 followed by c2-c3. 15...Ne3 16.Nf1 Nxxg2 17.Qxxg2 f6 18.e5?

The only hope lies in 18.Bc1 Δ g4, f5, keeping the light squares blocked.

18...fxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Bb7 21.Qe2 Bd5 22.Qh2 Bd6 23. Re2 Qf7 24.Rae1 Qg6

Black's extended queen maneuver makes a pleasing impression. 25.Kf2



The absence of White's KB from the board, and his QB from the fray, are culprits in what follows:

25...Qg4! 26.Nd2? Reacting to the lesser threat. 26...Bxf4! 0-1

Pirc Defense B09

David Phillips 1975
Kelvin Shih 1842

Texas Amateur 2000 (4)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Qe2 Bg4 9.Be3 Qa5 10.0-0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc6 13. Rad1 Nd7 14.Bd2 Qd8 15.Kh1 e6 16.Be3 Nd4 17.Qf2 Nc6 18.Bc4 Na5 19.Bb3 Nxb3 20.axb3 Qe7 21. Bd4 Nf6 22.Rfe1 Rac8 23.Bxa7 Rfd8 24.Bd4 h5 25.e5 Ne8 26. exd6 Nxd6 27.Nd5 Qf8 28.Bxxg7 Kxxg7 29.Qd4+ Kh6 30.Ne3 Nc4



31.Qf6 Nxe3 32.Rxd8 Qxd8 33. Qxd8 Rxd8 34.Rxe3 Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Rb1 36.Rc3 Rxb2 37.Kg3 Kg7 38. Kf3 Kf6 39.Rc7 b5 40.Rc5 b4 41. Ke4 Rb1 42.Rc4 Re1+ 43.Kf3 Rc1 44.g4 Ke7 45.Kg3 Rg1+ 46.Kf2 Rc1 47.Kg3 Rg1+ 48.Kf2 Draw

Tromposwky Attack A45

Kelvin Shih 1842
Bruce Lewkowsky 1721

Texas Amateur 2000 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 d5 4.Nd2 A well-trodden position, where already there are many choices for Black: 4...Qd6 (Δ 5.c3?? Ng3 →), 4... Nxd2, 4...Nd6, 4...Bf5; and 4...Nxxg5. 5...c5!? 5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.dxc5 Qa5+ Black has also played 6...Qxd1+ 7.Rxd1 f6 and 8...e5.

7.Qd2

7.c3 Qc5 8.Nh3 Bf5 9.Be3 Qc7 10.g4 Bxxg4 11.Ng5 Nc6 12.Bg2 e6 13.Bxe4 h6 14.Nf3 Bd6 15.Qa4 ± Bellon-Pujos, Benasque 1993. 7...Qxc5 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.e3 h6 10. Bf4 e5 11.Bg3 Bg4 12.Be2 Be6



13.Kb1 Rd8

Black has achieved a better game than normal, but he starts to overplay his hand and neglect development. 13...Be7 14.f3 exf3 15.Nxf3 0-0 gives him a slight edge.

14.Qc1 Bxa2+? 15.Kxa2 Qa5+ 16. Kb1 Rxd1 17.Qxd1 Nb4 18.Bc4 Be7 19.c3 Nc6 20.Qd5 0-0 21. Qxa5 Nxa5 22.Ba2 Nc6 23.Ne2 Ra8 24.Kc2 b5 25.Rd1 Rc8 26. Kb1 Kf8 27.Bd5 Rd8 28.Kc2 f5 29.Bxc6 1-0

Pirc Defense B07

Stephen Wharry 1900
Kelvin Shih 1842

Texas Amateur 2000 (6)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 4.Ne2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c3 e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8. f3 Nh5 9.Be3 (9.g4) f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.Bxf5 Rxf5 12.g4 Rf8 13.gxh5 Qh4 14.Ng3 Nf6 15.Nd2 Nxxh5 16. Nde4 Nf4 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Ne2 Bf5 19.Nd4 Bh3 20.Rf2 Rae8 21. Ne6 Bxe6 22.dxe6 Qh6 23.Rg2 Qxe6 24.Ng5 Qe5 25.Ne4 Rf5 26. Nf2

(Continued on page 17)

UTD volunteers at the National Elementary

by Dr. Alexey Root

Since it was first held in 1976, the National Elementary has enjoyed the help of a wide variety of volunteers. Volunteers have funny stories to tell, because new situations bring challenges. At the same time, volunteering has a sweet nostalgia about it. If you were a child chess player, and now volunteer at scholastic events, you will recall moments from your own youth.

To participate in the first ever National Elementary, I traveled by Trailways bus with six boys from Omaha, Nebraska. The year was 1976: airplanes had been in use and proven safe. Yet the volunteer chaperones must have thought that riding a bus for 31 hours with seven children would be okay.

The two chaperones, Janet Kurlmel and Roberta Rogers, had their hands full with us. I played chess for quarters with assorted passengers, switched seats a lot, and talked. The boys had some kind of trouble with the bus rest room. On the way home, I did last minute souvenir shopping at the Baltimore stop and failed to hear the last call to reboard. Janet and Roberta rescued me from being left in Baltimore. For the rest of the trip, they paid me a penny an hour to be still and keep quiet.

The bus trip was probably the longest and definitely most memorable part of my first National Elementary. Though I also recall that Joel Benjamin's first place trophy was bigger than he was, and that I was disappointed finishing SECOND girl.

Now that I am grown up, I had the chance to volunteer at the 2000 National Elementary. Turns out that children today still talk a lot. I do, too. Also volunteering at this year's National Elementary were several members of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) Chess Program: GM Yuri Shulman, Masters Jeff Ashton and Andrew Whatley, and Michael Ferguson, Steven Grubbs, and Clemente Rendon. Here is the story of my day at the tournament, followed by stories from Steven, Andrew, Michael, and Clemente.

Alexey's story: I think it is nice for parents and coaches to realize that there can be an academic payoff for pursuing chess. UTD brochures can be shown to principals to reinforce the value of chess in the elementary schools. So my volunteering consisted of spreading the good word about UTD's scholarships for chess.

I decided to meet and greet by walking into "team rooms," small conference rooms rented by the bigger

teams. Usually this worked great. When I visited the Browning team room, WIM Shernaz Kennedy, whom I had not seen since our days competing in the Women's Championships of the late 80's, was busy coaching her students. I left her my business card. Bruce Pandolfini was coaching in another room. I asked his permission to talk with parents, and he graciously agreed.

Other rooms did not go quite as smoothly. I walked into one team room (the door was open), and a Mom was changing children out of swim suits into clothes. Oops, left quickly. Then I walked into the team room for another New York Elementary school. I talked with the coach and parents about the University of Texas at Dallas, how the UTD has the most selective admissions standards of all public universities in Texas, how we are considered the honors university of Texas, etc. One parent asked, "Do you have any services for special education students?" I was caught by surprise and said, "I don't know. I'd have to look into that." The parent said, "Because this school is a school for special education students." I then pointed out how chess intelligence is one not always noticed by traditional universities. UTD recognizes that chess intelligence is a hallmark of the type of student we want. I also talked about how UTD students are a good support system for each other, as all the chess players room together, study together, and become friends. The special education parents took my business cards and brochures.

Steven's story: When I caught up with Steven Grubbs, he looked busy and happy. This is not surprising, as Steven is hard working and loves teaching children. Steven's efforts were recently recognized by Anderson Elementary in Dallas. Steven sheepishly told me that he was returning to the center aisle after verifying the result of a game when he accidentally pulled a chair out just as a child sat down. He added that when he was not causing children to drop on their bottoms, he patrolled the games as a floor TD.

Andrew's story: Like me, Andrew Whatley remembered his own experiences as a player in the National Elementary. Andrew placed in the top five of the National Elementary three years in a row. He never won that event, but is the current U.S. Junior Open Champion.

Andrew wrote:

For me, being a TD was much different from playing. I made a comment to another TD that got posted in the TD room (The comment was: Boy, being a TD at the National Scholastic is a lot harder than playing in it.) It was true, the TD's and organizers do a lot of work and are on their feet during every round. The players can sit down and

just have to think and play. In the K-3 Under 800 section, I almost always had to answer the question: "Is this checkmate?"

Some of the other questions ranged from "If my opponent offers a draw three times, does he lose?" to "Can a king and rook mate" to "Can't I claim a draw because my bishop can stop his rook and three pawns?"

One of the funnier moments, though, was when I was away from the tournament at the Netcache Team Pep Rally (a.k.a. the Mayes' house before the 5th round) chanting "Slow! Slow! Slow! Slow!" (The team was told to play slower and not make mistakes because of playing fast. But the chant and togetherness made it seem like much more fun.)

Michael C. Ferguson volunteered to take photos for the UTD webpage, www.utdallas.edu. Michael photographed USCF Executive Director George DeFeis awarding UTD President Frank Jenifer two Koltanowski medals for UTD's outstanding contributions to chess. This is the first time the gold and silver medals have been awarded to a single institution. Michael also photographed UTD's Undergraduate Studies Dean Michael Coleman awarding a four year full tuition and fees scholarship (value \$30,000) to K-6 winner Hikaru Nakamura.

Michael's story:

My nine-year-old brother Scott played in the National Elementary. Scott's first few games were against the "fairer" sex. His opponents were ruthless, distracting him by smacking gum, twirling their hair, etc. I just told him that women would be doing these things to him all his life, so he should get used to it. The rest of Scott's games were against boys.

Clemente Rendon is the president of the UTD Chess Club. He is also a member of Young Republicans and active in student government, so it is not surprising that Clemente gave a great speech to the kindergarten through third grade section of the National Elementary. I asked a parent whether Clemente's speech could be heard over the typical noise before a last round. The parent replied that she could hear, and that Clemente was a poised and articulate representative of UTD.

Of course, we are always our own toughest critic. Here is what Clemente wrote about his speech:

When I was at the National Elementary, I gave a speech about the UTD Chess Program to the lower division. The speech was right before the last round and both parents and children were there. Of course, parents were skirmishing to conclude their

children's last round preparations, so it was difficult to speak over them. On part of my speech, I mentioned that UTD had finished second only to University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) at the Pan-Am. After the speech two parents asked me if UMBC would be giving another scholarship at next year's national. I think they thought I was from UMBC! After stifling a laugh, I told them that UTD was giving a scholarship this year, and would be giving out three scholarships at next year's Supernationals. One parent replied, "Well at least that college is close by for most people here." I have a suspicion that these parents were Yankees.

For further information about the University of Texas at Dallas Chess Program, please email me, Alexey Root, aroot@utdallas.edu.

Chess-Tales @ Elementary Nationals

(Coach/Dad Perspectives)

by Paul Weatherall

Tale of the Under/Over-Rated Teams

Everything is bigger (and better) in Texas, including ratings, right? This undeniable fact did not necessarily help us at the Elementary National Championships in Dallas (Grapevine) this year. As many have learned the lesson before us: Never judge a player by his/her rating.

Our 35-player St. Mark's team had home board advantage, but was short on veteran players. The guys did fantastic, especially considering the team is less than a year old. They also had a great time in the process, welcoming over 1500 other players from out of state. Space does not allow full discussion of the escapades of our junior varsity teams; instead a description of the K-6 Open team fun ought to suffice.

We knew our K-6 varsity team would do well at their first national ever because of our depth. Our three sixth grade rookies had done well enough early this year to push them out of the under-900 group, and they had been thoroughly tested by the middle school crowd at the state tournament. Peeking ahead at the Internet entries you could immediately see that very few of the top players had partners. Our super six sixth graders were ready to roll as a team, as we had no one in the top 50 entries and thus did not expect individual honors. Roll they did in the first round as our top four boards won as expected to move into a tie for first place at the

(Continued on page 23)

Texas Senior Championship

Poliakoff, Endsley and McGregor tie

The Texas Senior Championship was held June 10-11 in Huntsville, at the Criminal Justice Building adjoining the University Hotel at Sam Houston State University. The lighting was excellent, and there were executive swivel chairs for many of the participants.

Inclement weather discouraged some South Texas players, such as defending two-time champion John Patty and Bill Wheeler, from attending. This year's event ended in a dead heat, with Leon Poliakoff of Bonham, Barry Endsley of League City, and Robert McGregor of Houston, tied with 3-1 and sharing the honors as senior co-champions.

Duplicate scoresheets were not used, so we are hoping the winners will volunteer copies of their best games for the next issue!

The Futurity (under 55) section was won by Selby Anderson (4-0), who defeated Waco expert Ron Deike in the third round. A local high school player, Mark Weese (1080), had a stellar performance and tied with Deike for second place with 3-1.

Forrest Marler directed the event in conjunction with the Texas Women's Championship.

Sicilian B22

Charles Woods 1616

Mark Weese 1080

Texas Senior Futurity (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 d6 9.0-0 dxe5 10.dxe5 Qc7 11.Bf4 Bd7 12.Nc3 a6 13.Rc1 Be7 14.Re1 Rd8 15.a3 Qb8 16. Ne2? (16.Qe2) 16...Na5 17.Ba2??



17...Ba4 18.Qxd8+ Qxd8 19.Ned4 Bd7 20.Red1 Nd5 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.e6 Ba4 23.exf7+ Kxf7 and 0-1

French Tarrasch C06

Mark Weese 1080

Raymond Vogt 1394

Texas Senior Futurity (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4

8...f6 is an important side branch to 8...Qb6, and was Joe Bradford's main move in the '80s. The reply 8. Nf4 is considered speculative compared to 5.exf6; ECO gives it a "?!"
8...f6 9.Nf4!? Nxd4

Weese: "Very bad. He allows Qh5+ which is winning for White."
10.Qh5+ g6??

Black does well in the line 10... Ke7 11.exf6+ (11.Ng6+ is worse, leaving Black with a pawn armada) 11...Nxf6 12.Ng6+ hxg6 13.Qxh8 Kf7. Langer tried 14.b3!? against Patty in the '99 Texas Open. Also debated are 14.0-0, 14.Qh4 and 14.f4.

Giving up the g-pawn with 10... g6?? leads to a slaughter.

11.Nxg6 Rg8 12.Nh8+ Rg6 13. Nxg6 Nc5 14.Nh8+ Kd7 15.Qf7+ Kc6 16.Bb1 Bh6 17.Qxh7 Bxd2+ 18.Bxd2 Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20. Qxe4+ Qd5 21.Rc1+ Kb6 22.Qxd5 exd5 23.Be3 fxe5 24.Nf7 Be6 25. Nxe5 1-0

QP Opening A41

Selby Anderson 2260

Ron Deike 2110

Texas Senior Futurity (3)

1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 Bg4 3.g3!? Bxf3 4. exf3 e6 5.c4

5.f4 c6 6.Bg2 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.c3 Nd7 9.a4 Ne7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Nf3 Rac8 13.Bd2 Rfd8 14.Qc2 c5 = Polugaevsky-Miles, Biel 1980.

5...c6 6.Bg2 Nf6

I was concerned about 6...d5, when 7.b3 dxc4 8.bxc4 Bb4+ 9.Ke2 (Δ Bb2, Qb3, Rd1, Kf1) is probably good for White despite the temporary inconvenience.

7.0-0 Be7 8.f4 d5 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 b5 11.Nd2 a5 12.Nf3 Nbd7 13. Ne5 Qb6 14.Qc2 Rfc8



15.c5 Qd8 16.a3 Ne8 17.b4 Bf6 18. a4 Bxe5 19.fxe5 bxa4 20.Rxa4 axb4 21.Rfa1 Rcb8 22.Qb3 f6 23. exf6 Rxa4 24.Rxa4 gxf6 25.Bh3 Ng7 26.Rxb4 Rxb4 27.Qxb4 Qb8 28.Qxb8+ Nxb8 29.Kf1 Kf7 30. Ke1 Nd7 31.Kd2 f5 32.Kc3 Nf6

32...e5 33.Kb4 exd4 34.Bxd4 Ne6 35.Bxf5 ±.

33.f3 Nd7 34.Kb4 Ne8 35.Bf1 Ke7 36.Bd3 Nf8?

36...Kd8 37.Ka5 Kc7 is the best chance to hold. Ironically, I was the one who was in dire time pressure.

37.Ka5 Kd7 38.Kb6 Ng6 39.Bc1 f4

White was threatening Ba6-b7 followed (after ...Ne7) by Bg5 and Bxe7. The defense would soon run out of good moves in the line 39... Nc7 40.Bg5 Nf8 41.g4.



40.Bxf4 Nxf4 41.gxf4 h6 42.f5 1-0

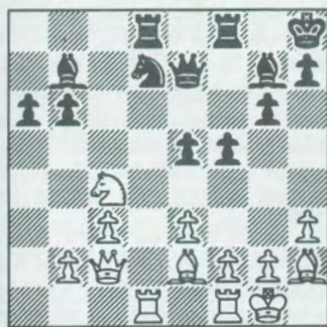
London System A47

Mark Weese 1080

Selby Anderson 2260

Texas Senior Futurity (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 b6 4.h3 Bb7 5.e3 d6 (5...c5; 5...Bd6!?) 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7.Be2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9. c3 0-0 10.a4 a6 11.Qc2 Qe7 12.Nc4 Ne4 13.Ncd2 Nxd2 (13...f5!?) 14. Nxd2 e5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Bh2 f5 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.a5 Kh8 19.axb6 cxb6 20.Nc4



20...Qg5 21.g3 b5 22.f4 Qe7 23. Na5 Be4 24.Bd3 Ba8 25.b4 exf4 0-1

Alston wins Texas women's title

The Texas Women's Championship had a strong field despite the absence of WIM Alexey Root, with an expert and two 1900 players.

The winner was Angela Alston of San Antonio, who some readers may remember as Tony Alston, the TCA president in the early 1990s. No complaint was raised, and at any rate Angela can produce documentation that she is considered a woman by all the proper authorities.

Mark McCue of San Antonio donated \$700 to the prize fund, as well as a dozen roses.

Notes by Angela Alston

King's Indian E97

Angela Alston 2159

Katy Roberts-Hoffman 1903

Texas Women's Chp. 2000 (3)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Nd2 Nd7

9...a5 slows down queenside expansion.

10.b4 f5 11.c5!?

A Greek gift.



11...dxc5?!

11...Nf6 ∞ is Vaganian-Shirov, Manila 1990 and Shirov-Akopian, Daugavpils 1989.



Angela Alston

11...Bh6 is Epishin-Uhlmann, Frankfurt 1990 (by transposition): 12.Nb5! Nf6 13.Nxc7! ±.

12.bxc5 Nxc5 13.Ba3 b6

13...Nxe4 14.Ndx4 fxe4 15. Nxe4 Bf5 16.d6! cxd6 17.Nxd6, or 13...Nd7 14.Nb5!

14.Bc4

Solidifying the center first.

[14.Bxc5 bxc5 15.Nb3 Kh8 16. Qd2 fxe4 17.Nxc5 Nf5 18.N5xe4 Bh6 19.Qd3 ± Lputian-Akopian, Yerevan 1988.]

14...Kh8 15.Bxc5 bxc5 16.Nb3 fxe4 17.Nxc5 Nf5

17...e3 18.fxe3 Bh6 19.Qd3 Nf5 20.Rae1 Qg5 21.N3e4 offers Black more than the text.

18.N3xe4 Qe7 19.Rc1 Nd6 20.Bd3 Bf5 21.Qe2 Bh7 22.Rc3 Rac8 23. g4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Bxe4 25.Nxe4 Rf4 26.f3

Black's pawn weaknesses decide the game.

26...Qb4 27.Qc4 Bf8 28.Qxb4 Bxb4 29.Rc4 Ba5 30.Kg2 Rd8 31.Rd1 h6 32.Rc6 Kh7 33.Re6 Rf7 34. Rxe5 Bb4 35.Re6 Bd6 36.Rb1 Bf4 37.Rb5 Kg7 38.Ra6 Rfd7 39.Nc5 c6 40.Rxc6 1-0

MOVING?

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Agaian places 3rd in Pan Am Under-10

Sarkis Agaian placed third in the Boys' Under 10 division of the FIDE Pan American Youth Championships, held May 28-June 1 in Bento Gonçalves, Brazil. The 1999 Texas Primary champion scored five points in the seven round event, finishing half a point behind Alex Cuevas of Argentina and Luis Quijano of Ecuador.

There were 40 players in the Under-10 division, which was contested alongside U12, U14 and U16 events. In Under-16 an American, Dmitry Schneider, won first place.

Based on comments the Agaians received, it appears that Sarkis qualified for the World Youth Championships to be held Oct. 10-24 in Oropesa del Mar, Spain.

Pirc Defense B08

Sarkis Agaian (USA)
Luis Quijano (ECU)

Pan Am U10 (2)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 c6 6.a4 a5 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Re8 10.Rad1 Na6 11.Rfe1 Nb4 12.Qc1 Qc7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Rad8 15.Ne2 e5 16.c3 Na6 17.Ng3 c5 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Be2 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 c4 21.Qc2 Qc6 22.f3 Nc5 23.Bxc4 Nxa4



24.Qb3 Re7 25.Bb5 Nc5 26.Qc4 Qe6 27.Qxc5 Bf8 28.Qc4 Qxc4 29.Bxc4 Rc7 30.Bb3 Bc5 31.Bxc5 Rxc5 32.Bd5 Rb5 33.Rd2 b6 34.Bc6 Rc5 35.Rd6 Kg7 36.Kf2 b5 37.Bd5 b4 38.cxb4 axb4 39.Rc6 Ra5 40.Bc4 Nd7 41.Rc7 Rc5 42.Rxc5 Nxc5 43.b3 Nb7 44.Ne2 Nd6 45.Ng3 f5 46.Bd5 fxe4 47.fxe4 1-0

Enrique Rios is SACC champion

Enrique Rios won the San Antonio Chess Club championship in May, drawing the first game and winning a G/30 playoff against defending champion Selby Anderson. Rios will attend the University of Texas at Dallas this fall, having been awarded a scholarship there for his showing in the 1999 Texas Grade.

English Opening A36

Enrique Rios 2022
Selby Anderson 2261

SACC Chp. 2000

1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 e6 6.Nge2 Nge7 7.d3 a6 8.Be3 Nd4 9.0-0 Rb8 10.Rb1 Nec6 11.Qd2 d6 12.a3 b5 13.b4



12...cxb4

13...0-0!? offering a pawn can transpose to Rios-Simpson, Texas Team 2000: 14.cxb5 axb5 15.bxc5

dx5 16.Bxd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Rxb5 Ba6 =/∞. 14.axb4 0-0 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Ne2 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qe7 18.c5 Rd8 19.d4 dxc5 20.dxc5 Bb7 21.Rfd1 Qc7 22.f4 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Bc3 24.Bd2 Bd4+ 25. Be3 Bc3 Draw

Center Counter B01

Selby Anderson 2261
Enrique Rios 2022

SACC Chp. 2000

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.d4 e5 4.Nf3!?

4.dxe5 Qxd1+ (4...Qxe5+ =) 5.Kxd1 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 is a well-known gambit.

4...Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.0-0!?

6.Nc3 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 gives an edge to White due to the bishop pair.

6...e4

6...Bxf3 7.Bxf3 Qxd4 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Qe2! Rd8 10.Nc3 Bd6 11.Rd1 gives White some compensation for the pawn.

7.Nc3 exf3!?



8.gxf3!?

8.Nxd5! fxe2 (a) 9.Re1? 0-0-0 10.Qd2 Rxd5 -/+; (b) 9.Nxc7+! Kd7 10.Qd3 exf1(Q)+ 11.Kxf1 Kxc7 12.Qg3+ ±. It's an unusual situation, with Q + 2P vs. R + N + B.

8.....Qxd4 9.fgx4 0-0-0 10.Qxd4 Nxd4 11.Bd3 Nf6 (11...h5!) 12.h3

(Continued next page)

ACE challenge match: Novosad vs. Langer

Two Austin masters have started a match, a rare chess event nowadays among strong players. Mack Novosad, the 1998 ACE co-champion, challenged 1999 champion Mikhail Langer to a six-game match. The first two games are played at 40/1, SD/60 time controls, the next two at G/60, and the last two at G/30. The ACE board put up a \$200 prize fund for the match, with \$125 to the winner and \$75 to the loser. At present, Langer leads by 1.5 to 0.5.

Torre Attack A46

Mack Novosad 2247

Mikhail Langer 2285

ACE match 2000 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 b6 4.Bg5 Ba6 5.Nbd2 c5 6.e4 Bxf1 7.Nxf1 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc7 9.Qf3 Qe5 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Ne3 Qxf3 12.Nxf3 Bc5 13.Ke2 Ke7 14.Rhd1 Nc6 15.Nc2 b5 16.Ncd4 Rhc8 17.Rd2 Nxd4+ 18.Nxd4 b4 19.Rc1 bxc3 20.Rxc3 Bb4 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc2 Rxc2+ 23.Nxc2 Bc5 24.Ne3 Bd4 25.b3 Kd6 26.Kd3 Bb6 27.b4 Kc6 28.Kc4 d5+ 29.exd5+ exd5+ 30.Nxd5 Bxf2 31.a4 h5 32.b5+ Kd6 33.a5 h4 34.h3 Bg1 35.a6 Kd7 36.b6 axb6 37.Kb5 Kc8 38.Nxb6+ Kb8 39.Nd5 g5 40.Ne7 Kc7 41.Kc4 Kb6 42.Nc8+ Kxa6 43.Nd6 f6 44.Ne4 Kb6 45.Nxf6 Kc6 46.Kd3 Kd6 47.Ne4+ Ke5 48.Nxg5 Kf4 49.Nf3 Bf2 50.Ke2 Bg3 51.Nd2 Bh2 52.Kf1 Bg3 53.Kg1 Be1 54.Nf1 Ke4 55.Kh1 Kf4 56.Kh2 Bf2
Draw

Sicilian Four Knights B33

Mikhail Langer 2285

Mack Novosad 2247

ACE match 2000 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.

a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.Bd3 d4 11.Qe2+ Be6 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 0-0 14.Qd3 f5 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.b4 a5 17.Bb2 axb4 18.axb4 Rxa1+ 19.Bxa1 c5 20.0-0 cxb4 21.Bxd4 Qc7 22.Qe3 Bd5 23.Ra1



23...h6

23...Qxc2? 24.Qe5 +; 23...Ra8? 24.Rxa8+ Bxa8 25.Qe8 mate.
24.Ra7 Bb7 25.f3 Rf7 26. Bc5 Qd7 27.Bxb4 Qd1+ 28.Be1 Qxc2 29. Qe8+ Kh7 30.Qxf7 Qc5+ 31.Kh1 Qxa7 32.Bc3 1-0

Amateur (cont'd from p. 11)



26...h5 27.h3 Rg5 28.Qb3+ Kh8 29. Qxb7 Rxc2+ 30.Kxc2 Qg5+ 31.Kf1 Qc5 32.Rc1 Qc4+ 33.Kg2 Qe2 34. Qxc7 Bd4! 0-1

35.cxd4 Rg8+ 36.Kh1 Qxf2 and mate follows.

Pirc Defense B07

Tom Chi 1792

Mark McCue 1846

Texas Amateur 2000 (6)

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.h4 Nxc5 5.hxc5 g6 6.Ne5 Bg7 7.e3 d6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.c3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nbd2 Nf7 12.Qb3 d5 13.0-0-0 c6 14.e4!



14...Qb6 15.exd5 Qxb3 16.Nxb3 0-0 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Bc4 a5 19. Nc5 a4 20.a3 Ra5 21.Nd7 Bxd7 22.Rxd7 Rc5 23.Ba2 f4 24.Re1 1-0

SACC (cont'd from last page)

12...Bd6 13.Kg2 Rhe8 14.Be3 Be5 15.Rae1

15.f4? Nxc2! 16.Bxc2 Bxc3 17. bxc3 Rxe3 -/+.

15...Nc6 16.Bb5 Re6 17.Bc4 Re7 18. Bc5 Red7 19.Ne4?

19.Bd3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 g6 21.f4 ±.
19...Nxe4 20.Rxe4 Bxb2 21.Rb1 Bd4 22.Bxd4 Nxd4 23.Bd3 Ne6 24.Reb4 c6 25.Ra4 a6 26.Rab4 g6 27.Rb6 Nc5 28.Bf1 and Black won, 0-1

State Bughouse results

The Texas Bughouse Championship was held in Dallas during the state championship. The new bughouse champions are Eric Wiggins and Neph Diaz. The U2000 champs are Laura Lindzey and Jeffrey Sneden. Al Sprague directed.

Reflections on the Houston Absolute

by Eugene Kohnitz

The Houston Absolute Championship 2000 followed the pattern of recent years. The field was the usual mix of Young Turks, Middle-aged Militants, and Old Lions, and its ending in a three-way tie between 4-1s is not a real surprise. However, some of the twists of fate that shaped the winning trio's makeup were! In particular, I was happily amazed at how Caissa smiled on me, but in truth it was a rueful, cynical smile.

As it stood, the field was notable due to the absence of many strong contenders. Robert Brieger, David John, and Ali Morshedi to name a few, were among the master-strength spectators. Bighamian himself chose to bow out due to a tight schedule, but stepped in as a house player for round one – a story in itself. Mark Dejmek came in too late to be paired; instead of accepting the proffered half-point bye, he apparently challenged Mick on the spot, essentially playing a third- or fourth-round-strength opponent off the bat! Despite his gallantry and his propensity for upsets, Mark lost the game.

Certainly, Master Bill Reuter could stand as our champion. He joined the trio, paradoxically by first opting for a half-point bye in the last round, and then by ceding a draw to Larry White in the second. After beating Michael Williams in the end of the third, Clarence Yeung had the only perfect score, so the fourth pitted Clarence against Bill, the top two-and-a-half. After a difficult struggle, Yeung, with a queen and vulnerable king versus a rook and knight, failed to calculate at the moment of truth and walked into a mate! Second on tie-breaks, Michael Williams played

creatively, and notched three of the aforesaid Young Turks (Barnes, Sawyer and Glaser - Michael is himself one!), lost to Yeung, and won a intense fifth round against that paradigm of chess veterans, Billy Patteson.

The games that gave me my penultimate 3-1 were more than spotty in quality. In the first, Jimmy Dyches, whom I have reasons to respect, was not quite ready to play. Next, my personally assigned Young Turk, Matt Willis, came out fighting in his usual enterprising form. His exchange sac in the ending may have given him winning chances. In the third, Larry Moss was beating me soundly. I obstinately continued to play on to prove to myself that I could make the first time-control – after succeeding, we both continued blitzing the next few moves. Suddenly, we were looking at a draw! I felt rather silly, but this unease led me to the determination that the only way to justify accepting his offer was to play the last two rounds well! Sunday morning found me across the board from an equally determined Ronnie Rubit, who, as Black, turned the tables twice in the game to fully embarrass my English. I barely managed to repulse his second attack and reorganize my forces to establish a winning position.

Thus, the stage for round four was set, and I went to lunch knowing that I had my dream pairing: White against Clarence. I fully expected he would play a Dutch against the English, and I had about an hour before the game to study. I glanced briefly at NCO, hoping to see something interesting to play in lieu of my usual 1.c4 f5 2.e4. Nothing stood out, so I took a short nap in my car . . . then went in, washed up, and jumped into the ring . . .

English Opening A28

Eugene Kohnitz 1970

Clarence Yeung 2200

Houston Absolute 2000 (5)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.a3

After 4.d4 exd4 5. Nxd4, 5...Bb4 is annoying!

4...a5 5.d4 exd4

5...e4 leads to double-edged play after 6.Ng4 h6 7.Ngxe4 Nxe4 8. Nxe4 Qh4; but here White has better options (9. Qd3!) than in the analogous continuation without the moves a2-a3 and ...a7-a5.

6.Nd5!?

An inspiration of the moment: at best a TN! 6.Nxd4 Bc5 is an active continuation for Black.

6...h6

There is little reason to hold the gambit pawn (6...Bc5) and suffer the attendant problems (7.Bg5).

7.Bf4 d6 8.Nxd4 g5

I thought that this was a bit loosening, but it does define the role of White's dark-squared bishop - the retreat to g3 isolates it from the defense of the queenside.

9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Nb5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 Na7

After other knight moves, Black seems to have trouble defending against the pressure that can be applied to c7, e.g. 11...Nb8 12.Qc2 Na6 13.Rc1 Bd7 (offering an unclear pawn swap, c7 for b2) 14.e3 Rc8, when White has many options, including 15.b3, 15.Qd2, and 15. Bxd6!??

12.Nc3 Bxc3+!?

Unexpected! Black wants to finesse his knight back into the game. This was probably Black's most crucial move. Although it cedes the two bishops, it gives White a poor

minority on the queenside, shuffles the dark square weaknesses, and robs White of the crushing c-file pressure he expected to enjoy. However, i.e., with proper play, Black's majority can be held back. Alternatives include 12...Bf5, 12...h5!? and 12...0-0.

13.bxc3



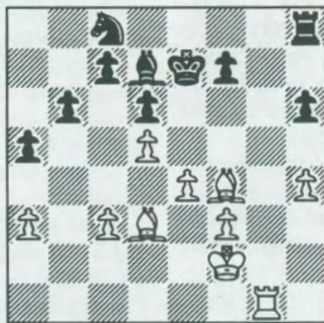
13...Nb5!?

Like I said, to finesse the knight back into the game! However, 13...Qf6 seems better. My initial impulse was to offer the trade 14.Qd4!? Qxd4 15.cxd4, which would provide rook-work down the b- and c-files. But I suspect that 14.Rc1, preparing the queen trade as well as other ideas, is the right choice. If after 14.Rc1 Black tries 14...Nb5, then 15.e3! is again troublesome – it denies Black access to d4 as well as jabs at the knight: 15...Nxc3? 16.Qb3 wins the errant fellow, or 15...Bd7 16.Qb3! forces him to fight get out of town.

14.e3 Na7 15.Qd4 0-0 16.h4 g4 17.Qf4 Kg7 18.Bd3 Qf6 19.Qxf6+ Kxf6 20.Rb1 b6 21.f3 gxf3 22.gxf3 Bd7 23.Bf4 Rh8

After 23...h5, White attacks the pawn by Rh1-g1-g5. 24.Kf2 Rag8 25.e4 Nc8 26.Rhg1 Rxl 27.Rxg1 Ke7

27...b5 is a mistake: 28.Rb1 Na7? 29.Be3 Ra8 (29...c5 30.dxc6) 30.Bxh6.



28.e5?!

Correct is 28.c4!, since 28...f6? 29.Rg7+ is bad for Black.

Now Black seizes the moment, and plays a wonderful series of moves to arrive at the next note.

28...b5! 29.h5 Nb6 30.exd6+ cxd6 31.Re1+ Kd8 32.Bxd6 Nxd5 33.Be5 Re8 34.c4 f6 35.Bb2 Rxe1 36.Kxe1 bxc4 37.Bxc4 Nf4! 38.Bxf6+ Ke8 39.Bg7 Nxh5

Yeung is a seasoned tournament player, and in retrospect I can almost believe that he had been working for some time to create this position after having correctly identified his best defensive plan for this ending. Here, he eliminates White's "wrong" rook-pawn – the one that promotes on the color opposite the one Black's lone bishop moves on!

40.Bxh6 Ke7 41.Bb3

Played with the idea of 42.a4, fixing Black's pawn on a dark square. Black continues to play well and according to his plan!

41...a4 42.Bd1 Kd6 43.Kd2 Nf6 44.Bf8+ Kc7 45.Kc3 Nd5+ 46.Kd4 Nf4 47.Bh6 Ng6 48.Kc5 Ne7 49.Bg5 Nf5 50.Bc2 Ng7 51.f4? Ne6+ 52.Kd5



52...Nxf4+!

Pow! I was totally oblivious to this possibility, and it took a whole turn for the import to sink in! (Well . . . things were getting a bit tight timewise!) Black has achieved a drawn ending, since White seems unable to win the pawn without trading the light-squared bishops. There were still a few tricks . . . In the end Black allowed White to mate him with the two bishops.

53.Bxf4+ Kb6 54.Kd6 Be8 55.Be3+ Ka6 56.Kc5 Kb7 57.Be4+ Ka6 58.Bf5 . . .

After some further moves (not recorded) the following position was reached:



Kohnitz finished with 1.Bb7+ Ka7 2.Bc5 mate

1-0

TCA Spring Membership Meeting

by TCA Secretary George John

The Spring 2000 meeting of the Texas Chess Association was held Saturday Mar. 12 during the 2000 State Scholastic Championships at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas. President Gary Gaiffe brought the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. The reading of the old minutes was dispensed with by acclamation.

Present were President Gary Gaiffe, Vice-President Forrest Marler, Secretary George John, *Texas Knights* Editor Selby Anderson, Enrique Rios, and Bob James. (Later arrivals included Jose J. Guajardo, Luis Salinas and Anthony Garcia.)

Old Business

Announcements of TCA Events Awarded for 2000: (1) Texas Action, April 1st, San Antonio; (2) Texas Junior Team, April 15th, San Marcos; (3) Texas Senior and Women's Championship, June 10-11, Huntsville.

Announcements of TCA Events Awarded for 2001: (1) Scholastic Championship, Southwest Chess Enterprises, Houston; (2) Texas Championship and Amateur Championship, Southwest Chess Enterprises, TBA; (3) Southwest Open, Menger Hotel, San Antonio; (4) State Grade and Collegiate Championship, Southwest Chess Enterprises, city TBA.

TCA support for the 2002 National High School: Selby Anderson has been working on a database of downtown San Antonio hotels. Bid is due April 2nd. [NOTE: A bid was not submitted, and Anderson intends to pass on it due to other pressing matters.]

Advance Agenda Items

• Enrique Rios: Amendment to Bylaws Article VI, Section 2: Replace the word Junior with the word Scholastic in "This meeting shall be held during the Texas Junior Championship." The amendment **passed**, 6-0.

• Anthony Garcia: All prospective officers must be members of TCA in good standing before being able to accept a nomination. They also must reside in the state of Texas. Anderson noted that existing Bylaws lack any requirement for residency.

This implies a Bylaws amendment to at least one section of Article V, and as it is of general import (not only scholastic) it was tabled for the Fall Membership Meeting. The motion passed a straw poll, 6-0.

• George John offered a friendly motion to allow submission to the TCA Webmaster at least one week prior to the meeting for posting on the Web site as well. This too passed a straw poll, 6-0.

• George John: An organizer of a TCA event may choose to charge an extra \$1.00 per TCA membership, that includes a magazine subscription, as a handling fee. This extra charge must be stated in pre-tournament publicity. Reason: to encourage organizers to sell TCA memberships.

Gary to Luis: How many memberships were sold at the State Scholastic? Answer: 15.

Selby: \$1.00 windfall collected from existing TCA youth and junior members.

Selby: Magazine breaks even for a \$7.50 scholastic member.

Luis pointed out that the TCA is better off collecting \$1.00 single tournament scholastic fees than selling \$7.50 scholastic memberships

The motion passed a straw poll, 7-1-1.

• George John: The TCA officers may authorize certain designated webmasters to charge an extra \$1.00 per TCA membership, that includes a magazine subscription and where the payment is accepted on a secure web server that accepts credit card purchases, as a handling fee.

• Bylaw: An organizer of a TCA event may choose to sell first-time Junior and Youth memberships for \$6.50. Straw poll: 7-0-1

New Business

• Enrique Rios: Resolved, that TCA shall provide a funding for the TCA Junior Invitational in the amount of \$10.00 for each Junior TCA member that plays in the tournament, not to exceed a total of \$300.00.

Gary said the motion eliminates the need for the organizer to ask for money for this event each year

Luis, speaking against the motion, suggested that the organizer be required to ask for the money every year. "There is no event that gets automatic money each year. This would be the first." He suggested equal treatment for all events.

The motion **passed**, 7-0-2

• George proposed friendly amendment to change the Texas Junior Invitational from age 18 and under to age 20 and under.

Enrique wanted to keep the event restricted to age 18 and under. He would like it to eventually be used to select the Denker representative.

Luis to Enrique: "You are currently inviting elementary students to your event."

Gary said "Ninety-five percent of all high school students drop out of chess when they go to college," and said we need to find ways to encourage college students.

A straw poll of those in favor of raising the age limit from 18 to 20 passed, 7-1-2

• Gary Gaiffe proposed an amendment deleting from Article V, Section 5, A.2 the reference to the Director of Junior Chess. He said this position has no duties in the Bylaws and should be eliminated. George John seconded, adding that all current duties are performed by the scholastic committee. The amendment passed by a unanimous vote.

• Gary Gaiffe proposed to create a new office: the Director of Procurement would handle the purchase of chess sets for the TCA scholastic support program, and for other TCA approved projects such as equipment for the blind, etc. The motion passed a straw poll by a unanimous vote.

Professional Fundraiser for TCA

• Gaiffe also moved to create a Professional Development Position with emphasis on scholastic development. Currently there is only one paid position, the Editor of *Texas Knights*. Volunteers often have good intentions, but follow-through is often inadequate. He suggested hiring a professional fundraiser who can also put together a plan to promote the TCA. Pay will be a percentage of what they bring in plus a capped basic salary set at a maximum of \$1,000. Professionals know how to get money that volunteers would be unlikely to be able to tap.

Question from the floor: "Are the terms for remuneration a sufficient incentive?" Gary: "We'll call around and see if there is any interest." He said he doesn't want to spend a lot of money and wants the pay to be performance based. Selby suggested a 15% commission instead. How to judge performance to determine how much of the \$1,000 base to pay? From the floor: look for someone on jobs.com. Gary wants to see the TCA flourish. Fears that scholastic growth will outstrip the available volunteer resources. Bob James: a successful chess professional will serve as an example to students that careers in chess are possible. Gary asked the group to help look for leads for a professional fundraiser, and said any approvals that involve TCA funds should be made either by the scholastic committee and/or the full board. Selby recalled that Sony donated to TCA as a side benefit of Chessathon fundraising. Several thought that raising money for the TCA might not be too difficult.

Regional and state webmasters

• Gary moved to add to the Bylaw duties of Regional Directors (Article V, Section 5 F) the following: "The regional director shall be responsible for creating and maintaining a web page for their [sic] region. The TCA Webmaster will be notified of the site's URL." The regional director may do the site themselves or re-

cruit a suitable webmaster. One example of content would be to highlight chess playing opportunities in the region.

• Gaiffe: Add to the advance agenda for the Fall meeting the creation of the position of TCA Webmaster in the Bylaws. This passed a straw poll by a unanimous vote.

College Chess

• Gaiffe addressed the College Chess Pilot Project, first raised at the USCF College Committee meeting last year in Reno. In an effort to improve retention of USCF members when they go to college, Katie Stone will put together a brochure or letter targeted to the parents of graduating seniors. It would offer a four-year USCF college membership package at a reduced rate., and may be promoted as a graduation gift.

A second plan toward the same goal would be to develop a letter for college students, targeted at their specific schools, that discusses chess opportunities at that school including a point of contact. The USCF college membership promotional program could be included in this information. The first step is to put together a proposal to present to the Executive Board and the Executive Director.

Anthony Garcia suggested a big money (\$1,000 prize fund) college tournament to attract more college students to chess. Gary: it is tough to raise the prize fund, especially out of an organizer's own pocket.

State Scholastic Issues

Gary: Problem one is size. Last year and this year's tournaments were in the range of 1,300 students total. Both are considered very large. Very few organizers and site are available that can support tournaments this large. Luis: Twenty-six sites in Texas can support tournaments of this size at a reasonable rate. Gary: And only six cities – and that is generous (San Antonio, Austin, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Houston, and Corpus Christi). No one knew if El Paso was a possibility or not. George: Is this a concern? Luis: I always thought if the tournament grew too big, it would be divided into two tournaments. George: Which is preferred? One event at a convention center or breaking the event into two tournaments? Luis: Hotels threw in transportation for a convention center bid. He didn't know if the transportation would be adequate, however. Luis: Are there any bid problems? Gary: I'm concerned that a dubious, unproven, or unknown organizer might get a bid. Luis: I'm concerned that we may be too exclusive whom we are willing to award bids to.

(Continued on page 23)

interesting experience for our hero to be trying to psyche up for a game while his opponent is graciously accepting requests for autographs from the other players. So at the end of Round 2 our team still had a very similar 4.0 score, a significant slide down from the initial lofty heights.

However, our crew also slipped in their share of sucker punches, taking out three of the other guys who had ratings 200+ higher than ours. In the latter rounds the team had scratched their way back toward the top, hovering between third and seventh place. Going into the last round tied for third place, we actually came up with a real live team strategy (a true "first" for this coach). Considering our previous experiences, we decided that none of the players would look at the opponent's ratings prior to the game. Of course, not being a player, yours truly did look at the opposition's dumb useless ratings.

Well, this looked pretty darn good for the home team. Our top two boards had easy wins ahead of them (opponents over 200 points below our studs) and our other team members were paired against players that were at least potential victims. When we poked our heads back up from cover and surveyed the battlefield, our valiant crew returned with "only" 1.5 team points.

One of our "easy wins" turned out to be the Bronx Buzz Saw in person. This meek, mild 875-rated player never played against anyone below 1100 during the entire tournament, yet still ended up with 4 wins, 2 losses and a draw, leading his team to a twelfth place finish. This was no chainsaw massacre (dead even into a rook and pawn endgame), but was initially a disappointing loss nonetheless. Prior to the round, no one had looked to see how strong an 875 player from New York City could be. What we had nearly been flattened by was a Mega-Turbo version of the "Brownsville Effect" (strong local chess program in relative isolation = underrated players).

There were many other examples of this throughout the tournament hall, with all but one of the top ten teams having under-1000 players contributing heavily to the score (in a section with about half the players rated above 1000).

So instead of doing stupendous, our ninth place (best in Texas) team only did fantastic.

It was a great weekend of fun and learning that at the nationals: Ratings = Diddy-squat. ♣

Paul Weatherall
Pw4season@aol.com

An open letter to the FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov from Yasser Seirawan, three-time U.S. champion:

Enough is Enough

Dear Mr. Iljumzhinov,

The purpose of the present open letter is to register my despair and disgust over the current plight of FIDE and to highlight the urgent need for wholesale changes and a fresh start.

No international organization can ever hope to satisfy all of the people all of the time, but the key problem today is infinitely more serious: FIDE is no longer satisfying any of the people any of the time. When did FIDE last take an imaginative, workable initiative that received even a modicum of support from the chess world? When did it last deal with a major issue or event without shooting itself in the foot? Why has it stood by impotently as support and respect for it have evaporated, even amongst its traditional supporters? When did it last show any respect for the prestige of a game which is many centuries old? Above all, why has it allowed itself to become a laughing-stock through its serial incompetence?

The full catalog of disasters in recent years is too grimly familiar to need repeating here. The bouncing checks of Las Vegas and your unpaid promissory notes are just two well-publicized scandals from the past year that have made FIDE look clownish and tawdry. The latest debacle has been described by Peter Parr of Australia. As you are aware, he has explained in gruesome detail how the credibility of the entire FIDE title system is being further undermined, but the Australians aren't the first abusers of the loophole mentioned by him. It was, I believe, first discovered by the Mexican Chess Federation, which contrived to create dozens of new FIDE-titled players by that particular abuse. With all this coming on top of the Myanmar ratings scandal, why does FIDE seem so unconcerned? If FIDE does not properly respect and protect its titles, why should anyone? Don't fairness and rectitude count any more? Is FIDE really prepared to stand idly by and permit the wholesale destruction of its title system? Titles awarded by FIDE used to mean something. The way things are going, in a few years' time I may feel obliged to ask FIDE to take back my GM title, as such titles will not only be worthless but their recipients will find their integrity questioned.

Credibility is hard won and easily lost. The recent fiascoes involving FIDE have been astonishingly numerous and various. Not all, I concede, are altogether FIDE's fault. Top chess masters are strong-willed and there will always be disagreements and tensions be-

tween players and any governing body. Even so, how on earth has FIDE allowed itself to get caught up in multiple litigation, highly damaging whatever the outcome, with leading players Anatoly Karpov and Zsuzsa Polgar? Was it not your own election pledge to rectify the estrangement of Kasparov from FIDE events? Would it be unfair of me to suggest that besides the players just mentioned, Anand, Kramnik, Shirov, Morozevich and Galliamova are amongst those with angst towards FIDE? Are Champions Jun and Khalifman supportive of FIDE and its policies? For whom, pray tell, is FIDE working?

Your recent manifesto calling for the formation of a for-profit company to monopolize chess events hit an entirely new low. It was so ill advised and met with such unanimous derision throughout the chess world that serious questions again arise about the judgment of those behind a harebrained idea that was such an obvious non-starter. A FIDE organization which is so out of touch with the actual needs and interests of the chess world becomes more or less worthless, and at times it seems that FIDE's prime concern is to antagonize as many people as possible and to expose itself to maximum ridicule. The fact that FIDE's current Executive Board continues to support your ridiculous manifesto is proof positive that something is seriously wrong within FIDE's cozy confines.

To quote another prime example, the recent announcement of Tehran as the site for the upcoming FIDE Championship Finals is a travesty which has left me, and many others, barely able to contain our rage. If FIDE insists on Iran hosting the Finals, it should not be surprised by the inevitable calls to boycott the event, which in turn will diminish the standing of the eventual winner. In whose interest is that?

Your choice and the FIDE Executive Board's acceptance of Iran is a forcible reminder of your 1996 announcement of Baghdad as a site for the Karpov-Kamsky FIDE Championship. Then too, the choice of Baghdad was roundly criticized throughout the world. Eventually, you would retreat from this position, explaining that it had all been a ruse to gain publicity for chess. This knuckle-headed deception was a horrendous decision. Yes Virginia, there is such a thing as bad publicity. Even while you were hoodwinking the world's media you had informed challenger Kamsky that he faced forfeiture for violating your edict that he contest the match in Iraq. Such mendacity by you played a not inconsiderable role in Kamsky quitting the chess world. Chess had sunk to another new low. In subsequent interviews you would explain that Iraq owed a great deal of money to Russia and that a chess match

could be used as an inroad to meeting with the Iraqi regime at the highest levels to address that debt. That may be true, but FIDE exists to serve chess, not Russia's debtors. Nor is FIDE there for its President's personal gain. Whether in Iraq or Iran, your using chess for such purposes is a clear conflict of interest and a violation of your fiduciary responsibility as FIDE President.

It surely hasn't escaped your attention that the reality today is that FIDE is cheapening and destroying almost everything it touches. Its credibility in its titles, its rating system, its electioneering, its methods of governance, its public announcements, its own statutes is now perilously close to zero. The current FIDE leadership has so clearly proven itself incapable of proper governance that there is, once again, renewed discussion of a replacement organization.

Your legacy is all too clear. Never has FIDE been in such chaos. Never has its reputation sunk so low. Never has it been so isolated from reality. Never, in short, has there been a greater or more urgent need for a fresh start. The disasters over which you have presided have not happened by accident. We cannot simply wipe the slate clean and pretend that none of it ever occurred. All those responsible within FIDE must assume the consequences of their conduct and pay the price for the state in which organized – or disorganized – chess now finds itself. After all these years of mistakes piling upon one another, it is time to say enough is enough. The time has come when the interests of chessplayers can be furthered only if the full present FIDE leadership – and you first and foremost as President – resign your posts. I urge you to do so with immediate effect. It will then be the mammoth task of your democratically elected successors to begin work on re-establishing FIDE as a respectable, and respected, organization, one which helps rather than hinders the development of chess and seeks to restore the game's dignity worldwide.

On a closing, personal note, I stress that I have no ax to grind about the past, or any political ambition for the future. My sole concern remains what is in the interests of chessplayers of all levels throughout the world. The record shows that although I have never hesitated to criticize FIDE when necessary, I have sometimes found myself almost alone among masters and writers in defending it. Mr. President, it is time for you and your board to step aside.

On behalf of chess,
IGM Yasser Seirawan
Seattle, WA



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Please circle which session you will be attending: Morning Afternoon All-Day

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Unrated players in reserve may win unrated prizes only. No computers, no smoking, wheelchair access.

Entry Fees: \$45 if received by Aug. 31, \$55 later.

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

Registration: 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2

Two half point byes available with notice before Round 2.

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

TCA membership meeting Sunday at 9 a.m.

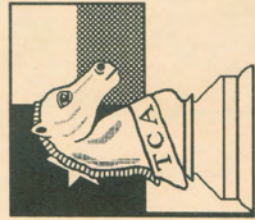
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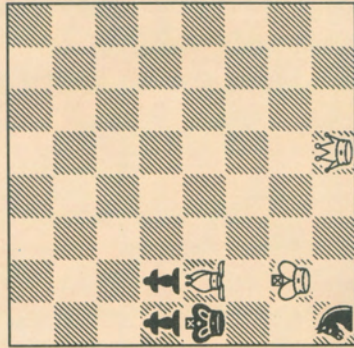
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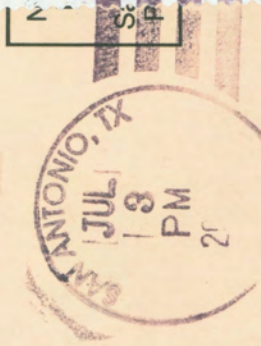
Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023-0501

See inside front cover for
TCA membership information.

Eligiusz Zimmer, Poland
StrateGems, April/June 2000



Mate in two
Solution: page 23



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