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Contributors this issue: NM Selby Anderson, Neil Brennan, J.P. Hyltin, Windy Leal, Luis Salinas, Hailey Winston.

Send submissions (paper or disk) with your phone number to P.O. Box 5768, Waco, TX 76708-0768; or e-mail to mleal@hotmail.com. PGN files are preferred. Please mail a printout for ChessBase formatted submissions.

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Langer Wins New Year Open

By NM Selby Anderson

Top-rated Mikhail Langer of Austin won the Open section decisively, 4.5-.5. He started with four straight wins, putting him a point ahead of the field when he offered an early draw to Jim Rohrbaugh. The top rated local and city champion, Jose Silva, was unrecognizable. He lost his first two games, to J.P. Hyltin and Pete Gibson, and threw in the towel.

Juan Carrizales, one of our most regular club players at Lion's Field, won the Reserve section with 4.5-.5.

Martin Gordon directed a field of 74

players. The event was held Jan. 1-2 at the Hilton-San Antonio Airport.

The books and equipment vendor, Richard Crespo (Cajun Chess) graciously donated \$150 of the sales proceeds to the chess club. It came as a shock to find his name in the news a couple of weeks later, when he was charged with aggravated kidnapping and sexual assault after a 19-hour standoff with police at a Northwest Side hotel. Some of the facts are still in dispute, we gather from San Antonio Express-News online.

PRIZE WINNERS

Open			
1st	Mikhail Langer	4.5	\$333
2nd+U2200	Bradley Sawyer	4.0	\$167
	Deepyman Datta	4.0	\$167
2nd U2200	Don Sutherland	3.5	\$75
!st-2nd U2000	William Ong	3.0	\$67
	Jonathan Allen	3.0	\$67
	Timiothy Banks	3.0	\$67
Reserve			
1st	Juan Carrizales	4.5	\$200
2nd	Anthony Guerra	4.0	\$50
	David Prevost	4.0	\$50
U1600	Raymond Grillo	3.5	\$61.33
	Rheanna English	3.5	\$61.33
	Michael LaBelle	3.5	\$61.33
U1400	Kristy Eng	3.5	\$50 *
	Fernando Spada	3.5	\$50 *
	Antonio Hung	3.5	\$50 *
Unrated	Anthony Lejarzar	2.0	\$84

* \$55.65 should have been paid to all the U1600/U1400 players. The U1400s have been reimbursed for their \$5.65 underpayment.

Sicilian B33
Langer, Mikhail 2278
Andrey Ochoukov (unr.)
New Year Open 2005 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.exf5 Bxf5 12.c3 Bg7 13.Nc2 0-0 14.Nce3 Bg6 15.Bd3 f5 16.g4 f4 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.gxf5 Qg5 20.Nc7 Qg2 21.Qd5+ Qxd5 22.Nxd5 Rf8 23.Nc7 Rf5 24.0-0-0 Bf8 25.f3 b4 26.Ne8

1-0

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

King's Indian E68
J.P. Hyltin 2020
Jose Silva 2226
New Year Open 2005 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.b3 c6 9.e4 a5?!

9...exd4 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Bb2 a5 12.Qc2 a4 13.Rfd1 axb3 14.axb3 Rxa1 15.Bxa1 Qb6 16.Na4 Nxa4 = Stahlberg-Boleslavsky 1950.

10.Ba3 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nc5



12.e5 dxe5 13.Bxc5?!

13.Nxc6 would have been much better, but I got distracted trying to decide if

I can take the Exchange after this move.
13...exd4 14.Bxd4

Here, 14.Bxf8 Bxf8 18. Ne2 c5 just doesn't have much appeal.

14...Qc7 15.Re1 Rd8 16.Be5 Rxd1 17.Raxd1!

After 17.Bxc7 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Ne7 Black wins a piece, which I only realized before I played my 16th move. But then I started to envision this position, and I knew I had to play for it.



17...Qb6

You could spend hours with a computer finding fun variations here. Black's best is probably 17...Qe7 18.Bd6 Qd8 19.Be7 Qe8. [20.Bxf6 Qxe1+ 21. Rxe1 Bf6 22.Re8+ Kg7 23.Na4 Bd4 = or (23.Ne2 Bb2 = - Ed.)

18.c5?!

Better is 18.Na4 with the following possibilities (a) 18... Qb4? 19. Rd8 Bf8 20. Bc3 Bf6! which should be winning; (b) 18...Qa7 19Bd4 and Black should probably give back the queen with Be6. **18...Qxc5 19.Rd8+ Qf8**

I overlooked this.

20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 21.Na4



21...Nd7?

This is the losing mistake. White was poised to recover the pawn after 21...Bf5 22. Ne5 with an equal game.

22.Bd6+ Kg8 23.Re8+ Bf8 24.Bxf8 Nxf8 25.Nb6 Ra6 26.Nxc8 a4 27.Bf1 b5 28.b4 a3 29.Ne7+ Kg7 30.Rc8 Nd7 31.Rxc6 Ra4 32.Nd5 Ne5 33.Rc7 Nf3+ 34.Kg2 Nd4 35.Rc5 1-0

English Opening A34

Gregg Stanley 2096

Mikhail Langer 2278

New Year Open 2005 (2)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.0-0 e5 8. d3 Be7 9.a3 0-0 10.Rb1 a5 11.Be3 Rb8 12.Nd2 Bd7 13.f4 Be8 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.fxex5 f6 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Nde4 Bd4 18.Rxf8+ Kxf8 19.Qd2 Qe7 20.Rf1+ Kg8 21.Rf4 Ne6 22.Rf2 h6 23.Rf3 Ng5



24.Nxg5 Bxf3 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.Nxf3 dxc3 27.bxc3 Qxa3 28.Qf4 Rf8 29. Qc4+ Kh8 30.Kg2 Qd6 31.d4 Re8 32. Kf2 Qc6 33.Qd3 Qe4 34.Qb5 a4 35. Ne5 Rf8+ 36.Ke1 Qc2 37.Nd3 Qxc3+

0-1

Catalan Opening E07

Mitch Vergara 2112

J.P. Hyltin 2020

New Year Open 2005 (2)

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 Nbd7 6.d4 b6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bd2 0-0 11.e3 Ne4 12.Qc2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bd6 14.b4 Qe7 15.b5 Nf6 16.Rfcl a6 17.a4 axb5 18. axb5 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Ra8 20.Rxa8+

Bxa8 21.Ne5 Bb7 22.Nd3 Ne4 23.Be1 Qe8 24.Qa4 Qa8 25.Qxa8+ Bxa8 26. Bb4 Kf8 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Bxd6+ exd6 29.Nb2 Bd5



30.Kf1 Be6 31.Ke1 Bd7 32.Nc4 Ke7 33.Nxb6 Bxb5 34.Nd5+

1/2-1/2

QGD D53

Jose Silva 2226

W. Pete Gibson 1805

New Year Open 2005 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 h6 6.Bf4 e6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.Nf3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nb6 10.Bb3 Nbd5 11.Be5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 0-0 13.0-0-0!



13...Qa5 14.g4 Nd5 15.Rd3 Qa3+ 16. Kd1 a5 (16...b5!?) 17.Nd2 Bf6 (17... b5?? 18.Nb1 +-) 18.Nc4 Qe7 19.Bd6 Qd8 20.Bxf8 Qxf8

As in his previous game, Silva has won material but lost time. His Rd3 and especially his Ba3 are misplaced. He follows up on the idea behind 15.Rd3, but finds the attack slow going.

21.e4 Nf4 22.Rf3 e5 23.Rg1 b5 24. Nxe5 Bxe5 25.dxe5 g5

Black has fortified well, and ...a5-a4 is threatened. Silva, who lives for the initiative, goes for broke. Consider the alternative, blockading and circling the wagons: 26.a4 Be6 27.Bxe6 fxe6 28.Qb3 Rd8+ 29.Kc2 bxa4 30.Qxa4 Qc5, and Black still looks better. The rook at f3 is no better than the knight.

26.Rxf4 gxf4 27.g5 a4 28.gxh6+ Kh8

29.Qd2 axb3 30.Qxf4 Qd8+

Ouch! A small detail.

31.Kc1 Rxa2 0-1

32.e6 Ra1+ 33.Kb2 Rxf1 34.Qe5+ f6 35.e7 Qd2+ 36.Kb3 Rb1+ 37.Ka3 Qb2#.

Sicilian Najdorf B99

Mikhail Langer 2278

Brad Sawyer 2087

New Year Open 2005 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Bxg5+

13...Nc5 has been theory's choice for the last 30 years.

14.Kb1 Nf6?

14...Nc5 15.Bxb5+! axb5 16.Ndxb5 Qe7 17.Nd6 Kf8 18.Rhg1 Bh6 19.e5 ±;

14...Ne5 15.Qh5 Qe7 16.Nxe6! Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Qe2 ±.

15.Bxb5+!?

15.Rg1 Bh6 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.e5 Bb7 18.Qh3 ± (ECO).

15...axb5 16.Ndxb5 Qa5

16...Qe7 17.Nd6+ Kf8 18.e5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Qxd5 (a) 20...Qa7 21.h4! +/-; (b) 20...Rb8 21.Rhg1 Bh6 (h6 22.h4 Bh4 23.Rg7) 22.f6 Qe6 23.Qc5 +/-.

17.Nxd6+ Kf8 18.e5 Nd5



19.Rxd5 exd5 20.Qh5 g6 21.Qxg5 Bf5 22.Qf6 1-0

QGD D66

Timothy Banks 1786

Peter Tu 1856

New Year Open 2005 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Be7 7.Rc1 0-0 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 a6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Bb1 Re8 14.a3 Nf8 15.Ne5 N6d7 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.f4 c5 18.Ne4 cxd4 19.exd4 Nb6 20.Nc5 Bd5 21.Qg4 Nc4 22.Rc3 Nd2 23.Rg3 Qf6 24.Ned7 Qxd4+ 25.Rf2 Nxb1 26.Rd3 Qc4 27.b3 Qc1+ 28.Rd1 Qc3 29.Rxb1



White is almost out of the woods, but Black can win material with 29... Red8! 30.Nb6 (worse is 30.Nxf8? Qxc5 +/-) 30.....Qxc5 +/-.

However, Black "wrong rooks" and returns the extra pawn.

29...Rad8? 30.Nxf8 Rxf8 31.Nxa6 Be4 32.Rbfl Bf5 33.Qg3 Rd3 34.Qh4 Qd4 35.Nb4 Qb6??

35...Rxb3 +/-.

36.Nxd3 1-0

Modern Benoni A70

Deeptyman Datta 2061

Mikhail Langer 2278

New Year Open 2005 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.Nf3 Nh5 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Bg5 Bf6 12.Be3 Re8 13.Qd2 Ne5 14.Be2 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Ng7 16.Rfel Bd7 17.a4 Qa5

18.Bf4 Be5 19.Be2 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Rxe4 22.Bxd6 Rae8 23. Kf1 Bxa4 24.Bd3 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rd8 26.Bxc5 Rxd5 27.Bd4 a6 28.Rb1 Bb5 29.Bxb5 Rxb5 30.Rxb5 axb5 31.Ke2 Ne6 32.Ke3 f5 33.Bb6 Kf7 34.h4 Ke7 35.g3 Kd6 36.Kd3 Kc6 37.Be3 Kd5 38.f3 Ne5+ 39.Ke2 Kc4 40.Bd2 Nd3 41.Kd1 h5 42.Ke2 b4 43.cxb4 Nxb4 44.g4 b5 45.gxh5 gxh5 46.Bh6 Nd3 47. Ke3 b4 48.Bg7 Nc5 49.Bh8 Ne6 50. Be5 Kb3 51.Bd6 Kc3 52.Be5+ Kc2 0-1

QGD Tartakover D59

Jim Rohrbaugh 2210

J.P. Hylltin 2020

New Year Open 2005 (4)

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Nf3 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Rc1 Be6 12.Qa4 c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Qa3 Rc8 15.Be2 a5 16.0-0 Kf8

So far, so book. Here ECO gives 17. Rc2 Nd7 18.Rfc1 Rcb8 19.Qc3 Rb4 20. Ne5 Rc8 21.Bf3 ± Gligoric-Ciric 1967. 17.Rc3 Nd7 18.Rfel Rcb8 19.b3 Rb4 20.Nd4 Qd6 21.Nxe6+ fxe6 22.R1c2 Kg8 23.h3 a4?



It would have been better to preface this with 23...Qb6. Black had come out of the opening smelling like a rose, and Hylltin's sense of danger may have been turned off.

24.Rxc5 Nxc5 25.Qxb4 axb3 26.axb3 Ra1+ 27.Bf1 Qa6 28.Qxc5 Qxf1+ 29. Kh2 Qd3 30.Qc8+ Kh7 31.Qc3 Qd1 32.Rb2 Qh1+ 33.Kg3 Rg1 34.f3

On the other hand, Hylltin may have

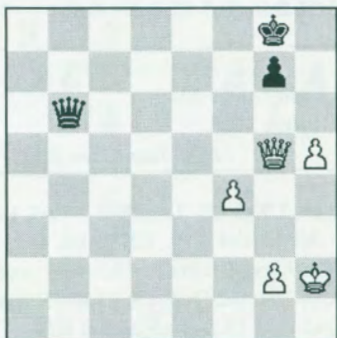
overlooked this resource.

34...Re1 35.Qd2 h5 36.f4 Rd1 37.Qe2 Kh6 38.Qf2 Rf1 39.Qd2 Rd1 40.Qc3 d4

Dazzle or just razzle?

41.Qa5 dxe3 42.Qg5+ Kh7 43.Qxh5+ Kg8 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.Re2 Re1 46.Qh5+ Kg8 47.Qf3 Qg1 48.b4 Rxe2 49.Qxe2 Qb1 50.Qxe3 Qxb4 51.Qxe6+ . . .

The details were lost, but White eventually won from the following position (as given by Hyltin):



70.h6 Qxh6+ 71.Qxh6 gxf6 72.Kg3 Kg7 73.Kg4 Kg6 74.g3 h5+ 75.Kh4 Kh6 76.f5 and Black resigned.

1-0

French Tarrasch C06

Mikhail Langer 2278

Jim Rohrbaugh 2210

New Year Open 2005 (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 exd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Nf3 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Qxb2 14.Re1

1/2-1/2

Solution:

Puzzle from back cover:

Answer:

Black To Move

Mate in 3

1...Qf1+

2.Bg1 Qf3+

3.Bxf3 Bxf3 mate



NEWS FLASH

**Texas Knights
is looking for
annotaters
to help
annotate games.**

If you are interested, please contact
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YOUR NEXT ISSUE OF
TEXAS KNIGHTS
(March - April 2005)

will be a
SCHOLASTIC ISSUE!

Chess on the Mediterranean Sea

by Hailey Winston

Attending the World Youth Chess Championships 2004 was the most amazing chess experience I could ever imagine. The tournament was held November 3-14 at the Creta Maris, a five star hotel on the island of Crete, Greece. There were almost 1,000 delegates from 90 countries. The American Team was made up of 24 players ranging in age from 9 (me!) to 18. USCF sponsored three coaches to help us: FM Aviv Friedman, GM John Fedorowicz and FM Armen Abarrtsaumian.

The Americans all stayed together in the main hotel where most of the action took place. The room that my mother and I stayed in had a beautiful view of the pool and the Mediterranean Sea. Unfortunately, getting the best view also meant being on top of the disco. We ate all of our meals together in the dining hall. This was one of the best parts of the experience, because you could really hear all of the different languages and see all of the different cultures of the 90 countries. Sometimes we ate with people that we met in the tournament, but most of the time we ate with other American teammates and coaches. The food was really good, and there were lots of choices. I never did understand why, but lots of kids ate French fries with spaghetti piled on top and covered with barbeque sauce. Most of the food was European style. They eat lots of veal, chicken and fish. There were lots of Greek salads, anti pasta and baklava. We had ice cream at every meal too.

Each American player was assigned to a US coach. We met with that coach every morning to prepare for our opponent. Most days we only played one round which was at 4:30 in the afternoon. The games lasted much longer than my games in the US. Most lasted 3-4 hours, because we were thinking for so long. Everyday I was excited to see

where my opponent would be from. I only played two girls who spoke English. My opponents were from all areas of the world including South Africa, Latvia, Poland, Australia, Iran, Bosnia, Egypt, Singapore, Austria, and Brazil. I was always very nervous when the Tournament Director announced "Arbiters, please start the clocks." Since most people didn't speak the same language, I learned that to communicate a draw, you cross your pointer fingers to make an X. After the games were finished, we all met in the hotel lobby to go over them with the coaches. This was really helpful. I learned so much by going over the games and seeing other Americans' games.

Being in Greece was really exciting. I studied a bit of Greek history before I left home. On our day off, we visited the Palace of Knossos and the Archaeological Museum, two of the main sites in Heraklion. We ate pizza, shopped and went to the beach.

I made several friends and exchanged lots of emails. One of my favorite new friends was a girl from Poland. She didn't speak any English so it was really fun and we laughed a lot when we were trying to talk. I celebrated my birthday in the middle of the tournament. The hotel chef made a chocolate cake for the whole team. It was the night before our one day off, so the American girls, my Polish friend, and a couple of French girls all went bowling with me until very late at night. It was a birthday I'll never forget.

The game that I want to share with you is not necessarily a game that is by the book or even one of my best games, however, it does include what I think is a really unusual checkmate that I like a lot. I think it was also by far one of the shortest games any American had - one hour.

Caro-Kann B13

Arnela Kamerić, Bosnia

Hailey Winston, USA

World Youth Championships 2004

11/7/04 (5)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Nf6 6. h3 e6 7. Nf3

A better move would have been Bf4.
Bd6 8. O-O

In this position black usually castles on the kingside and then starts a minority attack on the queenside. But since white castled early on the kingside, I had the idea to castle queenside and attack on the kingside. It was a risky plan, because she could have attacked my king with a pawn storm.

Bd7 9. Re1 Qc7 10. Qe2 O-O-O 11. Bg5

Here, white should be thinking about controlling e5.

11...Rdg8

h6 would have been a better move for me, because she would have been more likely to take my bishop, giving me the open file to her king.

12. Nbd2 h6 13. Bxf6

After this move black has a half open file on white's king. White should have brought her bishop back to e3.

13...gxf6 14. Rad1 e5

Taking advantage of the open files and diagonals.

15. Bb5 Bxh3 16. Kh1

She should have moved g3 to block my bishop.

16...Bxg2+ 17. Kh2 e4+ 18. Kg1 Bxf3+ 19. Kf1 Bg2+ 20. Kg1 Bh2 mate

0-1

The Process of Creation

Correspondence Play and the Growth of Chess in Texas a Century Ago

by Neil Brennen

You can't give enough praise to the accomplishments of the Texas Chess Association and its officers in promoting the Royal Game in the Lone Star State. One glance at an issue of Texas Knights will show the health of chess in Texas. Attendance at tournaments is up, clubs are flourishing, scholastic chess is booming, and correspondence chess continues popular among the chessplayers of Texas. The state has its own respected home-grown master chessplayers such as Selby Anderson and David John. The chess fan, be he hardened tournament warrior, casual player, or scholastic tyro, has a wide range of activities from online play to over-the-board championships to satisfy his chess needs. In short, the game of chess is doing well in Texas. But it wasn't always prospering so, and more than a century ago most Texas chessplayers were limited to one form of the game - correspondence chess.

In 1900, the population of Texas was approximately three million, spread out over more than 267 thousand square miles. That means there were fewer than twelve people per square mile in Texas a century ago. In an age when transportation was by rail and horseback, chessplayers were few and far-between. The larger population centers, such as San Antonio and Houston, had active chess clubs. Often the local newspapers had chess columns. But for the average Texas chess enthusiast not living within a few miles of a chess club, his only way of getting serious competition was by means of correspondence play. The Pillsbury National Correspondence Chess Association, a forerunner of the present-day Correspondence Chess League of America, had several Texas players among its members within a couple of years of its founding in 1896.

Win or lose, Texas correspondence

players were delighted with their experiences in the PNCCA, and they desired a state organization to promote both postal chess and what they called "board chess." Eventually the scattered correspondence players came together in Dallas and formed the Texas State Chess Association on June 24, 1898. The first President of the TSCA was Otto Monnig, Sr, and L. R. Walden, founder of Walden's Commercial College in Austin, became Vice-president. A musician with the melodious name of W. B. Schimmelpennig was elected Secretary. Both Walden and Schimmelpennig were correspondence chess enthusiasts. In an article titled "Chess in Texas" by "a Texan" on page 171 of the 1898-1899 volume of American Chess Magazine, the Texas Pillsbury contingent was recognized for their efforts in starting the TSCA, with Walden and Schimmelpennig being given "first credit." Another correspondence player and TSCA founder, Thomas J. Middleton, publisher of the Ellis County Mirror, was particularly cited in the article for being "very original in his games, always seeking new lines of play. He has originated a reply to the King's Gambit, wherein Black sacrifices a Bishop on the sixth move, that has attracted some notice among Texas players."

The first activities for the new Association were holding an over-the-board Championship and advertising a correspondence tournament for Texas players. The Texas State Fair donated a loving cup worth \$50.00 for the first Texas Championship, and the tournament was held on the Fair grounds from October 11-14, 1898. The tournament, apparently an eleven player round-robin, was won by Otto O. Ballard of Dallas, a transplanted Texan hailing from Indiana. According to the tournament report on

page 200 of the 1898-1899 American Chess Magazine, L. R. Walden then issued a challenge to the newly-crowned champion to play a match by correspondence.

While the over-the-board championship was in its planning stages, the TSCA's first correspondence tournament was in full swing, with eighteen players in four sections sending moves back and forth. Thomas Middleton was the first player to score blood. His miniature win over J. Bundy was published on page 125 of the American Chess Magazine for 1898- 1899.

King's Pawn Game C50

**Thomas Middleton
Bundy**

TSCA Correspondence Tournament, 1898

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6
5.Bg5 d6 6.h3 h7 7.Bh4 0-0 8.Nbd2 Be6
9.c3 Bxc4 10.Nxc4 b5**

Black's tenth move was ill-advised, and lead to defeat.

**11.Ne3 Bxe3 12.fxe3 g5 13.Nxg5 d5
14.0-0 hxg5 15.Bxg5 dxe4 16.Bxf6 1-0**

*American Chess Magazine 1898-1899,
p. 125*

Two games from the second Texas correspondence tournament appeared in a later issue of the American Chess Magazine. They appeared in the "Notes and Comments" column, designed for amateur players, and they appeared with brief comments by the magazine's editors. The notes originally appeared in paragraph form, but have been incorporated into the gamescores for this article. The opening of the second game will look familiar to the students of Henri Grob and Michael Basman, although it was played before both these theorists were born.

Dickason

L. Walden

TSCA Correspondence Tournament, 1898

1.d4 d5 2.e4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bf4 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0 6.e5

White's move is unusual and too conservative. 6.cxd5 is more effective.
6...Nh5 7.Bg3 Nxd3

Black erred in opening the h file after castling, and in giving up the d pawn.
8.hxg3 Bf6 9.Qd3 h6 10.g4 Nd7 11.Rh5

Premature; he should have played 11.0-0-0 and advanced his Kingside pawns.

11...e5 12.Nxd5 Re8

Black should have played 12...c6 and if 13.Nxf6+ (if 13.Ne3 exd4 etc.)
13...Nxf6 etc. 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Ng5 g6
15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Rxh6 Qg5

Black would have done better by 16...Nf8, which might have won.

17.Rh7+ Kg8 18.Qh3 Nf8 19.Rh4 Bxb2
20.Qb3 Qxh4

Black's 20th should have been 20...Be6 and White would have had three pieces en prise.

21.Nf6+ Kg7 22.Nxe8+ Kh6 23.Qxb2
Bxg4 24.Qg7+ Kh5 25.Qxf8 Rc8
26.Ng7+

Black should have won after 16th move of White. 1-0

American Chess Magazine 1898-1899, p.234

King's Pawn Opening B00

W. Schimmelpennig

Waddell

TSCA Correspondence Tournament, 1898

1.e4 g5

Black evidently was not acquainted with the openings, or he would not have played so compromising a move as his first.

2.Bc4 Bg7 3.d4 h6 4.Qf3 e6 5.e5 d5
6.Bb3 c5 7.c3 c4 8.Bc2 Ne7 9.Na3 a6
10.Ne2 Ng6 11.Ng3 Rf8 12.Nh5 Bh8
13.g3 f5 14.g4

White overlooked the winning of a piece, 14.exf6 winning the Knight. There were too many possibilities in the

middle game, and the positions were frequently of the kind that make players desirous to sacrifice something.

14...b5 15.h4 Nxh4 16.Rxh4 gxh4
17.Bxh6 Rg8 18.g5 Ra7 19.Nf6+ Bxf6
20.exf6 Kd7 21.Qh5 Kc6 22.f7 Rh8
23.g6 Qf6 24.g7

The winning of the two Rooks for pawns in the ending was very clever, and thereafter Black should have resigned.

24...Rxf7 25.Qxf7 Qxf7 26.gxh8Q Kc7
27.Qg7 Qxg7 28.Bxg7 Bd7 29.0-0-0
Be8 30.Rh1 Kd7 31.Rxh4 Ke7 32.Rh7
Kf7 33.Bh6+ Kf6 34.f4 Nd7 35.Bg5+
Kg6 36.Rh6+ Kf7 37.b3 Nb6 38.Bxf5

1-0

American Chess Magazine 1898-1899, p.235

The organ of the PNCCA in 1900 was Hermann Helms' weekly chess column in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and games by some of the Texas members were published in the Eagle's pages. Among the regular Texas correspondents with Helms was L. R. Walden of Austin, who was playing in the Southern Division section of the club's Grand National tournament. In a game against a fellow Texan, T. Hyde of Hyatt, Walden announced a mate in 34 moves, and submitted the game for the special prize for the longest mate. This sounds like an odd practice to modern chessplayers, but it was common in the 19th century; as Helms' observed in his column, "Every well-regulated tournament by correspondence has its announced prize set aside" for the longest announced mate. However, the committee that had to examine such tortured analysis was oftentimes driven "frantic," as Helms put it, at finding the announcement was not correct. According to Helms, these frequent stumbles in calculating the mate made "the trophy to be acquired a sort of will-of-the-wisp affair." As was often the case in such long variations, there was a slip in Walden's analysis, as pointed out by annotator C. S. Howell in Helms' Brooklyn Daily Eagle column of May 27, 1900.

Evans Gambit C51

T. Hyde

L. Walden

PNCCA Grand National, 1900

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Bc5 6.0-0

6.d4 is generally played nowadays.
6...d6 7.d4 Bb6

Lasker's Defense, a refutation of his dictum, "The best defense to the Evans Gambit is to decline it."

8.dxe5

This recovers the pawn, but his Queenside pawns remain weak for the ending.

8...dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Nxe5 Nf6
11.Ba3

Rather a doubtful sacrifice.

11...Nxe4 12.Nd3 Nd6 13.Re1+ Be6
14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Nd2 0-0 16.Nf3 Rf6
17.Nde5 Ba5 18.Bb4 Bxb4 19.cxb4 a5
20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Nd4 Rd5 22.Rad1 e5
23.Ndf3 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 N6f7 25.Nxf7
Nxf7 26.Rd7 e5 27.Rxb7 Rd6 28.Kf1
g5 29.Ke1 Ra6 30.Rc7 g4 31.Nd2 Rxa2
32.Rxc5 Kg7 33.g3

White now confines his own King and his pawns.

33...Kf6 34.Re1 Kf5 35.Nc4 h5
36.Ne3+ Ke4 37.Rc2 Rxc2

Black here announced mate in 34 moves. He may possibly get a mate within that number of moves and certainly should win the game, owing to the adversary's weak 33.g3, but it is equally certain he cannot win on the play which he outlines in his main variation, herewith given:

38.Nxc2 Ng5 39.Kf1 Nf3 40.Kg2 Kd3
41.Nb4+ Ke2 42.Nd5 Ng5 43.Nf6! Nh3
44.Nxh5 Nxf2 45.Nf6 Ke3 46.Nh5 Ne4!
47.h3 gxh3+ 48.Kxh3 Kf3 49.Kh4 Nd2
50.Kh3

White can now draw easily by 50.Nf6 as can very readily be seen. White's g pawn, which is fully as valuable as the other's e pawn, is in a position to be quite troublesome. Several sub-variations are submitted but these cannot be given consideration while the trunk-

line is impaired.
 50...e4 51.Nf4 e3 52.Ne6 Ne4 53.Nd4+
 Kf2 54.Nc2 e2 55.g4 Ng5+ 56.Kh4
 Nf3+ 57.Kh5 Nd4! 58.Nxd4 e1Q
 59.Nf5 Qh1+ 60.Kg6 Kf3 61.Nd4+ Kf4
 62.Ne6+ Kxg4 63.Kf6 Qe4 64.Kf7 Kf5
 65.Ng7+ Ke5 66.Ke7 Qb7+ 67.Kf8
 Qd7 68.Ne8 Kf5 69.Ng7+ Kg6 70.Ne8
 Qf7# 0-1

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, May 27, 1900

Although his mate announcement was flawed, Walden still managed to win the game against Hyde. However, he was less fortunate in two games with O. Wiggers of Nashville, Tennessee. The annotations to the first game were by Wiggers, with additional comments by Brooklyn chessplayer A. E. Swafield.

*Annotations by O. Wiggers
 and A. E. Swafield*

Scotch Game C45

**O. Wiggers
 L. R. Walden**

PNCCA Grand National, 1900

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
 Bc5 5.Be3 Qe7**

5...Qf6 or 5...Qh4 are the usual moves.

**6.Nf5 Qxe4 7.Nxg7+ Kd8 8.Nd2 Qe5
 9.Nc4 Bb4+ 10.c3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3
 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qxg7 13.g3 Qd4 14.Ne3
 Ne5**

If 14...d5 15.Bg2 Be6 16.Nxd5 Bxd5
 17.Bxd5! and Black cannot play
 17...Qxd5 on account of 18.Bg5+!; But
 14...d6 or; 14...Nf6 was preferable to
 the move made. - Swafield 1

**5.Be2 Nd3+ 16.Bxd3 Qxd3 17.Qf3 Ke8
 18.Qd5**

A curious position! White is two pawns down, and yet courts an exchange of Queens, and whether Black accepts or not, he must lose in material! - Swafield.

18...Qxd5 19.Nxd5 e5

19...Rb8 20.Nxc7+ Kd8 21.Bf4 and White will win another pawn; nevertheless, we think it better than giving up the exchange. - Swafield

20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Nxa8 b6 22.0-0 Bb7

**23.Nxb6 axb6 24.Rfelh5 25.Bf4 Bc6
 26.Rab1 b5 27.Bd6 c4 28.a4 Rh6**
 If 28...bxa4 29.Rb8#

29.axb5
 White outplays Black and wins extra pawns back.

29...Bd5
 If 29...Rxd6 30.bxc6 Rxc6 31.Rb8+
 Rc8 32.Re8+ Kxe8 33.Rxc8+ winning
 the Knight and can in time prevent the
 pawn on the c file from queening.

**30.Bc5 Re6 31.b6 Kc8 32.Red1 Bb7
 33.Bd6**

To foil pawn strengthening in the center.

**33...Nf6 34.Rb4 Nd5 35.Rxc4+ Kd8
 36.Bc7+ Kc8**

If 36...Nxc7 White wins in a few moves.

37.Rdc1 Bc6 38.Bf4 Kb7

Black plays stubbornly and hopes to draw, as Bishops are of opposite colors.

**39.Rb1 Ne7 40.Rc5 d5 41.Ra5 Nc8
 42.Be3 f5 43.Rba1**

43.Ra7+ seems a quicker way to win. For instance, 43...Nxa7 (If 43...Kb8 44.b7!) 44.bxa7+ Kc7 45.Rb8 d4 46.Bd2 (Better than 46.Bf4+ as Black replies 46...Kd7 and then ...Re8.) 46...Re2 47.Ba5+ Kd7 48.a8Q Bxa8 49.Rxa8 d3? 50.Rd8+ and wins.

43...Kb8 44.Bf4+ Kb7 45.Ra8 Nd6

45...Re1+ seems better than the text move.

46.Be3 Nb5 47.R1a7+

White now wins by force.

**47...Nxa7 48.Rxa7+ Kc8 49.Rc7+ Kd8
 50.Bf4 Bd7**

White threatened Rxc6.

51.Bg5+ Ke8 52.b7 Re1+ 53.Kg2 1-0

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, March 11, 1900

Hermann Helms noted in his introductory description of the second encounter between Wiggers and Walden that the players followed the opening of a recent tournament game of Pillsbury's against Didier in the Paris 1900 tournament, although in this correspondence battle White managed to keep his Queen and scored the point.

Ruy Lopez C67

**O. Wiggers
 L. R. Walden**

PNCCA Grand National, 1900

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
 Nxe4 5.d4 Be7 6.Re1**

6.Qe2 is a stronger continuation.
6...Nd6 7.dxe5 Nxb5 8.a4 d6

If 8...Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Nd6 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bxf6 0-0 (or if 11...gxf6 12.Qh5+ Kf8 13.Ng6+ hxg6 14.Qxh8+ Kf7 15.Qh7+ Kf8 16.Re3 etc.) 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Ng6 losing the Exchange.

9.axb5 Nxe5 10.Nd4

If 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8+ Bxd8 12.Rxe5+ would virtually draw.

**10...0-0 11.f4 Ng4 12.f5 Nf6 13.Bg5 Re8
 14.Nc3 Bd7 15.Nce2 Ne4**

15...c5 seems better and frees Black's game.

16.Bxe7 Rxe7

16...Qxe7 followed by Qg5, should have been played, a favorable position resulting therefrom.

17.Nf4 Nf6 18.Qf3 Rxe1+

Allowing White control of the e file and giving Black a cramped game.

19.Rxe1 Qc8 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Kf8

To prevent 22.Re7.

22.f6

A move which ultimately wins; Black's counter attack comes too late.

**22...c6 23.Qg5 gxf6 24.Qxf6 Kg8
 25.Re3 Bg4 26.Rg3 Kf8 27.Qxd6+ Ke8**

27...Kg8 would have prolonged the game somewhat, but would not have changed the result, as after 28.bxc6 Black seems to have nothing better than 28...f5 or (28...h5 , giving up the Bishop. If Black plays; 28...Qd8 White plays 29.Rxg4+ Kh8 30.Qh6 Qxd4+ (best) 31.Rxd4 Rg8 32.Qf6+ and mates next move. If Black plays; 28...bxc6 29.Nxc6 is sufficient.)

**28.Rc3+ Be6 29.Nxc6 fxe6 30.Rxe6+
 Kf7 31.Re7+ 1-0**

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, June 24, 1900

Another Texas player, Thomas Middleton of Waxahachie, avenged his

fellow Texan's loss to Wiggers in the following game. It was an uphill struggle for Middleton. Hermann Helms presented the game as a "turning of the tables" and made it a cautionary tale of winning a won game for his Eagle readers: "An apparently beaten player should not be treated too lightly by an opponent on the eve of victory. When about to wind up the contest, the prospective winner should exercise as much circumspection as he does while handling his most difficult combination. This is a maxim it is well to bear in mind on all occasions, as many are the games lost as a result of neglecting to do that very thing." The columnist noted that Black "pull[ed] the game out of the fire through his opponent's failure to fully realize his peril." Middleton himself annotated the game for the readers of the Eagle, and it appeared in the July 8, 1900 issue of the column.

Notes by Thomas Middleton

French Defence C00

O. Wiggers

Thomas Middleton

PNCCA Grand National, 1900

1.e4 e6 2.Qe2 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg2 d5 6.d3 Nf6 7.e5 Nd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 b6 10.d4 a5

This move and the one preceding were merely made on the chance of gaining the exchange, but later on they lead to the loss of both pawns.

11.Re1 f5 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Bg5 Rg6 14.Bf4 Nf8 15.Nbd2 cxd4

Following F. K. Young's advice to capture opponent's d pawn with c or e pawn, as the case might be.

16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bd6 18.Be5 Rg5 19.Rac1 Bxe5 20.dxe5 Qd7 21.Nc4

A neat move that immediately turns the scales in his favor.

21...Ba6 22.Qd2 Qd8

The position has become quite complex, the pinning and counterplay of the pieces being very interesting.

23.Nxb6

The Knight, of course, cannot be taken, because of the isolated Rook on the Kingside.

23...Rb8 24.Rc6

The same objection still holds good.

24...Bb7 25.Rd6 Qe7 26.f4 Rg6 27.Qxa5 h5 28.Re3 h4 29.Qc3



29...d4

With two pawns down Black must resort to desperate measures. He sacrifices another pawn, but exposes the adverse King thereby, besides ridding himself of a piece that has been sadly out of play since the start.

30.Qxd4 Bxg2 31.Kxg2 Qb7+ 32.Qe4 Qc7 33.Qc4 Qb7+ 34.Qc6 Qf7

Still avoiding the exchange of Queens, which he cannot afford.

35.Qe4 hxg3 36.Rxg3 Rh6 37.b3 Qh5 38.h3 Ng6 39.Nd7 Rc8 40.Rd2 Nh4+ 41.Kh2 Kh8 42.a4 Nf5 43.Rc3

Realizing the perilous state of affairs, including the two hostile passed pawns, Black accepts the situation philosophically.

43...Rxc3 44.Qa8+ Kh7 45.Nf8+ Kh8 46.Nxe6+ Kh7 47.Ng5+ Qxg5 48.fxg5 Rhxh3+ 49.Kg1 Rc1+ 50.Kg2 Rch1 51.Rd8



51...Ne3+

Black here offered the following demonstration of a perpetual check and consequent draw: 51...Ne3+ 52.Kf2 Ng4+ 53.Ke2 Re3+ 54.Kd2 Rh2+ 55.Kd1 Nf2+ 56.Kd2 Ng4+ and draws. White accepted the moves up till his fifty-fifth where he played Kc1. The latter's next move, overlooking the check on e3, of course loses the game.

52.Kf2 Ng4+ 53.Ke2 Re3+ 54.Kd2 Rh2+ 55.Kc1 Rc3+ 56.Kd1 0-1

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, July 8 and August 19, 1900

Tennessee players in addition to the amusingly-named Mr. Wiggers were causing problems for the Texas PNCCA members a century ago. Middleton's French defense was destroyed by A. T. McQuigg Jr. of Lynneville in a PNCCA game. According to Helms, White sacrificed his weak d pawn on the seventh move. Black accepted the sacrifice, but forfeited his right to castle. "The King thus exposed forthwith became sport for the White forces and was quickly humiliated" as Helms wrote in his June 10, 1900 column.

Notes by Hermann Helms

French Defence: Advanced Variation C02

A. T. McQuigg

Thomas Middleton

PNCCA 4th Grand National, Southern Div., 1900

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Nbd2

Allowing the d pawn to go, presum-



ably with premeditation.

6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 Qxd4 9.Bb5+ Bd7

Better than moving the King at once.

10.Bxd7+ Kxd7 11.Qe2 Bb4

He must develop the Kingside at any cost; 11...Nh6 is the alternative.

12.0-0

12.Qb5+ would not do, for after 12...Kd8 13.Qxb7 Qxe5+ 14.Kf1 Qb8 with the better game.

12...a6

Black would be safer by 12...Bxd2 exchanging his Bishop for the Knight, even though by doing so he brings the White Rooks more quickly into action. Then might come ...a6, followed duly by ...Ne7 and ...Nc6. White would still have fine opportunities for attack, but he would find the defense more difficult to negotiate than appears at first sight.

13.Nb3 Qh4 14.Rd1 Qd8

A reversal of moves now proves at once fatal. He should have retreated the Bishop by 14...Bf8 before bringing the Queen home.; Curiously, if 14...Be7 then 15.Rd4 corners her majesty. Qg4 should not have been permitted at the time.

15.Qg4 Bf8 16.Rxd5+ Ke8 17.Rxd8+

And White won after 30 moves.

1-0

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, June 10, 1900

Middleton disagreed with Helms' assessment of the opening in his game with McQuigg, and submitted a challenge to the Eagle readers: "If any of the players are sufficiently interested in this opening, I would take the position at my eleventh move and play it into the mid-game to beat this sacrifice of the d pawn." The historical record is silent regarding any acceptance of Middleton's challenge.

The second TSCA over-the-board Championship was held in San Antonio in October 1899, and the winner was a "young Dallas grocery-merchant" named John Ford. Originally from Mississippi, Ford had moved to Texas in 1898, and like most TSCA members, he was also active in the PNCCA. And like his fellow

Texan L. R. Walden, he also submitted a gamescore for the special prize of longest announced mate in the PNCCA's second Grand National tournament. Ford's mate was five moves longer than Walden's, and more importantly, it was grudgingly accepted as sound by the annotator. This game from the Southern Division of the Grand National helped secure Ford the championship of the division.

Notes by C. S. Howell

Two Knights Defence C55

R. A. Hart

John Ford

PNCCA Grand National, 1900

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3

We consider the conservative 4.d3 better. The sacrifice of the pawn, entailed by 6.O-O, is not sound.

4...Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 d5

6...Nxe4 can be played with safety. The text move, we believe, is novel, and of doubtful efficiency.

7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1+ Be6 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.b4 Be7 11.b5 Bxg5

11...Nd8 is better. The text loses.

12.bxc6 Qxc6 13.Nxg5

13.Qb3, threatening Bb5, Bxd5, and Nxg5 would have won a piece and the game.

13...Qxc4 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Rxe6+ Kf7 16.Re4 Rhe8 17.Rxd4 Qe2

By this clever move Black more than equalizes the position.

18.Qxe2 Rxe2 19.Kf1 Rae8 20.Rd1 Rc2 21.Na3 Rxc3 22.Nb5 Rc5 23.Rxd5

Clever play that should have drawn.

23...Rxd5 24.Nxc7 Red8 25.Nxd5 Rxd5 26.Rb1 b6 27.f4 Rd4 28.g3 Rc4 29.Rb2 Rc5 30.Kf2 b5 31.Kf3 a5 32.h4 h5

When your opponent has the majority of pawns on one side, and you on the other, the correct principle is to establish your majority, and bring your King to the side of the board on which he has the majority. By violating this principle, White loses this game. White's 32nd move, h4, allows Black to play ...h5 and

thus hold three pawns with two. His two pawns to one on the other side then determine the issue.

33.Rg2 b4 34.Ke4 Rc3 35.Kf5 a4 36.Kg5 Rc5+ 37.f5 b3 38.axb3 axb3 39.Kxh5 Rxf5+ 40.Kg4 Rb5 41.Rb2 Kg6 42.Kf3 Kh5 43.g4+ Kg6

Of course 43...Kxh4 loses the Rook to 44.Rh2+ Kg5 45.Rh5+ 44.Ke4 Kf6 45.Kd4 Rb4+



46.Kd5

Black announced mate in 39 moves, as follows:

46...Rxc4 47.Rxb3 Rxc4 48.Rf3+ Kg5 49.Ke5 Kg4 50.Rf1 g5 51.Rg1+ Kh5 52.Kf5 Rf4+ 53.Ke5 Kg6 54.Ra1 Rb4 55.Ra6+ Kh5 56.Kf5 g4 57.Ra1 Kh4 58.Rh1+ Kg3 59.Rg1+ Kf3 60.Rf1+ Kg2 61.Ra1 g3 62.Ra2+ Kh3 63.Ra3 Kh2 64.Ra8 g2 65.Rh8+ Kg3 66.Rg8+ Kf2 67.Rg7 g1Q 68.Rxc1 Kxc1 69.Ke5 Kf2 70.Kd5 Ke3 71.Kc5 Rd4 72.Kb5 Kd3 73.Kc5 Kc3 74.Kb5 Rd5+ 75.Kb6 Kb4 76.Kc6 Kc4 77.Kb6 Rd6+ 78.Kb7 Kb5 79.Kc7 Kc5 80.Kb7 Rd7+ 81.Kc8 Kc6 82.Kb8 Rd8+ 83.Ka7 Rf8 84.Ka6 Ra8# 0-1

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, August 5, 1910

However, the effort of trying to bust two such long-variation mates as those announced by Walden and Ford wore on the temper of C. S. Howell, and prompted some sour remarks in the annotations to Ford's win. "This has been the second announced mate of over thirty moves that it has been our pleasure (?) to examine." Howell wrote. "In the other one we demonstrated not only that the mate

could not be accomplished, but that the game could be drawn. In this case we will not attempt to cook the mate, for Black can probably win in thirty-nine moves, but we wish to state that we do not believe such a position as this can be analyzed to a mate within the time limit allowed by the association, unless the player went without sleep and food, and moreover we consider the entire task a futile one. The object of a chess game is to win, not to make it a problem. The composers give us enough trouble in that line. Did anyone ever hear of Morphy or Lasker or any of the really great masters announcing a mate in thirty moves? ... The rule is not conducive to good chess."

Ford "consider[ed] himself aggrieved" by Howell's remarks, according to Hermann Helms, and so the Eagle published a letter from the Texan. "From the tenor of Mr. Howell's notes," Ford wrote, "his attempt to cook the mate has essentially spoiled his temper. As for overstepping the time limit, Mr. Hart can testify that I always answered on time. In none of my correspondence games have I ever taken over the limit. As for Morphy and Lasker never announcing mate in thirty moves, Morphy did not play correspondence chess and neither does Lasker.... The mate was really very easy and took only a few hours' time, as the position is a simple endgame, a win for Black. All you have to do is to see how long White can prevent the queening of the pawn. When it queens, it must be taken with the Rook. That leaves Black with King and Rook versus King, and in such positions the Rook can always mate in sixteen moves, as Mr. Howell will find if he will study some good elementary work on the endings."

This little donneybrook between Howell and Ford ended quickly when a third chessplayer, G. A. L'Hommede of Chicago, submitted a cook of Ford's analysis to the Eagle. It appeared in the same column as Ford's letter, immediately beneath it.

Two Knights Defence C55

R. A. Hart

John Ford

PNCCA Grand National, 1900



After **51.Kf6** (Ford gave 51.Rg1+ in his analysis) **Kh5 52.Kg7**, "Black will have some difficulty in winning at all", according to L'Hommede. And there the matter stopped.

Chance was to reunite Ford and Howell a year later, when the PNCCA held an East versus West match. The Texan and the New Yorker played into a line of the Ruy Lopez that was the subject of much debate at the time. Harry Nelson Pillsbury, the United States Champion, publicly disputed analysis by Boston players John Barry and Franklin K. Young that 4. 0-0 was a "weak" move, and Howell sided with Pillsbury. Hermann Helms stated in his introduction that Howell had "assailed the Boston contingent in hammer and tongs fashion" over the opening analysis.

And hammer and tongs is a good description of the Howell-Ford game. The twenty-year old Clarence Seaman Howell, although forgotten today, was one of America's top players at the start of the twentieth century. Earlier in 1901 he had played in the New York State Chess Association tournament in Buffalo, New York, and had held US Champion Pillsbury to a draw in one of their two games. Howell would in future years play in the annual cable matches between the United States and Great Britain, win the championship of the Brooklyn Chess Club, and capture the

New York State championship. He wasn't as easy for Ford to deal with as the local Austin players or his usual correspondence opponents had been.

Notes by C. S. Howell

Ruy Lopez C67

C. S. Howell

John Ford

PNCCA East vs West Match, 1901

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0

I am quite prone to making this "weak" move. 4.d4 was analyzed to some extent by Messrs. Napier, Chadwick, and myself at the Brooklyn Chess Club about a year ago. It is undoubtedly strong, but personally I prefer castles. There is one point strongly in favor of d4, however, and that is that for several moves Black's replies are almost forced, but even with this advantage it is difficult to see how White can do more than get the customary Ruy Lopez bind.

4...Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.dxe5

Played to in some measure test the value of this variation. It has been said that the defense to the Ruy Lopez stands or falls on 5...Nd6, and as it seems likely it stands against 6.Bxc6, new developments in the attack are worth studying. From a personal standpoint I prefer 6.Bg5, but as I may be saving some of my knowledge on that variation for a subsequent cable match, I refrained from playing it in this game.

6...Nxb5 7.a4 d6 8.e6 Bxe6

It is pretty nearly settled that 8...fxe6 is better than ...Bxe6. Against the text White's attack with the f pawn on Knight and Bishop is likely to become irresistible.

9.axb5 Ne5 10.Nd4 c5

Probably not best, but it is difficult to see what is good. White threatens to push the f pawn down rapidly, and something must be done to stem the tide. 10...Qh4, followed by ...Ng4 and ...Nf6 in reply to f4, might have been tried.

11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.f4 Nf7 13.Re1 e5 14.Nc3 Be7 15.Nd5

Playing directly for an ending and preparing to demolish Black's Queenside. If Black now castles, b6 gives White a promising game. The solidity with which this Knight occupies d5 shows that Black's development has been faulty.

15...b6 16.b4

Endgame tactics in the opening.

16...cxb4

If 16...0-0 17.bxc5 bxc5 (if 17...dxc5 18.fxe5 etc.) 18.b6 Qd7 (obviously 18...axb6 loses a piece.; if 18...a6 19.Nc7 followed by Rxa6; or if 18...a5 19.Nc7 Rb8 20.Rxa5 Rxb6 21.Na6 etc.) 19.Nc7 Rab8 (19...Rac8 20.Rxa7 with good chances.) 20.bxa7 etc.

17.Be3 0-0



18.Bxb6 axb6 19.Rxa8 Qxa8 20.Nxe7+ Kh8 21.Qh5 Nh6 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Qxe5 Qa2

Not good, in view of subsequent events, but attractive on the face of it. 23...Qa4, a much worse looking move, was probably better. It is possible that I have overlooked better moves for Black throughout this annotation, but I believe his game is logically lost in the opening, owing to the holes which exist at d5 and e6, and the weak point on the c file, as well as owing to the fact that White can disintegrate his Queenside pawn position. After 24.Qd6 Black might have

played 24...Qxc2 25.Ng6+ hxg6 26.Qxf8+ Kh7 27.Qxb4 and White's win is very difficult.

24.Qd6 Qf7 25.Qxb6 Nf5

A peculiar feature of the position is that after 25...Re8 26.Qe3 Black must move his Rook away on account of Ng6+.

26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.h3

Although White has steadily played to demolish Black's Queenside pawns and establish a winning ending, the position may be said to illustrate "luck in chess". Material becomes even, Queens are on the board, and, under ordinary circumstances, the result would be a draw. But it happens that Black's King is behind pawns in a mating position, and although he may advance his b pawn first, owing to White's remarkable command of the board with his Queen at d6, Black's game is irretrievably lost. Another lucky circumstance- it happened that I could take the b6 pawn and guard the f2 square. Again, after Qd6, which attacks Black's Rook and covers b8, I also cover all checks. Really, it is not luck, but it is the nearest thing to it that can be met in chess.

27...Qxc2 28.Qd6 Qf2+ 29.Kh2 h6 30.b6 1-0

The act of a gentleman who knows when he is beaten. Black might have continued for some time, but must ultimately lose. If 30.b6 Rf6 31.Re8+ Kh7 32.Qd3+ Rg6 (if 32...g6 33.b7 Qf4+ 34.Qg3 etc.) 33.Rh8+ Kxh8 34.Qxg6 followed by Qg3 and Qc7 winning. Mr. Ford wrote that he saw that I was determined to push on the b pawn and not send my Queen pawn hunting, so he gave up. My opponent also wrote, "To your Qd6 I have no adequate reply."

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, October 6, 1901

While this was a one-sided loss for

Ford, it was just such experiences as this that the Texas players had been seeking in correspondence chess - the chance to meet "foemen worthy of their steel." And it was Ford's fellow Texan Thomas Middleton who summed up the feelings of the correspondence players in the Lone Star State. As a newspaperman he was used to speaking his mind on paper, so when Middleton sent a letter to Helms' chess column on the origins and future of Texas chess in January 1900 it had all the punch of a newspaper editorial: "I have at all times realized that the Pillsbury National Correspondence Association was the great force to popularize the game away from the established chess centers, and with the Eagle to spread the work of the association, we may expect big results. Here in Texas we already have a fine state interest which we attribute primarily to the Pillsbury Association. True, we have no 'masters', but we have the material of which they are made, and let us hope they are already in the process of creation."

And Texas chess today owes much to this "process of creation." The excitement for chess created by the correspondence players such as Walden and Middleton led over time to the diversity and richness of the current Texas chess scene. Chess breeds chess, it seems, to judge from the examples of these long-forgotten correspondence players and their desire to found a state association. Despite their limited access to over-the-board chess, Texas chessplayers of a century ago managed to practice, and perfect, their pastime with all the enthusiasm shown by TCA members today. With a little help from the US Postal Service, of course.

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Quote from a Great...

"Modern chess is too much concerned with things like pawn structure. Forget it - checkmate ends the game."

- Nigel Short

2005 Region VII Girls Championship

Saturday, April 2, 2005

St. Patrick Catholic School, Corpus Christi

Hosted by the St. Patrick Chess Team

What: United States Chess Federation (U.S.C.F.) Rated Tournament. 5-Rounds Swiss 5 Sections: K-1st Division, Primary (K-3rd), Elementary (K-5/6t), Middle School (6-8t) and High School (9-12th) Time Controls: Rds. 1-3 Game/30 Rds. 4-5 Game/45 Rounds: Round 1 starts at 9:30 a.m. Following rounds will be at 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 4:00

Where: St. Patrick School Catholic School., 3340 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78411
Who: All Girls in Region VII grades K through 12th. Girls who register for sections above their grade level play as individuals only and are not eligible for team trophies. Limited to 175.00

Cost: \$21.00 early registration; No Onsite Registration. USCF membership required (\$13.00 for Economy Scholastic [under 15 years old without magazine], \$19.00 for Scholastic [under 15 years with magazine], or \$25.00 for Youth [ages 15-19]). Add appropriate USCF fees to registration OR show proof of current membership for each player.

Regist.: Early registration must be received by March 25, 2005. No Onsite Registration.

Food: A food concession will be available.

Prizes: Trophies to top 10 in each section, medals to the next 15. The overall winner in each division will receive an HP Computer Bundle. Trophies to the top 3 schools in each section. Awards presentation to follow immediately after last round.

Special Event: GM Susan Polgar will be the guest of honor at the Region VII Girls Championship. GM Polgar will also be conducting a lecture/simul on the evening of Friday, April 1, 2005 at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, 900 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Cost of lecture/simul is \$20.00 per person. Please enclose with tournament registration form to reserve seat. Limited Space Available.

For more information:
<http://www.texaschess.org>

