

TEXAS KNIGHTS

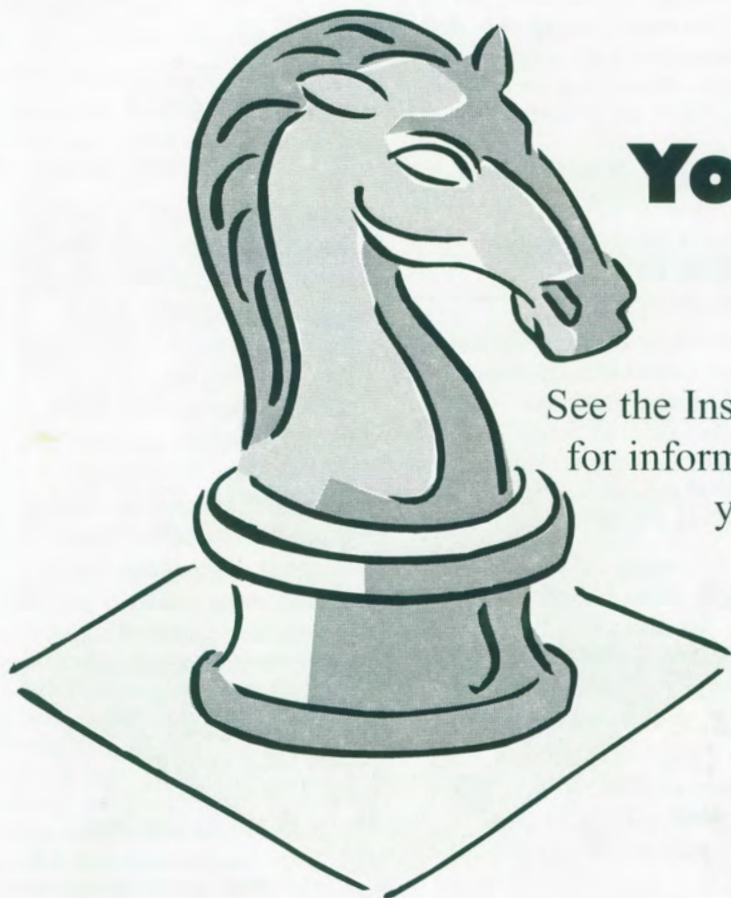
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Send submissions (paper or disk) with your phone number to P.O. Box 5768, Waco, TX 76708-0768; or e-mail to mleal@hot.rr.com. PGN files are preferred. Please mail a printout for ChessBase formatted submissions.

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Games from the Texas Masters

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Queen's Gambit Declined D30

Amon Simutowe 2442

Drew Sarkisian 2120

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.c4 e6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Qc2 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 h6 9.Rd1 Qe7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 f5



A new move; I was winging the opening at the board. White has a steady advantage after the "normal" 12...Nf6, as seen in Ibragimov-Panagopoulos, Kavala1999 12...Nf6 13.c5 Bc7 14.Bd3 Rd8 15.a3 Bd7 16.Bd2 Be8 17.Re1 Nd5 18.Re2 Qf8 19.Rae1 Kh8 20.Re4 Nf6 21.Rh4 Rd5 22.g4 Ng8 23.g5 Bd8 24.Kh1 g6 25.Bf4 Be7 26.Rh3 and White eventually won in 49 moves.

13.Bd3 Qf6 14.c5

Thematic; White's space advantage is worth more than control of d5.

14...Bc7 15.b4 Qf7

As GM Jonathan Rowson would put it, Black is guilty of "blinking" here. My original intention behind 12...f5 was to advance my e-pawn and gain a bit of space on the Kingside. 15...e5 16.Bc4+ Kh7 17.Bb2 e4 18.d5 Qg6 19.Nd4 cxd5 20.Bxd5 Nf6 looks reasonable for Black.

16.b5

White initiative on the Queenside is now overwhelming.

16...Nf6 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.Qa4 Bd7 19.Rb1 Nd5 20.Bd2 Rfd8 21.Ba6 Bc8 22.Kh1 Qd7 23.Bb7 Bxb7 24.Rxb7 Qe8 25.Ba5 Rdc8 26.Rdb1

26.Bxc7!? Rxc7 27.Rxc7 Nxc7 28.Ne5 wins a pawn immediately, but there's no way Black is going to get away...

26...Bb8 27.Qc4 Kh7 28.Qa6 Kh8 29.a4 Qg6?? 30.Rxg7! 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

QGD - Tarrasch D34

Babakouly Annakov 2520

Alexander Chua 2174

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.b3 Ne4 10.Bb2 Bf6 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Nd2 Re8N 13.Nxe4 Bxd4 14.Bxd4 cxd4 15.Re1 Bg4 16.Re1 Qe7 17.Qd2 Rad8



18.Nc5 Bc8 19.Nxb7 Bxb7 20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Rxc6 d3 22.e3 h6 23.Rc3 Qa3 24.Rxd3 Rxd3 25.Qxd3 Qxa2 26.Re1 Qa3 27.Re4 Rb8 28.Kg2 a5 29.Qc2 g6 30.Rc8+ Rxc8 31.Qxc8+ Kg7 32.Qc3+ Kh7 33.Qe4 Qe7 34.g4 Kg8 35.Qd5

Qb4 36.h3 Qe1 37.e4 Kg7 38.Qd4+ Kh7 39.e5 Qe2 40.Qd5 Kg7 41.Qd4 Kh7 42.h4 h5 43.Qf4 Kg8 44.gxh5 gxh5 45.Qe3 Qd1 46.Qf3 Qe2 47.Qe3 Kh7 48.Qf3 Kg8 49.Kh2 Qb2 50.Qg3+ Kf8 51.Qe3 Qc2 52.Qb6 Qe2 53.Qd8+ Kg7 54.Qf6+ Kf8 55.Qf4 Qb2 56.e6 f6 57.Qd6+ Kg7 58.Qc7+ Kg6 59.Qf7+ Kh6 60.Qf8+ Kh7 61.Qc5 Qxb3 62.Qxh5+ Kg7 63.Qf7+ Kh6 64.Qxf6+ Kh7 65.e7 Qb8+ 66.Kg2 Qg8+ 67.Qg5 Qa8+ 68.f3 Qe8 69.h5 Kh8 70.Qh6+ Kg8 71.Qg6+

...and I believe Alex played on to mate. Don't be offended, GM Annakov, he does that to everybody.

1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

King's Indian Attack A08

Kalim Nonchev 2130

Peter Vavrak 2487

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 h6 9.e5 Qc7 10.Qe2 g5 11.Nb3 b6 12.h4

12.h3 Ng6= 12...gxh4 13.Nxh4 Qxe5

13...Nxe5?! 14.Bf4 N7c6 15.Qh5 offers White good counterplay.

14.Qd1 Qf6 15.c3 0-0 16.Qh5 Ba6 17.Bf1

Interesting is 17.g4!? where the careless 17...Bxd3? gets Black into trouble after 18.g5 Bg6 19.Qg4 hxg5 20.Bxg5. Of course, this is all fantasy, since the more deliberate 17...e5 is a more likely choice for Black.

17...Ng6 18.Nf3 Nee5 19.Re3 Nxf3+ 20.Rxf3 Qe5 21.Qh3 d4 22.cxd4 cxd4 23.g4 Bb7 24.Rg3 Nf4 25.Bxf4 Qxf4 26.Bg2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Qg5 28.Re1 Rac8 29.Re2 Be5 30.Rf3 Rc7 31.Nd2 f6 32.Ne4 Qg6 33.Ng3 Bxg3 34.Qxg3 e5

35.Rf5 Rg7 36.Kh3 Qxf5 37.gxf5
Rxc3+ 38.Kxc3 Rc8



Black is up a pawn with the better pawn structure. Too bad the old saying "All Rook and Pawn endings are drawn" seems to be operative here...

39.f4 Rc5 40.Kf3 a5 41.Rg2+ Kf7
42.Rg6 exf4

42...h5!? doesn't seem to make a difference after 43.Rh6 exf4 44.Kxf4 Rc2 45.Rxh5 Kg7 46.Rh1 Rxb2 47.Ra1 Rf2+ 48.Ke4 b5 49.a3 Re2+ 50.Kxd4 Rc5 51.Rg1+ Kf7 52.Rf1=.

43.Kxf4 Rc2 44.Rxh6 Rxb2 45.Rh7+ Ke8 46.a4 Rb4 47.Rb7 Kd8 48.Ke4 Rxa4 1/2-1/2

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Modern Benoni A65

Trevor Jackson 2100

Michael Langer 2278

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Nge2 Nfd7

Incredibly rare: 9...Nbd7 and 9...a6 are normally seen here.

10.Ng3

10.Nf4

10...Ne5 11.Be2 h5 12.0-0 Na6 13.Qd2 Re8 14.h3 Nc7 15.Bg5 Bf6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Rad1

17.f4! immediately is strong: 17...Nd7 18.e5 dxe5 19.f5 h4 20.fxg6 Qxg6 21.Nf5

17...Qh4 18.Nh1 f5 19.f4 Nf7 20.exf5

Bxf5 21.Bd3 Nh6 22.Rf3 Re7 23.Ng3 Rf8 24.Rdf1 Qf6 25.Bxf5 Nxf5 26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.Rg3 Rf7 28.Rf3 Rg7 29.Rg5 Qf6 30.Rfg3 Qxf4 31.Qxf4 Rxf4 32.Rxc6



32...Rf7?

The bizarre-looking 32...Rg4!? keeps matters complicated: 33.R3xc6 hxc6 34.Rxd6 gxh3 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.d6 (36.g4 Rxc6+ 37.Kh2 Rg8 38.Rxc6 Kxc6=) 36...Ne6 37.Re8 Nd4 38.Re7 Nf3+ 39.Kf2 h2 40.Rxc7+ Kxc7 41.d7 h1Q 42.d8Q Qh4+ 43.Qxh4 Nxh4+.

33.Kh2 Rd7 34.Rh6 Rxc3 35.Kxc3 Rg7+ 36.Kh2 Ne8 37.Rxh5

The pair of passers on the Kingside are too strong.

37...Kf7 38.Rf5+ Ke7 39.g4 Nc7 40.a4 Na6 41.Kg3 Nb4 42.Rf3 Nc2 43.Rf2 Nb4 44.Rd2 Kf6 45.Kf4 Kg6 46.Ne4 b6 47.h4 Rf7+ 48.Kg3 Re7 49.h5+ Kh7 50.Nxd6 Re5 51.Kf4 Rxd5 52.Rxd5 Nxd5+ 53.Ke5 Nb4 54.g5 Kg7 55.Kf5 55.Nf5+

55...Nc6 56.h6+ Kh7 57.Kf6 a6 58.Nf7 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Petra Defence C42

Christopher Toolin 2109

Wellington Rocha 2399

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Bg4 9.c4

Considering what happens in this game, I find it hard to believe that White

shouldn't go into 9.Bxc4 dxc4 10.Rxc4 f5 11.Re1

9...f5 10.Nc3 Bxh2+ 11.Kxh2?

Looks like 11.Kf1 is forced here.

11...Nxf2 12.Qe2 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qh4+ 15.Qh3 Qxe1 16.Bh6 Qxa1 17.Bxc7 Kxc7 18.Qg3+ Kf7 19.Qxc7+



19...Kg8 20.Nxd5

White had to try 20.Qg3+ Kf7 21.Qc7+ forcing Black to find 21...Nd7 22.Qxd7+ Kg8-+.

20...Qe1

0-1

Scotch Game C45

Michal Kujovic 2329

Peter Yeh 2103

Texas Masters (1), 12.03.2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2 bxc6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Be4 Ne7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qxc3 12.Rb1 d6 13.Rb3 Qa5 14.e5 Ng6 15.f4 dxe5 16.f5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.f6 Bd7 19.fxg7 Rfe8 20.Qf2 Re4 21.Bd3 Ra4 22.c4 Qg5 23.Rb7 Ra3 24.Be4 Be6 25.Rfb1 Re3



11...h6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Na4 Bd7
14.Nb6 Rd8 15.Nc4 Bc6 16.Na5 Kd7
17.Be2 Rg8 18.g3 Rc8 19.Rhd1 Rc7
20.R1d2 Be7 21.Nc4 1/2-1/2 Guseinov-
Grishchuk, Plovdiv 2003.

12.Na4 Bd7

12...Bd8 or 12...Nd7 are typical,
retaining control of the b6 square.

13.Nb6 Rd8 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.Bxe7
Kxe7 16.Be2 Rc8 17.Rb4 Rc7 18.Rd1
Rhc8 19.c3 Nf6 20.Bf3 b5 21.Rbd4
Rd7 22.Kc2 Re5 23.Kb3 e5 24.fxe5
dxe5 25.Rxd7+ Nxd7 26.a4 Nb6
27.axb5 Rxb5+ 28.Kc2 a5 29.Be2 Re5
30.b3 g6 31.g4 f5



32.gxf5 gxf5 33.exf5?!

Now things get out of control.
33.Rd3! fxe4 (33...f4 34.Rh3+/-) 34.Rh3
is better for White.

33...Nd5 34.Kb2 Nxe3 35.Rc1 Ne4
36.Rxc5 Nxe5 37.Kc3 Ne4+ 38.Kc4
Kf6 39.Bd3 Nd2+

39...Kxf5?? 40.Kd5+/-.

40.Kc3 Nf3 41.h3 Nd4 42.Kc4 Nxf5
43.Kb5



43...Nd4+??

Missing 43...e4! 44.Bf1 (44.Bxe4??
Nd6+ 45.Kxa5 Nxe4) 44...Nd4+
45.Kxa5 Nxb3+ 46.Kb4 Nd2 47.Ba6
Nf3 48.Kc3 Kg5 49.Kc2 Kf4 and Black's
on top.

44.Kxa5 Nxb3+ 45.Kb4 Nd4 1/2-1/2

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Queen's Indian E17

Peter Vavrik 2487

Ryan Milisits 2194

Texas Masters (2), 12.04.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Bb7
5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5 exd5 8.Nh4
Re8

More common is 8...c6 9.cxd5 cxd5
10.Nf5.

9.cxd5 Bf8

9...d6 10.Nc3 a5 11.Nf5 Bf8 12.Re1
Na6 13.e4 Nc5 Hardman-Saunders, West
Bromwich 2003 1/2-1/2.

10.Nc3 Na6 11.Nf5 Nc5 12.Qd4 Ba6?



>=12...h6+/-.

13.Bg5+- Kh8 14.b4 Nb7 15.b5 Bc5
16.Qh4 Bxb5 17.Nxb5

White delays for one move the
crushing 17.Nxg7! Kxg7 18.Qh6+ Kg8
19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Qxf6 Bxe2 21.Nxe2
Rxe2.

17...Rxe2 18.Nxg7! 1-0

Queen's Gambit Declined D37

Petr Kirakov 2629

Trevor Jackson 2072

Texas Masters (2), 12.04.2004

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.h3 0-0 8.a3 Re8
9.Be2 Nf8 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Ne5 Ng6
12.Bg3 Qe7 13.Qc2 Bd7

For better or worse, it appears that
Black should give up the center with
13...dxc4 moving his light-squared bishop.
14.c5 Bb8 15.Qb3 Be8

15...b5

16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Bxb8+- e5 18.Bd6
Qe6 19.Qa4 Bd7 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.Qd4
Ng6 22.Bd3 Ne4 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Be4
Qf5 25.f3 Qg5 26.f4 Qh5 27.Qd1 Qf5
28.Qe1 Qf6 29.b4 Ne7 30.Rd1 Nf5
31.Be5 Qe7 32.g4 Nh6 33.Rd6 Be6
34.Bxe6 fxe6 35.Bb2 Rac8

Better is 35...Nf7 but it doesn't really
matter at this point.

36.Qg3 Nf7 37.Rd4 Red8 38.Rxe4 Rd5
39.Rd4 Red8 40.Rfd1 h6 41.Qf3 Nh8
42.Qe4 Qf7 43.Rf1 Re8 44.Qf3 Qd7
45.Rfd1 Nf7 46.e4 Rxd4 47.Rxd4 Qe7
48.Rd2 Qh4 49.Kg2 e5 50.Qg3 Qf6
51.f5 Ng5 52.Qe3 Qf7 53.h4 Nh7 54.g5
hxg5 55.hxg5 Qh5 56.g6 Nf6 57.Qb3+
Kh8 58.Qh3 Qxh3+ 59.Kxh3 Nxe4
60.Re2 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Sicilian B22

William Aramil 2229

Curtis Brooks 2159

Texas Masters (2), 12.04.2004

1.e4 c5 2.e3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nc6 6.dxc5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Bg4
8.Be3 g6N

8...e6 9.b4 a5 10.Bb5 Nd5 11.Bd2
Be7 12.a3 axb4 13.cxb4 Bf6 14.Ra2 Bf5
15.Ke2 0-0 was Pedersen-Summerscale,
Aarhus 1994. Black looks to have good
piece play for the pawn.

9.Nbd2 Nd5 10.Bb5 Nxe3+ 11.fxe3 Bh6

12.Ke2 Rc8 13.b4 Bg7 14.Rac1 0-0
 15.h3 Bd7 16.Nb3 a6 17.Rhd1 Be6
 18.Bxc6 Rxc6 19.Na5 Rc7 20.Rd2 h6
 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.Kf2 Rb8 [22...e5]
 23.Nc4 Rcc8 24.Nb6 Rd8 25.Rcd1 Be8
 26.e4 e5 27.Nb3 Rxd2+ 28.Rxd2 e4
 29.a3 Bc3 30.Rc2 Be5 31.a4 Be7
 32.Ra2 Kf8 33.Nd5 Bd8 34.b5 Ra8
 35.Nd4 Rc8 36.Nb3 Ra8 37.Rb2



37...axb5 38.axb5 Ra4 39.Rc2 f5?
 39...Be7.

40.Nd4 Bf7 41.c6 bxc6 42.bxc6 f4 43.c7
 Bxc7 44.Nxc7 Bxc4 45.Nee6+ Kf7
 46.Nxf4 g5 47.Nfe2 Bd3 48.Rc6 h5
 49.Rb6 h4 50.Rb7+ Kg6 51.Re7 Ra2
 52.Re7 Rb2 53.Re6+ Kf7 54.Rc1 Kf6
 55.Rd1 Ra2 56.Ke1 Kg6 57.Rd2 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Queen's Gambit Declined D31

Alexander Chua 2174
 Michal Kujovic 2329

Texas Masters (2), 12.04.2004

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 e6 4.e4

Alex can be quite aggressive at times, so his playing the Marshall Gambit isn't such a big surprise.

4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4

Oops! - Correction

The cover puzzle for the March-April 2005 was mate in 5 not mate in 3.

7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Na6 9.Ba3 Bd7
 10.Qd6
 10.Qd2.
 10...0-0-0 11.0-0-0 Nf6 12.Qg3 e5
 13.Bd3 Qg4 14.f3 Qd4 15.Ne2 Qe3+
 16.Kc2 Be6 17.Rhe1



17...Nh5

Black can be more direct with 17...Rxd3!? 18.Rxd3 Bf5. Kujovic may not have liked the looks of 19.Nc1 Qd4 leaving the g-pawn hanging, but 20.Qxg7? gets White in a heap of trouble after 20...Rd8 21.Red1 Qxe4+ 22.Kb1 Bxd3+ 23.Rxd3 Rxd3 24.Qxf6 Rd2 25.Qh8+ Kd7! and Black emerges up the Exchange with the initiative to boot.

18.Qh4 g5?!

18...g6.

19.Qe4??

Alex wasn't in good form this tournament, otherwise he would have found 19.Qxh5 Rxd3 20.Ng3! (less good is 20.Rxd3 Bf5 21.Red1 Bxd3+ 22.Rxd3 Qxe2+ 23.Kc3 Qe1+ 24.Kb3 Qe2 25.Qg4+ Kb8=) 20...Rd2+ 21.Rxd2 Qxe1 22.Qxg5 with advantage to White.

19...Qf2 20.Be7

20.g3 Ne5 21.Bxc5 Qxe5-/+.

20...Ne5 21.Qxe5

White had to try 21.Bxc5.

21...Nxd3 22.Rxd3 Qxe1 23.Bxd8 Rxd8 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.Qb8+ Ke7

Around this point, my game finished up and I stopped paying attention to this game. I was stunned to hear that it ended up as a draw...

26.Qxb7+ Kf6 27.Nc3 Qf2+ 28.Ke1 Qe3+ 29.Kc2 Bf5+ 30.Kb3 Qb6+??

Dropping the piece back. 30...Nf4 and White is toast (though Alex will play down to mate).

31.Qxb6 axb6 32.g4 Be6 33.gxh5 b5 34.Ne4+

34.Kb4 Bxc4 35.a4 Ke7+/-.

34...Kf5

34...Ke5!? 35.Nxg5 Bxc4+ 36.Kb4 h6 37.Ne4 Bxa2 looks very good for Black.

35.Kb4 Kf4 36.exb5 exb5 37.Nf6

Not 37.Kxb5?! g4 38.a4 gxf3=.

37...Bxa2 38.Nxh7 Bb1

38...g4!? 39.fxg4 Kxg4 40.Kxb5 Kxh5.

39.Nf6

Now White's passed h-pawn wreaks havoc.

39...Ke5 40.Ne4 g4 41.Nd2

Missing 41.h6 gxf3 42.h7+/-.

41...Bf5 42.fxg4 Bxg4 43.h6 Kf6

44.Ne4+ Kg6 45.h7 Kg7 46.Nf6

White keeps a winning position with 46.Kxb5!? f5 47.Nf6 Bf3+/-.

46...Be2 47.h4 Bf1 48.Kc5 Be2 49.b4

Bf1 50.Kd6 Be2 51.Ke7 Be4 52.Kd6

Or 52.h5 Bb3 53.h6+ Kh8 54.Kd6 Be4 55.Kc6 Bd3 56.Kd5 Bf5 and I don't see how White makes progress. (Note that Black loses the ending after 56...Bxh7? 57.Nxh7 Kxh7 58.Ke5 Kxh6 59.Kxb5 looks like a winning ending for White).

52...Bf1 53.h5 Be2 54.Ke5 Bf1 55.Kd4

Be2 56.Ke3 Bf1 57.Kf4 Be2 58.Kg5 Bf1

59.Ne4 Kxh7 60.Kf6

60.Nf6+ Kh8 61.h6=.

60...Kh6 61.Kxf7 Be4+ 62.Ke7 Kxh5

63.Kd6 Kg6 64.Kc5 Bf1 65.Nd6

Attacks the isolani on b5.

65...Kf6 66.Nxb5 Ke7 67.Kc6 Kd8

68.Nd6 Be2 69.Ke5 Ke7 70.Ne4 Bxc4

71.Kxc4 Kb6 72.b5 Kb7 73.Kc5 Kc7

74.h6+ Kb7 75.Kb5 Kb8 76.Ka5 Kb7

77.Kb5 Kb8 78.Kc4 Kb7 79.Kc5 Kb8

80.Kb5 Kb7 1/2-1/2

14...Ng4+! 15.fxg4 Qe4 16.Qd5 Qxe3+
17.Ke1 Rhe8?!

Wrong move order; 17...Bxg4
18.Nc1 Rhe8 19.Bd2 Qf2+ 20.Kd1
Bxe2+ 21.Nxe2 Rxe2 wins outright.
18.Nc1?

White can defend himself by inter-
polating 18.Qf5+ Kb8 before 19.Nc1
though Black is still better.

18...Qf2+ 19.Kd1 Bg2 20.Qf5+ Qxf5
21.gxf5 Bxh1 22.Bxg7 d5 23.c5 Bxe5
24.Bh5 Re3 25.Bxf7 Rd7 0-1

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Sicilian B22

Ryan Milisits 2194
Alexander Chua 2171

Texas Masters (3), 12.04.2004

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4
exd4 6.exd4 d6 7.a3 Bd7 8.Bd3 Be6
9.0-0 Nd7 10.Re1 Be7 11.Nbd2 dxe5
12.dxe5 Qc7 13.Nf1 Rd8 14.b4?!

Too loosening... 14.Qe2 is probably
a better idea.

14...Nc3! 15.Qc2 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxe5
17.Be4 f5 18.f4 fxe4 19.fxe5 Qxe5
20.Bb2 Bf6

20...Qg5+ 21.Ng3 Nd5 22.Qxe4=+.
21.Bxc3

Fritz 8 suggests 21.Ng3!? Rc8
22.Nxe4 regarding the position as equal.
Hmmm. I'm having a hard time believing
that somebody doesn't have something
here...

21...Qxe3 22.Qxe4 Qc6!?



Getting out of danger with 22...0-0

23.Qxe6+ Kh8 suggests itself.

23.Qg4!?

Still trying to mix things up.

23.Qxc6+!? bxc6 24.Rxe6+ Kf7
25.Rae1=.

23...Kf7 24.Rac1 Qb6 25.Ng3 Rd5??

Indicative of Chua's bad form during
this event. 25...Rhe8 is fully playable.

26.Rc7+!+- Kf8

Or 26...Qxc7 27.Qxe6+ Kg6
28.Qxd5 and the threat of Qh5# forces
28...h5 29.Qf5+ Kf7 30.Ne4! Qc6 31.b5!
g6 (31...Qc7 32.Ng5+ wins the Queen or
mates) 32.bxc6 gxf5 33.Nd6+ Kg7 34.c7
and the c-pawn decides matters.

27.Rc8+ Rd8 28.Rxe6 Rxc8 29.Rxb6
Rc1+ 30.Kg2 axb6 31.Qd7 Re1
32.Qc8+ Re8 33.Qxb7 g6 34.Qxb6 Kg7
35.a4 Rb8 36.Qc7+ Kh6 37.Ne4 Bd4
38.Qf4+ Kg7 39.Ng5 Bf6 40.Qc7+ Kh6
41.Nf7+ Kh5 42.Nxh8 Rxh8+ 43.b5 h6
44.b6 Rf8 45.Qd6 Rf7 46.Qd5+ Bg5
47.Qxf7 Bc1 48.b7 Bg5 49.b8Q Kg4
50.Qf3+ Kh4 51.Qbg3# 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

King's Indian E92

Amon Simutowe 2444
William Aramil 2229

Texas Masters (3), 12.04.2004

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 exd4 8.Nxd4
Re8 9.f3 c6 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.Bf2 Nbd7
12.0-0 Nb6 13.Rfe1 Be6 14.b3 Rad8
15.Rad1 Bc8 16.a4 Qc7 17.a5 Nbd7
18.b4 a6



19.Nb3 c5 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.cxd5 exb4
22.Nd4 Qxa5 23.Ra1 Qc7 24.Qxb4 Nc5
25.Rab1 Qe7 26.Bf1 Bd7 27.Qb6 Be5
28.Nc2 Re8 29.Na3 Ba4 30.Nc4 Nd7
31.Qxb7 Bc3 (scoresheets are illegible
after this point). 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Sicilian B33

Moves Movesiesian 2277
Christopher Toolin 2109

Texas Masters (3), 12.04.2004

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.Bd3
Be6 12.0-0 Bg7 13.Qh5 Ra7 14.c3 h6
15.f4 0-0 16.Kh1 fxe4 17.Bxe4 f5
18.Qg6 fxe4 19.Qxe6+ Raf7 20.f5 Kh8
21.Rae1 Qg5 22.f6 Bxf6 23.Ne3 Qh5
24.Qf5 Bg5



(scoresheet is illegible).

1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Queen's Gambit Accepted D27

Petr Kirakov 2629
Amon Simutowe 2444

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6
5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.dxc5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1
Bxc5

Deceptively equal-looking, but
determined players can try to make
something out of White's tiny lead in

development.
 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.a3 0-0 11.b4 Be7
 12.Bb2 b6?!
 12...b5.
 13.Rac1 Bb7



14.Bxa6 Bxa6 15.Rxc6 Rfb8 16.Nd4 h6
 17.Rcc1 Re8 18.N2f3 Rxc1 19.Rxc1
 Re8 20.Rxc8+ Bxc8 21.Nc6 Bf8
 22.Nfe5 Nd7 23.Na7 Nxe5 24.Nxc8 Nc4
 25.Bc1 f5 26.Kf1 e5 27.f3 e4 28.fxe4
 fxe4 29.Ke2 h5 30.Kd1 g6 31.Kc2 b5
 32.Kc3 Nd6 33.Nxd6 Bxd6 34.h3 Kf7

The scoresheet didn't make sense here...it had 35.a4 bxa4 36.Kxa4. So, I guess and put in the 35th moves and then the game works out.

35.Kb3 Ke6 36.a4 bxa4+ 37.Kxa4 Kf6
 38.Kb5 Kg5 39.Bd2 Kh4 40.Be1+ Bg3
 41.Bxg3+ Kxg3 42.Kc5 h4 43.b5 Kxg2
 44.b6 Kxh3 45.b7 Kg2 46.b8Q h3
 47.Qf4 h2 48.Qxe4+ 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Modern Averbach A42

Deepyaman Datta 2061
 Babakouly Annakov 2520

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

Datta holds his second titled player to a draw this tournament. Unfortunately, we did not receive Datta's scoresheet, and Annakov (among MANY Texas players) tends to submit illegible scoresheets. Sigh.

1.d4 d6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nd7
 5.e4 e5 6.Bg5 f6 (scoresheet is illegible).
 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Four Knights B45

Michael Langer 2278

Ryan Milisits 2194

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

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.Bb5 0-0 11.0-0
 Bg4 12.Qd3 d4 13.Ne2 Bxe2 14.Qxe2
 Re8 15.Qd3 Qd5 16.Be4 Qd6



The two Bishops don't impress here.
 17.Qf5 Ne5 18.Bb5 Re6 19.Bd2 Re8
 20.Bb4 Qc7 21.Ba4?

Necessary was 21.Bd3. Now Black gets a winning attack.

21...Nfg4! 22.g3 Rf6 23.Qe4 Nf3+
 24.Kg2 Nfxh2 25.Qxd4 b5! 26.Bb3
 Nxf1 27.Qxg4??

Overlooking the fact that the Nf1 can escape due to a little trick. 27.Rxf1 Qb7+ 28.f3 leaves Black on top, but it's still a chess game.

27...Qc6+ 28.Kg1 Nh2!! 29.Qh5
 29.Kxh2?? Rh6+ nets the Queen or mates.
 29...Nf3+ 30.Kf1 Nd4 31.Rd1 Nxb3
 0-1

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Caro-Kann Defense B12

Christopher Toolin 2110

Drew Sarkisian 2120

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 Na6

A bizarre line that NM Jack Young of

MA taught me to appreciate.

3.Nf3 g6 4.Nc3

4.Bxa6?! Qa5+ gives Black the two Bishops without making any structural concessions.

4...Nc7 5.Bg5 f6!? 6.Be3 Nh6 7.Qd2
 Nf7 8.h4!

A good, aggressive response to Black's provocative play.

8...d6 9.h5 g5 10.Bc4 e6

10...d5.

11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 e5 13.0-0-0



13...g4?!

During the post-mortem, Chris at first seemed to believe that Black was just about lost here. I found that pretty amusing, esp. since his suggestion of 13...Be7 with the possibility of further Kingside expansion seems to be perfectly playable for Black.

14.Nh4! f5 15.Rde1 Be7 16.Ng6! Rg8
 17.Nxe7 Qxe7 18.f4! e4?

Giving in too easily. 18...gxf3 had to be tried.

19.Bf2 Nh6 20.Bh4 Qg7 21.Nxe4

Obvious, but effective.

21...fxe4 22.Rxe4+ Kf8 23.Re7 Qxe7
 24.Bxe7+ Kxe7 25.Re1+ Kf7 26.Qb4
 Rd8 27.Bd3 Nf5 28.h6 Re8 29.Rxe8
 Kxe8 30.Qc3 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

French Tarrasch C06

Michal Kujovic 2329

Movses Movsisyan 2277

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7

5.Bd3 e5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3
 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6
 12.a3 0-0 13.b4 Bd7

13...e5 is the most common continu-
 ation here.

14.Bf4 Bxf4 15.Nxf4 Ne4 16.Ne2



16...Rxf3?!

17.gxf3 Ng5 18.f4 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 Nxd4
 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Qh5 Nf5 22.Rae1
 Rf8 23.Re5 Nh6 24.Rg5 Kh8 25.Bxh7
 Qd4 26.Bb1 Be8 27.Qf3



27...Qf6?

27...Rxf4 28.Qd3 Nf5 29.Qxd4
 Nxd4 and Black is hanging on.

28.Re1 Bc6 29.b5

White could also try 29.Qd3 Nf5
 30.b5 and not give up any material.

29...Bxb5 30.Rg6 Qxf4 31.Qxf4 Rxf4
 32.Rexe6 Kg8 33.Kg3 Rf7?

33...Rf8.

34.Rg5 Kf8 35.Rxd5 Bd7 36.Re2 g6
 37.Bxg6 Rg7 38.Kf4 Ng8

Ending things immediately.

39.Rf5+!

1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

Queen's Gambit Declined D38

William Aramil 2229

Kalin Nonchev 2130

Texas Masters (4), 12.05.2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4
 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3
 c6 9.0-0 Re8

9...h6.

10.Qc2 Qa5 11.Ne5 Bxc3 12.Nxd7 Ne4
 13.bxc3 Bxd7 14.Bf4 h6 15.Rab1 b6
 16.e4? Nd2 17.Bd6 Nxb1 18.Rxb1 dxc4
 19.Bxc4 Bf5 20.Qb3 Bxb1 21.Bxf7+
 Kh8 22.Qxb1 Rf8



OK, so you've dropped two
 Exchanges and should be totally busted.
 What to do? Act like nothing has hap-
 pened and use your two Bishops to harass
 your opponent as much as possible.

23.Bb4 Qb5 24.Bg6 c5 25.dxc5??

This should drop a piece...

25...bxc5

...which Black can pick off with
 25...Rad8 (threat: 26...Qxb4 followed by
 27...Rd1+) 26.h3 bxc5 27.Bc3 Qxb1+
 28.Bxb1 Rd1+.

26.Bc3 Qxb1+

Black is a bit too non-chalant here
 (wait until you see MY game from round
 5 if you want to see "non-chalant").

26...Qe2!? 27.Qe1 Qxa2 keeps up the
 pressure.

27.Bxb1 a5 28.Be4 Rfd8 29.Kf1 Ra7
 30.a4 Rb8 31.Ke2 Rb4

31...Rb3 32.Kd2 Ra3 33.Bc6 Ra2+
 looks winning.

32.Bc2?

Fritz 8 suggests 32.Bc6 Rb3 33.Kd3
 Rf7.

32...Rd7

Use those Rooks! 32...Rc4 33.Kd3
 Rg4 34.g3 Rd7+ 35.Ke2 Re4 36.Bf5 Ra7
 37.Kd3 Rxa4.

33.Bxb4 axb4

33...cxb4!?

34.Bb3

Now things get much tougher.

34...g5 35.f3 Kg7 36.e4 Ra7 37.Kd3
 Kf6 38.Kc4 Ra5 39.Kd3 Ke7 40.g3 Ra8
 41.f4 Rf8 42.f5 Rd8+ 43.Kc4 Kf6

1/2-1/2

French C13

Wellington Rocha 2399

Petr Kiriakov 2629

Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4
 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 1/2-1/2

Slav Defense D15

Babakouly Annakov 2520

Amon Simutowe 2444

Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 a6 5.g3
 e6 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.b3 b5 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Bf4
 h6 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 Nd7 12.Bf4 g5



13.Bd2 Bg7 14.e4 dxc4 15.e5 cxb3
 16.Ne4 0-0 17.Nd6 b2 18.Rb1 Ra7
 19.Rxb2 Ba8 20.f4 c5 21.Be3 cxd4
 22.Bxd4 Rc7 23.Qg4 Bxg2 24.Rxg2
 Rc6 (scoresheets are illegible). 1-0

Modern Benoni: Taimanov Variation A67
Alexander Chua 2174
Michael Langer 2278
Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5
 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+
 Nfd7 9.a4 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qd8 11.Nf3 0-0
 12.0-0 a6 13.Bd3 Nf6 14.Kg2 Bg4
 15.h3 Bxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Nbd7 17.g4 Ne8
 18.Bd2 Rb8 19.h4 Nc7

Bad is 19...Qxh4? 20.g5 h5 21.gxh6
 and White has an obvious advantage.
 20.h5 b5 21.axb5 Nxb5 22.Nxb5 axb5
 23.Rh1 Bxb2 24.Ra7 e4

**25.Qh3??**

Losing the thread. The position after
 25.hxg6 fxg6 26.e5 cxd3 27.e6+/- Ne5
 28.Qh3 h5 29.fxe5 dxe5 30.Qxd3 is the
 sort that Alex has been looking for.

25...g5!

No need to give White play after
 25...cxd3 26.hxg6 Nf6 27.g5+/-.

26.Bb1 Ra8

Stronger is 26...gxf4 27.Bxf4 Bd4
 28.Ra2 Be5 with a dominating position.
 27.Rxa8 Qxa8 28.fxg5 Qa3 29.Be3 Be5
 30.Qf3 Qb2+ 31.Kh3?

31...f6 32.g6 hxg6 33.Bh6

33.Qg2+.

33...Ra8 34.hxg6 Ra3 35.Be3 Kg7

Why not finish matters immediately
 with 35...Bd4!? 36.Re1 Qc3.

36.g5 Qc3 37.Kg4 Qxe3 38.Rh7+ Kg8
 39.Qxe3 Rxe3 40.Rxd7 fxg5 41.Rb7
 Rb3 42.Be2 Rb2 43.Bd1

**43...c3?**

Slipping? 43...Rb1 44.Be2 Re1
 45.Kf3 Bd4 and White doesn't have a
 chance to pick up the b-pawn due to
 46.Rxb5 g4+ 47.Kxg4 Rxe2.

44.Kxg5 e2 45.Bxc2 Rxc2 46.Rxb5

White can make things more difficult
 for Black with 46.Rb8+!? Kg7 47.Rb7+
 Kf8 48.Rb8+ Ke7 49.Rb7+ Kd8
 50.Rxb5 Rg2+ 51.Kh6 Rh2+ 52.Kg5
 Kc7 53.Rb1. Still, Black should be able
 to make progress sooner or later.

46...Re7 47.Kf5 Re7 48.Rb1 Bd4
49.Rd1 Re5+ 50.Kf4 Be5 51.Rc1 Re8
52.Rc2 Kg7 53.Rg2 Rf8+ 54.Kg5 Be3+
55.Kh5 Re8 56.Rb2 Re5+ 57.Kg4
Rxe4+ 58.Kf3 Re5 59.Rb7+ Kxg6
60.Rd7 Be5 61.Kf4 Rxd5 62.Ke4 Rd4+
63.Ke3 Kf5 64.Ke2 Ke4 65.Re7+ Kd5
66.Rd7 Re4+ 67.Kf3 Re3+ 68.Kf2 Kd4

0-1

Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System D44
Petr Vavrak 2487
Christopher Toolin 2109
Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5
 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5
 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.g3 Bb7 12.Bg2
 Qb6 13.exf6 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5 15.d5 b4
 16.Na4 Qa6 17.a3 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Ne5
 19.axb4 Rxd5 20.Qe2 cxb4



Not too much theory thus far...

21.Bf4 Nd3 22.Nc3 Nxf4

Playable is 22...Ra5!? 23.Rxa5 Qxa5
23.gxf4

23.Rxa6? Nxe2+ 24.Nxe2 Kb7+.

23...Qc6 24.Nxd5 exd5

Black needs to keep the h1-a8 diago-
 nal open, so 24...Qxd5 is stronger:
 25.Qg4 Be5. He's attracted by the
 prospect of having a big mobile pawn
 center.

25.Rxa7

Why not?

25...Rg8+ 26.Kh1 d4+ 27.f3 d3 28.Qe5

Quote from a Great...

*"The blunders are all there on the board
 waiting to be made."*

- Savielly Tartakower

28...Rg1+?

A better try is 28...d2! 29.Qh5 Bd6 30.Rxf7 (not 30.Qxf7?? Qxf3+ 31.Rxf3 d1Q+) 30...Re8 31.Ra7 Re1 32.Qh8+ Qe8 33.Ra8+ Bb8 34.Qxe8+ Rxe8 35.f7 Rf8 36.Ra4+-.

29.Kxg1 Bc5+ 30.Kg2 Bxa7 31.Qe7 Bd4

Or 31...c3 32.bxc3 Bc5 33.Qxf7 bxc3 34.Re1+-.

32.Qxb4

32.Qf8+ Kc7 33.Qxf7+ Kb6 34.Ra1! Kb5 35.Qh5+ Bc5 36.f7.

32...Bxb2?

Black also loses after 32...Qc5 33.Qa4 Kc7 34.Re1 Bxf6 35.Re4 Bd4 36.Qe8.

33.Qxb2 c3 34.Qb4 1-0

Notes by Drew Sarkisian

*Sicilian B22***Ryan Milisits 2197****Movses Movsisyan 2277***Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004*

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a3 exd4 9.exd4 0-0 10.Nc3 Qd6 11.Be2 Rd8 12.Be3 a6 13.Qd3 g6 14.Rad1 b5 15.b4 Bb7 16.Rfe1 Rac8 17.Bb3 Nb8 18.Bg5 Nbd7

**19.d5**

Let the chop-fest begin!

19...exd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Qxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5 23.Bxe7 Nxe7 24.Rxe7 Nb6 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Kf1 Rd1+ 27.Ke2 Ra1 28.Ng5 Ra2+ 29.Ke1 Ra1+

29...Nc4 30.Nxf7 Nxa3 31.Rd7 Nc2+ 32.Kf1 Nxb4 33.Ng5 is another try for Black.

30.Ke2 Ra2+

30...Nd5 31.Rd7 Nc3+ 32.Ke3 Rxa3 33.Nxf7 Nd5+ 34.Kd4 Nxb4 35.Ne5.

31.Ke1 Rxa3 32.Nxf7 h5 33.Ng5 Nd5 34.Rd7 Nf6 35.Rd6 Kg7 36.Ne6+ Kf7 37.Ng5+ Kg7 38.Ne6+ Kh6 39.h4 Ra1+ 40.Ke2 Ra2+ 41.Ke1 Rxf2 42.Rd8

**42...Re2?**

Pushing too hard. 42...Rxc2 43.Rh8+ Nh7+/- 44.Ng5 Rxc2 45.hxc2+ Kg7 46.Ra8 Nxc2=.

43.Rh8+ Nh7 44.Ng5 Rc7

Now Black's all tied up.

45.Kd2 Rd7+ 46.Ke3 Rc7 47.g3 Rd7 48.Ke4 Rc7 49.Kd5 a5 50.bxa5 b4 51.Nxh7 Kg7 52.Rb8 Kxh7 53.Rxb4 Rc3 54.Ra4 Rd3+ 55.Kc6 Rc3+ 56.Kb5 Rxc3 57.a6 Rb3+ 58.Rb4 Ra3 59.Ra4

59.Kb6! looks like a winner.

59...Rb3+ 60.Kc4 Rb8 61.a7 Ra8 62.Kb5

62.Ra6! g5 63.hxc2 h4 64.Kc5 and it's over.

62...g5 63.Kb6 gxf4 64.Rxf4 Kg6

The King is out of the box now.

65.Kb7 Rxa7+ 66.Kxa7 Kg5 67.Rh1 h4 68.Kb6 Kg4 69.Kc5 Kg3 70.Kd4 h3 71.Ke3 Kg2 72.Rd1 h2 73.Rd2+ Kg1

1/2-1/2



Notes by Drew Sarkisian

*Queen's Pawn Game D02***Drew Sarkisian, Drew 2120****Kalin Nonchev 2130***Texas Masters (5), 12.05.2004*

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 Bg4 4.Nbd2 Nf6 5.h3 Bh5 6.c3 e6 7.g4 Bg6 8.Bg2 Bd6 9.Ne5 0-0 10.0-0 Ne7 11.e3 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 Nd7 13.Bg3 c5 14.Bd6 Bd3 15.Re1 c4

**16.e4 Nf6?**

16...dxe4.

17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.exd5 Rae8 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Re5 Nd7 21.Re3 e5? 22.Bd5+ Kh8 23.Bxc4 Bxc4 24.Nxc4 Qf6 25.Qe2 e4 26.Re1 Qh4 27.Nd6 Re6 28.Nf5 Qg5 29.Rxe4

Up three(!) pawns, what's the problem? Well, drawing this game was worse for me than any of my losses this tournament.

29...Ref6 30.f4 Qg6 31.Ng3 Qf7 32.Nh5 Rg6 33.Re7 Qd5 34.Qe4??

34.Qg2.

34...Qxh5 35.Kh2??

35.f5 Qxh3 36.fxc6 Rf3 37.Re8+ Nf8 38.Rxf8+ Rxf8 39.Qf4!

35...Qb5??

35...Qh4! and White has nothing better than 36.Rxd7 Qf2+ 37.Kh1 Re6!! 38.Qxe6 Qf3+ with perpetual check.

36.c4 Qa4 37.b3 Qxa2+ 38.Re2 Qxb3 39.Rxd7 Qxc4 40.Rxb7 a5 41.d5 Qa6 42.Qe7 Rg8 43.Ra7 Qc4 44.Qe4 Qc5 45.Rd7 Rb6 46.Qe5 Rb3 47.Qe6 h6 48.g5 Qc3 49.Qg4 Rb2 50.Rde7 Rxe2+ 51.Qxe2 Qd4 52.Qe4 Qf2+ 1/2-1/2

The 14H-Bomb

By Matt Nemmers

If I didn't have bad luck I wouldn't have any luck at all.

Not a month after I received my club-level tournament director certification, someone goes and claims a draw under the Insufficient Losing Chances rule (the much-debated USCF Rule 14H) at our club tournament. Some directors have been running tournaments ever since the USCF implemented this bizarre rule in 1993 and still haven't had that situation come up, yet the bomb is dropped on me while still a fledgling TD working under instruction.

Fortunately for me, I didn't suffer the repercussions of Lady Luck's wrath alone. Since I was just the back-up TD assisting (read: learning how to do) the pairings, one of our more experienced players was the head honcho for that month's tournament and was the poor sap who had to make what turned out to be a very unpopular ruling. Before I go into all the dubious variations of personal behavior the application of 14H can result in and why I think it's an absurd contradiction of the basic premise for timed play, let me enlighten you on exactly what this rule means and how it comes about.

The idea behind this rule is -- player ratings and time left on each player's clock notwithstanding -- that a Class 'C' player could reasonably draw the game in his position against a master given ample time. This situation arises when one player uses all but five minutes of his time in a sudden death time-control; he may then "offer" his opponent a draw if his position and/or material advantage is such that he would be unlikely to lose the game given sufficient time.

As is the case with most logic-impaired monopolies, the USCF fails to define what "ample" and "sufficient" time mean, which only further complicates the decision making process for the director. This, coupled with the fact that the strongest players available for position analysis were rated 1746 and 1640 (one of which was ineligible as he was the player claiming the draw), only served to enhance the skepticism of the opponent and incredulous spectators who had never heard of "Insufficient Losing Chances." The problem, as argued by the irate player on the receiving end of this soup-sandwich, is that the rule doesn't make sense -- an obvious point which nobody present could easily refute. Here's why:

In a sudden death game players are given so many minutes to make all their moves. If one player oversteps the time limit and, in the chess-geek vernacular, their flag falls, he or she loses.

Period. End of story. This keeps games from becoming the 19th century sit-outs à la LaBourdonnais-McDonnell, 1834 or Staunton-St. Amant, 1843. As our bitter protagonist vehemently argued, clocks were introduced for a reason. If we rid ourselves of our only means of regulating the time period in which a game is to be played, we totally negate the purpose for which they were created. One can hardly dispute this flawless logic.

However, the upper echelon of the USCF, undoubtedly subsidized by the Politically Correct Commandos and the Liberal Ego-Protection Commission, decided that it just wasn't fair for a player to lose a theoretically won game just because his time-management skills were substandard. So, utilizing their infinite wisdom, they created Rule 14H; a rule which has distinguished itself not only for its inequity, but also for its marked lack of any semblance of clarity. After all, it is at the sole discretion of the director whether to allow the draw or to make the player claiming the draw to play on, when sometimes the ruling director is rated a measly, patzer-esque 1200. (Don't mind my blushing.)

Needless to say, we had quite a few unhappy campers that dramatic evening at the club. When the rule was presented in black and white, some of our members still disagreed with our ruling, citing that common-sense had the opposition. We even had one player drop out of that month's tournament and threaten to boycott future events unless we overturned our ruling. Despite our efforts to explain the hows and whys of this rule, the pseudo-ultimatums, and our gut feeling that we were correct in upholding the draw, we decided to defer judgment to the masters and other associated minions of the USCF. Given the position, they determined that our ruling was correct.

I think I've made my indelible feelings about 14H abundantly clear in this little diatribe of mine; however, even though I'm an ardent devotee of logic and fairness, I'm equally fanatical about seeing justice done according to the letter of the law. We play by the rules, no matter how ridiculous they may seem at times. If we let one rule slide, what's next? Touch-move? I'm quite sure that Pandora doesn't have a promising gift for us in her proverbial box.

Lesson learned: TD's have tough jobs. When the established rules run contradictory to common-sense and popular opinion, he or she still has a fundamental obligation to ensure everyone is playing by the book -- and most importantly, by the same book. Those who criticize a director for following the

policies and procedures put out by our governing body -- however unreasonable they may seem -- are not fit to direct themselves as they lack the integrity necessary to be objective arbiters. One cannot pick and choose which rules to follow on a case-by-case basis and expect to be taken seriously, let alone be trusted to serve as an ethical director. This, as they say in the business world, is the bottom line.

That's it for today, folks. Come back and see me again -- same battime, same bat-channel. Until then, I'm patiently waiting for my next fun encounter as a tournament director, though I doubt the next one will be filled with such high intrigue and logical speculation. This was definitely one for the books.

Solution:

Puzzle from back cover:

Answer:

White To Move

Mate in 4

1.Qh8+ Kxh8

2.g7+ Kg8

3.Bh7+ Kxh7 g8=Q mate



The TCA Self-Organizes the Texas 2005 Scholastic Championship

By George John, TCA President

The TCA self-organized its first event in its history when it organized the 2005 Texas Scholastic Championship held in Dallas in February. Thanks to an army of volunteers and chess professionals lead by outstanding veteran organizers Luis Salinas and Susan Breeding, the event was hugely successful. Attendance was excellent at roughly 1550. The Adams Mark proved to be an outstanding location with its spacious waiting area outside the K-8 playing halls. I am so pleased the 2007 Texas Scholastic will be held here again.

Although the final accounting hasn't been completed, the rough estimate is the TCA will profit well in excess of \$20,000 for this event. Normally, profits for this event are not so great. The TCA did unusually well because of its 501(C)(3) not-for-profit status and because

some people worked for reduced or no pay. For example, volunteers put all the trophies together for free! That saved a huge amount of money. I cannot thank all of our volunteers and professionals enough. They are the reason this event was such a huge success.

Needless to say, this event has brought a large amount of money into the TCA account, which it can use to further its mission. The TCA Scholastic Committee has been tasked with studying how best the TCA can use this money. Certainly, input from all of our members on this most important subject is welcomed. When finished, the committee report will be posted to the TCA Website for public comment. Some of the money will need to be held back as potential seed money for the 2007 event.

Your Vote Counts...

See the Inside Back Cover of this issue
for information on how to make sure
your voice is heard.

The Red River Shootout

The 3rd Annual Texas vs. Oklahoma Chess Match

By Tom Kusnierz

The 3rd annual Texas vs. Oklahoma chess match was held April 30th in Norman, OK. After 2 consecutive drubbings from the Texas team, Oklahoma rose from the ashes and defeated Texas 21½ - 20½. The now annual match is the brainchild of the Watauga Chess Club's Jim Hollingsworth and is an "all comers" match in which players from the states of Texas and Oklahoma are paired against each other in rank order of the ratings. Each player plays 2 games against his matched opponent, alternating colors between games. Prior year's matches have been played in Ardmore, OK and Wichita Falls, TX.

This year's match was an extremely competitive and evenly rated match. The final outcome of the match - and statehood bragging rights - came down to the final remaining game between masters Movses Movsisyan (2257) of Oklahoma and Nick Schoonmaker (2241) of Texas. Schoonmaker had the edge with a dangerous passed pawn and with a win he'd put Texas over the top but in the end his king could find no safety from Movsisyan's persistent checks and a draw from perpetual checks was reached. With the draw, Oklahoma claimed the match and took possession of the "Red River Shootout" trophy.

The Oklahoma Chess Foundation under the leadership of Frank Berry and chief tournament director Alex Relyea proved to be excellent organizers and hosts. The match was played in comfort at the University of Oklahoma Student Union building and afterwards both teams adjourned to a local pizza establishment for post-match food and drinks courtesy of the OCF.

As might be expected in a growing rivalry there was verbal sparring between the teams. Our Texas team certainly felt that the match location in the center of Oklahoma was a deterrent to many of our late risers. A good example of the hardships that the Texas team had to overcome was chronicled in the following dispatch from the Chess Reporter, Victor Yaward:

[Editor's Note: The following report is fictitious.-ML]

Missing Texas Chess Team Members Rescued in Lawton Wal-Mart Kidnappers Still at Large

By Victor Yaward, Chess Reporter

Lawton, Oklahoma (05/25/05). As reported by the Dan Rather's CBS Evening News, the New York Times, and Newsweek magazine, chess commandos from Texas staged a daring, daylight raid at a local Wal-Mart and rescued several

Texas Chess Team members who had been held hostage for over three weeks. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident although several hostages complained of aching feet from being forced to stand in long checkout lines in the store's Garden Center.

"Thank God for the Watauga Chess Club," said former hostage John DeVries of Waco. "I thought I was facing a fate more painful than death and, worst of all, it meant missing the Red River Shootout." As all serious chess players are aware, the Red River Shootout is an annual match between the best chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. Texas leads the series 2-1. Both the Wichita Falls and Waco Chess clubs were mysteriously absent from last month's match in Norman. Chess experts speculate if Texas had been able to employ the Triple-W maneuver (named for the Waco, Watauga, and Wichita Falls Chess clubs) the outcome of this year's 21-1/2 to 20-1/2 match may have been different. "We were on our way to Norman," says hostage Omar Montemayor, Wichita Falls Chess Club President, "and got lured in by some shady character promising a good deal on yard chess sets. Once inside we had to stand in line for what seemed like weeks."

Investigators are interviewing the usual suspects and looking for clues on web sites, such as the Oklahoma Chess Forum. Two of them, a charismatic politician and a car salesman, both with ties to the Lawton Chess Club, were questioned and released after proving they missed the April 30 match because they were spending quality time with their employers. Alan, a Wal-Mart representative wearing a baseball cap and snappy blue vest, greeted investigators near the front entrance and insisted Red River Shootout Three was well played, fair, and won by the better team. Chess experts speculate this latest development may mean the question of which state has the best chess team won't be resolved for another eleven months.

There were several exciting games in the match and all of the games have been made available to the world-wide chess playing public at "The Week In Chess" website at <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twicp.html> issue #548.

The Oklahoma team was captained by Frank Berry and the Texas team by your faithful reporter, Tom Kusnierz, who vows that never again shall Texas feel the shame of losing to Oklahoma. Next year's match is tentatively scheduled for April 2005 and all serious Texas chess players are encouraged to defend their state's honor and participate.



TEAM



TEXAS

TEAM
OKLAHOMA



TEXAS	TL-G/90 5 sec delay	OKLAHOMA
Number One Ranked		Number Two Ranked
20 1/2		21 1/2
R/R 11	You Are Making History Type in Your Scoremate to Your Keypad An email will be sent to theoklahoma@okstate.edu	R/R 10

THE
FINAL
SCORE

Southwest Open Sep 2-5, 3-5, Houston

71st Southwest Open 7-SS. Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027. \$\$6200 b/170 full entries, 2 Sections and scholastic side event: Open: Rds 1-3 G/90 with 30 sec increment, Rds 4-7 G/120 with 30 sec. increment. \$\$1000-500-300, U2400 \$500. U2200 \$600-300. Reserve: U2000 & unrated. Rds 1-7, 30/90 SD/1. Rd 1 of 3 day is G/120. \$\$800-400. B,C,D/under ea 600-200. Unrated. \$200. Unrateds not eligible for class prizes. TCA or OSA. membership. required for Open and Reserve. EF: \$49 if rec'd by 8/26, \$60 after. \$28 Jr/Sr/Hcap if rec'd by 8/26, \$39 after (counts ½). Add \$5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg requires pre-paymt. After 8/31/05 all registration and changes on site only; all changes \$10 after 8/31/05. 4 day: Reg Friday 9/2, 6:15pm-7:15. Rds Fri: 7:45, Sat:2:30pm-8:00, Sun:11:15am-5:00, Mon: 9am-2:30. 3 day: Reg Sat 9/3 9-9:30 am, Rd 1 at 10 am then merge with 4 day. Foreign Unrated must play in Open section. Registrations that do not indicate 4 or 3 day schedule will be put in the 3 day. HR: \$76/76/76/76. 800-613-3982 res. by 8/12 and ask for 2005 SW Open Rates. Up to two ½ pt byes avail. if req before rd 2, but byes for both rd 6 AND 7 not permitted. TCA membership meeting on Sunday 9/4 at 8:30 am in Sapphire Room.

Online registration at http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1227170. K-12 Scholastic on Saturday, 9/3. 5-SS, Rds 1-3 G/30, rds 4-5 G/45, EF: \$24 by 8/26, \$35 after; CC phone entries add \$5. Pre-reg. requires pre-paymt. After 8/31/05 all registration and changes on site only; all changes \$10 after 8/31/05. Entries do not count toward base in Open and Reserve. Registration 8:15-8:45 am, Rd 1 at 9:30 am, rest ASAP with small lunch break. Sections: K-12 Championship and K-12 U750. Prizes: Trophies to Top 12 individuals, 5 teams in each section. K-12 U750 also top 3 unrateds. Medals to plus scores who do not win a trophy. Free parking available at hotel lot next to Walgreens. Garage and Valet parking are not free. Ent: Dallas Chess Club, C/O Susan Breeding, 7909 La Guardia Drive, Plano, TX 75025. Info: S. Breeding, 972.208.1802, susanbreeding@hotmail.com www.dallaschess.com NS. NC. W. FIDE

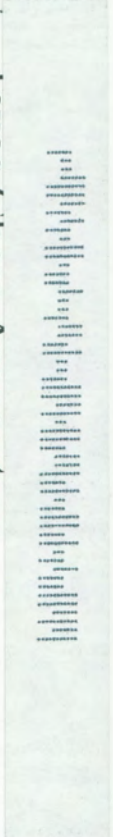
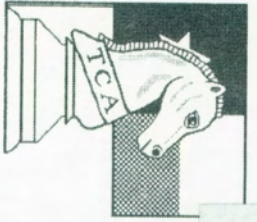
TCA Election Ballots Your Vote Counts



Typically you receive your TCA ballot in your issue of Texas Knights but this year you are receiving your ballot separately mailed to your home. In the envelope will be the statements from the nominees as well as a ballot and a return envelope.

Please complete your ballot and mail it in the envelope included. All ballots must be received by
August 30, 2005.

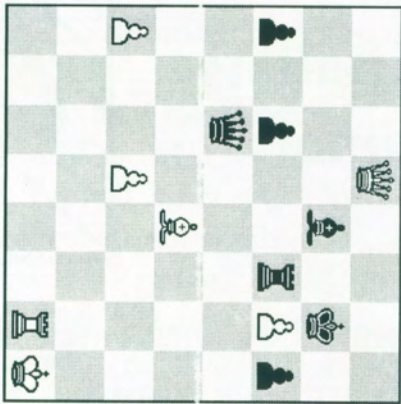
If you have a family membership and would like to request additional ballots, please email Lorraine Widener at lorraine@manisys.com no later than August 10, 2005.



Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 5768
Waco, TX 76708-0768

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See inside front cover for
 TCA membership information.



Mate in 4

White to move

Solution: page 15

