

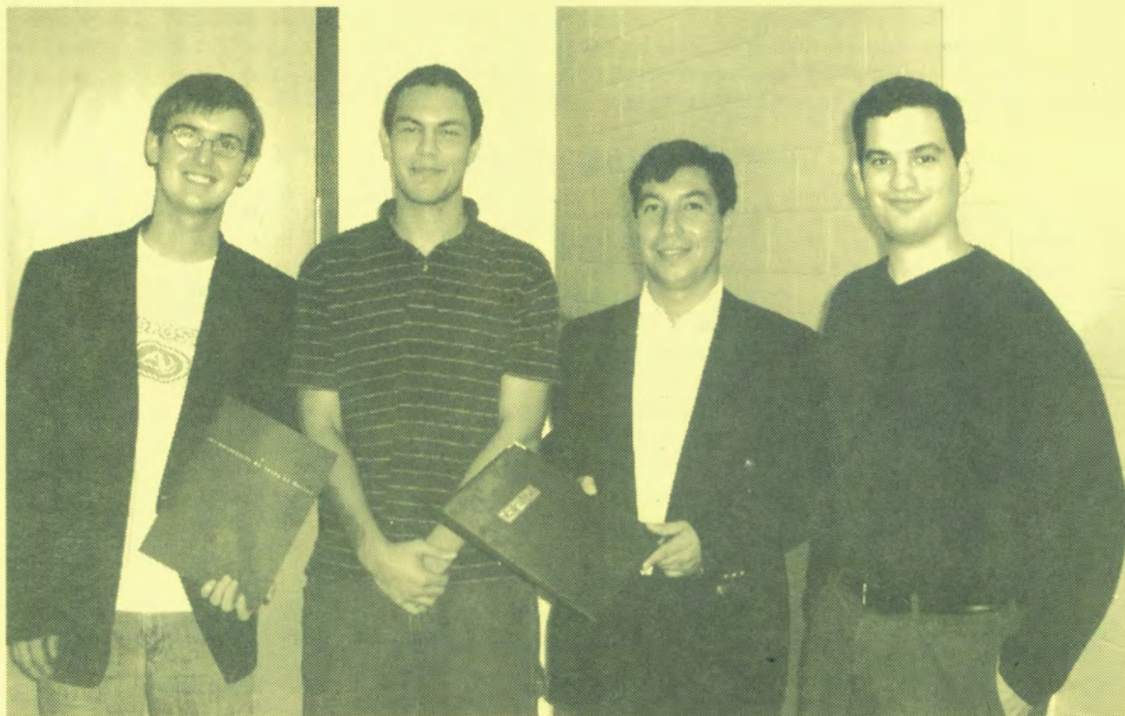
TEXAS KNIGHTS

The official publication of the Texas Chess Association

Volume 48, Number 3

P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023

January-February 2007



State 12th grade champion Guadalupe courted with two UT scholarships

Left to right: John Sneed (UT-Dallas), Francisco Guadalupe II, GM Gilberto Hernandez (UT-Brownsville), TCA vice-president Clemente Rendon

Ken Smith Memorial – IM Vavrak wins Open	3
World Youth Championships – Darwin Yang and Eileen Dai	4
Texas K-12 Grade and Collegiate Championships.....	6
UTD Grandmaster Invitational – Boskovic, Shulman top strong field	7
Jim Gallagher Memorial.....	21
TCA to host chess in education workshop – Dr. Alexey Root	26
Great Pumpkin Open.....	27
My Dinner with Jude Acers – Casey Bush	31
Chess Teams – Chess Dad 101 by Robert Rausch.....	35

President: Michael Simpson, 316 W. 12th St., Ste. 310, Austin, TX 78701; 512-779-5122; msimpson@gmail.com.
Vice-President: Clemente Rendon, P.O. Box 4988, Brownsville, TX 78523; crendon44@hotmail.com. **Secretary:** Drew Sarkisian, 8100 Cutler Ridge Pl., Austin, TX 78749-2834; drew.sarkisian@gmail.com. **Treasurer:** Barb Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719; roundsiel@dot11net.net. **Editor:** Selby Anderson, P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023; 210-695-2324; schachlied@yahoo.com. **Webmaster:** James Widener, james@manisys.com. **Tournament Clearinghouse:** Clemente Rendon, crendon44@hotmail.com. **Postal Chess:** Mario Leal, mleal@spamcop.net. Texas Chess Association is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting chess in Texas. **Membership Dues** (annual): Regular \$10, Junior (18 and under) or Student: \$7.50. Foreign: Canada and Mexico \$12.50, others \$17.50. Patron: \$25 (receives 1st class mailing and Hall of Honor listing). Family: \$15. Non-subscribing: \$5. Club: \$25 (includes one free ¼ page ad a year). Scholastic Club: \$10. Foreign Club: \$40. Send to **TCA Treasurer, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719**. Give name, address, city, state and zip code; also phone and e-mail (optional). Contributions beyond membership fees are tax deductible.

TCA Hall of Honor

Enrico Accenti family
Angela Alston
Selby Anderson
Lynne Babcock
Gerald Barnes family
George Barrera
Brad Bradford family
Joe Bradford
Clarence Callaway
John T. Campbell
Mike Carpenter
Kevin Chandra
John Chilton
G.W. Church, Jr.
Edward Cotham family
Bradley Cunningham
Isaac Dimayuga
Dr. Raymond Duque
Chuck Easttom
Rheanna English family
Jose Espino family
Michael Feinstein
Michael Ferguson family
Victor J. Flores family

Jason Garza
Teresa Gaunt family
Edward Guetzow
Keith Hayward family
Toshio Imai
Bob James family
George C. John family
Peter Kappler
Michael Koestler
John Kolts
Tom Kuznierz
Michael Langer
Rosendo Leal
Patrick Long
John Manson
Forrest Marler
Mark McCue
Donald Morrison family
George A. Mota
John Niven
Robert Nobbitt
Robert H. Nunnally, Jr.
John Patty
Robert B. Potter

Robert Rausch family
Tim Redman
Alan Rodenstein
James Rohrbaugh
Doug & Alexey Root family
Luis Salinas
Shivkumar Sankaranarayanan
Drew Sarkisian
Willie Scott
Jose Luis Silva
Michael Simpson
Teri Smith family
Alex Standnyk
Robert Sturgeon
Rodney J. Thomas
Harmon Throneberry
Louis Thurston
George Tintera family
Gordon Weintraub family
Andrew Widener family
David Williamson
Larry J. Young

Contributors this issue: Casey Bush, Eileen Dai, J.P. Hyltin, Steve McGregor, Robert Rausch, Alexey Root, Luis Salinas, Peter Vavrak, Greg Wren, Darwin Yang.

Game annotations if not attributed are a collaboration of NM Selby Anderson and Fritz 5.32.

Send submissions by e-mail to schachlied@yahoo.com, or mail to P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023 (include phone).

Deadline next issue: Feb. 15. All contents of *Texas Knights* © 2007 by the Texas Chess Association, Inc. No part may be reproduced in any way without express consent of the editor. Ad rates: \$50/page, \$35/half, \$20/quarter, \$1/line.

Cover photo: Alejandro Nieto

Vavrak wins 6th annual Ken Smith Memorial



IM Peter Vavrak with organizer Luis Salinas

The sixth annual Ken Smith Memorial was held Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 24-26), drawing 124 players to the Marriott Dallas/Addison Quorum.™ There were also 86 young people in the DFW High School Championship and K-12 Scholastic.

IM Peter Vavrak won the 22-player Open ahead of GMs Ramirez and Annakov (=2nd) and Panchanathan, whom he defeated. Michael Langer and Alex Chua tied for the (U2400) Master prize. Brad Sawyer and Kalin Nonchev tied for Expert.

In the U2000 section Tim Bond and Ben Bailey shared first, each scoring 4-1. Third was shared by Stephen Pamatmat, Leo Bonnell, Ming Chin and Anjali Datta, each with 3.5.

In the U1800, Raymond Jose reentered after losing Rd. 1 and went on a tear to win first with 4.5. Robert Sanders and Danny Chen split second with 4.0. Eric Lu and Jacob Slepoy tied for U1799 with 3.5.

Mitchell Powell won the U1600 with a perfect score, 5.0. Tied for second were Julia Jones and Angelito Abella with 3.5. The U1500 prize was split five ways, among Charles Fricks, Andy Wang, David Olivas, Akshay Malhotra and Andrew Guzman, each with 3.0.

Kevin Xie (rated 1136) scored 5-0 to win the U1400 section. Melvin Fritze was in sole second place with 4.0, and Andrew Jones won third with 3.5. Dante Zakhidov and Dylan Altschuler split the U1300 prize.

In U1200, Richard Harrington won first with 4.5, a point ahead of second place Karthik Prabhakaran with 3.5. Jaimie Jones and Gordon Weintraub tied for third with 3.0.

In the Unrated section, Remegio Ilustre was first with 4.5, followed by Vy Nguyen with 4.0.

Abhishek Mellela won the DFW High School title with 4.5.

Francisco Guadalupe directed for the Dallas Chess Club, with Robert Jones assisting.

Queen's Indian E12

Peter Vavrak 2407

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Ba6
5.e3 d5 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.b3
c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.Bb2

OPEN STANDINGS

Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	Tot.
1 Peter Vavrak	2444	+20	+10	=2	+14	+5	4.5
2 Alejandro Ramirez	2579	+8	+7	=1	=3	+6	4.0
3 Babakuli Annakov	2509	+16	=6	+9	=2	+8	4.0
4 Sandor Kustar	2412	+19	=9	-6	+12	+10	3.5
5 Magesh Panchanathan	2536	=12	+17	+14	=6	-1	3.0
6 Michael Langer	2332	+22	=3	+4	=5	-2	3.0
7 Alex Chua	2261	+18	-2	+11	-8	+14	3.0
8 Brad Sawyer	2177	-2	+12	+18	+7	-3	3.0
9 Kalin Nonchev	2127	+13	=4	-3	+16	=11	3.0
10 Gary Simms	2215	+21	-1	=15	+19	-4	2.5
11 Drew Sarkisian	2165	X	-14	-7	+15	=9	2.5
12 Nate Findley	2081	=5	-8	+17	-4	+19	2.5
13 Karthik Ramachandran	1945	-9	=19	H	=17	+20	2.5
14 Jacek Stopa	2438	+15	-11	-5	-1	-7	2.0
15 Adekunle Ogunmefun	2032	-14	+22	=10	-11	H	2.0
16 Stanley Yang	2031	-3	+20	H	-9	=18	2.0
17 Michael Nugent	1978	H	=5	-12	=13	=21	2.0
18 Contancio Pucio	1952	-7	B	-8	=20	=16	2.0
19 Courtney Jamison	1992	-4	=13	+21	-10	-12	1.5
20 Nguyen Vo	2008	-1	-16	+22	=18	-13	1.5
21 Benjamin Wheeler	1969	-10	H	-19	H	-17	1.0
22 Darwin Yang	2018	-6	-15	-20	U	U	0.0

Rb8 12.Qc2 Qb6 13.Rab1 h6 14. exd5 Nxd5

14...exd5 15.Bxa6 Qxa6 16.N:h4! Rfc8 17.Nf5 Bd8 =.

15.Nc4 Qc7 16.Nfe5 Rfd8??

16...Bf6 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.e4 Nf4 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rfd1 +=.



17.Bh7+ Kf8 18.Nxf7! 1-0

If Black takes the knight it's mate in two. Forget the threat of Nxd8 - White has Bxg7+! lined up.

Continued on page 30

The Trip of a Lifetime

Darwin Yang

Plonk! I heard his king hit the board, and he extended his hand. I shook hands with him. I had won! I finally and finished the game, and it had a positive result!

The World Youth Chess Championship in Batumi, Georgia was not only a test of chess skill, but a test of mind and body. The players were set for two weeks of grueling chess; some days had two games, others one. These games could last up to four hours, and you needed all your endurance. The games drained you.

All games on one-game days started at 11 a.m. It was early, but we can't complain. I mean, we did get ten hours of sleep. All of the first games on two game days started at 10 a.m., and the second one took place at 5 p.m. I had a hard time coping with the early times.

At the evening of one day's games, we would check the pairings and our opponents. After that, we would go to our selected coaches and start our opening preparation. The preparation was essential, because a small opening disadvantage can cause a conservative and passive game. You would suffer to get a draw. Think, four hours of suffering all because of an opening mistake...

After the games my friends on the US team and I would play soccer. It was very fun. We played at a park, or should I say a concrete field, close to the mighty Black Sea.

Overall, it was a fun trip. I will always remember it.

Notes by Darwin Yang

Sicilian Scheveningen B84

Mihai Dobre
Darwin Yang

World Youth Boys' U10 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

The Sicilian Najdorf has arisen. In the main lines, it is very sharp.

6.Be2 e6

One of the sidelines, it has slowly become my favorite. Well, at least one of the variations in this line.

7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.f4 Qc7 10.a3[?]

Unless Black plays ...b5 this is a wasted move. - SKA

10...Nc6 11.Qd2 Nxd4

Black can choose between this plan to gain some space or the solid but cramped 11...Bd7.

12.Bxd4 e5

This is the whole point. In return for weakening d5, Black can put his usually passive light-squared bishop on e6.

13.Be3 exf4

You do not want them to play f5.

14.Bxf4 Be6

Black is perfectly fine.

15.Rad1

15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Nd7 followed by ...Bf6 and ...Be5 or ...Ne5 with a good game.

15...Rfd8 16.Kh1 Rac8

Black now has a good position.

17.Qe3 Qc5 18.Qg3 Kh8

Stopping 19.Bh6 Bf8 20.Rxf6

19.Be3 Qe5 20.Qxe5

Ruins his position, but Black still has a good position for a Sicilian.

20...dxe5 21.Bg5 Ng8

The knight is an essential piece.

22.Bxe7 Nxe7

Black's plan now consists of ...f6, ...Nc6, ...Nd4 etc.

23.Rd3 Rxd3

A good move at the right time. White cannot bring a rook to the d-file to stop Black's rook.

24.cxd3??

I think this was his worst mistake. It creates a super hole on d4 for Black's knight, and White's knight is too slow to oppose it. [24.Bxd3 =]

24...Nc6 25.Na4[?] Nd4

Black now rules the position.

26.Bf3 b5

Also good is 26...Rc2 27.b4 Bd7 28.Nc5 Bc6, and after Black centralizes his king he can start picking at pawns. - SKA

27.Nc3 a5 28.h3 b4

Black will now penetrate on c2 and is winning.

29.Ne2[?]

Better is 29.axb4 axb4 30.Nd5 to trade b-pawns and open up counterplay on the a-file. - SKA

29...Nxf3!

The knight now has no squares that are strong, so just get rid of the bishop and maybe create a weakness on h3 for Black's bishop.

30.Rxf3 Rc2

Black is winning.

31.Ng3 Rxb2 32.axb4 axb4 33.Rf1 b3 34.Rc1 g6! 35.Nf1 Re2 36.Rb1 b2 37.Ne3 Ba2! 38.Rf1 Rxe3! 39.Rxf7 b1Q+ 40.Kh2 Bxf7 41.d4 exd4 42.e5 Be6 43.h4 h5 44.g3 Qc2+ 45.Kg1 Re1# 0-1

Pirc Defense B07

Darwin Yang

Maksmilljan Boskovic

World Youth Boys' U10 (9)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 Nbd7 6.f3

The sharpest line. Thanks to Eric Zhang of California for showing me this line.

6...c6 7.g4

White's king is fine, so White gains space.

7...e6 8.g5? Ng8 9.f4?

This is totally the wrong plan. See how the f-pawn no longer protects e4? So Black can react with ...d5 and then ...Ne7 and then to f5. In addition White has a dark square bishop and it will be a tall pawn.

9...Ne7 10.Nf3 d5 11.e5

(Continued on page 30)

World Youth

Eileen Dai

On October 15, 2006 I left for Batumi, Georgia to play chess. At Georgia I would meet people much stronger than me, but I was ready to take the challenge. I knew that it was great just to be able to go there. My coach, Babakuli Annakov, had prepared me well. I was ready to begin the challenge.

During the World Youth I had a bad start with one and a half points out of five. I was very much behind the other players in the girls U10 section. This didn't stop me and later I ended up with the same amount of points as the other girls in the U10 section, six points.

Amazingly there were five people from Texas, who made up one fourth of the whole U.S. team! All of my coach's students that went to World Youth got six points.

On the last round, I played my friend Sylvia Yang and many people thought that we would have a quick draw, but they were wrong. We did draw, but it was definitely not a quick game. In fact, it was the longest out of all my other games.

My favorite game was the tenth round. I played Black and I won. During the game, I had to think very hard to beat her.

Going to the World Youth was a great experience. I not only had a great time, I also learned a lot too. For example, I learned how to concentrate and play very slow. My coach also taught me some "tricks" to use in certain situations. I also made new friends. One was Polish and one was Turkish. Even though we don't speak the same language, we still are friends. I hope to go again next year.

Notes by Eileen Dai

French Defense C11

Gierdre Vanagaite

Eileen Dai

World Youth Girls' U10 (4)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 a6 6.Nf3 c5 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Be7

I play 8...b5 most of the time, and sometimes 8...Qb6.

9.0-0-0 0-0 10.g4 b5 11.h4

Better is 11.dxc5.

11...b4 12.Ne2 a5

The plan of a5-a4-a3 is too slow. Better is 12...Qa5 13.Kb1 c4 and Black's attack is coming very fast.

13.h5 [13.dxc5] 13...a4 14.g5 [14.dxc5] 14...a3 15.g6??

15.b3 c4 16.Kb1 and Black's attack is coming to a stop.

15...axb2+ 16.Kxb2 Qa5 17.Nc1 Qa3+ 18.Kb1 c4 19.gxh7+ Kh8 20. Rg1 c3

Sicilian Dragon B72

Eileen Dai

Rosaline Ockhuis

World Youth Girls' U10 (8)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7

This opening is called the Dragon because Black's dark square bishop is so strong.

7.Be2

If Be2 then White castles king-side. On 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 White's KB bishop controls c4 for Nc6-e5-c4.

7...0-0 8.Qd2

Now two openings are being mixed

8...Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.h4 a6 11.h5 Ng4 12.Bxg4 Bxg4 13.f3 Bd7 [13... Bxh5? 14.g4] 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Bh6 Qa5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.hxg6 fxg6?

17...hxg6 18.Qh6+ Kf6 Black's king is bad, but White can't win anything.

18.Qh6+ Kf7 19.Qxh7+ Ke8 20. Qxg6+ Kd7 21.Rh6 Rf6 22.Qg4+ Kc7 23.Rxf6 exf6 24.Qg7+ Kb6 25. Qxf6 Qc5 26.Qxd6 Qe3+ 27.Kb1 Ka7 28.Qd4+ Qxd4 29.Rxd4 Rg8 30.g4 Rh8 31.Kc1 Rh1+ 32.Rd1 Rh3 33.Rf1 b5 34.Kd2 b4 35.Nd5 Rh2+ 36.Ke3 Bb5 37.Rf2 Rxf2 38. Kxf2 a5 39.Ke3 Kb7 40.f4 Kc6 41. f5 Kd6 42.Kf4 Bc4 43.f6 Bxd5 44. exd5 Kd7 45.g5 Kd8 46.g6 Kd7 47. d6 Ke8 48.f7+ Kf8 49.d7 Ke7 50. f8Q+ Kxf8 51.d8Q+ Kg7 52.Kg5 b3 53.Qe7+ Kg8 54.Qf7+ Kh8 55. Qh7# 1-0



Texas contingent at the World Youth Championships

L to R: Darwin Yang, Eileen Dai, Sylvia Yang, Ellen and Evan Xiang

10th annual Texas K-12 Grade and Collegiate Championships

The Texas K-12 Grade and Collegiate Championships drew 705 participants to Paredes Elementary in Brownsville. It was the largest turnout in the ten-year history of the event.

Francisco Guadalupe II won the 12th grade section.. In doing so, he wins two four year chess scholarships; one from the University of Texas at Dallas and the other from the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Team Champions

College	UT Brownsville
12	Hanna High School
11	Hanna High School
10	Hanna High School
9	SciTech High School
8	Stell Middle School
7	John Cooper School
6	Oscar De La Fuente Elem. IDEA Frontier Academy
5	Americo Paredes Elem.
4	Americo Paredes Elem.
3	Village School (Houston) Americo Paredes Elem.
2	Canales Elem.
1	Americo Paredes Elem.
K	Putegnat Elem.

Individual Champions

Col.	Daniel Fernandez	5.0	UT Brownsville
12	Francisco Guadalupe II	6.0	Clear Lake HS
11	Ivan Santos	5.0	Hanna HS
10	Federico De La Garza	5.0	Hanna HS
9	Daniel Hung	5.5	SciTech HS
	Andrew Widener	5.5	SciTech HS
8	Matthew Michaelides	6.0	P.H. Rogers MS
7	A.J. Solivas	5.5	Vela MS
6	Dylan T. Smith	5.5	St. James Episcopal
5	Jeffery Hung	5.5	Villarreal Elem.
4	Fernando Mendez Jr.	5.5	Garden Park Elem.
3	Anirudh Suresh	5.5	Ace Private School
	Daniel Ng	5.5	Harmony Elem.
2	Henry C.L. Davis,	5.0	Shepard Elem.
	Brianna Guillen,	5.0	Canales Elem.
	Edgar Santoyo,	5.0	Paredes Elem.
	Michael Mendoza,	5.0	Canales Elem.
	Victoria Mortera,	5.0	Egly Elem.
	Sean P Cantu,	5.0	Russell Elem.
	Ishan Sahoo	5.0	Woodlands Academy
1	Daniel Arguelles	5.5	Paredes Elem.
	Jaime Rucoba	5.5	Canales Elem.
K	Felicia Ortiz	6.0	Russell Elem.

Lakshmana Viswanath directed, with assistance from Victor Flores.

Texas Team Championship

Jan. 27-28

Texas Neurosciences Institute (TNI), 1st floor conference

4410 Medical Drive (1 mile north of N Loop 410), San Antonio, TX

Exit north on Fredericksburg Road, turn left on Medical Drive. Free parking. 210-575-6719

Prizes: \$1,000 (based on 12 teams)

1st overall: \$450 + trophy

1st U1900: \$200 + trophy

2nd overall: \$250

2nd U1900: \$100

Open to 4-player teams avg. U2200 based on Dec. 2006 list. One alternate allowed, must be lowest rated.

Entry fee: \$100/team if rec'd by 1/25, \$125 at site. TCA membership required.

Reg.: 11 a.m.-noon **Rounds:** 12:30-6, 9:30-3 **Time control:** 30/90, SD/60

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

Information: 210-695-2324; schachlied@yahoo.com. NS. NC. W.

Hotels nearby at IH-10 and Wurzbach: Motel 6 (210)-593-0013; Holiday Inn (210) 561-9300.

5th annual UTD Grandmaster Invitational

Boskovic and Shulman tie for first

Steve McGregor

University of Texas at Dallas student and chess team member Drasko Boskovic and former UT Dallas chess team captain Yury Shulman tied for first place in the university's 2006 Grandmaster Chess Invitational, held Dec. 5-13 in Richardson. Both players had five wins, one loss and five draws for a score of 7.5 in the 11 rounds of the round-robin event, which featured a strong field of international competitors led by four grandmasters, a title reserved for the chess world's top players.

The results of the fifth-annual event were somewhat of an upset, since Boskovic, who holds the title of international master and had a pre-tournament chess rating of 2444, equaled the effort of Shulman, a grandmaster whose rating was 2614 before the competition. Shulman entered the tournament as the top seed among the dozen entrants.

With his tie for first, Boskovic, 23, a sophomore business administration major from Serbia, earned his second of three "norms" required to become a grandmaster.

Following are the results for the rest of the field:

Alejandro Ramirez, four wins, one loss, six draws (7.0); John Bartholomew, two wins, no losses, nine draws (6.5), IM norm; Igor Novikov, three wins, one loss, seven draws (6.5); Magesh Panchanathan, four wins, two losses, five draws (6.5); Davorin Kuljasevic, three wins, three losses, five draws (5.5); Joseph Bradford, three wins, three losses, five draws (5.5), IM norm; Keaton Kiewra, two wins, four losses, five draws (4.5); Marko Zivanic, two

wins, four losses, five draws (4.5); Jacek Stopa, one win, seven losses, three draws (2.5); Igor Schneider, one win, eight losses, two draws (2.0).

Three players achieved FIDE norms: Boskovic, Bartholomew and Bradford

Due to the strength of the field, the Grandmaster Invitational was rated by the world governing body of chess, FIDE – a rarity in this part of the world. The event, perhaps the premier invitational chess tournament held by a university in the U.S., has become a helpful recruiting tool for UT Dallas in its search for talented masters and international masters at the high school level.

Queen's Indian E11

Yury Shulman 2614

Igor Novikov 2568

UTD GM Invitational (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Bf4 b6 9.Nc3 Bb7 10.Ne5 Nbd7 11.e4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 f6 15.Qh5 g6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Qxg6+ Kh8 18.Qh6+ Kg8 19.Qg6+ Kh8 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Qg6+ Draw

French Defense C06

Drasko Boskovic 2444

Igor Schneider 2369

UTD GM Invitational (1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Nc3 a6 13.Bg5 0-0 14.Bh4 Nh5 15.Re1 g6 16.Bg5 Qg7

17.Be3 Bd7 18.Bf1 Nf6 19.h3 Ne7 20.Qd2 Nf5 21.Bf4 Bxf4 22.Qxf4 Rae8 23.Rad1 Kh8 24.Qd2 Nd6 25.Bd3 Nh5 26.Ne5 Nf4 27.Bf1 Bc8 28.g3 Nh5 29.Bg2 Nf6 30.Qd3 Nd7 31.Rc1 Nxe5 32.Rxe5 Bd7 33.Rce1 Qf6 34.f4 Rc8 35.h4 Nf7 36.R5e2 Rc4 37.Rd2 Nh6 38.Bh3 Nf5 39.Bxf5 gxf5 40.Qe3 Rfc8 41.Kf2 b5 42.Ne2 Qg7 43.Ng1 Rg8 44.Kg2 h6 45.Qf2 Rc7 46.Nf3 b4 47.Ne5 Bb5 48.Kh2 a5 49.Rg1 a4 50.Rc2 Rxc2 51.Qxc2 Qa7 52.Qd2 b3 53.axb3 axb3 54.Rc1 Qg7 55.Qe3 Qa7 56.Rc5 Be8 57.Nd3 Qg7 58.Rc8 Bb5 59.Rxg8+ Qxg8 60.Qe5+ Kh7 61.Nc5 Qg4 62.Nxe6 Bf1 63.Kg1 Be2 64.Kh2 Bf1 65.Kg1 Be2 66.Qe3 Bc4 67.Qe1 Bd3 68.Kf2 Be4 69.Qe3 Qd1 70.Nc5 Qh1 71.Ke2 Bc2 72.Kd2 Qa1 73.Qe7+ Kg6 74.Qe8+ Kg7 75.Na4 Qd1+ 76.Kc3 Qd3+ 77.Kb4 Qxd4+ 78.Ka3 Qd1



79.h5 d4

The lines are drawn in a tense tactical ending. White needs to bring over his knight to help force mate before Black can queen his pawn, meanwhile dodging checks from Black's queen.

80.Qe7+



IM Drasko Boskovic

A thoroughly Fritzy line is 80.Nc5!! Qa1+ 81.Kb4 Qxb2 82.Qe7+ Kh8 83.Qf8+ Kh7 84.Nd7 Qc3+ 85.Kb5 d3 (85...Bd3+ 86.Kb6) 86.Qf7+ Kh8 87.Qe8+ Kg7 88.Qg6+ Kh8 89.Qxh6+ Kg8 90.Qg6+ Kh8 91.Nf6 +.

80...Kg8 81.Nc5?

81.Qe6+! Kg7 (81...Kf8 82.Nc5) 82.Qg6+ Kf8 83.Qxh6+ Kg8 84.Qg6+ Kf8 85.Qf6+ Kg8 86.h6 +. Well, there's a little more: 86...Qa1+ 87.Kb4 Qe1+ 88.Nc3! Qxg3 89.Nd5 Qe1+ 90.Kb5 Qe8+ 91.Kc5 Qf8+ 92.Ne7+ and mates.

81...Qd2??

After 81...Qxh5! 82.Ne6 Qg6, White must settle for a draw.

82.Qd8+

Covering the mate threat at a5 gives White the tempo he needs.

82...Kf7 83.Nd7 Qe3 84.Ne5+ Kg7 85.Qe7+ 1-0

Center Counter B01

Jacek Stopa 2465

John Bartholemew 2411

UTD GM Invitational (1)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd2 Bf5 7.Bc4 e6 8.Qe2 Bb4 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Ne5 Nxe5

13.dxe5 Nd5 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.g4 Bg6 16.f4 h5 17.h3 hxg4

17...Qb6 18.Rhf1 hxg4 19.hxg4 Rh3 (Nijboer-Hodgson, NLD 1995) 20.f5 exf5 21.gxf5 Bh5 22.Qg2 Rh4 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Rde1 += Emms.

18.hxg4 Rxh1 19.Rxh1 Qb6 20.Rf1 Qd4! 21.Bb3 Be4 22.Re1 Bg6 23.Rf1

The direct 23.Qf3 Rh8 24.f5 Rh2! transposes to the game.

23...Be4 24.Re1 Bg6 25.Qf3 Rh8 26.f5 Rh2! 27.Bg5 exf5 28.gxf5 Bh5 29.Qg3 Qf2 30.Qxf2 Rxf2 31.Bxd5 Draw

Philidor Defense C41

Keaton Kiewra 2264

Marko Zivanic 2451

UTD GM Invitational (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.Bg5 Nc6 6.Qe3 Be7 7.Bc4 Nf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0-0 Ng4 10.Qd2 Bxg5 11.Nxg5 Nce5 12.Bb3 h6 13.Nf3 Bd7 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.f4 Nc6 16.h3 Na5 17.e5 Nxb3+ 18.axb3 Bc6 19.exd6 cxd6 20.Rhg1 Qa5 21.Kb1 Rfe8 22.g4 Rad8 23.g5 h5 24.g6 f6 25.Qd3 Qc5 26.Nd5 Bb5 27.c4 Bd7 28.Rgf1 b5 29.f5 Re5 30.Rf4 bxc4 31.bxc4 Rde8 32.Qf3 Re1 33.Qxh5 Rxd1+ 34.Qxd1 Qa5 35.b4!

Before his queen joins the attack, White must stop ...Qe1+.

35...Rb8



36.Qb3

A surprising win is 36.c5! Qxc5 37.Qb3 and the diagonal threat is more than annoying: 37...Qg1+ 38.Ka2 Qg5 39.Ne3+ Kh8 40.Qc4 +. **36...Qd8**

36...Qa4! 37.Qxa4 Bxa4 38.Re4 is an ending White will win, but it does deprive him of the flashy finish. **37.Qf3 Qa5 38.c5!**

Connecting the rook to b4 sets the stage for the final assault.

38...Qb5 39.Rh4 dxc5

Black resigned, as 40.Rh8+ is mate in four. **1-0**

English Opening A38

Davorin Kuljasevic 2448

Yury Shulman 2614

UTD GM Invitational (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 c5 5.Nc3 Qa5!?

Definitely seeking to mix it up against the lower rated opponent.

6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc5 9.Ndb5 0-0 10.Bf4 d6 11.Rc1 Qh5 12.Nc7

ECO gives 12.e4 Be6 13.Nd5 a6 14.Nbc7 Rac8 15.Nxe6 Qxd1 =. Zeljandinov-Cebalo, Ptuj 1995.

12...Bh3!??

The verdict on 12...Rb8 awaits another game.

13.Nxa8 Ng4

Black's initiative looks dangerous, but White expertly defuses the kingside bomb.

14.Qd5 e5 15.Bxh3 Qxh3 16.Qg2 Qh5 17.Bd2 Rxa8 18.f3 Nh6 19.g4 Qh4 20.Ne4 Qe7 21.Bg5 Qe6 22.Rfd1 Nd4 23.e3 f5 24.exd4 fxe4 25.d5 Qd7 26.fxe4 Nxg4 27.Rf1

The smoke has cleared, and it's all about taking care of business.

27...Rc8 28.Rf3 Nh6 29.Qh3 Ng4 30.Qg2 Nh6 31.Qh3 Ng4 32.Rg3 h5 33.Qg2 Kh7 34.h3 Nh6 35.Be3 Qe8 36.Kh1 Ng8 37.Rg1 Ne7 38.Bg5 Ng8 39.Bh4 Bh6 40.Rxg6 Qf7 41.Rxd6 Be3?



Now White unfurls a nice combination, made easier by its forcing nature. A more prosaic win follows 41...Rf8 42.Rg6 Kh8 (42...Qf3 43.Rxg8+) 43.Be7!! and d6-d7. 42.Rd7! Qxd7 43.Qg6+ Kh8 44.Bf6+ Nxf6 45.Qxf6+ Kh7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Qxh5+ 1-0

King's Indian E92

Yury Shulman 2614
Keaton Kiewra 2264

UTD GM Invitational (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 exd4 8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 c6 10.Bf2 d5 11.exd5 exd5 12.c5 Nc6 13.0-0 Nh5 14.Qd2 Be5 15.g3 Ng7 16.Rfd1 Be6 16...Ne6 17.Ndb5 Ng5! =. 17.Ncb5 a6 18.f4 axb5 19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.Nxb5



20...Qd7(?)

20...Qe7! 21.Ne6 Red8 22.Bd4 f6 23.b4 Nf5 =.

21.Nd6 Re7 22.Qf4 Bg4

Relatively best is 22...Ne8 =+.

23.Rxd5! Bxe2 24.Rxe5 Rxe5 25.Qxe5 Qe6 26.Qxe6 Nxe6 27.Nxb7 Rb8 28.c6 Bf3 29.Rc1 Bxc6 30.Rxc6 Rxb7 31.Rc2 Kf8 32.Kf1 Ke7 33.Ke2 Kd6 34.Kd3 Kd5 35.b3 h5 36.Rc4 g5 37.Kc3 f5 38.a4 f4 39.gxf4 gxf4 40.a5 1-0

Sicilian Rossolimo B52

Drasko Boskovic 2444

Igor Novikov 2568

UTD GM Invitational (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Re1 e6 7.c3 Be7 8.d4 0-0(?)

8...cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nbd2 = is a well-worn path. 9.e5!

Simple and good is 9.Nbd2.

9...Nd5 10.c4 N5b6 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.dxc5(?)

12.b4! is a surprising way to take advantage of the situation: 12...Be7 13.bxc5 Nxc4 14.Nc3 +=.

12...Nxc5 13.Qc2

13.Qe2 Be7 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Nc3 Rfd8 =

13...Nd3 14.Rd1 Nxc1 15.Rxc1 Rc8 16.b3 Nd5 17.Nbd2 b5 18.a4 bxc4 19.Nxc4?!

After 19.bxc4 at least the isolated pawn controls a center square. Now White is essentially a pawn down.

19...Rc5 20.Qe4 Qc7 21.Rf1 Rb8 22.Qd3 Be7 23.Nfd2 Nf4 24.Qf3 Rd8 25.g3 Nd3 26.Rab1 Rcd5 27.Ne4 Bb4 28.Rbd1 h6 29.Qe2 Rd4 30.Ned2

30.f3 e5 31.Kg2 a5 -/+.

30...Qd7 31.Qe3?

Now the d-file pin is exploitable. Somewhat better is 31.Qh5 Qd5 32.Qxd5 R4xd5 33.Nb1 Kf8 -/+.

31...Nc5! 32.Rc1 Rd3 33.Qe5 Rxd2 34.Nxd2 Nd3 35.Qe4 Nxc1 0-1

QGD D37

Jacek Stopa 2465

Joe Bradford 2451

UTD GM Invitational (3)

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Rc1 c5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.a3 c4 11.Be2 b5 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Qc2 a5 14.Ne5 f6 15.Nf3 Nb6 16.Nd2 Bd6 17.Bg3 Re8 18.Rfd1 Bxg3 19.hxg3 Qd7 20.g4 Rac8 21.b3 Re7 22.Qc3 Ra8 23.Qa1 Qe8 24.a4 b4 25.Re1 c3 26.Nf1 Nc8 27.Qb1 Nd6 28.Bd3 g6 29.Qc2 Ba6 30.Bxa6 Rxa6 31.Qd3 Rc6 32.Rc2 Qc8 33.f3 f5 34.Nh2 Kg7 35.Ree2 Re8 36.Qd1 Rc7 37.gxf5 Nxf5 38.Qd3 Rce7

38...Ng3 39.Re1 Qf5 40.Rd1 h5 is a good alternative.

39.Ng4 Qc6 40.Ne5



40...Rxe5 41.dxe5 Rxe5 42.g4 Ne7 43.Rh2

43.Qd4 Qf6 44.Kg2 h5 =+.

43...Qc5 44.Kf2 Nc6

Clearly, the central situation is a combustible mix with a big payoff potential for Black. Even so, Fritz gives 45.Rc1 d4 46.e4 Re7 47.Rch1 Kg8 48.Kg2 Ne5 49.Qa6 as equal, until it looks at 49...Qc6! 50.Qxa5 Nxf3! 51.Kxf3 Rxe4! and White's king cannot hide from the onslaught. 45.f4 Re7 46.Rc1 d4 47.e4 Rf7 48.Kg3

48.Kg2 Rxf4 49.Qh3 h5 50. gxh5 Qe5! +. The rest of the game is good technique.
 48...Rxf4 49.Rxh7+ Kxh7 50.Kxf4 Qd6+ 51.e5 Qxe5+ 52.Kf3 Qd5+ 53.Kf2 Ne5 54.Qh3+ Kg7 55.Rh1 Nf7 56.Qh7+ Kf8 57.Rf1 d3 58.Ke3 d2 59.Qh8+ Ke7 60.Qh1 Qxb3 61. Qb7+ Kf8 62.Qd7 c2+ 63.Kxd2 Qc3+ 64. Ke2 Qc4+ 65.Qd3 c1N+! 0-1

QGD Slav D30

John Bartholemew 2411
 Igor Schneider 2369

UTD GM Invitational (3)

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.c4 e6 4.Qc2 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Nf6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 b5 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Rc8 11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 c5



13.d5 Nxd5

13...exd5!? also merits consideration.

14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bxb5 0-0 16. Rac1 N7b6 17.Qb1 Rfd8 18. Rfd1 Rc7 19.b3 Nb4 20.a3 N4d5 21.h3 a6 22.Be2 a5 23.Nc4 Nxc4?!

This exchange has unexpected consequences, as White can make good use of the b-file. Simplest is 23...Ra8! 24.Qc2 a4 =; a more complicated route is 23...a4!? 24.Nxb6 Nxb6 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.bxa4 Nxa4 27.Qb3 Qa8 28.Bd1 Bc6 =. 24.bxc4! Ba6?

This loses a pawn. Better is 24... Nf6 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Qb6 Bxf3 27.Bxf3 Rc8 28.Qa7 +=. 25.Qb2 Nf6

Not 25...Rb7?? 26.Qd2 +-. 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Qb6 Qc8 28. Qxa5 Ra7 29.Rd1 Ra8 30.Qb6 Ne4 31.Bd3 Rb8 32.Qa5 Bb7 33.Rb1 Bc6

Somewhat better is 33...Nf6 34. Qa7 Nd7. 34.Ne5 Rxb1+ 35.Bxb1 Bb7 36. Qb6! Qa8?

Now Black's game collapses, but after the better 36...Nf6 37.Qd6 Be4 38.Bxe4 Nxe4 39.Qe7, Black's defensive chore in not enviable. 37.Qb7 Qxa3

37...f6 38.Qf7+ Kh7 39.f3 Qxa3 40.Kh2 Qa8 41.Nd7 +-. 38.Qxb7 1-0

King's Indian E60

Davorin Kuljasevic 2448
 Drasko Boskovic 2444

UTD GM Invitational (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nc3 Bf5 7.0-0 0-0 8. Ne1 e5 9.d5 c5 10.e4 Bg4 11.f3 Bd7 12.Nd3 b5 13.cxb5 a6!? 14.bxa6 Nxa6 15.b3 Nh5 16.Nb2 Nc7 17. Nc4 Nb5 18.Bd2 Qc7 19.a4 Nd4 20. Ne2 f5 21.Nxd4 exd4 22.exf5 gxf5



23.g4?!

White has organized effectively, but now loses his footing and puts the d5 pawn in jeopardy. Fritz gives

23.a5 Nf6 24.Nb6 Rae8 25. Re1 Bb5 26.Bf1 a big + (1.75). 23...Nf6 24.Bf4 Ra6 25.Qd2 25...Qd3! Nxd3 26.Bd2 =. 25...Nxd5 26.gxf5 Nxf4 27.Qxf4 Bxf5 28.Rae1!?

White goes for kingside tactics. Probably best was 28.Qg3! followed by 29.f4, restraining the d6 pawn: 28...Rf6 29.f4 Rg6 30.Qf3 with only an edge for Black.

28...Qb8

Possible is 28...Bd3 29.Qg5 Rf5 30.Qg4 Qf7 31.Rf2 Bxc4 32.dxc4 Rxa4 33. f4 Qg6, but the opposite color bishops present practical difficulties for Black.

29.Re7 d5 30.Ne5

30.Qxb8 Rxb8 31.Nd2 Rg6! 32. f4 Bf6 33.Rc7 Bh3 34.Rf2 Bh4 + (if 35.Re2 d3).

30...Re6! 31.Rxg7+ Kxg7 32.Qg5+ Kh8 33.f4

White realizes that 33.Nd7 Qd8! is not regaining the Exchange. When Black chooses to return it later, his pawns are too strong.

33...Qd6 34.Rf3 Qe7 35.Qh5 d3 36.Rg3 Rxe5 37.fxe5 Qxe5 38.Bf3 c4 0-1

Reti Opening A07

Magesh Panchanathan 2485
 Igor Schneider 2369

UTD GM Invitational (4)

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 h6 7.Re1 Bc5 8.h3 Bh7 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 Nbd7 11.e4 a5 12.c4 a4 13.Bc3 axb3 14.axb3 Rxa1 15.Qxa1 dxe4 16.dxe4 Qb6 17.Re2 Bb4

17...Nh5 18.Bd4 Rd8 19.e5 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxe5! (or ...Qb4) =. 18.e5 Ne8 19.Nd4 Nc7 20.Be4?

20.Bxb4 Qxb4 21.N4f3 =.

20...Ne5?

20...Bxe4 21.Rxe4 Ra8 22.Qb2 Bxc3 23.Qxc3 Qa5 and Black has an edge with his a-file dominance.

Now White shakes off the blockade of his b-pawn.

21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Bxb4 Qxb4
23.Nc2 Qb6 24.b4 Nd7 25.Qc3 Kg8
26.Ne4 Qa6

Black gets a cramped but relatively solid position from 26...c5(!)
27.b5 Rd8 28.Rd2 Ne8.

27.Rd2 Nb6 28.Rd4 Qa2 29.Kg2
Na4 30.Qd2 Ne8



31.Nf6+! Kh8

Scarcely better is 31...Nxf6 32.exf6 Qb2 33.fxg7 Kxg7 34.Rg4+ Kh7 because of 35.Qf4!, with the point 35...Qxc2 36.Qf6 +.

32.Rh4! Nxf6 33.exf6 1-0

Sicilian B50

Drasko Boskovic 2444

Keaton Kiewra 2264

UTD GM Invitational (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.h3 g6
5.Bd3 Bg7 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Bc2 0-0
8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5

9...e5 is considered the equalizer (10.Bc3 d5!).

10.e5 Ne4 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 f6
13.exf6 exf6 14.Re1 Re8 15.Rb1
Rxe1+ 16.Qxe1 b6 17.Rb5!

A multifaceted shot. Besides the obvious point of 18.Rxd5 Qxd5?? 19.Bb3, there is the quiet threat of 18.Bb3, answering ...Ne7 with Ba3. And finally...

17...Na5! 18.Rxd5! Qxd5 19.Be4
Qxa2

Slightly less adventurous is 19...
Qd8 20.Bxa8 Bxh3 21.Qe4 Bd7 =.
20.Bxa8 Be6 21.d5 Bd7 22.Nd4
Qc4

The homing instinct. Alternatively, Black can use a first rank pin to create counterplay: 22...Qa1! 23.Bc6 Bh6! 24.Bxd7 Qxc1 25.Qxc1 Bxc1 26.Kf1 Kf8 =.

23.Qe7 Qxc3



24.Ba3!

A spectacular alternate win using the "excelcior" theme is 24.Ne6! Qxc1+ 25.Kh2, when Black has two ways to address the mate threat: (a) 25...Qh6 26.Qxd7 Bf8 27.Qc8 Kf7 28.Qc7+ and 29.d6 +; (b) 25...Bxe6 26.dxe6 Qf4+ 27.g3 Qxf2+ 28.Bg2 (an easy move to overlook!) h6 29.Qf7+ Kh7 30.e7 +.

The text gives away none of White's advantage, and is the more practical choice for most mortals.

24...h5

24...h6 25.Ne6 Bxe6 26.dxe6 f5
27.g3! Bd4 28.Kg2 Qd2 29.h4!! and again, the passed pawn is a monster.

25.Ne6 Bxe6 26.dxe6 f5

Or 26...Nc4 27.Qf7+ Kh7 28.Bf8 f5 29.Bxg7 Qxg7 30.Bd5 Qxf7 Nd6 31.Qd7! +.

27.Bd6 Qa1+

27...Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Nc4 29.Qf7+ Kh7 30.Bf8 Qe5+ 31.g3 h4 32.Bxg7 hxg3+ 33.fxg3 Qxg7 34.Bd5 Nd6 35.Qd7+, similar to the last note.

28.Kh2 Qf6 29.Qxf6 1-0

QGD Semi-Slav D45

Alejandro Ramirez 2485

Marko Zivanic 2451

UTD GM Invitational (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6
5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4

This move of Shabalov's has put an exciting new kick in the 5.e3 line, once a quiet refuge from the complexities of Botvinnik's Anti-Meran Gambit 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4.

7...Bb4 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Be2 Bb7 11.g5 Nd5 12.e4 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Be7 14.Bf4 Rc8 15.0-0-0 16.Rad1 Qb6 17.c4 c5 18.d5 exd5 19.cxd5 c4 20.Nd4 g6?!

An unnecessary weakening of the dark squares. Equal is 20...Bc5 21.Nf5 f6.

21.Bg4 Rcd8 22.a4 a6 23.a5 Qc5
24.Qc3 Bd6



25.Ne6! fxe6 26.Bxe6+ Rf7 27.e5
Qa3?

The losing move, perhaps overlooking White's 31st.

Far from clear is 27...Bb8 28.Bxf7+ Kxf7 29.e6+ Kg8 30.Qg3! Bxf4 31.Qxf4 Rf8! 32.exd7! Rxf4 33.d8Q+ Kg7 34.h3 b4. I don't care if Fritz says it's +=, those queenside pawns are scary!

28.Bxf7+ Kxf7 29.e6+ Kg8 30.Qxa3 Bxa3 31.Bc7! Rf8 32.exd7 Be7 33.Rfe1 Kf7 34.Rd4

Also good is 34.h4.
34...Bxg5 35.h4 Bf6 36.Rf4 1-0

A one-sided crush evolves when Schneider misplays against Black's queenside pawns. Bradford's king in the center hardly blinks throughout.

French Tarrasch C05

Igor Schneider 2369

Joe Bradford 2451

UTD GM Invitational (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Be7 8.0-0 a6 9.Re1 b5 10.Nf1 h6 11. Ng3 c4 12.Bc2 g6 13.a4?

13.b3 is the right order.

13...b4 14.b3 cxb3 15.Bxb3 bxc3 16.Ne2 Qa5 17. Qd3 Rb8 18.Rb1 Bb4 19.Bc2 Nb6 20.h4 Bd7 21.h5 gxh5 22.Bf4 Ne7 23.Ra1 Nc4 24. Ng3 Ba3 25.Nxh5 Bc6 26.Bc1 Bb2 27.Bxb2 cxb2 28.Rad1 Bxa4 29. Bxa4+ Qxa4 30.Nd2 a5 31.Nb1 Rb3 32.Qe2 Qb4 33.Qg4 Rf8 34. Qg7 Nf5 35.Nf6+ Kd8 36.Qg4 Qb5 37.Ng8 a4 38.Nxh6 Nxh6 39.Qh4+ Ke8 40.Qxh6 a3 41.Nd2 0-1

Panchanathan plays brilliantly to achieve a dynamic endgame advantage, but gets lost in the complications. Shulman's patient, dogged play is rewarded in the end.

French Advance C02

Yuri Shulman 2614

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

UTD GM Invitational (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nh6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Bxf5 exf5 9.0-0 Qb6 10.a3 Be6

In the 5...Bd7 line this bishop often moves to e6 anyway – thus the finesse 5...Nh6 saves a tempo.

11.Nc3 Rc8 12.Na4 Qa6 13.b4 b5 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.bxc5 0-0 16.Bd2 Rb8 17.Qc2 Qa4 18.Qxa4 bxa4 19. Rfb1 h6 20.h4 f4!?

Not satisfied with 20...Rb3 =, Black seeks to dominate the b-file.

21.Bxf4 Rb3 22.Be3 Bf5 23.Re1 Rfb8 24.Bf4 R8b5 25.e6!?

25.Kh2 Bg4 26.Be3 Bxf3 27. gxf3 += (or in practice, =).

25...fxe6 26.Bd6 Rxf3 27.gxf3 Nxd4 28.Red1 Nc6

28...Nxf3+ is playable, and winning according to Fritz. The text is more practical, as Black does not rely on tactics to stop the c-pawn.

29.Ra2 Rb3 30.Kg2 h5 31.Re2 d4 32.Bf4 Rxa3 33.Rb2 Rb3

33...e5 34.Bg5 Kf7 35.Rb7+ Ke6 36.Rxg7 Bc2 37.Re1 Rc3 38.f4 e4 39.Rg6+ Kd5 =+.

34.Ra2 Rxf3

34...e5 35.Bg5 a3 36.Rd1 Kf7 37.Rxa3 Rxa3 38.Rxa3 Ke6 -/+.

35.Kxf3 Bg4+ 36.Ke4 Bxd1 37.Bc1 Bb3 38.Re2 Bd1

38...Bc4 39.Re1 Bd5+ 40.Kd3 e5 41.Rxe5 Nxe5+ 42.Kxd4 Nf3+ 43.Kxd5 Kf7 44.c6 Ke7 45.Ke4 Nxh4 46.Bg5+ Kd6 -/+.

39.Rd2 Bb3 40.Re2 Bc4 41.Re1 Ba2 42.Bb2 Bd5+ 43.Kd3 e5 44. Ra1 g5 45.Rg1 g4 46.Ra1



46...e4+?

How can this be bad? Because Black cannot cover both e4 and a4: 47.Kd2 Bb3 48.Re1 Bd5 49.Ra1 =.

The most convincing win is 46...Nb4+! 47.Kd2 Bb3 48.Rf1 Bc4 49.Ra1 Bb5 +. Black's king has time to approach the center, as 50. Re1? Nd3 is not an option.

More difficult is 46...Bb3 47. Ke4 Kf7 48.Kf5 because of White's

king activity, but Fritz also gives this at least a -/+.

47.Kd2 Bc4?

47...Bb3 48.Re1 a3! (48.Bd5 =) 49.Bxa3 Ne5 50.Rxe4 Nc4+ 51.Kd3 Nxa3 52.Rxd4 Be6=.

48.Bxd4!! Nxd4

48...Kf7 49.Ke3 Bd3 50.Rxa4 Ke6 51.Bg7 Kd5 52.Kf4 Kxc5 53. Kg5 e3 54.fxe3 g3 55.Ra1 g2 56. Rg1 Bf1 57.Kxh5 Kd6 58.Kg5 +.

49.Kc3! Nb3?

49...Bb5 50.Kxd4 Kf7 51.Kxe4 is still a win for White, but it takes work.

50.Kxc4!

50...Nxa1 51.c6 and the c-pawn is too fast. 1-0

Sicilian Najdorf B96

Keaton Stopa 2264

Jacek Stopa 2465

UTD GM Invitational (6)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nc6!?

A provocative sideline which most opening texts have neglected.

8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.e5 h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.fxg5 Nd5 12.Qd2 Qb6!?

12...Bg7 13.Bg3 dxe5 14.Ne4 hxg5 15.e4 Nf4 16.Qxd8+ Kxd8 17.Nxg5 Ke7 = Manik-Browne, San Mateo 1992;

= 12...dxe5 13.Ne4 Qb6 14.0-0-0 Rb8 15.b3 hxg5 16.Bxg5 f5 17.Nf6+ Kf7 18.Nxd5 cxd5 = Berube-Carlhammar, Villeurbanne 2003.

13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Bf2! Qb8

Of course not 14...Qxb2? 15. Bd4 and 16.exd6 +/-.

15.g6!

Black welcomes 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.gxh6 Bf4 17.Qc3 Rxb6, with good play for the pawn.

15...fxg6 16.Bd3 dxe5

16...g5 17.Bg6+ Kd7 18.0-0 dxe5 19.c4 Bb4 20.Qd3 Qd6 21.Bg3 +=.

17.Bxg6+ Kd7 18.0-0-0 Qb4

18...Rg8 19.Bf7 Rg4 20.Bxe6+! Kxe6 21.Qxd5+ Kf6 22.Bg3 with a dangerous attack.

19.c3 Qc4 20.Rhf1 Be7

20...Qxa2 21.Bg3 Bd6 22.Rf7+ Kc6 23.Bb1 +=.

21.Kb1 Bb7 22.Bg3 Qg4 23.Bc2 Qh5 24.c4! d4

24...Raf8 25.cxd5 exd5 26.Ba4+ Ke6 27.Bb3 Rd8 28.Bxe5 +=.

25.Qa5 Bd6

25...Rad8 26.Rxd4+ Kc8 27. Bxe5 Bd6 28.Rf5!! exf5 29.Rxd6 Rxd6 30.Bxd6 Rh7 31.Bxf5+ +- 26.Rxd4

1-0

Benko Gambit A59

Yury Shulman 2614

Alejandro Ramirez 2485

UTD GM Invitational (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nge2 Bg7 10.h3

This in conjunction with 9.Nge2 is a Shulman specialty.

10...0-0 11.Kg1 Nbd7 12.Kh2 Qa5 13.Qc2 Rfb8

GM Khalifman tried 13...Nb6 in two games with Shulman:

14.Rb1 Na4 15.Bd2 Nxc3 16. Nxc3 Rfb8 17.Rhe1 Nd7 18.Bg5 Kf8 19.Qd2 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Rxb1 21. Rxb1 Qxa2 22.Rb2 Qc4 23.Rb7 Ke8 (Shulman-Khalifman, Khanty Mansyisk blitz 2005) 24.Qb2 +=;

14.Rd1 Na4 15.Bd2 Nxc3 16. Nxc3 Rfb8 17.Re1 Nd7 18.b3 Qa6 19.Rab1 Ne5 20.Re3 c4 21.Kg1 cxb3 22.axb3 Rc8 23.Qd1 Rab8 24. Ne2 Qb6 25.Bc3 Nc4 26.Rd3 Ne5 27.Rg3 h5 28.Bd4+- Shulman-Khalifman, Khanty Mansyisk rapid 2005. 14.Rb1

Gligoric-Nyback (Stockholm 2003) continued 14.Rd1 Rb4 15.Rb1 Rab8 16. Bd2 Qa6 17.f3 Ne5 18.b3 Rc8 19. Be1 Nh5 20.a4 (Better is 20.f4 Ned7 21.g4 Nh6 22.g5 Nh5 23.Na4 +/-) 20...c4 21.bxc4 Rbxc4

22.Qb3 Rxc3! 23.Nxc3 Nxf3+ 24. gxf3 Qf1! and White resigned!



This position goes back to the early days of the Benko. In Kuipers-Dueball, Hitzacker 1971, Black continued 14...Ne5 15.b3 c4 16.Be3 cxb3 17.axb3 Rc8 18.Rhcl with comfortable play for White.

14...Rb4 Rb4 15.Rd1 Rab8 16.Kg1 Qa6 17.b3 c4 18.Nd4!

Already eyeing c6.

18...cxb3 19.axb3 Ne5 20.Be3

Simpler than 20.Bf4 Nfd7 21. Be3 Nc5 22.f4 Bh6.

20...Rc8 21.Qd2 Nh5 22.Na2!

White prepares to take up a powerful outpost at c6, which puts the game out of reach for Black.

22...Rb7 23.Nb4 Qa5 24.Ndc6 Nxc6 25.Nxc6 Qxd2 26.Rxd2 Nf6 27.f3 Kf8 28.b4 Ra8 29.b5 Nd7 30. Rc2 f5 31.b6 fxe4 32.fxe4 Ke8 33. Rb5 Ra3 34.Na5 Rxe3 35.Nxb7 Bd4 36.Kf1 Bxb6 37.Rc6 Bc5 38. Rc8+ Kf7 39.Rc7 Ke8 40.Ra5 1-0

French Tarrasch C05

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

Joe Bradford 2451

UTD GM Invitational (6)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.g3 cxd4

The move order with 8...a5 is also seen.

9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 a5 11.a4

11.Kg2 a4 12.Ne2 a3 13.b3 Ndb8 14.Bd2 Bd7 15.Rc1 Be7 16. Bc3 Na6 = Kelson-Doug Root, Los Angeles 1987.

11...f5

11...g5 12.h3 f6 13.Be3 0-0 14.Rc1 Rf7 15.Rh2 Bf8 16.Qd2 Qb4 17.Qxb4 axb4 18.b3 += Karpov-Ljubojevic, Brussels 1986.

12.Kg2 Nf8 13.Ne2 Bd7 14.Nc3 0-0-0 15.Be3 Kb8 16.Be2 h6 17. Qb3 Be8 18.Ne1

This heads off ...Bh5, solving the problem of Black's bad bishop. However, it also gives Black an opportunity to play 18...g5(!) It will not be his last.

Fritz considers 18.Na2 as giving White an advantage.

18...Bc5 19.Qxb6 [19.Qb5!?] Bxb6 20.Nc2 Rc8

20...g5! 21.Nb5 gxf4 22.Bxf4 (22.gxf4 Rg8+ =) Ng6 23.Bd2 f4 =. 21.Rhc1 Ng6?!

Again: 21...g5! 22.Nb5 gxf4 23. Bxf4 Ng6 24.Be3 f4 25.gxf4 Nh4+ 26.Kh1 Bg6 27.Nd6 Rcg8 =.

22.Nb5 Nge7 23.Bd2 Bd7 24.Rab1 Na7 25.Nd6 Rc7 26.b4



26...Nec6 27. Bd3 Bc8 28.b5 Ne7 29.Rd1 Bd7 30.Na1!

Putting the a5 pawn in the cross-hairs. Black cannot well capture the d-pawn (30...Bxd4?? 31.b6 +=).

31...Nec8 31.Nxc8 Nxc8 32.Nb3 Be8 33.Rdcl Rxc1 34.Rxc1 Bf7 35.Be2 Rg8 36.h4 Bd8 37.Nxa5

Be7 38.Nb3 Nb6 39.Ba5 Nc4 40.
Bxc4 dxc4 41.Rxc4 Bh5 42.Bc7+
Ka7 43.b6+ Ka6 44.Rc5 Bxc5 45.
Nxc5+ Ka5 46.Nxb7+ 1-0

King's Indian E97

John Bartholemew 2411

Keaton Kiewra 2264

UTD GM Invitational (7)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6
8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Nh5 10.Re1 f5 11.
Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3 c6 13.b5 h6 14.Ne6
Bxe6 15.dxe6 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4
17.Bxe4 d5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Ba3
dxe4 20.Qxd8 Rfxd8 21.Bxe7

Here a draw was agreed in
Murdzia-Shulman, Koszalin 1998.

21...Re8 22.Bc5 Rxe6 23.Be3

This position has been reached
many times in the last ten years.



23... Rd6

Black has not fared well with the
alternatives:

23...b6 24.Red1 Kf7 25.a4 Rc8
26.Rd7+ Re7 27.Rxe7+ Kxe7 28.a5
Kd6 29.axb6 axb6 30.Ra6 Rb8 31.
Rxb6+ Rxb6 32.Bxb6 +/- Szuhanek-
Knoll, Aschach open 2004;

23...a6 24.b6 Rc8 25.Rac1 Rec6
(25...Rcc6 26.Red1 Rxc1 27.Rxc1
Re7 28.Rc7 Kf7 29.Bc5+/-) 26.Red1
Rf6 27.Rd7 Rf7 28.Red1 Re8 29.
Rc7 Bf8 30.Kf1 Ree7 (30...Kg7?
31.Bxh6+ Savchenko-Deis, Metz
open 2006) 30...Ree7 31.Rc8 Kg7
32.Rd5 +=.

24.Rec1 b6 25.a4 Bf8 26.Kf1 Rad8
27.Ke2 R8d7 28.Rc8 Kf7 29.Rac1
Be7 30.R1c6 Rd1 31.R8c7 h5?

Allowing White to steal an im-
portant pawn. Better is 31...Bd8! 32.
Rxd7+ Rxd7 3.Rc4! += (33. Bxh6
Rd4 34.Rc8 g5 35.Ra8 Kg6 =).

32.Rxa7! Rxa7 33.Kxd1 Rxa4 34.
Rxb6 Rc4 35.Ra6 Bf8 36.h4 Rb4
37.Rb6 Rc4 38.Ra6 Rb4 39.b6 Bd6
40.Kc2 Ke6 41.Ra8 Rc4+ 42.Kb3
Rb4+ 43.Kc3 Rb1 44.g3 Be7 45.
Rg8 Kf7 46.Rc8 Ke6 47.Rc6+ Kf5
48.Kc2 Rb5 49.Rc3 Ke6 50.Rb3
Rxb3 51.Kxb3 Kd6 52.b7 Kc7 53.
Kc4 1-0

QGD Meran D47

Joe Bradford 2451

Igor Novikov 2568

UTD GM Invitational (7)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5
8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 b4 10.Ne4 Be7
11.Nxf6+ Nxf6 12.e4 0-0 13.e5

White can also hold back with
13.Qe2 or 13.Qc2.

13...Nd7 14.Be4

Some players prefer to preface
this move with 14.Qc2 h6.



14...Rb8

14...Qb6 15.Be3 c5 16.d5 exd5
17.Bxd5 Rab8 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.
Qc2 Qd5 = Rama-Simonsen, Calvia
Olympiad 2004;

14...Rc8 15.a3 a5 16.axb4 axb4
17.Re1 Re8 18.Be3 Nb6 19.Nd2

Nd5 20.Nb3 Qb6 21.Qd3 (21.Qh5
g6 22.Qf3 +=) 21...h6 = Jakobsen-
Novikov, Aarhus 1991.

15.a3 bxa3 16.b4 h6 17.Qa4

Apparently a new move. Black
has held his own against other tries:

17.Bb1 Bxb4 18.Qd3 f5 19.exf6
Nxf6 20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Qg6+ Kh8
22.Qxh6+ with an equal game that
White massaged into victory in
Moisenko-Novikov, Dallas 2004;

17.Bd2 c5 18.Bxb7 cxb4 19.Be4
b3 20.Qe2 Nb6 21.h4 Qd7 22.Bd3
Qd5 23.Be4 =, drawn in Kaidanov-
R. Vasquez, Buenos Aires 2003.

17...Nb6 18.Qxa3

18.Qxa7 Qc7 19.Qxa3 Ra8 20.
Qb2 Rxa1 21.Qxa1 Bxb4 22.Be3
Nd5 =.

18...a5!

Now this pawn is truly toxic.

19.Qb3?

19.Bxh6!? gxh6 20.Qc1 Kg7 21.
bxa5 Nd5 22.a6 =.

19...Ba6!

19...axb4 20.Bc2 c5 21.Qd3 g6
22.dxc5 Qxd3 23.Bxd3 Bxc5 +=.

20.Bb1?!

20.bxa5 Nd5 21.Qc2 Bxf1 22.
Kxf1 Rb5 +=.

20...Bxf1 21.Qc2 g6 22.bxa5 Bb5
23.axb6 Qxb6 24.Ba2!?

24.Bxh6 Ra8! just isn't working,
e.g. 25.Ba2 Rfb8 26.Rc1 Bd3! -/+.

24...Kg7 25.h4 Rh8 26.Be3 Qa6
27.Kh2 Ra8 28.h5 Bd3 29.Qd2
gxh5 30.Bb1 Qxa1 31.Qxd3 Rab8
32.Be2 Rb2 33.d5 cxd5 34.Bd4
Qa3 35.Bxb2 Qxb2 36.Nd4 Qc1 37.
g3 h4 38.Nxe6+ fxe6 39.Qg6+ Kf8
40.Ba4 hxg3+ 41.Kg2 Qg5 0-1

QGD Slav D15

Yury Shulman 2614

Jacek Stopa 2465

UTD GM Invitational (8)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
Qb6!?

Provocation - with a bull!
5.c5 Qc7 6.g3 Bf5 7.Bg2 g6 8.h3!

Before posting the QB at f4, White ensures that it won't be traded off by ...Nh5. Now stopping the pawn expansion with 8...h5 takes that square away from the knight.

8...Bg7 9.Bf4 Qc8 10.g4 Be6

Black plays for an attack on the c8-h3 diagonal that never materializes. Fritz likes the strategically correct 10...Be4!, exchanging out of the cramp and striving for ...e5.

11.0-0 0-0 12.e3 h5 13.g5 Ne4 14.Kh2 Nxc3

14...Bf5 provokes another helpful exchange with 15.Nh4, lest Black exchange at c3 and follow with ...Be4.

15.bxc3 Nd7 16.a4 b6 17.cxb6 axb6 18.Nd2 Ra7 19.Bg3 Qa8 20.Re1 c5 21.Qb3 Ra5 22.Bf1 Rc8 23.Reb1 Kh7 24.Bb5 Nf8 25.Bf1 Nd7 26.Qd1 f6?

Tinkering with the kingside pawns proves Black's undoing. Again, 26...Bf5! looks about equal.



27.gxf6 exf6 28.Bd3 f5

Covering one weakness, but creating another.

29.Nf3 Bf6 30.Bf4 Kg7 31.Bb5 Nf8 32.Bd6 Ra7 33.Qg1 Rd8 34.Qg3 h4 35.Qf4 Bf7 36.Be5

And the dark squares cave in.

36...Ne6 37.Bxf6+ Kxf6 38.Qe5+ Ke7 39.Nxh4 1-0

Resignation is a little premature by most players' standards, so here is how Fritz would have played it

out: 39...cxd4 40.cxd4 Rh8 41.Bc6! Qc8 42. Ng2 Qb8 43.Qxb8 Rxb8 44.Bxd5 with a solid two pawn plus.

QGD Slav D17

Igor Novikov 2568

Davorin Kuljasevic 2448

UTD GM Invitational (9)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 g5!?

This is a line which has become popular in the 21st century, and it has the same fiery spirit as the g2-g4 thrust by White in the Semi-Slav. Two GMs who play both sides, Gelfand and Morozevich, continue to play the solid 11...f6 as well.

11...Be6 was floated in the first Alekhine-Euwe match, 1935.

12.Ne3

12.Bxe5 Nxe5 13.Qd4 f6 14.0-0 0 Be6 15.f4 gxf4 16.gxf4 Nxc4 17.Qxf6 Bf7 18.Qxh8 Qxf4+ 19.Kb1 Bg6+ 20.Ka2 Ne3 21.Bh3 Nxd1 22.Rxd1 Rd8 = Gelfand-Morozevich, Monaco blind 2005.

12...gxf4 13.Nxf5 0-0-0 14.Qc2



14...Nc5

14...Bb4 15.0-0 f3 16.h3 h5 17.Rfc1 Nf6 18.a5 a6 19.Ne4 Nxe4, and a draw was agreed in Agrest-Gelfand, Turin Olympiad 2006;

14...Ng6 15.0-0-0 Kb8 16.Ne4 Bb4 17.Rd4 a5 18.Rhd1 Nde5 = Gelfand-Morozevich, Sochi 2004.

15.0-0 f3

15...Ne6 16.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 f3 18.h3 19.Ne4 Be7 20.Qc3 Ng6 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.b4 Rd8 = Steadman-Karim Mohammed, Turin Olympiad 2006.

16.h3 g3 a5 17.Rfc1 Kb8 18.Nb5?!?

Imaginative but unsound.

18...cxb5 19.axb5 Qb6 20.Qc3 Ng4?!

20...f6! 21.b4 (21.Rxa5 Nb3!)

21...axb4 22.Qxb4 Ncd3 23.Qa4 Nc1 24.Qa8+ Kc7 25.Rxc1+ Kd7 26.Rd1+ Ke8 +.

21.Qxh8 Nb3 22.Ne3?

This is based on Black's reply 22...Nxe3 23.Qe5+, which isn't all that good for White anyway and leaves his pawns in a shambles. Black finds something even better.

Simple and good would have been 22.e3 Nxa1 23.Rxa1 Qxb5 24.Nd4! +=. Note the dash of poison on that b-pawn: 24...Qxb2?? 25.Nc6+.

22...Bc5! 23.Qc3 Nxc1 24.Rxc1 Bd4 25.Qb3 Nxe3 26.Bf3 Nf5 27.e3 Bxe3! 28.fxe3 Qd6

28...Nxe3 29.Qxf7 Ng4+ 30.Kg2 Rd2+ 31.Kh3 Nf2+ 32.Kh4 Qh6+ 33.Qh5 Qe6 34.b6 Ne4 +.

29.Qc2 Qxg3+ 30.Qg2 Qxg2+ 31.Bxg2 Nxe3 32.Bf3 Nf5 33.Rc5 Nd4 34.Bg2 Rd7 35.b6 Rd6 36.Rxa5 Rxb6 37.Bd5 f6 38.Ra2 Kc7 39.Bg8 h6 40.b3 Kd6 41.Rd2 Ke5 42.Rd3 f5 43.Kf2 Rc6 44.Rh3 b5 45.Rh4 Rc8 46.Bh7 Rc2+ 47.Kf1 Nxb3 48.Rxh6 Nd4 49.Rb6 Rb2 50.Ke1 b4 51.Kd1 b3 52.Kc1 Rc2+ 53.Kb1 Rh2 54.Rb7 f4 55.Bd3 Rd2 56.Bc4 f3 57.Rf7 Rf2 58.Rf8 Ke4 59.Re8+ Kf4 60.Rf8+ Ke3 61.Re8+ Kd2 62.Kb2 Re2 63.Rf8 f2 64.Kb1 Ke1 65.Bxb3

On 65.Bxe2 Kxe2, Black ends the rook checks with Lucena's maneuver Kf3-e3-f4, and the knight provides shelter at f5.

65...Nxb3 66.Rxf2!

One last joke.



66...Nd2+! 0-1

Two Knights Defense C55

Drasko Boskovic 2444

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

UTD GM Invitational (9)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4

New In Chess Base online completely skips this variation, giving only 4...Nxe4; so I am at the mercy of textbook theory here. Believe it or not, one of the options NICB gives is 4.Ke2!! (an obvious typo for Qe2).

5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bc5

Magesh plays the sharpest line, having had time to improve on 7...Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 Be7, as he played against Boskovic at the 2006 Southwest Open.

8.Be3 Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 Bb6 [10...Qe7] 11.f3

An old ECO note gives 11.Nd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 0-0 13. Bg5 ± Haag-Varnusz, Hungary 1959. I don't know what Gligoric knew when he edited that section, but Fritz thinks the position is equal.

11...Ng5 12.Qd2

12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14. Qxd2 c5 15.Nf3 d4 16.Bf2 Bc6 17. Bh4 Qd7= Edelman-Klovans, Biel 1994.

12...Ne6 13.Nc3 c5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bg5 Qc8 16.Qf4 Bc6 17.Ne2 Qd7 18.Qg4 Qf7 19.c4 dxc4 20.Be3 0-0 21.Qxc4 Bd5 22.Qc3 c4 23.

Kh1 Rab8 24.Bd4 Qg6 25.Rad1 c6 26.Qe3 Rb7 27.Rd2 Ba5 28.Nc3 Bd8 29.Qe2 Rf4 30.Bg1 Qh5 31. Rd4 Rf8 32.Rg4 h6 33.Bd4 Bb6 34. Bxb6 Rxb6 35.Rd1 Rf5 36.Re1 Rf7 37.Rd1 Kh8 38.Kg1 Rb8 39.h3 Rb8 40.b3 Rxb3 41.Nxd5 cxd5 42. axb3 Rc7

It's an equal ending, but not dead equal.

43.Qe3 Qf5 44.Ra1 Rff7 45.Ra6 Rc2 46.Kh2 Kh7 47.Raa4 Rcc7 48. Ra6 Rb7 49.Rd6 Rxb3 50.Qe1 Rc7 51.Rd8 Rbb7 52.Qg3 Rd7 53.Rc8 Rb2 54.Rf4 Qg5 55.Rg4 Qe7 56. Rg6 Qf7 57.Rg4 Rc7 58.Rd8 Rc4 59.f4 Rb7 60.Qd3+ Re4 61.Qc2 Rc7 62.Qb1 Rb7 63.Qc2 Qc7 64. Qxc7 Rxc7 65.Re8



65...a5

65...d4 66.Rxe6 Rd7 67.Rgg6 d3 68.Rd6 Rd4 69.Rxd7 Rxd7 70.e6 d2 71.e7 Rxe7 72.Rd6 a5 73.Rxd2 a4 74.Ra2 Ra7 75.Ra3 =;

65...h5 66.Rg5 Rxf4 67.Rxe6 h4 68.Rd6 d4 69.Rg4 Rxg4 70.hxg4 Rg7 71.Rd5 Kh6 72.Kh3 Kg5 73.g3 hxg3 74.Kxg3 a6 75.Kf3 d3 76.Ke4 Kxg4 77.Rxd3 a5 78.Rd8 Ra7 79.e6 Kg5 80.Rd7 Ra6 81.Ke5 Kg6 82. Rd8 Ra7 83.Kd6 Ra6+ 84.Ke5 =.

66.Rxe6 Ra7 67.Rd6 a4 68.e6 Re7 69.f5

Suddenly White is all connected, and Black's prognosis is grim.

69...Re5 70.Rf4 a3 71.Ra6 Re3 72. Rfa4 h5 73.Rxa3 Rxa3 74.Rxa3 g6

75.g4 hxg4 76.hxg4 gxf5 77.gxf5 Kg7 78.Kg3 Kf6 79.Kf4 Rb7 80. Rf3 Rb4+ 81.Ke3 Re4+ 82.Kd3 Ra4 83.Rf1 Rb4 84.Re1 Rb8 85. Kd4 Rd8 86.Re5 Ra8 87.Rxd5

With rook and connected passers vs. rook, I can only guess the clock factor persuaded Black to continue. 87...Ra4+ 88.Kc5 Ra5+ 89.Kc6 Ra6+ 90.Kb7 Ra1 91.Rc5 Rf1 92. Kc7 Ke7 93.Kc6 Rf2 94.Rd5 Rc2+ 95. Kb5 Rf2 96.Rd7+ Ke8 97.Rf7 Re2 98.Kc5 Re1 99.Kd6 Rd1+ 100. Ke5 Re1+ 101.Kf6 Rh1 102.Ra7 Rh6+ 103.Ke5 Rh1 104.Ra8+ 1-0

Queen's Indian E15

Marko Zivanic 2451

Joe Bradford 2451

UTD GM Invitational (10)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 Bb4 6.Qc2 Bb7 7.Bg2 Be4 8.Qb3 Bxd2+ 9.Bxd2 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qe3

11.Rfd1 0-0 12.Rac1 h6 13.Qe3 a5 14.Bc3 Re8 15.Bh3 Bh7 16.Bg2 c6 17.Nd2 Rc8 = Olsen-Agdestein, Gentofte 1999.

11...0-0 12.Bc3 a5

12...Qb8 13.Bh3 b5 14.b3 a5 15. Nd2 Bg6 16.Bg2 d5 (16...Ra6!?) 17.Rfc1 += Dizdar-Bisric, Zadar 1999.

13. Rfd1 Re8 14.Bh3 c6

14...Qe7 15.Rac1 Bb7 16.b3 Qf8 17.Bb2 c5 18.Bg2 Be4 19.g4 h6 20.g5 hxg5 21.Qxg5 a4 = Rajkovic-Perunovic, Obrenovac 2004.

15.Ne5! Nb8! 16.Ng4 d5 17.Ne5 Nfd7 18.f3 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bg6 20. cxd5 cxd5 21.Bd4 b5 22.Rac1 Qd7 23.Bc5 Nc6 24.Bd6 Qb7 25.Rc5

White has emerged with an unquestionable edge.

25...Rec8 26.Rdc1 h6 27.Bf1 a4 28. Qf2 b4 29.e3 Na5 30.Rxc8+ Rxc8 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Bxb4 Nc4 33. Bc3 Qc7 34.e4 Nxe5 35.f4 Ng4 36. Qd4 e5 37.fxe5 Bxe4 38.h3 Nf6

The diagonal pin on the e5 pawn will have more to say in a bit.

39.Qxa4 Nd7



40.Qd4?!

Passive defense of the e-pawn allows Black to shift the momentum thanks to the diagonal pin. The apparent "threat" of 41.e6 would only get White mated!

Instead, White increases his advantage with 40.Bg2!, eliminating Black's centralized bishop. One possibility: 40...Nc5 41.Qa8+ Kh7 42.Bxe4+ Nxe4 43.Qxd5 Nxc3 44.bxc3 Qxc3 45.Kf2 +/-.

40...f6!

Black now gains a powerful pawn duo in the center to match White's on the queenside.

41.Be2

41.Qd2 fxe5 42.b4 Qa7+ 43.Kh2 d4 44.Bc4+ Kh8 45.Qf2 Qa3 46.Bd2 Nf6 =.

41...fxe5 42.Qb4 Nf6 43.Qa5 Qc8 44.g4 d4 45.Be1 d3 46.Bd1 Kh7 47.Qc3 [47.Qd2] 47...Qb8 48.Bg3 Qa7+ 49.Kh2??

As it turns out, this is the losing move. 49.Kf1! and now 49...Qe3 is not so strong: 50.Qe1 Nd5 51.Qxc3 Nxe3 52.Kf1 +=. Perhaps 49...Nd7 is a slight improvement, but White is not losing at any rate.

49...Qe3 50.Qe1 Nd5 51.a4 Qxe1 52.Bxe1 Ne3 53.Bb3 d2 54.Bf2 Bc2 55.Bc4

White resigned.

0-1

QGD Notebook D31

Yury Shulman 2614

Igor Schneider 2369

UTD GM Invitational (10)

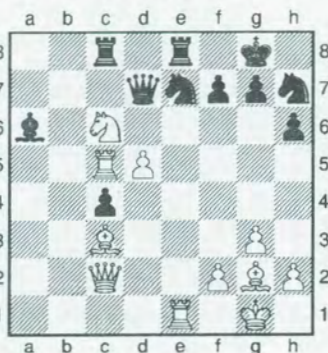
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 Qe7 8.g3 Nf6 9.Bg2 Bb7 10.0-0 a6 11.Qc2 0-0 12.e4 Bxc3 13.bxc3 c5?!

I don't trust this central break with Black's queenside undeveloped. Better seems to be 13...Nbd7 14.Re1 c5 15.e5 Bxf3! (15...Nd5 16.Ng5) 16.Bxf3 Nd5, and White's compensation is elusive.

14.Rfe1 h6

Fritz recommends 14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Rc8 16.Rab1 bxa4 17.d5 a3 18.Bc3 Ne8 19.Nd4

15.Rab1 cxd4 16.cxd4 Qd7 17. Bc3 Nc6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxb5 Nh7 20.Rc5 Ba6 21.d5 Ne7 22.Nd4 exd5 23.exd5 Rac8 24.Nc6 Rfe8



25.Bh3 Qxh3 26.Nxe7+ Kh8 27. Rxc8 1-0

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

Drasko Boskovic 2444

Jarek Stopa 2465

UTD GM Invitational (10)

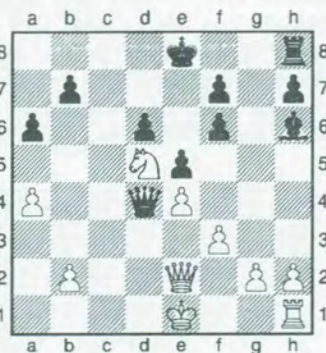
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.a4 a6 8.Na3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Bc4 Qb6

A good reason for provoking f3. Black has done well in this position against 11.Nd5 and 11.b3.

11.Qd3 Nb4 12.Qe2 Rc8 13.Bg5

Boskovic tries a pawn sac to gain light square dominance.

13...Bxc4 14.Nxc4 Nxc2+ 15.Qxc2 Rxc4 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Qe2 Qc5 18. Rd1 Rd4 19.Rxd4 Qxd4 20.Nd5 Bb6



21.Qc2! Qc5

21...0-0 22.Kc2 Kg7 23.b4 b5 24.Rd1 +=.

22.Nxf6+ Ke7 23.Qxc5 dxc5 24. Ng4 Bg7 25.Ne3 Rd8 26. Ke2 Ke6 27.Rc1 Bf8 28.Nd5 Bd6 29.g4 h5 30.Kf2 Rg8 31.h3 Rh8 32.Kg3 h4+ 33.Kf2 b5 34.axb5 axb5 35.Ra1 c4 36.Ra6 Rb8 37. Ke2 b4?

37...Kd7 still is very much a game. White should play 38.Kd2 followed by Kc3 and b3 with an edge.

38.Ne3! c3?

38...Rc8 39.Nf5 Rd8 40.Rc6 += is marginally better than the text.

39.Nf5

1-0

Because it's a mate threat, Black has to accept the lost K+P ending after 39... Rd8 40.Kd3 +=.

QP Opening D02

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

Davorin Kuljasevic 2448

UTD GM Invitational (10)

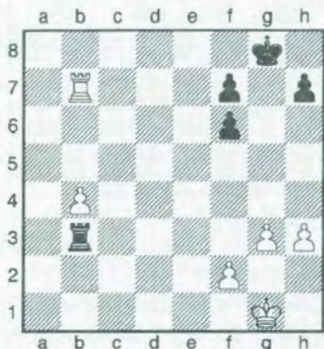
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bg4 5.d4 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 e6 7.Re1 Be7 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10. Rxe4 Nf6 11.Re1 0-0

Worth considering is 11...h6 to preserve the bishop: 12.h3 Bf5 =.

12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Qb6 14.c3 Rad8 15.Qe2 Rd7 16.Kg2 c5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.b4 Be7 19.a3 a5

19...Rfd8!? 20.Be3 Qc7 21.Bd4 Ne8! 22.Rad1 Nd6, answering 23.Qe5 with ...Nf5 =.

20.Be3 Qc7 21.Rac1 Rc8 22.Qb5 Nd5 23.Bd4 Bf6 24.Red1 Qc6 25.Qxa5 Qc4 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Bxd5 Rxd5 28.Rxd5 exd5 29.Rd1 Qe4+ 30.Kg1 Rxc3 31.Qxd5 Qxd5 32.Rxd5 Rxa3 33.Rd7 Rb3 34.Rxb7



34...f5 35.Kg2 f4 36.g4 Kg7 37.b5 h6 38. b6 Kf6 39.Rb8 Kg7 40.f3 Rb2+ 41.Kf1 Kf6 42.b7 Kg7 43. Ke1 Rb1+ 44.Kd2 Rb3 45.Kc2 Rb4 46. Kc3 Rb1 47.Kd4 Rb5 48.Ke4 Rb4+ 49.Ke5 Rb3 50.Kxf4 Rb1 51.h4 Rb5 52.g5 hxg5+ 53.hxg5 Rb1 54. Ke3 Rb3+ 55.Kd2 1-0

Anti-Meran Gambit D44

Igor Novikov 2647

Marko Zivanic 2569

UTD GM Invitational (11)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.g3 Rg8

Black can steer for the road more traveled with 11...Bb7 or 11...Qb6.

After the text, NCO has 12.h4 Rxg5 13.hxg5 Nd5 14.g6 fxg6 15.Qg4 as giving an edge to White.

12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.Bg2 Bb7 15.a4 0-0-0 16.axb5 cxb5 17.Bxb7+ Kxb7 18.Nxb5 Bb4+ 19.Nc3

Novikov played 19.Kf1 against Dreev in Bern 1993 and got rolled: 19...a5 20.Kg2 Rg5 21.Qa4 e5 22.Na3 e4 23.Rf1 Qf3+ 24.Kg1 e3 with a winning attack.



19...Qxd4

19...Rxd4 20.Qe2 Qf5 21.0-0 Rgd8 22.Nd1 Bd2 23.Ne3 Qe4 24.Qh5 f5 25.Nxc4 Rxc4 26.Qf7+ Kb8 27.Qxa7+ Kc8 28.Rfd1 Rdd4 29.Qa6+ Kd7 30.Qb5+ (Rogers-Kuijf, Wijk aan Zee II 1987) 30...Qc6 +/- 20.0-0 Qxd1 21.Nxd1 Rd4 22.Ne3 a5 23.Rfc1 Bd2 24.Rc2 Rc8 25.Kf1 Bxe3 26.fxe3 Re4 27.Rxa5 Rxe3 28.Rb5+ Ka6 29.Rb4 Re4 30.Rc1 Rc5 31.b3 Rb5 32.Rbxc4 Re3 33.Rf4 Rh5 34.Rc2 Rxb3 35.Rxf7 Kb6 36.Kg2 Re5 37.Rf3 Rb1 38.h4 Ree1 39.Rcc3 Rh1 40.Rfe3 Rbg1+ 41.Kf3 Rf1+ 42.Kg4 Rf6 43.Kg5 Rhf1 44.g4 1-0

The next game clinched an IM norm for Bradford, who at the end might have spurned a "virtually" certain win for a certain draw.

Reti Opening A07

Joe Bradford 2451

Yury Shulman 2614

UTD GM Invitational (11)

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d3 Bf5 5.Nbd2 h6 6.0-0 e6 7.b3 a5 8.a3 Be7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Qe1 Bh7 11.e4 Na6 12.Qe2 Qb6 13.Ne5 Nc5

14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Rfe1 Qa6 16.f3 Ncd7 17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.Kh1 Rfe8 19.f4 dxe4 20.Bxe4 Bf6 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Be5 Qb5 23.h3 Qd5+ 24.Kh2 Nxe5 25.fxe5 Be7 26.a4 Bb4 27.Rf1 Kg8 28.Rf4 b5 29.Nf3 Bc3 30.Qe3 Rb8 31.Rg4 Kh7 32.d4 b4?

A mistake which might have cost a full point and put him in a tie for second with Ramirez. Better is 32...Bb4!, preventing what follows.



33.Ng5+!

Now it is clear that after 33...hxg5 34.Qxg5 Black would like to be able to play ...Bf8, as now after ...Rg8 or ...g6 he is getting mated.

33...Kg8 34.Ne4

Also good is 34.Rf1, e.g. 34...Rb7 35.Ne4 Kf8 36.Nd6 +.

34...Kf8 35.Nxc3

* Winning a pawn without risk, Bradford offers a draw that brings him an IM norm, and equal first place to Shulman.

Did he see 35.Nf6!!, which looks like a forced win? After 35...gxh6 (35...Rd8 36.Rg8+!) 36.exf6 Qh5 37.Rh4 Qg6 38.Rxh6 Qg8 39.Qf4! (threat: Qd6+), Black has two defenses: (a) 39...Rbd8 40.Qh4 followed by Rh8; and (b) 39...Red8 40.Qc7! +.

Bradford got burned in his title quest years ago, losing his train of thought after a delivering a "Shhh!" in moderate time pressure, so his caution is understandable. **Draw**

French Defense C03

Igor Schneider 2369

Alejandro Ramirez 2485

UTD GM Invitational (11)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7

This seems to have gone from baroque sidestep to hot product.

4.Bd3 c5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.Qe2 0-0 7.Ngf3 a5 8.a4!? N

Here White has played 8.0-0 Na6 9.e5 Nd7 10.c3 Naxc5 11.Bc2. Black equalized with 11...f6 in Chevelevitch-Breuer, Hamburg HSK 2006, and 11...b6 in S. Yang-Abrahamyan, Yerevan Wch U20 2006.

8...Na6 9.Bxa6 Rxa6 10.0-0 Bxc5 11.e5 Nd7 12.Nb3 Ba7 13.Be3 Bb8



14.Nc5 Rc6 15.Nxd7

This violates the principle of avoiding exchanges when you have a space advantage. Better is 15.Nd3 b6 16.Nd4 Rc7 17.Qg4 f5 18.Qg3 Nc5 19.Nxc5 bxc5 20.Nb5 Rc6 21.Rfd1 Ba6 22.Nd6 =.

If you thought the ...Ba6 pin was a worry in that line, just wait ...

15...Bxd7 16.Bd4 f6 17.b3

If White has to play a move like this, it is a poor comment on 8.a4.

17...Qc7 18. Rac1 Be8 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Bb2 Bh5

Ouch!

21.g3 Ba7

21...e5 22.Qd3! Bf7 23.Nd2 =+.

22.Qd3

The artful squirming of Fritz produced 22.Rfd1 Rd8 23.Kh1! e5 24.g4! Bg6 25.Rd2 d4 26.Ne1 Bc5 27.c3 Bb4! with advantage to Black.



A big, mobile center backed by active bishops, weak light squares around White's king, a backward c-pawn – it is all a bit much for even the most experienced defender.

22...Bg6 23.Qe2 e5 24.c3 Qb6 25.Nd2 Rd8 26.Kg2 Re6 27.h4 Re7 28.Kh2 Rg7 29.Rce1 Bc2 30.f4 e4 31.Qg2 Bd3 32.Rh1 Bb8 33.Qg1 Qe6 34.Qf2 Rgd7 35.Nf3 Qg4 36.Nd4 Ba7 37.Qd2 Rc8 38.Rc1 Bb6 39.Qd1 Qg7 40.Qd2 Qg4 41.Qe3 Bxd4 42.cxd4 Rdc7 43.Rxc7 Rxc7 44.Rc1 Rxc1 45.Bxc1 Qd1 46.Qd2 Qxb3 47.Qxa5 Qc2+ 48.Bd2 Kg7 49.Qc3 Qd1 50.Qc1 Qe2+ 51.Kg1 Kg6 52.Qe1 Qf3 53.f5+ Kxf5 54.Qf2 Kg4 55.Bf4 h5 56.Qd2 Qf1+ 57.Kh2 Be2 58.Qe3 Bf3 0-1

A light dessert offering:

Scotch Game C47

Jarek Stopa 2465

Magesh Panchanathan 2485

UTD GM Invitational (11)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.Qe2+

I had to ask myself, is this really a line? (It is.) White prepares to castle into a half-open file.

9...Be7 10.Bg5 0-0 11.0-0 Be6

Another way is 11...c6.

12.h3?!

Better is 12.Rhe1 h6 13.Bh4 Qd6 14.Bg3 Qb6 15.Nb5 Rfc8 16.Nd4 Rab8 17.c3 with an unclear game in De la Villa Garcia-Susan Polgar, Salamanca 1989.

12...h6 13.Bh4 Rb8 14.f4 Qd6 15.Rdf1

White is logically deployed for a g4-g5 thrust. Problem is, Black is already knocking.



15...Rxb2! 16.Kxb2 Qa3+ 0-1

Apparently the shock-and-awe tactics worked, as Fritz doesn't show a clear crush: 17.Kb1 Qxc3 (17...Rb8+? 18.Nb5 =) 18.Rf3! Qb4+ 19.Ka1 Rb8 20.Bh7+ Nxb7 21.c3 Qe4 22.Re3 Bb4!? 23.Qd2 Qxf4 24. Bg3 Bxc3+ 25.Qxc3 Qa4 26.Qa3 Qd4+ 27.Qc3 Rb4 28.Bxc7 a6 with a 0.78 advantage to Black.

TCA Postal Chess

Contact Mario Leal

mleal@spamcop.net

Solution (back cover problem): 1.Nf6 (1...Kxf6 or 1...Kf5 2.Qg5#; 1...Kd4 2.Qc3#; 1...Kd6 2.Qc5#). A nice miniature that illustrates both attraction and obstruction themes.

4th annual UTD Grandmaster Invitational

FINAL STANDINGS

#	Name	USCF ID/Rtng	FIDE ID/Rtng	Cnty	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd7	Rd8	Rd9	Rd10	Rd11	Tot
1	IM Drasko Boskovic	927368 2526	927368 2444	SCG*	W12	D8	L5	W7	W10	D9	D2	D3	W6	W11	D4	7.5
2	GM Yury Shulman	12741541 2668	13500520 2614	USA	D5	L7	W10	D9	W6	W3	D1	W11	D4	W12	D8	7.5
3	GM Alejandro Ramirez	12688291 2566	6500617 2485	CRC	W8	D5	D7	D10	W9	L2	D6	D1	W11	D4	W12	7.0
4	FM John Bartholomew	12718516 2454	2019353 2411	USA	D11	D6	W12	D8	D5	D7	W10	D9	D2	D3	D1	6.5
5	GM Igor Novikov	12556825 2647	141000337 2568	USA	D2	D3	W1	D11	D4	D12	W8	D6	L7	D10	W9	6.5
6	GM Magesh Panchanathan	12900032 2526	5007429 2485	IND	D10	D4	D9	W12	L2	W8	D3	D5	L1	W7	W11	6.5
7	IM Davorin Kuljasevic	13218291 2477	14506661 2448	CRO	D9	W2	D3	L1	L11	D4	W12	D8	W5	L6	D10	5.5
8	FM Joseph M. Bradford	10378583 2521	2000539 2451	USA	L3	D1	W11	D4	W12	L6	L5	D7	D10	W9	D2	5.5
9	IM Marko Zivanic	13218311 2569	926116 2451	SCG	D7	D10	D6	D2	L3	D1	W11	D4	W12	L8	L5	5.0
10	Keaton F Klewra	12642647 2317	2019280 2264	USA	D6	D9	L2	D3	L1	W11	L4	L12	D8	D5	D7	4.0
11	IM Jacek M. Stopa	13485890 2436	1119591 2465	POL	D4	D12	L8	D5	W7	L10	L9	L2	L3	L1	L6	2.5
12	FM Igor Schnelder	12726345 2428	2019043 2369	USA	L1	D11	L4	L6	L8	D5	L7	W10	L9	L2	L3	2.0

* Serbia and Montenegro (Srbija i Crna Gora). Also represented: Costa Rica, India, Croatia and Poland.

Chess Teams, continued from p. 35

troops and any other organization interested in promoting group activities.

Will we do something creative – something to improve our marketing position and please our volunteers, coaches and players? It's doubtful. For in the United States chess community it will always be 1972: Bobby Fischer will always be the world champion and all schools look precisely the same. Scholastic chess in

Texas, in spite of our best efforts, is not a UIL-sanctioned activity. We are not bound by any authority or governed by any rules other than our own bylaws. Those of you that volunteer, coach and compete are the face of chess in your communities and are always looking for creative ways to increase the size of your programs. Establishing real, honest-to-goodness teams is a great start. Make your voices heard. Make a difference.

3rd annual Jim Gallagher Memorial

Forty-nine players turned out for the third annual Jim Gallagher Memorial, held Nov. 25-26 at the Texas Neurosciences Institute in San Antonio. The full \$825 prize fund was paid out, and \$41.60 was raised for a local chess-based scholarship fund. Martin Gordon directed.

In the Open with 23 players, Selby Anderson and Gregg Stanley tied for first with 3.5 out of 4 (\$150 each). Arthur Macaspac and Randall Schwarz tied for U2100 with 2.5 (\$37.50 each). Jose DeLeon and Daniel Hung tied for U1900 with 2.5 (\$37.50 each). Book prizes donated by Jim Rohrbaugh went to the two top juniors, Daniel Hung and Jesse Lozano (on tiebreaks over Andrew Widener).

In the Reserve with 25 players, Charlina Hung and Raul Flores tied with 3.5 out of 4, each winning \$100 and a junior book prize. Jimmy Wu was top U1500 with 3.0, winning \$75. Andrew Nat Lozano and Austin Jiang tied for U1300 with 2.5 (\$25 each), and Daniel Ortega was top unrated (\$50).

Sicilian B42

Daniel Hung 1811
Selby Anderson 2208

Gallagher Memorial (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.c4 Bc5 7.Nb3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nc6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.f4 e5 13.f5 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Nd4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 f6?! (16...Nxb3 =) 17.Qf2! Bd7 18.Rad1?

18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Qxd4 exd4 20.Rf4 Rfe8 21.Rxd4 Re3 22.g4 +=. 18...Ba4 19.Bc2 Bxb3 20.Bxb3 Qc5 21.Qh4 b5

21...a5! 22.Rc1 a4 23.Bd1 b5 -/+

22.Rc1 Rac8 23. Rc3 Ne2 24.Rh3 h6 25.Qg4 Nf4!?

25...bxc4 26.Qxc2 cxb3 27.Rxb3 Qxd5 -/+.

26.Rxh6 Qe3 27.h3

27.Rg6 Rf7 28.Qd1 bxc4 29.Rg3 Qb6 -/+.

27...Rf7 28.Rf3?!

28.cxb5 Rcl 29.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 30.Kh2 Nxc2! -/+.

28...Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Ne2 30.Rh8+ Kxh8 31.Qh5+ Kg8 32.h4 Qg1+ 33.Kh3 Qh1+ 0-1

English Opening A35

James Rohrbaugh 2200
Andrew Widener 1809

Gallagher Memorial (1)

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d6 7.Be2 Bg4 8.Be3 Nf6 9.d5 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Ne5 11.0-0 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Nd7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rad1 Re8 15.Bd4 Qa5 16.Rfe1 Rac8 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rd4 Ne5 19.Re4 Rc7 20.a3 a6 21.f4



21...f5 22.Rxe5 dxe5 23.Qxe5+ Kf7 24.b4 Qxa3 25.d6 Rc6 26.d7 Rf8 27.Qxe7+ Kg8 28.Qxf8+ Kxf8 29.d8Q+ Kg7 30.Qe7+ Kh6 31.Qh4+ Kg7 32.Re7+ Kf8 33.Nd5 Qc1+ 34.Re1 Qd2 35.Qh6+ Kg8 36.Re8+ Kf7 37.Qf8# 1-0

Sicilian Closed B25

Rheanna English 1736
John Patty 2200

Gallagher Memorial (1)

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 e5 4.d3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Nc3 d6 8.h3 h6 9.Nh2 Be6 10.h4 0-0 11.Nd5 f5 12.f4 Kh7 13.c3 Qd7 14.Rf2 Rae8 15.Nf1 fxe4 16.dxe4 Bg4 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3 Nxd5 19.Qxd5 exf4 20.Bxf4 Be5 21.Nh2 Bxf4 22.gxf4



22...Qe7 23.Rd1 Rf6 24.Re1 Re6 25.f5 Qxh4 26.fxe6 Qxe1+ 27.Kg2 Ne5 28.Qxd6 Qe2+ 29.Kg3 Qxe4 30.Rf7+ Nxf7 31.exf7 Qe1+ 32.Kg2 Re2+ 33.Kh3 Re3+ 34.Kg2



34...Re2+ 35.Kh3 Rxh2+ 36.Kxh2 Qf2+ 37.Kh1 Qxf7 38.Qxc5 b6 39.Qe3 h5 40.b4 h4 41.Qc1 Qf3+ 42.

Kh2 g5 43.Qc2+ Kg7 44.Qb2 Kg6 45.Qb3 Qe2+ 46.Kg1 Qe3+ 47.Kf1 Kf5 48.Qd5+ Kg4 49.c4 h3 50. Qd7+ Kg3 0-1

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

Ruy Lopez C91

Jeffrey Hung 1631

J.P. Hyltin 2071

Gallagher Memorial (1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 Bg4 10.d5 Na5 11. Nbd2 c6 12.h3 Nxb3 13.Qxb3 Bd7 14.Nf1 cxd5 15.exd5 Ne8

Played after a long think, where several choices were considered: 15...h6, 15...Bc8 intending Bb7 to pressure the d pawn, 15...Re8 with the idea of ...Bf8 and ...g6; while 15...Nh5 has no real point.

16.Ng3 f5?

16...Kh8 was necessary. Having found a plan last move, I was distracted by it.

17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.d6+ Kh8 19.dxe7 Qxe7 20.Bf4

20.Qd5 would have completed the combination with an extra pawn. **20...e4 21.Rad1 Be6 22.Qc2 Qf7 23.b3 Nf6 24.Rd4 Nd5 25.Bd6 Rfd8 26.Be5 Rdc8!?**

26...Rac8 27.Red1 was not to my taste.

27.Rdd1 Nb4 28.Qb1 Nd3 29. Rxd3 exd3 30.Qxd3

I have more opportunities now, but White has lots of counterplay. I have to prevent a future Nh5. And, for the next few moves, I had to calculate defenses to his potential sacrifices, Bxg7, and Nh5.

30...Kg8 31.Qd4 Rc6 32.Rd1 Re8 33.Rd2 Re7!? 34.Qd8+ Qe8 35. Nh5

I overlooked this point, having calculated instead 35.Qxe8+ Rxe8 36.Nh5 Bf7 +. My opponent avoided several traps here.

35...Rc8

35...Qxd8 36.Rxd8+ Kf7 37. Nxb3 38.Bd4 Bxa2 39.Nxf5 Re1+ 40.Kh2 is scary, but Fritz says 40...Be6 -/+ is adequate;

35...Bf7 36.Nxb3 Qxd8 37. Rxd8++.

36.Qxe8+ Rxe8 37.f4 Rd7



38.Re2

White avoids another mini-trap, where 38.Rxd7 Bxd7 39.Bxg7 Re1+ 40.Kf2 Ra1 -/+ improves Black's chances significantly.

38...Rd1+ 39.Kf2 Bf7 40.Ng3 g6 41.h4

I was surprised at this very mature understanding of how to create counterplay.

41...a5 42.h5 a4 43.h6?

43.Rb2 provides more resistance.

43...axb3 44.axb3 Bxb3 45.Rb2 Bc4 46.Ne2 Ra8 47.Nd4 Ra2

With my clock beginning to drain, I simplified the position knowing I would recover the g-pawn.

48.Rxa2 Bxa2 49.Nxb5 Rd2+ 50. Kg1 Bd5 51.Nc7 Bc6

Here, I recognized I had to prevent the knight from getting to f6, so I prevented Ne8.

52.c4 Rxb2+ 53.Kf1 Rc2 54.Nd5 (Diagram next column) 54...Rxc4?

Somehow I missed that he was threatening Nf6+ now, and that it allows the draw.



A simple win is 54...Bxd5 55. cxd5 Rd2 56.d6 Kf7+.

55.Nf6+ Kf7 56.Nxh7 Rc1+ 57.Ke2 Rh1 58.Ng5+ Kg8 59.h7+ Rxh7 60. Nxh7 Kxh7 61.Bf6 Draw

French Defense C11

Selby Anderson 2208

Arthur Macaspac 2095

Gallagher Memorial (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 d5!?

So we transpose to the French.

8.e5 Nfd7 9.f4 Nc6

9...Qb6 10.a3!

10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Qc7

11...b5 =.

12.Bd3 b5 13.0-0 g6?

13...Nc5 14.b4!? Nxd3 15.cxd3 +=; 13...b4 14.Ne2 Nc5 15.Rfcl Bd7 16.a3 +=.

14.Nxd5! exd5 15.e6 f6 16.exd7+ Bxd7 17.Qe3+

Overfinessing. 17.f5! g5 (17... 0-0-0 18.a4) 18.Rae1+ Kf7 19.Be2 Bc5 (19...h5 20. Bf3 +-) 20.Bh5+ Kg8 21.Rf2 Qb6 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Re5!! +

17...Kf7 18.Qf3

18.f5 Bg7 19.Rae1 +=.

18...Bd6! 19.Qxd5+ Be6 20.Qf3 Bc5 21.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Qf2 Rhc8 23.a3 Bc4 24.Rad1 Ra7 25.Rfe1 Bxd3 26.cxd3 Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Rc2+ 28.Re2 Rxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Ke6 30.Rcl Kd7 31.d4 Ra8 32.Kd3 Kd6 33.

Re1 Rc8 34.g4 Kd5 35. Re7 Rc1 36.Rd7+ Kc6 37.Rf7

Fritz likes 37.Rxh7 Rf1 38.Ke3 Re1+ 39.Kf2 Rb1 40.b4 Kd5 41. Rg7 Rb2+ 42.Kg3 Rb3+ 43.Kh4 Rf3 44.Rxg6 Rxf4 45.Kg3+- 37...Rd1+ 38.Kc3 Rc1+ 39.Kb3 Rg1 40.Rxf6+ Kd5 41.g5 Rg2 42. Rxa6 Kxd4



43.Rf6!?

43.Ra5! b4 44.a4! Rxh2 45.Rb5 takes care of business efficiently.

43...Rxh2 44.f5! Kc5

44...gxf5 45.Rxf5 Rh5 46.Rxb5 h6 47.Rb4+-

45.fxg6 Rh3+ 46.Ka2 hxg6 47. Rxg6 Rh8 48.Rf6 Rh5 49.b4+ Kd4 50.Rf4+ Kc3

50...Ke5 51.Rg4 Rh2+ 52.Kb3 Rh3+ 53.Kc2 Rxa3 54.g6 Ra8 55.g7 Rg8 56.Kd3 Kf5 57.Rg1 Ke5 58. Ke3 Kd5 59.Rg4 Ke5 60.Rg5+ Ke6 61.Ke4 +-.

51.Rf3+ Kd4 52.Rg3 Rh7 53.g6 Rg7 54.Kb3 Kd5 55.Rg5+ Kc6 56. Kc3 1-0

French Winawer C17

Ernesto Malazarte 2138

James Rohrbaugh 2200

Gallagher Memorial (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 cxb4

This has long been considered a poison pawn, with theory focusing on 6...cxd4 instead.

7.Nb5 Nc6 8.axb4 Bxb4+ 9.c3 Be7 10.Qg4

ECO gives 10.Bd3 a6 11.Qg4 Kf8 12.Ba3 f5 13.Qf4 Bxa3 14. Rxa3 Nh6 15.Nf6 Nf7 16.h4! as favoring White.

10...Kf8 11.Nf3 Bd7 12.Bd3

Now 12.Ba3 Bxa3 13.Rxa3 Qb6 is awkward, e.g. 13.Bd3 Nb4!.

12...a6 13.Na3 Na5 14.Rb1 b5 15. 0-0 Rc8 16.Bb2 Bc6 17.h4 h5 18. Qf4 Nh6 19.Ng5 Kg8 20.Nc2 Nc4 21.Bc1 g6 22.Qg3 Be8 23.Re1 Rc6 24.Nb4 Rb6 25.Nc2 Rc6 26.Rd1 Nb6 27.Bd2 Na4 28.Nb4 Rxc3 29. Bxc3 Nxc3 30. Nxa6 Nxd1 31.Rxd1 Qb6 32.Nc5 Bxc5 33.dxc5 Qxc5 34. Qf4 Ng4 35.Be2 Qc2 36.Bxg4 hxg4 37.Rc1 Qf5 38.Qg3 Kg7 39.Rc7 d4

Safer is 39...Rf8 allowing for ...Kg8 as necessary.



40.Re7 Kf8 41.Qa3 Kg7?

41...Qb1+ 42.Kh2 Rxh4+ 43. Kg3 Rh3+ (43...b4 44.Rxe8+! Kxe8 45.Qa8+ forcing mate) 44.Nxh3 (44.gxh3 Qg1+ 45.Kf4 Qxf2+ 46. Nf3) 44...gxh3 45.Qd6! and Black has to steer for a perpetual.

42.Nxe6+ Kh6 43.Qc1+ Kh7 44.Nxd4 Qe4 45.Ne6 Qc4 46.Qg5 Qd3 1-0

King's Indian E98

Randall Schwarz 1900

Don Sutherland 2182

Gallagher Memorial (2)

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 a5 11. Be3 b6 12.a3 f5 13.f3 f4 14.Bf2 g5 15.b4 Nf6 16.Rc1 axb4 17.axb4 h5 18.c5 bxc5 19.bxc5 Qe8 20.cxd6 cxd6 21.Nb2 g4 22.Nc4 Qg6 23. Bh4 gxf3 24.Bxf3 Ba6 25.Be2 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 Rf7 27.Bxf6 Rxf6 28.Be2 h4 29.h3 Bh6 30.Bf3 Qe8 31.Qe2 Rb8 32.Rb1 Rf8 33.Rxb8 Qxb8 34. Rb1 Qa7+ 35.Kh2 Draw

Center Counter B01

Ernesto Malazarte 2138

Selby Anderson 2208

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Be2 Bg4 5.0-0 Nc6 6.d4 0-0-0 7.Be3 Qf5

White has delayed playing c4 in the hope that ...e5 will cut off my queen from going to her best square. 8.c4 e5 9.d5 e4!?

I spent at least 40 minutes on this move. Objectively best is 9... Bxf3 10.Bxf3 e4 11.Be2 a6 with an edge to White.

10.Qa4?!

10.Nfd2! creates the most problems for Black. 10.Nd4 Nxd4 11. Bxg4?! led to a brilliant win for Black in Garzon-Ferrara, Buenos Aires 2004: 11...Nxg4 12.Bxd4 Bd6 13.h3 Nh2 14.c5 Nf3+! 15.Kh1 Qf4 16.g3 Qf5 17.Kg2 Bxc5 18. Bxc5 Rxd5 19.Qe2 Rxc5 20.Nc3 Re8 23.Qe3 g6 24.Ne2 Qxh3+! with mate in three more moves.

10...exf3 11.dxc6 Bc5

11...fxe2 is insane unless you're a silicon chip: 12.cxb7+ Kxb7 13. Qxa7+ Kc8 14.Re1 Re8 15.Nc3 with lots of play for the piece.

12.cxb7+?

I expected 12.Qb5 bxc6, but neither 13.Qa6+ Kb8 14.Bxf3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bxe3 16.fxe3 Rd6 nor the endgame with 13.Qxc5 Qxc5 14.

Bxc5 fxe2 15.Re1 Rhe8, offers much hope for White.

12...Kb8 13.Bxc5 Qxc5 14.Bxf3

It is surprising to see how long Fritz takes to go beyond its initial "equal" evaluation here.

14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qg5+ 16.Kh1 Qf5 17.f4

Ernesto started to play 17.Qb3 and noticed my reply would be 17...Rd3. On the expected 17.Kg2 I also planned 17...Rd3!?, which is good enough, but 17...Nh5! ends it. 17...Qh3 18.Nd2 Ng4 0-1

Modern Benoni A70

John Patty 2200

Jesse Lozano 1947

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4

7.Qa4+!? Nbd7 8.Bf4 is a related approach.

7...a6 8.e4 Nh5!

A thematic move to retain control over e5. Unclear is 8...b5 9.Qe2 Be7 10.e5 dxe5 11.Bxe5 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qd6. And 8...Bg7 9.Qa4+ Bd7 10.Qb3 Qe7 11.Be2 favors White.

9.Bg5 Be7

9...f6 10.Bh4 Be7 11.a4 f5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Bd3 =; 13.e5!? dxe5 14.d6 (Bokinski-Kriesch, Germany 2006) 14...Qf6 +/-.

10.Bxe7

10.Bh6 Bf8 11.Qd2 Bxh6 12.Qxh6 Qf6 =.

10...Qxe7 11.Qd2

11.Bd3 Bg4 12.0-0 Nd7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qg5 (14...Ne5 15.Qe3 Qh4 16.Bc2 Nf4 17.Ne2 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Qf4 19.Rae1 b5 20.b3?) 15.Bc2 Ne5 16.Qe3 Qxe3 =.

11...b5

11...Bg4 12.Be2 Nf6 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.Rae1 =. Lozano likes the Bb7 placement as a prophylactic against e4-e5.

12.Bd3 0-0 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Rfe1 Bb7

14...Ne5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Ne2 f5 =

15.a3 Rae8 16.b4 Qf6 17.Rad1 Rc8 18.Rc1 Nf4 19.Ne2



19...Nxd3

19...Nh3+! 20.Kf1 Ne5 21.Neg1 Nxd3 22.Qxd3 Nf4 23.Qd2 c4 24.Rc3 Rfe8 25.Ree3 Re7 26.Ne2 Rce8 27.Ng3 h5! and Black has all the chances while White is passively situated.

20.Qxd3 cxb4 21.axb4 Nb6 22.Ned4 Nc4 23.h3 Rc7 24.Rc2 Ne5?? 24...Re8 =.

25.Nxe5 Rxc2 26.Ng4+- Qg7 27.Nxc2 Rc8 28.Nd4 1-0

Sicilian B23

Don Sutherland 2182

Martin Gordon 1936

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.d3 d5 4.g3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Qc7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 f5!?

A less risky path is 10...Nd7 followed by ...Nf6.

11.Bg2 Bd7 12.Re1 Bc6 13.Nf4 Rf6 Better is 13...Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Qc6+ or 14.Nxg2 e5 =.

14.d4 Bxg2 15.Nxg2 Nc6 16.Bg5 Rf7 17.Bf4 Qd7 18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.c3 Re8 20.b4 Bb6 21.a4 Bd8 22.Qb3 Bf6 23.Rad1 Qc8 24.Bd6 e5 25.Ne3 Qe6?

Black avoids the loss of a pawn with 25...f4 26.Nd5 Qe6 27.Nxf6+ Qxf6 28.Qe5 +=. White handles the technical phase with polish.

26.Qxe6 Rxe6 27.Nxf5 e4 28.b5 Ne5 29.Bxe5 Rxe5 30.Nd6 Rfe7 31.c4 e3 32.fxe3 b6 33.Rd3 Rc7 34.Kf2 Be7 35.Rc1 Rec5 36.Kf3 h6 37.Ne4 Rf5+ 38.Ke2 Re5 39.Nd2 Bc5 40.Nb3 Kf7 41.Rf1+ Ke6 42.Nd4+ Bxd4 43.Rxd4 Re7 44.Rf3 Rc5 45.Kd3 Re5 46.e4 Rh5 47.h4 Re5 48.g4 Rc5 49.Rd8 1-0

King's Indian E99

Gregg Stanley 2066

Randall Schwarz 1900

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.c4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Nd3 Nf6 14.c5 Rf7 15.Rc1 Ng6 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Rc2 h5 18.Qd2 g4 19.Rfc1 Bf8 20.Kh1 h4 21.fxg4 Bxg4 22.h3 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 f3 24.Qxf3 Nxd5 25.Qh5 Ndf4 26.Nxf4 Nxf4 27.Qg4+ Bg7 28.Rd1 Qe7 29.Kg1 Raf8 30.Bxh4 Qc7 31.Rcd2 Qb6+ 32.Kh2 Kh7 33.Bf2 Qb4 34.Qh4+ Kg8 35.Be3 Bf6 36.Qe1 Rg7 37.g3 Ne6 38.Rf2 Rgf7 39.a3 Qc4 40.Rxd6 Be7 41.Rxf7 Rxf7 42.Rd2 Nd4 43.Bxd4 exd4 44.Ne2 d3 45.Nf4 Bg5 46.Rxd3 Rxf4 47.gxf4 Qc2+ 48.Kh1 Qxd3 49.fxg5 Qxh3+ 50.Kg1 Qg4+ 51.Kf1 and White won after time mishaps in a drawn position. 1-0

King's Indian E98

James Rohrbaugh 2200

Jose DeLeon 1811

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 a5 11.Be3 b6 12.a3 f5 13.f3 f4 14.Bf2 g5 15.b4 h5 16.c5 axb4 17.axb4 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 bxc5 19.bxc5 Nf6 20.Qa5

Ne8 21.Nb5 Rf7 22.cxd6 Nxd6 23. Qxc7 Qxc7 24.Nxc7 Ng6 25.Rc1 Bf6 26.Ne8 Nxe8 27.Rxc8 Rf8 28.Bc5 Ne7 29.Bxe7 Bxe7 30.Nxe5 Kg7 31.Nd7 Rg8 32.e5 Bb4 33.Bc4 Nd6 34.Rxg8+ Kxg8 35.exd6 Kf7 36.Ne5+ 1-0

King's Indian E98

Arthur Macaspac 2095

Rheanna English 1736

Gallagher Memorial (3)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Bg5 f5 11.exf5 gxf5 12.f4 e4 13.Nc2 Nf6 14.Qe1 h6 15.Bh4 Ng6 16.Bg3 Kh7 17.Rd1 Re8 18.Ne3 a6 19.h3 Rb8 20.Qd2 Bd7 21.b3 b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Rc1 Re7 24.Rc2 Qc8 25.Rfc1 Qb7 26.Kh1 Rf7 27.Nb1 Rc8 28. Nc3 b4 29.Ncd1 Ne7 30.Bc4 Nh5 31.Bh2 Ng6 32.g3 Nf6 33.Bg1 h5 34.Ng2 Rh8 35.h4 Ng4 36.Be2 Be8 37.Rc4 Qb8 38.Qxb4 Qd8 39. Bxg4 hxg4 40.Nde3 Kg8 41.Bf2 Rh5 42.Kg1 Bf6 43.Qa5 c5 44.Qxd8 Bxd8 45.R4c2 Bb5 46.Be1 Bd3 47.Rb2 Bf6 48.Bc3 Bd4 49. Bxd4 cxd4 50.Rc8+ Rf8 51.Rxf8+ Kxf8 52.Nc2 Bxc2 53.Rxc2 Rh7 54.Rc8+ Kf7 55.Rc4 d3 56.Ne3 Ne7 57.Rc7 Kf6 58.Kf2 Rh8 59.Rc1 Ra8 60. Ra1 Ra5 61.a4 Nxd5 62.Nxd5+ Rxd5 63.a5 Rb5 64.a6 Rb8 65.a7 Ra8 66.b4 1-0

The top two boards in the Reserve were both decisive.in the final round. On Board 1, Charlina Hung played a model of Black's defense against the Smith-Morra Gambit.

Smith-Morra Gambit B21

Charles R. Davis 1541

Charlina Hung 1612

Gallagher Memorial Reserve (4)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 a6 5.Bc4 e6 6.Nf3 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.Qe2 Bb4 9.Bd2 Ne7 10.0-0 0-0

11.Rac1 Nbc6 12.Rfd1 Bxc3 13. Bxc3 d5 14.e5 Ng6 15.Bd2 Rc8 16.Bg5 Qd7 17.Bc2 h6 18.Bxg6 fxg6 19.Be3 Kh7 20.Bc5 Rf7 21. Nh4 Rg8 22.Bd6 Rf4 23.Nf3 Rc8 24.Qd3 Qf7 25.Rd2 Nb4 26.Qf1 Rxc1 27.Qxc1 Nc6 28.Qc3 Qf5 29. Qd3 Re4 30.a3 Nd4 31.Kf1 Nxf3 32.Qxf3 Rf4 33.Qd1 Qg5 34.Qc2 d4 35.g3 Re4 36.Rd1 Qg4 37.Kg1 Qf3 38.Qd3 Re1+ 0-1

Sicilian B41

Ebrahim Montazeri 1578

Raul Flores 1513

Gallagher Memorial Reserve (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.e5 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Nxc3 11.Bxd8 Nxd1 12.Rxd1 Kxd8 13.c5 Ke7 14.Bc4 a5 15.a4 Ba6 16.Bxa6 Rxa6 17.Kd2 Rb8 18.Kc3 Rb4 19.b3 Ra8 20.f3 Rab8 21.Rb1 f6 22.Rhe1 fxe5 23.Rxe5 Rxa4 24.Rb2 Rab4 25.Rg5 Kf6 26. Rg4 Rxg4 27.fxg4 Ke7 28.Rd2 Rb5 29.Kc4 Rb4+ 30.Kc3 Rxg4 0-1

On Board 1 of the Open, anticlimax as I repeat a line I played in July, this time reaching ho-hum equality.

Torre Attack D03

Selby Anderson 2208

John Patty 2200

Gallagher Memorial (4)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Bf4 c5 5.e3 Qb6 6.Qc1 cxd4 Draw

Catalan Opening E01

Arthur Macaspac 2095

James Rohrbaugh 2200

Gallagher Memorial (4)

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d4 e6 5.0-0 Nf6 6.e4 Be7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8. Nbd2 0-0 9.a3 a6 10.b4 Ba7 11. Bb2 Re8 12.Rc1 d4 13.b5 Nb8 14. c5 axb5 15.Nxd4 Na6 16.N2b3 Qe7 17.Nxb5 Bxc5 18.Nxc5 Nxc5

19.Be5 Ra5 20.Bd6 Qd7 21.Nc7 Rd8 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Qxd7 Nxd7 24.Rxc5 Nxc5 25.Rc1 Nb3 26.Rb1 Nc5 27.h4 Kf8 28.Rc1 Nb3 29.Rb1 Nc5 30.Rc1 Nb3 31.Rb1 Nc5 Draw

Modern Defense A41

Gregg Stanley 2066

Don Sutherland 2182

Gallagher Memorial (4)

1.c4 d6 2.d4 e5 3.d5 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.b4 0-0

Here I like 6...a5! to nail down the c5 square.

7.e3 Qe8 8.Bb2 a5 9.Nb5 Qd8 10.a3 axb4 11.axb4 Rxa1 12.Qxa1 Na6 13.Ba3 Ne4

An attractive alternative is 13... c6 to open lines: 14.Nc3 cxd5 15. cxd5 Qb6 16.Bc4 e4 17.Nd4 Bd7 18. Nc6!? Bxc6 19.dxc6+ Kh8 20.b5 Nc5 21.cxb7 d5 =. 14.Nc3 Nxc3 [14...c6!?] 15.Qxc3 Bf6 16.c5 g5 17.Bc4 h5 18.Nd2 e4 19.Qc2 Be5 20.Be2

20.c6 Bg7! (20...bxc6 21.dxc6+ Kg7 22.b5 Nc5 23.Be2 ±) 21.Qa4 Qf6! 22.0-0 Qc3 23.cxb7 Bxb7 24. Bxa6 Bxa6 25.Nxe4 fxe4 26.Qxa6 Qb3 =.

20...Qf6 21.g3

21.Bxb5 g4 22.h3 Qh4 23.Nc4 Qxh5 24.b5 Nxc5 25.Nxe5 =.

21...Bc3 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.b5



23...Nb8?!

(Continued next page)

Chess in education workshop slated

The Texas Chess Association is sponsoring a one-day TCA Chess in Education workshop to be held 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 17 during the state scholastic championships at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas. The workshop has a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m., and refreshments 3-3:30.

The workshop registration fee is \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Send advance registration fee to:

TCA President Michael Simpson
Attorney at Law
316 W. 12th Street, Suite 310
Austin, TX 78701

The workshop fee includes refreshments from 3-3:30, but participants are on their own for lunch.

The workshop will highlight current thinking in chess in education to encourage the growth of chess in K-12 schools. Participants will learn about TCA and the benefits of chess in the classroom, especially for gifted and talented students. The workshop will offer professional development clock hours from the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT, www.txgifted.org).

Presenters

10:30-11 a.m. Dr. Alexey Root, author of *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators*, will discuss her book and the online courses for educators offered by the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). Root will show how chess instruction tied to academic subject matter enhances the cognitive and affective functioning of gifted students. (TAGT 5.0)

11-11:30 a.m. Dr. Tim Redman, editor of *Chess and Education: Selected Essays from the Koltanowski*

Conference and professor at UTD, will discuss approaches for educating and involving parents, the community, and other professionals in supporting chess instruction for all students and in particular gifted and talented students. (TAGT 3.0)

11:30-noon Former Chess Online student Leah Dagher, Houston ISD full-time chess teacher (Briar-meadow Charter School), shares her unit for grades 4-8 *The Science of Chess*. This unit correlates elements of chess to basic theories introduced in classroom science studies, and includes adaptations for gifted learners. (TAGT 5.0)

1-2 p.m. Dr. Steve Lipschultz, Think Like a King School Chess Software System, will demonstrate how this software allows educators to manage large groups, small groups, and individuals. The software utilizes a variety of instructional strategies, and is adaptable to gifted-and-talented and regular education students. (TAGT 4.0)

2-2:30 p.m. Clemente Rendon, TCA Vice President, describes the programs and initiatives developed by TCA for K-12 students. Chess tournaments, college scholarships, and grants for talented chess players—all of interest to gifted students (and their parents and teachers)—will be emphasized. (TAGT 5.0)

2:30-3 p.m. Daa Mahowald (BS Math Ed, MA Ed Psych), who has taught scholastic chess for over twenty years, will present several chess mini-games and discuss how their use can enhance the cognitive and affective functioning of regular and gifted students. (TAGT 4.0)

3:30-4 p.m. Former Chess Online student Jody Braswell, 3rd grade GT Cluster teacher for the Ector County ISD in Odessa, Texas, will explain how chess can be integrated into multiple content areas, and how it

can be used to differentiate curricula. (TAGT 5.0)

4-4:30 p.m. Martha Jenkinson and Jeff Ashton, of the chess program at the T.H. Rogers gifted-and-talented magnet school in Houston, will discuss building a strong school-based chess program and how chess is part of the differentiated curriculum. For example, all gifted-and-talented students in grades K-3 receive chess instruction once a week during the school day. (TAGT 5.0)

Gallagher (cont'd from p. 25)

23...Nc7 24.Qb3 f4 25.gxf4 gxf4 26.Rg1+ Kh7 27.Kd1 fxe3 28.fxe3 Qf2 29.Rg5 Bg4 30.Rxg4 hxg4 31.Qc4 Qxe3 32.Qxc7+ Kh8 33.Bc1±;

23...Nb4! 24.Qb3 Nd3+ 25.Bxd3 exd3 26.Kd1 Bd7 =.

24.Bxh5 Nd7 25.f4 exf3 26.Bxf3 Ne5 27.0-0 g4 28.Be2 Ba5 29.Nb3?

29.Ne4! Qh6 30.Nxd6 Qxe3+ 31.Kg2 Qxa3 32.Nxc8 + and Black cannot defend the f5 pawn.

29...Bb6 30.Bc1 Qh6 31.Qc3 Bd7 32.Nd4 Qf6

32...Kh7 or ...Rc8 looks more useful.

33.Qb3 Qh6 34.Ne6 Re8 35.Nf4 Kf8 36.Kh1 Kf7 37.Bb2 Ng6?

37...Nf3 38.Bxf3 Rxe3 39.Qd1 gxf3 40.Rxf3 Re8 41.Qf1 ±.

38.Ne6+ Bxe6

There are no good choices, given that White threatens both the f5 and g4 pawns: 38...Kg8 39.Rxf5 Qxe3 40.Qxe3 Bxe3 41.Rf6+; or 38...Ne7 39.Bxg4 Kg8 40.Bxf5 +.

39.dxe6+ Ke7 40.Rxf5

An instant crush is 40.Qd5! Rb8 41.Ba3 Bc7 42.Rc1+.

40...Rf8 41.Bxg4 Qxe3 42.Qxe3 Bxe3 43.Rxf8 Nxf8 44.Kg2 Nxe6 45.Bxe6 Kxe6 46.Kf3 ... and White

won the ending with perhaps a minute left on the clock. Sutherland resigned when his last pawn came off the board. **1-0**

Anderson, Sutherland win Great Pumpkin Open

Selby Anderson and Don Sutherland tied for first in this one-section event held Oct. 28-29 at TNI in San Antonio. There were 43 players.

The winners scored 4.5 out of 5, but never played each other. Anderson took a third round bye, and was paired the next day with Allen Eckert (1720), who had defeated Alex Balkum (1882). In Round 4 Sutherland defeated Virgil Aluyen, an unrated from the Philippines, before drawing Gregg Stanley. In Rd. 5 Anderson defeated another Philippine expat, Ernesto Malazarte.

Book prizes were awarded to the top three juniors: Jesse Lozano, Fernando Spada and Derek Chang.

Martin Gordon directed for the San Antonio Chess Club.

1st + 2nd: Selby Anderson, Don Sutherland, 4.5, \$125. *U2200 + U2000:* Gregg Stanley, Dale Dike, Martin Gordon, 4.0, \$50. *U1800:* Fernando Spada, 3.5, \$75 *U1600:* James Thames, T.E. Kolenda, 3.0, \$37.50. *U1400:* Julian Casabar, 2.5, \$75 *Unrated:* Ernesto Malazarte, Virgil Aluyen, 3.5, \$25.

QGD Slav D13

James Rohrbaugh 2200
T.E. Kolenda 1578

Great Pumpkin Open (2)

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Qa5 [6...a6] 7.e3 Nh5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10. Nd2 Nf6 11.Bg3 a6 12.h4 Bg7 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Rxh8+ Bxh8 15. Bd3 Nb4 16.Bb1 Bd7 17.a3 Nc6 18.b4 Qd8 19.Ba2 Bf5 20.Nf3 Ne4? [20...Bg4=] 21.Nxe4 Bxe4 22. Nxc5 Bxc5 [22...Bg6 23.Qg4 e5 24.Ne6!+] 23.Qh5 Kd7 24.Nxf7 Qe8 25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.Qxd5+ Kc8

27.Rc1 Bf6 28.e4 Bxd4 29.Qxd4 Qxf7 30.Qh8+ 1-0

Closed Sicilian B23

Don Sutherland 2170
Martin Gordon 1893

Great Pumpkin Open (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 Nf6

I know Lasker played ...Nf6, but as a practical matter it is easier in the Closed Variation to play the position with ...e6 (or ...e5) and Ne7. Usually the Nf6, facing a pawn storm, has to redeploy with ...Ne8-c7 (and sometimes -e6).

5.Bg2 g6 6.Be3!?

White transposes to a book line with 6.h3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd4 9.Nce2 e5 10.c3 Nc6 11.f4 b6 12.Nf3 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ba6 14.0-0 Re8 15.c4 b5 16.cxb5 Bxb5 17.Rf2 = Ljubojevic-Sunye, Brazilia 1981.

6...Ng4 7.Bd2 Bg7 8.h3 Nf6 9.Nge2 Rb8 10.f4 h5 11.Be3 Bd7 12.Qd2

White declines to go into an open Dragon with 12.d4 cxd4 13. Nxd4, although I'd be tempted.

12...b5 13.Ng1 Qa5 14.Nf3



14...Nh7

14...b4 15.Nd1 c4! 16.0-0 Rc8 17.a3 0-0 =.

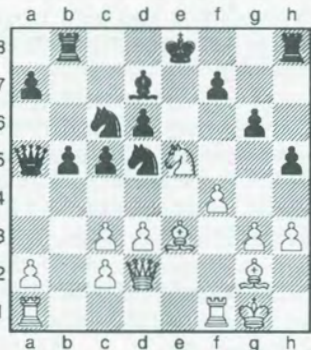
15.0-0 Bxc3?!

The weak dark squares will prove fatal. Still equal is 15...b4 16. Nd1, even with the wayward knight at h7.

16.bxc3 Nf6 17.e5 Nd5

17...dxc5 18.Nxc5 offers less counterplay: 18...Rc8 19.a4 bxa4 20.Nc4 Qc7 21.Rxa4 +=.

18.exd6 exd6 19.Ne5!?



A bold attempt to mix it up. Also worthy of attention is 19.Ng5(!) Nxc3 20.Bxc5! dxc5 21.Qe3+ Ne7 (21...K~ 22.Bxc6 and 23.Qe5) 22. Rfe1 0-0 23.Qxe7 Bf5 24.Qxc5 and White stands a little better.

19...Nce7!

Black avoids the line-opening 19...dxe5 20.Bxd5 Nd8 21.Bxc5 Bxh3 22.Qe3 Qc7 23.Rfe1 Be6 24. Qxe5 Qxc5+ 25.d4 Qxc3 26.Qxh8+ Kd7 27.Qe5 Rb6 28.Kg2 +/-.

20.c4 Qxd2 21.Bxd2 dxe5?

This opens lines in the center with Black's king still uncastled. A safer way to trade down is 21... Nc7 22.Nxd7 Kxd7 =.

22.cxd5 exf4??

22...Nf5 puts up a fight: 23.Re1 Nxc3 24.Bc3 0-0 25.fxe5, with a slight edge for White due to his pawn center and bishop pair.

23.Bxf4 Rc8 24.Rae1 Kf8 25.Bd6 Re8 26.Rxe7 Rxe7 27.Re1

The game is essentially over.

26...Kg7 28.Rxe7 Bf5 29.Be5+ Kf8
30.d6 Rh7 31.Bf6 Rg7 32.d7 Bxd7
33.Rxd7 Kg8 34. Bd5 c4 35. dxc4
h4 36.gxh4 g5 37.h5 g4 38.h4 a5
39.h6 bxc4 40.Bxg7 c3 41.Be4 f5
42.Bxf5 g3 43.h7# 1-0

Diemer Gambit D00

Allen Eckert 1720

Selby Anderson 2205

Great Pumpkin Open (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4 4.f3
exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3
c6 8.Be3 e6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.0-0
Qc7 11.Ne4

11.g4 h6 12.Ne4 0-0-0 13.Bf4
(13.c4!? Sawyer) 13...Qb6 (White
does not have the option of 14.Ng5,
or else 13...e5 would have to be
tried): (a) 14.Be3 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Nf6
16.c4 Qc7 17.Bd3 c5 18.d5 exd5 →
Eckert-Anderson, Tx Action 2000;
(b) 14.Nf2 Qxd4?? (14...Nd5 15.Bh2
h5!) 15.Qxc6+ 1-0 Blaauw-Roosendaal,
Holland 1987.

11...0-0-0 12.Bf4 e5!

I rejected 12...Qb6 because of
13.Ng5! creating mischief while I
pick at pawns: 13...Qxd4+ 14.Kh1
e5 15. Be3 Qxb2 16.Nxf7 Bc5 17.
Bxc5 Nxc5 18.Bf5+ Kc7 19.Rab1
Qd4 20.Nxh8 Rxh8 21.Rfd1 +/-.



13.d5xe5 Nxe5

The self-pin only looks bad. The
one trouble with this line is that

White can steer toward a risk-free
ending with a draw in sight.

Psychologically, it seems that
Diemer players are likely to gamble
on White's winning chances, based
on my experience. However, with
queens on the board the opposite
color bishops create attacking
chances that favor Black. His bishop
cuts a swath to h2 while White's is
blocked by a pawn at c6.

14.Bxe5 Qxe5 15.Nxf6 gxf6 16.
Qxf6 Qe3+ 17.Kh1 Bd6 18.Rf3!

A nasty turn of fortune is 18.
Qxf7?? Qg3 and White is toast.

18...Qb6 19.Rd1

19.Qxf7 Qxb2 20.Re1 Rhf8 =.

19...Bc7 20.Bf5+

20.Qc3! Rhf8 21.Rdf1 +=.

20...Kb8 21.Rfd3 Rde8 22.Bd7 Be5
23.Qf3

23.Qf5 Re7 24.Bxc6 Bxb2 25.
Be4 (25.Bf3) 25...Rhe8 26.Rd6 Qc7
27.Rd7 Qe5 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29.
Rxd8+ Kc7 30.Qc8+ Kb6.

23...Rd8 24.Bf5 h6 25.Be4 (25. b3=)

25...Rxd3 26.Rxd3

26.Bxd3 Qxb2 27.Qxf7 Bc7
28.Re1 Rd8 =+.

26...Qxb2

26...Qa5! 27.Rd1 Qxa2 =+.

27.Qd1?

27.Bxc6!? Bc7!! (27...Qxc2 28.
Be4 =) 28.Bd5 Qe5 29.g3 Qe1+
30.Kh2 Rg8 -/+.



27...Bc7!

The winning move, stopping
Rd8+ with an unstoppable threat of
...Qe5.

28.Qg4 h5 29.Qf3 Qa1+

Cleaner is 29...Qe5! 30.Kg1 Re8
31.Bf5 Qe1+ 32.Qf1 Bb6+, forcing
mate in a few more moves.

30.Qd1?

Doh! Still, 30.Rd1 Qe5 31.Kg1
Re8 32.Bd3 Qh2+ 33.Kf1 Bb6 34.
Be4 f5! wins for Black.

30...Qe5

0-1

Modern Defense A42

James Rohrbaugh 2200

Gregg Stanley 2050

Great Pumpkin Open (4)

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.e4 Nc6
5.Be3 e5 6.d5

My predilection for 6.Nge2 is
well-known. Black's system seeks
an improved Saemisch KID position
where he can play ...f5 quickly.

6...Nce7 7.Bd3

Sharpest is 7.c5! f5 8.cxd6 cxd6
9.Qa4+ Kf8 10.Qa3! Nf6 (10...
fxe4!?) 11.f3 += (NCO).

7...f5 8.exf5!?

Rohrbaugh avoids the normal
8.f3, perhaps snakebit from his
experience with Gwaze's KI Attack
in the last tournament.

8...Nxf5 9.Bxf5 Bxf5 10.Qb3 b6

11.Nf3 Nf6 12.h3

The little luxuries of pawn
moves will come back to bite White.
Better is 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bg5 h6 14.
Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Rae1, and at least
White will have control of e4 to
show for parting with his bishops.

12...0-0 13.a4

White doesn't have time for this.
13.Ng5!? h6 14.g4! Bd7 15.Nge6!
Bxe6 16.dxe6 Re8 17.g5 hxg5
18.Bxg5 Rxe6 19.c5 is a Fritz idea.

13...Nd7 14.a5? (14.Qd1) 14...Nc5
15.Bxc5 bxc5 16.a6

White hopes to plug the holes in
his position with knights, but king
safety becomes an issue. Also prob-

lematic is 16.Qd1 Rb8 17.Qe2 e4
18.Nh2 e3! -/+.



16...e4 17.Nd2 e3 18.fxe3 Qh4+
19.Kd1 Qg3 20.Re1 Qxg2 21.Nb5
Bxh3 22.Nxc7 Rab8 23.Nb5 Rf2
24.Qd3 Bxb2

24...Bf5! 25.e4 Bh6 26.Re3 Bxe3
27.Qxe3 Bxe4+.

25.Ra2

25.Ra5 Rbf8 26.Nc3 Bf5 27.e4
Bg4+ 28.Kc2 Rxd2+ 29.Qxd2 Rf2+
25...Be5 26.Nxa7 Bf5 27.e4 Bg4+
28.Kc1 Rf3 29.Nxf3 Qxa2 30.Nb5
Bxf3 31.Qxf3 Qxc4+ 0-1

Closed Sicilian B23

Don Sutherland 2170

Gregg Stanley 2050

Great Pumpkin Open (5)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.d3 Nc6
5.Be3 d6 6.Qd2 b5 7.Bg2 b4 8.Nd1
Rb8 9.f4 Qc7 10.Nf3 e6 11.0-0
Nge7 12.h3 0-0 13.g4 and ... Draw

Nimzovich Defense B00

Selby Anderson 2205

Ernesto Malazarte (unrated)

Great Pumpkin Open (5)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bc4
d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 0-0 7.h3 e5
8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bg5

The game has effectively transposed
to a Torre Attack.

10...h6 11.Bh4 Qe7 12.Nd2 c6 13.
f4!?



I experienced déjà vu upon
playing this, because in the 1994
Texas Team I reached almost the
same position against Joe Bradford
after 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7
4. Nbd2 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.c3 Nc6 7.a4
e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bo4
Qe7 11.Qe2 h6 12.Bh4 a5 13.f4.

In the diagram above, if you take
back h2-h3 and add opposing pawns
on a4/a5, it's the same position I had
with Bradford. The game continued
13...Re8 14.f5 gxf5 15.exf5 e4
16.0-0 Bd7? (16...e3) 17.Bxf6 Bxf6
18.Qh5 Bg5 19.f6 Qf8 20. Nxe4!
Re5 21.Qg6+ Kh8 22.Qg7+ 1-0.

13...Qc7

Fritz likes Black after 13...Re8
14.f5!? (14.fxe5 =) gxf5 15.0-0-0
(15.exf5 e4) 15...b5.

14.f5 Kh7 15.g4 b5 16.Bb3 c5?!

Black's queenside pawns are
more threatening to me on the board
than off. (16...a5 +=)

17.Qxb5 Bb7 18.Qe2 a5 19.0-0-0
a4 20.Bc4 a3 21.b3 Qa5 22.Kc2
Rad8 23.Bxf6

Fending off a possible Exchange
sac, keeping it simple.

23...Bxf6 24.Nf3 Qa8 25.Rhe1

25.Bd5 Bxd5 26.exd5 Rxd5
27.Rxd5 Qxd5 28.Rd1 Qc6 29.Nxe5
Re8 30.fxg6+ fxg6 31.Qf3 +=.

25...Rxd1 26.Kxd1 Rd8+ 27.Kc2
Kg7 28.h4 g5 29.h5 Rd6 30.Nd2
Bd8



31.Bd5!?

A thematic pawn sac for the light
square blockade.

31.Bxf7!! is an extraordinarily
Fritz win: 31...Kxf7 32.Nc4 Qa6
(32...Ra6 33.Nxe5+ Kg7 34.Qc4 Rf6
35.Nd7 Rd6 36.Nxc5) 33. Nxd6+
Qxd6 34.Rd1 Qc7 35.Qc4+ Kf8 36.
Qe6 Bxe4+ 37.Kc1+-.

31...Bxd5 32.exd5 Rxd5 33.Nc4!

33.Qe4 Bf6! 34.Nc4 Qd8 =.

33...f6?

33...Bc7 34.Qg2! (34.Qe4 Qd8)
34...Rd8 35.Qxa8 Rxa8 36.Kd3
Rd8+ 37.Ke4 Kf6 38.Re2 Ke7 39.
Nxa3+.

Or 33...e4 34.Qxe4 Bc7 (34...
Bf6 35.Nb6) 35.f6+ Kg8 36.Qe8+
Qxe8 37.Rxe8+ Kh7 38.Re7+.



34.Qe4 Bc7 (34...Be7 35.Nb6) 35.
Rd1 1-0

35...Rd2+ 36.Nxd2; 35...Rd8
36.Qxa8 Rxa8 36.Rd7+ and Rxc7.

Darwin Yang, cont'd from p. 4

White's bishop is imprisoned and Black has f5.

11...Nf5 12.Bf2

The bishop should not have wasted a move. It is a bad bishop for good knight, so why not let him exchange?

12...a6 13.a4 Qe7 14.Bd3

White now gets the good knight.

14...Qd8

What is this?

15.Bxf5 exf5 16.a5 Nf8

White now is dominating.

17.Na4

Look at all of Black's weak squares.

17...Be6 18.Nc5 Rb8 19.b4 Nd7 20.c3

Why this? I wanted to consolidate my structure, but it is totally unnecessary. Anyway, White's bishop is now a big pawn.

20...Qc7 21.h4 Ke7 22.Kf1 Rbg8 23.Kg2 Bf8 24.Rhc1

White prepares . . .

24...Ke8 25.Nxe6! fxe6 26.c4!



White has finally broken through! Look at Black's kingside pieces! What a beauty! That is everybody's dream in chess!

26...dxc4 27.Rxc4

It wouldn't be so bad if Black could get his knight to d5, but the poor beast is in a cul de sac. - SKA

27...Be7 28.Ra1 Kf7

28...Qd8 denies the break, with equality according to Fritz. - SKA
29.d5!!

The breakthrough commences.

29...exd5 30.Qxd5+

Black is losing.

30...Kg7

30...cxd5 31.Rxc7 Rd8 32.Nd4 threatening e6+ and Rxb7.

31.e6 Nb8 32.Bd4+ Kf8 33.Be5 Qc8 34.Qd4 Qxe6 35.Bxh8 c5 36. Qe5 Qc8 37.Bf6 1-0

Ken Smith, cont'd from p. 3

Nimxo-Indian E58

Jacek Stopa 2465

Peter Vavrak 2407

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7 10.Qe2

10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nh4 Ne7

10...Na5!?

10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 Na5; 10...b6;

10...Bd7; 10...Rd8; 10...Re8

11.Ne5 b6

11...Nd7 12.cxd5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5 14.dxe6 Qxe6 (14...Bxe6) 15. c4 Nb3 16.Rb1 Nxc1 17.Rfxc1 b6 18.Qf3 Bd7 19.Be4 Rad8 20.Bd5 Qg6 = Maghami-Alexandrov, Calcutta 2002.

12.cxd5 exd5 13.Ra2

13.f3 suggests itself. Now Black gets a death grip on the light squares.

13...Ne4 14.Qc2 f6 15.Nf3 Re8 16. Nd2 Bf5 17.Re1

17.f3!?! Nxd2 18.Bxd2 Bxd3 19. Qxd3 Rad8 20.Be1 c4 21.Qe2 Re6 22.Bf2 Qc6 23.Re1 Rde8 =+.

17...c4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.f4 f5 21.Kh1 Re6 22.Rg1 h5 23. Qe2 Rh6 24.Bd2?!

The bishop's only real hope for active play is 24.a4 and 25.Ba3, even if Black answers with 24...Qc6. No doubt Stopa considered this, but had to weigh the fact that the bishop

strikes only air, and the a4 pawn is a long term target.

24...Kf7 25.Be1 h4 26.Qd1 Nc6 27.g4

27.Bf2 Ne7 28.Rd2 Nd5 29.Qc2 b5 =+.

27...hxg3 28.Rxg3 Rah8 29.Rb2 Ne7 30.Qa4 Nd5 31.Rbg2 g6 32. Qb5 Nf6 33.Bf2 Qc8 34.Bg1 Rd8 35.Rb2 Rd5 36.Qb4 Qc6 37.Ra2 Ra5 38.Qb1 Qa4 39.Rgg2 Rb5 40. Qe1 Rb3 41.Qg3 Ng4 0-1

White might have tried a swindle shot before resigning: 42.Qe1!?, hoping for 42...Rxa3?? 43.Qa1! Rxa2 44.Rxa2 Qb5 45.Rxa7+ Ke6 46.Qa3 with a killer attack!

However, Black can snatch the c-pawn without ill effect: 42...Qa5 43.Rg2 Qxc3 (43...Rxb2 44.Rxb2 Qxa3 -/+) 44.Qxc3 Rxc3 +.

Caro-Kann B13

Peter Vavrak 2407

Gary Simms 2171

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.d4 c5 2.e3 cxd4 3.exd4 d5

By an unusual move order we have reached the Exchange Caro-Kann (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5). 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.c3 Bg4 6.Qb3 Qd7 7. Nd2 e6 8.Ngf3 Bd6 9.Ne5 Qc7 10.Nxg4 Nxg4 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.h3 Ngf6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Rae8 15. Bg5 Nh5 16.Ra1 h6 17.Be3 Nf4 18.Bb1 b5 19.Qc2 f5 20.a4 a6 21. axb5 axb5 22.Qd2 Ng6

I probably would have gone for 22...g5!?

23.Bd3 Nf6 24.Qe2 Rb8 25.Bd2 Ne4 26.Bxb5 Nf4 27.Bxf4 Bxf4 28. Rc2 Rb6 29.Bd3 Ra8 30.g3 Bd6 31.c4 Bb4 32.Re1 Qa7 33.c5 Rbb8 34.Ne5 Qc7 35.Bb5 Ra5 36.Bd7

1-0

We hope to have games from more players in the next issue.

My Dinner with Jude Acers

Casey Bush (*Northwest Chess*, www.nwchess.com)

He Wore a Raspberry Beret

In March I went on a business trip to New Orleans and had the opportunity to spend a few hours with chess legend, Jude Acers. As soon as I got a break from the conference I headed down to the address listed in an advertisement that appears in every issue of *Chess Life*: "FRENCH QUARTER CHESS – Jude Acers plays all challengers daily at the Gazebo Restaurant, 1018 Decatur." I couldn't find the Gazebo but spotted Jude by his trademark red beret. Jude explains it simply: "The beret is red. Red in traffic means stop, so people walk past my boards and stop to play."

I had only met Jude on one previous occasion, at Arthur Dake's 90th birthday party where he had delivered an inspirational tribute to Oregon's only grandmaster, the story of Arthur's coin purse. Jude told how Arthur supported himself playing speed chess in the New York City during the Great Depression, "Alekhine, all the masters, they came, they played, they lost. Dake carried a tiny change purse with him at all times to collect his winnings on the spot ... You heard the jingle and you just knew your coins were about to sprout wings of their own – headed toward a predestined journey to Dake's coin purse." Living hand to mouth through your skill at the chess board is something Arthur and Jude had in common, and they both admired each other greatly. Arthur was buried with one of Jude's red berets inside the coffin.

Almost every day of the year Jude Acers sits behind a cafeteria style folding table set out on a sidewalk with two chess sets attended by plastic chairs adjacent to a signpost announcing the fee schedule "\$5 per game or a four hour lesson for \$200; Visa and Mastercard accepted." The French Quarter is known for its street performers painting portraits, juggling, reading palms, tap dancing all to a Cajun-Zydeco beat. Jude fits into the tableau perfectly. Decatur is New Orleans' second most famous street, home of the House of Blues, Bubba Gump's and Café du Monde. The Gazebo is an outdoor affair built around a beautiful pocket park, a fountain surrounded my flowers under a canopy of trees. Actually, it is currently called the Voo Carre [sic]* Restaurant and

although it has changed hands twice in the last few years, Jude has kept his spot and has a key so he can store his chess gear each evening. The Voo Carre has about twenty tables around a central booth that houses the cash register and a kitchen in a small building, right behind a bandstand. Jude is strategically placed at the entrance from Decatur under part of the awning; an important point as New Orleans typically has 60 inches of rain each year.

Jude didn't recognize me and so I was greeted as just another customer and was immediately informed: "You possess the great fortune of having the opportunity to play one of the best chess players in these United States. Of course, you don't stand a chance of winning." As soon as the game began the banter disappeared. In my game Jude did not make any brilliant moves, but took me seriously and slowly ground down my position, invading the queenside with pawns and a knight. After I resigned he provided a thoroughly analysis of how I went wrong and an active alternative to the Advanced Caro-Kann. After the chess lesson I informed that we had met before and Jude insisted I take a seat on his side of the table so that we could talk while he continued to entertain his clientele. "Now you get to see me in action," Jude proclaimed. "This is where I work. This is my office and that chair on the other side of the table is my inbox." Over the next few hours I witnessed Jude working the public, attracting every passing gamester with his magnetic charisma. Jude took each game seriously. He explained that he didn't calculate deeply but just looked for good moves. "As I get older it gets easier to make decisions." After each victory he offered his opponent encouragement and advice, analyzing every game and recommending chess books. At the same time I engaged him in a go-as-you-please conversation that covered the history and future of chess, as well as Jude's own unique life story.

The Oxford American

All I knew about Jude before that afternoon I had either heard from Arthur or read in the March 2000 issue of John Grisham's glossy monthly *The Oxford American* in Mathew Teague's article "Chess King of the Streets". Jude told me so many stories that I have a great sympathy for the 22 year old Teague, who was overwhelmed and inspired by Jude. He reviewed the gruesome details of Jude's upbringing almost without comment: "Acers was four years old when police in New Bern, North Carolina,

* The restaurateur's rendering of Vieux Carré (Old Square), i.e. the French Quarter. – SKA

found him and his sister digging through garbage ... so when Jude was young, he spent most of his time in orphanages." Chess is weaved into the story as an aside. "When he was five years old, he came across a book about chess, and his obsession began. He used soda bottle tops to make chess sets, but the nuns at the orphanage took them away. So he made more." Teague recounts how Jude's father later reclaimed his son only to "abuse Jude with a flair." Then "When Jude was fourteen, his father stopped beating him, and delivered the hardest blow of all. He committed the teen to Louisiana's state mental institution in Mandeville, where loneliness only fueled his drive to study chess."

Jude was a chess master by the time he was 17 and the State sent him to LSU where he studied Russian so that he could learn from the Soviet School without a translator. After graduating, Jude traveled across the USA and ended up in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district where for a period of time he lived in the same house as Janis Joplin. "When I first moved in I didn't even know who she was," Jude admits. Teague quotes Jude telling a classic Acers story, "One day during a party I was in the bathtub, where it was quiet, reading, and Janis came in, naked, and sat down on the toilet. She looked at me and said, 'Funny, funny Jude. You play with your little pieces all day long, and you know what? You'll live to be an old, old man someday.' And here I am." With yarns like that who can doubt that Jude "stood at a urinal next to John Fogerty, and played basketball with the Doors between sound checks."

During that same time he played over 800 rated games against Bay Area chess gladiators such as Browne, Commons, Grefe, Tarjan and Waterman. Jude attained a 2400 rating and also found the time to write a stream-of-consciousness column for *The Berkeley Barb* called "Chess Barbs" which he used to chronicle his life whirling along edges of a cultural vortex. His touchstones ranged from political references such as George Wallace and Patty Hearst mixed with chess name-dropping as though the average college student was familiar with the likes of Koltanowski and Karpov.

Rusty Miller Time

Jude first came to the Pacific Northwest in 1968 as Clark Harmon remembers "It was at the Strawberry Open in Marysville, Washington. Jude and GM Larry Evans were the big out of town players, Jude was living in San Francisco then. Vic Pupols was married at the time to a nice, very sociable gal who cooked dinner for the out of town celebs. GM Evans, Jude, myself and others attended. Jude and I hit it off which is not hard to do with Jude, with that

southern charm to him and he knew the art of compliments. I made it to SF a number of times and caught up with Jude. He and I rattled around the hot parts of SF and usually ended up having dinner at the Olde Spaghetti Factory." Clark still visits Jude whenever he visits New Orleans and assures me that all the stories about Jude are true, or at least have a factual basis.

It was also at Maryville that Jude first met Rusty Miller and they soon became business partners. During the Fischer era Jude conducted cross-country chess exhibition tours organized by Rusty Miller. Jude wrote about his manager affectionately in the *Barb*, (1974) "Miller thinks very little of his personality, has very little confidence in his promotional ideas, so he tries a lot of them ... He is a most curious friend, a most curious opposite of a professional chess player. And he is, stated simply, a genius." Over a few years Rusty arranged hundreds of exhibitions for Jude across the country. Jude's total dependence on his manager was documented in his two-part *Barb* article "The Price is Austin". Frustrated by cancellations and plane delays Jude relates, "I drag the bags as Russell Miller has told me to on his tight perfectly planned airline schedule for me. He says my ticket will be there but my plane is not ... Jude Acers has never missed a contracted exhibition in his lifetime. The phone rings at Miller's hotel ... Russell Miller is asleep but rises in full horror as he realizes the stakes. You do not tell him that you cannot think anymore ... Miller also has the job of fielding the tremendous heat that begins to pour over the phone lines from Georgia's commercial and club organizers who had worked countless hours on the prison, shopping center and television appearances of Jude Acers." Riding the coattails of Bobby Fischer, Jude became a national figure. His tours were chronicled by a wide range of media, including *The New York Times* as well as *Northwest Chess*, which reported in its January 1972 issue that in the previous year Jude had conducted 134 simulms in 83 cities, drawing 30, losing 174, and winning 2,673 games. Rusty faithfully reports: "November 16 saw Jude Acers return to Seattle to wind up his 1971 Nationwide Lecture and Exhibition Tour. Shoreline Community College was the scene. After an interesting lecture of extraordinary games he took on a group of 27 in simultaneous play. He was ambushed by John Braley 1971 Champion, Mike Franett 1970 Washington Champion and two others. Acers won the other 23 games in about 4 hours ... Then another horrible experience for Jude Acers occurred Friday morning. Someone broke into his hotel room and stole his suitcase that had a number of chess books in it. Fortunately, they did not take his dem-

onstration board. The books were a great loss especially the MCO 10 in German that Jude had been putting notes into for the last 8 months." Despite the excitement of the chess tours, they proved problematic. After a busy and tumultuous decade spent largely on the West Coast, Jude moved back to New Orleans looking for a less complicated existence. It was then, a quarter century ago, that Jude began to live on Decatur.

Today, Jude's pace has slowed down, but he still manages to get out on the road. When I visited he had just conducted a forty board simul at nearby Angola Federal Penitentiary, an event which garnered local and national television coverage. He talked about a trip to New Jersey for a simul at another prison as well as shopping mall, but no matter what type of income those jobs generate, Jude has learned to earn his living right on the streets of New Orleans. That afternoon he dismissed each of his opponents with good humor while providing autographs for the asking and graciously had his picture taken with his admiring chess victims. As Clark pointed out, Jude does know the art of compliment, he can make people feel good about themselves, but he also speaks highly of himself assuring me that he is better known than New Orleans' popular mayor second term mayor Marc Morial. But it was when he proclaimed that he was "The best chess player ever from the state of Louisiana" that I had to draw the line.

Morphy tour of the French Quarter

For a man without material resources, self-confidence has gotten Jude a long ways but I couldn't help but remind him in whose shadow he stands. "The best chess player ever?" He quickly corrected himself with a wink. "I mean in the modern era." That was the beginning of a special chess tour of the French Quarter. The afternoon had already passed us by and it was dark by the time we set out. The few blocks between Decatur and Bourbon are layered with three hundred years of history. First we went to the house, where Morphy was brought up located on the Rue de Chartres, a magnificent structure, built up on a mound above the street with a spacious veranda and garden. Today it bears a bronze plaque on a wall facing the street which formally proclaims the historic link to the first world chess champion. My guide informed me that "The house was later bought by Frances Parkinson Keyes, who wrote *The Chess Players*, the novel about Morphy's life." I touched the raised letters of the plaque, just to make sure I was really seeing it.

We strolled through the dark avenues with Jude providing commentary on every block with nonstop details about Morphy's life; where he played chess, what streets

he walked down, the location of his law office. Our final destination was the so-called Morphy House, where Paul died of a stroke in a bathtub. That building now houses a high-class restaurant, Brennan's, pride of the Rue Royale, which boasts a 50,000 bottle wine cellar. We were met at the door by the hostess who greeted my guide as an old friend, "Come in Jude, how have you been?" I'm sure Brennan's has a dress code that we did not meet but it didn't matter, she knew we were there to pay homage to one of the most haloed sites of chess history. Just like the residence in which he was born, the Morphy House also has a bronze plaque denoting its historical significance, except this one is in the lobby.

The tour ended there. We could have walked to Morphy's grave but Jude informed me "Its not a safe place for tourists at night." We retired to at the Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, half a block from the Voo Carre and talked non-stop over a chicken and garlic pie. Jude attacked the pizza, consuming the generous topping with his fingers, and then rolling up the moist crust like a big cigar and chewing it down to a stub. He had an opinion about everything to do with chess, from the future of Kasparov to the invasion of the Chinese. He believes that there is a vast untapped chess public that has been nurtured by computers and the Internet but are not being served by the organizers, in the USA and around the world. "The USCF is a corporate ripoff. They've squandered millions. The people in charge of it now don't even know who the American grandmasters are. That's why it took them so long before running Duke's obituary." He's also in favor of the shorter time controls "Believe me, it's inevitable that games must last no more than an hour for worldwide TV and Internet coverage! And all tournaments must end in one day. Chess will no longer be an ordeal - trial by chair!" Jude was not surprised to see Kasparov squander his diminishing stature by appearing in a Pepsi commercial during the Super Bowl. "How perfect," Jude chuckled, "Going head to head with a vending machine and losing, then sucked down an elevator shaft." In a recent letter printed in Larry Evans' column Jude observed "There's absolutely no reason why the world championship cannot be settled in six murderous games between two finalists on a single Sunday afternoon." I scoffed when Jude predicted that the Chinese would win the match in Seattle. "The Asian invasion has just begun," he assured me. "Start studying your Mandarin right now."

Jude's enthusiasm for the future is infectious. His hunger for the present is inspiring. What I liked most about Jude is how he has lived his life. He is a true pedestrian in a motorized world. He is a non-materialist who

owns only what he needs. Michael Teague was not ready for the depths of Bohemia or a Louisiana address without air conditioning, when he was honored to be invited to visit Jude's barracks. "... he threw open the door to his apartment, and the smell that poured out drove me back a step. It was a mixture of old clothes, coffee, and mildew. The entire apartment was about eight by four feet. There was a closet at one end, and at the other end a toilet and shower, where Acers washes his clothes. Newspaper clips featuring Acers – including one that described his relationship with roomie Janis Joplin – were randomly tacked to the walls. On the floor was a pile of towels and blankets that he used as a bed, and stacks of books: hundreds,

maybe thousands of books, some in Russian and Chinese, all about chess."

Teague summarizes the wealth of association that has made Jude Acers' life so rich but doesn't quite get it: "He was a little off, but he knew it. Knew it perfectly well. Knew nobody was going to understand him and knew he would die poor. But he was boss of his world."

I believe Mr. Teague meant king: Jude Acers is the king of his world, grand ambassador of Cassia with his embassy located conveniently at the crossroads of the world on Decatur Street in New Orleans' colorful French Quarter.

(Reprinted by permission)



In his habitat: Jude Acers playing 2003 Louisiana high school champion Drew Irby

Chess Teams

Chess Dad 101 by Robert Rausch

There is no greater oxymoron in sports than the term "chess team". Chess is, at its core, an individual problem-solving exercise – and that's part of the game's allure. Individual chess players receive all of the accolades for victory and accept all of the responsibility for defeat. Whereas, kids on the local soccer team evenly share in winning and losing, chess players learn early on that there is no place to hide on the chessboard. Unlike other sports, chess teams – at least at the scholastic level – are rarely more than a loose coalition of kids that happen to attend the same school. They may or may not practice together or even like one another. Indeed, the rivalries between scholastic teammates are often more fierce than those of non-teammates. As such, team awards often take a backseat to individual results.

So why even have chess teams?

The real value of team achievement, at least at the scholastic level, is in marketing. Chess is a tough sell in most communities and the promise of group achievement and recognition is a powerful aphrodisiac to players, coaches and school administrators. Newspaper articles trumpeting the success of the local chess team increase the self-esteem of players, coaches and their communities. At a more tactical level, team awards often provide an incentive for the kids who have been eliminated from individual award contention to continue playing hard.

So what is a scholastic chess team?

Well, that depends. It depends on what grade your kids happen to be in. It depends on whether or not you home-school your children. It depends on whether or not your kids attend private school. It depends on how the city fathers have configured the public schools in your community. Sixth-graders in some areas must be teamed with seventh- and eighth-graders. In other communities, sixth-graders must be teamed with kindergarten through fifth-graders (unless, of course, the kindergarten through third-graders elect to play in the primary division). Similar goofy and complex rules (along with the associated frustration and confusion) exist for high school players: in some cases, ninth-graders can be considered part of the middle-school team. About the only thing that isn't a rule, is the requirement that players on the team actually know one another.

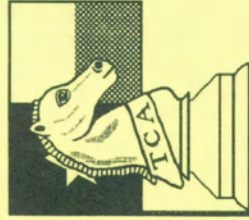
If all this sounds quirky, irritating and downright silly – it is. Consider that the local Boy Scout troop, St. Mary's Church of Brownsville, and the Watauga Chess Club cannot compete as a team in any TCA – or USCF – sanctioned event. The kids may all be in the same grade, practice together five nights a week and share an intense passion for chess. Too bad. They don't share the same concrete building during school hours, so they're out of luck. They may even be paired against one-another in any given tournament. How's this for irony: you're paired against the kids that you practice with and may be teammates with children that you don't even know.

Believe it or not, this all made sense at one time. Thirty-five years ago, the vast majority of school districts in the State were configured with elementary schools (1-5); middle schools (6-8); and high schools (9-12). Today, of course, Texas public school districts are configured in a myriad of different ways. In the Carroll Independent School District, for example, elementary is K-4; intermediate school is 5-6; middle school is 7-8; high school is 9-10 and senior high school is 11-12. In addition to such creative public school configuration, an increasingly large number of families now homeschool their children. They, along with children in private schools, can basically configure their chess teams in any way that they like (within the historical grade groupings).

Not surprisingly, both the USCF and TCA have failed to keep pace with the changing demographics and trends in education -- stubbornly relying on their 1970s scholastic chess classification model. Exceptions have been plastered and pasted into each group's bylaws, to form an amalgamation of rules that require a doctoral degree to decipher. Confusion and misinterpretation have been known to infuriate parents and coaches – leading to emergency meetings in the middle of tournaments, bylaw amendments and even heartfelt mea culpas (see the November issue of *Texas Knights*).

Lost in the debate surrounding adherence to the rules, disagreement with the bylaws, and suspicion over intentional cheating, is the reason for having scholastic chess teams. That being, to encourage children to work together to improve and infect one another with their love for the game. How about scrapping the existing rules, exceptions, and time spent tracking down violators? Simply put, a scholastic chess team should consist of any four kids (within the same section) that are identified before the start of the first round. Clean, simple and painless, allowing us to market chess to churches, Boy Scout

Continued on page 20

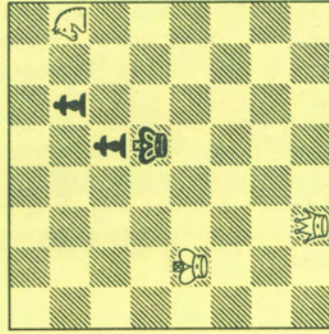


Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023-0501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 445

See inside front cover for TCA membership information.

Albert Grigoryan
StrageGems, 2003



White to move, mate in two
Solution: p. 19

