

# TEXAS KNIGHTS

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March-April 2009



**Texas Masters**  
GM Ramirez wins again

**Texas Team champs:**  
*Mate We Can Believe In*

**IM Mark Diesen**  
(1957-2008)

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# TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

[www.texaschess.org](http://www.texaschess.org)

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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](mailto:schachlied@yahoo.com), or mail to P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023 (include phone).  
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Cover: A queen from the Isle of Lewis set (Norwegian, 12th century). She seems to be contemplating her stock portfolio – or perhaps somebody “Madoff with the king” (one of the more colorful team names this year).

# A Message from the President

Dear Texas Chess Players,

On March 20-22, the 2009 Texas Scholastic Championship will be held in McAllen, see <http://www.2009texaschesstourney.com/>.

This year's tournament is promising for several reasons:

First, it is the first time will be held in the Rio Grande Valley. This is truly a proud moment for the many tournament directors, parents, and coaches who worked to bring this tournament down south. Additionally, it further assimilates the Rio Grande Valley in the chess tournament rotation list.

Second, there will be a University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) four-year scholarship to the overall winner of the High School section. In addition, the San Benito Independent School District will award \$1,500 scholarships to the top male & female finishers of the high school and collegiate section.

Third, the Chess in Education conference is scheduled to have an all-star line up from chess program members at The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB). Members of the UTB program who will contribute to the conference include: GM Gilberto Hernandez, IM Daniel Fernandez, IM Mauricio Flores, WFM Nelly Estrada, and UTB Chess Program Director Russell Harwood.

I wish the best of luck to all participants. I also invite everyone to the annual scholastic TCA Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Cordially,

Clemente Rendon  
TCA President

## IM Mark Diesen (1957-2008)

Former world junior champion Mark Diesen, 51, passed away suddenly last Dec. 9 in Conroe.

He was born in Buffalo, New York. His father, Carl Diesen, was a strong expert mostly active in postal play. Mark learned chess at age nine, and quickly progressed. In 1972 he became the nation's youngest master at age 15. The next year he placed first at the Hastings Challengers (1973-74). He won the U.S. Junior Championship in 1976 from a very strong field including de Firmian, Fedorowicz, Henley, Wilder, McCambridge and Rohde.

One participant, Ken Regan, recalls: "What I remember most about Mark was his mild-manneredness, amid a raucous ego-and-teen-hormones-driven crowd. What also made him seem mature beyond his years was that (like Seirawan) he played in an advanced positional style."

Later that year he won the World Junior Championship in Groningen, NLD, and qualified for the IM title.



**Diesen winning the 1976 world junior title**

He played in many European tournaments in the 70s, making at least one GM norm. In 1980 he suffered a fall (both physical and chessic) at the US Championship and had to withdraw. This was his last top-level competition.

In 1981 he went back to school and got a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Tennessee. He worked as a reservoir engineer for Shell Oil, Pennzoil and Noble Energy, first in New Orleans and later in the Houston area. He was married, and had three daughters.

He was Louisiana state champion in 1986, 1987 and 1988. After moving to Texas he won the state championship in 2001 and 2003, and the Southwest Open in 2001.

*(Continued next page)*

In recent years he lectured on ICC and Chess FM.

IM Mark Ginsburg, a personal friend of Diesen, has written a two-part appreciation of Diesen and his games, which can be found on *US Chess Online*. He writes:

Mark's play reminded me of GM Huebner's style – take what you are given, and display accuracy converting superior positions. He also practiced controlled aggression – attack when the position demands it – this latter quality is reminiscent of GM Portisch. All in all, he struck me as a very “European” player – worlds apart from the piece-sacking barbarians one often runs into at American Swisses. I have found that studying this type of play is quite important to improve tournament results. The “iron logic” of Smyslov, Botvinnik, Petrosian, and so on can be distilled into simply taking what one is given and then putting the opponent in an iron vice of technique. In Diesen's games, we see this time and again.

Diesen was buried in Knoxville, Tenn. His family requested that memorial gifts be in the form of donations to the U.S. Chess Trust.

*(Turn to page 21 for selected games by Diesen.)*

## Advance Motions for the TCA Scholastic Meeting

to be held March 21 in Brownsville, 3 p.m.

The following advance motions are from Luis Salinas.

**Motion 1:** Change Article IX Section 1 P from:

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

to

P. Texas Grade Championships. This event shall be held in the fall concurrently with the Texas Collegiate Championship, with a separate tournament for each grade K-12. **Grades 11 and 12 may be combined if there is a scholarship at stake, but players are not eligible for trophies from another grade.** There shall be individual and team trophies. A team shall consist of any three players from the same school, and may be designated at the

conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school. Sections may be combined if deemed necessary, but trophies shall be awarded for all grades represented. This is a Major Event.

**Rationale:** The UTD administration does not like to award scholarships to sections that are too small. Combining the sections increases the number of players.

**Motion 2:** Motion 1 above goes into effect immediately.

**Motion 3:** [That] the Texas Chess Association hold a Chess In Education Workshop during the 2010 State Scholastic. The budget for the Workshop shall be the same as the budget passed for the Chess In Education during the 2009 State Scholastic.

## TCA Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Barbara Swafford for February 15, 2008

**September 1, 2008 checking account balance \$417.81**

Income	
2008 SW Open memberships	\$ 533.50
September memberships	95.00
October memberships	170.50
November memberships	25.00
December memberships (so far)	25.00
2008 Region 2 Scholastic tournament	147.00
Texas Grade Tournament - November 2008	539.50
December memberships	40.00
January memberships	75.00
Texas Masters memberships	25.00
Texas Teams memberships	377.00
February memberships (so far)	55.00
2008 Region 2 Scholastic tournament	147.00
2009 Region 3 Scholastic tournament	147.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,229.50</b>

Expenses	
SW Open reimbursement – WY attendees	\$ 460.00
Courtney Jamison - International Youth Camp	250.00
TCA Affiliate membership with USCF (2 years)	80.00
<i>Texas Knights</i> - Sept-Oct 2008	1,027.00
<i>Texas Knights</i> - Nov-Dec 2008	943.00
<i>Texas Knights</i> - Jan-Feb 2009	1,028.00
Texas Masters reg. - World Youth attendees	625.00
Texas Masters Chess Tournament	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,413.00</b>

**February 15, 2009**

WF checking account balance	\$2,630.06
BOA checking account balance	\$1,287.72
savings account balance	\$8,509.92
cd July 2007 - July 2009	\$26,251.24

# Texas Team champions: *Mate We Can Believe In*

San Antonio team edges out Austin's *The Simpsons* on tiebreaks

The 2009 Texas Team Championship drew 14 teams, not quite a record (that was 16 teams in 2003) but well above expectations. When Mark Dejmek phoned from Houston in early January to say he had trouble scraping together a team on Superbowl weekend (it's *what?!),* we were more than a little concerned about turnout. While some years look like a San Antonio team championship, this time there were representatives from Brownsville, Fort Worth, Austin, Brownsville, and yes, Houston. We also had a former Texas state champion, Jerry Milburn of Fort Worth, playing in his first tournament in roughly 30 years.

The top-rated team was *Longhorns* (2121) from UT-Austin, which included three masters (Aibek Isakov, Alexander Chua and Deepyman Datta) and B player Glenn Perry. However, they were derailed in Round 2 by another Austin team, *The Simpsons: Episode 1: Escape from the Nuthouse* (2048) with Michael Langer, Alexander Balkum, Michael Simpson and Seth Thompson. Isakov's win over Langer was the only victory for the *Longhorns* in that match.

*Mate We Can Believe In* (Selby Anderson, Don Marcott, Josito Dondon and J.P. Hyltin - 2105), advanced to a final showdown with *The Simpsons* after defeating Fort Worth-based *A Rose with Three Thorns* (Nicholas Schoonmaker, Jerry Milburn, Rick Hodges and Julie O'Neill - 2050). *The Simpsons* won their Rd. 3 mismatch with *Chess Assassins* (1833) in a shutout.

The title match in Rd. 4 saw Anderson repeat a tricky line in his specialty, the Center Counter, and Langer after much work reached a won ending. Next board down, Marcott got the worse of his Leningrad

Attack against Balkum's Nimzo-Indian. However, on the lower boards *Mate* cleaned up, as Simpson lost to Dondon and Hyltin won with a little help from Seth Thompson, who allowed a helpmate at the end.

So the two teams tied their match, and the rest was up to the tiebreaks (U.S. Amateur Team). Considering that *The Simpsons* was at the top of the computer standings after three rounds, and that their cumulative scores at the end came out two points higher than *Mate*, it was considered foreordained that the computer tiebreaks after the last games were finished would clearly make the trophy Austin-bound. And so without waiting for all the cows to come home, I gave the trophy to Michael Langer and he drove back to Austin in time to catch the end of the Superbowl.

Alas, The *Simpsons'* Rd. 3 opponent *Chess Assassins* forfeited their last round match in protest of what team captain Alok Kumar considered an unacceptable computer-generated pairing. It appears he had a reasonable gripe: working with cards, I came up with the same pairings he proposed. Unfortunately, TD Martin Gordon had allowed the lower board matches to start early, and was not going to stop the games.

So their quadruple forfeit probably tipped the scales for *Mate We Can Believe In*, which edged out *The Simpsons* on US Amateur Team tiebreaks by 26.5 to 24.5. It was an ironic conclusion to a great tournament, seemingly no less ironic than the concluding half-minute of the Superbowl where the Cardinals had victory snatched away by a Steelers touchdown.

Trailing the winners by half a point at 3-1 were *Longhorns* and *Rexreport.com* (Ernesto Malazarte,

Gregg Stanley, Mitch Vergara and Martin Gordon).

The winning U1900 team was *Future Masters* (2.5) with Shawn Noland and three top area scholastic players: Nathanael Lozano, Daniel Lozano and Quintin Noland.

Four teams shared second U1900 with 2 points: *When Amigos and Gringos Unite, Waiting for Godot, Madoff with the King* and *The Piece Keepers*.

Martin Gordon directed for the San Antonio Chess Club, with assistance from Selby Anderson.

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## *Bishop's Gambit C33*

**Shawn Noland 2098**

*Future Masters*

**Aibek Isakov 2379**

*Longhorns*

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## *Texas Team 2009 (1)*

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 d5 4.Bxd5 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nxd5 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qf5 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Qe2+ Be6 10.Qb5+ Nd7

10...Qxb5 11.Nxb5 Nc6 12.Nxd6+ cxd6 13.d3 Nb4 14.Bxf4 Rc8

11.Qxb7 0-0

11...Rb8 12.Qe4 0-0 13.Qxf5 Bxf5 14.d3

12.Qe4 Nf6 13.Qxf5 Bxf5 14.d3 Rab8 15.Rb1

15.b3 Bc5+ 16.Kh1 Ng4 17.d4 Bd6 18.Ne1 g5=

15...Bd7 16.Ng5 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Be3 18.Bxe3 fxe3 19.Rf3 Rfe8 20.Nge4 Nxe4 21.dxe4 ½-½

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## *Accelerated Dragon B36*

**Selby Anderson 2200**

*Mate We Can Believe In*

**Andrew Widener 1919**

*Waiting for Godot*

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## *Texas Team 2009 (1)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.f3

Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 10. Qd2 Be6 11.Rc1 Qa5 12.Be2

12.b3 Rfc8 13.Be2 a6 14.Nd5 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Nxd5= Petrosian-Fischer, Buenos Aires m/4 1971;

12.Nd5 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Be2 Ng8 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.cxd5 Rfc8 17. 0-0 a5 18. Bd4 Qa4 19.Bc3 Qb3± ECO;

12...Nd7

12...Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.Nd5 transposes to Petrosian-Fischer, above.

13.0-0 Rfc8 14.b3 a6 15.Rfd1 b5 16.Nd5 Qxd2 17.Rxd2 Bxd5 18. Rxd5



18...bxc4

18...b4 19.Ra5!? Nc5 20.Rd1 h5 21.Bd3 Nxd3 22.Rxd3 Rc6 23.a3 bxa3 24.Rxa3 Rb8=

19.Rxc4 Rxc4 20.Bxc4 a5?!

20...Ne5 21.Be2 Nc6 22.Kf2 a5= 21.Rb5 e6 22.Kf2 Kf8 23.f4 Bc3 24.Kf3 Rc8 25.Rb7 Nc5 26.Ra7 Re8 27.e5 Bb4 [27...Nd3] 28.exd6 Rd8 29.Rc7?

29.a3! Bxa3 30.Rxa5 Bb4 31.Rxc5+

29...Nxb3??

29...Nd7 30.Bb5 Nf6 31.d7 Kc7 32.Bd4 Bd6 33.Bxf6+ Kxf6 34.Ra7 Bb4

30.axb3 Rxd6 31.Bc5 1-0

### Sicilian B51

Aibek Isakov 2379

Longhorns

Michael Langer 2308

The Simpsons

Texas Team 2009 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 Ngf6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Qxd4 e5 7.Qd3 h6 8.Be3 a6 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bb3 Qc7!?



Black has equalized with 10... Bb7, said Isakov. The text bore the brunt of the blame for what follows, unjustly it appears.

11.a4 b4?!

This, not 10...Qc7, is the cause of Black's problems. After 11... bxa4 12.Bxa4 Rb8 he is about equal. 12.Nd5 Nxd5?

12...Qb7 13.a5 Rb8 14.0-0 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qc7 is unpleasant, but better than giving up f7.

13.Qxd5 Bb7 14.Qxf7+ Kd8 15. Nd2?

In the post-mortem Isakov pointed out a crunchy win with 15.Ng5!, e.g. 15...hxg5 16.Bxg5+ Nf6 (16...Kc8 17.Qe8+) 17.Bxf6+ gxf6 18.Qxf6+++, or 15...Nc5 16. Qh5 g6 17.Qxg6 hxg5 18.Qf6+++. 15...Nc5 16.Bxc5 Qxf7 17.Bxf7 dxc5 18.f3 Ke7 19.Bb3 Rd8 20.Nc4 Kf6 21.Ne3 h5 22.Bd5 Bc8 23.a5 g6 24.Ke2 Bh6 25.Nc4 Rh7 26.Nb6 Rc7 27.Rad1 Ke7 28.Bc4 Bb7 29. Rxd8 Kxd8 30.Rd1+ Ke7 31.Nd5+ Bxd5 32.Rxd5 Bg7 33.Bxa6 Ra7 34.Bb5 Rxa5 35.Rd7+ Kf6 36.Bc4 g5 37.Rc7 g4 38.Rc6+ Kg5 39.Bf7 Kh4 40.fxg4 hxg4 41.Rg6 Bf8 42. Rg8 Bh6 43.Be6 Ra7 44.Bxg4 Rg7 45.Rxg7 Bxg7 46.Kf3 Kg5 47.g3 Kf6 48.Bd7 Kg6 49.h4 Bf8 50.Kg4 Be7 51.Kh3 e4 52.b3 cxb3 53.cxb3 Bd8 54.g4 Be7 55.g5 Bd8 56.Kg4 Be7 57.h5+ Kf7 58.Kf5 Kg7 59.h6+

Kh7 60.Kg4 Kg6 61.Bf5+ Kf7 62.g6+ 1-0

Nice technique.

### Old Benoni A56

Alexander Balkum 2011

The Simpsons

Alex Chua 2267

Longhorns

Texas Team 2009 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Be7 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Be2 a6 8. 0-0 0-0 9.Ne1 Rb8 10.a4 Re8 11.Nd3 Bf8 12.Be3 h6 13.Rb1 Be7 14.b4 cxb4 15.Rxb4 Nc5?!

There is no hurry to occupy c5. Better is 15...b6 16.Rb2 Qc7 17.Qb3 Bb7 18.Rfb1 Ba8 19.Nb4 Bb7 20. Nd3=.

16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Rb3 Bd6 18.Qa1 Re7 19.Rfb1 b6 20.f3 Reb7 21. R1b2 Qc7 22.Nd1 Ne8

The beginning of what, in hindsight, looks like a bad ol' plan. Fritz offers nothing but the meandering 22...Nh5 23.Qb1 Nf4 24.Bf1 Be7 25.Nf2 Ng6 26.Rd2 Bd6±.

23.Nf2 Be7 24.Nd3 Bg5 25.Bf2 Nd6



Black has achieved his "ideal" piece placement. The problem is that both his e-pawn and c-pawn are on shaky ground, given the undermining a4-a5 and the fact that ...f6?? gets the bishop trapped by h4.

26.Rc2 Bf6 27.a5 bxa5 28.Rxb7 Nxb7 29.Bg3± Nd6

29...Bd7 30.Bxe5 Bxe5 31.Nxe5 Be8 32.Nd3 a4 33.Qa3± 30.Bxe5 Bxe5 31.Nxe5 Qb6

31...Bb7 32.Nd3±; 31...Rb6  
32.Nc6 a4 33.e5±  
32.Nc6 Qb1+ 33.Rc1 Qxa1 34.  
Rxa1 Rb2 35.Kf1 f6 36.Rxa5 Kf8  
37.Na7 Bd7 38.Rxa6 Nb7 39.Nc6  
Rb1+ 40.Kf2 Rb2 41.Ra8+ Be8  
42.Rb8 Rb3 43.Nd8 Na5 44.Rxb3  
Nxb3 45.Ne6+ Kf7 46.Bd1 Na5  
47.Nxc5 Nxc4 48.Bb3 Nd6 49.f4  
Ke7 50.g4!?



A surprising choice given Black's reply, which threatens to break up the pawn roller.

Strong is 50.e5!, e.g. 50...fxe5 51.fxe5 Nf7 52.Nd3 Bb5 53.d6+ Nxd6 54.exd6+ Kxd6 55.Ke3+- . A steady alterantive is 50.g3 Nf7 51.Ke3 g5 52.Kd4 gxf4 53.gxf4 Nd6 54.e5+- .  
50...g5! 51.Kf3?

It was the last chance for 51.e5! fxe5 52.fxe5 Nf7 53.Nd3 Bb5 54.Ke3 Bxd3 55.d6+ Nxd6 56.exd6+ Kxd6 57.Kxd3+- .  
51...Nf7 52.Ne6 Bd7 53.Nd4 Kd6 54.Bc2 Kc5 55.Ne6+ Kd6 56.Nf8 Bb5 57.h4 Be8

If 57...gxh4 58.Kg2 Δ Kh3-xh4. 58.Ne6 Bb5 59.Ng7 Bd7 60.Bd1 Ke7 61.Be2 Kd6 62.Ba6 Kc5??

Without this blunder, it is not clear how White was going to win. The top Fritz line has both sides jockeying with their bishops ad infinitum: 62...Ke7 63.hxg5 hxg5 64.Nh5 Ba4 65.Be2 Bd7 66.Ke3 Bc8 67.Bd1 Bd7 68.Kf3 Bb5 69.Bb3.  
63.Nh5 1-0

### QP Opening A47

Nicholas Schoonmaker 2247

*A Rose with Three Thorns*

Brad Sawyer 2167

*When Amigos and Gringos Unite*

*Texas Team 2009 (2)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 b6  
5.0-0 Bb7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Qe2 d5  
8.b3 0-0 9.Bb2

Sawyer has played this system (Zuckertort) as White, so it is interesting to see how he responds.

9...Ne4 10.a3 Nd7 11.c4 cxd4 12.exd4 Ndf6 13.Ne5 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Ne4 15.Qc2 Rc8 16.f3 Nf6 17.g4!?

Pedal to the metal! [17.Qe2 Bd6 18.f4 Ne4 19.f5 f6 20.Ng4 exf5=] 17...g6 18.Rae1 Nd7 19.f4 Nxe5

19...dxc4! 20.bxc4 b5! 21.Qe2 (21.c5 Nxc5!±) 21...Nxe5 22.fxe5 bxc4 23.Bxc4 Bxa3!±  
20.fxe5 Qc7 21.Qd2 Bh4 22.Re2 Qe7 23.Bc1 dxc4 24.bxc4 Rfd8 25.Qf4 h6 26.Be3?

The a-pawn is poisoned for the moment, but not forever. Better is 26.Bb2 Bg5 27.Qg3=.

26...Bg5 27.Qf2 Bxe3 28.Qxe3 Qh4 28...Qxa3? 29.Rxf7! Kxf7 30.Bxg6+ Kxg6 31.Qxa3 Rxd4 32.Qe7±



29.Rf4 Rc7 30.Qf2?? Qe7??

30...Qxf2+ 31.Rexf2 g5-+ X d4 31.d5! Qxa3

31...exd5 32.e6! fxe6 (32...f5 33.gxf5 gxf5 34.Qg3+ Qg7 (34...Kh8 35.Rh4 Qg7 36.Bxf5±) 35.cxd5 Bxd5 36.Rd4 Kh8 37.Qxg7+ Rxg7+ 38.

Kf2 Rg2+ 39.Ke1 Rxe2+ 40.Bxe2+-) 33.Rf6 Qc5 34.Rxg6+ Rg7 35.Qxc5 bxc6 36.Rexe6=

32.d6 Qxd3?!

32...Rcd7! 33.Qe3 Rc8 34.Rd4 Rc5 35.Re1 Ra5 36.Rf4 Qc5±  
33.dxc7 Rd7= 34.Qe3 Qd1+

34...Qxe3+ 35.Rxe3 Rxc7 36.Rd4 a5 37.Rb3 Ba6 38.Rxb6 Bxc4 39.Rb1 Bd5 40.Ra1 Rc2 41.h4 Rc5 42.Rda4 Rc2 43.Rxa5 Rg2+ 44.Kf1 Rxg4 45.R1a4=

35.Re1 Qa4 36.Rd4 Qc6 37.c8Q+ Qxc8 38.Red1 Qc6 39.Qg3 Rxd4 40.Rxd4 a5 41.Kf2 a4 42.Rd8+ Kh7 43.Qf4 Qc5+ 44.Ke2 Qe7 45.Qf6 Qxf6 46.exf6 and White won!

1-0

### Sicilian Paulsen B42

Ernesto Malazarte 2146

*RexReport.com*

Selby Anderson 2200

*Mate We Can Believe In*

*Texas Team 2009 (2)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Ne7 8.Kh1 Nbc6 9.f4 b5 10.a4 b4 11.N1d2 Bb7 12.Qe2 a5 13.e5 d5 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.Ne4 Qc7 16.Be3 [16.Nec5 Bc8] 16...Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Nf5 [17...Rd8!?] 18.Nf6+ gxf6 19.Bxf5 Ne7! 20.Be4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Qc6!

21...Rc8 22.Ra1 f5 23.Qe5 Qxe5 24.fxe5 Ng6 25.Rfel Ra8 26.c3±  
22.Qe2 0-0 23.Nd4 Qc5 24.Rad1 Rad8 25.Qe4

25.Nb3 Qc7 26.Rd4 Rxd4 27.Nxd4 Rc8=  
25...f5 26.Qe3 Kh8 27.Rd3 Rd5 28.Rfd1 Rfd8 29.h4 [29.h3] Nc6?

29...Ng6 30.g3 (30.Nxf5 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 Rxd3 33.cxd3 Nxf4 34.d4=) 30...R5d6 (30...e5 31.Nxf5 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd3 33.Rxd3±) 31.h5 Ne7= Δ 32.Nxf5?? Qc6+!+-  
30.c3?

We both missed 30.Nxf5! Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 Rxd3 33.cxd3±. Now the game goes into a

technical phase where I take advantage of an isolated d-pawn and superior control of the c-file and center.

30...Nxd4 31.cxd4 Qe7 32.g3 Rc8 33.Rc1 Rxc1+ 34.Qxc1 Qd7 35. Qd1 Qc6 36.Kh2 Rd8 37.h5 h6 38. b3 Qe4 39.Kg1 Rc8 40.Qd2 Kh7 41.Kh2 Qd5 42.Re3 Kg7 43.Rd3 Rc6 44.Re3 Kf8 45.Rd3 Qe4!



White is in *zugzwang*: 46.Kg1 Kg7! (denying White queen checks) 47.Kh2 Rc1! 48.Qxc1 Qe2+ 49.Kh1 Qxd3-; 46.d5 exd5 47.Qd1 (47. Rxd5 Rc2-) 47... Rc1-+.

46.g4? fxg4 47.Kg3 f5 48.d5 Qxd3+ 0-1

### Nimzo-Indian E46

William Molina 2016

*When Amigos and Gringos Unite*

Jerry Milburn 2189

*A Rose with Three Thorns*

*Texas Team 2009 (2)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 Re8 6.a3 Bf8 7.d5 d6 7...exd5 8.cxd5 c5 9.Ng3 d6 10. Be2 g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.e4 a6 13.Bg5 b5 14.Qd2 Nbd7 15.Qf4± ECO 8.Ng3 Nbd7 9.Be2 Ne5 10.0-0 Ng6 11.e4 [11.f4 exd5 12.cxd5 c6=] 11...e5 12.Re1 [12.Bd3 Nf4 13.Bc2] 12...Nf4 13.Bf1 Bg4 14.f3 Bd7 15. Be3 g6 16.Qd2 Bh6 17.b4 Kh8 18.Rac1 Rg8 19.Nh1 19.c5 Ne8 20.cxd6 cxd6 21. Bb5± 19...g5 20.g4 Bf8 21.Nf2 h5 22.h3 Ne8 23.c5 [23.Nd3] 23...Qf6 24.

Bxf4 gxf4 25.cxd6 Bxd6 26.Nb5 Qh4 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.Nd3??

28.Rc3 hxg4 29.fxg4 f5 (29... Nf6 30.Bg2!± (30.Rec1? Bxg4-+)) 30.exf5 Bxf5 31.Bg2 Bg6= 28...hxg4 29.fxg4 Bxg4 30.hxg4 Rxg4+ 31.Bg2 f3 0-1

### Catalan Opening E00

Selby Anderson 2200

*Mate We Can Believe In*

Nicholas Schoonmaker 2247

*A Rose with Three Thorns*

*Texas Team 2009 (3)*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Nbd2

5...Bd2 is better in this situation. 5...0-0 6.Qc2 c5! 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8. cxd5 Qb6 9.e3 exd5

9...Bxe3? 10.fxe3 Qxe3+ 11.Be2 exd5 12.Nb3±

10.Nb3 Bd6 11.Bg2 Nc6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Nbd4 Rac8 14.Qb3 Qxb3 15.axb3 a6 16.Nxc6 Rxc6 17.Nd4 Rb6 18.Bd2 Bc5 19.Bc3 Rc8 20. Rfc1 Kf8

20...Ne4 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Be5 Rxb3 24.Ra5=

21.b4 Bd6 22.b5 axb5 23.Ba5 Rxc1+ 24.Rxc1 Ra6 25.Nxb5 Rxa5 26.Nxd6 Ke7 27.Nxb7 Rb5 28. Rc7+ Nd7 29.Bf1 Rxb2 30.h4 h6 31.Nc5 Kd6 32.Nxe6 fxe6 33.Ra7 g5 34.hxg5 hxg5 35.Bh3 Rb4 36. Ra6+ Rb6 37.Rxb6+ Nxb6 38.Kf1 Ke5 ½-½

### Sicilian Najdorf B99

Michael Langer 2308

*The Simpsons*

Ariel Medina 2014

*Chess Assassins*

*Texas Team 2009 (3)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 0-0 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.h4 b5 14.a3 Bb7 15.h5 Nc5 16.Bh3 Kh8 17.g6 h6 18.gxf7 Rxf7 19.Nxe6 Nxe6 20.Bxe6 Rxf4

A poison rook! This looks like typical book equality.

21.Qd3 Raf8 22.Rhf1 Bg5 23.Kb1 Qe7

Under the header of "boring is good," Black might seek an easier drawing task with 23...Rxf1 24.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1 Qe7 26.Qf5 Qf6=.

24.Bf5 Rxf1 25.Qxf1 Bf6 26.Nd5 Bxd5

Opposite color bishops don't guarantee anything, as we shall see. Fritz offers 26...Qe5 27.c3 Bc6 28. Qg2 Bg5 29.Bg6 a5=.

27.Rxd5 Be5 28.Qg1 Qf6 29.Qg6 Qxg6 30.hxg6 h5 31.b4!



This fixes Black's pawns and prepares offensive operations with c2-c4. If Black anticipates this with 31...Ra8 or ...Rb8, White can take advantage of the f-file vacancy to tighten his grip: 32.Be6! Rf8 33.Bf7-h4 34.Rd3 Δ Rf3-Rf5 b5+.

31...Re8 32.c4! bxc4 33.Ra5 Kg8 Or 33...Ra8 34.Be6 h4 35.Kc2 c3 36.b5+.

34.Rxa6 Kf8 35.b5 Ke7 36.b6 Rb8 37.a4 Kf6 38.a5 Bd4?

Black may have had a save here with 38...Bc3! 39.Kc2 Bb4 tying up the passed pawns: 40.Ra7 d5 41. Rf7+ Kg5 42.exd5 Bxa5 43.b7 Bb4 44.Be4 Re8! 45.Kd1 Rxe4 46.b8Q Re1+ with perpetual check.

39.Ra7 Bxb6

39...Bc3 40.Kc2 Bb4 41.Rf7+ Kg5 42.Be6 Kxg6 43.Rf5 Kh6 44. Bxc4 Bxa5 45.Rxa5 Rxb6 46.Kd3± 40.axb6 Rxb6+ 41.Kc2 Kg5 42. Rxg7 d5 43.Rc7 Rb8 44.g7

Black resigns 1-0



*Pirc Defense B07*

**Jerry Milburn 2189**  
*A Rose with Three Thorns*  
**Don Marcott 2107**  
*Mate We Can Believe In*

*Texas Team 2009 (3)*

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.Qd2 h6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bf4 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Be2 Be6 10.Rd1 Nc4 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 12.Nge2 Nc6 13.0-0 Qd7 14.Rfe1 g5 15.Be3 0-0-0 16. Nd4 Be6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Ne5 19.b3 a6 20.c4 Ng4 21.Qd3 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Rde8 23.Rde1 Rxe3 24. Rxe3 Be5 25.Nf5 h5 26.Re1 Kb8 27.a4 Re8 28.g3 h4 29.Kg2 hxg3 30.hxg3 Rh8 31.Rh1 Rxh1 32. Kxh1 Qc8 33.Kg2 Qh8 34.Qe4 Qh5 35.f3 Qh8 36.b4 Bc3 37.c5 dxc5 38.bxc5 Qe5 39.Qd3 g4 40. fxc4 Bb4 41.d6



41...Qb2+ 42.Kf3 cxd6 43.Qxd6+  
Seemingly more dangerous is 43.cxd6, but after 43...Qd2 44.Qxd2 Bxd2 45.Ke2 Bc1 46.Kd1 Bg5 47. Kc2 Kc8 48.Kc3 Kd7 49.Kd4 b6 White cannot make progress.  
43...Ka7 44.Qb6+ Ka8 45.Nd6 Qc3+ 46.Kg2 Qd2+ 47.Kh3 Qh6+ 48.Kg2 1/2-1/2

*Ruy Lopez C66*

**Josito London 2074**  
*Mate We Can Believe In*  
**Rick Hodges 1949**  
*A Rose with Three Thorns*

*Texas Team 2009 (3)*

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

Be7 5.Re1 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.c3 a6 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.exd5 cxd5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd2 c5 16.dxc5 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qc7 18.Qe2 Qxc5 19.Nb3 Qb5 20.Qxb5 axb5 21.Re7 Rab8 22.Rc1 Rfc8 23.Rxc8+ Bxc8 24.Re8+ Kh7 25.Nd4 g6 26.Rd8 b4 27.Nc6 Ra8 28.Nxb4 Bb7 29.Rd7 Rh8 30.Rxf7+ Kg8 31.Rd7 Kf8 32. a3 Ba8 33.f3 Ke8 34.Rg7 Kf8 35. Rxc6 and Black soon resigned. 1-0

*Center Counter B01*

**Michael Langer 2308**  
*The Simpsons*  
**Selby Anderson 2200**

*Mate We Can Believe In*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Bf5

Michael Melts in his book on the 3...Qd6 Scandinavian also considers 5...c6; 5...Nbd7; 5...Bg4 and 5...a6. 6.Qf3!?

A perfectly obvious move that is not in the book! I've been here once before and got a draw, but I couldn't find the game score. [6.Bc4 c6 7. Nge2 Nbd7 8.Qd2 Nb6 9.Bb3 e6 10. 0-0 Be7 11.Ng3 Bg6 12.Rfe1 0-0= Kalinin-Melts(!), corr. 1990]

6...Qe6+  
Practically forced, or else with 6...Bc8 7.0-0-0 Black is ceding two tempi.

7.Nge2 Ne4 8.Be3  
8.g4 Bg6 9.Be3 Qc6 10.Bg2 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 Qxf3 12.Bxf3 c6 13.0-0-0 e6=  
8...Nxc3 9.Nxc3 c6 10.d5! Qc8  
10...Qg6 11.Qf4! Nd7 12.Qc7 cxd5 13.Nxd5 e5 14.0-0-0±  
11.Bc4 cxd5 12.Bxd5 Nc6 13.g4 Bg6 14.0-0-0 e6 15.Bb3 h5!?

Steadier is 15...Bb4 followed by 0-0, but I was spooked by the pawn surge on the kingside. [15...Bb4 16. Nb5!? 0-0 17.h4 Na5! 18.Ba4 Qc4 19.Rd4 Qc6! 20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.h5 a6 22.hxc6 axb5 23.gxh7+ Kh8 24. Bb3 Nxd4 25.Bxd4=]

16.h3 hxg4?

16...Bb4 17.Nb5 a6 18.Nd6+ Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Ne5 20.Qd1 Be4 21.Re1 Nf3 22.Re2±  
17.hxc4 Rxh1 18.Qxh1 Qc7 19. Qh8!?  
19.Nb5 Qa5 20.Nd6+ Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Ke7 22.Rd1±



19...Qe5?

Black is equal after 19...Rd8 20. Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.Ba4 a6 22.Bxc6+ bxc6 23.f4 Qa5.

20.Ba4 a6 21.Bb6 Qf4+ 22.Be3?  
□22.Rd2 Qh6 23.Qxh6 gxh6

24.Re2±  
22...Qe5?  
22...Qxg4! 23.Kb1 Qh5±

23.Bxc6+ bxc6 24.Rd2  
24.Na4 Qe4! 25.Rd2 Qxg4 26. Nb6 Rb8 27.Nd7 Qg1+ 28.Rd1 Qxd1+ 29.Kxd1 Kxd7 30.Bd4±  
24...Qa5

24...f6!? 25.Na4 Kf7 26.Rd7+! Ke8 27.Nb6!! Rb8 28.Nc4! winning Black's queen!

25.Na4! Qb5 26.Bc5 Qf1+ 27.Rd1 Qxd1+ 28.Kxd1 0-0-0+ 29.Kc1  
29.Ke2 Bxc5 30.Qh1 Rd5 31.c4 Bd3+ 32.Kf3 Bxc4 33.Nxc5 Rxc5 34.Qh8+±

29...Bxc5 30.Qxd8+ Kxd8 31.Nxc5 Kc7 32.Nxa6+ Kb6 33.Nb4 e5 34.Kd2 f6 35.c4 Kc5 36.Kc3 Be4 37.Nd3+ Kb6 38.b4 Bf3 39.g5 Bd1 40.Nc5 Bg4 41.a4 fxc5 42.a5+ Ka7 43.Ne4, Black resigns

I said, "I'm gonna put this game out of its misery" and stopped the clock. For those in doubt about the

technical task: 43...Ka6 44.Nc5+ [44.Nxg5? c5] 44...Ka7 45.b5 cxb5 46.cxb5 Ka8 47.b6 Bf3 48.a6 Bc6 49.Kc4 Kb8 50.Ne6 g4 51.Nd8+-.

1-0

*Nimzo-Indian Leningrad E30*

**Don Marcott 2107**

*Mate We Can Believe In*

**Alexander Balkum 2011**

*The Simpsons*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 e5 5.d5 d6 6.e3 e5

Since White now has the option to play 7.Ne2(!), it is more accurate for Black to play 6...Bxc3+ first.

7.Bd3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 h6 9.Bh4 g5

Black does without this in the main ECO line: 9...e4 10.Bc2 Qe7 (10...g5) 11.Ne2 Nbd7 12.Ba4 0-0 13.Bxd7 Bxd7 14.a4 b6=.

10.Bg3 Qe7 11.Ne2

11.h4 is an important line here or next move, but Marcott prefers to keep the option of kingside castling. 11...e4 12.Bc2 Bf5!? [12...Nbd7] 13.Ba4+ Nbd7 14.Qb3 0-0-0 15.Rb1 Nb6 16.Bb5 Bd7? [16...Nh5=]



Here White missed a likely win by 17.Qa3!, hitting both a7 and c5(!) Since 17...a6 18.Bxa6! is a crush, that leaves 17...Kb8 18.Qxc5 Bxb5 19.Qxb5± or 17...Bxb5 18.Rxb5 Kb8 19.Qxc5 Ka8 20.Qd4±.

The pin on the d6 pawn in these lines shows why 16...Nh5! would have been correct.

17.a4?! Bxb5 18.axb5

Not that White is anxious to fix his pawns; it's just that 18.Qxb5 is embarrassed by 18...Qd7.

18...Kc7 19.Qa3

19.Ra1 Ra8 20.0-0 h5 21.h4 Nh7

19...Nfd7 20.Qb3 Ne5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Ra1 f5 23.0-0

Tempting is 23.g3 to stop ...f4, but it leaves the light squares weak and invites ...Qe8-h5.

23...f4!?

Black sees that the a7 pawn is not defensible. Still, there is a point to 23...Ra8! – to trade one pair of rooks and keep one for the kingside: 24.Ra5 f4! 25.Rfa1 Rhf8 (a) 26.exf4 gxf4 27.Rxa7 Rxa7 28.Rxa7 f3 29.Ng3 e3+-; (b) 26. Rxa7 Rxa7 27.Rxa7 fxe3 28.fxe3 Qf6 29.Qd1 Qf2+ 30.Kh1 Nxc4+-.

24.Rxa7 Ra8 25.Rfa1 Rxa7 26.Rxa7 Ra8 27.Rxa8 Nxa8 28.Qa3 Nb6 29.Qa5 h5!



Although White is a pawn ahead, he is feeling the pinch. (a) 30.h3 h4 31.Kh1 f3 32.Ng1 Qf5 33.gxf3 exf3 34.Qa1 Nxc4 35.Qd1 Ne5+-; (b) 30.exf4 gxf4 31.g3 f3 32.Nf4 e3 33.fxe3 Qxe3+ 34.Kf1 Qc2+-.

Understandably, Marcott gets desperate. 30.Nd4!?? cxd4 31.cxd4 Qe7 32.Kf1 fxe3 33.fxe3 Qf8+ 34.Ke1 Qa8 35.Qxa8 Nxa8 36.c5 b6

Black could be a smart alec about it and win with 36...Nb6!?

37.c6 Kd8 38.Kf2 Ke7 39.Kg3 Kf6 40.h4 Nc7 0-1

*Sicilian Paulsen B42*

**Michael Simpson 1942**

*The Simpsons*

**Josito Dondon 2074**

*Mate We Can Believe In*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 a6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4

Because of vagaries involved in the transposition with 3.c4, we have a position rarely visited in books. Normally one sees 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 (4...Nc6 5.Nc2!) 5.Nc3 Bb4.

6...Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 d6 9.0-0 Ne7 10.Na4

10.Qd3!? also prepares 11.a3. 10...0-0 11.a3 Ba5 12.b4 Bc7 13.Bb2

13.Be3!? could support a knight incursion with c5 and Nb6.

13...e5 14.Qc2

14.f4 exf4 15.Qd4 f6 16.Rad1 Be6 17.Rxf4 Ng6=

14...Ng6 15.Rfe1 f5!



16.Rad1

16.c5 d5 17.exd5 cxd5 18. d4 19.Bf3 Rb8 20.Nc3=

16...fxe4! 17.Qxe4 Bf5!

A petite combination based on a bishop fork at c2.

18.Qxc6 Ne7 19.Qf3 Bc2 20.Qg4 Bxa4 21.Rd2 Bd7 22.Qg3 Nf5 23.Qd3 Bc6 24.b5 axb5 25.cxb5 Bb7 26.Bxe5!??

Hoping for 26...dxe5 27.Qc4+=. 26...Qg5! 27.Bg3 Nxg3 28.hxg3 Ba5

A final "Doh!" is heard from the White side.

29.Red1 Bxd2 30.Rxd2 Qc5 0-1

*QGD Slav D19*

J.P. Hyltin 2037

*Mate We Can Believe In*

Seth Thompson 1843

*The Simpsons*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 Bg6 11.Bd3 Qe7 12.Bxg6 hxc6 13.e4 e5 14.d5 Rac8 15.Bd2 cxd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bd6 18.Rac1 Nc5 19.Ng5 f6 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Kf7 22.Rc4 f5 23.Qc2 Rxc4 24.Qxc4 Rh8 25.Qb3 Rh4 26.Rc1 Rd4 27.Bc3 Re4 28.Bd2 Qd7 29.a5 Rd4 30.Be3 Rb4 31.Qc3 Qb5 32.Qc8



32...Rxb2??

Also not 32...Qxd5? 33.Qd7+ Kg8 34.Bh6! +-; but 32...Qe8!=

33.Qe6+ 1-0

*Sicilian B52*

Aibek Isakov 2379

*Longhorns*

Brad Sawyer 2167

*When Amigos and Gringos Unite*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.c3 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Be3 Be7 12.Ne1 f6 13.f3 Ng5 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Rd1 Nf7 17.f4 Nd6 18.Nf3 Ne7 19.Bf2 Ng6 20.g3 Rac8 21.Rfe1

Rfe8 22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Nc4 24.b3 Ncxe5 25.Nb5 Nf3+ 26.Qxf3 Qxb5 27.f5 exf5 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rxd5 Qe2 30.Qxe2 Rxe2 31.Rd8+ Kf7 32.Rd7+ Re7 33.Rxe7+ Nxe7 34.Bxa7 Ke6 35.Kf2 Kd5 36.Ke3 Nc6 37.Bb6 g5 38.h3 h6 39.a3 Ne5 40.Bc7 Ng6 41.Bb8 Kc5 ½-½

*English Opening A19*

Gregg Stanley 2057

*RexReport.com*

Jerry Milburn 2189

*A Rose with Three Thorns*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 c5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.Be2 Nc6 8.Nc2 0-0 9.0-0 b6 10.b3 Bb7 11.Ba3 a6 12.Qd2 Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfd8 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.Qe3 Ne5 16.Bb2 Ned7 17.Re1 Bc6 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Bd1 Nc5 20.Bc2 Bf8 21.b4 Ncd7 22.Bb3 Re8 23.f4 Qb8 24.a3 a5 25.Ndb5 axb4 26.axb4 d5!



27.cxd5 exd5 28.e5 Bxb4 29.Qh3 Nxe5 30.fxe5 Rxe5 31.Rxe5 Qxe5 32.Qf3 Bc5+ 33.Kh1 Re8 34.h3 Nh5 35.g4 ½-½

Black has a winning advantage: 35...Qf4 36.Qxf4 Nxf4 37.Na4 Re3. I imagine this was a courtesy draw.

*Queen's Gambit D27*

William Molina 2016

*When Amigos and Gringos Unite*

Alex Chua 2267

*Longhorns*

*Texas Team 2009 (4)*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 c5

5.Bxc4 a6 6.a4

The Botvinnik treatment.

6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 Be7 10.Be3

White has also played 10.d5, which tends to lead to equality.

10...0-0 11.d5!?

11.Qe2 b6 12.Rad1 is standard.

11...exd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bf6 14.Bxc6(?)

14.Qb3! makes no concessions:

14...Qe7 15.Rac1 Qb4! =

14...bxc6 15.Qc2 Bg4

Here 15...Rb8! ♯ is strong: 16.Rab1 Qd5! Δ...Bf5; 16.Rad1 Rxb2!

16.Qxc6 Bxb2 17.Rab1 Bf6 18.Rfd1 Qa5 19.Rd5 Qc3 20.Qxc3 Bxc3 21.Bd4 Be6 22.Rc5 Ba2

23.Rc1 Bb4 24.Rc7 Rfd8 25.Rb7 Ba3 26.Ra1 Bd5 27.Ra7 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Rxa7 29.Bxa7 Rd3 30.Rb1 h5

Now 31.Rb8+ Kh7 32.Ra8 is weak because of 32...Rxf3 33.Bb6 Rf6 34.Rxa6 Bc5 35.a5 Bxf2+.

31.Be3 Kh7 32.Rb6 Rd6 33.Kf1??

Surprisingly, the bishop ending is lost. 33.Rb3= holds the balance.

33...Rxb6 34.Bxb6 Bd6 35.h3 Kg6

36.Ke2 Kf5 37.Be3 Ke5 38.Kd3 Kd5 39.Kc3 Be5 40.Kd3 g6 41.Kc3 Bd6 42.Kb3 Be7 43.Kc3



43...Bc5 44.Kd3 Bxe3! 45.fxe3 Kc5 46.f4 [46.Kc3 g5+]

46...Kb4 47.e4 Kxa4 48.Kc4 a5 49.h4 Ka3 50.Kc3 Ka2 51.Kc2 a4 52.e5 a3 0-1

Parting shot: An amusing counterpoint to *Mate We Can Believe In* would have been *No You Can't!*



# TEXAS MASTERS

DALLAS, JAN. 16-18

GM Alejandro Ramirez scored a repeat of last year's performance at the Texas Masters, scoring 4.5 out of 5 to win \$1,500. Tied for 2nd-3rd plus U2400 with 4 were IM Davorin Kuljasevic, NM Conrad Holt and IM Salvijus Bercys, each winning \$500. Full prizes were paid out, with 27 players well over the b/20 quota.

The event, held Jan. 16-18 at the UT Dallas student union, included the Texas Class Championship, with 64 players in six divisions. Prizes were based on turnout even when sections were combined, so U1000 prizes were higher than U1200.

The sponsors were J.G.'s Old-Fashioned Hamburgers, The University of Texas-Dallas, the UTD Chess Program, the Texas Chess Association and the Dallas Chess Club.

## PRIZE WINNERS

**Masters:** 1st: Alejandro Ramirez, 4.5. 2nd-3rd+U2400: Davorin Kuljasevic, Conrad Holt, Salvijus Bercys, 4.0. **U2200:** 1st: Abhishek Malalela, 4.5. 2nd: Andrew Widener, 4.0. 3rd: Eduardo Cuarenta, 2.0. **U2000:** 1st-2nd: Jason Jia, Gerald Roberts, 4.0. 3rd: Jonathan Allen, Zachary Haskin, 3.5. **U1800:** 1st: Dion Su, 4.5. 2nd-3rd: Vikas Paduvali, Robert Tobias, 3.5. **U1600/unr.:** 1st: Daniel Salazar, 4. 2nd: Samuel Waranch, 3.5. 3rd: Suchinder Kalyan, Bart Hopkins, 3.0. **Unrated:** Hunter Harris, 2.0. **U1400:** 1st-2nd: Atulya Vaidya, Ritik Verma, 3.5. 3rd: Max Aranoff, Lee Zheng, 3.0. **U1200/U1000:** 1st U1200: Darrell Cook, 3.5. 1st U1000: Steven Lester, 3.5. 2nd-3rd U1200: Ali Khambati, Lee Kelley, 3.0. 2nd-3rd U1000: Bruce Aranoff, Ritvik Ganesan, 2.5.



GM Alejandro Ramirez

## QGD Exchange D36

Alejandro Ramirez 2617

Tautvydas Vedrickas 2267

Texas Masters 2009 (1)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.d4 Be7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 0-0 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.e3 Re8 9.Bd3 c6 10.0-0 Nf8

Now White has tried 11.Rab1, Rael, a3, Bxf6, Bf4, Ne5 and ...

11.h3 Ne4 12.Bf4 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rfb1!



Customary is 15.Rab1, but the advantage of supporting an a-pawn advance becomes clear in the game.

A game Saemisch-Koch, Berlin 1928, saw the obliging 15.c4 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Be6 when Black is already equal (although he lost that game).

15...Re7 16.a4 g6 17.Nd2 Ne6 18.c4

White has timed this advance for maximum effect. Now 18...dxc4 is no longer inviting, as it was after 15.c4; for now Nd2 captures with tempo, while the bishop at c8 is still unable to come to life.

18...Ng7 19.cxd5 exd5 20.Rc1 Nf5 21.Qc5 b6 22.Qxd6 Nxd6 23.a5 Rb8 24.Rc6 Re6 25.axb6 axb6 26.Nf3 Bd7 27.Rcc1 Bb5 28.Bxb5 Nxb5 29.Ne5 Rb7 30.Rab1 Nd6?!

Now White forces the win of a pawn, or more if Black chooses(!). Better is 30...Rc7 31.Rxc7 Nxc7 32. Rc1 Re7 33.Nc6 Re8 34.Kf1±.



31.Nc6 Nc4?!

Black is being very optimistic, assuming he saw the knight fork. Moves to save the Exchange allow 32.Nb4 winning the d-pawn.

32.Nd8 Rb8 33.Nxe6 fxe6 34.Rb5 Kf7 35.e4 Rd8 36.exd5 exd5 37.

Ra1 Rd7 38.Ra8 Ke6 39.h4 Rb7  
40.h5 gxh5 41.Re8+ Kd7 42.Rf8  
Kc6 43.Rb1 Re7 44.Rf6+ Kb7 45.  
Rf5 Rd7 46.Rxh5 Ka6 47.f4 Ka5  
48.f5 Rf7 49.Rf1 Nd2 50.Rf4 Kb4  
51.f6 Kc4 52.Re5 Ne4 53.Re7 Rf8  
Not 53...Rxf6?? 54.Rxe4+-  
54.f7 Ng5 55.Kf2 b5 56.Ke3 b4 57.  
Rf5 h6 58.Rc7+ Kb3 59.Kd3 Kb2  
60.Ra7 Ne6 61.Rf2+ Kb3 62.Rf1  
Kb2 63.Ra6 Nf4+ 1-0

*King's Indian E60*

Mihail Bantic 2244

Davorin Kuljasevic 2546

*Texas Masters 2009 (1)*

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0  
0-0 5.c4 d6 6.d4 Nc6 7.d5 Na5  
8.Nbd2 b5 9.cxb5 Nxd5 10.Rb1 a6-  
11.e4 Nb6 12.b4 Nb7 13.bxa6 Rxa6  
14.Qc2 c5 15.a3 Bd7 16.Bb2 e5  
17.Qd3 c4 18.Nxc4 Bb5 19.Nfd2 d5  
20.exd5 Nd6 21.Rfc1 e4 22.Bxe4  
Bxb2 23.Rxb2 Re8



24.Nxd6 Bxd3 25.Nxe8 Rxa3 26.  
Bxd3 Rxd3 27.Ne4 Kf8 28.N8f6

28.Nc7?! Rd4 (28...Nxd5? 29.  
Nc5! Nxc7 30.Nxd3+-) 29.Nc5 Qf6  
30.Re2±  
28...Nxd5 29.Nxh7+ Kg7 30.Nhg5  
Qe7 31.b5 Qa3  
31...Nc3! 32.Rxc3 Rxc3 33.  
Nxc3 Qe1+ 34.Kg2 Qxc3 35.Re2  
Qb4=  
32.Rbc2

32.Rcb1 Nb6 33.Rc2 Rd7 34.  
Rc6 Qd3 35.Nc3 Nd5 36.Rd1 Qc2  
37.h4 Nf6 38.Rxd7 Nxd7 39.  
Nge4+-

32...Rb3



33.Rc7!

Black follows the dictum "Thou shalt not shilly-shally!" (Nimzovich) and steers for a forced draw,

33...Nxc7 34.Rxc7 Rb1+ 35.Kg2 Qa2

On 35...Rxb5?? White has mate in four.

36.Nc3

Forcing Black's hand. White can still play for a win with 36.h4 Kf8! (36...Rxb5? 37.Rxf7+ Kh8 38.Rh7+ Kg8 39.Nf6+ Kf8 40.Rc7 Rxc7 41.Nh7+±) 37.Rxf7+ Qxf7 38.Nxf7 Kxf7 39.g4 Ke6 40.h5 gxh5 41.gxh5 Rxb5 42.Ng3±.

36...Qa8+= 37.Kh3 Qh8+ 38.Kg2 Qa8+ 39.Kh3 Qh8+ ½-½

*Benko Gambit A59*

Jarod Panatmat 2136

Wang Puchen 2539

*Texas Masters 2009 (1)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6  
5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1  
8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.h3 Bg7  
11.Kg1 0-0 12.Kh2 Qa5 13.Re1  
Rfb8 14.Re2 Qa6

14...Rb4 15.Kg1 Ne8 16.Rc2  
Qa6 17.Bd2 Nb6 18.Rb1 Nc4 19.  
Be1 Qb7 20.Qc1 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxe5  
22.Re2 Nf6= Andrianov-Vasiukov,  
Moscow 1982.

15.Qc2

15.Kg1 Ne8 16.Qe1 Nc7 17.Bf4  
Bxc3 18.bxc3 f6 19.a4± Hjartarson-  
Benjamin, Reykjavik 1986.

15...Rb4 16.Rb1 Rab8 17.Bg5 h6  
18.Bh4 g5 19.Bg3 Nh5 20.a3 Rb3  
21.Re3 Bd4 22.Rd3 Nxc3 23.fxg3



23...Qc4!?

23...Rxb2! 24.Rxb2 Rxb2 25.  
Qxb2 Qxd3 26.Qb5 Qxc3 27.Qxd7  
Bf6±

24.Nd2 Rxb2! 25.Rxb2??

25.Rxd4! Rxc2! (25...cxd4? 26.  
Rxb2 Rxb2 27.Qxb2 dxc3 28.Nxc4  
cxb2 29.Nxb2±) 26.Rxc4 Rxd2 27.  
Rxb8+ Nxb8 28.Ra4 Rd3 29.Nb5  
Rb3 30.Ra5 Kg7 31.a4 Kf6±  
25...Rxb2 26.Rxd4 Rxc2 27.Rxc4  
Nb6!

White probably overlooked this.  
28.a4 Rxd2 0-1

*Sicilian B30*

Keaton Kiewra 2403

Alejandro Ramirez 2617

*Texas Masters 2009 (2)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0  
Nge7 5.b3 Ng6 6.Re1 Be7 7.Bb2  
0-0 8.a4 Qc7 9.Na3 d5 10.exd5  
exd5 11.d4 Bf6 12.Rb1

If White had any idea how tricky  
this would get, he would have opted  
for the insipid 12.c3.

12...Bg4 13.Be2 a6 14.dxc5 Bxb2  
15.Rxb2 Nf4 16.c3 Rae8 17.Nd4?

Better is 17.Rd2, which works  
out well after 17...Ne5 18.Nd4!  
Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Nh3+! 20.gxh3 Nf3+  
21.Kg2 Nh4+ 22.Kh1 Nf3 23.Kg2=  
However, Black has much better  
with 17...Qe7! 18.Nc2 Qxc5 19.  
Nfd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxe2+ 21.Nxe2  
Bxe2 22.Rxe2 Qxc3±.



17...Qe7! 18.Kf1 Qh4 19.h3 Bxb3  
20.Bf3 Bg4 21.g3 Qh3+ 0-1

*Center Counter B01*

Michael Langer 2308

Jacek Stopa 2540

*Texas Masters 2009 (2)*

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6  
4.d4 Nf6 5.Bg5 c6

5...Bf5! 6.Qf3 Qe6+∞ Langer-Anderson, Texas Team 2009.

6.Qd2 Bf5 7.0-0-0

7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.Kb1 Qa5 12.he1 Nd5 13.Ne4 b5 14.Bd2∞ (Melts) 7...e6 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.Bf4 Qb4 10.Bc7 Nb6 11.a3 Qe7 12.Bg3 Qd8 13.Ne5 Be7 14.f3 Nfd5 15.h4 Nxc3 16.Qxc3 h5 17.Bd3 Nd5 18.Qb3 Bxd3 19.Rxd3 Qc8 20.Nc4?!

Simple and good is 20.c4 Nf6 21.Kb1 0-0 22.Rc1±.

20...0-0 21.Kb1 Rd8 22.Re1 c5 23.Nd2 Nb6 24.dxc5 Qxc5 25.Ne4 Qc4!



26.Rc3 Qxb3 27.Rxb3 Rd7 28.Bf2 Nc4

White, having passed on c2-c4, now has to deal with Black turning it into a strong point! The rook on b3 is suddenly in a very difficult position, ...f5 and ...Nd2+ being threatened. This explains the concession

29.Rd3 Rxd3 30.cxd3 Ne5 31.Rd1 Nc6 32.Kc2 Rd8 33.Kc3 Rd5 34.b4 a5 35.Bc5??

In an unpleasant ending, White facilitates his demise.

35...Bxb4 36.b5 Nb8 37.Rh1 Bd8 38.Kc4 Nd7 39.d4 b6 40.Nc3 Rg5 41.Bd6 Rxb2 42.Rxb5 Rf2 43.f4 Nf6 44.Rh3 Ne8 45.Be5 f6 46.Bb8 Bc7 47.Bxc7 Nxc7 48.Rh4 Ne8 49.Na4 Nd6+ 50.Kd3 Rf3+ 51.Kc2 Nxb5 52.Nxb6 Nxd4+

With a third pawn about to fall, White has seen enough. 0-1

*QGD Slav D12*

Conrad Holt 2267

Marko Zivanic 2520

*Texas Masters 2009 (2)*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.g3 Bd6 11.f4 g5 12.Bg2 Nbd7 13.0-0 gxf4 14.gxf4 dxc4 15.Qxc4 ½-½

No *pro forma* draw; the position looks *too* interesting for Zivanic!

*Gruenfeld D91*

Darwin Yang 2300

Gergely Antal 2479

*Texas Masters 2009 (2)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.cxd5 Nxc3 7.Nxc3 e6 8.Nf3 exd5 9.e3 a5 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 c6 12.a3 Qe7 13.Ne1 Bf5 14.Bd3 Be6 15.Rc1 Nd7 16.Na4 f5 17.g3 Rfc8 18.Be2 b6 19.Bf3 Qd6 20.Nd3 Bf7 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Rc7 23.Nc3 b5 24.Qc2 Rca7 25.Ne2 Ra3 26.Rfd1 R8a6 27.h4 Ra2 28.Qb1 Nb6 29.Nc5 Ra7 30.Nb7 Qd7 31.Na5



31...R2xa5 32.bxa5 Nc4 33.Nf4 Rxa5 34.Be2 Bf8 35.h5 Ra3 36.hxg6 hxg6 37.Bd3 Qe7 38.Bxc4 dxc4 39.d5 Qc5 40.dxc6 Qxc6 41.Rd8 Qc5 42.Rb8 b4 43.Rd1 Rb3 44.Qa1 c3 45.Rdd8 c2 46.Rxf8+ Qxf8 47.Rxf8+ Kxf8 48.Kh2 Rc3 49.Ne2 Rc4 50.Qh8+ Ke7



It is worth pointing out that, just as White takes refuge in a perpetual, Fritz says he is ahead by +1.88! The problem is that Black is fortified against harm from queen checks, plus after 51.Nc1 the knight is stuck and can't help the queen.

51.Qe5+ Kf8 52.Qh8+ Ke7 53.Qe5+ Kf8 54.Qh8+ ½-½

*King's Indian E68*

Alejandro Ramirez 2617

Wang Puchen 2539

*Texas Masters 2009 (3)*

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 a6 9.h3 b5 10.Qc2 c6

10...Bb7 and 10...bxc4 are also played here.

### 11.Rd1

11.c5± claims ECO, 2nd edition. But is White better? Fritz: 11...exd4 12.Nxd4 Nxc5 13.Nxc6 Qe8 14.Nb4 Bb7 15.Bf4 Nfxe4 16.Rfe1 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qd7 18.Rxe4 a5 19.Re2 axb4 20.cxb4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Ne6= 11...Qe7 12.c5 dxc5 13.dxe5



### 13...Ne8

13...Nxe5!? 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15. Bf4 Qh5! (Fritz; 15...Qe6 16.Bd6 Re8 17.e5 Nd7 18.f4 Bb7 19.Ne4± Braun-Polzin, Bundesliga 2008) 16. e5 Nd7 (16...Bf5 17.Qd2 Nd5 18.g4 Bxg4 19.hxg4 Qxg4 20.Bg3±) 17.g4 Qh4 18.Qc1 Nxe5! 19.Bg5 Nf3+ 20.Bxf3 Qxh3 21.Bg2 Qxg4 22.Be7 Re8 23.Bxc5 Bf5 24.a3 Re6±

14.Bg5 Qe6 15.Be3 Qe7 16.Ne2! N 16.a4 Nc7 17.Qd2 b4!? 18.Ne2 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5= Kuljasevic-Aschenbrenner, Pula open 2007 (by transposition).

16...c4 17.Rd2 Nc7 18.Ned4 Bb7 19.Rad1 Nc5 20.Nb3 N7e6

20...Nd3 21.Na5 Ne6 22.b3 c5 23.bxc4 Bxe4 24.Rxd3 Qc7 25.Nb3 Rad8 26.Ne1+ Ramirez-Ziska, Dresden Olympiad 2008.

21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.b3 Nd3 23.bxc4 bxc4 24.Qxc4 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Bc5 1-0

Bantic tries an imaginative but unsound piece sac, and is firmly rebuffed by this country's top twelve year old.

### QGD Semi-Slav D45

Mihail Bantic 2244

Darwin Yang 2300

Texas Masters 2009 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Be7 7.b3 0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Bb2 Rc8 11.Ne5 g6 12.f4 c5 13.Bxg6?

Black need only decline the second piece offer, and react in the center as the books tell you to do. When the attack fails, White's position goes to tatters.

13...fxg6 14.Nxg6 cxd4! 15.Nxf8 Nxf8 16.exd4 dxc4 17.Qf2 Bb4 18.Qg3+ Ng6 19.a3 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qd5 21.Rf3 cxb3 22.Qe3 Rc2 23.f5 exf5 24.Qxb3 Qxb3 25.Rxb3 Bd5 26.Rb4 Rxg2+ 27.Kf1 Ng4 28.Bc1 Nxh2+ 29.Ke1 f4 30.Rb2 Rg1+ 31.Kf2 Rf1+ 32.Ke2 f3+ 33.Kd3 f2 34.Kc3 Ng4 0-1

### Sicilian Alapin B22

Courtney Jamison 2023

Michael Langer 2308

Texas Masters 2009 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nxd5 5.d4 e6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nc6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Rd1 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfe1 Qd6 14.Ne5 Rad8 15.Be4 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Qe7 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Qc2 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 Rd7 20.h3 Rfd8 21.Qa4 g6 22.Qc2 Qg5 23. Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Re2



Courtney has arrived at a "can't lose" position, which means one has

to be even more on guard!

24...Kg7 25.Re3 Qf4 26.Re4?

Overburdening White's queen. Very, very drawish is 26.g3 Qf5 (26...Qd4 27.Qe2 Qd2 28.b3=) 27.Qxf5 exf5 28.Re2=.

26...Rd1+! 27.Qxd1 Qxe4± 28.Qd7 Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Qxe5+ 30.Kg1 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qxf2 32.Qxa7 Qxb2 33. Qa4 e5 34.Qc6 Qd4 35.a4 e4 36. Qc2 e3 37.Kg3 Qd2 38.Qe4 e2 0-1

### King's Indian E91

Darwin Yang 2300

Jacek Stopa 2540

Texas Masters 2009 (4)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Bg4 7.Ng1 Bc8 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Ng1 Bxe2 10.Ngxe2 c5 11.h3 Nfd7 12.d5 Ne5 13.b3 b5 14.cxb5 Qa5 15.0-0 a6 16.b6 Qxb6 17.Bb2 a5 18.Na4 Qb4 19.Qc2 Na6 20.Bc3 Qb5 21.Nb2 Rfb8 22.Qd2 Nd7 23.Nc4 Nc7 24.Rab1 Nb6 25. Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Ne3 Qb4 27.Qb2+ f6 28.Qc2 Nb5 29.Qd3 Na3 30.Rbc1 Nd7 31.Nc3 Ne5 32.Qe2 Nb5 33. Nxb5 Qxb5 34.Qd1 a4 35.Rc3 axb3 36.Rxb3 Qa6 37.f4 Rxb3 38.axb3



38...Qd3 39.Qxd3 Nxd3 40.Rf3 Ra3 41.Nc4 Rxb3 42.Nd2 Rc3 43. Kh2 c4 44.Nxc4 Rxc4 45.Rxd3 Rxe4 46.Kg3 f5 47.Kf3 Kf6 ... 0-1

**Solution:** 1.Rd6! with the threat of 2.Qh2#, which still holds up after 1...Kxd6, 1...Bxf6 or 1...Nxf6. Also, if 1...Bxd6 then 2.Nd7#. Lastly, if 1...Bxh1 then 2.Re6#!

*Anti-Meran Gambit D44*

Marko Zivanic 2520

Wang Puchen 2539

*Texas Masters 2009 (4)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 e6  
5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.a4 Bb4 8.e5  
h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3

11.h4 rates a 77.4% winning percentage in NIC Base. 11...g4 12. Ne5 Rxg7 13.h5 f5 14.Be2 c5 15.h6 Rh7 16.Bxg4 Qxd4 17.Bh5+ Ke7 18.Ng6+ Kf6 19.Qc1 Nc6 20.0-0 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Qxe5 22.Re1 Qd4 23. Ne4+ fxe4 24.Qf4+ Ke7 25.Rad1 Drawn in Oll-Yudasin, USSR 1989 25...Bxe1 26.Rxd4 cxd4 27.Qh4+ Kd6 28.Qxe4 c3 29.bxc3+-

11...g4 12.Ne5!?



12.Nh4 c5 (12...Bb7 13.Bg2 Rxg7 14.axb5 Qb6 15.bxc6 Nxc6 16.0-0 Ne7= Gustafsson-Ivanchuk, Dortmund 2008) 13.Bg2 cxd4 14.0-0 dxc3 15.Qxg4 cxb2 16.Rad1 Qc7 17.Bxa8 bxa4 18.Qe2 a3 19.Bd5 Ba6?? (19...c3+-) 20.Bxe6 Qe7 21. Bxf7+ Kxf7 22.Qh5+ Kxg7 23.Nf5+ Kf8 24.Nxe7 +- Tyomkin-Santiago Gonzalez, Andorra 2000;

12.Nd2 Qxd4 13.Bg2 bxa4 14. 0-0 Rxg7 15.Qxa4 a5 16.Rfd1 Ke7 17.Nde4 Qb6 18.Na2 Bb7 19.Qc2 Na6 20.Qxc4 Rgg8 21.Qc1 Nc7 22. Nxb4 axb4 23.Qf4 Ne8 24.Nf6! Rxa1 (24...Nxf6 25.Qd6+ Ke8 26. Bxc6+ Bxc6 27.Rxa8+ Bxa8 28. Qxb6+-) 25.Nxg8+ Kf8 26.Rxa1 Kxg8 27.Qb8 1-0 Izoria-Bartel, Kusadasi 2006.

12...Qd5 13.Rg1 Qe4+ 14.Be2 f5  
15.Kf1 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Nd7 17.Nxd7  
Bxd7 18.Qd2 Rxg7 19.Re1 Qd5 20.  
Bd1 Qd6 21.Re5 Rc8 22.Qh6 Qe7  
[22...Rf7 23.axb5 c5=] 23.Bc2 Qg5



24.Rxe6+! Bxe6?

24...Kd8 25.Qxg5+ Rxg5 26.Re5 Rh5+ 25.Qxe6+ Kd8 26.Bxf5 Rcc7 27. Qd6+ Ke8 28.Be4 Rge7 28...c5 29.Bc6+ Rxc6 30.Qxc6+ Rd7 31.axb5+- 29.Bxc6+ Kf8 30.axb5 Qc1+ 30...Kg7 31.Qf4 Qg6 32.d5+- 31.Kg2 Qxc3 32.Qh6+ Rg7 32...Kf7 33.Qf4+ Kg7 34.Qxg4+ Kf8 35.Bd5+- 33.Qf6+ Rg7 34.Qh8+ Ke7 35. Re1+

White resigned. If 35...Kd6 36. Qe5# or if 35...Qxe1 36.Qe8+ 1-0

*Benoni A43*

Salvijus Bercys 2483

Jarod Panatmat 2136

*Texas Masters 2009 (4)*

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5 Qb6 5.Nc3 a6 5...Bb7 6.e4 b4 7.Na4 Qa5 8. Bxf6 exf6 9.b3 d6 10.Bd3 g6 11.h4 h5 12.Nb2± Dreev-Glek, USSR 1986.

6.a4 Bb7 7.e4 b4 8.a5 Qc7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Ne2 e6

Too slow; better is 10...Bg7 11. c3 f5 12.exf5 Qd6=.

11.g3 f5 12.exf5 Bxd5 13.Nf4 Bb7 14.Bg2 Bg7 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Ng5!



16...h6 17.Nxf7! Kxf7 18.fxe6+ dxe6 19.Qh5+ Kg8

19...Ke7 20.Qxc5+ Kf7 21.Qh5+ Ke7 (21...Kg8 22.Nxe6 Qf7 23. Qxf7+ Kxf7 24.Nc5 transposes to the game) 22.Qg4 Bxb2 23.Qxc6+ Kf8 24.Qb3+- 20.Nxe6 Qf7 21.Qxf7+ Kxf7 22 Nxc5 Bxb2 23.Rab1 Nxa5 24.Nxb7 Nxb7 25.Rxb2 Rab8 26.Rxb4 Nc5 27.Rc4 Rhc8 28.Ra1 Rb6 29.Bf1 Rcc6 30.Ra5 Rb5??

Less drastic is 30...Ne6 31.Rxc6 Rxc6 32.Rxa6 Rxc2 33.Kg2+- 31.Rf4+ 1-0

*Sicilian Najdorf B82*

Michael Langer 2308

Jonathan Chiang 1892

*Texas Masters 2009 (4)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 Qc7 7.Bd3 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.Qe2 Nc5 11.e5 Nfd7 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.f5 0-0 14.fxe6 Nxe6 15.Qe4 Nf6 16.Qh4





### 16..b5??

Equality was available with 16... Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Qb4=.

17.Ne4+ Nxe4 18.Bxe4 f5 19.Bxa8 Qa7+ 20.Kh1 Qxa8 21.Be3 f4 22. Bd2 Bb7 23.Bc3 b4 24.Qg4 Bd5 25.Be1 Qc8 26.Rd1 Qc4 27.Bh4 Bb8 28.b3 Qc6 29.Be7 Rf7 30.Bxb4 Rf6 31.c4 Be4 32.Rd2 Rg6 33.Qh4 Rxc2 34.Kxc2 1-0

#### Modern Benoni A70

Conrad Holt 2267

Adarsh Jayakushmar 2051

#### Texas Masters 2009 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.Bd3 b5 10.Bxb5 Nxe4 11. Nxe4 Qa5+ 12.Nfd2 Qxb5 13.Nxd6



### 13...Qd7?!

13...Qa6 14.N2c4 Rd8 (14...Nd7 15.0-0 Nb6 16.Nxb6 Qxb6 17.Nxc8 Raxc8 18.Re1 Rfe8 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.Be3 Qxb2 21.Rb1 Qxa2 22.Bxc5± Sapis) 15.Qe2 Bb7 16.Nxb7 Qxb7 17.Ne3 Qb4+ 18.Qd2= Lalic-Marin, Haifa 1989

### 14.N2c4 Ba6

14...Qe7+ 15.Be3 Nd7 16.0-0 Nb6 17.Re1± Cvitian-Velimirovic, Vrsac 1989

15.0-0 Bd4 16.Qf3 Rd8 17.Re1 Kg7 18.Bg5 f6 19.Bf4 Bxc4 20. Nxc4 Na6

20...Qxd5 21.Qxd5 Rxd5 22. Re8+ 21.Nd6 Nb4

21...Rab8 22.Rab1 Rxb2 23. Rxb2 Bxb2 24.Rb1 Rb8 25.Qe2 Bd4 26.Rxb8 Nxb8 27.Nb5+ 22.Re6 Re8?!

22...Kg8 23.Rd1 Qa4 (23...Nxa2 24.Qb3 Rab8 25.Qxa2 Rxb2 26.Qa3+) 24.a3 Nc2 25.Re7 Bxb2 26.Qg4 Rxd6 27.Qh4 h5 28.Qg3 g5 29.Qd3 f5 30.Bxd6+ 23.Nxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rae1 Rxe6 25.dxe6 Qe8 26.Qb7+ Kg8 27.Qd7 1-0

#### Irregular Sicilian B20

Alejandro Ramirez 2616

Marko Zivanic 2520

#### Texas Masters 2009 (5)

1.c4 e6 2.e4 c5 3.Nf3 b6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4?!

5.Nxd4 Bb7 6.Nc3 a6 leads to well-known Hedgehog positions.

5...Bb7 6.Bg5 f6 7.Be3 Bc5 8.Qd3 Nc6 9.Nc3

This allows Black to force the doubling of White's e-pawn, but alternatives don't seem to offer much, e.g. 9.Bxc5 bxc5 10.Nc3 Nh6 11.Rd1 Nf7 with a solid position.

9...Nb4 10.Qd2 Bxe3 11.fxe3 a6 12.Be2 Ne7 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.0-0 Rd8 15.e5 0-0

15...fxe5? 16.Ng5 Nf5 17.a3 Nc6 18.e4 Ncd4 19.exf5 exf5 20. Nd5±; 15...Bxf3!? 16.Bxf3 Qxe5 17. Ne4 Nbc6 18.Nd6+ Kf8 19.b4=

### 16.exf6 Rxf6

16...gxf6!? 17.Na4 Nbc6 18.c5 b5 19.Nc3 f5 20.a3 b4 21.axb4 Nxb4 22.Qd6±

### 17.Qd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 e5

18...Nc8 19.Rd2 d6 20.Ng5 Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Rf8+ 22.Kg1 e5 23.Bg4±

### 19.Rd2

19.Rxf6 gxf6 20.Nh4 Kg7 21. Rd1±

19...e4 20.Ng5 Rxf1+ 21.Bxf1 Nf5 22.a3 Nd3 [22...Nc6 23.Nd5±] 23. Bxd3 exd3 24.Rxd3 h6 25.e4! hxg5 26.exf5 Kf7 27.Rd6+- Bc6



### 28.b4

28.Nd5! b5 29.Nb4! Be4 30. cxb5 axb5 31.g4+

### 28...b5 29.c5 a5 30.a4?

30.Nd5 axb4 31.Nxb4 Ra8 32.Nxc6 dxc6 33.Rxc6 Rxa3 34.Rb6 Rb3 35.Kf2±

### 30...bxa4??

30...axb4 31.Nxb5 Ra8 32.Nd4 Bxa4 33.Rb6 b3 34.Nxb3 Rc8=

31.b5 Bb7 32.Nxa4 Be4 33.g4 Ke7 34.Rg6 and White won in a few moves. 1-0

#### French Burn C11

Jacek Stopa 2540

Davorin Kuljasevic 2546

#### Texas Masters 2009 (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.Bc4

This has been played a third as often as 8.Bd3, but it has a higher winning percentage: 66% vs. 55%.

### 8...a6 9.0-0

9.Qe2 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.h4 Be7 (12...Qe7 13.Neg5 g6 14.Be4 Bd5 15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Qxe7 Bxe7 17.Rhe1 Rfe8 1/2-1/2 Davies-Lalic, Gibraltar 2004) 13.Kb1 Nf6 14.Neg5 Bd5 15.Ne5 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Ng4 h6 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Nh7 Qxf2= Sutovsky-Efimenko, Russia tt 2005

### 9...0-0 10.Qe2 b5

10...c5 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.Rad1± 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.c3 Qe7 13.b4 Bd5 14.a4 c6 15.Rfe1 Nb6 16.Nc5 Rfe8

17.Ne5 g6 18.a5 Nc8 19.Be4 Qc7  
20.Ned7 Be7 21.Qf3 Rd8 22.Ne5  
Bf8 23.h4?!

Perhaps overlooking the strength of Black's next move, which forces a favorable exchange. White can build on his space advantage with 23.Qf4 Nd6 24.Bd3 Bg7 25.Re3 Qe7 26.Rae1±

23...Nd6 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.h5 Bg7  
26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Qh3

27.Nxg6!? fxg6 28.Nxe6 Qf7=  
27...Re8 28.g4



28...Ne4!?

For a chance at the initiative Black sacs a pawn.

29.Nxe4 dxe4 30.Rxe4 Rac8 31.Rc1  
Better is 31.Re3 followed by Rdd3.

31...Qb7 32.Re3 Rc7 33.g5 Qd5  
34.Rce1 Rec8 35.f4?

A turning point – one cavalier move, and Black takes charge of the game. If White just gets solid and triples up on the third rank, he is in a can't-lose position and the c3 pawn may yet have its day: 35.Rd3 Qa2 36.Ree3 Qb3 37.Qf3 Qd5 38.Qf4 Bxe5 39.dxe5 Rc4 40.Qg3 Qb7 41.f4 Qa7 42.Qf2±

35...Qb3! 36.Rc1

36.Nxg6!? fxg6 37.Qxe6+ Qxe6  
38.Rxe6 Rxc3 39.Rxg6 R3c6±; 36.  
d5 Bxe5 37.fxe5 Rxc3±

36...Qb2± 37.Qf1 Rxc3 38.Rexc3  
Rxc3 39.Rd1 Qxb4 40.Qg2 Qb3  
41.Qa8+ Bf8 42.Re1 Rg3+ 43.Kf2  
Rh3 44.Nf3 Qa2+ 45.Re2 Qxa5  
46.Kg2 Rh8 47.d5 Qa1!?

47...exd5 48.Qxd5 Qb4 49.Kg3  
Rh1+

48.dxe6 Qh1+ 49.Kf2 Rh2+

The point of 47...Qa1.

50.Ke3 Qc1+ 51.Rd2 Rxd2 52.  
exf7+ Kxf7 53.Nxd2 Qe1+ 54.Kd3  
Qg3+ 55.Ke4 Qe1+

55...Qg2+ 56.Nf3 Qc2+ 57.  
Kc5+

56.Kd3 Qg3+ 57.Ke4 Qg2+ 58.Nf3  
Qe2+ 59.Kd4 Qc4+ 60.Ke5 Bg7+  
61.Kd6 Qxf4+ 62.Kd7 Qf5+ 63.  
Kd8 Qd3+ 64.Kc7 b4 65.Kb6  
Qb5+ 66.Ka7 Bf8 67.Qe4 Bc5+ 68.  
Ka8 Qe8+ 0-1

### Sicilian Paulsen B42

Michael Langer 2308

Salvijus Bercys 2483

Texas Masters 2009 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4  
a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.Qg4

A quiet treatment is 7.0-0 fol-  
lowed by Qe2 and Be3.

7...Nf6 8.Qg3 d6 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.0-0  
Ne5

10...b5 is a less risky continua-  
tion: 11.Kh1 Bb7 12.f4 ... (a) 12...  
0-0 13.e5 Ne8 14.Ne4±; (b) 12...  
h5!? 13.e5 dxe5 14.Ne4 (Carlsson-  
Stellwagen, Malmo 2006) 14...Ng4!  
15.Nec5 Qe7±

11.Be2

11.Kh1 h5 12.Be2 Neg4 13.Bg5  
Qb6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Bxg4 hxg4  
16.Rad1 Ke7 17.Qxg4 Bd7= Kapen-  
gut-Ruban, USSR 1976

11...b5 [11...0-0?!] 12.Bf4 b4

12...0-0 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Rxd6!  
Ng6 15.e5 Ne8 16.Bf3 Nxd6 17.  
exd6 Qc4 18.Bxa8 Nxf4 19.Na5 Qd4  
20.Nc6± Ruiz-Arebcibia, Cuba 2007  
13.Rad1 Qe7 14.Rxd6! Ng6

14...Qxd6 15.Bxe5 Qe7 16.Qxg7  
(16.Bd6 Bb8 17.Qxg7 Qxd6 18.  
Qxh8+ Ke7 19.f4±) 16...Rg8 17.  
Qxf6 Qxf6 18.Bxf6 bxc3 19.Bxc3±  
15.e5 bxc3 16.exf6 gxf6

So far as in Jaracz-Landa, Bad  
Wiessee open 2004 (diagram next  
column). Now White got a winning  
game after 17.Bf3 Bb7 18.Na5 Nxf4

19.Nxb7 Ng6 20.Bc6+ Kf8 21.Rd7  
Qb4 22.Qc7 Kg7 23.Rxf7+ Kh6 24.  
bxc3 Qxc3 25.Na5 Bb8 26.Qb6+.



17.Rfd1? cxb2 18.Qd3 0-0 19.  
Bh6 Re8 20.c4 Bb8 21.Rd8 Bc7 22.  
Rxe8+ Qxe8 23.f4?

23.Qd2 Be5 24.f4 Bc7 25.Bf3  
Rb8 26.Qxb2 e5=

23...Bb7 24.Qc3

24.Rb1 Qe7 25.Rxb2 Nxf4  
26.Qg3+ Ng6 27.Qh3 f5±

24...Bxf4 25.Bxf4 Nxf4 26.Bf3

26.Qg3+ Ng6 27.Rb1 Qb8±  
26...Bxf3 27.Qxf3 Rd8 28.Rb1 e5

29.g3 Nh3+ 30.Kg2 Qe6 31.Rxb2  
Ng5 32.Qe2?

32.Qf1 More stubborn resistance  
is offered by 32...Qc6+ 33.Kg1 Nf3+  
34.Kf2 Nxh2 35.Qe2 Qh1 36.Rd2  
Rxd2 37.Nxd2 f5.

32...Qc6+ 33.Kf2 Nh3+ 34.Ke3 f5!

The mating net is cast.

35.Qc2 f4+ 36.Ke2 Qg2+ 37.Ke1  
Qg1+ 38.Ke2 Qf2# 0-1

### QGD Semi-Slav D46

Conrad Holt 2267

Darwin Yang 2300

Texas Masters 2009 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6  
5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.b3 0-0 8.  
0-0 b6 9.Bb2 Bb7 10.Qe2 Rc8 11.  
Rfd1 Qc7 12.Rac1 Qb8 13.e4 dxe4  
14.Nxe4 Nxe4

14...Qf4!? Fritz; 14...c5 15.dxc5  
Nxe4 16.c6 Bxc6 17.Bxe4 Rfd8 18.  
Bxc6 Rxc6= van der Sterren-  
Chernin, San Bernardino 1992.

15.Qxe4



**15...Nf6**

15...g6!? 16.Qg4 (Δ16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Qe3±) 16...Bf6 17.Rc2 Rcd8 18. Bc1?! (Δ18.Re2 c5 19.Bc2 h5 20. Qh3 Qf4 21.Re3∞) 18...c5 19.Bh6 Rfe8 20.Be4 (20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Be2 Ne4=) 20...Bxe4 21.Qxe4 cxd4 22. Nxd4 Nc5 23.Qg4 Bxd4! 24.Rxd4 Qe5 25.Rd1 (25.Be3 Rxd4 26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Bxd4 Rd8 28.Rd2 Ne4 29.Rd3 e5 30.f3 Ng5+) 25...Qe4+ Kotov-Paoli, Venice 1950.

**16.Qh4 h6 17.Ne5 Rfe8 18.Re1 Nd7 19.Qg4 Nf6**

19...Nxe5 20.dxe5 c5 21.Rcd1± **20.Qh3 Qc7 21.Re3 Red8**

21...Bd6 22.Rg3 Kh8 23.Rf3 Qe7 24.Bg6 Bxe5 25.dxe5 Nh7 26. Bxh7 Kxh7 27.Rd1± **22.Rg3 Kf8**



**23.Bg6! Bd6** [23...fxg6 24.Qxe6] **24.Bxf7 Bxe5 25.dxe5 Ne4**

25...Qd7 26.Rf1 Kxf7 27.exf6+ **26.Bxe6 Nxc3 27.hxc3 Ke7 28.Rf1 28.Qf5 Rf8 29.Qg6+**

**28...Rf8 29.Bf5 Rcd8 30.Qh4+ Ke8 30...g5 31.Qxh6 Rxf5 32.e6!! (32.Qg7+!? Rf7 33.Qxcg5+ Kf8 34.e6 Rh7 35.Re1 Bc8 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.e7+) 32...Rdf8 33.Rd1+ **31.Qh5+ Ke7 32.Qg6?! Δ32.e6!+- c5 33.Bxcg7 Rd4 34. Bxf8+ Kxf8 35.Qxh6+ Ke8 36.Re1 Qc6 37.f3 Kd8 **32...Bc8?** 32...Rxf5 33.Qxf5 Bc8 34.Qg6 Kf8 35.Re1+- **33.e6 Rxf5 34.Qxcg7+ 1-0******

*French Defense C06*

**Wang Puchen 2539**

**Artur Safin 2094**

*Texas Masters 2009 (5)*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Bg5 0-0 13.Bh4 Nh5 13...e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Bg3 Bxc3 17.Nxc3 Qb6 18.Qd2 Bd7= Radulov-Vaganian, Leningrad 1977 **14.Nc3 a6 15.Rc1 g6****



**16.Na4**

16.Be2 Qg7 17.Na4 h6 18.Nb6 Rb8 19.Bg3 Nxc3 20.hxc3 g5?! (Δ20...Bc7 21.Nxc8 Rbxc8 22.Bxa6 Bxc3=) 21.Bxa6 g4 22.Rxc6 bxc6 23.Nxc8 gxf3? 24.Nxd6 Rxb2 25.gxf3 Qa7 26.Qd3+- Sznajik-Pokojowczyk, Poland 1986

**16...Qg7 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Be2**

18.Bxa6 Nxd4 (18...Rxf3? 19. Qxf3 Qxd4 20.Nxc8 Rxc8 21.Bxb7 Rf8 22.Qe3+- Adams-Mullon,

France tt 2003) 19.Nxd4 bxa6 20. Nxc8 Rbxc8 21.Rxc8 Rxc8= Mamedov-Bagirov, Dubai 2001]

**18...Nf4**

18...h6!? transposes to the line above with 16.Be2.

**19.Bg3 g5**

19...Qc7 20.Na4 b6 21.Re1±

**20.Kh1**

20.Bxa6 g4 21.Ne1 Nxd4

22.Bd3=

**20...h6**

20...g4 21.Ng1 Bc7 22.Nxc8 Rbxc8 23.Bxc4 Nxd4 24.Re1 Kh8 (24...Qg6 25.Re3 h5 26.Bxf4 Bxf4 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Bxh5 Qg7 29. Rc3+-) 25.Nh3 Nxc3 26.Rxc7 Rxc7 27.Bxh3 Nc6 28.Bxc7 Qxc7 29.Bxe6± **21.Bxa6**



**21...Nb4 22.Bb5 Nxa2 23.Ra1 Nb4 24.Re1 Qe7 25.Rc1 Qd8 26.Nxc8 Rxc8 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.h4 gxh4**

28...Nc2 29.Bxf4 Rxf4 30.Bd7 Qxd7 31.Qxc2 Rf5 32.Qc2± **29.Nxh4 Qd8 30.Qg4+ Qg5 31. Qxg5+ hxg5 32.Nf3 Rf6**

Δ32...g4 33.Nh2 Nc2 34.Rd1 e5 35.dxe5 Bxe5 36.Bxf4 Rxf4 37. Rxd5 Bxb2! 38.Rd8+ Kg7 39.Rd2 Rb4 40.Rd7+± **33.Nxc3 Nfd3?**

33...Nc2 34.Rd1 Kg7 35.Nf3 Rf8 36.Rc1±

**34.Bxd6 Nxe1 35.Bxb4 Rxf2?**

White is 35...Nc2 36.Bc3 Rxf2, but White has a solid plus.

**36.Bxe1 Rxb2 37.Bd7 Kg7 38. Nxe6+ Kf7 39.Bh4 1-0**

## JG's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers Texas Masters final standings

#	Name	Rtng	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	
1	GM Alejandro Ramirez	2617	2649	W14	W26	W8	D2	W5	4.5	\$1,500.00
2	IM Davorin Kuljasevic	2546	2561	D9	W22	W10	D1	W6	4.0	\$500.00
3	NM Conrad Holt	2267	2280	W11	L5	W19	W20	W13	4.0	\$500.00
4	IM Salvijus Bercys	2483	2492	W17	H---	H---	W16	W7	4.0	\$500.00
5	IM Marko Zivanic	2520	2530	W15	W3	D6	W8	L1	3.5	
6	IM Jacek Stopa	2540	2541	W12	W7	D5	W13	L2	3.5	
7	FM Michael Langer	2308	2307	W18	L6	W17	W11	L4	3.0	
8	IM Puchen Wang	2539	2530	W16	W21	L1	L5	W15	3.0	
9	NM Mihail Bantic	2244	2249	D2	D14	L13	W22	W20	3.0	
10	IM Gergely Antal	2479	2463	W23	D13	L2	D15	W16	3.0	
11	Jonathan Chiang	1892	1950	L3	W23	W14	L7	W22	3.0	
12	NM Kalin K Nonchev	2176	2174	L6	L19	W24	W18	W17	3.0	
13	FM Darwin Yang	2300	2301	W25	D10	W9	L6	L3	2.5	
14	NM Tautvyd Vedrickas	2267	2256	L1	D9	L11	W23	W24	2.5	
15	Artur K Safin	2094	2099	L5	W18	D22	D10	L8	2.0	
16	Jarod M Pamatmat	2136	2138	L8	W24	W27	L4	L10	2.0	
17	wcm Courtney Jamison	2023	2025	L4	W25	L7	W27	L12	2.0	
18	WCM Sarah Chiang	1934	1941	L7	L15	W23	L12	W25	2.0	
19	Alexander Shaffer	1964	1987	L26	W12	L3	W25	U---	2.0	
20	Adarsh Jayakumar	2051	2058	H---	H---	W26	L3	L9	2.0	
21	NM Chaitanya Vaidya	2349	2346	W24	L8	H---	U---	H---	2.0	
22	Akshay Malhotra	1921	1913	B---	L2	D15	L9	L11	1.5	
23	Dachey Lin	1971	1955	L10	L11	L18	L14	W27	1.0	
24	Caroline Zhu	1946	1933	L21	L16	L12	B---	L14	1.0	
25	Tommy O He	1926	1900	L13	L17	B---	L19	L18	1.0	
26	FM Keaton Kiewra	2403	2385	W19	L1	L20	U---	U---	1.0	
27	Kevin Chandra	1925	1905	H---	H---	L16	L17	L23	1.0	

## Malazarte wins in SA

Ernesto Malazarte won the Pre-Spring Open (San Antonio, Feb. 28-Mar. 1) with a perfect 4-0 score, winning \$150. Nathanael Lozano was clear second with 3 (\$90). Frank Brack, Richard Gabriel and Hector Flores with 2.5 shared the U2100 and U1900 prizes (\$40 each).

In the Reserve (U1800), Steven Dampier won with 3.5 (\$90). Tied for second plus U1700 with 3 were Daniel Lozano, Charles Davis, Louis Rimpel and James Thames (\$30 each). Gary Cobb won U1500 with 2.5 (\$45). Jonathan Rea and Fernando Mendoza tied for U1300 with 2 (\$22.50 each). Prizes were 60% of the advertised b/40 amount.

Martin Gordon directed a combined field of 28 players for the San Antonio Chess Club.

**Diesen**, continued. from p. 4

### Notes by IM Mark Ginsburg

Diesen had a plus score versus many famous American grandmasters: John Fedorowicz, Michael Rohde, Joel Benjamin, Nick de Firmian, Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen and Yasser Seirawan. Mark pointed out he lost very few games to these players.

#### *Sicilian Scheveningen B85*

John Fedorowicz

Mark Diesen

#### *US Junior, Memphis 1976*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.O-O d6 9.f4 Be7 10.Qe1 O-O 11.Qg3 Bd7 12.Nf3

Nowadays people play 12.Rad1 b5 13.Bd3 more.

12...Nb4!

An excellent reaction.

13. e5?!

Possible and less committal is 13.Nd4 e5 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Bh6 Ne8 16.Nb3 Be6 17.Rac1 Rd8.

13...Nfd5 14.Bd4 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Nd5

Curiously, Black also has the strong and unusual move 15...f6! Since the knight on b4 is not really hanging due to Qb6+. There might follow 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.c3 Nd5 19.Ng5 Qb6+ 20.Kh1 Ne3 21.Rfe1 Bc6 and Black is doing great.

16.Bd4 Qxc2



It's safe!

17.Bd1 Qg6 18.Bb3 Qxg3 19.hxg3

Diesen wrapped up convincingly.

19...Bb5 20.Rfc1 dxe5 21.Nxe5 Rfd8 22.a4 Be8 23.Bf2 Rdc8 24.Nd3 Nb4 25.Nxb4 Bxb4 26.Bd1 Bd2 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Bf3 b5 29.a5 Bc6 30.Rd1 Bxa5 31.Ra1 Bd2 32.Rxa6 Bxf3 33.gxf3 h5 34.Kf1 Rc2 35.Bd4 Rc4 36.Rd6 h4 37.Be5 Rc1+ 38.Kg2 Rc2 39.Kh3 hxg3 40.Kxg3 Be1+ 41.Kh3 Kh7 42.Rb6 b4

0-1

In the next game, Diesen reduces veteran Grandmaster Shamkovich to total paralysis in the early middle-game, not easy to do, and easily converts a crushing ending.

#### *Pirc Defense B08*

Mark Diesen

Leonid Shamkovich

#### *New York 1976*

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 O-O 6.O-O c6 7.Re1 Qc7 8.e5!

A strong and natural expansion. 8...dxe5 9.Nxe5 Rd8

It's not an easy life for Black either after 9...Nbd7 10.Bf4 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Be6 14.Qe4 Qb6 15.Bf3.

10.Bc4 Nd5 11.Qf3

White has very unpleasant pressure.

11...e6

Dangerous looking was 11...Be6 12.Ne4 (maybe the best is 12.Bg5! Bxe5 13.Rxe5 Nd7 14.Ree1 N7f6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Rxe6 Rxd4 18.Rae1 and White maintains a solid plus) 12...Bxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5 14.Bg5 Nd7.

12.Ne4 Rf8 13.Bxd5!

Now it really gets bad for Black.

13...cxd5 14.Nf6+Bxf6

14...Kh8 15.Bg5 Nd7 16.Nexd7 Bxd7 17.g4

15.Qxf6 Qd8 16.Ng4 Qxf6 17.Nxf6+ Kh8 18.Bh6 Rd8 19.Re3

Of course, this is dreadful for Black. Watch Diesen effortlessly reel his victim in.

19...Nd7 20.Bg5 Rf8 21.Bh6 Rd8 22.Bg5 Rf8 23.Rc3 Nxf6 24.Bxf6+ Kg8 25.Rc7 b6 26.a4 Ba6 27.Ra3 Rfc8 28.Rac3 Rxc7 29.Rxc7 Rc8 30.Rxa7 Rxc2 31.h4 Bc8 32.b4 Kf8 33.Bd8!



33...e5 34.Bxb6 exd4 35.Bxd4 Rc1+ 36.Kh2 Rc4 37.Bc5+ Kg7 38.Rc7 Be6 39.a5 d4 40. a6 d3 41.Rc6 Rxb4+ 42.Kg1 Rh5 43.Bd4+ f6 43...Kh6 44.Be3+ Kg7 45.a7

44.Rxe6 Rd5 45.Be3

1-0

# Cameron's Swindle

by Jim Marcely

It's Tuesday, boys' open chess day at St. Peter the Apostle Middle School in Houston. I have ten boys show up. After a lesson and some problems in zugzwang/stalemate, they settle down, as much as middle schoolers ever settle down, to their games. Cameron walks in late. He's always late. He a fifth grader from the elementary school at the St. Mary's, the adjacent parish. They don't have a chess program, so his grandfather trucks him over to St. Peter's for chess. His grandmother teaches social studies here.

Cameron is the eleventh player, the odd man out. "Sit down Cameron. I'll teach you something."

"Aw, Mr. Marcely. Do I hafta?"

"Yes Cameron. You hafta."

Cameron chooses White. He opens **1.e4**. I respond **1...e5**. He plays **2.a4**.

"Cameron! That's a terrible move. How many times have I told you it's too early to bring out your rook. I'll trap it, or chase it all over the place. You're gonna lose control of the center!"

I'm disappointed. Cameron has been really developing as a player. He took the sixth place trophy in a tournament just last Saturday.

I play **2...Nf6** threatening his e4 pawn. He plays **3. Bc4**.

"Cameron! You didn't protect your pawn. You just lost control of the center!"

I scoop up the pawn: **3...Nxe4**. Cameron plays **4. Ba2**.

I shake my head in dismay. What's wrong with him today? Have I been too hard on him? With measured calm, I say, "Cameron, that's a timid move. There's no reason to retreat. I haven't even tried to threaten your bishop. You're making multiple moves with the same piece for no good reason."

Cameron gives me his sullen glance. I've seen it before when I lean too hard on him.

I play **4...d6**, opening up my c bishop. Cameron plays **5.Nf3**.

Well, that makes a little more sense. Now I'll proceed to show him the consequences of poor center play in the opening.

I play **5...Bg4**, pinning his knight against his queen.

He responds **6. h3**, threatening my bishop. "A decent response, Cameron," I think to myself.

An animated conversation has erupted among the eighth grade boys. "Pipe down, guys! This is chess, not the social hour!"

I return to the game. I can back my bishop off to h5. He'll likely respond **g4**, threatening my bishop again, and it will be forced back to **g6**. I'll lose the initiative, but disrupt his castle position kingside. However, he can castle queenside, and he'll have a half-developed pawn storm on my kingside castle position. I prefer to castle kingside.

At the next table, fidgety Damon is kneeling on his chair trying to balance it on one leg as he plays chess.

"Damon! Sit in that chair like a human being. This is chess, not gymnastics 101!"

I return to the game. If I capture the pinned knight, he'll capture back with the pawn or the queen. Cameron's a good enough player that I think he'll capture with the queen. Having his queen at f3 can be a powerful position, but also a vulnerable position. His opening has been so poor that I'm sure that he won't be able to use his queen effectively from f3. Perhaps I can give Cameron an object lesson on the folly of premature development of the queen.

I decide to trade: **6...Bxf3**. He captures back with the queen: **7.Qxf3**.

Now my knight is threatened. If I retreat my knight to f6, his queen will swoop down on my b7 pawn and subsequently capture my queenside rook or knight.

Daniel and Yovanni are involved in a touch-move dispute. I mediate.

Back to the game: If I retreat my knight to c5, I protect the b7 pawn and the integrity of my queenside position. That's a sensible move. **7...Nc5**. Cameron responds quickly, **8.Qxf7**, capturing the pawn next to my king.

I can't believe he has made such a foolish move – after all my lectures on playing slowly and deliberately. As I reach for my king to capture the offending queen, Cameron blurts out, "Checkmate!"

Checkmate? Checkmate? How can this be? I look up. Cameron has his big "Gotcha!" grin. His left index finger is tapping on his stealthy bishop at a2. He extends his right hand across the board. That devious, sneaky, underhanded young whippersnapper has checkmated his coach in eight moves. I've been conned! Bamboozled! Snookered! Hog-tied! Sliced and diced!

I shake Cameron's hand and smile. "Great game, Cameron!" I'm proud to be his coach.

At team practice on Thursday, Cameron beats Isaiah with the same trap. Isaiah is our second best player. Cameron also tells me he won one of his games at the last chess tournament using it. I ask if he read about this elegant variation on the Scholar's Mate in his chess magazine. He assures me he figured it out himself. I'm sure others have played it over the centuries, and perhaps named it, but I call it Cameron's Swindle.

*Jim Marcely coaches chess at St. Peter the Apostle Middle School in Houston.*

# Texas State and Amateur Championship

May 22-25 or 23-25

7 Round Swiss

Marriott San Antonio Riverwalk, 889 East Market St., San Antonio TX 78205

Rates: \$105/105/105/105. Phone: 800-228-9290. Reserve by 5/1 (or rate may go up) and ask for "San Antonio chess tournament" rate. Note that this hotel has no free parking.

**\$ 8,350 prize fund** (b/175 full entries, 75% guaranteed)

## Championship (2000+)

		U2400	Expert
First	\$1,000	\$500	\$700
Second	\$500		\$300
Third	\$250		

### Time Controls

Rds 1-3 G/90 with 30 sec increment  
Rds 4-7 G/120 with 30 sec increment  
FIDE rated with USCF rules

## Amateur (U2000)

	Class B	Class C	U1400	U1200	U1000
First	\$800	\$600	\$500	\$500	\$400
Second	\$400	\$300	\$250	\$250	Unr.
Third	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$125	\$200

### Time Controls

Rounds 1-7 : 30/90 SD/60  
(Round 1 of 3 day schedule is G/120, deduct 5 min. for delay)  
Foreign unrated must play in Championship section.

**Rounds:** 4-day Fri. 7:45 p.m.; Sat. 2:30 - 8:30; Sun. 10 - 4; Mon. 9 - 2:30

3-day Rd. 1 Sat. 10 a.m., then merge with 4-day schedule

Up to two ½ point byes available if requested before round 2.

Byes for both round 6 and 7 not permitted.

**Entry Fees:** Adult \$74 if received by 5/15, \$85 later. Add \$5 for CC phone entries.

Junior (under 19): \$65 by 5/15, \$77 later. Counts 90% toward prize base.

Senior (over 65), **handicap or additional family member:** \$45 by 5/15, \$55 later, counts 60% toward base. **Add \$5 for credit card phone entries.** Pre-registration requires pre-payment. After 5/20 all registration and changes on-site only.

All changes including withdrawal \$10 after 5/20.

All: TCA membership required, other states accepted.

**On-site registration:** 4-day: Fri. 5/22, 6:15-7:15 p.m. 3-day: Sat. 5/23 9-9:30 a.m.

**Mail entries** (with payment) to Dallas Chess Club, c/o Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. NS. NC. W. FIDE.

**K-12 Scholastic Event** Saturday, May 23: 5-round Swiss (Rds 1-3 G/30, Rds 4-5 G/45)

Entry fee: \$28 by 5/15, \$40 after. CC phone entries add \$5. Onsite registration 8:15-8:45 a.m.

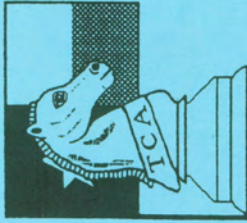
Round 1 at 9:30 a.m., rest ASAP with short lunch break.

Two sections: **K-12 Championship** and **K-12 under 750.**

Prizes: Trophies to top 12 individuals, 5 teams in each section.

Medals to plus scores who do not win a trophy.

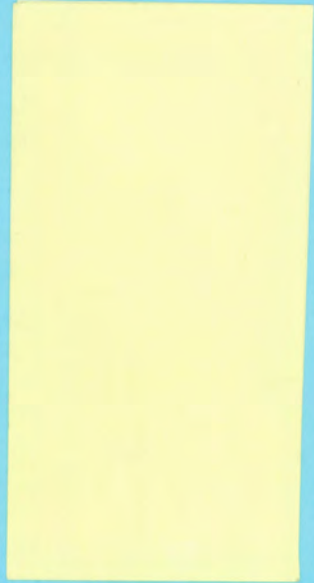
For more info, contact Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, [info@dallaschess.com](mailto:info@dallaschess.com)



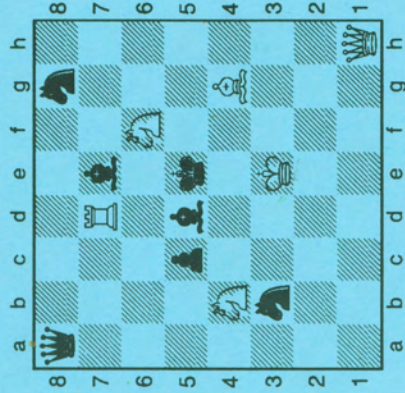
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See inside front cover for TCA membership information.



**Adi Kosovac**  
*StrateGems, 2002*



**White to move, mate in two**  
Solution: p. 15

