

TEXAS KNIGHTS

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Spring 2012

Texas Tech repeats in Final Four



Above: The Knight Raiders on winning the Southwest Collegiate Championship

L-R: Denes Boros, Elshan Moaradiabadi, Faik Aleskerov, Anatoly Bykhovsky, Vitaly Neimer

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Nominations for TCA office are due July 15

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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.

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Game annotations if not attributed are a collaboration of NM Selby Anderson and Fritz 6.

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

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TCA Nominations: Candidates for or TCA office (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) must have nominations in writing sent to the TK editor (schachlied@yahoo.com) by July 15. Both nominator and nominee must be TCA members. Each candidate gets a free 100-word statement in the magazine, which may be pooled for the slate.

Cover photo: Alexey Root. (NOTE: This is not the Knight Raiders A-team that won the National Championship. Andre Diamant and Georg Meier are missing.)

2012 Texas Scholastic Chess Championships

by Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

“Winning the Texas Scholastic Chess Championships as a ninth grader is something I can write about on my future college applications,” said fifteen-year-old IM Darwin Yang, who swept the high school championship section with a perfect 7-0. Yang won a trophy and a four-year “Chess II” scholarship to The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas). The 7-0 was not as easy as it might appear from the score. Yang said that his opponents played above their ratings, usually choosing to play the exchange variation against Yang’s French Defense. On Saturday night, Perry Johnson’s game with Yang was one of the three last games to finish.

Texas Scholastic Chess Championships (“Scholastics”) results can be found through links at the Texas Chess Association (TCA) Web site, www.texaschess.org or directly at www.dallaschess.com. The Scholastics were held February 18-19 in Dallas.

COLLEGE

Besides awarding Yang’s scholarship, UT Dallas also finished as co-champions (second on tiebreak) with Texas Tech University in the Southwest Collegiate Championships, held concurrently with the Scholastics. The third place team was The University of Texas at Brownsville. Texas A&M University was the fourth place team. IM Conrad Holt of UT Dallas was the individual college winner.

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school championship team winners, San Benito High School, struck “Tim Tebow” poses when accepting their first place trophy. Second place was Porter High School (Brownsville), where students may letter in chess. I volunteer as the chess coach for the Denton High School, whose team finished sixth.

The Denton High School chess team members and I, plus chess club sponsor Fred Mueller, staked out a table in the skittles room. We sat next to the John Jay High School (San Antonio) team, coached by J. P. Hyltin, 2009 Texas Action Chess Champion. Hyltin also had two private students with him. As coaches, we had some differences. I didn’t allow bughouse over the tournament weekend. Hyltin’s students Paul Ayala and Sai Yeluru finished second in the bughouse event. Jarod Pamatmat and Suchinder Kalyan won the 25-team bughouse event.

CHESS IN EDUCATION

In addition to organizing the Scholastics, TCA is also involved in chess in education. TCA was a co-sponsor of the Second Koltanowski International Conference on Chess and Education (“the Kolty”), November 18-19,

2011. TCA sponsored two chess in education seminars at the Scholastics, with door prizes provided by UT Dallas. For those two seminars, I repeated my presentation from the Kolty for an audience of 23 adults (and two children).

A short version of my presentation is at www.utdallas.edu/chess/kolty2 and an expanded version is in my book *Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14*, published by Mongoose Press.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Denton High School sophomore William Root, my fifteen-year old son, wore a shirt made by his choir friend Javan Stalls. On the front: “The Chess God...”; On the back: “Or Ladies Man?”

“Where are the other girls?” asked Kristin Ramos, as she was handed her tenth place individual trophy by tournament director Lakshmana Viswanath. Kristin was the only girl to win one of the 20 individual trophies in the high school championship section, which had five girls among its 86 participants. After Kristin’s question, Viswanath asked me to pose with Kristin and the other 19 trophy winners. But photos did not answer Kristin’s question, nor did they help William with the question on his tee shirt.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Riverside Middle School, which feeds into title-winning San Benito High School, had its headquarters in the skittles room. Coordinator Cynthia Rystedt said that Riverside is located in rural San Benito, “on the fence between Mexico and the United States.”

Like the other teams from the Brownsville area, her team traveled ten hours to get to the Scholastics at the Sheraton in downtown Dallas. According to Rystedt, the trip was worth the effort. She said, “What I like about this chess tournament is it’s all tied to academics. It’s so important for my students to be exposed to other children’s chess strategies to improve their own creativity.” In just its second year of existence, the Riverside after-school chess program draws 25-30 students (from the 200 in its 21st century after-school program).

The Riverside chess students are coached by Manuel L. Gonzalez, who played on the state championship middle school team (Oliveira Middle School, Brownsville) in 1998 and on the 2002 Porter High School team (state co-champions with Klein High School). Gonzalez spends 1.5-2 hours every day after school at Riverside. Due to the expense of travel, only eight Riverside students, plus Rystedt and Gonzalez, attended the 2012 Scholastics. The Riverside team finished sixth in the middle school cham-

pionship section, which was won by Canyon Vista Middle School (Round Rock ISD, Austin).

ELEMENTARY

Younger children competed in the Lone Star ballroom, an escalator ride down from the skittles room. Many of their parents and coaches occupied the chairs (and the floors!) just outside the Lone Star ballroom. During my 30 minutes outside the Lone Star ballroom, I met the dad of Lily Baughman and the mom of Evan McNeal. Lily and Evan attend The Lamplighter School (Dallas), which competed as a two-person team in the Elementary Junior Varsity (under 800 rated) section.

At the Scholastics, teams can be as small as two students. To win a team trophy, bigger teams have an advantage. A team's total is the combination of its top four students' points. Points are scored by students in each round: 1 point for a win, .5 for a draw, and 0 for a loss. In the Elementary Junior Varsity section, the winning team was John H. Shary Elementary (Sharyland ISD, Mission). Out of seven rounds, its four top finishers scored 7, 5.5, 5.5, and 5.0, giving the team a total of 23 points. Its seven-point scorer, Katherine Mata, was also the individual winner of the Elementary Junior Varsity section. The Lamplighter School team, which could only combine the points of Lily (3) and Evan (2), finished twenty-third out of twenty-four teams.

CHESS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dwight Patterson (chess teacher in Richardson, chess dad, and volunteer at the Scholastics) told our "Lamp-lighter" table about the Chess Educator of the Year award ceremony. On February 23, just a few days after the Scholastics, Bruce Pandolfini would be accepting his award at UT Dallas. Patterson planned to bring along several Pandolfini books to collect autographs on them. I already knew about the upcoming event, but enjoyed hearing Patterson promote it to the Lamplighter parents.

ANNOTATED GAME

After I rode the escalator back up to the skittles room, I played skittles games with fifth grader Dylan Gollub, one of Hylin's private students. Gollub attends Northern Hills Elementary in San Antonio. Gollub won the Elementary Novice (under 500 rated) section with a perfect 7-0 score. Here is his best game, annotated by J.P.Hylin:

Brandon Mireles (475) – Dylan Gollub (420), round 5, Feb. 19, 2012. This is the cleanest game I have ever seen Dylan play, not hanging any pieces. **1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 Nc6 4. Qf3 h6 5. Be3 Nd4 6. Bxd4 exd4 7. e5 d5 8. exf6 dxc4 9. fxg7 Bxg7 10. Qe2+ Be6 11. dxc4 O-O 12. Nf3 Re8** Dylan has been working on his tactics, transitioning from "seeing them on the board" to "setting up tactical opportunities." **13. O-O Bd5 14. Qd1 Bxc4 15.**

Re1 Qd6 16.Rxe8+ A frequent mistake for young players, giving up a file so easily in a Rook trade. **16...Rxe8 17.g3 d3 18.c3** Dylan mentioned that his opponent seemed to see all the tricks he threw at him. **18...Bd5 19. Na3** (I wish I could say Dylan saw this, but White cannot take the pawn. **19. Qxd3 Bxf3 20. Qxf3 Re1+ 21. Kg2 Qa6**) **19...Re2** "Rooks belong on open files, on the seventh rank, and behind passed pawns." My students are required to memorize that sentence, so Black's error is moderately forgivable. **20.Qxd3 Qe6 21.Rf1 Qe4 22. Qxe4!** Just as Black's advantage was evaporating, White finds himself back in the soup. We have worked on end-games a good bit in our lessons, and as coach I wish he got a few more opportunities to practice that in more close endings. But, winning is also nice. **22...Bxe4 23. Nd2** White spoils a competitive position under pressure, but this happens a lot in the novice section. **23...Rxd2 24. Ne4 Rc2 25. Re1 Bd3 26. Re8+ Kh7 27. Ne3 Rxb2 28. Re7 Bb5** Setting up a tactical resolution to the game. **29. Rxc7 Bc6 30. Rxf7 Rb1+ 31. Nf1 Bb5 32. h3 Rxf1+ 33. Kh2 Bc6 34. Rc7 Rh1# 0-1**

Southwest Collegiate games – see next page.

TCA Treasurer's Report

Prepared for April 1, 2012 by Barbara Swafford

Income	
September memberships	\$ 60.00
October memberships	7.50
November memberships	40.00
December memberships	25.00
January memberships	92.50
February memberships(includes state)	229.00
March memberships	220.00
2011 Southwest Open memberships	455.00
2011 Texas State Grade and membership	294.00
Region 3 Scholastic Championships	69.00
Region 5 Scholastic Chp. and memberships	242.50
Region 7 Scholastic Championship	67.00
Region 8 Scholastic Championships	1,200.00
2012 Texas State Scholastic Tournament	9,987.00
Hardesty Family donation	25.00
Total	\$13,013.50
Expenses	
Texas Knights - Fall 2011	1,116.40
Texas Knights - Winter 2012	989.00
Bob Shao - 2011 Denker representative	300.00
Total	\$2,405.40
WF checking account balance	\$16,792.61
BOA checking account balance	\$11,543.81

Selected games from the Southwest Collegiate

Sicilian B47

Katerina Nemkova 2263
Anatoly Bykhovsky 2640

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 d6
7.Bg2 Bd7 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Re1 Be7
10.Nb3 Nf6 11.Qe2 [11.Bf4 0-0
12.h3 Ne5 13.Qe2 b5 14.a3
Rac8 15.Nd2 a5 16.Rec1 Rb8
17.Be3 Rfc8 18.f4 Nc4 19.Nxc4
Qxc4 20.Qd3 b4= Horvath-
Liebert, Halle Buna 1987] 11...b5
12.Bf4 Rc8 13.Rad1 Ne5 14.a3
0-0 15.Bc1 [15.Nd2=] 15...Nc4
16.Rd3 a5 17.Nd4 b4 18.Ncb5
Qb8 19.a4 Rfe8 20.b3 Nb6
21.Bb2 [21.Bg5 h6 22.Bxf6 Bxf6
23.Nxd6 Qxd6 24.e5= Qc5
25.exf6 e5] 21...Bf8 22.c4 bxc3
23.Nxc3 e5 24.Ndb5 Be6 25.
Qd2 Nfd7 26.Nd5 Nc5 27.Rc3
Nxd5 28.exd5 Bd7 29.Bf1 f5
30.Bc4 Qb6 31.Qe2 Be7 32.Kg2
Bf6 33.Rcc1 f4 34.Qd2 Bg5
35.f3 Bh6 36.Qf2 fxg3 37.hxg3
Bxc1 38.Rxc1 Rf8 39.Qe2 Rf6
40.Rh1 Rcf8 41.Qc2 Bf5 42.Qd1
Bg4 0-1

Sicilian B84

Axel Bachmann 2634
Vitaly Neimer 2421

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0
d6 8.f4 Be7 9.g4 d5 10.e5 Ne4
11.Qd3 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6
13.Be3 b5 14.Bd4 0-0 15.Nxe4
dxe4 16.Qc3 Qxc3 17.bxc3 Bd7
18.Rfd1 Rfc8 19.Kf2 b4 20.c4
Kf8 21.Ke3 Bc6 22.h4 a5 23.c3
bxc3 24.Bxc3 Bd5 25.cxd5
Rxc3+ 26.Kxe4 exd5+ 27.Rxd5
Bxh4 28.Rh1 Bf2 29.Rd3 Rxd3
30.Bxd3 Rd8 31.Bb5 h6 32.a4
g5 33.Kf3 Bd4 34.Rxh6 gxf4
35.Kxf4 Kg7 36.Ra6 Bc3 37.Ra7

Kg6 38.Bc6 Bd2+ 39.Ke4 Bc3
40.Bd5 Rf8 41.Rc7 Bb4 42.Rb7
Bc3 43.Rb6+ Kg7 44.Rc6 Bb4
45.Rf6 Be7 46.Ra6 Bb4 47.Ra7
Kg6 48.Bc4 Bc3 49.Rd7 Bb4
50.Kf4 Bc5 51.Bd3+ Kg7 52.e6
Bb4 53.Kf5 Kh8 54.e7 Rg8 55.
Kf6 1-0

Sicilian B40

Nadya Ortiz 2249
Valentin Yotov 2613

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3
Nf6 7.0-0 d5 8.Nd2 Be7 9.c4 0-0
10.b3 a5 11.Bb2 a4 12.Qe2 Bb7
13.Rfd1 Qb6 14.Bc2 Rfd8 15.
Kh1 Ba6 16.Rab1 axb3 17.axb3
Rab8 18.f4 Re8 19.Qf3 Rbd8
20.e5 Nd7 21.f5 exf5 22.Bxf5
Nf8 23.Rf1 Bg5 24.e6 f6 25.Qg4
Bxd2 26.Bxf6 Qc7 27.Rb2 dxc4
28.bxc4 Bh6 29.Re2 Re7 30.
Bc2 Bc8 31.Bxe7 Qxe7 32.Qe4
Ng6 33.Qxc6 Bb7 34.Qb6 Nf4
35.Be4 Nxe2 36.Bxb7 Rb8 37.
Rf7 Qh4 0-1

QP Opening D30

Elshan Moradiabadi 2594
Daniel Gater 2174

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2
Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 c5
8.cxd5 exd5 9.d4 Nc6 10.Nc3
Be6 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.dxc5 bxc5
13.Ng5 Bg4 14.Na4 Na5 15.Nf3
Ne4 16.Ne5 Be6 17.Qd3 f6 18.
Qa6 Bd6 19.Nf3 Nc6 20.a3 Na5
21.b4 Nb3 22.Rcd1 cxb4 23.
axb4 Rc4 24.Nd4 Nxd4 25.Rxd4
Rxd4 26.Bxd4 Qc8 27.Qxa7
Bxb4 28.Qb6 Be7 29.Nb2 Bf7
30.Nd3 Qc2 31.Nf4 g5 32.Ne6
Rc8 33.Qb7 Qc6 34.Qxe7 Qxe6
35.Qb4 Rc4 36.Qb2 Kg7 37.e3
Qc6 38.Qa3 Nd6 39.Bb2 Nb5
40.Qe7 Rc2 41.Bxd5 Qxd5 42.
Qxf6+ Kf8 43.Be5 Nc7 44.Rb1
Ne8 45.Qxg5 Qf3 46.Qh6+ Kg8
47.Qg5+ Bg6 48.Rf1 Rc6 49.h3

Re6 50.Bd4 h6 51.Qxh6 Bf5
52.Qh8+ Kf7 53.Qh4 Re4 54.
Qh6 Re6 55.Qh4 Re4 56.g4
Bxg4 57.Qh7+ Ke6 58.Ra1 Rx
d4 59.exd4 Bxh3 60.Qg6+ Nf6
61.Ra6+ Ke7 62.Qg7+ Kd8 63.
Rxf6 1-0

Sicilian B88

Olzhaus Alexandrov 2140
Ioan Chirila 2588

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 e6
4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.
Nxd4 Nf6 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Ba2 Be7
10.Be3 0-0 11.f4 Bd7 12.h3
Rac8 13.Rf3 Rfe8 14.f5 Nxd4
15.Bxd4 b5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.
axb5 axb5 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Rd3
b4 20.Rxd6 Rcd8 21.Ne2 Bxb2
22.Rb1 Qa7+ 23.Nd4 Qxa2 24.
Nxe6 Rxe6 25.Rxe6 Qxe6 26.
Rxb2 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Bxh3 28.
Qe1 Bg4 29.Qxb4 Qh6+ 30.Kg1
Rd1+ 31.Kf2 Qf4# 0-1

Nimzo-Indian E33

Conrad Holt 2580
Robert Sanchez 1878

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bg5 h6
7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.e3 dxc4 9.Bxc4
Bd7 10.0-0 g5 11.Ne4 Qg7 12.
Bb5 Bd6 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.Qxc5
f6 15.Rac1 a6 16.Be2 h5 17.Nd2
g4 18.Qa3 f5 19.Nb3 b6 20.Bb5
axb5 21.Qxa8+ Kf7 22.Qb7 Kg6
23.Rxc6 1-0

Sicilian B47

Ben Karren 1663
Andre Diamant 2538

SW Collegiate 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Ndb5
Qb8 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Bg5 a6 9.Nd4
Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.a3 Qc7 12.
0-0 b5 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.Bf3 Ne5
15.Be2 d6 16.f3 Rac8 17.Rac1
Rfd8 18.Rfd1 d5 19.exd5 Nxd5
20.Nxd5 Rxd5 21.Bxe7 Qxe7

22.c3 Qf6 23.Qe3 Ng6 24.Bd3
Nf4 25.Be4? [25.Bf1 Rcd8 26.g3
Ng6 27.f4 R5d7 28.Rc2 e5 29.
fxe5 Nxe5 30.Rcd2 Re7#]



25...Qg5! 26.Qd2 [26.g3 Nh3+;-;
26.Qf2 Nh3+;-] 26...Rxd4!-+ 27.
cxd4 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Nh3+ 29.
Kh1 Qxd2 30.Rf1 Nf2+ 31.Kg1
Nxe4 32.h3 Qxd4+ 33.Kh2 Nd2
34.Re1 Nxf3+ 35.gxf3 Qf2+ 36.
Kh1 Bxf3# 0-1

Gruenfeld D92

Anatoly Bykhovsky 2640
Milos Pavlovic 2526

SW Collegiate 2012 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7
4.Nc3 d5 5.Bf4 0-0 6.Rc1 dxc4
7.e3 Be6 8.Ng5 Bd5 9.Nxd5
Nxd5 10.Bxc4 Nxf4 11.Qf3 e6
[11...Nxc2+ 12.Qxc2 c6 13.h4#]
12.Qxf4 Nd7 13.0-0 c5 14.dxc5
Nxc5 15.b4 Na4 16.Ne4 Nb2
17.Be2 Rc8 18.h4 h6 19.h5 g5
20.Qd6 Na4 21.Bf3 Nc3 22.
Qxd8 Rfxd8 23.Nxc3 Rxc3 ½-½

Sicilian B40

Denes Boros 2524
Axel Bachmann 2634

SW Collegiate 2012 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Nc6 4.Be2
e5 5.Nc3 d6 6.d3 Be7 7.Nd2
Bg5 8.Nd5 Nge7 9.h4 Bxd2+
10.Bxd2 0-0 11.g4 Nd4 12.h5
Nxd5 13.cxd5 g5 14.Kf1 h6 15.
Kg2 b5 16.Be3 a5 17.Bxd4 exd4

18.Qd2 Qe7 19.f4 f6 20.Bf3 Bd7
21.f5 Rfc8 22.Rac1 a4 23.Rhd1
Rc7 24.Rc2 Rac8 25.Rdc1 Qe5
26.b3 Ra7 27.b4 Rac7 28.Qe2
Qf4 29.Qf2 a3 30.Qg3 Qxg3+
31.Kxg3 Kf7 32.Kf2 Ke7 33.Bd1
Ra7 34.Ke1 Ra4 35.Kd2 Be8
36.Be2 Kd8 37.Bd1 c4 38.Be2
c3+ 39.Ke1 Bf7 40.Rb1 Ke8
41.Rb3 Raa8 42.Kf2 Rd8 ½-½

QGD D55

Valentin Yotov 2613
Faik Aleskerov 2464

SW Collegiate 2012 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Be7 4.Nc3
Nf6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.Rc1
Bb7 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.cxd5 exd5
10.b4 c5 11.bxc5 bxc5 12.dxc5
Nd7 13.c6 Bxc6 14.Nd4 Bb7
15.Be2 Nc5 16.0-0 Ne4 17.Qa4
Qe8 18.Qxe8 Rfxe8 19.Ncb5
Rec8 20.f3 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Bg5
22.Nf5 Bc8 23.h4 Bxf5 24.hxg5
Nxc5 25.Rc5 h6 26.Rxd5 Be6
27.Rd2 Rc8 28.Kf2 g6 29.e4
Rc1 30.a3 a6 31.Nd4 Bc4 32.
Rc2 Rxc2 33.Nxc2 Bxe2 34.
Kxe2 Ne6 35.Ke3 h5 36.Nd4
Nc7 37.a4 a5 38.Nb3 Ne6 39.e5
f6 40.Ke4 fxe5 41.Kxe5 Kf7
42.f4 h4 43.f5 Ng7 44.fxc6+
Kxg6 45.Kf4 Kh5 46.Nc5 Ne8
47.Nb7 Nf6 ½-½

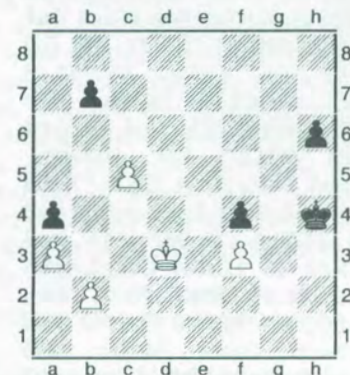
French Exchange C01

Max Cornejo 2497
Conrad Holt 2580

SW Collegiate 2012 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5
4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 Ne7
7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 0-0 9.0-0
Nd7 10.Bg5 Nb6 11.Bb3 Kh8
12.h3 f6 13.Bd2 Nbd5 14.Bxd5
Nxd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Qb3 Rf7
17.Bb4 Bc7 18.Rfe1 Bf5 19.Re2
a5 20.Bc5 a4 21.Qa3 h6 22.
Rae1 Qd7 23.Nd2 Bg6 24.Nf1
Qb5 25.Qb4 Qxb4 26.Bxb4 Bb6
27.Rd2 Rc7 28.Ne3 Rd8 29.a3
Kg8 30.f3 Kf7 31.Kf2 Bh7 32.g4
Rdd7 33.Red1 Rc6 34.Re1 Bc7

35.Rde2 Bd3 36.Rd2 Bb5 37.
Rc2 Rxc2+ 38.Nxc2 Bb6 39.Rd1
Bc4 40.Ne3 Bb3 41.Rd2 Bc7
42.Rd3 Bb6 43.Bc5 Bxc5 44.
dxc5 d4 45.Nf5 Bc2 46.Rd2
Bxf5 47.gxf5 Rd5 48.Kg3 g6 49.
fxg6+ Kxg6 50.Kf4 f5 51.h4 Kh5
52.Rd1 d3 53.Rd2 Rd4+ 54.Ke3
Rd7 55.Rxd3 f4+ 56.Ke4 Rxd3
57.Kxd3 Kxh4



58.Kc4 Kg3 59. Kb5 h5 60.Kb6
h4 61.Kxb7 h3 62.c6 h2 63.c7
h1Q 64.c8Q Qxf3+ 65.Ka6 Qb3
66.Ka5 f3 67.Qc7+ Kg2 68.Qc6
Kf1 69.Qa6+ Ke1 70.Qg6 f2
71.Qe4+ Kd2 72.Qg2 Ke2 73.
Qe4+ Qe3 74.Qg4+ Qf3 75.Qc4+
Kd2 76.Qd4+ Kc2 77.Qc4+ Kb1
78.Qf1+ Ka2 79.Qc4+ Ka1 80.
Qc1+ Ka2 81.Qc4+ Kb1 82.Qf1+
Kxb2 83.Qb5+ Kc1 84.Qc4+
Kd2 85.Qd4+ Ke1 86.Qa1+ Qd1
87.Qe5+ Kf1 88.Qb5+ Qe2 89.
Qg5 Qe4 90.Qh5 Ke1 91.Qb5
f1Q 92.Qb1+ Qxb1 0-1

King's Indian E62

Andre Diamant 2538
Salvijos Bercys 2506

SW Collegiate 2012 (2)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.
g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d4
Bf5 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c5 10.e4
Bg4 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.b3 a6 13.a4
Ne8 14.Bb2 Bd4 15.Nf3 Bxf3
16.Bxf3 Nc7 17.Be2 e5 18.Kg2
Rae8 19.Rad1 b6 20.Bc1 f5

21.Bh6 f4 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Bf3 Bxc3 24.Qxc3 Nb7 25.h3 a5 26.Bg4 Qe7 27.h4 Nd8 28.Rd3 Ne8 29.Bh3 Nf6 30.Re1 Nh5 31.Rf3 Kh8 32.Rh1 Qg7 33.Qd3 Nf7 34.Be6 Nd8 35.g4 Nf6 36.g5 Nh5 37.Bg4 Qe7 38.Kf1 Nb7 39.Rfh3 Kg7 40.Rg1 Qe8 41.Qf3 Nd8 42.Ke1 Rh8 43.Rh2 Nb7 44.Rhg2 Nd8 45.Qh3 Nb7 46.Bxh5 gxh5 47.g6 h6 48.Qf5 Qe7 49.Qf7+ 1-0

English A26

Andre Diamant 2538

Ioan Chirila 2588

SW Collegiate 2012 (3)

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 d6 10.Nd2 0-0 11.Rb1 a5 12.a3 Be6 13.Nd5 Qd7 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Rab8 16.b5 Ne7 17.Qc2 Kh8 18.Ra1 e4 19.Rac1 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Nxd5 21.Qb3 e3 22.Bxd5 exd2 23.Rc2 c6 24.Bf3 cxb5 25.Rxd2 Ra8 26.d4 Rfc8 27.Rb1 Ra4 28.e3 b4 29.Kg2 Rc3 30.Qd5 b6 31.Rdb2 Ra5 32.Qb7 Qxb7 33.Bxb7 Bf6 34.Rxb4 Bd8 35.R4b3 Rxb3 36.Rxb3 Kg7 37.Be4 ½-½

Gruenfeld D85

Conrad Holt 2580

Anatoly Bykhovsky 2640

SW Collegiate 2012 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bg5 c5 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5 Qd6 11.Be2 Nd7 12.0-0 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 b5 14.Be2 c4 15.Qd2 Nc5 16.Qe3 e5 17.Rfd1 a6 18.Bh4 f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Qg5 Ra7 21.Rc2 Kh8 22.f3 Bh6 23.Qh5 Be3+ 24.Kh1 Rg7

White's queen has painted herself into a corner, and there is no wholly satisfactory response to Black's threatened Rg6-h6.

25.Be1 Rg6 26.Qh3 Rh6 27.Bh4 Bg5 28.g3 Bxh4 29.gxh4 e4

30.fxe4 fxe4 31.Rf1 Nd3 32.Qg3 Rg8 33.Qxd6 Rxd6 34.Bh5 Rxd5 35.Bf7 Rf8 36.Bxd5 Rxf1+ 37.Kg2 Ra1 0-1

Ruy Lopez C70

Milos Pavlovic 2526

Elshan Moradiabadi 2594

SW Collegiate 2012 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bb3 Na5 7.d4 Nxb3 8.axb3 f6 9.Be3 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Qd2 Qd7 12.0-0 Nc6 13.g4 Bf7 14.d5 Nb4 15.Qe2 Be7 16.Kb1 a5 17.Nh4 g6 18.Ng2 0-0 19.Bd2 c6 20.Ne3 cxd5 21.Nexd5 Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.exd5 a4 24.b4 f5 25.Bc1 Bf6 26.f3 Rfe8 27.h4 e4 28.h5



28...g5 29.gxf5 a3 30.c3 Qxf5 31.fxe4 axb2 32.Bxb2 Qxe4+ 33.Qxe4 Rxe4 34.Kc2 Kg7 35.Rde1 Rxe1 36.Rxe1 Be5 37.Kb3 b5 38.Re4 Kh6 39.c4 bxc4+ 40.Rxc4 Bxb2 41.Kxb2 Kxh5 42.Rc7 h6 43.Rg7 Kg4 44.Kb3 h5 45.b5 h4 46.b6 h3 47.b7 Rb8 48.Kc4 h2 0-1

Albin Countergambit D09

Salvijus Bercys 2506

Joseph Binder 1360

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Nge7 6.Bg2 Ng6 7.Bf4 Nxf4 8.gxf4 Bf5 9.0-0 Qd7 10.e3

d3 11.Nc3 Bh3 12.Bxh3 Qxh3 13.Ng5 Qf5 14.Nge4 g5 15.Ng3 Qh3 16.Qxd3 Rg8 17.Nce4 Be7 18.Nf6+ Bxf6 19.exf6 gxf4 20.exf4 Rg6 21.Rad1 h5 [21...Rh6 22.Qe4+ Kf8 23.Qg2±] 22.Qa3 [22.f5.] 22...Rxf6 23.Rfe1+ Re6 24.f5 Ne5 25.fxe6 1-0

French Defense C05

Katerina Nemkova 2263

Eduard Zubarev (unrated)

SW Collegiate 2012 (3)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 c5 6.f4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 8.Ngf3 Nc6 9.c3 a5 10.Bd3 Qb6 11.Bc2 Nxd4 12.cxd4 Bb4+ 13.Kf2 Nb8 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Qb1 h6 16.h4 Nc6 17.a3 Be7 18.b3 Qa7 19.Bd3 Bd8 20.Qb2 Ne7 21.h5 b5 22.g4 a4 23.b4 Rc8 24.Rag1 Bc6 25.Rc1 Kd7 26.Qe2 Qb6 27.Rc5 Rb8 28.f5 Nc8 29.g5 Be7



30.f6 gxf6 31.exf6 Bxc5 32.bxc5 Qd8 [32...Qb7 33.g6 Kd8 34.Ne5+-] 33.Ne5+ Kc7 34.Nxf7 Qf8 35.Bf4+ Kb7 36.g6 Rg8 37.Bxb5 Ra8 38.Bxc6+ Kxc6 39.Qxe6+ Kb5 40.Rb1+ Kc4 41.Rb4+ 1-0

QGD D56

Ioan Chirila 2588

Elshan Moradiabadi 2594

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3

Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3
Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Rc1 c6 10.
Bd3 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 dxc4 12.
Bxc4 Nd7 13.0-0 b6 14.Qe2 a6
15.Rd1 Bb7 16.Bb3 Rfd8 17.e4
c5 18.Bc2 Rac8 19.dxc5 Nxc5
20.Nd4 Nd7 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.
Nb3 Ne5 23.f4 Nc4 24.Bd3 b5
25.Rc1 Qf6 26.Bxc4 bxc4 27.
Rxc4 Rxc4 28.Qxc4 Qxf4 29.
Nc5 Bd5 30.Qc3 Bxe4 31.g3
Qf5 32.Nxe4 Qxe4 33.Qc8+ Kh7
34.Qxa6 Qb1+ 35.Qf1 Qxb2 36.
Qxf7 Qxa2 37.h4 Qb1+ 38.Kg2
Qe4+ 39.Kg1 Qf5 40.Qe8 Qf3
41.Qb8



41...Qe3+ 42.Kg2 Qe4+ 43.Kf2
Qf5+ 44.Ke3 h5 45.Qe8 Qg6 46.
Qb8 Qg4 47.Qe5 Kg6 48.Qb8
Qa4 49.Qb1+ Kf6 50.Qb2+ Kg6
51.Qb1+ Kh6 52.Qb8 Qc6 53.
Qf4+ Kh7 54.Qe5 Qc1+ 55.Ke2
Qc4+ 56.Ke3 Qg4 57.Qb8 Qf5
58.Kd4 Kg6 59.Ke3 Qc5+ 60.
Ke4 Qc4+ 61.Ke3 Qd5 62.Qe8+
Kh7 63.Qb8 g5 64.hxg5 Qxg5+
65.Kf3 Qd5+ 66.Kf4 Qf5+ 67.
Ke3 Kh6 68.Qh8+ Kg5 69.Qg7+
Qg6 70.Qe5+ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

QP Opening A49

Faik Aleskerov 2463

Axel Bachmann 2634

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.g3 Nf6
4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 c6 6.b3 Bf5
7.Bb2 Qc8 8.Re1 d5 9.d5 b5
10.a4 bxa4 11.Rxa4 Nbd7 12.

Nh4 Nb6 13.Nxf5 Qxf5 14.e4
Qc8 15.Ra5 Qb7 16.e5 Nfd7 17.
exd6 exd6 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.
Nd2 Kg8 20.Qa1 Qc7 21.h4 h5
22.Nf3 Qd8 23.Ng5 Nf6 24.c4
Nh7 25.Nxh7 Kxh7 26.Rxa7
Nd7 27.Rxa8 Qxa8 28.Qxa8
Rxa8 29.Re7 Ne5 30.f4 Ra1+
31.Bf1 Ng4 32.Rxf7+ Kh6 33.
Re7 Rb1 34.Re6 Rxb3 35.Kg2
Ne3+ 36.Kf2 Ng4+ 37.Kg2 Ne3+
38.Kf2 Ng4+ 39.Kg2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

QGD D31

Valentin Yotov 2613

Salvijus Bercyz 2506

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7
4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.Qc2
Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.e3 Nf6 9.
Bd3 0-0 10.Nf3 Nbd7 11.0-0 Re8
12.Rab1 Nf8 13.b4 Bg4 14.Ne5
Be6 15.Na4 Rac8 16.Nc5 b6
17.Nxe6 Nxe6 18.Qa4 Re7
19.Rfc1



19...c5? [19...Rec7 20.Ba6 b5
21.Qa5 Rb8 22.Rc2±] 20.Qa6!
Rec7? [20...Rd8 21.bxc5 Nxc5
22.dxc5 Qxe5 23.cxb6±] 21.bxc5
Qe7 22.c6 Ne8 23.Qa4 f6 24.Nf3
Nd6 25.Ba6 Rd8 26.Qb3 Nf7
27.Rc2 Rd6 28.Rbc1 Ned8 29.
Bb5 Qe6 30.Ne1, Black resigns.
30...Nxc6 31.Qa4 Nfd8 32.Nd3
a5 33.Nf4 Qg4 34.f3 Qd7 35.e4
dx4 36.fx4 Rxd4 37.Qb3+ Kf8
38.Nd5+- 1-0

French Defense C03

Vitaly Neimer 2421

Conrad Holt 2580

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.c3
c5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.exd5 Nxd5
7.Nb3 Nd7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Bd2 a5
10.a3 Nc6 11.Bc3 e5 12.Nf3 a4
13.Nbd2 Nxc5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5
15.Bxe5 0-0 16.Be2



16...Bf6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.0-0
Rd8 19.Bf3 Nb3 20.Ne4 Qe7
21.Qe1 Nxa1 22.Qxa1 Be6 23.
Re1 Bxc4 24.Qc1 Rac8 25.Nc3
Be6 26.Qf4 Qc7 27.Qxa4 Qb6
28.Qc2 h6 29.h3 Bb3 30.Qe2
Bc4 31.Qc2 Bd3 32.Qc1 Bg6
33.Re5 Rc7 34.a4 Qb3 35.Rb5
Qxa4 36.Rxb7 Qd7 37.Rb4 Qd6
38.Rb5 Rc5 39.Rb7 Rb8 40.
Rxb8+ Qxb8 41.Qd2 Kh7 42.h4
Qb4 43.g3 h5 44.Qe2 f6 45.Kg2
Qc4 46.Qd2 Qd3 47. Qxd3 Bxd3
48.Nd5 Rb5 49.Nc3 Rc5 50.
Be4+ Bxe4+ 51.Nxe4 Rb5 52.
Nc3 Rxb2 53.Nd5 Rb3 54.Nf4
Kh6 55.Nd5 Ra3 56.Kh2 Rd3
57.Nf4 Rf3 58.Kg2 Rxf4 59.gxf4
Kg6 60.Kg3 Kf5 61.Kf3 g6 62.
Kg3 Ke4 63.f3+ Kf5 64. Kg2
Kxf4 0-1

Sicilian B41

Denes Boros 2524

Katerina Nemkova 2263

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4
 7.Qf3 Qa5 [7...Nc6 8.Nc2 d5
 9.exd5 exd5 10.cxd5 Nxd5=
 Matanovic-van Scheltinga, Bev-
 erwijk 1958; 7...Qc7 8.Nc2 Bd6
 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Qe3 b6 11.Bd2 0-0
 12.g4 Bc5= Smyslov-Olafsson,
 Yugoslavia 1959; 7...Bxc3+ 8.
 bxc3 Qa5 (8...d6 9.Ba3 0-0 10.
 Rd1 e5 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5=
 Dominguez-Ivanchuk, Amber
 Rapid 2010) 8.Bd2 Qc7 [8...Qe5
 9.Nc2 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qxe4+ 11.
 Qxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxg7 Rg8 13. Bd4
 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.f3 Nd6 16.
 Kf2= Hager-Mueller, GER 2010]
 9.Nc2 Be7 10.g4 h5 [10...d6] 11.
 h3 d6 12.Rg1 Nc6 13.Qg3 Ne5
 14.g5 h4 15.Qe3 Nh7 16.Qe2
 Bd7 17.f4 Ng6 18. Be3 Rc8 19.
 Qf2 Nhf8 20.Bb6 Qb8 21.Be3
 Bd8 22.Bd3 Bc7 23.Rf1 Ne7 24.
 Bd4 Rh7 25.Ba7 Qa8 26.Bb6
 Nfg6 27.Bxc7 Rxc7 28.e5 dxe5
 29.fxe5 Nf5 30.0-0-0 Qd8 31.
 Kb1 Rh5 32.Bxf5 exf5 33.Nd5
 Rxg5 34.Nxc7+ Qxc7 35.Rfe1 f4
 36.Nb4 Rg3? [36...Qxc4 37.Nd5
 Bf5+ 38.Ka1 Be6 39.Rd4±] 37.
 Rd4!? [37.Nd5 Qxc4 38.e6! Δ
 38...Bxe6 39.Qb6] 37...Qc5 38.
 Qd2



38...Rg2 39.Qxg2 Qxd4 40.e6
 Bxe6 41.Rxe6+ fxe6 42.Qxg6+
 Ke7 43.Nd3 f3 [43...Kf8 keeps
 White's edge to a minimum.] 44.
 Qg5+ Kf8 45.Kc2 Qxc4+ 46.Kd2

Qxa2?? [46...Kg8 47.Ke3+-] 47.
 Qd8+ Black resigns, as next is
 48.Ne5#. 1-0

Catalan E04

Milos Pavlovic 2526
 Daniel Gater 2174

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3
 dxc4 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bb4+
 7.Bd2 Nd5 8.Bxb4 Ndx4 9.Na3
 a6 10.Ne5 Bd7 11.0-0 b5 12.
 Qd1 Rc8 13.Qd2 Qe7 14.Nxd7
 Qxd7 15.e3 0-0 16.b3 cxb3 17.
 axb3 Qd6 18.Rfc1 Rb8 19.Nc2
 Rb6 20.Nxb4 Nxb4 21.Rc5 Nd5
 22.Qa5 Rfb8 23.Rac1 c6 24.b4
 h6 25.h4 h5 26.e4 Ne7 27.Rd1
 g6 28.Bf3 Qd7 29.Kg2 Nc8 30.
 Rg5 Kh7 31.Qa2 Nd6 32.Qe2 f6
 33.Rc5 Nc4 34.Bxh5! gxh5 35.
 Rxh5+ Kg8 36.Qg4+ Qg7 37.
 Qxe6+ Kf8



38.e5! c5 39.Qf5 cxd4 40.Rh7
 Qxh7 [40...Qg8 41.exf6 Ne5 42.
 Rxd4 Re8 43.f7 Nx7 44.Qc5+++]
 41.Qxh7 fxe5 42.Rd3 R8b7 43.
 Rf3+ Ke8 44.Qg8+ Kd7 45.Rf7+
 Kd6 46.Qd8+ 1-0

Petroff's Defense C42

Nadya Ortiz 2249
 Max Corhejo 2497

SW Collegiate 2012 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6
 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 d5
 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.h3 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7

10.Bd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Re8 12.g4
 Bb4 13.Ne5 Nc6 14.f4 Nxd4
 15.Qf2 c5 16.Rde1 Bxc3 17.
 Bxc3 Ne4 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.g5
 Qd5 20.b3 a5 21.Nc4 Qc6 22.
 Bxd4 cxd4 23.Qxd4 Bxc4 24.
 Qxc4 Qxc4 25.bxc4 Rac8 26.
 Re3 Rxc4 27.Rhe1 b5 28.Rb3
 b4 29.a3 bxa3 30.Rxa3 a4 31.
 Kd2 g6 32.Rea1 Ra8 33.c3 Kg7
 34.Ke2 f5 35.Rb1 Ra7 36.h4
 Rac7 37.Kd2 e3+ 38.Kxe3 Re4+
 39.Kf3 Rcc4 40.Rb7+ Kg8 41.
 Rb8+ Kf7 42.Rb7+ Ke6 43.Rxh7
 Rxf4+ 44.Kg3 Rg4+ 45.Kh3 Ke5
 46.Rh6 Kf4 47.Rxg6 Kf3 48.Rh6
 Rg3+ 49.Kh2 Rg2+ 50.Kh3
 Rg3+ 51.Kh2 Rg2+ 52.Kh3
 Rg3+ 53.Kh2 Rg2+ 54.Kh3 ½-½

Gruenfeld D91

Ioan Chirila 2588
 Anatoly Bykhovsky 2640

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Bh4 Nxc3
 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.Qa4+ Qd7 9.
 Qxc4 b6 10.e3 Ba6 11.Qb3 Bxf1
 12.Kxf1 0-0 13.Ke2 c5 14.Rhd1
 Qb7 15.dxc5 Na6 16.c6 Qc7
 17.Qd5 Rfc8 18.Ng5 Rf8 19.Nf3
 Rfc8 20.Ng5 Rf8 ½-½

QGD D31

Conrad Holt 2580
 Valentin Yotov 2613

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4
 I used to wonder why this
 wasn't in my books, given that it
 could transpose to the Nimzo-
 Indian, Ragozin System or Cam-
 bridge Springs QGD.
 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 6.e3 0-0
 7.Bd3 c5 8.Qh5 h6 9.Ne2 Nd7
 10.f3 Nf6 11.Qh4 Nf5 12.Qf2
 Nd6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.0-0 cxd4
 15.cxd4 Re8 [15... Bf5!? 16.Bxf5
 Nxf5 17.e4! Ne7 18.e5 Ne8 19.f4
 f6 20.Bd2±] 16.Ng3 h5 17.e4



17...dxe4 [17...h4 18.Nf5 Bxf5
19.exf5 h3 20.g4 Nh7= Fritz]
18.Nxe4 Be6 19.Bf4 Nf5 20.Bb5
Bd7? [20...Rf8 21.Rfd1±] 21.
Nxf6+ gxf6 22.Bd3± Be6 23.g4
Nxd4 [23...hxg4 24.fxg4 Nxd4
25.Rab1 (25.Rad1 Bb3! 26.Bh7+
Kxh7 27.Rxd4 Qb6) 25...Bb3!?
26.Qh4 f5 27.Qg3 (27.Bg5?
Qb6)] 27...Qf6 28.Be3 Qg7
29.Rf4+-] 24.Rad1 hxg4 25.
Be4+- Nxf3+ 26.Bxf3 Qb6 27.
Be3 Qb5 28.Bg2 f5 29.Qh4 1-0

English A30

Elshan Moradiabadi 2594
Denes Boros 2524

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2
Bb7 5.0-0 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.e4 d6
8.Nc3 0-0 9.Ne1 Nc6 10.f4 e6
11.Nc2 Nd7 12.Be3 a6 13.a4
Rc8 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qd2 Ne7
16.Bf2 Ba8 17.Ne3 Nc6 18.g4
Nd4 19.Bh4 f5 20.Rbe1 fxg4
21.Nxg4 Rb8 22.Be7 Rfe8 23.
Bg5 Rf8 24.f5 gxf5 25.exf5 Rxf5
26.Rxf5 Nxf5 27.Bxa8 Rxa8
28.Qg2 Rf8 29.Rxe6 Kh8 30.
Kh1 Ne5 31.Nxe5 Bxe5 32.Nd5
Qg7 33.Be7 Qxg2+ 34.Kxg2
Rg8+ 35.Kh3 Kg7 36.Nxb6 Kf7
37.Rxe5 dxe5 38.Bxc5 Ke6
39.b4 Ng7 40.a5 Nh5 41.Nd5
Nf4+ 42.Nxf4+ exf4 43.b5 Rg5
44.b6 Kd7 45.d4 Kc6 46.Be7
Rxa5 47.d5+ Kb7 48.Kg4 Ra2
49.Kxf4 Rxh2 50.c5 a5 51.Bd8

Rc2 52.c6+ Rxc6 53.dxc6+
Kxc6 54.Ke4 a4 55.Kd4 a3
56.Kc3 h5 57.Kb3 h4 58.Bxh4
Kxb6 59.Kxa3 ½-½

QP Opening A46

Faik Aleskerov 2463
Milos Pavlovic 2526

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2
b5 5.0-0 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4
Bb7 8.e5 Ne4 [8ΔNg8 9.c3 Ne7
10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Nb3 Nc6
12.Be3 Nd7 13.Qe2 a6 14.Bf4
Be7 15.h4 h5± Lagowski-Skrzyp-
nik, POL 2001] 9.Nxe4 [9.c3]
9Δdxe4 10.Ng5



10Δcxd4 11.Nxe4 [11.Qxd4 Bc5
(11ΔQc7 12.Nxe4 Qxe5 13.
Qd3±) 12.Qd1 Nxe5 13.Qe2 Qb6
14.Nxe4 Ng6 15.b4! Bxb4 16.Be3
Qa5 17.a4! bxa4 18.Nf6+ gxf6
19.Bxb7 Rb8 20.Bc6+ Kf8 21.
Rxa4± Fritz] 11ΔNxe5 12.Qh5
Nc6 13.Qxb5 Qb6 14.Qxb6
axb6 15.c3 Be7 16.cxd4 Nxd4
17.Be3 Nc2 18.Nf6+ Bxf6 19.
Bxb7 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Ra7 21.
Bc6+ Ke7 22.Rf2 h5 23.a4 Rc7
24.Bb5 h4 25.Rd1 Be5 26.Kg2
g5 27.g4 h3+ 28.Kf3 Rh4 29.
Rg1 Rc5 30.Rd2 Bc7 31.b4 Rc3
32.Rd7+ Kf6 33.Ke4? [33.Rd2
Kg6] 33ΔBxh2 34.Rf1+ Kg6
35.Kd4 [35.Rxf7 Rxd4+ 36.Kf3
Rg3+ 37.Ke2 Rg2+ 38.Kf3 Bg1-
+] 35ΔRc7 36.Bd3+ f5 37.Rxc7

Rxd4+ 38.e4 Bxc7 39.Ke3 Bf4+
40.Kd4 h2 0-1

King's Indian E92

Salvius Bercys 2506
Nadya Ortiz 2249

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7
4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5
7.Be3 Ng4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 g5
10.Bg3 Nh6 11.c5 exd4 12.cxd6
c5 13.Nd5 Nc6 14.Qc1 b6
15.Bb5 Ne5 16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.
Bxe5 fxe5 18.Nxc8 Rxc8 19.d7
Rc7 20.Qxg5 Qa8 21.0-0 Nf7
22.Qe7 Qd8 23.Qe6 Qf6 24.Bc4
½-½

Sicilian B27

Max Cornejo 2497
Robert Sanchez 1878

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 Bg7 4.d4
cxd4 5.cxd4 Qb6 6.Nc3 e6
7.Be3 Nh6 8.h3 Qxb2 9.Nb5
Na6 10.Bd2 Nb4 11.Bc3 Nc2+
12.Kd2 Ne3+ 13.Bxb2 Nxd1
14.Rxd1 0-0 15.Ba3 Rd8 16.Nc7
1-0

Sicilian B30

Olzhaus Alexandrov 2140
Vitaly Neimer 2421

SW Collegiate 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Bc4 Nc6
4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 d5 6.exd5 exd5
7.Bb3 Bg4 8.dxc5 d4 9.Qe2+
Be7 10.Ne4 0-0 11.h3 Bh5 12.
Ng3 Bg6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.Qxe5
Rc8 15.Nf5 Bxc5 16.0-0 Re8
17.Qf4 Qd7 18.Ng3 Bb6 19.c3
a5 20.Bd2 a4 21.Bd1 a3 22.
bxa3 dxc3 23.Bxc3 Nd5 24. Ba4
Nxf4 25.Bxd7 Rxc3 26.Kh2 Rd8
27.Bg4 h5 28.Bf3 h4 29. Ne4
Rxa3 30.Rab1 Bc7 31.Rxb7 Be5
32.Rb5 f6 33.Nc5 Rxa2 34.g3
hxg3+ 35.Kxg3 Ra3 36.Rb3
Rxb3 37.Nxb3 Rd3 38.Nc1 Ra3
39.Rd1 Rxf3+ 0-1

Final standings: 2012 Southwest Collegiate Championship

#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	IM Conrad Holt	2580	DUTD	W17	W11	L2	W12	W9	4.0
2	GM Anatoly Bykhovsky	2640	TXTECH	W10	D6	W1	D4	D5	3.5
3	GM Elshan Moradiabadi	2594	TXTECH	W13	H---	W6	D5	D7	3.5
4	GM Andre Diamant	2538	TXTECH	W21	W16	D5	D2	D8	3.5
5	GM Ioan Chirila	2588	DUTD	W19	W24	D4	D3	D2	3.5
6	IM Milos M Pavlovic	2526	DUTD	W22	D2	L3	W13	W14	3.5
7	GM Denes Boros	2524	TXTECH	W18	D8	H---	W10	D3	3.5
8	GM Axel Bachmann	2634	BUTB	W12	D7	D9	D14	D4	3.0
9	GM Valentin Yotov	2613	DUTD	W15	D14	D8	W16	L1	3.0
10	WGM Katerina Nemcova	2263	BUTB	L2	W17	W20	L7	W18	3.0
11	IM Max Cornejo	2497	BUTB	W25	L1	D13	D15	W17	3.0
12	IM Vitaly Neimer	2421	TXTECH	L8	W21	W24	L1	W19	3.0
13	Daniel B Gater	2174	DUTD	L3	W18	D11	L6	W22	2.5
14	NM Faik Aleskerov	2463	TXTECH	W20	D9	H---	D8	L6	2.5
15	WGM Nadya Ortiz	2249	BUTB	L9	D23	W22	D11	D16	2.5
16	IM Salvijus Bercys	2506	DUTD	W23	L4	W25	L9	D15	2.5
17	Robert Sanchez	1878	ELCENT	L1	L10	W21	W24	L11	2.0
18	Ashen Fernando	1498	TA&M	L7	L13	B---	W20	L10	2.0
19	Olzhas Alexandrov	2140	HCC	L5	L20	W23	W25	L12	2.0
20	Eduard Zubarev	unr.	UHD	L14	W19	L10	L18	W25	2.0
21	Ben Karren	1663	TA&M	L4	L12	L17	B---	W24	2.0
22	Russell E Trevino	1549	AUSTIN	L6	H---	L15	W23	L13	1.5
23	William Hunter III	1394	TA&M	L16	D15	L19	L22	B---	1.5
24	Benjamin P Coan	1003	TA&M	B---	L5	L12	L17	L21	1.0
25	Joseph Binder	1360	TA&M	L11	B---	L16	L19	L20	1.0

Texas Tech Repeats at Final Four of College Chess

By Jamaal Abdul-Alim

Herndon, Va. – Under any other circumstances, GM Andrew Diamant of Texas Tech would have given up in a lost position such as the one he found himself playing against IM Conrad Holt of UT Dallas here over the weekend.

But when Diamant learned that the only way the Texas Tech Knight Raiders could defend their title as America's top college chess team was to win or draw, Diamant decided to fight it out for what proved to be an exciting duel that lasted until only seconds remained on both players' clocks.

"In a normal game, I would resign because my position was terrible," Diamant said of his Round 3 game against Holt in a three-round tournament known as the Final Four of Chess.

"But when I figured out it was the last game to decide who will be the champion, I knew the pressure was on him, not only me," Diamant said.

Their hands literally shook as they made their final moves. Diamant's decision to battle it out under pressure ultimately paid off for Texas Tech, the only team to get on the scoreboard against Holt, who entered Round 3 with a perfect 2-0.

"Sometimes what happens is I start to blunder almost every move," explained Holt, who had what he described as a "totally winning position" against Diamant.

Caro-Kann B14

Andre Diamant 2504 (Tx Tech)

Conrad Holt 2499 (UTD)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5
4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4
7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bd3
0-0 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nxd5 exd5

12.Qb3 Bf6 13.Bc3 Rb8 14.Rfe1
Be6 15.Qc2 h6 16.Ne5 Bxe5 17.
dxe5 Qb6 18.Qe2 Rfe8 19.
Rad1!? d4 20.Bd2 Bxa2 21.Qe4
g6 22.Qf4 Qc5 23.Rc1 Qf8 24.
Qg3 Qg7 25.f4 Be6 26.Be4 Bf5
27.Bd5 Red8 28.Qf3 d3 29.Bxc6
bxc6 30.b4 Qf8! 31.Rxc6 [Better
was 31.Rc5!= avoiding nonsense
like...] 31...Rxb4! [Of course! The
bishop is the same color as the
queening square.] 32.e6 [Passive
defense with 32.Qe3 is relatively
best, the game outcome notwith-
standing.] 32...Bxe6 33.Rcxe6
fxe6 34.Qg4 Rb6 35. Qxg6+
Qg7 36.Qh5



36...Rb2? [36...Kh7 first is nec-
essary.] 37.Rxe6 Rb6 38.Re3
Rg6 39.Qf3 Qa1+ 40.Re1 Qb2
41.Qf2 Qd4 42.Re8+ Kf7 43.
Rxd8 Qxd8 44.Qxa7+ Kg8 45.
Qa2+ Kh7 46. Qf7+ Rg7 47.Qf5+
Kh8 48.Qe5 Qb6+ 49.Kf1 Qc6
50.Bc3 Qxg2+ 51.Ke1 Qg1+ 52.
Kd2 Qxh2+ 53.Kxd3 Qg3+ 54.
Ke2 Qg4+ 55. Ke1 Qg1+ 56.Ke2
Qg2+ 57.Ke1 ½-½

"I made many mistakes and eventually it's a draw," said Holt – who counted 36...Rb2, enabling Diamant to follow with 37. Rxe6 – as his first in a series of mistakes.

The draw – along with several other factors – ultimately enabled the Red Raiders to emerge with 8 points as the 2012 winners of the President's Cup, which is awarded to the victor of the Final Four of Chess.

UMBC and UT Dallas, both longstanding contenders in the Final Four, each tied for second with 7.5 points, and NYU came in fourth.

"I'm very proud of my team and it's a result of hard work throughout the year, the effort that we've done," Texas Tech Head Coach GM Susan Polgar said of her team's successful defense of her teams back-to-back championships.

"It's very fulfilling, of course," said Polgar, who is moving her chess program, known as the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence, or SPICE, to Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, this fall.

The President's Cup, however, will remain at Texas Tech until whichever team wins it next.

As happened last year, Texas Tech's victory hinged on another last-round game, this time between NM Evan Rosenberg of NYU and IM Sasha Kaplan of UMBC.

Reti Opening A04

Sasha Kaplan 2405 (UMBC)

Evan Rosenberg 2161 (NYU)

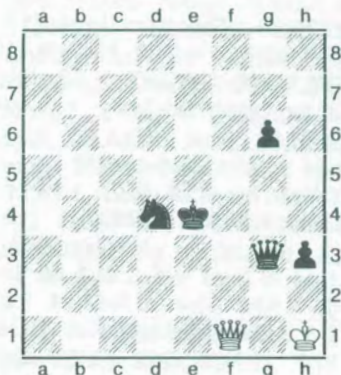
Final Four 2012 (3)

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.
0-0 Bg7 5.c4 h5 6.Nc3 Nd4 7.e3
Nxf3+ 8.Bxf3 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.
exd4 Nh6 11.Bg5 Be6 12.Bxb7
Rb8 13.Bc6+ Kf8 14.Qd3 Rxb2
15.Rab1 Rb6 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.
Bxd5 Nf5 18.c5 Rxb1 19.Rxb1
Bxd4 20.c6 Bb6 21.Qc3 Nd4 22.
Kg2 Kg7 23.a4 h4 24.a5 h3+
25.Kh1 Bc5 26.Rb7 f6 27.Be3
Rh5 28.Qc4 Re5 29.Bg8 Qe8
30.Bd5 Nxc6 31.Rb1 Nxa5 32.
Qa2 Bb6 33.Bxb6 axb6 34.f4

Re3 35.Qd2 Ra3 36.Re1 e5 37. Qb4 Ra4 38.Qxd6 Rd4 39.fxe5 fxe5 40.Rf1 Kh6 41.g4 Rf4 42. g5+ Kh7 43.Re1 Rf5 44.Qxb6 Qf8 45.Qc7+ Kh8 46.Qc1 Qd8 47.Be4 Rf4 48.Rd1 Qxg5? [48... Qf8 49.Qb1 Kg7=]



49.Qc8+? [Sometimes a quiet move makes all the difference: 49.Qc7! Rf8 50.Qxa5 Qf4 51. Qe1+-] 49...Kg7 50.Qc7+ [50. Rg1 Qf6 51.Qd7+ Kf8 52.Qc8+=] 50...Kh6 51.Rg1 Rg4+ 52.Rg3 Rxg3 53.hxg3 Nb3 54.Qf7 Qxg3 55.Qf8+ Kg5 56.Qe7+ Kf4 57. Bb7 Nd4 58.Qf7+ Ke3 59.Qf1 e4 60.Bxe4 Kxe4?? [60...Ne2 61. Bb7 g5 62.Qa1 g4 63.Qa7+ Kd2 64.Qa5+ Nc3-+]



61.Qf5+! $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Observers noted that in many ways, the tournament was decided by a

team's ability to sweep NYU, whose collective strength, at least based on ratings and titles, did not rival that of the three other teams.

Consider, for instance, that NYU was the only team that made it to the Final Four with only one IM and without any GMs, while the other teams were able to put GMs on just about every board.

Still, UMBC and UT Dallas yielded a draw each to NYU while Texas Tech swept NYU.

"When Texas Tech swept NYU and the others couldn't, that was the delta," said Mark Herman, executive vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton, a strategy and technology consulting firm that hosted and sponsored the Final Four of Chess, using "delta" as a mathematical term for difference.

As it did last year, Booz Allen Hamilton hosted the Final Four not only to support and advance the game of chess, but rather to recruit talent from among the best players in the world of collegiate chess.

Indeed, the firm extended an invitation to members of all four teams to explore internship opportunities with Booz Allen Hamilton – a significant development given the fact that last year the firm only offered internships to members of the team that won the Final Four.

Several players indicated a serious interest in taking the firm up on its offer.

Among them was IM Vitaly Neimer, 24, a freshman majoring in finance at Texas Tech. Neimer noted the similarities between the mathematical and analytical skills used in the game of chess and those required in finance, one of the areas in which Booz Allen Hamilton offers services.

"Many times in a game, you need to change the plan of the game," Neimer said. "Also in finance, you need to change how you react."

Herman, the Booz Allen Hamilton executive, said the nation's top collegiate chess players represent a rich pool of talent.

"I've got a room full of the best critical thinkers that you're going to find anywhere," Herman said. "Why wouldn't I want to recruit them?"

French Defense C11

Leonid Kritz 2611 (UMBC)

Georg Meier 2647 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nbd7 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Nxf6+ Bxf6 8.h4 0-0 9.Bd3 c5 10.c3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Re8 12.Qc2 h6 13.Be3 e5 14.0-0-0 exd4 15.Bxd4 Nf8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Modern Benoni A61

Elishan Moradiabadi 2542 (Tx Tech)

Georgi Margvelashvili 2547 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 a6 7.a4 g6 8.Bf4 Bg7 9.h3 0-0 10.e3 Qe7 11.Be2 Nbd7 12.0-0 Ne8 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.a5 Ne5 15.Na4 Bd7 16.Nc4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Reti Opening A05

Sasha Kaplan 2405 (UMBC)

Anatoly Bykhovsky 2532 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.d4 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 Ng4 9.c4 dxe5 10.h3 Nh6 11.Nbd2 f5 12.Qc2 e4 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Qc3+ Qf6 15.Nd4 Ne5 16.Rac1 Nhf7 17.f3 exf3 18.exf3 Rd8 19.Rfd1 g5 20.f4 gxf4 21.gxf4 Nd3 22.Qxd3 Qxd4+ 23.Qxd4+ Rxd4 24.Nf1 Rxf4 25.Re1 Kf8 26.Rc3 c6 27. Rd3 a5 28.Nd2 a4 29.c5 axb3 30.axb3 Ra3 31.Rde3 Ra2 32. Nc4 Bd7 33.Rd3 Be8 34.Rde3 Ra8 35.Nb6 Rd8 36.Rxe8+ Rxe8

37.Nd7+ Kg7 38.Rxe8 Rb4 39.
Re3 f4 40.Rd3 Kg6 41.Kf2 Kf5
42.Bf3 Ng5 43.h4 Ne6 44.Bg2
Nd4 45.Nb6 Nxb3 46. Rc3 Kg4
47.Nd7 Nd4 48.Ne5+ Kf5 49.
Nd3 Ra4 50.Nc1 Rb4 51.Nd3
Ra4 52.Nc1 Kg4 53.Ne2 Ra2
54.Bf3+ Kxh4 55.Rc1 Kg5 56.
Rb1 Nxe2 57.Bxe2 Rc2 58.
Rxb7 Rxc5 59.Rxh7 Rc3 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Paulsen B40

Andre Diamant 2504 (Tx Tech)
Sabina Foisor 2361 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5
Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.
exd5 exd5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 d4
12.Ne2 Bg4 13.f3 Bh5 14.Nf4
Bg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.f4 Ne7
17.Qf3 Qd7 18.Bd2 Nf5 19.Rae1
Rac8 20.Re5 Rfd8 21.Rfe1 Qc6
22.Qh3 a6 23.R5e2 Qb6 24.Bc1
Nd5 25.Kh1 Nfe3 26.Qf3



26...Qf6 27.g3 g5 28.Bxe3 Nxe3
29.Rf2 g4 30.Qxb7 Rb8 31.Qe4
g6 32.c3 Re8 33.Qxd4 Qc6+ 34.
Kg1 Rbd8 35.Rxe3 Rxd4 36.
Rxe8+ Qxe8 37.cxd4 Qe1+ 38.
Kg2 a5 39.Be2 f5 40.b3 Kf8
41.a4 Qc3 42.Bc4 Qxd4 43.Re2
Qc3 44.Kg1 Kg7 45.Re6 Qd4+
46.Kg2 Qd2+ 47.Re2 Qd4 48.
Re6 Qd2+ 1/2-1/2

QGD Semi-Slav D45

Zhe Quan 2427 (NYU)
Valentin Iotov 2560 (UTD)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3
e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.b3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Bd6
8.Bd3 c5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Rc1
Nc6 11.Ne2 cxd4 12.Nexd4
Nxd4 13.Nxd4 0-0 14.0-0 Re8
15.Nf5 Be5 16.Bc3 Bxf5 17.Bxf5
Qd6 1/2-1/2

King's Indian E90

Conrad Holt 2499 (UTD)
Andrew Shvartsman 2261 (NYU)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5
8.g3 a5 9.Nh2 Na6 10.Be2 Nc5
11.Bxh5 gxh5 12.g4 hxg4 13.
hxg4 Qh4 14.Be3 h5



15.Kd2 hxg4 16.Nf3 Qf6 17.Nh4
c6 18.f3 Rb8 19.fxg4 b5 20.g5
Qe7 21.Qh5 b4 22.Qh7+ Kxh7
23.Nf5+ Bh6 24.Rxh6+ Kg8 25.
Nxe7+ Kg7 26.Bxc5 bxc3+ 27.
Kxc3 dxc5 28.Rah1 1-0

Gruenfeld Defense D83

Evan Rosenberg 2161 (NYU)
Milos Pavlovic 2478 (UTD)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4
Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1 Be6 7.cxd5
Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.a3 Rc8
10.Nf3 Qa2 11.Qc2 c5 12.e4

[12.b4 Qxa3 13.bxc5 b6 14.Bd3=]
12...Bxd4 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.
Qxc8+ Bxc8 15.Rxc8+ Kg7 16.
Bxb8 Qb1+ 17.Kd2 Rxb8 18.
Rxb8 Qxb2+ 19.Kd1 Qb3+ 20.
Kc1 Qxa3+ 21.Kb1 Qb3+ 22.
Kc1 Qc3+ 23.Kb1 d3 24.Bxd3
Qxd3+ 25.Ka1 Qxe4 0-1

Bogo-Indian E11

Salvijus Bercys 2438 (UTD)
Kyle Cameron 1806 (NYU)

Final Four 2012 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+
4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Qc2 c5
7.a3 cxd4 8.axb4 dxc3 9.Bxc3
h6 10.e4 b6 11.e5 Ne8 12.Qe4
Nc7 13.Bd3 g6 14.h4 Kh7 15.h5
Rg8 16.Qf4 Qf8



17.Ng5+, Black resigns [17...
Kh8 18.Nxf7+ Kh7 19.Qg5 (19.
Qf6 Qxf7 20.Qxf7+) 19...hxg5
20.hxg6+ Kg7 21.Rh7# 1-0

Dutch Defense A90

Valentin Iotov 2560 (UTD)
Leonid Kritz 2611 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.c4
d5 5.Nh3 Bb4+ 6.Nd2 c6 7.0-0
0-0 8.Qc2 b6 9.Nf4 Re8 10.Nf3
Bb7 11.Nd3 Bd6 12.Bf4 Bxf4
13.Nxf4 Nbd7 14.Rac1 Ne4 15.
e3 g5 16.Nd3 dxc4 17.Qxc4 g4
18.Nfe5 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Nd2 20.
Qa4 Nxf1 21.Kxf1 Qe7 22.Bxc6
Rac8 23.Rc3 Bxc6 24.Nxc6 Qd7

25.Qc2 Rc7 26.Ne5 Rxc3 27.
bxc3 Qb7 28.c4 Rc8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Dutch Defense A81

Georgi Margvelashvili 2547 (UMBC)
Ioan Chirila 2539 (UTD)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d6 4.Nf3
g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.b3 0-0 7.Bb2 c6
8.Nbd2 h6 9.Re1 g5 10.e4 f4
11.c4 Na6 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.d5
Nb4 14.Qc3 Nh5 15.e5 Qb6 16.
a3 Na6 17.dxc6 bxc6



18.c5!? Qxc5 [18...Nxc5 19.b4
Nb7 20.Qb3+ d5 21.Bd4 Qc7
22.e6] 19.Qd3 Nc7 20.Rac1
Qb5 21.Qc2 fvg3 22.hvg3 Ne6
23.exd6 exd6 24.Nc4 Qf5 [24...
Qb8 25.Bvg7 Nhxg7 26.Rcd1 d5
27.Nce5±; 24...Bxb2 25.Qxb2
Qb8 26.Qc2 Rf6 27.Qd1 Neg7
28.Nd4±] 25.Qxf5 Rxf5 26.Bvg7
Nhxg7 27.Nxd6 Rd5 28.Nc4
Re8 29.Nfe5 Nd4 30.Bxd5+
cxd5 31.Nd2 Bb5 32.Rc5 Ne2+
33.Kh2 Rxe5 34.Rxb5 Ne6 35.
Nf3 N2d4 and Black resigned
without waiting for 36.Rb8+ Kg7
37.Nxe5. 1-0

QGD Slav D19

Julio Sadorra 2525 (UTD)
Sasha Kaplan 2405 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4
Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.e4

Bg6 11.Bd3 h6 12.Bf4 a6 13.
Rfd1 Re8 14.h3 Rc8 15.g4 Ba5
16.Bg3 Qe7 17.Bc2 c5 18.e5
Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Nd5 20.Nxd5
exd5 21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Qb3 Nb6
23.Nd4 Qb4 24.Qxb4 Bxb4 25.
Nf5 Rc2 26.a5 Nc4 27.Rxd5 Rd2
28.Rxd2 Bxd2 29.Nd6 Nxd6
30.exd6 Re1+ 31.Rxe1 Bxe1 32.
Kf1 Bxa5 33.Ke2 f6 34.d7 Kf7
35.Bd6 g6 36.Bb4 Bd8 37.Bd2
h5 38.gxh5 gxh5 39.Kf3 Ke6
40.Kg3 f5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

French Defense C00

A. Balasubramanian 2233 (UMBC)
Conrad Holt 2499

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.
Ngf3 Bc5 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Be2 Be7
7.c4 c5 8.Qb3 Nb6 9.h4 Nc6 10.
Nf1 Bd7 11.Bf4 Nd4 12.Nxd4
cxd4 13.a4 Bc6 14.Nd2 dxc4
15.dxc4 Nd7 16.Qg3 g6 17.Nb3
f6 18.h5 g5 19.h6 Qb6 20.Bh5+
Kd8 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bvg5 Bvg5
23.Qxg5+ Kc7 24.Qg3+ e5 25.
Bf7 Rhf8 26.Bd5 Qb4+ 27.Kf1
Rf4 28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Rc1 Raf8
30.Rc2



31...Rf3!? [30...Kc8 31.Nc1 (31.
Rh5 Re4 32.Nd2 Re3 33.Qg5 d3
34.Rc3 Re2+) 31...e4+; 30...
Re4 31.Nd2 Re3 32.Qg5 d3 33.
Qxe3 dxc2 34.Qxa7+ Kd6 35.Ke2
Qxb2+] 31.gxf3 Qxb3 32.Rc1
[32.Re2 Qxc4 33.Qg5 Qxa4 34.

Rh3 Qd1+ 35.Re1=] 32...d3 33.
Kg2 d2 34.Rcd1 Qxc4 35.
Qh4?? [35.Rh5 Qc2 36.Rxe5
Kc8 37.Re6 Qxd1 38.Rxc6+ Kb7
39.Rc7+ Ka8 40.Rxd7 Qb3 41.
Rxd2=] 35...Rg8+ 36.Kh3 Qe6+
37.Kh2 Rg6+ 38.Qb4 Qf5 39.
Qh4 Rg5 40.Qe4 Qf6 41.Qxh7
Qf4+ 0-1

Caro-Kann C15

Georg Meier 2647 (Tx Tech)
Zhe Quan 2427 (NYU)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3
Bg4 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e5 Nfd7 7.Be2
e6 8.0-0 a6 9.Ng5 Bxe2 10.Nxe2
h6 11.Nf3 c5 12.c3 Nc6 13.h4
b5 14.Be3 Rc8 15.g3 Nb6 16.b3
Nd7 17.Rc1 a5 18.Nf4 Rg8 19.
Qe2 c4 20.bxc4 bxc4 21.Rb1
Rb8 22.Qc2 Rb6 23.Rxb6 Qxb6
24.Rb1 Qa6 25.h5 g5 26.Ne2
Rh8 27.Nh2 Kd8 28.f4 gxf4 29.
Bxf4 a4 30.Ng4 Ne7 31.Ne3 Bg7
32.Kg2 a3



33.Qc1 Nc6 [33...Bf8 34.Ng4
Ng8 35.Kf1±] 34.Ng4 f6 35.
Bxh6± Bxh6 36.Nxh6 Rf8 37.
Nf4 Re8 38.exf6 Nxf6 39.Nf7+
Kd7 40.h6 Re7 41.Ng5 Qa8 42.
Ng6 Re8 43.Qf4 Black resigns
[43...Ng8 44.Qf7+ Kd6 45.h7
Nge7 46.Qxe6+ Kc7 47.h8Q
Rxh8 48.Nxe7+] 1-0

Gioco Piano C54

Andrew Shvartsman 2261 (NYU)
Elshan Moradiabadi 2542 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.
Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.cxd4 Bb4+
7.Nc3 Nxe4 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.d5 Bf6
10.Re1 Ne7 11.Rxe4 d6 12.Bg5
Bxg5 13.Nxg5 h6 14.Qh5 0-0
15.Rae1 Nf5 16.Nxf7 [16.Nf3 Qf6
17.g4 Ne7=]



16...Qf6 17.Rf4 Bd7 [17...Rxf7
18.g4 g6 19.Qh3 g5 20.Re8+
Kg7 21.Rf3 (21.Rxf5 Bxf5 22.
Rxa8 Bd3! 23.Qxd3 Qxf2+ 24.
Kh1 Re7+) 21...Qd4 22.Rxf5
Bxf5 23.Rxa8 Bd3!+] 18.g4 Qxf7
19.Qxf7+ Rxf7 20.gxf5 Rxf5 21.
Rxf5 Bxf5 22.Re7 Rc8 23.Bb5
Kf8 24.Re3 g6 25.Bd3 Bxd3 26.
Rxd3 Re8 27.Rb3 b6 28.Rf3+
Ke7 29.b4 Kd7 30.Rf6 g5 31.
Rxb6 Re5 32.Rh7+ Kc8 33.
Rh8+ Kb7 34.Rh5 Rxd5 35.Kg2
Kc6 36.a4 a6 37.f3 b5 38.axb5+
axb5 39.Kg3 Rf5 40. Kf2 Re5
41.Kg3 Kd5 42.Kg4 c5 43.bxc5
dxc5 44.Rh8 b4 45.f4 gxf4 46.
Kxf4 Re1 47.Rd8+ Kc4 48.h4 b3
49.Rb8 Kc3 50.h5 b2 0-1

QGD D37

Anatoly Bykhovskiy 2532 (Tx Tech)
Evan Rosenberg 2161 (NYU)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3
Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Rc1
dxc4 8.e3 c5 9.Bxc4 cxd4 10.
exd4 Qb6 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Qd2
Rd8 13.Rfd1 Qa5 14.Qe2 g5 15.
Bg3 g4 16.Nh4 Qh5 17.h3 Nxd4
18.Qe3 Nc6 19.Be2 Rxd1+ 20.
Rxd1 Nd5 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.
hxg4 Bxg4 23.Bxg4 Qxg4 24.
Nf3 Qa4 [24...Rd8 25.Qxh6 d4=]
25.Rxd5 Qxa2 26.Rb5 Qb1+ 27.
Kh2 b6 28.Rh5 Bf8 29.Bf4 Ne7
30.Nh4 Qd1 [30...Qxb2 31.
Be5+]



31.Qg3+ Ng6? [31...Kh7 32.Nf3
Ng6 33.Bxh6 Bxh6 34.Ng5+ Kg7
35.Qc3+ Kg8 36.Rxh6 Rd8 37.
Rh7 Qd4=] 32.Rf5+ Qd7 33.
Nxxg6 fxxg6 34.Qxxg6+ Bg7 35.
Bxxh6 Qc7+ 36.g3 Rd8 37.Qe6+
1-0

Sicilian Closed B23

Kyle Cameron 1806 (NYU)
Denes Boros 2487 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.f4 b5 4.Nf3
Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.g3 d5 7.Qe2 Be7
8.Bg2 Nf6 9.e5 Nfd7 10.0-0 Qb6
11.Kh1 g6 12.Bd2 Nc6 13.Rae1
Qc7 14.Nd1 h5 15.Qf2 Nd4 16.
Ne3 Nb6 17.Ba5 Nc6 18.Bd2 a5
19.c3 Ba6 20.Rg1 b4 21.d4 Na4
22.Nd1 bxc3 23.bxc3 Rb8 24.
Bf1 Qb7 25.Bxa6 Qxa6 26.Qe2
Qxe2 27.Rxe2 Rb1 28.Nf2 Rb2
29.Ree1 cxd4 30.Nd1 Rxa2 31.

cxd4 Nxd4 32.Nxd4 Rxd2 33.
Nb3 Ra2 34.Nxa5 Bb4 35.Nb7
Bxe1 36.Nd6+ Ke7 37.Rxe1 Ra1
38.Rf1 Nc3 39.Ne3 Rha8 40.Kg1
R8a2 41.Nc8+ Kf8 42.Nd6 Ne2+
43.Kh1 d4 0-1

Caro-Kann B12

Leonid Kritz 2611 (UMBC)
Zhe Quan 2426 (NYU)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5
e6 5.Be3 Nh6 6.f4 Nd7 7.Nf3
Nf5 8.Bf2 Bxc5 9.Qd2 Qb6 10.
c3 f6 11.Na3 fxe5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5
13.fxe5 Qe3+ 14.Qxe3 Nxe3 15.
Kd2 Ng4 16.Re1 Ke7 17.Bd3
Nf2 18.Rhg1 Nxd3 19.Kxd3 b6
20.Nc2 Nc5+ 21.Ke3 a5 22.Ncd4
Ba6 23.Rc1 Rac8 24.Rgd1 Rhf8
25.h4 h6 26.h5 Ne4 27.Rh1 Rf7
28.Rh4 Ng3? [28...a4 29.a3 (29.
Rg4 a3) 29...Kd7 30.Rg4 Bc4=]



29.Rg4 Nxxh5 [29...Nf1+ 30.Kf2
Nd2 31.Rg6+~] 30.Rh1 g6 31.
Rxxg6! Nf4 32.Rxxh6! Nxxg6 33.
Rxxg6 Kd7 34.Rxxe6 Kc7 35.g4
Rg8 36.Rc6+ Kb7 37.g5 Bf1 38.
Rf6 Rh7 39.Kf4 Bd3 40.e6 Rgg7
41.Nf5 Bxf5 42.Kxf5 Kc6 43.Rf8
1-0

Caro-Kann B12

Andrew Shvartsman 2261 (NYU)
Georgi Margvelashvili 2547 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3
e6 5.Be2 Nd7 6.0-0 h6 7.Be3
Ne7 8.Nbd2 Bh7 9.Rc1 Nf5 10.
c4 Be7 11.Qb3 Qb6 12.cxd5
exd5 13.a3 Qxb3 14.Nxb3 Nxe3
15.fxe3 a5 16.Ne1 Nb6 17.Bd3
Bg5 18.Rf3 Bxd3 19.Nxd3 Nc4
20.Re1 a4 21.Nbc1 Nd2 22.Rf2
Ne4 23.Rc2 f6 24.g3 h5 25.h4
Bh6 26.Kh2 0-0 27.Nf4 fxe5
28.dxe5 Rf5 29.Ncd3 Re8 30.
Kh3 Kh7 31.Rg2



31...c5 32.Nxd5 c4 33.N3f4
Rfxe5 34.Rc2 b5 35. Rd1 g6
36.Nc7 R8e7 37.Ncd5 Rb7
38.Nb4 g5 39.Rd5 g4+ 40. Kg2
Bxf4 41.exf4 Rxd5 42.Nxd5 Rd7
43.Ne3 Rd3 44.Nf1 Rb3 45. Re2
Nd6 46.Ne3 Kg7 47.Kf2 c3
48.bxc3 Rxc3 49.Nd5 Rf3+ 50.
Kg2 Nf5 51.Re5 Rxc3+ 52.Kf2
Rf3+ 53.Ke1 Ng3 54.Ne3 b4 55.
axb4 Rxf4 56.Rb5 Rf3 57.Nc2
Rc3 58.Kd1 Ne4 59.Re5 Nf6 60.
Kc1 Rb3 61.Rg5+ Kf7 62.Rf5 g3
63.b5 g2 0-1

Sicilian B23

Kyle Cameron 1806 (NYU)
Sabina Foisor 2361 (UMBC)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 d5 4.Nf3
dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Ng3 Nc6
7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 Bd6 9.d3 Qc7
10.Ng5 a6 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.
N5e4 Be7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.f5
0-0-0 15.Bf4 e5 16.Bd2



16...c4 17.dxc4 Qb6+ 18.Kh1
Qxb2 19.Qc1 Qxc1 20.Bxc1
Rd4 21.c5 Rc4 22.Be3 h5 23.h3
h4 24.Ne2 Rxc2 0-1

QGD D37

Valentin Iotov 2560 (UTD)
Georg Meier 2647 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3
dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6
Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.
e5 Qd8 11.Ne4 0-0 12.Qe2 Be7
13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Ng3 Rd8 15.
Bd3 Nd7 16.Bb1 Nf8 17.Nh5 d3
18.Bxd3 Bd7 19.Rc1 Bc6 20.
Rc4 g6 21.Nf6+ Kg7 22.Be4
Nd7 23.Bxc6 bxc6 24.Nxd7
Qxd7 25.Rd4 Qb7 26.Rxd8
Rxd8 27.Rc1 Rd5 28.b3 Qd7
29.h3 Bc5 30.Kh2 Bb6 ½-½

Reti Opening A09

E. Moradiabadi 2542 (Tx Tech)
Ioan Chirila 2539 (UTD)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.g3 Nc6 4.
Bg2 e5 5.d3 Nf6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.
Na3 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6
10.Nb5 a6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.a3
a5 13.Rb1 Be6 14.Ne1 a4 15.
Nf3 Nb8 16.Nd2 c6 17.b4 axb3
18.Qxb3 b5 19.Ra1 Ra4 20.Qc2
Rc8 21.Rfb1 Na6 22.Qd1 Ra5
23.Nb3 Ra4 24.Nd2 Ra5 25.Nb3
½-½

Gruenfeld D85

Julio Sadorra 2525 (UTD)
Anatoly Bykhovskiy 2532 (Tx Tech)

Final Four 2012 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.
cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3
Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.h3 c5 9.Be3
Qa5 10.Bd2 e6 11.Be2 Qc7
12.0-0 b6 13.Rc1 Bb7 14.Bd3
Nd7 15.Qe2 Rac8 16.h4 Nf6 17.
e5 Nd5 18.h5 Qe7 19.Ng5 cxd4
20.cxd4 Nb4 21.Bxb4 Qxb4



22.Nxh7!? [22.hxg6! hxg6 23.
Qg4 Bd5 (23...Rfd8 24.Bxg6!+-)
24.Qh4 Rfe8 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.
Nxf7! Qxd4 (26...Kxf7 27.Bxg6+
Kf8 28.Bxe8 Rxe8 29.Rc7 Re7
30.Rc8+-) 27.Nh6! Qxe5 28.
Bxg6 Qf6 29.Rfd1 Ke7 30.Bxe8
Qg5 31.Qg6+-] 22...Kxh7 23.
hxg6+ Kg8 24.Qh5 Rfd8 [24...
fxg6 25.Qxg6 Rf7 26.Rxc8+ Bxc8
27.Rc1 Bb7 28.Bc4 Qd2 29.Rc2
Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qe4+] 25.gxf7+
Kf8 26.Qh7 Kxf7 27.Qg6+ Kf8
28.Qxe6 Qxd4 29.Qf5+ Ke7 30.
Qg5+ Kf8 31.Qf5+ Ke7 32.Qg5+
Kf8 ½-½

Austin Chess Club Championship

Torey Neuzil

Last year I penned an article that many *Texas Knights* readers found interesting. The piece was about one of the finest tournaments I have been to in Texas in the over 17 years of events here that I have observed as a player or spectator. This appeared in the March-April 2011 issue, which you can download on the TCA web site, and I suggest you do so as a companion to this work.

The decision to film and extensively picture the scene was made on the fly, as was the efforts to collect game scores to use later, as I sensed the importance of what was about to occur. However, I was blown away when I traveled to the event with one of the players and looked at the wall chart. A GM, and IM, and many strong masters and experts comprised the field! The event turned out to be a weekend I will never forget as a chess player and spectator.

So when I heard about the plans by the Austin Chess Club to hold another event for 2012, I knew I had to go. I attended it with the same player I went with in 2011, making the decision to not play (one I must admit some real regret over!) and to try to collect even more games. This time, I used the same camcorder and a higher quality digital camera to document the spectacle. The site again used was that of the club, forcing entries to be capped to under 160 or so. I suggest if you live elsewhere in the state and want to play in 2013, to get registered as early as possible, to ensure a spot. Standing room only conditions were in place for spectators, though the spacious playing room with borrowed tables handled everyone playing nicely.

Club directors Lori Balkum and Drew Sarkisian did another outstanding job organizing and handling all manner of problems, but other

than some slight door noise that was eventually solved, the event ran smoothly with on time rounds. Free ice water from a dispensing unit, fresh brewed free coffee with creamer and sugar, with cheaply purchasable cold sodas and snacks were kept constantly in stock by the organizers. Once again, the event resembled a state tournament held in a hotel.

Arriving Friday night, Jan. 6, my first question was an obvious one: **Last year was tough to beat; what are you guys going to do for an encore?**

Believe it or not, this year's event was arguably *better* than the original tournament! I expected to be underwhelmed, but was instead pleasantly surprised. Two reasons were responsible for my elation.

First, I walked around the playing room and glanced at the wall chart. I noticed that the event was a "reunion" of the Old Guard of Austin chess! Back in the 1990's during the heyday of the (now defunct) Austin Chess Enterprises chess club, several players dominated the city and represented it in state events. The roster read like a veritable "who's who" of Austinite chess in its prime! Several of these fine players had been in semi-retirement, but came out of it just for this event!

I saw that the open section sported Sarkisian, Kappler, Newsham, Simpson, Laverty, Durston, among others. Many of these folks had not played in the *same* serious tournament in years, a real treat for Austin chess historians. It was like a family reunion with old friends. Rounding out the field were several other fine masters and experts, including at least 2-3 local chess teachers. And, of course, many of the same players from last time returned in 2012.

Second, after I returned from the playing room and sat down in the skittles area, I began to tell anyone who would listen that strong master and apparent top seed Alexander Chua (2347) would win the event, figuring his only serious competition was perhaps Michael Langer (2264) or James Rohrbaugh (2240) or last year's club co-champion Alexander Balkum (2221). The flaw in my reasoning was that I had only factored in the three-day participants! Imagine my surprise when some kind soul tried to save me needless embarrassment by whispering into my ear that one of the highest rated players in the entire country, GM Timur Gareev (2740) was playing in the 2 day schedule! I stunningly exclaimed a bit too loud for a family club "twenty seven hundred forty?, are you \$^@& kidding me!?" drawing some riveting looks from the assembled peanut gallery.

I knew this was going to be a weekend to remember, and it was indeed a worthy successor to last year's tournament. What follows are all the anecdotes and stories of the de facto 2012 Austin city championship from my vantage point as a spectator and reporter. I hope you all enjoy the ride:

Round 1 (Friday, 1/6/12)

Chua used a less trodden line of the Caro-Kann Advance with an early Qc7 as Black to dispatch his foe by winning material on the king side against a beleaguered White monarch:

Caro-Kann Advance B12

Mark Harden 1978

Alex Chua 2347

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

I.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 Qc7
[This allows greater pressure on e5

and observation of c5, which can come in handy if White's center becomes shaky.] **5.g4 Bd7 6.Bd3 a6 7.g5 e6 8.Nf3 c5 9.Be3 Nc6 10.dxc5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Ne2 Ne7 13.c3 Qc7 14.f4 h6**



15.g6 fxe6 16.Qc2 [Preferable is 16.Qd2 Nf5 17.0-0-0 Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Qxc5 19.Rhg1 0-0 20.Rxg6 Nh4 21.Rg3 Qf2 22.Rdgl Rf7 23.Nd4 Qxd2+ 24. Kxd2.] **16...Nf5 17.Bd4 Bxc5 18. Bxf5 gxf5 19. Bxg7 Rh7** [19...Ba4 20.Qxa4+ b5 21.Qc2 Qxg7 22.0-0-0 improves on the game.] **20.Bf6** [20.Be5 defends better.] **20...Rf7** [20...Bb5 21.Qd2 Bd6 22.Qe3 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Kf7 24.Bd4 Bxf4 wins a pawn.] **21.Bh4 Be3 22.Bg3** [22.Rf1 d4 23.Bf2 Bb5 24.Bxe3 dxe3 25.0-0-0 Qc4 26.Rfe1 Qxa2 27. b3 Qa1+ 28.Qb1 Qxb1+ 29.Kxb1 - Houdini 1.5a] **22...d4** [22...0-0-0 23. Bf2 Bxf4 24.Nxf4 Qxf4 25.Rg1 e5 and Black is on top.] **23.Bf2 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 0-0-0** [25...Bb5] **25.Rad1 Bb5** [Even stronger is 25...Bc6 26. Rhg1 Be4 27.Qd2 d3 28.Nd4 e5 29. fxe5 Qxe5.] **26.Rxd4** [26.Qc1 Bc6 27.Rhg1 d3 28.Nd4 e5 29.Nxc6 bxc6 30.fxe5 Qxe5 31.Qe3 Qxh2+ 32.Rg2 Qd6 was essential but also losing for White.] **26...Rxd4 27. Nxd4 Qxf4+ 28.Nf3** [28.Kg2/Kg1 get mated. 28. Ke1 was relatively best but also loses big.] **28...Bc6 29.Qe2 e5** [29...Rd7 30.Qe3 Rd2+ 31.Qxd2 Qxf3+ 32.Ke1 Qxh1+ 33.

Ke2 Qxh2+ 34.Kd1 Qxd2+ 35.Kxd2 was much stronger.] **30. Rg1** [30.Qe3 Qxe3+ 31.Kxe3 f4+ 32.Kf2 e4 33.Ne5 e3+ 34.Kf1 Bxh1 35.Nxf7 loses a bit less spectacularly.] **30... e4 31.Rg3 exf3 32.Qe6+ Rd7 33. Rg8+ Kc7 0-1**

After sitting in on the post-mortem of that affair and returning to the action, another game really caught my attention:

English Opening A30

Eugene Kohnitz 1871

James Rohrbaugh 2240

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.O-O Nf6 6.Na3 Be7 7.d3 O-O 8. Bf4 d4 9.Nc2 Nd7 10.b4 exb4 11. Qb1 e5 12.Bd2 a5 13.a3 bxa3 14. Nxa3 f6 15.Rd1 Ra6 16.Nb5 Nc5 17.e3 Bf5 18.exd4 exd4 [During the analysis, both players worried about Black interpolating with 18...Bxd3 19.Qb2 instead of the move played, but the text was also plausible.] **19. Be1 Qd7 20. Ra2 Rd8 21. Re2 Bg4 22.h3 Bxh3 23.Bxh3 Qxh3 24. Nbxh3 Rxd4** [This spirited move leads to fireworks.] **25.Rxe7 Rf4 26. Re3** [White can hardly take the marauding rook.] **26...Rxf3 27.Rxf3 Nd4 28.Re3 Re6** [After playing the right next move, Black missed the killing 28...f5! intending the castle transfer to h6.] **29.Qb2 Ncb3 30.Bc3 Rxe3 31.Bxd4** [White could not play 31.fxe3 since 31...Qxg3+ 32.Kf1 Qf3+ 33.Qf2 Qxd1+ or 31...Qxg3 32.Qg2 Ne2+ 33.Kf1 Qxg2+ 34. Kxg2 Nxc3 did not appeal.] **31...Rxg3+** [If 31...Nxd4 not 32. fxe3 Nf3+ 33.Kf2 Qh2+ 34.Kxf3 Qxb2 but simply 32.Qxd4! and Black struggles to defend b7. Black's final offer of the rook is charming, but ultimately leads to perpetual check.] **32.fxg3 Qxg3+ 33.Kf1 Qf3+ 34.Ke1 Qh1+ 35.Ke2 Qh5+ 36.Ke1 Qh1+ 37.Ke2 Qh5+ 38.Ke1 Qh1+**

The aforementioned "Old Guard" performed decently on day one. Kappler, Simpson and Lavery notched wins while Newsham drew his game. Sarkisian, Durston and Binder were casualties from the nostalgic crew, with the latter dropping out after the initial round.

I caught most of the post-mortem of the following interesting game, which features a minor time pressure scramble of sorts for Black, if you can call it that with a one-minute increment applied:

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

John Kolts 1888

Peter Kappler 2089

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Bd3 Bg5 12.c3 Ne7 13.Ne3 Bxe3 14.fxe3 d5 [Tempting, but simply Qb6/Be6 may have sufficed.] **15.0-0 0-0 16.Qh5 Ng6 17.Rad1 Bb7 18.Rf2 Qb6 19.exd5 Qxe3 20.Nc2 Qe5 21.Be4 f5** [Both players criticized 21...f5 as played, since White could have responded with 22.b4! before taking on f5 with his bishop. Instead, 21...a5! was seen as a refinement. Later analysis at home by Kappler suggests his 21st move was correct.] **22.Bxf5 Bxd5** [Missing a win with 22...Bc8!] **23.Nb4 Bb7** [23...Be4!] **24.Nd3 Qb6 25.Nxe5** [This capture is suspect, as Black has the same idea with the cleric.] **25...Be4 26.Nd7 Qxf2+** [The rest is a matter of technique. Kappler only had to "hurry" the last five moves, mopping up against the queen side pawns.] **27.Kxf2 Rxf5+ 28.Qxf5 Bxf5 29.Nc5 a5 30.Rd5 Ne7 31.Re5 Kf7 32.Nb7 Bd7 33.Rh5 Ra6 34. Rxh7 b4 35.c4 Bc8 36.Nd8+ Ke8 37.Rh8+ Kd7 38.Ke2 Rf6 39.h3 Ba6 40.b3 a4 41.g4 Nd5 42.Kd3 Nc3 43.bxa4 Nxa2 0-1**

½-½

Simpson of Old Guard fame won by strangling his foe until he mistakenly grabbed a poisoned pawn:

Sicilian B27

Michael Simpson 1972

Joel Pallapati 1699

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bb5 a6 6.Ba4 Bg7 7.e5 Ng8 8.0-0 b5 9.Bb3 Nc6 10.Qf4 Nh6 11. Nc3 0-0 12.Be3 Bb7 13.Rad1 Na5 14.Bd5 Qc7 15.Bxb7 Qxb7 16.Qe4 Rab8 17.Qd3 Rfd8 18.Nd5 Nc6 19. Bg5 Re8 20.Rfe1 Nf5 21.g4 Nh6 22. h3 Kh8 23.c3 Ng8 24.Bh4 h6 25. Bg3 Rbd8 26.Nh4 e6 27.Nf4 Nxe5 [Black should have tried 27...Nge7 to avoid the "pseudo" exchange sac that followed hinging upon another gift at g6 with the horse.] 28.Rxe5 Bxe5 29.Nfxg6+ Kg7 30.Bxe5+ f6 [30...f6 was forced, since Kh7 allows a picturesque mate with Nf8!] 31. Bd6 Qd5 32.Qe2 Qxa2 33.Nf4 f5 34.gxf5 Nf6 35.fxe6 Rg8 36.Kh2

1-0

An Old Guard member gets upset after a few successive blunders from a formerly better position:

Scotch Game C47

Charles C. Allen 1740

Drew Sarkisian 2044

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7. Qd4 [Simpler was 7. Bd3 0-0 8.0-0.] 7...Qe7 8.f3 d5 9. Bg5 e5 10.Bb5+ Kf8 11.Qd3 Bb7 12.0-0-0 c6 13. exd5 [13.Rhe1 since ...cxb5 14.e5 is good for White.] 13...cxb5 14.Ne4 [Better is 14.d6. Now Black is on top.] 14...Qe5 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.c3 e4 17.Qe3 f5 18.cxb4 fxe4 19.Qh6+ Qg7 20.Qd6+ Kg8 21.fxe4 Qg5+ 22.Kb1 Qg6 [Now White is equal. Better is 22...Re8 23.Rhe1.] 23.Qe7 Qb6 [23...Rb8 24.Rhf1 Kg7 25. Qe5+ f6 26.Qc7+ Qf7 27.Qg3+ Qg6 28.Qc7+ Qf7 was an equal line. Now

Black is losing.] 24.Rhf1 Rf8 25. Rf5 [25.Rf3 forces ...Qg6 to stop mate, allowing 26.Rg3 and wins.] 25...f6 [25...h6 26.Rdf1 Rh7 27.Rf6 Qe3 28.Qxb7 stopping Rg5+ similarly, was much better, though hardly inviting.] 26.Rdf1 [26.Rf3 again winning, but the text suffices.] 26...Rf7 27.Rg5+ [26...Qd8 27. Qxb7 is also lost, but now it's mate shortly.] 1-0

Meanwhile, crown contender Langer was busy playing a charming heavy piece second rank defense interference move at his 25th turn, though Black panics:

Sicilian B35

Michael Langer 2264

Avinash Thangirala 1977

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

I found this game to an imaginative attacking scheme by White. He castles *short* but treats the Dragon-like position a bit like a Yugoslav, with f3, h4-h5-hxg6, Bxg7, Qh6, etc. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3 a5 9.0-0 d6 10.f3 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bd7 12.a4 Bc6 13.Qd2 Nd7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Kh1 Nc5 16.Bc4 Kg8 17.b3 Rc8 18.Rad1 b6 19.Qh6 Qc7 20.Rd2 Qb7 21.h4 Nd7 22.h5 Kh8 23.g4 [This permits the Rd2 to reach the h file via h2 for stock mating ideas.] 23...Ne5 24.hxg6 fxxg6 25.Be6 [White could have played 25.Rh2 but then Black has e6. The text wins the exchange since Black lacks time to move the castle without allowing a mating net starting with 26.Rh2. He cannot defend h7 with his queen due to the blockage.] 25... Rxf3 [This is an error of calculation, losing first the exchange and then a piece in the ensuing liquidation. Relatively best was 25...Rg8 intending to meet Rh2 with Rg7.] 26.Rxf3 Nxf3 27.Bxc8 Qxc8 28.Rf2 Qa8 29.Rxf3 Bxe4 30.Nxe4 Qxe4 31. Qf8# 1-0

Somebody should have warned this talented young Austinite that playing the Yugoslav Dragon as White with queen side castling against *this* visiting veteran has its hazards:

Sicilian Dragon B78

Alexander Daoyuan Jiang 1957

Mark Dejmek 2147

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Rc8 12.h4 h5 13.g4 hxg4 14.h5 Nxf5 15.Bh6 e6 16.Rdgl Qf6 17.Bxg7 Qxg7 18.fxg4 Nf6 19.g5 Nh5 20.Nce2 b5 21.Ng3 Nc4 22. Nxf5 Nxd2 23.Nf6+ Qxf6 24.gxf6 Nxe4 25.Nf5 [Flashy, but Black simply ignores the offer.] 25...Nxf6 [25...exf5 26.Rxg6#] 26.Ne7+ Kg7 27.Nxe8 Rxc8 28.Rh4 a5 29.a3 Be8 30.c3 Nd7 31.Bc2 Ne5 32. Rd1 d5 33.a4 [Hastens the end, but good alternatives were hard to suggest.] 33...b4 34.Rh3 bxc3 35. Rxc3 Rxc3 36.bxc3 f5 37.Kd2 Nc4+ 38.Ke2 g5 39.Bb3? [39.Rh1] Bh5+ 0-1

Two comic relief finishes from the initial round in the Open:

QGD Slav D48

Austin Jiang 2024

Rohith Kaliyur 1758

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.e4 c5 11.d5 c4 12.Be2 Nc5 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Re1 0-0 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.e5 Bg5 17.d6 Bf4 18.Ne4 Nd7 19.Qd4 f5 20.exf6 Nxf6 21.Nc5 Bxf3 22.Qxf4 Bd5 23. Nxe6 Bxe6 24.Rxe6 Rc8 25.Re7 Nd5 26.Qh4 Nf6 27.Qg3 Nh5 28. Qe5 Qb6 29.Rf1 Rc5 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Re8 Rc8 32.Qxc8 Qxf2+ 33. Rx2f2 g6 34.Qe6 Kg7 35.Qe7+ Kh6 36.Qxf8+ Ng7 37.d7 b4 38.d8Q b3 39.axb3 Kh5 40.Bd1+ Kh6 41.g4 g5 42.h4 gxh4 43.g5+ Kg6 44. Qdf6# 1-0

The tragicomedy here was once White played 31.Re8 Black had no way to safely move his attacked castle without being mated. He also could not safely protect it, so he begins a series of computer like inspired delaying moves instead of resigning!

Petrov Defense C42

Stephen O'Keefe 1966

Jon Beaudry 1551

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Qe7 4. Nf3 Qxe4+ 5.Be2 d5 6.0-0 Be7 7. Nc3 Qf5 8.Re1 0-0 9.d4 Nc6 10.a3 a6 11.Bg5 Ne4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13. Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Ne5 Ng6 15.Bg4 Qf4 16.Bxc8 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Raxc8 18. Qd5 Rcd8 19.Qxe4 Qxe4 20.Rxe4 Rd2 21.Rc1 Rfd8 22.Ree1 R8d5 23.b3 Kf8 24.g3 Ke7 25.Re3 Rc5 26.c3 Ra5 27.a4 Rad5 28.c4 R5d4 29.Rce1 Rb2 30.R1e2 Rdd2 31. Rxd2 Rxd2 32.g4 Rd4 33.h3 Ke6 34.Kg2 b6 35.Kg3 c6 36.f4 g6 37. Kf3 h5 38.Rc3 hgx4+ 39.hxg4 e5 40.Ke3 g5 41.f5+ Kxe5 42.Kf3 Rf4+ 43.Kg3 Kd4 44.Rc1 Ke5 45. a5 Rd4 46.Re1+ Re4 47.Rxe4+ 1-0

In the above contest, White had been nursing his pawn up disposition for many moves. 40.Ke3 was inferior to Re3, and it gave back the button. White's b pawn runs after Black's 46th turn folly.

Meanwhile, in the Reserve, a peculiar draw resulted after errors by both sides:

Dutch Defense A80

Duane Solley 1635

Sanjay Bhandari 1736

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.h3 g6 4.Nf3 d6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bc4+ Kh8 8.a3 c6 9.O-O Qe8 10.Re1 Nh5 11. Bh2 e5 [A mistake, opening up the position to White's benefit when his pieces are better developed.] 12. dxe5 dxe5 13.e4 f4 14. Qd6 Qd7

15.Rad1 Rd8 [15...Qxd6 was essential. 15...Rd8 loses to 16.Nxe5! menacing Nf7+ or a discovery against the Black lady and by extension the rook if he retakes on e5.] 16.Ng5 Qxd6 [Black had to try 16...Rf8.] 17.Rxd6 [17.Nf7+ Kg8 18.Nxd8 Kf8 19.Rxd6 wins for White.] 17... Rf8 18.Nf7+ Kg8 [Relatively best was 18...Rxf7 19.Bxf7 Bf6 20.Red1 Kg7 21.Bc4 since instead of playing for a perpetual] 19.Nh6+ [White could have played 19.Nxe5+ Kh8 20.Nf7+ Kg8 21.e5 with advantage.] 19...Kh8 20.Nf7+ [White is on top after 20...Rxf7 21.Bxf7 Bf6 22.Red1 Kg7 23.Bc4 or on 20...Kg8 21. Nxe5+ Kh8 22.Nf7+ Kg8 23.e5 so it is amazing they both agreed to a draw here!] ½-½

White outplayed Black with tactics in this short but brutal encounter:

Smith-Morra Gambt B22

Alan Davis 1646

Earl Richards 1499

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bg5 b5 10.Rc1 Qd8 11.e5 Nfd7 12.Bxe7 [12.Ne4! was even better.] 12...Qxe7 13.exd6 [13. Nd5!] 13...Qxd6 [Relatively better, but still losing, was 13...Qd8. The rest was just a massacre.] 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Rxc8+ Ke7 16.Rxh8 Nf6 17.Bxb5 Rxa2 18.Qb3 Ra7 19.Ba4 Nbd7 20.Bxd7 Kxd7 21.Qb5+ Ke7 22.Qc5 1-0

Back in the skittles room, White was quite happy with his choice of opening:

Sicilian Closed B30

Eddy Oquendo 1701

Hannes Jake Brueckner 1622

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1. e4 e5 2. d3 d6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 e6 5.Bg2 Be7 6. 0-0 Nc6 7. Re1 0-0 8. Nbd2 Qc7 9.c3 Rb8 10. h4 e5 11.

Nh2 Be6 12. g4 Qd7 13. g5 Ng4 14. f3 [He credited this KIA for the reversal of fortunes after his faulty 14th turn, but with all due respect, he had some help!] 14...Nxb2 15.Kxb2 f6 16.Nf1 b5 17.Ng3 fxg5 18.Bxg5 Bxg5 19.hxg5 g6 20.Rh1 Qe7 21. Bh3 Bxb3 22.Kxb3 Qxg5 23.Kg2 Kg7 24.Qe2 h5 25.Kf2 Ne7? [An error. 25...Kh8 26.Rag1 Qh6 was an improvement.] 26.Rag1 Qh6 27. Nxb5+ Kf7 28.Nf6 Qf4 29.Nd7 Ke6 30.Nxb8 Rxb8 31.Rg4 Qf6 32.Qe3 Rf8 33.Rh3 Rg8 34.Qg5 Qf7 35. Rgh4 Rg7 36.Qg4+ Kf6 37.b3 d5 38.Qd7 Qg8 39.Qd6+ Kf7 40.Qxe5 dxe4 41.Rh8 1-0

27.Nxb5 was sweet, as was the Nf6-d7 maneuver. White just rolled after his horse reached h5!

In this game from the Booster, Black steadily outplays White and wins in the endgame following a pin on the e-file, but he missed an easier win after White's error on move 21:

Caro-Kann B10

Rahul Battula 665

Jeff Little 1263

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 e6 4.Nc3 Ne7 5.d4 Nf5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Bxf5 exf5 8. 0-0 g6 9.Re1 Bg7 10.Be3 Qxb2 11. Bd2 Qb6 12.Rb1 Qc7 13.Qc1 0-0 14.Qa3 Re8 15.g3 Nd7 16.Bf4 Qd8 17.Bg5 Qc7 18.Bf4 Qd8 19.h4 Nf8 20.Rb3 Ne6 21.Qb4 Qe7 [21...Nxf4 22.gxf4 Bf8 23.Qa4 b5 24.Nxb5 exb5 25.Qxb5 wins quicker for Black.] 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Rb4 Nxf4 24.gxf4 Bh6 25.Ne2 b6 26.c3 Ba6 27.a3 Bxe2 28.Rxe2 Bxf4 29.Re1 Rae8 30.c4 f6 31.cxd5 cxd5 32. Rbb1 fxe5 33.dxe5 Bxe5 34.Nxe5 Rxe5 35.Rxe5 Rxe5 36.Rc1 Re7 37. Rc8+ Kf7 38.Rd8 Ke6 39.Rc8 Rd7 40.Rc6+ Ke7 41.Rc1 d4 42.Re1+ Kf6 43.Kf1 d3 44.Rd1 d2 45.Ke2 h6 46.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 47.Kxd2 Ke5 48.Ke3 g5 49.hxg5 hxg5 50.f3 f4+ 51.Kf2 Kd4 52.Kg2 Ke3 53.a4 a6

54.Kf1 Kxf3 55.a5 bxa5 56.Kg1 a4
57.Kh2 a3 58.Kh3 a2 59.Kh2 a1Q
60.Kh3 Qh1# 0-1

Caro-Kann B14

Samuel Tian 1385
Richard Fray 1064

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. c4
Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Nf3 Bd6 7. c5 Bc7
8. b4 0-0 9. Bd3 g6 10. Bh6 Re8 11.
0-0 b6 12.Rb1 bxc5 13.bxc5 Ba6
14.Bxa6 Nxa6 15.Nb5 Rb8 16.
Nxc7 Qxc7 17. Qd2 Rxb1 18. Rxb1
Rb8 19. Rxb8+ Qxb8 20. Bf4 Qb1+
21.Qc1 Qxa2 22.c6 Ne8 23.h3 Nac7
24.Bxc7 Nxc7 25.Qf4 Qb1+ 26.Kh2
[26...Ne8 was essential.] 26...Qb6
27.Ng5 f5 28.Qd6 Kg7 29.Nxe6+
[29.Qe7+ Kh6 30.f4 mates.] 29...
Nxe6 30.Qxe6 Qxd4 31.Qd7+ Kh6



32.c7 [32.Qd6 avoids perp ideas, and
the c pawn triumphs.] 32...Qf4+
33.Kh1 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.g3
Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Qf3+ [36...Qf1+ 37.
Kh2 Qf2+ etc. ensures a draw,]
37.Kg1 Qxg3+ 38.Kf1 Qxh3+ 39.
Ke2 Qg2+ 40.Kd3 Qe4+ 41.Kc3
d4+ [Better is 41...Qc4+.] 42.Qxd4
Qf3+ 43.Kc4 [Simply 43.Qd3 pre-
serves winning chances.] 43...Qc6+
44.Qc5 Qe4+ 45.Kb5 Qe8+ 46.Ka5
[46.Ka6 Qc8+ 47.Kxa7 may yet
win.] 46...Qe1+ ½-½
White could have played on with
47.Kb5 Qe8+ 48.Ka6 Qc8+ 49.Kxa7
instead of agreeing to a draw.

A cautionary tale for inexperienced
players. Always ask "what is threat-
ened?" before moving, and do not
unduly move the pawns in front of
the king even in defense, or suffer
Black's fate in this game:

Four Knights Game C55

Russell Gardner 1201
John Veach (unrated)

Austin Championship 2012 (1)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4.
Nc3 Bb4 5. d3 0-0 6. 0-0 h6 7. Bd2
b6 8. a3 Bxc3 9. Bxc3 Bb7 [9...d6
avoids pitching e5.] 10.Nxe5 Nxe5
11.Bxe5 d6 12.Bc3 Qe7 13.Re1
Rae8 14.Re3 Bc8 15.h3 Bd7 16.
Qd2 b5 17.Ba2 Bc6 [17...Nh5 18.
Rf3 Qg5 defends better.] 18.Rg3 g5
[18...Kh7 essential to avoid disaster.]
19.Rxg5+ hxg5 [19... Kh7 20. Qf4
Rg8 21. Bxf6 Qf8 22. Rf5 loses a bit
less rapidly.] 20. Qxg5+ Kh7 21.
Bxf6 Qxf6 22. Qxf6 Re6 [22...Bd7
avoids the last blunder.] 23. Bxe6 1-0

Round 2 (Saturday, 1/7/12)

I and my travel partner arrived in
time for the 2nd round after the
merge of the two playing schedules.
The two-day participants had recent-
ly finished their initial round during
the morning. After the round began,
I noticed the GM was eating some-
thing unusual from a medium
Styrofoam cup. As I was already
photographing and filming every-
thing this weekend, I inconspicu-
ously moved in nearer for a detailed
look. It seemed to be dry Rice Kris-
pies or some other strange supple-
ment. Was this the secret to his suc-
cess? Spiked yogurt? If we disman-
tled his chair would we find 2 dead
flies? More on this chess mystery
later, I can assure you!

Whatever was in that cup, it sure
worked well if this effort against a
San Antonio legend is any indica-
tion:

French Defense C00

Gregg Stanley 2100
Timur Gareyev 2740

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.exd5
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3
Nc6 8.Nge2 Bc5 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3
Bh5 11.Ne4 Be7 12.N4g3 Bxe2 13.
Qxe2 Nd4 14.Qg4 0-0 15.Nf5 Nxf5
16.Qxf5 Bf6 17.d3 c6 18.Rb1 Qd7
19.Qxd7 Nxd7 20.Be3 Rfd8 21.
Rfd1 g6 22.Kf1 Nb6 23.Bc2 Nd5
24.Bd2 a5 25.a3 Kg7 26.Re1 a4 27.
f4 Rd7 28.Kf2 h5 29.g3 Nc7 30.
Re4



30...Ne6 31.Rxa4 [This did not
help; an alternative was 31.Bc3 b5
32.Rc1 Rad8 33.Bxf6 Kxf6 34.Bb1
Nd4 35.Ba2.] 31...Rxa4 32.Bxa4
Ne5 33.Bc2 Nxd3+ [33...Ne4+ may
improve on a GM.] 34.Ke2 Nxb2
35.Bc1 Re7+ 36.Kf3 Nc4 37.Bd3
Nd6 38.Be3 Rd7 39.Be5 [39.g4
hxg4 40.hxg4 Nc8 41.Be4 was better
than the text.] 39...Nc8 40.Be4 Be7
41.Bb4 [Ditto for 41.Bxe7.] 41...
Bxb4 42.axb4 f5 43.Bc2 Nb6 44.g4
[44.b5 c5 45.Rd1 Rxd1 46.Bxd1 Kf6
loses less rapidly than in the game.]
44...Rd2 45.Bd1 [45.Bb3] 45...
Rd3+ 46.Kg2 Nd5 47.gxh5 [47.Nf3]
Rxd1 [White was mostly just steady-
ly outplayed, without making blatant
errors. The gulf between mortal and
strong grandmaster is a real one,
indeed] 0-1

This round featured arguably two of the best games of the tournament, both of which won the best game honors for the Open section in the under and over 2000 categories, respectively. This one won for the under 2000 hopefuls:

QGD Slav D12

Scottson White 1902
Emily Nguyen 1755

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

[Emily's father submitted this by e-mail, though unknown to him I had already selected it as one of the winners. His copy was more complete and ensured an accurate score copy. Nguyen, who is now a WCM, shows great maturity and inventiveness in demolishing an exposed king after her exchange sac on b2. The lead up pressure against the IQP was no slouch, either. She beats back an attack on her own monarch early, before going on the offensive.] 1.d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nc3 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8. Qxd3 a6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Nd2 Bd6 11.e4 dxe4 12.Ndxe4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Be7 14.Re1 0-0 15.Re3 h6 16.Rh3 Qe7 17.Ng5 [Flashy, but White could have tried 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18. Qe3 f5 19.Qxh6 fxe4 20.Qh8+ Kf7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qh8 Kf7 if a draw was not objectionable.] 17...Nf6 18.f4 Rfd8 [Black could have played 18...hxg5 19.fxg5 (which wins back the piece for White) and still lived, but I prefer the text.] 19.Nf3 Bb6 20.a3 Rd7 [Perhaps Black could have played 20...Rd5, saving time over the text?] 21.Be3 Rad8 22.Rd1 Rd5 23.Kh1 Qd6 24.Rh4 Ba7 25.g4 Qc6 26.Kg1 Rb5 27.Qe2 [Correct was 27.Ne5 avoiding Black's next. The rest of the moves are just hammer blows, coupled with some liquidation tricks at move 34.] 27...Rxb2 28.Qxb2 Qxf3 29.Qd2 Nfg4 [A cute irony is the first player is essentially forced to give back the exchange!] 30.Rxg4 Qxg4+ 31.Kf1

Qf3+ 32.Kg1 Rd6 33.Rf1 Qxe3+ 34.Qxe3 Bxd4 35.Re1 Bxe3+ 36. Rxe3 Rd4 37.Rb3 Rxf4 38.Rxb7 Rf3 39.a4 Ra3 40.Rb4 e5 41.Kf2 f5 42.h4 e4 43.h5 a5 44.Rc4 Rf3+ 45. Kg2 Rd3 46.Rc5 f4 47.Rxa5 f3+ 48.Kf2 Rd2+ 49.Ke3 Re2+ 50.Kd4 f2 51.Rf5 e3 52.a5 Re1 53.a6 f1Q 54.Rxf1 Rxf1 55.Ke5 e2 56.a7 Ra1 57.Kb6 e1Q 58.Kb7 Qe7+ 59.Kc6 Rxa7 60.Kd5 Ra1 61.Kc4 Rd1 62. Ke3 Qe5+ 63.Kb2 Rd8 64.Ka2 Rb8 65.Ka1 Qa5# 0-1

Our other best game winner (over 2000) was this effort by two Austin chess teachers. During the event, the loser (yes, you heard that right) submitted it with detailed notes for consideration, a telling sign of a possible winner. Having played it over several times, I had to agree. Notes by Feinstein:

Modern Defense A21

Michael Feinstein 2227
Craig LaSalle 2067

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 f5 5. g3 Be7 6.Nh3 c6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.d5 [The traditional move order is 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Na6 10.d5=] 8...0-0 9.Bg2 Na6 10.0-0 Nc7 11.f3 cxd5 [11... b5!?! 12.cxb5 Nxb5 13.Nxb5 cxb5 14.Be3 Qa5 15.Nf4 Bd8!= Hansen-Vaganian, Ter Apel 1993] 12.cxd5 exf3 13.exf3 b5 14.b4 Bb7N [14...a5 15.Rb1 axb4 16.Rxb4 Bd7 Unclear Gulko-Short, Elinite 1995] 15.Nf4 g5!?! 16.Ne6 Nxe6 17. dxe6 {White stands slightly better} 17...Qb6+ 18.Kh1 Rac8 19.Qd3 f4!?! 20.Bb2 [Rybka gives White an edge after 20.gxf4! Rxf4 21.Nxb5 Bd5 22.Rg1! Be4 23.Qf5 Kh8 24.a4 a6 25.Na3+] 20...Rc4 21.Ne2 Rxb4 22.Bd4 Qc6 23.gxf4!?! gxf4 24.Rg1 [24.Ra1 Rxb1 25.Rxb1 Ng4 26.Qxb5 White stands slightly better] 24...Qd5 25. Rad1 Ng4! 26. Bxa7 [26.h3 Ne5 (26...Qg5 27.Rc1!+) 27.Qd2 Rc4 28. Nxf4 Qxd4 29.Qxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4

Nc6 31.Ne2 Nxd4 32.Nxd4=] 26... Qxd3 27.Rxd3 Ne5 28.Rd4? [28. Bd4! is unclear.] 28...Rb2! 29.Nxf4 Rxa2 30.Bb6 Kh8? [30...Ra6!+] 31.Nd5 Rg8 32.h4? [32.Rdd1 is unclear.]



32...Bxh4!→ 33.Rxh4 Bxd5 34. Bd4 Raxg2! 35.Rxg2 Bxf3 36.e7 Bxg2+ 37.Kh2 Bc6 38.Rh6 Rg6 39. Rh5 Kg8 40.Rf5 Re6 41.Rf8+ Kg7 42.Rd8 Kf7 43.e8Q+ Bxe8 0-1

The victor in this contest submitted it as a possible best game award. It features an inspired exchange sac to bind Black on dark squares. Last year's Reserve winner soon succumbs:

Sicilian Grand Prix B23

Joel Pallapati 1699
Duy Minh Nguyen 1919

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Bb5 Bg7 6.d3 e6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0-0 Ne7 9.e5 d5 [This weakens e5. Houdini 1.5a gives 9... f5 10.Na4 Nd5 11.c4 Nb6 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Bc3 instead.] 10.Na4 Qa5 11.c4 Rb8 12.b3 Nf5 13.Ba3 [With 13.Qe2/c2 White preserves the option of playing her to f2 and prepares Ba3 without offering material.] 13...Ne3 14. Qe2 Nxf1 15.Kxf1 Bf8 16.Rc1 Bd7 [16...Ba6 Black comes to regret the text.] 17.Qf2 d4 [17...Be7 18.Bxc5 Bxc5 19.Nxc5 Bc8 20.cxd5 cxd5

improves. The text provides a d4 target and cedes e4.] **18.Ng5 Be7 19.Ne4 Rg8** [19...Rd8 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Naxc5 Bc8 preferable, but also good for White.] **20.Bxc5 Bxc5** [20...Qd8 though it's hard to stop Nf6+.] **21.Naxc5 Qa3** [21...Bc8 22.Qxd4 Qc7 23.Nf6+ also wins, but now Black collapses rapidly.] **22.Rc2 Rg7** [22...Rd8 23.Qxd4 Bc8 24.Nf6+ Ke7 25.Nxg8+ Ke8 26.Nf6+ Ke7 at least does not get mated in short order.] **23.Nf6+ Ke7 24.Qxd4 Qa5 25.Qxd7+ Kf8 26.Qd6# 1-0**

The following game also could have been one of the finalists in a best game hunt:

Modern Benoni A70

Kevin Li 1653

Eugene Kohnitz 1971

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.exd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Be3 Nd7 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Ne5 14.Qe2 a6 15.a4 Rc8 16.Bc4 [White's woes began with this faulty move, as noted by Black in the post-mortem. Better is 16.Bc2 restraining Black's next.] **16... f5 17.Rab1** [Instead. 17.exf5 Qh4 18.Ba2 had to be tried. The text loses fast to the f-pawn march.] **17...f4 18. Bd2 f3 19.gxf3 Rxf3 20.Kg2 Qf6 21.Bb3 Rf8 22. Nd1 Qh4 23.Rh1 Ng3 24.Qe1 Nxh1 25.Be3 Qxh3+ 26.Kg1 Rg3+ 27. fxf3 Nf3# [A witty win!]** **0-1**

The manner in which Black's forces feast on the shattered king side is most instructive. Here's an amusing anecdote regarding the analysis session involving the feisty lad handling the White pieces. Raised in an era of Fritz where juniors must be shown exact analytical proof to be satisfied of any claim made by an older player of experience, White argued that he could play after 18.Ba2 in the above alternate line, 19.g4?! if Black deliberately walks into the pawn fork

with 18...Rxf5!? Eugene indulged this youthful foray with lots of lines, all leading to edges for Black that he and I assumed on instinct alone. Another line I think we even tried was 17...Rxf5 18.g4?! with much the same conclusions. The kid was still not convinced!

In this contest, Black must have been crestfallen to still be losing after his charming try at move 13:

French Defense C17

Andrew Lu 1930

Seth Davis 1760

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.dxc5 Nbc6 9.f4 f6 10.Nf3 fxe5 11.fxe5 Ng6 12.Qe3 Rf5 13.Bd3 Nh4 14.0-0 [Naturally 14.Nxh4 loses the queen to Rxe5 and 14.Bxf5 loses her with Nxg2+, but after the "so what?" reply in the text, White is well on top of things and cruises to victory anyway!] **14...Nxf3+ 15. Rxf3 Rxe5 16.Qf4 Qe7 17.Raf1 Bd7 18.Nd6 Rh5 19.Qg4 Qh4 20. Qxh4 Rxh4 21.Rf7 Ne5 22.Re7 Rf8 23.Re1 Rh5 24.h3 d4 25.Rxe5 Rxe5 26.Rxd7 Rxc5 27.Rxb7 Ra5 28.Be4 h6 29.Bxe6+ Kh8 30.Bb3 Ra6 31. Nb5 Raf6 32.Nxd4 g6 33.Rxa7 g5 34.c4 h5 35.Ra5 h4 36.Rxg5 Rf1+ 37.Kh2 R8f2 38.Rh5+** **1-0**

Black was devastated over what he felt was a discarded win for him, but even he had to laugh after this miniature, with a mate straight out of Reinfeld:

Sicilian B23

Avinash Thangirala 1977

John Kolts 1888

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 a6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 d5 6.d3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Be7 8. Bg2 Nf6 9.Ned2 0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11. a4 Bd7 12.b3 Nd5 13.Ne4 f5 14. Neg5 Bf6 15.c4 [Moving the castle

to a2 or b1 is met with ...Nc3, while 15.Ra3 buries the rook and leads to an enduring Black positional edge at minimum. The text was the best practical try.] **15...Bxa1 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Ba3 Bd4+??** [17...Bf6/c3 was the way to maintain the advantage. The text loses, incredibly.] **18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd5+ Kh8** [This leads to a beauty mate. 19...Be6 20. Bxe6 Kh8 21.Qh5 g6 22.Qh6 also loses, but not so prettily.] **20.Qh5 h6 21.Qg6 1-0**

The Old Guard had an interesting round, too. Sarkisian lost to another in the group (Durstion) in a ghastly Bird's opening as White:

Bird's Opening A03

Drew Sarkisian 2044

John Durstion 1896

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1. f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.d3 e6 7.c3 Nge7 8.Qe1 b6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Bf2 Ba6 11.g4 Rc8 12.Bg3 f6 13.Na3 e5 14.fxe5 fxe5 15.Rd1 h6 16.Qd2 Qd7 17.h3 Qe6 18.Qc2 Rf7 19.Rfe1 Kh8 20.Kh2 Rcf8 21.Nb1 Bf6 22.Nbd2 h5 23. gxf5 gxf5 24.e4 d4 25.a3 Rg7 26. e4 [26.Rg1 was essential; the text lost the house quickly.] **26...Rfg8 27.Nf1 h4 28. Bxh4 Rg2+ 29.Qxg2 Rg2+ 30. Kxg2 Bxh4 31.Nxh4 Bc8** and Black won by move 36 **0-1**

Newsham and Kappler had easy wins while Simpson lost to Thompson. Laverty managed to upset a player that could easily be in the hunt for the club title by the end:

QGD Semi-Tarrasch D41

Alan Laverty 2061

Michael Langer 2264

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.d4 e6 6.e4 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nxc3 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.bxc3 Bc5 10.Ne5 Ke8 11.Bb5+ Nd7 12.Bf4 f6 13.Nd3 Ba3 14.Rb1 e5 15.Be3 b6

16.Nb4 Bxb4 17.cxb4 Bb7 18.f3 Ke7 19.0-0 Rhd8 20.a4 Rac8 21. Rfd1 Bc6 22.Ba6 Bxa4 23.Bxc8 Bxd1 24.Bb7 Be2 25.Ra1 a6 26.Bc6 Rb8 27.Kf2 Bb5 28.Bxb5 axb5 29. Rd1 Ra8 30.Rd5 Ra2+ 31.Kg3 Rb2 32.Rxb5 Kd6 33.Rd5+ Ke6 34.Bd2 Nf8 35.f4 exf4+ 36.Kxf4 Ng6+ 37. Kg3 Ne5 38.h4 Nc4 39.Bc3 Rb3 40. Rd3 Nd6 41.Re3 Rxc3 [A case of chess blindness! 41...Nxe4+ 42.Rxe4 Rxc3 or 41...f5 were suggested alternatives to the text blunder. Perhaps Langer expected 42.Rxc3 was not *check*, allowing ...Nxe4+ in response?] 42.Rxc3+ Kb5 43.Rc7 Nxe4+ 44.Kf4 Nd6 45.Rxg7 h5 46. g4 hxg4 47.h5 g3 48.h6 g2 49.h7 Nf7 50.Rxg2 Kxb4 51.Rg7 1-0

In the Reserve, one of the first games to catch my eye due to highly instructive practical tactical threats and errors was this little number:

Giuoco Piano C54

Don Cromeanus 1769

Camille Kao 1449

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 Bb6 7.h3 h6 8.0-0 9.Re1 Be6 10.Nbd2 Qd7 11. Bxe6 fxe6 12.Nc4 Rad8 13.a4 a6 14.Nxb6 exb6 15.Be3 Qc7 16.Qb1 d5 17.Ra2 Rd7 18.Rcl Rdf7 19.a5 bxa5 20.bxa5 Qd6 21.Rd1 d4 22. Bd2 dxc3 23.Bxc3 Rd8 [Black utilizes a relative pin to menace ...Nxe4 next move. Note how a natural developing move was used to realize this possibility. It happens that it may not be her best move, but it is in the usual spirit of combination.] 24.Rad2 Nd4 [This is a piece losing blunder, due to the forced pawn fork it enables. At this level, these mistakes are typical.] 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.e5 Qc5 27.exf6 Qxa5 28. fxg7 Rxg7 29.Re1 Qf5 30.Kf1 Qg6 31.g3 Qf5 32.Kg2 Rf8 33.Qd1 b5 34.Nxd4 Qd5+ 35.Re4 Re8 36.Nf3 a5 37.Re5 Qc6 38.Rc2 Qb6 39.

Rcc5 Rb8 40.Qb3 a4 41.Qxb5 Qxb5 42.Rxb5 Rd8 43. Ra5 Rxd3 44.Rxa4 Rd6 45.Ra8+ Kh7 46. Re8 Rg6 47.Re7+ Kg8 48. Ng1 Rf6 49. Ne2 Kf8 50.Ra7 Rd3 51.Nf4 Rd6 52.Ra4 Kf7 53.Rae4 Ke7 [53...Ke7 lost more material to a knight fork utilizing an absolute pin. 53...Ra6 is also lost, but better.] 54.Nd5+ Rxd5 55.Rxd5 Kf7 56.Rd7+ Ke8 57.Ra7 Kf8 58.Rf4 Rxf4 59.gxf4 Kg8 60. Kf3 Kf8 61. Ke4 Kg8 62.Ke5 Kf8 63.Kxe6 Kg8 64. Kf6 h5 65. h4 Kh8 66. Kg6 Kg8 67. Ra8# 1-0

Here's another unforced disaster where a lower rated player is blessed by Caissa:

Sicilian Paulsen B44

Sanjay Bhandari 1736

Duane Herrerra 1546

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 d6 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Be2 Be7 9.g4 Nd7 10.Qd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.Kb1 Nce5 13. Rc1 Nb6 14.b3 Bd7 15.f4 Nc6 16. Bf3 Rad8 17.Qf2 Rc8 [17...Rc8 ignores the discovery threat White menaced by making a forcing move with his Nd4 while twice attacking b6. 17...Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Nc8 was one alternative.] 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Bxb6 Qb8 20.f5 Ne5 21.h4 [21.Be2 avoids loss of the exchange, preserving some of the advantage.] 21... Nd3 22.Qe2 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Bxh4 24.Rh1 Bf6 25.fxe6 Bxe6 26.Nd5 Bxd5 27.exd5 Rce8 28.Qd3 h6 29. Be3 Qc7 30.g5 Rxe3 [30...Qe7 31. Bc1 Bxg5 was preferable to giving back the exchange here.] 31.Qxe3 Bxg5 32.Qe6+ Qf7 33.Bh5 Qxe6 34.dxe6 Rf4 35. Bf7+ Kf8 36.Rd1 Be7 37.e5 dxc5 38.Rd7 Rb4 39.Rc7 g5 40.Rc8+ Kg7 41.Rg8+ Kf6 42. Rg6+ Ke5 43. Rxh6 Rh4 44.Rg6 Rh8 45.Kc2 Ke4 46.Rg7 Ke5 47. Rg6 Rh2+ 48.Kb1 b5 49.Rg7 Kd4 50.Bg6 Bf6 51. Rd7+ Kc3 52.Rd3+ Kb4 53.Re3 Be7 54.Bc2 [This was

the final nail in the coffin, the point coming after the rook checks. Best was 54.Rd3 Re2 55.Bf5 Rf2 56.Bg4.] 54...Rh1+ 55.Bd1 [55. Kb2 is mated by Bf6+ 56.Re5 Bxe5 so the cleric dies.] 55...Rxd1+ 56. Kc2 Rg1 57.Rf3 Re1 58.a3+ Ka5 59.b4+ cxb4 60.axb4+ Kb6 0-1

A classic case of the dangers of leaving the king in the center against "heavy piece" opposition:

QGD Tarrasch D32

Ritik Verma 1618

Joe Matt Alexander 1743

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Bc2 cxd4 9.exd4 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Bb4 11.Be3 Qa5 12.Qd2 0-0-0 13. Bf5+ Kb8 14.Rg1 g6 15.Bd3 Rhe8 16.Be2 Re6 17.a3 Rde8 18.Qc1 Bd6 19.Qd2 Bxh2 20.Rh1 Bd6 21. Bg5 [Despite White's transgressions, with 21.0-0-0 the first player can still keep hope alive. The text permits the devastating reply] 21...Nxd4 22. Qxd4 [White cannot interpolate with 22.Bxf6 due to ...Nxf3+.] 22... Rxe2+ 23.Kf1 Be5 24.Bf4 [An overworked queen and an absolute pin crushed White, whose attempted "cross pin" with the text move fails.] 24...Ka8 25.Bxe5 R2xe5 26.f4 Qa6+ 27.Kg2 R5e6 28.Nxd5 [White walked into another absolute pin with this pawn grab, sealing his fate.] 28...Qc6 29.Rhd1 Rd6 30. Racl Qxd5+ 31.Qxd5 Rxd5 32. Rxd5 Nxd5 33.Kf3 Kb8 34.Rd1 Nf6 35.Rd6 Re6 36.Rd8+ Kc7 37. Rf8 Re7 38.Kg3 Kd7 39. Kh4 Ke6 40.Kg5 Re8 41.Rxe8+ Nxe8 42.Kh6 Nf6 43.b4 b5 44.f3 Nd5 45.Kg5 f6+ 46.Kg4 h5+ 47.Kg3 Kf5 48.Kg2 Nxf4+ 49.Kf2 g5 50.Kg1 Nd5 51. Kf2 Kf4 52.Kg2 Nc3 53.Kf2 h4 54. Kg2 f5 55.Kh2 g4 56.fxg4 fxg4 57. Kg2 Nb1 58. Kh2 Nxa3 59.Kg2 Nc2 60.Kh2 Nxb4 0-1

Tactical alertness pays off here for Black, but White needs to avoid premature resignation:

London System A48

Charles Ventimiglia 1579

Eddy Oquendo 1701

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bf4 Bg7 4. e3 d6 5. Be2 [5.h3 avoids losing the cleric against horse. A London System player should not miss this.] **5...Nh5 6. c3 Nxf4 7. exf4 0-0 8.0-0 Nd7 9. Re1 Nf6 10. Bd3 Nh5 11. g3 Bg4 12. Nbd2 Qd7 13. Qc2** [13. Bf1 avoids the tactic.] **13...Rae8** [Black misses 13...Bxf3 14. Nxf3 Nxf4 as 15. gxf4 Qg4+ recovers the piece. Even 13...Nxf4 works here with the same idea.] **14. e4** [14. Ng5 avoids the shoals.] **14...Bxf3** [14...Nxf4 15. gxf4 Bxf3 16. Bf5 e6 17. Nxf3 exf5 also works for the second player.] **15. Nxf3**



15...Nxf4 16. Be4 [16. Bf1 Nh3+ 17. Bxh3 Qxh3 alternatively.] **16...Nh3+ 17. Kg2 f5** [17...c6 18. Qb3 Qg4 19. Bc2 Nf4+ 20. Kh1 Ne6 21. Re4 Qf5 22. Kg2 Rb8 (Houdini 1.5a)] **18. Bd5+** [18. Bxb7 c6 19. Bxc6 Qxc6 20. d5 Qb6 21. Kxh3 Qxb2 22. Qxb2 Bxb2 23. Rab1 Bf6 24. Rb7 Rc8 25. Rc1 a5 - Houdini] **18...e6 19. Bxb7** [19. Rxe6 Rxe6 20. Kxh3 Kh8 21. Bxe6 Qxe6 22. Re1 Qf6 improves here.] **19...c6 20. Kxh3 Qxb7 21. Kg2** [21. c5 dxc5 22.

Qxc5 keeps the K off the a8-h1 diagonal.] **21...e5 22. dxc5 dxc5 23. Rab1** [23. Rad1 actively, since 23... Qxb2 24. Qxb2 Bxb2 25. Rd7 is equal.] **23...g5** [Better is 23...e5.] **Black resigns?** [24. Qb3 followed by Kg1 after the Black queen moves, beats resigning!] **0-1**

In the Booster, this game is a testament to a "never say die" attitude being worth a lot in chess:

Owen's Defense B00

Tony Olvera 1355

Russell Gardner 1201

Austin Championship 2012 (2)

1. e4 e6 2. d4 b6 3. Nf3 Be7 4. Bd3 Bb7 5.0-0 d5 6. e5 f6 7. Be3 Nd7 8. c3 c5 9. Nbd2 Qc7 10. Bf4 0-0-0 11. Rc1 [White missed an early win with 11. exf6 Qxf4 12. fxg7 and the pawn promotes.] **11...g5 12. Bg3 f5 13. h3 h5 14. h4 f4 15. Bh2 gxh4 16. Bf4 Nh6 17. Bg5 Bxg5 18. Nxc5 Nf8 19. Qxh5 Qg7 20. f4 Nf5 21. Qf3 Re8 22. Qh3 Ng3 23. Rf2 Kc7 24. Ndf3 Ne4 25. Re2 Nxc5 26. Nxc5 Be8 27. e4 Ng6 28. Bxg6 Qxg6 29. Qa3 a6 30. dxc5 b5 31. Qa5+ Kd7 32. Qb6 Rd8 33. cxd5 Ke8 34. Nxe6 Bxe6 35. Qxe6+ Qxe6 36. dxe6 h3 37. g3 Rd3 38. Rc3** [An error which costs a rook, but no matter. Better is 57. f5 (or simply 57. Kh2).] **38...h2+ 39. Rxxh2 Rd1+ 40. Kg2 Rd2+ 41. Kf3 Rdxh2 42. c6** [The pawn mass eventually beats the out-manned castle in a charming tableau!] **42... Kd8 43. c7+ Kc8 44. f5 Re8 45. Ke4 Rh7 46. Rc6 Kb7 47. e8Q+ Rxc8 48. Rxc8 Kxc8 49. f6 Kd8 50. Kd5 Re7 51. Kd6 Rb7 52. g4 Rb6+ 53. Kd5 b4 54. g5 Rb5+ 55. Ke4 Rb6 56. Kf5 Rb7 57. g6** **1-0**

Round 3 (Saturday, 1/7/12)

Again our trusty GM could be found at his board with his trademark medium styrofoam cup. By this time I was really curious as to its contents, but I did not want to make a scene!

It must have been some powerful brew because this was the result:

King's Indian E97

Timur Gareyev 2740

Seth Thompson 2106

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Bd2 [9. Ne1 or Nd2 are more commonly seen in the Mar del Plata line.] **9...a5 10. Ne1 Ne8 11. Nd3 f5 12. f3 f4 13. e5 h5 14. Re1 Rf6** [Houdini 1.5a gives 14...c6 15. Qb3 Kh7 with complex play, considering the text as inaccurate.] **15. Nb5 g5 16. Nf2 b6** [16...dxc5 17. Rxf5 c6 18. dxc6 Nxc6 may be an improvement over the game continuation.] **17. cxd6 cxd6 18. Rc3 Rg6 19. g4 fxg3 20. hxg3 Nf6 21. Qb3 g4 22. f4 Bh6 23. fxe5 Bxd2 24. exf6** [24. exd6 may improve on the game, inviting Black to err with 24...Bxc3 25. dxe7 and d6+. Discovery tricks abound. Instead, after 24...a4 25. dxe7 Qxe7 26. Qc4 Qe5 27. Rd3 Bh6 etc.] **24...Rxf6 25. Rd3 Bb4 26. e5 dxe5** [Our engine gives 26...Rf8 27. Ne4 Nf5 28. Nd4 Nxd4 29. Rxh8 Qxh8 30. Rxd4 Qg7 31. Nf6+ Kh8 over the text.] **27. Ne4 Rxf1+ 28. Bxf1 Ng6** [28...Bf5 seems more obvious, but may not be better.] **29. d6+ Kg7 30. Ne7 Ra7** [30...Bf5 31. a3 Bxe4 32. axb4 Nf8 (32. Ne6+ Kf6 33. Nxd8 Bc5+ 34. Kh2 Rxd8 35. Rd1 Bf3 36. Rd2) also loses.] **31. a3, Black resigns.** [31...Bc5+ 32. Nxc5 bxc5 33. Qb6 Rxc7 34. dxe7 Qf8 35. Qxa5 wins, as does 31...Bf5 32. axb4 Qd7 33. Re3 axb4 34. Bb5 Qc8 35. Qxb4. A fierce, exciting struggle!] **1-0**

Meanwhile, Dejmek gave the peanut gallery a free chess lesson proving the pin is mightier than the sword:

English Opening A29

Craig LaSalle 2067

Mark Dejmek 2147

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.g3 e5 2.e4 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.b3 Bg4 10.Bb2 f5 11.b4 Bf6 [To be avoided was 11... Bxb4 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 (12...Bxc3 13. Qb3+ Kh8 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qxc3) 13.Qb3+ Rf7 14.Qxb4, as was 11... Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Bxb4 13.Bxc6 Bxc3 (13...bxc6 14.Qb3+ wins) 14.Bxb7 Bxb2 15.Qb3+ Rf7 16.Qxb2 Rb8 17.Bg2 etc.] 12.e3 Kh8 [Losing is 12...Nxb4 13.Qb3+ Rf7 14.Qxb4 Qxd3.] 13.b5 Nb4 14. Ba3 Nxd3 15 Bxf8 [White lacks time for this capture. Essential was 15.e4 Re8.] 15... e4 16.Qc2 exf3 17.Bh1 Qxf8 18. Qxd3 Qa3 19.Rfe1 [19.h3 Bxh3 20. Rfd1 Qxc3 21.Qxc3 Bxc3 22.Rac1 Be5 23.Bxf3 Rb8 24.Bxb7 improves on the text but may not save White.}] 19...Na4 0-1

Team Old Guard had a mixed result, with Durston on a bye. Simpson and Newsham won, while Kappler lost and Sarkisian split his point. Here are all of those contests:

Vienna Game C29

Michael Simpson 1972
James Rohrbach 2240

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 5.Nxe4 5.d3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 d4 7.Nf3 e5 8.cxd4 cxd4 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Bf4 0-0 12.Qe1 f6 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Nd2 Bh4 15.Bg3 Rxf1+ 16.Nxf1 Bg5 17.Bf3 Bf5 18.Rb1 Qd7 19. Nd2 Re8 20.Ne4 Ne5 [20...b6 was correct. The Vienna specialist playing White takes over after the text.] 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Qg3 Be3+ 23.Kh1 Rb5 24.Qb8+ Kf7 25.Rxb5 Bxe4 26.Qe5 [26.Bh5+ g6 27.Rb1 b6 28. dxe4 was even better than the text, as 28...gxh5 loses to 29.Rf1+ with fatal exposure.] 26...Bxf3 27.Qf5+ Qxf5 28.Rxf5+ Ke6 29.Rxf3 h5 30. g3 g5 31.Kg2 Bd2 32.Rf8 Kd6 33. Rc8 b5 34.Kf3 Kd5 35.h3 a5 36. Ke2 Bc1 37.Rg8 Kc5 38.Rc8+ Kb4 39.Rb8 a4 40.Kd1 Bb2 41.g4 hxg4

42.hxg4 Ka3 43.Rxb5 Kxa2 44.a3 45.Ra5 Bc3 46.Ra8 Bb4 47.g5 Be7 48.g6 Bf6 49.Ra7 Kb2 50.g7 Bxg7 51.Rb7+ Ka1 52.Rxg7 a2 53.Ra7 Kb2 54.Rxa2+ Kxa2 55.c3 dxc3 56. Kc2 Ka3 57.Kxc3 Ka4 58.Kc4 Ka5 59.Kc5 Ka6 60.Kc6 Ka7 61.d4 Kb8 62.Kd7 1-0

English Opening A26

Eugene Kohnitz 1971
Joshua Newsham 2134

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 d6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.e4 e5 5.Ne2 Ne7 6.d3 0-0 7. Nbc3 Nbc6 8.Nd5 f5 9.Rb1 a5 10.Be3 Nb4 11. Qd2 Nexd5 12.cxd5 Nxa2 13.h4 Qe7 14.h5 Nb4 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.f3 e5 17.Ng1 b6 18.Bf1 Ba6 19.Bg5 Qd7 20.Be2 Qa4 21.Nh3 fxe4 22. dxe4 Qc2 23.Rd1 Bxe2 24.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 25.Kxe2 Nc2 26.Rhf1 Nd4+ 27.Ke3 Ra7 28.f4 a4 29.Kd3 b5 30.fxe5 dxe5 31.Rxf8+ Bxf8 32.Bc1 b4 33.Ng5 Be7 34.Kc4 [34.Ne6 a3 35.bxa3 bxa3 36.Bd2 Kf7 37.Nxd4 cxd4 holds on better.] 34...a3 35. bxa3 bxa3 36.Ne6 Nxe6 [36...a2 37. Bb2 Rb7 38.Bc3 Rb1 was quicker. Josh nursed his early extra pawn into something more tangible.] 37.dxe6 Ra6 38.Rf1 a2 39.Bb2 Rxe6 40.Ra1 Ra6 41.Bxe5 Kf7 42.Kd5 Bf6 43.Bxf6 Kxf6 44.e5+ Ke7 45.Kxe5 Ke6 46. Kd4 Ra4+ 47.Ke3 Kxe5 48.g4 Ra3+ 0-1

Blumenfeld Countergambit E10

Arvind Jayaraman 2195
Peter Kappler 2089

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 Qa5+ 6.Qd2 Qxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 d6 8.e4 Nbd7 9.b3 Bb7 10.h3 bxc4 11.bxc4 Be7 12.Rb1 Rb8 13.Bd3 0-0 14.0-0 Ba6 15.dxe6 fxe6 16. Rfe1 e5 17.Rb3 Rb6 18.Reb1 Rfb8 19.Nf1 Bb7 20.N3d2 Bc6 21.Ne3 Kf7 22.Nf5 g6 23.Nxe7 Kxe7 24.f3 Nf8 25.Ra3 [Kappler now gives 25... R8b7! with equality.] 25...Rxb1+ 26.Nxb1 Rb7 27.Ra6 Rc7 28.Nc3

Kf7 29.Kf2 N8d7 [29...Ne6! also leads to drawish territory – Kappler.] 30.Nd5 Bxd5 31.cxd5 Ne8 [31...c4 32.Be2 may improve on the text.] 32.Bb5 e4 33.Rc6 Rxc6 [33...Rb7 34.Bxc4 Rb2+ 35.Kg3 Nb6 is an alternative to the game line.] 34. dxc6 Ndf6 [34...Nb6 may have been better, but not savable. Peter noted later that his position was already lost by moves 31-33.] 35.Bxc4+ Ke7 36.a4 Kd8 37.Be3 Kc7 38.Bxa7 Kxc6 39.Be3 Ne7 40.Bg5 Nd7 41. Bg8 Nc5 42.Bxh7 Nxa4 43.Bxg6 Nc5 44.h4 N7e6 45. Bf6 Nf8 46.Bf5 Nce6 47.Be7 1-0
White was the unheralded sensation of this event, and he impressed several top players in the skittles room with his post-mortem chops. OTB, he confounded everyone he faced and moved back over 2200. He was provisionally rated over 2300 in February of 2010. Pros and patzers all agreed he was significantly underrated!

Gruenfeld Defense D94

John Kolts 888
Drew Sarkisian 2044

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.e4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Nf3 Bg7 7. Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Qxd4 12.Qxb7 Nbd7 13.Be2 Rab8 14.Qa6 Nc5 15.Qa3 Nfe4 16.Be3 Qb4 17.Qxb4 Rxb4 18.Nxe4 [18.Nd5 Rb7 19. Rac1 e6 20.Bxc5 Nxc5 21.Rxc5 exd5 22.b3 may have been a try for more than equality.] 18...Nxe4 19.Bf3 Bxb2 20.Rad1 Bf6 21.a3 Ra4 22.Bxe4 Rxe4 23.Bxa7 Rc8 24.Rc1 Rec4 25. Rxc4 Rxc4 26.Rb1 Be5 27.Be3 Kg7 28.Bd2 Rc2 29.Be3 Rc3 30.g3 Rxa3 31.Be5 Ra2 32.Bxe7 Bd4 33.Rf1 f6 34.g4 Kh6 35.Bd6 Kg5 36.Bg3 f5 37.gxf5 gxf5 38.Bd6 Rd2 39.Be7+ Kf4 40.Kg2 Re2 41.Bd6+ Ke4 42. Kg3 Bf6 43.Rb1 h5 44.Rb4+ Kd5 45.Bb8 Rc2 46.Rb5+ Ke6 47.Rb6+ Kf7 48.Rb7+ Kg6 49.Rb6 Kf7 ½-½

A clean and pretty well played game.

Chua was quite proud of the following effort against an expert. He showed it to me in the skittles room and I at once noticed that the set-up used by Black was a dead ringer for one advocated by NM Jason Doss in an old Dallas Chess Club video from 2/11/1999 titled *Beating the Flank Openings* which I have in my library. The gist is you play an old Stonewall structure with Be7 against the English and such with g3/Bg2 components. Black often gets in Qe8-g6-h5, Rf6-g6-h6, g5-g4, Ng4, etc. Alternatively, he plays f4 (even as a sac) combined with g5. Alexander parts with the exchange on f4, winning a fine game:

Bogo-Indian E11

Benjamin Coraretti 2155

Alexander Chua 2347

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 b6 9.b3 Nbd7 10.Bf4 Ba6 11.Nbd2 Nh5 12.Be3 Re8 13.Qb2 f5 14.Rfe1 g5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Nf1 f4 17.Bd2 [17.gxf4 Nxf4 18.Bxf4 gxf4 19.b4 Bd6 20.b5 Bb7 21.Rec1 Qe7 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Re1 puts up stronger resistance.] 17...g4 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bc5 20.Bxf4 [20.e3 f3 21.Bh1 looks uninviting, but avoids the offering.] 20...Rxf4 [Houdini 1.5a gives 20... Nxf4 21.gxf4 Rxf4 22.e3 Rf7 23.b4 Bf8 as being preferable for Black, but this is more inspired.] 21.gxf4 Nxf4 22.Rac1 [22. b4 Bf8 23.b5 Bb7 24.e3 Nxc2 25.Kxc2 d4+ 26.e4 holds on better.] 22...Qh4 23.Ng3 [23.Rxc5 bxc5 24.Ng3 giving it back, should have been tried. 23...Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Qxh2 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8 26.Nf1 g3+ 27.Kf3 Qxg2+ 28.Kxf4 Qf2+ 29.Kg4 h5+ 30.Kh3 g2 31.Nh2 Qxe1 32.Kxc2 is suggested by the engine.] 23...Nxc2 24.Rxc5 bxc5 25.Kxc2 Bb7 26.e3 [26.Qc1 d4+ 27.Kg1 Kg7 28.e4 puts

up stiffer resistance.] 26...d4+ 27.e4 Qg5 28.b4 Qxe5 29.bxc5 Rc7 30. Qb5 [30.Rd1 Bxe4+ 31.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 32.Kg1 Rd7 was called for.] 30... Kf7 31.Rb1 [31.Qa4 Ke7 32.h3 gxh3+ 33.Kxh3 Qxc5 needed to be played.] 31...Bxe4+ 32.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 33.Kg1 Qc2 34.c6 Kg6 35.Rb4 [35.Re1 Rxc6 Qb8 Qc5 37.Qg8+ Kh6 38.Rxe6+ Rxe6 39.Qxe6+ Kg5 40.Qg8+ Kf4 41.Qxh7 was a last chance to save it.] 35...Qd1+ 36.Qf1 Qxf1+ 37.Kxf1 e5 38.Rb7 Rxc6 39.Rxa7 h5 40.a4 Kf5 41.a5 Rc1+ 42.Ke2 Ra1 43.Kd3 Ra3+ 44. Kc4 Ke4 45.Kb5 d3 46.Rd7 Ra2 47.a6 Rxf2 48.a7 Ra2 49.Kc4 h4 50.Kb3 Ra6 51.Kc3 Rc6+ 52.Kd2 Rc2+ 0-1

Langer played a nice finish in a king side attack with reserves brought up to seal the deal:

Caro-Kann B10

Michael Langer 2264

Vasfi Gucer 1986

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Nc3 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.Bb3 Nc5 11.Qc4 Qd6 12.Bc2 b5 13.Qh4 Bg4 14.d4 Ncd7 15.Ng5 Bf5 [This is weakening, but it's hard to suggest a good alternative to meet the threat of Nxh7 followed by Qxg4.] 16. Bxf5 gxf5 17.Bf4 Qb4 18.Qh3 Qxd4 19. Qxf5 Rfd8 20.Rad1 Qc4 21.Rfe1 Re8 22.Nce4 h6 23.b3 Qb4 24.Nf3 Rad8 25.Nd4 Nxe4 26.Nc6 Nd6 27. Qg4 Qc3 28.Bxh6 f5 29.Qh4 [Cashing in with 29.Qxg7+ Qxg7 30.Bxg7 Kxg7 31.Nxd8 Rxd8 32.Rxe7 Kf8 33.Re6 Nc5 34.Reel may have been better but is less interesting.] 29... Bf6 [29...Bxh6 30.Qxh6 Qf6 31.Qe3 Ra8 needed to be tried.] 30.Qh5 Nf8 [This is weak, but there is no stopping the simple rook lifts.] 31.Re3 Qxe3 32.Bxe3 Rc8 33.Nd4 Kg7 34.Bh6+ Kg8 35.Rd3 Ne4 36. Qxf5 Nc3 37.Rg3+ Kf7 38.Qh5+ 1-0

After another nice attack on the king side, Jimenez misses a beauty mate:

Sicilian Alapin B22

Marc Jimenez 2075

Christipher Chen 1942

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 e6 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.a3 dxe5 9.dxe5 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2 Bd7 12.Qe4 g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14. Nbd2 b6 15.Rfc1 Na5 16.b4 Nb7 17.Ba6 Bc8 18.Qc4 Rb8 19.Ne4 Bd7 20.Qe2 Nc7 21.Bd3 a5 22.Nfg5 Nd5 23.Qf3 f5 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.Bc4 Nd6 26.Nxe6 Bxe6 27.Bxe6+ Kh8 28.Ng5 Ng8 29.Bxg8 [29.Qf7!! and mate next move!] 29...Bxg5 30. Bxg5 Qxg5 31.Bb3 Rbc8 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Rd1 Nf5 34.Qd5 Qe7 35. bxa5 bxa5 36.Qxa5 Re8 37.Qc3+ Ng7 38.h3 Rf8 39.a4 Qh4 40.Qd4 Qg5 41.Re1 h5 42.h4 Qh6 43.a5 g5 44. hxg5 Qxg5 45.a6 Kh7 46.Qe4+ Kh8 47.a7 Qa5 48.Bc2 Nf5 49. Qe5+ Qxe5 50.Rxe5 Nd6 51.Rxh5+ Kg7 52.Rd5 Nc4 53.Rd7+ Kg8 54. Bb3 Rc8 55.Bxc4+ 1-0

The "Greek gift" sacrifice strike again, with predictable results:

Dutch Stonewall D85

Emily Nguyen 1755

Avinash Thangirala 1977

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 f5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8. Qc2 Ne4 9.b3 Nd7 10.Bb2 Rf6 11. Rac1 Rh6 12.cxd5 [White had to try 12.h3 or even h4 or g3 to prevent the offer.] 12...Bxh2+ 13.Nxh2 [Not accepting leads to totally lost positions according to Houdini 1.5a after 13.Kh1 Qe8 etc. But the text was also hopeless.] 13...Qh4 14.Rfd1 Qxh2+ 15.Kf1 exd5 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Na4 [Even with best play e.g. 17.Ke2 18.Ke1 25.Kc3 etc. the engine finds all roads leading to Rome.] 17...b6 18. b4 Ba6+ 19.Kel Qg1+ 20.Kd2 Qxf2+ 21.Kc3 Qxe3+

22.Rd3 Bxd3 23.Qd2 Qxd2+ 24. Kxd2 Rf8 25. Rg1 Rf2+ 26.Ke1 Re2+ 27.Kd1 b5 28.Bc1 bxa4 29. Bxh6 gxh6 0-1

From the Reserve, we find a common dilemma. Do you defend h7 from mate with f5, g6 or h6? Here is a game where one of those choices is significantly worse than the others:

Philidor Defense C41

Michael Donovan 1773

Samuel McLemore 1648

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Be2 e5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b4 exd4 8. Nxd4 d5 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.exd5 Bxb4 11.Bb2 Nf6 12.c4 Re8 13.a3 Bd6 14.Nf3 Ne4 15.Qc2 Nc5 16. Rf1 Bd7 17.Rab1 c6 18.Rbd1 exd5 [18...f6 19.Nd4 cxd5 20.Nb5 Bxb5 Kh8 improves on the risky text.] 19.Rxd5 Qc7 [19...Re6 20. Ng5 Rh6 21.Rxd6 Qxg5 22.Bc1 Qxc1 23.Qxc1 Rxd6 (Houdini 1.5a) holds on more grimly.] 20.Rh5 [20.Ng5 Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 g6 22.Qc3 Be5 23.Rxe5 Rxe5 24.Qxe5 Qxe5 25.Bxe5 Re8 26.Be3 may have been even better.] 20...g6 [Both 20...f5 21.g3 Bf8 22.Nh4 Qa5 23.Bc3 Qa4 24.Qb2 g6 25.Nxg6 hxg6 26.Rh8+ Rf7 27.Rh7+ Kg8, etc. and 20...h6 21.Rxh6 gxh6 22.Qc3 Be5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Qxe5 Rxe5 25.Bxe5 Re8 26.Bf1 were preferable to the game continuation, which loses on the spot.] 21.Qc3 Be5 22.Rxe5 Rxe5 23. Qxe5 Qxe5 24.Nxe5 Re8 25. Nxd7 Nd3 26.Nf6+ Kf8 27.Nxe8 Nxe1 1-0

A game in which blind optimism is cruelly met with reality:

Pirc Defense B06

Joe Matt Alexander 1743

Earl Richards 1499

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Bc4 d6 4.d3 a6 5.Bb3 Nd7 6.Be3 Rb8 7.Nge2 c5 8. a4 Ne5 9.0-0 Bd7 10.f3 Nf6 11.Nf4

Qc8 12.Ned5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 b5 14.c3 bxa4 15.Bxa4 Rxb2 16. Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Rxa6 0-0 18.d4 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Rfb8 20.Ra7 Nxf3+ [20...R2b7 21.Rxb7 Qxb7 22.f4 Ne6 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 was less ambitious, but sounder.] 21.gxf3 [21.Rxf3 also wins, but does not set such a cruel trap. On the other hand, 21.Qxf3 loses to 21...Bxd4+ 22.cxd4 Qxa7 23.Qxf7+ Kh8 as 24.Nxe7 Qxd4+ 25.Kh1 Rb1 is not an advert.] 21...Bxd4+ 22.Qxd4 Qh3 [Black thinks this to be winning, since 23.Rf2 meets Rb1+ etc.] 23.Nxe7+, **Black resigns** [23...Kf8 meets 24. Qh8# spoiling the naïve dream.] 1-0

Reinfeld said that the best advice about getting pinned is . . . Don't!

Sicilian Alapin B22

Kartik Kulkarni 1545

Hannes Brueckner 1622

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.d3 [3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 was correct in this variation.] 3...dxe4 4.dxe4 Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1 Nf6 6.f3 Nc6 7.Be3 e5 8.Bc4 Be7 9.Ne2 0-0 10.Kc2 Na5 11.Nd2 a6 12.a4 Bd7 13.Nc1 b5 14.axb5 axb5 15. Be2 c4 16.b3 cxb3+ 17.Ncxb3 Nxb3 18.Nxb3 Rac8 19. Kd2 Be6 20.Kc2 b4 21.Bd2 bxc3 22.Be3 Bxb3+ 23. Kxb3 Rb8+ 24.Kxc3 Rfc8+ 25.Bc4 Rb4 26.Ra7 Rbxc4+ 27.Kd2 Bb4+ 28.Kd1 Rd8+ 29.Ke2 Rc2+ 30.Kf1 Rd1# 0-1
White's 22nd correctly avoids Bb4 and wins after Bxc3 on the aforementioned turn. So why does he lose similarly with 25.Bc4? Avoid pins!

Incredible twists of fortune here where White overcomes an early lost queen with some help:

Ruy Lopez Classical C70

Sanjay Bhandari 1736

Dang Minh Nguyen 1485

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 Ba7 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 Nf6 [Either 7...Qe7 or 7...exd4 was preferable.] 8.dxe5 Nxe4 [8...Ng4 9.0-0 10.Bf4 Qe7 11.h3 Ngxe5 instead.] 9.Qd5 Bxf2+ 10.Ke2 0-0 [The text is a blunder. 10...Qe7 11.Qxe4 Bb6 12.Ng5 f5 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Qxe7+ Kxe7 improves but still loses.] 11.Qxe4 Bb6 12.Rf1 [12.Ng5 g6 13. Rf1 d5 14.exd6 Qd7 15.Nxf7 Qg4+ 16.Qxg4 Bxg4+ 17.Kd2 Kg7 18.Bd5 Nd8 19.Bxa8 Nxf7 20.Bd5 was even stronger.] 12...Bb7 13.Ng5 [13.Bd5 was essential!] 13...Nd4+ 14.Qxd4 Bxd4 15.cxd4 [15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16. cxd4 d5 17.exd6 Kh8 18.Bxf7 Bxg2 19.Rf2 Qxd6 20.Be3 Qxh2 equalizing.] 15...Bxg2 [15...d5 is superior.] 16.Rf2 Bb7 17.Nxf7 Qb8 [17... Rxf7 18. Rxf7 Kh8 is the critical line. Now Black's lost again, and White wins with very active pieces.] 18.Nd8+ d5 19.exd6+ Rf7 20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21. Be8 h6 22.Nf7+ Kh7 23.d7 Qa7 24. Be3 a5 25.Ne5 Be4 26.Nc3 Bb7 27.Rf8 g5 28.Raf1 h5 29. R1f7+ Kh6 30.Rh8# 1-0

The youthful eventual winner of this section outlasts his older foe with a gritty determination:

Sicilian Alapin B22

Alan Davis 1646

Alexander Quach 1726

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bd7 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.d5 Nb4 9.Bc4 Rc8 10.Bb3 Nf6 11.0-0 g6 12.d6 e6 13.a3 Na6 14.Ba2 Bg7 15.Re1 0-0 16.Ne5 Rfd8 17.b4 Nxb4 18.axb4 Qxb4 19. Ne2 Ba4 20.Qd2 Qxd2 21.Bxd2 Ne4 22.Bf4 b5 23.Ra1 Nxd6 24. Rxc8 [24.Nc6 b4 25.Ne7+ Kf8 26. Nxc8 Nxc8 and White emerges victorious.] 24...Rxc8 25.Rc1 [25. Nxg6 hxg6 26.Bxd6 might have been tried, too.] 25...Rxc1+ 26. Nxe1 Ne4 27.Bb3 Bxb3 [27...g5 wins for Black via guard destruction,

in a better form than in the game.] 28.Nxb3 g5 29.Be3 Bxe5 30.Bxa7 Kf8 31.f3 Nc3 32.g3 Ke7 33.Kf1 Kd6 34.f4 gxf4 35.gxf4 Bg7 36.Ke1 Kc7 37.Kd2 Nd5 38.Nd4 b4 39. Be5 Nxf4 40.Nb3 Nd5 41.Kd3 Be5 42.h3 f5 43.Nd4 Nf4+ 44.Kc4 Bxd4 45.Bxd4 Nxh3 46.Kxb4 Kd6 47. Bg7 f4 48.Kc3 f3 49.Kd2 f2 50. Ke2 Kd5 51.Bh6 Ke4 52.Kf1 Kf5 53.Bc1 e5 54.Kg2 e4 55.Be3 Kg4 56.Bd2 Kf5 57.Be3 Ke5 58.Kf1 Kd5 59.Ke2 h5 60.Kf1 Kc4 61.Ke2 h4 62.Bh6 Kc3 63.Bg7+ Kc2 64. Bf6 Nf4+ 65.Kxf2 h3 66.Kg1 e3 67. Bh4 Kd2 68.Kh2 e2 69.Bg3 e1Q 70.Bxe1+ Kxe1 71.Kg3 Kf1 72. Kh2 Kf2 73.Kh1 Kg3 74.Kg1 Nd3 75.Kf1 h2 76.Ke2 Nf2 0-1

The Booster section featured a game which might qualify for a best game award. The rook sac certainly was a guilty pleasure for me:

QP Opening D00

Eswar Manapuram
Frank W. Lawrence 1323

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.a3 Nc6 6.Nf3 h6 7.0-0 Bd6 8. Nb5 Rc8 9.Nxd6+ cxd6 10.c3 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nh4 Bh7 13.Nf3 Na5 14.Nd2 b5 15.e4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 d5 17.Nc5 Nd7 18.b4 Nc4 19.h4 Nxc5 20.bxc5 Qd7 21.Qg4 Kh8 22. Bf1 a6 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Bf4 Bf5 25. Qf3 Bd3 26.Bd6 f5 [26...a5 was better than this weakening of the king side and e6, the start of Black's problems.] 27.Re5 Be4 28.Qh5 [28.Rxe4 fxe4 29.Qxe4 Rc6 30.Be5 was possible given the activity of the cleric.] 28...Qc6 29.Kh2 Kh7 30. Qf7 Bf3 [30...Qb7 31.Qxb7 Bxb7 32.h5 avoids the coming disaster.] 31.Rae1 [31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.Qxe6 Be4 was tempting, but the text is actually stronger according to Houdini 1.5a.] 31...Bd5 32.h5 [32.Rxe6 Bxe6 33.Rxe6 Rxe6 34.Qxf5+ Kh8 35.Qxe6 trying to use the passed

pawns with the bishop was also plausible.] 32...Kh8 33.f3 [33.Rxd5 exd5 34.Be7 f4 35.Re6 Rxe7 36. Rxe7 fxc3+ 37.fxc3 Rg8 was another good sharp line for White. Black has to take on e7 since moving the Q loses to Rxh6+ much as in the real game.] 33...Bxf3 [Also losing was 33...Qb7 34.Qxb7 Bxb7 35.Rxe6 Rxe6 36.Rxe6 Bxf3 37.Be5 Kg8 38. Rg6 Bxh5 39.Rxg7+ Kf8 40.Rh7 Rc6 41.Bd6+ Kg8 42.Rxh6 Bf3 43. Rf6 Be4, but the alternative played was much worse.] 34.Rxe6 Rxe6 35.Rxe6 Bh1 36.Rxh6+ gxh6 37. Be5+ 1-0

A game with some unusual tactical points and twists:

Sicilian Dragon B72

Andrew Lu 1301
Samuel Tian 1385

Austin Championship 2012 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Ng4 8.Bg5 Nc6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Be2 Nf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.f4 Ne8 14.f5 gxf5 15.exf5 d5 16.Rf3 f6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Rg3 e5 19.Bh5 Re7 20.Rf1 Be8 21.Bxg7 Rxc7 22. Rxc7+ Nxc7 23.Bg4 Qe7 24.Nxd5 Qc5+ [White saw that taking allows a fork to the Ra8, but missed a relative pin: 24...Qd8! 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6. The text move lets him off the hook] 25.Ne3 Ba6 26.Rf2 Qd4 27.Qxd4 exd4 28.Nf1 Re8 29.g3 Re1 30.Kg2 Ra1 31.a3 Rb1 32.b3 d3 33.b4 [Correct was 33.Ne3 dxc2 34.Rxc2 Rxb3 35.Kf2 Rxa3 36.Rxc6. Now White must give up the horse attacked via discovery to stop the promotion. 46.b4 was a blunder, but it's already long lost.] 33...dxc2 34.Rxc2 Bxf1+ 35.Kf2 Bb5 36.Bf3 Nxf5 37.Bxc6 Bxc6 38.Rxc6 Kg7 39.Rc7+ Kg6 40.Rxa7 Rb2+ 41. Kf3 Rxh2 42.Ra4 Rb2 43.Ke4 Nxc3+ 44.Kd4 Ne2+ 45.Kc4 h5 46. b5 Rxb5 47.Kxb5 Nc3+ 48.Kc4 Nxa4 49.Kd3 Kg5 50.Ke2 Kg4 51.

Kf1 Kg3 52.Kg1 h4 53.Kh1 f5 54. Kg1 f4 55.Kh1 f3 56.Kg1 f2+ 57. Kf1 h3 58.Ke2 h2 59.Ke3 f1Q 60.Kd2 Qf3 0-1

Round 4 (Sunday, 1/8/12)

In the penultimate round, it was Dejmek's turn to face the irresistible force, playing the role of an immovable object. In the end, the mortal was predictably moved:

Ruy Lopez C94

Mark Dejmek 2147
Timur Gareyev 2740

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

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.h3 Nb8 10.d3 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 h6 12.Nf1 Re8 13.Ng3 Bf8 14.a3 Bb7 15.Ba2 d5 16.exd5 Bxd5 17.c4 bxc4 18.dxc4 Bb7 19.Be3 e4 20.Nd2 a5 21.Qc2 c5 22.Bf4 g5 23.Be3 Qc7 24.Rad1 Re6 25.Ne2 Nh5 26.Nc3 f5 27.g4 [27.Nd5 Qc6 28.Bb1 Bg7 (Houdini 1.5a) as opposed to this king side thrust was an alternative.] 27...fxg4 28.Ndxe4 [28.Nd5 Qe5 29.hxg4 Bd6 30.Nf1 Nf4 31.Bxf4 gxf4 with a complicated position is another option.] 28... Ne5 29.hxg4 Nf3+ [29.Nd2 gxh3 30.Nd5 Ng4 31.Nf1 Qf7 32.Bb1 Bd6 should have been played here says the engine. Now things go rapidly downhill for White.] 30.Kf1 Qh2 31.gxh5 Qg1+ 32.Ke2 Qg4 33.Qb1 Rxe4 34.Nd5 Bg7 35.Rh1 Nd4+ 36.Kd2 Rxe3 37.Nxe3 Qe2+ 38.Ke1 Qxf2 39.Rhe1 Be4 40.Qxe4 [This allows mate, but other moves lose the house.] 40...Nb3+ 41.Bxb3 Qxb2# [One gets the impression that White never really had a chance here, despite his reasonable tries. Once more the GM sported his trademark medium Styrofoam cup of brew, it seemed like that was all he ever ate! This was not true, of course, but I simply could not stand it any longer. After the game and between rounds, I spied him stand-

ing in the middle of the hall and approached him. I asked what was in that cup, the reply came back "It's just oatmeal!" and with that, I walked off laughing. The mystery was solved, it turns out that he was winning all along due to his strength! 0-1

Austin's girl wonder misses a horse capture on the "Sicilian sac square" of e6, and perishes:

Sicilian Scheveningen B80

Andrew Lu 1930

Emily Nguyen 1755

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 a6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 h6 9.Qd2 Bb7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11. h4 b4 12.Nce2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14. Nf4 Qa5 15.Kb1 Rb8 16.Nb3 Qa4 17.Bg2 Ne5 18.Qd4 Nc6 19.Qd3 Ne5 20.Qd4 Nc6 21.Qd2 Na5 22. Qd3 Rc8 [22...Nxb3 23.axb3 Qb5 24.Nxd5 Bxd5 Qd4 Qc6 26.Rd2 Rc8 avoids the poisoned gift.] 23.Nxe6 Nxb3 [Black cannot play 23...fxe6 24.Qg6+ Kd7 25.Qf7+ Be7 26.Nc5+ Rxc5 27.Bxc5 Re8 and expect to live. (Or 24...Ke7 25.Nc5! Qc6 26. Rhe1 e5 27.Bg5+! hxg5 28.Rxe5+ Kd8 29.Ne6+ Kd7 30.f4! +- - Ed.)] 24.axb3 Qc6 [24...Qb5 25.Nxf8 Qxd3 26.Rxd3 Nxe3 27.Rxe3 Kxf8 was correct. As played, White converts accurately.] 25.Nd4 Qd7 26. Rhe1 Be7 27.Nf5 0-0 28.f4 Rfd8 29. Bxd5 Bxd5 30.Qxd5 Qe8 31.Qe5 Bf6 32.Qxe8+ Rxe8 33.Nd6 Bxh4 34.Nxe8 Bxe1 35.Nd6 Rd8 36.Rxe1 Rxd6 37.Bc5 Rd5 38.Bxb4 Rd4 39. c3 Rxf4 40. Rg1 f5 41.gxf5 Rxf5 42.e4 g5 43.c5 Rf7 44.c6 Rc7 45. Rc1 g4 46.Ba5 Rc8 47.c7 h5 48. Rh1 1-0

King's Indian E94

James Rohrbaugh 2240

Alexander Jiang 1957

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Be3 Ne8 9.d5 f5 10.Ng5 Ndf6 11.exf5 gxf5 12.f4 e4 13.Kh1 h6 14.Nh3 c5 15.Nf2 Kh8 16.Rg1 Rg8 17.g4 fxg4 18.Bxg4 Nxg4 19.Nxg4 Bf5 20.Bd2 Nf6 21.Ne3 Bh7 22.Be1 a6 23.Bh4 Qd7 24.f5 Bxf5 25.Bxf6 [25.Qf1 Bg4 26.Nxe4 Nxe4 27.Rxg4 was preferable to this exchange.] 25...Bxf6 26.Qh5 [26.Rf1 Rg5 27. Nxf5 Rxf5 28.Qd2 Bg5 29.Qc2 Raf8 30.Rxf5 Qxf5 31.Nxe4 was a better try.] 26...Bh7 27.Qxh6 Bg7 28.Qh4 Bd4 29.Rxg8+ [29.Rae1 Rxe1+ 30.Rxg1 Rf8 31.Ncd1 was essential. White should be losing with the text.] 29...Rxg8 30.Re1 [30.Qf2 Qh3 31.Re1 Qf3+ 32.Qxf3 exf3 33.Ncd1 is also losing, but the game choice was worse.] 30...Qg7 [Black clinches with 30...Qf7 31.Qh3 Qf2 32.Rf1 Qxe3 33.Qxe3 Bxe3 the text was much weaker.] 31.Ncd1 [31.Qf2 Qh6 32.Ncd1 Rf8 33.Qg2 Rf3 defends better still.] 31...Bxb2 [31... Qf8 32.Qh3 Qf3+ 33.Qxf3 exf3 keeps a clear advantage for Black; this gives White equality.] 32.Nxb2 Qxb2 33.Rf1 [33.Qe7 Qf2 34.Rf1 Qxe3 35.Qf6+ Rg7 36.Qd8+ Bg8 37.Qh4 Rh7 38.Qf6+ Rg7 39.Qh4+ Rh7 ensures the draw.] 33...b5 [33...Qg7 was better, but it's still drawn.] 34.Rf7 Qa1+ 35.Nf1 Rg7 [36.Rf8+ Rg8 37.Rf7, etc.] ½-½

Here's a game where an unsound (?) premature attacker is beaten back, along with his fury:

QGD Semi-Slav D46

Scottson White 1902

Charles C. Allen 1740

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.

Re1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.e4 [10.Qc2 improves on the seemingly natural text.] 10...exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12. Be2 Nfg4 13.h3 [13.Bf4 was a bit better than this weakening. But now Black overplays his hand.] 13...Qh4 [13...Bc5 14.hxg4 Bxd4 15.Rf1 Be6 16.g5 f5 17.Nd5 cxd5 18.Qxd4 Nc6 19.Qa4 fxe4 (Houdini 1.5a) is a suggested alternative.] 14.Bxg4 [14.Rf1 Bc7 15.hxg4 Nxg4 16.Nf3 Bh2+ 17.Kh1 Qh5 18.Ng5 Bg3+ 19. Nh3 Bxf2 20.Bf4 Be6 was a better way to take on g4 according to the engine.] 14...Bxg4 [14...Nxg4 15. hxg4 Qh2+ 16.Kf1 Qh1+ 17.Ke2 Bxg4+ 18.Kd3 Qxg2 19.f3 Bh3 20. Qe2 Qg6 should have been played.] 15.hxg4 Nxg4 16.Be3 Bg3 [16... Bh2+ 17.Kf1 Rfd8 18.Qc2 Bc7 19. Rad1 Nxe3+ 20.Rxe3 Qh1+ 21. Ke2 Qxg2 was correct. Now White wins.] 17.fxg3 Qh2+ 18.Kf1 Qh1+ 19.Bg1 Nh2+ 20.Ke2 [20.Kf2 Rfd8 21.Bxh2 Qxh2 22.Rh1 Qxh1 23.Qxh1 Rxd4 wins even faster.] 20...Qxg2+ 21. Bf2 Ng4 22.Rf1 Rad8 23.Ke1 [23.Qd3 improves on the text.] 23... Nxh2 24.Rxf2 Qg1+ [24...Qh1+ Ke2 Qh5+ 26.Rf3 c5 27.Qh1 Qxh1 28. Rxh1 Rxd4 holds on better.] 25.Ke2 Qxg3 26.Qa4 c5 27.Nf3 c4 28.Qxc4 Rc8 29.Qd4 Rfe8 30.Rg1 Rxe4+ 31. Nxe4 Rc2+ 32.Ned2 1-0

Langer continued his march to the winner's circle with another Modern Benoni expedition:

Modern Benoni A70

Austin Jiang 2024

Michael Langer 2264

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.exd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.Nf3 Nh5 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Bg5 Bf6 12.Qd2 [12.Bh6 Re8 13. Qd2 a6 14.a4 Ne5 15.Be2 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 improves on the text. White was too eager to trade several pieces going forward.] 12...Re8 [12...Ne5 13.Bh6 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Bxh3 15. Rfc1 Re8

A grizzled veteran dodges a bullet here. Do old age and treachery always overcome youth and skill?

was a better line for Black.] **13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qg5 Qxg5 15.Nxg5 a6 16. a4 Nf4 17.Bc2 Ne5 18.h4** [18.Bd1 Ned3 19.b3 Bd7 avoids deformed pawns. Now Black is on top, with a superior ending against a bad bishop.] **18...h6 19.Nf3 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Kg7 21.Rfe1 Re5 22.Ne2 Nxe2+ 23.Rxe2 Rh5 24.Kg2 Rxh4 25.Kg3 g5 26.Re3 b6 27.Rb3 Rb8 28.Bd3 Kf6 29.Rc3 Ke5 30.Rac1 a5 31. Rb3 Rh3+ 32.Kg2 g4 33.Be2 Bd7 34.Bb5** [34. Rcc3 h5 35.fxg4 hxg4 36.Rg3 Rh4 37.Ra3 Kxe4 38.f3 Kxd5 39.fxg4 Rbh8 40.Rae3 Rh2+ 41.Kf1 Rh1+ 42.R8h2+ 43.Rg2 Rxe2+ 44.Kxg2 Rb1 45.b3 Kd4 46.Rd3+ Ke5 47. Re3+ Kf4 48.Rf3+ (Houdini 1.5a) loses less rapidly than the text. In this line, 34...Bxa4 35.fxg4 Rxc3 36.Rxc3 Rg8 37.Kf3 Bd7 38.Ke3 Bxg4 39.f4+ Kf6 40.Rb3 Bxe2 41. Kxe2 Rb8 is better for Black but less clearly.] **34... gxf3+ 35.Rxf3 Rg8+ 36.Rg3 Rhxg3+ 37.fxg3 Bxb5 38.axb5 Kxe4** [38...Rg4 39.Kf3 Rxe4 was still more promising.] **39.Rf1 f5 40.Rf4+ Ke5 41.Kf3** [41.Rf2 Rg4 also lost, but the text was much worse.] **41...Rg6** [41...Rg4 42.Rxg4 fxg4+ 43.Ke2 wins big for Black, since in this line 43.Kxg4 a4 44.Kf3 c4 45.Ke3 c3 46.bxc3 a3 47.Kd3 a2 48.Kd2 a1Q also fails to save White.] **42.b3** [42.Rh4 Kxd5 loses but keeps rooks on.] **42...Rf6** [42... Rg4 43.Ra4 Rxa4 44.bxa4 makes Black's task easiest.] **0-1**

The Old Guard folks had a rocky round. Durston and Laverty and Simpson lost. Sarkisian won. Kappeler took a half point bye. Here are the games of our first three mentioned contests:

Alekhine's Defense B04

John Durston 1896

Eugene Kohnitz 1971

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.f4 [7.Nf3 is better.] **7...Nb4 8.Bc4** [8.Be4 Nf6 9.a3 Nxe4 10.axb4 improves on the text.] **8...Nxe5 9. fxe5** [9.dxe5 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Bg4+ 11. Kd2 Bf5 12.Kd2 Bf5 12.Na3 e6 13.c3 0-0-0+ 14.Ke2 Nd5 15.Bxd5 Rxd5 holds on better.] **9...Qxd4 10. Na3** [10.Qxd4 Nxc2+ 11.Kf2 Nxd4 12.Nc3 was essential here; now White is critical.] **10...Qxe5+ 11. Be2 Bg4 12.Kf2 Qxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Bxe2 14.Kxe2 e5 15.Be3 Nd5 16. Bf2** [16.Nc4 avoids Black's weakening trade.] **16...Bxa3 17. bxa3 b6 18. c4 Nf4+ 19. Kf3 Rd8 20. g3 Ne6 21.Rad1 Ke7 22.Ke4 f6 23.h4 h5 24.a4 Nc5+** [24...Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Rxd8 Nxd8 preferable, but Black wins anyway.] **25.Bxc5+ bxc5 26. Kf5 Rd4 27.Rxd4 cxd4 28.Rb1 Kd6 29.Kg6 e4 30.Kxg7** and Black won shortly thereafter. **0-1**

QGD Slav D18

Michael Feinstein 2227

Michael Simpson 1972

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.O-O Nbd7 9.Nh4 O-O 10.Nxf5 exf5 11.Qf3 g6 12.h3 Qe7 13.Rd1 Ne4 14.g3 [14.Nxe4 fxe4 15.Qe2 was preferable.] **14...Ndf6** [14... Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bxc3 16.Ba3 Bb4 17.Bxb4 Qxb4 18.Rdc1 Nb6 19.Qe2 Nxc4 20.Rxc4 Qe7 as Black should accept this pawn.] **15.Ne2 Rad8 16. b3 Rfe8 17.Nf4 Nd5 18.Qg2 Nxf4 19.gxf4 e5 20.Bb2 Nc3** [20...Bc3 21.Bxc3 Nxc3 22.Rd3 cxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.exd4 Ne4 was a better way to trade on c3.] **21.Bxc3 Bxc3 22.Rac1 cxd4 23.Bd5 Qb4 24.exd4 Re7** [24...Re1+ 25.Rxe1 Bxe1 26. Bxb7 Bd2 27.Rd1 Rxd4 28.Bd5 Bxf4 29.Rxd4 Qxd4 improves on the game.] **25.Qf3 Red7** [25...Bb2 26. Rc4 Qb6 instead, now White turns the ship around.] **26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Rxc3 Rxd4** [27...Re8 28.Kg2

Re4 29.Rc4 Qa3 ignoring d4 may be best, this is too optimistic.] **28.Rc7+ Kg8** [28...Ke6 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30. Rxb7 Rxf4 31.Qe2+ Re4 32.Qa6+ Qd6 33.Rxa7 Qxa6 34.Rxa6+ Kd5 (Houdini 1.5a) avoids locking the king in.] **29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Qxb7 Qxb7 31.Rxb7 Rxf4** [31...a5 32.Rb5 Rd3 33.Kg2 h6 34.Rxa5 Rxb3 35. Ra8+ Kg7 36.a5 Rb4 37.Ra7+ Kf6 38.Kg3 Ra4 39.a6 Ra3+ 40.f3 says the engine. This may be the losing move.] **32.a5** [White's response was brilliant, since 32.Rxa7 Rb4 33.Ra8+ Kg7 34.a5 Rxb3 35.Ra7+ Kg8 36.a6 Ra3 is not conclusive.] **32...Rf3 33. Kg2 Rc3 34.a6 h6 35.Rxa7 Rxb3 36.Rb7 Ra3 37.a7 g5 38.Rb8+ Kg7 39.a8Q Rxa8 40.Rxa8 Kg6 41. Ra6+ Kg7 42.Kg3 Kh7 43.Rf6** [An instructive rook and pawn ending!]

1-0

French Winawer C15

Joshua Newsham 2134

Alan Laverty 2061

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Ne2 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.a3 Be7 7.g3 c5 8. f4 Nc6 9.Be3 b6 10.Bh3 g6 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Rf2 h5 13.a4 h4 14.Kg2 hxg3 15.hxg3 Qe7 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17. axb5 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Nc5 20.Bg4 Ne4 21.Re2 0-0-0 [21...Rc8 22.c3 Qd7 instead of castling into it.] **22. Qd3** [22.c4 Kb8 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Rc2 Qb7 is even better.] **22...Be5 23.Bxc5 bxc5** [23... Nxe5 24.Qc3 Rd7 25.Qd4 Kb8 26. Bf3 was correct; now White is well in the lead.] **24.Bf3** [24.c4 Kb8 25.Bf3 Qb7 26.Qe3 stops the same first move by Black.] **24...Qb7** [24...c4 25.Qd4 Nc5 26.Re3 Qb6 27.b3 Nd7 28.Qxb6 Nxb6 29.Rxa7 Rh7 30.bxc4 Nxc4 31.Rc3 Kb8 could have been tried here.] **25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Qe3** [26.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 27.Rxe4 Rd2+ 28.Kf3 Kb8 29.Rc4 Rhh2 30.Rc1 Kb7 31.Rxc5 Kb6 32.Rc8 Kxb5 is more consistent.] **26...Rd4** [26...Kb8 27.Qxc5

Rd5 28.Qc6 Rxb5 29.Qxb7+ Kxb7 30.c3 improves on the game.] 27.c3 **Rd3 28.Qxc5+ Kb8 29.Qc6 Qe7** [29...f5 30.Qxb7 Kxb7 was the path; now Black is critical.] 30. **Qxe4 Rxb3+** [30...Qb7 31.Qxb7 Kxb7 instead.] 31. **Kxg3 Qh4+ 32.Kf3 Qh3+** [A hallucination? Since White does not have to play 32.Kg2 Qh2+ 33.Kf1 Qh1+ 34.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 35. Kf2 Rxa1, Black loses.] 33. **Kf2 Qh2+ 34.Ke3 Rh3+ 35.Kd2 1-0**

Chua was visibly dejected upon returning to the analysis room prior to his analysis with his foe in this affair. He said any hopes of an advantage with White were thrown away needlessly. Black impressed everyone following the post-mortem with his quick and clear variation prowess. The two warriors kept finding ways for the second player to gain edges in most lines. A quick draw resulted:

QGD Slav D10

Alexander Chua 2347

Arvind Jayaraman 2195

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5. Qb3 [5.Nf3 e6 6.a3 Nbd7 instead of the Q move?] 5...**b5 6. exd5 exd5 7. a4** [7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Bd2 Rc8 11.a4 b4 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.Ne5 a5 14.f4 0-0 15.Rac1 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 (Houdini 1.5a).] 7...**b4 8.Qxb4 e5 9.Qb3 exd4 10. exd4 Nc6 11.Be3** [11.Nf3 Rb8 12.Qd1 Bd6 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Qb6 15.Re1 Re8 16.h3 h6 an engine line.] 11...**Rb8 12.Qc2 Qb6** [12...Nb4 13.Qd1 Bd6 14.Be2 Bf5 15.Rc1 0-0 16.Nf3 Ng4 17.Qd2 Nxc3 18.fxe3 Re8 19.0-0 is another route. Some sample lines: (a) 14.Qxb2 Rxb2 15.Nge2 Nb4 16.Bb1 Bd7 17.f3 Bd6 (b) 14.Rc1 Qxc2 15.Bxc2 Rb7 16. Nge2 Ba3 17.Rd1 0-0 18.0-0 Nb4 19.Bb3 B6 (c) 14.Rd1 Nb4 15.Bb5+ Rxb5 16.Qxb2 Nd3+ 17.Rxd3 Rxb2 (d) 14.Rb1 Qxc2 15.Bxc2 Nb4 16.

Kd2 Be6 Black seems just fine.] **13.Bd3 Qxb2** ½-½

In the Reserve section, the central pawn duo carries the day in an uneven encounter:

English Opening A34

Louis Rimpel 1667

Sanjay Bhandari 1736

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nc7 7.d3 e5 8.0-0 Be7 9.a3 0-0 10.Rb1 Rb8 11.Re1 f6 12.b3 Be6 13.Nd2 Qd7 14.Nc4 Rbd8 15.Bb2 Bh3 16.Bh1 Be6 17.Ne4 [17.a4 instead. e4 cannot be maintained.] 17...**Nd5** [17...b5 Ncd2 f5 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.Rc1 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Bd5 takes advantage of White's last.] 18.**e3** [18.Rc1 b6 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Bxc3 Bd5 21.Bxd5+ Qxd5 was essential. Now White's in trouble.] 18...**f5** [18...b5 19.Ncd2 f5 20.Nc3 Nxc3 21.Bxc3 Qxd3 22.Qe1 e4 exploiting d3 was the ticket.] 19.**Ned2 Bf6 20.Qe2** [20.e4 Nb6 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Be4 Nxc4 23.bxc4 Be7 24.Bd5+ Be6 25.Be4 Bf5 26.Bd5+ defends better.] 20...**b5 21.e4 bxc4 22.exd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5+ Qxd5 24.Nxc4 Rfe8 25.Rbd1 Nd4 26.Bxd4 cxd4 27.Qh5 g6 28.Qh6 e4 29.dxe4 fxe4 30.Qh3** [30.Qf4 Bg5 31.Qc7 Rd7 32.Qa5 Qxa5 33.Nxa5 d3 34.Nc4 Kg7 holds on best. Now Black is on top again.] 30...**Rb8** [30...d3 Rf1 Rb8 32.Rb1 Bd4 33.Qg2 Rb7 34.Ne3 Qe6 35.Nc4 Kg7 is stronger than the text.] 31.**Rb1** [31.Qg4 (Houdini 1.5a) relies on 31...Rxb3 32.Nd2 Rd3 33.Qe2 to make enough threats like Qxd3 coupled with play against the pawns to justify ditching b3.] 31...**e3** [31...Bg5 32.Qg4 d3 33. h4 Bh6 34.h5 Kg7 35.Rb2 Qd4 was a better route to advance the pawns.] 32.**fxe3 dxe3 33.Qf1** [33.Qg2 Qc5 34.h3 Bd4 35.Kh2 Rf8 36.Re2 Kg7 was essential here.] 33...**Be3 34.Re2 Bd2** [34...Rf8 35.Qd1 Bd4 36.Qd3

Rf2 37.Nxe3 Rxe2 38.Qxe2 Re8 39.Qg2 Bxe3+ 40.Kh1 Qd3 41.Rf1 Qxb3 wins for Black.] 35.**Qd1** [Now was the time to take on d2: 35.Nxd2 exd2 36.Rd1 Qc5+ 37.Kh1 Rxe2 38.Qxe2 Rd8.] 35...**Rbd8 36.Nxd2** [36.h3 Rf8 37.Kh2 Qf5 38.Qg1 Qd3 39.Qd1 Rf5 40.a4 Kg7 41.Rb2 Qd4 42.Rbx2 exd2 43.Qxd2 Qxd2 44. Nxd2 taking on d2 now and giving up the exchange was the engine's choice.] 36...**exd2 37.Rxe8+ Rxe8 38.Qc2** [38.Qf1 avoids mate but loses big.] 38...**Re1+ 39.Kf2 Qf7+ 40. Kg2 Qf1# 0-1**

The second player gets a lesson on knight forks:

Sicilian Defense B41

Hannes Brueckner 1622

Raymond Doo 1544

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 d6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Be3 e6 8.Be2 Be7 9.g4 h6 10.f4 e5 11. Nf5 g6 [11...Bxf5 12.gxf5 was correct.] 12.**Nxe7 Qxe7 13.g5 hxg5 14. fxe5 Nh5** [14...Nd7 was essential.] 15.**Nd5** [15.Bxh5 gxh5 17.Qd2 Kf8 18.Bb6 Qd7 19.0-0-0 was even better.] 15...**Qd7** [15...Qd8 16.Bxh5 gxh5 17.Qd2 Kf8 18.0-0 also fails to save Black.] 16.**Bxh5 Qh3 17.Bf3 0-0 18.Qe2 Nd4 19.Bxd4 exd4 20. 0-0-0 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Ne7+ Kg7 23.Nxf5+ Qxf5 24.Bd5 Rae8 25. Qd2 b5 26.Qxd4+ Qe5 27.cxb5 Rc8+ 28.Kb1 Qxd4 29.Rxd4 Rf2 30.Bb3 axb5 31.Rxd6 Rc5 32.Re1 Rxb5 33.h4 Rgg2 34.Rb6 Rh2 35.Rxb5 Rxh4 36.Rc5 Rg4 37.Rc2 Rf6 38.Rh1 Rd6 39.Rc7+ Kf6 40. Rf1+ Kg5 41.Rc5+ Kh6 42.Rh1+ Kg7 43.a4 Rg3 44.Bc2 g5 45.Rh7+ Kf6 46.Rh6+ Ke7 47.Rxd6 Kxd6 48.Rc8 Rg1+ 49.Ka2 g4 50.Rg8 Kc5 51.Bf5 g3 52.Rg4 Kb6 53.b4 Rg2+ 54.Kb3 Rf2 55.Be4 Re2 56.a5+ Kc7 57.b5 Kd6 58.a6 Re3+ 59.Kb4 Kc7 60. a7 1-0**

Black miscalculates a material recovery variation and must either lose the Q or be mated:

QGD Slav D19

Necip Sayiner 1714

Camille Kao 1449

Austin Championship 2012 (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 0-0 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.Rd1 Qa5 13.Bd2 Rfd8 14.Bb3 Rac8 15.e4 c5 16.e5 cxd4 17.Nb5 Bxd2 18.exf6 Ne5 19. Bxe6 fxe6 20.Rxd2 gxf6 21.Rxd4 Rxd4 22.Nxd4 Kf7 23.Qe4 Qb6 [23...Qa6 24.Nb5 Rc6 Rc6 25.b3 Qb6 26.a5 Qd8 27.Nxa7 Rd6 28.h3 Na6 may wiggle out.] 24.b4 Nb3 25.Qxc8 Nxa1 [25...Nxd4 26.Qd7+ Kf8 27.b5 e5 giving up the exchange was essential. Now Black faces only losing choices.] 26.Qd7+ Kg8 27. Nxe6 Qxe6 28.Qxe6+ Kg7 29.Qa2 g5 30.Qxa1 b6 31.Qd4 Kg6 32.Qd7 a5 33.bxa5 bxa5 34.Qb5 f5 35. Qxa5 g4 36.Qe5 Kg5 37.a5 Kg6 38.a6 Kg5 39.a7 g3 40.fxg3 Kg4 41.a8R Kg5 42.h4+ Kg6 43.Rg8+ Kf7 44.Rg7+ Kf8 45.Qe7# 1-0

Black had a full point bye in this rated house game, one with lots of wild twists of fortune:

Pirc Defense B07

Paul Dyba 1816

Glen Liu 1523

House rated game

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Nbd2 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.c3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c5 8. Re1 a6 9.a4 cxd4 10.exd4 b6 11. Nf1 Bb7 12.Qe2 h5 13.h3 Kh8 14. Ng3 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Bg5 Qd6 18.Qf3 Nd7 19.Rad1 Qb4 20.Bxa6 [Chess blindness! If White sacks on h5, he is borderline winning: 20.Nxh5 f6 21.Bd2 Qxa4 22.Nxg7 Kxg7 23.Qe3 Rh8. In this line, 20...gxh5 loses to 21.Qxh5+ Kg8 22.Re3 Rae8 23.Rg3 threatening mayhem at g7 and if 24...Rg6

25.Qxd7, etc.] 20...Bxa6 21.Rxd7 Qxe1+ 22.Kh2 f6 [22...Rac8 wins without hasty weakening.] 23.Bd2 Qb1 [23...Rf7 24.Bxe1 Rxd7 25.Qb3 Rd6 26.Bb4 Rc6 is suggested by Houdini 1.5a to avoid White's sac.] 24.Nxh5 Rad8 [24...Qc2 25.Qg4 Qxd2 26.Rxd2 gxh5 27.Qxh5+ Kg8 was essential to avoid rapid loss.] 25.Rxg7 Bd3 [25...gxh5 loses to 26.Ra7, which White should have played after the text also.] 26.Rxg6 Bxe4 27.Rh6+ Bh7 28.Nxf6 [28.Qb7 Rg8 29.Nxf6 Rg7 30.Qxb6 was better.] 28...Rxd2 [29.Qh5 Rxf6 30.Rxf6 Qe4 31.Qe8+ Bg8 32.Qf8 Qh7 33.Rh6 wins easily. Incredibly, Black won this game! I'm not sure if it was by time, later errors or resignation; the score ends here.] 0-1

The Booster produced a game with a tasty horse sac on f5 that was unwise to accept:

Philidor Defense C41

Jeff Little 1263

Tony Olvera 1355

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 c6 4.d4 Nd7 5.Bc4 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Be3 h6 9.0-0 Ngf6 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Nh4 Kh7 [Black comes to regret this move.] 12.Nf5 Be5 13.Qe2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qc7 15.Rad1 c5 16. c4 b4 17.Bc2 Nb6 18.b3 Be6 19. Rfe1 a5 20.Qh3 Ng8 [20...Rad8 21. Qg3 Bxf5 22.exf5 Rfe8 23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Rd3 Rxd3 27.Qxd3 Kg8 defends better with trades.] 21.Re3 [21.Qg3 might improve.] 21...g6 22.Qg4 gxf5 [22...Bc8 23.Rg3 a4 24.Nf3 axb3 25.axb3 Ra2 26.Bb1 Rb2 27.Rc1 Kh8 28.Bc2 Rd8 29.h3 Be6 holds on. The piece cannot be captured without losing.] 23.exf5 Nf6 24.fxe6+ Kh8 25.Qh4 fxe6 [25... Ng8 still loses, but this is worse.] 26.Qxh6+ Nh7 27.Rf3 Rg8 28.Rh3 Rg7 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Nf6 Ra7 31.

Nxh7 Rxh7 32.Bxh7 [32... Qxh7 33.Qf8#] 1-0

Here's a very practically instructive game by White:

Sicilian Alapin B22

Frank Lawrence 1323

Stephen E. Young 1116

Austin Championship 2012 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Ne6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Be2 Nf6 6.0-0 Ne5 [This loses time. Better was 6...e5.] 7.d4 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 [This loses a piece cutely due to pin on the queen. 8...Nxf3+ 9.Bxf3 Qd7 10.Nc3 e6 11.Qd3 Be7 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Rac1 Rd8 had to be tried.] 9.Nc3 Qd7 [9...Qa5 10.d5 Nb8 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.Rc1 Bd7 13.Na4 Qd6 14.Qb3 b6 15.Nc3 a6 16.Bd3 e6 17.Rfe1 Be7 18.Bc4 0-0 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Bxe6+ Kh8 was not good, but the text is worse. Notice how from here on White simply brings piece after piece into contact for practically forced trades.] 10.d5 Nb4 11.Bb5 Nc6 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.Qxd7+ Bxd7 14.Ba4 e6 15.Ne5 Bd6 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.Rd1 Rhd8 18.Bg5 Rab8 19.b3 h6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Ne4 Kc7 22.Nxd6 Rxd6 23. Rxd6 Kxd6 24.Rd1+ Kc7 25.Kf1 f5 26.Ke2 a5 27.Kf3 Rb4 28.Rd2 h5 29.g3 h4 30.Kg2 hxg3 31.hxg3 Kb6 [This gives Black no way to complicate and makes conversion easy. 31...Rb6 improves but still loses.] 32.Rd6 Rxa4 [Better is 32...Kb7 instead of giving up the exchange, though the position could not be saved. A game like this is worth careful study!] 33.bxa4 Kc7 34. Rd2 Kc8 35.f4 Kc7 36.Kf3 f6 37.Ke3 e5 38.Rh2 Kd6 39.Rh6 Ke6 40.Rh8 Kd5 41.Ra8 e4 42.Rxa5+ c5 43.Ra8 c4 44.a5 Kc5 45.a6 Kb6 46.a7 Kb7 47.Rc8 Kxa7 48.Rxc4 Kb6 49.a4 1-0

Mid afternoon, I wandered into the skittles room, finding Alex Chua, who had finished with his game. He

graciously allowed me an impromptu blitz game series of five-minute chess. I made him think a bit in one of the 2-3 we played, but it was just a day at the office overall for him. He offered me some valuable advice as a player, noting that most amateurs are too direct in their attacks, not having subtlety or piece power build up skills. He also noted players under 2000 do not focus enough on defense chops, which are valuable at higher levels. It was instructive how he coldly dismantled me!

My travel partner and I then went to lunch with Chua, which was within walking distance of the club. In fact, several restaurants are available on foot without crossing traffic near the playing site. Taj Palace next door has a nice all you can eat afternoon (Indian food) buffet, so we got lunch there, spying the GM and proving he really did eat more than oatmeal! Over food, we discussed various chess topics, including a new approach to evaluating the strength of past world champions by using top level chess engines in a novel way. Instead of trying to see if the machine agrees with the human to prove *it* is equally smart, the idea is to see if, move by move, the human champs agree with the selections *of* the engines! The result of one such experiment was that Capablanca scored highest, laying his claim to being the best since he "agreed" with Rybka the most! This was done to compare humans of different eras. How far we've come, when we admit silicon judges are supreme!

Here's a link to visit on the web to the aforementioned study:
<http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=7621>

Round 5 (Sunday, 1/8/12)

We returned to the club and Chua prepared to meet the GM by studying some intended variations he

hoped to catch the irresistible force in on his laptop. After the game he said he succeeded in getting the line as Black that he aimed for, though once again the immovable object yielded:

Ragozin System D38

Timur Gareyev 2740

Alexander Chua 2347

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 dxc4 10.0-0 a6 11.Bxc4 Bd7 12.Qc2 Bd6 13.Rad1 Rad8 14.a3 Rfe8 15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Ng3 e5 17.Qg6 Be6 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Qxe6 fxe6 [On 19...Rxe6, 20.d5 wins.] 20.Ne4 exd4 21.exd4 Ne7 22.Rf1 Nd5 23.g3 b6 24.Kg2 Rd7 25.Rc1 Kf7 26.Rc6 Rdd8 27.h4 Rd7 [27...Ke7 28.Rc2 Kd7 29.Ned2 Rf8 improves on the text.] 28.Nfd2 Be7 [28...Kf8 29.Nf3 Rdd8 30.Ned2 Ke7 (Houdini 1.5a). The text allows a sham sac on e6 to White's advantage.] 29.Rxe6 Kxe6 [29...Red8 30.Rc6 Bf6 31.Nxf6 gxf6 32.Ree6 a5 33.Nf1 Re7 34.Rxe7+ Kxe7 improves.] 30.Ne5+ Kf7 [30...Kd6 31.Re6#] 31.Nxd7 Bd6 32.Ne5+ [32.Rxe8 Kxe8 33.Ne5 was even better.] 32...Kg8 [32...Bxe5 33.dxe6 was correct here.] 33.f4 e5 [Again, 33...Bxe5 34.dxe5. Now Black is losing.] 34.Ndc4 Bf8 35.Ra8 dxc5 Bxc5 36.Rd1 Ne3+ 37.Nxe3 Bxe3 38.Kf3 Be5 39.Ke4 Bf2 40.Rd3 Be1 41.Kf3 g5 [41...b5 42.Rd6 Ra8 but that was not appealing, either.] 42.Ng4 [42.hxg5 hxg5 43.Rd1 Bxg3 (Ba5 44.b4) 44.Kxg3 gxf4+ 45.Kxf4 is even better.] 42...Re6 [42...Kf8 43.fxg5 hxg5 44.h5 Kf7 45.h6 b5 46.Rd6 also loses, a bit less rapidly.] 43.f5 Rc6 44.Rd1 Ba5 45.Rd8+ Kh7 46.Rd7+ Kg8 47.f6 h5 48.Nh6+ Kh8 49.hxg5 b5 50.Ke4 (It's mate in six.) 1-0

A rematch from last year involving the same players with identical col-

ors results in another draw after Dejmek sacs the exchange on c3 (again!) in a typical Sicilian Dragon Yugoslav affair:

Sicilian Dragon B78

Michael Langer 2264

Mark Dejmek 2147

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0 Ne5 [In the 2011 event Dejmek varied with 10...Rc8.] 11.Bb3 Rc8 12.Kb1 a6 13.Bh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Rxc3 [Langer is outplayed despite making reasonable moves in the aftermath of the capture on c3. Black's compensation is just sufficient.] 15.bxc3 a5 16.a4 Qb6 17.Ka2 Qc5 18.Qg5 b5 19.axb5 [19.Nxb5 improves a bit over the text.] 19...a4 20.Bd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 Qc4+ [21...Qxd5+ 22.Ka1 Qc5 23.Qc1 Nc4 24.h4 e5 25.Nc6 Bxc6 26.bxc6 Rb8 27.h5 Rb2 28.Qxb2 Nxb2 29.Kxb2 Qxc6 30.hxg6 Qb5+ 31.Ka3 Qc5+ 32.Kxa4 Qc4+33.Ka5 Qxc3+ 34.Kb6 hxg6 35.Rxd6 Qb2+ (Houdini 1.5a) plays for the win better.] 22.Kb1 Bxb5 23.Qc1 Bd7 24.Qb2 Qc7 25.Kc1 Rb8 26.Qa1 Qc5 27.Rhe1 a3 [27...a3 seems a bit premature, allowing 28.Nb3.] 28.Nb3 Qf2 [28...Qa7 29.Rd4 Bf5 30.f4 Nd3+ 31.cxd3 Rxb3 32.Re2 Qa6 33.Rd2 Qa5 34.Re2 holds onto a3.] 29.Qxa3 Nc4 30.Qa2 [30.Qa6 Bb5 31.Qa2 Ne3 32.Nd2 Nxd1 33.Kxd1 Qxg2 34.Qb3 Rb7 35.Qa3 Rb8 36.Qb3 Rb7 was an equal line.] 30...Ne3 31.Nd4 Nxd1 32.Kxd1 Qxg2 33.Rxe7 Qg1+ 34.Re1 Qxh2 35.Re7 [35.Nc6 Bxc6 36.dxc6 d5 37.Re7 Qg1+ 38.Kd2 Qf2+ 39.Re2 Qc5 40.Re5 Qxc6 41.Qxd5 should have been tried.] 35...Qg1+ [35...Bh3 36.Ne2 Qh1+ 37.Kd2 Qxf3 38.c4 Bg4 39.Qa7 Rc8 40.Re3 Qf1 was better.] 36.Re1 Qg2 37.Re2 Qg1+ 38.Re1 Qg2 39.Re2 Qg1+ 40.Re1 [40.Kd2 Rb1 41.Qxb1 Qxb1 wins,

but after the text 40...Qg3 41.Re7 Bh3 42.Re3 Bf1 43.Kd2 Qg2+ 44. Ne2 Bxe2 45.Rxe2 Qxf3 Black is reasonably better so it's hard to see why a draw was agreed to here.]

½-½

A minority attack on the queen side meets the usual piece led attack on the king side:

QGD Semi-Slav D45

Kevin Li 1653

Charles C. allen 1740

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Qc2 0-0 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Re8 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Rb1 Nf8 11.b4 a6 12.a4 Bg4 13.Nd2 Bd7 14. b5 Ng6 15.h3 Nh4 16.Qd1 [16.bxa6 bxa6 17.g3 Ng6 18.Kg2 was better to kick back Black.] 16...Qc8 [16... axb5 17.axb5 Bxh3 18.g3 (18.gxh3 Qc8 wins) Bxf1 19.Qxf1 Ng6 wins for Black.] 17.Nf3 [Better is 17.bxa6 bxa6 18.g3 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20. Kh2, since the text allows a disruptive explosion on g2.] 17...Nxc2 18.Kxg2 [18.bxa6 bxa6 19.Ne5 Bxh3 20.f4 Nh4 21.Rf2 Ng4 22. Nxc2 Bxc4 23.Qf1 also loses in refusal to take.] 18...Bxh3+ 19.Kh1 Bxf1 [19...Bg4 20.Rg1 axb5 21.axb5 Bh5 22.Kg2 Qg4+ 23.Kf1 Qh3+ 24.Ke1 Bxf3 25.Be2 Ne4 26.Nxe4 Bxe4 27.Bd3 Bh2 28.Rf1 Bg2 29. bxc6 bxc6 30.Qc2 Bxf1 31Bxf1 Qh4 or 19...axb5 20.Nh2 Bxf1 21.Qxf1 bxa4 (Houdini 1.5a) also win for Black.] 20.Qxf1 exb5 21.Bd2 bxa4 [21...Ne4 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Ng5 bxa4 24.Nxc4 was stronger.] 22. Nxa4 Qd8 [22...Ne4 23.Bb4 Bxb4 24.Rxb4 Qf5 25.Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Nh2 Rh4 27.Nc5 b5 was preferable; now White is surviving.] 23. b6 Rb8 24. Bf5 Bc7 25.Na4 Ne4 26.Bb4 [This loses; instead, 26.Qg2 Qf6 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Ng5 h6 29.Nh3 b6 30.Qg4 Qe6 31.Qxe6 Rxe6.] 26...Bd6 [26... Qf6 27.Bxh7+ Kxh7 28.Qh3+ Kg8 29.Be1 Ba5 30.Qg2 Bxe1 31.Rxe1

Rec8. The text is much weaker.] 27.Bxd6 Qxd6 28.Ne5 Nd2 [28.Rb6 Qc7 29.Kg2 Nd6 30.Qd3 g6 31.Bh3 Nc4 instead. The text is a blunder.] 29.Qe1 [29.Qh3 Nxb1 30.Bxh7+ Kf8 31.Bxb1 Qh6 32.Nd7+ Ke7 33. Qxh6 gxh6 34. Nxb8 Rxb8 was a last chance. Now it's hopeless.] 29...Qh6+ 30.Kg2 Qg5+ 31.Kh1 [31.Bg4 Rxe5 32.f3 Nxb1 33.dxe5 h5 34.Qxb1 hxg4 loses the farm.] 31...Qxf5 0-1

A cute case of trapped man after another tactical threat gains time in setting it up:

Sicilian Dragon B78

John Kolts 1888

Christopher Chen 1942

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 d6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 h5 [This is a common try to slow down the Yugoslav attack.] 11.0-0-0 Re8 12.Bb3 Na5 13.Bg5 Nc4 14.Qd3 Ne5 15.Qd2 Nc4 16. Qd3 Na5 17.f4 [17. Kbl Nh7 18. Be3 Nxb3 19. axb3 Nf6 20. Qd2 Re8 21. Bh6 Bh8 instead. This is a blunder.] 17... Nxb3+ 18.exb3 [18.axb3 Ng4 19.f5 Nf2 20.Qd2 Nxb1 21.Nd5 f6 22.Bf4 gxf5 23.Nxf5 e5 24.Nde7+ Kh7 25.Qe2 Qe8 26.Bh2 Re7 27.Rxh1 is better for Black but this is ruinous.] 18...Ng4 19.Rdfl [19.f5 Nf2 20. Qe3 Nxb1 21.Rxh1 gxf5 22.exf5 Re8 23.Qg3 Qa5 24.Bh6 Qe5 25. Qxg7+ Qxg7 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 was also uninviting, but the text is hopeless.] 19...f6 20.e5 Qe8 21.exf6 exf6 22.Re1 Qf7 23.f5 fxe5 24.Ne6 Bxe6 25.fxe6 Qf4+ 26.Kbl Nf2 27.Qxg6 Nxb1 28.Nd5 Qxh4 29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.Re4 Rfl+ [31.Re1 Rxe1#] 0-1

The Old Guard finished out the event with mixed results. Kappler, Durston, and Lavery won. News- ham lost while Sarkisian split his point as Simpson took a final round

bye. In the post mortem of the following see-saw game, two 2000+ kibitzers apparently missed that Black is not perpetual checked at g6 and wins by taking on b5! In a prime case of double chess blindness, neither player noticed during play:

Sicilian B35

Peter Kappler 2089

Avinash Thangirala 1977

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3 a5 9.a4 Ng4 10.Qxg4 Nxd4 11.Qh4 d6 12.Bh6 [12.Nd5 Re8 13. Bxd4 Bxd4 14.c3 Bg7 15.0-0 e6 16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.Nc7 Rb8 18.Rfd1 Bd7 19.Nb5 Bxb5 20.axb5 (Houdini 1.5a). The text is an early error.] 12...Nxb3 13.cxb3 Be6 14.0-0 Bxb3 15.Nb5 [15.Ra3 Bc4 16.Nd5 Re8 (16...Bxf1 17.Nxe7+ Kh8 Rh3 wins) 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rh3 h5 19.Rd1 Bxd5 20.exd5 e5 21. Qxd8 Rxd8 22.Rb3 Rd7 23.Rc1 was suggested by the engine.] 15...Qd7 [15...Be4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Rfd1 Bxb5 18.axb5 was an alternate possibility here.] 16.Ra3 [16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Nd4 Bxa4 18.f4 b5 19.f5 Qa7 20.Qf2 Kg8 21.b3 e5 22.bxa4 Qxd4 23.Qxd4 exd4 24.axb5 Rfb8 25.Rfb1 is the engine choice instead of this rook lift.] 16...Bf6 17.Bg5 Bxg5 [17... Bxa4 18.Rh3 h5 19.Nc3 Bxc3 20.Rxc3 f6 21.Bd2 Qg4 22. Qxg4 hxg4 23.Rc7 Kf7 24.Rxb7 Rfb8 25.Rxb8 Rxb8 26.Bc3 heading toward a pawn down opposite color bishop ending.] 18.Qxg5 f6 19.Qh6 Bxa4 20.Rg3 [This loses, since the king can run to e8 via f7: 20.Nc3 Bc6 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 or 20. Rh3 Rf7 21.Nc3 Bc6 22.Rd1 had to be tried.] 20...e6 [20...Qxb5 21. Rxc6 Kf7 22.Qxh7+ Ke8 23.Rg7 Qe5, etc.] 21.Nxd6 Ra6 [21...Qxd6 is an equal line since 22.Rxc6+ hxg6 (22...Kf7 23.Rxf6+ Kg8 {23...Ke7 24.e5 Qxe5 25.Rxf8 Rxf8 26.Qh4+ Kf7 27.Qxa4} 24.Rg6+ etc.) 23.

Qxg6+ perps. Now White complicates.] **22.e5 fxe5 23.Nc4 Rf5** [23... e4 improves on the game.] **24.Ne3 Rf4 25.Ng4 Qg7 26.Qg5 Rd6 27.h4** [27.Re1 is possible but less probing.] **27...Rd5 28.h5 Bd1** [28...Kf8 29.Ne3 Rd6 30.Re1 Be8 31.Rc8 Rc6 32.Rxc6 bxc6 33.hxg6 hxg6 34.Ng4 Rf5. The text is a blunder.] **29.Ne3 Rf5** [29... Bb3 30.Nxd5 Bxd5 31.hxg6 hxg6 32.Ra1 holds out better. Now it's hopeless.] **30.Nxf5 exf5 31.Rc3 h6** [31...Qf8 32.hxg6 Rd7 33.Re1, but this is a lot worse.] **32.Rc8+ Kh7** [32... Kf7 33.hxg6+ Ke6 34.Re8+ Kd6 35.Qd8+ Qd7 36.Qxd7+ Kxd7 37.g7 Bb3 38.g8Q etc.] **33.hxg6+ Qxg6 34.Rc7+** [White mates in 2-3 after the last move, quite a recovery swindle!] **1-0**

Laverty, after a better opening with a space edge, exploits an error at move 12, steadily outplaying Black after his 23rd turn:

QGD Marshall D06

Alan Laverty 2061
Olzhas Alexandrov

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.d4 c6 5.e4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.Be3 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Ne5 Nbd7 12.f4 h5 [12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.Qe2 Bh4+ 15.Bf2 Bxf2+ 16.Qxf2 h5 17.0-0-0 Qb6 18.Qe2 0-0-0 should have been tried.] **13.Nxg6 fxe6 14.e5 Nd5 15.Nxd5** [15.Bxg6+ Kf8 16.Nxd5 Bh4+ 17.Ke2 exd5 18.gxh5 was also good.] **15...Bh4+ 16.Bf2** [16.Kf1 exd5 17.Bxg6+ Kf8 18.Bxh5 was superior here.] **16...Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 cxd5 18.Bxg6+ Ke7 19.Qb3 Qa5 20.Qe3 Qb4 21.Qc3** [21.f5 Qxb2+ 22.Kg3 Rac8 23.Ra1 hxg4 24.Qg5+ Nf6 25.exf6+ gxf6 26.Qe3 e5 27.h4 keeps the advantage.] **21...Qxc3 22.bxc3 hxg4** [22... Rac8 23.gxh5 Rxc3 instead of the text.] **23.hxg4 Nb6** [23...Rhg8 24.Rab1 b6 25.Ke2 Rac8 holds on better.] **24.Rab1**

Rac8 25.f5 Rcf8 26.a4 Rxh1 27.Rxh1 exf5 28.gxf5 Rg8 29.Rh7 Kd8 30.Bf7 Rf8 31.Rxg7 Nxa4 32.f6 Nxc3 33.Ke3 Ne4 34.Bxd5 Nxf6 35.exf6 Rxf6 36.Rxb7 a5 37.Ra7 Rf5 38.Ke4 Rh5 39.Rxa5 Ke7 40.Ra7+ Kd6 41.Ra6+ Kd7 42.Be6+ Ke7 43.Bf5 Rh1 44.d5 Re1+ 45.Kf4 Rf1+ 46.Ke5 Re1+ 47.Be4 Rd1 48.Ra7+ Kd8 49.d6 Rd2 50.Bf5 Ke8 51.Ke6 Re2+ 52.Kf6 Kf8 53.d7 Re6+ 54.Kxe6 **1-0**

Durston's foe tries to win the wedge button on e4 by decoying a guard, but losing the a-file hurts:

English Opening A24

John Dotson 1800

John Durston 1896

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. e3 d6 6. Nge2 c6 7. Qb3 O-O 8. O-O Re8 9. d4 e4 10. h3 h5 11. d5 Nbd7 12. dxc6 bxc6 13. Rd1 Ne5 14. Qc2 a5 15. Nd4 Qc7 16. Nb3 Nxb3 17. axb3 Bf5 18. b4 [18.Bd2 Nd7 19.Ne2 Ne5 20.Bc3 Bxc3 21.Qxc3 Nd3 22.Nf4 Nxf4 23.exf4 was simpler.] **18...axb4 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Nxe4** [20...Kh8 21.b3 Ra1 is less direct but plausible.] **20...Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Bxh3 22.b3** [22.Bd2 Rb8 23.Ra1 Qd7 24.Qa4 Rc8 25.Bxb4 Bxb2 26.Ra2 Be5 fights for the file and is less loosening.] **22...Kh7** [22...Bg4 23.Re1 beats the king move.] **23.Bb2** [23.Bf3 Ra5 24.Kh2 Bf5 25.Qd2 was essential; the text walks into a nasty pin.] **23...Ra2 24.Rb1 h4 25.Qc1** [25.Kh2, but it's just lost. 26.fxe3 d5 27.Kh2 dxe4 28.Kxh3 also was hopeless.] **25...hxg3 26.f4 Qe7 **0-1****

Newsham resigns against the clear sensation of this event, but could he have played on a bit?

QGA D27

Arvind Jayaraman 2195

Joshua Newsham 2134

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bb3 Be7 9.a3 0-0 10.Bc2 b6 11.dxc5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 bxc5 [12... Bxc5 13.Na4 Rb8 14.Nxc5 bxc5 and the pawn structure arises anyway.] **13.e4 e5** [13...Bb7 14.Bf4 Na7 15.Bd3 Nb5 16.Nxb5 axb5 17.Bxb5 Bxe4 was better. The text loosens d5 and crosshairs e5.] **14.Ba4 Bb7 15.Bg5 Bd8 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nxe5 Bxe4 18.Nd7** [18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxd8 Rfxd8 20.Nd7 a5 21.Rac1 Rac8 22.f3 Ng5 23.Nxc5 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 kept the edge better.] **18...Nxd7 19.Nxe4 Bxg5** [19...f5 20.Rxd7 fxe4 21.Be3 Rc8 22.Rc1 Bf6 23.Rxc5 Bxb2 24.Ra5 Rfd8 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.h3 Rd6 (Houdini 1.5a)] **20.Rxd7 Bf6 21.Nxf6+ gxf6 22.Kf1 Rab8 23.Rd2 Rb5 24.Rc1 Rfb8 25.Rcc2 Re8 26.g3 Re6** [Instead, 26...Kg7 27.Rd5 Re5 28.Rxe5 fxe5 29.a4 Rb4 30.Rxc5 Rxa4 31.Rxe5 Rb4 32.Rg5+ Kf6 33.Ra5 Rxb2 34.Rxa6+ is possibly easier to defend.] **27.Rd5 Re5 28.Rd6 Re6 29.Rd3 Re6 30.Rdd2 Re6 31.f4 Kg7 32.Re2 Rd6 33.Ke1 Kg6 34.Red2 Re6+ 35.Kd1 Re4 36.Kc1 Re1+ 37.Rd1 Rxd1+ 38.Kxd1** [The ending reached is challenging for Black with four pawn islands to White's two.] **38...Kf5 39.Kd2 Ke4 40.Kc3 Rb7 41.Rd2, Black resigns.** [After 41...Rb6 42.Rd7 h5 43.Rxf7 h4 44.Rc7 Kf3 45.a4 h3 46.Rd7 Kg2 47.Rd2+ Kf3 Black may fight on.] **1-0**

This was the last game to finish of the entire tournament. The h6 pawn versus queen loses instructively:

French Defense C13

Stephen O'Keefe 1966

Craig LaSalle 2067

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 [In recent years the Rubinstein and Burn French have become drawing tools for Black, who in this game

handled the simplification and bad bishop issue well.] 5.Nxe4 Be7 6. Nxf6+ Bxf6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Nd7 10.Nf3 c5 11.Bd3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Qe3 e5 14.Nf3 Nxd3+ 15.Rxd3 [15.Qxd3 was correct. Tactical alertness by Black to win the exchange with a pawn fork catalyst!] 15...e4 16.Qxe4 Bf5 17. Qf4 Bxd3 18.Qxf6 gxf6 [Black's pawns get ruined but he still has retains some winning chances.] 19.cxd3 Rfd8 20.Kd2 Rd6 21.Rc1 Rad8 22.Ne1



[It's hard to see how Black makes progress without trading down to the R vs. N, with 22...Rc6, which splinters his pawns even more. In most lines analyzed with Houdini 1.5a Black ends up playing ...Rc6 someplace. An exception is 22...Kg7 23.Rc5 Rb6 24.b3 Ra6 25.a4 Rb6 26.Kc3 Re6 27.Nf3 Re2 28.Rc7 Rb8 29.Nh4 Rxf2 30.d4 Rf1 31.Kd2 a5, which illustrates the passive rook issue involved.] 22...Rc6 23.Rxc6 bxc6 24.Nc2 Kg7 25.Ke3 Kg6 26. b4 a5 27.Nd4 axb4 28.Nxc6 Ra8 29.Nxb4 Ra4 30.Nd5 Rxa2 31.g3 Kf5 32.h3 Ke5 33.Nf4 Ra1 34.g4 Re1+ 35.Ne2 f5 36.g5 f6 37.d4+ Ke6 38.gxf6 Kxf6 39.Kf3 Ra1 40.Ng3 Kg5 41.h4+ Kf6 42.Kf4 Ra5 43.f3 Rb5 44.Ne2 Rb4 45. Ke3 Rb3+ 46.Kf2 Rd3 47.Kg2 Kg7 48. Kg3 Rd2 49.Kf2 Kf6 50.Ke3 Rd1 51.Ng3 Kg6 52.f4 Ra1 53.h5+ Kf6

54.Ne2 Ra3+ 55.Kf2 Rd3 56.Kg2 Ke6 57.Kf2 Kd5 58.Ng3 Kxd4 59. h6 [59.Nxf5+ Ke4 60.Nh4 Kxf4 61. Ng2+ Kg4 62.Ne1 Rd5 63.h6 Rd6 also loses but avoids liquidation.] 59...Rxc3 60.Kxc3 Ke4 61.Kh4 Kxf4 62.Kh5 Ke3 63.Kg5 f4 64.Kf6 f3 65.Kg7 f2 66.Kxh7 f1(Q) 67.Kg7 Qg2+ 68.Kh8 Qa8+ 69.Kg7 Qb7+ 70.Kh8 Qc8+ 71.Kg7 Qd7+ 72.Kg6 Qg4+ 73.Kf7 Qh5+ [74.Kg7 Qg5+ 75.Kh7 Qf6 scoops up the pawn. A well played technical game overall by Black!] 0-1

From the Reserve section, a legend of Austin chess allows a textbook draw up a bishop and pawn:

King's Indian E61

Samuel McLemore 1648

Ritik Verma 1618

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.c4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 c6 8. Qc2 c5 9.a3 cxd4 10.exd4 d5 11. Be3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nb6 13. Ba2 Bf5 14.Qd2 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Ng5 [16.Ne5 was preferable.] 16...Bd5 17.b3 [17.Bxd5 was more natural.] 17...Rc8 18.Rac1 Qd7 19.Nh3 [19. f3 was correct to prevent a sac on g2, and to allow Ne4 in some lines.] 19...Rxe1 [Black missed 19..Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qg4+ 21.Kh1 Qxh3 and the same sequence on move 20.] 20. Rxc1 Rc8 21.Nf4 [21.Rxc8+ Qxe8 22.Nf4 Be4 23.f3 Nd5 24.fxe4 Nxe3 25.Qxe3 Qc2 26.Ne2 Qxa2 27.b4 should have been tried.] 21...Rxc1+ 22:Qxc1 Qc6 23.Nxd5 [23.Qd2 Be4 24.f3 Bf5 retaining ladies instead.] 23...Qxc1+ 24.Bxc1 Nxd5 25.Bb2 e6 26.Kf1 Kf8 27.g3 Ke7 28.Ke2 Kd6 29.Kd3 b5 30.Bb1 f5 31.f4 Nf6 32.h3 Ne4 33.Ke3 Nxc3 34.Kf3 Nh5 35.Bd3 a6 36.a4 Kd5 37.axb5 axb5 38.Bxb5 Bxd4 39.Bc4+ Ke5 40.Bxd4+ Kxd4 41.Bxe6 Nf6 42.b4 Ne8 43.h4 Nd6 44.Bg8 h6 45.Bh7 Kc4 46.Bxc6 Kxb4 47.Ke3 Kc3 48.Bh7 Kc4 49.Bg8+ Kc5 50.Kd3

Ne4 51.Be6 Nd6 52.h5 Ne8 53.Bxf5 Nf6 54.Bg6 Nd5 55.Ke4 [55. f5 Nf6 56.Kc3 Kd5 57.Kf4 Kd6 58.Bf7 Ke7 59.Bg6 Kd6 60.Bf7 avoids immediate capture of the f pawn but may not prevent Black from holding.] 55...Nxf4 56.Kxf4 Kd6 57.Kf5 Ke7 58.Ke5 Kf8 59.Kf6 Kg8 60.Bf5 Kh8 [61. Kg6 Kg8 62. Kxh6 Kh8 and he cannot be smoked out.] ½-½

Some instructive tactical errors from this contest, in which the 2nd player is lost by move 17:

QGD Semi-Slav D45

Duane Ray Herrera 1546

Khoa Minh Nguyen 1685

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Qc2 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.a3 a6 11. Ne4 Rc8 [11...Nxe4 was less passive Black should try to simplify a bit.] 12.Nc5 [12.b4 prevents Black's freeing move of c5 after which White is clearly better.] 12...Nxe5 13.dxc5 0-0 [13...Bxc5 exploits White's overworked piece – be alert!] 14.b4 a5 15.0-0 axb4 16.Rd1 [16.axb4 best, this is too optimistic.] 16...Qa5 17.Bb2 h6 [17...Ra8 18.Ng5 g6 19. axb4 Qxb4 20.Ra1 Qa4 instead. Black seems worried about h7 on a later Bxf6, but misses an even bigger problem involving rook entry. Never assume the threat you see is the only one!] 18.axb4 Qxb4 19.Ra7 Qxc5 [On 19...Rb8? White need not just win the exchange with 20.Be5 because with 20.Bd4 and 21.Rb1 he traps the lady.] 20.Qxc5 Bxc5 21. Rxb7 Nd5 22.Rc1 Nb4 23.Be4 Bd6 24.g3 Nd5 25.Ne5 Bxe5 26.Bxe5 f6 27.Bd6 Rfd8 28.Bc5 Rb8 29.Ra7 f5 30.Bf3 b4 31.Bd4 b3 32.Rb1 Rdc8 33.Rxc7+ Kf8 34.Rh7 c5 35.Be5 Kg8 36.Rh8+ Kf7 37.Bh5+ Ke7 38. Rh7+ Kf8 39.Bxb8 Kg8 40.Rb7 c4 41.Be5 c3 42.R7xb3 c2 43.Rc1 1-0

Black wins a weak pawn and grinds down White after refusing a proffered gambit pawn:

Diemer Gambit D00

Michael Hatcher 1661

Brian Shicoff 1749

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 d5 2.d4 This allows White to offer a Blackmar-Diemer against the Scandinavian.) 2...dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 [This is a popular alternative to f3 at once. Black aims for a Gun-deram setup.] 4...Bf5 5.f3 exf3 6.Nxf3 e6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 c6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.h3 Nbd7 11.g4 Qa5 12.Bd2 0-0-0 13.a3 h6 14.Ne4 Qc7 15.g5 [15.Kb1 instead. White's choice weakens h3, a source of future trouble.] 15...Nxe4 16.Qxe4 hxg5 17.Nxg5 Bxg5 18. Bxg5 Rde8 19.Qg4 Qa5 20.Bd2 Qf5 21.Qg2 Rh7 22.Rdf1 Qh5 23.Rf3 g6 24.Rhf1 f6 25.Qg1 b6 26.Rc3 Kb7 27.Qg2 Qb5 28.Rb3 Qc4 29.Rd1 [29.Rc3 improves on the text.] 29...g5 30.Qf2 [30.Kb1; the queen does not belong on f2.] 30...Reh8 31.Rb4 [31.Qg2 admits the error but should be played.] 31...Qd5 [31...Qa2 followed by 32.. Rxh3 with a winning position for Black.] 32.e4 Qf5 33.Qg3 e5 34.Qg2 Rxh3 35.d5 Qf3 [35...Nc5 36.dxc6+ Kc7 37.Rf1 Rh1 38.Rxh1 Rxh1+ 39.Qxh1 Nd3+ 40.Kb1 Nf2+ 41.Ka2 Nxh1 is an even speedier win for Black.] 36.dxc6+ Kxc6 37.Qxf3+ Rxf3 38.Ra4 a5 39.b4 Rhh3 40.Kb2 Rb3+ 41.Ka2 axb4 42.Bxb4 Rbd3 43.Rc1 Rh2+ 44.Ka1 Nc5 45.Bxc5 Kxc5 46.Rb1 Rdd2 47.Rb5+ Kd4 48.c5+ Kc3 49.cxb6 Rh1+ 50.Rb1 Rxb1+ 51.Kxb1 Rb2+ 0-1

White finishes with a satisfying queen sac after a winning build up on the king side:

Trompovsky Attack A45

Nam Van Nguyen 1797

Eddy Oquendo 1701

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.e3 c6 7.Ne2 d5 8.0-0 Bf5 9.Nd2 Qc8 10.Nf4 Re8 11.c4 g5 [11...dxc4 instead. This weakening will come back to haunt Black.] 12.Nh5 Be6 13.Nxg7 Kxg7 14.Rc1 Qd7 15.b3 Bh3 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qf3 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Nc6 19.Rc5 Red8 20.Qh5 Qe6 21.f4 [This creative offer of a pawn to facilitate an attack on the king is not quite sufficient. Black is right to take but overreaches on his 22nd turn.] 21...Qxe3 22.Nf3 Nxd4 [22...h6 23.h4 gxf4 24.gxf4 Rd6 25.Rcc1 f5 26.Qxf5 Rf6 27.Qxd5 Rd8 28.Qh5 Nxd4 29.Qe5 Qxf4 30.Qxf4 Rxf4 31.Nxd4 Rfxd4 32.Rc7 R8d7 33.Rxd7 Rxd7 (Houdini 1.5a) gives Black a safe ending with the edge.] 23.Rc7 Rf8 24.fxg5 Nxf3 [24...f5 was essential to prevent the pawn from coming to f6.] 25.gxf6+ Kh8 [On 25...Kxf6, White wins with 26.Rxf3+.] 26.Rxf3 Qe2+ 27.Kh3 Qe6+ 28.g4 Rad8 [28...Qe4 improves.] 29.Re7 Qe8 30.Kh4 Rd7 [30...Qc2 31.Kg3 Qg6 was critical.] 31.Rf5 [31.g5 was better.] 31...Qc7 [Though lost in any case, Black's last allows mate in eight by a missed queen sac beginning with 32.Qxf7+.] 32.Rfe5 d4 33.Qg5 [33.Qxf7 now mates in three.] 33...Rg8 34.Qxg8+ [White mates in one with another parting of the lady!] 1-0

In the Booster, a curious and stunning draw caught my eye:

Sicilian Rossolimo B52

Rohit Rao 1301

Michael Tunks 1420

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Re1 g6 7.d3 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9. h3 a6 10.Bf4 Qb6 11.Rb1 Rac8 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Qd8 14.Ng5 b5 15. Qd2 c4 16.c3 Nb6 17.dxc4 Nxc4 18.Qc2 Nxb2 [18...Nb6 19.Red1 Rc5 20.Qe4 h6 21.Nf3 Rc4 22.Nd4 Qa8 23.Qxe7

Nxd5 24.Qe4 Re8 25.Qf3 Bxd4 26.cxd4 Nxf4 27.Qxf4 Qd5 28.Qd2 Rxd4 29.Qxd4 Re1+ 30.Rxe1 Qxd4 The text is clever but a bit too optimistic.] 19.Qxb2 [19.Rxb2 Bxc3 20.Bd2 Bxb2 21.Qxb2 Qd7 22.Nf3 Rfe8 23.Bh6 f6 24.Nd4 Rc5 25.Ne6 Rc4 was better for White.] 19... Bxc3 20.Qa3 Bxe1 21.Rxe1 Rc4 22.g3 Ra4 23.Qb2 Re8 24.Ne6 [This sac is pure genius, except that it fails deep analysis. Designed to take away f6 blocking defenses after a timely Bh6 with the Q on the a1-h8 diagonal, it is inspired but flawed. 24.Ne4 f6 25.Bh6 Kf7 (Houdini 1.5a) gives White an edge.] 24... fxe6 25.Bh6 e5 26.Rxe5 [The real point of his 24th is this rook sac, since Black is mated in two if he captures next move.] 26...Rxa2 27.Qd4 Ra4 28.Qb2 Ra2 29.Qd4, Draw agreed. [Black neatly sacs on a2 and perps the lady, but he wins in all variations, not draws! So he'd like to keep on the diagonal as played. Yet with 29...Rd2 30.Bxd2 exd5 etc., or 30.Qa1 Rd1+ 31.Qxd1 dxe5 etc. or 30.Qc3 Qc8 31.Qxd2 dxe5 etc. (or in this line 31.Qa1 Rd1+ 32.Qxd1 dxe5) or 30.Qg4 Qc8 (taking on e5 allows mate in three) 31.Re6 Qc1+ 32.Kg2 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Qxh6 etc. 30.Qe3 Rxf2 etc. or 30.Qe4 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Rf8 32.Bxf8 dxe5 33.Bh6 Qxd5 34.Qxd5+ Rxd5 lastly 30.Qf4 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Rf8 32.Qxf8+ Qxf8 33.Bxf8 dxe5 34.Bxe7 Rxd5 etc. So, there was no reason to acquiesce to the split point! ½-½

Here's a game with several interesting tactical ideas that occurred OTB and in the notes:

Four Knights C55

Pedro R Ragoytia 1508

Siyue Huang 1467

Austin Championship 2012 (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 [White allows the classic fork trick.] 4...Nxe4 [5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.

Bxe4 improves.] **5.0-0 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Re1** [7.Qd5 0-0 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Qxe5 d6 10.Qe2 Re8 11.Be3 d5 12.Rad1 c6 13.Bd3 etc.] **7...d6 8.Bd5 0-0 9.Qd3 Be6 10.Be4** [10.Bd2] **10...f5 11.Bd5 Bxd5 12.Qxd5+ Kh8 13.b4 e4 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c6 16.Qb3 d5 17.Bf4 a5** [17...Bd6] **18.bxa5 Qxa5** [18...Bf6 19.Qb2 Rxa5 (Houdini 1.5a)] **19.Qxb7 Bb4 20.Red1 Bc3 21.Rab1 Qxa2 22.Be5 Rg8 23.Qxc6 Qxc2** [23...Bd2 24.Rb7 e3 25.fxe3 Bxe3+ 26.Kh1 preferable. It was important to avoid Bxg7+ lines by White.] **24.Qb7** [24.Bxg7+ Rxg7 25.Qxa8+ Rg8 26.Qxd5 Bb2 27.Qe5+ Rg7 28.Qxf5 Rg6 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.Qb8+ Kg7 31.Qxb2 Qxb2 32.Rxb2 wins for White since Black's queen no longer guards a8!] **24...h6** [24...Qa2 25.Qf7 Bd2 26.Kh1 Bh6 27.Rb6 Qc2 28.Rdb1 e3 29.fxe3 Rxf8 30.Qxd5 Rc8 31.Rf1 Bxe3 32.Rbb1 Qe4 33.Qxe4 fxe4 34.Rfe1 Rc3 35.Rb7 cleverly defending for Black returning her majesty to a2.] **25.Bxg7+ Kh7** [25...Rxc7 26.Qxa8+ Kh7 27.Rdcl Qd3 28.Qxd5 e3 29.fxe3 f4 30.exf4 Qxd4+ 31.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 32.Kf1 essential. Now it's mate in seven.] **26.Bf8+** [26.Be5+ Kg6 27.Rb6+ Kg5 28.Qe7+ Kh5 29.Qf7+ Kg5 30.Qf6 Kh5 31.Qxf5 Kh4 32.Rxh6# White's interference idea was cute, but inferior.] **26...Kh8** [Forced due to mate.] **27.Qxa8 Bxd4 28.Rf1 Bxf2+** [This exploits an overworked castle.] **29.Kh1 Bc5** [29...Be1 30.Bg7+ Kxg7 31.Qa7+ Kh8 32.Qd4+ Rg7 33.Rb2 Qc1 allows Black to try a line blocking idea of his own, though it ultimately fails.] **30.Bg7+ Kxg7 31.Qxd5** [31.Qc6 intending the crushing Rb7+ was superior.] **31...Kh7** [31...Bf8 32.Rfc1 Qf2 33.Qe5+ Kh7 34.Rb2 Bg7 35.Qxg7+ Kxg7 36.Rxf2 loses but was critical. Now it's mate in five.] **32.Qxf5+ Kh8 33.Qf6+ Kh7 34.Rb7+ Be7 35.Rxe7+** **1-0**

We broke down the facility and thus ended year 2 of the Renaissance of capital city chess due to the fine efforts of Drew Sarkisian, Lori Balkum and others connected with the Austin Chess Club. This year's contest featured many fine games and stories, which I've tried to do some justice here.

Six(!) eligible co-champs emerged from the finale: Michael Langer, Josh Newsham, Peter Kappler, Craig La Salle, William Molina and Alan Laverty. These were club members, so they shared the city crown having posted identical scores in the open. Langer was a pre-tournament favorite to win it all, his calm and well-schooled demeanor paid off. Newsham repeats his performance of last time, only losing to the runner up. Kappler's return to active chess paid off this year, his deep calculating ability and tenacious will to survive served him well. La Salle is now a local chess teacher, with a flair for finding tactical possibilities in mundane positions which catch foes off guard. Molina is a scrappy practical player who often aims to win even drawn positions and succeeds in trapping he unwary. Laverty is a steady, experienced player who can beat anyone in a given game. The "Old Guard" certainly lived up to their reputation!

Arvind Jayaraman won second outright, winning respect of the locals in the playing hall and in the analysis room. I predict many more successes for this warrior.

GM Timur Gareyev took clear first, and proved to be a class act who even helped one local junior analyse his game free in the skittles room, which delighted the up and coming youngster. He was very approachable and friendly, and now Austin has a GM in residence as of late March, 2012!

The Reserve was won outright by Alexander Quach, a long time junior who has been winning scholastics lately in town due to his hard work and lesson training from area coaches for years. He seems well on his way in becoming an adult tournament force to reckon with.

The Booster belonged to Jeff Little, whose sole 1st finish can be attributed to tactical awareness at key moments, coupled with consistently reasonable moves and end game steadiness. His unblemished score and ratings jump may foreshadow things to come in higher sections later on.

You can view the complete standings and winners list by going here online:

<http://www.austinchess.org/2012ACCChampionshipStandings.html>

In conclusion, I think I will be hanging up my reporter/documenter cap next January, so I can play! This event just keeps getting better, and it has single handedly returned my city back into contention for the mantle of a central hub of Texas chess by the profile it has generated. I have little doubt several titled players will return next time, as more IM's and GM's in the state get wind of the conditions and competition involved annually. The reputation is already rapidly solidifying. With assorted masters telling me they intend to return regularly, it's now a key event. See you all there in 2013, though do not expect to win since I am playing to take home the trophy! ♣

New editor wanted

Texas Chess Association is seeking a new editor for *Texas Knights*. Selby Anderson will be stepping down after the Summer 2012 issue.

Solution: 1.Rd2 (1...Qd5 2.axb6N#; 1...Nxd2 2.Nf6#; 1...Kc6 2.Ne5#).

Red River Shootout VIII

Texans win by huge margin

OKLAHOMA		City	USCF	Score	USCF	City	TEXAS
1	Tom Patton	Enid	2035	0-2	2387	Coppell	FM Jeff Xiong
2	Joe Dean Veal	O K C	2034	.5-1.5	2235	Grand Prairie	Austen Green
3	Shaun Graham	O K C	2004	.5-1.5	2200	Fort Worth	CM Nick Schoonmaker
4	Jim Berry	Stillwater	1965	0-2	2100	Hurst	Mike Richards
5	Tom Nichols	Pauls Valley	1954	1-1	2073	Arlington	Odunayo Ajiboye
6	Glenn Bauman	Norman	1870	.5-1.5	1927	Watuga	Aurelio Gonzalez
7	Frank Berry	Stillwater	1810	0-2	1900	Sherman	Rafael Llanos
8	Judson Temple	O K C	1800	.5-1.5	1865	Arlington	Fred Pennington
9	Mike Tubbs	Lawton	1800	.5-1.5	1850	North Richland Hills	Jim Hollingsworth
10	Mark Anderson	Tulsa	1777	1-1	1833	Dallas	Tianming Xie
11	Howard Zhong	Norman	1714	1.5-.5	1800	Fort Worth	Julie O'Neil
12	Richard Churchill	Stillwater	1640	1-1	1731	Keller	P J Huspeni
13	Bruce Wells	Ardmore	1580	1.5-.5	1728	Dallas	Yiqun Xie
14	Roger Baxter	O K C	1500	1-1	1700	Fort Worth	Doug Schwetke
15	C. Mike Covington	Sand Springs	1363	1-1	1622	Fort Worth	Chris Thompson
16	Bob Jones	O K C	1330	0-2	1609	Plano	David Li
17	Skip Fritze	Norman	1327	1-1	1584	Frisco	Nate Choate
18	Alex Evers	Stillwater	936	0-2	1560	Fort Worth	Jim Edmunds
			1690	11.5-24.5	1870		

Notes by Tom Patton

Caro-Kann B13

Jeff Xiong 2387 (TX)

Tom Patton 2035 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.1)

This year I lucked out. As the top rated Oklahoma player in the 2012 RR Shoot-out (by 1 point - sorry Joe!) I had the rare privilege of playing two games with Mr. Jeffrey Ziong. I understand Jeffrey is 11 years old, and he is rated 2387 USCF. My personal testimony is that his strength is not exaggerated. His calm, his courtesy, his focus and his respect for his opponents is worthy of emulation. Jeffrey had White in the first game. I had discussed my pairing with some of my Oklahoma team mates, and understood that his particular strength was in tactics. I expected 1.e4 and intended the Caro before I sat down to play.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 Decisions, decisions! I knew of the recommendations in "grandmaster repertoire" and decided to give it a whirl. I normally play 5...e6 but felt at the board that would be too passive. 6.Bg5 dxc4 7.d5 Ne5 8.Qd4 Nd3+?! I knew 8...h6 was recommended but I was not comfortable with 9.Qxe5 hxg5. 9.Bxd3 cxd3 Jeffery thought a while here. I thought as well, with unhealthy results! 10.Nf3 g6?! My brainstorm! I knew h6 would still be recommended, but does white have anything better to do with the bishop than Bxf6? Since Jeffery hadn't yet taken the d-pawn, I liked the idea of supporting Bf5, and liked the K-side formation better than with h6. I noted f6 would be weaker, but erroneously discounted it. 11.Bxf6 exf6 12.0-0 Be7 Necessary, but per the plan 13.Ne4? Yes, I dare

criticize a stronger player! Jeffery's admirable attempt to efficiently avoid Qxd3 leads to a misjudgment. White should simply play 13.Qxd3 with advantage. 13...Bf5 14.Rfe1 0-0? Black could survive the opening with the surprising reply 14...d2 after which the tactics let him castle. Unfortunately, I did not think to examine this candidate until next move, when it's too late. I simply miscalculated this. 15.d6! d2! Now this enables Black to go down only a piece instead of a rook. 16.dxe7!+- dxe1Q+ 17.Rxe1 Qxd4 18.exf8Q+ Kxf8 19.Nxd4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Rd8 (=) For a moment I suffered the illusion I could get the piece back with my threat of f6-f5. Embarrassingly, I offered a draw as I made the move. Jeffery's reply was simple. 21.Nf3! Rd1+ 22.Re1 Rd6 If there were any chinks in White's Q-side pawn front, Black could

hope to use king penetration to generate some inadequate counterplay. Since there is none, and the Knight on e1 would cover d3, Black could generate nothing even with two free moves. The rest of the game needs very little further comment **23.Kf1 Ra6 24.a3 Rb6 25.Re2 Rb3 26.Ke1 Rd3 27.Rd2 Rb3 28.Kd1 Rb6 29.Ne1 Ke7 30.Nd3 Rc6 31.Rc2 Rd6 32.Rd2 Rc6 33.Nb4 Rc4 34.b3 Rg4 35.f3 Rh4** Approaching the cliff! **36.g3 Rh5 37.Nd5+ Kf8 38.f4 Rh3 39.Nxf6 h5 40.Ne4 f6** Scrabbling at the edge of the cliff, but it's too late. **41.Nxf6 h4 42.Nh7+ 1-0**

Reti Opening A13

Joe Dean Veal 2034 (OK)

Austen Green 2235 (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.2)

1.c4 c6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Qc2 0-0 7.b3 c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.d4 b6 10.Bb2 Bb7 11.Nbd2 Nbd7 12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Qb1 Re8 14.Rfe1 Bf8 15.e3 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nd2 f5 18.Red1 Ba6 19.Bf1 Bxf1 20.Kxf1 Qg5 21.Nc4 Qh5 22.h4 f4 23.exf4



23...e3 24.Nxe3 Rxe3 25.fxe3 Qf3+ 26.Kg1 Qxg3+ 27.Kh1 Qh3+ 28.Kg1 Qxe3+ 29.Kh1 Qh3+ 30.Kg1 Qg3+ 31.Kh1 Qxh4+ 32.Kg2 Qg4+ 33.Kh1

Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Qg3+ 35.Kh1 [35.Kf1 Qxf4+ 36.Kg2 Bd6+] 35...Rc6 0-1

King's Indian E70

Nick Schoonmaker 2200 (TX)

Shaun Graham 2004 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nge2 0-0 6.Ng3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Be2 exd5 9.exd5 Ne8 10.Bf4 f5 11.Qd2 a6 12.h4 Nd7 13.h5 Ne5 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Bh6 Nf7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.f4 Bd7 18.a4 b6 19.Ra3 Nc7



20.Nce4!! fxe4 21.Qc3+ Ne5 [21...Kg8 22.Nxe4 Re8 23.Nf6+ Kf8 24.Rh7 Rxe2+ 25.Kxe2 Bf5 26.g4 Bc8 27.Nd7+++] 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Qxe5+ Qf6 24.Qxc7 Qf2+ 25.Kd1 Qd4+ 26.Kc1 Rf7 27.Nf1 Bg4 28.Rh7+ Kxh7 29.Qxf7+ Kh6 30.Qf4+ Kg7 31.Qxg4 Rf8 32.Rg3 Rf6 33.Ne3 Qe5 34.Qg5 Qd6 35.Rg4 Qh2 36.Rxe4 Qg1+ 37.Kc2 Qf2 38.Ng4 Qf5 39.Qxf6+ 1-0

Pirc Defense B07

Jim Berry 1965 (OK)

Mike Richards 2100 (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.4)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.f4 c6 4.Nf3 e5 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.Bc4 Be7 7.0-0 Ngf6 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Bb3 0-0 10.Qe2 exd4 11.Nxd4 Bc5 12.Be3 Re8 13.Kh1 Ne5 14.h3

Ng6? [14... b6?] 15.Bxf7+! Kxf7 16.Nb3 Qc7 17.Bxc5± Kg8 18.Rad1 Be6 19.Bd6 Qc8 20.Bh2 [20. Nc5±] 20...Kh8 21.Nc5 Bg8 22.Rd6 b6 23.Na6?! [23. Nd3±] 23...b5 [23...Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Bd5±] 24.Rdxf6? [24. Rxf6! gxf6 25. Qf2 Rf8□ 26. Nb4±] 24...gxf6 25.Nc7 [25. Qf2 Bc4 26.Rd1 (26. Qxf6+ Kg8) 26...Rf8 27.Nc7±] 25...b4? [□25...Bc4 26.Qf2 Bxf1?] 26.Na4+- Rf8 27.Nxa8 Qxa8 28.Nc5 [28.Bd6] 28...Qe8 29. Nd3 [29.Bd6 Rf7 30.Qd2 a5 31.Qd4+-] 29...Qe7 30.Bg1 [30. Qe1 a5 31.Rf5+-] 30... Bc4 31. Qe3 Bxd3 32.cxd3 a5 33.Qb6 Ne5 34.Bc5! Qd8 35.Qxd8 Rxd8 36.Be7 Re8 37.Bxf6+ Kg8 38. Bxe5 Rxe5 39.Rf5 Re6 40.Rxa5 Rd6 41.Rg5+ Kf7 42.Rg3 c5 43. Rf3+ Ke6 44.Rf5 c4 45.dxc4 Ra6



How does White, now four pawns ahead, fail to win this contest, much less lose? **46.Kh2!?** [46. Rb5 Rxa2 47.b3 (47.Rxb4 Ke5 48.c5 Ra1+ 49.Kh2 Rc1 50.Rb5 Kxe4 51.b4+-) 47...Re2 48. Rxb4+-] **46...Rxa2 47.Rb5 Rxb2 48.c5 [48.Kg3 Rc2 49.Rxb4 Ke5 50.Rb7+-] 48...Kd7 49.Kg3 [49. Rb6 Rb3 50.g4+-] 49...h5 [49... Kc6 50.Rb6+ Kxc5 51.Rh6 Kd4 52.Rxh7 Kxe4 53. h4±] 50.Kf3?! [50.Rb6 b3 51.e5 Ke7 52.Kh4 Rxg2 53.Rxb3 Rc2 54.Re3 Rxc5 55.Kxh5+-] 50...Kc6 51.Ra5?**

[51.Rb6+ Kxc5 52.Rh6 b3 53. Rxh5+=] 51...Rc2? [51...Rb3+! 52.Kf4 Ra3+] 52.Ra8 Kb5 53. Rc8? [53.Rb8+ Ka4 54.e5+-] 53...b3?? [53...Rxc5=]



54.c6?? [A precious tempo lost! White is still winning with 54.e5 Rxc5 55.Rb8+ Ka4 56.Ke4 Ka3 57.e6 b2 58.Kd4 Rc7 (58...Rc8 59.Rxc8! b1Q 60.Ra8+ Kb3 61. Rb8+-) 59.Kd5 Rg7 60.Kd6 Rgx2 61.e7 Re2 62.Kd7 Ka2 63. e8Q Rxe8 64.Kxe8 b1Q 65. Rxb1 Kxb1 66.Kf7 Kc2 67. Kg6 Kd3 68.Kxh5 Ke4 and Black is ONE tempo shy of a draw with ...Kf5!] 54...Rxc6+ 55.Rb8+ Rb6 56. Rd8 b2 57. Rd1 Kc4 58.Rb1 Kd3 59.e5 Kc2 0-1

English Opening A20

Judson Temple 1800 (OK)

Fred Pennington 1902 (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.8)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 Nge7 6.Bd2 d6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 h6 9.e4 f5 10. Nd5 fxe4 11.dxe4 Bg4 12.h3 Be6 13.Kh2 Qd7 14.Bc3 Rae8 15.Rc1 Rf7 16.Ne1 g5 17.Nd3 Ng6 18.b3 Nce7 19.Bd2 Ref8 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Be3 b6 22. Nb4 a5 23.Nd5 Qd8 24.Rc2 Bf6 25.Qh5 Kg7 26.a4 Rh8 27.Rd2 Bxd5 28.cxd5 Nf4 29.Qd1 h5 30.Rc2 Ng6 31.Qc1 g4 32.h4



32...Bxh4 33.gxh4 Qxh4+ 34. Kg1 Nf4 35.Bxf4 exf4 36.Rxc7 Rhf8 37.Qc3+ Kg6 38.Rxf7 Rxf7 39.Rc1 f3 40.Bf1 g3 41.fgx3 Qxg3+ 42.Kh1 Rf4 0-1

Torre Attack A48

Mike Tubbs 1800 (OK)

Jim Hollingsworth 1850

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.9)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.e3 d6 6.Be2 Bf5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c3 Ne4 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Qa4 a6 11.Rfd1 b5 12.Qa3 d5 13.Qc5 Qd7 14.Bf4 f6 15. Nd2 Rfc8 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.a4 bxa4 18.Rxa4 Bf8 19.Bg3 [19. Bxa6 e5 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.Qc4+ Kg7 22.Bg3+-] 19...Nd8 20.Rxa6 Rxa6 21.Bxa6 Qa4 22.Bc4+ [22.Qc4+-] 22...e6



23.Bxe6+?? [23.Qb5?? Qxd1+;

23.b3! Qe8 24.Qa7+-] 23...Nxe6 White resigned. 0-1

Veresov Attack D01

Julia O'Neil 1800 (TX)

Howard Zhong 1714 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (1.11)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.a3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.d3 0-0 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Qe1 a6 10.Qh4 b5 11.Ba2 h5 12.f5 gxf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Ng5 Bg6 15.Nd5 e6



16.Nxe6 [16.Nf4! Ne7 17.Ngxe6 fxe6 18.Nxe6 Qb6! 19.Nxf8+ c4+ 20.Kh1 Rxf8=] 16...fxe6 17.Nf4 Bf7? [17...Nd5!+-] 18.Bxe6? [18.Nxe6 Bxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kh7 20.Bg5 Qe8 21.Rae1=] 18...Qe7+ 19.Bxf7+ Qxf7 20.Bd2 Rae8 21.Rf2 Nd4 22.Raf1 Ng4 23.Ne6 Ne2+ 0-1

ROUND 2

Notes by Tom Patton

Trompovsky A45

Tom Patton 2035 (OK)

Jeff Xiong 2387 (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.1)

Here I trotted out the Trompowski. Inspiration struck on move 4, and I peremptorily forced the queens off to reach a queenless middlegame. Not a bad idea, but I followed it up with several defi-

nately bad ideas. Jeffery ground me down quite efficiently and neatly executed my king on a5. I'm grateful to the organizers of the RR Shootout for the opportunity to play two games back to back against a strong master. I am a competitive man, so I shall definitely yearn for an opportunity for a re-match. If I am lucky, I'll earn it. As a realist, I can anticipate the outcome. But as a sportsman, I will give it all I have.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 gxf6 4.dxc5 [4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 f5 6.g3 Bg7 7.c3 d6 8.Bg2 Nd7= 9.Nd2 (9.Nf3 Nf6 10.Nh4)] 4...Qa5+ 5.Qd2 Qxc5 6.Qc3 [6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3] 6...Qxc3+ 7.Nxc3 e6 8.Nb5 Na6 9.g3 d5 10.Bg2 Bd7 11.Nd4 Nc5 12.Ngf3 Rc8 13.c3 h5 14.a3 Na4 15.Rb1 [15.0-0-0!] 15...e5 16.Nc2 Bf5 17.Kd1 d4



18.Nh4 Be6 [18...Bxc2+ 19.Kxc2 dxc3 20.b3=; 18...Bh7 19.Bxb7 Rc5 20.f4 dxc3 21.b4 Rc7=] 19.cxd4 Ba2 20.Ra1? [20.Kd2 Bxb1 21.Rxb1 Rc7 22.Nf5±] 20...Bb3 21.Be4 Nxb2+ 22.Kd2 Nc4+ 23.Kc3 Ba4 24.Nb4 [24.Bf5 Rc7 25.Kd3 Bh6 26.Ne3 Nxe3 27.fxe3 Bb5+ 28.Ke4 Rc3 29.Ng2 Bxe2+] 24...a5 25.Nd5 [25.Bxb7 Rc7 26.Nd5 Rxb7+] 25...Nd6+ 26.Kd3 Bc2+ 27.Ke3 Nxe4 28.Rhc1 exd4+ 29.Kxd4

Bc5+ 30.Kc4 b5+ 31.Kxb5 Nd6+ 32.Kxa5 Ra8# 0-1

Sicilian Dragon B76

Austen Green 2235 (TX)

Joe Dean Veal 2034 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.g4 Qc7 12.h4 Rfc8 13.h5 Qa5 14.a3 Rab8 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.Kb1 b5 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nd5 Qxd2 19.Nxf6+ exf6 20.Rxd2 Rb6 21.Bd3 Bc4 22.Rhd1 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 Rcc6 24.c3 Kf7 25.Rh1 Kg7 26.Rd2 Rb7 27.Kc2 Kf8 28.Kd3 Rc4 29.Ke3 Rc6



30.Kd4 [30.Rhd1 Ke7 31.f4 a6 32.f5 gxf5 33.gxf5 Kd7 34.Kf4 Kc7 35.Rh2 Kd8 36.Rh6 Rf7 37.Rd4 Ke7 38.a4 Rc4 39.axb5 axb5 40.Rh1 Rg7 41.Rxc4 bxc4 42.Kf3 d5 43.Rh6 Rf7 44.exd5 Rg7 45.Kf4 Kd6 46.Rxf6+ Kxd5 47.Rh6 Rb7 48.Rh2+] 30...Rc5 31.Rdh2 Kg8 32.Rd2 Re7 33.Rhd1 f5 34.gxf5 gxf5 35.Re2 Rce5 36.Rg2+ ½-½

Dutch Defense A92

Mike Richards 2100 (TX)

Jim Berry 1965 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.4)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d5! [This proved

strong against Alekhine's variation 6.0-0 Ne4, so why not play it here? The winning percentage of 64% speaks for itself.] **6...Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Qe7 9.0-0 e5 [Strangely, 9...d6 does not appear in the database. Fritz says it's equal!]**



10.d6! cxd6 11.Nc3 e4 [11...Nc6 12.Rad1 e4 13.Nd4± Veingold-Moreno Ruiz, Aviles 1992] 12.Nd4 Ng4? [12...Qe5 13.Ndb5 (13.Rfd1 a6) 13...Nc6 14.Rfd1 Ne8 15.Nxd6±] 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.f3 e3 [14...exf3 15.Rxf3 g6 16.Nb5+] 15.Qc3 Ne5 16.Nb5 Nbc6 17.Nxd6 b6 18.Qxe3 Ba6 19.Rac1 Rb8 20.b3 Bb7 21.b4 f4 [21...Ng6 22.f4] 22.gxf4 Ng6 23.Kh1 Qh4 24.f5 Nge5? [24...Nge7] 25.b5 Nxf3 26.Rxf3 Nd4 27.Rh3 1-0

Stonewall Attack A45

Tom Nichols 1954 (OK)

Odunayo Ajiboye 2073

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 e6 3.Bd3 b6 4.f4 Bb7 5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Nbd2 Re8 10.c3 d6 11.Ne4 Nbd7 12.Bc2 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 Nf6 15.Qe2 Qc7 16.Bd2 Rac8 17.Rae1 Qb7 18.Qf2 Ne4 19.Qe2 f5 20.Be3 b5 21.Bf2 a5 22.Nd2 d5 23.Nf3 b4 24.cxb4 Bxb4 25.Rc1 Rc7 26.Ne5 Rec8

27.Nd3 Bd2 28.Rxc7 Rxc7 29. Nc5 Qxb2 30.Nxe6 Re7 31.Qa6 Nxf2 32.Qc8+ Kf7 33.Ng5+ Kg6 34.Qh8 Qxd4 35.Qxh7+ Kf6 36. Nf3 Qxf4 37.Nxd2 Qxd2 38. Qh4+ g5 39.Qh8+ Ke6 [39...Kf7] 40.Rxf2 Qe1+ 41.Rf1 Qe3+ 42. Kh1 Kd7 43.Qb2 Qc5 44.Qb7+ Kd6 45.Qa6+ Kd7 46.Qb7+ ½-½

Sicilian Scheveningen B80

Aurelio Gonzalez 1927 (TX)

Glenn Bauman 1871 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.6)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3 Be7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 a6 10.g4 d5 11.g5 Nh5 12.exd5 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Bxg5 14.Rg1 Bxe3+ 15.Qxe3 Qf6 16.Kb1 [16.d6 Rd8 17.Ne4 Qe5 18.Rg4 g6 (18...f5 19.Qg5+-) 19.Rg5 Qf4 20.Qxf4 Nxf4 21.d7+-] 16...Rd8 17.d6 Qf4 18.Qc5 Nf6 19.Bd3 Bd7 20.Ne4 Qxf3? 21.Qg5+- Ne8 22.Rdf1 Qh3



23.Nf6+

1-0

Center Counter B01

Frank Berry 1820 (OK)

Rafael Llamas 1900

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.7)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 c6 3.dxc6 e5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bc5 6.d3 0-0 7.Nf3 Nxc6 8.h3 Kh8 9.0-0± h6 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxex3 Qb6 12.Qc1 Be6 13.Bb3 Bxb3

14.axb3 Rae8 15.Ra4 [15.Nh4!] 15...Nh5 16.Kh2 f5 17.Nh4± Ne7 18.Qd1! g6 19.Qd2! g5 20.Nf3 Qd6 21.Nb5 Qb8 22.Qc3 [Δ22.e4 f4 (22...Nf6; Δ22...fxe4 23.dxe4 Rd8 24.Qe3± Ed.) 23.Rxa7 Ng3 24.Rfa1] 22...Nd5



White resigns [22...Nd5 23.Qc5 e4+ 24.Kg1 Nb6 25.Rxa7 Nc8±] WTF? 23.Qc5 e4+ 24.Kg1 Nb6 25.Rxa7 Nc8 26.Ra4= exf3 27.Rxf3 0-1

Sicilian A00 (sic)

Fred Pennington 1902 (TX)

Judson Temple 1800 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.8)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d3 d4 6.Ne4 Be7 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nf4 Bd7 11.Re1 Re8 12.a4 Qc8 13.b3 Nxe4 14.Rxe4 Bd6 15. Bd2 Ne7 16.Qf1 Bc6 17.Re2 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qc6+ 19.f3 Bxf4 20.Bxf4 Nd5 21.Bd2 Rxe2+ 22.Qxe2 Re8 23.Qf2 Re6 24.Re1 Qe8 25.Re4 ½-½

Caro-Kann B12

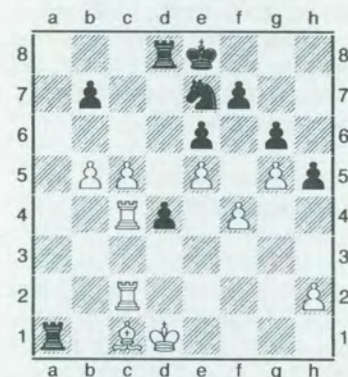
Tianming Xie 1833 (TX)

Mark Anderson 1777(OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.10)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.g4 Bd7 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Be3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 h5 11.g5 Nge7 12.Bd3 g6 13.a3 Ba5 14.b4 Bb6 15.Nbd2 a6

16.Nb3 Na7 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18. dxc5 Bb5 19.Nd4 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Nac6 21.Rac1 Nxd4 22.Bxd4 Qd7 23.Rc3 Qb5 24.Rhc1 Qxd3 25.Rxd3 Kd7 26.Bb2 Rhc8 27. Rdc3 Rc6 28.a4 Rcc8 29.R1c2 Nc6 30.Ba3 Nd4 31.Rd2 Nc6 32.Ke1 Ke8 33.Kd1 Ne7 34. Rdc2 Rd8 35.b5 axb5 36.axb5 Ra4 37.Bc1 d4 38.Rc4 Ra1



39.Rd2? [39.Kd2 Ra5 40.Rb2±] 39...Nf5 40.Ke2 Rb1 41.Bb2?? [41.b6 Kd7±] 41...d3+ 42.Kf3 Rxb2 43.Rxb2 d2+ 44.Rxd2 Rxd2 45.c6 bxc6 46.bxc6 Kd8 47.Ra4 Kc7 48.Ra7+ Kxc6 49.Rxf7 Rxh2 50.Rf6 Kd5 51. Rf7 Rh3+ 52.Kg2 Rb3 53.Ra7 Rc3 54.Ra5+ Rc5 55.Ra4 Rc4 56.Ra5+ Ke4 57.Ra6 Nd4 58. Kg3 Rc3+ 59.Kf2 Kxf4 60.Rd6 Rc2+ 61.Ke1 Kxe5 62.Ra6 h4 63.Ra5+ Ke4 64.Ra3 e5 65.Rh3 Nf3+ 66.Kd1 Rh2 67.Rxh2 Nxf2 68.Ke2 Nf3 69.Kf2 Nxf2 70.Kg2 Ne6 71.Kh3 g5 72.Kg4 Ke3 73. Kf5 h3 0-1

Pirc Defense B06

Howard Zheng 1714 (OK)

Julia O'Neil (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.11)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.Be2 Nd7 6.Be3 c5 7.0-0 Ngf6 8.h3 0-0 9.Qd2 b5 10.dxc5 b4 11.Nd5 Nxe4 12. Qxb4 Nexc5 13.Bd4 e5 14.Bc3 Rb8 15.Qa3 e4 16.Nd4 Qg5?

[16...Bb7=] 17.Nc6 Nb6 18. Nde7+ Kh8 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7 20.Nxc8? [20.Qc3+ Kh6 (20... Qf6) 21.h4 Qxh4 22.Qd2+ Kg7 23.Qxd6 Rb7 24.Qxc5+-; 20. Nxb8 Qxe7 21.Nxa6+-] 20... Rbxc8= 21.Nd4 Nd5 22.Qg3 Qxg3 23.fxg3 Ne3 24.Rfe1 Nd5 25.c4 Nb4 26.a3 Nbd3 27.Reb1 Rb8 28.b4 Na4 29.Bxd3 exd3 30.Rb3 Rfc8 31.Rxd3 Rxc4 32. Re1 Rbc8 33.Kf2 Rc3 34.Ree3 Rxd3 35.Rxd3 Rc1 36.Ne2 Ra1 37.Rxd6 Ra2 38.Rd3 Nb6 39. Rd6 Na4 40.Rd3 Nb6 1/2-1/2

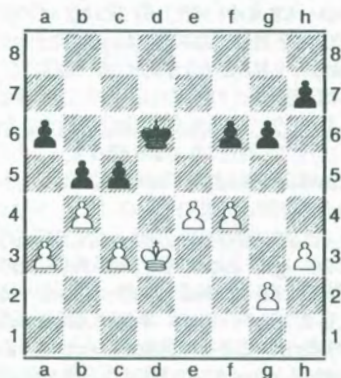
London System A40

P.J. Huspeni 1730 (TX)

Richard Churchill 1640 (OK)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.12)

1.d4 g6 2.Bf4 Bg7 3.e3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 Nd5 8.Bh2 e5?! 9.dxe5 N7b6? [9...N5b6 10.exd6 Bxb2 11.dxc7 Qf6 12.Nbd2±] 10.c3 dxe5 11. Bxe5 Bxe5 12.Nxe5 Qe7 13.Nf3 c6 14.Nbd2 Bf5 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Qc2 c5 17.N4f3 Rad8 18.Nc4 Bf5 19.Qc1 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 a6 21.Rd1 Nb6 22.Be2 Rxd1+ 23. Bxd1 Rd8 24.Bc2 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Qd6 26.Kf1 Nc4 27.Ke2 b5 28. a3 Na5 29.Rd1 Qxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Rxd1 31.Kxd1 Nc4 32.Kc2 f6 33.Nd2 Nxd2 34.Kxd2 Kf7 35.Kd3 Ke6 36.e4 Kd6 37.f4 Ke6 38.b4 Kd6



39.g4 [39.c4+-] 39...g5 40.e5+

[40.fxg5 fxg5 41.c4+-] 40...fxe5 41.f5?=[41.fxg5! Kd5 42.h4+-] 41...cxb4 42.cxb4 Kd5 43.Kd2 e4 44.Ke2 Kd6 45.Ke3 Ke5 46.Kd2 Kd5 47.Kc3 Ke5 48.Kd2 Kd5 49.Ke2 Kd6 50.Kd2 Kd5 1/2-1/2

Goering Gambit C21

Bruce Wells 1580 (OK)

Yiqun Xie 1728 (TX)

Red River Shootout 2012 (2.13)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Nf3 c5 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 h6 7.0-0 d6 8.h3 Be7 9.Bf4 a6 10.Qe2 g5 11.Bg3 g4 12.hxg4 Bxg4 13. Qe3 Be6 14.Nd5 Nb4 15.Rac1 Nxd5 16.exd5 Bg4 17.Rfe1 Qd7 18.Qc3 Rh7 19.Bd3 f5 20.Bh4 0-0-0 21.Bxe7 Nxe7 22.Bc4 h5 23.b4 b5 24.Bb3 c4 25.Bxc4 bxc4 26.Qxc4+ Kb7 27.Nd4 Rc8 28.Qb3 h4 29.b5 a5 30.Nc6 Qc7 31.Qa4 Nxc6 32.bxc6+ Ka8 33. Rb1 Rb8 34.Rb5 Rxb5 35.Qxb5 Rh8 36.Re6 Rb8 37.Qa6+ Qa7 38.Qd3 Rd8 39.Qc3 Qc7 40.Qf6



40...h3? [40...Rb8=] 41.Re7+- Qb6 [41...Qc8 42.Rb7 Rg8 43. Qc3+-] 42.Rb7 Rb8 43.Rxb6 Rxb6 44.Qd8+ Ka7 45.c7 [45. Qd7+ Ka6 46.c7 takes the bishop off the defense] 45...f4 46.c8N+ Bxc8 47.Qxc8 hxg2 48.Kxg2 Rb7 49.Kf3 Rf7 50.Qc6 Rf6 51. Qb5 a4 52.Qa5+ Kb7 53.Qxa4 Kb6 54.Qd4+ 1-0

State to State Border Chess Matches

OK-TX completes 10 straight years of annual matches

by Frank Berry

It might be impossible to write extensively and accurately about the various border states that have had head-to-head over-the-board team chess matches for more than just a year or two. But there are two states that have just completed ten straight years competing against each other in a team format.

I'm talking about the Red River Shootout held each Spring between Texas and Oklahoma. The rules were simple: You must be a current USCF member, have a rating and USCF address, and be listed as OK or TX. The rating is so we'd know where to put you in the lineup.

After ten years – to no one's surprise – Texas leads the series by an 8-2 score. The number of boards has ranged from nine in 2008 to 30 in 2010. The average has been 19 boards, with the most recent four years averaging 24 boards. We have been playing two games at game/60 with a 30 second increment. Pictures are taken at the start, and a nice trophy gets to remain with the winning state. If one state had extra players, they were organized in a quick event.

Jim Hollingsworth of Fort Worth first proposed this idea to Oklahoman Tom Nichols, and the first match was held on the border in Ardmore, OK. It then

got moved to Wichita Falls, TX, Norman, OK, Thackerville, OK and then found a permanent home in Davis, OK about 55 miles north of the Red River (natural border between OK and TX). This seems to be the mid-point between Oklahoma City/Tulsa and the Fort Worth/Dallas areas. The location in Davis is the Inn of Treasure Valley Casino. We charge the players \$5 each, which pays the \$150 rent of the casino's attractive conference room.

Three players have competed in all ten matches: Aurelio Gonzalez and Paul Huspeni of Texas, and Bruce Wells of Oklahoma.

The closest finish occurred in 2005, when the two top boards were the last to finish. All players gathered around to watch Moses Movsisyan (OK) barely hold a draw two pawns down in a tricky late middlegame to defeat Nick Schoon-maker (TX) and secure the victory for Oklahoma, 21.5 to 20.5.

Recently Texas has been actively recruiting to insure that the RRSO trophy will remain south of the Red River. The past three scores have favored Texas by 38-22, 23.5-18.5 and most recently 24.5-11.5.

Regardless, players like the rare team match format. As the late GM Eduard Gufeld used to say: "When you play for a team you have the unanimous support of your teammates, and the struggle is absolutely uncompromising."

Austin-San Antonio match highlights

The cramped playing conditions in the coffee house were not conducive to fighting chess, and some matches were aborted. These games were notable exceptions.

Sicilian Dragon B76

Mark Harden 1978 (S.A.)

Michael Simpson 1972 (Austin)

Austin vs. San Antonio 2012 (1.1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0 d5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.exd5 cxd5 12. Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Qc7 14. Qc5 Qb7 15.Bd4 [15.Qa3 Bf5 16.Bd3 Rab8 17.b3 Rfc8 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.Rd3 Qc6 20.c4 Qg6 21. Rhd1=] 15...Bf5 16.Qb5? [16. Bd3 Rfc8 17.Qa3 Bxd4 18.Bxf5 Bxb2+ 19.Qxb2 Qxb2+ 20.Kxb2 gxf5 21.Rd7 Kf8 22.Re1 e6 23. Re3 Rd8 24.Red3 Ke8 25.Rb7± McCullough-Singleton 2011] 16...Qc7 17.Qc5 Qf4+ 18.Be3 Qb8 [18...Qa4 19.Qc4 Qa5 20. Bd2 Qb6 21.Qb3 Rfc8 22.c4 Qa6+] 19.c3 Rc8 20.Qb5 Qc7 21.Qb4 [21.g4 Rab8 22.Qxb8 Qxb8 23.gxf5 Bxc3+ 0-1 Koffler-Hummel, Austria 2000] 21...Rab8 22.Qa3 Qe5 [22...Rxb2 23.Qxb2 Bxc3 24.Qb5 Rb8+] 23.Bd2



23...Rxc3+ 24.Bxc3 [24.Qxc3 Qc7!-] 24...Bh6+ 25.Bd2 Qc7+ 26.Qc3 Qxc3+ 0-1

French Defense C05

Michael Langer 2264 (Austin)

James Rohrbaugh 2240 (S.A.)

Austin vs. San Antonio 2012 (2.11)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Ng3 Nc6 7.Nb3 cxd4 8.Nbxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qb6 10.Be2 [10.c3 is the only move given in the database.] 10...Bc5 11.c3 Nb8 12.0-0! N [12.Rb1 Nc6 13.Be3 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bd7=] 12...Nc6 13.Be3 Qxb2 14.Qd3 Qb6 [14... 0-0 15. Nb5 (15.Rfb1 Qa3 16.Rb3 Qa4) 15...Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 Qc2 17.Bd3 Qa4 18.Nd6] 15.Rab1 Qd8 16. Qb5 [16.Nxc6 Bxe3+ 17.Qxe3 bxc6 18.Qc5 transposes to the game] 16...Qb6 [16...Qa5 17.Kh1 0-0 18.Bg1 Qxb5 19.Nxb5 Bxg1 20.Kxg1 a6 21.Nd4 Ra7 22.Rb6 Bd7 23.Rfb1 Na5] 17.Qd3 Qd8 18.Nxc6 Bxe3+ 19.Qxe3 bxc6 20.Qc5 Qc7 21.Rb4 Rb8 [21...f6 22.Bd3 Kf7 23.Rfb1 h6=] 22. Rxb8 Qxb8 23.Qxc6+ Bd7 24. Qc5± Kd8 25.Qa3 [25.Bd3 Qb6 26.Qd4 Qxd4+ 27.cxd4 Ke7 28. Rb1 Bc6 29.a3±] 25...Qb6+ [25... Qc7 26.c4 dxc4 27.Qg3 g6 28.Rb1→] 26.Kh1 Re8 27.Bd3 [27.c4±] 27...Re7? [27...Qc7 28.c4→] 28. Rb1 Qc7 29.Qd6!+ Qxd6 30. exd6 Re8 31.Rb8+ Bc8 32.Ba6 1-0

SHOCKER: Polgar pulls out of Texas Tech, takes team along

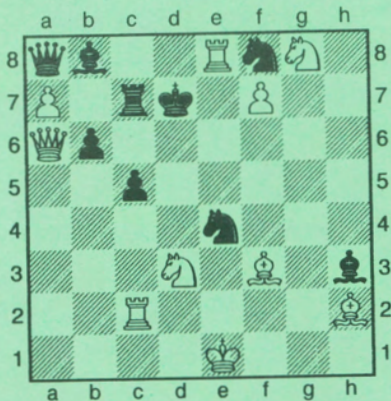
Susan Polgar, having just coached her Knight Raiders to a second Final Four victory, is moving her program to Webster University in suburban St. Louis, Missouri – and here entire team is transferring with her. The city has a swanky 6,000 square foot chess club and is home to the top-ranked U.S. player, seventh in the world, Hikaru Nakamura.

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Marek Kwiatkowski
StrateGems, 2002



White to move, mate in two
 Solution: p. 40

