Scholastic Championship!

Texas Scholastics, 1st Place High School JV, Garza High School in Austin

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WANTED!

- **Articles**
- **Photos**
- **Results**
- **Games**

Content for the next issue needs to be delivered to the Editor by **May 10th!**

From the Desk of The Editor

Hello and welcome!

- This time around we have some new authors that haven't submitted before (at least since I've been the Editor) .   We have an interview by **Lucas Anderson**, **Forrest Marler** (the TCA Vice-President) provided a Collegiate article, some game analysis by **GM Alexander Onischuk**, and updates from some of our Regional Directors. I also received 221 Southwest Class games from **Robert Jones** (some of which were used for *Tactics Time* this issue). I'm hoping all of you will consider becoming regular contributors to *Texas Knights*.

- Also, If you can, take a look at the March 2016 issue of *Chess Life*. On page 38 you will find an article about College Chess in Texas. In particular, TTU's recent revamping of their program as-well-as their success at the latest Pan Ams.

- And … an FYI; You can find current and older issues of *Texas Knights* available for download on the **TCA** Website (**http://www.texaschess.org/p/texas-knights-magazine-online.html**). They are standard .PDF files and you can read them on your mobile device or computer with a PDF reader. The (more recent) digital versions are full color and you can also download .pgn files of the games and *Tactics Time* puzzles found in the issues.   You can download a consolidated .pgn file of all *Tactics Time* puzzles that have been published so far (The consolidated .pgn file is updated every month with the latest puzzles).   If you have never tried the *iChess* app for Android and iPhone/iPad devices, it's a great way to study tactics using .pgn files (including the aforementioned TK *Tactics Time* puzzles available for download).   You can also purchase back issues (please check with me to verify availability).

- Finally, I'd like to thank everyone, both our regular and new contributors.   There was an usually large number of submissions and I am grateful to see the interest and participation. If, by chance, you don't see your submission in this issue, rest assured, I still have it and it will likely show up in a future issue. And just an FYI; I always send any game .pgn files that I receive to Tim, so you may see Tactics Time puzzles from the .pgn submissions.   It's feast or famine when it comes to submissions, this time we had a full meal with appetizer, main course and dessert! So much, in-fact that there was actually too much. But again, I thank everyone. I truly appreciate the efforts.

The next issue of Texas Knights should be in your hands the first week of June.   Take care and be safe.

 — Jeff French

From the Desk of the TCA President

This year we had one of the largest scholastic chess championships in Brownsville, Texas. The only thing that it lacked was more space for all the players who wanted to play. The organizer, James Houghtaling, did an excellent job.

Starting next year we will split this tournament into North and South Championships. This experiment will create new challenges. Some known issues like Barber, Denker, and NGIT representatives were decided during the recent TCA meeting. Several others issues were discussed and tabled for the fall meeting.

Chess continues to grow and I am very happy to be part of it. Thank you all for doing all you do. Take care.

— Vish

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to TCA by using Amazon Smile. Amazon donates 0.5% of all eligible purchases. So far this year we've received $18.33. Not a huge amount but every contribution helps us promote chess in Texas. It works when you buy using Amazon Smile instead of Amazon. Go to **smile.amazon.com** and choose **Texas Chess Association**.

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TCA Treasurer's Report - March 10th, 2016

Income		Expenses	
September memberships	$70.00	Region 7 – Palacios ISD Chess Sets	$116.66
October memberships	$55.00	Texas Knights Sept-Oct 2015	$899.64
November memberships	$0.00	Texas Knights Nov-Dec 2015 (includes ad income)	$762.19
December memberships	$0.00	2015 Denker Representative - Akshay Malhotra	$300.00
January memberships	$35.00	**Total**	**$2,078.49**
February memberships	$30.00		
March memberships (so far)	$17.50		
2015 SW Open memberships	$469.00		
2015 Texas Girls State Championship	$65.00		
2015 Texas Grade & Collegiate and memberships	$369.00		
2016 Texas Masters memberships	$69.00		
Smile Amazon Donation	$18.33		
Total	**$1,197.83**		

March 10th, 2016	
WF checking account balance	**$20,148.29**
BOA checking account balance	**$4,361.52**

2016 Texas Chess Scholastic Championship

For additional information and results: http://2016texaschessscholastics.com

(Photos by **Franc Guadalupe)**

The Scholastic Championships were held in Brownsville between March 4th and March 6th. With 1740 participants representing 95 schools across Texas, it wasn't possible to find enough room for everyone that wanted to play. There were 140 participants in the **High School Championship** tournament. **NM Bovey Liu** won with a score of 6.5/7.0. Following are the results of the top 10 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	NM Bovey Liu	2247	W81	W52	W40	W13	W7	D6	W11	6.5
2	WCM Claudia Munoz	2083	W64	W51	W9	L12	W26	W8	W14	6
3	WCM Priya N. Trakru	2021	W111	W24	L25	W29	W23	W31	W13	6
4	WFM Devina Devagharan	2081	W89	W43	D37	W28	D12	W40	W6	6
5	Khoa Nguyen	1998	W78	W50	W66	W38	L6	W37	W12	6
6	NM Sam Capocyan	2233	W48	W74	W30	W14	W5	D1	L4	5.5
7	Duy Minh Nguyen	2071	W41	W39	W18	W17	L1	D16	W34	5.5
8	NM Curran Han	2221	W62	W27	W16	W25	D11	L2	W30	5.5
9	Jonas Cuanang	1640	W98	W34	L2	W44	W46	D10	W26	5.5
10	Genta Kaieda	1846	W101	W46	L38	W61	W35	D9	W25	5.5

There were 138 participants in the **High School JV** tournament. **Joseph Balderas** won with a score of 6.5/7.0. Following are the results of the top 12 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Joseph Balderas	917	W115	W82	W38	W13	W2	W7	D3	6.5
2	Elier Padilla	871	W116	W67	W8	W39	L1	W14	W15	6
3	Juan E. Gonzalez	887	W137	W118	W14	W5	W15	D10	D1	6
4	Conner McLemore	950	D86	W134	W111	W30	D28	W18	W19	6
5	Jaime Cortina	unr.	W25	W73	W23	L3	D17	W69	W29	5.5
6	Jesus D. Ocampo	unr.	W51	W20	W11	L15	W32	D31	W28	5.5
7	Jose Palacio	982	W93	W107	W22	W29	W44	L1	D11	5.5
8	Juan Farias	990	W16	W56	L2	W106	W77	W28	D10	5.5
9	Brandon Cienfuegos	unr.	W88	W21	W42	L44	W23	D29	W31	5.5
10	Carlos A. Arcibar	921	W125	W83	D106	W65	W33	D3	D8	5.5
11	Rogelio Hernandez Jr	897	W129	W113	L6	W66	W76	W38	D7	5.5
12	David Boatwright	809	L38	W137	W113	W78	W13	W39	D17	5.5

Front to Back :
NM Bovey Liu (black) vs **NM Tommy He** (white),
WFM Devina Devagharan (black) vs **NM Sam Capocyan** (white)
Ricardo Perero (black) vs **WCM Claudia Munoz** (white).

There were 159 participants in the **Middle School Championship** tournament. **NFM Emily Nguyen** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the top 12 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	NFM Emily Nguyen	2189	W92	W44	W17	W5	W14	W3	W2	7
2	Dang Minh Nguyen	1979	W55	W49	W31	W13	W7	W4	L1	6
3	Adolfo A. Balderas Jr	1947	W94	W63	W16	W21	W6	L1	W8	6
4	Carlos D. De Leon	1751	W128	W54	W19	W22	W10	L2	W13	6
5	Daniel Archer	1633	W111	W77	W26	L1	W53	W15	W25	6
6	Sreenevash Ramesh	1646	W78	W24	W28	W43	L3	W46	W20	6
7	Diego Costa	1709	W130	W61	W48	W30	L2	W23	W21	6
8	Nikhil Hakeem	1593	W60	W51	D18	W84	W9	W14	L3	5.5
9	Camille Kao	1946	W47	W76	D15	W32	L8	W45	W30	5.5
10	Michael D. Thomas	1636	W115	W33	W53	W46	L4	D19	W31	5.5
11	Jesus Guillen Jr	1636	W137	W101	L43	W73	W18	D30	W38	5.5
12	Ramses Linan	1653	D97	X---	W79	L18	W47	W40	W32	5.5

There were 145 participants in the **Middle School JV** tournament. **Michael Paizanis** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the Top 11 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Michalis Paizanis	880	W122	W18	W21	W2	W42	W12	W3	7
2	Chris Carmona	740	X---	W34	W16	L1	W23	W44	W12	6
3	Mauricio Villarreal	715	W80	W55	W43	W4	W28	W13	L1	6
4	Arturo Y. Gonzalez	859	W112	W98	W45	L3	W22	W15	W14	6
5	Jai Shet	unr.	X---	W22	W49	L13	W50	W19	W16	6
6	Jose Vanegas	681	W86	W51	W46	L12	W47	W43	W13	6
7	Milan George	898	W84	L17	W94	W95	W49	W8	W20	6
8	Leo Gonzalez	896	W64	D58	W36	W52	W27	L7	W33	5.5
9	Steven Mejia	708	W100	W44	W38	L15	W48	D33	W31	5.5
10	Connor Loop	776	W73	W109	L14	W79	D31	W30	W28	5.5
11	Raymundo G. Martinez	840	W119	D36	W83	D30	W45	D35	W27	5.5

There were 84 participants in the **Middle School Novice** tournament. **Ashlyn Miller** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the top 7 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Ashlyn Miller	547	W36	W56	W73	W3	W21	W2	W5	7
2	Saul Ramirez	501	W60	W25	W11	W8	W22	L1	W13	6
3	Pedro Cuellar	unr.	W63	W41	W12	L1	W27	W10	W8	6
4	David Ramirez	unr.	W20	L70	W32	W41	W9	W22	D7	5.5
5	Juan Ramirez	unr.	W51	D61	W19	W39	W10	W21	L1	5.5
6	Sebastian Fraire	unr.	W18	D19	L39	W20	W17	W40	W22	5.5
7	Isaac Ramirez	unr.	W9	L22	W42	W70	W55	W23	D4	5.5

There were 208 participants in the **Elementary Championship** tournament. **Yanke Wang** and **Ganesh Kumarappan** shared the top spot with a score of 6.5/7.0. Following are results of the top 18 participants.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Yanke Wang	2000	W76	W25	W34	W60	W4	D2	W3	6.5
2	Ganesh Kumarappan	1804	W150	W64	W20	W24	W7	D1	W10	6.5

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
3	William H. McNutt	1766	W86	W41	W31	W12	W8	W5	L1	6
4	Venkata Pullabhotla Jr	1649	W98	W88	W46	W9	L1	W16	W22	6
5	Rohun Trakru	1901	W94	W78	W47	W22	W11	L3	W35	6
6	Rohit Gundam	1725	W135	W65	W32	W14	D42	D21	W24	6
7	Michael R. Casas	1578	X---	W77	W48	W23	L2	W59	W21	6
8	Joaquin Razo	1474	W141	W71	W29	W116	L3	W58	W19	6
9	Anthony L. Acevedo	1297	W117	W167	W69	L4	W65	W26	W42	6
10	Anh Nhu Nguyen	1771	W136	W53	W28	D21	W19	W42	L2	5.5
11	Evan Yong	1565	W30	W26	W123	W55	L5	W20	D12	5.5
12	Aparna Yellamraju	1330	W80	W142	W27	L3	W61	W29	D11	5.5
13	Andres Cantu Jr	932	X---	W18	D16	W62	L21	W49	W45	5.5
14	Simona Kao	1339	W143	W39	W131	L6	W37	D45	W52	5.5
15	Frewin Alexis	1476	W89	W70	W36	L19	W85	W55	D17	5.5
16	Vishanth Yoganand	1193	X---	W84	D13	W43	W63	L4	W50	5.5
17	Ray Zhang	1309	W105	W67	L116	W127	W27	W33	D15	5.5
18	Karlee Padilla	1332	W57	L13	D76	W103	W73	W44	W43	5.5

There were 177 participants in the **Elementary JV** tournament. **Alejandro Stevens Jr** and **Tanvi Bandaru** shared the top spot with a score of 6.5/7.0. Following are the results of the top 13 participants.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Alejandro Stevens Jr	757	W117	W60	W16	W17	D2	W11	W3	6.5
2	Tanvi Bandaru	782	W90	W148	W8	W48	D1	W14	W9	6.5
3	Roslynn Moreno	777	W80	W22	W6	W24	W4	W10	L1	6
4	Neil Shet	unr.	W170	W72	W27	W26	L3	W31	W14	6
5	Emilio M. Guajardo	748	W42	L51	W53	W60	W63	W28	W16	6
6	Dominick A. Bush	659	W102	W98	L3	W68	W50	W18	W24	6
7	Izhaid Gamez	681	L98	W129	W66	W85	W94	W21	W20	6
8	Trey Lara	665	W59	W135	L2	W29	W57	W19	D10	5.5
9	David Pantle	711	D112	W134	W43	W23	W15	W17	L2	5.5
10	Joshua Elizondo	792	W125	W99	W37	W36	W18	L3	D8	5.5
11	Alejandro - Herrera	600	D150	W166	W44	W84	W13	L1	W39	5.5
12	Rianne Olivares	787	W53	W168	W69	L18	D82	W49	W22	5.5
13	Akhil Kakarla	728	W128	W100	W110	D15	L11	W84	W43	5.5

There were 65 participants in the **Elementary Novice** tournament. **Diega A. Cortez** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the top 4 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Diego A. Cortez	376	W50	W38	W3	W2	W6	W5	W7	7
2	Diego C. Barrera	480	W34	W54	W9	L1	W22	W8	W5	6
3	Jacob G. Paez	463	W61	W16	L1	W43	W23	W9	W6	6
4	Deborah H. Davila	187	W37	W20	W39	L7	D24	W31	W13	5.5

Players from the Elementary tournaments.

There were 169 participants in the **Primary** tournament. **John P. Capocyan** and **Vedant Patil** shared the top spot with a score of 6.5/7.0. Following are the results of the top 8 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	John P. Capocyan	1728	W105	W49	W8	W11	W7	W13	D2	6.5
2	Vedant Patil	1641	W110	W17	W103	W18	W14	W3	D1	6.5
3	Rudransh Pathak	1436	W61	W52	W42	W21	W5	L2	W18	6
4	Jeason Chen	1323	W122	W24	W38	D16	W9	D6	W25	6
5	Gianna G. Jacinto	1109	W164	W20	W34	W22	L3	W23	W24	6
6	Vinh The Pham	1543	W123	W59	W36	D9	W15	D4	W13	6

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
7	Alexander P. Rodriguez	1271	W92	W35	W41	W82	L1	W26	W16	6
8	Christian A. Mata	888	W142	W84	L1	W65	W52	W14	W28	6

There were 208 participants in the **Primary JV** tournament. **Mohit Mukkollu** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the top 9 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Mohit Mukkollu	641	W123	W134	W24	W58	W39	W4	W3	7
2	Joaquin Cavazos	636	W116	W61	W152	D38	W41	W47	W12	6.5
3	Joaquin Gonzalez	611	W103	W80	W42	W117	W5	W19	L1	6
4	Anthony Gamba	617	W138	W125	W20	W59	W18	L1	W25	6
5	Isaiah Cuellar	672	W149	W144	W60	W6	L3	W20	W22	6
6	Victorino Gonzalez III	537	X---	W62	W69	L5	W45	W31	W28	6
7	Zeferino A. Guerra	587	D96	W166	W51	W44	D10	W21	W19	6
8	Diego Alanis	unr.	X205	W43	W82	L47	W32	W74	W30	6
9	Jimena Garza	623	W165	W33	L59	W71	W60	W63	W23	6

There were 169 participants in the **K-1st** tournament. **Kaitlynn L. McNutt** won the top spot and was undefeated with a score of 7.0/7.0. Following are the results of the top 10 players.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Kaitlynn L. McNutt	1019	W115	W89	W21	W18	W15	W3	W2	7
2	Luis Miramontes	1341	W126	W59	W12	W50	W7	W14	L1	6
3	Kellen Wang	1126	W112	W36	W9	W54	W37	L1	W29	6
4	Tony Jin	1393	W159	W16	W55	L8	W20	W24	W6	6
5	Nicholas A. John	382	W169	W38	L17	W32	W50	W21	W15	6
6	Kiana E. Nieto	644	W107	W96	W102	W19	W13	W11	L4	6
7	Brody M. John	729	W125	W72	W42	W35	L2	W49	W28	6
8	Daren Bosquez	640	W148	W160	W48	W4	L14	W36	W16	6
9	Marcos Saldivar	596	W174	W44	L3	W60	W56	W39	W27	6
10	Antonio Villalobos	511	W129	W164	W52	W17	L11	W23	W14	6

Following are the top team results from the Scholastic tournament.

The top High School team was from **Veterans Memorial High School** with a Score of 19.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**VETERANS**	Veterans Memorial High School
	Score: 19	Jose P. Delgado (1484) 5.0
		Dominic J. Beltran (1602) 5.0
		Edgar A. Santoyo (1622) 4.5
		Ricardo J. Santoyo (1673) 4.5

The top High School JV team was from **G. Garza High School** with a Score of 21.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**AUGARZA**	G. Garza High School
	Score: 21	Conner McLemore (950) 6.0
		David Boatwright (809) 5.5
		Wells Hero (602) 5.0
		Richard Sullivan (872) 4.5

The top Middle School team was from **Stillman Middle School** with a score of 20.5/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**STILLMAN**	Stillman Middle School
	Score: 20.5	Adolfo A. Balderas Jr (1947) 6.0
		Diego Costa (1709) 6.0
		Mathew E. De Lucio (1431) 4.5
		Esai J. Sandoval (1284) 4.0

The top Middle School JV team was from **Henderson Middle School** with a Score of 21.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**HENDERSO**	Henderson Middle School
	Score: 23	Jose Vanegas (681) 6.0
		Chris Carmona (740) 6.0
		Leo Gonzalez (896) 5.5
		Steven Mejia (708) 5.5

The top Middle School Novice team was from **Henderson Middle School** with a Score of 23.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**HENDERSO**	Henderson Middle School
	Score: 23	Saul Ramirez (501) 6.0
		Pedro Cuellar (unr.) 6.0
		Juan Ramirez (unr.) 5.5
		David Ramirez (unr.) 5.5

The top Elementary team was from Laurel **Mountain Elementary** with a Score of 23.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**LAUREL**	Laurel Mountain Elementary
	Score: 23	Ganesh Kumarappan (1804) 6.5
		Rohit Gundam (1725) 6.0
		Aparna Yellamraju (1330) 5.5
		Ambica Yellamraju (1471) 5.0

The top Elementary JV team was from **John H. Shary Elementary** with a score of 21.5/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**JHSHARY**	John H. Shary Elementary
	Score: 21.5	Emilio M. Guajardo (748) 6.0
		Alejandro - Herrera (600) 5.5
		Diego A. Garza (757) 5.0
		Vincent Cardoza (646) 5.0

The top Elementary Novice team was from **Reynaldo G. Garza Elementary** with a score of 21.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**MCRGGARZ**	Reynaldo G Garza Elementary
	Score: 21	Diego C. Barrera (480) 6.0
		Deborah H. Davila (187) 5.5
		Jacob L. Garcia (452) 5.0
		Athena R. Guiam (325) 4.5

The top Primary team was from **Americo Paredes Elementary** with a Score of 21.0/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**AMERICO**	Americo Paredes Elementary
	Score: 21	Gianna G. Jacinto (1109) 6.0
		Jesus Leal Jr (899) 5.0
		Jorge A. Vadillo (1173) 5.0
		Paulina Melgarejo (871) 5.0

The top Primary JV team was from John H. Shary Elementary with a Score of 21.5/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**JHSHARY**	John H. Shary Elementary
	Score 21.5	Emilio M. Guajardo (748) 6.0
		Alejandro - Herrera (600) 5.5
		Diego A. Garza (757) 5.0
		Vincent Cardoza (646) 5.0

The top Kindergarten-1st team was from **Yturria Elementary** with a score of 22.5/28.0.

	Code	Name
1	**YTURRIA**	Yturria Elementary (609.8)
	Score: 22.5	Brody M. John (729) 6.0
		Nicholas A. John (382) 6.0
		Ethan A. Ramirez (592) 5.5
		Natalie M. John (377) 5.0

Photos from Scholastic Tournament
Provided by Robert L. Myers

Endgame Study: ♚ vs ♔ + ♗ + ♘

1.Ke5 Kc8 2.Ke6 Kd8 3.Kd6 Kc8 4.Ke7 [4.Kc5 Kd8 5.Kd4 Kc8 6.Kc4 Kd8 7.Kc5 Kc8 8.Bc6 Kd8 9.Kc4 Kc8 10.Kb4 Kb8 11.Kb5 Kc8 12.Ka5 Kd8 13.Kb6 Kc8 14.Ka6 Kd8 15.Bb5 Kc8 16.Ka5 Kb7 17.Bd7 Ka7 18.Bc8 Kb8 19.Ba6 Ka8 20.Kb6 Kb8 21.Nf6 Ka8 22.Bb7+ Kb8 23.Nd7#]

5.Kd7 Kb8 6.Ba6 Ka7 7.Bc8 Kb8 8.Kd8 [8.Ne7 Ka8 9.Kc7 Ka7 10.Nc6+ Ka8 11.Bb7#]

8...Ka7 [8...Ka8 does not help much 9.Kc7 Ka7 10.Nc3 Ka8 11.Bb7+ Ka7 12.Nb5#]

9.Kc7 Ka8 10.Ne7 Ka7 11.Nc6+ Ka8 12.Bb7# 1-0

4...Kb7 [4...Kb8 a fruitless try to alter the course of the game 5.Nf6 Kb7 6.Nd7 Kc7 7.Bf1 Kb7 8.Kd6 Kc8 9.Be2 Kb7 10.Bb5 Kc8 11.Nc5 Kd8 12.Ne6+ Kc8 13.Ba6+ Kb8 14.Kc6 Ka7 15.Nc5 Kb8 16.Kb6 Ka8 17.Bb7+ Kb8 18.Nd7#]
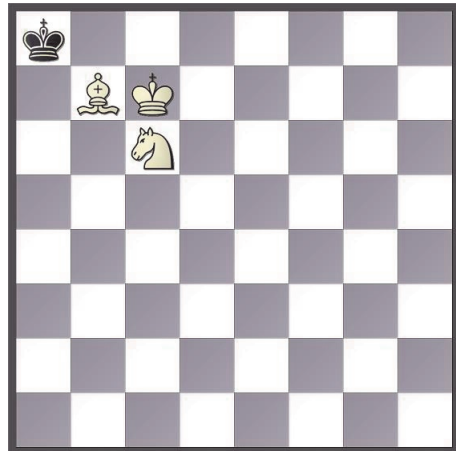
Tactics Time!

These positions came from games played in Texas or elsewhere by (at least one) Texas Player. **Answers can be found on page 19.**
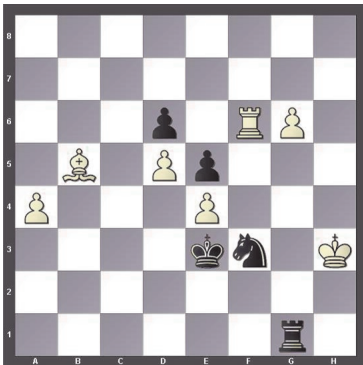
1. Joshua Gutman – Aleksander Indjic
7th Southwest Class 2016
Black to Move
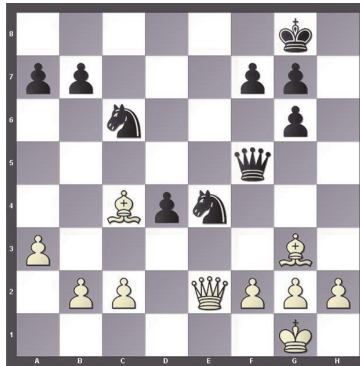
2. Craig Hilby – Austin Green
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move
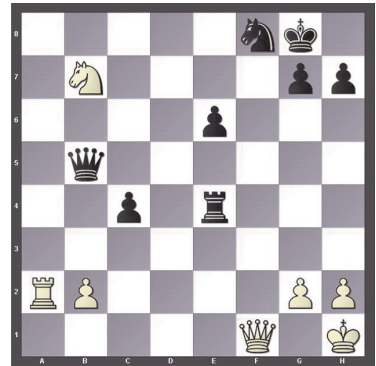
3. Andrew Roach – Matan Prilleltensky
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move
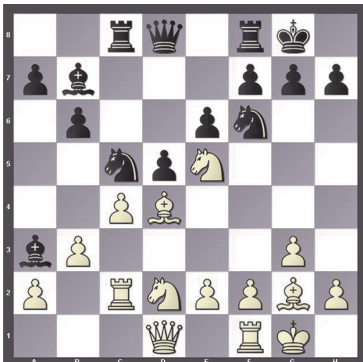
4. Zach Haskin – Authur Guo
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move
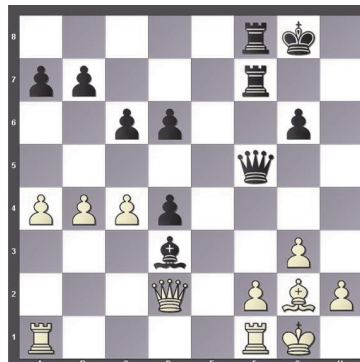
5. Bradley Sawyer – Michael Brown
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move
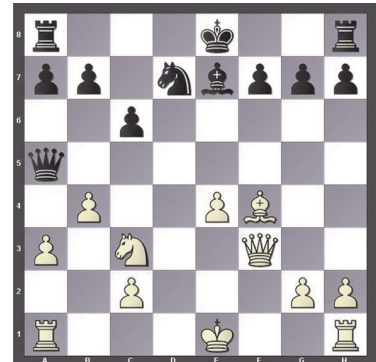
6. Brad Webster – Mariano Acosta
7th Southwest Class 2016
Black to Move
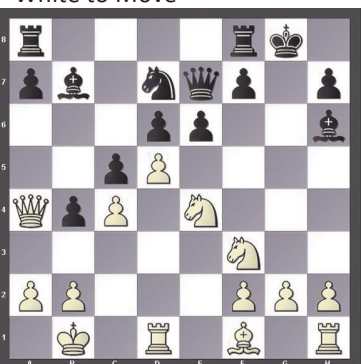
7. Joshua Gutman – Mark Dejmek
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move

8. Julio Sadorra – Andrey Baryshpoets
7th Southwest Class 2016
White to Move

15

USCF TOP PLAYERS FOR TEXAS - March, 2016

Regardless of Residence or Federation

Overall

6	Onischuk, Alexander	2745
11	Xiong, Jeffery	2717
17	Zherebukh, Yaroslav	2678
20	Moradiabadi, Elshan	2670
23	Ramirez, Alejandro	2651
25	Sadorra, Julio C	2646
31	Macieja, Bartlomiej	2636
36	Gorovets, Andrey	2629
41	Steingrimsson, Hedinn	2614
45	Hernandez, Holden	2603
52	Li, Ruifeng	2590
63	Yotov, Valentin L	2571
65	Yang, Darwin	2568
65	Berczes, David	2568
69	Duque, Raymond D	2559
76	Drozdowski, Kacper	2554

Age 65 and Over

2	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2452
35	Crispin, Thomas A	2200
35	Simms, Gary	2200
89	Hubka, James L	2079
99	Patteson, B L	2054

Age 50 and Over

10	Duque, Raymond D	2559
22	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2452
28	Milovanovic, Rade	2416

Under Age 21

2	Xiong, Jeffery	2717
4	Li, Ruifeng	2590
7	Yang, Darwin	2568
8	Drozdowski, Kacper	2554
21	Ruiz C, Joshua D	2486
53	Lin, Dachey	2357
60	Chiang, Jonathan	2336
85	Pamatmat, Jarod John M	2304
85	Ng, Daniel J	2304
100	He, Tommy	2291

Age 18

5	Ruiz C, Joshua D	2486
14	Pamatmat, Jarod John M	2304
14	Ng, Daniel J	2304
18	Jiang, Austin Z	2270
47	Jiang, Alexander D	2105
51	Lu, Tommy	2094
60	Munoz, Claudia E	2083
78	Kaliyur, Rohith	2025

Age 17

26	Malhotra, Akshay	2260
32	Han, Curran	2221
54	Brannon, Joshua Scott	2120
56	Wlezien, Alexander	2115
59	Shao, Andy	2102
75	Jacob, Andrew	2053
89	Xiang, Evan	2012
98	Shan, Devan	1978

Age 16

7	Lin, Dachey	2357
8	Chiang, Jonathan	2336
23	Vaidya, Atulya	2240
30	Lu, Andrew H	2209
36	Obili, Abhishek Reddy	2186
67	Nguyen, Duy Minh	2066
87	Mao, Marcus S	1989

Age 16 (continued)

| 92 | Nandula, Ram Aditya | 1967 |
| 94 | Han, Qiyu | 1954 |

Age 15

1	*Xiong, Jeffery*	*2717*
13	He, Tommy	2291
21	Capocyan, Sam Lander Cabrera	2236
32	Nguyen, Anthony Quan	2174
58	Frenkel, Benjamin	2091
67	Hsieh, David	2068
70	Premkumar, Hiren	2057
85	Nguyen, Khoa Minh	2003
96	Weisberg, Mark Layne	1966

Age 14

1	*Li, Ruifeng*	*2590*
12	Liu, Bovey	2250
20	Xie, Tianming	2184
21	Krishna, Ram	2183
38	Devagharan, Devina	2080
49	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2042
54	Hullahalli, Adarsh	2035
59	Eliezer, Segev	2026
62	Kirumaki, Ronit	2021
70	Krishnan, Aadarsh	1982
72	Yu, Ray	1977
74	Sonawane, Atharv	1976
79	Kao, Camille Y	1954
89	Verma, Ritik	1922

Age 13

| 12 | Nguyen, Emily Quynh | 2207 |
30	Liu, Kevin	2016
34	Palang, Warren Jesse	2000
37	Huo, Rannon	1975
45	Frutos, Chase	1952
47	Fan, William G	1942
53	Wang, Jason	1926
57	Buergler, Jacob Bede	1913
62	Huang, Max	1903
66	Tsuei, Kai	1893
73	Srivatsav, Aadarsh	1879
79	Le, Collin Khoi	1863
90	Li, David C	1831

Age 12

8	Gu, Brian Fanyuan	2201
28	Prabu, Advaith	1999
38	Kung, Thomas	1966
39	Nguyen, Dang Minh	1958
42	Balderas, Adolfo Augusto, Jr	1949
48	Hawthorn, Charles	1922
53	Mao, Andrew Sun-Rong	1903
57	Yan, Austin K	1885
62	Bandi, Rohit Choudary	1866
66	Ganesh, Anirudh	1852
70	Narang, Ijay	1843

Age 11

9	Vivekananthan, Anish	2107
15	Metpally, Jason	2053
18	Hung, Daniel	2032
20	Wang, Yanke	2028
39	Frutos, Cole Nicholas	1914
63	Romo, Benjamin	1798
64	Shi, Eric	1796
73	Rajaram, Rudransh	1778
77	Yeung, Wesley	1764
81	Niu, Baron T	1758
84	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1748

Age 10

1	*Wang, Justin*	*2255*
5	Vaidya, Atreya	2045
9	Hawthorn, Henry	1980
18	Zhu, Harvey	1883
23	Kumarappan, Ganesh	1865
27	Oberoi, Shelev	1838
29	Mcnutt, William Howard	1827
40	Gundam, Rohit	1752
51	Ma, Albert Z	1713
60	Pullabhotla, Venkata Naga, Jr	1656
73	Thippireddy, Saketh	1627
82	Mahajan, Jai	1603
82	Casas, Michael	1603
91	Yellamraju, Ambica	1584
97	Yue, Roy H	1556

Age 9

3	Polavaram, Rithik Sai	2044
8	Trakru, Rohun	1972
19	Tang, Andrew	1864
38	Patil, Vedant	1715
66	Yang, Benjamin	1553
72	Lu, Hubert	1526
73	Pham, Vinh The	1520
90	Welsh, Vinh	1442
99	Hwang, William	1420

Age 8

9	Capocyan, John Patrick	1747
29	Yu, Kevin	1502
37	Pathak, Rudransh	1457
54	Aakarshan, Kumar	1388
56	Senthil, Arjun	1369
62	Podder, Ronit	1347
77	Mi, Andrew	1301
79	Lau, Ignatius	1293
82	Yang, Kevin	1282
84	Zhang, Andrew Huangtiankai	1279

Age 7 and Under

10	Kunka, Harshid	1509
12	Raghuraja, Sri Avishkar	1441
21	Nguyen, Sebastian Thien	1401
23	Jin, Tony	1393
29	Miramontes, Luis	1338
33	Li, Rachael	1328
47	Sun, Alexander	1201
49	Wang, Kellen	1194
52	Ma, Dylan	1178
53	Schroeder, Luke Price	1170
59	Zhu, Harrison Lee	1151
67	Mcnutt, Kaitlynn Lee	1126
69	Gonzalez, Gael N	1114
76	Gao, Tianwen	1090
95	Agnihotri, Abhinav A	1014

Women Overall

9	Danelia, Mariam	2363
11	Foisor, Sabina-Francesca	2332
15	Andrenko, Iryna	2300
24	Chiang, Sarah	2260
36	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2207
56	Munoz, Claudia E	2083
57	Devagharan, Devina	2080
60	Guerrero Rodriguez, Alejandra	2073
70	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2042
72	De La Parra, Daniela	2039
81	Xiang, Evan	2012
83	Root, Alexey Wilhelmina	2002

Women Age 65 and Over

2	O'Neill, Julia	1812

Women Age 50 and Over

2	Root, Alexey Wilhelmina	2002
10	O'Neill, Julia	1812
56	Jamison, Helen	1185
64	Lamont, Olga A	947
70	Irwin, Marla	818

Girls Under 21

7	Chiang, Sarah	2260
12	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2207
19	Munoz, Claudia E	2083
20	Devagharan, Devina	2080
30	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2042
38	Xiang, Evan	2012
51	Palang, Caissa	1960
54	Kao, Camille Y	1954
64	Zhao, Annie	1898
67	Palakollu, Samritha	1884
95	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1814

Girls Age 18

2	Munoz, Claudia E	2083
24	Olvera, Georgia	1399
36	Perez, Corie	1098

Girls Age 17

9	Xiang, Evan	2012
12	Palang, Caissa	1960
14	Zhao, Annie	1898
18	Sarna, Kristen Sheila	1785
39	Cantu, Jackie	1183
40	Martinez, Clarissa	1155
44	Rivas, Cristina	1077
51	Guzman, Vanessa Renee	896
53	Hyde, Sierra R	882
64	Benitez, Sarai	361

Girls Age 16

12	Venkataraman, Sara	1789
19	Su, Meiyi	1585
21	Brown, Sarah	1563
48	Moya, Savannah	1083
52	Krothapalli, Aneesha	1052
55	Rodriguez, Esmeralda E	1019
57	Mendez, Brianna A	988
62	Leone, Terilyn Helen	907
65	Davila, Priscilla	729
73	Villalpando, Lindsey	501
75	Acosta, Asia	455

Girls Age 15

8	Palakollu, Samritha	1884
12	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1814
25	Zheng, Christine	1652
31	Rodriguez, Dominique	1616
44	Li, Selena	1405
56	Solis, Crystal Marie	1249
61	Hernandez, Paola	1168
66	Kotha, Anvita	1147
68	Reed, Ambriette D	1134
75	Morrison, Nicole Leigh	1002
82	Ambrosio, Diana	917
83	Wallett, Ammarie Rita	916
91	Christensen, Asha Taylor	802
94	Rodriguez, Monica M	767

Girls Age 14

2	Devagharan, Devina	2080
3	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2042
6	Kao, Camille Y	1954

Girls Age 14 (continued)

20	Qureshi, Sadia	1689
24	Zhu, Yining	1603
28	Mitra, Aishwarya	1492
29	Zhao, Vivian	1478
30	Garza, Ariel Francis	1472
31	Bhat, Puja Prashant	1458
32	Delapaz, Elizabeth	1454
32	Uppuluri, Sindhuja	1454
45	Mitra, Apsara	1333
63	Flores, Victoria I	1124
72	Cervera, Maria B	1018
77	Hernandez, Victoria Ann	982
79	Zhang, Elena	960
82	Cheng, Daisy	944
84	Voliber, Alyssa	942
86	De La Garza, Jessica A	875

Girls Age 13

3	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2207
31	Cheng, Angela	1600
42	Bautista, Ilse V	1461
43	Uppuluri, Anuja	1457
54	Murgulet, Ioana	1321
55	Solis, Gabriela	1318
59	Gonzales, Caitlin A	1270
65	Boren, Isabel	1248
67	Munoz, Denae L	1214
72	Tovias, Lauren	1189
74	Tooley, Bridget Annika	1177
76	Santana, Sol Celeste	1147
81	Ravichandar, Shreya	1123
94	Flowers, Ava	940
99	Babaria, Niyati Rakesh	929

Girls Age 12

22	Dadwal, Saanvi	1528
29	Cedillo Bocanegra, Ana Karen	1493
36	Zhou, Julia	1450
40	Vasquez, Angelica	1323
47	Manohar, Riya	1282
49	Garcia, Emily Alexis	1268
52	Melgarejo, Fernanda	1236
55	Serrano, Gabriella	1194
56	Salinas, Brianna Christina	1192
61	Reistle, Jane	1161
72	Iyer, Ramya	1094
87	Lin, Maggie Yezhen	992
94	Gutierrez, Bianca	953
95	George, Krista	947
88	Lee, Anna	991

Girls Age 11

8	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1748
36	Kao, Simona Y	1344
55	Gunukula, Renee	1187
67	Castillo, Isabella Deanda	1109
73	Morales, Rhea	1051
80	Madhugiri, Shruthi	1020

Girls Age 10

4	Yellamraju, Ambica	1584
14	Yellamraju, Aparna	1392
17	Padilla, Karlee	1374
35	Si, Sophia	1200
37	Balderas, Ana Luisa	1172
44	Delgado, Gisele Josephine	1107
45	Lu, Maggie	1101
47	Wang, Catherine	1090
58	Gogada, Vimudha	1028
65	Patil, Srushti	1005
69	Ghatti, Saisneha	993
74	Le, Helen Uyen	963

Girls Age 10 (continued)

77	Zhang, Alicia	946
85	Zhang, Mona Wenjie	913
89	Li, Anastasia	876
91	Babaria, Rajvi Rakesh	867
95	Rodriguez, Melissa	840
96	Wu, Alison	835
98	Sharma, Yana	833
100	Chavez, Victoria Lizbeth	825

Girls Age 9

10	Chennuru, Anshu	1411
11	Wan, Audrey X	1349
13	Furman, Jessica	1315
27	Pulido, Emma R	1131
29	Naidu, Suchitra	1105
34	Hernandez, Sarah	1034
43	Duggirala, Bhavyashree	1010
44	Luo, Helen Hanqi	1009
53	Vasquez, Izabel	942
56	Solis, Natalie	927
70	Andaverdi, Rachel	859
72	Zermeno, Mia A	849
77	Nitturi, Rajni	835
79	Alvarez, Gabriela	829
86	Macias, Melanie Alejandra	797
93	Bandaru, Tanvi	765
96	Bhattacharya, Shubhangi	756

Girls Age 8

11	Jacinto, Gianna G	1132
12	Jiang, Eileen	1129
14	Wang, Kalia Yuke	1058
24	Melgarejo, Paulina	924
26	Uviedo, Violette	904
31	Nava, Abeni Yanira	857
32	Galvez, Azulgris	856
46	Choudhary, Rhea	761
47	Espinosa, Sarah E	756
48	Yeh, Madeline	753
49	Chamaria, Vedika	749
54	Pirtle, Sarah E	718
61	Iyer, Niyati	699
62	Yi, Bella	696
68	Sandoval, Sofia	672
70	Nakkala, Sharvi Reddy	666
77	Gomez, Frida Mariela	634
86	Cardenas, Joycelyn	589

Girls Age 7 and Under

2	Li, Rachael	1328
5	Mcnutt, Kaitlynn Lee	1126
6	Gao, Tianwen	1090
19	Nair, Pallavi	839
20	Cruz, Vivica R	827
21	Yong, Evelin	826
36	Nieto, Kiana E	595
44	John, Natalie Michelle	549
46	Martinez, Erika Beatriz	531
70	Curry, Rachel Rachata	429
70	Gomez, Nelly Daniela	429
72	Barajas, Sophia	426
74	John, Ashley Danielle	421
80	Vela, Arely	391
93	Guevara, Jacqueline I	349
96	Villarreal, Rebecca A	326

Tactics Time! **Answers**

Answers:

1. **63...Kf2** and White has to give up his rook for the knight with **64.Rxf3+** to prevent the checkmate **64...Rg3#**
2. **25.Bd3** pins the Knight to the Queen, which cannot be defended a second time. If **25...Nxg3 26.Qe8+ Kh7 27.Bxf5**
3. White missed the killer **31.Nd6**, which forks the Queen and Rook, and threatens **32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Qxf8#**
4. **14.Nb1 Bb4 15.a3 Ba5 16. b4** traps the Black Bishop.
5. **28. g4!** Deflects the Black Queen from defense of the Bishop on d3. **28...Qxg4 29.Qxd3**
6. **14...Bxb4!** The a-pawn is pinned.
7. **15.Qxd7!! Qxd7 16.Nf6+** wins a piece **16...Kg7 17.Nxd7**
8. **24.Ng8** attacks the black rook, which cannot move.

Cover. **19.Qh3** attacks the knight on h6, which cannot move, because of **Qxh7#.** If **19...Kg7 20.Nxe6+**

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Prizes awaiting their collegiate champions

The 2016 Southwest Collegiate Rapid Chess Championship
By Forrest Marler

This year's Southwest Collegiate Chess Championship was held at UT-Rio Grande Valley's Brownsville Campus. There was a format change this year for the annual event. In years past, the format has been either 4 or 5 rounds of Game/90 with a 30 second increment. This year it was decided to try a 3-player team event with 6 rounds of Game/15 with a 10 second increment. This format attracted 35 players on 12 teams. Unfortunately, the UT-Rio Grande Valley "G" team had a no-show and could only field 2 players. This put them at a severe disadvantage with an automatic loss each round making it very difficult for them to win or draw a match.

There were no real surprises in the round by round results. The top 5 or 6 teams were all pretty much evenly matched and any one team could beat or draw any other. Having said that, the UT-Dallas "A" team consisting of GM Gil Popilski, GM Aleksandar Indjic, and GM Denis Kadric easily took the First Place Cup with a score of 5.5/6. The Texas Tech "A" team and the UT-Rio Grande Valley "B" team tied for Second and Third Place. Texas Tech "A" took Second Place on tiebreaks consisting of IM Andrey Gorovets, GM Andrey Baryshpolets, and IM Alexander Battey. The UT-Rio Grande Valley "B" players were GM Holden Hernandez, IM Guillermo Vazquez, and IM Joshua Ruiz. The UT-Rio Grande Valley "F" team won the U1500 Prize with players Bjorn Reyes, Federico Ruiz, Jr., and Daniel Ramirez. Forrest Marler directed.

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	UT-Dallas "A"	2644	W7	W3	W2	W4	W6	D5	5.5
2	Texas Tech "A"	2543	W11	W4	L1	L6	W9	W8	4
3	UT-Rio Grande Valley "B"	2525	W10	L1	W7	W5	D4	D6	4
4	UT-Rio Grande Valley "A"	2651	W8	L2	W6	L1	D3	W11	3.5
5	UT-Dallas "B"	2561	W9	L6	W8	L3	W7	D1	3.5
6	UT-Dallas "C"	2471	W12	W5	L4	W2	L1	D3	3.5
7	UT-Rio Grande Valley "C"	2196	L1	W10	L3	W9	L5	W12	3
8	Texas Tech "B"	2291	L4	W11	L5	W10	W12	L4	3
9	UT-Rio Grande Valley "D"	1999	L5	W12	W11	L7	L2	W10	3
10	UT-Rio Grande Valley "F"	1380	L3	L7	W12	L8	W11	L9	2
11	UT-Rio Grande Valley "E"	1465	L2	L8	L9	W12	L10	L4	1
12	UT-Rio Grande Valley "G"	708	L6	L9	L10	L11	L8	L7	0

Game Analysis with GM Alexander Onischuk

Below are 3 games from the **Panhandle Regional Championship** in Plainview, with analysis provided by **GM Onischuk,** the top-rated player in Texas (*ref.* Top Player List, *Overall* section). Enjoy!

Game 1

Breckenridge − Moore [B22]
02.27.2016

Steven Breckenridge played several miniatures. His longest game last thirty moves. Here is his game against a chemistry professor from the Wayland Baptist University Robert Moore. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nc6?!** Inaccurate move. Black allows white to play d5 with a tempo. **5.Nf3 Bg4 6.d5 Ne5?** This is already a decisive mistake. [6...Nb8; 6...Bxf3 was relatively the best] **7.Nxe5!**
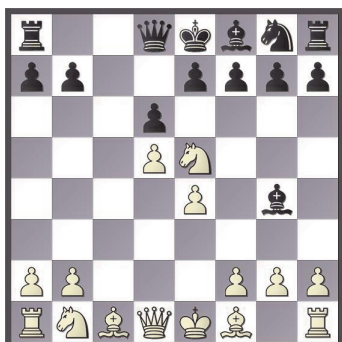
Nice tactics **7...Bxd1** Black still does not see a trap. **8.Bb5+**
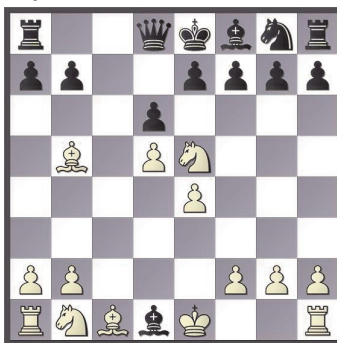
8...Qd7 9.Nxd7 0-0-0 10.Kxd1 with a winning position for white. **1−0**

Game 2

Breckenridge − Chase [C06]
02.27.2016

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Be7 [6...Nc6 is stronger and more common] **7.Ne2 Nc6 8.0-0 Qb6 9.Nf3 cxd4?!**
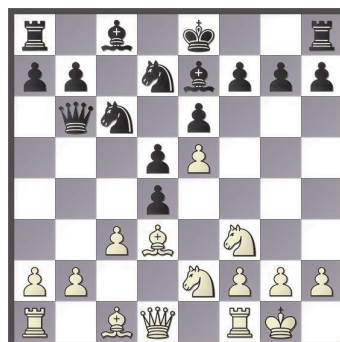

Black should not remove tension from the center. Now his position becomes pretty passive and without a counterplay. **10.cxd4 0-0 11.Nf4 a5 12.h4 a4 13.g3 Re8 14.Kg2 Nf8 15.Bc2 a3 16.bxa3 Bxa3 17.Be3 Bd7 18.Ng5 f6?** [18...h6

was necessary 19.Nxf7 Kxf7 20.Qg4 Re7 21.Nh5 Ke8 22.Nxg7+ Kd8 23.Rab1 and despite being down a rook white is much better. His pieces are more active and his king is safer.; 18...Be7? 19.Bxh7+! Nxh7 20.Qh5 Bxg5 21.hxg5 with a winning attack] **19.exf6 gxf6 20.Nxh7!**
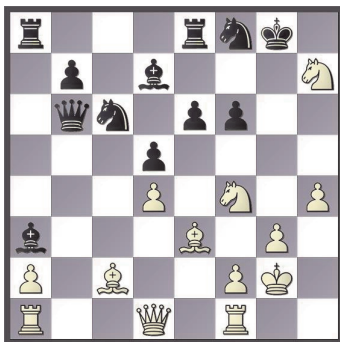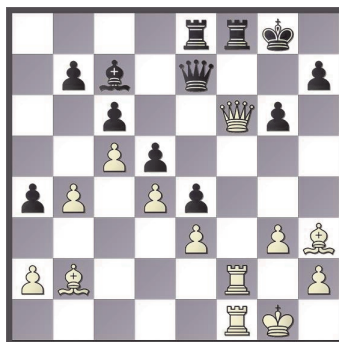
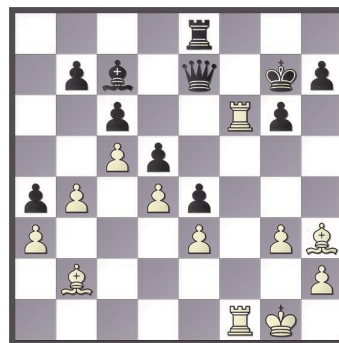**20...Nxh7 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Qg6+ Kf8 24.Qh7**
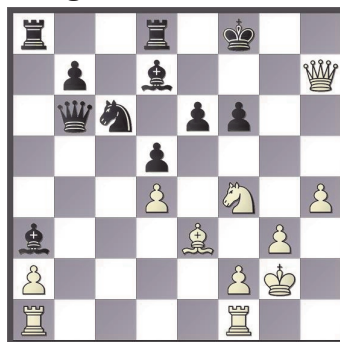
24...Red8 [24...Ne7 25.Nxe6+ Qxe6 26.Bh6#] **25.Ng6+ Ke8 26.Qg8+ Bf8 27.Qxf8# 1−0**

Game 3

Leo Creger − Alex Onischuk
02.27.2016

1.Qxf6? [This position occurred in my game with Leo Creger in the last round. White should have played 1.Qg5 Kg7 and now bg2! 2.Bg2 with equal chances.] Instead Leo decided to sacrifice his queen **1...Rxf6 2.Rxf6 Kg7 3.a3!?**

An interesting idea which unfortunately for white

does not work. [3.Re6 Qd8 4.a3 Rf8! and black should win] **3...Qxf6 4.Rxf6 Kxf6 5.Kf2 h5 6.Bf1 g5 7.Be2 g4 8.Bd1** [He cannot build a fortress, for example 8.Kg2 Kg5 9.Bc3 h4 10.Be1 h3+ 11.Kg1 Rf8 12.Bd2 *(12.Bf2 Kh5 13.Be1 Bd8 14.Bf2 Bg5 15.Bd1 Rf3 16.Bxf3 exf3 17.Kf1 Kg6 18.Ke1 Kf5 19.Kd2 Ke4 20.Bg1 f2 Diagram*
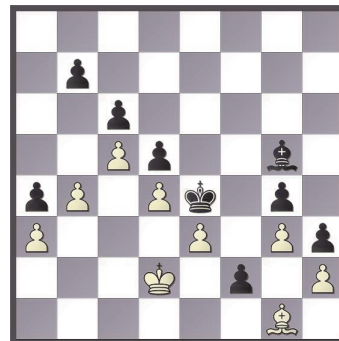
21.Bxf2 Kf3 and black is breaking through*)* 12...Bxg3 13.hxg3 h2+ 14.Kg2 Rf2+] **8...Kg5 9.Bxa4 h4 10.gxh4+ Kxh4 11.Kg2 Rh8** resigned **0−1**

_____
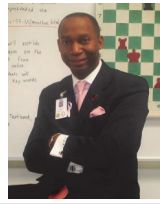
Coach's Corner - e4! The Magnificent 7

by Robert L. Myers

Some situations are just nefarious, like the situation a Master rated player found himself in against Asanti, a lower rated Houston player and adviser/friend of The Chess Academy. It would not be an embellishment if I were to tell you that the Master realized the inevitable Queen sac was surreptitious in nature and led to Mate in two. It was sort of like staring down the barrel of Doc Holiday's shotgun from the movie Tombstone and hearing him say, "I'm your Huckleberry." The expression "I'm your huckleberry" spoken by Doc means "I'm the perfect man for the job."

In another western film, The Magnificent 7, Calvera, is a malicious Mexican thug, or as our former President George W. Bush would say, "Evil doer," and the leader of a band of outlaws that take over a village leaving the townspeople feeling helpless like the Master's King on g1, alone a vulnerable. So the townsfolk, too afraid to fight for themselves, hire seven American gunslingers to free them from the bandits' raids. The professional gunmen train the villagers to defend themselves, then they plan a trap for the evil Calvera. These seven men, the collective, then become known as The Magnificent 7.

In the nearly infinitesimal possibilities in a game of chess there are more than a few things you can do to defend your pieces and attack your opponent. The ultimate chess player knows all the moves before the first move and until the last move. However; no one knows all the possibilities but if a player could master these seven moves of many, life wouldn't be as hectic. One could, during a chess match, make an opponent (Calvera) feel as if you know their next move as you set up traps. In no particular order they are: Fork, Skewer, Pin, Promote, Zugzwang, Check and Checkmate.

1) Fork - A form of double attack where one piece (I prefer the Knight as it is an intrepid piece) threatens two enemy pieces at the same time. In a triple fork, three enemy pieces are threatened, and my favorite which is rare in upper level play but common among C and D level players, a Royal Fork. This is where the King and Queen and another piece maybe a Bishop or Rook are all threatened.

2) Skewer – This is a tactic where an enemy piece is attacked and forced to move, exposing another enemy piece behind it to be captured. This is great during the End Game and should be effective in gaining material.

3) Pin – This is an attack by a queen, rook or bishop on a piece which cannot move without exposing a more important piece or square. The pinned piece is hiding or blocking the more important piece or square. An absolute/complete pin is where the screened piece is a king, therefore it is illegal for the pinned piece to move as it would expose the King to check, which is illegal. A relative pin is where moving the pinned piece would result in a loss of material or other undesirable outcome. The Pinned piece, is the piece under attack which cannot or should not be moved because of the Pin. Pinning piece is the attacking piece in a pin.

4) Promote – This is so satisfying, it is when a pawn reaches the final rank, back rank, or the other side of the board, it then can be turned or promoted to another piece (except a Pawn or King), usually a Queen. Also known as "Queening" but in rare cases can be promoted into any other piece. This isn't a perpetration. The promoted piece is now the actual piece it has been promoted to become.

5) Zugzwang – This is a German term "forced to move". It is a position where a player would prefer to not move at all (but has to move, as not moving is illegal) as any at all will hurt his game.

6) Check – This usually feels good for younger players to say but in tournament play isn't required to say at all. It is the act of attacking the opponent's King. When check takes place, a player usually says "check" so the opponent is aware of the threat. The opponent must get out of check on the next move, either by moving the King, capturing the attacking piece, or moving another piece between the King and the attacking piece. The choices are capture, move or block.

7) Check Mate – As Petulant as this may be, this takes much forethought and planning. It is why we play this wonderful game. It is the "Raison d'etre," reason for existence. Threatening the capture of the opponent's King such that it cannot escape. This wins the game for the attacking side in perpetuity.

In the films, Magnificent 7 and Tombstone, the good guys win but not without a few setbacks. Legendary lawman, Wyatt Earp walks into the middle of the creek into a hail of bullets unscathed and shoots and kills Curly Bill, the leader of the ruthless Cowboys. After the shootout, someone asks, "Where's Wyatt?" Doc Holiday replies, "Down by the creek, walking on water." You opponents may think you actually can emulate a certain Jewish carpenter if you master the Magnificent 7 of chess.

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Regional Reports

Region 1 Regional Championship
by Tim Doty

On Feb. 27th, the Texas Tech Chess Outreach Program partnered with the Texas Chess Association to host the first annual Region 1 "Panhandle" Regional Championship on the campus of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, TX.

The open division (3 rounds of G/45, + 15 inc.) attracted 16 players from Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview, and Slaton, TX. At the end of 3 rounds, FM Steven Breckenridge and GM Alex Onischuk were even at 3.0. In a best 2 out of 3 blitz tiebreaker, GM Onischuk earned the title of Regional Champion with a win and a draw.

The Championship Scholastic Divisions (Rated) were played in 1 section (4 rounds of G/30) and attracted 12 players from Lubbock and Amarillo. The K-12 Regional Champion is Jesus Tafoya from Estacado High School, Lubbock. The K-8 Regional Champion is Phillip Onischuk, from Laura Bush Middle School, Lubbock. The K-12 Regional Team Championship goes to Estacado High School, Lubbock. The K-8 Regional Team Championship goes to Evans Middle School, Lubbock.

In addition, there were 2 unrated divisions (4 rounds of G/30) attracting a total of 25 players from Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview, Slaton, and Loop, TX. The winner of the K-5 unrated team trophy is Southcrest Christian, Lubbock. The winner of the K-8 unrated team trophy is Evans Middle School, Lubbock.

Region 4 Report
By Ruben Arzaga

TCA Region 4 Scholastic Chess Championship took place in El Paso, Texas on Saturday February 6, 2016. The 5-round Swiss style tournament consisted of 2 sections, with 29 participants in the rated Championship section and 37 in the non-rated k-12 Open section. The tournament was considered a great success. Entry to the tournament was free thanks to the sponsorships from Sun City Chess Academy and the Friends of the West side Library. Just before the beginning of the 3rd round, an unexpected surprise appearance by National Master Benjamin Coraretti (2232) from New Mexico who stopped by to say hi to the kids. In the rated section 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies were awarded in k-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12 grades.

The new champions for Region 4 are: Daniela Cossio, k-2; Antonio Rivera and Sebastian Uriarte (co-champions), 3-4; Fernando Uriarte, 5-6; Sebastian De Leon, 7-8; and Antonio Garcia, 9-12.

A total of 4 teams registered for the Championship tournament with El Paso's New World Montessori School taking the championship. Sun City Chess Academy placed second and Lee Moor took third.

Regional 6 Scholastic Chess Championship
By J.P. Hyltin

As chess players, we are used to evaluating imbalances. Such are the skills we must draw on to evaluate the course of events at the 2016 Region 6 Scholastic Chess Championship, played on February 20 in San Antonio. On the one hand, you have phenomenal turnout, over 600 players in 2015, but in confined spaces for everyone. And on the other hand you have this year's offering from San Antonio, tucked away in the south west corner of San Antonio city limits at Southwest High School, where the facilities were stunningly spacious and awe inspiring, but with "only" 331 players. Can we possibly find a way to get the best of both in future events?

I had the privilege of directing on the floor in the championship sections this year. The high school championship was commanded by Andrew Quach. Almost 90 rating points higher than his nearest competitor, he seemingly breezed through the field, only giving up a draw to second ranked Barret Odom in the third round. Barret's final round, saving a draw in a difficult position to Michael Montez, gave Andrew the championship undisputed.

The real drama was reserved for the middle school championship. Benjamin Romo overcame several unfortunate events threatening his tie-breaks, when his first round win came by forfeit when his opponent showed up too late to play. His third round pairing reflected a mis-scored second round result, but it was soon determined this did not change how the round was paired.

Still, it had to be unsettling to him, but he played calmly and left no doubt in the final standings by winning his first 4 rounds, settling for a draw in the final round to secure first place.

The elementary section was won by fifth grader Ray Zhang, making his coach (your humble reporter) exceedingly proud. Ranked second in the field, he gave up a draw to the number one player, William Hwang, in the second round, and smoothly won all the rest with no real trouble the rest of the way, while William was downed by third ranked Christopher Aung in the fourth round.

The Primary Championship division (K-3) featured no less than 11 players sporting 4 digit ratings, demonstrating the strength of upcoming players in the region. Rated 1393, Tony Jin squeaked out a first place result by securing a tie with Ethan Wu thanks to an upset by Jeason Chen over Wu in the final round, after Wu had defeated Tony in the third. Tony won on tie breaks.

Directing in the championship section meant I was isolated from the rest of the event, and I was not able to witness the other proceedings, but I would like to note a fine result by the Austin Garza High School team that won the High School U1000 section, with their Connor McLemore taking first in the section. Every game counted in that section as their 13 team points bested my second place John Jay High School team's 12. Garza is ably coached by Mansoor Kapasi. A few weeks before, these teams met at the Casis tournament, and I told

Mansoor "I see how it is. We come to your house and take your trophy, so you come to our back yard to take ours!" He smiled as he responded "We'll see you at state." Mansoor is a class act.

Another Austin team, Elsa England, was rewarded for their trip winning the Elementary Championship. Other winning teams were John Jay High School, first place in High School Championship; Basis School won the Middle School Championship; Beard Elementary won the Primary Championship.

A special award is the Parent-Child trophy, where player scores in the Adult Section are paired with their corresponding children in the scholastic section. This year, the Dye family won that competition, David Dye and his son Michael, who won the Middle School U700 division with a perfect 5-0 score.

This year, Chief Tournament Director Ross Johnson tracked the top 30 players from Austin scored against the top 30 from San Antonio, and found the San Antonio contingent came out on top, 123 to 121.5. Game on, Austin!

Barret Odom - Andrew Quach
High School Division
Round 3

e4 c5 2. c3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Bd3 Be7 7. Nf3 a6 8. O-O O-O 9. a4 Nbd7 10. Re1 e5 11. Nd5 h6 12. Bd2 exd4 13. Nxd4 Ne5 14. Bf1 Nxd5 15.exd5 Bf6 16. Bc3 Bg4 17. f3 Bh5 18. Qb3 Qd7 19. Ba5 Rac8 20. Bb6 Rfe8 21. Rac1

And, the game was drawn a few moves later. Many of these games resolve in 5-minute time scrambles, and complete game scores are hard to come by.

This wild affair came down to a romantic era style king hunt.

Ramon Correa - Zack Genin
High School Championship Division
Round 4

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 Nc6 4. d3 Qh4+ 5. Kf1 Bc5 6. Qf3 Nd4 7. Qd1 b5 8. c3 b3 9. Bxf7+ Kxf7 10. Qxb3+ Kf8 11. d4 Bb6 12. Qd5 Nf6 13. Qxa8 Kf7 14. e5 Ba6 15. Qf3 b4+ 16. Ne2 Bxe2+ 17. Kxe2 Re8 18. Qxf4 Rxe5+ 19. dxe5 Qh5+ 20. g4 Qh3 21. Qf3 Qh4 22. exf6 Kg8 23. Qa8+ Kf7 24. Qf3 Kg8 25. f7+ Kf8 26. Qa8+ Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Ke6 28. Qe4+ Kd6 29. Bf4+ Kc5 30. cxb4+ Kb5 31. Nc3+ Ka6 32. b5+ Ka5 33. Qa4#

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Region 7 Report
by Eddie Rios

Hello everyone, just a recap…

State Scholastic is done. The tournament directors and backroom computer operators did a great job. The volunteers were fantastic. My score keepers did multi-tasking like you would not believe, kudos to them.

Francisco Guadalupe was a great firefighter/chief tournament director.

James Houghtaling undertook his first major tournament and survived with flying colors.

But the group that i want to recognize are the players and the parents. Without you, the players, we would not be there. Parents, we appreciate the support you give your children, because without that, we would not have many of those children playing. For that, I thank you all and I am humbled to have been a small part of that. Until the next one, thank you everyone.

Coming up, March 19, UT-RGV will be hosting in Brownsville, send your entries in.

April 2, we have another state tournament, this time it is the Texas Teams in Kingsville. Get your teams of 4 set up and send in your entries.

Then we switch to Rockport/Fulton area where we have a two section event.

The game 70 champs which includes a non-member section for those who have not quite made up their minds whether or not to join US Chess. Lets have some fun! pay attention to the dates on these.

Then we come to Corpus Christi for the Tamucc first tournament which includes scholastic and open sections. This is up to the end of April. May is just as exciting with Luis Salinas hosting the Texas State and Amateur tournament.

See you at the boards.

Region 8 Scholastic Championships
By Edward Guetzow

TEAM CHAMPIONS

K-1	Garden Park Elementary of Brownsville	23
PRIMARY	Rancho Verde Elementary of Los Fresnos	22
PRIMARY JV	Hudson Elementary of Brownsville	23
ELEMENTARY	Egly Elementary of Brownsville	22.5
ELEMENTARY JV	Garza Elementary of Brownsville	21
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Stillman Middle School of Brownsville	23
MIDDLE JV	Coakley Middle School of Harlingen	22
HIGH SCHOOL	Veterans Memorial High School	21
HIGH JV	Los Fresnos High School	19.5

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

K-1 CHAMPION:	
Adam Talamantez	7
BREEDEN ELEMENTARY OF BROWNSVILLE	
PRIMARY CO-CHAMPIONS:	
1 Gael N. Gonzalez	6.5
HUDSON ELEMENTARY OF BROWNSVILLE	
2 Jorge A. Vadillo	6.5
AMERICO PAREDES ELEMENTARY OF BROWNSVILLE	
PRIMARY JV CHAMPION:	
Ezekiel Hernandez	7
ATHLOS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF BROWNSVILLE	
ELEMENTARY CO-CHAMPIONS:	
1 Rohun Trakru	6.5
BENAVIDES ELEMENTARY OF BROWNSVILLE	
2 William H. McNutt	6.5
DR CASH ELEMENTARY OF SAN BENITO	
ELEMENTARY JV CHAMPION:	
Casper Kaechele	6.5
VILLAREAL ELEMENTARY OF BROWNSVILLE	
MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-CHAMPIONS:	
1 Adolfo A. Balderas Jr	6.5
STILLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL OF BROWNSVILLE	
2 Diego Costa	6.5
STILLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL OF BROWNSVILLE	
MIDDLE SCHOOL JV CHAMPION:	
Sergio D. Ruiz	7
OLIVEIRA MIDDLE SCHOOL OF BROWNSVILLE	
HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION:	
Christian E. Muraira	7
LOS FRESNOS HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS FRESNOS	
HIGH SCHOOL JV CHAMPION:	
Stephania Montes De Oca	6.5
HANNAH HIGH SCHOOL OF BROWNSVILLE	

An Interview with GM Héðinn Steingrímsson

By Lucas Anderson

Hedinn Steingrimsson is the current and three-time champion of Iceland. In this interview, GM and FIDE Senior Trainer Hedinn Steingrimmson talks to Lucas Anderson, chess coordinator at the Awty International School, about his successful career and recent move to Texas.

Tell us a bit about your journey from Iceland to Houston.

The journey started some time ago, when I decided to study on a full chess scholarship at a Texas University. I liked the hospitality of the Texas people and swiftly finished a MSc in Finance and MBA in two years. Then I lived in Manhattan for some time before I returned to Texas, this time to Houston. I liked New York a lot--wonderful people and vibe in the city. It is easy to work as a chess coach in New York. Then my better half pulled me to the Lone Star state again. I like Houston very much too. During my short time in Houston, I have already met very interesting people and the slower pace than Manhattan has its charm too.

You were the U12 World Champion in 1987. What was your training regimen in your childhood?

Before that I had won my age category of the Scandinavian Championship every year since the age of eight, usually winning all the games. That meant travelling to the Scandinavian countries. I was back then and still am fascinated by the almost endless different ways of playing chess. I have always read a lot about chess and reflected on how one should play our royal game. I guess my main training regimen was my passion for chess. I did not have a coach, but I have always done very well at school and I liked reading. I guess chess was a bit like a school subject with the interesting benefit that I got to travel all over the world.

You've mentioned having an extensive library of chess books. Do you have some favorites?

Generally I do not have many favorites. I feel that there is always room for improvement. The quality of chess books has improved considerably in the recent years. I have trained with some of the top chess authors for example Mark Dvoretsky. If pushed, I would probably choose his books.

You won the Icelandic National Championship for the first time in 1990, and for the third time in 2015. To what do you attribute your chess longevity?

It definitely helps that I started very early. Then being an intellectually curious person, I have a strong urge to work on self-improvement; that also translates to improving my chess. In chess just like in everything else the more you know, the more aware you are of the fact that you have only scratched the surface.

In 2015, you won the Icelandic Championship in all 3 time controls (Blitz, Rapid, and Classical). Does your training differ for shorter time controls?

I do not specially train for shorter time controls. In my opinion the strength of a chess player usually shines through independent of time control. There are exceptions to this of course.

You hold advanced degrees in Computer Science and Neuroscience, among others. How has this education influenced your chess development and your work as a coach?

I feel that my academic degrees and chess have created mutual synergies in various ways. My chess, both as a coach and a player, has improved due to the new ways of thinking and work discipline that my University degrees have trained. Also, some domain-specific knowledge in both of these subjects is very relevant to chess. As a coach my Neuroscience background is definitely helpful. After all the goal is to improve the way my students use their brain. Also Computer Science definitely helps since it is important to understand how modern chess software works and how successful cooperation between our wetware and our silicon friends looks like.

By my count, you are one of about ten Grandmasters in the United States who also hold the title of FIDE Senior Trainer. How do you balance playing and coaching?

When I defended my FIDE Trainer thesis, GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, the chairman of the FIDE Trainers' Commission, said that my approach to chess is very much the one of a trainer. This came as a surprise to me at that time, but I think he is right. It is natural for me to seek samples that demonstrate a certain chess principle from different perspectives. I come from a family of teachers: my father is a Professor Emeritus in physical chemistry and my mother taught nutrition. Maybe this educational approach that comes naturally to me is one of the reasons for my relative success in being my own coach and for my chess longevity.

I certainly wish GM Steingrimsson a long and successful career as a player and coach, and thank him for agreeing to this interview. If you'd like to learn more about the classes GM Steingrimsson offers, please visit his website at www.worldchampionmind.com. You can reach the author at landerson@awty.org.

Upcoming Events

April 2016

APR. 2
North Arlington Chess Club Open #11
Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6459.tla

APR. 9
Austin Area Scholastic and Open Championships
Info: TBA at http://www.AustinChessTournaments.com

APR. 9-10
2016 DCC FIDE Open V
Info: 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com.

APR. 9
Texas Open & KCA Scholastic
Info: (361)455-3682, edrios54@hotmail.com.

APR. 16
GAME 70 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS V 2016
Info: https://www.austinchesstournaments.com/files/
game%2070%20champs%20IV%202016.pdf

APR. 23
Many Springs 87
Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6459.tla

APR. 30
5th Rackspace Scholastic Chess Tournament
Info: https://www.austinchesstournaments.com/
events/700

APR. 30
TAMUCC Chess Club Tournament
Info: https://www.austinchesstournaments.com/files/
TAMUCC%20Chess%20Club_04302016.pdf

APR. 30-MAY 1
2016 DCC FIDE Open VI
Info: 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com.

May 2016

MAY 7
Middleton Memorial Chess Open
Info: (214)-600-1705, ZXAlpha128@gmail.com,
http://zxalpha128.wix.com/buckeyejohn

MAY 21
Many Springs 88
Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6555.tla

MAY 21-22
DCC FIDE Open VII
Info: 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com

MAY 27-30 OR 28-30
71st Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships
Info: See Advertisement on **page 31**

texaschess.org

71st Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships
## MAY 27-30 OR 28-30

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

7SS. DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76155. $$ 8,350 b/175, full entries in Championship and Amateur sections, one scholastic side event that doesn't count toward base. *Championship:* This section is FIDE rated and uses FIDE rules. The tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes. Must be rated 2000 or above by either USCF or Fide to play in this section. Defending Texas State Amateur Champion may also play in this section. Texas Scholastic High School Champions may also play in this section. Foreign unrateds may play in this section and at TDs discretion may be required to play in Championship section. G/90 with 30 sec. increment. Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play in Championship section. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. $$ 1,000-500-250, 2200-2399 $750, U2200 $750. *Amateur:* U2000 & unrated. Rds. 1-7 G/90 with 30 sec increment. $$ 800-400-200. B $$ 600-300-150, C 500-250-125, U1400 $500-250-125, U1200 $400, U1000 $300 Unrated $200. Both: TCA membership required. Other states accepted. EF: $88 if received by 5/19, else $99. $80 Junior(U19) if received by 5/19 else $90 (juniors count as 90% toward base), Senior (over 65)/Handicapped/ additional family participant $52 if receive by 5/19 else $65 (Senior/Handicap/ Additional family participant counts 60% toward base). Add $5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg requires pre-payment. After 5/24 all registration and changes on site only; all changes including withdrawals, $10 after 5/24. 4 day: Reg. Friday 5/27, 6:15 pm-7:15. Rds. Fri: 7:45, Sat: 2:45 pm - 7:30, Sun: 11:00 am - 5:15 pm, Mon: 9:30 am - 2:15 pm. 3 day: Reg. Sat. 5/28, 9-9:30 am, Rd. 1 at 10 am then merge with 4 day. Foreign Unrated must play in Championship section. Registrations that do not indicate 4 or 3 day schedule will be put in the 3 day. HR: $94/94/94/94, $94 rate includes up to four continental breakfast per room per day, can upgrade to full breakfast for $5 per person, 817-358-1700 or 800-228-9290 reserve by 5/20 and ask for Dallas Chess Club rate. After 5/20 chess rate may not be honored. Free Parking. Up to two 1/2 pt byes available if requested before end of rd. 2 and before receiving full point bye, but byes for both rds. 6 AND 7 not permitted. *K-12 Scholastic* **on Saturday**, 5/28. 5-SS, Rds. G/30 d5, EF: $29 by 5/19, $45 after; Pre-reg. requires pre-payment. After 5/24 all registration and changes on site only; all changes $10 after 5/20. No refunds after 5/24, $10 handling fee for refunds before 5/24. Entries do not count toward base in Championship and Amateur. Registration 8:15-8:45 am, Rd. 1 at 9:30 am, rest ASAP with small lunch break. Sections: *K-12 Championship* and *K-12 U1000*. Prizes: Trophies to top 12 individuals, top five teams in each section. K-12 U1000 also top three unrateds. Medals to those who do not win a trophy. Ent: Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Info: Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com www.dallaschess.com W. FIDE.

Tactics Time!
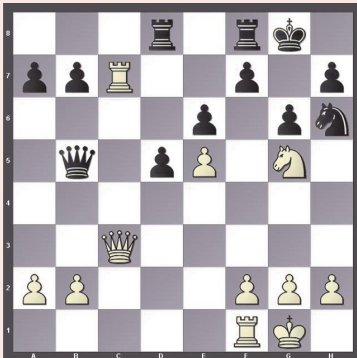
Curtis Brooks – Brad Webster

7th Southwest Class 2016

White to Move