

TEXAS KNIGHTS

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Texas Teams 2017!



En Passant Chess Team (Tied for Second Place)

Polo Stein - 9th Grade, Carlos De Leon - 7th Grade, William McNutt (Team Captain) - 6th Grade and Michael Casas - 5th Grade.

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

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



From the Desk of The Editor

Hello and Happy New Year!

It looks like 2017 has the potential to be an active year for Texas Chess. The event list in this issue, which only covers February, March and a little of April, is full of opportunity for players of every age and playing strength to compete.

We have some new authors in this issue as-well-as familiar submitters. Regardless of whether you are an old hand or new face, I appreciate everyone that participates in the creation of our publication. A big thank you, as always, for your support.

In this issue, you will find:

- Results from the Texas Teams Tournament held in Kingsville this year.
- Results and games from the 7th Annual Austin Chess Club Championships.
- Games played by WIM Emily Nguyen from the 2016 Dallas UTD Fall Open.
- We have an Article and Game from our Denker representative, Bovey Liu.
- There is a historical article about a visit and simul played by Boris Spassky in 1986.
- We have our regular Tactics Time puzzles from Tim, most of which are based on games played that were published in the last issue from the Brazos Tournament.
- We have our regular Coach's Corner article from Robert, this time focusing on the importance of good sportsmanship.
- We have an opinion article from Jim about situation awareness.
- We have a regional update
- And we have our regular Top Player list that features some of the Top Players not only in the state and country, but also in the world.

Some additional Texas Chess player news: **GM Jeffery Xiong** has been awarded the Samford Fellowship for 2017. **Additional info:** <https://new.uschess.org/news/2017-samford-fellowship-awarded-to-grandmaster-jeffery-xiong/>

The next issue of *Texas Knights* should be in your mailbox sometime around the first week of April. Until then, have fun and be safe.

— **Jeff French**



From the Desk of the TCA President

Hello everyone!

We just kicked off the year with the Texas Teams tournament. The rating numbers were very challenging. This event was well represented. Now, that this event has passed, we are entering into a series of state sponsored events. To begin with, the TCA regionals are getting underway. Following that, we proceed to the first year that Texas Chess Association introduces north and south State Scholastic Tournaments. We continue with the Texas open, Texas Junior Teams, and attempt to bring back the Texas Seniors Tournament. If that's not enough, TCA will attempt to host our first Norms tournament at the Southwest open and follow that with the north and south State Grades scholastic tournaments. We just keep going. I am doing my best to insure that we provide enough events and that Texas and you as members are well represented on the national scope. We need your help as participants and supporters of Texas Chess. I do mean it when I say "see you at the boards." One more thing, a quick reminder that the TCA meeting will take place at the north State Scholastic Tournament. I encourage everyone to attend these events and get involved with chess at the state level by supporting a very hard working group of volunteers doing their best to keep chess very solid in Texas.

— Eddie.

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 \$21.34. 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 - January 10th, 2017

Income		Expenses	
September memberships	\$150.00	Texas Knights Sept-Oct 2016	\$919.60
October memberships	\$45.00	Texas Knights Nov-Dec 2016	\$883.09
November memberships	\$25.00	2016 Denker Representative Bovey Liu	\$300.00
December memberships	\$10.00	Jeffery Xiong stipend	\$400.00
January memberships (so far)	\$0.00	Affiliate USCF dues (2 years)	\$80.00
2016 SW Open memberships	\$497.00	Total	\$2,582.69
2016 Texas Girls State Championship	\$110.00		
2016 Texas Grade & Collegiate and memberships	\$416.00		
Louis Thurston Donation	\$500.00		
Smile Amazon Donation	\$21.34		
Total			
\$1,774.34			



January 10th, 2017

WF checking account balance	\$13,960.84
BOA checking account balance	\$9,835.08

***In Passing:* Gordon Nelson from San Angelo, TX**

2017 Texas Teams Championship

The **Team Championships** were played at Texas A&M University in Kingsville on January 21st 2017. There were 6 teams that participated with a total of 24 players. UTRGV Team A from Brownsville won the tournament with a Score of 14.0/16.

Results are below:

#	Name/Rtng/ID	St/Tm	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Yannick Kambrath 2448 16122397 (2439) UTRGV TEAM A	TX 5001	W 8 1.0	B 4 2.0	W 2 2.5	W 19 3.5	3.5
2	Joshua D Ruiz C 2445 15550275 (2441) UTRGV TEAM B	TX 5002	W 19 1.0	B 8 2.0	B 1 2.5	W 17 3.5	3.5
3	Simon Vasquez III 2098 12857760 (1990) UTRGV TEAM A	TX 5001	B 10 1.0	W 5 2.0	B 9 2.5	B 20 3.5	3.5
4	Don W Marcott 2064 10901146 Schach Therapy	TX 5006	B 17 1.0	W 1 1.0	B 19 2.0	W 8 2.5	2.5
5	Andrew I Smith 2050 10399831 (1989) Schach Therapy	TX 5006	W 18 1.0	B 3 1.0	W 20 2.0	B 10 2.0	2.0
6	Oziel Leal Juarez 1958 13973298 (1940) UTRGV TEAM A	TX 5001	W 12 1.0	B 11 1.5	W 15 2.5	W 22 3.5	3.5
7	Mkhitar Hobosyan 1944 14953777 (1893) UTRGV TEAM A	TX 5001	B 13 1.0	W 14 2.0	B 16 2.5	B 23 3.5	3.5
8	William Howard McNutt 1884 14715106 (1841) Enpassant Chess	TX 5005	B 1 0.0	W 2 0.0	B 17 1.0	B 4 1.5	1.5
9	Ricardo Peredo 1880 12881585 (1803) UTRGV TEAM B	TX 5002	B 20 1.0	W 10 2.0	W 3 2.5	B 18 3.5	3.5
10	Carlos Deleon 1826 14987180 (1500) Enpassant Chess	TX 5005	W 3 0.0	B 9 0.0	W 18 1.0	W 5 2.0	2.0
11	Robert Ric Barber 1823 10223733 (1855) Schach Therapy	TX 5006	B 21 1.0	W 6 1.5	B 22 2.5	W 12 3.0	3.0
12	Michael Casas 1693 14998896 (1676) Enpassant Chess	TX 5005	B 6 0.0	W 15 1.0	B 21 2.0	B 11 2.5	2.5
13	Polo Stein 1670 14275794 (1680) Enpassant Chess	TX 5005	W 7 0.0	B 16 1.0	W 24 2.0	W 14 3.0	3.0
14	Arthur F Reyes 1661 12423731 Schach Therapy	TX 5006	W 24 1.0	B 7 1.0	W 23 2.0	B 13 2.0	2.0



Results (continued)

15	David Ortiz 1627 12795925 (1566) UTRGV TEAM B	TX 5002	W 22 B 12 B 6 W 21 1.0 1.0 1.0 2.0	2.0
16	Adity Vettikunnel 1522 14719775 (1591) UTRGV TEAM B	TX 5002	B 23 W 13 W 7 B 24 1.0 1.0 1.5 2.5	2.5
17	David Gohre 1316 15266854 (1272) TEAM NARANJO	TX 5003	W 4 B 19 W 8 B 2 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	1.0
18	Daniel Ly Naranjo 1267 13081921 (1206) TEAM NARANJO	TX 5003	B 5 W 20 B 10 W 9 0.0 0.5 0.5 0.5	0.5
19	Daniel Al Salazar 1162 15924828 (1135) Tamuk 1	TX 5004	B 2 W 17 W 4 B 1 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0
20	Howard McNutt III 1103 14932587 (1121) Tamuk 1	TX 5004	W 9 B 18 B 5 W 3 0.0 0.5 0.5 0.5	0.5
21	James Shipman 1063 15969377 (995) TEAM NARANJO	TX 5003	W 11 B 22 W 12 B 15 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0
22	Karan Sharma 770 16130198 (742) Tamuk 1	TX 5004	B 15 W 21 W 11 B 6 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	1.0
23	Roland Montemayor 460 16130183 (449) Tamuk 1	TX 5004	W 16 B 24 B 14 W 7 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	1.0
24	Adam Shipman 291 15969362 (298) TEAM NARANJO	TX 5003	B 14 W 23 B 13 W 16 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0



All Photos
Provided by
Howard Lee McNutt



7th Annual Austin Chess Club Championship

By Drew Sarkisian

Game Annotations by Peter Kappler

The Austin Chess Club held its 7th annual championship Jan. 6-8, 2017. The event was held at the Bridge Center of Austin with a guaranteed prize fund of \$3400.00 and at published capacity with 160 players.

The Top section ended in a four-way tie at 4 points for first between **NM Alex Balkum** (Top U2200), **FM Michael Langer**, **IM Miguel Medina Paz**, and **FM Daniel Rodriguez**, each taking home \$368.75. **Jose Gatica**, **Rohith Kaliyur** and **Duy Nguyen** tied for the second U2200 prize, winning \$42.00 each. **Rohit Bandi** and **Wesley Yeung** tied for the first and second U2000 prizes, winning \$175.00 each.

Multiple playing schedules were available: a three day schedule (round one Friday night) vs. a two day schedule (round one Saturday morning); both schedules merged for round two. While this was originally intended to accommodate players who could not play Friday evening, it also allowed for folks who weren't satisfied with their result Friday night to re-enter the event for a \$25.00 fee, playing on Saturday morning to better their result. Rodriguez took advantage of this option after an upset loss to Ray Yu in round one. Interestingly enough, Dylan

James re-entered after *winning* his Friday night game...he wanted to play more chess!

WIM Emily Nguyen, the defending ACC Champion, was convinced to play in the event for the fun of it; she had prior commitments that resulted in her taking half point and zero point byes for the second and third rounds. She ended up with the highest score of any player who has played in an ACC regular Sunday night swiss event during 2016, and is the 2017 ACC Champion! Congratulations, Emily!

The Reserve section had a three way tie at 4.5 points for first and second prizes between **Michael Casas**, **Shreyes Kaliyur** and **Baris Turgut**, worth \$200 for each player. **Alexander Rodriguez** took the top U1600 prize of \$200.00, while **Vladimir Mezokh** won the second U1600 prize of \$100.00.

The Novice section ended in a two way tie for first, each with a perfect score of 5.0, between **Grayson Rorer** and **Kalia Wang** (\$175.00 each). **Sudharsan Ramapriya** (another re-entrant!) won the first U1200 prize (\$100.00); **Jatin Aggarwal** took the second U1200 prize (\$50.00). **Vikranth Ragavan** won the U1000 prize of \$50.00.

Many thanks to Lori Balkum for her superb organization of the event and to Lakshmana Viswanath and Drew Sarkisian for helping as tournament directors. Special thanks to Stephen Balkum, Daniel Balkum, Michael Donovan, Peter Kappler, Michael Langer, Daniel Rodriguez and Baris Turgut

for helping to set up and / or break down the tables and tournament site (please forgive me if I forgot anyone, your help was greatly appreciated!). Finally, thanks to all the players for making the ACC Championship a success for seven years running!

Rohith Kaliyur (2037) – Miguel Medina Paz (2443) [A46]

Austin Club Championship (1), 06.01.2017

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 b6 4.b3 Bb7 5.Bb2 c5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0 8.Nbd2 cxd4 9.Nxd4 a6 10.c4 d6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.Rac1 Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfe8 14.Bb1 Rac8 15.N4f3 Qb8 16.Nf1 Qa8 [The subtle positional maneuvering of the hedgehog makes it a good choice when playing for a win against a lower rated opponent, but here White rises to the challenge!]

17.Ng3 Bc6 18.Ne1 b5 19.Bd3 b4 20.Nh5 Nhx5 21.Qxh5 g6 22.Qh6 Bf8 23.Qh4 Nc5 24.Bf1 e5 25.Nd3 Nxd3 26.Rxd3 a5 27.a4 Qa7 28.Rcd1 Qe7 29.Qxe7 Bxe7 30.R3d2 Bf8 31.Be2 f5 32.Bf3 e4 33.Be2 Kf7 34.Bd4 Rb8 35.Ba7 Rb7 36.Bd4 h5 37.Bb2 Ke6 38.Bd4 Rd8 39.Bb2 Bg7 40.Bxg7 Rxg7 41.Kf1 Rgd7 42.Rd4 [Black fights on for 25 more moves, but it's already clear the game will be drawn.]

42...Ke5 43.Ke1 Ke6 44.R1d2 Ke7 45.Rd1 d5 46.R1d2 dxc4 47.Rxd7+ Rxd7 48.Rxd7+ Kxd7 49.Bxc4 h4 50.Kd2 Kd6 51.Ke2 g5 52.Kd2 Ke5 53.Ke2 Be8 54.Kd2 Bh5 55.Ke1 f4 56.Kd2

Bg4 57.Ke1 Bc8 58.Kd2 Bd7 59.Ke1 Kd6 60.Kd2 Kc5 61.Bf7 Bc8 62.Ke1 Ba6 63.Bg8 Kd6 64.Bf7 Ke5 65.Bg8 Bd3 66.Bf7 Ba6 67.Bg8 Bc8 68.Bc4 ½-½

Daniel Rodriguez (2390) – Craig LaSalle (2126) [C53]
Austin Club Championship (3), 07.01.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.b4 Bb6 8.Nbd2 Ne7 9.Bb3 c6 10.Re1 Ng6 11.d4 Re8 12.h3 h6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nc4 Qxd1 15.Bxd1 Bc7 16.Bc2 Be6 17.Na5 Rab8 18.Be3 Bb6 19.Nd2 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Red8 21.Nf3 Rd7 22.Bb3 Re8 23.Bxe6 Rxe6 24.g3 b6 25.Nc4 Ne8 26.a4 Nc7 27.h4 f6 28.h5 Ne7 29.Kf1 b5 30.Na5 Na8? [Seeking a brighter future on b6 or c4, but the simple 30...Red6 is better, doubling on the file and threatening 31...Rd3.]

31.Nb3 Red6 32.Nc5 Rc7 33.axb5 cxb5 34.Ra5 Rb6? [Saving the pawn, but now the rook is very passive and White takes over the d-file.]

[A more active defense is 34...Nb6 35.Rxb5 Nc4 36.Rb8+ Kf7 37.Re1 a5]

35.Rd3 Nc6 36.Ra1 Rc8 37.Nh4

Rbb8 38.Rd6 Nb6 39.Nf5 Kh7 40.Nd7 Rb7 41.Nxb6 axb6 42.Rad1 [This allows Black to trade knights, something White should avoid, since his is much better. 42. Rd3 looks best.]

42...Ne7 43.Nxe7 Rxe7 44.Rxb6 Rxc3 45.Rd8 g6 46.Rdd6 gxh5 47.Rxf6 Rc4 48.Rxb5 h4 49.Rbb6 hxg3 50.Rxh6+ Kg7 51.Rhg6+ Kf7 52.Rxg3 Rxe4 53.Rf3+ Kg7 54.Rg3 Kf7 55.Rb3 Rc7 56.Rd6 Rc1+ 57.Kg2 Rg4+ 58.Kf3 Rf4+ 59.Kg2 Rg4+ 60.Kh2 Rcc4 61.b5 Rh4+ 62.Kg2 Rhg4+ 63.Rg3 Rxg3+ 64.Kxg3 Rb4 65.b6 Ke7 66.Rh6 Kd7 67.Kf3 Kc8 68.Re6 Kd7 69.Rxe5 Rxb6 70.Kg4 Rf6? [Tragic. After 35 moves of gritty defense, Black had reached a theoretically drawn rook and pawn ending, but now he slips.]

[70...Rg6+ 71.Kf5 Rg8 72.f4 Rf8+ 73.Kg4 Kd6=]

71.f4 Ra6 72.Kg5 Rb6 73.f5 Rc6 74.f6 Rc1 75.Kg6 Rg1+ 76.Kh7 Rf1 77.Kg7 Rg1+ 78.Kf8 Rf1 79.f7 Rf4 80.Re7+ Kd8 81.Re8+ Kd7 82.Kg7 Rg4+ 83.Kh6 1-0

Daniel Rodriguez (2390) – Mark Dejmek (2212) [B22]
Austin Club Championship (4), 08.01.2017

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Be3 Nf6
7.Na3 cxd4 8.Bc4 Qa5 9.Nxd4 0-
0-0 10.0-0 Nxd4 11.cxd4 e6
12.Rc1 [12.Bf4! Bd6 13.Qc1 Kb8
14.Bxd6+ Rxd6 15.Qf4 Rhd8
16.Qe5 Qb6 17.Nb5+]

12...Bxa3 13.bxa3 [13.Bxe6+ Kb8
14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.bxa3±]

13...Kb8 14.Qb3 Be4 15.Rfd1
Rc8 16.Bf4+ Ka8 17.Be5 Rhd8
18.Qb4 Qxb4 19.axb4 Nd7 20.f3
Nxe5 [Heading toward a draw, but
Black had a surprising resource
that could have prolonged the
game.]

[20...Bc2!! 21.Rxc2 Nxe5 22.Rdc1
Nc6±]

21.dxe5 Bg6 22.Bb3 Rxc1
23.Rxc1 Kb8 24.Rd1 Rxd1+
25.Bxd1 Kc7 26.Ba4 f6 ½-½

**Miguel Medina Paz (2443) –
Jose Gatica (2095) [A48]**
Austin Club Championship (4),
08.01.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 b6 4.Bf4
Bg7 5.e3 d6 6.Be2 Bb7 7.h3
Nbd7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 e6 10.Bh2
Qe7 11.a4 e5 12.a5 e4 13.Ne1
Ne8 14.Qb3 c6 15.a6 Bc8 16.Qc4
Nb8 17.d5 f5 18.dxc6+ Be6
19.Qa4 Nc7 20.Nc2 Bc8 21.Nb4
g5 22.Rfe1 Be5 23.Bxe5 dxe5
24.Bb5 h5 25.c4 Be6 26.Rad1 g4
27.hxg4 hxg4 28.Nf1 Kg7 29.Nd5
Bxd5 30.cxd5 Qh4 31.Ng3 Nxb5
32.Qxb5 f4 33.exf4 exf4 34.Rf4
fxg3 35.fxg3 Qxg3 36.Qe2 Rf4
37.Rdd4 Nxc6 38.Rxf4 Nxd4
39.Qe5+ Kg8 40.Qg5+ Kh8
41.Qh5+ Kg8 42.Rxg4+ 1-0



**Dylan James (2177) –
Rohith Kaliyur (2030) [B21]**
Austin Club Championship (4),
08.01.2017

[Two of Austin's most promising
young players faced off in round
4.]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3
4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Qc7
7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb5 Qb8 9.e5 a6
10.exf6 axb5 11.Bxb5 gxf6
12.Re1 Be7 13.Bh6 Rg8 14.Qc2
f5 15.Rad1 [A second pawn sacri-
fice! White has excellent piece
activity, but Black's position is
solid and it won't be easy for
White to break through.]

15...Rxa2 16.Nd4 Ra5 17.b4?
[Too optimistic.]

17...Bxb4 18.Qxf5 Rg6 [Almost
every white piece is hanging.]



19.Nxe6 dxe6 20.Bg5 Kf8 21.Bf6
Rxb5 22.Qxb5 Rxf6 23.Re3 Qf4
24.Rf3 Qg4 25.h3 Qg6 26.Rd8+
Ke7 27.Rfd3 Rf5 28.Qb6 Ba5
29.Qb2 Nxd8 30.Qa3+ Ke8
31.Rg3 Rg5 0-1

**John Durston (1950) –
Benjamin Romo (1884) [B34]**
Austin Club Championship (5),
08.01.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6
7.f3 0-0 8.Bc4 a6 9.Qd2 b5
10.Bb3 Bb7 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.h4
h5 13.g4 Ne5 14.Bh6 hxg4??
15.h5+- Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4
17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Qg5 Rf7
19.Qxg6 Qf8 20.Nf5 Ne8 21.Rxd7
Bc6 22.Bxg7 Bxd7 23.Nh6# 1-0



**Jose Gatica (2095) –
Khoa Minh Nguyen (2023)
[A14]**
Austin Club Championship (5),
08.01.2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2
Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.cxd5
exd5 8.d4 Nc6 9.dxc5 Bxc5
10.Bb2 Be6 11.Nc3 Qe7 12.Na4
Bd6 13.Nd4 Rad8 14.Rc1 Nxd4
15.Qxd4 b5? [Better is 15...b6,
keeping the knight out of c5.]

16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.Rxc5± [White
has a big positional edge: the
bishop pair, control of the c-file,
and pressure on Black's weak d5
pawn.]

17...a6 18.Rfc1 Rc8 19.e3 Qb7
20.Qe5 Rxc5 21.Rxc5 Rc8
22.Qc3 Rxc5 23.Qxc5 Ne8?
24.Ba3 h6 [At first glance, it looks
impossible to save the piece, but
Black had a surprising defense.]

24...b4! 25.Bxb4 h6 and now the b4 bishop will be hanging if White checks on f8 and captures the e8 knight.]

25.Qf8+ Kh7 26.Qxe8 Qc7 27.h4 Qa5 28.Qe7 Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Qxf2 30.Bc5 Qxa2 [With two pawns for the piece, but it's not nearly enough.]

31.Bd4 Qe2 32.Qf8 Qg4 [33. Bf1! then Bd3]

33.Qa8 Qd1 34.Bxd5 Qe2+ 35.Bg2 Bxb3 36.Qe4+ Kg8 37.Qf3 Qxf3 38.Bxf3 a5 39.Bb6 a4 40.Bc5 Bc4 41.Bc6 f5 42.g4 g6 43.Kg3 ffg4 44.Kxg4 Be2+ 45.Kf4 g5+ 46.hxg5 hxg5+ 47.Kxg5 Kf7 48.Kf5 Bf1 49.Ke5 Be2 50.Kd4 Ke6 51.e4 Bf1 52.Bd5+ Kd7 53.Kc3 Be2 54.Kb4 Bd3 55.e5 Bf5 56.Kxb5 Be6 57.Bc6+ Kc7 58.Bd6+ Kd8 59.Kxa4 Bc8 60.Kb4 Be6 61.Kc5 Bf5 62.Kd4 Bh3 63.Ke3 Kc8 64.Kf4 Kd8 65.Kg5 Kc8 66.Kf6 Kd8 67.e6 Bxe6 68.Kxe6 Kc8 69.Bb5 Kd8 70.Bc5 Kc7 71.Ke7 Kc8 72.Kd6 Kd8 73.Bb6+ Kc8 74.Kc6 Kb8 75.Ba6 Ka8 76.Bg1 Kb8 77.Kb6 1-0

James Rohrbaugh (2216) – Daniel Rodriguez (2390)
[A35]

Austin Club Championship (5),
08.01.2017

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.e3 d6 5.d4 Bg4 6.d5 Ne5 7.Be2 Nxf3+ 8.Bxf3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bg7 10.Bd2 Nf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qh3 a6 13.e4 b5 14.cxb5? [Accelerating Black's queenside play. 14. Qd3 was better.]

14...axb5 15.f3 b4 16.Nd1 Ra7 17.a3 Qa8 18.Bc1 bxa3 19.Rxa3

Rxa3 20.bxa3 Qa4 21.Bh6 Qxa3 22.Ne3 Rb8 23.Nc4 Qd3 24.Rc1 Bxh6 [24...Nxe4! was even stronger.]

[24...Nxe4! 25.fxe4 Qxh3 26.gxh3 Bxh6]

25.Qxh6 Rb1 26.Kf2 Qd4+ 27.Ke2 Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Nd7 29.h3 h5 30.Qc2 Ne5 31.Nxe5 Qxe5 32.Qa2 Kg7 33.Qc2 h4 34.Qa2 f5 35.Qc2 Kf6 36.Kf1 fxe4 37.fxe4 Qf4+ 38.Ke2 Ke5 39.Qc3+ Kxe4 40.Qd3+ Ke5 41.Qxg6 Qe4+ 0-1

Michael Langer (2288) – Alexander Balkum (2169)
[B56]

Austin Club Championship (5),
08.01.2017

[In the final round, board 1 featured two of Austin's top players, FM Michael Langer and NM Alex Balkum. Both fought hard in an exciting, well-played game.]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Qd3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qb6 11.Be3 Nb4 12.Qd2 Qc6 13.a3 Na2+ 14.Nxa2 Bxb3 15.Nc3 Be6 16.g4 Rfc8 17.g5 Nd7 18.Bb5 Qc7 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 [Now it's a race to see whose attack will be faster.]

20.h4 b5 [20...Rxc3 21.Qxc3 Rc8 22.Qd2 Bb3 23.c3=]

21.h5 a5 22.g6 [22.Nd5 b4 23.Nxe7+ Qxe7 24.Qxd6 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 bxa3 26.bxa3 Rc3 27.Rhd1 h6 28.R1d3 Rxd3 29.cxd3 hxg5 30.Bxg5±]

22...b4 23.Nd5 bxa3 24.bxa3 Bxd5 25.Qxd5 Qa4 [Playing up 100 points with prize money on

the line, many players would opt for the safer 25...Qe6, but Alex continues attacking.]

26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Qa2 d5 [The computer gives 27...h6! with advantage to Black.]

28.Rd3 dxe4



29.h6 Rxc2+ 30.Qxc2 Qxc2+ 31.Kxc2 exd3+ 32.Kxd3 Bxa3 33.hxg7+ Kxg7 34.gxh7 Rh8 35.Ke4 ½-½

Reminder

It may seem like July is a long way off, but it's not.

Guarantee that you can vote in the next TCA election.

Send us your email address, or let us know that you want a paper ballot. We will not provide a paper ballot if we don't have an email address for you, unless you request one by July 1.

If you received an electronic ballot last year and your email address is still valid, you are good-to-go. See page 2 to contact us.

Boris Spassky: Caissa's Goodwill Ambassador

by Kay Hale

Dallas chess enthusiasts had the rare treat of a visit by the former World Chess Champion Boris Spassky in September, 1986. This article was written shortly after that visit.

Over the course of his stay in Dallas, many had the opportunity to meet him, play him, and even question him. Spassky's chess style has often been described as a "universal style," perhaps the same could be said of his personality. This very likeable, gracious man seemed quite at ease relating to a wide variety of people. Those who had the opportunity to meet the 49-year-old Russian emigre will long remember this very charming, goodwill ambassador of Caissa.

One story will perhaps highlight the essence of the man. The indefatigable host of Grandmaster Spassky was Lou Hays. Having absentmindedly "hidden" the simultaneous exhibition money, Lou realized, after he took Spassky home from his second night of simultaneous play, that he had "dropped" the money. Spassky very kindly told Lou: "Don't worry. If the money does not show up, it is all right. I've had a wonderful stay here. If you find the money, you can send it to me." (Lou found the money 15 minutes later.)

Spassky gave an autobiographical sketch of himself prior to his simultaneous play. He began by talking about his abilities as a player. He said quite matter-of-factly that, when he was young, it was almost unbelievable how strong he was. He said that even today when he plays over some of his earlier games he is extremely impressed with the quality of them. In Spassky's words, "My train has gone," meaning that he felt that his best days as a chess player were behind him. The reader needs to realize that Spassky tends to be rather self-critical. Be-

fore dismissing him to the scrap heap of old pawn pushers, it is worthwhile to note that World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov had never beaten Spassky up until 1986, and has, in fact, lost two games to Spassky! A young man from Brooklyn once had a similar problem!

In talking about the influence his trainers had on him, he began by talking about his work with Zak, who was his earliest-trainer. Commenting on his association with Tolush, he said that he learned how to handle the initiative from Tolush. It was during that period one starts seeing the King's Gambit and Hennig-Schara Gambit appear in his games. Prior to his association with Tolush, he played "like an old man," meaning that he played solidly and positionally, but not at all sharply. From Bonderevsky, he learned to play "until only the Kings were left." (At one point in Spassky's career, he tended to offer numerous draws.)

Many have commented on Spassky's being one of the most psychologically minded of chess players. Certainly his introspective nature was revealed as he talked about his reign as World Champion. He said quite frankly that the time he was World Champion was the most unhappy period in his life.



He said that he felt that the reason this was such a difficult time for him was because he felt a great responsibility to the chess world. He believed that it was necessary for him to play frequently and consistently at a very high level. In part, one has the impression that his "insisting" on playing Fischer, despite his antics, was motivated by his very strong sense of social responsibility to chess players everywhere.

Listening to Spassky talk about Fischer, one hears in his voice a very definite *simpatico* for Fischer like the kind one hears from someone talking about a friend who has fallen upon hard times. Needless to say, numerous questions were addressed to Spassky concerning Fischer. Spassky stated that the reason Fischer won the match against him was that clearly Fischer was the better player by then, and that Spassky was actually past his prime by 1972. This was all said by Spassky in an objective tone of voice similar to when he is analyzing a position at the chess board. Spassky was asked about his emotional reaction when Fischer opened the sixth game of the match with a move other than 1. e4. He replied that actually he was not at all surprised by this move and, in fact, felt it was quite predictable and he had prepared for it! He went on to say that the reason that he lost the sixth game was not because of Fischer's opening move, but because of Fischer's behavior prior to that which had upset him.

Spassky was rather pointedly asked about some of the opening innovations in the match. The first involved his play against Fischer's favorite Sozin variation of the Sicilian. Spassky acknowledged that he and Geller prepared for this prior to the match. In contrast, his opening innovation against Fischer's Poisoned Pawn Variation of the Sicilian was his creation over the board, not the result of home analysis.

The question was directed to Spassky about what

he would have written in a chapter in the book *How to Open a Chess Game*. Spassky's eyes became quite animated at this question, and he replied, "The King's Gambit!" He very warmly talked about his extreme fondness for this opening and that he had played "thousands of King's Gambits," primarily in simultaneous exhibitions. Not only did he leave the impression that this was an effective weapon in simultaneous exhibitions, but that was an opening near and dear to his heart. Interestingly enough, in his simultaneous display in Dallas, he responded with the King's Gambit on all boards when his opponent responded to his 1.e4 with 1... e5.

Fischer and Spassky will forever be associated in the minds of chess players because of their historic 1972 match, as well as their epic battles in the preceding years. Texans had the opportunity to play both in simultaneous exhibitions. Whereas Dallasites had the recent pleasure, Houstonians battled against Fischer on Easter weekend 1964, as part of Fischer's famous simultaneous tour. The tale of the tape is interesting, although admittedly the comparison is a bit artificial, as many years have elapsed. One is comparing a 21-year-old Bobby Fischer with a 49-year-old Boris Spassky. Both agreed that 1.e4 was the correct opening move! Their results were, of course, overwhelming. (Fischer won 54, drew 3, and lost 3. Spassky's record was 44 wins, 12 draws, and 1 loss over two nights' play.) Fischer seemingly played more quickly, won more games in the opening, and was more varied in his opening repertoire. Fischer showed his audience a game Botvinnik lost in his youth and stated that Botvinnik was not a good player!?

Spassky showed his chess enthusiasts a recent game between Kasparov-Karpov. Both thrilled their audiences with their mere presence.

Spassky was asked about his favorite games in recent years. He replied that there had been many,

but in more recent times he especially liked his game against Sokolov (140, #403) at Montpelier. Most of the local chess fans asked Spassky about his quick victory in the King's Gambit over Seirawan. With typical modesty Spassky dismissed this game as being more the result of Seirawan's poor playing form than his own creative talents. His reasoning was that the game had little struggle to it. He responded similarly in talking about his famous game against Novopashin, in which he played the black side of a Marshall Counter Gambit.

At the time Spassky came to Dallas, the Kasparov-Karpov match was exactly half over, with Kasparov leading by one point. Spassky stated that for one to fully understand the psychology of the current World Chess Championship Match it is important to know a major psychological factor affecting Karpov: Karpov is afraid of Kasparov. Spassky believes that the age difference is a critical factor in this match as well as Karpov's frail health. Spassky went on to say that he admired Karpov the chess player, but basically had distaste for Karpov the person, whom he portrayed as a cold individual who is not easy to know. On the other hand, he admired Karpov's excellent killer instinct. Karpov seems to be Spassky's bete noire. While Spassky has won three games against Karpov, he has lost 15. No one else has such a positive record against Spassky. He acknowledged that he seems to have "psychological hangups," which interfere with his ability to play Karpov.

Spassky joked that Kasparov's mother was the first mother who had been chief trainer for a World Championship Match! In talking about Kasparov, Spassky seemed more favorably disposed to Kasparov the man, as well as Kasparov the chess player. He favored Kasparov primarily because of his youth and health. He did acknowledge that Kasparov is quite prone to saying foolish things. For example, he cited two examples of Kasparov telling his opponents (Spassky and Petrosian) the following: "Tonight I will kill you!" Spassky said that Kasparov had so thoroughly infuriated Petrosian that Petro-

sian proceeded to beat him as did Spassky!

For those students who study adult developmental stages, it is rather interesting to see what Spassky had done with his life. In his late 30's, he lost his world title match to Fischer. By the time he was in his early 40's, he had divorced, remarried, and moved to France. In listening to him talk about his accomplishments in the chess world, he definitely sounded like someone who had thought a great deal about what he had accomplished, what he had not accomplished, and his place in the cosmos. He seemed to be at peace with himself. This view was shared with Spassky, and he agreed with it.

Finally, chess fans in the Dallas area owe a big thanks to Lou Hays for his tireless energy and "opportunity of a chess lifetime" that he presented for local chess players. As evidence of such an event's worth to popularize chess, one saw at the simultaneous exhibit many old woodpushers who had not been seen at the club in years.



Tactics Time!

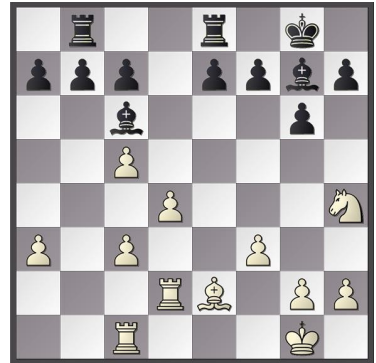
These positions came from games played in Texas or elsewhere by (at least one) Texas Player. **Answers can be found on page 18.**



1. Daniel Guel – Zachary Graber
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 White to Move



2. John De Vries – Robert Curtis
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 Black to Move



3. Ulces Arias – Ben Davis
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 Black to Move



4. Adam Hart – Phillip Foster
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 White to Move



5. Michael Simpson – D. Lobaugh
Texas Amateur 2000
 White to Move



6. Tyson Slesnick – Gary Blanchard
Texas Amateur 2000
 White to Move

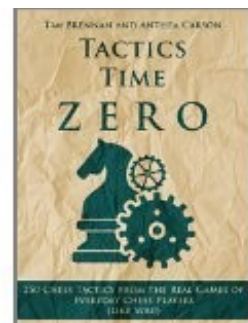


7. Ben Davis – Ulces Arias
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 White to Move



8. Helen Jamison – David Lemper
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
 White to Move

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USCF TOP PLAYERS FOR TEXAS - January, 2017

Regardless of Residence or Federation

Overall		
5	Xiong, Jeffery	2763
8	Onischuk, Alexander	2751
15	Sadorra, Julio C	2703
19	Bachmann, Axel	2674
21	Li, Ruifeng	2660
29	Ramirez, Alejandro	2635
31	Moradiabadi, Elshan	2634
36	Steingrimsson, Hedinn	2621
41	Macleja, Bartlomiej	2613
47	Gorovets, Andrey	2600
51	Drozowski, Kacper	2593
53	Antal, Gergely	2592
59	Yang, Darwin	2584
59	Berczes, David	2584
61	Hernandez, Holden	2578
69	Arribas Lopez, Angel	2562
71	Hevia Alejano, Carlos Antonio	2559
73	Javakhadze, Zurab	2556
75	Prasanna Raghuram, Rao	2555
82	Vazquez, Guillermo	2544
Age 65 and Over		
22	Hulse, Brian	2218
31	Simms, Gary	2206
Age 50 and Over		
No Players in Top 100 from Texas		
Age 21 and Under		
1	<i>Xiong, Jeffery</i>	2763
3	Li, Ruifeng	2660
5	Drozowski, Kacper	2593
8	Yang, Darwin	2584
12	Vazquez, Guillermo	2544
30	Ruiz C, Joshua D	2445
62	Lin, DacheY	2367
67	He, Tommy	2338
69	Chiang, Jonathan	2334
81	Pamatmat, Jarod John M	2313
82	Liu, Bovey	2312
83	Wang, Justin	2311
Age 18		
25	Han, Curran	2233
31	Wlezién, Alexander	2203
41	Brannon, Joshua Scott	2149
51	Shao, Andy	2085
62	Jacob, Andrew	2055
86	Palang, Caissa	1976
91	Shan, Devan	1960
95	Kaniyar, Utkarsh	1948
Age 17		
6	Lin, DacheY	2367
20	Vaidya, Atulya	2255
35	Obili, Abhishek Reddy	2193
50	Xiang, Evan	2120
53	Nguyen, Duy Minh	2090
86	Nandula, Ram Aditya	1987
95	Mao, Marcus S	1956
98	Annigeri, Sanjay	1949
Age 16		
1	<i>Xiong, Jeffery</i>	2763
13	He, Tommy	2338
14	Chiang, Jonathan	2334
29	Capocyan, Sam Lander Cabrera	2251
45	Nguyen, Anthony Quan	2170
46	Frenkel, Benjamin	2159
47	Premkumar, Hiren	2158

Age 16 (continued)		
79	Moore, Alex Michael	2052
85	Hsieh, David	2041
93	Nguyen, Khoa Minh	2023
Age 15		
1	<i>Li, Ruifeng</i>	2660
7	Liu, Bovey	2312
14	Xie, Tianming	2243
23	Kirumaki, Ronit	2215
36	Krishna, Ram	2138
42	Hullahalli, Adarsh	2124
55	Devagharan, Devina	2071
64	Eliezer, Segev	2038
67	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2032
67	Yu, Ray	2032
97	Zheng, Vincent	1961
Age 14		
11	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2294
36	Huo, Rannon	2096
48	Buergler, Jacob	2044
55	Palang, Warren Jesse	2026
61	Srivatsav, Aadarsh	1993
62	Sonawane, Atharv	1988
65	Kao, Camille Y	1982
67	Liu, Kevin	1972
68	Huang, Max	1969
73	Fan, William G	1955
85	Tsuei, Kai	1939
94	Wang, Jason	1930
Age 13		
13	Gu, Brian Fanyuan	2215
24	Kung, Thomas	2092
26	Ganthapodi, Maanav S	2085
44	Hawthorn, Charles	2003
52	Prabu, Advait	1967
54	Bandi, Rohit Choudary	1960
61	Mao, Andrew Sun-Rong	1944
68	Nguyen, Dang Minh	1924
74	Ganesh, Anirudh	1896
84	Narang, Ijay	1855
86	Chennuru, Abhiram	1850
90	Gupta, Som	1846
94	Pothireddy, Vamshikrishna	1830
99	Deleon, Carlos	1826
Age 12		
7	Metpally, Jason	2188
11	Vivekananthan, Anish	2142
20	Peng, Peter	2080
39	Wang, Yanke	1998
54	Niu, Baron T	1924
65	Rajaram, Rudransh	1888
68	Romo, Benjamin	1884
71	Balderas, Adolfo Augusto, Jr	1870
75	Yan, Austin K	1862
83	Yeung, Wesley	1835
84	Ramesh, Sreenevash	1833
96	Eranksi, S A Maruthi	1801
Age 11		
1	<i>Wang, Justin</i>	2311
8	Hung, Daniel	2137
18	Vaidya, Atreya	2030
20	Hawthorn, Henry	2026
22	Zhu, Harvey	2010
27	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1950
36	Kumarappan, Ganesh	1888
37	McNutt, William Howard	1884

Age 11 (continued)		
47	Gundam, Rohit	1835
66	Pullabhotta, Venkata Naga, Jr	1752
70	Yellamraju, Ambica	1740
91	Thippireddy, Saketh	1697
92	Casas, Michael	1693
Age 10		
8	Polavaram, Rithik Sai	2087
19	Trakru, Rohun	1962
21	Oberoi, Shelev	1942
40	Tang, Andrew	1842
65	Chennuru, Anshu	1680
94	Yang, Benjamin	1577
96	Hwang, William	1574
Age 9		
26	Capocyan, John Patrick	1733
42	Ahmed, Kabir	1668
50	Welsh, Vinh	1635
56	Pathak, Rudransh	1606
58	Rodriguez, Alexander P	1593
63	Yu, Kevin	1581
Age 8		
13	Zhang, Andrew Huangtian kai	1667
16	Khan, Hayyan	1612
27	Miramontes, Luis	1536
32	Raghuraja, Sri Avishkar	1524
48	Jin, Tony	1462
65	Nguyen, Sebastian Thien	1365
67	Jha, Krish	1350
69	Saldívar, Felix, Jr	1339
72	Zhu, Harrison Lee	1327
79	Schmid, Aaron	1305
90	Parekh, Arnav C	1262
91	Ma, Dylan	1256
98	Gao, Tianwen	1239
Age 7 and Under		
3	Kunka, Harshid	1774
5	Li, Rachael	1679
15	Duong, Kevin	1499
31	Wang, Kellen	1300
35	Sun, Alexander	1259
37	Ham, Nikolas Rex	1249
52	John, Brody Michael	1143
84	Agnihotri, Abhinav A	983
95	Zhang, Sunny	949
100	Shafer, Logan Clark	919
		
Women Overall		
8	Foisor, Sabina-Francesca	2369
11	Danelia, Mariam	2340
16	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2294
17	Apecheche, Yanira Vigoa	2280
19	Andrenko, Iryna	2270
24	Chiang, Sarah	2256
30	Heredia, Carla	2242
50	Xiang, Evan	2120
56	Guerrero Rodriguez, Alejandra	2105
66	Munoz, Claudia E	2082
68	Devagharan, Devina	2071
75	Alston, Angela Jennifer	2045
81	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2032
97	Kao, Camille Y	1982

Women Age 65 and Over			Girls Age 15 (continued)			Girls Age 10		
3	O'Neill, Julia	1800	30	Uppuluri, Sindhuja	1454	6	Chennuru, Anshu	1680
			35	Salazar, Lilliana	1416	17	Furman, Jessica	1430
Women Age 50 and Over			37	Li, Selena	1405	22	Wan, Audrey X	1338
2	Alston, Angela Jennifer	2045	54	Flores, Victoria I	1162	22	Naidu, Suchitra	1338
10	O'Neill, Julia	1800	64	Hernandez, Victoria Ann	1039	46	Pulido, Emma R	1132
58	Hardesty, Brenda T	1198	66	Cervera, Maria B	1024	48	Ghatti, Saisneha	1124
63	Jamison, Helen	1132	72	Castillo, Julianna Deanda	966	48	Bandaru, Tanvi	1124
65	Lamont, Olga A	1107	81	Chryst, Bailey	877	52	Patil, Srushti	1118
69	Irwin, Marla	1029	84	Voliber, Alyssa	841	59	Chavez, Victoria Lizbeth	1076
			91	Higginbotham, Alyssa	766	67	Hernandez, Sarah	1045
			97	Hale, Abbie	705	68	Athila, Akshaya	1044
						69	Vijay, Samiya	1039
Girls Age 21 and Under			Girls Age 14			88	Luo, Helen Hanqi	947
4	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2294	2	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2294	90	Vasquez, Izabel	939
8	Chiang, Sarah	2256	12	Kao, Camille Y	1982	Girls Age 9		
20	Xiang, Evan	2120	2	Bao, Yuliang Eunice	1666	11	Balaji, Sai Sangeetha	1345
30	Munoz, Claudia E	2082	12	Zhu, Yining	1594	13	Wang, Kalia Yuke	1333
31	Devagharan, Devina	2071	36	Uppuluri, Anuja	1457	13	Wang, Kalia Yuke	1333
42	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2032	41	Bautista, Ilse V	1415	21	Jacinto, Gianna G	1238
52	Kao, Camille Y	1982	50	Tovias, Lauren	1359	31	Ham, Emily	1140
53	Palang, Caissa	1976	55	Boren, Isabel	1245	36	Uviedo, Violette	1116
54	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1967	62	Tooley, Bridget Annika	1177	38	Solis, Natalie	1100
58	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1950	78	Oliveira, Lauren R	1163	44	Duong, Katie	1054
66	Zhao, Annie	1912	80	Solis, Gabriela	1137	54	Duggirala, Bhavyashree	1000
67	Palakollu, Samritha	1911	84	Delgado, Victoria E	1099	59	Pilla, Ananya Valli	945
68	Ravi, Saisree	1909	89	Gonzalez, Jolie Marie	985	62	Reddy, Tanvi	934
71	Chu, Yue	1905	100			70	Yi, Bella	885
Girls Age 18			Girls Age 13			71	Nitturi, Rajni	859
7	Palang, Caissa	1976	12	Cheng, Angela	1725	82	Lopez, Kathya Vanessa	852
24	Trang, Yvonne U	1235	19	Cedillo Bocanegra, Ana Karen	1532	89	Nava, Abeni Yanira	831
31	Trevino, Ana Rosa	1117	26	Zhou, Julia	1418	95	Xu, Isabel	806
33	Saenz, Viviana	1043	26	Vasquez, Angelica	1382	Girls Age 8		
35	Rivas, Cristina	1027	30	Perera, Dimanthi	1314	8	Gao, Tianwen	1239
39	Guzman, Vanessa Renee	898	40	Murgulet, Ioana	1312	14	Mcnutt, Kaitlynn Lee	1143
54	Benitez, Sarai	361	41	Salinas, Brianna Christina	1309	19	Hwang, Alexis	1039
			42	Garcia, Emily Alexis	1298	22	Elangovan, Ramya	1015
Girls Age 17			45	Reistle, Jane	1216	24	Nair, Pallavi	1002
3	Xiang, Evan	2120	58	Iyer, Ramya	1140	24	Kanyaboyina, Tarini	969
9	Zhao, Annie	1912	66	Ravichandar, Shreya	1106	27	Sinha, Tavishi	945
18	Brown, Sarah	1708	72	Melgarejo, Fernanda	1101	29	Chamaria, Vedika	932
24	Guillen, Brianna Alexis	1558	73	Miller, Ashlyn	1010	31	Chamaria, Vedika	932
40	Leos, Emily	1221	83	Byrapaneni, Siri	998	43	Yeh, Madeline	830
44	Dagher, Viola N	1157	85	Young, Ashley	986	48	Espinosa, Sarah E	814
51	Moya, Savannah	1053	87	Ramirez, Patricia N	919	61	Melgarejo, Paulina	737
53	Alba-Jimenez, Sandra Michelle	1021	95	Gutierrez, Bianca	891	63	Rodriguez, Eleticia Ruby	731
58	Rodriguez, Esmeralda E	910	99			75	Villarreal, Rebecca A	687
61	Uhlig, Sarah D	806	Girls Age 12			77	Akella, Sravya Suparna	676
64	Alvarez, Anna M	765	35	Kao, Simona Y	1494	87	Martinez, Erika Beatriz	622
65	Solorzano, Roxana L	756	36	Manohar, Riya	1485	90	Nieto, Kiana E	604
71	Villalpando, Lindsey	564	46	Bautista, Reyna	1413	93	Camacho, Kaitlyn	595
			64	Madhugiri, Shruthi	1255	95	Tanous, Briana Marilyn	591
Girls Age 16			91	Hernandez, Madelyn	1097	Girls Age 7 and Under		
7	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1967	99	Flores, Madelyn A	1073	1	Li, Rachael	1679
15	Abella, Clarissa Louise	1796	Girls Age 11			15	Zhang, Sunny	949
27	Rodriguez, Dominique	1639	2	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1950	24	John, Natalie Michelle	841
48	Solis, Crystal Marie	1309	5	Yellamraju, Ambica	1740	31	Gutierrez, Victoria Angelique	785
50	Guillen, Sarai A	1251	11	Yellamraju, Aparna	1600	38	Balci, Ayda	748
62	Reed, Ambriette D	1132	28	Padilla, Karlee	1393	41	Cruz, Vivica R	742
64	Kotha, Anvita	1125	44	Wang, Catherine	1277	42	Contreras, Rosario Nayeli	740
76	Morrison, Nicole Leigh	990	50	Lu, Maggie	1202	50	John, Ashley Danielle	682
81	Christensen, Asha Taylor	913	51	Si, Sophia	1200	54	Gomez, Nelly Daniela	657
84	Wallett, Ammarie Rita	855	53	Wu, Alison	1184	55	Yong, Evelin	654
88	Davila, Priscilla N	815	57	Gunukula, Renee	1163	72	Sudarsan, Abhirami	529
91	Rodriguez, Monica M	767	64	Castillo, Isabella Deanda	1128	76	Rodriguez, Jayden Ella	494
100	Acevedo, Caristen M	480	65	Delgado, Gisele Josephine	1127	81	Garcia, Karime A	449
Girls Age 15			91	Aggarwal, Manika	1029	90	Villareal, Linda	399
2	Devagharan, Devina	2071	93	Babaria, Rajvi Rakesh	1025	94	Nunes, Adrienne	386
4	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2032	95	Balderas, Ana Luisa	1014			
9	Palakollu, Samritha	1911	100	Gogada, Vimudha	996			
25	Zhao, Vivian	1565						
27	Garza, Ariel Francis	1512						
28	Bhat, Puja Prashant	1479						



Tactics Time! Answers

Answers:

1. **22. Ne5** forks the Queen and Rook.
 2. **12...Bxh2+**. The knight on f3, which appears to protect this pawn, is pinned to the Queen.
 3. **20...Bh6** skewers the rooks.
 4. **11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bxa8**
 5. **17. Bxf7+ (17...Kh8 18.Bxg6 Kg8 19.Qxh7+ Kf8 20.Bh6#) 17...Kxf7 18.Qxh7+ Kf6 (18...Kf8 19.Bh6#) 19.Bg5+ Kf5 20.Qh3#**
 6. **15.Qxg6** the f7 pawn is pinned.
 7. **23. Qf6+ Kg8 24. Qh8#** or **24.Nh6#**
 8. **19.Nxh6+ gxh6 20.Qxh6 Bf5 21.exf5 Re8 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Qxf7#**
- Cover. 7...Qb6+** forks the King and Bishop.

Want more original chess tactics from real games like these? Get Tactics Time delivered straight to your e-mail mailbox for FREE! Newsletters come out 3 times a week. Sign-up at tacticstime.com.

Regional News

Region IV by Ruben Arzaga



Three students graduated this December from the University of Texas at El Paso's electrical engineering department, designed and built a chess board that automatically annotates and records moves. When a move is made, the board confirms the move using led lights and sounds then displays and records the move on a laptop attached to the board through a USB cable. It also notifies players when an illegal move is made with an audio warning. They presented their capstone project at the Senior project presentations for Fall 2016. From left to right: Israel Torres, Ernest Powell, and Hector Sandoval.



Region VII by Eddie Rios

Hello everyone, TCA is well on the way to hosting the first State Scholastic for North and South. Luis Salinas I believe is hosting the north and UTRGV is hosting the South. I had a chance to visit with the rep for the southern organization this weekend. It was a pleasure to sit and talk to a group of individuals who are so excited and concerned that all should go well at their event. As players and directors and volunteers we are obligated to help make these events a success. Help spread the word on the perspective dates. If in doubt, consult the TCA calendar. Also if you wish to have your event posted to the calendar, please contact Lori Balkum¹ and she will post it for you.

Coming up this month in order, Jan 21 at TAMUK is the Texas Teams Tournament, still looking for more teams so we can have a good competitive tournament. UTRGV has joined the event and will be sending two teams. Not too late to sign up flier is included

the following weekend has the TCA regional scholastic tournament being hosted in Edinburg, Texas.

February 4 starts with A first time scholastic tournament hosted in Palacios, Texas,

The Following weekend finds me at The TCA regional for region 7 with a non-member sections for those that need practice for state or their perspective regionals, as well as those who want the experience of the tournament without making the USCF and TCA commitment. Thank you for your service. See you at the boards!

Opinion - Situation Awareness

By Chess Expert Jim Hollingsworth

Is it my imagination or are chess coaches failing to teach their young prodigies about "Situation Awareness", a critical skill that can mean the difference between winning outright and settling for less? An example of this occurred in a Middle School section I directed at a Texas tournament last year. A parent complained to the Chief TD about a Board 5 player coming out of nowhere and taking the top prize. The Chief TD provided a good explanation and analysis, however that parent was talking to the wrong guy. He needed to talk with his child's coach.

The player on Board 1, with a 4-0 score, agreed to a draw because he had visibility of the top three boards and a clear idea of their status. So, Board 2 was decided and Board 3 was irrelevant if a top score was going to be 4-1/2 points. The game of Board 1 was hard fought with equal chances for both sides. Time was not an issue. Both players had at least 15 minutes each left.

So, here came a quick draw offer and acceptance. The logic for the Top ranked player was 4-1/2 is good enough for 1st Place. Time to party!

However, he was unaware of the decisive surge on Board 5 and a player who also finished with 4-1/2 points just a couple minutes earlier. In fact I had just finished recording the result of that game when I was notified the hands were raised on Board 1.

So, why is this the coach's fault? Keep reading.

Real time standing displays are rare at scholastic tournaments. However, there is nothing wrong with a scholastic player asking the TD for a quick glance at the official pairing sheet since that information is most definitely real time. Also, there is nothing wrong with a scholastic player standing up to stretch his legs and strolling over to observe what's happening on other boards, especially boards that affect his ability to win prizes. And armed with this knowledge most players will make wise decisions on whether to offer a draw or play a bit longer to see what happens with the other boards.

"Knowing the score" is as American as apple pie and absolutely human nature. Arrive late at a basketball game and the first thing one does after finding a seat (if not sooner) is look at the scoreboard. It's the same thing with a football game, or a baseball game. Look at the scoreboard. What inning is it? How many outs? What's the count?

Of course, a lot of players at the scholastic level are not ready for the nuance I described above. But, coaches who really know their players understand full well when they have a potential champion. Moving things up a notch and teaching Situation Awareness can be the difference between a championship and an unfavorable tie break.

That's my \$0.02.

2016 Denker Championship

By Bovey Liu

“No way! We’re driving to Indianapolis from Houston? That’s like more than 10 hours!” I protested as my family and I were discussing the trip at the dinner table. Although I was sickened by the thought of a 10 hour road trip, at least I would have the chance to throw in some more preparation beforehand. The Denker Championship of 2016 was a successful tournament for me, but it was also a wonderful experience and a formidable challenge that helped to further teach me about the importance of preparation; this notion of preparation and hard work that appealed to me can be applied not just specifically to chess, but also to other challenges involving sports, studies, and life.

The opening ceremony was a neat experience where I had the chance to talk with old and new friends, greet the organizers and adminis-

trators of the tournament, and take pictures for the sake of my mom’s desire. Not only was the opening ceremony a good chance to talk with new people, we also were given the chance to attend a “meet and greet other opponents” event. I had a great time talking with others during the special occasion, and even pizza was provided! The opening ceremony and the friendly meeting before the start of the first round gave me time to relax and calm my nerves, which definitely helped me to get through each round.

Throughout the tournament, I played opponents from various states ranging from Nevada to Oklahoma. On the first round, I defeated the representative from Georgia in a strategic game where he fatally blundered the exchange in the middle game. In the second round, I was surprised to find that I

was immediately matched against Mika Brittain, one of the top seeds. The game was a positional struggle, but in the middle game, I created a weakness that ultimately led to my downfall. However, I was able to comeback in the third game, and from there on, I played opponents who were all of top ranking in this tournament. The games went astonishingly well and I was able to win my fourth and fifth round, and draw my last game against Advait Patel, a good friend of mine.

All in all, this tournament was an incredible experience where I had the chance to meet new people, play some exciting chess, and have a great time. Although I ended up with a decent result and took second by tie-breaks, I realized that my pre-tournament preparation and dedication was a crucial

factor in achieving this outcome. So next time I take a long road trip to any tournament, I will do less complaining and more preparing!

Liu,Bovey (2280) – Williams,Justus (2400)

[B43]

Denker Championship
2016 (5), 01.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 [This is an interesting sideline that can take just as many wild turns as the main variations against 2... e6.]



6...b5 7.Bf4 Qb6

[This move was a novelty in my repertoire because all my opponents have

played 7... d6. I spent a good amount of time here and considered many candidate moves, but I decided Nb3 led to a solid line that avoided any Bc5 complications.]

[7...d6 Most players play d6 to parry the bishop's attack, but this leads to an unpleasant position for Black. The weakened black king, white's superior queenside pawns, and the active white pieces at the end of the variation dismisses 7... d6 as the best response.

8.Bxb5+ axb5

9.Ndxb5 Qc6

10.Bxd6]

8.Nb3 Bb7 9.Bg2 b4

Here is an interesting game from my fifth round against Justus Williams who is among the strongest juniors in the U.S.

10.Ne2 Nf6 11.Qd3

[My intention was to castle as soon as possible and develop quickly so I could play against the center.]

11...Nc6 12.0-0 a5

13.Rad1 Ba6 14.Qd2

Rd8 [My opponent makes a necessary move to protect d7 and avoid any threats associated with the e5 pawn advance.]



15.Be3 [Here, I decided to bring my b3 knight into the center

without wasting moves. The knight on d3 would do significantly more work than the knight on b3.]

15...Qc7 16.Nc5 Bb5 17.Nd3 d5?!

[Although this move strives for center control, one must always remember to castle the king or put it in a safe position before opening the center! This move helped give me chances to take advantage and build on it.]

[17...Be7 This move would be much more positionally favorable because it allows the black king to quickly castle. 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd4]

18.exd5 Nxd5

19.Nd4 Nxd4

20.Bxd4 Nf6? [This was a blunder because of Qg5. In-

stead, my opponent should have played the more active Qc4. Now, I can work against his uncastled king which costed him the game.]

[20...Qc4 21.Ne5 Qc7 22.Rfe1]

21.Qg5 Ba6?

[21...Nd5 Although this is already an uncomfortable position for black, Nd5 would have been a better response. 22.Rfe1]

22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Qxf6 Rg8 24.Ne5? [I missed 24. Bc6, a spectacular move that would have ended the game in a more fashionable manner, but nevertheless, it is still completely hopeless for black.]

[24.Bc6+ Qxc6 25.Ne5 Qc7 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8

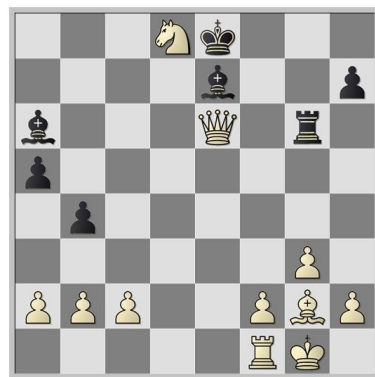
27.Qxf7#]

24...Bd6 25.Nxf7 Be7

26.Rxd8+ Qxd8

27.Qxe6 Rg6

28.Nxd8 [One of the main, reoccurring themes in chess that can be seen in this game is that king safety is a critical factor to think about before exploring active moves that open the position. Although castling and king safety is something we learn as beginners, it should still be applied to every game.] **1-0**



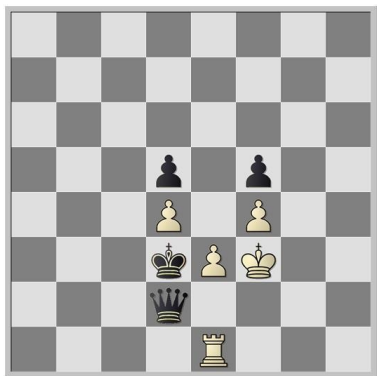
UT-Dallas Fall Open 2016

The 2016 UT-Dallas Fall Open was held between November 18 to November 23rd. A number of our young players participated in the tournament. This time I've decided to focus the games of **WIM Emily Nguyen**. Emily is the #4 girl under the age of 21 in the country and the #1 girl under the age of 21 in Texas. She's also the #2 14-year-old girl in the country.

Nguyen,Emily (2121) – Brown,M.W. (2438) [D36]

Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (3),
19.11.2016

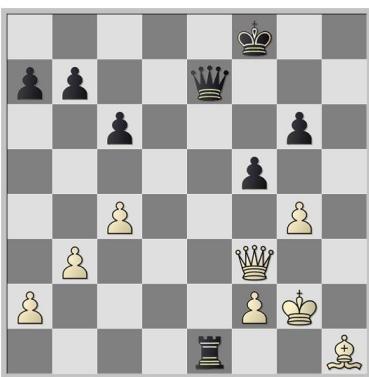
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5
exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3
Nbd7 8.Bd3 Nh5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7
10.Nge2 Nb6 11.0-0 g6 12.Na4
Nxa4 13.Qxa4 0-0 14.b4 a6
15.Qb3 f5 16.Rfe1 g5 17.Ng3
Nxc3 18.hxc3 Qf6 19.Qc2 Bd7
20.a4 Rae8 21.Qd2 Kh8 22.f4
gxf4 23.gxf4 Rg8 24.Be2 Rg3
25.Bf3 Reg8 26.Qf2 Be8 27.Kf1
Qh4 28.Ke2 Bh5 29.Rg1 Qh2
30.Bxh5 Rxc2 31.Rxc2 Rxc2
32.Qxc2 Qxc2+ 33.Kd3 Kg7
34.Be2 Kf6 35.Rc1 h5 36.b5 ax-
b5 37.axb5 h4 38.bxc6 bxc6
39.Bf1 Qg1 40.Rxc6+ Ke7
41.Ke2 h3 42.Bxh3 Qh2+ 43.Kd3
Qxh3 44.Rc1 Qg2 45.Re1 Qb2
46.Re2 Qb3+ 47.Kd2 Kd6 48.Ke1
Kc6 49.Kf2 Kb5 50.Kf3 Kc4
51.Kf2 Kd3 52.Re1 Qc2+ 53.Kf3
Qd2 0-1



Velikanov,Alexander (2355) – Nguyen,Emily (2121) [D78]

Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (4),
20.11.2016

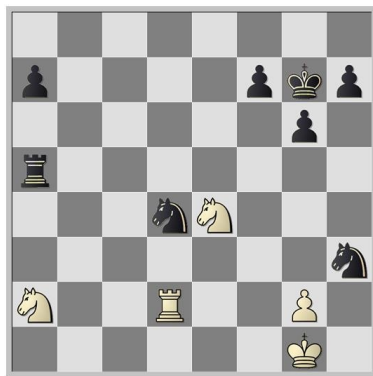
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4
Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 Bf5
8.Nbd2 Ne4 9.Bb2 Nd7 10.Nh4
Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Be6 12.e4 dxe4
13.Bxe4 Bh3 14.Rfe1 Nf6 15.Bh1
Qc7 16.Nf3 Rad8 17.Qe2 Rfe8
18.Ne5 Nd7 19.Nd3 Bf5 20.Rad1
Nf8 21.Qe3 Qa5 22.Nc5 Bc8
23.Bc3 Qb6 24.Qd2 Qc7 25.Qb2
e5 26.dxe5 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 Bxe5
28.Ne4 Bxc3 29.Qxc3 Qe5
30.Nf6+ Kh8 31.Qf3 Re6 32.Ng4
Qg7 33.Rd8 Re1+ 34.Kg2 Bxc4
35.Qxc4 f5 36.Qf4 Qe7 37.Rb8
Kg8 38.Qf3 Kf7 39.h4 Ne6
40.Rh8 Nf8 41.h5 Kg7 42.Rxf8
Kxf8 43.hxc6 hxc6 44.g4 0-1



Nguyen,Emily (2121) – Belous,Vladimir (2583) [A57]

Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (5),
20.11.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Qc2
bxc4 5.e4 d6 6.Bxc4 g6 7.Nc3
Bg7 8.Nge2 Nbd7 9.0-0 Nb6
10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7
12.a4 Rb8 13.a5 Na8 14.Qa4 Nc7
15.f3 0-0 16.Qxd7 Nxd7 17.Ra2
Rb4 18.Bd2 Rfb8 19.Nd1 Rb3
20.Bc3 Ne5 21.Nc1 R3b7 22.f4
Ng4 23.Bxc7 Kxc7 24.Rf3 Rb4
25.Nc3 Rxb2 26.Rxb2 Rxb2
27.h3 Nf6 28.Rf2 Rb4 29.N1a2
Rb3 30.Rd2 Nb5 31.Rc2 Nd4
32.Rd2 Ne8 33.e5 Nc7 34.exd6
exd6 35.Ne4 Nxd5 36.Nxd6 Nxf4
37.Ne4 Ra3 38.Nxc5 Rxa5
39.Ne4 Nxc3+ 0-1



Liu,Bovey (2172) – Nguyen,Emily (2121) [B80]

Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (6),
21.11.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g3 a6
7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 Nc6
10.Be3 Qc7 11.f4 Na5 12.Kh1
Nc4 13.Bc1 Rb8 14.Qe2 Nd7

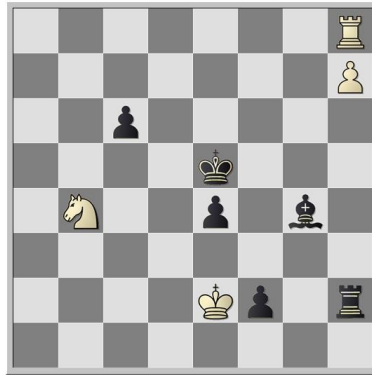
15.b3 Bf6 16.Rd1 Na5 17.Bb2
Nc6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qd2 d5
20.Ba3 Re8 21.Rab1 Bb7 22.Ne2
Rbd8 23.Bb4 c5 24.Ba5 Nb6
25.e5 Be7 26.h4 d4 27.Ng1 Rb8
28.Kh2 f6 29.Bxb7 Qxb7
30.Bxb6 Qxb6 31.Nf3 Rf8 32.Qe2
Qc6 33.Re1 Rbe8 34.Rbd1 Bd8
35.Qe4 ½-½



**Nguyen,Emily (2121) –
Rozman,Levy (2394) [A40]**
Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (7),
22.11.2016

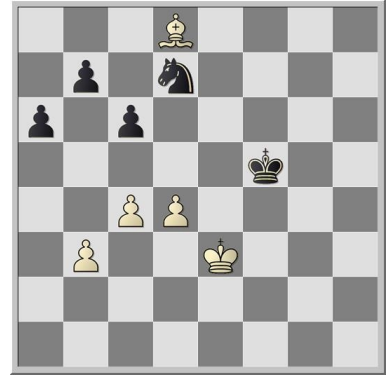
1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.g3
f5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3
Ne4 8.d5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0-0
10.Qb3 Na6 11.Rd1 Nc5 12.Qc2
Qe8 13.Nd4 c6 14.dxc6 dxc6
15.Nb3 e5 16.Ba3 Ne4 17.Bxe7
Qxe7 18.Bxe4 fxe4 19.c5 Qf7
20.Rf1 Qc4 21.Nd2 Qxe2
22.Rae1 Qh5 23.Rxe4 Qf5
24.Nb3 Ba6 25.c4 b5 26.Na5 Rf6
27.Qe2 bxc4 28.Nxc4 Qe6
29.Rd1 Raf8 30.Rd6 Qf5 31.Rxf6
gxf6 32.Qg4+ Qxg4 33.Rxg4+
Kf7 34.Nd6+ Ke6 35.Ra4 Bd3
36.Rxa7 Kd5 37.Ra3 e4 38.Nf5
Rb8 39.Ne3+ Kxc5 40.Rc3+ Kd6
41.a4 Rb1+ 42.Kg2 Ra1 43.Rb3
Rxa4 44.Rb7 h5 45.Rf7 Ke6
46.Rc7 Bb5 47.Rh7 Be2 48.Rc7
Ra6 49.Nc2 Bf3+ 50.Kf1 h4
51.gxh4 f5 52.Ke1 f4 53.Kd2 Rb6
54.Rc8 Bg4 55.Re8+ Kd5 56.Rf8

Ke5 57.Re8+ Be6 58.h5 Rb7
59.Rh8 Rd7+ 60.Kc3 Rd3+
61.Kb2 Rf3 62.h6 Rxf2 63.h4
Rh2 64.h7 Rxh4 65.Nb4 Bd7
66.Kc3 f3 67.Kd2 Rh2+ 68.Ke1
f2+ 69.Ke2 Bg4+ 0-1



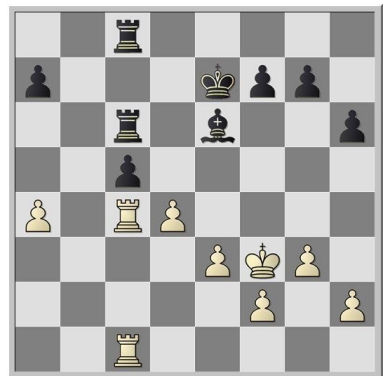
**Baasansuren,E. (2124) –
Nguyen,Emily (2121) [D11]**
Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (8),
22.11.2016

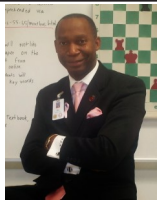
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2
dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.g3 e6 7.Bg2
Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Re1
Ne4 11.Qb3 Qb6 12.Nh4 Qxb3
13.axb3 Bb4 14.Nxf5 exf5
15.Bxe4 fxe4 16.Bd2 Bxc3
17.bxc3 Nf6 18.Ra5 Rfd8
19.Rea1 a6 20.h3 h6 21.g4 Rd5
22.Be3 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nd5
24.Bd2 Re8 25.e3 f6 26.Kg2 Kf7
27.f3 exf3+ 28.Kxf3 Ke6 29.e4
Ne7 30.c4 Ng6 31.Be1 Kd7
32.Bg3 Nf8 33.h4 Ne6 34.Ke3
Nd8 35.e5 Nf7 36.Ke4 fxe5
37.Bxe5 Nd6+ 38.Kd3 Re7
39.Ra1 Rf7 40.Ke3 g6 41.Rg1
Re7 42.Rf1 Nf7 43.Ke4 Nd6+
44.Ke3 Nf7 45.Ke4 Nd6+ 46.Kd3
Rf7 47.Rf6 Rxf6 48.Bxf6 Ke6
49.Be5 Nf7 50.Bf4 g5 51.hxg5
hxg5 52.Be3 Nh6 53.Bxg5 Nxg4
54.Ke4 Nf2+ 55.Ke3 Kf5 56.Bd8
Ne4 57.Bc7 Nf6 58.Bd8 Nd7
59.Bc7 Nf6 60.Bd8 Nd7 ½-½



**Nguyen,Emily (2121) –
Moon,Benjamin (2237) [D34]**
Dallas UT Fall op Dallas (9),
23.11.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5
exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2
Be6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 c4 10.Ne5
13.Be3 Qa5 14.Na4 Rac8 15.Qc2
Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Nd7 17.bxc4 dxc4
18.Bd2 Qa6 19.Bc3 Ba3 20.Bb2
Bxb2 21.Nxb2 Nb6 22.a4 Qa5
23.e3 c5 24.Bd5 Nxd5 25.Nxc4
Qc3 26.Rac1 Qxc2 27.Rxc2 Nb6
28.Ra1 Nxc4 29.Rxc4 Rd6
30.Rac1 Rdc6 31.Kg2 Kf8 32.Kf3
Ke7 ½-½





Coach's Corner - e4!

Good Sportsmanship --- Win, Lose or Draw

by Robert L. Myers

I threw the flag for unsportsmanlike conduct. Good sportsmanship is supporting your team, not trashing mine. An attitude for advantage is what it takes to get to the End Game. It is what drives chess players to delve deep into the tactics that provide a winning move. Slow moves, in between moves and loss of Tempo (a wasted move) create no real advantage, no threat, thus all Major pieces need to be actualized as soon as possible for attacking positions. That was how this article was supposed to start but I was called a name online by a former social media friend that I really don't know. I do not care to repeat what this person called me I guess in response to my posts about The Cowboys. The name-calling is no big deal. I have very thick skin and have been called far worse on a basketball court, baseball field or even across a chessboard. Which turns me to the focus of this month's article, sportsmanship.

In a social media post, I sent a message to a friend I've known for over 30 years, Master Comedian Billy D. Washington, saying that I had deleted about 100 friends from social media. This really got under the skin of some people. I flew to Ft. Worth to hear him in a standing room only crowd to bring in the new year. Billy is a former Houston Police Officer, you can look up some of his act on YouTube or follow him on social media. He headlines most comedy clubs in America, is the headliner for Carnival Cruise Lines, the opening act for the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, appeared on HBO's Def Comedy Jam, Comedy Central's Premium Blend, Last Comic Standing, The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson, VH-1 as a host and on-air personality. He's been seen with Mark Wahlberg, Russell Simmons, Chris Paul, Justin Timberlake, Jerry Jones, Mike Epps, Wanda Sykes and Bruce Bruce, Jeff Bridges. He's even beaten Matthew McConaughey, Calvin Murphy, and Dennis Miller on the pool table. Once this guy as a cop in Houston accidentally cap-

tured one of "Americas Most Wanted" during a routine traffic stop, he's even hung out with Bette Midler. Not many can say that. He's got a real solid resume' and I am honored to call him a friend. Well, he sent me this warm and winsome advice about the loss of the Cowboys.

Billy writes:

"Robert my friend, my homey and one of my 'fav' people on the planet... listen... Maybe not you specifically but Dallas Cowboy fans are the most obnoxious fans in the universe. Maybe not you, but they verbally spit in the faces of rivals and the other Texas teams in the name of gamesmanship. Maybe not you, but the Cowboy meme machine is constantly churning out in-your-face vanities to slap in the faces of those of us who could care less about a team that hasn't won a playoff game in 20 years. (Aunt Emma, a meme is an insult elicited to incite comic relief in lieu of what a picture really isn't saying but taken out of context could mean). Maybe not you, but here in Houston we feel the brunt of the blow because of our (The Houston Texans) mostly sub-par comparison, and because we've never won a Super Bowl. Many years ago the Cowboys won rings and we're reminded of it constantly.

There are international people who, because of your fan base, learned about football because of their hate of Dallas Cowboy fans. I see them on ships (Billy does comedy on Carnival Cruise Lines) all the time.

So, I'll say this to you, my good friend, if you're upset with some of the collateral damage that your fellow Cowboy fans have caused, I would suggest that you disassociate yourself with that base and merely cheer on your team. Otherwise, unless they get back to their bowl winning ways -- this is how it's gonna be.

Bardroop!!!!” That’s his tag-line from a famous show Billy performed on Home Box Office, HBO, the cable network.

I responded to my dear friend with this: Yep, Billy I have “un-friend” about 100 "gloaters" and unsportsmanlike former Facebook friends, many Cowboy fans for that matter, for cocky arrogance. A few Facebook friends are still on the fence of being “un-friended” including relatives whose names I care not to mention because it might upset my Aunt Emma. Some of their comments about the Dallas Cowboy’s loss to the Green Bay Packers were in good taste and hilarious, some very good clean fun. I've fallen on the floor laughing at some of those comments, Donna “Catwoman” posted. My Cousin, Derrick sent me a meme of a car splashing water on a Cowboy fan standing on a curb. My response was, “A true Cowboy fan would know not to stand near a puddle near the curb.” The Doomhammer, a co-worker whom I just love talking to from New York sent me a pic of Michael Jordan crying after a win superimposed of the face of Jerry Jones, Cowboy owner. Someone sent me a pic of a Cowboy fan with an oversized hat sitting under the stadium with his head hung in sadness. Some are quite clever with much effort employed. However; some were downright nefarious and mean spirited. I am a Dallas Cowboy fan but not to point that I am going to lose a true friend over it. It all started before the game when I posted “No reason why I can't support both Texas teams. I've been a Cowboy fan since a kid as far back as Drew Pearson, Roger Staubach, Bob Hayes, Tony Dorsett and of course Emmitt Smith. So a friend of mine, newly elected Judge Joe Stephens has applications for those of you wanting to jump on the bandwagon. #CowboyNation”

I get it. Some fans go way overboard. That is why we are called fans, short for fanatic. I mean who else would brave 30 degree weather with no shirt on in Mile High Stadium, paint their hair orange and blue, put on an oversized Cowboy hat, paint their toe nails and finger nails with the teams logo, wear green and gold shorts in public with 100,000 other fans, drive trucks and cars emblazed with the team's logo or mascot? I mean really, you can look this up on

Google. Guys actually drive around with a Houston Oiler car. They are no longer a team. Who would do this? No one but a true fanatic.

Don’t get me wrong I'm not upset about "collateral damage" that Cowboy fans have caused nor am I upset by the loss by a field goal in the last seconds. But really it was a great game!!! Although I may have uttered a few words, not in the Sunday School book, I simply don't like unsportsmanlike conduct on either side of a win or loss. I even kicked a star guard off my basketball team in the 2nd quarter of an important game for cursing a referee. "Go get out of my uniform now!"

Of course over the years I've seen the "obnoxious" philandering and un-seemingly ubiquitous boasting, bragging and cocky arrogance that some Cowboy fans have displayed. You and I have been friends for nearly 3 decades, you are absolutely one of my favorite humans. We have "mutual admiration." As global travelers, we both are aware of the eminence and unwarranted fame "Dem Boys" have garnered, mostly because of (only a few of them and their off-field) antics coupled with the over zealous "fandom" radical fans have exemplified.



Teaching a lesson in Switzerland atop Mt. Rigi, Lucerne, Switzerland

In the endgame, in this climate of political divisiveness and racial disharmony, we need something to celebrate. So, I'm proud to celebrate the great season of rookie sensation Dak Prescott, fourth-round draft choice arguably the best rookie season in NFL history. I'm celebrating Coach Jason Garrett for sticking with and having faith in his "Black" Rookie player and Dak for proving to naysayers that his faith was indeed warranted. I'm celebrating Rookie Ezekiel Elliott's, 2016 NFL rushing title, Dez Bryant's 1st post-season touchdown and with an enormous amount of respect I'm celebrating "Mr. Discount Double Check," Aaron Rodgers' performance under pressure to lead his team to an NFC postseason NFC Championship game next weekend. I've often admired his wholesome off-field and on-field persona. However; I am and you know this, not that guy that "thumbs in the face" or gloats after a victory or whines and pines after a loss. Chess Master James Rousselle knows it matters not that we have not lost a chess tournament in 16 years, we have 12 National Chess Titles, 9 State Titles and too many chess campuses globally to manage at times. This superfluous "We have 5 rings" attitude some, not all Cowboy fans display, doesn't exemplify good sportsmanship that I teach my kids.

In the end, it really doesn't matter. When the Houston Rockets, Rafael Costabella Cantu and my favorite NBA team, won back to back championships in 1993-94 and 1994-95 I didn't get a ring, a cap, a shirt and definitely not a check. But I watched every game I could, and even attended quite a few. I was the Houston Rocket's Teacher of the Year. I still watch the "Dream Shake" on YouTube to get a good laugh at how David Robinson was simply stupefied by Hakeem's moves, but I also didn't attend a single practice, nor hundreds of hours of training. When our team wins we say, "We won." When the team we support loses we say, "They lost."

Thanks for looking out for me Billy and suggesting that I "disassociate myself" from that base but that is a moot point. I'm not an "In your face" Cowboy fan. The association is my Mom bought me a Cowboy helmet when I was like 8 years old for my big water head (slight attempt at self-deprecation) a Cowboy's jersey and a football. Being impressionable I started rooting

for the Cowboys, many years later as an adult, I spent about 30 minutes at the Superbowl in Houston with Emmitt Smith. I've been a fan win, lose or draw for years. So with much love Brother, distancing myself from those (prepare for an epistemophilic, grammari-an rant) extremely unpleasant, very unpleasant, disagreeable, distasteful, offensive, objectionable, unsavory, unpalatable, nasty, awful, terrible, dreadful, revolting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, disgusting, odious, vile, foul, abhorrent, loathsome, nauseating, sickening, hateful, insufferable, intolerable, detestable, abominable, despicable, contemptible; horrible, horrid, ghastly, gross, putrid, beastly, skanky, very, very, annoying, tiresome, irritating, overbearing, unpleasant, downright nasty, I think I said nasty a couple of times already, anyway I'm going for a trifecta, nasty fellow Cowboy fans that won't return your calls, tweets, tags, friend invites today, I'm not one of them. Distancing isn't necessary because with all of your professional accolades you are NOT an in your face (insert all those previous synonyms here) when I win kind of a fan and neither am I. Not even close. "Bardroop!!!"

We all are aware of the divided chasm in our nation as a result of the recent presidential election. Much like the divide between Black and White pieces on the chessboard. Prior to that rant and post about of all things football, which is chess in a much more physical form, a very close chess friend in New Orleans, Louisiana, Paul Schowalter commented about Comedian Steve Harvey speaking with our President Elect. I chimed in with this response:



Teaching chess on Campus at Cesar Chavez High School, several kids from various competing campuses came to a chess lesson

Coach: I don't weigh in publicly politically for too many reasons to list here but I thought I should chime in this time Paul Schowalter. I'm first and foremost an American. Love our country. Didn't vote for the guy that won but I feel that if he succeeds we all win. Yes, I could complain, grumble and spew things that are anti-supportive but what's the point. Praying for this guy just like I've prayed for every leader of the free world this country has ever had. It would be a relief to see a quantifiable change in Washington. So far it appears more of the same with a scary twist. #hopeful #prayerful

Paul: Understood. I'm just hopeful that Dr. Carson will bring a fresh approach that neither party has really tried to addressing inner-city issues. To be successful, he'll need people like Steve Harvey to cross the aisle and be committed to working together to changing cultures...

Coach: Paul Schowalter maybe my outlook on race relations has been tainted from my younger days. I have always been in class with, played with and learned with other races. Of course, as a Black Man in America, I am staunchly aware of the Sandra Blands, Philando Castlies, Trayvon Martins, George Zimmermans and Emmitt Tills of the world. Yes, Racism still exists and has shown its ugly glaring forehead even in this past election. I'm not bitter that Trump won, I am shocked that anyone can say and do the things that he has can still be elected. The electoral college is a joke. A person can win the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes and still lose is --- wow, I don't have the words. Again, I love America in all of its imperfections; however, I can't recall too many segments of our country that weren't attacked by the President-Elect from Gold Star Families to Blacks and Asians and the handicapped. Guys like you, myself, Michael Tisserand, Tommaso Pogany from Italy and Chess Masters Rene Phillips, James Rousselle along with countless others around the world have various backgrounds, religions, races, and cultures but we get along just fine and not because of our love for chess. We are all just good people and have a common love for mankind. Honestly, racism is ignorance. There is only one race, the human race. Waaaay too much division in America and that divisiveness has fractured what trust and

love we were building. If people would sit and have a dialogue as I have with races from all over the world we in America would see that there is so much more that unites us than divides. #prayerfuloptimism

"Michael Tisserand: This conversation gives me hope. I can't sugar-coat my feelings about this president-elect. I oppose him and the values he represents, I don't trust his capability to lead and I certainly don't want him to succeed in his stated aims. Yet I treasure my friends of differing political points of view. It's easy to maintain an atmosphere of open dialogue and mutual respect when everyone is in agreement. If we can do that even when we disagree, that seems to me to be one tiny step in the right direction. Onward together!"

My friends and loyal readers, that is what we call a draw in chess. When we win, lose or draw, good sportsmanship must be practiced by all stakeholders. There is so much more that unites us than those things that divide us. My cousin Derrick says, "Yo man it's about entertainment some people take it too far. I'm married to a "CB" (Cowboy) fan. At one time my Uncle almost made the team in late 70's. I have too (been teased) so once it was done to him it was done to me --- blood runs deeper." With that said, my Aunt Emma will be pleased and proud to know that I'm taking Derrick off the fence of the soon to be "unfriended" list. He was about to be cut, deleted and blocked, unfollowed --- but he's hilariously funny, still carries a flip phone and I love him. And that's what really matters. Win, lose or draw, we are a family just like all of the pieces on the chessboard. After the game, they all go into the same box.



Good sportsmanship before a game in Dallas at the state championship



Region VII Scholastic Chess TOURNAMENT

United ISD--United High School-Host

February 11, 2017



Bring your own sets and clocks, non will be supplied

WHAT: United States Chess Federation (U.S.C.F.) Sanctioned Tournament. 5-Round Swiss in 4 scholastic rated Sections: Primary (K-3), Elementary (K-5/6), Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12). Time Controls Scholastic sections: Rounds 1-4 G/30 (Thirty minutes per side per game) Round 5 is 40 min/ all rds 5 sec delay. Chief TD will reduce rounds per section if necessary. Also for those who wish to play up and anyone else who wants the tournament experience, we will have an open rated and an a (non-member non-rated) section consisting of 4-- 45 min rds. Chief Td will combine sections or reduce rds as necessary. Non member section will not be submitted for rating. No Electronic devices will be allowed unless approved by USCF

WHERE: 2811 United Ave. Laredo, TX 78045 (Off Bob Bullock Loop 20)

WHO: All students grades K through 12 must play in their grade level. No computers will be allowed to register. Rule 11 h1 and all other USCF rules of chess will be observed.

COST: \$25.00.entry fee for all rated scholastic regional games, \$15 for open rated section, and \$12 fee for non member games, USCF current membership required for all rated players. Add appropriate USCF fees to registration OR show proof of current membership for each player. **Every entry must have the appropriate funds to be registered. The scholastic tournament sections must reside in Region 7, open section players can be from anywhere.**

REGIST: Deadline: entries must be received by Feb 08, 2017 by 5pm at the latest no exceptions! Early registration helps us run a better tournament. Please Register Early! **ON-SITE REGISTRATION – automatic ½ point bye. Cost for onsite scholastic registration is \$35.00 for rated sections, and \$22 for non-member section. Rated players must show current USCF membership or purchase new one on site.**

ROUNDS: Round 1 starts at 10:00am. **Check-in and late registration opens at 8:30 and closes at 9:30 AM.**

BOOTHS: Chess equipment available for sale. Food available at the tournament site or in surrounding area.

PRIZES: Scholastic Sections: Trophies to top 5 and medals to next 8 in primary, elementary, middle, and high school sections. Trophies to top 3 teams in primary, elementary, middle, and high school sections. Presentations as soon as possible after last round. Trophies to top 3, medals to next 8 in non member sections, these two sections are Open to all regions- Trophies to top 5 in open rated. Team trophies 1st and 2nd provided for non member sections also.

For Additional Information:

<https://www.austinchestournaments.com/files/2016RegionVII.pdf> and <http://texasregionvii.blogspot.com/>

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2017

FEB. 4 Shark Showdown Chess Tournament

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/files/PalaciosFIRST.pdf>, <http://texasregionvii.blogspot.com/>, riose@nwcable.net

FEB. 4 Austin Chess Club G/24 Quick-Rated Swiss

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/events/761>

FEB. 11 North Arlington Chess Club Open #19

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7581.tla>

FEB. 11 Region VII Scholastic Chess Tournament

Info: See advertisement on page 25.

FEB. 11-12 2017 DCC FIDE Open II underwritten by Ruifeng/Xiong

Info: info@dallaschess.com or 214-632-9000

FEB. 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 OR 19-20 8th Southwest Class Championships

Info: <http://chesstour.com>, Director@Chess.US, 347-201-2269

FEB. 18 Many Springs 97

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7562.tla>

FEB. 18 Scholastic Tournament at Bob Hope Elementary

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/events/737>

FEB. 18 Love Chess Tournament

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/files/1%20love%20chess%20feb%202018.pdf>, <http://texasregionvii.blogspot.com/>

FEB. 19 Southwest Class Blitz

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7422.tla>

FEB. 19 DFW Winter K-12 Championships

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7442.tla>

FEB. 25 2017 Waco Chess Club Winter Swiss

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/events/756>

MARCH 2017

MAR. 3-5 2017 North/Central Texas State Scholastic Championships

Info: See advertisement on page 31.

MAR. 10-12 2017 Texas South State Scholastic Championships

Info: See advertisement on page 31.

MAR. 11 North Arlington Chess Club Open #20

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7582.tla>

MAR. 11-12 2017 DCC FIDE Open III

Info: info@dallaschess.com or 214-632-9000

MAR. 18 Many Springs 98

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7567.tla>

MAR. 25 Region VI Scholastic Chess Championships

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/>

MAR. 25 Adult Tournament at the Region VI Championships

Info: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/>

MAR. 31-APR. 2 OR 1-2 Lone Star Open

Info: 504-208-9596 or 504-905-2971

VERY EARLY APRIL 2017

APR. 1 Rackspace Scholastic Chess Tournament

Info: <http://rackspacechess.com/>

APR. 1-2 2017 DCC FIDE Open IV

Info: info@dallaschess.com or 214-632-9000

WEEKLY EVENTS

FEB. 2, 9, 16, 23; MAR. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 NTCA Thursday Blitz

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6855.tla>, info@northtexaschessacademy.com

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26; MAR. 5, 12, 19, 26; APR. 1 NTCA Sunday Swiss

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/7497.tla>, info@northtexaschessacademy.com

texaschess.org



This year TCA has divided the state in two for the Texas Scholastic Championships. Players can play in either tournament or **both!** Four championships in great locations: TX Primary Scholastic Championships; TX Elementary Scholastic Championships; TX Middle School Scholastic Championships; TX High School Scholastic Championships. February 2017 Rating Supplement to be used.

2017 North/Central Texas Scholastic Chess Championships

March 3-5 2017 at the Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way Arlington 76011

Primary Hotel: Sheraton Arlington Hotel, 1500 Convention Center Dr, Arlington \$129 Call 1-800-442-7275 to make reservations. Please mention Chess Championship to get rates. Cut off date Feb 12. register online thru link on web site for tournament: **dallaschess.com** and click tournament name (in middle of page)

7 round Swiss System Entry Fee is \$43 by 2/1 else \$72

Registration: see web page for online registration and mail in forms. On Site Registration: Friday, March 3 5:30-6:15pm, Saturday, March 4, 8-8:30am

Sections: K-1 Championship, Primary (K-3) Championship, Primary JV (K-3 w/Ratings Under 600), Elementary (K-5/6) Championship, Elem JV (K-5/6 Under 800), Elem Novice (K-5/6 Under 500), Middle School (6-8/9) Championship, MS JV (6-8/9 Under 900), MS Novice (6-8/9 Under 600), High School (9-12) Championship, HS JV (9-12 Under 1000).

Side Events Blitz and Bughouse - Saturday Night **TCA meeting Saturday Night**

2017 South Texas Scholastic Chess Championships

March 10-12, 2017 at the UTRGV/Fieldhouse
1201 W University Drive, Edinburg 78539

Primary Hotel: TBA Web page go to utrgv.edu/chess/tournaments/ click on tourney

EF: \$46 by 2/19; \$66 after 2/22 or on site. Accelerated pairings maybe used.

Registration see web page for online registration **On Site Registration:** Friday, March 10, 7-9pm, Saturday, March 11, 7-7:45am.

Sections: K-1 Championship, Primary (K-3) Championship, Primary JV (K-3 w/Ratings Under 700), Elementary (K-5/6) Championship, Elem JV (K-5/6 Under 800), Elem Novice (K-5/6 Under 500), Middle School (6-8/9) Championship, MS JV (6-8/9 Under 900), High School (9-12) Championship, HS JV (9-12 Under 1000). Trophies to top 20 individuals and top 15 teams in each section plus participation medals for all.



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Tactics Time!

Answer on
page 18



Zachary Graber – Daniel Guel
BRAZOS Hillsboro TX 2016
Black to Move