

TEXAS KNIGHTS

The official publication of the Texas Chess Association

Volume 59, Number 1

P.O. Box 151804, Ft. Worth, TX 76108

Sept-Oct 2017 \$4

Southwest Open!



NM Jack Easton (shown here with Luis Salinas) shared the top spot in the Southwest Open Under 2400 Section with FM Michael Langer and Kapish Patula scoring 5.5/7.0

Table of Contents

From the Desk of the TCA President	4
Election Results (Meeting Minutes on page 7)	6
83rd Annual Southwest Open (Scholastic Tournament on page 12).....	10
Annotated Game: National Girls' Tournament of Champions by Priya Trakru	13
Tactics Time! by Tim Brennan (Answers on page 18)	15
Leader List	16
D/FW All Girls Events: A Perspective by Rob Jones.....	18
Fostering Trust in Online Chess by Lucas Anderson	19
2017 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions by Justin Wang	20
US Junior Girl's Closed Tournament by Emily Nguyen	22
Coach's Corner-e4 by Robert L. Myers	26
Upcoming Events	30

TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

A 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting chess in Texas

TexasChess.org
Facebook.com/TexasChess

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Membership Dues (annual):

Regular: \$10, **Family:** \$15.

Non-subscribing: \$5.

Patron: \$25. **Family Patron:** \$30.

Junior (18 and under) **or Student:** \$7.50.

Lifetime Regular: \$200. **Lifetime Patron:** \$500.

Foreign: Canada and Mexico \$12.50, Others \$17.50.

Club: \$25. **Scholastic Club:** \$10. **Foreign Club:** \$40.

Ad rates: \$50/page, \$35/half, \$20/quarter (Club membership includes 1 free quarter-page ad a year), \$1/line.

Send to **TCA Treasurer, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719**. Give name, address, city, state and zip code; also phone and e-mail. Contributions beyond membership fees are tax deductible.

TCA Hall of Honor

Selby K. Anderson

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Clarence Callaway, Jr.

Michael E. Carpenter

Carmen Chairez

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Marcus Roberts

George Rohrer

Luis Salinas

James Stallings

Clayton Swafford Family

Harmon Throneberry

Louis Thurston

Lakshmana Viswanath Family

Contributors: Lucas Anderson, Robert Jones, Robert Myers, Emily Nguyen, Barb Swafford, Priya Trakru, Justin Wang, Wendy Woodward

Cover photo: Barb Swafford

Game annotations, if not attributed, are a collaboration of Jeff French and *Fritz 15*.

Send submissions by e-mail to **texasknightsed@gmail.com**, or mail to **P.O. Box 151804, Ft. Worth, TX 76108** (please include contact information). All contents of *Texas Knights* ©2016 by the Texas Chess Association, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without express consent of the editor.



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

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



From the Desk of the Editor

Hello Texas,

Welcome to the start of a new year of *Texas Knights* ... Volume 59. We had an unusually large number of submissions this time (which is fantastic), plus we had a lot of TCA Business to include. I appreciate everyone's interest and support. If I didn't get your submission put into this issue due to limited space, I should be able to get it into a future issue.

It has been a busy couple of months for me Chess-wise. I'm invited to play at Brazos II on October 7th. I had to get an (at least provisional) over the board rating so I could play in the tournament ... so, I played in the Many Springs Quads 103 and Many Springs 104 (thanks to the Tarrant County Chess Club; Tom Crane, et al are awesome). I was asked, but was unable to be the adjutant at the Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans. I am also now a USCF Delegate for Texas (we're looking for more delegates ... see page 6 for additional information). And finally, I had to get this issue out to you.

There have been some changes with our TCA media team. While I am still the *Texas Knights* Editor, **Chris Wood** has taken over as our Website Admin and **Jim Hollingsworth** has taken over as our Facebook Admin. Chris has totally revamped our TexasChess.org website and it looks great. Some of the new features on the site: You can join or renew TCA memberships using PayPal. You can step through *Texas Knights* games and play the *Tactics Time!* puzzles (you can also still download the .pgn files if you wish). And Jim is making a huge difference at how quickly we are getting information to you on Facebook, if you haven't visited our Facebook page for a while (it was relatively quiet for a bit), I highly recommend you revisit it. A huge thanks to both of these guys for volunteering to help out.

A note regarding submissions: If you are sending us something that can be used multiple places (On the website, on Facebook and/or in *Texas Knights*), keep it simple and just send it to one of us. We do communicate and share with each other, just let us know where it can/should be used. Our contact information is on page 2.

Regarding Hurricane Harvey and the Texas Grades Tournaments; both (in Houston and Corpus Christi) are still on. I've been told that the hosting hotel in Houston is getting back to normal quickly and everything should be great when it's time to play. Keep an eye on our Website and/or our Facebook page just-in-case.

One final bit of news: *Texas Knights* was nominated for the *Chess Journalists of America* Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award. I've been told we came in a very close 2nd place. As Editor, this makes me proud, but I also know without all of the support I receive from many of you this wouldn't have been possible. So, thank you again for all that you do.

The next issue of *Texas Knights*, which I typically 'dress up' for the Holidays, should be in your mailbox around the first week of December. Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

— **Jeff French**



From the Desk of the TCA President

Hello everyone. This summer has been very productive. We start with the hosting of the Southwest Open in Dallas. As usual, a great job of organizing by Luis Salinas. The Sheraton was a great hotel whose personnel had only one thing in mind, to take care of its customers and make their stay very comfortable. We had five events going on at the same time, We had an international section, u2400 section, reserved, and novice, along with a one day scholastic section. I thank everyone who attended and helped to make this event a success. Something else happened recently, we had an election. Thank you everyone for giving me another opportunity to try to remedy some more items to improve our service to all.

I wish to recognize several individuals who have been indispensable to me. First off let me start with our Secretary Lori Balkum who has chosen to step down for a very important reason, but will remain as our tournament clearing director. Replacing her as secretary is John Hyltin. Past President Vish, who is still trying to teach me procedures. Barbara Swafford our Treasurer. This lady outworks me and then gets up in the early hours and goes for a swim before coffee! She is very efficient, and is a reference center. When I didn't know or understand something, these two hardworking individuals would clue me in. Then, my co conspirator and Vice-President, Forrest Marler; his experience has benefited me greatly. Keeping communication going, Jeff French, who was recently recognized for his work on *Texas Knights*. We also have our new website up and running thanks to Chris Wood. He took over and in short order had the site redone. Our newest edition to TCA is Jim Hollingsworth. He took over as our Facebook administrator. On the evening of the day that he volunteered, he was up and running. So, we now have more than one way to keep you informed. Start by sending your fliers to Lori Balkum so she can put it on our calendar, and copy me so I can forward it to Jeff, Chris, and Jim. I am working on updating the bidding spreadsheet so that everyone can see which state level events are still available for bid.

I have so much more to tell you, but that will have to wait so I don't get ahead of myself. Its all good, believe me. Thank you everyone, see you at the boards. PS: El Paso, coming your way soon.

— 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 \$26.34. 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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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2673185>

TCA Treasurer's Report - August 31, 2017

Income		Expenses	
September memberships	\$150.00	St. Elizabeth's School, Alice start chess sets	\$132.03
October memberships	\$45.00	Texas Knights Sept-Oct 2016	\$919.60
November memberships	\$25.00	Texas Knights Nov-Dec 2016	\$883.09
December memberships	\$10.00	Texas Knights Jan-Feb 2017	\$886.00
January memberships	\$0.00	Texas Knights Mar-April 2017	\$945.36
February Memberships	\$22.50	Texas Knights May-June 2017	\$897.87
March Memberships	\$130.00	Texas Knights July-August 2017	\$885.76
April Memberships	\$575.00	2016 Denker Representative Bovey Liu	\$300.00
May Memberships	\$100.00	Jeffery Xiong stipend	\$400.00
June Memberships	\$40.00	Texas State Amateur Fund	\$1,907.00
July Memberships	\$30.00	Barber/Denker Qualifier Expenses	300.00
August Memberships	\$120.00	Affiliate USCF dues (2 years)	\$80.00
2016 SW Open memberships	\$497.00	Total	\$8,536.71
2016 Texas Girls State Championship	\$110.00		
2016 Texas Grade & Collegiate and memberships	\$416.00		
2017 Texas Junior Teams Scholastic Champ.	\$90.00		
2017 Texas Open	\$35.00		
2017 Texas Teams (\$5 membership for each)	\$120.00		
2017 North/Central Texas Scholastic Champ.	\$962.00		
2017 South Texas Scholastic Championship	\$2,852.00		
2017 Texas State and Amateur Championship	\$416.00		
Region 2 Scholastic Championships	\$154.00		
Region 3 Scholastic Championships	\$186.00		
Region 5 Scholastic Championships	\$249.00		
Region 6 Scholastic Championships	\$424.00		
Region 7 Scholastic Championships	\$50.00		
Louis Thurston Donation	\$500.00		
Smile Amazon Donation	\$26.34		
	Total \$8,335.34	WF checking account balance	\$10,635.01
		BOA checking account balance	\$2,775.57



August 31, 2017

2017 TCA Election & Survey Results

52 of 179 distributed ballots were cast
2 were paper ballots, 0 cast; 177 ballots were electronic, 52 cast

Candidate: President

Dr. Aaron Guerra: 2 votes
(4.0%)

Eddie Rios: 46 votes (92.0%)

Luis A Salinas: 1 vote (2.0%)
Richard Newman: 1 vote (2.0%)
Abstentions: 2

Candidate: Vice President

Tom Crane: 4 votes (8.5%)
**Forrest Marler: 43 votes
(91.5%)**
Abstentions: 5

Candidate: Secretary

John Hyltin: 45 votes (100.0%)
Abstentions: 7

Candidate: Treasurer

**Barb Swafford: 51 votes
(100.0%)**
Abstentions: 1

Do you read the digital edition of
Texas Knights?

Yes: 12 votes (27.9%)

No: 31 votes (72.1%)

Abstentions: 9

Do you download/use the
games.pgn files?

Yes: 14 votes (31.1%)

No: 31 votes (68.9%)

Abstentions: 7

Do you download/use the
tactics.pgn files?

Yes: 15 votes (33.3%)

No: 30 votes (66.7%)

Abstentions: 7

TCA Delegate Search

TCA is selecting new USCF delegates. If you meet the criteria below and would like to be appointed, please email TCA president Eduardo Rios at riose@nwcable.net.

Delegates must be over the age of 18, must have a valid USCF and TCA membership, must be a Texas resident, and must commit to attending the USCF business meeting during the US Open (held in Madison, Wisconsin) between July 28 and August 5, 2018. Preference will be given to past delegates who communicate with us by October 10, 2017. Preference will then also be given to new nominees who, if previously appointed as a delegate, canceled at least 90 days before the event.

After October 10th, TCA will accept nominations on a first-come first-serve basis. The TCA Secretary will confirm with all appointed delegates by May 1, 2018 to ensure they are planning to attend. If they cancel then they will need to formally resign and we will appoint the first alternate, etc.

TCA Meeting Minutes - September 3, 2017

Call to Order

President Eddie Rios Called the Meeting to order at 8:35am

Present's Report

President Rios reminded all that TCA has a non-profit mission. There were introductions of the officers. The following items were noted:

- Texas is now on the map with Vish Viswanath on the USCF Executive Board.
- TCA has a new website
- Jim Hollingsworth volunteered to manage the TCA Facebook page.
- A request was made for persons interested in being a USCF delegate.
- Consideration is being given increasing the number and preparation of TDs.
- Consideration is being given to providing financial help to USCF delegates.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes have been submitted for approval.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Swafford intends to have a financial statement by September 10 and published in the next issue of "Texas Knights". The current tournament accounting is not complete, but about \$2,700 is in BOA account. The following items were noted:

- A long-term strategy for corporate relationships to improve corporate giving might be considered.
- A donation button should be added to the website.
- The current Southwest Open tournament is operating at a loss as was predicted, and it was suggested that the greatest factor in the loss is the norms tournament.

Election Business

Results from the Recent TCA Elections are as follows:

(see page 6).

Vish Viswanath moved to approve election Results. Luis Salinas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the election results passed unanimously.

Old Business

Item 1

Luis Salinas moved that TCA award itself the 2020 South Texas Scholastic bid. The motion was seconded by Jim Hollingsworth. The motion passed with seven votes for, zero against, and one abstention.

The 2019 Super State and 2019 Texas State and Amateur Tournaments were awarded to Luis Salinas.

Item 2

Luis Salinas withdrew his previous motions to make a TCA College Chess Committee, to define Texas Collegiate Superfinals in the Bylaws, and to make those changes go into effect immediately. Without objection he substituted a motion to change Article IX Section 1 O to read:

O. Texas Collegiate Championship.

This tournament shall be held in the fall, and open to students enrolled full-time or part-time in colleges or universities. The highest finishing Texas player will be Texas Collegiate Champion. There will be only be individual prizes.

The motion passed with 9 votes for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Item 3

Luis Salinas withdrew his previous motion to change Article IX, Section 1 U and a motion to make the change immediately. Without objection he substituted a motion to change Article IX Section 1 U to read:

U. The Southwest Collegiate. This tournament is now being organized by the Texas College and Universities. They determine the dates and format.

The motion passed with 9 votes for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Item 4

Luis Salinas moved that the following change be made to Section 2:

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

The annual junior chess meeting shall be held during the North/Central Texas Scholastic Championship and the South Texas Scholastic Championships or in every third year the Super State Scholastic. The tournament director or organizer shall plan for this meeting to take approximately ninety minutes. The Agenda shall focus on issues unique to Texas Junior Chess. If North/Central and South Texas Scholastic meetings pass contradictory motions, then the matter will be resolved at the Southwest Open Membership Meeting.

The Motion Passed with 9 votes for, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

Item 5

Luis Salinas moved to modify Article V section 5 F to read:

Regional Directors shall be appointed by the President to each geographical area of Texas (as specified in Appendix). Regional Directors should reside in the Region they represent.

The motion failed with 0 votes for, 9 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

Item 6

Eddie Rios moved that the following changes be made to the Bylaws:

The regional Scholastic Championships must be held within the Region it belongs to.

The Regional Scholastic Championship shall be awarded by the Region Director explicitly. In case of competing bids, the scholastic rep for the region and the Scholastic Chair shall form two thirds of the committee along with the Region Director to make the awarding decision.

Submission for a Regional bid must be done by an employed scholastic sponsor of the School Club that is submitting.

A letter from the school administrator (Principal) recognizing the sponsor as a full time contracted paid educator for the school must be submitted as part of the bid. A letter for said Sponsor submitting a bid and asking for same. A Flier designating all required information for the vent, must be included. A copy of the bid shall be sent to its perspective Region Director before July 15 of that year. Only one event per school will be awarded until the regional schools run full circle. If more than one District then a different district will be considered each year. If more than one bid, then the Region Director shall make the choice based on "best bid" and use a criteria that is applied to all bids. The Region Director ay consult with President if need be.

These shall be open only to students residing in or attending school in same region as the tournament. [Notes: (1) A TCA region that does not hold a regional forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships. (2) If a regional draws less than 150 players the previous year (or is not held), then the next year the regional can be held as an open event. It will be up to the organizer to decide whether out of region players can win trophies.

Vish Viswanath moved to table the motion and the motion to table was agreed upon by acclamation.

Item 7

Jim Hollingsworth moved that the President appoint a fundraising chairman to lead a committee to raise funds for TCA. During discussion, it was determined the motion was unnecessary because the TCA President has the authority and power to create programs and appoint individuals into any position as he deems necessary. Jim Hollingsworth withdrew his motion. Subsequently, Eddie Rios appointed Jim Hollingsworth as TCA's statewide Fundraising Chairman, to develop fundraising strategies and programs, and to represent TCA with corporations and charity organizations such as the United Way.

In Passing:

Richard M Marks from Houston TX, he was 75

83rd Annual Southwest Open

The **Southwest Open** was held in Irving this year between August 31st and September 4th. There were 231 participants divided between the International, U2400, Reserve and Novice sections. Bellow are some of the results from each section. For the complete results please see <http://dallaschess.com/2017SWOpen/index.html>.

Top 6 of 28 from the International Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	GM Kamil Dragun	2696	W20	W10	D3	D4	D7	D2	W9	W12	D5	6.5
2	GM Ruifeng Li	2639	L13	D22	W26	W23	W14	D1	W7	W4	D3	6.5
3	IM Andrey Gorovets	2596	W18	W12	D1	L7	W13	D5	D4	W11	D2	6.0
4	GM Bartlomie Macieja	2609	X---	W8	W7	D1	D12	D9	D3	L2	W13	6.0
5	GM Andrey Stukopin	2687	D19	D13	D14	D6	W10	D3	W17	W7	D1	6.0
6	IM Felix Ynojosa Aponte	2484	W15	L7	D9	D5	D22	D8	W16	D14	W12	5.5

Top 6 of 52 from the U2400 Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	NM Jack Easton	2253	W6	W43	D8	D3	W14	W24	D2	5.5
2	FM Michael Langer	2306	W5	D22	W29	D9	W7	W4	D1	5.5
3	Kapish Potula	2120	W40	W16	W31	D1	D4	W8	D7	5.5
4	NM Leo Creger V	2246	D49	W23	W19	W13	D3	L2	W10	5.0
5	NM Robert Sanchez	2068	L2	D25	W47	W19	D30	W31	W20	5.0
6	Peter Boris	1981	L1	W40	W46	W42	D11	D10	W12	5.0

Top 6 of 91 from the Reserve Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Sina Mohammadi	1950	X89	W24	W25	W21	W7	D5	D3	6.0
2	Joseph R Drake	1881	W84	W33	L21	W16	W27	W7	W14	6.0
3	Rohit Gundam	1977	W32	W62	D22	D23	W11	W13	D1	5.5
4	Kelly D Clover	1821	W46	W66	L14	W10	W23	D8	W15	5.5
5	Curtis Fukuchi	1903	D36	W31	W40	W22	W37	D1	D6	5.5
6	Ganesh Kumarappan	1953	W53	L9	W28	W78	W26	W21	D5	5.5

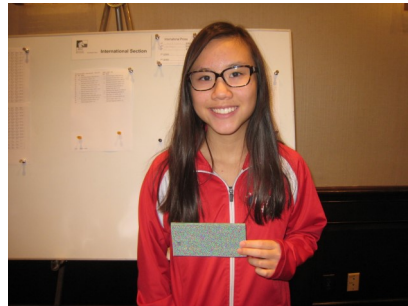
Top 9 of 60 from the Novice Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot
1	Stephen Stanfield	1391	W26	W5	W18	D4	W2	W22	L3	5.5
2	Aaron Peters	1376	W15	W27	W16	W3	L1	W4	D5	5.5
3	Ethan R Mei	1107	W37	W30	W9	L2	W7	D6	W1	5.5
4	Aarush Vikram Singh	1342	W32	W25	W24	D1	W6	L2	W11	5.5
5	Justin Yu	1263	W39	L1	W41	W25	D24	W12	D2	5.0
6	Sanjeev Raman	1278	W55	H---	W31	W11	L4	D3	W22	5.0
7	Alexis Hwang	1238	L35	W39	W15	W50	L3	W16	W18	5.0
8	Eric Tipton	1258	D44	D10	W28	D13	H---	W42	W19	5.0
9	Thomas A Taylor	1356	W28	W12	L3	H---	W26	W20	H---	5.0

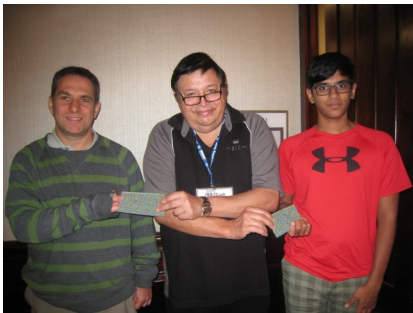
Photos from the Southwest Open by Barb Swafford



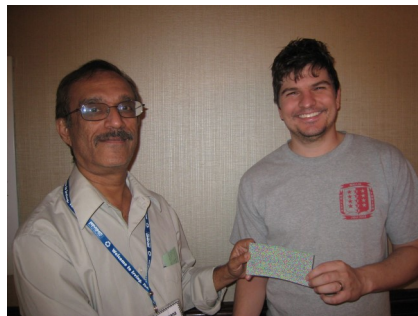
***Joseph Drake, Luis, Sina Mohammadi
Reserve, 1st Place***



***Emily Nguyen International
Under 2300 prize winner***



***Michael Langer, Luis, Kapish Potula
U2400, 1st Place***



***Vish, Paul Poston
Reserve U1600, 1st Place***

Scholastic Tournament

On Saturday, September 2nd, at the same location as the **Southwest Open** there was also a Scholastic Tournament. There were 115 participants divided between the K-12 Championship section and the K-12 U1000 section. Below are some of the results from each section. For the complete results please see <http://dallaschess.com/2017SWOpen/index.html>.

Top 7 of 42 from the K-12 Championship Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Sanjay Balasubramanian	1111	W7	D9	W13	W27	W8	4.5
2	Siddhant Patil	1467	W21	W32	W12	W4	D3	4.5
3	Puja Bhat	1490	W31	W6	W5	D8	D2	4.0
4	Kabir Ahmed	1659	W26	W11	W27	L2	W10	4.0
5	Ethan Rockwell Lance	1221	W25	W13	L3	W33	W12	4.0
6	Arnav C Parekh	1202	W35	L3	W21	W22	W18	4.0
7	Eric Wang	1514	L1	W34	W26	W28	W11	4.0

Top 11 of 73 from the K-12 U1000 Section

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Andy Woodward	833	W52	W15	W23	W17	W4	5.0
2	Vishnu Bandla	816	W50	W45	W5	W6	D3	4.5
3	Aditya Chebrolu	893	W33	W20	D13	W14	D2	4.0
4	Annika E Shivam	869	W55	W51	W9	W12	L1	4.0
5	John Allen Osoinach	983	W27	W46	L2	W13	W20	4.0
6	Ben Nors	874	W62	W30	W19	L2	W26	4.0
7	Elisha Graham	930	W22	L13	W27	W49	W19	4.0
8	Akshaj Agadi	907	D36	W59	W18	W35	D12	4.0
9	Sam Nors	635	W44	W41	L4	W39	W17	4.0
10	Isaiah Graham	616	W73	L21	W58	W41	W25	4.0
11	Max McGuirk	786	W65	L12	W64	X56	W22	4.0



*Andy Woodward
K-12 U1000, 1st Place
(photo by Wendy Woodward)*

Annotated Game: National Girls' Tournament of Champions

by Priya Trakru

**Trakru, Priya –
Yerra, Sai Sneha [C77]**

[The National Girls' Tournament Of Champions (formerly known as the National Girls' Invitational Tournament) is an annual tournament held in conjunction with the Barber and Denker Championships (for K-8 and K-12, respectively) .

This year, the three were held from July 29 through August 1 in Norfolk, Virginia, a beautiful, historic, and wet site. Norfolk is home to the largest Navy site in the world, the USS Wisconsin, and claims the wondrous banks of the Elizabeth river. I had the honor of representing the great state of Texas, along with Justin Wang (Barber) and Hiren Premkumar (Denker) . The Texas team placed 3rd overall, and each of us won a \$70 gift certificate to the bookstore (I'm very excited to read my newly acquired 'The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal') . Also, huge congratulations to Justin Wang, who tied for first in the Barber section with Christopher Shen! Participants in each of the three tournaments are champions of their respective states– to qualify, one must win their State Championships or be the highest eligible player from their state. The tournament is six rounds– with thousands of dollars in scholarship money for winners. This was not one

of my better tournaments. I ended with 4/6- 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. However, I am very grateful for this amazing opportunity and hope to qualify again (see you next year, Wisconsin!) . The following game was my fourth round. I played Sai Sneha Yerra, a very strong 1600 from New Hampshire.]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 [the starting moves to the Ruy Lopez]

3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 [the main move here is castle, but I prefer playing d3 first]

5...b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 d5



[I would be lying if I said that I knew what to do here. Since d5 is not the main move (and Ruy Lopez is not my main opening) , I was completely lost. I spent a few minutes here and decided on] [8...d6 black continues with a

more 'normal' Ruy Lopez position. d5 immediately opens up the position– it is safe move, but perhaps it would be a bit better to do after more preparation. 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nbd2 Be6 12.Bc2 Bb6 13.Nf1 the more common move (13.a4 offers white a better position than Nf1 immediately 13...Rb8 14.Nf1 d5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Ng3 Qd7 17.d4 dxe4 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Nd7 21.Nxe4 Nxe5 22.Bf4) 13...d5]

9.Qe2 [9.exd5 during the game I also considered this (and it is the main move) , but I didn't really like it because 9...Nxd5 10.Re1 (10.Nxe5 scared me because of 10...Nxe5 11.d4 Bg4 12.f3 Bf5 13.dxc5 Nd3) 10...Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Be3 Bb6 13.Bxb6 Nxb6 felt like black had good counterplay. However, this is significantly better for white than what could have happened with Qe2 (with proper play by black)]

9...dxe4 [9...d4 the best move for black here. Black plays d5 to open the position and get more space. By playing d4, black squeezes white and gains more counterplay 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Qd6 12.Bg3 dxc3 13.bxc3 (13.Nxc3? Bg4 and black is better) 13...Nh5 14.a4 Bg4 15.Bd5 Rab8 looks fine for black]

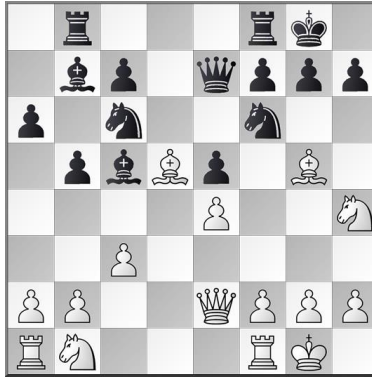
10.dxe4 Qe7 11.Bd5 [11.Bg5 probably would have been stronger. 11...h6 12.Bh4 Na5 13.Nbd2 Nxb3 14.Nxb3 Bd6 15.Na5 Qe6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.a4]

11...Bb7 [11...Nxd5 is not the best option because 12.exd5 Na7 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Nxe5 Rd8 15.Nd3 Bf8 16.Nf4 Bb7 17.Rd1 Computer says this is 0.1 better for black, but during the game I felt this was easier for white to play]

12.Bg5 Rab8 [A big mistake. This allows white to continue their plan and development. If black is able to exchange white squared bishop for white's white squared bishop, then the rook will be misplaced and black will just have wasted a tempo.]

[12...Nd8 the best move here. It exchanges the worse bishop and gets more space for black. Allowing white to dominate the center (especially because of the Bg5 pin) leaves black with no counterplay 13.Bxb7 Nxb7 14.Nbd2 h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.a4 c6 17.axb5 axb5 this is fairly equal- white has a nice possible outpost on f5, but it's difficult to get there. Black has a bishop and possible the d file, but it's impossible to maintain both.]

13.Nh4 [-my favorite move of the game. Nh5 takes advantage of the undefended f5 square.]



13...Qd8 [is not a particularly good move. It was probably made to have a tempo when white does Nf5, but Qd8 does virtually nothing to better black's position. Qd8 also allows for white to take advantage of the open d file and in the future, a discovered attack (with Rd1)]

[13...Bc8 is a better move here. While it may look like it hangs the c6 Knight, it actually doesn't. 14.Bxc6 (14.b4 which looks strange, but computer found it as the best line 14...Nxb4 15.cxb4 Bd4 16.Nd2 Bxa1 17.Rxa1 and white is up +1 and has much easier play) 14...h6 15.Bd5 hxg5 16.Ng6 Qd6 17.Nxf8 Kxf8 18.Nd2 Bg4 19.Nf3 and while white is up a clear exchange, black has decent counterplay.; 13...h6 another alternative 14.Nf5 Qd8 15.Bh4 Be7 16.Rd1 Qe8 this position does look very cramped for black, but it is significantly better than almost all alternatives]

14.Rd1 [threatening BxN]

14...Bd6 15.Nf5 Na5 [hoping for a quick exchange]

16.Qf3 [rejecting the trade and indirectly attacking f6]

[16.Bxb7 Nxb7 17.b4 h6 18.Bh4 Kh7 white is still better, but black is out of immediate danger]

16...Bxd5 17.Rxd5 [17.exd5? lets go of all advantage white had. It closes off the d file for the rook (and lets go of the pin) and allows for a strong control of the center for black 17...Nc4 18.b3 e4 19.Qh3 Nb2 20.Re1 Nd3 and if Rxe4, Nxf2! is winning for black] **17...Nc4** [with the idea of Nb6 and Nbd7- blocking off the pin and defending f6 another time]

18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Ng4 h6? [this allows white to win material and almost checkmate. Better was]

[19...c6 20.Rd3 Nxb2 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Nxf6 Kg7 23.Qf5 Qxf6 24.Rg3+ Qg6 25.Nd2 white is up material and is better, but black has some counterplay]

20.Bxf6 [it's all over now]

20...Qd7 21.Bxg7+ [checkmate is inevitable]

21...Kxg7 22.Qf6+ Kg8 23.Nxh6+ Kh7 24.Nf5 Rg8 25.Qh6# 1-0



Women Age 50 and Over (continued)			Girls Age 15			Girls Age 11 (continued)		
4	Alston, Angela Jennifer	2006	3	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2259	83	Wu, Alison	1079
12	O'Neill, Julia	1816	9	Kao, Camille Y	2024	85	Delgado, Gisele Josephine	1075
61	Hardesty, Brenda	1228	28	Bao, Yuliang Eunice	1693	92	Iyer, Madhalasa	1041
			32	Zhao, Vivian	1565	95	Patil, Srushti	1040
			33	Zhu, Yining	1564			
6	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2259	39	Bhat, Pujá Prashant	1490		Girls Age 10	
9	Chiang, Sarah	2232	49	Solis, Gabriela	1216	33	Bandaru, Tanvi	1210
16	Devagharan, Devina	2167	52	Flowers, Ava	1190	43	Solis, Natalie	1169
28	Xiang, Evan	2089	55	Gonzalez, Jolie Marie	1162	44	Jacinto, Gianna G	1164
41	Kao, Camille Y	2024	56	Tovias, Lauren	1152	65	Nitturi, Rajni	1053
42	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2020	60	Babaria, Niyati Rakesh	1110	72	Pilla, Ananya Valli	1017
52	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1967	65	Oliveira, Lauren R	1076	72	Reddy, Tanvi	1017
56	Palang, Caissa	1952	69	Berger, Sarah	1034	89	Lopez, Kathya Vanessa	946
63	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1934	71	Delgado, Victoria E	993	94	Holmes, Natalie Faith	938
68	Chu, Yue	1917	87	Chryst, Bailey	860			
69	Palakollu, Samritha	1914	94	Zhang, Elsa	796		Girls Age 9	
						3	Wang, Kalia Yuke	1563
						13	Balaji, Sai Sangeetha	1434
						21	Sinha, Tavishi	1306
5	Xiang, Evan	2089	19	Cheng, Angela	1754	20	Hwang, Alexis	1238
9	Palang, Caissa	1952	33	Zhou, Julia	1527	30	Ham, Emily	1229
21	Brown, Sarah	1622	35	Bautista, Ilse V	1472	32	Uviedo, Violette	1177
24	Guillen, Brianna	1552	39	Cedillo Bocanegra, Ana Karen	1455	38	Iyer, Niyati	1060
32	Leos, Emily	1253	50	Murgulet, Ioana	1347	53	Nakkala, Sharvi Reddy	992
41	Alba-Jimenez, Sandra Michelle	1065	56	Boren, Isabel	1322	63	Badan, Rima	979
43	Rivas, Cristina	970	60	Salinas, Brianna Christina	1284	66	Mehta, Tanisi	977
48	Guzman, Vanessa Renee	898	65	Vasquez, Angelica	1250	67	Gomez, Frida Mariela	959
49	Reyna, Jacklyn Marie	773	71	Ravichandar, Shreya	1203	70	Seals, Ayre	930
53	Alvarez, Anna M	730	81	Martinez, Margarita N	1137	79	Nair, Pallavi	910
54	Montelongo, Evelyn	719	96	Miller, Ashlyn	1020	85	Mandra, Anika A	896
58	Morales, Lidia Alissa	656				88	Espinosa, Sarah Elena	876
59	Villalpando, Lindsey	633				91	Yi, Bella	849
			13	Ayinala, Shree	1828	95	Gomez, Leeandra Marley	844
			41	Manohar, Riya	1436	96		
			45	Perera, Dimanathi	1403		Girls Age 8	
7	Nguyen, Brittany Mong-Tran	1967	50	Reistle, Jane	1379	5	Gao, Tianwen	1542
16	Abella, Clarissa Louise	1796	50	Garcia, Emily Alexis	1356	6	Elangovan, Ramya	1379
42	Guillen, Sarai A	1221	53	Bautista, Reyna	1355	6	Mcnett, Kaitlynn Lee	1208
43	Moya, Savannah	1204	55	Azim, Risa	1235	14	Akella, Sravya Suparna	1028
50	Martinez, Yvette	1122	67	Manoj, Aswathi	1204	30	John, Natalie Michelle	921
52	Morrison, Nicole Leigh	1090	69	Madhugiri, Shruthi	1149	43	John, Ashley Danielle	910
53	Reed, Ambriette D	1075	75	Krishnan, Aashika	1146	46	Rodriguez, Eleticia Ruby	879
58	Christensen, Asha Taylor	997	76	Chaudhary, Shreya	1122	49	Balci, Ayda	868
68	Davila, Priscilla N	815	80	Melgarejo, Fernanda	1114	52	Contreras, Rosario Nayeli	825
69	Uhlrig, Sarah D	806	81	Iyer, Ramiya	1077	60	Back, Iliana	813
71	Solorzano, Roxana L	774	88	Ramirez, Patricia N	1066	63	Alanis, Juliana Cristina	781
73	Gonzalez, Janeth	737	90	Senapathi, Shriya	1058	70	Cruz, Vivica R	704
			93	Basepogu, Sharon	1045	77	Camacho, Kaitlyn	696
			95			84	Yong, Evelin	670
							Girls Age 7 and Under	
							Li, Rachael	1804
2	Devagharan, Devina	2167				1	Zhang, Sunny	1044
6	Trakru, Priya Nikita	2020				11	Hosur, Sanmita	824
11	Palakollu, Samritha	1914	2	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	1934	35	Gutierrez, Victoria Angelique	790
20	Zheng, Christine	1767	6	Yellamraju, Ambica	1771	39	Raghuraja, Sri Yashvi	743
21	Qureshi, Sadia	1756	8	Yellamraju, Aparna	1716	40	Wang, Crystal	649
28	Rodriguez, Dominique	1589	35	Kao, Simona Y	1482	51	Gomez, Nelly Daniela	609
34	Salazar, Lillian	1521	44	Padilla, Karlee	1397	56	Yu, Karina	571
42	Le, Tu Boi	1431	59	Aggarwal, Manika	1276	62	Ramirez, Isabella	551
45	Garza, Ariel Francis	1383	61	Wang, Catherine	1270	66	Barba, Isabella	548
46	Ortiz, Felicia	1337	69	Balderas, Ana Luisa	1240	67	Liguez, Emma	542
54	Solis, Crystal Marie	1269	75	Babaria, Rajvi Rakesh	1200	69	Posadas, Sofia Eliana	542
63	Torres, Citlalli	1157	87	Gunukula, Renee	1165	79	Garza, Brithany	524
64	Flores, Victoria I	1151	97	Flores, Madelyn A	1108	81	Cervantes, Makayla	514
65	Cervera, Maria B	1138				84	Lopez, Celeste Catalina	502
69	Hernandez, Victoria Ann	1122				85	Penk, Kaylin	497
77	Capetillo, Emily	1015	17	Chennuru, Anshu	1566	90	Trevino, Zayda Grace	476
81	Harris, Rachelle	932	24	Binoj, Gaayathri	1469	91	Nelakurthi, Priyanka	473
83	Castillo, Julianna Deanda	904	33	Furman, Jessica	1383	97	Munoz, Maya Juliana	451
84	Hale, Abbie	879	47	Pulido, Emma Rose	1264	100	Farias, Analise	436
87	Voliber, Alyssa	839	49	Ghatti, Saisneha	1252			
88	Pena, Ashley	815	55	Naidu, Suchitra	1223			
93	Hurtado, Mariana Veronica	661	60	Lu, Maggie	1166			
94	Crossman, Jennifer Love	651	72	Hernandez, Sarah	1111			
95	Wallace, Ashlyn	646	82	Vasquez, Izabel	1084			

Tactics Time! Answers

Answers:

1. **57.Bf4+** forks the King and Rook.
2. **47...d3** and the pawn cannot be stopped.
3. **36...Qe3+ 37.Kh1 Qc1+ 38.Bd1 Qxd1+ 39.Qe1 Qxe1#**
4. **21.Ne7+ Bxe7 22.Qxh7#** Variation from the game.
5. **28...Qxg1+! 29.Kxg1 Rf1+ 30.Kh2 Be5+ 31. g3 R8f2#**
6. **24.Bf6** and the Black Rook has no good squares to go to.
7. **61...Re1+** clearance sacrifice **62.Nxe1 h1=Q**
8. **32.Bxg5 hxg5 33.Rxc3** wins a pawn.

Cover. **13.Bxb5** and if black recaptures **13...cxb5 14.Qe4** forking the Bishop and Rook.

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

D/FW All Girls Events: A Perspective

By Rob Jones, TCA Region III Director

I have indeed been very fortunate as a father, chess tournament organizer, teacher and tournament director to have raised two wonderful daughters who now have careers as chess educators, themselves. I got into chess organization the same way many of the readers of Texas Knights did, simply because there was a lack of local youth oriented tournaments for my kids to participate in.

One thing that became quickly apparent to me was that only a small percentage of the players were female. Over the years I have done what I can to learn more about female chess organization, serving as both assistant and chief to Susan Polgar at her Girls National Invitational Championships, section chief at several Kasparov All Girls Nationals, and organizer and tournament director at now three very successful North Texas All Girls All Boys Championships.

Ranae Bartlett, with Rainbow Elementary School in Madison Alabama has a 8 point plan that has resulted in the school recruiting and retaining a female participation rate of 40%. The strategy is quite varied, including movie nights, medals for "top girl" in each section, top overall "girls" team (Top 4 girls are recognized with awards), and other activities designed to make the chess experience more of a "comradery" and less of a "competitive" sport. And last, hosting all girls events. Here is the link to the article:

<https://www.chesskid.com/article/view/time-to-recruit-more-girls-to-play-chess>

The research I have completed on the numbers and percentages of girls playing chess in the North Texas area seems to prove her position. To examine this idea for the area I primarily involved with, I have reviewed every youth based tournament in the North Texas area I could find on USCF MSA pages since January of 2015. What I have found out is that only about 14.53% of the players in DFW for youth based events are female. But, for All Girls All Boys events, these percentages are FAR Higher. In this study, three of the top four events in regards to girl's participation were All Girls All Boys Events. The only tournament having larger female numbers was the 2017 North/Central Texas State Scholastic Championships. Methods of how to retain these girls who enter these events surely will be debated. But what is clear is this, to retain them, we need to get them into USCF rated chess first, and All Girls events seem to be a very good method of achieving this result.

Editor's Note: Rob has provided a spreadsheet showing D/FW Gender Ratio Statistics between 2015 and 2017. You can see it here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AMbNGtPqbi7QhRjIPLgTi-HZEY1sSqfMdA67BzRdGHI/edit?usp=sharing> and it might be easiest to just access the Digital Edition of *Texas Knights* online at TexasChess.org and click the spreadsheet link shown above.

Fostering Trust in Online Chess

by Lucas Anderson

Disclaimer: In this article, I present evidence, but leave the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

Several purported cheating scandals involving high-profile players have rocked both Chess.com and Lichess.org this year. Chess.com and Lichess.org have elected to refrain from commenting on these scandals, ostensibly to preserve the reputation of the players and to safeguard their cheat-detection algorithms. But their secretive approach fails to engender trust. Just as visible security cameras deter would-be criminals, transparency from Chess.com and Lichess.org would instill confidence in supporters and dissuade would-be cheaters.

In 1971, Bobby Fischer faced Mark Taimanov in a Candidates' Match in Vancouver. Many will remember how strongly Fischer played, beating Taimanov 6 games to 0. Fischer was in top form in this match. If you were to ask an engine, it would evaluate game one (a masterfully played King's Indian by Fischer) as the best game Fischer ever played. In this game, Fischer's choice of moves showed a 77% correlation to engine preference. To my knowledge, this feat has never been equaled, though Kasparov and Carlsen have both come very close.

Fast forward to April of this year. GM Max Dlugy is playing in a Titled Tuesday blitz (3+2) tournament on Chess.com, and he is playing strongly. He is leading the tournament at +8 -0 =0, when he logs off and never reappears. Later, an enterprising amateur investigator on Reddit with the handle "gambit-man" posted an analysis showing that for this particular event, GM Dlugy's engine correlation was 78%, meaning that he played a top engine move 78% of the time. Playing blitz more accurately over eight games than Fischer ever played one game of classical certainly raises suspicion. Chess.com has never commented publicly on this issue.

The irony here is that GM Dlugy was instrumental in catching Boris Ivanov back in 2013. Then, Dlugy noticed that Ivanov walked with a strange gait and tapped his foot suspiciously. Dlugy suspected Ivanov was cheating, and asked an arbiter to force him to remove his shoes. When Ivanov refused, the arbiter forfeited him. Later, Dlugy noted for an interview with ChessBase that Ivanov did not have the expertise to cheat without raising suspicion:

"He doesn't know when to put on the theatrics. You have to be strong enough to do that. If I had this gadget I would be killing people left and right, and nobody would know. This is the real danger, because if a 2600 player has this thing, he knows exactly how to behave, he knows exactly when to think, and he doesn't need to use it more than four times during a game. That's plenty to destroy anyone." (October 3, 2013).

Titled Tuesdays offer a cash prize of \$500—a clear incentive. But what about tournaments which offer no cash prizes? Consider Nikolas Theiss, a player and chess coach who goes by the username Atrophied on Lichess and YouTube. Theiss is an expert chess player whose account was banned in late August by Lichess moderators. Upon investigation, this time by the Reddit user hicetnunc1972, suspicious results were uncovered. In a user-sponsored league on Lichess, Theiss' results changed dramatically over the course of a few months. In season seven of the Lonewolf 45+45 tournament, Theiss played the engine's top move 52.2% of the time and one of the engine's top three moves 82.1% of the time. By comparison, in the 2016 World Chess Championship, Magnus Carlsen played the engine's top move 47.5% of the time and one of the engine's top three moves 79.4% of the time. Carlsen's rating is more than 800 points higher than Theiss'.

Anyone who has played chess enough online has run into an opponent who was using an engine. We shrug it off and go on to the next game, perhaps taking the time to submit the game for review or block the opponent from future matchmaking. At higher levels, however, these actions undermine the ability of organizers to hold tournaments with cash prizes online, negatively impacting participants. As online ratings are important for securing students, cheating also hurts honest chess coaches, who appear less distinguished. I understand why Chess.com and Lichess.org refrain from publicly denouncing a player: they fear being sued for slander. But taking this stand is a crucial step in legitimizing online chess tournaments offering cash prizes. If online chess sites like Lichess.org and Chess.com can employ and defend effective cheat-detection algorithms, then chess communities, including sponsors, will be more willing to promote these tournaments.

2017 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

By Justin Wang

In order to represent Texas in Barber Tournament, planning early is highly recommended. I first played the North/Central Texas Scholastic Chess Championship in March and then played the final match against South/Central MS Champion and the Elementary Champion in June. It was a tough battle and I was lucky to become the ultimate Texas K-8 Champion.

I feel honored to represent Texas in the 2017 Barber Tournament in Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk is a waterfront city in southeastern Virginia. It is home to Naval Station Norfolk, a massive naval base on Chesapeake Bay. Nauticus is a maritime museum that features the Battleship Wisconsin, a huge WWII warship. I took a walk everyday along the waterfront during the tournament. The water was so soothing that it helped take the stress off me. I ended up being the top seed of the tournament. I wasn't able to attend the opening ceremony because my plane arrived late, so I started to prepare for the first round right away. I was paired against the representative of Missouri, Benjamin Shoykhet. We were at the top board. He played an opening that I am not familiar with, but I managed to win the game.

In the second round, I was paired against Danila Poliannikov from Massachusetts, the state where I used to live. I played a different line from my repertoire and I surprised him with an early rook move. My opening was successful and I won the game. This game turned out to be the best game in the tournament, even though I didn't count much on it.

In the third round, I was paired against Sijing Wu of Alabama, who scored an upset in the second round. I have already played him recently, but now I play with the colors switched. I got an advantage

out of the opening, but I miscalculated the line and got into an equal position. My opponent blundered later and I was able to win the game. In the fourth round, I was paired against Aydin Turgut of Illinois. We both had three points before this round. I went for the bishop pair, but I got into a passive position after that. The position was very closed and I got some play on the kingside, but I wasn't able to breakthrough. I sacrificed a knight for two pawns in the endgame, but I still wasn't able to pull a win out of it. The game ended up with a draw.

In the fifth round, I was paired against Christopher Shen of Ohio, the second seed and eventual winner of the tournament. I got an advantage out of the opening, but I lost it because I didn't make a good trade. He later weakened his pawn structure and I had good chances to win, but I lost it due to a tactical miscalculation. The game ended up with a draw again.

Now two draws out of five games for me. At this point, a few players led the field having 4 points. It is really a tough competition. The last round is a must-win game if I even hope of getting first. I was paired against Derek Clasby from New Jersey. He played a weird move in the opening and then he blundered a pawn. I missed a quicker win at some point, but I still ended up winning the game. Christopher Shen also won his last game, so we were tied for first. Unfortunately for me, Christopher had a slightly higher tiebreaker so he became the final winner of the Barber College/University Scholarship. The Texas team (Hiren Premkumar for Denker, me for Barber, and Priya Trakru for NGIT) finished as 3rd. Congratulations to Christopher Shen from Ohio and congratulations to the Texas team for a job well done! For me, although I didn't bring the final glory to Texas, I had been proudly held the

Texas's flag on the top board from the beginning to the end.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the organizers for their great efforts to make each round on time. I would like to express my great appreciation

for the generous contributions of all the sponsors. I wish the state of Texas the best luck in the years to come.

Following is a game from the Tournament.

Wang,Justin (2330) – Wu,Sijing (2112) [B22]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Be3 e6?! [This move doesn't lead to a good line for Black.]

[d6...Nf6]

7.Na3 cxd4 8.Nb5 0-0-0 9.Nbxd4 Bg4?! [This is not a good move for him because I can play Qa4 and the pin is useless.]

[d9...Bc5 10.Qa4 is good for me.]

10.Be2 Nf6 11.Qa4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bc5



13.0-0-0? [This move loses some of my advantage. I realized that Rd1 was better right after I made this move.]

[d13.Rd1 e5 14.Be3 Qe4 15.Qxe4 Nxe4 16.Nxe5 Rxd1+

17.Bxd1 Bxd1 18.Bxc5!± with a P up.; Also better was d13.Bxf6 Bxf3 14.Bxd8 Bxe2 15.Kxe2 Qe5+ 16.Kf1±]

13...Qe4 14.Qc4 Rd5



15.b4?! [This move makes the position equal.]

[d15.Rd2±] 15...b5 16.Qxb5 Bxd4 17.Qa6+ Kb8 18.Rxd4 Rxd4 19.Nxd4

19...Rc8?? [This move loses the game. I don't think he saw my continuation.]

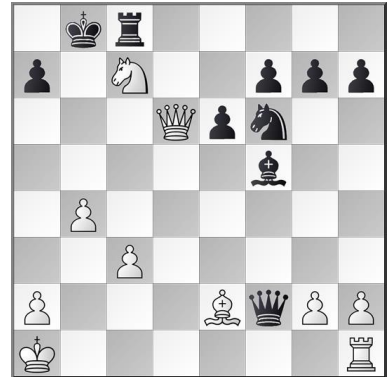
[d19...Bxe2 20.Qxe2 Qxg2=]

20.Nb5 [20.Qd6+ is also possible.]

20...Qf4+ 21.Kb1 Bf5+ [21...Qxf2 22.Bxg4 Nxg4 23.Nd6]

22.Ka1 Qxf2 23.Qd6+ Ka8 [23...Kb7 24.Nd4+-]

24.Nc7+ Kb8



25.Ba6? [This move gives some of the advantage away.]

[d25.Nxe6+ Ka8 26.Bf3+ Be4 27.Bxe4+ Nxe4 28.Qd5+ Kb8 29.Qe5+!- I didn't see this move in my calculations.]

25...Ne4? [d25...Qb6 26.Qxb6+ axb6 27.Bxc8+-]

26.Qc6+- [Now my position is winning.]

26...Qb6 27.Qa8+ Kxc7 28.Qxc8+ Kd6 29.Qf8+ Ke5 30.Qxg7+ f6 31.Bd3 Qc6 32.Rc1 Bg6 33.Bxe4 Qxe4 34.Qc7+ Kf5 35.Rf1+ Kg5 36.Qg3+ Kh6 37.Qf4+ Qxf4 38.Rxf4 Kg5 39.Rf1 e5 40.Kb2 Bd3 41.Rf2 e4 42.Kc1 f5 43.g3 Kg4 44.Kd2 1-0



US Junior Girl's Closed Tournament

By Emily Nguyen

For many dedicated chess players, summer is the perfect time to cram for numerous major tournaments, and I'm definitely not an exception. After drowning in the workload of my first year of high school (I can now say that I've pulled an all-nighter!) and dropping my rating around 70 points, I ensured that my three months of break would be as packed as possible. And what better way to start off my hectic summer than the US Junior Girls Championship?

This year, the prestigious tournament was held for the first time at the famous Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, the chess capital of the world. The strong field consisted of Carissa Yip, Maggie Feng, Akshita Gorti, Annie Wang, Ashritha Eswaran, Agata Bykovtsev, Apurva Virkud, Rachel Ulrich, and Thalia Cervantes. I was one of the lower seeds coming into the tournament. Consequently, I had extremely mixed feelings. On one hand, I won the tournament as the underdog last year and surprised everyone, including myself. On the other hand, having my rating perpetually plummet for five months and losing nine games in a row at the US Women's Championship really damages confidence.

Chess feelings aside, I was nevertheless excited to reunite with all of my chess friends whom I hadn't seen in a long time. We all joked around and interacted as friends instead of opponents. I guess that's the best part of chess - getting to travel to different places and meet new people. Oh, and my tradition of eating sushi and frozen yogurt with Carissa is always interesting.

All things considered, the first half of the tournament went smoothly. I started out with 3.5/4, winning some nice (and lucky) games and miraculously

saving a completely lost ending against Thalia. I started to gather my confidence because I was half a point ahead of the field. Unfortunately, after the second round, I caught a fever and wasn't able to completely recover for the rest of the tournament.

On the fifth round, disaster struck and completely destroyed the wonderful tournament I was having. I was paired as black against Akshita Gorti, who trailed me by half a point and became the eventual champion. For some reason, I wasn't able to sleep the night before my game, maybe because of the fever. Anyways, I had prepared against her openings, and she played as I thought she would have. Sadly, I screwed up on move nine and forgot to castle before what I played in the game, which led to me getting demolished quite quickly and giving up my lead.

Thankfully, the rest day proceeded my painful defeat so I was able to forget about my loss, recover from my sickness, and focus on the remainder of my games. It was also Maggie's seventeenth birthday, so she invited all of the girls to celebrate with her at the chess club. We all had an enjoyable time eating cake, and it was a great bonding experience overall - perfect for clearing my mind and relaxing.

After the rest day, my play became increasingly shaky. I let my advantage slip in numerous games, allowing my opponents to equalize and missing the opportunity to capitalize on vital half points. I could feel my energy draining, and I was just so, so done with chess by the time the last round came. I was paired against Carissa, one of my best friends in the tournament, as black. I could no longer play for first, but I was tied for second with Maggie and \$2,000 was on the line; consequently, I had to try my hardest to finish the tournament on a high

note. I obtained a pretty decent position out of the opening, but then I'm not sure what I was thinking because I stupidly trapped my own queen. She found the winning move, and I had to resign shortly after. That put me at 5/9, so I had to hope that I could even tie for third.

In the end, Annie drew her game against Rachel, putting me in a three-way tie for third place with Anne and Thalia. Receiving the third-place plaque was a pleasant surprise to me. It was probably because of the head-to-head tie-break; I defeated Annie and drew Thalia, while Annie and Thalia drew each other. In the end, I am simultaneously satisfied and unsatisfied with my overall result. Before the tournament, I would have been content

with the thought of third place. However, I played terribly in some games (notably against Carissa) and I definitely spoiled a significant opportunity to chase the gold.

Although this championship was far from perfect, I have learned from my countless mistakes, which is the sole purpose of tournaments. In addition, I had fun with all the other girls in the gorgeous city and chess club. Ultimately, I have to admit that this is not a bad way to start off the summer, and I'm looking forward to the long list of tournaments to come!

Following are two games from the tournament.

Nguyen, Emily (2048) – Eswaran, Ashritha (2086) [A62]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 [She almost always plays the Benoni in the database, so this is what I mainly prepared against.]

4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.g3 [The g3 system isn't the best, but I wasn't very familiar with the theory of the Benoni so I chose a more solid approach.]

[6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 This is the main line.]

6...g6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Na6 10.Bf4 Nc7 11.e4 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nfe8 [During the game, I thought this move was a little too passive. It blocks coordination between her pieces, and it's difficult for her to put a knight on e5. I think she might have been preparing f5, but this seems to help white more.]

[13...Re8 This would have been a better way to play. She can develop her rook to a natural square that targets my e-pawn, and it's harder to make progress for white. 14.Re1 Rb8 Followed by b5 and black should be doing okay.]

14.Qb3 [Putting some pressure on b7 and on the a2-g8 diagonal in case she ever plays f5]

14...Qf6? [When she played this move in the game, I was completely surprised because I didn't think she would let me take the b7 pawn. My queen isn't going to get trapped because her queenside pieces are completely paralyzed and clumsy. She also has no play on the kingside.]

[14...b5 This move was simply better, and now my queen looks weird on b3. 15.a3 a3 should be played to slow down her pawns, but now black's position is solid. (15.Nxb5 Rb8)]

15.Qxb7 g5 [She probably thought she was setting a trap after playing Qf6, but missed my important resources.]

16.e5! [e5 opens up the long diagonal, taking advantage of her missing light-square bishop and clumsy queenside pieces.]

16...dxe5 17.d6 [d6 opens up my light square bishop and her position just crumbles.]

[17.Ne4 Ne4 also looked appealing to me during the game, but after 17...Qf5 18.d6 exf4 19.dxc7 White looks better, but it's not as clear as what happened in the game.]

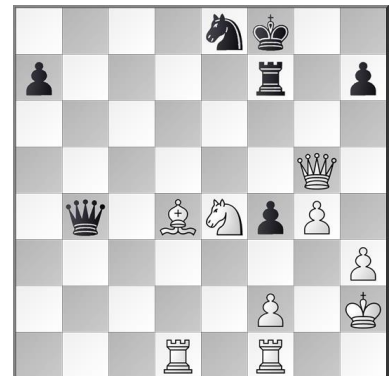
17...Qxd6 [17...Nxd6 18.Qxc7 gxf4

19.Bxa8; 17...exf4 18.dxc7; 17...Ne6 18.Qxa8 exf4 19.d7]

18.Bxg5 f5 19.Qb3+ Kh8 20.Bxa8 [Now I am just up an exchange with a better position. I made a few inaccuracies during the conversion and played somewhat too passively, but I won nevertheless.]

20...Nxa8 21.Qd5 Qg6 22.Be7 Nac7 23.Qxc5 Rg8 24.Rad1 f4 25.Bh4 Qe6 26.Kh2 Bf8 27.Qa5 Rg6 28.Ne4 Qf5 29.Qa4 Rb6 30.Qc2 Rh6 31.Qd3 Rg6 32.g4 Qe6 33.Qd7 Qxa2 34.Bd8 Rg7 35.Qf5 Rf7 36.Qxe5+ Bg7 37.Qh5 Bxb2 38.Bxc7 Qc4 39.Be5+ Kg8 40.Qg5+ Kf8 41.Bxb2 Qb4 42.Bd4

1-0



**Nguyen, Emily (2048) –
Bykovtsev, Agata (2045)
[E69]**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7
4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c6
7.Nc3 Qa5 8.e4 e5 9.h3 Nbd7
10.Qc2 exd4 11.Nxd4 Re8
12.Be3 Nb6 13.Nce2?** [Nce2
was just a pretty bad move,
because it's way too passive. I
lose control of the d5 square
and weaken my e4 pawn.]

[13.b3 This is much more solid,
and I still have the bind in the
center. I can potentially play
Rad1 and put pressure on her
weak d6 pawn.]

13...Qe5 14.f3 [This isn't a
pretty move to play because it
blocks my bishop, but I guess
it's the only move.]

14...Qe7 15.Bf2 d5 [And black
has equalized because I re-
treated my pieces too much
and allowed her to play d5.]

16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Nc3 [17.exd5
Nfxd5 This isn't good for white
because black will play Ne3
next, and black is the one with
a better position.]

**17...dxe4 18.Rfe1 Bd7
19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Rxe4 Qd6
21.Rd1** [Now I prefer black,
because my kingside is a little
weak and my bishops are kind
of passive.]

**21...Rxe4 22.Qxe4 Bc6
23.Qe1** [Qe1 looks a little fun-
ny, but I had to support my
rook and defend against her

Rd8 threat.]

23...Re8 [This move is also
natural, forcing my queen to a
weirder position.]

[23...Rd8 Now if she plays
Rd8, I can simplify the position
after 24.Nxc6 Qxd1 25.Nxd8
Qxd8]

24.Qf1 Qb4 [I'm not so sure
about this move, because it
allows me to gain the bishop
pair and create a target on c6.]

[24...Rd8 I thought she should
have played Rd8 now, and
after 25.Nxc6 Qxd1 26.Nxd8
Qxd8 we reach basically the
same position, but my queen is
more passive on f1.]

**25.Nxc6 bxc6 26.b3 Qa5
27.a4 Qb4** [Agata was starting
to enter time pressure, so I
think she was just trying to
make natural moves and an-
noy me on the queenside.]

28.Qd3 [Now I can activate my
queen.]

28...Bf6 [Bf6 looks somewhat
dubious to me, because the
bishop is weaker on f6, but she
was probably trying to play
Rd8 to challenge me on the d-
file.]

[28...Nd5 I think this move was
better for black, centralizing
her passive knight on d5 with
annoying threats of Nc3. 29.f4
(29.Bxa7 Nc3 and the b3-pawn
falls.) 29...Nc3]

29.Qc2 Bc3 30.Rd3 Nd5 31.f4
[Now I can finally open up my
unopposed bishop, which aims
towards her knight on d5.]

31...Be1 [I found Be1 to be a
little bit annoying for me, be-
cause she's trying to get rid of
my bishop pair. In addition,
black is aiming to further
weaken my kingside.]

32.Bxa7 Qb7 33.Bc5 Qd7 [I'm
not so sure about this move ei-
ther, because she is moving
her queen too much, and this
self-pins her knight to her
queen.]

[33...Nb4 Perhaps this was a
better chance for her to try to
draw the game. I am forced to
trade into opposite colored
bishops, which is pretty an-
noying, especially with my
weak king. 34.Bxb4 Qxb4
35.Qxc6 Bf2+ 36.Kh2 Qe1 and
the position is unclear.]

34.Bxd5? [Bxd5 was a super
questionable move. I was
starting to get low on the clock
and wasn't sure how to im-
prove my position. I guess I
was worried about potential
Nc3 threats. However, Bxd5
gets rid of my beautiful bishop
and vital defender. Now, it's
clear to see that my king is
difficult to defend.]

[34.Kh2 This move was much
better, simply getting out of the
back rank and into a more solid
position. Kh2 also supports
my weak pawns on g3 and h3.]

34...cxd5 35.Qg2 [I thought I could win the pawn on d5, but it's not so clear.]

35...Qf5 [35...d4 This move is interesting, simply giving me the pawn, but black has a lot of play against my king. **36.Rxd4 Qf5 37.b4 Qb1** My king is just too open, and the second rank is weak. Re2 could potentially be a deadly threat.]

36.Rd1 [Again, I am way too passive, retreating all of my pieces way too many times.]

[36.Qxd5 would have simply won a pawn. **36...Qxh3 37.Re3** Black's attack is gone now. **37...Rxe3** fails to **38.Qd8+**]

36...Re4 37.Bd4 Qe6 [I was really unhappy with my position here in the game. Her pieces are positioned and coordinated perfectly against my king, and Re2 is coming.]

38.Rd3 Bb4 39.Bf2 Be1

40.Rd1 [A horrible blunder on the 40th move. I was trying to win still but didn't realize my best chances were to hope for a draw.]

[40.Bd4 Repeating the position would have been much, much smarter because now I have half an hour instead of one minute to make a decision.]

40...Bxf2+ 41.Qxf2 [Now that I had half an hour to think about my position, I realized... it sucked. I was extremely un-

happy here, because sure, I was up a pawn and had two connected passed pawns on the queenside. But then again, her d-pawn is much stronger and in an ending like this, king safety has priority over material. My kingside pawns are really weak, and her queen and rook dominate the game.]

41...Qxh3 [I was super relieved when she took my pawn on h3, because it allowed me to take off her strong pawn on d5 and get back into the game.]

[41...Re2 This move would have just crushed me. My pieces are uncoordinated and paralyzed, no match for her strong queen and rook. **42.Qf3 Re3 43.Qf2 d4** I can never take this pawn, and now I can't do anything except sit there and get crushed... oops.]

42.Rxd5 h5 43.Re5 [I wanted to trade off the rooks because I thought without her rook, she had no winning chances and I was the one who could press for a win. If she doesn't trade, she's forced to move the rook to a passive file and her attack is significantly weaker.]

43...Rb4 44.Re3 [Re3 is a bit passive, but I wanted to consolidate my position because there is no rush.]

[44.f5 f5 was probably stronger, trying to generate play of my own. However, this move is psychologically hard to make

because of my king.]

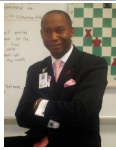
44...Qd7 45.Kh2 Rd4 46.a5 [Now black has to think about how to defend against my passed pawns, which can potentially be very dangerous.]

46...Rd5 47.b4 Qd6 48.Re4 Kh7 49.Re5 Rd2 50.Re2 Rd1 51.Qc5 Qd3 52.Qe7 [Black's position is getting harder and harder to defend because there is no more counterplay against my king. She has to also worry about her own king in addition to my passed pawns.]

52...Qd5 53.Qe4 Qb3 54.f5 [I now create pressure against her king and completely kill her counterplay. My centralized queen defends my own king while attacking her king, and I was content with my position here.]

54...Rd7 55.fxg6+ fxg6 56.a6 [White's position looks crushing here, and it wasn't too difficult to win in the end.]

56...Qa4 57.Qc4 Ra7 58.Ra2 Qd7 59.b5 Rc7 60.Qxc7 Qxc7 61.a7 h4 62.a8Q Qxg3+ 63.Kh1 Qe1+ 64.Kg2 Qg3+ 65.Kf1 Qd3+ 66.Kf2 Qd4+ 67.Ke2 Qc4+ 68.Ke3 Qe6+ 69.Kd4 Qd6+ 70.Qd5 Qb4+ 71.Kd3 Qb1+ 72.Kd2 Qb4+ 73.Kc2 Qe7 74.Ra8 Qe2+ 75.Kb3 Qe3+ 76.Ka4 h3 77.Qd7+ Kh6 78.Rh8+ Kg5 79.Rxh3 Qc5 80.Rg3+ Kh6 81.Qd2+ Kg7 82.Qc3+ 1-0



Coach's Corner - e4!

Worth the Climb?

by Robert L. Myers

As I approach the milestone of Level V Lifetime Professional Certified Master Chess Coach I've reflected, even pondered just how difficult this arduous and cumbersome privilege has been to attain. Coaches have you ever wondered is it worth it? All of the things that you arguably must deal with to become a world-class coach or player? Coaches must tirelessly get enough players together to have a team, then have them commit to having the desire, dedication and discipline to study, attend chess camps, chess tournaments out of town, chess trips overseas, commit to a minimum of 100 tactic chess puzzles every day, "rain or shine," encourage support from parents and if you coach on a K - 12 campus the barrage of paperwork, rules, forms, permission forms, in-service classes and training one must attend just to have a team is endless, nearly insurmountable. When faced with the decision to become a better, stronger player or to help others become great players, I chose the latter. That accession hasn't been easy and there have been many pitfalls and disasters along the way. I've made nearly every possible mistake. There have been challenges of studying, practicing and thousands of hours looking at positions, analyzing games lost and theorizing how games that were won could have been won more expeditiously. My many conversations with some of the world's greatest players have elevated my thinking and I'd like to pass some of that information on to you.

Recently one of our teams traveled to the Texas State Championship and won 1st Place Grand Champion Team. (This was no easy feat paired against IMs, FMs, and Experts.) Very few opponents we faced were rated less than Class - A. The constant stream of players walking into our team room with wins and losses seemed to be non-stop.

Round after round thumbs up and some down. It really is crushing to see players work so hard, study so often and come up short on the board against stronger players. What does one say to a player? "Keep studying, keep doing tactic puzzles, learn from each loss and you haven't lost." Now everyone knows that has done this dance of attending tournaments and chess practices, there is no cursing, crying or cheating in chess; however, there has been at least one and sometimes all three of these at every tournament I have attended over the years. After seeing kids crying in the arms of parents, hundreds of tournaments, thousands of hours practicing, the proverbial question does cross your mind, "Is it worth it?"

As of 2 am CST at the submission of this article a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico and killed 216 persons. There were 22 bodies found and at least 30 children still missing. Dozens of buildings have collapsed and the death and destruction is far and near. Many volunteers are digging through the rubble with their bare hands as many are trapped.



Harvey Flood near Cypresswood Creek near north Houston

First responders are digging and listening as quietly as possible for signs of life. Rescuers formed a human chain and pulled many children from an elementary school removing debris piece by piece. One need not query, "Is it worth it?"

How does one prepare for over 9 trillion gallons of flooding from Hurricane Harvey? Water continues to recede in the Greater Houston area weeks later. Some areas continue to flood, travel remains hindered, grocery stores have finally restocked and things are slowly returning to a sense of normalcy. It is still an enigma, confounded in a puzzle; a maze, riddled with queries. No algorithm, equation nor formula could ascertain this. Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, thousands of volunteers, hundreds of first responders and police from Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, our friends the Cajun Navy from Louisiana Michael Tisserand, Pastor Ronnie London, Master James Rousselle, Master Nick Matta, Master Rene Phillips, Paul Schowalter and Ryan Harris all reached out checking on our (The Chess Academy Coaches and player's) well-being. Vish Viswanath checked on us from the 2017 North American Junior Chess Championship, and South West Scholastic Open. Grand Master Timur Gareyev tweeted, seeing the catastrophe on television, Grand Master Maurice Ashley checked on us while on vacation in Jamaica, Tommaso Pogany, our tour guide in Europe, texted from Tuscany, Italy and former coach Natalie Priscilla McGeehan checked on us from Dubai. All of our EF Tours friends, Leah Hacker, Todd Parsons, Nathan Koch and Chelsea Lee Mercer all offered a helping hand. "We may need help (cleaning, rebuilding, Houston) but we are not helpless." The future is uncertain for many us, depressed, worried and concerned about rebuilding, selling or even moving, but their love and concern for us wasn't. Some have said that this was the 800-year storm. It was definitely the worst disaster in over a decade. When Hurricane Harvey inundated over 9 trillion gallons of rain on south Texas, words like devastating, biblical and phrases like

"Situations of epic proportions" all came to mind. Some people were looking for blame (there's always plenty of time for that later). I'd rather look for solutions or persons that can help or those I can help. There were heroes all around us. If you've donated money, time or talent, helped pull up carpet, posted resources, invited a neighbor to come stay with you, opened a shelter, passed out food, picked up debris, or rescued someone with a truck, boat or helicopter, THANK YOU! Look in the mirror, you are a HERO. The greatest two letters in Houston are "US." We are #hoUSton, we are strong. The question of "Worth" does not come to mind.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris, commonly known as Sacré-Cœur Basilica and often simply Sacré-Cœur (French: *Basilique du Sacré-Cœur*, pronounced [sakœ kœʁ]), is a Roman Catholic church and minor basilica, dedicated to the Sacred Heart



Helicopter Rescue from Harvey in Houston

of Jesus, in Paris, France. A popular landmark, the basilica is located at the summit of the butte Montmartre, the highest point in the city. Sacré-Cœur is a double monument, political and cultural, both a national penance for the defeat of France in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War and the socialist Paris Commune of 1871 crowning its most rebellious neighborhood, and an embodiment of conservative moral order, publicly dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which was an increasingly popular vision of a loving and sympathetic Christ. The Sacré-Cœur Basilica was designed by Paul Abadie. Construction began in 1875 and was finished in 1914. It was consecrated after the end of World War I in 1919. The hike up to Sacre Coeur is uncharacteristically steep as well but the view from the top of the dome gives you a wonderful panoramic of the city of Paris. The area of Montmartre is located on a hill which also happens to be the highest point in Paris. There aren't many escalators in the subway and even fewer elevators to the heights with the best views in the city. There are 90 steps to the base of the Sacre Coeur; however, to get to the dome of the Sacre Coeur, there are an additional 300 steps! In the blog, *Adventures of a Dietitian*, the author agrees with me. "Stairs are everywhere! I even started counting them. Each staircase in the metro consists of around 20 steps. There are stairs to get into the station and stairs to get onto the platform. So each time someone takes the subway, they have to climb 40-50 stairs to get into the station and onto the platform, and the same to get out. That's around 100 stairs for each subway ride. And there are very few escalators! Your only option is to take the stairs (it really is a good form of exercise). And this is one of the reasons why I think the French don't get fat." In our last day in Rome, my pedometer read 22,594 steps when I returned to my hotel. The next day, after the 9-hour flight, not including a 4-hour layover, one of my students slept 16 hours. I looked at my pedometer the following day, 209 total steps. All of the travel, all of the steps, all of the climbing, The Sacre Coeur, the winding stairs of the Arc de Triomphe, the towers at Notre Dame Cathedral and the dome of the Sacre Coeur, the hills of Neuschwanstein Castle, all have stairs.

But the view's, worth it? In a word, WOW!

I continue to have genuine relationships with more Grand Masters, Life Masters, Masters, Experts and chat with most regularly. We have more consistent relationships with tournament directors and players than anyone I know in 20 countries. So consequently we chat about everything from politics (as I did with the living legend Grand Master, GM Garry Kasparov at *Supernationals 2017*) to the NBA Playoffs with GM Maurice Ashley, skydiving with GM Timur Gareyev and girls in chess with GM Susan Polgar. This is what GM Timur Gareyev, 2686, said to me about the climb to reach his lofty perch atop the world as arguably the greatest blindfold player ever. Timur recently broke the world record for simultaneous chess games while blindfolded in Las Vegas. "Coach Rob, chess is very, very difficult so it's good to make it fun." I've spent many hours with Timur. He's always happy, always smiling, cracking jokes, and having a good time. After about three hours of joint chess lessons with a few of my privileged players (of course, there were more blitz and lightning games after practice than I care to count) we left practice from one of our many practice locations and stopped by the local race track for some go-cart racing. I asked him was it (breaking the world record of blindfold chess games) worth it? He smiled and winked.



Grand Master Timur Gareyev with Coach Myrs



On the Steps of Basilica of San Miniato al Monte

It seems like a different world away from the strife and turmoil in America with hurricanes, deadly clashes in Charlottesville, Va., as I rested on the steps of San Miniato al Monte from the hike up its steep hill. The view leaves you without words like travel does. "It leaves you speechless and then turns you into a storyteller." The view of the Duomo (Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiori) is stunning. Piazzale Michelangelo, The Uffizi Gallery, Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia and The ancient Ponte Vecchio bridge are all in view. All are as much symbols of Florence as the red dome of the Duomo. The San Miniato al Monte is a basilica in Florence, central Italy, one of the highest points in the city, one of the finest Romanesque structures in Tuscany and one of the most scenic churches in all of Italy. Miniato al Monte, is a staggering 400 steps or so all uphill. It is ranked as 11 of 642 things to do in Florence located at Via Delle Porte Sante, 34, 50125 Firenze FI, Italy. Construction started in 1013, it has a Romanesque architecture style. According to Wikipedia, St. Miniato or Minas was an Armenian prince serving in the Roman army under Emperor Decius. He was denounced as a Christian after becoming a hermit and was brought before the Emperor who was camped outside the gates of Florence. The Emperor ordered

him to be thrown to beasts in the Amphitheatre where a panther was called upon him but refused to devour him. Beheaded in the presence of the Emperor, he is alleged to have picked up his head, crossed the Arno and walked up the hill of Mons Fiorentinus to his hermitage. It is a very steep climb but the view, worth it? Wheeew!!

Becoming a world-class chess coach or a world-class chess player is not an easy feat. All of my Grand Master friends will attest. Even though there have been difficulties I have faced, chess has afforded me the blessed opportunity to travel the world, from the enlightening mountains of Lucerne, Switzerland to the pristine beaches of Barcelona, Spain, the incredible architecture of Germany and take in the breathtaking views from the steps of the most beautiful basilicas in the world. In Florence, Italy the food is amazing, the awe-inspiring steep cliffs and decor of Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany leaves your mouth agape. It has been a very busy yet difficult ascent to reach this milestone. A new freshman player on our team asked of our trip overseas and asked of the chess players there, the walking, climbing stairs and hills. I showed him a photo of the views from the lofty summits and a few of the chess games we played. I then thought about his query, "Has my journey been worth it?" I briefly thought of our many accomplishments. Over the summer break, we were recognized at the Houston ISD School Board meeting with our Superintendent, Dr. Richard Carranza. He tweeted from his Twitter account, "Sometimes you have to pause during a school board meeting and snap a selfie with an award-winning chess team." We trained middle and elementary school students chess in our library and we traveled to Europe playing chess on high-speed trains, played chess on the summits of breathtaking views, played chess on The Eurostar high-speed train at 300 kph, and returned undefeated against French, Italian and English challengers. I reminisced over all of our awards, banners, plaques, trophies, and championships and my personal accomplishments, then I looked at my freshman and like GM Gareyev, I smiled and winked.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2017

OCT. 2 QD Academy/Parkway Chess #3

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8494.tla>

OCT. 7 Brazos II Invitational

Info: http://seriouschessplayers.com/scp_brazos_2.html

OCT. 7 Tarrant County K-3 Primary Championship

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8401.tla>

OCT. 7 Tarrant County 4th-12th Grade Classic

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8620.tla>

OCT. 14 1st Annual National Chess Day Tournament

Info: <https://www.facebook.com/crusaderchessclubhelp/>

OCT. 14 National Chess Day! "SPA-EDDIE DINNER 7"

Info: <http://texasregionvii.blogspot.com/>

OCT. 14 National Chess Day Houston Scholastic

Info: 832-492-7154, <http://chess.jliptrap.us/enter.htm>

OCT. 14 Many Springs 105

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8609.tla>

OCT. 14 8TH Scott Watson Memorial Scholarship Chess Classic

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8543.tla>

OCT. 14 Borderland Chess Scholastic National Chess Day

Info: <https://www.facebook.com/borderlandchessnews>

OCT. 14-15 2017 National Chess Day FIDE Weekend Open

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

OCT. 21 Wear Your Halloween Costume

Info: <http://austinchess tournaments.com>

OCT. 27 Southlake Halloween Classic

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8405.tla>

OCT. 28 EDG Halloween Classic

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8443.tla>

OCT. 28 Lovejoy ISD Fall Chess Tournament Series #2

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8500.tla>

OCT. 28-29 Dallas Open, Amateur and Novice

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

NOVEMBER 2017

NOV. 3-5 21st Annual North/Central Texas Grade Championships

Info: See Page 31 (top half)

NOV. 4 Arlington Chess Club Open #27

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8196.tla>

NOV. 10-12 OR 11-12 2017 U.S. Class Championships

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

NOV. 17-22 2017 UTDallas Fall FIDE Open

Info: info@dallaschess.com or Luis.Salinas@utdallas.edu

NOV. 18 Celebrate Veteran's Day

Info: <http://austinchess tournaments.com>

NOV. 18 Many Springs 106

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8610.tla>

NOV. 18-19 2017 Turkey Shoot

Info: 210-384-4797, louisrimpel2@gmail.com

NOV. 23-26 OR 24-26 2017 Texas Masters

Info: See Page 31 (bottom half)

WEEKLY EVENTS

OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26 Frisco Smarts Sunday

Info: <http://smartsclub.net/courses/chess/>

OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26 NTCA - Sunday Swiss

Info: <https://northtexaschessacademy.com/sunday-swiss/>

OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26; NOV. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 NTCA - Thursday Blitz

Info: <http://www.uschess.org/tlas/6855.tla>

OCT. 7, 14, 21; NOV. 4, 11, 18 Plano Spectacular

Info: planochessclub@gmail.com, (Text on weekdays) 480-909-6214

texaschess.org



21st Annual North/Central Texas Grade Championships

NOV. 3-5

Hilton Houston North, 12400 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060. HR: \$95/\$95/\$95/\$95, 281-875-2222 or 866-577-1154. Mention "NTGC" group code to get rate. Room comes with 2 breakfast coupons. Reserve by Oct 19 or rate may not be honored. Each grade is Open to TX residents or players attending Texas schools. Note a recent rule change passed where players cannot play in two separate closed scholastic state championships in different states. Players must play in their own grade. Note that small sections may be merged with another section. Also if sections are small you may have to play a teammate or play someone twice. One 1/2 pt bye available, any round, if requested before end of rd. 2 and if player has not received a full point bye or forfeit win. Team pairings may be turn off for later rounds. Trophies to top 10 ind. & top 5 teams (top three players added for team scores, no more than 2 teams per school in each grade.) EF: \$35 if postmarked by 10/28/17, \$59 thereafter or on site. Do not mail after 10/30 as your entry may not be received on time. Grades 6-12: 6SS, G/60 d5. **Schedule: Reg:** Fri 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Rd. 1 Fri. 7:45 pm, Sat 10am-1:00pm-4pm, Sun. 10 am and 1:00 pm. Grades K-5: Nov 3 – Nov 5. 6SS, Rds. 1 G/45 d5; Rds. 2-6 G/60 d5. **Schedule: Reg:** Fri 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Rd. 1 Fri. 7:45 pm, Sat 10am-1:00pm-4pm, Sun. 10 am and 1:00 pm. All: Entries to: Dallas Chess Club, c/o Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Entry must include Name, USCF ID (or new/pending), grade & school and school location. Incomplete entries will be charged at site entry fee. No refunds after 11/2. Email: info@dallaschess.com 214-632-9000. Do not call after 11/1 as we are traveling. Online registration and team room information on website at www.dallaschess.com/2017TexasGrade/index.htm Side events: Unrated Blitz open tournament on Saturday at 7pm. EF: \$15, Trophy prizes. Bughouse Open Tournament Sat. 8:35 pm. EF: \$20/team. Trophy prizes. Registration for side events onsite only.

2017 Texas Masters

NOV. 23-26 OR 24-26

7SS, G/90 inc/30. Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr. #C, Richardson, TX 75080. FIDE and USCF rated but uses FIDE rules. Will use USCF ratings and rules for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Two sections: Masters and Reserve. **Masters: EF:** USCF +2400 \$90, USCF 2200-2400 (or if you ever been rated 2200 USCF) \$105, Fide rated 2000 and above is \$140, U2200USCF/U2000Fide \$175. USCF Membership Required. Texas Chess Association Membership also required for Texas players). **\$\$b/25:** 70% Guaranteed. \$1600-800-400-275. U2400 \$500. **Reserve:** Open to players rated U2000. EF: \$50, This section is not Fide rated and uses USCF rules. Tournament reserves the right to use Fide rules on electronic devices and on starting White's clock at start of a round and to use FIDE pairing rules. **Both:** Registration: 4 day 5:00 - 5:45 on Thurs 11/23. Rds.: Thurs 6 pm, Friday 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm, Sat 11am -4:30pm, Sun 9:00am-2pm. Reg 3 day on Friday 9 am - 9:45 am, Rd. 1 at 10 am then merge with 4 day. Two half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round rd. 2 and before getting full point bye, but half point byes for both rounds 6 AND 7 is not allowed. Withdrawals and zero point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. NEW: *Mix Doubles:* Teams (one male and one female make up a team,) that pay a \$20 fee, are eligible for a Mix Doubles Prize. Teams must be formed before the 3rd round. Prizes for Mix doubles are 1st receives 60% of mix doubles fees and 2nd receives 30% of mix doubles fees. **ENT:** Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX, 76036-4719. **INFO:** Barb Swafford, 214 -632-9000, info@dallaschess.com www.dallaschess.com FIDE.



Editor, Texas Chess Association
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Ft. Worth, TX 76108

Tactics Time!

Answer on
page 18



Thomas Kung – Damir Studen
8th Southwest Class 2017
White to Move