

# TEXAS KNIGHTS

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## *A Piece of the Action!!!*



*NM Jeff Reinberg wins 1st place in the Texas Action Championship with Chief TD Caleb Brown*

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# TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

A 501(c)(3) Educational Nonprofit Corporation Dedicated to Promoting Chess in Texas

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**Cover photo:** Deborah Shafer

Unattributed game annotations are a collaboration between the Editor and Stockfish 16



- Articles
- Games
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## From the Desk of the Editor

Hello Texas,

I edited this issue in Alto, New Mexico. Alto is just north of Ruidoso. The high temperatures here have averaged around 85° with the lows in the mid-50s. If you find any problems with this issue (and there will be problems, it's inevitable), I will blame the elevation, and being light-headed. The altitude is about 7500ft (the reason it's quite a bit cooler than 100°+ temperatures we've had lately in my home town of Fort Worth). I hope you enjoy the issue.

I start this issue with the Las Vegas Festival. There were a number of participants from Texas at the different tournaments at the Festival which included the **2023 National Open**. I figured it was a way to ease into the rest of this issue.

Next we have a couple pretty good sized tournaments including the **2023 Texas Action Championship** and the **6th Annual Queen City of the Prairie Open** which not only has its own champions, but also crowns the Tarrant County and Fort Worth Champions.

Following those you will find a couple chess composition puzzles with answers following the games at the end of the issue.

Next, **FM Sharvesh R. Deviprasath** tells his story of his first GM Win during this year's World Open. He also annotated the game.

Following that we head to Houston where the **Houston Chess Festival** was recently held. In addition, there is quick review of the **Houston Chess Studio July Championship**.

Next we have a short article about our Facebook Administrator's father who recently returned to chess.

Immediately following our regular Tactics Time Puzzles and Top Player Lists you will find an article from former TCA President Lakshmana Viswanath about his successful re-election to the US Chess board of directors.

**Dr. Alexey Root** returns with a book review "*The Human Factor in Chess - The Testbook*".

**Coach Robert L. Myers** shares his recent trip to Paris, France and some of his chess, and Tour de France adventures there.

And finally, before the games for this issue, I provide an article about *forcing chess moves*.

The deadline for the next issue is September 15th, about two weeks following the Southwest Open being held in Houston over Labor Day weekend. (I will be there for the meeting). The next issue should be on the website around the first week of October and in your mailboxes soon thereafter.



# A Message from the President

*July 2023*

As I write this message, five of our outstanding players are in Grand Rapids, Michigan representing us at the US Chess National Invitational Championships that start this weekend. By the time you read this, the events will have concluded, and we will report on the results of these National events in the next issue of the *Texas Knights*. Of course, as soon as the events conclude, our outstanding TCA Facebook Administrator, Deborah Shafer, will have a report (or more) on the events. In case you missed it, the players representing us in Grand Rapids are **FM Chris Land** at the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, **FM Sharvesh Deviprasath** at the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions, **Sunny Zhang** at the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions, **Logan Shafer** at the Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions, and **Vijay Srinivas Anandh** at the John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions.

As always, and thanks to some of our chess tournament organizers and directors, this issue contains results of events, pictures, and games of the last two months. Our thanks to our Texas Knights Editor, Jeff French, and to all the players, organizers, tournament directors, coaches, parents, and players who contributed to this issue. We truly appreciate all you do to promote chess in Texas, and you make us very proud!

As previously reported, the **Southwest Open** will take place in Houston, September 1-4, for the first

time in 15 years! For information registration, and the list of players registered, please visit our website at:

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/89SWO>.

So far, we have three Grandmasters, three International Masters, one Woman International Master and two FIDE Masters registered. We hope you join them at this event! In addition to the main event, we will have a one-day scholastic event on Saturday, September 2nd. For information and registration please see:

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/SW-Scholastic>.

During the course of the Southwest Open, on Sunday, September 3rd, we will have our **Annual TCA Membership Meeting**. All Advance Motions to be considered are due to the TCA officers not later than August 13, 2023. The Advance Motions and details of the meeting will be announced on our TCA website, so please stay tuned and check it out. The meeting will be in person, but those TCA members who cannot attend will be able to participate via Zoom, and the link will be announced on our website as well.

Once again, my thanks to all of you for promoting chess in our beautiful state!

With best regards,

*Franc*

## About the Author

- Franc Guadalupe is a US Chess National Tournament Director, FIDE International Arbiter Category A, and FIDE International Organizer.
- He is a former US Chess Executive Director, US Chess Director of Events, and FIDE Zonal President for the U.S.
- He has organized and directed over 50 National events including many in Texas.
- In addition to his current position as TCA President he was President of the Florida Chess Association.

# Las Vegas Chess Festival

Photos by Tim Hanks courtesy of the Las Vegas Chess Festival

Additional Results: <https://www.vegaschessfestival.com/live/results/>

The Las Vegas Chess Festival was held in Las Vegas, Nevada from June 14th to June 18th. There were multiple tournaments held during the festival.

The **2023 National Open** had multiple sections. A 9-round FIDE rated Open Section with GM & IM norms possible. Lower sections were 7-round and included under 2300 and under 2100 sections that were FIDE rated. In addition, there were 5-round beginner sections.

Texas was well represented in the Open Section of the **2023 National Open** with 16 out of the 151 participants. The final standings of the Texas Players:

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9 - GM Viktor Matviishen 6.5/9   | 83 - Lucius Melillo 4.5/9        |
| 13 - IM Justin Wang 6.5/9        | 87 - Shelev Oberoi 4.0/9         |
| 39 - Sina Mohammadi 5.5/9        | 99 - Logan C. Shafer 4.0/9       |
| 42 - FM Aryan Gutla 5.0/9        | 101 - Tianjun Chen 4.0/9         |
| 45 - CM Eric Chang Liu 5.0/9     | 102 - Siddharth Singh 4.0/9      |
| 56 - Peter Zheng 5.0/9           | 109 - Ronak Hiwale 3.5/9         |
| 75 - Arsal Gardezi 4.5/9         | 115 - Elbert Fang 3.5/9          |
| 77 - Vasegaran Nandhakumar 4.5/9 | 119 - Alvaro Ivan Artalejo 3.5/9 |

The 5-round **2023 U.S. Women's Open** was also played during the festival. There were two Texas participants out of a total of 66 players. The final standings of the Texas Players:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30 - Violet Duran 3.0/5 | 53 - Nadia Kent 1.5/5 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|

There were several other tournaments including the International Youth Championship, the Youth Trophy Tournament, the Walter Brown Memorial Blitz, Blitz Sectionals, Action Quads and a Youth Blitz tournament. You can find results for all of the tournaments played at the festival using the *additional results* link provided above.

Some memories from the **2023 National Open**:



IM Justin Wang



Lucius Melillo



Logan C. Shafer



Ronak Hiwale

# 2023 Texas Action Championship

Photos by Deborah Shafer

The Texas Action Championship was held in Waco on July 22nd. There were 4, 5-round, sections with a total of 111 participants. The time control was G30;d5.

The Open Section had 20 participants. **NM Jeff Reinberg** won the championship with a score of 4.0/5. *See the front cover photo.* There was a 4-way tie for 2nd place in the Open section between **NM Austen Green**, **CM Kevin Liu**, **Thomas Capps** and **Logan Shafer**.

#	Name	Rating	Score
1	<b>NM Jeff Reinberg</b>	2203	4
2	<b>NM Austen Green</b>	2200	3.5
3	<b>CM Kevin Liu</b>	2095	3.5
4	<b>Thomas Capps</b>	2050	3.5
5	<b>Logan Shafer</b>	2035	3.5
6	<b>Chase Lonie</b>	1706	3
7	<b>Greyson Abrams</b>	1597	3
8	<b>Ishaan Ikkurthi</b>	1548	3
9	<b>Shriyan Vuyyuru</b>	1492	3
10	<b>Avni Senapati</b>	1468	3
11	<b>William Lovett</b>	1309	2.5
12	<b>CM Prasanna Borse</b>	1900	2
13	<b>Vince Parsons</b>	1878	2
14	<b>Tanvi Borse</b>	1612	2
15	<b>Jeriden Rush</b>	1388	2
16	<b>Jack Castro</b>	1812	1.5
17	<b>Krrish Kaul</b>	1389	1.5
18	<b>Divine Chikaeze</b>	Unrated	1.5
19	<b>Eric Walters</b>	1615	1
20	<b>Leslie Smith</b>	1344	1



2nd Place 4-way tie; *NM Austen Green (not pictured), CM Kevin Liu, Logan Shafer and Thomas Capps*

The U1600 section had 32 participants. **Anirudh Kuman** won the section and was undefeated.

#	Name	Rating	Score
1	<b>Anirudh Kumar</b>	1494	5
2	<b>Aryan Vuyyuru</b>	1304	4
3	<b>Beckham Chodniewicz</b>	1170	4
4	<b>Ishan Iqbal Vallyapalathing</b>	1084	4
5	<b>Michael Hamill</b>	1500	3.5
6	<b>Eric Nay</b>	1451	3.5
7	<b>Kai Lan</b>	1034	3.5
8	<b>Omkumar Gangadharan</b>	1020	3.5
9	<b>Michael Fox</b>	1266	3
10	<b>Brody Jones</b>	1063	3
11	<b>Rex Venza</b>	1061	3

U1600 Section (continued).

#	Name	Rating	Score
12	Zander Kuhn	1059	3
13	Tharun Avinashkarthi	1054	3
14	Benjamin Banks	Unrated	3
15	Nikolai Mezokh	1161	2.5
16	Kai Wang	1129	2.5
17	Aaditya Lanka	888	2.5
18	Brian Clason	1392	2
19	Forrest Marler	1300	2
20	Daniel Jones	1251	2
21	Sam Joiner	1239	2
22	Asher Lippe	1194	2
23	Logan Newell	1170	2
24	Ian Chung	1010	2
25	John DeVries	1200	1.5
26	Asher Chodniewicz	1193	1.5
27	Advaith Jijesh	1088	1.5
28	Braxton Van Wattering	1128	1
29	Jim Anderau	1070	1
30	Paul Hagelstein	1051	1
31	Joseph Crawford	1232	0
32	Malachi Mejias-Treadwell	Unrated	0

The U1000 Section had 31 participants. **Rohan Dash** won the section and was undefeated.

#	Name	Rating	Score
1	Rohan Dash	891	5
2	Ananyasree Anbalagan	984	4
3	Jonathan Hamill	982	4
4	Suren Bheemalingam	958	4
5	Joel Davis	948	4
6	Anushka Borse	830	3.5
7	Yiheng Chen	633	3.5
8	Josiah Kianes	922	3
9	Albert Gao	891	3

U1000 Section (continued).

#	Name	Rating	Score
10	Jude Davis	862	3
11	Eric Qin	834	3
12	Thomas Kilburn	818	3
13	Adarsh Mohanty	Unrated	3
14	Leah Jones	989	2.5
15	Timothy Lin	734	2.5
16	Sudheer Vuyyuru	612	2.5
17	Matthew Rimann	993	2
18	Juanshu Lan	950	2
19	Elizaveta Skripkina	808	2
20	Eshaann Madhan	735	2
21	Umar Abdullah	670	2
22	Sahasra Vijay	655	2
23	Grace Peng	521	2
24	Matthew Jackson	783	1.5
25	Arjun Phatak	732	1.5
26	King Ip Lin	639	1.5
27	Diya Venkataragavan	558	1.5
28	Anagha Chaitanya	766	1
29	Tejus Ganesan	602	1
30	Clayton Carlisle	Unrated	0.5
31	Riaan Abrol	831	0

The U600 Section had 28 participants. **Ryan Kim** won the section with a score of 4.5/5.

#	Name	Rating	Score
1	Ryan Kim	483	4.5
2	Joseph Kianes	583	4
3	Edison Chodniewicz	545	4
4	Taneesh Tunkimetla	531	4
5	Ashwin Phatak	411	4
6	Advika Raina	156	4
7	Musunna Galib	Unrated	3.5

## U600 Section (continued).

#	Name	Rating	Score
8	Jayden Jin	573	3
9	Thomas Jensen	456	3
10	Nathan Jin	447	3
11	Amy Jones	100	3
12	Ezra Saenz	577	2.5
13	Aaryan Tunkimetla	342	2.5
14	Rebecca Budolfson	264	2.5
15	Micah Brown	158	2.5
16	Padma Bheemalingam	109	2.5
17	Shreeya Rane	325	2
18	Arhan Mahesh	197	2
19	Adhrith Chintakunta	189	2
20	Praneel Katooru	Unrated	2
21	Steven Bynum	Unrated	2
22	Mayson Walters	Unrated	2
23	Joshua Hernandez	Unrated	1.5
24	Fabiha Nuzhat	212	1
25	Anaaya Chaitanya	103	1
26	Henry Brown	Unrated	1
27	Charles Reavis	Unrated	0
28	Elizabeth Brown	Unrated	0

## Memories from the Action Tournament (more photos available on the TCA Facebook Page)



### Side Blitz Tournament

There was also a 4-round side Blitz tournament with 2 sections: Championship and Amateur. The Blitz tournament was played with a time control of G5;d0.

There were 16 participants in the Championship section with **NM Jeff Reinberg** and **NM Austen Green** sharing the top spot with a score of 3.5/4.

There were 20 participants in the Amateur Section with the winner, **Asher Chodniewicz**, going undefeated.

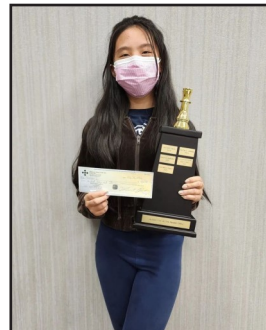


# 6th Annual Queen City of the Prairie Open

Photos by Louis Reed

The 6th Annual **Queen City of the Prairie Open** was held in Fort Worth between July 14th and 16th. The tournament format was a 5-round Swiss System with time controls of G60;+30. There were 3 sections; Open, Reserve (U1800) and Novice (U1200 & unrated). There was a total of 88 Participants.

The Open Section had 36 participants with **FM Sharvesh R. Deviprasath** (left) and **WCM Rachael Li** (right) sharing the top spot with scores of 4.5/5.



#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Tot
1	SHARVESH R DEVIPRASATH	W15	W27	W11	D2	W4	4.5
2	RACHAEL LI	W35	W5	W10	D1	W13	4.5
3	KEVIN LIU	W20	W28	D12	D13	W8	4
4	BRIAN JEREMIAH TINEO	W21	W18	D13	W12	L1	3.5
5	CHRISTIAN KARLSENG	W36	L2	W24	W6	D9	3.5
6	ZURAB JAVAKHADZE	W22	L13	W16	L5	W21	3
7	THOMAS KUNG	H	W14	L9	D18	W22	3
8	ZECHEN LU	W17	L12	W21	W9	L3	3
9	KRISHNAN WARRIER	D19	W34	W7	L8	D5	3
10	ELBERT FANG	W25	W26	L2	L11	W24	3
11	RUDRANSH RAJARAM	W30	W29	L1	W10	U	3
12	SIDDHARTH SINGH	W31	W8	D3	L4	D14	3
13	SAATHVIK DASARI	W32	W6	D4	D3	L2	3
14	ROMAN NICHOLAS NAVARRO	D16	L7	W34	W26	D12	3
15	BRIAN XING ZHOU	L1	W20	D23	W29	D16	3
16	OSCAR YIHANG ZHANG	D14	W19	L6	W27	D15	3
17	RUSHEEL NIGUDKAR	L8	D30	W32	W28	D18	3
18	AMAY BABEL	X	L4	W31	D7	D17	3
19	CLINT FOSTER STEWARD	D9	L16	D30	D20	W32	2.5
20	MR. ADVIK MANCHANDA	L3	L15	W36	D19	W28	2.5
21	HARISH CHANDRAN	L4	W25	L8	W23	L6	2
22	TIM C STEINER	L6	L24	W25	W31	L7	2
23	CURTIS KEN FUKUCHI	L27	W36	D15	L21	D26	2
24	VISHNU CHETLAPALLI	L28	W22	L5	W30	L10	2
25	SANJAY JAISHANKAR	L10	L21	L22	W36	W29	2
26	SURYA PRAKASH KUNDURTHI	B	L10	D28	L14	D23	2
27	ZACHARY HASKIN	W23	L1	D29	L16	U	1.5

Open Section (continued).

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Tot
28	NEIL LAD	W24	L3	D26	L17	L20	1.5
29	WALKER BLAKE BROWN	B	L11	D27	L15	L25	1.5
30	GREYSON DANIEL ABRAMS	L11	D17	D19	L24	D31	1.5
31	SHRIYAN VUYURU	L12	B	L18	L22	D30	1.5
32	KESHAV YAMAGANI	L13	D35	L17	W34	L19	1.5
33	JIM HOLLINGSWORTH	F	H	H	U	U	1
34	RAYMOND JUNYANG JIANG	H	L9	L14	L32	D36	1
35	ELIZABETH R BRADY	L2	D32	U	U	U	0.5
36	LAWSON BROWN	L5	L23	L20	L25	D34	0.5

In addition to the co-champion standings, the performance of **NM Brian J. Tineo** (shown in the photograph to the right) provided him with both *Tarrant County Champion* and *Fort Worth Champion* titles.



The Reserve (U1800) Section had 22 participants and a 3-way tie with **David Lamas**, **Matias Estrada** and **John Kendrick** sharing the top spot with scores of 4.0/5.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Tot
1	DAVID LAMAS	W19	W17	W6	D2	D3	4
2	MATIAS ESTRADA	W14	W9	W15	D1	D6	4
3	JOHN KENDRICK	D22	W16	W12	W10	D1	4
4	HARSHITH GADDAM	W8	L6	D19	W13	W11	3.5
5	PAUL POSTON	L17	D13	W20	W14	W15	3.5
6	NETHRA VINAYAGARAM	W20	W4	L1	W17	D2	3.5
7	BERNARD S JOHNSON	W13	L15	D14	W8	D10	3
8	ISHAAN IKKURTHI	L4	W18	W9	L7	W16	3
9	ARYAN VUYURU	B	L2	L8	W18	W17	3
10	DEVON ELLIOTT SHARKEY	B	D12	W11	L3	D7	3
11	SEJAL SINGH	D16	W22	L10	W19	L4	2.5
12	MR. DOUGLAS SCHWETKE	W21	D10	L3	L16	W20	2.5
13	ANGELIQUE LEE CHEN	L7	D5	W21	L4	B	2.5
14	MATTHEW CONNOR ROACH	L2	B	D7	L5	W19	2.5
15	SAMUEL TYLER JOINER	W18	W7	L2	H	L5	2.5
16	ALPHONSE EMMANUEL MATTHEWS	D11	L3	H	W12	L8	2
17	STEPHEN DAVID HENSLEY	W5	L1	W22	L6	L9	2
18	HIRAM BODON	L15	L8	B	L9	W21	2
19	AKSHAY JAISHANKAR	L1	W21	D4	L11	L14	1.5
20	MICHAEL MAO	L6	H	L5	W22	L12	1.5
21	WITOLD SIERADZAN	L12	L19	L13	B	L18	1
22	MARVIN JAMES BOLDEN	D3	L11	L17	L20	U	0.5

The Novice (U1200) Section had 30 participants with **Scott R. Stillson** winning the section and going undefeated.

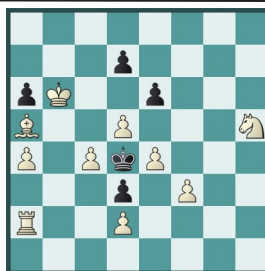
#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Tot
1	SCOTT R STILLSON	X	W18	W5	W7	W4	5
2	TATE XU	L8	W23	W25	W14	W9	4
3	EDUARDO ZAGAL	W19	D12	W8	L9	W7	3.5
4	MATEO MIGUEL ZAGAL	D13	W15	W6	W12	L1	3.5
5	IAN ROBERT WILLIAMSON	W16	W9	L1	D11	W12	3.5
6	SKANDA SATHISH	W24	D8	L4	W19	W13	3.5
7	JOHNATHAN SPORE	W22	W17	W11	L1	L3	3
8	OLIVER WANG	W2	D6	L3	D10	W21	3
9	SAMANTHA KATELYNN DAVIS	W10	L5	W18	W3	L2	3
10	CARROLL STEWART	L9	W22	W17	D8	D14	3
11	CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH WOOD	W23	W14	L7	D5	U	2.5
12	BRODY JOSEPH JONES	W21	D3	W13	L4	L5	2.5
13	ERIC LU	D4	W20	L12	W17	L6	2.5
14	BALAJI KRISHNARAJ	W28	L11	W15	L2	D10	2.5
15	SARAH PEREGO	W26	L4	L14	D22	W23	2.5
16	ANEKAN THYAGARAJAN	L5	D19	D20	W25	D18	2.5
17	JIM ANDERAU	W25	L7	L10	L13	W26	2
18	TANAV BALAJI	W30	L1	L9	D23	D16	2
19	DERRICK SOUCY	L3	D16	W21	L6	D22	2
20	HUAN CHEN	D27	L13	D16	L21	W25	2
21	AASHI GOENKA	L12	W26	L19	W20	L8	2
22	BENJAMIN BURGESS	L7	L10	W26	D15	D19	2
23	LAKSHMI SAHASRA CHARUGALLA	L11	L2	W24	D18	L15	1.5
24	HUNTER DOBBINS	L6	L25	L23	H	B	1.5
25	JOHN WIECHEC	L17	W24	L2	L16	L20	1
26	VISHAKAN THYAGARAJAN	L15	L21	L22	B	L17	1
27	JIM ANDERAU	D20	U	U	U	U	0.5
28	BRODY JOSEPH JONES	L14	U	U	U	U	0
29	BHUVANA TELLAMSETTY	F	U	U	U	U	0
30	WENDY D REED	L18	U	U	U	U	0

## Chess Composition Puzzles

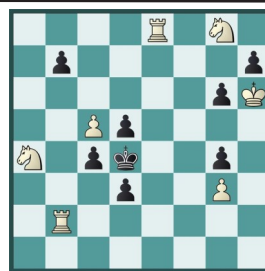
For the first time ever, I received some chess composition puzzles from not one, but two different composers. Enjoy.

#1 - By Rauf Aliovsadzade

#2 - By Daniil Yakimovich



#1 - White to Move and Win



#2 - Black or White to Move with White to Win

Answers on *Page 29*

# My First GM Win

By FM Sharvesh R. Devisprasath

Over every July 4th weekend, there is the annual World Open, the biggest prize money Open tournament in the US. Last year (2022), I played the tournament for the first time and had a blast. All my friends came together, and many people throughout the chess community that I hadn't seen in years were there. Last year, I ended with a score of 6/9, with all my wins coming from playing down. This year, I was hungry for a GM win. All my chess friends, even lower than me, have at least one GM scalp, and I would always get made fun of for having none. So I was more motivated than ever this year to get an upset.

The first 2 rounds were supposed to be easy as I was playing opponents who were over 300 points below me, but in the second round, as I was trying to flag my opponent who was in severe time pressure, I missed this resourceful piece sacrifice that let my opponent equalize from a dead lost position. Luckily, I was able to trick him with his low time and ended up winning. In round 3, I knew I was playing up but didn't expect to face the local Dallas GM Rahul Srivatsav, who goes to UTD. We have played twice before, and both games ended in draws. I was white and played my pet Nf3 C4, and funnily enough, the line Rahul played followed what Andrew Tang played against me in the World Open 2022 for 10 moves. I had a weird Deja Vu.

During the game, I was trying to recollect my analysis of that horrible game I played, and after a long recollection, I managed to play an even worse game and lost. My tournament was going the same as it was last year: 2 out of 3, beating the lower-rated players and losing against higher-rated players. I was hoping I could make a change in these last 6 rounds. In the next round, I won a smooth game against Neil Sampat, who broke master that tournament. I was back to where I was last year, with a score of 3 out of 4, playing against higher-rated players.

I got paired against the prodigy Liran Zhou, whom I used to read articles about breaking the record for youngest master back in 2017, so it was an honor playing with such a beast. I got into a dead equal endgame, down a pawn, but after a long grind, Liran managed to make me collapse and win. I was really frustrated that my World Open was going the

same way as last year: 3 out of 5, beating the lower-rated players and losing against higher-rated players. I knew I had one last chance to play against a higher-rated player if I could rack up a few wins.

The next 2 games against NMs went pretty smoothly, and I was on a respectable 5/7. This was my chance. I knew I was playing against higher-rated players and really wanted to cause an upset. I got paired with GM Pablo Salinas Herrera from Chile. We got into a Rossolimo where I played some dubious moves in the opening based on an idea I had seen before. In the middlegame, I was positionally much worse but decided to create some counterplay by pushing my kingside pawns. At one point, I was completely lost, but then he blundered, allowing me back into the game. I offered a draw, which was rejected, causing him to overpush. Eventually, I was up a clean piece and won. I couldn't believe it; I had beaten my first GM, something I had been dreaming of since I touched the chessboard. I was on 6/8 and competing for 2nd place. **See Game on Page 25.**

The last game was a massacre by GM Jianchao Zhou, but honestly, I didn't care. I had beaten a GM! The cherry on top was getting \$2500 as 2nd place U2300 FIDE. I had been the same FIDE rating for 18 months, and this win really motivated me to make a push for the IM title this year.



*This was the 5 guys I would go to every day with my friends, would highly recommend when visiting Philly! 100% energized me to beat the GM.*

# Houston Chess Festival

By Franc Guadalupe

The **2023 Houston Chess Festival** took place on July 21-23 at the beautiful facilities of the DoubleTree by Hilton Bush International. A total of 307 players participated, including five Grandmasters and one FIDE Master! In addition, **GM Daniel Fernandez** (below) who did not play in the event, conducted a chess Simul (won all 18 games), and also gave a very informative chess lecture.



The chess festival included Blitz and Bughouse tournaments! Although most of the players in the main event were from Texas, there were 25 players from 10 other states and as far as California. In addition, we had a player from Trinidad and Tobago and another from the UK, and both were on vacation in Texas and decided to play! Technically their homes were not in the U.S., so the player from the U.K. earned the spe-



cial prize, a commemorative chess clock, for the player who traveled the farthest to the event!

The co-champions of the Open section were **GM Vladimir Belous** (above left) and **FM Sharvesh Deviprasath** (above right), both with 4.5/5 and each earning \$1,300! In the U2000 section, our winner was **Sean Sommers** (below left), 4.5/5, who earned the \$800 prize! In the U1800 section, the sole winner and also earning \$800 was **Lyric Barai**, while in the U1600 **Peter Rucker** (below center) had a perfect score, 5/5, and also earned \$800. In the U1300, **Mark Sunagatullin** was the only 4.5/5 and earned \$550,



while in the U1000, **Kedar Atreya** (above right) achieved a perfect score, 5/5, and earned \$300. A total of \$12,150 was awarded and each winner, on tie-breaks, also received a first-place plaque. For tournament results, including prizes, please see:

<https://www.kingregistration.com/results/2023HouChessFest>

and for the US Chess rating report, please see:

<https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202307232962>.

The event was organized by TCA President **Franc Guadalupe** and his Chief TD/Chief Arbiter was Senior TD/NA **Peter Craney**.

*See Games Starting on Page 25.*

## Houston Chess Studio

By David Mackey

The Houston Chess Studio's monthly \$2,500 Championship tournament for July was won by GM He-dinn Steingrimsson. He took clear first with a score of 5-0, and went home \$800 richer. His round 3 game (*See Game on Page 27*) playing the black pieces versus GM Castillo was a very interesting endgame that I think your readers might enjoy studying.

Castillo had a Rook, Bishop and 2 isolated pawns, to Steingrimsson's Rook, Bishop and 3 connected pawns. Stockfish says that on move 48 Black is only up .68. But then White plays 49. Kg4 which Stockfish says is a double question mark blunder. I am

no expert (not anymore anyway) but I have looked and looked and I just don't see it. I wish someone would explain it to me. There was no immediate loss of material and White held on for more than 10 more moves. So how does that deserve two question marks?

What the world needs is a chess engine that gives more than just a numerical score for the position. The world needs an engine that also explains, in plain English, why the score is what it is. Where is this much vaunted Artificial Intelligence when you really need it?

## Leading by Example

By Jim Hollingsworth



Chief Master Sergeant Jack Castro served 31 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as one of its top logistics experts.

Mr. Castro is a tough chess player. He once placed 3rd in a European Theater military championship. US Chess ranks him in the 93rd percentile for all USA players and in the 79th percentile for all USA Seniors. He is also in the 96th percentile of all Texans.

He taught his two daughters to play chess.

One daughter, Deborah Shafer, is the 1987 Nebraska Girls Elementary Champion. She also won the Chess Championship of the Southern California Christian School Association's Fine Arts Competition four times (1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994), She is a regular in the Texas Women's Chess Championships. And she volunteers as the TCA Facebook Administrator.

As his daughters grew older, he continued to love and encourage them while they pursued their life passions. On July 1st he visited his family at the Waco July Swiss. Deborah and his son-in-law Dan ran the tournament with Jason Howell's help. He watched with pride as his grandson, Logan, held his own against tough competition.

Not content to be a bystander, Mr. Castro helped set up the room, played well as a house player, and grabbed a broom during cleanup. Chess in Waco is a better place because of Jack Castro. We in Texas Chess salute him! *See Game on Pages 27-28.*

# Tactics Time!

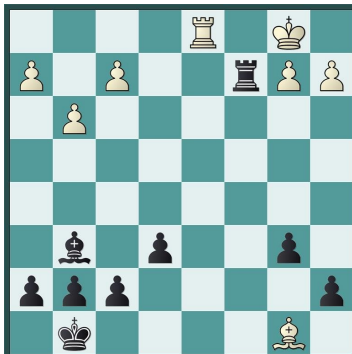
by Tim Brennan

These positions came from games played in Texas (or elsewhere) by at least one Texas Player.

Answers can be found on page 18.



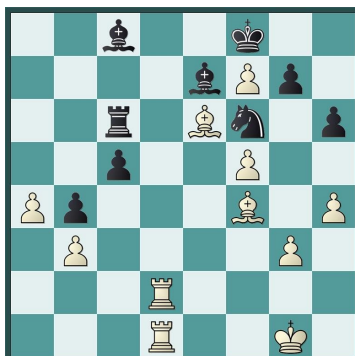
1. John Leggett – Elijah Hand  
Texas Collegiate Rapid Ch 2021  
White to Move



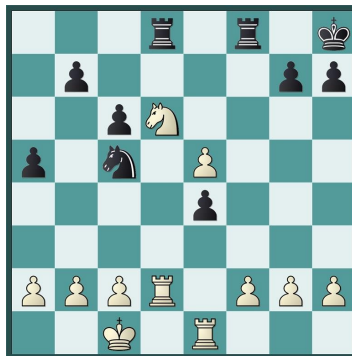
2. Krishna Konduri – Cecil Morris  
Texas Collegiate Rapid Ch 2021  
Black to Move



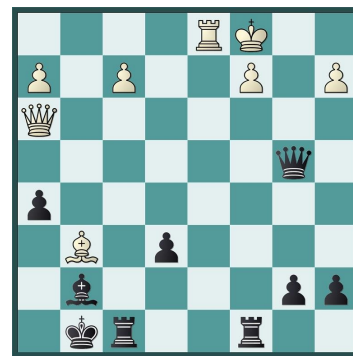
3. Diego Rodriguez – A. Nurbekov  
Texas Collegiate Rapid Ch 2021  
Black to Move



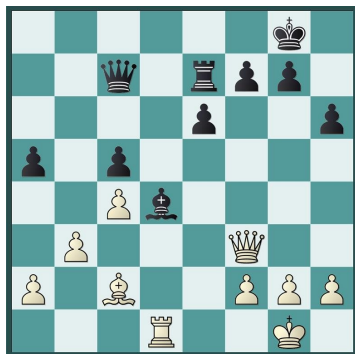
4. Emil Stefanov – Fabian Olivares  
Texas Collegiate Rapid Ch 2021  
White to Move



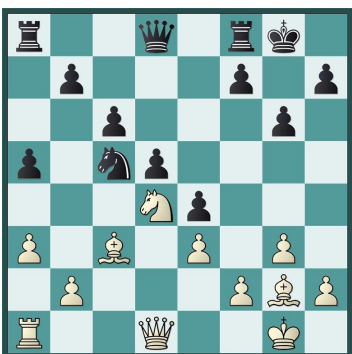
5. K. Dragun – R. Parappurathu  
Texas Collegiate Rapid Ch 2021  
White to Move



6. R. Davuluri – C. Karlseng  
DFW Premier 4 2022  
Black to Move



7. J. Cromartie – E. Zhang  
DFW Premier 4 2022  
White to Move



8. O. Tendulkar – Ethan Lance  
DFW Premier 4 2022  
White to Move

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# US CHESS TOP PLAYERS OF TEXAS - JULY 2023

*Regardless of Residence or Federation*

## Overall

7	Xiong, Jeffery	2775
16	Onischuk, Alexander	2708
32	Sadorra, Julio C	2647
36	Li, Ruifeng	2637
41	Matviishen, Viktor	2627
42	Dragun, Kamil	2626
44	Stukopin, Andrey	2620
57	Belous, Vladimir	2599
63	Maciejka, Bartlomiej	2592
68	Preotu, Razvan	2586
74	Wang, Justin	2580
76	Mista, Aleksander	2574
82	Root, Douglas D	2563
85	Hernandez, Holden	2560
86	Duque, Sm Raymond D.	2559
95	Grinberg, Eyal	2544
97	Woodward, Andy Austin	2536

## Age 65 and Over

9	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2444
12	Milovanovic, Rade	2371
58	Hulse, Brian	2200
58	Weaver, Richard	2200
58	Simms, Gary	2200

## Age 50 and Over

12	Root, Douglas D	2563
13	Duque, Sm Raymond D.	2559
31	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2444
47	Allcock, Rawle A.	2375
49	Milovanovic, Rade	2371
72	Almeida, Alfonso A	2310
98	Feinstein, Michael	2251

## Under 21

8	Wang, Justin	2580
16	Woodward, Andy Austin	2536
26	Vivekananthan, Anish	2469
37	Chen, Ryo	2435
38	Deviprasath, Sharvesh R	2432
56	Malicka, Maria	2375
57	Liu, Eric Chang	2374
59	Kunka, Harshid	2367
70	Rautela, Saksham	2346
73	Peycheva, Gergana	2341
77	Gutla, Aryan	2338
78	Rorrer, Grayson	2336
85	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2328
99	Oberoi, Shelev	2312
99	Laddha, Shubh Jayesh	2312

## Age 18

2	Wang, Justin	2580
31	Metpally, Jason	2247
46	Zheng, Peter	2174
51	Kumarappan, Ganesh	2165
75	Walmer, Benjamin	2087
81	Vaidya, Atraya	2080
84	Wang, Yanke	2078
86	Yellamraju, Ambica	2073
90	Dai, George Jingchang	2066
93	George, Isaac	2060
96	Ramesh, Sreenevash	2050

## Age 17

5	Deviprasath, Sharvesh R	2432
9	Rorrer, Grayson	2336
13	Oberoi, Shelev	2312

## Age 17 (continued)

22	Gundam, Rohit	2234
42	Trakru, Rohun	2152
64	Pullabhotla, Venkata	2074
85	Sathiarum, Sarvadh	1998
86	Tang, Andrew	1997
95	Miller, Collin Alexander	1984

## Age 16

44	Polavaram, Rithik Sai	2132
68	Qin, Kevin	2059
69	Yang, Benjamin	2058

## Age 15

9	Laddha, Shubh Jayesh	2312
18	Gardezi, Arsal	2230
56	Zhang, Andrew H	2092
70	Friedman, Andrew Charles	2047
73	Lomakina, Anzhelika	2038
81	Tripulskyi, Mark	2018
87	Raghuraja, Sri Avishkar	2008

## Age 14

6	Kunka, Harshid	2367
8	Gutla, Aryan	2338
14	Nandhakumar, Vaseegaran	2239
30	Melillo, Lucius	2142
32	Hiwale, Ronak	2135
61	Shafer, Logan C	2035
71	Bist, Atharva	2009
73	Zhang, Eric J	2007
93	Dasari, Saathvik	1952
94	Wang, Ethan Y	1951

## Age 13

<b>1</b>	<b>Woodward, Andy Austin</b>	<b>2536</b>
4	Chen, Ryo	2435
5	Liu, Eric Chang	2374
16	Li, Rachael	2225
39	Nair, Ajitesh	2062
51	Raju, Yakshwag Reddy	2014
55	Poliseti, Lohit Krishna Narayana	2006
81	Bayyrapu, Mohit Sreejan	1912
82	Chang, Luca	1909
91	Zhou, Brian Xing	1883
92	Zhang, Sunny	1870

## Age 12

26	Fang, Elbert	2054
35	Yang, Daniel	1997
36	Meng, Joshua	1993
45	Wei, Colin	1951
47	Singh, Siddharth	1938
73	Sunil, Arush	1828
81	Bupeshnath, Arjun	1801
84	He, Justin Shandong	1785
91	Gu, Samuel	1771

## Age 11

17	Wang, Kyle Y	2009
28	Anandh, Vijay Srinivas	1923
52	Bhangale, Likhit	1804
53	Ramachandran, Advait	1802
56	Konstantakos, Christos	1794
65	Kandikayala, Srikar	1761
68	Petukhov, Arthur	1749
72	Krishnan, Anish	1736
74	Shen, Yangyang	1730

## Age 11 (continued)

87	Wang, Jason	1701
92	Zhang, Alicia S	1671

## Age 10

16	Yuan, Owen	1859
62	Zhang, Ellery	1687
69	Ganesan, Vikash	1667
90	Fu, Elaine	1568
91	Mazumdar, Viraj	1566
98	Wu, Zekai Bryson	1544

## Age 9

24	Tendulkar, Ojas	1773
63	Kolli, Rishi	1482
72	Jaishankar, Akshay	1442
93	Serikar, Arav	1349
94	Chen, Cary	1331
95	Zheng, Philip T	1329

## Age 8

8	Zhang, Oscar Yihang	1793
16	Chetlapalli, Vishnu	1721
19	Liu, Chloe	1715
21	Maddipati, Srihas	1694
24	Manchanda, Advik	1690
27	Yao, Annie	1650
34	Zhang, Lawrence	1535
39	Yang, Matthew	1457
43	Rajagopalan, Aadhya Jay	1437
43	Bergknoff, Gabriel	1437
50	Majumdar, Divyesh	1394
56	He, Julian	1354
61	Gurumoorthis, Gurugrahan	1330
62	Baksi, Antariksh	1325
70	Kremer, Gregory	1285
73	Wang, Nathan Zicheng	1275
83	Muthiah, Yugan	1223
85	Patel, Kairav	1208
99	Danda, Adhyan Reddy	1186

## Age 7 and Under

10	Li, Owen	1461
26	Iskandarov, Elvin	1299
43	He, Jayden	1160
58	Li, Stan Siyuan	1090
66	Sathish, Skanda	1058
69	Avinashkarthi, Tharun	1054
75	Lan, Kai Zhou	1034
84	Sutantri, Benjamin Matthias	973
89	Ebizo, Akpax	961
91	Bheemalinagm, Suren	958



## Women Overall

15	Malicka, Maria	2375
20	Peycheva, Gergana	2341
25	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2328
38	Shamatava, Ana	2252
44	Li, Rachael	2225
45	Goyal, Tarini	2224
68	Palmero Martinez, Rachel	2105
86	Yellamraju, Ambica	2073
97	Lomakina, Anzhelika	2038



<b>Women Age 65 and Over</b>			<b>Girls Age 16 (continued)</b>			<b>Girls Age 11</b>		
30	Hardesty, Brenda T	1163	73	Asthigiri, Lakshana	1184	3	Shen, Yangyang	1730
40	Cain, Jo Ellen	756	78	Adams, Sapphire	1154	8	Zhang, Alicia S	1671
45	Swafford, Barbara R	317	81	Nitturi, Rajni	1137	15	Rios-Ocampo, Sofia	1447
			85	Cardin, Maddie Taylor	1081	28	Maddipati, Sriyani Sai	1322
<b>Women Age 50 and Over</b>			93	Pullabhotla, Laasya	995	46	Gao, Mia	1116
5	Root, Alexey	2000	99	Pilla, Ananya Valli	953	52	Kuchibhatla, Nitya	1083
28	Kent, Nadia Taylor	1528	<b>Girls Age 15</b>			54	Nguyen, Suri Ngoc	1047
40	Stuckert, Elena	1463	3	Lomakina, Anzhelika	2038	59	Zamarripa, Salma	1008
59	Kneen, Melanie Anne	1212	16	Wang, Kalia Yuke	1809	62	Perez, Andrea	995
64	Hardesty, Brenda T	1163	20	Roy, Aanya	1735	72	Cisneros, Ariana	950
85	Pulliam, Landra	859	23	Gupta, Sara Sachin	1680	76	Lu, Andie	921
92	Cain, Jo Ellen	756	30	Reddy, Tanvi Chinthagunta	1629	81	Suresh Kumar, Thejal Shree	893
<b>Girls Under 21</b>			38	Sun, Yimeng Jenny	1513	90	Bustanza, Lia A	867
3	Malicka, Maria	2375	42	Hwang, Alexis	1498	96	Quezada, Miranda Isabela	849
6	Peycheva, Gergana	2341	47	Uviedo, Violette	1445	<b>Girls Age 10</b>		
8	Nguyen, Emily Quynh	2328	51	Ham, Emily	1400	11	Zhang, Ellery	1687
14	Li, Rachael	2225	67	Seals, Ayre Allbritton	1300	19	Fu, Elaine	1568
34	Yellamraju, Ambica	2073	84	Milova, Vladislava	1194	24	Senapati, Avni	1468
41	Lomakina, Anzhelika	2038	88	Mehta, Tanisi	1160	36	Duran, Violeta	1272
47	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	2023	91	Gorisipati, Adithi	1140	45	Liu, Mina	1180
79	Yellamraju, Aparna	1907	95	Reddy, Laxmisri V	1132	55	Kalavagunta, Saanvika C	1111
90	Zhang, Sunny	1870	<b>Girls Age 14</b>			57	Perel, Livia	1106
<b>Girls Age 18</b>			38	McNutt, Kaitlynn Lee	1511	66	Hiwale, Riona	991
5	Yellamraju, Ambica	2073	40	Singh, Sejal	1501	70	Contreras, Mckenzie	954
9	Nguyen, Anh Nhu	2023	52	Akella, Sravya	1424	87	Gonzalez, Kimberly	876
12	Yellamraju, Aparna	1907	56	Ande, Eesha K	1384	94	Vargas, Valerie	867
24	Tiruvedhula, Saanvi	1656	57	Sharan, Neha	1381	96	Mukherjee, Ankolika	855
37	Kao, Simona Y	1470	61	Laskaris, Evie	1324	<b>Girls Age 9</b>		
45	Basepogu, Sarah	1392	65	Kirumaki, Shreya A	1307	14	Choi, Nyla	1320
52	Babaria, Rajvi Rakesh	1333	78	Cruz, Vivica Renee	1178	21	Tiwari, Aahana	1176
54	Hernandez, Madelyn	1316	80	Camacho, Kaitlyn Alexandria	1173	32	Anbalagan, Ananyasree	984
62	Balderas, Ana Luisa	1174	90	Dhanekula, Shyna Choudary	1107	34	Karry, Tapasya	978
70	Dasagi, Aakanksha	1103	92	Prathipati, Saranya	1087	44	Galvan, Ashley	894
77	Williams, Patricia	957	<b>Girls Age 13</b>			53	Kaul, Anika Shambhavi	836
83	Castillo, Isabella Deanda	877	2	Li, Rachael	2225	55	Borse, Anushka	830
84	Morales, Rhea	870	9	Zhang, Sunny	1870	57	Skripkina, Elizaveta	808
92	Hernandez, Aunica J	669	13	Prakash, Nandini	1810	68	Guzman, Lua	751
<b>Girls Age 17</b>			25	Stubbins, Isabella	1617	73	Bansal, Aishwarya	684
20	Kumar, Sruthi Bharath	1691	32	Krishnan, Mihika	1575	92	Kaushik, Aadya	614
37	Naidu, Suchitra Ganesh	1481	48	Tiruvedhula, Suhavi	1427	95	Anand, Keren	606
41	Padilla, Karlee	1457	50	Hosur, Sanmita	1414	97	Dementyev, Kalina	594
42	Vasquez, Izabel Amparo	1420	59	Shankar, Aashritha Vidhya	1349	<b>Girls Age 8</b>		
50	Aggarwal, Manika	1325	83	Callens, Jael	1136	3	Liu, Chloe	1715
52	Hernandez, Sarah	1307	88	Davis, Samantha Katelynn	1090	4	Yao, Annie	1650
58	Athila, Akshaya	1246	93	Gracia, Emma Cadence	1084	28	Ganesh, Kaira Ananya	974
62	Mallick, Lipika	1185	100	Ford, Katherine Michelle	1061	40	Zhao, Lily	880
63	Trowbridge, Auria M	1178	<b>Girls Age 12</b>			62	Patino, Eliana	670
67	Velador, Evelyn M	1157	22	Namala, Dhanvi	1626	83	Casas, Jaretzj	596
71	Lucero, Amalie	1118	23	Borse, Tanvi	1612	87	Banala, Ira Jaya	590
76	Morales, Natalia Aseneth	1029	27	Raghuraja, Sri Yashvi	1528	88	Vadapalli, Shreya Vasudha	584
77	Iyer, Madhalasa	1026	28	Kommuri, Sahithi	1525	<b>Girls Age 7 and Under</b>		
78	Parvathaneni, Voshita	1017	35	Vinayagaram, Nethra	1478	36	Sony, Neha Teresa	742
80	Cisneros, Anahi	1005	55	Vijayaraghava, Aditi	1224	38	Shi, Jiahui	735
84	Talla, Saumya	963	71	Song, Lucia	1120	54	Sanchez, Adalie Marie	614
90	Zermeno, Mia Abigail A	915	73	Velu, Shambhavi	1116	79	Quiroga, Alana	541
<b>Girls Age 16</b>			75	Pidathala, Esha	1105	81	Panta, Keerthana Reddy	535
37	Yu, Vicky	1499	88	Sastry, Adya	1048	83	Peng, Grace	521
50	Zhang, Taylor Chengyue	1367	92	Tsediakov, Loren	1022	85	Mamidibattula, Manasvini	510
63	Hunt, Vivian	1280	95	Nair, Aditi	1002			
64	Shivam, Annika Elizabeth	1278						
65	Thornhill, Eowyn	1263						
68	Solis, Natalie	1235						

## **Tactics Time! Answers** - *Download Now* (see page 24)

1. **14.g4 Qh3 15.Rf3** traps the Black Queen
2. **23...Rc8+** discovered check winning the Bishop on the next move **24.Ka1 Rxb8**
3. **8...Nxd5!** Taking advantage of the opened long diagonal. **9.Nxd5 Bxa1**
4. **39.Rd8+ Bxd8 40.Rxd8+ Ke7 41.f8=Q#**
5. **20.Nf7+!** The f8-Rook is overloaded
6. **33...Bb2+ 34.Kc1 Bc3+ Kc1 35.Qb2#**
7. White played 29.Qe4 missing **29.Qa8+ Qd8 30.Qxd8+ Re8 31.Qxe8#**
8. **20.Nxc6! Bxc6 21.Qd4** hitting the knight and threatening mate on g7.

**Cover. 21...Rxe3!! 22.Rxe3 Bxd4** pinning the Rook to the King

**Tactics Time courses are now available on Chessable by Tim Brennan & Anthea Carson**

**Tactics Time 1:** <https://www.chessable.com/tactics-time-1/course/21108/>

**Tactics Time 2:** <https://www.chessable.com/tactics-time-2/course/24008/>



## **Re-Elected**

By Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath

Recently US Chess, the organization for chess in the US, held a national election to its Board. I have been elected to the US Chess Executive Board for a four year term. I should be no stranger to Texas chess players.

I am excited. Since I have recently retired and will have more time to dedicate to my passion in Life, Chess, and to be able promote it even more. As a Board member I will have an opportunity to give governance to Chess at a national level.

US Chess with over 100,000 members promotes chess at all levels in the US and is a 501-c3 non profit organization. Several studies have reiterated that scholastic chess players perform better academically also.

I have been involved in chess for over 25 years. I love to play chess and organizes events. I served Texas Chess Association (TCA), the umbrella organization and state chapter of US Chess in Texas, from 2009 as Vice President until I became President in 2013, a position I held until 2017. This was a period when chess

in Texas saw a significant growth. Currently there are over 10,000 chess players in Texas. I have been part of several chess tournaments locally, statewide and nationally in the past.

I plan to be more involved with promoting chess at all levels nationally, and of course locally, especially at the scholastic level. This is a totally voluntary position. In early August, during the annual delegates meeting, I will be traveling to Grand Rapids, MI to be an official installed as a board member for the 2023-27 term.

I would like anyone with concerns or questions to reach out to me. Also, I would like to know if anyone is interested in part of the governance by volunteering to various committees of US Chess.

I can be reached at [vish@viswanath.us](mailto:vish@viswanath.us) or 956.717.8384 and I also have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/vishuschessboard>.

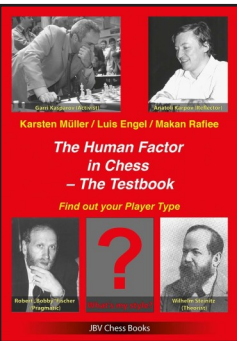


# New Chess Books

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

Dr. Alexey Root volunteers for Texas Chess Association by writing this column.

- She was the 1989 U.S. Women's Champion.
- She is the Chief Science Officer for Chessable: <https://www.chessable.com/>
- She also teaches Chess Online courses for UT Dallas. Find registration information here: <https://www.utdallas.edu/chess/education-programs/>
- Find her books here: <https://amazon.com/author/alexeyroot/>



Grandmaster (GM) Karsten Müller, GM Luis Engel, and FIDE Master Makan Rafiee are the authors of *The Human Factor in Chess - The Testbook*, subtitled "Find out your Player Type." Published in 2023 by JBV Books, it is a follow-up volume to 2020's *The Human Factor in Chess*, subtitled "4 types of players with their strengths and weaknesses." GM Vincent Keymer wrote the forewords to both the 2020

and 2023 volumes. USCF Sales carries the 2023 book for \$24.95.

The following review also appeared on SparkChess in July 2023. I write for SparkChess twice a month.

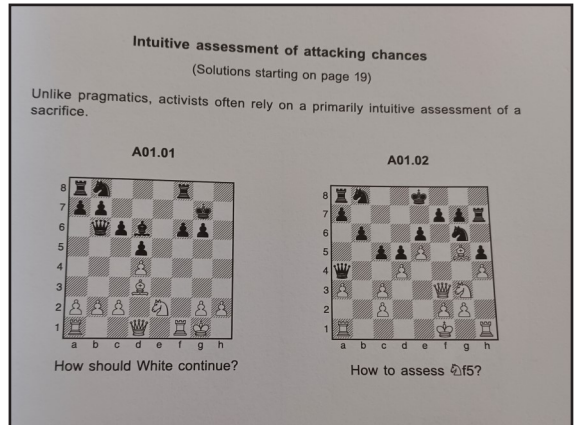
## What is your Player Type?

Do you prefer to calculate concrete lines, or do you make your decisions more intuitively? Do you have a good sense of harmony and coordination? *The Human Factor in Chess - The Testbook* helps you discover your Player Type through tasks and exercises.

The four Player Types are Activist, Theorist, Reflector, and Pragmatic. According to *The Human Factor in Chess - The Testbook*, knowing your Player Type allows you "to draw conclusions in order to further expand the individual strengths or to develop a more universal playing style overall."

## Chess Problems

While I found excerpts from Keymer's 2020 foreword online, I could not find sample pages online from the 2023 volume. Publisher JBV Books mailed a review copy of *The Human Factor in Chess - The Testbook* to me. Here is a photo of the first two chess problems



from the first chapter about Activists.

## Answers

For the first problem, on the left, I initially considered 17. c3, using my c-pawn to defend my d-pawn. Then my knight could leave that pawn's defense and attack Black's king. But then I found 17. Bxg6! I was influenced by the problem being in the "Activist" chapter. I figured an active move was expected.

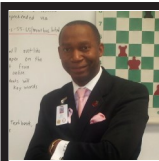
In my opinion, finding "How should White continue?" in the first problem is harder than deciding, in the second problem at right in the photo above, if Nf5 is good or bad. After all, I have a 50% chance to guess correctly regarding the quality of Nf5. Yet designating Nf5 as a good move got me 2 AP (Activist Points) while finding 17. Bxg6 got me 1 AP.

I could not find the authors' formula for how points are awarded. Nonetheless, I enjoyed earning points. Also, I learned from the authors' explanations of why the correct answers were superior to other moves.

## Links relating to the article

**USCF Sales:** <https://www.uscfsales.com/the-human-factor-in-chess-the-testbook.html>

**SparkChess:** <https://www.sparkchess.com/the-human-factor-in-chess-the-testbook-book-review.html>



## Coach's Corner - e4!

### The Guest List

by Robert L. Myers

In "The City of Love," Paris, France, while on Honey-moon vacation, my new bride, Nea, and I had a chance to tour the Louvre Museum. It contains the world's most famous painting, the Mona Lisa, which needs a space large enough to house the hundreds of visitors that come to gaze upon her beauty from all over the world every hour. Where better than the Louvre on your honeymoon to see Mona Lisa, the portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo, and other works of art so valuable that the word "priceless" is attached to them? The palace is home to some of the world's most iconic pieces – paintings, sculptures, architectural elements, and art objects by famous or anonymous artists of many different origins and eras. There is no place like it anywhere. Some artworks have survived over the centuries and made such a mark on history that we cannot imagine the world without them. Their influence has spread across borders and cultures, and to this day, they continue to be distinguished by experts and admired by all. We had a conversation about the famous painting; however, while awaiting our chance to get a closer view of her smile housed in the Louvre's largest room, the Salle des États, as I guided her gaze to the other remarkable Venetian painting, The Wedding Feast at Cana by Veronese, "I didn't know that her (Mona Lisa) painting was so small." Its dimensions are a mere 2' 6" x 1' 9" in the Louvre since 1797, created by DaVinci in 1503. It is, therefore, tiny compared to the massive 22' 3" x 32' 0" portrait of The Wedding at Cana. Among the wedding guests in this fantastic painting are historical persons, such as the monarchs Eleanor of Austria, Francis I of France, Mary I of England, Suleiman the Magnificent, the tenth sultan of the Ottoman Empire, and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and of course, Jesus the Christ among the 130 persons in total. All of this got me thinking, if possible, what chess players would I portray on my wall? Who would make my guest list? What queries would I have of them?

My wife's list includes Michael Jackson, Grandmaster Maurice Ashley, The Beatles, Albert Einstein, Pastor T. D. Jakes, John F. Kennedy, Maya Angelo, Comedian Steve Harvey, Fidel Castro, Emmett Till, O.J. Simpson, The Son of Sam, Jack the Ripper, Josephine Baker,

Bruce Springsteen, Joseph Bologne' Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Grandmaster Garry Kasparov, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Meryl Streep, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Adolph Hitler, Elvis Presley, Robert F. Kennedy, Maya Angelo, Pastor Tracy Phillips, Abraham Lincoln, Redd Foxx, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, Prince the music artist, Princess Diana, Queen Elizabeth, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Grandmaster Bobby Fischer, Michael Jordan, Tom Cruise, Yo-Yo Ma, Vincent Van Gogh, Frederic Chopin, Muhammad Ali, Dave Chapel, Enrico Fermi, James Liptrap, every Harlem Globetrotter, Arthur L. Gafford, Winston Churchill, Richard Pryor, Antonio Vivaldi, Stephen Hawkin, George Carlin, Eddie Murphy, Jo Ann Myers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jeff French, and too many others for this article. We had a nearly identical guest list (which is probably why we get along so well.) Our lively conversation captivated almost our entire visit, sprinkled with the occasional query of where this is or that is located directed at a docent within the museum. Most of our wedding guests are not contemporaries of one another. They all lived in different centuries and eras. Can you imagine the discussions among our guests with conversations about significant events that took place before, during, or after their lifetimes? All of history's greatest chess players, if invited to a wedding feast, invariably the conversations would turn to their greatest games, history's greatest games, and blunders.



Robert L. Myers is a Level V Candidate for Master Chess Coach, High School Basketball Coach, freelance writer, and an award-winning 30-year veteran classroom educator. You can follow "Coach" on social media and at [www.thechessacademy.com](http://www.thechessacademy.com)

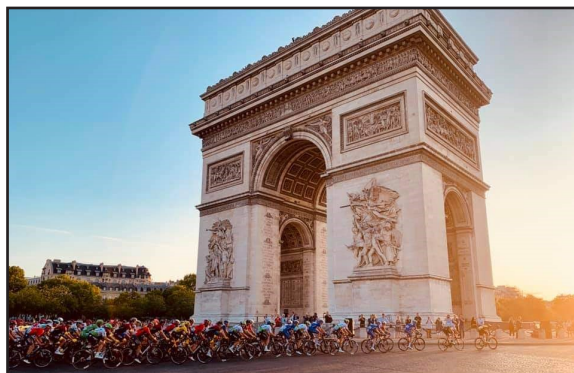


Uncanny - [ uhn-kan-ee ], adjective; having or seeming to have a supernatural or inexplicable basis; beyond the ordinary or normal; extraordinary: uncanny accuracy; an uncanny knack of foreseeing trouble; the ability to see, do what others can't. I've spoken with countless number Experts, Masters and befriended many Grandmasters, and one thing is true with each of them, at one point in all of their chess careers, each of them was once a novice and had to learn how the pieces move.

The beautiful and brilliant Grandmasters Irina Krush and Susan Polgar have shared with me that their paths to GM took desire, dedication, and discipline. But they were once mere mortals like us. Grandmasters Hikaru Nakamura, Masters Timur Gareyev, Maurice Ashley, Nick Matta, Rene Phillips, Bo Githoro, and others have shared helpful hints to help players increase their chess acumen. The Chess Academy players have enhanced their abilities far beyond what would have been a steep hill to climb from several weeks of in-person and online training from these extraordinary chess players.

The sponsors of the Tour de France, Continental Tires, shared some advice with me. On our way to our gate in Charles de Gaulle Airport, after two weeks of honeymoon bliss, we were treated by our newest sponsor, Lancôme of Paris. Carla asked about our nuptial bliss and the experience in Paris. One of the highlights of our excursion was the final day of the 110th Tour de France, which started with 176 cyclists and 22 teams from the best world-class athletes I have ever seen; I've been around the likes of NBA Hall-of-Famers, MLB, and NFL players my entire career of coaching, all three sports. The Tour de France is a grueling 21-day-long bicycle race over a 23 or 24-day period covering approximately 3,500 kilometers (2,200 mi) total. This year's event started in Bilbao, Spain, on July 1 and ended on July 23 on arguably the most famous and expensive boulevard in the world, the Champs-Élysées, Paris. Many of the athletes stayed at our hotel, The Pullman Eiffel Hotel. I asked questions of one of the sponsors, Continental Tires, in the lobby. Now, I'm sharing this with these executives of Lancôme. "What makes a champion?" It was refreshing to hear that these athletes have the

"discipline, dedication, and determination" to complete the race, just as spoken eloquently by Grandmaster Krush and Polgar. Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard (Team Jumbo-Visma) won the general classification for the second year in a row. Two-time defending champion Tadej Pogačar (UAE Team Emirates) finished in second place, with Adam Yates (UAE Team Emirates) finishing third. Grandmaster Maurice Ashley attended the year before and shared on social media that he doesn't know much of the sport, "But this sure is cool." Ashley shares in a YouTube post what blitz players should do and not do in a deficient time-control blitz game, focus. So as I am sharing this, the executives are talking to my wife, and one thing led to another, and just as a pregnant woman in her third trimester, the subject of the baby comes up. In our case, The Chess Academy. Moments later, talking chess and marital bliss, we found ourselves in the Lancôme suite sipping champagne and discussing sponsorship. I jump back and forth, answering questions about the Tour de France, The Chess Academy, our adventures in Paris after missing our flight the day before and our visit to Versailles. I say, "As we were leaving Versailles, the final stages of the Tour de France wound through Versailles and ultimately concluded with Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard (Jumbo-Visma) capturing the yellow jersey as the overall winner of the 2023 Tour de France. This is Vingegaard's second season winning the Tour for the second straight season, the 21st rider to win the race multiple times. Many cyclists stayed in our hotel, The Pullman Paris Tour Eiffel Hotel. I told our wonderful hosts that I got to speak to and meet several cyclists and organizers of the Tour; Continental Tire, one of the main sponsors, said that they had been with the Tour for months away from home, family, and friends. To do this, you must plan as in chess, preparing mentally for the difficulties ahead. I agree and share the following story. In 2017 on The Chess Academy's European Chess Tour, we were on top of the Arc de Triomphe,





overlooking arguably the most famous avenue in the world, The Champs Elysee; the Tour de France circled this massive monument, and it caused me to think how does one put together an event like this. What do contenders for the coveted yellow shirt and flower bouquet think of cyclists who purchased their first \$16K BMC Team Machine cycle? Probably, welcome to the sport, and suggest that

they prepare for many hours of training, and maybe one day you can ride in the pack and cross the finish line on the Champs Elysee. We catch our flight, and 12 hours later back on American soil. I think of the wedding portrait again, and what does 2500+ GM think about 2100+ chess players, and what do they discuss at this fictitious wedding in my head? I am not a 2100 player yet. But I've defeated many 2100 players during a period when I was actively playing weekly without my students. These higher-ranked players understand positional chess, direct the game, and execute their plan with accuracy and insight, including long periods during which they were no doubt calculating to ensure there were no blunders. Most, if not all Masters, for that matter, have an uncanny, inexplicable way of seeing what we mere mortals fail miserably at noticing; the ability to see the invisible. Grandmaster Maurice Ashley spoke once in a Ted-Talk about how deeply Grandmasters can see ahead. "There is a myth that Grandmasters can see ten, fifteen, twenty moves ahead. And it's a myth because I'm a grandmaster, and it makes me look like a super freakin' genius. Because there are 318 billion ways to play it out in the first four moves."

I was invited to help train the next generation of teachers by Doug Lemov, author of *Teach Like a Champion*. Doug and I were chatting after a visit to see the play *Wicked* in upstate New York. He shared that most people never reach their potential as a champion, no matter the discipline, because they are unwilling to do what Usain Bolt once said, "I trained for four years for a 9.79-second race." Those people quit, and for that reason alone, they never receive an invitation to the wedding.

Everyone knows about the legend that is Supernationals; it's a spectacular spectacle, winsome, rich, and warm, bundled in joy even if you don't win a single

game. Supernationals are held once every four years. All grade levels get together, and elementary, middle, and high school nationals are all under one roof. And, what a colossal roof it is, The Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, with "2,881 rooms and suites. More than 750 garden atrium rooms overlook the hotel's 9 acres of indoor gardens, six grand ball-rooms" the size of stadium football fields from 3,364 square feet to 55,314 square feet. That's one massive roof. The next Supernationals will be held May 9 - 11, 2025. As a friend said, "Supernationals, it's like fishing, you don't have to be good at it, but you can have a lot of fun." That's precisely what 5,577 chess players did en route to breaking the world record of people playing chess simultaneously in one place; they had a lot of fun. Mind you; these chess players did so amongst a galaxy of living chess legends. Grandmaster Garry Kasparov, arguably the best to ever play the game of chess, had an enormous line to sign an autographed copy of his books. He's the one guy that took down Big Blue, the IBM Supercomputer determined, if a computer can be determined, to destroy Kasparov in the famous Man versus Machine chess match. At that Supernationals event, as we took photos, he chatted with Michael Tisserand about politics. He whispered to me, "Chess players and coaches would be wise to know a little something about everything." He smiled, and we took our photo. He would be the life of the wedding party, chatting with Einstein. He talked with New Orleanian Chess Academy Master Nick Matta and me in the hallway down from our team room. We shared with the generous folks from NOLA Chess, New Orleans, Louisiana. Master Nick and I always chat, mostly over beignets at Café Du Monde or over crabcakes at Oceana's in New Orleans. Recently Master Nick competed in both the Philadelphia International and World Open and got a plus score in each event, with 5/9 in the Philadelphia International and 5.5/9 in the World Open. Nick's efforts in the World Open were reasonable enough to secure a tie for 3rd place for players FIDE rated 2200-2299, earning him some prize money. The following two games are the best example of his style of play and what he attempts to uniquely bring to the game, which can best be described as high-endurance chess. These games below are very long and have much tension throughout, and the final mistake comes in the 4th or 5th hour of play. Master Nick taught The Chess Academy@Houston, "I often tell people that the player that wins is the person that makes the second to last mistake and that how we react after making a mistake is more important than the fact we've made one." When invited to the wedding with your name on the guest list, you don't want to make mistakes. Master Nick Matta's games are on **Page 29**.

# Forcing Moves in Chess

By Jeff French

Chess forcing moves are moves that must be made in order to maintain control of the game. They are usually moves that force your opponent to make a particular move, either to avoid a capture or to protect an important piece. Here are some examples of chess forcing moves:

**1. Check:** When you put your opponent's king in check, they must immediately respond by capturing the checking piece, moving their king or blocking the check with another piece. If they cannot do so, the game is over and you win.

**2. Attack:** Attacking in chess refers to making aggressive moves with the aim of putting pressure on your opponent and eventually winning their pieces or checkmating their king. Some examples of attacking forcing moves:

**a. Capture:** When you capture an opponent's piece, in order to keep the score equivalent, it's common to capture back. This can be a powerful forcing move, as it can disrupt their plans and allow you to gain an advantage.

**b. Fork:** When you make a move that attacks two or more of your opponent's pieces at once, a common response will be moving at least one of them. This can be a powerful forcing move, as it can force your opponent to give up material or make a suboptimal move.

**c. Pin:** When you pin one of your opponent's pieces to another, a common response is to either move the pinned piece or protect it with another piece. This can be a powerful forcing move, as it can limit your opponent's mobility and make it easier for you to launch an attack.

**3. Threat:** When you make a move that threatens a serious attack or capture, your opponent must respond by either preventing the threat or defending against it. This can be a powerful forcing move, as it can force your opponent to rethink their plans and make defensive moves that weaken their position.

**AimChess.com recommends this:** Remember C-A-T: Check-Attack-Threat. Always initially check for forcing moves, Checks first, Attacks second, and Threats third, at the time you choose between any candidate moves. The more time you keep your opponent

busy with forcing moves, the less time they will have attacking you. No forcing moves found? Here's a trick: Consider what you would do if you had two moves without your opponent being able to move. This can be a guide to setup your next forcing move (Check, Attack or Threat).

**Some additional considerations during your forcing move calculations:**

**1. The weakness of the last move:**

- What squares/pieces have been weakened (or even neglected altogether)?
- Where did your opponent's last move leave weaknesses?
- Where will you leave weaknesses in the moves you are considering for your next move?

**2. Key common squares:**

- Key common squares are when batteries of pieces are attacking the exact same square and the square is important to your success in winning the game.
- This can easily lead to checkmates if one or more key common squares are within striking distance of putting your opponent's king in check.

**3. In effect clause:**

- Pawns can constrain pieces (very evident in the starting position of a game)
- Pawn moves can liberate other pieces
- Pawn moves can cause repercussions to the rest of the position.
- Other pieces can also constrain, liberate, and cause repercussions as-well.

**Note:** To learn more about these 'additional considerations', check out the Udemy Course: *"The Complete Guide to Chess Tactics"* by **Tyfon Gavriel**.

**You should consider everything in this article while solving Tactics as-well. Your success rate may increase significantly.**

# Game Index

+ = Additional Games in Games PGN file.

\* = No Article Associated with Games.

#	Tournament	ECO	Result	Annotated by	Rend	Date	Page(s)
1	2023 World Open (From 'My First GM Win')	B31	0-1	FM S. Deviprasath	8	14.07.2023	25
2	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B48	1-0	Stockfish 16		23.07.2023	25
3	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B33	0-1	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	25
4	2023 Houston Chess Festival	C55	1-0	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	25-26
5	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B77	½-½	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	26
6	2023 Houston Chess Festival	A06	½-½	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	26
7	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B45	½-½	Stockfish 16	4	23.07.2023	26
8	2023 Houston Chess Festival	A01	½-½	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	26-27
9	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B90	0-1	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	27
10	2023 Houston Chess Festival	B90	1-0	Stockfish 16	5	23.07.2023	27
11	Houston Chess Studio 7/2023 Championship	A01	0-1	Stockfish 16		01.07.2023	27
12	Waco Monthly Swiss	A22	½-½	Jack Castro	2	01.07.2023	27-28
13	2023 DFW Fide 5*+	B41	0-1	Stockfish 16	5.1	09.07.2023	28
14	2023 DFW Fide 5*+	E12	1-0	Stockfish 16	5.2	09.07.2023	28-29
15	World op 51st	A67	1-0	N/A	5	2023.07.02	29
16	Philadelphia op 16th	D11	1-0	N/A	5	2023.06.26	29



Game/Tactics Time! Puzzle PGN files are downloadable from the following: <https://bit.ly/3qK7YQB> (or scan the QR Code, at the left, to get URL link). To Learn about how to scan QR Codes, search for "Using QR Codes" in your favorite Search Engine or find a video on YouTube.

The PGN Files are only available for the *Texas Knights* issues during my tenure as Editor. The files that are not in a *year* folder contain all Games and Tactics Time! Puzzles up to and including the current issue.



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**Pablo Salinas Herrera  
Sharvesh Deviprasath**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. d3 Bg7 6. 0-0 h6! I saw this idea in the game Adewumi-Venkat where black goes for an early f5 and expansion on the kingside [6...e5 7. Be3 Qe7 8. Nbd2 Nf6] 7. a4 b6 8. Nbd2 e5 9. Nc4 Qc7 I'm already much worse in less than 10 moves and white can win material by force 10. Qe1? Not seeing the way to win material [10. Bd2! Ne7 (10...f6 11. Nh4 Qf7 12. Nd6+) 11. Ncxe5 Bxe5 12. Nxe5 Qxe5 13. Bc3] 10...Bg4 11. Nfd2 Ne7 12. b3 0-0 13. Bb2 Rae8 14. Qe3 Nc8 15. Qg3 f5 I managed to get my f5 break but my pieces are so uncoordinated and the bishop on g4 could get trapped I don't really have an attack and we both knew I was much worse 16. Rfe1 h5 17. exf5 gxf5 18. f3 f4 19. Qf2 Bf5 20. Re2?? [20. Ne4 After this move my position is hopeless I would trade my good bishop and positionally getting squeezed with the backward pawn] 20...b5 This is what he missed and the knight really doesn't have a good square to go to due to tactics with e4 21. Qxc5 [21. Na3 e4 22. Bxg7 Qxg7 23. Rae1 e3] 21...bxc4 Even though he blundered a piece I thought he was getting 3 pawns for the piece with a lot of compensation so offered a draw 22. Nxc4 After spending a lot of time he rejects the draw basically causing him to Overpush and one of the reasons he lost 22...Nb6 23. Bxe5 Nd7! 24. Bxc7 Nxc5 25. Rae1 Rxe2 26. Rxe2 Ne6 27. Bd6 Nd4 28. Rd2 Re8 29. h3 Be6 30. Kh1 Bxc4 31. dxc4 Re1+ 32. Kh2 Ne6 33. Bb4 Rf1 34. Bd6 Bd4 35. Bxf4 Bg1+ 36. Kg3 Bf2+ 37. Rxf2 h4+ 38. Kxh4 Rxf2 And from here it was just a matter of technique, I literally was in shock from every move from this game I was going to beat my first GM 39. Kg3 Rxc2 40. Bb8 a5 41. Be5 Nc5 42. h4 Nxb3 43. h5

Rxc4 44. f4 Nc5 45. Kg4 Nd3 46. Bc7 Rxa4 47. Kg5 Nxf4 48. Bxf4 Rxf4 49. Kxf4 a4 0-1

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**Bayyrapu, M. (1912)  
Winchell, B. (2121)**

2. 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Qc7 5. Nc3 e6 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. 0-0-0 Bb4 9. f3 Ne5 10. Nb3 0-0 11. Kb1 [11. a3!? Bxc3 12. Qxc3 Qxc3 13. bxc3] 11...Nc4 B48: Sicilian: Taimanov: 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 without Be2. [11...d5=] 12. Bxc4 Qxc4 13. Qd4 [Better is 13. Bd4; Predecessor: 13. Bd4 b5 14. h4 a5 15. Qd3 Qxd3 16. cxd3 a4 17. Nc1 Ba6 18. a3 Be7 19. N1a2 ½-½ Rozum, I (2354)-Kaliberda, V (2337) Petrovskaya Ladya IM1 Peterhof 2007 (7)] 13...d5 The position is equal. [13...b5 with more complications. 14. Bg5 Ne8 15. Bd2 Qxd4 16. Nxd4 Bd6] 14. exd5 [14. Na4 Qxd4 15. Bxd4] 14...Qxd4= 15. Bxd4 Bxc3 16. Bxc3 Nxd5 Black is weak on the dark squares 17. Bd4 b5 18. Rhe1 Bb7 [18...Bd7=] 19. Na5! White has strong initiative. 19...Bc8 20. Bc5! Rd8 21. Nc6 White is more active. 21...Re8 Loses the game. [21...Bb7 22. Nxd8 Rxd8] 22. Rxd5+- Pin 22...Bb7 23. Rd6 Rac8 24. Na5 Bxf3 25. gxf3 Rxc5 26. Rxa6 Rh5 27. Re2 Rd8 28. c3 Rh3 29. Nc6 Re8 30. Rf2 g5 31. Rb6 Kg7 32. Rxb5 h6 33. a4 f5 34. a5 Rc8 35. Nd4 Ra8 36. Nxe6+ Kf6 37. Nc7 Ra7 38. Nd5+ Ke5 39. Re2+ Kd6 40. Nb6 Rxf3 1-0

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**Elliott, A. (2045)  
Kurre, Tanay (1908)**

3. 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Nd5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. c3 0-0 12. Nc2 Bg5 13. a4 bxa4 14. Rxa4 a5 15. Bc4 Bb8 16. Ra2 has lost popularity (16. b3). 16...Be6 B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations. 17. 0-0 Ne7 18. b4 axb4 The position is equal. 19. Ncxb4 Bxd5 20. Nxd5 Qd7 [Predecessor: 20...Nxd5 21. Qxd5

Qc7 22. Rfa1 Rfc8 23. Ra4 g6 24. Bb3 Rf8 25. Rc4 Qb7 26. Qxb7 Rxb7 ½-½ Maia, M (2423)-Mauro, L (2424) Pereyra mem-B email CAPA email 1999] 21. Qh5 Nxd5 22. Bxd5 Bf6 23. g3 g6 24. Qf3 [24. Qh6 keeps more tension. 24...Qc8 25. Kg2 Qxc3 26. Rc1] 24...Kg7 25. Rfa1 Rfc8 [25...Bd8=] 26. Kg2 [26. Ra7!? Rc7 27. Rxc7 Qxc7 28. Qe3] 26...Bd8 27. Ra7 Rc7 28. R7a6 f6 [28...h5] 29. Qe3 Rb5 [29...f5] 30. Ra8 White is in control. 30...Rbc5 31. c4 Black is weak on the light squares 31...Rc8 32. R8a7 R8c7 33. R7a6 Rc8 34. Qb3 Be7 35. R1a4 R5c7 [35...Kh6 36. Qb6 R5c7] 36. c5!+- Qd8 [36...Rxc5 37. Be6 Qe8 38. Bxc8 Rxc8] 37. c6 Rb8 38. Rb4 Rxb4 39. Qxb4 f5 40. Qa5 Rc8 Inhibits Ra8. 41. Qa4 fxe4 42. Be6 [But not 42. Qxe4 Rc7 43. Qa4 Qf8] 42...Rb8 43. Ra7 c7! would kill now. 43...Rb2? [43...Qf8] 44. c7?? [44. Rb7+- Rxb7 45. cxb7] 44...Qf8 Quite a comeback for Black. 0-1

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**Yang, B. (2058)  
Petukhov, A. (1749)**

4. 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Be7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. Re1 d6 7. c3 Na5 8. Nbd2 Nxc4 9. Nxc4 c5 C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack. 10. d4 [Predecessor: 10. h3 b5 11. Ne3 a5 12. a4 b4 13. c4 Ne8 14. Nd5 f5 15. exf5 Bxf5 16. d4 1-0 Debray, C (2365)-Lakshmi, C (1989) Titled Tuesday intern op 01st Feb-B Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (6)] 10...Be6 11. Na3 Qc7 The position is equal. 12. Bg5 Rfe8 13. Bh4 Rad8 14. Qe2 Nh5 15. Bg3 Nxc3 16. hxg3 Bf6 [Better is 16...exd4 17. cxd4 d5] 17. d5 Bd7 18. Nc2 Be7 19. Ne3 Qc8 20. Nh4 Bxh4 21. gxh4 f5 22. f3 Rf8 23. Rf1 Rf6 [23...f4!? 24. Nc4 Qc7=] 24. g4 fxe4 25. fxe4 Rh6 [25...Bxg4! stays ahead. 26. Nxc4 (26. Qxc4? Rg6+) 26...Rg6] 26. h5 g5 is the strong threat. 26...Rf6 27. Rxf6 gxf6 28. Rf1 White is more active. 28...Rf8 29. Qf3 White is

more active. **29...Qe8 30.Qg3** [30.Kh2 might be stronger.] **30...Kh8** [30...Qf7= feels stronger.] **31.Qh4! Qe7 32.Kh2 Rg8?** Loses the game. [Black should play 32...h6] **33.Qxf6+-** [33.Rxf6 Bxg4 34.h6 (34.Nxg4 Rxg4 Remove Defender 35.Qxg4 Qxf6=) 34...Bc8] **33...Qxf6 34.Rxf6 Bxg4** Endgame. KRB-KRN **35.h6** [Weaker is 35.Rxd6 Bxh5 36.Rf6 Bg6+] **35...Be2 36.Rxd6 Bf3** [36...Bd3 37.Re6 Bxe4 38.Rxe5 Bg6] **37.Rd7** [37.Nc4] **37...Bxe4?** [37...Rg6 might work better. **38.d6** (38.Rxb7 Rxh6+ 39.Kg3 Bxe4+-) **38...Rxh6+** **39.Kg3 Bxe4**] **38.Rxb7 Rd8 39.Rxa7 Kg8 40.c4 Rf8?** [40...Rd6 41.Ng4 Bf5 42.Nxe5 Rxh6+ 43.Kg3 Bc2] **41.Rg7+ Kh8 42.Re7 Rf2+** **43.Kg1** Threatening mate with Re8+. **43...Rf8** Prevents Re8 **44.Rxe5 Rg8+** **45.Kf2 Rf8+** **46.Ke2 Bg6 47.d6 Rd8 48.Rxc5 Bf7 49.d7!** **Rxd7 50.Rc8+** **Bg8 51.Rc6 Rb7 52.b3 Ra7 53.Kd3 Rxa2 54.b4 Ra8 55.b5** White wants to mate with b6. **55...Re8 56.Kd4 Rd8+** **57.Kc5 Re8 58.b6!** **Rb8** [58...Rxe3 59.b7] **59.Nd5 Rb7 60.Nf6 1-0**

**Zheng, Peter (2174)**

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**Tran, Minh (2080)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0 Rb8 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bh6** 12.Bh6 has become a bit dusty these days. B77: Sicilian Dragon: Yugoslav Attack, 9 Bc4 sidelines. **12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5 14.Nd5** White is slightly better. **14...Nxb3+** **15.axb3 Nxd5 16.exd5 Rb6** [16...e5 deserves consideration. 17.dxe6 fxe6; Predecessor: 16...f6 17.Rhe1 Rf7 18.Kb1 b4 19.Re4 a5 20.Rde1 Rc8 21.Qe3 Qb6 22.h4 Qb7 ½-½ Leonard, A (2359)-Gleyzer, L (2345) USA BITNY-B email ICCF email 2018] **17.Kb1** White is much more active. [White should try 17.h4!] **17...e5= 18.Ne2** [18.dxe6= remains equal. 18...fxe6 19.h4] **18...Ra6** [18...b4! Hoping

for ...Ra6. 19.Qd2 Qc8] **19.b4 Qc7 ...Qc4** would now be deadly. **20.Ng3** [Much worse is 20.Nc3 Qc4 21.h4 f6] **20...Qc4 ½-½**

**Fan, William (2028)**  
**Negron, Xavier (1842)**

6

**1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.e3 h6 5.d4 e6 6.Bd3 A06: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5. 6...Ne4 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Ne5** The position is equal. [Predecessor: 8.Nbd2 Nd7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Ne5 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Bxd3 12.cxd3 Qe7 13.f4 Rad8 14.Rac1 1-0 Idrisov, I (2282)-Huda, M (2128) Titled Tuesday intern op 11th Aug Chess.com INT blitz 2020 (3)] **8...Qg5 9.f4 Qh4** [9...Qe7 simplifies 10.Nd2 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 c6] **10.Qe1** [White should try 10.c4=] **10...Qxe1 11.Rxe1 Nd7 12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.Rc1 Nf6 14.Nd2 Bf5 15.a4 Rg8 16.c4 c6 17.Ba3 Bxa3 18.Rxa3 a5 19.Kf2 g5 20.g3 gxf4 21.exf4 Ne4+** **22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.c5 Ke7** [23...f6!? 24.Nf3 e5=] **24.Ra2 f6 25.Nf3 Bxf3 26.Kxf3 e5 27.Re2** [27.fxe5= fxe5 28.Kg2 (28.dxe5 Raf8+ 29.Kg2 Ke6)] **27...e4+** **28.Ke3 f5** [Black should play 28...Ke6] **29.Rg2** [29.Rb2!= keeps the balance.] **29...Kd7** [29...Rg8] **½-½**

**WCM Li, Rachael (2225)**  
**FM Deviprasath, S. (2432)**

7

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bc5 7.Nd6+** B45: Sicilian Four Knights. **7...Ke7! 8.Bf4 e5 9.Nf5+ Kf8 10.Bg5 d5 11.Bxf6** [11.Nxd5 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Bxf2+ 13.Kd1 Qxd2+ 14.Bxd2 Nxe4] **11...gxf6 12.Nxd5** [Better is 12.Qxd5 Qxd5 13.Nxd5; Predecessor: 12.Qxd5 Qxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Rd8 15.Rd1 Ne7 16.Nxf6 Bxf2+ 17.Ke2 Rxd1 18.Kxd1 Nxf5 1-0 Dette, J (2090)-Dewenter, U (2109) Ruhrgebiet Regionalliga 1819 Nordrheinwestfalen 2018 (7.4)] **12...Bxf5 13.exf5 Qa5+** **14.c3 Rd8 15.Bc4 Bxf2+** **16.Kf1!** And now b4 would

win. [16.Kxf2? Qc5+ 17.Ne3 Rxd1 18.Raxd1 Qb6] **16...Qc5 17.Qe2 Na5** [17...Rxd5 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Kxf2] **18.b3** [18.Qxf2? loses. 18...Qxc4+ 19.Kg1 Rxd5+; 18.Nxf6? Bh4 19.Bxf7 Bxf6+] **18...b5** [18...Bh4= 19.Rd1 b5] **19.Qxf2 Qxf2+** **20.Kxf2 bxc4 21.Rad1** White is more active. [White should play 21.Nxf6 Hoping for Rhd1. 21...Rd2+ 22.Kf3] **21...cxb3=** The position is equal. **22.axb3** [22.Nxf6? Kg7 23.Nd5 b2] **22...Nxb3 23.Nxf6 Kg7 24.Nh5+ Kh6 25.g4 a5! 26.h4 a4 27.Nf6** Strongly threatening g5+. **27...Kg7 28.g5 h6!** **29.Nh5+ Kh7 30.Rhg1** Intending g6+ and mate. **30...hxg5 31.hxg5 Rxd1 32.Rxd1 a3** White must now prevent ...a2. **33.Rd6!** Threatens to win with g6+. **33...Kg8!** [33...a2 34.g6+ fxg6 35.fxg6+ Kh6 36.g7+ Kh7 37.Rh6+ Skewer, Promotion (37.gxh8 a1Q; 37.gxh8R+ Kxh8 38.Rh6+ Kg8=) 37...Kxh6 38.gxh8Q+] **34.Rd8+ Kh7 ½-½**

**WCM Li, Rachael (2225)**

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**Jiang, Andrew (2296)**

**1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bd6 4.e3 Nf6 5.d4 Qe7 6.dxe5 A01: Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening. 6...Nxe5 7.Qd4** [Predecessor: 7.Nd4 Bb4+ 8.c3 Bc5 9.Nf5 Qf8 10.Qc2 d5 11.Nd2 g6 12.Nd4 Qe7 13.h3 0-1 Gonzalez Rodriguez, J (2398)-Plasencia Martinez, V (2167) Torredembarra op 14th 2012 (6)] **7...Bb4+** **8.Nbd2 Ng6 9.0-0-0** [9.h4] **9...d5= 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Qxe5 Be6 12.f3 0-0-0 13.Bd3 h6 14.e4 Bd6 15.Qc3** Black must now prevent e5. **15...Bb4 16.Qe5 Rhg8 17.exd5 Rxd5 18.Qe2 Rgd8 19.Ne4 Ba3 20.Nc3 Ra5** aiming for ...Nd5. **21.Bc4 Bxb2+** **22.Kxb2 Qa3+** **23.Kb1 Re8 24.Rde1** [24.Rhe1= remains equal.] **24...Qf8** [Black should try 24...Qb4 25.Qd3 Bxc4 26.Qxc4 Qxc4 27.bxc4 Rc5 28.Rxe8+ Nxe8] **25.h4** [25.Bxe6+= Rxe6 26.Qf2] **25...Rc5** [25...Qb4 26.Kb2 Bd5] **26.Bxe6+**! The position is equal. **26...Rxe6 27.Qd2**

Rd6 28.Qe3 Re6 29.Qd4 Rd6  
30.Qe3 Re6 ½-½

9 **McDevitt, Jacob (1859)**  
**Yang, Daniel (1997)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5  
7.Nf3 B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5. 7...Be7 8.g4 is now more promising than 8.Bc4. 8...h6 9.Rg1 The position is equal. 9...b5 10.g5 hxg5 11.Nxg5 Bb7 12.Bg2 [White should try 12.Be3=; Predecessor: 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Qd2 Nbd7 14.0-0-0 Rc8 15.Kb1 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Nb6 18.Qd3 ½-½ Ivic,V (2595)-Asis Gargatagli,H (2519) Sharjah Masters 6th 2023 (9)] 12...b4 13.Nd5 [13.Ne2] 13...Nxd5 +- Discovered Attack 14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.exd5 Nd7 16.Qg4 Rh4 17.Qf5+ Kg8 18.Bf3 Nf8 19.Bh5 [19.Be3] 19...Bxd5 20.Bh6 Bf6 21.0-0-0 Be4 [21...Be6 22.Qf3 e4 23.Rxg7+ Bxg7] 22.Bxg7 Bxf5 23.Bxf6+ Kh7 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Bg4 Bxg4 26.hxg4 d5 27.Rh1 Rxh1 28.Rxh1+ Endgame. KRN-KR 28...Kg7 29.Rh3 Ng6 30.a3 bxa3 31.Rxa3 Rf8 32.Rxa6? [32.f3] 32...Rxf2 33.b4 e4 34.b5 Nf4 35.Ra7+ Kf6 Strongly threatening ...e3. 36.b6 [36.Ra3 Ne2+ 37.Kb1] 36...e3! (...e2) 37.b7 e2 Black mates. [37...Rf1+? 38.Kb2 e2 39.b8Q+] 38.Ra6+ Kg5 39.b8Q e1Q+ [39...e1B? 40.Qe5+ Kxg4 41.Qxe1+] 40.Kb2 Nd3+ White got outplayed after the opening. 0-1

10 **Zhang, Andrew (2092)**  
**Singi, Advay (1923)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5  
7.Nde2 h5 B90: Sicilian Najdorf: Unusual White 6th moves, 6 Be3 Ng4 and 6 Be3 e5. 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 The position is equal. 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Qd3 Nd7 12.Nec3 g6 13.0-0-0 Nc5 14.Qg3 b5 [Predecessor: 14...Bh6+ 15.Kb1 0-0 16.f4 Bxd5 17.Nxd5 exf4 18.Nxf4

Bg7 19.e5 Bxe5 20.Bc4 g5 1-0 Nowak,L (2263)-Lindgren,P (2411) Warsaw Najdorf Memorial op-A 14th 2016 (6)] 15.Kb1 Bg7 16.Be2 Bxd5 [16...Rb8= feels stronger. 17.Nb4 Rb7] 17.Nxd5 Rc8 18.Bd3 White is much more active. 18...0-0 19.c3 Ne6 20.Qf3 Nc7 21.Ne3 Ne6 22.g3 Re8 [22...Rc5= was preferable.] 23.Nd5 Nc7 24.Bc2 Nxd5 25.Rxd5 Rc5 Black is weak on the light squares 26.Rd3 Qe7 27.Bb3 Rd8 28.h4 Bf6 A mistake that costs the game. [28...Kh8 was necessary. 29.g4 (29.Bxf7? is the wrong capture. 29...Rf8-+; 29.Qxf7 Qxf7 30.Bxf7 Kh7) 29...hxg4 30.Qxg4 (30.Qxf7 Qxf7 31.Bxf7 Rf8) 30...Bh6] 29.g4!+- hxg4 30.Qxg4 Kg7 31.h5 hxg6 is the strong threat. 31...Rh8? [31...g5 32.Rdh3 a5] 32.Rdh3 White threatens hxg6 and mate. 32...Rcc8 33.Rg1 g5 [33...Bg5 34.Qxg5 Qxg5 35.Rxg5 Kf6] 34.h6+! Decoy 34...Rhx6 [34...Kf8 35.Qxc8+] 35.Rhx6 White mates. 35...Kxh6 36.Rh1+ Kg6 37.Qf5+ Kg7 38.Rh7+ Kg8 39.Qg6+ [Less strong is 39.Qxc8+ Kxh7 40.Qxa6 Qd7] 39...Kf8 40.Rxf7+ 1-0

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**Castillo, J.**  
**Steingrimsson, H.**

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bf5 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nd2 a5 5.g3 [Predecessor: 5.e4 dxe4 6.dxe4 Nxe4 7.Bd3 Nd6 8.Bxf5 Nxf5 9.Qf3 Nd6 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.0-0-0 1-0 Pastar,S (2337)-Ozsakallioglu,O (2270) Ayvalik Argistra 2022 (6)] 5...a4 6.bxa4 A01: Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening. 6...Nbd7 7.Bg2 e6 8.c4 The position is equal. 8...dxc4 9.Nxc4 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Ra7 11.Rb1 Threatens to win with Bxf6. 11...Bc5 12.a5 0-0 13.Qb3 e5 14.Nf3 [14.Bxe5? Nxe5 15.Nf3 Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Rxa5+] 14...Ng4 [14...Re8=] 15.Rc1 [15.Nfxe5 Nxf2 16.Nxd7 Qxd7; 15.Qc3] 15...Qe7 [15...Be6!?] 16.e3 b5 17.axb6 [17.Qxb5? Bxd3+ 18.Kg1 Rb8+] 17...Bxb6 18.h3 [18.Qc3!] 18...Nc5! 19.Qc3 Bxd3+

20.Kg1 Nxf2 ...Bxc4 is the strong threat. Decoy 21.Nfxe5 [21.Nxb6 cxb6] 21...Nfe4! Black is in control. Black has more active pieces. 22.Nc6 Discovered Attack, Double Attack 22...Qg5 Chess con chili. 23.Qe5 [Don't go for 23.Ne7+? Kh8 24.Qe5 Qxg3+] 23...Rxa2 ...Bxc4 would now be deadly. 24.Nb4 [24.Qxg5 Nxg5 25.Nxb6 cxb6 26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Bd4] 24...Bxc4+ 25.Nxa2 [25.Qxg5 Nxg5 26.Bd4] 25...Qxe5 26.Bxe5 Bxa2 27.Kh2 Nf2 [27...Bd5+- 28.Rb1 Be6] 28.Bxc7 Deflection 28...Bxc7 29.Rxc5 Bd6 30.Rc6 Bxg3+ 31.Kxg3 Nxh1+ 32.Bxh1 Endgame. KRB-KRB 32...Re8 33.Kf4 g6 34.h4 Kg7 35.Bf3 h6 36.Rc7 Rb8 37.Bb7 Rd8 38.e4 Kf6 [38...Be6!?] 39.Bc8 Rd4 40.Rc6+ Kg7 41.Ke3 Rd1 42.Rc2 Bb1 43.Rb2 Re1+ 44.Kd2 Rh1 45.Ke3! Kf6 46.Bb7 Rb3+ 47.Kf4! Bd3 aiming for ...Bc4! 48.Rb6+ Kg7 49.Kg4 Loses the game. [49.Rb3!+- and White stays safe.] 49...Bf1+- 50.Bd5 h5+ 51.Kg5 Rf3 Dodges Rf6. Hoping for ...f6+. [Not 51...Rg3+ 52.Kf4 Rg4+ 53.Ke3] 52.Rb7 Rf2 53.Rc7 [53.Bxf7 Rxf7 54.Rb6] 53...Bb5 54.Be6 Be8 55.Ra7 [55.Bb3] 55...Bc6 56.e5 Be8 57.Rc7 Kf8 58.Bh3 Rf3! 59.Bc8 Kg7! 60.Ra7 Bc6 61.Ra6? [61.Re7] 61...Bb7! Deflection 62.Rf6 Re3! Beautiful play by Hedinn Steingrimsson! 0-1

12

**Jack Castro**  
**Aarush Sankar**

1.c4 I had retired from USCF tournament play with an 1812 USCF rating in 1988, and this was my first USCF tournament game in 35 years. At the TDs' request, I was a house player in the Waco July monthly swiss. And due to an odd number of players only available to play in the championship section in round 2, this was the only game I was allowed to play in the tournament. My opponent told me he played the Caro-Kann against 1. e4. So at the last second, I decided

to shake things up a bit and get into some less familiar territory by playing the English. 1...e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 A solid reply to the English. Carlsen played it twice this year for a couple of nice wins (Mamedyarov - Carlsen 2023 and Caruana - Carlsen 2023). 3.e4!? A seldom played move, but IMO still good enough for at least equality. Most Masters avoid 3. e4!? because of the "hole" it creates on d4. The popular Master move and the computer choice is 3. Nd5 = to . However, 3. e4!? has surprise value in taking opponents out of their opening prep, and it has been played on occasion for wins by strong GMs (Jobova - Zvjaginsev 2015 and Lagarde - Wagner 2019). 3...Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.Nf3 c6 9.h3 Rc8 10.0-0 Bxc3?! Immediately trading Bishop for Knight here to create a "doubled pawn" does not improve Black's position. The doubled pawn is not a weakness as the pawn recapture on c3 strengthens White's position by covering the weak d4 square. Better is 10...0-0 = or 10...a6 =. 11.bxc3 d5?! The pawn advance is premature. Instead, Black should prepare it with [11...Qa5 12.Qc2 d5] 12.Qa4?! A positional mistake that gives Black the opportunity to fully equalize. Instead, White can immediately capture the pawn for a solid positional advantage. [12.cxd5 cxd5 13.exd5 Bxd5 14.c4 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 b6 16.Qa4] 12...Ra8? A near decisive mistake that gives White at least a two pawn advantage. Instead, Black is fine after [12...dxe4 13.dxe4 Ra8 14.Rad1 Qe7=] 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Nxe5 0-0! The only move to give Black survival chances. Really bad is [15...Qe7?? 16.Bg4! Be6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nxd7+-] 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Qxd7 Nxd7 18.c4 White has won a pawn, but the extra passed d-pawn is worth far more than a one pawn advantage and should prove decisive. 18...Bc6 19.d4!?

With this pawn advance, White still has a winning advantage. However, better is staying patient and taking control of the e-file with [19.Rfe1 Rfe8 20.Bf1+-] 19...Rfe8 20.Bd3?! Another positional error. Better is [20.Rfe1 Re4 21.d5!+-] 20...Rac8? Black's only chance to survive is [20...Be4! 21.Rfd1 Bxd3 22.Rxd3] 21.Rab1?! Missing Black's saving move 21...Be4! Instead, White can prevent 21...Be4! and maintain a decisive advantage with [21.f3! Ba4 22.Rfe1+-] 21...Be4! A really nice defensive move that puts Black back in the game. Not good is [21...b6? 22.f3!+-] 22.Rfd1 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 g5 24.Bg3 Red8?! A bit too passive. Better is going for active counterplay with [24...b6 when play might continue 25.Rc1 Re2 26.a3 f5 27.Bd6 Re6 28.Bb4 Rec6 29.c5 a5 30.Be1 bxc5 31.Bxa5 c4 32.Rd2 Nf6 33.Rb2] 25.Rc3 Nb6 26.c5! The only winning move. 26...Rxd4 27.cxb6!! This should win brilliantly. But the simpler winning alternative I overlooked is [27.Be5! Rc4 28.cxb6 Rxc3 29.Bxc3 Rxc3 30.bxa7 Ra3 31.Rxb7+-] 27...Rxc3 28.bxa7? This is only good for equality. My Grandson Logan Shafer, who tied for first in the tournament, had been watching the game, and after the game ended in a draw, Logan pointed out that I missed the winning follow-up move 28. Be5! [28.Be5! Rcd3 29.Bxd4 Rxd4 30.bxa7 Ra4 31.Rxb7+-] 28...Ra3 29.Rxb7 Rda4= With the Black Rooks doubled on the a-file the game is completely level, and it soon ended in a draw. My opponent was in time trouble, but I didn't try to win on time. My opponent, Aarush Sankar, had played well in defending a difficult position, and I conceded the draw as soon as he requested it. ½-½

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Shafer, Logan C  
Winchell, Barrett

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qc7 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6

7.a3 a6 8.Be3 h5 B41: Sicilian: Kan Variation: 5 c4. 9.f3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 [Predecessor: 10.Bxd4 Bd6 11.Qd2 Bxh2 12.0-0-0 Bf4 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 d6 15.g4 g6 16.Qf4 Ke7 17.e5 dxe5 18.Qg5 Rd8 19.Rxd8 Qxd8 20.Ne4 Qd4 21.Qxf6+ Ke8 22.gxh5 Bd7 1-0 Mihajlov,S (2356)-Nagy,G (2487) Titled Tuesday inter-n op 5th March Chess.com INT blitz 2019 (3)] 10...Bd6 White is slightly better. 11.Bg1 [11.Na4] 11...Be5= 12.Qd2 0-0 13.g3 [13.Bd4= keeps the balance.] 13...d5! 14.cxd5 [14.f4 Bxc3] 14...exd5 15.Rc1 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.fxe4 Qd8 18.Rd1 [18.Qxd8 Rxd8 19.Bb6] 18...Qf6+ aiming for ...Bg4. 19.Bd4 Bg4 20.Be2? [20.Bxe5 only move. 20...Qxe5 21.Qd4 Qa5+ 22.Qc3 Qxc3+ 23.bxc3] 20...Rad8 21.Bxg4 Hoping for Bxe5! 21...Rxd4 White got outplayed after the opening. [21...Bxd4? perishes. 22.Rf1 Qe5 23.Be2+-] 0-1

14

Melillo, Lucius  
Chandran, Harish

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3 d5 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bg5 0-0 E12: Queen's Indian: Unusual White 4th moves, 4 a3, 4 Nc3 Bb7 5 a3 and 4 Nc3 Bb7 . 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 h6 The position is equal. 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Rc1 Be6 11.Be2 c5 12.0-0 c4 [12...Nc6=; Predecessor: 12...Nc6 13.Bb5 Ne7 14.Ne5 Qd6 15.Ng4 Bxg4 16.Qxg4 Bg5 17.Rfd1 c4 18.h4 f5 0-1 Smirnova,A (2021)-Vasilevich,I (2327) Moscow op-D (Women) 2011 (4)] 13.b3 cxb3! 14.Qxb3 Nc6 15.Nd2 Na5 16.Qa2 a6 [16...Rc8=] 17.Bf3 Be7 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 [18...Qd7] 19.Nxd5 Bxa3 20.Rb1 Strongly threatening Rxb6! [20.Qxa3?! Qxd5 21.h3 Rfc8] 20...Rb8 21.Nxb6 Rxb6 22.Qxa3 Rg6 23.Nf3 Nc6 24.Kh1 Qd7 25.h3 [25.Qxa6 Qg4 26.Ne1 Nxd4] 25...Re8 26.Qxa6 Rf6 27.Qb7 Qe6 28.Qb3 Qe4 29.Kh2 Nd8 30.Rbc1 Ne6 31.Qc2 Qb7 32.Qc6? [White should try 32.Rb1+- Qd7 33.Ne5] 32...Qe7 [32...Qb8+= and Black

has nothing to worry. 33.Kh1 Nxd4 34.Qxf6 (34.Nxd4 Rxc6 35.Rxc6 h5=) 34...gxf6 35.Nxd4 Qe5] 33.Qe4+ Qd7 34.Ne5 Qd8 35.Qc6? [Better is 35.f4+-] 35...Nxd4! Discovered Attack 36.Qd7 Ne6 37.Qb5 Nf8 38.Kg1 Qb8 39.Qxb8 Rxb8 40.Rc7 Rb5 41.f4 aiming for Rc8. 41...Ng6 42.Nd7 White is much more active. 42...Rd6 43.f5 Ne7 44.e4 Threatens to win with Ra1. White has the initiative. 44...Rb2 [Black should play 44...Rc6 45.Rxc6 Nxc6] 45.Ra1! White threatens Ra8+ and mate. 45...h5 46.Ra8+ Kh7 47.Nf6-! Discovered Attack 47...Rxf6 48.Rxe7 Endgame. Ree8 would now be deadly. KRR-KRR 48...g6? Loses the game. [48...h4] 49.Ree8+ Rh8+ would kill now. 49...Rc6 50.e5 [50.Rh8+ Kg7 51.e5 f6 52.Rag8+ Kf7 53.fxcg6+ Ke6 54.Re8+ (54.Rxh5 Rcc2=) 54...Kf5 55.g7 (55.Rxh5+ Kxg6 56.Reh8 Rc1+ 57.Kh2 fxe5+-) 55...Rc1+ 56.Kh2] 50...f6 51.Rh8+ Kg7 52.Rag8+ [52.e6 Rxe6 53.fxe6 Rb1+ 54.Kh2 f5 55.e7 Re1 56.e8Q Rxe8 57.Rhxe8] 52...Kf7 53.e6+

Ke7 54.Rh7+ [Worse is 54.fxcg6 Rcc2=] 54...Kd6 55.Rd7+ Ke5 56.e7 White mates. [Less strong is 56.fxcg6 Kxe6 57.Rd3 Rb7] 56...Kf4 57.e8Q Rc1+ 58.Kh2 Rxcg2+ 59.Kxc2 Rc2+ 60.Kf1 1-0

15 **Matta,N.F. (2226)**  
**Rowe,Duane (1979)**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qd8 11.Nf3 0-0 12.0-0 Na6 13.Re1 Nc7 14.Bf1 Re8 15.h3 a6 16.Kh2 Rb8 17.a5 b5 18.axb6 Rxb6 19.Qc2 Nb5 20.Nxb5 axb5 21.Be3 Rb8 22.Rad1 Qa5 23.Bd2 b4 24.Ra1 Qb6 25.Qa4 Bxb2 26.Rab1 Bg7 27.e5 Rf8 28.e6 fxe6 29.dxe6 Bb7 30.exd7 Qc6 31.Qxc6 Bxc6 32.Ng5 Rfd8 33.Re7 Bf6 34.Re6 Bxg5 35.fxcg5 Rxd7 36.Bf4 Bb5 37.Bxb5 Rxb5 38.Bxd6 Rd8 39.Be7 Re8 40.Ree1 b3 41.Bf6 Rxe1 42.Rxe1 c4 43.Rd1 Kf7 44.Kg2 Rb7 45.Kf2 h6 46.h4 hxg5 47.hxcg5 Ke6 48.Ke2 Kf5 49.Kd2 Rd7+ 50.Kc1 Rxd1+ 51.Kxd1 Kg4

52.Be5 Kxg5 53.Ke2 Kf5 54.Bc3 Kg4 55.Kf2 Kh3 56.Bf6 Kh2 57.g4 Kh3 58.Kf3 Kh2 59.Bd4 Kh3 60.Be5 Kh4 61.Kf4 Kh3 62.Kg5 c3 63.Bxc3 Kg3 64.Be5+ Kf3 65.Kh4 Ke4 66.Bb2 Kf3 67.Bc1 Kf2 68.g5 Kg2 69.Kg4 Kh2 70.Bb2 Kg2 71.Be5 Kf2 72.Kf4 Kg2 73.Ke3 Kh3 1-0

16 **Matta,N.F. (2226)**  
**Paul,Justin (2312)**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Nbd7 6.0-0 Nb6 7.a4 a5 8.Na3 g6 9.Bf4 Bg7 10.Ne5 Nfd5 11.Bd2 Nb4 12.Qc1 Be6 13.Rd1 0-0 14.Bh6 f6 15.Bxc7 Kxc7 16.Nexc4 Nxa4 17.b3 Nb6 18.Nxb6 Qxb6 19.Qe3 Bf7 20.h4 Qd8 21.Qc3 Nd5 22.Qb2 Nb4 23.e4 Kg8 24.Nc4 b5 25.Ne3 Qb6 26.h5 Rfd8 27.Qc3 Ra7 28.Bh3 Rc7 29.Kg2 Kf7 30.Bg4 Ra7 31.Rd2 Qc7 32.Rh1 e5 33.dxe5 Re8 34.exf6+ Kg8 35.hxcg6 hxg6 36.Qc5 Raa8 37.Qg5 Qe5 38.Rh8+ Kxh8 39.Qh6+ Kg8 40.Qg7# 1-0

## Answers to Composition Puzzles on Page 11

### Answer #1

Try 1.Rb2? is refuted by Ke5!

Solution: 1.d6! - waiting. 1...Kxc4 (1...Ke5 2.c5 Kd4 3.Rb2 Ke5 (3...e5 4.Rb4#; 3...Kc4 4.Rb4#) 4.Bc3#) 2.Rb2 Kd4 3.Bc3+ Kc4 4.Rb4#

The idea is a change of moves' functions:white moves Rb2&Bc3 show up as 2nd & 3rd and 3rd & 4th.

### Answer #2

**If Black Moves First:** 1...d2 2.Rxd2#

1...c3 2.Rb4#

**If White Moves First:** 1.Ne7! zugzwang.

1...d2 [1...c3 2.Nc6+! (2.Nf5+? Kc4!) 2...Kc4 (2...bxc6 3.Rb4#) 3.Rb4#;

1...Ke4 2.Nf5+! (2.Nc6+? Kf3!) 2...Kf3 (2...Kxf5 3.Rf2#) 3.Re3#;

1...Ke5 2.Nc6+! (2.Nf5+? Kf6!) 2...Kf6 (2...Kf5 3.Rf2#) 3.Rf2#;

1...Ke3 2.Nf5+ Kf3 3.Re3#;

1...g5 2.Nf5#;

1...b5 2.Nc6#;

1...b6 2.Nc6#] 2.Nf5+! [2.Nc6+ Kd3] 2...Kd3 [2...gxf5 3.Rxd2#] 3.Re3#

\* deferred mates, antiduals, flight giving key

The idea of this problem is that there are mates in two in set play, but after the key these mates are gone but reappear on the third move after the intermediate second move.

# Upcoming Events

## LATE AUGUST 2023

### Aug 15 - Mardi Quads

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/mardi-quads-6>

### Aug 19-20 - Houston Summer Championship 2023

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/houston-summer-championship-2023>

### Aug 19 - August Quads - All Ages

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/quads-all-ages-aug-19th>

### Aug 19 - Houston Summer Scholastic 2023

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/houston-summer-scholastic-2023>

### Aug 19 - Waco August 19 Swiss

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/waco-july-1-swiss>

### Aug 20 - Austin Monthly Action Tournament – August

Info: <https://www.austinchestournaments.com/aca-austin-monthly-action-august-2023/>

### Aug 20 - Austin Monthly Scholastic Tournament – August

Info: <https://www.austinchestournaments.com/aca-austin-monthly-scholastic-august-2023/>

### Aug 20 - Sunday 1-Day

Info: <https://completechesseducation.com/tournaments/>

### Aug 26 - Adult Only Quads

Info: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ADULT-QuadsAug26>

### Aug 26 - Austin Grandmaster Chess Academy In-Person USCF Rated Tournament

Info: <https://www.austinchestournaments.com/austin-grandmaster-chess-academy-tournament-august-2023/>

### Aug 27 - August 27th Sunday Swiss

Info: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/Aug27SunSwiss>

## SEPTEMBER 2023

### Sept 1-4 - 89th annual Southwest Open

Info: See Ad on Page 31

### Sept 2 - 2023 Southwest Open Scholastic Championships

Info: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/SW-Scholastic>

### Sept 3 - Sunday 1-Day

Info: <https://completechesseducation.com/tournaments/>

### Sept 3 - TCA Meeting at the 2023 Southwest Open

Info: 8:30am!!!

### Sept 16 - Austin Grandmaster Chess Academy In-Person USCF Rated Tournament

Info: <https://www.austinchestournaments.com/austin-grandmaster-chess-academy-tournament-september-2023/>

### Sept 19 - Mardi Quads

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/mardi-quads-6>

### Sept 23 - 2023 Texas Girls Championship

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/2023-texas-girls-championship>  
<https://www.utrgv.edu/chess/tournaments/2023-tx-girls/index.htm>

## EARLY OCTOBER 2023

### Oct 7-8 - 2023 Texas Grade Championship

Info: [https://www.utrgv.edu/chess/\\_files/images/tournaments/2023\\_texas\\_grade\\_championship-flyer.png](https://www.utrgv.edu/chess/_files/images/tournaments/2023_texas_grade_championship-flyer.png)

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

### August Tuesday Night Swiss

Aug 15, 22, 29

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/august-scholastic>

### Poison Pawns Weekly Chess Meetup at Slowpokes

Aug 16, 23, 30; Sept 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11

Info: <https://poisonpawns.club/>

### Creative 101 Weekly Quick

Aug 17, 24, 31, Sept 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/creative-101-weekly-quick>

### Thursday Night Double Swiss

Aug 17, 24, 31

Info: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ThurNiteDoubleSwissAug2023>

### UTRGV Thursday Night Quads

Aug 17, 24, 31; Sept 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12

Info: [https://dkchess.com/main/olreg\\_1](https://dkchess.com/main/olreg_1)

### RCC Monthly Swiss (rated 1200+) & Weekly Quads (rated U1200)

Aug 18, 25; Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct 6, 13

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/rebecca-chess-club-monthly-swiss-over-1200-and-weekly-quads-under-1200>

### Texas Swiss Tournament

Aug 19, 26; Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct 7, 14

Info: <https://new.uschess.org/texas-swiss-tournament>

89TH ANNUAL



# SOUTHWEST OPEN 2023



**7SS, G90;INC30, FIDE/USCF RATED  
1-DAY SCHOLASTIC, 5SS, G25;D5**

4-day or 3-day schedule. \$109 EF by 8/18. \$120 by 8/25. \$132 thereafter. 3 Sections.

**9/1 - 9/4**

FREE SHUTTLE  NEAR IAH

**Sheraton North Houston  
15700 JFK Blvd. 77032**

\$35 early EF for Scholastic on 9/2/23. Trophies & Medals. Team and Individual awards! 4 Sections.

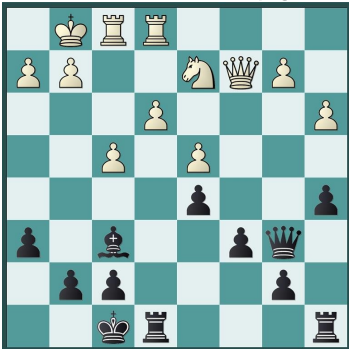


[kingregistration.com/event/89SWO](http://kingregistration.com/event/89SWO)



Texas Chess Association  
2709 Longhorn Trail  
Crowley, TX 76036-4719

**Tactics Time!** Answer on  
page 18



J. Cromartie – J. Zacharias  
DFW Premier 4 2022  
Black to Move

