

TEXAS KNIGHTS

The official publication of the Texas Chess Association

Volume 49, Number 5

P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023

May-June 2008

UTD repeats at Final Four of College Chess

**L to R: IM Davorin Kuljasevic, UTD chess team director James Stallings,
GM Magesh Panchanathan and IM Marko Zivanic**

US Championship wild cards, World Youth invitees, Chess in Education Workshop.....	3
Texas Scholastic and SW Collegiate results.....	4
Games from the Collegiate and High School championships	6
UTD repeat victor at Final Four of College Chess – Jennifer Shahade and Michael Atkins.....	13
Harper wins Lone Star Open – NTD Franc Guadalupe	15
Malazarte wins Texas Action Championship.....	17
San Antonio Winter Open – Malazarte wins	18
Denton Open – notes by Bob Crume	22

Nominations for TCA office are due June 15

TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

www.texaschess.org

President: Michael Simpson, 316 W. 12th St., Ste. 310, Austin, TX 78701; 512-779-5122; msimpson@gmail.com.

Vice-President: Clemente Rendon, P.O. Box 3267, Brownsville, TX 78523-3267; crendon44@hotmail.com.

Secretary: Drew Sarkisian, 8100 Cutler Ridge Pl., Austin, TX 78749-2834; drew.sarkisian@gmail.com.

Treasurer: Barb Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719; roundsiel@dot11net.net.

Editor: Selby Anderson, P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023; 210-695-2324; schachlied@yahoo.com.

Webmaster: Peter Kappler, pkappler@gmail.com. **Postal Chess:** Mario Leal, mleal@spamcop.net.

Tournament Clearinghouse: Eugene Kohnitz, chessensei@aol.com.

Texas Chess Association is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting chess in Texas.

Membership Dues (annual): Regular \$10, Junior (18 and under) or Student: \$7.50. Foreign: Canada and Mexico

\$12.50, others \$17.50. Patron: \$25 (receives 1st class mailing and Hall of Honor listing). Family: \$15. Non-

subscribing: \$5. Club: \$25 (includes one free ¼ page ad a year). Scholastic Club: \$10. Foreign Club: \$40.

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

TCA Hall of Honor

Selby Anderson

James E. Berry

Joe Bradford

Clarence Callaway, Jr.

Michael E. Carpenter

George W. Church, Jr.

Dr. Raymond Duque

Kristy Eng

Rheanna English family

Jose J. Guajardo

Edward Guetzow

Gerald Guillot

Toshio Imai

Bob James

George C. John family

Peter Kappler

James Kersbergen

John Kolts

Tom Kuznier

R. Lynne Leone family

Patrick C. Long

Mark Marshall

Mark E. McCue

Rade Milovanovic family

George A. Mota

Ken Muir

Wilson Neil

Josh Newsham

John Niven

Richard L. Petty

Robert B. Potter

Tim Redman

Eddie Rios

James Rohrbaugh

Doug & Alexey Root family

Luis Salinas

Drew Sarkisian

Jose Luis Silva

Michael Simpson

James Stallings

Robert Sturgeon

Clayton Swafford

Harmon Throneberry

Louis Thurston

Rick Toenies

Gordon Weintraub

William R. Williams

Contributors this issue: Michael Atkins, Bob Crume, James Gould, Franc Guadalupe, J.P. Hyltin, Rob Jones, NIC Base, Alexey Root, Luis Salinas, Jennifer Shahade, Robert Sturgeon, *US Chess Online*, Greg Wren.

Correction last issue: The back cover problem needs a White bishop on g7. Hope you didn't pull out too much hair!

Game annotations if not attributed are a collaboration of NM Selby Anderson and Fritz 5.32 (sic).

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

Deadline next issue: June 15. All contents of *Texas Knights* © 2008 by the Texas Chess Association, Inc. No part may be reproduced in any way without express consent of the editor. Ad rates: \$50/page, \$35/half, \$20/quarter, \$1/line.

Cover photo: Michael Atkins

Wild Cards!

This year two Texans are invited to play as “wild card” entries in the US Championships (Tulsa, May 13-21.)

Michael Langer of Austin (shown above in Gibraltar) was re-invited to the U.S. Championship as one of three “wild card” entries. The 24-player field will lack Kamsky and Nakamura, but with defending champ Shabalov and other top seeds such as Onischuk, Kaidanov, Ehlvest, Akobian, Shulman, Gulko, Bacerra, Ivanov, Perelshteyn, Kudrin and Finegold, another strong event is in store.

Courtney Jamison has also been invited as a “wild card” entry, in an elite ten-player field at the US Women’s Championship being held concurrently with the men’s event. Courtney, who is finishing her sophomore year at Williams High School in Plano, defeated Denker champ Warren Harper this March in the Texas High School Championship (see p. 11 for the game).

Fourteen from Texas qualify for World Youth Championships

Congratulations to all Texas players who qualified for the 2008 World Youth Championship to be held Oct. 19-31 in Vung Tau, Vietnam:

Girls Under 18: Courtney Jamison. **Girls Under 12:** Sarah Chiang, Sylvia Yang, Ellen Xiang, Caroline Zhu. **Girls Under 10:** Evan Xiang. **Girls Under 8:** Hannah Liu, Sarai Guillen. **Boys Under 18:** Warren Harper. **Boys Under 12:** Darwin Yang, Jarod Pamatmat. **Boys Under 8:** Jonathan Chiang, Raymond Sun, Outeng He.

Note that under new TCA rules, World Youth qualifiers get reimbursed for their entry fees the following events: Texas Masters, Texas State and Amateur, and the Southwest Open.

Official 2008 World Youth website:

<http://wycc2008.vietnamchess.com/> – Luis Salinas

TCA Nominations

Candidates for TCA office must have nominations in writing to the *TK* Editor (POB 501, Helotes, TX 78023 or schachlied@yahoo.com) by **June 15**. The positions are president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Both nominator and nominee must be TCA members. Each candidate gets a free 100 word statement in the magazine, more at the ad rates posted on page 2. Candidates running as a ‘slate’ may pool their allotments of free space.

TCA Chess in Education workshop

by Dr. Alexey Root

The March 8, 2008 TCA Chess in Education workshop was sponsored by TCA, UT Brownsville, UT Dallas and Texas Tech. The workshop was co-organized by Alexey Root and Luis Salinas. Presentations from the workshop will be available at the USCF Chess in Education Committee website, www.thechessacademy.org/.

The workshop had 28 paid participants, up from 25 in 2007 (the first year of the workshop). Half of the 28 participants were educators: principals, assistant principals, and teachers. The other half consisted of parents and chess coaches.

The first presenter was Dr. Steve Lipschultz, who demonstrated Think Like a King software.

Second, UTB’s Russell Harwood described his career path, from second grade teacher to UTB. Harwood emphasized that it did not take long to grow his first

(Continued on page 21)

2008 Texas Scholastic Championships

This year 1,434 players competed in twelve sections at the Texas Scholastic Championships, held Mar.7-9 at the Hilton Americas in Houston.

Chief organizer Luis Salinas of Southwest Chess headed a staff that included Gary Gaiffe, George John, Fred Roper, Lakshmana Viswanathan, Forest Marler, Remi Ferrari, James Houghtaling, Jr., Benjamin Wheeler, Nancy Sawyer, Brenda Hardesty, Franc Guadalupe, Ashley Williams, Carmen Chairez, Susan Breeding, Lori and Kailynn Balkum, and Jennifer James.

Sponsors included the University of Texas at Dallas, Forest Printing, Think Like a King Software, the Dallas Chess Club and the Texas Chess Association.

Southwest Collegiate Championship

(17 players, 5 rounds)

1	IM Marko Zivanic	2506	UTD	4.5
2	IM Davorin Kuljasevic	2517	UTD	4.0
3	Chaitanya Vaidya	2305	UTD	4.0
4	WFM Bayaraa Zorigt	2219	UTD	4.0

Southwest Collegiate Team

1	University of Texas at Dallas	16.5
2	Texas Tech University - Lubbock	9.5

High School Championship

(109 players, 7 rounds)

1	Stanley Yang	6.5	All Saints	Fort Worth
2	Courtney Jamison	6.0	Williams	Plano
3	William C. Ong	6.0	Bellaire	Houston
4	Warren Harper	5.5	Woodlands	Houston
5	Kevin Wang	5.5	Woodlands	Houston
6	Matthew Michaelides	5.5	Lamar	Houston
7	Jeff Feng	5.5	Bellaire	Houston
8	Edward Rodriguez	5.5	Lamar	Houston
9	Zachary Haskin	5.5	Porter	Brownsville

High School Team

1	Bellaire	Houston	21.0
2	Porter	Brownsville	18.5
3	Westwood	Austin	18.0
4	Hanna	Brownsville	17.5

High School JV (U1000)

(104 players, 7 rounds)

1	Luis Davila	6.5	San Benito	San Benito
2	Michael Williams	6.0	Mexia	Mexia
3	Lasalle McMorris	6.0	Washington	Houston

High School JV Team

1	San Benito High	San Benito	22.5
2	North High School	Edinburg	19.5
3	J. Banks High	El Paso	19.0

Middle School Championship

(150 players, 7 rounds)

1	George Qi	6.5	Canyon Vistas	Austin
2	Danny Chen	6.0	Canyon Vistas	Austin
3	Dylan Scott James	6.0	Homeschooled	Austin
4	Joseph Chun Wong	6.0	John Cooper	Woodlands

Middle School Team

1	Canyon Vista	Austin	23.5
2	T.H. Rogers MS	Houston	19.0
2	Vela MS	Brownsville	19.0
3	Jordan MS	San Benito	18.0

Middle School JV

(95 players, 7 rounds)

1	Wesley Hungbui	7.0	Village School	Houston
2	Harold Averill IV	6.0	Stell MS	Brownsville
3	Samir Kavadi	6.0	Village School	Houston
4	Enrique Gomez	6.0	Resaca MS	Los Fresnos
5	Cruz Guzman	6.0	Cabaza MS	San Benito

Middle School JV Team

1	Resaca MS	Los Fresnos	20.0
2	The Village School	Houston	17.5
3	Jordan MS	San Benito	17.5
4	Cabaza MS	San Benito	16.5

Middle School Novice

(81 players, 7 rounds)

1	Miguel Moncloa	7.0	Ysleta	El Paso
2	David Morales	6.0	Guillen	El Paso
3	Carlos Cerna	6.0	Ysleta	El Paso
4	Tyler Perron	6.0	Berry	Mesquite

Middle School Novice Team

1	Ysleta MS	El Paso	22.0
2	Guillen MS	El Paso	20.5
3	Coakley MS	Harlingen	19.0
4	B.L. Garza MS	Edinburg	18.0

Full results: www.swchess.com

Elementary Championship

(152 players, 7 rounds)

1	Jarod Pamatmat	6.5	All Saints	Tyler
2	Becky Huang	6.0	Village School	Houston
3	Austin Jiang	6.0	Steiner Ranch	Austin
4	Ellen Xiang	5.5	T.H. Rogers	Houston
5	Akshay Malhotra	5.5	Universal Acad.	Irving
6	Caroline Zhu	5.5	Andrew El.	Plano
7	Tommy Lu	5.5	Herod	Houston
8	Andy Shao	5.5	Wyatt El.	Plano
9	Karth Prabhakaran	5.5	Homeschooled	
10	Raymond Sun	5.5	Barksdale El.	Plano

Elementary Team

1	The Village School	Houston	20.5
2	Benavides Elementary	Brownsville	17.0
2	Canterbury Elementary	Edinburg	17.0
2	T.H. Rogers	Houston	17.0

Elementary JV

(188 players, 7 rounds)

1	Devon Merz	7.0	Awty Intl.	Houston
2	Suvedh Srikanth	6.0	Colony Meadow	Sugar Land
3	Dillon Dale	6.0	Hudson	Brownsville
4	Rodrigo Ramirez	6.0	Santa Maria	Laredo
5	Michael Tian	6.0	Village School	Houston
6	Brandon Navarro	6.0	La Encantada	San Benito
7	Alyssa Hernandez	6.0	R. Garza	San Benito
8	Margaret Siu	6.0	Lamplighter	Dallas
9	Peter Puga	6.0	Cash	San Benito

Elementary JV Team

1	R. Garza Elementary	San Benito	20.5
2	The Village School	Houston	20.5
3	La Encantada El.	San Benito	20.0
4	Landrum Elementary	San Benito	19.5
4	Carson Elementary	San Antonio	19.5

SIDE EVENTS

In K-12 Blitz with 18 players, Abhishek Mallela won 5-0, ahead of Stan Yang (4.0) and Andrew Nat Lozano (3.5).

Dylan James won the K-6 Blitz with 4.5, ahead of Becky Huang, Keith James and Quintin Noland, who tied for second with 4-1. There were 24 players.

In K-12 Bughouse, Jonathan Cearley and Keith James won 5-0. In second place were Alex Balkum and Dylan James with 4. There were 19 teams.

In K-6 Bughouse, with ten teams participating, there was a three-way tie at 4-1: Alaniz-Cervantes, Cole and Katherine Baker, and Garcia-Ortiz.

Elementary Novice

(112 players, 7 rounds)

1	Luis Chavira	6.5	Harmony Science	El Paso
2	Sarah Manion	6.5	Homeschooled	Austin
3	Benjamin Blefeld	6.0	The Honor Roll	Sugar Land
4	Matthew Baker	6.0	Tyler Venture	Tyler
5	Ryan Woolsey	6.0	Tyler Venture	Tyler

Elementary Novice Team

1	Arlon Seay	Spring Branch	19.0
2	Harmony Science	El Paso	18.5
3	R. Hinojosa El.	Sharyland	17.0
3	R. Garza El.	Brownsville	17.0
4	Tyler Venture	Tyler	17.0

Primary Championship

(95 players, 7 rounds)

1	Evan Xiang	6.5	T.H. Rogers	Houston
2	Edward Cen	6.5	T.H. Rogers	Houston
3	Hannah Liu	6.0	Exley El.	Katy
4	Henry Davis	6.0	Shepard E.	Plano
5	Abinav Ashar	5.5	Moore	Houston
6	Curran Ray Han	5.5	Challenge Acad.	Pearland

Primary Team

1	Canterbury	Edinburg	16.0
2	Canales	Brownsville	15.5
3	St. Andrew's	Austin	15.5
4	Wyatt	Plano	15.0
5	Paredes	Brownsville	15.0

Primary JV

(168 players, 7 rounds)

1	Neil Narvekar	7.0	Laurel Canyon	Austin
2	Tassica Lim	6.5	T.H. Rogers	Houston
3	Jesse Leal	6.0	Canterbury	Edinburg
4	Gabriel Selindis	6.0	Forest Trail	Austin
5	Megha Reddy	6.0	Spicewood El.	Austin
6	Luke Pena	6.0	Truman El.	Edinburg
7	Lofti Aouchiche	6.0	T.H. Rogers	Houston
8	Marco Ibarra	6.0	Aiken	Brownsville

Primary JV Team

1	T.H. Rogers	Houston	22.0
2	Cash El.	San Benito	20.0
3	Judge Oscar Fuente	San Benito	19.0
4	Canterbury El.	Edinburg	18.5
5	Aiken El.	Brownsville	18.5
6	Garden Park	Brownsville	18.5

(Results continued on page 21)

Collegiate Games

Sicilian Taimanov B49

Ju Ahn 1956

Marko Zivanic 2511

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3 Bb4 9.Na4 0-0 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nb6 Rb8 12.Nxc8 Rfxc8 13. Bxa6 Rf8

This allows for ...Ne8 and ...f5 if needed. Other tries include 13...Rd8 and 13...Re8.

14.Bd3 Bd6 15.f4 e5 16.f5 Rxb2

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - r k + (

7+ - z p + p p p '

6- + p z - n - + &

5+ - + - p P + - %

4- + - + P + - + \$

3+ - + L z - + - #

2P r P + - + P P "

1R - + Q + R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

17.g4 Qa5 18.g5 Ne8 19.Qh5?!

Usually seen is 19.Qg4, which can later be useful to contest the dark squares with Qg1 after the bishops get traded. The text overreaches, as there's no mating attack if Black is careful. Typically in games I saw on NIC Base, the kingside gets locked down and White tries to make hay off his passed a-pawn, e.g. 19.Qg4 Bc5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 21.Kh1 f6 22.g6 h6 23.Rfb1 ?fQg1.

19...Bc5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 21.Kh1 f6 22.h4 d5!

This is *so* textbook! Black reacts in the center, while White's queen is out of play and Black's strong heavy pieces go unchallenged.

23.Qf3 Nd6 24.Rfb1 dxe4 25.Bxe4 Rb4 26.Rxb4 [26.Re1 Qc4?§§] 26... Qxb4 27.Bxc6 Qxh4+ 28.Kg2 Qxg5+ 29.Kf2 Qd2+ 0-1

Center Counter B01

Lilia Doibani 2044

Walter Alberdano 1417

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (1)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 c6 6.Bc4 Bg4 7.f3 Bh5 8.Qe2 Nbd7?

8...Qc7 9.Nh3 Bg6 10.Bf4 Qa5 11.0-0-0 e6 12.d5?;

Best is 8...Qd8! 9.Qe3 e6=

9.Nb5! Qb6 10.Nd6+ Kd8 11. Nxf7+ Bxf7 12.Bxf7 Qxb2 13.Rd1 b6 14.Nh3 Qxd4 15.Ng5 Kc8 16. Qa6+ Kb8 17.Ne6 Qe5+ 18.Kf2 Ne4+ 19.fxe4 Qf6+ 20.Bf4+ 1-0

Queen's Gambit D11

Davorin Kuljasevic 2517

Bryan Pernes 1920

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 b5

This is not, as I supposed, never played by strong masters. However, White has a 77% winning percentage after his next move. Black can get connected passers, but they are easy to blockade.

5.a4 c6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.b3 Bb7

A representative line is 7. ..Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2 9.Nbxd2 a5 10.bxc4 b4 11.Ne5 Nf6 12.Be2 0-0 13.Bf3 Ra7 14.0-0 Qc7 15.Qa4 Bd7 16.Nxd7 Nbx7 17.Nb3 e5 18.Qc6? Riazantsev-Löffler, Warsaw EUR tt 2001.

8.bxc4 b4 9.c5 Nf6?

9...a5 is necessary.

10.Qa4+ Ne6 11.Bb5 Qc7 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Qxa7 Be7 14.Ra6 Ra8 15. Qxb7 Qxb7 16.Rxa8+ Qxa8 1-0

QGD Anti-Meran D44

Glenn Perry 1493

Austen Green 2201

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (1)

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11. exf6 Bb7 12.g3 c5 13.d5 b4?

13...Qb6 is considered best.

14.Bxc4! ?! 0-1

15...fxe6 16.f7+ Kxf7 17.Bxd8 Rxd8 18.Qe2 Re8 19.0-0-0 Nb6 20. Rhe1 cxb2 21.Kb1 Nxc4 22.Rd7 Kf6 23.Qxc4 Bc6 24.Qf4 1-0 Kopionkin-Szabo, Budapest 1993.

16.Qxd7+

Also winning, but more complicated, is 16.exd7+.

16...Qxd7 17.exd7+ Kxd7 18. 0-0-0+ Kc7 19.Bf4+ Kb6 20.Bd5

20.Rhe1! Rxh2 (20...cxb2+ 21.

Kxc3 seriously exposes Black's king) 21.bxc3 Rxf2 22.Rd7??-and Black's game is crumbling fast.

20...cxb2+ 21.Kxb2 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Kc6 23.Rd3 Re8 24.Re3 Rd8 25. Kc2 Bh6 26.Bxh6 Rxh6

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - r - + - + (

7p - + - + p + - '

6- + k + - P - r &

5+ - p - + - + - %

4- + - + - + - + \$

3+ - + - R - P - #

2P + K + - P - P "

1+ - + - + - + R!

x a b c d e f g h y

27.Rf3?

Passivity is toxic in a rook ending. Better is 27.Ra3! Re8 (27... Rxf6?? 28.Ra6+) 28.Rxa7 Re2+ 29. Kb3 Rxf2 30.Rxf7?P!

27...Rh3 28.Re3 Rd6 29.f4 Rxf6 30. Ra3? [30.Re7?] 30...Rxf4 31. Rxa7 Rf2+ 32.Kb3 f5 33.Ra4 f4 34.Ra6+ Kb5 35.Rg6 c4+ 36.Ka3??

36.Kc3! Rxa2 (36...Rf3+! 37.

Kd4 Rd3+ 38.Ke4 fxc3 39.Rb1+=)

37.Rb1+ Kc5 38.Rg5+ Kc6 39.

Kxc4?W

36...Rf3+!

Now White's king must block the rook check at b1 that was supposed to bail his h-pawn out of the pin.

37.Kb2 fxc3 38.a4+ Kxa4 39.Ra1+ Kb4 40.Rb6+ Kc5 41.Raa6 Rxh2+ 42.Ka1 Rf1+ 43.Rb1 Rxb1+ 44. Kxb1 Rh1+ 0-1

You may do a double take at Vinay Bhat's rating if you have heard of the California Senior Master (2472) of the same name – apparently no relation to the UT-Austin student.

Sicilian Dragon B70

Bayaraa Zorigt 2219
Vinay Bhat 1521

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 a6 9.Bf1 b5 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Nb3 Nbd7 12.Nd5 Re8 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6 14.f3 Nd7 15.c3 Qc7 16.Nd4 Nc5 17.Qd2

So far, so good. Now, however, Black cedes control of d5 in very un-Dragon-like fashion.

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + r + k + (
7+ l q - p p t p '
6p + - p - + p + &
5+ p n - + - l - %
4- + - N P + - + \$
3+ - P - + P + - #
2P P - Q - + P P "
1R - + - R L K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
17...f6 18.Be3 e5 19.Nc2 Rad8 20.Nb4 Qd7 21.Rad1 Qf7 22.Qf2 Bf8 23.b3 f5 24.exf5 gxf5 25.Qh4 Be7 26.Bg5 Bxg5 27.Qxg5+ Qg6 28.Qe3 e4 29.f4 Re7 30.c4 a5 31.Nd5 Bxd5 32.Rxd5 b4 33.Red1 Red7 34.Qh3

There goes the f5 pawn.

34...Qg4 35.Qxg4+ fxe4 36.Rg5+ Rg7?? 37.Rxc5 dxc5 38. Rxd8+ Kf7 39.Rd5 g3 40.Rxc5 e3 41.Re5 gxh2+ 42.Kxh2 Rg4 1-0

French Winawer C18

Ju Ahn 1956
Chaltanya Vaidya 2305

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 cxd4 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7

The French Poisoned Pawn requires nerves of steel, mostly for White!

9...Qc7 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 dxc3 12.Qd3 Bd7 13. Qxc3 0-0-0 14. Rb1 Nf5 15.Rg1 d4 16.Qd3 f6

Another important line is 16... Na5 intending 17...Ba4. After the text Nunn gives 17.g4 as equal.

17.exf6 e5 18.g4 Nd6 19.f5 e4 20. Qb3 d3 21.cxd3 exd3 22.Qxd3 Ne5 23.Qb3 Ndc4 24.Bg2 Bc6 25.Bxc6 Qxc6 26.Rg3?

26..f7 Rxc4 (Rh8!?) 27.Rxc4 Nxc4 28.Ng3? (Fritz), with a position only a computer could love. The computer changes its mind after a few more moves: 28...Rf8 29.h3 Nge5 30.Kf2 Rxf7 31.Bf4 Na5=.

26...Qh1+ 27.Kf2?

27.Ng1 Qe4+ 28.Kg1 Nxc4? S 27...Nxc4+ 28.Rxc4 Rxc4 29. Bf4 Rg2+ 30.Kf3 Rg1+ 0-1

French Burn C11

Austen Green 2201
Davorin Kuljasevic 2513

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 a6!? [7...b6; 7...f5] 8.Qd2 b5 9. Qh6 Bb7 10.Qg7 Rf8 11.Bd3 f5 12.Neg5 Bxf3 13. Nxf3 Bf6 14.Qh6 c5 15.0-0-0

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r n - q k r - + (
7+ - + - + p + p '
6p + - + p t - Q &
5+ p p - + - + - %
4- + - P - + - + \$
3+ - + L + N + - #
2P P P + - P P P "
1+ - K R + - + R !
x a b c d e f g h y
15...e4 16.d5?!

16.Bxf5! exf5 17.Rhe1+ Kd7 18. Qxh7 Kc7 19.Qxf5 with three pawns and attacking chances for the piece.

16...cxd3 17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Rxd3 Qe7 19.Rhd1 Qg7 20.Rd8+ Ke7

The attack has run out of juice, and Kul-J's technique takes over.

21.Qd2 Kf7 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23. Qd6+ Qe7 24.Qb6 Nd7 25.Qb7 Rd8 26.Qxa6 b4 27.Qc4 Re8 28. Nd4 Nb6 29.Qb5 Bxd4 30.Rxd4 Nd5 31.g3 Rc8 32.Qe2 Qg5+ 33. Rd2 Qf6 34.Qa6 Rd8 35.Qa5 Rd7 36.a3 bxa3 37.Qxa3+ Kg7 38.Qa4 Rc7 39.Qd4 Qxd4 40.Rxd4 Kf6 41. f4 Ne3 42.Rd2 e5 43.Re2 exf4 44. gxf4 Nd5 45.Rf2 Rc4 46.Rd2 Ke6 47.b3 Rxf4 48.c4 Nb4 49.Kb2 Rf3 50.Ka3 Nd3 51.Ka4 Nc5+ 52.Kb5 Nxb3 53.Re2+ Kd6 54.Rg2 Nd4+ 55.Kb4 Rb3+ 56.Ka4 Kc5 57.Rg7 Rh3 58.Rc7+ Kd6 59.Rc8 Rxh2 60.Kb4 Nc6+ 0-1

QGD Exchange D36

Davorin Kuljasevic 2517
Francisco Guadalupe 2224

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Qc2 c6 9.Nge2 h6 10.Bh4 e5 11.0-0 a6 12.a4 b6 13.Rad1 c4 14.Bf5 Rb8?!

On guard against 15.b3 (...b5), Black drops his guard on d5. Either 14...Bb7 or 15...Re8 is acceptable..

15.Bg3 Rb7? 16.Nf4 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ncxd5 g5 19. Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Ne2 Nb6 21.Nc3 Nbd5 22.Bh7+ Kg7 23.Be5 Nb4 24.Qb1 1-0

It may be a little early to resign, but Black's game sure is ugly. Kul-J could also be called Devourin'!

QGD Anti-Meran D43

Chaltanya Vaidya 2305
Austen Green 2201

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.a4 Bb4 7.e3 b5 8.Be2 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nd5 11.Qc2 Qa5 12.Rc1 Nd7 13.Ne5 Bb7 14. Bh5 Rf8

Worth trying is 14...Ne5 15. Bxe5 0-0 16.0-0 f5 17.e4 Nf6?6

15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.Qg6 0-0-0 17. Qxf7

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + k r - + - + (
7 p l + n + Q + - '
6- + p + p + - p &
5 q p + n + - p l %
4 P z p P - + - + \$
3+ - N - P - z - #
2- P - + - P P P "
1+ - R - K - + R !
x a b c d e f g h y

17...Bxc3+?

17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 Bxc3+ 19. Ke2 Bb2 20.Rc2 Qxa4! 21.Bg6! c3 21.Qxe6 b4 22.Rhb1 c5 23.Rbxb2 cxb2 24.Rxb2 Qa6+ 25.Qxa6+ Bxa6+ 26.Ke1 cxb2 27.Rxb2 Bb5 28.dxc5 a5 29.Bd6?-(Fritz).

18.bxc3 Nxc3 19.0-0?UNxa4 20. Qxe6 Qb6 21.Qxh6 c5 22.Qxg5 cxd4 23.exd4 a6 24.Bg4 Nb2 25. Rfd1!? [25.Rce1] Nxd1 26.Rxd1 b4 27.d5 c3 28.Qf4 Ba8 29.Rd4!

Wins the house.

29...Re8 30.Rc4+ Bc6 31.Rxc6+ Qxc6 32. Qb8# 1-0

QGD Baltic D06

Chase Watters 1957

Vinay Bhat 1521

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (3)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qb3 b6

5...Nc6 is the book line, but the text is not so simple to refute, Best may be 6.Bf4.

6.Ne5 c6 7.Qa4? Qc7

7...dxc4 8.Nxc6 Qd7? 8.Qxc4? b5 9.Qb3 Qxd4?X

8.Bg5 h6 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Rc1 0-0 11.a3 a6 12.cxd5 cxd5?

12...Nxd5=; 12...exd5=.

13.e4

13.Nb5??.

13...b5

13...dxe4 14.Nb5?!

14.Bxb5 axb5 15.Qxa8 Qb6 16.exf5 Qxd4 17.Ne2 Qxb2 18.Nd3 1-0

Giuoco Piano C24

Bayaraa Zorigt 2219

Marko Zivanic 2511

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 c6 7.Bb3 Nbd7 8.Nbd2 Nc5 9.Nf1 a5 10.c3 b5 11.Bc2 Qc7 12.Ng3 Re8 13.d4 Ne6 14.Nf5 Bf8 15.h3 Bb7 16.a4 b4 17.Bd2 Rad8 18.cxb4 axb4 19. Bxb4 c5 20.dxc5 dxc5 21.Bd2 g6 22.Ng3 Bh6 23.Qc1 Rxd2 24.Nxd2 Rd8 25.Ngf1 Qd7 26.Rd1 Nd4 27. Qb1 Ba6 28.Nb3 [28.Nf3 Bxf1 29.Kxf1 c4] 28...Be2 29.Re1 Bxf1 30.Kxf1 c4 31.Nxd4 and 0-1

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - r - + k + (
7 + - + q + p + p '
6- + - + - + p z &
5+ - + - P - + - %
4P + p n R + - + \$
3+ - + p + L + P #
2R P - + - P P + "
1+ - + Q + K + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

Fritz claims a White advantage after 31...exd4 32.e5 Nd5 33.Bd1 d3 34.Bf3 Nb4 35.Re4 Nc2 36.Ra2 Nd4 37.Qd1?!

Center Counter B01

Austen Green 2201

Walter Alberdano 1417

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (4)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bf5 6.Bd2 e6?? [6...c6] 7.Nd5 Qa4 8.Bb5+! 1-0

QP Opening D05

Chase Watters 1957

Chaltanya Vaidya 2305

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.b3 Nc6 6.Bb2 Bd6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Ne5 cxd4 9.exd4 Qc7 10.f4 [10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nf3=] 10...Nb4

11.0-0 b6 12.Rf3 Bb7 13.Rh3 g6 14.Be2?

14.a3 Nxd3 15.Rxd3 Rac8 16. Rcl Qe7?.

14...Qxc2 15.Qxc2 Nxc2 16.Rc1 Rac8 17.Nb1 Nxd4 0-1

Queen's Indian E15

Marko Zivanic 2511

Davorin Kuljasevic 2517

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 c6 8. Be3 d5 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 c5 12.e4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Rxe4 Bb7 15.Re3 Bf6 16.dxc5 Bxc3 17.Rxc3 Nxc5 18.Qe2 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Rauzer B61

Ju Ahn 1956

Samuel Fung 1757

SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.f3 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.h4 a6 11.0-0-0 Qc5 12.Qd2 b5 13. Kb1 e6 14.g4 b4 15.Ne2 Be7 16. Ng3 h6 17.Be3 Qa5 18.Bd4 e5 19. Be3 Be6 20.b3 d5 21.g5 hxg5 22. hxg5 Rxh1 23.Nxh1 d4

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + r + k + - + (
7+ - + - z p p - '
6p + - + l n - + &
5q - + - p - P - %
4- p - p P + - + \$
3+ P + - + P + - #
2P + P Q - + - + "
1+ K + R + L + N !
x a b c d e f g h y

24.gxf6 dxe3 25.fxc7! exd2 26. g8Q+ Bf8 27.Rxd2 Qb6 28.Qg2 Bh6 29.Rd1 Rc3 30.Nf2 a5 31.Qh2 Bf4 32. Bb5+! Ke7 [32...Qxb5?? 33.Qh8+] 33.Qh4+ f6 34.Qh7+ Kf8 35.Qh8+ Kf7 36.Rd8 Kg6 37.Be8+ 1-0

Mate is forced: 37...Bf7 38. Bxf7+ Kxf7 39. Qg8+ Ke7 40.Qe8#.

QGD Exchange D36

Davorin Kuljasevic 2517
Chaltanya Vaidya 2305
SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3
 Nbd7 8.Qc2 c6 9.Nge2 Re8 10.0-0
 Nf8 11.f3 Ng6 12.Rad1 Be6 13.Ng3
 Rc8 14.a3 c5 15.Nf5 cxd4 16.exd4
 Bxf5 17.Bxf5 Rc6 18.Rfe1 h6 19.
 Be3 Nf8 20.Bf2 g6 21.Bd3 a6 22.
 Qd2 h5 23.Na4 Ne6 24.b4 b5?!

24...Qc7 25.Nc5 Bd6=
25.Nc5 Bf8 26.a4! Qb8
 26...Nxc5 27.bxc5 bxa4 28.Qb4?!

27.axb5 axb5 28.g3 Kh7 29.Bf1
Bh6
 29...Bg7 30.Ra1?Y

30.Qd3 Ne7 31.Re5 Rb6 32.Rde1
Rd8 [32...Ne6?] 33.g4!?
 33.Be3 Bxe3+ 34.Qxe3 Re8
 35.Qg5 Kg7 36.f4?.

33...hxc4?
 33...Bf4! 34.Re7 Kg8 35.gxh5
 Nxh5 36.Nd7 Rxd7 37.Rxd7 Ne6
 38.h3?!

34.Re7 Kg8 35.Bg3 Rbd6 36.fxc4
 36.Bxd6 Rxd6 37.fxc4 Bf8
 tranposes to the game.

36...Bf8 37.Bxd6 Rxd6 38.R7e2
Nxg4 39.Rg2 Nh6 40.h4 Bg7 41.
Re5 Bxe5 42.dxe5 Rc6 43.h5 Qb6
 X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - + - + k + ()
 7+ - n - + p + - ' ,
 6- q r + - + p n &
 5+ p N p P - + P %
 4- P - + - + - + \$
 3+ - + Q + - + - #
 2- + - + - + R + "
 1+ - + - + L K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
 43...Qe8 44.e6 Kh7 45.hxc6+
 fxg6 46.Qh3 Rxe6 47.Rh2 g5 48.
 Nxe6 Qxe6 49.Qg3?S

44.Kh1 Ne6 45.hxc6 Nxc5 46
.gxf7+?
 46.bxc5! Qxc5 47.Qh3!??

46...Kf8 47.bxc5
 47.Qh7 Nxf7 48.Qg8+ Ke7 49.
 Rg7 Rh6+ 50.Kg2 Rh2+!! 51.Kxh2
 Qh6+ 52.Bh3 Qf4+ 53.Kg2 Qe4+?.

47...Qxc5 48.Qh7 Nxf7 49.Rg8+
Ke7 50.Qh4+ Kd7 51.Rg7 Ke8 52.
Rg8+ Kd7 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Morphy B45

Bayaraa Zorigt 2219
Lilia Doibani 2044
SW Collegiate Chp. 2008 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nxc6
 dxc6 8.h3 Be6 9.Nd2 Qc7 10.a4
 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qf3 Rad8 13.
 Rfd1 Nd7 14.c3 f6?!

14...Bc5 15.Bg5 f6=.

15.Bc4± Bxc4 16.Nxc4 Be7
 16...Nb6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.b4?.

17.Qg4
 17.Bxa7! b6 18.Rxd7 Qxd7 19.
 Bxb6?.

17...Rfe8 18.h4 b5?
 18...Nb6 19.Nxb6 axb6 20.Qe6+
 Kf8 21.Qf5 Kg8 22.b4?6 18...b6 19.
 Bh6 Bf8 20.Nd6 Re7 21.Nf5 Rf7
 22.Be3 Kh8 23.b4 g6=.

19.Nd2?
 19.axb5 cxb5 20.Rxa7 Qxc4 21.
 Rxd7 Rxd7 22.Qxd7 Kf7 23.b4??.

19...Bc5= 20.Nf1 Bxe3 21.Nxe3 Nc5
 21...a6 22.axb5 cxb5 23.Rxa6
 (23.Nd5 Qb7?S 23...Nc5 24.Rxd8
 Rxd8 25.Rxf6 Nxe4 26.Qe6+ Kh8
 27.Rf5?S)

22.axb5 cxb5 23.Nd5 Qc6
 ?/23...Qf7 24.Ra5 h5 25.Qf3
 Rd7 26.b4 Ne6 27.Rxb5?à

24.h5!?
 24.Rxa7 Nb7 25.Rxb7 Qxb7 26.
 Nxf6+ Kf7 27.Nxe8 Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1
 Kxe8 29.Qh5+??

24...Rd7 25.b4!?
 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.Rxd7 Nxd7
 27.Qxd7 Rf8 28.Qxa7 Qh4 29.Qa2+!
 Kh8 30.Qf7?PE

25...Ne6??
 25...f5 26.Qxf5 Rf7 27.Qg4 Ne6
 28.g3?à 1-0

High School Games

QGD Marshall D06

Alexander Balkum 2070
Rene Martinez 1341
Texas High School Ch. 2008 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4
 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7
 8.Nc3 c6 9.Be3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 0-0
 11.Kh1 f5 12.Qd2 Na6 13.a4 Nb4
 14.a5 Nc8 15.Rg1 Rf7 16.Bc4 Qd7
 17.d5 Rf6 18.e5 Rg6 19.Rxg6 hxg6
 20.dxe6 Qxd2 21.Bxd2 b6 22.Bg5
 bxa5 23.Rxa5 Nb6 [23...Kf8 24.Be3
 g5 25.Ba6±] 24.Bxe7 Nxc4 25.Ra4
 a5 26.Bxb4 Nxe5 27.Rxa5 Rxa5
 28.Bxa5 Nxf3 29.Ne2 Ne5 30.Bc3
 Ng4 31.Kg2 Nf6 32.Bxf6 gxf6
 33.Nd4 Kf8 34.Nxc6 Ke8 1-0

Sicilian Alapin B22

Courtney Jamison 2044
Mengwei Ni 1280
Texas High School Ch. 2008 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 cxd4
 5.cxd4 e6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 Nge7 8.
 0-0 0-0 9.Be3 a6 10.a4 d6?! [10...
 d5=] 11.Qd2 Na5 12.Ba2 Bd7 13.
Bf4 Qc7 14.Rac1 Qb6 15.b4 Nac6
 15...Qxb4 16.Rb1 Qa3 17.Ra1
 Rfc8 18.Ne2 Nb3 19.Qe3 Bxa4
 20.Rfb1 Nxd4 21.Qxa3 Nxe2+
 22.Kh1 Nxf4 23.Qxd6?S

16.Bxd6 Rfe8 17.a5 Qd8 18.d5 Na7
19.Bc5 Nb5 20.Nxb5 Bxb5 21.Rfd1
exd5 22.exd5 Nf5 23.Re1 Qd7 24.
Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Re1 Rxe1+ 26.
Qxe1 f6 27.h3 Nd6 28.Qc1 f5 29.
Nd4 Kf7 30.Nxb5 Nxb5 31.Qe3 Bf8
32.Qe5 1-0

Sicilian Grand Prix B23

Gabriel Guerra 1640
Warren Harper 2340
Texas High School Ch. 2008 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.f4 Bg7 4.Nf3
 Nc6 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 Ne7
 8.Bc4 0-0 9.Ne2 d5 10.Nexd4 dxc4
 11.Ne2 cxd3 12.cxd3 b6 13.Qc2
 Nc6 14.Be3? [14.Rd1 Nb4 15.Qa4
 f5?6 14...Nb4 0-1

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33
Charlina Hung 1599
Alexander Balkum 2070

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.
Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 a6 10.
Nc3 Be7 11.Bd3 0-0 12.Qh5!?

Normal is 12.0-0 f5 13.f3.

12...f5 13.h4 Bf6 14.g3 e4 15.Bc2
Bd7 16.Bg5 b5 17.0-0 Be8

17...Qa5!?

18. Qe2 b4

18...Bxg5+ 19.hxg5 Qxg5+ 20.
Kb1 bxc4?†

19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Qxe4 g6?!

20...Bg6 21.Qe6+ Bf7=.

21.Qe6+ Kg7 22.Qe3

22.Bf4 Be7 23.h5?.

22...Qe7?? 23.Bh6+??

23.Qxe7+ Bxe7 24.Bxe7??»

23...Kg8 24.Qxe7

24.Bxf8?@u

24...Bxe7 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Rde1
Bf7 27.Ba4 a5 28.Re3 Na6 29.Rhel
Bf6???????? 0-1!?

The G/60 time control was
undoubtedly a big factor.

QGD Tartakover D53
Karthik Ramachandran 2036
Abhay Raina 1554

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5
Nbd7 5.Nf3 Be7 6.e3 b6 7.cxd5
Nxd5 8.Nxd5 exd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7
10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Nf6 12.h3 Be6
13.Qc2 c5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Rac1
Rac8 16.Qe2 h6 17.Rfd1 e4?! [17...
Rfd8=] 18.Bb1 Qb7 19.Nd4 Rb8
20.b3 cxb3 21.Nxb3 Rfe8 22.Bd3
Qb4 23.Nd4 Qd6 24.Rc6 Qe7
25.Rdc1 Rec8 26.Qc2 Re8? [26...
Qe8] 27.Re7 Qa3 28.Nb5

Even better is 28.Bb5!, either
setting up a knight fork at c6
(28...Re7 29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.Nc6) or
winning a pawn at e6 after 28...Rf8.

28...Qa5 29. Rxa7 Qb6 30.Re7
Qa5 31.Nd4 Qa3 32.Bb5 Rf8 33.
Rc5 Rfe8 34.Nxe6 fxe6 1-0

King's Indian Saemisch E87
Alexander Balkum 2070
Kevin Lu 1765

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nge2
f5 9.Qd2 Nf6 10.0-0-0 fxe4 11.
Nxe4 Bf5 12.N2c3 Nxe4 13.fxe4
Bc8 14.Be2 Nd7 15.h4 h5 16.g4
hxg4 17.Bxg4 Nf6 18.Bxc8 Rxc8
19.Rdg1 Qe8 20.Qg2 Nh5 21.Qxg6
Rf1+ 22.Rxf1 Qxg6 23.Rhg1 Qh7
24.Rg2 Rf8 25.Rfg1 Kh8 26.Rg4
Bh6 27.Bg5 Bxg5+ 28.hxg5 Qg6
29.Rh1 Rf4 30.Rg2 Kg8 31.Rgh2
Qxg5 32.Kc2 Ng3 33.Rh8+ Kf7 34.
R1h7+ Kg6 35.Rg8+ Kxh7 36.
Rxg5 Nxe4 37.Nxe4 Rxe4 38.Kd3
Rf4 39.Rg3 Rf6 40.Rh3+... 1-0!?

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - + (
7p p p - + - + k '
6- + - p - k - + &
5+ - + P p - + - %
4- + P + - + - + \$
3+ - + K + - + R #
2P P - + - + - + "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

The score is incomplete. Again,
Balkum's astonishing luck must be
partly a result of sudden death.

Sicilian Najdorf B90
Sean Li 1760
Karthik Ramachandran 2036

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.
f3 Be7 9.g4 h6 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.
Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 b5 13.a4 bxa4
14.Na5 Nb6 15.Nc6 Qc7 16.c4
Nfd7 17.Qa5 Bh4+ 18.Kd1 0-0
[18...Bd8?@ 19.Rxa4?@Bg5 20.Bf2
20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Ne7+ Kh7
22.h4 g6 23.hxg5+ Kg7 24.Nc6?@B
20...Rfe8 21.Rb4? [21.Ra3?@J

Giving Black a little tactic.

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + r + - + k + (
7+ - q n + p p - '
6p n N p - + - p &
5Q- + P + - t - %
4- R P + - + P + \$
3+ - + - + P + - #
2- P - + - t - P "
1+ - + K + L + R !
x a b c d e f g h y

21...Nxd5! 22.cxd5
22.Qxc7 Nxc7?Ç was the best
deal to be had.

22...Qxa5 23.Nxa5 Rc1+ 24.Ke2
Rc2+ 25.Ke1 Bd2+ 26.Kd1 Bxb4
27.Kxc2 Bxa5 28.Bc4 Bb6 29.Bxb6
Nxb6 30.Bb3 a5 31.Kd3 a4 32.Ba2
Ra5??@3.Rc1 Nxd5 34.Ke4 Nf6+
35.Kd3 d5 36.h4 e4+ 37.fxe4 dxe4+
38.Ke3 Nng4+ 39.Kxe4 Nf6+ 40.
Kf4 Ra7 41.Ke5 Ng4+ 42.Kf4 h5
43.Rc5 g6 44.b4 axb3 45.Bxb3 Kg7
46.Bd1 Nh6 47.Rg5 Rd7 48.Bxh5
Rd4+ 49.Ke3 Rxh4 50.Bf3 Nf5+
51.Kf2 Rf4 52.Rg4 Rxg4 53.Bxg4
Nh6 54.Bf3 f5 55.Kg3 Kf6 56.Kf4
g5+ 57.Kg3 g4 58.Bc6 Kg5 59.Bd7
f4+ 60.Kf2 Nf5 0-1

Queen's Indian E13

William Ong 2033
Warren Harper 2340

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3
b6 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.Rc1

The main lies are 6.Qc2 or 6.e3.

6...h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.Nd2
Bxc3 10.bxc3 Nxc3 11.hxg3 d6
12.e4 Nd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Be2 Qe7
15.Bf3 Kd8 16.g4 Kc7 17.Qc2 f5
18.Kd1 fxg4 19.Bxg4 Nf6 20.Be2
e5 21.f3 h5 22.a4 h4 23.a5 Bc6
24.Rb1 Nh5 25.Nf1 Nf4 26.dxc5
bxc5 27.Ne3 Rhb8 28.Kd2 Nh5
29.Nf5 Qf6 30.Rhd1 Ng3 31.Nxg3
[31.Bd3?] 31...Qf4+ 32.Kd3 Qxg3
33.a6 g4 34.Rf1 Rb6 35.Qd2 Rab8
36.Rxb6 Rxb6 37.Qe1 Rxa6 38.
Qxg3 hxg3 39.fxg4 Ra2 0-1

Nimzo-Indian E54

Kevin Wang 1972
Alexander Balkum 2070

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (4)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4

A typical transposition from the Caro-Kann to the Nimzo-Indian.

7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bb7

Common is 11...Qc7. Black can still do it next move to break the pin.

12.Bg5 Nc6?! 13.Re1 Na5 14.Bd3 Rc8 15.Rc1 Bd5 16.Ne5 h6 17.Bh4 g5 18.Bg3 Nc4 19.Qe2 Nxe5 20. Bxe5 Nd7 21.Bd6 Re8 22.c4 Bc6 23.Qh5 Qf6 24.Re3!

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + r + r + k + (
7p - + n + p + - '
6- p l z p q - p &
5+ - + - + - p Q %
4- + P P - + - + \$
3P - + L R - + - #
2- + - + - P P P "
1+ - R - + - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
24...e5?

24...Qg7! 25.Rh3 e5 26.dxe5 Nxe5 27.Bxr5 Rxe5 28.Qxh6 Qxh6 29.Rxh6 Kg7 30.Rd6?: offers good chances to hold the ending.
25.dxe5 Nxe5 26.Bxe5 Rxe5 27. Rxe5 Qxe5 28.Qxh6 Qg7 29.Qd6 Qf8 30.Qg3 Qg7 31.Re1 Rd8 32.h3 Rc8 1-0

Catalan E09

Stanley Yang 2177
Abhishek Mallela 2021

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (4)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 Be7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d5 6.c4 c6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8. Nbd2 b6 9.e4 Ba6 10.Re1 Rc8 11.e5 Ne8 12.Qa4 Bxc4 13.Nxc4 b5 14.Qxa7 bxc4 15.Qa4 c5 16.Qc2 Nc7 17.Be3 Nb5 1/2-1/2

Ruy Lopez Marshall C92

Warren Harper 2340
Kevin Wang 1972

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.c3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Rxe5 c6 13.Bxd5 cxd5 14.d4 Bd6 15.Re3 Bf5 16.Nd2 Qf6 17.Qf3 Rad8 18.g4 Bc2 19. Qxf6 gxf6 20.Nf1 Rfe8 21.f3 f5 22. Bd2 f4 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Re1 Re6 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Be1 Bb1 27.a3 h6 28.Bh4 a5 29.Bd8 a4 30.Bf6 Kf7 31.Bh8 Kg8 32.Bf6 Kf7 33.Bd8 Ke8 34.Bh4 1/2-1/2

Sokolsy's Opening A00

Zhang Li 1708
Karthik Ramachandran 2036

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (5)

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 e6 3.e3 Nf6 4.b5 c5 5.c4 Be7 6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b6 8.d3 Bb7 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.Qc2 0-0 11. Rd1 Qc7 12.0-0 Rac8 13.Rc1 Rfd8 14.d4 Qb8 15.Qb3 h6 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Qc3 Rd7 20.f3 Bb7 21.Rfd1 Rcd8 22. Rd3 Rxd3 23.Bxd3 Rd7 24.Rd1 Qd8 25.Qd2 g6 26.Qc2 Kg7 27.Kf2 Bd5 28.a4 Qc7 29.Be2 Ba8 30. Rxd7 Qxd7 31.Qd3 Qxd3 32.Bxd3 Bd5 33.Bc2 Bc4= (Diagram.) ... 1-0

If anything, Black is for choice with his protected passed c-pawn versus White's crippled kingside majority. Did the clock strike again?.

Bogo-Indian E11

Abhishek Mallela 2021
Alexander Balkum 2070

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Bxd2+ 7. Nbx2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.e4 e5 10.d5 Nb8 11.Ne1 a5 12.Nd3 Na6 13.a3 Bg4 14.f3 Bd7 15.Qb3 a4 16.Qc3 c6 17.f4 exf4 18.gxf4 cxd5 19.e5 Ng4 20.cxd5 Ne3 21.Rf2 Rac8 22. Qa5 Bf5 23.Be4 1/2-1/2

Nimso-Indian E20

Warren Harper 2340
Courtney Jamison 2044

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3

Romanishin's line, which was famously used by Kasparov against Karpov in their 1985 match.

Jamison is well-prepared.

4... 0-0 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nf3 b6 7.Ne5 Bb7 8.Qa4

8.Bg5 Nxe5! 9.Bxf6 Qc8 10. Bxe5 Bxg2?! Plaskett-Speelman, London Loyds Bank 1993.

8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Na5 10.Bxb7 Nxb7 11.Bg5 Nd6 12.f3 h6 13.Bf4 a6 14.Qb3 Nh5 15.Be3 f5 16.Bf2 Kh7 17.Rd1 Nf6 18.c5 Nf7 19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.0-d5 21.cxd6 Qxd6 22.e4

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - + - + (
7+ - p - + r p k '
6p p - q p n - p &
5+ - + - + p + - %
4- + - P P + - + \$
3+ O P - + P P - #
2P + - + - z - P "
1+ - + R + R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
22...fxe4 23.fxe4 Ng4

Of course the e-pawn is poison: 23...Nxe4?? 24.Qc2??22

It is dismaying to see how quickly White's game goes downhill from here.

24.e5?!

Better is 24.Qc2 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 giving Black a slight edge.

24...Qc6 25.d5

White's desperation is obvious. The alternative is 25.h3 Nxf2 26. Qc2+ Kh8 27.Rxf2 Rxf2 with the unpleasant choice of 28.Qxf2 Qxc3 or 28.Kxf2 Rf8+ 29.Kg1 Rf3.

25...exd5 26.Bd4 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Qe6 28.Qc2+ Kg8 29.c4 and... 0-1

Black wins a second pawn after 29...dxc4 or 29... c5(!).

QGD Ragozin D38

William Ong 2033

Javier Martinez 1690

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 d5 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6

7...Nbd7 8.Rc1 c5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.dxc5 Nc5 11.Be2 Ne4 12.0-0 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Be7= (ECO).

8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne5 [9.Qb3] 9...Qd6

10.Nd3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Bb7 12.Be2

Ne4 13.Rc1 Nd7 14.0-0 Rac8 15.f3

Nef6 16.Bf2 Rfe8 17.Re1 c5 18.

Qd2 c4 (8...Ba6) 19.Nb4 a5 20.Nc2

Re6 21.g4 Qe7 22.Kg2 Re8 23.Rh1

Nh7 24.Rcg1 Ndf6 25.h4 h5 26.g5

Nd7 27.Rh3 g6 28.Kh2 Bc6 29.e4

Ba4 30.Ne3 dxe4 31.f4 b5 32.f5

Ra6 33.Kh1 Rd8 34.fgx6 and 1-0!?

Black stands quite well, e.g.

34...fxg6 35.Nd5 Qd6 36.Nf6+

Ndxf6 37.gxf6 Qxf6 38.Bxh5 Qf5

39.Bg4 Qd5 40.Be3 Rf6?]

Scotch Game C45

Stanley Yang 2177

Kevin Wang 1972

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (6)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4

4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.Nb5 Bxe3

7.fxe3 Qh4+ 8.g3 Qxe4 9.Nxc7+

Kd8 10.Nxa8 Qxh1 11.Qd6

The other move is 11.Qg4,

which Langer tried in Gibraltar this

year against Norwegian expert Tofte.

Black equalized handily after 11...

Qg1!? (11...Nge7) 12.Qf4 Nf6 13.

Nc3 Re8 14.Kd2 Qxh2+ 15.Be2 Qh6

16.Qxh6 gxh6 17.Rf1 Re6 18.Nc7

Kxc7 19.Rxf6 Rxf6 20.Nd5+ Kd6=...

11...Nf6 12.Nd2 Qd5 13.Qc7+ Ke7

14.0-0-0 Qe5 15.Nc4 Qxc7 16.

Nxc7 Kd8 17.Nb5 Re8?

17...d5 18.Nc3 (18.Bg2 Ke7=

Mihok-Eremeevich, Budapest 2006)

18...Bg4 19.Rd2 Bf3 20.Nd6?a

18.Nbd6?-Rf8 19.e4 Kc7 20.Bh3 b6

21.e5 Nh5 22.Nxc8 Kxc8 23.Rxd7

Kb8 24.Nd6 Rd8 25.Rb7+ Ka8 26.

Rc7 f6 27.Bg2 Kb8 28.Rb7+ Ka8

1-0

French Defense C06

Courtney Jamison 2044

Stanley Yang 2177

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (7)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.c3 c5

5.Ngf3 Nf6 6.e5 Nfd7 7.Bd3 Nc6

8.0-0 g5 9.Bb1!

9.g4 h5 10.h3 hxg4 11.hxg4 Qb6

12.Qa4 cxd4 13.cxd4 f5! 14.exf6

Nxf6 15.Bg6+ Kf8?-

9...g4 10.Ne1 h5 11.Nb3 b6 12.f4

Ba6 13.Rf2 Qc7 14.f5 0-0-0 15.f6

Bf8 16.Be3 Bh6 17.Qd2 Bxe3 18.

Qxe3 Rdg8 19.a4

19.Rd2 Ndx5! 20.dxe5 Nxe5

21.Rd1 g3 22.h3 Nc4 23.Qe2 Rh6

24.Nd2?@

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + k + - + r r (

7p - q n + p + - ' ,

6l p n + p P - + &

5+ - p p P - + p %

4P + - P - + p + \$

3+ N P - Q - + - #

2- P - + - R P P "

1R L + - N - K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

19...g3 20.Rf3?!

20.hxg3 h4 21.gxh4 Rxh4 22.

Rf4 Rh5 23.Rf3=

20...gxh2+ 21.Kxh2?

21.Kh1 Ndx5 22.dxe5 Nxe5 23.

Rh3 Ng4 24.Qd2 Bc4 25.Nc1 Rh6?c

21...Ndx5!??• 22.dxe5 Nxe5 23.

Kh1 Nxf3 24.Qxf3 Rg3 25.Qf2 h4

26.a5 h3 27.Kg1 hxg2 28.Nxg2

Rh1+! 29.Kxh1 Rh3+ 0-1

Queen's Indian E16

Abhishek Mallela 2021

William Ong 2033

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (7)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7

5.Bg2 e5!? 6.d5! exd5 7.Nh4 g6

7...b5 has also been tried.

8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.cxd5

10.Bg5 Qc7 11.Bf4 Qc8 12.cxd5

Ne8 13.Rc1 d6 14.a3 Nd7 15.b4?
Tal-Ljubojevic, Riga 1979.

7...d6 11.Re1

11.e4 a6 12.a4 Nbd7 13.f4 Re8

14.Re1 c4 15.Be3 b5! ?A Peev-

Nogueiras, Varna 1978.

11...Ba6 12.a4 Bc8 13.e4 Ne8

14.Qb3 Na6 15.Bf1 Nac7 16.f4 f6

17.Nf3 Rb8 18.Nb5 Rb7 19.Nd2

Bd7 20.Nc4 Qe7 21.Bd2 Nxb5 22.

axb5 Nc7 23.Na3 Ra8 24.Bc3 Kh8

25.Rad1 Rbb8 26.e5 fxe5 27.fxe5

Bf5 28.exd6 Qxd6 29.Nc4 Qf8 30.

d6?

Repositioning the Nc7 helps the

defense. Stronger is 30.Bg2, e.g.

30...Bg4 31.Rd2 a6 32.Ne5!??ñor

30... Re8 31.d6 Rxe1+ Rxe1!??L

30...Ne6 31.Bg2 Nd4 32.Bxd4

Bxd4+ 33.Kh1 Re8 34.Bxa8??

34.Rf1! Qg8 35.Bxa8 Rxa8 36.

Rxf5=.

34...Rxe1+ 0-1

Sicilian Grand Prix B23

Haoshuang Zhang 1683

Warren Harper 2340

Texas High School Ch. 2008 (7)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3

Bg7 5.Be4 e6 6.d3

6.f5 Nge7 7.fxe6 fxe6 =.

6...Nge7 7.0-0-0 8.Qe1 d5 9.Bb3

b5!?

This position has occurred many

times, with the most popular choices

for Black being Na5 and Nd4.

9...b5 was played in Milasevic-

Gara (European Women's Team Ch.

2005), when White accepted the

offer: 10.Nxb5 Qb6 11.c4 dxe4 12.

dxe4 Na5, and now instead of 13.e5

a6, Fritz likes 13.Be2 Ba6 14.Qf2?<

10.a4 b4 11.Ne2 c4 12.dxc4 dxe4

13.Ng5 f5 14.c5 Nd5 15.Qg3

15.Qf2 h6 16.Nh3 Ba6 17.Rd1

Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Bd4+?*

15...Qe7 16.Rd1 Qxc5+ 17.Kh1 h6

18.Nxe6 Bxe6 19.Qxg6 Rf6 20.Qh5

Rd8 21.Qh3 Qf2 22.Ng3 Na5 23.

Nh5 Rg6 24.Be3 Qe2 25.Nxg7

Kxg7 26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxd5 Bxd5

28.Bd4+ Kh7 29.Rg1 e3 0-1

UTD repeats at Final Four

by Jennifer Shahade and Michael Atkins USCF Online

The Final Four of College Chess (April 5-6, Baltimore) came down to the Sunday morning clash between powerhouse teams University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and host team, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Going into the match, UTD was half a point ahead, so UMBC needed 2.5/4 to earn the title. WGM Katerina Rohonyan lost to IM Marko Zivanic in the first completed game of the match. Meanwhile, Alejandro Ramirez drew against GM Sergey Erenburg, leaving UMBC needing 2/2 to claim victory. In another all GM clash on board two, Timur Gareev (formerly at UT-Brownsville) took down Magesh Panchanathan. Now victory was in reach for UMBC.

English Opening A17

Timur Gareev 2599

Magesh Panchanathan 2524

Final Four 2008 (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4 4.Qc2 b6 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Qxc3 Bb7 7.e3

Bradford played 7.g3 against Panchanathan in the 2006 Texas State Championship.

7...d6 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.O-O a5 10.b3 O-O 11.Bb2 e5

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - ♘ - ♖ k + (
7+| ♡ n + ♡ ♡ ♡ '
6- ♡ - ♡ - ♗ - + &
5♡ - + - ♡ - + - %
4- + ♡ + - + - + $
3♡ ♡ ♡ - ♡ N + - #
2- ♗ - ♡ - ♡ ♡ ♡ "
1♖ - + - + ♖ ♗ - !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

Also seen is 11...Qe7, going Dutch after 12.d4 Ne4 13.Qc2 f5 14. Ne1 Qg5 15.Qc1 Rf6 16.f3 Qh5, with attack in van Wely-Ivanchuk, Monte Carlo Blind 2007.

12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 a4 14.d5!? (14.b4) **axb3 15.Nxe4 Re8 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Qxb3 Nc5 18.Qc2 Qg6 19.Qd1 Bc8 20.Bd4 Bh3 21.Bf3 Bf5 22.Ra2 Ra6 23.h4 Rea8**

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - + k + (
7+ - ♡ - + ♡ ♡ ♡ '
6r ♡ - ♡ - + ♡ + &
5+ - ♗ ♡ + | + - %
4- + ♡ ♗ - + - ♡ $
3♡ - + - ♡ ♗ + - #
2♖ + - + - ♡ ♡ + "
1+ - + ♡ + ♖ ♗ - !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

24.Bh5! Qh6 25.Bxf7+! Kxf7 26. Qf3 Qg6 27. Bxc5 bxc5 28.e4 Qg4 29.Qxf5+ Qxf5 30.exf5 Ra4?!'

After 30...Rxa3 31.Rxa3 Rxa3 32.Re1 h5! followed by ...Rc3 and ...Kf6, it is hard to see how White makes progress.

31.Rc1 Kf6 32.Re2 Rxa3 33.Kh2 h5 34.Re6+ Kxf5 35.Re7 Kg6 36. Rce1 Ra2 37.R1e6+ Kh7 38.Rf7 Rc2 39.Ree7 Rg8 40. Rf4 Rc8 41. Kg3 Kh6 42.Rfe4 Rf8 43.f3 Ra8 44.Rxc7 Raa2 45.Re6+ Kh7 46. Rxd6 Rxc2+ 47.Kf4 Rad2 48.Re6 Rd3 49.Rxc5 Rf2 50.Re3 Rd4+ 51. Ke5 Rxc4 52.d6 Rd2 53. Rd5 1-0

However, IM Davorin Kuljasevic, who has been in excellent form lately with two GM norms to his credit, prevailed in a long game against GM Pavel Blehm, pushing UTD to another title win.

On Alejandro Ramirez's UTD chess blog, he writes that: "Kul-J's

excellent style was evidenced in this game, where it is impossible to say where Pawel went wrong. Davorin simply played too well!"

King's Indian E63

Davorin Kuljasevic 2517

Pawel Blehm 2565

Final Four 2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.e4 Bg4 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Qd2 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 e5 12.d5 Nd4 13.Bg2 c5 14. dxc6 bxc6 15.f4 Qa5 16.Kh1

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - ♖ k + (
7+ - + n + ♡ ♗ ♡ '
6♡ + ♡ ♡ - + ♡ + &
5♗ - + - ♡ - + - %
4- + ♡ ♗ ♡ ♡ - + $
3+ - ♗ - ♗ - ♡ - #
2♡ ♡ - ♗ - + ♗ ♡ "
1♖ - + - + ♖ + ♗ !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

This was all played before, in Lomineishvili-Mamedjarov, Batumi 2001. Black had no problems after 16...Qb4 17.b3 a5 18.f5 Rfe8 19. Rac1 Nc5 20.f6 Bf8 21.Bh6! Kh8=; 21.Bxd4 exd4 22.Qxd4 a4?..

16...Rab8 17.b3 Nf6 18.Rad1 Rfe8 19. Qd3 Rbd8 20.f5 gxf5 21.Bg5 h6 22.Bh4 Rd7

Fritz suggests 22... fxe4 23.Nxe4 Nxe4 24.Bxd8 Nxc3+ 25.Qxc3 Qxd8 26.Be4 Re7 27.Qg2 Rc7 28. Rf2 Qg5 29.Qh3 Kf8 30.Rg1 Qe7 31.Rg6 f6 32.Rfg2 Qe6=.

23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Bh3?§ Rdd8 25. Bxf5 Bg7 26.Rf2 Re7 27.Rdf1 Qc5 28.Bh3 Rf8 29.Bg2 a5 30.Qd1 Qb4 31.Qd3 Rd7 32.Na4 Re7 33.Qe3 Qb8 34.Qd3 Qb4 35.Qe3 Qb8 36. Qd3 Qa7 37.Qd1 d5 38.cxd5 cxd5 39.Nc3 dxe4 40.Bxe4 Rd7 41.Qg4

Rd6 42.Bd5 Rxd5 43.Nxd5 f5 44.
Rxf5 Nxf5 45.Rxf5 Rxf5 46.Qxf5
Qc5 47.Qe6+ Kf8 48.Nb6?@eQe7
49.Qxe7+ Kxe7 50.Nc4 e4

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - + (
7+ - + - k - l - '
6- + - + - + - + &
5p - + - + - + - %
4- + N+ p + - + \$
3+ P + - + - P - #
2P + - + - + - P "
1+ - + - + - + K !
x a b c d e f g h y

One last hope: 51.Nxa5?? e3 52.
Kg2 Bc3 and White must surrender
the knight to stop the e-pawn.

51.Kg2 Bc3 52.Kf2 Ke6 53.Ke3
Kd5 54.g4 Bd4+ 55.Ke2 a4

Or 55...Bc3 56.h4 Bf6 57.Nxa5
Bxh4 58.a4Be7 59.Nc4 Bc5 60.
Ne3+ Kd4 61.b4! Ba7 62.a5 Bc5 63.
b6 Kb4 64.a6! Bxb6 65.Nd5+ with a
winning K+P ending.

56.Ne3+ Ke5 57.bxa4 Kf4 58.Nf5
Bg1 59.Nxh6 Bxh2 60.a5 Bg1 61.a6
Bb6 62.Nf5 Kxg4 63.Nd6 Kf4 64.
Nc8 Bc5 65.a7 Bxa7 66.Nxa7 Ke5
67.Nb5 Kd5 68.Nc3+ Kd4 69.a4

1-0

Third and fourth place finishers
Miami Dade College and New York
University had significant rating
disadvantages, so it's not surprising
that neither team was in contention
for the top spot. But there were still
some notable games: IM/GM elect
Reiner Gonzalez of Miami Dade,
who already has three GM norms,
defeated GM Sergey Erenburg in a
marathon game:

Sicilian Moscow B51

Renier Gonzalez 2568
Sergey Erenburg 2620

Final Four 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.O-O
Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.h3 a6 7.Bf1 e5 8.

c3 Be7 9.d4 b5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.a4
b4 12.Nbd2 Qc7 13.Nc4 Rd8 14.
Qc2 O-O 15.Bg5 Be6 16.Ne3 b3 17.
Qb1 Qc8 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Rd1 Na5
20.c4 Qb8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Qe1
Qb6 23.Rc1 Nc6 24.Nd5 Qa5 25.
Qd1 Rb8 26.Ra1 Nd4 27.Nxd4
cxd4 28.Ra3 Bxd5 29.cxd5 h6 30.

Rxb3 Rb6 31.Rxb6 Qxb6 32.Qc2
X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + k + (
7+ - + - + p p - '
6p q - + - l - p &
5+ - + P p - + - %
4P + - p P + - + \$
3+ - + - + - + P #
2- P Q + - P P + "
1+ - + - + L K - !
x a b c d e f g h y

32...a5 33.Bb5 Be7 34.g3 h5 35.h4
g6 36.Qc6 Qd8 37.Kg2 Kg7 38.Bc4
Bb4 39.b3 Qe7 40.Be2 Qf6 41.Qc2
Qe7 42.Bc4 Qf6 43.Qc1 Bd6 44.
Bd3 Qe7 45.Qd2 Bb4 46.Qc2 Qf6
47.Bb5 Bd6 48.Qd3 Bb4 49.Kf1
Bd6 50.Ke2 Bb4 51.Qc2 Kh7 52.
Qc7 Kg7 53.Bc4 Qd6 54.Qa7 Qe7
55.Qb8 Qd6 56.Qb7 Qe7 57.Qc8
Qc5 58.Qc6 Qe7 59.Bb5 Qf6 60.
Qxf6+ Kxf6 61.f4 Bd6 62.Kf3 Bb4
63.Be2 Bd6 64.Bf1 Ke7 65.Bd3 Kf6
66.Bb5 Ke7 67.Bd3 Bc7 68.Be2
Bd6 69.Bc4 Kf6 70.Ba6 Ke7 71.
Bb5 Kf6

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - + (
7+ - + - + p + - '
6- + - l - k p + &
5p L + P p - + p %
4P + - p P P - P \$
3+ P + - + K P - #
2- + - + - + - + "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

72.Bc4 Ke7??

A woeful choice, but admittedly
this looks like a "can't lose" ending.
White has nothing after 72...Bb4.

73.fxe5 Bxe5 74.b4! axb4 75.a5
Bb8 76.a6 Kd6 77.g4 hxg4+ 78.
Kxg4 f6 79.h5 gxh5+ 80.Kxh5 Kc5

Or 81...Ke5 81.Kg6 with Kf7-e7
to follow, and Black is in *zugzwang*.

81.Bd3 Kb6 82.Kg6 Be5 83.Kf7 b3
84.Ke7 Kc7 85.Ke6 Kb6 86.d6 b2
87.d7 Bc7 88.Ke7 b1=Q 89.Bxb1
Kxa6 90.d8=Q Bxd8+ 91.Kxd8 1-0

Although NYU lost on points to
Miami Dade, in their individual
match, NYU won 2.5-1.5, with three
draws and a victory.

Sean Finn scored the decisive
victory against Devlin Sinclair. In
the tournament program, Sean de-
scribes his biggest chess accom-
plishment as "winning games with
apparently no positional understand-
ing whatsoever." Which must mean
his tactics aren't too shabby.

Goering Gambit C21

Sean Finn 2085
Devlin Sinclair 2191

Final Four 2008

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3
Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 h6 7.O-O Bg4
8.Qb3 Qd7 9.Bxf7+ Qxf7 10.Qxb7
Kd7 11.Qxa8 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Qxf3
13.Ne2 Qxe2 14.Qxf8 Nge7 15.
Qxh8 Qg4+ 16.Kh1 Qf3+ 17.Kg1
Nd4 18.Re1 Qg4+ 19.Kh1 Nf3!??

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - Q (
7p - p k n - p - '
6- + - p - + - p &
5+ - + - + - + - %
4- + - + P + q + \$
3+ - + - + n + - #
2P + - + - P - P "
1R - l - R - + K !
x a b c d e f g h y

How does White avoid losing?

(Continued on page 16)

Harper Wins Lone Star Open

By **Franc Guadalupe**
Chess Life Online

Denker Champion Warren Harper, the second-highest rated 16-year old in the nation, allowed a first-round draw to expert Albert Franklin, then proceeded to run the table to win the Lone Star Open, held Feb. 29-Mar. 2 in Houston. Harper secured clear first with a last round victory over IM Danilo Canda.

Alekhine's Defense B05

IM Danilo Canda 2323
Warren Harper 2329

Lone Star Open (4)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.O-O Be7 7.h3 Bh5 8.c4 Nb6 9.b3?!

This should be prefaced with 9.exd6 cxd6, with a solid but less ambitious alternative to the main line with 9.Nc3.

9...dxe5 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nc6 12.Bb2 Nd7 13.Kf1 O-O-O 14.Nbd2 Nc5 15.Ne1 Bg6!

The e5 pawn is supposed to give White a space advantage, yet he is the one who is cramped. Hence, Harper wants to keep pieces on the board. Black does not challenge the e5 pawn wedge – that would only activate the bishop at b2.

16.Bc3 a5 17.g3 h5 18.h4 Rd7 19.Kg2 Rhd8 20.Nf1 a4!

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + k r - + - + (
 7+ p p r z p p - '
 6- + n + p + l + &
 5+ - n - P - + p %
 4p + P + - - + - P \$
 3+ P z - + - P - #
 2P + - + L P K + "
 1R - + R N N + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

White had hoped to answer this with 21.b4, but that loses the b-pawn after 21...Ne4. Also, on 21.bxa4 Nxa4 White must surrender the e5 pawn to save his bishop.

21.Rxd7 Rxd7 22.Nd2

Nothing helps. Fritz gives 22.Bf3 axb3 23.axb3 Nxb3 24.Ra8+ Nb8 and White doesn't have much for the pawn.

21...Nxe5 0-1

Black keeps both the pawn and the "inish" (23.b4 Ncd3 24.Nxd3 25.a3 c5 26.b5 Nb4!), so Canda's discouragement is understandable.

After skipping a grade, Warren is a senior at The Tenney School in Houston. It is well documented how Warren, now rated 2357, learned to play chess less than four years ago and became a master in two years. What is still up in the air is where he will end up for his college education. He wants to go to Texas Tech but his mom, Carol, wants him to go to UTD! One thing is certain – He will be a great addition to either school.

Tied for second place, half-a-point behind Warren, were IM Aibek Iskakov and Expert Mark Dejmek. Mark's only blemish was a fourth round loss to Harper.

Sicilian Defense B23

Warren Harper 2329
Mark Dejmek 2162

Lone Star Open (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5

This offshoot of the Grand Prix attack has become very trendy, with GM Svidler and IM Axel Bachmann among its adherents.

3...Nd4 4.Bc4 a6 5.Nge2 e6 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Ne2 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Bc5 10.b4 Ba7

Fritz gives 10...Bxb4 as equal.
11.O-O Nf6 12.Bb2 Ng4 13.h3 h5?!

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + l z k + - r (
 7z p + - + p p - '
 6p + - + - + - + &
 5+ - + p + - + p %
 4- P - p - + n + \$
 3+ - + L + - + P #
 2P z P P N P P + "
 1R - + Q + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

Now 14.hxg4 is okay if you're a computer, and can see that after 14...hxg4 15.Re1 Qh4 16.Ng3+ Kf8 (16...Kd8 17.Kf1 f5!? 18.Re5!) 17.b5 Bd7 18.Ba3+ Kg8 19.Re7, White is the one holding the aces.

Harper makes a very practical decision to pocket a pawn at no risk.

14.Nxd4 Qd6 15.Re1+ Kf8 16.Qf3 Nf6

The last ditch attacking effort would be 16...Qh2+ 17.Kf1 Bd7 18.Bf5!?a or 17... Nf6 18.Ne2! with White consolidating his advantage.

17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 h4 19.Be5 Qb6 20.c3 Qc6 21.a4 Re8 22.b5 Qe6 23.Qxe6 Rxe6 24.Bc7 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 axb5 26.axb5 Bc5 27.Bf5 d4 28.Re5! 1-0

Neither 28...Be7 29.Bc8 nor 28...b6 29.Rxc5! was appealing.

Among Mark's four wins was a third-round victory against the top seed, IM Aibek Iskakov.

Ruy Lopez C60

Mark Dejmek 2162
IM Aibek Iskakov 2389

Lone Star Open (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.O-O Bg7 5.Re1 Nge7 6.Nc3 O-O 7.Nd5 f5?!

Black jumps the gun, skipping 7...d6.

8.Nxe7+ Nxe7 9.exf5 Nxf5 10. Nxe5 Nd4 11.c3 Bxe5?

With this next idea Black wildly overplays his hand. Best is 11... Nxb5 12.Qb3+ d5 13.Qxb5 c6 with some compensation for the pawn.

12.Rxe5 Qf6!??

The only possible point to the previous exchange.

13.cxd4 Qxf2+ 14.Kh1 c6 15.Be2 d6 16.Re3 Bg4

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - + - r k + (
 7p p + - + - + p '
 6- + p p - + p + &
 5+ - + - + - + - %
 4- + - P - + | + \$
 3+ - + - R - + - #
 2P P - P L Q P P "
 1R - t Q + - + K !
 x a b c d e f g h y

17.h3! Bxh3 18.gxh3 Rae8 19.Qg1 Rxe3 20.Qxf2 Rxf2 21.Bc4+ d5 22.Bxd5+ cxd5 23.dxe3 Kf7 24.b3 Rf1+ 25.Kg2 Rd1 26.Kf3 Rf1+ 27.Ke2 Rh1 28.Kd3 g5 29.Bb2 Rxb3 30.Rc1 g4 31.Ba3 Rh2

A somewhat more exciting finish is offered by 31...g3 32.Rc7+ Kg8 33.Ke2! Rh2+ 34.Kf3 Rxa2 35.Bd6 g2 36.Bh2 +- .

32.Bd6 Rxa2 33.Rc7+ Kg6 34. Rxb7 1-0

The g-pawn is stopped dead, and White can get on with queening the d-pawn.

That effort earned Mark a free entry to our next event. Rounding up the top five were IM Danilo Canda and NM Bradley Sawyer. In an FM vs. IM match-up, Iskakov (originally from Kazakhstan) prevailed over FM Salvador Infante, whose name suggests his country of origin: El Salvador.

In the U2000 division, Mariano De Medina and Matthew Michaelides tied for first with 4-1. We had a

three-way tie in U1800, with Danny Purdy, Dylan James, and Seth Thompson all scoring 4-1. Lawrence Tuttle won clear first with 4.5 points in the U1600 division. In U1300, Clark Robertson, Alexander Yang and William Riley tied for first, 4-1.

Cajun Chess donated prizes for the youngest participant, seven year-old Hanna Liu; the oldest player, 72 year-old Frank Roberts; and to our contestant who traveled the farthest, Clark Robertson. I am sure it was a happy trip back to Monterey, CA for Clark after having tied for first in his division.

On Saturday we held a scholastic tournament with sixty-eight players participating. Lasalle McMorris won the K-12 division, Harold-Xavier Gonzalez finished with a perfect score in the K-8, as did Stone Sikich in the K-5. Katelyn Wang won the K-2 division.

The Lone Star Open took place at the beautiful facilities of the DoubleTree Hotel, Houston Airport, the site of the 2007 US Class Championships. Although attendance to this event was smaller than in previous years, the 116 participants provided plenty of excitement and great games. As always, Cajun Chess sponsored the event. Senior TD Kory Kormick was my Assistant TD while Jean Troendle, president of Cajun Chess, was in charge of the computer work.

For complete results of this event, see www.cajunchess.com/ and www.uschess.org/msa.

Final Four (cont'd from p. 14)

A draw was available, but the refutation to Black's attack is not immediately obvious. The threat of 20...Nh4 is certainly menacing.

20.Bxh6!! Qh3

Or 20...Nh4 21.Qxg7 Qf3+ 22. Kg1 Qh3 23.Qg3 and that's all, foks.

Black's checks also run out after 20...Nxe1 21.Rxe1 Qg4+ 22.Kf1

Qh3+ 23.Ke2.

21.Bxg7 Nh4 22.Qxh4 Qxh4 23.f3 Qf4 24.Rf1 Ng6 25.Rf2 Nh4 26. Raf1 c6 27.Bc3 Qe3 28.Bd2 Qd3 29.Bg5 Ng6 30.h4 Qb5 31.Rg1 Qd3 32.h5 Ne5 33.Rg3 Qd1+ 34.Kg2 Nd3 35.Rd2 Ne1+ 36.Kh3 Qb1 37. Rg1 d5 38.h6 Ke6 39.h7 dxe4 40. h8=Q exf3 41.Qf6# 1-0

Two very successful players on the college chess circuit are graduating this year: GM Magesh Panchanathan of UTD and GM Pavel Blehm of UMBC. Congratulations to both for their academic and chess accomplishments. n ?á

Sicilian B54

Ernesto Malazarte 2139

Martin Gordon 1867

MHCC April, San Antonio

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Be7 7.Be2 e5 8. Ndb5 a6 9.Na3 f5 10.Nd5 Kf8 11. Bb6 Qd7 12.Bc4 Bd8 13.Qf3 Nf6 14.Nxf6 Bxf6 15.c3 Nd8 16.0-0 Qc6 17.Bxd8 Bxd8 18.Bd5 Qd7 19. Ne4 Rb8 20.g4 f4 21.Rhg1 b5 22. Nd2 a5 23.Kb1 g5 24.Nf1 h6 25. Ne3 b4 26.c4 Qe7 27.Rd3 Kg7 28. Nf5+ Bxf5 29.gxf5 h5 30.h3 Kh6 31.Be6 Bf6 32.c5 Qxc5 33.h4 Rhc8 34.hxg5+ Bxg5

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- r r + - + - + (
 7+ - + - + - + - '
 6- + - p L + - k &
 5p - q - p P t p %
 4- p - + P p - + \$
 3+ - + R + Q + - #
 2P P - + - P - + "
 1+ K + - + - R - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
 35.Qxh5+! Kxh5 36.Rh3+ Bh4 37. Bf7+ Kh6 38.Rxh4# 1-0

Solution (back cover): 1.Kd1 Kd3 (Kc3) 2.Bd5 Kc3 (Kd3) 3.Rb3#.

Malazarte wins Texas Action Championship

Ernesto Malazarte won the Texas Action Championship, held March 15 in San Antonio. He scored 5-0, defeating Gregg Stanley and Derek Chang in the final rounds. Selby Anderson, who lost to Stanley in Rd. 3, finished in clear second with 4. Matt Liu (1884) drew Stanley in the last round to win U1900 with 3.5. He tied with Gregg Stanley and Derek Chang (1905), who shared the U2100 prize. Sharing the U1700 prize with 3 were Robert Sturgeon (1543) from San Angelo and Charles Davis (1646). Titus Shanks, Dee Carter and Josiah Kufus tied with 2.5 to share combined U1500 and U1300 prizes. Vadikh Unnikrishnan was top unrated with 2. Martin Gordon directed a field of 24 players at TNI. Prizes (b/40) were cut to the 2/3 guaranteed minimum.

PRIZE WINNERS

Ist: Ernesto Malazarte, 5 pts. \$167.
2nd: Selby Anderson, 4, \$83.
U2100: Gregg Stanley, Derek Chang, 3.5, \$33.50. *U1900:* Matt Liu, 3.5, \$50. *U1700:* Robert Sturgeon, 3, \$25. Charles R. Davis, 3, \$25. *U1500+U1300:* Titus Shanks, Dee Carter, 2.5, \$28. Josiah Kufus, 2.5, \$28. *Unrated:* Visakh Unnikrishnan, 2, \$33.

Modern Defense A40

Selby Anderson 2225
Gregg Stanley 2079

Texas Action Chp. (3)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nc6 4.Be3 e5 5.Ne2 d6 6.Nbc3 f5 7.f3 Nh6

Compared to 7...Nf6, this has the virtue of being the road less traveled. At f7 this knight will police dark squares such as g5 and h6.

8.Qd2 Nf7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.exf5 gxf5 11.dxe5

At the Winter Open I tried 11.d5 Na5 12.b3 c5 13.f4, when Black has counterchances after 13...a6.

11...dxe5 12.Nd5 Be6 13.f4 b5!?

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - ♝ - ♚ k + (♞
 7p - ♟ - + n ♗ p ' ♞
 6- + n + l + - + & ♞
 5+ ♟ + N ♞ ♟ + - % ♞
 4- + ♞ + - ♞ - + \$ ♞
 3+ - + - ♗ - + - # ♞
 2P ♞ - ♞ N + P ♞ " ♞
 1+ - ♞ R + L + R! ♞
 x a b c d e f g h y

Bold, confrontational play – well suited to action chess. Fritz prefers 13...e4 14.Nec3 Re8 15.g4?.

14.Nec3?!

This was played on instinct, not even calculating past 14.cxb5 Nd4. If I had, I might have found 15. Ndc3!? (not 15.Nxd4?? exd4 winning a piece for Black).

Even better is 14.Bc5! Re8 15. cxb5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd5 (16...exd4 17.Nb4) 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.b3?U

14...bxc4 15.Bxc4 Na5 16.Be2?

16.Qe2 Nxc4 17.Qxc4 is roughly equal.

16...c6?! 17.Nb4 Qe7 18.Na6 Rfd8

18...Bxa2! 19.Qd7 Nb3+ 20.Kc2 Na1+ 21.Kc1 Rae8??!

19.Qc2 Nc4 20.Bf2

20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Qa4 Bxa6 22.Qxa6 exf4??

20...exf4 21.Nc5 Ne3 22.Bxe3 fxe3 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Bd3 Nd6 25.g4 fxe4 26.Bxe7+ Kh8 27.Bd3 Nb5 28.Nxb5 cxb5 29.Kb1 Rac8 30.Qe2 Rd4 31.Rhf1?

Forced is 31.h3?W g3 32.Qh5+ Qh6 33.Qxb5 Rcd8?¥

31...Rb4!?! [32.Rf5 Rxb2+ 33.Qxb2 Bxb2 34.Kxb2 Qc6 35.Rh5+ Kg7 36.Rg5+ Kh6 37.Rxe4 Qc3+ 38.Kb1 b4 39.Bf5 e2 40.Rd6+ Kh5 0-1

QGD D51

Derek Chang 1905
J.P. Hylltin 2078

Texas Action Chp. (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.a3 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nc3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Be2 Nc6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Ne5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Rc8 14.Qb5 Qc7 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Qxc6

(Continued on page 23)

San Antonio Winter Open

MALAZARTE WINS!

The Winter Open, held Feb. 23-24 at TNI, drew 26 players. Ernesto Malazarte (2127) was clear first in the 14-player Open section with 3.5 out of 4. Tied for second and U2200 with 3 were expert Don Sutherland and John Niven. (Niven, rated 1702, could have been in the Reserve but he was "playing up"!)

Four players shared the U2000 prize: Martin Gordon, Zhaosu Ye, Allen Eckert and Charles Allen, each scoring 2.

Evan Xiang (1550), a third grade student from Houston, won the Reserve section with 3.5. Gary Cobb (1161) was clear second with 3. Michael LaBelle and Harini Balakrishnan tied for U1600 and U1400 with 2.5. Visakh Unnikrishnam, Jr. was top unrated with 1.5.

The guaranteed prizes were paid, 2/3 in all categories. Martin Gordon directed for the San Antonio Chess Club.

In Round 1, C player Charles Allen (1591) played doggedly against J.P. Hyltin (2078) until after **37...Bf3**:

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8 - + - + - ♠ k + (
7 ♡ - + - + - ♠ - '
6 - + ♡ ♣ - ♠ r ♣ &
5 + - ♡ ♠ ♣ - + - %
4 - + - ♠ - ♣ - + $
3 + - ♠ - + | ♠ K #
2 ♠ + - + ♠ ♠ - ♣ "
1 + - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

White's attacked rook needs to check at e8, to avert Black's threat

of ...Rh6+, i.e. 38.Re8+ Kf7 39. Rh8!, or 38...Kh7 39.Bf4 and Black has a long slog to win it.

38.Re1? Rh6+ 39.Bh4 g5 40.Kg3 Be4 41.Bxg5 fxe5 42.Kg4 Rg6 43. f3 Bd3 44.Re5 Kf7 45.Rxg5 Kf6 ... and Black soon won.

Modern Defense A40

Selby Anderson 2225

Gregg Stanley 2079

Winter Open (2)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nc6 4.Be3 e5 5.Ne2 d6 6.Nbc3 f5 7.f3 Nh6

Previously he has played 7...Nf6. **8.Qd2 Nf7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.exf5 gxf5 11.d5!?**

This verges on anti-positional, as Black's reply forces a weakening pawn move. More solid is 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Nd5 Be6 13.Nec3, and if 13...Nd4 then 14.f4 c5 15.fxe5?% **11...Na5 12.b3 c5 13.f4 Qf6!?**

This initially concerned me, but it turned out to be a gift. Better is 13...a6! 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Nf4 b5! 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.dxe6 bxc4 18.Nd5 with an unclear position.

14.fxe5 Qxe5

Or 14...Nxe5 15.Bg5 Qg6 16.h4 and Black's kingside woes worsen.

15.Bf4

I did not want to allow 15...f4 releasing the QB to f5.

15...Qf6 16.Kc2

Played to free the KN for Ng3.

16...Bd7

16...b5? 17.Nxb5! Qb2+ 18.Kd3 and surprisingly, the threat on the Na5 means Black must trade queens into a poor ending indeed.

A little better is 16...a6 17.Ng3 Rb8 18.Nh5 Qxc3+ 19.Qxc3 Bxc3 20.Kxc3 b5 21.Re1? (Fritz).

17.Ng3 Qh4 18.Bd3 Qg4 19.Nce2

Fritz prefers the sharp 19.Nb5 Bxb5 20.cxb5 c4!? 21.bxc4 Rac8 22.h3 Qh4 23.Nxf5 Qf6 24. Nxe7 Nxc4 25.Bxc4 Rxc4+ 26.Kb3 Rfc8 27.Rc1??-

19...b6 20.h4!?

Black was short on time, and I wanted anything but to allow easy forced replies e.g., 20.h3 Qg6.

20...Qg6 21.Bg5!?

This takes away Qf6 and sets up a later Nf4. Clearly the bishop at f4 was not doing much for me.

21...Nxe5 22.hxe5 a6 23.Nh5

Also strong is 23.Rh5.

23...Be5 24.g4

Shredding the kingside.

24...Rf7 25.Neg3 Bxg3 26.Nxe3 Rg7 27.Nh5!?

A long forcing line is 27.Nxf5! Bxf5 28.Bxf5 Qxg5 29.Bxh7+ Kf8 (29...Kh8 30.Bg6+!) 30.Rhf1+ Ke8 31.Rde1+ Kd7 32.Qxg5 Rxg5 33. Rf7+ Kd8 34.Rf8+ ? (Fritz).

27...Rf7 28.Nf6+

The g5 pawn, the 'ghost' of my dark square B, makes this possible.

28...Rxf6 29.gxf6 Qxf6 30.gxf5 Bxf5 31.Rdf1 Bxd3+ 32.Qxd3 Qe7 33.Re1

Denying the Qe5 diagonal block.

33...Qf7 34.Reg1+ Kf8 [34...Kh8 35.Qc3+] 35.Rf1 1-0

English Opening A21

J.P. Hyltin 2078

Don Sutherland 2179

Winter Open (2)

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 f5 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Nh3 Nf6 7.g3 c6 8.d5

ECO gives 8.Bg2 and 8.Nf4. The text is double-edged, offering Black good posts at c5 and e5 in order to hold back his pawn center.

8...Nbd7 [8...g5!?] 9.Bg2 0-0 10.f3 Ne5 11.b3 Bd7 12.Be3 c5 13.Nf2 exf3 14.exf3 a6 15.0-0 Rc8 16.Nd3 Ng6 17.Qd2 Nh5 18.f4 Nf6 19.Nf2 h5 20.Rae1 h4 21.Bf3 b5 22.Re2 bxc4 23.bxc4 Rb8 24.Bxc5 Rc8

24...dxc5 25.d6 Rf7 26.dxe7 Rxe7 27.Rxe7 Nxe7 (27...Qxe7 28. Nd5 Nxd5 29.Bxd5+) 28.Qd6 Be8 29.Qxc5 Rc8 30.Qb4?P

25.Bd4 Rxc4 26.Rb1 Qc7 27.Bb6 Qc8 28.Nfd1 hxe3 29.hxe3 Kf7 30.Rb3 Rh8?

Time control. Black wiggles out of the bind with 30...Bd8!= trading off the bad bishop (else ...Ba5) and avoiding the tactic that follows.

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + q + - + - r (
 7+ - + l z k p - '
 6p z - p - n n + &
 5+ - + P + - + - %
 4- + r t - P - + \$
 3+ R N - + L P - #
 2P + - Q R + - + "
 1+ - + N + - K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

31.Ne3! Rh3

The rook at c4 is snookered. A slightly better try for Black is 31...Nxf4 32.Nxc4 (32.gxf4 Rxf4?) 32...Nh3+ 33.Kg2 Qxc4 34.Re1?z

After the text Black is never let back in the game.

32.Nxc4 Qxc4 33.Kg2 Rh6 34.Re1 Qc8 35.Rh1 Qh8 36.Rbb1 Rxb1 37.Rxb1 Qc8 38.Qd3 Ng4 39.Bd4 Nf6 40.Be2 a5 41.Bb6 a4 42.a3 Nf8 43.Qc4 Qa8 44.Bf3 N8h7 45. Qc7 Qg8 46.Kf2 g5 47.Bh5+ Kg7 48.Bd4 Qd8 49.Qxd8 Bxd8 50.Rb1 g4 51.Rb7 Kh6 52.Bf7 Ba5 53.Ke3 Bxc3 54.Bxc3 Bc8 55.Rc7 Bd7 56.Kd4 Bb5 57.Bb4 Ne4 58. Be1 Nhf6 59.Rb7 Bd7 60.Be6 Ne5 61.Bxd7 Nfxd7 62.Rc7 Kg6 63. Rc6 Ne4 64.Ra6 Ndc5 65.Rxd6+!

A pleasing finish. 1-0

Martin Gordon has switched from the Zaire to the Najdorf, but nevertheless uses a provocative treatment. He plays one of his best games, and gets in spitting range of an upset:

Sicilian Najdorf B94

Ernesto Malazarte 2127
 Martin Gordon 1891

Winter Open (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 h6!? 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Bc4 e6 9.Qh5 Qe7 10.0-0-0

Maybe 10.f4 first to secure e5 is a little more accurate.

10...b5 11.Bb3 Rg8 12.g3 Rg5 13. Qh3 Rc5

Black, despite many "violations of opening principle", has a sound game!

14.Rhe1 Ne6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.f4 Rc5 17.f5 Re5! 18.Qh4 Bb7 19.g4 0-0-0 20.a3 Rd7!? [20...Kb8] 21. Qf2 Kb8 22.Rd4 Qd8 23.Red1 Qc7!

This involves a pawn sac to take control of the f-file. Fritz likes 23...h5!?! 24.gxh5 exf5 25.Bd5 fxe4 26.Rxe4 f5 27.Re2, but Black has not fully equalized.

24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Qxf6 Rf7 26.Qh4 Rf4 27.Qg3 Qf7

Fritz says Black is about equal.

28.Re1 Rf3 29.Qg2 d5!

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- k - + - z - + (
 7+ l + - + q + - '
 6p + - + p + - p &
 5+ p + p r - + - %
 4- + - + P + P + \$
 3P L N - + r + - #
 2- P P + - + Q P "
 1+ - K - R - + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

A thematic break, opening lines for the bishop pair and setting up Bc5 to oust the Rd4.

30.Qd2 Be7?!

30...Rf2! 31.Re2 Rxe2 32.Qxe2 Bc5! 33.Rd3 d4 33.Nd2 Rxe4?/and Black stands very well indeed.

Also good is 30...h5.

31.Kb1 Bg5 32.Qd1

White has dodged the cheapo, and his rook at d4 remains a centerpiece of his game, while Black's initiative has stalled out.

32...Bh4 33.Rh1 Bf2 34.Rd3 dxe4 35.Rd7 Rd5 36.Rxb7+!

36.Bxd5 Qxd7 37.Bxb7 Qxd1+ 38.Rxd1 Kxb7 39.Nxe4± Rf4 40. Nxf2 Rxf2 41.Re1 Rxb2 42.Rxe6

Rg2 43.Rxb7 Rxb4? With same-side pawns left, it's a likely draw

36...Kxb7 37.Nxd5 Rxb3 38.cxb3?

38.Nb4! leaves Black's e-pawn doubled after 38...Rxb4 (38...Rf3 39.Qd6??) 39.axb4??

38...exd5 39.Qc2

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - + - + - + (
 7+ k + - + q + - '
 6p + - + - + - p &
 5+ p + p + - + - %
 4- + - + p + P + \$
 3P P + - + - + - #
 2- P Q + - z - P "
 1+ K + - + - + R!
 x a b c d e f g h y

39...e3?

This ends any active chances for the pawns. Better is 39...Be3! 40. Rd1 Qe6 41.Rf1! Qd6 (41...d4? 42. Qc5??) 42.b4 Bb6 43.Rd1 Qc6 44. Qxc6+ Kxc6 and Black has excellent chances.

I took Fritz down the rabbit hole, and it came up with 45.Rf1 Bd8 46. Rc1+ Kd6 47.Rc8 Bg5 48.Ra8 Ke5 49.Rxa6 d4 50. Kc2 d3+ 51.Kc3!?? Bh4 52.Kd2 Bg5+ 53.Kc3 Bh4=, with a forced draw by repetition!

40.Rc1 Qd7 41.Qf5 Qxf5+ 42.gxf5 e2

42...Bh4 43.Kc2 e2 44.f6 Bxf6 45.Re1??

43.f6 Bc5 44.Re1 Kc7 45.Rxe2 Kd7 46.Kc2 Bd6 47.h3 b4 48.a4 Bf 8 49.h4 Bc5 50.f7 a5 51.Re8 Bf8 52.Kd3 Bg7 53.Ke3 Bf8 54.Kf4 h5 55.Kg5 1-0

Sicilian Defense B47

Ernesto Malazarte 2125
 Selby Anderson 2225

Winter Open (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nb3 d6 11.f4 b6 12.g4 Nd7 13.g5 Re8 14.h4 Bf8 15.Qf3 Bb7 16.Rad1 Nc5

17.Rd2 g6 18.Rfd1 Rad8 19. Nd4 Bg7 20.Nxc6 Bxc6 21.h5??

21.Bd4 e5 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Be3 Na4! 24.Nxa4 Bxa4=.

21...Bxc3 22.bxc3 Bxe4+ 23.Qh3 Bf5!

23...Bxg2 24.Rxg2 Na4 25.Bd2 e5 26.Rf2 Nb2 27.Rdf1 Nc4?< 24.Qh1 e5 25.Bc6 Rf8 26.Bd5 Be6 27.hxg6 fxg6 28.Bxe6+

28.fxe5 dxe5 29.c4 b5 30.cxb5 axb5 31.Bc6 Rxd2 32.Rxd2 Qa5?%& 28...Nxe6 29.Qd5 Qf7 30.Bxb6

30.fxe5 dxe5 31.Qxe5 Rxd2 32.Rxd2 Qf5?¥

30...Rb8 31.Qxd6 Nxf4?!

Better is simply 31...exf4+, but I was trying to keep lines open for attacking possibilities.

32.Be3 Qf5 33.Bxf4 Qg4+??

In theater (I did melodrama in the 80s) we would have called this a "brain fart". Better is 33...Qxf4! (33...exf4 34.Qd5+ Qxd5 35.Rxd5 Rfe8? 34.Qe6+ (34.Rg2 Qe3+ 35. Kh2 Rbe8?) 34...Kh8 35.Rg2 Qe3+ 36.Kh2 Rf4 37.Qh3 Qxh3+ 38. Kxh3 Rb2?!

34.Rg2= Qxf4 35.Re1 Rb2 36.Qxa6 Rxc2 37.Qe6+ Kg7 38.Qxe5+ Qxe5 39.Rxe5 Rc1+ 40.Kh2 Rxc3 41.Rb2 Rf7 42.a4 Ra3 43.a5 h6 1/2-1/2

Caro-Kann B10

Don Sutherland 2179

Allen Eckert 1700

Winter Open (3)

1.e4 c6 2.d3 e5 3.Nf3 Qc7 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nbd2 Bg4 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.h3 Bh5 9.Qe2 Bd6 10.b3 0-0 11. g4?! Bg6 12.Nh4 Nc5 13.Bb2 Ne6?y 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.exf5 Nf4 16. Qf3 Rae8 17.Rfe1 h6 18.a3 19.h4 Nf6? [19...Qd8 20.h5 Ng5?] 20.c4 Nxc2 21.Kxg2 Kh7? [21...Qe7=]

Waves a red flag at the g-pawn.

22.Ra1 Qb6 23.g5 e4 24.dxe4 dxe4 25.Nxe4 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Qxe4 g6 28.c5 Bxc5 29.Qe5 Rg8 30.fxg6+ fxg6 31.Rxc5 Qxb3 32. Qe7+ 1-0

Reti Opening A13

Gregg Stanley 2079

J.P. Hyltin 2078

Winter Open (3)

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.b3 Nf6 4.Bb2 Be7 5.g3 c5 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.0-0 Qd8 9.Na3 0-0 10.Qc2 Nd7 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Rac1 b6 13. Nfe5 Bb7 14.Qe4 Na5 15.Qe3 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Nc6 17.f3 Ndx5 18.Nxe5 Bf6 19.f4 Qb7 20.Kg1 Rfd8 21.Rc4 Ne7 22.g4 Ng6 23. Bc3 Bxe5 24.fxe5 Rd5 25.d3 Rad8 26.Qg3 Qe7 27.g5 Qc7 28.Re4 Qc6 29.h4 Ne7 30.Ref4 Nf5 31.Qf2 R5d7 32.Ba1 Qc7 33.h5 g6 34.h6 Rc8 35.Rc4 Qd8 36.Qf4 Qe7 37. Rfc1 Rcd8 38.Kf2 Kf8 39.Bb2 Ke8 40.b4 cxb4 41.Rxb4 Rc7 42.Rxc7 Qxc7 43.Rc4 Qb7 44.e4 b5 45.Rc2 Qb6+ 46.Ke2 Nd4+ 47.Bxd4 Qxd4 48.Rd2 Rc8 1/2-1/2

King's Indian E62

J.P. Hyltin 2078

Ernesto Malazarte 2125

Winter Open (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Bg4 10.Nd3 c5 11. dxc6 bxc6 12.c5 Nfd5 13.cxd6 Qxd6 14.Ne4 Qd8 15.Nec5 Qb6 16. h3 Bc8 17.e4 Nb4 18.Be3 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Qb5 20.Rfd1 Rb8 21.Nd7 Bxd7 22.Qxb5 cxb5 23.Rxd7 Nc6 24.Bxa7 Nxa7 25.Rxa7 Rfd8 26. Rc1 Rbc8 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Rb7 Bf8 29.Rxb5 Bc5 30.b3 Bd4 31.a4 Rc2 32.g4 Rxf2 33.Kh2 Kg7 34. Kg3 h6 35.a5 Kf6 36.b4 Ra2 37. Bf1 Ra3+ 38.Kg2 Kg5 39.Rb7 f6 40.a6 Kf4 41.Rd7 Ra2+ 42.Kh1 Be3 43.Bc4 [43.Rd3 Rxa6? Ra1+ 44.Kh2 Rc1 45.Rd3?? [45.Bb3=] Rc2+ 46.Kh1 Rxc4 47.b5 Ra4 0-1

King's Indian E81

Selby Anderson 2225

Don Sutherland 2179

Winter Open (4)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.f3 g6 4.c4 Bg7

5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c6 8.Bd3 Re8 9.Nge2 e5

This looks wrongheaded, letting White close the center to make the rook look silly. Actually it's very cagey, even disarming in my case.

10.d5 c5! 11.0-0-0?!

Madness! 11.0-0 is best.

11...a6 12.Bh6

White briefly dreams of g4 and h4-h5 (the text denies ...h5), but is quickly brought down to earth.

12...b5! 13.cxb5 Nb6 14.Kb1 axb5 15.Bxb5 Bd7 16.Rc1 Qc7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rc2 Reb8 19.Qd3 Ra5 20.Bc4 Qa7 21.Ka1 Ne8 22.b3 Nc7 23.f4 Nxc4 24.bxc4 Na6 25.Qd2 Nb4 26.Rb2 Ra8 27.Nc1 Ra3 28. Rf1 Qa6 29.fxe5 Qxc4!?

29...dxe5! 30.Nd3 (30.Qg5 f6!)

Qxc4! 31.Rxf7+ Kg8 ? 30.Rf3?

30.Qf2! sets up a shuttle check at f6 and h4 if Black takes the knight, and 30...f6 31.Nb1 is not attractive. Now Black's pressure builds up to the breaking point.

30...Bg4! 31.Rg3 dxe5 32.Kb1 Bd7 33.Rb3 R3a5 34.Rf3 h6 35. Qe3 Ra3 36.Kb2

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - + - + (7 + - + | + p k - ' 6 - + - + - + p p & 5 + - p P p - + - % 4 - n q + P + - + \$ 3 r - N - O R + - # 2 P K - + - + P P " 1 + - N - + - + - ! x a b c d e f g h y 36...Rxa2+! 37.Kb1

37.N3xa2 gets mated quicker.

37...Ra1+ 38.Kb2 R8a2+ 39.N3xa2 Rxa2+ 40.Nxa2 Qc2+ 41.Ka3 Qxa2# 0-1

A nice game by Sutherland.

(Continued on page 23)

Texas Scholastic results (cont'd from p. 5)

K-1 Championship

(163 players, 7 rounds)

1	William Cooper	7.0	John Cooper	The Woodlands
2	Ritik Verma	6.0	Mireles El.	Corpus Christi
3	Aaron Chang	6.0	Village School	Houston
4	Alfonso Salais	6.0	Hudson	Brownsville
5	Maverick Reza	6.0	Cash El.	San Benito
6	Amit Kavadi	6.0	Village School	Houston

K-1 Team

1	T.H. Rogers	Houston	23.0
2	Amerigo Paredes	Brownsville	19.0
3	Cash El.	San Benito	16.0
4	Canterbury El.	Edinburg	15.0

Chess in Education Workshop (cont'd from p. 3)

elementary school program from six novice students to a title-winning team with many students participating.

Third, GM Susan Polgar mentioned her vision of chess being in every school within her lifetime. Over the workshop weekend, which was part of the 1,437-player Texas Scholastic, Polgar coached the Knight Raiders (Texas Tech) chess team to a second place finish (first was UT-Dallas) in the college chess competition. When I turned out the lights for our workshop's PowerPoint presentations, the lights went out next door in the college section as well. After that incident, our workshop was careful to be a good neighbor to the college students.

Fourth, I demonstrated an activity from my book, *Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving*. Participants paired up with chess boards to figure out how knights on b1 and b8, through taking turns and cooperation, might arrive at the other's home squares one after the other. The knight moves illustrated the plot of the children's book *Coco Can't Wait*.

Fifth, Jerry Nash spoke of the importance of coordination among communities, such as the chess and business communities, for continued chess growth. Sixth, Tom Johnston, a high school teacher from Missouri, presented photos, activities, and suggestions. A suggestion that I found particularly useful was to donate chess books and software to the school library, rather than keeping those items in one's classroom. Then all students can check out the chess resources. At the same time, the chess teacher is relieved from having to keep track of those resources.

The final presenter, Clemente Rendon, shared strategic planning for TCA's growth in general and specifically in chess in education.

The third TCA Chess in Education workshop will be March 21, 2009 during the next Texas Scholastic in McAllen Texas. For information about that workshop, please contact Clemente Rendon, TCA Vice President, crendon44@hotmail.com.

The USCF Chess in Education workshop will be held Aug. 7, 2008, during the U.S. Open in Dallas. The press release will be issued in June 2008, but I mention it now so that readers can put the date on their calendars. For information about the Aug. 7th workshop, please contact me at alexey.root@gmail.com. □

Chess players invited to take part in survey

As a chess player and researcher at the University of Northern Colorado, I am exploring the psychological nature of chess as well as the social benefits afforded chess enthusiasts. The results from this study will be published in a popular press chess magazine. We invite you to participate in this study to help further the intellectual pursuit of chess. The questionnaire takes approximately 12 to 15 minutes to complete, and is devoted entirely to chess.

The purpose of this study is to collect data that will allow us to explore the nature of committed chess enthusiasts and how it may affect future participation. The questionnaire takes approximately 12 minutes to complete. Please note that participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. If you do not wish to participate, simply do not complete the questionnaire. There will be no negative consequences associated with nonparticipation or withdrawal from the study. Your consent will be indicated by completing the questionnaire. Your answers are strictly confidential and no names will be associated with data in any way. Responses to the questionnaire will be kept on a protected computer in a secure facility.

If you have concerns or questions about the purpose or procedures of this study you may call the Principal Investigator, James Gould, at the University of Northern Colorado 870-351-2674 or email james.gould@unco.edu. If you have concerns about your rights regarding this study, please contact the Sponsored Programs and Academic Research Center, Kepner Hall, University of Northern Colorado Greeley, CO 80639; (970)351-1907.

Additional information is available on the first page of the questionnaire, which can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oH0YxNjN_N_2f6wntfNHvOwDQ_3d_3d

Thank you, in advance, for your help on this project. All the best in chess! – James Gould, Ph.D.

Denton Open

For the second year running, IM Marko Zivanic won the Denton Open. Tied for second with 4 were Mihail Bantic, Austen Green and Jonathan Cearley.

Rob Jones directed a field of 55 players in three sections.

PRIZE WINNERS

OPEN: 1st: IM Marko Zivanic, 5. 2nd: Mihail Bantic, Austen Green, Jonathan Cearley, 4.

RESERVE: 1st-2nd: Thomas Abi-Hanna, Chris Thompson, 4.

NOVICE: 1st: John Madden, 5. 2nd: Tim Deckert, 4.

Class C winner Bob Crume achieved a won game against Bantic, who had a rating edge of 700 points, before blundering away a rook on move 51.

Notes by Bob Crume

I was 3.5/4 going into the fifth round of the Denton Open. The 3.5 points weren't exactly due to my skill, but good results are often influenced by a little luck. After drawing with FM Keith Hayward in Round 4 I felt good going into the last round paired against highly rated Mihail Bantic.

Perhaps it's time to note that prior to Denton I did not play any tournaments between May 2000 and February 2008!

Ruy Lopez Closed C97

Bob Crume 1484

Mihail Bantic 2196

Denton Open (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Be7 5.Re1 0-0 6.c3 d6 7.h3 a6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7

I've never played the Ruy Lopez in a tournament game, so it was a surprise that we had followed book on the Chigorin for so long (with transpositions). Up to this point I played moves that made sense and

anything I could remember from skittles games. Now I had hit unfamiliar territory and decided to play for psychology and see if I could goad him into pushing his queenside pawns further.

12.b3 c4

He goes for it. [In Bronstein-Gligoric, Belgrade 1964, Black was equal after 12...Re8 13.d5 Nb7 14.c4 Bd7 15.Bd3 Reb8 16.Bg5 Qd8 17.Bd2 b4 18.Be3 g6 19.Nbd2 a5, and a draw was agreed.. - SKA]

13.b4 Nb7

Now I need to make sure I stay active on the queenside and not allow his advanced pawns to become a threat. I particularly didn't like the idea of the immediate a5 push to his advantage. Understandably, he will eventually push a5 anyway and likely have a passed pawn. If I wait or force him to take on b4 I will then have the c3 square open for my knight and my own passer as well.

14.a4 bxa4

Better seems to be 14...Bd7 to preserve pawn integrity. - SKA.

15.Bxa4 Bd7

Taking with the rook would have allowed him to develop his bishop with tempo. As it is, I have the tempo and now look for ways to pressure his center.

16.Bg5 Bxa4 17.Rxa4 h6 18.Bh4 a5

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - ♖ k + (
7 + n ♘ - ♗ p ♘ - '
6 - + - ♙ - ♗ - ♙ &
5 ♙ - + - ♙ - + - %
4 R ♙ ♙ ♙ ♙ + - ♗ \$
3 + - ♙ - + N + ♙ #
2 - + - + - ♙ ♙ + "
1 + N + QR - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y

19.Bg3

My bishop was going to h4 anyway if Black had played 17...a5.

The h6 push helped it get to g3 faster.

19... Nd7 20.Qc2 Nb6 21.Ra3 axb4

I waited until he initiated the capture so I could stay with my plan of activating my knight on c3. Now my moves are fairly straightforward: we'll both get passed pawns which will be blocked by knights, but my knight will strike deeper into his territory.

22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.cxb4 exd4 24.Nxd4 Bf6 25.Nb5 Qc6 26.N1c3 Re8

Recognizing that the a-file isn't going anywhere, Black posts his rook in a more aggressive manner. He now has threats of d5 with a pin on the e-pawn.

27.f3 Nd7

Black's knight begins a journey to the d3 square. I can't stop this without weakening my pawn structure. After 28. f4 g5 White's king is getting breezy on the g-file and the h1-a8 diagonal so I hatch a plan in which my rook protects my passer, eyes the a-file, and my king keeps his armor.

28.Bf2 Ne5 29.Rb1 Nd3 30.Bd4 Re6

The rook poses a question to the bishop: Do you want to trade? The answer: Only if I feel I get an advantage. Swapping at this point gives up my central Bishop without a decent follow up. One possibility that went through my head was 31. Bxf6 Rxf6 32.Nd5 Qxc5 33.Nxf6+ gxf6 34.Qc3 Kg7 where White just swapped a cramped rook for two great knights and his b-pawn will succumb to Black's activity.

31.Kf1 Be5 32.Qa4 Kh7

White initiates a plan to trade queens while gaining a more centralized knight arrangement.

33.Bxe5 dxe5 34.Nd5 Nd6 35.Nbc3 Qxa4 36.Nxa4 Nb5 37.Nac3 Nd6

White has traded queens, firmly established a knight at d5 with a backup, blockaded black's c-pawn

and more importantly has cleared the path for his b-pawn.

38.b5 Nb7 39.Ra1 Ndc5 40.Ke2 Kg6

Now that Black is on his heels it's time to bring the king into the game. Black will attempt to do so as well, and white must look for ways to minimize the dark monarch's involvement. I offered a draw at this point, thinking I had the better position but unclear how to proceed. The offer was out of total ignorance; had I checked the wall charts I would have realized that if Bantic won, he'd win second on tiebreaks. If I won, I'd be in clear second. I had already locked the C-class prize and was oblivious.

41.Kf2 Rd6 42.Ne7+ Kh7 43.Ned5 g6 44.Ke3 f5 45.Ra2 Kg7 46.Na4 Nd3?

Time to win Black's c-pawn! Black went from 19:23 on his clock down to 9:20 in making this move. After an hour and 40 minutes I had to calm myself down. Winning was an actual possibility!

Better was 46...Nb3 47.Nab6 N7a5 and White must still work to get the c-pawn.

47.Nab6 f4+ 48.Kd2 Ndc5

Not 48.Ke2?? allowing the fork with 48...Nc1+!

49.Nxc4 Re6 50.Ra7 Kf8

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - k - + (
7Rn + - + - + - '
6- + - + r + p p &
5+ P n N p - + - %
4- + N + P p - + \$
3+ - + - + P + P #
2- + - k - + P + "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

We both had about 8:30 left on our clocks, so there was plenty of time. All through the endgame I had diligently checked against forks and

forced myself to really look at the board, the squares, and the impact of each move. After ten hours of mind-blowing concentration, almost five complete games, and putting myself into a "won" endgame against a very strong player, I failed to really look one last time. All I could think of, verbatim, was "I've gone 50 moves blow for blow with this guy; trade down, push the pawn, win the game." The board went fuzzy, and after 30 seconds of zoning out I moved.

The next move is ridiculous, to put it lightly.

51.Na5 Nxa5 52.Rxa5 Nb3+

I played on a few moves but eventually resigned.

In my zeal to trade down I had played Rxa5 automatically; the knight dropped, and it was like I had been punched in the gut. I've heard of "chess blindness" before, and Na5 may count. However, I simply can't offer any excuses. I didn't calculate that move in the same fashion as the rest of the game. This was a great battle despite the ignoble ending and drove home a lot of learning points. As for the overall event, who wouldn't be happy with 3.5/5 after an eight-year hiatus from tournaments? **0-1**

Texas Action (cont'd from p.17)

16...Rxc6 17.Ne2 Rfc8 18.Rd1 c4 19. Bd2 Ne4 20.Nc3 Nxc3 21. Bxc3 b5
21...a5 22.a4 Re6 23.Kf1 f5 24. Rab1 Bd6 25.Rdc1 Kf7?w
22.Bb4 Kf8 23.Kf1 R8c7
23...Ke8 24.Ke2 Bd8=
24.Ke2 Bxb4 25.axb4 c3 26.bxc3 Rxc3 27.Ra5 Rb7 28.Rda1 Rcc7 29.Kd3 f5 30.f3 Ke7 and... 1-0

Pirc Defense B06

Ernesto Malazarte 2127

Gregg Stanley 2079

Texas Action Chp. (5)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Be3 d6 4.Nc3 a6

5.Bc4 Nc6 6.Nf3 e5 7.Bg5 Nge7 8.Nd5 h6 9.Bf6 Rg8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Be6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13. Bxe7 Qd7 14.Ba3 cxd5 15.exd5 Bf5 16.0-0 Kd8 17.Re1 Bf6 18.c3 a5 19.Qb3 Qc8 20.Rad1 Qb8 21. d6 Qxb3 22.axb3 c6 23.Bxf7 Rf8 24.d7 Rxf7 25.Re8+ Kc7 26.Rxa8 Bxd7 27.Rxa5 Kb6 28.Ra8 Bh4 29.g3 Bg5 30.Bb4 Be6 31.Rda1 Bxb3 32.Bd6 Kb5 and... 1-0

Modern Benoni A70

Selby Anderson 2225

Martin Gordon 1891

Texas Action Chp. (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 e6 5.e4 exd5 6.cxd5 d6 7.h3 Bg7 8. Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nfd7 10.0-0 a6 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.a4 b6 13.Qb3 h6 14. Rae1 Ne5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Qxb6 Nd7 18.Qb3 Rb8 19. Qc2 Qd4 20.Rd1 Qb4 21. Rd2 Ne5 22.Be2 g5 23.f4 gxf4 24.Rxf4 Kh7 25.Bf1 Kg6 26.Rdf2 f6 27.Qc1 Rb7 28.Bxa6 c4 29. Bxb7 Qxb7 30.Rh4 h5 31.Qe3 Qe7 32.Rf5 Bxf5 33. exf5+ Kxf5 34.Rxh5+ Kg6 35. Qh6+ Kf7 36.Qh7+ Ke8 37.Qxe7+ Kxe7 38.Rh7+ Kd8 39.a5 1-0

Winter Open (con'td from p. 20)

Pirc Defense B06

John Niven 1702

Martin Gordon 1891

Winter Open (4)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Bc4 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a3 a6 6.Qe2 b5 7.Bd5 Bb7 8.e5 Qc7 9.Ne4?! [9.0-0=] 9...Bxe5 9...Nxe5 10.Bxb7 Qxb7 Bxe5?P 10.Nxc5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd5 12.Nf3 Bg7 13.d4 d6 14.Nd3 Rc8 15.Nb4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 a5 17. Nd5 Qxc2 18.0-0 Qc6?
18...Bxd4 19.Bg5 Qf5?@ü
19.Be3 e6??
19...Nf6 20.Rfc1 Qxd5 21. Rxc8+ Kd7 22.Qh3+?Z
20.Rac1 Qa6 21.Nc7+ Rxc7 22. Rxc7 Ne7 23.Rfc1 d5 24.Bg5 0-0 25.Bxe7 and 1-0

Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023-0501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 445

See inside front cover for TCA membership information.

Salman Javadzade
StrateGems, 2003

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- R - + - + - + (
7 L - + - + - + - '
6- + - + - + - + &
5+ - + - + - + - %
4- + k + - + - + \$
3+ - + - + - + - #
2- + K + - + L + "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

White to move, mate in three

Solution: p. 16

