



TEXAS KNIGHTS

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State Scholastics!!!



Region VIII Chess Championship - High School Team Champion: Veterans Memorial Early College High School

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TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

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

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- Articles
- Games
- Results
- Photos
- Comics
- Reviews
- Affiliate News
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 texasknightsed@texaschess.org

From the Desk of the Editor

 [Facebook.com/texasknightsed](https://www.facebook.com/texasknightsed)

Hello Texas,

Welcome to the brand new issue of *Texas Knights*.

First, a quick reminder about the upcoming TCA elections. While it may seem like a long way into the future, it is never too early to prepare for, and confirm that you are aware of the requirements for candidates to run for office, and to verify your membership is up-to-date, allowing you to vote. I will be providing more details in the May-June issue of *Texas Knights* and the July-August issue will have reserved space for those candidates who wish to provide an introduction and photo (both optional). There will be, at least, a list of those running for the top four seats on the Board of Directors.

I had a lot of submissions for this issue, and I am grateful to everyone who provided content. Some of the submissions may have been saved for a future issue. You can look forward to coverage of the *Collegiate Final Four* in the next issue.

Here's what you will find in this issue:

With a heavy heart, it was necessary to honor an individual who has been referred to as a *Texas Chess Legacy*. So, after the President's Letter, we start with an *En Passant* dedication for Luis Salinas.

Results, photos, and games from the Two State Scholastic Tournaments are here.

A 2024 Region VIII Chess Championship article with games and photos, provided by Victor Flores, is inside.

The 2024 Texas Senior Chess Championship and the Lone Star Open are also covered in this issue.

Regular contributors return with a new book review from Dr. Alexey Root, Tactics Time! puzzles provided by Tim Brennan, and Part 3 in the continuation of *The Chess Top 40* series of articles provided by Coach Myers.

There are a couple of other surprises in this issue that I will let you discover for yourself.

Final reminder: There are only two more issues in the 65th Anniversary volume. While I know of one possibility that I may include in a future issue, if you have something you'd like to contribute, now is the time!.

The next issue submission deadline is May 15th, and the issue should be in your mailboxes around mid-June, and on the website the first week of June.

I hope you enjoy the issue. - Jeff



A Message from the President

April 2024

As always, the Texas Chess Association staff and I thank you for your outstanding support and love for the game of chess. Everything we do for our chess players is a team effort and your contributions are much appreciated.

This, the second issue of Texas Knights this year, is packed with tournament reports, games, and pictures. Thanks to those who contributed to this, and in particular to our Editor, Jeff French. Speaking of contributions to chess, this past month our Texas Chess Association suffered a tremendous loss. We mourn the passing of our good friend **Luis Salinas**. For many, many years, Luis was the President of the Dallas Chess Club and the Chess Program Assistant Director of the University of Texas at Dallas. All of us are going to miss him tremendously! His burial will take place on Friday, April 12th, in San Antonio, and his Celebration of Life will take place in Dallas on April 21st. For more information and exact locations, please go to the Dallas Chess Club website. Also, please mark your calendar for the 2024 Luis Salinas Memorial 79th Annual Texas State and Amateur Chess Championships, to be held at the DFW Airport Marriott South, May 24 – 27. Join us at the event and honor our friend who touched so many lives.

This year, many of our 10 TCA regions held championships, which culminated in the Texas State Scholastic Championships, North/Central and South. Thanks to all the participants and to the organizers, TCA and DCC Treasurer **Barbara**

Swafford (North/Central), and UTRGV Chess Program Director **GM Bartek Macieja** (South). Thanks to both of you and your tournament staff for organizing these State Championships. Because of your efforts and the attendance by our players, we will have an online playoff to determine the Texas representatives for the Denker, Barber, Rockefeller, and Haring US Chess National Tournaments of State Champions. In addition, the fifth player who will represent us, at the Irwin National Tournament of State Senior Champions, earned his selection at the Texas Senior Championship. He is **Scott Elliott**. Scott contributed an article, photos, and games to this issue of Texas Knights. Thanks also to **Chris Wood**, our TCA Website Administrator, and the Arlington Chess Club for organizing this event. The US Chess National Invitational Tournaments of State Champions will take place in conjunction with the U.S. Open, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, July 27 – 30, 2024. Even if you are not going, you can follow the progress of our champions on the US Chess website.

There is much more included in this issue, so please read on! Thanks again for your support for this organization and, most importantly, for our chess players!

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.

En Passant

Luis Salinas

11/12/1956 - 3/11/2024

A Texas Chess Legacy



A significant loss for Texas Chess. Luis Salinas was a chess expert, president of the Dallas Chess Club, and former Assistant Director of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) Chess Program. But we all know him as one of the country's most prolific chess organizers/directors. He was a FIDE Arbiter, an International Organizer, and a US Chess Senior Tournament Director. His impact on chess in DFW and Texas cannot be overstated. Not only from the many events he organized over the years but also from the example and tutelage he provided for many new organizers and directors.

Luis Salinas worked thousands of US Chess rated tournaments. His last was the 78TH ANNUAL TEXAS STATE AND AMATEUR, held on May 29, 2023.

Former Vice President of the Texas Chess Association Jim Hollingsworth wrote a story about Salinas for TexasChess.org in December 2020, mentioning Salinas' chess story and naming Salinas player of the month. Read now: <https://texaschess.org/player-of-the-month-december-2020/>

"I have known many great people who have contributed much in chess. One cannot begin to describe the influence he had as Region III Director, and as an organizer in countless TCA and DCC events. Luis was my mentor, friend, and confidant. His loss is beyond measure. I personally will miss him greatly."

- Rob Jones

Luis Salinas will be missed in Texas Chess, but his influence, example, and legacy will continue.

Addition details and photos: <https://texaschess.org/en-passant-luis-salinas/>

2024 North/Central Texas Scholastic Chess Championship

Additional Results: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202403032992>

The 2024 North/Central Texas Scholastic Chess Championship was played in Houston from March 1st to March 3rd. There were 390 participants. Seven rounds were played.

Time controls - HS CHAMP, HS JV (UNDER 1000) and MS CHAMP sections: Round 1: G45;d5, Rounds 2-4: G60;d5 and Rounds 5-7: G75;d5, ALL OTHER sections: Rounds 1-3: G45;d5, Rounds 4 - 7: G60;d5.

FM Sharvesh R. Deviprasath was undefeated in the HS CHAMP Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 3 of 67 HS CHAMP Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	SHARVESH R DEVIPRASATH	W32	W20	W7	W10	D2	W16	W5	6.5
2	LUCIUS MELILLO	W30	W21	W11	W37	D1	D4	W10	6
3	CHRISTIAN KARLSENG	W33	W40	W25	L4	D19	W11	X	5.5



Vicky Yu, the Top Female Player of the Tournament

“My experience at the Texas North/Central State Scholastic chess tournament was phenomenal. The venue provided an inviting atmosphere that I was thrilled to be a part of. During the event, I achieved several milestones. The most notable of these was when I drew against an opponent rated 1969, 350 points above my rating. This boosted my confidence in my strategic understanding, motivating me to continue playing my best chess. I ended with a score of 4.5/7, earning me a spot in the top 15 of the High School Championship. My goal is to achieve a title in the upcoming years, and I look forward to my future competitions.”

Sees Games #1 and #2 on Page 25.

Sam Bui was undefeated in the HS JV (UNDER 1000) Section.

The Top 2 of 49 HS JV (UNDER 1000) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	SAM BUI	W35	W40	W15	W2	W9	W3	W4	7
2	JOSIAH KIANES	W36	W28	W7	L1	W5	W19	D3	5.5

—————→ *Continued on the Next Page* —————→

FM Eric Chang Liu was undefeated in the MS CHAMP Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 2 of 78 MS CHAMP Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ERIC CHANG LIU	W66	W12	D20	W13	W3	W15	W4	6.5
2	LUCA CHANG	W57	W26	L10	W14	W12	W11	W9	6

Kiara Diwan won the MS HV (UNDER 900) section with a score of 5.5/7.

The Top 3 of 16 MS JV (UNDER 900) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	KIARA DIWAN	W10	W15	L2	W7	D8	W5	W3	5.5
2	ETHAN BLACK	W5	W4	W1	D8	D3	L6	W10	5
3	SIDDHANTH RELAN	W7	H	W14	W15	D2	W8	L1	5

Eshan Ganesh Iyer was undefeated in the MS NOVICE (UNDER 600) Section.

The Top 5 of 40 MS NOVICE (UNDER 600) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ESHAN GANESH IYER	W39	W28	W5	W12	W13	W2	W6	7
2	AVYUKT GUPTA	W7	W8	D4	W21	W14	L1	W18	5.5
3	RONEN A SAUCEDA	W30	L4	W11	W26	W12	W13	D5	5.5
4	TARUN SATHEESHKUMAR	W16	W3	D2	W9	L6	W7	W13	5.5
5	JAYDEN HOANG	W28	W6	L1	W19	W22	W9	D3	5.5

Miransh Purven Vyas won the ELEM CHAMP Section with a score of 5.5/7.

The Top 5 of 26 ELEM CHAMP Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	MIRANSH PURVEN VYAS	W23	W15	W2	D3	D4	D5	W6	5.5
2	ELLERY ZHANG	W17	W5	L1	W8	D12	D4	W9	5
3	SRIHAS SAI SARVESH MADDIPATI	W24	W9	D12	D1	L5	W8	W11	5
4	EMERSON AURELIUS JOHNSON	H	W19	W8	W7	D1	D2	D5	5
5	MITHUN PRANAV PRAVEEN KUMAR JR.	W25	L2	W23	W15	W3	D1	D4	5

Leo Nguyen won the ELEM JV (UNDER 800) Section with a score of 6.0/7.

The Top 2 of 24 ELEM JV (UNDER 800) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	LEO NGUYEN	W17	L8	W18	W10	W21	W2	W3	6
2	VIVAAN RUPAREL	W23	W10	W4	W8	D3	L1	W5	5.5

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Angad Johar was undefeated in the ELEM NOVICE (UNDER 500) Section.

The Top 3 of 37 ELEM NOVICE (UNDER 500) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ANGAD JOHAR	W35	W20	W12	W10	W3	W4	W6	7
2	ANDY LI	W37	W6	W5	L3	W17	W11	W8	6
3	RYLIE ROIG	B	W25	W9	W2	L1	W12	W10	6

Yugan Muthiah was undefeated in the PRIMARY CHAMP Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 3 of 18 PRIMARY CHAMP Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	YUGAN MUTHIAH	W13	W8	W2	D3	W9	W10	W6	6.5
2	ADVIK MANCHANDA	B	W9	L1	W5	W3	W7	W10	6
3	JAYDEN HE	W14	W6	W11	D1	L2	D9	W5	5

Cyrus He was undefeated in the PRIMARY JV (UNDER 600) Section.

The Top 3 of 16 PRIMARY JV (UNDER 600) Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	CYRUS HE	W5	W9	W2	W8	W3	W4	W7	7
2	PHOENIX L NGUYEN	W6	W3	L1	W5	W4	W10	W9	6
3	ADVAITHKRISHNA RAJESHKANNA	W13	L2	W14	W9	L1	W6	D5	4.5

Aaditya Lanka and Parker Ng shared the top spot in the K-1 CHAMP section with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 3 of 19 K-1 CHAMP Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	AADITYA LANKA	W13	W12	W6	D2	W4	W3	W7	6.5
2	PARKER NG	W18	W8	W3	D1	W7	W6	W5	6.5
3	JAYDEN JIN	W11	W5	L2	W9	W8	L1	W4	5

The remaining games were played across four different EXTRA GAME Sections with different round counts. See the additional results link for more details.

Photos Contributed by Deborah Shafer and Louis Reed.



2024 South Texas Scholastic Chess Championship

Additional Results: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202403170202>

The 2024 South Texas Scholastic Chess Championship was played in Edinburg on March 16th and 17th. There were 982 participants. Seven rounds were played.

Time controls - K-1, PRIM and PRIM JV Sections: G30;d5, ALL OTHER sections: G45;d5.

NM Rohun Trakru was undefeated in the HIGH Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 4 of 90 HIGH Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ROHUN TRAKRU	W56	W53	W18	D8	W9	W6	W2	6.5
2	MICHAEL RYAN CASAS	W75	W67	W11	W5	W3	W4	L1	6
3	MATIAS SANTIAGO ZENTENO	W57	W46	W54	W7	L2	W15	W10	6
4	AARON DANIEL ROSTRO	W69	W37	W31	W42	W6	L2	W7	6

There was a three-way tie between **Jonathan Humberto Ochoa**, **Nicolas Cantu III** and **Daniel Valencia** in the HIGH JV Section with a score of 6.0/7.

The Top 5 of 60 HIGH JV Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	JONATHAN HUMBERTO OCHOA	W40	W13	W6	W4	L3	W10	W15	6
2	NICOLAS CANTU III	W41	L10	W25	W37	W29	W8	W3	6
3	DANIEL VALENCIA	W60	W20	W18	W17	W1	W12	L2	6
4	AIDAN CANTU	W26	W37	W10	L1	W24	D5	W12	5.5
5	ANGEL GONZALEZ	W44	D23	D14	W26	W7	D4	W18	5.5

Aarav Nambiar Thilop was undefeated in the MIDDLE Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 5 of 120 MIDDLE Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	AARAV NAMBIAR THILOP	W56	W36	W16	W10	W8	W3	D2	6.5
2	SUNNY ZHANG	W93	W67	W29	W5	D4	W8	D1	6
3	SHRIYAN VUYURU	W39	W34	W20	W12	W15	L1	W13	6
4	PESHALA DESILVA	W72	W25	W7	W6	D2	D9	W11	6
5	DHANVI NAMALA	W78	W31	W33	L2	W34	W15	W17	6

Vincente III Alvarez III was undefeated in the MIDDLE JV Section.

The Top 6 of 174 MIDDLE JV Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	VINCENTE III ALVAREZ III	W71	W65	W57	W53	W19	W18	W8	7

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2	YUSEF TAJA	X	W100	W56	W33	L18	W30	W9	6
3	SAMUEL COLT MADRIGAL	W167	W104	W82	W16	W20	L8	W23	6
4	MARIO ALBERTO AREVALO II	W92	W108	D14	W88	W78	D24	W29	6
5	BRITHANY H GARZA	W158	L8	W72	W77	W33	W53	W19	6
6	MAX JACOB GONZALEZ	W152	W148	L52	W104	W21	W25	W18	6

Oscar Yihang Zhang was undefeated in the ELEM Section.

The Top 7 of 118 ELEM Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	OSCAR YIHANG ZHANG	W60	W21	W36	W31	W2	W4	W3	7
2	MIRANSH PURVEN VYAS	W110	W30	W27	W22	L1	W34	W11	6
3	SRIHAS SAI SARVESH MADDIPATI	W53	W58	W37	W32	W5	W9	L1	6
4	ADVIK MANCHANDA	W74	W43	W39	W10	W6	L1	W9	6
5	KAISER TROY GARCIA	W81	W19	W7	W23	L3	W13	W12	6
6	ARYAN VUYURU	W95	W40	W46	W15	L4	W36	W10	6
7	PATRICIO CANTU	W100	W67	L5	W83	W35	W32	W22	6

Nicholas Valdez was undefeated in the ELEM JV Section.

The Top 8 of 138 ELEM JV Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	NICHOLAS VALDEZ	W84	W81	W43	W40	W6	W4	W3	7
2	AYDEN C RUIZ	W59	W42	W15	W39	L4	W16	W17	6
3	SANTIAGO SANDOVAL	W35	W46	W13	W22	W11	W7	L1	6
4	KAMILA SOTO	W71	W68	W41	W79	W2	L1	W27	6
5	ALONSO IVAN OLVERA FLORES	W89	W55	D24	W32	W29	W38	D9	6
6	FRANCISCA JARAMILLO	W97	W80	W117	W16	L1	W20	W14	6
7	VICTOR ANDRE LOZANO	W124	W123	W17	W18	W28	L3	W29	6
8	GAEL SERNA	L21	W96	W86	W68	W46	W15	W13	6

Asher Joseph was undefeated in the PRIMARY Section.

The Top 4 of 102 PRIMARY Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ASHER JOSEPH	W76	W33	W13	W17	W21	W8	W5	7
2	NICOLAS MATEO CAVAZOS	W43	W50	L27	W31	W30	W18	W15	6
3	MARC PEREA	W96	W44	L28	W60	W49	W16	W8	6
4	ARIANNA NOYOLA	W66	W52	L58	W39	W61	W27	W7	6

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Karthik Reghu was undefeated in the PRIMARY JV Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 3 of 86 PRIMARY JV Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	KARTHIK REGHU	W66	W44	D19	W41	W17	W14	W4	6.5
2	DIEGO RAUL GONZALEZ	W13	W42	W34	W15	L4	W28	W16	6
3	EDGAR JESUS GONZALEZ	W55	D11	D31	W38	W22	W9	W5	6

Zoey Arambul was undefeated in the K1 Section, including a draw, with a score of 6.5/7.

The Top 5 of 97 K1 Section participants are below.

#	Name	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Tot
1	ZOELY ARAMBUL	W60	W30	W12	W14	W25	W3	D4	6.5
2	IKZANDER MORENO	W61	W31	W26	W5	L3	W6	W10	6
3	FABRIZIO GONZALO LOZANO	W57	W33	W18	W10	W2	L1	W11	6
4	JEREMIAH ABISADAI CHAVARRIA	W80	W39	W7	D6	W8	W25	D1	6
5	MARTE S MENA	W74	W54	W42	L2	W19	W12	W13	6

The remaining games were played in an EXTRA GAME Section. See the additional results link for more details. See Games starting with *Game 3 on Page 25*.



Ethan Thompson: Great-Great-Grandson by Rick Thompson





On February 24th, the great-great-grandson of TCA founder John Charles "JC" Thompson played in his first TCA-sanctioned tournament. Ethan Thompson participated along with his teammates from the ASPIRE Academy at Glenhope Elementary School, Anna Shevchuk, Elliot Gutierrez, and Quinn Carroll, in the Southridge Chess Classic in Lewisville.

Roman Shevchuk, Glenhope's team coach, said, "Ethan is very passionate about chess. He really enjoys challenging himself." Ethan says, "Chess is very strategic, and gives your brain a good workout," and added, "It's a very calm and sportsmanlike game."

Ethan enjoys baseball and other athletic endeavors, playing video games like Minecraft and Tetris, puzzle games, and games like chess that work the mind. His goal in chess is to surpass a 900 rating.

JC Thompson dominated the Texas chess scene in the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s, until he was transferred overseas by Mobil Oil in 1952. He won the Southwest Open seven times and finished second another seven times. However, his greatest contribution to the world of chess was introducing, in cooperation with George Koltanowski, the Swiss System to tournament play, first in the 1942 Southwest Open, and most notably in the 1947 U.S. Open.

2024 Texas Senior Chess Championship

By Scott Elliott, Winner of the Tournament

Additional Results: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202403179632>

I appreciate the hospitality shown by the Arlington Chess Club in hosting the 2024 Texas Senior Championship. It was my first USCF tournament in over 40 years. My father introduced me to chess during the Fischer-Spassky era. I remember playing tournaments as a kid in Austin always watching Joe Bradford go undefeated.

I believe it may have been 1979 when I won the Texas Junior Championship held at Trinity University in San Antonio and would go on to represent Texas at the U.S. Junior Open at Michigan State University in Lansing, and I think I scored 5.5 out of 8 rounds. In my late teens, I remember enjoying playing in the Southwest Open in SATX, and I remember drawing a master from California. I think his name was Richard Bustamante. Though I have forgotten the year and place, it was when I was in the middle of college at UT Austin when I was playing in some tournament, and I reached the fifth and final round with four points as White. I had the big center and bishop pair going into the middle game against the Grunfeld, and I completely fell apart and lost the game. My USCF rating at the time was 1992 and that rating I would carry into the 2024 Senior Championship.

I was discouraged, and chess had become for me an all-consuming addiction. Maybe I thought that God was punishing me for my “idolatry” of worshipping chess. Maybe I was misguided, but I felt I needed to prove to God that I loved Him above all else, and so I gave up chess cold turkey, and did not play in another tournament for around 30 years. I felt I had the “call”, so my first wife and I headed to Bangladesh as missionaries. My first marriage would end in divorce, but I stayed there doing secular humanitarian work.

I would go on to find my second wife and the love of my life, a Bangladeshi woman named Zinat. Around that time, I started playing chess

again in FIDE tournaments. Whenever there was a tournament there, it would always be played at the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) hall in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I have some good memories there, like getting crushed playing the Scandinavian by Bangladeshi GM Riffat bin Sattar. The number one player in the country at the time, GM Zia Rahman, gave me some good advice to join the Internet Chess Club (ICC).

My work contract in Bangladesh ended, and so I returned to America with Zinat. I am not as addicted to chess as earlier, and perhaps God has given it back to me. I do love chess and play multiple games daily through the ICC with my mobile phone. I follow a pretty rigorous process: (1) I will work on one of the problems, like “find the mate in 5”. (2) I prefer the 15-minute format, but if I don’t have time or can’t find an opponent, I will seek a 5-minute game. (3) Most of the time, I will reverse analyze the game using the ICC analyzer, and I believe I learn a lot by doing this.

Out of the blue, I received an email, I think, in January about the 2024 Texas Senior Championship, and I forwarded it to Zinat. She sent me back all kinds of emoticons, so we decided to venture to Arlington to participate. I always ask her if she is bored, and she always replies, “no”. She accompanied me to every round I ever played in Bangladesh, and some of you in Arlington showed her your wonderful hospitality. My 86 year old mother is my second biggest fan. When I shared with her the news, she wanted to contact the Texas Tribune. I told her, “Mom, it’s not that big of a deal.”

I am grateful to TCA president Franc for inviting me to write this article and annotate a couple of games from the Senior Championship.

Games start at *Game 9 on Page 28*

2024 Lone Star Open Chess Championship

Additional Results: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202403106152>

Photos provided by Franc Guadalupe

The *2024 Lone Star Open Chess Championship* was played in Houston from March 8th to March 10th. There were 240 participants. Five rounds were played.

Time controls - OPEN and U2000 section were G90;+30, ALL OTHER sections: G120;d5.

In the **OPEN** Section there were 77 participants. **IM Justin Wang** and **GM Vladimir Belous** tied for the top spot. Both were undefeated with a score of 4.5/5, including a draw in round 5.

In the **U2000** Section there were 41 participants. **Yukta Sri Mididoodi** was undefeated.

In the **U1800** Section there were 31 participants. **Michael Boyle** was undefeated with a score of 4.5/5, including a draw in round 5.

In the **U1600** Section there were 45 participants. **Alexander Ramey** was undefeated.

In the **U1600** Section there were 47 participants. **Adam Lui** was undefeated.

The remaining games were from two **EXTRA GAME** Sections, both with different time controls and round counts.



Board 1
During Tournament Play



Yukta Sri Mididoodi
U2000 Section Champion



Alexander Ramey
U1600 Section Champion



Current Memberships provided by Jim Hollingsworth

TCA Current Memberships as of

Sat Mar 30 15:00:01 2024

Category	Region										Out of State	Grand Total	Pct.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Junior Online		5	31	1	90	30	10	295	1	236		699	46.0%
Family	9	14	13		33	22	12	27	4	33		167	11.0%
Junior	2	8	13		43	34	7	24	2	26	2	161	10.6%
Regular Non-subscriber	1	11	10	4	65	18	6	8		27	1	151	9.9%
Regular	2	23	25	2	21	20	7	10	2	8	1	121	8.0%
Lifetime Regular	1	9	7		6	7	4	3	2		2	41	2.7%
Family Online					7	7	5	8		13		40	2.6%
Affiliate	2	8	6	2	8	5		3	4	1		39	2.6%
Family Patron	4	6		3	8	8	2	3	2			36	2.4%
Student Online	1	1	17		4			4		1	1	29	1.9%
Lifetime Patron		2	2		1	4	1	1			2	13	0.9%
Patron		1	2	1	5	2				1		12	0.8%
Complimentary			1					1			1	3	0.2%
Patron Online			1			2						3	0.2%
Blind			1		1							2	0.1%
Student					1			1				2	0.1%
Foreign Member											1	1	0.1%
Honorary Life Member											1	1	0.1%
Grand Total	22	88	129	13	293	159	54	388	17	346	12	1,521	100%
	1.4%	5.8%	8.5%	0.9%	19.3%	10.5%	3.6%	25.5%	1.1%	22.7%	0.8%	100%	



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4th Annual TCA Creativity Contest

Hector is upset!
Organizers won't let him enter.

Hector is an amazing chess-playing Dog and Artist.

Best Art
Best Cartoon
Best Photo
Best Website

But there's no Paw-Print Art category!

Wells © 2024

Deadline to Enter: May 15, 2024
Details: chessartiste@gmail.com

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. N. Moor - S. Rahul
Texas Collegiate 2023
White to Move



2. B. Ramirez - M. Moore
Texas Collegiate 2023
White to Move



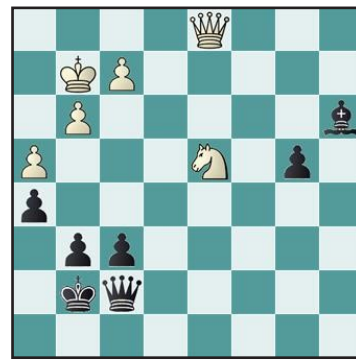
3. E. Ozenir - D. Brodsky
Texas Collegiate 2023
Black to Move



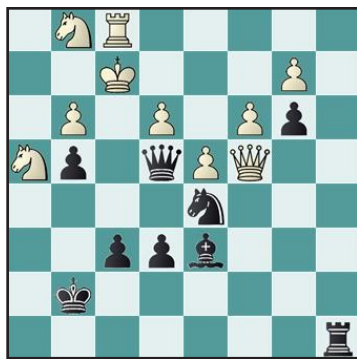
4. R. Saksham - R. McCrea
Texas Collegiate 2023
White to Move



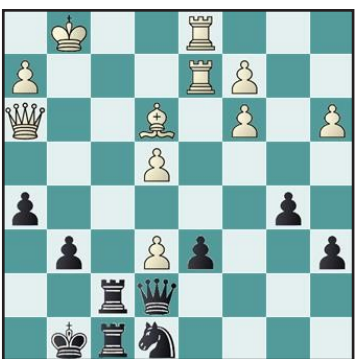
5. N. Christiansen - A. Root
US Women's Senior 2023
White to Move



6. D. Clarke - A. Singi
DFW FIDE 6 2023
Black to Move

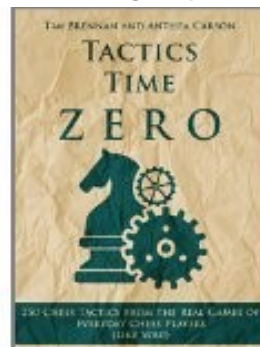


7. M. Chandra - R. Li
DFW FIDE 6 2023
Black to Move



8. A. Gardezi - N. De La Colina
TCA Tezax Team Ch 2024
Black to Move

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www.amazon.com/dp/B014AL1FRG/

US CHESS TOP PLAYERS OF TEXAS - March 2024

Regardless of Residence or Federation

Overall			Age 18 (continued)			Age 11		
14	Xiong, Jeffery	2712	96	Sathiararam, Sarvadh	1992	14	Anandh, Vijay Srinivas	2097
15	Onischuk, Alexander	2708	98	Pathak, Dhruv	1987	34	Yuan, Owen	1949
28	Matviishen, Viktor	2652	Age 17			56	Petukhov, Arthur	1856
33	Sadorra, Julio C	2644	48	Trakru, Rohun	2159	58	Seelam, Tanish	1850
35	Li, Ruifeng	2641	55	Polavaram, Rithik Sai	2132	65	Kandikayala, Srikar	1835
39	Vazquez, Guillermo	2628	Age 16			66	Zhang, Ellery	1834
43	Stukopin, Andrey	2620	8	Laddha, Shubh Jayesh	2345	98	Wu, Zekai Bryson	1732
55	Maciejaja, Bartlomiej	2593	61	Qin, Kevin	2108	Age 10		
57	Beradze, Irakli	2592	70	Lomakina, Anzhelika	2082	58	Tendulkar, Ojas	1727
60	Wang, Justin	2587	100	Wang, Andy Y	2006	79	Garcia, Kaiser Troy	1631
63	Woodward, Andy Austin	2583	Age 15			92	Serikar, Arav	1568
69	Belous, Vladimir	2578	12	Gutla, Aryan	2323	97	Jackson, Leo Daniel Olivera	1560
75	Druska, Juraj	2567	13	Melillo, Lucius	2302	Age 9		
79	Hernandez, Holden	2560	14	Nandhakumar, Vaseegaran	2297	9	Zhang, Oscar Yihang	1959
80	Duque, Raymond D	2559	33	Gardezi, Arsal	2186	24	Maddipati, Srihas Sai Sarvesh	1772
84	Root, Douglas D	2551	31	Shafer, Logan C	2113	30	Kolli, Rishi	1737
87	Steingrimsson, Hedinn	2541	67	Bist, Atharva	2074	31	Manchanda, Advik	1733
92	Macovei, Andrei	2534	81	Zhang, Eric J	2041	33	Liu, Chloe	1726
97	Hevia Alejano, Carlos A	2527	82	Friedman, Andrew Charles	2039	48	Zhang, Lawrence	1650
Age 65 and Over			94	Raghuraja, Sri Avishkar	2015	60	Bee, Leonel	1597
9	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2444	Age 14			68	He, Julian	1543
67	Hulse, Brian	2200	3	Liu, Eric Chang	2435	69	Wang, Nathan Zicheng	1540
67	Weaver, Richard	2200	5	Chen, Ryo Wenyu	2409	78	Rajagopalan, Aadhya Jay	1512
67	Anderson, Selby K	2200	6	Kunka, Harshid	2378	83	Baksi, Antariksh	1492
67	Calogridis, Michael S	2200	15	Li, Rachael	2293	Age 8		
67	Simms, Gary	2200	51	Hiwale, Ronak	2125	15	Yao, Annie	1692
Age 50 and Over			57	Raju, Yakshwag Reddy	2091	23	Li, Owen	1615
12	Duque, Raymond D.	2559	67	Nair, Ajitesh	2053	26	Iskandarov, Elvin	1592
13	Root, Douglas D	2551	84	Poliseti, Lohit Krishna Narayana	2001	37	Yang, Matthew	1485
31	Bradford, Joseph Mark	2444	88	Lad, Neil	1998	57	Muthiah, Yugan	1356
48	Allcock, Rawle A	2375	90	Dasari, Saathvik	1990	57	He, Jayden	1356
75	Almeida, Alfonso A	2281	Age 13			61	Bergknoff, Gabriel	1336
94	Feinstein, Michael	2251	7	Woodward, Andy Austin	2583	73	Ganesh, Kaira Ananya	1272
Under Age 21			19	Meng, Joshua	2119	80	Veretennikov, Benjamin Ryan	1231
8	Wang, Justin	2587	54	Zhou, Brian Xing	1958	95	Li, Stan Siyuan	1172
9	Woodward, Andy Austin	2583	60	Thilop, Aarav Nambiar	1934	Age 7 and Under		
20	Deviprasath, Sharvesh R	2496	62	Prakash, Nandini	1930	14	Lan, Kai Zhou	1456
26	Vivekananthan, Anish	2469	75	Wei, Colin	1914	41	Chen, Yiheng Ethan	1161
38	Liu, Eric Chang	2435	77	Nigudkar, Rusheel	1905	50	Joseph, Asher	1130
47	Rorrer, Grayson	2412	87	Zhang, Sunny	1892	72	Choi, Nolan	1027
49	Chen, Ryo Wenyu	2409	99	Zafar, Faris	1866	84	Wong, Charles	997
59	Kunka, Harshid	2378	Age 12			96	Jin, Jayden	944
71	Oberoi, Shelev	2348	10	Singh, Siddharth	2196	98	Mendez, Aaron F	930
73	Laddha, Shubh Jayesh	2345	13	Yang, Daniel	2157	99	Arambul, Zoey	927
78	Gutla, Aryan	2323	18	Wang, Kyle Y	2120			
Age 18			20	Fang, Elbert	2109			
7	Wang, Justin	2587	41	Gu, Samuel	1986			
3	Deviprasath, Sharvesh R	2496	54	Bhargale, Likhith	1917			
8	Rorrer, Grayson	2412	63	Ramachandran, Advait	1895			
11	Oberoi, Shelev	2348	73	Vuyyuru, Shriyan	1857			
22	Gundam, Rohit	2263	80	Shen, Yangyang	1829			
34	Kumarappan, Ganesh	2200	92	He, Justin Shandong	1813			
41	Zheng, Peter	2179	96	Konstantakos, Christos	1806			
73	Yellamraju, Ambica	2081						
74	Pullabhotla, Venkata	2074						
76	Hawthorn, Henry	2060						
92	Miller, Collin Alexander	2002						

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

1. **19.g4!** Traps the Black Knight
 2. **39.Rxb5** clears the way for the a-pawn to promote.
 3. **40...Bxf2** and White cannot capture the Bishop because of the skewer **41...Qh2+**
 4. **33.Bf7!** Forks the White Queen and Rook. White cannot capture the Bishop because of **Qxd7#**
 5. **23.Ne5+** forks the Black King and Rook.
 6. **51...Qd5+** pinning the White Knight to the Queen with check **52.Kg1 Bb2** attacking the pinned knight a second time.
 7. **42...Qxe3 43.Kg2 Qxg3 44.Kh1 Qh2#**
 8. **33...Rf3** forks the Queen and Bishop
- Cover.** **57...Bxg3!** Overloads the f2 pawn.

chessable

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/>



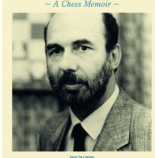
New Chess Books

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

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

- She was the 1989 U.S. Women's Champion.
- She is the Chessable Research Awards Coordinator:
https://www.chessable.com/research_awards
- 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/>

LUBOMIR KAVALEK
LIFE AT PLAY



Life at Play: A Chess Memoir Chess Player

is by Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek. He died January 18, 2021, before his book was completed. His wife Irena completed it, with the help of several others.

Born in 1943 in Prague, Kavalek left Czechoslovakia in 1968, for political reasons. During "Prague Spring" liberalization happened but by that fall the Soviet military had reversed the Prague Spring reforms. Kavalek did not return to living in Prague and instead played in tournaments around Europe.

Competing against other books published between June 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, *Life at Play: A Chess Memoir* won the Chess Journalists of America 2023 award for Best Book of the Year. Kavalek was a chess player, writer, organizer, and coach. The book covers each of these topics in detail.

The Executive Director of the United States Chess Federation, Ed Edmondson, had a vision of Bobby Fischer, Sammy Reshevsky, Robert Byrne, Pal Benko, and Kavalek on the same Olympiad team. Edmondson made financial arrangements for Kavalek to come to the U.S.

Kavalek arrived in the United States in June of 1970. Kavalek played for the U.S. Olympiad team seven times, with his last appearance coming in 1986.

Edmondson also hoped Kavalek would lead the U.S. team at the Student Olympiad, for students ages 26 and younger, but Kavalek could not get registered at George Washington University before his 27th birthday.

Kavalek was a three-time U.S. champion. He played for the German chess team Solingen, flying back to Europe from the U.S. to compete. Kavalek won prize money at open tournaments in the U.S. One of the annotated games included in his book is a win over Texan Ken Smith at the 1969 Continental Open organized by Bill Goichberg. *See Game 11 on Page 28.*

Writer and Organizer

Life at Play: A Chess Memoir takes its readers along Kavalek's path, from Czech train dispatcher to student in the Slavic department at George Washington University to *Washington Post* chess columnist. There are many stories about chess players and celebrities (such as film director Milos Forman). Kavalek wrote for *HuffPost* and for chess media, such as *Chess Life* magazine.

Kavalek organized the "Man and his World Challenge Cup" in Montreal, 1979, at that time the richest tournament in chess history. He was a founding member of the Grandmasters Association (GMA).

Coach, Second, Trainer

Kavalek provided chess help to many top players, including Bobby Fischer, Mark Diesen, Yasser Seirawan, and Nigel Short. Sometimes he had the title of coach, at other times he was a "second" or a trainer.

In the "Training Odyssey" section of his book, Kavalek spends the most pages discussing his work with Short. That work ended abruptly when Short asked him to leave London during Short's 1993 match with World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov.

Short and Kavalek present different versions of their break-up. Recounting events in 2005, on ChessBase, Kavalek's fee to be Short's second for his matches with Timman and Kasparov is listed as \$125,000. Another version is in Kavalek's book, with the fee listed as \$120,000, if Short progresses past his match with Timman to play Kasparov, but perhaps with another fee for that earlier match with Timman. All versions agree that Kavalek received an undisclosed smaller amount, settled by lawyers.

Where to buy

The following "where to buy" information is current as of December 2023. *Life at Play: A Chess Memoir* is available as a hardcover and as an eBook from its publisher, New in Chess. It is also available from USCF Sales as a hardcover for \$34.95. Amazon lists the hardcover for \$32.95 and the Kindle for \$20.48.

Links relating to the article

Wrote for HuffPost: <https://www.huffpost.com/author/lubomir-kavalek>

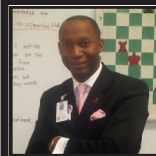
Recounting events (ChessBase): <https://en.chessbase.com/post/kavalek-to-short-i-am-not-dead->

Where to buy

New in Chess: <https://www.newinchess.com/life-at-play>

USCF Sales: <https://www.uscfsales.com/life-at-play-hardcover.html>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Life-at-Play-Chess-Memoir/dp/9493257665>



Coach's Corner - e4!

The Chess Top 40, Part 3

by Robert L. Myers

* **Editors Note:** *The Chess Top 40* began in the **Nov-Dec 2023** issue of *Texas Knights* and will continue in the next issue.

6) When Ahead in Material Trade: Trading pawns when behind in material in chess can sometimes be a strategic choice to complicate the position and create winning chances. Here are a few reasons why this might be the case: **Imbalance in material:** By trading pawns, you can create an imbalance in material that might favor your pieces. For example, if you can exchange pawns to open up lines for your remaining pieces, they may become more active and coordinated, compensating for the material deficit. **Pawn Structure Changes:** Exchanging pawns can lead to changes in the pawn structure. This might create weaknesses in your opponent's position that you can exploit. Conversely, you might be able to create a pawn structure that is more favorable for your remaining pieces. **King Safety:** King safety is important in the exchange of material as well. In certain situations, trading pawns can open up lines near your opponent's King, potentially making their King more exposed and vulnerable. This can be especially effective if you have active pieces that can quickly target the weakened King. **Stalemate Tricks:** When you're behind in material, creating complications might offer chances for stalemate tricks or tactical opportunities. If your opponent is not careful, they might fall into a tactical trap that results in a draw or even a win for you. **Time Pressure:** Introducing complications through pawn trades can put time pressure on your opponent. If they are short on time, they may make mistakes or overlook tactical opportunities, allowing you to capitalize on their time constraints. **Psychological Pressure:** Trading pawns and complicating the position can also create psychological pressure on your opponent. They might feel the need to be more precise in their moves, increasing the chances of them making errors. **Endgame Opportunities:** If you're behind in material but manage to simplify the position into an endgame, you might have better chances to hold a draw or create winning chances. Endgames often require different skills than the middlegame, and a resourceful defense or a well-executed endgame plan can turn the tide.

It's important to note that deciding whether to trade pawns when behind or ahead in material. It truly depends on the specific position and the concrete factors involved. Sometimes, maintaining material bal-

ance or seeking counterplay without exchanging pawns may be the better choice. Each chess position is unique, and the decision to complicate the game should be based on a careful evaluation of the position at hand. So, think before deciding whether to trade when ahead or behind in material.

7) Double your Rooks: Doubling up your Rooks on an open file is incredibly strong. When two rooks are doubled on an open file in chess, it refers to both rooks being aligned on the same file that is devoid of any pawns. This configuration provides several strategic advantages, making it a potent and desirable arrangement for the player who achieves it. Here are some reasons why doubled rooks on an open file are considered advantageous: **Targeting Weaknesses:** The doubled rooks can work in tandem to target weaknesses in the opponent's position. Without any pawns obstructing their path, the rooks can penetrate deep into the enemy camp and put pressure on vulnerable squares and pieces. This can lead to tactical opportunities and threats that the opponent must address. **Coordination:** Doubled rooks enhance coordination between the pieces. They can support each other and cover various squares, creating a unified front. This coordination is particularly effective when it comes to controlling key squares or lines on the board. I tell our teams often, "It's a pretty good idea to have your pieces working together as a team." Multi-tasking them in tandem is one way to accomplish this. **Open Lines for Attack:** With an open file, the rooks have clear lines of sight and can potentially launch attacks along the file. They can target the opponent's King, threaten important pieces, or create threats that force the opponent into a defensive posture. **Increased Mobility:** Rooks on open files have increased mobility compared to rooks obstructed by pawns. This allows for rapid maneuvering and adaptability, enabling the player to respond effectively to changing circumstances on the board. Doubled rooks on an open file provide a potent combination of central control, coordination, and the ability to exploit weaknesses in the opponent's position. Players often strive to achieve this setup as part of their strategic plans to gain a positional advantage and create threats on the board. *

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

2024 Region VIII Chess Championships

By Victor Flores

Additional Results

K1 & Primary: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202402044072>

Elementary: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202402044022>

Middle School: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202402044092>

High School: <https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202402044122>

Highlights from The Region VIII Chess Championships

Step into the world of strategic brilliance and intense competition as we revisit the unforgettable moments of the *2024 Region VIII Chess Championships*. From the pre-tournament excitement to the heart-pounding battles on the board, this tournament was a thrilling showcase of talent and determination from players across the region.

The Epic Venue and the Chess Maestro Behind It

Picture this: Veterans Memorial Early College High School in Brownsville, Texas, buzzing with energy and anticipation. From three gymnasium floors transformed into battlegrounds for the championship and JV sections to a bustling classroom hosting the K-1 prodigies, the venue was alive with chess fever. And the mastermind orchestrating this symphony of chess brilliance? None other than Eric Muller, the legendary teacher and chess aficionado from Veterans High School. With over a decade of hosting scholastic chess tournaments under his belt, Eric's passion for the game and commitment to his students shone brightly throughout the event.

Exploring the Chess Atmosphere

Away from the intense battles on the

boards, the hallways of Veterans Memorial Early College High School were a sensory delight. Aromas of popcorn, nachos, and other goodies filled the air, adding to the vibrant atmosphere. Participants and spectators alike meandered through the corridors, stopping to browse the chess store where vendors offered a variety of equipment, from clocks to boards and pieces, along with intriguing chess-themed novelties.

The Clash of Titans: The Region VIII Chess Championships

As the tournament day dawned, players of all ages and skill levels descended upon the venue, each armed with their strategies and dreams of victory. From the first moves to the final checkmates, every game was a captivating display of skill and strategy that had spectators on the edge of their seats.

Celebrating Excellence: Individual and Team Triumphs

Amidst the intensity of competition, standout players emerged, leaving their mark on Region VIII chess history. Let's give a round of applause to the champions who etched their names in the annals of chess greatness.

—————> *Continues on the Next Page* <—————

**Individual Championship
Section Standouts:**

K-1: Adam Leos
 Primary Champion: Annafer Villela
 Elementary Champion: Kaiser Garcia
 Middle School Co-Champions: Samuel Qin
 and Onur Karabulut
 High School Champion: CM Rohun Trakru

Individual JV Standouts:

Primary JV Champion: Ethan Figueroa
 Elementary JV Champion: Amanda Rivas
 Middle School JV Champion: Brandon Garcia
 High School JV Champion: Asael De Jesus

**Team Triumphs:
Uniting for Victory**

The spirit of teamwork and camaraderie was palpable as schools came together to chase victory. Let's commend the outstanding teams whose collaborative efforts led them to triumph.

**Team Championship
Section Standouts:**

K-1 Champions: Garden Park Elementary
 Primary Champions: Paredes Elementary
 Elementary Champions: Paredes Elementary

Middle School Champions: Rising Scholars
 High School Champions:
 Veterans Memorial Early College HS

Team JV Standouts:

Primary JV Champions: Paredes Elementary
 Elementary JV Champions:
 Rancho Verde Elementary
 Middle School JV Champions:
 Harlingen Memorial Middle School
 High School JV Champions:
 Harlingen School of Health Professions

**Looking Forward:
A Bright Future for Region VIII Chess**

As we reminisce about the tournament's excitement, let's carry forward the lessons learned and the friendships forged on the chessboard. With each move, we grow stronger, and with each game, we deepen our love for the game of chess. Here's to the continued success and growth of chess in Region VIII!

Additionally, CM Rohun Trakru graciously shares his annotated games for Rounds 5, 6, and 7.

Games start with *Game 12 on Page 28.*

Individual Champions



K-1
Adam Leos
 Photo by
 Cinthia Garza



Primary
Annafer Villela
 Photo by
 Alondra Mendiola



Elementary
Kaiser Garcia
 Photo by
 Sarah Rodriguez



Middle School
Samuel Qin & Onur Karabulut
 Photos by
 Arianna Garcia



High School
CM Rohun Trakru
 Photo by
 Eric Muller

→ Concludes on the Next Page →

Team Champions

Note: See the High School Team Champion photo and details on the cover.



**K-1
Garden Park
Elementary**
*Photo by
Cinthia Garza*



**Primary
Paredes
Elementary**
*Photo by
Alondra Mendiola*



**Elementary
Paredes
Elementary**
*Photo by
Cindy Hernandez*



**Middle School
Rising
Scholars**
*Photo by
Arianna Garcia*

2024 ChessKid National Festival: Advik Manchanda

By Mohit Manchanda

Advik recently participated in the prestigious 2024 ChessKid National Festival held in North Carolina from February 16th to 19th, 2024. I am delighted to inform you that Advik showcased exceptional talent and dedication throughout the tournament, ultimately securing remarkable achievements.

In the K-3 championship section, Advik emerged as the National Champion, claiming the 1st position. This outstanding accomplishment truly reflects his commitment and skill in the game of chess.

Moreover, Advik's journey at the festival was filled with numerous highlights. He exhibited his prowess by winning the 3rd prize in the puzzle challenge, demonstrating strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, Advik displayed courage and determination by participating in the K-3 Blitz, where he secured 3rd place, and excelled in bughouse, achieving a fantastic 2nd place tie with his partner, Sofia Rios.

Beyond the competitive aspect, Advik had the opportunity to meet esteemed chess personalities like Fun Master Mike (Mike Klein FIDE Master), Gotham Chess (IM Levy Rozman), WIM Ivette Ale Garcia Morales, and collect autographs, adding an extra layer of excitement and inspiration to his overall experience.

Advik's achievements at the ChessKid National Festival not only reflect his talent but also bring pride and honor to our Texas Chess community. His dedication to excellence serves as a shining example for his peers and reinforces the importance of hard work and perseverance.

We are immensely proud of Advik's accomplishments and extend our heartfelt congratulations to him for his well-deserved success. His achievement is a testament to his passion for chess and his unwavering commitment to excellence.

Please join me in congratulating Advik on his remarkable performance at the ChessKid National Festival.

See games starting with [Game 15, Page 29](#)



Game Index

+ = Additional Games in Games PGN file.

* = No Article Associated with Games.

#	Tournament	ECO	Result	Annotated by	Rnd	Date	Page(s)
1	2024 North/Central Texas State Scholastic CC	E10	0-1	Vicky Yu	5	03.03.2024	25
2		A40	½-½		6		25
3	2024 South Texas State Scholastic CC+	D00	0-1	Fritz 19	7	17.03.2024	25-26
4		D10	1-0		7		26
5		A40	1-0		7		26
6		D11	1-0		7		26-27
7		C07	0-1		7		27
8		B34	½-½		7		27
9	2024 Texas Senior Championship	E70	1-0	Scott Elliott	2	16.03.2024	28
10		A39	0-1		4	17.03.2024	28
11	Continental Open (New Chess Books)	B42	1-0	N/A	6	02.11.1969	28
12	2024 TCA Region VIII Chess Championship+	B01	1-0	Rohun Trakru	5	04.02.2024	28-29
13		B12	0-1		6		29
14		B78	1-0	N/A	7		29
15	2024 ChessKid National Festival	C47	0-1	N/A	2	17.02.2024	29
16		C55	0-1		4	18.02.2024	29
17		C19	1-0		5	19.02.2024	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.

1

**Topalian-Pomata, N.
Yu, Vicky**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 b6 5.Be2 Bb7 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nc3 Bb4!? [7...Bd6 More accurate.] 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.a4 c5 Trying to break open the center. 11.Ba3 I saw this move but didn't think it was great for White as the bishop is blunted by the c5 pawn. 11...Re8 12.Qb3 Rc8 13.cxd5 Nxd5 I took with the knight because I didn't want an isolated pawn after the trade on c5. However, this allowed White to gain a tempo. [13...exd5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Bxc5 Rxc5=] 14.c4 N5f6 15.a5 Qc7 16.axb6 axb6 17.h3? Bxf3! Both captures aren't ideal. If gx3, my plan was to take in the center and reroute my knight for an attack on the king. 18.Bxf3 This removes the second defender of the c4 pawn. [18.gxf3 cxd4 19.exd4 Nh5] 18...cxd4 19.exd4 Qxc4 20.Qxc4 Rxc4 21.Rfb1?! [21.Rfd1 The pawn has to be protected, but now Black can double rooks and bring the knight to the center.] 21...Rxd4 22.Bb2 Rd6 23.Ra6 Rc8 Taking the open file. 24.Ba3 Rd2 Still good, but better was Rd4. [24...Rd4! 25.Bb7 Rb8 26.Ra7 h6] 25.Bb7 Rb8 26.Bc6 h6! 27.Ra7 Rc8 [27...Ne5] 28.Bb4 Rd4 29.Bc3?! Rd6 This move forces a trade of minor pieces, and without White's bishop pair, Black's play becomes much easier. 30.Bxf6 Nxf6 31.Bb7 Rb8 [31...Rc2] 32.Bf3 b5 33.Rb4 Nd5 34.Rb3 b4 35.Ra4 Rdb6 36.Ra5 Rb5 37.Ra7 Kf8 Activating the king. My idea was to eventually go R8b7 and Ke7 38.Kf1 Rc5 39.Ra4? Rc1+! 40.Ke2 Nc3+ Black wins. 0-1

2

**Yu, Vicky
Ravishankar, D.**

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 Bd6 4.Bg3 Nf6 5.Nd2 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ng3 0-0 8.Bd3 Qe7 9.Ne5 Blocking Black from pushing e5 and trading in the

center. 9...Bd7 10.0-0 Rac8 11.Rc1 This move is unnecessary; the immediate f4 was strong. [11.f4] 11...a6 12.f4! Ne8? 13.Qh5? [13.Bh4!! Winning on the spot; White gains at the minimum an exchange. 13...Qxh4 14.Nxd7] 13...f5! I underestimated this move and thought my attack was still strong. 14.Bh4 Nf6 15.Qf3 Qe8 16.Kh1 I was running low on time and couldn't decide what to do, so I made a waiting move. 16...Ne4 17.Qd1 Be7 18.Nxe4 [18.Bxe7! Qxe7 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Ndc4] The knights dominate the board. [18...fxe4 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Nxd7 Qxd7 21.Be2 cxd4 22.cxd4 Ne7 23.Qb3 Rc7 24.Rc3 I wanted to trade on my own terms, but should have gone Rc5 to do so. [24.Rc5 Rxc5 25.dxc5=] 24...Rfc8 [24...Rxc3! 25.bxc3 b5] 25.Bg4?! I was worried about Nf5 after Rfc1, but the tactics work don't work for Black. [25.Rfc1 Nf5 26.Kg1=] 25...Rxc3 26.bxc3 Nf5?! [26...b5] 27.Bxf5 exf5 28.Rc1 [28.a4= This move takes the sting out of b5.] 28...b5! 29.Rc2 Qc6 30.Rc1?! Qc4! 31.Rb1 Qxb3 32.Rxb3 Kf7?! [32...b4! Taking advantage of White's vulnerable king and winning at least a pawn. 33.Rxb4 Rxc3 34.h3 Rxe3] 33.h3 Rc6?! [33...g5! 34.fxg5 Kg6 35.h4 Kh5] 34.Kg1? [34.Kh2!=] 34...Ke6?! [34...h5 35.Kf2 h4 Boxing in White's king.] 35.Kf2= The game is a draw. ½-½



3

**Gonzalez, Gael N
Rostro, Aaron D**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 0-0 [5...dxc4 6.e3 Be6] 6.e3= D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines. 6...Nc6 [6...c5] 7.a3N [7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.Nf3; Predecessor: 7.Qf3 Re8 8.Nge2 dxc4 9.g3 h5 10.Qxh5 Nxd4 11.0-0-0 Nxe2+ 12.Bxe2 Qe7 13.Nd5 1-0 Ameku,P

(1881)-Anhwere,B (1847) GHA-CH Accra 2021 (1)] 7...Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 The position is equal. 8...Be6 9.c5 [9.cxd5= Qxd5 (9...Bxd5 10.Nf3=) 10.Nf3] 9...Ne7 [9...b6] 10.g3 [10.Rc1=] 10...b6 11.cxb6 Black converts the advantage convincingly. [11.Nf3] 11...axb6 12.Bg2 Qd6 13.Qb3 [White should play 13.a4] 13...Ra7 Black is more active. 14.Bf3 [14.Ne2] 14...Rfa8+ 15.a4 Qd7 16.Ne2 Rxa4 17.Rxa4 Qxa4 [Don't do 17...Rxa4 18.Nf4] 18.Qxa4 Rxa4 19.0-0 g5 20.Rc1 b5 21.Bg2 Ra2 22.Kf1 c6 23.f3 f5 24.f4 f6 25.Kf2? [25.Ke1 was called for.] 25...Nc8 26.h4 h6 27.Rh1 Kg7 28.Kf3 Nd6 29.Kf2 Ne4+ 30.Bxe4 fxe4 Endgame. KRB-KRN 31.Rc1 [31.hxg5 fxg5 (31...hxg5? 32.fxg5 fxg5 33.Rh2+) 32.fxg5 hxg5 33.Rh2] 31...Bg4 32.Re1 gxh4 33.gxh4 Kg6 ...Rxe2+ would now be deadly. 34.Kf1 Bxe2+ KRB-KR 35.Kf2 Bf3+ 36.Kg3 Kh5 37.f5 Rg2+ 38.Kh3 Rg4 39.Ra1 Rxh4+ [39...Bg2+ 40.Kh2 Kxh4 41.Kg1 Bh3+ 42.Kf2 Rg2+ Discovered Attack 43.Ke1 Rg1+ Skewer (43...Bxf5? 44.Ra6+) 44.Kd2 Rxa1 45.Kc2 Bxf5 46.Kb2 Re1 47.Kb3 Rxe3 48.Ka3 Rxc3+ 49.Kb4 Rc4+ 50.Ka5 e3 (50...Rxd4 leads to mate. 51.Kb6 e3 52.Kc5 Rc4+ 53.Kb6 e2 54.Kb7 e1Q 55.Kb6 Qe7 56.Ka6 Bc8+ 57.Kb6 Qb7+ 58.Ka5 Qc7#) 51.Ka6 e2 (51...Rxd4 gets mated. 52.Ka7 e2 53.Kb7 e1Q 54.Kb6 Qe7 55.Ka6 Bc8+ 56.Kb6 Rc4 57.Ka5 Qd8#) 52.Kb7 e1Q (52...e1B 53.Kb6 Bg3 54.Kb7 Bd6 55.Ka7 Bc8 56.Kb6 Bb8 57.Ka5 Bc7#) 53.Kb6 Qe7 (53...Rxd4 54.Kc7 Qe7+ 55.Kb6 Ra4 56.Kxc6 Ra6+ 57.Kxd5 Qe5#) 54.Ka6 Bc8+ (54...Rxd4 55.Kb6 Ra4 56.Kxc6 Ra6+ 57.Kxd5 Qe5#) 55.Kb6 Qb7+ 56.Ka5 Qc7#] 40.Kg3 Rg4+ 41.Kh3 Rg5 42.Ra6 Rxf5 Hoping for ...Bg4+. (...Kh4) 43.Rxc6 Be2 44.Kg2 Rf3 45.Kh2 Rxc3 46.Rxf6 Rxc3 47.Rf5+ Kg6 48.Rxd5 Bc4 49.Rc5 e3 50.d5 e2 51.d6 e1Q Black mates. 52.d7 Qg3+ 53.Kh1 Rc1# Weighted Error Value: White=1.15 / Black=0.31.

Mistake: White=8 Black=2 Inaccurate: White=3 --- OK: White=5 Black=13 Best: White=1 Black=1

0-1

4 **Zenteno,Matias S**
Kennedy,Houston R

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nxd5 cxd5 6.Nf3 D10: Slav Defence: 3 cxd5 (without early Nf3) and 3 Nc3. **6...Bf5** [6...Nc6=] **7.Qb3 b6?:**[7...e6= and Black has nothing to worry.] **8.Bf4** [8.Ne5 a6; 8.e4+- Bd7 9.Ne5 (9.Qxd5 Nc6; 9.exd5 g6+-)] **8...e6** [8...Nd7] **9.e3?** [9.e4+- and the rest is easy. 9...Bxe4 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.Ne5] 9...Be7 [9...Bd6] **10.Bb5+- Nd7?** [10...Kf8 11.Rc1 a6] **11.Ne5 f6** [11...0-0 12.Nxd7 a6] **12.Nxd7 Kf7 13.0-0N** [Predecessor: 13.Nb8 Rxb8 14.Bxb8 Qxb8 15.0-0 h5 16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 g5 18.e4 g4 19.exd5 exd5 20.Qf5 Qb7 21.Rac1 Bb4 22.Rc2 Qe7 23.Qxd5+ 1-0 Hurink,M (1917)-Neumann,F (1344) Niedersachsen-ch op Verden 2009 (4)] **13...e5** [13...a6 14.Nxb6 axb5] **14.Nxe5+! fxe5 15.Bxe5 Be6 16.f4 g6 17.Bxh8 Qxh8 18.Bd3 Rd8 19.f5 gxf5 20.Bxf5 Bxf5 21.Rxf5+ Ke6 22.Re5+ Kf7 23.Rxd5 Rxd5 24.Qxd5+ Endgame. KQR-KQB 24...Kg6 25.Rf1 Qe8 Repels Qf7+ 26.Qe6+ Kg7 27.Rf3** [27.d5 Qf8 28.Rxf8 Kxf8 29.d6 Bh4 30.Qh6+ (30.Qf5+ Ke8 31.Qxh7 Bf6 32.e4 Kf8 33.d7 Bd4+ 34.Kh1 Bf6 35.e5 Bg7 36.d8Q+ Kf7 37.Qh5+ Ke6 38.Qd6#) 30...Ke8 31.Qxh4 Kd7 32.Qe7+ Skewer (32.Qxh7+ Kxd6 33.Qxa7 Kc6 34.h4 b5 35.h5 b4 36.h6 b3) 32...Kc6 33.d7 (33.Qxa7 Kxd6 34.Qxb6+ Kd7 35.a4 h6 36.a5 Ke7 37.a6 h5 38.a7 h4 39.a8Q Kf7 40.Qaa7+ Kg8 41.Qd8#) 33...h5 34.d8Q (34.d8R a5 35.Qe8+ Kb7 36.Qd7+ Ka6 37.Ra8#) 34...Kb5 35.Qd3+ Kc6 36.Qdd7#] **27...h6 28.Qe5+ Kh7 29.Qe6?** [29.d5 mates 29...Qf8 30.Rxf8 Bxf8 31.d6 Bxd6 32.Qxd6 h5 33.e4 h4 34.e5] **29...Kg7=**

30.Rg3+ Kh7 31.Qf5+ Kh8 32.Qe5+ Weighted Error Value: White=0.94/Black=1.79. Loses game: --- Black=3 Missed win: White=2 --- Mistake: --- Black=4 Inaccurate: --- Black=2 OK: White=5 Black=1 1-0

5 **Rodriguez,Emilio J**
Diaz,Sebastian

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.a3 A40: Unusual replies to 1 d4. **6...Bxc3 7.Bxc3 d5 8.e3** White is slightly better. **8...0-0 9.Be2N** [9.c5; Predecessor: 9.Rc1 Nd7 10.Bd3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 c5 12.0-0 Nd5 13.Bd2 cxd4 14.exd4 Rc8 15.Bg5 ½-½ Martins,P (2023)-Fanha,P (1974) Lisbon Honra-A 2014 (9)] **9...Nd7** [9...dxc4= 10.Bxc4 Nd7] **10.0-0** [10.c5!] **10...c5 11.b4** [11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.cxd5] **11...dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd5** [12...cxb4= 13.Bxb4 a5] **13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.bxc5** Remove Defender **14...bxc5 15.dxc5** Remove Defender **15...Nxc5?** Black is now going downhill. [Don't play 15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxc5 17.Qg4; 15...f6] **16.Bb4?** [16.Qd4+- Qf6 17.Qxc5] **16...Qd6?** [16...Rc8] **17.e4!+- a5 18.Bxc5 Qxc5 19.exd5 exd5 20.Qd4 Qc4 21.Qxc4 dxc4 22.Rac1 Rfc8 23.Rc3 Rab8 24.Rfc1 g6 25.g3** [25.Rxc4? is the wrong capture. 25...Rxc4 26.Ra1 Rb2+] **25...Rb3 26.Rxb3** [Worse is 26.Rxc4 Rxc4 27.Rxc4 Rxf3=] **26...cxb3 27.Rxc8+ Kg7 28.Rb8 a4 29.Nd2 Kf6 30.Nxb3!** White threatens Rb4! and mate. **30...axb3** [30...g5 31.Nc5] **31.Rxb3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/Black=0.84. Loses game: --- Black=2 Missed win: White=1 --- Mistake: White=3 Black=2 Inaccurate: --- Black=4 OK: White=10 Black=3 1-0

6 **Cantu Jr,Chris E**
Alejandro III,Isaias

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Bg4 4.c4

e6 5.Nc3 c6 6.Qb3 Qc7 7.Bd2 D11: Slav Defence: 3 Nf3 sidelines and 3...Nf6 4 e3 Bg4. **7...Bxf3 8.gxf3 Be7 9.e4N** White has an edge. [Predecessor: 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.Kb1 Nbd7 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bd3 a5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Rc1 Qb8 15.a3 1-0 Keymer,V (2738)-Holt,C (2540) Wch Rapid Samarkand 2023 (8)] **9...0-0 10.e5** [10.exd5 cxd5 11.cxd5 Nxd5] **10...Nfd7 11.Qc2** [White should play 11.Rg1=] **11...Rd8** [11...dxc4 12.Rg1 g6] **12.Bd3 g6?** [12...Nf8=] **13.cxd5+** Threatens to win with d6. **13...cxd5** [13...Nxe5 is a better defense. 14.dxe5 Qxe5+ 15.Ne2 cxd5] **14.Nxd5!** Discovered Attack, Double Attack **14...Qxc2 15.Nxe7+ Kf8 16.Nxg6+** [16.Bxc2?! Kxe7 17.h4 Nc6] **16...hxg6 17.Bxc2** This pair of bishops is nice. **17...Kg7 18.Ke2 Nb6 19.Rhd1 Nc6 20.Bc3** [20.Be3+-] **20...Nd5** [20...Rd7] **21.Bd2?** [21.h4] **21...Nxd4++ 22.Kd3 Nxf3** [22...Rac8+ 23.Ba4 Nb6 (23...Nxf3 24.Ke2)] **23.Ke2?** [23.Ke4 Nxd2+ (23...Nxb2 24.Bg5=) 24.Rxd2] **23...Nxe5** [And not 23...Nxb2 24.Bg5 Ng4 25.Bxd8 Rxd8 26.Ra1; 23...Nd4++ and Black stays clearly on top. 24.Kd3 Rac8 25.Kxd4 Rxc2] **24.Be4 f5?** [Better is 24...Rd7+- White must now prevent ...Rh8. 25.Be3 Nc6] **25.Bxd5 Rxd5** [25...exd5? too greedy. 26.Bc3+] **26.Bc3 Kf7?** [26...Rc5] **27.Rxd5+-** Remove Defender **27...exd5 28.Bxe5** Endgame. KRB-KR **28...Re8 29.f4 g5 30.Kf3 g4 31.Kg3 Rc8 32.Rd1 Ke6 33.Rd2 Rc6 34.h4 gxh3 35.Rh2 Rc1 36.Rxh3 Rg1+ 37.Kf2 Rg6** Wards off Rh6 **38.Rh7 d4 39.Bxd4 Kd5 40.Be5 Rb6 41.Rf7 Rc6 42.Rxf5 Ke4 43.Rf7 Rc2+ 44.Kg3 Re2 45.Rxb7 Re3+ 46.Kg4 Re2 47.Rb3 a5 48.Ra3 Rg2+ 49.Kh3 Rg8 50.Rxa5 Rg6 51.Ra3 Rb6 52.Rg3** aiming for a4. **52...Rh6+ 53.Kg2 Rc6 54.a4 Rc2+ 55.Kh3 Rc6 56.Ra3 Ra6 57.a5 Rh6+ 58.Kg3** Intending a6 and mate. **58...Rg6+ 59.Kf2** b4 would kill now. **59...Rh6 60.a6** White mates. **60...Rh2+**

61.Kg3 Rd2 62.a7 Rd8 63.a8Q+ Kf5 64.Qxd8 Ke4 65.Qd3# Never resign too early! Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/Black=0.97. Loses game: White=2 Black=1 Missed win: --- Black=3 Mistake: White=2 Black=4 Inaccurate: --- Black=1 OK: White=8 Black=7 Best: White=5 Black=3 Brilliant: White=1 --- 1-0

7

Jimenez,Richard N Vuyyuru,Shriyan

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.exd5 exd5 6.Ndf3 C07: French Tarrasch: 3...c5, 4 Ngf3 and 4 exd5 Qxd5. 6...Nf6 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.cxd4 [8.Nxd4= Nxd4 9.cxd4] 8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 [9.Kf1] 9...Bxd2+N [Predecessor: 9...0-0 10.a3 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 Ne4 12.Qc2 Qa5+ 13.Kf1 Nb4 14.Qd1 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Bd7 0-1 Sanchez Lopez,A (1833)-Melderis,U (1960) Calvia Amateur op 14th 2017 (8)] 10.Qxd2 0-0! 11.Ne2 Bg4 12.Qf4 [12.h3 Bxf3 13.gxf3] 12...Qb6 [Better is 12...Bxf3 13.gxf3 Nh5] 13.Rd1 [13.0-0] 13...Qa5+ 14.Rd2 [14.Nc3 might work better.] 14...Qxa2 [14...Rae8+ And now ...Re6! would win. 15.0-0 Bxf3 (15...Qxa2 16.Nc3) 16.gxf3 Qxa2] 15.0-0 Qa5 16.Nc3 h6 [16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Rfe8 (17...Nxd4 18.Bxh7+ Discovered Attack 18...Nxb7 19.Rxd4)] 17.Ne5 Be6 18.Re1 Qd8 [18...Qb4 19.Bc2 Nxe5 (19...Qxb2? 20.Bh7+ Discovered Attack 20...Kxh7 21.Rxb2+-) 20.Rxe5 Rfd8 (20...Qxb2? 21.Bh7+ Discovered Attack 21...Kxh7 22.Rxb2+-)] 19.Re3 Nh5 20.Nxc6 [20.Qf3 Nf6 21.Bb1] 20...Nxf4 [20...bxc6 with more complications. 21.Qf3 Qg5 22.g3 Bh3] 21.Nxd8 Rfxd8 [21...Raxd8 22.Bb1] 22.Bc2 Nh5 23.Re5 Nf6 24.Nb5 [24.h3] 24...Rd7 [24...Rac8+ 25.f4 Rc4] 25.Bb3 [25.f4 Ne4 26.Re2 (26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.d5 e3)] 25...a6 26.Nc3 Rc8 27.h3 Rd6 28.f4 Nd7 29.Ree2 Nb6 [29...Kf8 30.Re1 Nb6] 30.g4 g6 31.Re5 f6 32.Re1 Kf7 [32...Kf8

33.Rde2 Bf7] 33.Rde2 Rc7 [Black should play 33...Nc4] 34.Kf2 Nc4 White must now prevent ...Nxb2! 35.Kg3? [35.Na4] 35...b5 [35...Nxb2!+- 36.Rxe6 Remove Defender 36...Rxe6 37.Bxd5 Pin 37...Rxc3+ 38.Kh2 Nd3 39.Bxe6+ Kf8] 36.f5 gxf5+ 37.gxf5 Bxf5 38.h4 [38.Kf4 Be6 (38...Bxh3 39.Rh1) 39.Na2] 38...Bd3 39.Rf2 Rc8 Hoping for ...Re6. 40.Kf4 Rg8 Inhibits Rg1. [40...Re6+ and Black stays clearly on top. 41.Rg1 b4 42.Nxd5 Re4+ Skewer, Double Attack 43.Kf3 Rxd4 (43...Rxb4 44.Nf4)] 41.Kf3? [41.Bd1] 41...Rg7? [41...f5 42.Ba2 Rdg6 43.Bxc4 dxc4] 42.Rd1? [42.Kf4 is a better chance.] 42...Bf5 43.Kf4 Bxc4! is the strong threat. 43...Be6 44.Re2? [44.Bxc4 bxc4 45.Ke3] 44...Rg4+ 45.Kf3 Rxb4 46.Nb1 Bg4+ 47.Kf2 Bxe2 48.Kxe2 Rh2+ 49.Kd3 Nxb2+ 50.Ke3 Nxd1+ 51.Bxd1 b4 52.Nd2 a5 Threatens to win with ...Re6+. 53.Nb3 Rh3+ 54.Bf3 a4 55.Nc5 Rxf3+! 56.Kxf3 KR-KN 56...a3 57.Nb3 Rc6 58.Ke2 Rc3 59.Nd2 a2 60.Kd1 a1Q+ 61.Ke2 Rc2 [61...Qg1 62.Nf1 Qg2+ (62...Qxd4 is a self mate. 63.Nd2 Re3+ Deflection 64.Kf1 Qxd2 65.Kg1 Re1#) 63.Kd1 Rc2 64.Ne3 Qe2#] 62.Ke3 Qc3+ Black mates. 63.Ke2 Qxd2+ 64.Kf3 Qf2+ 65.Kg4 Qxd4+ 66.Kg3 Rc3+ 67.Kg2 Qd2+ 68.Kg1 Rc1# Weighted Error Value: White=0.96/Black=0.46. Loses game: White=2 --- Mistake: White=12 Black=11 Inaccurate: White=6 Black=3 OK: White=9 Black=9 Best: White=1 Black=2 Strong: --- Black=1 0-1

8

Berumen,Joshua M Borse,Tanvi

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 d5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0-0 Be6 [10...Qc7!] 11.exd5= B34: Sicilian: Accelerated Dragon with 5 Nc3: sidelines. 11...cxd5 12.Bh6 [12.Bd4=] 12...Qa5 [12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Qb6] 13.Bxg7

Kxg7 14.Kb1N [14.a3= and White is okay.; Predecessor: 14.Qd4 Rab8 15.g4 Rb4 16.Qe5 Kg8 17.Rd4 Nd7 18.Qe3 Rfb8 19.Rxb4 Qxb4 20.b3 d4 0-1 Nunez,P (1161)-Alarcon,J (1937) Asuncion Clasificatorio op 3rd 2017 (1)] 14...Rfc8? [Black should play 14...d4!+- 15.Qxd4 Rfd8] 15.Ne2 Qb6 [15...Qc7 feels stronger.] 16.Qd4? [16.g4!]= 16...Qb7? [16...Bf5+ 17.Rc1 Rxc2 18.Rxc2 Rc8 Pin 19.Qxb6 Bxc2+ 20.Kc1 axb6] 17.Nc1 Rab8↑ Black has the initiative. 18.Nb3 Qc7 19.Bd3 a5 Hoping for ...Rb4. 20.g4? [20.Rhe1= and White has nothing to worry.] 20...Rb4+- 21.Qc3 [21.Qf2] 21...Qb7? [21...Qxc3+- has better winning chances. 22.bxc3 Rxc3] 22.Qe5 aiming for g5! 22...a4 23.g5 [23.a3 Rb6 24.g5 Pin 24...axb3 25.c3] 23...axb3+- 24.axb3 [24.cxb3 Qa7 25.gxf6+ exf6 26.Qd6] 24...Ra8 25.gxf6+ [25.Rhf1] 25...exf6 26.Qc3? [26.Qg3] 26...d4 27.Qc5 Rb6 28.Qxd4 [But not 28.Be4? Rba6 29.Kc1 Qb8+ (29...Ra1+ 30.Kd2)] 28...Qa7 [28...Rba6 29.Bxa6 Qxa6 30.Qa4] 29.Qa4 Qxa4 [29...Qb8!+- 30.Qd4 Rd6 (30...Qa7 31.Qa4)] 30.bxa4 Rxa4 31.b3 Ra5 [31...Rf4] 32.Kb2= Bd5 [32...Rc5=] 33.Rhf1 Rb8 [33...Rc5= remains equal.] 34.f4 [Better is 34.c4] 34...Rba8 [34...Rc5=] 35.f5 [35.Ra1!] 35...Ra2+ 36.Kc3 Rc8+ 37.Kd4 Bb7 [37...Rd8=] 38.fxg6 [White should try 38.Ra1! Rd8+ 39.Kc5 Rxa1 40.Rxa1] 38...fxg6 [38...hxg6 39.Ra1 Rd8+ 40.Kc5 Rxa1 41.Rxa1 f5] 39.h4 [39.Ra1! Rd8+ 40.Kc5] 39...Ba8 [39...Rd8!+= 40.Kc5 f5] Black had all chances to win. Weighted Error Value: White=0.83/Black=0.83. Loses game: White=3 - - Missed win: --- Black=3 Mistake: White=10 Black=10 Inaccurate: White=2 Black=2 OK: White=10 Black=5 Best: White=1 --- ½-½



9 Elliott, Scott (1992)
Land, Chris (2206)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2 Na6 Black was telling me he wanted to play ..c5, d5 Nc7, ...a6, ...b5, so I wanted to thwart this with a Maroczy bind like position. 7.0-0 There was no need to hastily castle, [7.f3 followed by 8.Be3 would have better secured the g1-a7 diagonal and then 0-0] 7...c5 8.f3? An absolutely atrocious move, given that I had played 7.0-0, [8.d5 was the only okay move here. Black followed with some good tactical play which won him a pawn.] 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Qb6 10.Be3 Ng4! 11.fxg4 Bxd4 12.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 13.Kh1 Bxg4 14.Qxg4 Qxd3 My previous six moves were more or less forced. I was now a pawn down and positionally "toast" with no way to contend the e5 square. However, I did not panic, but decided to hunker down and make my opponent earn it, and I believe I played more or less mistake free chess from this point. 15.Nd5 Rae8 16.b3 To have a chance at drawing, I could not give up any more pawns cheaply, so I believe b3 was a move in keeping with hunkering down 16...Nc5 17.Rae1 Qd4 18.Qh4 f6 19.Re2 Rf7 20.h3 f5 21.Nc7 Rc8 22.Nb5 Qd3 23.Qe1! There is not an available square on the board for the Black queen to move without being captured! 23...Nxe4 24.Rf3 All of a sudden, Black's queen is trapped! 24...Qxf3 25.gxf3 Ng5 26.Rxe7 Nxf3 27.Re8+ Rxe8 28.Qxe8+ Kg7 29.Nxd6 Rf8 30.Qe7+ Kg8 31.Qxb7 Ng5 32.Qd5+ Kg7 33.c5 Nxh3 34.c6 f4 35.c7 f3 36.c8Q f2 37.Qxf8+ Kxf8 38.Qf7# 1-0

10 Weaver, Richard (2200)
Elliott, Scott (1992)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d4 cxd4

8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.e4 [What I have normally seen here is 10.Qd3 , and if Black replies 10...Be6 , then Bxb7.(So 10...Bf5 11.e4 Be6 . By playing 10 e4 first, White shuts off the h1-a8 diagonal and takes Bxb7 away from himself. Thus, I don't have to expend the extra tempo by playing Bf5 before Be6. Thus I gain a tempo.)] 10...Be6 11.Bd2 Owing to the tempo I gained earlier, I go a pawn up with ...Ng4-Ne5-Nxc4 11...Ng4 12.Qd3 Ne5 13.Qc2 Nxc4 14.Rac1 Nxd2 I didn't think too long here about what tactical possibilities I might be giving up by not leaving my knight on c4. I just wanted to immediately grab the bishop pair and eliminate any challenge along the a1-h8 diagonal. 15.Qxd2 Qa5 I don't like playing Rac8 in these kinds of positions. Instead I believe that ...Qa5-Rfc8-Qd8 is well worth expending the extra tempos. This allows Black to control or contest the c-file. Also it prevents tactics associated with Nd5 Qxd2, Nxe7+ because ...Kf8 is available with the rook not of f8. 16.a3 Rab8 I wanted to prevent any hint of e5, Bxb7, and this rook was not going to c8 anyway. 17.Rfd1 Rfc8 I was able to play ...Qa5 before White got a rook on d1 and thus Rfc8 is immediately necessary here to allow ...Kf8, following a potential Nd5 Qxd2, Nxe7+ 18.Bf1 a6 19.Nd5 Qxd2 20.Rxc8+ Rxc8 21.Rxd2 Kf8 At this point I am feeling pretty good heading toward an endgame a pawn up with the bishop pair and control of the c-file. 22.Kg2 Rc1 23.Bd3 Ke8 24.f4 f5 25.Ne3 fxe4 26.Bxe4 b5 27.f5 Bf7 28.fxg6 hxg6 29.Bb7 a5 30.Bf3 Kd8 I played ...Kd8 to take away Bc6+ winning the b5 pawn should my rook need to leave the c-file for tactical or pawn grabbing opportunities. However, one thing I needed to be careful about was checkmating possibilities should White potentially put his bishop on the h3-c8 diagonal and play Rc8#. 31.Nd5 Rc5 32.Nf4 g5 33.Nd3 Rc4 34.Be2

Rc8 I felt it was important to keep my rook on the c-file and also prevent against the aforementioned checkmate possibility. 35.Nf2 b4 36.Ne4 b3 37.Bd1 a4 38.Nxg5 Bg8 White has managed to regain the pawn lost earlier in the game, but I am not overly concerned because my a and b pawns are far advanced and the b2 pawn will soon fall and multiple potential pinning possibilities are available. 39.Kf2 Rc1 40.Ke1 Rb1 41.Ne4 Bxb2 White Resigns. I felt this was my best game of the tournament. 0-1



11 Kavalek, L. (2627)
Smith, K (2324)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nxc6 Qxc6 8.c4 b6 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.Nc3 d6 11.a4 Nf6 12.a5 bxa5 13.Nd5 Nd7 14.Bc2 Nc5 15.Rxa5 Be7 16.Re1 Bd8 17.Ra3 a5 18.Rg3 Kf8 19.Qg4 g6 20.Bh6+ Ke8 21.Qf4 Nd7 22.Ra3 Qc5 23.Ba4 Bc6 24.Bxc6 Qxc6 25.Rc3 Rg8 26.Bg5 f6 27.Qh4 Kf7 28.Nxf6 h6 29.Nxg8 Bxg5 30.Nxh6+ 1-0



12 Trakru, Rohun (2159)
Kennedy, H. (1421)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Bf5 5.d3 c6 6.Bd2 Qc7 7.Qe2 e6 8.g4! An aggressive attempt to lock black's bishop in 8...Bg6 9.h4 h5 10.g5 Bf5 11.Nh3 Bg4 12.Qe4 Nd7? Not a fan of this move as it allows g6 13.g6 Nc5 14.gxf7+ Qxf7 15.Qe3 Bd6 16.Ng5 Qd7 17.d4! Na6 18.Bxe6 Bxe6 19.Nxe6 Kf7 20.Ng5+ Kf8 21.0-0-0 Re8 22.Qf3+ Nf6 23.Nce4 Be7 24.Rde1 Nc7 25.Nxf6 gxf6? Allows for the G-file to be controlled by

white which will soon be proven fatal 26.Ne4 Qd5 27.Kb1 f5 28.c4 Qf7 29.Ng3 Bf6 30.Nxf5 Rd8 31.Rhg1 Bxd4?? Allows for a beautiful sequence to take place 32.Bh6+! Rxb6 33.Nxh6!! Giving up the queen yet threatening forced mate with Rg8! 33...Qxf3 34.Rg8# 1-0

13 **Saldivar Jr, F. (1723)**
Trakru, Rohun (2159)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3! The fantasy variation is not common, but is an extremely dangerous weapon if utilized properly 3...e6! I played this move with the intention of throwing Felix off as this is an uncommon sideline 4.e5? A big mistake, allowing black to push c5 giving black a French like structure while white has a misplaced pawn on f3 4...c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bb5?! Qb6 7.Bxc6+? bxc6 8.Qb3? cxd4 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.cxd4 Ne7 11.Ne2 Ba6 12.Nbc3 c5 13.Be3 Nc6 14.a3 Be7 15.Kf2?! Bxe2 16.Nxe2 cxd4! Forcing Bxd4 as Nxd4 leads to Ne5 17.Bxd4 Bc5! Forcing White to capture the bishop giving black the connected pawns 18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.f4 Kd7?! 20.Rhd1?! Rhb8 21.Rab1?! Rb3 22.Nc1 Rb5 23.Ne2 Rab8 24.Rd2?! Rb3 25.g3? Hanging the a3 pawn 25...Rxa3 26.bxa3 Rxb1 27.Ra2 Na5 28.a4 d4 29.Rc2 Nb3 30.a5?? Allowing d3! winning a minor piece 30...d3 31.Ra2 dxe2 32.Rxe2 Nxa5 Game may have continued... 0-1

14 **Garcia, Kaiser (1446)**
Hernandez, R. (1220)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Bg7 5. Nc3 d6 6. Be3 Nc6 7. Qd2 Bd7 8. Bc4 Nf6 9. f3 O-O 10. O-O a5 11. g4 a4 12. a3 Na5 13. Ba2 e5 14. Nde2 b5 15. Qxd6 Re8 16. g5 Nh5 17. Qxd7 Qxd7 18. Rxd7 Rf8 19. Nxb5 Nc6 20. Nd6 Nd8 21. Bb6 Ne6 22. Nxf7 Nef4 23. Nc3 Nh3 24. Nxe5+ Kh8 25. Bd4 Nxg5 26. h4 Nxf3 27. Nf7+

Kg8 28. Ng5+ Kh8 29. Bxg7+ Nxg7 30. Nxf3 Rxf3 31. Rhd1 h5 32. Rd8+ Rxd8 33. Rxd8+ Kh7 34. Rd3 Rf4 35. Rh3 Rf1+ 36. Kd2 Rf8 37. Nxa4 Re8 38. Nc3 Rd8+ 39. Ke3 Rb8 40. Bb3 Re8 41. Rf3 Nf5+ 42. Rxf5 gxf5 43. Kf4 fxe4 44. Nxe4 Rf8+ 45. Ke5 Ra8 46. a4 Ra5+ 47. Bd5 Ra6 48. Nd6 Kg7 49. c4 Rb6 50. c5 Rb8 51. Ke6 Rf8 52. c6 Rd8 53. c7 Rf8 54. Ke7 Rh8 55. Ne8+ Rxe8+ 56. Kxe8 Kf6 57. c8=Q 1-0



15 **Huang Paul**
Manchanda, Advik

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.Bc4 Ne5 10.0-0 Nxc4 11.Qe2 Ne5 12.Kh1 Ng6 13.Bg3 0-0 14.Rfe1 Re8 15.Qd3 Bd7 16.Re3 Ng4 17.Re2 N4e5 18.Qd2 Nc6 19.Rae1 a6 20.f4 Qe7 21.e5 dxe5 22.fxe5 Nxd4 23.cxd4 Be6 24.d5 Rad8 25.d6 cxd6 26.exd6 Qd7 27.a3 Bg4 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8 30.h3 Be6 31.Qb4 Qd7 32.c4 Bxh3 33.Kh2 Be6 34.c5 Qc6 35.a4 Nf8 36.a5 Nd7 37.Bf2 Bd5 38.Qg4 Nxc5 39.Bg3 Nc6 40.Be5 Qc4 41.Qg3 Bc6 42.Qa3 Qd5 0-1

16 **Balamurugan, Diya**
Manchanda, Advik

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.g4 Na5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 c5 10.g5 Ne8 11.h4 f5 12.Nd2 f4 13.Qh5 Nc7 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Bf5 16.Ne4 Qd7 17.Qd1 b6 18.Rg1 a6 19.h5 Qd8 20.g6 h6 21.Bd2 Qd7 22.Qe2 b5 23.0-0-0 Qb7 24.f3 Qxd5 25.Nf2 Qb7 26.Ng4 Bxg4 27.Rxg4 Bf6 28.Be1 Rfe8 29.Bh4 Bxh4 30.Rxh4 d5 31.Re1 Qc6 32.Rg4 b4 33.Rgg1 a5 34.Kd2 Qd7 35.Ra1 Kh8 36.Ra4 e4 37.Kc1 e3 38.Qg2 d4 39.Qg4 Qxg4 40.fxg4 f3 41.Kd1 f2 42.Rf1 e2+ 43.Kd2

e1Q+ 44.Rxe1 fxe1Q# 0-1

17 **Manchanda, Advik**
Li, Wan Qin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Bd3 c4 9.Be2 Bd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Kh1 Qa5 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Ng1 Ng6 14.f4 f5 15.Nf3 Qd8 16.Qe1 a5 17.Qg3 Qc7 18.Nh4 Nxh4 19.Qxh4 Be8 20.Qh3 Bg6 21.g3 Qf7 22.Bf3 Rab8 23.a4 b5 24.axb5 Rxb5 25.Bc1 Rfb8 26.Ba3 Qd7 27.Qg2 R8b7 28.Qe2 Qf7 29.h4 h5 30.Qg2 Qd7 31.Rfc1 Qf7 32.Qe2 Qe8 33.Kh2 Qf7 34.Kg2 Qe8 35.Qd1 Na7 36.Bc5 Qf7 37.Be2 Nc8 38.Rcb1 Qe8 39.Rxb5 Rxb5 40.Rb1 Rxb1 41.Qxb1 Qc6 42.Kf2 Kh7 43.Ke3 Qc7 44.Qb5 Bf7 45.Kd2 g6 46.Bd1 Kg7 47.Qa6 Kh7 48.Qb5 Kg7 49.Kc1 Na7 50.Qa6 Nc8 51.Kd2 Kh7 52.Kc1 Kg7 53.Kb2 Qb8+ 54.Kc1 Qc7 55.Bf3 Kh7 56.Kd2 Kg7 57.Kd1 Kh7 58.Ke1 Kg7 59.Bxd5 exd5 60.Qf6+ Kg8 61.e6 Bxe6 62.Qxg6+ Kh8 63.Qh6+ Kg8 64.Qxe6+ Kg7 65.Qxf5 Ne7 66.Qxh5 Ng6 67.Qxd5 Qf7 68.Qxf7+ Kxf7 69.Kf2 a4 70.Kf3 Ne7 71.g4 Nd5 72.g5 Nxc3 73.f5 Nb1 74.g6+ Kg7 75.d5 a3 76.Bd4+ Kg8 77.f6 Kf8 78.f7 c3 79.Bc5+ Kg7 80.f8Q+ Kxg6 81.Bxa3 Nd2+ 82.Ke2 Kh5 83.Qh8+ Kg4 84.Qxc3 Nb1 85.Qb4+ Kh3 86.Qxb1 Kxh4 87.d6 Kg5 88.d7 Kf5 89.d8Q Ke6 90.Qbb6+ Ke5 91.Qdf6+ Kd5 92. Qfe6# 1-0

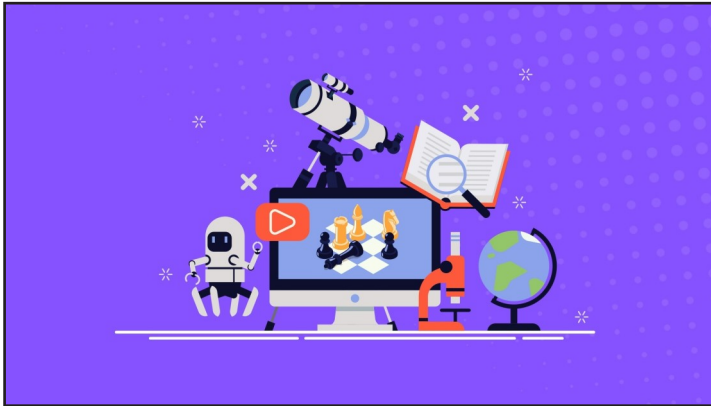


Upcoming Events



Editor's note: I chose to use this space for other content. This may become a permanent change since all event information can be found directly on the *Texas Clearing House Calendar* by clicking/tapping <<here>>, by using the QR Code at the left, or by visiting <https://texaschess.org> and selecting *Tournaments* and then selecting *Texas Clearing House Calendar*.

Chessable seeks applicants for Chessable Research Awards 2024 cycle



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Blog posts by past Chessable Research Awards winners (their names are linked to their blog posts): [Denise Trippold](#), [Aditya Gupta](#), [Jérôme Genzling](#), [Jordan von Hippel](#), [Michael Martins](#), [Jane Zhang](#), [Adam DeHollander](#), and [Sarah Kudron](#).

Best regards,

Chessable Research Awards Coordinator Alexey Root, alexey.root@chess.com
Science Project Manager Karel van Delft, karel.vandelft@chess.com

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Tactics Time! Answer on
page 18



V. Tsay – A. Woodward
17th Annual Spice Cup 2023
Black to Move

