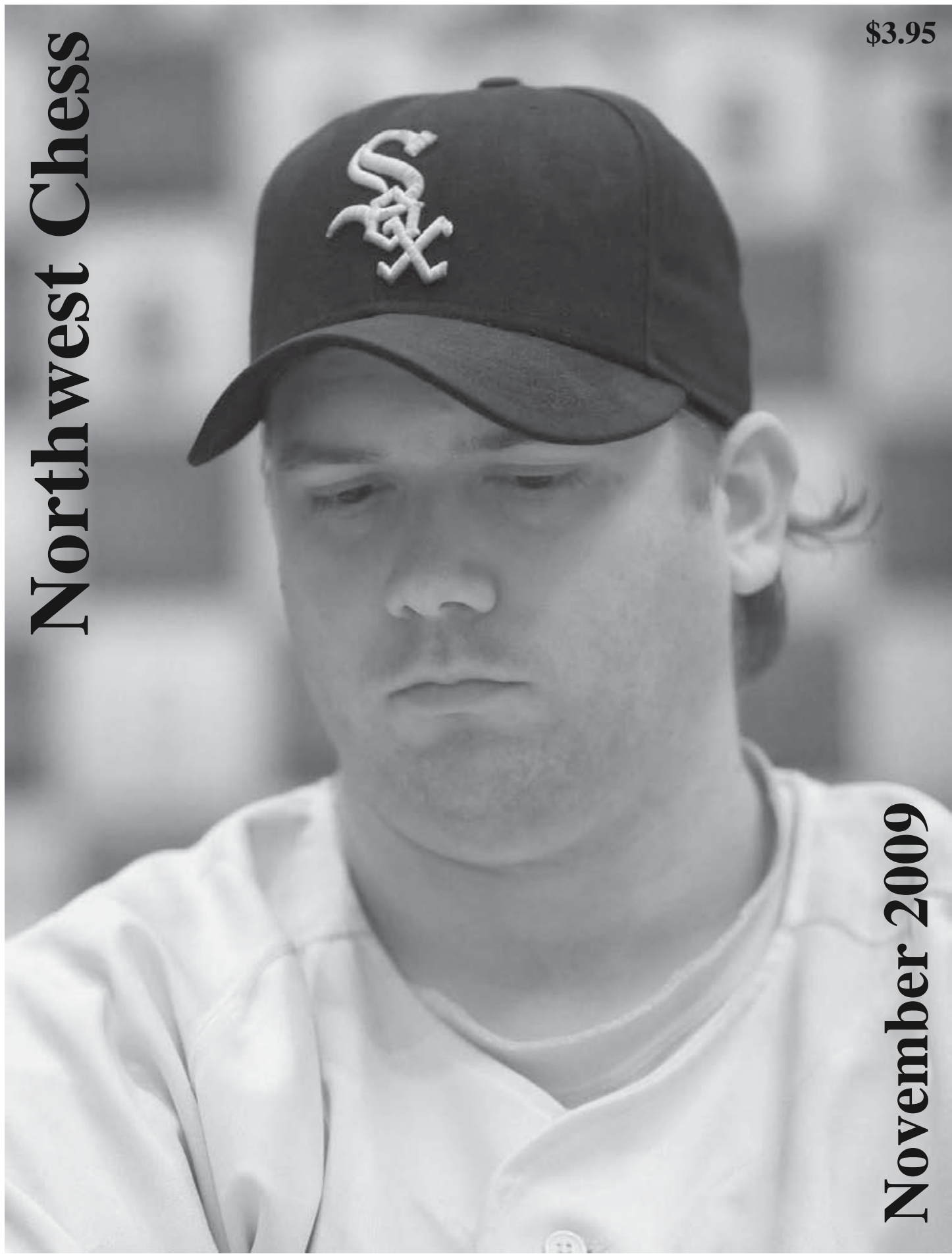


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Page 3:	U.S. Senior Championship	Mike Schemm
Page 10:	Games Corner: Clackamas Senior	Chuck Schulien
Page 11:	NW Girls on USCF Top 100 Lists	Howard Hwa
Page 12:	Minnesota Chess Scene	Chris Kalina
Page 18:	Washington Middle School Chess	Howard Hwa
Page 19:	2010 All America Team	Joan DuBois
Page 20:	Theoretically Speaking	Bill McGearly
Page 22:	Opening Arguments	Harley Greninger
Page 24:	And in the End	Dana Muller
Page 28:	NW Grand Prix	Murlin Varner
Page 31:	Seattle Chess Club Events	
Page 32:	Future Events; Chess Business	Eric Holcomb

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Senior Moment: The 2009 U. S. Senior Championship

by
Mike Schemm

The U. S. Senior Championship was held over the three day Labor Day weekend in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Not a very exciting place to visit, but I have some longtime friends who live there, so the combination of chess and the visit with them was enough to entice me. Also, my best tournament of the past 25 years had been the 2005 U. S. Senior, where I managed to score 4/6, have my second lifetime draw with Bisguier, and played with a 2299 performance rating. This year the time control was G90 +30 seconds, or 30 second delay if your clock wouldn't add, or game in 2 if your clock did neither. Also, two rounds per day. Pretty fast for an old guy like me, and the other players. The weather in Tulsa was actually pretty nice. Low to mid 80's. The directing was good. Rounds were pretty much on time, and everyone was friendly and nice. It was all coordinated by Frank Berry, who I guess does a lot for chess in that part of the country. Also, they gave everyone in my prize group an extra \$50, which was extremely appreciated by all.

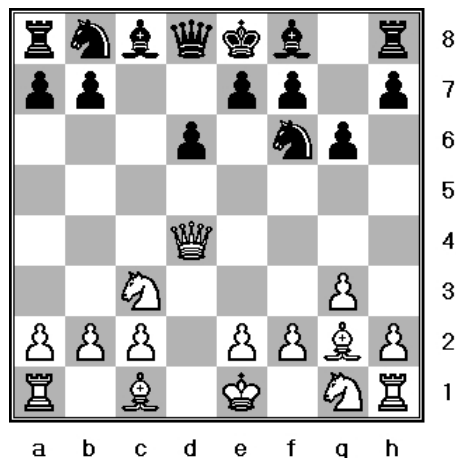
This year the tournament was won by Larry Christiansen, with 5.5/6. Is this his first year playing in the U. S. Senior? Clear second was Larry Kaufman (5.0/6), who won last year, and then went on to win the World Senior Championship, thereby gaining the GM title. Four people were tied for 3rd, including myself with 4.5/6. I came in 4th on tie breaks, behind IM Joe Bradford, and was first under 2100. They also gave me a plaque for best score age 60 to 64, although that really should have gone to Larry Kaufman, who I believe is 61.

However, there was a trophy for 2nd place, and they said he couldn't have two trophies, so they gave it to me. I turned 62 the first day of the tournament. The USCF website ratings estimator indicates I played with a 2334 performance rating, and gained 62 rating points. That is better than my 2005 result, and now the best tournament I have had in 25 years. I guess those other old guys do not play so well! In 2005, three of the masters I played were at their floor. However, this year none of them were at their floor, and every opponent I played, except for my last round win, apparently gained rating points. Kaufman thinks I might qualify for assistance and be the official U. S. representative to go to the World Senior Championship. Christiansen and Bradford are too young, not yet being the required age 60. Kaufman says he already qualifies for sponsorship as the current reigning World Champion. I may or not follow up, as I already have conflicting travel plans I would need to change. *{Apparently Mike decided not to go Italy for the World Senior. – editor}*

My first round, against a much lower rated player, gave no indication that I would play well. I was much too aggressive in the opening, and soon had a worse position. However, after several moves in the middle game, he gave away the whole ship, so I won rather quickly. (Light notes by the editor.)

Mike Schemm – David Herron
US Senior Championship, Round 1
Oklahoma, September 5, 2009

1. Nc3 c5 2. g3 d6 3. Bg2 g6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Qxd4 Nf6



6. Qc4

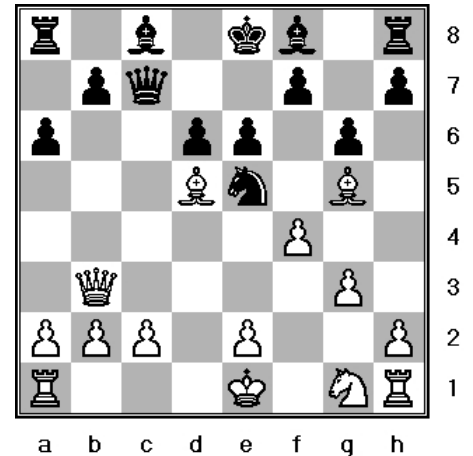
The plan with 4. d4 and 6. Qc4 seems

inconsistent with the fianchetto development, which tends to indicate a central light-square strategy. Apparently Mike plans to dominate the whole center and attack f7, and isn't worried by the early queen development. It isn't clear what mistake Black has made to justify all of this, however.

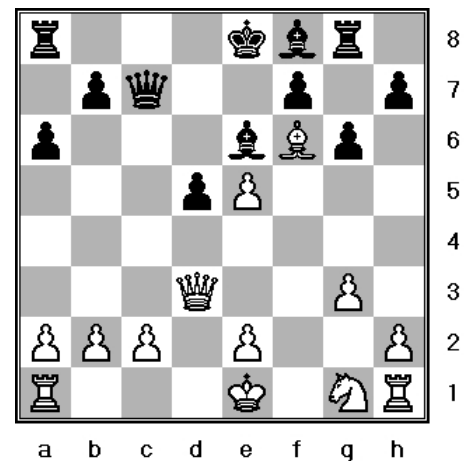
6. ...a6 7. Bg5 Nbd7

Maybe just 7. ...Bg7.

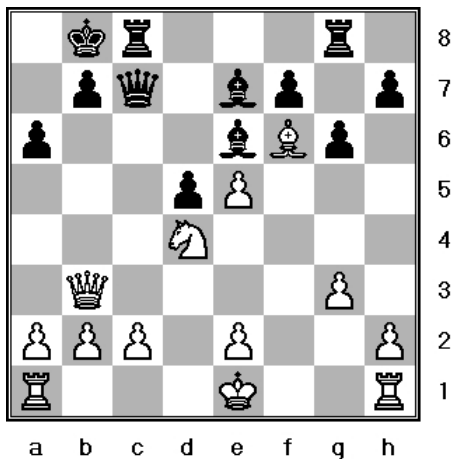
8. Nd5 Nxd5 9. Bxd5 Ne5 10. Qb3 Qc7 11. f4 e6



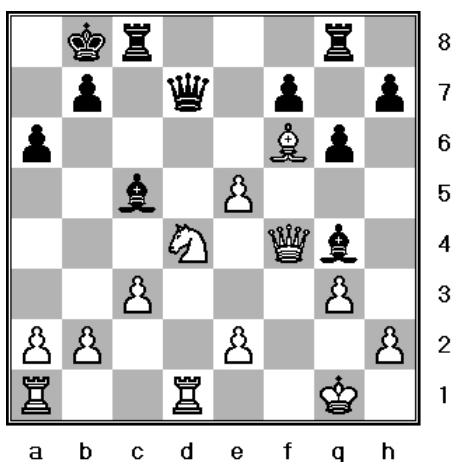
12. fxe5 exd5 13. Bf6 Rg8 14. Qxd5 Be6 15. Qe4 d5 16. Qd3



16. ...Be7 17. Nf3 0-0-0 18. Nd4 Kb8 19. Qb3 Rc8



20. 0-0 Bc5 21. c3 Bf5? 22. Qxd5 Be6
23. Qf3 Qd7 24. Rfd1 Bg4 25. Qf4



25. ...h5?? 26. e6+ Qc7 27. Be5 Bd6
28. Bxd6

1-0

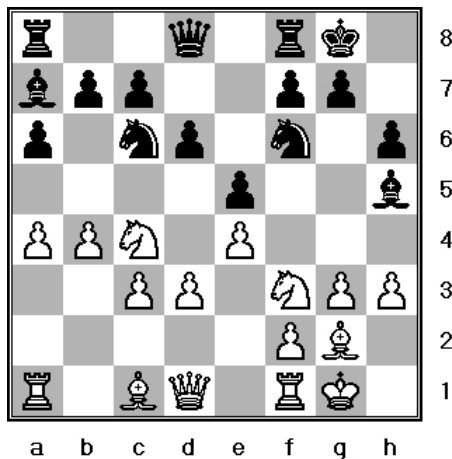
In the second round, I played Gary Simms, a 2211 master. He seemed to get a slightly better opening, but then drifted somewhat, and before I knew it, I won a pawn, and then another pawn, and then the game.

Gary Simms – Mike Schemm
US Senior Championship, Round 2
Oklahoma, September 5, 2009

1. e4 Nc6

One might notice a theme in the opening of these games....

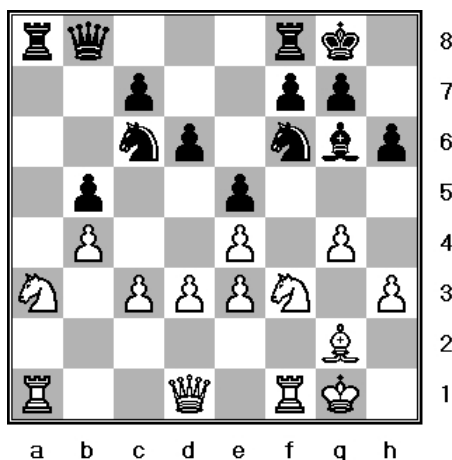
2. d3 e5 3. g3 Bc5 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. Nf3 d6
6. 0-0 Bg4 7. h3 Bh5 8. c3 h6 9. b4 Bb6 10.
a4 a6 11. Na3 0-0 12. Nc4 Ba7



13. g4 Bg6 14. Be3 b5! 15. axb5 axb5
16. Na3

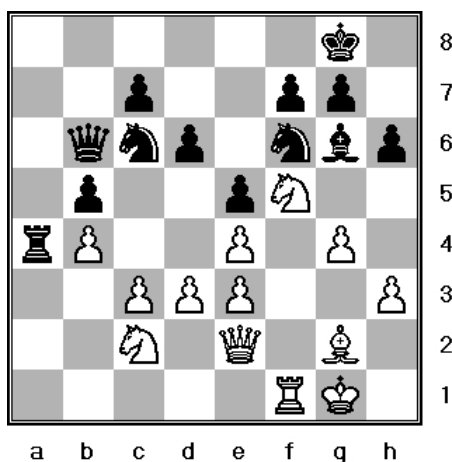
16. Na5 Nxa5 17. Rxa5 Bxe3 forces the
isolation of the white a-pawn.

16. ...Bxe3 17. fxe3 Qb8



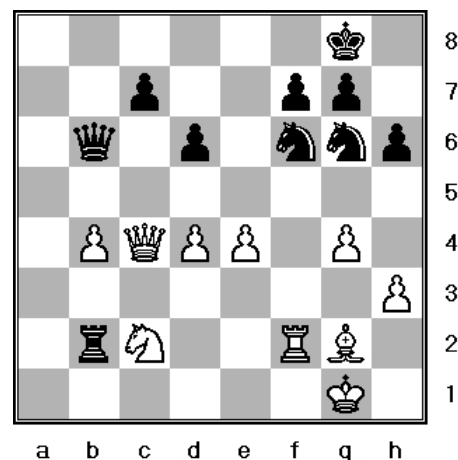
The queen guards the b-pawn and heads
for the rather useful b6-square. Black is at
least equal here.

18. Nh4 Qb6 19. Qe2 Ra4 20. Nc2 Rfa8
21. Rxa4 Rxa4 22. Nf5



White threatens 23. Nxh6+, winning a
pawn, but neither player noticed this. Black
should reply 22. ...Bxf5 immediately to
avoid trouble.

22. ...Ra2? 23. d4? Bxf5 24. Rxf5?! Ne7
25. Rf2 Ng6 26. c4 exd4 27. exd4 bxc4 28.
Qxc4 Rb2

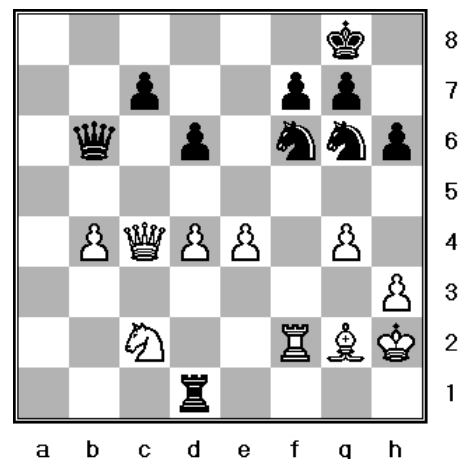


Black seems to hold a steady advantage
now, based on his safer king, more active
rook, and two vs. three pawn islands. The
White forces are uncoordinated and appear
to be devoted to defending white pawns.

29. Kh2 Rb1

29. ...d5! right away looks good: 30.
exd5 Qd6+ and Black infiltrates the porous
kingside with queen, rook, and knights. For
example, 31. Kg1 Rb1+ 32. Rf1 Qg3! 33.
Rxb1 Nf4! with devastating threats.

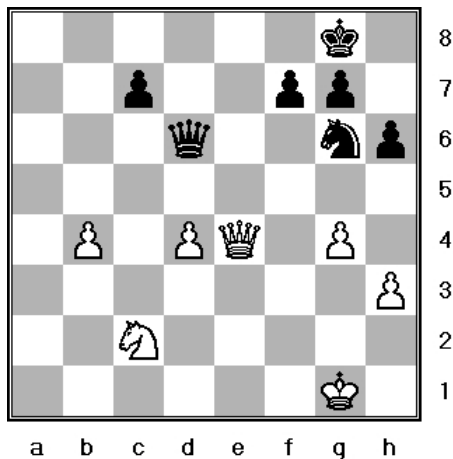
30. Qa2 Rd1 31. Qc4



31. ...d5! 32. Qe2 Nxe4! 33. Qxd1

Not 33. Bxe4? Qd6+ 34. Kg2 Nh4#.

33. ...Nxf2 34. Qe2 Qd6+ 35. Kg1 Ne4
36. Bxe4 dxe4 37. Qxe4

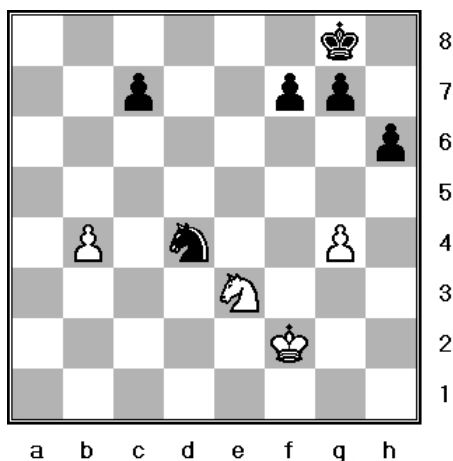


Still the advantage of two vs three pawn islands, the safer king, and much more active pieces.

37. ...Qg3+ 38. Qg2 Qd3! 39. Qf2

With ...Nf4 coming, White has little choice but to jettison the h-pawn.

39. ...Qxh3 40. Ne3 Nh4 41. Qf4 Qf3 42. Qxf3 Nxf3+ 43. Kf2 Nxd4



And now with two extra pawns, it's all over.

44. Nd5 Ne6 45. Ke3 Kf8 46. Ke4 Ke8 47. Kf5 Kd7 48. Ke5 Kc6 49. Nc3 Ng5 50. Kf4 Nh7 51. Kf5 Nf6

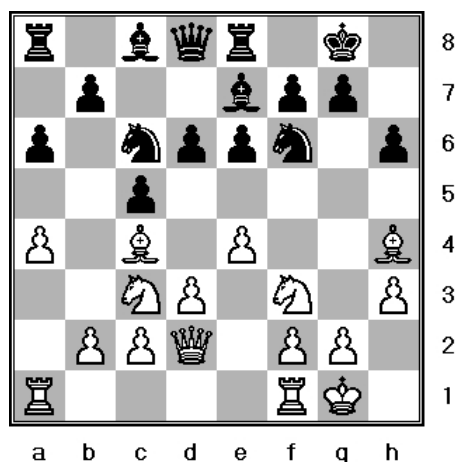
0-1

In round three, I played Gregory Markzon, at 2273. He won a pawn and obtained the better game. Then he let my pieces loose, I won the P back, and I think I had a better game. But in the end it was a rook and pawn drawn ending.

**Mike Schemm – Gregory Markzon
US Senior Championship, Round 3
Oklahoma, September 6, 2009**

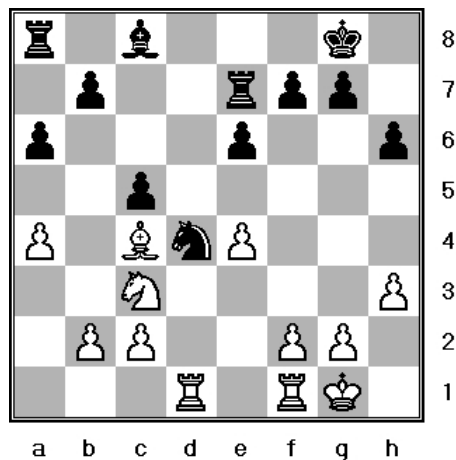
1. Nc3(!) c5 2. e4 e6 3. Bc4 Nc6 4. d3 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. h3

a6 9. a4 h6 10. Bh4 Re8 11. Qd2



White allows an exchanging tactic.

11. ...Nxe4 12. dxe4 Bxh4 13. Nxh4 Qxh4 14. Qxd6 Qe7 15. Rad1 Nd4 16. Qxe7 Rxe7



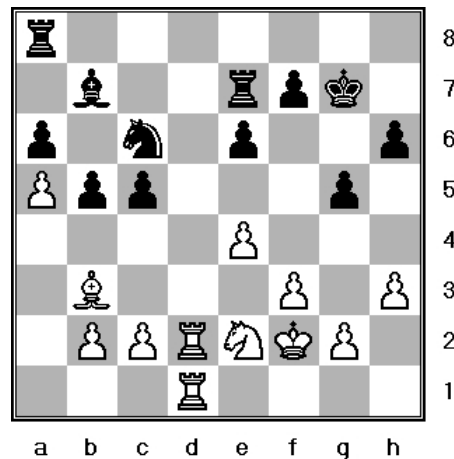
17. Rd2

A very interesting possibility here is 17. e5! Positionally, it fixes more black pawns on the light squares, which is good for the white bishop and bad for the black one. It's supported tactically by the line 17. ...Nxc2? 18. Rd8+ Kh7 19. Bd3+, picking up the knight. And if Black develops with 17. ...Bd7, then 18. Ne4!? hits c5 and maybe also threatens a tactic involving Nf6+, i.e. 18. ...Nxc2 19. Nf6+ gxf6 20. exf6 Ree8 21. Rxd7.

17. ...Bd7

Black's knight is the best-placed piece on the board, so White piles up rooks and waits for something to happen to it.

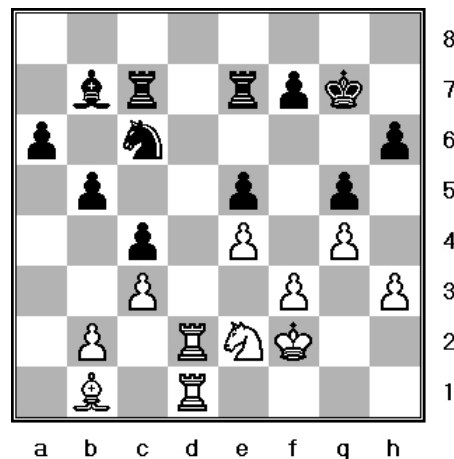
18. Bb3 b5 19. Rfd1 Bc6 20. f3 g5 21. Kf2 Kg7 22. a5 Bb7 23. Ne2 Nc6



24. Ra1

If White is going to be forced to play 25. Ba2 anyway, putting the rook on a1 seems too passive. Better is just 24. Ba2, with at least a little compensation for the pawn in the form of the doubled rooks.

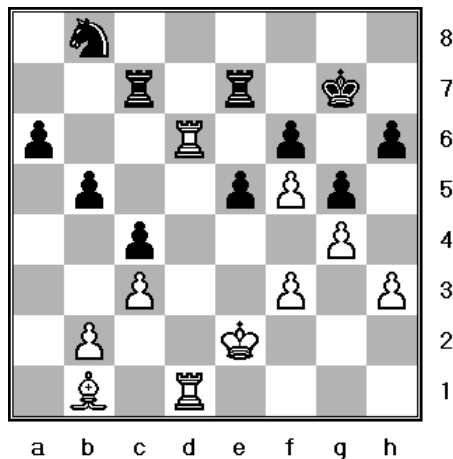
24. ...c4 25. Ba2 Nxa5 26. Rad1 Nc6 27. Bb1 Rc8 28. c3 Rcc7 29. g3 e5 30. g4



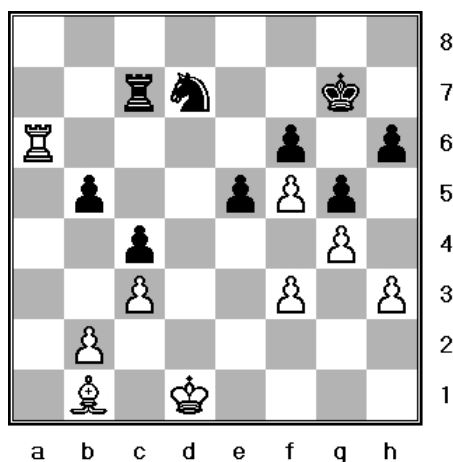
White creates outposts for his knight, at the cost of making the bad bishop even worse. Although none of Black's last few moves is a mistake per se, he seems to be aiming for a rather defensive set-up, rather than looking for a positive way to advance.

30. ...Bc8 31. Ng3 Be6 32. Nf5+ Bxf5 33. exf5 Nb8 34. Rd6 f6 35. Ke2

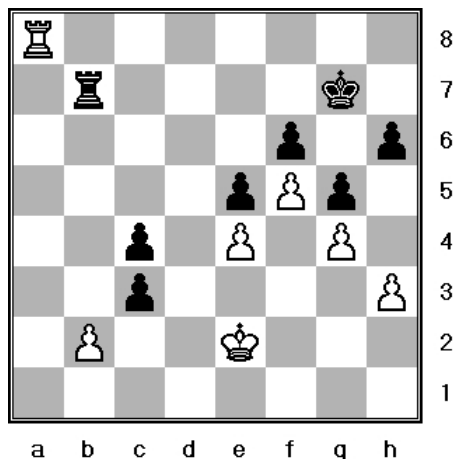
White has definite compensation for the pawn now, in the form of his active rooks and Black's passively placed knight.



35. ...Red7 36. Rb6 Rxd1 37. Kxd1 Nd7 38. Rxa6



38. ...Nc5 39. Ra5 Rd7+ 40. Ke2 Rb7 41. Ra8 b4 42. Be4 Nxe4 43. fxe4 bxc3

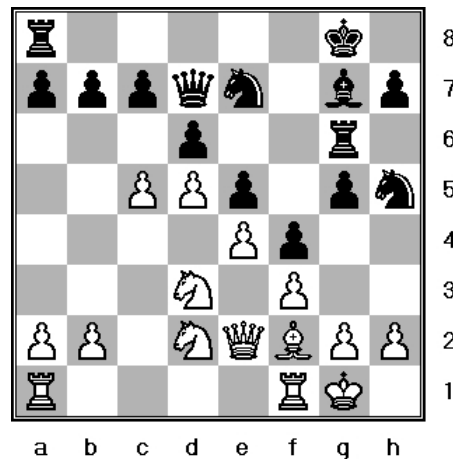


44. bxc3 Rb2+ 45. Kd1 Rh2 46. Ra7+ Kf8 47. Rc7 Rxh3 48. Rxc4 Rg3 49. Rc8+ Ke7 50. Rc7+ Kd8

1/2-1/2

In round 4, I was paired with Tim Rogalski, at only 1916. We were the two lowest players with 2.5, but it was the only way the colors worked out, so they paired us. I was pretty worried about that game because he was one of the youngest players, at a very young looking 52, and I seem to do better against the older players. It seemed like he wasted a lot of moves, but eventually I had pressure on the K-side and he had pressure on the Q-side. Frankly, I thought his game was better, but he kind of drifted while I built up my attack, so I won.

Tim Rogalski – Mike Schemm
US Senior Championship, Round 4
Oklahoma, September 6, 2009
1. e4 Nc6 2. Nc3 g6 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be2 Bg4 6. Be3 e5

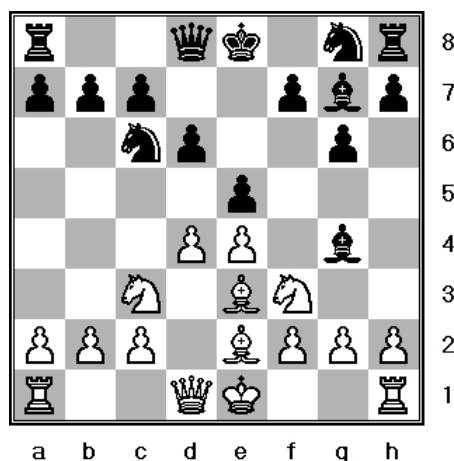


18. h3

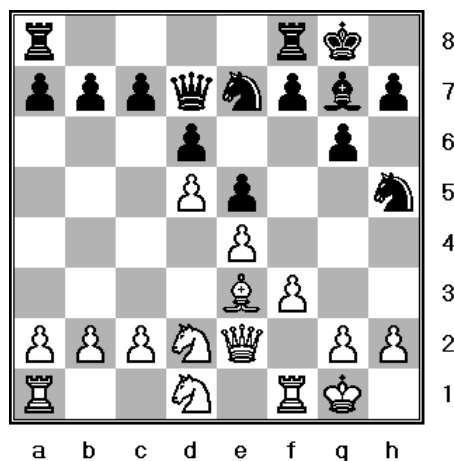
I would prefer 18. Nc4 or 18. Rfc1; the h3 pawn looks like a target as long as Black still has a ...g4 lever coming. If, however, the pawn stays back on h2 until a black pawn reaches g3, it can then advance to h3.

That highlights the main difference between this position and a standard King's Indian Defense line. Black has exchanged the light-bound bishop. That piece is necessary in the KID – to make a breakthrough sacrifice on h3!

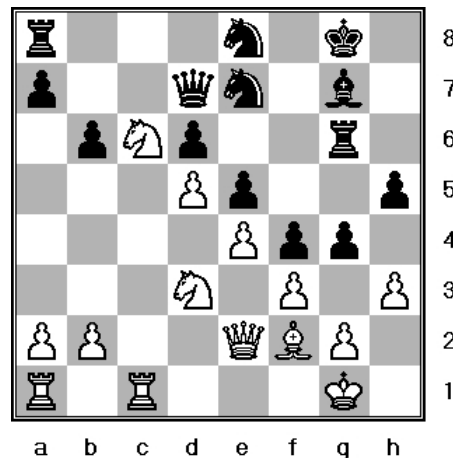
18. ...Nf6 19. Nc4 Ne8 20. Rfc1 h5 21. Na5 b6 22. cxd6 cxd6 23. Nc6 g4



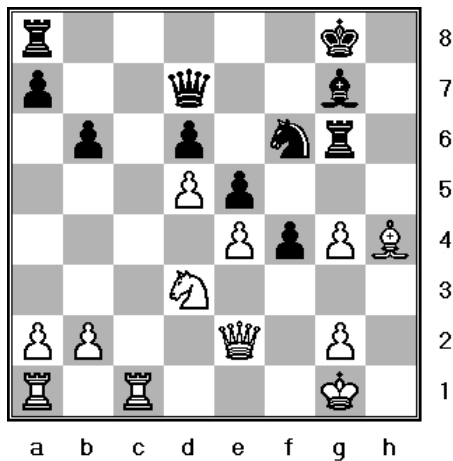
7. d5 Nce7 8. Nd2 Bxe2 9. Qxe2 Nf6 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Nd1 Qd7 12. f3 Nh5



13. Nf2 f5 14. Nd3 f4 15. Bf2 g5 16. c4 Rf6 17. c5 Rg6



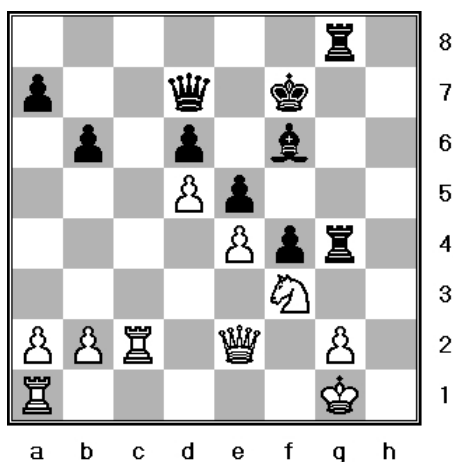
24. fxe4 hxg4 25. Nxe7+ Qxe7 26. hxg4 Nf6 27. Bh4 Qd7



28. Bxf6

28. g5!?, meeting 28. ...Nh7 with 29. Qh5 and complications that appear to favor White. Black could have avoided this a couple of moves back, with 26. ...Qg5.

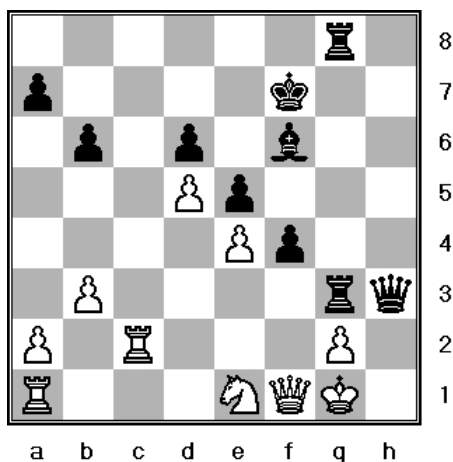
28. ...Bxf6 29. Ne1 Rxc4 30. Nf3 Kf7 31. Rc2 Rg8



32. Qf1?!

32. Rac1 is unclear.

32. ...Rg3 33. b3 Qh3 34. Ne1



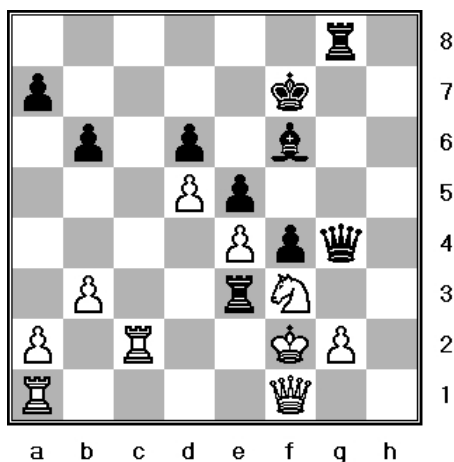
34. ...Rh8

34. ...f3! smashes through right away.

35. Kf2?! Qg4 36. Nf3 Rg8

36. ...Rxf3+! 37. gxf3 Rh2+ 38. Ke1 Qh4+ and 39. ...Rh1 wins the queen.

37. Ne1 Re3 38. Nf3



38. ...Qg3+

Or 39. ...Qxf3+!!

0-1

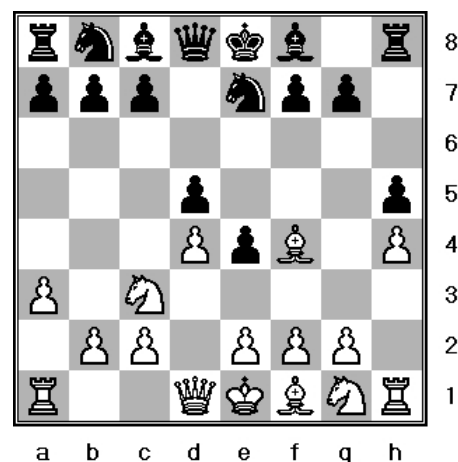
That left me tied for first with Christiansen, Kaufman, Bradford, and Gulko, who had all played each other in the prior round, and drawn. A pretty impressive group to be tied with! I was told that they were going to drop the middle player, and pair me against Christiansen. However, apparently, the other top players didn't like that idea, so they dropped the lowest player (me), and I played Yefim Treger at 2223. Christiansen beat Bradford, Kaufman beat Gulko, and I lost.

My opponent, Treger, whipped out his first 7 moves in a very strange opening without using more than his 30 seconds on any of the moves. He then thought for a while, and gave me a pawn, for no reason I could see. He then built an attack, and I gave the pawn back to relieve pressure. Then I lost another pawn, and got into a questionable position. Then I missed a chance to trade knights, get my pawn back, and probably equalize, if not have the better game. He then forced a pawn to the 7th, and I missed the proper defense, and lost quickly, although with best play he was winning anyway.

Mike Schemm – Yefim Treger
US Senior Championship, Round 5
Oklahoma, September 7, 2009

1. Nc3 d5 2. a3 e5 3. d4 e4 4. Bf4 h5 5.

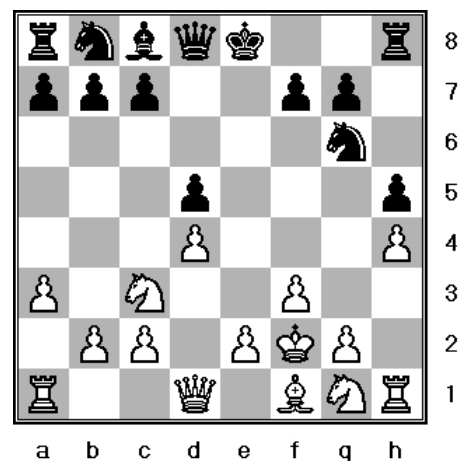
h4 Ne7



You know, if you play 1. Nc3, then give away a tempo with 2. a3, you really shouldn't be too surprised to end up playing a reversed Nimzovich Defense.

Of course, White is doing fine here. I'd be looking at something like 6. Nb5 Na6 7. c4, though after 7. ...dxc4, White doesn't have time for 8. e3 Nd5 (so maybe 8. Qa4!?). Mike's actual choice in the game is an attempt to undermine the Black center, but it further weakens the kingside dark squares.

6. f3?! Ng6 7. Bg3 Bd6 8. Bf2 e3 9. Bxe3 Bg3+ 10. Bf2 Bxf2+ 11. Kxf2



11. ...Nc6

11. ...Nxb4!?.

12. g3

Another unclear possibility is 12. e4 dxe4 13 Bb5.

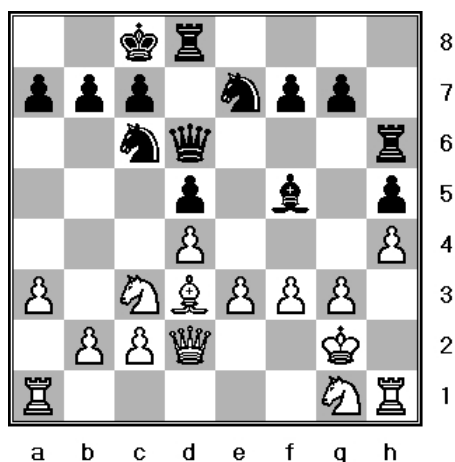
12. ...Nge7 13. e3 Bf5 14. Bd3 Rh6 15. Qd2

15. Nge2, anyone?

15. ...Qd6 16. Kg2

Why not 16. Nge2?

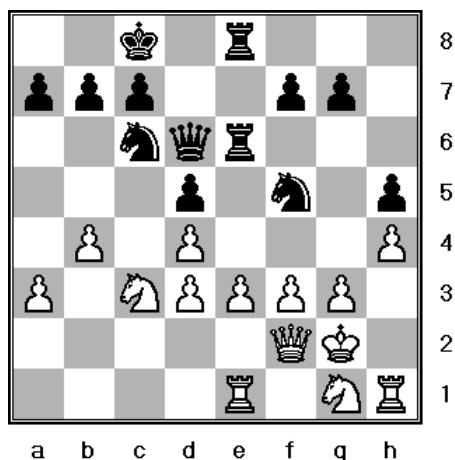
16. ...0-0-0



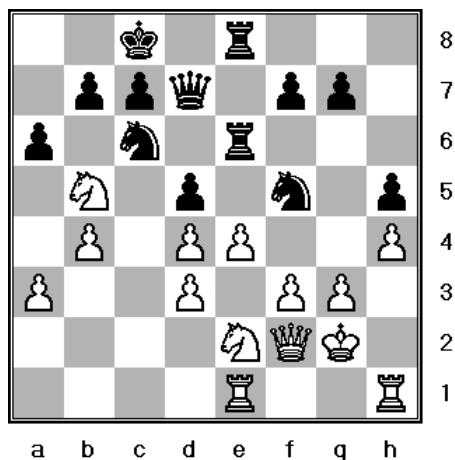
17. b4

Finish development and be a fairly safe pawn ahead with 17. Nge2, perhaps?

17. ...Re8 18. Qf2?! Bxd3 19. cxd3 Nf5 20. Re1 Rhe6



21. Nb5 Qd7 22. e4 a6 23. Ne2

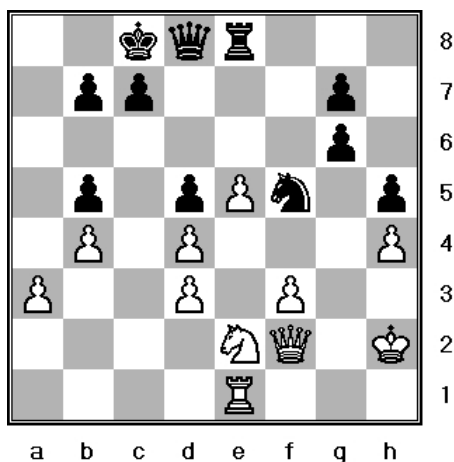


Finally, though now it seems to be more part of a tricky tactic than simple development. White returns the pawn.

23. ...Nxg3 24. Nxg3?!

Better chances in 24. Kxg3!?, the point being 24. ...axb5 25. Nf4!, hitting the rook, the g6 checking square, and the d5-pawn.

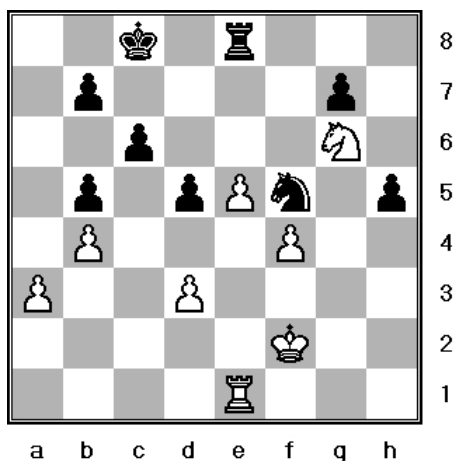
24. ...axb5 25. e5 Rg6 26. Kh2 Qd8 27. Ne2 Ne7 28. Rhg1 Nf5 29. Rxg6 fxe6



30. Nf4 Qxh4+?!

Despite being down a pawn, White is doing pretty well in the following rook and knight ending. Perhaps Black should capture on h4 with the knight instead, planning ...g5 retaining play against the white king.

31. Qxh4 Nxh4 32. Kg3 Nf5+ 33. Kf2 c6 34. Nxg6 Nxd4 35. f4 Nf5



36. Rg1

36. Rh1 looks equal.

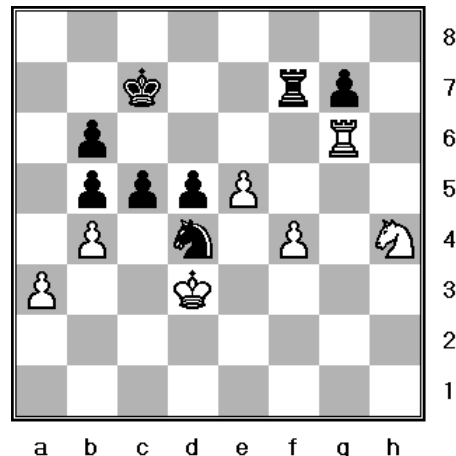
36. ...Ne7 37. d4?!

37. Nxe7+ Rxe7 38. Rg5 recovers the material, and may even favor White.

37. ...Nf5 38. Rg5 Nxd4 39. Rxe5

39. Ke3! Nc2+ 40. Kd3 Nxa3 41. Rxe5, and having driven the black knight to the rim, White plans 42. Rh7 and/or 42. f5, with the option of meeting ...Nc4 with Kd4.

39. ...Re6 40. Rg5 b6 41. Nh4 Re7 42. Ke3 c5 43. Rg6 Kc7 44. Kd3 Ne6 45. Ke3 Nd4 46. Kd3 Rf7



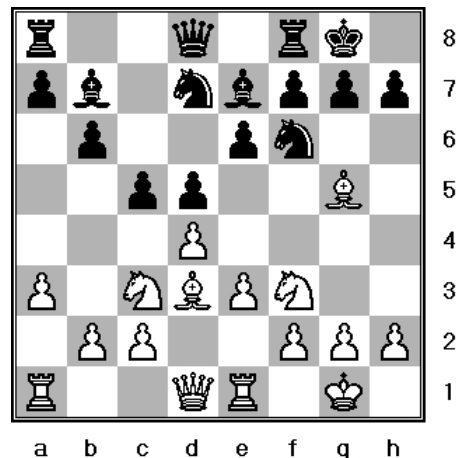
47. Rg4 Kd7 48. Ke3 Nc2+ 49. Kd3 Nd4 50. Ke3 Ke8 (and later...)

0-1

In the final round, I played Dale Sharp at 2205. Even though he was black, he soon had the better position. Then my position looked quite sick. But I hung on, and while the position was still pretty bad, it improved a little. Then he hung a piece, and it was all over. I won and had my 4.5/6.

Mike Schemm – Dale Sharp
US Senior Championship, Round 6
Oklahoma, September 7, 2009

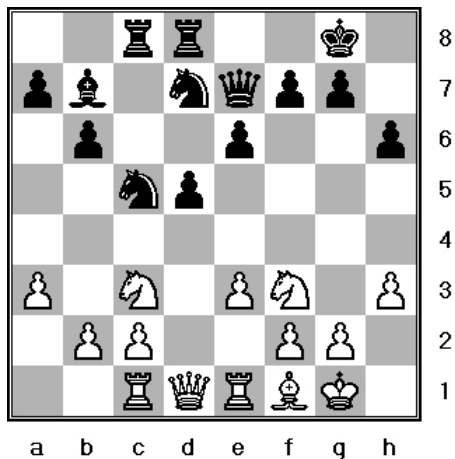
1. Nc3 Nf6 2. d4 e6 3. a3 d5 4. Bg5 Be7 5. Nf3 0-0 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Bd3 c5 8. 0-0 b6 9. Re1 Bb7



10. dxc5 Nxc5 11. Rc1 h6 12. Bh4 Rc8 13. Bf1 Nfd7 14. Bxe7 Qxe7 15. h3

White might try to avoid the coming squeeze with 15. b4! Ne4 (15. ...Na6 16. Nb5) 16. Nxe4 dxe4 17. Nd4.

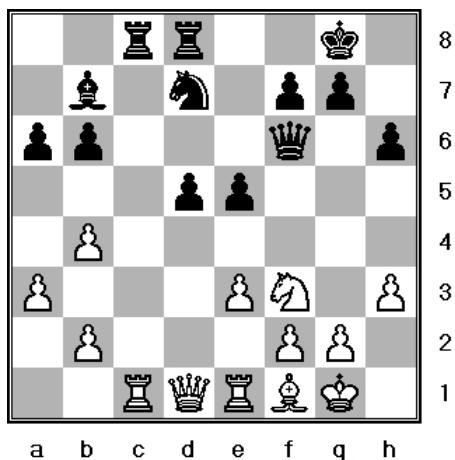
15. ...Rfd8



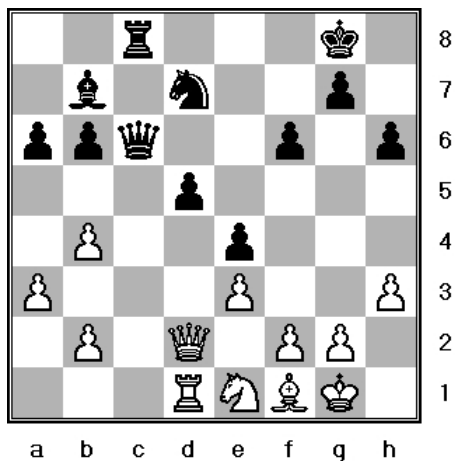
16. Nb5 a6 17. Nbd4 e5 18. Nb3

The following exchange clearly leaves Black on top. An alternative for White is 18.. Nf5 Qe6 19. Ng3, though this looks pretty constricted as well.

18. ...Nxb3 19. cxb3 Qf6 20. b4



20. ...Qg6 21. Qb3 Qe6 22. Rc3 Rxc3 23. Qxc3 Rc8 24. Qd2 Qc6 25. Rd1 f6 26. Ne1 e4

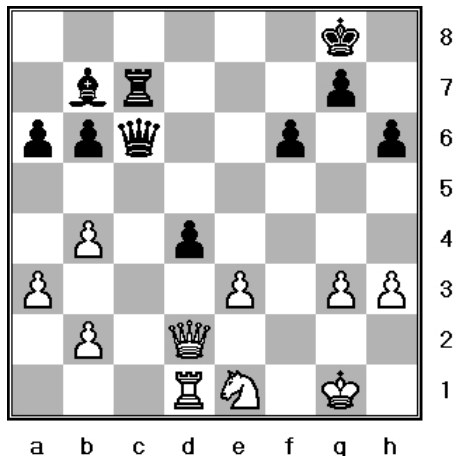


27. g3 Ne5 28. Be2 Rc7 29. f4?!

A little bit better is, well, almost

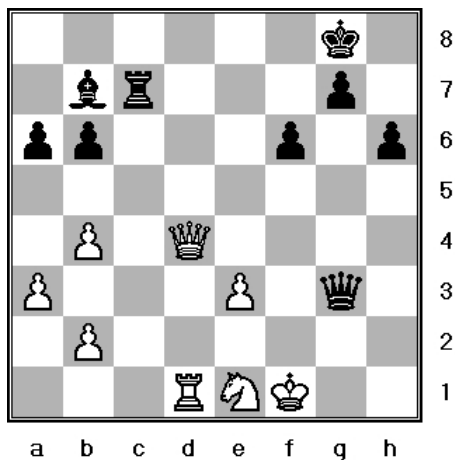
anything. 29. Ng2, for instance.

29. ...exf3 30. Bxf3 Nxf3+ 31. Nxf3 d4 32. Ne1?



32. Rf1 seems necessary for survival.

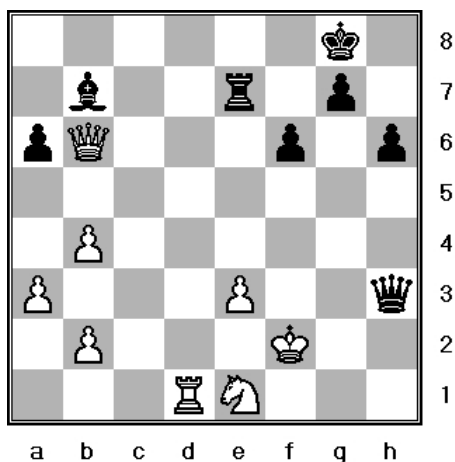
32. ...Qh1+ 33. Kf2 Qh2+ 34. Kf1 Qxh3+ 35. Kf2 Qh2+ 36. Kf1 Qxg3 37. Qxd4



37. ...Re7

37. ...Bc6 intending ...Bb5+.

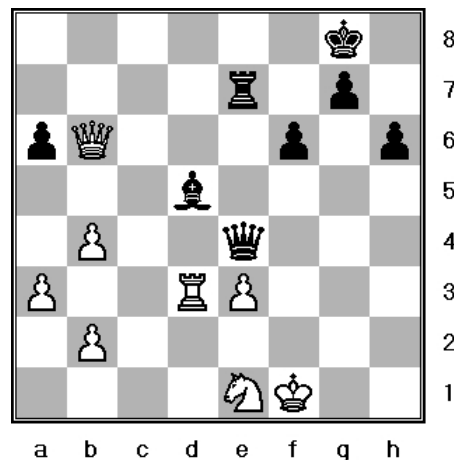
38. Qxb6 Qh3+ 39. Kf2



39. ...Qh4+

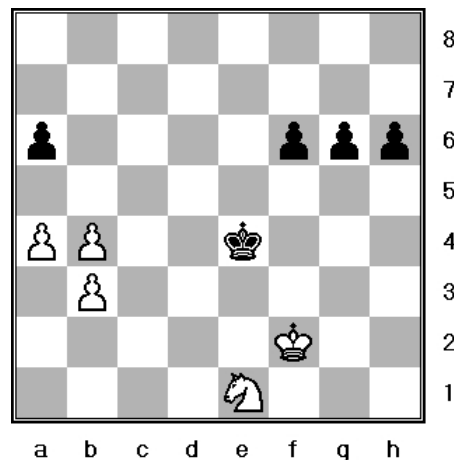
39. ...Qf5+ 40. Ke2 (40. Kg1 Qg4+ and ...Qxd1) 40. ...Qg4+ 41. Kd2 Rd7+ 42. Nd3 Rxd3+ 43. Kxd3 Qxd1+.

40. Kf1 Qe4 41. Rd3 Bd5??



Another case of "any other" being stronger. White hangs a piece and the game. 41. Bc6 should win instead.

42. Qd8+ Kf7 43. Qxd5+ Qxd5 44. Rxd5 Rxe3 45. Rd6 Re6 46. Rxe6 Kxe6 47. a4 Kd5 48. b3 g6 49. Kf2 Ke4



50. Nd3 Kd5 51. Nf4+

1-0

You will note my openings are all strange. I am too old and too senile to learn openings, and I don't study anyway, so I tend to play more off the wall stuff in the opening.

{Well, it worked! Mike finished ahead of GM Boris Gulko, which sounds like a successful tournament whatever openings you choose. Senile indeed! - editor}

Larry Ball writes: I was having a hard time thinking during this game, and wasn't sure I could make it to the end. I spent about 10 minutes on move 23. ...Nh5. I couldn't think if it was good or bad. I didn't know any more after ten minutes than I did after one minute. So I thought, "What the hell, I'll let Carl figure it out."

Notes by Charles Schulien.

**Carl Koontz – Larry Ball
Clackamas County Senior, Round 3
Oregon, October 10, 2009**

Black overcame both a higher rated opponent and fuzzy thinking to win this game and the tournament.

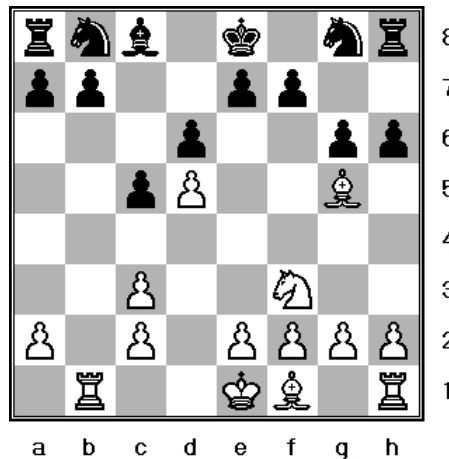
1. d4 g6 2. Bg5 Bg7 3. Nc3 c5 4. d5 d6 Qd2 Qb6 6. Rb1

6. 0-0-0!? would be interesting, and more in keeping with White's plan of rapid development.

6. ...Qb4 7. Nf3 Bxc3 8. Qxc3 Qxc3+ 9. bxc3 h6

Black gained a structural advantage with a closed position in the center. He can aim for the weak cpawns and maneuver in the endgame with his knights. The onus is on

White to fight for the initiative and improve prospects for his bishops.



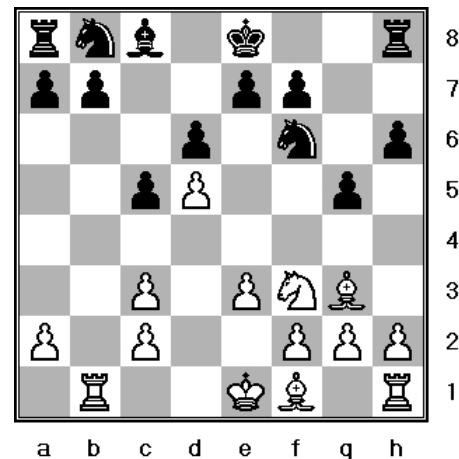
10. Bh4

10. Bc1 plans to occupy the long diagonal.

10. ...g5 11. Bg3 Nf6 12. e3?

12. c4 at least defends the d5 pawn, when Black must decide on how aggressively to proceed: 12. ...b5!? (12 ...b6 13. e3 Ne4 14. Bd3 is all right for White too.) 13. e4 bxc4 (13. ...Nxe4 14. Rxb5 Kf8 15. Bd3 Nfg3

16. hxg3 Kg7 17. Nd2; White fights on more or less even terms.) 14. e5 Nxd5 15. exd6 allows White the open lines his long range pieces crave.



12. ...Nxd5 13. c4 Nf6 14. Bd3 Nc6 15. c3 b6 16. Rd1 Be6 17. 0-0 0-0-0 18. Nd2 h5 19. f4 h4 20. Bf2 Bg4 21. Rb1 gxf4 22. exf4 Rdg8 23. Kh1 Nh5!?

23. ...h3 24. g3 e6 is more solid. Black need not hurry here, at least objectively. Larry notes his reasons for sharpening the play at this point: he wanted to finish or



Clackamas County Senior Chess Championship
October 10, 2009

Rusty Miller's report on the senior event:

Small turn out of 10 players. Larry Ball won the event. Site worked out well. Next event there is Nov 14th.

Several players had not played tournament chess for several years. Thanks to Russell Miller, Frank Niro, and the chess club, everybody won a prize: WCF or OCF membership, chess books, t-shirts and tote bags. Event will be USCF rated.

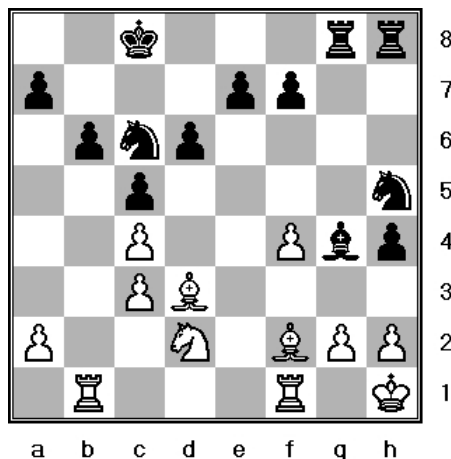
Photo (top): Brian Berger presents 1st place prize to Larry Ball (on the right).

Photo (bottom): Frank Niro on the far left, Carl Koontz, Rusty Miller, Larry Ball, Brian Berger with the frame in his hands, unknown, Neil Dale, Bill Gagnon, Ed Addis, Kathy Miller, John Smith.

Photo Credit: Mrs. Niro.

clarify the game, since he wasn't thinking clearly.

Games Corner by Charles Schulien



a b c d e f g h

24. Bxh4

24. Be3.

24. ...Nxf4 25. Rxf4 Rxh4 26. Be2

26. Rxf7. White may just as well get what he can while the pawn is available. His attempt to exploit the pin come to naught.

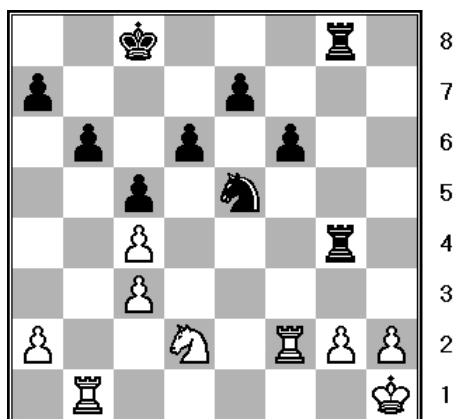
26. ...Ne5

26. ...f5 is also sufficient. 27. h3 is answered by 27. ...e5!

27. Bxg4+ Rhxg4 28. Rf2 f6

Black consolidated his position, maintains the better pawn structure, and his pieces dominate the board. White can hardly

advance his passed h-pawn, or even cause any serious distraction while Black advances his pawns.

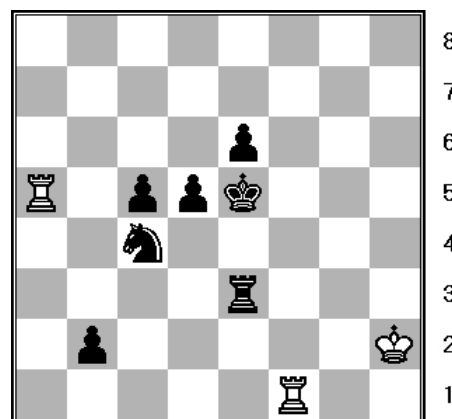


a b c d e f g h

This is exactly the sort of game one should aim for, if you are not feeling particularly sharp at the time.

29. a4 Nxc4 30. a5 Nxa5 31. Re2 Kd7 32. Ra1 Nc6 33. Ne4 f5 34. Ng3 e6 35. Rae1 Ne5 36. Ra1 a5 37. Rb1 Nc4 38. Rbe1 R8g6 39. Kg1 b5 40. Nh5 f4 41. g3 fxg3 42. Nxc3 b4 43. cxb4 axb4 44. Rf2 d5 45.

Ra1 b3 46. Rf7+ Kd6 47. Ra6+ Ke5 48. Rf1 b2 49. Kh1 Rxc3 50. hxg3 Rxc3 51. Kh2 Re3



a b c d e f g h

0-1

The following Northwest girls made the "Top 100 Girls" lists compiled by USCF (October 2009):

#	Name	Age	State	Rating	Category
1	Lee, Megan	13	WA	1943	U16(#8), U21(#21)
2	Botez, V Alexandra	13	WA	1712	U16(#32), U21(#58)
3	Bailey, Taylor	18	OR	1688	U21(#68)
4	Tokareva, Kate	12	WA	1630	U13(#21), U16(#47), U21(#83)
5	Hannibal, Dana C	14	OR	1616	U16(#50), U21 (#87)
6	Abderhalden, Katherine Louise	13	ID	1584	U16(#56), U21 (#97)
7	May, Sarah R	13	WA	1564	U16(#61)
8	Grabar, Svetlana	15	WA	1461	U16(#90)
9	Marcjan, Karen	15	WA	1438	U16(#97)
10	Hwa, Leanne K	11	WA	1417	U13(#47)
11	Chang, Evangeline	10	WA	1321	U13(#67)
12	Lampman, Becca	12	WA	1274	U13(#81)

– Howard Hwa

Minnesota Chess Scene

by
**Chris
Kalina**



Some of you may be aware of my recent move to Minnesota – the North Star State – back in April of this last year. Along with the job promotion which prompted the move, certain things remain unchanged. I still spend most of my summer swinging the bat and playing first base. Instead of the Tacoma Black Sox though, it is now the Twin Cities Dodgers.

And yet again, I have my moments of playing losing chess – to luckily find my way out of disaster for a win or a draw here and there.

The chess scene in Minnesota has its get-togethers similar to the Canterbury in Seattle. In the Twin Cities, it more likely to see the players gather at the Dunn Brothers near Lake Calhoun on a Saturday afternoon, or else at the Espresso Royale in “Dinkytown.”

Rated games are played at the Chess Castle of Minnesota, which is comparable to the Seattle Chess Club. Typically, there are Monday night g/30 quads (in which I have won 5 out of 8 played), and longer time controls on Thursday nights, hence called “Thursday Knighter.” I was able to tie for first once after being beaten up the month before.

My first loss in Minnesota was against one of the most active players in Minnesota, Dan Voje, at that point rated 1997 to my 1907. Dan is known as one of those players that can beat anyone and also lose to anyone. I have witnessed some 2100+ opposition be “Vojeized” on more than one occasion.

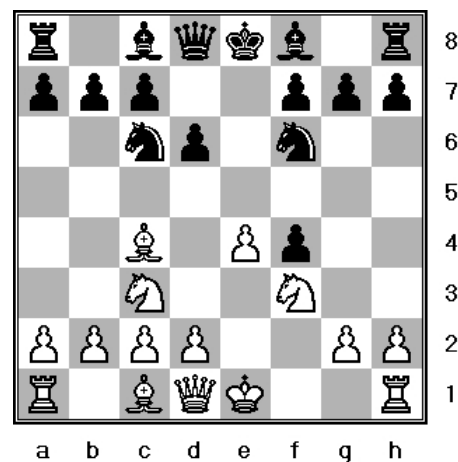
Here is my first encounter with “The Voje” that I had. This was in the final round of the first g/30 tournament I played in for first place:

Chris M Kalina – Dan Voje
Chess Castle Quads, Round 3
Minnesota, April 20, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. f4 exf4

Strange, very few players take in this position. Usually White can reply by pushing e5, but the c6 knight prevents this push for now.

5.Nf3 d6



6. d3?!

Better here is 6. d4 grabbing more of the center and preventing Black’s next move.

6. ...Ne5 7. Bb3 g5!?

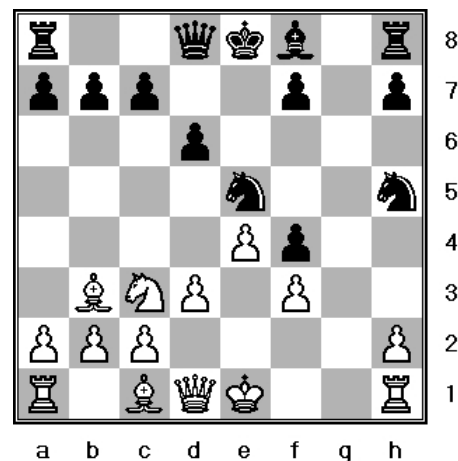
Offering up the g-pawn, this allows some scary open lines to the white king.

8. Nxe5 Bg4 9. Nf3 Bxf3!

Now White has some real problems to solve.

10. gxf3 Nh5!

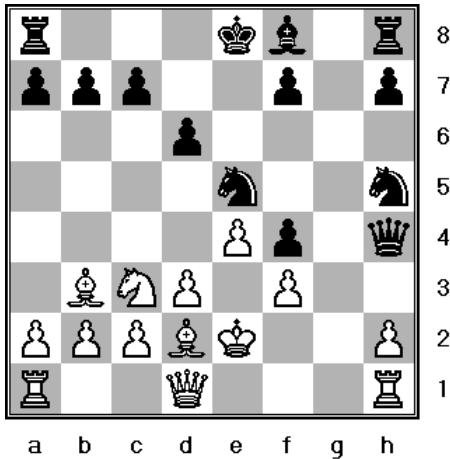
Very strong! A nasty check on h4 is coming or else penetration on g3, neither of which looks promising for White.



11. Bd2

{? Things didn't look too terrible until this move. 11. Qe2 Qh4+ 12. Qf2 Nxf3+ 13. Ke2 Qxf2+ 14. Kxf2 Nd4 seems reasonable for White. The extra pawn doesn't mean much here... – editor}

11 ...Qh4+ 12. Ke2

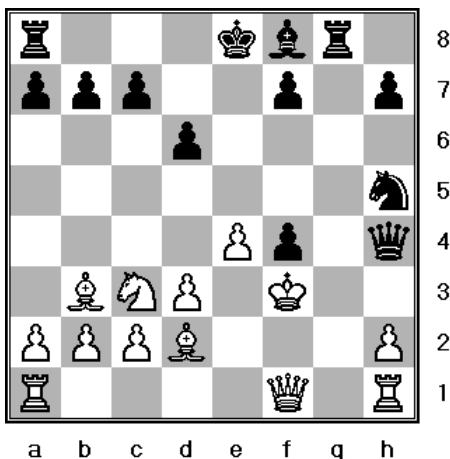


12. ...Nxf3!

With this sacrifice, Black is successful in grenading White's cover. One more move would allow White to consolidate his position.

13. Kxf3 Rg8 14. Qf1??

This move looks like a potential saving resource, however it is an epic fail to the text. Although no better would be to give up the h-pawn with 14. Rg1 Qh3+ 15. Kf2 Qxh2+ 16. Kf3 Rg3+ 17. Rxg3 Qxg3+ 18. Ke2 f3+ 19. Ke3 (18.Kf1 Qg2+ mates) Bh6+ 20. Kd4 Qe5+ 21. Kc4 Qc5# (ouch!)



14. ...Qg4+ 15. Kf2 Be7

GULP! Now what?

16. Bxf4 Nxf4 17. Ne2 Nxe2

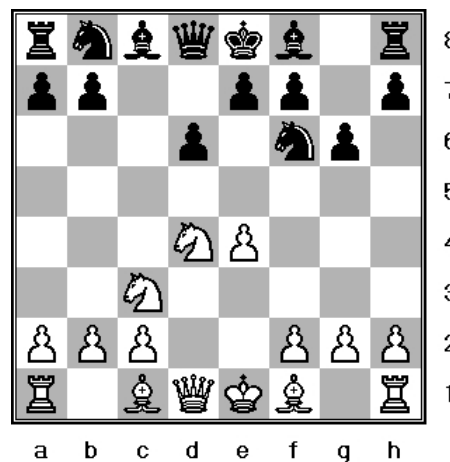
Resigns in view of 18. Qxe2 Qg2+ where 19. Ke1 Qxh1+ and 19. Ke3 Bg5+ wins the queen.... Grotesque!

0-1

I told Mr. Voje during the post mortem that he was going to pay for that – with sort of a half smile on my face. I was able to win two contests in a row, and then this next one (Voje now rated 1986, Kalina at 1924) for number three:

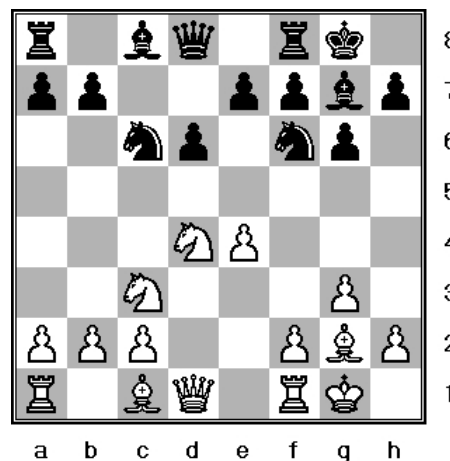
**Dan Voje – Chris M Kalina
Chess Castle Quads, Round 2
Minnesota, June 8, 2009**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6



Ah hmmm. And what else would Kalina play???

6. g3 Bg7 7. Bg2 0-0 8. 0-0 Nc6



9. Nce2?! Nxd4 10. Qxd4

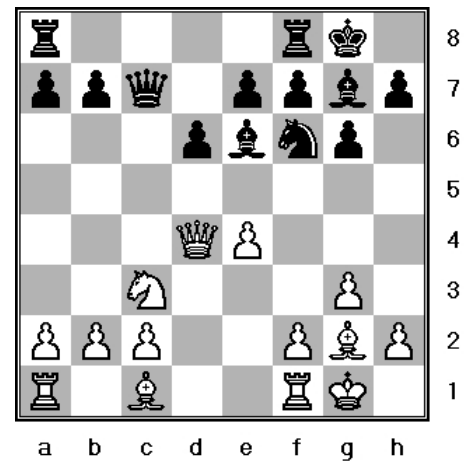
In the past two encounters, Dan had played a solid system after Nxd4 and soon c3. In both games, it was Black's ...e5 push that left a hole on d5, but was also instrumental in crashing through into White's position!

10. ...Qc7

Tapping the c2 pawn while developing.

11. Nc3 Be6

A developing move that is also setting up potential shots along the long diagonal later.



12. Qb4?! a5 13. Qd4

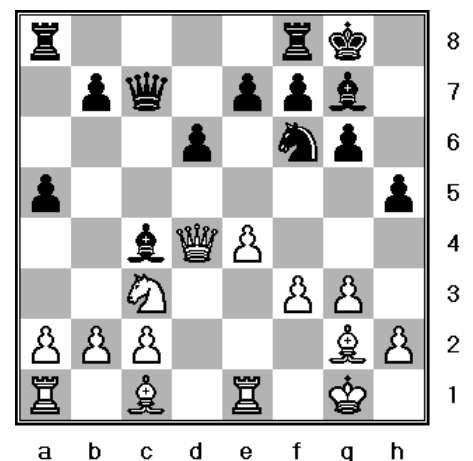
It was only now that I realized that it is not yet possible to play 13. ...Nd5 due to 14. Nxd5.

13. ...Bc4 14. Re1 h5

Setting up a shot to attack the now hard to defend f2 square.

15. f3??

Walking right into it!



15. ...Ng4 16. e5 dxe5 17. Nd5 Bxd5 18. Qxd5 Qb6+

Splat! Resigns, instead of allowing the satisfaction of smothered mate!

0-1

So far between Dan and me it is whoever has the black pieces wins!

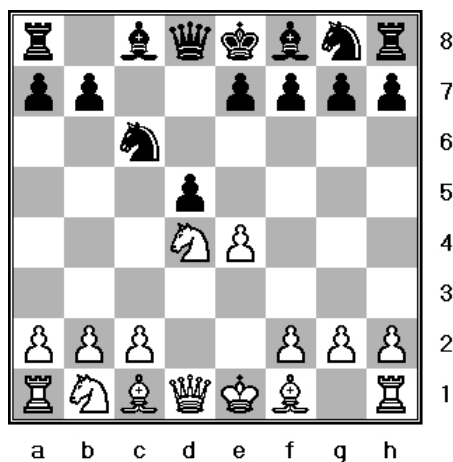
I play quite a bit of competitive speed chess on Friday evenings against several local strong coffeehouse players. After quite a few battles with a new local friend, Zack Tverstol, I found myself playing him in the g/30 tournaments, too. The first encounter did not go so well for me, losing rather quickly after a blunder where my position quickly collapsed! The second encounter, I used a surprise weapon that I break out every once in awhile. It is a variation I learned from a former Seattle Fide Master Ralph Dubisch years ago while taking lunch hours with him at ICE. And so I have dubbed this variation "Sicilian – Dubisch variation"! So far I my record in tournament play with this opening is +1 =4 -0 with all but one opponent rated over 2000!

{Not sure I can claim attribution on this, as it was invented by Aron Nimzovich and has been played by a couple of the Polgars, but there are plenty of other lines named after Nimzo, and I haven't heard Susan Polgar singing the praises of this particular skating-near-the-edge line, so Chris isn't exactly hijacking the name from anyone who actually wants credit.

Incidentally, Zack Tverstol was rated 2061 at the time of this game, and note that Chris's rating seems to be creeping upward, now at 1955. – editor}

Zack Tverstol – Chris M Kalina
Chess Castle Quads, Round 1
Minnesota, August 24, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 d5!?

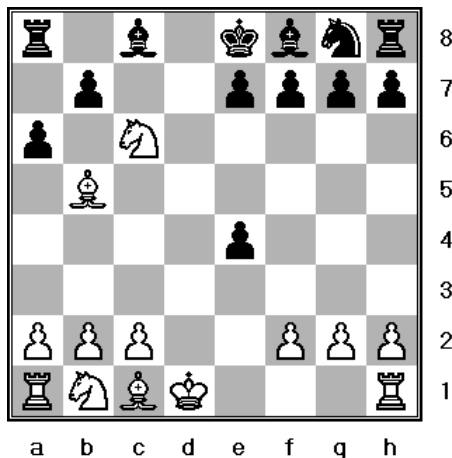


The Sicilian – Dubisch Variation.

5. Bb5 dxe4

Main line.

6. Nxc6 Qxd1 7. Kxd1 a6



8. Nd4+?!

Better is either 8. Nc3 or 8. Nxe7!? Kxe7 (and not 8. ...axb5 9. Nxc8 Rxc8 10. Nc3 -- as in Peterson-Kalina 1997 where the result amazingly was still 1-0 after a HUGE oversight!).

{One of the points of this line is that 8. Ba4 allows 8. ...Bd7, pinning the knight against the now unprotected bishop on a4. Play might continue from there 9. Nc3 Bxc6 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Ne4, leaving an interesting position and rough equality, as White's awkward king and Black's mobile center pawns compensate for the queenside weaknesses. Susan Polgar played 11. ...f5 in this position, while I've tended to favor 11. ...e5, though White has some e-file pressure with 12. Re1.

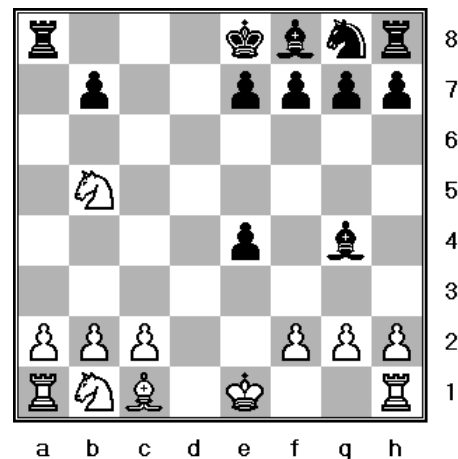
Although this is probably still the main line, it is not the one that I consider the most dangerous. That would be 5. exd5 Qxd5 6. Be3. Theory used to be that 6. ...e6 7. Nc3 Bb4 8. Ndb5 Qe5 was fine for Black, but that 6. ...e5?! ran into trouble in the form of 7. Nb5.

So using this little idea, White might improve after 6. ...e6 with 7. Nb5!, and meet 7. ...Qe5, not with 8. Nc3 transposing, but instead with 8. Nd2! Black will lose control of d6 when the knight pops up to c4, as the b5-knight is indirectly defended against queen captures by the discovery Nd6+.

Black may not be lost after 8. Nd2, but it's not as much fun as the other lines, so he should be looking for improvements around move six. Perhaps the e-pawn should stay at home to defend d6. – editor}

8. ...axb5 9. Nxb5 Bg4+ 10. Ke1

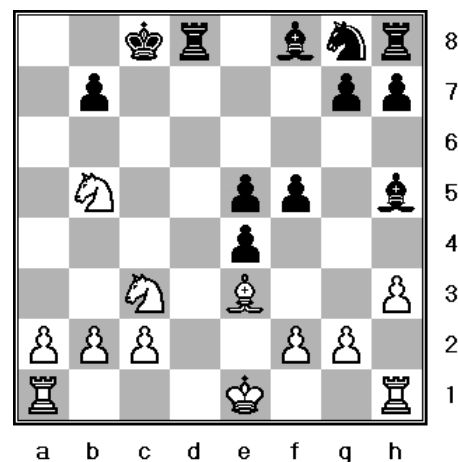
If 10. f3 instead, then 10. ...exf3!!



10. ...0-0-0!

Developing with tempo!

11. N1c3 e5 12. Be3 f5 13. h3 Bh5



14. Bb6

As long as Black can weather the storm of the minor pieces, then he should be at least equal.

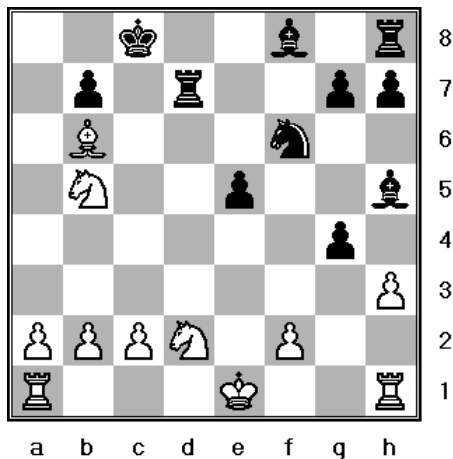
14. ...Rd7 15. g4!?

White really wants to mix it up here. The point is that White will be able to have more control of central squares.

15. ...fxg4 16. Nxe4 Nf6

Putting up some resistance for central squares.

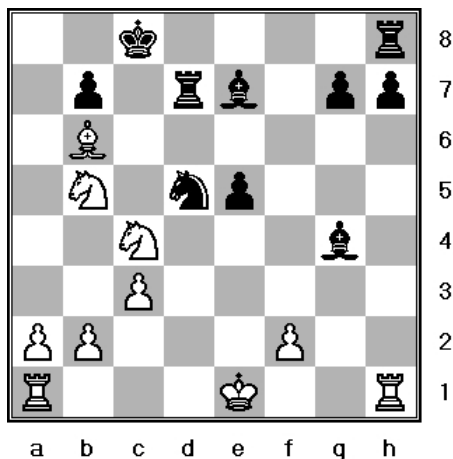
17. Nd2



17. ...Bb4?!

I played this move as I wanted to force White to play c3 to prevent the knight from having access to this square. In hindsight, White actually WANTS to play this move anyways!

18. c3 Nd5!? 19. Nc4 Be7 20. hxc4 Bxg4



21. Ba7?!

After analyzing, it looks like White can take the pawn on e5 and survive without too many challenges.

21. ...Bf6!

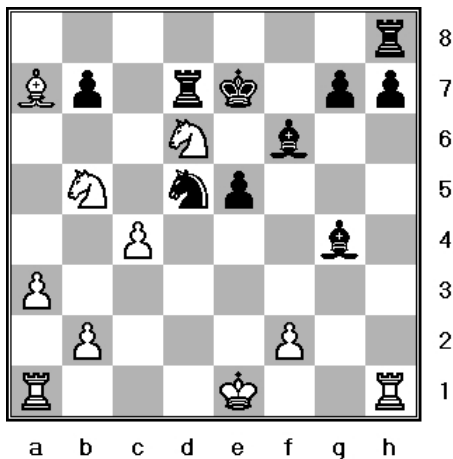
Now Black is better due to the two bishops.

22. Ncd6+ Kd8 23. a3

White plans to evict the well placed knight on d5 but does not want it getting to b4.

23. ...Ke7 24. c4

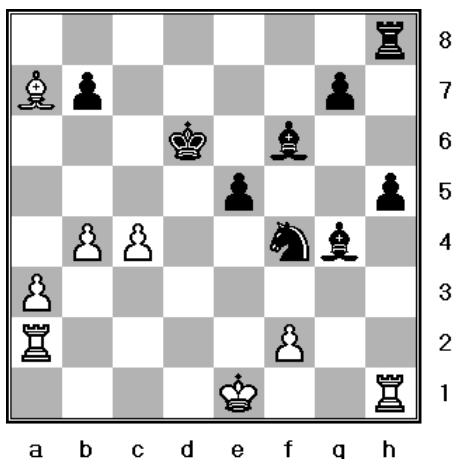
If 24. Bc5, then 24. ...Ke6



24. ...Nf4!

The knight is forced... to a good square!

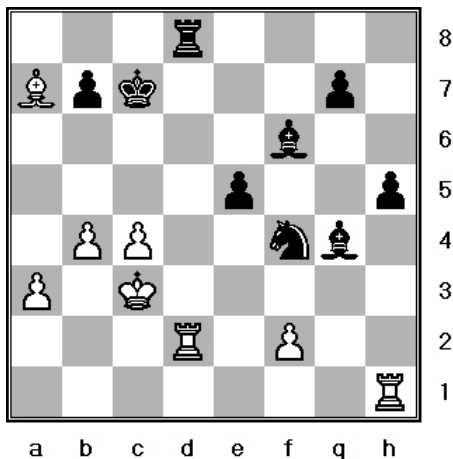
25. b4 Rxd6 26. Nxd6 Kxd6 27. Ra2 h5



28. Kd2

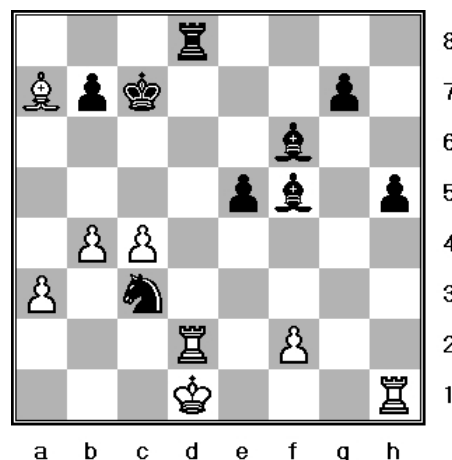
Heading to c3 so that the rook at h1 may also be activated.

28. ...Kc7 29. Kc3 Rd8 30. Rd2?!

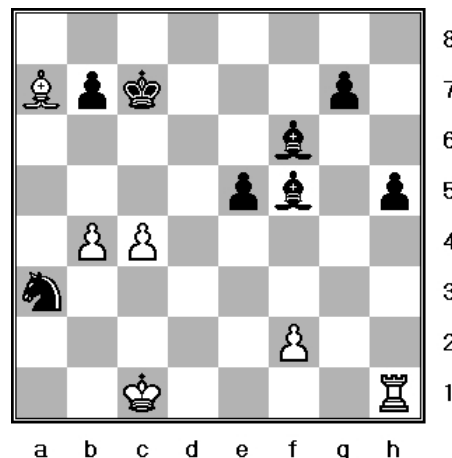


Now a forced sequence wins a pawn.

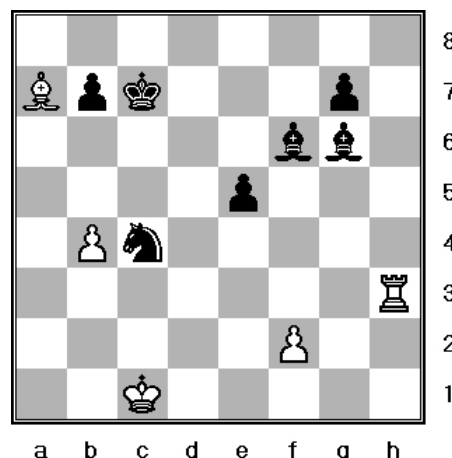
30. ...Ne2+ 31. Kc2 Bf5+ 32. Kd1 Nc3+



33. Ke1 Rxd2 34. Kxd2 Nb1+ 35. Kc1 Nxa3



36. Rxh5 Bg6 37. Rh3 Nxc4



And after blitzing off the next 20-30 moves in mutual time pressure, a draw was agreed with Black still having a better, possibly won position. Draw.

1/2-1/2



Washington Class Championships

A Harmon NW Grand Prix Event

November 27-29, 2009

WA Class Championships Entry Fees and Prize Fund

**\$5,000 Guaranteed by the
Washington Chess Federation**

Entry fees listed as:

By Oct 31 / By Nov 22 / At site

Master (2200+) EF \$65 / \$70 / \$80
Prizes \$525, \$325, U2300 \$200

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$425, \$275, U2100 \$150

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70
Prizes \$325, \$200, U1900 \$125

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70
Prizes \$325, \$200, U1700 \$125

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70
Prizes \$325, \$200, U1500 \$125

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70
Prizes \$325, \$200, U1300 \$125

Class E (1199&below) EF \$50/\$55/\$65
Prizes \$175, \$100, U1000 \$75, U800
\$75, Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by Nov. 22. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee. Add \$25 to play up one class. Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for medals only for an advance EF of \$25. (Medals awarded for top two in each class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator :

730 Olympic Ave

Edmonds, WA 98020

Cell Phone (425) 218-7529

E-mail:

Dthmathews@aol.com

Also see www.nwchess.com.

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation
(WCF).

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Online Registration at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: Seven class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive "pot luck" pairings or half-point byes for initial round.

Rating: USCF rated. Master/Expert sections also FIDE rated. November USCF rating supplement will be used to determine official ratings. Unrated players may only play in Master section (for 1st/2nd prize), or for unrated prize only in class E.

Registration: Friday 8:00-9:00 AM for 3-day option, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-9:00 AM for 2-day option, or 8:30-9:00 AM if entering 3-day event with two half-point byes. Up to two half-point byes available at registration. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule for rest of tourney (round 4 at 5:30 PM). WCF meeting Sat 4:00-5:00 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1, 5-second delay with digital clocks. 2-day schedule: rounds 1-3 G/60. (Rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.) Digital clocks preferred. Please bring tournament chess set, board and clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF and WCF or OCF memberships required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. 2009 Chess Café Grand Prix event, Clark Harmon Memorial NW Grand Prix event. No Smoking. No Computers.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See bar at left. Please use entry form (available soon on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested – or use online registration.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$89.00 for single, double, triple or quad. Reservation link is available on Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com). The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 20th.

Side Events: See page 2 of this flyer.

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 27): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link has been published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Revised 11/3/2009.



Washington Class Championships

A Harmon NW Grand Prix Event

November 27-29, 2009

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Side Events

Friday 11/27

5:30 pm: Washington Class Bughouse Championship

Format: 5-Double SS in 2 sections, Open & K-6.

TC: G/5 (no delay).

EF: \$25.00 per team.

Prizes: 1st – 3rd and 1st U1700 average team rating. Trophies for top 4 teams in K-6.

9:00 pm: Washington Class Blitz Championship

Format: 7-Double SS in 2 sections, Open & Reserve (U1700).

Registration: 8:00-8:45 pm.

TC: G/5 (no delay).

EF: \$30 (deduct \$10 if playing in main tournament).

Prize Fund: Based on 22 entries. Open 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$75.00, 3rd \$50.00, 1st U2000 \$40.00; Reserve 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$75.00, 3rd \$50.00, 1st U1400 \$40.00.

Saturday 11/28

9:30 am: Washington Class Novice Championship

Format: 4-SS in 3 Sections, Class E (1000-1199), Class F (800-999), Class G (600-799) & Unrated. Sections may be combined if there are not enough players.

TC: G/45 + 5 sec. delay.

EF: \$12.00 Advance (if rec'd by 11/25), \$17.00 at site.

Prizes: Trophies to 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each class.

Registration: 8:30-9:15 am.

Rounds: 9:30, 11:15, 1:30, 3:15. One half-point bye available.

Sunday 11/29

10:00 am: Washington Class G/10 Championship

Format: 6-SS in 2 sections, Open & Reserve (U1700).

TC: G/10 + 5 sec. delay.

EF: \$25.00.

Registration: 9:00-9:45 am.

Rounds: 10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:15, 1:00, 1:45. Half-point byes available in any round (Limit 2).

Prize Fund: Based on 16 entries. 1st \$80.00, 2nd \$65.00, 3rd \$50.00, 1st U2000 \$40.00, 1st U1700 \$40.00, 1st U1400 \$40.00.

Miscellaneous: Not USCF rated. WCF or OCF memberships may be required (except for novice event). Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. No Smoking. No Computers. All prizes will be mailed.

Main Events/Hotel Info: See page 1 of this flyer.

Revised 10/27/2009.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator :

730 Olympic Ave

Edmonds, WA 98020

Cell Phone (425) 218-7529

E-mail:

Dthmathews@aol.com

Also see www.nwchess.com.

Make checks payable to
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(WCF).

Middle School Chess

by
Howard
Hwa

Scholastic chess has been popular in the Northwest schools over the years, especially at K-6 levels, through the efforts of many coaches, parents, teachers and volunteers. There are nearly 10,000 grade K-12 players in the NWSRS rating system. The annual Washington State Elementary Championship tournaments continue to set participation records, doubling in the past ten years.

However, there is a definite pattern that once players graduated from elementary schools into middle and junior high schools (MS/JHS), their chess activities start to drop precipitously. Although the elite players have always enjoyed opportunities of playing in adult tournaments, few tournaments are held for the middle school players at the grassroots level. There are currently two active middle school chess leagues in the Washington state: the Whatcom Chess League in the Bellingham/Lynden area (directed by Randy Kaech) and the Metro League in the Greater Seattle area (directed by Dr. Siva Bala Narayanan).

The most recent effort to promote middle school chess was undertaken by Rick Jorgensen and others in establishing the Washington State Middle School Chess Association. More information can be found at its web site: <http://www.middleschoolchess.com>. Starting in 2010, this new organization will sponsor the state MS/JHS individual and team championships, which in the past were hosted by the Washington High School Chess Association (WHSCA). By planning a series of programs and events (such as mini-teams, bughouse, and pentathlon) targeted at middle and junior high school players, and making other resources more accessible, it is hoped that more kids in grades 6 to 9 will keep themselves busy in things other than video and computer games.

In the early years (from 1975 to 1985), Sequoia Middle School in Kent was a powerhouse in team competition winning four state championships during that period. Since then, Odle Middle School in Bellevue has emerged as the dominating force winning six state titles and four consecutive team championships since 2005. Odle was also the home of the 2006 K-8 and 2008 K-9 National Team Champions.

Washington State MS/JHS Team Tournament History

Year	First Place School
2009	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
2008	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
2007	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
2006	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
2005	Washington Middle School (Seattle)
2004	University Prep (Seattle)
2003	Islander Middle School (Mercer Island)
2002	Islander Middle School (Mercer Island)
2001	Kellogg Middle School (Shoreline)
2000	King's Way Christian (Vancouver)
1999	Stewart Middle School (Tacoma)
1998	Seattle Country Day (Seattle)
1997	Kalles Junior High (Puyallup)
1996	Stewart Middle School (Tacoma)
1995	Stewart Middle School (Tacoma)
1994	Heritage Christian [city unknown]
1993	Our Lady Star of the Sea (Bremerton)
1992	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
1991	Odle Middle School (Bellevue)
1990	Kilo Junior High (Auburn)
1989	Lakeside Middle School (Seattle)
1988	Lakeside Middle School (Seattle)
1987	Iva Alice Mann Middle School (Lakewood)
1986	Woodbrook Middle School (Lakewood)
1985	Sequoia Middle School (Kent)
1984	Sequoia Middle School (Kent)
1983	Nisqually Middle School (Lacey)
1982	Curtis Junior High (University Place)
1981	Meany Middle School (Seattle)
1980	Curtis Junior High (University Place)
1979	Meany Middle School (Seattle)
1978	Sequoia Middle School (Kent)
1977	Kellogg Middle School (Shoreline)
1976	Sequoia Middle School (Kent)
1975	Meany Middle School (Seattle)

2010 All-America Chess Team

by
**Joan
DuBois**

(Crossville, TN – from the press release)
The United States Chess Federation (USCF) is pleased to announce the 2010 All-America Team sponsored by Trophies Plus. Team members will be introduced at the 2009 National K-12/Collegiate Championship held in Dallas, Texas, December 11th – 13th. Each member of the 2010 All America Team who attends the event will be presented with a team jacket and plaque.

The All-America Team was created in 1987 to honor the very best players ages 18 and under. The team is selected on the basis of age, rating, and activities during that year, similar to the selection process of “all conference” sports teams. This year’s candidates were selected based on their age

as of January 1, 2009 and their peak post-tournament rating from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

The All-America Team is sponsored by Trophies Plus of Templeton, Iowa, for the sixth year in a row. You can visit Trophies Plus at their website www.trophiesplus.com or call them at 800-397-9993.

It is with great pleasure that the USCF announces the 43 members of the 2010 USCF All-America Team Sponsored by Trophies Plus:

Age 18 (minimum peak rating 2450)
Daniel J. Ludwig, FL

Age 17 (minimum peak rating 2400)
Robert L. Hess, NY
Samuel L Shankland, CA
John Daniel Bryant, CA
Daniel A Yeager, PA

Age 16 (minimum peak rating 2350)
Marc Tyler Arnold, NY

Age 15 (minimum peak rating 2300)
Michael Lee, WA
Steven Zierk, CA
Conrad Holt, KS
Victor Shen, NJ

Age 14 (minimum peak rating 2250)
Ray S. Robson, FL
Parker Bi Guang Zhao, NY

Age 13 (minimum peak rating 2200)
Daniel A. Naroditsky, CA
Gregory Young, CA

Age 12 (minimum peak rating 2100)
Darwin Yang, TX
David Adelberg, AZ
Kevin Cao, MO
Alexsandr Ostrovskiy, NY
Sean Vibbert, IN
Lucas Van Beuzekom, FL

Age 11 (minimum peak rating 2100)
Jarod M. Pamatmat, TX
Kevin Wang, MD
Yian Liou, CA
Arthur Shen, NJ
Daniel Gurevich, GA
Michael William Brown, CA
Varun Krishnan, CA

Age 10 (minimum peak rating 2000)
Kayden Troff, UT
Christopher Wu, NJ
Luke Harmon-Vellotti, ID
Joshua Colas, NY
Justus Williams, NY

Age 9 (minimum peak rating 1850)
Dachey Lin, TX
Alex Liu, TX
Michael L. Chen, MI
Simone Liao, CA
William Graif, NY

Age 8 & Under (min. peak rating 1800)
Tommy O. He, TX
Samuel Sevian, CA
Jeffery Xiong, TX
Jonathan Chiang, TX
Tanuj Vasudeva, CA
Cameron Wheeler, CA

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QGD

3. ...Bb4

Part 2

Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary



Paulo Dias – Michele Godena
Escaldes, Round 7
Spain, 1998

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 Ne7
5. e3 c5 6. a3 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3

1. d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4

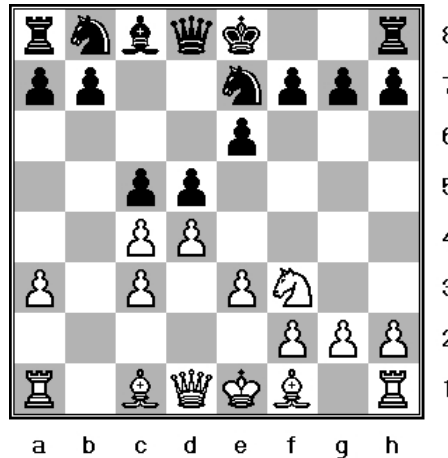
I think that the first “main” position for this defense arises after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 Ne7 5.e3 c5 6. a3 Bxc3 7. bxc3. The reason I say this is because the moves Nf3/e3/a3 are very common to a number of different move orders, therefore Black is likely to see the position after move seven frequently and will be well served to understand it.

Black played 4. ...Ne7 to avoid any trouble with a Knight being attacked at f6 and 5. ...c5 to begin central operations. Black has avoided castling for a couple of reasons: to arrange the central play as quickly as possible and after castling Black will have to be aware of attacks/sacrifices on h7 which might cost more time. That first reason, to arrange central play quickly, is worth noting. Black aims to have d5 and c5 in to monitor as much of the center as possible. If White decided to exchange on d5 and c5 it is likely that Black will have an isolated pawn on d5, but White will have one on c3 that is just as vulnerable; if White exchanges only c4xd5 Black will have access to e4 and c4 for active play as well as a possible queenside pawn majority to work with. So, what if White doesn't exchange at all? In that case Black will look for setups that afford positive opportunities when Black exchanges.

Another tool for Black is exchanging the white square bishops, either by playing ...b6 and ...Ba6, or just ...Bf5. This will deprive White of the “two bishops” as well as leaving White with the bishop on the same color as the e3/d4/c3 complex.

One more important note is that White has slow play, usually with f3 and e4 as the goal. Black will certainly have time to develop the pieces and initiate plans, but shouldn't be careless and allow White a free hand.

Here is an example:



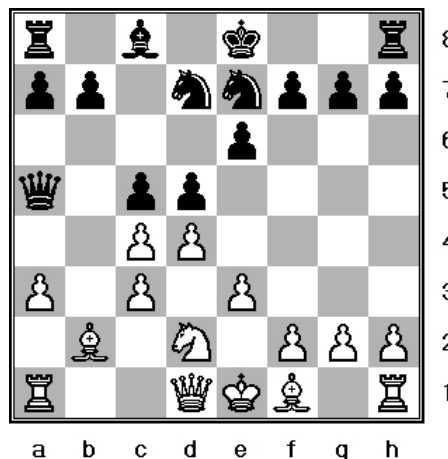
7. ...Nd7

An odd move. It retains a lot of flexibility, but doesn't take a direct action. It is possible that 7. ...Nbc6 is better because it eyes the central squares and could be supporting a Q-side push by going to a5.

8. Bb2

This doesn't look right. The most obvious deficiency of ...Nd7 is that Black is blocking the Bc8 from f5 as well as eliminating any b6/Ba6 ideas. So, 8. cxd5 followed by Bd3 is indicated.

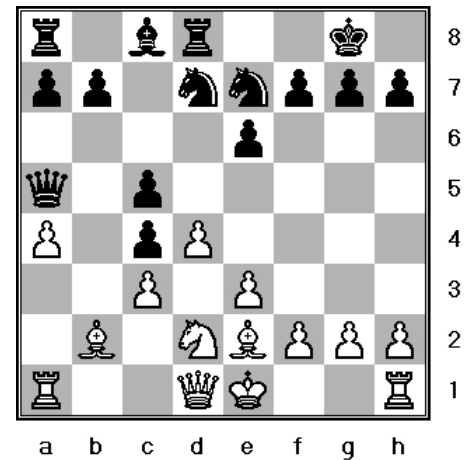
8. ...Qa5 9. Nd2



Should Black decide to exchange c5xd4 White will not want to be forced to retake

with the e3 pawn, as the Bb2 would really sit behind a wall. Also, Nb3 might be useful.

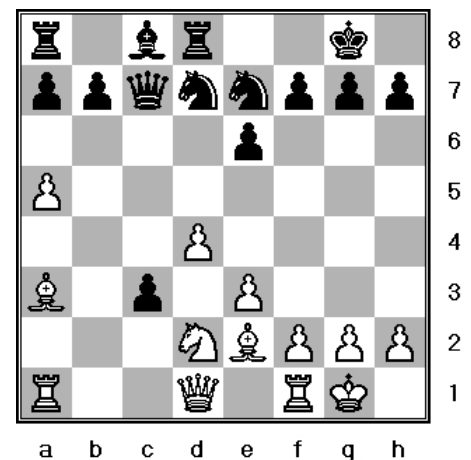
9. ...0-0 10. a4 Rd8 11. Be2 dxc4



12. 0-0 Qc7 13. a5

White is playing to use extra space on the Q-side as a trump. White aims for Qa4, Nxc4, and Bf3 with pressure on the Black structure. Black uses a neat idea to cut across this.

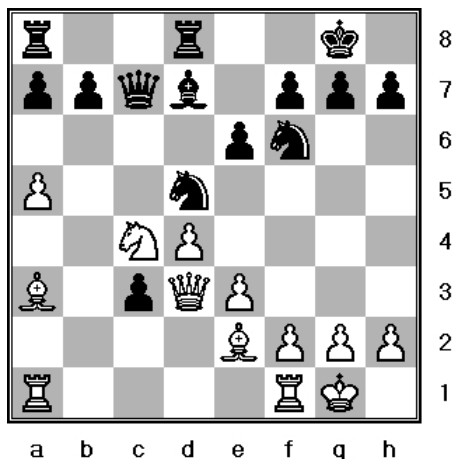
13. ...cxd4 14. cxd4 c3 15. Ba3



If 15. Rc1, Black will take on a5 and possibly swing the queen across to g5. White will be better in that position with more space, while Black has to do a bit of

rearranging, of the Nd7 particularly, but with two connected passers Black at least will have a direction to go. 15. Ba3 is either a miscalculation or incorrect judgment as it allows Black to unravel and the c3 pawn will be an ongoing concern.

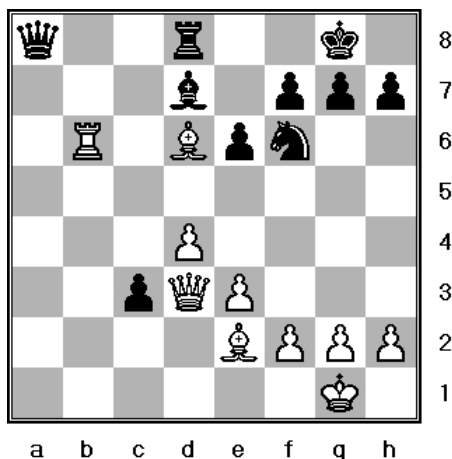
15. ...Nf6 16. Nc4 Ned5 17. Qd3 Bd7



18. Bd6 Qc8 19. Rfb1

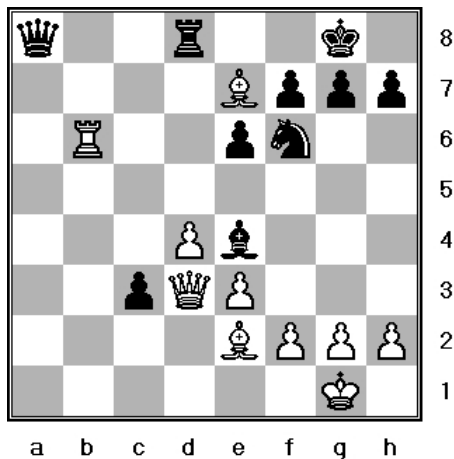
Black appears on the edge of the abyss, but never quite goes over. It would seem that 19. e4 is a winner, except that Black has an out via a counterattack on c4, e.g. 19. e4 Bb5 20. exd5 exd5 21. Nb6 Bxd3 22. Nxc8 Raxc8 23. Bxd3 Rxd6, with Black much better. So putting the rook on b1 kills those ideas, but Black is not done. The pawn on c3 remains an asset.

19. ...b5 20. axb6 axb6 21. Rxa8 Qxa8 22. Nxb6 Nxb6 23. Rxb6



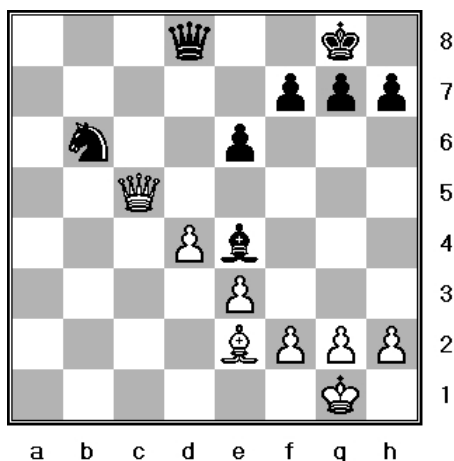
23. ...Bc6 24. Be7 Be4

Black has had small tactics through out and this is no different. Now Black will have Rc8 to support the c3 pawn as well as some back rank nuisance value.

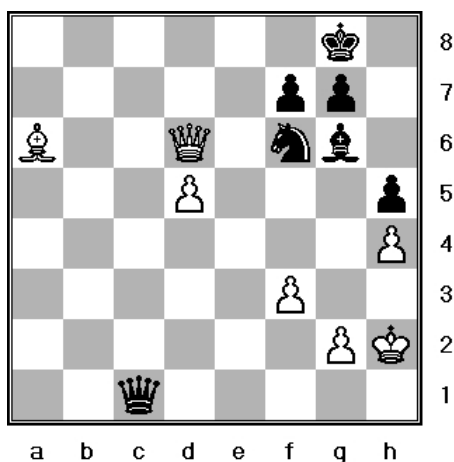


25. Qxc3 Nd5 26. Qc5 Nxb6 27. Bxd8 Qxd8

Clank! Black now is a piece up and should make easy work of this.



28. f3 Bg6 29. h4 h5 30. e4 Nd7 31. Qd6 Qc8 32. Ba6 Qc1+ 33. Kh2 Nf6 34. d5 exd5 35. exd5

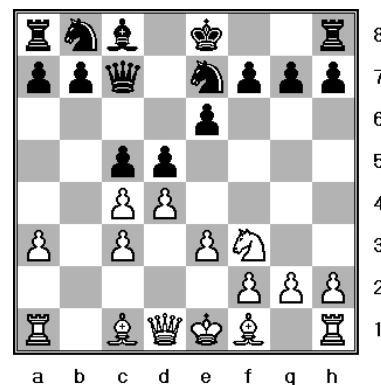


35. ...Ne8 36. Qe5 Qc7 37. f4 Nd6 38. Be2 f6 39. Qd4 Ne4 40. Qe3 Qc5 41. Qb3 Kh7 42. Qf3 f5 0-1

Probably not the best representation of the defense for the Black player; after all, White could certainly have improved at a number of points.

Still, the position was flexible and resilient enough to afford the opportunities to GM Godena. If there is a bigger lesson for Black it is to keep an eye on the central white squares and for White it would be to eliminate any problems (c3 pawn) before going out looking for trouble.

Black can start at move seven. Obviously Black has a large number of possible moves; ...0-0, ...Nbc6, ...b6, ...Nd7, and so on. The move I currently like is 7. ...Qc7.



Black increases the tension in the center by creating the possibility of playing ...dxc4 later, and if White recaptures with Bxc4 the move ..cxd4 will unmask an attack on the Bc4. This is a small motif to be sure, but it is a base for future operations.

After 7.bxc3 Qc7:

Sbarro – Godena, Bratto, 1997 saw 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. e4 Nf6 10. Bd3 cxd4, when Black is a little better because White will have to do some contortions to avoid the embarrassment of Qc3+.

Peng – Koglin, BL Germany (women), 2003: 8. Qc2 Nd7 9. a4 0-0 10. Ba3 b6 11. Bd3 Nf6 12. cxd5 exd5 13. Qb1 Re8 14. 0-0 c4 15. Bxe7 Qxe7 16. Bc2 Be6 when White is a little better as Black's natural action ...b5-b4 is hard to accomplish.

Black might consider 8. Qc2 Nbc6, with the idea of ...Na5 to pressure c4, and if White allows it Black can aim for c5-c4 and Nb3 in some settings.

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



Our suggestion of emulating a strong chess player's opening repertoire is of course not a new concept. In business, this is referred to as *'modeling.'* Rather than try to reinvent the wheel, one only has to examine the play or practice of those strongest and most successful in any given field. Imitate that model, innovating only after having mastered the field or endeavor.

However in chess, one of the most important points of consideration is to *replicate only those styles which fit your own. Choose a style of play to which you personally relate, admire and appreciate.*

We'll introduce you to five players, each having a most distinct approach to the game. Willy Wild, Abel Active, Phil Positional, Perry Powerful and The Rock. This week's guest is Willy Wild (on the crosstable look for Wild, Willy). Mr. Wild's play is characterized as a 'win-at-all-costs,' 'take-no-prisoners' attitude.

Mr. Wild would much rather win a game and lose a game than draw two. Mr. Wild is one of the most feared and dangerous of all opponents, since you can't always foresee what he'll come up with at the board. Mr. Wild is the crowd favorite, since his games are full of surprise, excitement and tactics. Although Mr. Wild does lose games, those games where he is victorious deliver tremendous pleasure to the chess world.

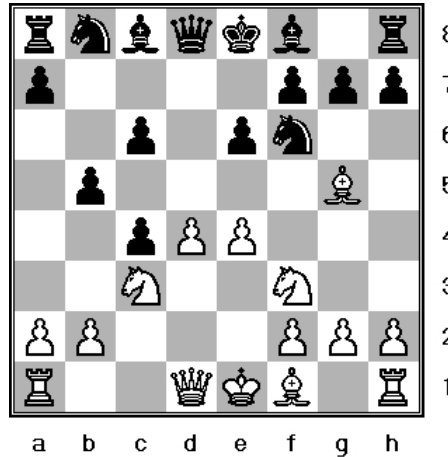
Don't confuse Mr. Wild's play with being unsound. Although it may be true that a refutation of his many gambits and sacrifices may be found in post-mortem, he continues to win since his opponents are, time and time again, unable to navigate adequately through the web of complexities. In this maze of complications however, *Mr. Wild feels very much at home!*

Also, don't assume that Mr. Wild is unable to play positional chess (or rock-solid chess for that matter), he simply *excels in wild, double-edged positions.* This month's example is from the King of the Wilds, Mikhail Tal (aka "The Magician from Riga").

Mikhail Tal – Dieter Keller
Zurich
Switzerland, 1959

Okay, as we play through this game, we'll count how many moves Tal either offers a piece (sac or psuedo-sac) or leaves a piece en prise.

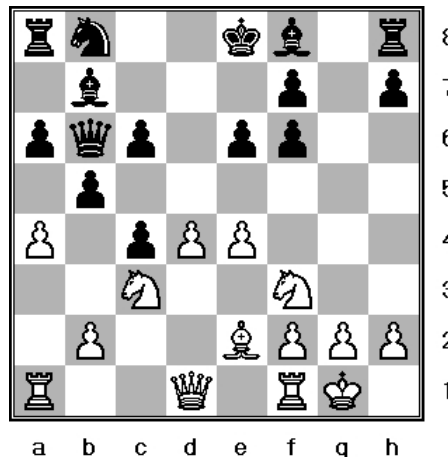
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 c6 5. Bg5 dxc4 6. e4 b5



7. a4

(Sac #1) This makes a true gambit of the opening, as opposed to the main line 7. e5. Mr. Wild never hesitates to give away material, as long as he can capture the initiative!

7. ...Qb6 8. Bxf6 gxf6 9. Be2 a6 10. 0-0 Bb7

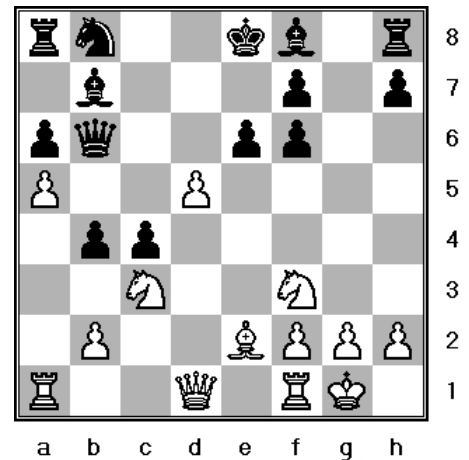


11. d5!

Time to blast open the center.

11. ...cxd5 12. exd5 b4 13. a5!

"My threat is bigger than yours." (A common quote from Mr. Wild)

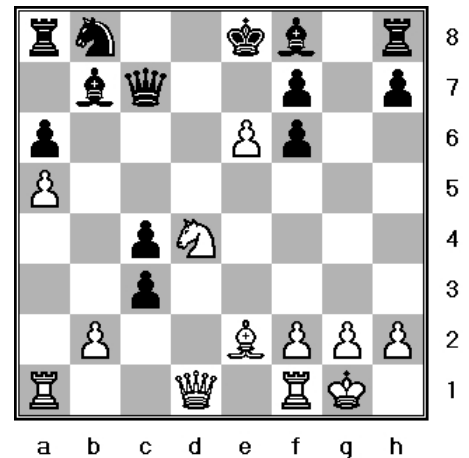


13. ...Qc7 14. dxe6

(Sac #2)

14. ...bxc3 15. Nd4

(Sac #3- the b2 pawn)

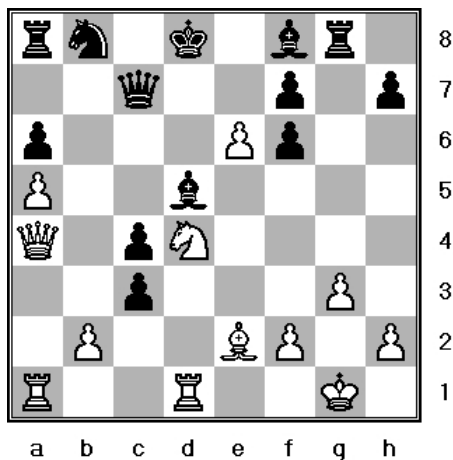


15. ...Rg8!

To his credit, Black declines. 15. ...cxb2 16. exf7+ Kxf7 17. Bh5+ Ke7 18. Re1+ and the King is caught in a massive fire-fight.

16. Qa4+ Kd8 17. g3 Bd5 18. Rfd1

(Sac #4- the b2 pawn again)



18. ...Kc8

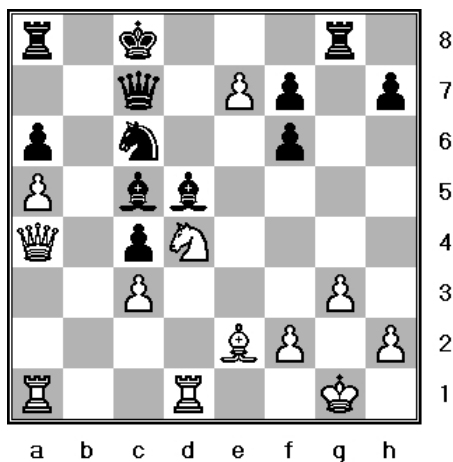
I'm not sure what Tal had in mind after 18. ...cxb2 19. exf7 (19. Rab1 c3 -/+). 19. ...Qxf7 -/+. This is a good example of Mr. Wild's games; the opponent simply can't find the remedy over the board.

19. bxc3 Bc5

20. e7

(Sac #5- the e7 pawn)

20. ...Nc6



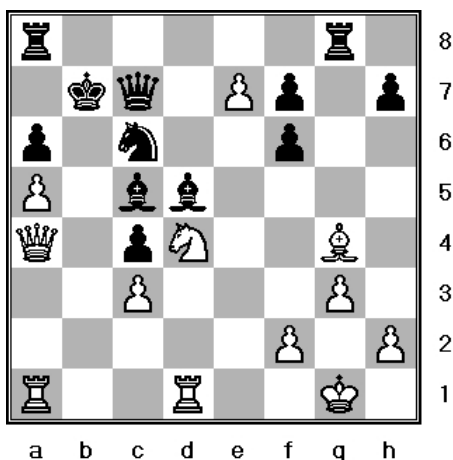
Or 20. ...Bxe7 21. Nf5 Be6 22. Nxe7+ Qxe7 23. Bxc4 and White continues to pound away.

21. Bg4+

(psuedo-Sac #6; the g4 Bishop)

21. ...Kb7

21. ...Rxc4?? 22. e8=Q+.



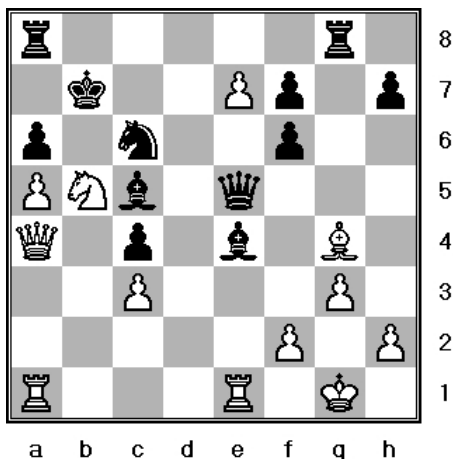
22. Nb5!

(Sac #7)

22. ...Qe5

Black again refuses the 'gift.' 22. ...axb5 23. Qxb5+ Ka7 24. Qxc5+ Ka6 25. Rxd5 Rxc4 26. Qb5+ Ka7 27. Rd7!

23. Re1 Be4



24. Rab1

(Sac #8)

24. ...Rxc4

Tal used to joke about positions where several of his pieces are hanging, "You can only take one at a time!"

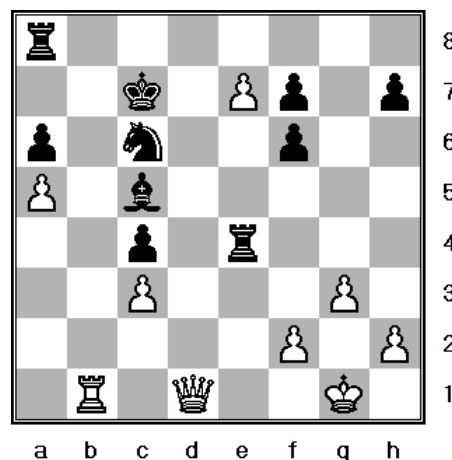
25. Rxe4!

(psuedo Sac #9)

25. ...Qxe4 26. Nd6+ Kc7 27. Nxe4 Rxe4

Although Black has lost his Queen, he still leads in material! In such positions however, initiative and King placement are much more important.

28. Qd1

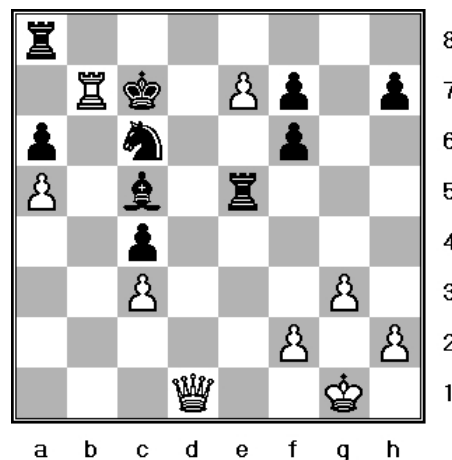


28. ...Re5?

Black finally tires. Better to get rid of the dangerous e-pawn by 28. ...Nxe7.

29. Rb7+!

(Sac #10!!)



29. ...Kxb7 30. Qd7+ Kb8 31. e8=Q+ Rxe8 32. Qxe8+ Kb7 33. Qd7+ Kb8 34. Qxc6

1-0

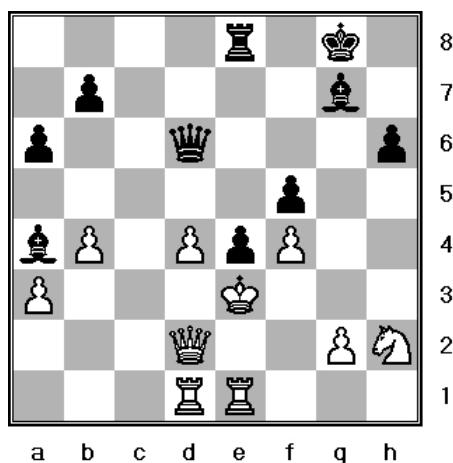
If you **personally connect** with White's play in this game, then perhaps you too are a Willy Wild! If so, examine the games (with especial emphasis on opening repertoire) of these great players: Savielly Tartakover, Rudolph Spielman, Alexander Alekhine, Mikhail Tal, Alexei Shirov, Veselin Topalov, and of the local Masters, David Bragg, David Roper, Ignacio Perez, and Nat Koons. With the guidance of these players, you'll be able to compile the perfect opening repertoire for you!

Next month we introduce you to Abel Active!

This month we look at another rook plus minor piece versus rook plus minor piece endgame. We start out in a position that is favorable for Black, but most of his advantage is tied to keeping the position in the middlegame. Black makes a series of second-best moves which allows a transition to an endgame. In the ensuing endgame White's mistakes prove less costly than Black's.

This is another example of how hard it is to adjust to new circumstances; I'm not sure Black realized how critical his position was until after the game was over. Also note that complex endgames such as this one (especially as in this game with both sides having multiple passed pawns) are more about concrete analysis than any general principles (OK, one principle: get the pawns moving!).

Dana Muller – Denis Strenzwilk
US Open
Portland, Oregon, August 1987



Black has a clear advantage in the starting position. After badly misplaying the opening, the white king has been forced to an exposed location on e3 in order to support the weak pawns on d4 and f4. White is temporarily an exchange ahead, but Black can regain the material pretty much any time.

There are two factors that give White some hope: while Black is clearly better, there doesn't seem to be an immediate haymaker for him and if queens are exchanged, then the white king will be well placed for the endgame.

The bulk of Black's edge is with the exposed nature of the white king in a middlegame, therefore Black should be reluctant to exchange of queens unless clearly favorable.

And In The End

by Dana Muller

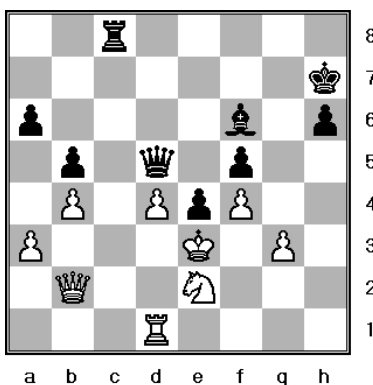


One principle: Get the pawns moving!

29. ...Rd8

There are many other reasonable moves, e.g. 29. ...Bxd1, 29. ...Kh7, 29. ...Qe6.

What I couldn't find was a forced win for Black (maybe you can). It seems that with reasonable play a position such as this is reached:



White is solidly (although passively) placed, the knight on e2 covers the weak d4 and f4 pawns. On the other hand, Black's pieces are active and there are chances for play on both sides of the board. This is the sort of position that allows Black to maneuver around until ready to break through, while White can only sit and wait.

I think Black's winning chances are significantly better than those of White drawing.

30. Nf1

Bringing the knight back into the game. 30. g4 would be fine in an endgame, but in the middle game it is a kamikaze move.

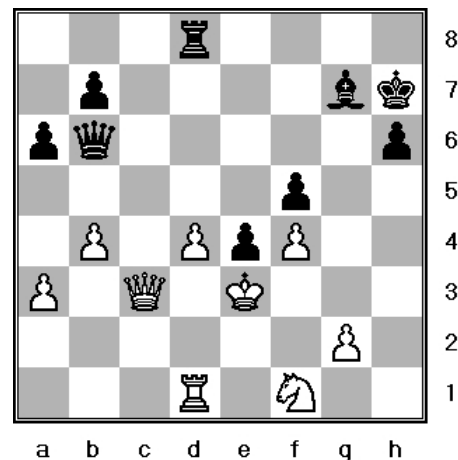
30. ...Qb6

Inexact; with best play it loses a tempo. 30. ...Kh7 keeps all of Black's options open.

31. Qc3

Looking to offer an exchange of queens with Qc5.

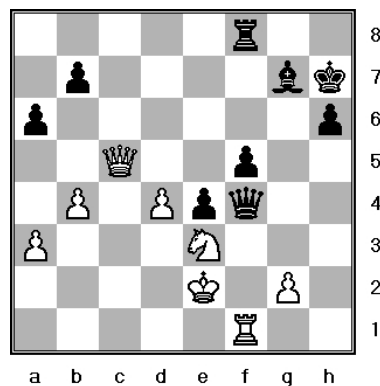
31. ...Bxd1 32. Rxd1 Kh7



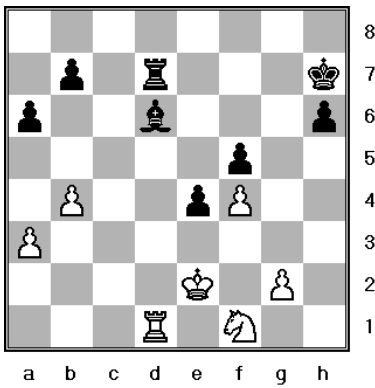
The king move is mistimed. 32. ...Qe6 planning to grab the c-file with ...Rc8 is better. Black can reach a position of the type discussed on move 29. The game continuation allows White some counterplay.

33. Qc5 Qxc5?!

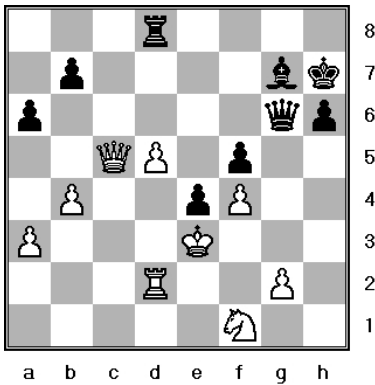
The game is equal after this move. For winning chances keeping the queens on the board is a must. There are two queen moves to consider: 33. ...Qg6 and 33. ...Qe6. (1) 33. ...Qg6 34. Kf2 Qg4 35. Ne3 Qxf4+ 36. Ke2 Rf8 37. Rf1



37. ...Qh4 38. Rxf5 seems OK for White, as Black's king is almost as exposed as White's. (2) 33. ...Qe6 34. d5 Qd7 35. d6 Bf8 36. Qc7 Bxd6 37. Qxd7+ Rxd7 38. Ke2 idea of Ne3, Rd5 picks up the black f-pawn.

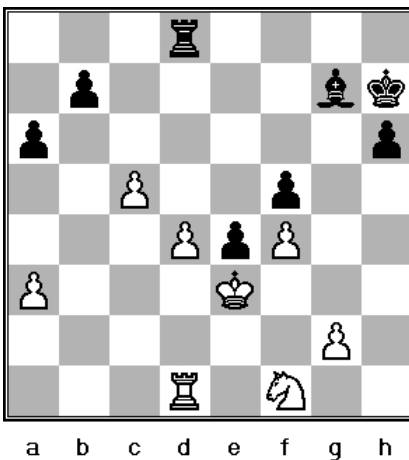


Black is still a bit better in this ending (bishop vs. knight in an open position) (3) 33. ...Qe6 34. d5 Qg6 35. Rd2 is messy, but is certainly a better winning attempt than exchanging queens.



White's play is based on keeping the queen active, attacking f5 and advancing the d-pawn. I'll leave it to Fritz and his cousins to find the truth here.

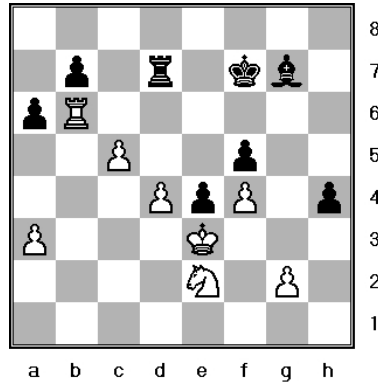
34. bxc5



White has achieved his initial goal of surviving to an endgame.

34. ...Rd5?

This is a definite mistake; Black allows his center to be undermined. Perhaps he thought the connected g and h pawns (in the event of 35. g4) would give him an edge? 34. ... h5 prevents white from playing the undermining thrust 35. g4. After 34. ... h5 play could continue 35. Ng3 Kg6 36. Ne2 (this frees the rook from guarding the d-pawn) Rd7 37. Rb1 Kf7 38. Rb6 h4 (to keep control of g3).

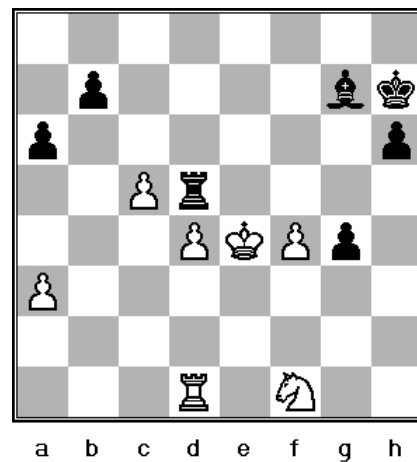


It's hard for White to make any further progress i.e. 39. c6 bxc6 40. Rxc6 Rb7!

35. g4 fxg4

Forced: there is no sensible way to guard the f-pawn.

36. Kxe4

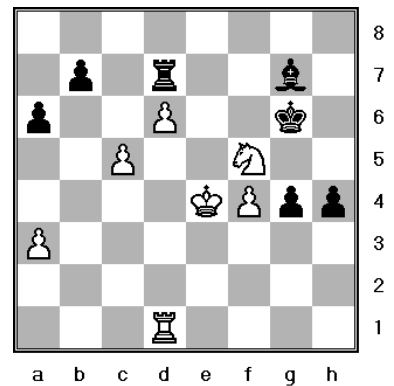


Time for a quick assessment of the position. White's main plan is to queen his d-pawn; the king and rook are excellently placed for this and the knight can quickly enter the game via e3 or g3. Currently White's c and d pawns are a little further advanced than Black's g and h pawns; this means that in a race white should come out on top.

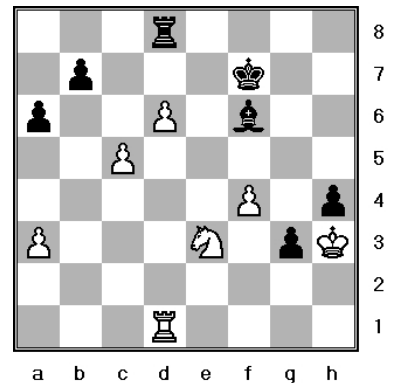
If White can win the b-pawn, then the connected passed c and d pawns should be decisive. Black is not without chances: he needs to combine restraint of the d-pawn (i.e. moving the king toward d7, activating the bishop) with advancing the passed g and h pawns. This a sharp position where general considerations take a backseat to concrete analysis. On the whole, I think White's chances are better, but with correct play Black can draw.

36. ...Rd8?

Guarding the b-pawn with 36. ...Rd7 is much better. Play could continue 37. Ng3 Kg6 (Kf5 must be prevented) 38. d5 h5 39. d6 h4 40. Nf5

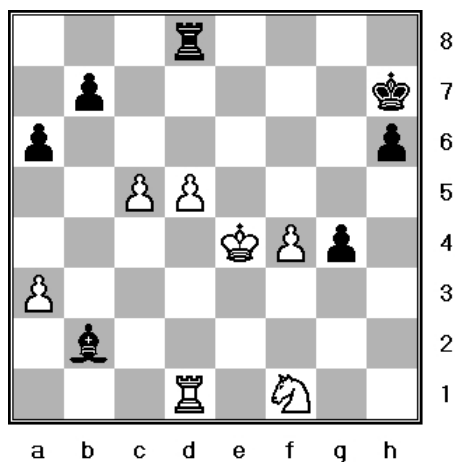


40. ...Bf6 (This retains the bishop and is more thematic, but 40. ... h3 may be OK as well: 41. Nxc7 Kxc7 [41. ... Rxc7 looks wrong and seems to lose after 42. f5+ Kg5 43. f6] and both of white's tries in the position 42. Kf5 and 42. Rg1 are complex but appear to be drawn with best play) 41. Ne3 g3 42. Kf3 Kf7 43. Kg4 Rd8 (to help the pawns from behind) 44. Kh3 and Black can likely hold from here.



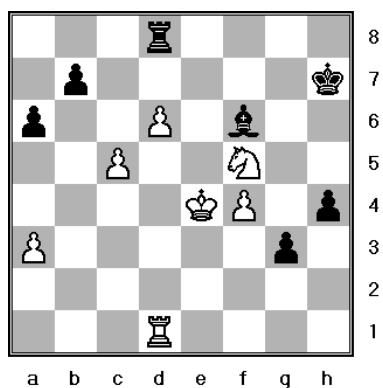
Once his king reaches d7 White will be hard pressed to make progress.

37. d5 Bb2?

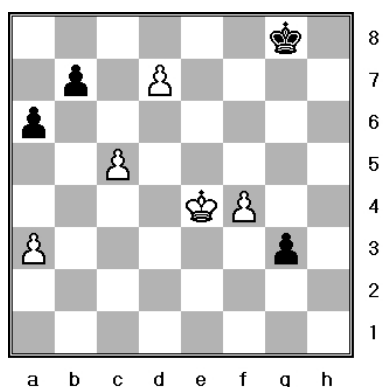


This surprised me; I didn't expect Black to allow connected passed c and d pawns.

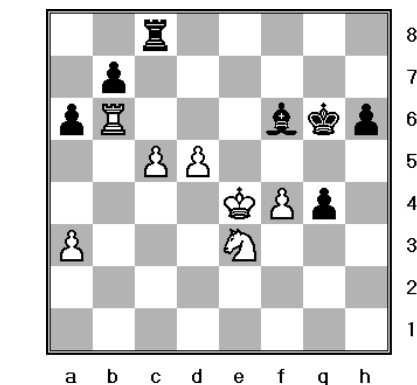
Advancing the pawns as quickly as possible with 37. ... h5 allows 38. d6 h4 39. Ne3 g3 40. Nf5 Bf6



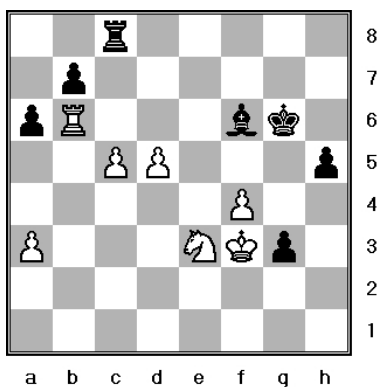
41. Nxh4 Bxh4 42. Rh1 Rg8 43. Rxh4+ Kg7 44. Rg4+ Kf8 45. Rxg8+ Kxg8 46. d7 wins.



Better is 37. ... Kg6 38. Rb1 Rc8 (after the tempo loss 38. ... Rd7 play continues 39. d6 Bf6 [39. ... h5? 40. Rxb7!] 40. f5+ Kf7 41. Ng3 prevents the advance of the h-pawn. White has a large edge) 39. Rb6+ Bf6 (ugly but 39. ... Kh7 is worse) 40. Ne3

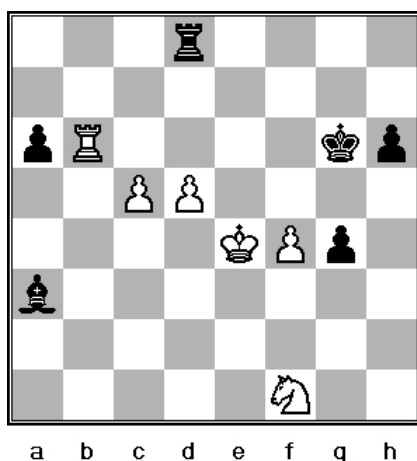


40. ...g3 (40. ... h5 41. Nc4 Rxc5 42. Ne5+ Kg7 43. Rxf6) 41. Kf3 h5 (else Ng4)



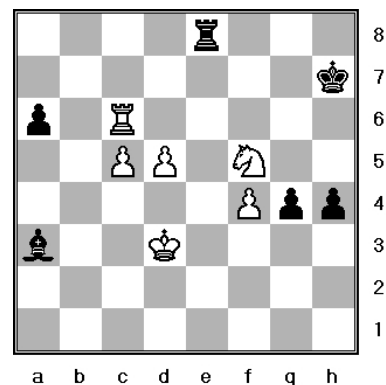
42. c6 bxc6 43. Rxa6 c5 gives White some winning chances, but it's not clear cut that Black can't eliminate all of the white pawns.

38. Rb1 Bxa3 39. Rxb7+ Kg6 40. Rb6+

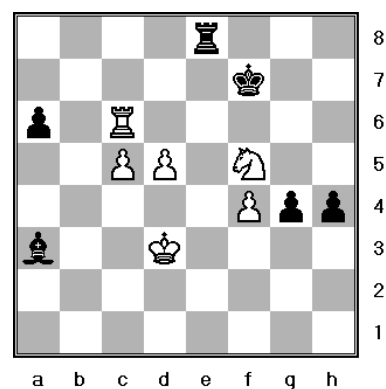


40. ...Kh5?

This should lose the bishop by force. The alternatives aren't much better: (1) 40. ... Kh7 41. Rc6 (41. d6 would allow Bd6 blockading the pawns) h5 42. Ng3 h4 43. Nf5 Re8+ (else 44. Rc7+) 44. Kd3



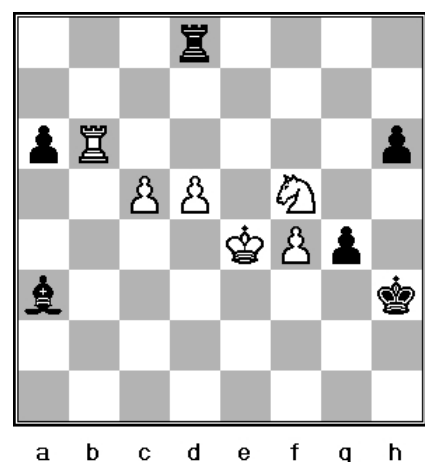
44. ...a5 45. Rh6+ Kg8 46. c6 seems good for White. (2) 40. ... Kg7 allows similar play as above, except Nf5 comes with check. (3) 40. ... Kf7 41. Rc6 h5 42. Ng3 h4 43. Nf5 Re8+ 44. Kd3



and one of the kingside pawns will drop.

41. Ng3+ Kh4 42. Nf5+ Kh3

42. ... Kh5 46. Rh6 mate



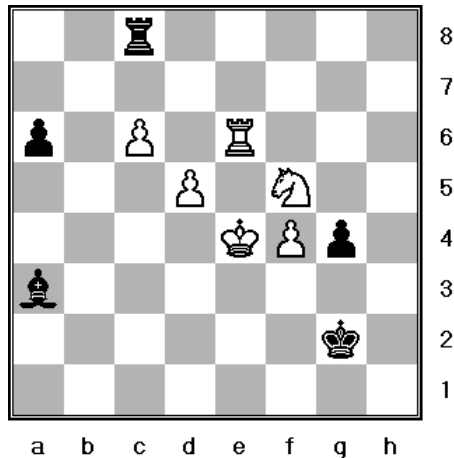
43. Rxh6+ ??

Talk about tunnel vision! I was so intent on winning one of the black passed pawns that I missed what was right in front of me. Of course 43. Rb3+ winning the bishop is instantly decisive. Fortunately (for me), this lapse didn't change the result of the game.

43. ...Kg2 44. c6 Rb8

Loses a move. 44. ...Rc8 immediately is better but wouldn't change the outcome.

45. Re6 Rc8



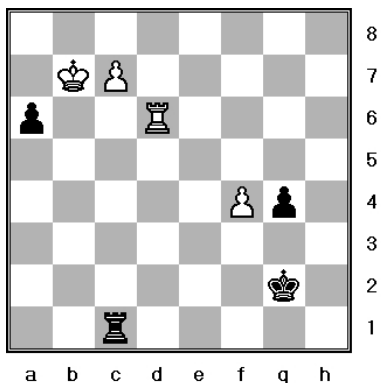
White was threatening d6. This move does hold up the advance of the d-pawn for a few moves. Active play such as 45. ...Rb4+ goes nowhere after 46. Kd3 Rb3+ 47. Kc4 Rb1 48. d6. White now needs to guard the c-pawn before playing d6. The knight has two squares from which the c-pawn is guarded: e5 and e7. Since e7 is just one move away, I played:

46. Ne7

This OK, but I completely missed that 47. d6 would drop the d-pawn. Playing the immediate 46. Ne3+ makes sense given that I ended up retracing my steps.

46. ...Rc7 47. Nf5

There was no need for the retreat since the planned 47. d6 does seem to work despite losing the d-pawn. I cut my analysis short after 47. d6 Bxd6 48. Rxd6 Rxe7+. But if we continue with 49. Kd5 Re1 (forced, since 49. ...Rc7 50. Rd7 Rd8 51. c7 wins) 50. c7 Rd1+ 51. Kc6 Rc1+ 52. Kb7

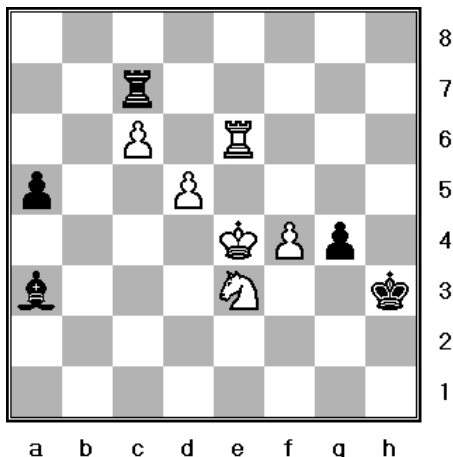


52. ...Rb1+ 53. Rb6 Rc1 54. Rc6 and White wins.

47. ...a5

Perhaps 47. ... Kf2 is better

48. Ne3+ Kh3



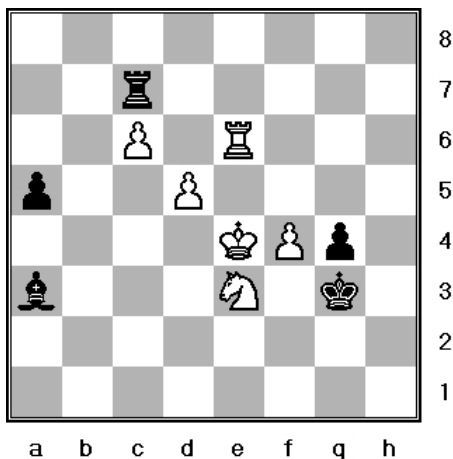
49. Rh6+

Forces the king to block his own g-pawn

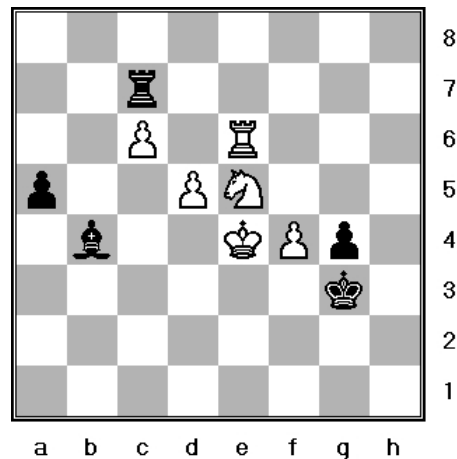
49. ...Kg3 50. Rg6 Re7+

Forced to avoid the loss of the g-pawn

51. Re6 Rc7



52. Nc4 Bb4 53. Ne5

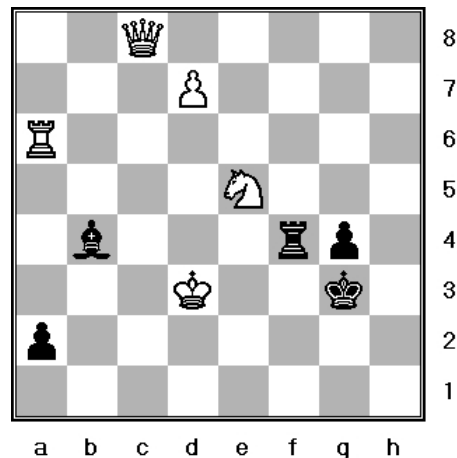


This is the setup that White was aiming for since move 47. The knight on e5 covers the pawn on c6 and is safe on e5.

53. ...a4 54. d6 Rc8

54. ...Bxd6 doesn't offer any chances either; after 55. Rxd6 White's unstoppable plan is Rd7, c7 and Nd6. The g-pawn advance is too slow and the a-pawn is indirectly held back (55. ... a3 56. Rd3+).

55. d7 Rf8 56. c7 Rxf4+ 57. Kd3 a3 58. c8(Q) a2 59. Ra6



1-0

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Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, numbers guy

After all the changes in the Oregon standings last month, there is not a single one this month. There was only one event in Oregon since I last wrote, the monthly G/60 at the Portland Chess Club. The Oregon GP leaders seem to have stayed away in droves. Only about four on the leader board (Frojen, Grom, Roua, and Witt) attended and none gained enough points to actually change anything. The only change at all was in the overall top 15, where William Gagnon moved into the #14 spot, in spite of not being in the top six in his class.

By contrast, with a larger number of events, the Washington leaderboard had a substantial shuffling. There are new leaders in both Class A and the Master Class. In A, Dan Mathews jumped from fourth to first by attending three events, the Seattle Fall Open and the SCC Quads and Tornado. The new leader in the Masters is Josh Sinanan, who moved past Howard Chen by 2.5 points. In the Experts, Dereque Kelley moved into second by a half point over Paul Bartron. In Class B, Stephen Buck moved past Ryan Ackerman by just one point. For the overall lead in Washington, Peter Watts has just moved ahead of Darby Monahan. If you look at the list, you will see that most classes, in both states, are in a very tight competition, and those where the first place holder has built up a substantial lead, second is still very much in doubt. Only in Oregon's Class A and Washington's Class C do we have a case where the differences between first, second and third are all over 20 points. Considering Mathews made his move from fourth to first by collecting 18 points in the past month, with three months to go no lead is truly secure (except, perhaps that of Nick Raptis among the Oregon Masters – 126 points).

By the time you will be reading this, there will have been another six events in the month of October, two in Portland and one each in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, and Silverdale. Looking ahead to November, we will have seven more events in Seattle (3-including the SCC Extravaganza with a 2x multiplier), Spokane, Portland, Tacoma, and Redmond, WA. The Redmond one is the biggie, the Washington Class Championships with a 5x multiplier (based on the guaranteed \$5,000 prize fund). We will then finish out our Grand Prix year with about half a dozen events in December. Don't forget, we are still looking for a sponsor for the 2010 Grand Prix. (Picture it: the Widgets Galore Northwest Grand Prix. Contribute the sponsorship fee and have it carry your company name!)

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick	169	1 Sinanan, Joshua	95
2 Roua, Radu	43	2 Chen, Howard J	92.5
3 Haessler, Carl	29	3 Schill, William	84.5
.....		4 Mac Gregor, Michael	56.5
.....		5 Bragg, David R	50.5
.....		6 Collyer, Curt D	49.5

Experts

1 Breckenridge, Steven ..	109.5	1 Watts, Peter	122
2 Gay, Daniel Z	109	2 Kelley, Dereque	97

3 Chung, John	41	3 Bartron, Paul	96.5
4 Davis, Mikeal	34	4 Rupel, David	72.5
5 Morris, Michael	33	5 Dixon, Dakota	57
6 Polasek, Preston	29	6 Guo, Alex	49

Class A

1 Esler, Brian	106	1 Mathews, Daniel R	90
2 Fulton, David	70.5	2 Wang, Michael	86
3 Banner, Richard L	46	3 Sen, Samir	83
4 Evers, Jason	44.5	4 O'Gorman, Peter J	76.5
5 Herrera, Robert	43.5	5 Gottlieb, Ethan	73.5
6 Smyth, Scott	33	6 Lee, Nathan	70.5

Class B

1 Witt, Steven	93.5	1 McAleer, James	105
2 Niro, Frank	85	2 Buck, Stephen	81.5
3 Pyle, Galen	71	3 Ackerman, Ryan	80.5
4 Grom, Alex	64.5	4 Tokareva, Kate	78
5 Frojen, Ken	61	5 Feng, Roland	76
6 Yoshinaga, David	50	6 Yu, Justin	68

Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss	85	1 Monahan, Darby	116
2 Brusselback, Lon	72	2 Piper, August	94.5
3 Midson, Tony	45	3 Grabar, Anatoly	70.5
4 Tse, Kalen	44.5	4 Grabar, Svetlana	68.5
5 Skalnes, Erik	44	5 Baker, Ted	66
6 Wentz, Dale	39.5	6 Goodfellow, Robert	57

Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva	44	1 Richards, Jerrold	81.5
2 Chattopadhyay, Sandip ..	43	2 Lampman, Becca	56
3 Cigan, Jason	36	3 Waugh, James	55
4 Barrese, William	32	4 Davis, Freddy A	54
5 Butson, Jeffrey	29.5	5 Burney, James	51
6 Wingard, Joseph	27	6 Wang, Shanglun	40

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick	169	1 Watts, Peter	122
2 Breckenridge, Steven ..	109.5	2 Monahan, Darby	116
3 Gay, Daniel Z	109	3 McAleer, James	105
4 Esler, Brian	106	4 Kelley, Dereque	97
5 Witt, Steven	93.5	5 Bartron, Paul	96.5
6 Niro, Frank	85	6 Sinanan, Joshua	95
6 Dietz, Arliss	85	7 Piper, August	94.5
8 Brusselback, Lon	72	8 Chen, Howard J	92.5
9 Pyle, Galen	71	9 Mathews, Daniel R	90
10 Fulton, David	70.5	10 Wang, Michael	86
11 Grom, Alex	64.5	11 Schill, William	84.5
12 Frojen, Ken	61	12 Sen, Samir	83
13 Yoshinaga, David	50	13 Richards, Jerrold	81.5
14 Gagnon, William	46.5	13 Buck, Stephen	81.5
15 Banner, Richard L	46	15 Ackerman, Ryan	80.5

Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron	ID	1784	105
2 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1921	91.5
3 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1791	57.5
4 McCourt, Daniel	MT	1773	51.5
5 Donaldson, John	CA	2426	50
6 Abderhalden, Richard	ID	1449	49
7 McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1750	45
8 Martin, Robert	MT	1697	41
9 Weyland, Ronald M	ID	1599	39
10 Abderhalden, Katherine	ID	1584	38

Gresham Open!

January 9-10, 2010

Mt. Hood Community College

5-Round Swiss--Time Control:

Rounds 1-3: 40 moves in 90 min, sudden death in 30 min (40/90; SD/30)

Rounds 4-5: 40 moves in 2 hours, sudden death in 1 hour (40/120; SD/60)

Registration: Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10, 2, ASAP; Sun 10, ASAP

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Town & Gown Room (near Jazz Café);
26000 SE Stark, Gresham. Check www.pdxchess.com for directions to playing site

½ point bye available for rounds 1-4 if requested at registration, limit 1

\$1,500 (Based on 60 entries)

1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$125; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$100 – \$75

Special Christopher Memorial Prize: \$200 extra for perfect score

Special Martha Jane Miller Memorial Prize: \$100 to highest scoring female player

Entry Fee \$40; \$10 discount to PCC members if registered before January 5

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required (OSA); **Harmon Grand Prix**

Gresham Open (January 9-10, 2010) Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

USCF ID # _____ Exp _____ USCF Rating _____ OCF/WCF Exp _____

email _____ Bye Round ____

Entries: Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212

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Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address

17517 15 Ave NE
Seattle WA 98155

Infoline

206-417-5405

www.seattlechessclub.info

kleistcf@aol.com

Address for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

Nov. 6-8

SCC Extravaganza

Format: 2-section, 7-SS. **TC:** G/90 (2-Day Option: rds 1 & 2 – G/45). **EF:** \$48 (\$36 for SCC memb., 442 for memb. of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA). **Prize Fund:** \$1000 b/50. **Prizes:** *Open*—\$200-140, U2200 100, U2000 100; *Reserve (U1800)*—\$140-100, U1600 70, U1400 70, U1200 60, UNR 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. 11-2:30-6, Sunday 11-2:30-6 (2-Day Option: rds 1 & 2 Sat. 10-12). **Byes:** 3 available; 1 for rds 5-7, commit before rd 3. **Misc:** USCF & W/OCF membership required. OSA. NC, NS. **Side Event:** Blitz (G/5) tnmt. Starts 9:30 p.m., Sat. **EF:** \$8. **Prize Fund:** at least 80% of EFs.

Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Saturday Quads

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$7 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

November 15

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 11/11, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Dec. 6, Jan. 10

Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **EF:** \$17 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

-
- **Attendance at this year's previous tournaments** •
 - *Novice* (1/31)–5, (5/2)–8, (8/16)–9; *Quads* (1/10)–10, (2/21)–
 - 20, (3/14)–17, (4/25)–14, (5/16)–15, (6/13)–20, (7/18)–18, (8/15)–
 - 18, (9/12)–22, (10/10)–20; *Tornados* (1/4)–12, (2/1)–12, (3/1)–
 - 16, (4/5)–14, (5/3)–18, (5/31)–19, (7/5)–18, (8/2)–16, (8/30)–25,
 - (10/4)–14; **Seattle City Championship** (1/16-18)–21; **Seattle**
 - **Spring Open** (3/27-29)–36; **Green Open II** (5/9-10)–26; **Emer-**
 - **ald City Open** (6/19-21)–46; **Seafair** (7/24-26)–63; **Seattle Fall**
 - **Open** (9/25-7)–48.
-

SCC events after Nov. 15 will likely be in the Northway Square East Building (2150 N 107th St), across the freeway from Northgate Mall. Call SCC InfoLine 206-417-5405.

2010 Weekends (tentative)

Novice: Jan. 33, Apr. 24, Jul. 31, Oct. 30. **Insanity:** Dec. 31. **Quads:** Jan. 23, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 10, May 15, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11. **TCC vs. SCC Match:** Mar. 8. **Tornados:** Jan. 10, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23, Jun. 27, Aug. 1, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 31, Nov. 21, Dec. 19.

Seattle City Champ.—January 15-17. **Seattle Spring Open**—April 2-4.
SCC Adult Swiss—May 8-9. **Emerald City Open**—June 19-21.
Seafair Open—July 23-25. **Seattle Fall Open**—Sept. 17-19.
Extravaganza—November 5-7. **SCC Junior Swiss**—December 3-4

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

For free adult and scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.

♣ November 14

Uncles Chess Tournament ♣

Spokane Valley Mall, Spokane, WA. Registration 9:00-9:45. E.F. \$11. USCF rated. Format: 3 or 4 rounds. Time Control Game/20 or Game/30. Prizes based off entries. An additional 1 year USCF membership to be given away. Tie-breaks may be used to determine prizes. Contact info: Dave Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ November 14

Oregon City \$10 Tornado ♣

Site: Pioneer Adult Community Center, 615 Fifth St., Oregon City, OR (enter by basement door on Washington Street). Wheelchair accessible. Type: 4 Rd. Swiss Reg 8:30-9:30 AM Rds 10am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm Time Control: G/60. Memberships required: USCF & State Entry: \$10. Open to: all existing or new United States Chess Federation members. Memberships available online at www.uschess.org, or at the door. Prizes: 100% of entry fees will be returned in prizes. Organizers: Frank Niro chesssafari@yahoo.com, 503-347-0750; Russell Miller, 360-834-2102 russellmiller22@comcast.net

♣ November 21

PCC G/60 ♣

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♣ November 21-22

TCC Economy #3 ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, room 11. In the DTI Soccer Store bldg, across the street from Alfred's Cafe, two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 5-SS. TC: Rd 1, G/60; Rd 2, G/90; Rds 3-5, G/120. Rds: Sat. 10, 1, 4; Sun. 10, 3 (or ASAP). EF: \$15. Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships. Prizes: Fun! Excitement! Ratings! Grand Prix points! Two days of entertainment! Reg: Sat. 8:45-9:30am. Bye: Two 1/2-point byes okay. Steve Buck acts as house player so no unwanted byes given. Misc: USCF membership required. Info/Entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St. Tacoma, WA 98445, (253)535-2536 or (253)306-7137 (club). E-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ November 27-29

Washington Class Championships ♣

For details, see pages 16-17.

As Northwest Chess Business Manager, I'd like to welcome you to another "season" of chess here in the Northwest, already well under way!

Like many household budgets, our magazine continues to operate on a month-to-month basis, that is, we collect enough each month in memberships and advertising revenues to pay for the next month's magazine.

There is no guarantee that this budgeting model will continue to work every month. You can help by promptly renewing when your membership/subscription expires. If you're uncertain of your expiration date, please send an e-mail to info@nwchess.com. Normally you should receive either an e-mail, letter or postcard reminder within the month prior to expiration. Thanks to Murlin Varner for volunteering to send postcards to those members without valid e-mails. You can also contact me if you'd like to make a donation. If desired, donations of \$20 or more can be used to provide a NWC subscription to a library, club or school.

Chess Business by Eric Holcomb



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8205 SW 24th Ave
Portland, OR 97219
503-246-2978

For information on membership
and coming events:
www.pdxchess.org