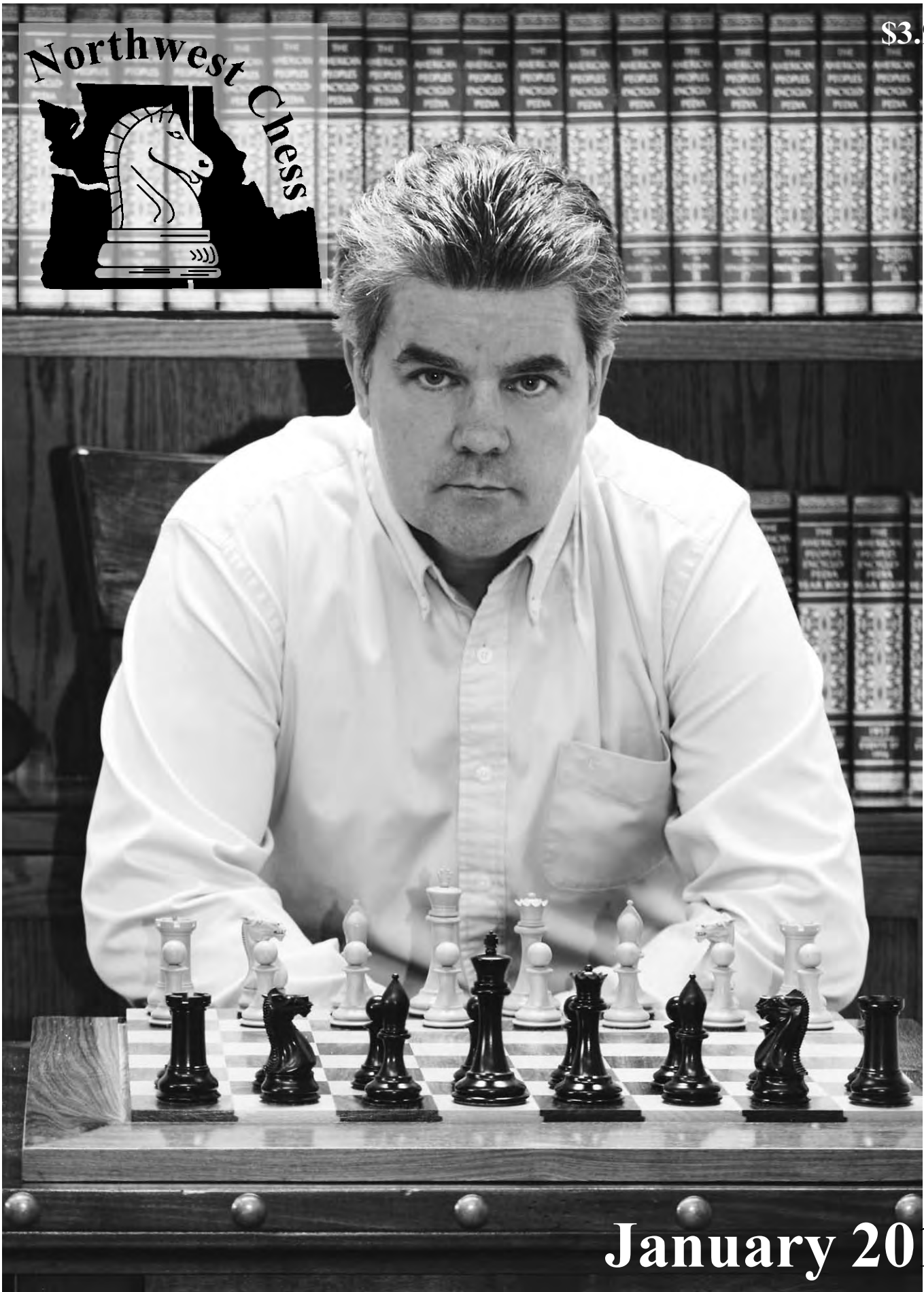


\$3.95



January 2012

Northwest Chess

Contents

January 2012, Volume 66,1 Issue 768

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
Office of record: 3310 25th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Northwest Chess, PO Box 84746,
Seattle WA 98124-6046.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA

USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Cover art: Harley Greninger

Photo credit: Judy Greninger

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Brazil: Chess, Music, and Papaya

Brazil conforms to every
stereotype you've ever had
about it—and so much more!

by Guy Bashkansky

From November 17 through 27, Naomi Bashkansky took part in the World Youth Chess Championships in the Girls U8 category. She, along with the two other girls in that category for the USA team, scored six points out of the nine possible, a respectable result at the world's level. Here is a short description of the Brazil experience.

Naomi at WYCC2011

Naomi (8) and her brother Ethan (13) are the highest rated chess players in their respective ages in the Pacific Northwest and both have twice won the Washington State Champion title among kids their age. In a 2010 simul given by GM Varuzhan Akobian in which many adults participated, only Naomi and Ethan didn't lose. Naomi's chess education has been diverse: she has trained with GM Gregory Serper and coach Nahum Gofman, taken classes at Chess4Life with GM Emil Anka and in WGM Elena Donaldson's Chess Academy, and participated in GM Susan Polgar's online class. She plays in online chess clubs and her mom motivates and monitors her to do chess every day.

Brasília

There are no scheduled flights directly to the hot spring resort of Caldas Novas. You have to fly to either Brasília or Goiânia (the state capital), and take a bus or a van from there. So it made a lot of sense to spend a day sightseeing in Brasilia, a pre-planned city, built in 1956-60 for the purpose of being Brazil's federal capital, before heading to the chess tournament. It has wide and long transportation axes, with points of interest far apart and official government areas separate from hotel and shopping areas. The most reasonable way to see all of its monumental attractions is by a tourist bus. The Brasília City Tour, which we chose, began at Brasília Shopping mall and featured pre-recorded commentary in Portuguese, Spanish, and English.

The tour lasted two hours, more than enough to see all the main monumental architectural wonders. The driver let us out at the main tourist points for 10-15 minutes: National Cathedral, Square of Three Powers, Presidential Palace, etc. Even among all this monumental, almost totalitarian, architecture—you can still feel you're in the fun-filled country of Brazil, with picturesque mango trees and operetta-like guards.

Continued on page 7

Marcell Szabo at the World Youth Chess Championship

by Csaba Szabo

On the 22th of June, we received notification from USCF that, based on rating, Marcell had qualified for the World Youth Chess Championship to take place in Caldas Novas, the State of Goyana, Brazil, November 17-27. He was the only kid from Washington State to qualify in the U10 section. We had no idea what or where Caldas Novas was, but we googled the location, considered the steep budgetary implications, and, in the end, decided to participate. Chess at the end of the world! In the Brazilian Rainforest! It sounded exciting.

It certainly took some time and effort to get there. The closest airport was a three-hour drive away, giving us an extended opportunity to experience the Brazilian driving style, which has a certain random quality to it, in the sense that both sides of a two-lane road are utilized for both directions of traffic. After we survived the drive and arrived at the hotel (we stayed at the main hotel, called Thermas Di Roma), the situation became much more relaxing. Caldas Novas, as it turns out, is one of the largest hydrothermal resorts in the world. It features many recently built thermal baths, complete with slides, wave pools and assorted amenities for kids and grown-ups. The hotel was fairly well prepared for the chess crowd, with one exception—the high-speed internet—as the chess crowd arrived, the internet connection departed. To be exact, it slowed down to a speed where it was practically useless, unless used 'in the wee small hours in the morning.' But more on that later. The hotel's amenities, the food (open buffet three times a day) and the hotel's supporting personnel were excellent, and provided optimal conditions for relaxation and preparation for the tournament. Although most of the participants' time was devoted to serious work, there was time for some blitz games in the recreation area, some table tennis, soccer, and, of course, trying out the pools and slides. The weather was sunny and warm throughout the tournament, with occasional showers at night. Although the resort was located inside a small city, and no rainforests were in sight, we saw plenty of tropical birds (parrots, but no toucans) and huge, colorful tropical butterflies. Near some of the other hotels, there were small monkeys living in the trees.

Less than two weeks before the start of the tournament, we learned that the originally planned eleven rounds were cut

to nine. No explanation was given, other than that this was a FIDE decision. The tournament was held in a new conference center adjacent to the main hotel; the organization was good, and the next round's pairings were available online shortly after the completion of the games, around 8:00 p.m. The delegation was, by far, the largest one the U.S.A. has sent to the World Youth. Eleven players represented the U.S. in the U10 Open section. The team was supported by eight coaches, led by Michael Khodarkovsky (a member of Garry Kasparov's coaching team in the late 90s), and included GMs Joel Benjamin, Nick De Firmian, and Yuri Shulman. At the beginning of the tournament, each player was assigned to one of the coaches, and a daily preparation and post-game analysis schedule was announced.

The typical day went as follows. I awoke at 3:00 a.m. so that I could access the internet and find some information online on Marcell's next opponent. In addition, I worked online with Marcell's coach, IM Istvan Sipos of Hungary, to come up with the strategy for the next day. In the morning, Marcell went over his opponent's available games, considered Istvan's suggestions, and practiced his openings. Then we met with our USCF-assigned coach (in our case,

Michael Khodarkovsky), refined our plans, and played out some variations. After some additional practice, lunch, and afternoon relaxation, the game started at 3:00 p.m., with the FIDE-standard time control of 40/90 and SD/30, with a 30-second-per-move increment, which yielded four- to five-hour-long games. (There was one day when two games were played, and, after Round Four, a free day was given to the players.) After the game, we walked over to the U.S. Team Room for post-game analysis with our coaches, followed by dinner.

Marcell knew, going in, that he was an underdog. The U10 Open group featured a number of U.S. kids rated above 2000 as well as FMs from Russia, India and other countries. Unlike Marcell, many of these kids had been to several World Championships. And most had gotten serious about chess several years before Marcell did, had participated in many more tournaments than Marcell, and spend much more time working on chess than Marcell. Anyway, we figured, we would give our best, see what happens - and hopefully we will gather some experience and may even grab a few points here and there. In the end, with 5.5 points out of nine, Marcell ended up in 25th place out of 120 kids in the section. He had the bad luck of having to

play three kids in the early rounds who ended up in the top ten (including an early-round loss against the top-rated U.S. player, Ruifeng Li, who won the Silver Medal). In the last round, Marcell himself was playing for a top ten place, but his opponent, a FIDE Master from India, turned out to be too strong for him (and Marcell's attempt to confuse him with the Budapest Gambit did not quite work out). Nevertheless, Marcell played some nice games (a few examples are below), has learned a lot from his experiences, and made some new friends. He now has a clear plan, as he has ascertained which aspects of his game need the most improvement. He knows that much more work is requisite, if he wants to break into the top 10 internationally. In any case, the Championship was an experience of a lifetime for Marcell. If he works hard, and his game continues to improve, perhaps he will have the opportunity to participate at another World Youth Chess Championship in the future.

As far as the overall success of the U.S. delegation, we should be exceptionally proud of the achievements of Awonder Liang and Ruifeng Li, who earned the gold and silver medals in the U8 and U10 sections, respectively. Sarah Chiang got fourth place in the Girls U14; Jeffrey Xiong reached fifth place in the U12 Open, Tianming Xi came in eighth in the U10; Mariya Oreshko grabbed sixth place in the Girls U12; Marcell's new friend, Albert Lu, ended up at 12th in the U10, while Varun Krishnan and Kevin Wang finished at 14th and 15th places respectively in the U14.

Games

Julian is a nice kid from Germany. We did not find any games for him online; so I decided to use my usual weapon, the Sicilian Dragon.

B76 Sicilian Dragon

Julian Martin (GER, 1627)
Marcell Szabo (USA, 1676)

Caldas Novas, World Youth U10 (3) 2011

Annotations by Marcell Szabo

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.f3 ♕g7 7.♖e3
 O-O 8.♞d2 ♗c6 9.O-O

He could have, or should have, played
 9.♕c4.



Photo by Csaba Szabo

Marcell arriving in Brazil

9...d5 10.h4

Taking on d5 would have been more accurate.

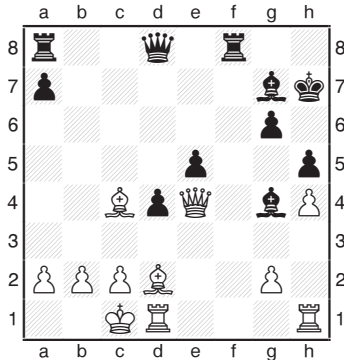
10...h5 11. ♖f2

He probably did not consider ...e7-e5.

11...e5 12. ♟xc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14. ♟g5 d4 15. ♟e4 ♟xe4 16.fxe4 f6

Maybe 16... ♖a5 or 16... ♖c7 would have been better.

17. ♟c4+ ♟h7 18. ♟d2 f5 19. ♖e2 fxe4 20. ♖xe4 ♟f5 21. ♖e2 ♟g4 22. ♖e4



22... ♖c8

I decided not to take the Rook, because I preferred building up my army and preventing any counterplay. GM Nick De Firmian agreed with my choice in later analysis.

23. ♟d3 ♟f5 24. ♖f3 ♟xd3 25. ♖xd3 ♖d5 26. ♟b1 e4 27. ♖a3

Inaccurate. 27. ♖b3 would have been better.

27... ♖c4 28. ♖c1 ♖f2

Here, I knew I won this game. He cannot hold out much longer under such pressure. In post-game analysis, my

chess engine says I am up by four points, even though I am not up material.

29. b3 ♖c7

29... ♖e2 30. ♖hd1 e3 31. ♟xe3 dxe3 is another possibility.

30. ♖hd1 e3 31. ♟a5 ♖c6 32. c3 ♖e4+ 33. ♟a1 dxc3 34. ♟xc3 ♖xc3 0-1

Since the game with Julian did not last very long, I had some time to relax before the second game of the day. When the pairings came out, and it turned out that I was to play a top player from Columbia, I became a little worried. After all, Acosta is a CM and has a FIDE rating of 1982. My dad did a quick online search and found a few of his games. We had about half an hour to prepare, and then we had to rush back to the conference center. As we had guessed, he played the Sicilian. We ended up playing the Sozin, which I like.

B89 Sicilian Sozin

Marcell Szabo (USA, 1676)
Jorian Acosta Cubides (COL, 1982)

Caldas Novas, World Youth U10 (4) 2011

Annotations by Marcell Szabo

1.e4 c5 2. ♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♟xd4 ♟c6 5. ♟c3 d6 6. ♟c4 ♟f6 7. ♟e3 ♟e7 8.h3

This was a bit too cautious on my part.

8...a6 9. ♟b3 ♟xd4 10. ♟xd4 b5 11. a3 ♟b7 12. ♖d3

Guarding the e-pawn.

12... ♖c8 13.O-O O-O 14. ♖fe1 ♟d7 15. ♖g3 ♟f6 16. ♖ad1 ♖c7 17.f4 ♟e8 18.f5

I played this because, if he responds with ...e6-e5, then the d5-hole is mine.

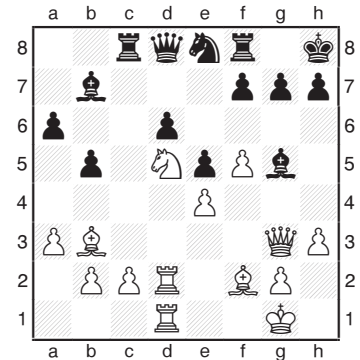
1 8 . . . e 5
19. ♟f2 ♖d8
20. ♖e2 ♟f6

When he picked up the piece, he intended to play 20... ♟h4, but he

must have seen that it loses. He had to do something with his Bishop and that gave me additional momentum to develop and attack.

21. ♟d5 ♟h8 22. ♖ed2 ♟g5

Not a good move. It puts me in charge of the game. I think he was still mad at himself, because of what happened a couple of moves earlier, and lost some of his concentration. Here I figured out a little combination, which, in seven moves, should win a pawn for me and should put me in a good position.



23. ♟b6 ♟c7 24. ♟xc7

Another idea is 24.f6 ♟xf6 25. ♟xc7 ♖xc7 26. ♟xc7 ♖xc7, but I wanted to have a clear pawn advantage, rather than going up by an Exchange.

24... ♟xd2 25. ♖xd2 ♖xc7 26. ♖d3

I think this was the key move of my combination.

26... ♖c3 27. ♟xd8 ♖xd3 28.cxd3 ♖xd8 29. ♟xf7

The combination worked; here is my bounty, a clear pawn. After that, as they say, it was just 'a matter of technique.'

29... ♖f8 30. ♟e6 ♟c8 31. ♖c2 ♟xe6 32.fxe6 ♟g8 33. ♖c6 ♖d8 34.e7 ♖e8 35. ♖xd6 ♖xe7 36. ♖xa6 ♖c7 37. ♖b6 ♖c5 38. ♖b7 h6 39. ♟h2 ♟h7 40. ♟g3 ♟g6 41. ♟f3 ♟f6 42. ♟e3 g6 43.d4 exd4+ 44. ♟xd4 ♖g5 45.e5+ 1-0

In post-game analysis, Nick De Firmian congratulated me on the game and noted that I had picked an elegant move to finish the game.

The following game was especially important to me. This summer, while visiting my grandparents in Hungary, I

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participated in the Hungarian Grade-Level National Chess Championship, where I played Peter, the top-rated kid in this age group. In that game, I attacked carelessly in the early middle-game, and ended up down a pawn; he maintained a slight advantage all the way into the endgame and won. Even though I did okay in that tournament (I got third place), I really wanted to win this re-match against Peter.

I remembered his style. He is a passive player, who prefers closed positions and waits for the opponent to start something, and make a mistake. The question was: How can we open up the game? My coach, IM Istvan Sipos suggested that I try the King's Indian, London System. Even though I know some of the King's Indian lines, the London System was brand new to me. We had half a day to prepare by looking at some GM games and playing through some possible variations with Coach Khodarkovsky. As the game shows, we managed to open up the position, which I think was a key factor.

A48 London System

Peter Czina (HUN, 1728)
Marcell Szabo (USA, 1676)

Caldas Novas, World Youth U10 (7) 2011

Annotations by Marcell Szabo

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♙f4 g6 3.♘f3 ♙g7 4.h3 O-O 5.e3 d6 6.♙e2 c5 7.O-O ♖b6 8.♗c3 ♗xb2

I guess he thought I would not take the pawn, because it is poisoned: maybe there is a danger of trapping my Queen. But I calculated that it could not be trapped. I also knew that, with accurate play, he will get the pawn back, but my goal was not to get ahead in material, but to open up the position and force him to play in a style that I like and he doesn't.

9.♗b5 ♗a6 10.a3 ♙f5 11.♙d3



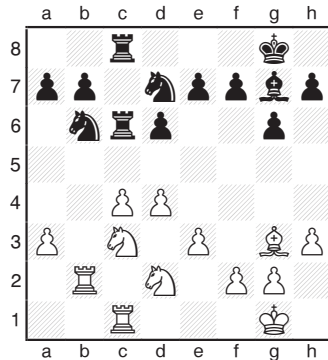
Photo by Csaba Szabo

Morning preparation with Michael Khodarkovsky, my USCF-assigned coach

12.♗xd3 c4 13.♗xc4 ♖fc8 14.♖a2 ♗xc4 15.♗xb2

We are even on material, but I saw that his Knight was trapped.

15...♗d5 16.♙g3 ♗b8 17.♗d2 ♖c6 18.c4 ♗b6 19.♖c1 ♗8d7 20.♗c3 ♖ac8



21.♗e2?

When he made this move, I knew that I would be up by a pawn.

21...d5 22.c5 ♗xc5 23.♖bc2 ♗d3 24.♖xc6 ♖xc6 25.♖xc6 bxc6

was the one who was up by a pawn. 26.♗c3 c5 27.dxc5 ♙xc3 28. cxb6 axb6 29.♗b3 e5 30.♙f1 ♙b2 31.a4

He should have played 31.♙e2. 31...♙c3 32.♗d2 ♗b2

I saw 32...♙xd2 33.♙e2 ♗xf2 34. ♙xf2 ♙b4, winning another pawn, only after I made my move.

33.♗b1 ♗xa4 34.♗xc3 ♗xc3 35. ♙xe5 ♗a4 36.♙e2 ♙f8 37.♙d3 ♙e7 38.♙d4 ♙e6 39.♙c7 ♙d7 40. ♙e5 ♙c6 41.e4

I think he got tired or lost his confidence by this point. Taking the pawn got rid of my only weakness.

41...dxe4 42.♙xe4 ♙c5 43.♙a1 ♙d6 44.♙e5+ ♙e6 45.♙a1 ♗c5+ 46.♙e3 ♙d5 47.♙f4 ♗d3+ 48.♙e3 ♗e1

I was going to play 48...♙c4, but then saw a little trick.

49.g3?? ♗c2+ 50.♙f4 ♗xa1 51. ♙g5 b5 52.♙h6 b4 53.♙xh7 b3 54. f4 b2 55.f5 b1=♖ 56.g4 gxf5 57. g5 f4+ 58.♙h8 ♖g6 59.h4 ♖h5+ 60.♙g7 ♙e6 61.♙g8 f3 62.g6 ♖xg6+ 63.♙f8

If 63.♙h8, there is mate in three: 63...♖h5+ 64.♙g8 ♙f6 65.♙f8 ♖h8 mate.

63...♖h7 1-0

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Continued from page 3

The next day, the championship organizers helped with the 4.5-hour van ride to Caldas Novas, and everything worked out quite well. In Brazil, sometimes one has to relax and trust friendly Brazilians to help, despite the language barrier. Eventually, you even start speaking some basic Portuguese, which is an added benefit to a foreign trip.

Caldas Novas

The USA team stayed at the Thermas diRoma hotel, which is well equipped for some serious fun: many hot spring pools, water slides, a ping-pong stage, an all-you-can-eat restaurant, and a night bar with an amazing female singer. The densest concentration of fun occurred twice daily at the fitness sessions inside the pool, where dashing Brazilian coaches moved sculpted Brazilian bodies in sync with irresistible Brazilian music. Wild monkeys yelled at night, lest anybody forget it's an exotic land. Naomi spent her free time in the pools, at the water slides, and at the ping-pong table, where she learned to play Around-the-World, which is like Bughouse with a paddle. However, free Brazilian meals three times a day with unforgettable cream soups and papaya, and especially free ice cream -- provided strong counter-balance to these fitness exercises. And, after won games, additional treats were due: Splash water park across the street, with giant slides, and Sorbeteria, a fancier ice cream parlor.

The Championships

The Convention Center is adjacent to the Thermas diRoma hotel. Nine rounds were spread across nine days. Rounds started at 3:00 p.m. every day, except one free day and one day with two rounds. The tournament hall resembled the Tower of Babel, with dozens of languages spoken by people from all over the world. A few large, strong teams obviously stood out: Russia (most medals), Kazakhstan, Armenia, India, Poland, Iran, Germany, Peru, USA, Columbia, Hungary. There were twelve championships in total: Open and Girls – U8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. In Naomi's category, Girls U8, first place went to a 7-year-old from Kazakhstan. She automatically became the youngest WFM in history, a Guinness record (pending approval). Her

Northwest Chess

mom became good friends with Naomi's mom, and shared a few useful "tough love" techniques of a chess mom, such as sibling competitiveness, needs leverage, and spirited parental motivation.

Naomi's Play

Naomi won over girls from Peru, Italy, and Venezuela in the first six rounds, when she was clearly stronger than her opponents. However, she lost to girls from Iran and Macau/China as well as a fellow American. She played way too fast, without paying due attention to her opponents' moves. And her openings with White were less than perfect. There was a certain "question mark" feeling. Naomi was advised to spend much more time at the game. She followed this advice and strongly won the last three games vs. girls from Turkey (who played very well at the recent Europe Youth Championship), Canada, and India. Thus she finished the championship with an "exclamation mark" feeling instead.

C50 Giuoco Piano

Sade Defne (TUR)

Naomi Bashkansky (USA)

Caldas Novas, World Youth Girls U8 (7) 2011

Annotations by Naomi Bashkansky

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4. d3 h6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♘a4 ♙b6 7. ♘xb6 axb6 8.♙e3 ♘f6 9.a3 ♙e6 10.♙a2 O-O 11.h3 ♘h7

In order to push the f7-pawn to f5.
12.g4 ♖d7 13.♘h2 d5

I didn't think she would defend the pawn on g4 even though it looked like I wanted to take it. I played 13...d5 because it's attacking the center to get more space.

14.♙xd5 ♙xd5 15.exd5 ♖xd5 16. ♖g1 ♗ad8 17.♗d2 e4

I saw here that 17.♗d2 was planning an attack; so I attacked her before she started attacking me!

18.♗d1 ♘e5

Bringing the Knight to the attack.

19.♙e2 ♘f3 20.♘xf3 exf3+ 21. ♘f1 g5 22.h4 f6 23.hxg5 fxg5

Now I am totally safe.

24.♗h1 ♖e6 25.♗g1 ♗d5 26.♗e1 ♗d7 27.♗b4

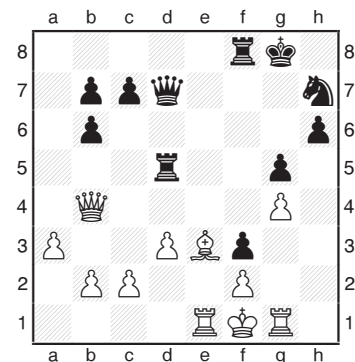


Photo by Csaba Szabo



Post-game analysis with GM Nick De Firmian. He is analyzing one of Naomi's games. Nick was always positive and very supportive to all the kids.

27... ♖xd3!

If she takes, I checkmate and win the game.

28. ♖c4+ ♗d5 29. ♗d1 ♜b5!!

This is a beautiful move because if the Queen moves I mate; if she protects her Queen with her pawn, I take her Queen, then her Rook, which is a mate.

30. ♖xd5 ♜xc4+ 31. ♗d3 ♗d8 32. ♗h1 ♖xd3 33. cxd3 ♜xd3+ 34. ♔g1 ♜b1+ 35. ♔h2 ♜xb2 36. ♗d1 ♜xa3 37. ♗d8+ ♔f8 38. ♗d1 b5 39. ♗d2 b4 40. ♗d4 b3 41. ♗b2 ♜b4 42. ♗d4 ♜e1 43. ♗d2 ♜xd2 44. ♗d4 ♜xd4 45. ♔h3 b2 46. ♔h2 b1=♜ 47. ♔g3 ♜f4+ 48. ♔h3 ♜h1 mate

This game was great and I wish all my games are like this.

São Paulo


After ten unforgettable days, it was time to leave Caldas Novas for Goiânia airport, a three-hour bus ride. Brazil's local roads and airports retain the sensible and simple approach: things are connected in a straight line on ground level—passengers walk across the tarmac to the plane and climb the stairs. It is a pleasure! Upon landing, São Paulo strikes you as the southern hemisphere's largest mega-city, with 20 million people. A great discovery: many street eateries offer empada, a small stuffed pie, and suco, a freshly-made juice/shake, optionally with milk. All-time favorites: maracujá (passion fruit) and goiaba (guava). In all these places, huge bunches of different types of fruits hang from the ceiling, just fitting your best tropical life stereotypes.

Street vendors offer boiled corn and grilled meat skewers. Forget your travel doctor's warnings and plunge right in, it's all delicious!

On Sunday, São Paulo's downtown looked abandoned, but then, on Monday, it was bustling with life and excitement. Some large central buildings from the 1920s–50s look very much like such buildings in, say, New York or Chicago. Old photographs on the hotel walls reveal a city which was a magnet for immigrants from Europe between the two world wars: safe, prosperous, energetic, well-developed. Today's Brazilians are very ethnically diverse and multiracial, representing every possible mix of genes and physical appearances, combined from many parts of the world.

São Paulo's fanciest shops have long ago moved away from the old downtown, to Avenida Paulista. Their elaborate Christmas decorations mean summertime is coming to the southern hemisphere. In

the middle of the city there is a tropical park and the tropical rain comes dutifully. OK, now all possible stereotypes have been checked and marked as fulfilled. It's time to return home. ■



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Suco natural: at least 10 fruit types here Photo by Guy Bashkansky



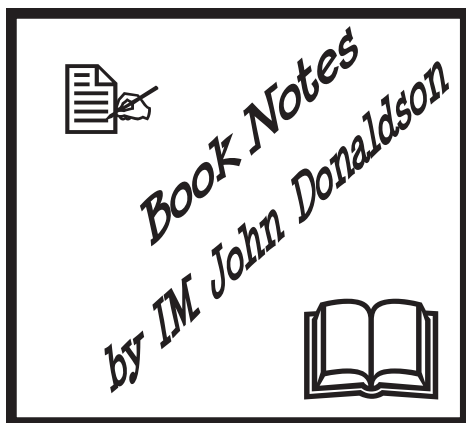
National Cathedral in Brasilia



Naomi and Marcell in Team USA gear

Photo by Guy Bashkansky

Photo by Guy Bashkansky



The Zurich Chess Club, 1809-2009 (McFarland & Company 2011, hb, 448 pp., FAN, \$55) by **Richard Forster**

The glory days of chess clubs seem to be a thing of the past. Weekend tournaments and online play have all but wiped out the brick and mortar institutions that were once the heart and soul of the game. No sadder example of this trend was the closing of the Manhattan CC in 2002, exactly 125 years after its founding. Fortunately, not all clubs have disappeared. The oldest in the United States, the Mechanics' Institute CC of San Francisco, founded in 1854, continues to thrive, but it is but a baby brother to the grand old Zurich CC, which started in 1809! Swiss IM Richard Forster marked the 200th anniversary of the club with the monumental *Schachgesellschaft Zürich: 1809 bis 2009*, a 567 page tribute to this venerable institution which has played host to so many memorable events including the classic tournament, Zurich 1961, where the young Mikhail Tal just edged out Svetozar Gligoric and 16-year-old Bobby Fischer with Paul Keres and Bent Larsen in close pursuit. To appreciate Forster's classic, knowledge of German is required, but now, thanks to McFarland & Company, an abridged, and expanded, version in English is available.

Most information of strictly local interest has been omitted, but the book also contains new material in the form of an introduction by Vladimir Kramnik and close to 30 pages on the Zurich CC's celebrations for its 200th birthday, which included such luminaries as Kramnik, Anand, Karpov, Topalov, and Judit Polgar. The superbly researched *The Zurich Chess Club, 1809-2009*, offers some-

thing for everyone, with plenty of history, around 300 games and game positions, 280 photos and 68 crosstables. As is the norm for books by Richard Forster and McFarland & Co., the contents and production standards are of the highest quality.

Recommended without reservation to all lovers of chess literature

The United States Chess Championship, 1845-2011 (McFarland & Company, Inc., 2012, hc, 286 pp., AN, \$45) by **Andrew Soltis**

The third edition of this book, unlike the first two, which were written with co-author Gene H. McCormick, is a solo effort that not only updates coverage of America's premier event, but is completely reconfigured with new material, some deletions, some expansions and some new slants.

GM Soltis, who played in four U.S. Championships, has done an invaluable service for American chess, as this reviewer is familiar only with an 80-page article by David Daniels that covers the event up to 1973. Look for a history of the U.S. Championship on Wikipedia.com or the U.S. Chess Federation website and you will find nothing beyond a list of the winners. Soltis has gone well beyond this with almost everything you could want: history, insider stories, crosstables, and well-annotated games. Only the photos are missing. This latest edition contains 53 new pages covering the period 1997-2011. During this time the Championship experienced some rocky moments before emerging stronger than ever, making the transition from U.S. Chess Federation sponsorship to private patrons.

Recommended

The Petroff: An Expert Repertoire for Black (Chess Stars 2011, pb, 292 pp., FAN, \$32.95) by **Konstantin Sakaev**

On tap is a complete repertoire for Black against 1.e4, with the Center Game, Danish Gambit, Bishops Opening, Vienna Game, King's Gambit, Scotch Four Knights and Four Knights covered in addition to the rock-solid Petroff.

The Leningrad GM, better known as a theoretician than a player, despite once being rated almost 2680, has some inter-

esting move order tricks up his sleeve. One of them is answering 1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.♘f3 (trying to get in a Scotch after 3...♘c6 4.♘xd4) with 3...♘b4+.

Your reviewer thought Petroff players met 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 with 3...♘b4 and a reversed Ruy. Sakaev analyzes this line as satisfactory, but a little too boring. He prefers 3...♘c6.

As might be expected, Sakaev spends 30 pages on the currently trendy 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♘e7 7.♘e3. He finds 7...♘c6 followed by queenside castling solid, but drawish, and 7...O-O much more interesting but also riskier.

If you are looking for a current guide to the Petroff, with up to date theory and plenty of explanation, then Sakaev is your man.

Recommended

The Slav Move by Move (Everyman Chess 2011, pb, 414 pp., FAN, \$29.95) by **Cyrus Lakdawala**

is one of the first in a new series by Everyman designed to be more user friendly.

The San Diego International Master writes:

"The book is designed to mimic a chess lesson with a question and answer format . . . some are basic; others rather sophisticated . . . The book contains various exercises featuring planning, calculation, multiple choice quizzes, combination alerts, critical decisions and yes, even homework assignments. This is an opening book designed for club-level players . . . But [it] also touches on middlegame and endgame training. I want you to get better at chess, not just the Slav!"

This book covers all lines in the Slav, typically offering two choices for Black against all of White's major tries. Against the popular 6.♘e5 (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♘f5) Lakdawala gives both the rock solid 6...♘bd7 7.♘xc4 ♘b6 8.♘e5 a5 and the slightly unusual 6...♘a6. This line has always been held to be in White's favor after 7.e3 ♘b4 8.♘xc4 e6 9.O-O, but Lakdawala and the late Tony Miles did a lot of work to revitalize this system starting with 9...♘d6!

This portion of the book contains plenty of original and stimulating ideas and analysis even for players rated over 2400.

The Slav Move by Move is a first-rate guide for those who want to learn this dependable opening.

Highly Recommended

Grandmaster versus Amateur (Quality Chess 2011, pb, 196 pages, FAN, \$29.95) by GMs Jacob Aagaard, Boris Avrukh, Pavel Eljanov, Mihail Marin, Peter Heine Nielsen, Tiger Hillarp Persson, and John Shaw.

This is not Euwe's *Chess Master vs. Chess Amateur* revisited, but something new and exciting. The back cover of this book reads:

"A multinational array of top grandmasters explains the differences in thinking between professional and amateur chess players, and how the amateur can bridge the gap. It usually takes at least a decade of sustained effort for even the most talented player to reach the grandmaster level and though this book cannot guarantee to make the reader a grandmaster, it is certainly a healthy nudge in the right direction."

This reviewer would agree. Quality Chess has assembled an excellent group of Grandmasters to describe the differences between the elite and mortals. Anyone that has witnessed the first few rounds of American Swiss tournament knows the normal state of affairs. The GM gets an edge from the opening and steadily and remorselessly increases it until the amateur cries uncle. Sometimes things are not so easy and the GM has to grind away using his superior tool set – better positional understanding and vastly superior endgame play. Once in a blue moon the amateur bites the GM and draws blood.

The seven authors in eight chapters (Aagaard wrote two) present games from different angles. Sometimes they were at the beginning of their career facing the GM, later they were in the opposite situation. Certainly advice on how to beat GMs is interesting, but far more useful for most will be the way the authors dissect typical mistakes made by amateurs. This is

very instructive stuff. By the way the amateurs are not weak players. They are often 2200- or 2300-rated, in a few cases even stronger. The mistakes they make are not obvious.

Grandmaster versus Amateur is neither the lengthiest nor the most intense offering in the Quality Chess catalogue, but, with its combination of instructive and entertaining writing, it might end up the most thoroughly read.

Highly Recommended

Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov – Part 1: 1973-1985 (Everyman Chess 2011, hb, 520 pp., FAN, \$45) by **Garry Kasparov**

This latest work is volume 10 in Kasparov's unprecedented literary effort that is now over 4500 pages! It breaks new ground and begins a detailed examination of Kasparov's career, starting with his beginnings in Baku through his unfinished first World Championship match with Karpov. Some of this territory was covered in Kasparov's classic, *The Test of Time* (1986), but that book began with 1978. This volume goes back to the early 1970s when Garry was just getting started. Ninety-two pages and 20 games cover the period before the starting point of *The Test of Time*, Minsk 1978. The earlier work concluded with the Fnal Candidates match versus Smyslov; so coverage of the first Kasparov-Karpov match is new.

All told this volume contains 100 deeply annotated games. Kasparov has done his usual exhaustive and penetrating job and, if he had confined himself to merely analyzing his games, this book would be long remembered. What makes it rise even higher is the large amount of new material on Garry's early career. His reminiscences of the "early days" make for fascinating reading, both to gain insights into how he developed, but also as to the machinations of Soviet chess in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Highly Recommended

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WCF Board Meeting 9/20/11

Present: Pres. Josh Sinanan, V.P. Duane Polich, Sec. Gary Dorfner, Treas. Robert Allen, T.C. absent, Member-at-large Dan Mathews, S.D. David Hendricks

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm. The minutes were read, amended & approved.

Officers reports:

President

Talked about the Los Angeles norm tournament. Wanted to see what all is involved in organizing & running one. Would like to have WCF do one. Discussed forming a committee with OCF to hold a scholastic side event at the US Open in Aug. 2012. Profit could be split between the WCF & OCF. Feels that WCF should co-host more tournaments with Chess4Life. Gave a report on the Seattle Sluggers team & how they are doing.

Vice President

Idaho is now a member of NWC. Discussed the WA-BC match: still working on it. Would also like to bring BC back as a member of NWC. Discussed the WA-OR match. Suggested that it could be held as a side event at the US Open, or be held at a mall. Gary said he will work on it.

Secretary

Still working on the NW Clearing House Calendar. Just updated it & sent out copies to organizers. Have included Idaho & B.C. on the calendar & the clubs list. Gave a report on Wash. G/60 Championship. Had 7 players. Made a profit of \$45.00. Still working on the archives.

Tournament Coordinator

Absent. Gary gave a Co-T.C. report. Went over tournaments list & decided which ones to keep & which ones to drop.

Financial report:

There is \$5543.58 on hand as of 9/20/11. Total amount collected for memberships is \$1600.00 & WCF will get back \$1540.00. Advertising in March, April & May issues \$225.00. Discussed the budgets for the Wash. Challengers' Cup & WA Class. Motion to approve budget made by Mr. Polich & 2nd by Mr. Dorfner, passed.

Discussed the Barber Qualifier K-8 event. IPerhaps WCF could co-host it with Chess4Life. David to talk to Elliott Neff about it. Would be a 2-day Elementary Qualifier, 2 rds. on Fri. & 3 rds. on Sat. Site & dates to be determined.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

USCF Delegates for 2012 are Josh & Duane. Alternates are Fred & Murlin.

Discussed the State Team Championship. Dan to order awards. This will be a National Chess Day event. Gary to contact Chuck At USCF & get it FIDE rated. Gary will work up a budget for it & send it to the officers.

Discussed where tournament entries should be sent. If WCF does an event then they will be sent to Eddie. If an organizer like Gary or Fred then they would go to them.

Discussed TD fee. Robert to work up a proposal & send it out to the officers for approval. Fred & Gary will be Co-TD's for the Challenger's Cup & the Class.

Discussed the insurance policy. Eddie is working on it.

Meeting adjourned around 9:30 p.m. ■

Idaho Chess News

by Jeff Roland

Twenty-nine players attended the 2011 Western Idaho Open chess tournament which was held at the Boise State University (BSU) Student Union Building, Hatch Ballroom, on December 10-11, 2011. The Tournament Director (TD) was Jeff Roland. As we had an Internet connection and the TD was also the Webmaster for the ICA website, round-by-round coverage of the event was posted soon after the start of every round, which included pairings, results, wallcharts, and even all the games of the round just completed!

Three players who were eligible to play in the Reserve elected instead to play up, in the Open Section: Nathan Jiang, Carmen Pemsler, and Kory Puderbaugh. Two players came from out of state, Clement Falbo of Joseph, OR, and Steve Merwin of Richland, WA. Four other players travelling from out of town, yet from within Idaho, were John Carr (Victor) and Adam, Desmond, and Dylan Porth (Bellevue). The rest of the players were local from the Treasure Valley.

Paul Johnson (Boise) won first place in the Open Section with four points, followed by Caleb Paul Kircher (Nampa) and Nathan Jiang (Eagle) with 3½ points each. The performance of Nathan Jiang was very impressive (he was provisionally rated at 1022, played up into the Open Section, and his USCF rating increased 491 points to end up at 1513 after these five games).

In the Reserve Section, Peter Olsoy (Boise) and Jamie Lang (Meridian) tied for first-second place at four points each, followed by Adam Porth in third place with 3½ points.

The ICA would like to thank Phil Weyland for his help in securing the play-

ing site, and to BSU and the BSU Chess Club for hosting the event. ICA also thanks Jeff Roland for directing, web posting, and for taking so many photographs throughout the event. And special thanks go to all the players for coming and playing. We trust everyone had a great time, and we look forward to seeing everyone at future ICA events.

D40 QGD Symmetrical

James McGarvey (1600)

Brett Hamilton (1904)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♗f3 c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.♗e2 a6 7.O-O dxc4 8.♗xc4 b5 9.♗e2 c4 10.a3 ♗b7 11.e4 ♗a5 12.♗g5 ♗e7 13.♗xf6 ♗xf6 14.e5 ♗e7 15.♞c2 O-O 16.♞ad1 ♗d5 17.♞d2 h6 18.♞e3 ♗b7 19.♗d2 ♞b6 20.♗de4 f5 21.exf6 ♗xf6 22.♗xf6+ ♞xf6 23.♗e4 ♗xe4 24.♞xe4 ♞c6 25.♞c2 ♞af8 26.♗f3 ♞xf3 27.gxf3 ♞xf3 28.♞c3 ♞g4+ 29.♞g3 ♞e4 30.♞fe1 ♞f5 31.♞e3 ♞f6 32.f3 ♞h3 33.♞f2 ♞xf3 34.♞g2 ♞f5 35.♞xe6 ♞g5 36.♞xg5 hxg5 37.♞xa6 ♗b3 38.♞b6 ♞d3 39.♞xd3 cxd3 40.♗f2 ♗xd4 41.♗e3 d2 42.♗xd2 ♗f3+ 43.♗d3 ♗xh2 44.♞xb5 ♗f3 45.♞b4 g4 46.♞xg4 ♗e5+ 47.♗e4 ♗xg4 48.b4 ♗f6+ 49.♗e5 g5 50.♗d4 ♗f7 51.a4 ♗e7 52.b5 g4 53.a5 ♗d7 54.♗e3 ♗c7 55.♗f4 g3 56.♗xg3 ♗e4+ 57.♗f4 ♗d6 58.b6+ ♗b7 59.♗e5 ♗c4+ Draw

D44 Semi-Slav Botvinnik

Corey Longhurst (1512)

Caleb Kircher (1781)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♗f6 4.♗f3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♗bd7 11.exf6 ♞b6 12.g3 ♗b7 13.♗g2 O-O-O 14.O-O c5 15.d5 ♗e5 16.♞e2 ♗d3 17.dxe6 ♗xg2 18.♗xg2 fxe6 19.a4 b4 20.♗e4 ♞c6 21.♗g1 ♞d4 22.f3 e5 23.h4 ♞g8 24.♗g2 a5 25.♞h1 ♞d7 26.

♞hd1 ♞f5 27.♞f1 ♗b8 28.♞ad1 ♗a7 29.g4 ♞e6 30.♗g3 ♞xg5 31.♞xd3 cxd3 32.♞d2 ♞g8 33.g5 ♞xh4 34.♞h1 ♞xh1 35.♗xh1 e4 36.♗g3 exf3+ 37.♗xf3 ♞d5+ 38.♗g4 ♗d6 39.♗f5 ♞e4+ 40.♗h5 ♞xf5 0-1

C17 French Winawer

George Lundy (1461)

John Carr (1745)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.♗b5 ♗d7 7.O-O ♗ge7 8.♗e2 cxd4 9.♗exd4 O-O 10.c3 ♗c5 11.♗e3 ♞c7 12.♗xc6 ♗xe3 13.♗xe7+ ♗h8 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.♗xd7 ♗f4 16.♞d4 ♗h6 17.♗f5 g6 18.♗c2 ♞ad8 19.♞fe1 b6 20.♞h4 ♗g7 21.♞ad1 ♞fe8 22.♗g5 h6 23.e6 1-0

D04 Queen's Pawn Game

Desmond Porth (765)

Jamie Lang (1342)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3 ♗g4 4.♗bd2 e6 5.♗d3 c5 6.b3 ♗c6 7.a3 cxd4 8.exd4 ♗xd4 9.h3 ♗xf3 10.♗xf3 ♗c6 11.♗b2 ♗c5 12.b4 ♗b6 13.♞e2 O-O 14.O-O ♞e8 15.♞ad1 a6 16.c4 d4 17.c5 ♗a7 18.♗c2 e5 19.♞fe1 ♞c7 20.♗e4 ♗xe4 21.♞xe4 ♞ad8 22.♗g5 g6 23.♞f3 f5 24.♗c1 ♗g7 25.♞b3 ♞e7 26.b5 axb5 27.♞xb5 ♗xc5 28.g3 h6 29.♗f3 ♞b8 30.♞d3 ♞f8 31.♗d2 e4 32.♞b3 e3 33.fxe3 dxe3 34.♗c4 e2+ 35.♗e3 ♗xe3+ 36.♞xe3 ♞xe3 37.♗xe3 ♞xa3 38.♞xe2 ♞a6 39.♞xa6 bxa6 40.♗d5 a5 41.♞a2 ♞a8 42.♗c7 ♞a7 43.♗b5



♖a8 44. ♘c7 ♖a7 45. ♘b5 ♖a8
 46. ♘c3 ♘b4 47. ♖a4 ♘d3 48. ♖a1
 ♘c5 49. ♘d5 a4 50. ♘b6 ♖a5 51.
 ♘c4 ♖a7 52. ♘b2 a3 53. ♘c4 a2
 54. ♘e3 ♘b3 55. ♖d1 a1=♚ 56.
 ♖xa1 ♖xa1+ 57. ♘f2 ♖a2+ 58.
 ♘f3 h5 59. ♘d5 ♖d2 60. ♘c3
 ♖d3+ 61. ♘f2 ♖xc3 62. ♘g2 g5
 63. ♘f2 f4 64. gxf4 gxf4 65. h4 f3
 66. ♘f1 ♘d2+ 67. ♘f2 ♘e4+ 68.
 ♘f1 f2 69. ♘e2 ♖h3 70. ♘f1 ♖xh4
 71. ♘g2 ♖g4+ 72. ♘f1 ♖g1+ 73.
 ♘e2 f1=♚+ 0-1

B13 Caro-Kann Exchange

Chong-Jin Ong (1695)
Carmen Pemsler (1320)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.
 ♗d3 ♘c6 5.c3 ♘f6 6. ♗f4 ♗g4 7.
 ♚b3 b6 8. ♘d2 e6 9. ♘g3 ♗d6
 10. ♗xd6 ♚xd6 11. O-O O-O 12.
 ♖fe1 ♗xf3 13. ♘xf3 ♚c7 14. h3
 ♖fe8 15. ♘e5 a6 16. ♚d1 ♘d7 17.
 ♘xd7 ♚xd7 18. ♗c2 g6 19. f4 f5 20.
 ♖e3 ♚g7 21. ♚f3 ♖e7 22. ♖ae1
 ♖ae8 23. ♚f1 b5 24. a4 ♘a7 25.
 axb5 axb5 26. b4 ♚f7 27. ♗d3 ♖b7
 28. ♚e2 ♖b6 29. ♚d2 ♘c6 30. ♚e2
 ♘a7 31. ♚f2 ♚f6 Draw

B01 Center-Counter

Nathan Jiang (1022)
Caleb Abernathy (1686)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (1) 2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♘f6 3. ♘f3 ♗g4
 4. ♗e2 ♘d5 5. O-O ♘c6 6. d4 e6
 7. ♗e3 ♚d7 8. c4 ♘b6 9. c5 ♘d5
 10. ♘c3 O-O-O 11. a3 f6 12. ♘xd5
 ♚xd5 13. b4 e5 14. dxe5 ♗xf3 15.
 ♗xf3 ♚xe5 16. ♚b3 ♘d4 17. ♗xd4
 ♚xd4 18. ♖fd1 ♚e5 19. ♖e1 ♚f5
 20. h3 h5 21. g4 ♚g5 22. ♚e6+ ♘b8
 23. ♖ad1 ♗xc5 24. bxc5 ♖xd1 25.
 ♗xd1 ♖c8 26. c6 hxg4 27. ♗xg4
 ♖d8 28. cxb7 ♘xb7 29. ♖b1+ ♘a8
 30. ♚c6 mate

B01 Center-Counter

Kurt Douglas (1763)
Paul Johnson (1983)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (2) 2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♘f6 3. d4 ♘xd5 4.
 ♘f3 g6 5. ♗e2 ♗g7 6. c4 ♘b6 7.
 ♗e3 O-O 8. O-O ♗g4 9. ♘bd2 ♘c6
 10. h3 ♗f5 11. ♘b3 ♘b4 12. ♚d2
 ♘c2 13. ♖ac1 ♘xe3 14. fxe3 c6 15.
 g4 ♗e6 16. ♘c5 ♗c8 17. e4 ♚c7
 18. ♘g2 ♖d8 19. ♘b3 e6 20. c5
 ♘d7 21. ♗d3 e5 22. ♚f2 exd4

23. ♘g5 ♘e5 24. ♗c4 ♘xc4 25.
 ♖xc4 f6 26. ♘f3 ♗e6 27. ♖xd4
 ♗xb3 28. axb3 ♚e7 29. ♚c2 ♖xd4
 30. ♘xd4 ♖e8 31. ♖e1 ♚e5 32.
 ♘f3 ♚f4 33. b4 f5 34. exf5 ♖xe1 35.
 ♘xe1 ♚xb4 36. fxg6 0-1

B23 Sicilian Alapin

Steve Merwin (2025)
Nathan Jiang (1022)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (2) 2011

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♚xd5 4. d4
 cxd4 5. cxd4 ♘f6 6. ♘c3 ♚d8 7. ♘f3
 e6 8. ♗d3 ♘c6 9. O-O a6 10. ♖e1
 ♗e7 11. ♗e3 O-O 12. ♖c1 ♘d5 13.
 ♗b1 ♗d7 14. ♘xd5 exd5 15. ♚d3
 f5 16. ♚b3 ♗c8 17. ♗f4 ♗f6 18.
 ♖c5 ♘xd4 19. ♘xd4 ♗xd4 20.
 ♖xd5 ♚f6 21. ♖xd4+ ♘h8 22. ♖d6
 ♚h4 23. ♗g3 ♚g5 24. ♚f7 ♖g8
 25. f4 ♚g4 26. ♗c2 1-0

C41 Philidor

Caleb Kircher (1781)
George Lundy (1461)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (2) 2011

1.e4 e5 2. ♗c4 d6 3. ♘f3 ♗e7 4. h3
 ♘f6 5. ♚e2 O-O 6. c3 ♗e6 7. ♗xe6
 fxe6 8. d3 ♘fd7 9. O-O ♘c6 10. b4



Photo by Jeff Roland

(l-r regardless of row): Carmen Pemsler, Brett Hamilton, Chong-Jin Ong, Jim Stark, George Lundy, Jeff Roland (TD), John Carr, Kory Puderbaugh, Jamie Lang, Caleb Abernathy, Van George, Scott Featherston, Paul Edvalson, Paul Johnson, Nathan Jiang, Corey Longhurst, Desmond Porth, Dylan Porth, Clement Falbo, Caleb Kircher, Katie Rae Patterson, Peter Olsoy, Kevin Patterson, Michael Healy, and Adam Porth just before the start of Round 5.

a6 11.♙b2 ♖g5 12.♗bd2 ♙xd2
 13.♗xd2 ♜e7 14.a4 b5 15.a5 ♜f7
 16.♗f3 ♜af8 17.♙c1 h6 18.♙e3
 ♗f6 19.♜ad1 ♗h5 20.♗xe5 ♗g3
 21.fxg3 ♜xf1+ 22.♜xf1 ♜xf1+
 23.♜xf1 ♗xe5 24.♙d4 ♗c6 25.
 ♜f2 ♜f7 26.♗f1 ♜xf2+ 27.♙xf2
 h5 28.♗e2 ♗f7 29.♗d2 d5 30.
 exd5 exd5 31.♙e3 ♗d8 32.♙f4 c6
 33.♗e3 ♗f6 34.h4 ♗f5 35.c4 ♗e6
 36.cxb5 cxb5 37.♙d6 ♗g4 38.
 ♙e5 g6 39.♙d6 ♗f5 40.d4 ♗g4
 Draw

E30 Nimzo-Indian Lenigrad

John Carr (1745)
James McGarvey (1600)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (2) 2011

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.♙g5
 c5 5.d5 exd5 6.cxd5 d6 7.e3 ♜a5
 8.♙xf6 gxf6 9.♜c2 ♙g4 10.f3
 ♙h5 11.♙d3 ♙g6 12.♗ge2 O-O
 13.O-O ♙xc3 14.♗xc3 ♗d7 15.f4
 c4 16.♙xg6 fyg6 17.♜f3 ♜fe8 18.
 ♜d1 ♗c5 19.♜g3 ♜c7 20.♗b5
 ♜e7 21.♜xc4 a6 22.♗d4 ♜ac8
 23.♜e2 ♗e4 24.♜f3 ♗c5 25.f5
 ♜e5 26.♗e6 ♗e4 27.♜d3 gxf5 28.
 ♜df1 ♗c5 29.♗xc5 ♜xc5 30.
 ♜g3+ ♗h8 31.♜xf5 ♜xb2 32.♜d4
 ♜c1+ 33.♜f1 ♜xf1+ 34.♗xf1
 ♜xd4 35.exd4 ♜c8 36.♜b3 ♜c1+
 37.♗f2 ♜c2+ 38.♗f3 ♜xa2 39.
 ♜xb7 ♜d2 40.♜b6 ♜xd4 41.♜xd6
 a5 42.♜xf6 ♜xd5 43.♜a6 ♗g7
 44.h3 ♜b5 45.♗g3 h6 46.♗f3 ♜g5
 47.g4 ♜b5 48.h4 ♜b3+ 49.♗f4
 ♜b4+ 50.♗f5 ♜b5+ 51.♗f4 Draw

A04 King's Indian Attack

Caleb Abernathy (1686)
Corey Longhurst (1512)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (2) 2011

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.g3 ♗c6 4.♙g2
 ♗f6 5.d3 g6 6.O-O ♙g7 7.c3 O-O
 8.♙g5 h6 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6 10.♗bd2
 ♙e6 11.♗b3 c4 12.♗bd4 ♗xd4
 13.♗xd4 ♙xd4 14.cxd4 cxd3 15.
 ♜xd3 d5 16.f4 dxe4 17.♜xe4 ♙f5
 18.♜e3 ♜b8 19.♜fe1 ♜e8 20.h3
 ♜d6 21.g4 ♙d7 22.♜ac1 ♜e6
 23.♜xe6 ♙xe6 24.♜c7 ♗f8 25.d5
 ♙c8 26.♗f2 a6 27.♗e3 e6 28.♗d4
 exd5 29.♜xe8+ ♗xe8 30.♙xd5

♙e6 31.♙xe6 fxe6 32.♜h7 ♜d8+
 33.♗e5 ♜d7 34.♜xh6 ♜g7 35.
 ♗xe6 ♗d8 36.♗f6 1-0

B01 Center-Counter

Chong-Jin Ong (1695)
Steve Merwin (2025)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (3) 2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♗f6 3.d4 ♙g4
 4.♙e2 ♙xe2 5.♜xe2 ♜xd5 6.♗f3
 e6 7.O-O ♗c6 8.c3 ♙d6 9.♙e3 O-
 O-O 10.♗bd2 ♜h5 11.h3 ♜hg8 12.
 ♜fe1 h6 13.♗c4 ♜f5 14.♗xd6+
 ♜xd6 15.♜ad1 g5 16.♗h2 h5 17.
 ♜f3 ♜g6 18.g4 hxg4 19.hxg4
 ♜gd8 20.♙c1 ♜h8 21.b4 ♜h6
 22.♜g2 ♗d5 23.b5 ♗ce7 24.c4
 ♗c3 25.♜d3 ♗xa2 26.♙a3 ♜d7
 27.♙xe7 ♜xe7 28.♜a3 ♗b4
 29.♜xa7 c6 30.♜g3 ♗c2 31.♜d1
 ♜h3 32.♜d6 Draw

By this point, both players had stopped recording. Several moves were made in intense time trouble. In the final position, Black had three seconds, and White under two minutes. Final position: White: Rb2 b6 c4 f2 Kf3; Black: b7 Kc6 c5 Ne6 f5 g5, and it was Black's move.

B13 Caro-Kann Exchange

Caleb Kircher (1781)
Jim Stark (1641)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (3) 2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.
 ♙d3 ♗c6 5.c3 ♗f6 6.h3 e6 7.♗f3
 ♙d6 8.O-O a6 9.♜e1 ♜c7 10.♙g5
 h6 11.♙xf6 gxf6 12.♗bd2 ♙d7 13.
 a3 O-O-O 14.c4 dxc4 15.♗xc4 ♙e7
 16.♜c1 ♗b8 17.♜e2 b5 18.♗e3
 ♜b6 19.d5 ♗d4 20.♗xd4 ♜xd4 21.
 dxe6 fxe6 22.♙b1 ♜hg8 23.♜c2
 ♜c8 24.♜e2 ♜xc1 25.♜xc1 ♜e5
 26.♜d2 ♙c8 27.♗g4 ♜g5 28.
 ♜xg5 hxg5 29.♙a2 ♜d8 30.♗e3
 ♜d2 31.♜c2 Draw

B14 Caro-Kann Panov-Botvinnik

Steve Merwin (2025)
Paul Johnson (1983)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (4) 2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♗f6 3.c4 c6 4.d4
 cxd5 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗f3 ♙b4 7.a3
 ♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♜a5 9.♙d2 O-O 10.
 ♙d3 dxc4 11.♙xc4 ♗e4 12.O-O

♗c6 13.♜e1 ♗xd2 14.♜xd2 ♜h5
 15.♗e5 ♜d8 16.♜f4 ♗xe5 17.
 ♜xe5 ♜h6 18.♜xh6 gxh6 19.
 ♜ae1 ♙d7 20.♜1e3 ♜ac8 21.
 ♜g3+ ♗h8 22.♙e2 ♙c6 23.f4
 ♜g8 24.♜xg8+ ♗xg8 25.♜c5 b6
 26.♜c4 ♙b7 27.♜xc8+ ♙xc8 28.
 ♙f3 ♙a6 29.♗f2 ♗g7 30.♗e3
 ♙c4 31.g3 ♙d5 32.♙e2 f5 33.c4
 ♙b7 34.♙d3 ♗f6 35.h4 ♙g2 36.
 ♙e2 ♙b7 37.♗d3 ♗e7 38.♗c3
 ♗d6 39.♙h5 a5 40.♙f7 ♗e7 41.
 ♙g8 ♗f6 42.c5 bxc5 43.dxc5 ♙d5
 44.♙xh7 ♗g7 45.♙xf5 exf5 46.♗d4
 ♙f3 47.♗e5 0-1

At this point, both players had stopped recording due to time pressure. Energetic play by both sides ensued, with both sides queening, and then suddenly, Black emerged with a Q+P vs.Q ending. With 1 second on his clock for a few more moves, White eventually lost on time. A very exciting game.

A04 King's Indian Attack

Caleb Abernathy (1686)
Caleb Kircher (1781)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (4) 2011

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.g3 c5 3.♙g2 d5 4.d3
 ♗c6 5.O-O ♙g4 6.♗bd2 e6 7.♜e1
 ♙e7 8.e4 ♜c7 9.♜e2 ♗d4 10.♜d1
 O-O-O 11.c3 ♗xf3+ 12.♙xf3 ♙xf3
 13.♜xf3 dxe4 14.♗xe4 ♜c6 15.
 ♗g2 ♜d5 16.♙e3 ♜xd3 17.♙xc5
 ♜xf3+ 18.♗xf3 ♙xc5 19.♗xc5
 ♜d2 20.b3 ♜hd8 21.♜e2 b6 22.
 ♗a4 ♜2d5 23.♗b2 ♗b7 24.♗c4
 ♜d3+ 25.♜e3 ♜8d5 26.♗e2
 ♜xe3+ 27.♗xe3 ♜d7 28.♜d1
 ♜xd1 29.♗xd1 ♗c6 30.f3 ♗d5
 31.♗d3 a5 32.♗e3 ♗xe3 33.
 ♗xe3 b5 34.♗d4 ♗d6 35.f4 f6 36.
 b4 axb4 37.cxb4 e5+ 38.♗e4 exf4
 39.gxf4 g6 40.h4 h6 41.a3 g5 42.h5
 g4 0-1

B12 Caro-Kann Advance

George Lundy (1461)
Jim Stark (1641)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (4) 2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♙f5 4.♙d3
 ♙xd3 5.♜xd3 e6 6.f4 ♗d7 7.♗f3
 c5 8.c3 ♗e7 9.♗a3 a6 10.♗c2 c4
 11.♜e2 ♜b6 12.O-O O-O-O 13.
 ♗a3 h6 14.♙e3 ♗b8 15.♜fb1 ♜c8

16.b4 ♖f5 17.♗c2 ♗xe3 18.♗xe3
 ♖d8 19.a4 b6 20.f5 ♖c7 21.♖c2
 ♗e7 22.♖a2 ♖d8 23.g3 ♗g5 24.
 ♗g2 ♗e7 25.♗e3 ♗g5 26.♗g2
 Draw

A03 Bird's Opening

Clement Falbo (1500)

James McGarvey (1600)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (4) 2011

1.f4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.e3 ♗f6 4.♗e2
 d5 5.O-O ♗g4 6.♗c3 e6 7.d3 ♗e7
 8.♗e5 ♗xe2 9.♖xe2 ♖c8 10.
 ♗xc6 ♖xc6 11.b3 O-O 12.♗b2 a6
 13.♖ad1 ♖c7 14.♖f3 b5 15.♗e2
 ♖d8 16.c4 ♖d6 17.♗c3 bxc4 18.
 dxc4 ♖a8 19.♖fe1 ♖fd8 20.♗a4
 ♗e4 21.♗e5 ♖c6 22.♗c3 ♗f6
 23.♗xf6 ♗xf6 24.cxd5 exd5 25.
 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 26.♖xd5 ♖cc8 27.
 ♖ed1 ♖e8 28.e4 f6 29.♖d3 ♖c6
 30.♖c4 ♗f8 31.♖d7 ♖e6 32.♖xe6
 ♖xe6 33.♖e1 ♖ce8 34.♖c7 ♖xe4
 35.♖xe4 ♖xe4 36.♖xc5 ♖e2
 37.♖a5 ♖b2 38.h3 ♗f7 39.♖xa6
 ♗g6 40.♖a5 f5 41.♗h2 h5 42.
 ♖a6+ ♗h7 43.♗g3 g6 44.♗f3 ♖c2
 45.b4 h4 46.b5 ♖c3+ 47.♗f2 ♖c2+
 48.♗g1 ♖b2 49.b6 ♗h6 50.a4 ♖b4
 51.a5 ♖xf4 52.b7 ♖b4 53.♖b6 1-0

D02 Queen's Pawn Game

Paul Johnson (1983)

Caleb Kircher (1781)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (5) 2011

1.d4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.g3 ♗f5 4.
 ♗g2 e6 5.O-O ♗e7 6.c4 c6 7.♗c3
 O-O 8.♖b3 ♖b6 9.♖xb6 axb6
 10.♗d2 ♗b4 11.f3 ♗xc3 12.bxc3
 ♗bd7 13.e4 dxe4 14.fxe4 ♗g6 15.
 e5 ♗e8 16.a4 ♗c7 17.♗e4 ♗xe4
 18.♗xe4 ♖a7 19.♗e3 ♖fa8 20.
 ♗c2 b5 21.cxb5 ♗d5 22.♗d2 cxb5
 23.♖fb1 bxa4 24.c4 ♗e7 25.♗e4
 f5 26.exf6 ♗xf6 27.♗xb7 ♖b8 28.
 ♗f3 ♖xb1+ 29.♖xb1 ♗f7 30.♖a1
 a3 31.♗b4 Draw

C96 Ruy Lopez Chigorin

Corey Longhurst (1512)

Brett Hamilton (1904)

Boise, Western Idaho Open (5) 2011

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.
 ♗a4 ♗f6 5.O-O b5 6.♗b3 ♗e7 7.
 ♖e1 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 ♗a5 10.



Round 5 on Board 1: Paul Johnson concentrates on his next move versus Caleb Kircher

♗c2 c5 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 ♖c7
 13.d5 ♗d7 14.♗bd2 ♖ac8 15. ♗b3
 ♗xb3 16.♗xb3 ♖c2 17.♖xc2 ♖xc2
 18.♖b1 ♗d8 19.♗a1 ♖c4 20.♗d2
 ♖c8 21.♗f1 ♗b6 22.♗g3 ♖c4
 23.♗g5 ♖fc8 24.♖bc1 ♗d4 25.♖b1
 h6 26.♗xf6 gxf6 27.♗h5 ♖8c7 28.
 ♗xf6+ ♗g7 29.♗h5+ ♗g6 30.♗g3
 h5 31.♗e2 ♗b6 32.♗g3 h4 33.♗f1
 ♗a5 34.b3 ♖d4 35.♖e3 f5 36.f3
 ♗b6 37.♖ee1 fxe4 38.♗h2 ♖xd5+
 39.♗h1 e3 40.a4 ♗f5 41. ♖b2 ♖d2
 42.♖xd2 exd2 0-1

B33 Sicilian

Jamie Lang (1342)

Peter Olsoy

Boise, Western Idaho Open (5) 2011

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4
 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d5 6.exd5 ♗xd5 7.♗db5
 e6 8.♗xd5 exd5 9.♖xd5 ♗e6
 10.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 11.♗f4 a6 12.♗c7
 ♖c8 13.♗xe6+ fxe6 14. ♖d1+ ♗e8
 15.c3 e5 16.♗e3 ♗e7 17.g3 ♖f8 18.
 ♗g2 b5 19.O-O ♗a5 20.♖d3 ♖d8
 21.♗d5 ♗c4 22.b3 ♗xe3 23.fxe3
 ♖xf1+ 24.♗xf1 ♗c5 25.♗e2 ♗e7
 26.c4 b4 27.♖d1 ♖f8 28.♗b7 ♖d8
 29.♖d5 ♖xd5 30. cxd5 a5 31.♗d3
 ♗d6 32.e4 g5 33.g4 ♗b6 34.♗c8
 ♗c5 35.♗f5 h6 Draw

Idaho Chess Association

Upcoming Tournaments

Idaho Closed

Boise, ID February 18-20, 2012

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6th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$5,000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Easter, April 6-9; Victoria BC

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Round Times: 6:00pm, Noon-6:00pm, Noon-6:00pm, 10:00am

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Sections: Open (FIDE and CFC rated); U1800 (CFC rated)

Entry Fees: C\$75 by Feb. 24, C\$85 by Mar. 30, C\$95 on site. Discount C\$20 for U1400 or unrated. Add C\$20 if U1700 AND playing up a section. Family discounts available.

Prizes: C\$5,000 guaranteed.

Registration: online at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Junior Chess Society. Mail to Brian Raymer, 2386 Dalhousie St., Victoria, BC V8R 2H6

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APR12CHESS") See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

49th Annual Canadian Open

C\$15,000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

July 8-13; Victoria BC

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Rounds: 11-6; 11-6; 11-6; 6:00pm; 6:00pm; 6:00pm

Time Control: Game in 120 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Sections: Premier (FIDE and CFC rated); U2000 (CFC rated), U1600 (CFC rated)

Entry Fees: C\$175 by June 1, C\$195 by June 29, C\$215 on site. C\$20 to play up a section.

Prizes: C\$15,000 guaranteed.

Play a GM!: 1st round games against GMs for sale. See website for details.

Registration: online on website; by cheque payable to Victoria Chess c/o Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria BC V8Y 1C6. by email: cochess2012@gmail.com

Transportation: Seattle Clipper and Coho ferry from Port Angeles dock across the street.

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$139 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "JUL12CHESS") See www.monroi.com/2012-cocc-home for further details and side events.

Northwest in Southern California

by NM Steven Breckenridge

From November 24th through 27th, the 47th Annual American Open was held at the luxurious Double-Tree Hotel in Orange (Anaheim), California. The main event had a total of 260 people, with 28 in the Open section, including three GMs, two of which I played, four IMs, seven FMs, and about seven NMs, three of whom were over 2300. The eight-round Swiss was played with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 in the four-day schedule. GM Melikset Khachiyan, whom I played the first round, was the only GM in the long schedule. The other two, Varuzhan Akobian and Josh Friedel, both entered in the three-day schedule, which consisted of four G/60s on the first day followed by a merge in the fifth round.

After losing to GM Khachiyan, I spotted another NW player who was watching my games, but hadn't entered the tournament! All the way down from Seattle, came two-time WA State Champion Howard Chen. He watched the entire tournament, but played only in the Blitz side event. I was a little surprised to not see him play the main event, but he said he was just there on a Disneyland vacation with his family and came to watch the games, since he was staying close by.

C55 Two Knights' Defense

GM Melikset Khachiyan (2550)
NM Steven Breckenridge (2290)
Los Angeles, American Open (1) 2011

Annotations by NM Steven Breckenridge
 1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.d3
 ♗e7 5.O-O O-O 6.♞e1 d6 7.c3 h6

7...♘a5 8.♗b5 a6 9.♗a4 b5 10.♗c2
 c5 11.♘bd2 is the main line.

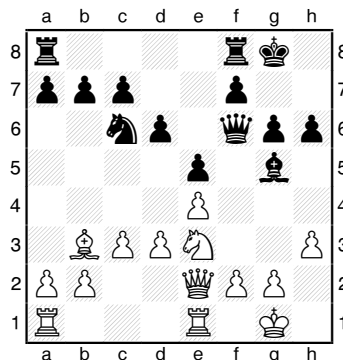
8.♘bd2 ♘h7 9.♗b3 ♘g5 10.♘f1
 ♗g4 11.♗xg5 ♗xg5 12.h3 ♗xf3

Both 12...♗d7 and 12...♗h5 are good, though I wanted more pieces off the board.

13.♞xf3 ♞f6 14.♞e2 g6

I also considered 14...♘d8.

15.♘e3



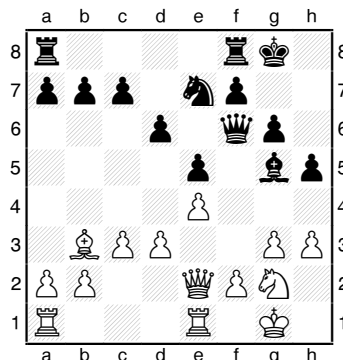
15...♘e7

Melikset thinks I should have taken the Knight. He'd have taken back with the f-pawn to pile up on f7. I thought I'd have enough defense. Taking back with the Queen may be slightly better for him, but nearly equal.

16.g3 h5

Again, he suggested ...♗xe3, but now fxe3 would be a lot stronger, as I'd blocked my Queen out with ...♘e7.

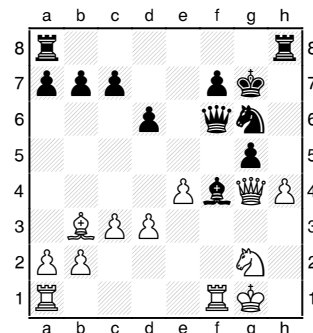
17.♘g2



17...♗h6

My opponent felt that 17...♗h6 was unnecessary. If White prepares f2-f4 by ♞f1, then we'd transpose to the game. However, I calculated that if I accepted the pawn sacrifice on the immediate f2-f4, he would be better, e.g., 17...♗g7 18.f4 exf4 19.gxf4 ♗xf4 20.♞f1 g5 21.♞xh5 (21.h4 ♘g6 22.♞xh5 ♞h8 23.hxg5 transposes) 21...♞h8 (21...♘g6?! 22.h4 ♞h8 23.hxg5 ♗e3+! 24.♘xe3 ♞xf1+

25.♞xf1 ♞xh5 26.♞xf7+ ♗h8 27.♞xc7
 ♞xg5+∞) 22.♞g4 (22.♘xf4!? gxf4 23.
 ♞g4+ ♘g6) 22...♘g6 23.h4



and here Melikset said just 23...♞xh4?! (I suppose I could force a repetition by 23...♘e5 24.♞e2 ♘g6 25.♞g4 ♘e5) 24.♘xh4 ♘xh4 25.♞ae1 ♞h8 26.♞f2. It looks a little unclear, but I guess this is playable for Black.

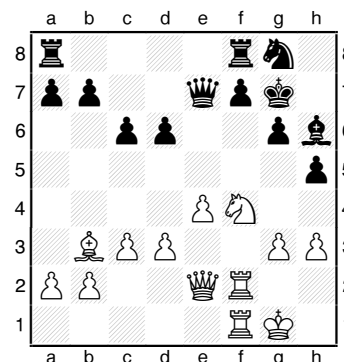
18.♞f1 ♗g7

18...c6 (18...♞ae8) 19.f4 a5 20.a4
 exf4 21.♘xf4 ♞g5 was probably a better idea.

19.f4 ♘g8 20.♞f2

Probably 20.♞f3 is a little stronger to get ♞f2 in.

20...♞e7 21.♞af1 exf4 22.♘xf4 c6

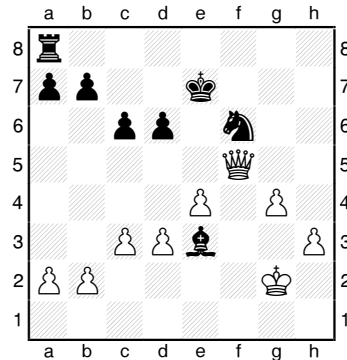


Taking on f4 would afford White an easy middle game, i.e., 22...♗xf4 23.♞xf4± (23.gxf4±). I thought 23.♘g2 would be best; so I was pleased with the ensuing two-pieces-and-Rook-vs.-Queen-and-pawns endgame.

23.♘xh5+ gxh5 24.♞xf7+ ♞xf7 25.
 ♞xf7+ ♞xf7 26.♗xf7 ♗xf7 27.
 ♞xh5+ ♗e7 28.g4

28. ♖g2 is much stronger.

28... ♗e3+ 29. ♖g2 ♜f6 30. ♖f5



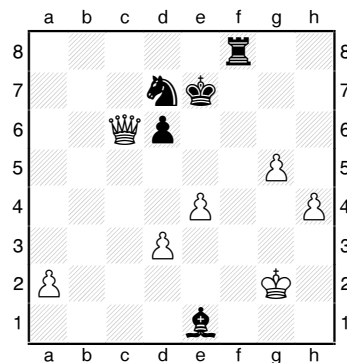
30... ♖e8

After 30... ♖h8! 31.d4 (Not 31.e5 ♜d5, as the Knight will land on f4, leaving Black close to equality.) 31... ♜d7 32.e5 dxe5 33.dxe5 ♖f8 34. ♖d3 ♗f4 35. ♖d6+ ♗d8 36. ♖b4 b6, White has some ways to go before winning. Bad for Black are 30... ♖f8? 31.e5 ♜d7 32. ♖h7+ ♗d8 [32... ♗e6 33. ♖g6+ ♗e7 (33... ♗xe5 34. ♖e4+) 34.exd6+] and 30... ♜d7? 31. ♖h7+.

31.h4 ♜d7 32.g5 ♗c1 33. ♖f2?

I expected 33. ♖h7+ ♗d8 34.g6 ♗xb2 35.h5 ♗xc3 36.h6, when his pawns are too fast. White can probably force the sacrifice of a piece for only one pawn. Also good is 33.h5.

33... ♖f8 34. ♖xa7 ♗xb2 35. ♖xb7 ♗xc3 36. ♖xc6 ♗e1!



37.e5!!

I totally missed this! A great find by the GM. If he did anything else, I might be able to recover my position, e.g., 37.d4 ♗xh4 38.e5! dxe5 39.dxe5, when I must determine the most effective way to sacrifice my Bishop, either 39... ♗xg5 40. ♖d6+ ♗e8 41.g6 or 39... ♜xe5 40. ♖e4.

37... dxe5

37... ♜xe5 may have been better, but his Queen is so well placed on e4 after 38. ♖e4 ♗d2 39.d4 ♖f4 40. ♖h7+ ♖f7 41. ♖c2 ♜f3 42. ♗g3 ♖f4 43.g6 that it seems he's about finished me.

38. ♖e4 ♗c3 39.h5 ♖f4 40. ♖h7+ ♖f7 41. ♖g8 ♖f8 42. ♖g6 ♜c5 43. h6

I expected 43. ♖c6 ♗d4 44.g6 ♜e6 45.h6 ♜f4+, hoping for a perpetual, as 46. ♗g3 ♜e2+ 47. ♗g4 ♖f4+ 48. ♗h5 ♖f5+ 49. ♗g4 ♖f4+ 50. ♗g5 ♗e3 51. ♖c7+ doesn't look too appealing for White.

43... ♜e6 44. ♖h7+ ♖f7 45. ♖g8 ♖f8??

I moved way too fast, thinking he would have to play 46. ♖h7+ and then go to e4. I should have played 45... ♖f5 46.g6 ♜f4+ 47. ♗g3 ♖g5+ 48. ♗f3 ♜xg6 49.h7 e4+ 50. ♗xe4 ♖e5+ 51. ♗f3 ♖e6 and I might have held the draw, e.g., 52.a4 ♜e5+ 53. ♗g2 ♜f7.

46.h7 e4 47.dxe4 ♗g7 48.a4 1-0

At the halfway point GMs Akobian and Khachiyan led with 3.5/4. I, having beaten two FMs and a WFM, was in a tie for third-sixth on three points with GM Friedel, IM Larry Remingler, and FM Eduardo Ortiz.

C84 Ruy Lopez Anderssen

NM Steven Breckenridge (2290)

FM Harutyun Akopyan (2351)

Los Angeles, American Open (2) 2011

Annotations by NM Steven Breckenridge

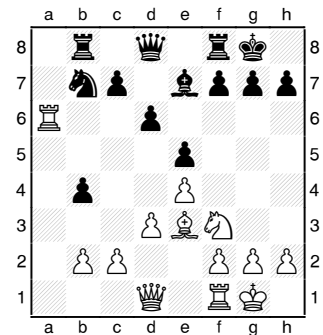
1.e4 e5 2. ♜f3 ♜c6 3. ♗b5 a6 4. ♗a4 ♜f6 5.O-O ♗e7 6.d3

I used to play a lot of mainline Ruy Lopez with h2-h3 to avoid the Marshall Attack. Occasionally, I allowed the Marshall, but played 9.d4. And if opponents chose the mainline Closed Ruy with d7-d6 immediately, I would continue with d3 to avoid theory, i.e., 6. ♖e1 b5 7. ♗b3 O-O 8.h3 (8.c3 d5 9.d4) 8...d6 9.c3 ♜a5 10. ♗c2 c5 11.d3.

6...b5 7. ♗b3 d6 8.a4 b4

I had just played a game against Brian Esler in the Portland Fall open that went 8... ♗b7 9. ♜c3 b4 10. ♜d5 ♜xd5

11. ♗xd5 O-O, where I blundered with 12.a5? and he didn't take the pawn immediately! The game continued 12... ♖b8 (12... ♜xa5 13. ♖xa5 c6 14. ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 15. ♖a1) 13. ♗e3 ♜xa5 (but now I don't have to take on a5) 14. ♗xb7 ♜xb7 15. ♖xa6.



It was a pretty exciting game, which ended in a draw, though it got extremely tactical, with many crazy lines.

9.a5

This is still theory.

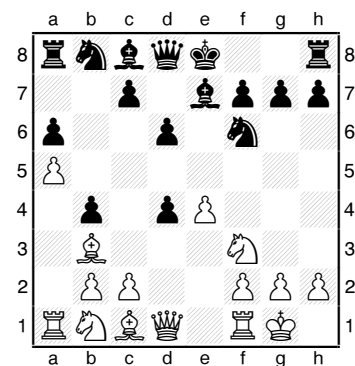
9... ♜b8!?

The line goes 9...O-O 10. ♜bd2 ♗e6 11. ♗c4 (11. ♜c4 ♜d7 12. ♗e3).

10.d4?!

An alternative was 10. ♗e3 c5 11. ♜bd2 ♜c6 12. ♜c4 O-O 13. ♖b1 (or perhaps 13. ♜b6 ♖b8 14. ♜xc8 ♖xc8 15. ♗c4 ♖a8, giving up a pawn for the Bishop pair.

10...exd4



11.c3?!

I wanted to make chess a little interesting. My original idea was 11. ♜xd4 c5 12. ♗a4+ ♗d7 13. ♜f5 O-O 14. ♗xd7 (14. ♗f4 ♗xf5 15.exf5) 14... ♖xd7 15. ♗f4 ♖e8 16. ♜xe7+ ♖xe7 17. ♖e1. I also considered 11. ♖xd4 c5 12. ♖d3 (12. ♖e3 ♜c6 13. ♖d1 ♖c7 14. ♜bd2 ♜xa5

15. ♔a4+ ♕d7 16.e5 dxe5 17. ♖xe5 looked like too much to calculate) 12... ♗c6 13. ♔a4 ♕b7 (13... ♔d7 14. ♔f4±) 14.e5 dxe5 15. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 16. ♗xe5 ♗c8 17. ♗e1 ♖f8 18. ♗c4 and here I'm probably a little better.

11... dxc3 12. bxc3 bxc3

I definitely thought that allowing me to take on b4 was better, e.g., 12... O-O 13. cxb4 ♗c6 followed by ... ♗b8 or ... ♗xb4.

13. ♗xc3

Now, I'm a little happier. I have a lot of space and kingside play versus his lack of development.

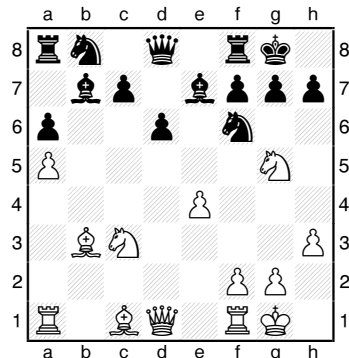
13... O-O 14. h3

A quiet, positional move.

14... ♕b7

A small mistake of which I took advantage.

15. ♗g5!



Threatening ♗xf7.

15... ♕c6

I had planned for 15... ♕c8 16. ♗d5! (The computer likes 16.e5! dxe5 17. ♖xd8 ♕xd8 18. ♔a3 h6 19. ♔xf8 hxg5 20. ♗fd1 ♗c6 21. ♕c5 ♕f5 22. g4, winning.) and then if 16... ♗xd5? 17. ♖xd5 c6 18. ♗xf7!, I calculated that the only way to avoid losing the Exchange was 18... ♖e8 19. ♗xd6+ cxd5 20. ♔xd5+ ♖h8 21. ♗xe8 ♗a7 22. ♕e3 ♗d7 23. ♗ab1, which should be pretty easily won. 15... ♖e8 is best.

16. ♗e1

I missed 16.e5 dxe5 17. ♖xd8 ♕xd8 18. ♔a3 with an edge, e.g., 18... ♗h5 19. ♔xf8 ♔xg5 20. ♔a3±.

16... h6 17. ♗f3 ♗h7?

He needed to play 17... ♗bd7 18. ♗d4 ♕b7 19. ♗f5 ♗b8 20. ♗b1 ♗e5 21. f4 ♗g6 22. ♖c2 ♖d7, which the computer gives as equal.

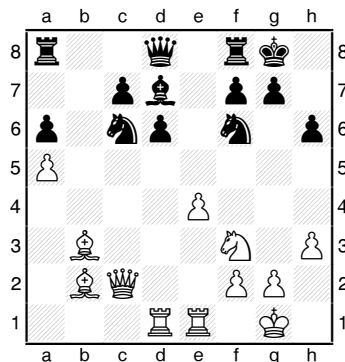
18. ♕b2 ♕d7

Again, 18... ♗d7 was necessary, e.g., 19. ♗d4 ♕b7 20. ♗f5 ♕f6 21. ♖g4 ♖h8. 19. ♗d5 ♗c6 20. ♖c2!

Intending ♗ad1 and e4-e5. I considered 20. ♔a4 ♗b8 21. ♖c2, but wanted to play ♗d1 sooner.

20... ♕f6 21. ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 22. ♗ad1!

22.e5 dxe5 23. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 24. ♗xe5 ♗b8 25. ♗e3 is also promising.



22... ♗b8

22... ♗xa5 23. e5 dxe5 (23... ♗e8 24. ♕a2±; 23... ♗xb3 24. exf6 ♗c5 25. fxg7 ♗e8 26. ♖d2 ♖h7 27. ♗xe8 ♖xe8 28. ♗e1 with ♖f4! coming, as 28... ♗e4 29. g8=♖ loses a piece) 24. ♗xe5 ♗xb3 25. ♗c6! (winning the Queen) 25... ♗d4! (25... ♖e8 26. ♗xe8 ♗fxe8 27. ♔xf6 ♕xc6 28. ♖xc6 gxf6 29. ♗d3 and White wins) 26. ♗xd4 ♗e8 27. ♗xd8 ♗xe1+ 28. ♖h2 ♗xd8 29. ♗d3 (29. ♖xc7? ♗c8) 29... ♗e8 30. ♔xg7!, winning.

23. e5 ♗e8 24. exd6 ♗xd6 25. ♕c3

I took advantage of his extreme time pressure, he had about five minutes to make fifteen moves, by playing more positionally, avoiding trades, and keeping control of diagonals.

25... ♗e7

A small mistake.

26. ♗e5 ♕f5 27. ♖a2 ♕g6 28. ♕c4 ♖h7?

He was down to two minutes. Not much better was 28... ♖c8 29. ♗xf7! ♕xf7 (29... ♗xf7 30. ♗xe7 ♗xc4 31.

♖xc4 ♖f5 32. ♗xf7 ♕xf7 33. ♖xa6) 30. ♔xf7+ ♗xf7 31. ♗xe7 ♖f5 32. ♗xc7 ♗b5 33. ♗xf7 ♖xf7 34. ♖b2, winning.

29. ♔xa6 ♗a8 30. ♕b7 ♗b8 31. a6 ♗ef5??

Getting close to 30 seconds.

32. ♗c6 ♖g5 33. ♕d2 ♖h5 34. ♗xb8 ♗xb7 35. a7 1-0

After the schedule merger, it was time for me to play Friedel, my second GM of the tournament, though I am very humbled by how brilliantly he played.

C60 Ruy Lopez Cozio

GM Josh Friedel (2584)

NM Steven Breckenridge (2290)

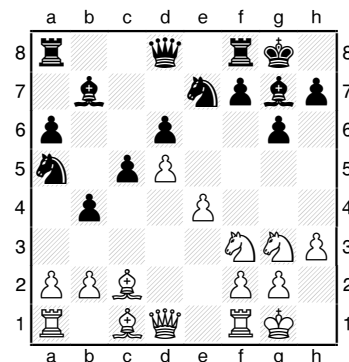
Los Angeles, American Open (5) 2011

Annotations by NM Steven Breckenridge

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. ♕b5 a6 4. ♕a4 ♗ge7 5. c3 g6 6. O-O ♕g7 7. d4 exd4 8. cxd4 b5 9. ♕b3 d6 10. h3 O-O 11. ♗c3 ♗a5 12. ♕c2 b4 13. ♗e2 ♕b7 14. ♗g3

My game against IM Jack Peters a few tournaments ago went 14. ♕f4 f5?! (14... ♗c8 15. ♗b1 c5 16. b3 ♗ec6 17. d5 ♗a7) 15. ♗g5 ♖d7 (Better is 15... fxe4 16. ♗e6 ♖d7 17. ♗xf8 ♗xf8, when Black has lots of compensation for the Exchange, with great squares for his pieces.) 16. d5 and he went on to win.

14... c5 15. d5



Theory has ended and I'm on my own. I played probably one of the worst ideas, though it seemed strong.

15... ♗c8

Heading for b5 to prevent b2-b3, but removing a defender from the kingside. 15... ♗c4 16. ♗b1 ♖c7 was a better idea, e.g., 17. ♕d3 ♗e5 18. ♗xe5 ♕xe5.

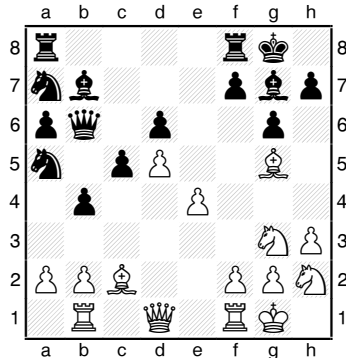
16. ♗b1 ♗a7

16...♖c4 17.♗d3 ♘8b6 18.♞e2 ♗e5 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 was probably the best idea.

17.♗g5! ♞b6

All my pieces are on the queenside; so it's time to activate White's last piece.

18.♗h2!



18...h6?

My most costly move. Again, 18...♗c4 was indicated: 19.♗g4 f6 (19...♗xb2 20.♞f3 ♗c4 21.♗f6+ ♗xf6 22.♗xf6 ♗e5 23.♞e3 ♗d7 24.♗h5 ♗xf6 25.♗xf6+ ♗g7 26.♗d7 ♞c7 27.♗xf8 ♞xf8±) 20.♗c1 ♗b5.

19.♗c1 ♗b5

19...♗c8 20.♗g4 ♗xg4 21.hxg4

20.♗g4 ♗h7 21.♗h5!

I'm already finished!

21...♞h8

21...♗c8 is the only move, but it's pretty easy, e.g., 22.♗xg7 ♗xg4 23.♞xg4 ♗xg7 and maybe I can hold on a little longer.

22.♞f3!

He saw it.

22...♞c7

22...♗g8 23.♗hf6+ ♗xf6 24.♞xf6 ♞d8 25.♗xh6 ♞h7 26.♞f4 ♞xh6 27.♗xh6+ ♗g7 28.♗xf7 ♞f8 29.♗g5 ♞xf4 30.♗e6+ ♗f6 31.♗xf4 ♗d4 32.♗a4, winning.

23.♗xh6!

The most accurate.

23...gxf5

And here is the sweet mate-in-four we've all been waiting for!

24.♗f6+

Also 24.♞f6 ♞hg8 25.e5+ ♗h8 26.♞f5.

24...♗xf6

24...♗xh6 25.♞xh5 mate; 24...♗g6 25.♞f5+ (25.♞xh5+ ♗xf6 26.♞g5 mate) 25...♗xh6 26.♞xh5 mate

25.e5+ 1-0

Another nice mate in two is 25.♞xf6 ♞hg8 26.e5+ ♞g6 27.♞g7 mate.

Blitz

The American Open Blitz Side-event took place after Round Six. I had just finished losing to FM John Bryant and was pretty tired from the three days of two rounds a day, but played since I was preregistered. A total of 49 players entered, four of whom were FMs, including our good friend, Howard Chen, as well as a couple other masters. The top rated, was FM Robby Adamson who is BLITZMASTER(FM) on the Internet Chess Club with a 3200 blitz rating (2600 for five-minute). The tournament was a five round double-Swiss. After the sixth round, there were only four perfect scores, including Adamson and me. Adamson and I both won; so we faced off in the last round. I had White in the first game and we drew a long Queen-and-pawn ending. In the second game,

he gained an advantage, but I won the Exchange for a pawn. However, I had to sack my Rook for a passed pawn. After that, it was pretty easily drawn, with my two pawns and a Rook to his Knight and Rook. With about 10 seconds left, I moved my King to the worst possible square, allowing a fork which won my Rook and the game. Adamson commented, "[O]n ICC, five seconds is 50 premoves, but, over the board, it's really about five if you're very fast." So, congratulations to FM Robby Adamson—first place, 9.5/10, winning \$300. And I won \$100 for clear second.

Back to the Main Event

In first place, with a score of 7/8! was Akobian, who defeated one GM, two IMs, and three FMs, while drawing only GM Friedel, and IM Enrico Sevillano, a short last round draw. Clear second was Friedel with six points, giving up draws to two GMs and two IMs. IMs Sevillano and Zhanibek Amanov came third-fourth on 5.5. I finished on 4.5, taking the \$300 U2300 prize.

I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I want to thank my grandpa who let me stay with him down in California and encouraged me throughout the tournament. ■

State Championship Time!

Feb. 18-20, **Idaho State Championship.** *Format:* 6SS, open to Idaho residents only. *Time Controls:* 30/120 and SD/60 with 5 second delay throughout. *Rounds:* 9-4, 10-4:30, 8-3. *Prizes:* Trophies or plaques – 1-2-3, X, A, Woman, Junior, Senior, UNR, 1-2 B, 1-2 C, 1-2 D, 1-2 E & Below. *Entry Fee:* \$35 if rec'd by 2/14; \$30 for seniors (60+) and juniors (U18) if rec'd by 2/14; \$50 for all after 2/14 (all EFs include \$10 ICA memb.). A Premium ICA memb., which includes *Northwest Chess*, is available for an additional \$15. *Check-in and Registration:* 7:30-8:30am, Sat., Feb. 18. E-mail entries to rooknjay@yahoo.com rec'd by 2/14 will lock in advance entry fee. *Location:* AmeriTel Inn (Boise Towne Square), 7965 W Emerald Street, Boise ID 83704. *Hotel Rate:* \$70, mention chess (208-378-7000).

Feb. 11-12 and 18-20, **Oregon State Championship.** *Format:* 10-player, invitational Round-Robin. *Time controls:* 40/120 and SD/60 with 5 second delay throughout. *Rounds:* 10-5 each day and 10:00am on Mon., Feb. 20. *Prize Fund:* \$3350. *Prizes:* \$200-100-50. Players need to send a \$50 DEPOSIT which will be returned after completion of all rounds. Contact dandtwezt@msn.com

Feb. 11-12 and 18-20, **Washington State Championship, Premier, and Invitational.** *Format:* three 10-player, invitational Round-Robins. *Time controls:* 40/120 and SD/60 with 5 second delay throughout. *Rounds:* 10-5 each day, except 3:00pm on Mon., Feb. 20. *Prize Fund:* \$2,800. *Prizes:* Championship \$600-400-300-200-100; Premier \$410-310-250-150-80; Invitational: based on donations. Best game-Championship, \$200; Premier, \$100. Must annotate one game to receive prize. *Location:* Seattle CC. Must have met activity requirements to play in event. Sign up online (see *NWC* homepage) by clicking confirm or decline. Drawing of player numbers 7:00pm, Fri., Feb 3, at Northgate Mall.

Harley Greninger Wins Washington Challengers' Cup

The Washington Challengers' Cup was held at the Seattle Chess Club on the weekend of October 29-30, 2011. The four-round Challengers Section attracted 25 players, while 20 played in the Reserve. Huso Hadzic, LM Viktors Pupols, and NM Joshua Sinanan tied for second at 3.5/4. In the Reserve, Joshua Doknjas of B.C. came first on 4.5/5, while Matt Nill was clear second with four points.

Going into the final round, four players were tied for first. FM David Bragg and I paired up, while LM Viktors Pupols was paired against Huso Hadzic. When I think of David, I'm reminded of a dialogue between Capablanca and Tartakower. "You lack solidity," Capablanca admonished. Tartakover quickly replied, "That is my saving grace!" David doesn't always play correctly, but he is one of the most creative thinkers in the state.—HG

D01 Queen's Pawn Game

FM David Bragg (2200)

Harley Greninger (2198)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (4) 2011

Annotations by NM Harley Greninger

1.d4 d5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♙g5 ♙f5 4.f3 ♘bd7 5.g4!?

The main line runs something like 5.♘xd5 ♘xd5 6.e4 h6 7.♙h4 ♘e3 8.♙d3 ♘xf1 9.exf5 ♘c5!? 10.♙c3 (10.dxc5 ♙xd3 11.cxd3 ♘e3 etc.) 10...♘a4 11.♙b3 ♘b6 12.♙f2 ♘xh2 13.♙xh2 ♙d5 14.♙xd5 ♘xd5 15.O-O-O O-O-O

with interesting play for both sides (Svensson–Stern, Velden 2009, 1-0 in 43).

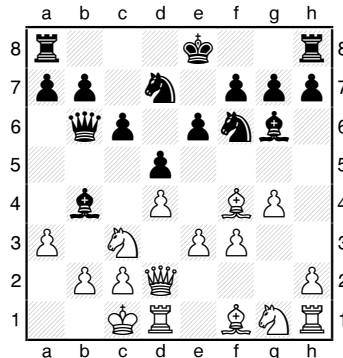
5...♙g6 6.e3

I had expected, especially from David, 6.h4 and was intending 6...h6 7.♙f4 c6.

6...c6 7.♙f4 ♙b6 8.♙d2 e6

8...♙xb2?! gives White too great an initiative after 9.♙b1 ♙xc2 10.♙xc2 ♙xc2 11.♙xb7.

9.O-O-O ♙b4 10.a3



After the game, David mentioned that he should have played 10.♘ge2.

10...♙xc3!?

Going in for this win of a pawn was a difficult decision to make. White gets an unopposed dark-squared Bishop while I have many dark-squared weaknesses. What finally tipped the scales in favor of taking the pawn was that it controls the important h5-square and will threaten an eventual g4-g5.

11.♙xc3 ♘xg4!
12.♘h3

12.fxg4? ♙e4
13.♘f3 ♙xf3 14.♙d3 ♙xh1 15.♙xh1

12...♘gf6 13. 24...♘b6!
♙d6 ♘h5!?

I devised an interesting plan to connect my Rooks.

14.♙g2

Meanwhile, White aims for e3-e4.

14...♘df6 15.♙he1 ♘d7!? 16.♙e5

It would be inaccurate to play 16.♙c5?! ♙c7 17.a4 (17.e4?? b6 18.♙b4 a5-+), when Black can safely play 17...♙xh2.

16...♙hc8 17. e4 c5! 18.♙d2 cxd4 19.♙d3

Clearer for Black would have been 19.♙xd4 ♙xd4 20.♙xd4 ♘e7.

19...♘e8! 20.♙xd4 ♙c7 21.♙c3 ♘f8!

And my King, which seemed oddly posted on d7 just a moment ago, reaches a safe haven.

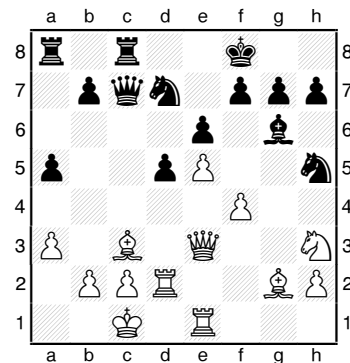
22.♙e3 a5

An all-purpose move, which prevents White from utilizing the b4-square, prepares a possible Rook lift via a6 and also assists a possible ...b7-b5-b4.

23.e5!?


White doesn't really want to close the center and blunt his own Bishop on c3, however, he looks to proceed with f3-f4-f5 and/or win Black's off-side Knight on h5, i.e., ♙e2 and ♙f3.

23...♘d7 24.f4



Black's advantage now becomes serious, as he eyes a possible ...♘c4 or ...♘a4, etc.

25.♙d4 ♘c4 26.♙e2 ♘xa3



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Perhaps even stronger would be 26...xb2!

27.f5 xf5!

My decision to let the Knight on h5 go was easy after considering 27...exf5 28. xd5 f4 29.e6!, when David would really enjoy the position!

28. xh5 xc2 29. xf5!

David's decision was, most likely, just as easy after examining 29. dd1 xe1 30. xe1 d4-+.

29...exf5 30. xc2

If the position of the pieces were different, White could hope to hold, having three minors against Queen and several Pawns. Now, after a series of strong moves, the game concludes.

30...b5! 31. xd5 b4! 32. xa8

Alternatively, 32. c4 b6 33.e6 bxc3 34. xc3 ab8 35. xc8+ xc8+, winning.

32...bxc3 33. d5 b6!

Perhaps White would have hopes of survival after the natural 33...cxb2+ 34. c4! d7 35. xc8+ xc8+ 36. xb2. Nevertheless, Black must be on the verge of winning by virtue of the massive pawn pod on the kingside as well as the loose White pieces coupled with the exposed White King.

34. d3

34.bxc3 xd4-+

34...xb2 35. e2 c2 0-1

With this (and Hadzic being able to hold off Pupols' advantage), I win my third Challenger's Cup in recent years and look forward to another try at the state Championship.

Other Games

A08 Reti Opening

Matt Nill (1734)
Steve Buck (1700)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (5R) 2011

1. f3 c5 2. g3 c6 3. g2 f6 4. O-O d5 5. d3 e5 6. e4 d4 7. a4 e7 8. a3 h6 9. c4 c7 10. c3 e6 11. fd2 d8 12. c2 dxc3 13. bxc3 d7 14. b2 O-O 15. dc4 e3 16. f4 xg2 17. xg2 exf4 18. xf4 e6 19. e3 h5 20. d5

xf4 21. gxf4 f5 22. xe7+ xe7 23. e5 d5 24. d1 b6 25. f3 d7 26. b1 fd8 27. f2 c6 28. a2 h8 29. f2 c7 30. c4 e6 31. b2 d5 32. xd5 xd5 33. d2 c4 34. d4 c5 35. a2 e4+ 36. e2 g6 37. f2 xf2 38. xf2 a5 39. e3 g7 40. fb2 f7 41. b5 b8 42. d5 a6 43. xa5 bxa5 44. d4 c8 45. b2 g5 46. b7+ g6 47. d6 gxf4 48. c7 d8 49. xc4 g5 50. d3 h5 51. h3 h4 52. e2 1-0

E27 Nimzo-Indian Saemisch

Alexandra Botez (2024)
NM Joshua Sinanan (2242)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (2) 2011

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. c3 b4 4. c2 O-O 5. e4 d6 6. a3 xc3+ 7. bxc3 e5 8. d3 c5 9. e2 c6 10. O-O h6 11. f4 exd4 12. cxd4 cxd4 13. h3 e8 14. b1 e7 15. g3 b6 16. b2 h5 17. be1 h4 18. h1 d7 19. d2 c5 20. b1 a6 21. f3 xc4 22. xd4 b3 23. xb3 xb3 24. xg7 xg7 25. c3+ f6 26. xb3 ac8 27. f2 d4 28. d3 e6 29. e5 dx5 30. h7+ f8 31. fe5 g7 32. xh4 g5 33. g4 c5 34. d3 d5 35. h1 e6 36. f3 ed8 37. e3 g5 38. f3 d4 39. f1 d7 40. a8+ g7 41. f3 a5 42. g3 h6 43. f4 xf4 44. gxf4 f8 45. f5 d8 46. g4 c6+ 47. g2 xg2+ 48. xg2 a4 49. g3 xa3+ 50. g4 b5 51. g5 c3 52. f6 c6+ 53. e6 dd6 54. e1 a4 55. h4 a3 56. h5 xe6+ 0-1

E99 King's Indian Classical

LM Viktors Pupols (2203)
Roland Feng (2069)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (3) 2011

1. d4 f6 2. c4 g6 3. c3 g7 4. e4 d6 5. e2 O-O 6. f3 e5 7. O-O c6 8. d5 e7 9. e1 d7 10. f3 f5 11. g4 f6 12. d3 h5 13. g5 h7 14. h4 f4 15. f2 h8 16. f1 c5 17. a3 b6 18. d2 a6 19. e1 d7 20. b4 c7 21. b2 fb8 22. f2 c8 23. ab1 f8 24. a4 a5 25. bxa5 xa5 26. e1 a7 27. b5 xb5 28. xa5 xc4 29. c3 g7 30. xe5 xe5 31. xe5+ dx5 32. xc4 d6 33. c2 a5

34. f1 f8 35. c1 a7 36. c3 d7 37. h3 e8 38. xd7 xd7 39. xb6 c4 40. b2 g8 41. g2 h7 42. a5 e7 43. a6 c3 44. xc3 d8 45. cc6 xe4 46. fe4 f3+ 47. xf3 d7 48. e6 f7+ 49. e3 c7 50. bc6 a5 51. d2 a1 52. f6 g7 53. c1 a3+ 54. c3 a2 55. xe5 a5 56. d4 a3+ 57. c3 a2 58. cf1 g2 59. f6f3 1-0

C68 Ruy Lopez Exchange

Huso Hadzic (2153)

LM Viktors Pupols (2203)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (4) 2011

1. e4 e5 2. f3 c6 3. b5 a6 4. xc6 dxc6 5. O-O e7 6. h3 g6 7. d4 exd4 8. xd4 xd4 9. xd4 d7 10. c3 O-O 11. e3 b4 12. de2 he8 13. a3 d6 14. ad1 f6 15. f3 c5 16. f2 b5 17. d5 b7 18. g3 f8 19. d2 b4 20. fd1 b5 21. e3 xd2 22. xd2 e5 23. axb4 cxb4 24. gf5 a5 25. d5 c6 26. d6+ xd6 27. xd6 c7 28. d4 d8 29. xd8 xd8 30. f5 g6 31. d4 a4 32. f4 c4 33. b3 a3 34. e1 xc2 35. xc2 axb3 36. xb4 bxc2 37. a3 d7 38. f2 e6 39. e3 f5 40. exf5+ gxf5 41. g4 f1 42. g5 Draw

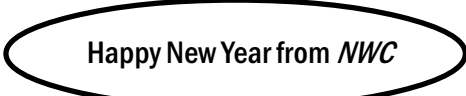
E27 Nimzo-Indian Saemisch

John Doknjas (2075 CFC)

NM Joshua Sinanan (2242)

Seattle, WA Challengers Cup (4) 2011

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. c3 b4 4. a3 xc3+ 5. bxc3 b6 6. f3 O-O 7. e4 e8 8. d3 h4+ 9. g3 e7 10. h3 a6 11. e2 c6 12. e5 f5 13. O-O a5 14. a4 c5 15. a3 c8 16. fe1 f7 17. d5 g5 18. f2 g7 19. c1 cf8 20. b1 h6 21. d2 d8 22. g4 b7 23. gxf5 xf5 24. g4 g7 25. f6 xf6 26. exf6+ xf6 27. xf5 xf5 28. f1 exd5 29. f4 g4 30. cxd5 xd5 31. e5+ g6 32. xd5 xd5 33. f2 c4 34. c1 e4 35. a1 d5 36. g3 f5 37. a2 h5 38. d1 h4+ 39. f2 g8 40. g1 a5 41. e2 g6 42. a2 d3 43. a3 e6 44. c1 d6 0-1



2011 Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, abacusser

The statistics below are through December 3, but by the time you read this, the 2011 event will be all done. Six events will follow this writing before 2011 ends, in four cities. I hope you went to some of them. As of January first, we will be just waiting for the final payments to come in.

Prior to next month's magazine, if you really want to see the tentative final results, visit www.nwchess.com. Just remember that any unpaid events will end up being backed out, so the standings could change.

We ended the year with 72 Grand Prix events, down five from 2010. Our number of events with multipliers remained the same at 13, and the number of entrants to GP events went up. I will have additional statistical information with the final results in my next column.

At this time, I would like to extend thanks to the organizers who sponsored Grand Prix tournaments during 2011. These include the Seattle Chess Club (32), Portland Chess Club (19), Tacoma Chess Club (9), Spokane Chess Club (6), Washington Chess Federation (3), Oregon Chess Federation (2), and Kitsap Chess Club (1). My wish for the coming year would be to have more events in more places, and better support for all events, especially those in Tacoma, where turnout is often sadly dismal.

We are expanding our program in 2012, to include events and players in Idaho. You will notice a third set of columns in the statistics beginning with the March magazine. There will also be a new memorial honoree at that time. Watch the back page and the web site for those Idaho grand prix events. Although players compete against other players only from their own state, they can gain Grand Prix points from tournaments in all three states. You now have more reasons to visit the beautiful state of Idaho!

As you can see, the eventual winners for 2011 are still very unclear in many of the classes. A few players are too far ahead to be caught in the few non-multiplier events not yet posted, but many are still vulnerable. A substantial number of the leaders you see below played at the final multiplier event of the year, the Washington Class Championships, attended by 133 players.

Now, get going on the 2012 Grand Prix. The very first one is, as usual, also our very first multiplier event, the Gresham Open. Additional events are scheduled in January for Seattle, Portland and Tacoma. Keep an eye on the back page and the nwchess.com web site for all your Grand Prix opportunities.

Expert		
Esler, Brian	127.0	Bartron, Paul 181.0
Botez, Alexandra	126.5	Ummel, Igor 161.0
Gay, Daniel	109.5	Feng, Roland 134.0
Brooks, Curtis	92.0	Sen, Samir 120.5
Janniro, Mike	86.0	Lee, Nathan 103.5
Heywood, Bill	61.0	Two tied at 92.0

Class A		
Sherrard, Jerry	137.5	Buck, Stephen 220.0
Wen, David	118.0	Fields, Noah 211.5
Cigan, Jason	113.5	Lampman, Becca 175.5
Fisette, Robert	94.5	Haining, Kyle 168.0
Witt, Steven	92.0	He, Daniel 142.5
Sun, Maxwell	86.5	Kiiru, Joseph 136.0

Class B		
Shimada, Masakazu	80.5	Kramlich, Dan 201.5
Robson, Luke	74.5	Walk, Alan 193.0
Terrill, Michael	67.0	Davis, Frederick 157.5
Burris, Christopher	55.5	Nicoski, Aaron 105.0
Dalthorp, Matt	55.0	Soetedjo, James 104.0
Malone, Robert	49.5	Ambler, Dennis 94.5

Class C		
Murray, Dillon	100.5	Dhingra, Sangeeta 129.5
Gaikwad, Dagadu	65.0	Varner, Murlin 127.5
Chatterjee, Dhruva	63.0	Piper, August 118.0
Stevens, Matthew	55.0	Zhang, Derek 106.0
Pettengill, Stephen	54.0	Ramesh, Jothi 105.0
Midson, Tony	52.5	Zhang, Brendan 102.5

Class D and Below		
Cohen, David	73.0	Richards, Jerrold 157.0
Sharan, Praveer	66.0	Haining, Breck 107.0
Jewell, Nathan	56.0	Jones, Davey 76.0
Sharan, Pranav	56.0	Taylor, Thomas 72.0
Booth, Liam	51.0	Thomas, Arjun 69.5
Doddapaneni, Venkat	50.5	Dixon, Max 69.5

Overall Leaders, by State		
Raptis, Nick	188.0	Buck, Stephen 220.0
Breckenridge, Steven	163.5	Fields, Noah 211.5
Sherrard, Jerry	137.5	Kramlich, Dan 201.5
Esler, Brian	127.0	Walk, Alan 193.0
Botez, Alexandra	126.5	Bartron, Paul 181.0
Wen, David	118.0	Lampman, Becca 175.5
Cigan, Jason	113.5	Bragg, David 173.5
Gay, Daniel	109.5	Haining, Kyle 168.0
Murray, Dillon	100.5	Ummel, Igor 161.0
Fisette, Robert	94.5	Davis, Frederick 157.5
Brooks, Curtis	92.0	Richards, Jerrold 157.0
Witt, Steven	92.0	He, Daniel 142.5
Haessler, Carl	90.5	Kiiru, Joseph 136.0
Sun, Maxwell	86.5	He, Samuel 135.5
Janniro, Mike	86.0	May, Sarah 135.0

Oregon

Raptis, Nick	188.0
Breckenridge, Steven	163.5
Haessler, Carl	90.5
Roua, Radu	44.0
Russell, Corey	15.0

Washington

Masters	
Bragg, David	173.5
Pupols, Viktors	133.0
Sinanan, Joshua	123.5
Golub, David	90.5
Orlov, Georgi	79.5
Roper, David	71.0

Players in Database 2011

class	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	5	14	4	23
Expert	21	34	8	63
Class A	34	68	18	120
Class B	27	68	15	110
Class C	34	54	13	101
Class D-below	53	131	4	188
totals	174	369	62	605

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
 Seattle WA 98133
 ↗ Infoline ↖
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

January 21

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/5, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

Jan. 28, Feb. 25

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 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.

Saturday Quads

Feb. 5, Mar. 4

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 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.

Sunday Tornado

Darby Monahan Memorial Grand Prix

Leaders 10/1-1/1

Fred Kleist	110.9	<i>Alan Walk</i>	75.5
<i>Michael VanScyoc</i>	99.5	Nicolo Gelb	71.3
August Piper	94.0	Viktors Pupols	68.0
<i>Carol Kleist</i>	87.0	Boas Lee	62.3
<i>Kerry VanVeen</i>	86.0	Brian Raffel	61.0
<i>David Kelly</i>	83.5	<i>James Wade</i>	60.0
Jothi Ramesh	80.6	<i>Catherine Smith</i>	58.5

Bolded players are new to the top 14. Players in italics gained less than 10 points since 12/3. The four people whose totals do not end in 0 or 5, played in the Insanity (min. 7.3 pts). Next big event is the **Seattle City Championship**. The G.P. continues through 5/31/12. The prize(s)—free entry to the 2012 Canadian Open or 2012 U.S. Open.

Seattle City Championship

January 13-15 or January 14-15

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Karch Memorial Grand Prix event

Championship

First	\$250
Second	\$150
Expert	\$100
Class A	\$80

EF: \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

Reserve (U1800)

First	\$140
Second	\$90
Class C	\$65
Class D	\$55
Class E & Under	\$45
Unrated	\$25

EF: \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. *Unrateds* free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF.

Both Sections: Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** USCF & WCF memb. req'd. No smoking. No computers.

January 16

MLKG/45

Site: Zion Lutheran School, 2800 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis OR 97330. **Format:** 5SS. **TC:** G/45. (TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries.) **EF:** \$15 by 1/14. No at-site entries! **Prize Fund:** \$350/b25 **Prizes:** \$150-90-60 U1700 50 each. **Reg:** 9-9:30. **Byes:** Half-point bye if requested at reg. **Misc:** Limited to first 32 players. USCF/NWSRS rated, USCF memb req'd. There'll be a scholastic tournament in a different part of the campus, but all will share the same skittles room. **Entries/Info:** Send name and USCF ID# to Dan Dalthorp at onco111@yahoo.com or call 541-791-4939.

January 21

Tacoma Open

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, Room 11 in the DTI Soccer Store Building across from Alfred's Café (two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome). **Format:** 4SS. **TC:** G/60. **EF:** \$10 economy. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:30-3-5:30 or ASAP. **Byes:** One half-point bye avail. **Misc:** OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd. NS. NC. NW. **Entries/Info:** Gary J. Dorfner 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445; 253-535-2536; ggarychess@aol.com.

January 28

Portland Chess Club G/60

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

February 4

TCC Mini-Swiss

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, Room 11 in the DTI Soccer Store Building across from Alfred's Café (two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome). **Format:** 3SS. **TC:** G/90. **EF:** \$10 economy. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4 or ASAP. **Byes:** two half-point byes avail. **Misc:** OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd. NS. NC. NW. **Entries/Info:** Gary J. Dorfner 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445; 253-535-2536; ggarychess@aol.com.

February 25-26

20 th Dave Collyer Memorial

Site: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W Fifth Ave, Spokane WA. **Format:** 5SS. **TC:** G/115. **EF:** \$27 if rec'd by 2/24, \$33 at site; under 19, \$5 less. Phone entries accepted. All registrants must check in by 9:30 (exceptions—rd 1 bye or "Sleep-In" option. **Prize Fund:** \$2000 gtd. **Prizes:** \$400-250-175, X 100, A 100-75, B 100-75, C 100-75, D 100-75, E/UNR 100-75, Biggest Upsets 100-50-50 (no prov. rtgs). Class prizes b/5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five. *Extra donated prize:* \$200 Stephen Christopher Memorial Perfect Score Prize. Special door prize for every entrant! **Reg:** 8:30-9:30 a.m. (till 11:40 a.m. for "Sleep-In"). **Rds:** 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. **Byes:** One ½-point bye avail. if req'd by end of prior r'd; Sunday bye must be req'd by end of rd 3. **Special "Sleep In" option:** Rd 1—noon (G/60). **Misc:** Mandatory player meeting at 9:45 (except for sleep in). Director reserves right to use class pairings in final rd. NS, NC, W. **Entries:** Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N 9923 Moore, Spokane WA 99208-9339. **Info:** 509-270-1772. www.spokanechessclub.org. **Simul and Talk:** Feb. 24 at 6:00 p.m. - IM John Donaldson lecture at Kress Gallery - Riverpark Square, downtown Spokane. 6:45 p.m. - Donaldson Simul, \$10 per board.

March 17-18

Portland Spring Open

(TA based on previous events and may be subject to change.) **Site:** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24 Ave, Portland OR. **Format:** 5SS, two sections. **TC:** Rds 1-3 (Saturday) 40/90, SD/30; Rds 4-5 (Sunday) 40/120, SD/60. **EF:** \$35, PCC members - \$10 discount. **Prize Fund:** \$650 b/40. **Prizes:** *Open*—\$150-100, U2000 75; *Reserve*—\$100-75, U1600 50, U1400 50, U1200 or UNR 50. **Reg:** opens at 9:00am on Saturday. **Misc:** USCF and OCF/WCF req'd and can be purch'd/renewed at reg.

**NORTHWEST
CHESS NEWS**

Reno, NV

Despite being barely able to field one team with only eleven players for ten spots, the Seattle CC once again was able to take first place in the club competition. The six-section Western States Open was held from October 21st through 23rd at the Sands Regency Casino.

Four players finished with 4.5/6: **Drayton Harrison**, who tied for 1st-5th

in the Class A Section; **Kerry VanVeen**, 1st-4th in the Class C Section; **FM Howard Chen**, 2nd-5th in the Open section; and **Fred Kleist**, 2nd-5th in the Expert section. Three other players had plus scores: Catherine Smith (4.0, Class

B), David Kelly and Carol Kleist (both 3.5, Class C). The rest—LM Viktors Pupols (Open), David Rupel (Expert), Gordon Higbie (Class A), and Michael VanScyoc (Class C) all achieved even scores at 3/6. ■

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