



\$3.95

January 2013

Special 48-page Memorial Issue



Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja

March 11, 1957 - November 18, 2012

Northwest Chess

January 2013, Volume 67-1 Issue 780

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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On the cover:

Georgi Orlov and Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja at a friend's daughter's wedding in August, 2008. Family photo courtesy of Georgi Orlov.

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From the Editor's Desk

by Jeff Roland

This month we mourn the loss of WGM Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya who passed away on November 18. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to her family, students, teammates and all those around the world who knew her as a friend. Our special tribute to Elena begins on page 4.



Jeff Roland at the 2012 Western Idaho Open. Photo credit: Frank Niro.

Donations in Elena's memory can be sent to Chess Mates Foundation, 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Chess Mates is 501-c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to the support of scholastic chess in public schools. Donations to Chess Mates Foundation are also tax deductible.

Another way to contribute to Elena's memory would be to help sponsor the naming of the Northwest Grand Prix in her honor for the year 2013. See page 44.

Congratulations to the Seattle Sluggers for winning the National Chess League title and to all of members of the World Youth team that competed for the U.S. in Slovenia in November. Congratulations also to Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky for his first place finish in the Western Idaho Open. As far as I can tell, he is the first Grandmaster ever to compete in a U.S.C.F.-rated tournament in the state of Idaho!

I would also like to thank my proof readers, Rusty Miller, Eric Holcomb, Duane Polich, and Ralph Dubisch. Proofing is a very important and often under-appreciated function. Ralph has also given me a lot of great advice from one editor to another, which is greatly appreciated.

And I would like to extend a very heart-felt thanks to Frank Niro for his assistance during the past six months on the *NWC* editorial team. Frank and his wife, Natasha, will be co-teaching a Business & Strategic Planning course at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY until April. While there, Frank may still be contributing articles to the magazine if time permits.

Please remember to send game scores, photographs and tournament reports directly to me by e-mail or at the address on page 2.

I hope you enjoy this issue. See you on the tournament trail.

Jeff

In Memoriam:

Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja (1957-2012)

Editor's note: While helping prepare this article for Northwest Chess readers, Elena's husband Georgi Orlov examined Elena's legal documents and found that her maiden name is actually spelled Akhmylovskaja (not Akhmylovskaya as widely published). After consulting with Georgi, we concur that this is the spelling that needs to be used in our NWC tribute.

The world lost part of the living fabric of chess history with the passing of Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja on November 18, 2012. Elena was women's chess champion in both the Soviet Union and United States and played in eight chess Olympiads between 1978 and 2002. She lost her final battle with cancer nine months after a brain seizure revealed the presence of a tumor. During the past 24 years, she lived in suburban Seattle where she taught the secrets of chess to hundreds of young students through a chess academy that she ran with her husband, International Master Georgi Orlov.

Elena was born Yelena Bronislavovna Akhmylovskaja on March 11, 1957 in Leningrad, USSR, now known as St. Petersburg, Russia. Her father was an engineer, and the family moved often. Young Elena spent much of her childhood in Krasnoyarsk, a river city in western Siberia, where she learned chess from her mother who was a regional chess champion. Sadly, her mom died when Elena was a teenager. After that, she studied law and physics for a time in a university but left school before graduation to pursue her promising chess career. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union is known for its chess prowess, Elena and her contemporary, Lev Psakhis, were the first Grandmasters from

Siberia and, remarkably, there have been none since.

In 1976, she tied for first in the Women's Interzonal in Roosendaal en Nispen, in southern Netherlands. She was awarded both WIM and WGM titles at the age of 20 and quickly became the darling of the Soviet chess world. In 1978, she won the gold medal for best individual performance at the 23rd Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. On the reserve board, Elena won all ten of her games, the first perfect score in Olympiad history.

Because she showed so much promise, Elena was invited to attend the famous Botvinnik School. She trained directly with the former World Champion, together with future champion Garry Kasparov and dozens of other players who were destined to be among the world's top grandmasters.

Elena's first husband, Vladimir, was a premier league rugby player in the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi. They

married in 1980 and the next year they moved to Sochi where Elena gave birth to a daughter, Donna. Elena utilized her developing chess skills and top level competitive experience to advance to the second highest rating among female players in the world. She became a challenger for the Women's World Championship by finishing second in the 1985 Interzonal in Havana and winning the Candidates' Tournament in 1986. She then faced reigning Champion Maia Chiburdanidze in a match split between Sofia, Bulgaria, and Borjomi, now part of the Republic of Georgia, where Elena was defeated by the score of 8½-5½ (one win, four losses and nine draws).

In addition to countless training sessions, Elena Akhmylovskaja and Maia Chiburdanidze played 31 times beginning in 1977. They faced each other across the chess board for the last time in 1990 at the Novi Sad Olympiad where Elena, by that time, was playing for the United States. All told, Chiburdanidze held the edge 10



Elena shown at the 1977 Candidate's match that she narrowly lost to Maia Chiburdanidze (3 wins, 4 losses and 5 draws).

wins to 4 losses with 17 draws.

Maia Chiburdanidze is one of the great Women's Chess Champions who was at the top of her game for many years. It so happened that on her way to the World Championship title Elena encountered Maia twice, first in 1977, in the Candidate Semi-Finals, and again for the title match in 1986. Maia won in both matches, but they remained friends. Maia came to Seattle in 2000, when she visited Elena and Georgi while traveling to meet some of her long lost relatives.

Following is her win against the World Champion in their 1986 match:

**Maia Chiburdanidze -
Elena Akhmylovskaja**

Sofia, Bulgaria 1986

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c6
5.Qa4 Nbd7 6.Nd2 dxc4 7.Qxc4 e5
8.Ngf3 Nb6 9.Qd3 exd4 10.Qxd4
Qxd4 11.Nxd4 Be7 12.b3 0-0
13.Bb2 a5 14.0-0 a4 15.Nc2 Nfd5
16.Bd4 c5 17.Be5 Be6 18.Rfc1 f6
19.Bb2 Rfd8 20.Nc4 Nxc4 21.bxc4
Nb4 22.a3 Nxc2 23.Rxc2 Rab8
24.Be4 b5 25.cxb5 Bb3 26.Rcc1
Rxb5 27.Bc3 g6 28.Bd3 c4 29.Be4
f5 30.Bf3 Kf7 31.Kg2 Bf6 32.Rab1
Bxc3 33.Rxc3 Rd2 34.Ra1 Rb6
35.Rac1 Rbd6 36.Re3 Ra2 37.Bb7
Kf6 38.Rcc3 Rc2 39.Rxc2 Bxc2
40.Rc3 Bb3 41.f4 Ke6 42.Kf2 Rd2
43.Ke3 Rd1 44.h3 Kd6 45.g4 Kc5
46.gxf5 gxf5 47.Bc8 Ra1 48.Be6
Rxa3 49.Bxc4 Kb4 50.Kd4 Ra1
51.Bd3 a3 52.Rc6 a2 53.Rb6+ Ka3
54.Ra6+ Kb2 55.Bxf5 h5 56.e4 Rf1
57.Ke5 a1Q 58.Rxa1 Kxa1 59.Bd7
Kb2 60.f5 Kc3 61.h4 Rh1 62.Kf6
Rxh4 63.e5 Re4 64.e6 h4 65.Ke7 h3
66.f6 h2 67.f7 Rf4 68.Bc6 Kd4 0-1

Elena met and defeated numerous titled players. Her favorite among these was her win over GM Mihai Suba at the 1989 New York Open.

**Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
(2430) – Mihai Suba (2515)**

New York open (Rd. 4), 1989
[Notes by Georgi Orlov]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6
5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Nd2

This move was trendy at some point, with White playing early Nc4 and Bf4, attacking d6. Also, in some lines Black would play ...Bg4, so White avoids that trade by playing Nd2 early.

7...Bg7 8.e4 0-0 9.Be2 Na6!? 10.0-0
Nc7 11.a4 b6 12.Nc4 Ba6

The idea behind this move is not so much to make a pin, but eventually take on c4 and play ...a6 and ...b5.

13.f3!

Suba played this line rather regularly. For instance, a couple years earlier in NY Open: 13.Bg5 Qd7 14.b3 Rfe8 15.Qc2 Bxc4 16.bxc4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Qf5 18.Bd3 Bxa1 19.Nxd6 Qxg5 20.Nxe8 Nxe8 21.Rxa1 Qe5 22.Rc1 Nd6 Dlugy-Suba, NY Open 1987.

13...Qd7 14.Bd2 Bxc4 15.Bxc4 a6
16.Qe2

White must stop ...b5, else Black has a great game.

16...Rfb8 17.Rfb1

White fights fire with fire, planning b2-b4.

17...Qe7 18.b4 Nh5 19.g3 f5 20.bxc5
Bd4+ 21.Kg2 bxc5 22.exf5 Qg7

Black gets very ambitious here. Better was 22...Qxe2 23.Bxe2 gxf5 24.Bd3 Nf6! 25.Bxf5 Kg7.

23.Qd3 gxf5 24.Rxb8+ Rxb8
25.Rb1 Rxb1 26.Qxb1

White now controls an important file and has easy access to Black's queenside pawns.

26...Qd7

26... Bxc3 27.Qb8+ Qf8 28.Qxf8+
Kxf8 29.Bxc3 Ke7 30.Ba5 Kd7
31.Bd3 leads to an unpleasant ending

where bishops should dominate knights.

27.Bd3 Ng7 28.Qb3 Nge8 29.Ne2
Be5 30.Nf4

Here White's knight is much more powerful and Ne6 is in the air.

30...Nf6 31.Ne6! Ncxd5 32.Bxf5
Qc8



33.Qc4

This simple queen transfer decides the game. Elena was very good in positions like this.

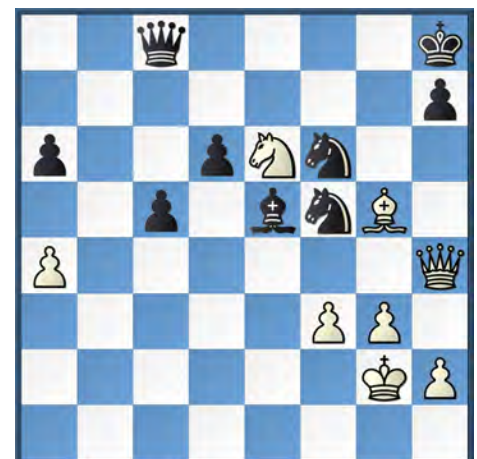
33...Kh8 34.Qh4

Here threats like Qh6 and Bg5, Bh6 and Bg7+ with Qg5 decide the game.

34...Ne7

Or 34...Qd7 35.Bh6 Qf7 36.Bg7+
Kg8 37.Qg5.

35.Bg5 Nxf5



Or 35...Neg8 36.Bxf6+ Nxf6 37.Qh6 Qg8 38.Nf8! Qg7 39.Ng6+ Kg8 40.Be6

**36.Bxf6+ Kg8 37.Qg5+ Kf7
38.Nd8+ Kf8 39.Bxe5 dxe5
40.Qf6+ Ke8 41.Nf7! Qd7 42.Qxf5
Qxf7 43.Qc8+ Ke7 44.Qxc5+ Kf6
45.Qd6+ 1-0**

Elena also played former Women's World Champion Nona Gaprindashvili a number of times.

**Nona Gaprindashvili –
Elena Akhmylovskaja**

USSR, 1988

[Notes by Georgi Orlov]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3
Bb7 5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5**

At the time this game was played 5.a3 was very popular since Kasparov won several great games with White in the early to mid eighties.

**7.Qc2 c5 8.e4 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nd7
10.Bf4 Be7 11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 0-0**

12...Bxd5? Taking the pawn is very dangerous since after Rd1 White develops strong attack quickly. 13.Rd1 Bxf3 14.gxf3 a6 15.Bh3 Ra7 16.Qf5 g6 17.Qd5 f5 18.Qe6! Here Black's chances look bleak.

13.Rd1 Bf6 14.Be2 Re8 15.0-0 Ne5

Elena always played simple positions well and when we prepared this line, we thought that Black's chances were OK here. Objectively White retains a small edge.

**16.Bxe5 Bxe5 17.Bb5 Re7 18.Bc6
Bf6**

If 18...Bxc6 19.dxc6 Qc7 20.Rd7 Rxd7 21.cxd7 Rd8 (21...Bd6 22.Qe4 Rf8 23.Qe8) 22.Nxe5 Qxe5 23.Qd2 Kf8 24.Rd1.

19.Bxb7

Gaprindashvili wanted to retain the passed pawn but, objectively, winning the exchange was better. 19.d6! Bxc6

20.dxe7 Qxe7 21.Rfe1 Qb7 22.Re3. Here the rook protects c3 and f3 at the same time. 22...g6 23.Qe2. Black has a nice bishop pair, but White's rooks don't look that bad either.

19...Rxb7 20.c4 b5

Black is aiming to create some play on the queenside and undermine d5-pawn at the same time.

**21.cxb5 Rxb5 22.a4 Rb4 23.Qxc5
Rxa4 24.d6 Rc8 25.Qb5 Ra5
26.Qb7 Rb8 27.Qe4 Qd7 28.Rd2**

Instead, 28.Rfe1 Rc5 29.Rd5 Rxd5 30.Qxd5 a5 31.Nd2! a4 32.Ne4 would keep some initiative, but further a3 33.Nxf6+ gxf6 34.h3 a2 35.Qxa2 Qxd6 should give Black enough to hold the game. Gaprindashvili was very low on time at this moment, however.

**28...Rc5 29.Rfd1 a5 30.Rd5 Rxd5
31.Qxd5 a4 32.Qa5 Kf8**

32...g6 33.h4 Kg7 34.h5 Qb5!

33.h4 Re8 34.h5 0-1

Here White's flag fell. She no longer has winning chances and perhaps could have offered a draw a bit earlier. Nona was always very competitive and seldom was peacefully inclined, however. Thus, she spent remaining minutes trying to find initiative where it was no longer possible to do so.

Elena played her second Olympiad for the Gold medal winning Soviet team at Dubai in 1986, settling in on second board behind Chiburdanidze. Elena and her husband divorced in 1987. Occasionally, Elena traveled from tournament to a tournament as a single mom, with Donna usually waiting in the wings. Her daughter recalls attending some of her mother's tournaments where other chess stars took care of her while her mother played. Once, she said, her caretaker was World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov. Donna recalled, in a recent interview with *The Seattle Times*, that

her mother lived a glamorous life as a Soviet chess star, owning a condo and wearing fur coats.

All that changed in November 1988. In her last Olympiad playing for the Soviet Union, held in Greece, Elena scored 8.5/9 and won the silver medal on board two. However, the story of the Olympiad was Akhmylovskaja's sudden and unexpected marriage to American team captain John Donaldson and subsequent departure before the tournament ended. By then the defections were becoming commonplace, so the visible political ramifications were minimal. "It's a real love match. A marriage, not a defection," said Inna Izrailov, a Soviet-born player who grew up in the United States and who played for the American women's team in 1988. Additionally, Elena wanted to find a better life outside of the Soviet Union for her daughter.

The late Larry Parr, always reliable with his facts, reported in the January 1989 issue of *Northwest Chess* that the marriage between Elena and the U.S. Olympiad team captain John was on the afternoon of November 25, 1988, in the Thessaloniki City Hall courthouse, not in a secret ceremony earlier or elsewhere as rumored by others. Elena and John made world headlines when they flew to West Germany on the eve of the 12th round of the 14-round tournament. Possibly as a consequence, Hungary's teenage stars, the Polgar sisters (Judit, Zsuzsa, and Sofia), led their country past the Soviet women's squad, minus their #2 player, in a dramatic final-round showdown. With both teams knotted at 31 points, Hungary defeated Sweden 2-1, while the Soviet women split with a surprisingly tough Dutch team. In an earlier round, with Elena playing on Board 1, the Polgars, that is the Hungarian Women's team, triumphed 2-1 in their individual match with the Soviet Union. 12-year-old Judit Polgar scored a remarkable 12.5/13 to anchor the gold medal winning effort.



WGM Irina Levitina, GM Vladimir Tukmakov (to the right of Elena). Next to her on the left, GM Lev Psakhis and GM Smbat Lputian. The man in glasses is GM Yuri Razuvayev. Courtesy of Georgi Orlov.

The couple spent a sleepless Friday night with the American players, who escorted the couple to the airport early Saturday. Later in the morning, after the plane took off, Inna Izrailov informed the Soviet team that Akhmylovskaja would not be playing in the 12th round on Saturday. "We really do mind losing our team captain, but we couldn't think of a finer reason why we should," said Yasser Seirawan, America's top player and Donaldson's closest friend.

Elena moved to Seattle where John was a member of the editorial team of Yasser Seirawan's *Inside Chess* magazine, known as the most widely read English language chess publication in the world at the time. Donna stayed with her paternal grandmother in the Soviet Union until a year later, when Elena returned in a scene straight out of a spy movie to fetch her daughter in the middle of the night.

When she first arrived in Seattle, Elena taught herself English and worked as a bank teller as she continued to play chess.

Additionally, she wrote a popular

chess column for the *Seattle Times* for many years. Elena quickly made her presence felt winning both the Washington and Oregon Open Championships. In order to be successful in Swiss system events, she prepared for all of her opponents, regardless of rating, and was always willing to toss a pawn into the mix early in order to create imbalances as she does here against former *NWC* editor and FIDE Master Ralph Dubisch.

Ralph Dubisch (2270) - Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja (2516)

1989 Washington Class (Seattle)
[Notes by FM Dubisch, originally published in *NWC* Dec. 1989 and updated December 2012]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7

Our two previous encounters continued 6.Bxc6. In the first, I misplayed a vicious attack, and in the second I just misplayed.

6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Be6

New to me. Elena has played 9...

Re8, or 9...Bb7 10.d4 Re8 here, but she probably avoided it because of Ng5 forcing ...Rf8, followed by Nf3 attempting to draw by repetition. In her international play Elena had specialized in a system that depended on ...Re8. Unfortunately in the weekend Swiss format, and especially when playing lower-rated opposition (pretty much everybody she faced in Seattle), that left her open to Ng5 Rf8 Nf3, with a repetition. So in any case her ninth move avoids that, though it is probably inferior to some of the theoretically approved main lines.

10.Bc2

I expected 10.d4 would be met with 10...exd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.e5 Ne4, and I saw no advantage in 10.Bxe6. So I kept the bishops on, thinking that the potential pawn fork on d5 would give White some initiative.

10...h6 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nc3

14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Rxe4 can't lead to any advantage for White. The tournament situation was very unfavorable for me, as I trailed Elena by a full point. I recall thinking I really needed to win this game. 15...Bd5 16.Re1 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxd4 18.Qe4 c5 19.Nc3 f5!

14...f5

14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 f5 16.exf6 Rxf6 and White can claim a slight edge.

15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe4 Bd5

18.Bxd5+

18.Bf4 Bxe4 (18...Bxd4? 19.Nxd4 Rxf4 20.Nxc6+) 19.Rxe4 and White's extra pawn will remain on the board for quite awhile. 19...Qd5 20.Qb3 Qxb3 21.axb3±.

18...Qxd5 19.Be3 Rad8

[Diagram top of next page]

Black now threatens to regain the



pawn, and retain the more active rooks in the endgame. I didn't like 20.Re2 because of 20...Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Rd2 Rxf2! 23.Kxf2 Bxe3+ 24.Kxe3 Qg5+ 25.Ke2 Qxg2+ 26.Ke1 (26.Ke3 Re8+ 27.Kf4 Re4+ 28.Kf5 g6+ 29.Kf6 Qg5++ or 27.Kd4 Qe4+ and 28...Qc4++) 26... Qg1+ 27.Ke2 Re8+ 28.Kd3 Qg6+ 29.Kc3 Qc6+ 30.Kb3 Re3+ 31.Kb4 (31.Rd3 Qc4+) 31...Re4+ 32.Rd4 (32.Ka5 Qb6++ or 32.Ka3 Qc5+ 33.Kb3 Qc4+ 34.Ka3 Qb4++) 32... Qd6+ 33.Kc3 Qc5+ and Black wins the queen as well as the rook. (34. Kb3 Re3+). 20. Qb3 is also not good: 20...Qxb3 21.axb3 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4 23.Bxd4 Rxd4 24.Rxa6 Rd2. Unfortunately, while I was bogged down in all of the unacceptable alternatives, I overlooked the simple 20.Rc1 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Bxd4 Qxd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.Rxc7 possibly leading to a draw.

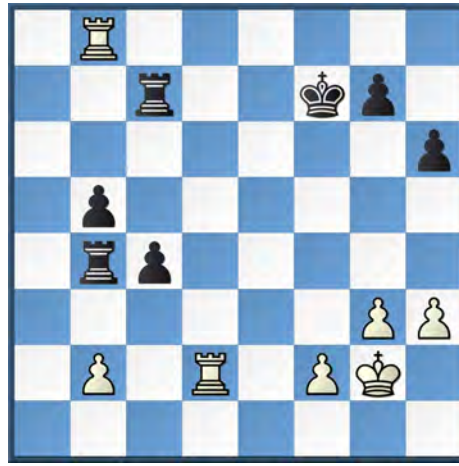
20.a4

20.Rc1 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Bxd4 Qxd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.Rxc7 Rd2 25.Ree7 Rxf2 26.Rxg7+ Kf8! looks like a drawn double-rook ending, the extra pawn notwithstanding.

20...Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Bxd4 Qxd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.axb5 axb5 25.Re2 Rf5 26.Rc2 c5 27.Ra5 Rb4

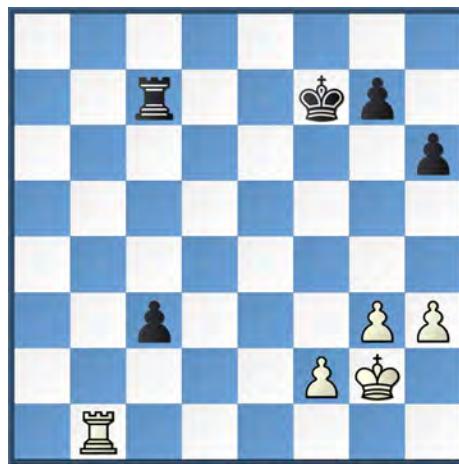
27...c4!? 28.b3? cxb3 29.Rb2 Ra4!-+

28.g3 Re5 29.Kg2 c4 30.Ra7 Kf8 31.Rd2 Re7 32.Ra8+ Kf7 33.Rb8 Rc7



This double Rook ending is likely drawn. A pass like 34.Re2 or 34.Rb6 leaves no possible progress. However, there was only one prize available, and Elena already had a full point lead. My play is looking a little artificial, and I started to realize around here that my chance of winning had essentially disappeared, while my chance of losing, while still small, was growing. Thus the transition into a single-rook ending, which was based on a pretty serious miscalculation.

34.Rd5? Rxb2 35.Rdxb5 Rxb5 36.Rxb5 c3 37.Rb1



37...Ke6!

Ouch! I had considered only 37...c2? 38.Rc1 Ke6 39.Kf3 Kd5 40.Ke3 and since the black king cannot cross the c-file, White will pick up the c-pawn and play a long endgame. Of course this ending is also drawn as long as the rooks stay on, but at least there is an extra pawn. 37...Ke6 put an end to that dream. 38.Kf3 Kd5 39.Ke3

Kc4 40.Rb8 fails to 40...Re7+. Now despite my tournament need to win the game, the situation on the board dictates that I would be very happy to merely draw. For some reason my assumption was that Black would first play 37...c2? when 38.Rc1 doesn't actually offer me any chance to win, but I (correctly) believed I couldn't lose that ending, and thought maybe there was some cheapo shot.

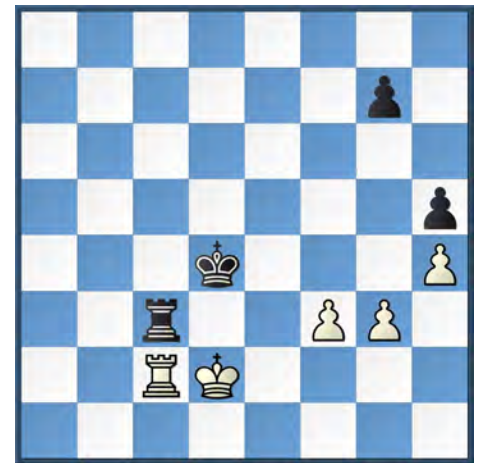
38.Kf3 Kd5 39.Ke2 c2!

39...Kc4! looks strong and keeps with the theme of not advancing the c-pawn until it is a forced win. Alas, 40.Rb8 Re7+ 41.Kd1. Now the zugzwang weapon pays dividends for Black.

40.Rc1 Kd4 41.Kd2 Ke4 42.Ke2 h5 43.h4

43.f3+ Kd4 44.Kd2 Rc3 doesn't help White.

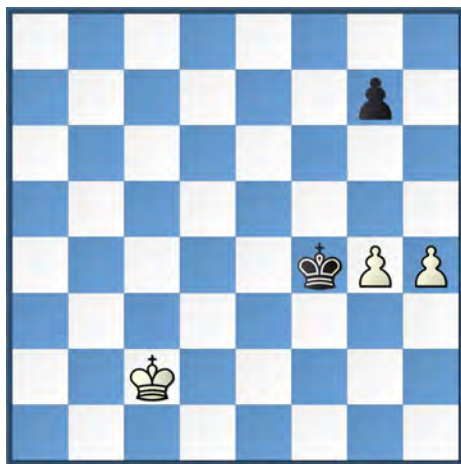
43...Rc6 44.f3+ Kd4 45.Kd2 Rc3 46.Rxc2



Despite spending quite a lot of effort here, I missed the only chance to save the ending: 46.g4! Rxf3 (46... hxc4 47.fxc4 Rh3 48.Rxc2 Rh2+ 49.Kd1 Rxh4 50.Rc7 Rxg4 51.Ke2=) 47.Rg1! Rf2+ 48.Kc1 g6 49.gxh5 gxh5 50.Rg5=.

46...Rxc2+ 47.Kxc2 Ke3 48.g4 hxg4 49.fxc4 Kf4

[Diagram top of next page]



50.g5

50.h5 Kxg4 51.h6 gxh6 52.Kd2 Kf3
53.Ke1 Kg2

50...Kg4 51.g6 Kxh4 52.Kd3 Kg5
53.Ke3 Kxg6 0-1

One tempo short. If only White could play Kg4...

And she wasn't just about tactics, solid strategy and endgame technique, although it is clear that she was strong in all these areas. She remained up-to-date with the theoretical nuances of her favorite openings, even saving some new tricks for unsuspecting opponents. She paid close attention to the games and styles of the opponents she would likely face. This is evident in the notes to the next game. Elena had a strong will to win and became a feared opponent everywhere she competed.

Ernst Rasmussen – Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja

Tacoma Evergreen Open, 1990
[Notes by Elena Donaldson
Akhmylovskaja]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 e6

It is a widely known fact for chess players in the Northwest that my opponent favors the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. I was going to accept the pawn sacrifice but some moves later. Also, I was sure that positions of the French Defense after the theoretical 4.e5 and 4.Bg5 were not

in the style of Ernst Rasmussen.

4.Be3 dxe4 5.a3

White wants to prevent a counterattack with 5...Bb4 which could follow after 5.f3.

5...Nc6 6.f3 Nd5 7.Nxd5 exd5
8.Qd2 Bd6

A careless move. 8...Bf5 would deprive White of any chances for attack.

9.0-0-0 0-0 10.fxe4 dxe4 11.Bc4
Kh8 12.Ne2

Much stronger would be 12.Rdf1 attacking the f7 pawn and Black had to solve some problems. If 12...f5 then 13.Nh3 with the strong initiative. The developing move in the game gave Black time to bring the Knight for defense.

12...Ne7! 13.Rdf1 Nf5 14.Nf4 c6
15.Rf2 Qe7 16.c3

Black threatened 16...Bxa3 17.bxa3
Qxa3+ and 18...Qxe3.

16...Bd7 17.Rhf1 Rae8

Finally, Black finished development. Now the best plan for White was passive defense: 18.g3, to prevent f5-f4 in the future. But my opponent thinks only to attack.

18.Nh5 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 f5 20.Nf4?



And here the best chance to fight was 20.g3. Somebody said that Chess

is a tragedy of one tempo. If White to move, then he plays Ng6+ with inevitable checkmate. Alas, now it is Black's turn.

18...g5! 21.g3

Unfortunately White's choice is very poor. 20.Nh5 doesn't help: 20...f4 21.Qe2 e3 and the flood of Black pawns sweeps everything on its way. The rest is clear.

21...gxf4 22.gxf4 Be6 23.Bxe6
Qxe6 24.Rg2 Rg8 25.Rfg1 Rxg2
26.Rxg2 Rg8 0-1

IM Georgi Orlov, Elena's former second in her Soviet Championship and World Championship Candidates' matches, visited Seattle in May 1990 after playing in the New York Open. Georgi assisted Elena as she trained for the upcoming U.S. Championship and the 1990 Olympiad at Novi Sad, Elena's first of five Olympiads on the American team. At the time, Jerry Lawson wrote, "Participants in the 1990 Pierce County Open on May 5-6 welcomed an unusual visitor, Georgi Orlov of the Soviet Union. Orlov, fresh off a 2600+ performance rating in the New York Open...was expected to dominate the 25 player tournament...Elena Akhmylovskaja Donaldson's former trainer learned that there are some fairly respectable chess players here in the Great Northwest." – *NWC* June 1990, pg. 10.

Elena won the 1990 U.S. Women's Championship, taking the title from another Seattle area native, Alexey (Rudolph) Root. Here is their decisive game from that event:

Alexey Root (2080) – Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja (2430)

US Women's Championship
Spartanburg, SC 1990

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.Nc3 f6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5
8.Nde2 Qxd1+ 9.Nxd1 Be6 10.Bf4
0-0-0 11.Ne3 Ne7 12.Rd1 Rxd1+

13.Kxd1 Nc6 14.b3 b5 15.c3 Ne5
 16.Kc2 c4 17.b4 Nd3 18.Bg3 c5
 19.a3 h5 20.h4 Be7 21.Nf4 Nxf4
 22.Bxf4 Rd8 23.Rd1 Rxd1 24.Kxd1
 Kd7 25.Kd2 Kc6 26.f3 Bd8 27.g4 g6
 28.gxh5 gxh5 29.Kc2 Bb6 30.Kc1
 a5 31.Kc2 cxb4 32.cxb4 axb4
 33.axb4 Bd4 34.Kd2 Bh3 35.Kc2
 Kd7 36.Kd2 Ke6 37.Bg3 Kf7 38.Bf4
 Bd7 39.Bg3 f5 40.Bf4 fxe4 41.fxe4
 Bf6 42.Bg3 Bc6 43.e5 Be7 44.Kc3
 Ke6 45.Nc2 Kd5 46.Ne3+ Ke4
 47.Nc2 Bf8 48.Nd4 Bd7 49.e6 Be8
 50.Nc2 Kd5 51.Nd4 Bg7 52.Bf2
 Bf6 53.Bg1 Bxh4 0–1

In the 1990 Olympiad, she defeated another World Champion, Xie Jun.

**Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
 – Xie Jun**

Novi Sad Olympiad, 1990
 [Notes by Georgi Orlov]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5
 Ne7 9.Nd2 a5 10.a3 c5

Nowadays Black plays differently. For instance, 10...Kh8 11.Rb1 Nd7 12.b4 f5 13.f3 f4 14.Nb5 b6 15.Qc2 a4! 16.Rd1 g5 17.g4 h5 18.h3 Rf6 19.Bb2 Rh6 as in Kramnik-Nakamura, 2011.

11.Rb1 Nd7 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 b6
 14.bxc5 bxc5 15.Nb3 f5 16.Bg5 Bf6
 17.Bd2

The trick here is to stop ...Nd7-f6, winning a tempo.

17...Bg7 18.Ra1 Rxa1 19.Qxa1

Now White prepares Qa5 or Qa7, while Black is yet to start anything on the kingside.

19...Nf6 20.f3 Nh5 21.Qa5 Qd7

One can understand why Black wants to keep Queens on board, but after this move she is forced into a passive defense. 21...Nf4 22.Bd1 Bh6 23.Qxd8 Rxd8 24.g3 Nh3+ 25.Kg2 Bxd2 26.Nxd2 f4 (26...Ng5 27.h4 Nf7 28.Ba4 Kf8 29.Rb1) 27.g4 Ng5 28.Ba4 Nf7 29.Rb1. White is to be

preferred here, but there's still much to be done.

22.Ra1 fxe4 23.Nxe4 Nf5 24.Qb6

After this move Black can not stop the invasion of opponent's Rook, while the kingside play never came around.

24...Rf7

25...Rf8 26.g4

25.Ra8 Nf6 26.Ng5 Re7 27.Ne6 Ne8

27...Re8 28.Ra7 (27...Nd4 28.Nbxd4 exd4 29.Qb8 Re8 30.Ra7).

28.Bg5 Rxe6

28...Rf7 29.Qb8

29.dxe6 Qxe6 30.Nxc5! dxc5
 31.Qxe6+ Bxe6 32.Rxe8+ Kf7
 33.Ra8

The remaining is just a matter of accuracy.

33...e4 34.fxe4 Nd6 35.Ra7+ Kg8
 36.Be3 Nxe4 37.Re7 Bf5 38.Bf3
 Nd6 39.Bd5+ 1–0

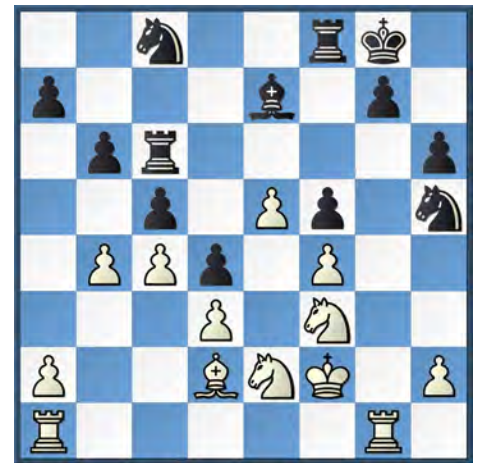
Georgi Orlov returned to Seattle in 1991 and wrote for *Inside Chess* on a freelance basis while writing the book, *The Black Knight's Tango*, edited by Mike Franett. Donna's dad, Vladimir, visited Seattle in 1992 and moved to New York City where he became a partner in an antique furniture store. Vladimir died tragically in 1994.

Elena's marriage to Donaldson dissolved around 1992 due, at least in part, to cultural differences, finances and personal priorities. In 1993, Elena tied for first in the U.S. Championship with another Russian immigrant, Irina Levitina, whom Elena had previously played when competing for the Soviet title. Elena, Irina and Anna (Akhsharumova) Gulko are the three women who won both Soviet Union and U.S. Women's Championship titles. The key

encounter was her last round game with Beatriz Marinello. Following are the details in Elena's own words.

"Before the last round, three players had six points out of eight: Irina Levitina, Beatriz Marinello and myself. At that moment, I had to make what turned out to be my most important decision of the tournament: what to play with the white pieces? So far I was 3 draws out of 4 tries with White. After hours of contemplation I decided to play something different just to avoid long theoretical lines. Going through the choices of opening moves I stopped at 1.f4! What happened next has little to do with chess. Irina Levitina won her game very fast and both of us, Beatriz and I, realized that a draw does not do any good for either of us. After a while I managed to get some edge in the game but the position was very blocked with not many real chances for a win."

We join the game at move 26.



**Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
 – Beatriz Marinello**

US Women's Championship,
 Bloomington, IL, 1993
 [Notes by Elena Donaldson
 Akhmylovskaja]

26.b5 Rc7 27.a4 Kh7 28.a5 Rg8
 29.axb6 axb6 30.Ng3 Nxb3
 31.Rxb3 Ra7 32.Rxa7 Nxa7 33.Rg1
 Bd8 34.Ke2 g6 35.Ra1 Rg7 36.Be1
 g5

Finally, Beatriz helped me by opening the position and accepting the pawn sacrifice.

37.Bf2 Rd7 38.Rg1 gxf4 39.Nh4 Re7 40.Ng6 Re8 41.Kf3 Bg5 42.Nxf4 Rxe5 43.Nd5 Nc8 44.Ra1 Re6 45.h4 Bd2 46.Ra8 Nd6 47.Rb8 Ba5 48.Bg3 Nf7 49.Rb7 Kg8 50.Bc7 Ne5+ 51.Bxe5 Rxe5 52.Kf4

Two move tactics. 52.Nf6+ Kf8 (52... Kh8 53.Rh7#) 53.Nd7+ would have immediately ended the game.

52...Re1 53.Kxf5 Rd1 54.Kg6 Rg1+ 55.Kf5 Rd1 56.Nxb6 Rxd3 57.Nd7 Rc3 58.Ne5 Rg3 59.Ra7 Bb6 60.Ra6 Bc7 61.Ra8+ Kh7 62.Ra7 Rg7 63.Nd3 Bb6 64.Ra6 Rb7 65.h5 Kg7 66.Ke5 Re7+ 67.Kd5 Re3 68.Rxb6 Rxd3 69.Kxc5 Rd1 70.Rd6 d3 71.Kc6 Rd2 72.c5 1-0 [NWC Oct 93 P. 20]

“It was far from one of my best games, but I was very satisfied to win this game as well as the title of U.S. Women’s Champion.”

Elena won again in 1994, to chalk up her third American championship to go with her two Soviet victories. Then, in 1995, Elena married her former chess trainer, IM Georgi Orlov. Their son, Nicholas Orlov, became a serious chess player as a child. In the 2005 Super Nationals in Nashville, Nicholas went into the last round of the K-3 section tied for first place with future GM Daniel Naroditsky of California. Both had perfect 6-0 scores and faced off on board #1. Nicholas grabbed a pawn advantage early but overlooked a winning line to finish second. More recently, Nicholas has become passionate about the game of tennis and has played in only one chess tournament since 2006.

Elena was a participant in the 1990, 1992, 1994, 1998, and 2002 Women Chess Olympiads for the U.S. team and became a licensed FIDE Chess Instructor in 2010. Since retiring from active play in 2003, Elena

has dedicated herself to teaching young players and their parents to understand and enjoy the game she knew as a lifelong companion. Among the students who have benefited from her training over the past two decades are FM Nick Raptis, Megan Lee who inherits the honor of becoming the Northwest’s highest rated female player, 2012 World Youth participant Naomi Bashkansky, plus many, many others. Below is Elena’s final public photo taken with one of her students, Howie Hare, now in the fifth grade. Hare has been a student of Elena’s since kindergarten.

Elena is also survived by a sister, Tatiana Resninskaya, who still lives in Russia.



*Howie Hare with his coach Elena at the Tournament of Champions 2011.
Photo courtesy of Orlov Chess Academy.*

Additional Games:

Juan Leon Jimenez (2240) - Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya (2495)

Seattle Spring Open, 1993
[Notes by IM Georgi Orlov]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0

Jimenez plays this system every time he gets a chance. For players who do not have much time to spend on opening studies, this is a good way to

avoid surprises.

4...Bg4

Another way known since Emanuel Lasker played is 4...Bf5. The disadvantage of this line is that White will play e2-e4 sooner or later and Black will have to lose a tempo.

5.b3

Other moves like 5.d3 and 5.h3 are also playable. The text shows that White has chosen the Reti System.

5...Nbd7 6.Bb2 e6

Black builds up a strong center, neutralizing the influence of the g2-bishop. Elena’s plan is to later play a7-a5 and b7-b5 with counterplay on the queenside.

7.d3 Be7

Everything so far has been played according to theory. *ECO* also considers 7...Bd6 8.Nbd2 Qe7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Nxf3 Ba3 (rather typical idea) 11.Bxa3 Qxa3 12.c4 0-0 13.Qc1 Qd6 14.Qb2 Rfe8 15.d4 Ne4 with an even game as in Kochiev-Balashov, USSR, 1977. Also covered is 7...Bc5 where Black wants to provoke d3-d4 which would close the a1-h8 diagonal for White’s bishop. After 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Nxf3 a5 11.a3 Qc7 12.c4 Rfd8 13.Rc1 Qb6 14.Qc2 Be7 15.Rb1 with a small advantage for White as originally played in Korchnoi-Saharov, 1965.

8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c4

A second possible plan is 9.a3 a5 10.e4 but Black will have play there as well.

9...a5

Frequently employed by Black in this system. She expands her Rook, prepares to jump to c5 with her d7-knight, and threatens a5-a4.

10.a3 Ne8 11.Qc2 Bf6

Black wants to trade White’s active

bishop.

12.b4 Bxb2 13.Qxb2 Qf6



14.Rfb1?!

So far White played well but the text is dubious. He creates a weakness in his position and exchanges queens at the same time, giving Black an edge in the endgame. Instead he should play 14.d4 and if 14...Nd6? then 15.Ne5!

14...Qxb2 15.Rxb2 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 axb4 17.Rxb4 Nd6 18.cxd5

Otherwise dxc4 would leave White with another weak pawn.

18...exd5 19.Bh3?

White missed a chance to try to complicate things with 19.e4?! opening his bishop. There is no point of having the bishop on the h3-c8 diagonal. Also, it forces Black's knight to move to a more active position.

19...Nc5 20.Nd4 g6

This gives Black's king some room plus takes care of the possible Nd4-f5.

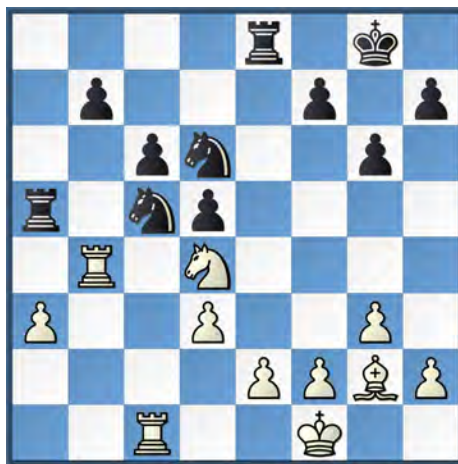
21.Rc1 Ra5 22.Kf1

The a-pawn is indirectly protected and Juan tries to bring his king in for defense.

22...Re8 23.Bg2

[Diagram top of next column]

White offers a pawn but after 23...



Rxa3 24.Bxd5 Nxd3 25.exd3 cxd5 26.Rd1 things would not be that clear. Black decided to wait as the a-pawn is not going anywhere.

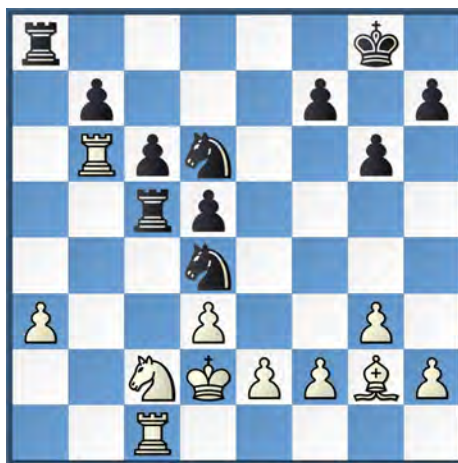
23...Ne6 24.Nc2 Rea8?!

Both sides were approaching time pressure. 24...Rc5 was more precise.

25.Rb6?!

Too passive. White hopes for Bxd5 at some point, but 25.e4 was his best chance.

25...Rc5! 26.Ke1 Nd4 27.Kd2



27...N4b5

Black avoided a trap: 27...Nxc2 28.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Rxa3 30.Bxd5! Nc8 31.Rxb7! cxd5 32.Rb8=.

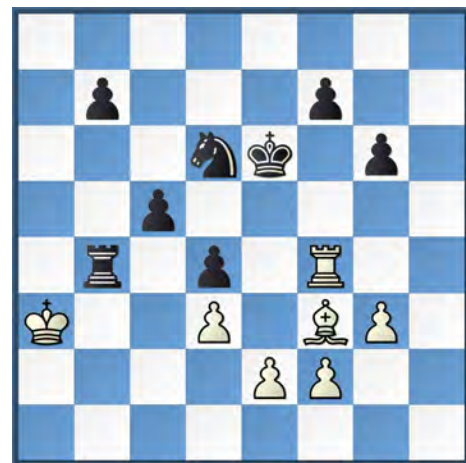
28.Rb1 Rxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Nxa3+ 30.Kc3 Nxb1+ 31.Rxb1 Ra2 32.Bf3 Kf8

Elena emerges with an extra pawn and White has no counterplay. The rest would normally be a matter of simple technique but time-trouble was on!

33.Kd4 Ke7 34.h4 Ra4+ 35.Kc3 d4+ 36.Kb3 Ra5 37.Rc1 Rb5+ 38.Ka4 Kd7

Now White's king is out of business. Juan tries desperate action on the kingside but it does not change anything.

39.h5 Nc8! 40.hxg6 hxg6 41.Rh1 Nd6 42.Rh4 c5 43.Rf4 Rb4+ 44.Ka3 Ke6



Black has a threat of ...Nd6-b5+, Nb5-c3+, b7-b5, Rb4-b1 and b5-b4 mate and there is little White can do. Juan makes his final mistake.

45.Bg4+? f5 46.Bh3 g5 47.Re4+ Nxe4 0-1

Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja (2495) – Juan Leon Jimenez (2240)

Washington Open, 1993
[Notes by Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.e4 Nf6 6.f4

More popular here is 6.Nf3, transposing into a Benoni after 6...0-0 7.Be2 a6 8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5.

6...0-0 7.Nf3 e6

My next move was to avoid the sharp lines after 8.Bd3 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8.

8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Be2?

9.Bd3 makes more sense if White is planning to play f4-f5.

9...Nc6 10.0-0 Re8

Tactics beginning with 10...Nd4 look interesting: 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Qxd4 Nd5 13.Qf2 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bxc3 15.Rb1 Rc8! and Black keeps good counterplay.

11.Kh1 a6

Again, the idea with 11.Nd4 was possible here, giving Black counterplay. I didn't want to give Black this option any longer.

12.f5!?



I believed that this sacrifice would give me at least compensation after 12...gxf5 if Black accepted it.

12...Bc8

Black should have taken the pawn because after the text White has a clear edge.

13.Bd3 Nd7 14.Nd5 Rb8 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bf4 Nde5 17.b3 b5 18.Nxe5

I was looking for a chance to open the position after 18...Nxe5 19.Bxe5 dxe5 20.a4 as well as to exploit Black's weakened kingside.

18...dxe5 19.Be3 Nd4 20.Bxd4

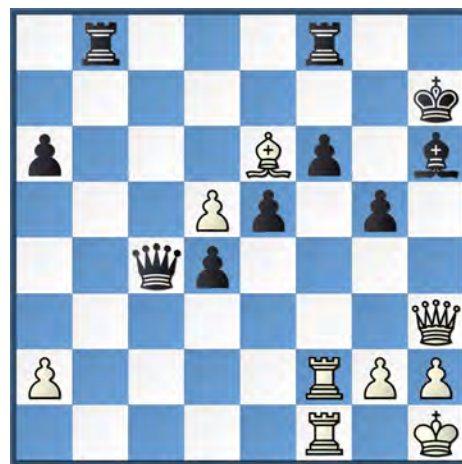
cxd4 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Qf3 Rf8 23.Qg3 g5

Too detrimental for Black's position. He should try 23...Kh7 and if 24.Rf2 Be6 25.h4 Bxd5 26.exd5 f5! 27.h5 e4 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 and Black is OK. I was going to play 24.Qh4+ Kg8 24.g4 with some advantage.

24.Rf2 Be6 25.Raf1 Bxd5 26.exd5 bxc4 27.bxc4 Qc8 28.Bf5 Qxc4 29.Be6+ Kh7

If 29...Rf7 30.Bxf7 Kxf7 31.Qxe5

30.Qh3+ Bh6



31.Qh5

With the threat of Bf5. More precise would be the immediate 31.Bf5+ Kg7 32.Qh5 and Black has to resign.

31...f5

With a trap. If 32.Rxf5?? then 32...Qxf1+!

32.Bxf5+ Rxf5 33.Rxf5 Rb6 34.Qf7+ Kh8 35.Qe7 Rg6 36.Qxe5+ Bg7 37.Qb8+ Kh7 38.Qb3 Qe2 39.Qf3 d3 40.Qxe2 dxe2 41.Re1 Rb6 42.g3 Rb2 43.Rf2 Rxa2 44.Rfxe2 Ra4 45.Rd1 1-0

No place to run, no place to hide. Always tactically alert, Elena tosses a hand grenade into the midst of Jim Hamblin's position.

**Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
- Jim Hamblin**

Portland Open, 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.e4 e5 5.Nf3 c6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Rb1 a5 9.Qc2 Qc7 10.h3 Re8 11.Be3 Nf8 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.c5 Ne6 14.Na4 Nh5 15.Rfd1 Nef4 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.Bc4 g5 18.Rd2 Ng7 19.Rbd1 Nge6 20.Rd7 1-0



Elena was a frequent visitor to British Columbia, a relatively short journey from her home in Seattle. On one visit, she took home the scalp of FM Jonathan Berry (also a GM of correspondence chess) whom she defeated 2-0 in a match.

**Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
- Jonathan Berry**

Vancouver BC Match G1, 1992
[Notes by Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c6!?

Interesting idea. Frankly I had never seen this one before. Instead 3...c5 or 3...d6 are more common, and 3...Nf6 leads to a KID.

4.e4 d5 5.Nc3

After 5.exd5 cxd5 6.cxd5 Nf6 the game would transpose to the Panov Attack of the Caro Kann Defense.

5...dxe4 6.Nxe4 Bg4 7.Be3 Nh6?!

The normal 7...Nf6 would lead to a slightly better game for White after 8.Nxf6+ Bxf6 9.Be2. Also not very attractive is 7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bxd4

9.0-0-0 Bxe3+ 10.Qxe3 and White has a crushing initiative.

8.Ng3!

The only way to fight for an edge, as 8.Be2 Nf5 or 8...Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Nf5 would give Black a great game.

8...Na6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Nf5

The seemingly active 10...c5? 11.dxc5 Qa5 is met by 12.a3! and a pawn is lost for nothing.

11.Nxf5 gxf5?



A positional mistake. The natural 11...Bxf5 would have given Black a fair game. If 12.Ne5 then ...c5 makes perfect sense. Still, 12.Qd2 with the idea of 13.Bh6 keeps White's small edge.

12.Ne5! Bxe2 13.Qxe2

The position has dramatically changed. Now if 13...c5 then 14.Rad1 with 15.Qh5 in mind and the Black king would not feel safe.

13...f4 14.Bxf4 Qxd4 15.g3!

It is important for White to keep the bishop on f4 for Bf4-h6 later on, plus giving some room for the king just in case.

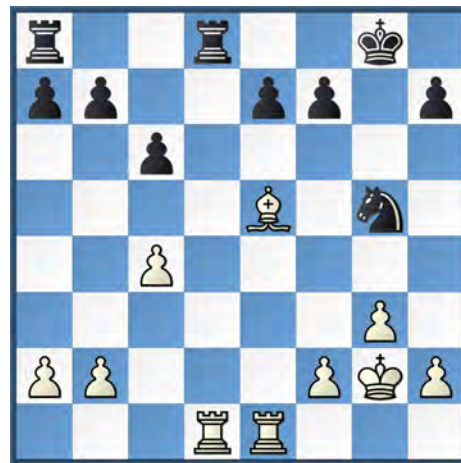
15...Nc5 16.Rad1 Qe4 17.Qxe4 Nxe4 18.Rfe1!

White did not fall for the interesting trap 18.Rd7? Nc5 17.Rxe7 Bf6 and her rook is in trouble.

18...Bxe5

Other moves were: 1) 18...Nd6 19.Nf3 Nxc4 20.Rxe7 Nxb2 21.Rdd7 and White is better; 2) 18...Nc5 19.Nd7 Nxd7 20.Rxd7 and White is on top again; or, 18...Nf6 19.Nd7 Rfe8 20.Nc5! b6 21.Na6! and Black faces some problems.

19.Bxe5 Ng5 20.Kg2 Rfd8



Black managed to hold together but the price was high as White's bishop dominates the field.

21.f4 Ne6 22.f5 Ng7 23.g4 Ne8 24.Kf3 f6

Played out of desperation. Also 24...Nd6 25.Bxd6 Rxd6 26.Rxd6 cxd6 27.Re7 is clearly better for White.

25.Bc3 Kf7 26.b3

White has a significant positional advantage here. Black has two weak pawns (e7 and h7), his pieces are passive, and he has no counterplay. However, White still has to show some technique. 26.Bb4 did not work well enough because of 26...Rxd1 27.Rxd1 b6! and White remains better but Black has obtained some counterplay.

26...c5 27.Bb2 b6 28.Bc1 Nc7 29.Bf4 e5 30.fxe6+ Nxe6 31.Be3 Kg6 32.Rd5!

Preventing f6-f5 and threatening to take control over the d-file.

32...Rxd5 33.cxd5 Nc7 34.d6 Nb5

If 34...Ne6 then 35.Ke4! and the king penetrates. Also bad is 34...Nd5 35.Rd1 Nxe3 36.Kxe3 and White must win.

35.Bf4 Rd8 36.Re7 Nxd6 37.Rxa7 Nb5

Time pressure is already involved here.

38.Rb7 Rd3+ 39.Kg2 Rd4 40.Rxb6 Rxf4 41.Rxb5 Rxd4+ 42.Kf3 Rg5 43.a4

Heroically Black managed to keep materially even, but the rook endgame is still hopeless due to the quality of White's pawns and the weakness on c5.

43...Rd5 44.a5 Rd2 45.Ke3!

The h-pawn doesn't make any difference here. The rest does not need any comment. Black is far behind.

45...Rxd2 46.Kd3 h5 47.Rxc5 h4 48.Rc1 Ra2 49.b4 h3 50.Kc4 h2 51.Rh1 Kg5 52.Kb3 Re2 53.a6 1-0

Black's flag fell, but he would have been resigning soon anyway.

Jonathan Berry – Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaia

Vancouver BC Match G2, 1992

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.e4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 a6 8.a4 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Re1 d6 11.e5 dxe5 12.d5 0-0 13.Nxe5 Rd8 14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Rxe6 Qf4 16.Qe2 Nd7 17.g3 Qg5 18.d6 Kf8 19.Rxg6 Qe5 20.dxc7 Re8 21.Qd2 Nf6 22.Rd1 Qxc7 23.Rxf6+ Bxf6 24.Nd5 Qxc4 25.Nxf6 Qc6 26.Qxh6+ Kf7 0-1(time)

Her game below vs. FIDE Master Tom O'Donnell of Canada which followed a game of GM Tal's straight out of *Informant*, culminated by a new move discovered by she and Georgi during one of their training sessions.



2003 U.S. Championship

Photo by Greg Gilbert, courtesy of The Seattle Times

Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya (2556) – Tom O'Donnell (2410)

West Seattle International, 1990

[Notes by Georgi Orlov]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3

The Catalan System. This particular line I have played very often.

4...Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Qc2 b6

In the first round of the 1990 NY Open, Tal beat Wedberg with this variation as White. Then, in the fourth round, he played it as Black against me.

8.Nbd2 Bb7 9.e4 Nbd7 10.e5 Ne8 11.b3!

A new move at the time, played by me for the first time in my game against Tal. For Tal's notes to this game, see *Informant* #49. Adianto-Spassky, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988, went 11.Re1 Nc7 12.h4 h6 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.Ne4 c5! 15.dxc5 Rc8 16.Bd2 bxc5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.a3 c4 the position was unclear.

11...Rc8 12.Bb2 c5 13.dxc5! Nxc5

After 13...bxc5 14.h4 h6 15.Rfe1 the position was better for White.

14.Rfd1 Nc7 15.Rac1

15.b4?! then Nd7! 16.a3 a5 17.Qb3

dx4 18.Nxc4 Bd5.

15...Qe8

In case of 15...b5 16.b4 Na6 (16...Na4 17.c5) 17.cxb5 Nxb4 (17...Nxb5 18.Qa4 Qb6 [18...Nac7 19.Nb3] 19.Bf1! Nac7 20.Nb3 is better for White) 18.Qb3 with the idea 19.a3 White had the advantage.

16.Qb1!?

An interesting idea. White prepared to answer 16...b5 with 17.b4! N5a6 18.cxb5 Nxb5 19.a3 and then Nb5-a5 with the better chances.

16...dxc4 17.Nxc4 Be4 18.Qa1 Nd5

If 18...Nd3?! then 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.exd6 Nxc1 21.Bxc1 Nd5 22.Ne5 Nc3 23.Be4 Nxd1 24.d7 Rxc1 25.Qxc1 Qb8 26.Qxd1 Qxe5 27.d8=Q and White was winning. Or, in the case of 24...Qe7 25.dxc8=Q Rxc8 26.Bd2 Qc5 27.Qd1 Qxe5 28.Bf3 White had a big advantage.

19.Nd6!

The beginning of a nice combination. Also deserving attention was 19.Rd4! with the following variations:

a) 19...Nb4 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.exd6 Nc2 22.Rxc2 Bxc2 23.Rg4 with a strong initiative;

b) 19...Bg6 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.exd6 f6 22.Nh4;

c) 19...f5 20.exf6 gxf6 (20...Rxf6 21.Nce5) 21.Ncd2 f5 22.b4 Nd3 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Nxc4 fxe4 25.Rxe4 Qc2 26.Rg4+ Kf7 27.Ne5+;

d) 19...Rd8? 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.exd6 f5 (21...Rxd6 b4!) 22.Rdd1!

In all cases, White had the better or winning position.

19...Bxd6 20.exd6 f6 21.Rd4 e5 22.Rxe4!

[Diagram top of next column]

A nice positional sacrifice. Other



possibilities led in the best case only to equal chances. For example 22.Rdc4 Qh5 23.b4 (23.Ne1 Bxg2 24.Nxg2 Rd8) 23...Bxf3 24.bxc5 Bxg2 25.Kxg2 Qe2 26.Kg1 bxc5 27.Rxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxc5 Nb4 29.d7 Nd3 30.Rc8 Qxf2+ 31.Kh1 Qf3+ 32.Kg1 Qe3+ 33.Kg2 Qe4+ 34.Kg1 Qe3+ 35.Kg2=. If 23...Nxb4 24.Rxb4 Bxf3 25.Rh4 Qf5 26.Bh3 Qd3 27.Bxc8 Rxc8 here Black is even slightly better.

22...Nxe4

23.Nd2!

A nice move originally found during my game with Tal. Obviously, Elena liked it too! The obvious move here is 23.Nxe5 and 23...fxe5 24.Bxe4 Nf4 25.Bf5 was clearly better for White. However, 23.Nxe5 has a strong refutation 23...Ndc3! with the following interesting variations:

a) 24.Rxc3 Nxc3 25.Bxc3 Rxc3 (25...fxe5 26.Bxe5) 26.Bd5+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Rxf7 28.Bxf7 Qc8! (28...Qxf7? 29.Qxc3+-; 28...Qe5?! 29.d7 Rd3 30.Qc1 Qc5 31.Qf4 Qe5 32.Qc4=) 29.d7 Rc1+ 30.Kg2 Qa8+ winning;

b) 24.Bxc3 Nxc3 25.d7 (25.Rxc3 Qxe5) 25...Ne2+ 26.Kf1 Rxc1+ 27.Qxc1 Qxe5 28.Qc4+ Kh8 29.Qxe2 Qxe2+ 30.Qxe2 Rd8 31.Bc6 Kg8 and Black has all the chances;

c) d7 Qxe5 25.dxc8/Q Ne2+!! (not 25...Rxc8 26.Rc2+-) 26.Kf1 Nd2+ 27.Ke1 Nd4+ 28.Kd2 Qe2+ 29.Kc3 Rc8+ 30.Kd4 Qd2+ 31.Ke4 Re8+

32.Kf3 Qe2+ 33.Kf4 g5+ 34.Kf5 Qe6++. A beautiful checkmate!

23...Nxd2

23...f5 24.Nxe4 fxe4 25.Bxe4 and White was better.

24.Bxd5+ Kh8 25.Rd1!

25.Rxc8 Qxc8 26.Qd1 loses after 26...Qc5 27.Qxd2 Qxd6 and White cannot stop 28...Rd8.

25...Rc2



26.Bc3!

The fruit of Elena's home preparations. In the Tal game, I played 26.Rc1??, a terrible mistake, and lost after 26...Qg6! 27.Bb7 Rd8 28.Ba3 Rxc1+ 29.Qxc1 Qb1 30.Qxb1 Nxb1 31.Bb4 a5 32.Be1 Rxd6 (0-1). In the post mortem we found that I could have won the game easily with 26.Bc3! Qb5 27.Rxd2 Rxd2 28.Bc4! Qc6 29.Bxd2 Qxd6 30.Be3 with a decisive advantage. Armed with this knowledge, Elena led the unsuspecting Canadian off a cliff.

26...Qb5 27.Rxd2 Rxd2 28.Bc4 Qc5 29.Bxd2 Qxd6 30.Be3 f5 31.f4 exf4 32.Bxf4 Qc5+ 33.Kg2 b5 34.Be2 Re8 35.Qd1 a6 36.Bf3 Rc8 37.Qd7 Qc2+ 38.Kh3 Rg8 39.Be5 h6 40.Bd5 Qf2 41.Bxg8 1-0

Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja
– Laszlo Szalvay

Seattle, 1993

[Notes by Elena Donaldson]

Akhmylovskaja]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2

White chooses the Fianchetto Variation against the King's Indian Defense. This line is not as aggressive as the Four Pawns Attack or the Saemisch but it has a solid positional foundation.

6...Nc6 7.0-0 Bg4

Instead 7...a6 with the idea of 8...Rb8, 9...b5 was better. Also 7...Bb5 deserved some attention.

8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 b6?!

This move forces Black's knight to a passive position on b7. Normally Black plays 9...c5 here following with a6, b5.

10.h3 Bd7 11.b4 Nb7 12.Bb2 Qc8 13.Kh2 c5 14.b5 a5?

White's advantage in space is quite impressive. I planned to play e4, f4, Nf3, Qe2, Re1 followed by e5-e6. The plan is simple enough as well as very strong. Will Black find any active counterplay or, at least, small chances to fight back? If not, Black's position at this point may be pronounced as hopeless. The text locks the queenside forever, depriving Black of chances to trade pieces or get play along the a-file. Also, the a5 pawn blocks runaway a5-b3-d4 for the jobless knight on b7, whereas White's knight gets a comfortable position on a4 keeping Black's pieces protecting the pawn on b6. Now, with the queenside completely locked up and White's full domination on the rest of the board, Black's pieces will consequently run out of air. Black had to play 14...a6 15.a4 Qc7 followed by ...Ra7 and ...Rfa8.

15.f4 Ra7 16.e4 Ne8 17.Qe2 e5 18.Na4 Qc7 19.Nf3 Nd8 20.Nh4 f5?

[Diagram top of next column]

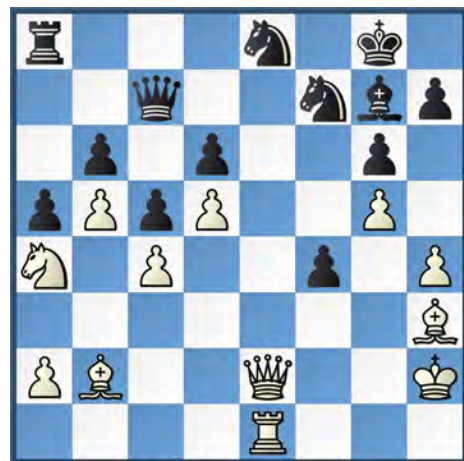


This attempt to get active play leads to an immediate end. Considering a closed type of position, Black could prolong fighting by passive defense like 20...f6, ...Nd8, ...Nf7 and – just wait. It is not what most chess players like, but sometimes it works.

21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Rxf5 23.Rae1 Nf7 24.g4 Rf6 25.g5 Rf5 26.h4 Ra8

Allows a nice finishing combination, but there is no better advice for Black.

27.Bh3 Rxf4 28.Rxf4 exf4



29.Qxe8+! Rxe8 30.Rxe8+ Bf8 31.Bf6 Ne5 32.Be6+ Nf7 33.Nxb6!

Also 33.Be7 Qxe7 34.Rxe7 Bxe7 35.Nxb6 was winning, but it could take a while.

33...Qxb6 34.Be7 Qc7 35.Bxf8 1-0

There is no defense against 36.Be7+ and 37.Bf6 with checkmate.

Elena was also a chess journalist and

quite willing to share her chess ideas with readers everywhere. Following is an article, written by Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja and originally published in the Canadian publication *Counterplay*, August 1994:

DEFENSE, COUNTERPLAY AND STEREOTYPES

Players get into passive positions for different reasons. Either it's a poor opening or the brilliant play of the opponent. Often, players purposely go into defense, provoking the opponent to aggressive actions. I would like to pinpoint one type of passive or "stagnant" position and warn you to always try to avoid them. Basically, these situations are very easy to recognize.

1. One side has a space advantage.
2. Almost all the pieces are on the board so the active side has very easy maneuvering.
3. The whole position is blocked (usually no open lines, no movements), but there is a pawn breakthrough possibility on one of the flanks, which is controlled by the active side.

The major drawback in such situations is the player hopes that he will withstand the breakthrough and will be successful in his defense behind the walls. Sometimes it does work but most of these positions are very hard to defend. First of all, the active side may maneuver and improve pieces as long as it needs to and the defensive side often loses patience and makes a mistake.

It is important to recognize the danger of approaching such positions. Preparing counterplay on the opposite side or in the center (open line, possible breakthroughs) might be sufficient enough to prevent the opponent from the one-way attack.

Dave Herder - Elena Donaldson

Keres Memorial, Vancouver, 1994
[Notes by Elena Donaldson]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3

As an e5-player I feel much more uncomfortable when White plays the system with c2-c3 and Nbd2. There White has a wide choice of plans: on the queenside (b4, a4), in the centre (Re1, Nf1-g3, d4), and on the kingside.

5...h6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3 d6 8.h3 a6 9.Ne2

9.a3 was better with the idea to avoid a knight for bishop exchange. Usually, White tries to keep his light-squared bishop on the board, expecting, in the future, to use its power on the diagonal a2-g8.

9...Na5 10.c3 Nxb3 11.axb3 Re8 12.b4 Ba7 13.c4

White is playing against d6-d5 and making barricades against Black's two bishops.

13...c6 14.Bd2 d5 15.Qc2 Bd7 16.Bc3 Bb8 17.Rfd1 d4

I considered that my space advantage, two bishops and the weakness on b4 would give me good chances for success.

18.Bd2 Nh7 19.Ng3 Ng5!?

Here I only considered 20.Bxg5 or 20.Nh2 with good play for Black in both lines. I underestimated White's next move and the whole idea for White's defense. Another option for Black here was 20...Bd6, Bf8, with the idea of g7-g6 and f7-f5.

20.Bxg5!?

An interesting idea for defense. White had estimated that the King's position would be guarded by the knight and the queenside looked safely blocked. White only had White only had one problem - absence of counterplay.

20...hxg5 21.Nh2 g6 22.f3 f5

Doesn't it look like a logical move? I did not have any doubts about it. Meanwhile, there was a drawback with this move. In two moves it became clear that Black could not break through on the kingside, therefore f7-f5 just created weaknesses in the Black position. Instead of the text, 22...Qe7, 23...Bd6 provoking c5, and then Re8 and b6, to follow the same plan that happened in the game, but without wasting time!

23.Nh1 Qe7 24.Qd2 Bd6 25.c5 Bc7 26.Nf2 Kg7 27.Rdc1 Rh8 28.Ra3 Raf8 29.Rc2 Bd8 30.Qd1 Qf6 31.Re2 Re8 32.Ra1 Qe6 33.Ra3 Bc7 34.Qd2 Qe7 35.Ra1 Ra8!?

I played several meaningless moves trying to figure out how to break through the White defence. A simple plan with Ra8, Rb8, and b6 came to my mind in a very last (but not the best) moment.

36.Ree1

White had an interesting idea: 36.exf5 gxf5 37.f4! gxf4 38.Qxf4 Qf6 39.Qf3 with a following g4. Considering the time control, this might be a good try.

36...Rhb8 37.Rec1

Probably, the exchange on f5 had a "wrong way" image for both players, because I did not see this chance during the game either. Again, White had a good moment to start complications after 37.exf5 gxf5 38.f4!?

37...b6 38.Ra4 bxc5 39.bxc5 Rb3 40.g4?!

This was the last opportunity for White to create some activity after 40.exf5 gxf5 41.g4 acquiring the square e4 for one of the knights.

40...f4 41.Ra3 Rxa3 42.bxa3 Rb8 43.Nd1 Rb5 44.Nb2 Ba5 45.Qc2 Be6 46.Nc4 Bc3! 47.a4 Rb4 48.Rb1 Qxc5 49.Rxb4 Qxb4 50.Nxe5 Qc5 0-1

World Youth Championship

Final Results

Five Northwest players were invited by the USCF to represent the United States in the World Youth Championships (WYCC) held in Maribor, the second largest city in the republic of Slovenia located in the former Yugoslavia. This prestigious event is attended by approximately 1,500 players from around the world. The tournament began November 7 and was concluded November 19 after 11 rounds had been played. Here are the final scores for the Northwest players:

Roland Feng (Seattle CC) Under-12 Open – 7 points

Bryce Tiglon (Seattle CC) Under-12 Open – 7 points

Anthony He (Seattle CC) Under-8 Open – 5.5 points

Becca Lampman (Portland CC) Under-16 Girls – 5.5 points

Naomi Bashkansky (Seattle CC) Under-10 Girls – 5.5 points

Each of the five NWC players were invited to contribute their favorite game, photos and stories of the experience to share with our readers. We present those here.

Becca Lampman by Jill Lampman

Editor's note: Becca lives in Vancouver, WA and plays in the Portland Chess Club.

Being invited to participate in the World Youth Chess Championship as a member of the US Team was a huge honor for Becca. She really appreciated the opportunity to play the best girls her age from around the world. Becca played three WCM's



*Becca Lampman and IM John Bartholomev, who was her assigned coach for the tournament. Becca really enjoyed getting the chance to work with the IM and GM coaches who traveled with the US delegation.
Photo credit: Jill Lampman.*

and one WFM, including the 2012 Women's Champion from India, the 2011 National Woman's Champion of Malaysia, as well as a Romanian immigrant to France who has been a past youth champion in both countries. Becca was pleased to finish with an even score of 5.5/11 with 4 wins, 3 draws and 4 losses.

One of Becca's best games at the tournament was actually against fellow US teammate Jessica Regam who is rated 200 points higher than Becca under the US rating system.

Prior to this event Becca didn't have a FIDE rating, but now that she has completed these 11 games, her expected initial rating according to the FIDE site will be 1974.

**Becca Lampman (1958) –
Jessica Regam (2161)
Wch U16 girls Maribor
(R5), Nov 12, 2012**

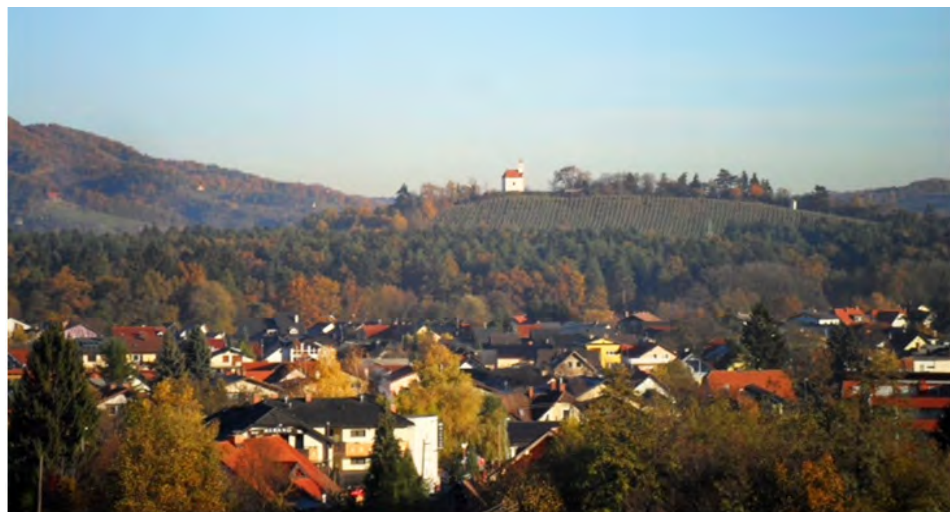
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Ne8 10.c5 f5 11.Nd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.Nc4 g5 14.Ba3 Ng6 15.b5 dxc5 16.Bxc5 Rf7 17.a4 h5 18.a5 g4 19.Bf2 Bf8 20.b6 axb6 21.axb6 Rxa1 22.Qxa1 Ne8 23.Nb5 Qg5 24.Qc1 Nh4 25.Nxe5 gxf3 26.Bxf3 Rg7 27.Bxh4 Qxh4 28.Nd3 Rf7 29.bxc7 Nd6 30.Nxd6 Bxd6 31.e5 Bxc7 32.d6 Bb6+ 33.Kh1 Be6 34.Nc5 Bxc5 35.Qxc5 Qg5 36.Qb5 Qf5 37.Bxb7 Qc2 38.Qe8+ 1–0

Traveling to Slovenia was amazing. It truly is a beautiful country.

Bryce Tiglon

Editor's note: Bryce lives in Redmond and plays in the Seattle Chess Club.

**Bryce Tiglon -
Vid Dobrovoljc (1790)**



Here's a photo taken from the Lampman's hotel balcony. Photo credit: Jill Lampman.

Wch U12 Maribor (R1), Nov 8, 2012

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bd3 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nxf6+ Nxf6 10.Ne5 c5 11.Be3 Nd5 12.dxc5 Nxe3 13.Rxe3 f5 14.b4 a5 15.c3 axb4 16.cxb4 Qd4 17.Bc4 Rd8 18.Rd3 Qxe5 19.Rxd8+ Kf7 20.Rd3 Rb8 21.Re3 Qf6 22.Qh5+ Kf8 23.Rae1 1-0



Bryce Tiglon. Photo courtesy of Anemone Tiglon.

Naomi Bashkansky

by Guy Bashkansky

Editor's note: Naomi lives in Bellevue and plays in the Seattle Chess Club. The following is an edited account as posted on the blog <http://chesstravel.blogspot.com/2012/12/world-youth-chess-championship-2012.html> on November 26.

Naomi played in the Girls Under 10 category. Naomi is only nine, so this time she was playing mostly with girls who are older, which is significant at this age. She took 5.5 out of 11 possible points, which is an OK result, given the age difference.

This is her second time at the world level, last year she already represented the USA at the 2011 World Youth Chess Championship in Caldas Novas, Brazil. There she

played in the Girls Under 8 category, being already eight years old. Maybe because of this, her result was better in Brazil than in Slovenia: six out of nine possible points.

TRAVEL

Here is Naomi and Co. travel schedule in November 2012:

- 4-5: Flight to Zagreb, Croatia
- 6: Sightseeing Zagreb
- 7: Bus to Maribor, Slovenia
- 8-12: WYCC2012 Rounds 1-6
- 13: Free day excursion to Postojna and Ljubljana
- 14-19: WYCC2012 Rounds 7 – 11
- 24: Sightseeing Vienna
- 25: Flight to Seattle

November 5: Flight

The enormous Frankfurt airport is somewhat skimpy on jetways. A bit of retro experience, though.

Upon settling in Hotel Jadran in Zagreb, we ventured into the night to get some food and drink. Mission accomplished at the Cathedral Square.

November 6: Zagreb

In one day, we were able to tour thoroughly Zagreb's both Upper Town and Lower Town, using the great *Step by Step* guide book.

November 7: Maribor

At the Zagreb airport, the organizers put us on the same bus with players who just arrived from Russia, and we rode to the north. The Croatian-Slovenian border is an EU boundary, so the guard has actually checked and stamped our passports. The Croatian (aka Serbo-Croatian) and Slovenian languages are almost identical in writing, but sound differently. Croatian sounds a bit like Russian, while Slovenian does not (to our ears).

We settled in Hotel Bellevue (of all things – being from the town named

Bellevue!) high up in the mountains of Mariborsko Pohorje ski resort. Each day we had to travel in a cable car down to the playing venue in Hotel Habakuk and back, usually three (times two) times: to the US team coach Michael Khodarkovsky at 9:00 AM, then to the WYCC2012 game in the afternoon at 3:00 PM, and occasionally one more time to catch bus 6 to Maribor historic center and enjoy a walk there in between, or while Naomi played.

The upside of this mountainous location has been a spacious triple room, great mountain views, clean air, quiet trails and detachment from the championship havoc in Hotel Habakuk, not to mention the fun of each nine-minute cable car ride. The full three-daily-meals pansion and the helpful staff of Hotel Bellevue took away all the typical traveler's worries and allowed us to relax even in the high-pressure competitive atmosphere of the World Championship.

WYCC2012 PART I

November 8: Round 1

In the morning, the US chess team met with the US ambassador to Slovenia, who said we were the largest organized US group ever to arrive in this small country.

Then we left Naomi in Hotel Bellevue to prepare and rest, and rode bus 6 to Maribor historic center. The ride is 30 minutes long and free of charge for the WYCC2012 guests. Maribor is the 2012 European Capital of Culture. It has an enchanting small old town with a castle and a town hall, and the oldest-in-the-world 400 years old vine, which still produces grapes for wine, a product so central to the Slovenian identity.

Naomi (playing black) drew against a Women FIDE Master Elizaveta Solozhenkina of Russia, with FIDE rating 1748. Not bad!

November 9: Round 2

Naomi (white) defeated the Latvian player Dana Vambute. At the same time, we enjoyed ourselves immensely at the Young Wine Festival (Martinovanje) in Maribor. *Kubano vino* (mulled wine) does wonders lifting your spirits.

We got into the habit of buying Naomi ice cream after dinner when she played successfully, i.e. won or at least drew a strong player.

November 10: Round 3

Naomi (black) lost to the highest-rated girl in her age at this world championship (FIDE rating 1954) Aleksandra Maltsevskaya of Russia, who will end up third in the final ranking.

November 11: Round 4

Naomi (white) lost to Niklesha Tharushi of Sri Lanka (FIDE rating 1446). We started to worry a bit and asked Naomi to care more. Instead of going to Maribor, on this day we walked around the hotel, and witnessed amateur athletes finish their incredible run up the Pohorje mountain.

November 12 morning: Round 5

On this day, there were two games: one in the morning, and one in the afternoon. This arrangement has allowed to free up the next day, November 13, for excursions.

In the morning, Naomi, playing black, defeated Valeria Mocanu of Moldova. Naomi was satisfied with this game and presents it here:

**Valeria Mocanu –
Naomi Bashkansky**
Wch U10 girls Maribor
(R5), Nov 12, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.c4 dxc4
5.Bxc4 c5 6.0–0 a6 7.dxc5 Qxd1
8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nc3 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7
11.Nd4 Nc6 12.Kf1 Bb6 13.a3 0–0

14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Rd6 Rac8 16.Bc2
Rfd8 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.h3 Nd5
19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.e4 Bc4+ 21.Kg1
Bd3 22.Bxd3 Rxd3 23.Bf4 Bd4
24.Rc1 f6 25.Rc2 e5 26.Bd2 Rb3
27.Bc1 b4 28.axb4 Rxb4 29.Kf1
Rb6 30.Ke2 g5 31.f3 Kg7 32.Kd3
Rd6 33.Kc4 Kg6 34.b4 Bb6 35.Kb3
h5 36.Rc3 Bd4 37.Rc2 f5 38.exf5+
Kxf5 39.g3 g4 40.hxg4+ hxg4 41.f4
e4 42.Re2 Bb6 43.Ka4 Rd3 44.Rg2
e3 45.b5 a5 46.Re2 Ke4 47.Re1 Bd4
48.Re2 Kf3 49.Re1 Bb6 50.f5 Kf2
51.Bxe3+ Bxe3 52.Rh1 Bc5 53.Ra1
Rf3 54.Kxa5 Rxf5 55.Ka6 Rf6+
56.Ka5 Kxg3 57.Rb1 Kg2 58.Rb2+
Rf2 59.Rxf2+ Kxf2 60.b6 Bxb6+
61.Kxb6 g3 62.Kc5 g2 63.Kd4 g1Q
64.Ke4 Qg5 65.Kd4 Qf5 66.Kc4
Qe5 67.Kb4 Qd5 68.Ka4 Qc5
69.Kb3 Qd4 70.Kc2 Qe3 71.Kd1
Qe2+ 72.Kc1 Ke3 73.Kb1 Kd3
74.Ka1 Kc3 75.Kb1 Qb2# 0–1

Naomi's comment: "56... I can't believe I missed Rf8 winning a rook."

They did not let parents into the playing hall at WYCC2012. However they streamed live online video of the hall at wycc2012.com. So, in desperation, I took 50 browser screenshots of that webcast as Naomi was playing the endgame in Round 5.

November 12 afternoon: Round 6

Naomi (white) lost to Nusa Hercog (FIDE rating 1627) of Slovenia. We were really ready for a break now.

TRIP TO POSTOJNA CAVE AND LJUBLJANA

November 13: Free Day Excursion

For the free day, the organizers offered a choice of excursions: Bled-Ljubljana or Postojna-Ljubljana or Vienna. We already saw Vienna 16 years ago and were planning to spend a day there later anyway, on November 24. Lake Bled is said to look spectacular, but the weather seemed iffy for a high-visual-expectations outdoor trip.

So we've chosen the Postojna Cave,

a world-famous natural wonder, and we were not disappointed. The many-miles-long karst caves system was first opened to the public in 1819. A train drives visitors from the entrance to the main halls.

After the mind-numbing visit to the cave, we enjoyed a relaxed walking tour of the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, which is charming in its little details. For example, the pedestrian Padlock Bridge, where lovers lock padlocks on the rail cables, as symbols of their eternal bond, and then throw away the keys to the Ljubljanica River below.

During this trip we became friends with Nastya (whom Naomi will play in Round 8) and her father Oleg.

WYCC2012 PART II

November 14: Round 7

Naomi (black) defeated Woman Candidate Master Anastacia-Anton Lopez-Sanchez of Mexico (FIDE rating 1391), who previously won the North American Youth Championship. That Mexican girl usually plays the King's Indian Attack opening which Naomi never played before. So in the morning Naomi studied this opening and then during the game in the afternoon Naomi survived that opening and won the game!

November 15: Round 8

Naomi (white) lost to her new friend Nastya Vuller of Israel.

While they played, we met our son Ethan's first chess coach Vladimir Vainshtein and then rode bus 6 to Maribor for a walk in the romantic Mestni Park.

November 16: Round 9

Naomi (black) lost to Elizaveta Lichii of Moldova (FIDE rating 1453).

During the game, we have finally visited the Maribor Castle Museum,

and took photos of its many interesting exhibits and architecture.

November 17: Round 10

In the morning, a fellow Bellevue, WA Chess4Life student, Anthony He, and his dad rode the cable car up to our Hotel Bellevue, and invited Naomi and me for a walk along the trails. The notion of two Northwestern chess kids meeting in Slovenian mountains amused us a bit.

In the afternoon, Naomi (white) defeated Nina Marais of South Africa.



Naomi Bashkansky and Anthony He. Photo courtesy of Guy Bashkansky.

November 18: Round 11 and Closing Ceremony

In the morning, Naomi defeated Haohao Liu of Finland.

In the afternoon, Naomi and we met Nastya and Oleg at Maribor's Main Square under the Plague Column. We went down to the Drava River and fed swans with bread. After sunset, we visited the Maribor Castle Museum, and the kids were delighted by the experience.

Then we all rode bus 6 to the Ice Arena (Ledna Dvorana), where the

WYCC2012 closing ceremony was held. It featured a local hip-hop band, speeches by the Maribor mayor and the unsurpassed World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov.

AFTERMATH

WYCC2012 has produced 12 new World Youth Chess Champions in categories Open and Girls in ages 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18.

The US team took the third overall place, with four medals (two gold, one silver, one bronze) - awarded to the US delegation head Michael Khodarkovsky by his old acquaintance Garry Kasparov. Good job, Team USA! India and Russia shared the first and second place, with eight medals each.

Garry Kasparov gave prizes to the top three players in each category:

In the Girls 8 category, the first place went to Motahara Asadi (Iran) who defeated Naomi a year ago in Brazil 2011. Back then Naomi told us she was strong, even though just seven, which is why she got to play in G8 again.

In the Open 8 category, the bronze medal was given to Christopher Shen (USA). One of the US team's four medals.

In Naomi's Girls 10 category, Priyanka N (India) won the first place, the second went to Olga Badelka (Belarus), and the third to Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (Russia), who defeated Naomi in Round three.

In the Open 12 category, Samuel Sevian (USA) won the gold medal. The silver medal went to Cameron Wheeler (USA). Good result here for Team USA: two top medals!

In the Open 14 category, FM (FIDE Master) Kayden Troff from Utah, USA won the gold medal. This is a great achievement. The US team got four medals and the third place overall.

November 24: Touring Beautiful Vienna

In the morning, we flew in to the Vienna Airport and walked across the parking lot to the NH Hotel for early check-in. From there we took the S7 train to Wien Mitte, then the U3 train to Stephansplatz.

We relished the colorful inside illumination of the Stephansdom, the splendor of the Graben, the Hofburg facades, the wide squares and boulevards. Seasonal fairs and festive illumination add to the magic of the Parliament and the Rathaus.

The personal highlight was our visit to the Natural History Museum with its incredible wealth of artifacts, like the unforgettable **24,000**-year-old "Venus of Willendorf." It was followed by savoring true-to-fame Wiener Schnitzels in Café Landtmann.

We capped it all off by classic entertainment with the Vienna Residence Orchestra concert at the Börse Palais. The concert program, with elements of opera and ballet, had two absolutely unbeatable parts: 1. Mozart; 2. Strauss(es).

In the end we rode trains U4 and S7 to spend the night in the NH Hotel at the airport, convenient for our 6:00 AM flight.

November 25: Flight Home

After our plane landed in the Seattle airport, we passed border control, took train to the main terminal, and ran through the whole length of the main terminal to United Airlines departure counters. There we caught Grandma just as she was departing, and we had just enough time to say her goodbye and thank you for staying with our son Ethan for three weeks while we traveled.

The next World Youth Chess Championship will be in Al Ain, UAE, in December 2013.



Seattle Sluggers



2012 U.S. Chess League Champions



L to R: Manager Eddie Chang, FM Marcel Milat, GM Varuzhan Akobian, IM Georgi Orlon, NM Roland Feng, Michael Omori, NM Joshua Sinanan
Photo credit: Bert Rutgers

Quarter Finals, Nov 14, 2012

Dallas vs. Seattle



(The following comments are by Joshua Sinanan.) The Sluggers scored a clutch victory in our quarterfinal match against Dallas. While going up against the division champs with draw odds is never easy, the Sluggers used some great teamwork to earn the necessary 2.5 points to clinch the match and advance to the semi's.

Board 1 was the first to finish when GM Julio Sadorra got the better of the complications against Varuzhan Akobian in a wild game. Out of an off-beat Nimzo-English, White

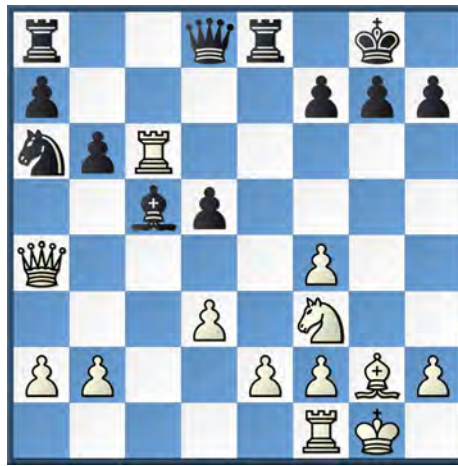
lunged forward early on the queenside with Bf4-Nb5-Rc1, which Varuzhan defended well with Na6-c6. The game took an interesting turn when Sadorra voluntarily let his rook get trapped on c6, and Varuzhan went into a long think for over 50 minutes to try and calculate the best way to take advantage of the situation. A long forcing variation followed, when just as if it seemed like Varuzhan was ready to trap the clumsy major piece, Sadorra found the sneaky 21. Bh3, which Varuzhan may have missed in his calculations. Varuzhan was forced to sack his queen for a N+R and go into a lost ending, which Sadorra converted handily.

After Varuzhan's unfortunate loss on Board 1, the Sluggers kicked it into high gear knowing that we had to score 2.5/3 on the remaining three boards.

Georgi played a brilliant game on

Board 2 against GM Conrad Holt, which is a main contender for Game of the Week! Out of an exchange Slav, White seemed to have some pressure on the queenside and tied both of the black rooks down to defending on a8 and b8. When the match situation changed, Georgi decided it was time to play more aggressively and switched gears, opening up the kingside with f4-f5 and activating his rooks along the c and f files. Holt played well and seemed to be equalizing by exchanging his knight for one of White's bishops and gaining counterplay on the queenside. Georgi then launched an inspired attack, starting with 31. Rcf6! and proceeded to attack like a mad man against the black king. He capped it off with the stunner 44. Kg4!, when Black must give up his queen or get mated. Holt chose the former and went into an ending with 2R vs. Q+B that was completely winning for White. Well done Georgi!

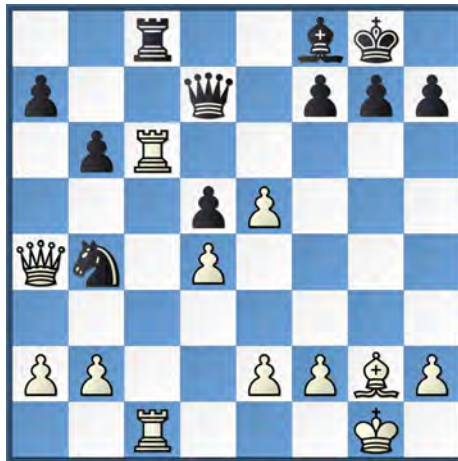
On Board 3, I channeled Marcel and former slugger Loren Schmidt by bringing out the Alekhine Defense against NM Artur Safin. My experiment seemed to be going well when I was able to equalize out of the opening and put some pressure on White's weak pawn on d4. Safin won the exchange with the sequence Bc5-Nd6, but drifted after that by opening his king and leaving his rooks passive long the 1st and 2nd ranks. I seemed to be cruising to victory with 30...Bxd4, 32...Qe4, and 34...Nd2, but missed my chance on move 45, when d2 wins easily. I eventually settled for a draw in an even rook ending.



16...Qd7

16...Nb4 17.Rxc5 bxc5 18.a3 Rxe2 19.axb4 cxb4 20.Qxb4 Rb8 21.Qd4 Rxb2 22.Ne5±; 16...Nb8 17.Rxc5 bxc5 18.Ne5 White can build pressure with Qb3, and seems to have more than enough compensation for the material.

17.Ne5 Rxe5 18.fxe5 Nb4 19.d4 Bf8 20.Rfc1 Rc8



21.Bh3!

Only with this shot does it become clear that the complications have all been in White's favor.

21...Rxc6 22.Bxd7 Rxc1+ 23.Kg2 Rc7 24.e6 g6 25.Qb3 fxe6 26.Bxe6+ Kg7 27.Qg3 Re7 28.Qe5+ Kh6 29.Qf6 Re8 30.Qf4+ g5 31.Qf6+ 1-0

IM Georgi Orlov-SEA –
GM Conrad Holt-DAL
USCL Quarter Finals, Nov 14, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

Peter rose to the occasion and came through in a huge way on Board 4 against Travis Guenther. Before the match Peter figured out which book his opponent was using for his Slav Defense analysis and prepared a line against it. His preparation paid off in a huge way when he gained a dominating position out of the opening and had more time on the clock. Guenther made the dubious decision to trade off his bishop with 16...Bg5, which dropped a pawn and left his kingside quite weak. Peter improved his position well before capping it off with 22. Nxf7 and 23.Qf3, which netted another pawn and prepared a decisive invasion on both flanks. Black resigned in a hopeless position where he was down two pawns and getting squeezed. Congrats to Peter on his first Sluggers win!

Final score of the match: 2.5-1.5 Sluggers!

GM Julio Sadorra-DAL –
GM Varuzhan Akobian-SEA
USCL Quarter Finals, Nov 14, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bf4 Re8 10.Nb5 Na6 11.Rc1 c6 12.Nbd4 Nh5 13.Nxc6!? Bxc6 14.Rxc6 Nxf4 15.gxf4 Bc5 16.Qa4

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Qb3 Qc7 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.d4 Nc6 8.Bd2 Nf6 9.Rc1 Be7 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Be2 Rfc8 12.0-0 Nxe5



13.dxe5

13.Nxd5! Nxd5! 14.Rxc7 Rxc7 15.e4! (15.dxe5? Bc2-+) 15...Bxe4 16.dxe5± Rc2?! 17.Bf3!

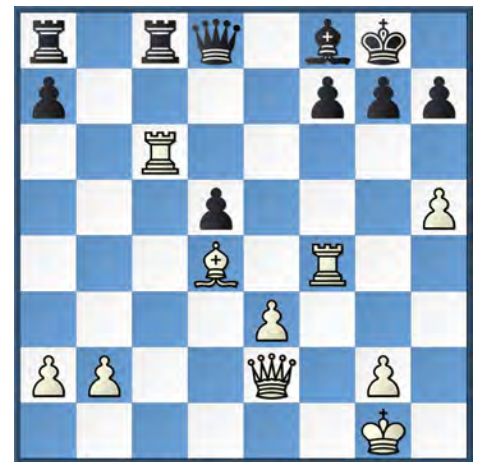
13...Qxe5 14.Qxb7 Bf8 15.Na4 Bc2

15...Rcb8 16.Qc6 Ne4 17.Ba5 Bd6 18.f4 Qf6

16.Bc3 Qe4 17.Bd4 Ne8 18.Nc3 Qg6 19.h4 Rcb8 20.Qa6 Bf5

20...Rxb2? 21.Nxd5+

21.h5 Qg5 22.f4 Qh4 23.Nb5 Qd8 24.Rc6 Be4 25.Nc3 Nd6 26.Nxe4 Nxe4 27.f5 exf5 28.Rxf5 Ng3 29.Rf4 Nxe2+ 30.Qxe2 Rc8



31.Rcf6 Rc1+

31...gxf6 32.Qg4+ Bg7 33.h6 Qf8

34.Bxf6 with a serious attack for a minimal material investment.

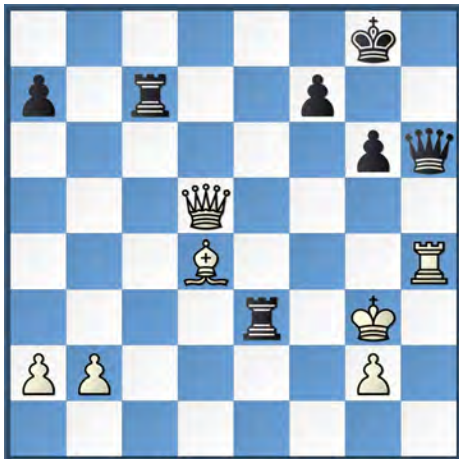
32.Kh2!? Bd6 33.Qg4 Bxf4+
34.Rxf4 Qf8 35.Qf5

35.Qg3!? intending Bxg7 and Rg4:
35...Rc6 36.Bxg7 Qxg7 37.Rg4 Rg6
38.hxg6 hxg6=

35...Rc6 36.Rg4 g6 37.hxg6 Qh6+
38.Kg1 hxg6 39.Qxd5 Rac8 40.Rf4
Rc1+ 41.Kf2 R1c7 42.Kg3± Re8?

42...g5 was necessary to avoid the h-file disaster. 43.Rg4 Kh7 44.Qf5+ Qg6 45.Rxg5 Qxf5 46.Rxf5 and White looks solid with material equality and a positional edge, but still has work to do to claim to be winning.

43.Rh4 Rxe3+



44.Kg4! Qxh4+

44...Re4+ 45.Qxe4 f5+ 46.Kh3 fxe4
47.Rxh6+-

45.Kxh4 Re8 46.g4 Rc2 47.Qd6
Rc1 48.Qf6 Rh1+ 49.Kg3 Rh7
50.Bxa7 Kf8 51.Bc5+ Kg8 52.Bd4
Kf8 53.a4 Rh1 54.Bc5+ Kg8 55.a5
Rd1 56.Bd4 Kf8 57.a6 Rd3+ 58.Kh4
g5+ 59.Qxg5 Rxd4 60.Qc5+ Kg7
61.Qxd4+ Kg6 62.a7 f5 63.gxf5+
Kh6 64.Qf6+ 1-0

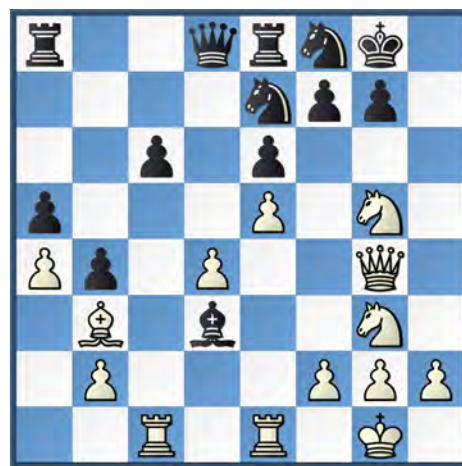
NM Artur Safin-DAL –
NM Joshua Sinanan-SEA
USCL Quarter Finals, Nov 14, 2012

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3
Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.c4 Nb6
8.Nc3 0-0 9.a4 a5 10.exd6 cxd6

11.b3 d5 12.c5 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nc8
14.Nb5 Nc6 15.Bf4 Bf6 16.Ra2
N8e7 17.Bg4 Rc8 18.Bd6 b6 19.f4
g6 20.Kh1 Re8 21.Rd2 Nf5 22.Bxf5
exf5 23.cxb6 Qxb6 24.Bc5 Qa6
25.Nd6 Re4 26.Nxc8 Qxc8 27.g3
Qe6 28.h4 h5 29.Kh2 Re3 30.Qc2
Bxd4 31.Bxd4 Nxd4 32.Qd1 Qe4
33.Rdf2 Nxb3 34.Rf3 Nd2 35.Qxd2
Rxf3 36.Re1 Rd3 37.Qxa5 Qf3
38.Rg1 Re3 39.Rg2 Kg7 40.Qd2
Rd3 41.Qb2+ d4 42.a5 Rd1 43.Qe2
Qxe2 44.Rxe2 d3 45.Ra2 Rc1
46.Kh3 Rc2 47.Ra3 d2 48.Rd3 Ra2
49.a6 Kf6 50.a7 Rxa7 51.Rxd2 Ra3
52.Re2 Ra4 53.Rb2 Re4 54.Rb7
Re2 55.Ra7 Re7 56.Ra6+ Re6
57.Ra7 Re7 58.Ra6+ Re6 59.Ra7
Re7 ½-½

NM Peter Lessler-SEA –
Travis Guenther-DAL
USCL Quarter Finals, Nov 14, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4
b5 5.a4 b4 6.Nb1 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5
8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0
11.Qc2 a5 12.Re1 Bb7 13.Nbd2
Nd7 14.Ne4 h6 15.Ng3 Re8 16.Qe4
Bg5 17.Bxg5 hxg5 18.Qg4 Ba6
19.Bb3 Bd3 20.Nxg5 Nf8 21.Rac1
Ne7



22.Nxf7! Kxf7 23.Qf3+ Nf5
24.Nxf5 Bxf5 25.Qxf5+ Kg8
26.Qg4 Rc8 27.Rc5 1-0

Semi Finals, Nov 19, 2012

Seattle vs. Arizona



The following recap of the match is by former slugger NM Dereque Kelley:

The Sluggers have advanced to the Championship match after clinching an important victory over the Arizona Scorpions! As with so many other matches this season the result was anything but clear for the whole duration of the match.

On board one, the Sluggers unleashed GM Varuzhan Akobian (2697) on IM Mackenzie Molner (2511). GM Akobian's 4.Bg5 reply to the Grunfeld and IM Molner's replies quickly gave the game an improvisational tone. At move 12 White appeared to have the initiative as Black's king had been forced to move to f8 in awkward fashion and the c4- and c5- pawns gave a loose impression. But as play continued it became clear that White's own army was not sufficiently coordinated to exploit these factors.

Play continued in an unfavorable direction for the GM Akobian when IM Molner struck with 17...Nb6 18.Qb3 c4! Forcing White to continue 19.Bxb6 (19.Bxc4? Nxc4 20.Qxc4 Ba6 -/+) 19... axb6 20.Bxc4 when after 20...Bd7! Black had acquired the bishop-pair with tremendous pressure on the weakened queenside pawns. This yielded him more than enough compensation for the pawn.

Around this moment, the situation on board one was not favoring the Sluggers and it appeared that Black could be holding the initiative. But the Sluggers were to receive excellent news as NM Josh Sinanan (2263) had just won yet another game this season on board three where he was paired significantly up against IM Shahin Mohandesi (2399). In this game, Josh succeeded at building a substantial advantage on the clock and acquired a somewhat easier to play position in the middlegame thanks to his queenside

pawn majority. After a maneuvering phase, no side had succeeded at gaining anything substantial but a couple of errant King moves by Black (25...Ke8?!, 26...Kd8?) gave White the time he needed to reposition successfully and advance the queenside pawns.

An important improvement would have been 26...Nc3! Forcing White to react to the threat to the b-pawn with 27.b6 (27.Na3? Nxe2+ 28.Kg2 Nc3=+) 27...axb6 with the idea of 28.Qxb6 Qb5= or 28.Qa8 Qa7! 29.Qc6 Qd7 30.Qxb6 Qb5 ... Here too however, White could have gained an advantage after 28.axb6! Nxe2+ 29.Kf1 Nc3 30.Qa8 Qd8 31.Qb7+= Instead, Black blundered with 26...Kd8 overlooking a strong reply by White. Josh correctly played 27.b6! axb6 28.Qa8! when Black clearly had to concede material. Soon after, Black resigned. A marvelous upset!

On board two, IM Georgi Orlov's (2523) game seemed predictably headed towards a draw as IM Levon Altounian (2493), handling the white pieces, had not managed to create anything serious with the c3-Sicilian. Early on, IM Orlov improvised with 9...Nb6!? After a long think, IM Altounian replied 10.Bd3?! (perhaps 10.Bb3+=) allowing Black to play enterprisingly with 10...Nb4! harassing the bishop and eventually capturing it. Though White tried hard to encircle around the e6-pawn, his own d4-pawn was far too weak. Finally, several moves later, Black crashed through on d4 only long enough for White to simultaneously crash through on e6 keeping the material balance, and further reducing material. Soon a draw was agreed and the Sluggers were ahead 1.5-0.5.

A win on either board one (GM Akobian – IM Molner) or board four would secure the match as would draws on both boards. But by now, GM Akobian's position had further deteriorated. After 30...f4! by IM Molner, Black was dangerously close to cashing in on his opportunity to play ... Bf5 and roll the b-pawn forward winning material. Attempts to capture the pawn on b3, such as 31.Rxb3, were doomed to

failure. Example: 31.Rxb3 Rxb3 32.Bxb3 Ra1 + 33.Kg2 Qe7!-+ (with the idea of 34...Qe1). However, with the clocks dwindling down and Akobian having a small but significant clock advantage (7 minutes to 2) it was still possible to cross one's fingers and hope for the best while on board four, events were also unfolding in an unexpected manner.

On board four the young Peter Lessler (2177) was valiantly holding on with the black pieces against Arizona's NM Dipro Chakraborty (2306). Right away, Peter was able to deploy his pieces sensibly in the face of a King's Indian Attack setup. But with White slowly creeping up the kingside and Black facing the usual issues of how to achieve an active plan, it seemed that Peter was in real danger of being eventually outclassed. Throughout a protracted maneuvering face, the game at times seemed to favor White (NM Chakraborty) and other times appeared to be balanced. Despite sorties such as 22.Nf6!? and a spirited effort on White's part, Peter always seemed to be holding on just enough to begin generating queenside play and not suffer any real damage to his position. After an important knight exchange and the move 27...Rb2! it was clear Peter was standing up to the master after all and any result still seemed possible.

Nevertheless, the situation still looked quite dangerous for the Sluggers - hoping for two draws or a victory on some board still seemed like a miracle. On board one, it still seemed that if GM Akobian would somehow avoid losing material his winning chances may not be significant. But then, a reversal of fortune took place! After GM Akobian's 33.Rc6, IM Molner, who had less than two minutes on the clock, played 33...Qe7? overlooking that after 34.Qxf4 b2? (as played in the game) White simply had 35.Qxb8! capturing the rook for free! All of this occurred in the game. Amazingly, Akobian was now up a full rook and wasted no time whatsoever in giving back some of the material in order to acquire an easily won position. Instead Black was very close to winning the game with 33...Qb4 intending ...b2, when

White cannot complicate the game for long. IM Molner's mistake was no doubt prompted partially by GM Akobian's tenacity and the pressure of the unusual opening and match circumstances. The complicated position had paid off and suddenly the Sluggers had qualified for the Championship!

And what of board four? Did Peter Lessler pull it off? After a missed win by White at 54.Qf4? (54.Bxg6! fxc6 55.Qxg6+ Kh8 56.Qf7!+-) Peter's infiltration broke through and within a short handful of moves Black was up a pawn (after 58...Nxc4) with a winning position. Peter had nearly finished off his game in victory when he made an important mistake 76...Nxa5? Grabbing a second pawn, but giving White enough time to organize a defense with 77.Ba4! Instead Black could have won with 76...Nd4+ 77.Kd1 Kb7! White cannot play 78.Bxf7 due to 78...Nf5, with the idea of 79...Ne3+ (and there is no Ba4) He is therefore helpless to find a useful move. The game could continue 78.Ba4 Ka6 79.Be8 kxa5 80.Bd7 Nf5 and there is no Ba4. Instead after 76...Nxa5? 77.Ba4! Black lost his two pawn advantage. Still the game should have been easily drawn but a last-minute oversight by Peter (83...Ke7? Instead of 83...Nxc5=) gave White an opportunity to transpose to a winning king and pawn ending. As soon as the point was revealed (87. Kh5! gaining opposition), sadly Peter's magnificent efforts were revealed to be not enough and he had to resign.

The Sluggers' play, as a whole, left a strong impression during this match. All boards refused to be budged. Helped by a bit of good luck, the players pounced on opportunities and never gave Arizona an opportunity to think they had it in the bag. This continuous pressure, no doubt, contributed very nicely to the Sluggers' victory. Congratulations Sluggers and good luck in the Finals!

Final score of the match: 2.5-1.5 Sluggers!

**GM Varuzhan Akobian-SEA –
IM Mackenzie Molner-ARZ**
USCL Semi Finals, Nov 19, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5
Bg7 5.Nf3 dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.d5 b5
8.e5 b4 9.exf6 exf6 10.Qe2+ Kf8
11.Be3 bxc3 12.bxc3 Nd7 13.Qxc4
f5 14.Rd1 Qa5 15.Rc1 Bf6 16.Bd3
Kg7 17.0–0 Nb6 18.Qb3



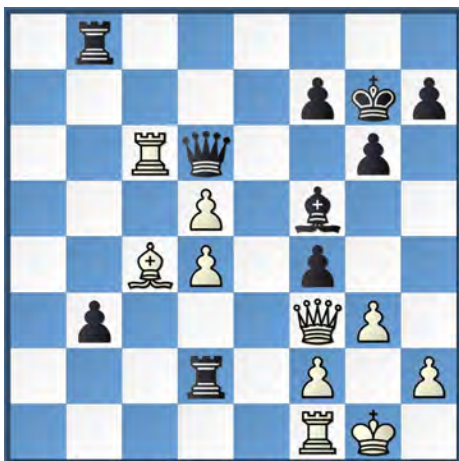
18...c4 19.Bxb6

19.Bxc4 Nxc4 20.Qxc4 Ba6 21.Qb4
Qxb4 22.cxb4 Bxf1 23.Kxf1∞

19...axb6 20.Bxc4 Bd7 21.Nd4

21.Rb1!?

21...Bxd4 22.cxd4 b5 23.Bd3 Qxa2
24.Qb4 Qa3 25.Qd2 Qd6 26.Rc5
Rh8 27.Rb1 b4 28.Bc4 b3 29.g3
Ra2 30.Qd3 f4 31.Qf3 Bf5 32.Rf1
Rd2 33.Rc6



33...Qe7?!

33...Qb4♣

34.Qxf4 b2??

34...Qb4 35.Bxb3 Bh3∞

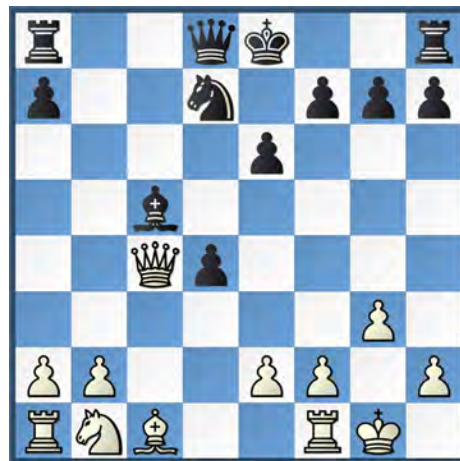
35.Qxb8 Qe4 36.Qe5+ Qxe5
37.dxe5 b1Q 38.Rxb1 Bxb1 39.f4
Be4 40.e6 fxe6 41.Rc7+ Kf6
42.dxe6 Bd5 43.e7 Rd1+ 44.Kf2
Bf7 45.Rc6+ Kg7 46.Rc8 Rc1
47.Bxf7 1–0

**IM Levon Altounian-ARZ –
IM Georgi Orlov-SEA**
USCL Semi Finals, Nov 19, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3
e6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nc6
8.0–0 Be7 9.Qe2 Nb6 10.Bd3 Nb4
11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Be4 f5 13.Bd3
Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Nd5 15.Nc3 0–0
16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Bd7 18.Rfe1
Rac8 19.Nxd5 Qxd5 20.Re5 Qc4
21.Qe3 Rfe8 22.h4 h6 23.Nh3 Qb4
24.Qe2 Rc4 25.a3 Qa4 26.Nf4
Rxd4 27.Nxe6 Bxe6 28.Rxe6 Red8
29.Qf3 Rd1+ 30.Re1 Rxa1 31.Rxa1
Qb5 ½–½

**NM Joshua Sinanan-SEA –
IM Shahin Mohandesi-ARZ**
USCL Semi Finals, Nov 19, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 dxc4
5.Bg2 c5 6.0–0 Bd7 7.Ne5 Nc6
8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Qa4
cxd4 11.Qxc6+ Nd7 12.Qxc4 Bc5



13.b4 Bb6 14.Bb2 Rc8 15.Qd3 e5
16.a4 0–0 17.a5 Bc7 18.Qa6 Bb8
19.Na3 Nf6 20.Rac1 Qd7 21.Rxc8

Rxc8 22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 Nd5
24.Bd2 Kf8 25.Nc4



25...Ke8

25...Nc3! suggests a blockade on
b5. 26.Na3 Ne4∞ 27.Be1 Kg8 (27...
f5 28.b5 Nc5? (28...Kf7) 29.Bb4 Bd6
30.Qc6) 28.b5?! Nc5 29.Qc6 Qxc6
30.bxc6 Ne6♣ intending ...Nd8:
31.Nc2 Nd8 32.Nb4 Bd6

26.b5 Kd8?



26...Nc3! 27.b6 axb6 28.axb6 Nxe2+
29.Kf1 Nc3 30.Qa8 Qd8 and though
White can claim a tiny edge with
31.Bc1 or 31.Qb7 (perhaps planning
Na5–c6), Black has defensive
resources and it's a bit hard to imagine
any real progress without serious help
from the opponent.

27.b6! axb6 28.Qa8 Kc7

28...Kc8 29.Qxd5 Qxd5 30.Nxb6+

29.axb6+ Kc8

29...Nxb6 30.Nxb6 Kxb6 31.Qxb8+ Kc6 32.Qxe5

30.b7+ Kc7

30...Qxb7 31.Nd6+

31.Ba5+ Kc6 32.Qxb8 Qxb7 33.Nxe5+ 1-0

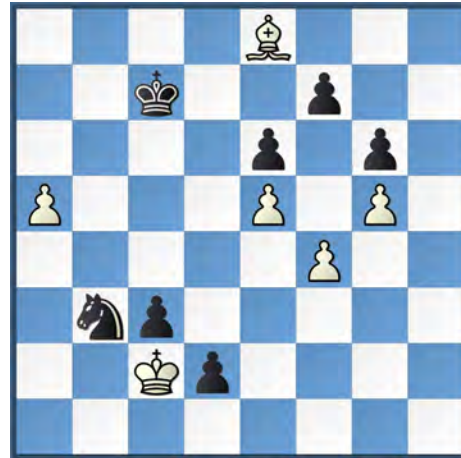
NM Dipro Chakraborty-ARZ –
NM Peter Lessler-SEA
USCL Semi Finals, Nov 19, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.b3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d4 7.d3 c5 8.e4
Nc6 9.e5 Nd7 10.Re1 a6 11.h4 Rb8
12.Bf4 Qc7 13.Nbd2 b5 14.h5 Bb7
15.Qe2 Nb4 16.Nf1 bxc4 17.bxc4
Nb6 18.N1h2 Na4 19.Qd2 Bxf3
20.Bxf3 Rb6 21.Ng4 Kh8 22.Nf6
Nc3 23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Rfb8
25.Bf3 Nc6 26.Qd1 Rb4 27.Qe2
Rb2 28.Qe4 Nb4 29.Re2 Rxe2
30.Qxe2 Nc6 31.Re1 Rb4 32.Qe4
Na7 33.Re2 Qb8 34.Kg2 Kg8 35.g4
Qd8 36.Kh3 a5 37.g5 g6 38.hxg6
hxg6 39.Kg4 Rb1 40.Re1 Rxe1
41.Qxe1 Qb6 42.Bd2 a4 43.Qc1
Nc6 44.Bf4 Nb4 45.Qa3 Kg7
46.Be4



46...Nc2 47.Qxa4 Qb1 48.Qe8
Qd1+ 49.Bf3 Qg1+ 50.Bg3 Bf8
51.Qd8 Ne1 52.Qf6+ Kg8 53.Be4
Qf1 54.Qf4 Qe2+ 55.Kh3 Nxd3
56.Qf3 Qxf3 57.Bxf3 Nb2 58.Be4
Nxc4 59.a4 Na5 60.f4 c4 61.Bf2
Bc5 62.Kg2 Kf8 63.Be1 Nb3 64.Kf1
d3 65.Bc3 Bb6 66.Ke1 Ke7 67.Bc6
Kd8 68.Bb5 Ba5 69.Bxa5+ Nxa5

70.Kd2 Ke7 71.Kc3 Kd8 72.Kd2 Kc7
73.Be8 Nb3+ 74.Kc3 d2 75.Kc2 c3
76.a5



76...Nxa5?

Black misses a clear win: 76...Nd4+
77.Kd1 Kb7 78.Ba4 Ka6-+

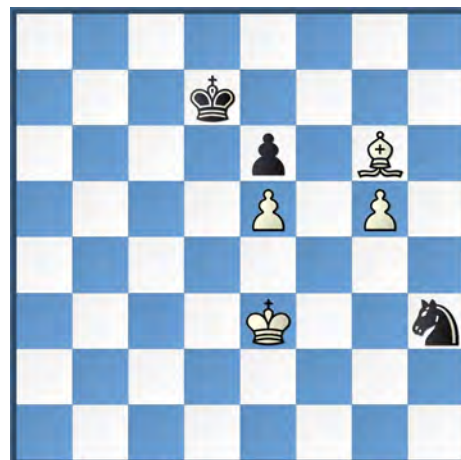
77.Ba4 Nc4 78.Kxc3 Ne3

Or 78...Nb6 79.Bd1 Nd5+ 80.Kxd2
Nxf4 but despite the extra pawn,
the ending is drawn: 81.Bg4 Kb6
82.Ke3 Nd5+ 83.Kd4 Kb5 84.Bf3
Ne7 85.Bg2 Nc6+ 86.Bxc6+ Kxc6
87.Kc4=

79.Kxd2 Nd5 80.Be8 Nxf4 81.Bxf7
Kd7

81...Nh3 is a simpler draw. 82.Bxe6
(Or 82.Bxg6 Nxb5 83.Ke3 Kc6 84.Be4+
Nxe4 85.Kxe4 Kc5 86.Ke3 Kd5 87.Kd3
Kxe5 88.Ke3=) 82...Nxb5 83.Bd5
Kd7=

82.Ke3 Nh3 83.Bxg6



83...Ke7??

83...Nxb5 84.Kf4 Nh3+ 85.Kg3 Kc6!
86.Kxh3 (86.Be4+ Kc5 87.Kxb3 Kd4)
86...Kd5=

84.Kf3 Nxb5+ 85.Kg4 Nf7 86.Bxf7
Kxf7 87.Kh5 1-0

Finals, Dec 1, 2012

Philadelphia vs. Seattle



The following recap of the match is
(Comments by Josh Sinanan) The
Sluggers scored a fantastic victory
last Saturday afternoon (December
1) over the Philadelphia Inventors
and became US Chess League
Champions, the first time ever in our
team's 7 year history in the league!
The match was quite balanced with
each team bringing in its strongest
line-up, and the result was anything
but clear for the duration of play.

Board 1 saw two of the top players in
the league battle it out, with Varuzhan
Akobian taking on Philadelphia's GM
Sergey Erenburg. The two GM's had
played twice before, most recently
in the Philadelphia Open in which
they drew despite Sergey blundering
a knight in an equal endgame. In this
match, Varuzhan fell back on his
secondary black opening, the Caro-
Kann, wisely avoiding a theoretical
duel in his favorite French Defense.
Ironically, Erenburg went with the
Advance Variation, and the game
soon resembled a French structure
anyway with black having control
over the open c-file and pressure on
the queenside. Both players castled
short and Varuzhan brought the rest
of his pieces over to the queenside,
leaving only his dark-square bishop to

protect his king. Erenburg responded by maneuvering his knights to the kingside and bringing his queen to g4, posturing for an attack. As time pressure approached, white was not able to find anything promising and opted for a repetition.

Georgi Orlov faced the young up-and-coming SM William Fisher on Board 2 in the pairing that most heavily favored the Sluggers on paper, with Seattle having the white pieces and an 80-point rating advantage. These advantages would soon disappear, however, as Georgi miscalculated 15. g4?! in the opening and wound up a pawn down. The game entered a very sharp major piece middle game, with each side having both rooks and queens still on the board. Georgi had some compensation for his pawn as Will's king was somewhat exposed and white had the more active major pieces. Fisher gave back one of the pawns and entered a queen and pawn ending with Black having two connected passed pawns on the kingside and white having a 3 vs 2 majority on the queenside. Georgi defended tenaciously and found the amazing 59. Qe3, offering to trade queens and reach a drawn king and pawn ending. Fisher sacrificed one more pawn to keep his chances alive, but the position remained balanced and a repetition was eventually reached. As this was the most exciting game of the match, the players shared game of the week honors.

I faced Philadelphia's MVP points leader, FM Dov Gorman, on Board 3 who had scored an amazing 7/8 during the regular season. The game entered a Kan Sicilian, with Dov playing an early f4, Bd3, and Qe2 set-up. I countered by expanding on the queenside with b5 and challenged his knight on d4 with 8... Nc6. Play became critical as white uncorked 11.Nd5, which looked very strong at first glance. I was fortunate to find the rejoinder, 11...Nf6, which seems to force a pleasant middle game for Black. Dov made a mistake on the

next move by castling kingside right into my open g-file and battery on the h1-a8 diagonal. I then found 13...f5 and forced liquidation into a slightly better rook ending, which I was eventually able to convert given my more active king and rooks.

Board 4 saw Roland Feng go up against Philadelphia's veteran IM Richard Costigan. Roland had prepared for Costigan's Slav with the help of Varuzhan and Marcel Milat before the game, and he was fortunate to get his prep. Out of an exchange Slav, Roland built up nice pressure in the center by planting his knight on e5 and cementing it with f4. Costigan had to retreat his pieces to passive positions in order to chase away the intruder, after which Roland simply exchanged on c6 and switched his focus to the c-file. Having built up a nice time advantage on the clock, Roland calculated for a while and found the strong pawn break 19. e4. Costigan hit the panic button and responded with his own e-pawn break, which may have only made matters worse. Roland played accurately and patiently increased his advantage with the 23. Bg3, which forced Black to part with his dark-squared bishop. Roland now had the bishop pair, a more active rook, and pawn targets to attack on a6 and d5. With his time running short, Costigan couldn't hold everything together and blundered with 31...Rc5, which allowed for the crushing Rxd5, after which black's position completely fell apart. Roland finished him off with a neat bishop sacrifice on e4, forcing a winning king and pawn ending. Costigan soon resigned.

Final score of the match: **3-1 Sluggers!**

Eddie and I would like to thank everyone for playing on the team and supporting the Seattle Sluggers this year. Hopefully this can be the first of many championships for the Sluggers in the years to come. We will be working hard to improve the team

during the off-season and welcome any suggestions or new ideas.

**GM Sergey Erenburg-PHI –
GM Varuzhan Akobian-SEA**
USCL Finals ICC, 01.12.2012

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6
5.Be2 Nd7 6.0-0 a6 7.Nbd2 c5 8.c3
h6 9.Ne1 Ne7 10.Ndf3 Rc8 11.Bd3
Qb6 12.h3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bxd3
14.Nxd3 Nc6 15.Nf4 Be7 16.Rb1
0-0 17.Be3 Rc7 18.Nh2 Rfc8
19.Nh5 Bf8 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Qf4 Kg8
22.Qg4 Kh8 23.Qf4 Kg8 24.Qg4
Game drawn by repetition 1/2-1/2

**IM Georgi Orlov-SEA –
SM William Fisher-PHI**
USCL Finals ICC, 01.12.2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6
4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3
Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0
Ne5 10.Nd4 d5 11.h3 c5 12.Nb3
c4 13.Nd4 Ng6 14.f4 f5 15.g4 fxg4
16.hxg4

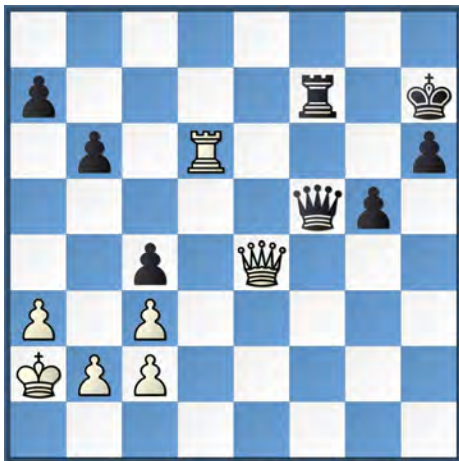


16...Nxf4 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.gxf5 Rxf5
19.Kb1

19.Bxf4 Rxf4 20.Kb1 Interestingly, despite the clear material advantage and connected passed pawns Black can boast, the Fritz engine believes this position, and indeed the game continuation all the way until White's inaccuracy on move 41, to be either equal or slightly favoring White! The positional logic behind this evaluation is probably based on a couple of

things: 1) White's king looks pretty safe behind his fortress of pawns, while the black king is quite exposed; 2) the d5-c4 pawn chain is under tremendous pressure, and White is quite likely to win one or both of these pawns whenever the impulse strikes his fancy; 3) paradoxically, the lack of pawns on the g- and h-files gives the white rooks excellent attacking lines; and 4) the presence of opposite color bishops favors the attacker.

19...Bg5 20.Qh2 h6 21.Bxc4 Qe7
22.Bxf4 dxc4 23.Bxg5 Rxg5
24.Rhe1 Rd5 25.Rc1 Qd7 26.Qh4
Qc6 27.Re7 Rf8 28.a3 Rg5 29.Rd1
Rd5 30.Rg1 g5 31.Qh3 Rdf5
32.Rge1 Rf3 33.Qg4 Rf1 34.Rxf1
Rxf1+ 35.Ka2 Rf6 36.Qd4 Rf7
37.Re5 b6 38.Rd5 Kh7 39.Rd6 Qc5
40.Qe4+ Qf5



41.Qxc4?!

41.Qc6! Qh3 (41...Kg7 42.Qxc4= (42.Rxb6? Rf6 43.Rxf6 Qxf6 44.Qxc4?? Qf7-+)) 42.Qxc4

41...Rd7!

Forcing an exchange of one or the other major piece. Now Black has a much better chance of making his passed pawns tell.

42.Rxd7+

42.Rd4!?

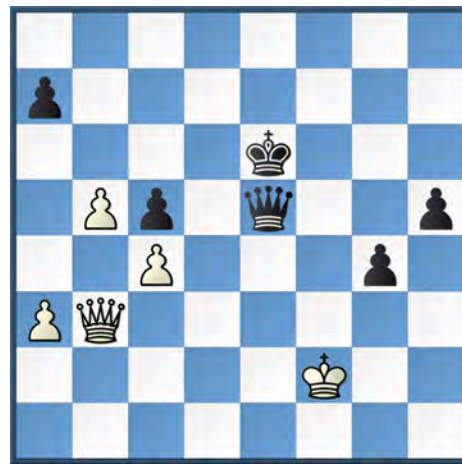
42...Qxd7 43.Qe4+ Kg7 44.c4 Kf6

44...h5

45.b4

45.Qh1 Kg6 46.Qe4+ Qf5 47.Qe8+

45...h5 46.Qf3+ Qf5 47.Qc3+ Qe5
48.Qf3+ Qf5 49.Qc3+ Ke6 50.c5
Qe5 51.Qb3+ Qd5 52.c4 Qd2+
53.Kb1 Qe1+ 54.Kc2 Qf2+ 55.Kd1
Qd4+ 56.Ke1 Qe5+ 57.Kf2 bxc5
58.b5 g4



59.Qe3!!

Having suffered under a nearly decisive disadvantage for the past 18 moves or so, White springs his very nicely conceived trap. King and pawn endings, despite the extra black pawn and connected passed pawns, are now drawn! Why? Because Georgi cleverly created a potential passed pawn on the other wing, one whose threatened existence will keep the black king just as busy as the white king is defending the connected passers on the kingside.

59...g3+

59...Qxe3+ 60.Kxe3= Kd6 61.a4
Kc7 62.a5 h4 63.Kf4 h3 64.Kg3 Kb7
65.Kh2 Kc7 66.Kg3

60.Qxg3 Qd4+ 61.Kg2 h4

61...Qxc4?? 62.Qg8+

62.Qg6+ Ke5 63.Qg5+

63.Qh5+ Ke4 64.Qf3+ Ke5 65.Qh5+

63...Ke4 64.Qxh4+ Kd3 65.Qh7+
Kxc4 66.Qxa7 Qb2+ 67.Kf3 Qxb5
68.a4 Qc6+ 69.Ke3 Qe6+ 70.Kf4
Qf6+ 71.Ke4 Qd4+ 72.Kf5 Kd3
73.a5 Qd5+ 74.Kf4 Qd6+ 75.Kf5
c4 76.a6 c3 77.Qb7 Qc5+ 78.Kg4
Qd4+ 79.Kg3 Qe3+ 80.Kg4
Qe6+ 81.Kg3 Qd6+ 82.Kf3 Qf8+
83.Kg2 c2 84.Qd5+ Kc3 85.Qc6+
Kd2 86.Qd5+ Kc1 87.Qg5+ Kb2
88.Qb5+ Ka3 89.Qd3+ Kb2
90.Qb5+ Ka3 91.Qd3+ 1/2-1/2

FM Dov Gorman-PHI –
NM Joshua Sinanan-SEA
USCL Finals ICC, 01.12.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7
8.Qe2 Nc6 9.Nxc6 Qxc6 10.a4 b4
11.Nd5 Nf6 12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.0-0 f5
14.Re1 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Qxe4 16.Qxe4
Bxe4 17.Rxe4 Rc8 18.Re2 a5 19.Be3
Bc5 20.Kf2 Ke7 21.Rd1 h5 22.Kf3
Bxe3 23.Kxe3 Rc4 24.Rd4 Rc5
25.Kd2 Rg8 26.Rd3 Rg4 27.Rf3
Kf6 28.g3 h4 29.Rd3 d5 30.Re5
Rc8 31.Ree3 hxg3 32.hxg3 Rh8
33.b3 Rh2+ 34.Re2 Rh3 35.Rg2
Kf5 36.c3 bxc3+ 37.Kxc3 f6 38.Kd4
e5+ 39.Kc5 exf4 40.Rxd5+ Kg6
41.b4 Rhxg3 42.Rf2 Rc3+ 43.Kb6
axb4 44.a5 Rg5 45.Rd4 f3 46.a6
Ra3 47.Rxb4 Rga5 48.Rf4 Rxa6+
49.Kc5 R6a5+ 50.Kd6 Rf5 51.Rg4+
Rg5 52.Rf4 Rg3 53.Ke6 Re3+
54.Kd5 Kg5 55.Ra4 Re2 56.Rf1 f2
57.Raa1 Kg4 58.Kd4 Rd2+ 59.Ke4
f5+ 60.Ke5 Re3+ 61.Kf6 Rde2
62.Ra4+ f4 63.Rb4 Rg3 64.Rb8 Kf3
65.Kf5 Rg1 66.Rb3+ Re3 67.Rxf2+
Kxf2 68.Rb2+ Re2 0-1

NM Roland Feng-SEA –
IM Richard Costigan-PHI
USCL Finals ICC, 01.12.2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 e6 7.e3 Bd6
8.Bg3 0-0 9.Bd3 a6 10.Ne5 Qc7
11.f4



11...g6?! 12.Bh4 Ne8 13.0-0 f6
14.Nxc6 bxc6

Attempting to avoid the backward pawn leaves Black substantially behind in the race to control the c-file: 14...Qxc6 15.Rc1 Qb6 16.Na4 Qd8 17.Rf2±

15.Rc1 Bd7

15...c5!? 16.dxc5 (16.Na4 c4 17.b3 Ba3!) 16...Bxc5 17.Qf3 Qa7 18.Bf2±

16.Qe2

16.Na4 e5 17.fxe5 fxe5 18.Rxf8+ Kxf8 19.Bg3±

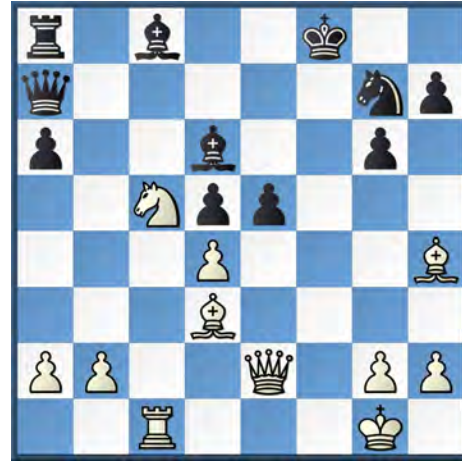
16...Qa7 17.Na4



17...Ng7 18.Nc5 Bc8 19.e4! e5?!

Black has some serious problems in any case, but after this central reaction Black will be forced to part cede the bishop-pair to avoid material loss.

20.exd5 cxd5 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8



23.Bg3 Bxc5 24.Rxc5 e4 25.Bc2 Be6 26.Bb3 Rd8

This defense looks a little passive. Maybe slightly better is 26...Nf5 27.Be5±

27.Qf1+

27.Be5 threatening 28. Rc7 is a little more precise.

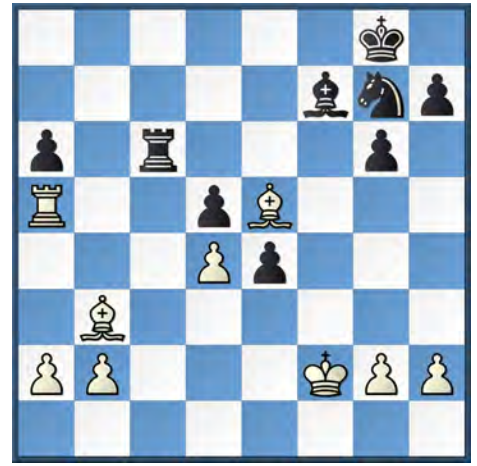
27...Kg8 28.Be5 Qf7?!

28...Rf8 looks a little better, gaining time on the white queen to reposition the passive rook.

29.Qxf7+ Bxf7 30.Ra5 Rc8 31.Kf2 Rc6

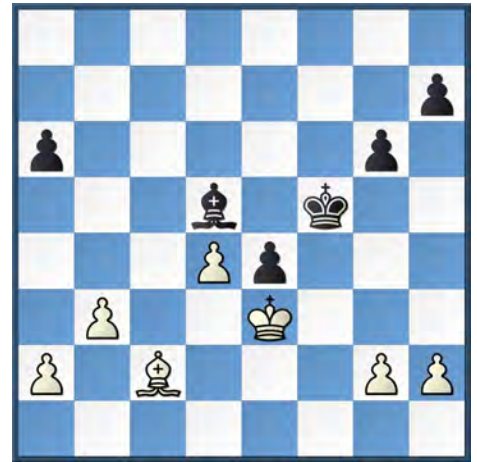
[Diagram top of next column]

32.Rxd5!+- Rc2+ 33.Bxc2 Bxd5 34.Bxg7 Kxg7 35.Ke3 Kf6



35...Bxa2 36.b3 Kf6 37.Kxe4 looks dominating.

36.b3 Kf5



37.Bxe4+! Bxe4 38.g4+ Kxg4 39.Kxe4 h5 40.d5

A very impressive game by Roland, who demonstrated patience, exploitation of static positional elements, and sharp tactical vision. 1-0



L to R: Manager Eddie Chang, FM Marcel Milat, IM Georgi Orlon, NM Roland Feng, FM Curt Collyer, NM Joshua Simanan, NM Peter Lessler, FM Costin Cozianu Photo credit: Bert Rutgers

Idaho Chess News

“Grandmaster Project” at Wood River High

Tyler Avila Simul
By Adam Porth

Source: adamporth.blogspot.com

For the Integrating Chess and Critical Thinking Class, I require a grandmaster project. This is the third quarter that Tyler Avila has taken the class and it *would* be the third grandmaster project for Tyler. But, Tyler asked me if he could prepare for a simul with the class as an alternative. Being a responsive teacher and desiring students that take control of their education, I couldn't refuse. A simul is a tournament where one player *simultaneously* plays a number of players at the same time. Grandmasters typically play these exhibitions to demonstrate their chess prowess and skills.

In fact, I wish more students did this type of reflection on their education. Megan Jones avoids my workbook problems like the plague, but she finally shared with me that she completes the Gameknot.com problems of the day, almost every day. Since the class started she completed 81 problems! She is a senior and now hooked on chess and I found out that she plays OTB and on the computer nearly every day now. Her game has greatly improved since she started with this class, so I offered to use these problems in lieu of the workbook credit. Isn't this what education is all about? Helping students discover something new and then allowing them the opportunity to level up in a variety of ways?

Tyler studied some books, watched videos, and played an enormous amount of blitz chess in preparation for Tuesday's simul. He arrived in my room with a serious but nervous look. His chess confidence greatly improved

this year, but as twelve students began to assume their positions, I detected a bit of regret at his project choice. I almost told him to take his coat off to relax a bit, but he was anxious to begin.

As I prepped the students, Tyler stood quietly in the front of the room and then began moving counter-clockwise (interesting observation as all other simuls I have seen the contestants moving clockwise? Is Tyler a “lefty?”), shaking hands and then playing 1.d4. I was immediately surprised as I expected him to play the Scotch opening based on prior conversations and also the chapter he studied on the Scotch Gambit. I knew he was going to attempt the Colle-Zukertort System when I saw his first move on each of the boards.

As the games progressed, I could see the wrinkle between his brows furl. I am sure he thought, “What have I gotten myself into?” He found some wonderful forks in some games, however, I also saw him sacrifice in desperation in others. In two games he lost to the dreaded long bishop, sheltered and camouflaged by pawns, aiming at h2 while his opponent secretly slipped their queen onto a square to attack the h2 square from another location. **[Editor's note: Tyler missed this and was mated on the spot.]**

Afterwards he commented that “it became so confusing to remember lines for each of the games.” He ended the simul with 6 wins and 6 losses. A very respectable result. I am going to have him annotate a game this next week to complete the work.



*Tyler Avila giving a simul for his “Grandmaster Project” chess class assignment on November 20.
Photo credit for both pictures is Adam Porth.*



Sinanan gives free Simul in Idaho

On December 7, 2012, NM Joshua Sinanan of Seattle gave a free Simultaneous Exhibition to all comers (no board limit) at the Boise State University Student Union Building in Boise. Jeff Roland was the organizer/TD. Nineteen players came and played Joshua. Play began at 5:00 p.m. and lasted until 8:30 p.m. when the final game concluded. Joshua gave the players choice of color and a generous number of “passes”. Joshua was Black in seven games and White in twelve.

Joshua scored 18.5/19 points, allowing only one draw with Caleb Kircher of Nampa, Idaho while winning all other games.

We are very appreciative of Joshua for coming here to support Idaho chess and give us this simul.

All nineteen games are posted on the Idaho Chess Association website at <http://www.idahochessassociation.org/sinansimul2012games.asp>.

Joshua Sinanan – Caleb Kircher

Sinanan Simul Boise, Dec. 7, 2012

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.g3 f5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.0–0 Bd6 7.Nc3 0–0 8.Qc2 Ne4 9.Rb1 Qe7 10.b4 Bd7 11.c5 Bc7 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.gxf4 Be8 14.e3 a6 15.Kh1 Bh5 16.Ne5 Nd7 17.f3 Nxc3 18.Qxc3 Nxe5 19.dxe5

Qh4 20.Rg1 Rfd8 21.Qd4 Rd7 22.Rb2 Kh8 23.Rd2 Rad8 24.a4 h6 25.Rgd1 Kh7 26.Qb2 ½–½

Joshua Sinanan – Kory Puderbaugh

Sinanan Simul Boise, Dec. 7, 2012

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.Nbd2 Nbd7 8.Qc2 b5 9.b3 Bb7 10.Rd1 Qb8 11.Bb2 Ne8 12.e4 e5 13.dxe5 dxc4 14.Nxc4 Nc5 15.Ne3 Ne6 16.Nf5 Bc5 17.Rd7 N8c7 18.Rad1 a5 19.h4 a4 20.Ng5 axb3 21.Qxb3 Qa7 22.Nxe6 Bxf2+ 23.Kh2 Nxe6 24.Nd6 Qxa2 25.Qc2 Bxg3+ 26.Kxg3 Ra3+ 27.Bf3 Rb3 28.Rd2 Ba8 29.Nf5 c5 30.Kf2 Bc6 31.Ne7+ 1–0

Joshua Sinanan – Chong-Jin Ong

Sinanan Simul Boise, Dec. 7, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.g3 Bg7 11.Kg2 0–0 12.a4 Ra6 13.Qc2 Qb6 14.Ra3 Rb8 15.Nb5 Qb7 16.b3 Ne8 17.Nd2 Nc7 18.Nxc7 Qxc7 19.Re1 Qb7 20.Bb2 Bxb2 21.Qxb2 Qb4 22.Qa1 Nb6 23.Ra2 c4 24.bxc4 Rxa4 25.Rb1 Rxa2 26.Qxa2 Qc3 27.Rb3 Qd4 28.Qb2 Qxb2 29.Rxb2 Nd7 30.Rxb8+ Nxb8 31.f4 Nd7 32.Kf3 h5 33.h3 f6 34.Ke3 Kf7 35.Kd4 e5+ 36.dxe6+ Kxe6 37.g4 hxg4 38.hxg4 f5 39.exf5+ gxf5 40.g5 Nf8 41.Nf3 Ng6 42.Ke3 Kd7 43.Nd4 Ne7 44.Kf3 Ke8 45.Kg3 Kf7 46.Nf3 Kg7 47.Nh4 Kf7 48.Kf3 Ke6 49.Ke3 d5 50.c5 Nc6 51.Nf3 1–0



Joshua Sinanan before the games began.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Joshua Sinanan – Cody Gorman

Sinanan Simul Boise, Dec. 7, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.cxd5 Bxf3 6.gxf3 Nxd5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 e5 9.d5 Na5 10.Qa4+ c6 11.Be3 Bd6 12.Rd1 0–0 13.dxc6 Qc7 14.Rxd6 Qxd6 15.Qxa5 Qxc6 16.Rg1 Rfc8 17.Qxe5 Qxc3+ 18.Qxc3 Rxc3 19.Rxg7+ Kf8 20.Rxh7 Ke7 21.Kd2 Rac8 22.Bd3 Ra3 23.Bg5+ Ke6 24.Rh6+ Kd7 25.Bb5+ Rc6 26.Bxc6+ bxc6 27.Be3 Rxa2+ 28.Kc3 Ra5 29.Rf6 Rh5 30.Rxf7+ Ke6 31.Rxa7 Rxh2 32.f4 Rh1 33.Kd3 Rd1+ 34.Ke2 Rd8 35.f5+ Kf6 36.Kf3 Rd3 37.Kf4 Rxe3 38.fxe3 c5 39.e5# 1–0

Joshua Sinanan – Jarod Buus

Sinanan Simul Boise, Dec. 7, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg2 b6 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0–0 Bb7 8.a3 Be7 9.Qc2 h5 10.e4 N5f6 11.Nc3 h4 12.Nxh4 Rxh4 13.gxh4 Nh7 14.e5 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 g6 16.h5 Ndf8 17.Qa4+ Nd7 18.hxg6 fxc6 19.Qc6 a6 20.Qxe6 Nh8 21.Qg4 Kf7 22.Be3 Bg5 23.f4 Bh6 24.Rae1 Kg7 25.f5 Bxe3 26.Rxe3 c5 27.f6+ Kh8 28.d5 1–0



The playing hall at the Hatch Ballroom at Boise State University. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Western Idaho Open

The 2012 Western Idaho Open tournament was held in Boise over the December 8-9 weekend with a 5 round NWGP and USCF Grand Prix Swiss style tournament. Jeff Roland was Chief TD as well as the organizer of the event. George Lundy was the Assistant TD.

This tournament was very different from previous Idaho events. It was the first FIDE rated tournament we've held in Idaho. It was also the first time we've ever had a Grandmaster attend a tournament in Idaho. National Master, Joshua Sinanan, gave a free simultaneous exhibition the night before (as discussed on page 34).

We had eight scholarships available for Scholastic students who could get free entry into the tournament. Sadly, only three scholastic players took advantage of these scholarships in spite of numerous emails from the Organizer, as well as email and Facebook promotions to get the word out. But the three scholastic players who did play for free were treated to one of the most exciting tournaments in Idaho history, and got to meet a real live Grandmaster, get his autograph, and get some free GM advice in his lecture that he gave just before the last round, (not to mention FIDE Master, Nick Raptis, and the National Master, Joshua Sinanan, who were onhand to share some of their knowledge throughout the weekend).

This tournament was also the first time we've had the ability to take input from the Monroi chess recording devices with a Monroi hub. We would have been able to project those games live too, but the projector hadn't arrived yet. However, we also didn't have any players use a Monroi so it didn't matter (this time).

Forty players attended the event,



*GM Alex Yermolinsky, NM Joshua Sinanan, and FM Nick Raptis at the Western Idaho Open.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland*

which is up from 29 we had last year. All players were from Idaho except three players came from out of state. If this tournament had been held at a different time of year, we likely would have had more players from Washington and Oregon. But we also were aware of the need to schedule the event after the Boise State University (BSU) football season.

Jeff Roland would like to thank those people so generously donated cash (most of them anonymously) to the tournament, even those who couldn't attend, to guarantee the prize fund and to ensure that the tournament would be a big success. It certainly was.

Jeff would also like to thank BSU for being such a great site for this tournament. The staff were very courteous and responsive to our every need and went all out to make this a great event.

Many players who couldn't attend expressed a desire to play, so hopefully they can come to the next big tournament like this we have.

1st place was GM Alex Yermolinsky of Sioux Falls, SD with 4.5 points. 2nd place was FM Nick Raptis of

Portland with 4 points. There was a tie for 3rd-6th place between NM Joshua Sinanan of Seattle, Paul Johnson of Boise, Caleb Abernathy of Meridian, ID, and Peter Olsoy of Boise.

In the Reserve Section, there was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Gary Hollingsworth of Pocatello, ID and Jarod Buus of Nampa, ID each with 4 points. There was a tie for 3rd-5th place between Jamie Lang, Michaela Abernathy, and Kevin Patterson, all from Meridian, and all with 3.5 points.

There was a special prize for the winner of the bottom half of the Open Section, which was won by Peter Olsoy, and Tom Booth of Caldwell was second in that category.

There were also two book prizes donated by the late Glen Buckendorf, Jr. which went to the two players who did not win another prize. In the Open Section, that was Caleb Kircher of Nampa, and in the Reserve Section that prize was won by Adam Porth of Bellevue, ID.

And now we present a real treat. GM Yermolinsky wanted to annotate his game that he played against Nick

Raptis in the fourth round. We present that here.

Alex Yermolinsky – Nick Raptis

Western Idaho Open
Boise (R4), Dec. 9, 2012
[Notes by Alex Yermolinsky]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.h3 0-0 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5
h6?!**

This is a weakening move. Black is better off with a standard plan of counterplay on the Queenside. 8...Nc5 9.Bc2 a5 10.Nge2 c6 11.0-0 cxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7 13.a3 a4 14.Qd2 Qb6 15.Rab1 Rfc8; Alternatively he can try 8...Qe8 9.g4 Nd7 10.Nf3 f5 favored by the Byeloraussian GM Viktor Kupreichik

9.Be3 Nh5

This is a radical attempt to interfere with g2-g4, but I don't think it works very well with the pawn on h6. After the standard moves 9...Nc5 10.Bc2 a5 I have had some success with 11.Nge2 (11.Qd2 is too early on account of 11...Nfxc4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 f5; while 11.g4 Bd7 12.Nge2 c6 13.Ng3 cxd5 14.cxd5 b5 15.Qd2 b4 16.Nce2 Kh7 appears to be slow and cumbersome.) 11...c6 12.Qd2 cxd5 13.cxd5 Kh7 14.Ng3 later White can play for f2-f4.

10.g3

10.Qd2 is not so good, because after 10...Nf4! 11.Bxf4 exf4 12.Qxf4 Nc5 13.Bc2 f5 Black obtains loads of compensation.; 10.Nge2 f5

**10...Qe8 11.Qd2 Kh7 12.Nge2 Nb4
13.Bb1 f5**

Naturally, Black is seeking counterplay, but his king is dangerously placed on h7.

14.exf5! gxf5?

In case of 14...Bxf5 White can choose

between several attractive options, but nothing is clear. 15.Ne4 (15.Bxf5 gxf5 16.a3 (16.0-0-0 e4 17.Kb1) 16...Na6 17.0-0-0 Nf6 18.Qc2) 15...a5 16.g4 (16.a3 Na6 17.N2c3 b6 18.Bc2 Nc5 19.0-0-0) 16...Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Nf4 18.h4

**15.a3 Na6 16.Bc2 Nf6 17.g4 e4
18.Ng3 Qg6**

The line 18...fxg4 19.Ncxg4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Bf5 falls to the spectacular 21.Ng5+! hxg5 22.Bxf5+

**19.0-0-0 Nc5 20.gxf5 Bxf5 21.Rhg1
Nd3+**

The situation was unpleasant, but I think Nick panicked here. From a practical point of view Black has to pretend nothing is happening and calmly complete his development. 21...Rae8 Let the opponent worry about the tactics! 22.f3 (22.Ngxe4? Nfxc4 23.Nxe4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Rxg6 Rxc4+ and Black wins!; 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Ngxe4 Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Qb6 with plenty of chances provided by the bishop pair.; 22.Kb1 Kh8 23.Nxf5 Qxf5 24.Rxg7 Kxg7 25.Bxb6+ Kf7 26.Bxf8 Rxf8 27.b4 Ncd7 28.Qe3 looks better for White than any of the lines above.) 22...Nd3+ 23.Kb1 This is pretty hard to

find. 23...Ne5 24.Nxf5 Nxf3 25.Rxg6 Nxd2+ 26.Rxd2 Kxg6 27.Nd4 but White will be rewarded with a win.

**22.Bxd3 exd3 23.Nxf5 Qxf5
24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 25.Bxh6+ Kh8
26.Bxf8 Rxf8 27.Qxd3**

White should be winning here anyway, so Nick's decision to take a pawn is understandable.

**27...Qxf2 28.Rf1 Qg2 29.Kb1 a6
30.Rf4 Qg7 31.Ne4 Nxe4 32.Rh4+
Kg8 33.Qxe4 Rf1+ 34.Ka2 Kf8
35.Qe6 1-0**

More games from the Western Idaho Open can be found on page 46.



GM Yermolinsky during Round 4 game with Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Jeff Roland



GM Alex Yermolinsky (left) versus FM Nick Raptis (right) during round four at the Western Idaho Open. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

From the Western Idaho Open December 8-9 in Boise



1



3



2



4



5



6



7



8

1. Jeff Roland, player and Chief TD (left) and Paul Johnson (right). 2. Chip Ruberry. 3. Isaac Blake. 4. George Lundy, the Assistant TD. 5. Frank Niro. 6. Corey Longhurst (back to camera) and Jacob Nathan (face to camera). 7. Zane Roberts (left), Jamie Lang (right). 8. Desmond Porth.
All photos are by Jeff Roland, except number 1, which is by Chip Ruberry.

Washington Chess News

Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza

The Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza was held at the Seattle Chess Club in two sections on Nov 2-4, 2012 under the directorship of Fred Kleist. It was a seven round event with a time control of Game/90;d5.

There were 18 players in the Open section and 14 players in the Reserve section.

Roland Feng of Seattle won the Open section with 6.5 points. David Bragg of Bothell was 2nd place with 5 points, followed by Bryce Tiglon of Redmond in 3rd place with 4.5 points.

Gabriel Zlavog won the Reserve section with 5.5 points, followed by Stephen Buck of Tacoma and Diallo Wilson of Seattle in a tie for 2nd-3rd place with 5 points each.

SCC Saturday November Quads

The Seattle Chess Club held the Saturday November Quads on November 10, 2012 under the directorship of Fred Kleist.

The time control was Game/120;d5. There were five sections for a total of 20 players.

Quad #1: There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Daniel He of Redmond and Marcell Szabo of Seattle with 2 points each.

Quad #2: Toshihiro Nagase of Redmond was 1st place with 2.5 points.

Quad #3: Gabriel Tafalla of Renton

was 1st place with 2.5 points.

Quad #4: There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Freya Gulamali of Bellevue and Stephen Weller of Seattle with 2 points each.

Quad #5: Asher Thakur of Sammamish was 1st place with 3 points.

Spokane G/10 Championship

The Spokane Chess Club held a Game/10 tournament on November 17, 2012. The format was a double round robin with a time control of Game/10;d3.

The following is from the Spokane Chess Club website at www.spokanechessclub.org:

Michael Cambareri won the 14-player double round robin Spokane G/10 Championship held at the Spokane Valley Library on November 17 with total of 22 of 26. The \$100 prize welcomed Michael back to Spokane after a two month absence. Steve Buck (20.5) won the second place award of \$50. Jeremy Krasin (11) won the under 1800 section prize. Botao Shan (17) claimed the under 1600 section, edging Savanna Naccarato (16) in their final game to earn the section prize. Botao's St. Georges teammate Xiamon Chu (17) won the under 1400 prize. The three section prizes were worth \$30.

Seattle CC November Tornado

The Seattle Chess Club held the November Tornado chess tournament on November 18, 2012, directed by Fred Kleist. The format

was a four round Swiss System tournament with a time control of Game/64;d0, or Game/60;d5.

There were 18 players in the single section event.

1st place was Marcell Szabo of Seattle with 4 points, followed by a tie for 2nd-3rd place between David Bragg of Bothell and Noah Fields of Tacoma each with 3 points.

Washington Class Championship

The 2012 Washington Class Championship was held November 23-25 in Redmond. There were 150 players in 8 sections in this six round Swiss System tournament. Fred Kleist was the Chief Tournament Director and Gary Dorfner was the Chief Assistant TD.



*Curt Collyer, winner of the Master Section.
Photo credit: Duane Polich.*

Master Class: There were 20 players in this section. 1st place went to Curt Collyer (2291) of Seattle with 5 points. 2nd place went to Tian Sang (2252) of Mercer Island with 4.5 points. There was a tie for 3rd-4th place between Carl Haessler (2200)

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of Lake Oswego, OR and Huso Hadzic (2179) of Tukwila, WA with 4 points each.

Expert Class: There were 20 players in this section. 1st place went to Marcell Szabo (1993) of Seattle with 4.5 points. There was a tie for 2nd-5th place between Paul Bartron (2150) of Tacoma, Casey Xing (2059) of Bothell, Samuel He (2019) of Redmond, and Max Gedajlovic (1160) of Vancouver, BC, with 4 points each.

A Class: There were 31 players in this section. There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Paul Leblanc (1856) of Victoria, BC, and Nicolo Gelb (1819) of Seattle with 4.5 points each. There was also a tie for 3rd-6th place between Jofrel Landingin (1968) of Vancouver, BC, Joe Roback (1949) of Vancouver, BC, Sarah May (1881) of Vancouver, WA, Brian Gibbon (1826) of Renton with 4 points each.

B Class: There were 23 players in this section. 1st place went to Ranjeet Singh (1685) of Kirkland. 2nd place went to Frederick Davis (1677) of Vancouver, WA. There was a tie for 3rd-5th place between David Hendricks (1678) of Sammamish, WA, Carl Dutton (1622) of Seattle, and Gabriel Tafalla (1607) of Renton with 4 points each.

C Class: There were 22 players in this section. There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Olga Cherepakhin (1438) of Lake Forest Park, WA, and Thomas Taylor (1389) of Bellevue with 5 points each. 3rd place went to

Noah Yeo (1407) of Redmond.

D Class: There were 21 players in this section. 1st place went to Neil Chowdhury (1254) of Bellevue. There was a tie for 2nd-3rd between Andrea Botez (1409) of Happy

Valley, OR, and Vikram Ramasamy (1252) of Kirkland with 4.5 points each.

E Class: There were 19 players in this section. 1st place was Kirill Filimonov (982) of Bothell with 6 points. There was a tie for 2nd-6th place between Andreas Farney (1222) of Seattle, Jason Zhang (1095) of Sammamish, Konstantin Velichko (1115) of WA, Cole Evered (1027) of WA, and Dylan Xu (955) of Seattle with 4 points each.

U1000/Unrated Section: There were 11 players in this section. 1st place went to James Lai (852) of WA with 5.5 points. There was a tie for 2nd-3rd place between Alexius Buntaran (960) of Bothell, and Abhay Deshpande (320) of WA with 4.5 points each.

Curt Collyer (2288) – Roland Feng (2204)

Washington Class Championship
Redmond, WA (R6), Nov. 25, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 b6 5.e4 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.Bd3 h6

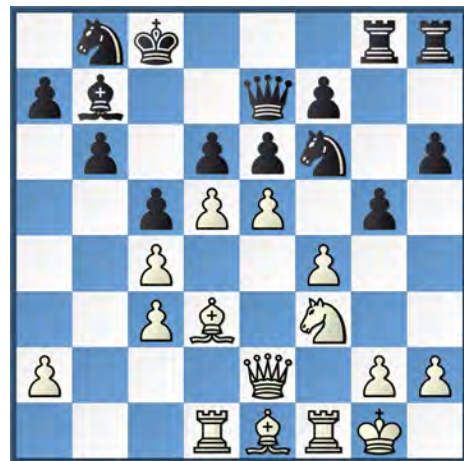
I'm not a big fan of this move, as it does not develop pieces or blockade in the center, and it could provide a kingside target a bit later on.

8.f4 Bb7 9.Qe2 c5 10.Nf3 Qe7 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Bd2

12.e5 Nd7 13.d5 Nd8 14.dxe6 Qxe6 (14...fxe6 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.Bg6+ Kf8 17.Ne5; 14...Nxe6 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.f5)

15.f5 Qe7 16.f6 gxf6 17.exd6 Qxe2 18.Bxe2±

12...0-0-0 13.Be1 Rdg8 14.Rd1 g5 15.d5 Nb8 16.e5



16...dxe5 17.fxe5 Nh5 18.g3 Nd7 19.d6 Qe8 20.Be4 g4 21.Bxb7+ Kxb7 22.Bd2 Kb8

22...Nxb3! 23.hxg3 gxf3 24.Qxf3+ Kb8 25.Bf4 h5 26.Qc6=

23.Nh4 Ng7

23...f6!?

24.Qe4 h5 25.a4 a5 26.Bf4 Ka7 27.Qc6 Qc8

27...Nf5!?! 28.Nxf5 exf5 29.Rb1 Qe6∞

28.Qc7+!?



28.Qxc8 Rxc8 29.Bg5 Rcf8 30.Be7 Rfg8 31.Rde1 Ne8 32.Rxf7 and White should win.



Roland Feng (left) and Curt Collyer (right). Photo credit: Duane Polich.

28...Ka6

28...Qb7 29.Bg5±

29.Rfe1

Or the sharper 29.Bg5!

29...Rh7 30.Bg5 Rf8 31.Rd2 Rg8
32.Rf2+- Qxc7 33.dxc7 Nf5
34.Nxf5 exf5 35.Rd2 f6 36.e6 Ne5
37.Rxe5 fxe5 38.Rd8 Rxc7 39.Rxg8
1-0

**Robert Allen (1705) – Murlin
Varner (1732)**

Washington Class Championship
Redmond, WA (R6), Nov. 25, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bg5
Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3
dxc4 8.Bxc4 h6 9.Bh4 Nb6 10.Bb3
Nbd5 11.0-0 c6 12.Rc1 Nd7 13.Bg3
Nxc3 14.Rxc3 Nf6 15.Qc2 Nh5
16.Rd1 Nxc3 17.hxc3 Bb4 18.Rc4
Qe7 19.a3 Ba5 20.Ba2 b5 21.Bb1
g6 22.Rxc6 Bb7 23.Rc5 a6 24.Rh5
Rac8 25.Qd3 Kg7 26.Ne5 f5
27.Rh3 Be4 28.Qe2 Bxb1 29.Rxb1
Qc7 30.b4 Bb6 31.Rb2 Rh8 32.g4
Qc1+ 33.Kh2 Bc7 34.gxf5 Bxe5+
35.dxe5 exf5 36.Rd2 Rhd8 37.Rxd8
Rxd8 38.Qf3 Qc7 39.Qf4 h5 40.Rg3
Rf8 41.e4 fxe4 42.Qxe4 Qf7 43.e6
Qf5 44.Qd4+ Qf6 45.Qa7+ Kg8
46.Qxa6 h4 47.Rg4 Qe5+ 48.Kh3
g5 49.Qb6 Qc3+ 50.Qe3 Qxe3+
51.fxe3 Rf5 52.e7 Kf7 53.Re4
Ke8 54.Kg4 Rf2 55.Kxg5 Rxg2+

56.Kxh4 Ra2 57.Kg5 Rxa3 58.Kf6
Ra6+ 59.Kf5 Rc6 60.Re5 Rc3 61.e4
Rf3+ 62.Ke6 Rf4 63.Kd6 Rf6+
64.Kc5 1-0

**Michael Wang (2148) – Roland
Feng (2204)**

Washington Class Championship
Redmond, WA (R1), Nov. 24, 2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3
Bb7 5.Bg2 c5 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3 0-0
8.Bb2 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Nc6
11.Qd2 a6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.e4 Rfd8
14.Ne1 Nb4 15.Nd3 d5 16.cxd5
exd5 17.exd5 Nbx5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5
19.Qg5 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Rd5 21.Qf4
Qd7 22.Ne5 Qe6 23.Rfe1 Rxd1
24.Rxd1 Re8 25.Qf3 Bd6 26.Nd3
Ne4 27.Nf4 Bxf4 28.Qxf4 Qc6
29.Qf3 h6 30.Re1 b5 31.Kg1 Re6
32.Rc1 Qd7 33.h4 Nd2 34.Qf4 Re4
35.Rc7 Qd5 36.Rc8+ Kh7 37.Rh8+
Kg6 38.h5+ Kxh5 39.Rxh6+ gxh6
40.g4+ Kh4 41.Bf6+ Qg5 42.Qg3#
1-0

**Dan Mathews
(1711) – Ranjeet
Singh (1685)**

Washington Class
Championship
Redmond, WA
(R2), Nov. 24,
2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6
3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3
Be7 5.Bg5 0-0

6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nd5 d6 8.Be2 Be6
9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Qd2 Rfe8 11.Qg5
Qxg5 12.Nxg5 Bd7 13.c3 Rad8
14.0-0-0 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Nf3 e4
17.Ne1 d5 18.d4 Rf8 19.Nc2 Bg6
20.Rdf1 Ne7 21.Ne3 Rf7 22.f3 Rdf8
23.fxe4 Bxe4 24.Rxf7 Rxf7 25.Rf1
Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 h5 27.Kd2 Kf7
28.Bd3 Bxd3 29.Kxd3 Ke6 30.b3
Ng8 31.c4 c6 32.cxd5+ cxd5 33.g3
Nf6 34.a3 Ne4 35.Ng2 g5 36.b4
Nf2+ 37.Ke2 Ne4 38.Ne3 Nc3+
39.Kd3 Ne4 40.Ke2 Nc3+ 41.Kd3
Ne4 1/2-1/2

Thanksgiving Scholastic

92 students in 5 sections took part in the Thanksgiving Scholastic held November 23 in Redmond. It was a one day event and part of the Washington Class Championship. David Hendricks was the Tournament Director.

K-3 Open was won by Jason Yu with a 5-0 score.

K-3 U800 was won by Jack Zhang with a 4-0 score.

4-6 Open was won by Zachary Zhang with a 5-0 score.

4-6 U900 was won by Byron Fong with a 4.5-.5 score.

7-12 Open ended in first place tie between Olga Cherepakhin and Amartya Ranganathan, both scoring 4-1.

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Oregon Chess News

The following game was submitted by Jason Cigan. It is from the recent Portland Chess Club Championship that ran throughout the entire month of October.

Jason Cigan (1915) - Jerry Sherrard (1959)

PCC Championship Portland (R5),
Oct 30, 2012

[Notes by Jason Cigan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

Jerry and I have played more tournament games in the Najdorf than I can count, but the opening is so rich that we can easily find something new to try every time.

6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qc7

A rare but solid move. Black wants to avoid the heavy theory of 7...Qa5 and 7...Qb6 and simply play chess.

8.Bb3 h6 9.Bh4 e6



10.Bxe6!?

In sharp Najdorf lines like 6.Bg5 and 6.Bc4, this sacrifice on e6 is always in the air. These sacrifices can be divided into three types: crushing sacrifices with devastating effect, incorrect

sacrifices with complex refutations, and unclear sacrifices made simply to avoid an equal game. My sacrifice is the third type—if I had simply castled, Black would develop his dark-squared bishop, either by ...Be7 or by ...g7-g5 followed by ...Bg7, castle short, and have a comfortable game. The piece sac will get White three pawns back and sharpen the game. Is it enough? Maybe for equality at best, but I stand by it as a decent practical try.

10...fxe6 11.Nxe6 Qa5 12.0-0 Kf7 13.Nxf8 Rxf8 14.Qxd6 Kg8 15.Bg3 Re8?!

This move does not prevent White's central breakthrough. Better was 15...Nc5 and pushing the e-pawn is no fun for White— 16.e5 Nfe4

16.e5! Nxe5 17.b4

The point.

17...Qd8

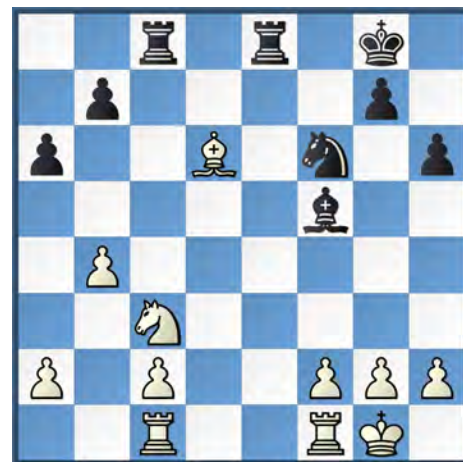
This move works for Black—he wants to go to an ending, where he will have a nagging positional advantage and White will have two pawns. However, White will likely have to give at least one pawn back. There was a messier option in the form of 17...Nf3+ 18.gxf3 Qh5

18.Bxe5 Qxd6 19.Bxd6 Bf5 20.Rac1 Rac8

[Diagram top of next column]

21.Na4

21.Bc5 b6 22.Bd4± The minor piece placement looked hideous to me, but this was probably my best option.



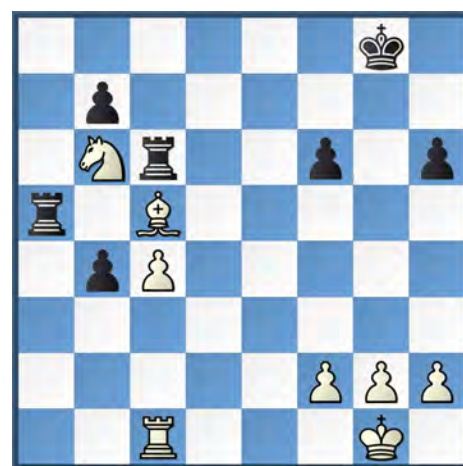
21...Re6 22.Bc5 Re2 23.c4 Rxa2

White has given back a pawn and the position is still a mess.

24.Nc3 Rb2 25.Rfe1 a5!?

Black forces matters with this sharp move.

26.Na4 Ra2 27.Nb6 Rc6 28.Re5 axb4!? 29.Rxf5 Ra5 30.Rxf6 gxf6



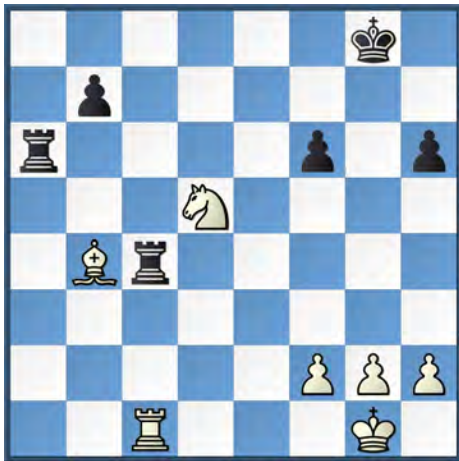
31.Bxb4??

Almost every game comes with a moment that both players wish had never happened. So I politely ask you to close your eyes and move on to move 32...

31...Ra6?

Both sides miss the winning fork.
31...Rb5!±

32.Nd5 Rxc4



I thought I had an advantage at the board, but the game is unclear.

33.Rb1 Kf7 34.g3

34.Bd2 Rd4 35.Rxb7+ Kg8 is a line my computer found. White has to give perpetual here. 36.Rb8+ Kh7 37.Rb7+ Kg8=

34...Rd4 35.Nc3 Rb6 36.Na2

The only move.

36...Rd2 37.Bxd2 Rxb1+ 38.Nc1

Forced again.

38...h5 39.Kf1 b5 40.Ke2 b4 41.Kd3?!

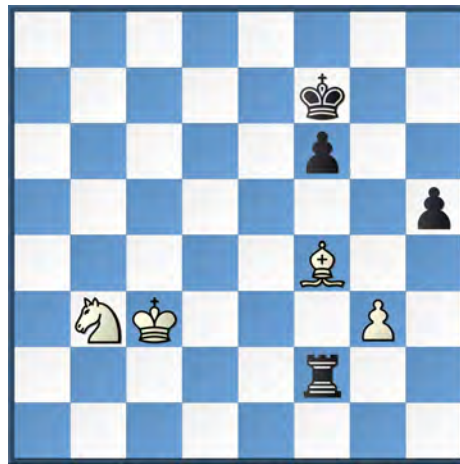
More accurate by far was 41.Nd3 when Black must play 41...b3 42.Bc3 h4! before White puts his own pawn on that square. This should hold the draw.

41...b3 42.Kc3 b2 43.Nb3 Rf1 44.Kxb2 Rxf2

Surely it is a draw now, although the onus is on White to prove it.

45.Kc3 Rxh2 46.Bf4 Rf2

[Diagram top of next column]

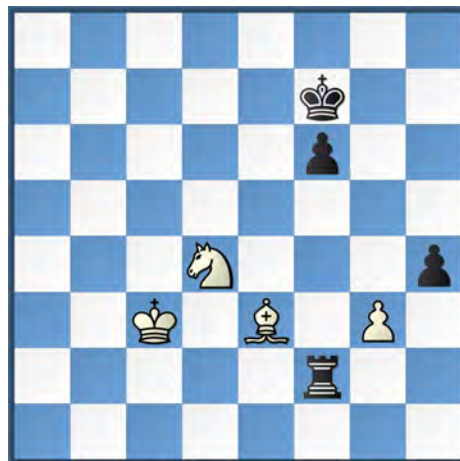


A key moment. Black has prepared a trap and White must dodge it.

47.Nd4??

An inexplicable blunder. 47.Bc7 or any other safe bishop move would preserve the draw. Now White should lose by force.

47...h4-+ 48.Be3



I set one last trap myself. Giving up a piece for the pawn is hopeless.

48...hxg3??

And Black returns the favor! 48...h3 gets Black a new queen. I would have resigned immediately.

49.Kd3!

White holds out hope of building a fortress! After 49.Bxf2 gxf2 a queen is born.

49...Rf1 50.Ke2 g2 51.Nf3

Holding a fortress, like defending against a crushing attack, is an unpleasant duty of the competitive chess player. Nobody enters a game wanting to do it, but it must be done. In my first time reaching such a complex fortress, I fail about as quickly as the position allows. But it was a valuable learning experience and, I hope, an instructive example for the reader as well. The key here is that Black's king must come in to attack White's pieces or support his own passed pawn. But the king cannot currently come toward the pawn – if it touches the squares e4 or g4, a nasty knight fork will come. The only way to make progress will be to shuffle the rook around, but White can hold anyway.

51...Ke6

51...Rb1 allows the immediate 52.Ne1=; 51...Rh1 52.Kf2 also loses the pawn.

52.Nd4+

This is not so accurate. The bishop should go to its best square, f2, immediately.

52...Kd6 53.Nf3 Kd5 54.Bb6 Rb1 55.Ba7??

Now the bishop had to go to f2 or g1.

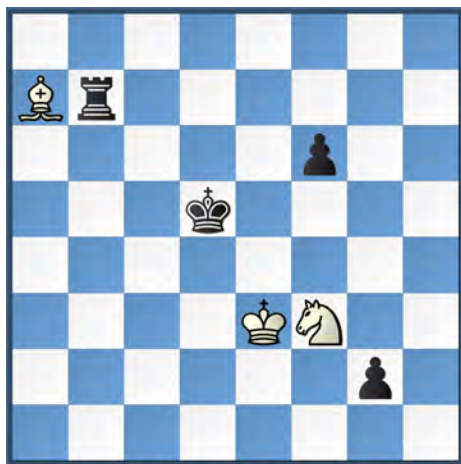
55...Rb2+ 56.Ke3

There is no return: 56.Ke1 Ke4 and this is no longer a fortress—just a losing ending!

56...Rb7

I resigned. The bishop is trapped, as Black wins after Bd4 Rb3+ Kf2 Rxf3+. 0-1

[Diagram top of next page]



Fall Classic Scholastic Tournament

Editor's Note: Jerry Ramey provided much of the information in this report.

68 players played in the Fall Classic scholastic chess tournament held at South Eugene High School in Eugene on November 17. Jerry Ramey was the Tournament Director.

Jerry runs three scholastics tournaments each year in Eugene. The Fall Classic (this last one was the 18th rendition), the Winter Carnival (Jan 19) and the Spring Fling (late Mar or early Apr).

The "Elite 8" section includes the winners of the Advanced and Elite sections from the previous tournament plus the next 6 highest rated players (from Advanced entries). This section is USCF rated.

Elite 8 Section Results: There was a tie for 1st-3rd place between Aaron Grabinsky (USCF 1912), a 9th grade homeschooler from Coquille, Matt Dalthorp (USCF 1721), an 11th grader from Crescent Valley High School and Erik Skalmes (USCF 1849), a 10th grader from South Eugene High School with 3 points each. Aaron lost to Erik, Matt lost to Aaron and Erik lost to Matt.

The tournament director would like to note the performance of Tommy

Case (USCF 964), a 6th grader from Roosevelt Elementary. He won the Advanced section in the last Spring Fling, and did quite well in Elite, winning 2 out of 4 as, by far, the lowest rated player in the section.

The Advanced Section is essentially an open section that is USCF rated. USCF membership is required because these players are beginning to reach a level at which they should start to think about competing in "adult" events.

Advanced Section Results: Brandon Hawks (USCF 826), a 12th grader from Sheldon High School won with 4.5 points upping his scholastic rating from 1036 to 1259 based on 23 rated games. Johnny Wang (USCF 705), an 8th grader from Roosevelt Middle School was 2nd place with 4 points. Rohan Bhatt (USCF 494), an 8th grader from Stoller Middle School was 3rd place with 3.5 points.

The next three sections are rated through Northwest Scholastic Ratings (NWSRS) www.ratingsnw.com.

Intermediate Section (NWSRS U1100) Results: Rocky Moses, a 12th grader from South Eugene High School won with a perfect 5 points. There was a tie for 2nd-3rd place between Kevin Tao, an 8th grader from Delphian School and Tim Harper, an 8th grader from Athey Creek Middle School, each with 4 points.

And finally, there were two Novice Sections.

Section Novice 2 (Grades 4-8) Results: There was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Atticus Crow, a 6th grader from Ashbrook Independent School and Christopher Glesmann, an 8th grader from Cottage Grove with 4 points each. Jessy Thomason, an 8th grader from Cottage Grove was 3rd place with 3.5 points.

Section Novice 1 (Grades K-3)

Results: Leo Reeves, a 2nd grader from Fox Hollow was 1st place with a perfect 5 points. Caroline Foskett, a 3rd grader from Camas Ridge Community School was 2nd place with 4 points. There was a tie for 3rd-7th place between Alexander Charbonneau, a 3rd grader from Oak Hill School, Alejandro McClain, a 3rd grader from Fox Hollow, Ciaran Moses, a 3rd grader from Fox Hollow, Michael Dickinson, a 1st grader from Bohemia Elementary, and Timothy Yin, a 3rd grader from Edison Elementary, each with 3 points.

Jerry's goal at these scholastic tournaments is to provide a worthwhile experience for all scholastic players, regardless of skill level.

Matt Dalthorp (1721) – Aaron Grabinsky (1912)

Fall Classic Eugene, OR (R3), Nov. 17, 2012

[Notes by Aaron Grabinsky]

[Notes marked "RD" by Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 c4!

I have used this blockading move very successfully.

7.Nbd2 Na5 8.Be2 Bd7 9.0-0 Ne7 10.Qc2 h6 11.Rb1 Rc8 12.Re1 Ng6 13.Nf1 Be7 14.Be3 Nh4!?

Maybe not the best move, as it speeds up White's g3, f4.

15.Nxh4 Bxh4 16.g3 Be7 17.Nd2 Qc7 18.f4 h5 19.Bf3 g6 20.Kf2 Bc6 21.Rg1 Qd7 22.Rb1 Ba4 23.Qb1 Nb3 24.Nxb3 Bxb3 25.h3 Qa4 26.Bd1!

This had to be played in view of the ...Bc2 threat.

26...Kd7 27.Rg2 a5 28.Kg1 b5 29.Bxb3 Qxb3 30.Qc2 Qxc2 31.Rxc2 b4!

I have quite annoying counter play.

32.axb4 axb4 33.Ra1 Ra8 34.Rcc1
Rhb8 35.Bd2 b3 36.Kf2 Ra2
37.Rcb1 Ba3 38.Bc1 Kc6 39.Ke3
Rb7!?

A nothing move, which basically offers a draw, fortunately my opponent keeps the game going, to my great relief.

40.bxa3 Rxa1 41.Rxa1 b2 42.Bxb2
Rxb2 43.a4 Kb6 44.Kf3 Ka5 45.g4
hgx4+ 46.hgx4

Possibly a better try is 46.Kxg4.—RD

Rb3 47.Rc1 Kxa4 48.f5 g5 49.Ke3
Ka3 50.Kd2 Rb2+ 51.Ke3 Kb3
52.Rh1!

Finally getting counter play.

52...Rg2 53.Rh7?!

Maybe Kf3 first was better.

53...Rxxg4 54.Rxf7 exf5 55.Rxf5
Re4+

This is actually a mistake. Instead, winning was 55. ...Kxc3.—RD

56.Kd2 g4 57.Rg5

57.Rf6 g3 (57...Ka4 58.Rd6 Rf4
59.Rxd5 g3 60.e6±) 58.Rg6 with a plus
for White.—RD

Kb2 58.e6 Rxd4+!

A nice little move which forces an
endgame where I'm a pawn up.

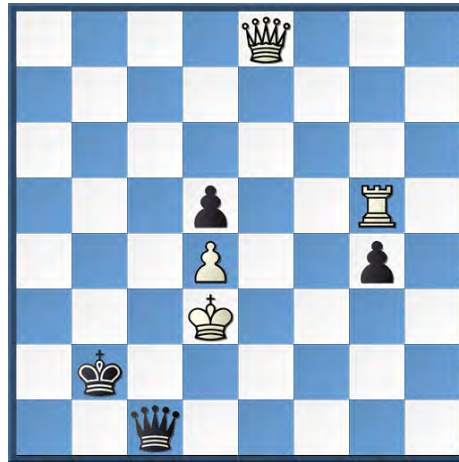
59.cxd4 c3+ 60.Kd3

*Much better is 60.Ke2 c2 61.e7 c1Q
62.e8Q Qxxg5 63.Qb5+ with perpetual
check (draw by repetition) on a5, b5, and
c5.—RD*

c2 61.e7 c1Q 62.e8Q

[Diagram top of next column]

Here I think I should be winning, but



unfortunately I missed 62...Qd1+
63.Ke3 Qe1+ followed by taking on
e8! Ouch!

62...Qxxg5 63.Qe2+ Ka3 64.Kc2
Qf5+ 65.Kd2 Qf4+ 66.Kc2 Qxd4
There goes the second pawn!

67.Qe7+ Ka2 68.Qb7 Qc4+ 69.Kd2
d4 70.Qa7+ Kb3 71.Kd1??

A fatal mistake!

71...Qc2+ 72.Ke1 Qb1+ 73.Kd2
Qa2+

Game over.

74.Qxa2+ Kxa2 75.Kd3 g3 76.Ke2
d3+ 77.Ke1 d2+ 78.Ke2 g2 0-1

**Matt Dalthorp (1721) – Erik
Skalnes (1849)**

Fall Classic, (R2) 17.11.2012

[Notes by Matt Dalthorp]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4

I believe this is the third or fourth
time I've played this line against this
opponent in a tournament.

7...d5

He tries to mix it up with this move.
More normal is [7...e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5
gxf5 10.exf5; or 7...h6] **8.e5** His last
move took me out of book...now we
can really play chess.

8...Nfd7 9.f4 Nc6

intending to hinder a possible f5
advance by targeting the e5 pawn.

10.Qf3

I'm planning to meet 10...Qh4+ with
Qg3, and if he plays something else,
my queen is aggressively placed and I
can castle queenside.

10...Qc7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.Bg2

I put some power on the long diagonal
planning a possible Nxd5 sac.

12...Bb7 13.Rhe1

Now all my pieces are targeting the
center.

13...b4

He probably would have been better
off had he castled here.

14.Nxd5 exd5 15.e6 Nf6

15...fxe6 16.Nxe6 looks fun for
White.

16.exf7+ Kxf7



Earlier I had been intending to play
Ne6, but now I stop to think. His f6
knight is a critical defender, but g5
fails to Ne4. Furthermore, it would
be really nice to open up that d-file.
So the obvious solution is

17.Qxd5+ Nxd5

Here he muttered something under his breath to the effect of, "I swear to God, if I lose this game..."

18.Bxd5+ Ke8

18...Kf6 19.g5+ Kg6 20.f5+ Kh5
21.Bf3+ Kh4 22.Bf2+ Kxg5 23.Ne6+

19.Nxc6

With threats of Bb6 and other nasty things.

19...Kd7 20.Bb3+

20.Ne5+ Ke8 21.Bb6 Qxb6 (21...Qc8
22.Ng6+ Kd7 23.Bxb7+ Bd6 24.Re7#)
22.Nc4+

20...Bd6

Forced. Kxc6 falls to Ba4#, Kc8 falls to Be6+, and moving the King back to the e-file is just suicidal.

21.Ne5+

Only move; I have to get my knight out somehow.

21...Kc8 22.Be6+ Kd8??

This is the losing move. 22...Kb8 23.Nd7+ Kc8 and I don't think I can get more than a perpetual.

23.Nf7+ Ke7

And now I force either a won endgame or won middlegame.

24.Bb3 Kd7

24...Kf8 25.Rxd6 with the threat of Rd8+

25.Nxd6 Qxd6 26.Bc5

It's probably helpful to pick up the b-pawn.

26...Qxd1+ 27.Rxd1+

My bishop pair and extra pawns

In the Portland CC G/60 of 11-17-2012, Korneljs Dale was Chief TD and Mike Morris was Assistant TD.

Portland CC G/60 (11-17-2012)								
##	Player	Pre-	Post	1	2	3	4	Score
1	Matthew B Sellers	2099	2101	W7	W3	W4	W8	4
2	Nick Raptis	2349	2350	W8	W5	H	U	2.5
3	Andrew Lam Trattner	1524	1546	W9	L1	W5	H	2.5
4	Ethan Wu	1339	1414	H	W8	L1	W7	2.5
5	Brian F Berger	1463	1458	W10	L2	L3	W9	2
6	Korneljs Dale	1500	1501	H	U	U	W10	1.5
7	Hansen Lian	1392	1386	L1	H	W9	L4	1.5
8	Praveer Sharan	1426	1407	L2	L4	W10	L1	1
9	Jerrold Richards	1317	1281	L3	W10	L7	L5	1
10	Abhinav Bandari	414P6	414P10	L5	L9	L8	L6	0

should make this an easy endgame.

27...Kc7 28.Bxb4

I carefully considered this position before taking the queen back and I decided that it would be winning for me; I have three pawns for the exchange, and my bishop pair is beautiful.

28...a5 29.Bd6+ Kb6 30.Be5

And now I can collect the g-pawn.

**30...a4 31.Bc4 Rac8 32.Bd3 Rhf8
33.Bxh7 Rh8 34.Bf5 Rc4 35.Rd2
Be4??**

To be fair, he had only about a minute left on his clock, albeit with a 5-second delay.

**36.Bd4+ Rxd4 37.Rxd4 Bxf5
38.gxf5 Rxh2 39.Rxa4**

Now it's just mopping up.

**39...Rf2 40.Re4 Kc5 41.b3 Rf1+
42.Kb2 Rf2 43.a4 Kd5 44.Rc4 Re2
45.a5 Re8 46.a6 Re7 47.Ra4 Ra7
48.c3 Kc5 49.b4+ Kc4 50.Ra5 Ra8
51.Rc5+**

51.Kc2 leads to forced mate.

51...Kd3 52.b5

I was down to about two minutes here so I stopped notating. We played on about fifteen more moves before he resigned. 1-0



Carl Haessler
Chess Master

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The 2012 Dr. Ralph Hall Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, King o' Numbers

It's over. Not that you can tell by the standings below, but unless this reached you before the last weekend of December, then the contest is quite over. And it is just beginning, as well. My statistics below include all events through December 9th. That leaves four more to be added, all single point events. Only the closest of races could be affected. If your lead is more than 13 points, you should be pretty safe. There is always the danger of having to back out an event for non-payment, but that doesn't look too likely this year. One event, the PCS Rapid from last May, has already been removed, but the rest should be safe. As soon as the last results are in and the last checks clear, we will be posting the final standings to the NW Chess website. If results and payments come in quick enough, we'll be able to include the final results in the February issue (historically, March is more likely). Then it will be time to look ahead again.

As I said, this is the end, and the beginning. The first Grand Prix events start with the very first weekend of January, and the Gresham Open that weekend is the first multiplier event of the year. So, regardless of where your points ended in December, you are tied for the lead in January and can get a good head start on your class competitors by visiting Gresham in early 2013.

The most significant perturbations to the standings below were the effects of the Washington Class Championships, November 23-25, and the Western Idaho Open from December 8-9. These events guaranteed large prize funds and carried 4x and 3x multipliers, respectively. The Washington Class had 151 entries and the Western Idaho Open had 40 players in attendance. Many changes in the Washington and Idaho leaders occurred as a result of these two. In contrast, Oregon leadership changed very little as there was only one event in the past month and it was sparsely attended.

Prize amounts will be announced in the magazine with the final standings. If this year is like usual, the winners will have already received their checks by that time. Sponsorship donations were rather sparse this year, but there was enough so that each state's fund is receiving \$50 in added money. We are currently soliciting donations for 2013, to name the Grand Prix in memory of Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja, who passed away last November. If you wish to help contribute to this memorial fund, please contact the NWC business manager, Eric Holcomb.

Now, to the standings, as they were the first week of December:

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Raptis	Nick	178.5	1 Feng	Roland	135.5
			2 Haessler	Carl A	50	2 Pupols	Viktors	122
			3 Gay	Daniel Z	35.5	3 Sinanan	Joshua C	97.5
			3 Movsisyan	Movses	24	4 Collyer	Curt D	73
			5 Prochaska	Peter	4.5	5 Bragg	David R	69
Experts								
			1 Saputra	Yogi	87.5	1 Bartron	Paul R	142.5
			2 Esler	Brian J	56.5	2 He	Samuel F	99.5
			3 Tezcan	Yaman	50	3 Lee	Nathan Y	98
			4 Janniro	Mike E	47.5	4 He	Daniel M	84.5
M/X/Class A								
1 Leslie	Cameron D	45						
2 Kircher	Caleb P	36						
3 Havrilla	Mark A	33						
4 Joshi	Kairav	27.5						

5 Johnson Paul M. 22	5 Heywood Bill 44	5 Lee Megan 80
Class B		Class A
1 Roland Jeffrey T 56	1 Sherrard Jerry 61	1 Buck Stephen J 226
2 Gorman Cody A 42.5	2 Cigan Jason 51.5	2 Szabo Marcell 182.5
3 Bodie Brad 39.5	3 Bannon David T 44	3 Nagase Masayuki 125.5
4 Niro Frank A 29.5	4 Sun Maxwell S 37	4 Krasin Jeremy 93.5
5 Olsoy Peter J 26	5 Wen David 32	5 Lampman Becca 89
Class C		Class B
1 Weyland Ronald M 43.5	1 Gaikwad Dagadu B 80.5	1 Ramesh Jothi N 142.5
2 Brown Nicholas R 22	2 Sato-Duncan Takuma 73.5	2 Nagase Toshihiro 138
3 Pemsler Carmen 18	3 Hasuike Mike L 39	3 Wang James 113.5
4 Ruberry Samuel J C 13.5	4 Burris Christopher E 37.5	4 Dutton Carl 113
5 Bruck Nick J 8.5	5 Mueller-Warrant Alexander G 34	5 Zhang Derek 98.5
Class D		Class C
1 Jaroski Jeffrey A 38	1 Doddapaneni Venkat S 53	1 Piper August 118
2 Porth Adam 34	2 Dietz Arliss 48.5	2 Cherepakhin Olga 84
3 Patterson Kevin R 31	3 Stevens Matthew 45	3 Deshpande Aaryan H 76
4 Hollingsworth Gary M 27.5	4 Sharan Praveer 38	4 Bashkansky Naomi 71
5 Lang Jamie 22.5	4 Murphy Dmitri M 38	5 Li Jiangyu 66.5
Class E and Below		Class D and Below
1 Naccarato Savanna 30.5	1 Buerer Harry F 54.5	1 Richards Jerrold 109
2 Blake Lloyd W 30	2 Botez Andrea C C 40.5	2 Chalasani Sujatha D 95
3 Buus Jarod N 27.5	3 Wu Ethan 36.5	3 Thakur Asher 80.5
4 Nathan Jacob A 24.5	4 Aditya Neal 28	4 Thakur Eamon 78.5
5 Two tied at 22.5	5 Svetal Scott M 25.5	5 Haining Breck 76.5
Overall Leaders, by State		
1 Roland Jeffrey T 56	1 Raptis Nick 178.5	1 Buck Stephen J 226
2 Leslie Cameron D 45	2 Saputra Yogi 87.5	2 Szabo Marcell 182.5
3 Weyland Ronald M 43.5	3 Gaikwad Dagadu B 80.5	3 Bartron Paul R 142.5
4 Gorman Cody A 42.5	4 Sato-Duncan Takuma 73.5	3 Ramesh Jothi N 142.5
5 Bodie Brad 39.5	5 Sherrard Jerry 61	5 Nagase Toshihiro 138
6 Jaroski Jeffrey A 38	6 Esler Brian J 56.5	6 Feng Roland 135.5
7 Kircher Caleb P 36	7 Buerer Harry F 54.5	7 Nagase Masayuki 125.5
8 Porth Adam 34	8 Doddapaneni Venkat S 53	8 Pupols Viktors 122
9 Havrilla Mark A 33	9 Cigan Jason 51.5	9 Piper August 118
10 Patterson Kevin R 31	10 Haessler Carl A 50	10 Wang James 113.5
11 Naccarato Savanna 30.5	10 Tezcan Yaman 50	11 Dutton Carl 113
12 Blake Lloyd W 30	12 Dietz Arliss 48.5	12 Richards Jerrold 109

A subscription to *Northwest Chess* would
make a great gift.

Western Idaho Open Games

continued from page 34

Tom Booth – Frank Niro
WIO Boise (R5) Dec. 9, 2012

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 d6
5.Bg5 Bg7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 c6 8.0-0
Qe8 9.Qc2 Na6 10.a3 e5 11.dxe5
dxe5 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.e4 f4 14.b4
Bg4 15.Be2 Qe6 16.c5 Bxf3 17.Bxf3
Nc7 18.Qa2 Kh8 19.Qxe6 Nxe6
20.Ne2 Ng5 21.Rad1 Rad8 22.Rd6
Be7 23.Rdd1 Kg7 24.Rfe1 Nxf3+
25.gxf3 g5 26.Nc3 Kf6 27.h3 Ke6
28.Rf1 Rd4 29.Ne2 Rc4 30.Rd2
a5 31.Rc1 Rxc1+ 32.Nxc1 axb4
33.axb4 b6 34.cxb6 Rb8 35.Nd3
Rxb6 36.Nc5+ Bxc5 37.bxc5 Rb1+
38.Kg2 Rc1 39.Rd6+ Ke7 40.Rxc6
Kd7 41.Rh6 Rxc5 42.Rxh7+ Ke6
43.Rh8 Rc7 1-0

Peter Olsoy – Jeff Baggett
WIO Boise (R3), Dec. 8, 2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6
3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7
5.Bg2 d5 6.0-0 Bd6
7.b3 0-0 8.Nbd2
c5 9.Bb2 Nbd7
10.Rc1 Qe7 11.Re1
Rfd8 12.Qc2 cxd4
13.Nxd4 Rac8
14.Nb5 Bb8 15.Qb1
a6 16.Ba3 Nc5
17.Nc3 d4 18.Na4
Bxg2 19.Kxg2
Qb7+ 20.Kg1 Nce4 21.Nxe4 Nxe4
22.Nxb6 Ng5 23.h4 Nh3+ 24.Kh2
Nxf2 25.Nxc8 Rxc8 26.Rf1 Ng4+
27.Kh3 Ne3 28.Rf3 Qd7 29.Qd3
e5+ 30.Kh2 Qe6 31.Rxe3 dxe3
32.Qxe3 Qg6 33.Bb2 Re8 34.c5 f5
35.Qd3 e4 36.Qd5+ Kh8 37.Rg1
Qg4 38.Qd7 Rg8 39.c6 Qxh4+
40.Kg2 Qg4 41.Kf2 e3+ 42.Kxe3
h5 43.Kf2 Ba7+ 44.Qxa7 Re8 45.e3
Qg5 46.Bd4 Rg8 47.Qf7 f4 48.exf4
1-0

Jarod Buus – Katie Rae Patterson
WIO (Reserve) Boise

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(R2) Dec. 8, 2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.c3 0-0 7.Re1 d6
8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.h3 Re8
11.Bc2 Ba7 12.Bg5 b6 13.a3 Bb7
14.Qd3 g6 15.Nc3 Kg7 16.Re3
Qd7 17.Bxf6+ Kxf6 18.Nd5+
Ke6 19.Nc3 Ke7 20.Nd5+ Kd8
21.Nf6 Qe7 22.Nxe8 Qxe8 23.e5
dxe5 24.Nxe5 Kc8 25.Rae1
Nxe5 26.Rxe5 Qc6 27.Re8+ Kd7
28.R1e7+ Kd6 29.Qg3+ Kd5
30.Qe5+ Kc4 31.Qe2+ Kxd4
32.Qd3+ Kc5 33.Re5+ Qd5 34.b4+
Kc6 35.Qxd5# 1-0

7th Annual Grand Pacific Open

CS\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Easter: March 29-April 1, 2013

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

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 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. 22, C\$85 by Mar. 25, C\$95 on site. Discount C\$20 if rated U1400 or unrated.
Add C\$20 if U1700 AND playing up a section. Family discounts available.

Prizes: C\$5000 guaranteed.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess.
Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6.

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street
from the playing site. 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
"MAR13CHESS"). See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

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

Jan. 6, Feb. 3

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64;d0 or G/60;d5. **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/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Sunday Tornado

January 19

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by
 1/16, \$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. 26, Feb. 23

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7
 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45
 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:15-6:30 **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd,
 OSA. NS, NC.

Saturday Quads

March 1

Format: 4-6 rds. (dependent upon num. of entries). **TC:** G/15;d0. **EF:** \$7
 (plus \$3 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** At least 70% of EFs. **Reg:** 7-7:45 p.m.
First Rd: 8:00 p.m. **Byes:** 1 (if SS). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC G/15 Championship

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate
 Mall, with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City Uni-
 versity." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from
 Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Seattle City Championship

January 11-13 or January 12-13

A two-section, five-round Swiss with time controls of 40/120 and SD/60 with five-second delay (Two-day
 schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

First	\$225
Second	\$140
Expert	\$90
Class A	\$70

Reserve (U1800)

First	\$125
U1600	\$80
Class C	\$60
Class D	\$50
Class E & Under	\$40
Unrated	\$20

EF: Championship \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$50 (\$39,
 \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW
 dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$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.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2013 Northwest Grand Prix event - see pages 44-45 for details; for Seattle Chess Club events, see page 47

♣ **Jan 5-6 Gresham Open, Gresham, OR.** See full page flyer in December issue or www.nwchess.com/calendar/ta.htm

♣ **Jan 17-Feb 14 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA.** 5SS, G/120. Spokane Chess Club, which meets at 7:00 p.m. in Herak Hall (Engineering building) Room 301 at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. EF: \$16, USCF memb req'd. Rounds: Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14. Info: Email: dbgrffn@hotmail.com www.spokanechessclub.org NC.

♣ **Jan 19 Winter Open, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. D St., Tacoma, WA. Format: 4 round Swiss in 2 sections, Open & Reserve. Open section is USCF rated and the Reserve section is unrated. Time Control: G/60 + 5 second delay. Entry fee: \$20.00, Prize fund \$220.00 b/15 entries, 1st \$45.00, 2nd \$35.00, 3rd \$30.00 each section. If more than 15 entries, prize fund will be increased. Registration: 9:00-9:45, Rounds: 10:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00. Info/Entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Jan 26 Portland CC G/60, Portland, OR.** 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: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

♣ **Feb 2 Groundhog Day Mini-Swiss, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. Across the street from Alfred's Café & two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 3-round Swiss. Time Control: G/90 + 5 second delay. Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 1:30, 5:00. Entry Fee: \$20.00. Registration: 9:00-9:45 am. Prize Fund: \$135.00 b/10, Top Half 1st \$50.00, 2nd \$25.00, Bottom Half 1st \$35.00, 2nd \$25.00. NS, NC, NW. USCF & state memberships required. Entries/info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, or call (253) 535-2536 or (253) 306-7137 (club); e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Feb 23-24 The 21st Dave Collyer Memorial, Spokane, WA.** The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-First Dave Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane. A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 8:30-9:30, February 23, 2013. Mandatory player meeting at 9:45 (except for sleep in). Rounds: 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Game/115. Entry fee: \$27 if received by 2/22, \$33 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. All registrants must check in by 9:30 unless a first-round bye was granted or player is playing in the "sleep in" section. Late arrivals might not be paired in first round. Special "Sleep In" option: Anyone interested in sleeping in can play their round one game commencing at noon under g/60 time control and join the regular event for round two. Registration for this option ends at 11:40 a.m. February 23. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. There will be a special door prize for every entrant. PRIZES: 1st \$350, 2nd \$225, 3rd \$125. Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second: A; B; C; D; E/unrated. Biggest Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates & directions: www.spokanechessclub.org.