



NORTHWEST CHESS

Washington Chess Federation
Oregon Chess Federation

December 2007
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Team Washington, Victory in Vancouver

**Washington Bests British Columbia
Merwin, Mitchell Win Eastern Wash. Open
Tacoma Report, Annotated Games, and More!**

Northwest Chess

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Greetings from the Editor

What's coming up in the January issue? A report and games from the WA Class Championships and an article by IM Nikolay Minev. What else? Well, that's up to you!



Editor's Desk

Did you play an interesting game? Send it in to the magazine, annotated or not. Did you go to a tourney? Write a report. Did you like your newest chess book/software, or just hate it? Let the rest of us know about it by writing a review.

Of course, any other articles or pictures that you contribute will be more than welcome.

Best Wishes,
Frederick K. Kleist

Thanks to C. Kleist for proofreading.

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Pawn: Mark James, Gene Milener

Contributions can be sent to the Northwest Chess Business Manager, and are greatly appreciated!

Anagram Contest

The Seattle CC has offered to sponsor the first Anagram Contest. The club will award a Saturday Quad entry (non-members must still pay the non-member day fee) to three of those who get six or more correct answers. A Sunday Tornado entry (non-members must still pay the non-member day fee) will be awarded to one of those who get all ten correct. Answers must be received by e-mail or postmarked on or before January 15, 2008. Winners will be drawn from among the qualifying entries and will be announced in the February 2008 issue.

E-mail your solutions to nwceditor@cs.com. Or use the post and send them to:

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2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168.

An anagram is a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of, in this instance, the name of a Northwest Class Player. For example, the phrase **Casual Crab Jalapeno** is an anagram for **Jose Raul Capablanca** (not a Northwest Class Player). Northwest Class Players include residents and former residents, living or deceased, of Oregon and Washington, who have chiefly remained, at least in recent years, below Expert.

Please turn to page 19 to find this month's contest anagrams.

From the Business Manager:

Please send memberships and address changes directly to the business manager's listed address. Sending to the PO Box in Seattle may result in a two-week delay in processing your mail.

Northwest Chess

December 2007

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Northwest Chess Calendar of Upcoming Events

back cover

On the Cover: Team Washington: (seated, left to right) Duane Polich (Team Captain), Bill McGeary, David Bragg, Nat Koons, and Nick Paleveda; (standing, left to right) Dan Mathews (WCF Tournament Coordinator), Chouchanik Airapetian, Josh Sinanan, Chris Kalina, Marcel Milat, Fred Kleist (first alternate), John Readey, and Eddie Chang (Manager of the Seattle Sluggers); (not pictured) Eric Tangborn. Photo by Dan Scoones.

Washington Bests British Columbia 6-4

by Fred Kleist

The fifth match in the modern series between the top players of Washington and British Columbia ended with four wins for Washington, four draws and two losses. This year's match took place on Sunday, December 2, at the Student Union Building on the University of B.C. campus in Vancouver. The Washington team, which had White on the even-numbered boards, outrated its opponents on the first four boards, but the six lower boards all favored the B.C. team. Despite this, the match was won on the lower boards where Washington scored three wins, two draws and one loss.

For many of the Washington players, the day began in apprehension, not about their opponents, but about the weather. The forecast called for snow early in the day, eventually turning to rain. The warming trend was to come from the south. There were some light flurries for those who left Seattle at 7:30-8:00 a.m., but they rapidly dissipated. Another area of snowfall was encountered near Everett, but the most difficult stretch began north of Bellingham and the snow continued to fall all the way to the campus, where we found children sledding on some hillocks.

The match was scheduled to begin at noon, but both teams were missing players at that point. And so we waited. At 12:40, B.C. Captain Dan Scoones announced that only his top board, FM Bindi Cheng, was missing and that the clocks would be started at 12:45. He explained that the time control was G/120 with no delay and showed the five Washington participants present—FM Marcel Milat, NM Nat Koons, NM Bill McGeary, Josh Sinanan, and Nick Paleveda—their boards. Four minutes later, WA Captain Duane Polich arrived with the rest of the crew, as did FM Cheng.

The first two games to finish were the short draw on Board Two, where Milat opted for an early Queen exchange, and the wild time scramble on Board eight. WFM Chouchanik Airapetian won a piece in the opening, but her opponent, Joe Oszvald, kept the position complicated enough that by the time she promoted her last pawn, forcing Oszvald to give up a Rook, she had but one minute remaining to win with a Rook and Bishop versus four passed pawns. She missed a win, but was able to liquidate all his material and thus avoid losing on time.

Shortly thereafter, Sinanan resigned on Board Seven when his piece sacrifice gained him less than nebulous compensation. It was at this point that Chris Kalina was doing his walkabout (*see page 8*) which convinced him that a draw on Board Ten would be good for the team.

The rest of the games finished in a blur, as I was rushing to enter all the games in a database. On Board One, IM Eric Tangborn faced the London System and came out swinging with 4...♖b6, but refused to take the proffered b-pawn. Nevertheless, he achieved a favorable pawn structure after 8...c4. Somehow he went wrong and White broke through on the kingside to score the point.

FM John Readey, playing Board Three, also came out swinging with 5...c5 versus the Austrian Attack. He won a pawn and his opponent sacrificed two Rooks for a Queen to get it back. It took a while for Readey to consolidate and, short of time, he missed a win on move 47. A draw was agreed shortly thereafter.

For once, FM David Bragg played a 'normal' opening, having the White side of a Sveshnikov Sicilian. He appeared to retain an edge in the opening, though NM McGeary believes that he over-reached and that Black could have formed a decisive kingside attack while Bragg was nursing his passed b-pawn. However, Black chose a more passive defense and the pawn turned out to be a runner.

On Board Nine, Nick Paleveda remained unbeaten and untied in WA-BC match play, scoring his third win. His opponent reacted poorly to a ...♟a6 King's Indian and drifted into a bad Benoni. After Queens were exchanged, White took a light-hearted stroll with his King to g3. About a dozen moves later, White resigned in the face of checkmate in the Rook-and-minor-piece ending.

After the match victory, Team Washington had celebratory dinner at the Swiss Chalet on Broadway. There we learned that Airapetian could have lost, had her opponent been watching the clock, for she flagged as she was in the process of grabbing the last pawn.

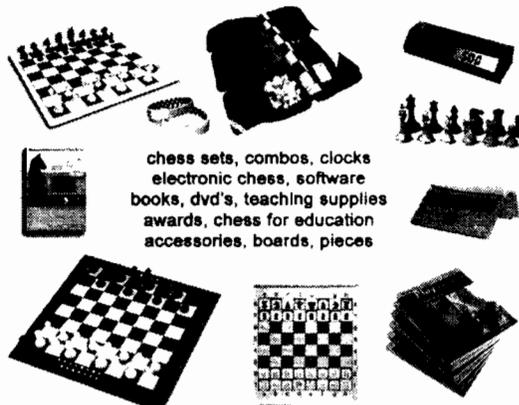
We left Vancouver in a light rain, though snow still covered the roads. A heavy rain and high winds accompanied our homeward journey south of Bellingham.



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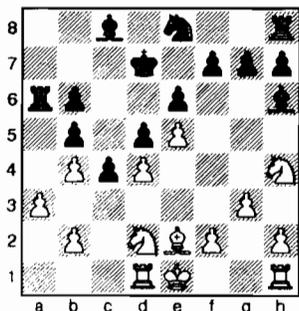
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London System

FM Bindi Cheng (2349)
IM Eric Tangborn (2455)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (1) 2007

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♗f3 c5 3. c3 e6 4. ♙f4 ♖b6
5. ♗bd2 d5 6. ♖b3 ♗c6 7. ♖xb6 axb6
8. e3 c4 9. a3 b5 10. ♖d1 ♗h5 11. ♙c7
♗d7 12. ♙b6 ♙d6 13. ♙e2 ♗f6 14. e4
♙f4 15. e5 ♗e8 16. g3 ♙h6 17. ♗h4 ♖a6
18. ♙c5 b6 19. ♙b4 ♗xb4 20. cxb4



20... ♗f6 21. ♗b1 ♗e7 22. ♗c3 ♙d7 23.
♗f3 ♗c7 24. h4 ♙c6 25. O-O ♖aa8 26.
♗h2 fxe5 27. dxe5 g6 28. f4 ♙g7 29. ♙g4
h6 30. ♗f3 ♖af8 31. ♖de1 ♙d7 32. ♗d4
g5 33. ♙h5 gxf4 34. gxf4 ♖hg8 35. ♗h2
♙h8 36. ♗h3 ♗d8 37. ♗ce2 ♖g7
38. ♖g1 ♖fg8 39. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 40. ♖g1
♖xg1 41. ♗xg1 ♗e7 42. ♗g4 ♙g7 43.
♙g6 ♙f8 44. ♗ge2 ♗e8 45. ♗g3 ♗g7
46. ♗h5 ♗xh5 47. ♗xh5 ♙g7 48. ♗g4
♙f8 49. h5 ♙g7 50. ♗f3 ♙f8 51. ♗e3
♙g7 52. ♗e2 ♗f8 53. ♗d4 ♗g8 54. f5
exf5 55. ♗xd5 ♗f8 56. ♗d6 ♙c8 57. ♗f4
1-0

Modern Defense

FM Marcel Milat (2354)
FM Bruce Harper (2335)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (2) 2007

1. e4 g6 2. d4 d6 3. c4 e5 4. dxe5 dxe5
5. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 6. f4 ♙h6 7. g3 exf4
8. gxf4 ♗f6 9. e5 ♗h5 10. ♗e2 f6 11. exf6
♖f8 12. ♗bc3 ♗d7 13. ♙g2 ♗dxf6 14.
O-O c6 15. ♙e3 ♗c7 16. ♙d4 ♗d7 17.
♖ae1 ♙g7 18. ♗e4 h6 19. ♙xg7 ♗xg7
20. ♗d4 Draw

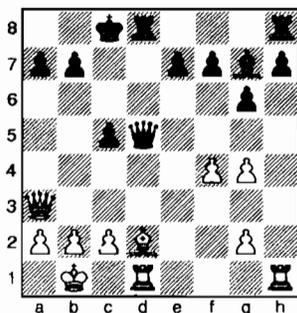
Pirc Austrian Attack

NM Dan Scoones (2256)
FM John Readey (2324)

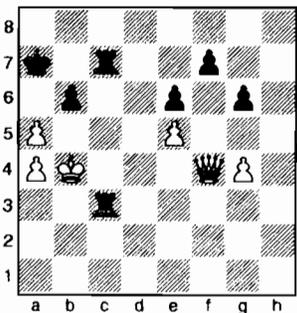
Vancouver, WA-BC Match (3) 2007

1. e4 d6 2. d4 ♗f6 3. ♗c3 g6 4. f4 ♙g7
5. ♗f3 c5 6. ♙b5+ ♙d7 7. e5 ♗g4 8.
♙xd7+ ♖xd7 9. d5 dxe5 10. h3 e4
11. hxg4 exf3 12. ♖xf3 ♗a6 13. ♙d2

O-O-O 14. O-O-O ♗b4 15. ♗b1 ♗xd5
16. ♗xd5 ♖xd5 17. ♖a3



17... ♗b8 18. ♙c1 ♖xd1 19. ♖xd1 ♖xd1
20. ♖xc5 ♖e8 21. c3 e6 22. ♗c2 ♖d5
23. ♖f2 b6 24. ♙e3 ♖ed8 25. a4 ♖d7
26. g5 h5 27. gxh6 ♙xh6 28. ♖h4 ♖h5
29. ♖f6 ♙f8 30. g4 ♖hd5 31. ♖h8 ♖d8
32. ♖h7 ♖5d7 33. ♙d4 ♙d6 34. ♙f6
♖c8 35. ♙e5 ♙xe5 36. fxe5 a5 37. ♗b3
♖c5 38. ♖h8+ ♗b7 39. ♖f6 ♖cd5 40.
♗c4 ♖c7+ 41. ♗b3 ♗a7 42. ♖f4 ♖cd7
43. ♗c4 ♖d2 44. b4 ♖c7+ 45. ♗b3 ♖d3
46. bxa5 ♖dxc3+ 47. ♗b4



47... ♖3c4+ 48. ♖xc4 bxa5+ 49. ♗b5
♖xc4 50. ♗xc4 ♗b6 51. g5 ♗c6 52. ♗d4
♗b6 Draw

According to some games I saw (www.chessbc.ca), my opponent plays the Alekhine's defense. Minutes before the game, I began discussing my intended Four-Pawns Attack with Marcel Milat and Bill McGeary, hoping to pick up some last-minute tips. This worked rather too well: I realized I knew next to nothing about the line. So . . . —Koons

Dutch Staunton Gambit

NM Nat Koons (2312)
NM Bruce McLaren (2246)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (4) 2007

Annotations by NM Nat Koons
1. d4 f5 2. e4 fxe4 3. ♗c3 ♗f6 4. ♙g5 e6
5. ♗xe4 ♙e7 6. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 7. ♗f3 b6

After this move I had secret hopes of repeating the famous miniature Lasker-Thomas. That game, featured in the absolute classic book *Chess For Fun and Chess For Blood*, ended with the Black King perishing on g1.

8. ♙d3 ♗c6!

My opponent, though unaware of the aforementioned precedent, nevertheless improves black's play. Thomas allowed White to play ♗e5 and ♖h5, and you just can't do that. Black correctly waits for White to commit his King before castling.

9. c3 a5?! 10. O-O?!

Some real high quality play. The White King should go to the queenside.

10... ♙b7 11. ♖e1 O-O 12. ♗g3 g6

Restricting the g3-Knight! Good move! It's important that h4-h5 doesn't work, though.

13. ♖c2 ♗e7 14. ♗e5 ♙g7 15. ♖ad1 ♖c8 16. ♙b5

This isn't a normal Staunton gambit theme, but you play the position you have. I think...c6 is a concession.

16...c6 17. ♙e2 ♖c7 18. ♙f3 ♖ad8 19. ♖b3 ♗d5 20. a4

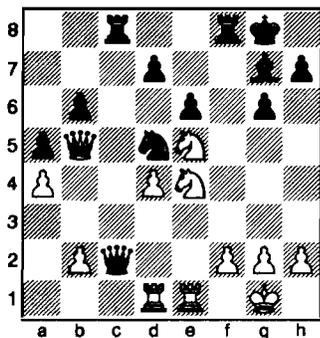
"The problem with a4 is, now you can never play c4," someone told me in the post-mortem. Very true, because it gives up the b4 square.

20... ♙a6 21. ♙e2 ♙xe2

My opponent played this instantly, which made me think we had very different ideas about what was going on in this position. Wasn't his Bishop the better piece?

22. ♖xe2 c5 23. ♖ee1 cxd4 24. cxd4 ♖c8 25. ♖b5 ♖c2 26. ♗e4

My opponent was down to about two minutes, with no increment, in a sudden death time control. Something similar happened last year. Under such conditions, regardless of the objective evaluation of the position (which is in this case roughly equal), half and even full points are routinely won and lost in the manner of a roulette wheel. Considering our team's play as a whole, I consider our margin of victory over B.C. fully justified.



26...d6 27.♘f3 ♖c6 28.♗xc6 ♜xc6
29.♝eg5 ♞f4 30.g3?! ♞h3+?! 31.♞xh3
♜xf3 32.♜xe6 ♜c2 33.♜xd6 ♜xb2
34.♜d8+ ♜f8? 35.♜c1 g5 36.♜cc8 g4
37.♞f4 ♜xf2 38.♜xf8+ ♝g7 39.♞e6+
1-0

French Winawer

NM Roger Patterson (2230)

NM Bill McGeary (2210)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (5) 2007

Annotations by NM Bill McGeary

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♞c3 ♜b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3
♜xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♞e7 7.♞f3 ♞bc6 8.h4
♖a5 9.♜d2 ♖a4 10.h5 h6

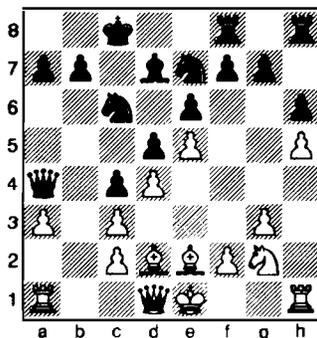
I didn't expect to be playing one of the "positional" lines in the Winawer, so was caught a big off guard. Whether I couldn't remember, or never knew, the theory of lines with h2-h4, at least I was familiar and comfortable with the themes that work in the Winawer. I remembered that I had seen a game between Fedorov and Gulko from Las Vegas 1999 and was trying to piece it together. Afterwards, I found that Gulko had exchanged on d4 before playing ♖a4, so much for my memory! The point is, I was playing moves that made sense and feeling that if they weren't "theory," then I was creating the leading edge. The ♖a4 might seem a bit unsightly, but it pressures d4 and c2 as well as keeping some ideas of lateral activity should White play d4xc5 and the pawn on h6 holds back the h5-pawn and keeps g5 under observation.

11.♜d3 c4 12.♜e2 ♜d7 13.♞h4
O-O-O 14.g3

It turns out that this is the first "new" move. I had just assumed that White was going to appropriate space with f2-f4 and g2-g4; so was a bit unsure of this. If White had pushed forward with g4 and f4, my plan was to get in ...f7-f6 and then

try to go forward slowly on the queenside. My idea is that White will need to find a way to change the landscape on the kingside to make progress and any kind of change has bad points that I can work to make use of. My next move reflects this thinking: the Rook has "potential," as Nimzovich would say, while not showing any increase in activity.

14...♜df8 15.♞g2



For my generation of Washington players, it was common to see a B.C. player plant a Knight on f2 or f7, but fianchettoed Knights are a unique sight. With no intention of insult to my opponent, I feel that my play should be judged based on the fate of this piece.

15...f6 16.exf6 gxf6

Sometimes moves have an air of "absoluteness" given them by annotators and I want to do that with this move. It is likely a good move, but it is "absolutely" an admission that I have altered course. I originally intended to respond ...♜xf6, as I felt play down the f-file would be profitable and the backward e6-pawn would be no concern. When I got to this position, I realized that White will have ♜f4 and ♞e3 when I can try to arrange ...g7-g5, but I will always have an awkward game. The down side to ...gxf6 is the h6-pawn.

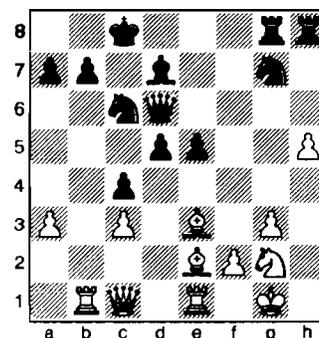
17.♖c1 ♖a5 18.O-O ♜fg8 19.♜e1

This is directed at lines where we exchange the pawns on h6 and c3 and White comes out with ♖e3. Now ...♞xd4 will no longer indirectly defend Black's Queen, because the e2-Bishop, while still falling with check, is defended. My opponent confirmed this after the game.

19...e5 20.dxe5 fxe5 21.♜xh6 ♖xc3
22.♜g5

Kinetic energy is an under appreciated concept in chess. White has the 2 B's and wants to get active. Black is beginning to creak forward with the center pawns. I believe that the built-up energy on the central files is greater than the antics the Bishops can find.

22...♞f5 23.♜d2 ♖d4 24.c3 ♖c5
25.♜e3 ♖d6 26.♜b1 ♞g7



Before this move my opponent was down to about eight minutes and I had more than fifteen. I was inclined to play ...♞a5-b3, as it seemed so natural, but there seemed to be something wrong with reposting the King's personal guard. I thought about trying to arrange a general central push, but my Rooks weren't in position. The last factor that came to my attention was the h5 pawn and how it was a bit difficult to defend. I easily found my next few moves and so plopped the Knight back to g7. I was down to eight minutes now.

27.♖d1 ♖e6 28.♜f3 ♖h3 29.♖xd5
♞xh5

I have a threat with ...♖h1+.

30.♝f1 ♞f6 31.♖xc4 e4 32.♜xe4 ♞xe4
33.♖xe4 ♜f5 34.♖d5 ♜d8 35.♖f7
♜d3+ 0-1

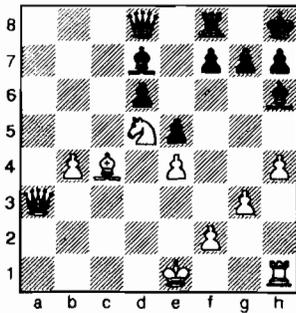
Sicilian Sveshnikov

FM David Bragg (2200)

NM Roman Jiganchine (2227)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (6) 2007

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4
♞f6 5.♞c3 e5 6.♞db5 d6 7.♜g5 a6
8.♞a3 b5 9.♞d5 ♜e7 10.♜xf6 ♜xf6
11.c3 O-O 12.♞c2 ♜g5 13.a4 bxa4
14.♜xa4 a5 15.♜b5 ♞e7 16.h4 ♜h6
17.♞xe7+ ♖xe7 18.♞b4 ♜b7 19.♞d5
♖d8 20.♜c4 ♝h8 21.g3 ♜c6 22.♜a3
♜b8 23.b3 ♜d7 24.♖a1 ♜a8 25.b4
axb4 26.cxb4 ♜xa3 27.♖xa3



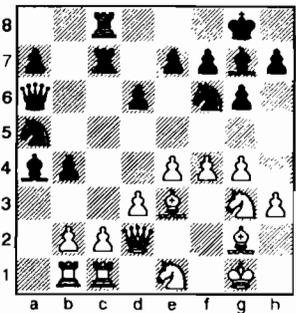
27...f5 28.b5 ♖b8 29.O-O fxe4 30.b6 e3
31.fxex3 ♜xf1+ 32.♙xf1 ♙c6 33.♙g2 g6
34.♙f2 ♖f8+ 35.♙e2 ♙g7 36.♖b4 ♙b7
37.♖c4 h5 38.♙e4 ♖a8 39.♙c7 ♙a6
40.♙xa8 ♙xc4+ 41.♙d2 1-0

Sicilian Closed

NM Lucas Davies (2216)
Joshua Sinanan (2180)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (7) 2007

1.e4 c5 2.♙c3 ♙c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7
5.d3 d6 6.♙e3 ♙f6 7.h3 O-O 8.f4 ♙d7
9.♙f3 ♖c8 10.g4 b5 11.♙b1 ♖a6 12.a3
b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.♙e2 ♙ac8 15.♖d2
♙c7 16.O-O ♙fc8 17.♙g3 ♙a5 18.♙fc1
♙a4 19.♙e1



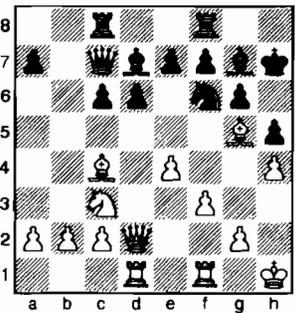
19...♙xc2 20.♙xc2 ♙xc2 21.♙xc2 ♙b3
22.♖d1 ♖b5 23.♙d4 ♙xd4 24.♙xd4
♙xg4 25.♙xg7 ♙e3 26.♖e2 ♙xg2
27.♙h6 b3 28.♙d1 ♙c2 29.♙d2 ♙xd2
30.♖xd2 ♙h4 31.♖c3 ♖c5+ 32.♖xc5
dxc5 33.♙f2 f6 34.♙e2 a5 35.♙c3 1-0

Sicilian Dragon

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian (2143)
Joseph Oszvald (2161)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (8) 2007

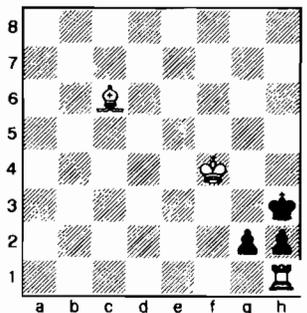
1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6
5.♙c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.♖d2 ♙c6 8.f3
♙d7 9.♙c4 h5 10.h4 ♙c8 11.♙xc6 bxc6
12.O-O ♖c7 13.♙ad1 O-O 14.♙h1 ♙h7
15.♙g5



17...♙b8?? [Oszvald] 16.e5 dxe5 17.
♙xf6 ♙xf6 18.♖xd7 ♖b6 19.♙e4 ♙xh4
20.♖h3 ♙f6 21.♙xf6+ exf6 22.♙d7
♙g7 23.♖e6 ♙b7 24.♙fd1 ♖xb2 25.
♙b3 ♙xd7 26.♖xd7 ♖a3 27.♖xc6 ♖b4
28.c4 a5 29.♖d6 ♖c3 30.♖d2 ♖xd2
31.♙xd2 ♙c8 32.♙d5 a4 33.♙xa4
♙xc4 34.♙b5 ♙c7 35.a4 ♙a7 36.♙d7
♙a5 37.♙g1 f5 38.♙f2 f4 39.♙b7 ♙a8
40.♙e2 ♙f6 41.♙d3 ♙d8+ 42.♙d7
♙c8 43.♙e4 ♙e6 44.♙b7 f5+ 45.♙d3
♙d8+ 46.♙e2 ♙f6 47.a5 ♙c8 48.a6
♙c2+ 49.♙d3 ♙xg2 50.♙c4 ♙f2 51.
♙d5 e4+ 52.fxe4 ♙f3+ 53.♙d4 ♙a3
54.e5+ ♙g5 55.e6 ♙xa6 56.e7 ♙a8
57.♙c6 h4 58.♙b1 ♙c8 59.♙d7 ♙a8
60.♙e5 f3 61.e8=♖ ♙xe8+ 62.♙xe8

White had one minute left; Black, 72.

62...h3 63.♙g1+ ♙h4 64.♙f4 g5+
65.♙xf3 g4+ 66.♙f4 h2 67.♙h1 ♙h3
68.♙d7 ♙g2 69.♙c6+ ♙h3 70.♙xf5 g3
71.♙f4 g2



72.♙xg2???

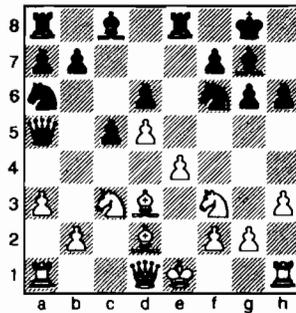
72.♙d7+ ♙h4 73.♙xh2#
72...♙xg2 73.♙xh2+ ♙xh2 Draw

King's Indian Classical

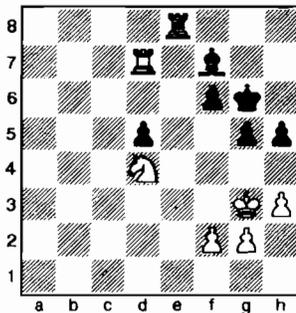
Vas Sladek (2159)
Nick Paleveda (2130)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (9) 2007

1.d4 ♙f6 2.c4 g6 3.♙c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
5.♙f3 O-O 6.h3 ♙a6 7.♙g5 c5 8.d5 h6
9.♙e3 ♖a5 10.♙d2 e6 11.a3 exd5
12.cxd5 ♙e8 13.♙d3



13...c4 14.♙xc4 ♙xe4 15.♙xe4 ♙xe4+
16.♙f1 ♖b6 17.♙d3 ♙e7 18.♙b1 ♙c5
19.♙c2 ♙d7 20.♙g1 ♙ae8 21.b4 ♙e4
22.♙e3 ♖a6 23.♙xe4 ♙xe4 24.♙h2
♖xa3 25.♖c1 ♖xc1 26.♙hxc1 b6 27.
♙c7 ♙f5 28.♙d1 ♙xb4 29.♙xa7 ♙e4
30.♙d2 ♙xd5 31.♙d7 ♙e6 32.♙c7 b5
33.♙b7 g5 34.♙b6 ♙b2 35.♙f3 d5
36.♙g3 b4 37.♙d4 ♙b3 38.♙xg7 ♙xg7
39.♙d4 h5 40.♙bxb4 ♙xb4 41.♙xb4
f6 42.♙b7+ ♙g6 43.♙d4 ♙f7 44.♙d7



44...♙e4 45.♙c6 h4+ 46.♙f3 ♙e6 47.
♙d6 g4+ 0-1

This was my first time participating in the WA-BC match. I was originally to be paired with Dragoljub Milicevic, Bomber (NM Bill McGeary) had looked up some past games of his; so I had a plan of what I was going to play against him. Instead, I was paired against Eduardo Moura and I had no idea what he played.—Kalina

Slav Exchange

Chris Kalina (1958)
Eduardo Moura (2091)

Vancouver, WA-BC Match (10) 2007

Annotations by Chris Kalina
1.d4

I had originally planned on playing the White side of a Center-Counter against Milicevic. As I knew nothing about Moura, I felt that it was best to play a bit more solid to start.



1...d5 2.♘f3 c6

It looks clear to me that my opponent wishes to play into a Slav. Hmm, maybe he will go into a mainline of the Botvinnik?

3.c4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6

Well, no Botvinnik today.

5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♙f4

I chose to play an Exchange Variation, as this should slightly favor White.

6...♘c6 7.e3 e6?!

I was happy to see that my opponent decided to entomb his light-squared Bishop. After my next move, it will be difficult to develop this piece to a natural square like b7 without suffering tactical consequences.

8.♙c1 ♙e7 9.♙d3?!

I felt that this was my first inaccuracy. Though my dark-squared Bishop is bad, it is very active and applies quite a bit of pressure along the h2-b8 diagonal.

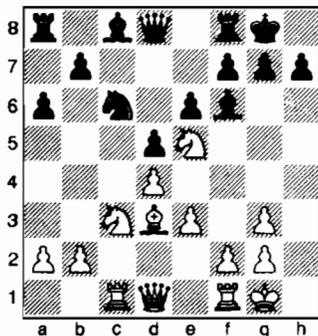
9...♘h5

After he made this move, I felt that it would have been nice to keep this Bishop. When playing 9.♙d3, I was simply going for development. I felt that the half open h-file would most certainly favor White.

10.♙g3 ♘xg3 11.hxg3 ♙f6

With obvious intentions of playing for an eventual e5-break. I was expecting a fianchetto on g7, castling, and more development would be necessary though, before this break would be successful.

12.O-O O-O 13.♘e5



Planting the Knight on e5 prevents any ideas of playing ...e6-e5 for at least a few moves. The Knight is, of course,

defended tactically. At this point, I also considered playing for the c5-post via the a4 square. I discarded this plan, as this would encourage Black to play for ...e6-e5 to undermine the c5-post.

13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♙xe5

I was rather shocked that my opponent would allow his King to be opened up for no reason, and I was already thinking about Rook lifts and mating attacks on the g- and h-files.

15.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 16.♚h5+ ♔g8 17.♚xe5

After this forced sequence, Black has exchanged King vulnerability for the potential to create a strong center. My plan was to centralize and threaten the center, while, at the same time, threatening to transfer forces toward the weakened kingside.

17...♙d7 18.♙fd1 ♙c8

At this point, I had many ideas to consider. I looked for quite a while at playing 19.e4, simply to open lines in the center. However, I discarded this idea, as Black's reply 19...♙c6 seemed solid enough. Another idea was to play 19.f4 to post the Knight at d4, but I was scared off by moves like ...♚b6 followed by ...f7-f6 and ...e6-e5 (completely defeating the purpose of playing 19.f4 in the first place!). 19.♘e2, immediately planning to go to f4 was also considered. However, Black could simply exchange Rooks and relieve the pressure.

19.♙d4

A useful move, as there are a couple of ideas: swing the Rook to h4 and Queen to h5, with a mating attack, or double on the d-file and play in the center for the e4-break. If Black plays ...♚b6, hitting b2, then ♙c2 followed by ♙cd2 would be solid and logical play.

19...f6

I expected this move, as it gives the King some air, gains time on the Queen, and supports an eventual e5-push.

20.♚h5 ♚e8

Better than 20...♙e8 21.♚h3 (hitting

e6), and then 22.♙h4 with the initiative. 21.♚d1

Black would be doing quite well with the center after a Queen exchange. Recycling the Queen to d1 keeps an eye on the h5-square, applies pressure to the d5-square and the d-file, and prepares to jump to b3 to double Rooks on the d-file for even more pressure.

21...♙c6 22.♙d2?!

Completely unnecessary. The idea was to move to prevent ...e6-e5, as the Rook would not be hit. However, ...e6-e5 now would just weaken the d5-pawn. In fact, how would Black prevent it from disappearing? White should have simply doubled Rooks.

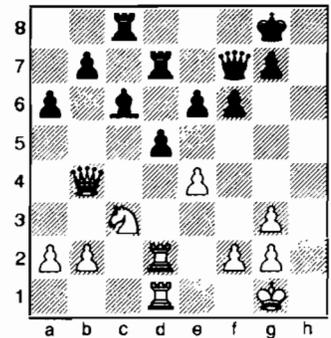
22...♚f7 23.♚b3 ♙c7

I was not sure why Black wanted to double on the c-file, as the Knight on c3 blocks any play. Isn't the tension along the d-file?

24.♙cd1 ♙fc8 25.♚b4

Holding the dark squares, while also thinking about the e4-push.

25...♙d7 26.e4?!



Perhaps not dubious, however Black's next move makes me realize that this push might have needed more preparation.

26...♙cd8!

A simple and calm reply that allows Black to equalize easily. After looking at several other games and seeing that my teammates were doing well, I realized that a draw was just fine and bailed out.

27.exd5 ♙xd5 28.♘xd5 ♙xd5 29.♙xd5 ♙xd5 Draw

Please check your mailing label and PLEASE RENEW!!

Merwin, Mitchell Win Eastern Washington Open

by Kevin Korsmo

Steve Merwin and Mika Mitchell, the top seeds, won the 2007 Eastern Washington Open with 4.5 scores. They played to a lengthy fourth round draw and then held off challengers in the final round. Third place went to David Meliti who recently moved to Spokane from Arizona. He finished with a 4.0 score to claim a clear third place.

Michael Cambareri won the Class B prize with a 3.5 score after outlasting another high school student, Taylor Coles, in a lengthy round five battle. Another person making his Spokane chess debut was Ed McLaughlin of Anaconda, Montana. After giving up the biggest upset of the tournament in round one to Spokane high school student Khai Le, he reeled off three straight victories before losing to Merwin in round five. His 3.0 score tied for second in Class B with four others: Adam Attwood, Zach Countryman, Dan McCourt, and H.G. Pitre. Pitre was involved in a long back-and-forth game with Mitchell on board two in the final round that went down to the wire, as Mitchell pulled it out with under a minute to go on his clock.

The Class C prizes went to Spokane players Ryan Ackerman, Chris Copeland, and David Griffin. Each scored 3.0. The Class D-and-Under prizes were shared by the young and old: ninth grader Taylor Coles, Gonzaga student Taylor Roberts (an Arizona native), and 78-year-old Spokane retiree Jim Waugh. Each scored 2.5.

The Top Upset prize went to Taylor Coles whose 304-point upset victory was the tops between non-provisional players. The dearth of Class A players led to the prize money in that category being redistributed among the larger classes, but a portion was used to fund a second upset prize to recognize Khai Le's 543-point first round upset.

The tournament, played at Gonzaga University on September 28-29, drew only 28 players. The \$800 guaranteed prize fund helped produce a fighting tournament. Every round featured multiple games reaching the final minutes of time control. The Pitre-Mitchell game, which decided who the co-champion would be, was the last one completed.

Sicilian Alapin

Steve Merwin (2041)

H.G. Pitre (1764)

Spokane, Eastern Washington Open (3) 2007

Annotations by Steve Merwin

1.e4 c5!?

Pitre typically plays the Portugese Variation of the Center-Counter, but so do I, and my past success with the White pieces against him led him to try something else.

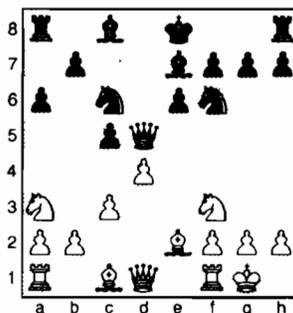
2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♘f6 6.♗e2

6.dxc5!?

6...e67.O-O ♗e78.♘a3

8.c4 ♖d8 9.dxc5 ♖xd1 10.♞xd1 is considered advantageous to White, but, once again, I opted to avoid the Queen exchange.

8...a6



This leaves a permanent hole on b6. 8.O-O is better, and if 9.♘b5, then 9...♖d8.

9.♘c4 ♖d8 10.♗e3

10.dxc5 is even stronger here than earlier in the game, but apparently I was overly attached to my Queen.

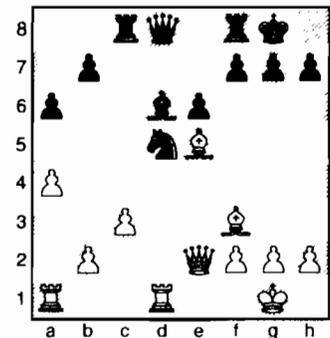
10...cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♗d7 12.♗f3 O-O 13.♖e2 ♘d5 14.♞fd1

Perhaps 14.♘f5, inviting the elimination of the dark-squared Bishops, is better.

14...♘xd4?!

This only helps White. Better is 14...♖c7.

15.♗xd4 ♗b5 16.a4 ♗xc4 17.♖xc4 ♞c8 18.♖e2 ♗d6 19.♗e5?!



In retrospect, not the best choice, but I wasn't thrilled with the complications after 19.c4 ♘f4 20.♖e3 ♖g5 21.g3 ♞xc4 and I didn't think 19.♗xd5 exd5 20.♖g4 g6 led to anything.

19...♗xe5 20.♖xe5 ♖b6 21.♞d2 ♞fd8 22.♞ad1 ♘f6?? 23.a5 1-0

Center-Counter

Mika Mitchell (1869)

Steve Merwin (2041)

Spokane, Eastern Washington Open (3) 2007

Annotations by Steve Merwin

1.e4 d5

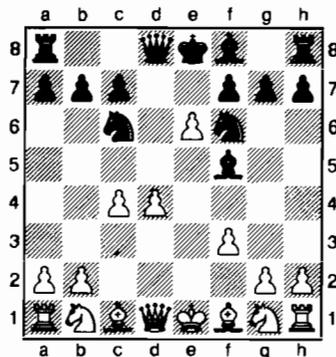
I was aware that Mitchell also often plays the Portugese, so I considered (briefly) playing something else here.

2.exd5 ♘f6 3.d4 ♗g4

This is the Portugese Variation of the Center Counter Defense. Black should not go into this line if he is not comfortable

sacrificing material. Mitchell's response indicates he is prepared to grab material and hold on for dear life. Other than 4.f3, possible responses leading to a quieter, yet still active, game include 4.♖e2, 4.♘f3 and 4.♗b5+.

4.f3 ♗f5 5.c4 e6 6.dxe6 ♘c6



7.♗e3

The best move. Pawn grabbing with 7.exf7+ only hastens Black's development, and White has immediate problems. For example, 7...♗xf7 8.♗e3 ♗b4+ 9.♗f2 ♖e8 10.♘c3 ♖xe3! 11.♗xe3 ♗c2!! and the Queen must be jettisoned to avoid mate (e.g., if 12.♖d2 ♘g4+! with 13...♖g5+ to follow).

7...♗b4+

7...fxe6, 7...♖e7, and 7...♗b4 are other reasonable responses for Black.

8.♘c3

8.♘d2 may be better, as it will force Black to sacrifice more material to continue his attack. For example, 8...O-O 9.a3 ♘xd4 10.♗xd4 ♖xd4 11.axb4 ♖xb2 and White can survive his lack of development, but only with accurate play.

8...♖e7 9.♗d3!

Starting with move seven, the d5-pawn-push often jumps out at White as being playable in this line, but, in fact, it will only stir up trouble. It is best for White to develop whenever possible.

9...♗xe6 10.♗f2 O-O-O 11.♘ge2 ♖he8 12.♖d2

In his fine book *Center Counter Defense – the Portugese Variation* (1997), Selby Anderson suggests 12.♖c1, and that may, in fact, be the best move.

12...♗b8?!

This turns out to be a waste of time. Black should play ...g7-g5! immediately.

13.♖he1 g5 14.a3

If instead 14.♗xg5, Black has 14...♘xd4 15.♖f4 ♖c5!

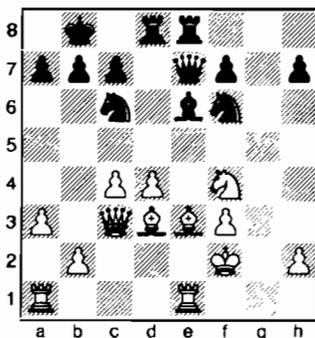
14...♗xc3 15.♖xc3

In the postmortem Mitchell suggested that 15.bxc3 may actually be correct, since 15...♘a5 fails to 16.♗xg5 ♘b3 17.♖f4.

15...g4 16.♘f4?!

Although this looks reasonable, 16.♘g3 is better. White needs to be more concerned about protecting his King than trading pieces.

16...gxf3 17.gxf3



17...♘g4+

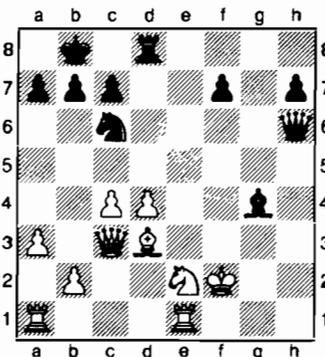
This will lose after accurate play by White. FRITZ suggests 17...♘h5! and the attack continues without having to throw away material, e.g., 18.♘xh5 ♖h4+ 19.♗e2 ♘xd4+ 20.♗d1 ♘xf3, when Black will recover his material and then some.

18.fxg4 ♖h4+ 19.♗e2?

19.♗g1 should win, as White can then plop his Knight on g2 and defend quite easily. Even 19.♗g2 followed by ♗h1 should allow White to hold on.

19...♗xg4+ 20.♗d2 ♖xh2+ 21.♘e2?

It's hard to believe that White should lose after this move, but that is, in fact, the case in view of yet another sacrifice. If instead 21.♖e2, then, after 21...♗xe2 22.♘xe2, there is no clear win for Black 21...♖xe3! 22.♗xe3 ♖h6+ 23.♗f2



23...♖h2+?? Draw

And a draw was agreed in view of perpetual check after 24.♗e3 ♖h6+ etc.

I thought for about 30 minutes before playing 23...♖h2+, sensing a forced win after 23...♖e8. However, I could not find the proper continuation after 24.♘g1 and, hence, reluctantly offered a draw in view of my dwindling time. After the game, FRITZ pointed out my calculational limitations by offering the forcing continuation 24...♖h2+ 25.♗f1 ♗h3+ 26.♘xh3 ♖xh3+ 27.♗f2 ♖h4+ 28.♗f3 ♖f6+, when the upcoming check on g8 is devastating.

Sicilian

Dan McCourt (1673)

Adam Attwood (1718)

Spokane, Eastern Washington Open (4) 2007

Annotations by Adam Attwood

1.e4 c5

The Sicilian . . .

2.b3 ♘c6 3.♗b2 e5 4.f4 d6

The King's Gambit Declined . . .

5.♘f3 exf4

This move continued the fun and quirky transpositional opening into a version of the King's Gambit Accepted . . .

Happy Holidays from Northwest Chess!

with White having a fianchettoed queenside and Black having a pawn on c5.

6. ♟b5 a6 7. ♞xc6+ bxc6

Although Black has two sets of doubled pawns, the bishop pair may be worth it (and the extra pawn, however temporary).

8. O-O ♞g4 9. ♞e1 ♞e7 10. d4 f6

White's position is well coordinated towards the center. Although Black's kingside development is long delayed, 10...f6 seemed like an appropriate solidification move to slow White's central advance.

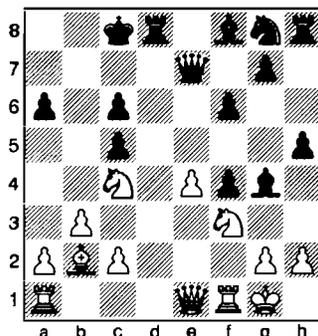
11. dxc5 dxc5 12. ♞bd2 h5

Black's only play in this position is on the kingside.

13. ♞c4 O-O-O

Castling queenside was my surprise move (instead of 13... ♞f7 , which was expected). I was taking the risk that if I

could hold off the impending queenside attack, then I could redirect the action to the kingside where my position was strongest.

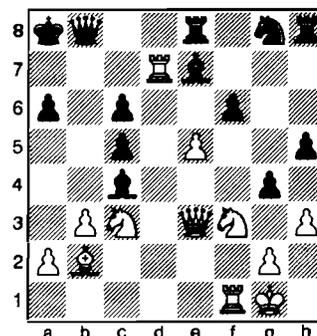


14. ♞a5 ♞b7 15. ♞ad1 ♞e8 16. ♞b6+ ♞b8 17. h3 ♞e6 18. e5

In analysis after the game, Dan and I decided that e4-e5 would probably have been even stronger for White if played earlier.

18... ♞a7 19. ♞a4 ♞b5 20. ♞d2 ♞e7 21. ♞xf4 g5 22. ♞e3 g4 23. c4 ♞xc4

24. ♞d7+ ♞a8 25. ♞c3 ♞b8



This is the most complicated position of the game; there are pieces and pawns simultaneously attacked in the center, on the queenside, and the kingside.

26. bxc4 gxf3 27. ♞xf3 ♞c8 28. ♞a4 Draw

Black must play 28... ♞d8 to cover the b6-square, after which White would remain better, but the double-edged position and time on the clock still likely left enough opportunity for Black to hold. ■



Gresham Open Returns!

January 5-6, 2008

Prize Fund \$1,500 (Based on 60 entries)

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

5-round Swiss; Time Controls: Rounds 1-3: 40/90, SD/30; Rounds 4-5: 40/120, SD/60

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

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

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Jazz Café and Town & Gown Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham, OR. Check www.pdxchess.org for directions.

Entry Fee (checks or cash; no credit/debit): \$40; \$10 discount to PCC members by January 3

Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required (OSA). NW Chess Grand Prix event.

Gresham Open (January 5 – 6, 2008) Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

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

Email _____ Bye Round _____

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

Tacoma Chess Times

by Gary Dorfner

2007

Pierce County Champion:	Mike MacGregor
Tacoma City Co-Champions:	Mike MacGregor & Drayton Harrison
Pierce County Open winner:	Mike MacGregor
Evergreen Empire Open:	Paul Bartron
Reserve:	Niles Desmarais
Java Fusion Coffee Shop Open #1 winner:	Stephen Buck
Java Fusion Coffee Shop Open #2 winner:	Stephen Buck
Summer Open winner:	Mike MacGregor

The TCC Quads were held on September 29th. There were six players in all. The winners were: 1st Mike MacGregor, 2nd Eric Holcomb.

The Washington Senior Adult Championship was held on October 6-7. There were nine players in all. The winners were: 1st Paul Bartron \$65, 1st U2000 Richard Golden \$45, 1st U 1600 Constantin Etingher \$45.

The Puget Sound Open was held on October 27-28 at the club. There were twenty players in all. The winners were: 1st-2nd & U2000—Ben Calpo, Allen Smith, and Carson Hannibal \$60 each, U1800 David Meliti \$50, 1st U1600 Catherine Smith \$50, 1st U1400 Steven Hjerrild \$50.

The Tacoma Chess Club Championship was just held at the club. There were 18 players in all. The winners were: 1st Nhon Do, plaque, 2nd Allen Smith, \$25, Class A Drayton Harrison \$20, Class B Larry Anderson, Trophy, Class D Alex Nikolskyy, trophy, Class E Gary Dorfner, trophy, TCC Jr. Champion for 2007 Brandon Morris. There were no Class C players. This was the best club

championship in years. The fight among several players for the title went down to the last round. All of these tournaments were directed by Gary Dorfner.

Former TCC Treasurer, President and Secretary Charles Chamberlain passed away on October 27. Charles joined the club in 1977 and was active until about 1998. He was President in 1978, Secretary in 1980 and Treasurer from 1981 through 1993.

The TCC Quick Chess Championship (G-15) was held at the club on November 2. There were eight players in all. The winners were 1st Nhon Do, 2nd Allen Smith. TD Gary Dorfner.

SCHOLASTICS:

Kids Night #13 was held in September There were six players in all. The winners were: 1st Leanne Hwa \$15, 2nd Josiah MacDonald & Robyn Turner \$7.50 each. Kids Night #14 was held on October 24. There were only four players. The winners were: 1st Nathaniel Yee \$20, 2nd Ian McPherson \$15. TD Gary Dorfner.

Two Knights' Defense

FM Paul Bartron (2148)

NM Michael MacGregor (2267)

Tacoma CC Championship (3) 2007

Annotations by Drayton Harrison

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5 d5 5.exd5 b5!?

The Ulvestad Variaton. 5...♘a5 6.♗b5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.♗e2 h6 9.♘f3 e4 10.♘e5 ♗d6 is the main line.

6.♗f1

6.♗b5 ♗xd5 7.♗xc6+ ♗xc6 8.♗f3 e4 9.♗b3 ♗c5! 10.♗xf7+ ♘d8 11.O-O ♗f8 12.♗xg7 ♗g8 13.♗h6 ♗b7 (13...♗a6 14.♘c3 ♗xf1 15.♘xf1 ♗xf2 16.♘cxe4+-) 14.♘h1! ♗a6 15.d3 exd3 16.♘c3 dxc2 17.♗f4 ♗g6 (17...♗xg2+ 18.♘xg2 ♗c6+ 19.f3 ♗g6 20.♗h3 h6 21.♗f5+-) 18.♗h3 h6 19.♘f3+-

6...h6

6...♘d4 7.c3 ♘xd5 8.♘e4 ♘e6 9.♗b5+ ♗d7 10.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 11.d4!± (11.O-O f5 12.♘g3 g6干) 11...exd4

7.♘xf7

7.♘f3 ♗xd5 8.♘c3 ♗e6 9.♘xb5 ♗e7 10.b3±

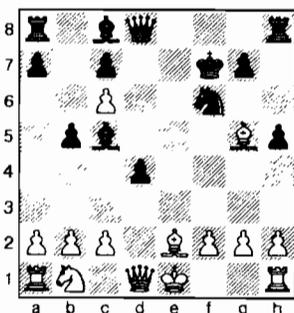
7...♘xf7 8.dxc6 ♗c5

8...♗d5 9.♗f3 ♗c5+- 10.b4 ♗xb4 11.♗b3+ ♗xb3 12.axb3 b4 13.♗b2 ♗d6 14.♗c4+ ♗e6 15.♗xe6+ ♘e6 16.♗a5 ♗hb8 17.d4 exd4 18.♗xd4 a6 19.♘d2 ♗b5 20.♘c4 ♘d5 21.♗xf6 gxf6 22.O-O ♗xa5 23.♘xa5 ♘d4 24.♗e1 ♘c3 25.♗e2 ♗c5 26.♘f1 ♗d8 27.♘e1 h5 28.♘c4? a5 29.♘d2 ♘xc2 30.♘e4+ ♘c1 31.♗a2 ♗e8 32.♗e2 ♗d4 33.♘d6?? ♗c3+ 34.♘f1 ♗d8 0-1, Veinger-Hebden, Rishon Le Ziyon 1992

9.♗e2 h5 10.d4

10.♗b5!?!; 10.O-O!

10...exd4 11.♗g5?



11.O-O!?!; 11.♗b5!?

11...♗d5! 12.♗xf6 ♗xg2 13.♗xh5+ ♘xf6 14.♗f3+ ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 ♗f5 16.♘d2? ♗ae8+ 17.♘f1 ♗xc2干 18.♘g2

18.♗c1 ♗d3+

18...♗h6?

Black needed to move or protect one of the Bishops.

19.♗hc1!干 d3 20.♘e4+ ♗xe4 21.♗xe4 ♗d4 22.♗xc2 dxc2 23.♗xc2 b4 24.♗b1 ♘e5 25.♗e1+ ♘d6 26.♗e4 ♗xf2 27.♗xb4 ♗c5 28.♗g4 ♗f6 29.♗g6 ♗xg6+ 30.♗xg6 ♘xc6 31.h4 ♗d4 32.b3 ♘c5 33.a4 a5 34.♘f3 ♘b4 35.♗f7 c5 36.♘e4 ♗a1 37.h5 ♗b2 38.♗c4 ♗a1 39.♘d5 ♗b2 Draw

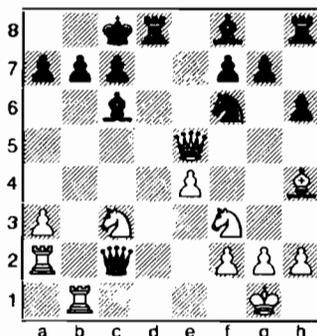
Irregular

NM Michael MacGregor (2267)

Nhon Do (2051)

Tacoma CC Championship (4) 2007

1.e4 d6 2.d4 e5 3.dxe5 ♗e7 4.♘c3 dxe5 5.♘f3 ♗g4 6.♗d5 ♘c6 7.♗b5 ♗d7 8.♗xc6 ♗xc6 9.♗xe5 ♘f6 10.O-O O-O-O 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗h4 ♗b4 13.a3 ♗xb2 14.♗fb1 ♗xc2 15.♗a2??



15...♗xb1+ 0-1

Black Knights' Tango

Nhon Do (2051)

Drayton Harrison (1879)

Tacoma CC Championship (5) 2007

Annotations by Drayton Harrison

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 ♘c6 3.♘f3 e6 4.d5

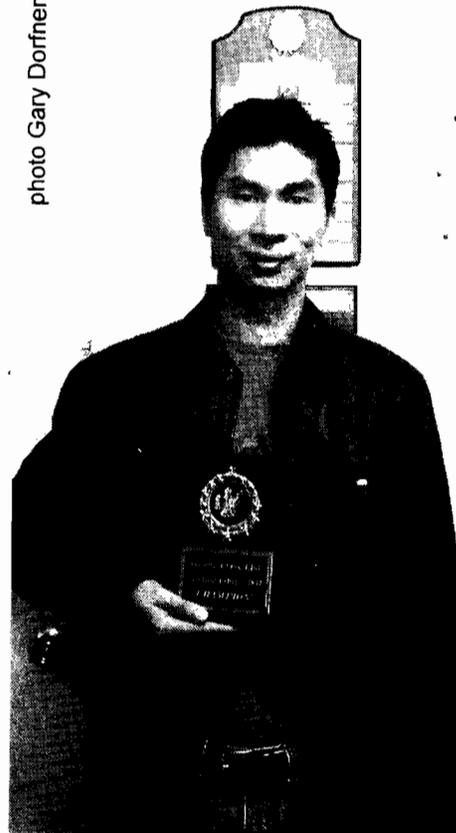
My early d4-d5 was a little premature, I think.—Nhon Do

4...♗b4+?

4...exd5 5.cxd5 ♗b4+ 6.♘c3 ♘e7

5.♗d2 exd5 6.♗xb4 ♘xb4 7.a3 ♘c6 8.cxd5 ♘e7 9.d6 cxd6 10.♘c3!

photo Gary Dorfner



Nhon Do, 2007 TCC Champion

After 10.♗xd6, Black will eventually break the blockade on d6 and reach a somewhat normal position with an isolated queen pawn, e.g., 10...b6 11.♘c3 ♗b7 12.e3 O-O 13.♗d1 ♗e8 14.♗b5 ♘c6 15.O-O ♗c8 16.♗d2 a6 17.♗e2 ♘a5

10...d5

Now the extra d-pawn is harmful to Black (making it awkward to defend the front pawn), and Black risks losing both d-pawns and being ground down in the endgame. Thus, Black has no alternative but to defend passively.

11.e3 O-O 12.♗d3 d6 13.♗b3 a6 14.O-O ♗a5 15.♗fd1 ♗d7 16.a4

16.♗xb7?? ♗fb8 was too much to hope for.

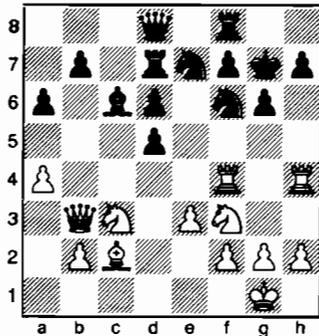
16...♘c6 17.♗c2 ♘e7

17...♘b4? 18.♗d4

18.♗d4 ♗c6 19.♗ad1 ♗ad8 20.♗b4 ♗d7 21.♗dd4 ♗d8 22.♗h4 g6

Black had avoided weakening the kingside for as long as possible, but was willing to take some risk in order to improve the position.

23. ♖b4 ♕g7



24. ♖xf6!? ♕xf6

What else?

25. ♖xh7

25. ♖e4+ ♕g7 (25...dxe4 26. ♖c3+ ♕e6 27. ♖g5+ ♕f5 28. ♖f4+ ♕xg5 29. ♖f6+ ♕h5 30. ♖h4 mate) 26. ♖c3+ [26. ♖eg5 (Nhon Do) 26...d4 27. ♖xd4 ♖a5 28. ♖xh7+ ♕g8∞ (FRITZ)] 26...f6 27. ♖eg5 ♖e8 28. ♖xh7 d4 29. ♖xd4 ♖xf3 30. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 31. gx f3 ♖c7±— FRITZ

25...d4

White's main threat was the further sacrifice 26. ♖e4+ dxe4 27. ♖c3+. By deflecting White's Knight to d4, Black temporarily blocks the a1-h8 diagonal and hopes to create some manoeuvring room for the King. Also, rearranging the geometry around Black's King forces White to recalculate his attack. 25... ♖a5!? was suggested by my computer, but, for some reason, during the game I rejected it.

26. ♖xd4 d5 27. g4 ♖c8 28. ♖b4 ♖d6

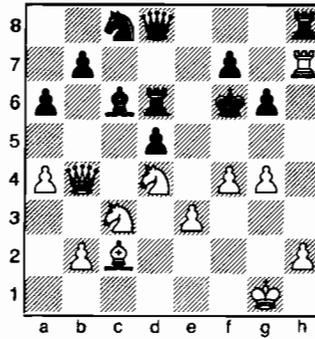
28...♖d6 was not possible due to 29. g5+ (29. ♖f5 ♖c4 30. b3 a5 31. ♖c5 gx f5 32. bxc4) 29...♕e7 30. ♖xg6 ♕e8 31. ♖e6.

29. f4?

29. a5!+-; 29. ♖f3!+-

29... ♖h8

The computer doesn't recognize that the Black Queen gets shut out of the game permanently after 29... ♖b6 30. ♖a3 ♖g8 31. b4 ♖d7 32. a5 ♖a7 33. b5 ♕e7 34. ♖xd5+ ♕d8 35. b6 ♖b8 36. ♖c7.



30. g5+?

The line 30. ♖xc6! bxc6 31. ♖d4+ ♕e7 32. ♖xh8 was overlooked by both players. But even had I seen it, I should still have preferred some risk in order to gain counterchances. White's Rook had to be eliminated somehow, sooner or later.

30...♕e7 31. ♖xg6 ♖xh7 32. ♖f5+ ♕d7 33. ♖xh7

33. ♖xd6? fxg6+-

33... ♖e6

33... ♖h8 came into consideration, but 34. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 35. ♖d3 (35. e4 ♖xh7 36. exd5 ♖xd5 37. ♖xd5+-) 35... ♖h3 36. ♖d4 ♖g4+ 37. ♕f1 is a hopeless endgame. Thus Black must remain passive and try to patiently await a chance for a breakout.

34. ♖g7?

White should blockade the d5-pawn by 34. ♖d4!

34... ♖xe3 35. ♖f5+ ♕c7 36. ♖xc8 ♕xc8

On 36... ♖xc8! 37. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5 38. ♖c5+, White wins the Rook, of course, but I should have calculated further: 38... ♕b8! 39. ♖xe3 ♖g4+ 40. ♕f2 ♖g2+ 41. ♕e1 ♖h1+ (41... ♖xb2? 42. ♖e5+ If White can trade Queens, White wins on the kingside.) 42. ♕d2 ♖xh2+ 43. ♕c3 ♖h1 and Black is still (barely) in the game.

37. ♖f5 ♖e6 38. ♖d4!

Nimzowitsch: "To blockade is to live!"

38... ♖g6!?∞

38... ♖e7?!±; 38... ♖e8!∞

39. ♖c5 ♕b8

39... ♖d7

40. b4 ♖e8 41. ♕f2 ♖xa4 42. ♖xd5 ♖c6??

42... ♖h8!±

43. ♖e7 ♖h1 44. ♖e5+ 1-0

44... ♕a8 45. ♖xg6 wins the Rook for free.

Sicilian Dragon

NM Michael MacGregor (2267)
Drayton Harrison (1879)

Tacoma CC Championship (6) 2007

Annotations by Drayton Harrison

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖c6 5. ♖c3 ♖g7 6. ♖e3 d6

A cat-and-mouse game of move orders in the Dragon, trying to sidestep the opponent's favorite variations.

7. ♖d2 ♖f6 8. f3 ♖d7 9. O-O-O ♖c8

With this move, I start a plan of delayed castling. In the Yugoslav Attack, Black castles not for the purpose of making his King safe, for the King is in more danger on g8 than on e8, but rather for the purpose of bringing his h-Rook into the attack on the queenside. In comparison with the usual lines, my King will be safer in the center, my queenside counterplay will (temporarily) be one tempo faster, but, for now, I will be playing with one Rook tied behind my back.

10. ♕b1

Black's last move prevented 10. ♖c4?? ♖xd4 11. ♖xd4 ♖g4 12. ♖d3 ♖xe3+-, 10. h4 h5 or 10. g4 ♖e5 would have continued my policy of not castling.

10...a6

Normally ...a7-a6 is too slow to generate counterplay in the Dragon. White has not moved pawns in front of his King, therefore a Black pawn attack alone can't open files. I was willing to risk spending an extra tempo, because White was starting off slowly, and because the alternative "waiting" moves all seemed unsatisfactory at the time.

10...O-O 11. h4 h5 transposes into one of the main lines, and is probably the best. Unfortunately for me, the complications of this line were outside the scope of my expertise at the time. 10... ♖e5?! 11. h3! prepares f3-f4, and if Black ever plays ...♖c4 then White plays ♖f1xc4, saving two tempi by not playing ♖f1-c4

and c4-b3 first. 10... a5 11. d5 xd2 12. xf6+ xf6 13. xd2 is equal or slightly better for White, while 10... h5 would reveal my intention too soon.

11. h4 e5 12. h5

The Knight is safe, because after 12. f4 , Black has the g4 -square. I was expecting 12. g4 h5 13. g5 h7 , when Black can castle and/or play ... f7-f6 .

12... hx5

I was happy to grab pawns in anticipation of the following Exchange sac.

13. hx6

White's plan is forcing, but probably dubious. Black's King is safe enough, but it tempts White to launch an attack. (Though Mike MacGregor never needs much temptation.) But 13. hx5? gxh5 would thoughtfully open the g -file for Black's Rook and 13. g4? d3 would give Black an excellent outpost on c4 after he exchanges on f1 .

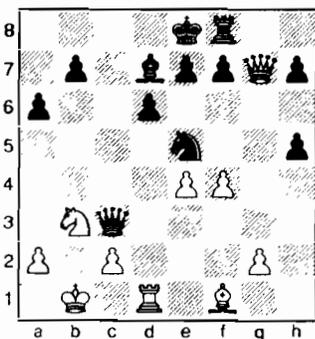
13... hxh6

Drawing White's Queen away from the queenside.

14. hxh6 xc3

This sacrifice was speculative. Fortune favors the brave (or foolhardy), because I doubt I would have had the courage if I had foreseen White's response. The alternative for the timid is 14... d3 15. g7 f8 16. hxh7 xf1?? (I missed 16... h5 17. hxh6 $\text{e6}\pm$) 17. hxh8+- .

15. bxc3 a5 16. d3 xc3 17. hxh5! gxh5 18. g7 f8 19. f4



White's idea: to pin the Knight against the Queen, and win a piece. How can Black survive?

19... a5!

Without this move, Black can resign. The Knight is lost, but Black threatens

... a5-a4-a3 . White spent an hour before deciding he had nothing better than taking the Knight.

20. fxe5

If 20. a4 b5! and one of Black's pawns will advance to a4 . But 20... xa4?? would be a terrible mistake because of 21. fxe5 xb3 22. hb5+ .

20... a4 21. d3

21. d3 ? a3 22. d3 a4! (22... hb5? 23. c1 a4 24. $\text{e1}\infty$) 23. c1 hb5! and Black checkmates.

21... xe1+ 22. d3 xf1 23. exd6 xf6

FRITZ wants to play 23... $\text{exd6}\infty$, but what mortal could survive?

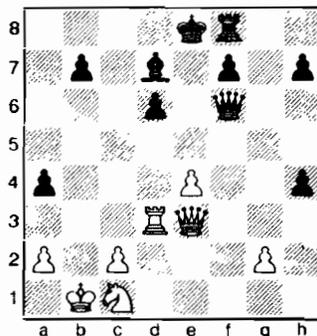
24. g3

After 24. xf6 exf6 , despite the wrecked pawn structure, Black is not worse in the endgame. I had to figure this out before I could play 23... xf6 .

24... h4 25. e3

In the postmortem we looked at lines such as 25. h2!? g8 26. e5 (26. dxe7 b6+ 27. a1 g4 28. e5 c6!+-) 26... xf2! 27. e6! fxe6 28. dxe7 b6+ 29. a1 g4 30. e5 xe7 and the verdict was unclear. My computer predicts 31. h5 g7 32. hxh4+ $\text{e8}\mp$, but in the postmortem White won my Bishop for the g2 -pawn, although he then suffered my passed h -pawn in the endgame.

25... exd6



26. b6?

Best is 26. a7! , giving White the extra threat of b8+ . I suffered, but eventually discovered, by process of elimination, 26... e5 , blockading the e4 -pawn: 27. d5 c3 28. b8+ c8 29. xd6 g8! and, since White has no immediate threats, Black could improve



photo Gary Dorfner

Allen Smith (foreground) plays at the TCC

the position. For example, 30. xe5+! (30. xe5+ e6 31. c5 d8 32. e5 f8 33. c7 xg2 34. xb7 g5 35. h8+ g8 36. hxh7 c8 37. b4 h3 38. xa4 b8+ 39. d3 h2+- ; 30. d3 xg2+- ; 30. c5 d8 31. h5 g6 32. e5+ e6 33. h8+ e7 34. xd8+ xd8 35. hxh7 $\text{xe4}\mp$) 30... e6 31. c5! d8 32. c7 and White has compensation for a pawn, but no more.

26... e6 27. e5 xe5!

Setting up a pin. 27... dxe5 28. c7 was too scary for me, but FRITZ found the only moves 28... h8 29. d6 , 29... g5 30. d3 , 30... f8 31. dxe5 , and finally 31... e8+- . Somebody should teach that Mr. FRITZ how to play chess, because that is one of the strangest ways to arrive at a "winning" position.

28. e3 e4 29. d3 d5 30. d3 b4 e6

As long as my Queen is protected, White can't play xb7 .

31. d4 f5 32. d5 f7

The first threat Black has made in many moves. White has threatened much this game, but he who threatens last can threaten longest.

33. c7 e5 34. xa4 xc2+ 35. xc2 xe3 36. xf5+ g8 0-1

And, since I have finally castled, White ran out of time while considering Black's threats. ■

More Games from the U.S. Open

Center-Counter

Louiza Livschitz (1941)

Taylor Bailey (1652)

Cherry Hill, Polgar (2) 2007

Annotations by FM Chuck Schulien

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.d4 ♘f6 4.c4 ♗e4+ 5.♗e2

White can easily get into trouble as we see in this recent miniature: 5.♗e3 e5 6.a3 exd4 7.♗xd4 ♗xd4 8.♗xd4 ♘c6 9.♗c3 ♗f5 10.b4 O-O-O 11.f3 a5 12.c5 ♘d5 13.♗b5? ♗xb1 0-1 (Grandic-Drazic, Bizovac 2006).

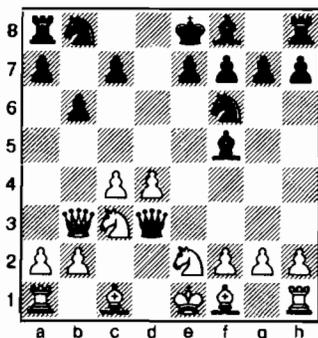
5...♗f5

Nimzovich-Duras, Karlsbad 1907, continued 5...e5 6.♗bc3 ♗b4 Draw. This position occurred a few more times, but the first encounter was at clearly the highest level.

6.♗bc3 ♗d3?!

If you mean to trade Queens, then force it, i.e., 6...♗c2 7.♗xc2 ♗xc2 8.g3 c6 9.♗g2 e6 10.O-O ♗b4 Draw (Yamato-Schmitt, Wiesbaden 2000).

7.♗b3!± b6



8.♗f4

8.♗g3 was obvious and good, e.g., 8...♗c2 9.♗xf5 [9.♗b5! is very nasty, e.g., 9...♗d8 (9...♗a6 10.♗xf5 ♗xf5 11.♗a4+- splat!)] 10.♗f4] 9...♗xf5 10.♗b5±

8...c6 9.♗xb8?!

Another indifferent move. White is frittering away her early advantage.

...♗xb8± 10.♗a4

Consistent with her exchange, but it's not really a strong attack.

10...♗c8

More active is 10...♗d8 11.♗xc6+ ♗d7 12.♗c7 e6 13.♗d1 ♗f5, when White's pieces are hard to untangle.

11.♗xa7 ♗xc4 12.♗xb6

12.♗g3

12...♗d7

12...♗e6 is a strong pin.

13.♗a7?!

Such a move cannot be good!

13.♗b3 ♗xb3 14.axb3 ♗b8 15.♗g3 ♗c2 16.♗c4 ♗xb3 17.♗xb3 ♗xb3 18.♗a8+ ♗b8 19.♗xb8+ ♗xb8 20.♗d2± White's pieces coordinate much faster than the adversary's units.

13...♗d3?!

13...♗b4 14.b3 e6

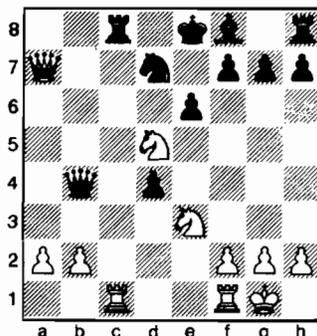
14.♗c1?!

The players are not doing a good job at finding ways to complete development. 14.♗g3 was again much better, as after 14...♗e6+ [14...♗xf1 15.♗xf1 e6 16.♗e3 ♗b4 17.O-O-O!? (17.♗a6)] 15.♗d2!, White's pieces get the jump on the middlegame.

14...e6 15.♗g3 ♗xf1 16.♗xf1 c5?! 17.♗e3 ♗b4 18.O-O

18.d5! is a powerful line opening move.

18...cxd4 19.♗cd5!



19...♗b8 20.♗xc8+

20.♗xd4! keeps the initiative for White.

20...♗xc8 21.♗c7+?!

After 21.♗xd4 exd5 22.♗e1∞, White keeps good compensation for a possible piece sac.

21...♗d8

Now, White must sacrifice without enough force remaining to win.

22.♗xe6+ fxe6 23.♗xd4 ♗c5 24.♗e4 ♗e5 25.♗a8+ ♗b8 26.♗a5+ ♗e8

26...♗c7 27.♗a8+ ♗e7 is solid and White must continue to make threats or Black will gain the advantage.

27.♗c3 ♗g8

Not a happy move for the Rook. On 27...♗f7 28.♗d1 ♗f6 29.♗c4 ♗d5 30.♗e5+, Black still has problems with her development., but after 27...♗d6 28.♗xg7 ♗xh2+ 29.♗h1 ♗e5!, Black's pieces can all participate.

28.a4 ♗d6 29.h3 ♗c7

29...♗f7 is a higher priority.

30.♗d3 ♗f6 31.♗d1 ♗e7 32.a5 ♗d8∞

Now, Black has the advantage!! But, at this point, both players were short of time and not confident of the outcome.

33.♗b5 ♗b8

After 33...♗c5!, no one can doubt Black's advantage.

34.♗d3 ♗d8 Draw

34...♗c5 is still better for black but admittedly it's complex.

French Steinitz

Ethan Peake (1859)

Jeffrey Haskel (2154)

Cherry Hill, US Open (8) 2007

Annotations by FM Chuck Schulien

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.e5 ♗fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.♗e3 a6 8.♗d2 b5 9.a3 ♗b6 10.♗e2

10.♗e2, overprotecting d4, is also logical and played before.

10...cxd4 11. Qxd4 Rxc5 12. Rd1 Rb7 13. O-O

13. h4 Qxd4 14. Rxd4 Rxd4 15. Rxd4 Rxd4 16. Rxd4 f6 17. exf6 gxf6 18. Rd2 Qb6 19. Rh3 Draw (Korneev-Kovacevic, Nova Gorica 2006).

13... Rxc8 14. Rf3 O-O

After 14... Qxd4 15. Rxd4 Rxd4+ 16. Rxd4 Qe7, White eventually won the ending in Dashko-Maiorov, Krasnodar 2001, but his advantage was small.

15. Rfe1

15. Qc2 looks best. After 15. Rf2 Qxd4 16. Rxd4 Rxd4 17. Rxd4 a5, Black has counterplay.

15... Qxd4 16. Rxd4 Rxd4+ 17. Rxd4 Rxd4+

17... Rxc4 18. Rxb6 Qxb6 19. g3 Rxc4

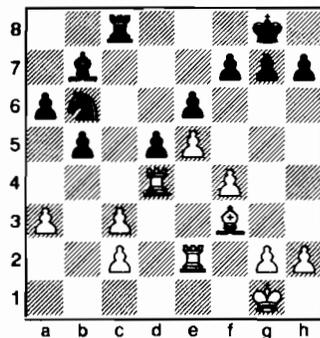
18. Rxd4 Qb6 19. Re2?!

19. Re2! Qc4 20. Rxc4 bxc4 21. Qe2!

19... Rxc3!?

A very interesting sac.

20. bxc3 Rxc8



21. Rd3

21. f5! White must open lines to use his Rooks. 21... Rxc3 22. fxe6 fxe6 23. Rg4 Rxc8 24. Rd3 Rxc4 25. Rg3 (25. h3)

21... Qc4 22. f5! Qxa3 23. fxe6 fxe6 24. Rg4 Re8 25. Rf2

The right plan, but ... 25. Re1!? g6!? (25... a5 26. Ra1 Qc4 27. Rd4; 25... Qc4 26. Rd4 a5 27. Re2±) 26. Rf1 Qc4 27. Re1 Qa3!?

25... Qc4 26. Rdf3 Rxc8 27. Re2 a5 28. Rf1!

A good move, activating the Rook.

28... Rxd7 29. Ra1 Rxc8 30. Ree1 a4 31. Re2!?

31. Qf2 Qf7 32. Rf3 Qe7 is a slower approach, but I think that Black is better served here.

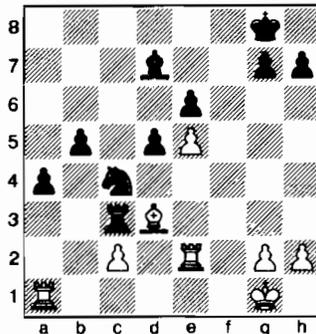
31... Qd2

Of course!

32. Rd3

32. Ra3 Qe4 33. c4 is another way to lose the pawn, i.e., 33... dxc4 34. Rg4.

32... Rxc3 33. Re2 Qc4



Black's pieces are well placed for attack but not defense. After 33... Qe4!?

34. Re3 (34. Rxe4 dxe4 35. Rxe4 Rxc2+) 34... g6 35. Rf3 Rxc8 36. h4 Qc5 37. Rf4 Rb8, Black maintains his grip.

34. Rf1!

White goes for his only possible chance, counterplay on the kingside.

34... Qb6 35. Ref2

White could switch to centralization. After 35. Qf2!? Rxc8 36. Qe3, Black's advantage is small.

35... Rxc8 36. Rb1 Qc4 37. Rxc4 Rxc4

After 37... dxc4 38. c3, Black's pawns show little mobility.

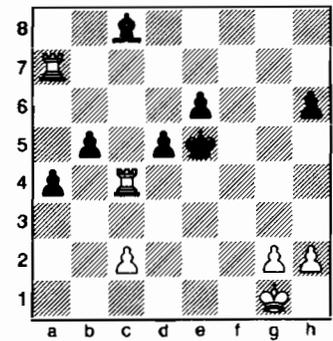
38. Rbf1 h6

38... h5 gives the King more room (39. Rf7 Rxc6 40. Re7).

39. Rf7 Rxc8?!

After 39... Rxc6, White can create a solid defensive position, viz., 40. Ra7 Qh7 41. Rf3! Rxe8 42. c3.

40. Ra7 Qh7 41. Rf7 Qg6 42. Rg7+ Qf5 43. Rgc7 Qxe5 44. Rxc4



44... bxc4?

The key position to this ending occurs after 44... dxc4 45. Rxc7 Qd4! (45... Rxa6 46. Rxc6 Rb7 47. Rb6) 46. Rxc8 Qc3:

A) 47. Qf2 a3 48. Ra8 b4 49. Ra4 Qxc2 50. Rxb4 c3 51. Rb8 [51. Qe2 a2 52. Ra4 Qb1 53. Qd3? (53. Rb4+ Qc2 54. Ra4) 53... c2 54. Rb4+ Qc1-+] 51... a2 52. Ra8 Qb2 53. Rb8+ Qc2 54. Ra8

B) 47. g4 a3 48. Ra8 b4 49. h4 Qxc2 50. g5 hxg5 51. hxg5 b3 52. g6 b2 53. g7 b1=R+ 54. Qh2 a2 55. g8=R a1=R with a likely draw by repetition.)

45. Rxa4

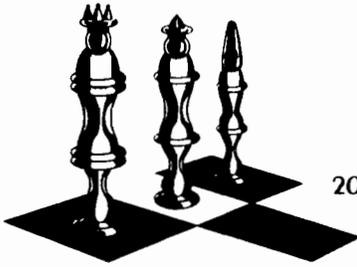
Now White has a definite advantage!

45... Qd4 46. Ra3 c3

Perhaps better is 46... e5 47. Rf3 (47. Ra5 Rf5 48. c3+ Qxc3 49. Rxd5 Rxe4 50. Rxe5 Qd4 51. Ra5 c3 52. Qf2 c2 53. Ra1 this ending must be drawn.) 47... c3 48. Rf6 Rg4.

47. Qf2 Rxd7 48. Qe1

But why this retreat? 48. g4 e5 49. Ra7! Re8 (49... Rg4? 50. Ra4+) 50. Qe1 Rg6 51. Qd1 Re4 is still drawish. But safest for White is 48. h3 e5 (48...



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♖e8 49. ♖e1 ♗g6 50. ♖d1 ♗e4 51. ♖a6 ♖e5 52. g3 h5) 49. g4.

48...e5 49. ♖a6

White can play more actively by 49. g4!?, possible due to the skewer along the fourth rank. This prevents ...♗f5.

49...♖e4?

After 49...h5 50. h3 ♗f5 51. ♖d1 ♗e4 52. g4!? hxg4 53. hxg4 ♗f3+ 54. ♖e1 ♖e3, Black can hardly lose (55. g5 d4).

50. ♖xh6 d4 51. ♖d6

The Rook is better placed further from the pawns, e.g., 51. ♖h7.

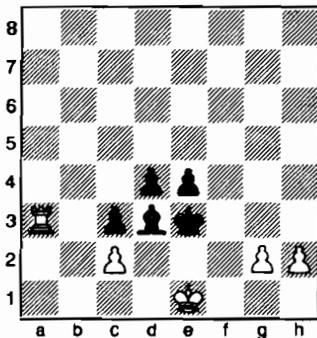
51...♗a4 52. ♖d1 ♖e3 53. ♖a6 ♗b5?!

Black is playing for a promotion sacrifice. 53...♗d7 is more sound, e.g., 54. ♖a7 ♗g4+ 55. ♖c1 e4.

54. ♖a5 ♗e2+ 55. ♖e1 e4 56. ♖a3

56. ♖c5!+- is even better Rook position. Black's pawns are frozen, nor does 56...♗f1!? 57. g4 work.

56...♗d3!?



Well, this is his idea.

57. ♖d1

White plays safe in time trouble; now the game should be drawn. Accepting the sacrifice wins: 57. cxd3 ♖xd3 [57...exd3

58. ♖a6 d2+ 59. ♖d1 d3 (59...♖d3 60. ♖c6+-) 60. ♖e6+] 58. ♖d1 e3 59. ♖a8 and White has nothing to fear (59...c2+ 60. ♖c1 ♖e2 61. h4 d3 62. ♖d8+-).

57...♗e2+ 58. ♖e1 ♗d3 59. ♖d1 ♗f1!? 60. ♖e1 ♗xg2 61. h4 ♗f3 62. ♖b3 ♗h5 63. ♖a3 ♗g4 64. ♖b3 ♖f3 65. ♖a3

65. ♖b4 is already possible. 65...d3 66. cxd3 exd3 67. ♖d4 with the inevitable draw.

65...♖g3 66. ♖b3 ♖xh4 67. ♖b4 d3 68. cxd3 exd3 69. ♖d4 d2+ 70. ♖xd2 cxd2+ 71. ♖xd2 Draw

King's Indian Classical

Jayson Lian (2089)

Ethan Peake (1894)

Cherry Hill, Denker (6) 2007

Annotations by FM Chuck Schulien

1. d4 g6 2. c4 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6 5. ♘f3 O-O 6. ♗e2 e5 7. O-O ♘bd7 8. ♖e1 c6 9. ♗f1 ♖e8 10. ♗e3

d4-d5 is always a reasonable option after ...♖e8.

10...♘g4 11. ♗g5 f6 12. ♗h4 ♘h6 13. ♖d2

White soon regrets this natural move. [13. h3]

13...♘f7 14. ♖ad1 g5!?

I like this move! The timing is good. 14...♖b6 is a solid waiting move, but after 15. ♘a4 ♖c7 16. h3, it is back to Black to form a plan.

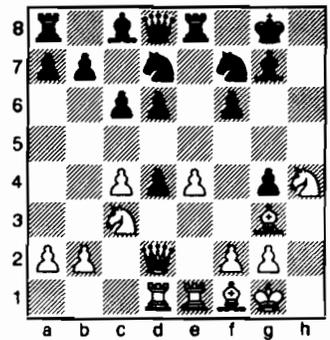
15. ♗g3 h5

15...g4 16. ♘h4 exd4! 17. ♖xd4 f5 18. ♖e3 (18. ♖d2 ♗h6!) 18...♘de5 (18...♘c5)

16. h3

16. dxe5 dxe5 17. h3 opens a few more lines, but 17...h4 18. ♗h2 ♘c5 pretty much equalizes.

16...g4 17. hxg4 hxg4 18. ♘h4 exd4!



A key move for Black's counterplay.

19. ♖xd4 f5 20. ♖d2?!

20. ♖e3 ♗h6 21. f4 gxf3 22. ♖xf3 is a big improvement for White.

20...♗h6

Ouch.

21. f4

21. ♖e2!? is a piece sac. 21...f4 22. ♘f5 fxg3 23. ♖xg4+ ♖f8 24. ♖xg3 White has some chances, but, after 24...♖g5, Black cannot be in danger.

21...gxf3 22. ♖f2 f4! 23. ♗h2 fxg2 24. ♗xg2?

Natural and bad. This is not an easy position to defend, and White really needs to think about Black's plans and what the key squares will be. 24. ♘g2 ♘de5 25. ♗xf4 is very defensible.

24...♘de5 25. ♘f5 ♗xf5

An obvious move, and good enough for a clear advantage. However, 25...♘g4! is just murder after 26. ♖h4 (26. ♘h6+ ♘fxh6 27. ♖d4 ♖g5+-) 26...♖b6+.

26. exf5 ♘g4

26...♖g5

27. ♖f3?

27. ♖xe8+ deflects Black's Queen. 27...♖xe8 28. ♖d4

27...♖xe1+

Winning by force, but still it's the second best move. 27...♖b6+ forces resignation. Look at checks!

28. ♖xe1 ♖h4 29. ♖e6 ♖xh2+ 30. ♖f1 ♘e3+ 31. ♖xe3 fxe3 32. ♖g4+ ♗g5 33. ♘e4 ♖f4+ 0-1

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ssmith6154@aol.com

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Letter to the Editor

Thanks, Northwest Chess, for the vintage James Hurt Chess articles. I so thoroughly enjoyed them that I sent copies to a chess buddy down in California. Fortunately, he is rather inquisitive and started to wonder if there was any connection with the Jim Hurt Memorial Tournaments they hold down there. He made inquiries at the Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco, and here was the result:

So I asked John Donaldson about Jim Hurt on Tuesday, and mentioned that article you sent – John is the head of the Mechanics' Institute chess room, and a noted chess historian. He said that, indeed, the author of the article and the Jim Hurt remembered in the annual M.I. tourney are one and the same. Evidently, Jim Hurt was about 21 years old and in college at the UW when he wrote that article. After college, he came down to the Bay Area and became a well-known local chess tournament organizer. He was an employee of Lockheed in the '60s and started a chess club in Sunnyvale that met weekly in a Lockheed facility from 1966 until 2000 (the so-called L.E.R.A. Chess Club). He died in 1999, and it seems as though the club folded shortly thereafter. If you're interested, here is a photo of him.

So thanks again for the articles—very informative and satisfying to the chess historian in me.

All the best,

Steven Hjerrild

Northwest Chess



Jim Hurt at L.E.R.A. in the 1990s
photo courtesy of ChessDryad.com

Anagram Contest #2

Northwest Class Players

Barren Drapes

Cereal Thrill 'im?

Colder Spinach

Darn Chin Barre!

Glowing Animal

I Beat Royally!

Loanword Record

Meager Proton

Railroad Madmen

Ripening Thane

For more information, see page 3.

Sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club

From the Business Man- ager:

When sending payments or other material to the business manager, please remember to always include the BM's name (Eric Holcomb), PMB number and street address. *Northwest Chess* is optional. Games, articles, and letters to the editor should NOT be mailed to the BM.

The Game of Kings

by Walter Adenau

Josh studied the board carefully while he calculated his next move. To advance his Bishop would be foolish at this time. His Queen was more or less blocked by the surrounding pieces. The only thing that made sense was to take his uncle's pawn. Josh cautiously picked up his Rook and carried out his plan.

Uncle William removed his left hand from under his chin. He picked up his own Queen and advanced three squares, taking Josh's Rook.

"You know, there are a lot of lessons in the game of chess, Josh," commented Uncle William with a smile. "You won't win by simply reacting to your opponent's last move. You gotta think at least three moves ahead. Chess is a game of kings, and a lot can be learned about life by mastering it."

Josh clenched his jaw and lowered his eyebrows.

"I don't even like chess," he grumbled. "I don't want to play anymore."

"You can't just give up, Josh. That's part of the game, too."

Josh took in a deep breath and looked around. This was his fourth day in this room, and his third trip to the hospital this year. Unfortunately, a stay in the hospital was all too familiar for him. For as long as he could remember, Josh had been admitted into the hospital every few months. The doctors tried their best to conquer his disease, but it was a long and drawn out battle. They poked him with needles, drew samples of blood, and gave him medicine to improve his health. Instead of making him feel better, though, the medicine usually made him feel woozy.

Josh pushed down on the mattress underneath him with both arms. He raised his upper body and shifted back in the bed. His legs were twisted up in the white bed sheets. The plastic wristband on his arm felt like a handcuff that shackled him to the railing that ran alongside the bed.

He looked over at the wheeled table. The lid on his food tray still covered whatever was served at lunchtime. He hadn't bothered to check what was underneath. Josh longed for his mother's lasagna and garlic bread. He knew that whatever was served that day would be a poor substitute.

The hospital gowns, the beeping of the strange machines that surrounded him, the constant flow of dozens of doctors and nurses in and out of the room- it was all part of the routine, but Josh never got used to it.

He tried to refocus on the game. Josh thought more cautiously about what his next move would be. He tried to set a trap for his uncle. By moving a pawn, he anticipated that he could capture his uncle's Queen on the next move. Once again, he moved his chess piece.

Uncle William saw the move and grinned.

"Uh huh," he chuckled. "Trying to get to my Queen I see. Not a bad move!"

He then countered by springing a trap of his own.

"Check!" he called out. "I'm gonna get your King and end the game if you don't think of some way to stop me."

Josh was surprised and insulted that his own uncle was beating him so badly. Didn't he have any pity for a sick child?

Josh looked around the room again and thought about his situation- not the one on the chessboard, but the one in real life. He hated this place and everything that went on here. He wanted to be home with his mom and dad.

Why couldn't he be like a normal kid? Why couldn't he go to a regular school and play on a soccer team? Why did he have to spend so much of his life lying in a hospital bed? What did he do to deserve such a horrible life?

Josh was sick and tired of being sick and tired. This was all too much for him.

In disgust, he grabbed the head of his King and tipped it over. His uncle's face went blank.

"You *do* know what that means, don't you?" asked Uncle William.

Josh knew exactly what it meant. He forfeited the match and he didn't care. He was tired of playing a game that he couldn't win. Josh avoided looking his uncle in the eye.

After a few moments, Uncle William said in a low voice, "Okay. I've got an idea."

He stood the fallen King upright and turned the board around.

"You can play my pieces and I'll play yours," he announced.

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Trial: \$13 (membership and subscription, expires in 3 months). By paying the balance of dues for an Adult membership, this option can be extended to 12 months. The balance must be paid before the trial status is expired.

For general information, Eric Holcomb (253) 850-2996, e-mail: Eric@Holcomb.com

OCF/WCF Membership Application/Renewal Form

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E-Mail (if you want to subscribe to the *Northwest Chess* e-mail mailing list) _____

Phone Number (optional, will not be used for telemarketing) (____) _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

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Country (if not USA) _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check or money order (USA \$ only) out to Northwest Chess and mail to:

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Josh looked up and once again adjusted his position on the bed. He knew that victory was now within his reach.

"It's my turn, since it actually was your turn before," his uncle pointed out.

He moved the King out of check.

Josh thought for three whole minutes before his next move.

Then his uncle went.

Then Josh went.

Then his uncle went.

Then Josh went.

This went on for a number of moves until finally Uncle William announced calmly, "Checkmate. I've won the game."

Josh was shocked once again. How could this have happened?

"You see, Josh? You gave up before because you thought you had no chance of winning. But I just proved to you could have won. Even when your situation seems grim and it looks like you just can't win, there's always a chance that you can!"

Josh felt oddly comforted by this message. He lost the game, twice in fact, but somehow that didn't matter.

Josh thought about his uncle's words. Why had he allowed himself to give up so easily?

He pulled the wheeled table closer to the bed. After staring at the tray for a while, Josh reached over and took a sip of the room temperature soup. Then he nibbled on a few crackers.

Slowly, Josh picked up all of the pieces and reset the board.

"Let's play again, Uncle William," he insisted.

The two continued playing chess at lunchtime for the next few days. Josh lost every match, although he was able to take some of his uncle's valuable pieces. He could feel himself getting stronger in the game.

He was stronger physically, too. His appetite increased day by day, and so did his desire to beat his terrible disease. No longer did he see his hospital stay as some kind of punishment. Instead, Josh knew that this was his own personal challenge. He knew that once he conquered his illness, he could overcome any other obstacle that stood before him. ■

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address

17517 15 Ave NE
Seattle WA 98155

Infoline

206-417-5405

www.seattlechess.org
cfkleist@cs.com

Address for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

2008 Fridays

- **January Thaw:** Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.
- **SCC G/15 Championship:** Feb 1.
- **Cabin Fever:** Feb. 8, 15, 22, 29.
- **March Winds:** Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28.
- **April Showers:** Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25.
- **Close Ratings:** May 2, 9, 16.
- **Patzers' Challenge:** May 30.
- **It's Summertime:** June 6, 13, 20, 27.
- **Firecracker Quads (G/25):** July 4.
- **Hot as Hades:** July 11, 18, 25.
- **Dog Days:** Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22.
- **Workingman's Quads (G/25):** Aug. 29.
- **SCC Championship (35/100, 25/60)-**
Sept. 5, 12, 19; Oct. 3, 10, 24, 31.
- **Close Ratings 2:** Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26.
- **Autumn Leaves:** Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24.
- **November Rains:** Oct. 31; Nov. 7, 14, 21.
- **Ishida Memorial:** Dec. 5, 12, 19.
- **Patzers' Challenge 2:** Dec. 26.

Jan. 12, Feb. 23

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

Jan. 6, Feb. 3

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

February 2

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 8/22, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Saturday Quads

SCC Sunday Tornado

SCC Novice

Seattle City Championship

January 18-20, 2008

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament. Time controls: 40/2 & SD/1. Prize fund: \$1000 based on 50 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

A Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

City Championship (5SS):

\$225-140, X \$90, A \$70

Reserve (5SS, U1800): \$125-80, C \$60,

D \$50, E & under \$40, Unr. \$20 EF: \$33 by 1/

16, \$42 at site.

Entry Fees: Championship— \$42 (\$33 for SCC members, \$38 for members of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/16, \$50 (\$39 for SCC members, \$44 for members of other NW dues-req'd CCs) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve—** \$33 (\$24 for SCC members, \$29 for members of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/16, \$42 (\$33 for SCC members, \$38 for members of other NW dues-req'd CCs) at site. **Unrateds—**free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Addition—**add \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1 – Sat. 10 a.m., G/64). Make checks payable to SCC.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 pm or Sat. 9-9:45 am.

Rounds: Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration.

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF required. No smoking. No computers.

Future Events

♣ indicates a Christopher Memorial NW Grand Prix event

♣ **Dec 29, Jan 26 PCC Game-in-60** ♣
Site: *Portland CC*, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219.
Format: 4-rd Swiss. **TC:** G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. **EF:** \$20, \$5 discount for PCC members. No advance entries. **Prize Fund:** \$\$200/b20. **Prizes:** \$60-40-30, U1800 35, U1500 35. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Byes:** One ½-pt. bye avail. if requested at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF membership req'd, OSA. **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.org.

♣ **Dec 29-30 WA Challengers' Cup** ♣
Site: *Tacoma CC*, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm 11, 2nd flr (DTI Soccer Bldg). **Format:** 2-sections; *Cup* 4-SS, *Reserve (U1800)* 5-SS. **TC:** *Cup* 40/120, SD/30; *Reserve* G/120. **EF:** \$30 adv., \$40 at site. Jrs \$20 adv., \$25 at site. UNR free w/purch. of USCF & WCF/OCF memb, but ineligible for prize \$. **Prize fund:** \$600 (b/25 full EFs).

Prizes: *Cup* \$110-90, U2000 80, highest finishing WA resident seeded into 2008 WA Champ. (provided activity/residency req's are met); *Reserve* \$100-80, U1600 70, U1400 70. **Reg:** 9-9:45. **Rds:** *Cup* 10-4, 10-4 (or ASAP); *Reserve* 10-2:30-7, 10-3 (or ASAP). **Byes:** *Cup* None; *Reserve* Two ½-pt. byes avail. rds 1-4. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb. req'd. OSA. NS. NC. **Ent/Info:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445; 253-535-2536, ggrychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.

♣ **Jan 26-27 Presidents' Congress** ♣
Site: *Tacoma CC*, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm 11, 2nd flr (DTI Soccer Bldg). **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$30 adv., \$40 at site. Jrs \$20 adv., \$25 at site. UNR free w/purch. of USCF & WCF/OCF memb, but ineligible for prize \$ (may pay EF to compete for 1st place). Economy plyrs \$12. **Prize fund:** 67% full-pay EFs. **Prizes:** 25%, Top third 15%, Middle third 14%, Bottom third 13% (if fewer than 9 full-pay EFs, then two grps). **Reg:** 9-9:45. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7, 10-3 or ASAP. **Byes:** Two ½-pt. byes avail. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb. req'd. OSA. NS. NC. **Ent/Info:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445; 253-535-2536, ggrychess@aol.com.



More Scholastic Events

January 2008

19 NW Grade Level Champs	David Gillingham dmgingillingham@gmail.com	Seattle WA
19 Chess4Life Beginners Tmt (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
21 WA Junior Open & Reserve	David Hendricks 425-868-3881 davidhendricks@comcast.net	Bellevue WA
23 TCC Wednesday Kids Night	Gary 253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
26 Heritage Christian Acad. Tnmt	Steve Capili steve@stevicapili.com www.signup4chess.com	Bothell WA
26 Lake Hills Fundraiser (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA

February 2008

2 Chess Jam	Randy Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech	Ferndale WA
2 Seaview Classic (K-3,4-6,7-8,K-6 U800)	www.chess4life.com	Edmonds WA
8-9 WA High School Team Ch	www.whsca.org	Edmonds WA
9 Chess4Life Beginners Tmt (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
9 Knightmares' Gauntlet (K,1-3,4-6,K-8 qds)	Martin Moy chesstournament@evergreenschool.org www.signup4chess.com	Shoreline WA
16 Annie Wright Tnmt (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Tacoma WA
18 Kings Men Benefit Tnmt (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
20 TCC Wednesday Kids Night	Gary 253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
22-23 OR High School Team Ch	Kate Taylor 503-728-3754 kathrynrosetaylor@gmail.com http://ohscta.tripod.com	Roseburg OR
23 Cornerstone Challenge (K-3,4-6,7-12,parents;U900 K-1;U800 2-3,4-6,7-12)	Norm May 360-281-5130 nmay@pacifier.com	Vancouver WA
23 Chess4Life State Qualifier (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA

March 2008

1 Leapin' Leprechauns!	Kate Taylor 503-728-3754 kathrynrosetaylor@gmail.com http://ohscta.tripod.com	Clatskanie OR
1 WA JHS/MS Team Ch	www.whsca.org	Mercer Island WA
1 Sammamish Spring St Qual. (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Issaquah WA
8 F.E.S.T.	Randy Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net	Ferndale WA
8 Mountlake Terrace Spring Fling (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
9 Chess4Life Beginners Tmt (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
15 Chess4Life State Qualifier (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
15 Spring Queen's Quest (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA

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USCF NATIONAL Scholastics

For information on any national event, visit www.uschess.org

Mar. 8-9	U.S. Junior Chess Congress	Anderson IN
Apr. 4-6	National Junior High Championship	Dallas TX
Apr. 18-20	National High School Championship	Atlanta GA
May 9-11	National Elementary Championship	Pittsburgh PA

Open Events

December 2007

26-29	North American Open	Continental Chess Ass'n www.chesstour.com	Las Vegas NV
♯ 29	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 29-30	♯ WA Challengers' Cup	253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA

January 2008

♯ 5-6	♯ Gresham Open	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Gresham OR
♯ 6	♯ SCC Sunday Tornado Note new date	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
8	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 12	♯ SCC Saturday Quads	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
♯ 18-20	♯ Seattle City Championship	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
18-21	Western Class Champs	Continental Chess Ass'n www.chesstour.com	Agoura Hills CA
24-Feb 21	Spokane Winter Championship	David Griffin 509-928-3260 dbgriffin@hotmail.com www.spokanechessclub.org	Spokane WA
♯ 26	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
26	PCC Membership Meeting	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 26-27	♯ Presidents' Congress	253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA

February 2008

2	PCC Saturday Quads	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
2	SCC Novice	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
♯ 3	♯ SCC Sunday Tornado	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
5	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
9-10	TCC Under 1800	253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
9-10, 16-18	WA Champ & Premier	Dan Mathews 425-218-7529 dthmathews@hotmail.com	Seattle WA
9-10, 16-18	OR Championship	Peter Prochaska 503-504-5756 pete@chessodyssey.com	Portland OR
23	Campbell Ctr. Open	541-682-6392 541-342-5406 mel.c.mann@ci.eugene.or.us www.eugene-or.gov/recreation	Eugene OR
♯ 23	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 23	♯ SCC Saturday Quads	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
♯ 23-24	♯ Dave Collyer Memorial	Kevin Korsmo 509-466-0530 kmkorsmo@comcast.net www.spokanechessclub.org	Spokane WA

March 2008

1	SCC-TCC Match	206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com	Tacoma WA
1	PCC Saturday Quads	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 2	♯ SCC Sunday Tornado	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
4	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
♯ 8-9	♯ Northwest Open	253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
♯ 15	♯ SCC Saturday Quads	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
21-23	Far West Open	www.renochess.org/fwo	Reno NV
21-24	Victoria Chess Festival/Grand Pacific Open	www.victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com	Victoria BC
22	EasterBunny Quads	253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
♯ 28-30	♯ Seattle Spring Open	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechessclub.org	Seattle WA
♯ 29	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR

NOTE: A '♯' in front of the date indicates a Harmon Memorial Northwest GP event. A ♯ in front of the tournament name indicates an OSCF qualifying tournament. Boldface type indicates a tournament announcement (in our Future Events Section) or display ad in this issue.

Scholastic Events

December 2007

26-28	Chess4Life Winter Camp II	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
29	Chess4Life State Qualifier (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA

January 2008

2-4	Chess Odyssey Holiday Camp	Pete Prochaska chesscoach@comcast.net www.chessodyssey.com	Portland OR
5	Chess4Life State Qualifier (K,1-3,4-6)	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
7	NWL High School Chess Meet #3	Randy Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech	Bellingham WA
12	Whatcom County Champs	Randy Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech	Lynden WA
12	Medina Elementary Tnmt (K,1-3,4-6)	Marianne Mowat mgmowat@msn.com www.signup4chess.com	Medina WA
12	Purdy Panther Open (K,1-3,4-6)	http://chibcha.com/purdy	Purdy WA
12	King's Way Tnmt (K-3,4-6,7-12)	Dale Egelston 360-513-4424 degelston@glaceau.com	Vancouver WA
14	NWL High School Chess Meet #4	Randy Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net	Lynden WA

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For more Scholastic events, see inside back cover