



NORTHWEST CHESS

Washington Chess Federation
Oregon Chess Federation

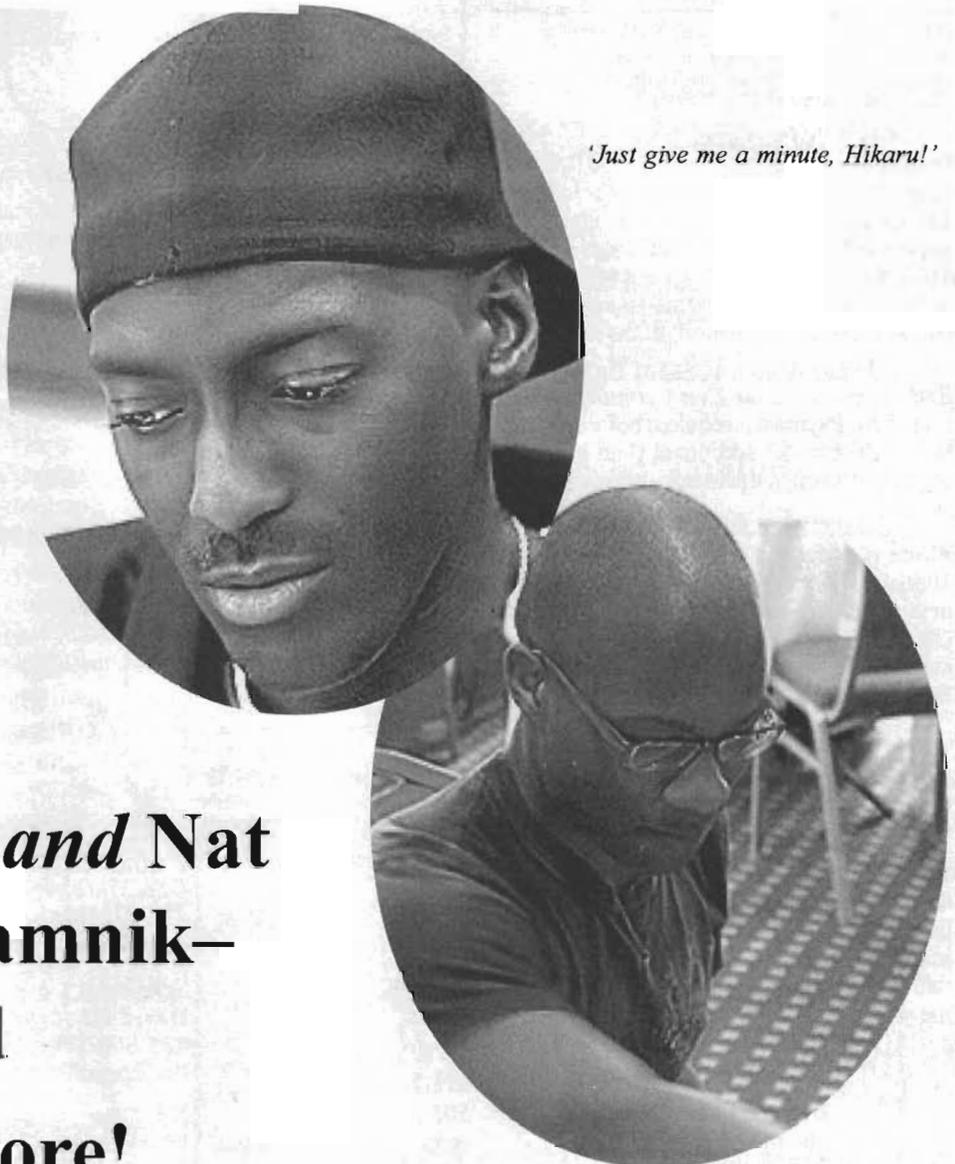
August 2008
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MIKE MACGREGOR



**Annotated
Games
from Recent
Events**

**Nat Koons
Talks with
Ignacio Perez *and* Nat
Previews Kramnik–
Anand
And More!**



'Just give me a minute, Hikaru!'

Aggression in the Slav

Northwest Chess

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Greetings from the Editor

The WA Open games arrived at the end of July; so they're likely to appear in September. I also have an article by IM Minev in the hopper. However, just because I now have some available material doesn't absolve you, the reader, of your responsibility to contribute articles, games, or pictures, etc.

Speaking of contributions to the magazine, Ralph Dubisch will be guest editor for the Sept. issue, because Carol and I will be going to Europe right after the Seafair and returning just before the Seattle Fall Open.

Have a wonderful summer, all!

Best Wishes,

Frederick K. Kleist

Thanks to C. Kleist for proofreading



Editor's Desk

Northwest Chess Knights

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

Washington Chess Letter

60 Years Ago, 50 Years Ago

by Russell Miller

August 1948

For \$1.00 per year you could subscribe to the *Washington Chess Letter* edited by Lawrence Taro of Everett. The August issue consisted of nine pages with the back page left blank. The site of the 1948 Chess International (WA vs BC match) was to be the Pavilion at Stanley Park in Vancouver, BC, on August 8th. There were 89 boards at the 1947 match. The Everett CC won a match with the Whidby Island CC 4.5-3.5. Olaf Ulvestad was reported to have won a rapid transit tournament held at the Marshall CC in New York. Part II of "Fundamental Chess Strategy and Tactics" by Richard Allen appeared. Lawrence Taro was the top rated player on the postal chess list.

August 1958

The *Washington Chess Letter* staff for August 1958 was composed of Seattlites Dan Wade (editor), Fred Weaver (publisher) and R. R. Merk (circulation). Dr. Griffith H. Parker of Spokane was president of the Washington Chess Federation.

Walt Conner won a speed event at the Seattle Chess Club with a 6-0 score. The Seattle Seafair is set for August 2-3 at the Seattle YMCA under the direction of Al Livingston of Olympia. Jim McCormick and Viktors Pupols were winners of the 1957 event. Conner did a junior simul at the Seattle CC and scored 10-4, playing each junior twice. Robert Karch also did a junior simul, scoring 3-2. Max Bader won the 1958 Seattle CC Championship. Fred Weaver wrote an article "Chess Club in Distress" about problems of the Seattle Chess Club. There was only \$17.00 in the treasury on July 18 and \$40.00 rent due in two weeks. Only 39 paid-up members on the lists and the president had moved from Seattle and resigned. Fred Howard took over the slot. David Erickson won the 6th North East Seattle Invitational.

The 15th Annual International Match Washington vs BC was set for Sunday, August 10, in Mount Vernon. In 1957, BC won the match 22-8. Charles Hewitt of Tacoma won the 1958 Pierce County Championship. The Tacoma Open was to be held Aug 23-24 at the Oakland Field House in Tacoma.

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Northwest Chess

August 2008

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So How Many Chess Board Positions Are There?

Business Manager Eric Holcomb does the calculations
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A Preview of the Kramnik vs. Anand World Championship Match

Ass't Editor Nat Koons looks at the players, their openings, and some head-to-head wins
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'FREE ROOM in Reno' Contest
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Northwest Chess Calendar of Upcoming Events
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On the Cover: (center photo) NM Ignacio Perez at the Washington Open; (lower right) Expert Dereque Kelley in the WA Open skittles room. *Photos by Brian Todd*



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Games from Recent Events

Tacoma City Championship

French Steinitz

David Wight (1258)

Drayton Harrison (1765)

Tacoma, City Championship 2008

Annotations by David Wight & RYBKA

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗c3 d5 3.e4

I was hoping Drayton would play 3... dxe4 4.f3 exf3 5.♗xf3 with a Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. But Drayton would not have any of that.

3...e6 4.e5 ♗fd7 5.♗f3 ♕e7 6.♗d3 O-O7.O-O

7.h4 f5 8.exf6 ♗xf6 9.♗e3

7...c5 8.dxc5 ♗c6 9.♗f4 ♗xc5 10.a3 f6

10...f5 11.exf6 ♗xf6 12.♗g3 ♖b6

11.♖e1 fxe5 12.♗xe5 ♗xe5 13.♗xe5 ♗xd3

13...♗d6

14.♖xd3

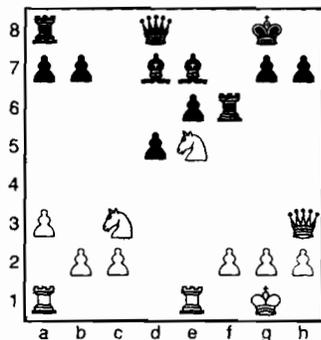
14.cxd3

14...♗d7

14...♖b6 15.♖e2 ♗d6 16.♗a4 ♖c7

17.♖ae1

15.♖h3 ♖f6 1-0



I wrote down on my scoresheet 16. ♗xd5, expecting 16...exd5 17.♖xd7 ♖xd7 18.♗xd7 ♖f7 19.♗e5 ♖f5 20.c3, but, before I could make my move, Drayton got up, put his jacket on, resigned and left the club. This took me by complete surprise. The highest rated player that night at the Tacoma Chess Club was Paul Bartron and even he was perplexed why Black resigned. I would have been

a pawn up with a better position, but ...

National Open

English Opening

GM Darwin Laylo (2478)

Joshua Sinanan (2154)

Las Vegas, National Open (1) 2008

Annotations by Joshua Sinanan

1.c4 e5 2.♗c3 ♗f6 3.g3 ♗b4 4.♗g2 O-O 5.e4

My GM opponent chooses the Botvinnik system, known for its solid and controlled approach. To create chances of my own, I opt for a reverse Ruy Lopez set-up.

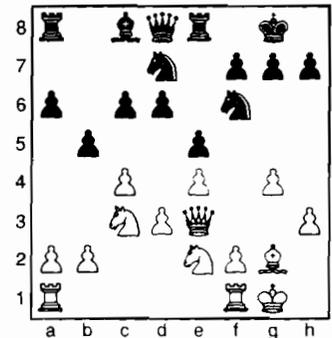
5...♖e8 6.♗ge2 c6 7.O-O d6

7...a6 8.d4 d6 9.a3 ♗a5 10.b4 ♗c7 11.h3 ♗bd7 12.♗e3 b5 13.cxb5 axb5 was eventually drawn in Ivkov-Addison, Caracas 1970.

8.d3 ♗bd7 9.h3 a6 10.♗e3 b5 11.g4 ♗c5 12.♖d2

A major alternative for White is 12. d4 exd4 13.♗xd4 ♗xd4 14.♖xd4 ♗e5±.

12...♗xe3 13.♖xe3



13...♖b6

13...b4 14.♗a4 ♖a5 15.b3 h6 with control of the dark squares is better.

14.♖d2 ♗f8 15.♗g3 ♗g6 16.♗ce2 ♗b7

16...♗h4!? is an interesting possibility that I rejected, because I was more concerned with connecting my Rooks and playing in the center.

17.g5 ♗d7 18.♗f5 ♖c7 19.h4 ♗e7 20.♗eg3 ♗f8 21.f4 ♗eg6

21...♗e6 22.♗xe7+ ♖xe7 23.f5±

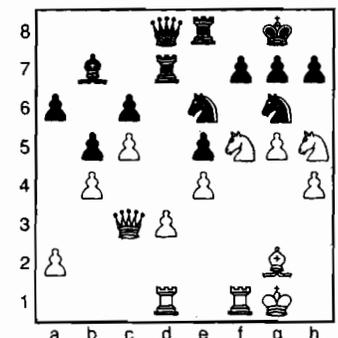
22.fx5 dxe5=

White's powerfully placed Knights are nicely compensated by his weak d-pawn and my grip on the f4-square.

23.♖c3 ♗e6 24.c5 ♖ad8

Preparing to sacrifice the Exchange on d6. 24...a5, preventing White's next move, may have been more prudent.

25.b4 ♖d7 26.♗h5 ♖d8 27.♖ad1



27...♗xh4



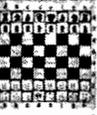
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Initiating a tactical sequence after which both Kings become more exposed.

28. ♖xh4± ♚xg5 29. ♖xg7 ♖xg7

Alternatively, 29... ♖d4 30. ♚d2 ♚xd2 31. ♖xd2 ♖xg7 leads to a roughly equal endgame.

30. ♖f5 ♖xf5± 31. ♖xf5 ♚e3+ 32. ♖f1

Up to now, I have kept pace with my GM opponent and emerged with a slightly favorable position. In the transition from middlegame to endgame, however, Darwin shows his class and outplays me.

32... ♖de7?

The first mistake. 32... ♖d4 blocking in the center is better.

33. ♖f3 ♚d4 34. ♚xd4 exd4

I could tell my opponent was relieved to have swapped Queens. The resulting endgame is easier to play for White with his better piece mobility and pawn clamp on the queenside.

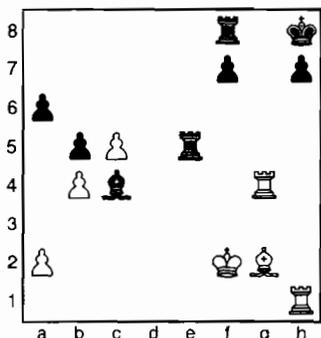
35. ♖f2 ♖c8

35... a5. with counterplay on the queenside, is an improvement

36. ♖h1 ♖f8 37. ♖f6 ♖e6 38. e5 ♖xe5 39. ♖xc6 ♖f5

39... ♖f5+ 40. ♖g1 ♖e8, activating both Rooks, is better.

40. ♖d6 ♖xd3 41. ♖xd4 ♖c4 42. ♖g4+ ♖h8=



43. ♖gh4 ♖e2+

43... ♖d3, holding the h-pawn, is the last chance. I rejected this move, because I saw no clear defense against 44. ♖b7 followed by pushing the c-pawn.

44. ♖f3 ♖xg2?

I had calculated 45. ♖xh7+ ♖g8 46. ♖h8+ ♖g7 47. ♖h7+ ♖g6 48. ♖xf8 ♖d5+, winning for Black. When my op-

ponent immediately played the following moves, I realized I had miscalculated and immediately resigned.

45. ♖xh7+ ♖g8 46. ♖h8+ ♖g7 47. ♖h7+ ♖g6 48. ♖xg2 1-0

This extremely short (13 moves!) game took two-and-a-half hours to play.

QGD Slav

Matthew Robertson (2009)

Dereque Kelley (2006)

Las Vegas, National Open (3) 2008

Annotations by Dereque Kelley

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖c3 dxc4 4. a4 e5

A sideline which (I believe) offers Black a reasonable game

5. dxe5 ♚xd1+ 6. ♖xd1 ♖e6 7. ♖f3

White has already been gobbling time, but here I, too, spent a full 30 minutes deciding on exactly how best to proceed. White threatens both ♖g5 and ♖d4.

7... ♖a6!?

7... ♖d7 8. ♖g5 ♖xe5 9. ♖xe6 fxe6 10. ♖f4∞ seemed too risky. After losing the c4-pawn, he may very well face a worse ending due to the e6-pawn.

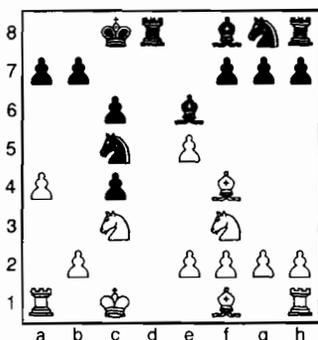
8. ♖f4

8. ♖g5 ♖d8+ (8... O-O-O+?! 9. ♖c2 and the Bishop cannot move, as f7 would hang.) 9. ♖c2 ♖c8!± was my strange idea. Black can play ...h6 followed by ...♖e6, retaining a fine position. Still, White needed to play in this fashion.

8... O-O-O+ 9. ♖c1?

After 9. ♖c2!? ♖b4+ 10. ♖c1±, Black's Knight doesn't have the option to play to c5, though Black is still better.

9... ♖c5



Only here did White realize he cannot play 10. ♖d2 because of 10... ♖xd2! 11. ♖xd2 ♖b3+ 12. ♖b1 ♖xd2+ 13. ♖c2

♖b3 14. ♖d1 ♖c5. Both sides have used a full hour—on the first nine moves!

10. ♖b1?

10. ♖c2±

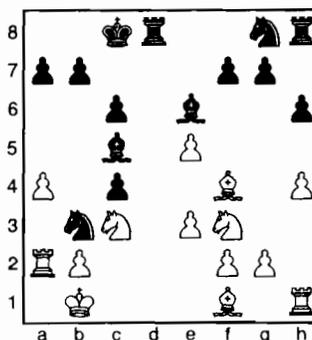
10... ♖b3 11. ♖a2 h6!

11... ♖c5? 12. ♖g5! would give White hope.

12. h4 ♖c5

White's position is completely losing. He must give up the f2-pawn and live with an extremely compromised position.

13. e3?



This natural move ends the game abruptly. 13. ♖g3 would suffer the same fate, while 13. e4 fails to 13... ♖xf2.

13... ♖d1+!! 0-1

13... ♖d1+ 14. ♖xd1 (14. ♖c2 ♖c1 mate is why the e3-move is a problem.) 14... ♖f5+ 15. e4 ♖xe4+ 16. ♖d3 ♖xd3 mate.

Spokane City Championship

As I am the lowest rated player to play in the Spokane City Championship since its revival in 2001, my annotations to the games might hold some entertainment value for *Northwest Chess* readers.

French Advance

NM David Sprenkle (2257)

James Stripes (1738)

Spokane, City Championship (2) 2008

Annotations by James Stripes

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 ♖c6 5. ♖f3 ♖h6

Michael Adams calls this move dubious in his annotations in *Informant 69* to Adams-Lputian, Pula 1997 (1-0, 41). John Watson recommends it in his book *Dangerous Weapons: The French* (2007).

6. dxc5

White's idea to lure Black's dark-squared Bishop to the queenside made its first top-level appearance in Sveshnikov-Bareev, Eur. Club (ch) 1991 (1-0, 41).

6...♙xc5 7.b4 ♘b6 8.b5 ♘e7 9.♙d3 ♘g4 10.O-O ♘g6 11.♙xg6 fxg6 12.h3 ♘h6 13.♙xh6 gxh6 14.♣d2

14.♘bd2 [Grischuk-Bareev, Cannes 2001 (0-1, 55)]

14...O-O

Not 14...g5? Now, Black gets activity for the pawn.

15.♣xh6 ♙d7 16.♘d4

On 16.♘g5 ♣e7, the mate threat is easily parried, and Black will gain a few tempi driving the Knight and Queen back.

16...♙xd4

Giving up the Bishop pair to win back the pawn seemed like a reasonable idea against a player of Sprenkle's caliber.

17.cxd4 ♙xb5

Black's bad Bishop (the French cleric) is outside the pawn chain, but has few targets.

18.♙c1 ♣b6 19.♘c3 ♙c4

19...♙c6 renders the piece a tall pawn.

20.♣e3 ♙f5 21.♙ab1 ♣a6 22.a4 ♙af8 23.f3 ♙5f7

The action shifts to the queenside.

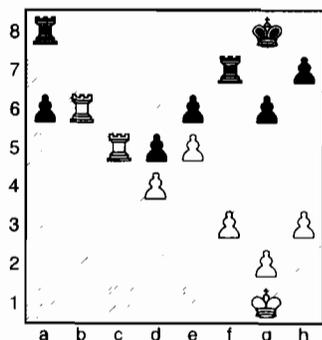
24.♘b5 ♙xb5 25.axb5 ♣b6 26.♙c5 a6 27.♣d3 ♙a8

27...a5!

28.bxa6 ♣xa6 29.♣xa6 bxa6

29...♙xa6 30.♙cb5 ♙a2 31.♙xb7 ♙d2 32.♙xf7 ♘xf7 33.♙b7+ ♘f8 34.♙xh7

30.♙b6



30...♙e7

30...a5! 31.♙xe6 a4 32.♙ec6 [32.♙c2 a3 33.♙a2 ♙f4= (33...♙b7 34.♘f2±)] 32...a3 33.♙c8+ ♙f8 34.♙xa8 ♙xa8 35.♙c1 a2 36.♙a1 ♘f7 37.h4=

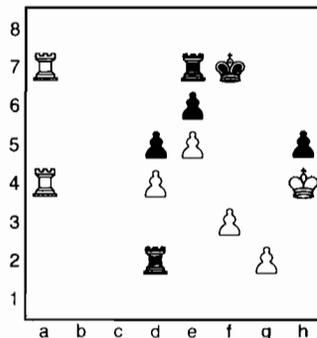
31.♙a5 ♘f7 32.♙axa6 ♙c8

Black's practical chances seem better in a double-Rook ending.

33.♙c6 ♙b8 34.♙a4 ♙b2 35.♘h2 g5!

Prevents the King's penetration.

36.♙c8 ♙d2 37.♘g3 ♘g7 38.♙ca8 ♘f7 39.♙8a7 h5 40.h4 gxh4+ 41.♘xh4



41...♙xg2

41...♙xa7! 42.♙xa7+ ♘g6 43.♙a4 ♙xg2=; 41...♙xd4+?? is an interesting tactic: 42.♙xd4 ♙xa7 43.♘h5±.

42.♙xe7+ ♘xe7 43.♙a7+ ♘f8 44.♘h5 ♙g1

44...♙g7?? leads to an elementary win for White, i.e., 45.♙xg7 ♘xg7 46.♘g5.

45.f4 ♙g2 46.♙d7 ♙g1 47.f5± exf5 48.♙xd5 ♘e7 49.♙d6 ♙g4 50.d5 ♙g1 51.♙f6 ♙d1 52.d6+ ♘d7 53.♘g6 f4 54.♘f7 ♙e1 55.♙f5 f3 56.♘f6 f2 57.♙xf2 ♙e3 58.♘f5 ♙e1 59.♙f4 ♙e2 60.♙a4 ♙f2+ 61.♘e4 ♙e2+ 62.♘f5 ♙f2+ 63.♙f4 ♙e2 64.♙a4 ♙f2+

I looked at my score sheet for evidence of triple occurrence of position and did not find it, although it is there.

65.♘e4 ♙e2+ 66.♘f5 ♙e1?? 67.♙a7+ ♘d8 68.♘f6 ♙h1 69.♘e6 ♙h6+ 70.♘d5 ♙h1 71.♙a8+ ♘d7 72.e6 mate

Dutch Defense

James Stripes (1738)

NM David Sprenkle (2257)

Spokane, City Championship (3) 2008

Annotations by James Stripes

1.d4 f5 2.♘c3

Benjamin Raphael played this move against Napoleon Marache at the First American Chess Congress in 1857 and so the variation bears his name.

2...♘f6 3.♙g5 d5 4.e3

Game one continued 4.♙xf6 exf6 5.e3 ♙e6 6.♙d3 ♣d7 7.♣f3 ♘c6 8.a3 ♘e7 9.♘ge2 ♙f7 10.♘c1?! g6 11.♘b3 b6 12.♣e2 ♙h6 13.♘b1 O-O 14.O-O ♙fe8 15.c4 f4 16.♘c3 fxg3 17.fxg3 dxc4 18.♙xc4 ♙xe3+ and I played on until move forty.

4...e6 5.♙d3 c5

Sprenkle called this move ambitious.

6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.O-O ♙e7 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♘a4 ♙e7 10.c4

White normally plays 2.c4 against the Dutch. In the Raphael variation, c2-c4 requires some preparation—if played at all. In game one, I gave up several tempi preparing the move and my pieces lacked coordination. This game reflects an improvement over my earlier effort.

10...O-O 11.♙c1 ♘e4 12.♙xe7 ♣xe7 13.♣b3 ♘a5 14.♣b5 ♘xc4 15.♙xc4 dxc4 16.♙fd1?

16.♙xc4

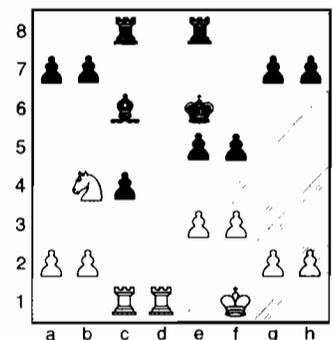
16...♣e8 17.♣xe8 ♙xe8 18.♘d4

18.♘e5 b5 19.f3 ♘g5 20.♘c5=

18...♙d7 19.♘c3 e5 20.♘db5

20.♘xe4 fxg4 21.♘e2±

20...♘xc3 21.♘xc3 ♙c6 22.♘d5 ♙ac8 23.♘f1 ♘f7 24.f3 ♘e6 25.♘b4



25...b5

25...♙b5!

26.♙d2 a5 27.♘xc6 ♙xc6 28.♙cd1 c3

28...b4 29.♙d5±

29.bxc3 ♙xc3 30.♙d6+ ♘f7 31.♙6d5 ♙xe3 32.♙xb5 a4

32...♙a3 33.♙d7+ ♘f6 34.♙b6+

15. ♖xg5
 16. ♖f3 ♘e6 17. ♘e2 ♘f6
 18. ♘f4 ♘d4 19. ♖d3 ♖e5 20. ♗e3
 ♘f3+ 21. ♗e2 ♘g5

15. ♘xg5

White's first mistake. Black's Bishop wasn't going anywhere and White's Knight was much stronger. To quote Nick Raptis, "Don't trade! The Knight was beautiful there."

15... ♖xg5 16. ♖f3 ♘e6 17. ♘e2 ♘f6
 18. ♘f4 ♘d4 19. ♖d3 ♖e5 20. ♗e3
 ♘f3+ 21. ♗e2 ♘g5

Both of White's kingside pawns are weak and will fall. Advantage Black.

22. ♖ae1

Indirect pressure along the e-file starts Black squirming in his seat.

22... ♘gxe4 23. ♗d1 ♗d7

Black breaks the undiscovered pin on the Queen along the e-file.

24. ♖b3

Threatening ♖b7+, winning both Rooks, as well as ♖xf7+.

24... d5

Stopping both threats, i.e. 25. ♖b7+ ♖c7.

25. ♘d3

Threatening ♗d4 and ♗f4.

25... ♖b8

All other replies lose to ♖b7+ and ♗f4 in some order.

26. ♗d4 ♖xb3 27. axb3 ♘xg4!

Black uncorks a strong Exchange sac. His f- and h-pawns are both passed.

28. ♖h4 h5 29. ♗xh8 ♖xh8

White has eight minutes left to make eleven moves and the time control.

30. ♗c1 f5 31. ♘f4 ♘gf6 32. ♖eh1 ♘g3
 33. ♖1h3

33. ♖g1 was also possible.

33... ♖g8 34. c4

Opening c2 for the King.

34... ♗d6 35. ♗c2 ♗e5 36. ♘d3+ ♗e6
 37. ♘f4+ ♗d6 38. cxd5 cxd5 39. ♘g2
 ♗e5 40. ♘e1 ♘fe4

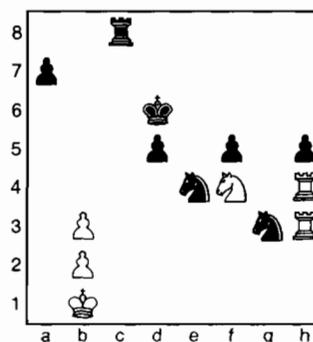
White made the time control with less than a minute on his clock.

41. ♘d3+ ♗d6 42. ♘f4

Black could play 42... ♘f6, but he has mate threats that are too juicy to pass

up. I played 42. ♘f4 only after finding solid defenses to all of the mate threats.

42... ♖c8+ 43. ♗b1



43... ♘d2+ 44. ♗a2 ♖c6

Black threatens 45... ♖a6 mate.

45. ♘xd5!

Eliminating one of Black's passed pawns and defending against mate. If 45... ♗xd5, then 46. ♖xg3.

45... ♘ge4 46. ♘c3!

I saw all of this when I played 42. ♘f4.

46... ♖a6+ 47. ♘a4

The mate threats have ended. Black wants to prevent 48. ♖xh5; so...

47... ♘f6 48. ♖d4+ 1-0

48. ♖d3+ also nets the Knight at the end of a tremendous struggle. I look forward to our next battle. ■

WCL cont'd from p. 3

285 players were listed in the Robert Karch's Northwest Rating List. The top four were Arthur Dake, James McCormick, Olaf Ulvestad, and Elmars Zemgalis, all 2150 and up. Coubrough was the top player on the postal chess rating list this month. "Chess Champ at the Fair" was an article about Larry Finley of Oswego, Oregon, who showed 15-year-old Bobby Fischer around the Brussels World's Fair. The information came from a series of articles Finley had written for the *Oregon Journal* newspaper. ■

Have any suggestions about Northwest Chess magazine and what kind of content you'd like to see? Please let the editor, assistant editor, or business manager know about it!

Portland Summer Open

Yoshinaga and I led the Reserve Section with three points apiece. I was hoping to meet David over the board to avenge my loss the previous summer.

King's Gambit Accepted

David Bannon (1764)

David Yoshinaga (1733)

Portland, Summer Open (4) 2008

Annotations by David Bannon

1. f4 e5 2. e4

Transposing to the King's Gambit.

2... exf4 3. ♗c4

The Bishop's Gambit. Black equalizes with 3... ♘f6 4. ♘c3 c6 5. ♗b3 d5.

3... ♘f6 4. ♘c3 d6

This gives White the advantage.

5. ♘f3 ♗e6 6. ♖e2

6. ♗b3 ♗xb3 7. axb3 is another line.

6... c6 7. d4 ♗xc4 8. ♖xc4 b5 9. ♖d3 ♘h5

10. ♘xb5 ♘d7

Not 10... cxb5 due to 11. ♖xb5+ and 12. ♖xh5.

11. ♘c3 g5

Threatening ...g5-g4.

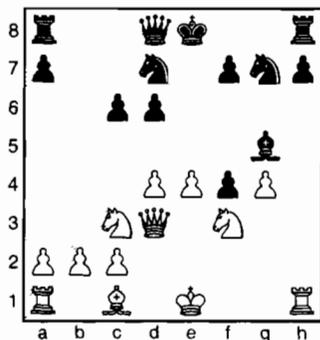
12. g4 ♘g7

12... fxg3 allows the activation of White's Bishop and 12... ♘hf6 drops the g-pawn.

13. h4 ♗e7

13... f6 weakens e6 and g6.

14. hxg5 ♗xg5



An Interview With NM Ignacio Perez

By Nat Koons

Who introduced you to chess, how did you learn?

Oh, in my country [Cuba], it was my cousin . . . he just told me how to move the pieces.

How old were you then?

Oh, as far as I know by then – I mean, as I was told by my parents – I was six or seven years old.

Do you remember the first games you played?

No, no.

Was your cousin your main competition growing up?

At first, because he was the only one around. But then, I started going out and playing with friends of mine.

Did you have a chess club you played in at school?

No, I didn't have one.

So how did you go from playing with your friends to being so strong? How did you improve?

Oh, because in my country . . . it's like any other part of the world: when you are consistently practicing, that's how you get good . . . along with talent. Even back then, I didn't have many tools: books, coaching and this and that. I never had coaching, I coached myself.

Yeah. Did you have any favorite books?

Oh, tactical books.

(after a pause) So, in Cuba, is Capablanca a national champion, is he sort of . . .

Right, right! Over the whole world, not only Cuba.

(in jest) So you try to play like Capablanca then.

Nah, I try to play like Tal. For the initiative.

So did you play in tournaments in Cuba, youth tournaments or the Cuban Championship?

No, no, I did not qualify for the Cuban Championship. But I did qualify for the other levels that were required for the Cuban Championship. You first have to play in several qualifying tournaments before you are eligible for the championship.

Are there differences between tournaments in Cuba and tournaments here, are they set up differently?

Well, it's pretty much the same setup. But the big difference is the prizes. There are no prizes (in Cuba) . . . I mean just very small prizes in Cuban money, but it doesn't motivate the same way.

Yeah. Would there be trophies or just the satisfaction of winning?

Not really a trophy . . . well, yeah, a trophy, just like here.

But there is not that big . . . well, it's not that it's big here. But, anyway, what you feel as a player, the . . . [monetary motivation] is small. The money, and these other conditions they are the other part. But, mostly, it's the game. That's what we like.

So what is the appeal of chess for you, why did stick with chess?

With chess?

Yeah, was it just the sporting aspect?

No, no. Chess, ever since I learned the moves . . . chess . . . took me . . . I mean with chess, I learned how to solve things . . . how to think calmly in most situations . . . how to say "no" and how to say "yes" at some points . . . how to solve most of the situations in my life that happen with me and other people. And that's why I will say that chess was probably the main thing that I played as a sport. My main sport was always chess. Even though I knew how to play baseball, boxing, running, chess was the main one. Just pretty much like Fischer, it was to me.

Do you have any particular goals for chess, is there some level you are trying to reach or something you are trying to accomplish?

Yeah, yeah. I have one.

Okay. (long pause) You want to tell us what it is?

(laughs) Oh yeah, why not! Just waiting until you ask me!

What is your goal for chess?

My goal in chess is to become a GM . . . but my main one beside that is to become the fastest player in the U.S., in blitz.

Yes.

Like Nakamura right now is giving me five to one, I would like to be the one to give him five to one! Yeah, I know it's going to be a long, long time, but it's just a matter of time.

Does teaching fit in with that, does it help?

Teaching . . . teaching people . . . teaching at a school helps the player how to teach himself. It also tells the player the right way to study, the right way to express things to the next person. Teaching also encourages the player to make even more effort in chess like I mentioned . . . Even though I heard about some other players saying that teaching has taken some time from their own preparation, with me it doesn't work that way.

Thinking back on the tournaments and some of the games you've played, do you have any memorable moments, any stories you'd like to share?

Well, that's very interesting . . . I think . . . I think . . . which one . . .

which one . . . there were too many. Are you asking me about the ones here, in the U.S., or in my country, or overall?

Overall.

Let's see here. Yeah, in my country, I've got one. Very, very memorable. Here, I think I've got one or two, but, in my country, there was it seems to me the one that really is unforgettable.

Was it a decisive game in a tournament?

It was, it was, and not only that, it encouraged me to move forward. That game gave me the pass to the next section, the next level.

Did you win?

Right, I won that game, and, because I won, I got to the next level. I qualified for another tournament that was right after that one.

How did the game go? What was particularly . . . I imagine it was very tense.

Right, right. Just because I have to win, this other guy has to win, the winner of this game has the pass to the next level. It was very, very tough, I'll never forget. That was one of my most important moments in my life in chess, this tournament.

Are there any games from the U.S. that are memorable, or that stick out in your mind . . .

Let's see here . . . no, there was one. (pause) Well, I don't remember exactly which tournament, but it was at this tournament here that I had it tough—well, now that I'm talking with you, there was this game at this tournament where I was White and you were Black, and the whole [time] from move nine on . . . and you came out with this move 9...d5 in this Ruy Lopez and then you actually told me after the game that it had been played before.

Yes.

It was the last round at Class Championship at the (snaps fingers) North Seattle Community College. We were playing in the last round, and I barely drew, and you were missing some of these lines in the middle of the game . . . I was totally losing. That was one very important moment. I mean, most of the time I lean on a player: making pressure on the player with the clock, and in some of these lines sacrificing here, and making him worry about what I'm trying to do. But I've never been in this situation [from the other side] . . . I mean, maybe a couple, three times in my whole life that this has been happening to me! Yeah, that was one of them.

I think there was a big game you played with Orlov in one of the Clint Ballard tournaments, maybe the Slugfest?

No, remember Orlov didn't play in that one. Maybe you're talking about the one on Bainbridge?

Yes.

Orlov wasn't there. It was me and three or four other masters.

Well, I remember you beat Orlov and won five thousand dollars or something—

Yeah, but that was back in '97.

Oh, okay.

Yeah, that was way back in '97. I also beat Slava, also way back in 2003 or 2004, in the Washington Class. But I've played bigger games than those ones. It doesn't count to me as a great achievement, because in order for me to measure myself as a player . . . first of all, I have to play a match with the person. I have to look at this other guy's achievements: how consistently they have been winning tournaments, who have they been playing with, how much strength do they really have? Just because I beat these guys who have beaten me . . . It's not the same as playing a match.

Have you played matches before?

Oh yeah, I played matches in my country. But here, I haven't played one. And that's the reason that I haven't felt as strong as I would like to feel. Because a chess player is supposed to measure himself by playing strong tournaments and matches, strong matches, where there is big money involved or not: but still strong matches, strong tournaments. (pause) You might hear people say "Oh this guy—I don't want to mention any names—this other player from way back, or this other player right now, he's good, he's this and that, whatever," I hear that and I laugh inside and say to myself: "They don't know what they are talking about. They don't have any idea what chess, what real chess is about." But when I was in my country I knew, I felt, what real chess was about. I remember I used to play . . . I tell these people when I have time, Dereque Kelly and these other young kids I play blitz with, I tell them sometimes that in my country I use to play these guys—one of them took 500 (Cuban) bucks from me, and he was not even

an FM. He used to beat GMs in blitz. He was the best in my country, he was giving me one to five. Like what Nakamura gave to me. The money doesn't mean that much to me, but it's important. The money was there to prove that neither player can say in the end "Oh, I let the other guy win," or "I let this happen." No, when you have something to prove, something of

value at stake, you don't just let things happen. That's a lie.

Yeah.

That reminds me, I was playing this IM who just passed away, Jesus Rodriguez Cordova, he was well known in the whole Cuban community. He was already an IM by the time I got to know him at the local club, and I used to go there every single day. Later on, he became Cuban Champion, and when I heard he passed away it was a great sorrow to me. Anyway, I used to play him every day from very early in the morning until nine at night, speed chess, and he use to beat me twenty or thirty games in a row. He became Cuban champion three consecutive years, beating all kinds of IMs and GMs. And he was only an International Master. I know what real chess is about. Most people here don't know what they are talking about.

(after a pause) Let's change the topic. What changes would you like to see in the chess world? What is going right, what is going wrong?

There are a lot of things going wrong. The main one, it seems to me, the only one that really needs to change, is that any organization, in any part of world, in any country, should support chess in the way it supports . . . [other sports]. For instance: take football. It has support. Baseball: it has support, by companies and this and that. Any other sport in the whole world has support. But I hate when I hear some people sometimes saying: "Oh, chess, that's a smart game. Oh, chess!" It sounds much too modest, like lip service. It's just saying something to say it. Chess is the oldest game: why hasn't any company taken this game seriously? Right now people are beginning to see the value of chess, why don't people with money give it real support? That is the main weakness of the chess world. It doesn't have to be a huge change, like in Russia, and it doesn't have to be the whole United States, but why couldn't it start here?

Are there any other subjects you like to talk about?

That's a good question. I remember reading your interview with Serper from the magazine and, as far as I can remember, he talked about Mikhail Tal. He included Tal, in order to say that Tal was a great friend, that he didn't have any enemies. Tal was a champion in classical and blitz. And he said sometimes that by being the best, by being champion, [that alone] creates enemies. And that's right, I agree with Serper. I have nothing against him, and I will never have anything against any great player. There is one thing that I notice he never does at tournaments, and it's a quality most of us should learn, especially from him. And that is the energy most players spend after a game, in the postmortem, when the players spend an hour or more enjoying the game they've just played. There is a drawback, a big drawback to that, especially when the next round is about to start. You've already spent a lot of energy in the analysis, and on top of that most other people below your level don't appreciate the analysis. It's taken you years to learn these things, and they don't appreciate that. And that's one quality that I've learned from Serper, in order not to do what I was doing before: analyzing every time, with just everybody, especially those people who don't or can't appreciate what you are doing for them. It's not for you or for us, we already know this stuff.

It takes your energy during a tournament.

Yes, your energy during a tournament, maybe your energy used against yourself, because, most of this analysis, it might be used against yourself, in the next game! I look at chess in this way. One: my goal in a tournament is to win first place and first prize. And then second one: my pride is involved, to prove things. And there may be pain if I don't succeed, just because I'm wasting energy on these other things. That's why Serper, in his interview, which I still haven't finished reading by the way, was saying things that make sense. When you are the champion, when you are on top, you get hate: these other people criticize you . . .

Do you have any games you'd like to include with the interview? With Serper, I included one with all these sacrifices.

The game with Serper from State Championship? I think I can say that if I'd played the same way up to the point I sacrificed the Exchange, against any other player in Washington State, I would have won. But because that was him, that he really took the required time to find every single good move starting from that point on, the result of the game was what it was. You can take it as an example.

Anything else?

Yes, let's see . . . with chess, I know I have a lot to do in order to reach my goals. The easy part of my goal is that I know for sure that I am going to make it. The other part is just a matter of time. The time is to me not an enemy . . . I'm not justifying things, saying "Oh, I didn't do this, I should've done this," you won't ever hear that from me, that's the first thing. I will never give up those things I'm doing that I know are positive. I might give up other things that are negative, but not chess.

I will never give that up. It's a very, very good thing. It's not how much further to go, but how healthy it is to your real life. Basically, those questions you asked me before, how to improve things in chess . . . well, basically, now I'm in Washington State, I can say . . . people like you ought to be involved in the organization. People that do things like this, interviewing the players, creating motivation for players, it's good we've got the ones we've got, and we've got to get more to contribute. Sometimes there are difficulties, and logistical problems, but I don't think it's that hard. It's all a matter of finding the right people.

Thank you, Ignacio Peres.



The games Ignacio and I discussed have already recently appeared in *Northwest Chess*. Instead, here is a selection of games from Ignacio's blitz partner, IM Rodriguez Cordoba:

Alekhine's Defense

IM Jesus Rodriguez (CUB)
FM Ingvar Asmundsson (ICE)

Nice Olympiad 1974

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♘g4
5.♙e2 e6 6.O-O ♙e7 7.h3 ♙h5 8.c4
♘b6 9.♘c3 O-O 10.♙e3 ♘8d7 11.exd6
cxd6 12.b3 ♘f6 13.♚d2 ♙g6 14.♙f4
♙e8 15.♚e3 h6 16.♙ad1 ♙f8 17.♙d3
♙xd3 18.♚xd3 ♘bd7 19.♙fe1 a6 20.
♙g3 ♚a5 21.♘d2 ♙ac8 22.b4 ♚xb4
23.♙b1 ♚a5 24.♙xb7 e5 25.♘b3 ♚d8
26.♘d5 e4 27.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 28.♚c3
♘h5 29.♙h2 f5 30.♚a5 ♚g5 31.♚d5+
♙h8 32.c5 ♘f6 33.♚f7 f4 34.♙h1 ♘h5
35.♙c7 e3 36.fxe3 ♘g3+ 37.♙g1 f3
38.♙xc8 ♙xc8 39. ♚xf3 ♘f5 40.♙f4
♚g6 41.cxd6 1-0

King's Indian Classical

FM Peter Jamieson (SCO)
IM Jesus Rodriguez (CUB)

Örebro, Student Team (ch) 1966

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.♘c3
O-O 5.e4 d6 6.♙e2 ♙g4 7.♙e3 ♘fd7
8.♚d2 ♙xf3 9.gxf3 e5 10.d5 f5 11.♙g5
♚e8 12.exf5 gxf5 13.f4 e4 14.O-O-O a5
15.♙dg1 ♙h8 16.♙g3 ♘a6 17.♙hg1
♚f7 18.♘b5 ♘dc5 19.♙h3 ♘d3+ 20.
♙xd3 exd3 21.♚xd3 ♙ae8 22.♙h6
♘c5 23.♚d1 ♙xh6 24.♙xh6 ♙e4 25.
♚c2 ♙g8 26.♚c3+ ♙g7 27.♙h3?

Continued on page 20

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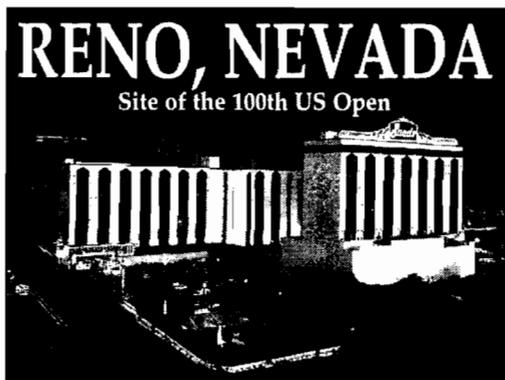
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So How Many Chess Board Positions Are There?

by Eric Holcomb

Perhaps some of you may recall hearing or reading at one time or another that there are about 10^{40} board positions and 10^{120} move sequences in the game of chess, where for example 10^{40} is the number "1" followed by 40 zeroes—a very large number indeed! (10^{120} is very much larger still—greater than the number of atoms in the known universe!)

In game theory, the complexity of a board game is often expressed in terms of the "state space complexity" (number of legal board positions reachable from the initial position), and the "game-tree size" (number of move sequences). Chess is indeed a very complex game, although not the most complex. Among major board games, that distinction belongs to the Japanese game of Go played on the traditional 19x19 board. (See the Wikipedia article on "Game Complexity.")

In this, the first of two articles, the author will discuss the number of chess board positions, and various estimates of this quantity. In a second article, the author will report on a remarkable coincidence involving one estimate of the number of chess board positions, and also discuss the number of chess move sequences.

Although it's been known for many years that the number of possible chess board positions is at least 10^{40} , an exact calculation of the number of legal positions is impossible in practice because of complications such as pawn structure and both Kings being in check. The best that can be done is to calculate "upper bounds" based on various assumptions (for example, neglecting pawn structure, checks, pawn promotions to new pieces, etc.). The resulting estimates can vary widely depending on the assumptions!

The theory of combinatorial statistics underlies all of the calculations. For example, start with an empty board with 48 squares accessible to pawns, and place four identical White pawns on the board. The number of distinct arrangements (statistical combinations, not chess combinations!) is $48 \times 47 \times 46 \times 45 / (1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4) = 194,580$. Continuing with four Black pawns gives $44 \times 43 \times 42 \times 41 / (1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4) = 135,751$ combinations for each White pawn arrangement, for a total (actually a product) of $194,580 \times 135,751 = 26,414,429,580$. The possibilities are already in the billions!

Statisticians would normally write the numbers given above in "factorial" notation, for example $48! / (4! \times 4!) = 194,580$, where $48!$ (48 factorial) is the product of all positive integers from 1 to 48, etc. The factor of $4!$ in the denominator arises because all White pawns (or all Black pawns) are assumed to be identical and interchangeable. (Never mind that one of them came from a different chess set; that doesn't count!)

In 1950, computer chess pioneer Claude Shannon (1916-2001) used this statistical theory to calculate the number of

chess board positions with all 32 chessmen on the board, without regard to the rules of chess. (In other words, the chessmen may be placed on any squares, as long as each man occupies a different square.) The resulting number is written as $64! / (32! \times (8!)^2 \times (2!)^6$, which has a numerical value of 4.635×10^{42} , or 9.270×10^{42} (almost 10^{43}) if the result is doubled, because chess positions are considered distinct depending on whose turn it is to move.

The actual number of chessmen on the board will be less than 32 once one or more captures have taken place. There is no single formula to handle this complexity in the calculation of board positions. Instead, a computer program with "nested" loops is required to sum up all the possibilities. Won't this program take an impossibly long time to run? No, the computer is not looping on the actual board positions, but rather on how many of each piece type are on the board, possibly with some extra work to account for light- and dark-squared Bishops, pawn promotion, or other considerations. For each loop, the statistical formula is applied and the results summed.

The author developed a Visual Basic for Excel program (macro) that executes 10,497,600 such loops in a few seconds on a modern PC. The author's assumptions were as follows:

- (1) All pieces (except Kings) may be either on or off the board.
- (2) Pawns may be placed anywhere on the 2nd thru 7th ranks without regard to the moves (e.g., captures) that would be required to get them there.
- (3) Bishops must remain on their original (light or dark) color squares.
- (4) Obtaining new pieces (e.g., more than one Queen) by pawn promotion is not allowed. Chess legend Philidor approved of this rule!!
- (5) Positions are counted without regard to one or both Kings in check, including checking each other.
- (6) Each position counts twice due to whose turn it is to move (again, without regard to checks).
- (7) Loss of the ability to castle or capture *en passant* is not considered.

In statistical theory, the same answer should result no matter what order the pieces are placed on the board, but it makes sense to place the pawns first, then the Bishops, because these pieces require extra bookkeeping. (Pawns are restricted to 48 squares, and Bishops require accounting separately for light and dark squares. Once the Bishops are placed, no further accounting of light and dark squares is necessary for the other pieces.) Readers with programming experience may be able to understand how the author's macro performs the required calculations. An Excel file with the macro will be available on the *Northwest Chess* website, nwchess.com, when this article is published in the magazine.

The answer is approximately 4.1529×10^{40} board positions. Fourteen decimal places are calculated in Excel, but some will be meaningless due to round-off errors. With commercially available mathematics software that performs unlimited precision arithmetic, it should be possible to calculate all 41 digits of the answer exactly! (Please let the author know if you try it.)

Of the 4.1529×10^{40} calculated board positions, 1.1057×10^{40} , or about one-quarter, involve all 32 chessmen on the board. This is over 800 times smaller than Shannon's estimate, in part because of the restriction on Bishops, but mostly because pawns cannot be on the 1st or 8th ranks. (Think about it or try it – place 16 pawns on the board at random, and less than 1% of the time will any two ranks (or files) specified in advance be completely empty of pawns.)

It's true that the vast majority of these board positions are simply impossible in a real game played from the standard initial position, or even a "Chess 960" position. For example, of the 1.1057×10^{40} positions that involve all 32 men on the board, the author estimates that only 1 in 10 million (about 10^{33} positions) have "no capture" pawn structures with one Black and one White pawn on each file. (For each file, there are only 15 possible arrangements of the White and Black pawns before any captures have taken place. For all eight files, that gives $(15)^8 = 2.563 \times 10^9$ arrangements of the pawns.) But this limitation can be removed by playing the original version of "bughouse" chess where captured chessmen can be put back almost anywhere on the board. (Not that crazy two-board version of "bughouse" chess that kids play today!)

Many more chess board positions are possible by allowing promotion to multiple Queens or other pieces. The Wikipedia article on the "Shannon number" (10^{120} move sequences) quotes recent (1994) estimates by Victor Allis in a Ph.D. thesis of 5×10^{52} for an "upper bound" on the number of chess positions, and about 10^{50} for the "true number" of legal positions. Wow! That's a lot more than the 10^{40} or so positions without pawn promotion!

To check this out, the author modified his Excel macro to include pawn promotions to other pieces, while removing the restriction on Bishops. The results, summarized in the table below, are quite interesting. (Note the use of the "E" notation for powers of 10 commonly used in computer input/output.)

The author's highest estimate of 1.8983×10^{50} positions (just under 10^{50} without the double counting) is consistent with the Allis estimate of 10^{50} positions, but not having read Allis' Ph.D. thesis, the author is not certain how Allis derived his "upper bound" of 5×10^{52} , which seems unrealistically high. One thing, however, is clear: the vast majority of the "state space" of about 10^{50} chess board positions could only arise in practice through the cooperation of both players to bring about an absurd series of pawn promotions, resulting in lots of extra pieces on the board! Furthermore, the captures required to "clear the way" for pawn promotion would severely limit the number of possible positions. For example, of the 4.7875×10^{49} positions in line #6 above, 75% require that all of the original 32 chessmen (or their promoted equivalents) still be on the chessboard. However, as noted earlier, there are only about 10^{33} possible positions in a standard game of chess before any captures have taken place. Requiring that at least four black pawns must be captured to "clear the way" for all eight white pawns to promote reduces the number of possible board positions to about 10^{35} . (The flexibility of the author's computer program makes it relatively easy to do those kinds of calculations.)

This is still a long way from answering the question of how many chess board positions can arise from a legal sequence of moves from the starting position. The author's guess is that it's closer to 10^{45} than 10^{50} , but the question is certainly worthy of further study. For players not satisfied with this immense level of complexity, there are always chess variants that increase the size of the "state space," for example two-board bughouse, Capablanca chess, and Seirawan chess!

What about that remarkable coincidence mentioned? It involves the number 4.1529×10^{40} as discussed above. The coincidence does not involve the much larger number of atoms in the universe, but it does involve something similar of physical significance here on Earth. The author will award a prize of a one-year WCF or OCF membership to the first person who correctly identifies the coincidence before the author's next article is published. (See the inside front cover of the magazine for contact information.)

Background of the Author

The author, Eric Holcomb, has an MS degree in aerospace engineering, and worked as an engineer for The Boeing Company for nearly 20 years. Eric now pursues his own business activities, enjoys playing chess, and serves as business manager for Northwest Chess magazine. ■

Est.	Assumptions	# Loops	# Board Positions
1	Pawns on 2 nd to 7 th ranks, bishops on original color squares, no pawn promotion to new pieces; 2 to 32 men; positions count twice due to turn to move.	10,497,600	4.1529E+40
2	Same as #1 above except bishops unrestricted. There are far fewer loops because it is no longer necessary to keep track of light and dark squares.	236,196	1.4445E+41
3	Shannon estimate (for comparison); all 32 chessmen on board; no pawn promotion; no other restrictions.	n/a	9.2695E+42
4	Same as #2 above except pawn promotion to one (and only one) of the following piece types allowed: rooks, knights, bishops.	1,285,956	5.3227E+44
5	Same as #2 above except pawn promotion to queens allowed.	2,125,764	4.6250E+45
6	Same as #2 above except pawn promotion to all four piece types allowed.	75,585,636	4.7875E+49
7	Same as #6 above except pawns may be placed on any rank, even 1 st or 8 th ranks without promotion.	75,585,636	1.8983E+50

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A Preview of the Kramnik vs. Anand World Championship Match

by Nat Koons

We've been waiting awhile for a great match, haven't we? We winced when Vladimir Topalov made the front page of the *New York Times* due to an argument over who gets to use the potty. We were sickened and disgusted when Peter Leko and Vladimir Kramnik shook hands after fifteen moves and shrugged it off ("hopelessly balanced"). We hung our heads in shame when computers stopped losing. And always schisms, organizational chaos, missed deadlines, open letters, signed agreements that meant nothing, and all of the selfish and unprincipled lines-in-the-sand about who must play whom, who shouldn't play whom, and who is or is not legitimate . . .

Finally, the knockouts are gone, the candidates matches are over, and the two highest-rated and accomplished players of the moment and of the past 15 years (except for the retired Garry Kasparov) go head to head in a twelve-game match to take place in Bonn, Germany, October 14 to November 2. Anand, as the winner in Mexico City last year, will be the defending champion, but will not receive draw odds. And Kramnik has not lost a match since defeating Kasparov in 2000. All verbal arguments will be put to rest, and the only one remaining will be on the chessboard, where it should have been all this time.

And now, the very first game they ever played. While Kasparov and Karpov were battling over the World Cup in 1989, down on a much lower board Kramnik, age 14, and Anand, age 19, sat down to do battle:

Giuoco Piano

NM Vladimir Kramnik
GM Viswanathan Anand

Moscow, World Cup 1989

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.♗b3 O-O 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘bd2 ♗a7 9.♘f1 h6 10.♗h4 g5 11.

♗g3 ♘h5 12.♗e3 ♗g7 13.♖d2 ♘e7 ♗d8 20.h6 gxh6
14.d4 f5 15.exf5 e4 16.♗g1 ♘xf5 17.♘e2 ♘xe3 18.♖xe3 ♗g4 19.O-O-O
Draw

Draw agreed! Hopelessly balanced!

Who is Vishy Anand?

Viswanathan "Vishy" Anand, aged 39, an Indian-born Grandmaster, is currently the world's highest-rated player at 2798. He is one of only four players to have ever been rated over 2800 (the others are Kasparov, Kramnik, and Topalov). He achieved his IM title at 15, his GM title at 18. In 1992, he won Reggio Emilia, at that point the strongest tournament ever held, beating reigning World Champion Kasparov in the process.

He lost the 20-game PCC World Championship Match to Kasparov in 1995, but beat Alexei Shirov in Tehran in 2000 to win the FIDE World Championship. The reigning FIDE Champion, he won the Mexico City double round-robin in 2007, where all of the top players, except Topalov, took part.

Anand is famous for quick calculating ability and amazingly rapid play. His willingness to sacrifice for activity is unusual in a top GM. He's a humble, all-around nice guy, who does charity work and embraces his role as a national hero in India.

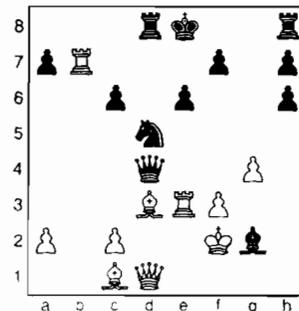
The following well-known game is spectacular, but also typical for Anand, who has the ability to quickly rip apart an opponent's position:

Center-Counter

GM Viswanathan Anand
GM Joel Lautier

Biel 1997

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♗c3 ♖a5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 c6 6.♗c4 ♗f5 7.♗e5 e6 8.g4 ♗g6 9.h4 ♘bd7 10.♗xd7 ♘xd7 11.h5 ♗e4 12.♗h3 ♗g2 13.♗e3 ♘b6 14.♗d3 ♘d5 15.f3 ♗b4 14.♗f2 ♗xc3 17.bxc3 ♖xc3 18.♗b1 ♖xd4 19.♗xb7



21.♗g6!! ♗e7 22.♖xd4 ♗xd4 23.♗d3 ♗d8 24.♖xd8 ♗xd8 25.♗d3 1-0

Who is Vladimir Kramnik?

Vladimir Kramnik, aged 33, a Russian-born Grandmaster, is currently tied for second in the FIDE rating list (with Alexander Morozevich) at 2788. A prodigy and a student of the famous Botvinnik-Kasparov school, Kramnik stood out among his young classmates for his affinity for trading pieces and playing the endgame. The then untitled player was in 1992 proclaimed by Kasparov to be the biggest talent he'd ever seen, and Kasparov insisted he be placed on the Russian national team, ahead of numerous Grandmasters. He proved worthy of the recommendation by scoring brilliantly at the Chess Olympiad that year, and has been one of the world's top players ever since.

Kramnik is famous for his deep positional understanding, his skill in simplified positions, and lately for his tenacity in holding slightly worse endgames. He won the unofficial but widely acknowledged title of World Champion by defeating Kasparov in a match in 2000, which he subsequently defended against Leko in 2004 and Topalov in 2006. He also suffered from a prolonged sickness (from which he has now recovered) that may have hurt his results for some years, when he was criticized for being less than dominant in tournament play.

The following game is Kramnik at his best: a faint advantage that grows as pieces leave the board, finally becoming decisive at the very end:

Nimzo-Indian Classical

GM Vladimir Kramnik
GM Peter Leko

1996

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.♙c2 O-O 5.a3 ♘xc3 6.♙xc3 b6 7.♙g5 ♘b7 8.f3 h6 9.♙h4 d5 10.e3 ♗bd7 11.cxd5 ♗xd5 12.♙xd8 ♗xc3 13.♙h4 ♗d5 14.♙f2 c5 15.e4 ♗e7 16.♗e2 ♗ac8 17.♗c3 cxd4 18.♙xd4 ♗c5 19.♗d1 ♗fd8 20.♙e3 ♗xd1 21.♗xd1 e5 22.b4 ♗e6 23.♗c2 ♗c6 24.♗b2 ♗f8 25. ♙c4 ♗cd4 26.♙xe6 ♗xe6 27.♗b5 ♗a8 28.a4 ♙a6 29.♗a3 ♗c8 30.b5 ♙b7 31.♗c1 ♗xc1 32.♗xc1 ♗e7 33. a5 bxa5 34.♙xa7 f5 35.exf5 ♗f4 36.g3 ♗h3 37.♗c4 ♗g5 38.♗xa5 ♙d5 39.b6 ♗xf3 40.h3 ♗g5 41.b7 ♙xb7 42.♗xb7 ♗xh3 43.♙b6 ♗d7 44.♙e3 ♗e7 45.♗c5 g6 46.fxg6 ♗f6 47.♙xh6 ♗xg6 48.♙e3 1-0

Kramnik As White

After a few years of experimentation with 1.e4, Kramnik has gone back to the queen pawn openings. His deadliest opening weapon is the Catalan (an extraordinary +17=10-0 according to my database), with which he beat Morozevich and Leko in Mexico City last year, as well as Anand (Corus 2007) and Topalov (Games One and Ten. Elista 2006). I think Anand will avoid 1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6, allowing 3.g3 (the Catalan), although, true, this was his latest choice against Kramnik in Monaco, who in turn avoided the Catalan (to avoid revealing his preparation?), played 3. ♗f3, and ended up losing badly (see the games section).

Anand will have to make a choice between his other main defences, the Queen's Gambit Accepted and the Semi-Slav. Anand has not played the QGA against Kramnik since Leon 2002 (again, see the games). In fact, after this game he has only played the QGA sporadically (for instance, against Kamsky in 2006, which he lost). The Semi-Slav therefore looks like the most likely choice.

Northwest Chess

Against the Semi-Slav, Kramnik plays both 5.♙g5 and 5.e3 (in fact, plays it with both colors). Kramnik-Anand from Mexico City went 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.♗c3 e6 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙h4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♙g3 b5 9.♙e2 ♘b7 10.O-O ♗bd7 11.♗e5 ♙g7 12.♗xd7 ♗xd7 13.♙d6 a6 14.♙h5 ♙f8 15.♙xf8 ♗xf8 16.e5 ♗b6 17.b3 O-O-O 18.bxc4 ♗xe5 19.c5 ♗a5 20.♗e4 ♗b4 21.♗d6 ♗xd6 22.cxd6 ♗d7 and Black had enough for the Exchange. It is perhaps important that this game was played late when Anand was leading and Kramnik had to win.

In his match with Topalov, Kramnik relied on 5.e3, and with this move he won two decisive games in the playoff. This variation is less sharp than 5.♙g5, and there is less possibility for an unpleasant surprise (for either side). An additional consideration for Kramnik may be what happened in his match with Leko (during Kramnik's 1.e4 period): his "refutation" of the Marshall gambit, which he had prepared with a computer, turned out to be completely flawed. Kramnik lost the game and nearly the match. My prediction is that Kramnik will begin with 5.e3, and switch to 5.♙g5 only if he absolutely needs to.

Or maybe he'll play the English.

Anand As White

Anand almost invariably plays 1.e4. Such is his mastery of it that Khalifman has named his king pawn repertoire series (at ten books and counting) *Opening for White According to Anand*. His lifetime record against the Petroff, Kramnik's favorite defense, is a cool +30=33-4. Against Kramnik in the Petroff, he's +3=11-0. But a closer look reveals the victories came in a rapid game, a blindfold game, and a classical game where Kramnik blundered a piece in the opening. Not particularly convincing, especially in light of their Mexico City game where Anand was White: when Kramnik finally ended his preparation, Anand was a pawn down and had to play exactly to make a draw (which he did). He did better in Wijk aan Zee this year, achieving a substantial advantage, but Kramnik was still able to draw.

August 2008

Kramnik's opening philosophy with Black is based not on counterattack and initiative, but on equalization and simply not losing. It's been a winning strategy in World Championship matches: Kasparov was unable to break through the Berlin Defense in 2000 (and, in the last, must-win game, played the Catalan!), Leko was unable to get an edge against the Petroff in 2004 (and he, too, switched to 1.d4 midway through the match), and Topalov in 2006 simply avoided 1.e4 altogether. I don't expect Anand to do the same, but he'll have to think up something.

Or . . . perhaps not. Perhaps the work has been done for him! Kramnik's aura of invincibility in the Petroff was damaged in the recent Dortmund tournament, where he lost to both Naiditsch and Ivanchuk. And neither loss was a fluke: Naiditsch came up with a brilliant novelty and won a nice game, and Ivanchuk got a small edge of Bishop against Knight in an open position and then kept the pressure on until Kramnik cracked.

If Anand does vary, it will be difficult to predict what will happen. Kramnik relied on both the Slav and Semi-Slav against Topalov (not too successfully, in my opinion, at least as far as the opening battle). Against Leko, he played the QGD and the Queen's Indian and even the Benoni (true, in a must-win situation). It's difficult to predict what he would play against 1.d4 by Anand. Your guess is as good as mine!

Or Anand could play the English.

Recommended Reading

- A *From London to Elista* by Evgeny Bareev, et al. An inside account by Kramnik's second; I've not read it, but it's gotten rave reviews.
- B www.kramnik.com. Kramnik's website has games, photos and interviews with Vlad, including "From Steinitz to Kasparov," a fascinating tour of chess history through its champions.
- C www.tnq.in/vishwa.html has a nice timeline of Vishy's meteoric career. Bottom line: "Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand is quite simply, the greatest sportsman India has ever produced."

17

D www.chessbase.com/news-detail.asp?newsid=4628 gives Anand's view of the World Championship, including what he thinks of what Kramnik has been saying. This is on the excellent ChessBase site.

E *The Day Kasparov Quit and Other Chess Interviews* by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam. Excellent interviews with Kramnik and Kasparov analyzing the London match, as well as with Anand on the aborted Kasparov–Anand match in 1998. With many other great interviews (my favorite: Bronstein), this is simply a book you should read anyway!

F www.e3e5.com/article.php?id=1496. Prior to Mexico City this website asked GMs their opinions on who would win. Lots of interesting comments.

G www.uep-worldchess.com is the official match site.

H *My Life and Games* by Kramnik and Damsky.

I *Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess* by Anand & Nunn.

J *Topalov–Kramnik, 2006 World Chess Championship: On the Edge in Elista* by Topalov and Ginchev, if you want to know what really happened in “Toiletgate.”

K *Kramnik vs. Leko 2004* by Breutigam, Yusupov and Lutz. Another I don't have, but I'll recommend it anyway! Yusupov and Lutz are both excellent authors.

L Look up Anand or Kramnik on www.chessgames.com, they've played some great games!

Kramnik Defeats Anand

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Kramnik–Anand

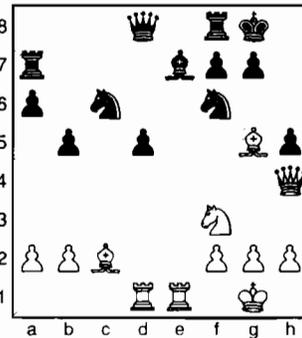
Dortmund 2001

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 ♘f6 5.♙xc4 c5 6.O-O a6 7.♙b3 cxd4 8.exd4 ♘c6 9.♘c3 ♙e7 10.♙g5 O-O 11.♙d2 ♘a5 12.♙c2 b5 13.♙f4 ♙a7 14.♙ad1 ♙b7 15.d5 ♙xd5 16.♘xd5 exd5 17.

♙h4 h5 18.♙fe1 ♘c6

White has sacrificed a pawn for an optimal position, and now comes . . .



19.g4!!

A major move.

19...♙d6 20.gxh5 ♙b4 21.h6 ♙xh4 22.♘h4 ♘e4 23.hxg7 ♙c8 24.♙xe7 ♘xe7 25.♙xe4 dxe4 26.♙xe4 ♘xg7 27.♙d6 ♙c5 28.♙g4+ ♘h7 29.♘f3 ♘g6 30.♘g5+ ♘g7 31.♘xf7 ♙xf7 32.♙dxg6+ ♘h7 33.♙g6 ♙xg5 34.♙xg5 ♙c7 35.a3 b4 36.axb4 ♙c1+ 37.♘g2 ♙b1 38.♙a5 ♙xb2 39.♙a4 1-0

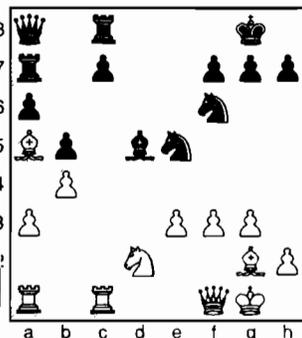
Catalan System

Kramnik–Anand

Wijk aan Zee 2007

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♙g2 ♙e7 5.♘f3 O-O 6.O-O dxc4 7.♙c2 a6 8.♙xc4 b5 9.♙c2 ♙b7 10.♙d2 ♙a7 11.♙c1 ♙e4 12.♙b3 ♘c6 13.e3 ♙a8 14.♙d1 ♘b8 15.♙a5 ♙c8 16.a3 ♙d6 17.♘bd2 ♙d5 18.♙f1 ♘bd7 19.b4 e5 20.dxe5 ♙xe5 21.♘xe5 ♘xe5 22.f3!



Square by square, White methodically takes over the board.

22...♘c4 23.♘xc4 ♙xc4 24.♙f2 ♙e8 25.e4 c6 26.♙d1 ♙d7 27.♙xd7 ♘xd7 28.♙d1 ♙b7 29.♙d6 f6 30.f4 ♙e6 31.♙d2 ♙e7 32.♙d4 ♘f8 33.♙d8 ♙d7 34.♙xd7 ♙xd7 35.♙xd7 ♘xd7 36.e5

fxe5 37.♙xc6 ♘f6 38.♙b7 exf4 39.gxf4 ♘d5 40.♘f2 ♘xf4 41.♙e3 g5 42.♙xa6 ♘f7 43.a4 ♘e7 44.♙xb5 ♙xb5 45.axb5 ♘d7 46.♙e4 ♘e2 47.♙b6 g4 48.♙f2 ♘c3+ 49.♘f5 ♘xb5 50.♘xg4 ♘e6 51.♘g5 ♘f7 52.♘f5 ♘e7 53.♙c5+ 1-0

Anglo-Benoni

Kramnik–Anand

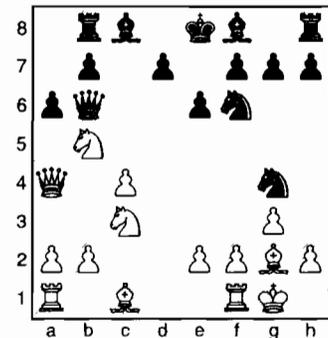
Monaco, Melody Amber (rapid) 1994

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♘c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 e6 6.g3 ♙b6 7.♘db5 ♘e5 8.♙g2 a6 9.♙a4 ♘eg4

“!” according to Portisch's notes to Hjartarson—Portisch (*Informant* 48). The idea is to prevent ♙e3.

10.O-O ♙b8



11.b4!!

Hjartarson played 11.♘a3. This is better!

11...axb5 12.♘xb5 d5 13.♘d6+ ♘e7 14.c5 ♙a6 15.♙c2 ♘e8 16.b5 ♙a8 17.♙f4 ♘xd6 18.♙xd6+ ♘e8 19.♙xb8 ♙xb8 20.a4 ♙c7 21.♙fc1 f5 22.a5 ♘e5 23.c6 b6 24.axb6 ♙xb6 25.♙a8 ♘d8 26.♙b8! 1-0

A nice final touch!

Even if you've seen it before, the following game is still worth playing over. The bright positional Queen sacrifice followed by the domination of the White Bishops is a pleasure to watch.

English Opening

Kramnik–Anand

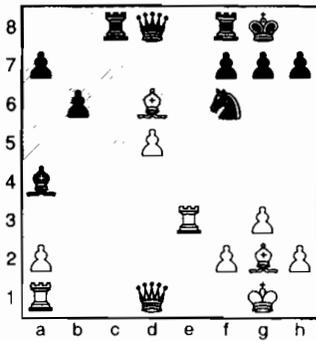
Las Palmas 1996

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 ♙b7 4.♙g2 e6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♘c3 O-O 7.♙e1 d5 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.e4 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 c5 11.d4 ♘d7 12.♙f4 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘f6

14. ♖e5 ♙b4 15. ♜e3 ♜c8 16. d5! exd5
17. exd5 ♙d6

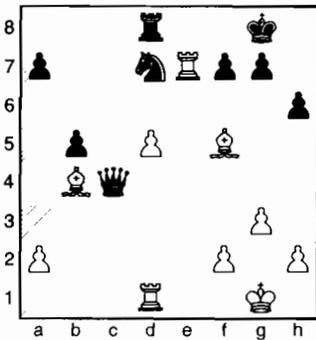
17... ♗xd5 18. ♜d3 ♜c5 19. ♙e3
♜b5 20. a4 ♜a5 21. ♗c4—Kramnik.
18. ♗c6 ♙xc6 19. ♙xd6 ♙a4



20. ♙xf8!

“!?”—Kramnik.

20... ♙xd1 21. ♙e7 ♜c7 22. ♜xd1 ♗d7
23. ♙h3 h6 24. ♙f5 b5 25. ♙b4 ♜d8
26. ♜e7 ♜c4



27. ♜xd7! ♜xd7 28. ♙xd7 ♜xb4 29. d6
♜a4 30. ♜d3 ♜e4 31. ♙xb5 ♜e1+
32. ♗g2 ♜e4+ 33. ♗g1 ♜e1+ 34. ♗g2
♜e4+ 35. ♗f1 ♜h1+ 36. ♗e2 ♜e4+
37. ♗f1 ♜h1+ 38. ♗e2 ♜e4+ 39. ♗d1
♜g4+ 40. f3 ♜h3 41. d7! 1-0

In this game both players had access to a computer. But the game is primarily strategic, with Kramnik’s passed d-pawn again proving decisive.

Queen’s Gambit Accepted

Kramnik–Anand

Leon, *Advanced Chess Match 2002*

1. ♗f3 d5 2. d4 e6 3. c4 dxc4 4. e3 c5
5. ♙xc4 ♗f6 6. O-O a6 7. ♙b3 cxd4 8.
exd4 ♗c6 9. ♗c3 ♙e7 10. ♙g5 O-O 11.
♜d2 ♗a5 12. ♙c2 b5 13. ♜ad1 ♗c4
14. ♜f4 ♜a7 15. ♗e5 ♜c7 16. ♗xc4
bxc4 17. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 18. d5 e5 19. ♜f3
♜b7 20. ♜e4 g6 21. ♜xc4 ♜xb2 22.

Northwest Chess

♙b3 ♙g5 23. d6 ♙e6 24. ♜a4 ♙xb3
25. axb3 ♜b6 26. ♜g4 ♙f4 27. ♗d5
♜d8 28. ♗xf4 exf4 29. d7 ♜xb3 30.
♜xf4 ♜b8 31. ♜fe1 ♜b6 32. h4 h5 33.
♜d6 ♜c5 34. ♜f6 ♜f5 35. ♜xf5 gxf5
36. ♜xa6 ♜fd8 37. ♜d6 1-0

...and Anand Defeats Kramnik

Queen’s Indian

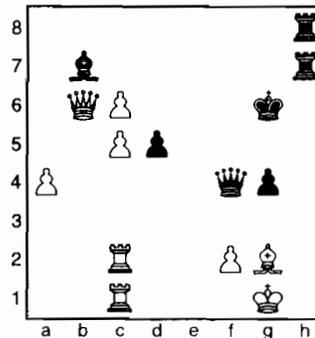
Kramnik–Anand

Monaco, *Melody Amber (rapid) 2008*

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗f3 b6 4. g3 ♙a6
5. b3 ♙b4+ 6. ♙d2 ♙e7 7. ♙g2 c6 8.
♙c3 d5 9. ♗e5 ♗fd7 10. ♗xd7 ♗xd7
11. ♗d2 O-O 12. O-O f5 13. ♜c1 ♗f6
14. ♙b2 ♙d6 15. ♗f3 ♜e7 16. ♗e5
♜ac8 17. ♗d3 ♜fd8 18. ♜e1 ♜e8 19. e3
g5 20. ♜c2 g4 21. ♜c1 ♜e7 22. ♜d1
♗e4 23. c5 bxc5 24. dxc5 ♙b8 25. ♗e5
♗g5 26. ♜a1 ♗f7 27. ♗xf7 ♗xf7 28. a4
h5 29. b4 h4 30. b5 ♙b7 31. ♜dc1 ♗g6
32. ♙e5 ♙xe5 33. ♜xe5 ♜f6 34. ♜d4
e5 35. ♜b4 hxg3 36. hxg3 ♜d7 37. ♜a5
♜h8 38. ♜xa7 f4 39. exf4 exf4 40. gxf4
♜dh7 41. ♜b6 ♜xf4 42. bxc6

How quickly would you find ...



42... ♜f3!! 43. cxb7+ ♗f5 0-1

This is perhaps Anand’s best known victory over Kramnik, coming with the Black pieces in a classical time control.

Semi-Slav Anti-Moscow Gambit

Kramnik–Anand

Belgrade 1997

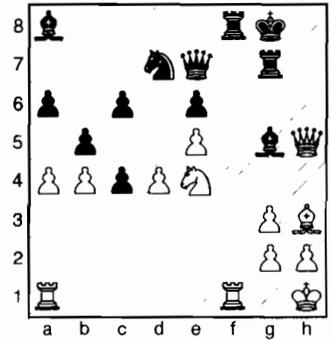
Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1. ♗f3 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗c3 d5 4. d4 c6
5. ♙g5 h6 6. ♙h4 dxc4 7. e4 g5 8. ♙g3
b5 9. ♙e2 ♙b7 10. e5 ♗h5 11. a4 a6
12. ♗xg5!?

August 2008

Garry Kasparov claims credit for showing Kramnik this line in *Revolution in the 70s*.

12... ♗xg3 13. ♗xf7! ♗xf7 14. fxg3 ♗g8
15. O-O ♗d7 16. ♙g4 ♜e7 17. ♗e4
♜h7 18. ♗d6 ♜b8 19. b4 h5 20. ♙h3
♙h6 21. ♗h1 ♙g5 22. ♜c2 ♜g7 23.
♜e2 ♙a8 24. ♜xh5 ♜f8 25. ♗e4



Things look grim for Black. If 25... ♙e3, simply 26. ♜xf8+ decides, while otherwise ♗xg5 and ♙xe6 is good for White, e.g., 25...c5 ♗xg5 ♜xg5 27. ♙xe6+ ♗g7 28. ♜h4! cxd4 29. ♙xd7 ♜xf1+ 30. ♜xf1 ♜xe5 31. ♜xd4 (the variation given by Anand in *Informant 71*). But something must be done, the Bishop is about to be captured ...

25...c5!! 26. ♗xg5 ♙d5!
27. ♗f3 cxb4

The Bishop is gone, but the tables have turned! Black is much better.

28. axb5 axb5 29. ♗h4 ♜g5 30. ♜xf8+ ♗xf8 31. ♜e8 ♜f7 32. ♗f3 ♜g6 33. ♜xb5 b3 34. ♜f1 ♜d3 35. ♗g1 ♜e3+ 36. ♗h1 c3 37. ♙xe6 ♙xe6 38. d5 ♜xf3 39. gxf3 ♙h3 40. ♜c4 ♙xf1 41. ♜g4+ ♗h7 42. e6 ♗g6 0-1

Kramnik’s use of the Petroff and the Berlin defenses doesn’t win him many fans, but against Anand it’s a wise strategy. Witness the following:

Sicilian Najdorf

Anand–Kramnik

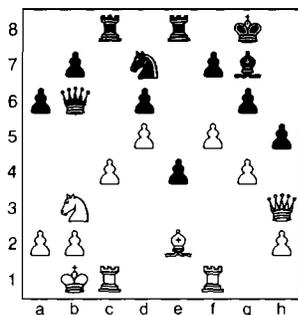
Dortmund (rapid) 2004

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

1. e4 c5!?! 2. ♗f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4
♗f6 5. ♗c3 a6 6. ♙e3 e5 7. ♗b3 ♙e6
8. f3 h5 9. ♗d5 ♙xd5 10. exd5 ♗bd7
11. ♜d2 g6 12. ♗a5 ♜c7 13. ♙e2 ♙g7
14. O-O-O ♜c8 15. ♗b1 O-O 16. ♜c1 e4

19

17.f4 ♖c5 18.♗b3 ♖a4 19.c3 ♜fe8
20.♞hf1 ♗b6 21.c4 ♗g4 22.f5 ♗xe3
23.♞xe3 ♗d7 24.g4! ♞b6 25.♞h3!



White is aiming to open the entire kingside, not just the f-file. Black's play is not nearly as fast.

25...♗c5 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.gxh5 ♗xb3
28.axb3 ♞d4 29.♞c2 ♞f8 30.♞d1 ♞f6
31.♗g4 1-0

Anand is known for a willingness to sacrifice, typically a pawn or the Ex-change, for active piece play. Here it works perfectly:

Sicilian Maroczy Bind

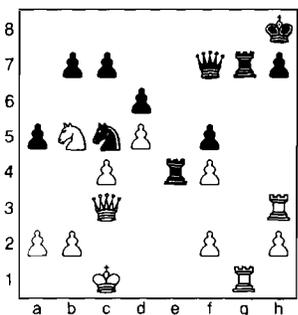
Kramnik–Anand

Amsterdam 1996

Annotations by NM Nat Koons

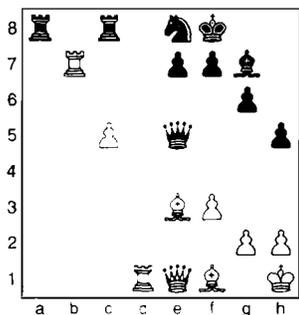
1.♗f3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
♗c6 5.e4 ♗f6 6.♗c3 d6 7.♗e2 ♗xd4
8.♞xd4 ♗g7 9.♗e3 O-O 10.♞d2 ♗e6
11.O-O a6 12.f3 ♞a5 13.♞ab1 ♞fc8

Interview cont'd from page 11



27...♞xc4 28.♞xc4 ♞xg1+ 29.♗c2
♞g2 30.♞d4+ ♞g7 31.♞xg7+ ♞xg7
32.♞e3 ♗e4 33.♗d4 ♞g2 34.♗xf5
♞xf2+ 35.♗d3 ♞xf4 36.♞xe4 ♞xf5
37.♗d4 ♗g7 38.b3 ♗f7 39.a3 ♞f3 40.
♞h4 ♗g6 41.♞g4+ ♗f6 42.♞h4 ♞xb3
43.♞xh7 ♞xa3 44.♞xc7 ♞a4+ 45.
♗d3 b5 46.♞h7 ♞f4 47.♗e3 ♞g4 48.
h3 ♞c4 49.♞h6+ ♗e7 50.♞h7+ ♗d8
51.h4 a4 52.h5 a3 53.h6 a2 0-1

14.♞fc1 ♞ab8 15.b4 ♞d8 16.c5 a5
17.a3 axb4 18.axb4 ♞a8 19.♗f1 h5
20.♞e1 ♗e8 21.♗h1 ♗f8 22.♗d5
♗xd5 23.exd5 dxc5 24.bxc5 ♞xd5
25.♞d1 ♞e5 26.♞xb7



26...♞xc5! 27.f4

White will regret this weakening.

27...♞e4 28.♞b4 ♞c6 29.♗xc5 ♞xc5
30.♞b5 ♞c3 31.♞e4 ♞c8 32.♞b7
♗f6 33.f5 g5 34.♞bb1 ♗d6 35.♞d3
♞e5 36.♞e2 ♞c5!

The Queen and Knight are cooperating well; if 37.♞xh5 ♗e4!

37.♞e1 h4 38.♞f3 ♞xf5 39.♗d3?!
♞xf3 40.gxf3 ♞c3 41.♞bd1 ♞a3 42.
♗g2 ♞a5 43.♞e2 e6 44.♞c1 ♗e5 45.
♞c6 ♗e7 46.♞a6 ♗d5 47.♞a3 ♗f6
48.♞b3 ♞a5 49.♞c2 ♞a4 50.♞e2
♞a5 51.♗h3 ♗f4 52.♗g2 ♗e8 53.
♞b7 ♞a3 54.♗h7 ♗d6 55.♞b4 ♞c3
56.♞c2 ♞e3 57.♞f2 ♞e1 58.♞b1
♞e3 59.♞b4 ♗g7 60.♗c2 ♗e8 61.
♞b3 ♞e1 62.♞b1 ♞e5 63.♞b7 ♞c5

Sicilian Maroczy Bind

IM Jesus Rodriguez (CUB)

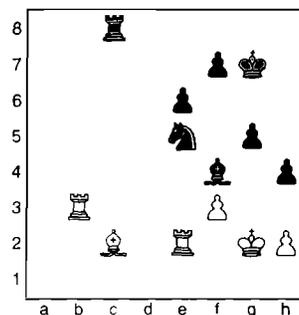
NM Jan Verstraeten (NLD)

Örebro, Student Team (ch) 1966

1.c4 ♗f6 2.♗c3 g6 3.e4 c5 4.♗f3 ♗g7
5.d4 cxd4 6.♗xd4 ♗c6 7.♗e3 ♗g4 8.
♞xg4 ♗xd4 9.♞d1 ♗e6 10.♞d2 O-O
11.♗e2 d6 12.O-O ♗d7 13.♞ac1 b6
14.f4 ♗c6 15.f5 ♗c5 16.♗f3 ♞c8 17.
♗h6 a5 18.♗g4 ♞c7 19.♞f3 f6 20.
♗e3 ♞e8 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.♗xc5 bxc5
23.♗e6+ ♞f7 24.♗d5 ♞b7 25.♞g3
♗d7 26.♗xd7 ♞xd7 27.♞xg6 f5
28.♗f4 ♞f6 29.♞xf6 ♗xf6 30.♞d5+
♗g7 31.♗e6+ ♗h8 32.♞xf5 ♞xb2
33.♞h5+ ♗g8 34.♞g6+ ♗h8 35.♗f8
1-0

According to my research, IM Rodriguez won the Cuban Championship in

64.♞e2 ♗d6 65.♞d7 ♗f6 66.♗h7
♗c4 67.♞d3 ♗e5 68.♞b3 ♗g7 69.
♗e4 ♞c1 70.♗b1 ♞c8 71.♗c2



71...h3+! 72.♗xh3 ♗c6!

With the double threat of ...♞h8+ and ...♗d4.

73.♞c3 ♞h8+ 74.♗g2 ♗d4 75.♞f2
♞xh2+ 76.♗f1 ♞h1+ 77.♗g2 ♞c1!

White is completely tied up.

78.♞c4 ♗e3 79.♞xd4 ♗xd4 80.♞e2
♗f6 81.♗h2 ♞a1 82.♗g2 ♞g1+
83.♗h2 g4 84.♞g2 ♞c1 85.♗g3 gxf3
86.♗xf3 ♗e5 87.♞e2+ ♗d6 88.♞d2
♗e7 89.♞e2 ♗c5 90.♗g2 ♗d6

And the Black pawns began to move forward. Anand won on move 108.

91.♗b3 ♞c3 92.♗a2 ♗f4 93.♗b1 ♗f6
94.♗a2 e5 95.♞b2 ♗g6 96.♞b6+ f6
97.♗b1+ ♗g5 98.♞b8 ♗g4 99.♞g8+
♗g5 100.♞f8 ♞b3 101.♗g6 ♞b2+
102.♗f1 ♗f3 103.♗h5+ ♗f4 104.♗g6
e4 105.♞e8 f5 106.♞f8 ♞b5 107.♗h7
♗g4 108.♗g6 ♗e3 0-1

1969, 1971, and 1972. Does anyone know where I could find the games of these tournaments?

Interviewer's Note: Several people e-mailed me to say they liked the interview with GM Gregory Serper. I would like to apologize to him for not listing his contact information as requested.

GM Gregory Serper
is available for individual
and group lessons, and
can be reached at:
(425) 562-4283

Readers, send me feedback of any kind, at: nwkoons@yahoo.com.

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Family: \$5/year (**not a subscription — membership only**). Open only to co-resident of an Adult or Junior member. Expires at the same time. *If first member is a junior (\$17/year), additional family member(s) must also be juniors.*

For general information, Eric Holcomb (541) 647-1021, e-mail: Eric@Holcomb.com

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Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Type(s) _____ Total Membership Amount \$ _____

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Tax jurisdiction: _____ Sales tax rate: _____ % Tax on membership amount: \$ _____

A tax rate table is available on the Northwest Chess website. Memberships received without the correct tax will be valid for 11 months instead of 12 (5 months for scholastic option).

Total: \$ _____

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

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Clubs, organizers, etc.

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NW Chess Business Manager
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Win a Free Room at the 26th Annual Sands Regency

Reno-Western States Open (Reno, NV, October 16-19, 2008)

Official 'Free Room in Reno' Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail (optional) _____

Official Contest Rules/Information

- 1 Contest promoter/sponsor: Sands Regency Casino Hotel, 345 N Arlington Ave. Reno NV 89501 in cooperation with **Northwest Chess, c/o Eric Holcomb, Business Manager, 1900 NE Third St, Ste 106-361, Bend OR 97701**
- 2 One prize will be awarded consisting of a free standard hotel room at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel, Reno, NV for the nights of October 16-19, 2008, corresponding to the dates of the Reno-Western States Open chess tournament. Tournament entry not required and is not included in the prize. Free hotel room is for 1 or 2 guests, and a charge for additional family members will apply. All other applicable provisions of hotel room rental at the Sands Regency shall apply.
- 3 Contest open to legal residents of Washington and Oregon, or other U.S. states where not restricted by state law. There is a limit of one entry per individual or family residing at the same address. A parent or legal guardian must enter on behalf of any minor under the age of 18, and must accompany the minor during his/her stay at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel.
- 4 Employees or board members of *Northwest Chess* or the Sands Regency Casino Hotel or its parent company are not eligible.
- 5 Prize is transferable to a different eligible person, but not to any other room rental dates.
- 6 The approximate retail value of the prize is \$200, and the odds of winning will be at least 1/750. Actual odds of winning will be higher if not all printed entry forms are returned.
- 7 All entrants must use the official entry form as printed above in *Northwest Chess* (NWC) magazine, and **all entries must be mailed to the NWC Business Manager at the address listed in rule #1**. Photocopies or other reproduced copies are not acceptable.
- 8 **Entry forms must be received by September 15, 2008**, and the winner will be announced on September 17, 2008.
- 9 Contest winner will be responsible for any applicable taxes on the retail value of the prize.
- 10 Contest winner agrees that his/her name may be published in *Northwest Chess* magazine, and that he/she may receive promotional mailings from Sands Regency Casino Hotel or its parent company.

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

Seattle Fall Open

September 26-28 or September 27-28

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/2 & SD/1 (except Rd 1 of the 2-day option — G/64) with a prize fund of \$1000 based on 58 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

A Harman Memorial Grand Prix event

Open: \$180 gtd-\$120 gtd, U2200 \$100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90

Reserve (U1700): \$110-\$80, U1550 \$70, U1450 \$65, U1350 \$60, UNR \$30

Entry Fees: \$33 by 9/24, \$42 at site. SCC members — subtract \$9. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA — subtract \$4. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

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

Byes: 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** USCF & WCF required. NS. NC.

The Green Open at the SCC

September 13-14

A four-round, two-section, Swiss with a time control of G/90 + 30 seconds per move. The prize fund of \$660 is fully guaranteed and prizes will be increased if more than 40 players. TD: H.G. Pitre. Limited to 48 players.

Open		Reserve (U1800)	
First	\$140	First	\$70
Second	\$100	Second	\$60
Third	\$80	Third	\$50
U2000	\$80	U1600	\$40
		U1400	\$40

Entry Fee: \$32 in advance, \$37 at site. **Discounts:** \$4—member of any NW CCs; \$4—arriving by bus, bike, foot, or carpool; \$4—junior or senior.

Registration: Sat. 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Rounds: Sat. 10-3:30, Sun. 10-3:30.

Half-point byes: commit by registration.

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF memberships required. Coupons redeemable with local merchants will be available at this event. A Master will lecture on an educational topic for players rated 1800 or below starting about 2:45 p.m. each day.

Entry/Info: H.G. Pitre, 700 Crockett Street #105, Seattle WA 98109; 206-284-9314; hgpitre@gmail.com.

Save gas, save the Earth!

The SCC is served by Metro bus routes 347 & 348. A bus departs every half-hour each evening to Northgate.

SCC Championship

Sept. 5, 12, 19, Oct. 3, 10, 24, Nov. 7

Format: 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings. **TC:** 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$28 if rec'd by 9/3, \$35 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd — special \$24 tnmt memb. **Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m. **Make-up Games/Alternate Schedule for Rds 1-3:** 8 p.m. Wed. Oct. 1—1 make-up (G/75) game; 11-2:30-6 Sat. Oct 4—3 make-up (G/90) games. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/17). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Aug 10, Sept 21

SCC Sunday Tornado

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

October 4

SCC Lo-Roller Octagonal

Format: 3-SS, 8-
EF: \$10 (+\$5 fee for
\$16 (b/8). **Reg:** 10-10:45
Misc: USCF, WCF/OCF memb.

plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/90.
non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st \$32, 2nd
a.m. **Rds:** 11-2:30-6.
req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

NEW EVENT!!

Future Events

♣ indicates a Christopher Memorial NW Grand Prix event

Aug 9 WA Blitz Championships
Site: *Crossroads Mall*, 15600 NE Eighth St, Bellevue WA 98008.
Format: 2 sec. (Open, K-12), 7x2-SS. **TC:** G/5. **EF:** *Open* \$25 if rec'd by 7/12, \$30 thereafter. *K-12* \$15. **Prize Fund:** 60% of EFs.
Prizes: *Open* based on entries (includes u21). *K-12* trophies & medals. **Reg:** noon-12:25 pm. **Rds:** 1st rd – 12:30. **Misc:** *Open* WCF memb. req'd. **Rules:** clock move; illegal move – add 2 min to opp. **Info/Ent:** 425-283-0549, chess4life.com (*Open* by 7/12); Chess4Life Center, 13555 Bel-Red Rd, Ste 200, Bellevue WA 98005.

Aug 23 Summer Lightning
Site: *Manito Park* (just inside the main entrance), 1702 S Grand Blvd, Spokane, WA 99203. **Format:** Single or Double RR. **TC:** G/10. **EF:** \$11 (can be paid at club or at site). UNR free w/ purch. 1-yr. USCF+WCF. **Prize fund:** 100% payout. **Prizes:** \$100 (b/10), other prizes b/entries. **Reg:** 10-10:30 a.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. Coffee & snacks provided. **Info:** David Griffin, 509-928-3260, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

Aug 23, Sept 27 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.

Aug 23-24 Tacoma Summer Open
Site: *Tacoma CC*, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm 11, 2nd flr (DTI Soccer Bldg). **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** G 120. **EF:** \$30 in advance, \$40 at site. Juniors: \$20, \$25. Economy (no Prizes): \$12. UNR free w/ purch. 1-yr. USCF+WCF. **Prize fund:** 67% of full-pay EFs. **Prizes:** 25%, top 3rd 15%, middle 3rd 14%, bottom 3rd 13% (2 prz grps if fewer than 9 full EFs). **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **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. ggarychess@aol.com.

From the Business Manager:

Need sample copies of *Northwest Chess* for use at scholastic tournaments or other chess events?

Please contact
Gary Dorfner (Washington)
 or
Eric Holcomb (Oregon)
 to request sample copies.

Sept 6-7 All-Economy Tacoma Fall Open
Site: *Tacoma CC*, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm 11, 2nd flr (DTI Soccer Bldg). **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** Rd 1-G/60, Rd 2-G/90, Rds 3-5-G/120. **EF:** \$12. **Prize fund:** None. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-1-4, 10-3 or ASAP. **Byes:** Two ½-pt. byes avail. on request. No unwanted byes; Steve Buck will be houseman. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb. req'd. OSA. NS. NC. **Ent/Info:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445; 253-535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

Sept 27-28 Eastern Washington Open
Site: *Schoenberg Ctr (Rm 201)*, Gonzaga U., N 900 Pearl St, Spokane (SW corner of campus – 1 blk E of Division/Ruby off DeSmet Ave). **Format:** 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$21 by 9/26, \$26 at site. \$5 discount for u18. **Prize Fund:** \$\$725 gtd. **Prizes:** \$150-125, A 65-35, B 65-35, C 65-35, D/E/unr 65-35, Upset 50. Add'l classes/prizes poss. if entries exceed 30. Class prizes b/5 per class; classes/prizes may be reconfigured if less than 5 class entries. **Reg:** Sat. 8:30-9:30 a.m. **Rds:** Sat 10-2:30-7, Sun 9-1:30 (or ASAP). **Byes:** One ½-pt. bye avail. if requested by end of preceding rd (rd 3 for any Sunday bye). **Misc:** USCF membership req'd. TD reserves right to use class pairings in final rd. NS. NC. W. **Info:** 509-270-1772 (cell); www.spokanechessclub.org. **Entries:** Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo N 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339



Chess4Life	for K-8	various sites WA
Elliott Neff 425-283-0549	kids@chess4life.com	www.chess4life.com
Aug 11-15	.....	Bellevue WA
18-22	.....	Sammamish WA
18-22	.....	Bellevue WA
21-28	Chess Camp at Sea	Alaska Cruise
25-29	.....	Bellevue WA

Chess Odyssey	for ages 6-19	various sites OR
503-504-5756	pete@chessodyssey.com	www.chessodyssey.com
Aug 18-22	.....	Beaverton OR

Chess Vision	for ages 5-18	various sites OR
Tony Hann 503-880-0581	www.chessvision.net	
Aug 11-15	.....	North Wilsonville OR

Evergreen School	Shoreline WA	
D. Larway summerprogram@evergreenschool.org	206-957-1533	
Aug 11-15	Siamese (ages 6-15)	
18-22	Super-Advanced (ages 8-15)	

WGM Elena Donaldson & IM Georgi Orlov	various sites WA	
206-363-6511	chess64@comcast.net	www.chessplayer.com/camps2007.htm
Aug 11-15	grades 8-12	Seattle WA
18-22	grades K-6	Woodinville WA
25-29	grades K-8	Bellevue WA

Open Events

August 2008

8,15,22	TCC Summer Championship (rds 2-4)	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
9	WA Blitz Championships	www.chess4life.com	Bellevue WA
10	SCC Sunday Tornado NEW DATE	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
13	Simultaneous Exhibition	mark.ryan@translation.net www.calandersonpark.org	Seattle WA
15-17	Seafair Open	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
23	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
23	Summer Lightning	David Griffin 509-928-3260 dbgriffin@hotmail.com	Spokane WA
23-24	Tacoma Summer Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
30	Java Fusion Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
30-Sep 1	Oregon Open	www.pdxchess.org	Gresham OR

September 2008

5,12,19	SCC Championship (rds 1-3)	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
5,12,19	TCC Fall Quads	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
6	PCC Saturday Quads	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
6-7	All-Economy Tacoma Fall Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
9	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
13-14	The Green Open at the SCC	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
17	Blindfold Exhibition	mark.ryan@translation.net www.calandersonpark.org	Seattle WA
21	SCC Sunday Tornado	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
26	TCC Championship (rd 1)	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
26-28	Seattle Fall Open	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
27	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
27	Java Fusion Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
27-28	Eastern Washington Open	David Griffin 509-928-3260 dbgriffin@hotmail.com	Spokane WA
30	PCC Championship (rd 1)	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR

October 2008

1	SCC Championship (make-up)	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
3,10,24	SCC Championship (rds 4-6)	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
4	SCC Lo-Roller Octagonal	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
4	SCC Champ. (make-up/alt. sched. 1-3)	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
3,10,17,24,31	TCC Championship (rds 2-6)	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
4	PCC Saturday Quads	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
7,14,21,28	PCC Championship (rds 2-5)	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
11	SCC Saturday Quads	SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org	Seattle WA
17-19	Western States Open	Jerry Weikel 775-747-1405 wackykl@aol.com www.renochess.org/wso	Reno NV
18	Java Fusion Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
18	Action tournament	mark.ryan@translation.net www.calandersonpark.org	Seattle WA
18-19	Portland Fall Open	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
25	♯ PCC Game-in-60	503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org	Portland OR
25-26	Halloween Open	253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA

NOTE: A 'P' 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

For Summer Camp information see page 23

August 2008

13	TCC Wed. Kids Night	Gary 253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
17	Elena's Blitz IV	www.chessplayer.com	Kirkland WA
24	Sammamish August Quads	www.groupchessclass.info	Sammamish WA

October 2008

15	TCC Wed. Kids Night	Gary 253-535-2536 ggrychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com	Tacoma WA
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USCF NATIONAL Scholastics

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

Nov. 7-9

National Youth Action

Brownsville TX

Dec. 12-14

National K-12/Collegiate Championship

Kissimmee FL

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.