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and the International Space Station.*

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ated! Donor list accounting will be restarted January 2009.*

From the Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



Ground Control to Major Tom....

Fred Kleist edited this magazine for the last six years. That's a very long time to be editor of *NWC*, especially when we're talking about consecutive years, maybe a record. Perhaps some chess historian with an extensive collection of back issues could do some research on this.

With his excellent October issue, Fred left me some big shoes to fill. And with his very classy exit strategy, he built up expectations. So what can I do to meet the high standards and high expectations of the *Northwest Chess* subscriber?

How about a trip to space?

Alas, I can't really send you to space. At \$20 million per, that's a tad beyond my budget. But I can, with the help of coach David Hendricks and the Stevenson Elementary Chess Team, bring space here to you, with the story of how the Stevenson team video-conferenced at Bellevue Community College with a NASA astronaut live from the International Space Station. We've got cute kid pictures, of course, including the front cover. Plus, you can participate in the *Earth vs Space* chess match. Just make sure you buy the round-trip ticket.

More cute kid pictures come from Dr. Nancy Keller's *Falling Leaves* (scholastic tournament in Coquille, Oregon). Xiaoli Wang tells us about two girls who went to the *2008 Polgar* invitational tournament, and Daniel Gay completes our scholastic theme with his *Denker Tournament Experiences*. Maybe next time they'll include some games, too.

The 12-game World Chess Championship Match has started in Bonn, with Anand leading 3.5-1.5 as of this writing (October 20). This month Harley Greninger speculates a bit on the openings from which the two contenders, Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, might score their points. By early November we should know for sure, but for now we have *Opening Arguments*. One surprise already is Anand's choice of 1. d4 for his first two games as white. He won games three and five with black(!), playing the Slav, Meran variation.

In September, many of the strongest women players in the world headed to Nalchik, Russia, for the *Women's World Championships*, and Elena Donaldson has graciously written about the event for us. Yes, we have a new champion, though due to her modeling and movie appearances, Alexandra Kosteniuk was probably already one of the best known women players in the world. WGM Donaldson shows us some of the middle-game strategies from the tournament.

Bill McGeary annotates *Geller-Spassky, 1964*, and makes the argument that when searching for a needle in a haystack, it's hard to go wrong with Spassky as your guide. Personally, I'd use a strong magnet, but that's just me.

Once through the opening and middlegame stage, we reach.... well, you know what we reach. The evil part of the game, that segment of chess that requires machine-like precision, rote memorization, and hours of drudgery looking at positions with few pieces on the board, fewer minutes on the clock, and often no queens. I mean, how can someone be expected the checkmate brilliantly with no queen? Our new columnist, Dana Muller, claims that this much-maligned stage of the chess game is actually a time of tactics, strategy, and beauty, *And In The End....* it is worth falling in love with the endgame, especially if you want to win.

Eric Holcomb tells us the current status of *Chess in Central Oregon*.... Josh Sinanan reveals Seattle's new secret weapon in *Sluggers Acquire Rohonyan*.... Kevin Korsmo reports on the 2008 *Eastern Washington Open*.... Russell Miller gives us more *NWC History* than we can shake a stick at.... Duane Polich shares an essential *Publisher's Desk*.... and Hanneign Pitre writes about the *Green Open*. Gary Dorfner brings us the *Scholastic Round-up* of the past month or so. Don't worry, the type gets smaller as the page numbers get larger. You can find even more chess content, as well as OCF bylaws changes, contact information for state officers, and a new on-line discussion forum at www.nwchess.com.

Are we ready to begin? Start the clock, please.

Commencing countdown, engines on....



Stevenson Elementary Chess Team. From left to right: Kevin Ma, Nathan Chou, Eric Chen, Kumho Chun, Daniel Hua, Kevin Qiu, Stephen Embry, Amith Vanmane, Patrick Wang, Jiayi Hu; Middle row: Brandon Wang, Allen Yuan, Robert Zhang, Grace Sun, Leanne Hwa, Brian Yu; Back row: Coach David Hendricks, Coach Harlan Lee. Not pictured: Coach Elliott Neff, Nikolai Warner, Jeffrey Yan. Photo credit: Qiang Wang.



Earth vs Space

by
**David
Hendricks**

Earth is taking on Space in a chess match which started Sep 28th 2008, and Bellevue's Stevenson Elementary Chess Team is in the thick of it.

ChessMagnetSchool.com, working with the USCF and NASA, has set up a chess match between astronaut Gregory Chamitoff, currently on the International Space Station, and earth. Earth is being represented by 11 members of the Stevenson Elementary Chess team, who took the 2008 K-3 National Championship and the K-5U900 National Championship last April in Pittsburg PA.

American astronaut Gregory Chamitoff, born in Montreal Canada, but raised in California, has a BS in Electrical Engineering, an MS in Aeronautical Engineering, a Ph.D in Aeronautics and Astronautics, and another MS in Planetary Geology (busy guy!). He has developed autonomous flight vehicles, written papers on spacecraft guidance, and was a crew member on the Aquarius undersea research habitat. He also does scuba diving, backpacking, flying, racquetball, Aikido, juggling, magic, and guitar. Talk about the right stuff! He is spending 6 months on the International Space Station, scheduled to return November 2008.

And he plays chess. He doesn't have an official USCF rating, but he has won all his games against the Houston NASA ground control in previous matches. He played chess as a young man and organized some chess matches informally.

Hal Bogner, Marty Hirsch, and Harlan Lee (from Bellevue WA), designers of ChessMagnetSchool.com, a website that is used by many Washington Elementary kids to learn chess, set up this match. Hal picked the

Stevenson Chess team to represent earth since they were the National K-3 champions. Astronaut Greg is playing the white pieces using a Velcro chess board (I guess a magnetic chess set would interfere with delicate electronics on board). You can hear a loud ripping sound as he picks up a piece - then he lets it float in space before setting it down. He sends down his move to Houston ground control, who gives it to Hal, who puts it up on a website at <http://uschess.org/nasa2008>. Then Stevenson gets involved. The 11 national team members now in 3rd through 5th grades all vote on 3 choices for their response as black. The coaches don't prompt them on their choices - this is the kid's game. As coach, I get to collect their votes and pass the top 4 candidate moves back to Hal, who puts it up on the website and opens up voting to the earth team. Anyone from earth (sorry, no extra-terrestrials allowed) can then vote on any of the 4 choices, and the move that gets the most votes is selected as earth's move.

At of this writing (Oct 13th 2008), the game has proceeded as follows:

1. d4 Nf6
2. Nf3 d5
3. Bf4 c5
4. e3 Nc6
5. Bb5 Qa5+

We are facing the London System. Check the website to see subsequent moves to the game. The game proceeds at a slow pace, about 1 move every 48 hours. Greg can only play as his time allows; he has a lot of science experiments he is in charge of. Once, the game was delayed while we waited for the astronauts to boost the space station into a higher orbit to prepare for docking.

But that is not all! Greg decided he

would like to talk face to face with his challengers. So we setup a live video link. Bellevue Community College had the equipment and technical personnel to make this happen on our end, and NASA took care of their end. BCC tried to point a receiver dish at the NASA satellite, but it was too low on the horizon and there were too many trees in the way. So Hal had to purchase time on a different satellite that was high enough in the sky for BCC to see, and we bounced the transmission back from earth up to the second satellite, then down to Bellevue. This created about a 5 second delay in the transmission. We had 10 kids from Stevenson get out of school and go to BCC on Thursday, Oct 10th for the live feed. The kids sat on risers on stage with a TV set in front where we could see Greg, and a camera on the kids so Greg could see us.

We had the kids think up a question they wanted to ask Greg, and we had to pass the questions by NASA first to get approved. Each kid had one question, written on a 3x5 card, ready to ask. 10 minutes before we went live, I get a phone call from Houston, saying "Delete question 4". I had to scramble to figure out which question that was, and what was wrong with it. Turned out, it was "Have you ever got sick in space and thrown up?" Typical kid question, but maybe not the public image NASA wanted in their broadcast going out to the world. So I frantically replaced it with another question.

We had Jennie Mayer, the BCC Chess Club director give some introductions to an audience of about 100 consisting of chess parents, media, BCC faculty, students, and other guests. Then Harlan spoke and thanked everyone involved. Elliott Neff introduced the kids to the audience. Art

Goss, the BCC astronomy professor had a slide show about the International Space Station, its trajectory over the earth, some stories about astronauts landing off course in Russia and fending off wolves for 24 hours before they were found, etc. It was quite entertaining.

The broadcast started on time at 11:05am. After Houston confirmed they had a connection to the International Space Station, as moderator, I got to start off with "Station, this is the Stevenson Chess team from Bellevue WA, how do you hear us?" Then we waited for 5 seconds of silence, then we hear back from Greg, "I hear you loud and clear". We had only 20 minutes, so after a brief introduction, we got right into the kids questions which they asked themselves:

"My name is Jiayi Hu, I am in 5th grade, and my question is: Do you think there is intelligent life on other planets?"

Greg responded that the universe is huge, he can really see that better from space, and that just our galaxy is 100,000 light years across, and that it would be an enormous waste of space if there wasn't life out there somewhere."

Then the kids asked more questions and got answers:

"How has chess helped you in your career as an astronaut?"

"It helped me to think logically and stimulate my mind – doing well in science and math is important in working on the space station – chess is a great game to prepare kids for the future – your generation will take us to Mars and beyond".

"When you are floating in space, have you ever hurt

yourself?"

"Well, you do have to be careful, there is no gravity here, but heavy things still have mass and you can hurt yourself if you bump into them."

"How do you exercise in space?"

"We have exercise equipment like stationary bikes and treadmills, but we need bungee cords to hold us down. We exercise for 2 hours a day to avoid losing muscle and bone mass."

"What landmarks can you see from space?"

Greg was over Australia at the time, and he said he can see from one end of the Australian continent to the other. He also can see the Egyptian pyramids, and the Grand Canyon in Arizona really stands out. When he goes over Seattle, he can see all the way up to Alaska, and all the way down to Southern California. The "boot" of Italy really stands out.

"Do you have any food cravings and what is the first thing you want to eat when you return?"

"The food is pretty good up here, but we don't have anything cold, so I crave chocolate ice-cream"

"Would a goldfish survive in space?"

"Yes, the water is held together with surface tension, and you could even have the top of the bowl open to the air, but if the fish swam out of the water, there would be no gravity to pull him back in."

"What is the craziest thing you have done in space?"

"When the Japanese delivered a new module, all 10 astronauts went inside

and did flips and acrobatics since there was so much room inside”.

My favorite question - *“How did you get the OK from your mom to become an astronaut when it is so risky?”* (Kids have different worries than adults)

“My parents were very supportive – my mom (I call her Astro-mom) was nervous on blastoff, but is better now – anything worthwhile involves some risk, but it is pretty safe up here.”

“What does blast-off feel like, and would you do it again?”

“You bet I would, it was a blast, it was not that bad, smoother than I expected, kind of like a Disney ride – it was emotionally overwhelming, after preparing for it all my life”

At the close, as we were signing off, I gave Greg a warning that these kids were good, and they were not going to go easy on him. Then Greg did a couple of flips for us. I then said to the kids off camera, OK, your turn, all of you do a flip now (just kidding). The kids thought this event was awesome - very cool.

The event was taped and will be shown from time to time on NASA TV. Comcast carries NASA TV periodically on channel 76 in the Bellevue area, it may also be available on Direct TV. KOMO Radio was there, the Bellevue Reporter is covering the event, we had media inquires from Washington DC, and even the Dutch Childrens newspaper Kidsweek.

These Web sites have more information about the event and the game:

NASA site: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition17/chess_opponents.html

USCF site: <http://uschess.org/nasa2008>



Seattle Chess Club

17517 15th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
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www.seattlechess.org
cfkleist@cs.com

November Weekend Events:

Oct 31- Nov 2, 3rd SCC Extravaganza!! 7-SS.
Registration: Fri 7:00 PM or Sat 9:00 AM.

Nov 1, Side Event Blitz, 9:30 PM.
Nov 8, Saturday Quads, 9:00 AM.
Nov 9, SCC Novice, 9:00 AM.
Nov 22, Sunday Tornado, 10:30 AM.

Friday Night Events:

November Rains: Oct 31; Nov 7, 14, 21.
SCC Championship (round 7): Nov 7.

See October NWC for more details.
Entries: SCC Tnmt Dir,
2420 S 137 St, Seattle, WA 98168

Falling Leaves



by
Dr.
Nancy
Keller



Elementary trophy winners. Photo credit: Dr. Nancy Keller

Saturday, October 11th, leaves were falling but so were some kings at the October Falling Leaves Coquille Scholastic Chess Tournament. It was a small turnout due to the conflict of soccer, but 37 dedicated scholastic chess players attended.

Two elementary players were placed in the older division to give them more competition. Simon Venter, a fourth grader from Roseburg, played Jessi Ross, Coquille's top rated player, for an exciting game but her single pawn advantage in the end game allowed her to complete the game with a win. Jessi remained undefeated in the upper division to claim first place overall but Simon lost only that single game and got third place overall. Seth Perkins also fell to Jessi as his single loss and got second place overall. Josiah Perkins, a third grader from Coquille, lost a game against his older brother Seth and then fell to Simon's skills to end up sixth place overall.

Marshfield High School had lots of new players for their ten member team but Coquille's experienced players won with a large point advantage to get first place in the High School Team division. Marshfield took second and Myrtle Point took third.

Coquille Valley Middle School eeked out a win over North Bend Middle School who took second. Sunset Middle School got third.

In the elementary section, three players battled it out and managed a win against each other so no one was undefeated. Jace Sperling, by tiebreakers got first place overall, followed by Kaden Johnson in second place and Cassie Daily in third, each with only a single loss. Two of the players in the elementary section were preschoolers Angelina Morones and Johnathan Huffman, showing that serious chess can be played at the age of 4!

There were also four brave parents that participated in the adult tournament to get a taste of the stress the scholastic players undergo. They got to feel the thrill of success and feel the horror of making bad moves. Final results were: Mark Stephens first place, Jeffrey Sperling second place, Dawid Simon third place and Amanda Davidson fourth place.

11th-12th grade

First: Alyshia Fox—Coos Bay
Second: Jordan Weeker—Coos Bay

9th-10th grade

First: Jessi Ross—Coquille
Second: Seth Perkins—Coquille
Third: Stephen Mast—Coquille

8th grade

First: Devin Johnson—Coquille
Second: Michael Stephens—Coos Bay
Third: Chase Pickett—Coos Bay

7th grade

First: Steven Joel—North Bend
Second: Jordan LeBlanc—North Bend
Third: Lino Wilson—North Bend

6th grade

First: Sarai Perkins—Coquille
Second: Kaitlyn Davidson—Coquille
Third: Tim McNair—Coquille

5th grade

First: Cassie Daily—Coquille
Second: Emily Terry—Coquille

4th grade

First: Jace Sperling—Coquille
Second: Kaden Johnson—Coquille
Third: James Hopper—Coquille

3rd grade

First: Tianna Huffman—Coquille
Second: Julius Pratt—Homeschool
Third: Cooper Page—Coquille

2nd grade

First: Nataleena Daily

K-1st grade

First: Sam Huffman—Coquille
Second: Angelina Morones—Coquille
Third: Johnathan Huffman—Coquille



*Angelina Morones, age 4.
Photo credit: Dr. Nancy Keller.*



Middle School and High School trophy winners. Photo credit: Dr. Nancy Keller.

WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION



Washington Class Championships A Harmon NW Grand Prix Event November 28-30, 2008

WA Class Championships Entry Fees and Prize Fund \$5,000 Guaranteed by the Washington Chess Federation

**Extended! Entry fees listed as:
By Oct 31 / By Nov 9 / At site**

Master (2200+) EF \$65 / \$70 / \$80

Prizes \$525, \$325, U2300 \$200

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75

Prizes \$425, \$275, U2100 \$150

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70

Prizes \$325, \$200, U1900 \$125

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70

Prizes \$325, \$200, U1700 \$125

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70

Prizes \$325, \$200, U1500 \$125

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$55 / \$60 / \$70

Prizes \$325, \$200, U1300 \$125

Class E (1199&below) EF \$50/\$55/\$65

Prizes \$175, \$100, U1000 \$75, U800
\$75, Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by November 9. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee. Add \$25 to play up one class. Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for medals only for an advance EF of \$25. (Medals awarded for Top Two in Each Class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins, please) for entry fee only.

ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator :
730 Olympic Ave
Edmonds, WA 98020
Cell Phone (425) 218-7529
E-mail:

Dthmathews@hotmail.com

Also see www.nwchess.com.

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation
(WCF).

Marriot Redmond Town Center, 7401 16th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

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

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

Registration: Friday 8:15-9:15 AM for 3-day option, or 3:30-4:15 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:15-9:00 AM for 2-day option, or 9:00-9:30 AM if entering 3-day event with two half-point byes. Up to two half-point byes available at registration. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule for rest of tourney.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 40/2 and SD/1. 2-day schedule: rounds 1-3 G/60. (Rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule). Digital clocks preferred. Please bring tournament chess set, board and clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF and WCF or OCF memberships required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. 2008 chess Café Grand Prix event, Clark Harmon Memorial NW Grand Prix event. No Smoking. No Computers.

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

Hotel Info/Rates: \$89.00 for single or double. Reservation link available on Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com).

Side Events: See page 2 of this flyer.

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 28): A separate flyer/entry form has been published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Revised 10/10/2008.

2008 Polgar

by
**Xiaoli
Wang**

Representing their respective states, Oregon's Taylor Bailey, age 17, and Washington's Leanne Hwa, age 11, competed at the 2008 Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls at Texas Tech University in Lubbock from July 27 through August 1.

This six-round, 52-player tournament brought together state girls champions from around the country to battle for the girls' national title as well as scholarships and prizes. Several nationally ranked female players under the age of 19 also participated as special invitees.

Both Northwest players scored 3.5, with Taylor finishing in 17th place and Leanne in 21st place based on tiebreaks. While Taylor was making her fourth trip to the annual event, it was the first time Leanne had qualified to play in this prestigious all-girls tournament. Michigan's Ashley Carter holds the record of five consecutive appearances.

In the previous years the Polgar Invitational took place concurrently with the Denker Tournament of High School Champions and US Open. According to GM Susan Polgar, starting this year the Polgar Invitational will be held in Lubbock for the next ten years.

After a brief opening ceremony which featured The Cactus Cuties (a YouTube phenomenon) performing the National Anthem, the girls played one round per day. This schedule left them plenty of time to make new friends as they enjoyed various sports activities (basketball, rock climbing, swimming, and water volleyball), and side-events (puzzle-solving, blitz, and bughouse) in the evening.

Another unique opportunity provided by having the tournament held on a college campus: it allowed the girls to experience dorm life (and free cafeteria food for three meals a day!).

The time control was FIDE's G/90 with 30 seconds increment added per move. Most games were closely fought despite wide-ranging differences in ratings, and there was no lack of upsets. Many girls from smaller states were likely under-rated due to fewer tournaments played. Taylor (seeded #18) drew the tournament's #2 seed from Texas in round 2, and had a win over a higher-rated player from Utah in round 5. Leanne (seeded #25) started out slowly by losing the first two games, then rebounded nicely by winning the next three rounds and drawing a player rated nearly 300 points higher in the final round with Black.

The closing ceremony crowned Courtney Jamison from Texas (the tournament's top seed with a score of 5.5) as the winner, and featured Miss Lubbock USA presenting some of the prizes. The result of a popularity contest was also announced: Crystal Qian from Arkansas captured most votes for Miss Congeniality.

Overall, it was a highly successful and enjoyable event for both the players and their families.

Immediately after the Polgar Invitational, both Taylor and Leanne went to Dallas for the US Open. While Taylor played in the grueling nine-day open section, Leanne opted for the one-day scholastic tourney and spent the extra days at the amusement parks under the scorching sun.

Dallas was also the site for this year's Denker Tournament of High School Champions, a 48-player six-round event.



Taylor Bailey and Leanne Hwa. Photo credit: Xiaoli Wang

Denker Tournament Experiences

by
**Daniel
Gay**

The sun beat down at a scorching 104 degrees. Inside the Westin Park Central Hotel of Dallas, Texas, chess clocks ticked around me.

Sweaty palms and intense faces masked the heated competition that raged in the minds of forty-eight high school warriors, each fighting for their home state in a six-game battle for the prestigious title of Denker High School Champion. This was the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, held August 2-5 in conjunction with the U.S. Open. Unlike in other scholastic tournaments, each Denker player is a battle-tested veteran from years of scholastic victories and has come to the field determined to win or die trying. The Denker pits the nation's high school champions against each other in one tournament to determine a "Champion of Champions."

For years I have dreamed of representing Oregon at the Denker tournament and also playing in the U.S. Open, USCF's oldest national tournament. On May 31st, I won the Oregon Denker qualifying tournament, which actually turned out to be an exciting four-game match with Steven Breckenridge since



he was the only other player to show up. For the next two months, I visited local businesses, asking them to support me as Oregon's representative at the Denker tournament. I spent as much time as I could preparing for the tournament, but of course there is always more to study!

Armed with my arsenal of openings and tactics, I flew to Dallas ready for the games ahead. I attended a reception where each competitor received a participation medal presented by Mitchell Denker, son of Grandmaster Arnold Denker. Scoping out the competition, I noticed that most of the players looked older than I, but I was ex-

cited to take on the challenge.

Once the pairings were posted, each competitor set up a small state flag by his board and the tournament began! Facing complex positions, the players calculated daring sacrifices to pull out a win against all odds. Although I often draw, in this tournament every one of my games ended in a clear win or loss. After matching wits against players from Florida to Nevada, I finished the tournament with an even score of 3/6.

Ricky Selzler represented Washington very well, coming in 6th with a score of 4.5/6.

After the Denker tournament was over, I played in the six-day U.S. Open schedule, taking a half-point bye in the first round because that overlapped with the last round of the Denker. I finished with five points out of nine, with one upset (a draw with a 2170). Happily, I did not have to play anyone I knew, although I was on the board next to Fred Kleist (5.5/9) for a number of rounds. Also from the Northwest, Corbin Yu, after finishing with a score of 3.5/6 in the College Tournament, ended with 5.5/9 in the Open. Coming from a 3.5/6 score in the Polgar tournament, Taylor Bailey competed in the Open and had a score of 4.5/9. Other Northwest players included Dakota Dixon (WA) and Ed Addis (OR), who both finished with 5/9 in the Open.

As a fifteen-year-old chess player, participating in the U.S. Open was a wonderful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of past and present chess legends. Imagine having breakfast with GM Alexander Shabalov (of course, he was seated two tables away)! Only in chess can anyone compete on the same field as the greats. Playing in the Denker and U.S. Open fulfilled a long-time dream, and it inspired me to keep working for future success.

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



The chess world eagerly awaits the upcoming Anand-Kramnik world championship match. This is partially due to the relative strengths of the two being so close (the October FIDE rating list has them separated by a mere 9 ELO points in favor of Anand); Kramnik holds a +2 score (+6 -4 =41) in head-to-head encounters with classical time controls, while Anand holds a +8 (+10 -2 =34) in Rapid chess.

The main point of interest for most however, is in the diversity of playing styles, particularly in their approach to the opening. Anand is a devoted 1. e4 player and Kramnik plays mainly 1. Nf3 or 1. d4. I've selected two games from their individual encounters, to give an idea of the wonderful chess encounter we're in for!

**Viswanathan Anand (2766) –
Vladimir Kramnik (2777)
Cap d'Agde KO
10/30/2003**

1. e4

We can be pretty sure that Vishy will play this, as he does so about 90% of the time.

1. ...c5

Expect to also see a few 1. ...e5 games, with Kramnik aiming for the Petroff, or (god forbid) the Ruy Lopez Berlin variation!

2. Nf3 Nc6

Another 'definite' move.

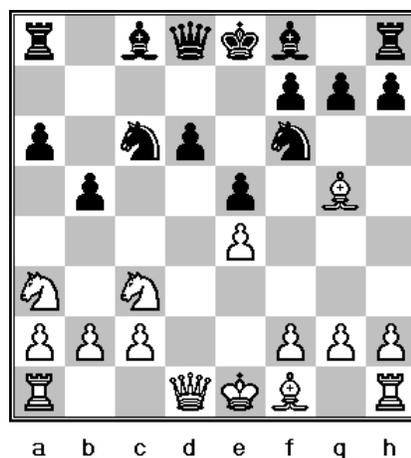
3. d4

For 'surprise value,' Vishy may also play the so-called Rossolimo Attack with 3. Bb5, against which Kramnik will play 3. ...g6 with the possible continuation 4. 0-0 Bg7 5. Bxc6 dxc6 6. d3 Nf6 7. h3 Nd7. This unusual move is aimed at strengthening Black's control over d4. 8. Nc3 0-0 9. Be3 e5 White stands somewhat better due to the lack of good prospects for Black's QB. Anand went on to win vs. Kramnik in Villarrobledo 1998 (37 moves).

3. ...cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5

I believe it is a mistake for Kramnik to play this "Pelikan" (or Boleslavsky, if you prefer) variation against Anand. Not because the move itself is bad, but simply because it steers the game into channels that the Indian GM enjoys playing. More in keeping with Kramnik's type game is the Scheveningen, eg. 5. ...d6 6. Bg5 e6. It's interesting to note that Anand has never defeated Kramnik's Scheveningen, while losing twice. 7. Qd2 a6 8. 0-0-0 h6 9. Be3 Be7 10. f3 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 b5 and Black already has at least equal play. Anand-Kramnik, Monte Carlo 1996 (0-1 in 40 moves).

6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5



If this common tabiya is reached in the match, I believe it will be from here that Anand will score points.

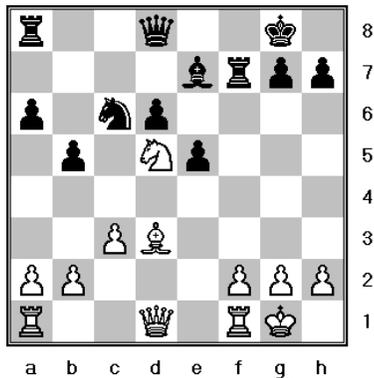
9. Bxf6

Most likely the most accurate move. If instead, White intensifies the pressure on f6 by 9. Nd5, Black can keep his K-side intact, eg. 9. ...Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6=, 1/2-1/2 Anand-Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2005 (27).

9. ...gxf6

The question will undoubtedly come to the reader's mind, 'Why doesn't Black save his pawn structure by capturing with the Queen?'

The answer lies in the fact that top-level players like to keep life and 'play' in their positions. Let's look at the possible line 9. ...Qxf6 10. Nd5 Qd8 11. c3 Be7 12. Nc2 0-0 13. Nce3, when White's knights rule the day. Should Black play an eventual f7-f5, White will capture away on f5 leaving himself with 2 very strong minor pieces (knight on d5 and bishop along either the b1-h7 or the h1-a8 diagonal). The black minor pieces are only sad onlookers. 13. ...f5 14. exf5 Bxf5 15. Nxf5 Rxf5 16. Bd3 Rf7 17. 0-0+- and White's position is absolutely winning.

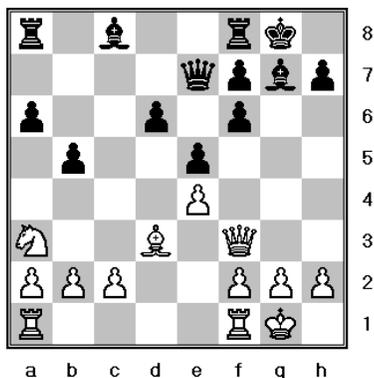


analysis diagram 1, after 17. 0-0

If Black doesn't play for the f7-f5 break, his position is devoid of activity. He cannot even look forward to an endgame, having such a poor pawn on d6 and possible targets on a6 and b5.

10. Nd5 f5

Another way to play this position is with 10. ...Bg7 11. Bd3 Ne7, challenging the steed on d5. 12. Nxe7 Qxe7 13. 0-0 0-0 14. Qf3, and it would appear as though White has a bind.



analysis diagram 2, after 14. Qf3

However, Black can begin throwing sacrificial pawns White's way with 14. ...f5! 15. exf5 d5! 16. Qxd5 Bb7 17. Qb3 e4 18. Be2 Qg5 with full compensation. The black bishops rule, while White's minors drool. Anand-Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 1998 (1/2-1/2 in 30).

11. Bd3

Another topic of discussion has been

11. c3 Bg7 (Taking the Greek gift with 11. ...fxe4 leads to trouble after 12. Bxb5! axb5 13. Nxb5 Be6 14. Nbc7+ Kd7 15. Nxa8 Bxd5 (15. ...Qxa8?? 16. Nb6+) 16. Qxd5 Qxa8 17. Qxf7+ Ne7 18. 0-0±) 12. exf5 Bxf5 13. Nc2 0-0 14. Nce3 Be6 and Black has full equality, now that the anchor pawn on e4 is no more. Anand-Kramnik, Linares 1998 (1/2-1/2 in 28).

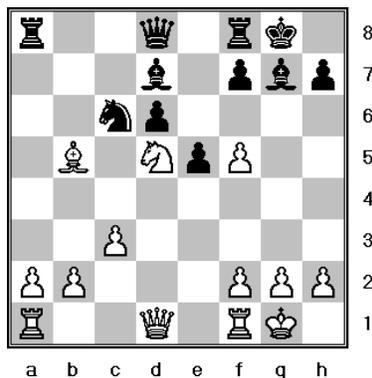
11. ...Be6 12. c3 Bg7

Not 12. ...Bxd5 13. exd5 Ne7, though it would seem that Black has at once rid himself of the troublesome knight, while hiding his weakness on d6. But now comes 14. Nxb5! and the ensuing complications favor White.

13. Qh5

Since Black's monarch will most likely seek refuge on the kingside, White rightly pressures f5 and h7.

13. Nxb5 is most likely too speculative for Anand, although Short has played it in the past: 13. ...axb5 14. Bxb5 Bd7 15. exf5 0-0 16. 0-0.



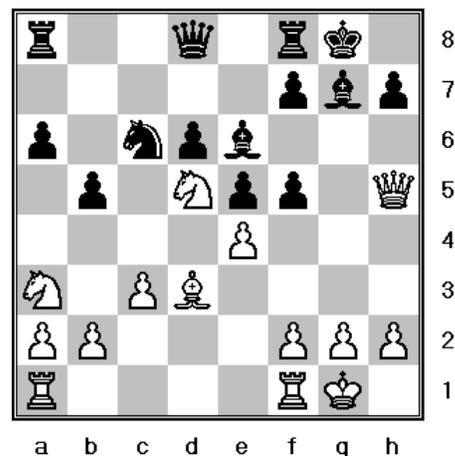
analysis diagram 3, after 16. 0-0

The results favor White, Fritz and Rybka favor Black. I doubt that we'll see this tried in the match!

13. ...0-0! 14. 0-0!

Another speculative pseudo-sac that we'll not see in the match is 14. exf5?!

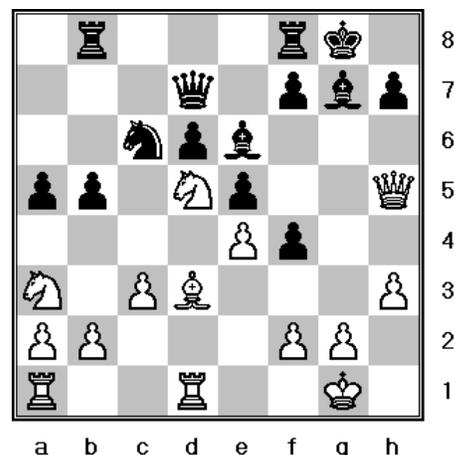
Bxd5 15. f6 e4! 16. fxg7 Re8 17. Qxd5 exd3+ 18. Kf1 Ne5, Spraggett-Amos, Calgary 1975 (0-1 in 27).



14. ...f4 15. Rfd1 Rb8 16. Nc2 Qd7 17. h3

Answering the threatend Be6-g4 with the retreat 17. Qe2 turns out in Black's favor after 17. ...Bxd5 18. exd5 Ne7 19. Nb4 a5 20. Nc6 Nxc6 21. Qh5 h6 22. dxc6 Qxc6 23. Qf5 Rfd8, Salimaki-Nokso Koivisto, Helsinki 2000 (0-1 in 50).

17. ...a5 18. Na3!



At the time this game was played, this was a TN! Since that time, White has played this another 5 times, winning thrice and drawing twice. Now that Black has declared his intentions on the

queenside, White plays his knight back (!) to a3 to further provoke Black's weakening advances. Previously seen was 18. Be2 f5! 19. exf5 Rxf5 20. Qf3 Rg5, with a slight pull for Black, although a draw occurred after 50 moves in Ratticramling, Groningen 1978.

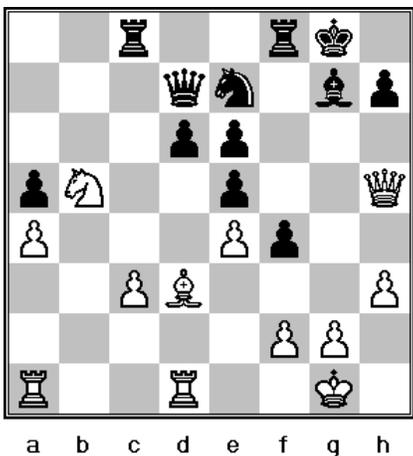
18. ...b4 19.Nb5

19. Nc4 is also to be considered.

19. ...bxc3 20. bxc3 Ne7 21. Ndc7! Rbc8 22. Nxe6 fxe6

22. ...Qxe6 23. c4 (The immediate 23. Be2 allows 23. ...d5) 23. ...Rfd8 24. Be2, and the threat of Bg4, together with the pressure on d6, gives White a clear advantage.

23. a4



We can safely say that the players are out of their game preparations. Anand has won this "opening argument" and instructively brings home the point.

23. ...Kh8 24. Bc2 Rc6 25. Rd2 Nc8 26. Rad1 Qe7 27. Bb3 Rf6 28. c4 Rh6 29. Qf3 Bf8 30. c5! Rxc5 31. Nxd6 Nxd6 32. Rxd6 Qxd6 33. Rxd6 Bxd6 34. Qd3! Rc6 35. Qb5 Rc1+ 36. Kh2 Rf6 37. Qe8+ Bf8 38. Bxe6 f3 39. g4 Rf1 40. Kg3 Rg1+ 41. Kh4 Kg7 42. g5 Rf4+ 43. Kh5 Rg2 44. Bf5 Rxf5 45. exf5 Rxf2 46. Qxe5+ 1-0

**Vladimir Kramnik (2809) –
Viswanathan Anand (2752)
Leon Man+Comp,
6/22/2002**

1. Nf3

Kramnik will either open with this or 1. d4 immediately.

1. ...d5

If Anand plays 1. ...Nf6, expect Kramnik to play the English.

2. d4

It's interesting to note that Kramnik consistently plays this in response to 1. ...d7-d5.

2. ...e6 3. c4 dxc4 4. e3 c5 5. Bxc4 Nf6 6. 0-0 a6

These two players have reached this position in 13 previous games against each other – definitely a discussion going on!

7. Bb3

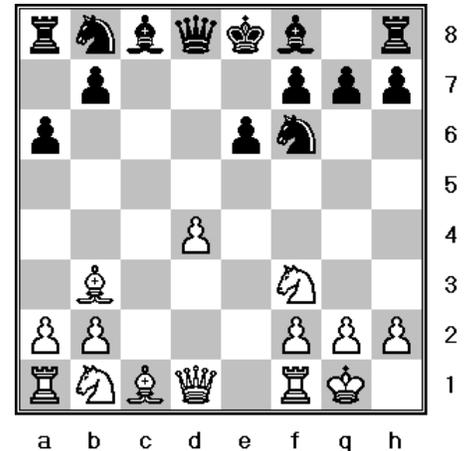
Kramnik has also played 7. a4 (weakens the b4 square) and 7. dxc5 (allows too much simplification) against Anand but with unimpressive results. I expect this will be Kramnik's move of choice in this position. Aimed against Black playing b7-b5 with gain of tempo, Kramnik has had some success against Anand in this line.

7. ...cxd4

Anand has previously played Nc6 and Nbd7 against Kramnik. The text is the most straightforward, clarifying the situation in the center. Don't expect Anand to play 7. ...b5!? (Evidently, this has not yet been played vs. Kramnik) 8. a4 b4 (8. ...c4 9. Bc2 Bb7 10. axb5 axb5 11. Rxa8 Bxa8 12. b3 gives White a small but clear advantage, due to the weakness of the advanced Black pawns on the queenside coupled with the black

king still in the center. 9. Nbd2 Bb7. White has a lead in development. It would be interesting to see if Kramnik would play the pawn sac e3-e4 in this position.

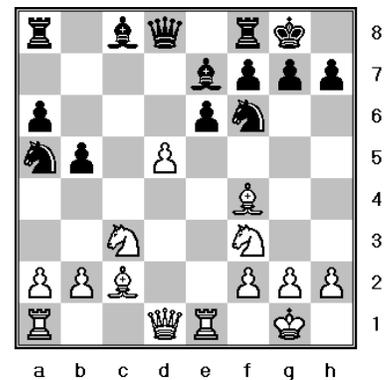
8. exd4



I expect it to be from this tabiya that Kramnik will score points in the match. White has a lead in development and the isolani at d4 lends itself to greater piece activity and lasting initiative.

8. ...Nc6 9. Nc3 Be7 10. Bg5

Additional discussions between the two have revolved around 10. Re1, with Anand holding his own. e.g. 10. ...0-0 11. Bf4 Na5 12. Bc2 b5, and here Kramnik livened things up with 13. d5!?



analysis diagram 1, after 13. d5

13. ...exd5 14. Qd3 (Look hard and you'll see that White is threatening Bc7)

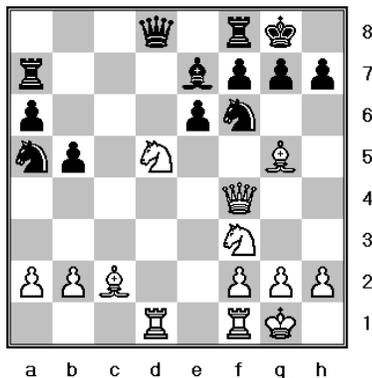
14. ...Nc6 15. Bc7!? Qd7 (15. ...Qxc7?? 16.Nxd5 wins offhand.) 16. Ne5 Nxe5 17. Bxe5 g6. The brief fireworks have evaporated and the combatants agreed to a draw on move 26. Kramnik-Anand, Mainz 2001.

10. ...0-0 11. Qd2 Na5 12. Bc2 b5

Black seeks to solve his most obvious problem, the perennial light-squared bishop.

13. Rad1

A year earlier, the two had coffee over 13. Qf4, and Anand had to pay the tab after 13. ...Ra7 14. Rad1 Bb7 15. d5 Bxd5 16. Nxd5



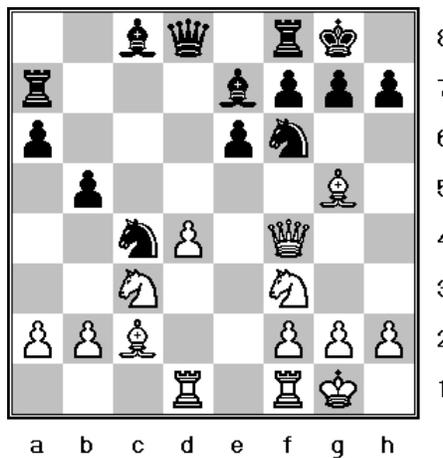
analysis diagram 2, after 16. Nxd5

16. ...exd5 (Black avoids the worst of the landmines. Not 16. ...Nxd5? 17. Rxd5! exd5 18. Bxh7+! Kxh7 19. Qh4+ Kg8 20. Bxe7 Qxe7 21. Ng5 and White wins.) 17. Qh4 h5 18. Rfe1 and White has tremendous pressure in exchange for the pawn. Kramnik-Anand, Dortmund 2001 (1-0 in 39).

13. ...Nc4 14. Qf4

Most mortals would play the passive 14. Qc1 but GMs play for activity! Play through the games of Fischer and Kasparov and you'll notice this trend consistently.

14. ...Ra7



This is the first 'unique' move. Previously played was 14. ...Bb7. White has a great deal of activity and scored after

15. Ne5 Rc7 16. Nxc4 bxc4 17. Bxf6 Bxf6 18. d5 e5 19. Qf3 Rb7 20. Qe4 g6 21. Qxc4 Rxb2 22. Bb3 Bg5 23. d6 Be6 24. Qa4 Bxb3 25. axb3 Qb6 26. Qg4 Bf4 27. Nd5 Qd8

28. Nxf4 exf4 29. d7 Rxb3 30. Qxf4 Rb8 31. Rfe1 Qb6 32. h4 h5 33. Rd6 Qc5 34. Qf6 Qf5 35. Qxf5 gxf5 36. Rxa6 Rfd8 37. Rd6 1-0

Conclusion

The match is simply too close to call. Anand perhaps is 'People's Choice,' however Kramnik is a tough nut to crack.

In any event, it will be quite entertaining to witness the opening discussions the combatants undertake!

About the Author

Harley Greninger is a National Master and former Washington state Co-Champion (2001). He owns the Real Estate firm, Premier Realty Grays Harbor (www.prgraysharbor.com), together with his supportive wife Judy.

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Women's World Championship

by
Elena
Donaldson

In Russia top-level chess tournaments always have special status.

The city of Nalchik, in the autonomous republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, which hosted the WCC, is located in southern Russia. The President of the Republic, Arcen Kanokov, headed the WCC organizing committee.

On September 17, 2008, Alexandra Kosteniuk (2510) of Russia became new Women's World Champion after defeating 14-year-old prodigy Hou Yifan (2557) from China.

The Woman's World Championship was played by using the Olympic (knock-out) system, with 64 players starting the contest.

Out of 64 players, 8 were from China, 7 from Russia, 15 players were from former USSR republics, 15 from Europe, and rest from elsewhere. Due to tensions between Russia and Georgia, none of the Georgian players were in attendance, and U.S. women may also have avoided the event for that reason.

The Women's World Championship total prize fund was \$450,000 U.S.

Losers in the first round would get \$3,750 each, and the new World Champion, \$60,000.

However, participants had to pay 20% tax to the FIDE (International Chess Federation) fund, and also cover their hotel, travel, and all other expenses, though some players may have been sponsored by their national chess federations.

To compare, the Chief Arbiter was paid a stipend of \$4,000 and the Deputy Chief Arbiter, \$2,500. All staff expenses were paid by the organizers and their stipend was tax-free.

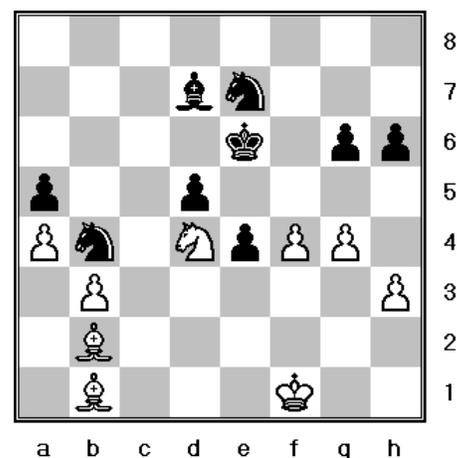
Each round players played two games at normal time controls, and the winner would move onto the next round. In case of a tie, players continued with two 25-minute games, and if that was a tie, two 5-minute games. If the score still remained tied, players played one last blitz game – sudden death, winner takes all. In that last game, White would have 6 minutes, and Black 5 minutes. In case of a draw, the player with the black pieces qualifies for the next round. In my view flipping a coin would be a more fair decision; an extra minute in a blitz game doesn't justify giving Black a victory for a draw.

Who might suspect that all of these and even more rules would have to be invoked to decide the winner of one match in the first round?

After playing 6 games with an even score, Monika Socko (2473) and Sabina-Francesca Foisor (2337) arrived to their 7th sudden-death game. One moment of the game is shown in the diagram below.

We need to remember that in case of a draw White loses the match, and Black would advance to the next step of the WCC.

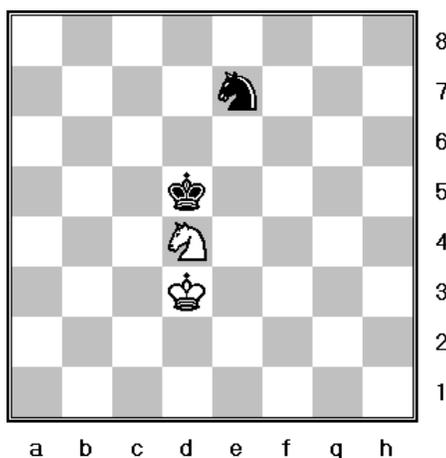
M. Socko – S. Foisor
WWC, Nalchik, Russia
8/31/2008



White just played **60. Nd4+** and the game was not recorded after this. Here is a note to this game from the Official WCC website:

“Game incomplete, there were pieces flying around, both players finished with King and Knight when Black’s flag fell.”

In the final position, both players had a King and a Knight each, which by USCF rules would make it an immediate draw.



The game was initially declared drawn by the arbiters, but then on appeal Socko was awarded a win. The Appeal Committee Ruling was based on FIDE Rule 9.6: “playing in a most unskilled manner can result in the position which can lead to a checkmate.” For example, White: Kc7, Nb6 - Black: Ka8, Na7.

In the final 4-game match, Alexandra Kosteniuk beat Hou Yifan of China, 2.5 to 1.5, and the Women’s World Championship title went to Russia.

While Alexandra Kosteniuk, 24, has played chess for quite some time, her opponent Hou Yifan is only 14 and is the youngest ever female grandmaster (GM). {Editor: This title is not yet shown on the FIDE website.}

There is also a Woman Grandmaster title (WGM), but the requirement for achieving WGM is less rigorous.

Alexandra Kostenuk, 24, is a very experienced player with many titles and achievements on her record. She was not the highest rated player in the field – only #9 – probably because she took a break from chess for recent birth of her daughter. Alexandra’s aggressive play, and “class” (which means not making obvious mistakes and taking advantage of opportunities) made her a convincing winner of this Championship.

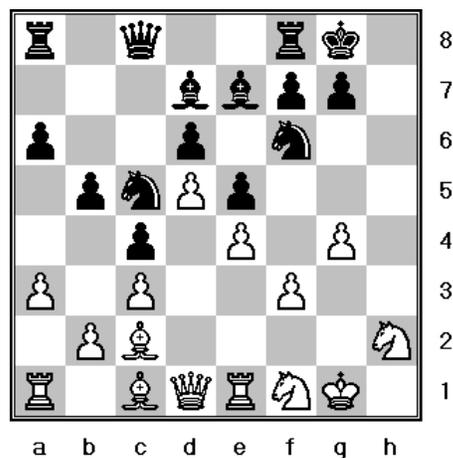
Alexandra promotes chess by appearing in fashion magazines, she writes books, she models, and she had an acting role in a Russian movie. I don’t think it significantly increased the popularity of chess, but it made Alexandra one of the most recognizable female players of present time.

Kosteniuk won the first game and dominated in the other 3 games, though they all ended in draws thanks to masterful defense from Hou Yifan.

Below is a great example of positional play from game 1, where Black demonstrates the weakness of squares around the white king.

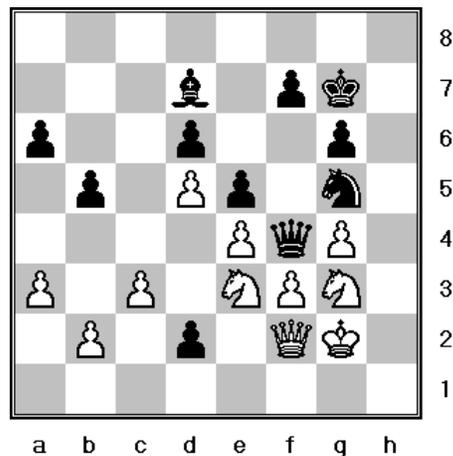
It is not a big deal in itself that White’s king position is open, but the bigger problem is that White’s pieces are way too behind in deployment and they are not ready use the open h-file. With her next move (20...Nh7!), Black will trade the dark-square bishop-e7 with his counterpart on c1, creating a dark-square passage into White’s territory.

**Hou Yifan – A. Kosteniuk
WCC, Nalchik, Russia
9/14/2008**



black to move

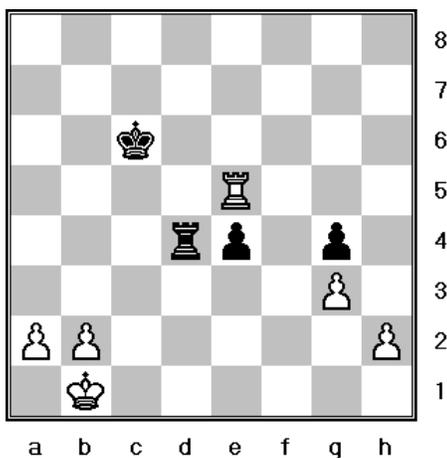
20. ...Nh7 21. Ng3 Bg5 22. Nf5 Qd8 23. Kg2 g6 24. Ng3 Kg7 25. Rh1 Rh8 26. Nh1 Qf6 27. Be3 Bxe3 28. Nxe3 Ng5 29. Qe2 Rag8 30. Raf1 Qf4 31. Rxh8 Rxh8 32. Rh1 Rxh1 33. Nxh1 Nd3 34. Bxd3 cxd3 35. Qf2 d2 36. Ng3



36. ...Nxf3! 37. Qxf3 Bxg4! 38. Qf2 d1=Q 39. Nxd1 Bxd1 40. Qe1 Bf3+ 41. Kg1 f5 42. exf5 gxf5 43. Qf2 Kg6 44. b3 e4 45. c4 bxc4 46. bxc4 Qg5 47. c5 f4 48. cxd6 fxd3

0-1

This position is from Game 2 where Kosteniuk had 2 extra pawns.



white to move

Despite two extra pawns, White faces difficulties to win the game since her King is cut-off from the advancing e4 pawn.

**A. Kosteniuk – Hou Yifan
WCC, Nalchik, Russia
9/15/2008**

44.Kc1

Before playing move like this a player needs to study the natural 44. Kc2. Probably Kosteniuk did not like something after 44. Kc2 Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 e3 47. Rf4 Rd2+

44. ...Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8

Ke6 47. Rf4 Ke5 48. Rxc4 Rd8 49. Rg5+ Kf6 50. Rc5 e3 51. Rc2 Kf5 52. a4 Ke4 53. Rc4+ Kd3 54. Rc3+ Ke4 55. Rc4+ Kd3 56. Rc3+ Ke4 57. Rc4+ Kd3

1/2-1/2

Kosteniuk's victory came during a time when Chinese women players have dominated in world chess competitions for almost 20 years and have held the Championship title for most of that time.

Women's World Champions

- Xie Jun, China, 1991–1996
- Susan Polgar, Hungary, 1996–1999
- Xie Jun, China, 1999–2001
- Zhu Chen, China, 2001–2004
- A. Stefanova, Bulgaria, 2004–2006
- Xu Yuhua, China, 2006–2008

Chinese players are well-supported (financially and with coaching support) by their national chess federation. This is why they demonstrate constant superiority on the world chess scene. Chinese women's team won most of the Chess Olympiads since the 90th, when the Soviet Union broke up and all former Soviet players started playing for their national teams. The next Olympiad will be held in Dresden, Germany and I

bet the Chinese will make everything to get another gold in their collection.

Though Hou Yifan's play in the final match with Kosteniuk was not that impressive, it might be her nerves and the fact that she is only 14 and needs to get experience playing top level competitions and matches. There were 8 Chinese players out of 64 at the WCC and their domination will grow in the near future. Chinese have several young girls like Hou Yifan who have many years to improve their level.

Only Russians currently have players that can compete with the Chinese "chess machine." Russian women beat China in their recent match. However, Russians will not be able to maintain this level in several years from now because their talent pool is shrinking while the Chinese is growing.

And what about the Americans? The answer is.... not any time soon. All of the top-level female players were not born in USA. USCF does not have any program in place to support female players. There are some efforts to promote chess among girls, but without strong support from the federation such efforts have limited success.

Chessplayer.com

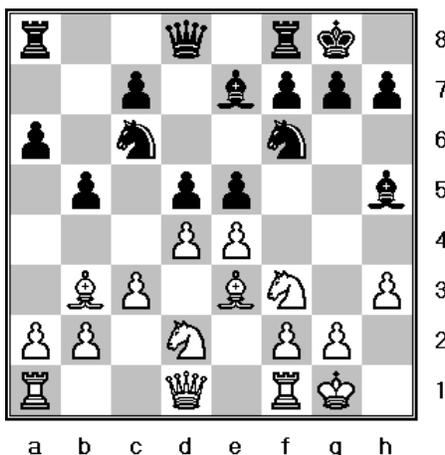
Georgi Orlov
1994 US Open Champion

Elena Donaldson
Three Time US Women's Champion

Geller – Spassky, 1964

by
Bill
McGeary

7. c3 Nf6 8. d4 b5 9. Bb3 Be7 10. Be3 0-0 11. Nbd2 d5



Modern technology has made chess material vastly more available to players these days. Specifically the number of game scores at hand has jumped. So, thinking that I should find a good game to work through is quite like the realization of searching for a needle in a haystack. Well, not quite. I know for a fact that I can always find a good game. Just one name. Boris Spassky. Trying to find some material to work on I came across the following.

Efim Geller – Boris Spassky
Moscow Zonal Tournament
1964

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. 0-0 Bg4 6. h3 Bh5

This line of the Steinitz Deferred Lopez has never been fashionable, but is unrefuted.

On principle, if Black can play this without negative consequence the position is equal.

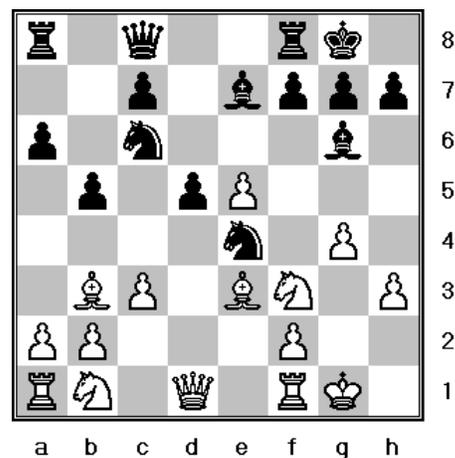
12. g4 Bg6 13. dxe5

13. exd5 Nxd5 14. dxe5 Nxe3 15. fx3 Qd3 seems to offer Black some good opportunities.

13. ...Nxe4 14. Nb1

This opens a direct attack on d5. 14. Nd4 instead to begin an operation with f2-f4 would happily be met by 14. ...Na5 15. Bc2 c5.

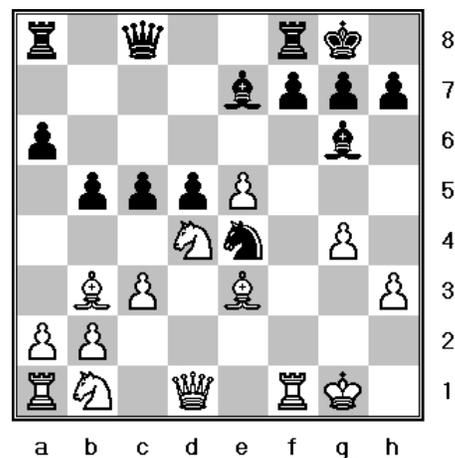
14. ...Qc8



Here is where the possible negative consequence of 11. ...d5 comes in. The d5 pawn has no natural defense now, so Black must rely on tactical motifs to make it unpalatable. 15. Qxd5 Na5 threatens Rd8 as well as probing the g4 point, while 15. Bxd5 Rd8 is more likely to give White trouble than Black as the pin on the d-file isn't easy to break whereas Black has an eye on the K-side as well as the pin to play with.

15. Nd4 Nxe5 16. f4 c5 17. fxe5

White bailed out with 15. Nd4, but 17. fxe5 looks forced: 17. Nc2 c4; 17. Nf3 Nxe4 18. hxe4 Qxe4+ 19. Kh1 Qh3+ 20. Kg1 Ng3 with the idea Qh1+ and Ne4+ looks terminal.



17. ...cxd4 18. cxd4 Qd7 19. Nd2

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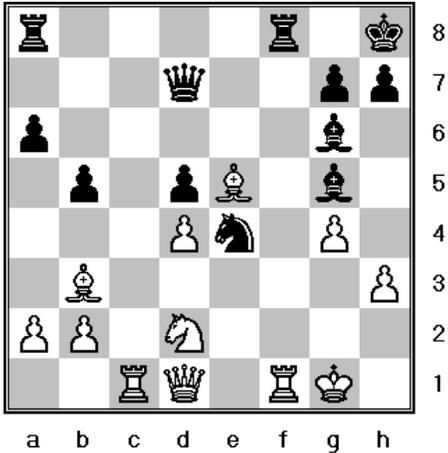
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f6 20. Rc1 Kh8 21. Bf4 fxe5 22. Bxe5 Bg5

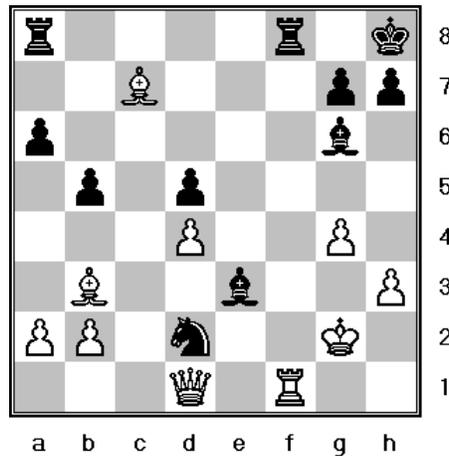


Black has a better placed knight, but more important is the cold weather around g1.

Anyone with a weak stomach should

stop here as what follows is like watching an auto accident.

23. Rc7 Qxc7 24. Bxc7 Be3+ 25. Kg2 Nxd2



Rook and knight for the queen, but all of Black's army is in the hunt.

26. Rxf8+ Rxf8 27. Bxd5 Rf2+ 28. Kg3 Nf1+ 29. Kh4 h6 30. Bd8 Rf8

0-1

Spassky was world champion once, and here we see an indication of why.

He didn't have to find any great nuance in theory to reach a playable position. A small bit of inspiration spurred the game towards a tactical melee that was advantageous for Boris, as well as to his liking. Finally, a small display of combinational ability finished things up.

An aspiring young prodigy could certainly do a lot worse than trying to follow in the footsteps of Boris Spassky.

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And In The End

by Dana Muller



Dana Muller – Peter O’Gorman
Seattle Chess Club Quads
04/24/1993

Yes, this a column about endgames. Are you still with me? I know there are a number of readers will instantly turn the page at the first whiff of an endgame column. Why is that? I mean, it’s not like I’m asking you to eat your broccoli!

Seriously, I have heard derisions like “endgames are boring” or evasions such as “I play for mate in the middle game. Real men don’t play endgames.” I think part of this attitude comes from the assumption that in order to play endgames well, you need to memorize the complete contents of *Basic Chess Endings*. I disagree. While it is true that a certain (small) number of basic endings do need to be memorized, I think a player best improves endgame technique by reviewing actual tournament or match games.

My experience is that endgames are neither boring nor lack in tactics. A recent book, van Perlo’s *Endgame Tactics*, has over 450 pages of cheap and sleazy tactics from actual tournament play. I’ve found that most of my endgames have tactical overtones (see the illustrative game below, where Nc4-a5 begins a tactical sequence). Of course in an endgame you may have to make a number of quiet or setup moves before the tactics fly. Actually, the idea of making a number of innocuous moves before you make the one that counts is a valid technique, but does seem boring to the Neanderthals who can’t understand anything but a mate-in-one threat. But I digress.

Some recommendation for endgame study:

Get a book dealing with the basics. I

particularly like Silman’s *Complete Endgame Course*; the format of the book is unique: he only forces you to study what is appropriate for your rating level. Other books such as the classic Averbakh *Chess Endgames: Essential Knowledge* will also do the job. The point is to find one that you like as they all cover pretty much the same material.

Get a reference book or two. I’m thinking *Fundamental Chess Endings* by Karsten Muller (no known relation), the old Rueben Fine standby *Basic Chess Endings*, *Basic Endgames* by Balashov (despite the title it really is a reference manual), etc.

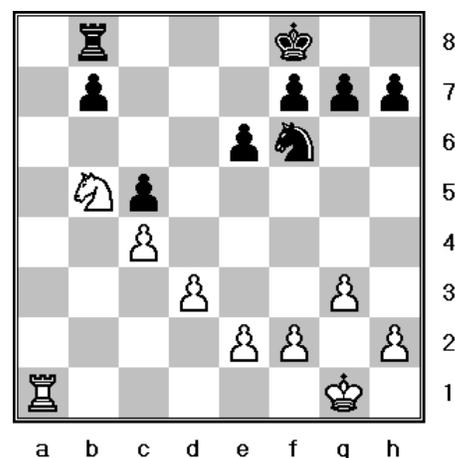
The book *Endgame Strategy* by Shereshevsky touches on subjects not mentioned in other books; it’s a great introduction in how to think and plan in endgames. Be aware, however, that this book is somewhat advanced. You should know the basics before delving in.

Review the endgame play in any game anthology that you already have. This works best when you tie to positions from your own tournament practice, i.e. if you had a rook and pawn endgame, then look for a Smyslov or Rubinstein game with similar characteristics.

Now that I’ve got that off my chest, here is the meat of the column. In future columns I plan to analyze two or three endgames without haranguing the reader to enjoy endgames.

Without further ado....

After 23 moves of a Reti opening, we reach this position:



Here is a situation common in tournament play, White has a clear edge, but it is not a winning advantage. How does White proceed in order to create as many difficulties as possible for Black?

The first step is to understand the nature of White’s advantage. This advantage consists of two strands: (1) The White rook and Knight are more active than their Black counterparts (2) White has a single pawn island whereas Black has two pawn islands.

The “more active pieces” is a temporary sort of advantage. If White doesn’t play actively then Black will break with b7-b5 and activate his rook. The pawn structure is a more long term

problem. If White can prevent b7-b5 the b-pawn will be a long term liability.

Actually the Black pawn structure is somewhat reminiscent of an exchange variation of the QGD after a minority attack, with queenside pawns moved over a file, i.e. the backward b-pawn has similar drawbacks as the backward c-pawn in the exchange QGD structure. I think the difference from the exchange QGD favors Black since White will have only the a-file to use for infiltration, whereas in the exchange QGD White has both the a and b files. To sum up, Black faces a difficult defensive task, but it should be possible to hold the position with accurate play.

The next step is to formulate a plan. In the long run, unless Black makes a crude blunder, White needs to create a second weakness in the Black position (the weak b-pawn by itself is not enough to lose the game). In the short run, there is the idea of forcing Black to move b7-b6. This will extend the reach of the seventh rank to the Black kingside pawns and hopefully force Black into a permanently passive stance. The next step would be to use the Knight to probe the Black kingside in hopes of creating a second weakness.

24. Kg2 Ke7

Both sides centralize their kings

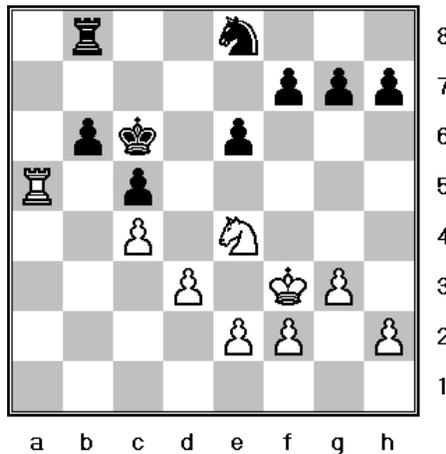
25. Kf3 Ne8 26. Ra5 Kd7

With the white king on f3 reasonably centralized, the attack on c5 (to force b7-b6) has started.

27. Nc3 Kc6 28. Ne4 b6

Mission accomplished, Black is temporarily passive so White has a free hand for a move or two before Black can arrange a breakout with b6-b5. Although Black's position is passive, there is still only one weakness (the

backward b-pawn) and that by itself is not enough to win. White needs to create a second weakness in Black's camp in order to make any progress.



29. Ra7 f5 (?)

White's move placed the rook in a more active position and threatens the f-pawn. Black's responses are constrained by the move, for example 29. ...Rb7 doesn't work because of 30. Rxb7 Kxb7 31. Ng5 f6 41. Nxb7 winning a pawn (the knight escapes via f8 and g6).

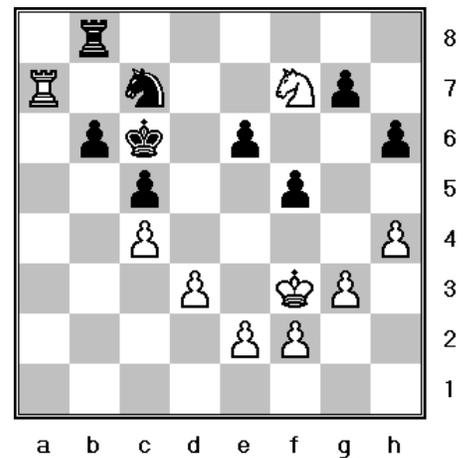
Perhaps considerations such as this persuaded Black to boot the knight from its centralized location, but it does leave the e6-pawn backward and a potential second weakness.

I think the immediate ...Nc7 is best, since it avoids the second weakness at e6. After 29. ...Nc7 30. Ng5 doesn't win material, since 30. ...f6 31. Nxb7? loses the knight to 31. ...Rh8.

30. Ng5 Nc7

Forced. The h7 pawn is indirectly guarded (31. Nxb7 Rh8).

31. h4 h6 32. Nf7



32. ...b5!

Now that the pressure is off c5 this break becomes possible. This is a good move since it is Black's only method of starting active counter-play. The black rook will have a file to infiltrate behind White's pawns.

33. cxb5+ (?)

This is inaccurate. The correct execution is 33. Ne5+ Kd6 34. cxb5! The point being that 34. ...Kxe5 35. Rxc7 Rxb5 36. Rxg7 wins a pawn, or 34. ...Nxb5 35. Nc4+ Kd6 36. Rxg7. That leaves 34. ...Rxb5, which after 35. Nc4+ Kc6 transposes into the game.

33. ...Rxb5 (?)

Returning the favor. Better is 33. ...Nxb5. My analysis during the game continued 34. Ne5+ Kd6 35. Nc4+ Kc6 36. Rxg7. Both players (in postmortem) missed that Black has much better in 34. ...Kd5 winning material (both the knight and rook hang). White would have to play something like 34. Re7 allowing 34. ...Nd4+. This centralizing move reduces White's advantage.

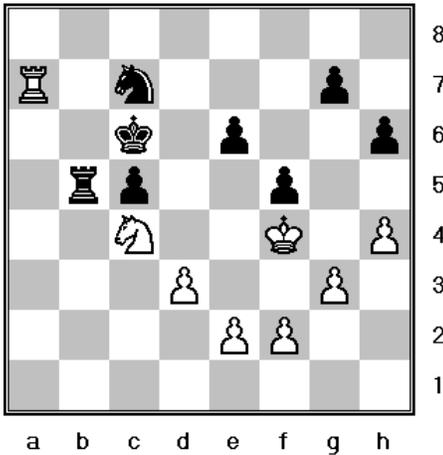
34. Ne5+ Kd6

If 34. ... Kd6 35. Ra2 guarding the second rank and preparing the King in-

vasion via f4 and e5. If 34. ...g5 then 35. hxg5 hxg5 36. Nf7 g4+ 37. Kf4 and White infiltrates on the dark squares.

Another plan to be considered is 34. Nd8+ Kd6 35. h5 fixing the Black kingside.

35. Nc4+ Kc6 36. Kf4



36. ...Rb8 (?)

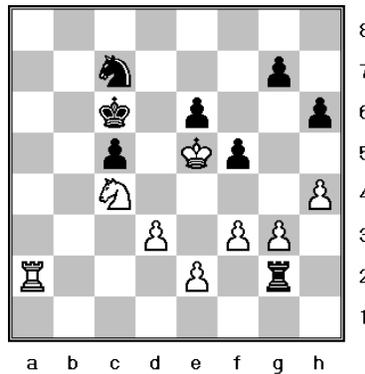
This may be the final inaccuracy that costs Black the game. 36. ...Rb1 had to be tried, the idea being to attack the White pawns from the rear (...Re1 or ...Rf1), though as we shall see, White still has good chances.

During the game I focused on attempts to confuse the situation with 37. Na5 followed by 38. Nb7. There are some tricks, but I didn't see a clear win after 36. ...Rb1 37. Na5+ Kd7 38. Nb7 Kc6 (38. ...Nb5!?) 39. Nd8+ (39. Nxc5? Nd5+) 39. ...Kd6 (39. ...Kd7? 40. Nxe6!). My last try was intended to be 40. Rxc7!?, and White will pick up a couple of pawns for the exchange, but Black is far from lost.

If White doesn't do something "fast," such as the above variation, then does the plan of invading with the King via f4-e5 need to be put on hold?

In analyzing the game now, with an assist from our editor, the counter-play

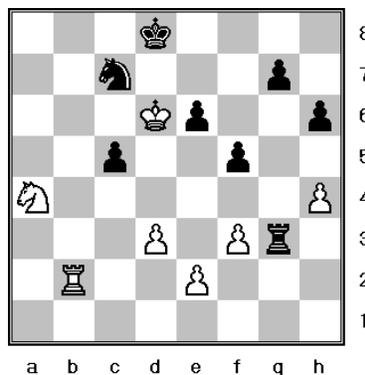
to Kf4-e5 beginning with Rb1-f1 that I deemed dangerous during the game may be more illusion than fact. For instance 36. ...Rb1 37. Ke5 Rf1 38. f3 Rf2 39. Ra2 Rg2.



analysis diagram 1, after 39. ...Rg2

40. Kf4 to guard the g-pawn no longer seems necessary. Instead, 40. Na5+ Kb6 (40. ...Kd7 41. Nb3 again targets the weak c-pawn: 41. ...Kc6 42. Rc2) 41. Kd6! poses Black a difficult problem.

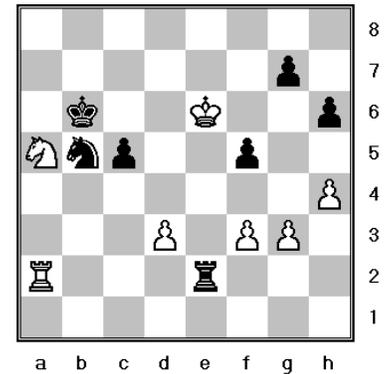
It appears to be far too dangerous for Black to capture on g3: 41. ...Rxg3 42. Nc4+ Kb7 43. Rb2+ Kc8 44. Nb6+ Kd8, and now the fancy 45. Nd5 threatens mate and the knight, and picks up at least a pawn after 45. ...Ne8+ 46. Kxe6 with continuing threats. But 45. Na4! looks even better.



analysis diagram 2, after 45. Na4!

From analysis diagram 1 after 40. Na5+ Kb6 41. Kd6, instead of the

risky 41. ...Rxg3 Black might enter the forking complications surrounding 41. ...Nb5+ 42. Kxe6 Rxe2+ (or 42. ...Nd4+ 43. Kd5 Rxe2 44. Nc4+ Kb5 45. Nd6+ Kb4 46. Rxe2 Nxe2 47. Nxf5 g6 48. Ne7, and White's extra pawn and centralized pieces should be enough to win the knight ending, despite the shrinking pawncount).



analysis diagram 3, after 42. ...Rxe2+

Virtually every piece on the board is hanging. 43. Rxe2 Nd4+ 44. Kf7! clears it up: 44. ...Nxe2 45. Nc4+, and White's better king position probably decides the ending in his favor after 45. ...Kc6 46. g4 fxg4 47. fxg4 g5 48. h5!

Obviously endgames are boring, lifeless activities involving no tactics whatsoever. Not! The preceding analysis barely scratches the surface of the complex possibilities hiding in a typical tournament endgame.

37. Ke5 Rd8

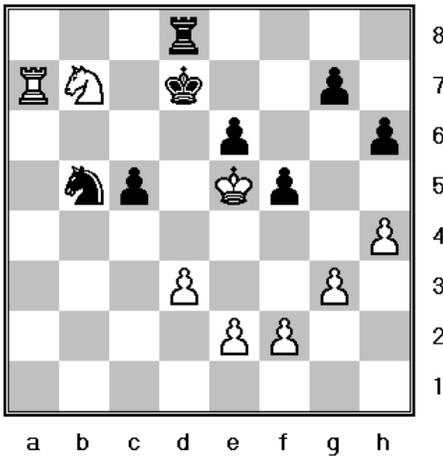
With the idea of driving off White's king with ...Rd5+, but this now falls victim to a well-prepared tactic.

38. Na5+ Kd7

If 38. ... Kd6 then 41. Rb7+ Kxa5 42. Rxc7 and Black is unable to protect all of his hanging pawns. In fact, it's hard to see how Black can even hold it to a single pawn deficit with his king offside and the white king and rook so active.)

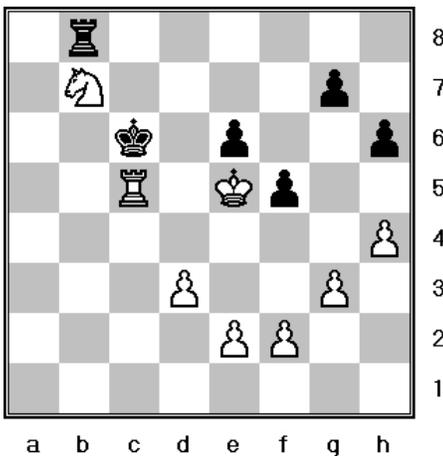
39. Nb7 Nb5

If rook moves then 40. Nxc5+ wins a pawn and still leaves Black bound up.



40. Ra5 Rb8 41. Rxb5 Kc6 42. Rxc5+

White forces the exchange of rooks after the knight is captured (42. ...Kxb7 43. Rb5+, or 42. ...Kb6 43. Rc4!). After the rook exchange, White easily wins the king and pawn endgame.



1-0

See? Wasn't that fun?

Chess Business by Eric Holcomb



Chess in Central Oregon

When I arrived in Bend at the end of February, I was pleased to discover an active, albeit fairly small, chess community; thanks in part to the outstanding efforts of organizer and Class A chess player Sean Tobin. Sean maintains the "Central Oregon Chess Journal" on his blog at <http://www.cocjournal.blogspot.com/>, and in his profile, accurately states that he enjoys "playing, teaching or learning about the royal game of chess."

Sean worked as an activities coordinator for the folks at the Aspen Ridge Retirement Community in Bend, and was able to secure free meeting space for the Central Oregon Chess Club at Aspen Ridge on Tuesday evenings, as well as some on Sunday afternoons for tournaments. Participants typically include at least a couple of Aspen Ridge residents, a few members of the local community such as myself, and occasionally visitors from other local cities such as Sunriver, or even as far away as Portland (over a three-hour drive) for one of the COCC Sunday tournaments. Chess expert and organizer Nick Paleveda of Bellingham, Washington also visited the COCC this year while on a business trip to Oregon!

In June, Sean decided to pursue a scholastic chess coaching and teaching opportunity in Phoenix, Arizona, which means that we'll be seeing him in Bend a lot less frequently than before. We wish him well (after all, how many people can actually have a career in chess?) and look forward to his occasional returns to Bend during the scholastic off-season.

The COCC continues to meet at Aspen Ridge, and has just started a fall Swiss-style tournament, with one game per week. There are currently no membership dues, and only small tournament entry fees for our USCF-rated events. As in most chess clubs, players of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Not that we don't still have some strong players ... Paul Motta (also a very active postal player) is rated 1900, and former Idaho chess champion Jason Evers is rated 1820. Paul is also the club's webmaster, and the website he maintains can be viewed at <http://www.bendchess.com/>. (Can you recognize the author in the photo on the homepage?)

So if you'll be visiting Bend any time soon, please let Paul or me know, and we'll be glad to meet with you if possible, even if it's not on a Tuesday evening over a game of chess.

Yes, it does get just a bit cold and snowy here in the winter ... the first snows of the season fell on Mt. Bachelor and the three Sisters the week of October 5 this year!

So unless you're a skier, we won't blame you if you wait until next summer to visit, at which time I may be able to take you on a visit to Pine Mountain Observatory in my other capacity as amateur astronomer and tour guide to the night sky.

Seattle Sluggers Acquire WGM Katerina Rohonyan

by
**Josh
Sinanan**

The Seattle Sluggers added WGM Katerina Rohonyan to their roster in early October, replacing IM Georgi Orlov as an alternate. Rohonyan is rated

2316 FIDE and formerly played for the Baltimore Kingfishers. In 2005, she was named to the second all-star team for board four and helped the Kingfishers bring home a United States Chess League championship.

Sluggers manager Eddie Chang invited Rohonyan to the team to add depth on the lower boards, especially board three. So far this season, Seattle has dominated on boards one and four, but struggled on two and three, scoring only 2/7 and 1.5/7, respectively. The addition of Rohonyan also adds flexibility to Seattle's line-up by raising the team's average rating limit by 10 points. According to rule four of the USCL: "Any female player's rating will raise the team's rating limit for a match that she competes in to 2410, instead of 2400. If two females play this would rise to 2420, and so forth."

Rohonyan was born in Nikolaev, Ukraine, a town near the Black Sea. She began playing chess at age seven, and her mother encouraged her to

pursue it more seriously. By age 16, Katerina became the Ukrainian Women's Chess Champion. On a chess scholarship, she majored in computer science at UMBC before her job brought her to Redmond, Washington. She is a perennial participant in the U.S. Women's Chess Championship and has represented the U.S. in several international competitions.

Recently Rohonyan had a good showing at the 2008 Women's World Championship, where she defeated WGM Natalia Zhukova (2489) in round one before falling to IM Inna Gaponenko (2468) in round two.

With only three matches left in the regular season, Seattle is in the midst of a playoff race and every point counts. After narrowly missing the postseason last year, the Sluggers are eager to finish much more strongly this season. Rohonyan's addition to the team is essential to increasing the Sluggers' chances of making the postseason and bringing home a USCL title to Seattle!

The 2008 Eastern Washington Open was played at Gonzaga's Schoenberg Center September 27-28. John Julian and Sattar Sattarov topped a small (22 player) but top-heavy field with 4-1 scores. Each won \$137.50.

While the turnout was small, it consisted nearly exclusively of A and B players, with 1700 being the middle of

the field. The tightly packed group led to many long games. The fighting spirit continued throughout the event, with the last round having two games go the maximum four hours.

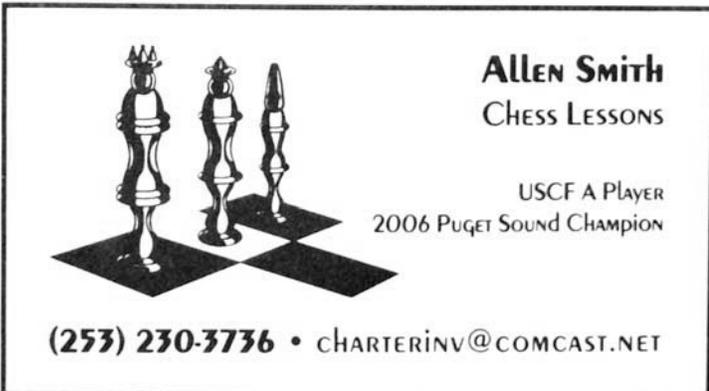
Mark Havrilla and Mika Mitchell topped the A category with 3.5 scores. Ed McLaughlin won the first place B prize (\$65) with a 3.0 score and also had the biggest upset (\$50). Second place in B was shared by James Stripes and John Walton, each with 2.5 scores. Chris Copeland topped the C category with a 2.5 score,

Eastern Washington Open

by
**Kevin
Korsmo**

while the other four class members shared second place (2.0): Ryan Ackerman, Taylor Coles, Nick Harvilla, and Ron Weyland each won \$10.

The two "D" category players, Matthew Grover and Jim Waugh, drew with each other and shared the D prize with 1.0 scores.



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This Month in Northwest Chess History

by
Russell
Miller

1948

So what was Editor Lawrence Taro of Everett reporting on in the *Washington Chess Letter (WCL)* of November 1948?

Page two has Letters to the Editor (five of them). One was from Robert A. Karch of Tacoma. He wanted the Washington Chess Federation to help the younger generation of players and set up student competition. The letter from Max Bader of Bellingham said his sons study the “chess Letters” very carefully. Jim Schmitt of Portland wrote in to thank the editor for the notes to his game with Dake in a recent issue. Jack Nourse of Port Blakely suggested that all chess clubs consider charging dues that include the \$1.00 a year subscription to *WCL*.

Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle had success in New York coming 2nd to Larry Evans in the New York State Title event.

Whidby Island Chess Club won two recent matches over North Whidby and Everett. Jack Nourse and George Rehberg tied for first place in the Kitsap County Tournament at 15-1. There were 6 events in the

coming events list. Puget Sound Chess League report gave results of Tacoma over Kitsap 6-4, Everett downing University 5.5-4.5, Bellingham in a forfeit win over Seattle, Queen Ann topping Olympia 7.5-2.5 and Skagit and YMCA tying at 5-5. Jack Nourse kept the Kitsap County Championship in a match win over George Rehberg 4-1.

Corbett’s Chatter reported on the exploits of Tacoma’s Vernon Holmes, including teaching his nine month old son to play chess. The Seattle YMCA Hobby School planned two courses on chess instruction by Charles Joachim and Richard Allen.

J. Naas was on top of the Postal Ratings.

1958

Issue number 132 of the *Washington Chess Letter* was November 1958 under the editorship of Daniel E. Wade of Seattle and was 16 pages.

Dan presented a plea from The American Chess Foundations for help with a program to stimulate the playing of chess among all the Armed Forces. In 1958 it cost \$2.00 for 12 issues of *WCL*. Lots of Puget Sound League results: Seattle CC over North Seattle 6-4, Latvian Team over Olympia 8-2, Kitsap County topping Tacoma 8.5-1.5, West Seattle by forfeit over Chess Center, Latvian Team 7-1 over McNeil Island, Kitsap County over North Seattle 7.5-2.5, Tacoma CC over Seattle CC 7-2, McNeil Island over Olympia 7-3. Kitsap County was on top of the league standings with Jim McCormick on first board.

WCF tournament director Al Livingston announced that the Washington Open would be held Jan 24-26 at Seattle University. Buz Eddy is the leader of the UofW Chess Club following such leaders in the late 40’s and early 50’s as Robert Stork, Ken Mulford, and Ted Warner.

In news drawn from the pages of *Chess Life* it was reported that Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle won the Heart of America Open held at Kansas City with a 6-1 score. There were 37 players You could join USCF for \$5.00 and get 24 issues of the newspaper *Chess Life* in 1958.

Drawing from the Los Angeles Times newspaper chess column by Isaac Kashdan the *WCL* reported on the Russia win of the 1958 Chess Olympiad. USA was 4th. The USA and Russia drew their match 2-2.

Wade published a page of Washington Tournament Champions, listing the winners over the years of the Washington State Champions, Washington Open, Seattle Seafair, Seattle City, Seattle Chess Club, Puget Sound Open, Inland Empire Open, Spokane City Champions, Tacoma Open, Pierce County Champions, Olympia City Champions, Washington Junior Champions, Washington Woodpushers and Washington Speed Champs. The names of Jim McCormick, Viktors Pupols, Olaf Ulvestad, J. L. Sheets, Ivars Dalbergs and others were in the lists.

There was a full page of “Excerpts from *Washington Chess Letter* of November 1948.” The postal chess rating list was topped by Coubrough.

1968

The November 1968 issue cover of *Northwest Chess* says “21st 1947-1968 Anniversary Issue” including a cartoon drawing by Jack Schrader of a black king chasing a white pawn. The editor was Russell Miller living in Yakima at the time. The issue was printed by Shields Bag and Printing in Yakima on nice white stock paper.

I printed a list of people whose subscription had recently expired. There were tournament announcements for 10 chess events. Buz Eddy was keeping track of WCF Master Points which were based on scores and median tie-breaking points from tournaments requiring WCF membership. The top two players on the list this month were Jim McCormick and Viktors Pupols.

Bob Eldridge reporting in the B.C. Bulletin section of *NWC* says Peter Biyiasas won the New Westminster Open 5.5-.5 good for \$25.00 plus a trophy. 27 players took part. A new chess club has been setup in downtown Vancouver BC at the Engineers Club.

NWC editor Russell Miller was the TD for the 19th annual Washington Woodpushers held at the Tacoma Chess club and Ernst Rasmussen and Stephen Strand tied for 1st with 5.5-.5. 24 players took part. Buz Eddy reported on and directed the 1968 Peace Arch Open which was won by Fred Schutz of BC and Wayne Chin of Bellingham both with 3.5-.5.

Northwest Rating Director Peter J. Olson gave a list of ratings for players in 16 events and 6 matches rated for this month, adding

16 new players to the rating files. John Ward reported on activities at the Tacoma Chess Club. Howard Shelton won a recent 5 minute tournament with a 7-0 score over 7 club members. Vernon Holmes and Ernest Prentice were leading the Club Championship event at this point. Dick Starr won a senior novice event held at the club 5-1.

Harry Glidden of Medford was the Oregon Chess News editor. Mike Montchalin of Clackamas won the Oregon Junior event of 38 players with a 5-0 score. The Rhodes Jr. event in three sections had the largest turnout ever up to this year. Bill Fitzgerald won the 12-14 age group, 5-1, Owen Dvorshak won the 15-8 group 4-0 and Phil Irwin topped the 8-11 section 5-0. The only names on the crosstables that I know who are still active are Carl Haessler, who scored 4-1 in the 8-11 group, and Edward Addis in the 15-18 group with a 3-1 score.

Puget Sound League play resulted in the following match scores: Boeing A vs Bowling B 6.5-3.5, Marysville vs T-Birds 5.5-4.5, Seattle vs Bellingham 6.5-3.5, Tacoma vs Bellevue 5-5, Bellingham vs Boeing B 8-1, Seattle vs Boeing A 5.5-4.5, Bellevue vs Thunderbirds 5-5, Bellingham vs Marysville 8-1, Boeing B vs Tacoma 5-5. and Boeing A vs Bellvue 9-1. Seattle was on top of the league standings at this point.

Tim Kauppila was the Seattle Chess Club events reporter for this month. Lloyd Kaamura of Hawaii took part in a tornado at the Seattle CC scoring 3-1, drawing with 2nd and 3rd place finishers Viktors Pupols and Viesturs Seglins, also both at 3-1. Stephen Hueston won the reserve section 4-0.

John Ward was the postal chess director at this time and he reports Richard Schultz as the top rated player.

1978

Northwest Chess for November 1978 was vol 32, no. 11, issue 370 under the editorship of Robert A. Karch. This issue was 24 pages printed on newsprint. The cover was a picture of a young Karpov. Page 2 was a full page ad for Cyberchess, a mechanical chess playing machine.

The results of the mail ballot election were reported. Only 17 people voted! President- Russell Miller 10, Bill Newell 6, V.P.- David Teplow 12; Secretary-Jim Perry 13,

Duane Polich; Treasurer-Mike Mulford 13; Tournament Director-Mike Thomas 4, Jim Perry 2, Dan Blachly 1, Robert Karch 1, Russell Miller 1; USCF Delegates: Robert Karch 13, Russell Miller 9, Stephen Christopher 9, Viktors Pupols 7, Jim Perry 5, Mike Mulford 3, David Teplow 1; *NWC* Editor Robert Karch 12, Karl Schoffstoll 1, *NWC* Business Manager- Robert Karch 12, *NWC* Exec Board Washington-Russell Miller 11, Oregon- Lewis Richardson 2.

One of the games in the issue was provided by Bruce Harper of BC. He drew the game with Jon Berry in the 1974 B.C. Closed. He got Robert Zuk, Dan Scoones, John Donaldson and the two players themselves to provide notes to the game. It ended in a 71 move draw.

Seattle Lutheran was set to host a 30 board simul by John Peters. It was a part of his Church's Fried Chicken tour of the USA.

The 1978 Puget Sound Open crosstable shows John Donaldson as the winner 5-0. Other players on the table are still some what active today: H.G. Pitre, Bobby Ferguson, Robert Karch, Dennis Ambler, Alexey Rudolph (now Root). 40 players took part.

Jerrold Prothero won the top section of the 12 player Chess in The Park with 3-0. David Teplow won the 2nd section 3-0 also. Editor Robert Karch presented lesson 3 of his free correspondence chess course- King and Pawn endings. Harold Brown of BC and Phil Irwin of Oregon won a \$100.00 each for winning the Seattle Amateur.

Larry Ball was the Oregon section editor for this issue. Dennis Waterman won the Oregon Open on tie-break over Viktors Pupols, D. Leo Stefurak and Eric Tangborn. There was 164 players in the 1978 event with 126 in 1977 and 135 in 1976 per a report by organizer Robert Karch about how he set up the event. Oregon Open of 1978 was number 3 on the total turnout list for events held Labor Day weekend in the USA.

Jim Perry provided news from the Russian weekly 64: Karpov defeated Korchnoi for the World Championship title and Maya Chiburdanidze downed Nona Gaprindashvili for the women's title.

David L. Brown of Illinois did a problems page for *NWC*. There were TLA for 11 events in this issue, being held in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There were 23 different

sponsors of chess events listed on the chess calendar page of this issue.

1988

The November 1988 issue of *Northwest Chess* was the last issue under the editorship of IM Nikolay Minev; he and a crew of people did 216 pages over the year of his term. James Blackwood would take over the duties for the next issue: he outlined his plans for the future issues of *NWC*.

The cover photo was the Lakeside Middle School team. They were the 1988 Washington Junior High School champions. There was an article by their coach, Jon Bayley, and Summit MS coach John Braley about the team.

The crosstable of the Woodpusher Open held in Tacoma in August of 1988 listed 24 players and the winner Neil Salmon. Other players I noticed on the table who are still active in area tournaments are: E. Rasmussen, John Graves, Randy Walther, John Ward, Mike Schemm.

Dick Phillips wrote an article for *NWC* about Seattle CC member Ben Delson. Ben served in World War II in Europe and was a POW for several years and played chess while a POW. He was the best player in his barracks at Stalag Luft No. 4. Ben also did service in Korea. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Miami. It was 1959 before he started serious tournament play. 1978 found him working for Boeing in Seattle and becoming a member of the Seattle Chess Club.

The 1988 Oregon Open crosstable held in Eugene lists 121 players with John Donaldson on top at 5.5-5. Many of the players in the Oregon Open are still active today. Some are (in finish order from the table): Ralph Dubisch, David Weinstock, H. G. Pitre, Bill McGeary, John Hatala, Mike Morris, E. Rasmussen, Mike Schemm, Phil McCready, Evan Whipple, David Roper, Marvin Hayami, Wray Maxwell, John Mead, Allen Smith....

The Summer Swiss in Tacoma was won by John Graves, Mike MacGregor, and Robert Allen all at 4-1. Spokane CC held a two section action event with Bill Phillip winning one and Lee Willis winning other. David Collyer was the TD and his son Curt was probably playing in his first rated event.

Postal Director was Kristen Dietsch.

Publisher's Desk

by
**Duane
Polich**

Well, I have to admit I rarely have a clean desk, and this month it is especially crowded with all that is going on with your magazine.

First of all, I would like to welcome FIDE Master Ralph Dubisch as the new permanent editor for *Northwest Chess*. As previously noted, Ralph has a wealth of experience, being a former editor and President of the Washington Chess Federation. Ralph was the one who organized the Northwest Chess Convention back in the 1990s which ran along with the Washington Open and had a very nice turnout. Ralph also worked with Yasser Seirawan at *Inside Chess* and was responsible for development of the World Rapid Chess rating system. Ralph also worked with Rusty Miller, Fred Kleist, and with new *NWC* board member Karl Schoffstoll at ICE. Though currently residing in San Jose, CA, Ralph has the software, the experience, and the contacts necessary for the production of the magazine, and with the Internet, it doesn't seem to matter much where the editor lives.

Soon we will be posting past issues

in pdf format on the *Northwest Chess* website. We hope to have the new look available within the next few months. The *Northwest Chess* website at www.nwchess.com is also getting an upgrade as we have switched over to a new hosting service which gives us a ton of space to add material and new features, such as the NWC Forum. We encourage members to sign up on the forum and use it as a way to communicate with the board members and WCF officers as well as finding out what is going on in the chess community, arranging carpools, etc.

The *Northwest Chess* Board was finally able to hold its long anticipated meeting and several changes are coming about as a result. The board members include the OCF President David Yoshinaga and Oregon rep Karl Schoffstoll, WCF President Duane Polich, and Mark Ryan as the Washington member-at-large. In order to make the magazine more independent and accountable, the board voted in favor of modifying the current organization and changing the name to Northwest Chess Foundation. The Foundation will be established as a non-profit entity whose mission will be to publish the magazine, promote chess as an educational tool and promote chess to the members we serve. A mission statement and a set of bylaws will be put in place. The board structure will change so that each federation will have at least one board rep, but not necessarily the President of each federation. The publisher and business manager will also serve on the board and the board also may include a member outside the chess circle.

We anticipate these changes will bring better management and accountability to the magazine and its readers. The board is well aware of the

issues the magazine faces regarding its viability. With the way the economy is at the moment, increasing costs and the declining tournament attendance, the magazine must be managed in a way that provides value to the readers. Remember it is your magazine and your participation in the management and content of the magazine is encouraged. As to what you want to see in the magazine, let us know.

The board intends to continue to publish the magazine in a print format on a monthly basis. We recognize it must be timely to be of value to our readers and advertisers so that they get the information that is useful to them. To meet this requirement, the board recognized the need for a change in editors and made that change. Also, the board intends to put out a quality magazine in a timely manner without raising the cost. This can only be achieved by raising revenue in the form of additional subscriptions, advertising and contributions. Please encourage your friends to subscribe to the magazine and support the advertisers. The board also plans to extend invitations to the Idaho Chess Association and the Montana Chess Association to become their official state chess publication as it is for Washington and Oregon. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but it can only happen to benefit our readers and members. We highly encourage your participation in the process.

Until next month, remember to beware of pretty moves that you find; a pretty move can hide an evil mind. Be careful of what you play or you may get blown away. The odds are he won't last to play that cheapo.

Duane Polich
Publisher, *Northwest Chess*

(Secret Cheapo Man...)

Green Open

by
**Hanniegn
Pitre**

The Green Open at Seattle Chess Club was held September 13-14. It featured only four rounds of chess over two days, at Fischer time controls.

I would recommend to the tournament directors of the Northwest that they consider these two aspects for their tourneys: shorter playing lengths for the rounds with a time control that is still long enough for a quality game, and fewer rounds in a weekend.

Many players have digital clocks. It's time to investigate this Fischer setting. We provided some instructions for setting both the Chronos and DGT XL clocks before round one began. We still had a few problems, but not many, and

I am sure the education process will continue, so that a more of the players with digital clocks will be comfortable with both setting and demonstrating the correctness to their opponent.

With this different tournament offering we were able to attract thirty-two players to compete for a guaranteed prize fund. We also offered two lectures designed for the under-1800 rated players. The lectures were given by Masters John Readey and Bill McGeary. Each had about ten players in the audience, and I heard words of appreciation and approval of this feature. Why not try this in your area too? I would like to hear from someone who knows of a source that would offer some financing for this type of educational component for future events.

We offered incentives for players to carpool, or take public transportation, or walk, or bike to the site. I also obtained some support from the nearby Hotwire Internet Cafe in the North City neighborhood. They gave us some discount coupons on their coffee, pastries,



Ethan Bushkansky and Kiacheng Hu. Photo credit: Guy Bushkansky.



Hugh Long. Photo credit: Guy Bushkansky.

and sandwiches. I think we were successful in offering a lot of little features that improved the tourney ambience, and I hope we will see this in other tournaments. I already like the cookies and coffee gratis that we get in the Spokane CC tourneys. Try this out for size.

The prize winners of the Open section: 1st Viktors Pupols, 2nd Dereque Kelley, 3rd and U-2000; Alex Guo, Sean McLaren, Ben Calpo, Drayton Harrison, and Nathan Lee. Reserve section winners: 1st and 2nd: Hugh Long and Jesse Breneman; 3rd and 1st U-1600: Catherine Smith and Ethan Bashkansky; 1st U-1400: Anthony Guo, Patrick Wang, and Jiayi Hu.

The Seattle Chess Club leadership assisted me as well. Drayton Harrison, Jerome Buroker, and Ben Calpo helped me clean up the place, and Drayton also helped with some registration details. Thank you all.

Finally, thanks to the three players who came from Canada. Victoria, BC organizers are planning a nice event over Easter, 2009. Check out:

<http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria+Chess+Festival+2009>

Scholastic Round-up

by
**Gary
Dorfner**

The Sedro Woolley Grand Prix Tournament was held in September. There were 69 players in 13 quadrangular sections. The section winners were: Tom Witecki & Kaleb Smartt; Robyn Lesh; Will Randa; Joe Hough; Kyle Berger; Ben Heller; Laine Forrest & Matt Sloane; Tim Smith; Kyle Robinson & Jaren Tilley; Aarthi Ganapathi; Vikram Ramasamy, Brent Li & Luca Der; Catie Dutton & Mike Zaho; Wayee Tang.

In Corvallis, there were 16 scholastic players in two divisions. The winners were: Upper Division, Landon Brown; Lower Division, Tuck Price.

The Chess 4 Life Quads were held on Sept. 27th. There were 44 players in all. The winners were: Nathaniel Lee; Aaron Ong; Brian Gu; Tby Ven; Dino Deraad & Lionel Chang; Charlie Ma; Althea Poteet; Akshay Venkaesh; Joseph Zhong; Jacob Zhang; Lloyd Smith; Jessica Petrochuk.

Chess 4 Life Back To School Open was held on Sept. 20th. 1st, William Lee & Gabriel Shen, 4.5 each.

Spokane will host the Washington State Elementary Championship at the Spokane Convention Center, April 24-25, 2009.

Find games from the
Green Open online, at
www.nwchess.com

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ Nov 15-16

Tacoma All-Economy #3♣

A Steve Buck Innovation. Play for fun & excitement, improve your ratings, accrue grand prix points & enjoy 2 days of challenging chess for only **EF**: \$12.00. **Prizes**: None. **Site**: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11 2nd floor, DTI Soccer Store Building. **Format**: 5-SS **TC**: R-1 G/60, R-2 G/90, Rds 3,4,5 G/120. **Rds**: Sat. 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or A.S.A.P. **Byes**: No unwanted byes unless requested. Steve Buck will play as houseman. **Misc.**: USCF & WCF/OCF membership required. NW NS NC. **Ent/Info**: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ Nov 22, Dec 27

PCC Game-in-60♣

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format**: 4-SS **TC**: G/60. TD may switch to 5-SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. **EF**: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC members. No advance entries. **Prizes**: \$\$200 b/20. \$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 6

Washington Quick Chess Championship♣

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 17517 15th Ave N.E., Seattle WA 98115. **Format**: 5-SS in 2 sections, Open & Scholastic. **TC**: G/30. **Reg**: 9:00-9:45 AM. **Rds**: 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 or A.S.A.P. **EF**: (Adults) \$25.00, (Jrs) \$15.00. **Prizes**: (Open) (B/20) 1st \$70.00, 2nd \$65.00, 1st U2000, U1700 & U1500 \$50.00 each. (Scholastic) Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. **Byes**: 2 HPBs available. **Ent/Info**: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445, 253-535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com. Checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.

♣ December 13-14

Portland Winter Open♣

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219 **Format**: 5-SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800) **TC**: 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. **EF**: \$30 if received by 12/10, \$35 at site. \$10 discount for PCC Members OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA **Prizes**: (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75 Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/UNR \$50 **Reg**: 9-9:30AM 12/13, **Rds**: Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun: 10-ASAP. **Byes**: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg, maximum two **Adv Ent**: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219 **Info**: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com

Northwest
Grand Prix
Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
MEVjr54@yahoo.com
425-882-0102

Open Events

October 2008

♣31-Nov2 SCC Extravaganza SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

November 2008

1 PCC Saturday Quads 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

7 TCC Blitz Championship 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

♣8 SCC Saturday Quads SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

9 SCC Novice SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

11 PCC Tuesday Quads begin 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

12 Speed Chess tournament mark.ryan@translation.net www.calandersonpark.org Seattle WA

14 TCC Quick Chess Championship 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

♣15-16 TCC All-Economy #3 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

22 Java Fusion Open 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

♣22 ♣ PCC Game-in-60 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

♣23 SCC Sunday Tornado SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

♣28-30 WA Class Championships Dan Mathews dhmathews@hotmail.com 425-218-7529 Redmond WA

December 2008

2 PCC Tuesday Quads begin 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

5,12,19,26 TCC Christmas Swiss 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

6 PCC Saturday Quads 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

♣6 WA Quick Chess Championship 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com Seattle WA

♣13 SCC Saturday Quads SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

♣13-14 Portland Winter Open 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

♣14 SCC Sunday Tornado SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 cfkleist@cs.com www.seattlechess.org Seattle WA

♣20-21 WA Challengers' Cup 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

♣27 ♣ PCC Game-in-60 503-246-2978 portlandchessclub@gmail.com www.pdxchess.org Portland OR

27 Java Fusion Open 253-535-2536 ggarychess@aol.com www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com Tacoma WA

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

November 2008

8 South Ridge Holiday Extravaganza (K-3,4-6,7-12) seymours@pacifier.com 360-887-8315 www.playingforthecking.com Ridgefield WA

11 Veteran's Day Tournament (K-12) David Sommers dsommers@libertychristian.net 509-946-0602 Richland WA

15 Carl Cozier Chess Kickoff (K-1,2-3,4-5, 6-8) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Bellingham WA

15 Skyview Fall Tnmt, (K-3,K-3 U600, K-6,K-6 U800, K-12,K-12 U1000) Micah Smith mikeysmith@aol.com 360-944-1686 Vancouver WA

22 King's Way Chess Tournament (K-1, 2-3,4-6,7-12) Vancouver WA

22 Chessmates Kickoff (K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-8) http://www.chessplayer.com Seattle, WA

28 Thanksgiving Scholastic (@ WA Class) David Hendricks davidhendricks@comcast.net 425-868-3881 Redmond WA

December 2008

6 Richland Rook Round Up (K-12) Cathy Kuwamoto cathy.kuwamoto@rsd.edu Richland WA

13 YMCA Tournament (K-3,4-6) www.playingforthecking.com Vancouver WA

13 Assumption Christmas Classic (K-1,2-3,4-5,6-8) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Bellingham WA

January 2009

10 Whatcom County Championships (K-12) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Lynden WA

17 Lower Valley Tournament (K-12) Alan Kawakami arivertop@embarqmail.com 509-786-1822 Prosser WA

17 Meridian Park (K, K-3, 4-6, 7-8 Girls K-3, 4-6) http://www.chessplayer.com Shoreline, WA

19 WA Junior Open and Reserve davidhendricks@comcast.net Bellevue WA

24 Roosevelt Tournament (K-8) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Bellingham WA

24 Chess Mates Winter Fest (K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-8) http://www.chessplayer.com Seattle, WA

31 Charles Wright Chess Challenge (K-3, 4-6, 7-12/adult) www.chess4life.com Tacoma WA

31 Eastside Grade Championship (K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) John Muir Elem http://www.chessplayer.com Kirkland, WA

February 2009

7 Waypoint Foundation Scholastic www.waypointfoundation.org/index.html Ephrata WA

7 YMCA Chess Tournament (K-3, 4-6) www.playingforthecking.com Vancouver WA

7 International Chess Jam 2009 (K-12) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Ferndale WA

21 Chess F.E.S.T. (K-6) R Kaech http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Ferndale WA

21 Eastern WA Championships (K-12) Dave Merrill president@chesschampions.org Richland WA