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NWC Staff

Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
editor@nwchess.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Karl Schoffstoll,
Duane Polich & James Stripes

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Rusty Miller makes the cover this month. Not only did he conceive and organize Chess Night at Portland's PGE Park, he also designed a line of stylish fashion accessories to publicize the event. He is pictured wearing some of them at the National Open in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, the Vegas trip was financially draining, and Rusty isn't heading to the U.S. Open this year.

He's still the top donor to Northwest Chess by far, though, and in addition to a special Stephen Christopher Memorial prize for the best Washington player rated under 2000 at the U.S. Open, he's also arranged special Martha Jane Miller memorial prizes for women at some of the region's big tournaments. There's \$100 available just for the ladies in the top section at the Oregon Open, and King Liao won this prize at the Washington Open.

So thanks, Rusty, for your generous and innovative work to sponsor and promote chess in the Northwest!

Here's a complete list of prize winners from Spokane's Washington Open:

Open

John Donaldson	5.0, 1st Place	\$ 1,000.00
Joshua C Sinanan	4.5, 2nd-4th / 1st U2150	\$ 425.00
Nick J Raptis	4.5, 2nd-4th / 1st U2150	\$ 425.00
Steven J Breckenridge	4.5, 2nd-4th / 1st U2150	\$ 425.00
Howard Chen	4.5, 2nd-4th / 1st U2150	\$ 425.00
Curt D Collyer	4.0, 5th Place	\$ 100.00
Loal W Davis	4.0, 5th Place	\$ 100.00
Michael Wang	4.0, 2nd U2150	\$ 250.00
Dereque D Kelley	3.5, 3rd-4th U2150	\$ 62.50
David G Rupel	3.5, 3rd-4th U2150	\$ 62.50
Eduardo J Daroza	3.5, 3rd-4th U2150	\$ 62.50
David T Fulton	3.5, 3rd-4th U2150	\$ 62.50
.....	Open section total	\$ 3,400.00

Premier

Robert Herrera	4.5, 1st-3rd Place	\$ 316.67
Ethan Gottlieb	4.5, 1st-3rd Place	\$ 316.67
Daniel R Copeland	4.5, 1st-3rd Place	\$ 316.67
Patrick Herbers	4.0, 4th-5th Place	\$ 116.67
Mark A Havilla	4.0, 4th-5th Place	\$ 116.67
David T Rowles	4.0, 4th-5th Place	\$ 116.67
Michael J Hosford	4.0, 1st-3rd U1850	\$ 166.67
Marvin Y Hayami	4.0, 1st-3rd U1850	\$ 166.67
James D Stripes	4.0, 1st-3rd U1850	\$ 166.67
Hillel Shirman	3.5, 4th U1850	\$ 50.00
James L McAleer	3.5, 4th U1850	\$ 50.00
.....	Premier section total	\$ 1,900.03

Reserve

Ryan S Ackerman	5.5, 1st Place	\$ 350.00
Siva B Narayanan	5.0, 2nd Place	\$ 250.00
Daniel J McCourt	4.5, 3rd Place	\$ 200.00
Alan Walk	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Michael R Clark	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Anatoly Grabar	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Russell W Miller	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Murlin E Varner	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Taylor B Coles	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
Aaron M Nicoski	4.0, 4th-5th / 1st-4th U1550 ..	\$ 107.14
.....	Reserve section total	\$ 1,549.98

Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



Booster

Shanglun Wang	6.0, 1st Place	\$ 300.00
A George Stewart	4.5, 2nd Place	\$ 150.00
James L Burney	4.0, 3rd Place	\$ 100.00
Randy Fairfield	4.0, 1st-2nd Unr	\$ 100.00
Michael J Zhao	4.0, 1st-2nd Unr	\$ 100.00
James Waugh	3.5, 4th-5th / 1st-2nd U1100 ..	\$ 100.00
Jacob V Mayer	3.5, 4th-5th / 1st-2nd U1100 ..	\$ 100.00
Robert B Zhang	3.5, 4th-5th / 1st-2nd U1100 ..	\$ 100.00
Henry Aguilar	3.5, 4th-5th / 1st-2nd U1100 ..	\$ 100.00
.....	Booster section total	\$ 1,150.00
.....	Grand Total	\$ 8,000.01

Blitz-Open

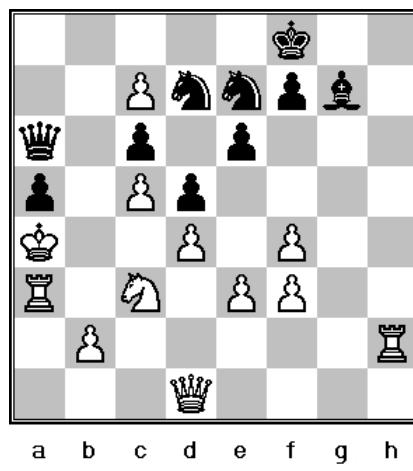
Steven J Breckenridge	5.0, 1st Place	\$ 59.00
Luke Harmon-Vellotti	3.5, 2nd Place	\$ 29.00
Duane J Polich	2.5, 1st Place U1900	\$ 24.00
.....	Grand Total-Blitz	\$ 112.00

Special Prizes

King Liao	1.0, Martha Jane Miller	\$ 100.00
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Speaking of prize winners, Michael Lee didn't win the U.S. Junior Closed in July, Ray Robson did with 6/7, but Michael scored 50% and is now rated over 2400. We have his annotations from his last round draw with GM Vinay Bhat at the World Open (see page 22), where Michael earned his first IM norm. Congratulations!

Finally, Josh Sinanan's student, Roland Feng, age 8 (and rated around 1700! He was the 2008 National K-1 Champion, and is 2009 Washington State Grade 2 Co-Champion), supplies the following diagram as "The Adventures of Superking #1."



It's Black to move.... but he has no mate!

The solver's first job is to find some chances for Black, then having spotted the sacrifices and checks, work out the white king's march to safe haven.

Good luck!

Green Open II

by
David Rupel

Game in 90 minutes/2 hours with a 30 second increment hopefully is the wave of the future in the USA. In Europe, it is the wave of the present.

For the uninitiated, every time a player makes a move he adds an extra 30 seconds to his clock. Hence, one avoids the spectacle of frantic scrambles to make time control. This innovation, appearing in recent US championships, is attributed to no less a luminary than Fischer.

It was a pleasure to play in the Second Green Open — and not just because I managed to achieve one of my rare, clear firsts.

Organizer/Director Hanniegn Pitre deserves kudos for conducting a well-run, innovative event as well as promoting a “green” theme. Reduced entry fees were available to players who rode the bus, jogged, bicycled, etc. US Master Bill McGeary conducted a lecture for players rated under 1800.

Perhaps having experience in tourneys in Spain and Costa Rica under similar time limits contributed to my success. I literally must go back decades in order to find my last full point versus former Washington state champion William Schill.

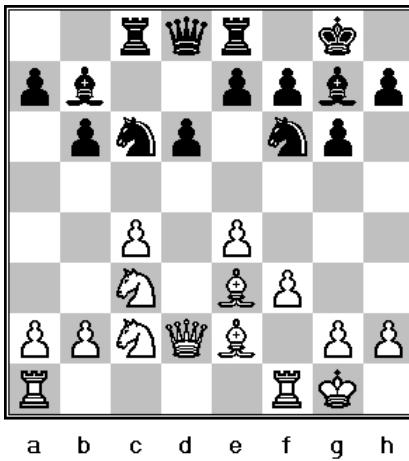
Notes by David Rupel.

David Rupel – William Schill
Green Open II, Round 2
Seattle, Washington, May 9, 2009

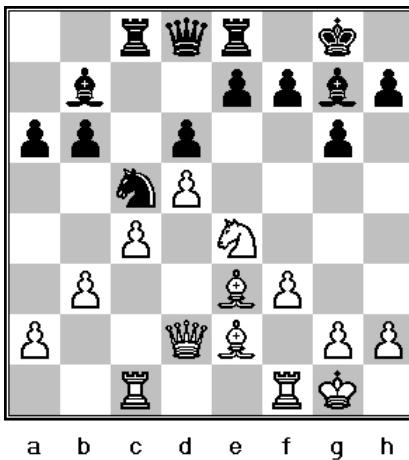
1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. e4 Bg7 5. d4 cxd4 6. Nxd4

By one of many alternate routes, we have a Sicilian Maroczy bind. Because Black often has problems creating tactical opportunities, it is a good choice when White faces a higher rated opponent.

6. ...0-0 7. Be2 Nc6 8. Nc2 b6 9. 0-0 Bb7 10. Be3 Rc8 11. f3 d6 12. Qd2 Re8



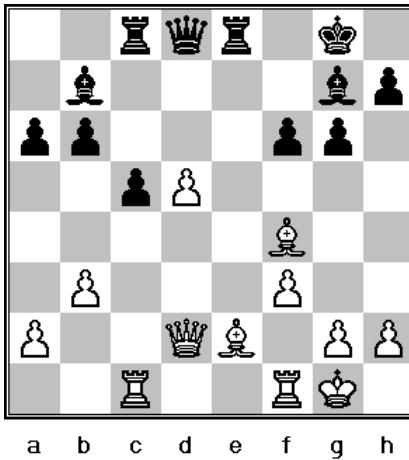
13. Rac1 Ne5 14. b3 Ned7 15. Nb4 a6 16. Nbd5 Nxd5 17. exd5 Nc5 18. Ne4



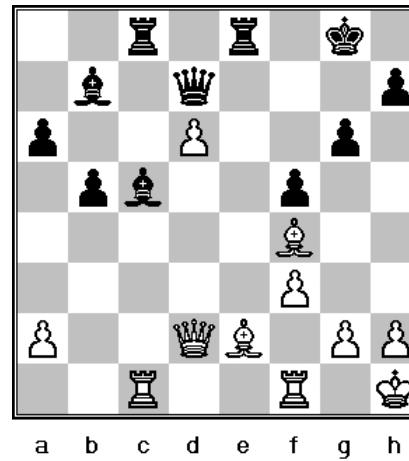
18. ...e6 19. Bg5

With the idea of forcing weaknesses on the light-squares.

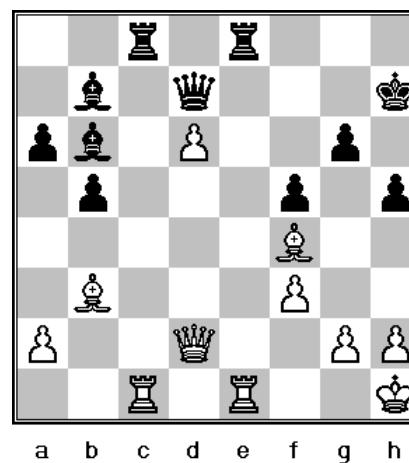
19. ...f6 20. Nxc5 dxc5 21. Bf4 exd5 22. cxd5



22. ...f5 23. d6 Bd4+ 24. Kh1 b5 25. b4 Qd7 26. bxc5 Bxc5



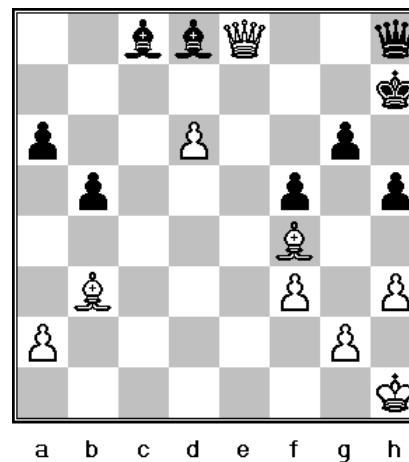
27. Bd1 h5 28. Bb3+ Kh7 29. Rfe1 Bb6



30. h3

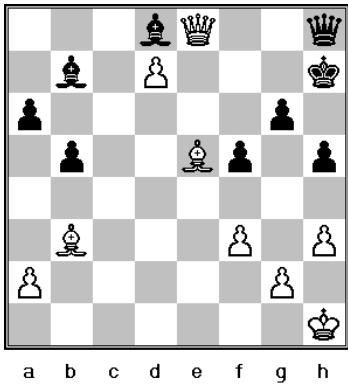
Better is 30. Rxc8 Bxc8 31. Bg5.

30. ...Rxc1 31. Rxc1 Bd8 32. Re1 Rxe1+ 33. Qxe1 Be8 34. Qe5 Qg7 35. Qe8 Qh8

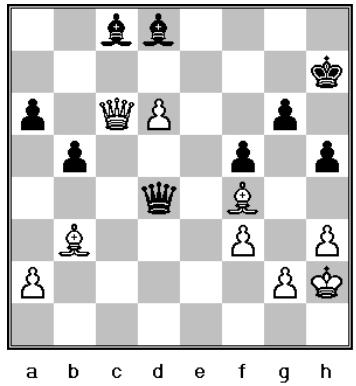


36. Qc6??

Trying to exploit my advantage on time, I played this too quickly. 36. d7! wins outright after 36. ...Bb7 37. Be5!



After the text, black can save himself with 36. ...Qa1+ 37 Kh2 Qd4!



Alas, he couldn't find this resource in the time remaining on his clock and resigned.

1-0

More Green Open II

by
H. G. Pitre

On May 9 & 10, 2009, the 2nd Green Open at the Seattle Chess Club got under way a little after the posted time of 10:15AM with some of these words to all the players:

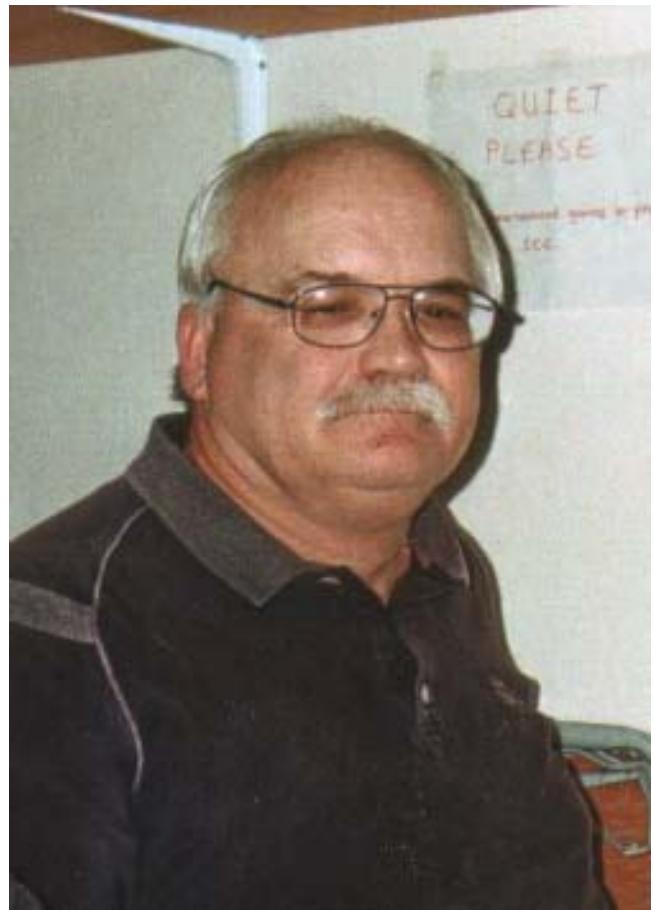
"We are following the USCF rules with some specific ones highlighted and posted on the walls of the club, and with one rule exception. It is extremely important that you record your moves, move after move, and the same goes for your opponent. If he is not doing so, you must alert me, the tournament director, to warn the opponent to do this. After a couple of warnings a penalty may be assessed. When the opponent's flag falls, if your opponent does not acknowledge it and resign, then you must make the claim. So be alert to the status of your opponent's clock. The Director under USCF rules is not to be active in the way he is under FIDE rules. You must act for yourself, by getting the TD (me) and stating your claims."

"Now finally the exception. If both flags are fallen, and no one noticed which fell first, it is a draw. What is the likelihood that this will happen? Highly unlikely. But don't bring it on. If your opponent's flag has fallen, don't torture him. Claim it."

I write this now because we fortunately avoided any problems as occurred in the 2009 US Championships, which recently experienced an indelicate recording moves issue in its second round. We did have a problem in the game between Pat Hickey and Ethan Gottlieb. It was Pat's first experience with the requirement to record every move throughout the game regardless of the time remaining, and he felt uncomfortable that his young opponent was playing on in a "book draw" position. I told Pat that he had to play on. I did not notice that at one point his opponent was not recording all his moves. Pat did not immediately make this claim clearly to me. He later told me that he was shocked that the opponent was not doing so after the great lengths I had gone to explain at the start of the rounds that players must do so. Well, we had an amicable outcome. It was a book draw; Pat eventually alerted me that

Ethan was not recording his moves, and I gained one more bit of experience to use to point to that it is very important to ask the players to arrive early – at least 5 minutes before the stated round time – to go over the details of the clock setting, and highlight a few important rules, after which the tourney should go smoothly.

The Green Open featured only four rounds of chess over two days, using 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 the Fischer settings. We provided some instructions for setting both the Chronos and DGT XL clocks before round one began. We had virtually no problems, and I am sure the educational process will continue, so that a higher percentage of the players with digital clocks will be comfortable with both Fischer settings and demonstrating the correctness to their opponent. The hardest thing to cope with is that the players don't want to come



David Rupel. Photo credit: H. G. Pitre.



into the playing room for an orderly start to the round, but instead want to play skittles and blitz to the last minute or past the posted start time of each round, and thereby do not allow the efficient starting of each round. They do not see how it all comes together. Verifying that the clocks are set right at the start is completely under-appreciated.

With this different tournament offering we were able to attract twenty-six players which is down from the thirty-two players who attended in the first Green Open to compete for a guaranteed prize fund. We also offered one lecture designed for the under-1800 rated players. The lecture was given by Master Bill McGahey. Bill had about eight young players in the audience and some parents, and a few other veterans. I heard laughter and other signs of fun, and I had to leave my desk a couple of times to look at the happenings. This feature of the tourney was much appreciated. Try offering this in your event.

We offered incentives for players to carpool, take public transportation, walk, or bike to the site.

The prize winners of the Open section: 1st David Rupel, tied for 2nd & 3rd: Paul

Bartron and Howard Chen, and tied for 1st U-2000; Patrick Hickey, Peter O'Gorman, and Nathan Lee.

For the Reserve section the winners were: Tied for 1st & 2nd: Quentin Chi and Justin Yu; 3rd Steve Buck, tied for 1st U-1600: Spencer Lehmann and Darby Monahan; tied for 1st U-1400: Jonathan Bell and Evangeline Chang.

I asked a few players who won a prize to consider sending sending notes with their games to me or the editor. I don't know how many will respond, but if they did so, they have been included here for your enjoyment. We also have a few games from the event that are available only at nwchess.com, and you can use the MyChessViewer2.2 that can be found there to play through them. We may hold another event in the early Fall. I hope you'll consider playing then.

Pat Hickey and Brian Raffel helped me clean up the club at the end of the event. Thank you all.

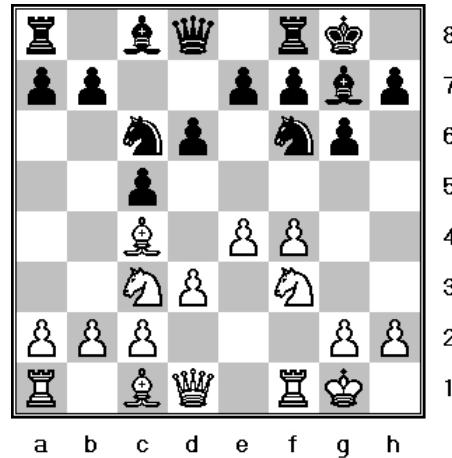
Notes to the following game are by Quentin Chi.

Quentin Chi – Robert Goodfellow

Green Open II, Round 3

Seattle, Washington, May 10, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. f4 Nf6 4. Bc4 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. 0-0 0-0 7. d3 Nc6



We've reached the mainline position of the grand prix attack.

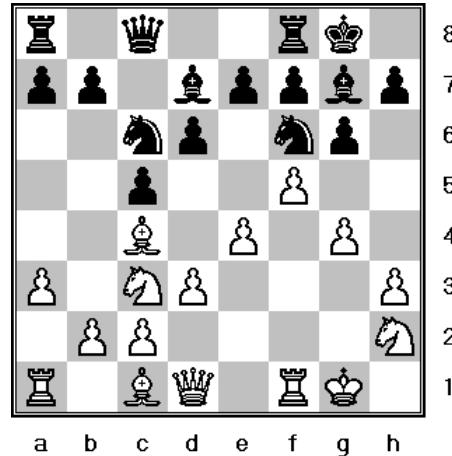
8. h3

8. Qe1 is more usual; White aims for a slower buildup.

8. ...Bd7 9. a3 Qc8 10. Nh2 Nh5

?? Black misreads the position. g2-g4 does not weaken White, it weakens Black.

11. g4 Nf6 12. f5



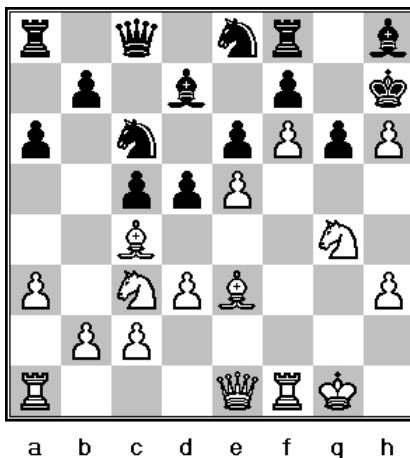
12. ...e6 13. g5 Ne8 14. f6

Entombing Black's king bishop and strategically sealing the victory.

14. ...Bh8 15. Ng4 h5 16. gxh6 a6 17. Qe1

{White could consider the clearance play 17. h7+ first. – editor}

17. ...Kh7 18. e5 d5 19. Be3



a b c d e f g h

Enticing Black's d5-d4 or d5xc4, thus allowing White's knight passage to g5.

19. ...d4

19. ...b6 may be better, but leaves White with the initiative.

19. ...Nxe5 looks like a good move, but there are many complications further down the line after 19. ...Nxe5 20. Nxe5 Bxf6 (better than Nxf6 and if ...dxc4 or ...d4, Ne4) 21. Nxd7 Qxd7 22. Bxc5, which leads to a very mixed position.



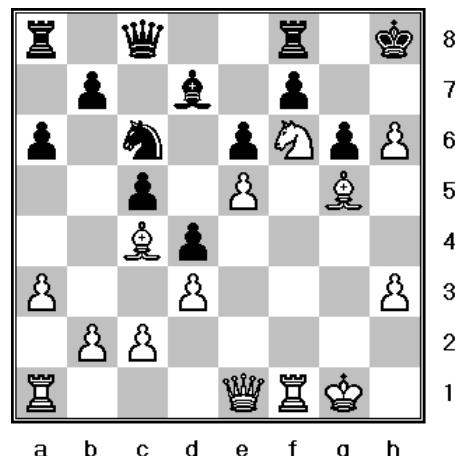
It seemed like a chance I would take, and with so many pieces hanging, material was irrelevant and the main goal was the king.

It was a very suspenseful position. I calculated for maybe 15 minutes, and finally deduced that the ending positions in most sequences were in my favor. At the time I thought that although ...Nxe5 was exciting and complicated, the best move was just ...b6. Now I think he probably should have tried the ...Nxe5 variations.

20. Ne4 Bxf6

Desperation move, but there is nothing better.

21. Nxf6+ Nxg5 22. Nxf6+ Kh8 23. Bg5



23. ...b5 24. Ba2 b4 25. Ne4 bxa3 26. bxa3

{This recapture doesn't seem necessary.
26. Bf6+ and go for the king. – editor}

26. ...Na7

? 26. ...f5 would hold on longer.

27. Bf6+ Kh7 28. Ng5+

1-0



Emanuel and Evangeline Chang with Mom. Photo credit: H. G. Pitre.

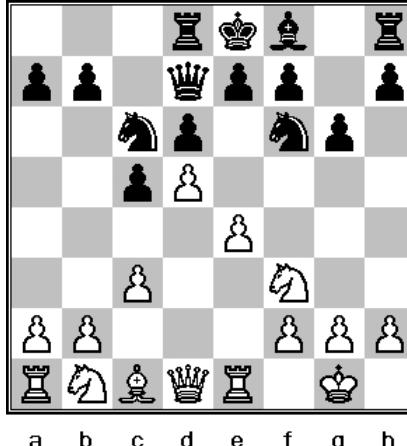
Grants Pass Open

by
Corey
Russell

Corey Russell – Peter Grant
Grants Pass Open, Round 1

Grants Pass, Oregon, March 14, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 Nc6 6. c3 Nf6 7. Re1 g6 8. d4 Rd8 9. d5



9. ...Ne5??!

Dubious. This weakens Black's pawn structure for what appears to be little gain. Instead ...Nb8 is perfectly acceptable since White closed the center with d5. From b8 can go to a6 and c7, supporting a future b5 advance.

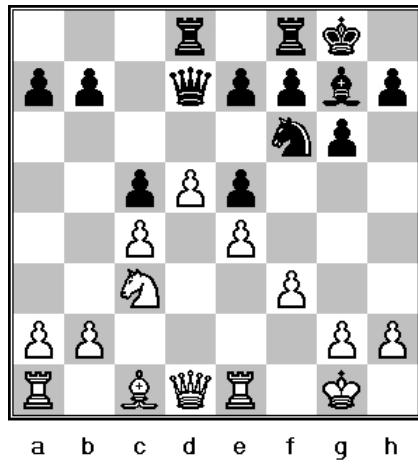
10. Nxe5 dxe5 11. c4

Played both to reinforce strongpoint d5 and to open up c3 for White's knight.

11. ...Bg7 12. Nc3 0-0 13. f3

A multi-purpose move: 1) Defends e4 with a pawn, so the pieces defending it are

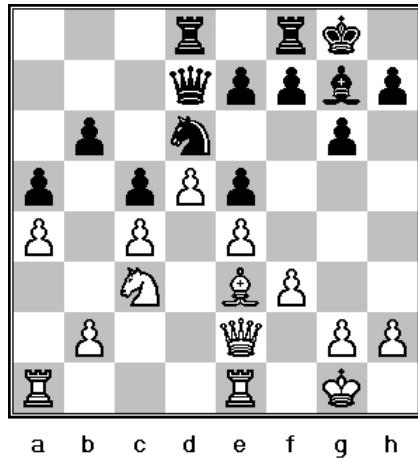
free to do other things; 2) White can play Be3 without worrying about ...Ng4; 3) When White's bishop is at e3 and Black plays an eventual f5-f4, then White has natural escape square to f2.



13. ...Ne8 14. Be3 b6 15. a4 Nd6 16. Qe2

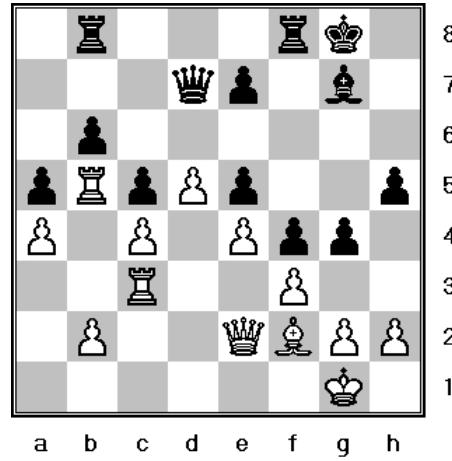
I played to e2 instead of Qd3 to defend the c4 pawn so that my queen wouldn't be "hanging" at d3 (remember many combinations are based on undefended pieces) and also so that if for some reason my e4 pawn or c4 pawn every had to take, wouldn't have to worry about a pawn tempo to e4 or c4.

16. ...a5



While this does stop White's idea of a5, it creates a backward pawn at b6 which is a long term weakness. Perhaps instead he should have tried to get his own plans going with 16. ...f5.

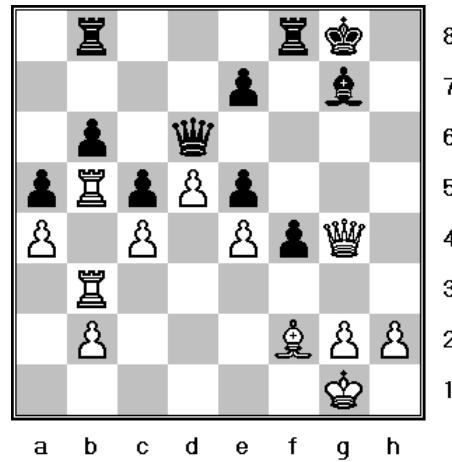
17. Ra3 f5 18. Rb3 f4 19. Bf2 Rb8 20. Rc1 g5 21. Nb5 Nxb5 22. Rxb5 h5 23. Rc3 g4?



This is a mistake; White wins a pawn.

24. Rcb3 gxf3 25. Qxf3 Qd6 26. Qxh5 Rfc8 27. Qg4 Rf8??

This loses on the spot. 27. ... Kf7 would offer more resistance. However White's followup of 28. Qe6+! Qxe6 29. dx6+ Kxe6 30. Rxb6+ leads to a superior endgame for White.



28. Bxc5!!

This move is based on an intermezzo (in between move).

28. ...bxc5 29. Rxb8 Qxb8

If 29. ... Rxb8 30. Qe6+ Qxe6 31. Rxb8+ (the in-between move), and Black has no way to block well with the queen, so end result White up an exchange and easily winning since the a-pawn will fall. Or in the same line 30. ...Kf8 31. Qxd6 Rxb3 32. Qxc5 Rxb2 33. Qxa5, when White's queen and passed pawns will be too much for Black.

30. Qe6+

Of course 30. ...Rf7 will lose a queen for nothing to Rxb8, and 30. ...Kh8 31. Rh3+ leads to mate. Therefore Black resigned.

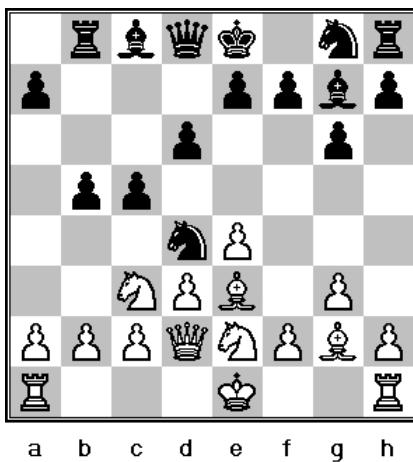
1-0

Christian Shield – Corey Russell
Grants Pass Open, Round 2
Grants Pass, Oregon, March 14, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. g3 Ne6 4. Bg2 g6
5. d3 Bg7 6. Be3 Rb8 7. Qd2 b5

White and Black are playing a “secret” game here – Black doesn’t White to trade off his dark-squared bishop just yet, so makes other moves to improve his position in the mean time.

8. Nge2 Nd4



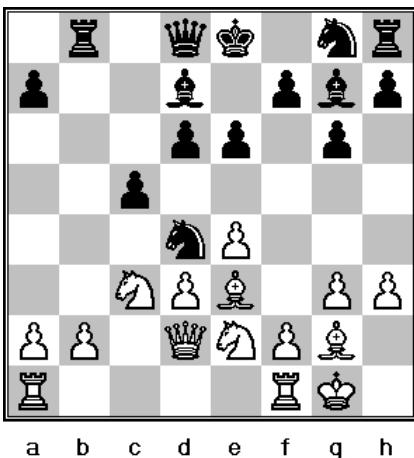
Normally one doesn’t move a piece twice in the opening, except for king safety or to procure a large amount of material. However since the position is not open at the moment, Black can get away with this. If Black allows White to play d4 right now, White would get a good game, so the text prevents this.

9. h3 e6 10. 0-0 Bd7 11. Nd1 b4

All right. Black is still not castled, so what gives? Answer is that with position closed he can get away with this. Black knows pawn to c3 is coming, so he wants to force opening of the b-line if that does.

12. c3 bxc3 13. Ndxc3?

While improving one’s knight seems like a natural idea, it was more important to contest d4 with 13. bxc3. Now Black has opportunity to make the d4-hole a liability.



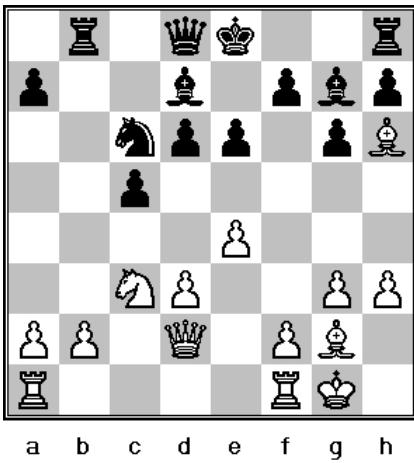
13. ...Nxe2+!

White would love to contest d4 with Nxe2, but problem is would lose a pawn to 14. ... Rxb2. Note that with the queen diverted, this seems like a good time to finish kingside development.

14. Qxe2 Ne7 15. Qd2 Nc6

Delaying castling yet again but for a good reason. If 15. ...0-0 then 16. d4 is okay for White.

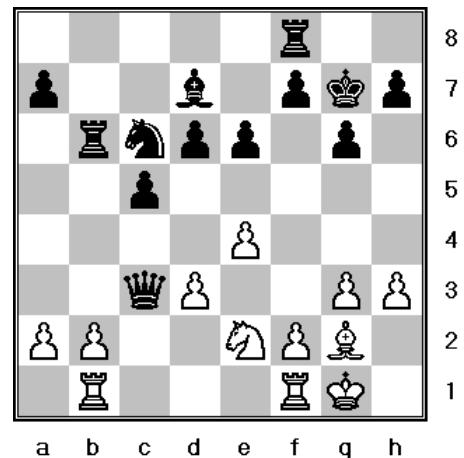
16. Bh6



16. ...0-0

Black is not worried about the bishop trade now since his other pieces can assert control over d4. Black could win a pawn with 16. ...Bxh6 17. Qxh6 Rxb2, but cost is can’t castle. Price was too high for me.

17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Ne2 Qf6 19. Rab1 Rb6 20. Qc3 Qxc3



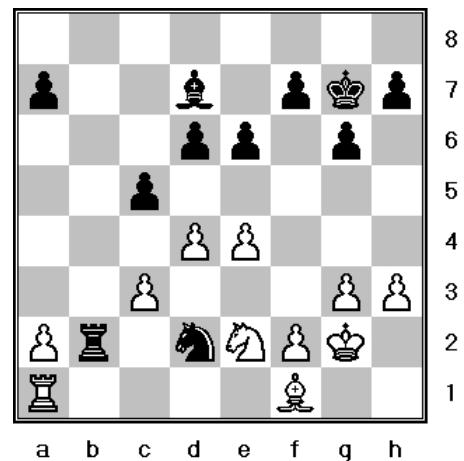
21. bxc3?

Now Black will both control the b-file and infiltrate the seventh rank by force. Instead 21. Nxc3 Rfb8 22. b3 Rb4 23. Ne2 Nd4 would leave Black with a small advantage but that is better than the text which gives Black a large advantage.

21. ...Rfb8 22. Rxb6 Rxb6 23. Ra1 Rb2 24. Bf1

This weakens f3 square, but the natural move 24. Nf4 fails to 24. ... g5 25. Nh5+ Kg6 26. g4 Ne5 27. Bf1 f5 wins the g4 pawn, since it can’t move else the white knight falls.

24. ...Ne5 25. d4 Nf3+ 26. Kg2 Nd2



27. a4

This parries 27. ... Nxf1 followed by ...Bb5, but doesn’t address the other threat.

27. ...Nxe4 28. dxc5 dxc5 29. f3? Nxc3

Being two pawns down in an endgame and with the opponent having the more active pieces to boot, White decides it’s safe to resign here.

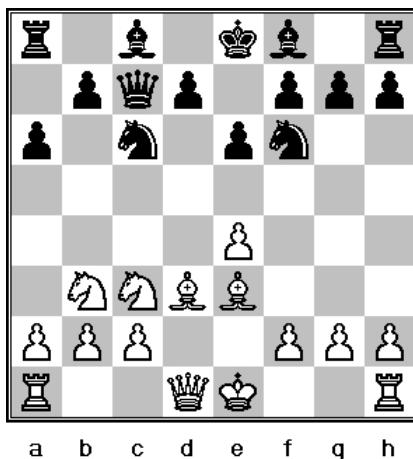
0-1

Corey Russell – Peter Vancouvering
 Grants Pass Open, Round 3
 Grants Pass, Oregon, March 14, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Ne3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Bd3

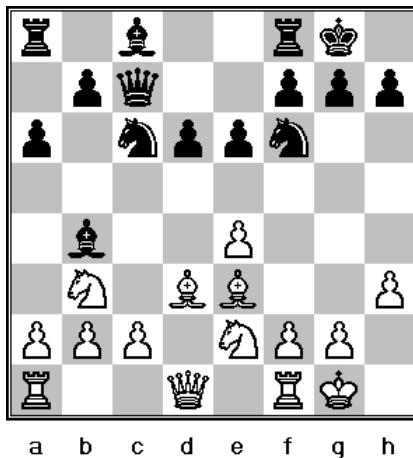
It should be noted that 7. ... Bc5? 8. Nxe6! wins a pawn for White, since the move double hits Q on c7 and bishop on c5.

7. ...Nf6 8. Nb3?



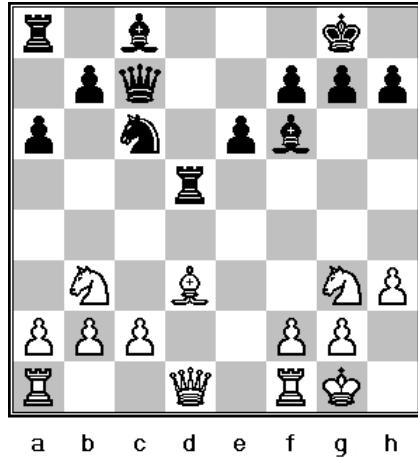
This didn't work out very well. Was worried about 8. ...Nxd4 9. Bxd4 Bc5 10. Bxc5 Qxc5 and I thought it would be hard to win as White. However, instead of 8. Nb3 I could have tried 8. h3 Nxd4 9. Bxd4 Bc5 10. Bxc5 Qxc5 11. Qe2 (threatening e5 and Ne4-d6) d6 12. f4 and White doesn't have to draw just yet.

8. ...Bb4 9. 0-0 0-0 10. h3 d6 11. Ne2



Sure this avoids the pawn doubling, but makes a ...d5 break by Black unnecessarily powerful. I think 11. Bd2 with the idea of a3 is better since if Black tried to break d5 in that line, White will be able to force Black to have the isolated d-pawn if he does it right away.

11. ...d5 12. Ng3 Rd8 13. Bg5 Be7 14. Bxf6 Bxf6 15. exd5 Rxd5



16. Qc1!

Defends the b-pawn, gets out of the pin on the d-file, prevents Black queen from getting in on f4, and allows White to get at least one good piece with Be4.

16. ...g6 17. Be4 Rd8 18. c3 b6 19. Qe3 Bb7 20. Rad1 Bg7 21. Bf3 Rac8

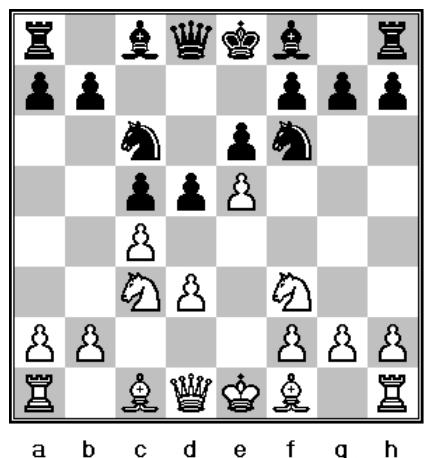
Black offered a draw here. While it's true he has the bishop pair, his dark-squared bishop is blunted at the moment. White's pieces are holding the equilibrium. My opponent thought this was a kind of position where whoever over-extended themselves in an attempt to win would lose instead. I agree with that assessment, since the only way I could see to win was in fact if he did just that. So agreed to his draw. As it turns out, we both won the rest of our games and ended up tying for 1st with 4.5 points out of 5. He also won the class A section.

Ewald Hopfencitz – Corey Russell
 Grants Pass Open, Round 4
 Grants Pass, Oregon, March 15, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6

After the game, my opponent said that he doesn't encounter this move from anyone. Most people he has played apparently play 4. e5!?. While that move might be enough to maintain the balance, seems little anti-positional. My move is better attempt at creating an imbalance (and therefore winning potential).

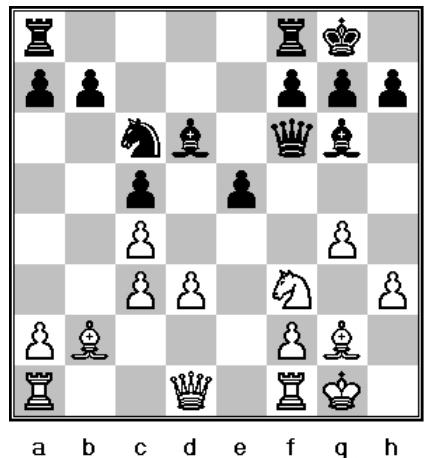
5. d3 d5 6. e5



6. ...d4! 7. exf6 dxc3 8. bxc3 Qxf6 9. Bb2?

Too passive of a posting for the bishop. It never moves for the rest of the game. Think White probably had to play 9. d4, though Black should still be okay.

9. ...Bd6 10. g3 0-0 11. Bg2 e5 12. 0-0 Bg4 13. h3 Bh5 14. g4 Bg6

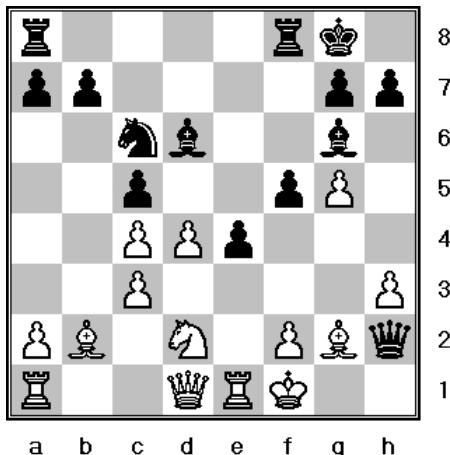


15. d4??

Gives Black a huge attack. Much more promising plan for White would be 15. Qe2, Nd2-e4.

15. ...e4 16. Nd2 Qf4 17. Re1 Qh2+ 18. Kf1 f5 19. g5

I didn't expect this move. Instinctively though I knew this was a critical position — I felt like there was a forced win here, just had to find it. Eventually noticed that if I could just get rid of the d2 knight, f4-f3 would be devastating. Once I realized that, plan became clear.



19. ...cxd4 20. cxd4 Bb4 21. Re3 Bxd2
22. Qxd2 f4 23. Rxe4 Bxe4 24. Bxe4 f3 25.
Bxf3 Rxf3

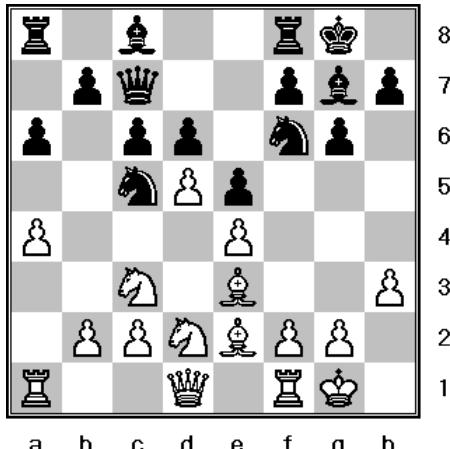
26. ...Raf8 will be devastating — White saw no defence to that, so resigned now.

0-1

Corey Russell – Ken Frojen
Grants Pass Open, Round 5
Grants Pass, Oregon, March 15, 2009

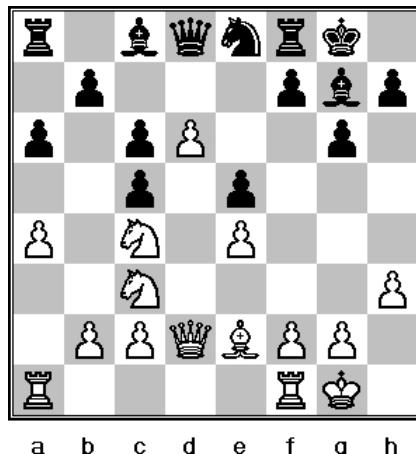
This next game was very satisfying for me. I've taken a lot of losses to the modern in my career, so was nice to give back some of the same!

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7
5. h3 0-0 6. Be3 c6 7. Be2 Qc7 8. 0-0 Nbd7
9. d5 a6 10. a4 Nc5 11. Nd2 e5

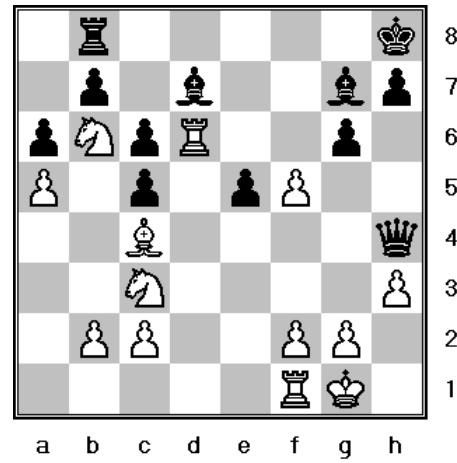


12. Bxc5 dxc5 13. Nc4 Ne8 14. d6 Qd8
15. Qd2

So that I could respond Rfd1 to a ...Be6 by Black (to maintain my d-pawn).



15. ...f5 16. a5 Bd7 17. Nb6 Rb8 18.
Bc4+ Kh8 19. Rad1 Rf6 20. exf5 Rxd6



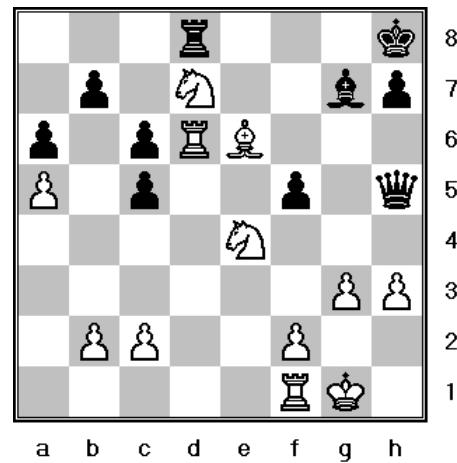
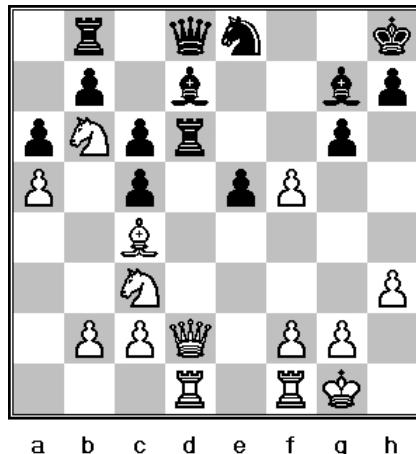
23. Nxd7!

Much better than Rxd7. My pieces must get into the center as soon as possible, both for defense and attack. The queen side clamp not important now that I have a material advantage.

23. ...Rd8 24. Be6 e4 25. g3!

This move enables White's last piece to get into the center with tempo, with devastating effect.

25. ...Qh5 26. Nxe4 gxf5



21. Qxd6!

Not much of a "sacrifice," since I will be getting R+N+B for the queen, BUT my pieces aren't on the kingside, so still requires accurate play.

21. ...Nxd6 22. Rxd6 Qh4

27. Ndf6 Bxf6 28. Nxf6 Qe2 29. Rxd8+
Kg7 30. Ne8+ Kg6 31. Rd6 Kg5 32. f4+
Kh5 33. Bf7#

1-0

**Needed: at least 20 adult Washingtonians
to play in the Oregon Open.**

Why? The Oregon Chess Federation and the Portland Chess Club have offered to donate \$200 to Northwest Chess if twenty or more adults from Washington enter the Oregon Open this year.

Washington players: Support NWC. Play in the Oregon Open 2009!

Bogo Indian:

1. d4 Nf6

2. c4 e6

3. Nf3 Bb4+

4. Nbd2 c5,

Part 1

Players who have placed their faith in the Nimzo Indian have always known the ugly necessity of contending with 3. Nf3. For many this wasn't a matter of fear as of annoyance. Black's original choices were to revert to the Queens Gambit with d5, play the rather dull Queens Indian or go with Bb4 entering the Bogo. Time marched on and with it some further discoveries came along like playing 3. ...c5, 3. ...Nc6, 3. ...a6 or even 3. ...Ne4! Any of these provides practical chances, but many Nimzo players are left with only the original options. The Bogo Indian with 3. ...Bb4+ has remained near the center of consideration because of flexibility and resilience. At least, that is what drew me to it.

After 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+, White chooses 4. Nbd2 as the most dynamic retort. White has two pawns in the center on the fourth rank and the black Bb4 seems to be ever so slightly vulnerable. The possibility of having the center and the two bishops makes Nbd2 a natural choice. Of course, Black's thoughts are quite different. With no initial commitments beyond the Bb4, Black has almost a catalog of choices from which to select. One of the choices that I am interested in is based on Black's tiny lead in development. With 4. ...c5, Black reaffirms intentions in the center as well as offering the Bb4 a bit of support. This is the starting point.

Regular choices at move five for White are 5. e3 or 5. a3. With 5. dxc5 White exchanges a center pawn for almost no reason, which is enough for Black to smile and consider it a minor victory. Pushing 5. e3 White is happy to tend to business and see what ideas Black has, expecting to come to a more definite course of action a bit later on. That leaves the move that most directly questions Black about the choice of 4. ...c5, namely 5. a3. Black will be compelled to part with the black square Bishop and then tend to weaknesses like d6. Black has two

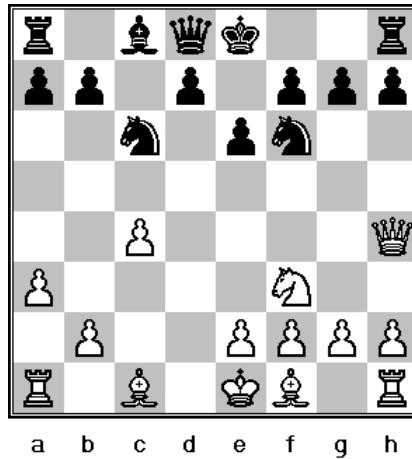
Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary

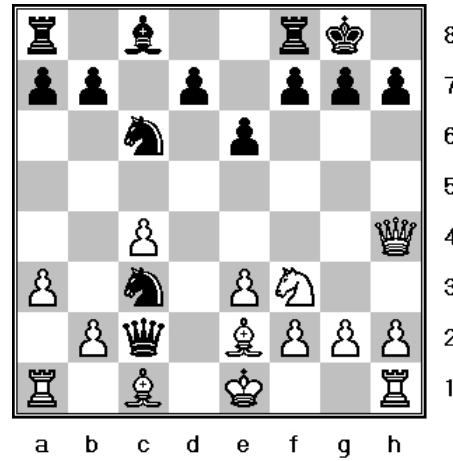
different general approaches after exchanging Bb4 for Nd2: keep to the standard of arranging a dark square pawn phalanx with d6/e5 or b6/d6 and maybe a later e5, or Black can look to exchange c5xd4 drawing a White piece into the center and then gaining time by harrassing that piece. Obviously, this latter approach has a much more tactical character which makes it a refreshing change for some players.

Eric Prie – Viktor Korchnoi
First Meudon Open
Meudon, France, 1984

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. d4 Bb4+ 4. Nbd2 c5 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Qxd2 cxd4 7. Qxd4 Ne6 8. Qh4



White isn't completely lost yet, but it's close. The disparity on the board is the activity and coordination of each army. White's men tend to threats and work individually to keep from further disaster. Black's pieces cooperate to find further gains. Optically it appears that neither side really has much of a space advantage, but considering the positions of the white king and black queen it feels as if White is severely cramped. That is a consequence of the piece activity and coordination.



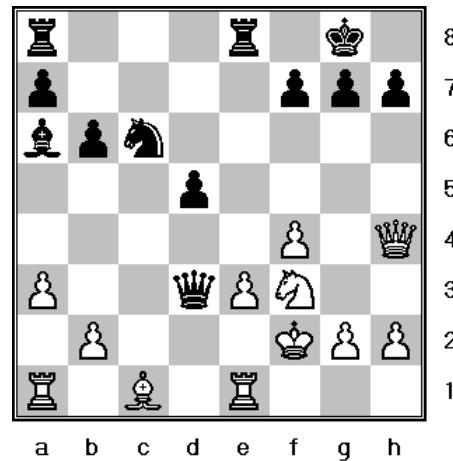
This move doesn't take into consideration Black's ideas. On h4 the white queen is looking to instigate some kind of trouble for the black king, but with only minimal support from the rest of the army this seems too optimistic. In fact, White's king is the more vulnerable and that becomes evident in short order. Most likely the best move for White is 8. Qc3.)

8. ...0-0 9. Bg5 Qa5+ 10. Bd2 Qf5 11. e3 Qc2

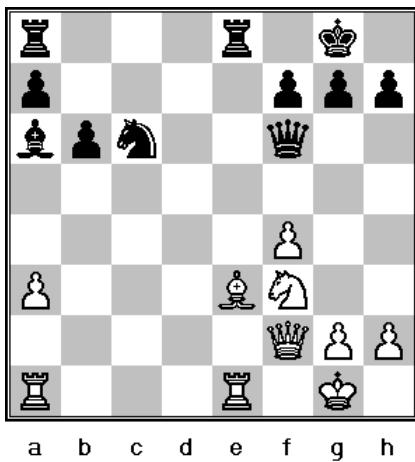
Here is a case of creative accounting. White used two moves to get the Bc1 to d2 while Black used 3 moves to get Qd8 to c2, yet which has better prospects? Again, it is the relative security of the king that makes one more effective than the other, king safety that follows from Black developing pieces in the first moves of the game while White attended to long range concepts.

12. Bc1 Ne4 13. Be2 Nc3!

14. Nd2 Nxe2 15. Kxe2 d5 16. cxd5 exd5 17. Re1 b6 18. f4 Re8 19. Kf1 Qd3+ 20. Kf2 Ba6 21. Nf3

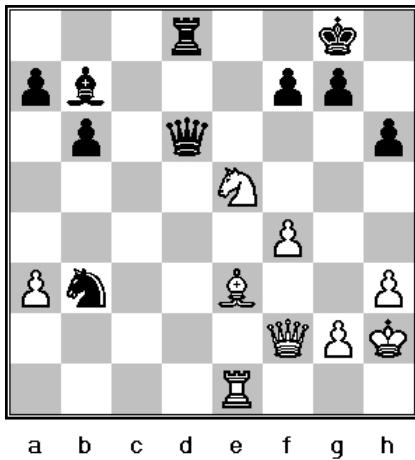


21. ...d4 22. Bd2 dxe3+ 23. Bxe3 Qc2+ 24. Kg1 Qxb2 25. Qf2 Qf6



Prie has done an admirable job of not falling completely off the board, achieving a compete mobilization at the cost of a pawn. Korchnoi rejects a queen exchange because of the bishops of opposite color. There are two well-known consequences of bishops of opposite color: they work in the favor of a side which is attacking and they offer increased drawing chances in endgames. Both of those reasons factor into Korchnoi's decision.

26. Rad1 h6 27. Bc1 Rad8 28. Rxd8 Rxd8 29. h3 Bb7 30. Kh2 Na5 31. Ne5 Nb3 32. Be3 Qd6



33. Qc2 Qd5 34. Qb2 Nd2 35. Re2 Nf1+

0-1

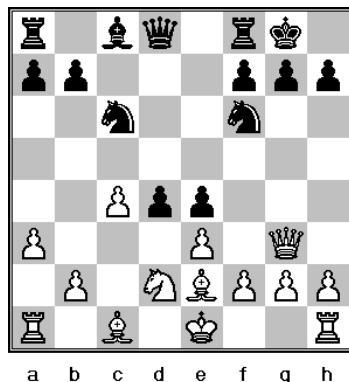
Korchnoi's play is worth remembering. White's decision at move eight to position the queen on h4 is a place to look for improvements. The candidates are f4, c3 and four squares on the d-file.



Sitting on f4 the queen seem to be actively eyeing e5 and d6, yet is still in the way of Black's advance: 8. Qf4 e5 9. Qg3 (not 9. Nxe5 Qa5+) 9. ...e4 10. Nd2 0-0 11. e3 d5 12. Be2 d4 with advantage in Quinn – Miezis, Cork 2005.

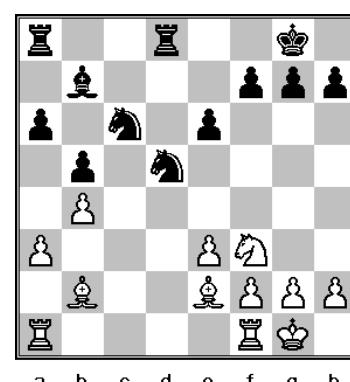


Black improved in Jankovic – Kurajica, Jahorina 2003, with 8. Qd1 d5 9. e3 0-0 10. b4 dxc4 11. Qxd8 Rxd8 12. Bxc4 a6 13. Bb2 b5 14. Be2 Bb7 15. 0-0 Nd5.



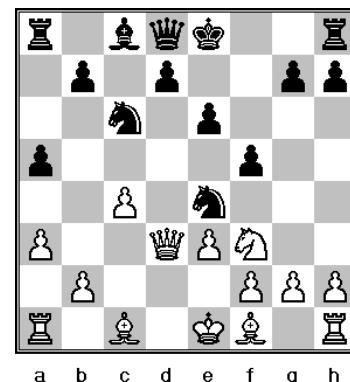
Of the squares on the d-file, d3 offers Black prospects based on getting Ba6 in and spotting the c4 pawn, while d2 always has to be prepared for ...Ne4.

8. Qd1 has worked out okay, though looking entirely retrograde. Offering no more time to Black, White can arrange the development of the king's bishop combined with b4/Bb2. This highlights the positive aspects of the trade on move five for White. Eingorn – Osnos, Leningrad 1987, followed 8. Qd1 d5 9. e3 0-0 10. b4 Qe7 11. Bb2 dxc4 12. Bxc4 e5 13. b5 Na5 14. Ba2 e4 15. Nd4 a6 16. Bc3 with a large advantage, as Black's Na5 is a problem as well as detracting from offensive operations.



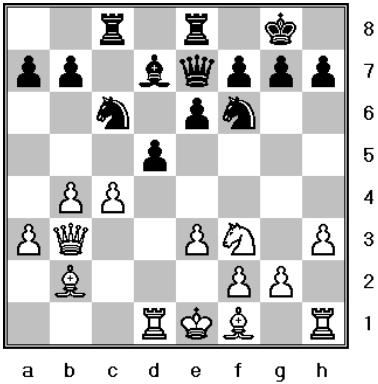
White is slightly better with the two bishops, but Black is very centralized and actually was able to outplay his opponent in this game.

8. Qd6 is the move White would like to make work, but after 8. ...Ne4 9. Qd3 d5, the question is which side has used more energy? It seems to me that Black will do okay by changing direction from 9. ...d5 10. e3 0-0 11. b4, which was played by M. Gurevich, and investigating 9. ...f5 10. e3 a5 arranging with b6 and Bb7/a6.

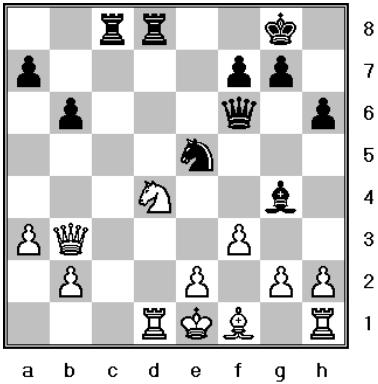


White will likely be a bit better, but Black definitely has chances similar to lines in the Nimzo.

That leaves 8. Qc3 which was the move I originally saw in Gheorgiu – Christiansen, Cleveland 1975, though in the move order 7. ...0-0 8. e3 Nc6 9. Qc3. Recently the position after 8. Qc3 has been seen in the games of GM Miezis, with 8. Qc3 d5 9. e3 0-0 10. b4 Re8 11. Bb2 Bd7 12. Rd1 Rc8 13. Qb3 Qe7 14. h3?! Vitiugov – Miezis, Keres Memorial 2006, which ended in Black's favor following White's lack of regard for centralized forces.

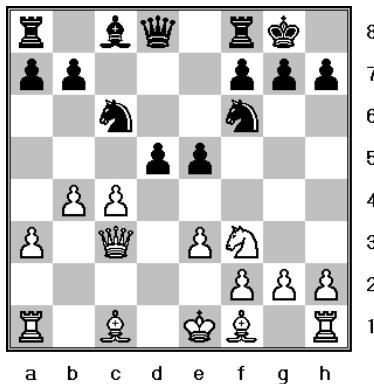


Or 8. Qc3 d5 9. cxd5 exd5 10. Bg5 d4 11. Qc5 h6 12. Bxf6 Qxf6 13. Rd1 b6 14. Qc4 0-0 15. Nxd4 Ne5 16. Qc2 Bg4 17. f3 Rac8 18. Qb3 Rfd8, Guidarelli – Miezis, France 2007.



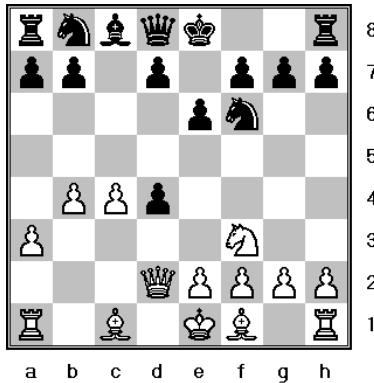
The piece sac looks very strong after 19. fxg4 Nxg4 20. Nf3 Rxd1+ 21. Qxd1 Qxb2.

So, returning to Gheorgiu – Christiansen, the play was similar: 7. ...0-0 8. e3 Nc6 9. Qc3 d5 10. b4 e5!?

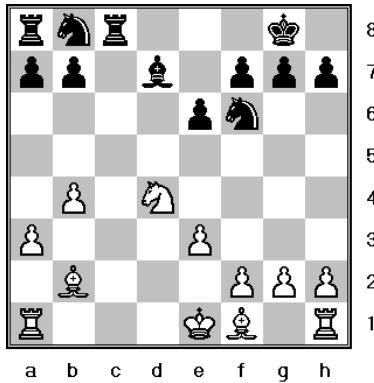


Gheorgiu accepted the pawn and was able to resist Christiansen's initiative. This suggests that White's play in the Vitiugov – Miezis game was worth following, but after move 13 White should be a bit more prudent.

Back at move seven White had an alternative that was given the thumbs up by theory: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Nbd2 c5 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Qxd2 cxd4 7. b4 with the idea of Bb2 and capturing back on d4 with the advance b4 already in.

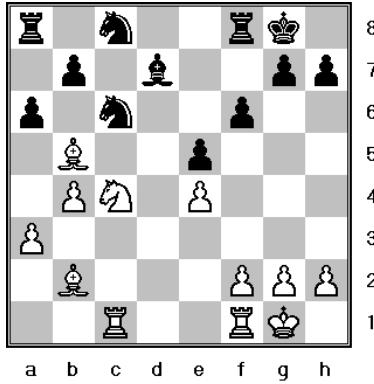


Kozul – Christiansen, Novi Sad (Ol) 1990, saw 7. ...0-0 8. Bb2 d5 9. cxd5 Qxd5 10. Qxd4 Qxd4 11. Nxd4 Bd7 12. e3 Rc8 with a small plus for White due to the two bishops.

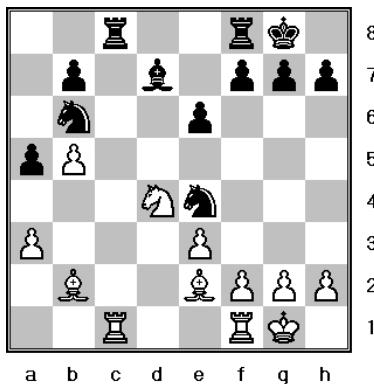


Improving for Black in Huss – Landengergue, Lucern 1994, Black played 10. ...Nc6 11. Qxd5 Nxd5 12. Rc1 f6 13. e4

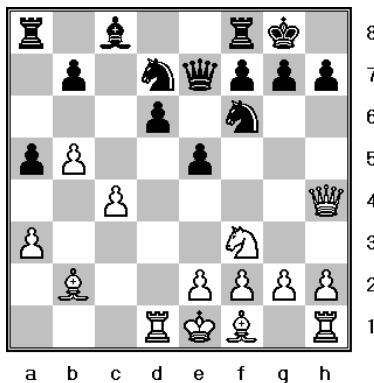
Nb6 14. Bb5 e5 15. Nd2 Bd7 16. 0-0 a6 17. Nc4 Nc8 with equality; later Black won.



A further direction for improvement for Black 10. ...Nbd7 11. Rc1 Qxd4 12. Nxd4 Nb6 13. e3 Bd7 14. Be2 a5 15. b5 Ne4 16. 0-0 Rac8, when the active Black pieces negated the two bishops sufficiently in Sorin – Kosic, Mallorca (Ol) 2004.



An alternative approach for Black is 7. ...0-0 8. Bb2 d6 9. Qxd4 e5 10. Qh4 a5 11. b5 Nbd7 12. Rd1 Qe7, Del Rey – Playa, San Rafael 1992.



Black has c5 and b6 to initiate queenside operations to go with the backward d6.

All in all, the sequence with 7. b4 is interesting, but not as fearsome as some think.



Pelletier Rozentalis Balogh Ponomariov
Fedorchuk Spoelman Svetushkin Movsesian
Vork Berelovich Shirov Megaranto
Liu Weiwei Nyback Mateuta Maletin Vitiugov Zhao
Hou Yifan Timoshenko Paragua Rasmussen Hernai
veskulov Agrest Novikov Quezada Perez
karov Hossain Har Zvi Delgado Ramirez Jovanovic
Vorobiov Gulko orovikov Bindrich
auer Riazantsev Beccera Riverro L'A
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Bu Xiangzhi Gelashvili Petrosian Saric A
etiev Bozhkov Polgari Kramni Efimenko
Karpov Kasparov Movsesian
erebonyich Shirov Megaranto
na Kuzubov Georgiev Cramling Belozerov Sp
Yifan Timoshenko Paragua Rasmussen Hernandez Gur
sain Agrest Novikov Quezada Perez Dgeburi
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Bauer Ivanov Riazantse
Korneev Moiseenko Berkes Mastrov
roszpetter Topalov Aroshidze Miton So Van W
bdulla Adly Nakamura Brodsky
Degraeve Shengelia Negi Van W
Kokarev Krejci Alkobiasz Nakaev Maze
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Kebu Chess Tactics '09

Hou Weiwei Nyback Mateuta
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The Ever-Changing Map

Student: Pete, can we talk about planning some more?

Master: Sure, what's on your mind.

Student: Well, we've talked about a master figuring out what he wants to do before he worries about how to do it. And you've shown me a couple of games that illustrate where the "what?" comes from. In *Wells-Totsky*, we saw strategy following structure: Grandmaster Wells exchanged pieces in such a way that his remaining pieces coordinated smoothly with the pawn structure, while leaving his opponent's pieces badly hampered by that same structure. Then in *Lehmann-Mueller* we saw structure following strategy: Black's development was delayed, and his king was in the center, and so Hans Lehmann blasted open the center to create attacking lines. In other words, he created the structure he needed for his strategy to work.

Master: That's a good summary. Go on.

Student: Well, I've been trying to do that in my own games. I figure out what I want to do, and then work out a way to make that happen. But then...my opponent gets in the way.

Master: (chuckling) They do have a way of doing that, don't they? The two games you mentioned are great illustrations of the basic theme, but neither is typical of the way master games normally develop.

Student: They're not?

Master: No, because in each of them, one single strategic theme ran through the entire game—or at least the part of the game with which we were concerned. I started with those games so that you'd have a clear idea of the planning process. However, as you aptly point out, one's opponent has this nasty habit of not playing along. That can happen in either of two ways: he blocks your progress, or he does something that actually changes the map.

Student: Oh that's an interesting way to think about it.

Master: The image isn't mine, though it sure makes sense to me. Garry Kasparov once observed that planning in chess is like getting directions off a map that keeps changing! That's why most planning is

Transitions by Pete Prochaska

short-term: the map changes too quickly—and too significantly—for long term plans to reach fruition, except in very broad terms.

Student: What do you mean?

Master: Well, as an analogy, think about the situation in Europe in early 1944. What was the Allied strategy for winning World War II?

Student: To invade Europe. Oh, I see what you mean: it didn't take any great strategic acumen to see that. There really wasn't anything else they could do. The strategic issues that Ike's staff had to deal with were the operational possibilities for implementing that general strategy.

Master: Exactly. The corollary in chess is this: there are only two basic winning strategies: to mate your opponent's king with a direct attack—what we call "Kill The King," or win some material, promote a pawn, and then mate your opponent's king—what we call "Win In The End." The difficulty, of course, is that our opponent is not only working to stop us, he's also actively attempting to do the same thing to us. So what we end up with is a constantly shifting battlefield—which, in turn, points to the absolute necessity of adapting our plans as the map of that battlefield changes.

Student: That makes sense, but I do have a question.

Master: Surprise, surprise...

Student: (smiling) In another recent conversation, you shared a story about Capablanca. As I remember it, several players were analyzing a complex endgame, and not finding a convincing way for White to realize his apparently significant advantage. Then Capa wandered by, and since he was generally regarded as the greatest endgame player in the world, they asked him. He looked at the position for a few moments, and then pushed all the pieces off the board. Capablanca then proceeded to set up a position and told the players that was what White needed to achieve. Once they saw the target position, they understood how to win the game. Then it was just a matter of reaching that position, which they were able to do without too much trouble. That seems like a great example of long-

term planning. How does that fit with your ever-changing map?

Master: It's a great story, and an

excellent question. There are several things to keep in mind. To start with, we don't know how far removed Capa's "target position" was from the actual position about which he was asked. If it was only a matter of a half-dozen moves, that's a quite reasonable planning horizon. If it was more than that, it still would have been something to aim for, though the probability that target position would need to be revised increases exponentially.

It's also true that endgame thinking is often more schematic—based around achieving key positions—than middlegame thinking can afford to be. That's because endgame positions are often more stable than most middlegame positions. Finally, we also know that White was attempting to convert an advantage, so Black's ability to significantly change the position and direction of play—to alter the map, as it were—might have been quite limited.

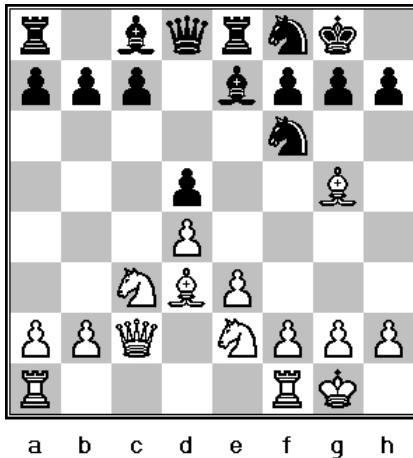
Student: So a player might have a broad strategy—attack the king in the center, for example—but the operational plans are normally relatively short-term.

Master: Indeed. That's the only way to allow for the fact that we're getting directions from a battlemap that's in constant flux. It seems to me the basic planning question is "Where do I want my pieces over the next 5-6 moves."

However, that's enough general theory for now. Let's look at a practical example, involving two of the strongest players in chess history, **Mikhail Botvinnik** and **Paul Keres**, played during the 1952 USSR Championship in Moscow. The reigning World Champion, Botvinnik, has White. Not surprisingly, he heads for an Exchange Queen's Gambit, one of his favorite variations: 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 0-0 7. Bd3 Nbd7 8. Qc2 Re8 9. Nge2 Nf8.



So far, so normal. Now, however, Botvinnik plays **10. 0-0**, which may well have been a novelty at the time.

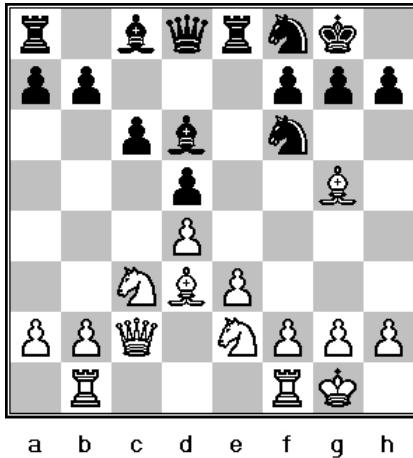


Student: Novelty? That seems about as normal as normal can be.

Master: It certainly does now, but as Botvinnik points out in his superb notes to the game, there were two “normal” plans, at that time. White chose 9. Nf3, castled kingside, and attacked on the queenside, or he chose 9. Nge2, castled queenside, and attacked on the kingside.

This is the first time, at least so far as I know, that White combined 9. Nge2 and 10. 0-0. This is the first change in the standard map, and both players have to start adapting. Botvinnik would have worked out various possibilities beforehand, though it’s not clear from his notes, or Kasparov’s later commentary, whether Botvinnik anticipated the way Keres responds.

He starts by protecting his d-pawn with **10. ...c6**, after which Botvinnik prepares the typical minority attack with **11. Rab1**. However, Keres now played **11. ...Bd6**, which is rather unusual for this type of position. What’s he up to?



Student: Well, how does this position differ from the more usual one with the White knight on f3? The e2-knight doesn’t protect h2, and so the White kingside is more vulnerable. Ah, there it is: if Botvinnik continues routinely with 12. b4?, Keres wins a pawn with 12. ...Bxh2+ 13. Kxh2 Ng4+ and 14. ...Qxg5.

Master: Is the threat real?

Student: It sure seems like it. Black would be a pawn up, have weakened White’s kingside and increased his material superiority on the kingside. I can’t see why Botvinnik would want that. And before you ask: no, White doesn’t have an equal or stronger threat of his own.

Master: Okay, so White needs to defend. How would you do that?

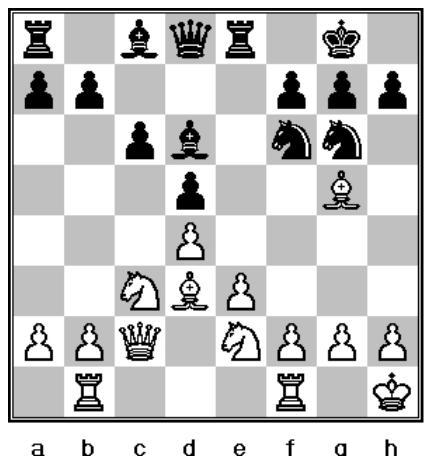
Student: Well, 12. Ng3 occurs to me, but I don’t really want the knight tied down like that. Perhaps it’s just best to play 12. Kh1.

Master: And if Black plays 12. ...Bxh2 anyway?

Student: That’s the point. It isn’t check, so White can play 13. Bxf6 and after 13. ...Qxf6 simply capture the bishop on h2.

Master: Good job! Botvinnik did, in fact, play **12. Kh1**, and Keres replied **12. ...Ng6**.

How would you proceed now?



Student: Hmm...how has the position changed? Black has another piece on the kingside, and the b1-h7 diagonal is blocked...oh, and the white bishop can’t retreat after 13. ...h6, which means White would have to exchange on f6. That brings another piece—the black queen—to the kingside. So the obvious 13. b4 looks wrong; Black will be much better placed than usual

to attack the white king.

Master: That’s accurate and astute analysis. If White doesn’t play on the queenside, what else might he do?

Student: I probably have something of an advantage—I know that these days White often attacks in the center rather than on the queenside, so 13. f3 pops to mind. However, even without that “hint”—it’s sort of like your 1944 Europe analogy. What else is White going to do? The kingside doesn’t look all that promising, at least not yet, and we’ve ruled out queenside play—at least not without additional preparation. When Keres played 11. ...Bd6, is it possible he hadn’t considered the possibility of White attacking in the center?

Master: It actually seems quite probable. He was one of the best players in history, and had he fully considered the implications of a White central advance, he almost certainly would not have played 11. ...Bd6. He saw one change in the map—10. 0-0—and played to exploit it.

However, Botvinnik now takes advantage of that additional change in the map and played **13. f3**. This is a truly significant moment in the history of a truly significant variation. You’ll sometimes read that, in the position, Botvinnik “invented” a new way to play the Queen’s Gambit Exchange Variation. That’s not really true, of course. He was a great player, a great openings theoretician, and probably the world’s leading expert of the Queen’s Gambit. He knew that a central advance is a basic strategy in many openings, including this one. The real point is that he realized the map has changed enough to allow him to execute that fundamental strategy here.

As you point out, this approach went on to become the mainline of the Exchange Variation, and was championed by Botvinnik’s famous protégé—one Garry Kasparov.

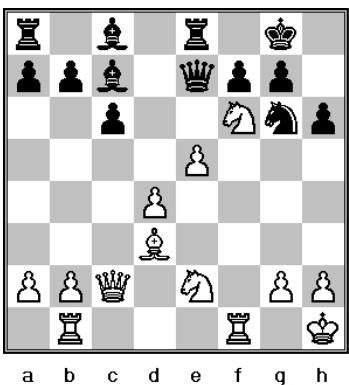
Student: But Kasparov didn’t normally play 11. Rab1, did he?

Master: No, there’s no point in that. Garry’s approach, and the modern main line, is 11. f3. But the concept starts right here in Botvinnik-Keres. So back to the game. What happens if Black plays 13. ...h6 as planned?

Student: Let’s see...White still has to play 14. Bxf6, and Black will recapture with 14. ...Qxf6, but then 15. e4 looks really strong. Black probably plays 15. ...dxe4, but

after 16. fxe4, he has to do something about the fork, and somehow not get overrun in the center and on the kingside. That looks like a major challenge.

Master: A challenge? To be sure...Actually, it might be impossible. The game Leander-Kossin (ICCF 1990) continued 13. ...h6? 14. Bxf6 Qxf6 15. e4 dxe4 16. fxe4 Qg5 17. e5 Bc7 18. Ne4 Qe7 19. Nf6+! and Black was quickly crushed.



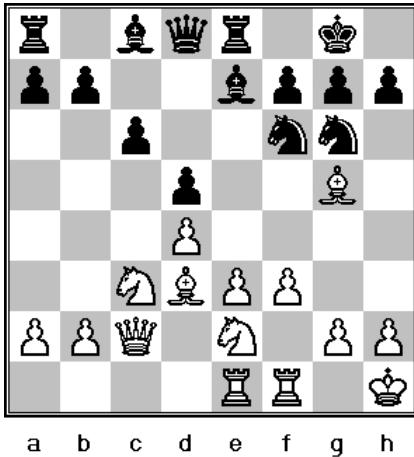
So Black has to be really careful here. Keres clearly realized he'd made a mistake, and like most very strong players in such situations, he doesn't ignore necessity. He simply retreats with 13. ...Be7. What now?

Student: Well, e4 was the point, wasn't it? (*He plays 14. e4 and the Master replies 14. ...dxe4, and after 15. fxe4, plays 15. ...Ng4.*) Hmm...you've got real counterplay, don't you? Was my 14. e4 premature?

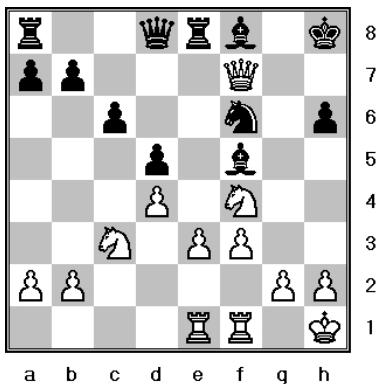
Master: Uh huh. Actually, White needs to be quite careful about his timing. One of the most instructive things about this game is the way Botvinnik patiently holds back the e4 break until he has placed his pieces as optimally as possible.

Student: I guess that make sense. After all, Black can't really stop e4, can he?

Master: Not easily. Now that the map has changed, Botvinnik starts repositioning his pieces. No minority attack today! The future is in the center, and so he centralizes his rook with 14. Rbe1. Notice that Botvinnik doesn't try to "justify" the position of his rook on b1. It went there to support the queenside attack. The map has changed enough that another fundamental strategy—central advance—is now in play, and so Botvinnik adjusts his pieces accordingly.



Now it's Keres' turn to figure out how to deal with the changed realities. He chose to exchange the bishops with 14. ...Nd7, avoiding the complications arising from 14. ...h6 15. Bxh6 gxh6 16. Bxg6 fxg6 17. Qxg6+ Kh8 18. Nf4 Bf8 19. Qf7 Bf5.



However, Botvinnik suggests Keres was perhaps wrong to do so. This may be Black's best chance. In fact, "Little Miss Monster" thinks the chances are about level after 19. ...Bf5.

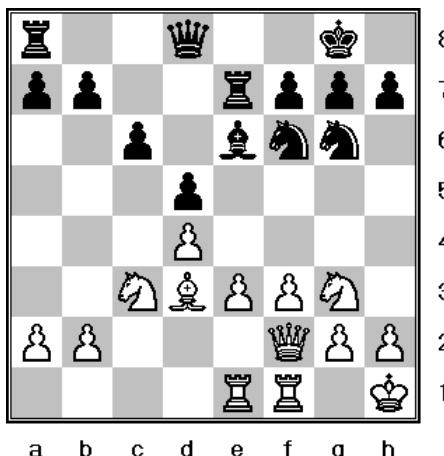
Student: Little Miss Monster? As in "Little Miss Silicon Monster?" (Thinks for a second and chuckles) Oh, I get it—Rybka means "little fish" in Czech and Polish, doesn't it? And Vasik Rajlich—Rybka's programmer—always refers to the program as female. Cute.

Master: A little light relief...Another possibility is 14. ...c5. What do you think?

Student: Don't like it much...after 15. dxc5 Bxc5 16. Bxf6 gxf6 and 17. Nd4, Black's pawn structure is shattered. That's likely to be a nightmare against any strong Grandmaster, never mind Botvinnik. After 14. ...Be6, does White play 15. e4 immediately?

Master: Probably. Kasparov notes the play is likely to be similar to his game against

Ulf Andersson at Belfort in 1988, which Garry won convincingly. Now the bishops were traded with 15. Bxe7 Rxe7, and once again Botvinnik holds back his central advance. Kasparov evaluates Black's position after 16. e4 dxe4 17. fxe4 Ndf8 as being slightly inferior, but "perfectly defensible." Instead, Botvinnik plays 16. Ng3, and after 16. ...Nf6, further supports his center with 17. Qf2. Keres now played 17. ...Be6, reaching this position. What do you think? Is it time?



Student: Let's see: if White plays 18. e4, Black responds 18. ...dxe4 19. fxe4, and then presses the White center with 19. ...Rd7. White probably has to defend with 20. Nge2, and then it's not so clear how he goes forward. It looks like he has the advantage, but I also don't see how he does much with it. So maybe White waits a bit longer. Can he further improve his knight?

Master: Smack on! Instead of rushing forward, Botvinnik played 18. Nf5, and we reach another critical juncture in the game. What do you think Black should do here?

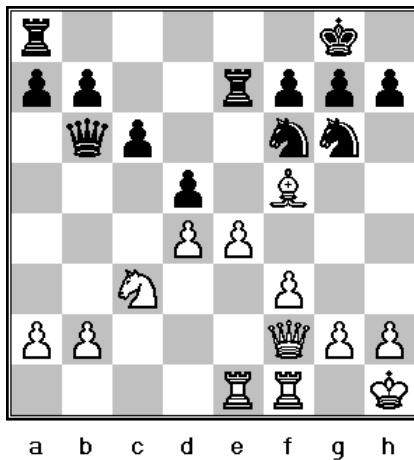
Student: Well, that knight looks pretty dangerous, but I'm not crazy about 18. ...Bxf5 19. Bxf5, either. I'm not sure, perhaps Black should simply retreat with 18. ...Re8, or maybe consider 18. ...Rd7 with the hope of creating pressure against the center.

Master: Interestingly, the two major commentators on this game—teacher and student: Botvinnik and Kasparov—seem to disagree at this point. Botvinnik writes: "If 18. ...Re8 then there would have followed 19. g4 and then after the exchange on f5 White would have recaptured with the g-pawn, causing Black fresh problems." One has the impression that Botvinnik assumed the exchange on f5 was ultimately

inevitable. Kasparov clearly has a different viewpoint, and comments: "But Black should not have exchanged on f5 in any case, since now White's attack develops swiftly and unhindered."

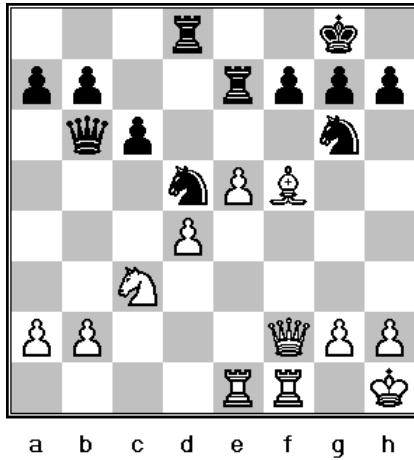
Student: So Keres took the knight?

Master: He did, and after **18. ...Bxf5??!** **19. Bxf5 Qb6** Botvinnik finally decided the time was ripe, and played **20. e4**. Now what should Keres do?



Student: "To capture, or not to capture...that is the question..." Here I want pressure against the pawns, so maybe **20. ...dxe4** **21. fxe4** **Rd8**.

Master: That's the way it was played. However, it's not clear that's the best option. Botvinnik notes: "By opening the position Black hopes to gain at least some counter-chances, but in the process White's activity also increases!" Black's position is no fun, in any case. However, Black might have kept it closed with something like **20. ...Rae8**, though admittedly **21. e5 Nd7** **22. Bxd7 Rxd7** **23. f4** looks clearly better for White. In any case, the game continued **20. ...dxe4** **21. fxe4 Rd8** **22. e5 Nd5**. Now how should White continue?



Student: A few years ago, I'd probably have been so scared of Black's "well-posted knight" on d5 that I'd have chopped it off with **23. Nxd5**.

However, you've taught me that captures tend to be critical, because games are often decided by them. Now it seems clear to me that White's c3-knight is the better piece. The d5-knight looks impressive, but really doesn't have a lot to do. On the other hand, the white knight is eyeing d6.

Master: Good for you! I doubt it took Botvinnik long to play **23. Ne4**. Now Black might challenge the white knight with **23. ...Nc7** **24. Nd6 Ne8**. What happens then?

Student: Isn't **25. Nxf7** just winning? **25. ...Kxf7** **26. Be6+** is terminal, and **25. ...Rxf7** **26. Be6** is no better.

Master: You're absolutely right. Interestingly, however, there's another option as well.

Student: Another option? Oh heck...**25. Nc8** just forks queen and rook. How did I miss that?

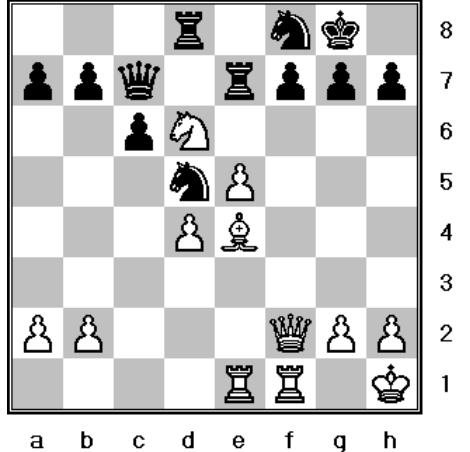
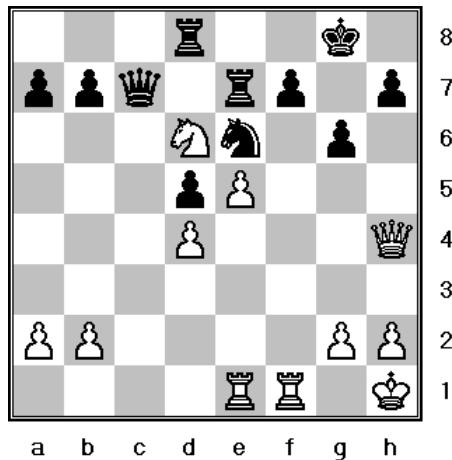
Master: I'm not sure, but virtually everyone seems to. Perhaps it has to do with the fact that White is playing on the kingside, and so it seems natural to look for a forcing sequence there. It's also true that **25. Nc8 Rxc8** **26. Bxc8** is perhaps not as straightforward as **25. Nxf7**.

In any case, Keres—a fair country tactician himself—played **23. ...Nf8** instead, and after **24. Nd6** retreated his queen: **24. ...Qc7** **25. Be4**. Now what?

Student: I'd guess Keres snapped off the knight with **25. ...Rxd6**. Isn't the British name for a knight like that an "octopus?"

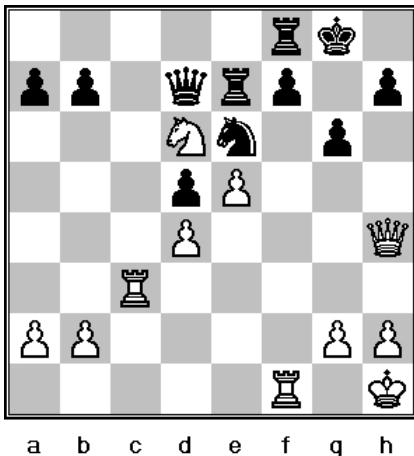
Master: That it is, and it's a great description—a secure knight on the sixth stretches its tentacles everywhere. As it happens, Keres didn't take the knight, which I also find rather surprising. I'd guess that's a tribute to Botvinnik's justly famous technical skills. Keres simply concluded there was no chance at all an exchange down, and leaving the knight on d6—while uncomfortable in the extreme—did leave at least some chance of a mistake.

In his notes, Botvinnik suggests that Black could have put up stiffer resistance with **25. ...Rxd6** **26. exd6 Qxd6**, though it wouldn't have changed the ultimate outcome, "if only because of the line **27. Bxd5 cxd5** **28. Re5**." The game went on **25. ...Ne6** **26. Qh4 g6** **27. Bxd5 cxd5**. Now what would you play?

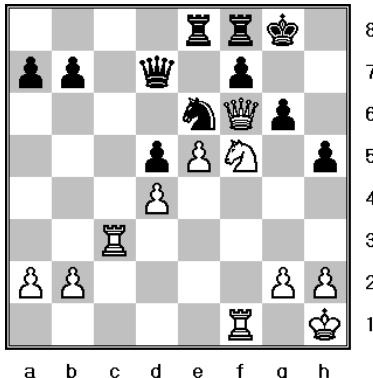


Student: The obvious move is **28. Re3**, but then perhaps Black will sacrifice the exchange. I don't see any point in allowing that if I can help it. Oh there's an idea: the queen has to stay on the seventh rank to defend the rook. So on **28. Rc1**, Black has to play **28. ...Qd7**, and now there's no exchange sacrifice.

Master: Good for you! Among many other things, Botvinnik was a brilliant technician. He understood all about shutting down counterplay. As you've suggested, he continued **28. Rc1 Qd7**, and then aimed his rook at the kingside with **29. Rc3**. Here Keres played **29. ...Rf8**. What's his idea?



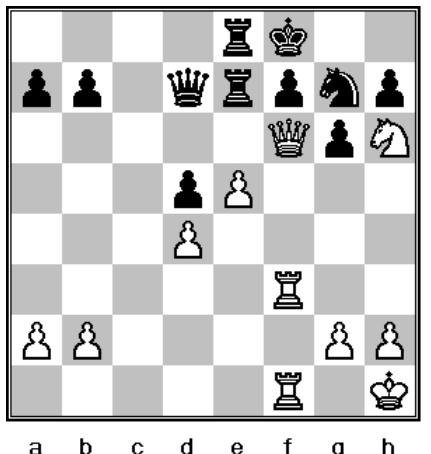
Student: Well, resignation seems like an option. (*The Master smiles.*) But assuming that Keres isn't quite ready for that, let's see. He can't take the knight: 30. ...gxf5 31. Rg3+ Ng7 32. Qf6 is just mate, and 31. ...Kh8 32. Qf6+ is the same thing. So the obvious move is 30. ...Ree8. What then? Oh...31. Qf6 threatens mate, so 31. ...h5 looks necessary.



Student: Okay, if 30. Rh3, what then? He'll have to play 30. ...f6 to defend h7. No, wait, he'll play 30. ...f5!, won't he. Then 31. exf6?? allows 32. Qxd6 when White can't take the rook because of the back row mate. That's what the rook is doing on f8. And if White can't take en passant, Black's position will be much harder to crack.

Master: Exactly. So Botvinnik brought his knight to the kingside with the powerful **30. Nf5**. So what does Black do now?

larger game: **31. Nh6+ Kf8 32. Qf6 Ng7 33. Ref3**. What's his threat now?



Student: Mate in three: **34.Qxf7+ Rxf7 35.Rxf7+ Qxf7 36.Rxf7#**

Master: I didn't think that would slow you down. Keres played **33. ...Rc8**, and Botvinnik closed out the game with **34. Nx7 Re6 35. Qg5 Nf5 36. Nh6 Qg7 37. g4** and **Black Resigned**.

1-0

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The World Open

by

Michael Lee

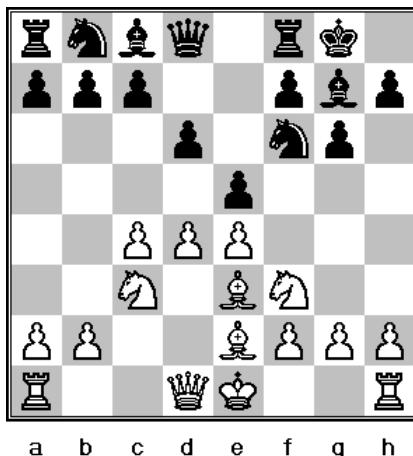
Coming into this round on plus one (4.5/8), having just drawn a crushing game against Marc Esserman, I thought I'd have to win with black to secure the norm, given that the average rating of my opponents was about 2410(FIDE). GM Bhat had a bit of a rough tournament, but still was a formidable opponent, and the fourth GM I faced as black (the fifth GM in all). Knowing that Vinay is more of a positional player, I chose to play the King's Indian, an aggressive and unbalanced opening. However, he played an interesting sideline, and I was left with a position which I could only hope to draw. After a few errors by my opponent, I held a difficult endgame, and then found out I had earned my first IM norm!

**Vinay Bhat – Michael Lee
World Open, Round 9**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 5, 2009

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6
5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 e5 7. Be3**

7. 0-0 is the main line.



**7. ...Ng4 8. Bg5 f6 9. Bh4 Nc6 10. d5
Ne7 11. Nd2 Nh6 12. f3 g5!?**

12. ...c5 is more popular.

13. Bf2 f5 14. 0-0-0!

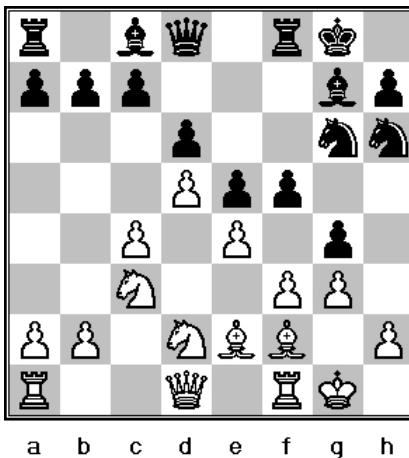
A rare variation that promises White a slight but definite edge. 14. c5 is usual.

14. ...Ng6 15. g3

Preventing ...Nf4.

15. ...g4

15. ...f4? 16. g4 +/-.



16. fxg4

I was hoping for 16. exf5 gxf3 17. fxg6 fxe2 18. gxh7+ Kh8 19. Qxe2 Bh3 20. Rfe1 Ng4 21. Nde4 Bh6 with compensation. Despite being two pawns down, Black has locked up White's position and is prepared to double rooks on the f-file.

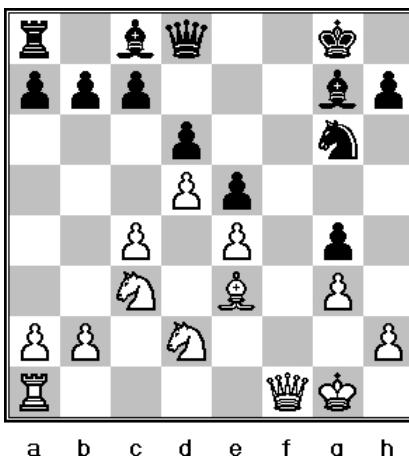
16. ...Nhg4

16. ...f4!?

17. Bxg4 fxg4 18. Be3! +=

Preventing ...Bh6. Here, I realized that any kingside attack would be useless, and I would have to try to defend the queenside to hold a draw.

18. ...Rxf1+ 19. Qxf1?!



A slight misplay, allowing ...c5. 19. Nxf1 c5? 20. dxc6 bxc6 21. c5 +=.

19. ...c5!

Otherwise c5 and Black slowly loses,

due to his inability to attack on the locked kingside.

20. Rb1 a5 21. Nb5

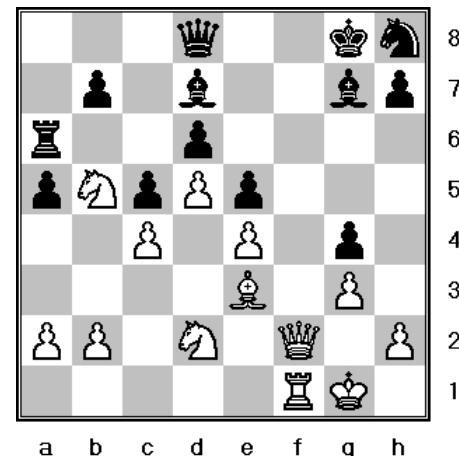
Tightening White's grip on Black's position. 21. a3 a4! is unclear.

21. ...Ra6!?

To allow ...Bd7.

22. Qf2 Bd7 23. Rf1 Nh8

23. ...Qe7 24. Nc7 Rb6 25. Nb1 +/-.



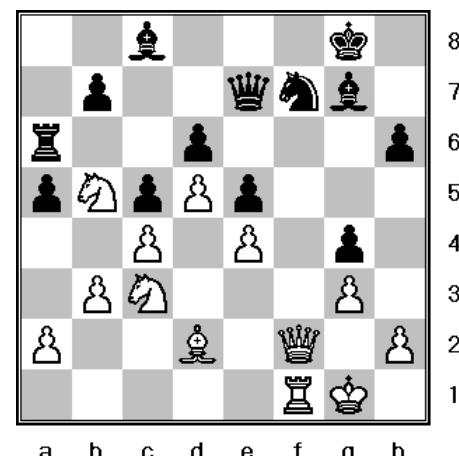
24. Nb1!

Black has no counterplay, and can only try to defend the position. His only hope lies in the blocked position.

24. ...h6 25. N1c3 Be8 26. Bd2 Qe7

With the idea of an eventual ...b6, Ra8-b8-b7.

27. b3 Nf7



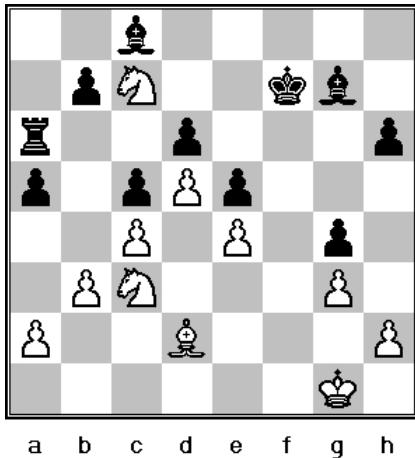
28. Qxf7+??

Played quickly; White tries to force things. 28. a3 +/- planning to break through on the queenside: 28. ...b6?? 29. Qxf7+ +-.

28. ...Qxf7 29. Rxf7 Kxf7 30. Nc7

The idea: the rook is trapped, and White

threatens the numerous weaknesses in the Black position: a5, d6, and h6.



30. ...Bf8?

30. ...b6! 31. N3b5 Ke7 32. Nxa6 Bxa6 33. Nc7 Bb7 34. Ne6 Kf6 +++; 30... Rb6? 31. N3b5! +-.

31. Nxa6 bxa6 32. a4?

32. Na4 Bd7 33. Nb6 Ke8 34. Bxa5 +-.

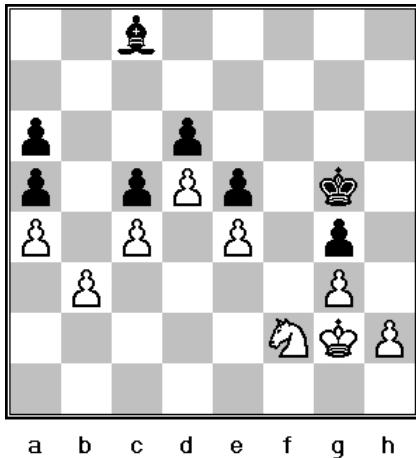
32. ...Be7?!

Valuing the a-pawn higher than the h-pawn, due to its grip on the White queenside.

33. Bxh6 Kg6 34. Bd2 Bg5! 35. Bxg5??

Black can hold this position, despite being a pawn down. 35. Be1 Bd8 36. Nd1 +/- with better winning chances.

**35. ...Kxg5 36. Kg2 Bd7 37. Nd1 Bc8
38. Nf2**



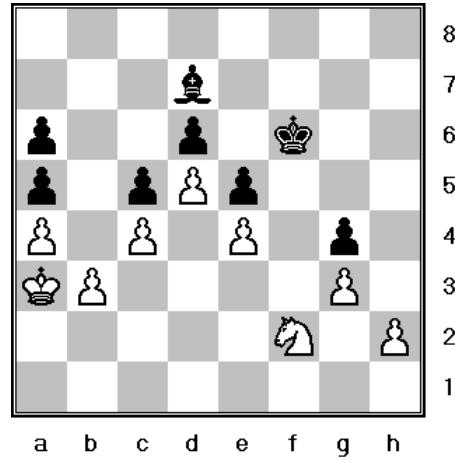
38. ...Kh5

38. ...Bd7?? The trap that Vinay attempted to trick me into over the next fifty moves: if Black's king is on g5 in this position, h3 wins. 39. h3! gxh3+ 40. Nxh3+ Kh5 41. Nf2 Bc8 42. Nd1 Bd7 43. Ne3 Kg5 44. Kf3 +-.

39. Nd1

39. h3 does not win now, due to a nice endgame trick: 39. ...gxh3+ 40. Nxh3 Bg4! 41. Nf2 Be2! 42. Kh3 Bf1+ 43. Kh2 Be2 =.

39. ...Bd7 40. Ne3 Kg5 41. Kf2 Bc8 42. Ke1 Bd7 43. Kd2 Bc8 44. Kc3 Bd7 45. Kb2 Kf6 46. Nd1 Ke7 47. Nf2 Kf6 48. Ka3



Black has to be a little careful. White can always threaten Nb5 or b4 if Black's king strays too far.

48. ...Ke7 49. Nd1 Kf6 50. Ne3 Bc8 51. Nc2 Bd7 52. Ne1 Bc8 53. Nd3 Bd7 54. Nf2 Bc8 55. Kb2 Bd7 56. Kc2 Bc8 57. Kd2 Bd7 58. Ke1 Kg5 59. Kf1 Kh5 60. Kg1 Bc8 61. Kg2 Bd7 62. Nd1 Kg5 63. Nc3 Bc8 64. Kf2 Kf6 65. Ke3 Bd7 66. Kd3 Bc8 67. Kd2 Bd7 68. Ke1 Bc8 69. Kb2 Ke7 70. Ka3 Bd7 71. Nd1 Kf6 72. Ne3 Bc8 73. Nc2 Bd7 74. Ne1 Bc8 75. Nd3 Bd7 76. Nf2 Bc8 77. Nd1 Bd7 78. Nc3 Ke7 79. Nd1

About to reach fifty moves, Vinay offers a draw.

1/2-1/2

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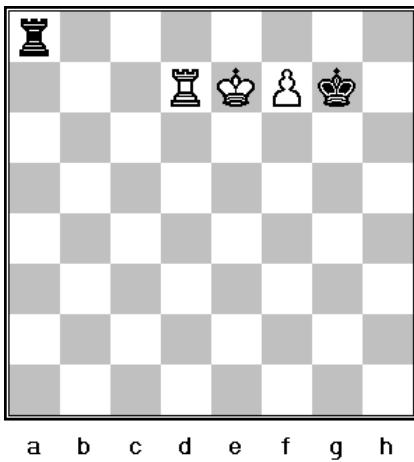
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This month we look at the theory of R+BP+RP vs. R. I will make use of the normal convention and assume that it is White that has the extra material. Unless the black king is cut-off from the kingside, White's primary winning chance is using one of his pawns as a decoy. Having said that, using the h-pawn as a decoy is logical since there are more R+P vs. R winning position with an f-pawn as opposed to an h-pawn. However, even after the black king takes the h-pawn decoy, it stands well on the short side, and with correct defense a drawn position should be reached. Before tackling R+BP+RP vs. R, let's look at several R+BP vs. R positions with the black king correctly placed on the short side.

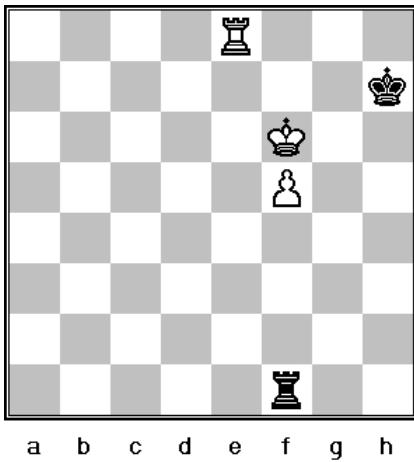
Position #1



This position is a dead draw; there is nothing White can do to improve his position. For example 1. Rd1 Ra7+ etc.

While simple, this is important to know since it is the normal end result when White uses his rook to shield the king from side checks on the d-file instead of the e-file.

Position #2



And In The End by Dana Muller



This is a standard draw. The play is quite simple: if the white rook isn't on the f-file, then keep your defending rook behind the pawn on the f-file. If White moves his rook to the f-file, then move your rook to the a-file for side checks.

1. Ke6 Kg7

The king holds back the pawn.

- 2. Re7+ Kf8 3. Rf7+ Kg8 4. Ra7 Kf8**
- 5. Kf6 Kg8 6. Ra8+ Kh7**

And we are back where we started.

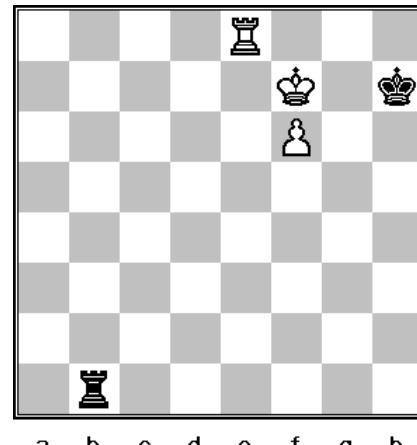
1. Rf8 Ra1 2. Kg5

Other king moves allow a barrage of checks on the long-side; rook moves are answered by Rf2.

2. ...Rg1+

And the check barrage is from the back instead of the long side.

Position #3



This is another typical king on the short side position, it is critical in the sense that whoever has the move gets their desired result. This sort of position with White to play is White's main goal in the more complex R+BP+RP vs. R ending. Needless to say, Black doesn't have to allow it.

White to play:

- 1. Kf8 Kg6 2. f7 Rb7 3. Re6+ Kh7 4. Rf6 Ra7 5. Ke8 Ra8+ 6. Ke7 Ra7+ 7. Ke6 Ra6+ 8. Ke5**

And wins, as now further checks are answered by marching the king toward the rook.

Black to play draws:

1. ...Rb7+ 2. Re7

If 2. Kf8 then 2. ...Kg6.

2. ...Rb8

The key move – stopping the white king from reaching f8. Other moves lose, i.e. 2. ...Rb6 3. Kf8+ Kg6 4. f7 Rb8+ 5. Re8 Rb7 6. Re6+ Kh7 7. Rf6.

3. Ke6+

The alternatives 3. Re8 Rb7+ repeating, or 3. Rd7 Ra8 or 3. Ra7 Kh6 don't improve.

3. ...Kg6 4. Rg7+ Kh6 5. Rg1

Cutting off the king and trying to reach the Lucena position, but...

5. ...Rb6+

And the black keeps checking, if the white king approaches the black rook, then the black rook attacks the f-pawn

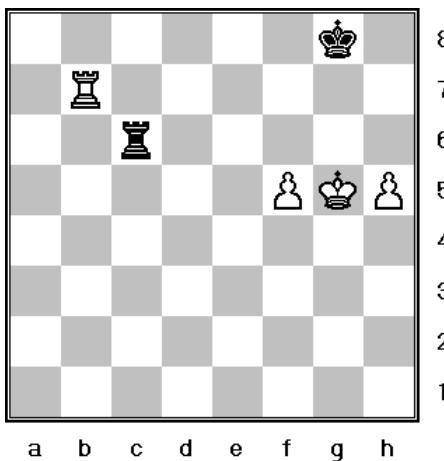
Now that we are experts at R+BP vs. R, lets move on to some R+BP+RP vs. R positions. The generic advice on playing black is to keep the king on g7 as long as possible and answer any pawn checks by moving in front of that pawn.

The rook is often best placed on a1 ready to give checks from behind or along the a-file as needed. Sometimes posting the rook on the f-file behind the white f-pawn can be effective. There is one other consideration not always mentioned: if the white pawns are not advanced very far and the black king is cut-off from the h-pawn by the white rook on the g-file, then use a frontal attack (e.g. Rh8) on the h-pawn. This may sound obscure, but it will make sense after reviewing the game Keres – Sokolsky.

The first three examples are what Black must avoid (or what White is trying to achieve). The next two examples show Black successfully defending.

Position #4

(Black's king is cut off on the back rank.)



White has multiple ways of winning from here: 1.f6, 1.h6, and 1. Rb8+ all win. We will focus on 1. h6.

1. h6 Rc1

Preparing to harass the white king with checks from behind.

2. f6 Rg1+

White threatened both 3. Rb8+ and 3. Rg7+.

3. Kf5 Rf1+ 4. Ke6 Re1+ 5. Kd6!

White can still go wrong with 5. Kd7? Kf7 6. h7 Rh1 drawing. The point of the side step is to cross the seventh rank on e7 denying the black king access to f7.

5. ...Rd1+

Alternatives 5. ...Rf1 6. Rb8+ Kh7 7. Ke7 and 5. ...Rh1 6. Rb8+ Kf7 7. h7 win quickly for White.

6. Ke7 Re1+ 7. Kd8 Rf1

If 7. ...Kf8 8. Rg7 idea 9. h7 wins. If 7. ...Rd1+ 8. Ke8 Re1+ 9. Re7 wins.

8. h7+ Kh8 9. Ke7

The hasty 9. f7 allows 9. ...Rxf7 drawing! (10. Rxf7 is stalemate.)

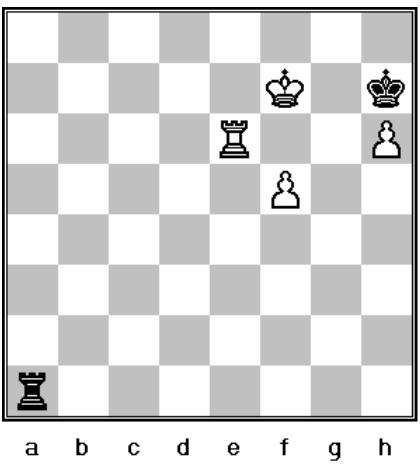
9. ...Re1+ 10. Kf7 Ra1 11. Rb8+ Kxh7

12. Kf8

Winning as in #3 above.

Position #5

(White has penetrated to f7 without making any concessions)



White wins regardless of who is on move (see variation C for White moving first).

(A)

1. ...Ra8 2. Re8 Ra7+ 3. Kf8 Kxh6 4. Re6+ Kg5

(forced)

5. f6 Kf5 6. Rb6 Kg6 7. f7+ Kh7 8. Rb8

Idea of 9. Ke8, 10. f8(Q) wins.

(B)

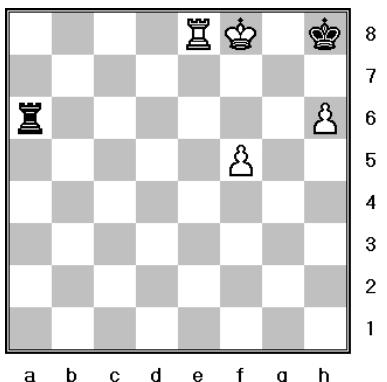
1. ...Ra7+ 2. Kf8 Ra8+ 3. Re8 Ra6

Holding up f6.

4. Re7+ Kh8 5. Re6 Ra8+

Else White plays 6. f6.

6. Re8 Ra6



If 6. ...Ra7 then 7. f6 wins as in #3 above.

7. f6! Rxsf6+ 8. Ke7+

Winning the rook

(C)

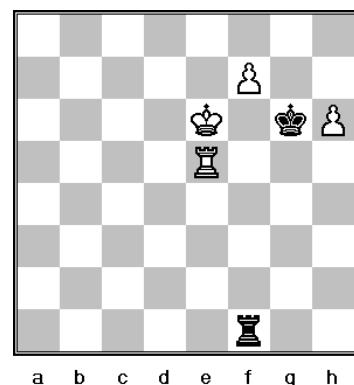
1. ...Ra2

Waiting; this is equivalent to White moving first. Black allows the pawn to reach f6 before beginning side checks.

2. f6 Ra8

If 2. ...Kxh6 3. Kf8 wins as in #3 above.

3. Re8 Ra7+
4. Ke6 Ra6+
5. Kf5 Ra5+
6. Re5 Ra1
7. f7 Rf1+
8. Ke6 Kg6



Black seems to be ready to corral the dangerous f-pawn, but...

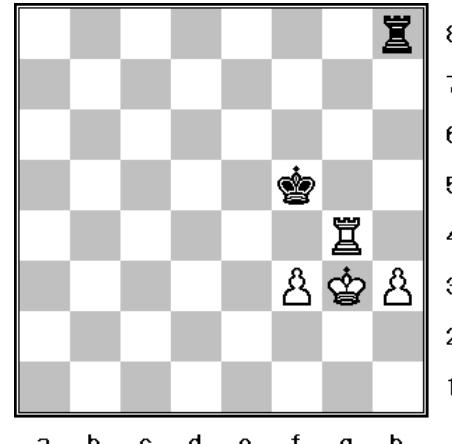
9. Rg5+! Kxg5 10. h7

Wins! One of the pawns will queen. White escapes rook checks by heading to f8, i.e.

10. ...Re1+
11. Kd7 Rd1+
12. Ke8 Re1+
13. Kf8 Rh1
14. Kg8

Position #6

(Advance of the h-pawn with the black king cut-off.)



We will look at the stem game for this plan: Keres – Sokolsky.

1. ...Ra8(?)

The simplest defensive plan is the play 1. ...Kf6 2. h4 Rh5, transferring the rook to fifth rank.

2. h4 Ra1?

While the prior move was imprecise, this is a mistake. While it follows the conventional wisdom that the black rook is often best placed on a1, it ignores the specifics of this particular position: the h-

pawn is able to move forward at such a time when the black king can't blockade it. 2. ...Rh8 is best, e.g. 3. Rg5+ Kf6 4. Kg4 Ra8 (now that the white rook can't move behind the h-pawn, activating the rook is best) 5. h5 Ra1 6. Rg6+ Kf7 7. f4 Ra5 gives a drawn Gligoric – Smyslov type of position.

3. h5 Ra6

Preparing to blockade the h-pawn on the third rank. If 3. ...Rh1 then 4. Rh4 Rg1+ 5. Kf2 Rg7 6. h6 Rh7 7. Kg3 winning. The black rook is tied to h7 (any rook move is answered by pawn to h7), the black king will be slowly forced back (often via zugzwang) by a general advance of the white king and the f-pawn. Note that while Black can't move his rook, White has the freedom of moving his rook along the h-file.

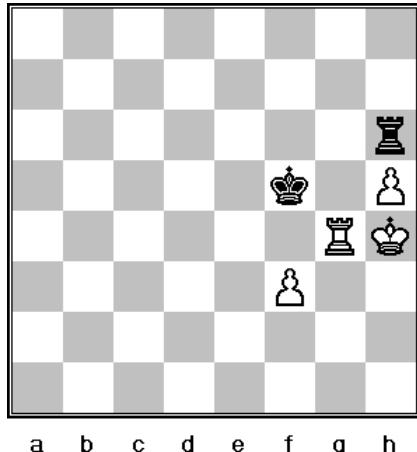
4. Rh4 Rh6

Per plan, White now maneuvers so that the rook once again cuts off the black king and the white king protects the h-pawn.

5. Rf4+ Kg5 6. Rg4+ Kf5

6. ...Kxh5 7. Rh4+ and 6. ...Kf6 7. Rg6+ both lead to a won king and pawn ending for White.

7. Kh4



7. ...Rh8

Not many choices. 7. ...Kf6 8. Rg6+ still wins for White. 7. ...Ra6 8. Rg5+ Kf4 9. Rg6 idea of Rf6+ also wins for White.

8. Rg5+ Kf6 9. Kg4 Kf7

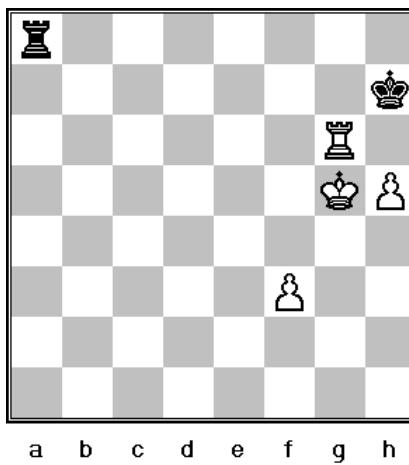
Black is trying to get his king in position to blockade the h-pawn (freeing the rook).

10. Rf5+!

Best. 10. Ra5 Rg8+ 11. Kf5 Kg7, and Black has successfully regrouped into a drawable position.

10. ...Kg7 11. Kg5 Rg8 12. Rf6 Kh7+

13. Rg6 Ra8



Black has managed to get his king into the proper position, but White's forces are better coordinated than those in the note to White's 10th. Essentially, White is preparing to get an improved (h-pawn is on h5 not h6 and is therefore less vulnerable) sort of #5 winning position.

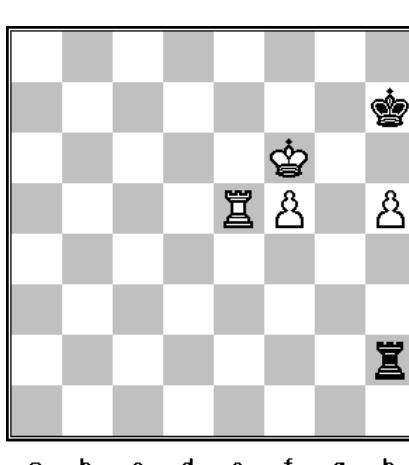
14. f4 Ra1 15. Re6 Rg1+ 16. Kf6 Rf1

Attacking the h-pawn with 16. ...Rh1 loses after 17. f5 Rxh5 18. Re7+ Kh6 19. Re8 Kh7 20. Ke6 idea 21. f6.

17. f5 Rf2

Trying to hold up the advance of the f-pawn. If 17. ...Kh6 then 18. Kf7+ Kxh5 19. f6 Kh6 20. Kf8 wins.

18. Re5 Rh2



Desperate, but moving the rook to the a-file for checks doesn't work either. 18. ...Ra2 19. Kf7 produces a win.

19. Re7+ Kh6 20. Re8 Kh7 21. Ke6

Re2+ 22. Kf7 Ra2 23. f6 Ra6 24. Ke7 Ra7+ 25. Kf8 Ra6

Note that if the h-pawn is on h6 instead

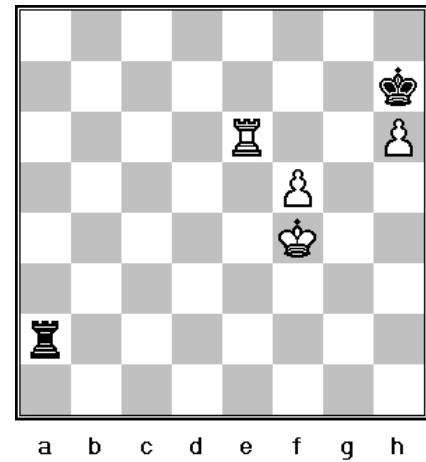
of h5, then 25. ...Kg6 draws. The rest is easy.

26. f7 Ra7 27. Re6 Ra1 28. Ke7

1-0

Position #7

(Bondarevsky – Keres. An example of White trying unsuccessfully for winning position #6.)



If White could magically move his king to f7 he would be winning as above.

1. ...Rg2

Simplest. Black prevents the white king from invading via g5. However, allowing the white king to g5 is not fatal: 1. ...Rf2+ 2. Kg5 Rg2+ 3. Kf6 Rf2! holds up the f-pawn. The difference between this position and the later stages of Keres – Sokolsky (#6) is the placement of the h-pawn. On h5 it prevents the black king from accessing g6 and forces the black king one square further up the board to capture. This enough to change the position into a draw.

2. Ke5 Ra2

Also playable is 2. ...Re2+ 3. Kf6 Rf2 as in the above note.

3. Kd6

If 3. Kf6? then 3. ...Kxh6 4. Kf7+ Kh7 5. f6 Ra8 with a standard draw.

3. ...Ra5

Again, 3. ...Rf2 works: 4. f6 Kxh6 5. Ke7 Kg6 6. Re1 Ra2 draws.

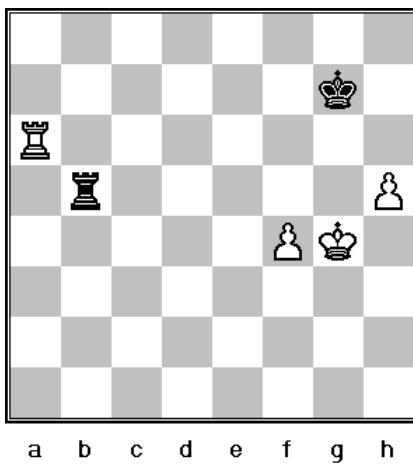
4. f6 Kg6

Simpler is 4. ...Kxh6 5. Ke7 Ra8 =.

5. Re8 Ra6+ 6. Ke7 Rxf6 7. Rg8+ Kh7 8. Rg7+ Kh8 9. Kxf6

½-½

Stalemate!



This is a classic in the R+BP+RP arena: Gligoric – Smyslov. Smyslov's copybook play is so impressive that Dvoretsky is of the opinion that a careful study of this one game should suffice for the practical player.

1. Rg6+

This gives Black a choice for the king. Either is sufficient; we'll look at both.

(A)

1. ...Kh7

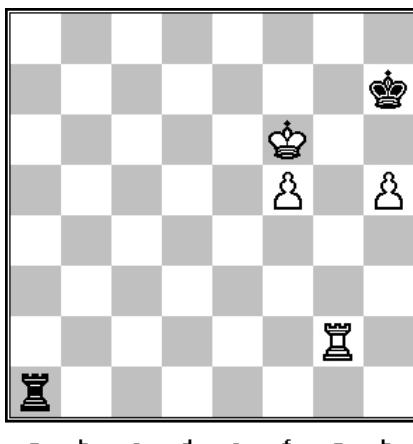
This eliminates any threat of an h-pawn advance, but it does open the door for the white king to advance to f6. As seen previously, allowing the king to f6 is not fatal if the black pieces are properly placed.

2. f5 Rb1 3. Kg5 Rg1+ 4. Kf6 Ra1

Standard play: check once on either a rank or the g-file and then return to base (a1).

5. Rg2

The alternative is 5. Ke6, trying to directly advance the f-pawn. After 5. ...Ra6+ 6. Ke5 Ra5+ 7. Kf4 Ra1! 8. Re6 Kg7 9. h6+ Kh7 10. Kg5 Rg1+, the position is drawn.



5. ...Kh6!

This is more to stop Kg5 rather than to make a threat to the h-pawn. If Black plays a tempo move instead (such as 5. ...Rb1), then Black's position is critical, maybe losing. A possible line is 5. ...Rb1 6. Re2 Rf1 (side checks seem to lose: 6. ...Ra6+ 7. Kf7 Ra7+ 8. Re7, and White advances the f-pawn) 7. Re5 Kh6 8. Kf7 Kxh5 9. f6+ Kh6 10. Re2 Rf3 11. Rh2+ Kg5 12. Kg7 Rxf6 13. Rg2+ Kf5 14. Rf2+ winning. There are many other tries for Black, but clearly he is walking a tightrope at best. The text avoids such adventures.

6. Re2 Ra7!

Checking would be fatal. 6. ...Ra6+ 7. Kf7 Kg5 8. h6! Rxh6 9. Kg7 Ra6 10. f6! winning (10. ...Rxf6 11. Rg2+ Kf5 12. Rf2+ skewers the rook).

7. Re1 Rb7

Waiting for White to commit.

8. Ke6

8. Re8 Rb6+ 9. Kf7 Kg5 = (because there are no rook checks to skewer the black rook as in the variations given on moves five and six).

8. ...Kxh5 9. f6 Kg6 10. Rg1+ Kh7 11. f7 Rb8

And draws.

(B)

1. ...Kf7

Smyslov's choice.

2. Rg5

More dangerous is 2. Kh4 with the idea of Rg3 cutting off the black king and threatening an advance of the h-pawn (shades of Keres – Sokolsky).

Waiting with 2. ...Ra5 is fatal: 3. Rg3 Ra1 4. h6 Rh1+ 5. Kg5 Ra1 6. f5 Rb1 7. Rg4 Ra1 8. Rh4 Rg1+ 9. Kf4 Rf1+ 10. Kg4 Rg1+ 11. Kf3 Rg8 12. h7 wins.

Black must play 2. ...Rb1 to foil the plan: 3. Kg5. As a practical chance 3. Rg3 is worth a try: if Black waits with 3. ...Rb1 then 4. h6 transposes into the above variation. Of course Black needs to play 3. ...Rh1+, after which White should not be able to arrange both pawn to h6 and keep the black king from crossing to the g-file.

After 2. ...Rb1 3. Kg5 Rg1+ 4. Kh6 Rf1 5. Rg7+ Kf6 6. Rg8 Kf7 7. Rg4 Rh1 is drawn.

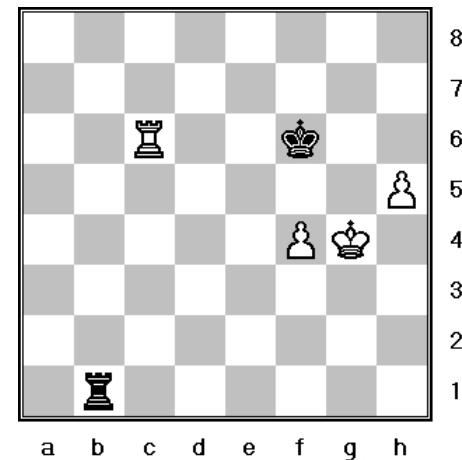
2. ...Rb1!

The right time to take up the flexible post.

3. Rc5

On 3. h6 Ra1! (not 3. ...Rg1+ 4. Kf5 Rh1 5. Rg7+ winning) 4. h7 (4. Rh5 Kg8 5. h7+ Kh8 6. f5 Ra4+ 7. Kg5 Ra6 =.) 4. ...Rg1+ 5. Kf3 Rh1 6. Ra5 Kg6 7. Ra7 Kf5 is equal

3. ...Kf6 4. Rc6+



4. ...Kg7!

Black loses after 4. ...Kf7 5. Kg5 Rg1+ 6. Kf5 Rh1 7. Rc7+ and the black king is driven to the last rank.

5. Kg5 Rg1+! 6. Kf5 Ra1

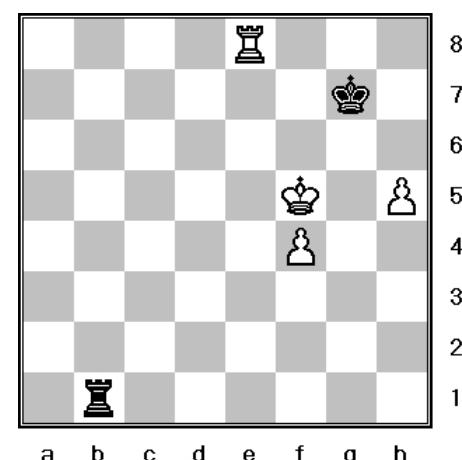
The check and return to base theme.

7. Rc7+ Kh6 8. Re7 Rb1

Waiting tactics.

9. Re8 Kg7

The king should return to g7 whenever possible.



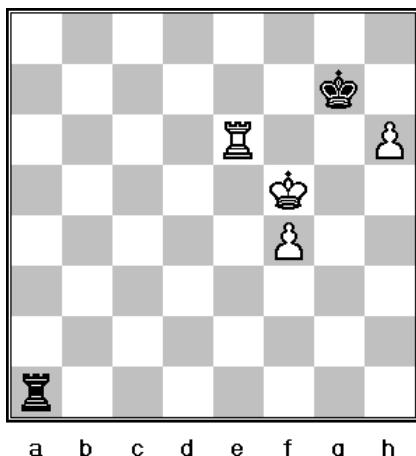
10. Re5 Ra1 11. Rd5 Rf1

11. ...Rb1 is good as well.

12. Rd4 Ra1 13. Rd6 Ra5+ 14. Kg4 Ra1

14. ...Rb5 15. Rg6+ would repeat the position after White's first move!

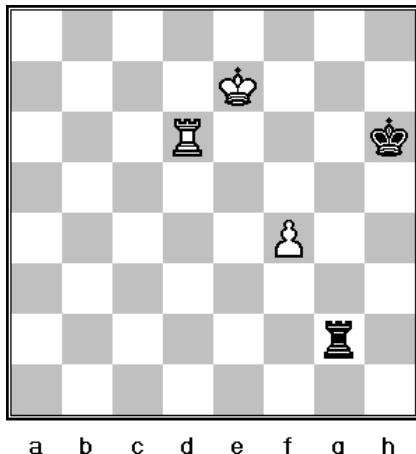
15. Re6 Rg1+ 16. Kf5 Ra1 17. h6+



17. ...Kh7!

A pawn check on the 6th rank should be answered by blockading with the king. We now have a position that is similar to #7 above. The play now runs on another 16 moves before the draw is agreed.

18. Rd6 Ra2 19. Kg5 Rg2+ 20. Kf6 Kxh6 21. Ke7+



21. ...Kh7

Or 21. ...Kg7 22. f5 Re2+ 23. Re6 Rf2 24. f6+ Kg6 25. Rd6 (25. f7+ Kg7 =; 25. Re1 Ra2 26. Rg1+ Kh7 27. f7 Ra7+ =) 25. ...Rf1 =.

22. f5 Re2+ 23. Re6 Ra2 24. f6 Ra8! 25. Kf7 Kh6 26. Re1 Ra7+ 27. Re7 Ra8 28. Rd7 Kh7 29. Rd1 Ra7+ 30. Ke6 Ra6+ 31. Rd6 Ra8 32. Rd4 Kg8 33. Rg4+ Kf8

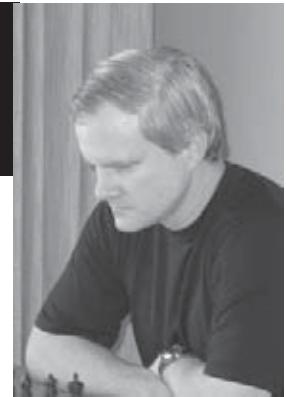
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I Never Met A Book....

IM John Donaldson

NiC Yearbook 91

The New in Chess Yearbook series continues to stay fresh and relevant after twenty five years of publication. Yearbook 91 (New in Chess 2009, www.newinches.com, figurine algebraic, paperback, 248 pages, \$29.95) is no exception, with material ranging from an in depth analysis of the classic Kieseritzky Gambit encounter Rosanes-Anderssen, Breslau 1863, to important theoretical duels played at Linares 2009.



Most of the surveys in the Yearbooks tend to concentrate on lines that are presently popular in top level Grandmaster chess and YB 91 is no exception as one can see from a list of the contents. This preference for topical is not surprising as these are the lines that the best players in the world feel are most important

YB 91 Surveys

Sicilian Defence - Najdorf Variation 6.Bc3 Ng4 - SI 14.7 - Vilela
Sicilian Defence - Dragon Variation 10...Rb8 - SI 18.16 - A.Kuzmin
Sicilian Defence - Perenyi Attack 7.g4 - SI 19.14 - Karolyi
Sicilian Defence - Rauzer Variation 7...Be7 - SI 27.10 - Galkin
Sicilian Defence - Sveshnikov Variation 9.Nd5 - SI 37.8 - Rogozenco
Sicilian Defence - Taimanov Variation 5...Qc7 - SI 40.2 - Fogarasi
Sicilian Defence - Taimanov Variation 5...Qc7 - SI 40.4 - Adla/Glavina
Sicilian Defence - Grand Prix Attack 5.Bc4 - SI 49.4 - Grivas
King's Fianchetto - 4.f4 Line; 4...a6 - KF 14.4 - Finkel
French Defence - Rubinstein Variation 7.c3 - FR 7.4 - Finkel
Caro-Kann Defence - Advance Variation 3.e5 - CK 4.1 - Landa
Ruy Lopez - Exchange Variation 5...Bd6 - RL 8.7 - Boersma
Ruy Lopez - Marshall Attack 15.Qe2 - RL 17.6 - Lukacs/Hazai
Ruy Lopez - Zaitsev Variation 9...Bb7 - RL 26.8 - Van der Wiel
Italian Game - Giuoco Piano 6...a6 - IG 2.10 - Tiviakov
Scotch Opening - Mieses Variation 8...Ba6 - SO 4.4 - Greenfeld
King's Pawn Openings - Philidor Defence 7...a6 - KP 4.13 - A. Kuzmin
Various Openings - Fajrowicz Gambit 3...Ne4 - VO 17.6 - Gutman
Queen's Gambit Declined - Tartakower Variation 8.g4 - QO 7.1 - Olthof
Slav Defence - Slow Slav 4.e3 - SL 1.7 - Anka
Slav Defence - Krause Variation 7...Nb6 - SL 4.5 - Lukacs/Hazai
Slav Defence - Botvinnik Variation 16.Na4 - SL 7.8 - Palliser
Catalan Opening - Open Variation 6...dc4 - CA 5.6 - Vladimirov
Nimzo-Indian Defence - Classical Variation 4...0-0 - NI 24.13 - De Jong
Nimzo-Indian Defence - Ragozin Variation 4.Nf3 d5 - NI 27.5 - Antic
Nimzo-Indian Defence - Ragozin Variation 4.Nf3 d5 - NI 27.6 - Panczyk/Ilczuk
Queen's Indian Defence - ...c6, ...d5 System - QI 6.1 - Tiviakov
Queen's Indian Defence - Nimzowitsch Variation 4...Ba6 - QI 14.9 - Zakhartsov
Grünfeld Indian Defence - 3.f3 Line - GI 1.1 - Mihalevski
Grünfeld Indian Defence - Accelerated Russian System 4.Qb3 - GI 3.1 - Ikonnikov
King's Indian Defence - Sämisch Variation 6...Nc6 - KI 35.10 - Kaufman
Queen's Pawn Openings - Colle System 4.dc5 - QP 6.4 - Panczyk/Ilczuk
English Opening - Symmetrical Variation 4.g3 - EO 40.6 - Marin/Stoica

Still what is popular for those over 2600 FIDE and what holds court among mortals are not quite the same. The Forum section where readers and authors offer feedback on previous Yearbook articles as well as offering fresh material tends to balance things out with a lot of examination of double King pawn openings.

Sosonko's corner also helps to even the slate. In Yearbook 91 he pays tribute to Roman Dzindzichashvili who still is searching for new discoveries in the openings at age 65. Teaming up with his good friend Rybka, Roman has found an interesting novelty in the Max Lange Gambit used earlier this year by Sergey Movsesian at Wijk aan Zee to defeat Michael Adams. After 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. 0-0 Nf6 5. d4 Bxd4 6. Nxd4 Nxd4 7. f4 d6 8. fxe5 dxe5 9. Bg5 Qe7 10. Na3 and now instead of the traditional 10. ...Be6 that has been in use for well over 100 hundred years (and was Adams choice) check out R and Rs suggestion - the mysterious 10. ...Rg8!, anticipating Bxf6 gxf6.

Another R and R rehabilitation in museum openings occurs in the Giuoco Piano line favored by Rossolimo: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 Bxd2+ 8. Nbx2 d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Qb3 where 10. ...Na5 11. Qa4 Nc6 12. Qb3 Na5 13. Qa4 Nc6 of Miles – Korchnoi, Johannesburg 1979, was long

thought to be the last word. R and R offer 12. Qa3 when 12. ...Qe7 13. Qxe7 surprisingly leads to a much better ending for White as his activity more than compensates for the isolated pawn.

Returning to the Surveys those that like to play chess and not worry about long forcing lines will appreciate the contribution by GM Sergey Tiviakov who examines the position that is reached after several move orders but principally 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 c6 5. Bg2 d5 6. 0-0 Be7 7. Nc3 Bb7. As Tiviakov points out Black avoids the popular 7. d5 in the main line of the ...Bb7 QID Fianchetto and the moves ...c6, ...Bb7, ...Be7 and ...d5 can be played using different move orders. Tiviakov often delays the development of his QB until White has committed his QN and even more importantly delays committing his QN as long as possible retaining the option to develop it at a6 or b7. This is particularly relevant in the Closed Catalan variation (1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 0-0 6. 0-0 c6 7. Qc2 b6 8. Nbd2 Bb7 9. e4) independently advocated for White by GMs Avrukh and Davies in their respective books 1. d4 - Volume One and Play The Catalan. Both do a fine job of analyzing the lines after 9. ...Nbd7 but fail to consider 9. ...Na6. This move, used by both Tiviakov and the young Argentine-Canadian GM Anton Kovalyov, is much better in this position keeping d7 free for the KN in the event of e4-e5.

I must confess that the survey on the English Hedgehog by Mihail Marin and Valentin Stoica has me mystified. The line the two Romanians focus on reaches its tabiya after 1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. 0-0 a6 7. d4 cxd4 8. Qxd4 d6 9. Rd1 Nbd7 10. Ng5 Bxg2 11. Kxg2 Rc8 12. Nge4 Rc6. The authors' final conclusion is that after 13. Bf4 "Black does not have an obvious route to equality." This would seem to be great news for those seeking a strong weapon to combat the tough to crack Hedgehog but unfortunately it leaves unanswered the question of how to answer 11. ...Be7 (in place of 11. ...Rc8). Black's idea, as shown by Gavrikov and Adorjan close to thirty years ago, is to meet 12. Nge4 with 12. ...0-0 13. Nxd6 Qc7. Does White have something new here?

English GM Glenn Flear has been the closer for the Yearbooks for some time, his book reviews appearing at the very end of the volume. This time around he looks at Alexander Beliavsky and Adrian Mikhalchishin's The Petrosian System Against the QID, Andrew Greet's Play the Queen's Indian, Lars Schandorff's Playing the Queen's Gambit and Valentin Bogdanov's latest effort, Chess Explained: The Grünfeld.

New in Chess Yearbook 91 is highly recommended to all those with a strong interest in opening theory.

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

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

Need promotional copies of *Northwest Chess* for use at chess events?
Contact: Gary Dorfner (WA),
ggarychess@aol.com
or Eric Holcomb (OR),
Eric@Holcomb.com

Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, statsmeister

This month's standings mark the half-way point of the 2009 Grand Prix. All events through the end of June are included. 362 players have made 841 entries into 35 events. These numbers compare well with past years.

The standings themselves have changed just a little from the previous month. Once again the Oregon leader in Class D has moved up to class C, making way for a new name on that list. Just a few points separate the top players in many classes, and to see a couple of wide-open races just look at Washington's class A, where 6.5 points separate first from sixth place, and Oregon's class D, where the range is just four points. One other item of significance: for the first time since I started keeping records, at the half-way point of the year, there are two Oregon players (Nick Raptis and Steven Breckenridge) with equal or greater points than the top Washington player (Darby Monahan). Considering that three of the next four events with multipliers are going to be held in Oregon, seems to me that some Washington players need to make travel plans.

Those four up-coming multiplier events are the Seafair Open in Seattle (which will occur before you read this), both weekends of the Oregon Class Championships (August 1-2 and 8-9, both with a 2x multiplier), and the Oregon Open in Gresham (September 7-9, with a \$3000 guaranteed prize fund and a 4x multiplier.) If you want to really increase your standing in the Grand Prix before the autumnal equinox, then Oregon is the place to play! There are also 11 other events between July 1st and Labor Day, in Portland, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma. Go, play, get points!

We do not yet have a sponsor providing the added money for the Grand Prix. Usually, we have had a donor or donors who have provided \$1000 to the prize fund, split evenly between the two states. This has allowed for the nice sums we have awarded over the past 10 years or so. We will be awarding prizes this year, have no fear, but without the sponsor, prizes will be smaller. If you are in a position to sponsor the 2009 Grand Prix, or know someone who is, please consider doing so. And it is never too early to think about the 2010 Grand Prix. Remember, the sponsor gets naming rights.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1	Raptis, Nick	107.5	1	Sinanen, Joshua	52
2	Roua, Radu	38	2	Collyer, Curt	49.5
3	Haessler, Carl	29	3	Bragg, David	35.5
			4	Koons, Nat	18
			5	MacGregor, Michael ..	17
			6	Pupols, Viktor	16

Experts

1	Breckenridge, Steven ...	79	1	Watts, Peter	78
2	Gay, Daniel	70	2	Chen, Howard	60
3	Daroza, Eduardo	27.5	3	Bartron, Paul	50
4	Heywood, Bill	21.5	4	Rupel, David	38.5
5	Narayanasamy, Prasanna ..	18	5	Kelley, Dereque	37.5
6	Polasek , Preston	17	6	Merwin, Steve	31.5

Class A

1	Esler, Brian	66	1	Hickey, Patrick	52
2	Fulton, David	54.5	2	Stripes, James	49.5
3	Herrera, Robert	43.5	3	Camareri, Michael ..	47.5
4	Banner, Richard	35	4	Rowles, David	46.5
5	Smyth, Scott	33	5	O'Gorman, Peter	45.5
6	Evers, Jason	26.5	5	Gottlieb, Ethan	45.5

Class B

1	Niro, Frank	50	1	McAleer, James	65.5
2	Pyle, Galen	43	2	Ackerman, Ryan	62
3	Grom, Alex	34.5	3	Buck, Stephen	60.5
4	Levin, Scott	27.5	4	Walton, John	46
5	Yoshinaga, David	24	5	Elisara, Travis	45.5
6	Frojen, Ken	21	6	Griffin, David	44.5

Class C

1	Tse, Kalen	44.5	1	Monahan, Darby	79
2	Witt, Steven	42.5	2	Piper, August	52
3	Dietz, Arliss	40.5	3	Baker, Ted	49.5
4	Midson, Tony	25	4	Nicoski, Aaron	49
5	Brusselback, Lon	23	5	Grabar, Svetlana	36.5
6	Skalnes, Erik	22	6	Yu, Justin	36

Class D and Below

1	Winter, Dillon	14	1	Richards, Jerrold	65.5
2	James, John E.	12	2	Burney, James	48
3	Butson, Jeffrey	11.5	3	Waugh, James	41.5
4	Smith, James K.	10.5	4	Wang, Shanglun	40
5	Barrese, William	10	5	Stewart, A George	32.5
5	Moore, Craig	10	6	Two tied	30

Overall Leaders, by State

1	Raptis, Nick	107.5	1	Monahan, Darby	79
2	Breckenridge, Steven ...	79	2	Watts, Peter	78
3	Gay, Daniel	70	3	McAleer, James	65.5
4	Esler, Brian	66	3	Richards, Jerrold	65.5
5	Fulton, David	54.5	5	Ackerman, Ryan	62
6	Niro, Frank	50	6	Buck, Stephen	60.5
7	Tse, Kalen	44.5	7	Chen, Howard	60
8	Herrera, Robert	43.5	8	Sinanen, Joshua	52
9	Pyle, Galen	43	8	Hickey, Patrick	52
10	Witt, Steven	42.5	8	Piper, August	52
11	Dietz, Arliss	40.5	11	Bartron, Paul	50
12	Roua, Radu	38	12	Collyer, Curt	49.5
13	Banner, Richard	35	12	Stripes, James	49.5
14	Grom, Alex	34.5	12	Baker, Ted	49.5
15	Smyth, Scott	33	15	Nicoski, Aaron	49

Players from Other Places

1	Havrilla, Mark	ID	1921		74.5
2	Leslie, Cameron	ID	1704		56
3	Donaldson, John	CA	2426		50
3	McCourt, Daniel	MT	1721		44.5
5	Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1646		42
6	Martin, Robert	MT	1697		41
6	McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1750		35
6	Armstrong, Nathan	MS	1726		32
6	Davis, Loal	MO	2227		30
10	Weyland, Phillip	ID	1864		26
10	Harmon-Vellotti, Luke	ID	2011		25
10	Weyland, Ronald	ID	1599		25
13	Abderhalden, Richard	ID	1449		25
14	Li, Changhe	CAN	1930		22.5
15	Sly, Douglas	CAN	1455		22.5

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
17517 15 Ave NE ↙
Seattle WA 98155
Infoline ↙
206-417-5405
www.seattlechessclub.info
kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

SCC Championship

Sept. 11, 18, Oct. 2, 9, 23, 30, Nov. 6

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

Our Move

The SCC is close to signing a lease for 1800 sq. ft. in the Northway Square East Building (2150 N 107th St) just across the freeway from Northgate Mall.

Aug. 15, Sept. 12

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

Aug. 2, 30; Oct. 4

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

August 16

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 8/13, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

Attendance at this year's previous tournaments

- Novice (1/31)-5, (5/2)-8; Quads (1/10)-10, (2/21)-20, (3/14)-17, (4/25)-14, (5/16)-15, (6/13)-20; Tornados (1/4)-12, (2/1)-12, (3/1)-16, (4/5)-14, (5/3)-18, (5/31)-19, (7/5)-18; Seattle City Championship (1/16-18)-21; Seattle Spring Open (3/27-29)-36; Green Open II (5/9-10)-26; Emerald City Open (6/19-21)-46.

Seattle Fall Open

September 25-27 or September 26-27

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

@ Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

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

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

Entry Fees: \$33 by 9/23, \$42 at site. SCC members — subtract \$9. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA — subtract \$4. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

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

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

Future Events

■ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ■

For free adult and scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.

■ August 1 – 2, 8 – 9

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. August 1-2, Classes M/X, B, & D; August 8-9, Classes A, C, & E. See full-page ad in the July issue for more details, or visit <http://www.nwchess.com> or <http://www.pdxchess.org>.

■ August 6, 13, 20

Site: Spokane Chess Club, Gonzaga University, Room 121 Herak Building. **Format:** 3-RR, quads. **TC:** G/120. **Rds:** Thursday evenings. **EF:** \$16. **Reg:** Aug 6, 6:30-7:15 pm. **Misc:** USCF & WCF membership required. **Info/Entries:** Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037; 509-928-3260, cell 509-994-9739.

August 8

Site: Crossroads Shopping Center, 15600 NE 8th St, Bellevue, WA, 98008. **Reg:** check-in from 11:30 –noon; first round ASAP. Awards ASAP after last round (est. 3:30 p.m.) **Format:** 7-round double; game/5. K-12 Scholastic Open & Championship Open sections. **Prizes:** 60% of entries go to prize fund. Cash prize for Championship Open sections, including junior under 21 player. Trophies & medals for top scholastic finishers. **EF:** \$15 Scholastic tournament fee; changes to \$20 day before tournament. Tournament special discounted WCF membership (including NW Chess magazine) required to play in open section of the tournament; \$10. No membership required for scholastic section. **Misc:** please bring a clock if you have one. Chess sets are provided. **Info/Entries:** online at chess4life.com, in person at Chess4Life, or by calling 425-283-0549. E-mail: tournaments@chess4life.com.

■ August 8 – 9

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, room 11. In the DTI Soccer Store bldg, across the street from Alfred's Cafe, two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. **Format:** 5-SS, 1 section. **TC:** G/120. **Rds:** Sat 10, 2:30, 7. Sun 10, 3 (or ASAP). **EF:** Adults \$30/\$40, Juniors \$20/\$25, Economy \$15. Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships. **Prizes:** 67% full-pay EFs, 1st 25%; 1st top 1/3, 15%; 1st mid 1/3, 14%; 1st bottom 1/3, 13%. If fewer than 9 full-paid entries, then two groups. **Reg:** Sat, 9:00-9:45am. **Bye:** Two 1/2 point byes okay rounds 1-4. **Misc:** USCF & WCF membership required. If ten or fewer players, then it will be a one-day tournament. **Info/Entries:** Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St. Tacoma, WA 98445 or call (253)535-2536 or (253)306-7137 (club), e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

■ August 29

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format:** 4-SS TC: G/60. May switch to 5-SS and G/45 if entries > 25. **EF:** \$20, \$5 disc for PCC memb. No adv ent. **Prizes:** \$200 b/20. \$60-40-30, U1800 35, U1500 35. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Byes:** 1 HPB if req at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.org.

August 29 – 30

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, room 11. In the DTI Soccer Store bldg, across the street from Alfred's Cafe, two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. **Format:** 4-SS for those age 50+. **TC:** G/120. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 am. **Rds:** sat. 10:00, 3:30, sun. 10:00, 3:30 or ASAP. **EF:** \$20.00. **Prizes:** \$200.00 (b/10) 1st \$70.00, 2nd \$50.00, 1st u1800 u1500 \$40.00 (if more than 10 entries then prizes will be increased). Winner seeded into the Washington Championship Invitational section. **Bye:** Two 1/2 point byes available. USCF & NW memberships required. **Entries/info:** Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary Dorfner.

August 29 – 30

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, room 11. In the DTI Soccer Store bldg, across the street from Alfred's Cafe, two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. **Format:** 4-SS (all ages, women only). **TC:** G/120. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 am. **Rds:** Sat. 10:00, 3:30, sun. 10:00, 3:30 or ASAP. **EF:** \$20.00. **Prizes:** \$200.00 (b/10) 1st \$70.00, 2nd \$50.00, 1st u1800, u1500 \$40.00. (if more than 10 entries then prizes will be increased). Winner seeded into the Washington Championship Invitational section. **Bye:** Two 1/2 point byes available. **Misc:** USCF & NW memberships required. **Entries/info:** Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary Dorfner.

VISITORS WELCOMED

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on Washington St.)

Oregon Class Championships ■

Washington Blitz Championship

Tacoma Open ■

PCC Game-in-60 ■

Washington Senior Adult Championship

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PORLAND CHESS CLUB

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503-246-2978

For information on membership
and coming events:
www.pdxchess.org