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Cover art: "Twins!" Gary Dorfner vs Gary Dorfner

Photo credit: Philip Peterson

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November: US Senior Championship story from Mike Schemm;
Chris Kalina writes about chess in Minnesota;
brief reports on Middle School chess & NW girls on the US top 100 lists,
plus lots of other cool stuff. *Check it out.*

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USCF

Delegates Meeting

by Fred Kleist

The annual meeting convened at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday, August 8 with your representatives Carl Haessler (OR), Fred Kleist (WA), and Murlin Varner (WA) present. The first order of business, after accepting the minutes of the previous meeting and ratifying the actions of the Executive Board (EB) for the past ten years, was to change the definition of voter eligibility to include more newly signed members by extending the cutoff date by four days. This important deed accomplished, we turned to the report phase.

President Bill Goichberg said that, though membership is down, the decrease is less than 4% over the course of the year and that, leaving aside the Federations very large legal fees, the budget would have shown a surplus due to the receipt of two large bequests totaling about \$400,000. As it was, the USCF lost about \$112,000. The expected monetary benefits of two-tiered membership structure, i.e., doing away with printed copies of *Chess Life* for some membership categories, had not yet materialized.

Executive Director Bill Hall concentrated on positives, citing the “spectacular venue” and ample prize funds for the U.S. Championship and Women’s Championship in St. Louis, the 5320 players (just 73 short of the record) that attended the SuperNationals, and widespread participation in the Earth vs. Space match, involving Bellevue’s Stevenson Elementary K-3 National Championship team. In connection with the St. Louis events, a representative from a public relations/advertising firm discussed the campaign to publicize the U.S. Championship.

At about this point, a motion to reconsider the ratification of EB actions was introduced. GM Susan Polgar and her husband FM Paul Truong were asserting in their lawsuits that the EB had not followed the bylaws in some of its actions. In order to convince a court that we, the delegates, knew what was being ratified, it would be better if we were given some time to read the two-inch stack of documents we had received along with our credentials. So we voted to reconsider after the two-hour lunch break.

Afterwards, Vice-President of Finance Randy Bauer reported on cost-cutting measures such as the four-day work week instituted at the Crossville headquarters and the \$100,000 loan from the Life Member Assets (LMA) Committee used to pay down the mortgage.

After reconvening at 2:17 p.m., we immediately re-ratified the EB actions and went into executive session to consider an appeal by Polgar and Truong of the EB’s revocation of their USCF memberships. We were cautioned that everything *learned* in this proceeding was confidential and that those who leaked such information could be sued. Here’s what I know I can say: the delegates voted to uphold both membership revocations [Truong (58-16) and Polgar (55-21)] at about 6:10 p.m.

Our delegate packets, provided upon sign-in, included the EB’s cases against Truong and Polgar. According to the former, Truong authored *all* of the approximately 2,500 “Fake Sam Sloan” postings (Point #14 of 33: “... Truong is the Fake Sam Sloan.”) which caused

Sloan to file suit against the USCF (#4) and Truong did not cooperate with the investigation which the other EB board members instituted (#25). Furthermore, Truong made “numerous false and misleading statements” about his marketing experience (#26) as well as not disclosing his marriage to Polgar during the 2007 EB election (#27).

In the case of Polgar, the main charges are that she, with the help of an associate, illegally broke into EB member Randy Hough’s e-mail account (#5 of 15) and read at least 111 messages, published “highly sensitive attorney-client privileged communications” (#6), instituted a peremptory defamation suit against the USCF (#10), and lied about how she had obtained the attorney-client communications.

The grounds for revocation are that the conduct of both Truong and Polgar does “not conform ... to the values of the USCF, ... hampers the work of the USCF, and disturbs the well-being of the USCF” and that such conduct is in violation of the USCF’s Code of Ethics.

Sunday

The budget, often a topic of controversy in past meetings, was passed in the first six minutes of the Sunday session. Highlights include savings of about \$90,000 in printing and mailing costs on *Chess Life*, *Chess Life for Kids*, and the TLA newsletter, a projected \$60,000 increase in membership revenues, a decrease in payroll and profit-sharing amounting to \$120,000, and a \$170,000 drop in legal fees. The bottom line is that the USCF is expected to lose only \$14,000 next fiscal year (June 2009 through May 2010).

Most reports were deferred unless a motion or motions were included. We approved the slate of appointees to the Audit, Bylaws, Election, Ethics, and LMA Committees in the space of five minutes.

We then raced through some fifty motions, about one-third of which were withdrawn or tabled. Here are the highlights:

The use of electronic communication devices in the tournament hall is forbidden, but the penalty for use is left to the discretion of the tournament director. However, the standard penalties for disruptive noises are to be as follows:

First instance for a spectator -- ejection from the tournament hall. First instance for a player -- ten minutes or a minimum of half the remaining time is to be deducted. Second instance for a player -- loss of game. If the player’s game is finished, the penalty is to be applied in the next round. (In the final round, the player is to be treated as a spectator, though the TD may also remove a half-point from the player’s score for prize distribution.)

A motion to rate Blitz (G/5 w/o delay) separately from the Quick rating failed.

The rule concerning draw claims of insufficient losing chances in sudden death time controls was modified to make use of a time delay clock the first option, rather than attempting to decide whether the claim is correct or incorrect.

Dues for non-magazine adults will rise \$5 on January 1. Allegedly, this will provide increased revenue and a greater number of magazine subscribers.

Terms on the EB are to be decreased from four to three years and no EB member may be a spouse, sibling, parent or child of another EB member. (This applies to adoptive and step relatives as well as natural ones.)

Raptis Captures 58th Oregon Open by Frank Niro

FIDE Master Nick Raptis of Portland won the 58th Annual Oregon Open with a score of 5½ out of 6. Raptis missed the prize for a perfect score as a result of a draw in round 5 with Steven Breckenridge of Oregon (see game below). Tied at 5-1 were Alex Guo of Washington and John Chung of Oregon. 52 players took part in the Open Section.

The Reserve Section (U 1800) had 58 players and ended in a three-way tie at 5-1 among Oregon players David Bannon, Galen Pyle and Jason Cigan. The Portland Chess Club sponsored the event held at the Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham over Labor Day weekend. Neil Dale was the tournament director, assisted by Michael Morris.

The first four rounds required diligent clock management because the only available bathrooms were a brisk five-minute walk in each direction. TD Dale quipped that it was part of the college's new health and wellness program. Some players were visibly annoyed but everyone seemed to understand that it was beyond the TD's control. For Monday's final two rounds, the problem was rectified by allowing elevator access to alternate facilities on the lower level.

The total attendance of 110 players was up from 88 in 2008. 65 of the participants were residents of Oregon and 39 were from Washington. Four players made the trek from Idaho and one each came all the way from Minnesota and North Carolina.

The family of Martha Jane Miller (Russell Miller, J. D. Miller, Mary Ruth Harper, Hilliary Church, Ielleen Miller)

provided a \$100 cash prize for the best score by a woman chess player in the top section. Alexandra Botez (2.5) and Dana Hannibal (2.5) edged out Megan Lee (2) for the MJM Memorial prize. Ms. Botez' 5th round win over Gregory Prentice is presented below. Due to some confusion about whether the prize was for the top section only, the organizers graciously added a similar prize for the reserve section, which was won by Taylor Bailey (3). The actual highest score by a woman player was 4 points by Sarah May in the reserve, but she entered as a junior and was ineligible for cash prizes.

There were five masters entered in the event. Besides Raptis, Frank Johnson (MN), William Schill (WA), Joshua Sinanan (WA), and Viktors Pupols (WA) participated. One expert, Howard Chen (WA), raised his rating over 2200 based on his results during the tournament.

At the end of the first day, ten players had posted 2-0 scores in the Open Section: Raptis, Johnson, Chen, Breckenridge, Paul Bartron, William Schill, Carl Koontz, Dereque Kelley, Matthew Sellers and Dana Hannibal. Hannibal entered the tournament rated 1616 and upset eventual second place finisher Guo in round 2.

There were three perfect scores after the third round (Raptis, Breckenridge and Kelley). Raptis defeated Kelley in round 4 while Breckenridge won against Sinanan to set up the critical fifth round draw between the two leaders. Breckenridge lost his final round game to Guo while Raptis knocked off Chen to take clear first by a half point.

Nick Raptis previously shared first place in the Oregon Open in 2006 (with Michael MacGregor) and 2001 (with Carl Haessler). The complete crosstables for both sections of the tournament can be viewed on the USCF website (www.uschess.org). Select "Clubs & Tournaments" from the menu on the left side of the home page. Then click "Past Event Crosstables" and type "2009 Oregon Open" in the search window.

Following is a selection of games from the 2009 Oregon Open.

**Joshua Sinanan – Paul Bartron
Oregon Open 2009, Round 6
Gresham, September 7, 2009**

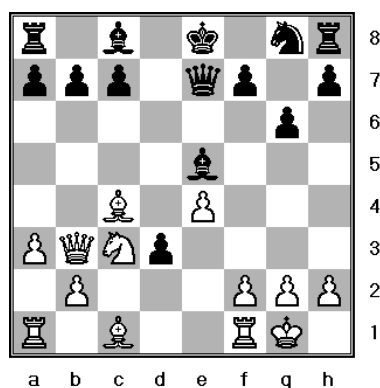
1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. Nf3

The Queen's Gambit Accepted has been seen fairly often in the Northwest in recent years. For example, Ricky Selzler won a



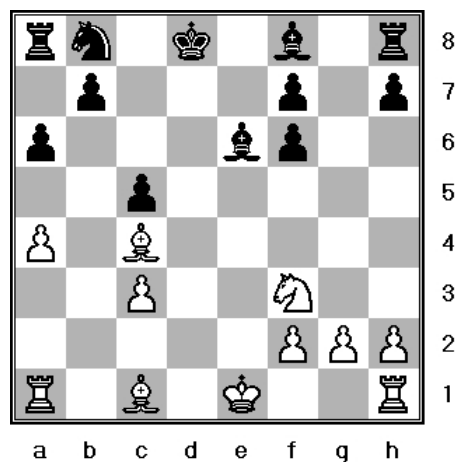
Nick Raptis and Viktors Pupols. Photo credit: Frank Niro.

crisp game with the white pieces in last year's Washington Open: 3. e3 e5 4. Bxc4 exd4 5. Qb3 Qe7 6. a3 g6 7. Nf3 Bg7 8. 0-0 d3 9. e4 Nc6 10. Nc3 Ne5 11. Nxe5 Bxe5



12. Bxf7+! Kf8 (12. ...Qxf7 13. Qb5+ followed by 14. Qxe5) 13. Bxg8 Rxg8 14. Bh6+ Bg7 15. Nd5 Qd8 16. Bf4 c5 (16. ...Be6 17. Rad1! +-) 17. Nc7 Qf6 18. Bg3 Qxb2 19. Bd6 mate, R. Selzler (2156) – Y. Rozenfeld (1960), WA Open 2008.

3. ...a6 4. a4 Nf6 5. Nc3 c5 6. d5 e6 7. e4 exd5 8. e5 d4 9. exf6 dxc3 10. Qxd8+ Kxd8 11. bxc3 gxf6 12. Bxc4 Be6



Black has emerged from the opening a pawn ahead. His doubled f-pawns and exposed king provide White with less than adequate compensation. Fritz gives Black a small edge here.

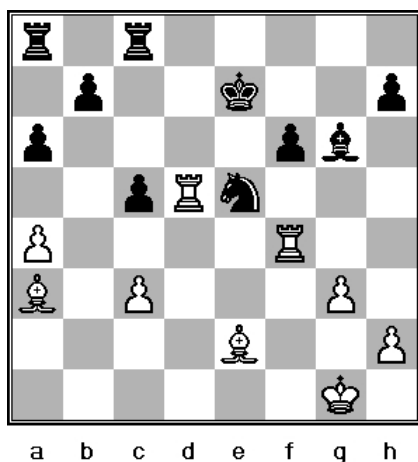
13. Be2 Bd6 14. 0-0 Nc6 15. Nd2 Be5 16. Ne4 Bf5

The best way to maintain the advantage. 16. ...b6?! allows White to gain sufficient counterplay for equality after 17. f4! f5 18. Nxc5 (not 18. fxe5?! when Black will keep his pawn after 18. ...fxe4 19. Rf4 Re8 20. Rxe4 Bd5 21. Bg5+ Kc7 22. Re3 Nxe5 23. Bf4 f6) 18. ...Bxc3 (18. ...bxc5? 19. fxe5 gives White the edge) 19. Nxe6+ fxe6 20. Rd1+ Kc7 21. Ra3 Bg7 22. Rad3 =.

17. f4 Bxe4 18. fxe5 Rg8 19. g3 Nxe5 20. Rxf6 Ke7 21. Rf4 Bg6

21. ...Bd3!? was possible, attempting to neutralize White's two bishops.

22. Ba3 Rgc8 23. Rd1 f6 24. Rd5



Fritz suggests 24. a5 immediately to hold back Black's b-pawn from the defense of the weak pawn on c5. But after 24. ...Rc6 followed by 25. ...Rac8, Black can always break the bind with ...b5 at some point.

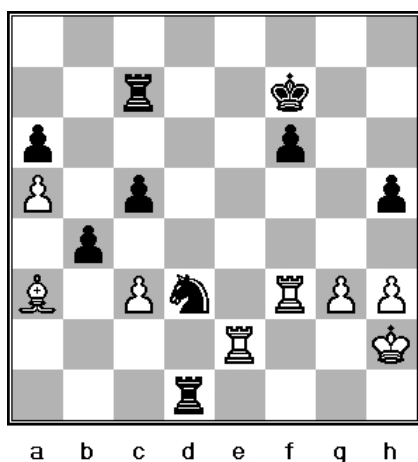
24. ...b6 25. a5 Bf7 26. Rd1 b5 27. Bf1 Rc7 28. Bg2 Rg8 29. Rdf1 Bc4 30. R1f2 Rd8 31. Be4

Now Black's edge is decisive. Trying to get fancy with 31. Rd4!? won't help due to 31. ...Rxd4 32. cxd4 b4! -+.

31. ...h5

31. ...Rd1+ 32. Kg2 Ra1 may have been a bit more efficient because the text allows White to keep the rook out for awhile with 32. Bc2! There's no need to quibble, however, as Black demonstrates that he has the game well in hand.

32. h3 Rd1+ 33. Kh2 Bd3 34. Bxd3 Nxd3 35. Re2+ Kf7 36. Rf3 b4

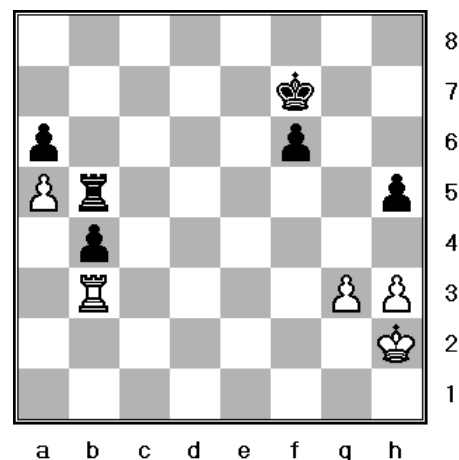


37. cxb4 cxb4 38. Bb2 Nxb2

Black chooses to liquidate down to a won rook and pawn endgame, the practical choice with time control approaching. 38. ...Rxc6!?, eliminating all counterplay, was another worthwhile approach.

39. Rxb2 Rc3 40. Rb2 Rxf3 41. Rxf3 Rd5 42. Rb3 Rb5

0-1



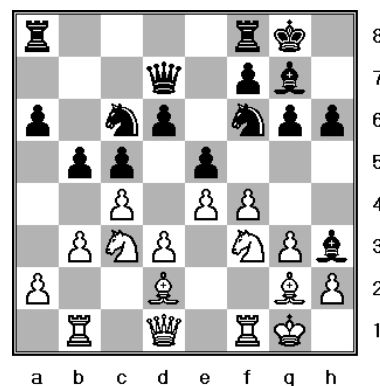
Black will walk his king to c4 to escort the pawn home while freeing his rook to capture on a5 at will.

Viktors Pupols – Nathan Lee
Oregon Open 2009, Round 5
Gresham, September 7, 2009

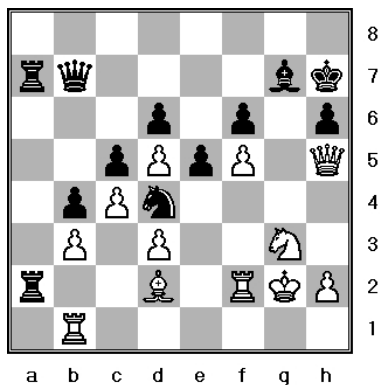
1. e4 c5 2. d3 Nc6 3. g3

Vik has previously used this approach to combat the Sicilian where he avoids the typical Nc3 closed set-up and opts instead for d3 and a quick kingside fianchetto.

An example is his win over Huso Hadzic in the Master Section of the 2007 Washington Class Championship: 1. e4 c5 2. d3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. c3 d6 6. f4 Nf6 7. Na3 0-0 8. Nf3 e5 9. 0-0 h6 10. Rb1 Be6 11. b3 Qc7 12. Nb5 Qd7 13. c4 a6 14. Nc3 Bh3 15. Bd2 b5

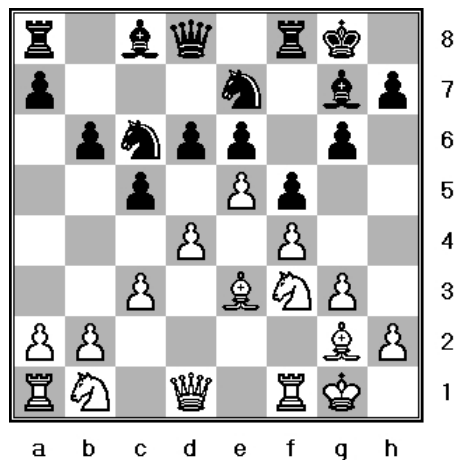


16. f5 Bxg2 17. Kxg2 Kh7 18. Ne1 Nd4 19. Ne2 b4 20. Nc2 a5 21. Ne3 a4 22. g4 axb3 23. axb3 Ra2 24. Rf2 Qb7 25. Ng3 Rfa8 26. Nd5 Nxd5 27. exd5 gxf5 28. gxf5 f6 29. Qh5 R8a7



30. Ne4! Qf7 (necessary as ...Qd7 allows 31. Nxf6+, ...Qc7 leads to 31. Qg6+, and ...Qe7 invites 31. Bxh6) 31. Qxf7 Rxf7 32. Nxd6 (+) Rf8 33. Ne4 Rc8 34. Be3 (+-) Rxf2+ 35. Kxf2 Kg8 36. Bxd4 exd4 37. Rg1 h5 38. Rg6 Kf8 39. Nxf6 Kf7 40. Ne4 1-0, V. Pupols (2219) – H. Hadzic (2222), WA Class Ch, 2007.

3. ...d6 4. Bg2 g6 5. f4 Bg7 6. Nf3 e6 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. c3 0-0 9. Be3 b6 10. d4 f5 11. e5



11. ...cxd4

Maintaining the tension with 11. ...Nd5 leads to an equal game after 12. Bf2 Ba6 13. Re1 dxe5 (13. ...Re8?! 14. Ng5!) 14. Qa4 Qc8 15. dxe5 Rd8 16. Nbd2.

12. Nxd4 d5 13. Nd2 Nxd4 14. Bxd4

14. cxd4!? initiates a fight for the open c-file but after 14. ...Ba6 15. Rf2 Qd7 16. Rc1 Rac8 17. Nf3 Rxc1 18. Bxc1 (18. Qxc1 lets the bishop into d3 and exposes the queen to attack from c8) 18. ...Rc8 19. Rc2 Rxc2 20. Qxc2 Qc6, the game remains



Galen Pyle, reserve section co-champion. Photo credit: Frank Niro.

symmetrical and drawish.

14. ...Ba6 15. Rf2

15. Re1 Bd3 16. Nf3 Be4 17. Ng5 pressurizing the e6 square gives White a small initiative but nothing concrete.

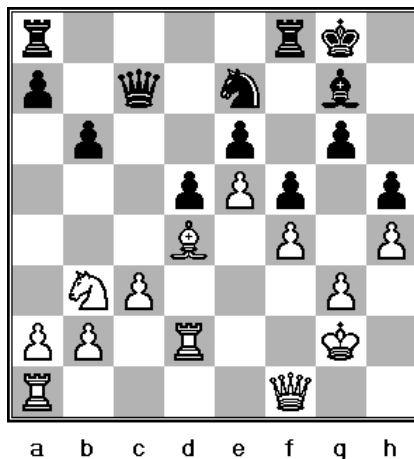
15. ...Bd3 16. Nb3

The 16. c4 break isn't forcing due to ...Rc8 and if White captures on d5, Black can retake with the knight or the e-pawn or play 17. ...Bc2. In either case, the position will remain approximately equal.

16. ...Be4 17. h4 Bxg2

By trading his bad bishop for White's good one and then locking the kingside, Nathan puts himself in position to secure the half point. Vik's only pawn levers are c4 or a4-a5, but there seems to be no way to force the issue to his advantage.

18. Kxg2 h5 19. Rd2 Qc7 20. Qf1



diagonal.

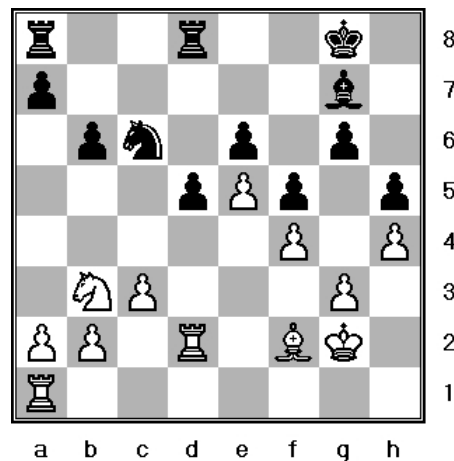
20. ...Qc6 21. Kh2

Fritz suggests moving the bishop to f2 or g1 tempting Black to play d4+. For example, 21. Bg1!? d4+ 22. Kh2 dxc3 23. Nd4 Qc7 24. bxc3 Rad8 25. Rad1 and suddenly White has a major initiative.

21. ...Qc4!

Very nice. Now the c-pawn is not going anywhere.

22. Bf2 Qxf1 23. Rxf1 Nc6 24. Kg2 Rfd8 25. Ra1



Played with the idea that after 25. ...Rab8 26. a4 Rdc8 (26. ...a5!? 27. Rc1 b5 =) 27. a5 bxa5 28. Nxa5 a6 29. Nxc6 Rxc6 30. b4 Rxc3 31. Rxa6 and it's not clear looking ahead from move 26 whether White's passed b-pawn will be stronger or weaker than Black's protected passed d-pawn. Accordingly, White elects to bring his king into the fray. At the end of the line suggested above, the computer gives 31. ...Rxb4 32. Rxe6 Kf7 33. Rd6 with a plus for White, but the game is far from over and the clocks

will soon come into play.

25. ...Rab8 26. Kf3 Bf8 27. Ke2 Kf7 28. Bd4 Be7 29. Rf1

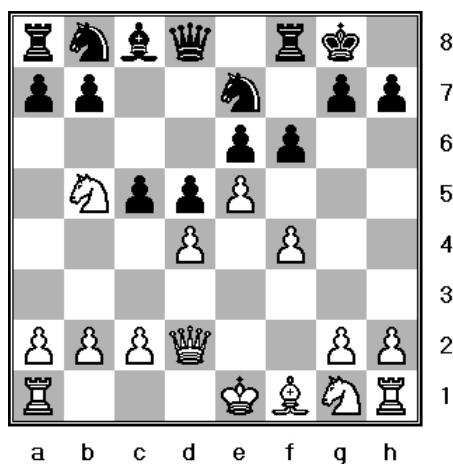
Conceding that the a-pawn is easily stopped as Black has both ...a5 and ...a6 in reserve.

29. ...Re8

½ - ½

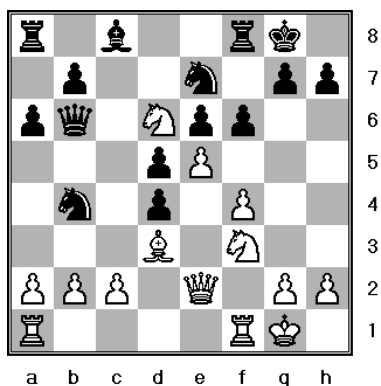
**Frank Niro – Noah Fields
Oregon Open 2009, Round 4
Gresham, September 6, 2009**

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. Bd2 Ne7 6. Nb5 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 0-0 8. f4 f6

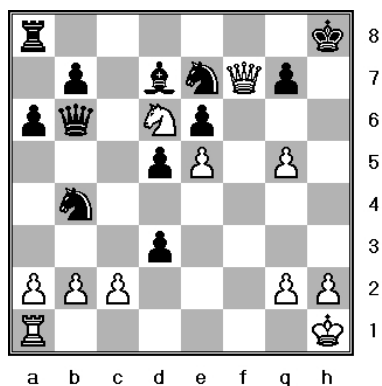


I have been playing this system for White for about ten years after seeing a video by GM Roman Dzindzichashvili on opening secrets against the French Defense. More recently, Dzindzi has published his thoughts in a book co-authored with GMs Eugene Perelshteyn and Lev Alburt (Chess Openings for White, Explained) in which this line is thoroughly examined

More common in this position is 8. ...a6. A good example of the defensive set-up desired by Black from a recent NW game is 9. Nd6 cxd4 10. Nf3 Nbc6 11. Bd3 f6 12. 0-0 Qb6 13. Qe2 Nb4

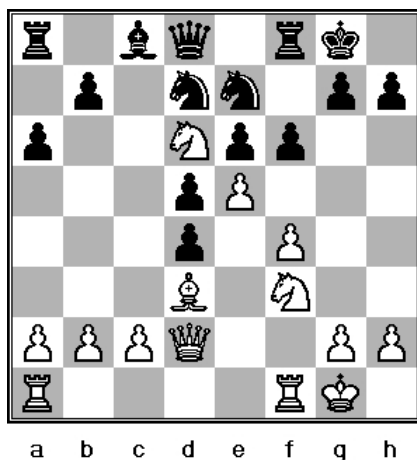


14. Bxh7+ Kxh7 15. Ng5+ fxg5 16. Qh5+ Kg8 17. fxg5 d3+ 18. Kh1 Bd7 19. Rf7 Rxf7 20. Qxf7+ Kh8 (now White should draw by perpetual check with 21. Qh5+)

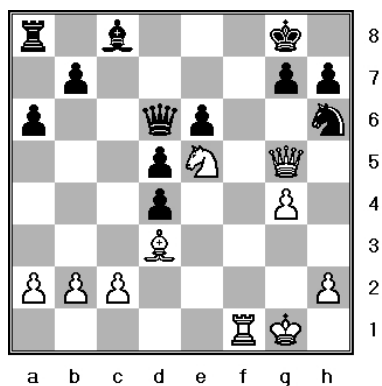


21. Qxe7 Qf2 22. cxd3 Rf8 and Black won on move 33, Michael MacGregor (2205) – Kerry Xing (1871), Seattle 2008.

9. Nf3 a6 10. Nd6 cxd4 11. Bd3 Nd7 12. 0-0

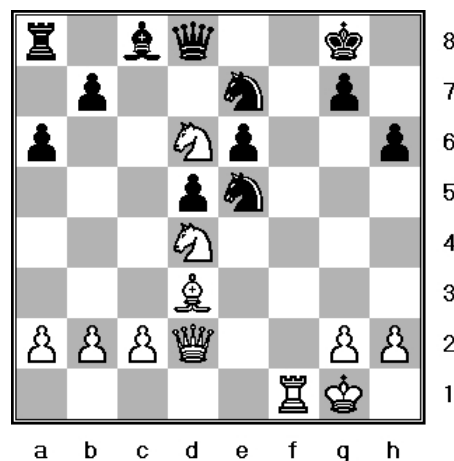


I have seen the position after 12. 0-0 a few times with the QN on c6 rather than d7. Previously my opponents played 12. ...fxe5 to win material after 13. fxe5 Nxe5 (13. ...Rxf3 also favors White) 14. Nxe5 Rxf1+ 15. Rxf1 Qxd6. This is actually a trap; after 16. Qf4! Nf5 17. g4 Nh6, 18. Qg5 wins!



I have had this exact position twice and both ended in my favor. One went 18. ...Bd7 19. Rf6! (the key move introduced by Dzindzi) 19. ...Qe7 20. Bxh7+ Kh8 21. Ng6+ Kxh7 22. Nxe7 1-0, F.Niro – D. Tower, Peterborough NH, 2000, and another continued 18. ...Bd7 19. Rf6 Qxe5 20. Bxh7+ Kh8 21. Qxe5 Nxe4 22. Qc7 Nxf6 23. Qxb7 Rc8 24. Bg6 e5 25. Qxa6 e4 26. Qb6 Be8 27. Bxe8 Rxe8 28. Qxd4 e3 29. Kf1 e2+ 30. Ke1 Re4 31. Qc3 d4 32. Qb3 Re3 33. Qf7 Ne4 34. Qh5+ Kg8 35. Qd5+ Kh8 36. Qxd4 1-0, F. Niro – R. Smeltzer, Dallas TX, 2001.

12. ...h6 13. Nxd4 fxe5 14. fxe5 Rxf1+ 15. Rxf1 Nxe5



This is the point where this game becomes instructive and worth sharing. I knew from the games cited above that 16. Qf4 was the thematic move. Then I thought to myself, “well the position is a little different so maybe I should remove a defender from the area first.” Rather than spending the time to calculate, I just assumed the game would win itself. Big mistake.

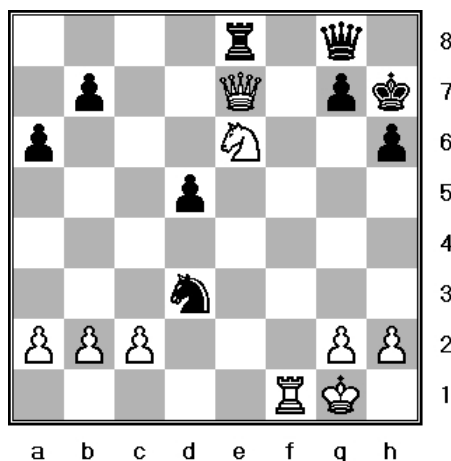
Correct is 16. Qf4! N7g6 (Best. If 16. ...Nf5 17. N4xf5 Nxd3 18. Nxh6+ wins) 17. Bxg6 Qxd6 18. Re1 Bd7 19. Qxe5 Qxe5 20. Rxe5 followed by 21. Nxe6 +.

16. Nxc8? Rxc8 17. Qf4 Nxd3 18. Qf7+ Kh7 19. Nxe6 Qg8?

My opponent missed the same thing I did: the black queen, once on b2, will defend g7. After 19. ...Qb6+! 20. Kh1 Qxb2 21. Qxe7 Nf2+ 22. Kg1 Ng4 23. h3 Rxc2 24. Nf8+ Kh8 25. Ng6+ Kh7 26. Nf8+, I have to take the draw by repetition to avoid getting mated.

20. Qxe7 Re8

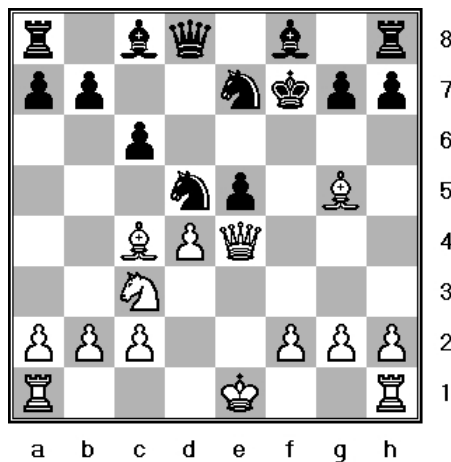
Better was 20. ...Rxc2!



21. Nf8+ Kh8 22. Qxe8 Nxb2 23. Ng6+ Kh7 24. Rf8 Qxf8 25. Nxf8+ Kg8 26. Ne6+ 1-0

Darby Monahan – Jason Hill
Oregon Open 2009, Round 4
Gresham, September 6, 2009

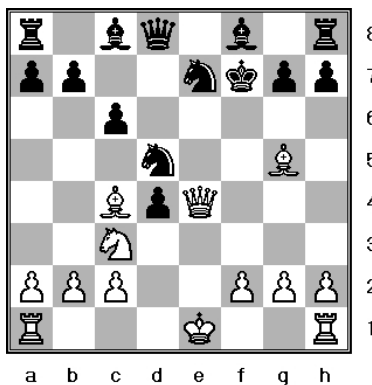
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bc4 Nc6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Nce7 9. Qe4 c6 10. d4 Kf7 11. Bg5



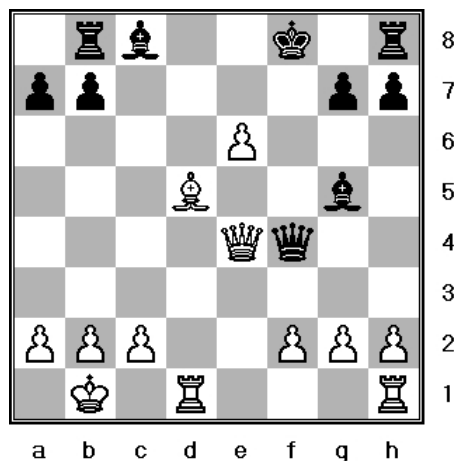
The Fried Liver Attack, also called the Fegatello Attack, is a variation of the Two Knights Defence in which White sacrifices a knight for a superficially impressive attack on the enemy king. The Fried Liver has been around since before Morphy. It is thought to be unsound if Black defends properly. Nevertheless, it continues to maintain its popularity below the master level. This game is a good example of what can happen if Black makes a fatal misstep.

11. ...Qd7?

Black has defended well to this point. But here, 11. ...exd4! is the correct defense, after which White will have a tough time proving any kind of advantage.



12. Bxe7 Bxe7 13. Nxd5 cxd5 14. Bxd5+ Kf8 15. dxe5 Rb8 16. e6 Qd6 17. 0-0-0 Bg5+ 18. Kb1 Qf4 0-0-0 Bg5+ 18. Kb1 Qf4



19. Qd3

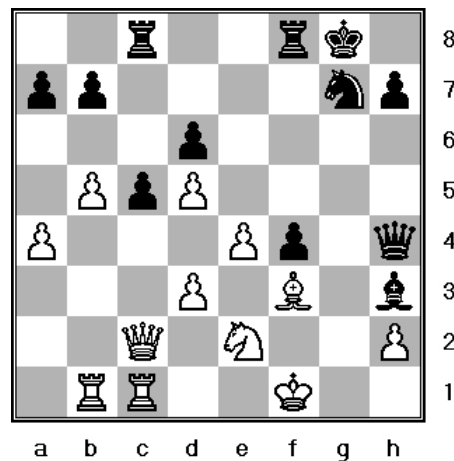
Here and on move 23 the e7+ push is devastating.

19. ...Qd6 20. Rhe1 Qe7 21. Re4 Bf6 22. Qf3 Qc7 23. g4 h6 24. h4 Ke8 25. g5 hxg5 26. hxg5

1-0

Gregory Prentice – Alexandra Botez
Oregon Open 2009, Round 5
Gresham, September 7, 2009

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 d6 5. e4 e5 6. Nge2 0-0 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d3 Ne7 9. b4 c6 10. a4 Ne8 11. Rb1 f5 12. b5 f4 13. gxf4 exf4 14. f3 c5 15. Qc2 g5 16. Nd5 Nxd5 17. cxd5 Bd7 18. Bb2 Rc8 19. Bxg7 Nxg7 20. Kf2 g4 21. Rfc1 Qh4+ 22. Kf1 gxf3 23. Bxf3 Bh3+



24. Bg2?

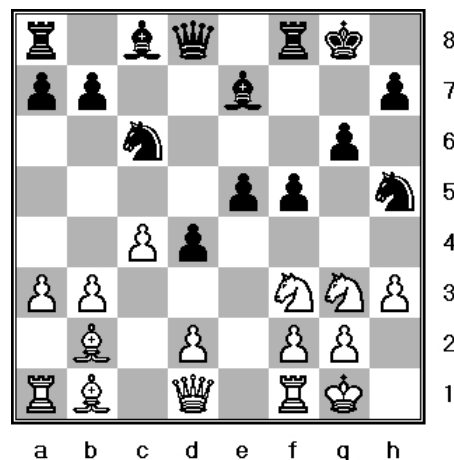
Oops. Only two choices, but 24. Kg1 was necessary.

24. ...f3

0-1

Tony Midson – Angelo Bravo
Oregon Open 2009, Round 3
Gresham, September 6, 2009

1. b3 c5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. e3 e6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. c4 Be7 6. Nc3 0-0 7. Bd3 d5 8. a3 d4 9. exd4 cxd4 10. Ne4 e5 11. 0-0 g6 12. h3 Nh5 13. Bb1?! f5 14. Ng3



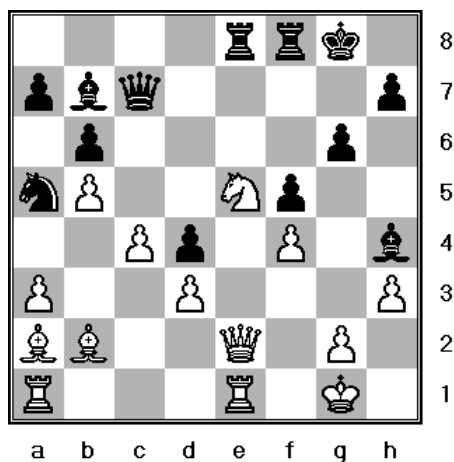
14. ...Nf4?!

14. ...Nxg3! 15. fxg3 e4 favors Black. The text allows White to equalize.

15. d3 Bf6 16. Re1 b6 17. b4 Qc7 18. Ne2 Nxe2+ 19. Qxe2 Bb7 20. b5 Na5 21. Nxe5

21. Ba2!? was also playable.

21. ...Rae8 22. f4 Bh4 23. Ba2



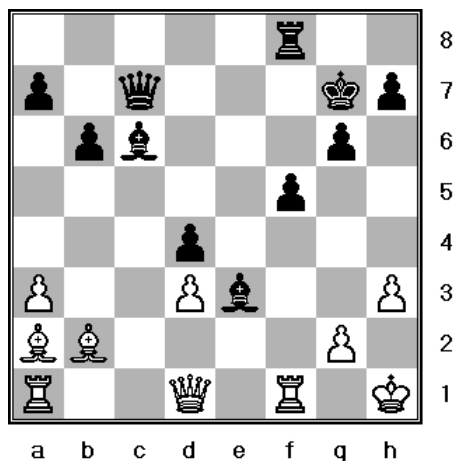
23. ...Qc5

Not 23. ...Bxe1 24. Rxe1 Qc5 25. Qf2 Bc8 26. Bxd4 Qxa3 27. c5+ Nb3 28. Ra1! +-.

24. Rf1 Bg3 25. Qd1 Bxf4?

25. ...Re7! prevents the knight fork.

26. Nd7 Be3+ 27. Kh1 Qc7 28. c5+ Kg7 29. Nxf8 (+-) Rxf8 30. c6 Nxc6 31. bxc6 Bxc6



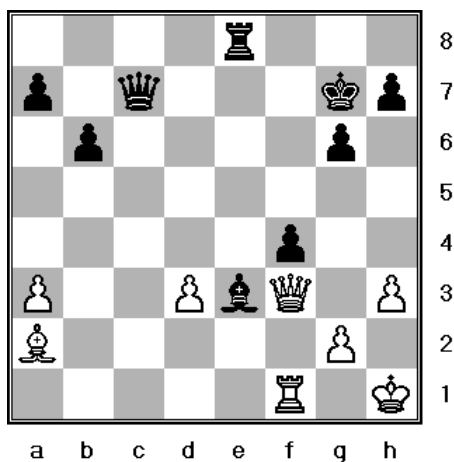
32. Rf3?!

Better was either 32. Rc1! or 32. Qe1!?

32...Bxf3 33. Qxf3 Re8 34. Re1 f4 35. Bxd4+?

With time control approaching White misses 35. Rxe3! fxe3 36. Bxd4+ Kh6 37. Bc4 e2 38. Be3+ Kg7 39. Qxe2 winning.

35. ...Bxd4 36. Rf1 Be3



Black has successfully turned the tables and now holds a solid pawn advantage.

37. Bc4 Re5 38. d4 Rg5

Not 38...Bxd4 39. Qxf4 =.

39. g3?

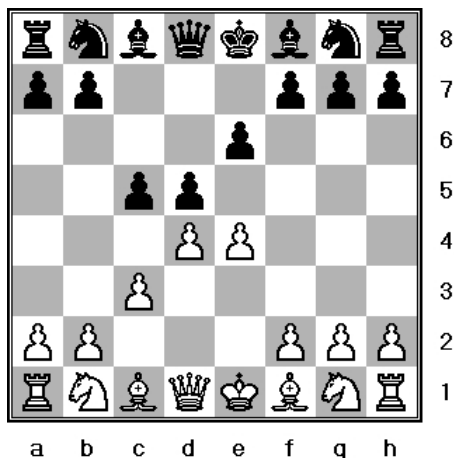
Hoping for 39. ...fxg3?? 40. Qf8 mate. The rest is a mop-up operation.

39...Rxg3 40. Qd5 Rxh3+ 41. Kg2 Rg3+ 42. Kh1 Qe7 43. Qf7+ Qxf7 44. Bxf7 Kxf7 45. Kh2 h5 46. a4 h4 47. d5 g5 48. d6 Ke6 49. Rd1 Kd7 50. Rd5 f3 51. Rd1 Bf4 52. Rf1 Bxd6 53. a5 g4 54. axb6 axb6 55. Rd1 Kc6 56. Rc1+ Bc5 57. Re1 Rh3# 0-1

Steven Breckenridge – Nick Raptis
Oregon Open 2009, Round 5
Gresham, September 7, 2009

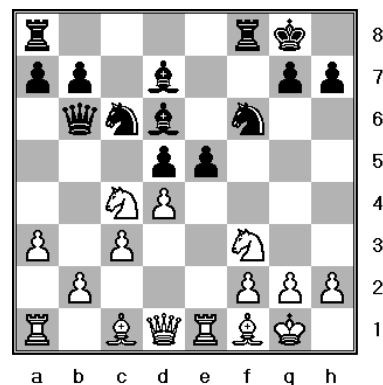
This is the critical game that cost Raptis a perfect score. Given his position in the tournament, there was no need for him to take unnecessary risks with the black pieces.

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 d5



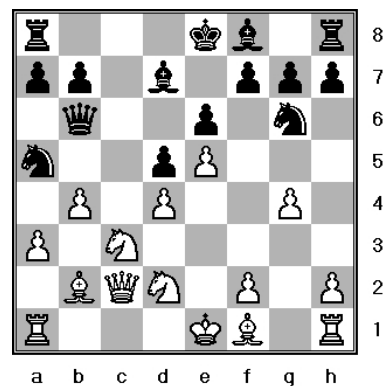
4. exd5

Transposing to the Exchange Variation of the French Defense. Another sound approach is 4. e5 transposing into an Advance French (more often arising with the move order 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3). For example, a game between David Roper (2260) and Noam Davies (2046) played in the 2007 WA Class Championship continued 4. ...Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 c4 7. Be2 Be7 8. 0-0 f6 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. Re1 Bd6 11. Nbd2 0-0 12. Bf1 e5 13. Nxc4!? with an ensuing tactical slugfest won by White in 37 moves.



That entire game can be found in the database on the Northwest Chess website, a great resource for games played in recent years between NW players.

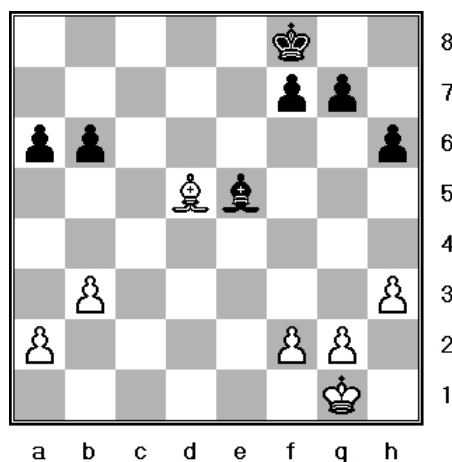
A more recent high level example continued 4. ...Qb6 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. a3 Nh6 (varying from the Roper-Davies game) 7. b4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nf5 9. Bb2 Bd7 10. g4 Nfe7 11. Nc3 Na5 12. Nd2 Ng6 13. Qc2



13. ...Nc4 14. Bxc4 dxc4 15. Nxc4 Qc6 16. Ne4 b5 17. Ncd6+ Bxd6 18. Nxd6+ Ke7 19. Qxc6 Bxc6 20. Rg1 Nf4 21. Kd2 f6 22. Rgc1 Bd7 23. a4 a6 24. axb5 axb5 25. Ra5 Nd5 26. Rca1 Nb6 27. d5 exd5 28. Re1 Rhf8 29. Bd4 Na4 30. Nf5+ 1-0, A. Shabalov (2569) - J. Sarkar (2410), 2009 Foxwoods Open (CT).

4. ...exd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bd6 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. 0-0 Nge7 9. Nbd2 0-0 10. Nb3 Bb6 11. h3 Bf5 12. Bf4 Be4 13. Nbd4 Ng6 14. Bg3 Qf6 15. Qd2 Rad8 16. Rad1 h6 17. Rfe1 a6 18. Be2 Bxf3 19. Bxf3 Nge5 20. Be2 Nxd4 21. Bxe5 Qxe5 22. cxd4 Qd6 23. Bf3 Rfe8 24. Rxe8+ Rxe8 25. Re1 Rxe1+ 26. Qxe1 Kf8 27. Qe5 Qxe5 28. dxe5 Bd4 29. Bxd5 b6 30. b3 Bxe5

½ - ½



Both players assessed the opposite colored bishop endgame with symmetrical pawns to be a dead draw, so they shook hands and moved on to the final round tied for the top spot.

Recent Winners of the Oregon Open

2009 – Nick Raptis

2008 – Bill Heywood

2007 – Michael MacGregor

2006 – Nick Raptis

& Michael MacGregor

2005 – Oleg Zaikov

2004 – Oleg Zaikov

2003 – David Roper,

William Schill & Benjamin Lin

2002 – Charles Schulien

2001 – Nick Raptis

& Carl Haessler

2000 – Corey Russell

& John Graves

1999 – Charles Schulien

1998 – Georgi Orlov

& Carl Haessler

1997 – Georgi Orlov

1996 – Georgi Orlov

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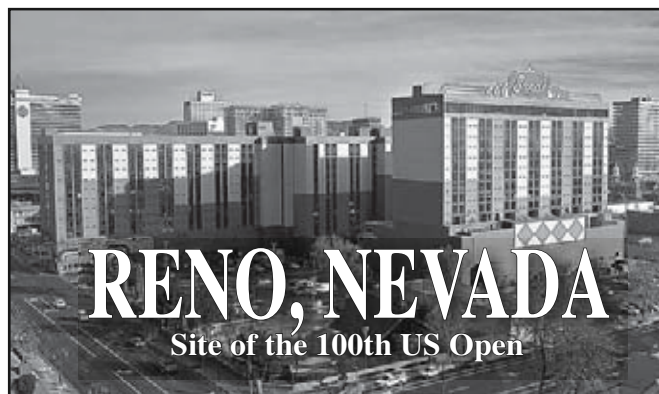
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QGD

3. ...Bb4

Part 1

1. d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4

This line for Black does not have an accepted name. Kind of surprising for such an obvious and simple move. It certainly makes sense; Black is contesting control of the e4 square by pinning White's first "observer" of that square. We could call it the "Queens Gambit Nimzo," but I don't think anyone really wants that. The line was played at least as early as the 1880's by the Irish player Mason. Chigorin played it a couple of times and sporadic games have included many chess notables such as Korchnoi and Keres on the Black side.

To be honest it was mainly used as a transpositional tool in order to play the more vigorous QGD lines like the Ragozin, Vienna and Manhattan or even forms of the Nimzo Indian while avoiding some variations that were less desirable for Black. In the 1980's a few players like Kupreichik and V. Kovacevic worked to infuse some distinctive ideas into the line. So, the variation has a pedigree and some background, what can it do over the board?

The similarities to the QGD and Nimzo Indian are obvious, but we need to note the differences. First, in the QGD Black will usually have a Nf6 and the Bf8 goes to e7; in the Nimzo the knight is also on f6 with the d-pawn on d7. Three points of difference are the d-pawn, the Ng8 and Bb4. Concerning the matter of the d-pawn, Black is committed to d5 in this line which rules out any structures with d6 and just leaving the d-pawn back. So, a loss of flexibility in pawn structure. The Bb4 is involved in the active struggle for the e4 square, a more active role than passively defending a pin to a Nf6 by being on e7, and it inhibits the Nc3 from moving. This offers some tactical ideas that we should keep in mind. Finally, that Ng8 can go to f6 if it desires. Still, going to f6 exposes the knight to possible pins by Bg5 which could be troublesome because the bishop as noted is not involved with

Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary

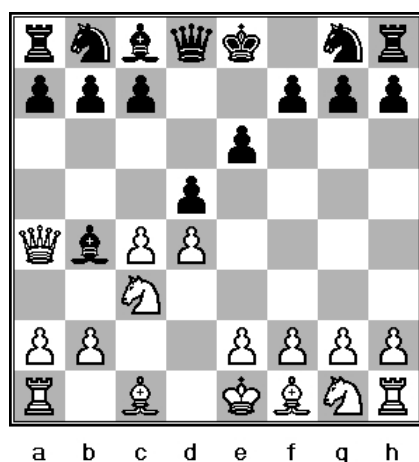


breaking that pin or the knight could be the target of an advancing white pawn from e4-e5. Instead, the knight can go to e7 where it can later redeploy to g6 in order to watch f4 and e5 or it can jump up to f5 to pressure a d4 pawn. The Ne7 is less clearly involved with control of e4, but that job is currently under the auspices of the d5 pawn and the Bb4 thus relieving the Ng8 of such duty. In short, Black is reluctant to become involved with the task of merely defending in the center and has taken the view that Bb4 begins a counter attack in order to create chances for active play. This is kind of hypermodern!

Let us start by taking a look at the most obvious attempt for White, the check on a4:

Danko Gazarek – Goran Dizdar
Croatian Championship, Round 7
Pula, September 2001

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qa4+

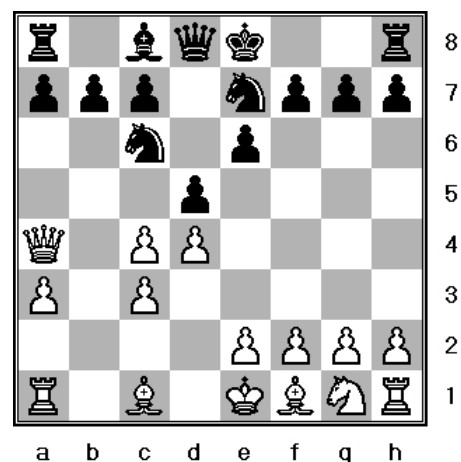


At a very simple level this is the principled continuation for White. As Dr. Tarrasch informed us the first GM's knew that Black could equalize the Queens Gambit by achieving the move c5, a move that becomes more difficult with a knight already on c6. Of course opening play isn't quite that simple as Black will gain a tempo or so because the White Queen isn't going to remain on a4.

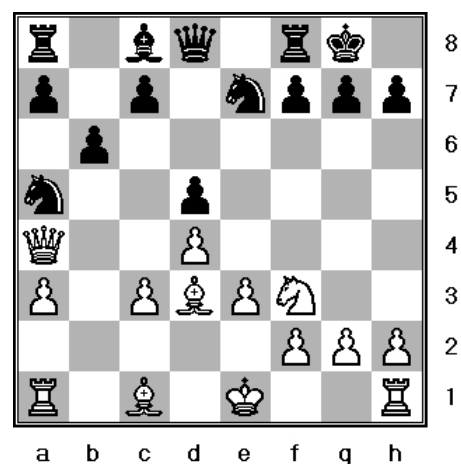
4. ...Nc6 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Nge7

5. a3 isn't likely to be the acid test. Black is ready to part with the Bb4 if time can be gained for development. White will have the

two bishops, but Black will have plenty of time to harmonize his pieces. Possibly 5. Nf3 and 6. g3 is the way to go, but that is for another game. Currently we see that Black has both knights off the back rank and is ready to castle, whereas White has only the queen out.



7. Nf3 0-0 8. e3 b6 9. cxd5 exd5 10. Bd3 Na5

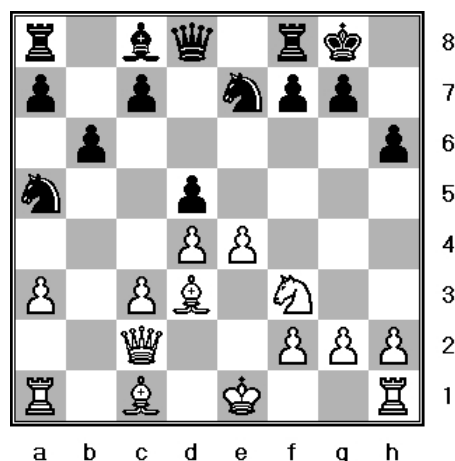


Proper development is more than evacuating the back rank of pieces. Black intends to prepare for events by fortifying the white squares in the center as well as keeping the central lever c7-c5 at hand. The reason for this is that White will have to advance a pawn from either e3 or c3 in order to improve his position as the Bc1 will need

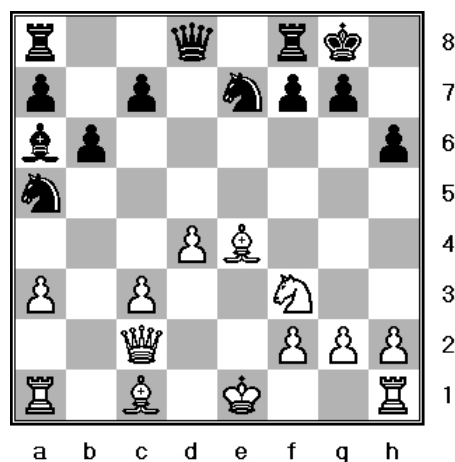
some kind of a diagonal to use. 10. ...Na5 eyes c4 and b3 and unblocks the c-pawn.

11. Qc2 h6 12. e4

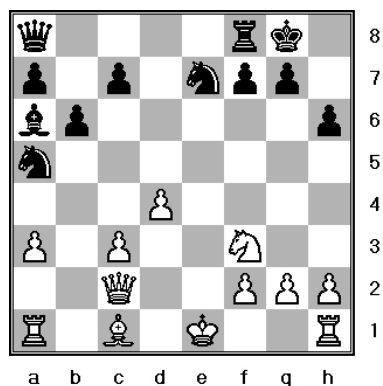
This is very questionable as the White king is still without shelter. After 12. 0-0 Bb7 13. e4 dxe4 14. Bxe4 Bxe4 15. Qxe4 Rfe8 with the idea of Qd5 Black is at least equal, yet White will be worried about the Bc1 or the c3 pawn and not the king!



12. ...dxe4 13. Bxe4 Ba6



This has the appearance of a move played from instinct more than calculation. 14. Bxa8 Qxa8 and then what?

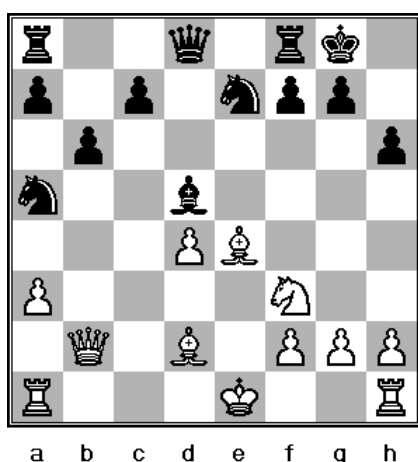


Castling K-side is not legal which leaves either Q-side castling or staying in the center. Going long certainly doesn't look appetizing for White as the Black minor pieces will have plenty of choice for squares and c7-c5 will bring the last Black rook into the fray. Leaving the king in the center is worse as Black will have plenty of routes in and the Rh1 isn't likely to be a part of the game. Gazarek reads this the same way and looks for a different approach, leaving the exchange and giving up a pawn to try to murky the waters.

14. c4 Bxc4 15. Bd2 Bb3

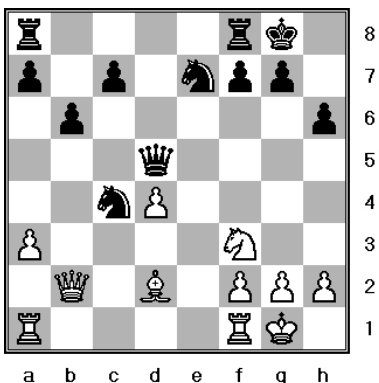
This knocks the White queen off of the c-file.

16. Qb2 Bd5



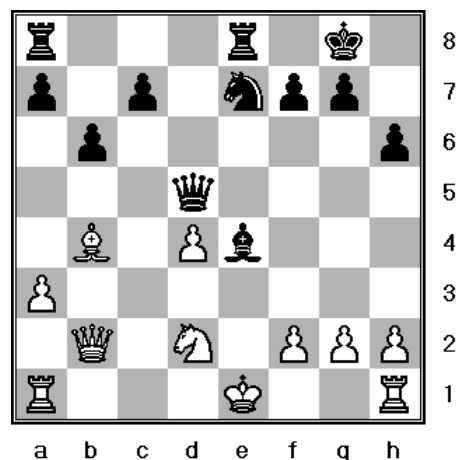
17. Bxa5

This might be White's final chance as 17. Bxd5 Qxd5 18. 0-0 Nc4 will leave Black a pawn to the good, but that is the limit of the immediate damage.



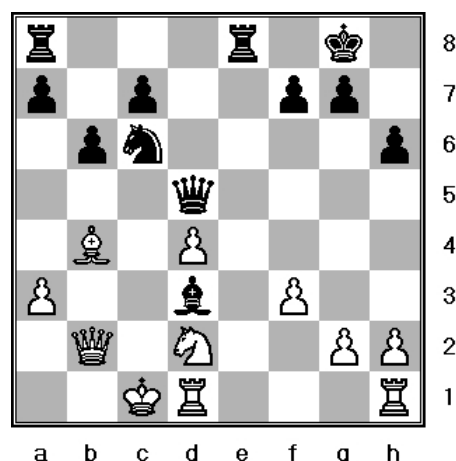
The game continuation is an example of how to operate on a weakened color complex of squares.

17. ...Bxe4 18. Nd2 Qd5 19. Bb4 Rfe8

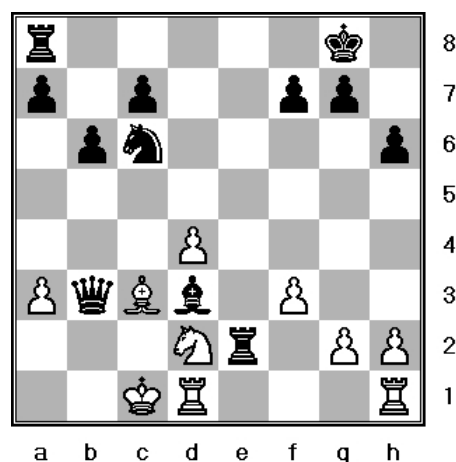


Black is dominating on the white squares, about to create an accident on the e-file, and remains with the extra pawn.

20. f3 Bd3 21. 0-0-0 Nc6



22. Bc3 Re2 23. Qb3 Qxb3



0-1

Black played the opening with a concrete goal of developing smoothly and then playing on the white squares.

Cornerstone Principles

Student: Pete, I've often heard you refer to "cornerstone principles." Can you explain?

Master: The "cornerstone principles" form a fundamental methodology for conducting the chessboard battle. They're the basis of my approach to chessboard "warfighting".

Student: That sounds fascinating. Care to tell me more?

Master: Sure. Let me start by asking a question. If you and I played a game, and we both played perfectly, what would the result be?

Student: A draw.

Master: Right. So is it fair to say the natural outcome of a chess game is a draw?

Student: Assuming the players are more-or-less equal? Yes, it is.

Master: That's a good proviso—the relative playing strength of the two players is obviously a critical factor. Since the situation on the board is more-or-less balanced at the start, what has to happen for one side to win?

Student: Somebody has to make a mistake, or—more likely—a series of mistakes. That's why you often say chess games aren't won, they're lost, isn't it?

Master: Um huh. It's also true that games are won—in the sense that I may have to play brilliantly to demonstrate my opponent did make a mistake. However, without that initial mistake, I'd have nothing to work with.

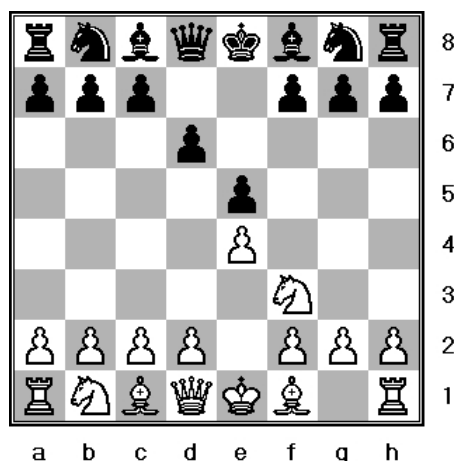
Student: That makes sense.

Master: In order to explore how cornerstone principles operate in practical play, let's look at a game between two students—not mine—that is both typical and instructive. White starts with **1. e4**, which immediately makes Black solve the problem of maintaining the equilibrium. He does that with **1. ...e5**. Now White poses him another problem with **2. Nf3**. Notice that White is proceeding along several lines here. To start with he is simply attacking the e-pawn, a matter of material balance. However, he is also developing a piece, which is a matter of tempo balance, and he is looking to

dominate the center, which is a matter of spatial balance. How might Black respond to all this?

Student: Well, 2. ...Nc6 defends the pawn, develops a piece and also fights for the center. Or there's 2. ...Nf6, which also develops a piece, fights for the center, and meets the threat to his e-pawn with a counterattack on White's e-pawn.

Master: Those are both top-flight moves. I've played both of them often over the years. Here, however, Black chose a third option: **2. ...d6**. What do you think about that?



Student: It solidly protects the pawn, and opens the line for the c8-bishop to develop, both good things. However, the f8-bishop is likely to complain a bit, and it doesn't fight for central squares—at least not as directly as either 2. ...Nc6 or 2. ...Nf6 do. I know that these days Black often develops his bishop on g7 and then attacks the center from the flanks. However, it seems to me that Black has given White a little more than necessary.

Master: I agree with you. Although White is still far away from a substantial advantage, it seems to me that the position has tipped slightly in his favor. In these few moves, we've already seen our first two cornerstone principles:

Principle #1:
Hold the balance.

Transitions

by Pete Prochaska



Principle #2:
Make your opponent solve problems.

Student: Okay. I get #2. If you want your opponent to make mistakes, then you need to pose him problems, thus giving him the chance to go wrong. However, I'm not so sure I understand #1. Are you suggesting a fundamentally defensive stance? I'm not very fond of passive play.

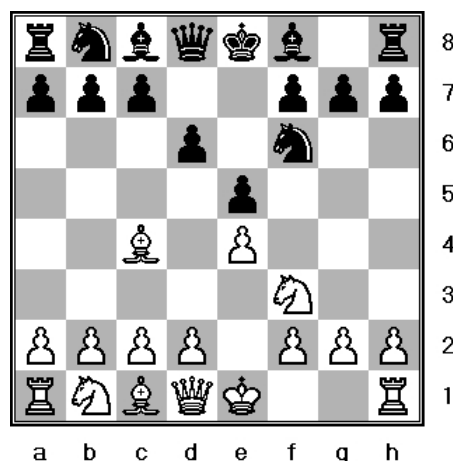
Master: (smiling) Hardly—you've seen enough of my games to know that I'm not much given to passive play, either. The idea is to do whatever you can to make sure your position isn't inferior. In some cases, that might be quiet maneuvering. In others—the main line of the Yugoslav Dragon, for example—you have to be attacking with all you've got. "Holding balance" will vary greatly from position to position. The fundamental idea is to avoid lines leading to inferior positions; such positions contain the seeds of defeat. A dramatic, and oversimplified, way to say it is: "Before you try to win, make sure you're not losing!"

Student: OK, I see what you mean. How did the game continue?

Master: The most common approach after 2. ...d6 is to continue the attack on the center with 3. d4. In this game, however, White decided to take immediate aim at the vulnerable f7-square with **3. Bc4**. How would you proceed for Black here?

Student: Let's see. Does he have a threat? 4. Bxf7+ doesn't look like anything yet because he doesn't have a way to follow it up. However, I do need to be careful about the f7 square; I also need to do the normal stuff: develop and castle. So maybe 3. ...Be7, or perhaps 3. ...Be6 since 4. Bxe6 fxe6 looks like it helps me counterattack in the center.

Master: Good for you. Both of those moves are quite reasonable ways for Black to proceed. Instead, Black opted for 3. ...Nf6.



How would you continue now?

Student: Well, he is attacking my e-pawn, and it looks like a real threat. So I could defend actively with 4. Nc3, then if he continues developing with 4. ...Be7, I can plan 5. d4, and my spatial advantage in the center should leave me somewhat better off. However, before deciding on a quiet approach like that, it's worth looking for something more active.

Master: Absolutely correct. Do you have any targets?

Student: The f7-square is clearly vulnerable, so 4. Ng5 springs to mind. Hmm...he doesn't have a way to defend f7 directly, and so the standard pawn sacrifice 4. ...d5 looks forced. Now I can't play 5. Bxd5?? since 5. ...Nxd5 leaves him a piece up, so I'll continue with 5. exd5.

Now what? Can Black just recapture the pawn? White has a bunch of possibilities after 5. ...Nxd5: 6. Qf3, 6. Qh5, 6. 0-0, 6. d4, or even 6. Nxf7. Let's start with 6. Qf3 because it seems pretty forcing. Black probably has to take the knight, and after 6. ...Qxg5 7. Bxd5 White is hitting both f7 and b7. Black doesn't have a good way to meet both threats, so that line is at least satisfactory for me. If the position actually occurs, I can consider other possibilities. What else? I guess Black could stop me from reopening the diagonal with 5. ...Bd6, but that seems awfully passive. However, d5-d6 is a threat, so he needs to do something. Hmm...how about 5. ...h6 driving back my knight? Then after 6. Nf3 Black can fight for the initiative with 6. ...e4. I can play

7.Qe2 Be7 8.Ne5, and I like my position. However, Black is still in the game.

Master: So what do you play?

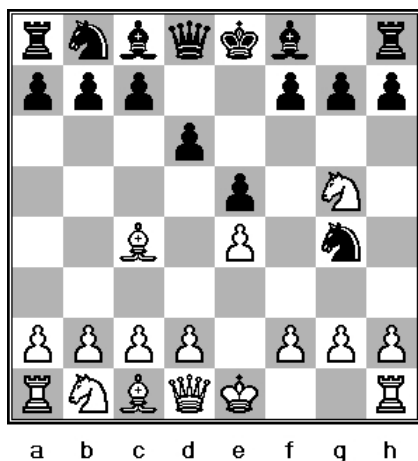
Student: 4. Nc3 is a simple and safe solution, but I think I can get more than that. Black faces serious problems after 4. Ng5, and even with best play, I think the position has tipped in my favor. So I'd choose 4. Ng5.

Master: White did play 4.Ng5, which is a nice illustration of another cornerstone principle:

Principle #3: *Take what your opponent gives you.*

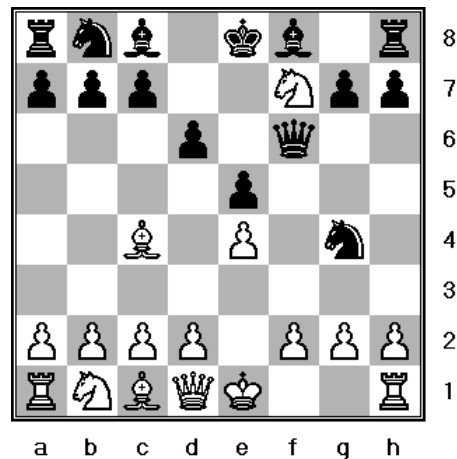
Student: Let me see if I understand. When a game starts, neither player knows how the balance will be disturbed. So neither player can choose a plan from the outset. The path to victory might be a kingside attack or an endgame or a positional squeeze—or maybe a combination of strategies. It all depends on what opportunities turn up as the game goes on.

Master: Well said. Here, it does seem like Black's best chance to hold the balance is 4. ...d5! However, he has another idea, and plays 4. ...Ng4.



White could now play 5. Bxf7+ Ke7 6. Bc4 with an advantage. Instead he continues with the obvious 5. Nxf7 and Black responds with 5. ...Qf6.

Now what?



Student: Well, for one thing, White doesn't take the rook (smiles). The threat of 6. ...Qxf2 mate is real, and I don't see a forcing line that gives White an equal or stronger threat of his own. So he has to defend. How can he defend actively? Hey, I like that "make your opponent solve problems" principle; it really helps here. Defending actively means defending in such a way that your opponent has to solve problems. Is that right?

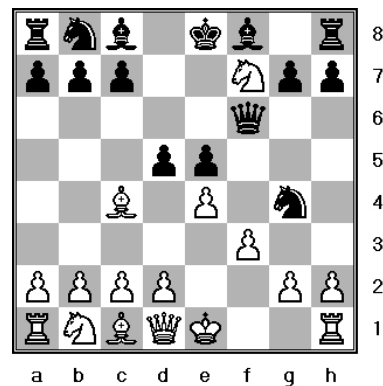
Master: It certainly is. How can you do that here?

Student: 6. f3 looks really strong. The mate is defended, and Black now has two pieces hanging. Is that what he plays?

Master: It is. After 6. f3 Black continues his attack with 6. ...Qh4+.

Student: Really? 7.g3 looks like it makes him solve even bigger problems. I'd sure give 6. ...d5 some serious thought.

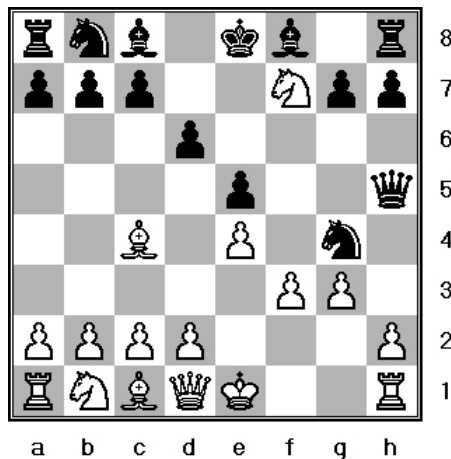
Master: So would I. How might play go then?



Student: Let's see: White keeps his lines open with 7. Bxd5, and then Black maintains his pressure on f2 with 7. ...Bc5. Then what? Taking the rook allows ...Nf2, so perhaps White continues his development

aggressively with 8. d4. Black's pretty much forced to play 8. ...Bxd4, when 9. Bg5 forces the black queen away from the f-file and after 9. ...Qb6, White can play 10. fxe4. Now if Black takes on b2, White takes the rook and has a decisive material advantage. And if Black plays 10. ...0-0 White has 11. Rf1 Be6 12. Bxe6 Qxe6 13. c3, again with a decisive advantage. So that's not a way out. But 6. ...Qh4+ doesn't seem promising, either.

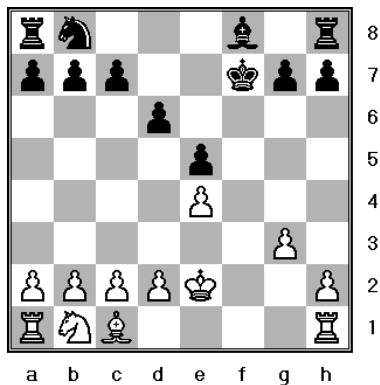
Master: True. The game continued 7. g3 Qh5. Now White has a problem to solve.



Student: Whether to take the knight or the rook?

Master: That's the one. What do you think?

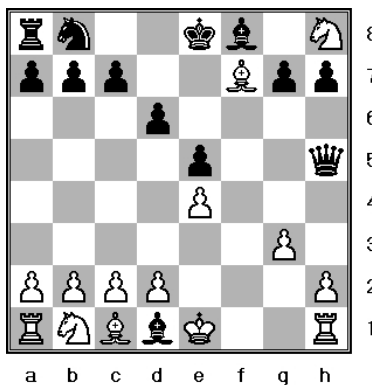
Student: Hmm...8. fxe4 is appealing because it attacks the queen, but then Black has 8. ...Bxg4, and White's queen has nowhere to run. So White plays 9. Be2. Oh, that doesn't work very well, does it? Black plays 9. ...Bxe2, and then after 10. Qxe2 Qxe2+ 11. Kxe2 Kxf7, things look even.



That seems strange. White had a substantial advantage, and then it peters out to nothing. Perhaps that's right, but I wonder if I've missed something. Wait a minute...9. Be2 isn't forced, is it?

Master: Good for you! What's the option?

Student: White can play 9. Nxh8 and meet 9. ...Bxd1 with 10. Bf7+.



Then after 11. ...Ke7 12. Bxh5 Bxh5, he's up a rook for the moment, though it seems unlikely the knight will escape. However, even then he's got an exchange, which—under the circumstances—should prove decisive. However, if White just plays 8. Nxh8 immediately, he's threatening both fxe4 and Bf7+. If Black meets that threat with 8. ...Nh6, White is going to be at least an exchange up here, too. I don't see any significant counterplay, and since there's less to calculate, that's the way I'd go.

Master: Good choice! As it happens, both lines should win, but 8. Nxh8 seems preferable. This is a nice illustration of the fourth cornerstone principle:

Principle #4:

The truth is in the variations.

Student: In other words, the only way to know whether you should play 8. fxe4 or 8. Nxh8 is to work out the variations?

Master: That's the point. In concrete situations like this, generalizations don't work. It's all about moves. I'm not remembering which Grandmaster said, "If a move works, it works. Who cares about the theory?" However, it's a point well made. By-the-way, there was another illustration of this principle earlier in the game.

Student: Let me think. When White played 4. Ng5 he ignored the standard advice not to move a developed piece twice in the opening before the other pieces are out. In other situations, focusing on developing would be right. Here, however, the variations demonstrate that White's 4. Ng5 was the most effective continuation..

Master: Right. Of course, there are

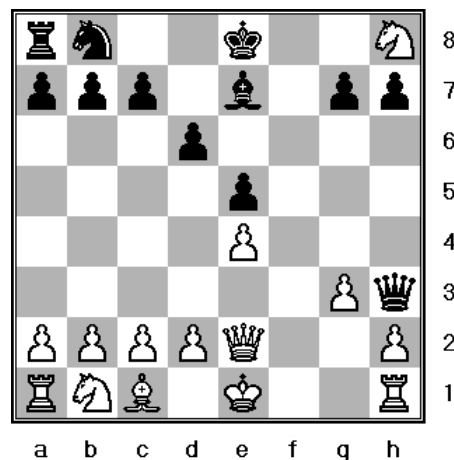
many positions in which calculation is of limited value, mostly because there are few forced lines. In such cases, positional understanding is the key to finding a good way forward. However, it makes sense to start by calculating what you can calculate. Which is another way of phrasing a cornerstone principle you already know:

Principle #5:

Forcing moves first.

Student: So how did the game continue?

Master: Perhaps Black decided that his situation after 8. ...Nh6 was hopeless, so he preferred to look for complications with 8. ...Qh3. But now White was perfectly happy to take the knight and simplify things even further with 9. fxe4 Bxg4 10. Be2 Bxe2 11. Qxe2 Be7



How you you continue now?

Student: Hmm...Black's king is exposed, and b7 is weak, so 12. Qb5+ springs to mind. Then 12. ...Nc6 13. Qxb7 wins more material. But...after 13. ...Kd7, if White takes the rook with 14. Qxa8, his queen is a long way from the action, and it looks like Black can get some play with 14. ...Qg2 and ...Nd4. White may be all right there, but I don't see any reason to allow complications like that.

Master: You're smack on. In fact, there's another cornerstone principle in play here:

Principle #6:

Simple solutions first.

White is more than a rook ahead, and doesn't need to win more material. What does he need to do?

Student: Get his pieces out. So I'd play something straightforward like 12. Nc3.

Master: White agreed with you. After 12. Nc3 the game ended rather quickly 12. ...Nc6 13. Nd5 Rc8 14. c3 Qe6 15. Qh5+ Kd7 16. Qxh7 1-0

Student: Whew...that was rather the massacre, wasn't it?

Master: It certainly wasn't an enjoyable outing for Black! However, as always, there are lessons to be learned. Let's run back through the cornerstone principles we discussed. Can you think of a move that illustrates the principle of holding balance?

Student: Two occur to me: Black held balance in the opening with 1. ...e5. Then after 4. Ng5, his best chance to hold balance was 5. ...d5. It's likely true that even that wouldn't have balanced the position for him, but it would have certainly left him closer than 5. ...Ng4.

Master: Good. How about the principle of making your opponent solve problems?

Student: There are a bunch of them. When White played 2. Nf3, he forced Black to find ways to maintain the material balance, the tempo balance and the spatial balance. Black wasn't able to, and White was on his way. Later, White met the mate threat with 6. f3, posing Black with the problem of his two hanging pieces. Then after 7. ...Qh5, Black makes White decide whether he should take the g4-knight or the

h8-rook.

Master: How about taking what your opponent gives you?

Student: 4. Ng5 is the most obvious example, and there are others in the various tactical sequences we considered. And before you ask, 4. Ng5 is also a good example of the truth being in the variations. White moves an unattacked and well-posted piece in the early opening at the cost of developing his other forces. However, in this position, the variations demonstrate that was his most effective way to exploit Black's mistaken 3. ...Nf6. The other obvious example is the decision between 8. fxg4 and 8. Nxh8. Knowing which one to take is not a matter of guesswork, or a matter of generalizations, it's a matter of working out specific sequences of moves.

Master: What's the related cornerstone principle?

Student: Forcing moves first?

Master: Got it. And finally, what about choosing simple solutions first?

Student: 12. Nc3 is a nice example. White has a substantial material advantage. He doesn't need to allow Black even a hint of counterplay by hunting for more material. What White needs to do is develop his pieces, at which point, the weight of the material advantage he already has finishes the game in his favor. However, I do have a question about that principle.

Master: Which is?

Student: Well, wasn't 4. Nc3 a simpler solution than 4. Ng5?

Master: Most likely, and White could have played that, thus delaying the critical fight for later in the game. However, 4. Ng5 is more precise and more powerful. Can you think of a cornerstone principle that might apply?

Student: Hmm...ah yes, "Use what your opponent gives you".

Master: That's the one. Black slips and White takes advantage; if he waits, he probably won't be able to exploit Black's inaccurate move order. There's something else, too. When White plays 4. Ng5, he's fighting for an advantage. That may well require complex play, though once again simple solutions—like 8. Nxh8—are generally preferable where possible. When White plays 12. Nc3, he's converting a decisive material advantage. One key rubric in that process is to eliminate counterplay as much as you can. In such cases, simple solutions are normally the best starting places. Ideally, complex solutions only come into play when the simple ones don't work

Student: That makes sense. Are there more cornerstone principles?

Master: That there are. We'll explore more of them in our next session.

Student: I can't wait. Thanks, Pete.

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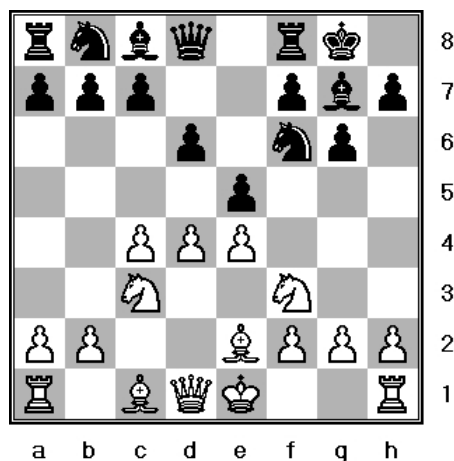
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Oregon Open Games

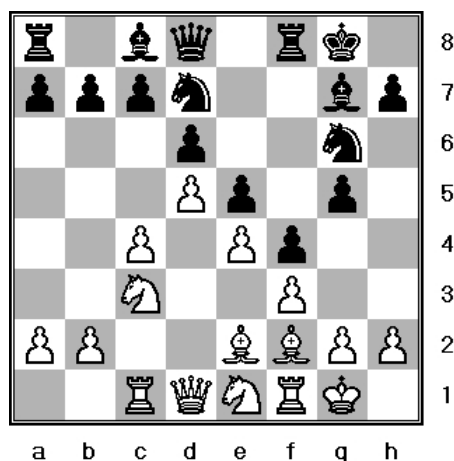
William Schill – Steven Breckenridge
Oregon Open, Round 3
Gresham, September 6, 2009

Northwest players have waged many interesting games in the King's Indian Defense lately, and this is one of the best. I have to admire both sides which made it such an entertaining game.

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



7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. f3 f5 11. Be3 f4 12. Bf2 g5 13. Rc1 Ng6

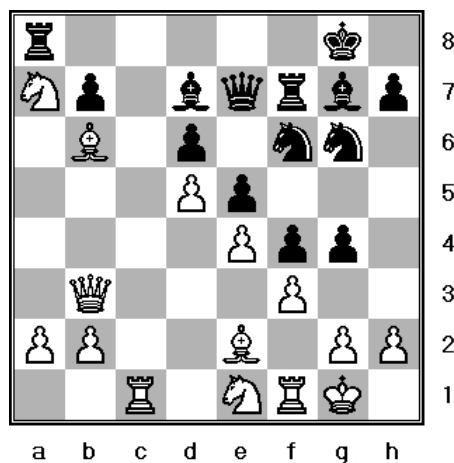


13. ...Rf6 was seen in Dereque Kelley - Eugene Yanayt, September NWChess, page 8. Steven prefers the more common setup with a rook on f7, and sending the knights forward on the kingside.

14. c5 Nf6 15. cxd6 cxd6 16. Nb5 Rf7 17. Nxa7

The alternative is 17. Qc2 and if Ne8, only then 18. Nxa7. FM Schill chooses to place his queen on b3 instead, where it aims at b7 and also enjoys mobility along the third rank. Both are very standard positions.

17. ...Bd7 18. Qb3 g4 19. Bb6 Qe7

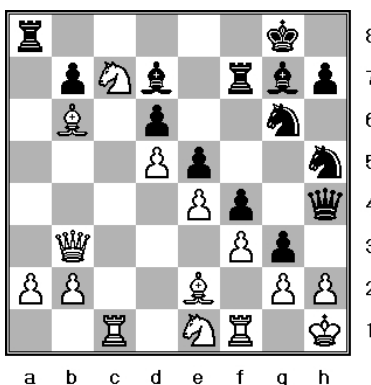


20. Nb5

White has serious alternatives in 20. Rc7 and 20. Bb5, but in any case nothing is clear. Black can either play a defensive move or just get on with his attack, as in this game.

20. ...g3 21. Nc7

21. Kh1 Nh5 22. Nc7 Qh4 also yields Black a powerful attack.



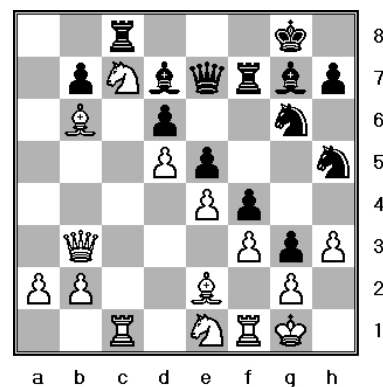
For example, 23. Bg1 Rc8 24. Nd3 Bh3 25. Ne6 Rxc1 26. Rxc1 gxh2 27. Bf2 Ng3+ 28. Bxg3 Bxg2+ 29. Kxg2 Qxg3+ 30. Kh1 Nh4, and Black wins.

21. ...gxh2+

Games Corner by Charles Schulien

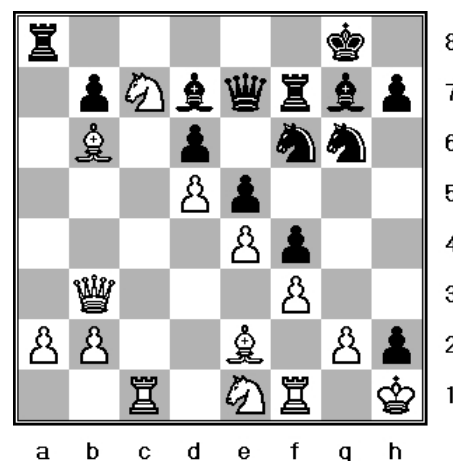


Black might also play 21. ...Nh5 22. h3 Rc8 (22. ...Qh4 23. Bb5! plays to exchange the dangerous light squared bishop, and it also clears the second rank, where a White rook or queen can defend against mate if needed. This is a key defensive idea.)



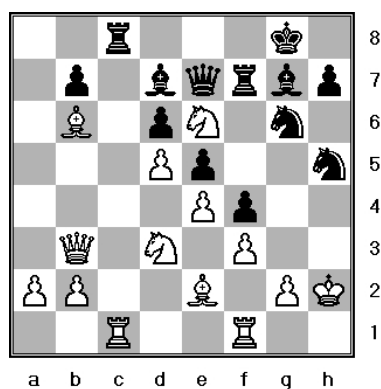
23. Nd3 when Black still must prove that his attack is strong enough to balance White's gains on the opposite wing.

22. Kh1



White's king hides behind the black pawn. Generally this is the safer choice, but Black's knight can now give check on g3, and white may need to capture this pawn all the same. 22. Kxh2 Rc8 (If 22. ...Nh5 23. Nxa8 Qh4+ 24. Kg1 Ng3 25. Bb5 and Black

lacks both a win and perpetual check.) 23. Nd3 Nh5 24. Ne6

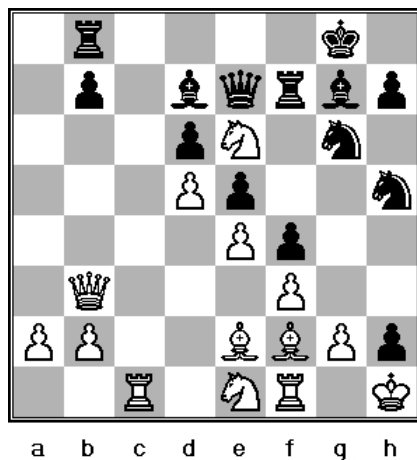


This key move blocks the black bishop on d7 and opens the c-file for business. Black has a queen and knights attacking on the dark squares, but no concrete mate threats. 24. ...Ng3 25. Rxc8+ Bxc8 26. Re1 Nf8 eliminating the strong knight on e6 appears wise, with chances for both sides.

22. ...Nh5 23. Bf2 Rb8

Better is 23. ...Rc8, based on the variation 24. Qxb7? Qd8 25. Nd3 Be8 attacking White's pinned knight a third time. 26. Ne6 Rxb7 27. Nxd8 Rxd8 and Black has won a piece.

24. Ne6



24. ...Bxe6

24. ...Ng3+ 25. Bxg3 fxg3 26. Bb5!

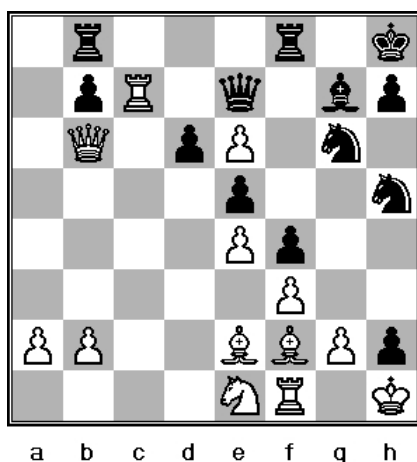
25. dxe6 Rff8 26. Qb6

White goes on the offensive, fighting for the initiative. However he's leaving the light pieces passively placed. Safer is 26. Bb5 or 26. Nc2.

26. ...Kh8

26. ...Rbc8 is fine.

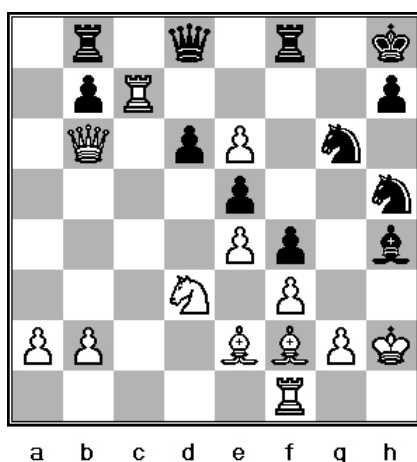
27. Rc7



27. ...Qd8

27. ...Qxe6 Why not take this pawn? 28. Bc4 Qf6 29. Rxb7 Rbc8 White has better chances.

28. Nd3 Bf6 29. Kxh2 Bh4



30. e7

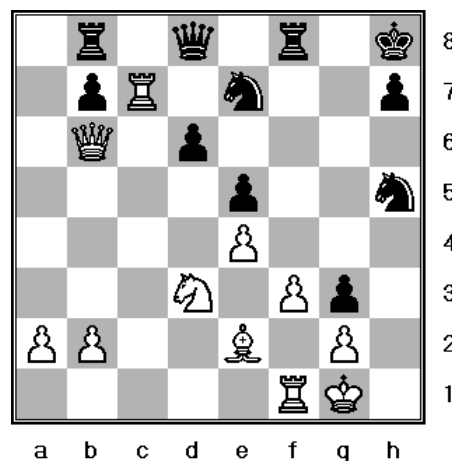
White could better utilize his pieces with 30. Rfc1 Bg3+ 31. Kg1 Qh4 and Black has no mate threats, so White has options here. 32. Be1 (32. Bd1 plans a king's flight.) 32. ...Ng7 with an unclear position.

30. ...Bg3+ 31. Bxg3

This represents an important turning point in this sharp battle. Black keeps the stronger threats, while at least limiting White's gains. 31. Kg1 Nxe7 32. Nxe5! is a very bright and not so obvious tactical idea, opening up central lines for the white pieces. 32. ...dxe5 (32. ...Bxf2+ 33. Kxf2 Rc8! 34. Qd4 dxe5 35. Qxe5+ Nf6 and White cannot take the knight on e7 due to his exposed king. 36. Rxc8 Nxc8 37. Rd1 Qb6+ 38. Kf1 and the position remains unclear.) 33. Rd1

Bxf2+ 34. Kxf2 Qe8 35. Rdd7.

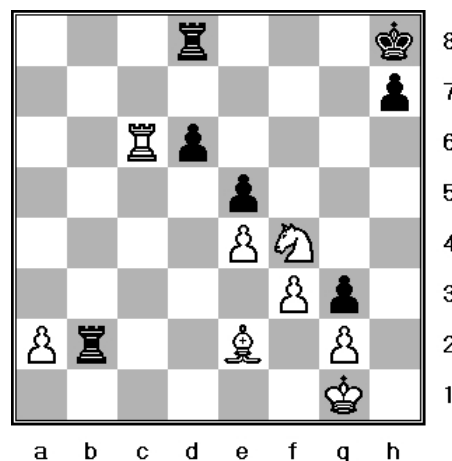
31. ...fxg3+ 32. Kg1 Nxe7



33. Rfc1 Nc6 -/+ 34. R7xc6

Essentially this is forced, since the white rook was cut off from support.

34. ...bxc6 35. Qxd8 Rfxd8 36. Rxc6 Nf4 37. Nxf4 Rxb2!



Black finishes accurately, activating his rook.

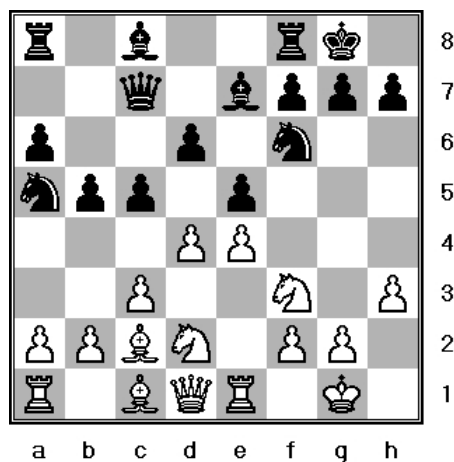
38. Ne6?

This is a blunder in a losing position, which just ends the struggle a little sooner.

38. ...Rxe2 39. Kf1 Rf2+ 40. Ke1 Rb8 0-1

William Schill – Brian Esler
Oregon Open, Round 5
Gresham, September 7, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0-0 8. h3 d6 9. c3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. Nbd2

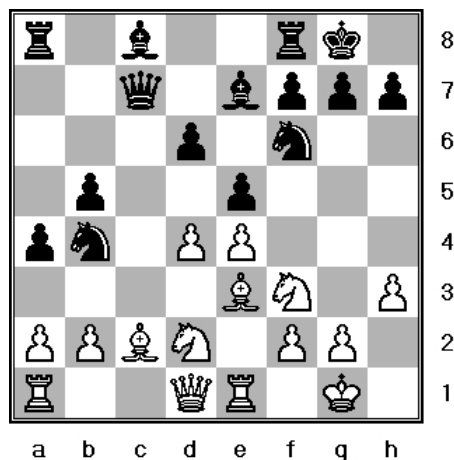


12. ...cxd4

This exchanging operation is the most popular plan for Black in the Main Line Ruy Lopez. 12. ...Nc6 13. d5 Nd8 14. a4; if Black keeps the center closed, Karpov showed the way for White to play on both wings in convincing wins back in the 1970's. I especially recommend that the interested reader check out Karpov – Unzicker, 1974.

13. cxd4 Nc6 14. Nb3 a5 15. Be3 a4

16. Nbd2 Nb4



16. ...Bd7 17. Rc1 Qb7 18. Qe2 also in White's favor.

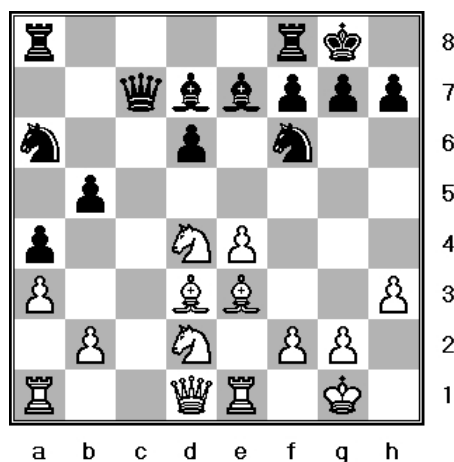
17. Bb1 Bd7 18. a3 Na6

18. ...Nc6 19. Bd3 Na5 20. Qe2 Qb8 21. Rec1 Re8 22. Rab1 is the proper arrangement of White's forces, and he scores well from here.

19. Bd3 exd4

19. ...Rac8 20. Qe2 Qb8 21. Rac1 is somewhat better for White, but a more solid choice for Black.

20. Nxd4

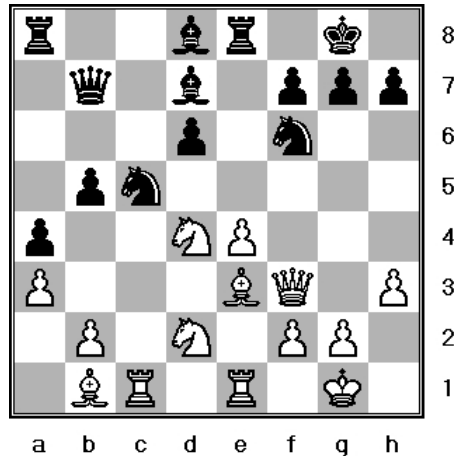


20. ...Qb7

20. ...Nc5 21. Rc1 Qb7 22. Bb1 Rfe8 23. Qf3 Rac8 24. Nf5 with advantage, and White went on to win. Pritchett-Horner, 1981.

21. Rc1 Nc5 22. Bb1 Rfe8 23. Qf3 Bd8

23. ...Rac8 transposes to Pritchett-Horner, above.

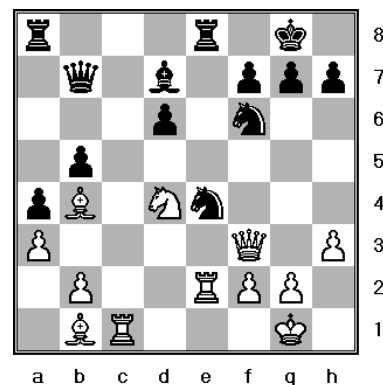


24. Bf4?

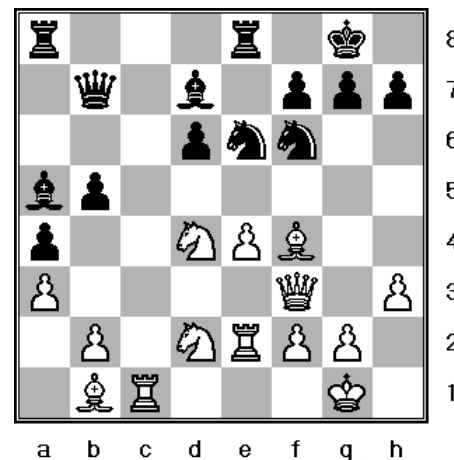
White could continue thematically: 24. Nf5 Bxf5 25. exf5 Ba5 26. Qxb7 Nxb7 27. Red1 +=.

24. ...Ba5 25. Re2 Ne6?

Black could go for the e4 pawn with 25. ...Bxd2 26. Bxd2 Ncxe4 27. Bb4.



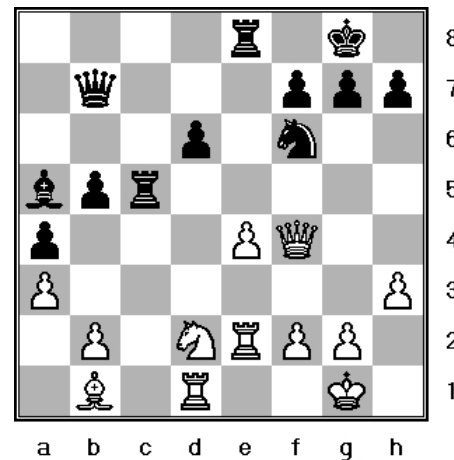
White has some compensation, but Black can maintain his knight on e4. 27. ...d5 28. Qd3 Qb6 29. Rec2 g6.



26. Nf5?

26. Nxe6 Rxe6 27. Ba2 Ree8 28. Bxd6 with a certain White advantage.

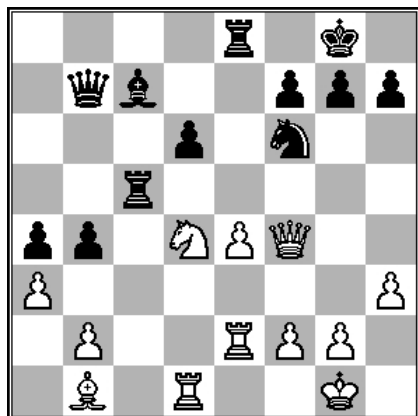
26. ...Nxf4 27. Qxf4 Rac8 28. Rd1 Bxf5 29. Qxf5 Rc5! 30. Qf4



30. ...Bc7!?

The bishop was actively placed on a5. I would prefer 30. ...Qe7 or 30. ...Qc7.

31. Nf3 b4 32. Nd4



a b c d e f g h

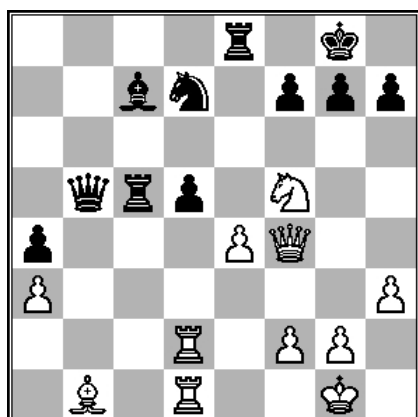
32. ...bxa3

32. ...d5! was already strong. Both sides should always be looking out for a blow in the center.

33. bxa3 Nd7 34. Nf5

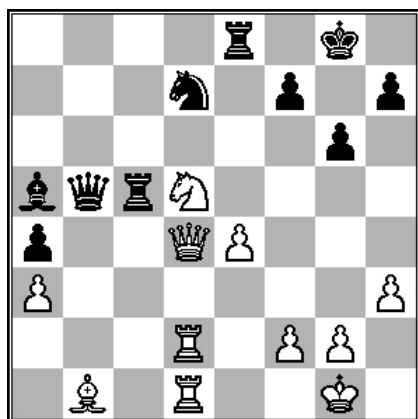
White outposts the knight.

34. ...Qb5 35. Red2 d5



a b c d e f g h

36. Qg5 g6 37. Ne7+ Kg7 38. Nxd5 +/- Bd8 39. Qe3 Ba5 40. Qd4+ Kg8



a b c d e f g h

41. Rc2 Rc6 42. Rb2 Qc5 43. Rb7 Qxd4 44. Rxd4 Rc1+ 45. Kh2 Kg7 46. Rxd7 Rxb1 47. Rxa4

1-0

Sarah May – Galen Pyle
Oregon Open Reserve, Round 5
Gresham, September 7, 2009

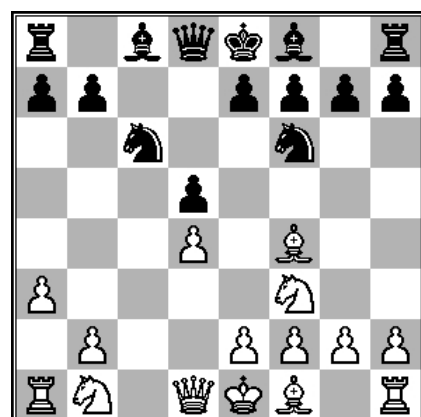
Black did a good job applying pressure and creating problems for the opponent! There were two chances for improvement after the queens exchange.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c3 d5 4. a3

Well, this is one way to play chess.
<grin>

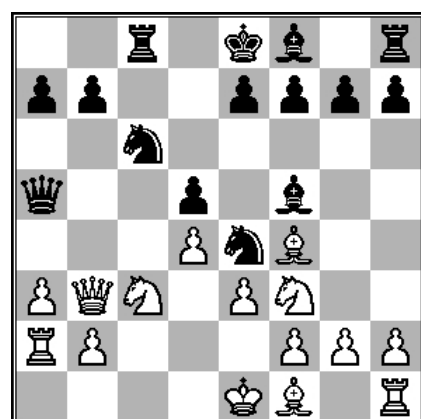
4. ...cxd4 5. cxd4 Nc6 6. Bf4

6. Nc3 is evidently more accurate.



a b c d e f g h

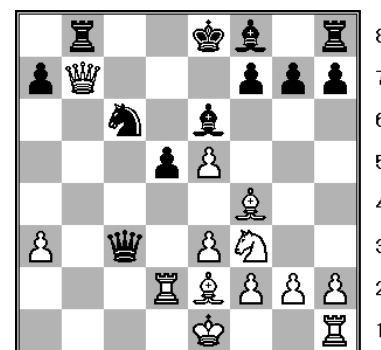
6. ...Qb6 7. Ra2 Bf5 8. e3 Qa5+ 9. Nc3 Ne4 10. Qb3 Rc8



a b c d e f g h

11. Nd2

11. Be2; simple development should be preferred. 11. ...e5 12. dxe5 Be6 13. Qxb7 Nxc3 14. bxc3 Qxc3+ 15. Rd2 Rb8 (15. ...Bxa3 16. 0-0 0-0 17. Rd3 +=)



a b c d e f g h

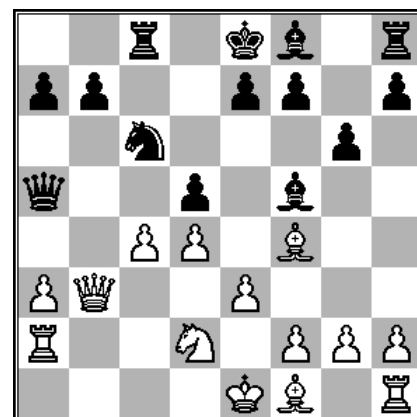
16. Qa6 Rb1+ 17. Bd1 but Black cannot increase the pressure. 17. ...Qc4 18. Qxc4 dxc4 19. 0-0 c3 20. Rc2 Rb3 and White still must fight to prove advantage.

11. ...Nxc3 12. bxc3 g6

A good decision. 12. ...f6!? 13. Bg3.

13. c4!?

If White had a 'do over' she might choose to castle ASAP. 13. Be2 Bg7 14. 0-0 0-0.



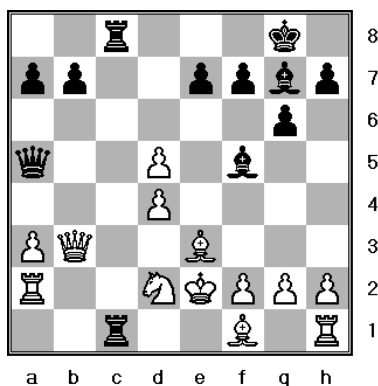
a b c d e f g h

13. ...Bg7

13. ...e5!? 14. dxe5 Be6 was rather interesting as well.

14. Qb5?!

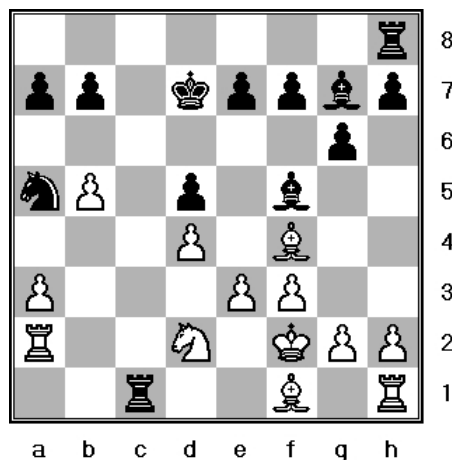
White runs for the endgame, seeking to avoid a complex fight. That is not meeting the demands of the position. 14. cxd5 Nxd4 15. exd4 Rc1+ 16. Ke2 0-0 17. Be3 Rfc8 is a big mess.



It's dangerous for White. Alternatives, however, cede the advantage to Black.

14. ...Qxb5 15. cxb5 Na5 16. f3 Rc1+ 17. Kf2 Kd7

17. ...0-0 is more secure. The point here is not to allow White a tactical solution to the development of her kingside pieces.



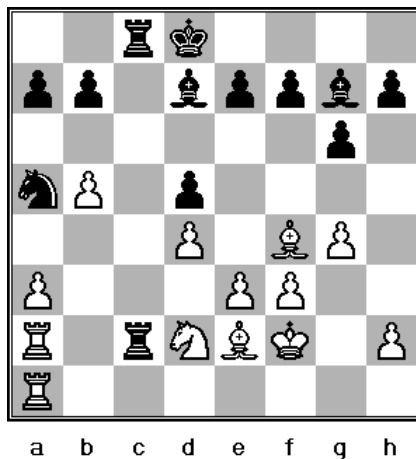
18. Rg1

18. b6!? Bd3 19. bxa7 Ra8 20. Bb8 and White can at least force some exchanges. Nc6 21. Nb3.

18. ...Rhc8 19. Be2 R1c2

19. ...Rxc1 20. Kxc1 Rc3 amounts to about the same thing. This looks a bit more accurate, as the White king loses a tempo.

20. Rga1 Kd8 21. g4 Bd7

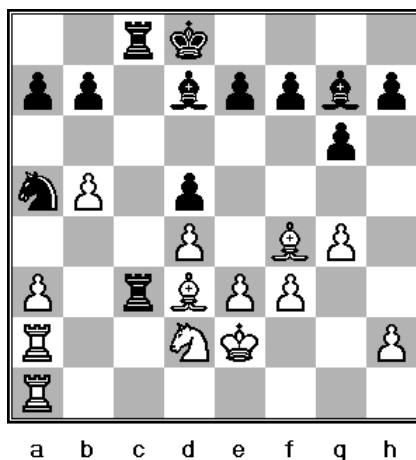


22. Bd3

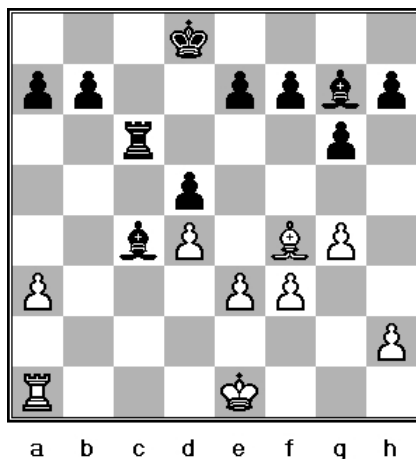
22. a4 quite simply needs to be played. 22. ...f6 23. h3 e5 24. Bg3 R2c3 =+.

22. ...R2c3 23. Ke2??

Tactical error.



23. ...Rxd3 24. Kxd3 Bxb5+ 25. Nc4 Bxc4+ 26. Kd2 Nb3+ 27. Ke1 Nxa1 28. Rxa1 Rc6



29. Rb1 Rb6 30. Rxb6 axb6 31. Kd2

Kd7 32. Bg3 e6 33. f4 Bf8 34. g5 Bxa3 35. Kc2 b5 36. Be1 b4 37. Bd2 b3+ 38. Kb1 Bd3+

0-1

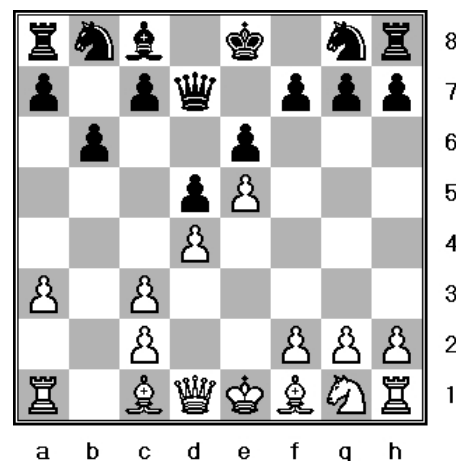
Galen Pyle – David Bannon
Oregon Open Reserve, Round 6
Gresham, September 7, 2009

An interesting battle took place in the reserve section on board one in the last round. Both players use the French Defense, specifically the Winawer Variation, with black. Thus we can predict the opening, if not the outcome!

1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 Qd7

4. ...c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 is the main line. David's choice is more solid, but leads to slower play.

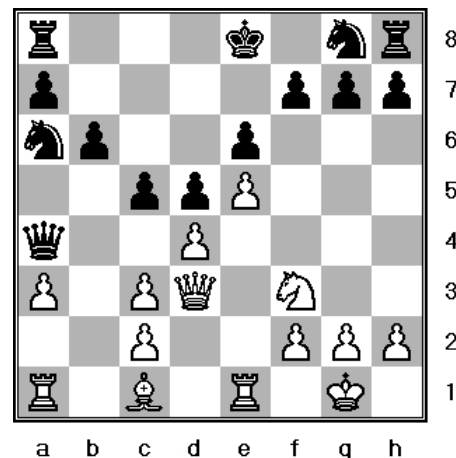
5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 b6



7. Nf3

7. Qg4! is more testing.

7. ...Ba6 8. Bxa6 Nxa6 9. Qd3 Qa4 10. 0-0 c5 11. Re1



11. ...cxd4?!

Premature opening of lines. 11. ...Ne7 and 11. ...Rc8 are logical developing moves.

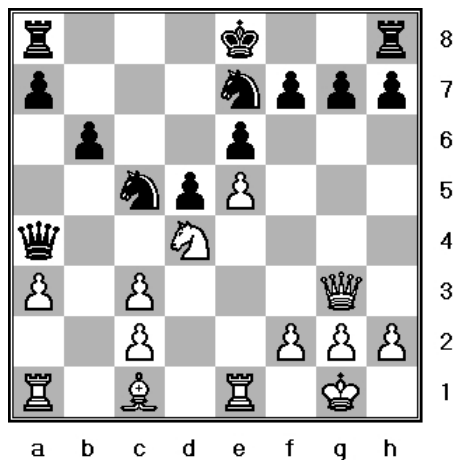
12. Nxd4!?

White sacrifices his pawn structure for active piece play. 12. cxd4 Rc8 13. c3 Qc4 is what Black wants to see.

12. ...Nc5?!

12. ...Ne7. Development matters!

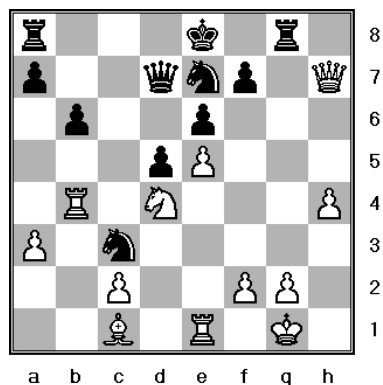
13. Qg3 Ne7?



I would have to categorize this as a mistake. After his last two moves, Black's position is not strong enough to justify the "poison pawn" counterattack. 13. ...Kf8 +/.

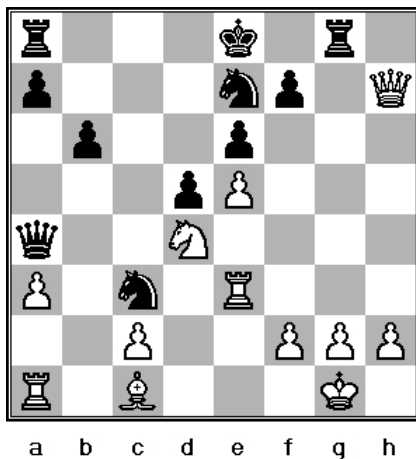
14. Qxg7 Rg8 15. Qxh7 Ne4 16. Re3

A good move. Interesting is just completing development with 16. Rb1 Nxc3 17. Rb4 Qd7 18. h4! as suggested by Rybka.



Black cannot coordinate his forces.

16. ...Nxc3

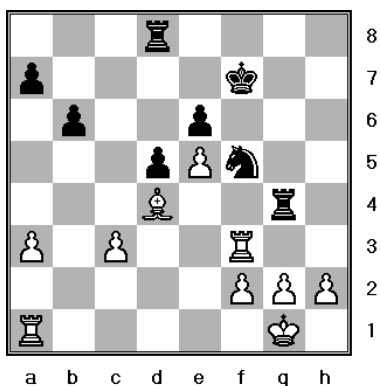


17. Rxc3

17. Nxe6 continues the desperado theme. 17. ...Ne2+ 18. Rxe2 fxe6 19. Rb1 Qg4 20. f3 White stands better, but admittedly the position is a little loose for both players.

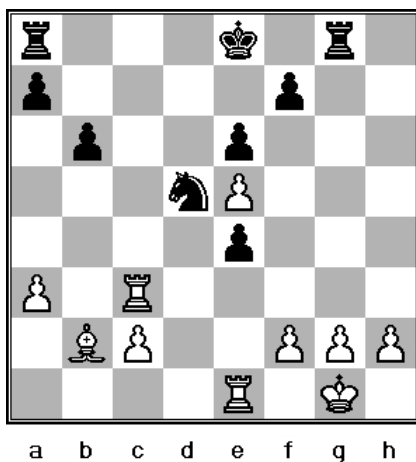
17. ...Qxd4 18. Bb2 Qe4

18. ...Rd8 blocking the check on c8 and developing the rook. Then 19. Qxf7+ Kxf7 20. Rf3+ Nf5 21. Bxd4 Rg4 22. c3 +/-



Black's pieces are certainly better off than in the game, though the missing pawns should eventually tell.

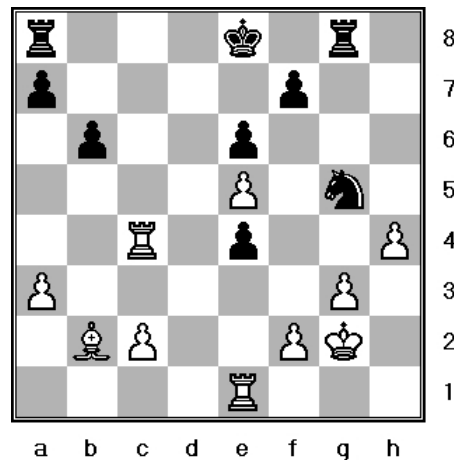
19. Qxe4 dxe4 20. Re1 Nd5



Logical enough, but the priority should be activating the major pieces. The rooks will rule the board. Moreover, d5 is not a secure outpost. 20. ...Rg4 21. Rc4 Rd8 22. h3 Rh4 23. Kh2 Rd2 24. g4! Rh7 25. Kg2 +/.

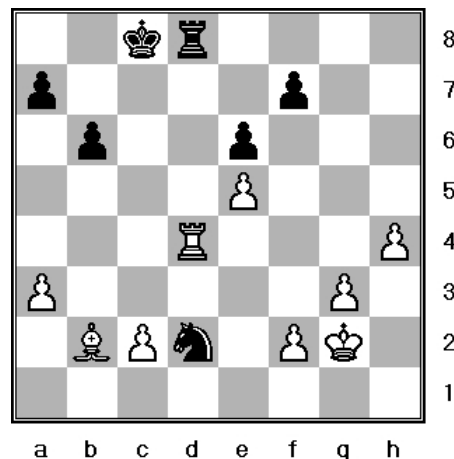
21. Rc4 Nf4 22. g3 Nh3+ 23. Kg2 Ng5 24. h4 +/-

Black's knight maneuvers only help White.

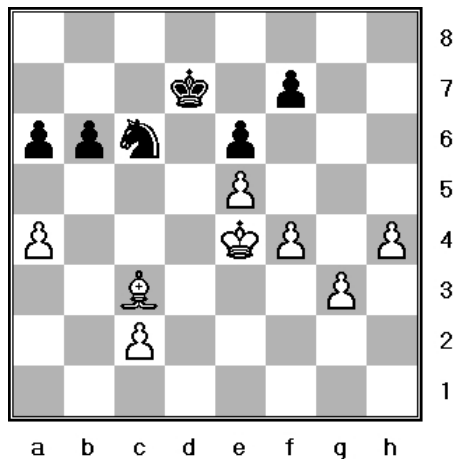


24. ...Nf3 25. Rxe4 Nd2 26. Rg4 Rxd4 27. Rxd4 0-0-0 28. Rd4

Finishing the game. Now would be a good time for Black to resign.



28. ...Rxd4 29. Bxd4 Kd8 30. f4 Ke8 31. Kf2 Nc4 32. a4 Na5 33. Ke2 Nc6 34. Bc3 a6 35. Kd3 Kd7 36. Ke4



Excellent. "Do not hurry" and "avoid counterplay" are both applicable here, since Black can hardly set up a blockade.

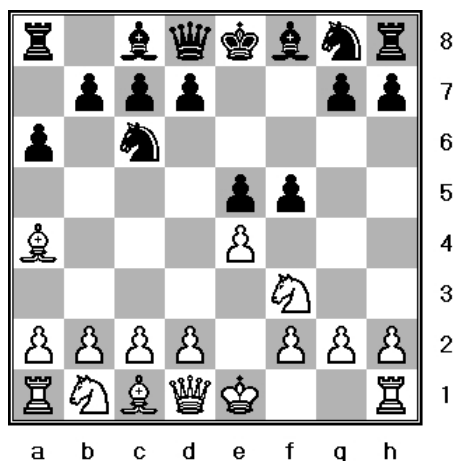
36. ...b5 37. axb5 axb5 38. g4 Ke8 39. f5 Ne7 40. fxe6 fxe6 41. h5 Kf7 42. Kd4 Nd5 43. Bd2 Nb6 44. Kc5 Nc4 45. Bf4 Ke7 46. c3

1-0

**Dan Dalthorp – Jason Cigan
Oregon Open Reserve, Round 6
Gresham, September 7, 2009**

In the last round, Dan and Jason fought an uncompromising battle. The winner tied for first place in the reserve section.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 f5!?



5. Nc3

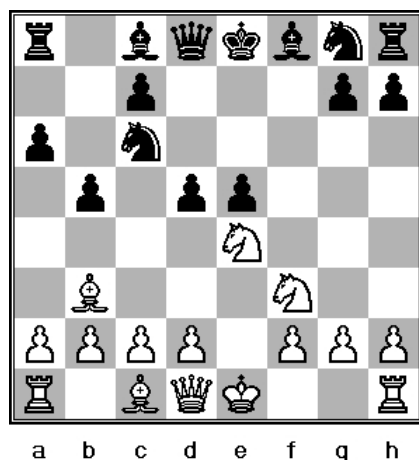
5. d4 is the recommended counter. This defense has been out of fashion since the Karpov-Korchnoi match in 1974.

Korchnoi managed to draw that game, but only because he is such a tenacious defender. Black's position was dubious.

5. ...fxe4

5. ...b5 6. Bb3 b4!?

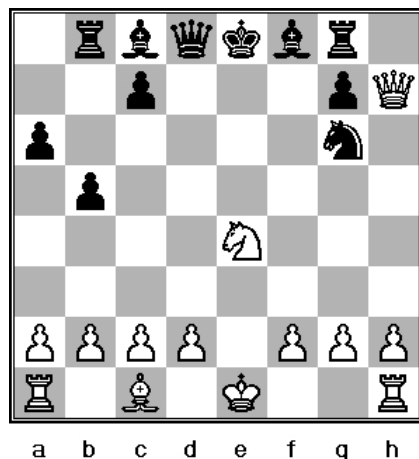
6. Nxe4 b5 7. Bb3 d5



8. Nxe5! Nxe5 9. Qh5+ Ng6 10. Bxd5 Rb8 11. Bxg8

Exchanging these pieces definitely favors Black. 11. 0-0 Nf6 12. Re1! is a marvelous move, with the point 12. ...Nxe5 13. Nf6#.

11. ...Rxe8 12. Qxe7

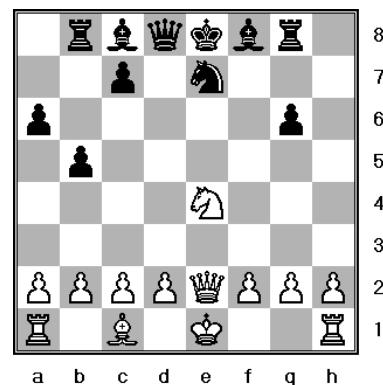


12. ...Ne7

12. ...Kf7 threatens ...Rh8 trapping the queen. 13. Qh5 Be7 14. d3 Qd7 and Black rapidly mobilizes his forces.

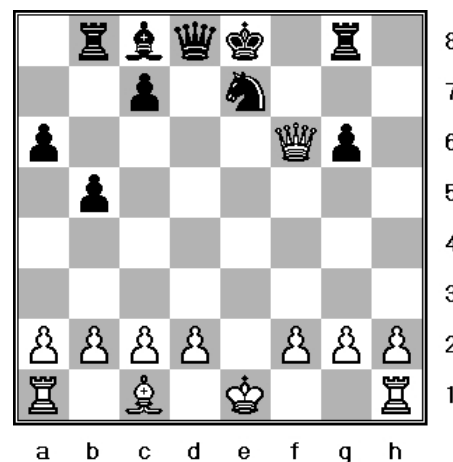
13. Qh5+ g6 14. Qf3

14. Qe2 causes Black more problems.



14. ...Bg7 15. Nf6+? Bxf6 16. Qxf6

Again, the exchanges favor Black. White has only the queen in play, and Black can gain time by attacking her.

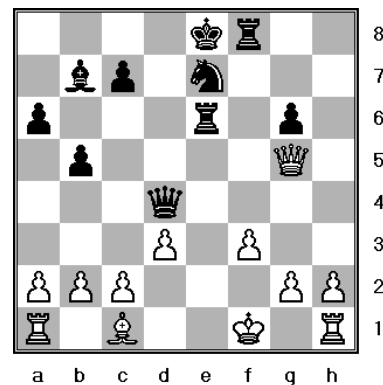


16. ...Rb6 17. Qg5 Re6+ 18. Kf1 Rf8

Black has a winning attack. White's final move merely hastens the end.

19. c3??

19. d3 Qd4 20. f3 Bb7.



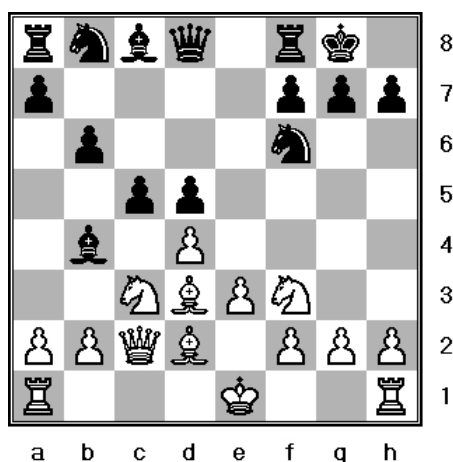
Black's swarming pieces dominate the board.

19. ...Qd3+

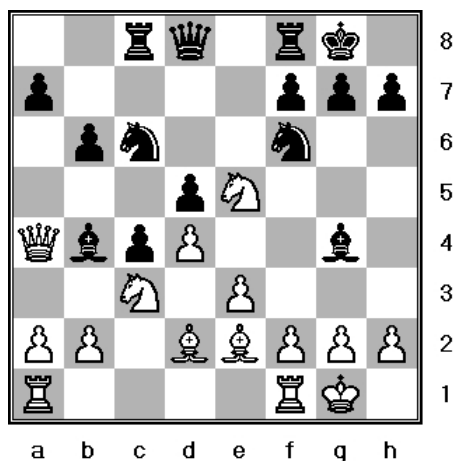
0-1

Taylor Bailey – Jason Cigan
Oregon Open Reserve, Round 1
Gresham, September 5, 2009

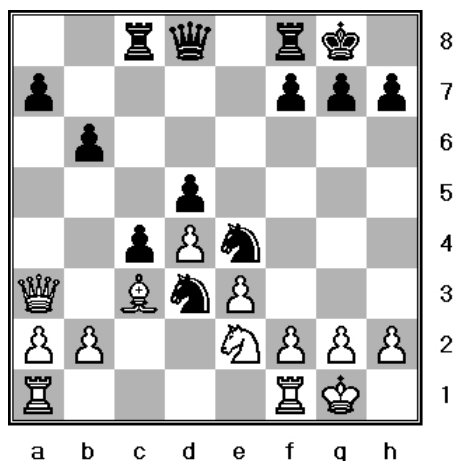
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2
d5 5. e3 0-0 6. Bd2 b6 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3
c5 9. Nf3



9. ...c4 10. Be2 Nc6 11. 0-0 Bg4 12. Qa4
Rc8 13. Ne5

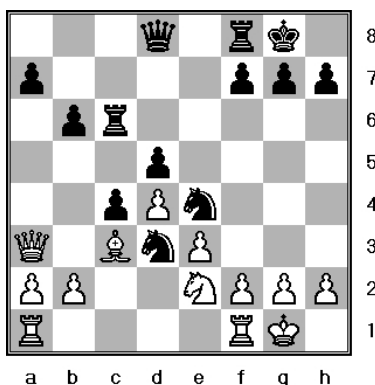


13. ...Nxe5 14. Qxb4 Bxe2 15. Nxe2
Nd3 16. Qa3 Ne4 17. Bc3



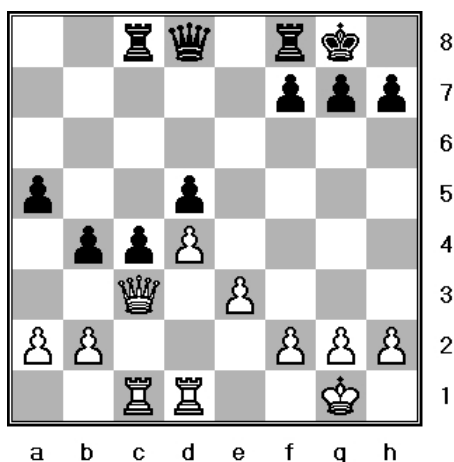
17. ...a5

17. ...Qh4 playing for attack is suggested
by Jason. Another move with attacking
implications is 17. ...Rc6.

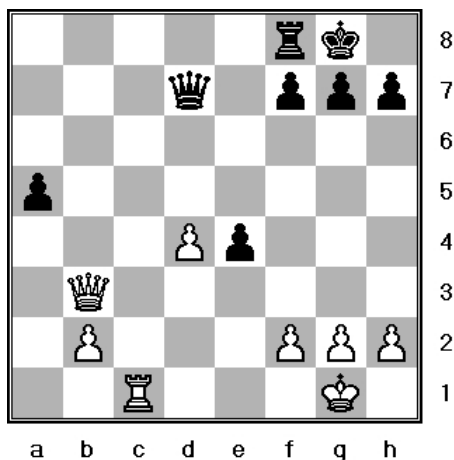


The rook will swing to h6.

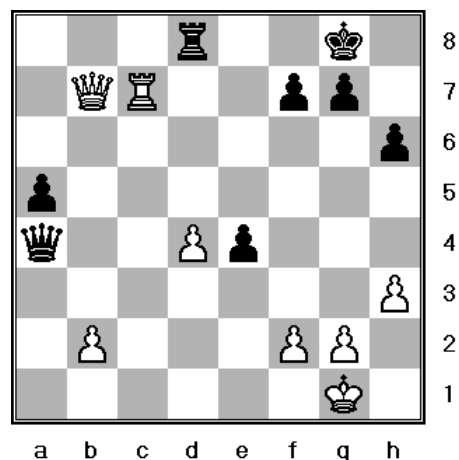
18. Nc1 Nxc3 19. Qxc3 Nxc1 20. Raxc1
b5 21. Rfd1 b4



22. Qc2 Qd7 23. e4 b3 24. axb3 cxb3
25. Qxb3 Rxc1 26. Rxc1 dxe4



27. Qb6 Rd8 28. Rc7 Qa4 29. h3 h6
30. Qb7

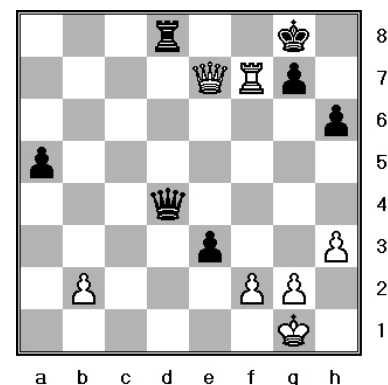


30. ...Qxd4

30. ...Qd1+ (JC) looks better.

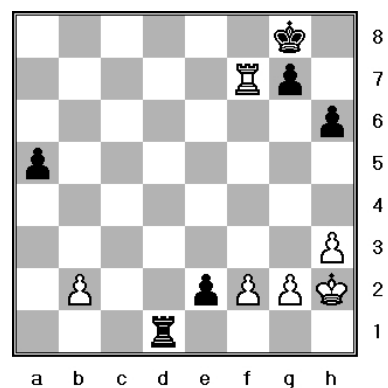
31. Rxf7 e3 32. Qb3??

32. Qe7 is the necessary defense.



32. ...Qd1+

33. Qxd1 Rxd1+ 34. Kh2 e2 Black wins.



0-1

Last month we did something new – “Chess in the Park” – at Wrights Park. Members Steve Buck, Paul and Vivi Bartron, David Wight, Gary Dorfner, and Geo. Cridell set up boards and sets and then took turns playing anyone who wanted to play a game and handed out club flyers, newsletters and Kids Night flyers as well as NWC magazines. Ten players showed up for a few games of chess. We hope to do this again.

The TCC will be working with the Tacoma Public Libraries. They are starting chess club activities at two of their libraries: the main library on 11th and Tacoma Ave. and the Wheelock library at 3722 N. 26th St. The hours are 3:30-5:00 pm two Wed. afternoons at the main library (open only to kids) and one Thursday afternoon at the Wheelock library (adults welcome). The dates at the main library are: Oct. 7, 28, Nov. 10, 24, Dec. 16. Wheelock: Oct. 8, Nov. 19, Dec. 17. Volunteers are need to help out on each of these dates. If you can voluteer, please contact Gary at (253) 535-2536 or e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. There will also be a chess tournament at the main library on Nov. 14, National Gaming Day.

Tacoma Chess Times by Gary Dorfner



TCC booth at the Puyallup Fair. Photo credit: Emerald Peterson

on down. In the Woodbuster the winners were: 1st, Paul Bartron, 3.0; 2nd, Lee Corbin, 2.0. In the Woodpusher the winners were: 1st, David Wight, 3.0; 2nd, Gary Dorfner, 2.5; 3rd, Geo. Criddell, 2.0.

The 50th Tacoma Open was held at the club on Aug. 8-9. There were eight players. The winners were: 1st, Bill Schill and Justin Yu, 4.0, \$30.00 each. 1st overall and 1st Group #1 were added together. 1st Group 2, Zach Wener-Fligner, 2.5, \$17.00.

The Tacoma Summer Open was held on Friday nights in Aug. There were 12 players in all. The winners were: 1st, Paul Bartron, 3.5; 2nd, Drayton Harrison, Peter Marriott and Tony McCarthy, 3.0 each.

Kate Tokareva was the only woman who showed up for the Washington Women's Championship, Aug. 29-30. She won the title by default and in addition to her \$40 prize, she will be seeded into the Washington Invitational Section of the Washington Championship (next February).

The Washington Senior Adult Championship was held at the club on Aug. 29-30 as well. There were eight players. The winners were: 1st, Paul Bartron, 4.0, \$50.00; 2nd, H.G. Pitre, 2.5, \$45.00; 1st U1800, Ernst Rasmussen, 2.0, \$35.00.

TD for all of these tournaments: Gary Dorfner.



Wright's Park Chess. Archive photo credit: Philip Peterson

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double attack
only real games
2009
pinning
2008
real
decoy
deflection
interference
exclusively
new real
grandmasters
only real games 2009
decoy demolition sacrifice
removal of defender back rank
double attack 2008 mate
interference learn from masters

Ask the average person what or where Smallville is and they'll tell you that it is the earthly home of Superman. But ICC fans will exclaim that Smallville is the handle of a superman of another sort, one Hikaru Nakamura. Boasting a blitz rating of a whopping 3460 (!!), he is feared by human and computer alike (ever see a scared computer? They sweat and then short out).

At a youthful 21, he has scaled to the summit in the US once again by scoring 7 of 9 in the US Championship held in Saint Louis in May.

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger

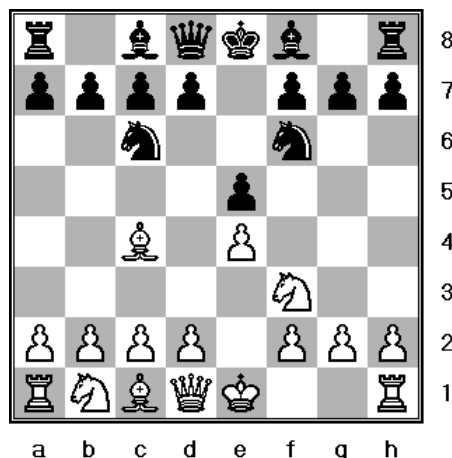


No.	Player (title, seeding)	Rtng	Pts	Prize
1.	GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2)	2757	7.0	\$ 40,000.00
2.	IM Hess, Robert (17)	2545	6.5	\$ 12,500.00
3.	GM Onischuk, Alexander (3)	2736	6.5	\$ 12,500.00
4.	GM Kamsky, Gata (1)	2798	6.0	\$ 7,500.00
5.	GM Akobian, Varuzhan (7)	2664	6.0	\$ 7,500.00
6.	GM Shulman, Yury (4)	2697	5.0	\$ 4,650.00
7.	GM Friedel, Joshua (15)	2568	5.0	\$ 4,650.00
8.	GM Ibragimov, Ildar (13)	2628	5.0	\$ 4,650.00
9.	GM Christiansen, Larry (5)	2681	5.0	\$ 4,650.00
10.	GM Ehlvest, Jaan (10)	2649	4.5	\$ 2,833.33

Going into the final round, Hikaru was tied with Robert Hess (who also had a phenomenal tourney) and was pitted against the number 15 seed, Joshua Friedel.

Hikaru Nakamura – Josh Friedel
U. S. Championship, Round 9
Saint Louis, May 15, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6



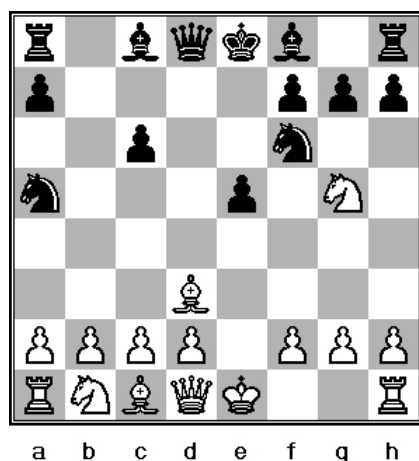
This is the chess-equivalent to placing your head in the mouth of the lion (Nakamura being the lion!). Keeping the lion at bay with a whip and chair by playing 3...Bc5 makes more sense here.

4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5

Allowing the 'Fried-Liver Attack' with 5...Nxd5 throws the king into the fray after 6. Nxf7 Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3. White scores an amazing 80+% from this position (based on over 250 games in my database). Not to mention the possibly stronger reply

6. d4, of course.

6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3



A new old move. Dating as far back as 1890, this move had only been tried about once every decade until the early 1990's. Since then, this is the new hot topic in an otherwise tired line.

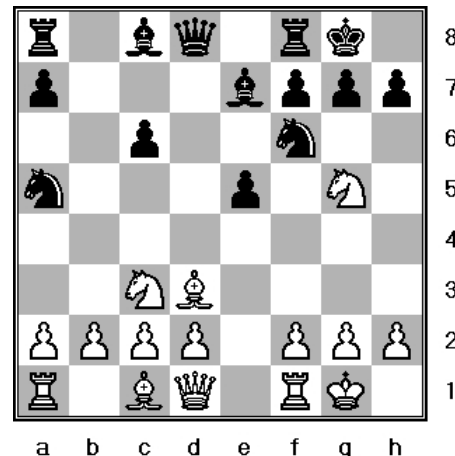
8. ...Be7?

After sacrificing a pawn, this move is too passive. Chigorin had the right idea (as recently as 1890).... 8... Bc5! Gunsberg, I – Chigorin, Havana, (0-1 in 44 moves).

9. Nc3 0-0 10. 0-0

White is clearly better. With a pawn to the good and equal chances for initiative,

the opening argument has been won by White.

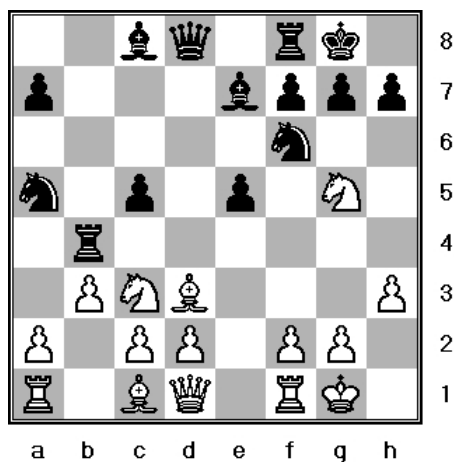


10. ...Rb8 11. h3 c5

Black awakens and gets active. This opens the a8-h1 diagonal for the QB, frees the c6 square for the QN and signals a possible c5-c4, gaining space.

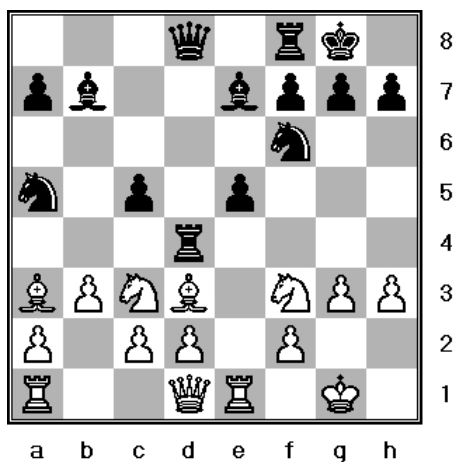
12. b3 Rb4?!

An odd-looking Rook lift. Playing a Rook to the 3rd rank followed by a slide to the opposite wing is more common. However here, that Bishop on d3 is the proverbial 'monkey-wrench in the works.'



13. Re1 Bb7 14. Ba3!

Nice move! Accepting the second pawn with 14. Rxe5 gives Black a couple of powerful Bishops, e.g. 14. ...Bd6 15. Re1 Bb8 16. Ba3 Qc7 17. g3 Qc6 and Black has a lasting initiative.

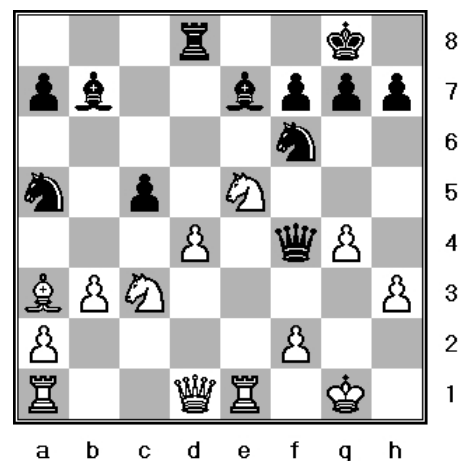


16. ...Rxd3

Sacrificing the exchange on the d4 square is better, e.g. 16. ...Nc6! (getting the steed into the game!). A sample line could be 17. Nxd4 Nxd4 18. Ne4 Nxe4 19. Bxe4 Bxe4 20. Rxe4 Qd5

game.

17. cxd3 Qxd3 18. Nxe5 Qf5 19. g4 Qf4 20. d4 Rd8



21. Qe2!

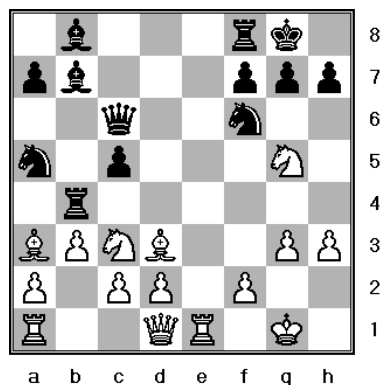
Very cool and very strong.

21. ...Rxd4 22. Bc1

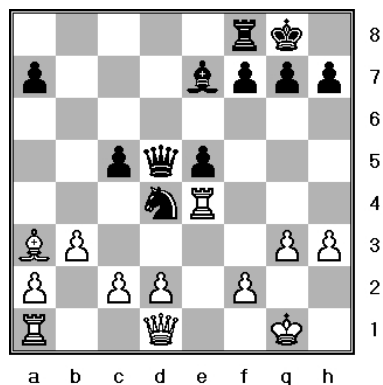
Black resigns – the queen is trapped.

Congrats go out to our new US Champion – Seattle resident Hikaru Nakamura!

1-0



14. ...Rf4 15. g3 Rd4 16. Nf3



21. Re3 Bg5 and Black is still in the

Here's a sneak preview of coming "Opening Arguments."

So you want to develop your own personal Opening Repertoire!? If you're like most players, you fumble your way around, trying this opening and then that opening (getting killed here, getting killed there) never really having developed a good sound method of compiling *just the right group of openings*. Your method to-date goes something like this: First off, your earliest teacher had been a friend or family member, so as White you play 1. e4 ("because Bobby played it") and answer 1. ...e5 with 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 ("because it's the right thing to do," or "because Bill Schill plays it" – whichever). As you increase in playing strength, you switch over to 'Systems'; the Kings Indian Attack or the Catalan System, etc. As you continue to progress in your chess ability, you begin playing what *the top players are playing*, which are usually main-lines which run 120 moves deep into opening analysis. You spend the greater part of your life analyzing why 76. ...h6 equalizes in a line you had previously thought won for White (sigh!). Sound familiar? Thankfully, *there is a better way!*

My suggestion is to imitate the best players in the world, past and present, but only *those having a similar style to your own*. For some, knowing just exactly what your style eludes you. In upcoming articles, I'll elaborate on those styles most distinctive. We'll introduce you to the following five players (their names of course indicative of their respective flair)... Willy Wild... Abel Active... Phil Positional... Perry Powerful... and The Rock. After playing through just a few illustrative games, you'll relate to some players more than others. Arming yourself with this information will prove invaluable and will give you a huge clue as to which openings you yourself should include into your own personal arsenal. Stay tuned! First up – Willy Wild!

Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Murlin Varner, results ranker

Many, many Grand Prix points were earned in August and the first weekend of September, mostly in Oregon. The Oregon class had a total of 39 entries, with a few players taking advantage of the two weekend format to play twice. The August edition of the PCC game/60 event had 24 players, and the Oregon Open, over the Labor Day weekend, had 110. (I wasn't able to be among the Labor Day celebrants, because I had to labor at my job that weekend. Sigh.) Coupled with 68 entries into four events in Seattle and Tacoma, our standings have been shuffled a bit. Most noticeably, we have jumped from one player with over 100 points last month (Nick Raptis) to seven this month, with four of the seven hailing from Oregon. (One small Spokane event hasn't been rated as of this writing.)

In Oregon, Steven Witt made a move from second place in Class C to first place in Class B while adding 39 points to his total since August 1. Howard Chen moved up a class in Washington, also moving from a second to first place position, now as a Master, adding 26 points to his total. But the most active and successful since August 1 collected forty or more points. These include Dhruva Chatterjee (40), Brian Esler (40), Lon Brusselback (45), Bill Schill (46), and Nick Raptis (49.5). Five others gained over 30 points each during this time. What all of these players have in common is that they attended the Oregon Open (with its 4x multiplier) plus at least two additional events. All of these players are listed in the leader board below. It is clear, if you want to be a leader in the Grand Prix, all you have to do is get out and play!

We are 2/3 of the way through the year now, and the largest event remaining on our schedule is the Washington Class on Thanksgiving weekend. I believe it is going to be in Redmond again this year. (Don't trust me on that though, go ahead and look for an ad, coming soon to a chess magazine near you.) There are about 30 events still to be included in this year's tally (some will have occurred by the time you read this, of course), so all you need to do is go out and play, repeatedly.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick 169	1 Chen, Howard 92.5
2 Roua, Radu 38	2 Sinanan, Joshua 84
3 Haessler, Carl 29	3 Schill, William 82.5
.....	4 Collyer, Curt 49.5
.....	5 Bragg, David 47.5
.....	6 Mac Gregor, Michael 44.5

Experts

1 Breckenridge, Steven . 109.5	1 Watts, Peter 113
2 Gay, Daniel 109	2 Bartron, Paul 81.5
3 Chung, John 41	3 Kelley, Dereque 81
4 Davis, Mikeal 34	4 Rupel, David 62.5
5 Morris, Michael 33	5 Guo, Alex 45
6 Polasek, Preston 29	6 Dixon, Dakota 42.5

Class A

1 Esler, Brian 106	1 Wang, Michael 77
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2 Fulton, David 70.5	2 Gottlieb, Ethan 73.5
3 Banner, Richard L 46	3 Sen, Samir 73
4 Evers, Jason 44.5	4 Mathews, Daniel R 72
5 Herrera, Robert 43.5	5 O'Gorman, Peter 63
6 Smyth, Scott 33	6 Lee, Nathan 60.5

Class B

1 Witt, Steven 90	1 McAleer, James 105
2 Niro, Frank 85	2 Ackerman, Ryan 66
3 Pyle, Galen 71	3 Buck, Stephen 65
4 Grom, Alex 60	4 Tokareva, Kate 64
5 Frojen, Ken 55	5 Feng, Roland 63.5
6 Yoshinaga, David 50	6 Yu, Justin 63

Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss 85	1 Monahan, Darby 116
2 Brusselback, Lon 72	2 Piper, August 74
3 Midson, Tony 45	3 Grabar, Anatoly 70.5
4 Tse, Kalen 44.5	4 Grabar, Svetlana 68.5
5 Skalmes, Erik 44	5 Baker, Ted 53
6 Wentz, Dale 39.5	6 Nicoski, Aaron 49

Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva 44	1 Richards, Jerrold 78.5
2 Chattopadhyay, Sandip 43	2 Lampman, Becca 56
3 Cigan, Jason 36	3 Davis, Freddy 54
4 Barrese, William 32	4 Burney, James 48
5 Butson, Jeffrey 29.5	5 Waugh, James 45
6 Wingard, Joseph 27	6 Wang, Shanglun 40

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick 169	1 Monahan, Darby 116
2 Breckenridge, Steven . 109.5	2 Watts, Peter 113
3 Gay, Daniel 109	3 McAleer, James 110
4 Esler, Brian 106	4 Chen, Howard 92.5
5 Witt, Steven 90	5 Sinanan, Joshua 84
6 Niro, Frank 85	6 Schill, William 82.5
6 Dietz, Arliss 85	7 Bartron, Paul 81.5
8 Brusselback, Lon 72	8 Kelley, Dereque 81
9 Pyle, Galen 71	9 Richards, Jerrold 78.5
10 Fulton, David 70.5	10 Wang, Michael 77
11 Grom, Alex 60	11 Piper, August 74
12 Frojen, Ken 55	12 Gottlieb, Ethan 73.5
13 Yoshinaga, David 50	13 Sen, Samir 73
14 Banner, Richard L 46	14 Mathews, Daniel R 72
15 Midson, Tony 45	15 Grabar, Anatoly 70.5

Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron	ID	1771	92.5
2 Havrilla, Mark	ID	1921	80.5
3 Donaldson, John	CA	2426	50
4 Abderhalden, Richard	ID	1449	49
5 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1791	47.5
6 McCourt, Daniel	MT	1773	44.5
7 Martin, Robert	MT	1697	41
8 Abderhalden, Katherine	ID	1584	38
9 McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1750	35
10 Armstrong, Nathan	MS	1726	32
11 Weyland, Phil	ID	1864	31.5
12 Davis, Loal	MO	2227	30
13 Weyland, Ronald	ID	1599	28
14 Johnson, Frank B	MN	2271	26
15 Sotaridona, Leonardo	NC	1879	25.5

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 events after October 31
will likely be in the Northway Square
East Building (2150 N 107th St), across
the freeway from Northgate
Mall.

Oct. 4, Nov. 1

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.

Sunday Tornado

Oct. 10, Nov. 14

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.

Saturday Quads

October 11

Site: Tacoma CC. **Format:** 7-bd (M, X, A, B, C, D, E & Under) match. **TC:** G/120. **Prizes:** ?? **Rds:** 1:00 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd, NS, NC.

SCC vs. TCC Match

October 23-25

Join the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the Western States Open. We will be competing against four or five teams from San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute CC as well as teams from Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

SCC Team in Reno!!

November 15

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 11/11, \$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, (8/16)–9; *Quads* (1/10)–10, (2/21)–20, (3/14)–17, (4/25)–14, (5/16)–15, (6/13)–20, (7/18)–18, (8/15)–18; *Tornados* (1/4)–12, (2/1)–12, (3/1)–16, (4/5)–14, (5/3)–18, (5/31)–19, (7/5)–18, (8/2)–16, (8/30)–25; *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, *Seafair* (7/24-26)–63.

4th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 6-8, 2009

A two-section, seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/90** (Two-day option – rounds 1 & 2 @ G/45). The prize fund of **\$1000** is based on 50.

Open: \$200-140, U2200 100, U2000 100

Reserve (U1800): First \$140-100, U1600 70, U1400 70, U1200 60, UNR 20

Entry Fee: \$40 by 11/4 (\$30 for SCC members, \$35 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$48 at site (\$36 for SCC members, \$42 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

Registration: Friday 7-7:45 p.m. Saturday 9-9:45 a.m. **Rounds:** Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11-2:30-6, Sunday 11-2:30-6.

Two-Day Option: Rounds 1 & 2 Saturday 10-12. **Byes:** 3 available; 1 for rounds 5-7, must commit before round 3.

Miscellaneous: USCF & W/OCF membership required. OSA, NC, NS.

Side Event: Blitz (G/5) tournament. Starts at 9:30 p.m., Saturday. EF: \$8. Prize Fund: at least 80% of EFs.

EntlInfo: SCC Tnmt Dir, 2420 S 137 St, Seattle WA 98168. 206-417-5405 (recorded message); kleistcf@aol.com.

Future Events

♂ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♂

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

October 10

Clackamas County Senior Championship

Site: Pioneer Adult Community Center, 615 Fifth St., Oregon City, Oregon (enter by basement door on Washington Street). Wheel Chair accessible. Type: Three Round Swiss System Event. Registration 9:30-9:59 AM. Rounds 10am, 1pm, 3:30pm. Time Control: Game in 60. Memberships required NONE. Entry Fee: NONE. Open to players age 50 and up no matter where they live. Prizes: Memberships in Washington or Oregon Chess Federation, Chess Books and Magazines. Games between current United States Chess Federation (USCF) members will be USCF-rated. Playoff for 1st place if there is a tie. Organizers: Frank Niro, chesssafari@yahoo.com and Russell Miller, 360-834-2102, russellmiller22@comcast.net. Sponsors: Geezer Gallery, <http://www.geezergallery.com/> and Oregon City/West Linn Chess Club which meets Tuesdays 7-10 pm at the Community Center. A National Chess Day event.

♂ October 10-11

Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic ♂

See display ad in the September issue, and visit nwchess.com for more information. 4-SS in 3 sections. EF: \$50 advance, various \$10 discounts possible. Higher at site. Special hotel rates, great services and on-site food: www.silverdalebeachhotel.com to see our partner, and sponsor of this event. Special rates for our tourney players. See nwchess.com for transportation options. USCF rated. USCF and WCF memberships required. Please purchase in advance or on-line. Discounted EF for new members. TC: G/90 minutes, 30 seconds incremented after each move. Bring your digital clocks and sets. Some clocks available to use at the site. Co-organized by Richard Golden (206) 842-7250 & H. G. Pitre (206) 284-9314. Round 1, 12:30 PM, Round 2, 6:00 PM, Round 3, 9:45 AM, Round 4, 3:00 PM. NM Bill McGeary on site for game analysis and commentary.

♂ October 17-18

Portland Fall Open ♂

5SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800), TC: 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219. EF: \$30 adv, \$35 at site. \$10 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. Prizes: (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75. Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/UNR \$50. Reg: 9-9:30AM 3/21, Rds: Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun 10-ASAP. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg., maximum two. Adv. Ent.: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♂ October 17-18

Puget Sound Open ♂

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., 2nd floor, room 11 in the DTI Soccer Store building across from Alfred's Café & two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: Game in 90 minutes with 30 seconds increments. Please bring your digital clock. Entry Fee: \$30.00 advance, \$40.00 at site. Economy entries \$15.00. Registration: 9:00-9:45 am. Rounds: 10:00 am and 3:30 pm or ASAP both days. All rounds will start on time. Prize Fund: \$370.00 B/20 entries. 1st \$90.00, 2nd \$80.00, 3rd \$70.00 1st U1700, U1400 \$65.00. Byes: must commit by end of round 1. USCF/WCF memberships required. NW NC NS. You must keep score after each move throughout the entire game. Info/Entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2535 or ggarychess@aol.com.

October 23-25

Western States Open

See display ad elsewhere in this issue.

♂ October 31

6th Spokane G/10 ♂

Spokane Valley Library (downstairs) E. 12004 Main, Spokane Valley, WA.E.F. \$11 (pay at the event). TC: G/10. Format: Double round-robin. Prizes: \$100 added with at least 10 players. Reg: 9:00-9:45. USCF rated. Contact: David B. Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♂ October 31

Portland CC G/60 ♂

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♂ Thanksgiving weekend

Washington Class Championships ♂

Details next month....

VISITORS WELCOMED
at the
OREGON CITY / WEST LINN CHESS CLUB

Pioneer Adult Community Center
Tuesdays: 7-10 pm
For more information
503-744-0997

615 Fifth St. Oregon City
(enter by basement door
on Washington St.)

PORTLAND CHESS CLUB
8205 SW 24th Ave
Portland, OR 97219
503-246-2978

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