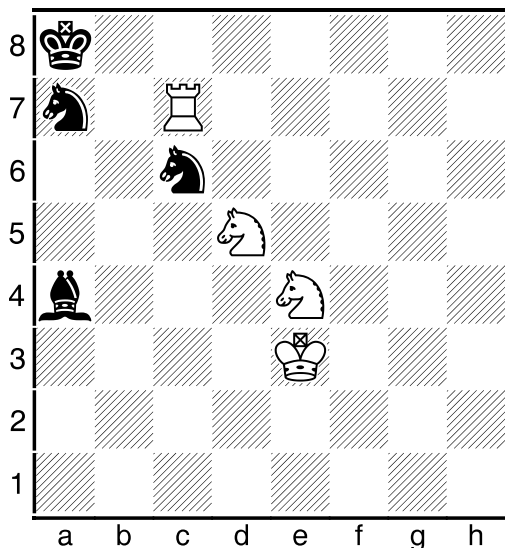


# The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



White to play & mate in 3 moves

Composed by Alex Golubow &  
Robert Woodworth (August, 2009)

September 2009

***Gambit*** Editor: Kent Nelson

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## From Kent's Corner

This particular issue of the *Gambit* was very difficult to produce for a number of reasons. For starters, I didn't have much material to process. For that reason, this issue is much smaller in terms of length than my usual *Gambits* consisting of 60 pages per issue. Another reason is my eyes were bothering me and I had difficulty seeing what I was doing. I'm having them checked out and will report on my status in the next issue.

Without my regular contributors, there wouldn't be a September issue at all. Special thanks to **Bob Woodworth** and **Alex Golubow** for their time and efforts in providing articles for the *Gambit*. I'm sure you'll enjoy their articles as much as I do.

My very heartfelt thanks to **John Watson** for his book review. In case you didn't know, it is my book he reviewed! How about purchasing my book? My contact information is on the page behind the chess diagram cover. I'm offering a \$5.00 discount from the regular book price of \$20.00 to current NSCA members. I sure would appreciate your business so please contact me.

Please welcome **Brian Wall** to our *Gambit* family of contributors. Brian spent some time in Lincoln helping with the summer chess club and certainly left an impression. Thank you for your material Brian.

As of press time, it appears that **Alex Golubow** is paying for this issue. This includes paying for printing costs and postage. Next time you see Alex, please thank them for doing this and for saving NSCA a great deal of money.

In terms of the next issue due out in December 09 or January 2010, I hope to have some pictures and more games. My thanks to **David Jenkins** who submitted a game and was the only *Gambit* reader to do so besides the individuals mentioned above. However, with apologies to David, his game is deferred until the next issue due to formatting considerations. Please submit your games! -**Kent B Nelson**

With the Cornhusker State Games concluded, three of the six slots in the 2010 State Closed Chess Championship have been determined. We have three slots to be determined. We need a couple of volunteers, to set up the two remaining POY / State Qualifier events: The 2009 Great Plains Open Chess Tournament and The 2009 Midwest Open Chess Tournament.

I would like to thank Mike Gooch and Ben Ryan for their great work tournament directing during the past year. In Nebraska, we have a need for more tournament directors to take some of the burden off Mike and Ben. The economic conditions continue to be hard on the NSCA. I am confident we will survive this economic down time and be a stronger and better NSCA in the future. -**Gary Marks, NSCA President**

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## **My First Experience as a Delegate to the U.S.C.F.**

by  
Robert Woodworth

This year in August, 2009, your writer had his first experience as a delegate from Nebraska to the U.S.Chess Federation in Indianapolis, Indiana. Actually, my initial title was as an AAD (Additional Alternate Delegate). This was based on the condition that if the elected delegate & also the alternate delegate were both not able to attend then I would take their place as the AAD.

The delegate meetings are held each year at the site of the U.S. Open tournament. This year the site was at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. This was an excellent site for the U.S. Open with great facilities for all the various meetings and seminars plus perfect playing conditions for a major chess tournament!

Upon arriving as an AAD, your writer's first goal was to be 'credentialed'. This means that the delegate(s) whom he is replacing would both need to conditionally 'resign' in writing (or by e-mail). This would allow the AAD to be 'seated' as the official delegate representing all Nebraska chessplayers. (The delegate system is actually a representation of each state based upon that states total population census count. Therefore, the state of Nebraska is allowed one delegate plus an alternate if needed. The 140-150 delegates are actually voting board members for the USCF and meet on an annual basis each year to discuss and vote on all the various motions & resolutions being presented.)

This year, due to communication problems in acquiring the necessary current delegate(s) resignations, your writer (as an AAD) was not an actual voting delegate! However, the separate committee meetings plus the workshops which discussed & analyzed the various ADM's (Advanced Delegate Motions) really gave me a good insight into the workings &

problems at the U.S. Chess Federation!! (In the meetings & workshops and after some thorough discussion, they took a ‘straw’ vote to determine how each motion would fare before the entire voting body where the actual, real voting would be conducted.)

Following is a list of the various workshops with the major areas of concern and Importance:

- **RULES WORKSHOP** - To develop the rules & punishment for the improper use of any electronic device when activated during actual tournament play.
- **USCF LEGAL ISSUES FORUM** - Discussion & analysis of the 6 lawsuits which the USCF is involved in. (The Polgar lawsuit in California having, by far, the largest legal fees.)
- **CHESS TRUST** - Discussed the advantages for changing from a 501(C)(4) to a 501(C)(3) non-profit entity.
- **RATINGS WORK-SHOP** - Analyzed the ratings deflation in the lower rating classes and the proper application of the K-factor in the ratings formula calculations.
- **SENIOR CHESS** - Developing a reasonable & efficient tournament time-control in relation to the length of the games for players over 60 years of age who participate in those Seniors-only tournaments.
- **USCF BYLAWS** - Bring the USCF bylaws in compliance with the state of Illinois bylaws of incorporation.
- **FINANCE/LMA** - The LMA is a great financial asset for the USCF. It provided a \$100,000 very low interest loan to the parent organization (the USCF) to help with the mortgage payments on the USCF headquarters building in Crossville, Tennessee.

Some more of the light-hearted and enjoyable moments was meeting the various delegates from the many different states. I had a nice personal talk with Mr. Glenn Petersen who was a former editor of “Chess Life” magazine. When

I asked him his opinion about the reduced quality & contents of the current versions of the magazine versus issues of years ago when he was the editor, he replied “how did you notice!?” Also present here was Carol Hochberg, the widow of another former “Chess Life” editor, Burt Hochberg. She was extremely personable and a sheer delight to talk to as she recalled her life as an editor’s wife. (She was at the Open to accept an award for her late husband for his many contributions to chess in a variety of different areas.)

Finally, some of the most significant items which should be highlighted are:

**(A).** The USCF budget for fiscal year 2009 had a \$112,000 loss but for 2010 the projected loss is only about \$4,700!!

**(B).** The estimated total legal costs to settle the 6 lawsuits could easily reach one-million dollars. (There now are actually only four suits to be settled due to arbitration & dismissal(s).

**(C).** The 4 ongoing lawsuits are the most difficult and dangerous to the health & existence of the USCF in it’s history!! (To date,\$400,000 has been spent by the USCF for legal fees alone!!)

**(D).** The “House-Of-Staunton” is now the official book & sales vendor for the USCF.

**(E).** Approximately 450 players participated in the 2009 US Open which was better than projected in spite of the 2-year economic recession. (The overall winner was GM Dmitry Gurevich who won in a playoff over GM Sergey Kudrin.)

**(F).** In a major, final speech given by Mr. Bill Hall, the Executive Director for the USCF, he stated that “the current culture of the USCF has to change”.

(In this writer's opinion there are too many self-serving individuals in the organization plus the fact that the USCF's mission statement to "promote & advance the game of chess" is not being adhered to by the organization as a whole.)

In conclusion, I hope that this article was not too 'dry' and/or boring for the chess-players who only think of the playing of the game itself. (Playing rated tournament chess is a fine endeavor but behind the scenes there is an administrative, political world which makes the pleasures of playing rated chess all possible!) Your writer, in experiencing his first time at a delegates meeting, came away with the realization of the great responsibilities as a voting Board member. Also, it is a great way to really understand the important problems and the necessary decisions required to keep the USCF as a viable entity and even in existence!!

Bob Woodworth  
(August 2009)  
Omaha, Nebraska

## **Tournament Results**

Send standings to:

Kent B Nelson

4014 "N" St.

Lincoln, NE 68510

Special note—Tournament results were pulled from the USCF web site.

Listing of players are not in tie breaking order.

### **The 2009 Cornhusker State Games**

This year's state games was held on July 18th and 19th at Lincoln's Southeast Community College. Winners in the Open section and Co-Champions were Albert Zhou and Mirko Zeljko. Albert and Mirko have earned spots in the 2010 Nebraska State Closed Championship. The Reserve section was won by NSCA Treasurer, Jeffrey Solheim. Jeff scored 4.5 out of 5 points to win the 31 player section. The Junior Section was won by Samuel Gage and Bryant Grimminger, each with 4 out of 5 points. Rounding out the winners was a 4-way tie for first place in the 18 player Scholastic section. The winners were Claire Fortenberry, Owen Gong, Rodolfo Ortiz, and Jack Halperin. The tournament was directed by Mike Nolan and Mike Gooch. Both Mikes did an superior job and the event ran smoothly. Special kudos to Mike Nolan who has directed the State Games for 24th consecutive year! Mike plans a big surprise at the 2010 games to mark his 25th year. We'll hold you to this Mike! This Cornhusker was very special to me because I played well and had the pleasure of visiting with Dan Wolk (who played in the Reserve) and Rod Kuchta who competed in the Open section. I have not seen Dan and Rod for many, many years and it was great to chat with them again. The most interesting event in my opinion occurred during a game between Joe Knapp and James McFarland during the last round of the Open section. Both players decided to prolong the game and at one point, Knapp was up 5 rooks against McFarland. Both players demonstrated good sportsmanship as this observer was a little worried that Mr. McFarland would revert back to his former playing days as a Nebraska Cornhusker football player and show Singer/Songwriter, Joe Knapp, just who was really in charge! All in good fun and both players should be commended for providing the last round entertainment!

Tournament report submitted by Kent Nelson

## 2009 Cornhusker State Games Scholastic Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>C. Fortenberry</b>	Unr	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>O. Gong</b>	834	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 1</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>R. Ortiz</b>	725	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>4.0</b>
4	<b>J. Halperin</b>	745	<b>W 17</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>4.0</b>
5	<b>A. Nelson</b>	835	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>P. Hanigan</b>	Unr	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>J. R. Alexander</b>	726	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>C. Schlautman</b>	Unr	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>3.0</b>
9	<b>S. Erb</b>	214	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	<b>B. Brunsman</b>	161	<b>L 11</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 13</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
11	<b>J. Mcelderry</b>	455	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>D. Schlautman</b>	Unr	<b>X 0</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>W. Twehous</b>	Unr	<b>L 7</b>	<b>D 16</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>T. O'Brien</b>	200	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>2.0</b>
15	<b>P. Giles</b>	Unr	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>D 16</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>B 8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
16	<b>J. Anderson</b>	Unr	<b>L 8</b>	<b>D 13</b>	<b>D 15</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>N. Ngu</b>	Unr	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
18	<b>J. Litel-Smith</b>	600	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## 2009 Cornhusker State Games Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>A. Zhou</b>	1974	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>M. Zeljko</b>	1961	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>D1</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1880	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1843	<b>D 11</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1920	<b>X 0</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1837	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>R. Woodworth</b>	1752	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>D. Jenkins</b>	1716	<b>X 0</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>3.0</b>
9	<b>G. Marks</b>	1600	<b>D 12</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	<b>A. Wegener</b>	1589	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>3.0</b>
11	<b>B. Ryan</b>	1590	<b>D 4</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>2.5</b>
12	<b>A. Srivastava</b>	Unr	<b>D 9</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>2.5</b>
13	<b>R. Kuchta</b>	1315	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>A. Golubow</b>	1269	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>2.0</b>
15	<b>J. McFarland</b>	1269	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
16	<b>M. Dill</b>	587	<b>L 7</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>W. Schmidtke</b>	523	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
18	<b>S. Oxford</b>	New	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>
19	<b>G. Wirka</b>	1521	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## 2009 Cornhusker State Games Reserve Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>J. Solhein</b>	1629	W 19	W 2	W 12	W 4	D 5	4.5
2	<b>B. Houser</b>	1337	W 11	L 1	W 25	W 17	W 9	4.0
3	<b>J. Boeder</b>	1370	W28	W 5	D 9	D 7	W 10	4.0
4	<b>D. Raines</b>	1656	W 15	W 6	W 10	L 1	D 7	3.5
5	<b>L. Harvey</b>	1640	W 22	L 3	W 8	W 12	D 1	3.5
6	<b>D. Headlee</b>	1367	W 18	L 4	W 11	D 8	W 13	3.5
7	<b>D. A. Hoover</b>	1300	W 30	D 24	W 26	D 3	D 4	3.5
8	<b>J. Leavitt</b>	1483	W 23	D 13	L 5	D 6	W 16	3.0
9	<b>D. Wolk</b>	1429	W 26	W 20	D 3	D 13	L 2	3.0
10	<b>D. Buckley</b>	1395	W 29	W 21	L 4	W 15	L3	3.0
11	<b>R. Beyers</b>	Unr	L 2	W 22	L 6	W 23	W 20	3.0
12	<b>J. Clarke</b>	1342	W 24	W 30	L 1	L 5	W 19	3.0
13	<b>J. Gage</b>	1302	X 0	D 8	W 16	D 9	L 6	3.0
14	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1333	L 21	D 16	W 24	D 20	W 22	3.0
15	<b>B. Li</b>	1268	L 4	W 28	X 0	L 10	W 17	3.0
16	<b>J. Braden</b>	1164	W 17	D 14	L 13	W 21	L 8	2.5
17	<b>B. Williams</b>	1522	L 16	W 29	W 18	L 2	L 15	2.0
18	<b>N. Munnangi</b>	1300	L 6	W 19	L 17	H 0	H 0	2.0
19	<b>D. Given</b>	1283	L 1	L 18	W 29	W 26	L 12	2.0
20	<b>D. Krasser</b>	1269	W 31	L 9	D 21	D 14	L 11	2.0
21	<b>V. Rachuri</b>	Unr	W 14	L 10	D 20	L 16	H 0	2.0
22	<b>A. Torres</b>	1208	L 5	L 11	W 31	X 0	L 14	2.0
23	<b>A. C. Hoover</b>	1154	L 8	L 25	W 28	L 11	W 26	2.0

## 2009 Cornhusker State Games Reserve Section—Continued

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
24	<b>K. Stubben</b>	915	<b>L 12</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 29</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
25	<b>T. Harvey</b>	Unr	<b>F 0</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
26	<b>Jason Selvaraj</b>	1100	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 31</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>L 23</b>	<b>1.0</b>
27	<b>A. Satpathy</b>	752	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>W 28</b>	<b>1.0</b>
28	<b>Joe Selvaraj</b>	896	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 23</b>	<b>W 31</b>	<b>L 27</b>	<b>1.0</b>
29	<b>B. Sobotka</b>	1070	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>L 24</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>
30	<b>D. Cole</b>	Unr	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>
31	<b>D. Dwinell</b>	Unr	<b>L 20</b>	<b>L 26</b>	<b>L 22</b>	<b>L 28</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## 2009 Cornhusker State Games Junior Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>S. Gage</b>	915	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>B. Grimminger</b>	882	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>R. Luo</b>	656	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>A. Peterson</b>	933	<b>W 2</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>A. Clost</b>	806	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>M. Wekesser</b>	Unr	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## The 2009 Regional Team tournament

The 2009 Omaha Chess Community Regional Team tournament was held at the C.U. Harper Center in Omaha on August 29th. The event was organized and directed by Mike Gooch. This tournament, which was originally scheduled to be held over two days was changed into a one day event due to the turnout. Four teams competed. The names of the teams and the team results were not available as of press time, but the individual results are given below.

Tournament report submitted by Kent Nelson

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	<b>A. Metcalfe</b>	1662	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>3.0</b>
2	<b>J. Solheim</b>	1676	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>A. Golubow</b>	1297	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1848	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>T. Gaul</b>	1820	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>T. Harder</b>	1547	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>S. Caplan</b>	1311	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 15</b>	<b>1.5</b>
8	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1898	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
9	<b>T. Leacock</b>	1705	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
10	<b>J. Herr</b>	1587	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
11	<b>B. Li</b>	1265	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>1.0</b>
12	<b>D. Given</b>	1227	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>1.0</b>
13	<b>C. S. Shiu</b>	1235	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>1.0</b>
14	<b>A. K. Satpathy</b>	898	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>W. J. Broich</b>	1455	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>. 5</b>
16	<b>A. Petrosyan</b>	Unr	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## 2009 Omaha City Chess Championship

The Omaha City Chess Championship was held at the Omaha Quest Center on September 25th and 26th. Joe Knapp and John Herr are the Omaha City Co-Champions, each with a perfect 4.0 score. Brandon Li is the 2009 Omaha Junior Champion. Mike Gooch directed.

Information provided by Mike Gooch.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1885	<b>W 23</b>	<b>X 0</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>J. Herr</b>	1549	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>J. Wagner</b>	2002	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>J. McGill</b>	Unr	<b>W 21</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>A. George</b>	1695	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>D. Meux</b>	1700	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>J. Leavitt</b>	1475	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>R. Hux</b>	1910	<b>H 0</b>	<b>X 0</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>R. Gruber</b>	1299	<b>L 10</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>2.5</b>
10	<b>T. Leacock</b>	1708	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>J. Solheim</b>	1688	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 18</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>B. Ryan</b>	1608	<b>W 24</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>B. B. Laun</b>	1512	<b>W 25</b>	<b>F 0</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>T. Benetz</b>	1344	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>2.0</b>
15	<b>B. Li</b>	1225	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
16	<b>T. Hack</b>	980	<b>L 2</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>2.0</b>
17	<b>R. F. Borchers</b>	842	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>2.0</b>
18	<b>J.C-Yue-Wan</b>	1277	<b>H 0</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
19	<b>J. Selvaraj</b>	1022	<b>L 20</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
20	<b>K. Prosterman</b>	1573	<b>W 19</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
21	<b>C. Roth</b>	1499	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 25</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>1.0</b>
22	<b>B. Houser</b>	1499	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>1.0</b>
23	<b>W. Broich</b>	1429	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 25</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>1.0</b>
24	<b>A. Golubow</b>	1308	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 22</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
25	<b>J. Mcfarland</b>	Unr	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 23</b>	<b>L 21</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>. 5</b>

## The 2009 June Plus Score Open

The June Plus Score Open was held at the C.U. Harper Center (student union) on the campus of Creighton University on June 27th. Winner of this event was Joe Knapp with 3.5 out of 4 points. The tournament was organized and directed by Ben Ryan.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1917	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>R. Hux</b>	1900	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1876	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1849	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>2.5</b>
5	<b>A. Mametjanov</b>	Unr	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>J. Solheim</b>	1618	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>J. Herr</b>	1565	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>D. Given</b>	1183	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
9	<b>G. Marks</b>	1600	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
10	<b>G. Wirka</b>	1539	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
11	<b>A. Golubow</b>	1305	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
12	<b>O. Spencer</b>	806	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
13	<b>T. Benetz</b>	1351	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## The Rated Beginners Open--1X

The Rated Beginners Open was held concurrently with the June Plus Score. The winner of this event was Nagi Reddy Munnangi with a perfect 6-0 score.

No	Name	Ratin	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd5	Rd	Tot
1	<b>N. R. Munnangi</b>	Unr	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>6-0</b>
2	<b>B. Grimminger</b>	768	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>5-1</b>
3	<b>A. Ulrich</b>	966	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>4-2</b>
4	<b>R. Luo</b>	Unr	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>3-3</b>
5	<b>J. Litel-Smith</b>	623	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3-3</b>
6	<b>J. Severa</b>	322	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2-4</b>
7	<b>R. Marcoux</b>	228	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>1-5</b>
8	<b>E. D'Souza</b>	640	<b>L 1</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>

# MY FIFTY YEARS OF UNFORGETTABLE CHESS EXPERIENCES

By  
Bob Woodworth

This article is a summary of all the unforgettable (and sometimes amazing) chess experiences and memories from many years of playing chess. Most of these relate to over-the-board tournaments & events associated with playing rated chess. (Also, a couple of these memories are from actual simul. play.)

My first tournament memory was one which really taught me a very good lesson concerning the importance of psychology and mental balance in a player's approach to the game. At 17 years of age and playing in a major tournament in New York State, your writer won his first 3 games in a 5-game, 2-day tourney.

Very elated and feeling extremely confident, your writer managed to drop a rook early in the 4<sup>th</sup> game leading to an early resignation. What a shock to my young system!! I lost the final game just as rapidly as if I had just learned the moves in the game of chess itself!! (I played so badly in that 5<sup>th</sup> round because I was still playing and replaying over in my head the shocking loss of that rook in the prior round!) Not until years later did I realize how valuable a chess experience such as this could be! (The very valuable lesson I learned was that one must play every tournament game with total & complete concentration. One cannot let any psychological 'shocks' or thoughts impair your chess playing abilities! Sometimes, however, this is much easier said than done!!)

In a previous "GAMBIT" article I mentioned the simul. game I played versus GM Max Euwe (a former World Chess Champion in the 1930's who was from the Netherlands) in Buffalo, New York when your writer was in college. Even though this simul. exhibition occurred over 49 years ago, it still seems like yesterday! One of the main thoughts I still have (especially when I see the newspaper photo of the event) is the images of the spectators in the background. As I recall, several of them were German rocket scientists

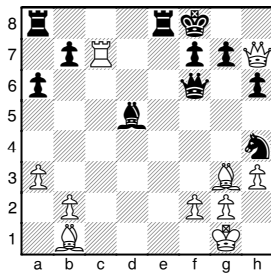
and physicists who had fled Germany after the war and were living and working in Buffalo, NY. Before the simul. had commenced and before the introduction of Dr. Euwe, several of them were very interested in meeting and enjoying talking with the Grandmaster. (Later, a friend of mine at the exhibition mentioned to me some of the gentlemen by name.) Just to think, because I was in college and couldn't afford to play in the simul., I had to doggedly scrape the money together and nearly didn't attend this extremely memorable, once-in-a-lifetime event!! In chess, one doesn't get to play a former World Champion everyday!

While in college, inter-collegiate team chess was a big event for our traveling 8-man chess team. A difficult chess memory of mine is the time when I lost a team event for our school all because of one hasty pawn move! Playing college team chess against other universities can be fun but also stressful for one does not want to let your team down by poor play. On this day, a New York City chess team visited our school in Buffalo, NY. We matched our players by rating strength from Board no.1 down to Board no.8. Your writer's game was the last to be finished but since the hour was growing late & the traveling team had to leave for the trip home, it was decided to adjudicate my game after I completed one more move. (The score between the two teams was tied exactly at 3 ½ points apiece so the result of my game would determine the outcome.) Feeling hurried, I made one very hasty pawn move giving my opponent a couple of key squares in my position. The Student Union where we were playing was about to close, so we adjourned to my dorm room for the adjudication of this final game. To my great dismay, all the resulting analysis definitely showed a win for my opponent. What a difficult loss but it was all part of a maturing process one has to go through in life. You win some and you also lose some, as they say. Also, it was reassuring to me that my University of Buffalo chess teammates understood & were very forgiving of my result!

Another vivid memory was in 1973, the year after Bobby Fischer's capturing of the World Chess Championship. Everyone who knew

how to play the game and even many who wanted to learn, were all absolutely 'chess crazed'. We will probably never, ever see such a great chess resurgence as we did in those times!! Since chess tournaments were being played everywhere, your writer and his wife took a trip to Kansas City to play in a Mr. Jack Winters tourney. The playing site was in a large, old hotel on Main Street in Kansas City, Mo. There were so many players in the playing hall that we were literally packed-in shoulder-to-shoulder. Once you were seated at your board you could just about forget to even think of leaving your seat since it was that crowded. Unbelievable!! On this trip, I really didn't impress my wife with the environments surrounding tournament chess. The water in our hotel room at the tourney site did not work but luckily(?) it was only at the sink and not the shower . While I was playing, my wife stayed downstairs near the playing room in an area near the lobby. This area turned-out to be the gathering spot for all of the elderly, very 'grizzled' men who lived at the hotel. Needless to say, my wife was not exactly a 'happy camper' in these surroundings. However, I did give her one main task and that was to locate an open gasoline station in the area even though it was early on a Sunday morning. That was the year of the infamous ARAB OIL EMBARGO and you had to purchase gasoline early in the day, since all the stations were always closed by noon! She accomplished the task. (Cars back then averaged only about 12 to 15 miles per gallon and we needed every drop in order to make it back home to Omaha!) What a chess memory that we have laughed & cried about since then. However, that was the last chess tournament trip my wife made with me for the next 25 years or so!!

The most memorable ending to a chess tournament, which was witnessed by this writer, was Mr. David Ackerman's final round tournament victory in the 1972 Sioux City Open. Dave was an extremely strong Expert-rated player from Omaha, Nebraska. Going into the final round on Sunday, Dave had a perfect 4-0 score. (Rich Chess & John Watson also had perfect scores but drew their



The longest continuous tournament game that your writer can

game from a prior round over-extended into the next round. These adjournments were done with a ‘sealed move’ & the game to be continued later in the tourney.) The format for this tournament was one round on Friday, three on Saturday and one final round on Sunday. Your writer, in this last round, started play on Sunday morning at 09:30 am. I finished by noon and was back home mowing my lawn by 1:00 pm. (Mr. Dittrichs and Mr. Popel were only about one-third through their game by then!) In fact, their game did not end until 7:35 pm that Sunday evening with Mr. Popel winning in 115 moves plus also winning the tournament outright!! What a gigantic effort to play for 10+ hours with the tournament title & trophy on-the-line!! All of this was done with no adjournments since this was a last round game. (As a note, in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> places were: John Tomas. John Watson, Rich Chess, Alexander Liepnieks and Marshall Rohland.) For this writer, Mr. Popel richly deserved his victory for such a grueling and tiring contest!!

Another very good memory is from a simul. in 1998 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. The tournament was the National Open with World Champion Anatoly Karpov as a special guest. The entrance into the playing hall by GM Karpov was with truly amazing, spine-tingling, ear-shattering yelling and applause!! It was as if a very famous Rock-star had just entered the room. I’ll never, ever forget it!!! (There were so many players present & pressing forward that I had to stand on a chair just to get a good view!) GM Karpov was to give a simultaneous exhibition of 30 boards but 180 players had signed-up so a drawing had to be held to determine the lucky contestants. Your writer wasn’t successful but as a consolation there were two additional simul. being held where one could play either GM Joel Benjamin (the current U.S. Champion) or GM Dimitri Gurevich. (I chose to play GM Benjamin who was conducting a 24-board simul. Some players got a refund of their simul. entry fee and I vaguely recall even a 4<sup>th</sup> simul. for the overflow still wanting to play.) My game versus GM Benjamin was a once-in-lifetime achievement. Playing the Black pieces, I was able to obtain my favorite variation in the Center-Counter Defense. I could tell GM

Benjamin was in a variation he had never played before. Finally to my great surprise, I obtained the initiative with both rooks doubled on Benjamin's 2<sup>nd</sup> rank. I was, as they say in the sporting world, "in the zone" for it seemed as if all my moves, especially near the end of the game, came so easily to me. It is just so hard to explain! After 45 moves, GM Benjamin was very kind enough to concede the lost ending to me. What an amazing, totally unexpected chess playing experience! I still wonder at times if this game actually happened. (As a side note: Chess is probably the only sport or activity where an amateur player can directly compete with a National or even a World Champion. In all other sports this is not possible but can only occur in the game of chess in a simultaneous chess exhibition.)

Finally, one last indelible memory is meeting and playing in a simul. versus former World Chess Champion GM Boris Spassky at the 2005 Western States Open Chess Tournament in Reno, Nevada. What a gentleman and what a class act this man is!! To shake his hand & briefly talk with him I could easily see why GM Robert Fischer thought so much of him. Due to his great popularity, GM Spassky was invited to appear for 3 straight years at the Western States Open in Reno. (I found out later that in all of the simul.games he conducted over that time, he did not lose one single game!!) I've since forgotten my tournament games from this 2005 Western States Open but meeting and talking with GM Spassky, I'll never forget! I suppose of all these chess memories, this recalling of the meeting with GM Boris Spassky is probably my fondest and most memorable of them all.)

Well, in conclusion, these have been my most vivid chess playing experiences. I believe that the game of chess is such a rich & enjoyable adventure that along the way there will occur for everyone some wonderful memories which are the result being involved in such a rewarding activity and lifelong hobby. To me the memories really show how great this "King of all the games" truly is!!

**Robert Woodworth**

## Book Review

by

**John Watson**

### **Anton Sildmets by Kent B. Nelson; 148 pages 2009**

Subtitled *'The Life and Games of a Nebraska Chess Icon'*

Kent Nelson's new book is, first and foremost, a tribute to the late Anton Sildmets (1925-2007). Sildmets was a leading player in Nebraska chess for over 4 decades, winner of the 1962 Nebraska State Championship as well as 4-time Lincoln City Champion. In Sildmets' heyday, Lincoln had a thriving and competitive chess community; among other events, it sponsored and hosted the U.S. Open in 1969, and then again in 1975.

Sildmets, a refugee from Estonia, came to the United States in 1949; Nelson describes his early days and work in Lincoln, and includes Sildmets' own accounts of his life. Sildmets learned chess as an adult and improved rapidly, establishing himself as a threat to the top Midwest masters. His specialty, and his claim to fame, was correspondence chess. Sildmets became Golden Knight Correspondence Champion in 1964; at the time this was the undisputed national championship. Sildmets is also a member of the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. The book contains 75 of his games, and some striking photographs of the man himself.

The book contains much more than Sildmets' career. It begins with 6 pages on notation, clocks, tournaments, ratings, tips on how to improve your chess, and other subjects relevant to players just starting out in chess. In that respect, young players who know the rules but want to get more involved in chess will get a good introduction to it, as well as a collection of games to play over. Nelson has also included some humorous chess writing and several personal stories and reflections about chess. The book ends with some personal accounts from members of Sildmets' family, and a section on the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame with photos and brief descriptions of its inductees.

To my mind, the book's primary value, apart from chronicling Sildmets' life and games, is to preserve a broad swath of Nebraska

chess history. From its many tournament descriptions, crosstables, and pictures, we run across the most prominent players of an era, as well as various fixtures on the chess scene in Lincoln and Omaha. Nelson devotes separate sections, with games, to Alexander Liepniks, a prominent organizer and many-time state and city champion; Delmar Saxton, state champion; and Jack Spence, who is still well known around the world as an author and publisher (especially of the 'Spence Editions' series). Among Sildmets' opponents we find other names that will rekindle the memories of Midwestern chessplayers: Howard Ohman (Nebraska's greatest player and 23-time state champion); Loren Schmidt; John Tomas; Bob Woodworth; Bud Narveson; Gary Colvin; Marvin Katz; Wayne Pressnall; Rodney Malpert; Jim Jirousek; Mike Blankenau; Rich Chess; Mike Chess; Al Lawrence; Elliott Winslow, Curtis Carlsen, Ben Fabrikant; Tom O'Conner; Gary Marks; and many others, including of course Kent Nelson himself. Naturally, many other familiar names pop up in the text and crosstables.

The author is a mainstay of the Nebraska chess community and 8-time Lincoln City Champion. Nelson has done massive research, scouring old issues of the Nebraska state chess magazine *The Gambit* (of which he has been editor in the past, and is again at present), *The Nebraska State Chess Bulletin*, and *The H.E. Ohman Memorial Chess Club Newsletter*, as well as conducting interviews and doing background research. He has an obvious affection for his subject, and his stories add a personal touch to the book.

I don't doubt that the primary audience for this work will be Nebraskan and Midwestern chessplayers and fans, who will bask in memories of days gone by and revisit events and people they may have forgotten about. It's pretty much required reading for any such who profess an interest in the chess of the time (primarily 1960-2000). But chess book collectors and chess historians everywhere will also want to have a copy; and novices, especially Nebraskans, can learn about chess from its introductory material while finding out a bit about the chess scene that surrounds them.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Kent Nelson for providing us with this unique and charming book.

# The Struggle for Initiative

by

**Alex Golubow**

Here is another game with the same opening move 1. a4..., which I was lucky to win. I would like to share it with you for a couple of reasons.

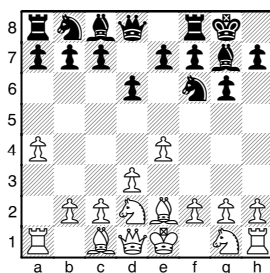
First, because my opponent had chosen quite a different approach in his reaction to my first move. Secondly, there was a peculiar theme of ignoring the opponent's attacking piece, while pursuing my own goals: I've let the opponents Knight forage in my backyard and come back safely to the middle of the board... And thirdly, this game is a good example of constant struggle for the initiative on both sides.

I knew that Larry Harvey is a good chess player, he had a rating close to 1900 a few years ago. I had lost a game to him in Cornhusker State Games Open this year, in which I had an initiative but then faltered and lost. So I was determined this time not to lose it (the initiative) no matter what...

**Alex Golubow (1538) - Larry Harvey (1700)**

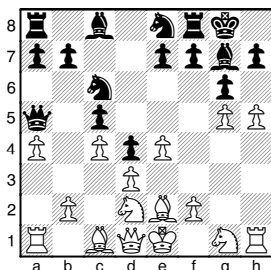
Polar Bear Chess, G60, Lincoln, Ne 10.18.08

**1.a4 Nf6 2.d3 g6 3.e4...** Noticing that Larry is ignoring the center, I decided to spare a tempo and advanced my e-pawn two squares this time, with the intention of bothering his Knight and blocking the main diagonal h1-a8. But Larry is on guard **3. ... d6 4.Nd2 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0** (Diagram)



It's my opinion that castling at this early stage isn't a good idea, since you lose a tempo when you most need it for developing your pieces. Besides, you more or less permanently fix the position of your King for the rest of the game, so that an opponent gets an early opportunity to decide on the right strategy and aim his pieces to the right location. Also, I've noticed that Larry loosened the structure of pawns guarding his King and decided to take an advantage of this right away

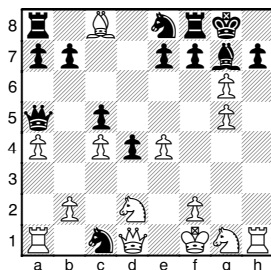
**6.h4! c5 7.g4! Nc6 8.c3 d5 9.g5 Ne8 10.h5 d4 11.c4 Qa5?!... (Diagram)**



I've managed to lock the center, which is to my advantage due to the open position of my King and to advance the pair of my King side pawns to Black's side of the board. And I believe, that committing the Black Queen to the Queen side of the board when there was an immediate threat to his King was not a good idea...

**12.Bg4!? Ne5!...** I must admit that I had missed the Black's last move in my calculations, but moving now my Bishop back would have given the initiative to Black. So, I decided to proceed with my plan: **13.Bxc8 Nxd3+ 14.Kf1 Nxc1...**

And here Black was obviously counting on my taking the Knight and his taking of my Bishop and my initiative would have died out... So, I decided to add more fire to the board: **15.hg!!...** Please see the diagram on the next page.



This is a mind boggling, irrational position very hard to deal with at the board. While I was able, I believe, to find in my post-mortem analysis the narrow path of escape for Black if he would have taken my Bishop, it was virtually impossible to do that under the time pressure at the board and that's what I was counting on, also (Larry spent quite some time trying to figure out things correctly). I invite you to spend some time at this diagram to appreciate the complexity of the position...

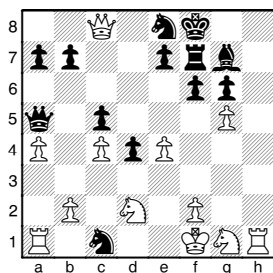
I'll briefly show you the hint of complications arising if Black takes the Bishop - 15. ... Rxc8?! (or may be !?..., I don't know) 16. Qh5!? h6 17 gh... and here the endless complications begin, which would scare the majority of chess players from following this path...

Though, a computer would have found the solution pretty easy, I guess, since it doesn't have nerves, the main human factor, which determines our way of play. Most of us tend to play "safely", instinctively avoiding sharp continuations...

If Black doesn't take the Bishop and takes the pawn instead - 15. ... fg?!, then I save my Bishop by 16. Be6+..., take his Knight on c1 and soon finish the job on the King side flank.

So, Larry takes my pawn with another one - 15. ... hg, which I expected, meanwhile opening the h-file for my Rook - 16.Qg4! Rxc8...

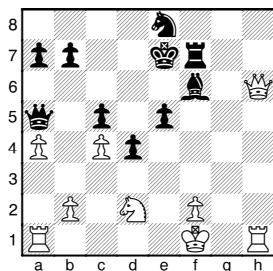
Here again, I guess, Larry was counting on my taking his Rook and him taking my Knight by 16. ... Qxd2. But by doing so I was going to lose my initiative, again. So, I threatened him with one move checkmate first - 17.Qh3 (...18. Qh7#) f6 18.Qe6+! Rf7 19.Qxc8 Kf8?! (!?)



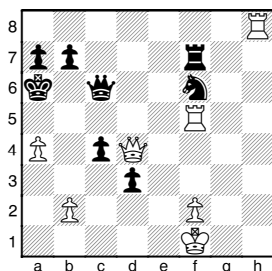
I've managed to take his Rook with tempo and maintain my pressure on his position. But here also, I believe, Larry failed to bring his Queen back into play and to take the initiative over from me by taking my Knight. The game might have continued like this:

19.. ... Qxd2!? 20. Qxe8+ Rf8 21. Qxe7 fg!? 22. Qe6+ Rf7 23. Rh2 (23. Qe8+ Bf8!?...) Nd3!? 24. Nh3 Nf4!? 25. Nxf4 Qxf4... And my position would have been worse...

**20.Ngf3 Nd3 21.g:f ef 22.Qg4 g5 23.e5 Nxe5 24.Nxe5 fe 25.Qxg5?! (Nf3!?...) Bf6 26.Qh6+ Ke7?! (Bg7!?...)**



**27.Ne4 Qb4 28.Nxf6?!(Qc1!?...) Qxc4+ 29.Kg2 Nxf6 30.Qg5 Qd5+ 31.Kg1 d3 32.Re1 Kd6 33.Rh6 Qe6 34.Re3 c4 35.Rf3 Ke7 36.Qd2 Rg7+?(Qg4!?...) 37.Kf1 Rf7 38.Qb4+ Kd8 39.Rh8+ Kc7 40.Qc5+ Qc6 41.Qxe5+ Kb6 42.Qd4+ Ka6 43.Rf5....** Please see the diagram on the next page.



Here I've noticed that his flag had fallen and pointed that out to him... **1-0**

All in all, I would say, that we both played the game not too bad, making a few inaccuracies, but not the decisive mistake. And the game was still undecided when Larry's flag fell. It's just I kept presenting him with the problems to solve that he finally ran out of time, while I've had about 20 minutes left...

And that's what the initiative is about. At least, the psychological one. And chess game has a lot to do with psychology.

I've heard an opinion that chess game can be completely described in terms of material, pawn structure, space and time. It may be so... The problem is that human brain can choose only between two alternatives at a time (I've heard that from the licensed psychologist. He even tried to teach me the right way of thinking in chess, but I'd found that it's easier said than done). That's why computers utilize a binary code in their way of "thinking". So, that they would never have to deal with more than one alternative at a time. And when a human brain has to do with three or more parameters at a time it is bound to make a mistake sooner or later. That's why we never had nor will have a perfect chess game between human beings ever...

My pawn structure was horrible in this game, but I doubt I would have won it if I'd tried to pay attention to this factor. I would never have advanced my pawns that far in the opening, in the first place...

So, my conclusion is - Enjoy *playing* chess, do not try to make science out of it during the game. It's impossible... At least, this is my opinion and approach to chess. Do your homework, study hard and use your creativity and imagination while playing actual game. Do not be afraid to lose the game. There is no better way of learning than learning from your mistakes...

And to this effect, the book by Nebraskan author IM John Watson: *The secrets of modern chess strategy* - advances since Nimtsovich, helped me a lot. After reading this book last winter I thought that the more appropriate title for it would have been the refutation of Nimtsovich, because by numerous examples from the games of world class chess players like Kasparov, Anand, Shirov, Kramnik and the rest John Watson puts in serious doubt every single postulate and principle of Nimtsovich, asserting that chess is a dynamic, fluid game with concrete moves in every position...

Basically, inferring that all the rules we need to know to play chess - we already know, that is, how pieces and pawns move and that the rest is up to our creativity and imagination...

Indeed, think of the Norwegian prodigy - Magnus Carlsen!... The boy became a GM at the age of 13 in a country with no firm chess tradition. And the kid got interested in chess just because he was losing games to his older sister and got motivated to beat her at the board. I doubt, he ever read Nimtsovich or some other chess author. He even declined the chess sessions offered to him by then World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov!... And recently the lad was briefly occupying the number one position in the live rating list!...

## “Pretty as a Picture”

by

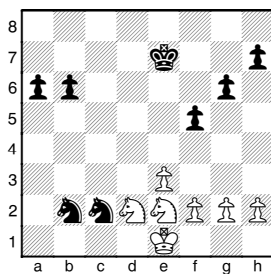
Kent B. Nelson

During your chess career, have you ever had a position with an unusual configuration? And you think, “Gosh, I wish I had a picture of this.” “It would look so good in the Gambit and make the world a better place, I know what I’ll do, I’ll submit for others to marvel at.” As your editor, let me be the first to offer this wonderful example from one of my games. . .

Mike Carney (1925) - Kent Nelson (1950) [A16]

Last Chance Open (4), 28.01.1989

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Qb3 Nb6 7.d4 0-0 8.Be2 Be6 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.a3 Na5 11.0-0 Bb3 12.Qd2 Nac4 13.Qe1 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nd4 Bc4 16.b3 Bxe2 17.Ndxe2 Qe7 18.a4 Rfd8 19.Ba3 c5 20.Qb1 Rac8 21.Ra2 a6 22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 Rd8 24.Rd2 Rxd2 25.Qxd2 Qg5 26.Ng3 Qe7 27.a5 Qd7 28.Qxd7 Nbx d7 29.Nce4 c4 30.bxc4 Nxc4 31.Bb4 Bf8 32.Be1 f5 33.Ng5 Nde5 34.Ne6 Be7 35.Nd4 Bd8 36.Nb3 Nc6 37.Nc5 Bxa5 38.Kf1 Bxe1 39.Kxe1 Nd6 40.Kd1 Kf7 41.Ne2 Ke7 42.Nc3 Nb4 43.Ne2 b6 44.Nb3 Nc4 45.Nd2 Nb2+ 46.Ke1 Nc2+ (D) (It’s not everyday you see knights lined up like that!)



47.Kf1 Kd6 48.Nc1 Kc5 49.Ke2 a5 50.Nd3+ Nxd3 51.Kxd3 Nb4+ 52.Kc3 Nd5+ 53.Kb3 b5 54.Nf3 a4+ 55.Ka3 Nb6 56.Nd4 b4+ 57.Ka2 Kc4 58.Kb2 Nd5 59.Ne2 Nc3 60.Nd4 Nd1+ 61.Kc1 Nxf2 62.Nc2 Nd3+ 63.Kd2 Nc5 64.Ne1 a3 65.Kc2 b3+ 66.Kb1 Kc3 0-1

# The Wonderful Mr. Wall

by

Kent B. Nelson

This past summer the Lincoln Chess Foundation hosted their annual chess camp. Chess instructors from Nebraska as well as instructors from neighboring states provided chess entertainment and instructions for kids from Grade school all the way up to High school.

Instructors included the organizer and Lincoln Chess Foundation President, Tom Lombard, State champion, Keaton Kiewra, International master, John Watson, and up and coming Columbus star, Nathan Klatt.

Brian Wall was the foundation guest instructor from Colorado.

Brian who is a rated chess master is also good friends with our own, John Watson. Brian kindly agreed to step in on short notice to help teach kids at the camp.

I've known Mr. Wall since the early eighties. He and I played a very tough game years ago. The game was the longest in my chess career consuming nearly 7 hours. The game took place during a Estes Park tournament in Colorado.

For the record, here is the game. . . .

**B. Wall**, (2200) - K. Nelson, (2065) [B35]

Estes Park, Colorado October 2nd 1982

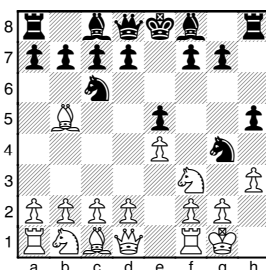
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6  
7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.Be2 a5 11.a4 d6 12.f4 Be6  
13.Bf3 Nb4 14.Rf2 Bxb3 15.cxb3 Nd7 16.Rc1 Nc5 17.Rd2 Rac8  
18.Nb5 Qb8 19.e5 Nbd3 20.Rxd3 Nxd3 21.Rxc8 Qxc8 22.Qxd3  
dxe5 23.fxe5 Bxe5 24.Qe4 Bxb2 25.Qxe7 Re8 26.Qc5 Qe6 27.Kf2  
Rc8 28.Qg5 Bf6 29.Qf4 Rc2+ 30.Be2 Be5 31.Qe4 Bg3+ 32.Kf3  
Qxe4+ 33.Kxe4 Rxe2 34.hxg3 Rxg2 35.Bf4 g5 36.Bc7 h5 37.Kf3  
Rd2 38.Bxa5 Rd3+ 39.Kf2 Rxb3 40.Bd8 Rb2+ 41.Kg1 h4  
42.gxh4 gxh4 43.Nd6 h3 44.a5 Kg7 45.Bb6 Kg6 46.Nxb7 Kg5  
47.Nc5 Kg4 48.Nd3 Rg2+ 49.Kh1 Re2 50.a6 f5 51.a7 Ra2  
52.Nb4 Ra1+ 53.Kh2 f4 54.Bf2 Kf3 55.Bd4 Ra3 56.Kxh3 Ke4+  
57.Kg2 Ra4 58.Bb6 Kf5 59.Nd5 Kg4 60.Nc7 Ra2+ 61.Kf1 Ra1+  
62.Kf2 Ra2+ 63.Ke1 Ra1+ 64.Kd2 Ra2+ 65.Kd3 Ra3+ 66.Ke4  
Ra4+ 67.Bd4 f3 68.Nd5 f2 69.Nc3 Rxa7 70.Bxf2 ½-½

Having played Mr. Wall, I was naturally interested in his chess progress and results. This was easy to track because Mr. Wall would have frequent e-mailing of his tournament results. His e-mails provided a number of his games and some unique observations and comments. Mr. Wall's e-mailing continues to this day.

### Mr. Wall's Opening Chess Weapon

It was during his deluge of e-mail messages, that I learned about Mr. Wall's pet defense against the white side of the Ruy Lopez. He calls it the **Fishing Pole**. Here is the move order resulting in the "fishing pole."

**1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. O-O Ng4!! 8. h3 h5!!**



### The Fishing Pole Rules

This line against the Ruy Lopez is no joke. Mr. Wall has defeated a number of very strong players with it, most notably, our own, eight-time Nebraska State Chess champion, Keaton Kiewra. The contest occurred during the 2002 Governor's Cup in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

I witnessed that game in progress and I remember that Keaton wasn't beaten in the opening but it required some additional thinking time to work thru the opening variations. The opening resulted in a very complex middle game.

## **The Fishing Pole strikes again**

Mr. Wall remembered to bring his opening weapon to the Lincoln Chess Club. Mr. Wall wrote about his club experience and here is some of his comments. . .

### **Mr. Wall Speaks. . .**

(With some edits from Kent Nelson)

“There was a guy there, Kent Nelson, who remember playing me in Estes Park, Colorado 30 years ago. I was White against an Accelerated Dragon ( Keaton's GM weapon of choice ) and I ground him down in an endgame. (*The drawn game is given on page 34-Ed*) Kent said he was or is on my email list. Kent edits *The Gambit*. . . Kent is almost done with a tribute book on a top Nebraska player.”

“All the Nebraska men looked tough as nails with sunburned, muscular arms from decades of brutal farm work. It was a heat wave all week, like 110 degrees.

There was some laconic, typical tough Nebraskan at the Chess Club. Nebraska is one giant farm where everyone works three times as hard as the rest of the United States. They work dawn to dusk to put meat, milk and corn on our dinner tables, fighting drought, dirt storms, locusts, taxes, environmentalists, etc.”

Lincoln Chess Club

June 25, 2009

Crowd, Tom ( Camp Director ), John Watson, Kent Nelson,  
Camp Counselor Nathan ( 6' 9" )

Antagonists -

White -Nebraskan Karl Feiste, 1800,

Black -Life Master Brian Wall, 2202

## Opening -Fishing Pole

Thursday Evening, after a wonderful Indian meal at the Oven with the Camp staff:

### Casual game

The conversation opened like this:

Brian -

Do you want to play Chess with a clock?

Karl,

No, no clock

[Event "Lincoln Chess Club casual game"]

[Site "3rd floor, downtown Lincoln, NE"]

[Date "2009.06.25"]

[Round "1"]

[White "Karl Feiste"]

[Black "B-Wall"]

[Result "0-1"]

[ICCRresult "White resigns"]

[WhiteElo "1800"]

[BlackElo "2202"]

[Opening "Ruy Lopez: Berlin defense, 4.O-O, Fishing Pole, Hyper-Pole"]

[ECO "C65"]

[NIC "RL.07"]

[Time "07:23:28"]

[TimeControl "None"]

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. O-O Ng4!!**

I already beat the 7 time State Champion in a slow game with the Fishing Pole, surely no one else in Nebraska stood a ghost of a chance.

Brian - I announce mate in 10.

Karl-gritting his teeth, determined not to allow that

**5. c3 a6 6. Ba4 Bc5 7. d4 Ba7**

Karl -What's this nonsense?

Brian -This is the Hyper-Pole. You are playing its inventor.

Karl, What, what, how do you spell all this?

Karl carefully writes down, Fishing Pole, Hyper-Pole, Brian Douglas Wall on his score sheet.

**8. h3 h5!!**

I am a scientist testing lab rats under stressful conditions.  
My control group plays the London System.

9. **Bg5?** very popular mistake.

9 ... **f6!!** Initiating the pawn wave.

10. **Bh4?** very popular mistake.

10 ... **g5!!**

Fritz has taught me that ... g5 can be started without playing ... d6 first and Rybka 3 agrees.

11. **Bxc6?** very popular mistake. Typical trade trade-lose stuff

11 ... **dx6!!**

My Queen's Bishop wants to help out with tempo. 11 ... bc! is OK but 11 ... gh?? 12 Bd5!! is all wrong, killing my attack.

**12. Bg3 h4!! 13. Bh2 Nxh2!! 14. Nxh2**

Just handing over an extra pawn and two bishops versus two knights but my intended 14 K:h2 g4!! is very strong.  
 14 K:h2 g4!! 15 Ng1 I have multiple wins - 15 ... gh, ... ed, ... Qd6 14 K:h2 g4!! 15 hg B:g4 16 de? h3!! killer would follow almost any 16th move by Karl.

**14 ...exd4!**

I didn't get my mate in 10 but I have an easy endgame to execute. Having IM John Watson watching made me nervous.

**15. cxd4 Qxd4 16. Nc3 Qxd1! 17. Raxd1! Be6! 18. Rd2**

**18 ... Ke7! 19. Rfd1! Rad8! 20. Rxd8 Rxd8! 21. Rxd8! Kxd8! 22. b3 Ke7 23. Nf3 Bc5 24. Kf1! Bb4 25. Nb1 c5!!**

Trying to undouble my pawns and activate my 4-2 Queenside majority, backed up by two bishops. In Colorado we call this a slam dunk.

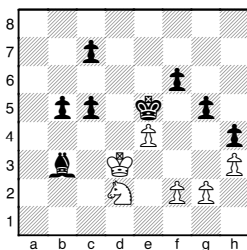
**26. Nbd2 b5 27. Ke2! a5 28. Kd3! a4 29. Kc2 Bxd2**

I thought my King could finally invade on the dark squares if I removed one White Knight.

**30. Nxd2! Kd6 31. Kc3 Ke5**

Multiple wins. 31 ... a3!! is very difficult to cope with.

**32. Kd3 axb3!! 33. axb3! Bxb3!! 0-1 White resigns**



Final Position-0-1



Photo from Brian's  
MySpace web site.

## **Camp Comments about Drunken Penguins**

Excerpt from Brian Wall



I have never been to France or met Noe Van Hulst but I wish he was at the Camp. I haven't laughed so hard in years. I had the children imitate animals and then I would show them the appropriate animal opening. I was convulsed against the blackboard with laughter when the kids imitated " Seeing Double Drunken Penguin". They were waddling around bumping into walls and telling each other they saw two of them. Some kids stumbled to the floor and couldn't seem to get up. The Drunken penguin was a HUGE hit with the kids.

" They have tried to teach me the Sicilian until the cows come home but I will never learn to play that opening right. You can learn the Drunken Penguin in two moves! "

## Tournament Life

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at  
**NSCA.Nechess.com**

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact Ben Ryan at  
**ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com** to schedule a date.

Oct 10	35th Annual Polar Bear	Lincoln	POY, U1500 Junior, K-3
Oct 17	Spring Lake Magnet Tournament	Omaha	non-rated K-8
Nov 7	2009 Great Plains Open	Omaha	POY, rated open
Nov 7	Rated Beginners Open X	Omaha	U1200, U800
Nov 14	Gere Library Tournament	Lincoln	non-rated K-2, K-5, K-8 non-rated open
Nov 21	9th Annual Omaha Central High Tournament	Omaha	non-rated K-12, adults rated open
Dec 5	December Plus Score	Omaha	rated open
Dec 5	Rated Beginners Open XI	Omaha	rated U1200, U800
Dec 19	3rd Annual Millard South Tournament	Omaha	

**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson  
4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE  
68510**