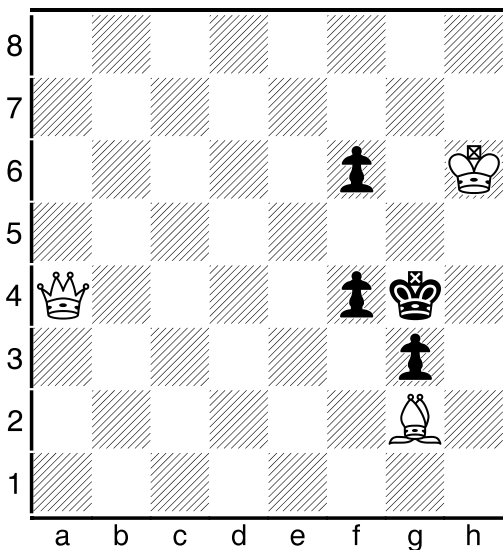


The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



White to play & mate in 2 moves

Original composition by
Robert Woodworth (October, 2009)

January-February 2010

Gambit Editor: Kent Nelson

The Gambit serves as the official publication of the Nebraska State Chess Association and is published by the Lincoln Chess Foundation.

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Send memberships and address changes to:

Ben Ryan

4423 Frederick St.

Omaha, Nebraska

68105

Send all games, articles, and editorial materials to:

Kent Nelson

4014 "N" St

Lincoln, NE 68510

Kentnelson@prodigy.net

NSCA Officers

President Gary Marks

Treasurer Jeffrey Solheim

Historical Archivist Bob Woodworth

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For Chess Club information please visit the NSCA web site.

<p>Letter from NSCA President Gary Marks</p>

Jan 20, 2010

Dear NSCA members and the Nebraska chess community,

I would like to give a special thank you to Ben Ryan, along with the rest of the NSCA and officers and members. Ben Ryan, our NSCA Secretary, has directed most of the NSCA Tournaments, recently. Ben has also organized and directed tournaments in Lincoln and Omaha. The Nebraska Chess Community is grateful for his hard work and time spent on Nebraska Chess. Ben has also been organizing and directing “Play for the Pieces” tournaments. These tournaments have been bringing numerous young players into USCF rated chess.

The next Play for the Pieces tournament is March 20, 2010. These tournaments give a free punch card. After six tournaments punched, players receive a free tournament regulation chess set along with board and bag, thus the name, Play for the Pieces.

Ben has also given us a vision for future Nebraska Chess. Ben has asked us to step up to the plate and organize more tournaments outside Lincoln and Omaha.

We also need to schedule The Great Plains tournament to its ordinary date in the Spring instead of the Fall. If anyone is willing to do this, please contact me.

The State Individual Scholastic Chess Championship needs to be organized as soon as possible. The Polgar Girls Championship also needs organized and directed as soon as possible. The NSCA Scholastic Team Championships also must be organized and directed in short order.

I would like to close by thanking Mike Gooch, John Watson, Kent Nelson, and Jeff Solheim for their NSCA work.

Gary T Marks-President NSCA

From Kent's Corner

It is my pleasure to welcome you with another issue of the *Gambit*. This is the first of 4 issues for 2010 and my goal this year is to make the *Gambit* a better newsletter. One idea I have to enhance the *Gambit* is to include more photos of various chess players in the state. As most of you know, I have written a book that covers over 40 years of Nebraska chess. One reason for the book's success is the photographs of chessplayers from passed decades. Perhaps down the line another book will be written that is augmented with photos of present and future players in Nebraska. Nothing like having chess player pictures in a chess newsletter for possible book inclusion down the road right!?

This editor is very grateful to Bob Woodworth for his articles and his cover diagram. Special thanks to Ben Ryan for organizing, directing and sending results of his tournaments for *Gambit* publication. Ben has also provided game scores from over a years worth of his tournaments. While nearly 90 percent of game scores that are submitted are not legible, the ones that are will be always given consideration for publication.

Special thanks to 2 time consecutive Lincoln City Chess Champion, Mirko Zeljko for providing the only chess photograph for this issue. Speaking of champions, thanks to Omaha City co-champion, Joe Knapp for providing his games from recent tournaments.

A very heartfelt thanks to John Watson for taking time out from his very busy schedule to annotate games for this issue. Thanks again John!

My very sincere thanks to dozens of *Gambit* readers who purchased my book and for all the positive comments and feedback.

Please know I'll be changing from a "book bug" to a "shutter bug" in upcoming tournaments. Be sure to say "chess" when I'm sticking a camera in your face.

I hope you enjoy the issue. Next issue due out in May, 2010.

Kent Nelson-Ed

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News and Notes

- The 2009 Midwest Open that was held Saturday, January 16th 2010 and provided the final 2 seats for the 2010 NSCA Closed Championship as well as the Final POY totals (details attached). Doug Taffinder Jr. is the 2009 Midwest Open winner with 4pts. The 2009 Player of the Year is Joe Knapp with 19.5pts, scored. Kent Nelson is the 2009 POY Runner-Up with 19pts. Of special note are Kent Nelson and Gary Marks who were the only two players to participate in all 7 POY events for 2009; while Joe Knapp, Ben Ryan, and Alexander Golubow each only missed a single event. All of these players should be commended for their strong support of chess in Nebraska. Report submitted by *Ben Ryan*.

2010 NSCA Closed Seats

2009 Returning Champion - Keaton Kiewra

Cornhusker State Games (1st & 2nd tied) - Albert Zhou

Cornhusker State Games (1st & 2nd tied) - Mirko Zeljko

Great Plains Open - Joe Knapp

Midwest Open - Doug Taffinder Jr.

2009 Player of the Year - Joe Knapp (Runner up is Kent Nelson)

POY points are as follows

19.5 - Joe Knapp (2010 Player of the Year)

19.0 - Kent Nelson (Runner-Up)

13.0 - Gary Marks (Class B 1600-1799)

12.5 - Ben Ryan (Reserve U1600)

10.5 - Jeff Solheim

10.0 - John Linscott

10.0 - Austin Wegener (Junior Under 21yrs)

9.0 - Alexander Golubow---Information submitted by Ben Ryan.

- Congratulations to Joe Knapp and John Herr for winning the 2009 Omaha City Chess Championship.
- Likewise to his Lincoln counterpart, Mirko Zelijo for winning his 2nd consecutive Lincoln City Championship.
- I'm happy to report I can see clearly now. I flipped on my chess glasses.
- Great news about 2nd grader, Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan. Have you heard? Joseph went down to Dallas, TX and competed in the 2009 National K-12 Championship held on December 11th thru December 13th and tied for 2nd place with 5 other players with his age group. Joseph score 6 out of 7 points. There was 127 players in his section. Way to go Joseph! You have made Nebraska proud! Look forward to a tournament report by Tom O'Conner in the next issue of the Gambit!

- You could be wondering what the solution is was for the diagram cover for the September 2009 issue of the Gambit. This diagram was composed by Alex Golubow & Robert Woodworth. It is White to play & mate in 3 moves. The solution is
- A very special thanks to Alex Golubow who sponsored the Lincoln City Chess Championship. If it wasn't for Alex's support, the city championship (won by Mirko Zeljko for the second consecutive year!) would not have taken place.
- Speaking of the City Championships, Omaha welcomes players outside the Omaha city limits, Lincoln does not. Starting in 2011, how about Lincoln following Omaha's example and allow players from across the state to participate in Lincoln City Championships? I'm sure it will increase attendance. The Lincoln event had 5 players in 2008, 10 players in 2009. Worth consideration at least.
- Being a astute Gambit reader, I'm sure you noticed a disproportionate number of my games printed in this issue. It's really up to you to provide games to make the Gambit a better read. Please submit your games!
- Kudos to John Herr for his excellent work on the NSCA web site.
- Please welcome to Nebraska the 2009 Midwest Open winner, Doug Taffinder Jr. Doug is a rated chess expert. I understand Doug is stationed in Offutt AFB. Please thank Doug for serving our country too.
- Although I don't usually have any use for gossip, word is out that Omaha organizer and director, Drew Thyden may sell NSCA memberships. This would be wonderful news and very much appreciated by the NSCA. Drew, please send your tournament results to the Gambit, as editor, I'll be delighted to publish them.
- I pulled some chess club information from the NSCA web site. It is on page 17. Please note the chess club information maybe outdated.

MY UNREALIZED (UNTIL NOW), BASIC CHESS LESSONS (OR chess truths in life that my mother never taught me!!)

Bob Woodworth

I'm rapidly approaching 70 years of age and have been playing chess since I was about twelve or thirteen. (Can't really remember except that I first saw the game described in an old set of encyclopedias in our home in New York State.) This was before there were any television sets in most homes and to find something new to occupy my time with my four brothers was really great!

After seeing and replying to an advertisement in "Boys Life" magazine (a national publication by the Boy Scouts of America national organization) for the U.S. Chess Federation, this whole, new world of chess was opened to me. I joined and received "Chess Life" as a newspaper which was published and mailed to our home every two weeks. Postal or correspondence chess was also offered as well as advertisements for chess literature & chess sets. (In those days there wasn't such a vast field of chess books being published as there is today and each book was a great and highly cherished treasure.) To date I've probably read (if not lightly perused) and accumulated nearly 4,000 chess books in my library.

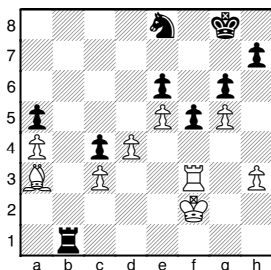
The basic premise of this "GAMBIT" article are some chess concepts which I've only realized in the past year in spite of reading & playing chess for the past 56+ years or so. (One would think that I'd have 'seen it all' or even 'read it all' since spending so much time on the game itself. I guess it only proves that there is always something new to learn and that none of us ever stop learning!!)

Anyway, here are three (new to this writer) concepts I'd never heard (or read) before. Hard to believe but this is the absolute truth in that I was never aware of these following tidbits of great chess advice until recently!!

- Always strive to improve the position of your worst positioned piece.
- Queen or rook(s) works best with a geometrically-opposed piece in movement.
- Counting the captured pieces removed from the chessboard is not as important as the activity (& positional quality) of material left on the board.

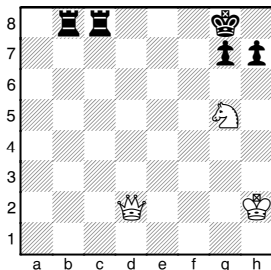
Years ago in a tournament in Lincoln, NE & as an 1800-rated player, I remember seeing a highly rated expert analyze one of my tournament games and I couldn't believe all that I'd missed or even failed to consider!! It taught me a good lesson that we are all constantly learning in this game we call CHESS!! Now for the 1st item on the above list of newly realized concepts by your writer:

One should always strive to recognize and improve the position of your worst positioned piece. (In all my years of tournament chess, I don't ever remember asking myself this question during a game let alone realizing this basic concept!!) In the 2009 Cornhusker State Games in my Round 2 game versus Mirko Zeljko (who had the White pieces) an excellent possibility of this occurred on my 43rd move. See the following position after White's 43.Kf2 where your writer (who was Black) played 43...Ra1??



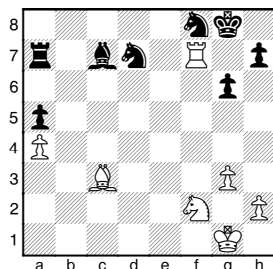
After a long struggle, I could only see the win of the White pawn on a4 and did not ask myself if there was a chance to improve the position of my most poorly placed piece i.e. my Knight on e8. The correct move for Black was 43.Nc7! (Note that the White pawn on a4 is very weak and can be attacked later.) After the bad move 43...Ra1? for Black, the following was the finish of the game: 44.Bd6 (giving the Knight a very bleak future) 44...Rxa4 45.d5!! (note that 43.Nc7 would've helped to prevent this breakthrough!) 45...exd5 46.Ke3 46...Kf7 47.Kd4 47...Ke6 48.Kc5 48...Ra2 49.Rf1 49...Ra3 50.Rb1 50...Rb3 51.Ra1 51...Rxc3 52.Rxa5 52...Rxb3? 53.Ra7 53...Nxd6 54.exd6 54...Ke5 (mate was threatened) 55.d7 55...c3 56.d8(Q) and White won easily.

For concept #2 in my above list regarding what chess pieces work best together, I've included two following examples which are shown below to illustrate this idea: The 1st position is the classic 'Philidor position' as shown here & with White to play & mate. The White queen & knight obviously move quite differently but work perfectly together to checkmate the Black king!



The solution: 1.Qd5+ 1.Kh8 2.Nf7+ 2.Kg8 3.Nh6++ 3.Kh8 4.Qg8+ 4.Rxg8 5.Nf7#

The 2nd example of 2 pieces with different movements are the Rook & Bishop combining to execute some devastating discovered checks & captures! White to move first here:

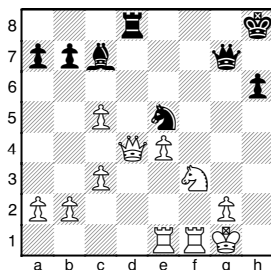


The solution runs: 1.Rg7+ 1.Kh8 2.Rxd7+ 2.Kg8 3.Rg7+ 3.Kh8 4.Rxc7+ 4.Kg8 5.Rxa7 etc.

Over the years of playing I was aware of these 2 examples since chess is a game of recalled patterns (or pattern recognition). However, I never realized the basic concept itself of the best combination of pieces and how well they work together if they are ‘geometrically opposed’

The 3rd & final unrealized chess truth is that the material left on the board is usually more important than the material that has been captured. I recall the thousands of times I’ve ‘matched up’ the pieces (& pawns) I’d lost with the captured pieces & pawns of my opponent. This is done particularly after a long series of tactical exchanges when both players want to see if there is any disparity in the captured material. I never realized that the most important factor is the positional quality & activity of the material left on the chessboard!!

A great example of this concept occurred in an offhand game of your writer’s at our chess club here in Omaha a couple of months ago.



In the above position, after my opponent had played 24.Rd8, we took a ‘breather’ and went through the usual routine of counting the captured material. In seeing the great material disparity, my opponent (who was playing Black) wanted to resign the game. However, after some thought and some brief analysis, we then decided to continue play. The game continued 25.Qe3 25.Ng4 26.Qe2 26.Bf4 27.Nd4 27.Be3+ 28.Kh1 (here Chessmaster 10th Edition preferred that White return some material with 28.Qxe3 28.Nxe3 29.Rxe3 29.Rf8 etc.) 28.Qg5 29.Rf3 (or 29.g3 29.Qh5+ 30.Kg2 30.Qh2+ 31.Kf3 31.Rf8+ 32.Kxg4 32.h5#) 29.Qh4+ 30.Rh3 30.Nf2+ 31.Kg1 31.Nxh3++ 32.Resigns (0-1)

Afterwards, in the postmortem, we realized that at the point where Black was ready to resign, all of the Black pieces were very actively placed with the White king position being quite porous. The White forces, though much greater in strength, were positionally inferior and not threatening the Black kingside which appeared to be quite vulnerable.

This game really illustrated that one should truly concentrate on the position at hand and not be too overly concerned with the captured material off the board!! (In the final analysis we really should ask ourselves is the captured material that important in deciding the outcome of our game?)

In conclusion, your writer, in his games will have to better apply these concepts and to ask the necessary questions until they become, as they say – ‘second nature’

Bob Woodworth
December, 2009
Omaha, Nebraska

**PROPOSAL FOR A BETTER CHESS TOURNAMENT
SCORING SYSTEM
(or C.H.E.S.S. “Cumulative Hyper-Extended Scoring System”)**

by

Bob Woodworth

This article is a proposal to create a better & more fair scoring system in the realm of highly competitive, over-the-board chess tournaments. The current scoring system creates many last round situations whereby the competitors are playing to the final score in relation to the prize fund payouts. There are games which end without any attempts to win because a draw will ensure the top participants an even split of 2 prizes versus the risk of losing and receiving a much smaller, if any, payout!!

There have been many proposals to stop the practice of last-round, quick draws and thereby cheating the spectators of any hard-fought chess. One proposal is to not allow any draws before 30 moves have been made. Another is to award a 1/3 & 2/3 split of the point depending on the outcome for the Black forces. If Black draws then he is awarded 2/3 points & White 1/3 points. A win for either side is still awarded 1 point for the winner, as usual. (Some tournament organizers even offer a special financial bonus to any player with a perfect score with no byes or drawn games!)

My new proposal is based on the premise that it is not correct to allow only one point to be available per each game per round. (A win in the fifth round is certainly to be valued much more numerically than a first-round victory!!) Therefore, my proposal is for Round 1 to be for 2 points (1 each if drawn), Round 2 would be for 4 points, Round 3 for 6 points etc. with Round 6 for 12 points. All pairings would be made using the old system of 1 point available per each game per round. Only the new valuations per round and their accumulating totals would determine the final standing & the actual prize-fund payouts.

However, on the negative side of this new scoring system is the possibility of some players playing what is termed a “SWISS GAMBIT”. This means that it is better to draw or even lose in the first round for very few points are at stake and the prospect of easier pairings in the next few rounds will be much greater. This will be attempted but even in the later rounds (or the last round) every game will need to be won by a player attempting this strategy!!

Another drawback could be that in the final round where the 3rd & 4th positioned players draw their game, the top 2 players could then agree to an easy draw & split the top two prizes. This would be a matter of timing but could be solved by starting the games at different, staggered times with the top board being first to start play. (Also, the awarding of byes would need to be addressed in terms of the number of accelerated points allowed.)

Next, I’ve attempted to create a tournament scenario using this new scoring system. First, let’s assume that we have 4 players called A, B, C & D playing in a 5-round Swiss weekend tourney. The point(s) distribution per round is as stated above. Next, our 4 players all win their first 2 games for a total of 6 points. In Round 3, players A & B both win but players C & D draw their games. Now players A & B have accumulated 12 points while C & D each have 9 points. In Round 4, all 4 of our players win so that going into the final round the scores are as follows: A & B each have 20 points while C & D each have 17 points.

The problem now for the 2 tournament leaders A & B is that they cannot afford to agree to a draw in their last round game for then each would end with 25 total points and if C or D in their final round game happens to win then either C or D would win the tournament outright with 27 points!!

I realize that the above scenario is somewhat over-simplified for there are several areas where adjustments could be made.

For example, the points awarded for each round victory could be changed i.e. Round 1 = 2 points, Round 2 = 4 points, Round 3 = 8 points, Round 4 = 16 points, Round 5 = 32 points by doubling the values each round. Also, the ratio for the prize fund amounts could be more heavily weighted towards 1st Prize with 2nd & 3rd being much, much less. Even in respect to players trying a “SWISS GAMBIT”, the 1st round points available could be greatly increased.

In the final analysis it would be interesting to test this new scoring system in actual practice for only then any unforeseen problems could be addressed. We are really trying to create a system where the most important games at the end of a chess tournament become hard-fought because to do otherwise is really an injustice to the organizers and especially to the spectators!!

In conclusion, I’ve seen and read about many, many different proposals to address this problem of quick last round draws but no one to my knowledge has suggested such a basic change to the relationship of points awarded to the number of the round in which the result was obtained. In essence, therefore, we are attempting to weight the later rounds in a tournament such that (to play for an easy draw) a player will lose a large number of important scoring points!

Robert Woodworth
November, 2009
Omaha, Nebraska

Tournament **Results**

Please 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 December Plus Score was held in Omaha on Saturday, December 5th 2009. Winner of this was Tim Crouse with a perfect 4-0. Finishing clear 2nd with 3.5 was points was Omaha City co-champion John Herr. The event drew 30 players from surrounding states and was directed by Ben Ryan. The RBO XI was held on same site and Jason Selvaraj won that event with a perfect 6-0 score. The RBO event was directed by Mike Gooch.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	T. Crouse	1800	W 18	W 5	W 9	W 6	4.0
2	J. Herr	1667	W 29	W 4	D 3	W 17	3.5
3	T. Dutiel	1795	W 19	D 8	D 2	W 14	3.0
4	R. W. Giminez	1800	W 22	L 2	W 8	W 17	3.0
5	A. Hall	1580	W 26	L 1	W 20	W 13	3.0
6	J. Knapp	1947	W 23	W 14	D 7	L 1	2.5
7	A. Latham	1753	W 24	W 10	D 6	L 2	2.5
8	A. George	1706	W 27	D 3	L 4	W 21	2.5
9	S. J. Rand	1700	W 30	W 17	L 1	D 11	2.5
10	J. Solheim	1660	W 20	L 7	W 26	H 0	2.5
11	A. Esposito	1551	W 12	L 13	W 15	D 9	2.5
12	Doug Given	1814	L 11	W 30	L 17	W 24	2.0
13	E. Santiesteban	1804	L 16	W 11	W 23	L 5	2.0
14	D. Meux	1700	W 28	L 6	W 22	L 3	2.0
15	J. McGill	1702	W 25	L 16	W 11	W 29	2.0

2009 December Plus Score continues on the next page

2009 December Plus Score continued from previous page

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
16	C. Forsman	1495	W 13	W 15	U 0	U 0	2.0
17	J.C.-Yue Wan	1468	W 21	L 9	W 12	L 4	2.0
18	B. Li	1533	L 1	L 20	W 30	W 26	2.0
19	J. Leavitt	1515	L 3	D 27	W 25	H 0	2.0
20	M. Cranwill	935	L 10	W 18	L 5	W 23	2.0
21	T. Leacock	1722	L 17	D 25	W 27	L 8	1.5
22	T. Benetz	1349	L 4	W 29	L 14	H 0	1.5
23	A. Loudon	1517	L 6	W 28	L 13	L 20	1.0
24	W. Broch	1436	L 7	L 26	W 28	L 12	1.0
25	G. Laird	1400	L 15	D 21	L 19	W 27	1.0
26	C. Ryan	Unr	L 5	W 24	L 10	L 18	1.0
27	R. Nurmi	1290	L 8	D 19	L 21	D 25	1.0
28	David Given	1220	L 14	L 23	L 24	W 30	1.0
29	M. Farkas	1117	L 2	W 22	B 0	L 15	1.0
30	M. Hansen	1317	L 9	L 12	L 18	L 28	0-0

2009 RBO XI

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	J. Selvaraj	1115	W 4	W 2	W 3	W 6	W 9	W 8	6.0
2	A. McIntosh	585	W 10	L 1	W 7	W 3	W 5	W 4	5.0
3	S. Chokkara	524	W 11	W 6	L 1	L 2	W 7	W 12	4.0
4	J. Mcelderry	512	L 1	W 11	D 9	W 8	W 6	L 2	3.5
5	K. Tanpaitoonditi	624	D 12	W 8	L 6	W 11	L 2	W 9	3.5
6	M. J. Cusick	839	W 7	L 3	W 5	L 1	L 4	W10	3.0
7	S. Potieni	496	L 6	W 10	L 2	W 12	L 3	W 11	3.0
8	R. Hauke	327	W 9	L 5	W 12	L 4	W 11	L 1	3.0
9	T. Shaw	540	L 8	W 12	D 4	W 10	L 1	L 5	2.5
10	M. Mallipudi	345	L 2	L 7	L 11	L 9	W 12	L 6	1.0
11	V. Potineni	Unr	L 3	L 4	W 10	L 5	L 8	L 7	1.0
12	N. Knapp	472	D 5	L 9	L 8	L 7	L 10	L 3	1.0

The 2009 Polar was held on 10/11/09 at the Lincoln Chess Club. There was 43 players in 4 sections. Mirko Zeljko won the Open section with perfect 4-0 score. Winner of the Reserve section was Bryan Houser with a perfect 4-0 score. Jason Selvaraj and Joshua Hoover were co-champions in the Junior section each with 4-1 scores. Matt Savage won the Primary with a perfect 5.0. The tournament was directed by Tom Lombard.

2009 Polar Bear-Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	M. Zeljko	1970	W 6	W 8	W 2	W 4	4.0
2	B.B. Laun II	1525	D 5	W 3	L 1	W 6	2.5
3	B. Ryan	1606	H	L 2	W 7	W 5	2.5
4	A. Golubow	1283	BYE	D 5	W 8	L 1	2.5
5	K. Nelson	1856	D 2	D 4	D 6	L 3	1.5
6	G. Marks	1611	L 1	W 9	D 5	L 2	1.5
7	A. Wegener	1598	H	F 1	L 3	W 9	1.5
8	L. Boswell	1645	W 9	L 1	L 4	U	1.0
9	J. McFarland	1019	L 8	L 6	BYE	L 7	1.0

2009 Polar Bear-Reserve Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	B. Houser	1434	BYE	W 7	W 3	W 5	4.0
2	B. Li	1349	D 6	BYE	W 10	W 7	3.5
3	D. McFarland	Unr	W 8	W 10	L 1	W 6	3.0
4	J. Selvaraj	915	L 5	BYE	W 11	W 10	3.0
5	D. Buckley	1399	W 4	W 9	D 6	L 1	2.5
6	C. Roth	1445	D 2	W 8	D 5	L 3	2.0
7	D. Hoover	1326	W 11	L 1	W 9	L 2	2.0
8	J.C-Yue Wan	1302	L 3	L 6	W 12	W 11	2.0
9	A. Cloet	726	BYE	L 5	L 7	W 12	2.0
10	J. Gage	1331	W 12	L 3	L 2	L 4	1.0
11	M. Spry	Unr	L 7	W 12	L 4	L 8	1.0
12	E. Spry	Unr	L 10	L 11	L 8	L 9	1.0

2009 Polar Bear-Junior Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	J. Selvaraj	1016	W 8	W 12	L 6	W 3	W 4	4.0
2	J. D. Hoover	713	L 3	W 7	W 13	W 8	W 6	4.0
3	P. Rajan	969	W 2	D 4	W 5	L 1	W 8	3.5
4	O. Gong	887	W 7	D 3	W 12	W 6	L 1	3.5
5	A. C. Hoover	1143	W 11	L 6	L 3	W 10	W 7	3.0
6	B. Grimminger	950	W 9	W 5	W 1	L 4	L 2	3.0
7	A. Salak	Unr	L 4	L 2	W 9	W 12	L 5	2.0
8	J. Halperin	749	L 1	W 13	W 10	L 2	L 3	2.0
9	J. Converse	693	L 6	L 11	L 7	W 13	W 12	2.0
10	A. Rajagopal	597	L 12	BYE	L 8	L 5	W 13	2.0
11	T. Boswell	796	L 5	W 9	U	U	U	1.0
12	L. Lu	900	W 10	L 1	L 4	L 7	L 9	1.0
13	M. S. Hoover	243	BYE	L 8	L 2	L 9	L 10	1.0

2009 Polar Bear-Primary Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	M. Savage	479	W 2	W 4	W 3	W 7	W 8	5.0
2	C. Boden	Unr	L 1	W 6	W 5	L 3	W 7	3.0
3	S. Erb	389	W 6	W 8	L 1	W 2	L 5	3.0
4	S. J. Hoover	Unr	W 5	L 1	L 7	W 9	BYE	3.0
5	P. Rajan	311	L 4	BYE	L 2	D 6	W 3	2.5
6	G. Revesz	Unr	L 3	L 2	BYE	D 5	W 9	2.5
7	C. J. Hoover	Unr	L 8	W 9	W 4	L 1	L 2	2.0
8	C. Revesz	Unr	W 7	L 3	L 9	BYE	L 1	2.0
9	J. Esser	Unr	BYE	L 7	W 8	L 4	L 6	2.0

The 2009 Lincoln City Chess Championship was won by Mirko Zeljko (pictured right). This is the 2nd consecutive city championship won by Mirko. Rounding out the trophy winners was Graham Laird who finished second. Kent Nelson and Robert Hux tied for 3rd place with Kent winning the trophy on tiebreak. The tournament was directed by Gary Colvin (pictured left) and organized by Kent Nelson. This event was sponsored by Alex Golubow. Special thanks to Gary and Alex and for all who played. Photo courtesy of Mirko Zeljko..



No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	M. Zeljko	1978	W 8	W 3	W 5	D 4	3.5
2	G. Laird	1387	F 3	W 8	W 7	W 9	3.0
3	R. Hux	1900	X 2	L 1	D 4	W 8	2.5
4	K. Nelson	1816	H	W 7	D 3	D 1	2.5
5	J. Linscott	1886	W 9	W 6	L 1	U	2.0
6	D. McFarland	1539	W 10	L 5	H	H	2.0
7	J. McFarland	1219	B	L 4	L 2	W 10	2.0
8	S. Martens	1496	L 1	L 2	W 10	L 3	1.0
9	D. Buckley	1394	L 5	L 10	B	L 2	1.0
10	A. Golubow	1369	L 6	W 9	L 8	L 7	1.0

The **Qaplan Swiss** was held on November 4th and 18th 2009 in Omaha. The winner of this event was Brandon Li with a perfect 3.0 score. This event was directed by Drew Thyden and Michael Gooch.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	B. Li	1441	W 7	W 4	W 3	3.0
2	J. Knapp	1960	W 10	L 3	W 6	2.0
3	J. McGill	1783	W 11	W 2	L 1	2.0
4	C. Shiu	1205	W 9	L 1	X 0	2.0
5	Jason Selvaraj	1095	L 6	W 12	W 8	2.0
6	R. Gruber	1366	W 5	D 8	L 2	1.5
7	S. Caplan	1351	L 1	D 9	W 11	1.5
8	Joe Selvaraj	1020	W 12	D 6	L 5	1.5
9	A. Petrosyan	915	L 4	D 7	W 12	1.5
10	C. Forsman	1484	L 2	W 11	F 0	1.0
11	T. Benetz	1422	L 3	L 10	L 7	0-0
12	S. Krieder	765	L 8	L 5	L 9	0-0

The **Omaha Central High Tournament** was held on November 21st 2009. There was two sections. The Open section (given below) was won by John Herr with 3.5 points. The Under 1200 section (results on the next page) was won by Ryan Borchers with a perfect 4.0 score. This event was directed by Jeff Solheim.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	J. Herr	1654	D 9	W 12	W 5	W 4	3.5
2	B. Ryan	1641	L 4	W 9	W 11	W 6	3.0
3	C. Dibley	1509	W 11	L 6	W 10	W 9	3.0
4	J. Yue Wan	1286	W 2	W 5	W 6	L 1	3.0
5	J. McGill	1775	W 8	L 4	L 1	W 10	2.0
6	R. Hauke	Unr	W 7	W 3	L 4	L 2	2.0
7	B. Houser	1527	L 6	L 10	D 8	W 11	1.5
8	T. Benetz	1380	L 5	L 11	D 7	W 12	1.5
9	T. Brown	1319	D 1	L 2	W 12	L 3	1.5
10	M. Hansen	1293	U 0	W 7	L 3	L 5	1.0
11	O. Gong	998	L 3	W 8	L 2	L 7	1.0
12	S. Krieder	733	B 0	L 1	L 9	L 8	1.0

The 2009 Omaha Central High Tournament-Under 1200 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	R. Borchers	925	X 0	W 6	W 4	W 3	4.0
2	A. Ulrich	901	W 8	L 3	W 9	W 11	3.0
3	R. Luo	766	W 7	W 2	W 11	L 1	3.0
4	T. Gulizia	802	W 9	W 10	L 1	W 7	3.0
5	J. Hotovy	821	L 6	W 8	W 10	H 0	2.5
6	E. D'Souza	682	L 5	L 1	L 7	B 0	2.0
7	K. Tanpaitoonditi	590	L 3	W 12	L 6	L 4	2.0
8	A. McIntosh	613	L 2	L 5	B 0	W 13	2.0
9	J. Kelsey	517	L 4	B 0	L 2	W 12	2.0
10	L. Fragman	657	W 12	L 4	L 5	H 0	1.5
11	J. Reiter	403	H 0	W 13	L 3	L 2	1.5
12	R. Hauke	Unr	L 10	L 7	W 13	L 9	1.0
13	S. George	420	B 0	L 11	L 12	L 8	1.0

Chess Club Meetings Times & Places

Columbus: Columbus Chess Club (Most) Saturday evenings, 7:00 P.M.
until ...Westport Apartments cafeteria, 3914 25th Street Contact: Karen or Jim Swartz,
(402) 563-3820

Hastings: 3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 P.M. Hastings Utilities conference room,
1228 N. Denver Ave. Contact: Louis Stoeger, (402) 463-4089

Lincoln: Lincoln Chess Club Tuesdays, 7:00-10:00 P.M. Second floor of 1221 "O"
Street in the Sky Walk system in downtown Lincoln Enter before 8:30 via the parking
garage/Energy Square Building on the west side of 12th Street or the door marked 1201
"O" Street on the east side of 12th Street under the photo mural.

Lincoln: UNL Chess Club <http://www.unl.edu/chess/> UNL Student Union, 14th & R
Street

Omaha: Omaha Chess Community Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 P.M. Lewis & Clark Middle
School Cafeteria, 6901 Burt St. Contact: Drew Thyden (402) 393-7750

Omaha: Camelot Chess Club most Fridays, 12:00-4:00 P.M. - Adults only Camelot
Community Center, 9270 Cady Ave. Contact: Roger Anderson (402) 572-0946

Omaha: Creighton University Chess Club Contact: David Gantz;
dwg43070@creighton.edu

Omaha: UNO Chess Club Fridays, 3:00 P.M. Cafeteria of the Milo Bail Student Center

The 2009 Great Plains Open

The 2009 Great Plains Open was held in Omaha on November 11th. Winner of this event was Joe Knapp with a perfect 4-0 score. There was a 31 player turnout and the tournament was directed by Ben Ryan. Final standing of the Great Plains is on the previous page. The RBO X tournament was held concurrently with the Great Plains Open with Mike Gooch directing. Winner of this RBO event was Owen Gong. Owen had an undefeated 5-1 score with 2 draws. This event had 20 players. The final standings are given below.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	O. Gong	990	W 17	W 12	D 8	W 4	D 2	W 5	5.0
2	J. Selvaraj	1068	W 11	L 5	W 14	W 8	D 1	W 7	4.5
3	J. D. Hoover	889	W 10	L 8	W 17	L 5	W 14	W 11	4.0
4	T. Gulizia	Unr	W 15	W 7	W 5	L 1	W 8	L 9	4.0
5	S. Krieder	528	W 18	W 2	L 4	W 3	W 6	L 1	4.0
6	A. Cloet	728	W 13	L 14	W 11	W 15	L 5	W 10	4.0
7	E. D'Souza	640	W 19	L 4	W 13	W 14	W 10	L 2	4.0
8	M. Hezel	376	W 9	W 3	D 1	L 2	L 4	W 13	3.5
9	S. Chokkara	Unr	L 8	L 10	W 19	D 13	W 17	W 4	3.5
10	A. McIntosh	Unr	L 3	W 9	W 12	W 17	L 7	L 6	3.0
11	K. Tanpaitoonditi	Unr	L 2	W 18	L 6	W 20	W 12	L 3	3.0
12	J. Mcelderry	503	W 16	L 1	L 10	W 19	L 11	W 14	3.0
13	S. Potineni	100	L 6	W 20	L 7	D 9	W 15	L 8	2.5
14	N. Knapp	451	W 20	W 6	L 2	L 7	L 3	L 12	2.0
15	R. Marcoux	185	L 4	W 19	W 18	L 6	L 13	L 16	2.0
16	S. Chokkara	Unr	L 12	L 17	L 20	D 18	D 19	W 15	2.0
17	J. Costello	Unr	L 1	W 16	L 3	L 10	L 9	D18	1.5
18	S. Hoover	345	L 5	L 11	L 15	D 16	D 20	D 17	1.5
19	C. Hoover	267	L 7	L 15	L 9	L 12	D 16	W 20	1.5
20	H. CMcinn	Unr	L 14	L 13	W 16	L 11	D 18	L 19	1.5

2009 Great Plains Open

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	J. Knapp	1920	W 16	W 14	W 7	W 3	4.0
2	J. Linscott	1878	W 25	W 13	W 11	D 5	3.5
3	B. Holliman	2200	W 24	W 8	W 6	L 1	3.0
4	S. Capps	2020	W 10	L 11	W 9	W 12	3.0
5	K. Nelson	1819	W 18	D 9	W 17	D 2	3.0
6	Doug Given	1807	W 27	W 21	L 3	W 11	3.0
7	J. McGill	1738	W 26	W 15	L 1	W 13	3.0
8	T. Leacock	1716	W 31	L 3	W 18	W 16	3.0
9	J. Baltaro	1515	W 23	D 5	L 4	W 19	2.5
10	T. Benetz	1409	L 4	W 28	W 23	H 0	2.5
11	J. Solheim	1648	W 28	W 4	L 2	L 6	2.0
12	J. Herr	1680	L 19	W 26	W 27	L 4	2.0
13	B. Ryan	1647	W 22	L 2	W 21	L 7	2.0
14	A. Wegener	1584	W 29	L 1	L 19	W 26	2.0
15	D. McFarland	1579	W 20	L 7	L 16	W 27	2.0
16	B. Li	1411	L 1	W 22	W 15	L 8	2.0
17	R. Gruber	1333	H 0	W 19	L 5	D 20	2.0
18	J.C. Yue Wan	1284	L 5	W 29	L 8	W 28	2.0
19	J. McFarland	1019	W 12	L 17	W 14	L 9	2.0
20	G. Marks	1605	L 15	L 27	W 31	D 17	1.5
21	A. Golubow	1380	X 0	L 6	L 13	H 0	1.5
22	T. Brown	Unr	L 13	L 16	W 25	H 0	1.5
23	G. Larry	Unr	L 9	W 25	L 10	H 0	1.5
24	C. Forsman	1481	L 3	W 31	U 0	U 0	1.0
25	D. A. Hoover	1305	L 2	L 23	L 22	W 31	1.0
26	David Given	1227	L 7	L 12	W 29	L 14	1.0
27	C.S. Shiu	1153	L 6	W 20	L 12	L 15	1.0
28	A. Petrosyan	892	L 11	L 10	B 0	L 18	1.0
29	J. Hotovy	Unr	L 14	L 18	L 26	H 0	.5
30	E. Ruiseco	1838	F 0	U 0	U 0	U 0	0-0
31	A. C Hoover	1095	L 8	L 24	L 20	L 25	0-0

2009 Midwest Open

The 2009 Midwest Open was actually held on Saturday, January 16th 2010 in Omaha. Winner of this event was Doug Taffinder from Offutt AFB with a perfect 4-0 score. Bob Holliman was a close second with 3.5 points. This tournament was organized and directed by Ben Ryan.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	D. Taffinder	2061	W 13	W 9	W 5	W 3	4.0
2	B. Holliman	2200	W 10	W 8	D 7	W 6	3.5
3	R. Luther	2218	W 14	W 12	W 4	L 1	3.0
4	J. Knapp	1935	W 11	W 20	L 3	W 7	3.0
5	Doug Given	1782	W 21	W 23	L 1	W 14	3.0
6	K. Nelson	1825	D 15	W 19	W 12	L 2	2.5
7	T. Dutiel	1803	W 16	W 18	L 2	L 4	2.5
8	J. Solheim	1710	W 17	L 2	W 15	H 0	2.5
9	G. Marks	1600	W 27	L 1	W 24	D 11	2.5
10	J. Leavitt	1506	L 2	W 16	W 18	H 0	2.5
11	C. Roth	1439	L 4	W 27	W 20	D 9	2.5
12	J. Herr	1736	W 22	L 3	L 6	W 19	2.0
13	J. Yue Wan	1562	L 1	W 17	L 19	W 23	2.0
14	B. Li	1518	L 3	W 22	W 23	L 5	2.0
15	T. Benetz	1340	D 6	W 25	L 8	H 0	2.0
16	David Given	1224	L 7	L 10	W 25	W 24	2.0
17	J. Waldrop	1162	L 8	L 13	W 21	W 20	2.0
18	C. Koch	925	X 0	L 7	L 10	W 22	2.0
19	R. Gruber	1357	H 0	L 6	W 13	L 12	1.5
20	D. McFarland	1554	W 24	L 4	L 11	L 17	1.0
21	S. Caplan	1324	L 5	L 24	L 17	W 27	1.0
22	J. McFarland	1264	L 22	L 14	W 27	L 18	1.0
23	I. Thomas	1137	W 25	L 5	L 14	L 13	1.0
24	J. Heady	Unr	L 20	W 21	L 9	L 16	1.0
25	B. Ryan	1633	L 23	L 15	L 16	H 0	. 5
26	E. Servellon	1556	F 0	U 0	U 0	U 0	0-0
27	A. Petrosyan	911	L 9	L 11	L 22	W 21	0-0

The Rated Beginners Open XI

The RBO XI was held at the same time as the Midwest Open and was organized and directed by Ben Ryan. The tournament produced 2 co-champions with Jason Selvaraj and Tim Gulizia each scoring 5 out of 6 possible points.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd5	Rd 6	Tot
1	J. Selvaraj	1115	W 12	W 14	W 3	W 2	L 4	W 5	5.0
2	T. Gulizia	840	W 6	W 5	W 4	L 1	W 9	W 8	5.0
3	B. Grimminger	994	W 16	W 7	L 1	D 8	W 15	W 4	4.5
4	A. C. Hoover	1074	W 8	W 10	L 2	W 9	W 1	L 3	4.0
5	A. Suresh	Unr	W 11	L 2	W 13	W 10	W 6	L 1	4.0
6	R. Hauke	441	L 2	W 12	W 7	W 11	L 5	W 15	4.0
7	K. Tanpaitoonditi	611	W 21	L 3	L 6	W 16	W 18	W 9	4.0
8	S. Potineni	500	L 4	W 18	W 14	D 3	W 10	L 2	3.5
9	A. McInosh	800	W 22	W 17	W 15	L 4	L 2	L 7	3.0
10	A. Cloet	711	W 18	L 4	W 16	L 5	L 8	W 19	3.0
11	S. Chokkara	660	L 5	D 13	W 22	L 6	W 12	D 14	3.0
12	J. Mcelderry	620	L 1	L 6	W 19	W 20	L 11	W 18	3.0
13	W. Svoboda	527	D 15	D 11	L 5	L 19	W 22	W 20	3.0
14	J. D. Hoover	847	W 20	L 1	L 8	L 15	W 17	D 11	2.5
15	A. Jaddu	Unr	D 13	W 19	L 9	W 14	L 3	L 6	2.5
16	N. Knapp	354	L 3	W 21	L 10	L 7	D 19	W 22	2.5
17	E. Caplan	716	D 19	L 9	D 20	L 18	L 14	W 21	2.0
18	G. Dunbar	Unr	L 10	L 8	W 21	W 17	L 7	L 12	2.0
19	S. J. Hoover	245	D 17	L 15	L 12	W 13	D 16	L 10	2.0
20	N. Mallipudi	274	L 14	D 22	D 17	L 12	W 21	L 13	2.0
21	D. Keen	Unr	L 7	L 16	L 18	W 22	L 20	L 17	1.0
22	V. Retineni	Unr	L 9	D 20	L 11	L 21	L 13	L 16	. 5

Featured games

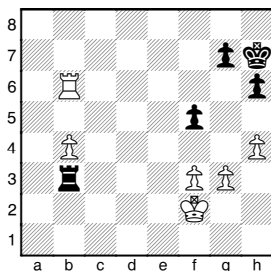
J. Knapp - J. Wagner [A32]

2009 Omaha City Championship , 2009

Notes by John Watson (JW) & Joe Knapp (JK)

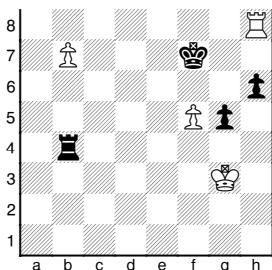
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.Nc3?! JW: This exposes the knight on c3 to attack. [6.Bg2 is more common, for example, 6...e5 7.Nf3 (or 7.Nb3 d4 8.0-0 Nc6) 7...d4 8.0-0 Nc6 9.e3 , and here 9...Be7 is the most frequently-played move, but Tal's 9...d3!? remains unrefuted.]

6...e5 This is the most aggressive response. [A straight forward alternative is 6...dxc4 7.Qa4+ Bd7 8.Qxc4 Na6!? (or 8...Nc6 9.Bg2 Rc8) 9.Bg2 Rc8 10.Qb3 Nc5 11.Qc2 e5 with equal prospects.] **7.Nf3 e4!?** [7...d4! 8.Nxe5 (if White retreats, he has given up the center for nothing) 8...Qd6! (8...dxc3 is interesting although unnecessary: 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Nxf7+ Ke8 11.Nxh8 Bb4 12.b3 c2+ 13.Bd2 Ba3 14.Bg2 Bb2 or 14...Kf8 is unclear) 9.Qa4+ Nbd7 and White stands to lose material, even after 10.Nb5 Qb4+ 11.Qxb4 Bxb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Nxe5 14.Nc7+ Ke7 15.Nxa8 Bd7 16.Nc7 Nxc4+ and the knight on c7 is trapped, so some combination of ...Rc8 and ...Kd6 will keep Black on top.] **8.Nd4** [8.Nd2 breaks up Black's center.] **8...Nc6?** [8...dxc4 9.Bg2 Bc5 10.Qa4+ Qd7 11.Ndb5 is unclear.] **9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nxe4 JK:** convinced this is not a trap, white takes the pawn and the initiative. **11...Be7 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 Qb6 14.b3 f5 [JW:** 14...Ba6 develops more quickly.] **15.Ng5 Nc3? 16.Qc2 Bf6 17.Bb2 Nd5 18.Bxf6 Rxf6 19.Rfd1 h6 20.Nf3 [JW:** 20.Rxd5! hxc5 21.Rc1! leaves White a pawn and position ahead.] **20...Bb7 21.Rac1 Rc8 22.Ne5 Ne3! 23.Nd7! Nxc2 24.Nxb6 axb6 25.Rxc2 Ba8 26.Rcd2** White is simply winning. **26...c5 27.Rd8+ Rf8 28.Rxc8 Rxc8 29.Bh3 Rf8 30.Rd6 b5 31.Rb6 b4 32.Rb5 Be4 33.Rxc5 Ra8 34.f3 [JK:** 34.Bxf5 is simpler. **JW:** yes!] **34...Bb1 35.Rb5 Rxa2 36.Rxb4?! [36.Kf2 is better.] 36...Rxe2 37.Bf1 Re3 38.Kf2 Rc3 39.Bc4+ Kh7 40.h4 Bd3 41.Bxd3 Rxd3 42.Rb6 Rc3 43.b4 Rb3?** Please see diagram below.



Position after 43...Rb3?

[JW: 43...h5! creates a standard situation in which White needs to bring his king into play without sacrificing his kingside pawns too quickly. Here are some ways the play might go: 44.b5 g6 45.Rb7+ Kg8 46.b6 Rb3 47.Rb8+ Kh7 48.b7? (48.Ke2 Kg7 49.Kd2! Rxf3 50.Kc2 Rf2+ 51.Kc3 Rf3+ 52.Kc4 Rf1 53.Rd8 Rb1 54.Kc5 Rb3 55.Rd7+ Kf6 56.b7 , threatening Rd6+-Rb6.) 48...Kg7 49.Ke2 Kh7 50.Kd2 Kg7 51.Kc2 Rb6 52.Kc3 Rb1 and Black checks from behind.] **44.h5 Kg8** [44...Rb2+ 45.Ke3 Rh2 46.g4 fxg4 47.fxg4 Rg2 48.Kf3 Rb2 49.Rb8 Rb3+ 50.Kf4 Rb1 51.b5 Rf1+ 52.Ke5 Rg1 53.b6 Rxb4 54.Rc8 Rb4 (54...Rg5+ 55.Kd6 Rxb5 56.b7 Rb5 57.b8Q Rxb8 58.Rxb8 g5 59.Ke6)] **45.b5 Kf7 46.Rb7+ Kf8 47.b6 Kg8 48.Rb8+ Kf7 49.b7 Rb2+ 50.Ke3 Rb4 51.Kd3 Rb3+ 52.Kc4 Rb6- 53.Kc5 Rb3 54.Kd6 Rb1 55.Ke5 Rb5+ 56.Kf4 Rb4+ 57.Kxf5 Rb5+ 58.Kg4 Rb4+ 59.f4 Rb5 60.Kh4 Rb3 61.Kh3 Rb5 62.g4 Rb3+ 63.Kh4 Rb4 64.f5 Rb3 65.g5 Rb4+ 66.Kg3 h5 67.h6 gxh6 68.Rh8** [JK The game would end 68.Rh8 Rxb7 69.Rh7+] **1-0**



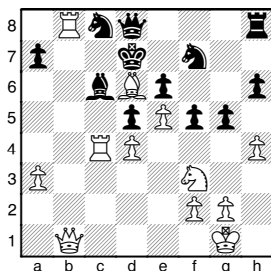
Final Position- Black Resigns

J. Knapp (1920) - B. Holliman (2200)

2009 Great Plains Open, 2009

Notes by John Watson (JW) & Joe Knapp (JK)

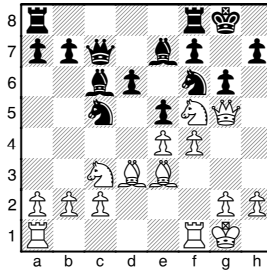
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 (After my recent losses in this line, playing black against Kent Nelson and as white against GM Dasheveg Sharavdorj, I decided it was time to face my French fears **JK**) **5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Qg4 f5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qd1 Ne7 10.Nf3 Bd7 11.Be2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Ba4 13.Ra2** (This useful move keeps White's advantage though perhaps better is 13. Bh6 and if 13...B:c2 14 Qd2 ...Be4 15 Ng5! If 13...Q:c2 then Bb5+ wins a piece **JK**) [13.Bh6 Bxc2 (**JW**: better is 13...Qc3+ 14.Bd2 Qc6; or 13...Nbc6 14.0-0 Nd8 15.Rc1 Nf7 16.Qd2 Nxh6 17.Qxh6 Qd7) 14.Qd2 Be4 15.Ng5! [**JW**: Yes, Black's bishop is trapped and Nxe6 is threatened, so 15...Qd7 16.f3 Ng8 17.Nxe6! Nxh6 18.Qxh6 Qxe6 19.Qg7 Rf8 20.Qxb7 is a possible continuation.] **13...Nbc6 14.h4 h6 15.Bd2 Nd8** [**JW**: Perhaps Black should head for relative safety by 15...Kf8 and ...Kg7.] **16.Qb1 Rc8 17.Bd3 Nf7 18.Rb2 b6 19.0-0** (**JK** My plan is now clear to me: place a rook on c1, pawn break on c4, and Queenside attack) **19...Nc6** [**JW**: 19...0-0 is logical, to meet 20.Rc1 Qd7 21.c4!? with 21...dxc4 22.Bxc4 Bc6!] **20.c4 Ne7** **JK**: Black should probably play ...Qd7 or ...Qd8 here). **JW**: True, but White remains much better-placed after [20...Qd7 21.cxd5 Qxd5 22.Rc1!] **21.Rc1 Qd8 22.c5! bxc5 23.Ba6 c4** **JW**: There's no good square for the rook. **24.Bxc8 Nxc8 25.Rb8 Bc6** **JK**: Black could have put up more of a fight with ...0-0. **JW**: [25...0-0 26.Qb7 ties Black down, unless he goes for 26...Ncd6! 27.Rxd8 Nxb7 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8, when Black can block out White's pieces for a while.] **26.Bb4 Kd7 27.Bd6 g5** **JK**: Here is the critical moment. Can you find the Grandmaster move? White to play...



28.Rxc4! dxc4 29.d5! **jk** Every black response loses **29...Nfxd6 30.dxc6+ Ke7 31.exd6+ Kxd6 32.Qb4+** It's forced mate in 6. **32...Kc7 33.Rb7+ Kxc6 34.Ne5+** [**JW**: A wonderful game!] **1-0**

**Doug Taffender (2060) - Doug Given (1845) [B57]
2009 Midwest Open (3), 16.01.2010**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Bd7 7.0-0
Qb6 8.Nb3 Ne5 9.Be2 Bc6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.f4 Ned7 12.Bd3 e6
13.Qe2 Be7 14.Nd4 0-0 15.Qf3 e5 16.Nf5 Nc5 17.Qg3 g6 18.Qg5**

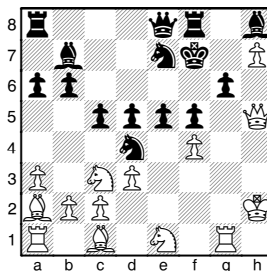


Position after 18 Qg5

**Ne6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qh4 Nd5 21.Qxe7 Nxe7 22.fxe5 dxe5
23.Bh6 Rfd8 24.Rf6 Nc5 25.Bc4 Nxe4 26.Rxf7 Nd6 27.Rf8# 1-0**

**Gary Marks (1600) - Doug Taffender (2060) [B23]
2009 Midwest Open (2),**

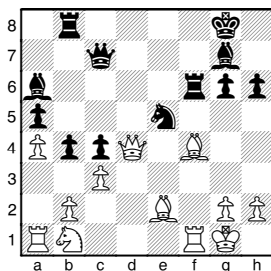
**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.a3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nge7
8.d3 0-0 9.g4 f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.g5 b6 12.h4 Qe8 13.Ne1 Bb7 14.h5
d5 15.Ba2 Nd4 16.Kh2 e5 17.Rg1 Qb8 18.h6 Bh8 19.Qh5 Qe8
20.g6 hxg6 21.h7+ Kf7(D) 22.Rxg6 Nxc6 23.Nxd5 Kg7 24.Nc7 Qc6
0-1**



Position after 21...Kf7

**Doug Taffinder (2060) - Ron Luther (2225) [B06]
2009 Midwest Open (4),**

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 b5
8.Bd3 c5 9.Be3 Qc7 10.a4 b4 11.Nb1 c4 12.Be2 Ngf6 13.e5 Nd5
14.Bc1 dxe5 15.fxe5 h6 16.c3 a5 17.Qe1 Rb8 18.Qf2 Ba6 19.Nfd2
0-0 20.Ne4 f5 21.exf6 N5xf6 22.Nxf6+ Rxf6 23.Bf4 e5 24.dxe5
Nxe5 25.Qd4 (D) Nf3+? 26.Rxf3 Rxf4 27.Qxf4 Qxf4 28.Rxf4
bxc3 29.Nxc3 Rxb2 30.Bxc4+ 1-0**

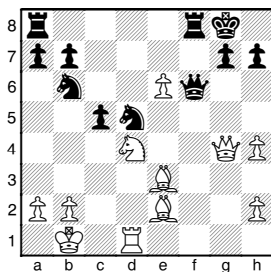


Position after 25 Qd4

**Jim, Ellis (2200) - B. Blair (1925) [B03]
2nd Annual Spring Open (3), 03.04.2009**

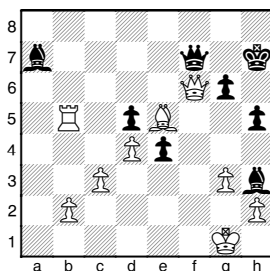
**1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3
Bf5 8.Nc3 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 12.Nd4 Bd7
13.e6 fxe6 14.dxe6 Bc6 15.Qg4 Bh4+ 16.g3 Bxh1 17.gxh4 0-0
18.0-0-0 Qf6 19.Be2 Bd5 20.Kb1 c5 21.Nxd5 N4xd5 0-1**

Final Position below

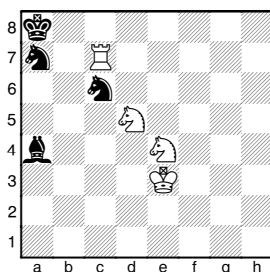


**Jim, Ellis (2200) - Tony Dutiel (1810) [C89]
2nd Annual Spring Open (5), 05.04.2009**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1
0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6
13.Re1 Qh4 14.g3 Qh3 15.Be3 Bg4 16.Qd3 Rae8 17.Nd2 f5
18.Qf1 Qh5 19.f4 Kh8 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.Qg2 Re4 22.a4 Rfe8
23.Nf1 R8e6 24.axb5 Bh3 25.Qf2 axb5 26.Nd2 Qe8 27.Nxe4
Rxe4 28.Bd2 h5 29.Rxe4 fxe4 30.Ra5 Bc7 31.Ra7 Qc6 32.f5 Bb6
33.Ra1 Qf6 34.Bf4 Bxf5 35.Be5 Qg6 36.Qf4 Kh7 37.Ra8 Qf7
38.Rb8 Ba7 39.Rxb5 g6 40.Qg5 Bh3 41.Qf6 1-0**



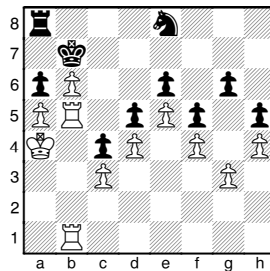
Final Position-Black Resigns



The solution to the problem on the cover of the September, 2009 issue of the “Gambit” is as follows: **1.Nc5** (threatens 2. Nb6+ followed by 3.Na6 mate) if 1...Bb5 2 Nb6+ 2...Kb8 3 Rb7 mate or 1...Kb8 2 Na6+ 2...Ka8 3 Nb6 mate or 1...Nc8 2 Rb7 followed by 3 Nc7 mate or 1...Nb4 2 Nb6+ 2...Kb8 3 Rb7mate or 1...Nb5 2 Rb7 followed by 3 Nb6 mate or 1...Na5 2 Nb6+ 2 ...Kb8 3 Na6 mate or 1..Nb8? then Nb6 is checkmate. Nice work by Alex and Bob!

David Jenkins (1705) - Mirko Zeliko (1975) [A45]
2007 Cornhusker State Games (5), 22.07.2007

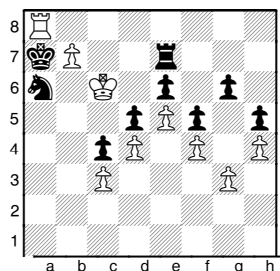
1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 e6 3.Bd3 c5 4.c3 d5 5.Nd2 Nc6 6.f4 Bd6 7.Ngf3 Bd7
8.Ne5 Qe7 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.a3 Ne8 11.b4 c4 12.Bc2 f6 13.Nxd7 Rxd7
14.e4 g6 15.e5 Bc7 16.Nf3 f5 17.Ba4 Rd8 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Qa4 Bb6
20.Qxc6+ Nc7 21.a4 Qe8 22.Qxe8 Nxe8 23.Ng5 Ng7 24.Nf7 Rhf8
25.Nxd8 Bxd8 26.Ba3 Be7 27.b5 Bxa3 28.Rxa3 Kb7 29.a5 Rf7 30.Rb1
Ne8 31.Kf2 Ng7 32.g3 Nh5 33.h4 Ng7 34.Raa1 h5 35.Ke3 Rf8 36.Kd2
Rc8 37.b6 a6 38.Ra4 Ne8 39.Rab4 Ng7 40.Kc2 Ne8 41.Kb2 Ra8
42.Ka3 Rc8 43.Ka4 Ra8 44.Rb5!! (D)



Position after 44 Rb5!!

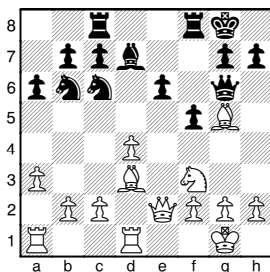
axb5+ 45.Rxb5 Rd8 46.Rc5 Rd7 47.Kb5 Re7 48.a6+ Kb8 49.b7 Ka7
50.Rc8 Nc7+ 51.Kc6 Nxa6 52.Ra8# 1-0

Final Position below

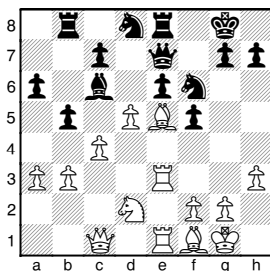


Nelson, Kent - Wan, Joseph
Great Plains, 31.01.2009
 Notes by John Watson

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxd5 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.a3 [White is probably trying to avoid something like 8.d4 Nb6 9.Rd1 (else the d-pawn hangs) 9...Nxc4 10.Qxc4 Nb4! 11.a3 Nd5 with rough equality.] **8...Nb6 9.Bb5** [Or 9.Ba2 Nd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.d3] **9...Bd7?!** [9...Nd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 is natural and equal.] **10.d4 Bf6 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.Bf4 Rac8 13.Ne4 a6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bg5 Qg6 16.Bd3 f5**



This creates weaknesses. An alternative with attacking prospects is [16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxg5 18.Qe4 g6 19.Qxb7 Nd5 20.Qxa6 Nf4 21.g3 e5 , which is hard to assess.] **17.c3 Rce8 18.Bf4 Nd5 19.Be5 Rc8 20.Qd2** [20.c4 Nf6 21.h3 also maintains the advantage.] **20...Nf6 21.h3 Na5 22.Qc2 Qe8** [22...Bc6! has the idea 23.Ne1 Be4] **23.b3 b5!? 24.Re1** [Or 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.a4! bxa4 26.bxa4 , attacking a6.] **24...Bc6 25.Nd2 Qg6 26.Bf1 Nb7 [26...Ne4] 27.Re3 Qe8 28.Rae1 Nd8 29.c4! Qe7 30.Qb2 Rb8 31.Qc1 Re8 32.d5**



Black's position collapses. **32...Ba8 33.dxe6** [33.Bd3! is a little subtler.] **33...Nxe6 34.Qc3 Rb6 35.Rg3 Kf8 36.Rge3 Kg8 37.Bd3 Qf8 38.Bxf6 gxf6 39.Bxf5 Ng7 40.Rxe8 Nxe8 41.Qg3+ Kh8 42.Qh4** White mates quickly. A well-played buildup by White. **42...h5 43.Qxh5+ Qh6 44.Qxh6+ Kg8 45.Rxe8+ Kf7 46.Qf8 1-0**

Nelson,Kent - Gruber,Richard [C55]

Great Plains, 31.01.2010

Notes by John Watson

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 a6 6.a4 d6 7.h3 Bd7 8.Be3 Na7

This maneuver is decentralizing and doesn't achieve much. 9.c3 b5

10.axb5 Nxb5 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Qc2 c5 Black is correctly worried about d4 in the near future. **13.Ra2 Bc6 14.Rfa1 a5?** Now Black will lose this pawn.

[14...Bb7 or; 14...Qc8 was better, although White stands well.] **15.Kh2?!**

[15.b4 cxb4 16.cxb4 wins a pawn for nothing.] **15...Ra7?!** [15...Qc7 16.b4

d5!?] **16.b4 Qc7 17.Rxa5 Rxa5 18.bxa5 Ra8 19.Nb3?** [19.Qb3! Rxa5

20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21.Rxa5 Qxa5 22.Nf1! has the idea 22...Qxc3 23.Qe6] **19...d5!**

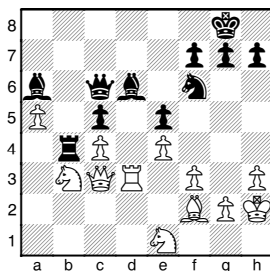
20.Bxb5 Bxb5 21.c4! dxc4 22.dxc4 Ba6 23.Rd1 Bd6 [23...Bb7 24.Nfd2 Rd8

is a sensible way to play on a pawn down.] **24.Ne1 Qc6 25.f3 Rb8 26.Rd3**

[Or 26.Nd3 Nd7 27.Rd2] **26...Be7 27.Qc3 Bd6? 28.Bf2** [White misses the

trick 28.Nxc5! Bxc5 29.Qxe5, when 29...Rc8 30.Qxc5 Qxc5 31.Bxc5 leaves the bishop immune thanks to back-rank mate, and 29...Nd7 30.Rxd7 Ra8

31.Rc7 Bd6 32.Rxc6 Bxe5+ 33.f4 will win.] **28...Rb4**



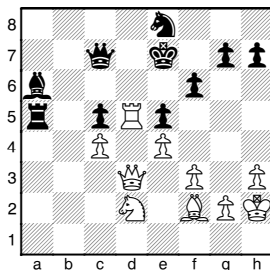
29.Nd2? [Really, Kent, you have to look at all your captures and forcing moves before anything else. Here 29.Bxc5! Rxb3 (29...Rxc4 30.Rxd6 Qxd6

31.Qxc4) 30.Qxb3 Qxc5 31.Qb6! practically wins outright.] **29...Ne8?**

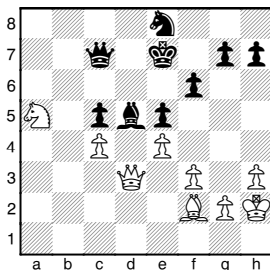
[29...Ra4!] **30.Bg3 f6 31.Nc2 Ra4 32.Ne3 Bc7 33.Nd5 Kf7** [33...Bxa5?

34.Qxa5 Rxa5 35.Ne7+] **34.Nxc7 Qxc7 35.Rd5 Rxa5** [35...Bb7 should be

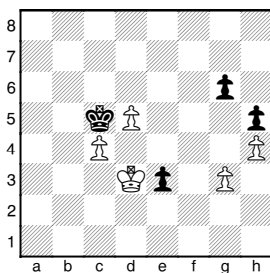
played first.] **36.Qd3** [36.Nb3!] **36...Ke7 37.Bf2**



[37.Nb3! Ra3 38.Bf2 wins considerably more material. Perhaps White was in time trouble.] **37...Bb7 38.Nb3** White goes for exchanges, but he could have picked up a pawn by [38.Rxc5! Rxc5 39.Qa3] **38...Bxd5 39.Nxa5**



Qxa5?? Likewise with the time pressure. [39...Be6 40.Qa3! (40.Nb3 Nd6 41.Bxc5 Kd7 is still playable) 40...Kf7 41.Qxc5 should win, but it's a fight.] **40.Qxd5 Qc7 41.Bxc5+ Nd6 42.Kg3 h5 43.h4 Qd7 44.Kf2 Qe6 45.Ke3 Qxd5 46.exd5** White's two passed pawns win easily. **46...f5 47.Kd3 Kd7 48.Bxd6 Kxd6 49.g3 g6 50.Ke3 Kc5 51.Kd3 Kd6 52.Kc3 Kc5 53.Kb3 e4 54.fxe4 fxe4 55.Kc3 e3 56.Kd3 1-0**



Final Position 1-0

John's willingness to annotate games for Nebraska chessplayers and submit games to the Gambit is very much appreciated. I can't think of a better way to learn and improve one's game. Thank you John! Kent Nelson-Ed.

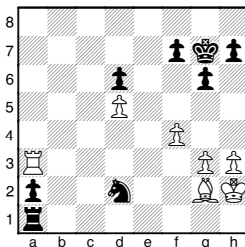
“The Dancing Knight”

The game below took place during a Gateway Mall tournament in the 1980s. My opponent was Richard Perry who later became a 3-time Nebraska state chess champion before moving to Texas where he currently resides. This game was my second win against Richard. He was able to solve my playing style and went on to defeat me at least twice, very convincingly, with a number of draws before moving out of state. This game was unique for a number of reasons. First, it was a win against a very strong player, second it was game where I demonstrated good endgame technique (in my opinion) and third, my knight moved 9 consecutive times starting on black's 44th move. I hope you enjoy the game-Kent Nelson

Richard Perry - Kent Nelson [B20]
Gateway Mall tournament 25.04.1986

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.c3 d6 6.Be3 e5 7.Ne2 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12.Nc3 Bg4 13.Qb3 N7c6 14.Nde2 Qd7 15.f3 Be6 16.Nd5 Na5 17.Qb4 Nac4 18.Bf4 Bxd5 19.exd5 a5 20.Qb3 a4 21.Qb4 Nxb2 22.Rab1 a3 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.f4 Bg7 25.Nc3 Bxc3 26.Qxc3 Rfc8 27.Qb3 b5 28.Kh1 Rc5 29.Rfe1 Nc4 30.Re2 Re8 31.Rbe1 Rxe2 32.Rxe2 Nb2 33.h3 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 Nc4 35.Qb4 Qa7 36.Re1 Rc2 37.Qxb5 Qf2 38.Qe8+ Kg7 39.Qe4 Rxa2 40.Kh1 Nd2 41.Qe3 Qxe3 42.Rxe3 Ra1+ 43.Kh2 a2 44.Ra3

(See below)



(Nb1 45.Rb3 Nd2 46.Ra3 Nc4 47.Ra4 Ne3 48.Bf3 Nc2 49.Be4 Nd4 50.Kg2 Nb3 51.Bc2 Nc1 52.Rb4 Ne2) 53.Ra4 Rg1+ 54.Kf2 a1Q 55.Rxa1 Rxa1 56.Kxe2 (bye bye knight!) Ra3 57.Bd3 Kf6 58.Ke3 Ke7 59.g4 Kd7 60.h4 Kc7 61.f5 Kb6 62.Kd4 Ra4+ 63.Bc4 h5 64.fxg6 fxg6 65.g5 Rb4 66.Kc3 Kc5 67.Bd3 Rxh4 68.Bxg6 Rh3+ 69.Kd2 Kxd5 70.Bf7+ Ke5 71.Ke2 h4 72.g6 Kf6 73.Kf2 Ra3 74.Kg2 Rg3+ 75.Kh2 Ke5 76.Be8 d5 77.Bb5 Rxg6 78.Kh3 Rb6 79.Bd7 Rb4 80.Bg4 Rxg4 0-1

Plus Score Chess Tournament

Omaha – March 20, 2010

A **Play for Pieces** Event

No split prizes!!! If two people finish with the same plus score, both players paid full amount!!!

All prizes guaranteed!!!

DETAILS: EF: \$15 if payment received by 3/18, else \$20

Prizes: 4.0 \$80

3.5-0.5 \$45

3.0-1.0 \$20

2.5-1.5 \$7.50

Time Control: G75 4 Round Swiss: 10:00, 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 (30 min. break after 1st & 3rd rounds)

REGISTRATION: 9:00am – 9:45am

EQUIPMENT: Bring Clocks, Sets and Boards. Limited availability onsite.

SITE: C.U. Harper Center Room 2066 590 N 20th St Omaha, NE 68102

PARKING: Free parking in lot

Future Tournaments: 4/10-11 3rd Annual Spring Open

USCF membership required and available on site.

ENTRIES To: Ben Ryan 4423 Frederick St Omaha, NE 68105

Questions: ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com or 402.452.7686

3rd Annual Spring Open

April 10-11, 2010

An NSCA Player of the Year and Play for Pieces Event

USCF Grand Prix Event GPP: 6

DETAILS:

EF: \$25 if payment received by 4/8, else \$30

Prizes: 1st \$150 (*All prizes guaranteed!!!*) 2nd \$85 3rd \$65

U170 \$50 U1500 \$50 U1300 \$50

Time Control: Rnd 1 G90 / Rnds 2-5 G120

5 Round Swiss: Sat 10-1:45-6:30, **Sun** 10-3

REGISTRATION: 9:00am – 9:45am

EQUIPMENT: Bring Clocks, Sets and Boards. Limited availability onsite.

SITE: C.U. Harper Center Room 2066 602 N 20th St Omaha, NE 68102 **PARKING:** Free parking in lot

Future Tournaments: 6/19 (*tentative*),

USCF and NSCA membership required and available on site.

ENTRIES To: Ben Ryan 4423 Frederick St Omaha, NE 68105

Questions: ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com

Tournament Life

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NSCA.Nechess.com

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ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com to schedule a date.

Date	Event	Location	Sections
February 27	Fischer Random Tournament	Lincoln	Non-rated, K-2, K-5 K-12 K-8 Open
March 13	Morton Magnet Tournament	Omaha	Non-rated grades 2-8
March 13	State High School Team Championship	Omaha	Rated or non-rated high school
March 20	March Plus Score	Omaha	Rated open
March 20	Rated Beginners Open XIII	Omaha	Rated U1200 , U800
April 3	31st Annual Merrick County Open	Central City	Non-rated open, K-12
April 10-11	3rd Annual Spring Open <i>A USCF Grand Prix Event</i>	Omaha	POY rated open U 1700, U 1500, U 1300
April 17	Brownell-Talbot Tournament	Omaha	K-12
April 17	Gere Library Rapid Tournament	Lincoln	Non-rated K-2, K-5 K-8, open
May Details coming	St. Cecilia	Omaha	K-12, adults
June 14-18th	Omaha Chess Camp	Omaha	Grades 2-11

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

4014 “N St. Lincoln, NE

68510