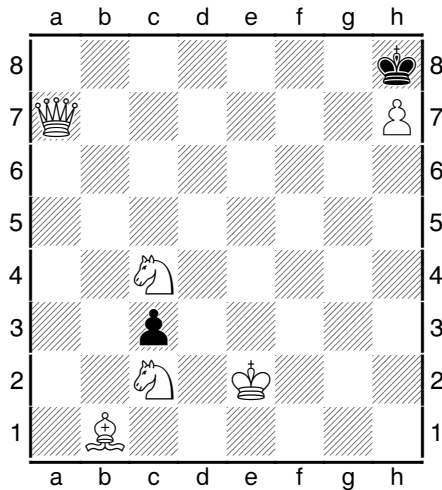


The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives

Source: "The 'Guardian' Chess Book" by Leonard Barden
(CORONET BOOKS First published 1967)
by J. Tolosa



This puzzle has a remarkable solution. It's simple once you see it, but it is a good test of your chess imagination. White plays and forces mate on his third move, against any Black defense. (Hint: Black is in 'stalemate' + needs a move.)

Diagram position provided
by
Robert Woodworth

March-April 2011

Gambit Editor: Kent Nelson

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Send memberships and address changes to:

Jeff Solheim

102 North 28th Avenue

Blair, Nebraska

68008-1023

Send all games, articles, and editorial materials to:

Kent Nelson

4014 "N" St

Lincoln, NE 68510

Kentnelson@prodigy.net

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From Kent's Corner

It is my pleasure to present another issue of the *Gambit*. As always, I'm thankful for the kind comments and support. Even with my commitment as your editor reaching a conclusion, after some considerable soul searching, I've decided to continue my work on the *Gambit* for another year. Unless of course, someone like you, wish to take over the reins. Any volunteers?

As usual, I'm indebted to my wonderful regular contributors. Special thanks to **Alex Golubow** for his article and support. **John Tomas** has written another great installment of his Prologue in Heaven series that is a fascinating read. Special thanks to **John Watson** for his kindness and hard work in checking game analysis for this issue as well as helping me solve some ChessBase software problems. John recently directed the Lincoln City Championship and **Maura**, his lovely wife, put together a press release about the results. What teamwork!

Bob Woodworth provided two articles and the cover puzzle for your enjoyment. Please welcome 9-time Nebraska State Chess Champion, **Keaton Kiewra**, as our newest *Gambit* contributor. Keaton has written an article about a tournament where he has earned his International Master title and his second Grandmaster norm. His article consists of games from the Berkeley International tournament that includes a big win over GM Hess.

Special thanks to my lifelong friend, **Gary Colvin**, for his article about the Amateur team east held in February.

My thanks to NSCA President, **Gary Marks** and all the NSCA officers for their support and timely responses to my requests.

The issue is short on pictures. The photos I took didn't turn out very well so I didn't use them. See you in July-August with another issue!

Yours in chess,

Kent Nelson

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

March 29, 2011

The Nebraska State Chess Association needs to hold the Great Plains Open to qualify a Nebraska player into the 2012 State Closed. Since we need a month to announce the tournament, it can be held in June at the earliest. We need assistance in lining up a date and playing site. If anyone is interested in helping organize this tournament, please contact me or any NSCA officers ASAP.

Speaking about NSCA officers, my term as NSCA President is coming to a close. We need to elect a new NSCA President as well as new officers, during the annual membership meeting at the Cornhusker State Games. The offices up for election are as follows: NSCA President, NSCA Omaha Vice President, NSCA Lincoln Vice President, NSCA Western Region Vice President and finally a NSCA Treasurer, and NSCA Secretary are positions that need filled. A new officer (if approved at membership meeting) will be Scholastic Coordinator.

During the membership meeting (referenced above) the future of the *Gambit* must be voted on. Does the *Gambit* become an online publication only, or become a combined paper and online publication or continue to be a paper publication? As NSCA members, we need your input to decide this and other issues affecting our organization. Please attend and provide your input. This membership meeting is very important so please plan to attend.

As my term as NSCA President comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support running NSCA. Special thanks to the hard working individuals for their help in organizing and running NSCA chess tournaments. I believe, we have the best members of any State organization. Everybody worked well this year making my term as NSCA President a most pleasant one. I compare myself with Gerald Ford, who was not elected but filled in during a time of need. I hope, I have been a good NSCA President and have not made any serious mistakes.

Gary T Marks, NSCA President

Table of Contents

News and Notes.....	1
----------------------------	----------

Chess Problems Can Really Be Unique, Instructive & (Clever)	
by Robert Woodworth.....	3

Prologue in Heaven, 11 From Ludwig to Liepnicks	
by John Tomas.....	7

Keaton Kiewra Earns International Master Title and Second GM Norm	
by Keaton Kiewra.....	19

Tournament Results.....	27
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My Chess Anniversary at the USATE	
by Gary Colvin.....	37

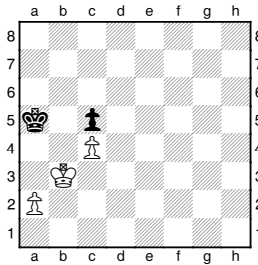
The Black Orangutang	
by Alex Golubow.....	40

A Great Chess Lesson From a Great Chess Teacher	
by Robert Woodworth.....	56

Tournament Life Summary.....	60
-------------------------------------	-----------

News and Notes

- Here is the solution to the cover puzzle from the last *Gambit*.



1 Ka3 1 Kb6 2 Kb2 2 Ka5 3 Kb3 3 Kb6 4 Kc3 4 Ka5 5 Kd2 5 Ka4 6 Ke3 6 Kb4 7 Kd3 7 Ka3 8 Ke4 8 Kxa2 9 Kd5 Wins.

- Regrettably no one offered a guess about who **Sam Richman** was. Please see page 25 from the November-December 2010 of the *Gambit*. Here is a hint, it has something to do with retail. Remember, the first correct five correct guesses/ answers will win a 5 dollar gift card from Burger King, compliments from the *Gambit* editor.
- Due to omission of Player of the Year directing points, it is my pleasure to announce the 2010 POY runner up is none other than our NSCA President, **Gary Marks**. Congratulations Gary and thank you for supporting Nebraska tournaments and all you do for Nebraska chess!
- I'm sad to report that **Ben Ryan** has moved to Texas. Our loss is Texas's gain. Best of luck to Ben Ryan and best wishes to Ben in all future endeavors!
- Please welcome the return of **Tom Dorsch**, **Ray Kappel** and **John Stepp** to Nebraska chess. It's great to see you guys and have you back!
- Here is the solution for the cover puzzle...1 Nb2 1 cxb2 (forced) 2 Na1 2 bxa1 (forced) 3 Qxa1 mate!

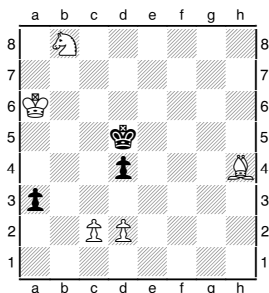
- Have you checked out the Lincoln Chess Foundation web site? The site, designed by **John Watson** is awesome. The link to John's site on the NSCA web page.
- **Remember the deadline for registering for the Cornhusker State Games is June 15th.** Don't be late or you will not be allowed to play!
- Congratulations to **Keaton Kiewra, Tom O'Conner** and **Joseph Wan** for their outstanding results at the Minnesota Open held back in February. Keaton scored 4-1 (two draws) in the powerful Premier Open section and I understand he finished in 2nd place and qualified for the Minnesota State Closed championship. Tom tied for 1st place in the Amateur section with a 4.5-.5 score. Way to go Tom! Joseph Wan scored 3-2 in the Amateur section. Well done gentlemen and thanks for making Nebraska proud!
- Remember to attend the NSCA meeting during the Cornhusker State Games on July 16-17. Elections need to be held and decisions need to be made. Please be there or be squared!
- Congratulations to **Mirko Zeljko** for winning the Lincoln City Chess Championship for the 3rd consecutive time! Mirko retired the Lincoln City Championship traveling trophy for winning the championship three years in a row. This is quite an accomplishment. Well done Mirko! For more information about the city championship, please turn to the tournament results section of the *Gambit*.
- Congratulations to **Keaton Kiewra** for earning his International Master norm and his second Grandmaster norm! Details inside!

CHESS PROBLEMS CAN REALLY BE UNIQUE,
INSTRUCTIVE (& CLEVER)
(by Robert Woodworth)

The large majority of chessplayers will dismiss the realm of chess problems as being too ungamelike and too esoteric. Actually, there is value there because many very unique themes & tactics are presented which would likely never occur in an actual game! (Most players would probably never even realize that there are any hidden possibilities for a draw or a win if faced with a composed-type ending in over-the-board play!!)

Chess problems can be divided into two major categories i.e. those which specify a White mate in a definite number of moves and those which are termed composed endings. In these composed endings, the positions are much more like those found in an actual game plus the main task is for White to either win or draw & not in an exact number of moves. (A win is defined either as a checkmate or having an insurmountable amount of material.)

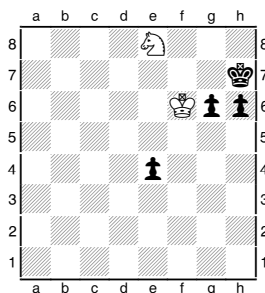
Below is a classic example of a composed ending which is your writer's favorite. White is to play & win. What makes this following composed ending so unique is that in the initial position, White would probably resign because the Black pawn on a3 will become a Queen, which is impossible to prevent from happening!?



(COMPOSED by K.A.Kubbel in 1922, SOURCE: "Chessboard Magic" by Irving Chernev)

Solution: 1.Nc6, Kxc6 (if 1.a2 then 2.Nb4+ wins) 2.Bf6, Kd5 (if 2.Kc5 then 3.Be7+ wins the a-pawn) 3.d3, a2 4.c4+, Kc5 (if 4.dxc3 e.p. then 5.Bxc3 wins) 5.Kb7, a1(Q) 6.Be7 checkmate!!
AMAZING!!

Another composed ending in which White is to play & draw could easily arise from an actual game as shown below:



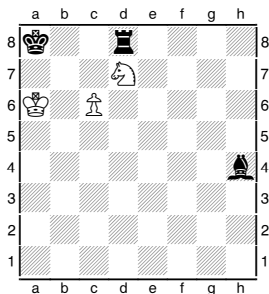
(COMPOSED by A.Selesniev in 1930, SOURCE: “Chessboard Magic”by Irving Chernev)

It would appear here that White cannot stop the e-pawn from queening but there are hidden resources!

Solution:1.Kf7,e3 2.Nf6+,Kh8 3.Nd5,e2 4.Nf4,e1(Q)
5.Nxg6+,Kh7 6.Nf8+,Kh8 7.Ng6+ and drawn by repetition.

So one can readily see that composed endings have real practical value for they can show the power of the chess pieces & pawns plus demonstrate the amazing possibilities that can easily be overlooked when analyzing a position!

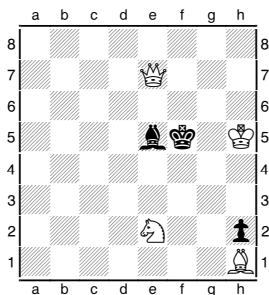
Next, I will show some examples that can be found in the other area of chess composition and that is the realm of chess problems (mate in a specified number of moves by White). (As a sidenote: your writer has a preference for lightweight problems with a minimum of pieces & pawns. That way, we avoid those positions which seem too cluttered & unappealing.)



White to move & mate in 2 moves. (Composed by P.T. Cate in 1962) (SOURCE: “Miniature Chess Problems” by Colin Russ)

The solution is 1.c7 with mate threatened by 2.Nb6#. Depending upon the defensive move by Black, the pawn will checkmate on 3 different squares.

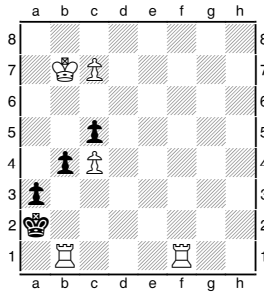
Next, is another White to play & mate in 2 moves. The keymove (or solution) is very unexpected and not very obvious.



(SOURCE: “Miniature Chess Problems” by Colin Russ and composed by Commins Mansfield in 1929.)

The solution is 1.Nf4!! which is far from obvious for the problem solver.

Finally, I've included a problem which often stumps solvers completely, despite the scanty material. White plays & forces mate on his 4th move, against any Black defense.



(SOURCE: "The Guardian Chess Book" by Leonard Barden and composed by O.V. Krobshofer)

I will leave this problem for the solver to try. One hint is that the pawn on c7 is promoted but not into the unit that is expected. (Ironically, promoting this pawn to a Queen will not allow White to mate in 4 moves.) As Ripley says: BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!

In conclusion, your writer hopes that the reader has taken some enjoyment and understanding from these chess problems & composed endings. This area of chess composition is so amazing & clever that the tactics & strategies really do exceed those we will ever see in our own games of chess.

AS A FINAL NOTE -- on the "GAMBIT" cover for the next issue, there will be a lightweight, mate-in-two move problem that takes 'cleverness' to a whole new level !!

Robert Woodworth
April, 2011
Omaha, NE

Prologue in Heaven, II: From Ludwig to Liepnicks

by

John Tomas

Alfred Ludwig



Nebraska Chess Bulletin

Al Ludwig was Nebraska's dominant player in the late '40s, and was a serious contender for Midwest titles until his untimely death in 1954. He deserves more attention than I am going to give him. The respect in which he was held is indicated by the fact that the Omaha City Championship was long known as the Ludwig Memorial. The problem, stated very simply, is that he died. When I was beginning to play, he was hardly ever mentioned (unlike, for example, Lee Magee), and so, almost all of my knowledge about him comes out of Jack Spence's series of articles on his chess career.

Here is a short summary of his career. It should give some idea of his strength in Nebraska chess.

Nebraska Championships

1943, '46, '47, '49

Omaha Championships

1941, '44, '45, '48, '49, '51

Swenson Memorial Championships

1950, '51, '52, '53

There is another result worth noting. In 1945, he won the second division of the US Open in Peoria (yes, he played in Peoria). The importance of this result may take some explanation. Before the widespread adoption of the Swiss System (and long before the national rating system we have now), the U.S. Open was run on a qualification system. Players were seeded into preliminary groups and then qualified for final sections. Howard Ohman did very well in these tournaments and qualified for the top section at least once (Spence suggested to me that he qualified several times, though Ohman himself never discussed these events with me). These events were extremely strong, and the top section was populated almost exclusively by players who would be grandmasters today: Dake, Fine, Reshevsky, etc. The second section was populated almost entirely by masters and winning it with a $9\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ score, as Ludwig did was an extraordinary achievement.

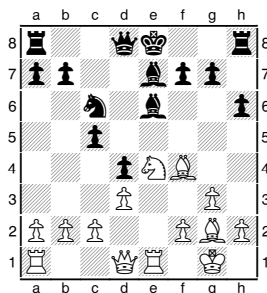
Ludwig, Alfred – Sandrin, Angelo

Sicilian Defense B23

US Open, 1949

1.e4 I confess to a personal reason for selecting this game. I played against Angelo Sandrin several times in Chicago. He and his brother, Albert (whom I also played several times), were strong masters (Albert played in the US Championship in 1949) for more than 40 years. **1...c5**
2.♟c3 e6 In the *Nebraska Chess Bulletin*, Jack Spence adorns this with a question mark, which is, of course, ridiculous. Jack did not keep up with opening theory and was wont to make snap judgments. When future IM Elliott Winslow and I helped Jack with a couple of books in the summer of 1973, we made it part of our task to discourage him from making any comments on the moves without passing them by us first. For a more considered appreciation of the move, see the 1968 Spassky-Korchnoi Candidates match where Viktor Korchnoi used this move to draw the sting from Boris Spassky's Closed Sicilian. **3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.♟g2** Again, Spence gives this a question mark suggesting instead 5.d4 leading to a clear advantage for White. Which, again, is ridiculous. **5...♟f6** After 5...d4, 6 ♔e2+ is interesting. **6.♟ge2 d4 7.♟e4 ♟c6 8.d3 ♟d5?! I** feel certain that Angelo would have played

♙e7 virtually without thought later in his career. This move is a violation of "classical" chess principles, moving an already developed piece in the opening. **9. ♖f4 ♜xf4 10. ♙xf4 ♙e6 11. 0-0 h6?** Black is wasting far too much time in the opening. Better would be **11... ♙e7! 12. ♖h5 (12. ♖e1 looks better, intending 12... 0-0 13. ♖h5) 12... g6 (12... 0-0? 13. ♜xc5) 13. ♖h6 (13. ♖e2 0-0) 13... ♙f8 14. ♖g5 (14. ♖h4!?) 14... ♙e7=.** **12. ♖e1 ♙e7**
Diagram



13. ♜xc5! With a virtually winning position, though Angelo draws it out for another 20 moves. **13... ♙xc5 14. ♖xe6+! fxe6 15. ♖h5+ ♙f8 16. ♖xc5+ ♙f7** White has invested a miniscule amount of material for a huge position. Let us count the advantages. Black's king is insecure, his pawn position ruined and his rooks out of play. Moreover, White has a dominant bishop pair. **17. ♖e1!** Ludwig could pick up a second pawn for the exchange immediately with **17. ♙xc6.** but he wants (and deserves) more. **17... ♖c8 18. ♖h5+ g6 19. ♖g4 ♖d7 20. ♙e4 ♖cg8 20... ♜e7 21. ♙e5 ♖hf8 22. ♖h4 21. ♙xc6** There are many ways to win this position. Ludwig chooses to win an ending. I have to confess, though, I would probably play for mate. **21... ♖xc6 22. ♙e5 ♖h7 23. ♙xd4 ♖d8 24. ♖e4 24. ♖f4+ ♙g8 25. ♙c3 24... e5 25. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 26. ♙xe5** Three pawns for the exchange and the better position!?! Maybe I should reconsider playing for mate! **26... ♙g8 27. ♜d5 28. ♖c4 c5 29. ♖a4 ♖b7 30. b3 ♙f7 31. ♖a6 g5 32. ♖xh6 ♖b6 33. ♖h7+ ♙g6 34. ♖xa7 1-0.**

As this game demonstrates, Ludwig was, like many other Nebraska players of the era, not well-versed in the openings. Of course, that was hardly a surprise. There were only two American magazines, *Chess Review* and the *American Chess Bulletin*, and neither of them featured much opening theory. Indeed, there were few books on chess in English of any kind, let alone on opening theory. Ludwig often got dubious or even downright poor middle-game positions but was quite adept at fighting his way out of them.

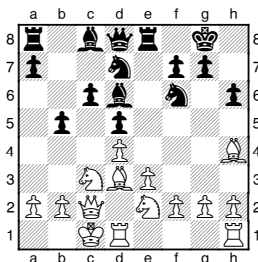
Ludwig was at his peak in the late '40s. By the early '50s he was eclipsed first by Lee Magee and then by Richard McClellan. But he was still dangerous in individual games and was almost always at the top of the lists in Omaha tournaments. He particularly appeared to have Howard Ohman's number.

Ludwig, Al - Ohman, Howard

Queen's Gambit Declined D36

Omaha City Championship, 1947

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙f6 4. ♔g5 ♙bd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3 c6 7. ♙d3 ♙d6?! I suspect that Ohman had intended to play the Cambridge Springs Defense and was unwilling to give up his aggressive intentions. But 7...♙e7 is still better. **8. ♙c2 h6?! This** simply gives Ludwig a target, especially since he hasn't castled yet. **9. ♙h4 0-0 10. ♙ge2 ♙e8 11.0-0-0!± b5?** Diagram



Black's play is much too slow for the position given that White

already has a target on h6. Ohman should play something like 11...♖b6. **12.g4! g5?** Suicide. Black is in trouble, but 12...♔a5 or 12...♖b6 13.g5 ♗g4 try to hold on. **13.♕g3 ♕xg3! 14.♗xg3 ♗xg4?! 15.h3 ♗gf6 16.♗f5 ♗f8 17.♗xh6+ ♔g7 18.♗f5+ ♕xf5 19.♕xf5 b4 20.♗a4 ♗e4 21.h4 gxh4 22.♖dg1+ ♗g6 23.♔xc6** Not afraid of ghosts 23.♗c5! also wins. **23...♔f8 24.♗c5 ♗xf2** May just as well, I guess. **25.♗d7+ 1-0**

Lee Magee



Omaha World Herald 1955

If you study Nebraska games from the late '40s to the late '50s, I think you must come to the same conclusion that John Watson and I have come to: Lee Magee was the most talented Nebraska player. Although John would not put it this way, Howard Ohman did: Magee was the most talented Nebraska player until John Watson appeared in 1965.

Magee certainly had a stellar career in Nebraska: four state titles, three Omaha championships, and regional wins galore. From 1950-1955, he was absolutely dominant in Nebraska. Indeed, he once had rating above 2200 although that was in the days when masters started at 2300.

You have to examine Magee's games and especially his games against strong players to fully appreciate how strong he was. Here is one.

Very few people alive remember Anthony (Tony) Santasire today, but he was one of the most influential writers in the country for quite some time. He annotated games for the *American Chess Bulletin* – until the appearance of *Chess Review* in the '30s the only American magazine even pretending to cover national and international chess. He had an inimitable style of annotation, effusive either positively or negatively and very short on concrete variations. He detested dry, “material” chess (though his own play was dry in the extreme), and loved “romantic” chess to distraction (and a surfeit of purple prose).

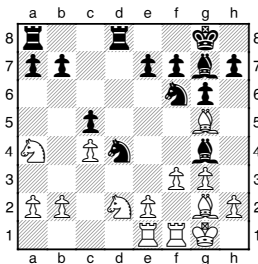
But ... he was a very strong player, though most of his successes came in the '40s when he maintained an international rating of over 2500. At the time of this game he was rated over 2400 internationally according to Jeff Sonas at the Chessmetrics site (worth a look if you are at all interested in chess history or ratings <http://db.chessmetrics.com>).

Santasire,Anthony (2510) - Magee, Lee (2210) **King's Indian Defense E65**

Tournament of State Champions Yankton 1957

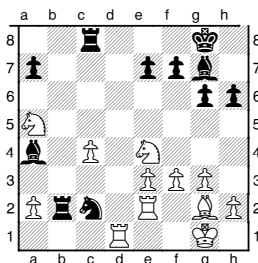
1.♖f3 ♜f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 Anthony Santasire loved b4 here, something he named "Santasire's Folly." **3...♗g7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.c4 c5** The Yugoslav variation in its purest form. It shares a number of ideas and positions with the Panno variation which arises after an immediate ... ♜c6, **7.♜c3 ♜c6 8.dxc5** This move is the reason that the pure Yugoslav has disappeared from contemporary praxis. As is the case in many symmetrical positions, White has a nagging initiative based upon his extra move. **8...dxc5 9.♗g5** Normally, White plays 9.♗e3 or 9.♗f4 here, and these options were quite well known when this game was played. Indeed, I could not find any games in my database where strong players discussed this variation with the bishop on g5

♙a5! 10.♘d2?! Nothing really offers white an advantage after black's accurate ninth move, but after this move, Black has very easy development. **10...♞d8 11.♞a4 11.♘d5 11...♞xa4 11...♞b4!?** **12.♘xa4 ♘d4** 12...h6 is interesting, in view of 13.♙e3 13...♘g4!, so White would probably opt for 13.♙xf6 ♙xf6 (On 13...♞xd2 14.♙xg7 ♖xg7 15.♙xc6 bxc6 16.♞fe1, White retains the better chances) 14.♘e4 ♙g7 15.♘exc5, when 15...♞d2 16.e3 ♙xb2 17.♞ab1 (or 17.♘xb2 ♞xb2 18.♞fb1 ♞xb1+ 19.♞xb1 ♘a5 20.♞b4) 17...♙g7 18.♘xb7 ♙d7 favors White, but Black has play. **13.♞ae1 ♙g4 14.f3** Diagram



14...♙d7?! Somewhat surprisingly, 14...♙e6! is more challenging, e.g., 15.♘xc5 ♞ac8 (15...h6) 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♙xf6 (17.♙e3 ♘c2 and 17.♙f4 ♘h5 are weak. 17.♖f2 seems best, allowing White to cover things in the line 17...h6 18.♙e3 ♘c2 19.♞b1 ♘xe3 20.♖xe3) 17...exf6 18.♖f2 ♘c2! 19.♞d1 f5 with the ideas ...Bd4+ and ...Bxb2. **15.♘xc5 h6 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.♘xb7?!** White has two extra pawns, but has given up the two bishops and has only one active piece. After 17.♘de4, 17...♙g7 is best (17...♘c2 18.♘xf6+ exf6 19.♞d1 ♙c6 20.♖f2). **17...♞dc8** White's knight could easily fall off the board down there, but 17...♞db8! is a better move. **18.♘e4 ♙g7 19.♘a5 19.♘bc5!** is best. **19...♞ab8 20.e3?** I must say that I don't understand why White didn't simply play 20.b3. It offers no advantage, but he isn't worse. **20...♘c2 21.♞e2 ♞xb2 22.♞d1** Did Santasire overlook something? Perhaps it was that after 22.♞c1 ♘xe3 23.♞xe3 ♙d4 24.♞ce1 ♙b6 25.♘b3 ♞xc4 26.♙f1 ♞cc2 27.♘ec5 ♞xc5 28.♘xc5 ♙xc5 Black has a

dominating position. Mikhail Tal used to make a living out of positions where the rook(s) dominate the piece(s). **22...♙a4**



½–½ What????? Magee probably offered the draw, but he is clearly better in this position. In spite of his extra pawn, White is fighting for the draw, and he shouldn't even get that after 22...♙a4 23.♖d3 ♜xa2 24.♖ed2 ♜a1+ 25.♙f2 ♞b4 26.♖d8+ ♜xd8 27.♖xd8+ ♙h7, for example, 28.♞c5? (but 28.c5 ♜a2+ 29.♙g1 ♜c2 is good for Black) 28...♜a2+ 29.♙g1 (29.♙f1 ♞c2! wins quickly) 29...♞c2! should be winning for Black. One line is 30.♞xa4 ♞xe3 31.♙h3 ♜xa4 32.♞c6 ♜a1+ 33.♙f2 ♞xc4 34.♞xe7 ♙f6 35.♖d7 ♜a2+ 36.♙f1 ♞e5).

Magee also drew with future correspondence world champion Hans Berliner from a superior position in this tournament.

But 1957 was near the end of Magee's chess career, in and out of Nebraska. By 1960, he had left Omaha and, to all appearances, had stopped playing tournament chess.

... Not quite.

In 1970, just before I started graduate school at Creighton, I played in the Heart of America Open in Kansas City over the Labor Day weekend. Lee Magee was also playing, and I recognized him immediately. He was twenty years older but still the same person. I noticed that he followed my games closely, but that may simply have been because I was on the top boards.

He actually had a good tournament; he was ½ point back of John

Ragan, future IM Elliott Winslow and me with one round to go. In the final round, he was paired up with Ragan while Winslow and I played. In the end, he lost to Ragan to finish on 4-2 while I beat Winslow to tie with Ragan for first place.

And that was the last I heard of his chess career.

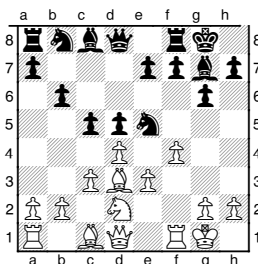
Here is one game of mine from the third round of that tournament.

Allen, Dan (1970) - Tomas, John (2031)

Stonewall System D00

1970 Heart of America Open

1.d4 ♘f6 2.e3 g6 3.♙d3 ♙g7 4.f4 d5 Nowadays, I would play 4...d6 which leads to completely different types of positions. Both equalize, or perhaps just a bit more. 5.♘f3 0-0 6.c3 ♘c6 7.0-0 e5 5.♘d2 0-0 6.♘gf3 b6 7.♘e5 c5 8.c3 ♘fd7 9.0-0 ♘xe5



10.fxe5 f6? An interesting incident occurred after this move. A number of the stronger players were laughing about this move within our hearing. Highly illegal, of course, but worse than that - - insulting. But they intended it to be. What was amusing was that they were right for the wrong reasons. This is a standard idea in Stonewall type positions, and they were properly abashed when I confronted them after the game. 10...♘c6 11.♘f3 f6 11.exf6 ♙xf6 12.♘f3 12.♘e4! ♙g7 13.♖xf8+ ♙xf8 14.♘g5 ♙g7 leaves White for choice. 12...♘c6 13.♗e2 ♙g4 14.h3 ♙xf3 15.♗xf3 e5 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 ♗d7 16.♗g4 ♗e7 17.dxc5? e4 18.♙c2 ♘e5 19.♗e2 bxc5 20.♙d2 ♔g7 21.♖ad1 c4 22.b4 ♘d3 23.a4 ♗e5 24.♙xd3 exd3 25.♗e1 ♙e7 26.♖f4

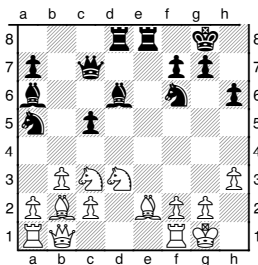
**♙d6 27.g4 g5 28.♞f2 ♜g3+ 29.♞g2 ♜xh3 30.e4 ♞f3
31.exd5 ♞af8 32.♙xg5 ♙g3 33.♜e7+ ♞8f7 34.♜e4 ♙h2+**
It's mate. **O-1**

At his best, Magee, unlike most Nebraska players, had a fine sense of the initiative and was willing to give up material to maintain it, as in this game from the 1952 Midwest Open against Alfred Ludwig.

Ludwig, Alfred - Magee, Lee Two Knights Defense[C59]

Midwest Open Hastings, 1952

**1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♙c4 ♞f6 4.♞g5 d5 5.exd5 ♞a5
6.♙b5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.♙e2 8.♞f3** If you are interested in a back-to-the-future moment, try this move. It was popular over a century ago and has recently become all the rage in the few GM games featuring the Two Knights. Also, Hikaru Nakamura had a recent success with another ancient move **8.♙d3. 8...h6 9.♞f3** Another opportunity to go back to the future. was world champion Wilhelm Steinitz's idea. ♞h3. It disappeared for 70 years after Mikhail Chigorin treated it rather rudely in his 1892 match with Steinitz. It reappears in the '60s when Fischer championed it (see Fischer - Bisguier from the 1964 New York State Championship in my *My Sixty Memorable Games*). Then, it more or less disappears for another 30 years until Nigel Short plays it in the '90s. **9...e4 10.♞e5 ♙d6 11.d4 exd3 12.♞xd3 ♜c7 13.h3** Spence gives this two question marks, but the move isn't necessarily bad. However, Ludwig's follow up is. **13...0-0 14.0-0 ♞e8 15.♞c3?! 15.♞d2** (covering c4) **15...♙f5 16.♞e1 ♞ad8 17.♙f3** (17.♞f3?! c5! 18.b3 c4 19.bxc4 ♞xc4) **17...♞xe1+ 18.♞xe1 ♞e8 19.♞d1** is only modestly in Black's favor. **15...♙a6 16.b3 ♞ad8** Clearly, Black has a lot of compensation for his pawn. **17.♙b2?! 17.♙f3!? 17...c5! 18.♞b1**



White should try 18.a4! a typical "inhuman" move to try to keep the balance. The point is to put the knight on b5 and gain a tempo to get rid of that pesky bishop on a6. Hardly surprising that Ludwig did not see it. 18...c4 19.bxc4 ♖xc4 20.♗b5 ♙xb5 the only move (20...♗xb2 21.♗xc7 ♗xd1 22.♗xe8) 21.♙xf6 gxf6 22.axb5, and white is holding the balance. **18...c4!-+ 19.♗c1 ♜b8?!**

19...♙b7! 20.♞d1 ♞bd8 This two-move sequence makes no sense to me. 21.a3? 21.Rf1 would put up a stiffer defense. **21...cxb3** This is good enough to win, but 21...♙h2+ 22.♙h1 ♜xd1+ 23.♗xd1 cxb3 24.cxb3 Bxe2 25.♗xe2 ♜xe2 is even more incisive. Then 26.g3 runs into mate 26...♞c6+ 27.♙xh2 ♞e1 28.g4 ♞f3 29.♞h7+ ♙xh7 30.♗e3 ♞xf2+ 31.♗g2 ♞g1+ 32.♙g3 ♞e3+ 33.♙f4 ♞f2. I suspect that Magee knew that this was so, but saw that the exchange up ending was an easy win and didn't bother with anything else. **22.cxb3 ♙h2+ 23.♙f1 ♜xd1+ 24.♗xd1 ♗xb3 25.♙c3 25...♙xe2+ 26.♗xe2 ♗xa1 27.♙xa1 ♙e5** This exchange-up ending is very simple. **28.♙xe5 ♞xe5 29.♞a2 ♞b5 30.♗dc3 ♞d3 31.g3 ♗e4 32.♗xe4 ♜xe4 33.♙e1 ♞a4 0-1**

Liepnieks,Alex – Magee, Lee Catalan E03

Intercity Championship, 1951

1.d4 ♗f6 2.g3 There are two constants to Liepnieks' opening play: he loved the kingside fianchetto, and he loved to exchange pawns in the center whenever possible. Here, he manages both. **2...d5 3.♗f3**

e6 4.c4 dxc4 5.♙g2 c5 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.♚a4 a6 8.dxc5?! ♙f4

This lemon just helps Black develop. Black has already equalized.

8...♙xc5 9.♚xc4 b5 10.♚b3 ♙b7 11.♘c3 ♚b6 12.a4?! ♙f4

appears more reasonable to me. **12...b4 13.a5 ♚a7 14.♘a4**

♙d5 15.♚d1 ♙e7 16.♙e3 ♚b7 17. ♘b6 ♘xb6 18. ♙xb6 Fritz

suggests that 18.axb6 is better, but I don't buy it. After 18...♘d7

19.♚d4 0-0, that pawn is going to fall off the board eventually.

18...0-0 19.♘e1 Very, very passive. **19...♙ac8** Black is more

comfortable here, but there is no reason for White to lose the

game quickly. **20.♙xd5 ♘xd5 21.♚d3 21...♙c6** The

only point where I find I disagree with Magee's play. After

21...♙f6! White is in trouble especially since **22.♙d4 ♙fd8**

23.♙xf6 runs into **♘f4! 24.♚f3 ♚xf3 25.exf3 ♘e2+ 26.♙g2**

gxf6 with a completely won endgame. Liepnieks should have

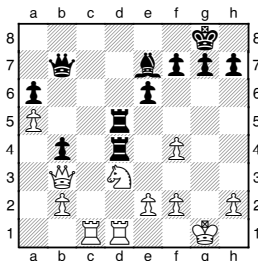
considered giving up a pawn with **22.♚b3 22...♘xb6 23.axb6**

♚xb6 24.♘d3 a5 25.♚a4 ♙a8 when he has a certain amount of

compensation in his active pieces. **22.♙d4 ♙d8 23.♚b3?**

Nervous play. **23.♘f3** was essential. **23...♘f4!** Oops! **24.gxf4**

♙xd4 25.♘d3 ♙cd6 26.♙ac1 ♙d5 27.♙fd1??



27.♙c4 is White's only chance but it isn't much. **...♙xc4**

28.♚xc4 ♙xa5 27...♙g5+! 28.fxg5 ♙g4+ 29.♙f1 ♚h1

Liepnieks did not lose too many games like this. **0-1**

My thanks to John Watson and Bob Woodworth for their help with this article.

Next time, I play Alex Liepnieks and Richard McLellan.

Keaton Kiewra Earns International Master Title and Second GM Norm

Keaton Kiewra earned the International Master title and is just one big tournament result away from becoming Nebraska's first Grandmaster. Kiewra, 23, earned the IM title and captured his second GM norm at the Berkeley International Chess Tournament in January 2011. Previously, Kiewra earned both his first IM and GM norms at the International Tournament in Kawai in 2008, completing that tournament with a 2637 performance rating. He later earned his second IM norm in 2010 at the Copper State International in Arizona. At the Berkeley tournament, Kiewra went undefeated through the first nine rounds against opponents with an average rating of 2494 and that included six grandmasters. Kiewra clinched his final IM norm after just the seventh round and claimed the GM norm in round nine with a thrilling win while playing black against Robert Hess who is ranked sixth in the U.S. All of Kiewra's norm-bearing tournaments, by the way, concluded with must-win victories in the ninth round while playing with the black pieces. Kiewra hopes to secure his final GM norm this spring while competing in the Philadelphia Open, the Chicago Open, or the World Open. Kiewra graduated in 2009 from the University of Texas at Dallas where he competed for their national champion chess team. He presently resides in Richardson, TX where he is a self-employed chess instructor. His games and analyses from the Berkeley tournament follow.

[Event "Berkeley intl"]

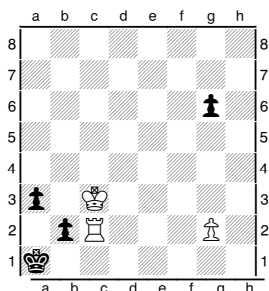
[White "Hess"]

[Black "**Kiewra**"]

[Result "0-1"]

(1. **e4** {Going into the 9th round I knew that a win would guarantee me a 9 round GM norm. A draw was also an okay result because I could still make a 10 round Gm norm with a win in the final round.} **c5** 2. **Nf3 d6** 3. **d4 Nf6** 4. **Nc3 cxd4** 5. **Nxd4 g6** {I had been playing the Schevenengen up until this point in the tournament, but with a GM norm on the line there had never been a better time to trust my all time favorite opening. Time to go for it!} 6. **Be3 Bg7** 7. **f3 O-O** 8. **Qd2 Nc6** 9. **O-O-O Nxd4** {Robert Hess usually plays anti-sicilians, so when he played into the mainline Dragon I figured that he had prepared deeply against 9...d5 which is what I normally play. However, I know some ideas in this line as well and I thought that I would certainly have more experience playing this position than my opponent.} 10. **Bxd4 Be6** 11. **h4** {More standard is 11.Kb1 where 11...Qa5 fails to 12.Nd5 Qxd2 and the

intermediate 13.Nxe7+. After 11.Kb1 Qc7 is the main line.} **Qa5 12. Qg5 b5** {The ending after 12...Qxg5 hxg5 12...Nh5 should be fine for black. However, I was in attack mode.} **13. h5 Rab8 14. hxc6 fxc6 15. Bd3 Bxa2** {The only move that gives black an advantage. I contemplated 15...Rfc8 but rejected it in light of the following variation: 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Qxd5+ Kg7 19.Rxh7+! Kxh7 20.Qf7+ Kh6 21. e5 with a winning attack for white.} **16. e5 dxe5 17. Bxe5 Bf7** {I played this move quickly and with confidence. It is common knowledge that in the Dragon a dark squared bishop is worth more than a rook :)} **18. Ne4 Nxe4 19. fxe4 b4 20. Qh4 h5 21. Bxg7 Kxg7 22. e5 Qa1+ 23. Kd2 Qxb2 24. Qg5 Rbd8** {It is key to prepare the exchange sacrifice on d3. Without the light square bishop white's position crumbles.} **25. Rxh5 Rxd3+ 26. Kxd3 Qc3+ {26...Bc4+ was winning by force. I calculated 26...Bc4+ 27.Kxc4 27...Qc3+ 28.Ke4 where it seemed pointless to give up the Bishop. But 27...Qxc2+! covering e4 leads to forced checkmate once the Rook joins the attack.} 27. Ke4 Qxc2+ 28. Ke3 Qc3+ 29. Ke4 Qc2+ 30. Ke3 Bc4** {I am fortunate to have this opportunity to still go for the win. My defenses hold up against white's attack because my Bishop denies white's Rook the f1 square.} **31. Qh6+ Kf7 32. Qf4+ Ke8 33. Rd8+ Kxd8 34. Qxf8+ Kd7 35. e6+ Bxe6 36. Ra5** {White's initiative has run out and the rest is a matter of technique. However Robert defends brilliantly in a lost position finding every chance available.} **Qc3+ 37. Kf2 Qd4+ 38. Kg3 b3 39. Qf3 Qd6+** {Now white is forced to trade Queens. 40.Kh4 loses to 40...Qb4+ and 40.Kf2 loses to 40...Qd2+ grabbing that Rook on a5.} **40. Qf4 Qxf4+ 41. Kxf4 Bf5 42.Rb5 Bc2** {Now white's Rook can never leave the b-file.} **43. Ke3 Kc6 44. Rb8 Kc7 45. Rb4 a5 46. Rc4+ Kb6 47. Kd2 Kb5 48. Rc7 Kb4 49. Rb7+ Ka3 50. Kc3 a4 51. Rxe7 Ka2 52. Re2 b2** {Not 52...a3 53.Rxc2+ bxc2 54.Kxc2 Ka1 55.Kc1 with a draw. Although 52...a3 is okay as long as black plays 53...b2} **53. Rxc2 a3 54. Kd2 Kb1 55. Kc3 Ka1** {An exhilarating moment as I completed my second GM norm. Robert Hess was very gracious after this loss and even looked over the game with me afterwards. From my experience with beating GMs (not that I have beaten that many) this has not usually been the case.} 0-1

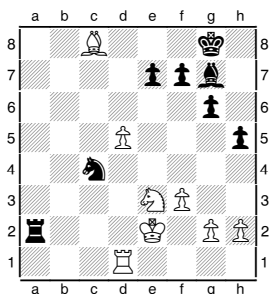


Final Position-White Resigns

(2) Yanayt - Kiewra [E91]

Berkeley intl, 28.01.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Bg4 7.Be3 Nfd7
8.Rc1 a6 9.d5 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 b5 11.cxb5 axb5 12.Qb3 c5 13.Qxb5
Qa5 14.Qxa5 Rxa5 15.a3 Na6 16.Rc2 Rb8 17.Nd1 Nc7 18.b4 Rxa3
19.bxc5 Nxc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.Rxc5 Nb5 22.0-0 Nd4 23.Bg4 h5
24.Rc8+ Rxc8 25.Bxc8 Nb3 26.Ne3 Nd2 27.Rd1 Nxe4 28.Kf1 Ra2
29.f3 Nd2+ 30.Ke2 Nc4+ 0-1



Final Position White Resigns

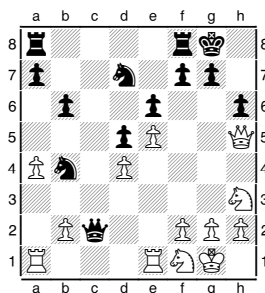
[White "Ravichandran"]

[Black "Kiewra"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Be2 {I was incredibly worn out from my marathon game vs GM Bojkov the previous round. I breathed a sigh of relief when I saw this move and realized I wasn't going to have to play against one of White's more dangerous options against the e6 sicilian.} Nc6 4. O-O Nf6 5. d3 Qc7 6. a4 d5 7. Nbd2 Be7 8. c3 O-O 9. Re1 b6 10. Bf1 Ba6 11. e5 Nd7 12. d4 Bxf1 13. Nxf1 cxd4 14. cxd4 {Now black has a very good French type position since the light square bishops have been traded.} Nb4 15. Bg5 Bxg5 16. Nxc5 Qc2

17. Qh5 h6 18. Nh3



Position after 18 Nh3

{GM Magesh Panchanathan pointed out in post game analysis that Ne3 is probably White's only move here. White has to try build a dangerous attack against Black's King, and Nh3 is certainly not the move to get the job done.}

Qxb2 19. Rab1 Qxd4 20. Rbd1 Nd3 21. Re3 N7c5 22. Qe2 Rac8 23. a5 bxa5 24. Rxd3 Nxd3 25. Rxd3 {Black is winning as White's Knight's are very poorly coordinated and Black's pieces are active.} **Qa1 26. Rd2 Rc1 27. Nf4** {My original idea was to play Rac8 so I could capture on f1 and bring the second rook to c1. I saw though that after 27...Rac8 28.Nd3 covers c1. Alas, the b1 square cannot be covered...} **Rb8 0-1**

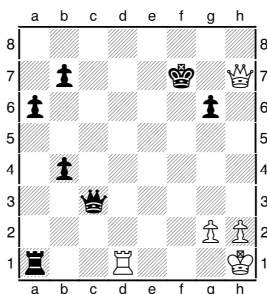
[[White "Naroditsky"]

[Black "**Kiewra**"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 {I chose the Scheveningen over the Dragon because I wanted to play a solid game and avoid taking risks.} **3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Be2** {This line is solid but offers white little chance for an advantage. 6. g4 (the Keres attack) is a more critical line.} **Be7 7. O-O Nc6 8. Be3 O-O 9. f4 a6 10. a4 Qc7 11. Kh1 Nxd4 12. Qxd4** {by taking on d4 with the Queen white gains a tempo because the Q can retreat to d2.} **e5 13. Qd2 exf4 14. Bxf4 Be6 15. Rad1 Rfd8 16. Bg5 Ne8 17. Be3 Nf6**

18. Nd5 Bxd5 19. exd5 Nd7 20. a5 Bf6 21.c4 Re8 22. b4 Re7
 {White has a big spatial advantage on the Q-side so I opt to double rooks and look for counterplay in the center.} **23.Bf4 Rae8 24. Bd3 Be5**{trades of minor pieces favor black since white has the 2 bishops advantage.} **25. Bg5 Bf6 26. c5 Bxg5 27. Qxg5 Ne5 28. Bc2 Rd8 29. Qh4 g6 30. Rf6 dxc5 31. d6 Red7 32. Re1** (32. dxc7 Rxd1+ 33. Bxd1 Rxd1+ 34. Rf1 Rxf1#) **32... Rxd6 33. Rxd6 Rxd6** (33... Qxd6 34. Rxe5 Qxe5 35. Qxd8+ Kg7 36. Qd2 {+=}) **34. Rxe5 cxb4** {at first glance this seems good for white since he has an extra piece, but black has back rank threats as well as a dangerous passed b pawn.} **35. Bb3 Rf6 36. Re1** (36. Qxf6 Qc1+) **36... Qc3 37. Qg3 Rf5 38. Rd1** (38. Qxc3 bxc3 39. Ra1 Rb5 40. Bc4 Rb2 {=+}) **38... Rxa5 39. Bxf7+ Kxf7 40. Qh4 Ra1 41. Qxh7+** { I agreed to a draw in a much better position. I missed that after 41...Kf6 Qh8+ Kg5 Qxc3 I take his rook on d1 with checkmate!} **1/2-1/2**

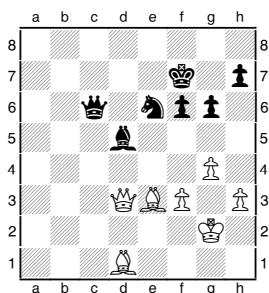


Position after 41 Qxh7+
 Draw agreed

[[White "**Kiewra**"]
 [Black "Panchanathan"]
 [Result "1/2-1/2"]
 [[EventDate "2011.01.28"]]

1. e4 {Magesh and I are friends from our days at UTD and have had many exhilarating battles over the chess board. This one started off a bit dry, but as all of Magesh's games seem to do,

became very dynamic.} **e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nge7** {In our last encounter in the Copper State International Magesh played 3...a6 and went into a normal Ruy Lopez set up. I got an advantage but Magesh was able to hold the draw. Here, with a full day to prepare, Magesh went with the solid fianchetto line.}
4. O-O g6 5. d4 exd4 6. Nxd4 Bg7 7. Nxc6 {I played this ultraconservative move because I needed a draw to secure an IM norm. Although I needed only half a point from my next 3 games and had a GM norm in site, I wanted to make sure I could walk before I tried to run. {7.Be3 offers white better chances for an advantage.} **bx c6 8. Bc4 d5 9. exd5 cxd5 10. Bb3 O-O 11. Nc3 c6 12. Re1 Nf5 13. Bf4 Re8 14. Rxe8+ Qxe8 15. Qd2** {I offered a draw here but Magesh as usual wanted to fight this one out until the end.} **Be6 16. Re1 Qf8 17. Be5 f6 18. Bf4 Bf7 19. h3 Re8 20. Rxe8 Qxe8 21. Qe2 Qc8 22. Qd3 Bf8 23. Ne2 Qe6 24. g4 Nd6 25. Qe3 Qd7 26. c3 Ne4 27. f3 Nc5 28. Bc2 Ne6 29. Bg3 Qb7 30. b4 c5 31. Bf2 cxb4 32. Qxa7 Qc6 33. Qe3 Bc5 34. Qd2 bxc3** {34...Ng5 offered black a nearly winning advantage.} **35. Qxc3 d4 36. Qd3 Ng5 37. Kg2 Bxa2** {37...Nxf3 fails to 38.Qxf3 Bd5 39.Bb3! with a winning maltesian cross!} **38.Nxd4 Bxd4 39. Bxd4 Bd5 40. Bd1 Ne6 41. Be3 Kf7** {Magesh finally decided he had tried hard enough to beat me and offered a draw. I considered playing a few more moves here with the 2 Bishops since I had no losing chances, but decided I was happy with the result.} 1/2-1/2



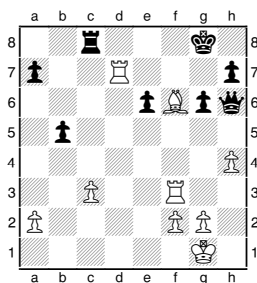
Position after 41...Kf7
Draw agreed

[White "Kiewra"]

[Black "Kraai"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1.e4 {After securing my IM norm the previous round, I was free to fearlessly pursue my GM norm. Although I knew going in that a draw would be an okay result, I also knew that this would be my best chance to get the win that I would inevitably need since I had white.} **c5** {Hours of preparation out the window. I was sure that Jesse would play the French. This is why I sometimes don't prepare at all in tournaments where pairings are posted well in advance. It always seems like opponents will prepare something that you never expect them to play :) } **2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. O-O Bg7 5. c3 Nf6 6. e5 Nd5 7. d4 Nc7** {I was completely on my own now having never seen this move in my life. 7...0-0 is the main line.} **8. Ba4 cxd4 9. cxd4 O-O 10. Nc3 d6 11. exd6 Qxd6 12. Ne4 Qd5 13. Nc3** {If Jesse played Qd6 back I would be happy to repeat moves and try my luck in the next game after clearly having lost the opening battle.} **Qh5 14.d5 Rd8** {giving me a chance to go for something dynamic and crazy in a game where I intended to go for a win. I can't pass it up!} **15. dxc6 Rxd1 16. Rxd1** {In compensation for the Queen, I have a Rook and Knight, plus a dangerous pawn on c6 and the fact that black has a weak back rank and poor development.} **Bxc3 17. bxc3 b5 18. Rd8+ Kg7 19. Bb3 Bg4 20. Rd3 Bxf3 21. Rxf3** {The position changes a great deal as black trades both his bishops for Knights. I was happy with this trading because now my position really starts to become active.} **Ne6 22. Ba3 Rc8 23. Bxe7 Rxc6 24. Bf6+** {Black has to be careful as there are a lot of mating nets in the works.} **Kg8 25. Rd1 Rc8 26. Bxe6 fxe6 27. Rd7 Qh6 28. h4** {I foolishly offered a draw in a winning position. I thought that after 28...Rf8 29.Bg5 Qh5 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 the resulting ending was drawn. Perhaps you can tell me what I missed...} **1/2-1/2**



Position after 28 h4

Draw agreed

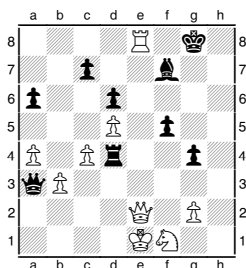
[Event "Berkeley intl"]

[White "Kiewra"]

[Black "Bojkov"]

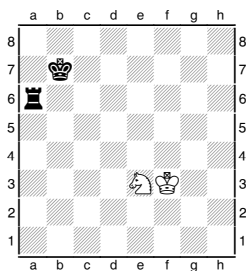
[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. O-O Be7
7. Re1 b5 8. Bb3 d6 9. Bd5 Nxd5 10. exd5 Ne5 11. Nxd4 O-O
12. a4 Bg4 13. Qd2 Bd7 14. Nc3 b4 15. Ne4 Qb8 16. f4 Ng4 17.
b3 Qb7 18. Nf3 Bf6 19. Nxf6+ Nxf6 20. Rd1 Ne4 21. Qd4 Nc3
22. Rd2 Rfe8 23. Bb2 Re4 24. Qd3 Rae8 25. Bxc3 Re3 26.
Qd4 bxc3 27. Rd3 Rxd3 28. Qxd3 Qb6+ 29. Kf1 Re3 30. Qc4
Bg4 31. Nd4 Re4 32. Re1 Rxf4+ 33. Nf3 g5 34. Qxc3 f6 35.
Re3 Bh5 36. h3 Bf7 37. Qd2 h5 38. Ke1 g4 39. hxg4 hxg4 40.
Nh2 Rd4 41. Qe2 f5 42. c4 Qc5 43. Nf1 Qa3 44. Re8+



Position after 44 Re8+

Kg7 45. Re7 Qa1+ 46. Kf2 Rf4+ 47. Kg1 Qd4+ 48. Qe3 Kf6
49. Qxd4+ Rxd4 50. Rxc7 f4 51. Rd7 g3 52. Rxd6+ Kf5 53.
Rxa6 Rd1 54. Ra7 Bh5 55. Re7 f3 56. gxf3 Bxf3 57. Rg7 g2
58. Rxg2 Bxg2 59. Kxg2 Rd3 60. b4 Ke5 61. a5 Kd4 62. b5
Kxc4 63. b6 Kxd5 64. a6 Kc6 65. b7 Kc7 66. Kf2 Ra3 67. Ne3
Rxa6 68. Kf3 Kxb7 1/2-1/2



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.

2010 December Plus Score was held on the Creighton Campus on December 4th. Winner of the Open Section was Bob Holliman from Kansas City with a perfect 4-0 score. This event was organized and directed by Ben Ryan.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	B. Holliman	2200	W 10	W 11	W 3	W 4	4.0
2	J. Knapp	2010	L 12	W 18	W 8	W 10	3.0
3	K. Nelson	1831	W 13	W 7	L 1	H 0	2.5
4	J. Wan	1678	W 17	D 16	W 12	L 1	2.5
5	K. Motschman	1661	W 22	L 9	D 13	W 12	2.5
6	S. Martens	1539	L 9	W 22	W 15	H 0	2.5
7	J. Jorenby	1570	W 21	L 3	W 14	H 0	2.5
8	R. Gruber	1362	H 0	W 14	L 2	W 21	2.5
9	T. Dutiel	1891	W 6	W 5	U 0	U 0	2.0
10	J. Fitzpatrick	1714	L 1	W 20	W 19	L 2	2.0
11	C. Forsman	1689	W 20	L 1	H 0	H 0	2.0
12	B. Li	1611	W 2	W 15	L 4	L 5	2.0
13	J. Leavitt	1456	L 3	W 21	D 5	H 0	2.0
14	Terry Hack	1122	B 0	L 8	L 7	X 0	2.0
15	J. Solheim	1693	W 18	L 12	L 6	H 0	1.5
16	D. Raines	1646	W 19	D 4	U 0	U 0	1.5
17	T. Benetz	1425	W 4	L 19	W 20	H 0	1.5
18	A. Golubow	1389	L 15	W 2	W 22	H 0	1.5
19	S. Robinson	Unr	L 16	W 17	L 10	F 0	1.0
20	David Given	1233	L 11	L 10	L 17	B 0	1.0
21	M. Mulligan	1179	L 7	L 13	B 0	L 8	1.0
22	Jason Selvaraj	1217	L 5	L 6	L 18	H 0	. 5

RBO XV
December 4th 2011

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	A. Petrosyan	1145	W 12	L 7	W 11	W 9	W 2	W 6	5.0
2	J. Volkmer	859	W 9	W 3	W 7	W 6	L 1	W 4	5.0
3	Samuel	1025	W 14	L 2	W 10	W 8	L 4	W 7	4.0
4	S. Chokkara	927	W 5	H 0	D 6	W 7	W 3	L 2	4.0
5	C. Corpuz	467	L 4	W 15	L 9	W 16	W 12	W 10	4.0
6	T. Gulizia	1004	W 13	W 8	D 4	L 2	W 9	L 1	3.5
7	C. Caniglia	Unr	W 10	L 1	W 2	L 4	W 8	L 3	3.0
8	S. Potineni	891	W 16	L 6	W 13	L 3	L 7	W 15	3.0
9	A. Cloet	816	L 2	W 11	W 5	L 1	L 6	W 14	3.0
10	A. Jaddu	769	L 7	W 14	L 3	W 12	L 11	L 5	3.0
11	J. Mcelderry	699	W 15	L 9	L 1	W 13	L 10	W 16	3.0
12	N. Mallipudi	765	L 1	H 0	W 14	L 10	L 5	W 13	2.5
13	R. Kim	573	L 6	W 16	L 8	L 11	W 15	L 12	2.0
14	J. Kelly	240	L 3	L 10	L 12	W 15	W 16	L 9	2.0
15	J. Noonan	Unr	L 11	L 5	D 16	L 14	L 13	L 8	.5
16	T. Metcalf	Unr	L 8	L 13	D 15	L 5	L 14	L 11	.5



Special thanks to **Lady Gaga** for providing the “motivational music” to help yours truly finish this issue. I wonder if she plays chess?

The 2011 January Quads was held on January 15th in Omaha. There was 2 quads and one section. The event was organized and directed by the combine efforts of Mike Gooch and Ben Ryan. After the tournament was over, the players were treated to a lecture by International Master, John Watson. John's lecture centered around pawn storms and analysis in queen pawn openings. John also conducted analysis of games from the tournament's participants. The result was interesting and educational experience for one and all!

Report by Kent Nelson.

First Quad

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	Doug Given	1789	W 2	W 4	W 3	3.0
2	D. Meux	1700	L 1	W 3	D 4	1.5
3	J. Wan	1683	W 4	L 2	L 1	1.0
4	C. Forsman	1690	L 3	L 1	D 2	0.5

Second Quad

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	H. Nadell	1437	W 2	W 4	W 3	3.0
2	B. Li	1644	L 1	W 3	W 4	2.0
3	M. Jacobs	1536	W 4	L 2	L 1	1.0
4	T. Benetz	1394	L 3	L 1	L 2	0.0

Top Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	T. Hack	1104	W 4	W 5	W 2	3.0
2	M. Mulligan	1156	W 5	W 3	L 1	2.0
3	C. Shiu	1282	W 6	L 2	D 4	1.5
4	J. Selvarj	1209	L 1	W 6	D 3	1.5
5	David Given	1216	L 2	L 1	W 6	1.0
6	J. Volkmer	1050	L 3	L 4	L 5	0.0

RBO XVI 1/15/11
Under 1200 Section above Under 600 below

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	S. Chokkara	1063	W 13	W 6	L 4	W 12	W 2	W 3	5.0
2	M. Hezel	856	W 16	W 7	W 3	W 4	L 1	W 8	5.0
3	A. Petrosyan	1151	W 9	W 8	L 2	W 5	W 4	L 1	4.0
4	S. Potineni	845	W 10	W 5	W 1	L 2	L 3	W 9	4.0
5	V. Retineni	734	W 15	L 4	W 11	L 3	W 8	W 10	4.0
6	J. Severa	720	W 11	L 1	L 9	W 15	D 7	W 12	3.5
7	A. Zaleski	592	W 12	L 2	L 8	W 16	D 6	W 13	3.5
8	I. Krings	749	W 14	L 3	W 7	W 9	L 5	L 2	3.0
9	N. Mallipudi	696	L 3	W 14	W 6	L 8	W 12	L 4	3.0
10	C. Corpuz	613	L 4	L 15	W 14	W 11	W 16	L 5	3.0
11	T. Samiev	Unr	L 6	W 13	L 5	L 10	W 14	W 15	3.0
12	J. Mcelderry	674	L 7	W 16	W 15	L 1	L 9	L 6	2.0
13	D. Thrash	618	L 1	L 11	L 16	D 14	W 15	L 7	1.5
14	H. Hawbaker	Unr	L 8	L 9	L 10	D 13	L 11	B-0	1.5
15	J. Kumke	Unr	L 5	W 10	L 12	L 6	L 13	L 11	1.0
16	H. McMin	227	L 2	L 12	W 13	L 7	L 10	U-0	1.0

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	T. Feldhaus	Unr	W 3	W 13	W 5	W 2	W 4	W 6	6.0
2	S. Chokkara	499	W 17	W 9	W 14	L 1	W 3	W 5	5.0
3	W. Svoboda	493	L 1	B 0	W 7	W 6	L 2	W 8	4.0
4	B. Graves	Unr	L 9	W 16	W 11	W 8	L 1	W 10	4.0
5	J. Kelly	324	B0	W 8	L 1	W 14	W 7	L 2	4.0
6	R. Reyes	Unr	D 7	W 17	W 15	L 3	W 13	L 1	3.5
7	J. Ackerman	Unr	D 6	W 10	L 3	W 15	L 5	W 13	3.5
8	A. Hack	Unr	W 10	L 5	W 9	L 4	W 14	L 3	3.0
9	A. Brown	Unr	W 4	L 2	L 8	W 11	L 10	W 14	3.0
10	J. Reyes	Unr	L 8	L 7	W 13	W 12	W 9	L 4	3.0
11	D. Mlynski	Unr	L 14	W 12	L 4	L 9	W 17	W 15	3.0
12	K. Abolafia	Unr	L 13	L 11	B 0	L 10	D 15	W 17	2.5
13	V. Potineni	279	W 12	L 1	L 10	W 16	L 6	L 7	2.0
14	J. Noonan	103	W 11	W 15	L 2	L 5	L 8	L 9	2.0
15	J. Eckel	346	W 16	L 14	L 6	L 7	D 12	L 11	1.5
16	H. Robinson	Unr	L 15	L 4	W 17	L 13	U 0	U 0	1.0
17	C. Abolafia	Unr	L 2	L 6	W 16	B 0	L 11	L 12	1.0

2011 Feb Plus Score Open Section

The February Plus Score was in Omaha on February 5th 2011.

There was 3 sections made up of 43 players. Winner of the Open section was **Joe Knapp** with a perfect 4 point score. In the under 1200 section, **Sukarn Chokkara** and **Vikas Retineni** tied with 5 points to take 1st place. **Randall Kim** and **Brett Graves** won the U 600 section. The tournament was organized and directed by **Ben Ryan** and **Mike Gooch**.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	J. Knapp	2003	W 10	W 12	W 4	W 2	4.0
2	B. Holliman	2204	W 8	W 5	W 3	L 1	3.0
3	D. Shennum	1995	W 22	W 6	L 2	W 13	3.0
4	K. Nelson	1836	W 16	W 13	L 1	H 0	2.5
5	Doug Given	1828	W 23	L 2	W 11	D 7	2.5
6	J. Wan	1674	W 21	W 3	W 9	H 0	2.5
7	B. Li	1642	W 17	L 11	W 16	D 5	2.5
8	P. Lesslie	1622	L 2	W 18	W 20	D 11	2.5
9	B. Ryan	1559	D 11	W 14	L 6	W 17	2.5
10	J. Hartman	1600	L 1	W 15	D 17	W 18	2.5
11	T. Dutiel	1916	D 9	W 7	L 5	W 8	2.0
12	C. Forsman	1667	W 15	L 1	H 0	H 0	2.0
13	K. Motschman	1644	W 12	L 4	W 19	L 3	2.0
14	J. Solheim	1663	D 18	L 9	W 22	H 0	2.0
15	D. Dostal	1296	L 12	L 10	W 21	X 0	2.0
16	J. Leavitt	1468	L 4	W 21	L 7	H 0	1.5
17	T. Oltman	Unr	L 7	W 23	D 10	L 9	1.5
18	Terry Hack	1270	D 14	L 8	W 23	L 10	1.5
19	M. Buckley	1393	U 0	W 22	L 13	F 0	1.0
20	M. Mulligan	1220	L 13	B 0	L 8	L 21	1.0
21	David Given	1185	L 6	L 16	L 15	W 20	1.0
22	C. Roth	1576	L 3	L 19	L 14	H 0	0.5
23	T. Benetz	1365	L 5	L 17	L 18	H 0	0.5

2011 Feb Plus Score Under 600 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	R. Kim	531	W 5	W 4	W 2	W 3	W 7	L 6	5.0
2	B. Graves	586	W 9	W 7	L 1	W 8	W 10	W 3	5.0
3	S. Chokkara	656	W 10	W 6	W 8	L 1	W 9	L 2	4.0
4	G. Basile	Unr	W 6	L 1	L 7	W 9	W 5	W 10	4.0
5	J. Kelly	484	L 1	W 9	W 6	W 7	L 4	W 8	4.0
6	W. Svoboda	589	L 4	L 3	L 5	W 10	W 8	W 1	3.0
7	G. Drew	Unr	W 8	L 2	W 4	L 5	L 1	W 9	3.0
8	J. Ackerman	481	L 7	W 10	L 3	L 2	L 6	L 5	1.0
9	A. Hack	443	L 2	L 5	W 10	L 4	L 3	L 7	1.0
10	D. Mlynski	285	L 3	L 8	L 9	L 6	L 2	L 4	0.0

2011 Feb Plus Score Under 1200 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	S. Chokkara	1091	W 9	W 6	L 2	W 3	W 7	W 4	5.0
2	V. Retineni	809	W 10	W 8	W 1	W 4	L 3	W 7	5.0
3	A. Jaddu	756	D 4	W 5	W 8	L 1	W 2	W 10	4.5
4	T. Samiev	571	D 3	W 9	W 6	L 2	W 8	L 1	3.5
5	M. Hezel	1007	L 6	L 3	L 7	W 10	W 9	W 8	3.0
6	J. Mcelderry	614	W 5	L 1	L 4	L 8	W 10	W 9	3.0
7	N. Mallipudi	713	L 8	D 10	W 5	W 9	L 1	L 2	2.5
8	C. Cox	1040	W 7	L 2	L 3	W 6	L 4	L 5	2.0
9	J. Severa	725	L 1	L 4	W 10	L 7	L 5	L 6	1.0
10	A. Samiev	Unr	L 2	D 7	L 9	L 5	L 6	L 3	0.5

I received the crosstables on 2011 Individual Scholastic Chess Championship. The 2011 Nebraska High School Chess Champion is **Albert Zhou**, 2011 Nebraska Middle School Chess Champion is **Brandon Li**, 2011 Elementary Chess Champion is **John McElderry**, 2011 Primary Chess Champion Trophy Winner is **Sumeet Chokkara** on Tie Breaks, **James Kelly** took 2nd Place Trophy and **Pranov Rajan** took the 3rd Place Trophy. All 3 players had a 4-1 score, so I believe we have Triple Primary Chess Champions. I don't believe we determine the State Primary Champion on tie breaks unless by common game. Sumeet Chokkara won against James Kelly, and lost to Randall Kim. Pranov Rajan won against Randall Kim and lost to Adam Dahlman. James Kelly won against Adam Dahlman and lost to Sumeet Chokkara. So we do not have a common game situation, and therefore have Triple Primary Chess Champions. *From an e-mail by Gary Marks. Final standings on proceeding pages.*

2011 Individual Nebraska Scholastic: High School K-12

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	A. Zhou	2033	W 4	W 5	W 2	W 6	W 3	5.0
2	Z. Zhang	1655	W 3	W 4	L 1	W 5	W 6	4.0
3	B. Gimminger	1175	L 2	W 6	W 5	W 4	L 1	3.0
4	Caleb Klatt	1552	L 1	L 2	W 6	L 3	W 5	2.0
5	Colin Klatt	927	W 6	L 1	L 3	L 2	L 4	1.0
6	A. Suresh	884	L 5	L 3	L 4	L 1	L 2	0.0

2011 Individual Nebraska Scholastic: Middle School K-8

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	B. Li	1644	W 6	W 3	W 2	W 4	4.0
2	J. Wan	1683	W 5	W 4	L 1	W 3	3.0
3	A. Petrosyan	1151	W 7	L 1	W 5	L 2	2.0
4	S. Chokkara	1063	W 8	L 2	W 6	L 1	2.0
5	C. Caravaggio	962	L 2	W 8	L 3	W 7	2.0
6	N. Malipudi	696	L 1	W 7	L 4	L 8	1.0
7	S. Clegg	456	L 3	L 6	W 8	L 5	1.0
8	B. Barnes	Unr	L 4	L 5	L 7	W 6	1.0

2011 Individual Nebraska Scholastic: Primary School K-3

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	S. Chokkara	499	W 10	W 9	W 3	L 4	W 8	4.0
2	P. Rajan	388	W 5	L 7	W 8	W 9	W 4	4.0
3	J. Kelly	324	W 11	W 4	L 1	W 7	W 9	4.0
4	R. Kim	531	W 8	L 3	W 7	W 1	L 2	3.0
5	C. Zimmerman	Unr	L 2	W 6	L 10	B -	W 7	3.0
6	C. Kumke	Unr	L 7	L 5	B—	W 10	W 11	3.0
7	C. Hammans	Unr	W 6	W 2	L 4	L 3	L 5	2.0
8	I. Hammans	Unr	L 4	W 10	L 2	W 11	L 1	2.0
9	J. Lee	146	B—	L 1	W 11	L 2	L 3	2.0
10	J. Kerkman	Unr	L 1	L 5	W 5	L 6	B—	2.0
11	A. Dahlman	Unr	L 3	B—	L 9	L 8	L 6	1.0

2011 Nebraska Individual Championship: Elementary K-6

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	J. McElderry	674	W 22	W 10	W 11	W 7	W 2	5.0
2	S. Potineni	845	W 21	W 13	W 4	W 14	L 1	4.0
3	V. Retineni	734	W 15	W 8	L 7	W 12	W 9	4.0
4	J. Selvaraj	1209	W 5	W 9	L 2	W 6	W 8	4.0
5	D. Schlautman	434	L 4	B—	W 17	W 10	W 7	4.0
6	I. Krings	749	W 20	W 19	D 14	L 4	W 18	3.5
7	A. Nelson	894	W 12	W 18	W 3	L 1	L 5	3.0
8	T. Feldhaus	Unr	W 11	L 3	W 24	W 13	L 4	3.0
9	T. Leone	534	W 23	L 4	W 22	W 15	L 3	3.0
10	J. Slifkin	Unr	W 24	L 1	W 19	L 5	W 27	3.0
11	C. Corpuz	631	L 8	W 20	L 1	W 21	W 14	3.0
12	A. Kerkman	Unr	L 7	W 26	W 16	L 3	W 19	3.0
13	G. Dunbar	439	W 25	L 2	W 23	L 8	W 17	3.0
14	O. Gong	963	W 27	W 16	D 6	L 2	L 11	2.5
15	G. Campbell	Unr	L 3	W 25	W 18	L 9	D 16	2.5
16	C. Schlautman	454	W 17	L 14	L 12	W 23	D 15	2.5
17	P. Dodson	Unr	L 16	W 21	L 5	W 27	L 13	2.0
18	W. Svoboda	493	W 26	L 7	L 15	W 22	L 6	2.0
19	B. Brunsman	239	B—	L 6	L 10	W 26	L 12	2.0
20	G. Basile	Unr	L 6	L 11	L 27	W 24	W 26	2.0
21	J. Kumke	Unr	L 2	L 17	W 25	L 11	W 23	2.0
22	K. Pham	Unr	L 1	W 24	L 9	L 18	W 25	2.0
23	D. Doug	Unr	L 9	W 27	L 13	L 16	L 21	1.0
24	R. Klatt	449	L 10	L 22	L 8	L 20	B—	1.0
25	K. Delancey	Unr	L 13	L 15	L 21	B—	L 22	1.0
26	C. Dahlman	Unr	L 18	L 12	B—	L 19	L 20	1.0
27	D. Lim	Unr	L 14	L 23	W 20	L 17	L 10	1.0

102nd Annual Lincoln City Chess Championship: Zeljko and Nelson tie for First Place

April 3, 2011

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Mirko Zeljko and Kent Nelson tied for first place in the 102nd Annual Lincoln City Chess Championship on Saturday, April 2 at Southeast Community College in Lincoln. Nelson took home the first place trophy after becoming the nine-time Lincoln City Champion.

Zeljko retired the traveling championship trophy after winning the tournament for the third straight year. Tom Dorsch won second place and five players tied for third place: Doug Given, Ray Kappel, Doug McFarland, Keith Motschman, and Bob Woodworth.

The Lincoln City Chess Championship began in 1909 and is sponsored by the Lincoln Chess Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes the game of chess as both a sport and an educational activity. This three-round tournament is open to all local chess

players who are members of the United States Chess Federation, and this year 24 area players participated. International Chess Master John Watson served as tournament director. Watson commented that “this year’s tournament was a real nail-biter. The competitors were terrific and the results depended completely on the day’s final round of play.” Chess is a game of strategy and stamina that enjoys tremendous popularity in Lincoln.

Latvian immigrants first brought the game to the area in the late 1800s and today Lincoln boasts a growing and active chess community. The Lincoln Chess Foundation sponsors scholastic activities and has twice hosted the US Open Chess Tournament, which attracts the best chess players from around the world. The Lincoln Chess Club meets for pick-up chess games on Tuesdays at 7 pm at the Meadowlark Coffee House at 16th and South Streets. These informal gatherings are free and open to the public; all chess players from beginner to master are welcome. For more information about the Lincoln Chess Club and the Lincoln Chess Foundation contact john@lincolinchessfoundation.org or visit www.LincolnChessFoundation.org

Special thanks to **Maura Giles Watson** for her press release. Final standings are on the next page.-Ed

The 2010 Lincoln City Championship was held at Lincoln's Southeast Community College on April 2nd 2011. The event was formatted differently this year to include out of town players and was called the 2010 championship due to the tournament not being held during the calendar year 2010. As stated in the press release (previous page) the tournament was won by Mirko Zeljko and Kent Nelson, each with 3 points. John Watson directed and he did a wonderful job. The event was organized by Kent Nelson. The 2011 championship will be held this Fall. Thanks to all who played.-*Kent Nelson*

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	M. Zeljko	1987	W 8	W 9	W 4	3.0
2	K. Nelson	1839	W 15	W 11	W 7	3.0
3	T. Dorsch	2202	W 14	D 5	W 13	2.5
4	Doug Given	1849	W 12	W 6	L 1	2.0
5	R. Woodworth	1742	W 17	D 3	D 9	2.0
6	K. Motschman	1660	W 22	L 4	W 15	2.0
7	R. Kappel	1651	W 19	W 10	L 2	2.0
8	Doug McFarland	1654	L 1	W 16	W 18	2.0
9	J. Fitzpatrick	1730	W 16	L 1	D 5	1.5
10	J. Stepp	1736	D 13	L 7	W 20	1.5
11	Z. Zhang	1680	W 18	L 2	D 12	1.5
12	G. Marks	1603	L 4	W 19	D 11	1.5
13	L. Mota	1400	D 10	W 20	L 3	1.5
14	J. Solheim	1645	L 3	W 21	U—	1.0
15	H. Nadell	1612	L 2	W 22	L 6	1.0
16	S. Daly	1397	L 9	L 8	W 22	1.0
17	T. Oltman	1448	L 5	L 18	W 21	1.0
18	David Given	1197	L 11	W 17	L 8	1.0
19	B. Grimminger	1249	L 7	L 12	B-0	1.0
20	T. Leacock	1715	D 21	L 13	L 10	.5
21	A. Golubow	1391	D 20	L 14	L 17	.5
22	J. McFarland	1316	L 6	L 15	L 16	0.0

My Chess Anniversary at the USATE

by Gary Colvin

Recently I competed in the 41st annual United States Amateur Team East (USATE) chess tournament held in Parsippany, New Jersey on February 19-21, 2011. Over 1180 people and 279 teams played in the oldest and largest of the Amateur Team events. I had played in this tourney 3 times in the past, but due to work commitments I had not been to the USATE since 1990. The chess players take over the Parsippany Hilton, which is a beautiful and well-run hotel with great food (especially their world-class cheeseburgers!).

I had decided to go to this tournament for 2 reasons; to play with my good friend Al Lawrence, who loves to participate in the USATE, and to visit him and his wife Daphne after the event. Well, actually 3 reasons--the third was to celebrate my play in 40 years of chess tourneys. My first event was in February, 1971, playing in the Nebraska State Chess Scholastics for the Westside H.S. Warriors.

We didn't play very well, and I only scored 2-3 earning a 1304 rating, but this began many years of joy (and sometimes tears) with tournament chess. It was hard to believe the length of time that had passed--I remembered the lyrics to a Pink Floyd (my favorite group) song--"Ten years have got behind you, no one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun.". Well, forty years, not ten, but I think you get the picture.

Before the first round, we went to the hotel restaurant to grab a bite to eat. Already dining at a table were Frank Brady and his wife Maxine. Frank had just published the book "*Endgame*" which was a New York Times (my favorite newspaper) best seller, and Al had interviewed Frank and reviewed the book (with a rave review), both appearing in the February Chess Life magazine.

Having lunch with Al, Frank and Maxine was really one of the joys of the event, as we had a nice discussion, a good meal, and Frank and Maxine picked up the check (also nice!). I was impressed by both book writers' charm and old-school (meaning excellent) manners (Maxine has written several books, including one just published concerning chess sets).

As for our play, our team finished with a 4-2 score. Our top board was Carsten Hansen (final score 2.5-3.5), a strong Master who has authored a number of books. Second board was the team's sponsor Hanon Russell (4-2), an Expert. He is well known for his chess publishing and also for launching the Chess Cafe website. Third board was Al Lawrence (4-2), also an Expert and with a resume including being the USCF Executive Director for 9 years and writing and editing many books. I brought up the rear with my 1925 rating.

I could have played much better, scoring only 2-4 with 4 draws and 2 losses. I was out of practice, having competed in only 4 tournament chess games in 4 years and this certainly was a factor, but it also didn't help that each of my opponents almost averaged 4.5 out of the possible 6 points!

My first round I got the edge in the endgame, but it ended up as a draw. I decided to "spice things up" in the second round (shown below) and should of lost, but slid out with a draw in my opponent's time pressure. The third round was the most disappointing. I outplayed him and could have won a piece, but incredibly transposed moves and also ended up with a draw result. My fourth rounder sacked to attack my King. If I had been cautious it would have been fine, but instead took all of his sacrifices since I didn't believe it. I did believe it after I lost. My next game I had defended against a threat, then moved a piece away from the defense, and paid for the lapse with another loss. My final game I tried like heck to win, but my opponent again attacked my King. I defended well but it petered out to a draw.

After the tourney Al drove the two of us to his home about 90 minutes north of New York City. His lovely wife Daphne provided us with great conversation and scrumptious food. Their house is also home to 9 cats and a large, friendly dog, Rocky.

I enjoyed the trip even though my play wasn't up to snuff. I would like to thank the Lawrences, my friends of many years standing for their generosity, and also to the New Jersey State Chess Federation (especially Steve Doyle) for their fine organization of the USATE. Next stop is to the re-launching of the World Chess Hall of Fame, which should take place later this year. Watch (or watch out) for the next scintillating story by this author concerning this event!

[Event "USATE"]

[Site "Parsippany, NJ"]

[Date "2/18/2011"]

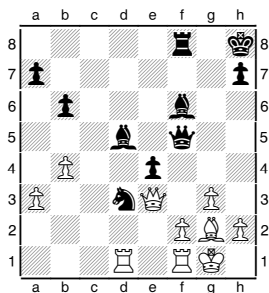
[Round "2"]

[White "G. Colvin 1925"]

[Black "T. McNamara 2007"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Bg2 c6 5. b3 Be7 6. Bb2 O-O
7. O-O Nbd7 8. d3 b6 9. Nbd2 Bb7 10. e4 Nc5 11. e5 Nfd7 12.
d4 Nd3 13. Bc3 c5 14. cxd5 exd5 15. e6 cxd4 16. Nxd4 N7c5
17. exf7+ Rxf7 18. b4 Ne4 19. Nxe4 dxe4 20. Ne6 Qc8 21. Qb3
Qd7 22. Nxg7 Bd5 23. Qd1 Rxg7 24. Bxg7 Kxg7 25. Qh5 Rf8
26. Rad1 Qf5 27. Qe2 Bf6 28. Qe3 Kh8 29. a3 Bg5 30. Qd4+
Bf6 31. Qe3 Bg5 32. Qd4+ Bf6 33. Qe3 1/2-1/2



Colvin vs McNamara
Final Position-draw

11.25.10

The Black Orangutang!...

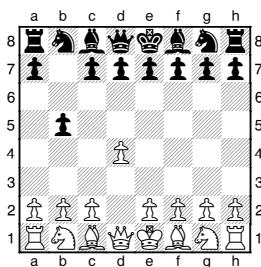
by
Alex Golubow

"There is an immense amount to be learned simply by tinkering with things"
Henry Ford, "My life and work"

After building my repertoire of openings for Black against 1.e4... and writing a couple of articles on the subject ("The Counter Scotch" and "The rare Bird") I realized the fact that soon everybody will be playing against me 1.d4...

Now, there is a vast amount of theory after that move!... It's not as obliging as 1.e4... and it allows White plenty of maneuvering, slowly improving his position before any decisive action. It's definitely not my style of play and I hate to play against 1.d4... And I hate to study the theory because it's all about following in somebody's steps, absorbing their ideas and memorizing the right moves, often without fully understanding their purpose. It's not that I have a bad memory, but in study you must use your memory and less your brain. And I'm tired of using my memory most of the time in my life. I'm longing to exercise my brain! That's why Henry Ford's thought is appealing to me.

So, I started looking for some new approach against the **1.d4...** and after some experimenting I eventually came up with the **1... b5!?** (Diagram)



As far as I know, nobody plays this move against 1.d4... But, after analyzing it for some time and playing a few games with it in tournaments, I feel confident enough to state that the move 1... b5! is a legitimate, viable move, which has the right to exist. It's not that easy to find a refutation of it, especially over the board. I might even dare say that this move has the potential to grow on a

par with 1... d5! after its theory will be fully developed in the future. Though, at this stage it seems like a far stretched conclusion...

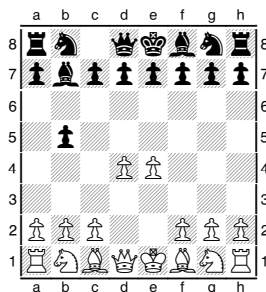
First of all, let's look for an analogy at the Sicilian Opening: 1.e4 c5! I bet you, the move 1... c5! has been introduced into play well after 1... e5! When the theory of 1... e5 was developed substantially and players started having difficulties with memorizing all the variations and obtaining equality after the opening, someone came up with an idea of quite an independent way of opening for Black against 1.e4... playing 1... c5!... To me the move 1... c5!? looks odd and I always had difficulty playing against it. It allows Black to follow his own strategy, whereas the move 1... e5 is a direct reaction to 1.e4...

Nowadays, the Sicilian Opening is one of the most popular responses to 1.e4... and has a full-fledged theory...

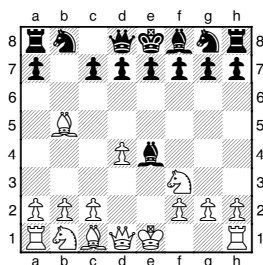
Similarly; we have the Dutch Defense - 1.d4 f5!?...

(Nakamura's favorite!...) developed after players started having the same problems with the 1.d4 d5..., as with 1.e4 e5... I myself never played the Dutch Defense; to me it seems too dangerous to break the pawn structure on the King side so early in the game. One should better know well what he is doing when he makes such a committing move. So, by analogy with 1.e4 c5! I came up with 1... b5! against 1.d4... It's not as binding move as 1... f5!? and, at the same time, it hinders White's usual play (2.c4...) right away.

Now, with this move you've already threw away all White's preparation for the game; he has to improvise for the rest of the game, which is not always an easy task to do over the board. If he hastily decides to occupy the center with the **2.e4!?** (And some players do just that!) your 1... b5! allows you to play your trump - **2... Bb7!** right away! (Diagram)

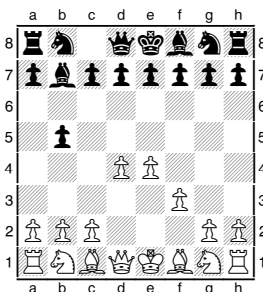


Now you already have a piece (Bishop) strategically developed, exerting pressure on the center and aimed at the future location of White's King after castling. And, mind you, it's a piece Black has most problems developing with in all other common openings against 1.d4...! Also, the pawn on b5 square becomes quite handy now, since White cannot defend his e4 pawn with 3.Nc3?!... because of the threat of b5-b4. So, White may decide to swap his center pawn for the side b5 pawn of Black, eliminating the threat and get ahead in development after **3.Bxb5 Bxe4 4.Nf3...** (Ready to castle on the next move) (Diagram)



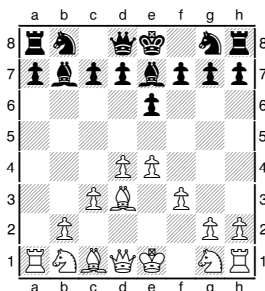
But Black has a nice resource - 4... Nc6!, threatening to win the pawn after 5.0-0 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nxd5... and trade the Knight for White's active Bishop... or ruining White's pawn structure protecting the King. And, if 5.d5... then 5... Nb4! - winning the pawn anyway. So, White has to content himself with trading his Bishop for the Knight - 5.Bxc6 Bxc6..., after which Black finishes the development of his pieces without any problem...

But, in my first game with Mirko Zeljko (1900+ rating) White played **3.f3!?...**



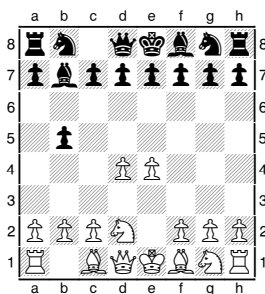
I don't think this is a good move, since it compromises the pawn structure on the King side, but I didn't find the right continuation over the board. We both played pretty fast, spending about 15 minutes each for the whole game... Now I think I should have played 3... Bb6!?, keeping the Bishop very much in contention after it has done its job at the b7 square...

The actual game continued 3... b4 4.a3 e6 5.ab Bxb4+ 6.c3 Be7 7.Bd3... (Diagram)



Here I decided to further weaken his pawn structure and played 7... Bh4+!? 8.g3... I should have contented myself with that and returned the Bishop to e7 square right away, sparing myself a tempo but, instead, as it turned out to be, I had granted a tempo to my opponent, playing 8... Bg5?! 9.f4! Be7 10.Nf3 Nf6 11.Nbd2 Ng4 12.h3 Nh6 13.0-0 f5 14.b3?!(ef!?...) g4? 15.Nxg4!... And White won in 33 moves.

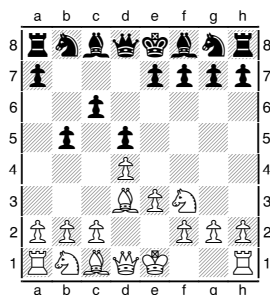
There is, seemingly, a better alternative for White - 3.Nd2!?...



In this case, Black may sacrifice the b5 pawn (Often, temporarily) for development and initiative. 3... Nf6! 4.e5 Nd5 (5.Bxb5?! Ne3! 6.fe Bxg2..., winning an exchange and playing havoc with White's King side...) 5.Ngf3 (5.Nb3 a5!... and, if 6.Bxb5?! Ne3...) Or, if 5.Nc5 Bc6! 5... b4! 6.a3 a5 7.ab ab 8. Rxa8 Bxa8 9.Nb3 e6... and Black has a convenient play.

I hit, seemingly, on the right plan in my next game with another Class A player - Eric Santiesteban - winner of that tournament, the 2010 Nebraska Amateur Championship, 09.28.10.

1.d4 b5! 2.Nf3 d5! 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3... (Diagram)



And here the right continuation would have been 4... Nf6!, followed by 5.0-0 Bg4!? Or, if 5.h3... then 5... Ne4!? 6.Nd2 f5!?... Instead, I played **4.Nh6?!**, allowing **5.e4...**, which opens the game to White's advantage. Soon I made further mistakes and lost around 25th move...

I wasn't in a good mood for chess at the time, thinking about abandoning the game of chess for altogether. So, I did not analyze my games or worked on the opening after that tournament. And when I decided to play in the next tournament, I forgot the plan, I've utilized in the game with Eric and did not follow the right strategy, playing this opening against another Class A player...

Great Planes Open, 11.13.10, G75, Rd. 1
Tim Leacock - Alex Golubow

1.d4 b5 2.Nf3 Bb7?! (d5!?...) 3.e3 b4 4.a3 e6?! (a5!?...) 5.ab Bxb4+ 6.c3 Be7 7.Nd2 Nf6 8.Bd3 0-0?! (d5!?...) 9.0-0 d5 10.Re1 c5 11.e4 cd?! (c4!?... or de!?...) 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.e5 Nd7 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Qh5 g6 (h6!?...) 16.Qh3 Kg7 17.Nf3 h5 18.Bf4 f5? (Nc5!?...) 19.Nd4!... and I resigned on move 36.

I won an interesting game in the last round, though. In which I had violated all the so called rules and principles of chess. I've had made 7 out of 9 opening moves with my pawns! I've had traded my only developed piece on the third move! Moving it twice in the opening, too; which is not recommended. I developed both of my Knights to the sides of the board! Haven't Siegbert Tarrasch told us that Knight at the edge of the board was placed bad?!... And, nevertheless, I won the game in 23 moves without any apparent blunder by my opponent!

Great Planes Open, 11.13.10, G75, Rd. 3
David Given - Alex Golubow

1.d4 b5 2.a3 a5 3.Nf3 Bb7?! (Nf6!?) 4.Nc3 Bxf3!? 5.gf c6 6.Bg2?! (e4!?) d5 7.0-0 e6 8.Bf4 g5! 9.Bg3 h5 10.h3 Bd6 11.Re1 Na6 12.e4 Nc7 13.e5?! Be7 14.Ne2 Nh6 15.f4 g4! 16.f3 gf! 17.Bxf3 Nf5 18.Bf2 Bh4 19.Bxh4?! Qxh4 20.Kh2 Qf2+ 21.Kh1 Qxf3+ 22.Kh2 Ne3! 23.Ng1 Qg2#

Go figure out the game of chess!... I instinctively hate to learn all the "proper" moves in the opening. When you do that all the magic spell of the game disappears and it becomes quite a boring enterprise - to wait for your opponent's mistake and capitalize on it. Often I lose interest in such games and pay dearly for that in tournaments...

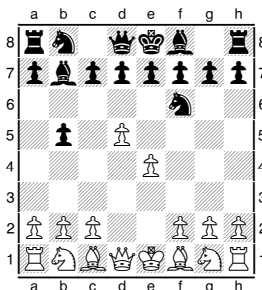
02.01.11

Recently, a friend of mine gave me a Christmas present - a palm size chess computer - LCD Chess & Checkers (Model 375-2), which I found quite handy to check my ideas against it. It has 73(!) levels of play, but since I did not get the operational manual with it, it's hard to say to what rating they correspond. I play with the level 72 (with level 73 it just thinks forever) and I would estimate its strength somewhere in between Class B and Class A. Although, on the Amazon.com I found a review, in which someone said that it can give headache to a Master!...

Now, instead of giving you a bunch of hypothetical variations in this opening, which may or may not occur in actual games, I've decided to share with you some of the games I played with my computer, testing the opening:

01.06.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

1.d4 b5 2.e4 Bb7 3.d5 Nf6 (Diagram)

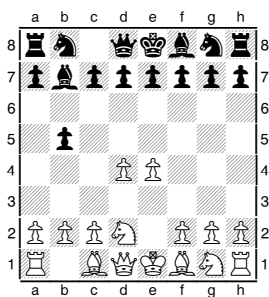


°45°

4.Bxb5 Nxe4 5.f3 Nd6 6.Be2?!... (6.Ba4!? c6 7.dxc6 Nxc6 8.Ne2 Qb6 9.Nc3 Ne5 10.Nd4 Ng6 11.0-0 Nf5 12.Ncb5! Ba6! 13.Rf2! e6 14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.Bxb5 Qxb5 16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Rc8 18.c3 Qc5 19.Qxc5 Rxc5 20.Be3 Rb7 21.Kf1 Ke7...) 6... e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Bf4 Bh4+ 9.g3 Bf6 10.Bxd6 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 exd6 12.Qd4 0-0 13.dxe6 dxe6 14.0-0-0 Qg5+! 15.f4 Qa5! (Here and later on the computer was hinting to me to take the pawn on a2 but I never did that and, I think, I was right in doing so...) 16.Bf3 Nc6 17.Qd3 Qa3+ 18.Kd2 Ba6 19.c4 Qc5 20.Qe4 Na5 21.Qxa8 Nxc4+ 22.Ke1 Qa5+ 23.c3 Qxc3+ 24.Kf2 Qe3+ 25.Kg2 Rxa8 26.Bxa8 d5 27.Rf1 Qe4+ 28.Rf3 Nb6 29.Bxd5 exd5 30.h4 Bc8 31.Kf2 d4 32.f5 Bb7 33.g4 Qc2+ 34.Kg3 Bxf3 35.Nxf3 d3 36.Re1 f6! (This was one of my first games with the computer and the very first one in this opening. So, when it played 36.Re1... I saw the trap right away, since I was keeping eye on my King's precarious position and was anticipating this move long before. I could not believe my eyes when the little "beast" hinted me a move 36... a5??? Just to confirm my suspicion of his meanness I OK'd the move. Sure enough, in a fraction of a second I was checkmated! That's when I had learned the lesson - to take the computer hints with grain of salt...) 37.Re8+ Kf7 38.Rh8 d2 39.Nxd2 Qxd2 40.Rxh7 Nd5 41.Rh8 Qf4+ 42.Kh3 Ne3 43.ff8+ Kxf8 44.g5 Qg4+ 45.Kh2 Qg2#

01.19.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

1.d4 b5 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nd2... (Diagram)

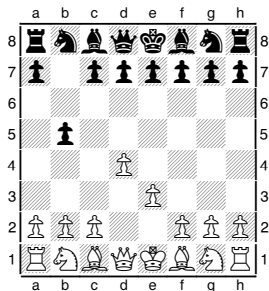


This is a position I had set up to test ...Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxb5 Ne3! 6.fe Bxg2 7.e6!? fe?! (I took the pawn counting on that an extra pawn in the center would be an asset to me, but the "Beast" quite ingeniously snatched it out from right under my nose in a couple of moves!...) 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qe4 Rg8 10.Ne4 Bxh1 11.Qxe6! Bxe4 12.Qxg8 c6

13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.cd Qa5+ 15.Bd2 Qh5! 16.h3 Na6 17.Qc4 Nc7 18.Bb4 a5 (Here the "Beast" was hinting to me to play Qg5!?... but I've decided to play a5 first. And, mark you, how nicely the pawn on a5 served me at the end!) 19.Bc5 Qg5 20.Kd2 Nd5 21.Re1 Bh6!? 22.Qb3 Qg2+ 23.Kd1 d6 24.Qb7 Nxe3+ 25.Rxe3 Bxe3 26.Qxa8+ Kf7 27.Ne2 Qf1+ 28.Kc2 Qxe2+ 29.Kc3 Bd2+ 30.Kb3 Qxc3+ 31.Ka4 Qc4+ 32.Ka3 Bb5+ 33.Bxb5 Qxb5#

01.22.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

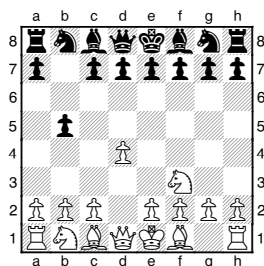
1.d4 b5 2.e3... (Diagram)



This is a position I had set up to test ...Ba6 3.Nc3 b4 4.Bxa6 Nxa6 5.Nce2 c5 6.a3 e6 7.ab Nxb4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Nf6 10.0-0 h5!? Ne5?! Nxe5 12.de Ng4 13.f4 Qh4!... (c4?!...) in parentheses are the moves hinted by the "Beast". Note that most of the time they are not the best moves at all! ...14.h3 c4! 15.hg hg 16.Qe1 Qh2+ 17.Kf2 Be7! (d5?!...) 18.Ng3 Bh4 19.Ke2 Bxg3 20.Rf2 Bxf2 21.Qxf2 Qh7! 22.Qe1 Qe4! (0-0?!...) 23.Qg1 g3! (0-0-0?!...) 24.Ra5?! Rh2 25.Ke1 Qc2! 26.Ra1 Rxc2 27.Qf1 Rf2! (Qf2?!...) 28.Qxf2 Qxf2 29.Kd1 g2 30.Bd2 g1=Q+ 31.Kc2 Qxa1 32.e4 Qa4+ 33.Kb1 Qf1+ 34.Bc1 Qd3#

01.23.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

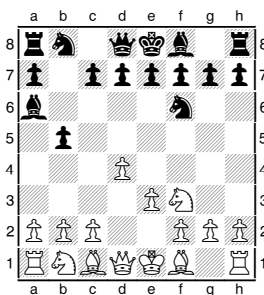
1.d4 b5 2.Nf3... (Diagram)



This is a position I had set up to test ...d5 3.Bf4 a5 4.e4 de 5.Ng5 e5!
 de Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Bg4+ 8.Be2 Bxe2+ 9.Kxe2 Nc6 10.Nxe4 0-0-0
 11.Nbd2 Nd4+ 12.Kd1 Ne6 13.Be3 Ne7 14.Ng5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Rd5
 16.Re1 Ng6 17.Be3 Nxe5 18.Ke2 Bc5 19.Bxc5 Rxc5 20.Nb3 Rd5!
 21.Nxa5 b4 22.Nb3 Nc4 23.c3 Nxb2 24.cb Nd3 25.Red1 Rhd8 26.a3
 Nf4+ 27.Kf3 Rxd1 28.Kxf4 Rxa1 29.Nxa1 Rd2 30.Ke4?! Rxf2 31.g3
 Rxe2 32.Nb3 Ra2 33.Nc5 Rxa3 34.Nd3 Rxd3!? 35.Kxd3 Kd7
 36.Kd4 Kd6 37.Ke4 g6 38.Kd4 f5 39.Kc4 h5 40.Kd4 g5 41.Kc4 h4
 42.gh gh 43.b5 h3 44.b6 cb 45.Kb5 h2 46. Kxb6 h1=Q... 0-1

01.24.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

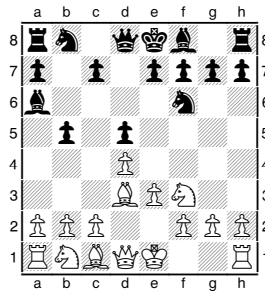
1.d4 b5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Ba6 (Diagram)



4.Bd3 d5 5.0-0 b4 6.a3 Bxd3 (ba!) 7.Qxd3 ba 8.b3!? e6 9.Bxa3 Bxa3
 10.Nxa3 c6 11.Ne5 0-0 12.h3 a6 13.b4 Qb6 14.c3 Nbd7 15.Nxd7 Nxd7
 16.Nc2 Qb5!? 17.Rfd1 f5 18.Ne1 e5 19.g3 e4 20.Qb1 g5 21.f4 gf 22.gf
 Qe2! (a4?!...) 23.Ng2 Qf3 24.Kh2 Rf6 25.Rg1 Kh8! (Rg6?!...) 26.Qe1
 Rh6 27.h4 Nf6 28.Rf1 Ng4+ 29.Kg1 Qh3 30.Rf2 Nh2!? (Qh2+?!...) 31.
 Qd1 Rg8 32.Rxa6 Rxh4! (Nf3+?!...) 33.Rxc6 Ng4!
 (Nf3+?!...) 34.Nxh4 Nxe3+ 35.Rg6 Nxd1 (hg?!...) 36.Rxg8+ Kxg8 37.Rh2
 Qe3+ (Qxc3?!...) 38.Kg2 Qxf4 (Nxc3?!...) 39.Rh3 Qd2+ (e3?!...) 40.Kg1
 Qf2+ (Ne3?!...) 41.Kh1 Qf1+ (Kf7?!...) 42.Kh2 Nf2 (Kf7?!...) 43.Rg3+
 Ng4+ 44.Rxg4+ fg 45.Ng2 h5 46.b5 Qxb5... 0-1

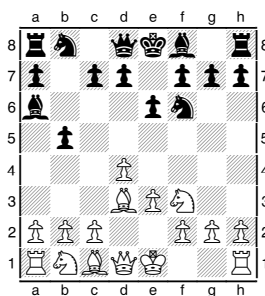
01.25.11 LCD Chess & Checkers (level 72) - Alex Golubow

1.d4 b5 2.Nf3 Nf6 e3 Ba6 4.Bd3 d5 (Diagram)



5.0-0 e6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Bd2 Bd6 8.Qe2 0-0 9.a4 b4 10.Bxa6 bc 11.Bxc3 Qc7
 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Qe1 a5 14.b4 Ne4 15.ba Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Nf6 17.a6 Ng4
 18.g3 h5 19.Rfb1 Rfb8 20.a5 g5 21.Nxg5 h4 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Bh7+ Kg7
 24.a7 hg 25.ab gf+ 26.Kh1 Qxb8 27.Kg2 Bb4! 28.Qd3 Qxh2+ 29.Kf3
 Be1! 30.Nxe6+ Kh6 31.Qf1 Qh5! 32.Rxe1 Nh2+ 33.Kxf2 Nxf1 34.Nf4!
 Qh2+ 35.Kxf1 Kxh7 36.Ng2 Qb8! 37.Kf2 Qb5! 38.Ra1 Qb2 39.Rh1+
 Kg7 40.Ne1! Qb5 41.Kf3 Qxa5 42.Nd3 Qd2! 43.Ne1 Kg6 44.Kf4 Qf2+
 45.Nf3 Qxc2 46.Ne5+ Kg7 47.Rg1+Kf6 48.Ng4+ Ke6 49.Kf3 f6 50.Nf2
 Qf5+ 51.Ke2 Qh5+ 52.Ke1 Qf3 53.Nd1 Kf7 54.Kd2 Qf5 55.Kc3 Qb1
 56.Kd2 f5 57.Kc3 Kf6 58.Kd2 c5 59.dc Qb4+ 60.Ke2 Qxc5 61.Kf3 Qc1
 62.Re1 Qd2 63.Rg1 Ke5 64.Rh1 d5 65.ed+ Kxd5 66.Rh5+ Ke4 67.Nd3
 Qc3 68.Rc4 Qa3 69.Rc8 Qe7 70.Rb8 Qd7 71.Rb6 Qa4 72.Rb8 Qe4+
 73.Ke2 Qc6 74.Rb6! Qe8 75.Kf3 Qh4+ ... And here I simply gave up
 trying to convert my advantage into win.

1.d4 b5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Ba6 4.Bd3 e6 (Diagram)



5.0-0 b4 6.a3 c5 7.ab Bxd3 8.Qxd3 cb 9.Nbd2 h5!? (d5?!...) 10.c3 Ng4
 11.cb Bxb4 12.Qb3 Nc6 13.d5 ed 14.Qxd5 Rh6!? 15.h3 Nf6 16.Qc4 Rc8
 17.Ne4 d5 18.Nxf6 Rxf6 19.Qd3 Rd6 20.Bd2 Bxd2 21.Nxd2 h4 22.Qh7
 Qf6 23.b3 Re6 24.Ra4 d4 25.e4 g6! 26.Rfa1 Kd7 27.Qh6 Rh8 28.Rxa7+
 Kc8! 29.Ra8+ Nb8 30.Rc1+ Kb7 31.Qxh8 Qxh8 32.Rca1 Qf6 33.R8a7+
 Kc8 34.Rc1+ Rc6 35.Nc4 Qf4 36.Nb6+ Kd8 37.Rxc6 Nxc6 38.Ra8+
 Nb8 39.Nd5 Qc1+ 40.Kh2 Kc8 41.Ra7 Qb1 42.Rc7+ Kd8 43.Rxf7 Qxb3
 44.Rf6 Qb2 45.Rb6 Qxf2 46.Rxb8+ Kd7 47.Rb3 Qe2 48.Rb6 d3
 49.Rxg6 d2 50.Nf6+ Ke6 (Kc6?!...) 51.Ng4+ Ke7 52.Nf2 Qxf2 53.Rg7+
 Ke6 54.Rg6+ Ke5 55.Rg5+ Kxe4 56.Rg4+ Ke3 57.Rd4+ Kxd4 58.Kh1
 d1=Q+ 59.Kh2 Qg1#

The fact that I had played these games much better than the real tournament games should not be surprising. It all can be attributed to a relaxed homely atmosphere of playing without a ticking clock and opponent; and having motivation (hence, concentration) to prevail over the artificial intellect...

03.05.11

I came up with the name of this opening by using the analogy with the "Orangutang" Opening for White - 1.b2-b4 - also called the Sokolsky Opening. While I believe that the idea of the opening is correct and sound it needs much more rigorous testing and analysis than was done in this article to learn all the intricacies of it before using it successfully in tournament games... As always, one needs do his share of work - no pain, no gain. But the process of pioneering at the new frontier is much more interesting and exciting than just diligently memorizing the right moves, worked out and recommended by others...

And in this connection I'd like to share with the readers, especially young ones, some of my other thoughts and quotations from our great predecessors and contemporaries, starting with an excerpt from the recent interview (03.01.11) with the manifold World Chess Champion Georgian GM Nona Gaprindashvili:

...A.K.: Which advice can you give to the players who want to achieve good results in chess?

N.G.: I'm telling it to everybody but nobody listens (smiles). **I was already five-time champion** when Yuriy Nikolaevich Borisenko was invited to work with Ubilava and me as a trainer. He changed my chess understanding head over heels. It became clear for me that I was working incorrectly before. He explained how to work on chess, how to work on the openings. I've got so many ideas in the openings I was used to play and I started to understand them deeply. There is a lack of understanding nowadays. And it does not come with the computers only. Computer is very useful for information: we didn't have it before and we lost a lot of time searching for information. **It's better to step aside the theory and look for something that is your own. It's good to use computers just to check your ideas.** Why chess is still alive? **Because somebody finds a new idea and all approaches are over-thrown after that...** (Highlights are my own - A.G.)

A.K.: What characteristics should the World Champion have and did they change in the last years?

N.G.: I believe that only a person, who combines the number of special characteristics, can become a world champion or will play better than her opponents. So, the summary includes chess talent, strong nervous system, character, psychological stability. Speaking about character I mean sportive character, ability to play in any situation, when you are not afraid, when you can fight. If you lose this ability you would never achieve good results! The one who has all those qualities goes forward...

In an earlier interview she also said that she became the World Champion **without knowing the openings well...**

What I'd like to point out here is that after the trainer had turned her wonderfully working head upside down, teaching her all the right things about openings and whatever else, she managed to become a world champion just one more time and then she started losing games and matches, despite all that "right knowledge" she absorbed from her trainer...

I would dare say that she would have fared better without trainer. Because accepting somebody else's ideas as final truth kills your creativity and imagination and limits your natural abilities...

Veselin Topalov, when asked before his match with V. Anand, if he plans to be a chess trainer after his career in chess would be over, said: - "I doubt it. Now with computers the chess changed so much that one coach, whoever he/she might be, can give little advice. **Many of the young talents work alone with computer software programs.** The most current example is the break up between the leader in rank Magnus Carlsen and Kasparov. Therefore, I will not be teaching kids how to play. **I can give advice.**"

I think, a sound advice from the wise man is all a natural prodigy needs. That's why my hero is Hikaru Nakamura, who never had a trainer. GM A. Shabalov said about him in an interview: "Hikaru is like a computer, he calculates almost without mistakes... He is very proud of the fact that **he became a professional chess player without any chess school...**"

Now, how do you improve your ability to calculate? By constant practice! And that's what Nakamura does full time. He is a frequent visitor at the Internet chess clubs. He saturated his life with chess...

And the Chess goddess Caissa is a very jealous woman! She favours those who truly love her and never forgets to punish those who neglect her... Recently Nakamura took the clear first place in the prestigious tournament "Tata Steel Chess" (former "Corus") ahead of Magnus Carlsen, Anand and Kramnik. Beating Kramnik (who from the tender age was studying in Botvinnik's School of Chess) in the personal encounter...

And Magnus Carlsen, after becoming the number one in the world rating list, found a side job for himself - advertising men's apparel. Sure enough, in the last couple of months he lost more games than he did in the last couple of years.

I'd venture to say that in the long run Nakamura will overmatch Carlsen, despite the great talent of the latter. Don't they say that genius is one per cent of inspiration and 99 per cent of perspiration? And that's what Nakamura is proving so far by his devotion to the game of Chess and hard work.

And it may well be that Carlsen will never become the World Champion, what so many experts predict for him now. In one of his interviews he said

that he is trying to be just a normal person and didn't want to get obsessed with chess, as Fischer was. There is nothing wrong with being a "normal" person, but Caissa will see to it that the Champion becomes the man, who loves her most...

Another World Chess Champion - Tigran Petrosian - once said: "No trainer can teach you that that you can learn on your own from books". I would even shorten that sentence, omitting words "from books" and remind you again the words of great Henry Ford - **"There is an immense amount to be learned simply by tinkering with things"**. In our case, tinkering with Chess, all the rules of which (how the pieces move) we already know! By tinkering with engines and cars Henry Ford became the world's greatest expert in them. By tinkering with chess and devoting all his time to it Bobby Fischer achieved unparalleled results in it. And that's the only way to achieve outstanding results in any and every field of human activity! But the majority of us are just lazy to work or do not have time for it and therefore look for shortcuts and substitutes, such as books and trainers...

This same T. Petrosian told A. Suetin on completing his preparations for 1966 World Championship Match: "You know, all these lofty matters we have been studying - strategy and endless opening subtleties (Isn't that what's in books?! - A.G.) - are not the main thing. The match will be decided, first and foremost, by our calculation reflexes during play, or, as they say, who is better at doing 'you go there, and I go here'... And no one knows how his mind will 'behave...'".

I had had sent this quote to IM John Watson. Here is what he had said in reply: "Great quote! I think especially the last part is true ("And no one knows how his mind will 'behave'...""). As for openings and strategy, Petrosian was the last great player to neglect the openings (which hurt his later career, including the Fischer match), and he didn't need any more understanding of strategy, that's for sure!

The other things emphasized by almost all the great masters are practicality, and even more, fighting qualities. Chess is more of a competitive sport than anything else..."

And I regret the fact that a competitive aspect of chess is domineering nowadays. After all, Chess is more than that. It was and still is considered by many as a combination of an art, science and sport. There is a lot of harmony and order in chess, especially in the initial position. Every piece and pawn is mutually protected. And one should be very careful in breaking that order. Every pawn advanced for two squares at a time at the beginning is not only attacking, gaining space and fulfilling other purposes, but, at the

same time, it creates weaknesses in your position; it loses connection with other pawns and therefore itself requires protection; thus, becoming not only an asset but a liability also. And that's where our worries begin and the stress level goes up. In a few moves we find ourselves being torn between attack and defense, and sooner or later one of the players commits a mistake under pressure... (I think it was Bronstein, who said that the game of chess is simple; you only need combine attacking moves with defensive ones).

Only the "a" and "h" pawns may be safely advanced for two squares in the opening, since they are still protected by Rooks. But, strangely enough, there are no developed theories of openings with these pawns! And that's why my favorite move for White is 1.a4!... As one expert told me in justifying his strategy of pushing through the center (after I drew a casual game with him in a coffee house starting the game with 1.a4! e4 2.h4! d4...), there is a principle in chess - if your opponent attacks you in the flank, attack him in the center! But the opposite is equally true - if you are attacked in the center, attack in the flank! And who is ultimately to prevail is impossible to tell - it depends on so many other factors... But this will be a theme of my next article, I guess. By the way, I had a won position at the end of that game, but, as is usual with me, I relaxed too soon, made a couple of careless moves and let him build a fortress around his King.

Actually I believe that every single first move out of 20 possible moves is a legitimate and viable move in an opening! It's just that the theory of these moves isn't sufficiently developed yet. For people, driven by herd instinct, emulate each other, running in pack alongside the main road of theory. And John Watson's friend, rated chess master Brian Wall from Colorado, proved just that, playing every possible initial move in tournament games!...

So, the fresh ideas are still abundant in chess. But it takes a strong, individual and independent mind to bring them into the mainstream. Almost every great chess player introduced a new opening - Alekhine's Defense, Petrov's Defense, Chigorin's Defense, Nimtsovich's Defense..., to name just a few. And there is still room for an opening that may be called after your name... Doesn't this tell us something about the inexhaustibility, fathomless depth of Chess?! - The game, which exists since times immemorial and still has room for new ideas!

I have just one more thought to quote here, may be, the most important one for young readers. Grandmaster, author and chess trainer Adrian Mikhachishin said - **"Analysis of your own games is key for improving your chess..."** And I would add to this - especially, the lost ones. Don't be afraid

of losing games. You learn from them more than from the games you've won. As they say in science, the negative result of an experiment is a good result, nevertheless. It proves the falsity of your previous assumptions...

I suppose, many will find a lot of controversy in what I've said here; if not an outright sedition against "chess establishment", as one GM and trainer has put it after reading the draft of my article... But I find it of little use to talk about subjects everybody agrees on. That would be a tautology, or as Russians have it – to say that oil is oily. The ancient proverb says: - "Truth is born in argumentation". And that's what I'm after...

I hope, everybody will find some food for thought in this article – be it a quotation, he never heard of before, a fresh, original thought, or a new idea that will stimulate his interest in Chess...

P.S. 04.05.11

At the Lincoln Chess Championship held on April 02 I'd asked IM John Watson about this opening. Here is what he said in an e-mail to me:

"The moves 1 d4 b5 are sometimes called the Reversed Polish, but I found no specific analysis (see the next paragraph). As I think I mentioned, 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 b5 (or 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 b5) is very common, and isn't mentioned in the massive book *Unorthodox Openings*, because it's considered Orthodox. Many grandmasters have used the line.

The most important connection is 1 d4 b5 2 e4 Bb7, which is called the Polish Defence (1 b4 is sometimes called the Polish Opening). If Black plays 2...a6 here, it's called the St. George Attack, which usually arises from 1 e4 a6 2 d4 b5. Eric Schiller and I analysed these two lines in our book *Big Book of Busts*, and maybe in a later book, but I don't remember. Anyway, 1 d4 b5 2 e4 Bb7 is analysed for 5.5 pages in *Unorthodox Openings*, with the subvariation 3 Bxb5, called 'Spassky's Gambit', using 2 of those pages... It looks like 1 d4 b5 with other moves than 2 e4 might be pretty irregular!"

If I would have known this, I'd, probably, have never written this article. But I've got a lot of pleasure tinkering with the opening on my own and have no regrets that I was trying to reinvent the bike, as it turned out to be...

Dixi,

Alex

A GREAT CHESS LESSON FROM A GREAT CHESS TEACHER

(by Robert Woodworth)

Being 71 years of age and playing the game of chess since I was about 14 yrs. old, I've been taught many lessons in this wonderful game. Some lessons were from studying chess books & magazines but most were from playing many over-the-board games both rated & unrated. About 3 months ago, I had probably the best lesson I could ever have imagined.

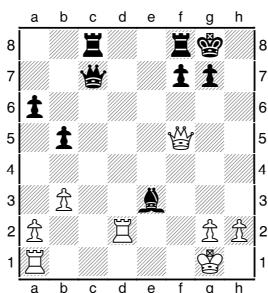
Over the years, in numerous tournament and correspondence games, I've always had much better results in playing the Black-side of the chessboard. This statement is probably very hard to believe since most players prefer to have the White forces.

As in many good & meaningful lessons in life (& chess), these learning moments can occur quite unexpectedly. This occasion was an off-hand game(s) which your writer played at our local chess club. My opponent was a strong 2100+ rated player whom I prefer to keep anonymous.

Playing White and being somewhat intimidated by my opponents strong chess abilities, I commenced play as shown in the following, lightly annotated game:

<u>White (Bob W.)</u>	<u>Black (XX)</u>
1 d4	1 d5
2 Nf3	2 c6
3 e3	3 Nf6
4 c4	4 e6
5 Bd3	5 Nbd7
6 0-0	6 dxc4
7 Bxc4	7 b5
8 Bd3	8 Bb7
9 Bd2	9 Be7
10 Nc3	10 0-0
11 Qe2	11 a6
12 Rfd1(too passive)	12 c5

13 dxc5? (giving-up the center.)	13 Bxf3
14 Qxf3? (loses material)	14 Ne5!
15 Bxh7+ (desperation)	15 Nxh7
16 Qe4	16 Qc7
17 f4	17 Nc4
18 b3	18 Nf6
19 Qf3	19 Nxd2
20 Rxd2	20 Bxc5
21 Ne4	21 N:e4
22 Qxe4	22 Rac8
23 f5	23 exf5
24 Qxf5?? (bad oversight)	24 Bxe3+
25 Resigns	(0-1)



(Note: By the way in which I played the above game, I should have remembered the chess maxim that “the game of chess is truly not for the faint of heart”. This was very lackluster, dreary play by the White forces.)

So, we started a 2nd game and your writer felt more calm and ready to play since I had the Black forces. I felt somewhat more confident in this game.

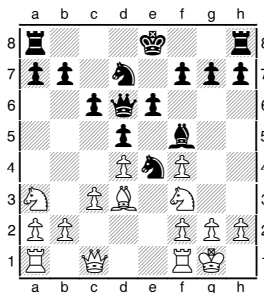
White (XX)

1 d4
2 Nf3
3 c3
4 Bf4
5 e3
6 Bd3
7 0-0
8 exf4
9 Qc1
10 Na3

Black (Bob W.)

1 Nf6
2 d5
3 Bf5
4 e6
5 Bd6
6 Ne4 (an aggressive post)
7 Bxf4
8 Qd6 (playing for some initiative)
9 Nd7
10 c6

(Note: After these first 10 moves, I felt very good about my position and ready to press for the advantage. From now to the end of the game, I was amazed at how well & how easy this game had become for me!!)



11 Nc2	11 h6 (giving the f5-bishop a square)
12 Kh1 (too slow here)	12 Ndf6
13 h3 (a weakening move)	13 0-0-0
14 a4? (tactical error here)	14 Nxf2+ (aggressive play by Black)
15 Rxf2	15 Bxd3
16 b4? (a tactical oversight)	16 Ne4 (more aggression)
17 Kg1	17 Nxf2
18 Kxf2	18 Bxc2
19 Qxc2	19 Qxf4

20 b5	20 Rd6
21 Kg1	21 f6
22 c4	22 dxc4
23 Qxc4	23 Rhd8
24 Re1	24 e5 (keeping the play very sharp)
25 dxe5?? (bad oversight)	25 Qxc4
Resigns	(0-1)

Afterwards, my opponent gave me the ultimate lesson concerning my play in these 2 games. He stated that I was a very good RE-ACTIVE type player but I wasn't a good PRO-ACTIVE player. (In the dictionary, the word REACTIVE is defined as “tending to react in response to some influence or event”. The word PROACTIVE is defined as “serving to prepare for, or intervene in, or control an expected occurrence or situation”. Therefore, in terms of the game of chess, a PROACTIVE style of play would be seeking the initiative in a controlled, aggressive way while REACTIVE play would be responding more to an opponent's strategy & moves. (A counter-punching, reacting way of playing).

The next day, as I was still thinking about those two informal club games, a sudden realization swept over me. I realized that I had been given the best analysis of my playing style in my 50+ years of playing chess! My very clever opponent/teacher had intentionally played very passively as White in our 2nd game because he wanted to impress upon me that I should play much more actively (or PRO-ACTIVELY)!! This was a very subtle lesson indeed for it clearly explains my REACTIVE style and why I usually do better with the Black pieces.

In conclusion, this was a real ‘eye opener’ for me and one of those important chess lessons that was delivered in the most effective way possible! It prove that one can always learn something new in this great game of ours.

Robert Woodworth, April, 2011 Omaha , NE

Tournament Life Summary

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at

NSCA.Nechess.com

Special thanks to **John Herr** for his good work on the NSCA web site!

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact Gary Marks at
y2kgary18@yahoo.com

Date	Event	Location	Sections
May 14	Fremont Chess-Fest	Fremont	Non-rated grades 3-8
June 6-10	2011 Omaha Chess Camp	Omaha	Entering grades 3-12
July 16-17	Cornhusker State Games	Lincoln	Visit the NSCA web site or the Cornhusker games web site for details!
July 29-31	2011 Kansas Open and Kansas Quick Championship	Overland Park, KS (suburb of Kansas City)	Rated open, reserve
Sept 24-25	River City Round-up First Midwest Regional Team Chess Championship	Omaha	Rated team K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12, open
Nov 19th	11th Annual Omaha Central High Tournament	Omaha	Non-rated K-12, adults rated open

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE

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