

# The Gambit

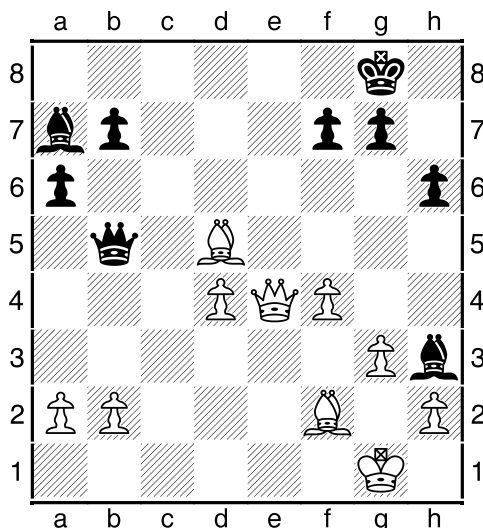
Nebraska State Chess Archives

## HOUDINI ESCAPE

Flohr, Salomon

Grob, Henry

Arosa m 1933 (1)



White, one of the world's top players at the time, resigned here, not seeing any reply to the mate threat on f1, as the white queen must protect the exposed bishop on d5. Still there was a defense. Can you see it?

Source: "Invisible Chess Moves"

By E. Neiman & Y. Afek

New-In-Chess, 2011

December 2011

**Letter from NSCA President  
Mike Gooch**

Hello NSCA:

Chess in Nebraska is moving forward. Nevertheless, it has been an up and down year. We had record numbers at some of the events held in Nebraska. The Gambit has been renewed, upgraded, moved online, and is being published regularly. Congratulations to Kent Nelson and Ray Kappel. At the same time, we have seen some disappointments. We are still trying to get in some of the essential chess tournaments which you have a legitimate expectation to see held. We do not have enough organizers and we do not have enough certified TDs. We do not have a western Vice President -- if you are interested, please contact any officer of NSCA.

We already have almost all of 2012 scheduled. This is something to look forward to. NSCA has an intern.

We have a new and improved webpage. Come take a look: <http://www.nebraskachess.com/nsca/index.nsca>

We also know that there are a lot of semi-retired (from chess anyway) players who might contribute significantly by lending a hand with a local school program or by mentoring a promising young player. We are seeing parents trying to start chess clubs/teams/programs at their schools. This is your opportunity to give a little something back. You can volunteer for 1 hour per month (or more) to help at a school near you. NSCA gets none of the credit, but kudoes to Gary Marks for starting a community based chess program in Lincoln.

This is a great time to reconnect with chess. Come lend us a hand.

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes,

Mike Gooch  
President

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## From Kent's Corner

Welcome to another issue of the *Gambit*. This issue is unique in terms of being loaded with pictures from recent events. Some of the picture quality will vary depending on the room lighting but I'm sure you'll get the picture. Pun intended!

Very special thanks to **Ray Kappel**, my friend and co-editor, for his very hard work in providing you interviews, pictures, tournament reports and articles for this issue.

Special thanks to **John Hartmann** for providing a very interesting article in conjunction his game databases. It is a very nice situation for the editors of this publication to have games to pick and choose from. Thanks again John.

**Bob Woodworth** has come through once again in submitting an article and cover puzzle for your enjoyment.

Very special thanks to **Mike Gooch** for directing the Great Plains Open. Mike and his assistants has organized and directed many tournaments in Nebraska and each of us owe Mike a debt of thanks for all he has done.

Special thanks to **Kent Smotherman** for his outstanding work on the new NSCA web site and many thanks to **John Herr** for his past service in administering the old NSCA web site.

Many thanks to **John Tomas** for his work on another installment of the Prologue to Heaven series that profiles the late Alex Liepnicks.

Special thanks to **John Watson** for directing the 2011 Lincoln City Championship. John's spirit of volunteerism is very much appreciated.

You may have noticed that no format changes have occurred with this issue. This is due to the skills and talents of web guru **Kent Smotherman** to convert the on-line PDF *Gambit*, to a one page at a time, easy to read Gambit format. If you have not checked out the new NSCA web site, by all means do so. Also check out Ray's article about Kent in this issue.

Ray and I will be back in the Spring of 2012 with another issue. Until then, please have a safe and happy new year.

Kent Nelson

## Letter from Ray Kappel

*Gambit* co-editor

It's really been a fun year for playing chess in Nebraska. I played at the Lincoln City in April, the UNO tournament in May, the Cornhusker State Games in July, UNO in August, Team tourney in Omaha in September and in October two tournaments, Great Plains Open and Lincoln City. Then came the Midwest Open in November and the class championships in December. The state closed was held in August.

That's a great tournament schedule with practically something to do every month. I like that about Nebraska chess. We have good organizers and the turnout has been good for the entire year.

What a year for chess news! Mirko Zeljko and Kent Nelson won last year's Lincoln City in April, Joe Knapp won Cornhusker State Games gold, and the Gambit team was second to a team from Iowa at the team tournament in September. Zeljko became state champion this year to match his four years as Lincoln city champ. We feature him an article this issue. Zeljko gave up family and friends to move to this country and we're lucky he decided to settle in Lincoln. We've all been blessed by his chess presence and bright smile and sense of humor.

Wasn't the team tournament fun? I had a blast playing on the Gambit Guys. There's nothing like a team tournament to bring out camaraderie. Watching our team struggle every round and seeing us take second was a real treat. We were bested by those tough Cyclones but we'll be back next year for another go.

Knapp, the top-rated active player in the state, also won the Great Plains Open. Knapp is another guy who's fun to talk to at tournaments. He's always analyzing with other people and you can pick up a thing or two listening to him.

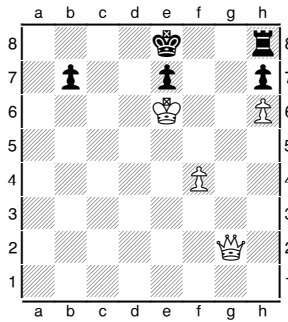
Zeljko won the Lincoln City in October with a perfect score. A tense game with Missouri expert Benjamin Gradsky decided the tournament. He has many work and family obligations that keep him from playing in more tournaments so it's always nice to see him turn out for one.

I should also mention the tournament directors, chief of which are John Watson and Mike Gooch. Both know their stuff and the tournaments they run always come off nicely.

They all made for a great tournament calendar this year. It will be interesting to see what 2012 has in store.

## News and Notes

1. Here is the solution to the cover problem for the Aug.-Sept.,2000 issue. 1.Qxb7 and mate next move. (Since it is White's move in the diagrammed position, one must ask what was Black's last move? Clearly it was a move by either the Black King or Black Rook so King-side castling by Black is not possible. Therefore, White will then mate on b8 regardless of any legal Black move.) *by Bob Woodworth.*



2. The 2011 Player of the Year is **Joseph Wan**. I believe this is the second year in a row that Joseph has won POY. Doug Given finished clear second with Kent Nelson and Ray Kappel tied for 3rd place.

3. The solution to the cover puzzle is Kh1 followed by Bg1.

4. The *Gambit* will most likely (with few exceptions) be posted on-line. If you desire hard copies, please contact the editors and your name will be placed on a list. There will be a surcharge for hard copies, most likely \$5.00 per issue but this amount is subject to change.

5. It is with a very heavy heart that I report Richard Olson and his lovely wife, Suzanne, have passed away 5 days apart. A narrative of Richard Olson's life is on page 62.

# **Mirko Zeliko**

## **Nebraska's newest chess expert**

**by Ray Kappel**

New state chess champion Mirko Zeljko of Lincoln suffers from xylothism.

Xylothism is a chess malady humorously written about in Lincolnite Kent Nelson's book, "Anton Sildmets, the Life and Games of a Nebraska Chess Icon." Des Moines physician Dr. Julius Weingart wrote on this illness that seems to affect all wood pushers.

"Individuals attacked by this virus gradually lose their liking for other activities, if indeed that in which they sit and glare and ponder and growl can really be called one," Weingart writes. "Once contracted, it is apt to last forever and when the patient begins to have acute attacks which are, I believe, called by them 'tournaments', there is no longer hope or relief or remedy."

Zeljko has had this chess malady since learning the game at age 5 in his native Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A Croat, he came to Lincoln in 1998 as a war refugee. He has a wife and three daughters.

He has been Lincoln City Champion for four years, last year co-champion with Nelson, and he became state champion after two days of play in Omaha in August.

He said his first game with tourney favorite Joe Knapp set the pace. Zeljko played black and as a surprise played the Sicilian Najdorf, instead of the Scandinavian he had been trying for the last two years. Knapp continued with 6. Bg5 and Zeljko answered with e6. Knapp played f4 and Zeljko moved Qb6, offering to go into the Poisoned Pawn Variation, a variation played by the late former world champion Bobby Fischer. Instead, Knapp played Qd3 instead of Qd2 and Zeljko continued with Nc6 because he was less familiar with that line. He said he was surprised by 9. 0-0-0 instead of Nb3 with a complex middle



game when black answers 9. Nb3 with Ng4. But after 9. 0-0-0 it went Nd4, 10. Qd4 Qd4 11. Rd4 entering a drawish ending with just a small edge for white.

Zeljko said after winning the philosophical battle for this draw, he continued to play solidly, managing his time well, and with endurance and rationality, garnered the title.

Zeljko said chess doesn't have the place in this country that it does in Europe, Russia especially and other countries. In some of those countries chess is considered an art and chess players have social standing.

“Media attraction and benefits are much greater there,”

Zeljko's favorite player is Garry Kasparov because of his complex preparation for openings and abilities to find atypical ways for long-term initiative.

His goal in chess is to become an expert. His highest rating has been 1991, nine point shy of the expert title. To win the state title, he drew Knapp, beat Chad Forsman, Doug Given, drew John Linscott and Joseph Wan to finish at 3.5.



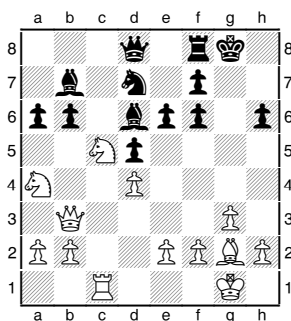
2009 picture of **Mirko Zeljko** earning championships and trophies left and right.

## 2011 Lincoln City Championship game

(16) Gradsky,Ben (2097) - Zeljko,Mirko (1978) [E06]

Lincoln City Ch (3), 15.10.2011

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3  
b6 8.Re1 Ba6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Ne5 Bb7 11.Bf4 Nbd7 12.Nd3 a6  
13.Rc1 Rc8 14.Qb3 Nh5 15.Be3 Nhf6 16.Na4 Rxc1 17.Rxc1  
Bd6 18.Nac5 Bc8 19.Na4 Bb7 20.Bg5 h6 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Ndc5



Position after 22 Ndc5

Qc7 23.Nd3 Qd8 24.Rc3 Ba8 25.Nf4 b5 26.Nc5 Nxc5 27.dxc5  
Be5 28.Rd3 Qc7 29.Qc2 a5 30.Nh5 Rc8 31.f4 Bd6 32.Nxf6+  
Kg7 33.Nh5+ Kf8 34.Rc3 Bxc5+ 35.Kf1 b4 36.Rd3 Bb6  
37.Qxc7 Rxc7 38.Ke1 Bb7 39.Kd1 Ba6 40.Rd2 Be3 41.Rc2  
Rxc2 42.Kxc2 Bxe2 43.Nf6 Ke7 44.Ng8+ Kf8 45.Nf6 Kg7  
46.Nd7 f6 47.f5 Kf7 48.fxe6+ Kxe6 49.Bh3+ Ke7 50.Bf5 Bb5  
51.Nb8 Ba7 52.Bd3 Bxd3+ 53.Kxd3 Bxb8 0-1

**Congratulations to Mirko Zeliko for winning the  
2011 City Championship!**

# HOW I WAS CHECKMATED TWICE IN THE SAME GAME !!

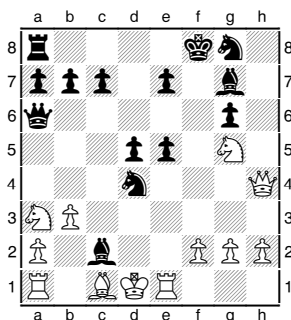
(by Robert Woodworth)

The above statement may sound totally ridiculous & impossible but it actually occurred in a correspondence game between your writer and former Omaha City Chess Champion, Mr. Roger Anderson. (It was a true chess masterpiece and excellent play by the former champion.) It also proves that one checkmate does not necessarily end the game!!! Sometimes it takes 2 checkmates!! The score of the postal game follows with a complete explanation as to how White endured being checkmated twice via the mails in one game of chess.

<u>WHITE (your writer)</u>	<u>BLACK (Roger Anderson)</u>
1. e4	1. Nc6
2. d4	2. d5 (The Nimzovich Defense which Black is very well-versed in.)
3. e5	3. f6
4. Bd3 (not a good pawn sac.)	4. Nxd4
5. Qh5+ ?	5. g6 !! (The start of a deep, intuitive sacrifice by Black.)
6. Bxg6+ !?!	6. hxg6
7. Qxh8 (White now believes he has a won game!)	7. Kf7
8. Na3	8. Bg7
9. Qh7	9. fxe5
10. Nh3	10. Qe8
11. Ng5+	11. Kf8
12. Qh4 ?? (In hindsight, this places the queen where she is never effective the rest of the game!)	12. Qa4 !
13. Kd1	13. Bf5
14. b3	14. Qa6 ! (threatens mate on e2)

15. Re1 ?? (overlooking another mate to his king!!)

15. Bxc2+ (& mate follows.)



Now we were actually playing **two** postal games on the same postcard. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> game (where my opponent was WHITE), he had made an error in his game records whereby he had left his queen enprise. I mailed him the move in which I captured his queen and he was ready to resign.

Upon seeing that I was about to be checkmated in the above game, I made him an offer whereby he could correct his game recorded position where his queen was left vulnerable, if I could retract my terrible 15<sup>th</sup> move which allowed me to be checkmated. He agreed and I replaced my 15. Re1?? with the much better 15. c4. This game then continued:

15.....

15. dxc4

16. Nxc4

16. Rd8

(nearly all of Black's pieces are coming to life here.)

17. Bd2

17. Nxb3 !

18. axb3 (losing both rooks but  
maybe there is an attack  
on his exposed king?!)

18. Qxa1+

19. Ke2

19. Qxh1

20. g4

20. Bd3+

21. Ke3

21. Qf1

(threatens mate on e2 again.)

22. Ne6+

22. Kf7

**23. Nxd8+**

**24. Kf3**

**25. Ke3**

(threatens mate on e2 a 3<sup>rd</sup> time)

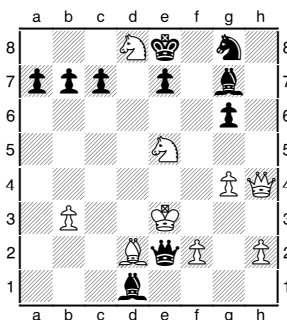
**23. Ke8 !**

**24. Be2+**

**25. Bd1**

**26. Nxe5** (After this move, White is finished for a second time.

**26. Qe2+**



**27. Kd4**

**28. Kc4**

**29. Kb4**

**30. Ka4**

**27. Qxe5+**

**28. Be2+**

**29. a5+**

**30. Qa1# (0-1)**

Wow, what an embarrassment to be defeated this way and in a correspondence game where one has all kinds of time to analyze!! Also, completely overlooking the first checkmate and asking for forgiveness from my opponent and then walking into a 2<sup>nd</sup> checkmate in the same game. Hard to believe that it actually happened in a postal chess game, but it did!!

In retrospect, it is very interesting how the move 12.Qh4 by White actually put his queen completely out of the game forever. Even in a correspondence game where there is plenty of time to analyze every position, there are still many, many dark places to go wrong. I guess that this really proves how deep and complex our game of chess really is.

Finally, White's 6.Bxg6+ followed by 7.Qxh8 wins the exchange but leaves the White forces in disarray & positionally inferior to Black's well-placed and potentially very active pieces. White's queen is never a factor, his king never castles, developed pieces are moved more than once before development is completed and the development itself is very disorganized & chaotic. It is one of those cases where winning material early is not as important as obtaining a sound & solidly developed opening position in a game of chess.

Robert Woodworth

November, 2011

Omaha, NE

## Prologue in Heaven 111

Alexander Liepnicks

by

**John Tomas**



For most of the fifties, Alex Liepnicks was the top or second rated player in the state of Nebraska. He might not have had quite the results nor the cachèt of McLellan or Magee, but his results were right there: three state titles (the last in 1961, the year I made my debut) and 15 Lincoln City championships (the last in 1970).

But Liepnicks' play was almost completely confined to Lincoln. Even in the fifties, at his most active, he seldom played in regional events, unlike the other players I have discussed. By the sixties, he seldom played outside of Lincoln. I can only recall three games of his where he left Lincoln: a loss to Gil Ramirez in the 1964 Lincoln – Omaha match, and two losses to me in a 1969 Western Electric – Lincoln match.

It is difficult to predict how the type of dislocation experienced by players from Eastern Europe, and the Baltic states in particular, will affect their outlook to the game. In Chicago, which also experienced a significant influx of players from that area following the World War, almost all of the players turned out to be highly aggressive. That was not the case with Liepnicks.

Liepnicks believed (as Larry Niven once put it) that “discretion is the *only* part of valor.” His play, in almost any circumstance, was careful in the extreme, bordering on passivity with the white pieces. Against players of any strength at all, his preferred

strategy was to avoid any and all complications, to fianchetto his f1 bishop (can't get mated on h2!) and exchange pawns in the center.

To be honest, this is not a style that attracts me, and I suspect that it hindered Liepnieks' development as a chess player. As a result you will seek good games by Liepnieks with difficulty, at least I did.

And then there was his personality...

But more about that later.

As noted, Liepnieks won the Lincoln city title 15 times between 1951 and 1970 thus ranking with Ohman's Nebraska titles and Sarapu of New Zealand (who won its championship 14 times)

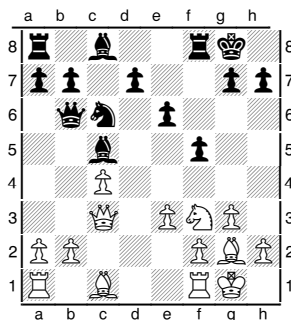
## **Liepnieks,Alex - Gardner,Carl**

### **Catalan System A46**

Lincoln City Championship Lincoln, 1956

**1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.g3 c5 4.♙g2 ♜c6?! 5.c4 ♚b6?! 6.dxc5?! As in his game with Magee (annotated in the section on Magee), Liepnieks helps Black develop. Instead, 6.d5 is much better. In the Benoni-type position that arises, black's queen is misplaced on b6, and his knight will roam the board in search of a good square. 6...♙xc5 7.0-0 ♜e4! I did not appreciate the strength of this move immediately. Black intends to safeguard his bishop on b4 before white can play ♜c3-a4. A very sophisticated concept. 8.e3 f5?! I'd prefer 8...0-0 with complete equality. Black may have been afraid of the isolated pawn that arises after 9.♚c2 d5 10.cxd5 exd5, but, in that case, his active pieces provide him with very good play. 9.♚c2 0-0 10.♜c3 ♜xc3 11.♚xc3**





**11...Qb4?!** This plays into Liepnicks' hands. **11...Qb4!** (to drive the queen off the long diagonal) **12.Qc2 Qe7 13.b3 d6 14.Qb2 Rd8** and black will play ...Qd7-e8 with chances of defending. **12.Qd2 Qxc3 13.Qxc3** White now has a clear advantage and can play on without any risk -- a situation made to order for Liepnicks. Black is going to have great problems developing his q-side. **13...Rb8 14.Rfd1 b5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.b3 Qe7 17.Qd4!** White exchanges black's only active piece. **Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Qf6 19.Qxf6 gxf6 19...Rxf6 20.Rac1 Rf8 21.Rc7 a5 22.Rdc1** preserves a substantial advantage for White. **20.Rac1! d5 21.Rc7 Re8 22.Rdc1 Qb7 23.R1c3?!** In the games I examined for this article, Liepnicks gave away more than one advantage through dilatory play in clearly advantageous positions. Here, it does him no harm. **23.Rd7 Rb8 24.Rcc7 23...a5 24.Rd7 a4 25.Rcc7 axb3 26.axb3 Rb8 27.Rg7+ Kh8 28.Rxh7+ Kg8 29.Rcg7+ Kf8 30.h4 Qc8 31.Rc7! Kg8 32.Rhg7+ Kh8 33.Rge7 Qa6 34.Qf1!** There is no defense ...R5b6 **35.Qxa6 Rxa6 36.h5 Rab6 37.h6 Rxb3 38.Rh7+ Kg8 39.Rcg7+ Kf8 40.Rh8# 1-0.**

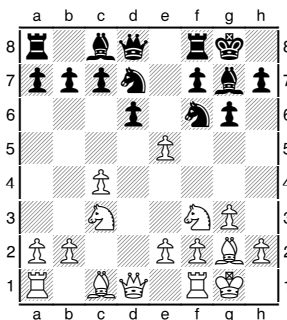
But there are very few players who can maintain a high rating solely by beating manifestly inferior players and Liepnicks was no exception. He defeated all of the strongest players in the state during the fifties. Here is a nice game, played outside the state, against Howard Ohman.

## Liepnieks,Alex - Ohman,Howard

### King's Indian Defense E62

North Central Open Milwaukee, 1953

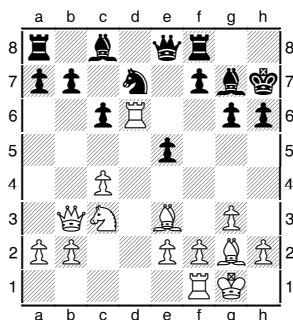
**1.d4** During the historical period B.W., the deep, dark distant past before the appearance of the World Open, a number of regional tournaments, scheduled at the various holidays, flourished. Milwaukee hosted two of these events: the Western Open, over the Fourth, and the North Central Open, over Thanksgiving. These tournaments were supposedly regional in scope but they had national, indeed international implications. Titled American players participated: Bobby Fischer failed to win the North Central in 1957 but took his revenge in 1964 when the Western was held in Bay City. Robert and Donald Byrne played, as did Hans Berliner, Arthur Bisguier, Pal Benko and Petar Trifunovic; I played twice, twice getting on stage for games against Andrew Karklins and future IM Ed Formanek and losing to both. Here, two Nebraska players travel 600 miles only to be paired. **1...♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♕g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♕g2 d6 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.♘c3 e5** Ohman is playing the old main line of the KID. Bronstein, Geller, and Botvinnik developed the theory of these positions in the mid-fifties and, more recently, even Kasparov chose to defend them. **8.dxe5**



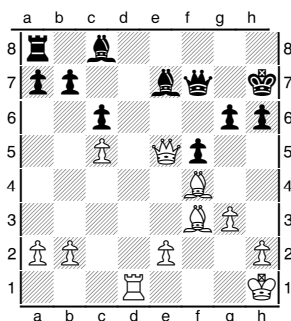
What a surprise. Liepnieks exchanges pawns in the center. **8...♗xe5!** Personally, I have always preferred to capture with the pawn here and have enjoyed great success in this

King's Indian structure. I won a couple of games with it against Bob Woodworth in Omaha in the sixties (though he almost certainly should have won one of them) and games against master-level opposition in both Chicago and Santa Barbara. The great master of such positions was Bobby Fischer, and if you want to learn how to play them, I refer you to Reshevsky-Fischer, Los Angeles, '66, Portisch-Fischer, Sousse '67, and Larsen-Fischer, Monte Carlo '67. A typical line is 8...dxe5! 9. ♖g5 h6 10. ♙xf6 ♜xf6 11. ♘d5 ♜d8.

**8...dxe5 9. ♘xe5 dxe5 10. ♙g5! ♜e8** White's ♙g5 has set a couple of vicious little traps. If 10...h6? 11. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 12. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 13. ♘d5!, and if 10...c6?? 11. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 12. ♘e4; Perhaps best is 10...♜xd1 11. ♜fxd1, c6 but white has a small but definite pull and virtually no losing chances, a situation dear to Liepnieks' heart. Note that unlike the lines with the black knight on d7, white does not have to play e4 to prevent an eventual e4 and e3. Ohman's move avoids the tricks, but it places the queen on an inferior square. **11. ♜b3! c6 12. ♜ad1 h6 13. ♙e3 ♘h7?! I** sort of understand Ohman's idea. He wants to avoid a possible pin on the f pawn and protect his h pawn as well. As usual, he is playing for a win whether or not he has an inferior position. Still, 13...♜e7 14. ♘a4 ♜d8 15. ♙c5 ♜e8 16. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 17. ♜d1 ♜e8 and although white has an advantage, black can defend. **14. ♜d6! ♘d7**



**15.♘e4?!** Better **15.♖fd1! f5 16.♘a4 ♗f7**, when Black has a definite if limited disadvantage. **15...f5 16.♘c5** This is what I mean by Liepnieks' dilatory play. Black is strangling for want of space so Liepnieks ... helps him unravel by exchanging pieces! **16...♘xc5 17.♙xc5 ♖f6 17...♖g8** is better, when after **18.♖fd1 ♗f7 19.♖d8 ♙e6**, black has escaped. But ... once again you must realize that Ohman is not playing to equalize. **18.♙xf6 18.♖d2!;** since the rook is misplaced on f6, it makes sense to let it sit there. **18...♙xf6 19.♖d1 ♙e7 19...♗f7 20.♗a3 ♙d8** I think that it is very clear that Ohman is playing on what he perceives to be Liepnieks' psychological weaknesses. He means to deny him a safe advantage even if it means making inferior moves. Throughout the next phase of the game, we see Ohman rejecting alternatives that he feels will not give him any winning chances. **20...♙f6 21.♗d3 ♙e6 21.♗d3 ♙c7 22.♙d6 e4 23.♗d4 ♙b6 24.c5 ♙d8 25.f3! exf3 26.♙xf3 ♙g5 27.♙f4 ♙e7 27...♙e6!** is equal **28.♗e5 ♗f7 29.♙h1?**



**29...♙e6?!** **29...♙f6!** Just as Ohman gets the mistake that he's been playing for, he misses the best move: **30.♗d6 ♙e6! 31.♗c7 ♗xc7 32.♙xc7 ♙g7 33.b3 a5**, and he has a clear advantage **30.♗c7? ♙xc5 31.♗xf7+ ♙xf7 32.♖d7 ♙g8 33.♙xh6 ♙xa2 33...♖e8! 34.♖xb7 ♖xe2!** is a cute trick that might well succeed in time pressure **35.♙xe2?? ♙d5+** and if white doesn't fall into it, the position is more or less equal. **34.♖xb7 ♙d5 34...♖d8 35.♙xc6 35.♖d7 ♙xf3+ 36.exf3 ♖b8 37.♙g7+ ♙h8 38.♖xg6 ♖b6 39.♖e6 ♙d4 40.b3 ♙h7 41.♙f4 ♙g7 42.♖e7+ ♙f6 43.♖xa7 ♖xb3 44.♖a6 ♖c3**

#### 45.♔g2 ♕e6 46.h4 1-0 by time forfeit.

Does white win or does black draw? This is the type of position where it should be possible to say definitely, but I am unwilling to analyze it out to the end. Still, I have tried to save the position with some variations and have come to the conclusion that white should win this. Black's king is very badly placed, and his passed c-pawn is a weakness rather than a strength.

I played Alex Liepnieks four times. He crushed me rather easily in 1963 and then chose not to analyze with me. Our second game occurred four years later.

#### Liepnieks,Alex (2054) – Tomas,John (1703)

King's Indian Defense E65

Nebraska Centennial Lincoln (6), 29.05.1967

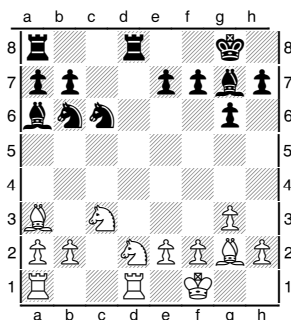
**1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.g3 ♘g7 4.c4 0-0 5.♘g2 d6 6.0-0 c5**

**7.♘c3 ♘c6 8.dxc5** At the time, I did not expect this since we didn't get to see many Nebraska games in the days after the *Nebraska Chess Bulletin* and before the *Ohman Memorial Club Newsletter*, but it turned out that I knew more about these positions than he did. **8...dxc5 9.♖xd8?!** The position is equal

after this lemon. Liepnieks had a talent for helping his opponents develop! **9.♘f4** leaves white with a pull, albeit a slight one.

**9...♖xd8 10.♘e3 ♘e6!** I was rated 1700 at the time of this game, and I have to say that, going over it now, I am surprised at the quality of my play. **11.♘xc5 ♘xc4 12.♖fd1** Black has gained a tempo in a symmetrical position. **12...♘d7! 13.♘a3?!** The bishop will become a target on a3, but I am already better.

**13...♘b6** I remember looking at **13...♘xc3** winning a pawn (at least temporarily) but I didn't think I could win the game. So, I took the big chance (for a 1700 player!) of playing without the extra pawn. White gains some activity for the pawn. A sample line is **14.bxc3 ♘xe2 15.♖db1 ♘b6 16.♘d4 ♘xd4 17.cxd4 e6 18.♘c5 ♖d7 19.♘xb6 axb6 20.♖xb6 14.♔f1 ♘a6! 15.♘d2**



**15...♘d4?!** I show my youth. Today, I would play **15...♖ac8!** so that if **16.♙c5? ♙xc3 17.bxc3 ♘a4 18.♙b4 ♘xb4 19.cxb4 ♘c3**, and I win. **16.♙c5! ♖ac8 17.♙xd4 ♙xb6 axb6** is better, but black is still superior. **17...♙xd4 18.♘b3 ♙xc3 19.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 20.bxc3** And here, after four hours of play, discovering for the first time that the clock was on my right (since I was black, I had the option), Liepnicks complained to the tournament director. Worse yet, the director *stopped the clocks*, readjusted the time and put the clock on the other side of the board! Even at the time, I recognized this for what it was: a realization on Liepnicks' part that he had a manifestly inferior position and that the only way to avoid a humiliating defeat to a player rated 400 points below him was to disturb my concentration. I protested, but the Lincoln-based director was far more afraid of disagreeing with Liepnicks than of getting the ruling right. So, Liepnicks succeeded: my next move gave away my advantage. **20...♘c4 20...♘a4!** should win a pawn while maintaining all my other advantages since the natural move **21 ♖c1?** doesn't really protect the pawn after **21...♘xc3!** (There's a mate on d1) **21.♘c5! ♖d2 22.♘xb7 ♙xb7 23.♙xb7 ♖c2 ½-½**

This episode still leaves a bad taste, and is largely (but not completely) responsible for my dislike of Liepnicks (the only player of that era who treated me badly). But it meant that when I crushed Liepnicks twice in a Western Electric - Lincoln match two years later, I enjoyed the wins even more. Alas, along with many of my games from the period, these have disappeared during my 40 years of peregrinations.

## **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.

### **August 2011 UNO Reserve Section**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1517	<b>D 15</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>J. Selvaraj</b>	1200	<b>W 20</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.5</b>
3	<b>T. Benetz</b>	1310	<b>D 17</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>B. Grimminger</b>	1211	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>V. Retineni</b>	1168	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>D. Wolk</b>	1365	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>2.5</b>
7	<b>A. Wolzen</b>	1225	<b>D 16</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>2.5</b>
8	<b>K. Hruska</b>	1028	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>S. Sangimino</b>	1253	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>D. Nguyen</b>	1200	<b>W 19</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>R. Borchers</b>	1197	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>G. Brown</b>	1168	<b>W 21</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>P. Rajan</b>	1055	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>R. Luo</b>	1020	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 21</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>2.0</b>
15	<b>S. Chokkara</b>	1289	<b>D 1</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
16	<b>M. Laferla</b>	Unr	<b>D 7</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
17	<b>S. Potineni</b>	1107	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>1.5</b>
18	<b>N. Mallipudi</b>	1002	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
19	<b>M. Hooyer</b>	968	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
20	<b>A. Jaddu</b>	952	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>1.0</b>
21	<b>A. Stein</b>	650	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>1.0</b>
22	<b>J. Hooyer</b>	957	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 18</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>L 20</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## August 2011 UNO Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	J. Wan	1755	W 3	W 5	D 4	2.5
2	B. Li	1753	L 5	W 4	W 6	2.0
3	G. Marks	1600	L 1	W 6	W 5	2.0
4	R. Kappel	1761	W 6	L 2	D 1	1.5
5	N. Mujeeb	1741	W 2	L 1	L 3	1.0
6	L. Hooyer	1763	L 4	L 3	L 2	0-0

## August 2011 UNO Junior Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	C. Corpuz	834	W 13	W 12	W 5	W 3	D 2	4.5
2	R. Marcoux	792	H 0	W 11	W 9	W 12	D 1	4.0
3	J. Severa	758	W 15	W 7	W 8	L 1	W 5	4.0
4	B. Graves	616	L 8	W 15	W 7	D 10	W 11	3.5
5	T. Leone	738	W 14	W 6	L 1	W 8	L 3	3.0
6	J. Schimpf	Unr	W 11	L 5	D 10	D 9	W 12	3.0
7	S. Kota	103	B 0	L 3	L 4	W 15	W 16	3.0
8	A. Filipi	Unr	W 4	W 9	L 3	L 5	D 10	2.5
9	Pranav Rajan	647	W 16	L 8	L 2	D 6	W15	2.5
10	J. Zhong	338	L 12	W 14	D 6	D 4	D 8	2.5
11	S. Chokkara	622	L 6	L 2	W 14	W 13	L 4	2.0
12	J. Henery	Unr	W 10	L 1	W 13	L 2	L 6	2.0
13	D. Luo	268	L 1	W 16	L 12	L 11	D 14	1.5
14	S. Selvarj	238	L 5	L 10	L 11	W 16	D 13	1.5
15	J. Morris	263	L 3	L 4	W 16	L 7	L 9	1.0
16	H. Robinson	239	L 9	L 13	L 15	L 14	L 7	0-0



## The River City Roundup Team Tournament

by **Ray Kappel**

One hundred twenty three players from three states making up 29 teams competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Midwest Regional Team chess tournament held in Omaha in September. The event took place at the Qwest Center as part of the River City Rodeo and Livestock Show along with the Douglas County Fair. The Omaha Chess Community and the Lincoln Chess Foundation co-sponsored the event.

David Jiles, returning to Iowa State University this year, led an Iowa team, **Attack of the Clones**, to a first place finish in the open division. The Ames, Iowa, club won all five matches with Jiles going 4-1 on board one. Other boards were Jason Juett 5.0, George Eichhorn 4.5, and Tim Crouse 3.5.

**Mike Gooch** with assistant **Joe Selvaraj** of Omaha directed the tournament. Gooch said Selvaraj deserved the credit for getting the tournament rated within 24 hours. Certified tournament directors **Drew Thyden, Steve Leone, and Jim Hodina** Iowa, were in charge of sections. “We had a great staff, including volunteers **Venu Potineni, Sundar Chokkara, Armen Petrosyan, Kelly Kelly, Steve Kelly and David Given. And we were fortunate to have GM Alex Yermolinsky and IM John Watson** play in an ongoing simul with anyone who sat down with them... We had them go over games with those players who notated their games. They were wonderful,” Gooch said.

Attack of the Clones team captain Eichhorn said the team came together this year when they saw the advertising for the tournament. It began with a phone call to his friend fourth board Crouse, wanting to see if Crouse thought they could field a team for the event.

Eichhorn, an attorney near Ames, and Crouse, a mail carrier from Boone, a nearby town, have been at this game for a long time. They played together on the Drake University team when they were younger and competed in such things as the Pan-American Collegiate Games.

“That’s where we met,” Eichhorn said. They have been friends ever since. The team plays together in Ames at a university chess club.

Jiles heads the department of electrical and computer engineering. He taught at the school for 27 years before going to the United Kingdom for four years as director of the Wolfson Center for Magnetism. He is rated 2033. The Iowa team got a warm reception from their Nebraska neighbors and all said they really enjoyed the tournament.

“It’s nice to be able to get out and play,” Jiles said, who has been too busy to play much chess.

**The Gambit Guys**, a Nebraska team, composed of Tom O’Connor on board one, Kent Nelson on board two, Ray Kappel on board three, and Joseph Wan on board four were second with a 4-1 mark, losing only to the Iowans. The three adult team members agreed to let the 9-year-old Wan, a national K-3 champion, take home the trophy since he had the best score on the team at 4.5. O’Connor was 2.0; Nelson was 2.0, and Kappel 3.0. Nelson and Kappel are co-editors of the state chess magazine, *The Gambit*. Kappel organized the team and Nelson provided the name.

The spirit of the tournament showed throughout the tournament. In the last round when Nelson, the exchange up against his opponent, offered a draw to his opponent. It was accepted. Nelson knew a draw would clinch the team win, which also put the team in second place.

**The Hartmann team**, a Nebraska team, finished third with a score of 3.5. Expert Joe Knapp, 3.5, Jacob Wagner 3.0, Doug Given 3.0, and John Hartmann 4.0 made up the team. Knapp of Omaha inflicted the sole setback to Jiles.

Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky and International Master John Watson played simul games on Saturday and Sunday. Yermolinsky, an American champion, and his wife, WGM Camilla Baginskaite, came from South Dakota with players and one of their teams, the Future Stars, won the K-6 championship trophy. Their son, Eddie, and daughter, Greta, competed on the teams.

Alex Fuhs, 11, who scored 5.0 playing fourth board for the winning K-6 team **Future Stars** from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, said he and his teammates have two chess clubs in their lives, one at school and one with Yermolinsky. He said the children work on openings and puzzles with Yermolinsky and then take time to play Bughouse chess.

“He’s really a good chess teacher. He’s very nice,” Fuhs said. He is attracted to chess because he likes a good puzzle to work on. “Every move is like a puzzle. And it’s really fun to figure out,” he said. A team from **Omaha’s Millard North** won the high school team tournament with a score of 3.5. Team members and their scores were Brandon Li 5.0, Sukarn Chokkara, 2.0, Roger Luo 3.5, Maven Mallipudi.2.0 Omaha **Central** was second, and team members were Bryant Grimminger, Conrad Shiu, Harrison McMin, Mitch Hezel, Avery Zaleski and Tim Gulizia. Team Nebraska was third and members Caravaggio Caniglia, Pujaa Rajan and Aaron Cloet and one other member.

**Millard North Middle** School in Omaha took first in the K-9 championship with a score of 4.5. Team members and their scores were Jason Selvaraj 4.0, Vikas Retineni 3.5, Shashank Potineni 4.5, and Abhinav Jaddu 4.0. Finishing second were **The Future Stars** from South Dakota, team members were Luke Rysavy, Eddie Yermolinsky, Malu Nair, and Nate Boland. Team Omaha made up of Anastasiya Petrosyan, Jimmy Severa, Trevor Leone, and Jackson Henery were third.

**The Future Stars** from South Dakota won the K-6 title with a score of 4.5. Team members and their scores were Cash Lapour 3.0, Benny Kellar 5.0, Joshua Lehman 4.0, and Alex Fuhs 5.0. **The Thunderbolts** of Isaac Krings, Crispin Corpuz, Carson Schlautman, and Justin Eckel took second with a score of 3.5 and Lightning Strike made up of Darin Schlautman, Jake Kumke, Travis Feldhaus, and Mark Pham took third with 3.0.

**The Little Chess Cyclones** team won K-3. Team members and their scores were James Lin 4.0, Kaiwen Song 5.0, Jixiang Lin 3.0, and Fergal Hennessy 5.0. Future Stars took second and Tornado Eagle took third. Gooch noted that one participant, John McElderry, missed the first round to get his black belt in Taekwondo and made special mention of Regan Hodina of Iowa, who filled in on other teams when she had a bye on her team. He also praised the effort of sixth-grader Aidan Filipi who played one game in K-9, a loss, and three games in K-12, two wins and a loss.

Pictures of the Team event are on the proceeding pages



**“Attack of the Clones”**

**T. Crouse, G. Eichorn J. Juett, G. D. Jiles**



**“The Gambit Guys”**

**R. Kappel, J. Wan, K. Nelson, T. O’Connor**



**Roger Anderson (left) accepts a trophy from Bob Woodworth**

## 2011 RCR Midwest Team Tournament Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>J. Juett</b>	1912	W 13	W 21	W 16	W 8	W 18	5.0
2	<b>G. Eichhorn</b>	1900	W 17	W 22	W 10	W 9	D 14	4.5
3	<b>J. Wan</b>	1785	W 11	W 5	D 7	W 20	X 0	4.5
4	<b>D. Jiles</b>	2022	W 19	W 12	W 15	L 6	W 24	4.0
5	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1640	W 25	L 3	W 14	W 7	X 0	4.0
6	<b>J. Knapp</b>	2008	W 12	W 15	U 0	W 4	D 13	3.5
7	<b>T. Crouse</b>	1800	W 20	W 25	D 3	L 5	W 11	3.5
8	<b>J. Wagner</b>	1995	D 12	D 16	W 24	L 1	W 17	3.0
9	<b>Doug Given</b>	1837	W 23	L 10	W 18	L 2	W 20	3.0
10	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1759	W 14	W 9	L 2	L 17	W 25	3.0
11	<b>A. Kingsley</b>	1248	L 3	W 20	B 0	X 0	L 7	3.0
12	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1862	L 6	L 4	D 19	W 24	W 15	2.5
13	<b>R. Anderson</b>	1797	L 1	D 18	W 22	D 16	D 6	2.5
14	<b>M. Hansen</b>	1291	L 10	W 17	L 5	W 25	D 2	2.5
15	<b>T. O'Connor</b>	1968	W 24	L 6	L 4	W 19	L 12	2.0
16	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1833	D 18	D 8	L 1	D 13	D 22	2.0
17	<b>C. Forsman</b>	1699	L 2	L 14	W 25	W 10	L 8	2.0
18	<b>C. Dibley</b>	1454	D 16	D 13	L 9	W 22	L 1	2.0
19	<b>J. Slominski</b>	1962	L 4	W 24	D 12	L 15	F 0	1.5
20	<b>K. Hruska</b>	1165	L 7	L 11	W 26	L 3	L 9	1.0
21	<b>D. Grande</b>	1841	D 8	L 1	U 0	F 0	F 0	0.5
22	<b>P. McNeely</b>	1555	U 0	L 2	L 13	L 18	D 16	0.5
23	<b>G. Marks</b>	1651	L 9	U 0	U 0	U 0	U 0	0.0
24	<b>S. Rydland</b>	1525	L 15	L 19	L 8	L 12	L 4	0.0
25	<b>J. McFarland</b>	1316	L 5	L 7	L 17	L 14	L 10	0.0
26	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1050	U 0	U 0	L 20	U 0	U 0	0.0

## 2011 RCR Midwest Team Tournament K-12 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>B. Li</b>	1763	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>5.0</b>
2	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1030	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>T. Samiev</b>	1048	<b>D 4</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>C. Caniglia</b>	972	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>R. Luo</b>	1005	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 12</b>	<b>3.5</b>
6	<b>A. Filipi</b>	641	<b>U 0</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>X 0</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>S. Chokkara</b>	1266	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>T. Gulizia</b>	966	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
9	<b>N. Mallipudi</b>	980	<b>L 18</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>C. Shiu</b>	1545	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>1.5</b>
11	<b>D. Hguyen</b>	1205	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>1.5</b>
12	<b>A. McIntosh</b>	836	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
13	<b>B. Grimminger</b>	1281	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>1.0</b>
14	<b>A. Samiev</b>	1094	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>P. Rajan</b>	1069	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>R. Hodina</b>	951	<b>W 20</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>A. Cloet</b>	755	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
18	<b>A. Zaleski</b>	685	<b>W 9</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
19	<b>H. McMinn</b>	595	<b>U 0</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
20	<b>N. Davis</b>	817	<b>L 16</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>F 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>



**K-12 winning team from left to right,**

**Joe Selvaraj (Assistant TD) N. Mallipudi, S. Chokkara, B. Li**

## 2011 RCR Midwest Team Tournament K-9 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	S. Potineni	1089	W 9	D 19	W 14	W 8	W 23	4.5
2	J. Severa	821	W 24	W 4	W 20	D 7	W 22	4.5
3	J. Selvaraj	1275	W 6	W 21	D 13	D 17	W 18	4.0
4	E. Yermolinsky	1254	W 7	L 2	W 22	W 23	W 15	4.0
5	A. Jaddu	939	L 10	W 26	W 16	W 11	W 25	4.0
6	L. Rysavy	1330	L 3	W 17	W 21	W 18	D 13	3.5
7	V. Retineni	1269	L 4	W 22	W 15	D 2	W 20	3.5
8	T. Leone	777	D 14	W 9	W 25	L 1	W 19	3.5
9	M. Nair	1113	L 1	L 8	W 19	W 25	W 14	3.0
10	N. Boland	1031	W 5	W 11	W 26	L 12	L 16	3.0
11	J. Henery	550	W 16	L 10	W 12	L 5	W 26	3.0
12	K. Lehman	462	W 26	W 16	L 11	W 10	U 0	3.0
13	A. Suresh	984	D 17	L 18	D 3	W 21	D 6	2.5
14	B. Graves	612	D 8	W 23	L 1	W 19	L 9	2.5
15	J. McElderry	952	U 0	W 20	L 7	W 22	L 4	2.0
16	G. Basile	570	L 11	L 12	L 5	W 26	W 10	2.0
17	A. Petrosyan	1078	D 13	L 6	D 18	D 3	L 21	1.5
18	R. Hodina	963	U 0	W 13	D 17	L 6	L 3	1.5
19	E. Mendoza	Unr	W 25	D 1	L 9	L 14	L 8	1.5
20	P. Kline	594	W 21	L 15	L 2	U 0	L 7	1.0
21	E. Garcia	464	L 20	L 3	L 6	L 13	W 17	1.0
22	J. Schimpf	655	D 23	L 7	L 4	L 15	L 2	0.5
23	S. Strahan	584	D 22	L 14	U 0	L 4	L 1	0.5
24	A. Filipi	756	L 2	U 0	U 0	U 0	U 0	0-0
25	A. Ziskovsky	533	L 19	U 0	L 8	L 9	L 5	0-0
26	K. Powers	Unr	L 12	L 5	L 10	L 16	L 11	0-0

## 2011 RCR Midwest Team Tournament K-6 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>B. Keller</b>	1072	W 14	W 11	W 5	W 24	W 29	5.0
2	<b>C. Corpuz</b>	920	W 18	W 9	W 17	W 16	W 10	5.0
3	<b>A. Fuhs</b>	990	W 15	W 22	W 28	W 23	W 6	5.0
4	<b>J. Lehman</b>	1055	W 25	W 12	W 20	L 13	W 18	4.0
5	<b>D. Schlautman</b>	840	W 19	W 24	L 1	W 11	W 27	4.0
6	<b>A. Jiminez</b>	Unr	W 22	W 15	W 33	W 30	L 3	4.0
7	<b>J. Knaak</b>	261	W 28	U 0	W 25	W 26	W 23	4.0
8	<b>J. Kelly</b>	685	W 17	W 32	W 18	L 10	D 16	3.5
9	<b>C. Lapour</b>	1102	W 10	L 2	W 16	L 17	W 26	3.0
10	<b>J. Grabe</b>	695	L 9	W 26	W 32	W 8	L 2	3.0
11	<b>C. Schlautman</b>	757	W 29	L 1	W 24	L 5	W 14	3.0
12	<b>I. Krings</b>	741	W 26	L 4	W 13	L 20	W 25	3.0
13	<b>K. Pauba</b>	453	W 31	W 20	L 12	W 4	L 21	3.0
14	<b>S. Vongpanya</b>	489	L 1	W 29	W 21	W 27	L 11	3.0
15	<b>C. Gehke</b>	466	L 3	L 6	W 30	X 0	W 22	3.0
16	<b>T. Feldhaus</b>	897	D 32	W 17	L 9	L 2	D 8	2.0
17	<b>T. O'Brien</b>	597	L 8	L 16	L 2	W 9	W 32	2.0
18	<b>Pranav Rajan</b>	613	L 2	W 25	L 8	W 19	L 4	2.0
19	<b>J. Chen</b>	415	L 5	W 27	U 0	L 18	W 24	2.0
20	<b>J. Kumke</b>	472	W 30	L 13	L 4	W 12	L 31	2.0
21	<b>A. Lin</b>	453	U 0	W 31	L 14	L 29	W 13	2.0
22	<b>J. Eckel</b>	395	L 6	L 3	W 23	W 29	L 15	2.0
23	<b>H. Robinson</b>	132	W 33	W 28	L 22	L 3	L 7	2.0
24	<b>D. Bartels</b>	529	W 27	L 5	L 11	L 1	L 19	1.0
25	<b>M. Zastrow</b>	477	L 4	L 18	L 7	W 31	L 12	1.0
26	<b>C. Baker</b>	Unr	L 12	L 10	W 31	L 7	L 9	1.0
27	<b>I. Fuelberth</b>	Unr	L 24	L 19	W 29	L 14	L 5	1.0
28	<b>C. Kumke</b>	374	L 7	L 23	L 3	L 22	B 0	1.0
29	<b>S. Kota</b>	230	L 11	L 14	L 27	W 21	L 1	1.0
30	<b>S. Satterwhite</b>	238	L 20	W 33	L 15	L 6	U 0	1.0
31	<b>K. Grobe</b>	Unr	L 13	L 21	L 26	L 25	W 20	1.0
32	<b>T. Diress</b>	622	D 16	L 8	L 10	U 0	L 17	0.5
33	<b>S. Aguilar</b>	Unr	L 23	L 30	L 6	F 0	U 0	0.0



## 2011 RCR Midwest Team Tournament K-3 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>K. Song</b>	852	W 16	W 9	W 17	B 0	W 12	5.0
2	<b>M. Nair</b>	665	W 4	W 14	B 0	W 15	W 13	5.0
3	<b>F. Hennessy</b>	654	W 7	W 11	W 18	B 0	W 20	5.0
4	<b>J. Lin</b>	798	L 2	W 15	W 13	B 0	W 14	4.0
5	<b>S. Li</b>	311	W 8	W 19	B 0	L 6	W 10	4.0
6	<b>D. Luo</b>	259	L 10	W 8	W 19	W 5	B 0	4.0
7	<b>G. Yermolinsky</b>	101	L 3	W 20	B 0	W 11	W 18	4.0
8	<b>J. Li</b>	548	L 5	L 6	W 10	B 0	W 19	3.0
9	<b>L. O'Brien</b>	299	W 17	L 1	W 12	L 16	B 0	3.0
10	<b>S. Selvaraj</b>	235	W 6	B 0	L 8	W 19	L 5	3.0
11	<b>J. Morris</b>	231	W 18	L 3	W 20	L 7	B 0	3.0
12	<b>A. Zhang</b>	110	B 0	W 16	L 9	W 17	L 1	3.0
13	<b>S. Chokkara</b>	570	L 15	B 0	L 4	W 14	L 2	2.0
14	<b>R. Swamy</b>	548	B 0	L 2	W 15	L 13	L 4	2.0
15	<b>J. Zhong</b>	456	W 13	L 4	L 14	L 2	B 0	2.0
16	<b>C. Boland</b>	365	L 1	L 12	B 0	W 9	L 17	2.0
17	<b>V. Potineni</b>	314	L 9	B 0	L 1	L 12	W 16	2.0
18	<b>A. Samiev</b>	Unr	L 11	B 0	L 3	W 20	L 7	2.0
19	<b>S. Satterwhite</b>	103	B 0	L 5	L 6	L 10	L 8	1.0
20	<b>A. Peters</b>	Unr	B 0	L 7	L 11	L 18	L 3	1.0



**To the Victor goes the Spoils!  
The Winning K-3 Team**

## **GM Yermolinsky and WGM Baginskaite visit Omaha**

**by Ray Kappel**

“Chess is a way of life,” a spiritual quest.

That’s how grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky summed up his view of chess while at the 1<sup>st</sup> Midwest Regional Team Championship, Sept. 24-25, in Omaha. He brought several teams and his wife, women’s grandmaster Camilla Baginskaite.

Yermolinsky, born in then Leningrad in the former Soviet Union, has had his shares of ups and downs on his quest. In 1993, he tied for first in the U.S. Championship with Alexander Shabalov. In 1996, he was sole champion. He is also a 3-time winner of the World Open and in 2001 he won the American Continental Championship.

Some of the downs he experienced occurred while living in California where he lost his job and house. He was looking for a place to start over and found South Dakota.

“You can’t dwell on these things,” he said of the losses. “It can ruin your life.”

He had been to the Governor’s Cup tournament in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1999. He made two or three trips after that.

He recalled on a trip there with his wife, Camilla, that South Dakota would be a nice place to live. He said he was fed up with the expensive lifestyle of California and the crowds.

In 2007, he moved his family to Sioux Falls.

Chess is not only a way of life for him, it’s his livelihood. He is the host of the popular “Every Russian Schoolboy Knows” on the Internet Chess Club, a site he does game analysis for also. He is the author of two popular books, “The Road to Chess Improvement” and “The Classical Sicilian”.

Because of the internet, he is able to work from the relatively remote Sioux Falls. He looks forward to more ICC work.

He and Camilla teach chess in programs for schools around Sioux Falls. They brought several youngsters to the tournament, including their two

children, Eddie, 13, and Greta, 8.

Yermolinsky worked the simul board at the team tournament and could be seen instructing several children, sitting on the floor of the hallway, international master and noted author John Watson looking on. Watson also took part in holding the simul.

“One of my most memorable pictures of this event was seeing GM Alex Yermolinsky sitting on the floor with a group of kids, replaying one of their games and just chatting with them. The informality and positive encouragement flowing from this image is very, very positive,” said Mike Gooch, head TD of the tournament.

Yermolinsky said the main idea about chess is to enjoy it. There is an indefinable attraction to the game for him.

“It’s more than ratings. It’s a spiritual quest,” he said.

Camilla shares his love for chess and teaching, saying children need chess today.

“Kids need to exercise their brains, not just their bodies,” she said.

She added that chess reveals what you do or do not know. There are not multiple-choice tests where you can guess at the answer.

Today’s children need to slow down and think logically, something computers and television can’t help them to do, she said.

Camilla, who won the U.S. championship in a playoff in 2000, also has ties to the internet, developing two videos for Chess.com and plans more.

Improving your game starts with analyzing your own games. Don’t let the computer do the work for you, she said. You should play back through your games, writing down your thought process as you go. From there make notes, draw conclusions.

“Look at what you did wrong and how you can do better,” she said.

The local chess community warmly received the Yermolinskys and invited them to come back next year.

## Pictures from the 2011 RCR Team Championship



**John Watson & Alex Yermolinsky**



**WGM Camilla Baginskaite**



**Picture with John Watson (standing right) looks on as Alex Yermolinsky explains chess to, (from left) C. Caniglia, J. Severa, T. O'Brien and K. Pauba.**



**GM Yermoslinsky explains a point to, from left, C. Ganiglia, J. Severa, C. Baker, T. O'Brien, K. Pauba.**

## 2011 Great Plains Open

The 2011 Great Plains Open was held on October 1st, 2011 at Lincoln's Southeast Community College. Winner of this event was Joe Knapp who scored 3.5 points out of 4. Tied for second was Neil Reeves, Doug Given and Joseph Wan with 3-1 scores. The tournament was directed by Mike Gooch and organized by Kent Nelson. The tournament featured a book drawing with Matt Turner winning a book donated by John Watson. The event drew 18 players.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Knapp</b>	2030	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1869	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>Doug Given</b>	1824	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>J. Wan</b>	1795	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1814	<b>W 16</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
6	<b>N. Mujeeb</b>	1727	<b>W 17</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>2.5</b>
7	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1723	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>2.5</b>
8	<b>M. Turner</b>	1471	<b>D 13</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>B. Li</b>	1771	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>H. Nadell</b>	1613	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>David Given</b>	1332	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>B. Grimminger</b>	1210	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1755	<b>D 8</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
14	<b>J. Solheim</b>	1613	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>D. McFarland</b>	1628	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>D. Fox</b>	1571	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>A. Wolzen</b>	1228	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
18	<b>J. McFarland</b>	1289	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## Pictures from the 2011 Great Plains.



**Mike Gooch  
Tournament TD**



**Neil Reeves (left) Howard  
Nadell and Joe Knapp  
study the board**



**Neil Reeves holds a well  
earned 2nd place trophy**



**Joe Knapp (left) and Mike  
Gooch check out the books**



**Matt Turner holding  
hardware**



**David Given (left) and  
David King check out the  
goods**



**Kent Nelson  
Tournament Organizer**

## 2011 Lincoln City Championship

**Mirko Zeljko** made it his fourth consecutive Lincoln City title with a 3-0 score at the city championship Oct. 15 at Southeast Community College. Zeljko, also the current state champion, called it his toughest title fight yet. He defeated Nebraska junior high champion Brandon Li in the first round, perennial contender and Lincoln city co-champion last year, Kent Nelson in the second round, and Missouri expert Benjamin Gradsky in the final round. He had the black pieces against Gradsky who essayed a Catalan. White had a small advantage early but pressed too hard and black capitalized on his mistakes. Gradsky's buddy, former Nebraskan Tony Dutiel was second with 2.5 and Lincoln's John Linscott was third at 2. There were 14 players in the tournament. John Stepp finished in a tie with Linscott but lost the third spot on tie-breaks. Organizer Kent Nelson is getting a trophy for him as well. Stepp was also the winner of the grand-prize in the book drawing, getting a book by John Watson. Isaac Krings was a winner of a book as well. The North American Martyr's Chess Club entrant showed a fighting spirit in all three rounds. John Watson directed the tournament. *Report by Ray Kappel*

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	<b>M. Zeljko</b>	1987	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
2	<b>T. Dutiel</b>	1878	<b>W 9</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>2.5</b>
3	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1906	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
4	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1723	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>B. Gradsky</b>	2048	<b>W 13</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
6	<b>R. Hux</b>	1900	<b>D 4</b>	<b>D 13</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
7	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1862	<b>W 10</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>1.5</b>
8	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1833	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
9	<b>G. Marks</b>	1651	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>1.5</b>
10	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1640	<b>L 7</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>1.5</b>
11	<b>B. Li</b>	1763	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
12	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1759	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
13	<b>J. Wan</b>	1785	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>0.5</b>
14	<b>I. Krings</b>	741	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>0-0</b>

**The 2011 Midwest Open** was held in Omaha's Central High School on November 19th. The Midwest Open was held in conjunction with a number of unrated Scholastic sections with the turnout of nearly 300 kids. Winner of the rated Midwest Open was Ben Fabrikant and Joseph Wan. Each player scored 3.5 points out of 4. The section was run smoothly by tournament director, Jeff Solheim. The event was organized by Drew Thyden and Mike Gooch with support from the Omaha chess community. The event was well received and everyone appeared to have fun. ***Report by Kent Nelson.***

## 2011 Midwest Open

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	1961	<b>H 0</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>J. Wan</b>	1792	<b>D 11</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>3.5</b>
3	<b>J. Knapp</b>	2024	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1758	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>Doug Given</b>	1828	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
6	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1814	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
7	<b>N. Mujeeb</b>	1735	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1723	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
9	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1700	<b>L 16</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>H. Nadell</b>	1609	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>A. Albright</b>	1262	<b>D 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>A. Wolzen</b>	1210	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>L. Sterling</b>	1172	<b>H 0</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
14	<b>C. Dibley</b>	1521	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>M. Hansen</b>	1405	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1160	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>G. Revesz</b>	949	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>1.0</b>
18	<b>S. Sangimino</b>	1207	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>U 0</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## Richard Olson's last letter to the *Gambit*...

Richard Olson reported that 5 players competed at his **AWANA OLSON CHESS Open** held in his home on 11/12/11. Jim Jirousek won the event with 4 points followed by Don Dostal with 2.5 points and Jim Swartz scored 1.5 points. Richard Olson and Matthew Glynn played too.



The 2011 Midwest Open was held at Omaha Central High School on Saturday, November 19. Eighteen players participated, including Adam Albright, who made the trip from Kansas, and Mark Hansen and Charles Dibley, who traveled from South Dakota. Several players also made the trip from other cities within Nebraska. Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan and Ben Fabrikant finished atop the standings, each having 3.5 out of 4 points possible.

A **Rated Beginners' Open** was held right next door to the Midwest Open on the same date. Twenty-two players participated, and the first place trophy went to John Patrick McElderry. *Report by Jeff Solheim.*

## 2011 R B Open

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	J. McElderry	947	W 12	W 3	L 6	W 10	W 4	4.0
2	A. McFayden	Unr	L 14	W 22	W 19	W 13	W 8	4.0
3	K. Siverling	818	W 18	L 1	W 14	W 9	W 11	4.0
4	H. McMinn	621	W 7	W 5	W 9	W 6	L 1	4.0
5	J. Severa	1019	W 15	L 4	W 21	W 8	D 6	3.5
6	V. Noronha	Unr	W 22	W 14	L 1	L 4	D 5	3.5
7	R. Siverling	1098	L 4	L 21	W 18	W 17	W 13	3.0
8	E. Barnes	Unr	W 19	W 10	W 11	L 5	L 2	3.0
9	A. Jaddu	933	W 17	W 13	L 4	L 3	W 16	3.0
10	R. Hernandez	Unr	W 16	L 8	W 15	L 1	W 14	3.0
11	A. Zaleski	740	W 21	W 18	L 8	W 19	L 3	3.0
12	H. Hawbaker	380	L 1	L 19	W 22	W 18	W 20	3.0
13	A. Cummings	Unr	W 20	L 9	W 16	L 2	L 7	2.0
14	C. Revesz	631	W 2	L 6	L 3	W 21	L 10	2.0
15	E. Siverling	701	L 5	W 20	L 10	L 16	W 21	2.0
16	J. Alexander	663	L 10	W 17	L 13	W 15	L 9	2.0
17	C. Baker	362	L 9	L 16	W 20	L 7	W 19	2.0
18	T. Leone	878	L 3	L 11	L 7	L 12	W 22	1.0
19	R. Kim	823	L 8	W 12	L 2	L 11	L 17	1.0
20	R. Marcoux	867	L 13	L 15	L 17	W 22	L 12	1.0
21	A. Finnely	Unr	L 11	W 7	L 5	L 14	L 15	1.0
22	B. Graves	724	L 6	L 2	L 12	L 20	L 18	0-0

## Champion Comments

2011 Midwest Winners **Ben Fabrikant & Joseph Wan** speak out

Interview by **Ray Kappel**

**Ben Fabrikant**, bouncing back from a year-and-half layoff, and **Joseph Wan**, surging past 1800 in rating, were the winners of the Midwest Open Nov. 19 at Omaha Central High School. Both finished at 3.5. “My reaction was happiness mixed with relief! It was good to know that I could still play at a high level after taking a break. I hadn't played in about a year and a half. The next week I played at the Marshall Chess club in NYC and did quite well there. If this trend continues, then I'll definitely keep playing,” Fabrikant said. He said his key game was in round three against John Stepp, whom he's been playing for 20 years.

“It was a very tactical Sicilian with opposite-side castling and both players going down to the wire as far as time. On move twenty-three he decided to mix it up by playing Nf4, but the tactics were mostly in my favor so I ended up winning material. The game against (Doug) Given in round four was much more of a slow grind, but the outcome there was never in doubt after he blundered a pawn,” Fabrikant said.

Wan said he felt very happy and overjoyed. “It is always exciting to get the first place. Besides, I earned some cash prize I can save to my bank account. And I may earn enough points to be POY.” Wan said his best game was his win over Kent Nelson.

“Finally I had a clear win against Kent. He gave me a very nice comment. He said that I played like a pro, which made me feel very honored. I think I played very well in that game,” he said.

## **Brandon Li Nebraska's Junior High Champ**

by **Ray Kappel**

Millard High School ninth grader Brandon Li is one of the promising juniors of Nebraska chess.

He represented Nebraska at the Dewain K. Barber national K-8 tournament in Orlando, FL, held from 7-30 to 8-2 of this year. He won two games and lost four.

"It's an honor to represent Nebraska for the age group I was playing in. It was a wonderful experience playing chess with people from different states," he said.

Li first learned chess when he was 5 or 6.

"It was fun to play and compete against my friends at my elementary school. I always wanted to get better so that I could beat them," he said.

Li became Nebraska Junior High Champion in early 2011. This was not his first time winning a state junior high title. He had won a couple of K-9 tournaments before.

He won the junior high title at the North American Martyrs School in Lincoln. He was 4.0 in the four-round.

His favorite player is Bobby Fischer.

"Because of his story of becoming the U.S. champion at a young age is cool," he said.

He attends the weekly meetings of his Millard North High School chess club. He led his high school team to a first place finish in their division at the 1<sup>st</sup> Midwest Regional Team Chess tournament in Omaha in September. He had an undefeated score.

"Brandon is a nice young man except on the chess board," said Drew Thyden, scholastic chess organizer in Omaha. He likes to watch Li's attacking style of play. Thyden is a former teacher of Li.

For more than a year, Li has been working with Omaha expert Joe Knapp. Keaton Kiewra also works with him. They just started lessons together.

“Brandon is a fun person. His outlook is very positive,” Knapp said. “He has a sense of humor. He’s well-rounded and seems to succeed at everything.”

Knapp said one of Li’s strong qualities is his ability to focus at the board. He works hard at calculating, and is versatile, Knapp said.

“While at times his play can be overly cautious, he also knows how to take risks and can be fearless. He often employs gambit lines, for instance, and he loves to attack.”

Knapp’s goal for Brandon back in January was to reach 1800 by the end of the year. He is very close at 1763.

“His long-term potential really depends on how far Brandon wants to go with chess. With hard work and study, master, or even IM or GM, is not out of the question,” Knapp said.

His high school coach Matt Meyer also likes Brandon as a young man and player.

“I quickly realized Brandon is an outstanding kid,” Meyer said. “He is polite, courteous, and kind to all the players. He quickly made friends in the club and earned the respect of his teammates. He quickly became our top board and has challenged the players around him to be better at their game. He has simultaneously played three of our players, helping them out with advice as he played them. He seems to be a very reliable kid, who communicates well. We are very fortunate to have him at Millard North and we look forward to upcoming metro matches with him on our team.”



**Brandon Li**

## Hartmann's Corner

by

John Hartmann

Mikhail Botvinnik famously argues in the foreword to his 100 Selected Games that the aspiring master must learn to “analyze and comment on games, for that enables you to criticize your own failures and successes.” In other words, it is not sufficient to simply play slow games against decent competition to improve. Thorough analysis of these games is essential to improvement. More than this, Botvinnik claims that the publication of one’s analysis is desirable, as it subjects such work to “objective criticism.”

Now, I am no master, but I do hope to improve my chess, and the advice of a World Champion should not be discarded lightly. It is in this spirit that I offer the first in what I hope is a long line of columns here in The Gambit. In each installment I will present games – both mine and sometimes those of others – coupled with their analysis. While a book review might appear every now and again, the real purpose of the column is ultimately self-serving. I’m going to take Botvinnik at his word, put my analysis out there, and see what happens.

I truly believe that good things are happening here in the Nebraska chess world. We have organizers who are committed to making regular tournaments happen, and we have a new NSCA board that seems interested in changing things for the better. Still, we all know that we are not living in a chess Mecca like New York (my old stomping grounds) or Chicago. We can’t simply pop over to the Marshall to play four rated games against strong competition every Thursday night. But with the Internet – the geographic equalizer in the world of modern chess – we can find regular, tournament style competition *if we know where to look*. One such place is the Team 4545 competition <[www.team4545league.org](http://www.team4545league.org)> that goes on at the Internet Chess Club.

For most of us, Internet chess means random, ceaseless blitz. Slow games can be hard to find. By joining a four person team in the Team 4545 competition, you commit to playing a weekly slow game at a time that is convenient for you and your opponent. Your teammates might be locals, or they might live somewhere on the other side of the world. As it stands, my team has players from the United States, Australia and Brazil, and I’ve played against Swedes, Indians, and Mexicans. *Gens Una Sumus* indeed.

In what follows I offer my games from the last cycle for your scrutiny. (For those of you desperate to see what I play as White, you'll have to wait until the next Gambit issue arrives – my team captain had me playing with the Black pieces in all of my games.) Please note that I occasionally refer to “jw:” in the analysis. These small bon mots are ideas from my friend and teacher John Watson. It goes without saying that any errors in the analysis are my own, and not attributable to him in the least.

By the way, if any Nebraskas are interested in forming a team for the next cycle, which starts in January 2012, feel free to contact me. Why should we let the UNCL have all the fun?

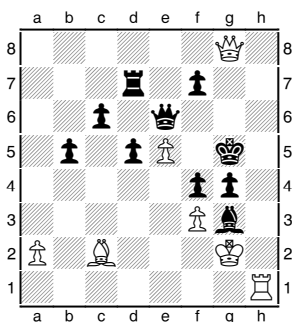
## **(1) Bacon1290 (1759) - John Hartmann (1685) [C78]**

Team4545 T50 Internet Chess Club (1), 16.08.2011

[Hartmann]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.Re1 Bg4** [9...Bb7 is far more usual here.] **10.Be3** [10.Bd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Ne7] **10...0-0 11.h3N** [11.d5 has been played previously.] **11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 Qd7 13.Kh2** [13.dxe5 Bxe3 14.Rxe3 (14.fxe3 Nxe5 15.Kh2) 14...Nh5 15.f4 Nxf4] **13...Na5** [13...Nh5 14.dxe5 Bxe3 15.fxe3 g6 (15...Nxe5? 16.f4) 16.f4 Rad8 17.Rg1 Kh8 18.exd6 Qe8 19.Qe2 Rxd6; jw: 13...Rfe8 with the idea of Nc6–e7–g6–f4; Black should be looking king-side in this kind of position.] **14.Bc2 Nc4 15.Rg1 Nxb2** Based on a flawed idea, as White can sac on g7 to force a draw. Still, points to me for chutzpah! [15...Nxe3 16.fxe3 Rfe8 17.f4? (17.Qe2 exd4 18.exd4 c5) 17...exd4 18.exd4 Nxe4] **16.Qc1 Nc4 17.Bh6?** [17.Rxg7+! Kxg7 (17...Kh8? 18.Bh6 Ne8 19.Rg1 Rg8 20.Rxg8+ Kxg8 avoids the perpetual, but at the cost of giving White the advantage.) 18.Bh6+ Kh8 (18...Kg8 19.Qg5+ Kh8 20.Qg7#) 19.Bg7+ (19.Bxf8? Rxf8) 19...Kxg7 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Qxf6+ Kg8 22.Qg5+=] **17...g6 18.Bxf8 Rxf8** This is the position I was aiming for. Black has a pawn for the exchange, but more importantly, he has all kinds of compensation. **19.Qd1** [19.Qg5 Ne8 (19...Kg7!; 19...Nh5? 20.Qxh5) 20.a4 (20.Bb3 exd4) 20...exd4 21.axb5 axb5 22.Na3 Nxa3 23.Rxa3 dxc3 24.Rxc3 Bxf2 25.Rd1 Ng7] **19...Nh5 20.Nd2 Ba5!?** Very imaginative, even if not completely correct. [20...Nf4 21.Rg3 (21.Rg4 h5 22.Rxf4 exf4 23.Nxc4 bxc4 24.Ba4 c6) 21...Na3! 22.Bb3 (22.Qc1 Nxc2 (22...Ne2? 23.Qxa3 Nxg3 24.fxg3 exd4 25.c4±) 23.Qxc2 exd4 24.cxd4 Bxd4) ; 20...Na3! 21.Bb3 (21.Bd3 exd4 22.Qc1 Qe6! 23.Qxa3 Qe5+ 24.Kh1 dxc3) 21...exd4 22.cxd4 Bxd4] **21.Nxc4 Bxc3 22.Nd2?!** [22.Rc1 Bxd4 23.Ne3 c5∞] **22...Nf4 23.Rg3** [23.Rg4 h5 (23...Bxa1 24.Qxa1 c5 25.d5 Nxh3?)

24.Rxf4 Bxa1 25.Qxa1 exf4] **23...Bxd4!** [23...Bxa1 24.Qxa1 Ne2 25.Rg2 Qc6! 26.Bb3 exd4 (26...Nxd4?! 27.f4) 27.Qd1 d3] **24.Rb1 Bxf2 25.Rg4 h5!** [25...Nxb3? 26.Kxh3 h5 27.Kg2] **26.Rxf4 exf4 27.Nb3 Qe7 28.Qf1 Bg3+** [28...Be3] **29.Kg2 Rd8** [29...c5] **30.Nd4 Qf6 31.Nc6? Qc3 32.Qd3 Qxc6 33.e5 d5 34.Bb3 Qe6 35.Rd1 c6** [35...Qxe5] **36.Qd4 g5** [36...f6 37.Qb6 (37.exf6 Qe2+) 37...Re8 38.Rd2 fxe5] **37.Qb6 Rd7** [37...Re8] **38.Qxa6 g4?! [38...Qxe5 39.Qxc6 (39.Qa8+ Kg7) 39...Qe2+] 39.Qc8+ Kg7 40.hxg4 hxg4??** Ugh. This wasn't even a time pressure issue – I had 10 minutes left. I just didn't look for White's counterplay. [40...Qxe5! 41.Rd2 Qe1] **41.Rh1+-** [41.fxg4?? was my only consideration. 41...Qxg4] **41...Kg6 42.Bc2+ Kg5 43.Qg8+** Black resigns **1-0**



Final Position

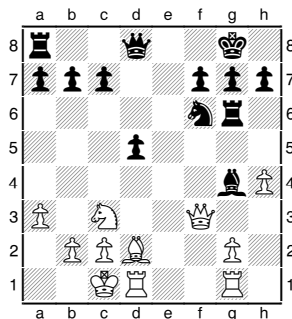
## (2) Signalman (1549) - John Hartmann (1695) [C22]

Team4545 T50 Internet Chess Club (2), 22.08.2011

[Hartmann]

Because all league games are archived on the Team 4545 website, fairly good preparation for one's opponent is possible. Here I noticed that my opponent had been playing the Center Game quite frequently, and so I stuffed as much theory into my head as I could. **1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3 Nf6 5.Nc3** [5.Bd2 Bb4! 6.a3 (6.Nc3) 6...Bxd2+ 7.Nxd2 0-0 8.0-0-0] **5...Bb4 6.Bd2 0-0 7.0-0-0 Re8 8.Qg3** [8.Bc4 d6 9.f3 Na5] **8...Rxe4** [8...Nxe4] **9.a3 Rg4 10.Qf3** I hadn't seen this move before. Compared to the 'normal' 10.Qe3, this leaves my bishop the c5 square. So I took it. [10.Qe3 is the normal move, i.e. 10...Ba5 11.f3 (11.h3 Rg6) 11...Rg6 12.h4 Nh5!? 13.Ne4 Bb6; 10.Qh3] **10...Bc5 11.h3 Rg6 12.Bd3?!N** [RR 12.g4 d5 13.g5 Nd4 14.Qg3 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ne2 Nf5 17.Qf4 Qe8 18.Ng3 Nxg3 19.Qxg3 Rd6 20.Bg2 Bf5 21.Qf4 Qe6 22.Kb1 Rad8 23.Rhe1 e3 0-1 Karavaev,A (2150)-Demchenko,A (2465)/ Krasnodar 2007/EXT 2010; 12.Be3 Qe7 13.Bxc5 Qxc5 14.g4 d6

(14...d5?! 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Rxd5 Be6=) 15.Qg3<sup>∞</sup> (15.Bd3?! Ne5) ; 12.Bf4 d6] **12...Ne5 13.Qe2** [13.Bxg6?? Nxf3 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.Nxf3 d6+] **13...Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Bxf2?!** [⊔14...Rxc2 15.Nf3 (15.Be3 Qe7 16.Re1 Bxe3+ 17.Rxe3 Qf8⌘) 15...d5 (15...Rxf2?! 16.Bg5 d5 17.Bh4) 16.Nh4 Rxf2 17.Be3 Qd6! (17...Bxe3+ 18.Qxe3 Rf5 19.Nxf5 Bxf5 20.Qg5 Be6 21.Rhg1 g6<sup>∞</sup>) 18.Bxf2 Bxf2 19.Nf3 Qf4+ 20.Kb1 c6] **15.Qf3** [15.g4 d6 16.Nge2; jw: ⊔15.Nf3 d6 and I don't think White has enough comp.] **15...Bxg1** [15...Bh4 16.Nge2 d5 17.g3 Bg5 18.g4 c6⌘] **16.Rhxc1 d5 17.h4?? Bg4** White resigns **0-1**



Final Position

### (3) Rahulr (1641) – John Hartmann (1676) [D40]

Team4545 T50 Internet Chess Club (4), 03.09.2011

[Hartmann]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 dxc4** [7...cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Be7 is a standard kind of position(9...b5?! 10.Bb3 with d4-d5 coming soon) ; 7...Bd6 8.b3 0-0 9.Bb2] **8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxc4 b5** [10...Ke7!] **11.Bb3** [jw: 11.Bd3!? with the idea of a2-a4 or Nc3-e4] **11...Bb7 12.e4 Na5?!** The beginning of a very bad plan. I wanted to try and win the e-pawn. My king is in the middle of the board, and all White has to do is develop his dark squared bishop and he's all over me. Very bad play by me. [12...Ke7=] **13.Bc2 b4?!** [13...Ke7=] **14.Na4 Be7?** [14...Ba7⊔] **15.Nb6 Rb8?** [15...Nxe4 16.Nxa8 Bxa8 17.Rd1+ Nd6+⌘] **16.Bf4+⌘ Ra8?** After figuring out that I was lost. I hoped that he'd just take the rook and perhaps let me continue in good conscience. [I belatedly saw that 16...Bxe4 loses to 17.Bxb8 Bxc2 18.Rac1+⌘ Bc5 19.Ba7 Nb7 20.Rxc2 Ke7; 16...Bc5 17.Bxb8 Bxb6 is comparatively best, although White is obviously still winning.] **17.Rfd1+** [17.Nxa8 isn't any better 17...Bxa8 18.Rac1] **17...Ke8 18.Ba4+ Kf8 19.Nxa8 Bxa8 20.Rac1 Bb7 21.Bc7** Black resigns **1-0**

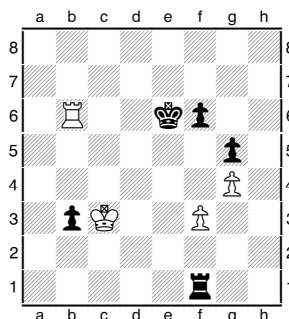


#### (4) Frankly (1763) - John Hartmann (1697) [D32]

Team4545 T50 Internet Chess Club (5), 11.09.2011

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.dxc5 d4 7.Ne4!? Qd5** [7...Bf5 8.Ng3 Bg6 and now theory diverges: 9.e3 (9.a3; 9.e4) 9...Bxc5] **8.Nd6+** [8.Nc3 Qxc5; 8.Ng3 Nf6 (8...Bxc5 9.e4 Qd6 10.Bd3 Nge7) 9.e4 Nxe4 10.Qe2 f5] **8...Bxd6 9.cxd6 Qxd6** [jw: 9...Nf6 as that pawn isn't going anywhere!] **10.a3** [10.g3 Nf6 11.Bg2 Bf5; 10.e3 Bg4 (jw: 10...Qb4+ seems risky 11.Bd2 Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qxa2 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.exd4 Ne7 15.Bb5+ Nc6 16.0-0 f 0-0=) 11.Be2 and Black has to tread carefully. 11...Rd8 12.Nxd4 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Nxd4 14.exd4+ Ne7 15.0-0 0-0± 16.Bg5 Rfe8 17.Rfe1 f6 18.Be3 Nf5] **10...Nf6N** [10...Nge7; 10...Bg4] **11.e3 Bg4 12.Be2 Rd8** [12...0-0-0 just looks too risky 13.Nxd4 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nxd4 15.exd4 Rhe8 16.Be3 Kb8 17.Rc1; jw: 12...Bxf3 13.Bxf3 d3!? 14.b4 Rd8 15.0-0 0-0] **13.Nxd4** [13.exd4 Bxf3 (13...0-0 14.Be3 Rfe8 15.0-0 Nd5 16.Qd2 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qh6!=) 14.Bxf3 Nxd4 15.0-0 Nxf3+ (15...Qe6 16.Bg5 0-0 17.Re1 Qf5 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Rc1 b6=) 16.Qxf3 0-0 17.Bg5 Qd5 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Bxf6 gxf6] **13...Nxd4** [jw: 13...Qe5!? certainly keeps more life in the game! 14.f3 0-0 (14...Nxd4 15.exd4 Rxd4 16.Qb3 0-0 17.Qe3 (17.fxg4?! Re4) 17...Qd6 (17...Qd5 18.0-0 Bf5) 18.0-0 Re8 19.Qf2 Bd7) 15.Qd3 (15.fxg4?! Nxd4 16.exd4 (16.0-0 Nf3+ 17.Bxf3 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Ne4±) 16...Rxd4 17.Qb3 Re4) 15...Nxd4 16.exd4 Rxd4 17.Qe3 Qd6 18.0-0 Be6] **14.Bxg4** [14.Qxd4 Qxd4 15.exd4 Bxe2 16.Kxe2 Rxd4 17.Be3 Ra4 18.Rhd1 0-0; 14.exd4 Qxd4?! was my planned retort, but this is weak due to (14...Qe6 15.Qa4+ Rd7 16.Qc4 Bxe2 17.Qxe6+ fxe6 18.Kxe2 Rxd4=) 15.Qxd4 Rxd4 16.f3 Be6 (16...Bd7 17.Be3 Rd5) 17.Be3 Rd8 18.Bxa7 0-0 19.Be3 Nd5 and Black doesn't really have comp for the pawn] **14...Nxxg4 15.exd4 Qxd4 16.Qe2+ Qe5** [16...Ne5!? 17.Be3 Qe4 18.Bxa7 Nd3+ 19.Kf1] **17.Qxe5+ Nxe5=** Here I offered a draw, which my opponent fairly quickly declined by castling. **18.0-0 Nd3 19.Be3 a6** [jw: 19...b6 might be better, as it controls the c5 square and prevents the rook from picking up the b-pawn in some variations.] **20.b4 Ke7** [20...0-0 was also probably fine, but I thought that my king being closer to the center for a certain endgame would be beneficial.] **21.Ra2** [21.Rfd1 Ke6 22.Rd2 Rd5 23.Rad1 Rhd8=] **21...Rd5 22.Re2 Kf6 23.Rd1 Rhd8 24.Red2 Ke6 25.Re2 Kf6** [25...Ne5 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.g3 Kf6=; 25...Nxb4?? 26.Rxd5 Nxd5 27.Bg5+] **26.Rdd2?! [26.Red2=] 26...Nc1! 27.Re1 Rxd2 28.Bxd2 Rxd2 29.Rxc1 Ra2 30.h3?! [△30.g3] 30...Rxa3 31.Rc7 b5 32.Rc6+ Kg5 33.Rc5+ Kg6 34.Rc6+ f6 35.Rb6 Ra4 36.Kh2 Rxb4** [jw: 36...Kf5! why rush? gain more space before committing.] **37.Rxa6 Rb2 38.Kg3 h5** [38...b4 39.Rb6] **39.Rb6 Kf5?! 40.Kf3?! [40.Kh4 Rxf2 41.Rxb5+ Kg6 42.g3 (42.Rxh5 Rxg2 43.Ra5 f5) ] 40...g5** [jw:

40...Rb3+! ] 41.g4+ hxcg4+ 42.hxcg4+ Ke5 43.Rb8 Rb3+ 44.Ke2 Rb4 45.f3? [45.Rb6 Re4+ (45...Rxcg4 46.Rxb5+ Ke6 47.Rb6+ Kf7) 46.Kd3 Rxcg4 47.Rxb5+ Ke6 48.Rb6+ Kf7 49.Ra6 Rb4] 45...Rb2+ 46.Ke3 b4?? [46...Rb3+ 47.Ke2 Kf4 48.Rf8 Re3+ 49.Kd2 Re6!-+] 47.Rb5+ Ke6 48.Kd4 b3 49.Kc4? [49.Rb6+ Kf7 50.Rb7+ Kg6 51.Rb5 Rb1 52.Kc3 Rf1 53.Rf5 Re1 54.Kxb3 Re5?? In some lines I thought this was ok. Here, at least, I was wrong. 55.Rxe5 fxe5 56.Kc4 Kf6 57.Kd5+~] 49...Rb1 50.Kc3 Rf1?! [50...b2! 51.Rb6+ (51.Rxb2 Rxb2 52.Kxb2 Ke5+) 51...Ke5 52.Rb5+ Kf4 53.Rb6 Rf1! 54.Rxf6+ Kg3 55.Kxb2 Rxf3 56.Rg6 Kxcg4-+] 51.Rb6+??



Position after 51 Rb6+??

Forcing my king to take shelter. [51.Rf5 Re1 52.f4 (52.Kxb3 Re5+) 52...Re3+ 53.Kb2 gxf4 54.Rxf4 Rg3 55.Rb4 Kf7 56.Rf4 Kg6 57.Ka3 Kg5? (57...Re3 58.Kb2 Kg5 59.Rf5+ Kxcg4 60.Rxf6=) 58.Rf5+ Kg6 (58...Kxcg4? 59.Rxf6=) 59.Rf4 Re3 60.Kb2 Rd3 (60...Kg5 61.Rf5+ Kg6) 61.Rf2 Kg5 62.Rf5+ Kg6 63.Rf2 Kg7 and Black doesn't seem to be able to make progress] 51...Kf7 [Δ51...Ke5] 52.Rb7+ Ke6 53.Rb6+ Ke5 Now I have the right idea! 54.Rb5+ Kf4 55.Rf5+ [55.Kb2 Kxf3 56.Rf5+ (56.Rxb3+ Kxcg4-) 56...Kg2 57.Rb5 Kg3+] 55...Kg3 56.Rb5 Rxf3+ 57.Kb2 Kxcg4 58.Rb4+ Kg3 59.Rb8 g4 60.Rg8 f5 61.Rg7 Kf2 62.Rd7 f4 White resigns 0-1

**Drew Thyden**  
**The Key to Omaha chess**  
by **Ray Kappel**

Omaha has a vibrant chess community thanks in part to Drew Thyden.

The scholastic scene in Omaha, for instance, relies heavily on Thyden to help manage the 300-400 children and teens in the programs. About 20 adults help teach chess.

“Drew is effective at recruiting other people to jump in and run chess activities in a coordinated way,” NSCA President Mike Gooch said. “I see the future of scholastic chess involving more new people because of him.”

Thyden said he and Gooch work well together and rely on each other to further the cause of chess in Omaha.

Thyden was born and raised in Southern California. His family moved to Omaha in 1994. He teaches technology at Central High. He has a son and daughter. His daughter just got married after graduating from the University of Tulsa this year.

Thyden learned chess at the age of 8. A neighbor introduced him to USCF rated tournaments when he was 12. He was rated 1830 at age 14, before “retiring” from regular play. He achieved his expert rating in 1987, reaching a high of 2060.

“I’ve enjoyed chess throughout my life. My enjoyment started because adults took an interest in me and my chess when I was young. So I’m trying to make the same opportunities available for the current generation of young players,” Thyden said.

The 300-400 active players in the program are spread around the Omaha school system. Thyden said St. Patrick’s, St. Margaret Mary, St. Pius and Swanson all have about 50 active chess players. Many other schools have chess clubs, Thyden added.

Thyden also draws high praise from Gooch for his work as webmaster for the Omaha Chess Community.

“Describing his impact on chess cannot be understood without noticing his communication contributions. He is responsible for its content,” Gooch said. “He provided the support and advice that local school teachers and chess sponsors rely upon in building their chess programs. He provided the suggestions for librarians and parents concerning chess books to consider.”

Gooch likes Thyden because he is clear about his goals for chess.

“He is a good chess teacher. He thinks before he speaks. He is loyal. He is fiscally responsible. He is generous with his time and with his chess experience and knowledge,” Gooch said.

Because of Thyden, there is a school-based, kid-oriented, non-rated chess tournaments nearly every month while school is in session. Thyden points out that many of these tournaments are being run by the local schools rather than Omaha Chess officers. Because of Thyden, there is an effective chess camp every summer. He helps plan mini-chess camps. He co-hosts family-friendly, free chess venues on Wednesday throughout the school year. He hosts a wine and chess social gathering for adults who are school coaches, parents, and others involved in growing chess.

Thyden was elected secretary of the NSCA this year, too. Thyden’s goals as secretary are to 1) get a more organized email list for better communication 2) Get NSCA tournaments on the schedule much earlier than has been the tradition and 3) assist the president and vice-presidents in encouraging more chess throughout Nebraska.



**Drew Thyden**

## Games from Recent Events

### **(10) Reeves,Neil (1862) - Knapp,Joe (2054) [A37]**

Midwest Team Tournament (1), 24.09.2011

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e5 6.0–0 Nge7  
7.d3 0–0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 d6 10.Qd2 Kh7 11.Qc2 Be6 12.h3  
Qd7 13.Kh2 b6 14.Ng1 d5 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Bd2 Nde7 17.Qa4  
Rad8 18.f4 Nd4 19.Qxd7 Rxd7 20.Rad1 exf4 21.gxf4 Nef5  
22.Rc1 Nh4 23.Be4 Ndf5 24.Nd1 Bxa2 25.Bc6 Re7 26.b4 Nd4  
27.Be4 f5 28.Bf3 Nhxf3+ 29.exf3 Nb3 30.Rc2 Bb1 0–1

### **(20) Nelson,Kent (1833) - Wagner,Jacob (1995) [B36]**

Midwest Team Tournament (2), 24.09.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6  
7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 0–0 11.Qd2 Qa5  
12.0–0 Kh7 13.f3 Be6 14.Rac1 Rfc8 15.b3 a6 16.Rfd1 b5  
17.Nd5 Qxd2 18.Bxd2 Nxd5 19.cxd5 Bd7 20.Rxc8 Rxc8  
21.Rc1 Rxc1+ 22.Bxc1 Bd4+ 23.Kf1 a5 24.a3 a4 25.Bd1 e5  
26.Ke2 ½–½

### **(24) Crouse,Tim (1800) - Wan,Joseph (1785) [D01]**

Midwest Team Tournament (3), 24.09.2011

1.Nc3 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Bf5 4.Bg5 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 Bxd3  
7.cxd3 Nbd7 8.0–0 h6 9.Bh4 0–0 10.a3 c5 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.b4  
Ncd7 13.d4 a5 14.b5 Rc8 15.Qd3 Nb6 16.Ne5 Nc4 17.Nxc4  
dxc4 18.Qd2 Nd5 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Rfc1 Qd7 21.Qb2 b6  
22.h3 Rc7 23.Rc2 Rfc8 24.Rac1 Nxc3 25.Rxc3 Qd5 26.Rb1  
Rd8 27.Qe2 Rdc8 28.Qf3 Qxf3 29.gxf3 Kf8 30.Rd1 Rd8  
31.Rdc1 Rdc8 32.Rd1 Game drawn ½–½

**(39) Hartmann,John (1640) - Crouse,Tim (1800) [C06]**

Midwest Team Tournament (4), 25.09.2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3  
cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Ne2 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.b3 0-0  
13.Bb2 Bd7 14.Rc1 Rae8 15.Ng3 e5 16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5  
18.Ba3 Bd6 19.Bb2 Ng4 20.Bd4 Qd8 21.Bb5 Qh4 22.h3 Bxb5  
23.Bc5 Bxc5 24.Qxd5+ Kh8 25.Qxc5 Bxf1 26.hxg4 Ba6 27.Nf5 b6  
28.Qxf8+ Rxf8 29.Nxh4 Rc8 30.Rxc8+ Bxc8 31.Nf5 g6 32.Ne3  
Kg7 33.f4 h6 34.Kf2 Bb7 35.g3 Kf6 36.Ke2 a6 37.Kd3 Ke6  
38.Kd4 Bf3 39.a4 Be2 40.Ke4 b5 41.f5+ gxf5+ 42.gxf5+ Kf6  
43.axb5 axb5 44.Kf4 h5 45.Nd5+ Kf7 46.Kg5 1-0

**(40) Jiles,David (2022) - Knapp,Joe (2054) [A00]**

Midwest Team Tournament (4), 25.09.2011

1.c3 e5 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Be6 4.d4 e4 5.a3 f5 6.Nh3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nbd7  
8.Nf4 Bf7 9.e3 h6 10.Bxf6 Nxf6 11.h4 Bd6 12.Nd2 Qe7 13.Qb3 c6  
14.Qc2 Bxf4 15.gxf4 Bh5 16.Nf1 0-0-0 17.Ng3 Bg4 18.Bh3 g6  
19.Bxg4 Nxg4 20.0-0-0 Kb8 21.h5 g5 22.fxg5 Qxg5 23.Kb1 f4  
24.exf4 Qxf4 25.Rdf1 Rdf8 26.Rhg1 Rhg8 27.Nh1 Nh2 28.Rxg8  
Rxg8 29.Re1 Nf3 30.Rf1 Nd2+ 31.Ka2 Nxf1 32.Qe2 Rg1 0-1

**(51) Knapp,Joe (2054) - Anderson,Roger (1797) [C33]**

Midwest Team Tournament (5), 25.09.2011

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e5 d5 6.exf6 dxc4 7.Qe2+  
Be6 8.Nf3 Qxf6 9.d4 cxd3 10.Qxd3 Bb4 11.Bd2 0-0 12.0-0-0 Na6  
13.Kb1 Rad8 14.Qe2 Rfe8 15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Rhe1 Bxd2 17.Rxd2  
Rxd2 18.Qxd2 Qb4 19.Nc3 Nc7 20.a3 Qa5 21.Qd3 Nb5 ½-½

## **(1) Stepp,John (1723) - Grimminger,Bryant (1210) [C54]**

Great Plains Open (1), 01.10.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c3 d6 6.h3 Be6 7.b3 a6  
8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.a4 d5 10.b4 Ba7 11.Qb3 Qd6 12.Nbd2 h6 13.0-0  
g5 14.b5 Ne7 15.Ba3 Bc5 16.Bxc5 Qxc5 17.Nxe5 Qd6 18.d4 h5  
19.exd5 exd5 20.Rfe1 0-0 21.Ndf3 g4 22.Ng5 gxh3 23.gxh3 Ne4  
24.Nxe4 Qh6 25.Re3 Rxf2 26.Kxf2 Rf8+ 27.Rf3 h4 28.Rg1+  
Kh8 29.Nf7+ Rxf7 30.Rxf7 dxe4 31.Rgg7 Qd2+ 32.Kg1 Qe3+  
33.Kh2 Qd3 34.Rh7+ Kg8 35.Rfg7+ Kf8 36.Qf7# 1-0

## **(2) Solheim,Jeff (1613) - Reeves,Neil (1869) [E61]**

Great Plains Open (1), 01.10.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bd2 d6 7.e3  
c5 8.Be2 Na6 9.0-0 Nc7 10.Rc1 a6 11.a4 cxd4 12.exd4 d5  
13.Re1 dxc4 14.Bxc4 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Nxb5 17.Bxb5  
Rb8 18.Qa4 Nd5 19.Ne5 Nb6 20.Qa5 Bb7 21.Bf4 Qxd4 22.Be3  
Qxe5 23.Qxb6 Bxg2 24.Qc7 Qxb5 25.Kxg2 e6 26.Rb1 Qh5 27.b4  
Be5 28.Qa5 Qxh2+ 29.Kf1 Qh3+ 30.Ke2 Qg4+ 31.Kf1 Bc3  
32.Re1 Rxb4 33.Rxb4 Qxb4 34.Qxb4 Bxb4 35.Bxh6 Ra8  
36.Rb1 Bf8 37.Bg5 Bg7 38.Rb7 f6 39.Be3 f5 40.Ke2 e5 41.Kf3  
Ra3 42.Ke2 e4 43.Rc7 Ra2+ 44.Kf1 Ra6 45.Bg5 0-1

## **(8) Abdul-Mujeeb,Numan (1727) - Nelson,Kent (1814) [B20]**

Great Plains Open (2), 01.10.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.c3 d5 5.Bb3 dxe4 6.dxe4 Qxd1+  
7.Bxd1 Nf6 8.f3 Bd7 9.Ne2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bf4 e5 12.Bg3 c4  
13.Ba4 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 Rfe8 15.Nd2 Na5 16.Bxd7 Nxd7 17.b3  
cxb3 18.axb3 Nc6 19.b4 Bf8 20.Bf2 b5 21.Rfd1 Nb6 22.Nb3 Nc4  
23.Rd7 Red8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.h3 Rd7 26.Ra6 Rc7 27.Nc5 Nb8  
28.Ra1 a5 29.Nd3 a4  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

**(10) Turner,Matt (1471) - Solheim,Jeff (1613) [C11]**

Great Plains Open (2), 01.10.2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Be2  
Qb6 8.Rb1 cxd4 9.Bxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxe5 11.0-0 Be7 12.Re1 0  
-0 13.Bb5 Nc6 14.Nf3 Bd7 15.Nxd5 Qxb5 16.Nc7 Qa5 17.Nxa8  
Rd8 18.a3 Be8 19.Qe2 Rxa8 20.Rbd1 Rc8 21.c3 Qc7 22.Rd3 Na5  
23.Nd4 Bd7 24.Qd2 Nc4 25.Qc1 Ne5 26.Rdd1 Ng4 27.g3 Qc5  
28.Qf4 Qh5 29.Nf3 Bc6 30.h4 Bc5 31.Nd4 Bd5 32.b4 Bb6 33.Qd2  
Nf6 34.a4 Bxd4 35.Qxd4 Qf3 36.Qxd5 Nxd5 37.c4 Nc3 38.Rd7  
Ne2+ 39.Kf1 Nxg3+ 0-1

**(11) McFarland,James (1289) - Nadell,Howard (1613) [C02]**

Great Plains Open (2), 01.10.2011

1.e4 e6 2.e5 d5 3.d4 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.Qd2  
cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4 9.Nc3 Nge7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Na5  
13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.0-0 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Rfe1 Rhc8 17.Re3  
Qa5 18.Rc1 Qxa3 19.Ng5 Be8 20.h4 a5 21.Nxh7 Rxd4 22.cxd4  
Qxc1+ 23.Qe1 Qxe1+ 24.Rxe1 b5 25.g4 Rc4 26.g5 Rxd4 27.h5  
Rh4 28.h6 gxh6 29.gxh6 d4 30.f4 Rxh6 31.Nf6 Rxf6 32.exf6+  
Kxf6 33.Re4 Bc6 34.Rxd4 Bd5 35.Kf2 a4 36.Ke3 a3 37.Rb4 Bc4  
38.Kd2 Kf5 39.Ke3 a2 0-1

**(15) Wolzen,Adam (1228) - Turner,Matt (1471) [C11]**

Great Plains Open (3), 01.10.2011

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5  
Bxc5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nb5 a6 11.Nd6 Bxd6 12.exd6 Nf6  
13.Bg5 Re8 14.Bf4 Nd7 15.c3 e5 16.Bg3 f6 17.Qb3 Nb6 18.c4  
dxc4 19.Bxc4+ Nxc4 20.Qxc4+ Be6 21.Qc3 Rc8 22.Rad1 Qd7  
23.Re2 Nd4 24.Qxc8 Nxe2+ 25.Kf1 Nxg3+ 26.hxg3 Rxc8 0-1



**(1) Stepp,John (1720) - Hux,Robert (1900) [C23]**

Lincoln City Ch (1), 15.10.2011

*[Hartmann,John]*

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 cxd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2 Bxb5  
7.Qxb5+ Qd7 8.Nc3 e4 9.Nd4 Nf6 10.d3 Nc6 11.Be3 Be7 12.dxe4  
a6 13.Qa4 dxe4 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qxc6+ bxc6 16.0–0–0 0–0  
17.Bd4 Rfe8 18.f3 exf3 19.gxf3 Nh5 20.Ne4 f5 21.Ng3 Nxg3  
22.hxg3 Rab8 23.Rd2 Rb7 24.Rdh2 h6 25.Rh5 g6 26.R5h2 h5  
27.f4 Kf7 28.Re2 Rd8 29.c3 Rbd7 30.Rhe1 Rb8 31.Kc2 Bd8  
32.b3 c5 33.Be5 Rc8 34.c4 a5 35.Bb2 and the remaining moves  
cannot be reconstructed.  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

**(9) Reeves,Neil (1889) - Linscott,John (1906) [A13]**

Lincoln City Ch (2), 15.10.2011

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg2 Bd6 6.0–0 0–0 7.Nc3  
c5 8.d4 c4 9.Ne5 Nc6 10.Nxd5 Nxe5 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.dxe5 Bxe5  
13.Qd5 Bxb2 14.Bxb2 Qxb2 15.Qxc4 Be6 16.Qc7 Rac8 17.Qxb7  
Qxb7 18.Bxb7 Rc2 19.Ba6 Rxa2 20.Rxa2 Bxa2 21.Rd1 Be6 22.e4  
g6 23.Ra1 Rb8 24.h4 h5 25.Ra4 Rb2 26.Kg2 Kf8 27.Bd3 Ra2  
28.Rxa2 Bxa2 29.Ba6 Ke7 30.Kf3 Kd6 31.Ke3 Kc5 32.e5 Bc4  
33.Bc8 a5 34.Bd7 Bb5 35.e6 fxe6 36.Bxe6 a4 37.Kd2 Bc4 38.Bd7  
a3 39.Kc2 a2 40.Kb2 Bf7 41.f4 Kd4 42.g4  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

**(20) Wan,Joseph (1808) - Hartmann,John (1669) [C54]**

Lincoln City Ch (3), 15.10.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 a6 6.Bb3 0–0 7.0–0 d5  
8.Qe2 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nbd2 dxe4 11.dxe4 b5 12.Rd1 Qe7 13.Nf1  
Rfd8 14.Bg5 Na5 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Nxb3 18.axb3  
e4 19.Nd2 e3 20.fxe3 Qe5 21.Rf1 Rxd2 22.Qxd2 Ne4 23.Qe2 Nxg5  
24.h4 Bxe3+ 25.Kh1 0–1

**(21) Hux,Robert (1900) - Wan,Joseph (1808) [C00]**

Lincoln City Ch (2), 15.10.2011

*[Hartmann]*

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7  
7.0-0 0-0 8.exd5 exd5 9.d4 c4 10.c3 Bf5 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nf1  
b5 13.Ne5 Qb6 14.Bg5 Rad8 15.Ne3 Be4 16.Bxe4 Nxe4  
17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Nf5 Re6 20.Qg4 g6 21.f3  
Nf6 22.Nh6+ Kf8 23.Rxe6 Qxe6 24.Qxe6 fxe6 25.Re1 Ke7  
26.a3 Rf8 27.Kg2 Kd6 28.h3 a6 29.Ng4 Nxd4 30.hxg4 a5  
31.f4 Rb8 32.Rh1 Rb7 33.Ra1 b4 34.axb4 axb4 35.Rc1  
bxc3 36.bxc3 Rb3 Game drawn ½-½

**(19) Marks,Gary (1642) - Hartmann,John (1669) [D32]**

Lincoln City Ch (2), 15.10.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Nc6  
7.Nf3 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Ne5 Qc7 10.f4 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0  
12.h3 Be6 13.f5 Bc8 14.g4 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Qf3 Re8  
17.Bd2 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Qxe4 19.Qg3 Qe5 20.Qxe5 Rxe5  
21.Rae1 Bd7 22.Rf2 Rae8 23.Bc3 Re4 24.Rf4 Rxf4 25.exf4  
Rxe1+ 26.Bxe1 f6 27.Kf2 Kf7 28.Ba5 Ke7 29.Bc7 Be8  
30.Ke3 Kd7 31.Bb8 Bf7 32.a3 Bg8 33.Kd3 Bf7 34.Ba7 Kd6  
35.Bb8+ Kd7 36.Ba7 ½-½

**(5) Li,Brandon (1765) - Zeljko,Mirko (1978) [B21]**

Lincoln City Ch (1), 15.10.2011

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 g6 7.Bf4  
Bg7 8.Qe2 e5 9.Bg3 Nf6 10.Na3 0-0 11.Nc2 Nh5 12.Ne3 Be6  
13.Bc4 Nxd3 14.hxg3 Qe7 15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Bd5 Rac8 17.g4 Bh6  
18.Nh2 Qd7 19.Rd3 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3 Qxd3 22.g3  
and the remaining moves cannot be reconstructed. 0-1

**(24) Fabrikant,Ben (1961) - Given,Doug (1828) [B07]**

Midwest Open (4), 19.11.2011

*[Hartmann]*

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.f3 0–0 6.Bc4 a6 7.Nge2  
Nbd7 8.a4 c6 9.Qd2 b5 10.axb5 cxb5 11.Bxb5 Qb6 12.0–0 Bb7  
13.Bd3 Rfb8 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Ra3 Bc6 16.b3 Bb5 17.Rfa1 Bxd3  
18.Qxd3 a5 19.Nb2 Rb7 20.Nc4 Rba7 21.Nc3 Ra6 22.Nb5 Qd8  
23.b4 a4 24.Na5 Nb6 25.c4 Nfd7 26.Nc6 Qf8 27.R1a2 Rc8  
28.Na5 Bh6 29.Bf2 Bc1 30.Rc3 Qh6 31.Qc2 Bf4 32.g3 Bg5 33.c5  
dxc5 34.dxc5 Bf6 35.Bd4 Na8 36.Bxf6 Nxf6 37.Rxa4 Rd8 38.Ra2  
Ne8 39.Rd3 Rxd3 40.Qxd3 Qc1+ 41.Kg2 and White won on time.  
1–0

**(1) Given,Doug (1828) - Dibley,Charles (1521) [C50]**

Midwest Open (1), 19.11.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0–0 Nf6 5.Nc3 0–0 6.d3 d6 7.Bg5  
h6 8.Be3 Nd4 9.h3 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Bb6 11.a4 a5 12.Qg3 Nh5  
13.Qg6 Nf4 14.Qg3 Nh5 15.Qf3 Nf6 16.g4 Be6 17.g5 Bxe3  
18.gxf6 Bf4 19.fxg7 Kxg7 20.Kh1 Kh7 21.Ne2 Qh4 22.Nxf4 Qxf4  
23.Qxf4 exf4 24.Kh2 Rg8 25.Rg1 Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Rg8 27.Rxd8  
Kxg8 28.Kg2 Kg7 29.h4 Bg4 30.d4 f3+ 31.Kg3 h5 32.c3 c6 33.b4  
b5 34.axb5 a4 35.bxc6 a3 36.b5 Kf6 37.b6 Ke7 38.b7 1–0

**(17) Fabrikant,Ben (1961) - Stepp,John (1758) [B28]**

Midwest Open (3), 19.11.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.Nc3 Nc6  
8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qe2 0–0 10.0–0–0 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.g4 Bg6 13.Nd2 b5  
14.Bb3 Rc8 15.g5 Nh5 16.h4 Na5 17.Bd5 Qc7 18.Nb3 Nc4 19.Bxc4  
bxc4 and the remaining moves cannot be reconstructed. 1–0

**(27) Nelson,Kent (1814) - Wan,Joseph (1792) [C15]**

Midwest Open (4), 19.11.2011

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nge2 dxe4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nc6  
7.Bb5 Nge7 8.Nxe4 Qd5 9.Qd3 0–0 10.Ng5 Nf5 11.Bxc6 Qxc6  
12.0–0 h6 13.Nf3 Rd8 14.Bf4 b6 15.Qc3 Qxc3 16.bxc3 Bb7  
17.Ne5 Rac8 18.Rfe1 c5 19.g4 Nh4 20.Bg3 Nf3+ 21.Nxf3 Bxf3  
22.Be5 cxd4 23.Bxd4 Bxg4 24.Re3 Bf5 25.Rg3 Bg6 26.Re1 Rd5  
27.Re5 Rxe5 28.Bxe5 Rc5 29.Bd4 Rg5 30.Rxg5 hxg5 31.Be5  
Bxc2 32.Bb8 a6 33.Bc7 b5 34.Bd6 f6 35.Kg2 Kf7 36.Kg3 e5  
37.f3 Ke6 38.Bf8 g6 39.Bc5 Kd5 40.Be7 Ke6 41.Bc5 f5 42.Bb6  
e4 0–1

**(5) Nadell,Howard (1609) - Knapp,Joseph (2024) [A37]**

Midwest Open (1), 19.11.2011

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0–0 Nge7 7.d3  
0–0 8.Rb1 d6 9.a3 a5 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bd2 Be6 12.Ne1 d5 13.b3 f5  
14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.e3 e4 17.Nb5 dxc4 18.bxc4 Qd7  
19.Rb3 Bxc4 20.Qb1 Bxb3 21.Qxb3+ Qd5 22.Qxd5+ Nxd5  
23.dxe4 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Nc3 25.Nxc3 Bxc3 26.Nd3 b6 27.Bxa8  
Rxa8 28.Nf4 Bb2 29.Rb1 Bxa3 30.Rxb6 g5 31.Nd5 a4 32.e4 Bb4  
33.Nxb4 cxb4 34.Rxb4 a3 35.Rb1 a2 36.Ra1 g4 37.f4 gxf3  
38.Kf2 Ra3 39.g4 Kg7 40.h4 Kf6 41.h5 Ke5 42.Ke1 Kxe4 43.g5  
Ke3 44.gxh6 Rb3 0–1

**(23) Sterling,Lavel (1172) - Wan,Joseph (1792) [E18]**

Midwest Open (3), 19.11.2011

1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.d4 d5  
8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bf4 Nbd7 10.Qb3 Rc8 11.Rae1 c5 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Qd1  
Re8 14.Nd4 Qd7 15.Kh1 Nce4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nb3 Nd5 18.Bxe4  
later 0–1



**Kent Smotherman**

If you've been to the new website of the Nebraska State Chess Association, you'll see the handiwork of the new webmaster, Kent Smotherman. Smotherman, a former editor of the Gambit, has been hard at work developing the new look over the past few months. It's up and running at <http://www.nebraskachess.com>.

The new site has the following features: a calendar, a listing of upcoming events, access to the Gambit, listing of clubs, games, puzzles, champions, and photos, among others.

A collection of puzzles, from 5448 games to be exact, is one of the features I really like. Nothing like a little tactics practice. Another feature, the photos, gives you a glimpse into tournaments just completed and tournaments of the past from various photographers. You can also get access to the Gambit, going back to 2009. A listing of state champions goes back to 1899.

You can also study the games of the state's best players with a PGN collection of games from this year's state closed. Smotherman took the web duties over from John Herr, who is studying for doctorate in mathematics at Iowa State.

Smotherman, 50, lives in Omaha with his wife, grown son and two teenage daughters. He has another grown daughter who lives on her own in Omaha. And that's not two Kent Smothermans you see hanging out at tournaments. He has a twin brother Kevin who is the better player, according to Kent.

"I've never defeated a player rated over 2000 in tournament play, he has many times. This dichotomy has always fascinated me - what is it about his playing style that has these results?!"

He got started playing chess with his brother. They loved playing games growing up but by age 11 or 12 and grown tired of the randomness of most games.

We wanted to choose a game for our birthday that was all skill - so we chose chess,” he said.

He is originally from the Ozarks in Missouri and grew up in the small town of Louisburg, Kansas, which is about 30 miles south of Kansas City. He was attracted to chess because of the challenge.

“Over the last several years, it has been teaching chess to children, which my wife and I did for Everett Elementary in Lincoln for five years, and now for Wilson Focus school here in Omaha for the last two years,” he said.

In getting the new website going, he said he really liked developing the Gambit PDF search engine so anyone can search the issues of the Gambit online and see what pages of what issues match what you are looking for. “I imagine how incredibly useful it will be in ten years time,” he said. He’s also working on the PGN game library, which is currently in three parts: The public collection, the user-uploaded section that has to be approved, and the puzzle collection, he said. The site also has an administrator section where the content on the home page can be updated live as well as the calendar and events.

For the future, he plans to work on the photo gallery with some tournament cross table support, maybe a blog system and maybe even a state rating system for non-rated events.

He likes the job because he likes providing “dynamic content and features for Nebraska players. I really like providing a professional site in support of chess across Nebraska.”

I asked him what the rest of the membership can do to help him run the site and this is his response:

“Participate! Analyze and submit games, submit articles to the Gambit. A lot of players seem to guard their games with a passion for privacy, and I think that is misguided. The average USCF player in Nebraska in the late 80s, which was the last time I did this research, was about 1250. As I tell my chess kids, there are lessons to be learned in every single game of chess we play, so share those lessons!”

*Story by Ray Kappel*

## Press Release

The Nebraska State Chess Association held its 2011 state championship chess tournament at Millard South High School on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. In this event, players compete only against others with the same approximate chess rating. The games are rated by the United States Chess Federation. Winners in each section become the state champion.

Winners and state champion by class are:

Class A

Ben Fabrikant	Omaha
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Class B

Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan*	Lincoln
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\*Joseph is also the 2011 K-3 National Champion

Class C

No registered players

Class D

Tony Benetz	Omaha
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Class E

Caravaggio Dante Caniglia	Omaha
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Class F

Father Brian Connor	Lincoln
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Class G

Miles Russell	Omaha
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Class H

Ryan Inman	Omaha
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Class I

Christopher Baker II	Omaha
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Unrated

Shane Fleming	Omaha
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There were 58 players vying for the various state titles.

Also, on Saturday, Millard South High School and the Omaha Chess Community hosted a non-rated scholastic tournament. This event had 96 players. *Final standings listed on the following pages-Ed.*

## 2011 Class A Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1
1	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	1983	<b>W 2</b>
2	<b>Doug Given</b>	1831	<b>L 1</b>

## 2011 Class B Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Wan</b>	1797	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1791	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>G. Marks</b>	1665	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>X 0</b>	<b>2.5</b>
4	<b>Doug McFarland</b>	1602	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>2.5</b>
5	<b>B. Li</b>	1782	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1675	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>C. Forsman</b>	1671	<b>L 8</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>N-Mujeeb</b>	1717	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>F 0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
9	<b>D. Meux</b>	1700	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## 2011 Class D Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>T. Benetz</b>	1322	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>R. Nelson</b>	Unr	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>James McFarland</b>	1255	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
4	<b>J. Selvaraj</b>	1279	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1212	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>P. Gatson</b>	789	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>V. Retineni</b>	1230	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
8	<b>David Given</b>	1399	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>H 0</b>	<b>0.5</b>



## 2011 Class E Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>C. Caniglia</b>	1125	W 9	W 6	W 5	W 3	4.0
2	<b>T. Samiev</b>	1184	W 8	D 3	W 4	W 5	3.5
3	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1003	B 0	D 2	W 7	L 1	2.5
4	<b>G. Brown</b>	1172	W 7	L 5	L 2	W 8	2.0
5	<b>A. McFayden</b>	1012	W 6	W 4	L 1	L 2	2.0
6	<b>S. Potineni</b>	1110	L 5	L 1	B 0	W 9	2.0
7	<b>C. Corpuz</b>	1065	L 4	W 9	L 3	B 0	2.0
8	<b>A. Samiev</b>	1095	L 2	B 0	L 9	L 4	1.0
9	<b>V. Noronha</b>	1014	L 1	L 7	W 8	L 6	1.0

## 2011 Class F Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>R. Connor</b>	Unr	W 8	W 3	W 5	L 2	3.0
2	<b>H. McMinn</b>	974	W 6	L 5	W 4	W 1	3.0
3	<b>A. Zaleski</b>	817	W 4	L 1	W 7	W 5	3.0
4	<b>J. Mcelderry</b>	1040	L 3	W 8	L 2	W 6	2.0
5	<b>G. Revesz</b>	1009	W 7	W 2	L 1	L 3	2.0
6	<b>D. Schlautman</b>	870	L 2	L 7	W 8	L 4	1.0
7	<b>R. Kim</b>	747	L 5	W 6	L 3	L 8	1.0
8	<b>R. Marcoux</b>	737	L 1	L 4	L 6	W 7	1.0

## 2011 Class G Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>M. Russell</b>	Unr	L 3	W 8	W 7	W 2	3.0
2	<b>J. Alexander</b>	673	W 5	W 3	W 4	L 1	3.0
3	<b>B. Graves</b>	628	W 1	L 2	W 6	W 4	3.0
4	<b>I. Krings</b>	711	W 8	W 7	L 2	L 3	2.0
5	<b>C. Revesz</b>	709	L 2	L 6	W 8	W 7	2.0
6	<b>H. Zaleski</b>	Unr	L 7	W 5	L 3	W 8	2.0
7	<b>C. Schlautman</b>	755	W 6	L 4	L 1	L 5	1.0
8	<b>J. McKaig</b>	Unr	L 4	L 1	L 5	L 6	0-0

## 2011 Class H Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>R. Inman</b>	474	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>S. Chokkara</b>	531	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>S. Selvaraj</b>	298	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
4	<b>G. Basile</b>	576	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
5	<b>B. MaCumber</b>	454	<b>L 2</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>1.5</b>

## 2011 Class I Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>C. Baker 11</b>	518	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>S. Revesz</b>	341	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>J. Eckel</b>	394	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
4	<b>A. Hartin</b>	103	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>K. Abolafia</b>	112	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>1.0</b>
6	<b>J. Noonan</b>	187	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>0-0</b>

## 2011 Class J Championship

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	<b>S. Fleming</b>	Unr	<b>B 0</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>3.0</b>
2	<b>C. Kirilov</b>	Unr	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
3	<b>A. Boerner</b>	Unr	<b>L 2</b>	<b>B 0</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>1.0</b>

## Extra Game

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Tot
1	<b>D. Given</b>	1824	<b>D 2</b>	<b>0.5</b>
2	<b>C Forsman</b>	1664	<b>D 1</b>	<b>0.5</b>



**Richard Olson**  
Born January 6, 1933  
DeWitt, Iowa  
Died  
December 18, 2011  
Clarks, Nebraska

It is my sad duty to report that Richard Olson passed away Sunday, December 18th 2011.

His wife, Suzanne, passed away 5 days earlier on Tuesday, December 13th. I called Richard on Saturday evening to confirm that I was driving up to Clarks to support him during his wife's funeral on Monday, December 19th.

When I arrived at Richard's house, I talked with Richard's son-in-law, Wayne Fish, who informed me that I would be attending two funerals instead of one. I was told Richard had passed away the day before.

I attended Richard and Suzanne Olson's funeral. I recorded my name to the sign in book and added the Nebraska Chess Community to it.

Richard was buried with full military honors. He and his wife were beloved by all who knew them.

Here is a narrative of Richard Olson's life that was written on his funeral program. Kent Nelson-*Gambit* co-editor.

**Richard** was born on January 6, 1933, in DeWitt, Iowa, to Ivan and Jessie D. (Grell) Olson. He grew up on his families' farm near Long Grove, Iowa and attended elementary school in DeWitt and Scott County rural School and graduated from DeWitt High

School in 1950. After high school, Richard worked as a hired man on a large farm one summer, he worked as a carpenter another summer, and he attended Iowa State College in Ames. Richard was drafted into the United States Army in July of 1953, he served in Korea and Japan and was honorably discharged from the military in March of 1955. He returned to carpentry work and attended Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls graduating with his degree in science. He taught science and math at Moravia High School in Iowa for the 1960-61 school year. On June 17th, 1961, Richard was united in marriage to Suzanne Sparrow in Juell, Iowa. Richard taught at Nebraska Christian High School in Central City in 1962-63 and later he taught part-time there for three years. They moved to Clarks in 1963 and Richard returned to carpentry work. His specialty was shingling; but he also painted and "tinned" roofs. He shingled 11 churches and climbed more than 30 church steeples (some more than once); as well as painting flag poles in Hordville and the Merrick County Courthouse. Richard was a member of the Congregational Church in Clarks where he taught Sunday School, was Sunday School Superintendent, a deacon and church treasurer. He was a member of the Clarks VFW and past commander, the Director for Child Evangelism Fellowship for 35 years, and was a member of the Merrick County Zoning and Planning Commission for 25 years. Richard played pool, tennis, baseball, horseshoes, and was an avid and accomplished chess player. Richard organized tennis tournaments, horseshoes tournaments, and chess tournaments and organized one of the few USCF chess tournaments in central Nebraska. Richard also brought tee-ball to the Clarks community. Those left to cherish his memory are his children— Juanita Olson of Grand Island; David (who is currently serving with the military in Afghanistan) and Lois Olson of San Antonio, Texas; Daniel and Janet Olson of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Rosalie and Wayne Fish of Westby, Wisconsin; and Stephen and Sue Olson of Crescent, Iowa; six grandchildren-Jasmine Olson and Lance Olson and Andrew, Timothy, Andrea, and Elyssa Fish. He was preceded in death of his wife, Suzanne on December 13th 2011; his parents ; and one sister-Shirley Wannepain.

# Tournament Life

## Summary

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at  
[NSCA.Nechess.com](http://NSCA.Nechess.com)

Special thanks to **Kent Smotherman** for his good work on the NSCA web site!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sections</b>
<b>Jan 14th 2012</b>	<b>Rated Chess tournament</b>	<b>UNO Omaha</b>	<b>Open Reserve Junior</b>
<b>Jan 21st 2012</b>	St. Patrick	<b>Elkhorn</b>	<b>K-8 Unrated</b>
<b>Feb 4th 2012</b>	North American Martyrs Scholastic	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Details TBA</b>
<b>Feb 11th 2012</b>	State Team Tournament, K-3, K- -6, K-9, Wegner Middle School, <b>Boystown</b>	<b>Omaha</b>	<b>K-3, K-6, K-9 sections</b>
<b>Feb 25th 2012</b>	State Scholastic Individual Champi- onships, K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12 (details TBA)	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>

## **Tournament Life**

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

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact contact  
Kent Nelson @ Prodigy.net

### ***January 2012 Rated Chess Tournament***

**Saturday, January 14, 2012**

Third Floor, Milo Bail Student Center, University of Nebraska  
Omaha

**OPEN SECTION** : Three Round Swiss Game/75. May be split  
into multiple sections based on number of players.

Rounds at 8:30, 11:15, 2:00 (No lunch break scheduled)

**Entry Fee**: \$15 if **registered\*** by January 11, 2012, \$20 at site

**Prizes**: Cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup> 20% of entry fees minus  
expenses in each section.

**RESERVE SECTION**: Under 1500 or Unrated

4 Round Swiss, open to players Under 1500 or Unrated

Round 1-2 Game/45 Rounds 3-4 Game/60 Rounds at 8:40, 10:15,  
lunch break, 12:30, 2:30

**EF**: \$10 if **registered\*** by January 11, 2012, \$15 at site

**Prizes**: Cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> 30%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 17.5%, 3<sup>rd</sup> 12.5%, 1<sup>st</sup> under 1200  
12.5%, 2<sup>nd</sup> U1200 7.5%, 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 12.5% and 2<sup>nd</sup> U1000 7.5% of  
entry fees minus expenses.

**JUNIOR SECTION** : **Under 1000 or Unrated** under age 13 5  
Round Swiss, Game/30

First round begins at 9:15. Subsequent rounds begin approximately 10 minutes after completion of prior round. Lunch break will be announced.

**EF:** \$9 if **registered\*** by January 11, 2012, \$15 at site

**Trophies:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> under 800, 2<sup>nd</sup> U800, 1<sup>st</sup> U500, 2<sup>nd</sup> U500 and 1<sup>st</sup> unrated

Players must provide their own chess sets and boards. Some clocks are available. USCF membership required in all sections, available on site. Walk-in registrations must be completed 30 minutes prior to the first round to be paired for the first round.

**Mike Gooch** will be the Tournament Director. **Announcements at site control over this flyer.**

\* Deadline is based on receipt of entry fee by Omaha Chess. Please register early. **Checks payable to Omaha Chess** and mailed with entry form to: Mike Gooch, 1004 South 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Omaha, NE 68154 or call 402-333-0722, or omahachess@cox.net

January 14, 2012 UNO Tournament \*\*\*\*\*UNO UNO\*\*\*\*\*

January 14, 2012 Tournament

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID \_\_\_\_\_ (if new USCF member, please email omahachess@cox.net )

RATING: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION: [ ] OPEN [ ] RESERVE [ ] JUNIOR

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