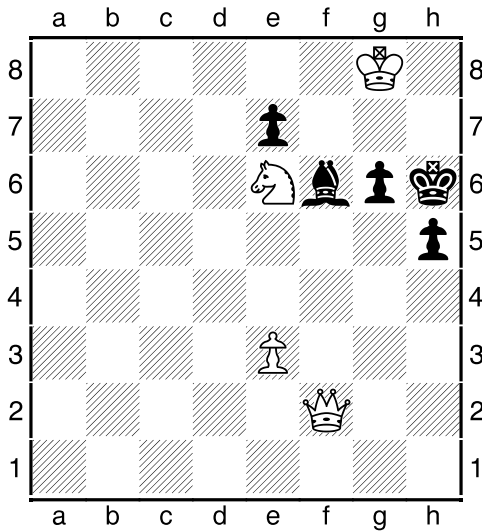


# The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



**White to play & mate in 2 moves**

Original problem composed by  
Robert Woodworth, June., 2012

**July-August 2012**

**Gambit** Editor: Kent Nelson with help from Ray Kappel, John Hartmann and many others.

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

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## **Letter from NSCA President Mike Gooch**

Hello Nebraska Chess Players:

Congratulations to Gary Marks for being inducted into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. Gary's contributions to chess in Nebraska are legendary and well deserving of recognition. He has been a strong player, organizer, tournament director, past president of the Nebraska State Chess Association, chess coach and mentor, and on and on. Were I pressed to make a list of what Gary has not done for chess, I would be stumped. Moreover, he has maintained a kind and generous demeanor throughout.

In July, we held the Cornhusker State Games chess tournament. The number of players was down dramatically, just 73. This year, Crispin Corpuz is our male chess athlete of the year. He is the only player to win all of his games. Kent Nelson, barely old enough to qualify, is our chess senior (55+) chess athlete of the year. Kent had a terrific tournament. Ekaterina Avdeeva, a newcomer to Nebraska chess and a graduate student at UNL, is our chess female athlete of the year. She competed in the Reserve section. And Gregory Revesz is our Youth chess athlete of the year after a strong performance in the Open section. Also, we saw the arrival of Kaveh Alagheband to Nebraska chess competition. Despite a hard fought draw with Neil Reeves, Kaveh's overall tournament performance resulted in a 2210p USCF rating. Kaveh is also a UNL graduate student.

At the Cornhusker State Games, we had a meeting of the Board of Directors of NSCA. We are discussing the creation of a Nebraska non-profit corporation and then to seek 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. You are invited to make any comments you might wish concerning these steps. NSCA is looking for a volunteer attorney who is familiar with the process to lend us a hand.

We are also discussing having a "Championship Weekend" in December, at which we would have the Closed, the Class Championships and perhaps even an Amateur tournament as well. The general idea is to try to crown the state champion in the same year as the beginning of their year as champion. There is a real split on this proposal on the Board and consequently, we would welcome any comments any Nebraska chess player might want to add to the discussion. -Please turn the page.

We are considering the creation of an NSCA email list. That way, we could inform Nebraska's chess players about upcoming events in a timely manner. If you want to ensure that you get updates and invitations, please contact NSCA Secretary Drew Thyden, [dthyden@cox.net](mailto:dthyden@cox.net) and you will be added.

The 2011 Closed was held in Lincoln on June 23rd and 24th. Many thanks to Lincoln Vice President John Linscott for organizing and hosting this event. Congratulations to Joseph Knapp, our new state champion after his 4-0 performance.

Nebraska chess has been invited to put together a team to play against a composite Iowa team, a composite Colorado team and a team from Siauliai, Lithuania. Really, the mayor of Omaha's sister city in Lithuania is one of their strongest national players. He invited us to select a team to compete using skype or some other technology. He also invited us to send some chess players to Siauliai, if we want to play over the board.

One last note, NSCA continues to be the USCF affiliate and our state chess association; therefore, your involvement and suggestions are just as important as ever. If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas on how to improve chess in Nebraska, please share them with any member of the Board.

Hope to see many of you at the River City Rodeo and Stock Show in September. If you need help forming a team, let me know.

Mike Gooch  
President



## From Kent's Corner

Welcome to another issue of the *Gambit*. With the support of my chess friends, I feel this is one of the better issues. I hope you concur.

I'm thankful to a long list of contributors that made this issue possible. Special thanks to **John Tomas** who write not one, but two articles for your enjoyment. John is one of the handful of individuals who has worked very hard to provide written accounts of Nebraska chess from decades ago. This is valuable documentation of our chess heritage. Thank you John for doing this.

Special thanks to **Bob Woodworth** for his articles. Bob did a wonderful job presenting life time achievement awards to Gary Marks during a ceremony at the Cornhusker State Games. Bob was kind enough to write a summary of that touching experience.

Many thanks to **John Hartmann** for his database of games from both the Nebraska State Closed Championship and the Cornhusker State Games. This is painstaking and tedious work. It is not easy to read someone's else's score sheet. John has written a narrative about the State games and has provided you good material from his Hartmann's Corner article. Thanks John!

**Ray Kappel** has submitted an interview with Doug Given. I think it is one of the best interviews I've ever read. No kidding. I hope you enjoy it too. My thanks to Ray and Doug for taking time out to do this.

Very special thanks to **Gary Marks** for his lifetime service to Nebraska chess. Gary was recently honored by his peers during the recent Cornhusker State Games. Details inside. Gary is up against his toughest opponent ever in the form of cancer. Gary, please know, that the entire Nebraska chess community is thinking of you.

Kent B. Nelson

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## News and Notes



1. It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of **Craig Collister** who died July 5th at the age of 50. Many of us old timers remember Craig as a tough and competitive player who was often in time pressure. Craig did not play for the past several years due to health problems, but he was very active in the Omaha City library events in the 1990s. In addition, I recently discovered that Craig was the editor of a chess newsletter called *Metro Chess* in the mid-1980s. The issues under his editorship were very detailed orientated and professionally done. We share our grief and sorrow to Craig's family.
2. **John Watson** and his wife, **Maura**, moved to San Diego a few weeks ago. We wish the Watsons all the best in their new digs. More about John in the next *Gambit* issue due out in late October 2012.
3. **Ray Kappel** has been promoted at work and as a result, he is stepping down from his duties as co-editor, but fear not readers, Ray will still make significant contributions to the *Gambit* and Nebraska chess.
4. This editor is attempting to reach former several time Nebraska State Champion, **Kevin Fleming**, for an update on his status. If anyone is in contact with Kevin, or Kevin, if you are reading this, please contact me. Thank you!
5. I recently had a phone visit with **Wayne Pressnall** of North Platte, Nebraska. Many of us remember losing to Wayne before he retired from OTB play. Wayne is still involved with correspondence chess and performs at the Community play house. Not bad considering Wayne is in his upper seventies. Way to go Wayne!
6. Special thanks to **Mike Gooch** our NSCA President and tournament director for his service for Nebraska chess. Please plan to play in Mike's River City roundup team championship scheduled in September. Details inside.

## **Another Year, Another Omaha Chess Camp!**

by  
**John Hartmann**

40 ambitious young players converged on Central High School in Omaha for this year's Omaha Chess Camp. The weeklong camp, created by Drew Thyden and sponsored by the Omaha Chess Community, has become a yearly staple for improving Nebraska juniors.

Campers were divided into five groups by experience and rating. The top two groups were taught by Joe Knapp, the new Nebraska state champion, and Mansur Eshragh, USCF expert and trainer for the Omaha Chess community. Other classes were led by local players Mike Gooch, John Hartmann, and Andrew Reed. Brandon Li served as a jack-of-all-trades, covering classes, playing simulms, etc.

International Master and local legend John Watson made the trip up from Lincoln on Wednesday and Thursday. He focused his instruction on two themes: the art of exchange and the interplay of knights and bishops. This was John's last visit to the Omaha camp, having recently moved to San Diego.

The week ended with rated tournament play for the top three groups, which were split into two rough sections by rating. The "Knapp" section saw a four-way tie for first between Harrison McMinn, Aidan Nelson, Alisher Samiev and Temur Samiev, each with 3.0/4. Jimmy Severa was the clear winner of the "Eshragh / Hartmann" section with an unbeaten 4.0/4.

Information about the 2013 edition of the Omaha Chess Camp will be available in the spring of next year. All Nebraska juniors are encouraged to attend!

# Nebraska Chess

by

**John Tomas**

From my debut in 1961 to just before my departure for graduate school at the University of Chicago in 1973, I played in all but one Midwest Open/Nebraska Championship. The one year I missed, my father died just before the tournament. My entry into Nebraska and Omaha chess came at a pivotal moment in their histories. Through the forties and fifties, the same players tended to be at the top of the charts: my last three articles detailed their careers and games. After 1961, the players of that period no longer dominated; in some cases no longer played. Howard Ohman won an Omaha title in 1963 but no more Nebraska titles; Lee Magee stopped playing entirely (there were rumors that he had gravitated to bridge, like a much stronger player, former US champion Stuart Rachels); Richard McLellan won another state championship in 1965 but otherwise confined himself to the Nebraska Centennial tournament in 1967 and state speed events; Jack Spence played in several state events and did tolerably well, despite losing two terrible last-round games to the Midwest terror of the period, Randy Mills, and Alex Liepnies did not play much at all after 1963.

So, there was no clear “strongest” Nebraska player in the early sixties. My own period started in 1961 with the aforementioned, very fortunate 1-5 in the Midwest Open. I played in another rated event before the 1962 Midwest Open, the inaugural Fox Valley Open in Aurora, Illinois (won by a very young Richard Verber) and scored an abysmal 0-4, losing even to future Illinois GOP senatorial candidate Jim Oberweis (the less said about the game [and the candidacy], the better).

## **The Omaha High School Scene**

I was not entirely inactive between the October 1961 Midwest Open and June Fox Valley Open. At Howard Ohman’s suggestion, I played in the 1962 Omaha City High School Championship as an eighth grader. Omaha (and Ohman) had a long tradition of nurturing high school talent through a city HS championship, generally held in the spring. It had produced players such as Richard Vincent, Jerry Belzer,

Jay Martinson, David Rockwell were among the best known. Unfortunately, most of them were outstanding students as well and went East for higher education, and few returned. Rockwell, for example, stayed in Evanston Illinois after going to Northwestern. (We played in a number of the same tournaments after I moved to Chicago to attend the University of Chicago during the '70s.)

When I started playing in Ohman's tournaments, the best high school player in the city was Bill Smith of Central. Like the others, Smith went east to go to school (Columbia University) and did not return. In 1962, he dominated the Omaha high-school scene with a perfect 6-0 in the finals. People were surprised when I qualified out of the preliminary sections and then proceeded to score 3-1 against the other two in the finals before losing twice to Smith – one good fight, the other a crushing loss.

For the next couple of years three players were at the top of the Omaha high school scene: I was one, and the other two were twin brothers Larry and Gary Grau, in 1962 sophomores at Westside. Gary was the stronger of the two and each won one game against me, but I had massive plus scores against them. Here is my first game against the dynamic duo.

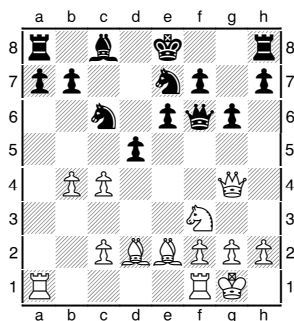
### **John Tomas(1545) - Larry Grau,**

French Defense **C18**

Omaha High School Championship (Finals) (4), 1962

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. Nc3 ♙b4 4.e5 c5** John Watson and I would later have a long-running (well, two years) dispute about this variation in which I lost all three games. In 1968, I switched to 3 e5 against him in the Kansas City Open and won. **5.a3 cxd4 6.axb4 dxc3** My database does not contain a single game with this order of moves. I recall believing that it all had been played before during the game. (**John?!**) **7.♖g4 g6 8.bxc3?!** Ugh! After 50 years I guess it's pointless to say that today I would play ♜f3 almost without thinking. **8...♞c7! 9.♙d2 ♞xe5+ 10.♙e2** White has enough compensation for the pawn but no more. At the time, I was convinced I was lost -- simply a pawn down without

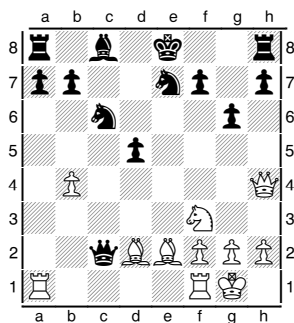
compensation. 10...♘c6?! 10...♘f6 11.♔h4 11.♘f3 ♔6  
12.0-0 ♘ge7 13.c4!



Funny that *Fritz* doesn't even mention this (to me) obvious idea until I play it. Black now has no clear route to equality.

13...♔f5 13...e5 14.♔g3 14.♔h4! ♔xc2? Suicide. Both Larry and Gary were wont to take whatever material you put in front of them. Now, white has a winning attack. 14...dxc4 is better, but this is a position White is very happy to play.

15.♘xc4 ♘e5 16.♘xe5 ♔xe5 17.♔fe1 and white has a clear advantage] 15.cxd5 White should simply play 15.♔f6 ♔f8 16.b5 ♘g8 17.♔f4 ♘ce7 18.♔c7 f6 19.♔ac1 ♔f5 20.♔fd1 ♔f7 21.♔c5 b6 22.♔d6; 15.♔f6 ♔g8 16.b5 when after black is holding on by his fingernails. I want to work this out to mate now, but it is one of those positions where it is probably pointless to do so: Black's position will eventually give. 15...exd5??



15...♘xd5 16.♔fc1 ♔b2 17.♔ab1 again is clearly better for White. 16.♘h6?!? Ah, youth! This is one of those times I am very happy I am no longer young. 16.b5 wins a piece and the

game quite simply. **16...♖xe2 17.♟fe1 ♖b2 18.♟ab1 ♖c3**  
**18...♖a3** is actually better because after b5 the queen will protect e7. **19.b5 ♕e6 20.bxc6 ♜xc6 20...bxc6 21.♕d2 ♖g7 22.♟b7**  
**21.♟xb7 ♖c4 22.♖f6 ♟g8 23.♜e5** Admittedly, pretty but totally unnecessary **23.♖xe6+!** mates immediately. **23...♖c3**  
**24.♜f1 ♖d4 25.♟xf7 25.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 26.♜xc6+; 25.♖xf7+ 1-0.**

I will have more to say about Omaha high school chess in future articles.

After the Fox Valley Open, I was (at 1505) paired with Howard Ohman in the first round of the 1962 Midwest Open.

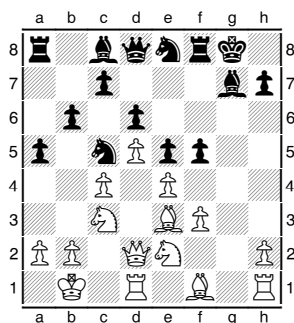
### **John Tomas (1505) - Howard Ohman (2057)**

King's Indian Defense E87

Midwest Open (1), 10.1962

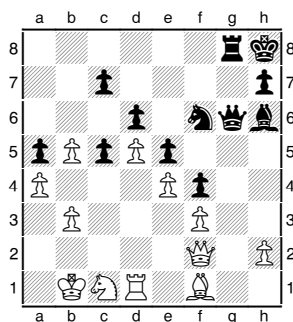
**1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 g6 3.♜c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3** I have never since played this order of moves in a serious game. So, why now? You see, there was a very interesting article in Chess Life at the time discussing Lev Polugayevsky's idea of castling Q-side and then pushing an attack down the c-file. So ... monkey see ... **5...0-0**  
**6.♕e3 ♜bd7** This move order has the advantage for Ohman of avoiding an exchange of pawns and queens in the opening after ... **e5** but honestly, you might want to do that against Botvinnik if you are Tal, but Ohman should have been able to outplay me in an endgame even more easily than in a middlegame. . **7.♖d2 e5** But he could not have known that such was not my intention anyway.  
**8.d5 ♜e8 9.g4 b6?!** I am not enamored of this move in KID structures. In too many cases it slows down black counterplay and weakens black's Q-side. **10.0-0-0 10.h4! h5 11.gxh5** opens the g-file and Black will have to labor very hard not to get mated quickly. **10...a5?!** Another waste of valuable time that I fail to take advantage of. Black does prevent the Polugayevsky plan, but this is all far too slow. **11.♜b1 [11.h4] 11...♜c5 12.♜ge2 f5 13.gxf5 gxf5** Please see diagram on the next page.





**14. ♖c1?!** Following the Polugayevsky model, but it has little effect in this position. Instead, in this precise position white can get a clear advantage with Ng3! (a move I hadn't even considered until 50 years later). 14. ♖g3 f4 15. ♗xc5 bxc5 16. ♖f5 ♗xf5 17. exf5 ♖xf5 18. ♗h3± ♖h5 19. ♗e6+ ♔h8 20. ♖e4 a4 White is a pawn down, but has ample compensation. I think the position is clearly better for white, but it is not clear to me now how white can break through against accurate defense by black. **14...f4 15. ♗xc5?! 15. ♗f2** is better **15...bxc5 16. a4?!** I had yet to learn the rule of avoiding weaknesses on the wing where you are inferior and so missed 16. h4! ♔h8 17. ♗h3 to exchange my bad bishop. **16...♔h8?! 17. ♗d3 ♗d7 18. b3?!** Another wasted tempo. What amazes me is not how badly I played, but how well I played! At the time, and for decades afterwards, I was convinced that Ohman had completely outplayed me and lost only because of a blunder. The reality is quite different. **18...♖h4!** Now Ohman is equal (not superior as I thought at the time). His problem is that pesky bad bishop on g7. Without that, he might well be better. **19. ♖hg1 ♖f6** Come to think of it, black's knight does not have all that many good squares either. **20. ♖g2 ♗h6 21. ♖b5! ♗xb5 22. cxb5** Now White has some positional trumps: if nothing else b6 releases the bishop from its tomb at the cost of a pawn. Or, given slightly more time, white might manage to maneuver his knight to c4. **22...♖g8 23. ♖e2 ♖g5 24. ♖g2 ♖xg2**

**25. ♖xg2 ♜h5 26. ♙e2** Setting the stage for Ohman's blunder. **26... ♜g8 27. ♜f2 ♜g6 28. ♙f1**



Again, I have to emphasize that at the time, I was convinced that I was lost. But a more reasonable assessment of the position suggests that it is quite balanced and should be a draw with best play. How about that! **28... ♘xd5??** Made quickly. After **28... ♜h5!** the game is rather even. Analyzing it now, I have found losing ideas for both black and white which means Ohman probably would have won it. **29. ♜xd5 ♜g1 30. ♜xg1 ♜xg1 31. ♙c4 ♜g2 32. b6!** After the game, when Ohman was discussing it with a couple of the other strong players, I heard him say that once I played b6, it was clear that I knew what I was doing, and it was pointless to play on. **32... cxb6 33. ♜xd6 1-0**

## The Early '60s

In 1961, Alexander Liepnieks won the Midwest Open and Nebraska Championship for the third and last time. In 1966, Richard McLellan won the championship for the third and last time. But, in between, Nebraska saw five separate champions who never again won the title.

The first of these, in 1962, was Anton Sildmets. Since I only played Sildmets twice (both games, one early, one late, were drawn) and since a biography (by Kent Nelson) detailing his chess career has already appeared, I will say very little about him. However, rather than present our last game, which was poorly played on both sides, I decided to present the game that brought Sildmets his only Midwest Open title in 1962.

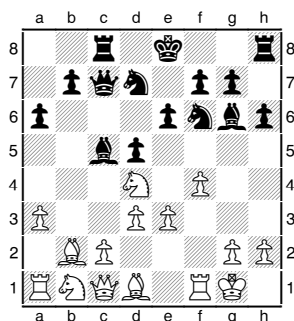
Going into the sixth and final round, Sildmets was clear first with 5 points. Only Howard Ohman, who had, as you recall, lost to me in the first round, could throw the title chase open by defeating him. And so . . .

## Ohman,Howard - Sildmets,Anton

Polish Opening A00

Midwest Open Lincoln, 1962

**1.b4** An Ohman speciality. In many important games he would play either this, the Polish, or the Bird. **1...d5** Not the most aggressive response (John Watson once coauthored a book that analyzed **1...e5** **2.♖b2 ♙xb4**, but this move is certainly very solid and fully in tune with Sildmets' careful positional style. **2.♖b2 ♜f6 3.e3 ♙f5 4.f4** So, it turns into sort of a Bird after all. **4...e6 5.a3 ♜bd7 6.♜f3 h6!?** Obviously to retain the bishop, and this bishop has great things in its future. Still, I might not have spent the tempo. Indeed, I might well have allowed White to double my pawns on f5 but cementing control of e4. **7.♙e2 a6 8.0-0 c5!** Black is already better. **9.bxc5 ♙xc5 10.♜d4 ♙g6 11.d3?!** It is already very difficult to find not just promising but decent moves for White. **11.♜c3!? ♙xd4 12.exd4 ♜c8; 11.♙f3 11...♙c7 12.♙c1** White should try **12.♙d2** which keeps Black's advantage within reasonable bounds, but Ohman wants d2 for his undeveloped knight. **12...♜c8 13.♙d1?**



The c pawn needs more protection, but this is not the way to protect it. **13.♜b3** is better when Black is somewhat better (nicer pawns, better development), but the game goes on. Now, it's over. **13...♙xd4 14.♙xd4 ♙xd3 15.♜f2** Sometimes, the side that wins material has to yield some of the positional advantage. That is not the case here. Black maintains all of his advantages and has an extra pawn.

**15...♙g6 16.c3 0-0 17.g4?!** It strikes me as rather churlish to criticize Ohman's moves in a totally lost position, but if he intends to play on, developing with **17.♘d2!?** makes a lot more sense.  
**17...e5! 18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♖g2 ♘e4 20.♙e2 ♘c6 21.♙d3 ♘xd4 22.exd4 ♘xc3 23.♘xc3 23.♙xd3 24.♘e2 ♔xc1+ 25.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 26.♘xc1 ♙e4** Black is winning easily, of course, but he only needs the half-point for the title. Giving the draw was a nice gesture by one of the most decent men to play chess in Nebraska over the past 50+ years.  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

I hardly knew two of the champions – Dennis Fritzinger (1963) and Robert Walker (1964). I did play (and lose to) Walker in the inaugural Des Moines Open of 1965, but I never met or even saw Fritzinger. The year that he won, my father had died immediately before the tournament, and so I could not play. Walker remained a strong expert, and Fritzinger became a strong master when he moved to the West coast. Since I have no personal reminiscences of them, and since none of their Nebraska games have been located, I reluctantly pass over their tenures.

## Gilbert Ramirez

That is not the case with Gil Ramirez the Nebraska Champion in 1964 (though not the Midwest Open Champion!) whom I got to know well and analyzed with (and lost to).

Ramirez was probably the strongest of the three, and quite possibly the strongest player in Nebraska since the early Ohman. Ramirez was a native of Northern California who had spent several years in Spain as a guest of the US Air Force before he was transferred, for two years, to Offutt.

At age 17, he won both the Northern California Invitational Championship and its Open titles. The same year (1957), he finished second behind some kid named Fischer in the US Junior (Open) gaining the only draw Fischer gave up in the tournament. In truth, the draw was one of Fischer's last acts of generosity since he was clearly superior in the final position. If the game had been played later in the year, I doubt Fischer would have given the draw.

Fischer, you see, was staying with the Ramirez family in San Francisco during the tournament.

Gil had a number of stories concerning Fischer during his stay with the Ramirez family. On their way home from the tournament one day, he and Fischer stopped in a bookstore carrying the latest edition of *Modern Chess Openings* (then the definitive opening source in English – think of a one-volume version of *ECO*). He and Bobby looked at a line they were both interested in for about ten minutes. On the way home again, Bobby started discussing the lines with Ramirez, or at least, he attempted to do so. You see, according to Gil, in the ten or so minutes they had looked at it, Fischer had memorized the page and had already worked out improvements on its lines.

Later that year, he scored 8 1/2-3 1/2 in the US Open including draws with both Robert Byrne and Ray Weinstein. Indeed, the draw against Weinstein was somewhat suspicious since he apparently gave it in what appears to me to have been an overwhelming position.

While in Spain, he played in Spanish team matches so successfully that his services were sold to another team! In addition, he had two International Master norms in Spanish round robins.

We played in the same tournaments during the two years he was in Nebraska – the 1965 Iowa Open, and the 1965 Midwest Open. In addition, I urged the YMCA club to offer him an exhibition (which it did), and he played first board in what I believe to have been the last of the Omaha – Lincoln team matches (won by Omaha, 7-1).

To illustrate his ability I am going to violate one my personal rules for these articles and present a game he played while still living in California, essentially without annotations. Still, the game, against a master-level opponent, should give you a good idea of his strength.

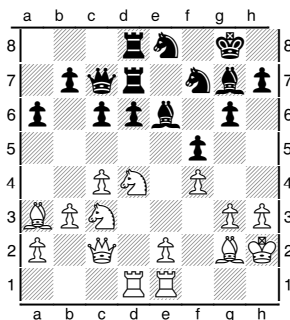
**Ramirez, Gilbert - Sholomson, S.**

Leningrad Dutch Defense A89

San Francisco, 1957

**1.c4 f5 2.d4 ♖f6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.♗f3 0-0 6.0-0 d6**

7.♘c3 ♘c6 In the late '80s and early '90s 7... ♖e8!? was all the rage. International Master Mark Ginsburg's idea 8.♘d5! enabled me to rapidly gain an overwhelming position against Czech IM Miklas Manic at the Santa Barbara County Open in 1991 (which <sigh> I failed to convert). 8.♖c2 e5 9.dxe5 ♘xe5 10.♘d2! c6 11.b3 ♕e6 12.♕a3 ♖c7 13.♖ad1 ♖fd8 14.h3 ♖d7 15.♔h2 a6 16.f4 ♘f7 17.♘f3 ♘e8 17...♖ad8!? 18.♖fe1 ♖ad8 19.♘d4



19...♖e7 20.♘xe6 ♖xe6 21.e4 ♘h6 22.♖d3 ♕f6 23.exf5 ♖xe1 24.♖xe1 ♘xf5 25.♕c1 h5 26.♘e4 ♖f7 27.♕d2 ♕e7 28.♕a5 ♖c8 29.♕b6 ♕d8 30.♕xd8 ♖xd8 31.♘g5 ♖d7 32.♖e6 ♖g7 33.g4 hxg4 34.hxg4 ♘e7 35.♖e3 ♖d7 36.♕h3 ♘c7 37.f5 gxf5 38.gxf5 ♖b2+ 39.♔g3 ♖g7 40.f6 ♖g6 41.♖xe7 41.f7+ wins as well. 41...♖xe7 42.fxe7 d5 43.♖e5 d4 44.♕e6+ ♘xe6 45.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 46.♘xe6 ♔f7 47.♘d8+ ♔xe7 48.♘xb7 ♔d7 49.♔f4 ♔c7 50.♘c5 ♔d6 51.♘xa6 c5 52.♔e4 ♔c6 53.♘xc5 ♔xc5 54.♔d3 1-0

A very impressive positional win for a 17-year old.

At his best, Ramirez was a clear cut above all the other Midwest players. At the 1965 Iowa Open, a Chicago master decided that Ramirez was overrated and engaged in an all-night blitz session that left him and his pregnant wife (whom he brought to Iowa City on the back seat of a motorcycle) virtually destitute. Gil gave the wife some of his winnings to tide them over. (Oh, yes I scored 3-2, a typical Tomas result, one last-round win and four draws – I guess I was just a drawing B player.)

But Ramirez did not win the 1965 Midwest Open. In what has to be the strangest result in the history of the tournament, a New York B player named George Gant, won the tournament.

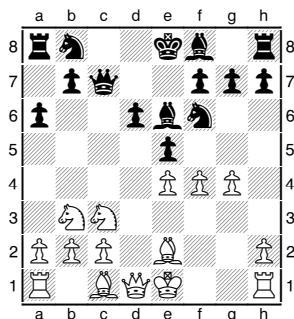
But Ramirez might have won the tournament had he won his last-round game against Marc Hutchinson

### **Hutchinson, Marc (1843) - Ramirez, Gilbert (2301)**

Sicilian Defense B92

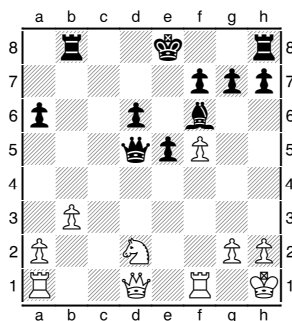
Midwest Open Lincoln 1965

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♙e6?!** Now known to be dubious, but more or less accepted theory then. Today, 7...♙e7 is main-line theory. **8.0-0** Inaccurate, but again, not that unusual at the time. Instead, 8. f4. ♔c7 9.g4!, and Black has had enormous difficulty staying alive.

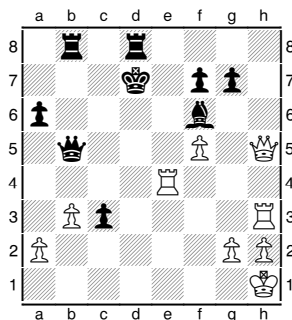


**8...♘bd7 9.f4 ♔c7 10.f5 ♙c4 11.♙e3?!** I am recalling of the analysis of Fischer games from the early '60s where Geller played a4-a5 and throttled black's Q-side play. But he had not played f4-f5, and the extra tempo lets Ramirez get in b5 after which he is at least equal. If you are interested in exploring the positions that arise further, consult the following games: Smyslov-Gligoric Havana '62, Geller-Fischer, Stockholm '62 (izt), Yanofsky-Fischer, Stockholm '62 (izt), Geller-Fischer, Curacao '52 (C), Tal-Fischer, Curacao '62 (C), and Geller-Ivkov, Palma '70 (izt). Both Gary Kasparov (in *My Great Predecessors, II*) and Jan Timman (in *Curacao, 1962*) have

excellent summaries of the history of these positions as well as original analyses. **11...b5 12.♘d5 ♘xd5 13.exd5 ♘f6 14.♙g5 ♙e7 15.♙xf6 ♙xf6 16.♙xc4 bxc4 16...♚xc4** seems more natural, but Ramirez wants the d pawn. **17.♘d2 ♖b8 18.b3 cxb3 19.cxb3 19.axb3** with an edge seems more natural to me. **19...♚c5+ 20.♔h1 ♚xd5**



**21.♚e2?** After **21.♘c4**, the game should be drawn without much further ado **21...♚xd1 22.♖axd1 ♖d8 23.♖d5 ♙e7 24.♖fd1 0-0 25.♘xd6**. But now black has a serious advantage. But, it may well be that Hutchison was playing for a win too. **21...♚b5 22.♘c4 0-0 23.♖ae1 ♖fd8 24.♖f3 e4 25.♖h3 d5 26.♚h5 dxc4** Theoretically, there is nothing wrong with this move: it should lead to a win. Practically, it is another matter entirely. In time pressure, and, if I recall correctly, Ramirez was in severe time pressure, with the king running around the middle of the board, it is all too easy to miscalculate. Instead, **26...h6 27.♘e3 ♙g5 28.♘g4 ♖b6** is also winning but without the drama. **27.♚xh7+ ♔f8 28.♚h8+ ♔e7 29.♖xe4+ ♔d7 30.♚h5 c3??**





After this blunder, the position has turned completely, and Hutchinson is clearly better. Instead, 30...♔c6! wins. Ramirez missed that 31.♖xc4+? loses to ...♗xc4! and without .♖xc4 white has nothing. 31.♗xf7+ ♔d6 He probably played this to avoid 31...♔c6 32.♖c4+ ♗xc4 33.♗xc4+ ♔b6 when white has a significant advantage. But now White has a number of forced mates, all of which he misses. 32.♖c4 ♗xf5?? 33.♗c7+ ♔e6 34.♗e3+?! 34.♖c6+ ♖d6 35.♖xd6+ ♔e5 36.♗c5+ ♔e4 37.♗c4+ ♔e5 38.♗d4 is mate. 34...♗e5 35.♖xe5+ ♗xe5 36.♗c6+?! 36.♖c6+ ♔f5 37.♗f7+ ♗f6 (37...♔e4 38.♗f3+ ♔d4 39.♗xc3+) 38.♗h5+ ♗g5 39.♗h3+ ♔e5 40.♖e6+ ♔d4 41.♗g4+ ♔d5 42.♗c4 is mate once again 36...♖d6 37.♗f3 ♖bd8 38.♖c6 ♖xc6 39.♗xc6+ ♖d6 40.♗e8+ ♔f5 41.g4+ ♔e4 42.♗a8+ ♔e3 43.♗a7+ ♔d2 44.♗f2+ ♔d3? The penultimate move before the time control (45/2) and a mistake. 44...♔d1! is a draw. 45.♗f3+? Black's pieces do not cooperate well after 45.♗f5+! ♔d4 46.♔g2 and he should lose. 45...♔d4 46.♗f2+ Hutchinson is satisfied with a draw. 46...♔e4 47.♗e2+ ½-½

And so, a 1600 player became Midwest Open champion.

As for Ramirez, he did not play again in Nebraska and, as far as I can trace, only once thereafter. When this game was played, he already had one child with another on the way and ... , but you know the rest of this story.

## **Interview with Doug Given**

by  
**Ray Kappel**

**Question:** Can you tell me something about your family, how many brothers and sisters?

**Doug Given:** I have two older sisters. Our parents decided to home school the three of us, starting when I was six. Homeschooling gave us a lot of flexibility to pursue the things that interested us, so that definitely contributed to my development as a chess player.

**You have a chess playing dad, how does that help your game?**

**Doug Given:** The fact that my dad plays chess, too, has done a lot to sustain my own interest in the game over the years. I don't know that I would have stuck with it if I hadn't had him as an opponent early on. And I might well have stopped playing in tournaments at some point if my dad hadn't started playing in them. We don't really play each other anymore, but going to tournaments together, we watch each other's game, and afterwards we play through our games and analyze together.

**When did you learn to play?**

**Doug Given:** I learned to play chess when I was eight years old. I don't remember for certain whose idea it was, but my sisters and I got a small magnetic travel set and a beginner's book, *The Usborne Guide to Playing Chess*, and the three of us crowded around the board and book and learned the moves together.

**What attracts you to the game?**

**Doug Given:** It's great mental exercise. It keeps you sharp. You've got to stay focused and keep finding the right moves. I've had games where I won a pawn or a piece, then relaxed for a moment and got blown away. On the other hand, I've had more than one

game where I've dropped a rook, then figured I had no option but to launch an all-out attack, and ended up winning. It's just an incredibly rich and complex game. Maybe one day computers will have solved everything by brute force, but for us humans, it is inexhaustible. That's why I find it so fascinating and why I keep coming back to it.

Do you spend a lot of time studying, and if so what do you study?

Doug Given: I don't do a great deal of studying. I do make a point of going over all my tournament games to try to figure out where I went wrong, and what I could have done better. Apart from that, I do some reading and I play through some grandmaster games just to get ideas, but I'm not very disciplined or rigorous about studying particular openings or particular endgames or anything like that.

Do you play on the internet and if so, what sites do you play on?

Doug Given: I've never gotten into internet chess. Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but for me there's no substitute for playing chess with another person OTB.

How many OTB tourneys do you play in a year?

Doug Given: As many as I can! Well, nearly. I don't make it to too many events outside of Nebraska. I played in fifteen tournaments in 2011, including one in Iowa. That was my busiest year ever. My average is about five tournaments a year.

How many times have you played in the closed and what was your reaction to playing in the closed?

Doug Given: I played in the Closed three times: in 2006, 2011, and 2012. I'm always excited to play in the Closed. It's a privilege to be competing for the state championship, and you know the competition is going to be tough. I like the challenge of being in the mix with some of the state's strongest players.

Who are your favorite players?

Doug Given: Tal is my favorite. I'm simply in awe of his tactical vision and the way he reveled in mind-boggling complications. He was also a very good writer. His *Life and Games* is witty and insightful. The other great master I have particular admiration for is Korchnoi. I love his tenacious, counter-attacking style.

What are your favorite chess books?

Doug Given: Josh Waitzkin's *Attacking Chess* and the Seirawan & Silman *Winning Chess* series (particularly *Winning Chess Tactics* and *Winning Chess Brilliances*) helped me improve a lot. Jeremy Silman's *Complete Book of Chess Strategy* is a nice one-volume reference for when ones needs a quick refresher on something. The games collection I've gotten the most out of is probably Reuben Fine's *The World's Great Chess Games*, even though it only goes up to the 1970's. Tal's *Life and Games* is also a special favorite of mine, as I mentioned above. And I have a soft spot for *The Even More Complete Chess Addict*, by Mike Fox and Richard James. The last is a book of chess trivia, so it hasn't really done anything to make me a better player, but I've learned some other things from it.

Do you have other hobbies?

Doug Given: Reading is my number one pastime. Books are a lot like chess in that they are inexhaustible. I will never be able to think of myself as a well-read person. There's just too much out there.

What are your best tournament finishes?

Doug Given: At the Mid-America Open in Des Moines in June 2002, I played up a section and won four out of five games to tie for second in the Under-2000, when I was still rated just under 1600. That was my best result ever both in terms of rating gain and in terms of prize money. I was also quite proud of the myself for scoring four out of five in the 2005 Cornhusker State Games to take clear second and qualify for my first Closed. To do that, I had to beat two "A" players back-to-back, which is not something I am capable of doing every day. That's probably the only time it's every happened, in fact.

For pictures of Doug Given, please refer to the article on the Closed pg 32-Ed

# **In Step with John Stepp**

by

**Kent Nelson**

Kent Nelson— John, when were you born? location? family structure? education? Some of the challenges growing up? Employment?

I was a premature baby, born in Lincoln on October 14, 1956 to a musical family as youngest of three boys.

I graduated from Lincoln East H.S. and have three college degrees, the highest degree being M.A. in Museum Studies. I loved Math-Science courses particularly engineering, only to change to research oriented late in life because opportunities closed for people with hearing impairment. I have a heart and mind of archeological and technology forensic scientist whose favorite instrument is a microscope.

I used to major in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics/ Physics as Post-Secondary Ed.

The family changed as result of my deafness like the movie *Mr. Holland's Opus*. My hearing is perfectly working except the nerve interaction in my brain is impaired and insensitive to sound discrimination such that I cannot understand and I only hear are nothing but noises or none at times.

My father stopped teaching music in 1958 as result of my deafness and focused instead on audio-visual technology to teach to teachers (and teachers of the deaf!). You can imagine how my parents felt and thinking that I may not know music to impact their life change.

At best, I am severely hard of hearing. My parents never treated me differently other than with extra care communicating with me without the use of sign language. I was a product of Prescott Elementary School's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit in starting in the early 1960's. Then I went to a private boarding school for the deaf in St. Louis for three years before returning to Lincoln for 9th to 12th grade at Lincoln East Junior-Senior High School.

I was not a very good student that I started 5th grade in St. Louis at age 13, having spent 8 years at Prescott Elementary School, repeating grades. I was 19 and half when I graduated from high school. It was in St. Louis when I was molded to be a good student starting in the 7th grade. Although I was

very gifted with IQ of 140 at age 9 and I never was interested in school and my parents were always disappointed with my grades as my older brothers Bob and Larry were honor students at Lincoln High. Larry graduated first in class at Lincoln High in 1968.

My parents: My late dad was initially a professor of music, wind instruments at UNL from 1946, and my late mom was a former one-room school teacher in Missouri turned librarian, with minor in music. My brothers: My oldest brother Bob is a self-employed software developer with Ph.D. in Computer Science. My other brother, Larry, is engineering manager for big telescope projects - the biggest in the world, for NOAA through JPL at Cal Tech in Pasadena.

My family had a big role in shaping my life and providing me with alternate education while education was failing in classroom in Lincoln at Prescott. My brothers introduced me science, geography, and vocabulary and my parents introduced me real world learning through watching films at home (!).

My big brothers imprinted heavily in me for A to Z in engineering, computers, sciences, geometry. My brother Larry was amateur scientist at home, while my oldest brother Bob was both amateur scientist and inventor with electronics. I looked up to them as kid brother. They were in high school while I was in elementary school. Korean War was the dividing time between my brothers and me.

To this day, I still seek jobs as curator or researcher in archaeology, or museums. I have never been employed professionally. I was unemployed longer than I have been employed that I was in school most of the time at UNL, taking classes worth 290 undergraduate credit hours before I finally graduated with B.A. in Anthropology/Archaeology (1999), and following M.A. (2001) 36 credit more hours.

I was also a CAD drafter for 9 years. And my longest employment is with Union Bank as office support person, part time for 12 years and continuing. Discrimination is the biggest factor affecting me. I am deaf, multiple-handicapped and middle aged.

KN- Who taught you chess? What age did you learn? Other hobbies besides chess?

I was taught chess when I was 8, by my big brother Larry. At this time, he was active with Lincoln High Chess Club. It happened when I was looking over my brother's shoulder moving chess pieces as he was reading and

studying "1000 Best Short Chess of Chess" book by Chernev. This is my brother Larry who was a member of Lincoln Chess Club in mid-1960's.

My hobbies if not chess, are: Numismatics, reverse engineering and interpreting historical electronics, collecting archaeological artifacts, watching History Channel, Mythbusters, Pawn Stars and Huskers football.

KN- First tournament? Results? My first tournament was 1973 Lincoln City Championship. It was huge a Swiss tournament due to Fischer Boom, and it must have been 5 or 6 rounds with a field something like 60 or 70 entrants. I finished with 1.5 points and my first opponent was Mike Mathews. It was the last time this big for Lincoln city championship. Larry Harvey won the Round Robin Section I was in. I was second with 6-1. It must be Section E, really low except that the tournament was loaded. I was a pure novice or "newbie" at 16 years old. My USCF first rating was 1101.

The interesting thing was that I didn't understand USCF rating first at the time. I was impressed being rated "1101" meaning 1101th (!!!!) in the country, behind Bobby Fischer's No. 1. I bragged being a strong player and it was my brother Larry who said that I am not that strong player nationally! About a year later, the only time a game between Stepp vs Stepp happened. Larry defeated me in Section 2 play. Larry retired after that year.

KN- Best tournaments? worst tournaments? Style of play? Like openings? Middlegames? endgames? Preferred time controls?

My best tournaments are nowadays right now with quality chess, but not rating-wise.

If you mean rating wise, it was during about 1980 to 1986 when I was in Class A growing into peak rating 2045 in Minnesota at the end of my two years there, and before I went to Minnesota I was upsetting or drawing you-name-it big name players, practically A to Z, other than Loren Schmidt, Rodney Malpert, Mike Blankenau, and Rich Chess.

If you look at my crosstables in old Lincoln *Gambit* issues, over the years, you would notice that I have beaten almost all Nebraska chess stars although I was not very consistent player as I failed to win tournaments. And even up to now, you would still notice that I beat someone higher than my ratings with about the same consistency I used to have.

My worst tournaments were generally in the early formative years during the seventies, but psychologically my most frustrated tournaments were .500 chess "2-2" or slightly less from 1986 to about 2007. If you look at my tournament history, I was 1903 starting in 1992 at the beginning of rating graph! What you didn't know was my chess of 1973 to 1990! In that time period, it is a different story, hidden from view!

My style of chess was historically highly tactical, or charged in the old days. I typically sudden-thrust dagger into my opponent's mistakes. It was like, smooth sailing until I fire one move to sink my enemy's ship out of view.

Or, fighting to win before endgame. My chess was more like Frank Marshall's but shaky. I was either brilliant or flawed. I was known for winning fast or losing fast, with anyone. I selected openings based on the most fighting chance or tactically for early win in the middle game. I was not a very good end game player if the game was even, sometimes even when I am ahead. I liked to mobilize forces and fight toward the enemy king.

My openings in the old days were based on Fischer, Morphy, Marshall, Velmirovic and Tal but I did not study into middlegame or endgames. I studied chess miniatures of games under 20 moves. I was Bc4 openings person. And as Black, I try to disrupt White with counterattacks. I will tell you about my chess now later here.

My preferred time control is old 2 hours or 2 hours and half for 40 to 50 moves! I mourned the old days of chess of 1970's to about 1980 cut off.

KN-Best games? titles? favorite local and international players? Best chess books you recommend?

Hard to say about which games were my best. The old days were different and I would not recommend them now. I would say that my best chess were in Minnesota and in Palma De Mallorca. My "Sudden-Thrust-Dagger" games do not count, as I won mainly by exploiting weaknesses and explode with sharp and tactical game-ending chess moves.

I am three-time U.S. Deaf Champion, and runner up twice eligible for ICSC championships, not counting other deaf unrated titles such as Midwest championships which I was undefeated 7 times without a loss. In the USCF, I have won at least 3 tournaments in my life, with 65 trophies. The most notable was Al Lawrence Invitational when I won as a underdog. To most people's mind, my 1995 U.S. Deaf Chess Championship win was most notable, but it was not really a strong tournament or I was the strongest player top-seeded in a weak field. My 1980 U.S. Championship win was my first deaf tournament that shocked deaf world, and nothing about USCF.

My old favorites locally were Kevin Fleming, Rodney Malpert, and late Anton Sildmets if I am to play over their games. My favorite international



player was always Bobby Fischer alone plus Karpov, but my tastes changed to Magnus Carlsen, late Bent Larsen, Kasparov, Sveshnikov, Polgar sisters, Timman, and some touch of Petrosian for studies.

Only one book I would recommend: Chess: 5334 Problems, Combinations and Games by Laszlo Polgar. In the old days, I collected Russian chess books and magazines. I was trying to see Russian through Bobby's eyes, my former hero.

KN- Most difficult local players to face over the board? Study habits? Historically, it was Neil Reeves and now Wan. I do not fear anyone.

KN- Why do you love chess? It is the only sport I could play as I am handicapped.

KN- How come you laid off tournament chess for nearly 10 years? It was Kevin Fleming who criticized my "tactics-only" chess and he told me that I would have been a great master if I play differently and not focus on "Sudden-Thrust-Dagger" and develop all pieces and mobilize at the right time. I looked at my chess per his recommendation and resigned from chess. It meant that I did not think I could change my chess per his rules. Retooling my chess to completely different chess was too much to study. Endgame became a big problem for me. And now I came back ready more than before.

KN- Chess goals?

I used to dream to be a IM, and I relaxed after reaching 2000 in Minnesota and saw it drop with return to Nebraska as I was going to brag in my home state. I regretted my loss of expert rating for years and there is another player I know who is much in common with me, grieving loss of expert rating: Kent Nelson!

My main goal is to get back to 2000 and keep up there. If you can't keep your rating up there, then you are not an expert!

KN- Is chess easier now that you are older or is it more difficult?

Much easier but difficult to deep think and hold off attacking. I am a deep thinker than before. I study deep to win. I see more things and 64 squares down the road. I used to look at my enemy castle about 1/4 of the board and have problems when I make mistakes or not.

KN- Do you recommend speed chess to improve? What about playing chess on the Internet?

I recommend playing Chessbase Internet chess but not speed chess with your local chess players. I like using computers to teach me something and have the computer play out the moves to see if it wins, loses or draw.

KN-You referenced the Korea War earlier, wasn't it the Vietnam War?

Yes, it was Korea War that separated me from my brothers by age. My dad served in the U.S. Navy and my family lived in Norfolk Navy Yard (V.A.) and resettled back to Nebraska and resuming teaching music back at University of Nebraska. The war ended in 1953 and somehow it took 3 years for my parents to settle (income from Navy was not as good as professor salary). Also my dad was studying for Ph.D. while teaching music.

My mother did not return to teaching until 1961 (the year I started at Prescott kindergarten), and her teaching in Missouri one-room school house was from 1938 to to 1945 until my dad returned from U.S. Navy. My dad was in U.S. Navy as an officer before Pearl Harbor or WW2, and he was part of U.S. Navy Music Band.

Larry and his wife visited me and Bob in town, that I did not respond sooner to your email. I have awakened my memories about chess past.

My greatest Nebraska chess game was defeating Wayne Pressnall at Columbus Midwest Open in about 1983 or 1984 in the last round, the first year that Midwest Open stopped being "Nebraska Chess Championship" or the state title going to the highest finishing Nebraskan.

Right after the game, Anton Sildmets commented that I would have been a State Chess Champion (!!!!!) since I was the highest finishing resident Nebraskan with 4th place, with three out-of-state experts placed higher due to a stupid USCF rule that higher rated player getting favorable tiebreaks and I think it was one player alone at the top and not from Nebraska.

It was the 5th round game that I swindled Wayne out of sure draw into zugzwang to force him to push a pawn into a loss. He refused to push this pawn and it is a draw until I discovered a way to modify my move repetitions to odd number instead of even number.

With other locked pawns, then my opposite color bishop versus his lone king on a deep corner, is a draw as he had no other minor pieces left.

What happened was that I noticed how I could alternate my repetitive moves to effect stalemate-trap the king and leave the only pawn for him to be forced to move one or two square forward as only legal move so I take it by capture or en passant and push toward Queening! The former block-

ing pawn square becomes escape space out of stalemate. I do not remember which color I was, White or Black.

It was my only win over Wayne Pressnall, and he was my other nemesis player like Neil Reeves. Wayne was furious losing this game. Class A players in those days viewed each other as rivals and I was a threat to most of them.

You (Kent Nelson) and Kevin Fleming were not my nemesis players because I did not finish high enough to play to catch up with round-by-round leaders frequently toward the end of Swiss tournaments. I wound up playing Neil Reeves about the same frequency when he was similarly frustrated as me with 2-2, 3-2 results. I typically lose in 3rd round or so and was he, too.

My only perfect undefeated Swiss finish in USCF play in Nebraska was one of the Nebraska Scholastic adult division in 1980/1981/1982 at 4-0. I was rated 1887 I think, behind you when you (Kent Nelson) finished 1st and me 2nd on tiebreaks. In that tournament, I had defeated Kevin Fleming, my only win over him.

I do have a nickname in my family. And believe it or not, it is "Spassky" since 1972. I kidded my weaker chess playing brother Bob who lost to me, that he was playing like Spassky not Fischer. It was a substitute for saying "sucker" and the term "Spassky" was used instead by me and my brothers.

And when Larry beat me, then Bob would kid me that "I was playing like Spassky". So when I kept losing to Larry, my nickname stuck to "Spassky". Bob still affectionately call me "Spassky" for almost 40 years since Fischer-Spassky match of 1972, teasing or not. My one and only deaf girlfriend Doreen still call me "Chessman" for years, out of admiration.

My thinking over the years was that there is a mistake waiting to be exploited in every game for me to find to win. And I hated draws. Even today, I still believe that there is a mistake in every game for me to exploit to win.

Not until the first game of Fischer-Spassky II Match in Yugoslavia that I would never expect Fischer to play as wildly unconventional or softer Capablanca-like moves. I was always a chess move critic for every move when I play over chess games.

The advent of Bobby's return to chess in 1992 had me monitoring chess round by round. The 23rd move Re8-a1 alone shocked me profoundly to influence me to change my chess thinking. I hated slow moves or dull tactics. I loved Morphy-style chess.

To understand what I meant by "Sudden-Thrust-Dagger" for my old chess

personality, consider one of Fischer's early games which he embarrassed Sammy Reshevsky in 1958 with White:

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 O-O 8. Bb3 Na5 9. e5 Ne8 10. Bxf7+ Kxf7 11. Ne6 etc. Such game I would accept as part of my opening style, high-tactical charged repertoire. It was Morphy who influenced my thinking to throwing pieces in attack to win.

Kevin Fleming convinced me that developing chess moves and coordinate all of them to action, is better than relying on pure forced early tactical openings to win before end games. He predicted that I would be a great master.

I played on the Internet on Chessbase Internet Club for a long time, and exploring many different openings and defenses before I felt confident enough to return to chess tournaments after about 10 years of experimenting. I used the same research methods with computer to test moves over the years to today.

More importantly, I saved my comments about time-control for last. I am very critical on fast time-control.

The time control in Minnesota was slower or to my liking, 2 hours per 50 moves that I was able to gain expert rating. Nebraska was not with slow time control, since before 1980. The older the old days, the time control was better!

I missed the old Lincoln Chess Club days at Bennet Martin Library and the "F" Street Rec Center when one round of chess was played on Thursdays! I was better in Minnesota because there were one round days on Monday and Wednesday at St. Paul Castle Chess Club!

Fast time control was responsible for my losing expert rating, connected with fewer tournament games in-state annually.

There are plenty of big name players not having expert rating or Class A in Nebraska from chess past right now. You (Kent Nelson) are the biggest causality of fast time-control change in Nebraska over a decade, I think. I noticed Gary Colvin, Tom O'Connor, Neil Reeves et al, are not experts anymore!

The another trouble with Nebraska Chess is that there are more scholastic games than adult games so you see more higher rating among young school-aged chess players than adults (denying adults for chance for higher ratings). There used to be a separate adult tournament held at the same time

with conjunction with scholastic tournament. I am not criticizing Mike Gooch's great dedication to promoting youth chess.

I am advocating 1-1 ratio of youth and adult chess rated games available to the public. There should be even number of youth and adult tournaments in Nebraska, in order to increase chess rating growth opportunities, not penalize chess players with inactivity. And no penalizing chess players with fast time control. Nebraska should encourage and support private chess matches for rating purposes.

Pushing me into a fast time control is putting my deep chess thinking out of whack and not representative of my true chess talent! Did you know that the FIDE keeps no ratings for 5 minutes chess or rapid chess? You don't see Quick ratings in FIDE lists!

My fear of losing rating points made playing in fast time control stressful. I used to be a strong speed player, and fearless in the old days and that was then.

My biggest complaint if not on fast time control is USCF's controversial erasure of chess records (shredded). Where are my chess history before 1992 in USCF tournament history website? Why isn't my chess floor 1800? Any time my rating go below 1800 is humiliation to me!

Players such as Roger Simond, Neil Reeves, Bruce Draney, I did beat once or twice, and I drew once with Zoran Kilibarda as the statistics since 1992 did not show.

The picture would be different if my statistics included Minnesota players and more shocking revelation would show as my wins in 1985-1986 over Class As, 2000s, 2100s, and one lone 2200.

Erasing my USCF history statistics from before 1992 was just as Bobby Fischer humiliated with his loss of 2805 rating per FIDE rules and he had to play as "Unrated" and with Fischer-Spassky II, he was severely downgraded to mid-2500 afterward.

What's wrong with the picture for Bobby's final FIDE rating? For his mid-2500 rating, last time for him with that kind of GM rating was 1960 or 1961, weak for a world-class Russian GMs and Bobby was on the way up growing ratings! Ever insulted, Bobby retired for good.

U.S. was a chess joke for years and still is today. The worst U.S. *Chess Life* magazine cover was "Caught" for Bobby Fischer when it was completely misleading. I think it was USCF's lowest point in chess magazine media reputation.

Bobby was not a criminal at all, just framed by politics and he came to Yugoslavia as a chess celebrity, only to become very angry ex-citizen after losing his citizenship and never returned to the U.S. And as a result, Bobby lost his chess library, trophies, collectibles, to storage foreclosures in Pasadena as he had no friends to look after his properties. (I have reminded Larry about Bobby did live in that town!).

Not all chess items and trophies of Bobby's are recovered today. A fraction of his library is in St. Louis held as a memorial at a prominent chess non-profit organization/chess club, like Manhattan Chess Club or Marshall Chess Club in New York City.

My Minnesota past is buried in that state's chess newsletters somewhere waiting to be unearthed in libraries or private collections. I did not subscribe to Minnesota State Chess Association when I was there. The past old issues of *The Gambit* is the only window into my chess past.

Thank you for remembering me and my past to educate chess players. You can tell NSCA readers to consider looking at my USCF ID number and compare with your USCF ID number and they will realize that we joined at the same time as 1973 Lincoln City Championship as newbie's. **Thank you John!-Kent Nelson**

If the Time Control restored to like in the old days, then you are 2100 and I am 2000 or better! Neil Reeves 2000! Tom O'Connor 2000! Gary Colvin 2050! Gary Marks 1700! Wayne Pressnall 2000! Larry Harvey 1900! Tom Lombard 1650! John Linscott 2000 (I never saw him as expert in print and that is his opportunity). I think Zeljko will be 2100 or 2150.

And the chess stars of today would nowhere near us old timers in standings! If Rich or Mike Chess, including Mike Blankenau resumed playing, they are all above 2150 in the old TC.



**John Stepp  
July 2012**

## The 2012 State Closed Championship



**Joe Knapp**  
**2012 Nebraska State Closed Champion!**

The 2012 Nebraska State Closed Championship was held in Lincoln on June 23rd and 24th. With a rating average of 1931, this event was hard fought from beginning to end. When the smoke cleared, standing alone on top of the wall chart was Joe Knapp with a perfect 5-0 score including a win by forfeit against last year's champion, Mirko Zeljko, who withdrew on Sunday due to health reasons. Finishing second was Ben Fabrikant with a 3.5 point score losing only to Knapp in the 3rd round. Neil Reeves scored a very respectable 3 points and provided the tournament's best swindle in drawing Doug Given several pawns down. Doug Given played his heart out and all his games were brutal contests with lady luck visiting the "other guy." Doug missed opportunities to draw Knapp and defeat Reeves. However, rest assured, Doug will be back with a vengeance. Joseph Wan also played well, defeating Zeljko in a wild game and giving everyone their hands full.

The tournament was organized by NSCA Lincoln Vice President, John Linscott, who did a great job procuring office space for the playing site and providing advance pairings.

Michael Gooch was the tournament director and under his leadership, everything ran very smoothly. John Hartmann collected the game scoresheets and provided a game database for this reporter as well as other interested parties.

The tournament had many guests and visitors. Tom O'Connor and nine-time State Champion, Keaton Kiewra, stopped over as well as International Master, John Watson. Other guests were present to attend a planning NSCA meeting. Please see the picture on page 39 for a listing of individuals attending. The upsetting news of the tournament was Gary Mark's disclosure that he has stage 4 cancer. All of us present were shocked and saddened by this terrible news and admired Gary for his bravery in facing this challenge. **Tournament report by Kent Nelson**

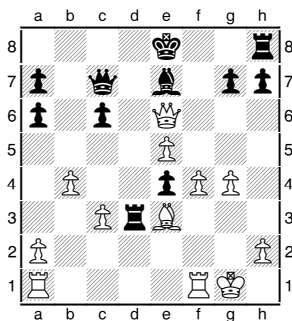


Pictured is Neil Reeves (L) with Joe W Mrs. Reeves (standing) with Mike Gooch (standing R)

### (1) Wan, Joseph (1867) - Reeves, Neil (1886) [B12]

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (1), 23.06.2012

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Nd7 6.Be3 Be7 7.0-0 f6  
8.exf6 Ngxf6 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.f4 Nc5 12.g4 Be4  
13.Nc3 Qc7 14.b4 Na6 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bxa6 bxa6 17.c3 Rd8  
18.Qb3 Rd3 19.Qxe6?



Position after 19 Q:e6?

Rxe3 20.f5 Qd7 21.Qc4 Qd5 22.Qxa6 0-0 23.Qxa7 Bg5 24.f6  
gxf6 25.Rf5 Re2 26.Qc7 e3 0-1

*A game that I'm sure Joseph would like to do over. I understand the sacrifice was intentional but unnecessary. Black's wrecked pawn structure would have lead to an easy endgame win for White. To Black's credit, he took advantage of his extra piece for the victory.-KN.*



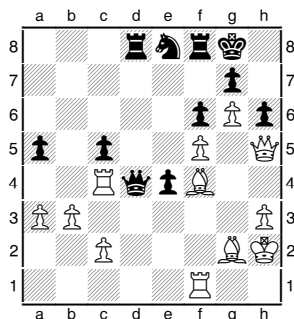


Pictured is Mirko Zeljko (L) with Ben Fabrikant

## (2) Fabrikant, Ben (1978) - Zeljko, Mirko (2008) [B56]

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (1), 23.06.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Ne2 Nf6 6.Nbc3 Be7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 Be6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.h3 Qd7 11.Kh2 Rad8 12.f4 Bc4 13.b3 Ba6 14.Be3 b6 15.f5 Bb7 16.g4 Nb4 17.g5 Ne8 18.a3 Na6 19.Ng3 f6 20.g6 d5 21.Qh5 h6 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Rad1 Nac7 24.exd5 Bc5 25.Bc1 a5 26.Ne4 Nb5 27.Nxc5 bxc5 28.d6 Nc3 29.Rd3 e4 30.Rxc3 Qxd6+ 31.Bf4 Qd4 32.Rc4 1-0 Final Position below.



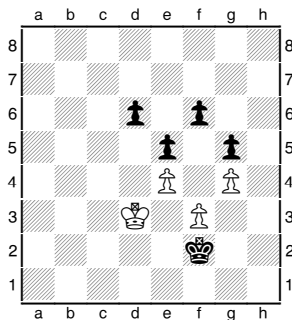
*Ben Fabrikant referred to this game as one of his best...ever. It appears Ben's 3 year layoff has not affected his strong play. Defending champion Mirko Zeljko, may have been suffering health problems during this game that led to his tournament withdrawing on Sunday.-KN*



**(3) Given,Douglas (Left) (1853) - Knapp,Joseph (Right) (1999) [B55]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (1), 23.06.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Bb5+ Bd7  
8.c4 0-0 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.0-0 a6 11.Ba4 Ne5 12.Bxd7 Nxc4 13.Ne6 Nxe3  
14.Nxd8 Nxd1 15.Raxd1 Nxd7 16.Nxb7 Rab8 17.Na5 Bxc3 18.bxc3  
Rfc8 19.Rc1 Nc5 20.Rc2 Rb5 21.Nb3 Nxb3 22.axb3 Rxb3 23.Ra1 Rc6  
24.c4 Kf8 25.Kf2 Ke8 26.Ra4 Kd7 27.Rca2 Rbb6 28.Ke3 Kc7 29.Kf4  
f6 30.g4 g5+ 31.Kg3 Kb7 32.h4 h6 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Rh2 Ka7 35.Rh7  
Rb7 36.Kf2 Rcc7 37.Ke3 Rb3+ 38.Ke2 Kb6 39.Rh8 Rc3 40.Ra8 R7xc4  
41.R8xa6+ Kc5 42.R6a5+ Kb6 43.Ra6+ Kb5 44.R6a5+ Kc6 45.Ra6+  
Kd7 46.Rxc4 Rxc4 47.Kd3 Rb4 48.Kc3 Rb1 49.Kc2 Rf1 50.Ra3 Rf2+  
51.Kd1 Ke6 52.Ke1 Rb2 53.Ra5 Rc2 54.Rd5 Rc5 55.Rd2 Ke5 56.Kf2  
Kf4 57.Kg2 Rc3 58.Rf2 Ra3 59.Rf1 Ra2+ 60.Rf2 Rxf2+ 61.Kxf2 e6  
62.Ke2 Kg3 63.Ke3 e5 64.Ke2 Kg2 65.Ke3 Kf1 66.Kd3 Kf2 0-1

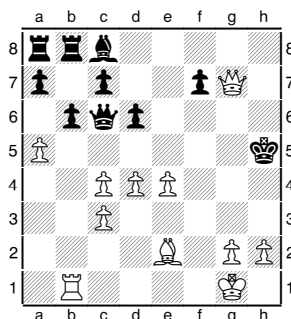


**Final Position 0-1**

**(5) Fabrikant, Ben (1978) - Wan, Joseph (1867) [E40]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (2), 23.06.2012

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.Ne2 e5 8.f3 Nbd7 9.0-0 b6 10.Ng3 Bb7 11.a4 Re8 12.e4 Nf8 13.Rb1 Ne6 14.Be3 Qd7 15.a5 Ba6 16.f4 exf4 17.Bxf4 Nxf4 18.Rxf4 Qc6 19.Rxf6 gxf6 20.Qf1 Reb8 21.Qxf6 Bc8 22.Qd8+ Kg7 23.Nh5+ Kg6 24.Qg8+ Kxh5 25.Qxh7+ Kg5 26.Qg7+ Kh5 27.Be2+ 1-0

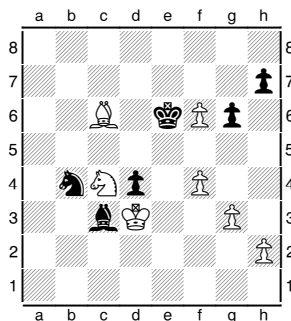


**Final Position 1-0**

**(6) Reeves, Neil (1886) - Knapp, Joseph (1999) [A37]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (2), 23.06.2012

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nc3 d6 8.Rb1 0-0 9.a3 a5 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bd2 Be6 12.Qc2 Rb8 13.Nb5 b6 14.b4 cxb4 15.axb4 d5 16.bxa5 bxa5 17.c5 Qd7 18.Rfc1 d4 19.Qa4 Nd5 20.Nd6 Ncb4 21.Qxd7 Bxd7 22.Bxb4 Nxb4 23.Nc4 Na2 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.Ra1 Nc3 26.Nb6 Bb5 27.Kf1 Bf8 28.Rxa5 Bxc5 29.Ra8 Rxa8 30.Nxa8 e4 31.dxe4 Nxe2 32.Ke1 Bb4+ 33.Nd2 Nc3 34.Nc7 Bc4 35.Nxc4 Nd5+ 36.Ke2 Nxc7 37.e5 Kf7 38.Kd3 Ke6 39.f4 Bc3 40.Bc6 Na6 41.exf6 Nb4+ 0-1 Final Position below.



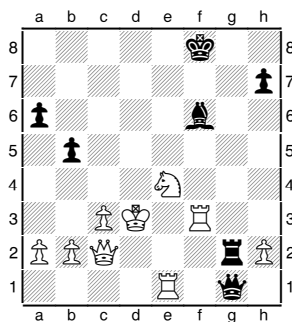
*A hard fought game on both sides. Joe Knapp's pressure often leads to his opponents blundering as I can well relate!-KN*

(7) Wan,Joseph (1867) - Zeljko,Mirko (2008) [B56]

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (3), 23.06.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.Be3 Be6 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.Rd1 a6 11.f3 Nb6 12.Na5 Qc7 13.0-0 d5 14.exd5 Nfxd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Nb3 Rad8 17.Kh1 b5 18.Qc1 Rc8 19.c3 Rfd8 20.Bd3 f5 21.Bg5 Nf6 22.Qc2 g6 23.g4 Rxd3 24.Rxd3 Bc4 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Bxf6 Bxf6 27.Rg1+ Kf7 28.Rd2 Ke6 29.Re1 Qb7 30.Rf2 Bd5 31.Nd4+ Kf7 32.Nxf5 Bxf3+ 33.Kg1 Rg8+ 34.Kf1 Kf8 35.Nd6 Qg7 36.Rxf3 Qg1+ 37.Ke2 Rg2+ 38.Kd3 e4+ 39.Nxe4 1-0



Final Position 1-0

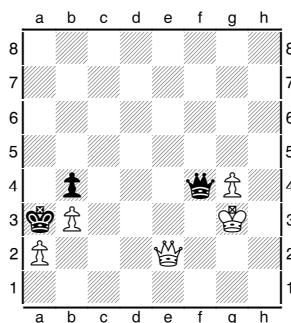
*A crazy position. Black has too many pieces hanging. -KN*

(8) Given,Douglas (1853) - Reeves,Neil (1886) [A39]

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (3), 23.06.2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.e3 a6 9.0-0 Rb8 10.Rb1 Qc7 11.b3 b5 12.Qe2 b4 13.Na4 Nxd4 14.exd4 d6 15.Re1 Re8 16.Bf4 Bd7 17.Nc5 Qa7 18.Nxd7 Nxd7 19.c5 Bxd4 20.c6 Nc5 21.Rbd1 Bc3 22.Bd2 Bxd2 23.Rxd2 Rbc8 24.Qc4 a5 25.Qd5 Rc7 26.Rd4 Rd8 27.Rf4 e6 28.Qg5 Rdc8 29.Rh4 d5 30.Qh6 f6 31.Rxe6 Nxe6 32.Bxd5 Re7 33.Re4 Rce8 34.Qc1 Kg7 35.Bxe6 Qc7 36.Qc4 Qd6 37.Bd5 Rxe4 38.Bxe4 Qd1+ 39.Kg2 Qd6 40.Bf3 Rd8 41.Qb5 Qc7 42.Qa6 Kf7 43.Qc4+ Ke7 44.Qc5+ Rd6 45.Qe3+ Kf8 46.Qc5 h6 47.h4 Kg7 48.h5 f5 49.Qe5+ Kh7 50.hxg6+ Kxg6 51.Bh5+ Kh7 52.Qxf5+ Kg7 53.Qe5+ Kg8 54.Bf3 Qd8 55.Qc5 Qc7 56.Qc4+ Kg7

57.Qg4+ Kf6 58.Qf4+ Kg7 59.Qe5+ Kg8 60.Bd5+ Kh7 61.Qf5+ Kg7 62.Be4 Rxc6  
 63.Bxc6 Qxc6+ 64.Qf3 Qc2 65.Qg4+ Kf6 66.Qf4+ Ke6 67.Qxh6+ Ke5 68.Qg5+ Kd4  
 69.Qe3+ Kd5 70.Qf3+ Kd4 71.Qf6+ Kd5 72.Qd8+ Ke4 73.Qxa5 Qc3 74.Qa8+ Kd3  
 75.Qd5+ Kc2 76.Qe4+ Kb2 77.Qe2+ Ka3 78.g4 Qc6+ 79.f3 Qd5 80.Kg3 Qd6+ 81.f4  
 Qxf4+!! 82.Kxf4 ½–½



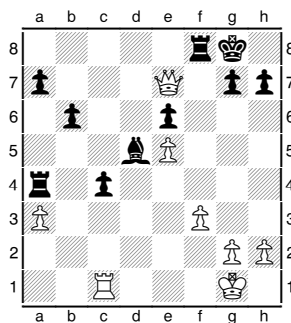
Position after 81..Q:f4+!! Draw!

## Championship Game

(9) Knapp, Joseph (1999) - Fabrikant, Ben (1978) [C18]

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (3), 23.06.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0–0 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6  
 Rxf6 10.Bg5 Rf7 11.Qg3 Nbc6 12.Nf3 Qa5 13.0–0 Nf5 14.Bxf5 Rxf5 15.Bh6 Rf7  
 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bd7 18.Rfd1 Qa4 19.Rd3 Qxc2 20.Rf3 Raf8 21.Rc1 Qa4  
 22.Rf4 Qxf4 23.Bxf4 Rxf4 24.f3 Ra4 25.Qg5 Kf7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qg5 Kf7 28.Qd2  
 Bc6 29.Qd3 Kg8 30.c4 dxc4 31.Qd6 Bd5 32.Qxc5 b6 33.Qe7

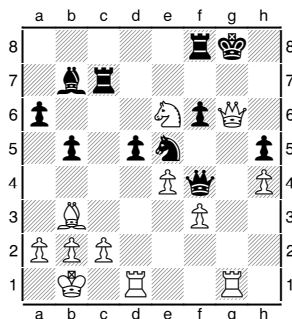


Ra5 34.Rc3 Rf7 35.Qd6 Rf8 36.Kf2 Rb5 37.Rc2 Rb3 38.a4 a6 39.Ke2 a5 40.Rd2  
 Rb4 41.Rxd5 exd5 42.Qxd5+ Kh8 43.e6 Rb2+ 44.Kd1 Rb1+ 45.Kc2 Re1 46.Kd2  
 Rxe6 47.Qxe6 h6 48.Qxb6 Rf5 49.Kc3 Kh7 50.Qd4 Rg5 51.g4 h5 52.h4 Rg6 53.Qe4  
 Kh6 54.Qf4+ Kh7 55.Qf5 1–0 I understand time pressure was a major factor: –KN



**(11) Fabrikant, Ben (Right) (1978) - Given, Douglas (Left) (1853)**  
NE Closed Ch Lincoln (4), 24.06.2012

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0  
8.Bc4 Nc6 9.Qe2 a6 10.0-0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 b5 12.g4 Nfxg4 13.Bg5 Nf6  
14.h4 h5 15.Qg2 Bb7 16.Rhg1 Rc8 17.Nce2 Qc7 18.Nf4 Nc4 19.Bxf6 exf6  
20.Nf5 d5 21.Nxg6 fxg6 22.Qxg6 Qf4+ 23.Kb1 Rc7 24.Nxg7 Ne5 25.Ne6+**



**Position after 25 Ne6+**

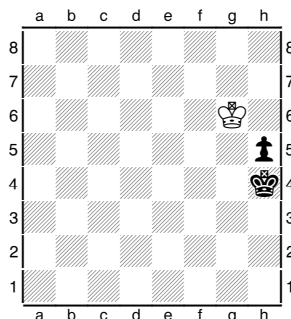
**Nxg6 26.Nxf4 Kh7 27.Nxg6 Rg8 28.Nf4 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 dxe4 30.fxe4 Bxe4  
31.Nxh5 Rc6 32.Kc1 a5 33.c3 b4 34.Bc2 f5 35.Bxe4 fxe4 36.Kc2 bxc3  
37.bxc3 Rh6 38.Rg7+ Kh8 39.Rg5 Re6 40.Nf4 Re8 41.Rxa5 1-0**

*A game that showcases Ben Fabrikant's attacking style.-KN*

**(14) Given, Douglas (1853) - Wan, Joseph (1867) [A00]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (5), 24.06.2012

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.d4 e4 4.c4 c6 5.Qa4 Nd7 6.cxd5 Nb6 7.Qb3 cxd5 8.Nc3 Bd6  
9.Nh3 Ne7 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Nf4 Bxf4 12.Bxf4 Ng6 13.Bd2 0-0 14.0-0 Nc4 15.Bc1  
Qd7 16.Rd1 f5 17.Qb5 Qxb5 18.Nxb5 Rf7 19.b3 Nb6 20.a4 a6 21.Nd6 Rd7  
22.Ba3 Rad8 23.Rac1 Rxd6 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Rc7 Rc6 26.Rxb7 Bc8 27.Rb8  
Nf8 28.a5 Nfd7 29.Rxb6 Nxb6 30.axb6 Rxb6 31.Rc1 Bb7 32.Rc3 Kf8 33.Bh3 g6  
34.f3 Rb4 35.e3 Ke7 36.fxe4 dxe4 37.Bf1 Kd6 38.Bc4 Bd5 39.Kg2 Rb6 40.Kh3  
Rc6 41.Rc1 a5 42.Ra1 Bxc4 43.bxc4 Rxc4 44.Ra3 a4 45.Kh4 Kc6 46.Kg5 Kb5  
47.g4 Kb4 48.Ra1 fxg4 49.Kxg4 a3 50.Kf4 Kb3 51.Rb1+ Kc2 52.Ra1 Kb2  
53.Rxa3 Kxa3 54.Kxe4 Kb4 55.Kd5 Kb5 56.e4 Rc8 57.Kd6 Rd8+ 58.Ke5 Kc4  
59.d5 Kc5 60.Kf6 Kd4 61.Ke7 Kxe4 62.Kxd8 Kxd5 63.Ke7 Ke5 64.Kf7 Kf5  
65.Kg7 h5 66.Kh6 Kf6 67.h4 Kf5 68.Kg7 Kg4 69.Kxg6 Kxh4 0-1



**Final Position 0-1**

**(15) Reeves, Neil (1886) - Fabrikant, Ben (1978) [E06]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (5), 24.06.2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 c6 8.d4 Bg4  
9.h3 Bh5 10.Nh4 Bg6 11.Nxg6 fxg6 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.Qc2 h6 14.Bxh6 gxh6  
15.Qxg6+ Kh8 16.Qxh6+ Kg8 17.e4 dxe4 18.Rae1 Rf7 19.Nxe4 Bf8 20.Qg6+  
Rg7 21.Qf5 Nxe4 22.Qe6+ Kh8 23.Rxe4 Rh7 24.Rg4 Nf6 25.Rg6 Bg7 26.Rd1  
Qf8 27.Re1 Rd8 28.Rd1 Re8 29.Qb3 Qe7 30.h4 Rh5 31.Bf3 Rb5 32.Qc2 Qe6  
33.b3 Qf5 34.Qxf5 Rxf5 35.Kg2 Kh7 36.Rg5 Rxg5 37.hxg5 Nd5 38.Rh1+ Kg8  
39.Rd1 Nc3 40.Rd2 Rd8 41.d5 cxd5 42.a4 b6 43.Bg4 d4 44.Be6+ Kf8 45.f4 Re8  
46.Bc4 Re3 47.Kh3 Rxd3 48.Kh4 Ne4 49.Re2 Re3 50.f5 Rxe2 51.Bxe2 Be5  
52.Kg4 Nc5 53.Bd1 d3 54.f6 Ne4 55.Kf5 Bxf6 ½-½

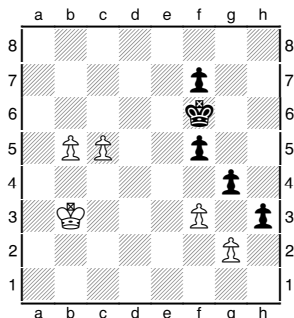


**National 3rd Grade Champion  
Joseph W**

**(10) Wan, Joseph (1867) - Knapp, Joseph (1999) [B76]**

NE Closed Ch Lincoln (4), 24.06.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.Kb1 Nxd4 11.e5 Nf5 12.exf6 exf6 13.Nxd5 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Be6 15.Bc4 Re8 16.Qa3 Qb8 17.Ne7+ Rxe7 18.Qxe7 Bxc4 19.Rd7 Qe8 20.Rhd1 Qxe7 21.Rxe7 b5 22.b3 Be6 23.Rb7 a6 24.Rd6 b4 25.Kc1 a5 26.Rb5 Bh6+ 27.Kd1 Bf4 28.Rd4 Bxh2 29.Ke2 Be5 30.Rd2 Bc3 31.Rd1 Kg7 32.Rd3 a4 33.Rc5 axb3 34.axb3 Ra2 35.Rexc3 bxc3 36.Rxc3 h5 37.Kd1 g5 38.Rd3 Bf5 39.Rd2 Ra1+ 40.Ke2 Rc1 41.c4 Rc2 42.Rxc2 Bxc2 43.b4 Bb3 44.Kd3 f5 45.c5 Kf6 46.b5 g4 47.Kc3 h4 48.Kxb3 h3 0-1



**Final Position 0-1**

*Work it out!-KN*



## The 2012 Nebraska State Closed Championship-Final Standings

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>Joseph Knapp</b>	1999	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W F</b>	<b>5.0</b>
2	<b>Ben Fabrikant</b>	1978	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
3	<b>Neil Reeves</b>	1886	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W F</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>Joseph Wan</b>	1867	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>Mirko Zeljko</b>	2008	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>WD</b>	<b>WD</b>	<b>1.0</b>
6	<b>Doug Given</b>	1853	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>0.5</b>



Standing background (L to R) **David Given, Kent Nelson, John Watson, Gary Marks.** Foreground (L to R) **Bob Woodworth, John Linscott, John Hartmann, Mike Gooch**



**John Linscott (L) and Keaton Kiewra**

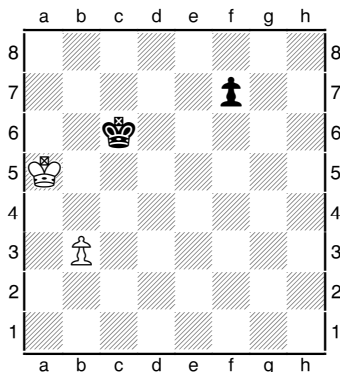
# Some Amazing Tricky King & Pawn Endgames

by

**Robert Woodworth**

Those hidden nuances & clever themes present in King & Pawn endgames are a constant source of amazement for this chess writer!! It is really hard to believe that with only kings and pawns left on the chessboard, there can be so many subtle resources, complexities, strategies and winning themes being possible!!

The 1st example occurred in a game from the international chess tournament, Amsterdam, 1972 between GM L. Ljubojevic (playing White) versus GM Walter Browne who has the move in the following diagram.



GM Browne played the obvious move **1. f5?**. Play then continued **2.Kb4 2. f4, 3. Kc4** and a draw was agreed.

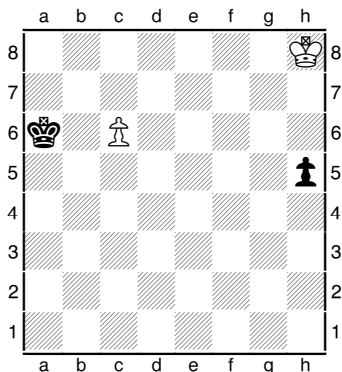
Surprisingly, there is a win in the diagrammed position by playing 1.Kd5! There would then follow 2. Kb4 2. Kd4, 3 Ka3, 3. f5 4. Kb2 4. f4, 5. Kc2 5 Ke3, 6 Kd1 6. Kf2, 7 b4 7 Kg2, 8 b5 8 f3 wins (0-1)

This is a great example of the hidden subtleties in a position with only 2 pawns & 2 kings left on the board.

When GM Browne was asked afterwards about why he played 1.f5?, he stated "I didn't realize there was a win in the position." Amazing!!

The 2nd example is from a composed study by GM Richard Reti the famous hypermodern chessplayer in the 1930's. It also contains only 2

pawns and 2 kings. White is to play and draw in the following diagram.



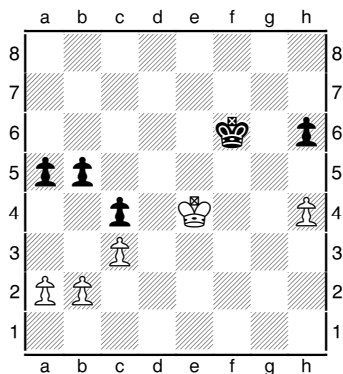
At first examination it appears that White is lost. The Black king (in two moves) can easily capture the White pawn on c6. Also, the White king cannot stop the Black pawn on h5 from queening. Therefore, White appears to be definitely lost EXCEPT for the following: 1. Kg7 if 1. Kb6 then 2 Kf6 2 h4 3 Ke5 3 h3 (if 3 Kxc6 then 4 Kf4 wins the Black pawn in a couple of moves.) 4 Kd6 & both pawns will now ‘queen’ with a draw as the result. Also, if Black plays 1 h4 then 2 Kf6 2 h3, 3 Ke6 3. h2 4 c7 4 Kb7, 5 Kd7 & the same result as before since both pawns will ‘queen’.

The White king walks an imaginary, diagonal line between the two pawns thereby keeping both of his options open i.e. protect his own pawn or else moving to stop the Black pawn! This is a classical, amazing endgame composition by the famous GM Reti.

The next example is from practical play in an over-the-board tournament game played about 7 years ago. The position in the following diagram has been slightly altered but the basic winning idea is still retained. The player on the White side agreed to a draw when he actually had a won game!

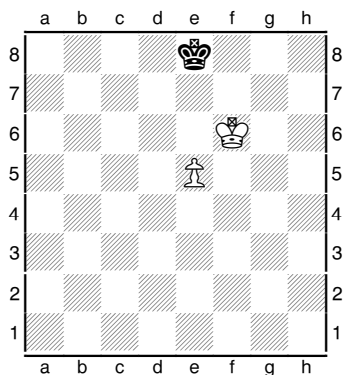
This is another King & Pawn(s) balanced endgame where it appears that there are no winning chances. This is a great example of psychologically accepting a draw since the 4-hour strain of play makes it too easy in one’s mind to be glad the game is over!! But this is really the time to dig down deep to search & analyze for ideas and strategies to bring home the full point in spite of the

mental fatigue involved. (Your writer must confess to easily accepting draw offers himself because the struggle & strain of the game makes it an ‘easy way out’. Definitely not the way to be playing tournament chess!!) From the following diagram it is White to play thusly:



1 Kd5 1 Kf5 2 a4!! 2.bxa4 (forced), 3 Kxc4 3 Kg4 4 Kb5 4 Kxh4 5.c4 5.Kg5, 6.c5 6 h5, 7.c6 and White queens first and will win easily.

The final example is from a simple(?) 2 Kings & 1 pawn endgame. Your writer likes to show this position to his students and asks them what would they play if they had the side with the extra pawn. About 99 times out of 100 they would choose to advance the pawn, which is completely incorrect, since then a drawn game results. See the following diagram:



White wins by playing correctly 1.Ke6 and Black then only 2 replies. 1.Kf8 where White plays 2. Kd7 and the pawn ‘queens’ easily.

(If Black plays 1. Kd8 the 2 Kf7 with the same result i.e. the pawn cannot be stopped.)

In conclusion, the above 4 examples appear to be simple (??) endgames but all show the hidden possibilities that can easily be present in even the most barren appearing positions!!

Therefore, one important lesson to be learned from these examples is that the aggressive use of one's King is very important. Using the King to control many squares plus limiting the movement of the opposing King is a good strategy. The King is a very strong and important piece in the endgame if utilized correctly.

Robert Woodworth  
June, 2012  
(Omaha, NE)

## Hartmann's Corner

by

**John Hartmann**

August 2012

Some men buy cars, and some men buy real estate. As for me, I think Erasmus had it right when he said that “When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.” I tend to buy books faster than I can read them, and it is a real sadness to me that I will never be able to read all those books before the end of my days.

Chess, of course, is a game that is well known for its prolific literature. It has often been said that more books on chess exist than on all other games combined. While this is most likely false, it *feels* as if it could be true, and that says something about the vastness of the extant literature.

If my lust for books is crossed with my love of chess, it's not hard to see that I might find myself in a bit of a pickle. How can I resist all those great chess books that are published each month? What about the specialized book dealers on the Interwebs who offer the Averbakh volume I've been looking for? Who's going to pay for this, and where am I going to put all those books?

Recently I came to the conclusion that I needed to focus my collecting. But how? I enjoy endgame studies, and I desperately hope to become at least a mediocre endgame player. While opening analysis tends to age less than gracefully, and tactics books all seem to resemble each other, endgame treatises never go out of style. So an endgame book collection seemed a logical choice.

This month I offer Gambit readers the first fruits of that collecting. It was prompted, as it happens, by my winning a copy on Facebook of the newly translated Zurich 1953 by Miguel Najdorf. (If you'd like to take a shot at winning your own chess books, check out the Facebook page for Russell Enterprises. It's well worth your time and mouse clicks!) As I compared Najdorf's analysis of the famous Gligoric-Euwe endgame with Bronstein's, I realized that neither

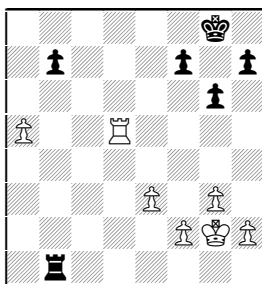
author had truly plumbed the depths of the position. Others, including Speelman, Baburin, and Levenfish / Smyslov, did a much better job. Their cumulative efforts are presented below, with one or two refinements by your columnist and his trusty computer.

Please note that I refer to a number of analysts in the text. Here's a key to those abbreviations:

Ba: Baburin, *Inside Chess* Oct 1998 | Br: Bronstein, *Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953* | LS: Levenfish and Smyslov, *Rook Endings* | N: Najdorf, *Zurich 1953* | SpBCE: Speelman, *Batsford Chess Endings* | SpEP: Speelman, *Endgame Preparation*

## Gligoric, Svetozar – Euwe, Max

Candidates Tournament Zurich (22), 10.10.1953



**34.g4!** stopping ...h7-h5; if 34.Rd8+ Br 34...Kg7 35.Rb8 Rb5=.

**34...Kg7 35.h4 b6 36.h5 bxa5 37.Rxa5 Rb7** LS: 'Possibly centralizing the king by Kg3-f4 and only then playing g4-g5 was a stronger continuation. But even then after ...gxh5, Rxh5 h6! followed by ...f6, Black would create a defensible position. (cf LS #223)'

**38.g5!?** LS: White is threatening 39.h6+ Kf8 40.Ra8+ Ke7 41.Rh8.

**38...gxh5?!** Black must play 38...h6!= 39.gxh6+ LS 39...Kxh6 40.hxg6 Kxg6= (similar to LS #148).

### 39.Ra6! Rb3? SpEP, LS.

Better is 39...Re7! 40.Kg3 (40.Rh6 Re5 41.Rxh5 Kg6= 42.Rh6+ Kg7!=) 40...Re6! with the idea ...h6 41.Rxe6 Ba: 'otherwise Black plays ...h6' 41...fxe6 42.Kh4 Kg6 43.f4 h6=; 39...Rb4 40.f4 (40.f3! with the idea Rh6) 40...Re4 41.Kf3 Re6=.

**40.Rh6 Ra3 41.Kg3 Ra1 42.e4** (42.Rxh5? Kg6 43.Rh6+ Kxg5 44.Rxh7=) **42...Rg1+ 43.Kf4 Rh1 44.e5 h4?** Ba: 'The text weakens the g4-square and eventually loses the h-pawn. The pawn had to stay on h5.' LS: 'It is only after this move, which frees g4 for the White king, that by delicate manoeuvring White wins the h-pawn. It is difficult to see how White could have forced Black to advance it.' Analysts offered two improvements.

(a) Better is 44...Kg8 45.Kf5 Kg7 46.Ra6 Rb1 47.Ra7 Rb6;

(b) Ba: The following line is possible: 44...Rh2 45.f3 Rh3 46.Ke4 Rh1 47.Kf5 Rh3 48.f4 Rh1 49.Ra6 Rh2 50.Ra7 Re2 and Black cannot make progress.

**45.Kg4 Rg1+ 46.Kf5** If 46.Kxh4? (Br) then 46...Rh1+ 47.Kg4 Rxh6 48.gxh6+ Kxh6 49.Kf5 Kg7 50.f3 h6 51.f4 h5 52.Kg5 f6+ 53.exf6+ Kf7= (Ba).

**46...Rh1 47.Kg4 Rg1+ 48.Kf5 Rh1** Bronstein: "Gligoric's plan... may be divided into the following stages: (1) induce the black h-pawn to advance, and then capture it; (2) bring his own rook to d1 and drive the enemy rook from the e-file; (3) carry out the final maneuver by pushing the f-pawn to f5 and the e-pawn to e6 with the support of the king and rook."

**49.f4! h3** LS: 'Forced.'

Ba: Black also loses the h-pawn after

(a) 49...Rh2 50.Kg4 Rg2+ 51.Kh3! Rg1 52.Rxh4

(b) 49...Rh3 50.Kg4

(c) 49...Kg8 50.Kf6 (50.Kg4!) 50...h3 51.f5 h2 52.Rh4 Kh8 53.Ra4 h6 54.Ra8+-.

**50.Kg4 Rg1+ 51.Kf3!**

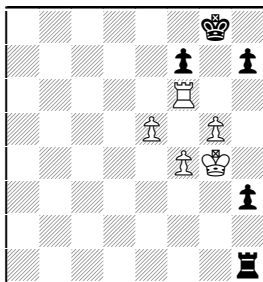
51.Kxh3? Rh1+ 52.Kg4 (52.Kg2=) 52...Rxh6 53.gxh6+ Kxh6 54.f5 Kg7



55.Kg5 f6+ 56.exf6+ Kf7=

**51...Rf1+ 52.Kg3 Rg1+ 53.Kf2 Rh1 54.Rf6! Ra1 55.Kg3 Rh1 56.Kg4! (SpEP, Ba) 56...Kg8**

56...h2 57.Kg3; If 56...Rh2 57.Rh6+- LS: 'and the pawn falls.'



**57.Rh6 h2?** LS, incorrectly: 'The decisive error.'

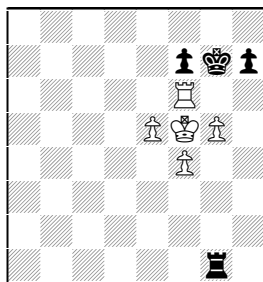
LS: After 57...Rg1+ 58.Kxh3 (58.Kf3 Rf1+ 59.Kg3 Rg1+ 60.Kf2 Rh1 61.Rh4!+- SpEP) 58...Rh1+ 59.Kg4 Rxh6 60.gxh6 f6 (LS gives this an !, saying 'Black would have been saved in the pawn ending, as all attempts by White to realize his material advantage would meet with stalemate positions.') 61.exf6 Kf7 62.Kf5 and now

(a) 62...Ke8 (Baburin: 'Even a giant such as Smyslov gave an incorrect assessment of this position in one of his books, claiming that it was a draw. Yet, White can still win!') 63.Ke6 Kf8 64.Kd7 Kf7 65.Kd8 Kf8 66.f7! Kxf7 67.Kd7! (SpEP: 'mutual zugzwang; if White to move, it is a draw') 67...Kf6 68.Ke8 Ke6 (68...Kf5 69.Kf7+-) 69.Kf8 Kf6 70.Kg8 Kg6 71.f5+ Kxf5 72.Kxh7+- see Averbakh & Maizelis, Pawn Endings.

(b) If instead 62...Kf8 63.Ke6 Ke8 64.f7+ Kf8 65.Kd6!! (Maizelis) 65...Kxf7 66.Kd7 Kf8 67.Ke6 Ke8 68.Kf6 Kf8 69.f5+-.

**58.Kg3 Rg1+ 59.Kxh2 Rg4 60.Rf6 Kg7 61.Kh3 Rg1 62.Kh4** (Br: 62.Ra6) **62...Rh1+** (Ba: 62...Rg2 63.Kh5 Rg3 64.Ra6 Rg1 65.Ra7 Kg8 66.f5+-) **63.Kg4 Rg1+ 64.Kf5** Ba: 'This position is what White should be aiming for and what Black must avoid! White wins here.' Also, this is diagram #222 in LS.

**Please see next page for diagram–Ed**



**64...Rf1** Speelman describes two plans for Black here. This is the first defense, dubbed "passive from behind the pawns."

Alternatively, Speelman says that Black can try a second plan, which he called "flank pressure."

64...Ra1 65.Rc6 and now

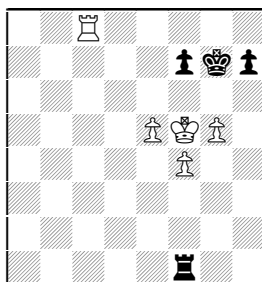
(a) 65...Ra4 66.Rc7 Kf8 67.Kg4

(a1) 67...Ra1 68.f5! Rg1+ 69.Kf4 Rf1+ 70.Ke4 Re1+ 71.Kd5 Rd1+ 72.Kc6 Rc1+ 73.Kd7 Rd1+ 74.Kc8 Rd5 (74...Rg1 75.f6 Rxc5? 76.Kd7+-) 75.f6! Rxe5 76.Kd7! Rd5+ 77.Kc6 Rd8 78.Rd7 Ra8 79.Kb7 Re8 80.Kc7+-.

(a2) 67...Ra5 (SpEP) 68.Kf3 (jh: 68.Rc8+! seems simpler, i.e. 68...Ke7 69.Rh8 Ra2 70.Rxh7) 68...Ra3+ 69.Ke4 Ra4+ 70.Ke3 Ra3+ 71.Kd4 Ra4+ 72.Rc4 Ra1 73.f5 Rg1 (jh: 73...Ke8) 74.Kd5 Rxc5 (74...Rd1+ LS) 75.f6 Ke8 76.Kd6 Kd8 77.Ra4+-.

(b) If 65...Ra5 (Ba) 66.Rc7 Kg8 67.Kg4 Ra1 68.f5 Rg1+ 69.Kf4 Rf1+ 70.Ke4 Re1+ 71.Kd5 Rd1+ 72.Kc6 Rc1+ 73.Kd7 Rd1+ 74.Kc8? (74.Ke7! Rd5 (74...Re1 75.Kf6+-) 75.Kf6+-) 74...Rd5 75.f6 Rxe5 76.Kd7 Rd5+?? (76...h6!!= only given by Baburin!) 77.Kc6 Rd8 78.Rd7 Ra8 79.Kb7 Re8 80.Kc7 h6 81.g6 Ra8 82.Kb7 Rf8 83.g7 Re8 84.Rc7 Rd8 85.Re7 h5 86.Re5+-.

**65.Rc6 Kf8 66.Rc8+ Kg7 67.Rd8!**



**67...Rf2** Black is in zugzwang.

(a) 67...h6? 68.gxh6+ Kxh6 69.Rg8+- SpEP: with the idea of Rg4 and Kf6 (69.Rd7 Kg7 70.e6+-)

(b) 67...Ra1 68.Rd7

(b1) 68...Ra5 69.Kg4 Kf8 70.Rd8+ Kg7 71.f5! Rxe5? 72.f6++-

(b2) 68...Kf8 69.Kf6 Ra6+ 70.Rd6!

(b3) 68...Ra6 69.Kg4 (LS: with the idea f4-f5) 69...h6 70.f5! Kg8 71.Rd8+ Kh7 72.g6+ fxg6 73.f6!+-.

(b4) 68...Kg8 69.Kf6 Ra6+ 70.Rd6!

(b5) 68...Re1 69.Re7!

**68.Rd1! Rf3** (Br: 68...Kf8 69.Kg4 Re2 70.Kf3 Ra2 71.f5; 68...Ra2 69.Rd7) **69.Ke4! Rf2 70.Ke3 Ra2 71.f5! Rg2** (71...Ra7 72.Ke4 with the idea 73.Rd8 and e5-e6 or f5-f6+ 72...Rb7 73.Rd8) **72.Rd7!** (72.g6 hxg6 73.f6++-) **72...Rxcg5** (72...Kf8?! 73.f6 Ke8 74.Re7+ Kf8 75.Rb7 Ke8 76.Rb8+ Kd7 77.Rf8 Ke6 78.Re8+ Kf5 79.e6!+-) **73.Kf4 Rg1 74.e6 Rf1+ 75.Ke5 Re1+ 76.Kd6 h5 77.Rxf7+ Kg8 78.Ke7** (78.Ke7 h4 79.Kf6 h3 80.Rg7+ Kh8 81.Rg3+-) **1-0**

## 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.

### **Alagheband shocks the world!**

An unrated graduate student from Lincoln took first place in the Open section of the 2012 Cornhusker State Games.

**Kaveh Alagheband**, who hails from Iran and is studying architecture at UNL, scored four wins and one draw (4.5/5) to win the tournament and the gold medal. *Gambit* editor **Kent Nelson** took clear second and silver with a score of 4.0/5. Both Alagheband and Nelson qualify for the State Closed, which is provisionally scheduled for December of this year. **Ben Fabrikant** took the bronze on tiebreaks.

Alagheband beat Ray Kappel, Doug Given, Ben Fabrikant, and Tom O'Connor on the way to his victory. Only Neil Reeves could hold the rampaging Alagheband to a draw. This performance earned Alagheband a provisional rating of 2211/5, which, if maintained, would make the new Cornhusker champ the highest rated active player in Nebraska.

The Reserve section saw a tie for first with **David Raines** and **Lanny Boswell** each scoring 4.5/5. Raines took the Reserve B/C gold on tiebreaks, with Boswell getting the silver and **Robert Brotze** the bronze. **Dan Wolk** won the Reserve D gold, and **Nathan Fredericks** took the Reserve E & under gold medal. **Ekaterina Avdeeva** won the Reserve unrated gold for her efforts.

**Bryant Grimminger** won the Junior tournament on tiebreaks over **Thomas Hafner**, and **Corpuz Crispin** won the Scholastic with an undefeated score.

The Team tournament had only two entries, with Team Boswell (Lanny and Thomas) beating Team Stolz (Larry and Simon) to take the gold.

Tournament Director **Mike Gooch** was assisted by **Joe Selvaraj** in his successful administration of all five events. **Drew Thyden** came down on Saturday to lend a hand, and **Conrad Shiu** cheerfully gave up his weekend to offer his assistance —Tournament report by **John Hartmann**.

<b>2012 Cornhusker State Games Open Section</b>								
<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>Rd 5</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>K. Alagheband</b>	Unr	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
2	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1804	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	1989	<b>H</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1907	<b>D 12</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>T. O'Connor</b>	1951	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1891	<b>W 14</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1782	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1738	<b>B</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>3.0</b>
9	<b>G. Revesz</b>	1175	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	<b>R. Kappel</b>	1693	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 12</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>2.5</b>
11	<b>D. Given</b>	1825	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>D. McFarland</b>	1651	<b>D 4</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>A. McFayden</b>	1152	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>A. Srivastava</b>	1435	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>J. McFarland</b>	1293	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>P. Beierle</b>	1152	<b>L 2</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>J. Slominski</b>	1907	<b>H</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>0.5</b>

2012 Cornhusker State Games Reserve Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	D. Raines	1679	W 11	W 3	W 12	D 2	W 8	4.5
2	L. Boswell	1637	W 15	W 14	W 8	D 1	W 7	4.5
3	D. Wolk	1355	W 19	L 1	W 10	W 15	D 6	3.5
4	J. Braden	1265	L 9	D 16	W 18	W 13	W12	3.5
5	J. Selvaraj	1209	B	L 12	W 9	W 14	H	3.5
6	L. Harvey	1635	W 13	W 20	D 7	L 8	D 3	3.0
7	K. Jerger	1515	W 16	W 10	D 6	D 12	L 2	3.0
8	R. Brotze	1403	W 18	W 9	L 2	W 6	L 1	3.0
9	E. Avdeeva	Unr	W 4	L 8	L 5	W 21	W 15	3.0
10	N. Fredericks	1088	W 20	L 7	L 3	W 19	W 14	3.0
11	David Given	1194	L 1	L 19	W 21	W 16	W 18	3.0
12	D. Dostal	1511	W 17	W 5	L 1	D 7	L 4	2.5
13	D. Fox	1481	L 6	W 17	L 15	L 4	W 19	2.0
14	J. Trine	1236	W 21	L 2	W 19	L 5	L 10	2.0
15	K. Hruska	1131	L 2	W 21	W 13	L 3	L 9	2.0
16	S. Potineni	1063	L 7	D 4	W 20	L 11	H	2.0
17	P. Rajan	1050	L 12	L 13	B	L 18	W 21	2.0
18	J. Reigenborn	425	L 8	B	L 4	W 17	L 11	2.0
19	K. Paul	Unr	L 3	W 11	L 14	L 10	L 13	1.0
20	D. Buckley	1483	L 10	L 6	L 16	U	U	0-0
21	C. Smith	Unr	L 14	L 15	L 11	L 9	L 17	0-0

<b>2012 Cornhusker State Games Scholastic Section</b>								
<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>Rd 5</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>C. Corpuz</b>	953	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>5.0</b>
2	<b>A. Nelson</b>	1219	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>I. Krings</b>	1069	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>4.0</b>
4	<b>P. Rajan</b>	787	<b>D 18</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>C. Revesz</b>	793	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>S. Erb</b>	725	<b>W 19</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>C. Hardy</b>	623	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>J. Kerkman</b>	574	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>3.0</b>
9	<b>K. Shen</b>	Unr	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	<b>V. Potineni</b>	297	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>3.0</b>
11	<b>I. Hammans</b>	244	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>3.0</b>
12	<b>S. Kota</b>	232	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>D 15</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>2.5</b>
13	<b>P. Soni</b>	585	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>S. Selvaraj</b>	377	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>2.0</b>
15	<b>S. Revesz</b>	471	<b>W 21</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 12</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>D 19</b>	<b>2.0</b>
16	<b>I. Imhoff</b>	Unr	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>2.0</b>
17	<b>A. Trumble</b>	Unr	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
18	<b>C. Hammans</b>	172	<b>D 4</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>1.5</b>
19	<b>C. Fredericks</b>	Unr	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>D 15</b>	<b>1.5</b>
20	<b>E. Hammans</b>	101	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>1.0</b>
21	<b>D. Wiggins</b>	Unr	<b>L 15</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>1.0</b>
22	<b>J. Rogers</b>	Unr	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>L 21</b>	<b>L 20</b>	<b>L 18</b>	<b>0-0</b>

2012 Cornhusker State Games Junior Section							
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	B. Grimminger	1206	W 6	W 3	D 2	W 4	3.5
2	T. Hafner	580	W 8	W 4	D 1	W 3	3.5
3	S. Chokkara	855	W 7	L 1	W 5	L 2	2.0
4	A. Cloet	765	W 5	L 2	W 6	L 1	2.0
5	J. Hoogner	Unr	L 4	W 8	L 3	W 7	2.0
6	R. Bryant	318	L 1	W 7	L 4	W 8	2.0
7	Z. Ruwe	Unr	L 3	L 6	W 8	L 5	1.0
8	A. Smith	Unr	L 2	L 5	L 7	L 6	0-0



2012 Cornhusker State Games Medal Winners		
Gold	Silver	Bronze
K. Alagheband	K. Nelson	B. Fabrikant
D. Raines	L. Boswell	R. Brotze
D. Wolk	J. Braden	J. Selvaraj
N. Fredericks	David	K Hruska
E. Avdeeva	K. Paul	C. Smith
B. Grimminger	T. Hafner	A. Cloet
C. Corpuz	I. Krings	A. Nelson
P. Rajan	S. Erb	C. Hardy
I. Hammans	V. Potineni	S. Kota
K. Shen	I. Imhoff	A. Trumble



# **Gary Marks**

## **A SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION OF TWO WELL-DESERVED AWARDS FOR 40+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHESS IN NEBRASKA**

by

**Bob Woodworth**

I was very honored to be the presenter of two awards to Gary Mark for his lifetime of service to Nebraska chess. The presentation was between rounds of the Cornhusker State Games chess tournament(s) in Lincoln, NE on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. It was well-attended by many of the tournament chessplayers.

The first award was a beautifully designed ‘RECOGNITION’ plaque for Gary’s 40+ years of totally dedicated and faithful service to Nebraska chess. (As I presented the plaque to Gary, many photos were taken with many, many smiles from everyone! Even your writer was over come with emotion as I recalled all the years of knowing Gary so very well and that he was a part of nearly every chess event in the area!!)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> award was a unique & well-deserved honor for Gary. I first read from a long list which I had prepared, describing all the services and accomplishments Gary had been involved with in virtually every area of Nebraska chess. Following here is a condensed listing:

- President of the N.S.C.A. and also the Lincoln Chess Foundation
- Prominent tournament director (the ‘Polar Bear’ etc.)
- Leader in scholastic chess as a tutor & organizer
- Lincoln City Chess Champion
- Nebraska delegate to the U.S. Chess Federation
- A very generous benefactor to Nebraska chess
- An extremely active & strong tournament player
- A chess instructor in many venues
- Director of many, many tournaments along with assistance from his wife, Cathy.

In this writer's opinion, there has never been anyone in Nebraska chess who has given so much in so many areas and for such a long span of time!! Therefore, after reading this impressive list, I had the great privilege as a member of the Nebraska Chess Hall-Of-Fame Committee of inducting Gary into the Nebraska Chess Hall-of-Fame. (As I made this statement, I really had to choke back some tears since both Gary and also his wife, Cathy, were so appreciative and worthy of this honor!)

A few more photos & congratulatory handshakes from everyone. Gary then concluded the awards ceremony by expressing his appreciation for this great honor and then thanking everyone in attendance.

In conclusion, your writer has been involved in many uplifting and memorable moments in this great game we call chess but being involved in this awards ceremony was the most rewarding event I've ever been a part of in Nebraska chess!! A truly great chess memory!!

Robert Woodworth  
August, 2012  
Omaha, NE



**Gary Marks** (left) and **Bob Woodworth** during Gary's Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame and Life Time Recognition Award Ceremony.

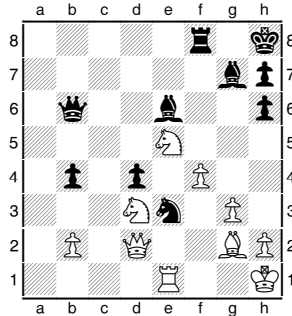
July 21st 2012 Nebraska Cornhusker State Games.

## Games Galore

**(13) Nelson, Kent (1804) - Fabrikant, Ben (1989) [C02]**

Cornhusker Open (2), 21.07.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nh6 6.Bxh6 gxh6 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 f6 10.exf6 Qxf6 11.dxc5 Qe7 12.Nbd2 Qxc5 13.Nb3 Qd6 14.Nfd4 a6 15.f4 Bd7 16.Qd2 Kh8 17.Rae1 Rae8 18.Nf3 b5 19.a3 a5 20.Kh1 b4 21.axb4 axb4 22.c4 Ra8 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Ra1 Ne7 25.Rfe1 Nf5 26.Ne5 Rxa1 27.Nxa1 d4 28.Nb3 Be6 29.Nc1 Qb6 30.Ncd3 Ne3



Position after 30 Ne3

31.Bf3?? (Simply 31 Q:b4, both sides were in time pressure) b3 32.Qb4 Qxb4 33.Nxb4 Kg8 34.Ra1 Nc2 35.Nxc2 bxc2 36.Rc1 Bb3 37.Be4 Rc8 38.Nd3 Re8 39.Bf3 Re3 40.Ne1 d3 0-1

**(28) Hartmann, John (1738) - Fabrikant, Ben (1989) [B90]**

Cornhusker Open (5), 22.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Qf3 e6 7.g4 Be7 8.g5 Nfd7 9.h4 Nc6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.0-0-0 b5 12.h5 Nxd4 13.Rxd4 Bb7 14.Qg3 Nc5 15.Bg2 0-0-0 16.Rhd1 Kb8 17.f4 Rc8 18.R4d2 b4 19.Bxc5 bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qxc5 21.Qxg7 Rcf8 22.g6 hxg6 23.hxg6 Rhg8 24.Qh7 Rxg6 25.Bh3 Bxe4 26.Re1 d5 27.Rxe4 dxe4 28.Bxe6 Rg1+ 0-1

**(2) Given, Douglas (1825) - McFarland, James (1293) [C62]**

Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 Bg4 5.d5 a6 6.dxc6 axb5 7.cxb7 Ra7 8.Qd5 Qb8 9.Qxb5+ Bd7 10.Qd3 Rxb7 11.c4 Nf6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.0-0 0-0 14.b3 Qd8 15.h3 Nh5 16.Nd5 Bf6 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Bg5 Qg6 19.Kh2 Be6 20.Qd2 f5 21.Nh4 Qf7 22.exf5 Bd7 23.g4 Nf6 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Qd5+ Rf7 26.Qxb7 Qxh4 27.Qb8+ Rf8 28.Qxc7 Bxf5 29.Qxd6 Bxg4 30.Qd5+ Rf7 31.Qa8+ Rf8 32.Qg2 Rf3 33.Qxg4 1-0

### (3) Kappel, Ray (1693) - Alagheband, Kaveh [E90]

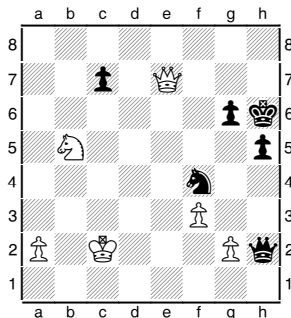
Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Be3 Na6  
9.a3 Bd7 10.Bd3 Nh5 11.g3 Qe8 12.Qd2 f5 13.Bh6 fxe4 14.Bxe4 Nc5  
15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qc2 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Qf7 18.Ke2 c6 19.Raf1 b5 20.dxc6 Bf5  
21.Qd5 Be6 22.Qe4 Bxc4+ 23.Ke3 b4 24.Ng5 Qa7+ 25.Kd2 bxc3+ 26.bxc3  
0-1

### (4) Linscott, John (1907) - McFarland, Douglas (1651) [C56]

Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Qe7 6.0-0 Ng4 7.c3 d6 8.Bg5  
Qd7 9.Re1 d5 10.Bb5 a6 11.Qa4 Be7 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.e6  
Qd6 15.Qxd4 Nf6 16.exf7+ Kxf7 17.Nbd2 Rd8 18.Re2 Bd7 19.Ne5+ Kg8  
20.Nxd7 Qxd7 21.Rae1 Qf5 22.f3 Rab8 23.b3 Qg5 24.Nf1 h5 25.Qa7 Rdc8  
26.Qxa6 c5 27.Qe6+ Kh7 28.Qe5 Qg6 29.Qe3 c4 30.bxc4 dxc4 31.Qd4 Qf7  
32.Ne3 Rf8 33.Nxc4 Rbd8 34.Qf4 Rde8 35.Rxe8 Rxe8 36.Rxe8 Qxe8  
37.Qf5+ g6 38.Qb1 Qe2 39.Na3 Qe3+ 40.Kf1 Qxc3 41.Nb5 Qc4+ 42.Ke1  
Nd5 43.Qb3 Qc1+ 44.Qd1 Qe3+ 45.Qe2 Qg1+ 46.Kd2 Qxh2 47.Kc2 Nf4  
48.Qe7+ Kh6 49.Qf8+ Kg5 50.Qe7+ Kh6 ½-½ Final Position below-draw



### (5) O'Connor, Tom (1951) - Stepp, John (1782) [B11]

Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 b5 3.a3 e5 4.d4 d6 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Be2 Bc5 8.f4  
Bxg1 9.Rxg1 exf4 10.Bxf4 Be6 11.0-0-0+ Kc8 12.Bf3 a5 13.Ne2 Ne7  
14.Nd4 Bd7 15.Rd2 Na6 16.Rgd1 Ra7 17.Be3 c5 18.Nb3 Nc6 19.Nxc5 Ne5  
20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.Rxd7 Nb8 22.R7d5 1-0

**(6) Revesz, Gregory (1175) - O'Connor, Tom (1951) [A27]**

Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.exd4 Bb6 7.Bf4 Nf6  
8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Re1 Re8 11.Be3 Ne7 12.h3 Bh5 13.Rc1 c6  
14.Bd3 Qd7 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Ba5 17.Bd2 Bc7 18.Qb3 d5  
19.cxd5 cxd5 20.Qxb7 Bh2+ 21.Kxh2 Qxb7 22.Bd3 Bxf3 23.gxf3  
Rac8 24.Bc3 Qc7+ 25.Kg2 Ng6 26.Bd2 Nh4+ 27.Kf1 Qd7 28.Re3  
Qxh3+ 29.Ke2 Qxf3+ 30.Ke1 Rxc1+ 31.Bxc1 Ng2+ 32.Kd2 Nxe3  
33.fxe3 Rxe3 34.Bb5 Qf2+ 35.Kd1 Re1# 0-1

**(8) Stepp, John (1782) - McFayden, Alexander (1135) [B07]**

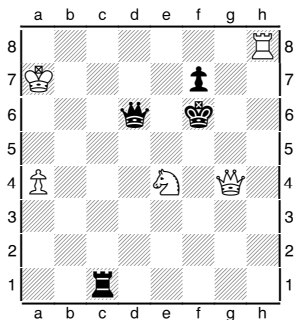
Cornhusker Open (1), 21.07.2012

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 g6 5.Bd2 Nh6 6.Bc3 f6 7.g4 Rg8 8.h4  
g5 9.hxg5 fxg5 10.e5 gxf4 11.e6 Nxe4 12.Rxh7 Ngf6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6  
14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.exd7+ Qxd7 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Rh1 Bh6 18.Nf3  
Rg6 19.Nc3 Re8 20.Qd3 Reg8 21.0-0-0 Ng4 22.Rdg1 Ne5 23.Nxe5+  
dxe5 24.Rxg6 1-0

**(9) Alagheband, Kaveh - Given, Douglas (1825) [B78]**

Cornhusker Open (2), 21.07.2012

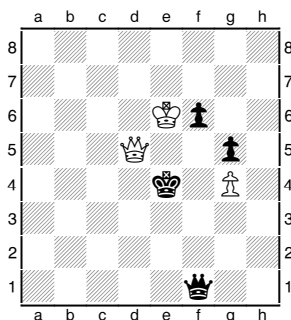
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0  
8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.Bb3 Rc8 11.0-0-0 Ne5 12.Bh6 Nc4 13.Bxc4  
Rxc4 14.Nde2 Qa5 15.g4 Rfc8 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Kb1 b5 18.g5 Nh5  
19.Nd5 Qxd2 20.Rxd2 e6 21.Ne3 R4c6 22.Rhd1 d5 23.exd5 Rd6  
24.dxe6 Rxd2 25.Rxd2 Bxe6 26.Nd4 Bd7 27.Nd5 Rc5 28.Nb3 Rc4  
29.Nf6 Bf5 30.Nxh5+ gxh5 31.Nd4 Bd7 32.f4 Rc8 33.Kc1 Re8 34.Re2  
Rd8 35.c3 Bg4 36.Re7 a6 37.f5 Kf8 38.Ra7 b4 39.Rxa6 bxc3 40.bxc3  
Re8 41.Kd2 Kg7 42.c4 Re5 43.f6+ Kg6 44.h4 h6 45.gxh6 Kxh6  
46.Kc3 Re3+ 47.Kb4 Re4 48.Rd6 Bh3 49.c5 Rxh4 50.c6 Re4 51.c7  
Kg5 52.a4 Kf4 53.Kc5 Re1 54.Nb5 Rc1+ 55.Kb6 h4 56.Rd4+ Kg5  
57.Nd6 Be6 58.Ne4+ Kf5 59.Nc5 h3 60.Rh4 Kxf6 61.Rh6+ Kg7  
62.Rxe6 h2 63.c8Q h1Q 64.Re8 Qh6+ 65.Ka7 Qd6 66.Rg8+ Kh7  
67.Rh8+ Kg6 68.Qg4+ Kf6 69.Ne4+ 1-0 Final Position below-1-0



**(10) McFarland, Douglas (1651) - Kappel, Ray (1693) [B07]**

Cornhusker Open (2), 21.07.2012

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Nd2 Bg4 6.f3 Bd7 7.Ne2 Nc6 8.c3 e5 9.Qc2 a6 10.h3 b5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 g5 13.Bf2 b4 14.Nb3 a5 15.d5 Ne7 16.cxb4 axb4 17.Qd2 Qb8 18.g4 Ba4 19.Bc4 Ng6 20.h4 Nf4 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.Rxh8+ Bxh8 23.0-0-0 Bb5 24.Rh1 Bg7 25.Bxb5+ Qxb5 26.Nxf4 exf4 27.Nd4 Qc5+ 28.Qc2 Qxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Rxa2 30.Kb3 Ra6 31.Nc6 Nd7 32.Nxb4 Ra8 33.Nc6 Ne5 34.Nxe5 Bxe5 35.Kc2 Ke7 36.Rb1 Rh8 37.Kd3 Rh2 38.Bg1 Rxb2 39.Rxb2 Bxb2 40.Kc4 Kf6 41.Kb5 Bc1 42.Kc6 Be3 43.Bh2 Bh6 44.Kd7 Ke5 45.Kc6 f6 46.Kd7 Ba5 47.Bg1 Bh6 48.Bxb6 cxb6 49.Kc6 b5 50.Kxb5 Kd4 51.Kc6 Ke3 52.Kxd6 Kxf3 53.Ke6 Kxe4 54.d6 f3 55.d7 f2 56.d8Q f1Q 57.Qd5+ Ke3 58.Qc5+ Ke4 59.Qd5+ ½-½ Final Position below-draw.



**(11) McFarland, James (1293) - Srivastava, Anurag (1524) [B01]**

Cornhusker Open (2), 21.07.2012

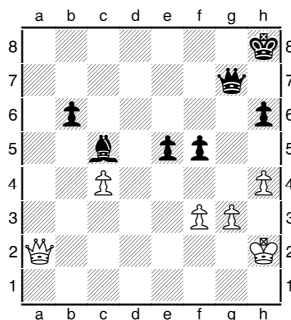
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Be2 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Re1 h6 9.Bf4 Bd6 10.Qd2 g5 11.Bxd6 cxd6 12.h3 Nf6 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.d4 0-0-0 15.a3 a6 16.d5 exd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Kb8 19.Qb3 Ne5 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Bc4 f6 22.Bd5 Rd6 23.Bxb7 Kxb7 24.c4 Rhd8 25.Rc1 Qc5 26.a4 a5 27.Qf3+ Ka7 28.b3 Rd2 29.Qxf6 Rf8 30.Qg7+ Ka6 31.Rf1 Rfxf2 32.Rce1 Rxd2+ 0-1

**(15) Slominski, Jerry (1933) - Linscott, John (1907) [E01]**

Cornhusker Open (2), 21.07.2012 [Hartmann]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.d4 c6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Re1 0-0 9.e4 dxe4 10.Ng5 h6 11.Ngxe4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bb4 13.Re3 Nf6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.a3 Bd6 16.b4 c5 17.Bb2 cxb4 18.axb4 Bxb4 19.Qb3 a5 20.Rd1 Qd8 21.Re5 Qc7 22.Rb5 Be7 23.d5 a4 24.d6 Bxd6 25.Qc3 f6 26.Qd3 Be7 27.Qe2 Rb8 28.Bh3 e5 29.Bg2 Bd7 30.Rxd7 Qxd7 31.Bd5+ Kh8 32.Bc1 b6 33.Bxh6 gxh6 34.Be4 Bc5 35.Rb1 a3 36.Rd1 Qg7 37.Qh5

**Qg5 38.Qe2 Rf7 39.h4 Qg7 40.Bd5 Ra7 41.Kh2 a2 42.Ra1 Rba8 43.Bxa8  
Rxa8 44.Rxa2 Rxa2 45.Qxa2 f5 46.f3**

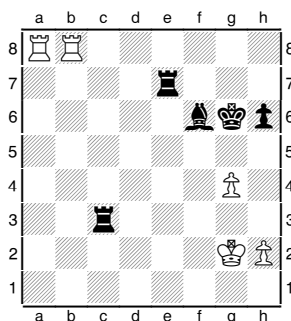


and the remaining moves cannot be reconstructed. Black won in approximately 60 moves. **0–1**

#### **(16) Fabrikant, Ben (1989) - Alagheband, Kaveh [B40]**

Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012 [Hartmann]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.0–0 d5  
8.e5 Nd7 9.f4 Rb8 10.c3 f5 11.exf6 Be5+ 12.Kh1 Qxf6 13.Nd2 0–0 14.Nf3  
h6 15.Bb1 e5 16.b4 Bb6 17.a4 e4 18.Nd4 Ne5 19.a5 Bc7 20.Nxc6 Nxc6  
21.Qxd5+ Kh8 22.Qxe4 Bf5 23.Qxf5 Qxf5 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.Be3 a6  
26.Rad1 Rbf8 27.g4 R5f7 28.f5 Be5 29.Rd3 Rc8 30.Kg2 Bf6 31.Bc5 Nxa5  
32.Rd6 Nb7 33.Rxa6 Nxc5 34.bxc5 Rxc5 35.Re1 Re7 36.Ra8+ Kh7  
37.Rb1 Rxc3 38.Rbb8 g5 39.fxg6+ Kxg6** and the remaining moves cannot  
be reconstructed. Black won in approximately 48 moves. **0–1**



Position after 39... K: g6

**(17) Hartmann, John (1738) - Given, Douglas (1825) [B71]**

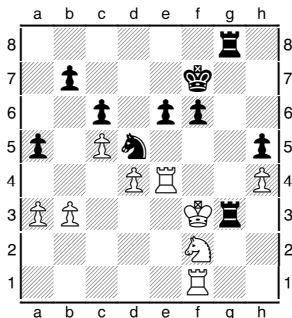
Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Ng4 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 11.Nxd1 a6 12.Nxe7+ Kxe7 13.Bg5+ Kf8 14.Bc4 Nxe5 15.Bd5 h6 16.Be3 Bf6 17.0-0 Kg7 18.Nc3 Nc6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Rxf6 Kxf6 21.Bd4+ Ke7 22.Bxh8 f6 23.Re1+ Kf7 24.Ne4 Bf5 25.Nd6+ Kg8 26.Nxf5 Kxh8 27.Nxh6 Kg7 28.Ng4 f5 29.Ne5 c5 30.Nc4 Kf6 31.Kf2 Rh8 32.h3 Rh4 33.b3 Rf4+ 34.Kg3 Rd4 35.Re2 g5 36.Rd2 Ke6 37.Rxd4 cxd4 38.Kf3 Kd5 39.Ke2 Ke4 40.a4 Kf4 41.Kf2 Ke4 1-0

**(19) Linscott, John (1907) - Reeves, Neil (1891) [B01]**

Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.c5 Nd5 7.Be2 Nc6 8.a3 a5 9.0-0 e6 10.Nc3 Be7 11.Re1 0-0 12.h3 Bf5 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Bf6 15.Ne4 Be7 16.b3 Nf6 17.Bg5 Nxe4 18.Bxe7 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Nxe7 20.h4 h6 21.g4 Nd5 22.g5 h5 23.Kg3 c6 24.Ne5 Qc7 25.Rf1 f6 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.Qg6+ Qg7 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Nd3 Rg8 30.Kf3 Kf7 31.Rae1 Rg4 32.Re4 Rag8 33.Nf2 Rg3+ 0-1 Final Position below-0-1



**(20) McFayden, Alexander (1135) - McFarland, James (1293) [A01]**

Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012

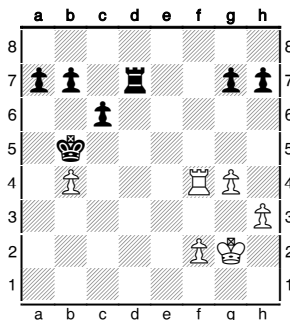
1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Nge7 5.Bxe5 a6 6.Bxc6+ Nxc6 7.Bb2 f6 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxd5 Bf5 11.Qxd8+ Rxd8 12.0-0-0 Bxc3 13.dxc3 Kf7 14.Ne2 b5 15.Rxd8 Rxd8 16.Rd1 Rxd1+ 17.Kxd1 b4 18.f3 a5 19.cxb4 Nxb4 20.e4 Bd7 21.a3 Nc6 22.Nf4 Be6 23.Nxe6 Kxe6 24.c3 f5 25.exf5+ Kxf5 26.b4 a4 27.c4 Ne5 28.Bxe5 Kxe5 29.c5 Kd4 30.Kd2 c6 31.f4 Ke4 32.b5 cxb5 33.c6 Kd5 34.c7 1-0



## 21) Srivastava, Anurag (1524) - Nelson, Kent (1804) [D00]

Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bxd3 5.Qxd3 c6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 Qc7 8.h3 e5 9.e4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Qf3 dxe4 12.Re1 0-0-0 13.Qf5+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Rxd7 15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.cxb3 Bb4 17.a3 Ba5 18.b4 Bc7 19.Be3 Kb8 20.Bg5 Be5 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Nxe4 Bxb2 23.Ra2 Bf6 24.Kf1 Be7 25.Rae2 Rhd8 26.Rd2 Rxd2 27.Nxd2 Bxb4 28.axb4 Rxd2 29.Re7 Kc8 30.Rxf7 Rd7 31.Rf8+ Kc7 32.g4 Kb6 33.Kg2 Kb5 34.Rf4 Position below

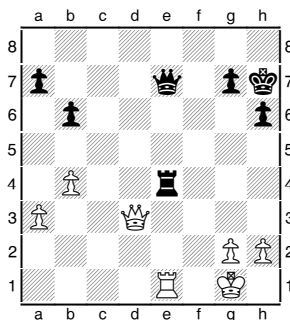


a5 35.bxa5 Kxa5 36.g5 b5 37.Rf8 b4 38.Ra8+ Kb5 39.Rb8+ Kc4 40.f4 g6 41.h4 c5 42.Rb6 b3 43.h5 gxh5 44.Kg3 Kc3 45.Kh4 c4 46.g6 hxg6 47.Rxg6 b2 48.Rb6 Kc2 49.f5 b1Q 50.Rxb1 Kxb1 51.Kxh5 c3 0-1

## (22) Stepp, John (1782) - Revesz, Gregory (1175) [B22]

Cornhusker Open (3), 21.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 e5 4.Bc4 h6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nf1 Be6 9.Ng3 Qd7 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Re1 f6 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Kf7 14.dxe5 Bxe5 15.Be3 Rhd8 16.Ne4 b6 17.Qe2 Rac8 18.Bb5 Qe7 19.Bxc6 Rxc6 20.Nxe5+ fxe5 21.Qh5+ Kf8 22.Qxe5 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Rd5 24.Rf1+ Kg8 25.Qg3 Bf5 26.Nc3 Re5 27.Rae1 Rce6 28.a3 Bd3 29.Rf3 Ba6 30.e4 Bb7 31.Rfe3 Bxe4 32.b4 Kh7 33.Nxe4 Rxe4 34.Rxe4 Rxe4 35.Qd3

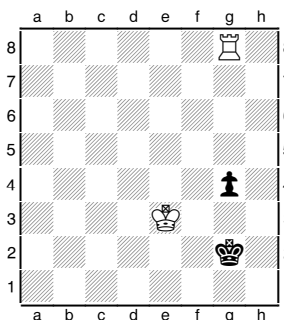


g6 36.Qxe4 Qxe4 37.Rxe4 Kg8 38.Re7 a5 39.Kf2 axb4 40.axb4 1-0

**(29) Linscott, John (1907) - Given, Douglas (1825) [B75]**

Cornhusker Open (5), 22.07.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6  
8.Qd2 Bd7 9.Bc4 Rc8 10.Bb3 Ne5 11.0-0-0 Nc4 12.Bxc4 Rxc4 13.Kb1  
Qa5 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.g4 Rxc3 16.Qxc3 Bc6 17.Bd4 0-0 18.g5 Nh5 19.Bxg7  
Nxc7 20.Nd4 Qb6 21.h4 Bd7 22.Qd2 Rc8 23.Rhe1 a5 24.Re3 Ne6  
25.Nxe6 Bxe6 26.Rc3 Rc5 27.Rxc5 Qxc5 28.Qd4 Qb5 29.Qe3 a4 30.Rc1  
Qc4 31.b3 Qb4 32.c4 b5 33.Qc3 Qxc3 34.Rxc3 axb3 35.axb3 bxc4  
36.bxc4 Kg7 37.e5 dxe5 38.c5 h6 39.c6 hxg5 40.hxg5 f6 41.gxf6+ exf6  
42.c7 Bc8 43.Rb3 Kh6 44.Rb8 Bf5+ 45.Kc1 Kg5 46.Kd2 Kf4 47.Ke2 Bd7  
48.c8Q Bxc8 49.Rxc8 f5 50.Rc4+ e4 51.fxe4 fxe4 52.Rc8 g5 53.Rf8+ Kg3  
54.Ke3 g4 55.Kxe4 Kh2 56.Rh8+ Kg3 57.Ke3 Kg2 58.Rg8 1-0



**(31) Reeves, Neil (1891) - Nelson, Kent (1804) [A37]**

Cornhusker Open (5), 22.07.2012

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 0-0 8.Rb1  
d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.a3 a5 13.Qc2 Be6 14.Be3  
d4 15.Bf4 Bb3 16.Qd2 c4 17.Bh6 Rfe8 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Rbc1 cxd3  
20.exd3 a4 21.Ng5 Re5 22.Rfe1 Rae8 23.Rxe5 Rxe5 24.Ne4 Bd5 25.Nd6  
Bxg2 26.Nc4 Qb5 27.Nxe5 Nxe5 28.Kxg2 Qd5+ 29.f3 Nxf3 30.Qf2 Ng5+  
31.Kf1 Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Qxc1 33.Qxd4+ f6 34.h4 Qc2+ 35.Ke3 Nf7 36.g4  
Qc1+ 37.Ke2 Ne5 38.g5 Qc2+ 39.Ke3 Qc6 40.gxf6+ Qxf6 41.Qe4 Qb6+  
42.Kf4 Nc6 43.Qe2 Qd4+ 44.Qe4 Qxb2 45.Qxa4 Qe5+ 46.Kf3 Nd4+  
47.Kf2 Qf4+ 48.Ke1 0-1

# Roger Anderson and the Mid-Sixties

by

**John Tomas**

You may have noticed that I have included very few of my own games from the mid-sixties. There are two very good reasons for this: I wasn't very good and neither were my opponents (mostly in high school chess). I believe I scored 18 straight wins in the finals of the city individual HS championships. I lost a couple of games in that three-year period, but mostly I dominated.

BW (before John Watson came along in the Fall of 1965 more about that next time), the best high school players I faced were Don Rogers and Steve Erickson of Central and John Leitel of North.

Don played a lot and beat me in the Swenson (and won the tournament) one year. We became pretty good friends and went to the 1964 Minneapolis Aquatennial (in, um, ... well, Minneapolis) with Lloyd Fatheree driving. We got stopped by the highway patrol in the middle of the night on the way back from the tournament, and it was quite entertaining to listen to Lloyd try to talk his way out of the ticket. He succeeded, but I'm afraid that Don and I, both on the edge of laughter, didn't help. The trip to Minneapolis occurred because Howard Ohman was dead set against rating city tournaments. The result was that Nebraska players essentially had only one rated event a year. So, a number of us made trips to Minneapolis and to Kansas City (with Roger Anderson driving). The following game was played during our 1964 trip to the Kansas City Open.

**Tomas, John (1605) – Burgess, Ed (1710)**

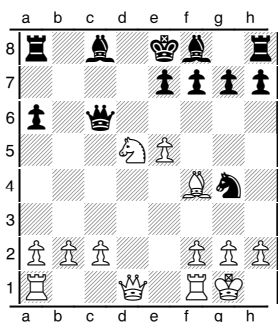
**Sicilian Defense B90**

Kansas City International (3), 1964

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6**

**6.♗c4 a6?** Of course, either 6...e6; or 6...♗d7 is better. But not 6...g6? **7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.e5** which is even worse than the text. **7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.e5! ♘g4** As in the ... g6 variation, the

point is 8...dxe5 9.♙xf7+ 8...♘d7!? 9.exd6 ♞e5 10.♙e2 ♜xd6 11.♙e3 and white has a clear advantage. 9.♙f4 9.e6! is very good too when Black has to play something like 9...♞e5 10.exf7+ ♞xf7 11.♙xf7+ ♚xf7 12.♜f3+ ♚g8 13.♜xc6 9...♜b6? 10.0-0 d5? 11.♙xd5?! 11.♞xd5! cxd5 12.♜xd5 winning must have been too simple for me. 11...cxd5 12.♞xd5 ♜c6



13.e6!? ♙xe6?? Now it's easy. 14.♜f3 ♜xe6 15.♞fe1 ♜f5 16.♞ad1 leaves white with a clear advantage. But that is not what I had planned! I had analyzed 13...♞a7 14.♞c7+ 14...♞xc7 15.♙xc7 ♜xc7 16.♜xg4 ♙xe6 17.♜a4+ ♙d7 18.♜xa6, and figured I was winning. And so I might have been if that bishop on d7 was a knight. As it is, those Black bishops are likely to be very strong in the near future. 14.♞c7+ ♜xc7 15.♙xc7 g6 16.♜d4 f6 17.♞fe1 ♙g8 18.♜xg4 ♚f7 19.♞ad1 h5 20.♜e4 ♞c8 21.♜e6+ 1-0.

The game was sort of a sensation at the time.

After Don graduated, he went to MIT and we played some correspondence and would get together to play speed chess when he returned for the summer.

Steve Erickson played first board for Central after Don graduated and gave me a number of very good games, though he lost all of them. Unfortunately, none of the games survive.

That is not true with John Leitel. I still have many of our games. John always struck me as somewhat older than his years and likely

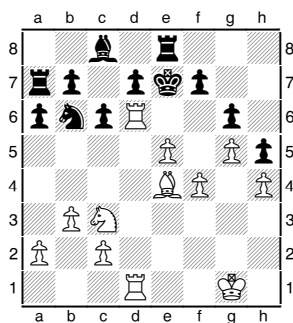
to replace Jack Spence as recorder of Omaha games. I had very good luck against him. *The Gambit* published one of my games against him from the 1965 Midwest Open probably because I “sacrificed” a piece.

**Tomas, John - Leitel, John**

**Petroff Defense C43**

Midwest Open, Lincoln (5), 1965

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4** I have always had problems with the Petroff. Indeed, I played the Vienna against Dan Reynolds in the fourth round of the 1970 Midwest Open to avoid a Petroff (and won a nice game). The text is an old Steinitz idea exhumed by Bobby Fischer against Schweber in the 1962 Stockhold Interzonal (won by Fischer 4.5 points ahead of the field). **3...exd4 4.e5 ♘d5 5.♖xd4 ♘b6 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.♖e4 g6?** The idea is to play the bishop to f5, but since he can't play d6, it's just a wasted move. **8.♘c3 ♖e7 9.♙g5 ♖b4** John generally was much too frightened to play well against me. We played a lot of games. I only recall him getting one draw, in the 1966 Midwest Open (though "getting" is not precisely the right word since I also recall him being superior throughout the game). **10.0-0! ♖xe4 11.♙xe4 a6 12.♙f6 ♖g8 13.♘g5?!** The rooks belong on d1 and e1. This whole idea is fishy. **13...h6 14.♘h7?!** Will someone please explain what this knight is doing on h7? **14...♙e7 15.♖ad1 ♘d8 16.f4 ♘c4 17.♙xe7+ ♘xe7 17...♙xe7 18.♘d5+ ♙d8 19.b3 ♘b6 20.♘xb6 cxb6 21.♖d6 winning 18.♖d4! ♘b6** After 18...♘xb2? 19.♖b4 the knight falls off the board. **19.♘f6 ♖h8 20.b3?!** May just as well. This game reminds me of a comment that Elliott Winslow made about a similar game that I played in the 1968 US Open in Aspen. "How many times do you want to win this game?" 20.♖fd1 **20...c6?!** It is better for Black to play 20... ♘c6 21. ♖d2, but I admit that it will be scant consolation. **21.g4 ♘g8 22.♘xg8 ♖xg8 23.h3 h5 24.g5!** I had my 28th move in mind when I played this, but really, I can win this just about any way I want. The bishop on c8 is and remains an oversized pawn. **24...♙e7! 25.h4 ♖d8 26.♖d6! ♖a7 27.♖fd1 ♖e8**



28.♙xg6! fxg6 29.♗xg6 ♜f8 29...d5! allows Leitell to put up a pretense at a defense. 30.exd6+ ♔f7 31.f5 30.♗f1 ♜f5? 31.♗h6 ♜d5 32.♜xd5+ cxd5 33.♗xh5 33.g6 ♔f8 34.♗h8 winning is pretty good too. 33...d6 34.♗h7+ ♔d8 35.exd6 ♜f8 36.g6 ♙e6 36...♙f5 37.g7 ♜g8 38.♗h8 37.g7 ♜e8 38.f5 ♙g8 39.♗h8 b5 40.f6 ♙e6 41.h5 a5 42.h6 42...♙g8 43.h7 ♙xh7 44.♗xh7 ♔c8 45.♗h8 Since I had made the time-control. 1-0

## Roger Anderson

In 1965, in what was at the time considered a major upset, Roger Anderson won the Omaha City Championship and Ludwig Memorial by finishing ½ point ahead of Howard Ohman and me. His score included a last-round win over me that kept me from the title (all I needed was a draw).

I played more serious games against Roger than any other Nebraska player: over 20. We played a 10-game match in 1964-65 that was tied in bemusing fashion. He won the first four games, drew a game and then lost the next four. We finished with a relatively placid draw to halve the match. The fact is that Roger played a lot, and generally quite successfully. Certainly, if he had White he gave me fits, as you shall see.

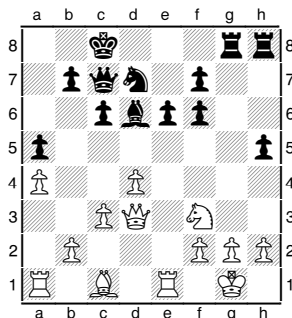
Here is the game that gave him the City title.

Tomas,John - Anderson,Roger

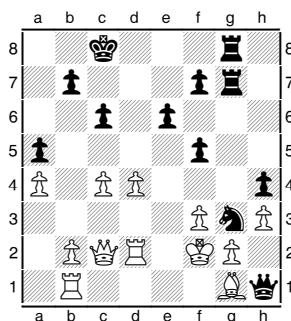
## Caro-Kann B16

Omaha City Championship Omaha, 1964

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♞c3 dxe4 4.♞xe4 ♞f6** The original form of the Caro-Kann, at least for another move. Jeremy Silman wrote a fine book on the systems with gxf6 and exf6 in the '80s -- so fine that I was seriously tempted to take up the system. Fortunately, sanity returned before I ever played it. **5.♞xf6+ gxf6** David Bronstein's idea which quickly replaced the original idea of exf6. One of the great advocates of the original Caro-Kann in the Midwest was the Chicago master Eugene Martinovsky. **6.♟c4 ♟f5 7.♞f3** **7.♞e2** was Horowitz-Flohr, USA-USSR,'48 A brilliancy prize game by Horowitz. **7...e6 8.♞e2** White is making reasonable moves that don't quite fit together. If he wants to play ♟c4, ♞e2 is probably best, while ♞f3 calls for c3 to determine the location of the ♟f1 only later. **8...♞d7 9.0-0 9.♟f4** keeps the Queen off its optimum square and discourages Black from castling Q-side. Again, I am playing reasonable moves but not really paying attention to the subtleties of the position. **9...♞b6 10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.♞b1 9...♞c7 10.♞e1 0-0-0 11.a4 a5?! 12.c3 12.♞h4!? ♟g6 13.♞xg6 hxg6 14.h3** looks to be a lot better. **12...h5! 13.♞h4 ♟h7 14.♟d3 ♟xd3 15.♞xd3 ♟d6 16.♞f3 16.g3!** I recall being afraid of ... e5 but of course then **17.♞f5** looks very good for White. Still more superficiality on my part, and Roger will ensure that I pay for it big time. **16...♞dg8**



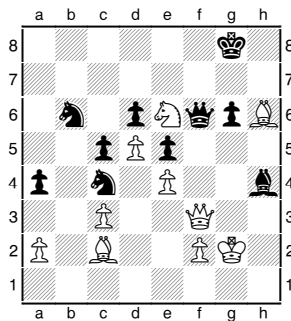
Positions like this were the reason that this system became popular in the '60s. At the time, I vaguely remembered a Bronstein win with Black from a position like this.. **17.h3 Bg7 18.Re2 18.Qf1!? Rhg8 19.g3 Qxg3 20.fxg3 Wxg3 21.Qe2 Wxh3 22.Qd1 Bg3 23.Rf1 Ne5 24.dxe5 Bb8 18...Rhg8 19.Ne1** I wish I could say that my 45 years of extra experience allows me to find a way out of this mess -- but I think I am just lost here. **19...f5 20.f3 Qh2+ 21.Qf1 Qg3 21...h4!** looks even better With the idea **22.Qe3 Nf6 23.Qg1 (23.Qf2 Nd5) 23...Nh5 22.Qe3 Qxe1 23.Rxe1 Wh2 24.Wc2 Nf6 25.c4 h4 26.Rb1 Nh5 27.Bd2 Wh1+ 28.Qg1 Ng3+ 29.Qf2**



**29...Ne4+! 30.fxe4 Wxg2+ 31.Qe3 Wxh3+ 32.Qe2 Rxcg1 33.Rxcg1 Rxcg1 34.Wc3 Wf1+** Very well played by Black, especially for such an important game. **0-1**

I won the 1969 Swenson Memorial but not without a last-round scare against Roger.

This is the final position of our last round game.





It is obvious that White is very much better, perhaps even winning. That stupid pawn on a4 ties up two of my pieces, and White's two bishops are potentially dangerous. But Roger had missed a number of simple wins and looked dead tired. So, I offered a draw, and he took it.

Our fourth round game in Lincoln at the 1973 Midwest Open was another major struggle that ended only after 70 moves where I had a rook, two minor pieces, and a pawn. Since it really should be a win for me, I was not too upset about the adjudication, but it took so much out of me that I was very fortunate not to lose to David Ackerman in the final round.

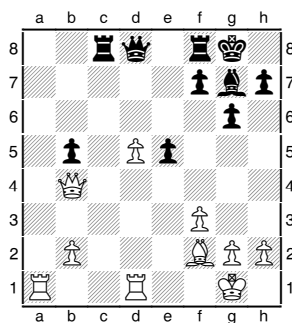
But the matter was quite a bit different when I had the White pieces. Quite early on, I recognized that Roger had a tendency to repeat dubious lines until he was punished for them, and I was able to win a number of very simple games as a result of superior preparation. Witness the following game from the 1973 Omaha City Championship and Ludwig Memorial preliminaries.

**Tomas, John - Anderson, Roger**

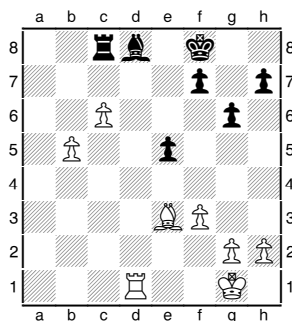
### **Sicilian Defense B39**

Omaha City Championship, 03.1973

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♘g7 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♘g4 8.♙xg4 ♘xd4 9.♙d1 e5?! Roger had been using this very successfully during the 1973 city tournament, but I was unconvinced. So, I spent a bit of time preparing. 10.♙d3! 0-0 11.♘b5! ♙h4?! A dubious sideline in a dubious variation. 12.♙d2 d5 13.cxd5 ♘xb5 14.♙xb5 ♙xe4 This is Black's point, but I consider the resulting positions superior for White and had analyzed them. In fact, we go to move 20 before Roger comes up with a move I hadn't already considered. 15.f3 15.0-0 is probably even better. 15...♙h4+ 16.♙f2 ♙d8 17.0-0 ♙d7 18.♙d3! a6 19.a4 ♙c8 20.♙b4 b5! A decent attempt to get some activity. I hadn't considered the move in my preparation, but saw it immediately upon reaching this position. 21.axb5 ♙xb5 22.♙xb5 axb5 23.♙fd1!**



I can have the pawn whenever I want it. **23...Qd7 24.Ra7 Rxc7 25.Rxc7 Qxc7 26.Qxb5 Rb8** Not the best. Black should play, **26...Qc2 27.Qd3 Qxb2 28.d6 Rd8 29.d7 Qf6 30.Qd6 Kg7** but he is barely hanging on. **27.Qc6 Qxc6?** Roger accelerates his loss. **27...Qb7** is essential. **28.dxc6 Rc8 29.b4 Qf6 30.b5 Qd8** I suspect Roger simply had not seen my move 32, whereas I **had** when I played dxc6. **31.Qe3! Qf8**



**32.Rxd8+** As Jack said at the time, two connected passed pawns on the sixth always beat a rook. **1-0**

## Tournament Announcements

### A Heritage Event!

**Aug. 25-26, GPP: 15 (Enhanced) Iowa**

### **58th Iowa Open Championship (USCF and FIDE Rated)**

5-SS, G/90 i30 (Some clocks available). IASCA Super GP Qualifier. Clarion Highlander Convention Center, I-80 NE side of Exit 246, Iowa City, IA 52245. **Rds.:** 10-2:30-7:30, 9-2. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:30. **Prizes:** \$1200 b/35 Gtd 1&2 320+T-200-125 U2000, U1800, U1600 125/60 each. **EF:** \$49 pstmkd 8/20, \$55 on site, IM & GM free EF deducted from any prize, Jrs. & Sr. \$10 off, \$10 off Out of state residents, IASCA membership reqd (\$15 reg, \$10 Jr.) or OSA. **Tournament Director: Bill Broich. ENT: IASCA, c/o Mark Capron, 3123 Juniper Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245, Ph# 319.321.5435, mcapron243@mchsi.com or broich01@yahoo.com. Hotel:** 319-354-2000, \$89.99 ask for chess block, <http://www.clarionhighlander.com/>. USCF – August 2012 Rating List will be used for pairing purposes. FIDE rules will be used. **Chess Magnet School JGP.**

### A State Championship Event!

**Aug. 25, 2012 Iowa Reserve Championship**

4-SS, G/75 d5. Clarion Highlander Convention Center, I-80 NE side of Exit 246, Iowa City, IA 52245. Open to U1600. **Rds.:** 10-1-3:45-6:00. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:30. **Prizes:** \$340 b/25: \$140+T-90-60, U1200-\$50. **EF:** \$29 pstmkd 8/20, \$35 on site, Jrs & Srs \$5 off, Out of State \$5 off. IASCA membership reqd (\$15 Reg, \$10 Jr.) or OSA. **ENT: IASCA, c/o Mark Capron, 3123 Juniper Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245, Ph# 319.321.5435, mcapron243@mchsi.com. Hotel:** 319-354-2000, \$89.99 ask for chess block, [www.clarionhighlander.com](http://www.clarionhighlander.com). **Chess Magnet School JGP.**

## **Aug. 25, Rated Beginner Open (RBO)**

5-SS, G/30 d5. Clarion Highlander Convention Center, I-80 NE side of Exit 246, Iowa City, IA 52245. Open to U1200 or Un-rated. **Rds.:** 10:30-11:40 1:15 then ASAP. **Reg.:** 8:30-10:00.

**EF:** \$15 pstmkd 8/20, \$20 on site, Out of State \$5 off. **Prizes:** 1st-5th Trophies, U1000, U800, U600, U400 & UNR 1st & 2nd Place Medals. **ENT: IASCA**, c/o Mark Capron, 3123 Juniper Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245, Ph# 319.321.5435, mcapron243@mchsi.com. **Hotel:** 319-354-2000, \$89.99 ask for chess block, [www.clarionhighlander.com](http://www.clarionhighlander.com).

## **THE OMAHA CHESS COMMUNITY AND RIVER CITY ROUNDUP PRESENT THE SECOND MID WEST REGIONAL TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12 AND OPEN SECTIONS SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2012 QWEST CENTER OMAHA, NE**

### **GENERAL REGULATIONS (Changed from Last Year)**

#### **1. Invitation**

The Omaha Chess Community (OCC) and the River City Rodeo and Stock Show (RCR) have the honor of inviting Teams of chess players to participate in the **SECOND MIDWEST REGIONAL TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP** organized in Omaha, Nebraska September 29-30, 2012.

The mission of Ak-Sar-Ben's **River City Rodeo & Stock Show** is to celebrate the region's heritage. It benefits youth and families through its educational endeavors and scholarships. For more information, please see <http://www.rivercityrodeo.com>.

#### **2. Participation**

2.1. Any school or chess club may enter an unlimited number of Teams.

2.2. Team composition for the Team Tournament is four players from the same school or chess club and in the same category; any combination of boys and girls is possible. New this year: ad hoc teams are welcome too. That is, if you want to join a team but do not have enough players at your school or club, register anyway and we will assist you in forming a team. NO ONE should feel left out. Teams may bring an alternate player. The tournament will be organized in 5 categories according to § 2.4. The Organizing Committee will determine which categories may be combined or subdivided depending on the number of entries. Each category will receive awards, regardless of combination or subdivision.

2.3. Each team shall have one Head of Delegation (teacher or coach or captain).

2.4. Entitled to participate are players who are in:

- K-3 (Kindergarten thru Third grade in 2012-13 academic year)
- K-6 (Kindergarten thru Sixth grade in 2012-13 academic year)
- K-9 (Kindergarten thru Ninth grade in 2012-13 academic year)
- K-12 (Kindergarten thru High School in 2012-13 academic year)
- Open (Adult players from chess clubs or corporate offices)

2.5. Home Schooled players are eligible to join a team or create a team. Four H kids can play by simply registering and being placed on a team. The organizing committee will make every effort to assign individual (unaligned) players to teams with other kids from the same state.

2.6. If you have difficulty recruiting team members, register anyway. We may be able to help. We hope to leave no chess player out of this event.

2.7. Alternates and substitutions on a team are permitted. Alternates may participate in any round if notice of the substitution is given to the pairing tournament director before pairings are posted for that round. Alternates may be invited to form ad hoc teams on site.

**2.8. USCF membership is required for all participants.**

Memberships will be available on-site. Players in the K-3 section do not need USCF membership unless they have already been a USCF member.

**3. Entry - Registration fees**

3.1. Entry fee per team paid before June 1, 2012 is \$100

3.2. Entry fee per team paid before September 1, 2012 is \$140

3.3. Trophies for late entries may be delayed. Please register early. **No on-site registrations.**

3.4. The team registration form should include the last name, first name and USCF ID number for each player. The team registration should also include the name and telephone/e-mail/fax number of the Delegation chief or team captain.

**4. Accommodation - Playing Hall and Hotel Information**

4.1. The playing halls are located at QWEST Center (<http://www.qwestcenter.com>)

455 N. 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68102 Telephone: (402) 341-1500, Fax: (402) 991-1501

4.2. We have a limited number of host families who may be able to accommodate a team or some of its members during their stay in Omaha. First come, first served, based on need.

4.3. Players are otherwise responsible for their own accommodations. Some hotels provide shuttle service to the QWEST Center.

## **5. Playing schedule**

5.1. K-3 Section – Game/30 with 5 seconds delay

**Saturday (9/24/2011)-Round 1 – 10:15 AM-Round 2 – 11:30 AM-Round 3 – 1:30 PM**

**Sunday (9/25/2011)-Round 4 – 9:00 AM-Round 5 – 10:15 AM-Awards Ceremony 12:00 PM**

5.2. K-6, K-9, K-12, Open Sections – Game/60 with 5 seconds delay

**Saturday (9/24/2011)-Round 1 – 10:00 AM-Round 2 – 1:00 PM-Round 3 – 3:30 PM**

**Sunday (9/25/2011)-Round 4 – 9:00 AM-Round 5 – 12:30 PM-Awards Ceremony 3:00 PM**

## **6. Rules and Regulations**

**6.1** The tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 5 rounds. September USCF ratings will be taken into consideration for the pairings.

**6.2** Board order will be based on the rating order. First board starts with the highest rated in the team.

**6.3** The first place team in each category will be the Midwest Regional Team Champion for 2011.

**6.4** Team-winners of the First, Second and Third places in each category will be awarded a team trophy and four members of the each such team will be awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals respectively. Team trophies will be awarded to all teams.

**6.5** The tournament results will be submitted to USCF for rating.

## **7.Contact Organizing Committee**

### **Mike Gooch**

President – Omaha Chess Community

1004 South 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Omaha NE 68154

Phone – 402 333 0722

Email – [mdgooch@cox.net](mailto:mdgooch@cox.net)

On site announcements govern over this flyer. See the next page for the registration form. **Editor's note, please visit the Nebraska State Chess web site and click "Events" and locate the ad for this tournament. Go to page 5 and print off the table or registration form reference above.** One form needs to be completed for each team. For more information refer [www.omahachess.org](http://www.omahachess.org). Return form with check made payable to Omaha Chess to Mike Gooch at the address above.

### **K-3 Section – 5 RD Team Swiss, Game/30 with 5 seconds delay**

Rounds Saturday 10:15 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM. Sunday 9:00 AM, 10:15 AM

### **K-6, K-9, K-12 and Open Sections – 5 RD Team Swiss, Game/60 with 5 seconds delay**

Rounds Saturday 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:30 PM. Sunday 9:00 AM, 12:30 PM

Trophies will be awarded for all teams in the top 20 places in each category.

Mail entries to **Mike Gooch**, 1004 South 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Omaha NE 68154

Questions: 402 333 0722 or [mdgooch@cox.net](mailto:mdgooch@cox.net).

For more information, visit [www.omahachess.org](http://www.omahachess.org).



## Tournament Life Summary

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

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact any  
NSCA board member for a start.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sections</b>
<b>8/25 to 8/26/12</b>	<b>Iowa City Championships</b>	<b>Iowa City, IA</b>	<b>Open, Reserve, Please see announcement.</b>
<b>Sept 29th &amp; 30th</b>	<b>River City Team Tournament</b>	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	<b>Please see announcement for more details</b>
<b>Oct 20th 2012</b>	<b>Polar Bear Note: Status unclear</b>	<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	<b>Details to be announced</b>
<b>Oct 27th</b>	<b>St. Bernard Scholastic</b>	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	<b>K-8 Details TBA</b>
<b>Nov 17th</b>	<b>Central High Scholastic</b>	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	<b>K-12 details TBA</b>
<b>Dec 15th</b>	<b>Millard South Scholastic</b>	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	<b>Grades 3-12 details TBA</b>
<b>Jan 26th 2013</b>	<b>St. Patrick's Scholastic</b>	<b>Omaha, NE</b>	<b>Grades 2-8 details TBA</b>
<b>March 23rd 2012</b>	<b>St. Mary's Scholastic</b>	<b>Bellevue, NE</b>	<b>Grades 2-8 details TBA</b>

## Notes and Analysis

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**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson**

**4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE**

**68510**