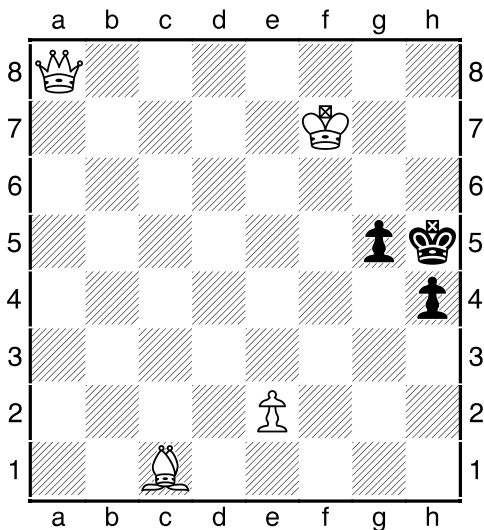


The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



White to play & mate in 2 moves

Original problem composed by
Robert Woodworth, March., 2012

March 2012

Gambit Editors: Kent Nelson & Ray Kappel

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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From Kent's Corner

Welcome to the first 2012 issue of the *Gambit*. As with most March *Gambits*, this issue is packed many scholastic results that kept me busy to input. It is good to have active scholastic support here in Nebraska. To that end, special thanks to **Mike Gooch, Drew Thyden, Gary Marks, Joe Selvaraj** and many others for providing opportunities for the kids to play.

As usual, I have a number of individuals to thank. For starters, my thanks to my co-editor, **Ray Kappel**, for providing very interesting material for your enjoyment. This includes interviews with a panel of strong players in the persons of **John Watson, Keaton Kiewra, John Tomas, Drew Thyden Neil Reeves, Bob Woodworth** and yours truly on how to improve one's play. Ray has also interviewed **Father Connor** of Lincoln who's recognition is well overdue.

My thanks to **Bob Woodworth** for his cover diagram and articles. Bob and I have recently worked on a project together and I'm very thankful for Bob's hard work and efforts on a number of fronts. **Jim Jirousek** has given permission to share a letter he wrote to me about **Richard Olson's** last tournament in November 2011. Many thanks to Jim for allowing me to share his letter and pictures with *Gambit* readers.

John Tomas has honored us with another installment of his Prologue to Heaven articles about the late **Richard McLellan**. John's willingness to detail great players (himself being one) is like a gold mine to me. Thank you John for bringing Nebraska chess legends to life.

Special thanks to **John Hartmann** for his column. John's material is always well research instructive and very detailed.

Many thanks to my friend from high school days, **John Stepp**, for returning to tournament chess after a layoff of many years. John was kind enough to provide material for your enjoyment. Thanks John!

I hope you enjoy the issue. See you in June or July with another issue, with the hope that you, the reader, submit more games!-Kent

Letter from NSCA President Mike Gooch

Hello to Nebraska's Chess Players:

The Nebraska State Chess Association is in the process of considering some very important changes. First, we have revised the process by which we raise money. By having NSCA sponsor certain annual events, we have raised more money than we have raised in dues over the past several years. While we are far from wealthy, we are solvent. We are working on a real budget. We are taking steps to ensure that events are held and we hope to improve communication with Nebraska's chess players so you can actually plan ahead for these events. We are strongly considering the development of an email communication system. Anyone who is interested in getting updates on upcoming events can sign up for an NSCA email list. This list will not be sold and will not be used for any purpose except chess.

However, many of the changes which we are considering deserve comments from you. Accordingly, PLEASE sign up for the Cornhusker State Games and plan to attend the NSCA meeting. Your opinions matter. Even if you do not play chess in the CSG, you can come express your view on the changes we are considering. Please participate.

In the meantime, if any Nebraska chess player has a suggestion or idea for improving chess in Nebraska, you may contact any member of the Board of Directors:

Mike Gooch, President

John Linscott, Lincoln Vice President

John Hartmann, Omaha Vice President

Jeff Solheim, Treasurer

Drew Thyden, Secretary

Robert Woodworth, Archivist

Or you can contact the Gambit editor, Kent Nelson or the co-editor, Ray Kappel.

Congratulations to John Hartmann for becoming a certified Tournament Director.

Mike Gooch, President

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News and Notes

1. It is my understanding John Watson and his lovely wife, Maura, will be moving to San Diego, California in the late Summer or Fall. Maura earned her doctorate recently, (Congratulations Maura! Way to go!) and she has a job waiting for her in California. The Nebraska chess community will certainly miss John and Maura and we wish them all the best.
2. If anyone is interested in having me help with chess events, feel free to contact me. Employment opportunities are appreciated also.
3. The 2012 Nebraska State Closed Championship is likely to be held sometime in May. Please check the NSCA web site for updates.
4. The field of the 2012 Nebraska State Closed Championship (for now as of 3/16/12) is Mirko Zeliko-defending State Champion, Joe Knapp 1st CSG, Neil Reeves, 2nd CSG, Joseph Wan-Great Plains Open, Ben Fabrikant 2011 Midwest Open winner and Doug Given, POY qualifier.
5. Does anyone know Forsyth Notation? If so, please get in touch with me. Thanks-KN
6. Best wishes to Joseph Wan as he completes in the National High School Championships in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 13-15 2012. Joseph will also play in the Dewain K. Barber National Tournament of K-8 Champions in August. The Nebraska Chess community is very proud of Joseph who is already a strong class A player and is improving by leaps and bounds.
7. Congratulations to State High School Champion, Caravaggio Caniglia, a freshman from Omaha's Brownell-Talbot High School, for qualifying for the Denker National High School Championships.
8. An update of 2012 Player of the Year standings will be provided in the next (summer) issue of the Gambit.
9. Here is a hint for the cover diagram. 1. Qh1
10. If anyone is interested in becoming President of the Lincoln Chess Foundation, please contact me.-KN

Letter from Gambit co-editor, Ray Kappel



So far this year I've played in two tournaments already, the Midwest Open and the Polar Bear. It looks like another good year for the tournament season. I've been busy trying to help promote the Midwest Regional Team Tournament this September in Omaha. That's brought me into contact with chess people in other states and hopefully made a few friends.

One nice benefit was from Mark Capron, editor of *En Passant*, the state Iowa magazine. He sent me a treasure-trove of his magazines going back several years. I shared half with Kent. That is one of the great perks of working on *Gambit*. You get to look at how other states do business.

I think we're just in need of getting our word out to other states. They'd be interested in us more if we sent them information on us on a regular basis. I'm sending info out on the team tournament to whomever will listen. If you all would do the same with your contacts in other states I think we could draw a lot better this year. Last year was great, but we need to build on it.

We can always use more articles and games for *Gambit*. Take the time to send us your contributions. We look forward to hearing from you.

My Duties as the NSCA Archivist

by

Robert Woodworth

This article will attempt to explain the various demands and duties of the NSCA Archivist. Since becoming the NSCA Archivist over 12 years ago, I've been involved in numerous chess projects and requests etc. To summarize, they have included chess estate settlements, responding to historical chess inquiries i.e. The Player-of-the Year (P.O.Y.) history, the origin of the Nebraska State Chess Association, questions concerning the N.S.C.A. Constitution and researching for specific articles in the "GAMBIT" & other chess related documents. Also, just recently there was a request for a search of old gamescores for a Nebraska player from games played nearly 50 years ago!! Networking for vital Nebraska-related chess information from various chess archivists on a nationwide basis has been very useful in fulfilling some requests.

However, a large portion of my time involves the collecting, collating, copying, indexing & storing of all NSCA related documents. These items are the quarterly issues of the "GAMBIT", any Nebraska newspaper articles regarding chess which includes player references & photos, tournament announcements & reports etc. plus chess columns & any chess-related materials donated to the NSCA Archives. All of these above items are then stored on an ongoing basis at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Currently, your writer is attempting to do a complete, detailed inventory of all the NSCA materials stored in Lincoln at the State Historical Society.)

Next, I'll expand in more detail on some of the above areas of chess archival work. The two chess estates involved evaluating, pricing for resale many chess books & related materials which can include magazines, periodicals, & gamescores etc. On of the estates involved over 4,000 chess books!! The 2nd estate required the examination, collation & binding of many Nebraska chess-related items for inclusion into the NSCA Archives in Lincoln. In both estates, the chess books were sold individually or in lots to collectors and dealers both inside & outside the Omaha area. Next, the inquiry involving the history & rules of the P.O.Y. (Player-Of-The-Year) determination

with the tourneys included & the points system was researched. I reviewed all the NSCA “GAMBITS”) from year 1982 to the present. This required making the pertinent & applicable copies of P.O.Y. information arranged in a chronological order.

A question regarding the year the Nebraska State Chess Association was formed required reviewing many old newspaper articles.

Knowing some Nebraska chess history gave me the approximate year to research plus having my source (the “Omaha Bee News” newspaper) being digitized made the search much easier.

(Incidentally, the year was 1898 & the first President was Nelson Hald of Dannebrog, Nebraska. Note: At the end of this article I’ve included a copy of the write-up as it appeared in 1898.) Every year, I collect at least 2 or 3 newspaper articles regarding Nebraska chessplayers or tournaments. The collecting will usually include player photos & possibly some actual gamescores since in this age of the Internet, it is very easy to see game & tournament results quite rapidly!

Lately, since many newspapers have been archived online, it is very interesting to search an old Nebraska paper for some remote chess news. One never knows what may be found but it is exciting when something chess-wise is discovered! Finally, I recall that a question (or questions) involved the NSCA Constitution. First, it was mentioned that a good copy of the Constitution should eventually be printed in an upcoming issue of the “GAMBIT”. That way we have an accurate copy stored for easy access etc. (The only copy this Archivist has ever seen was in an issue of the “Gambit” from many years ago!)

Constitutional-wise, I remember a question regarding the makeup of the Board-of-Directors, possibly the term-limits (if any) for President etc.

In conclusion, one can see that being the Nebraska State Chess Association Archivist is quite varied much like the request for information & materials that will occur. One very important aspect (& probably the most important) is that the Archivist is a voting member of the NSCA Board-of-Directors. However varied and interesting the ongoing archival work is, one has a far greater duty as a Board member. The voting & decisions rendered there have a far reaching effect on the viability and future of organized chess in Nebraska!!

Source: Omaha Bee News"—March, 1898
(Retyped from article)

Chess

Chess players in the western part of the state are taking an active interest in the formation of a State Chess association, and in response to a suggestion from this column have forced a temporary organization with the following officers: Nelson Haid, Dannebrog, president; C.L. Owen, Albion. Secretary and treasurer; T. N. Hartzell and Dr. G. N. Seeley, committee on constitution. A portion of a communication from the president is as follows:

"The formation of a State Chess association is now assured and I enclosed a copy of the constitution adopted. It is our desire to print the names of all charter members along with the constitution and all eligible persons who will make application to the secretary before April 10 will be enrolled as such. Arrangements are now being made for a correspondence tournament, to be started by April 20, in which all members are desired to participate. Informal games will also be arranged for such as do not wish to take part in a tournament. Enough members have already signified their intention to enter the tournament in insure a lively struggle for the championship. I will be pleased to hear from any one interested. Communications may be addressed to C. L. Owen, Albion, Neb."

The scope and purpose of the organization may be seen from the following

How to Improve at Chess: A survey of top players

Gambit co-editor **Ray Kappel** surveyed top players from Nebraska see what they felt were the essentials to improving your chess game. They all answered the same five questions put to them.

What's the best way to improve at chess?

IM John Watson: That depends completely upon the player: his or her age, strength, experience, and disposition. I'd say that players past the beginning stage very seldom get better quickly without studying. There's a point at which playing alone seems to hurt as much as it helps. Players really have to think about why they're making the decisions that they're making, and they should also get fresh ideas from sources outside of themselves.

Drew Thyden: Play lots of chess and experiment with different ideas. Study tactic puzzles. Play better players and find out from them where your mistakes were.

Kent Nelson: I believe the best way to improve at chess is to play it. I recommend play in tournaments as much as your schedule permits. Another way of improving is having postmortems after the game. You can really learn a lot reviewing a hard fought game and get a better assessment of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses for the next time you play. With that said, I don't recommend you review a game if you are upset. There have been times where I have been so upset I wouldn't dare review the game until much later or at all.

Joe Knapp: I think studying well-annotated games of great players is the most useful way to improve. Also, in my opinion it helps to identify with a great player and study this player's games.

Bob Woodworth: Study all of your games and especially the losses. If possible, have a much stronger player discuss and analyze the games with you.

Neil Reeves: I wish I knew, but I think a combination of playing good players and study (including your own games). Study, though too much is, well, too much, does help with understanding what's going on.

IM-elect Keaton Kiewra: If I was going to pick one particular way to improve at chess I would say: Play! It is usually not possible to improve at chess by doing only one thing. It is necessary to play actively, work with a coach, and study various aspects of the game. I would say that simply playing is the most important thing though. I have heard of people who don't really study chess, but improve by playing a lot of games online or live.

John Tomas: Depends on how old you are, who you are, and what you want to accomplish. I have a friend whose 16 year-old son has expressed a desire to get better. He is a very sophisticated reader: beyond all but a few advanced students I have had in my collegiate teaching career. I suspect that he would be intrigued by a book talking about the strategical underpinnings of chess. If that piques his interest, he will want to improve. But even then, you have to know what you want to achieve. Do you want to play “socially?” Do you want to participate in tournaments, win them?

I was fortunate to work with some very strong players when they were young: Mike Blankenau, John Milton and Wes Suzuki were a few of them. They each required different things, both technically and psychologically to become better. Personally, I believe that nothing can replace a good human teacher and we are fortunate to have a plethora of them running around today. It is the single thing I missed most in my own development. Howard Ohman played many many games with me but he was not very interested in the psychological background that I needed very much at that time.

What are the key books to read?

IM John Watson: I don't think there are any key books; in fact, whatever is said in any given 'classic' is probably included in dozens of other books as well. The most important thing by far is that you enjoy reading the book and learning from it. Otherwise the vast majority of students give up studying. If you enjoy reading chess books and studying from them, then it's not even crucially important how well-written or original they are. It's the exposure to chess and chess ideas that counts. Of course, it's better if you read books by high-quality authors and play over games by grandmasters; but what is important is that you stick to it, and if don't get enjoyment and reward from reading a book, you're probably not getting much out of it.

Drew Thyden: Books that were important to me were *"My System," "Think Like a Grandmaster,"* and collections of GM games. For newer players I like puzzle books like *"Tactics for Champions"* by Polgar, *"Sharpen your Tactics"* and *"365 ways to checkmate."*

Kent Nelson: The books that helped me improve and taught me how to approach chess is *"Chess Praxis"* and *"My System"* by Aron Nimzowitsch. However I'm an old timer. If I was starting out I would read John Watson's books on *"Chess Strategy in Action"* and *"Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy"* for a start. I don't think Nebraska players fully appreciate how blessed we are having a world renowned chess theorist and author in the person of John Watson. John's insight into chess and his ability to illustrate and illuminate his ideas in writing is brilliant. I recently asked a master class player how he became so good after losing to him for the fourth straight time. Without a moment's thought, he told me he studied pawn structures from one of John's books. Local player, Neil Reeves, has this figured out. The few times I've seen Neil at the chess club, he is either studying one of John's books or inquiring on purchasing same. Neil has really improved his play.

A developing player may want to study endgames. I studied openings at first and won my fair share of games in the openings but endgame study is a true investment. One of the best local players I knew in the person of Kevin Fleming was a true expert on endgame play. I can't tell how many times I observed him grind players down (including myself) by virtue of his superior endgame play.

Joe Knapp: Early on I read a book with Botvinnik's games, and Bronstein's. They play of Bronstein was fascinating so I studied his games. I studied Fischer's games even without annotations. Anything that inspires you is useful. I think it depends on the person, but some books that I enjoyed or found helpful are: *"The Inner Game of Chess," "Think Like a Grandmaster,"* and *"My System."*

Bob Woodworth: Three excellent books are: *"Logical Chess Move-by-Move"* by Irving Chernev, *"Chess Master vs. Chess Amateur"* by Max Euwe and *"Best Lessons of a Chess Coach"* by S. Weeramantry.

Neil Reeves: For the opening, John Watson has written a few good ones. Also pick at least one other about the specific opening you like. Pick at least one book dealing with the whole game, like Jerry Silman's *"Complete Book of Chess Strategy."* I also recommend Ruben Fine's *"Basic Chess Endings."* I also recommend Chess puzzle books for learning tactics, ideas and, oh yeah, enjoyment. Don't forget to read and play through *"Chess Life"*.

Most of my chess books were destroyed but I will buy more. Unfortunately, they won't make me a master, but I can always dream.(like when I buy a lottery ticket).

IM-elect Keaton Kiewra: *"My System"* by Aaron Nimzowitsch definitely comes to mind. This is a key book to read when you are around the level of 1500-1700. This is a good point to learn the positional concepts presented by this book. Another book I would highly recommend is *"Winning*

Chess Brilliances" by Yasser Sierawan. In this book Sierawan analyzes 12 of the most brilliant games of all time. *"Think Like a Grandmaster"* by Alexander Kotov is also a popular and interesting book. In this book Kotov takes us inside a Grandmasters' thought process during the game. *"Reassess your Chess"* by Jeremy Silman is a great book to help positional understanding.

John Tomas: I don't think there are any books that every player **must** read. Depends on how old you are, who you are, and what you want to accomplish (sound familiar?). That said, I firmly believe that all players should have a good grounding in the history of the game. Besides, if you really like chess what could be more fun! I still recall my excitement when I got each copy of Alekhine's best games when I was young and the late nights I spent studying his games. Would that improve your chess? I can't see how it could avoid doing so.

How important is chess software?

IM John Watson: Once you've reached a basic level of strength, maybe 1500 or so, it's very good to have database software to record and save your games, use the engines and tools to analyze with, and have immediate access to others games. These days, it's slow and inefficient to study openings, middle-games, and endings without a program like ChessBase. Young players today expect to be able to play through games with mouse clicks, go back and forth between positions instantly, input subvariations, analyze with an engine, and scan dozens of games in short periods of time.

Drew Thyden: I don't use it -- I'll let Joe Knapp answer this one.

Kent Nelson: I'm still learning the ropes of chess software but every serious player must have chess software in some form or fashion. I recommend you invest in a good chess software program like ChessBase for example and really learn the ins

and out of it. I suspect many of us who work with software really don't know or understand all of features of it and I think this is especially true with chess software.

Finally, here is an excerpt from my book about chess programs and software... *“With the introduction, development and distribution of chess computers and software programs, the game of chess was invariably changed forever. No longer were players facing opponents with equal or superior book knowledge. Now players were armed with computer database knowledge and training. This forced a new approach to the game in order to create a level playing field, which was very difficult for some players to adjust to. Some habits die hard, and one of the first players to tell me about this challenge was Anton Sildmets. Anton told me about the impact computers were having on his beloved postal games. In fact, Anton made reference to chess computers in postal play in an article he wrote for The Gambit in 1983.*

In reprinting Anton's article, I often wonder how prophetic the words were from the mainframe computer in the movie Colossus: The Forbin Project (which was made in 1970) when the computer announced, “We can coexist, but only on my terms. You will say you lose your freedom. Freedom is an illusion. All you lose is the emotion of pride. To be dominated by me is not as bad for humankind as to be dominated by others of your species. Your choice is simple.”

If we don't embrace the new chess technology, we'll be left in the dust by it. That is just reality folks.

Joe Knapp: Chess software like Chessbase can be very helpful to organize many games in one place. For more advanced players, GMs for instance, it is critical to save your opening repertoire in a file to be loaded (say a particular line you've prepared for an opponent) and refreshed at a moment's notice.

Bob Woodworth: Great for analyzing one's serious games and finding improvements in play plus some software provides an excellent teaching tool.

Neil Reeves: Chess software is probably very helpful. Currently, I don't own any, but I will by the end of 2012.

IM-elect Keaton Kiewra: Today chess software is extremely important and for a player trying to make GM it is essential. Online chess clubs such as the ICC provide opportunities to play many more games than people would be able to play otherwise. Chess Base software which helps with opening study and looking up games of whoever you want to study and allowing you to use the world's most powerful engines to analyze any position. This kind of software is the reason that we are seeing younger and younger GMs these days.

John Tomas: The stronger you are and want to be, the more important it becomes. But even so, after a certain point, you will want to save your games and chess software is the easiest way to do that. For forty years, I followed the pattern of a friend of mine, IM Elliott Winslow (when he still played chess) who analyzed each and every one of his games IN DEPTH in his notebook. I still have games from 40 years ago. Today, ChessBase or its equivalent is my notebook and I test my analyses with a good playing program (often a very depressing affair!).

Should a person play on the internet?

IM John Watson: I don't know if they 'should', but I don't know many players who don't play on the Internet. I think it's very useful if students can get away from their Bullet and Blitz games fairly often and play games with longer time controls. These days that usually means 15-minute games, but that's still healthy; and hopefully they can find some 45-60 minute online games as well. There's nothing wrong with a little blitz for fun, but addictive bullet chess for hours on end can only harm your play. It's hard to simply go back and play 'normal' chess again one you've picked up all those bad habits.

Drew Thyden: Internet fast games allow for quick calculations and experimentation with new openings and ideas -- both are very valuable. Slower games are needed to more fully understand a position.

Kent Nelson: I don't play chess on the Internet so I don't have an opinion on that question per se.

Joe Knapp: The internet is a place to find a game for people who have no chess community, and there are always strong players online. I'd recommend longer time controls--at least 15 minutes. Although playing online blitz is fun and can help with cultivating intuition, because there's no time for every concrete calculation, I would warn my students that it can be harmful playing on "autopilot". The important thing is always learning from your games.

Bob Woodworth: Only if one has some extensive experience in the game. For one learning the game, probably not since the time controls are very fast for the inexperienced.

Neil Reeves: Probably a player should, but I haven't for some time. I personally don't enjoy it, but I will try it again in the future. In a related matter, I do think that correspondence chess is very helpful. I haven't played correspondence chess for a few years, but when I did play postal (both with USCF & CCLA) believe that my chess improved and it also provided incentive to study.

IM-elect Keaton Kiewra: Absolutely a player should play online. Playing online gives a player opportunities to compete against players from all over the world. It also allows players to play far more frequently than they would be able to otherwise.

John Tomas: "Why "should"? If you enjoy it, sure. I personally believe that too much speed chess can ruin your game, but there are very strong players who completely disagree (Tal was one: when I interviewed him, he wanted to play speed chess!). It can be a way of keeping yourself sharp. Besides, some of the places have outstanding material along with the ability to play chess (not

just speed chess, I might add). ICC publishes superb articles by Alex Yermolinsky and you own John Watson to name just two. Cheaper than buying a couple of books.

How important is taking lessons?

IM John Watson: It depends who you are and what you're trying to do. If you simply like playing and going to some tournaments, it's probably not important. If you're willing to put some work into your game but still feel that you need some direction and/or an outside eye, then you should consider lessons.

Drew Thyden: If a person is self disciplined to study, then lessons aren't as important. Tactics, basic endgames, principles and openings can be learned by oneself. Having another player (coach, friend, etc.) go over your games is very helpful. Lessons are important when you're not sure what you should be studying.

Kent Nelson: I also never had a chess coach growing up, I was self taught. Being an old dog I realize I need a coach to learn new tricks so yes, I recommend a chess coach especially starting out.

Joe Knapp: Taking lessons is an excellent way to develop your chess. Look at Nakamura and Carlsen, some of the strongest players in the world. Even they've sought Kasparov to help them bring up their skills.

Bob Woodworth: Excellent thought but can be somewhat costly. A player must be extremely serious about chess if one is considering personal lessons.

Neil Reeves: I have always thought that taking lessons would be helpful in learning and quickly improving. However, I have never had lessons.

IM-elect Keaton Kiewra: Taking lessons is very important. Unless a player is very self-motivated and knows what to study he needs the direction that a good coach offers. For a player trying to make GM it is practically essential. There are a few self-taught GMs but this is very rare. Behind most great chess players there are great coaches.

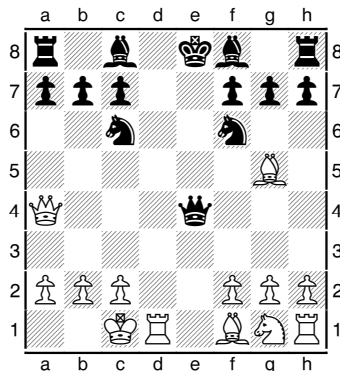
Some Very Surprising Chess Moves

by

Robert Woodworth

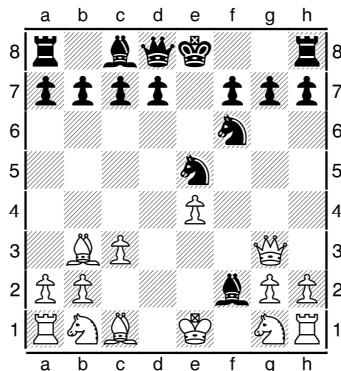
Everyone who has played the game of chess either informally or in a rated tournament setting, for any length of time, has experienced the shock of a completely unexpected move by one's opponent. When such a move is played, the opposing player's heart rate not only increases, but a strange, sinking-type feeling along with an added factor of fear is experienced. This is really a normal reaction to such a totally unexpected move. At times, the shock of such a move can be so great that many a player will actually consider conceding the game!!

Described here in this article are 4 examples of such surprising chess moves. The first is from a 1950 simul. game by GM David Bronstein playing White versus an amateur player. In the diagram below, White played the unbelievable, shocking move by moving the rook the length of the chessboard next to the opposing king.



Bronstein, in the above position, played **1. Rd8+!!** and the Black Queen is lost after the f6 knight becomes pinned when the Black King escapes from the Rook check!! Really an amazing tactic which your writer had never seen before!

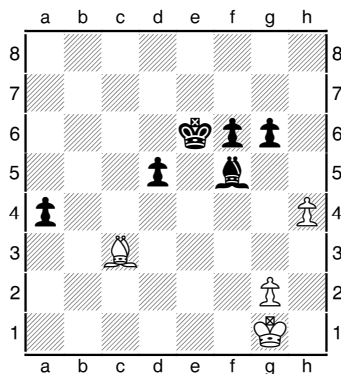
The 2nd example is from a clever double-knight fork (after a bishop sac which also was a fork!) with White to move in the following position:



Black's last move was the surprising **1. Bxf2+!!** (See the above diagram) Now, White has either 2. Kxf2 followed by 2. Nxe4+ winning the White Queen or 2. Qxf2 followed by 2. Nd3+ also wins the White Queen! A very clever, surprising tactic!

A 3rd example is one of the most incredulous moves ever played in an endgame (or for that matter, in any part of any chess game!) The following position occurred in 1998 at the International Tourney Linares in Spain between GM Veselin Topalov as White versus GM Alexei Shirov as Black to play:

Topalov –Shirov
Linares 1998

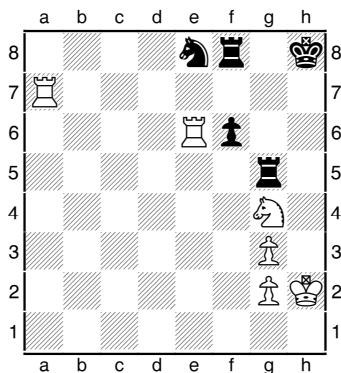


Shirov uncorked a truly shocking & unbelievable move with **1. Bh3!!** One can only imagine the effect it had on Topalov. A

bishop sac on a completely empty square!! After **2. gxh3**, Black proceeded to win the endgame thusly: **2 Kf5 3 Kf2, Ke4 4 Bxf6, d4 5 Be7, Kd3 6. Bc5, Kc4 7 Be7, Kb3** and now the Black King must reach c2 and wins.

Your writer is sure that there have been these shocking-type of moves the reader has experienced in more than one competitive chess game. They are not easily forgotten for they can overwhelm our ability to immediately concentrate on the task at hand & at times gives us a sense of hopelessness. Some of these shocking moves will be absolutely sound (as the first 3 examples shown here were) but others can be refuted. It all depends if one can 'collect oneself', gain a sense of some stability and calmness. Sometimes, easier said than done!

Next is an example of a surprise move by White to which Black remains calm & objective in finding a saving stratagem.



White, to move played **1. Rxe8** and Black is faced with the loss of a piece for after 1. Rxe8 White plays 2 Nxf6 with a the loss of a piece or mate to follow! Now, Black, who must have been a seasoned & experienced player, had the presence of mind to overcome the hopelessness of his position by playing as follows. Instead of 1. Rxe8 he played **1... Rh5+ 2 Kg1..Rh1+! 3. Kxh1...Rxe8 4 Nxf6** (threatening mate)...**Re1+ 5. Kh2...Rh1+! 6. Kxh1** and Black is stalemated! Therefore, Black 'saved the day' & his position due to this clever & very resourceful stalemate stratagem!

In conclusion, these examples can help us become familiar with the surprising and totally unexpected in the game of chess but also these type of events also occur in real life away from the chessboard where everything depends on the way in which we react and how well we handle surprising situations!

SOURCES:

Diagram #1-David Bronstein: Fifty Great Short Games”,
I.M. Nikolay Minev, The Chess Library, 2007

Diagram # 2-”The Fireside Book of Chess”, Irving Chernev &
Fred Reinfeld, Simon & Schuster, 1949

Diagram # 3 “Dvoretsky’s Endgame Manual”,
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Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1959

Prologue in Heaven IV

Richard McLellan

by

John Tomas



Richard McClellan was the dominant player in Nebraska in the second half of the '50s. Like another future Nebraska champion, Dan Reynolds, McLellan was not a native Nebraskan. Like Reynolds, he was a native Iowan who moved to Nebraska. McLellan moved to Omaha in the early '50s to attend Omaha University (the precursor of today's UNO). According to Spence, he came to Omaha to study music. However, when I knew him, McLellan was a member of the English department at Omaha. As an aside, Jack didn't always get facts straight. In the mid sixties, he told me that McLellan was terminally ill. Which, I guess was true, but he took a while (over 30 years!) to die.

As a player, McLellan was reputed to know more about the openings than any other Nebraskan of that period. Unlike just about all the players he met consistently, he played the black side of the Sicilian. Moreover, one of his (postal) games in the Grünfeld made it into the late Larry Evans' annotations of Evans-Fischer, New York (ch), 1962.

But his success was only partially due to his opening knowledge. At his best, he had a much better understanding of the strategical underpinnings of the various openings. The result could be (and

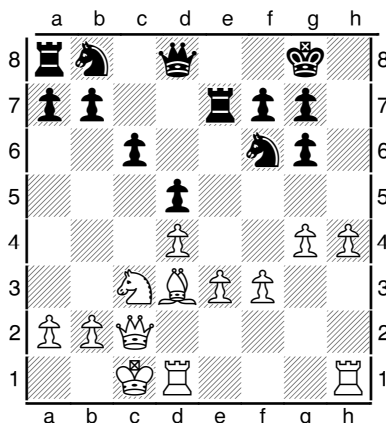
often was) devastating victories, especially with White. Here are two games from the 1955 Omaha City Championship (Ludwig Memorial) where he punished opponents who did not understand the Queen's Gambit as well as he did.

McLellan, Richard - Ohman, Howard Queen's Gambit Declined D35

Omaha City Championship Omaha, 1955

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♙g5 ♙e7 5.e3 0-0

6.cxd5 exd5 If he was going to play the Exchange variation, he should have done so before playing Bg5. Because now Black has **6...♘xd5!** **7.♙d3 ♙g4?!** Black wants to exchange the white-squared bishops. But this is not the way to do it. **8.f3 8.♘ge2! c6 9.f3 ♙h5 10.♘f4** allows White to keep his own light-squared bishop. **8...♙h5 9.♘ge2 c6?! 9...♙g6!** was the point of black's idea **11.♘xg6 hxg6 12.♙c2 ♖e8 13.0-0-0 ♘h5 14.♙xe7 ♖xe7 15.g4 ♘f6 16.h4!**



White's attack is worth much more than a pawn. **16...♖xe3 17.h5 g5 18.h6 ♙e7** If **18...g6 19.♙xg6** wins e.g., **19.fxg6 20.♙xg6+ ♘f8 21.♙g7+ ♘e8 22.h7 19.hxg7 ♘xg7 20.♙h2 ♘g8 21.♙h8+ ♘f8 22.♙h7 ♘e8 23.♙xg8+ ♘d7 24.♙f5+ ♘c7 25.♖h6 ♖xc3+ 26.bxc3 ♙a3+ 27.♔d2 ♙xa2+ 28.♔e1 b5 29.♙c8+ 1-0** If **29...♔b6**

30. ♖d8+ ♔b7 31. ♘c8 puts Ohman out of his misery.

McLellan, Richard - Vincent, Richard Queen's Gambit Declined D53

Omaha City Championship Omaha, 1955

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 4. ♙g5 ♙e7 5.e3 ♘bd7

6. ♘f3 c6 7. ♙d3 h6?! Capablanca's solution to the problem of development here is still the best. Having known (and lost to) Richard Vincent, I cannot believe that he didn't know this.

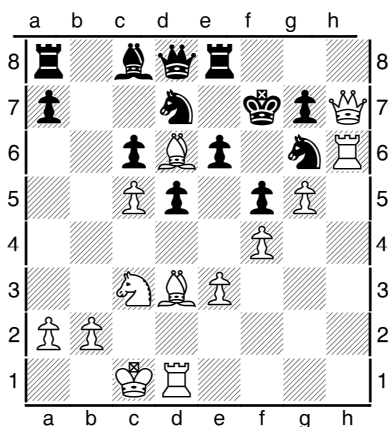
7...dxc4! 8. ♙xc4 ♘d5 8. ♙f4 0-0 9. ♖c2 9.h3! makes certain that the bishop is preserved. 9...♗e8?! 9...♘h5 It is not ideal, but getting rid of white's dark-squared bishop is still better. 10.h3! ♘f8 11. ♘e5 ♙d6 12.0-0-0 ♖c7 13.c5!

♙xe5 14. ♙xe5 The game is effectively over: McLellan doesn't even require especially good attacking technique to win this. 14...♖e7 15.g4 ♘6d7 16. ♙d6 ♖f6 17.f4 b6 18.h4

bxc5 19.g5 ♖d8 20.dxc5 hxg5? 20...h5! is the only move to try to play on. 21.hxg5 f5 22. ♖h2 ♘g6 23. ♖h7+?!

White gives up much of his advantage with this move. White needs to get his final two pieces into the attack. One way of doing this is 23. ♘e2 ♘df8 24. ♖h5 ♗e7 25. ♘d4 ♙d7

26. ♘f3 23...♗f7 24. ♗h6?



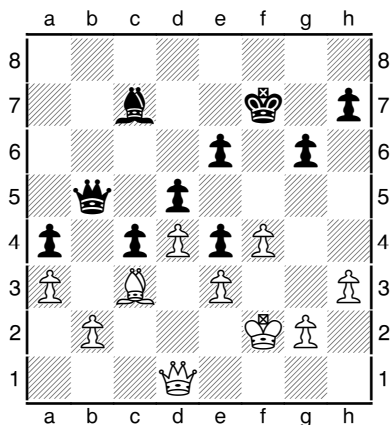
24... ♖h8?? Amazing. Black's only defense forces a draw!
 24... ♖df8!, and white cannot avoid the repetition. 25. ♙xf8
 ♜xf8 26. ♙h8 Did McLellan miss the fact that 26. ♜f6+ is met
 by ♙xf6?) 26... ♖d7 27. ♙h7 ♜f8 **25.g6+ ♜f6 26. ♙e5+**
♜xe5 27.fxe5+ ♜xe5 28. ♙xg7+ ♜f6 29. ♙c7 1-0

Although these games are typical of his play in the 'fifties, by the time I got to know him, McLellan had put such games behind him. His style gradually moved towards a more positional style with an emphasis on accurate endgame play, probably due to his increasing emphasis on international postal play.

Here is an example of his endgame play from a Kansas City – Omaha radio match.

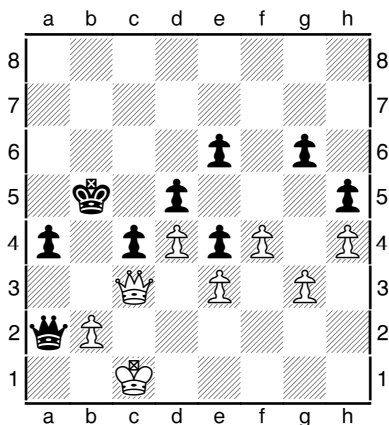
Ford, R. - McLellan

Radio Match Omaha Kansas City Omaha, 1956

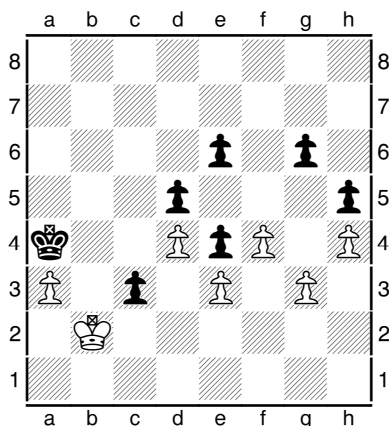


1. ♙b4 Players win endgames that should be drawn all the time. Many slight endgame advantages cannot be forced to a win against perfect defense, but somehow great players manage to win such games. Look for example at Karpov's endgame play, where he often won when his opponents went astray in admittedly difficult positions. Here, McLellan has an optical advantage because of his greater space and white's bad bishop. But is it enough to win? **1... ♙a5!** White's bishop may

be bad, but it protects important squares, so McLellan exchanges it. Perhaps counter intuitive, but the best move nonetheless. If black doesn't exchange bishops, he has no play for a win. **2.♖d2** White should draw with **2.♙xa5! ♜xa5 3.♜c2 ♔e7 4.♜c3 ♜b5 5.♙e2 ♔d6 6.♙d2 ♔c6 7.♙c2 (7.♜b4 ♜xb4+ 8.axb4 ♔b5 9.♙c3 h6) 7...♙b6** since to win Black has to open the k-side, and he cannot do so safely. **2...♙xb4 3.axb4 3.♜xb4?? ♜xb4 4.axb4 c3** loses immediately. **3...♙e7 4.♜c3 ♔d7 5.♜a3 ♙c7 6.♙e1 ♔b6 7.♙d2 ♜d7 8.♙c3?! 8.b5! is an easy draw ...♜xb5 9.♜d6+ ♔b7 10.♙c2 8...♙b5 9.h4 ♜e7 10.g3 h5 11.♙c2 ♜xb4 12.♜c3 ♜b3+ 13.♙c1 ♜a2?**



Looks very good, but should only lead to a draw. Instead, McLellan had two different plans. **13...a3 14.♜xb3+ cxb3 15.bxa3 ♔c4 16.♙b2 ♔d3 17.a4 ♔xe3 18.a5 ♔xd4 19.a6 e3 20.a7 e2 21.a8♜ e2♜ 13...♙b6 14.♙d2 ♔c7.** Both of these look to be winning. **14.♙c2 a3 14...♜a1 15.♜a3! ♜xa3 16.bxa3 ♔a5 17.♙c3 15.♜xa3 ♜xa3 16.bxa3 ♔a4 17.♙b2 c3+**



18.♔xc3? 18.♔c2!! The opposition! Remarkable how often even very strong players forget about it (see Seirawan-Kasparov, Nikisc,'83). 18...♔xa3 19.♔xc3; 18.♔a2 c2 19.♔b2 c1♔+ 20.♔xc1 ♔xa3 21.♔c2 ♔b4 22.♔b2 ♔c4 23.♔c2 ♔b4 24.♔b2 ♔a4 25.♔a2 **18...♔xa3 19.♔c2 ♔a2 20.♔c3 ♔b1 21.♔b4 ♔c2 22.♔c5 ♔d3 23.♔d6 ♔xe3 24.♔xe6 ♔xd4 25.♔f6 e3 0-1**

I did not meet McLellan until 1964. He had stopped playing in Nebraska in the early '60s but was tempted out of retirement by an Omaha-Lincoln match. McLellan was used to playing top board in such matches, but Spence took advantage of the fact that Gilbert Ramirez, a strong master originally from California (about whom, more later) who was stationed at Offut and Wolf Wolfensberger who was a post doc at the University of Nebraska Medical Center were available, and Omaha won 7-1. I played on Board 7.

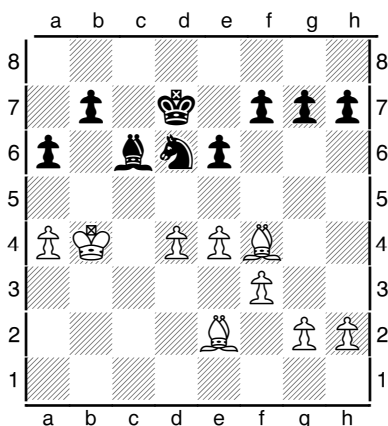
After we were introduced, McLellan was quite generous with his time. He was known internationally for having one of the most extensive private chess libraries in the world. I was invited to his home in the Happy Hollow neighborhood several times and analyzed with him. He had a room devoted to chess that would have been the delight of any Victorian gentleman. It was lined with bookcases that reached to the

ceiling. They were filled with books in the major Western European languages. No Eastern European languages, however. In the center of the room stood a table with a very nice wooden set and board. The room itself was dark, except for a single light focused upon the board.

We did not play until 1967 when we met in the fifth round of the Nebraska Centennial. I'll give two snippets from that game. McLellan outplayed me in a Nimzoindian and reached the following position

McClellan, Richard – Tomas, John [E54]

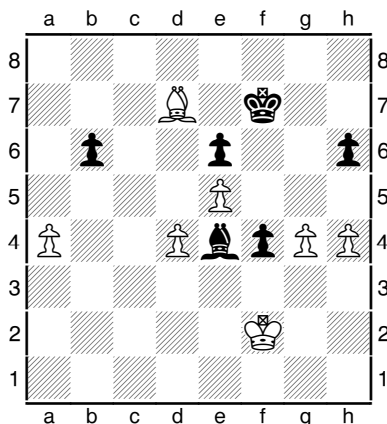
Nebraska Centennial (5), 28.05.1967



White's two bishops and command of space give him a clear (indeed, probably winning) advantage here. I remember spending a great deal of time on this position concluding that eventually I would be forced into zugzwang. So, I decided to do something before that happened.

32...a5+!? Giving up a pawn. White can win a pawn but not penetrate with his king. Moreover, there is a distinct likelihood that only k-side pawns will be left on the board which is what McLellan's next move aims at avoiding. One way or another I think sacrificing that pawn was my best move. To be honest, I am rather surprised that I found it. I had seldom had to defend inferior endgames. Still, even after all these years, I am quite pleased with this idea.

33.♔xa5 b6+ 34.♔b4 h6 35.♙xd6?! ♔xd6 36.♙b5 ♙b7
 37.♔c4 f6 38.♔d3 g5 39.♔e3 f5 40.♔d3 g4 41.e5+ ♔e7
 42.fxg4 f4 43.♔e2 ♙xg2 44.♔f2 ♙e4 45.h4 ♔f7 46.♙d7
 ♙d5 47.♙b5 ♙e4 48.♙d7



½-½

White can make no progress, and short of time, McLellan forced the draw.

In our second game, also in the fifth round, six years later (to the day!), something more was at stake.

Tomas,John - McClellan,Richard (2149) **Sicilian Defense B89**

Burkley Graham Cornhusker Classic, Omaha (5), 05.28.1973

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙c4

The first and only time I would play this order of moves in a serious game. Why did I play it? I would actually play the order of moves that McLellan played with black often in my career. But when I played it, I would play a6 here transposing into lines in the Najdorf which I then and now believe are better for Black. But why wasn't I afraid of McLellan doing the same thing? Simple answer. At this point in his chess career, McLellan never switched openings. I had played this against him some years earlier in the state rapid transit (10 seconds per

move) championship, and won. **6...♖c6 7.♙e3 ♘e7 8.♚e2**

This was the point. I am transposing into the Velimirovic Attack, named after the Yugoslav Grandmaster Drazen Velimirovic, who surprisingly enough for chess opening theory, actually invented the sequence, developed many of the ideas, and played it regularly for years. **8...a6 9.0-0-0 ♚c7 10.♙b3 0-0 11.g4!?** The most aggressive way to play the opening. This decision was in line with my pre-game decision to play as actively as possible. Even though I was lower-rated than McLellan at the time, I was playing for the win.

A short story is not out of place here. Some years later, I was playing in a tournament in a Chicago suburb. I had drawn an earlier game (through culpable inattention in a virtually winning position) and was out of running for first prize (and there wasn't much of a second prize).

Before the final round I was wandering around the playing area and ran into a young player (19) of my acquaintance. He had a perfect score and was slated to play the top-ranked player in the tournament. He came over to me and asked me jocularly whether I wanted to trade opponents! I looked at him in amazement and replied "In an instant! You are playing the best player, you have white, and you are playing for the championship!" My friend was a 2300 player at the time, and, *mirabalé dictu*, he lost rather dismally.

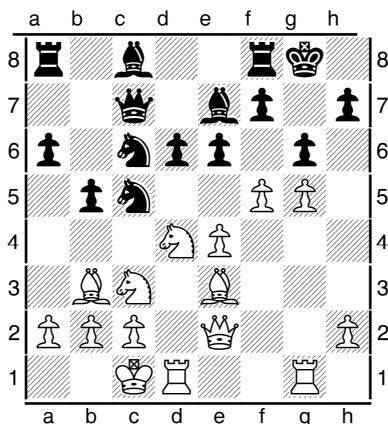
There's a lesson in there somewhere.

11...♗d7 I do recall that **11...♗xd4 12.♖xd4 (12.♙xd4 e5) 12...e5** was all the rage at that time and that I had analyzed it in some depth. As expected, McLellan prefers calmer waters.

12.g5 :015 I think **12 Nf5** works pretty well already here. Otherwise, White should try **12 Rhg1** and **13 Nf5**. (Watson) **12.♗f5! exf5 13.♗d5 ♚d8 14.gxf5 ♗c5 15.♖hg1 ♔h8! (15...♙f6 16.♗xf6+ ♚xf6 17.♙d5** and White has an advantage and a clear positional plan (pressure on the weak "d" pawn).) **16.♚h5 ♙f6 17.♖g3** with a very strong attack (Watson).

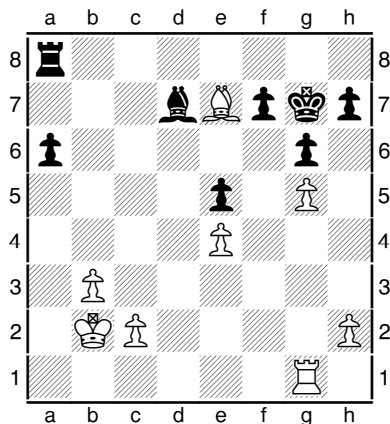
12...♗c5 :042 13.♖hg1 :023 13...g6 Seldom played at this

point. 13... ♔d7 is the most reliable. (Golubev) According to theory, Black is doing well here, since white's most reliable move 14. ♖h5 leads to a draw. The position has been analyzed in some depth in the past 40 years, and the following variations give some idea of its complexity. **a)** 14. ♖g3 ♖fc8 15. f4 (15. h4) 15... b5 16. f5 ♜xb3+ 17. axb3; **b)** 14. f4 b5 15. f5 b4 16. g6 and now either hxg6 or fxg6 leads to an advantage according to Golubev. 14... ♖fc8 15. ♖g3 g6 16. ♖h6 ♔f8 17. ♖h4 ♔e7! with equality. If 18. ♖h3 h5! stops the attack and leads to an advantage. **14.f4** 14. h4 If I recall correctly (I do), Bent Larsen played the black side of a similar position against Fischer at Palma (Izt) 1970 and won. After the game, Fischer was said to have called the alternative h4 (which he played) a lemon and suggested the move I made instead. The loss gave many people the illusion that Larsen had a chance against Fischer in their 1972 Candidates Match. However, that proved not to be the case, and Fischer won handily. (6-0!) **14...b5 15.f5!**

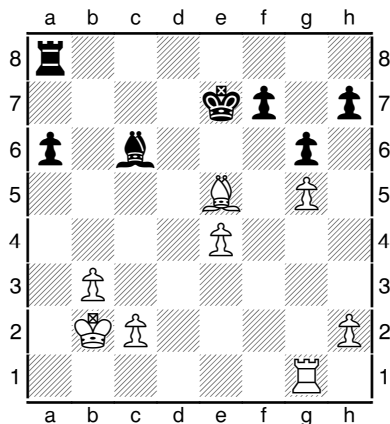


Again, this was part of my plan, I wanted to look as deeply as possible. **15...b4!** At the time, we both thought that the pawn was immune due to 15... ♜xd4 16. ♔xd4 exf5 17. exf5 ♔xf5 (17... ♜xb3+ 18. axb3) 18. ♜d5, but John Watson pointed out that 15... ♜xb3+ 16. axb3 exf5 17. ♜d5 ♜xd4 18. ♔xd4 turns out to be a game between George Umizinwa (who was a Chicago player whom I knew quite well) and Nigel Rogers which was eventually drawn. **16. ♜xc6 ♜xb3+?!** McLellan tries to avoid

any tactical complications and ends up in a very difficult end-game. Instead he could have forced an immediate draw with 16...♖xc6 17.♙xc5 (17.♘d5!? exd5! 18.♙xd5) 17...dxc5 18.♘d5!? exd5 19.♙xd5 (at which point I broke off my analysis during the game convinced that white was better) 20.♙xa8 (20. f6 will come to much the same thing) 20...♖xa2 21.♙d5 ♖a1+ 22.♙d2 ♖xb2 23.♖g3 ♙d6 24.♖f3 gxf5 25.exf5 ♖d4+ and now **not** 26.♖d3??, when white gets mated but 26.♙c1, with a draw. **17.axb3 ♖xc6 18.f6 bxc3?!** At the time, and after the game in the post mortem, I thought that 18... ♙d8! was better. It is. 19.♘a4 ♙b7 20.♖f2 ♖xe4 21.♖xd6, and White has precious little. **19.fxe7 cxb2+ 20.♙xb2 ♖e8 21.♖d3 e5 21...♖xe7 22.♖xd6 ♖xd6 23.♖xd6 ♙b7 24.e5 22.♖xd6 ♖xd6 22...♖xe4 23.♖d5 ♙f5 24.♖xe4 ♙xe4 25.♙c5 23.♖xd6 ♖xe7 24.♖d8+ ♙g7 25.♙c5 ♖d7 26.♖xd7?!** 26.♖e8! ♙b7 27.♖xe5 with an extra pawn and a superior position to boot. If anything, this is even better than what I got in the game. So, why didn't I play it? I remember being afraid of 27...f6 28.gxf6+ but that's nonsense: 28.♖e6! fvg5 29.♖xg5. I've overrated my opponent's counterplay far too much in my career. I did the same thing in a winning position in a Midwest Masters (and drew), and Joel Benjamin castigated me deservedly. Sometimes, you never really get rid of your weaknesses **26...♙xd7** McLellan offered a draw around here, and he looked a bit crestfallen when I simply shook my head and quietly said no. I can't believe that he didn't know that he was clearly worse here, so I have to believe that he was hoping I didn't know it. I suspect his disappointment at having to play this out might have contributed to his error on move 29. **27.♙e7**

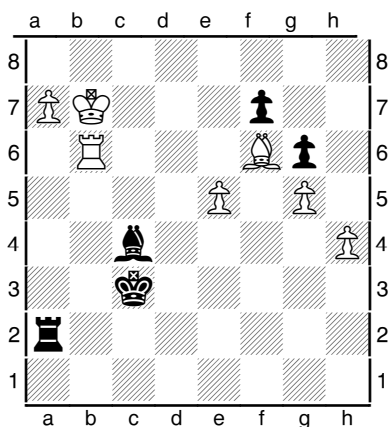


27...♙c6 27...h6 doesn't help since after h4, if he takes on g5 black will get mated! **28.♙f6+ ♔f8 29.♙xe5 ♔e7?**



The ending is going to be difficult for Black no matter what he does here, but obviously it is worse playing it a pawn down. *Fritz* calls this almost equal, but Karpov made a very good living winning endgames like this. **29...♙xe4 30.♖d1** (30.♙d6+) **30...♔e7 31.♙f6+ ♔e6 32.♖e1** (32. ♖f1) **32...♔f5 30.♙f6+ ♔e6 31.e5 ♖a7 32.♖d1?!** Yes, it threatens mate, but loses a tempo. I was quite proud of this move at the time

which should tell you something about my strength. Fortunately, it doesn't make much difference. 32.♖a1! ♙b5 33.c4 ♙c6 32...♞d7 33.♞a1 ♙b7 If I had played the correct move, black's rook would now be trapped on a7. 34.♞a4 ♞d2 35.♞h4 ♙c6 36.♙c3 ♞f2 37.♙d3 ♙b5+ 38.c4 ♞f3+ 39.♙c2 Even in time trouble, I saw 39.♙d4 ♞xb3 40.cxb5 ♞b4+ 41.♙c5 ♞xh4 42.b6 although White might not lose this. 39...♙c6 40.♞xh7 ♙e4+ 41.♙b2 a5 42.♞h8 ♙c6 43.♞d8! ♙d7 44.♞a8 Now, I have three extra pawns, and basically all I have to do is make the time control. 44...a4 45.bxa4 ♞f2+ 46.♙c3 ♞a2 47.a5 ♙f5 48.♞a7 ♙e6 49.♙b4 ♞b2+ 50.♙c3 Making the first time control (50 moves in 2 ½ hours). 50...♞a2 51.♙b4 ♞b2+ 52.♙a3 ♞c2 53.♞c7! ♞c1 I am perfectly willing to win the opposite bishop endgame that follows 53...♙xc4 54.♙b4 ♞b2+ 55.♙c3 (55.♙xc4 ♞c2+ 56.♙b5) 53...♞xc4 54.♞xc4 ♙xc4 55.♙b4 ♙f1 56.♙c5 54.♙b4 ♙e4 55.♞c6 ♞b1+ 56.♙c5 ♙d3 57.a6 ♞a1 58.h4 ♞a4 59.♙b5 ♞a2 60.♞d6+ ♙c3 61.♞c6 ♞b2+ 62.♙c5 ♞a2 63.♙b6 ♞b2+ 64.♙c7 ♞a2 65.♙b7 ♞b2+ 66.♞b6 ♞a2 67.a7 ♙xc4



According to Russian teaching, the first rule of endgame play is "Don't hurry!" 68.a8♞? But this is taking the principle too far! I saw what follows, but for some reason I didn't care. 68.e6+ ♙d3 69.e7 ♙d5+ 70.♙b8 ♞e2 71.♞d6 ♙c4 72.♞xd5 is a more elegant (éleganter??) win. 68...♙d5+ 69.♞c6+ ♙xc6+ 70.♙xc6

♖xa8 71.e6+ ♔c4 72.e7 ♖a6+ 73.♔d7 ♔d5 74.e8♚
 ♖a7+ 75.♔d8 ♖a8+ 76.♔e7 ♖xe8+ 77.♔xe8 ♔e6 78.♔
 f8 I can hardly blame McLellan for playing on after my sixty
 eighth move. **1-0**

My thanks to IM John Watson for his extensive help analyzing this game.

This win brought me a totally unexpected dividend. I was dating a young woman who had been one of McLellan's students at UNO. She was VERY impressed when I won the game and appeared in the *World Herald* as the winner of the tournament.

This was hardly the end of McLellan's chess career although it was the final tournament game he played in Nebraska. For the rest of his life, he concentrated on postal chess eventually becoming Nebraska's second International Master.

Fr. Connor---A Christian knight for chess

by **Ray Kappel**



Father Brian Connor (left)

Photo by Ray Kappel

“No game holds a candle to chess,” said Fr. Brian Connor of Lincoln.

The 52-year-old Catholic priest of North American Martyrs Church has been playing and studying the game the last four and half years. His study and play has brought a deep appreciation of this ancient game.

“Just the depth of it. There’s always another level,” he said.

At the recent state class championships in Omaha, Fr. Connor won the class F state title. Class F is a certain division of playing strengths.

He was born and raised in Kansas City, MO, attended Rockhust High School and graduated from Kansas University in Lawrence. After working two years in a bank, he entered the seminary.

He notes that he bears little resemblance to the famous chess-playing priest Ruy Lopez of the 16th-Century.

“I’m just a rookie,” he said.

Through his faith, he sees analogies to the game.

“Jesus is our king. We should do all we can to protect him and keep

him alive in our hearts. Mary is our queen. We have the bishops and knights. Most of us are just pawns, children of God,” he said.

He learned the game in the second grade, but lost so much to his older brother and cousins he gave the game up.

“I didn’t like to lose so much,” he said.

Then a teacher at David City Aquinas, Mark Masur, inspired him to take up the game again a few years ago.

“I always thought it was an arduous mental battle. Too much work. Then I saw them play quick games (with short time limits) and saw how fun it was. That’s how I got into it,” he said.

He started a club for kids at his church and it now has 80 members. They were second at a scholastic team tournament in Omaha recently.

He said chess gives him a connection to the kids.

“It’s a game they can play all their life. It teaches so many life skills,” he said.

He is the facilitator and organizer of the club, but he relies on noted Lincoln player Gary Marks to give instruction to the kids.

Marks, a past president of the Nebraska State Chess Association, provides instruction to higher level kids on Monday nights, bringing a game that has been played by others to be reviewed and used for learning.

“He’s my guru. He spends a lot of time preparing. He puts so much into it,” Fr. Connor said.

Once a month the club has a fun night with pizzas and movies. He keeps the emphasis on fun and the kids respond with a passion for the game they share with the priest.

“The game has all high level critical high thinking skills in it,” he said. “There’s no game like it.”



Ross Ellsworth (left) vs John Stepp

After many years of not seeing John and Ross in tournaments, it is a pleasure to have them back. Both are strong class “A” players who will score high on the wall charts.

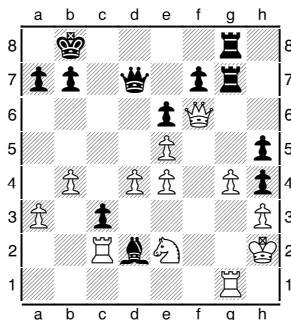
Below is a game between Ross and John that took place during the 2012 Midwest Open. Notes by John Stepp. Welcome back old timers!

Kent Nelson-Gambit co-editor.

White: John Stepp-Black: Ross Ellsworth

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.a3 Qb6 6.Ne2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nh6 8.Bxh6 gxh6 (if Qxb2 then 9 Bxg7) **9.Qd2** (This move was my way of long range multi-tasking, defending and preparing for pressure on h6 for long range and tying down the bishop to the defense of the h6 pawn for the moment) **Na5 10.Nc1 Bd7 11.b4** (I played this after analyzing the consequences of b4 after Nc6!? After Rc8 next threatening Nxb4 and Bb4!! I misplaced one of my knights protecting c3 against the pin against my Queen. That double sacrifice attack on b4 was a tactic I used to win (as Black) against a MIT player in New York City for the UNL team in 1981) I got reminded about this possibility but I played anyway knowing that I would respond with Ne2 followed by Rc1 for triple protection). **Nc4** (This surprised me. I was expecting the quiet Nc6 preparing to attack the b4 square) **12.Bxc4** (Necessary. I was prepared for the blocking of the “c” pawn and try to win it). **dx c4 13.0–0** (I expected a diagonal attack on the g2 pawn but I was confident f3 would hold my position with R f2 if needed). **0–0–0 14.Ne2** I played this with the plan of placing a rook on the c1 square with pinning possibilities on the Black king. The e2 knight would prove very valuable in coving the g1 or g3 squares surrounding my king). **Be6 15.Nbc3** (I had to plan this carefully and cannot afford to lose a tempo as Rg8 is coming up. The knight also prevents a Be4 followed by Bd3 maneuver messing up my pieces). **Rg8 16.f3 Be7** (Why not Bg7 threatening Bxe5 but I had prepared to play Qe3 protecting the e5 square). **17.Ne4** (Stopping any plan involving the f pawn breaks on f6 or the blocking f5. Black should return his bishop to f8 or g7 for reasons given in a previous note). **Bd5 18.Rfb1**(This is the start of my preventing ...Qc6 since I could proceed with 19 b5! With a possible pawn storm). **Bxe4** (This

starts Black's mobilization). 19.fxe4 Rg4 20.Qe3 Bg5 21.Qf3 (best to avoid Qxg4?? Be3+) Rg8 22.Kh1 Bd2 23.Rb2 (A good attacking and defensive move) c3 24.Rc2 Kb8 25.Rg1 (Finally, my Queen is free from bondage) Qd8! (This was critical and I had to analyze my defense of my King) 26.g3 h5 27.h3 R4g7 28.Kh2 h4 29.g4 h5 30.Qf6 Qd7



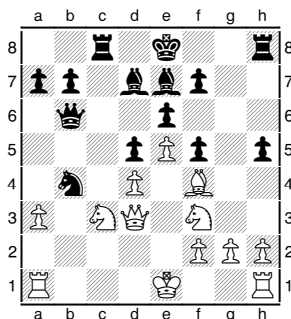
Position after 30...Qd7

(The game notations ended here. I remember at some point playing 31. d5!! in which Black played exd5 and I used 32. Qd6+!! to force exchange of Black's queen. Black's time was expiring down to 48 seconds left in the game. just as Black resigned several moves later after losing a rook in time pressure).

Here is the MIT player game I mentioned in my notes against Ross.

Essa (1936) MIT -Stepp (1880) UNL, 1980 Pan American Intercollegiate Tournament, Atlanta Georgia.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nge7 8.b4 Nf5 9.Bb2 h5 10.Bd3 g6 11.Bxf5 gxf5 12.Nc3 Bd7 13.Bc1 Be7 14.Bf4 Rc8 15.Qd3 Nxb4!



Position after 15...Nxb4!

(16. axb4 Rxc3! 17. Qxc3 Bb4) This was the tactics memory I remembered about that game that 31 years later to remind me to guard against. 16. axb4 Qxa1 and Black won. There is a complete score in **The Gambit** archives at Nebraska State Historical Society.

John Stepp recently played in the 37th Annual Polar Bear scoring 2-2 against very tough competition. In the game below, John defeats California expert Ted Belanoff after Ted's shocking 20.exf5?? blunder.

White: Ted Belanoff

Black: John Stepp

Event: 37th Annual Polar Bear

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.a4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bc4 e6 6.d3 Be7 7.g4 Nf6 8.g5 Nd7 9.Bf4 Nd4 10.h4 Qa5 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.a5 Qc7 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.Ne2 b5 15.axb6 Qxb6 16.f4 Bb7 17.Ba5 Qc5 18.b4 Qa7 19.f5 exf5 20.exf5?? Bxh1 0-1

After this game Ted was paired against me-Kent N. The Stepp game must have made him mad. Ted made me look silly and won easily.

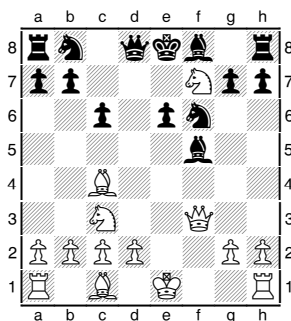
John defeated Dan Dostal using a little known gambit and a nice tactic.

White: John Stepp

Black: Dan Dostal

Event: 37th Annual Polar Bear.

1.e4 d5 2.Nf3 dxe4 3.Ng5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Bc4 e6 6.f3 exf3 7.Qxf3 c6 8.Nxf7



Position after 8 Nxf7

Kxf7 9.Qxf5 Qd6 10.Ne4 Ke7 11.Nxd6 exf5 12.Nxf5+ Ke8 13.d4 g6 14.Nh6 Bxh6 15.Bxh6 Nd5 16.0-0 Kd7 17.Rad1 Na6 18.Rf7+ Ke6 19.Rxb7 Kf5 20.Bxa6 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.

The first tournament of 2012 was the UNO event on January 14th at the Student Union on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. By tournament director Mike Gooch’s account, there were no fist fights with lots of nice people quietly playing chess. Could not have been better Mike said. UNO provides a great venue although because they close their doors at 5:00 p.m. resulting in the time controls being some what short. There were a total of 43 players in various sections. Results given below and on the proceeding pages.

Report by Mike Gooch and Kent Nelson

UNO Event 1/14/12 Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	J. Wagner	1981	W 4	W 5	W 3	3.0
2	J. Knapp	2016	W 7	L 3	W 8	2.0
3	Doug Given	1818	W 9	W 2	L 1	2.0
4	B. Li	1717	L 1	W 9	W 10	2.0
5	B. Fabrikant	1989	W 8	L 1	D 6	1.5
6	K. Nelson	1812	D 10	D 7	D 5	1.5
7	J. Wan	1841	L 2	D 6	H 0	1.0
8	J. Stepp	1814	L 5	W 10	L 2	1.0
9	C. Forsman	1671	L 3	L 4	B 0	1.0
10	D. Dostal	1526	D 6	L 8	L 4	. 5

UNO Event 1/14/12
Reserve Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	A. Suresh	1058	W 7	W 15	W 5	W 3	4-0
2	S. Potineni	1083	W 16	D 5	W 6	W 8	3.5
3	V. Retineni	1191	W 10	W 14	W 8	L 1	3.0
4	G. Revesz	1001	L 5	W 16	W 15	W 9	3.0
5	J. Selvaraj	1291	W 4	D 2	L 1	W 10	2.5
6	H. McMinn	1057	D 15	W 7	L 2	W 12	2.5
7	A. Wolzen	1265	L 1	L 6	W 16	W 14	2.0
8	G. Brown	1154	W 11	W 12	L 3	L 2	2.0
9	A. McFayden	1087	L 12	W 11	W 14	L 4	2.0
10	K. Siverling	979	L 3	W 13	W 12	L 5	2.0
11	T. Gulizia	938	L 8	L 9	W 13	W 15	2.0
12	T. Benetz	1410	W 9	L 8	L 10	L 6	1.0
13	David Given	1318	L 14	L 10	L 11	W 16	1.0
14	V. Noronha	962	W 13	L 3	L 9	L 7	1.0
15	R. Siverling	1022	D 6	L 1	L 4	L 11	0.5
16	A. Jaddu	921	L 2	L 4	L 7	L 13	0.0

UNO Event 1/14/12
Junior Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	C. Revesz	685	W 13	W 2	L 3	W 6	W 8	4.0
2	L. Fangman	626	W 17	L 1	W 13	W 7	W 5	4.0
3	J. Schimpf	626	W 8	W 11	W 1	L 5	D 6	3.5
4	C. Baker 11	613	W 7	D 6	L 5	W 15	W 10	3.5
5	S. Chokkara	547	D 16	W 10	W 4	L 3	L 2	3.5
6	J. Alexander	821	W 12	D 4	W 14	L 1	D 3	3.0
7	J. Kelly	752	L 4	W 16	W 12	L 2	W 14	3.0
8	C Groff	Unr	L 3	W 17	W 11	W 14	L 1	3.0
9	C. Kirilov	562	L 11	L 12	B 0	W 16	W 13	3.0
10	S. Selvaraj	343	D 15	L 5	W 17	W 11	L 4	2.0
11	E. Siverling	676	W 9	L 3	L 8	L 10	W 15	2.0
12	C. Talbert	Unr	L 6	W 9	L 7	L 13	W 17	2.0
13	V. Potineni	269	L 1	B 0	L 2	W 12	L 9	2.0
14	K. Grobe	182	B 0	W 15	L 6	L 8	L 7	2.0
15	A. Filipi	742	D 10	L 14	W 16	L 4	L 11	1.5
16	M. Chambers	Unr	D 5	L 7	L 15	L 9	B 0	1.5
17	S. Revesz	427	L 2	L 8	L 10	B 0	L 12	1.0

2012 Midwest Open

The 2012 Midwest Open was held on February 11th in conjunction with the Nebraska State Team tournament in Boys Town, Omaha. Sole winner of this event was Joe Knapp with 3.5 out of 4 points. Joe qualifies for 2012 Nebraska State Closed Championship with his victory. Michael Gooch and Drew Tyden and others directed the event.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	J. Knapp	2011	W 10	W 7	D 2	W 3	3.5
2	Doug Given	1842	W 11	W 4	D 1	D 5	3.0
3	J. Wan	1833	W 16	W 8	W 9	L 1	3.0
4	B. Li	1779	W 19	W 2	W 16	W 9	3.0
5	R. Kappel	1689	W 17	W 14	D 6	D 2	3.0
6	R. Ellsworth	1946	W 15	L 9	D 5	W 11	2.5
7	K. Nelson	1810	W 13	L 1	W 10	D 8	2.5
8	J. Hartmann	1733	W 18	L 3	W 15	D 7	2.5
9	J. Stepp	1805	W 12	L 6	L 3	L 4	2.0
10	C. Forsman	1699	L 1	W 12	L 7	W 16	2.0
11	G. Revesz	1102	L 2	W 19	W 18	L 6	2.0
12	E. Barnes	973	L 9	L 10	W 19	W 15	2.0
13	S. Sharp	759	L 7	L 16	W 17	W 18	2.0
14	L. Fangman	732	H	L 5	H	H	1.5
15	David Given	1224	L 6	W 17	L 8	L 12	1.0
16	G. Brown	1163	L 3	W 13	L 4	L 10	1.0
17	E. Griffiths	Unr	L 5	L 15	L 13	W 19	1.0
18	W. Hunter	Unr	L 8	H	L 11	L 13	0.5
19	A. Findley	Unr	L 4	L 11	L 12	L 17	0-0

Nebraska State Team Tournament 2/2/12

K-3 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	M. Combs	Unr	W 13	W 9	W 8	W 7	W 4	5.0
2	W. Dunkleman	Unr	W 18	L 7	W 14	W 5	W 8	4.0
3	S. Corey	Unr	B	W 13	L 4	W 9	W 7	4.0
4	K. Feldhaus	Unr	W 17	W 19	W 3	W 11	L 1	4.0
5	A. Simetich	Unr	W 10	D 6	W 21	L 2	W 12	3.5
6	C. Mahoney	Unr	W 20	D 5	L 7	W 15	W 13	3.5
7	T. Kerkman	Unr	W 12	W 2	W 6	L 1	L 3	3.0
8	C. Hardy	Unr	W 11	W 16	L 1	W 10	L 2	3.0
9	J. Kerkman	101	W 14	L 1	W 19	L 3	W 17	3.0
10	W. Durlia	Unr	L 5	W 20	W 15	L 8	D 11	2.5
11	R. Mahoney	Unr	L 8	W 18	W 16	L 4	D 10	2.5
12	I. Kidder	Unr	L 7	D 14	W 20	W 19	L 5	2.5
13	C. Baker	Unr	L 1	L 3	W 18	W 21	L 6	2.0
14	B. Thrasher	Unr	L 9	D 12	L 2	W 20	D 18	2.0
15	C. Kumke	191	L 19	W 17	L 10	L 6	W 21	2.0
16	A. Waido	Unr	W 21	L 8	L 11	L 17	W 19	2.0
17	J. Beller	Unr	L 4	L 15	B	W 16	L 9	2.0
18	C. Combs	Unr	L 2	L 11	L 13	B	D 14	1.5
19	D. Stedronsky	Unr	W 15	L 4	L 9	L 12	L 16	1.0
20	B. Eckel	Unr	L 6	L 10	L 12	L 14	B	1.0
21	B. Kidder	Unr	L 16	B	L 5	L 13	L 15	1.0

Nebraska State Team Tournament 2/2/12

K-6 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	D. Schlautman	821	W 37	W 30	W 7	W 9	W 14	5.0
2	I. Krings	700	W 11	W 15	W 14	W 7	W 8	5.0
3	Z. Kerkan	672	W 19	W 28	W 25	W 18	W 10	5.0
4	T. Feldhaus	854	W 31	W 16	D 18	W 13	W 12	4.5
5	C. Corpuz	1038	W 8	W 24	W 9	L 10	W 11	4.0
6	C. Schlautman	684	W 26	W 22	L 13	W 27	W 18	4.0
7	Claire Revesz	804	W 21	W 32	L 1	L 2	W 22	3.0
8	H. Drvol	Unr	L 5	W 35	W 19	W 21	L 2	3.0
9	R. Kim	730	W 35	W 10	L 5	L 1	W 21	3.0
10	A. Stumpff	Unr	W 29	L 9	W 23	W 5	L 3	3.0
11	C. Aldrich	Unr	L 2	W 34	W 22	W 16	L 5	3.0
12	S. Stumpff	Unr	L 20	W 29	W 17	W 15	L 4	3.0
13	M. Mandolfo	544	X	L 14	W 6	L 4	W 24	3.0
14	C. Kirilov	482	W 27	W 13	L 2	W 23	L 1	3.0
15	T. Waido	Unr	W 25	L 2	W 32	L 12	W 30	3.0
16	J. Gathje	288	W 34	L 4	W 24	L 11	W 27	3.0
17	J. Eckel	376	L 28	W 31	L 12	W 33	W 26	3.0
18	C. Baker 11	729	W 33	W 20	D 4	L 3	L 6	2.5
19	C. Groff	632	L 3	W 38	L 8	D 20	W 32	2.5
20	P. Dodson	453	W 12	L 18	L 21	D 19	W 31	2.5
21	J. Jessen	Unr	L 7	W 26	W 20	L 8	L 9	2.0

Nebraska State Team Tournament 2/2/12**K-6 Section****Continued from previous page**

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
22	A. Gnuse	Unr	W 36	L 6	L 11	W 28	L 7	2.0
23	J. Kumke	458	L 24	W 33	L 10	L 14	W 35	2.0
24	M. Taken	Unr	W 23	L 5	L 16	W 36	L 13	2.0
25	M. Mandolfo	409	L 15	W 37	L 3	W 26	W 36	2.0
26	J. Stedronsky	Unr	L 6	L 21	W 34	W 25	L 17	2.0
27	P. Stahlnecker	Unr	L 14	W 36	W 28	L 6	L 16	2.0
28	A. Boerner	161	W 17	L 3	L 27	L 22	W 38	2.0
29	J. McKaig	221	L 10	L 12	L 31	W 34	W 33	2.0
30	G. Whitt	104	B	L 1	W 33	W 35	L 15	2.0
31	Jose Lopez	Unr	L 4	L 17	W 29	D 32	L 20	1.5
32	A. Davis 111	Unr	W 38	L 7	L 15	D 31	L 19	1.5
33	Jesus Lopez	Unr	L 18	L 23	W 30	L 17	L 29	1.0
34	D. Olexo	Unr	L 16	L 11	L 26	L 29	W 37	1.0
35	Messiah Tiller	Unr	L 9	L 8	W 37	L 30	L 23	1.0
36	Isabella Simetich	Unr	L 22	L 27	W 38	L 24	L 25	1.0
37	Sara Bradshaw	Unr	L 1	L 25	L 35	D 38	L 34	0.5
38	Z. Thompson	Unr	L 32	L 19	L 36	D 37	L 28	0.5

Nebraska State Team Tournament 2/2/12

K-9 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	A. Suresh	1279	W 23	W 10	W 4	D 2	W 3	4.5
2	V. Retineni	1236	W 10	W 11	W 7	D 1	W 9	4.5
3	S. Potineni	1223	W 14	W 8	W 17	W 6	L 1	4.0
4	A. Jaddu	885	W 18	W 23	L 1	W 17	W 7	4.0
5	J. Selvaraj	1287	W 21	W 12	D 6	L 9	W 13	3.5
6	J. McElderry	1010	W 8	W 22	D 5	L 3	W 12	3.5
7	V. Menon	Unr	W 20	W 15	L 2	W 14	L 4	3.0
8	D. Leija	781	L 6	L 3	W 21	W 23	W 20	3.0
9	T. Munoz	540	L 17	W 13	W 16	W 5	L 2	3.0
10	N. Walsh	303	L 2	L 1	W 22	W 20	W 17	3.0
11	M. Russell	274	B	L 2	L 20	W 22	W 21	3.0
12	B. Watkins	Unr	W 19	L 5	W 23	D 13	L 6	2.5
13	A. Shelby	Unr	W 15	L 9	W 18	D 12	L 5	2.5
14	M. Vaness	Unr	L 3	W 16	D 19	L 7	W 23	2.5
15	R. Perales	Unr	L 13	L 7	B	W 19	D 16	2.5
16	S. Revesz	336	W 22	L 14	L 9	W 18	D 15	2.5
17	C. Talbert	440	W 9	W 21	L 3	L 4	L 10	2.0
18	B. Freemont	Unr	L 4	B	L 13	L 16	W 19	2.0
19	J. Daniels	Unr	L 12	W 20	D 14	L 15	L 18	1.5
20	I. Manis	Unr	L 7	L 19	W 11	L 10	L 8	1.0
21	S. Gunn	144	L 5	L 17	L 8	B	L 11	1.0
22	P. Luttig	Unr	L 16	L 6	L 10	L 11	B	1.0
23	Anna Nguyen	Unr	L 1	L 4	L 12	L 8	L 14	0-0

Pictures from Recent Events
Photos courtesy of Ray Kappel
2012 Midwest Open
2012 State Team Championships
37th Annual Polar Bear



The 2012 Individual Scholastic Chess Championship was held at the North American Martyrs Church in Lincoln on February 25th, 2012. There was four sections. In the K-3 section four players tied with 4 points. The players are Justin Kerkman, Gregory Revesz, Sumeet Chokkara and Tyler Kerkman. In the K-6 section, Isaac Krings and Travis Feldhaus tied for first and where declared state co-champions. The K-8 section was won by Joseph Wan with a perfect 5.0 score. The K-12 section was won by Caravaggio Caniglia a freshman from Brownell Talbot School in Omaha. Joseph Wan will represent Nebraska to the Dewain K. Barber National Tournament and Caravaggio Caniglia will represent Nebraska in the National High School Denker Tournament.

The tournament was organized and presided over by Gary Marks along with Mike Gooch and his support staff. All did a great job. Nebraska is lucky to have these professionals working for us. –Report provided by MG with editing by KN.

2012 Individual Scholastic K-3 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	J. Kerkman	101	B—	W 4	L 3	W 8	W 2	4.0
2	G. Revesz	1001	W 14	W 8	W 7	W 3	L 1	4.0
3	S. Chokkara	547	W 5	W 10	W 1	L 2	W 12	4.0
4	T. Kerkman	Unr.	W 15	L 1	W 5	W 11	W 6	4.0
5	C. Hardy	550	L 3	W 14	L 4	W 9	W 10	3.0
6	J. Wang	Unr	L 8	W 13	W 10	W 7	L 4	3.0
7	C. Kumke	191	W 13	W 9	L 2	L 6	W 11	3.0
8	B. Dalton	Unr	W 6	L 2	D 9	L 1	W 15	2.5
9	A. Waido	Unr	W 12	L 7	D 8	L 5	W 14	2.5
10	K. Keldhaus	Unr	W 11	L 3	L 6	W 13	L 5	2.0
11	B. Thomsen	Unr	L 10	W 15	W 12	L 4	L 7	2.0
12	L. Snyder	282	L 9	B—	L 11	W 14	L 3	2.0
13	H. Johs	Unr	L 7	L 6	B—	L 10	H—	1.5
14	C. Horne	Unr	L 2	L 5	W 15	L 12	L 9	1.0
15	L. Kelly	Unr	L 4	L 11	L 14	B—	L 8	1.0

2012 Individual Scholastic K-6 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	I. Krings	700	W 15	D 2	W 3	W 11	W 4	4.5
2	T. Feldhaus	854	W 18	D 1	W 10	W 4	W 6	4.5
3	C. Corpuz	1038	W 13	D 10	L 1	W 12	W 7	3.5
4	D. Schlautman	821	W 17	W 8	W 6	L 2	L 1	3.0
5	S. Thomsen	Unr	L 12	W 17	L 11	W 16	W 14	3.0
6	C. Schlautman	684	W 7	W 11	L 4	W 13	L 2	3.0
7	T. Nabity	Unr	L 6	W 14	W 9	W 8	L 3	3.0
8	C. Groff	Unr	W 9	L 4	W 12	L 7	W 13	3.0
9	W. Svoboda	651	L 8	W 12	L 7	W 10	W 11	3.0
10	C. Revesz	685	W 16	D 3	L 2	L 9	W 15	2.5
11	J. Kelly	752	W 14	L 6	W 5	L 1	L 9	2.0
12	Z. Kerkman	672	W 5	L 9	L 8	L 3	W 16	2.0
13	J. Kumke	458	L 3	W 16	W 18	L 6	L 8	2.0
14	D. Duong	434	L 11	L 7	W 15	W 18	L 5	2.0
15	N. Hgu	164	L 1	D 18	L 14	W 17	L 10	1.5
16	C. Aldrich	Unr	L 10	L 13	W 17	L 5	L 12	1.0
17	A. Meyerle	436	L 4	L 5	L 16	L 15	W 18	1.0
18	P. Dodson	453	L 2	D 15	L 13	L 14	L 17	0.5

2012 Individual Scholastic K-8 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	J. Wan	1696	W 6	W 2	W 3	W 4	W 5	5.0
2	J. Selvarj	1291	W 4	L 1	W 5	W 3	W 6	4.0
3	V. Retineni	1191	W 7	W 5	L 1	L 2	B—	3.0
4	J. Rehwaldt	821	L 2	B—	W 6	L 1	W 7	3.0
5	S. Revesz	427	B—	L 3	L 2	W 7	L 1	2.0
6	S. Rotineni	1083	L 1	W 7	L 4	B—	L 2	2.0
7	C. Talbert	Unr	L 3	L 6	B—	L 5	L 4	1.0

2012 Individual Scholastic K-12 Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	C. Caniglia	1257	W 6	L 2	W 5	W 3	W 4	4.0
2	B. Li	1771	W 5	W 1	D 3	L 4	W 6	3.5
3	M. Hezel	1256	W 8	W 4	D 2	L 1	W 5	3.5
4	A. McFayden	1087	W 7	L 3	W 6	W 2	L 1	3.0
5	H. McMinn	1057	L 2	W 7	L 1	W 8	L 3	2.0
6	M. Russel	745	L 1	W 8	L 4	W 7	L 2	2.0
7	D. Smith	540	L 4	L 5	W 8	L 6	U—	1.0
8	R. Inman	620	L 3	L 6	L 7	L 5	U—	0-0

This team event was held at Omaha Gross on March 3rd 2012. Millard North won first place followed by Creighton Prep and then Omaha Central. Boys Town also played well. The event was directed by Mike Gooch with assistance by John Hartmann.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	B. Li	1752	W 11	W 16	W 8	W 2	W 4	5.0
2	T. Samiev	1248	W 10	W 14	W 3	L 1	W 6	4.0
3	D. Kries	915	W 7	W 12	L 2	W 17	W 8	4.0
4	T. Gulizia	1008	W 19	D 5	W 15	W 14	L 1	3.5
5	A. Mc Intosh	838	W 20	D 4	W 12	L 6	W 13	3.5
6	H.McMinn	1125	W 9	L 8	W 7	W 5	L 2	3.0
7	C. Chavez	Unr	L 3	W 21	L 6	W 16	W 17	3.0
8	R. Hauke Jr	821	W 18	W 6	L 1	W 9	L 3	3.0
9	A. Stein	722	L 6	W 19	W 16	L 8	W 14	3.0
10	H. Hawbaker	703	L 2	W 18	L 14	W 21	W 15	3.0
11	M. Russell	785	L 1	W 23	L 20	W 22	W 18	3.0
12	M. Hezel	1297	W 17	L 3	L 5	D 15	W 20	2.5
13	H. Zaleski	617	D 15	L 17	W 23	W 20	L 5	2.5
14	E. Barnes	1077	W 23	L 2	W 10	L 4	L 9	2.0
15	R. Luo	1020	D 13	W 22	L 4	D 12	L 10	2.0
16	A. Zaleski	1010	W 21	L 1	L 9	L 7	W 22	2.0
17	S. Sharp	793	L 12	W 13	W 22	L 3	L 7	2.0
18	S. Kerrey	Unr	L 8	L 10	W 19	W 23	L 11	2.0
19	J. Thordarsal	Unr	L 4	L 9	L 18	B	W 21	2.0
20	A. Findley	284	L 5	B	W 11	L 13	L 12	2.0
21	E. Griffiths	629	L 16	L 7	B	L 10	L 19	1.0
22	J. Costello	345	B	L 15	L 17	L 11	L 16	1.0
23	M. Gilgenast	Unr	L 14	L 11	L 13	L 18	B	1.0



The 37th Annual Polar Bear tournament was held on Saturday, March 17th 2012 at the North American Martyrs School in Lincoln. The tournament was divided into four sections and was supported by 62 players. In the Open section, (results below) **Joseph Wan** won clear 1st scoring 3.5 out of 4 points. Joseph is in grade school and is nearly invincible with his strong play. The Reserve section was won by **Kevin Jerger** with 3.5 points out of 4. Kevin is an unrated player with a performance rating of 1556 after 4 games. The 17 player Primary section was won by **Sumeet Chokkara** with a perfect 5.0 score followed by **Cole Hardy** with 4 points. Rounding out the section winners was **Aidan Nelson** (no relation to Kent Nelson) who won the Junior section with a perfect 5.0 score. The tournament was organized by **Gary Marks** who experienced a bout of kidney stones just prior to the tournament which prevented his attendance for most of the event. **Mike Gooch** filled in for Gary and Mike did his usual top notch directing. This reporter was pleased to see **Dan Wolk** in attendance, playing in the Reserve section. Dan and I go way back to high school days. **Ross Ellsworth** played in the Open section. Good to see Ross playing again as well as **John Stepp** after a layoff of many years. California expert, **Ted Belanoff**, on his way to New York, was a welcome guest to the Nebraska chess community-*Kent Nelson*.

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	J. Wan	1848	W 7	W 8	W 5	D 3	3.5
2	B. Li	1755	L 3	W 4	W 9	W 5	3.0
3	T. Belanoff	2092	W 2	L 5	W 8	D 1	2.5
4	R. Ellsworth	1927	H	L 2	W 7	W 9	2.5
5	J. Stepp	1798	W 9	W 3	L 1	L 2	2.0
6	R. Kappel	1705	L 8	D 7	B	U	1.5
7	C. Forsman	1688	L 1	D 6	L 4	B	1.5
8	K. Nelson	1809	W 6	L 1	L 3	U	1.0
9	D. Dostal	1525	L 5	B	L 2	L 4	1.0

So what is a Polar Bear?

(besides the obvious of course!)

A Polar Bear is a chess player who is barelegged from above the knee to the top of the socks throughout the entire tournament, based on natural clothing length (i.e.no rolled up pants). All Polar Bears are eligible for the special Polar Bear Champion trophies and will receive \$3 dollars back at the end of the tournament.

37th Annual Polar Bear Reserve Section							
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	K. Jerger	Unr	W 13	W 11	D 5	W 6	3.5
2	M. Hansen	1342	D 3	W 15	D 6	W 5	3.0
3	K. Siverling	1064	D 2	D 7	W 15	W 12	3.0
4	G. Revesz	1068	L 5	W 14	W 10	W 8	3.0
5	D. Wolk	1346	W 4	W 8	D 1	L 2	2.5
6	T. Benetz	1326	W 9	W 12	D 2	L 1	2.5
7	J. Selvaraj	1303	L 12	D 3	W 14	W 11	2.5
8	K. Hruska	1159	W 14	L 5	W 9	L 4	2.0
9	L. Fangman	731	L 6	W 13	L 8	W 15	2.0
10	T. Hafner	467	L 11	B	L 4	W 13	2.0
11	A. Wolzen	1230	W 10	L 1	D 12	L 7	1.5
12	I. Krings	1030	W 7	L 6	D 11	L 3	1.5
13	S. Potineni	1169	L 1	L 9	B	L 10	1.0
14	M. Theil	Unr	L 8	L 4	L 7	B	1.0
15	R. Bryant	318	B	L 2	L 3	L 9	1.0

37th Annual Polar Bear Primary Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	S. Chokkara	764	W 2	W 6	W 5	W 3	W 4	5.0
2	C. Hardy	536	L 1	W 17	W 7	W 9	W 5	4.0
3	P. Soni	Unr	D 9	W 7	W 10	L 1	W 11	3.5
4	J. Wang	457	W 16	D 10	W 11	W 8	L 1	3.5
5	E. Mott	Unr	W 8	W 14	L 1	W 12	L 2	3.0
6	T. Nabity	Unr	W 15	L 1	L 8	W 16	W 12	3.0
7	C. Harris	105	B	L 3	L 2	W 13	W 14	3.0
8	S. Selvaraj	491	L 5	B	W 6	L 4	D 9	2.5
9	R. Tatineni	Unr	D 3	D 12	W 14	L 2	D 8	2.5
10	V. Potineni	317	W 13	D 4	L 3	L 11	W 16	2.5
11	A. Waid	231	D 12	W 16	L 4	W 10	L 3	2.5
12	S. McManus	Unr	D 11	D 9	W 13	L 5	L 6	2.0
13	B. Dalton	443	L 10	W 15	L 12	L 7	B	2.0
14	M. Marcoux	103	W 17	L 5	L 9	W 15	L 7	2.0
15	B. Wood	Unr	L 6	L 13	B	L 14	W 17	2.0
16	C. Horne	105	L 4	L 11	W 17	L 6	L 10	1.0
17	B. Eckel	101	L 14	L 2	L 16	B	L 15	1.0

White: Joshua Lehman Black: Aidan Nelson, Polar Bear

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.d3 d6 7.Bg5 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.Ne2 Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Bb3 Qd6 15.e4 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Nd7 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Nb6 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Rfe1 Rfe8 21.Qf3 Re7 22.Qg4 h6 23.Bb5 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 a6 25.Bc4 h5 26.Qf5 g6 27.Qe4 Kg7 28.Rd1 Nxc4 29.Qxc4 e4 30.Qc3+ Kh7 31.Qa3 Qc7 32.dxe4 Rxe4 33.Qd6 Qc2 34.Qd3 Qc6 35.Qb3 Qc7 36.Qd5 Re6 37.Qd7 Qf4 38.g3 Qf3 39.Rd3 Re1+ 40.Kh2 Qh1mate. *A very hard fought game and a credit to both players-Kent Nelson*

37th Annual Polar Bear-Junior Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	A. Nelson	1005	W 16	W 7	W 5	W 2	W 4	5.0
2	R. Siverling	956	W 12	W 3	W 10	L 1	W 9	4.0
3	P. Rajan	620	W 11	L 2	W 19	W 10	W 6	4.0
4	J. Lehman	980	W 15	W 13	W 6	D 5	L 1	3.5
5	C. Revesz	772	W 20	W 9	L 1	D 4	W 11	3.5
6	C. Corpuz	1000	W 17	W 8	L 4	W 13	L 3	3.0
7	C. Groff	723	W 14	L 1	L 9	W 20	W 15	3.0
8	R. Marcoux	725	W 21	L 6	W 18	L 9	W 16	3.0
9	S. Clegg	466	W 19	L 5	W 7	W 8	L 2	3.0
10	N. Ugu	230	B	W 17	L 2	L 3	W 13	3.0
11	T. Nabity	810	L 3	D 12	W 17	W 15	L 5	2.5
12	J. Eckel	386	L 2	D 11	L 15	W 21	W 14	2.5
13	E. Siverling	625	X	L 4	W 14	L 6	L 10	2.0
14	C. Aldrich	546	L 7	W 16	L 13	W 19	L 12	2.0
15	S. Revesz	470	L 4	B	W 12	L 11	L 7	2.0
16	D. Duong	443	L 1	L 14	B	W 18	L 8	2.0
17	C. Talbert	440	L 6	L 10	L 11	B	W 20	2.0
18	B. Harris	Unr	F	W 21	L 8	L 16	W 19	2.0
19	S. Wilke	Unr	L 9	W 20	L 3	L 14	L 18	1.0
20	A. Davis	272	L 5	L 19	W 21	L 7	L 17	1.0
21	M. Texel	Unr	L 8	L 18	L 20	L 12	B	1.0

Hartmann's Corner

by

John Hartmann

When I was a callow youth, reading my issues of *Inside Chess* and dreaming of chess stardom, one of my most cherished goals was to play in a 'real' tournament like the big boys did. By 'real,' of course, I meant the glamorous round robins that are the staples of high-elo players: Linares, Wijk aan Zee, Dortmund, Reggio Emilio. Well, Davenport may not be Linares, but for me, it was pretty darned exciting!

Bill Broich, our Iowan neighbor, has taken it upon himself to increase the number of FIDE rated players on the Plains. He has started organizing closed tournaments for stronger players designed specifically towards this end. The first was in Ames in December of last year, and the second was held in Davenport in January. More events are forthcoming, so if you're interested in such things, let me know!

I managed to snag myself a spot in the January tournament, and I think I acquitted myself rather well. I scored 1.5/5 against a field that out-rated me by an average of 300 elo points. Of course, you can be the judge of my play, as the games are given below.

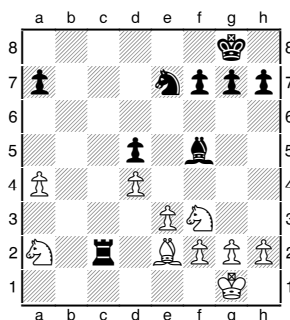
One of the more interesting facets of round robin play – especially for an obsessive perfectionist like me – involves scouting of opponents and opening preparation. Because you know who you'll be playing, and with what color, you can really focus in on likely lines of play. Towards this end, I ordered back issues of Iowa's 'En Passant' magazine and scoured the Internet for game scores. Keating, Gatica and Eichhorn played into my preparation, while Ellis avoided it completely. I gained 22 rating points in all. Not too shabby!

(1) Peralta,Luis (1939) – Hartmann,John (1711) [D32]

FIDE RR #2 (1), 07.01.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bxe7 Ngxe7 8.e3 c4 [8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Be2 Be6 11.0-0 Qd7 12.Rc1 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Nc6 14.Qa4 Rfd8 Later, Martin very generously offered a draw. He went 8-1 (7 wins, two draws). Martin,Andrew–Hartmann,J / Clock Simul G/90 Davenport 2011/[Hartmann] (35)] **9.a4?! [9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0; 9.e4?! dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bf5 11.Nc3 (11.Ned2 b5) 11...Be6] 9...0-0 10.b3 Qa5 11.Rc1 cxb3 12.Qxb3 Be6! 13.Qxb7?! Rab8 14.Qa6 Qb4! 15.Be2 Rb6?! [15...Bf5 16.Bd1 Qa3!-+ (16...Rb6 and I thought Black was only slightly better. 17.Qe2)] 16.Qd3 Bf5 17.Qd2?! [17.Qd1 Na5 18.0-0 Rc8 19.Na2 Qa3 20.Rxc8+ Nxc8 21.Nc1 Nd6±] 17...Na5 18.0-0? [18.Bd1 Nc4 19.Qa2 Rc8☞] 18...Nb3 19.Qa2 Nxc1 20.Rxc1 Rc8 21.Qa1 Rbc6 22.Na2 Rxc1+ 23.Nxc1 Qc3 24.Qxc3 Rxc3 25.Na2 Rc2 0-1**



Final Position-White Resigns

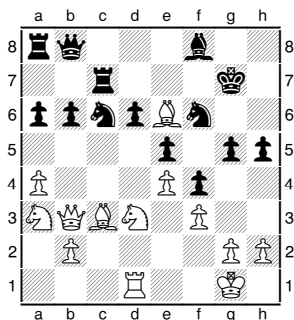
(2) Hartmann,John (1711) – Keating,Robert (2206) [E99]

FIDE RR #2 (2), 07.01.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bd2 g5 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.c5 Nf6 15.Nb5 Rf7 16.Ba5 b6 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Bb4 Bf8 19.Rc6 as played in Shankland–Nyzhnyk, 2011 (Inf 112/315) [19.Qb3 was previously played by one of Keating's opponents. See Tyagi,K (2033)–Keating,R (2127)/Iowa Closed Ch 2011.] **19...Ne8 20.a4 h5 21.Nf2 Bd7 [21...Nh4 was Nyzhnyk's choice.] 22.Qb3 a6N** Deviating from my preparation. This is a fairly obvious move, and one that I should have prepared better for. But one can only remember so much analysis! **23.Na3?! 23.Nc3** is

required in this specific position. Concrete calculation trumps general principles! [23.Nc3! Bxc6 (23...Ne7 24.Bc4 Rf6 25.Ba3 Bxc6 26.dxc6+ Kg7 27.Bd5∞) 24.dxc6 Kg7 25.Rc1 Rc7 26.Nd5] **23...Bxc6 24.dxc6 Kg7 25.Rd1?!** [25.Bc4 Rc7 26.Qd3 Ne7 27.Bxa6 Nxc6 28.Bc3∞] **25...Rc7 26.Bc4** [26.Nc4 Rxc6 27.Bc3 Qb8 28.a5 b5 29.Nb6 Ra7 30.Nd5 Nf6 31.Nxf6 Kxf6 32.Nd3⌘] **26...Ne7 27.Nd3 Nxc6 28.Bc3 Qb8 29.Bd5 Nf6 30.Be6?!**



Position after 30.Be6?!

Rightly criticized by Keating after the game. The bishop really doesn't do much here. I had visions of Be6–f5 and Qe6, but these are hallucinations more than anything else. [30.Nb4 Na5 31.Qc2 Raa7 32.Kh1 Qe8 and it's back to attack] **30...b5 31.axb5** [31.Nc2 bxa4 32.Qxa4 Qb6+ 33.Kh1 g4] **31...axb5 32.Nb4 Na5 33.Qc2 Qe8 34.Nd5** [34.Bd5 Nxd5 35.Nxd5 Rb7 36.Qe2] **34...Nxd5 35.Bxd5 Rac8 36.Qe2 Nc4 37.Bxc4?** [37.Nxc4 bxc4 38.Kh1 and it remains to be seen how Black is going to break through. (Keating)] **37...bxc4 38.Nb5?? Qxb5 0-1**

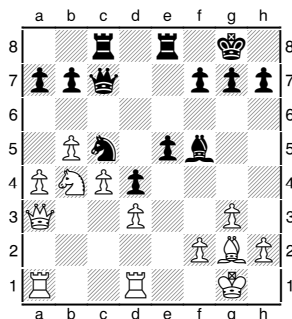
(3) Gatica,Jose (1983) – Hartmann,John (1711) [A14]

FIDE RR #2 (3), 07.01.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.b3 c5 [4...a5 5.Nc3 d4 6.Na4 e5] **5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 Be7 7.e3 0-0 8.Bb2 d4 9.exd4 cxd4 10.d3?!** [10.Re1 Ne8!] **10...Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.Ba3?!** **Qa5 13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.a3 e5 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.b4 Bf5 17.Nh4 Bd7 18.b5 Ne7 19.a4 Rab8 20.Na3 Nf5 21.Qb4+ Kg8 22.Nxf5 Bxf5 23.Red1 Nd7 24.Nc2 Nc5** I offered a draw here. Gatica just played his move. Sadly, we both missed my best continuation. **25.Qa3 Rbc8** I saw, and was playing for, unbalancing material on d3. But I thought I could win an extra pawn by playing Rbc8 first. This is ok, but **25...Nxd3** was much better. [25...Bxd3? 26.Rxd3 Nxd3;

25...Nxd3! 26.Rxd3 Qxc4! this is the intermezzo I missed. 27.Ne1 Bxd3 28.Qxd3 Qe6⌚] **26.Nb4**



Position after 26.Nb4

Be6 [26...Qd6] **27.a5 Red8?! 28.a6 b6 29.Nc6 Rd6?** Half desperation, half blunder. I thought I was just getting crushed. [29...Rd7± but White still has to prove it.] **30.Nxe5 Bf5 31.Re1 Re6 32.f4 Rxe5?** Unwarranted desperation. [32...Rce8 33.Bc6 R8e7 34.Bd5 Rxe5 35.fxe5 g6] **33.Rxe5 Bxd3 34.Rxc5 Qxc5 35.Qxd3 Re8 36.Rd1 g6 37.Bd5 Re3 38.Qxd4 Re1+ 39.Kg2 Rxd1 40.Qxd1 Qe3 41.Qf3 Qd2+ 42.Qf2 Qd3 43.Qe1 Qc2+ 44.Kg1 Qd3 45.Qe8+ Kg7 46.Qxf7+ Kh6 47.Qf8+ Kh5 48.Qe7 Qd1+ 49.Kf2 Qd4+ 50.Qe3 Qb2+? 51.Qe2+ 1-0**

(4) Eichhorn,George (1907) – Hartmann,John (1711)

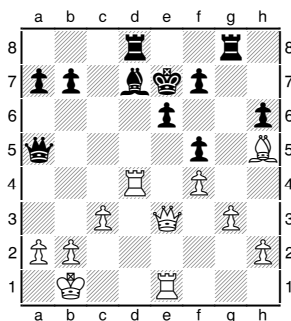
[D01]

FIDE RR #2 (4), 08.01.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.Nc3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Nf3 h6 5.Bh4 e6 6.Qd3 c5 [6...Bb4] **7.dxc5 Nxc5** [7...Bxc5] **8.Qd4 Be7** [8...g5 9.Bg3] **9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.e4?** [10.0-0-0 Bd7 11.e4 dxc4] **10...Nxe4?** [10...dxc4! 11.Qxd8+ (11.Nxe4?? Qxd4; 11.Bb5+ Kf8 12.Qxd8+ Bxd8 13.Nd4 f5⌚) 11...Bxd8 12.Nd4 Ba5 13.Nb3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Nd7] **11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qxe4 Qa5+** [12...Qb6] **13.c3 Qb6 14.0-0-0 Bd7 15.Nd4 Rd8** [15...a5; 15...0-0-0; 15...Rg8 16.Qh7 Rf8 17.Qxh6 e5] **16.Be2 f5 17.Qe5 Rg8 18.g3 Bd6** [18...Qc5] **19.Qe3 Be7** [19...Ba4 20.Rd2 Bc5] **20.Rhe1 Qa5** [20...Bg5 21.f4 Bf6 22.Nxf5 Qxc3+ 23.Nxe3 Bc6 and Black might have comp for the pawn.] **21.Kb1 Bg5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Bh5 Bxd4?** I thought this saved me, taking one attacker off of e6. Whoops! **24.Rxd4** [During the game I preferred

24.Qxd4 Bc8 25.Qf6! Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Rf8 27.Qxh6+-] **24...Ke7?**



Position after 24...Ke7?

25.Bxf7! Kxf7 26.Rxd7+ Rxd7 27.Qxe6+ Kg7 28.Qxd7+ Kg6 29.Re6+ Kh5 30.Qf7+ Kg4 31.Qxg8+ Kf3 32.Re5 Qa4 33.Qd5+ Kg4 34.Re7 Qa6 35.Qd1+ 1-0

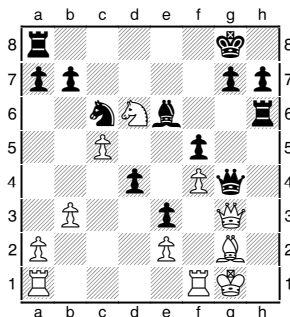
(5) Hartmann,John (1711) – Ellis,James (2086) [E01]

FIDE RR #2 (5), 08.01.2012

[Hartmann,John]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 Uh oh! I had only seen games where Ellis played the Nimzo, and prepared according. One should not play against the Benko without severe preparation, so I bailed. **3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6** [4...e5 5.Nb5 d5 6.cxd5 Bc5 7.N5c3 0-0 8.e3 e4] **5.g3 d5 6.Bg2 e5 7.Nf3 d4 8.0-0 Nc6 9.b3?** [9.e3 Bc5 10.exd4 exd4 11.Re1+ Be6 12.Ng5 0-0 is the book line, but I had no knowledge of it!] **9...Bf5 10.Ba3 Bxa3 11.Nxa3** Already with the idea of Nb5–c7/d6. **11...0-0 12.Nh4 Bg4 13.h3?!** Weakening the kingside. I knew that the bishop would just go to e6, but hoped that I could get enough counterplay with c4–c5 and Na3–b5 to survive. [13.Nc2 Qd7 14.b4 Rfd8] **13...Be6 14.c5 e4** Now ...g5 is a big threat. **15.g4?** [15.Qd2 h6 and ...g5 cannot be stopped. However, White can counter the threat with (15...Qd5 16.Nc4 g5 17.f4! gxh4 18.f5 Bxf5 19.Qg5+ Bg6 20.Qxf6+) 16.Nb5! (I did not see this) 16...g5 (16...Qd7 17.Kh2 g5 18.Nd6 gxh4 19.Qxh6) 17.Nd6 gxh4 18.Qxh6; 15.Bh1? Bxh3 16.Ng2] **15...Nxg4 16.hxg4 Qxh4** [16...Bxg4? 17.f3] **17.f3** [17.Bxc4 Qxg4+ 18.Bg2 Bd5 19.c4+] **17...e3 18.Nc4 f5** [18...Bxc4 19.bxc4 Rae8 20.Rb1 Re7+] **19.Qe1 Qg5** [19...Qxe1 20.Rfxe1 Bxc4 21.bxc4+]]

20.Nd6 Rf6? Not so good. Black is still ahead, but White now has a puncher's chance. [20...fxg4 21.f4 (21.fxg4 Qxg4) 21...Rxf4 22.Qg3 Raf8-+] **21.Qg3! Rh6?** Completely losing the thread. [21...f4 22.Ne4! Qe5 (22...fxg3 23.Nxg5 d3!) 23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.g5 Qc5 25.Qh4 d3 26.exd3 Nd4-+] **22.f4! Qxg4**



Position after 22...Qxg4 Drawn

Drawn on Ellis' offer. After consideration, including psychological consideration, I accepted. I saw the main lines given below, but didn't see a clear advantage and knew that changing from a defensive mindset to a more attacking one would be problematic. [22...Qxg4 23.Qxg4 fxg4 24.Nxb7 (24.f5 Ellis was worried about this move, but I think this is worse than 24.Nxb7. 24...Bc8 25.Rf4 Rf6 26.Rxg4 Bxf5 27.Rf4 Raf8 28.Nxb7) 24...Nb4 (24...Bd7 25.Nd6 Rb8 26.Rad1) 25.Nd6 Rb8 26.f5 Bd5 was examined in the postmortem. Now the best line might be 27.a3 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 Nc6 29.b4 d3 30.exd3 e2 31.Rf2 Nd4 32.Re1 Rh3∞; 22...Qc7 23.gxf5 Bf7 24.Rad1; 22...Qg6? 23.g5 Rh5 24.Nxb7±] ½-½



AWANA Olson Chess 11/12/2011
From left to right
Richard Olson, Mat Glyn, Don Dostal & Jim Swartz
Photo provided by Jim Jirousek

Letter from Jim Jirousek

Hello Kent,

12/23/2011

Bob Woodworth just shared your email about Richard & Suzanne Olson. I was very shocked & saddened.

I had played in his last chess tournament at his house back on Nov 12; 2011 and everyone seemed fine, and Richard & his wife asked me if I may want to play again at his 33rd Merrick County Open in January.

The tournament this past November only had four-five player in it. Myself, (Jim Jirousek) Don Dostal (Omaha), Jim Swartz (Columbus), Matt Glyn (Clarks) and Richard Olson (Clarks). The tournament was not rated (Richard had let his USCF lapse), but was game/45. I don't have all the games, except the ones I played & Don Dostal; but they probably were Richard's last recorded games. I took a few pictures, so these may be their last photos.

The games are on the reverse of this sheet, and were from the Camelot CC Newsletter of 11/18/2011. The red attached game was the last one I played with Richard (Draw), He was a good player and a real gentleman!

Nebraska chess has lost a great asset, and I'll miss them both.

Regards,
Jim Jirousek

Dear Chess friends,
2/5/12

I'm writing to ask for your help for the Olson family. For starters, you may have heard Richard and Suzanne Olson of Clarks Nebraska recently passed away.

I attended their double funerals on December 19th 2011. Richard was buried with full military honors. I recorded their funeral book by signing my name and adding "The Nebraska Chess Community".

Richard and Suzanne Olson were great supporters of Nebraska chess. Richard had annual tournaments for decades, the most recent one in November 2011 at his home in Clarks. As usual, I understand they were wonderful hosts.

This was truly remarkable considering that Richard was in very poor health when the chess tournament occurred.

Now "we" (The Nebraska Chess Community) have an opportunity to give back to the Olson family. To help the Olson children offset costly funeral expenses for both parents; I'm asking you to donate what you can.

After contacting Dan Olson, (Richard & Suzanne's son) I understand the Central City bank will be accepting donations.

Here is the address...
Richard Olson estate
C/o Central Bank
1624 16th St.
Central City, Nebraska
68826

Please give what you can to help the Olson family during this hard time. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Kent B. Nelson
Gambit co-editor

Mike Gooch-A Man of all Seasons



Mike Gooch (right)

Photo by Ray Kappel

Nebraska does not have many chess organizers and we do not have many certified tournament directors either. One organizer/certified director is Mike Gooch. In 2011, Gooch was elected President of the Nebraska State Chess Association (NSCA). Previously, he was the Omaha Vice President of the NSCA. He is also the President of the Omaha Chess Community, Inc., a local, §501(c)(3) non-profit.

Gooch was born in Kansas and raised on the go. His father was in the United States Air Force and, as is customary with military families, moved often). Mike attended Omaha Central High School for two years before moving to Tallahassee , Florida where he graduated. After a stint in the Air Force, Gooch says he moved to Omaha in 1971 “in order to get all four seasons.”

Mike Gooch is married and has two sons, one of whom was a competitive over the board chess player. “Originally my son played chess and I went with him to his tournaments. I began volunteering and working with (fellow Omaha chess organizer) Drew Thyden. He is simply great to work with and even after my son quit actively playing competitive chess, I kept working with Drew,” Gooch said.

Gooch also praises Joe Selvaraj. “Joe does a lot for organized chess, including running the pairing software at many chess

events, encouraging young players, and being a calm and responsible voice in chess matters. Joe and Drew are great friends of chess and motivate me to keep involved in chess.”

Gooch has been a tournament director for several years. The reason he likes that pressure-filled job is that it allows him “to resolve disputes and to get events completed in a civil and enjoyable manner.”

“Teaching younger, less experienced players about the rules (without interfering with the games) and making rulings in a polite, knowledgeable manner is important. Being between adversaries during the heat of battle is important. Making mistakes comes with the job and being able to candidly accept when I have made a mistake also helps make events go smoothly,” he said.

Mike Gooch, himself an Eagle Scout (1965), is also involved as an Assistant Scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop and volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps in Omaha .

Tournament Announcement

Rated Action Chess!

March 31st, 2012

UNO Student Center

4 rounds, Swiss System, G/30 +5sec delay

Event is dual rated

Entry fee: \$20 – *cash only*

Prizes: 90% of entry fees returned, distributed as follows:

1st: 35%

2nd: 25%

3rd: 10%

U1700/unr: 10%

Cumulative Upset Prize: 10%

Schedule:

Registration: 9am – 9:45am

Round 1: 10am

Round 2: 11:15am

Round 3: 1:15pm

Round 4: 2:30pm

Participants are strongly encouraged to ‘pre-register’ by e-mailing the TD and informing him of intent to participate. To play in the first round, you must be registered with entry fee paid by 9:45am – *no exceptions!*

A survey of players will be taken as to the structure of future similar events, including issues regarding entry fees and prizes.

Contact information for TD:

John Hartmann

Email: jrhchess@gmail.com

Tournament Life

Summary

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at
www.Nebraskachess.com

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

Date	Event	Location	Sections
3/31/12	UNO Action	Omaha UNO Student Center	Open
4/13 to 4/14/12	National High School Championship	Minneapolis, MN	K-12 Section
4/21/12	Spring Chess	Brownell- Talbot High School	K-12 Section
4/20 to 4/22/12	Okoboji Open	Okoboji Iowa	Open Section
4/28/12	Fremont Chess Fest	Fremont Nebraska	Scholastic sections
4/28 to 4/29/12	Sioux Falls Open 163 miles north of Omaha	Sioux Falls SD	Open Section
6/4 to 6/8/12	Omaha Chess Camp	Omaha Central	Chess Instruction
7/21 to 7/22/12	Cornhusker State Games	Lincoln	Open and other sections-watch for registration deadline
7/20 to 7/22/12	Kansas Open	Overland Park, Kansas	Open Section
9/29 to 9/30/12	Second Regional Team event	Omaha's CenturyLink formerly QWEST Center	Team event

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE

68510