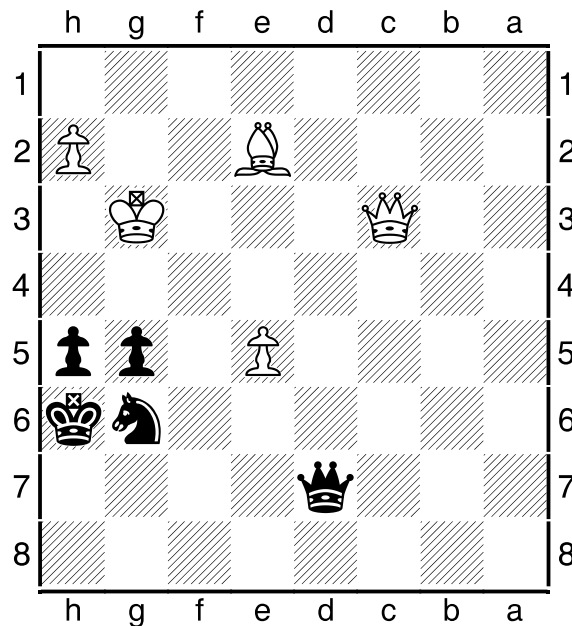


# The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



From "Chess Records" by Tim Krabbe

**Black to play & win**

Position provided by Bob Woodworth

Solution in News & Notes

**August-September 2013**

**Gambit** Editor: Out going editor-Kent Nelson-New editor- **Jerry J Slominski**

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

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

### **Hello to Nebraska Chess Players, Coaches, Parents, and Friends:**

Coming events are exciting. We have the River City Rodeo Team Chess Tournament. The Open will again this year be very strong. We have, for the first time ever, had titled players enter the Open. IM Keaton Kiewra and IM Michael Brooks are each committed to playing. We have a number of very strong “A” players and experts as well. And we have several of Nebraska's strongest high school players bringing teams to the Open section.

Nebraska sent three players to Madison, Wisconsin as our representatives to national chess competitions. Brandon Li earned the spot as our Denker representative to the National Tournament of High School Champions. Joseph Wan earned a spot as our Barber representative to the National Tournament of K-8 Champions. Jacey Tran earned a spot as our representative to the National Girls Invitational Championship. NSCA contributed a modest stipend to help defray the costs associated with each of our champions traveling to Madison. John Hartmann, who is the Nebraska delegate to the United States Chess Federation also traveled to Madison to the annual meeting. He played in the U.S. Open while he was there. NSCA contributed a modest stipend to John to help defray his expenses as well.

We had an interesting debate on the Board concerning the nomination of Jacey. Jacey had just completed the second grade when she won the title as Nebraska Girls State Champion. It was her first ever rated chess tournament. Some folks on the Board worried that if we nominated her and she went to Wisconsin, she might not be very successful and that playing against the state champions from other states might discourage her from staying with chess. Other members of the Board felt that she had earned the title and the nomination. Those Board members felt that Jacey's parents, once warned of the pressures and risks associated with playing in such select company, could decide whether their daughter would be adversely impacted by that level of competition.

Jacey, meanwhile, absolutely loves chess. She worked diligently with Father Brian Connor, with Lincoln chess coach and NSCA Vice President John Linscott, and others over the summer to improve her knowledge of the game. She learned to notate. She learned some opening principles and end game theory. She attended the Omaha Central Chess Camp. And she discussed the risk of not winning or even drawing a single game with Board members and her parents. Throughout the summer, she remained enthusiastic and highly motivated.

The Board consulted Abby Marshall, the only female to win the Denker (the high school championship event), who encouraged her to participate. The Board consulted noted chess author, coach, and Nebraskan IM John Watson,

who diplomatically pointed out some of the potential pitfalls. Ultimately, her parents decided to take their family vacation and go to Madison. Although Jacey played well and seemed to maintain her enthusiasm throughout. She was also not the only second grader or even the lowest rated player in the event.

Nebraska can be proud of Jacey, her parents, and her coaches. It is great to have Jacey represent us.

I do not mean to slight Brandon or Joseph by discussing Jacey's trip to Wisconsin. Both Brandon and Joseph did us proud too. However, both are quite strong and experienced. And both have experience playing in national events.

The point of this long winded review is to remind all Nebraska chess players, of any age, of any gender, of any level of experience that chess is a game best played by those who love it. Congratulations again to our 3 state champions.

Nebraska has been selected to host the 2015 National State Games. There are approximately 30 states which hold annual state games. Each state defines which sports and activities are offered for its state games. Nebraska is one of only three states to offer a chess competition as part of its state games.

The most participants in a National State Games in the past has been around 8,000 or 9,000. This year, Nebraska had more than 12,000 athletes competing in more than 60 sports in our Games. In 2015, we hope to really set the bar very very high. We would like to have 15,000 participants, including an all-time high in the chess event.

The rules for the National State Games require that only competitors who have won a medal in their own state games are eligible to participate in the National State Games, except residents of the host state are allowed to participate without regard to whether they have won a medal. **ALL NEBRASKA CHESS PLAYERS CAN PLAY IN THE 2015 NATIONAL STATE GAMES.**

The normal rule has been that only Nebraska residents can participate in the Cornhusker State Games. This rule has been suspended so that anyone from anywhere in the United States can participate in the Cornhusker State Games, if their state does not offer competition in their sport. This means that for 2014, we will open the Chess tournament to anyone who wants to register and play. We will expand the tournament to allow for an increase in the number of players in each section. We will increase the number of medals. It should be great fun.

So, please mark your calendar for next summer and for 2015. Plan to play in the Cornhusker State Games Chess Tournament. Invite your family to register for the sport or activity of their choice too. For more information, you can contact me or the Nebraska Sports Council. Office (402) 471-2544, Cell (402) 430-2975.

[NebraskaSportsCouncil.com](http://NebraskaSportsCouncil.com)

Mike

## News Flash!

**Keaton Kiewra**, now living in California, is playing in the RCR team in Omaha in September. Yes, you heard right. Keaton will be playing first board for the team “BoardHuskers”. When you see Keaton between rounds, be sure to congratulate him for being the second Nebraska player ever to earn an International Master title.

Come out to support the **River City Roundup** by playing on a team! The event is scheduled for September 28th and 29th at Omaha’s Century Link (formally the “Quest” Center). Details about this wonderful event is posted in the Tournament Life section of this issue.

**John Hartmann** wins Best Chess Blog from the Chess Journalists of America! The CJA!

Congratulations to John Hartmann for his chess blog called *ChessBook Reviews*. John joins current Nebraska resident, Robert Woodworth, and former Nebraska residents, John Tomas, John Watson and Al Lawrence as award winners from this prestigious organization. John’s blog is informative and entertaining and can be found on the Jack Spence chess club web site located at <http://spencechessclub.org/>

**John Watson** is playing in over the board tournaments again! After a layoff of many years, John played and performed very well at the recently concluded U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin. John finished high in the final standings and earned prize money. Way to go John!

The Lincoln City Chess Championship had an historical occurrence this year. **Joseph Wan** is the youngest Lincoln City Chess champion of all time! Details inside!

**Boris Gulko** will be giving a simul on Sunday, November, 10th in Omaha. Please contact John Hartmann for details.

## From Kent's Corner



2003 photo of Kent Nelson on top of a mountain  
Estes Park Colorado

As some of you may already know, this is my last *Gambit* issue as editor.

**Jerry Slominski** will take over editorship duties starting with the Fall/Winter issue. Jerry will do a great job. Jerry's contact information will be posted throughout the issue.

You might be curious about why I'm giving up on the *Gambit*. Simply put, I need to devote more on losing weight and improving my health. I hate to admit this but I've really need to take action I'm starting to resemble a 300 pound Mr. Burns.

I have a lot of people to thank for all their support and material contributions. I'm sorry, but I'm not going to list them individually for the fear of overlooking someone, but you know who you are. Thank you for all your help. In fact, I'm grateful for all you done.

I'll be touch. As my late mother used to say, "The road that takes you away, can also bring you back".

I'm sure I'll be your editor again, some where down the road, with hopefully, a lot less weight.

Yours in Chess,

Kent B. Nelson

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## News, Notes and Updates

**Before the following statement from NSCA web master, Kent Smotherman, I wasn't aware of all the good work Kent and his lovely wife, Melanie, were doing for the Boy Scouts. After I submitted the Spring issue of the Gambit for Kent to post, I heard back from Kent. Here is what he had to say.-Ed.**

**From Kent Smotherman-** *"I also just perused the issue and would like to mention that my wife Melanie and I just taught the Boy Scout Merit badge for chess program for fall 2012/spring 2013 for this area. We did three Saturday sessions that totaled about 50 scouts. Sessions were held at the Durham Museum in Omaha from 10am-4pm. Each session was broken into 4 sections: Intro and self-assessment of each scouts chess knowledge; a game a chess Jeopardy; 2 hours of puzzle-based lectures on chess tactics and strategy in Durham's wonderful lecture auditorium; and culminating in a quad tournament. It was our first time doing this program, and we had a great time working with the scouts - and from the feedback we got from them, they all came away learning a lot about chess. We'll likely do the program again starting in the fall"*

**David and Doug Given** have recently move to Washington State. I will miss them (except for the part where I lose to them). On behalf of the Nebraska chess community, I wish the Given family all the best in their new home.

This just in, Tony **Dutiel** and **Joseph Wan** scored a hard fought 3 points each in the Open section of the Iowa Open held August 24th and 25th. There was 61 players in the Open section. In addition, Tony played in the "quick" championship and finished 10th from a field of 33 players with 3.5 out of 5 points.

The solution to cover diagram is. 1..Qh3+ 2. Kxh3 ..Nf4+ 3 Kg3..Nxe2+ etc

**John Linscott** is doing a lot of organizing of chess tournaments in the Lincoln area.. This includes another Lincoln City Chess Championship and the Great Plains Open coming soon. Next time you see John, be sure to thank him for his efforts.

You may recall the black and white photos of chessplayers in the back of the previous Gambit issue. Thanks to the help of **Karl Indriksons** and **Ben Fabrikant**, I'm one step closer to identifying those players. I understand **"Elly" Didrichsons**, the photographer, is alive and well and living in Lincoln. He will be contacted soon.



# **The Emotion of Chess**

by

**Kent Smotherman**

The last time I played in the Cornhusker State games, it was 1990. Back then, and a couple of times in the 80s, I would play in the open and reserve sections at the same time since they were held in the same large room and my attention span dictated that G/30 was a long time control. I have spent 11 of the years since then teaching chess to grade school kids in both the Lincoln and Omaha public school systems.

I was a little nervous playing in the Games again after so long a lapse. After all, I didn't think that playing fourth graders was much of a warm-up for the competition at the Games - no offense to Joseph Wan, of course, who is a phenomenal player!

What got me back at the Games was a chance encounter with an old chess friend a few months ago. Mike Carney was the first person I ever played in a rated tournament, way back in 1985, and we've played in the Games together a number of times back then. After our chance encounter we naturally realized that fate had decided we had to play in the Games again. So while I continued teaching chess to grade schoolers, Mike went to a warm-up event in Kansas City - which he won!

After winning the gold medal this year, a number of players there asked me what I had done to achieve that result. My initial answer then still holds true after having time to think it over - I guess that teaching the fundamentals of chess to kids has finally sunk in for me as well!

But I think the biggest change I've made in my approach to chess has been to remove emotion from the game. This seems like a very strange oxymoron of sorts, since chess is a game of logic. Still, I witnessed two examples of the emotion of chess at this year's Games which reminded me of many of my own games over the years. In the last round, John Linscott, a tremendous player, was tied with me for

first at 3.5/4. I had drawn my game already, and John was under some pressure from another talented player, Doug Given, who I was fortunate to win against in the first round. John was menacing with a knight when Doug seemingly walked into a knight fork. John, no doubt caught up in the emotion of the moment, only thought for a few seconds before forking Doug's queen and rook - only to get mated on the next move instead!

Also in the last round, the very strong Brandon Li was in a tight battle with the incredibly gifted Joseph Wan. Their game was the last to go on, and so had a number of spectators. Both sides had tactical chances, and Joseph was pressing hard. After a quickly made queen move that called check on Brandon's king, Brandon responded with his own quick king move - and walked into an unnecessary mate in 1 as well!

These are both great examples of what I mean by the emotion of chess. It is so easy to get caught up in the emotional attachment we have to a hard-fought plan, or to winning itself, to forget the most fundamental lesson of chess. As I have asked scores of kids I have taught over the years: What is the first piece you look at every move? The answer - the one your opponent just let go of. Job #1 is always to try to figure out the purpose of that move. Even that simple fundamental could have saved both John and Brandon from quick defeats, and they are both quite talented players who were simply caught up in the emotion of chess.

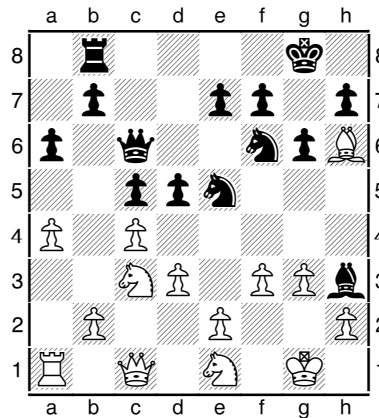
Here is some of Kent's games from the CSG-Ed

**(1) Smotherman (1522) - Given, Douglas (1829) [A38]**

CSG Open SCC (1), 20.07.2013

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Rb8 8.Bd2 a6** Black wants to play b5 and clear the white c-pawn to take control of the center. I considered b3, but didn't want to allow b4. **9.a4** This leaves a hole at b3, but not one that black can exploit either easily or quickly. **9...d6 10.Ne1** I arrived at this unorthodox move by process of elimination. Black is playing on the queenside, and this move allows the transfer of the knight to c2. It also clears the long white diagonal for the bishop to exert more pressure. I simply didn't like any of the alternatives. **10...Bd7 11.Nc2 Qc8 12.Qc1** Like black, I am aiming to eliminate the bishop on the long diagonal. **12...Bh3 13.Bh6 Bxg2 14.Bxg7 Bxf1 15.Bxf8 Bh3** Black wants to create mate threats

on g2, but allows me to do the same. **16.Bh6** Forced. **16...Ne5** Black has cleared c6 for his queen to create the mate threat. **17.f3** Blocking the diagonal and the mate threat. **17...Qc6** **18.Ne1** As black has shifted his attention to the kingside, I do as well. this move further prevents any mate on g2 through sac attempts like Nxd3 or Ng4. **18...d5**



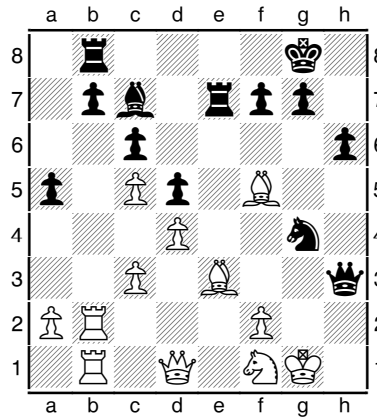
This is a critical error. The knight on e5 is now unguarded and the rook on b8 can be skewered with the next move. **19.Qf4** I considered Bf4 as well, but this move cements the fate of the bishop on h3 as well. **19...Ned7** **20.g4** Trapping the bishop at last. **20...d4** **21.Ne4** Nxe4 This abandons the kingside, a dangerous decision. **22.dxe4** **b5** Trying to create counterplay, but I've left the rook on a1 to prevent this move. Now the rook can get to the 7th rank and threaten a lethal removing of the guard tactic. **23.axb5** **axb5** **24.Ra7** **e5** Temporarily closing the diagonal off to the white queen, but only for a move due to the dangerous rook. **25.Qg3** Threatening the bishop, but this is merely a distraction to the real targets of g7 and b8. **25...bxc4** The game is over now with the simple removing the guard tactic. The knight on d7 is overburdened, protecting the rook on b8 and the pawn on e5 - the gateway for the queen to g7. **26.Rxd7** **Qxd7** **27.Qxe5** **f6** **28.Qxb8+** **1-0**

## (2) Wan,Joseph (1877) - Smotherman,Kent (1522) [C42]

CSG SCC (2), 20.07.2013

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 h6** While this move does take the g5 square away from black, I was seeing something of a mirage in Bxh7 Kxh7 Ng5 Kg8 Qh5. At the end of this variation I missed the simple Bf5. **11.h3 Be6 12.c5 Bc7 13.Bd2** I anticipated white going after the b7 pawn, but judged I was fine after Qc8 with counterattacking chances on the diagonal to h3. **13...Nd7 14.Rb1 Rb8 15.Qa4 a5 16.Rb2 Nf6 17.Rfb1 Qc8** This was the position I envisioned on move 13. My position is compact and defensive, but the open diagonals leading to the kingside I thought to be adequate compensation. **18.Qd1** I assume Joseph saw my threat of Bxh3 gxh3 Qxh3 skewering the knight on f3 and bishop on d3, with mate threats after Ng4. **18...Re8** Many of the long variations I was looking at ended up with the white king escaping to the e-file,

so I prep the attack with this move. **19.Be3** Wisely closing my threats on the e-file and helping defend the kingside. **19...Re7 20.Nd2** I thought for a good 10 minutes at this point on whether I got enough with the coming sacrifice on h3. I knew I could get 2 pawns for the bishop and create both mate threats and perpetual check threats. I also saw potential to pick up a third pawn on c3. **20...Bxh3 21.gxh3 Qxh3 22.Nf1** Better than Nf3, which would have closed the queen in. **22...Ng4 23.Bf5**



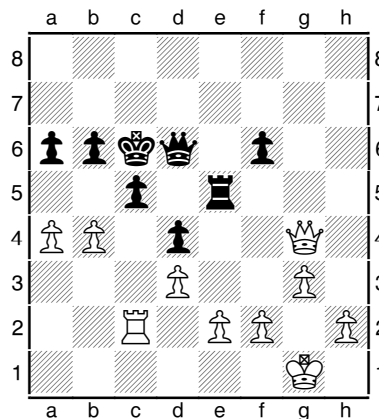
I did not anticipate this move at all, but of course in hindsight it is very natural, and of course Joseph found it. He is an amazing young player. **23...Bh2+ 24.Nxh2 Qxh2+ 25.Kf1 Rxe3** Of course the rook is immune due to the mate threat on f2. **26.Qxg4 Qh1+ 27.Qg1 Qf3** Pinning the pawn to save the rook and threaten the bishop. **28.Bg4 Qf4 29.f3 f5** Attempting to deflect the bishop. **30.Bh5 Rxc3** I finally pick up the anticipated third pawn. **31.Re1 Rc1 32.Rbe2 Rxe1+ 33.Rxe1 g5 34.Qe3** Joseph thought for a long time on this move, and actually put his queen back on g1 and removed his hand to think about it a while longer, before deciding it was the best spot for queen after touching it. The computer analyzes this position as about +3 for white, which as a mere human I didn't agree with at the time, liking my position here. That would soon change. **34...Qxe3 35.Rxe3 Kf8 36.Re6 Kg7 37.Re8 Rxe8 38.Bxe8** I now realized, too late, the danger I was in. My long pawn chain is vulnerable to the bishop. I thought for a long while before coming up with a gamble. **38...g4 39.fxg4 fxg4** First, create connected passed pawns... **40.Bd7 Kf6 41.Bxg4** I offer a pawn which Joseph very quickly took, probably figuring he could still capture the majority of my pawn chain. **41...Kg5** Joseph saw my idea here - while he gobbles the pawns on b7 and c6, I will get the ones on d4 and c5. **42.Bf3** This lets me back into the game. White's miscalculation is that I will still get the pawns on d4 and c5 with no risk to my own. **42...Kf4 43.Ke2 h5** A deflection to get the e4 square, the gateway to the pawns. **44.Bxh5 Ke4 45.Bf3+ Kxd4 46.Kd2 Kxc5 47.Kc3 b5 48.Be2 b4+ 49.Kb3 Kd4** This tempts white to go after the a5 pawn, but that line simply leaves the white king trapped on the side of the board and out of play after Kc3 and c4. **50.Bh5 [50.Ka4] 50...c5 51.Be8 c4+ Kd3** was much stronger. This allows white drawing chances. **52.Kc2 Kc5 53.Bf7** This move is simply wasted and gives black a big advantage again. **53...d4 54.Bg6 a4 55.Bf5 b3+ 56.axb3 axb3+ 57.Kb2 Kb4 58.Bb1 c3+**

**59.Kc1 Kc4 60.Be4 d3 61.Bf3 c2 62.Kb2 d2** A back and forth game with a number of missed opportunities for young Joseph Wan - I was very lucky to win this game indeed. **0–1**

### (3) Smotherman,Kent (1522) - Davidson,John [A22]

CSG Open SCC (3), 20.07.2013

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d3 Bb4 4.Bd2 Nc6 5.g3 d5 6.Bg2 Be6 7.b3 a6 8.Nf3 Qd6 9.0–0 0–0–0** I just love games with castling on opposite sides - they are usually very exciting! **10.cxd5** Clearing the c-file for my rooks. **10...Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Rc1 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 f6 14.Rc3 Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Rc2 c6 17.Rfc1 h5 18.Bxd5** Drawing the queen to where she can be attacked. **18...Qxd5 19.Rc5 Qd6 20.Qa5** Attacking the pawn at h5, an easy thing to miss with the queen and rook so close to the king. **20...Kd7 21.Rxh5 Rxh5 22.Qxh5 Re8 Qf7** and **Qxg7** is tempting, but my e2 pawn is weak. I decided to defend that first. **23.Rc2 b6** Clearly missing my threats. **24.Qg4+ Kc7 25.Qxg7+ Re7 26.Qg4 c5 27.b4** Pinned pawns and pieces should almost always be attacked. **27...Kc6** A strange move that does not break the pin. **28.a4 Re5**



Allowing a simple fork to take another pawn. **29.Qc8+ Qc7 30.Qxa6 f5 31.bxc5 Rxc5 32.Rxc5+ Kxc5 33.Qc4+** And another. **33...Kd6 34.Qxd4+ Ke6 35.Qc4+** To clear the queens so the pawns can easily advance. **35...Qxc4 36.dxc4 Kd6 37.h4 Ke6 38.f3 Kf6 39.g4 fxg4 40.fxg4** An unfortunate game for Davidson, who is a talented unrated player and had a fine tournament. **1–0**

### (4) Smotherman,Kent (1522) - Linscott,John [A22]

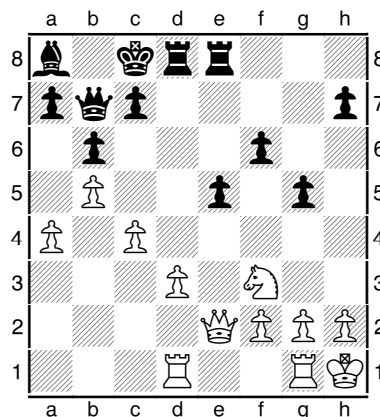
CSG Open SCC (4), 21.07.2013

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.d3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be6 7.Nf3 f6 8.Bd2 Bc5 9.0–0 Qd7 10.a3 h5 11.h4 0–0–0 12.b4 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bd4 14.Rc1 Bxc3 15.Rxc3 Nd4 16.Qd2** Helping secure g5 while preparing for Rfc1. **16...Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Kb8 18.Rfc1 Rc8 19.Qe3 Bd5 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Rc5 Qd7 22.Qe4** John and I were co-leaders at this point with perfect 3.0 scores. I could have pressed this position as I see no real danger, but was frankly thrilled to just have a 3.5/4 start. **½–½**

**(5) Cusumano,Steven - Smotherman,Kent (1522) [C47]**

CSG Open SCC (5), 21.07.2013

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6** My opponent is a very talented unrated player who was in clear third place at this point with a 3/4 score having only lost to John Linscott. I judged he likely had not seen the Petrov often. **3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Be2** A very tame choice. I felt incredible comfortable at this point. **4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5** I am now a tempo ahead and clearly have the advantage. **7.d3 Bc5 8.0-0 b6** This move gives up the tempo somewhat, but I liked the long diagonal for my bishop. **9.Kh1** I did not understand this move at all. **9...Bb7 10.Be3 0-0-0 11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.Nd2** This allows Nd4 with threats on c2 and e2. **12...Nd4 13.c3 Nxe2 14.Qxe2 Qd5** Mate threat on g2. **15.Nf3** I thought hard about Qxd3, but decided I wanted to keep the queens on the board more than the pawn. Likely not the best decision, but I didn't like Qxd3 Qxd3 Rxd3 Nxe5. **15...f6 16.Rad1** I considered Qxa2, but didn't like Ra1. **16...Rhe8 17.c4 Qc6 18.b4** White really wants my queen off the diagonal to eliminate the mate threat, allowing the knight to move. **18...Ba8** This was a difficult decision. Ultimately I decided that if my opponent really, really wanted me off that diagonal that I really wanted to stay on it! **19.b5 Qb7 20.a4 g5 21.Rg1** Guarding g2 for safety and freeing the knight. **21...h5**



Here I offered the draw. I could certainly play on, but my decision to maintain the pressure on the long white diagonal has placed my pieces somewhat awkwardly. So, I was happy with a draw to go undefeated at 4/5. The fate of the gold medal rested with John Linscott, who lost his last game to clear the gold for my best result ever. ½-½

# THE BEAUTY AND SUBTLETIES IN CHESS

by

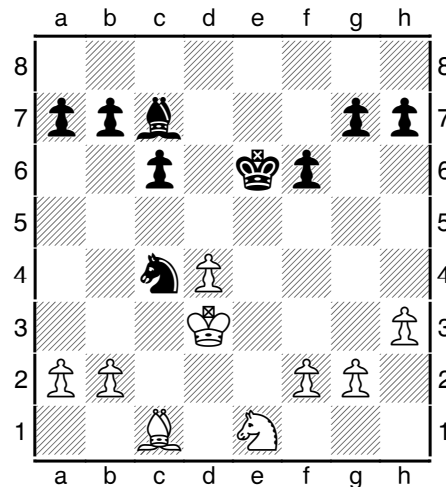
**Robert Woodworth**

To this writer, the amazing subtleties and nuances that seem to constantly occur in nearly every chess game truly illustrate the inherent beauty in the game itself!!

(The dictionary defines a subtlety as characterized by or requiring mental acuteness or discernment and a nuance is a subtle difference or distinction as in a meaning or interpretation.)

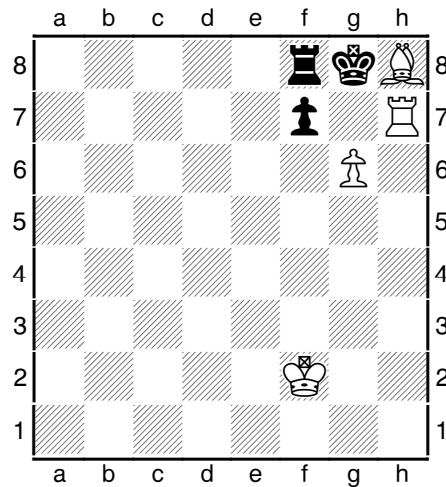
Following are several examples which will illustrate my point. In the first position shown below, a tactical nuance catches a current World Champion by surprise in the loss of a piece in a relatively simple position.

BLACK (Max Euwe) to play



WHITE G.M. (Emanuel Lasker) vs. BLACK G.M. (Max Euwe) who played 1.Ba5 ?? and overlooking 2.b4! which wins a piece for White i.e. 2.Bxb4 3.Nc2 and Black has 2 pieces enprise and one will be lost! (from the tournament NOTTINGHAM, 1936)

The next example is from a chess puzzle wherein the nuance (or subtlety) lies in the fact that White does NOT NEED the White Bishop to win this ending!!(I will give the solution at the end of this article. Just remember that the White Bishop is really an extraneous piece that actually hinders White in winning!!)



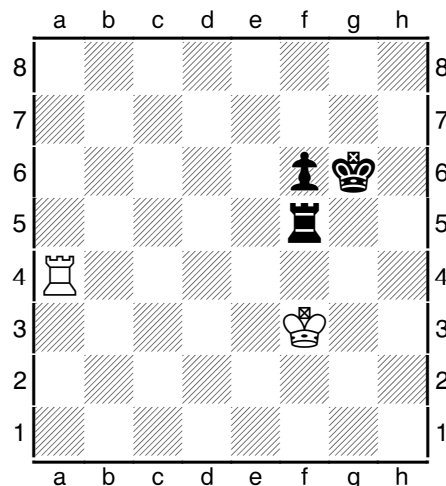
WHITE (to move & win)

I urge the reader to give some great thought in finding the win for White in the above position. Just remember the hint about the White Bishop being an extra, unneeded piece. (White should have a won game in 4 moves or so.)

(Source: "Chess Review" magazine, October, 1952, Page 314).

The next example is from a relatively simple Rook & Pawn ending whereby the famous attacking player Rudolph Spielmann overlooks a subtle endgame transformation and creates a losing King & Pawn ending for himself! The following position is from Karlsbad, 1907. (Source: "CHESS" magazine for August, 2013, page 46).

BLACK (O.Duras)



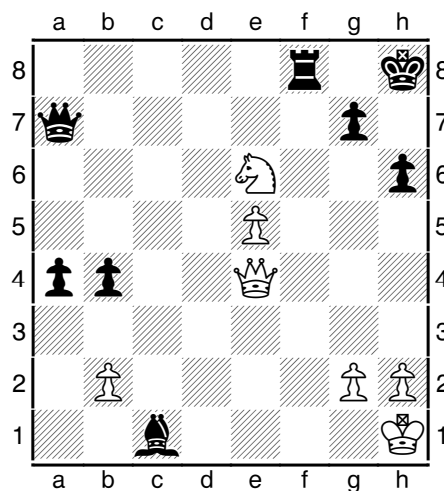
WHITE (GM R.Spielmann) to move



White proceeded to play 1.Rf4?? whereby Black merely responded 1.Kg5 and White is now completely lost in the resulting King & Pawn endgame after the unavoidable exchange of Rooks.

Some subtle moves are so quiet and devious that even a former World Champion like Vladimir Kramnik can be fooled. Below is a famous diagram wherein he actually overlooked that he was about to be checkmated on the move after a routine exchange with a potentially winning endgame for Black.

BLACK (GM V.Kramnik)

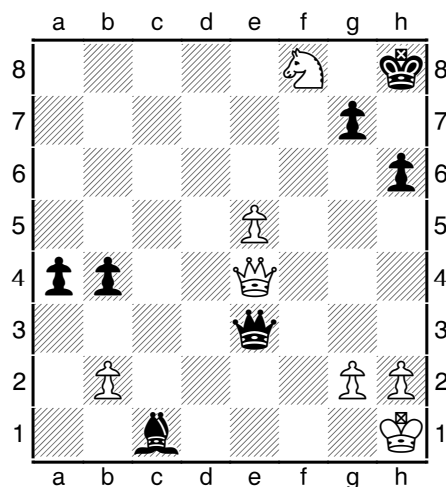


WHITE (Deep Fritz) to move

This game was played in Bonn, Germany in 2006. It was a Grandmaster versus a Computer match entitled “THE DUEL”).

Fritz, the computer software program, proceeded with 1.Nxf8 and GM Kramnik, (who had plenty of time & thinking that the endgame was lost for White) responded with 1.Qe3 ???.(See the following position.) When he returned to the board, he was astonished to see that he had been checkmated by 2.Qh7 mate!! Yes, this really happened. Unbelievable!!

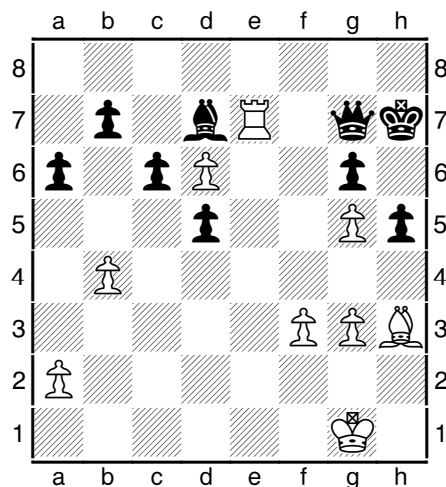
BLACK (GM V.Kramnik) after 1.Qe3 ???



WHITE (Deep Fritz) to play & checkmate!

A final, tactical subtlety can be seen in the following diagram. It is White to move and he played 1.Bh3 !! which is a very surprising, hard-to-believe move.

BLACK (to move)

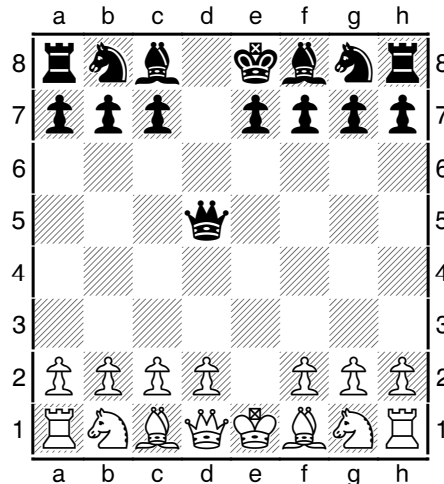


WHITE (after 1.Bh3 !!)

(Source: Kevin Spraggett's website for July, 2013)

Black played the obvious 1.Bxh3 and White responded with the very subtle move 2.g4 !!. It is now apparent that Black has no way to stop the White Pawn on d6 from queening as the Black Bishop is out-of-play &

the Black Queen on g7 is lost! Finally, as we can see from the preceding examples of ‘subtle-type’ moves, it is apparent that all are based on tactical ideas. I would like to conclude with a strategic-type subtle move in an old chess opening. It occurs in the Center-Counter (or Scandinavian Def.) whereby Black induces White to play a very natural, apparently strong 3<sup>rd</sup> move which is now being questioned by several opening experts. (See the following opening diagram.)



WHITE (to move)

For decades, all opening theorists believed that White's best move here was the obvious 3. Nc3 !? forcing the Black Queen to a5. This was the book line. This main variation has now been replaced by 3.Qd6 for Black i.e. 1.e4 1.d5, 2.exd5 2.Qxd5 3.Nc3 3.Qd6 etc. Black, by playing 2.Qxd5, is ‘coaxing’ White to play the inferior 3.Nc3 which blocks the pawn on c2 and leaving White with only One active center pawn. Black still has 2 center pawns. (Note: The c & d & e-pawns greatly influence the center and are the most important.)

Cutting-edge theory now recommends for White to play 3.Nf3 or even the attacking move 3.c4 (to be followed by 4.Nc3) instead. The postponed attack on the Black Queen with 3.Nf3 gives White a more solid center & complicates Black's opening strategy by leaving the Black Queen open to a future attack. So, therefore Black's innocent(?) recapture of 2.Qxd5 is in a strategically subtle way, trying to entice White into the second-best move 3.Nc3. In conclusion, your writer, having played the Center-Counter Def. for many years now, likes to see his Black Queen attacked by White's 3.Nc3. It is very disconcerting and uneasy for Black to have the attack on the Black Queen delayed in this complicated opening! It also proves that the most natural looking moves are not always the best.

(As a side-note, your writer has had good success in simul. play versus many GM's with the variation: 1.e4 1.d5, 2.exd5 2.Qxd5, 3.Nc3 3.Qd6 etc. What is needed now is more analysis on better alternatives for White's 3.Nc3 here!)

The solution to the 2<sup>nd</sup> diagram in this article is as follows: 1.Rg7+! 1.Kxh8, 2.Rh7+ 2.Kg8, 3.g7! wins material for either the pawn 'queens' or if the Black Rook moves then 4.Rh8+ wins the Rook & the ending.

Robert Woodworth  
Omaha, Nebraska  
August, 2013

### **New Gambit Editor!**

**Jerry J Slominski**  
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402-315-1862  
Jerryslominski@cox.net

Please welcome Jerry to the NSCA family by supporting him and providing lots of chess material for him to work on!

# The Watson Years, I

by

**John Tomas**

1966 was the year that Nebraska chess changed. Richard McLellan won the Midwest Open and the Nebraska title that year (held in Omaha) and his major competition came from long-time Omaha force Richard Vincent who had moved back to Omaha after some time spent working in California. But it also marked John Watson's emergence as a major player on the state scene.

The Midwest Open that year was not John's first tournament: he had played and done quite well in the Omaha Championship and then, in his first rated event, finished second, behind Glen Proechel, in the Des Moines Open in June of that year. But he was quite active in the state high school scene as well, playing first board for Brownell-Talbot in the Omaha High School Chess league and tying for first in the City High School Championship.

The game that brought him to general notice was a win against, as John Leitel later put it "the mighty Tomas."

## **John Tomas - John Watson**

Pirc Defense B07

Team Match: Creighton Prep-Brownell Tabott, 1965

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♙e2 ♙g7 5.h4**

OK, why? This is the first and only time I ever played this move. The first point is that it had come into prominence because of a famous game of the period where a Chinese player destroyed Jan Hein Donner. I was nothing if not a copycat.

The second reason was less flattering to me. I actually had heard of this Watson kid and how good he was supposed to be and wanted to prove something. To, as Nuke LaLouche put it in *Bull Durham*, "to announce my presence with authority." Well, I certainly did that.

**5...h5?!**

Ugh. The best move is and was 5... c5.

**6.♙g5 c6 7.♚d2 ♚b6?!**

I thought that this was very dubious at the time, and I doubt John would disagree.

**8.♜f3** Since he certainly won't take it.

**8...♙xb2?! 9.♖b1 ♙a3 10.0-0 0-0 11.e5!**

For years (indeed decades!), I remembered this game as poorly played on my part capped by an outright blunder. As is the case with so many of my evaluations from the period, the reality is quite different.

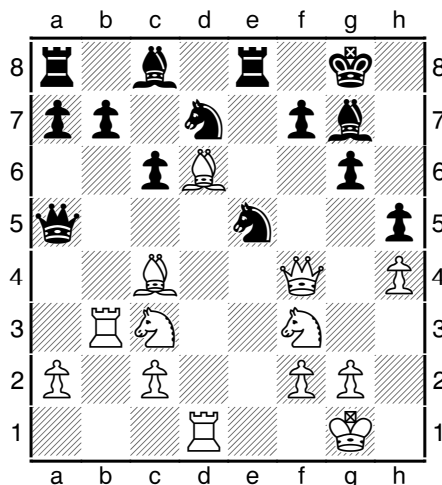
**11...dxe5 12.dxe5 ♞g4 13.♖b3 ♙a5 14.♙xe7 ♜e8 15.♙b4?!**

If John reacts correctly, this lemon gives away most of my advantage. Instead, 15.♖a3! ♙c7 16.♙d6 ♙d8 17.♙f4 leaves White with close to a winning advantage.

**15... ♙c7?!**

In those days, John didn't like to get Queens off the board. But 15...♙d8 wins the e pawn, and, while I have enough for it, I have no more than that.

**16.♙d6 ♙d8 17.♙f4 ♞d7 18.♖d1 ♙a5 19.♙c4 ♞gxe5**

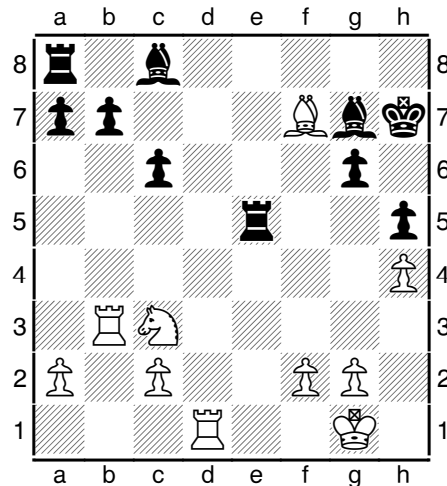


**20.♜xe5?**

It is a bit complicated, but there was still no reason to miss  
 20. ♖g5! ♕f6 21. ♖a3 ♔b6 22. ♕xe5 ♖xe5 23. ♖xf7 winning out-  
 right. 23... ♖d5 24. ♖xd5 cxd5 25. ♕xd5.

**20... ♖xe5 21. ♕xe5 ♔xe5 22. ♕xf7+?!**

22. ♖xf7+ is actually more or less equal. But, chasing the chimera  
 of a win, I totally misevaluated the position. Now all my pieces are  
 misplaced. **22... ♔h7 23. ♖xe5 ♖xe5**



**24. ♖d6??**

Black is clearly better, but that was still no reason to blunder a rook.  
 I made a lot of such mistakes against the early Watson.

**24... ♖e1+ 0-1** Not so mighty after all, I guess.

Over the next six months, John made pretty quick work of me in all  
 the BT-Prep team matches, but matters were very different in  
 tournaments, at least for a while. We played in the City HS  
 Championship Final and drew a game that nobody has been able to  
 locate. I recall being unwilling to take any chances, an approach  
 that served me well since I dominated the ensuing playoff match.

I won the first game (another game nobody can find), and John had  
 to win the second game to even the match.

## Watson, John – Tomas, John

### Sicilian Kan B48

Omaha HS Championship Playoff Match: Omaha (2), 12.1965

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6**

Of course, hardly a surprise today. But you must know that the Kan variation was in its infancy in those days. It also important to note Watson's response to the variation, a response I more or less correctly predicted: he thought that these were beginner's moves. (John himself told me this decades later).

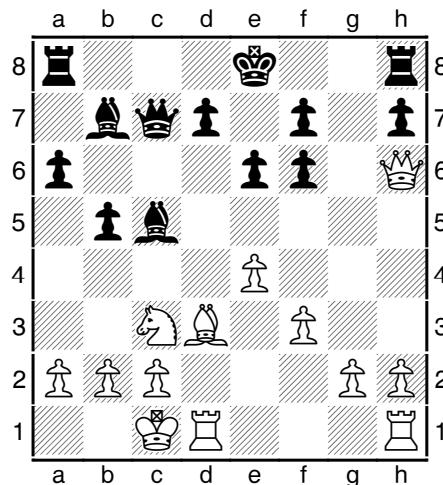
**5.♘c3 ♔c7 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 ♘f6 8.f3?!**

Not a terrible move. In the Omaha City Championship in January, John played ♘b3 and he repeated it at the Des Moines Open in June. Both games were drawn. **8...♘xd4 9.♙xd4 ♙c5**

Had I been playing this game today, I would have played 9...e5 which is not necessarily better but is certainly more complicated. But I didn't need a complicated game -- I already had a game in hand.

**10.♙xf6?!** A positional mistake of the sort John (occasionally) made in those days in unfamiliar positions.

**10...gxf6 11.♔d2 b5 12.0-0-0 ♙b7** Black's position is slightly easier to play, but it is nothing serious. **13.♔h6!?**



This is a major positional mistake based upon a tactical oversight.



Better was 13.♔b1.13...♕e5! 14.g3

I suspect that John simply overlooked that 14.f4? fails

to ...♙e3+ 14...♕g5+ 15.♕xg5 fxg5 16.♘e2

16.h4 gxh4 17.♖xh4 ♙e3+ 18.♔b1 ♔e7 19.♘e2 ♖ag8

looks a lot better, but Black's two bishops more than hold the balance even then.

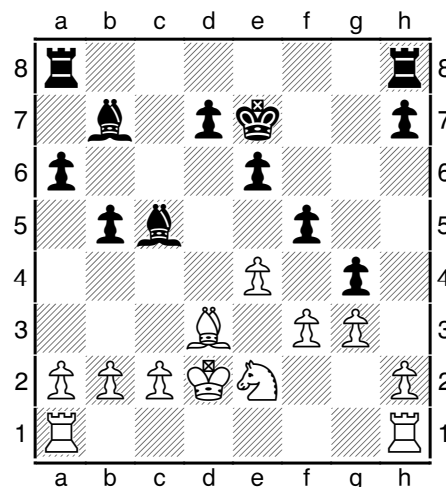
16...♔e7 Now Black has a significant pull.

17.♔d2 I was happy to see this move since I believed that in the center the king would become a target.

17...f5! 18.♖a1?

What????? White is playing as though he is better and has all the time in the world. If 18.exf5? ♙xf3 19.♖hf1 ♙g2 20.♖fe1 ♙f2 loses the exchange and the game.; 18.♖hf1 may be best.

18...g4!



I really enjoyed playing this Nimzovitchian (hitting the base of the pawn chain) move, and now I knew that I was going to win the game. 19.♘c3 b4 Unnecessary, but it doesn't hurt anything.

20.♘a4 ♙a7 21.♔e2? Oops. 21...gxf3+ 22.♔xf3 fxe4+

And John now realized that he had to lose at least a piece.

0-1

## The Omaha High School Scene

For years, Howard Ohman had organized Omaha High School events. Until the '60s the individual championship was all there was. Occasionally, there were matches between individual schools, but it wasn't until 1965 that such matches became formalized. That year was also the year of the first State High School Championship, won by Central in overwhelming fashion. But in the City Team event, Central had a much tougher time. In the finals, Central barely defeated Creighton Prep 4.5 – 3.5.

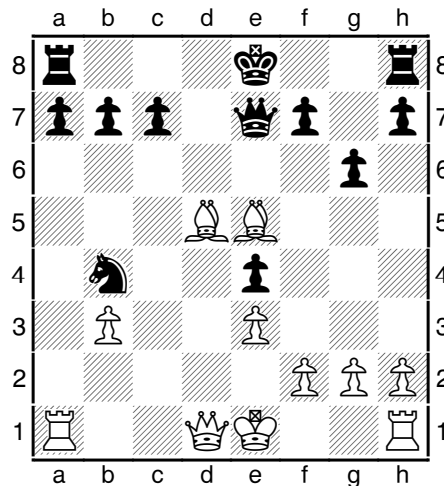
But in the fall of 1965, the whole scene changed. A Central student, Mike Kaplan decided to organize a real league with member teams from Prep, Central, North, South, Benson, Westside, Brownell Talbot, Archbishop Rummel and Archbishop Ryan. Teams were to play two matches, one home and one away. The results were then to be used for a year-ending team tournament with the top team (Central) playing the lowest ranked team, etc. Along with the round-robin, Kaplan produced a monthly mimeographed newsletter with the results and games from the matches and occasional articles. I still have copies of *Mate*, source for many of the high-school games of the period.

As was the case the previous year, Central and Creighton Prep justified their top seeding and met again in the finals. As was the case in 1965, I won both of my games, so we only needed 2.5 of six points to take the title. The previous year we had been in the same situation and failed. This year it was different: my third board, Junior Rich Domalakes got a draw. My second board, Joe Scarpello, a Sophomore, took a whole point and fourth board Freshman, Tom Weist, in a game full of vicissitudes, won the final game to finish.

The actual chess was occasionally ... iffy. John and I played legitimately well, and John Leitel (from North) and Jack Suchy (from Ryan) both were capable players even if they were not at our level.

Here is a game from the *Mate*. It is an excellent illustration of how *not* to win a winning position.

**Berg,Chris (Central) – Wittekind,Glen (Benson)** Omaha HS  
Team Lincoln, 05.1966



Black, younger brother of Warren Wittekind, a player who had a short vogue in Omaha before moving to Kansas, is clearly winning this. The easiest way to do so is 17...♔xe5 18.♙c4 ♖d8 19.♔c1 ♘c2+ 20.♔e2 ♔h5+ 21.f3 ♘xa1.

**17...♘d3+ 18.♔xd3!**

Probably “worse” than 18.♔e2 ♔xe5 19.♖a5 ♔b2+ 20.♔d2 ♔xd2+ 21.♔xd2 c6 22.♙c4 b6 23.♖a4 but since both of them lose it doesn’t appear to make much difference. One of the defensive resources in a lost position is to change the nature of the struggle radically. It might well lose more quickly, but it might well save you too.

**18...exd3 19.♙xh8 0-0-0 20.♙c4 d2+?!**

20...♔b4+ wins immediately. White has already profited from the his gamble.

**21.♔e2 ♖xh8 22.♖xa7 ♔b8 23.♖ha1 d1♔+! 24.♔xd1 ♖d8+ 25.♔e2 ♔c8?? 26.♖a8+ ♔d7 27.♖d1+ ♔e8 28.♖dxd8+ ♔xd8 29.♙xf7+ ♔e7 30.♖xd8 ♔xd8 1-0**

I include the following game to partially mitigate the high number of John Leitel’s losses that I have included.

## Leitel, John - Watson, John

### Ruy Lopez C70

Omaha HS Team Omaha, May 1966

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 f5!?**

Watson also played this against me in this event, albeit after the less accurate move order with 4...b5 5.♙b3.

**5.d4 fxe4 6.♘xe5 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♙b4 8.0-0 ♚e7 9.♘xc6 dxc6 10.♙g5 ♙f5 11.a3 ♙d6 12.♖e1 0-0-0 13.f3 ♙c5 14.♙e3 ♖xd4 15.♙xd4 ♖d8 16.♚e2 ♖xd4 17.♔h1 ♚d6 18.♖ad1 exf3 19.♚xf3 ♙g4 20.♖xd4 ♚xd4 21.♚g3 h5 22.h3 ♙d6 23.♚e3**

The comment in *Mate* (which I assume is Watson's) is that White should win this. And, perhaps at the grandmaster level, that is true. But at the high-school level. the position is really rather equal.

After 23...♚xe3 24.♖xe3 ♙f5 White will have to demonstrate exceptional technique to win the position since black's pieces cover all of the entry squares for white's rook. To be honest, I think that the better player will win it ½–½

## Leitel, John - Tomas, John

### Queen's Gambit Declined D60

Omaha HS Team Match Omaha, 1966

**1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5 3.d4 e6**

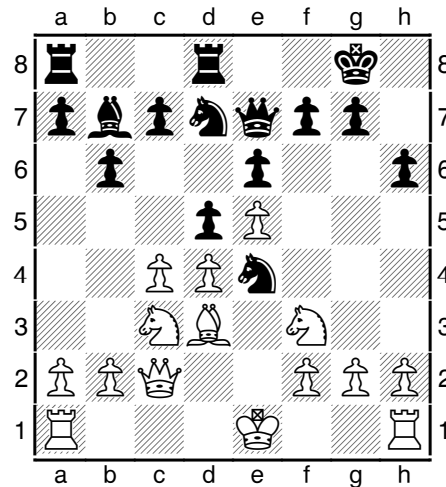
The Tartakower was just becoming popular around this time: Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer ... . I was playing the Grunfeld against certain move orders and transposing into the Queen's Gambit Declined against certain move orders. I mention this because I feel considerations like these are part of a coherent opening repertoire. The reputation for knowing a lot about the openings can serve you just as well as actual knowledge.

**4.♙g5 ♙e7 5.e3 0-0 6.♘f3 h6 7.♙h4 ♘bd7?!**

But this is inaccurate whether I want to play the Capablanca System or the Tartakower. If the Capablanca, I should avoid ... h6; if the Tartakower, the knight might be misplaced on d7.

**8.♘d3 b6 9.e4?! Develop John! 9.0-0! 9...♘b7 10.e5**

**10.♘xf6! 10...♞e4 11.♘xe7 ♜xe7 12.♞c2?** John will soon regret not getting his king out of the center. **12...♞fd8!?**

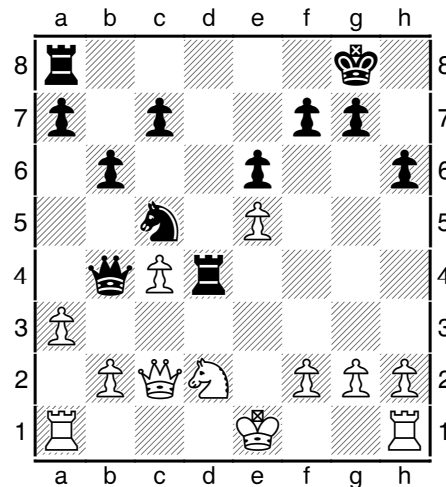


Trappy, but taking the knight is probably better.

**12...♞xc3 13.bxc3 c5 14.cxd5 ♘xd5 15.0-0 ♘xf3 16.gxf3**

**13.♞xe4? dxe4 14.♘xe4 ♘xe4 15.♞xe4 ♞b4+ 16.♞d2 ♞c5!** The first point, which John had overlooked.

**17.♞e3 17.♞c2** An annotation (presumably by Watson) claimed that White should draw after **17...♞xd4 18.a3**



**Analysis position**

and, I assume he believes that Leitel can draw the pawn-down

rook ending that arises after 18...♖xd2 19.♔xd2 ♔xd2+ 20.♔xd2 ♘b3+ 21.♔c3 ♘xa1 22.♖xa1. But this suggestion overlooks the main point of the combination. 18...♔xb2!! 19.♔xb2 ♘d3+ 20.♔e2 ♘xb2, and he will not draw this pawn down ending. Strange that John (W) would miss this tactic. Still, it is better than what transpires.

**17...♔xb2 18.0-0 ♔xd4 19.♔xd4 ♖xd4 20.♖fd1?**

20.♘f3 ♖xc4, and this is child's play even for someone with as weak technique as I had in those days

**20...♖fd8 0-1.**

**Special thanks to John Tomas for his documentation of the Golden Age of Nebraska Chess!**



1965 photo

### **John Tomas**

John Tomas was the Omaha High School Champion from 1962 to 1966. He won the Nebraska State Championship in 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. John was the Omaha City Champion in 1971 and 1972. He won the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1981. John was a rated chess Master from 1981 to 1993. He is winner of many chess journalist awards and is currently living in Chicago.

# **The 2013 Nebraska State Closed**

by  
Kent B. Nelson

The Nebraska State Closed Chess Championship was held on April 20th and 21st at Brownell-Talbot High School in Omaha. The round robin, event had the following 6 players by rating order, **Joe Knapp, Ben Fabrikant, Joseph W, Doug Given, Kent Nelson, and John Stepp**. The event was directed by NSCA President, **Mike Gooch**, with assistance from **Drew Thyden**. **Bob Goetschkes**, the school event coordinator, ran the Brownell Talbot Scholastic Chess tournament on Saturday. Bob was also responsible for procuring the playing site, plus, he did many other tasks so the Closed could be held at the school.

The event was held at the school library. The conditions were excellent with good lighting and very little foot traffic. Of particular interest to me was a “chess corner” with an oversize chess set, a comfortable chair and a shelf full of chess books. Some of the books were authored by Brownell-Talbot most famous chess alum, in the person of John Watson.

All the players had a mutual respect for one another. This was by far the most enjoyable and stress free closed championship I’ve ever participated in. Prior to the event, I was well trained and prepared by John Hartmann. John opened a new world to me in terms of utilizing the internet and chess databases to help me prepare for round robins. This was one of the most valuable experience I ever had in my chess career. Thank you John.

My last closed championship was back in 2007. I should have won that event and the memory of missing that golden opportunity still haunts me to this day. This year, despite finishing tied for 2nd and 3rd place with a 3-2 score, I was very happy for Ben Fabrikant. After a number of years finishing second, behind 9-time consecutive champion, Keaton Kiewra, Ben finally broke thru and is our new 2013 State Closed Champion.



**Ben Fabrikant**  
2013 Nebraska State Closed Champion

The first round pairings had me playing White against rising star, 11-year old, Joseph W. Joseph is a student of John Watson and is a strong class “A” player. I predict anywhere between 5 to 10 years from now, if Joseph, continues his chess development and training, he will be invincible to everyone in Nebraska except for a select few.



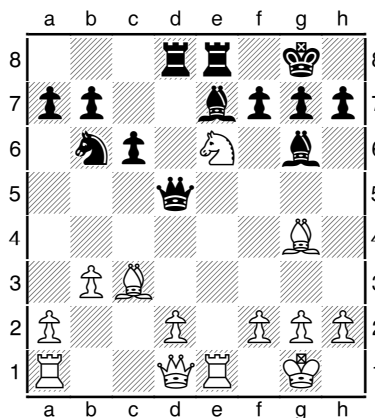
## Kent Nelson – Joseph W

In the game below, I tried to get Joseph out of book but his opening play was solid and sound and I felt my opening play was a dismal failure. I was able however to find a neat tactic ( Ne6) which turned the game in my favor. This was my first win against Joseph in 5 games.

### (3) Nelson, Kent (1800) - W. Joseph (1871) [C00]

NE Closed Ch Omaha (1), 20.04.2013

**1.e4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Nb6 9.b3 Nfxd5 10.Bb2 c6 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Be2 Bf5 13.Nd4 Bg6 14.Bf3 Qd7 15.Bc3 Rad8 16.Re1 Rfe8 17.Bg4 Qd5 18.Ne6 Diagram below.**



**f6 19.Nxd8 Qxd8 20.Be6+ Kh8 21.Qf3 Bd6 22.Bf5 Nd5 23.Bxg6 hxg6  
24.Re4 f5 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.Kf1 Kg8 27.Re1 Qf7 28.Qe2 Bc7 29.Qe8+  
Qxe8 30.Rxe8+ Kf7 31.Ra8 a5 32.Ra7 Nxc3 33.dxc3 Be5 34.Rxb7+ Ke6  
35.c4 Kd6 36.Ke2 c5 37.Rb6+ Kc7 38.Rxg6 1-0**





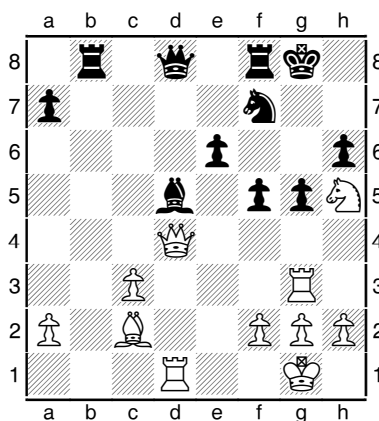
## Ben Fabrikant – Joe Knapp

The 1st round matchup between the 2 highest rated players proved to be critical in determining the overall winner.

**(1) Fabrikant,Ben (1988) - Knapp,Joseph (2055) [B23]**

**NE Closed Ch Omaha (1), 20.04.2013**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nge2 Nf6 6.0-0 b5 7.Nxb5 Nxb5 8.Bxb5 Nxe4 9.d4 Nd6 10.Ba4 Qa5 11.c3 Ba6 12.Re1 Bb5 13.Bc2 Bc6 14.Nf4 cxd4 15.cxd4 Be7 16.Bd2 Qd8 17.d5 Bb7 18.Bc3 0-0 19.Qg4 Bf6 20.Re3 h6 21.Nh5 Bxc3 22.Rg3 f5 23.Qf4 Nf7 24.dxe6 dxe6 25.bxc3 g5 26.Qb4 Rb8 27.Rd1 Bd5 28.Qd4**



**Position after 28 Qd4**

**e5 29.Qxd5 Qxd5 30.Rxd5 Rb2 31.Bb3 f4 32.Rgd3 e4 1-0**

In the Given-Stepp game, Doug procured an opening advantage and destroyed Black's kingside with his bishops. I felt for John because Doug destroyed me in similar fashion years ago during the Cornhusker State games.

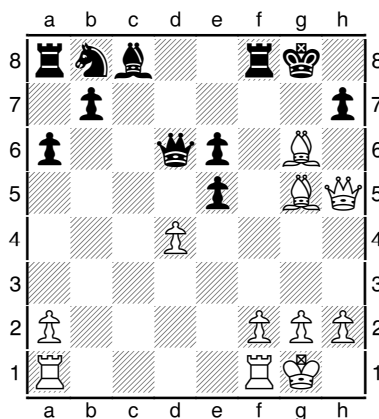


## John Stepp - Doug Given

(2) Given,Douglas (1816) - Stepp,John (1791) [B28]

NE Closed Ch Omaha (1), 20.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bd3 d6 8.0-0  
0-0 9.Bg5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qc7 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 Nd5 13.c4 f6 14.cxd5 fxe5  
15.d6 Qxd6 16.Qh5 g6 17.Bxg6 Position below.



Qd7 18.Be4 exd4 19.Bh6 Rf7 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Qe5+ Kg8 22.Rad1 Nc6  
23.Bxc6 bxc6 24.Rxd4 Qe7 25.Rg4+ Rg7 26.Rxg7+ Kf8 27.Qf4+ Ke8  
28.Rg8+ Kd7 29.Rd1+ 1-0

Entering the second round I was paired against last year's closed champion, Joe Knapp, who had the White pieces. Joe has had my number lately and unfortunately for me this trend is continuing. I believe this was my worst game in the tournament when I failed to trade off rooks on the d-file. If I had done that, the result most likely would have been a draw, due to opposite colored bishops and white's weak pawn chain on the kingside.

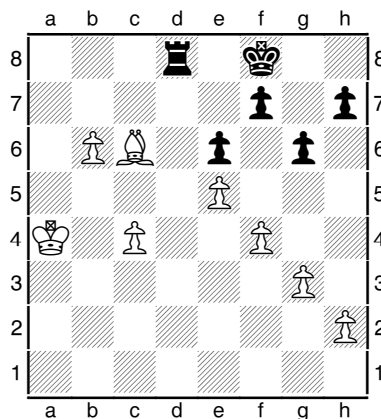


## Joe Knapp – Kent Nelson

**(5) Knapp,Joseph (2055) - Nelson,Kent (1800) [B41]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (2), 20.04.2013

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Qd3 Qc7 7.Bg5 Be7  
8.Nc3 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.Qg3 Nh5 11.Bxh5 Qxg5+ 12.Qxg5 Bxg5+  
13.Kb1 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Bf6 15.Rd3 b5 16.f4 Ra7 17.e5 Be7 18.Rhd1 0-0  
19.a4 b4 20.Ne4 a5 21.Bf3 Rc7 22.Nd6 Ba6 23.Nb5 Rcc8 24.Rxd7 Bxb5  
25.axb5 Bc5 26.Bc6 g6 27.c4 a4 28.Kc2 a3 29.Kb3 Rb8 30.g3 Rfc8 31.R1d3  
Bf8 32.Ka2 Bc5 33.bxa3 bxa3 34.Rxa3 Bxa3 35.Kxa3 Kf8 36.Ka4 Rd8  
37.Rxd8+ Rxd8 38.b6 1-0 Final Position below.**



The Stepp-Wan game was a wild one with a time scramble on both sides with John having less time than Joseph. When the dust settled, Joseph was awarded the hard fought point.

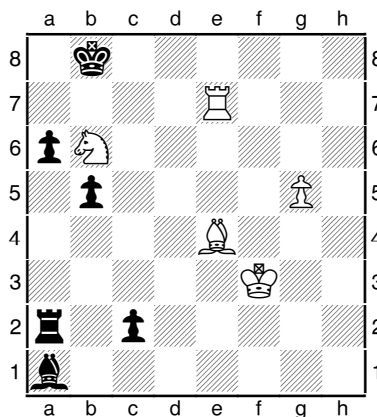


**John Stepp –Joseph W**

**(6) W. Joseph (1871) - Stepp,John (1791) [B01]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (2), 20.04.2013

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 Bf5  
8.Be3 0-0-0 9.Qd2 Ng4 10.Rad1 e5 11.h3 Nxe3 12.fxe3 exd4 13.exd4 Qg3  
14.Qg5 Qxg5 15.Nxg5 Bg6 16.Nxf7 Bxf7 17.Rxf7 Nxd4 18.Bd3 g6 19.Ne4  
Ne6 20.Rdf1 Re8 21.Bc4 Nd8 22.R7f4 Bh6 23.Rh4 Be3+ 24.Nf2 h5 25.Bd3  
g5 26.Re4 Rxe4 27.Bxe4 g4 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.Bf5+ Kb8 30.Bxg4 Nf7 31.g3  
Ne5 32.Bf5 Rg8 33.Kg2 Nc6 34.c3 Rd8 35.Nd3 Ne7 36.Bh7 c5 37.Re1 Bg5  
38.Nf4 Rd2+ 39.Kf3 Rxb2 40.Nh3 Bf6 41.Re6 Bxc3 42.Rxe7 Rxa2 43.g4 c4  
44.g5 b5 45.Nf4 Ba1 46.Nd5 c3 47.Nb6 c2 48.Be4!



**Position after 28 48. Be4**

Ra3+ 49.Kg4 Rg3+ 50.Kxg3 Be5+ 51.Kh3 Bc7 52.Re8+ Ka7 53.Nc8+ Kb8  
54.Bxc2 Ba5 55.g6 Bc3 56.Kg4 a5 57.Nd6+ 1-0

Certainly a hard fought battle that got the juices flowing for both players.



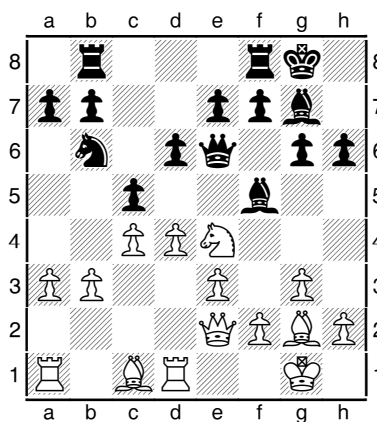
During the Fabrikant, Given game, after Black's 15...Qe6, White d4 & e4 squares were under pressure eventually resulting in a loss of a piece.



**Ben Fabrikant– Doug Given**

**(4) Given,Douglas (1816) - Fabrikant,Ben (1988) [E65]**  
NE Closed Ch Omaha (2), 20.04.2013

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c5 8.e3 Rb8  
9.a3 Nb6 10.Qe2 Be6 11.b3 Qc8 12.Ng5 Bf5 13.Rd1 h6 14.Nge4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4  
Qe6**



**Position after 15..Qe6**

**16.Nc3 cxd4 17.Bd5 Nxd5 18.cxd5 Qc8 19.e4 Bg4 20.f3 Qxc3 21.Bb2 Qxf3  
22.Qxf3 Bxf3 23.Re1 Rbc8 24.Rac1 d3 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Kf2  
d2 0-1**

My third round pairing was against Doug Given. I remember Doug as a very talented youngster who is now a very talented young man. I've only mustered 2 wins against Doug, but he has several wins against me. Even as a youngster, Doug always had great patience and defensive skills and this has served him well in his chess career. In the game below, I made a sacrifice of 2 minor pieces for a rook and three pawns, but I didn't follow up on it correctly. I was running low on time, and totally spent (being the 3rd round) and at the end, I was very happy to have the game end in draw.

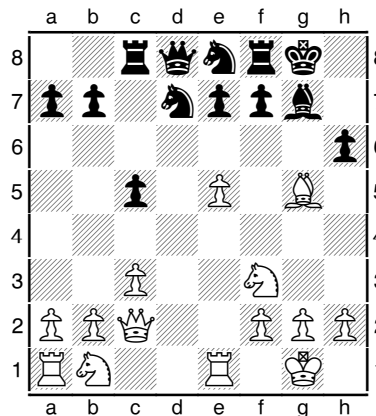


**Doug Given-Kent Nelson**

**(8) Nelson,Kent (1800) - Given,Douglas (1816) [B52]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (3), 20.04.2013

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.d4 Ngf6  
8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Rc8 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Ne8 13.Qc2 g5  
14.Bxg5**



**hxg5 15.Nxg5 f5 16.Ne6 Qb6 17.Nxf8 Nxf8 18.Qxf5 Rc6 19.b3 c4 20.Nd2  
cxb3 21.axb3 Rxc3 22.Rac1 Qc5 23.Rcd1 Qb6 24.Rc1 ½-½**

John's double knight sac on f7 didn't work out well for him as Ben had plenty of material to keep everything covered. After this game, Ben was 3-0 heading for the Sunday rounds.

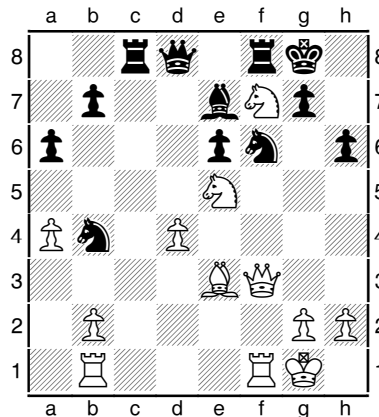


**Ben Fabrikant-John Stepp**

**(9) Stepp,John (1791) - Fabrikant,Ben (1988) [C01]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (3), 20.04.2013

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Be3 dxe4 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.f3 exf3 6.Ngxf3 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 c5 9.c3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nd5 11.Qe2 N7f6 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Ne5 0-0 14.Bd3 Nb4 15.Bb1 a6 16.a4 Bc6 17.Ndf3 Be4 18.Ng5 Bxb1 19.Raxb1 Rc8 20.Qf3 h6 21.Ngxf7 Please see the diagram below.**



**Rxf7 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.Qxb7 Rc7 24.Qf3 Qd5 25.Qxd5 Nbx d5 26.Rf3 Ke8 27.Bf2 Kd7 28.h3 Rc2 29.a5 Ne4 0-1**

I thought the following game between the two Joes was very hard fought and well played. I also had the feeling both players had spend time studying the position as part of their tournament preparations.

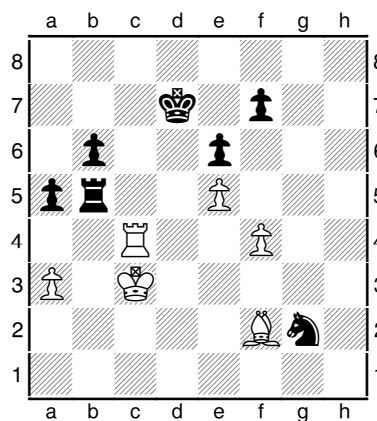


**Joe Knapp-Joseph W**

**(7) Knapp,Joseph (2055) - W. Joseph (1871) [C18]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (3), 20.04.2013

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7  
8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 dxc3 12.Qd3 d4 13.h4 b6  
14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Bd7 16.Rh3 Nf5 17.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Nxh4  
19.Rh3 Nf5 20.g4 Nd4 21.Rb1 Nxc2+ 22.Kd2 Ba4 23.Bb5+ Bxb5  
24.Rxb5 Nd4 25.Rb4 Rd8 26.Rd3 Nf3+ 27.Ke3 Rxd3+ 28.Kxd3 Rxc4  
29.Ke2 Nh4 30.Ra4 Rg2+ 31.Kd3 Rg1 32.Bd2 a5 33.Be3 Rb1 34.Kc2  
Rb5 35.Rc4 Ng2 36.Bf2 Kd7 37.Kc3 ½-½**



**Final Position- draw game**



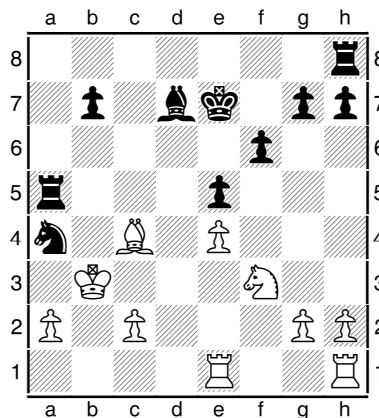
When the Sunday morning arrived, we were missing some players. I was seriously concerned about the absence of John Stepp, Joseph W and Doug Given. I found out later Joseph and Doug had made arrangements to play against each other after Rd 5, due, to Sunday morning obligations of the Wan family. And John pulled up after 20 to 30 minutes after his clock was started. John was paired against Joe Knapp.

Unlike the previous rounds, round 4 was not documented with pairing pictures. **Huishan Wan** was kind enough to take pictures at my request but he was back in Lincoln with his son Joseph.

**(11) Stepp,John (1791) - Knapp,Joseph (2055) [C01]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (4), 21.04.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Be3 dxe4 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.f3 Nd5 6.Qe2 c5 7.dxc5 Nd7 8.Nb3 Qc7 9.fxe4 Nxe3 10.Qxe3 Bxc5 11.Nxc5 Qxc5 12.Qxc5 Nxc5 13.Bd3 e5 14.Nf3 f6 15.0-0-0 Bd7 16.b4 Na4 17.Bc4 Nc3 18.Rde1 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Kb2 Na4+ 21.Kb3 Ke7 0-1 Final Position below. White Resigns.



I'm not sure why White resigned at this point. Perhaps resignation occurred later and the game scores were not illegible. Joe Knapp can make strong players look silly with his precise play. I know this firsthand.

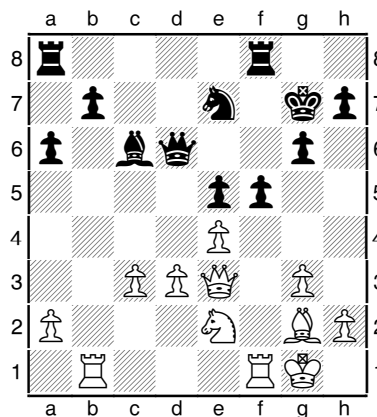
My 4th round pairing was Black against Ben Fabrikant. I've known Ben since his high school days and I admire Ben as a person and player. I remember when I was first told about Ben. I was talking to Dr. Tom O'Connor over a decade ago and he told me about a kid in high school who had a dead loss position but kept on fighting and fighting until he eventually won the game by sheer willpower and good moves. That kid, was Ben Fabrikant.

In the 1990s I enjoyed quite a bit of success against Ben but I knew he was very close to having his talent match his fighting spirit. And as predicted, Ben starting racking up victories against me in the mid 2000s. He has dominated me since. The only win I've had against Ben was nearly 6 years ago during the 4th round of the 2007 State Closed championship. I had the Black pieces and pulled out a victory using the French defense. In the years prior and after the 2007 win, I've had a couple of draws against Ben and that has been it. When we sat down to play I was amazed I had Black in the 4th round against Ben, just like in 2007 championship. It was a pivotal game back then, and a pivotal game now. Would history repeat itself?

**(10) Fabrikant,Ben (1988) - Nelson,Kent (1800) [B40]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (4), 21.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.d3 Nge7 8.Be3 d6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Rab1 Bd7 11.Bh6 Nd4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Ne2 e5 14.Nfxd4 cxd4 15.c3 dxc3 16.bxc3 Bc6 17.f4 f5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Qe3 Qd6 ½-½



**Final Position-Draw**

Despite the short moves, it was a long game time wise. Either Ben or I didn't like our respective positions and both of us seemed satisfied with a draw. Looking back however, I should have played on and maybe my 2007 outcome with Ben could have been repeated.

The following game between Doug Given and Joseph W was played after Rd 5 as per prior arrangements.

**(12) W. Joseph (1871) - Given,Douglas (1816) [B51]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (4), 21.04.2013

This game was played after round 5 for scheduling reasons. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 a6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bc2 Bg4 9.d3 Ne5 10.Nbd2 Rc8 11.h3 Bh5 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nxf3+ 14.Nxf3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qd7 16.Kh2 g6 17.Be3 Bg7 18.Rc1 0-0 19.Qd2 Nh5 20.Bb3 Kh8 21.f4 Rcd8 22.Rcd1 e6 23.d5 ½-½

Going into Rd 5, I was paired against John Stepp. John and I started our chess careers back in 1973. I've played John in more tournament games than any other opponent with always a decisive result. Since John's returned from a several year hiatus, he has been studying chess more and has improved his game. Last year, John and I played in a 4 game match. I jumped out to a 2-0 lead but John fought back and drew the match 2 all. John followed up with a 4-0 tournament win at the 2012 Central Scholastic that included a nice win against Joseph W. So, I wasn't sure what to expect from John despite his 0-4 standing going into the final round.

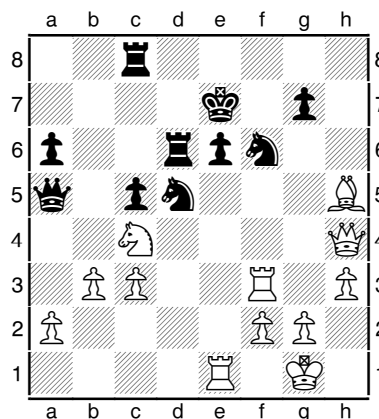


**John Stepp-Kent Nelson**

**(14) Nelson,Kent (1800) - Stepp,John (1791) [B28]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (5), 21.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 b6 4.d4 d6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Ng4 7.Bf4 h5 8.h3 Nf6  
9.Bd3 Bb7 10.0-0 e6 11.Qe2 Be7 12.Bg5 Nh7 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nc4 Nd7 15.e5  
dxe5 16.dxe5 0-0 17.Rad1 Rfd8 18.Rfe1 Nh8 19.Bb1 f5 20.exf6 Nxf6 21.Nxb6  
Rab8 22.Nc4 Bd5 23.Nce5 Qb7 24.b3 Bxf3 25.Nxf3 Nd5 26.Qc4? Qc7? (Ne3!)  
27.Ne5 Rbc8 28.Rd3 Nh7 29.Rf3 Nh6 30.Bg6 Rd6 31.Qh4 Qa5 32.Bf7+ Kf8  
33.Bxh5 Ke7 34.Nc4 1-0 Final Position below.



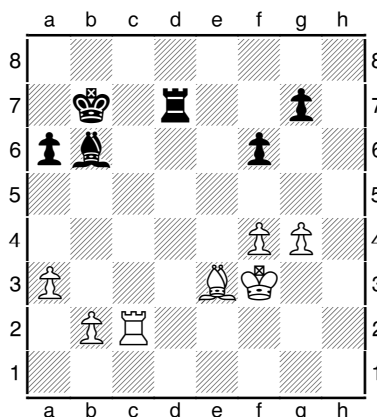
I was a bit surprised that John resigned at this point but I felt he was a real gentleman in doing so. It saved us some time and energy for the drive home to Lincoln. Thanks John!

The Given-Knapp game appeared for a time to headed for a decisive result but fizzed out to a draw.

### (13) Given,Douglas (1816) - Knapp,Joseph (2055) [B53]

NE Closed Ch Omaha (5), 21.04.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxc5 Nxe4 5.cxd6 Nxd6 6.Bd3 e5 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0 Qe7 9.Re1 Bg4 10.Nbd2 f6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Ne4 Nd4 13.Nxd6+ Qxd6 14.Bb5+ Nxb5 15.Qxb5+ Qc6 16.Qxc6+ bxc6 17.Nxe5 0-0-0 18.Nxc6 Rd7 19.Be3 a6 20.g4 Kc7 21.Nd4 Bf7 22.Nb3 h5 23.Rad1 hxc4 24.hxc4 Bd5 25.f4 Rh1+ 26.Kf2 Rh2+ 27.Kg3 Rxc2 28.Rc1 Bxb3 29.Rxc2+ Bxc2 30.Rc1 Bb4 31.Rxc2+ Kb7 32.a3 Ba5 33.Kf3 Bb6 1/2-1/2



**Final Position-Draw**

Going into the last round, Ben Fabrikant needed only a draw to secure his first Nebraska State Closed Championship. See how he did it on the next page.

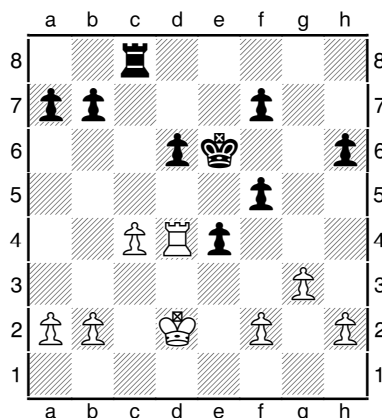


**Ben Fabrikant-Joseph W**

**(15) W. Joseph (1871) - Fabrikant, Ben (1988) [C04]**

NE Closed Ch Omaha (5), 21.04.2013

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.c3 e5 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 7.Nxf3 Nf6  
8.Bg5 dxe4 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.0-0-0+ Bd6 11.Ne5 Ke7 12.Nc4 h6 13.Bxf6+  
gxf6 14.Nxd6 cxd6 15.Bc4 Be6 16.Bd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Rhg8 18.g3 Rg5  
19.Rhd1 Rd8 20.c4 Ke6 21.R1d4 Rxd5 22.Rxd5 f5 23.Kd2 Rc8 24.Rd4  
½-½**



**Final Position-Draw**

2013 Nebraska State Closed Championship Final Standings Congratulations Ben!								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	1988	W 2	W 5	W 6	D 3	D 4	4-1
2	<b>J. Knapp</b>	2055	L 1	W 3	D 4	W 6	D 5	3-2
3	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1800	W 4	L 2	D 5	D 1	W 6	3-2
4	<b>Joseph W</b>	1871	L 3	W 6	D 2	D 5	D 1	2.5
5	<b>Doug Given</b>	1816	W 6	L 1	D 3	D 4	D 2	2.5
6	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1791	L 5	L 4	L 1	L 2	L 3	0-0

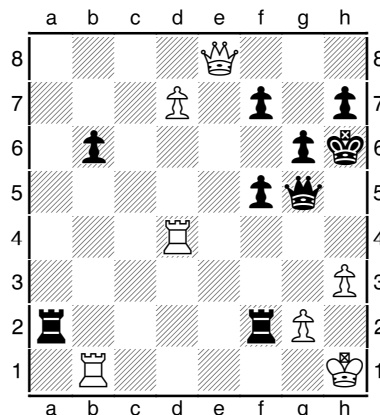
Special thanks again to **John Hartmann** and **John Watson** for helping me and many thanks to **Huishan Wan** for his photo documentation of this tournament. **Mike Gooch** should be lauded for his great work also.

## Games from Nebraska's International Master Keaton Kiewra!

### (1) Kraaiouchkine - Kiewra

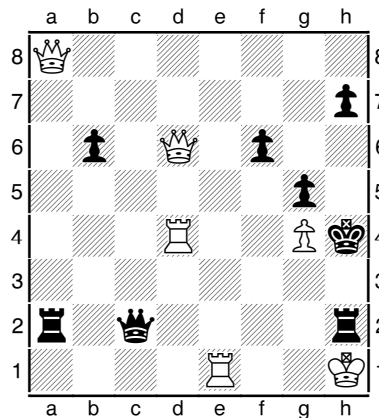
Quebec Invitational, 19.08.2013

[Doe,John]



**1...Qg5** This game fragment is rich with entertainment value. It is the first and only time I can think of where I won a game in which my opponent had 2 queens on the board at the same time. I was playing black against a young Russian master. My position had been fine and even better earlier in the game, but through a series of sloppy moves I found myself in the following dead lost position. It doesn't work to sac the Queen with ...Rxc2 hoping for a perpetual because the white king can simply run to d1 where it is sheltered by the rook on d4. Therefore, I played the continuation that I thought put my opponent under the most pressure. **2.Qf8+ Kh5 3.g4+ fxg4 4.hxg4+ Kh4 5.d8Q** My opponent played perfectly finding the correct winning combination. He may have assumed his troubles were over now, but white must continue to find precise moves as there is still a lot of pressure against his king. **5...f6** What should be a player's mentality in a lost position? Mine has always been to try to make the opponent's conversion of the win as difficult as possible, and to resign only when all hope is lost. Here I aim to create a threat with every move and give my opponent a problem to solve. I now threaten Rh2+ followed by Qe3 with mate coming. **6.Qfd6** [6.Qdd6 Might have been a better choice since it denies black the h6 square. 6...Rh2+ 7.Qxh2+ Rxc2+ 8.Kxh2 Qe5+ 9.Kh1 Qxd4 10.Qh6+ Kxc4 11.Rg1+ Should lead to a forced win since the black king is open and the white queen and rook can coordinate. It might have been hard psychologically though for

white to go from being ahead a queen, to only 1 point of material.]  
**6...Qh6** threatening a sneaky discovered check by moving the king.  
**7.Qe5! g5** I thought it was necessary here to break the pin on the f-pawn and attack white's queen since I had no useful king moves.  
**8.Qed6?!** white is still winning, but he is headed down the wrong path.  
 [8.Qdd6 Is completely winning. 8...Rf3 9.Qh2+ Rxh2+ 10.Qxh2+ Rh3 11.Qxh3+ Kxh3 12.Rb3+ Kh4 13.Kg2 With unstoppable mate. The double queen sac is a nice finish!] **8...Qg6 9.Re1??** Rc1 or Rg1 seem to still leave white with a won position. Remarkably, the text is losing!  
**9...Qc2!** Now there is no defense against the threats of Rh2+ or Rf1+ with forced mate. The black king on h4 is safe from the white army of 2 queens and 2 rooks! **10.Qa8 Rh2+ 0-1**



**Final Position 0-1**

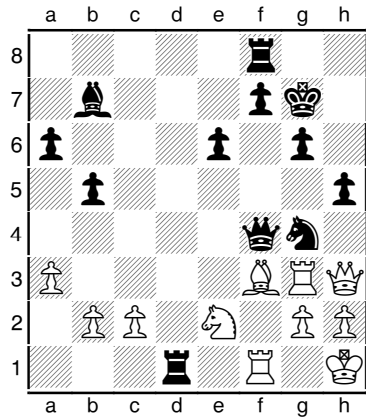
### **(1) Cao - Kiewra [B85]**

Quebec Invitational, 23.07.2013

[Doe,John]

**1.e4** I played this game in Quebec over the summer against rising star and former World Champion for his age, Jason Cao. This youngster already has many IM and GM scalps on his belt, and I didn't intend to be another one of them. **1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 a6 8.Be3 d6** I decided to convert to a Scheveningen and trust my experience and preparation there. **9.f4 Be7 10.Qe1 0-0 11.Qg3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.a3 Bb7 14.Bd3 Rad8 15.Kh1 Rd7 16.Rae1 Qd8** This is a theoretical position. The Rd7 Qd8 maneuver was found by GM Jakovenko and seems to give black the resources he needs to hold the kingside against white's oncoming onslaught. In these kinds of positions black usually has great long term prospects with the half open c-file and active queenside as long as he can survive. **17.Re3 g6 18.Qh3 h5 19.Rg3 Kg7** In the spirit of Steinitz and Petrosian, I try to prove that the king is capable of defending itself. [19...h4 20.Qxh4 e5 but after 21.Qh6! exd4 22.e5 I will get mated. For

example 22...dxe5 23.Bxg6 fxg6 24.Qxg6+ Kh8 25.Qg7#] **20.e5 Ng4! 21.exd6+ Bf6** I felt black's piece activity here was well worth the temporarily sacrificed pawn. white's kingside pieces now seem very awkward. **22.Bxf6+ Qxf6 23.Be2 Rxd6 24.Bf3** [24.Bxg4 hxg4 25.Qxg4 Rd2 26.f5 exf5 27.Rxf5 fails to 27...Rxc2!! 28.Rxf6 (28.Rxc2 Bxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Qxf5) 28...Rxc3+] **24...Qxf4 25.Ne2 Rd1!!**



I hate to be overzealous by giving myself 2 exclams, but this move was fun to play! :) **26.Rxd1 Nf2+ 27.Kg1 Nxh3+** and black won shortly **0-1**



International Chess Master, **Keaton Kiewra** will be playing in the River City Roundup in Omaha on September 28th and 29th. Don't miss this opportunity to watch Keaton in live action during tournament play!



## **Tournament Results**

Please send standings to:  
Jerry Slominski  
2009 Camp Brewster Rd.  
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

Special note—Tournament results were pulled from the USCF web site. Listing of players are not in tie breaking order.

<b>2013 State Individual Scholastic K-3 Section</b>								
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Rd 5</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>J. Kerkman</b>	546	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>4.5</b>
2	<b>C. Hardy</b>	732	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>J. Tran</b>	Unr	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
4	<b>T. Kerkman</b>	639	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>A. Waido</b>	316	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
6	<b>G. Campbell</b>	160	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>C. Kumke</b>	582	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
8	<b>B. Korus</b>	163	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>A. Simetich</b>	552	<b>L 10</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>C. Meyer</b>	Unr	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>E. Hollinger</b>	Unr	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>D 13</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>2.0</b>
12	<b>M. Brooks</b>	105	<b>B</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>2.0</b>
13	<b>L. Scott</b>	Unr	<b>L 6</b>	<b>D 14</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2.0</b>
14	<b>C. Brandl</b>	Unr	<b>L 7</b>	<b>D 13</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>C. Schlautman</b>	Unr	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>0-0</b>

<b>2013 State Individual Scholastic K-12 Section</b>							
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>B. Li</b>	1750	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>C. Caniglia</b>	1412	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>D. Nguyen</b>	1299	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>T. Hafner</b>	1120	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>T. Samiev</b>	1495	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1414	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1.5</b>
7	<b>H. Ho</b>	Unr	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>1.5</b>
8	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1320	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>1.0</b>
9	<b>A. Vetter</b>	1145	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>1.0</b>
10	<b>D. Rademaker</b>	Unr	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>0-0</b>

<b>2013 State Individual Scholastic K-8 Section</b>							
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>J. Wan</b>	1874	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>A. Nelson</b>	1212	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>S. Potineni</b>	1121	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>V. Retineni</b>	1201	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>D. Schlautman</b>	1038	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>G. Campbell</b>	756	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>J. Butcher</b>	Unr	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>C. Schlautman</b>	838	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
9	<b>S. Bradshaw</b>	103	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
10	<b>A. Delaney</b>	Unr	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>0-0</b>

2013 State Individual Scholastic K-6 Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	D. Wurtz	Unr	D 4	W 11	W 14	W 5	W 2	4.5
2	D. Duong	522	W 16	W 5	W 7	W 6	L 1	4.0
3	C. Schlautman	352	W 17	L 6	W 13	W 7	W 8	4.0
4	C. Corpuz	1111	D 1	W 9	L 5	W 17	W 6	3.5
5	B. Lyons	981	W 20	L 2	W 4	L 1	W 14	3.0
6	K. Feldhaus	734	W 8	W 3	W 12	L 2	L 4	3.0
7	A. Boerner	590	W 18	W 10	L 2	L 3	W 13	3.0
8	N. Sekar	Unr	L 6	W 15	W 19	W 12	L 3	3.0
9	L. Novosad	103	D 11	L 4	D 15	W 16	W 12	3.0
10	J. Jeffers	Unr	W 15	L 7	D 17	L 14	W 18	2.5
11	D. Le	Unr	D 9	L 1	L 18	W 20	W 17	2.5
12	W. Dunkleman	579	W 13	W 19	L 6	L 8	L 9	2.0
13	K. Lloyd	502	L 12	W 18	L 3	W 19	L 7	2.0
14	S. Kota	380	L 19	W 20	L 1	W 10	L 5	2.0
15	W. Duralia	270	L 10	L 8	D 9	D 18	W 20	2.0
16	J. Carl	Unr	L 2	L 17	W 20	L 9	W 19	2.0
17	V. Davidson	228	L 3	W 16	D 10	L 4	L 11	1.5
18	H. Sibley	101	L 7	L 13	W 11	D 15	L 10	1.5
19	T. Labadie	Unr	W 14	L 12	L 8	L 13	L 16	1.0
20	S. Dubois	101	L 5	L 14	L 16	L 11	L 15	0-0

## The 2013 Cornhusker State Games

The 2013 Cornhusker State Games was held at Lincoln's Southeast Community College starting on Saturday, July 20th with the event lasting until Sunday, July 21st. NSCA web master, **Kent Smotherman** won the Open section with a 4-1 score. **Doug McFarland** won the Reserve section with 4.5 out of 5 points. **Shaemon Erb** won the Scholastic section with a perfect 5-0 score. The tournament was directed by **Mike Gooch**. 76 players participated. Report by Kent Nelson.

The 2013 Cornhusker State Games Open Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>K. Smotherman</b>	1522	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>4.0</b>
2	<b>S. Cusumano</b>	Unr	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>3.5</b>
3	<b>J. Wan</b>	1908	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>Doug Given</b>	1829	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1842	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
6	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1885	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1734	<b>L 3</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>B. Li</b>	1754	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>J. Davidson</b>	Unr	<b>D 12</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>M. Turner</b>	1464	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1764	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.5</b>
12	<b>M. Carney</b>	1766	<b>D 9</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
13	<b>J. Solheim</b>	1632	<b>L 14</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.5</b>
14	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1877	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>J. Reigenborn</b>	1215	<b>B</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>1.0</b>

2013 Cornhusker State Games-Reserve Section								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	D. McFarland	1581	W 24	H	W 8	W 5	W 3	4.5
2	Dale Ruzicka	1634	D 27	W 23	D 10	W 25	W 9	4.0
3	P. McNeely	1538	W 21	W 12	W 9	W 4	L 1	4.0
4	C. Caniglia	1425	W 14	W 18	W 17	L 3	W 10	4.0
5	A. Wolzen	1175	W 22	W 11	W 15	L 1	W 7	4.0
6	D. Meux	1700	L 18	X	W 12	D 10	W 13	3.5
7	B. Rogers	1571	W 28	L 10	W 14	W 18	L 5	3.0
8	J. Boeder	1465	D 23	W 27	L 1	W 28	D 16	3.0
9	M. Rieck	1389	W 30	W 13	L 3	W 17	L 2	3.0
10	J. Braden	1307	W 33	W 7	D 2	D 6	L 4	3.0
11	D. Wolk	1396	W 31	L 5	L 21	W 26	W 25	3.0
12	T. Hafner	1316	W 29	L 3	L 6	W 22	W 23	3.0
13	K. Hruska	1027	W 16	L 9	W 27	W 19	L 6	3.0
14	N Gaid	1092	L 4	B	L 7	W 29	W 27	3.0
15	J. Hill	1471	W 32	W 25	L 5	H	U	2.5
16	B. Houser	1408	L 13	W 31	D 28	D 23	D 8	2.5
17	J.R. Bagley	Unr	W 19	W 20	L 4	L 9	H	2.5
18	A. Suresh	1282	W 6	L 4	W 22	L 7	D 20	2.5
19	T. Benetz	1336	L 17	W 30	W 26	L 13	H	2.5
20	T. Oltman	1331	W 26	L 17	L 25	W 30	D 18	2.5
21	R. Connor	1189	L 3	W 29	W 11	H	U	2.5

<b>2013 Cornhusker State Games-Reserve Section-continued</b>								
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Rd 5</b>	<b>Tot</b>
22	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1522	<b>L 5</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>L 18</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>W 28</b>	<b>2.0</b>
23	<b>B. Lyons</b>	1148	<b>D 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>D 16</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>2.0</b>
24	<b>A. Nelson</b>	1251	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 26</b>	<b>L 23</b>	<b>W 34</b>	<b>W 30</b>	<b>2.0</b>
25	<b>J. Trine</b>	1183	<b>W 34</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>2.0</b>
26	<b>M. Williams</b>	1012	<b>L 20</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 31</b>	<b>2.0</b>
27	<b>David Given</b>	1259	<b>D 2</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>W 31</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>1.5</b>
28	<b>J. McFarland</b>	1227	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 34</b>	<b>D 16</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 22</b>	<b>1.5</b>
29	<b>N. Kabourek</b>	Unr	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 21</b>	<b>D 31</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 34</b>	<b>1.5</b>
30	<b>A. Leuenberger</b>	Unr	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>W 34</b>	<b>L 20</b>	<b>L 24</b>	<b>1.0</b>
31	<b>David Ruzicka</b>	1215	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>D 29</b>	<b>L 27</b>	<b>L 26</b>	<b>0.5</b>
32	<b>J. McElderry</b>	1156	<b>L 15</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>0-0</b>
33	<b>F. Pages</b>	Unr	<b>L 10</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>0-0</b>
34	<b>T. Fraser</b>	Unr	<b>L 25</b>	<b>L 28</b>	<b>L 30</b>	<b>L 24</b>	<b>L 29</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>2013 Cornhusker Reserve Section</b>								



<b>2013 Cornhusker State Games-Scholastic Section</b>								
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Rd 4</b>	<b>Rd 5</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>S. Erb</b>	730	<b>W 21</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>5.0</b>
2	<b>C. Sater</b>	538	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>N. Sekar</b>	532	<b>W 26</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>4.0</b>
4	<b>C. Corpuz</b>	1091	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	<b>J. Ackerman</b>	692	<b>W 19</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.5</b>
6	<b>K. Shen</b>	569	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>D 14</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>3.5</b>
7	<b>S. Chokkara</b>	758	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>3.0</b>
8	<b>J. Kerkman</b>	696	<b>W 13</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 19</b>	<b>3.0</b>
9	<b>A. Boerner</b>	574	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	<b>J. Tran</b>	469	<b>W 24</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>3.0</b>
11	<b>R. Wall</b>	Unr	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 25</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>3.0</b>
12	<b>D. Le</b>	304	<b>W 25</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>3.0</b>
13	<b>H. Sibley</b>	145	<b>L 8</b>	<b>W 26</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>3.0</b>
14	<b>P. Soni</b>	486	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
15	<b>Abram Nelson</b>	Unr	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 21</b>	<b>W 25</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>2.0</b>
16	<b>I. Imhoff</b>	352	<b>W 23</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>2.0</b>
17	<b>K. Lloyd</b>	340	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>L 20</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>2.0</b>
18	<b>D. Hitt</b>	Unr	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>W 25</b>	<b>2.0</b>
19	<b>A. Smith</b>	101	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
20	<b>A. Mead</b>	Unr	<b>L 14</b>	<b>L 19</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>W 22</b>	<b>2.0</b>
21	<b>C. Harris</b>	229	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>W 24</b>	<b>W 23</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>2.0</b>

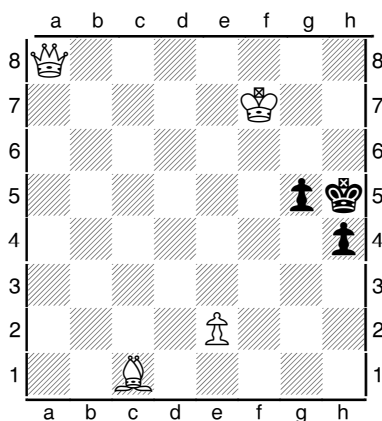
2013 Cornhusker State Games-Scholastic Section-continued								
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
22	C. Meyer	340	L 4	W 24	L 9	L 19	L 20	1.0
23	V. Kumar	Unr	L 16	L 18	W 26	L 21	L 17	1.0
24	A. Soni	Unr	L 10	L 22	L 21	L 17	B	1.0
25	L. Cole	Unr	L 12	L 11	L 15	X	L 18	1.0
26	A. Mahr	Unr	L 3	L 13	L 23	F	U	0-0

**Interested in knowing the medal winners in the various sections!**

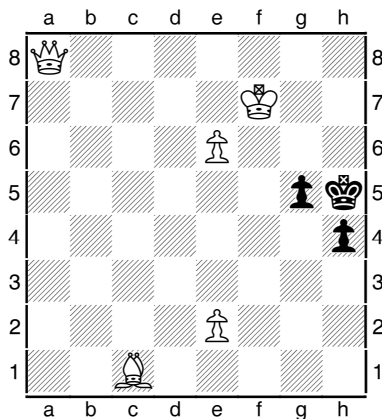
**Please visit the following web site.**

<http://events.clearthunder.com/index.php?module=thunder&cmd=publicresultsevents&category=504&event=CSG2013>

## Cover Corrections



White to move-2 move Solutions for diagram above.



White to move-1move Solution for the diagram above.



**The 1st Spence Swiss** was held at the Jack Spence chess club in Omaha, and ran from 6/18 to 7/23/13 with one game played per week on Tuesday evenings. **Joseph Knapp** won the Open section with 3.5 points out of 4. **John Hartmann** directed. 18 players took part. –  
**Report by Kent Nelson**

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1969	<b>W 9</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>J. Slominski</b>	1905	<b>W 12</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1739	<b>W 13</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4	<b>M. Hezel</b>	1354	<b>W 14</b>	<b>D 12</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>B. Li</b>	1782	<b>W 11</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1747	<b>W 10</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>D. Hguyen</b>	1508	<b>W 15</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1451	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
9	<b>A. Schulze</b>	1386	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.0</b>
10	<b>T. Oltman</b>	1302	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>W 12</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>2.0</b>
11	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1364	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 13</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
12	<b>R. Gruber</b>	1355	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>1.5</b>
13	<b>J. Reigenborn</b>	1199	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>1.0</b>
14	<b>V. Vazquez</b>	Unr	<b>L 4</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 12</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>T. Freed</b>	1323	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>E. Caplan</b>	521	<b>L 8</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Section-2 Filler</b>							
1.	<b>S. Cusumano</b>	1918	<b>W 2</b>	<b>U</b>	—	—	<b>1.0</b>
2.	<b>D. Wolk</b>	1378	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 3</b>	—	—	<b>1.0</b>
3.	<b>T. Freed</b>	1141	<b>U</b>	<b>L 2</b>	—	—	<b>1.0</b>

**The Spence Quick** tournament was held at the Jack Spence chess club on July 30th, with a time control of Game in 12 minutes. Note the Q or quick ratings. After 5 rounds, **Tony Dutiel** was the clear winner with 4.5 points out of 5. The event was directed by **John Hartmann** and drew 11 players.-Report by Kent Nelson

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	<b>T. Dutiel</b>	1753	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
2	<b>J. Knapp</b>	1844	<b>W 5</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
3	<b>B. Fabrikant</b>	1911	<b>D 8</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>3.5</b>
4	<b>S. Cusumano</b>	1918	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
5	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1332	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>3.0</b>
6	<b>A. McFayden</b>	1109	<b>B</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>W 4</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>3.0</b>
7	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1739	<b>W 9</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2.5</b>
8	<b>C. Caniglia</b>	1455	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
9	<b>T. Freed</b>	1318	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 11</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>D 10</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>1.5</b>
10	<b>N. Mullen</b>	1273	<b>L 1</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
11	<b>A. Schulze</b>	1375	<b>L 4</b>	<b>L 9</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>1.0</b>



*So just who was this Jack Spence?*

*Check out John Tomas's brilliant article on Jack below.*

*[http://spencechessclub.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/tomas\\_on\\_spence\\_2001.pdf](http://spencechessclub.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/tomas_on_spence_2001.pdf)*

**The 2nd Spence Swiss** was held at the Jack Spence chess club and drew 10 players in the Open section. Winner of the Open section was Lincolnite, **John Stepp**, who drove up to Omaha, Tuesday evenings to play in the month long event. **John Hartmann** organized and directed the tournament. Report by Kent Nelson

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1742	<b>W 10</b>	<b>D 7</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>W 3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
2	<b>S. Cusumano</b>	1918	<b>W 5</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>D 4</b>	<b>3.0</b>
3	<b>J. Hartmann</b>	1719	<b>B</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
4	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1449	<b>L 6</b>	<b>W 9</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
5	<b>A. Schulze</b>	1375	<b>L 2</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>T. Freed</b>	1115	<b>W 4</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>D 5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>T. Dutiel</b>	1838	<b>W 9</b>	<b>D 1</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.5</b>
8	<b>A. Suresh</b>	1356	<b>H</b>	<b>D 6</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
9	<b>R. Gruber</b>	1345	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>D 8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
10	<b>N. Mullen</b>	1273	<b>L 1</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Filler Game</b>							
1	<b>D. Dostal</b>	1448	<b>D 2</b>	—	—	—	<b>0.5</b>
2	<b>D. Sparks</b>	1291	<b>D 1</b>	—	—	—	<b>0.5</b>

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Please welcome Jerry as our new *Gambit* editor!

## **Joseph Wan wins the 2012 Lincoln City Chess Championship!**

Report by  
**Kent Nelson**

The Lincoln City Championship was held at Lincoln's Southeast Community College on Saturday, June 15th. The event was won by 11-year-old Joseph Wan with a perfect 3-0 score. As a result of this victory, Joseph made Lincoln city chess history by being the youngest champion of all time. Congratulations to Joseph for this historic achievement! The path to victory for Joseph was not easy. Joseph defended well against Brandon Li to earn a shot at the championship game against Tony Dutiel. Tony has been Joseph's nemesis but Joseph outplayed Tony to claim the championship and make history. Well done Joseph!

All of Joseph's city championship games are published in this issue.

The tournament was organized by John Linscott with support from the Lincoln Chess Foundation.

Tony Dutiel directed the event and did a fine job.

Joseph received some well deserve press coverage for winning the city championship. Below is a link to the news report from Lincoln's news channel 10 & 11.

**<http://www.1011now.com/lancesjournal/headlines/Lances-Journal-Young-Capital-City-Chess-Champion-Aug-16-2013-219994521.html>**

The **2012** Lincoln City Championship is not a misprint. The tournament was a make up event for not having the city championship during the calendar year 2012. The **2013** Lincoln city championship will be held later this year.

Special thanks to John Linscott, Tony Dutiel and the players who took part for supporting Lincoln Chess.

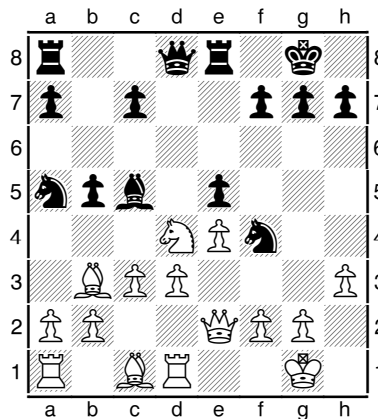
<b>2012 Lincoln City Chess Championship Final Standings</b>						
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Rd 1</b>	<b>Rd 2</b>	<b>Rd 3</b>	<b>Tot</b>
1	<b>J. Wan</b>	1877	<b>W 14</b>	<b>W 6</b>	<b>W 5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
2	<b>J. Linscott</b>	1828	<b>W 11</b>	<b>D 3</b>	<b>W 7</b>	<b>2.5</b>
3	<b>K. Nelson</b>	1834	<b>W 20</b>	<b>D 2</b>	<b>W 10</b>	<b>2.5</b>
4	<b>N. Reeves</b>	1881	<b>U</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>2.0</b>
5	<b>T. Dutiel</b>	1828	<b>W 16</b>	<b>W 8</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
6	<b>B. Li</b>	1763	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 1</b>	<b>W 16</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7	<b>J. Stepp</b>	1753	<b>W 15</b>	<b>W 13</b>	<b>L 2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
8	<b>J. Jorenby</b>	1759	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 15</b>	<b>2.0</b>
9	<b>M. Kende</b>	1876	<b>H</b>	<b>D 12</b>	<b>D 11</b>	<b>1.5</b>
10	<b>D. Nguyen</b>	1471	<b>D 12</b>	<b>W 14</b>	<b>L 3</b>	<b>1.5</b>
11	<b>T. Hafner</b>	1291	<b>L 2</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
12	<b>T. O'Connor</b>	1925	<b>D 10</b>	<b>D 9</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1.0</b>
13	<b>J. Hill</b>	1559	<b>W 19</b>	<b>L 7</b>	<b>L 4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
14	<b>T. Oltman</b>	1346	<b>L 1</b>	<b>L 10</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>1.0</b>
15	<b>J. Reigenborn</b>	1211	<b>L 7</b>	<b>W 17</b>	<b>L 8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
16	<b>J. Trine</b>	1184	<b>L 5</b>	<b>W 18</b>	<b>L 6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
17	<b>C. Smith</b>	892	<b>L 6</b>	<b>L 15</b>	<b>W 20</b>	<b>1.0</b>
18	<b>K. Little</b>	653	<b>L 8</b>	<b>L 16</b>	<b>L 14</b>	<b>0-0</b>
19	<b>N. Luginbill</b>	515	<b>L 13</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>0-0</b>
20	<b>J. Tran</b>	469	<b>L 3</b>	<b>L 11</b>	<b>L 17</b>	<b>0-0</b>

**(1) Wan, Joseph (1877) - Oltman, Tim (1346) [C54]**

2012 Lincoln City Championship (1), 24.06.2013

[Wan, Joseph]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 4...Nf6 5.d3** [5.d4 was also possible here, usually continuing 5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ (If 7...Nxe4, then 8.Bxb4 Nxb4 9.Bxf7+! Kxf7 10.Qb3+ d5 11.Qxb4?) 8.Nbxd2 d5=] **5...0-0 6.0-0** [6.Nbd2 was the alternative, planning to bring the knight to "f1" and then to "g3" and possibly play a g4 in-between. The game might continue 6...d6 7.Nf1 a6 8.Bb3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Ng3?] **6...d6 7.Bb3** preventing all this ...Na5 moves because if ..Na5, then .Bb3. **7...Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nbd2** still doing the Nf1 and Ng3 thing, this time with Re1 or Rd1 in-between. **9...d5 10.Qe2!?** [10.exd5! Nxd5 11.Re1 Re8 (11...f6 12.Ne4?; 11...Nf4! 12.d4 exd4 13.Ne4 Bd6 14.Bxf4 Bxf4 15.cxd4=) 12.d4±] **10...Re8 11.Rd1 11...d4?! Black closes his position, blocks off his bishop, and opens White's position. [Better would've been 11...Qd7, connecting his Rooks.] 12.Nf1 b5?! Black is trying to get ...b4 in, but this creates a weakness on "a7" and "c7" and if he goes ...b4, then there is a hole on "c4". Better still would've been 12... Qd7. 13.Ng3 Na5? Black allows White to win at least a pawn. Since White was attacking the bishop, Black should have retreated with 13...Bg6. [13...Bg6 14.Nh4 dxc3 15.bxc3 Ne7 16.Bg5±] 14.Nxh5** Setting up a discovered attack. **14...Nxh5 15.Nxd4!** [Not 15.Nxe5?? Rxe5!, defending the knight on "h5".] **15...Nf4?!]**

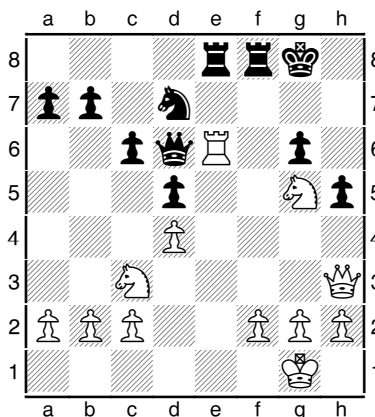


[If 15...exd4, then 16.Bxf7+! Kxf7 17.Qxh5+ Kg8 18.Qxc5, two pawns up.; 15...Bxd4 was better, losing only a pawn.] **16.Bxf4 exf4 17.Bxf7+!**, winning a second pawn. **17...Kxf7 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Qxc5 a6** Black has to defend his "b5" pawn. **20.a4!** White simply attacks it again. **20...Qd6?** Black gives away another pawn after this. [20...Nb7! 21.Qf5 bxa4 22.Qxf4 Qd7 would've been better.] **21.Qxd6 cxd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.b4!** getting rid of ...Nb3 ideas after 23.Nxb5. **23...Nb7 24.Nxb5 Rac8 25.Ra7 Re7?! Black loses a fourth pawn. 26.Nxd6! Rf8?? 27.Rxb7 1-0**

## 2012 Lincoln City Championship (2), 24.06.2013

[Wan, Joseph]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Bf5 6.Bd3** White trades off his good bishop. Better would've been 6.Be2, keeping the bishop. **6...Bxd3!**  
**7.Qxd3 Be7 8.Nc3?!** This is not a good square to put the knight. It blocks the "c" pawn. Better would've been 8.O-O followed by 9.Nbd2. **8...c6 9.0-0 0-0**  
**10.Rfe1 Nbd7 11.Re2** White plans to double his Rooks. **11...Nh5 12.Bc7!** This move gets the Rook to the 7th rank. **12...Qxc7 13.Rxe7 Qd6 14.Rae1?** [Better would've been 14.Qe3 Nf4 15.Rxd7!± because after, 14, Rae1, Black has ...Nf4 and ...Ne6 with tempo.] **14...Nf4! 15.Qf5! Ne6 16.Ng5!** It appears that White is making good progress, but... **16...g6!!** Black prevents the mate threat and attacks the queen. **17.Qh3** [If 17.Nxf7 , then 17...Qxe7!! , winning the rook]  
**17...h5!! 18.R1xe6** [If 18.Nxf7 , then 18...Qxe7! 19.Nh6+ Kh7 20.Rxe6 Qg5! , winning the knight.] **18...fxe6 19.Rxe6** White appears to be winning, right? Not so! Black has... .. **19...Rae8!!**



The queen is unassailable because of the back-rank mate! **20.Re3?** [20.Kf1, threatening the queen, would've been better.] **20...Qf4! 21.Qg3!** The only move. **21...Rxe3 22.Qxe3 Of5 23.Qe7?? Qxf2+** and mate next move. **0-1**

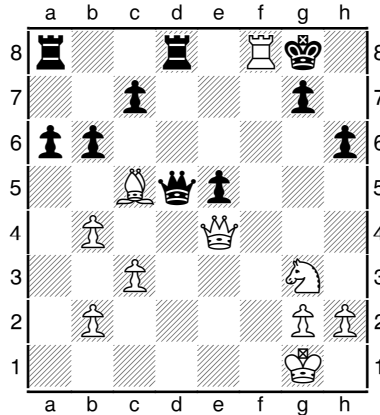
**(3) Wan, Joseph (1877) - Dutiel, Tony (1828) [C54]**

2012 Lincoln City Championship (3), 24.06.2013

[Wan, Joseph]

**1.e4 e5** I got this opening 2 times in the tournament, out of 3! **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bb3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Na5 8.Bc2 Ng4?! ,** allowing **9.d4 9.0-0?! [9.d4 would've been better! 9...exd4 10.cxd4 Bb6 11.0-0] 9...Bxf2+?** this gives up two pieces for a Rook. **10.Rxf2 Nxf2** [Black's original plan was to go **10...Ne3** , but Black's knight gets trapped after **11.Qe2 Nxc2 12.Rb1] 11.Kxf2 f5 12.Nf1 fxe4 13.dxe4 13...Be6 14.Ng3 Nc6** Black brings his knight

back into play. **15.Bb3 Qf6 16.Be3 h6 17.Kg1 Ne7 18.Qd2 Bxb3 19.axb3 Qe6 20.b4 a6** Black defends his "a" pawn for future reasons. **21.Nh4** White prepares to bring his knight into "f5". **21...d5 22.Nhf5 dxe4?** [Better was **22...Nxf5! 23.exf5 Qf7 24.Rf1 Kh7±**] **23.Nxe7+! Qxe7 24.Bc5 Rfd8** [24...Qd8 , because it might trade queens instead of leaving the queen attacked.] **25.Qe2 Qd7 26.Qxe4 26...Qd5** Black defends his "b" pawn and prepares to trade queens. **27.Rf1 b6??** [27...Qxe4 28.Nxe4 Rd3 was better, but still would've been losing, just makes White try to win.] **28.Rf8+!**



White wins at least a piece. **1–0**



**The Youngest Lincoln City Chess Champion of all time,  
Joseph with his Dad Huishan.**



## **Hartmann's Corner**

### **August 2013**

#### **Friedel wins 2013 US Open in Blitz Playoff**

*Li, Wan and Tran represent NE in Denker, Barber, All-Girls*

519 players converged on Madison, Wisconsin from July 27th through August 4th for the 2013 edition of the US Open. After 9 rounds of furious battle, Grandmaster Josh Friedel did his fellow Cheeseheads proud by defeating IM Mackenzie Molner in an armageddon blitz playoff to take the trophy and the seat in the 2014 US Closed Championship. Friedel, Molner and GM Julio Sadorra each scored 8.0/9 in tying for first place. Four grandmasters finished with 7.5/9, and thirteen players ended with 7.0/9, including former Lincolnite John Watson, whose return to tournament chess was entirely successful. Nebraska's lone representative in the Open was yours truly, and I suffered through a miserable tournament performance, finishing with 4.0/9. The masochists among you can find my games in this issue's installment of Hartmann's Corner.

Three Nebraska juniors made the trip to Madison to compete in national age-limited championships. Jacey Tran of Lincoln played bravely against much more experienced competition in the National All-Girls Championship, winning her first game on the national stage along the way. Joseph Wan, also of Lincoln, was the Nebraska representative in the Barber (K-8), scoring 50% against a tough field. Omaha native Brandon Li won an upset prize in round five of the Denker (K-12), defeating a player who outrated him by 160+ points. He finished with 2.0/6.

Your humble correspondent also served as the Nebraska delegate to the USCF. The delegate's meeting was long and occasionally mind-numbing, but on the whole, I can report that American chess seems to be in good hands. Federation finances are stable and, with the cessation of the Polgar lawsuits and other unexpected expenditures, might even be on a slight upswing. The Interim ED, Franc Guadalupe, seems entirely competent, which makes his refusal to apply for the full-time job all the more tragic. Rumblings abound that a new rulebook will be published in the near future, and apparently the USCF is once again taking proposals for online play. There were few truly controversial motions made at the Delegate's Meeting, and it was my sense that

participants were, after the tumult of the past few years, glad for the lack of drama.

This was my first experience of a national tournament, and my terrible chess play notwithstanding, it was an experience that I can entirely recommend to my fellow Nebraskans. It's one thing to watch grandmasters play anonymous blitz online, but it's another entirely to see them duke it out over the board, to watch their facial expressions, their worry and their elation. The tournament hall was chock-a-block with chess nobility, as was the hotel bar, and I got to chat with multiple GMs and masters. By way of conclusion, I should note that I joined the Chess Journalists of America, and in no small part to try to advocate for the kind of local chess writing that is curated by our outgoing editor Kent Nelson in *The Gambit*. Many of you might not be aware that I have a chess book review blog – [chessbookreviews.wordpress.com](http://chessbookreviews.wordpress.com) – for which I was awarded “chess blog of the year” by the CJA. The story behind this award is worth telling: on the morning of the CJA meeting, I was strolling through the playing hall, taking pictures, when I came across two lone players contesting a game in an otherwise empty room. Turns out they were on the CJA board and, after having learned of my blog, they slipped its URL into the judging. Serendipity indeed.

## **Hartmann's Corner – US Open Edition**

### **August 2013**

Here they are, such as they are. My rating has dropped approximately 65 points in the past few months, and I think it shows here. I beat my lower rated opponents, and lost to the more highly rated. What's worse, I had White against all the lower rated, and Black against all the higher rated. Please try not to snicker when you play them over, ok?

### **Parker,Anthony (2195) – Hartmann,John (1724)**

#### **[C45]**

US Open (1), 30.07.2013

*[Hartmann,John]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3** and here I kind of freaked out, being unable to remember theory in this position. I became quite enamored with keeping my dark-squared bishop, but I have to be willing to part with it in this subvariation of the Scotch. [6.a4 a6 7.Nc3 d6] **6...Nge7** [6...d6 7.a4 a6 8.Nd5 Ba7=; 6...Nf6 7.Bd3 d6 8.0-0 0-0] **7.Bg5 0-0** [7...f6

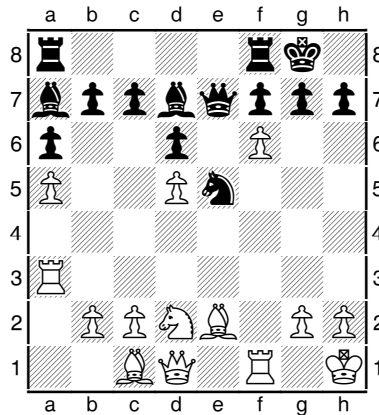
8.Bd2 0-0 9.Bc4+ Kh8; 7...h6 8.Bh4 g5?! 9.Bg3 d6 was something I considered during the game, with the idea of dropping the knight on e5, but this allows White to get very active with 10.h4!]

**8.Be2** [8.Nd5 was my big concern during the game, but it turns out that this is probably subpar after 8...h6! 9.Bh4 (9.Bxe7 Nxe7) 9...Qe8 10.Nxb6 axb6]

**8...Qe8** Passive. Not horrible, but passive. I need to develop my pieces. [8...f6; 8...d6]

**9.0-0 d6 10.a4 a6 11.a5 Ba7 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Ne5** [13...f6]

**14.Kh1 Ng6 15.Ra3 Qe5 16.Bc1 Bd7** [16...Re8! suggested by Parker, and something I considered strongly. It's certainly better than the text. 17.Bc4 (17.Bf3 Bd7; 17.Bd3? Qxd5) 17...Bd7 (17...Nh4 18.Nd2 Bf5) 18.Nd2] **17.f4 Qf6** [17...Qf5 18.c4 Rfe8 19.Bd3 Qg4!] **18.f5 Ne5** [18...Ne7 19.c4 Rae8 and I think the computer is overly optimistic here for Black.] **19.Nd2 Qe7?! Allowing f5-f6.** I saw it and calculated it, thinking it not overly dangerous. The combination of time pressure – of course – and my general lethargy (from the drive?) did me in. [19...Qh4 20.Rg3 (20.g4?! Rae8) 20...Qd4 21.Ne4 Qxd1 22.Bxd1 Bb5 23.Rf4 f6] **20.f6 Please see diagram below.**



**gxf6 21.Ne4 f5 22.Ng5** [22.Bg5? f6 23.Bh6 fxe4 24.Bxf8 Rxf8+] **22...f6** [22...h6 23.Nh3 Ng4] **23.Nh3** [23.Nf3? Ng4 24.Nd4 Bxd4 25.Bxg4 fxg4 26.Qxd4 Qe2] **23...Rf7** Dangerous. [23...Kh8 was Parker's suggestion after the game. This does look better. 24.Bh6 Rg8 25.Bh5; 23...Ng4! considered during the game! Sadly I can't remember my PV. I did not, however, note the ...Qe5 threat. 24.Rg3 (24.Nf4? Nf2+; 24.Bd3 Qe5!) 24...Rae8] **24.Bh5 Ng6?** [24...Rg7! 25.Bh6 Rg6 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Bd2 Ng4] **25.Rg3 Kh8??** [25...Re8 26.Bxg6 (26.b3!) 26...hxg6 27.Rxg6+ Rg7 28.Rxg7+ Qxg7] **26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Nf4 Rg7?** Inaccurate, but the game was lost anyway.[27...Rg8 28.Nxg6+ Rxg6 29.Qh5+ Rh7 30.Qxg6] **1-0**

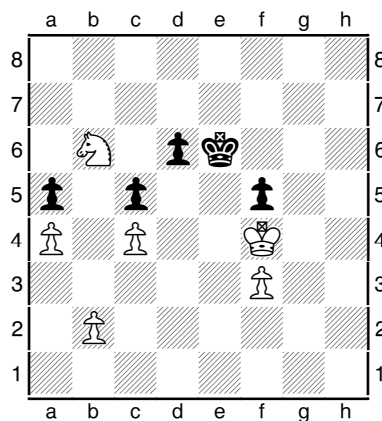
## Hartmann,John (1724) – Gotschall,Roger (1400) [B03]

US Open (3), 31.07.2013

[Hartmann,John]

The Iowa and Nebraska delegates face off! **1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 Nc6? 4.Bc4?! I saw that Gotschall played the Alekhine in the few games avail-**

able in my databases, so I prepared and here tried to transpose into my prep. Were I thinking, I would have taken advantage of his blunder with [4.c4! Nb6 5.d5 Nxe5 6.c5+-] **4...Nb6 5.Bb3 d6 6.e6!** This was given in John Watson's 'Sharpen Your Chess Sense' series on ICC. Highly recommended! **6...Bxe6?** [6...fxe6 is required, naturally.] **7.d5 Bxd5 8.Bxd5 Nxd5 9.Qxd5 e6 10.Qd1** [10.Qb3 d5!? (10...Na5 11.Qb5+ c6 12.Qd3 was my main consideration during the game) 11.Qxb7 Nd4 12.Kd1 Be7 13.Nf3 Rb8 14.Qxa7 Nc6 15.Qa6 Qd7 and Black has some comp for the material, but probably not enough.] **10...Qd7 11.Nf3 0-0-0 12.0-0 f6?! 13.Nc3 g6?! 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 c5 16.Qa4?** [16.Qxf6 Bg7 17.Qf3 Rhf8 18.Qh3+- (18.Qd3 Kb8 19.Be3 Rf5 20.Rad1+-) ] **16...b6 17.Qxd7+ Rxd7 18.Re1 e5 19.Nd5 Bg7 20.a4** [20.c4] **20...Kb7 21.Bd2** [21.a5 originally seemed good, but I soon discovered that Black's chances improved after 21...Kc6 22.c4 b5 23.b3 bxc4 24.bxc4 Rb7] **21...f5 22.c4 e4 23.Bc3 Bd4** [23...Bxc3 24.Nxc3 Kc6 25.Nd5 Rdd8 26.f3 exf3 27.Re7 Rd7 28.Rae1 Rhd8 29.Nf6!] **24.Rad1** [24.Bxd4 cxd4 25.Rad1 d3 (25...e3 26.fxe3 dxe3 27.Rxe3) 26.f3] **24...Bxc3 25.Nxc3 a5 26.Nd5 Kc6 27.f3 exf3 28.gxf3 g5 29.Re6** [29.Ne7+ Kb7 30.Nxf5 Rf8 31.Nxd6+!] **29...g4 30.Kf2** [30.Ne7+ Kc7 31.Nxf5 gxf3 (31...Rf8 32.fxg4) 32.Nxd6 Rg8+ 33.Kf2 Rg2+ 34.Kxf3 Rxb2; 30.Nf6 Rdd8 31.Rd5] **30...h5** [30...gxf3 31.Ne7+ Kc7 32.Nxf5 Rhd8 33.Rd5 Kc6 34.Ne7+ Kb7 35.Rh5] **31.Rde1** [31.Ne7+ Kc7 32.Nxf5 Rf8 33.Nh4! (Watson) 33...Rf4 34.b3 gxf3 35.Ng6!] **31...h4 32.Re7 Rf8** [32...Rh7 33.Rxd7 Rxd7 34.Re7+-; 32...Rxe7 33.Rxe7 Rc8 34.Ra7!!] **33.Rxd7 Kxd7 34.Re7+ Kd8 35.Ra7 g3+** [35...Ke8 36.Ra8+ Kf7 37.Rxf8+ Kxf8 38.fxg4 fxg4 39.Nxb6+- was my main consideration] **36.hxg3 hxg3+ 37.Kg2 Ke8 38.Ra8+ Kf7 39.Rxf8+ Kxf8 40.Kxg3 Kf7 41.Kf4 Ke6 42.Nxb6 1-0 Final Position below.**



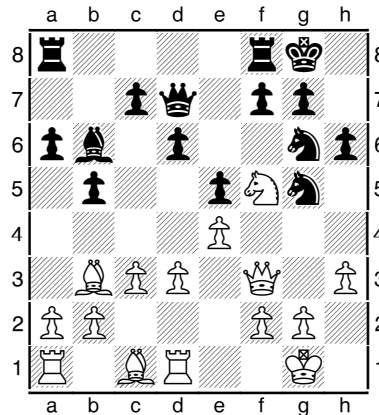
## High,David (1977) – Hartmann,John (1724) [C78]

US Open (4), 01.08.2013

[Hartmann,John]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.d3 d6 8.c3 h6 9.Qe2 Bg4** [9...0-0 10.Be3 Re8 11.Nbd2 (11.Bxc5 dxc5) 11...Bb7]

**10.Nbd2 0-0 11.h3 Bh5?! [11...Bd7] 12.Rd1 [12.g4 Bg6 13.Nh4 Nxe4? 14.Nxg6 Ng3 15.Qf3 Nxf1 16.Nxf8] 12...Qd7 13.Nf1 [13.g4 Bxg4 14.hxg4 Qxg4+ 15.Kf1 Qh3+ 16.Ke1 Ng4 17.Nf1 Bxf2+ 18.Kd2±] 13...Ne7 14.Ng3 [14.d4 exd4 15.cxd4 Bb6 16.e5 dxe5 17.dxe5 Nfd5=] 14...Bg6 15.Nh4 Bb6 [15...Bh7 16.Qf3] 16.Qf3 [16.Nxg6 Nxg6 17.Nf5] 16...Nh7? [16...Kh7 17.Nxg6 fxc6!] 17.Nxg6 Nxg6 18.Nf5 [18.Qf5 Qxf5 19.Nxf5 Nf6 20.g3 Rfe8 21.a4±] 18...Ng5? Position below**



[18...Ne7 19.Bd5 (19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bd5 Rab8 21.a4) 19...Rad8 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7±] **19.Qg4 Ne6 20.h4 Kh7 21.h5 Nh8** [21...Ngf4 22.g3 g5 (22...Bxf2+ 23.Kxf2 Ng6 24.Kg1 Nh8; 22...Ng6 23.hxg6+ fxc6) 23.gxf4 gxf4 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Qg6+ Kh8 26.Qxh6+ Qh7 27.Qxe6 Qxh5 28.Qh6+ Qxh6 29.Nxh6 Rf6 30.Nf5 Rg8+ 31.Kf1 Rfg6 32.Ke2] **22.d4 exd4 23.cxd4 Ng5** [23...Rg8 24.e5 d5 25.Bc2 g6 26.Nxh6] **24.Bxg5 hxg5 25.Qxg5+- f6 26.Qg3 Rae8 27.Bd5 Re7 28.Nxe7 Qxe7 29.Qg4 Re8 30.Qf5+ Kh6 31.Rd3 c5 32.Rg3 cxd4 33.Rg6+ 1-0**

## Hartmann,John (1724) – Poston,Henry (1486) [D10]

US Open (5), 01.08.2013

[Hartmann,John]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e3** [4.e4 b5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 etc] **4...b5 5.a4 Bd7 6.Qf3!?** [6.Nf3 b4] **6...Qa5 7.Nge2?** [7.Bd2! Nf6 (7...Qb4 8.Nxb5 Qxb2 9.Bc3+-) 8.Nd5 b4 9.Nxf6+ exf6 10.Bxc4±] **7...Nf6 8.Bd2 Qa6** [8...b4 9.Ne4 (9.Na2 c3 10.bxc3 b3 11.Nb4 Qf5 12.e4 Qxe4 13.Qxe4 Nxe4 14.Rb1 e6±) 9...Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Bf5 11.Qf3±] **9.Nxb5 Qb6** [9...Qb7 10.Nec3 (10.h3!) 10...Bg4 11.Qg3 cxb5 12.Nxb5 Na6 13.Bxc4±] **10.Nbc3** [10.h3!? allowing the queen to stay on the diagonal.] **10...Qxb2?** [10...Na6 11.a5 Qb7 12.Ng3 Qxb2? (12...Bg4 13.Qf4 Be6 14.Be2±) 13.Rb1 Qa3 14.Bxc4+-] **11.Rb1 Qa3?** [11...Qc2 12.e4 a) 12.d5? seemed to allow Nd4, trapping the queen, but of course she just skates away to g6!; b) 12.Ng3 Be6 (12...Qg6 13.Bxc4) 13.e4 (13.h3 Qg6 14.e4) 13...g6 14.Be2 Nbd7±; 12...Na6 13.Ng3 Be6] **12.Bc1?! [12.Nb5! Qa2 13.Nec3] 12...Qd6 13.Nb5** and Poston resigned here, too early in my

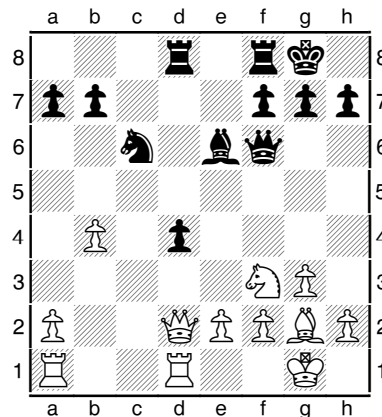
opinion.[Play might follow: 13.Nb5 cxb5 14.Qxa8 Qb6 a) 14...Bc6 15.Qxa7 b4 (15...Be4 16.Rxb5) 16.Ba3 e6 17.Nc3 Qd8 18.Bxb4; b) 14...b4 15.Nc3 e6 16.Nb5 (16.Bxc4) 16...Bxb5 17.axb5 Qc7 18.Bxc4; 15.Nc3 Bc6 16.a5 Qc7 17.Nxb5 Qxa5+ 18.Bd2 Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Bxa8 20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Nxa8] **1-0**

## Young,Alex (2007) – Hartmann,John (1724) [D34]

US Open (7), 02.08.2013

[Hartmann,John]

**1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.d4 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bg5 d4 11.Ne4 [11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nd5 (12.Ne4 Qe7 13.Nxc5 Qxc5) 12...Qf5 (12...Qd8) ] 11...Be7 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qd2 Be6 [14...Bf5 15.Nh4 Bd7 16.b4 Rad8=; 14...Bg4 15.h3 Bh5=] 15.b4 Rad8 [15...Bc4 16.Rac1 b5 Watson] 16.Rfd1**



**16...Rd5?! I was proud of this move, but perhaps it's not so praiseworthy after all! Optically the move looks dodgy, putting the rook on the bishop's line, but I thought it was a neat way to lift and/or double. The computer says otherwise! [16...d3! gets rid of the weak pawn and ties White down. Black only gets so many chances to play dynamically in these lines, and it's important not to miss them. 17.exd3 Bg4] 17.Rac1 [17.b5 Rxb5 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxd4 b6; 17.Ne1 Rd7 18.Nd3 Bc4 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Nc5=] 17...Rfd8 [17...d3] 18.Ne1 Rf5 19.Nd3 Bd5 20.Bxd5 Rfxd5 Here I offered a draw. After some thought, Young declined. 21.a3 Ne5 22.Nxe5 [22.Rc7 Ng4 23.Rxb7 Rf5 was my idea, but this is poor after 24.Rxa7 Nxf2 25.Nxf2 Rxf2 26.Qd3] 22...Qxe5 23.Qd3 h5 24.h4 Qf6 25.Kg2 Rf5 26.Rf1 Rfd5?! Sloppy thinking. In my mind he had nothing better than to play Rfd1. I need to take my opponent's ideas more seriously! [26...a6 27.Rc7 g6=] 27.Rc7 R5d7 28.Rfc1 Rxc7? Played with concrete tactical ideas (as in the game) in mind, but as Watson pointed out in a very quick (it was 1am!) postmortem, I've got the 7th rank covered and trading is just bad. 29.Rxc7 g6 30.Qe4 [30.Rxb7 Qc6+ 31.Qf3 Qxf3+ 32.Kxf3 d3=] 30...d3!? [30...b6 31.Rxa7] 31.exd3 Rd4!? 32.Qe8+ [32.Qxb7 Rxd3 33.Qa8+ Kg7 34.Rxa7 Qb6 (34...Rd2? 35.Qf3) 35.Re7 Qf6 36.Ra7 Qb6] 32...Kg7 33.Rc8 Kh6 34.Qe3+ [34.Qf8+ Qg7 35.Qe8 (35.Qxg7+? Kxg7 36.Rc7 Rxd3 37.Rxb7 Rxa3=]**

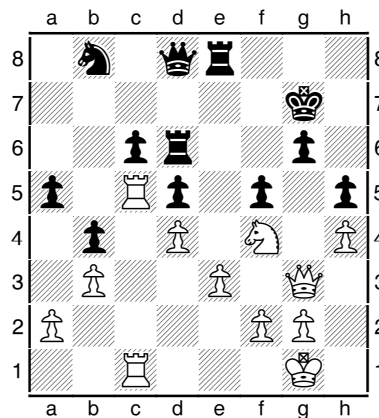
35...Qf6; 34.Qg8 Rxd3; 34.Rc7 Kg7 35.Rc8 (35.Rxb7 Rxd3=) 35...Kh6]  
**34...Kg7 35.Qe8 Kh6 36.Rc7 Kg7 37.Qe3 Qd6 38.Rc3** Another plan –  
 and probably a better one – is to try and begin to liquidate the qside  
 pawns with ...b6 and ..a5. **38...Qd5+ 39.Qf3 Qd7 40.Qe3 Qd5+ 41.Qf3**  
**Qd7 42.Kf1 Qh3+ 43.Qg2 Qd7 44.Qf3 Qh3+ 45.Ke2 Qe6+ [45...Rd6**  
 Watson; this seems to improve. The rook needs to do something beyond  
 blockading!]  
**46.Qe3 Qa2+ 47.Kf1 Qd5 48.Ke1 Qh1+ 49.Ke2 Qd5**  
 [49...Rd6] **50.Qe7 Qa2+ [50...Qd7 51.Qe5+ (51.Qxd7 Rxd7 52.Rc5 Re7+**  
**53.Kd2) 51...f6 52.Qb8 (52.Rc7??? fxe5) 52...Qe7+ 53.Kf1 b6±] 51.Ke3**  
**Qd5? [51...Rd5! wti ... Rf5!] 52.Qc5 Qxc5 53.bxc5 [53.Rxc5] 53...Rd7**  
**[53...Ra4 54.Rb3 Kf6 55.Rxb7 Rxa3 56.Rd7+–] 54.d4 Kf6 55.Ke4 Re7+**  
**56.Kd5 Rd7+ 57.Ke4 Re7+ 58.Kd5 Rd7+ 59.Kc4 Kf5 60.Rf3+ Ke4??**  
**61.Rf4# 1-0**

## Hartmann,John (1724) – Pahl,Sandra (1423) [D36]

US Open (8), 03.08.2013

[Hartmann,John]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 [6...Bf5?**  
**7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Qb3] 7.Qc2 [7.Bd3 h6 8.Bf4] 7...c6 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bf4 [9.Bh4]**  
**9...Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.Nf3 b5?! 12.0-0 a5?! "if B, then A" 13.Rac1**  
**Ba6 14.Rfd1 [14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4±] 14...b4 15.Na4 Bxd3**  
**16.Qxd3 [16.Rxd3] 16...Nfd7?! [16...Nbd7 17.Rd2 Rfe8 18.Rdc2 Re6**  
**19.h3±] 17.Rc2 Rc8 18.Rdc1 [18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qc7 (19...Qxe5?**  
**20.Nb6) 20.Rdc1 Nd7 21.f4±] 18...Ra6 19.h3** Asking Black what she's  
 doing. **19...f6?!** Response: 'What are YOU doing?' [19...Ra7] **20.Nd2?!**  
 [20.Nh4 Qe6 21.Qg6 Nf8 22.Qh5] **20...Nb6 21.Nc5 Ra7 22.b3 [22.e4?!**  
 seems weaker here due to 22...Re8] **22...N6d7 23.Qf5 Re8 24.Nf3 Nf8**  
**[24...Nxc5 25.Rxc5] 25.Ne1 g6?! 26.Qg4 Kg7 27.Ned3 Ne6 28.h4 h5**  
**29.Qh3 Rae7? 30.Nxe6+ Rxe6 [30...Qxe6 31.Qxe6 Rxe6 32.Rc5 a4**  
**33.Nxb4 axb3 34.axb3 Kf7 35.Nxc6 Nxc6 36.Rxc6 Rxc6 37.Rxc6 Rb8**  
**38.Rc3+–] 31.Rc5 Qd8 32.Nf4 Rd6 33.Qg3 f5** Position after 33..f5



[33...g5 34.Nxh5+ Kg6 (34...Kh6 35.Nxf6 Rxf6 (35...Qxf6 36.hxg5+)  
 36.hxg5+ Kh7 37.gxf6 Qxf6) 35.Nf4+ Kf7 36.Nd3] **34.Nxh5+ Kh7 35.Nf4**  
**Re4 36.Qg5! Qg8? [36...Qxg5 37.hxg5+–] 37.Rxa5 [37.h5!] 37...Qe8**

**38.Ra7+ Rd7 [38...Nd7 39.h5 Rxf4 40.hxg6+ Rxc6 41.Qxf4] 39.Rxd7+ Nxd7 40.Rxc6 Nf8 41.Rc7+ Kg8 42.Nxd5 Nh7 [42...Ne6 43.Nf6+ Kf8 (43...Kh8 44.Qh6#) 44.Qh6+ Ng7 45.Qxg7#] 43.Nf6+ Nxf6 44.Qxf6 Qf8 45.Qxg6+ 1-0**

## **Bradley,Hiawatha (1985) – Hartmann,John (1724) [D40]**

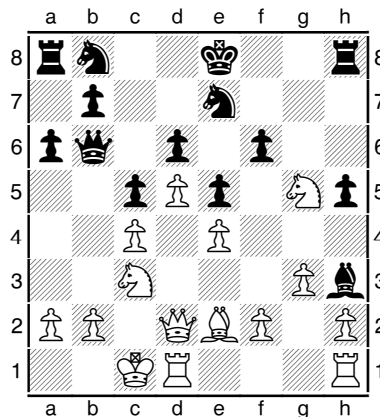
US Open (9), 04.08.2013

[Hartmann,John]

**1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.a4 Nc6 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 cxd4 10.exd4 Nb4 [10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nb4 also considered, but I wanted those bishops! 12.Bg5 Be7=] 11.c5 Nxd3? [11...Bc7 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Nxg5 hxg5 15.Bxg5 Kg7 16.Re3 Rh8 17.Rf3 Bxh2+ 18.Kf1 Bf4 19.Rxf4 Rh1+ 20.Ke2 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Nh5 22.Rxf7+ Kxf7 23.Bxd8] 12.Qxd3 Bc7?! [12...Be7] 13.Bg5 h6 [13...Bd7] 14.Bh4 g5? [14...Bd7] 15.Nxg5 [15.Bg3 Kg7] 15...hxg5 16.Bxg5 Bxh2+ [16...Kg7 17.Re3 Rh8 18.Rf3 Rh6 19.Bxh6+ Kxh6 20.Rh3+ Kg7 21.Re1±] 17.Kf1 [17.Kh1 Ng4 18.Bxd8 Nxf2+ 19.Kxh2 Nxd3 20.Re3 Rxd8 21.Rxd3] 17...Bc7 18.Re5 Kg7 19.Qg3? [19.Bh6+ Kxh6 20.Qh3+ Kg6 21.Qg3+-] 19...Bxe5?? [19...Rg8 20.Qh4 Rh8 21.Bxf6+ Qxf6 22.Rg5+ Kf8 23.Rg8+ Kxg8 24.Qxf6 A bad miscalculation. Black's only chance was in this line.] 20.dxe5 Nh5 21.Bf6+ [21.Qg4 f6 22.Bxf6+ and it's doublecheck so none of my analysis made any sense. I'm a dummy sometimes!] 21...Kh7 22.Qd3+ [22.Qg5 is probably a little faster] 22...Kh6 23.Bxd8 Rxd8 24.Qd2+ Kg6 25.Ne4 Kf5 26.Qg5+ 1-0**

## **Watson, John (2333)–Wang, Jalen (2045) U.S. Open 8/4/13**

**1.d4 a6 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.c4 g6 6.Bg5 f6 7.Be3 e5 8.Qd2 Bg7 9.Nc3 h6 10.Be2 Ne7 11.Nh4 h5 12.Qd1 Bh6 13.Bxh6 Rxh6 14.g3 Qb6 15.Qd2 g5 16.Nf3 Bh3 17.0-0-0 Rh8 18.Nxg5** See position below



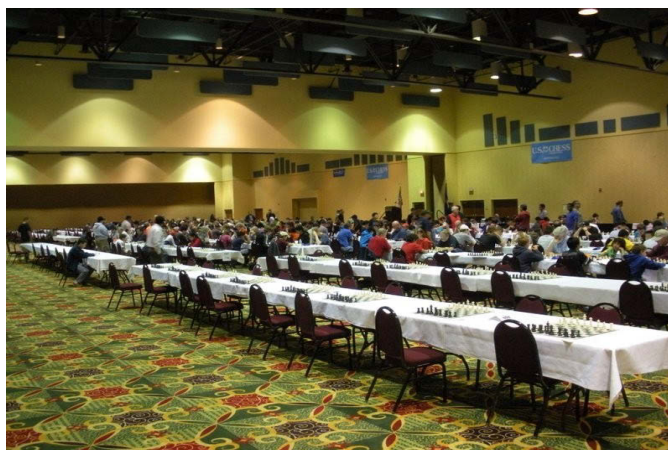
**fxg5 19.Qxg5 Qd8 20.Bxh5+ Kd7 21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4 Qg8 23.Qh4 Rxh5 24.Qxh5 Bg4 25.Qh6 Bxd1 26.Rxd1 Qg6 27.Qh3+ Kc7 28.e5 Nd7 29.Qe6 dxe5 30.d6+ Kc6 31.Qxe7 exf4 32.Qe2 Rf8 33.Qf3+ Kb6 34.h4 Qg3 35.Nd5+ Ka7 36.Qxg3 fxg3 37.Rg1 Rg8 38.h5 b6 39.h6 Kb7 40.Ne7 Rh8 41.Nf5 Rf8 42.Nxg3 Ne5 43.Ne4 Kc6 44.h7 Rh8 45.Rg7 b5 46.Rc7+ Kb6 47.Re7 Nc6 48.Nf6 Nd8 49.Re8 Rxe8 1-0**



# **114th U.S. Open Madison, Wisconsin**

**July 27-August 4 2013**

Pictures courtesy of John Hartmann



**Playing Hall**



**John Watson (foreground) analyzing  
a game with J. Wang**



**Delegates meeting**

## ***The True Value(s) of Chess***

by

**Robert Woodworth**

Having played the game of chess (in nearly every form) for 60+ years, your writer has been quietly reflecting about the real, true values of the game. Last week, at our chess club here in Omaha, (95% of our members which are older, retired individuals) I heard a comment from a very experienced chessplayer. He philosophically mentioned that in the overall scheme of one's playing career, the wins & losses, the chess ratings, the tournament results really DO NOT matter. The real value & benefits from playing is in the exercising of one's brain cells using chess as a tool! Recent research does indicate that activities which exercise the brain greatly helps in delaying the onset of many forms of dementia. So, to the large majority of us who worry & are overly concerned about our tournament results, our chess ratings and the progress we are making in the game, it appears that the real, true value of the game is being sadly overlooked!! (As a side-note, your writer recently read a quote in a major chess publication stating "There never has been a chess grandmaster diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease". This may or may not be an overstatement but is very interesting, if true.)

Your writer has also taught chess to many school children for the past 15 years or so. Numerous studies have shown that playing chess helps to develop many good human character traits. The game teaches one to be patient, to be responsible for one's decisions, develops creativity and imagination, planning & mental discipline. It also teaches good sportsmanship and develops problem solving skills. Also, students who play & even study the game achieve better academic scores versus those who do not. I have noticed, however, that the students can become easily obsessed with the winning & losing aspects of the game. They are obviously not mature enough to realize the true benefits & values of the game!

Finally, since your writer has been retired from the workplace, I've realized that my involvement with chess really helped me subliminally and even subconsciously in my exacting work. Writing computer programs, running large mainframe computers, maintaining work schedules etc. all demanded attention to detail, much patience & great accuracy. Many of these attributes that were required were greatly enhanced by all those formative years in playing serious chess!! It took

my retirement and some serious contemplation before I came to this realization. Also, in the various stages of my life as a youth where playing chess kept me out of trouble. When I was in middle-age and tournament & club play was very enjoyable. In my retired years where chess archive work & building a chess library gave me work to fill the days outside the working world.

So, therefore, as a good life-lesson from chess, just remember that chess ratings, won/loss records, tournament results ARE NOT what really matter in the final analysis. (As a side-note, in regards to ratings, many, many players never achieve an EXPERT ranking (which is the 95 percentile) and 99% never become a chess master!) The real, true value of this great game is in the wonderful by-products of chess play itself and NOT in the superficial trappings and 'window dressing' of results & ratings!! (This is probably the BEST CHESS LESSON of all).

Therefore, in conclusion, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the reverse-side which can be a hindrance to the promotion of the game. In proportion to the general population, chessplayers on average have poorer social skills. (Possibly due to chess being a one-person game with very little socialization needs.) Also, the general public sees the game only for older individuals with the play being very slow. Also, there is the belief that a higher intellect is needed to play & understand the game. Hopefully in the future the public will eventually realize that these are misconceptions.

Robert Woodworth  
Omaha Nebraska  
June, 2013

## Games Galore

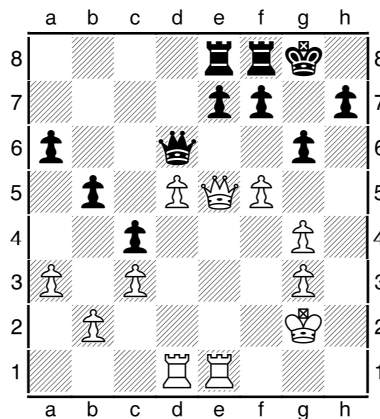
The 2013 River City Roundup is fast approaching! Please sign up and experience good chess and good fun. Here is a sampling of games from last year's event. The **Cornhusker State** and **Lincoln City** games not available at press time.

**(4) Wan, Joseph (1847) - Keating, Robert (2207) [B06]**

Midwest Team Tournament (1), 29.09.2012

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bd3 Nd7 6.0-0 b5 7.a3 Bb7 8.Be3 c5  
9.Qd2 Qc7 10.h3 c4 11.Be2 Ngf6 12.d5 Nc5 13.Bxc5 Qxc5 14.Rad1 0-0  
15.Nd4 Rad8 16.Bf3 Nd7 17.Na2 Qc7 18.Nb4 Ne5 19.Be2 Qc5 20.c3 Bc8  
21.Nbc6 Nxc6 22.Nxc6 Rde8 23.Rfe1 Bd7 24.Nd4 Rd8 25.Bg4 Bxg4  
26.hxg4 Qc8 27.Nc6 Rde8 28.Qg5 Qd7 29.e5 dxe5 30.Nxe5 Bxe5 31.Qxe5  
Qd6 32.f4 Qc5+ 33.Kf1 Qd6 34.g3 Qd7 35.f5 Qd6 36.Kg2 ½-½ Final

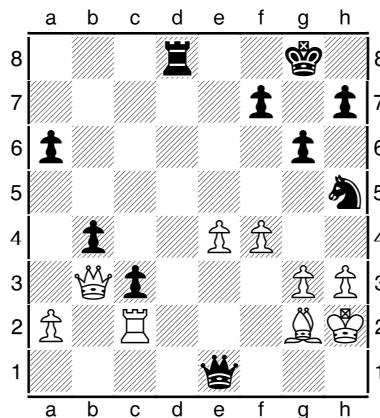
Position below.



**(11) Erickson, Alek (1447) - Kappel, Ray (1712) [E62]**

Midwest Team Tournament (3), 29.09.2012

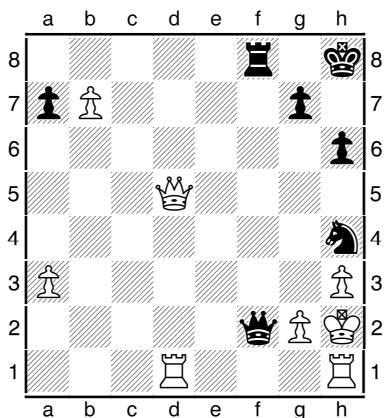
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Bf4  
a6 9.Re1 Re8 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Rb8 12.Qd2 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Bg2  
Nxc4 15.Qc2 Nh5 16.Bd2 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 c6 18.e4 Nf6 19.Rad1 Qb6 20.b3  
Nh5 21.Na4 Qc7 22.Kh2 b5 23.Nb2 c5 24.Re2 Bd4 25.Nd3 b4 26.Nb2 Qe7  
27.f3 d5 28.Nd3 Bc3 29.Qe3 c4 30.bxc4 dxc4 31.Nc5 Qc7 32.Rd7 Qb6  
33.Qg5 Bf6 34.Qd5 Be7 35.Rxe7 Rxe7 36.Nd7 Rxd7 37.Qxd7 c3 38.Rc2  
Rd8 39.Qa4 Qd6 40.f4 Qd1 41.Qb3 Qe1 0-1



**(15) Keating, Robert (2207) - Fabrikant, Ben (2005) [C18]**

Midwest Team Tournament (3), 29.09.2012

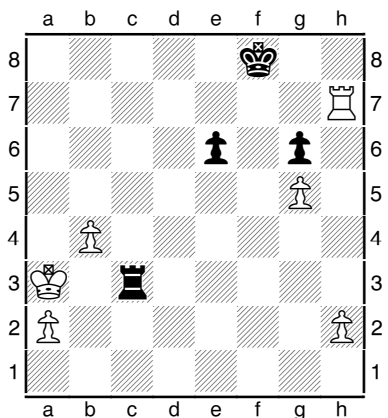
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Bd3 f5  
9.exf6 Rxf6 10.Qh4 h6 11.dxc5 e5 12.Qa4 Nbc6 13.Be3 Nf5 14.Bxf5 Bxf5  
15.Ne2 Na5 16.f3 Nc4 17.Bf2 e4 18.fxe4 Bg4 19.Nd4 Rxf2 20.Kxf2 Qh4+  
21.Kg1 Rf8 22.Nf5 Bxf5 23.exf5 Qf4 24.h3 Qxf5 25.c6 Ne3 26.Qh4 Qxc2  
27.Qg3 Nf5 28.Qf3 Nh4 29.Qxd5+ Kh8 30.cxb7 Qxc3 31.Rd1 Qe3+ 32.Kh2  
Qf4+ 33.Kg1 Qf2+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.Kg1 Qf2+ 36.Kh2 ½-½ Final Position  
below.



**(20) Wagner, Jacob (2007) - O'Connor, Tom (1948) [B77]**

Midwest Team Tournament (3), 29.09.2012

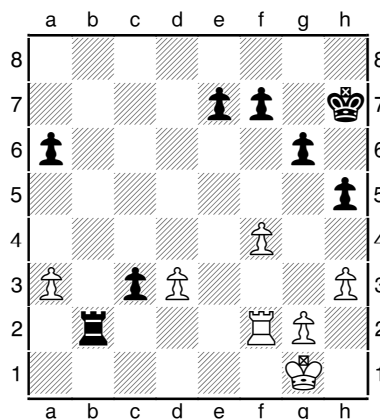
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2  
Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.Bb3 Rb8 11.0-0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 a5 13.e5 Ne8 14.Nd5 b5  
15.exd6 Nxd6 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Qxd6 Qxd6  
20.Rxd6 Bf5 21.g4 Bc8 22.Re1 Bb7 23.Bd5 Rfc8 24.Re7 Bxd5 25.Rxd5 Rc6  
26.Kd2 Rf6 27.Re3 a4 28.b4 Rc6 29.c3 a3 30.Kc2 Re6 31.Rxe6 fxe6 32.Rd3  
Kg7 33.Kb3 Re8 34.g5 Re7 35.Re3 Kf7 36.Re5 Rd7 37.Rxb5 Rd3 38.Rb7+  
Kf8 39.Rxh7 Rxf3 40.Kxa3 Rxc3+ 1-0 Final Position below.



**(21) Wan, Joseph (1847) - Knapp, Joseph (2054) [B75]**

Midwest Team Tournament (3), 29.09.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 a6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.Be2 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.Rd1 Rc8 12.0-0 h5 13.Nb3 Ne5 14.Bd4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Nc1 0-0 17.N1e2 Qc7 18.Qg5 Kh7 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Bh6 21.Qh4 Nxd5 22.Qe4 Qc6 23.Ng3 Ne3 24.Bxe3 Qxe4 25.Nxe4 Bxe3+ 26.Kh1 Rc6 27.Rfe1 Bh6 28.Rd5 Rb8 29.Ng5+ Bxg5 30.Rxg5 Rxb2 31.Rc1 Rcb6 32.h3 R6b5 33.Rg3 Rb1 34.Rg1 d5 35.f4 d4 36.Rf3 d3 37.cxd3 c3 38.Rf2 Rxg1+ 39.Kxg1 Rb2 0-1 Final position below



**(28) Knapp, Joseph (2054) - Keating, Robert (2207) [B06]**

Midwest Team Tournament (4), 30.09.2012

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Be3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.f4 b5 7.Be2 Bb7 8.Bf3 Qc8 9.Nge2 Nb6 10.b3 Nf6 11.d5 b4 12.Na4 Nxa4 13.bxa4 Nxe4 14.Qd1 Nc3 15.Nxc3 Bxc3+ 16.Bd2 Bxa1 17.Qxa1 0-0 18.Bxb4 c5 19.Bc3 Qf5 20.Bg7 Rfe8 21.Bh6 Qf6 22.Qxf6 exf6+ 23.Kd2 Bc8 24.h4 Rb8 25.Be2 f5 26.Bg5 Kg7 27.h5 f6 28.Bh4 Re4 29.h6+ Kf7 30.Rh3 Rxa4 31.a3 Rxf4 32.Re3 0-1

**(31) O'Connor, Tom (1948) - Hartmann, John (1742) [C40]**

Midwest Team Tournament (4), 30.09.2012

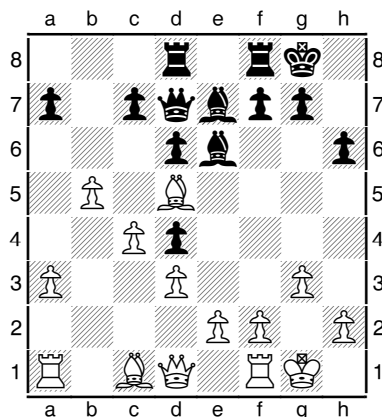
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.d5 Be7 8.Qd4 Nf6 9.Bf4 0-0 10.0-0-0 Na6 11.Be2 Bd7 12.Ne3 Nc5 13.f3 Ng4 14.Bg3 Bf6 15.Qd2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Rae8 17.f4 Bg4 18.Bxg4 Qxg4 19.h3 Qg6 20.Nb5 Rf7 21.Rhf1 a6 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Qf5 24.Bh2 Qd7 25.Re1 a5 26.g4 Qb5 27.f5 Rfe7 28.g5 Nd3+ 29.Kd2 Nxe1 30.Kxe1 Qxb2 31.f6 gxf6 32.gxf6 Rf7 33.Rxe4 Qb1+ 34.Kd2 Rxe4 35.Qxe4 Qb4+ 0-1

**(32) Reeves, Neil (1896) - Abdul-Mujeeb, Numan (1647) [A29]**

Midwest Team Tournament (4), 30.09.2012

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 Be6 6.d3 Be7 7.0-0 h6 8.a3 Qd7 9.b4 Rd8 10.b5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxb7 0-0 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5**

**Diagram below**

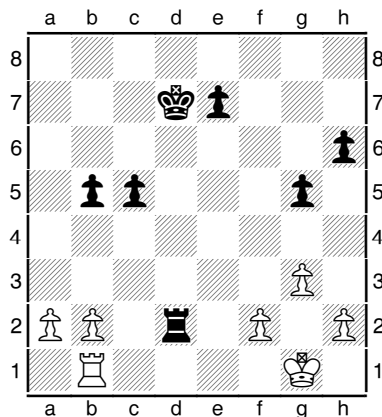


**Bh3 15.Re1 h5 16.e3 dxe3 17.Bxe3 Bf6 18.Ra2 Bc3 19.Bxa7 Bxe1 20.Qxe1 Rde8 21.Be3 Qf5 22.Qb1 Re5 23.Bg2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 h4 25.Qd1 h3+ 26.Kg1 Qf6 27.Qf3 Rxb5 28.Kf1 Rf5 29.Qe4 Re5 30.Qh4 Rfe8 31.Re2 Rb8 32.Re1 Qf5 33.Kg1 Ra8 34.g4 Qxd3 35.Qxh3 Rxa3 36.g5 Ra8 37.Rc1 0-1**

**(35) Dibley, Charles (1482) - Reeves, Neil (1896) [B02]**

Midwest Team Tournament (5), 30.09.2012

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxd5 4.Nxd5 Qxd5 5.Qf3 Qxf3 6.Nxf3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 f6 9.d4 0-0-0 10.c3 a6 11.Ba4 Na5 12.Bxd7+ Rxd7 13.Bf4 g5 14.Bg3 Nc6 15.Rad1 Bg7 16.Rfe1 h6 17.d5 Rhd8 18.c4 b5 19.cxb5 axb5 20.Rc1 Ne5 21.Bxe5 fxe5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Rxe5 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 Rxd5 25.Re1 Rd2 26.g3 Kd7 27.Rb1 c5 Please see the diagram below.**

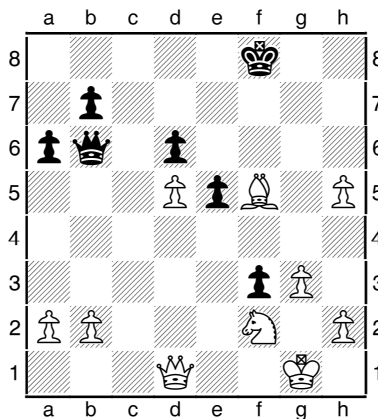


**28.a3 c4 29.Kg2 e5 30.Kf3 Ke6 31.Ke3 Rd3+ 32.Ke4 Rb3 33.h3 c3 34.Kd3 cxb2+ 35.Kc2 Rf3 36.Rxb2 Rxf2+ 37.Kc3 Rxb2 38.Kxb2 Kd5 39.Kc3 Ke4 40.Kd2 Kf3 41.g4 e4 0-1**

**(37) Gradsky,Benjamin (2092) - Keating,Robert (2207) [E99]**

Midwest Team Tournament (5), 30.09.2012

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7  
9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Nd3 Ng6 14.c5 Nf6 15.Rc1 Rf7  
16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Nb5 a6 18.Nc3 h5 19.Na4 g4 20.Nb6 g3 21.Nxa8 gxf2+ 22.Rxf2  
Bg4 23.fxg4 Nxe4 24.gxh5 Nxf2 25.Nxf2 Nh4 26.Bg4 Qg5 27.Nc7 f3 28.Ne6 Qe3  
29.g3 Nf5 30.Rc3 Qb6 31.Rc8+ Bf8 32.Nxf8 Rxf8 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.Bxf5 1-0

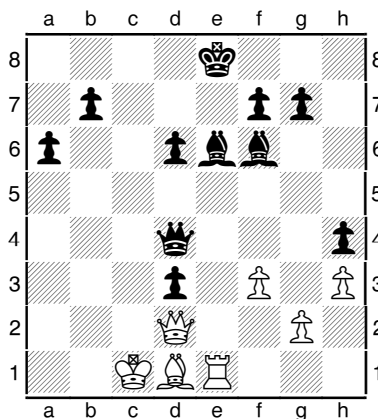


**Final Position 1-0**

**(43) Saleem, Arshaq (1825) - Wagner, Jacob (2007) [B90]**

Midwest Team Tournament (5), 30.09.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 h5  
9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.h3 h4 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Be2 Qb8  
15.Rhe1 Rxc3 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Ka1 Rh5 18.Qe3 Rxc3 19.Qxc3 Nxe4 20.Qe3  
Nxc3 21.Rd3 Nxa2 22.Kxa2 Qxc2+ 23.Ka1 e4 24.Rd2 Bf6+ 25.Nd4 Qa4+  
26.Kb1 Qb4+ 27.Kc2 Qa4+ 28.Kb1 Nc5 29.Bd1 Qb4+ 30.Kc1 Nd3+ 31.Rxd3  
exd3 32.Qd2 Qxd4 0-1



**Final Position 0-1**

**(45) Wan,Joseph (1847) - Khots,Boris (2030) [B52]**

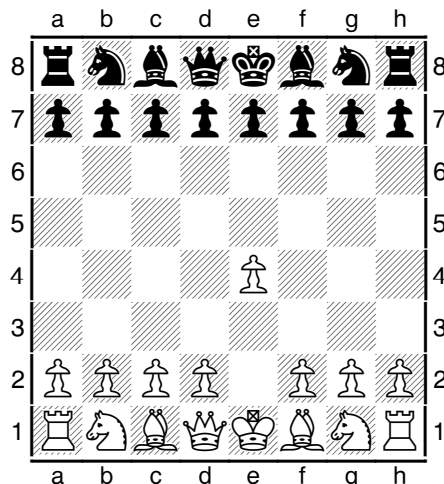
Midwest Team Tournament (5), 30.09.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Re1 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.d4  
cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 Nb6 11.Bg5 Rc8 12.e5 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nfd5 14.Nxd5  
Nxd5 15.Qb3 Nb6 16.Qa3 f6 17.exf6 exf6 18.Bf4 a6 19.Rad1 Nd7 20.Re7 1-0



## An Ultimate Challenge for Chessplayers

This challenge to all chessplayers is derived from the following positional diagram. (it is termed a “TASK PROBLEM” which is far different from a direct mate problem or an endgame composition to be solved.) **Source: Chessbase Magazine 73-1999**



In this position (after a required 1.e4 by White) the task is for the **GAME TO END ON THE 5th MOVE WITH A KNIGHT CAPTURES ROOK CHECKMATE.**

Note: Any series of legal moves (5 for this task) for each side with a Rook being captured by a knight which then ends in checkmate for either the WHITE or BLACK side accomplishes the task.

For example, it can be accomplished in 6 moves thusly: 1.e4, h5 2.Qg4, Rh6 3. Qe6, Rf6 4. Nc3, g6 5 Nd5, Nh6 6 Nxf6 checkmate.

Here is another example in 6 moves: 1.e4, Nc6 2.a4, Nb4 3 Ra3, Nf6 4 Ne2, a5 5. Rd3, Nxe4 6.c4, Nxd3 checkmate.

The reader should recall that this TASK is to be completed in **only 5 moves!** A few years ago this TASK problem was finally solved in 5 moves. Many, many chessplayers & problem solvers around the world tried & failed. Even the Grandmasters Karpov & Kasparov were unsuccessful!! See if you, the reader, have the necessary chess skills for this challenge. GOOD LUCK to everyone!! Kent Nelson & Bob Woodworth. 8/13

## In Step with John Stepp



In tournaments John and I played in, John remains at his table, (after his game is over) and recopies his game score on yellow paper. Regardless of the game result, John always did this. Afterwards, he'll hand me the paper with a nod, a smile and walks away.

I've admired John for doing this. Some of the games he gives me are bad losses. When I lose, I want as much separation between myself and that loss as possible. Not John. I think it speaks volumes about John that chess results are kept in their proper perspective.

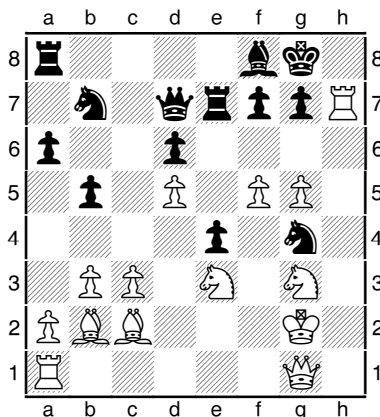
### Here is some of John's games.-Ed.

2013 Cornhusker State Games

Rd 3

**Stepp** vs. J. Reigenborn

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 d6 5.Re1 Bd7 6.c3 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.d4 Re8 9.Nbd2 a6 10.Ba4 b5 11.Bc2 Bf8 12.d5 Na5 13.b3 c6 14.Nf1 cxd5 15.exd5 e4 16.N3d2 Bf5 17.Ne3 Bg6 18.Bb2 Bh5 19.g4 Bg6 20.Ndf1 h5 21.f4 Qb6 22.Kg2 hxg4 23.hxg4 Bh7 24.Ng3 Qc7 25.Rh1 Nb7 26.Qg1 Qd7 27.f5 Re7 28.g5 Ng4 29.Rxh7! (Position after 29 Rxh7!)



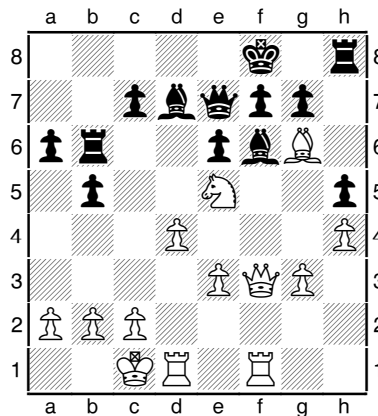
**Nxe3+ 30.Qxe3 Kxh7 31.Rh1+ Kg8 32.Qg1 g6 33.Qh2 Bg7 34.f6 Qg4 35.Bd1 Qxg5 36.Qh7+ Kf8 37.fxg7+ Ke8 and White later won**

2013 Cornhusker State Games

Rd 5

**John Stepp vs. Mike Carney**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Be7 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.Bd3 Ngf6 7.Qe2 a6 8.Be3 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 Nf6 10.Bd3 Nd5 11.h4 Nxe3 12.fxe3 h5 13.0-0-0 b5 14.Be4 Rb8 15.Ne5 Qd6 16.Qf3 Bf6 17.Bc6+ Kf8 18.Rhf1 Qe7 19.g3 Rb6 20.Be4 Bd7 21.Bg6**



**Bxe5 22.dxe5 f5 23.exf6 gxf6 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.Qxf6+ 1-0**

2013 Lincoln City Championship

Rd 2

**Hill vs. Stepp**

**1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bd3 e6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Be3 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Rfe1 a6 11.Bg5 Qb8 12.Ne2 Qa7 13.c3 Rfe8 14.Ng3 e5 15.d5 Nb8 16.c4 Nbd7 17.b4 Kh8 18.Bh6 Rg8 19.Bxg7+ Rxg7 20.a3 Ng8 21.Kh1 Rf8 22.Ng5 h6 23.Nf3 Qa8 24.Rac1 Qd8 25.Qe3 Bc8 26.Rc2 Ndf6 27.c5 bxc5 28.bxc5 Nh7 29.cxd6 cxd6 30.Rec1 Bd7 31.Rc7 f5 32.Qa7 Ng5 33.Nxg5 Qxg5 34.R1c3 Rff7 35.Rc2 f4 36.Nf1 f3 37.g3 Qh5 38.h4 Qg4 39.Nh2 Qh5 40.Qxa6 g5 41.Qxd6 gxh4 42.gxh4 Rg6 43.Qb4 Rg2 44.Bf1 Rxh2+ 0-1**

## Waxing Nostalgia in Wichita

**Kent B. Nelson**

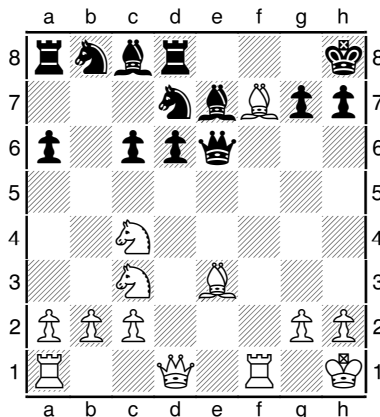
This past summer, I decided to retrace the route to one of my greatest chess accomplishments. Back in the early eighties, I traveled down to Wichita, Kansas to play in the Kansas State Open. I ended up winning the tournament with a 5-0 score and took home nearly 300.00 bucks. In the last round, I was paired against a 2300 player and before I knew it, I had him crushed in the opening. Here is the moves resulting in the key position.

White: Kent Nelson

Black: SV

1980 or 1981 Kansas Open. Rd 5

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.Ne3 Nf6 8.Be2 c6 9.d5 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.f4 exf3 12.Bxf3 a6 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Kh1 Kh8 15.Nc4 Rd8 16.Be3 Nfd7 17.Bh5 Qe6 18.Bf7!**



Position after 18 Bf7!

It didn't take long before my opponent realized his queen was trapped. I remember he decided to sit on the position and let his clock tick away. Finally, with a couple of minutes left, my opponent started playing blitz. I of course, had plenty of time and I didn't get sucked in to playing a speed game. But I remember he put up a lot of resistance (despite being a queen down) before he traded off his dark squared bishop. I won shortly afterwards.

I was feeling very good about the Kansas result and if I was a Kansas resident, I would have been declared Kansas State Chess Champion. But I lived in Nebraska and was not eligible for the title. Still, the \$300.00 and 1<sup>st</sup> place finish made the long ride home very pleasant.

But my knack for turning pleasure into pain reared its ugly head. It turned out the “Master” I played was, in fact, a fake Master. He was investigated by USCF who determined that he and a bunch of his cohorts were in cahoots in a ratings scheme. I think USCF banned him for life. Some of you old timers may remember his guy. Here is a hint. His initials are SV and to this day, I resent his misrepresentation of his rating.

But it gets worse. A so called “friend” of mine wanted to “borrow” my score sheets to review my games. Without thinking, I gave him the original copies and you guess it, after a falling out, I never got them back. Back then, I was very trusting. Nowadays, I know better. I should have given him copies of the game scores. May this painful experience I’ve suffered, be a reminder to you to back up your games and other important documentation. You never know when you might need it for a memory marker, a replacement or a “fix” during a nostalgic moment.

Regrettably, there is no documentation of that tournament despite the best efforts of Tony Dutiel and others, to find records. As mentioned above, there is no complete score sheets of the games I played at least, in my procession. The USCF database only goes back to the early 1990s. So, the only thing I have is the partial score sheet of my opening given on the previous page.

***“It’s a funny world we live in. Speaking of which, do you know how I got these scars?”***

### **The Joker from *Batman-The Dark Knight***

As I’ve gotten older, I’ve mentioned my Kansas result to a number of people. Most of the time, it is on a spur of the moment basis and out of context during conversations. I’m sure it has to do, in part, with my growing frustration on not winning the Nebraska State Championship and everything to do with boosting my chess ego. Regardless of the reasons for tooting my own horn, it’s getting tiresome for me and others. I figured it was time to move on.

**That was then, this is now.**

I decided to play in the 2013 Kansas Open this past summer. I felt it was time to revisit past glory and make new memories. To that end, I decided to retrace the exact route I took in the eighties. From Lincoln, I headed west on Interstate 80 and turned south on HWY 81.

## **Randall Smith, Hebron, Nebraska and a Covey of Cops.**

As I was approaching Hebron, my thoughts turned toward a chess player (I knew from the eighties) who lived in Hebron. His name was Randall Smith. I didn't know or remember much about Mr. Smith. I recall he was a high school teacher or retired from teaching. He was an older gentleman, about class C strength, who would bring kids to scholastic events. Mr. Smith was very nice and approachable, at least chess wise, so, I decided to ask Randall if he was married with children and he said no and he didn't elaborate. Right then and there, based on a vibe I got from him, I realized his personal life was off limits. I never knew the date of his passing or any details on what happened to him. He just stop showing up for tournaments and that was it. However, out of respect for Mr. Smith, I decided to make a good faith effort to find his grave site which I presumed was in the Hebron cemetery. I stopped in Hebron and asked three individuals where I could find the town cemetery. The replies I received were priceless. After the question, each person had this look of puzzlement, like, what reason do you have to find the cemetery, followed by information that was wrong from the get go. From a karma standpoint, I guess Mr. Smith was continuing to protect his privacy, even in death, but next time, I'll Google the location of the grave yard. Finally, a word of warning to you would be car speeders out there. Be aware of the covey of cops in the area. I remember seeing a flock of them in the eighties and this continues to be the case today.

## **Chester, Nebraska and Little Boy Blue**

Chester, Nebraska is a small town near the Nebraska, Kansas border with a population of 350 residents. It is just off HWY 81. In 1985, this town was site of a crime mystery. It involved the death and discovery of a little boy dressed in blue PJs in a farmer's field. Thence Little Boy Blue. I will not go into detail about this case but if you are interested in learning more about it, here is a link. [http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/the-legacy-of-nebraska-s-little-boy-blue/article\\_7cbae044-11ec-11e0-919e-001cc4c002e0.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/the-legacy-of-nebraska-s-little-boy-blue/article_7cbae044-11ec-11e0-919e-001cc4c002e0.html)

## **Lindsborg, Kansas**

Of course, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to visit Lindsborg and say hi to Karpov at his chess club. Karpov wasn't in town but his chess club was there but it was closed. I guess they heard I was coming and they were "ducking" me. I was disappointed, but I enjoyed visiting with the town folk and supporting the local economy. This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the World Champion, Anatoly Karpov, International Chess club.



## Wichita, Kansas and the 2013 Kansas Open

I arrived at Wichita's Holiday Inn on Rock Road and got settled in. I decided to do some scouting and found out Nebraska was represented by new *Gambit* editor, Jerry Slominski, chess expert, Stan Capps, and your author in the 39 person field in the Open Section. Jonathan Reigenborn and Jim Hill took part in the huge 72 player Reserve Section. Former *Gambit* editor, Tony Dutiel was in attendance. Tony and Ben Gradsky tied for first place with Holt & Mallela in the bug house tournament. Each team lost 1 game out of a possible 10. Holt & Mallela won the playoff 2 games to one. Unfortunately for Tony, duty called, and he had to return to work in Nebraska. Stan Capps also played in the speed tournament and performed well. He finished 4-1 and won some prize money.



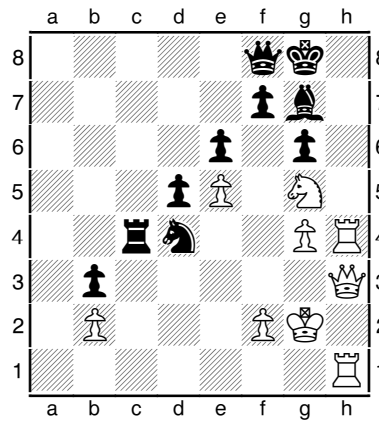
## Brian Yang Tournament Director

I had the pleasure of meeting Brian and he was gracious enough to allow me to snap pictures of him as well as other tournament officials and players. Brian did a great job directing and Kansas is very fortunate to have Brian's skills and talents working for them.

## My games

In the first round, I played a expert by the name of Abhishek Mallela. I believe my opponent lives in the Kansas City area and is a prominent player. I got to play my pet line against his Sicilian defense and after

some lengthy maneuvering, we reached the following position.



Black is mated. I win!

After I pocketed the point, I was really feeling good about my tournament results in Wichita. Lifetime, I was 6-0 so far and I was ready to take on 20-year old Grand Master, Conrad Holt. But first things first, I needed to get by Thomas Patton, a strong expert from Oklahoma. Mr. Patton is mentioned in my article about Kevin Fleming that appeared in the October 2012 issue of the *Gambit*. He had White against me and played The Trompowski. I got crushed and experience defeat for the first time in Wichita. What I remember most about the game is 2 things. First, he really put the screws on me in terms of improving his position, move by move, to the point where I had to say Uncle. The second thing was the post mortem. Mr. Patton provided the most instructive post mortem analysis I've ever experienced. I asked if he was a teacher and he indicated he was not. I believe he told me he was a businessman but I'm not sure about this. I do know one thing; I got an education from Mr. Patton who was, and is, a very nice person and a strong chess expert.

My third round game was against another Kansas City expert by the name of Frank Smith. I had White and we had a back and forth battle with the French defense. The game ended in a draw.



**Frank Smith**

So, after the completion of 3 rounds of tournament play, I stood with 1.5 points out of 3, all against experts. I felt I was playing reasonably well.





### **Dmitriy Sokolenko**

Between rounds, I had the pleasure of visiting with Dmitriy Sokolenko. Dmitriy, a rated chess master, who had just arrived from Russia to play in the Kansas Open. After a long plane ride from Russia, he was dog tired, which was understandable considering he traveled half way around the world and had just arrived at the tournament. Dmitriy spoke at the podium and his comments were well received and his English was very good. He and his entourage included a couple of very attractive young ladies who also played in the tournament. I must admit, these ladies were a nice distraction and I don't think I was the Lone Ranger with this view. Dmitriy was in town to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Karpov chess club. He also promoted and invited tournament participants to play in his Russian International tournament scheduled later this year.

### **Conrad Holt**

Conrad Holt is a Kansas native son who happens to be a 20 or 21 year-old Grandmaster. I think Conrad is the only Grandmaster from the state of Kansas. During the tournament, he was recognized for his birthday, during which, Conrad sheepishly mentioned it wasn't. But regardless, the pride and positive synergy from all the Kansas organizers and players for Conrad is electrifying.

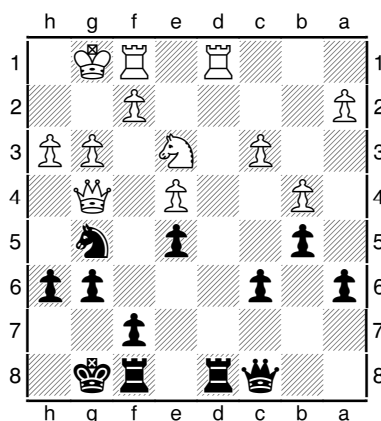
### **Really, no kidding! I have a screw loose!**

Saturday night I turned in and woke up to the horrible realization that I had a screw loose. During the night, I apparently turned over and slept on top of my glasses. I went to put them on and the right lens popped out of the frames. The lens and frame were okay, but

the tiny screw that holds them together was missing. I searched all over and couldn't find it. I started getting very worried, upset and disoriented. I was fortunate to have my chess glasses, which is just above reading glasses in terms of magnification, and I headed down to the front desk. As luck and location would have it, there was an eyeglass business within walking distance from the hotel. Despite calls to the business, no information was available regarding hours of operation. At this point, I was very stressed out and wondering if there was a Seeing Eye dog available. Just kidding about that part, but I was in a bad way.

### Tony Cheng

Tony was my Sunday morning opponent and he was rated in the high 1900s. Tony was the Kansas representative of the High School Decker tournament and he performed very well finishing 19<sup>th</sup> out of 48<sup>th</sup> with 3.5 out of 6 points. I was debating about forfeiting to Tony to take care of my eye glass situation, but I decided to play him with the hope he might agree to an early draw. Fat chance, Tony came to play and when I made a brief reference to my glasses, I'm sure Tony didn't give a rat's butt. After all, there is no whining in chess. However, despite my distraction, I was able to neutralize Tony's attack by trading off the queens and the position slowly turned in my favor as the endgame wore on. When Tony offered me a draw, I think I had the advantage at that point but I accepted his offer immediately. I had the black pieces.



Position after 22...Qc8!

**22..Qc8 23.Qxc8 Rxc8 24.f3 h5 25.h4 Ne6 26.Rd6 Rfd8 27.Rfd1 Kf8  
28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.Rxd8+ Nxd8 30.c4 Ne6 31.cxb5 axb5 32.Nc2 Ke7  
33.Kf2 Kd6 Draw accepted.**

## **Oh, what a relief it is...**

I got my glasses fixed. Thank goodness for Sunday shoppers and the open stores willing to take their money. I'm amazed how an item, (in this case an eye glass screw, less than a size of an ant) can have so much control over one's life. Another form of relief was the tournament was over for me. I made arrangements to take a ½ point bye in the final round. I finished the tournament with 2.5 points out of 5 including credit for the ½ point bye in the final round. I also gained some rating points. Results from the other Nebraska players are as follows. In the Open section, Stan Capps scored 2 points out of the 4 games he played. Jerry Slominski scored 2 points. Jerry had a brutal tournament, he played three chess masters. In the Reserve section, Jim Hill and Jonathan Reigenborn scored 2 points. As expected, Grandmaster Conrad Holt won the Kansas Open with a perfect 5-0 score. Peter Bradshaw and Kaustubh Nimkar tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Reserve section with 4.5 out of 5 points. For a narration of the Kansas Open, including some games, please visit Laurence Coker's report, on the Kansas State Chess web site or click <http://www.kansaschess.org/>. Mr. Coker took a number of pictures during the Kansas Open and you can find them by clicking the link on the Kansas chess web site reference above.

## **High ho the Merry go, a Fishing I will go!**

One of my few indulgences is my annual trek to Lake Waconda to catfish. This is where I went after the tournament. Lake Waconda is actually a man made reservoir located between the small towns of Cawker City and Glen Elder, in north central Kansas. I usually visit in mid-July or August to cat fish but other types of fishing & hunting packages are available at Rader's lodge where I stayed. For more information on Radar's lodge, please visit the web site at <http://www.raderlodge.com/>. Speaking of indulgences, I'm cognizant this is a chess publication and not a hunting and fishing journal. However, with that said, it is part of my weekend vacation experience that I wish to share with you. And who knows, it could be entertaining and informative. It is also a natural way for me to finish my article.

## **Is there a Houdini in the house?**

I arrived at the lodge late Sunday afternoon. It was very hot and humid. I made telephone contact with my fishing guide who

assigned me a room and reminded me not to lock the door. So, after getting all my gear in the room, I decided to go out and get something to eat. I locked the door on the way out. It was force of habit resulting in a great deal of consternation on my part. I tried calling back my guide, but no answer, several calls ensued, but no answer. I was facing the very real prospect of spending the night in my car, when I decided to see if I could open the windows. Well, I was able to open a window, but was it possible I could slip my basketball belly thru that thing? It was unlikely and I didn't have the nerve to try, however tempting. So, I did something very unnatural for me. I asked for help from my fishing neighbors on the other side of the lodge. They were quite amused by my story of woe. And the group, shall we say, wasn't feeling any pain, but as luck would have it, they were all current and retired fire fighters! One guy slipped thru the window, got inside, unlocked the door and returned to his comrades. I offered my sincere thanks, along with additional spirits. He accepted my thanks but declined my other offer.



**Kent Nelson**  
**July 2013**

### **The boat, bait, tap, tap, fish on, dark shadow & heaven on Earth.**

The following morning, we boarded the pontoon boat and it was filled to capacity with my firefighter friends, the fishing guide and yours truly. The guide was an ex-marine and he knew his stuff. He positioned the boat over a GPS marked spot and the fish finder confirmed a "honey hole" of fish. He started to bait everyone's line with a special "stink" bait. This is the nastiest stuff on earth and you really want to avoid contact with it or you'll lose all contact with the human race. The stink bait was smeared on a plastic worm lure using a stick as a barrier. As with different chess strategies, the plan

to catch fish depends on the type of fish you are fishing for. For catfish, if you are fishing from a boat, it is best to cast your line out a few yards out and allow the lure to sink to the bottom. After the line stops descending, reel up the line slack, and watch and wait. When you see or feel the rod tip doing a tap, tap, on your fishing line, this is the moment you have been waiting for. When this occurs, you set the hook at once. Usually you'll have a catfish on the other end of the line and the game is on. When this happens, you yell "fish on" and the guide and other fisherman will help you either by netting the fish or getting out of your way. Make sure your rod tip is pointed at a 60 to 75 degree angle upward and hang on for dear life. The cats are very tough to catch. Speaking of catching, at first, we had some initial success and then, the breeze and biting stopped. The water was placid. I was really getting cooked in 90 plus degree temperatures and I was seriously wondering how much more I could take. But something caught my attention. I looked to my left (north) and I noticed a dark water mass heading to the boat. It looked like a shadow was approaching. In reality, it was weather front and it created wave action that one could track. What struck me, was the front was perfectly patterned in a straight line. It was an incredible sight and a snap shot memory for me. Once the cool breeze arrived, the fishing picked up. Several of us were fighting fish at the same time. We made the guide earn his keep but he was good sport about it and very fast in unhooking the fish and re-baiting the lines. Within 2 hours, each of us caught our limit of 8 fish apiece. It was heaven on earth, a fishing paradise. The catfish varied in weight, from 2 to 7 pounds. The guide filleted the fish and everyone got a package to take home.

### **Duty calls and calls**

I had planned to stay an extra day but I got a call from work requesting I return to work a day early. It's nice to be needed but it's hard to drive away from all that fun. On the way back to Lincoln, I couldn't resist, I had to stop in a small Nebraska town. I didn't need the spell checker to correctly spell the town's name. **All my best.-Kent Nelson**



## Tournament Announcements

- The **2013 River City Round Up** (team event) scheduled for September 28th and 29th is fast approaching. Don't miss this great event. For details visit the Nebraska State Chess Association web site or click the following link.

[http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/  
nscaadmin/2013.05.12%202013%20RCR%20Flyer.pdf](http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/nscaadmin/2013.05.12%202013%20RCR%20Flyer.pdf)

- The **2013 Great Plains Open** is scheduled for Friday, October 11th for the Speed tournament. The Great Plains also includes a Rated Beginner's Open on Saturday, October 12th as well as the main Open section for Saturday and Sunday, October 12th and 13th. **Please note, there is a change of venue.** It is being held at a different hotel in Lincoln. There is a \$300.00 guarantee first place prize in the Open section This is also a POY event. For details, please visit the Nebraska State Chess Association web site or click on the following link.

[http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/  
nscaadmin/2013.06.25%20Great%20Plains%20Flyer%  
202013.pdf](http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/nscaadmin/2013.06.25%20Great%20Plains%20Flyer%202013.pdf)

- **The 13th Annual Omaha Central High's Chess** tournament is being held on Saturday, November 23rd 2013. There are sections for everyone. Come out and break last year's attendance record of 276 players! For details, please visit the Nebraska State Chess Association web site or click the link below.

[http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/  
nscaadmin/2013.06.20%20Central%202013%  
20Announcement.pdf](http://nebraskachess.com/albums/nscablog/nscaadmin/2013.06.20%20Central%202013%20Announcement.pdf)

- Please mark your calendars for the **Lincoln City Chess Championship** on November 9th 2013, Details are coming soon!

## Tournament Life

### Summary

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

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sections</b>
<b>9/28/13 to 9/29/13</b>	<b>RCR Regional Chess Team Tournament</b>	<b>Omaha</b>	<b>Team event, one Open section</b>
<b>10/11/13 to 10/13/13</b>	<b>The Great Plains Open</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Speed , Reserve and Open sections</b>
<b>11/9/13</b>	<b>2013 Lincoln City Championship</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Details coming soon!</b>
<b>11/23/13</b>	<b>13th Annual Omaha Central High</b>	<b>Omaha</b>	<b>All scholastic sections plus an Open section</b>
<b>2/8/14</b>	<b>State Scholastic Championship</b>	<b>Boys Town</b>	<b>Details coming soon!</b>

**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson**

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