

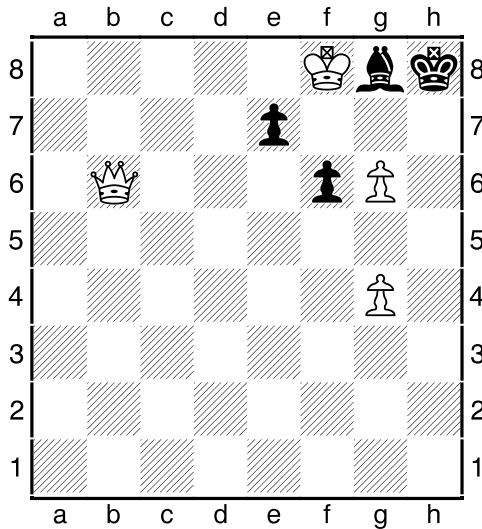
The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess

2017

The Year in Review.



White to play & mate in 2 moves.

Composed by Bob Woodworth (Nov., 2017)

From Kent's Corner

Greetings my chess friends and welcome to another issue of the *Gambit*. As always, it is my pleasure to produce this issue, albeit a lot of effort to achieve the final result.

Of course, I am very thankful to my contributors. Special thanks to **Dr. John Tomas** for his recent and past articles detailing his chess experiences in Nebraska. John is truly a wonderful writer and I was saddened to learn this is John's last article for the *Gambit*. I do hope John reconsiders this. John's articles will always have a home as long as I edit this newsletter.

Nebraska State Chess Historical Archivist, **Robert Woodworth**, continues to write insightful and interesting articles, many of which are featured in this issue. In addition to Bob's *Gambit* material, Bob has provided this editor a great deal of encouragement and support. Thank you Bob, for all you have done for me and the *Gambit* readership.

NSCA President, **John Hartmann**, is doing great things for chess on the state, national and international levels. Special thanks to John for his *Gambit* material as well as his generous gift of a chess clock for yours truly.

In addition to my regular contributors, I received nice letters for publication from Nebraska chess icon, **Loren Schmidt**. It's always good to hear from Loren and know he is keeping tabs on Nebraska chess activities.

Special thanks to **Steve Cusumano** for his willingness to be interviewed and photographed for this issue. Steve was a very good sport in allowing me to document his recent successes. Thanks again Steve!

I recently heard from **Keaton Kiewra**, now living in San Diego, California. Keaton is a native son and is a chess professional, who recently co-authored a book. Let's support Keaton. Some of his services are listed on page 56.

All my best chess wise and otherwise—Kent Nelson-Ed.

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Letter from NSCA President John Hartmann

Greetings!

Once again we have the great pleasure of reading an issue of The Gambit, the official journal of the Nebraska State Chess Association. Our editor, Kent Nelson, has done yeoman's work in bringing this to fruition, and our hats are (as always) off to him.

There has been a lot of chess played in our great state in the past year. We have crowned champions and brought new players to the game. We have also seen old stalwarts return to battle.

Congratulations to Ying Tan, our new (and returning) State Champion. As someone who lost an ugly game to him at the Closed, I can attest to his playing abilities and his worthiness to hold the crown, but I fully plan on taking it from him next year!

Congratulations are also in order for our 2018 age-delimited champions:

K-3: **Max Carde**

K-6: **Janek J. De Guzman**

K-8: **Jacey Tan** and **Sanjay Rajjan**, co-champions

K-12: **Noah Polacek**

Senior: **Kent Nelson**, **Keith Prosterman**, and **David T. Raines**, co-champions

This is the good news. Now for the bad.

We have been running fairly regular tournaments in Lincoln and Omaha, but with (as of date of writing) the loss of space at UNO, our current tournament schedule is looking pretty barren. We have players of all ages and strengths looking for opportunities to play, and no place to host them.

If you have access to space, or have connections to those who do, please contact me at your convenience. We have tournament directors looking to direct, but we just need a place to do so!

Hope to see everyone at the Cornhusker State games in July!

Best regards,

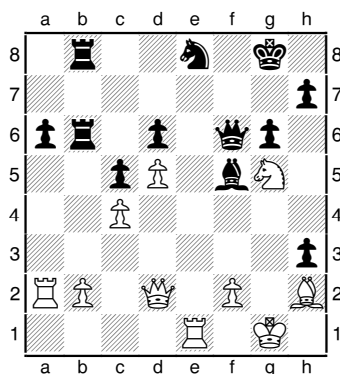
John Hartmann

News and Notes

1 of 2 Letters from Loren

Hey, Kent!

Are you still editing the Gambit? I happened across the Jan 2017 issue and read the article by John Tomas. I think he got the game score for my game with Popel from old Jack Spence newsletters. Jack always screwed up my game scores, and this was no different. The line in the Gambit leaves out about three moves starting at move 31.



Instead of 31.Ne4??, Popel played **31.Bf4**. The game continued **31...Ng7 32.Re2? Bb1! 33.Ne4 Bxe4 34.Rxe4**. Here is where I missed the easy winning idea, as John notes, but it's two moves deep, not one: 34...g5! wins the B due to the Qf3 threat (my original score has **34...Qf5??** [g5!] on it). John stops after **35.f3**, probably because my next move is **35...Nh5** and he couldn't figure out how the N got from e8 to h5. John is right that we were in mild time pressure here, but I still should have seen g5. Game continued **36.Qe3 Nf6?** (The obvious Nxf4 37.Qxf4 Qxf4 38.Rxf4 Rxb2 39.Rxb2 Rxb2 is a simple winning endgame.) **37.Re7 Qb1+!? 38.Qe1 Qxe1+ 39.Rxe1**. Here's where I finally made the win difficult with **39...Re8??**. After that, Black still had a P+, but the B compensated a bit. Today I could probably win that position, but then I was only 1800 and was a bit discouraged after throwing away most of my advantage and eventually accepted a draw.—**Loren Schmidt**

Solution to cover diagram is 1. Qc7—Ed.

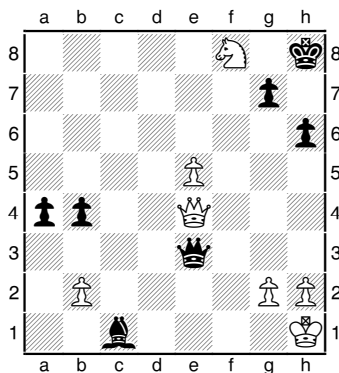
“Checkmate in only ONE move”

by

Robert Woodworth

The possibility of being able to give a checkmate to an opposing king is the goal of every chessplayer. In fact, it is the object of the game itself. Even though it is only one move creating a checkmate, it is not always so transparent and can even be overlooked!!

A great example of this occurred in the 6-game computer match in 2006 between GM Vladimir Kramnik and the ‘silicon beast’ called “Deep Fritz”. In the following diagram it is White (“Deep Fritz”) to play. GM Kramnik had analyzed the position very thoroughly, & with 30 min. left on his clock, calmly played 34. Qe3?? He then stood up, picked up his drink cup and headed for his rest area. Just then he was stopped in his tracks by the apologetic computer operator who showed him what he had missed. (Can the reader now determine the computer’s reply that GM Kramnik had missed??)

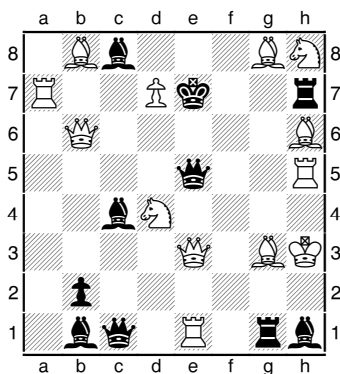


Position after Black’s 34. Qe3??

In the press conference that followed GM Kramnik stated that he was not tired and seemed to be doing his deep calculations quite well. He could not exactly explain why he missed the

computer's checkmating move. Later it was determined that the checkmating pattern was very unusual and especially with the White Knight standing alone on the f8-square. This unusual pattern was not 'stored' in Kramnik's grandmasters memory and therefore not recalled. (even the GM commentator missed the checkmate and kept analyzing not realizing that the game was to end by a single White move!!) Really hard to believe!!

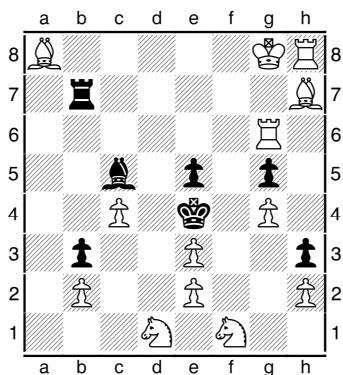
Next, if you think that finding a checkmate in one move is child's play, try to solve the next puzzle by the famous Russian composer Leonid Kubbel where the reader needs to find exactly the **only** checkmate in one move. Good luck!



White to play & checkmate in one move

(Note: This position may seem somewhat cluttered and actually contains many more extra chess pieces than in a real game. This really makes finding the one, single checkmating move much more difficult.)

Finally, here in this last example the reader needs to find a move for White that will NOT RESULT in an immediate checkmate of the Black King.



White to play & not checkmate in one move

This exercise is actually the contrarian opposite of trying to mate in one move. Here, the task is to find a White move that doesn't result in the checkmate of the Black King! (This problem was first publicized by Karl Fabel who was a German chess problemist.)

In conclusion, your writer now hopes that finding those checkmates in one move and also that ('don't mate in one move') to be good practice and of some interest to the reader.

Bob Woodworth
December, 2017.

Sources:

www.chess24.com (1st diagram Kramnik did not see 35. Qh7 checkmate!!)

www.chess.com (2nd diagram-the only checkmating move is 1. Qa3 mate!)

www.mindcipher.com (last diagram-the one solving move for White is 1.Rc6+!! since now, 1.Rxh7 by Black prevents the mate.)

The Ice Harbor Scholastic

by
John Hartmann

Six members of the Brownell-Talbot Chess Club, along with their very patient parents, made the trek to Dubuque, Iowa on May 18-20 2018 to compete in the Ice Harbor Scholastic Chess tournament.

The Ice Harbor Scholastic is a dual individual / team event run each year by Jim Hodina. Outside of National events, it's one of the largest scholastic tournaments in the Midwest. New this year was the addition of an Expert / Master section, drawing numerous young masters to the event.

Among the highlights:

Our players in the K-6 U800 section took clear first place as a team, and picked up three individual trophies along the way. Cooper Morris was the highest placed individual, taking 3rd Place in the K-6 U800.

Four players won awards in the bughouse (team chess) tournament Saturday evening.

We met Grandmaster Andrew Tang, a famous online player who has defeated the current World Champion in very rapid play.

Two young masters - Joseph Wan from Iowa City and Rithwik Mathur from Wisconsin - took time from their days to show our players recent victories against Grandmasters. They also talked to our players about how to respond to losing, and how much work it takes to succeed in chess.

It was a fantastic weekend, filled with great camaraderie among the players and parents. Our success is a sign of how far chess has come at Brownell in these past years. I'm looking forward to continuing our progress in the years to come!

The rating report from US Chess is available at:

<http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201805206892>



The Omaha Brownell-Talbot Chess team members.



Chess master, Joseph Wan, teaching the youngsters the game.



"To the Victors, Goes the Spoils!"

Check out John Hartmann's pod cast at . . .

<https://www.perpetualchesspod.com/new-blog/2018/2/20/episode-60-john-hartmann-book-reviewer-for-chess-life-magazine>

The Summer of My Discontent: 1972-73

By

Dr. John Tomas

In a life described by a former girlfriend as “interesting,” the period 1972-73 was the most “interesting” of them all. As the summer of 1972 started, I had received my degree from Creighton and was technically living in Chicago. I did play in tournaments there, but I spent most of the summer elsewhere. I spent around a month with my girlfriend’s family in Kansas City in a visit that, unfortunately, coincided with the much-awaited world championship match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky. You see, like every one of my close friends of the opposite sex, she absolutely detested chess and the time I spent on it.

But the trips to Kansas City brought me to Omaha several times and finally took me to Stillwater for the North American Open along with virtually every player of the Omaha Chess Renaissance.

But then I made a mistake that I had been warned about – not to change my carefully laid plans because of a love affair and I spent from October to December of 1973 in Omaha. In spite of the fact that I often analyzed with young players (John Milton and Mike Blankenau in particular) I was no longer fully a member of what turned into the Nebraska Chess Renaissance.

But I did play some interesting games.

Vasto,Dan (2145) - Tomas,John

Romeoville Open (5), 06.1972

Sicilian Defense B84

This was the first time I had played (or even heard of) Dan Vasto. Eventually, Dan's rating went up into the high 2200s and he was quite successful in the Midwest, at one point winning the Iowa state title. I needed a win in this game to stay in contention for first prize in the tournament. Unfortunately, Andrew Karklins, with whom I had earlier drawn, won his last-round game, and this game just gave me second alone.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 e6 6.♕e2

♟e7 7.♟e3 0-0 8.♞d2

These were the days before the "English Attack" (which, strangely enough for a chess opening, was actually conceived of and played by English players). The extra move (♟e2) makes a difference in the game, especially since black has not played ...e5.

8...a6 9.g4 ♘c6! 10.g5 ♘d7 11.h4?!

11.♞xc6 bxc6 12.h4 ♖b8 (12...d5 13.h5 ♖b8) 13.0-0-0 ♞a5 looks to be better, but players who play the English Attack are generally loath to abandon its plan of hurling the kingside pawns at their opponents.

11...♞xd4 12. ♟xd4

12.♞xd4 b5 13.0-0-0 ♟b7 14.♔b1 ♖c8 15.♟h5; 12.♞xd4 ♞c5 13.0-0-0 b5, and you can see the difference: white's attack will take a couple more moves to get fully going. 14.e5 d5 15.♔b1 ♞c7

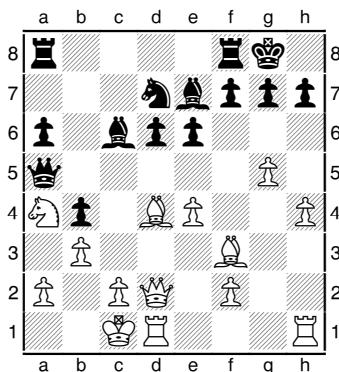
12...b5 13.0-0-0 b4!

Now, black has the initiative.

14.♞a4 ♞a5 15.b3 ♟b7 16.♟f3?!

And now black has a distinct edge. From f3, the bishop is neither helping white's attack nor hindering black's.

16...♟c6



Better yet is 16...e5! locking white's bishop out of the game.

17.♘b2?

17.a3! makes black's task distinctly more difficult 17...♞fb8 18.axb4 ♞xb4 19.♞xb4 ♞xb4 20.♙c3 ♞b7 21.♘b2, and the position offers both sides chances.

17...♞xa2 18.♞xb4 a5?!

In the days before I had really worked on analytical accuracy I missed ideas such as 18...♘e5! when 19.♙xe5 a5! 20.♞c3 dxe5 21.♘c4 (21.♞xc6? ♞ac8) 21...a4 22.♞b2 axb3 23.cxb3 ♞a7 provides me with a very strong, indeed probably winning, attack.

19.♞c3 ♞fc8 20.♘c4?!

20.♙d2 d5 (...♙b5 21.♞a1 ♞xc3 22.♞xa2 ♞xf3) 21.♞a1 ♞xa1 22.♞xa1 dxe4; 21.♘d3 (21.♞a1 ♞xa1 22.♞xa1 ♙b4 23.exd5 ♙xc3+ 24.♙xc3 ♙xd5 25.♙xd5 exd5 26.♘d3 f6 with a clear advantage for black.

20...a4 21.♙xg7?

White might survive a bit longer if he plays. 21.♞b2 axb3 22.cxb3 ♞a6 23.♙xg7 ♞ab8 24.♙h6 ♘e5.

21...axb3 22.cxb3 ♘c5 23.♞xd6 ♘xb3+ 24.♙d1 ♙xd6 25.♘d6 ♙d7 26.♘xc8 ♞xc8 27.♞b2 ♞c1+

0-1

I was quite pleased with this game, and particularly the result since I now had enough money to visit my girlfriend's family in Kansas City.

However confused my summer was, Nebraska (and Omaha, in particular) chess in Nebraska that summer was one long coming-out party. The debutantes were peripatetic -- found at tournaments throughout the Midwest -- Lincoln, Kansas City, Omaha, Denver, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City again, Stillwater, and, to close it all out, the Midwest Open, the largest ever, in Omaha.

When it was over, Nebraska had its first (ever!) two USCF

masters. One was hardly a surprise. John Watson picked up where he had left off when he stopped playing a year earlier. But the second name was somebody very few would have predicted – Rich Chess parlayed generally excellent results with a superb result in the North American Open in Stillwater (12 rounds in 7 days! in August – in Stillwater!) and picked up his master’s title.

Rich

Richard Chess was one of two Omaha players whom I believe might well have accomplished even more in chess had he worked more on his game. He tended to ignore openings almost entirely. For the most part, a strong player can get away with this approach against non-master opposition. He (or she) might lose the odd game, but openings matter very little below the master level (something I keep trying to get my students to act on). However, once you start meeting masters consistently, you must have more than just the basic knowledge of opening principles that serves you well with non-masters.

The game that follows is a perfect example of the type of problems that such players can run into. Even if you don’t come out of the opening with the inferior position, as Rich does here, you will probably play positions with very few active possibilities. Magnus Carlsen may be able to conjure positive chances this way, but very few players, even very few grandmasters, can.

Chess, Richard - Watson, John
Offutt 30/60, 07.1972
Sicilian, Kan B42

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6

John had played Dragons (when he played the Sicilian at all), but here he varies. Just recently (2016) he told me that my success against him with the Kan (1 win, 2 rather easy draws) led him to try it, but that he never had much luck with it. Of course, he was mostly playing it against grandmasters!

5.♙d3 ♘c6 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♘d2 d5 8.c3 e5 9.♘e2?! ♘g4

John's play in his early return to chess was almost insanely aggressive. The text move is very good, but I would have thought seriously about developing here with 9...♙e6.

10.♘b3?!

10.exd5 ♘xe3 11.fxe3 ♔xd5 12.♙e4 when Watson has the two bishops! (If you've followed him on ICC you will understand how important that fact has become to his understanding of chess. But black's retarded development means that the position is dynamically equal.

10...♘xe3 11.fxe3 ♙g4

Objectively a good move. Still, I would have looked to develop with 11...♙e6 (more a matter of taste than anything. John and I once played a tandem simul at Westside when he was still in high school, and our differing approaches to positions led to some quite amusing difficulties).

12.♔d2

12.exd5 is another way to try to defend, but after 12...♔xd5 13.e4 ♔e6 14.h3 ♔h6 15.♙c4 ♖d8 16.♔c1 ♔h4+ 17.g3 ♔h5 18.♔e3 ♙e7 19.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 20.0-0+ ♔g6 21.hxg4 ♔xg4 22.♔f3 ♔xf3 23.♖xf3, black still retains a clear advantage.

12...♙xe2?

This move gives away almost all of John's advantage. Instead, 12...dxe4 13.♙xe4 ♔b6 14.0-0 ♖d8 leaves black with a strong pull.

13.♔xe2 dxe4 14.♙c4!

Really forced since on 14.♙xe4? ♔h4+ drops the piece. But it is strong nonetheless -- suddenly, black's inferior development means something -- Rich is better!

14...b5?

John is taking big chances, and his decisions are going to come back to haunt him. Instead, he needs to develop: 14...f5; 14...♙e7 15.0-0! (15.♖d1?! ♚c7 16.♙d5) 15...0-0 16.♚g4 g6 17.♚xe4 ♙g7 18.♖ad1 with a balanced (and tense) position.

15.♖d1 ♚c7?

15...♚b6 16.♙d5 ♙e7 17.♙xe4 (17.0-0 0-0 with a clear edge for white -- that bishop is extremely strong, putting pressure on both sides of the board.)

16.♙d5! 0-0-0?

Losing. Instead he should try 16...♙d6 17.♘a5! ♘xa5 18.♙xa8 ♘c6 19.♚d2 ♙e7 20.♙xc6 ♚xc6 21.♚f2 f6 22.0-0, and, while the pawn is not enough for the exchange, black can still make meaningful moves.

17.0-0! ♖d7?

17...f6 18.♙xe4

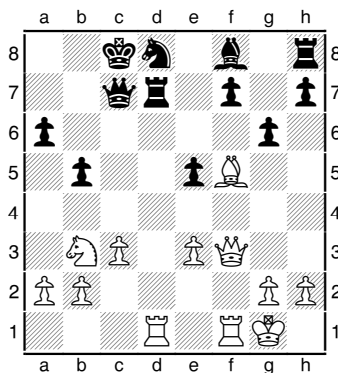
18.♙xe4 g6

It strikes me that the game makes much more sense if both John and Rich have been in time pressure for a number of moves.

19.♚f3

This wins pretty easily, but I suspect that Richard didn't have time to analyze all of the wins in the position: 19.♖xd7! ♚xd7 20.♖f6 ♘b8 21.♚f3 ♙e7 22.♖xf7 ♖d8 23.♖xh7 ♚d6 24.♖g7 g5 25.♙c2 is one other way to approach the position.

19...♘d8 20.♙f5!



20.♔f6! is even better, but this is enough to win. 20...♖xd1
 21.♖xd1 ♖g8, and it is mate in six: 22.♔xa6+ ♘b7
 23.♔a8+ ♔b8 24.♙xb7+ ♕c7 25.♔a5+ ♕xb7 26.♔xb5+
 ♕a7 27.♖d7+ ♔c7 *etc.*

**20...gxf5 21.♔a8+ ♔b8 22.♔xb8+ ♕xb8 23.♖xd7 ♙h6
 24.♕f2 ♖g8 25.g3 f4 26.exf4 exf4 27.♘c5 ♕c8 28.♖fd1
 fxg3+ 29.hxg3 ♖e8 30.♘xa6 ♙e3+ 31.♕g2 ♙b6
 32.♖1d2 ♖e6 33.♖7d6 ♘c6 34.♘b4 ♘xb4 35.cxb4 1-0**

John

John Watson was the other master standing at the end of the summer. He didn't have uniformly outstanding results (something that often happens after a prolonged layoff), but won consistently, and like Rich Chess, ended the summer with a superior result in Stillwater, tied with International Master Bill Martz behind future IM Elliott Winslow.

His aggressive play grew ever more assured as the summer wound on, and one of his best wins was against one of his strongest rivals: Elliott Winslow of St. Louis.

I met Elliott at Randy Mills' home in 1968 when his family put us up during a Kansas City event. Although he was only 16 at the time. Randy introduced him to me as one of the strongest players in the Midwest. The three of us (with another couple of young players) made plans to drive to the US Open in Aspen that year. On his way back to St. Louis, he visited with me in Omaha, and I introduced him to Watson at the Watson home.



Photograph by Dr. Peter Tomas

International Master Elliott Winslow is at the far right. *Moi* is at the far left. This is the final round of the 1975 Northern Illinois Open. Winslow is beating James Ellis (from Wisconsin) to win the tournament, and I am defeating Aaron Dubin (St. Louis) to tie for second

Soon after high school, Elliott became a more-or-less professional player, traveling from tournament to tournament throughout the Midwest and ruining the chances of a score of Nebraska players in many tournaments. In 1973, he tied for first in the Midwest Open. Elliott took the only half point from him when John won the (inaugural) US High School, and won in the 1972 US Junior Open, and now, this.

Watson, John (IM) – Winslow, Elliott (IM)

Kansas City Open (4), 06.1972

Sicilian Dragon B76

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♕e3
♕g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♕c4 ♕d7 9.♔e2**

Earlier this year at Lincoln, John won the brilliancy prize with this move.

9...0-0 10.0-0-0 a6?!

I think that black should simply play the normal lines starting with 10...♖e5 11.♗b3 ♔a5. The queen can turn out to be misplaced in black's standard counterplay.

11.g4! ♖e5

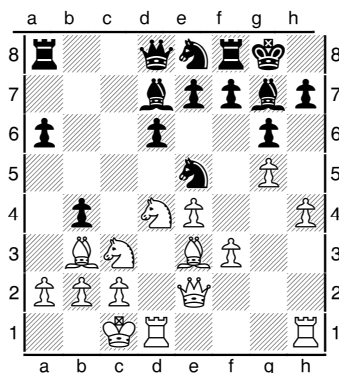
11...b5?! 12.♗b3 ♖a5 Black's combination of two different defensive systems leads him into problems 13.g5?! (13.♔b1! ♖c4?! (Better is 13...♖xb3 14.cxb3) 14.♗xc4 (On 14.♗c1? e5 snaps the pretty trap shut) 14...bxc4 15.g5 ♖h5 16.♗xc4) 13...♖h5! and because of the white queen on e2, the knight is very happy on the rim.

12.♗b3 b5 13.g5 ♖e8?

13...♖h5! With the queen on e2, the knight is actually well placed on h5. Now John can pry open the “h” file, and mate will not be far away; 13...♖h5 14.f4 ♖g4 15.♗g1 e5 16.♖f3 ♖xf4.

14.h4! White's attack is now very strong, perhaps even winning at this stage.. Elliott defends resolutely, but ...

14...b4



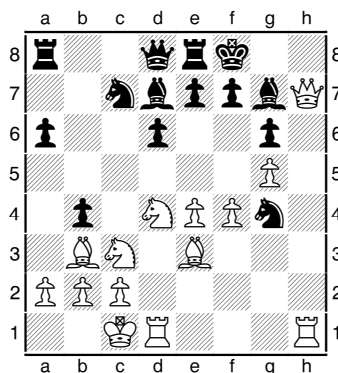
15.h5!!

Fritz considers this a mistake and suggests 15.♖d5 instead (which is actually very strong as well), but in those days (and that summer in particular) John always played for mate! 15...e6? (15...♖c7 16.♖b6 ♖b8 17.♖xd7 ♖xd7 18.h5) 16.h5 exd5 17.hxg6 ♖xg6 18.♗h2 h6 19.♗xd5+--

15...♘c7?!

John's main line went 15...bxc3 16.hxg6 cxb2+ 17.♔b1 ♘xg6 18.♚h2 h6 when both gxh6 and ♘f5 win. 19.♘f5! (19.gxh6 ♙f6 20.f4 e6 (20...e5 21.fxe5) 21.f5 ♘e5 22.♖dg1+ ♔h8 23.h7 (23.♚g3) 23...♙g7 24.♙h6) 19...♙xf5 20.exf5 e6 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.♙xe6+ ♔h7 (22...♖f7 23.gxh6 ♙h8 24.h7+ ♔f8 25.♙h6+ ♘g7 26.♖xd6) 23.♚xh6 23.♙xh6 24.♖xh6+ ♔g7 25.♙d4+ ♖f6 26.♖dh1.

16.♚h2 ♖e8 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.f4 18.♘g4 19.♚h7+ ♔f8



20.f5!

20.♙xf7!! also wins. 20...♔xf7 21.f5 gxf5 22.♘xf5 ♙xf5 23.♚xf5+ ♘f6 24.gxf6 exf6 25.♖hg1 ♖g8 26.♘d5 ♔f8 27.♘b6 ♖b8 28.♘d7+

20...e6 21.f6 ♘xf6 22.gxf6 ♚xf6 23.♖df1 bxc3 24.♖xf6 cxb2+ 25.♔xb2 ♙xf6 26.♖f1 ♔e7 27.♖xf6! ♖f8 28.♙g5

In Elliott's IM days, a GM (who shall remain nameless) told me that Elliott's nickname among the titled players was "Lose-fast" (Win-slow). **1-0**

It is games like this that gave John Watson his fearsome reputation as an attacking player.

Mike

Rich and John were not the only Omaha players who had outstanding summers. 16 year- old Mike Blankenau started the summer rated around 1300 and ended it close to 2000. I was not the only person whose summer was a bit unusual – his parents were out of the country for a good part of the summer and Mike was on his own in the familial homestead. Either on route (to or from Kansas City), I spent a couple of nights there. What I recall was a gathering of Omaha players on a nightly basis – Mike, Rich and Mike Chess, John Milton and Mark Seitzer – marathon analysis sessions, nightly speed tournaments, games of fussball. And to top it all off, early in the morning we might migrate to the Chess garage, (and weight room) with Chess *perè* taking part.

Blankenau, Mike (1360) - Hamblin, James (2185)

North American Open: Stillwater, OK

English Opening A25

**1.c4 ♖f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.g3 ♘c6 4.♗f3 d5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5
6.d3 ♕c5?!**

Black intends to play the Yugoslav Attack with colors reversed. Since the line is very sharp, it seems to me to be insanity to play it a TEMPO DOWN! But Hamblin had won the Denver Open earlier that summer defeating both Blankenau and Watson, so maybe he thought that the 800-point rating differential would allow him do whatever he wanted.

**7.♕d2 f6 8.♕g2 ♕e6 9.a3?! ♔d7 10.0-0 0-0-0 11.b4
♕b6 12.♗e4 h5 13.a4! ♗cxb4 14.♕xb4 ♗xb4**

Now, he has an extra pawn but that pawn on h5 is going nowhere. White is already close to having a winning attack.

15.a5 ♕d4 16.♗xd4?!

16.♖b1! ♔e7 17.♔a4 ♗a6 18.♖fc1 is overwhelming (or maybe just whelming).

16...♔xd4 17.e3!?

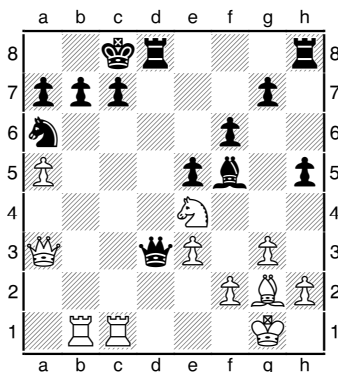
This is not the best move here, but it is noteworthy for the thought behind it. I always believed that Mike had enormous talent. The problem was that after a certain point, he simply stopped working on his game. He played a lot with very good results, but without work away from the board, he simply didn't improve. Had he worked at his game, I feel he might well have become an International Master.

17...♔xd3 18.♖a4 ♘a6 19.♖ab1 ♔c4 20.♖a3 ♕f5?

20...♖d3! 21.♖e7 ♖d7 22.♖a3 ♕d5 23.♖fc1 ♖a2
24.♖d3, and black is slightly better.

21.♖fc1 ♖d3 22.♘c5!!

It must be nice to be able to play a move like this against a player who outrates you by an outrageous 800 points!



22.♖a4! wins outright 22...♖d7 23.♖xb7!, but the queen sac indicates how good Mike had become.

22...♘xc5?

22...♖xb1! is the only defense, when white has a clear advantage, but black is still holding on. 23.♖xb1 ♘xc5 24.♖c1 ♘d3 25.♖c3 e4 26.a6; Of course, 22...♖xa3 gets mated right away: 23.♕xb7+ ♖b8 24.♘xa6.

23.♖xc5 ♖d6 24.♕xb7+ ♔d7 25.♖d1 ♕xb1 26.♖xd6+ cxd6 27.♖b5+ ♔e7 28.♖xb1

And the rest is (or should be) silence, as they used to say.

**28...♖b8 29.♞e4 ♜hd8 30.♙d5 ♜b5 31.a6 ♜c8 32.♞f3
g5 33.♔g2 ♜cc5 34.e4 ♜a5 35.♙b7 ♜a2 36.♞xh5 ♜cc2
37.♞h7+ ♔e6 38.♞f5+ ♔e7 39.h4 gxh4 40.gxh4 1-0.**

After the game, the large Omaha contingent celebrated. Mike was popular with everybody, and his rating would jump 600 points over the summer.

The Midwest Open

The central event of the year was once again the Midwest Open, this time held in Omaha and with a record 91 players. The tournament featured virtually all the new generation of players who would come to dominate Nebraska chess over the next decade. As expected there was a multiple tie for the top place, with two relative oldsters in Richard McClellan and Roger Anderson a foreigner in from Colorado and John Watson.

Throughout its history, the Open had awarded its state championship using tiebreak systems, and it did so again, and awarded the state title to John Watson. Richard McClellan was not pleased. First, he insisted that Watson whose travels we have chronicled, actually lived in Denver and so was not eligible for the championship, but that was obviously not true, and tournament director Jack Spence made ready to award the championship trophy to Watson. But, it appeared that the trophy had disappeared, as had Richard McClellan! Richard had absconded with the trophy. His problem appears when you search the list of Nebraska State Champions and find Watson's name as champion for 1973. Apparently, it was enough for him to have the trophy with or without the title. Fortunately, John found the whole *kerfuffle* amusing.

John made his reputation as an attacking player, but any player needs to master the art of the endgame and so, my final Watson game details his own mastery of that art.

Watson, John (2235) - Sherbring, Mark (1979)

Midwest Open (5), 10.1972

Pirc Defense B09

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.f4

The Austrian Attack, a favorite of the 11th World Champion (*et moi*).

4...♘f6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.e5 dxe5

6...♘fd7 is also possible, and black should be fine. But he will have to undergo an attack, and I figure Mark, from Denver who played regularly in Nebraska, knew enough about Nebraska chess to want no part of a John Watson attack.

7.dxe5 ♖xd1+ 8.♙xd1

I used to play this line as white and won a number of end-games with it. But when blacks started playing the knight to h5, I had to give it up. Black threatens bishop to g4 and supports f6 without the passive knight to e8. It is, however, something of a surprise that John would try it, and I cannot now recall whether the two of us had analyzed these positions at the beginning of the summer.

8...♞d8+

8...♘h5!

9.♙e1

9.♙d2 is also possible.

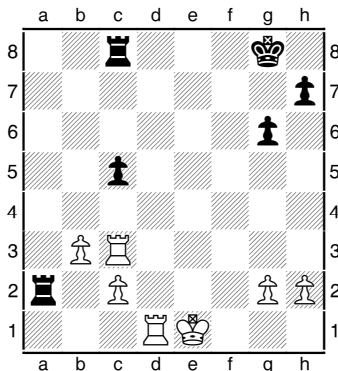
9...♘e8?!

This is supposed to be playable, but 9...♘h5 seems clearly better to me. 9...♘d5 is also possible with the type of end-game white is playing for as the result of 10.♘xd5 ♞xd5 11.♙c4 ♞d8 12.♘g5 ♞f8 13.♙e3.

10.♙e3 ♘c6 11.♙b5! f6 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.♘d4! fxe5 14.♘xc6 ♞d6?

A mistake that will cost Mark a pawn and the game after an accurately calculated Watson combination. 14...exf4! is a better try for equality 15. ♙xf4 ♞d7 when white's exposed king may even give black an edge.

15. ♖xe7+ ♔f7 16. ♖xc8 ♜xc8 17. ♜f1! exf4 18. ♜xf4+ ♔g8 19. ♙xa7 ♜f6 20. ♜d1 ♜a6 21. ♙d4 c5 22. ♙xf6! ♙xf6 23. ♜f3! ♙xc3+ 24. ♜xc3 ♜xa2 25. b3



25... ♜a7

The long sequence of forced moves has left Watson with an extra pawn but in a double rook endgame. Such endings are notoriously difficult to play, but John makes his task look absurdly simple.

26. ♜d5 ♜ac7 27. ♔d2 c4 28. bxc4!

28. b4 is possible, but getting one pair of rooks off the board looks right to me.

28... ♜xc4 29. ♜xc4 ♜xc4 30. ♔d3 ♜f4 31. c4 ♔f8

31... ♜f2 was clearly Sherbring's original idea, but the win is very simple. 32. c5 ♜xg2 33. c6; 31... ♜f1 delays the inevitable for only a couple of moves. 32. ♔d4 ♜d1+ 33. ♔e5 ♜c1 34. c5 ♔f7 35. ♔d6 ♔e8 36. ♔c7 ♜a1 37. c6 ♜a7+ 38. ♔b6 ♜a8 39. c7.

32. ♜e5 ♔f7 33. c5 ♔f6 34. ♜e2

34. ♜e4! is slightly more accurate, but it doesn't make much difference. 34... ♜f1 35. c6 ♜d1+ 36. ♔c4 ♜c1+ 37. ♔d5 ♜c2 38. ♜c4 ♜xc4 39. ♔xc4 ♔e6 40. ♔c5;

34... h5 35. c6 ♜a4 36. ♜c2 ♜a8 37. ♔d4 ♔e7 38. c7 ♜c8 39. ♔e5 h4 40. h3 1-0.

Tomas, John – McLarnen, Don

Swenson Memorial Omaha (1), 23.11.1973

Center Counter Defense **B01**

[Tomas]

1.e4 d5

Either the Scandinavian or the Center-Counter. I use both terms -- Scandinavian for 2. ♖f6 and Center-Counter for ♗xd5. I note that the newly minted American grandmaster, World Junior Champion Jeffery Xiong won a very accurately calculated game with it in Holland.

2.exd5 ♗xd5 3.♘c3 ♗a5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 ♙g4 6.h3 ♙xf3?! 7.♗xf3 c6 8.♙c4 e6 9.0-0 ♙d6

9...♙e7 10.♙f4 ♘bd7 is better than the text.

10.♙d2

10.♘e4 ♘xe4 11.♗xe4 0-0? (11...♗c7 gives white a chance to go wrong with 12.♗g4 0-0 13.♙h6? (13.♞e1 but is much better) 13...f5 14.♙xe6+ ♔h8) 12.♙xe6 ♞e8 13.♗f5 ♗xf5 14.♙xf5, and white is a solid pawn to the good.

10...♗c7

10...♗b6!? 11.♗e2 (11.♗d3) 11...♘bd7 12.♙xe6! fxe6 13.♗xe6+ with a position remarkably similar to the famous Tal-Portisch, match game from 1965. Unfortunately, (from my perspective, at least) black has very good chances to hold: 13...♙e7 14.♞fe1 ♗d8 15.♘e4 ♘xe4 16.♞xe4 ♘f6 17.♞e2.

11.♞fe1 0-0 12.♘e4 ♘xe4

12...♘bd7 looks to be a bit better. 13.♘xd6 ♗xd6 14.c3 c5 15.♙f4 ♗b6 16.dxc5 ♗xc5 (16...♘xc5 17.b4 ♘cd7 18.♞ad1, but I cannot believe that black will be able to hold either the middle game or the ending. The bishops are monsters.)

13.♞xe4!

Jack Spence called this a "coffeehouse move" when he commented on the game. But I had been studying how rook lifts can increase attacking potential just before the tournament, so it was very far from being the trappy, unsound trick that Jack suggested.

13...♞d7 14.♚d3

14.♖ae1 ♘f6 15.♖h4

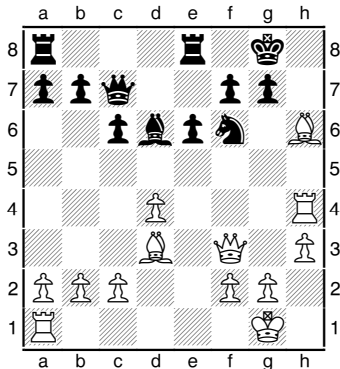
14...♘f6

14...c5 15.♖h4 g6 16.♖xh7? ♔xh7 17.♔h5+ ♔g8
18.♙xg6 ♞f6 19.♙xf7+ ♖xf7

15. ♖h4± h6?

15...♙e7 16.♘g5 ♜fe8 17.♘h7+ (17.c3 ♜ad8 18.♘f6
♘f6 19.♘h7+ (19.♜xh7)) 17...♞xh7 18.♘xe7 ♚xe7
19.♚h5 f5 20.♚xh7+ ♔f7 21.c3 both of these lines leave
me with an extra pawn and attacking chances, but they are
much better than what actually happens.

16. ♖xh6! ♜fe8?



16...♖fd8! is also lost, but black has reason to hope there. And, as Magnus Carlsen has pointed out, your first task is to simply stay alive.

17. ♔xf6!

Cute but not very difficult to see. If I were living in the 19th century, I would have announced mate -- in 8 moves.

17...gxf6 18.♖g4+ ♔h8 19.♙g7+ ♔g8 20.♙xf6+ ♔f8
21.♖h4 . 1-0

I always feel a bit guilty when I publish games like this: Don was a much stronger player than this game suggests, but he is likely to be remembered for this game alone.

Three weeks later I was no longer a Nebraskan -- I was a Chicagoan as I have been ever since, even while living in Santa Barbara.

Although, for a while at least, I would return to Omaha to visit and play, the 1973 Swenson Memorial ended my time as a player from Omaha. I had been accepted into the University of Chicago's doctoral program in English, and from that point I considered myself (and was considered) a Chicagoan. I still kept in touch: at one time or another Mike Blankenau, John Milton, John Watson and Elliott Winslow all lodged with me while playing in Chicago events. Mike regularly called to try to get me to play in events that he was playing in. Even as late as 1988, he found me when I was living in Santa Barbara.

But I wasn't in Omaha any more. And with Jack Spence's early death, the link to Nebraska's past was broken. John Watson and I were the natural heirs to that tradition, and we had left. I hope that this series has given today's players a sense of how the past come to be what it was. The next stage of the process is explaining how the more recent past became today, but that will be someone else's task.

I did not stop playing tournament chess when I left Omaha. For many in Chicago, I would always remain the outsider from Omaha. But there are many worse places to be from. That past is an entirely different story – dependent as it is, emotionally and intellectually, on my 14 years in Omaha, Nebraska.

About Dr. John Tomas . . .

John was the Nebraska 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.

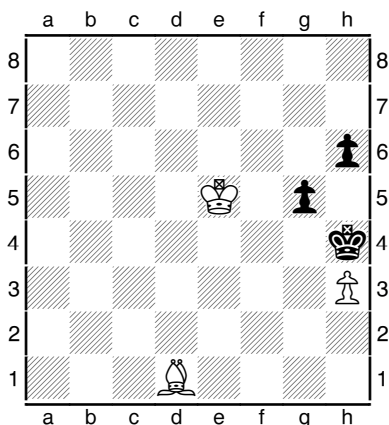
Fun with Miniature Endgame Compositions

by

Robert Woodworth

Since this writer enjoys working with miniature 2-move chess problems, I find myself attracted to endgame compositions and/or situations in compact & simple settings with amazing solutions and variations.

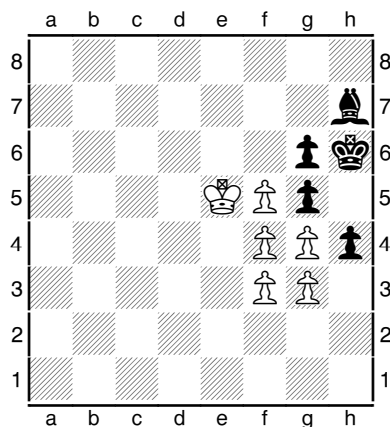
I have selected 5 for this article that I really enjoyed trying to solve and which I thought were interesting and instructive.



White has a won ending in 4 moves!

White to move and win. This is from an actual game & appears to be an analyzed variation that wins for White. Solution is at the end of this article. (Hint: protect the h-pawn & sac the bishop.)

Next, is a somewhat humorous ending to a composition where White moves 1st and his pawns attack & mate the Black king.

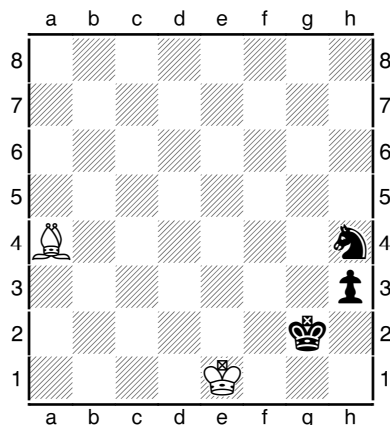


White wins after 1.Kf6

White checkmates in 7 moves and begins by approaching the Black king with his king. Black has only the Bishop retreat and then the White pawns become extremely active as they force the Black king to run a gauntlet!! Quite clever & amusing!

I guess that I like these examples of endgame play not only for the variations but also for the entertainment value which can be quite enjoyable! (see the final 3 positions here.)

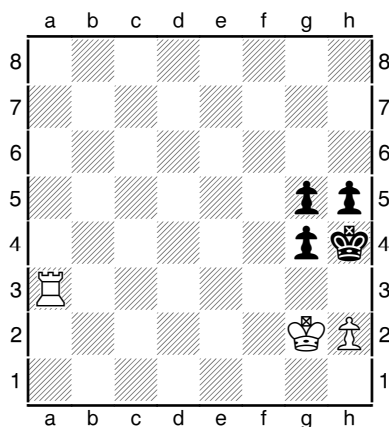
For example no.3, I have selected the following endgame composition where the White bishop blocks the h-pawn on the queening square by first attacking the pawn, then checking the Black king & then moving to the queening square itself!



White to play and draw

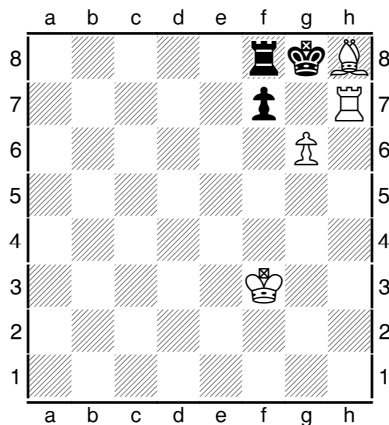
This next example (which is No.4 of 5) is truly amazing when one discovers the first move for White which sacs the Rook!!

(Supposedly this position was from an endgame of Akiba Rubinstein's which appeared in a 1936 chessbook by Mr. V. Ssosin.)



White checkmates in 4 moves!

This final example (which is No.5) is a somewhat famous end-game composition where White is to play and win. (Hint: the White bishop is extraneous so the 1st move is a check which lets the bishop become captured. This makes the White pawn move very effective after the White rook moves a 2nd time.)



White has a won ending in 4 moves!

So, in conclusion, this is my collection of miniature chess end-game positions that I enjoy playing over. Some of these were actually composed rather than from an actual game. I hope the reader enjoyed playing these over and also trying to solve the endgame positions!

Robert Woodworth
December, 2017
Omaha, NE

Sources:

Position No. 1: Analysis from game: Kobese vs. Hoang, 1996

Position No. 2: Composed study by Bondarenko & Kuznetsov.

Position No. 3: “Chess Facts and Fables” by E. Winter, pg. 287

Position No. 4: “Chess Facts and Fables” by E. Winter, pg. 18.

Position No.5: “The Art of the Endgame” by J. Timman, pg. 235.

Solutions:

Position No. 1: 1.Bg4 1.h5, 2. Kf5 2. hxg4 3. hxg4 3. Kg3, 4. Kxg5 and White wins the pawn ending.

Position No. 2: 1.Kf6 1. Bg8, 2.fxg5+ 2.Kh7, 3.fxg6+ 3. Kh8 4.g7+ 4.Kh7, 5.g6+ 5. Kh6, 6.g5+ 6. Kh5 7. g4 checkmate!!

Position No.3: 1. Bd7 1.h2, 2.Bc6+ 2. Kg1, 3.Bh1!! 3. Kxh1, 4. Kf2 and the Black king is trapped forever on h1.

Position No.4: 1. Rh3+!! 1. gxh3+ 2.Kf3. 2.g4+, 3.Kf4 3.g3, 4.hxg3 checkmate!

Position No.5: 1. Rg7+ 1. Kxh8, 2. Rh7+ 2. Kg8, 3. g7!! and the pawn ‘queens’ after 3. Kxh7 (or else the Black Rook moves and Rh8+ wins.)

Steve Cusumano
2017 Player of the Year Champion.



The 2018 Nebraska State Closed Participants.

Ying Tan—Current State Champion.

Steve Cusumano—2017 Nebraska Player of the Year.

John Linscott—Closed Qualifier.

Matt Buckley—Closed Qualifier.

John Hartmann—Closed Qualifier.

Michael Mills—Closed Qualifier.

2017 Player of the Year Final Standings

Name	Cornhusker	LCC	OCC	GPO	MWO	Total
Cusumano	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.5	16.0
Tan	2.0	3.0		4.5	3.5	13.0
Linscott	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.0		12.5
Buckley	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.5	3.5	12.5
Hartmann	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.5	11.0
Mills	2.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	2.5	11.0
Nelson		2.5	3.0	2.0	3.5	11.0
Lyons	3.5		2.0	1.0	3.0	9.5
Slominski	2.0		2.5		3.0	7.5
McFayden			2.0	2.5	2.0	6.5
Belaschenko				3.5	2.5	6.0
Davidson	3.0				2.5	5.5
Dutiel			2.5		2.5	5.0
Revesz	4.5					4.5
Kalyanasundaram		2.0	1.0	1.5		4.5
Soldatenkov			2.0		2.5	4.5
Raines	1.5			0.0	2.5	4.0
Rajjan		2.0	1.5			3.5
Reeves	3.0					3.0
O'Connor				3.0		3.0
Holling				3.0		3.0
Kappel		2.5				2.5
Le		2.5				2.5
Swartz				2.5		2.5
Reigenborn	2.0					2.0
M Brewer		2.0				2.0
Stepp		1.0	1.0			2.0
Colligan			2.0			2.0
Oberfoell	1.0					1.0
Trine	1.0					1.0
Roldan		1.0				1.0
Wilson		1.0				1.0
Tran				0.5		0.5
Cole		0.0				0.0
McCrimon			0.0			0.0

Key—Cornhusker-Lincoln City-Omaha City-Great Plains-Midwest.

A Tricky Chess Quiz to **Test Your Knowledge of the Game:**

by

Robert Woodworth

We all know that there are many exceptions to the principles & rules in the Classical form of the game itself. (As a sample of how this can be, please answer # 3 and then consider the movement of the king when a player ‘castles’ in a game.)

1. The Knight is the only chess piece that has the ability to ‘jump over’ other pieces. (True or False)?
2. When a capture is made in chess, the captured chessman is always replaced by the capturer on the square of the captured chessman. (True or False) ?
3. According to the rules, does the King always move only one square in any direction provided it is a legal move? (True or False)?
4. Can a piece that is absolutely pinned give a checkmate to an opposing king? (Yes or No)?
5. Is it possible for 2 absolutely pinned pieces for one side both be giving checkmate to an opposing king at the same time?? (Yes or No)?
6. Is it possible for an ‘en passant’ capture to be a forced move in a game?? (Yes or No)?
7. Before the Queen gained her present day powers, how did she move?? (Please describe this move.)
8. The rook always moves in a straight line until it encounters another piece or pawn in its path. (True or False)?
9. What chessman has the most complex type of movement according to the rules of the game?
10. What is the most difficult move to see (and most often overlooked) in a game of chess?? (Describe the chessman in question and its movement.)

11. What best originally describes the intended movement of a Knight as found in the early history of the game? (No, it isn't described as the L-shaped move!!)
12. When an 'en passant' capture is made in a game, why must the capture be made IMMEDIATELY AFTER the captured pawn's original move or else this 'en passant' capture involving these 2 pawns can never be made again in the game?? (Hint: two captures in one move-is it possible!?)
13. During a chess game is it possible to observe 2 bishops traveling on the same colored squares and with no pawns being promoted? (Yes or No)?
14. In describing the rules for CASTLING in a game of chess, what important rule is most often omitted when all of these castling rules are compiled??
15. When a pawn is promoted in a game, what was a major part of the rule that was omitted for many, many years before the error was discovered?
16. Can all of the chessmen by their movement create an absolute pin on an opposing chessman against the opposing king?? (True or False)?
17. Is a double-check possible without the moved chessman itself giving check? (Yes or No)?

If the reader was able to answer ALL of the above question correctly, then you probably know more about the rules of the game than anyone plus you have a very thoughtful, introspective grasp of the nuances of the game itself!!

Bob Woodworth
October, 2017
Omaha, NE

Editor's note—Answers to quiz is somewhere in the issue but you'll have to dig for it, because, "peeping" is discouraged!

“He did it again!”

Ying Tan wins the 2018 Nebraska State Closed Championship for the second consecutive year.

The 2018 Nebraska Closed Championship was held the weekend of April 7th & 8th in Lincoln. The tournament was organized with the combined efforts of John Linscott (who provided the playing site), John Hartmann and the tournament director, Mike Gooch.

This year's participants included the before mentioned defending champion, Ying Tan, along with 2017 Player of the Year champion, Steve Cusumano. Closed qualifiers, John Linscott, Matt Buckley, John Hartmann and Michael Mills rounded out the field.

Last year, Mr. Tan was the lowest rated player in the closed. This year, he returned as the highest rated player. He won both championships convincingly without a defeat. As a consequence of Ying's excellent play and results, he has earned an expert's rating which is very difficult to do, especially in Nebraska.

Here are the combatants just prior to the 3rd round.



John Hartmann (left) and Ying Tan.



Matt Buckley (left) and Michael Mills.



Steve Cusumano (left) and John Linscott.

Let the games begin!

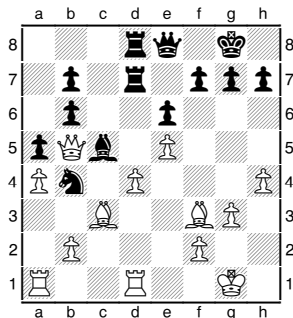
(2) Hartmann, John (1813) - Mills, Michael (1735) [A22]

(1), 07.04.2018

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bd6 7.d4 f6 8.Be2 Nd7 9.0-0 Nb6 10.c4 exd4 11.exd4 c5 12.Re1 0-0 13.d5 Bg4 14.Qd3 Qd7 15.Be3 Qf5 16.Qxf5 Bxf5 17.a4 Nd7 18.Ra3 Ne5 19.Nxe5 fxe5 20.Rb3 b6 21.a5 Rfb8 22.Ra1 Bd7 23.h3 Kf7 24.axb6 axb6 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rxb6 Bc7 27.Rb7 Rc8 28.d6 Ke6 29.Rxc7 Kxd6 30.Rxd7+ 1-0

(3) Tan, Ying (1996) - Cusumano, Steven (1976) [E05]

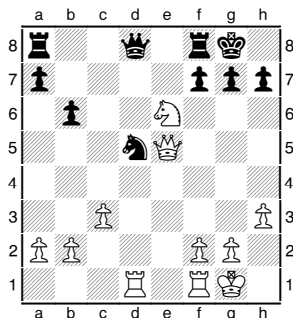
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 Rb8 10.Nxc4 Nb6 11.Nxb6 cxb6 12.Rd1 Nd5 13.Ne5 Bd7 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Bd2 Nb4 16.Qb3 a5 17.Bc3 Rfd8 18.e4 Qe8 19.h4 Bd6 20.e5 Bf8 21.Be4 Rd7 22.Qc4 Rbd8 23.Qb5 Be5 24.Bf3 Please see the diagram below.



Nc2 25.dxc5 Nxa1 26.Rxa1 bxc5 27.Qxc5 Rd3 28.Bxb7 Qd7 29.Bc6 Qc8 30.Qb5 Qb8 31.Bxa5 Rb3 32.Qxb8 Rdx8 33.Bc3 R3b6 34.Be4 Kf8 35.a5 Ra6 36.Bd3 Raa8 37.a6 1-0

(1) Buckley, Matthew (1914) - Linscott, John (1901) [D00]

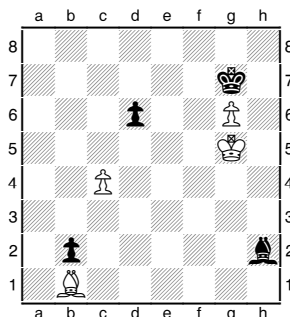
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Be7 6.Nd2 Nbd7 7.h3 0-0 8.Ngf3 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nd5 11.Bd6 Bb7 12.0-0 cxd4 13.Nxd4 N7f6 14.Be5 Nc7 15.Qf3 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Bd6 18.Rad1 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Nd5 20.Nxe6! Please see the diagram below.



fxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kh8 22.Rxd5 Qh4 23.Rd4 Qh5 24.Rfd1 Rae8 25.Qg4 Qf7 26.R1d2 Qxa2 27.Kh2 Qg8 28.Rd7 Rf7 29.Rxf7 Qxf7 30.Rd7 Qf8 31.Rxa7 h6 32.Rd7 Rd8 33.Rxd8 Qxd8 34.Qd4 Qc7+ 35.g3 Kh7 36.h4 Kh8 37.c4 Qf7 38.b4 Qc7 39.c5 bxc5 40.Qxc5 Qb8 41.b5 Qb7 42.b6 Kh7 43.Qc2+ Kh8 44.Qc7 Qf3 45.Qf4 Qb7 46.Qe3 Kg8 47.f3 Qa6 48.Qe8+ Kh7 49.Qe4+ Kh8 50.b7 Qa2+ 51.Kh3 1-0

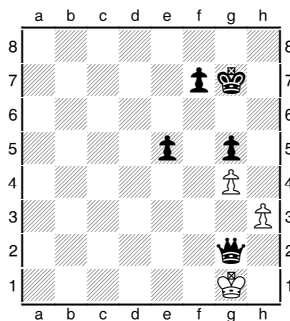
(4) Cusumano,Steven (1976) - Mills, Michael (1735) [B38]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0
8.Be2 d6 9.0-0 a6 10.f3 Nd7 11.Nd5 Nc5 12.b4 Ne6 13.Nxe6 Bxe6
14.Rb1 Bxd5 15.Qxd5 Qc7 16.a4 a5 17.bxa5 Rxa5 18.Rb5 Rxa4
19.Rfb1 Ra1 20.Rxa1 Bxa1 21.Bb6 Qc8 22.Qd1 Bg7 23.g3 Qe6 24.Be3
Rb8 25.Qd2 Qf6 26.Kg2 Nd4 27.Bxd4 Qxd4 28.Qxd4 Bxd4 29.f4 b6
30.Rd5 Bc5 31.Rd3 Ra8 32.Kf3 f6 33.g4 Kf7 34.h4 e6 35.f5 gxf5
36.exf5 Ra1 37.fxe6+ Kxe6 38.Rd5 Ra3+ 39.Bd3 b5 40.Ke4 b4 41.Rh5
Ra7 42.Kf4 b3 43.Bf5+ Kf7 44.Rxh7+ Kg8 45.Rxa7 Bxa7 46.Ke4 Kg7
47.Kd5 Bc5 48.Ke6 Bb4 49.Kd5 b2 50.Ke6 Bc5 51.Bb1 Bb4 52.Kd5
Bc5 53.Ke4 Kh6 54.Kf4 Kg7 55.g5 f5 56.hxg5 Bd4 57.Ke4 Be5
58.Kd5 Bg3 59.Ke6 Bh2 60.Kf5 Bg3 61.Ke4 Bh2 62.Kf5 Bg3 63.g6 Bh2
64.Kg5 Bg3 65.Kg4 Bh2 66.Kg5 ½-½ Final position below.-Drawn



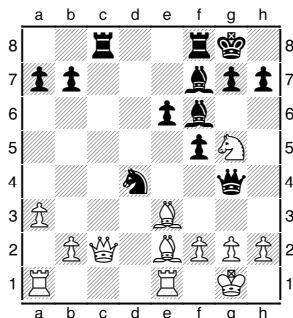
(6) Linscott,John (1901) - Tan,Ying (1996) [B85]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 Nf6
8.0-0 Be7 9.Kh1 0-0 10.f4 d6 11.a4 Bd7 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Bf3 Qa5
14.Qe1 Kh8 15.Bd2 Qc7 16.a5 b5 17.axb6 Qxb6 18.b3 Rfc8 19.Na4
Bxa4 20.Rxa4 Rxc2 21.Bd1 Rcc8 22.Qe2 Qb5 23.Qf3 d5 24.exd5 Qxd5
25.Qe2 Rd8 26.Ba5 Rdc8 27.Bc2 Qb5 28.Bd3 Qxb3 29.Raa1 Bd8
30.Rfb1 Qd5 31.Bxa6 Bxa5 32.Bxc8 Rxc8 33.Qa6 Ra8 34.Qb5 Qd8
35.Qb7 Nd5 36.Rb5 Nc7 37.Rbb1 h6 38.h3 Kh7 39.Qe4+ g6 40.Qe5
Nd5 41.Rb7 Bc7 42.Rxa8 Qxa8 43.Rxc7 Nxc7 44.Qxc7 Qa1+ 45.Kh2
Kg7 46.Qc5 Qf6 47.Qe3 g5 48.f5 h5 49.Qe2 Qf4+ 50.Kg1 e5 51.g4
Qg3+ 52.Qg2 Qxg2+ 0-1 Final Position below.



Hartmann,John (1813) - Buckley, Matthew (1914) [D41]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 e6 7.d4 Nc6
8.Bc4 Bb4 9.Bd2 Nb6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd3 f5 13.a3 Be7
14.Re1 Bf6 15.Be3 Be8 16.d5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Qc2 Bf7 19.Bc4
Qe4 20.Bd3 Qg4 21.Be2 Rac8 22.Ng5 Nd4!

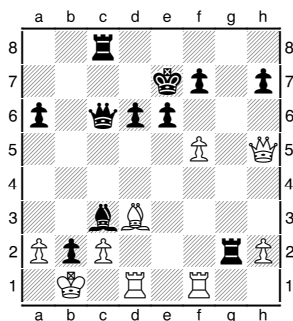


23.Qd2 Nxe2+ 24.Qxe2 Qxe2 25.Rxe2 b6 26.Nxf7 Kxf7 27.g3 Rfd8
28.Rae1 Rc6 29.f4 Rd5 30.Kf2 Bd4 31.Bxd4 Rxd4 32.Kf3 Rd3+ 33.Kf1
Rcd6 34.Rc1 Rd7 35.Rc6 R3d6 36.Rcc2 Kf6 37.Re5 g5 38.Rce2 gxf4
39.gxf4 Rc7 40.Kf3 Rc4 41.h4 h5 42.R5e3 Rcd4 43.Kg3 a5 44.Kf3 b5
45.Rb3 R6d5 46.Rbe3 Rd3 47.Kf2 Rxe3 48.Rxe3 Rd2+ 49.Re2 Rxe2+
50.Kxe2 e5 51.fxe5+ Kxe5 52.Ke3 f4+ 53.Kf3 a4 54.Kf2 Ke4 55.Ke2
f3+ 0-1

(7) Linscott,John (1901) - Cusumano,Steven (1976) [B94]

(3), 07.04.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qc7
8.Qf3 b5 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Kb1 e6 11.g4 b4 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.g5 bxc3
14.gxf6 gxf6 15.Ne2 cxb2 16.Ng3 Rc8 17.Bd3 f5 18.Rhe1 fxe4 19.Nxe4
Bxe4 20.Qxe4 Qc6 21.Qe2 Bg7 22.Qh5 Ke7 23.Qe2 Bc3 24.Rf1 Rhg8
25.Be4 Qc4 26.Bd3 Qc6 27.f5 Rg2 28.Qh5 Please see diagram below.

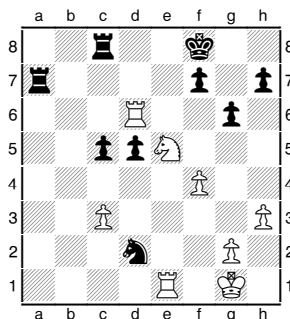


e5 29.f6+ Ke8 30.Qxh7 Rc7 31.Qh8+ 1-0

(8) Mills,Michael (1735) - Buckley,Matthew (1914) [D02]

(3), 07.04.2018

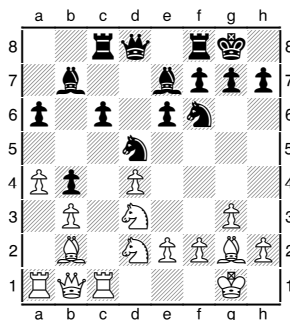
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 Nbd7 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Qb3 Qb6
8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 Be7 10.Be2 0–0 11.h3 a5 12.Bc7 Bd8 13.Bd6 Re8
14.b4 b6 15.bxa5 bxc5 16.dxc5 Bxa5 17.0–0 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Ne4 19.Rac1
Nxc5 20.Bxc5 Nxc5 21.Nd4 Bd3 22.Bxd3 Nxd3 23.Rcd1 Ne5 24.f4
Nc4 25.Rfe1 Rec8 26.Rb1 g6 27.e4 Nd2 28.Rb6 c5 29.Nc6 Kf8 30.exd5
exd5 31.Ne5 Ra7 32.Rd6 ½–½ Final Position below. Draw game.



(9) Tan,Ying (1996) - Hartmann,John (1813) [E05]

(3), 07.04.2018

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 dxc4 7.Qc2 c6
8.Nbd2 b5 9.a4 Bb7 10.b3 c3 11.Qxc3 Nd5 12.Qd3 a6 13.Bb2 Nb4
14.Qe4 Nd7 15.Rfe1 Nf6 16.Qb1 Rc8 17.Ne5 Nbd5 18.Nd3 b4 Please
see the diagram below.

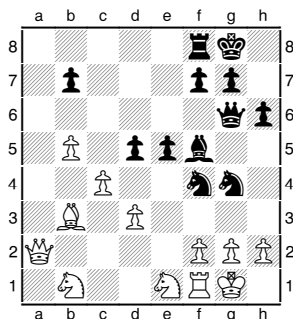


19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Nc3 21.Bxc3 bxc3 22.e3 f5 23.Bg2 Bd6 24.Rxc3
f4 25.exf4 Bb8 26.Nc5 Qxd4 27.Rc4 1–0

(11) Cusumano, Steven (1976) - Hartmann, John (1813) [C54]

(4), 08.04.2018

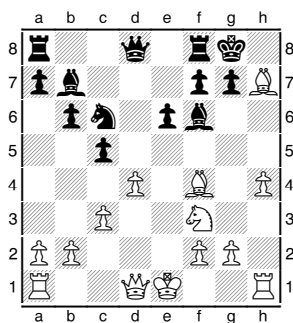
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 a6 7.b4 Ba7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bxa7 Rxa7 10.a4 Ne7 11.Qb3 h6 12.Nbd2 c6 13.Qc2 Be6 14.b5 d5 15.Bb3 Ng6 16.Rfb1 axb5 17.axb5 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Qb6 19.exd5 cxd5 20.c4 Ng4 21.Rf1 Nf4 22.Nb1 Bf5 23.Ne1 Qg6 24.Qa2 Please see the diagram below.



Bxd3 25.Nxd3 Qxd3 26.Bd1 Nf6 27.g3 Nh3+ 28.Kg2 Ng5 29.h4 Ne6 30.Be2 Qe4+ 31.f3 Qe3 32.cxd5 Nd4 33.Rf2 Nxd5 34.Qxd5 Nxe2 35.Nd2 Nc3 36.Qb3 Rd8 37.Nc4 Qe1 38.Rf1 Qe2+ 39.Rf2 Qe1 40.Rf1 Qe2+ 1/2-1/2

(12) Mills, Michael (1735) - Linscott, John (1901) [D02]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Be7 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.h4 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bb7 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Bxh7+! Diagram below.



Kh8 13.Bc2 Qd5 14.Ng5 g6 15.Be4 Qd7 16.h5 Kg7 17.hxg6 Rh8 18.Nh7 fxe6 19.Qg4 Ne7 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Qxe6 Rxh7 22.Rxh7+ Kxh7 23.Qxf6 Nf5 24.0-0-0 Qg7 25.Rh1+ Kg8 26.Qe6+ Kf8 27.Be5 1-0

At the start of round 4, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Tan were leaders of the pack and their game would decide the championship. The result was a win for Mr. Tan. The game was upsetting to Mr. Buckley and despite the urgings of tournament director, Mike Gooch and organizer, John Linscott, Matt decided to withdraw from the tournament.

As a several time closed participant, your editor understands how upsetting a bad loss can be. I once lost a game in 11 moves during a state closed championship. If the tournament was a Swiss, I would have withdrawn in a heart beat.

But with the closed championship formatted as a round robin, Matt's decision to withdraw had an adverse affect on the last round.

(10) Buckley,Matthew (1914) - Tan,Ying (1996) [D02]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c3 Qb6 6.b3 Bf5 7.Be2 h6 8.h3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Re1 Rac8 12.Nh2 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nb4 14.Rf1 Bc2 15.Nc4 dxc4 16.Qc1 cxb3 17.axb3 Nd3 0-1

(13) Hartmann, John (1813) - Linscott, John (1901) [A28]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bd6 8.d4 exd4 ½-½

(14) Tan,Ying (1996) - Mills, Michael (1735) [E92]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.d4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.Be2 Ng4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bc1 f5 10.Bg5 Qe8 11.d5 f4 12.h3 Nf6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Qd2 a6 15.0-0 Rf7 16.Rdg1 Nd7 17.g3 Nf8 18.h4 h5 19.Ng5 Bxg5 20.hxg5 f3 21.Bd1 Bg4 22.Ba4 ½-½

Final Standings.

Ying Tan	4.5
Matt Buckley	2.5
Mike Mills	2.5
Steve Cusumano	2.0
John Hartmann	2.0
John Linscott	1.5

Congratulations to **Ying Tan** for winning the 2018 State Closed championship with 4.5 points out of 5.

Special thanks to **John Hartmann** for providing the game database!

Interview with Steve Cusumano

2017 Player of the Year



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

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland on November 6, 1990 at Johns Hopkins Hospital. My father and mother are still together (Peter and Dawn). I have an sister that is a year and a half older (Kristina), a sister that is 3 years younger (Julia), and a brother that is 12 years younger (Joey). My family and I moved to Omaha in 1997 and then to Elkhorn the following year in 1998. I recently moved to Riverfront Plaza Condominiums in downtown Omaha in November 2017 to be closer to my employment downtown. I work as an actuary for WoodmenLife in the Woodmen tower. My job title is Actuarial Assistant. I recently earned my Associateship for the Society of Actuaries (ASA) on February 1, 2018.

I earned my BS in Computer Science and Mathematics in May, 2013 and MS in Mathematics in May, 2015 - both at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO).

2. KN—Steve, who taught you chess? What age did you learn? Other hobbies besides chess?

I learned chess from my maternal grandfather Joseph Earl Kubin at the age of 7 when he and my grandmother came to visit my family in Nebraska in 1998. He taught me how all the pieces moves and taught me strategy. We only played e4 e5 games - either the four knights opening or the Italian game (Bc4 Bc5). He would let me take back moves and ask me why I made the move I did. I thought that this was a good way to learn and not become overly frustrated by losing.

I became quite good very quickly. I was able to defeat my parents at chess within a few months time. I was able to defeat my grandfather when he returned the next year to visit when I was 8.

I was almost always able to win against my classmates in school when we would play chess. As a kid, my parents bought me the Chessmaster computer program which I used to increase my chess skills. My chess playing lay dormant for a long while until I discovered the FICS (Free Internet Chess Server) in high school. I was able to rapidly increase my skills. I also discovered chesstempo.com a few years later which helped my tactical vision immensely.

When I entered college, I was able to land some jobs that paid decently and I was able to have my own credit cards and bank account. I ventured into ICC (internet chess club) where I encountered stronger players and yet again increased my play. In addition to chesstempo, I also discovered the chess tactics server which is more fast-paced than chesstempo. The chess tactics server enabled me to solve many tactics very quickly.

3. KN—Steve, tell us about your first tournament. Results?

In the summer of 2013, I grew tired of playing rapid and blitz games on ICC and sought out playing people in real life. I honestly did not think there was this opportunity in Nebraska. Fortunately, the Jack Spence Chess Club started at the same time. I sent an email through uschess.org to Mr. Gooch. I was able to meet Mr. Gooch at Beth Israel Synagogue at 7pm on Monday during the second week of the Spence's first swiss tournament. I played an unrated game against Eylon Caplan which I won with the white pieces. The next week I returned and met Mr. John Hartmann. I played a rated game against Dan Wolk which I won with the black pieces. This was my first rated win.

The 2nd tournament I played in was the 2013 Cornhusker State Games. I scored 3.5/5 and tied for 2nd place. My first provisional rating was 1918. The Cornhusker State Games was actually rated before the 1st Spence Swiss finished. I beat John Hartmann, Michael Carney, and Brandon Li, lost to John Linscott, and drew Kent Smotherman.

Interesting story - I was working for Union Pacific at the time as an intern for Suresh Srinivasan - father of Abhinav Suresh.

Interesting fact - my grandfather hand-carved a wooden chess set which I hold as a prized possession. He passed away in the summer of 2005, unfortunately.

4.KN—Steve, please tell us about your best tournaments? Worst tournament or tournaments? What is your style of play? Do you like openings? middlegames? endgames? How about your preferred time controls?

My best tournament is the 2014 Omaha City Championship where I went 4/4 where I beat Abhinav Suresh, Nathan Klatt, and Ben Fabrikant. My worst tournament is the 2nd Spence Quads where I went 0/3 and lost to John Stepp, Abhinav Suresh, and John Hartmann.

My style is best described as a preference for simplicity over complexity. I'd much rather simplify to a won ending than try to continue a complicated attack in which I cannot calculate all the variations. I think I am a decent attacker and decent defender, but I don't try to play with either an attacking style or defensive style, I simply try to play the moves that increase my likelihood of winning the most. I'd been told that my endgame skills are pretty decent, probably because I tend to play an endgame in almost all my games.

For better or for worse, I tend to be materialistic in my chess games. I have had successes and failures with this tendency. I have won games stubbornly defending a worse position but up a pawn. I have also succumbed to active play despite being up material. I am always eager to accept a dubious sacrifice and hold on for the win. I only sacrifice material if I can be assured that I have mate or can win back the material with interest.

I generally play e4 but know several d4 and Nf3 lines. I have change openings from time to time and don't mind trying new openings.

I prefer the increment time controls. It allows for the end of the game to be played properly. It should not be possible to get flagged in a standard game if you are up a queen for example. The old days with no increment and no delay must have been a nightmare in this regard.

5. KN—Tell us about your best game or games? Titles? How about your favorite local and international players? Any chess books you recommend?

My best game is my win against Ben Fabrikant in the 2017 Closed where I won with a nice tactic that captured an important central pawn.

I currently have no titles. (POY is a state title-Ed) My ratings are in the 1900s for now.

My favorite current player is Magnus Carlsen. My favorite players from the previous generations are Karpov and Fischer.

I'd recommend Silman's Complete Endgame Course. It covers endgames from beginner to master level and includes endgame knowledge that an improving chess player must learn. I'd recommend chesstempo.com for tactics training. It has a wide variety of tactics that all come from real games. I play 15 minute games on chess24.com. chess24 seems to have a decent 15 minute pool with strong players. I have learned a lot from studying these rapid games.

6. KN—Steve, who is the most difficult local player for you to face over the board?

The one local player that I admire the most is Joe Knapp. I have the worst record against him compared to all other Nebraskan chess players. He thrives in complicated positions which is the opposite of my style. This is probably one of the reasons he has done particularly well against me. He is also very tactically strong and aggressive as well

7. KN—Steve, why do you play chess? And what are your chess goals?

I play chess because I enjoy the competition and the friendships that I have built with other chess players. I enjoy improving my chess and find solace in the fact that there is truth in chess. Playing and studying chess also provides me discipline in other areas in life. If I can be disciplined and work hard in chess then it is easier to be disciplined and work hard at something else in life.

My chess goals include becoming the Nebraska chess champion and reaching expert. If I accomplished those two goals, I would be immensely happy.

8. KN—Steve, do you recommend playing speed chess to improve? What about playing chess on the Internet?

Playing speed chess does help me refine my openings because I am able to play many games in a quick manner but it can also lead to frustration. I believe that I have improved more by playing 15 minute games online rather than 5 minute (or less) blitz. Although blitz can be fun, you shouldn't play too much. It makes me laugh when I see players online that have tens of thousands of blitz games online that still have lower ratings than I do. It is not the most efficient use of time to say the least.

Playing speed chess over the board is more beneficial because you can analyze the game with your opponent after the game. However, playing longer games is still better.

9. KN—*Steve, thank you for your interview responses. Do you have anything else you wish to add?*

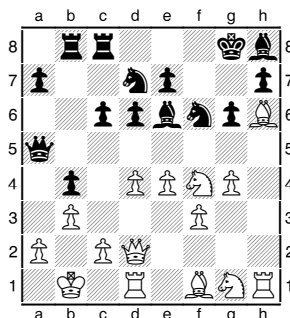
My advice to chess players is to not have their ego wrapped up in chess. You should have other things in life that you should be able to feel confident about if you happen to lose a few chess games.

Here are a couple of Steve's games.

(1) Cusumano,Steven - Andrzejewski,Daniel [B07]

27.05.2016 [*Cusumano,Steven*]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 c6 7.0-0-0 b5 8.g4 b4 9.Nce2 Qa5 10.Kb1 Be6 11.b3 Rc8 12.h4 Nbd7 13.h5 Rab8 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.Bh6 Bh8 16.Nf4 Please see the diagram below.

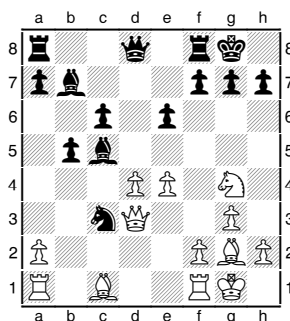


Bxg4 17.Bd3 Bh5 18.Nxh5 Nxh5 19.Bc4+ d5 20.Rxh5 gxh5 21.Qg5+ Kf7 22.Qxh5+ Kg8 23.exd5 e6 24.Qg5+ Kf7 25.dxe6+ 1-0

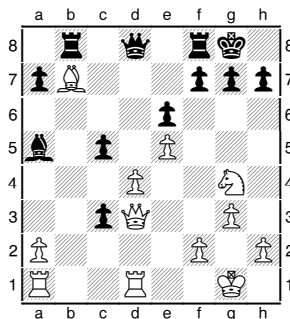
(2) Fabrikant, Ben - Cusumano, Steven [E06]

(1), 01.04.2017 [scusu]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.g3 e6 6.Bg2 Be7 [6...Nbd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.a4 0-0 9.e4 a5 10.Qe2 b6 11.Rd1 Ba6 12.Bf4 Re8 13.Nd2 Rc8 14.Nxc4 Nd5; 6...b5 7.Ne5 Nd5 8.e4 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bb7 10.0-0 Nd7 11.f4 Be7 12.Rb1 Rb8 13.Rb2 (13.a4 a6 14.axb5 cxb5 15.d5 Nf6)] **7.0-0 0-0** [7...Nbd7; 7...b5] **8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.Nxc4 Nd5 10.e4 Nxc3 11.bxc3 b5 12.Ne3 Bb7 13.c4?! Nb6** [13...bxc4! 14.Qc2 (14.Rb1 Ba6; 14.Nxc4 Ba6 15.Qc2 c5) 14...c5 15.d5 Bf6 16.Rb1 Nb6 17.a4 exd5 18.e5 Bxe5 19.a5 c3 20.axb6 axb6 21.Rd1] **14.c5 Na4 15.Ng4 Nc3 16.Qd3** [16.Qd2 Qxd4] **16...Bxc5** Please see the diagram below.



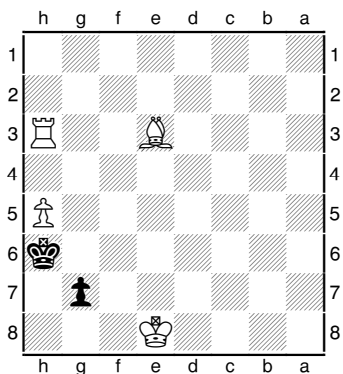
[16...Qxd4!! 17.Qf3 Ne2+ 18.Qxe2 Qxa1 19.Bg5 Qxf1+ 20.Qxf1 Bxg5] **17.Bd2 b4** [17...Na4 18.Be3 a6 19.e5 Bb6 20.h4] **18.Bxc3 bxc3 19.Qb1** [19.Rfd1 Bb4 20.Rab1 Qe7 21.a3 Ba5] **19...Bb6 20.Rd1 Rb8** [20...Bxd4 21.Qxb7 c2 22.Rdc1 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 Rb8] **21.Qd3 Ba5** [21...c2 22.Qxc2 Bxd4] **22.e5 c5 23.Bxb7** Please see the diagram below.



[23.dxc5 Qxd3 24.Rxd3 c2 25.Rc1 Be4 26.Re3 Rb1] **23...Rxb7 24.Qe4 Rd7 25.d5 Rxd5 26.Rxd5 exd5 27.Qf5 d4 28.Qd3 h5 29.Nf6+ gxf6 30.Qf5 fxe5 31.Qxh5 Qf6 32.Re1 c2 33.f4 Bxe1 34.fxe5 Qg6 0-1**

Answers to the Chess Quiz:

1. False-When castling the Rook 'jumps over' the castling King.
2. False-The one exception here is the case of an 'en passant' capture.
3. False-The King always moves 2 squares in the castling move.
4. Yes
5. Yes
6. Yes
7. Like a Bishop only one square (& later only 2 squares) per move.
8. False-The Rook 'jumps over' the King in the castling move.
9. The Pawn since it captures differently vs. moving plus promoting, 'en passant' and having 2 optional initial moves.
10. The Bishop when it should retreat without being forced to move.
11. One sq. like a Rook & 1 sq. like a Bishop & away from the starting square.
12. A piece could move into the square the pawn had passed over.
13. Yes, provided that they are on opposing sides.
14. The castling King & Rook must be on the same rank.
15. A Pawn must promote to a piece of the same color.
16. True
17. Yes, this can be done with an 'en passant' capture.



(An example to explain the answer to ques.#17:
 Black moves 1. .g5 to block the check wherein White replies
 2.hxg6 e.p. double ++)

2016 Tournament Summaries and Results.

1. **The 2nd Spence quick quads** was held on 2/1/17 in Omaha with John Hartmann directing. The time control was G/24/d5. The 1st quad was won by Hartmann with a 2.5 out of 3 point score. Steve Cusumano finished 2nd with 2 points. Michael Mills and John Stepp also played. The 6 player section 2 event was won by Mitchell Oberfoell with a perfect 3.0 score. Scott Look took 2nd with 2 points.
2. **The NSCA Playoff** involved 3 players- -John Hartmann, John Linscott and Nathan Klatt playing for the final 2 spots in the NSCA closed championship. Linscott and Klatt advanced to the closed. Michael Gooch directed the event.
3. **K3, K6, K8** was held in Omaha on 2/11/17 and drew a whopping 84 players. In the 21 player, **K3** section, Bella Xu won with a perfect 4.0 score. 6 players finished with 3 points. In the **K6** section, Vijay Kumar scored 4 points to claim top honors. Luke Hellbusch was second with 3.5 points. This was a 20 player section. In the **K8** section, the following players finished with perfect scores, all with 4 points. Mitchell Oberfoell, Jacey Tran, Cole Hardy, Danny Le and Harrison Johs. **43** players took part in this section. Tournament directors, Mike Gooch and Drew Thyden had their work cut out for them.
4. **2017 State HS Team** took place in Omaha on 3/4/17 and drew 14 players in one section. This 5 round event was won by Nick Nguyen with a perfect 5.0 score. Nicholas Lacroix and Khoa Nguyen finished 2nd and 3rd with 4 points. Mike Gooch and Drew Thyden directed.
5. **The 12th Swiss** game/80 tournament was held in Omaha and played on Wednesdays from 2/8 to 3/8/17. This was a 2 section, 12 player event directed by John Hartmann. Steve Cusamano (1840) won with 3.5 points out of 4, followed by John Hartmann with 3 points. 10 players were in this section. Kara Kalinowski and Steve Behrens won the “filler section.”

6. **The 10th Spence Action** took place in Omaha on 2 consecutive Wednesdays from 3/22 to 3/29 and drew 13 players in one section. Steve Cusumano and John Hartmann each scored 5 out of 6 points with Hartmann beating Cusumano in their common game. John also directed this G/24 time control event.
7. **The BT Rated Section** appears to be a scholastic event. In the 20 player section, Isaac Lidgett won with a perfect 4-0 score. The tournament was held on 4/1/17 and had a time control of game 30. John Hartmann was the TD. Omaha was the tournament location.
8. **The 2017 Nebraska State Closed** was held the weekend of April 1st and 2nd. The 6 player field was made up of Nebraska's top players who were competing for the state championship. In a result that surprised everyone, except the winner himself, **Ying Tan**, the lowest rated player, won the title with an undefeated 4-1 score. Mr. Tan gained over 100 rating points going from 1824 to 1926 in this event alone. Congratulations to Mr. Tan for his first state championship. **Steve Cusumano** was undefeated with a 3.5 score and finished in 2nd place. Teenage superstar, **Harry Le**, scored 3 points with 1 win and 4 draws to finished in 3rd place. **Ben Fabrikant**, **Nathan Klatt** and **John Linscott** rounded out the field. Michael Gooch was the tournament director and a time control of G/120 was used.
9. **The Spring Showers Open** was held on 4/29 and drew 10 players. The tournament location was Waverly, Nebraska, a small town just east of Lincoln. This event was organized and directed by Tony Dutiel. Matt Buckley (1734) won the tournament with a perfect 4-0 score with Steve Cusumano finishing second with a 3-1 score. Steve's only loss was against Buckley. The time control was G/75 with 5 second delay.
10. **The 2017 Individual Scholastic** took place on May 6th and drew 56 players in 4 sections. In the 24 player **K-3** section, Janek De Guzman won with a perfect 5-0 score. 3 players finished with 4 points. The **K-6** section drew 13 players and was won by Jacey Tran with a perfect 5-0 score. Paul Ruder finished 2nd with 4 points. The 13 player **K-8** section was

no contest as Harry Le (1959) won going away with a perfect 4-0 score. For his efforts, Harry gained 1 rating point from a group of players he clearly outclassed. In the K-12 section, Nicholas Lacroix (1706) won with a perfect 4 point score from the field of 6 players. Tournament director, Mike Gooch directed the tournament.

11. **The 2017 Spence Championship** took place in Omaha starting on Wednesdays from 4/5 to 5/17 and drew 16 players in 1 section. The co-winners of this event was Steve Cusumano and Tony Dutiel each with 4-1 scores. This tournament was directed by John Hartmann and had a time control of Game/80:d5.
12. **The 2017 Omaha Chess Camp** had two sections. . . a Knapp section with 8 players that was won by Ben Truesdell with 3.5 out of 4 points and the Mansur section was a 5 round, 10 player event that was won by Evan Schmer with 4.5 points. John Hartmann was the TD.
13. **The 2017 Cornhusker State Games** was held the weekend of July 22nd and 23rd. This event continues to be very popular and drew 69 players in 4 sections at Lincoln's Southeast Community college. As in previous years, Mike Gooch, was the chief director and the tournament ran very well under his supervision. In the 5 round, game/120, 15 player, **Open section**, teenage superstar, Gregory Revesz, took top honors with a 4.5 point score. His nearest competitors were a full point behind with 3.5 points including another teenager, Ben Lyons and three others. Ben's only loss was to Revesz. In the 21 player, **Reserve section**, there was a 4 way tie for 1st place. Larry Harvey, Doug McFarland, Khoa Hguyen, and Mitch Hezel were the top finishers with 4 out of 5 points. The 9 player, 4 round, **Junior section** was won by Noah Polacek with a perfect 4-0 score. Thomas E Tisby and Isabella Tan finished 2nd and 3rd with 3 points. In the 24 player, **Scholastic section**, 5 players tied for 1st with 4-1 scores. Their names are Carson Jackson, Vijay Kumar, Kaleb Whitmore, Jamie Tran and Sheha Selvarj.

14. **The UNO August tournament** was held on 8/26 and drew 36 players in several sections. In the 4 round, Game/40 **Open section**, Abhinav Suresh and John Davidson were top dogs with 3.5 points from a field of 12 players. Reserve section attendance had 8 players with Sanjay Rajjan and Eshaan Giri scoring 3 out of 4 points. **The section 3** was won by Cole Sater and Kobe Abolafia with 3 out of 4 points. This section had 8 players. **Section 4** was won outright by Braxton Aaronson with 4.5 points and Sophie Tan finished second with 4 points. This section drew 8 players also.
15. **The September UNO tournament** was held on 9/23 and drew 44 players in 5 sections. The 10 player **Open section** was won by Steve Cusumano with 3.5 out of 4 points. William (Joe) Colligan, after laying off tournament chess for nearly a decade, returned to the fold and scored 3-1 losing only to Cusumano. Welcome back Joe! In the 7 player, **U1600 section**, Arnold Schulze and Mike Brewer tied for 1st place, each scoring 3-1. The **U1200 section** had Cole Sater winning top honors with a perfect 4-0 score. He was followed by Carson Jackson and Tyler Richardson with 3-1 scores. 13 players took part in this section. Noah Parker and Danny Le scored a perfect 4-0 to win the 14 player, **U800 section**. John Hartmann directed this tournament.
16. **The 2017 Lincoln City Championship** was held on 9/30 and drew 16 players. This John Hartmann directed event had 3 players scoring 3-1 to win top honors. John Linscott, Steve Cusumano and Ying Tan were the top finishers with Lincoln resident, John Linscott being declared Lincoln City champion. Your editor, Kent Nelson, finished with an unbeaten 2.5 points and enjoyed his return to tournament chess after a year's layoff.
17. **The October UNO tournament** drew 44 players in 4 sections. Matt Buckley won the 8 player **Open section** with 3.5 points. Alexander McFayden, scored a perfect 4-0 in the 11 player, **U1600 section**. The 12 player, **U1200 section**, had Cole Sater blowing away the field with a perfect 4-0 score. Nevin Seker and Tyler Richardson scored 3-1 losing only to Sater. The 13 player, **U800 section** resulted in Sal Kelli and

Timofel Prapakchuk scoring 4-1 to take top honors. Mike Gooch directed.

18. **The Brownell Talbot Fall #1** was held on Wednesdays from 10/18 to 11/8 and drew 9 players. The time control was G/15 and Vijay Kumar emerged the winner with a 3.5-.5 score. John Hartmann directed.
19. **The 2017 Omaha City Championship and the November UNO tournaments** were held at the same date and location. Starting with the 16 player, **Omaha city** championship, Steve Cusumano and John Linscott each finished with 3.5 scores with Cusumano being declared Omaha city champion due to his residency there. Both Linscott and Cusumano are top finishers in Lincoln and Omaha city championships with each earning a title based on score and residency. Congratulations to both champions. Kent Nelson finished in third place with an undefeated 3-1 score. Congratulations to Kent (if I do say so for myself!) for his unbeaten scores in both city tournaments. 9 players took part in the **UNO U1600** section, with Isaac Lidgett scoring a perfect 4-0 and Jacy Tran finishing second with 3.5 points. Tyler Richardson win the 18 player **U1200 section** with a perfect 4-0 score. Cameron Shively and Bella XU had identical 4-1 scores in the **U800 section**. John Hartmann was the TD.
20. **The 2017 Great Plains Open and GPO RBO tournaments**, were held in Lincoln on November 18th and 19th. Senior Tournament director, Bill Broich, was the chief TD with assistance from John Hartmann in the championship section. Mike Gooch ran the RBO tournament. The **Great Plains** championship drew 28 players and was won outright by Nebraska state chess champion, Ying Tan, with a 4.5 out of 5 point score. Mr. Tan beat Iowa chess master, Tim McEntee, in the 3rd round to be the front runner and gained 59 rating points for the tournament overall. Congratulations to Ying for this outstanding result. Tim McEntee, Kirill Belashchenko (an unrated player) and Tom Gaul (1901) followed Tan with 3.5 points. The **RBO** section had 27 players and resulted in a 5 way tie for 1st place with 4-1. Nevin Sekar, Vijay Kumar, Janet De Guzman, Sophie Tan and William Anderson were the winners.

21. **The 2017 Class Championships** were held in Omaha and drew 58 players in 10 sections.
- In **Section 1**, Ying Tan, followed up on his Great Plains tournament victory, by winning this 5 player section with a perfect 3-0 score. Mr. Tan has achieved a expert's rating as a result of this event. Way to go Ying!
 - In the 4 player, **Section 2**, John Davidson (1726) and Sergey Soldatenkov (1666 P11) won with 2-1 scores.
 - **Section 3** was won by Kailash Kalyansundaram (1526) and Jacey Tran (1465) with 2.5 points. This section had 5 players.
 - Noah Polacek (1232) won the **Section 4** with a perfect 3.0 score. 5 players took part.
 - **Section 5** was won by Tyler Richardson (1118) with 2.5 points. 5 players took part.
 - Jamie Tran (870) won the 4 player, **Section 6** with 2 points.
 - **Section 7** had 10 players and was won by Timofei Prakupchuk (757) with a 2.5 score.
 - **Section 8** had 8 players and was won by Corbin Brandl (527) with a perfect 3.0 score.
 - **Section 9** was won by Andrew Lu (421) and Kaiden Aaronson (329), each with 3 points. 11 players took part in this section.
 - **Section 10** was apparently a playoff game of some sort, with Jacey Tran (1487) and Noah Polacek (1290) drawing their individual game.

All told, there was at least 21 rated Nebraska chess tournaments held in 2017.

We owe a debt of gratitude to John Hartmann, Mike Gooch, Drew Thyden, Bill Broich, John Linscott, Tony Dutiel and others for organizing and directing Nebraska tournaments. Be sure to thank them for their countless time and efforts in making Nebraska chess tournaments possible!

Historical Article

Excerpt from Kent Nelson's upcoming book about Howard Ohman.

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*
Sunday, June 16, 1918

CHESS

by H.E. Ohman.



Napoleon as a Chess Player.

(By G. F. Dashiell, Omaha)

Anything that pertains to war, even in the form of an echo, is surely in touch with the times. The likeness of a game of chess in a campaign or a battle has been doubtless observed by everyone who has played the game. There is nothing noteworthy about the fact as the game itself is modeled along military lines, and the nomenclature of chess fairly bristles with military terms. Among many other writers, we note the name of Benjamin Franklin as the author of an excellent little analysis of the likeness of the game of chess to the greater game of war. The points of dissimilarity between war and chess have not been pointed out so often nor so clearly, nor is it the purpose of this article to show wherein they differ, but merely to say that it is the difference between the game of chess and the game of war which partly explains why excellence in one field has no particular relationship to excellence in the other.

For Napoleon—the greatest of military men, was a poor chess player. The writer has made himself minutely and critically familiar with the career and personality of Napoleon, and while engaged in research, found the records of two games played by the emperor against players who were capable antagonists and who marched to victory without any of the dissimulation of courtiers.

Napoleon's play was less than mediocre, and showed but a superficial

knowledge of the real principles of chess. Some of the his personal and military characterizes are readily noticeable in his manner of play—the immediate attack, the directness of his maneuvers and a willingness to sacrifice fighting material for an advantage, real or fancied. But the two games I refer to showed nothing of strategic insight, none of the subtleness that are always possible to a real player, nor any appreciation of the tactical resources in the middle game.

It is but fair to say that Napoleon could not have had much time or a real study of chess during the active part of his life. At St. Helena he played chess a great deal, and no doubt it was to him simply a momentary escape from the appalling ennui which enshrouded his captivity. Those among his friends who played with him, were often compelled to play grotesquely, that their imperial opponent might win. He sometimes detected this un-sportsmanlike flattery, but history does not record that he was offended by it.

On one occasion he played a game of chess with a visitor—a lady—who promptly defeated him. Napoleon, unaccustomed to such experience at the hands of the fair sex, showed irritation for a moment, but instantly recovering himself, paid his visitor a well turned compliment on her skill as a player. There is a well known adage of chess, which is often quoted to beginners: “Learn to be beaten.” Whatever Napoleon’s short-comings as a player, the incident above would show that he had at any rate mastered the beginners’ rule.

Mr. Dashiell, the author of the above excellent little treatise, is the first of our readers to comply with our request for suggestions as to material for the chess column. He has thereby set a fine example and it is hoped that others will follow him. Articles, original or otherwise, interesting games, scores of tournaments or matches, anecdotes—anything of general interest to chess players, is solicited.

On Kent’s book about the Rev. Howard Ohman . . .

Steady progress has been made. Nearly 8 out of 10 year’s worth of Howard’s weekly chess columns from the Sunday sports section of *Omaha World-Herald* have been inputted. The book is a monster. It is over 500 Gambit pages so far. I estimate the book to be 60% done and will require another 3 years before completion.

It’s amazing what was written about chess 100 years ago. . .

When all said and done, the book will be of interest to chess players and a cure for insomnia for non chess players.

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**Keaton's e-mail address.
(keatonkiewra@gmail.com)**

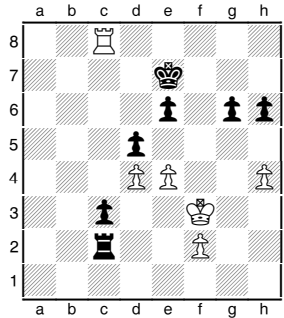
Games Galore!

UNO August 2017

(1) Colligan,Joe (2060) - Lyons,Ben (1820) [D02]

(1.1), 26.08.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Be2 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.Nbd2 a6
 9.Ne5 Bd7 10.0-0 b5 11.Ndf3 c4 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Ne5 Qb6 14.Qc2 Nd7
 15.Rfe1 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 f6 17.Bg3 Bb7 18.Bf3 f5 19.Be5 Bd6 20.Bxd6 Qxd6
 21.g3 Bc6 22.Bg2 a5 23.a3 b4 24.Qe2 bxc3 25.bxc3 Rab8 26.Rec1 Rb3
 27.a4 Rfb8 28.Ra2 Ra3 29.Qd2 Rbb3 30.Bf3 Bxa4 31.Bd1 Rxa2 32.Qxa2
 Ra3 33.Qb2 Bxd1 34.Rxd1 Rb3 35.Qa2 Qa3 36.Ra1 Qxa2 37.Rxa2 Rxc3
 38.Rxa5 Rc1+ 39.Kg2 Kf7 40.Ra7+ Kf6 41.Rc7 Ra1 42.h4 Ra6 43.Kf3 Ra2
 44.Rc6 Rb2 45.Rc7 Rd2 46.Rc6 Ra2 47.Rc7 Rb2 48.Rc8 Rb7 49.Kf4 g6
 50.Rf8+ Rf7 51.Rc8 h6 52.Rc6 Ra7 53.g4 fxg4 54.Kxg4 Ra2 55.Kg3 Rc2
 56.Rc8 c3 57.Kf3 Ke7 58.e4 Please see diagram below.



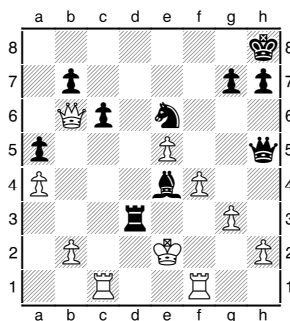
dxe4+ 59.Kxe4 Rxf2 60.Rxc3 Rh2 61.Rc7+ Kf6 62.Rc6 Rxh4+ 63.Kd3 Kf5
 64.Rc5+ Kf6 65.Rc6 Rh5 66.Rc7 plus moves 0-1

(3) Suresh,Abhinav (1934) - McCrimon,Carlos (1709) [E60]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.b3 e5 8.Bb2 a5
 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.Nc3 Ndx5 11.h3 Nxf3+ 12.exf3 Ne5 13.f4 Nc6 14.Qd2 Bd7
 15.Nd5 Be6 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qb2+ f6 18.Rfe1 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Re8 20.Kg2
 Qd7 21.Qd2 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Re8 23.a3 b6 24.b4 axb4 25.axb4 Rxe1 26.Qxe1
 Nd4 27.Qe4 c5 28.b5 Kf8 29.Qe3 Qe7 30.Qa3 Qc7 31.Qa8+ Kg7 32.Qg8+
 Kh6 33.Qf8+ Qg7 34.Qxd6 f5 35.Qxb6 Qe7 36.Qb7 Qxb7 37.Bxb7 Ne6
 38.Bd5 Nd8 39.b6 Kg7 40.b7 Nxb7 41.Bxb7 Kf6 42.h4 h6 43.Bf3 g5
 44.fxg5+ hxg5 45.hxg5+ Kxg5 46.Kh3 Kf6 47.Kh4 Kg6 48.g4 fxg4 49.Bxg4
 Kf6 50.f4 Kg6 51.Kg3 Kf7 52.Kf3 Kf6 53.Ke4 Ke7 54.Kd5 1-0

(2) Slominski, Jerry (1806) - Knapp, Joseph (2005) [A29]

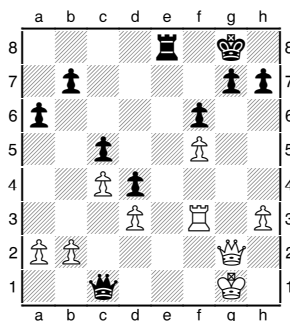
1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Be3 Kh8 10.a4 a5 11.Qd2 f5 12.Nb5 Nd5 13.Bg5 f4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Rac1 Be6 16.d4 e4 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 f3 19.exf3 exf3 20.Bh1 Rad8 21.Qc2 c6 22.Nd6 Nf4 23.Bxf3 Nh3+ 24.Kg2 Rxf3 25.Kxf3 Bd5+ 26.Ne4 Ng5+ 27.Ke3 Bxe4 28.Qc5 Qf7 29.f4 Rd3+ 30.Ke2 Ne6 31.Qb6 Qh5+ Please see diagram below.



32.Ke1 Qxh2 33.Qf2 Qxf2+ 34.Rxf2 Rxxg3 35.f5 Nd4 36.Rd1 Nc2+ 37.Ke2 Bd5 38.e6 Kg8 39.Rf4 Kf8 40.Kf2 Rg2+ 0-1

(4) Mills, Michael (1671) - Cusumano, Steven (1907) [B30]

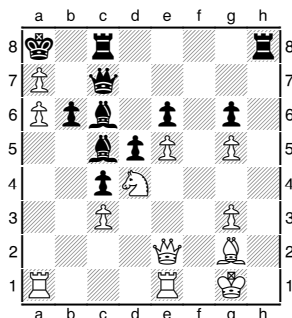
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d3 e6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3 Bd7 8.Nd2 a6 9.f4 Qc7 10.Nf3 Nd4 11.Ne2 Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 Bc6 13.c4 0-0 14.Rf2 Rfd8 15.f5 exf5 16.exf5 d5 17.Qc2 d4 18.Bxc6 Qxc6 19.Rg2 Bd6 20.g4 Qf3 21.Bg5 Nxg4 22.Rf1 Qh3 23.Nf4 Bxf4 24.Bxf4 Ne3 25.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 26.Kh1 f6 27.Re2 Qh3 28.Rg2 Re8 29.Qd1 Re7 30.Rf3 Qh5 31.Qf1 Rae8 32.Rg1 Re1 33.Qg2 Rxxg1+ 34.Kxxg1 Qh6 35.h3 Qc1+ Please see diagram below.



36.Kh2 Qe1 37.Rf1 Qe2 38.Rf2 Qxd3 39.Qxb7 Qxc4 40.Rg2 Qf7 41.Qxa6 h6 42.Qb5 Qc7+ 43.Kg1 Re1+ 44.Kf2 Qe7 45.Qb8+ Kh7 46.Kg3 Qe3+ 47.Kh4 Rg1 48.Rg4 Qf2+ 49.Rg3 Rxxg3 50.Qxxg3 Qxf5 51.Qg2 d3 52.Kg3 Qg5+ 0-1

(7) Stepp,John (1702) - Suresh,Abhinav (1934) [C02]

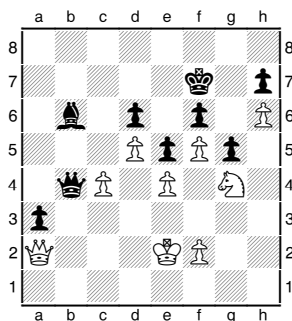
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Be3 f6 6.Nf3 Qb6 7.Qd2 Bd7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Bc6 12.Bg4 Bb5 13.Rc1 h5 14.Bh3 Kb8 15.a4 Bd7 16.b4 Qc7 17.b5 Nh6 18.Bg5 Rc8 19.a5 Nf7 20.b6 Qc6 21.bxa7+ Ka8 22.a6 b6 23.f4 Nxe5 24.fxg5 g6 25.g3 Qc7 26.Re1 Bg7 27.Qe2 h4 28.Bg2 Bc6 29.Na3 c4 30.Nc2 hxe3 31.hxe3 Bf8 32.Nd4 Bc5 Please see diagram below.



33.Qg4 Qh7 34.Kf2 Rhf8+ 35.Ke2 Bd7 36.Rf1 Qg7 37.Rxf8 Qxe5+ 38.Kd2 Rxf8 39.Rg1 Rf2+ 40.Kc1 Qe3+ 41.Kb1 Qd3+ 42.Kc1 Ba3#

(8) Cusumano,Steven (1907) - Davidson,John (1590) [C95]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Bb7 11.Bc2 Nbd7 12.Nbd2 c5 13.d5 c4 14.Nf1 Re8 15.Ng3 g6 16.Be3 Bf8 17.Qd2 Bg7 18.h4 Ng4 19.Bg5 f6 20.Be3 Nxe3 21.Qxe3 Nc5 22.h5 g5 23.Nf5 Bc8 24.g4 Bxf5 25.gxf5 Qc7 26.Kg2 Bh6 27.Nh2 Bg7 28.h6 Bf8 29.Ng4 Nd7 30.a4 Reb8 31.b3 cxb3 32.Bxb3 Kf7 33.Rec1 Qc5 34.Qe2 Nb6 35.c4 bxa4 36.Bxa4 Nxa4 37.Rxa4 Be7 38.Rca1 a5 39.Qa2 Bd8 40.Ra3 Rb4 41.Rb3 Rab8 42.Rab1 Rxb3 43.Rxb3 Rxb3 44.Qxb3 Qb4 45.Qa2 Bb6 46.Kf3 a4 47.Ke2 a3



48.Kd3 Qb2 49.Qxb2 axb2 50.Kc2 Bd4 51.Ne3 Bxe3 52.fxe3 g4 53.Kxb2 g3 54.c5 dxc5 55.d6 g2 56.d7 Ke7 0-1

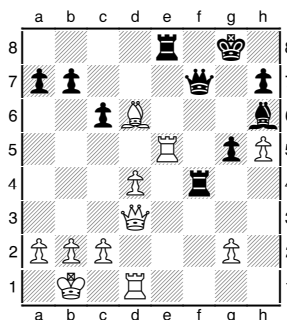
(9) Nelson,Kent (1800) - Colligan,Joe (2060) [C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 Be7
8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Rad1 Qa5 13.c4 Rd8
14.Bb1 h6 15.Bh4 Bd7 16.Qc2 Bc6 17.Nd2 Rac8 18.Nb3 Qh5 19.Bg3 Be4
20.Qc1 Bxb1 21.Qxb1 Rxc4 22.Rxd8+ Bxd8 23.Rd1 Bb6 24.Qd3 Rc8
25.Re1 Rd8 26.Qc2 Qd5 27.h3 Qd3 28.Qxd3 Rxd3 29.Be5 Nd5 30.Re4 f6
31.Bd4 Bc7 32.g3 a5 33.Nc5 Rd1+ 34.Kg2 e5 35.Bc3 Time 0-1

(10) Suresh,Abhinav (1934) - Knapp,Joseph (2005) [A80]

(3.1), 26.08.2017

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d6 4.Qd3 g6 5.0-0-0 Bg7 6.f3 0-0 7.e4 c6 8.h4 fxe4
9.fxe4 Bg4 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.Nh3 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Nh5 13.Qc4+ d5 14.exd5
Nb6 15.Qd3 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.Bxe7 Bh6+ 18.Kb1 Nf4 19.Nxf4 Rxf4
20.h5 g5 21.Rhe1 Re8 22.Re5 Qf7 23.Bd6 Please see position below.



Bg7 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Bxf4 gxf4 26.d5 Qe5 27.c3 Qe3 28.d6 Qxd3+
29.Rxd3 Bf6 30.d7 Bd8 31.Rf3 Kf7 32.Rxf4+ Ke7 33.Rd4 Bc7 34.g4 h6
35.Kc2 Kd8 36.Kd2 c5 37.Rd3 Bf4+ 38.Ke2 a5 39.Kf3 Bg5 40.Ke4 a4 41.a3
Bc1 42.c4 Bxb2 43.Kf5 Bc1 44.Ke6 Bg5 45.Rd5 b6 46.Rxg5 1-0

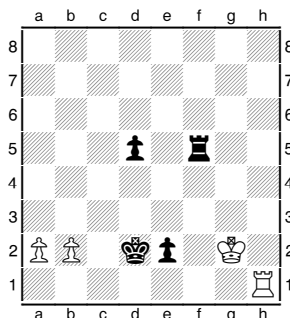
(11) Davidson,John (1590) - Colligan,Joe (2060) [A84]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 c6 5.b3 d5 6.Be2 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0
9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.f4 Ne4 11.Be1 Ndf6 12.Nc3 Bd7 13.Bf3 Be8 14.Nxe4 Nxe4
15.Bxe4 fxe4 16.Qg4 Rf5 17.Bh4 Be7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.cxd5 Bh5 20.Qh3
Be8 21.dxe6 Qxe6 22.Rac1 Rd8 23.g4 Rh5 24.Qg2 Rh4 25.Rf2 Rd6 26.f5
Qe7 27.Rcf1 Bf7 28.g5 Bd5 29.f6 Qe6 30.fgx7 Qh3 31.Rf8+ Kxg7 32.Qf2
Rg4+ 33.Nxg4 Qxg4+ 34.Qg3 Qd7 35.Qe5+ Kg6 36.R1f6+ Rxf6 37.Qxf6+
Kh5 38.Qh6+ Kg4 39.Rf4# 1-0

(12) Slominski, Jerry (1806) - Cusumano, Steven (1907) [B21]

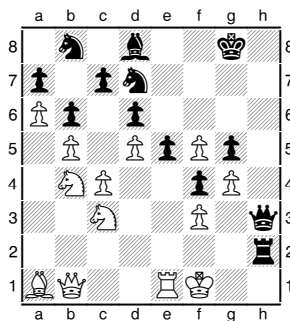
(3.3), 26.08.2017

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6
8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 e5 10.Bg5 Bg4 11.Qd2 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nd4 13.Bb5+ Kf8
14.Be2 Nh5 15.Bxe7+ Qxe7 16.Nb5 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Nf4 18.Qf1 Qg5+
19.Kh1 Qh5 20.Rd3 a6 21.Ra3 Rd8 22.Nc7 g5 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.exd5 g4
25.fgx4 Qxg4 26.f3 Qd4 27.Qd3 Qxd3 28.Rxd3 Rg8 29.Rc1 Ke7
30.Rb3 Rd7 31.Rc4 f5 32.Rcb4 Kf6 33.Rxb7 Rxb7 34.Rxb7 e4 35.fxe4
fxe4 36.Rxh7 Ke5 37.Re7+ Kxd5 38.h4 Kd4 39.h5 Rh8 40.Kg2 Rxh5
41.Ra7 Rf5 42.Rxa6 d5 43.Ra4+ Kd3 44.Ra3+ Kd2 45.Ra4 e3 46.Rd4+
Kc2 47.Rh4 e2 48.Rh1 Kd2 0-1 Final position below.



(13) Lyons, Ben (1820) - Mills, Michael (1671) [E92]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Ne8 8.0-0
f5 9.b4 f4 10.Nd2 g5 11.h3 Rf6 12.a4 Rh6 13.Bg4 Nd7 14.Be6+ Kh8
15.g3 Bf8 16.Kg2 Ng7 17.Bf5 Qe8 18.g4 Be7 19.Ba3 Rf6 20.f3 b6
21.Nb3 h5 22.Qc2 Rh6 23.Rh1 Nf6 24.a5 Bxf5 25.exf5 Qd7 26.b5 Re8
27.Bb2 Bd8 28.a6 Re7 29.Rae1 Nge8 30.Nd2 Reh7 31.Qb1 Kg8
32.Nde4 Rg7 33.Nd2 Rgh7 34.Ba1 Qg7 35.Na2 Nd7 36.Nb4 Nb8
37.Bc3 Nf6 38.Ne4 Nfd7 39.Ba1 Qh8 40.Nc3 hxxg4 41.hxxg4 Rh2+
42.Rxxh2 Rxxh2+ 43.Kf1 Qh3+ 0-1 Final Position below.

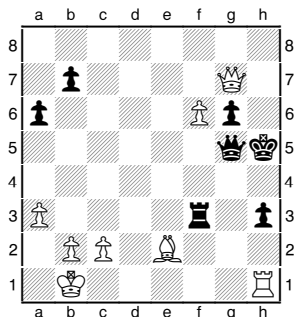


(4) Davidson,John (1590) - Suresh,Abhinav (1934) [E21]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Bd2 b6 6.Nf3 Bb7 7.e3 d6
8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.e4 e5 10.d5 Re8 11.0-0 Nf8 12.a3 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Ng6
14.Qc2 h6 15.b4 Nh5 16.g3 Bc8 17.Be2 Nf6 18.Rfe1 Bg4 19.Be3 a5
20.c5 bxc5 21.bxc5 Qe7 22.Nd2 Bxe2 23.Rxe2 Ng4 24.c6 Nxe3 25.Rxe3
Reb8 26.Rb3 Qd8 27.Rab1 Ne7 28.Qb2 Rxb3 29.Qxb3 Nc8 30.Nc4 f5
31.f3 Kf7 32.exf5 Ne7 33.Nxe5+ dxe5 34.d6+ Kf8 35.dxe7+ Qxe7
36.Rd1 Qc5+ 37.Kg2 Qxc6 ½-½

(16) Knapp,Joseph (2005) - Cusumano,Steven (1907) [B88]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7
8.Be3 0-0 9.g4 Nc6 10.g5 Nd7 11.f4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.fxe5 Nxe5
14.0-0-0 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 16.Kb1 Bg4 17.Rhg1 Nf3 18.Qf2 Nxe1
19.Rxe1 Kh8 20.h3 f5 21.hxg4 fxg4 22.Qg2 g3 23.Bc4 Qc5 24.Qxg3 g6
25.Bd3 Rf7 26.Rh1 Raf8 27.Qh3 Qg5 28.Nd5 h5 29.a3 Rf3 30.Qd7
R8f7 31.Qxd6 h4 32.e5 h3 33.Nf6 R7xf6 34.exf6 Kh7 35.Qd7+ Kh6
36.Qg7+ Kh5 37.Be2 1-0 Final Position below.



(17) Mills,Michael (1671) - Stepp,John (1702) [C50]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6
8.e5 d5 9.exf6 dxc4 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Bg5 g6 12.0-0-0+ Bd7 13.Rd4
Bc5 14.Rd2 Re8 15.Rhd1 Bd6 16.Rd4 Bf5 17.Bf4 c5 18.Rxc4 Kc8
19.Bxd6 cxd6 20.Rxd6 Kc7 21.Rd5 Re1+ 22.Nd1 Rae8 23.Rdxc5+ Kd6
24.Rc6+ Kd7 25.Rc7+ Kd6 26.R4c6+ Kd5 27.c4+ Kd4 28.Rd6+ Ke5
29.Rxa6 Be6 30.Kd2 Re4 31.Ne3 Kxf6 32.b3 Rd8+ 33.Ke2 h5 34.g3
Kg7 35.Kf3 Re5 36.Kf4 Kf6 37.Rxf7+ 1-0

2017 Omaha City Championship.

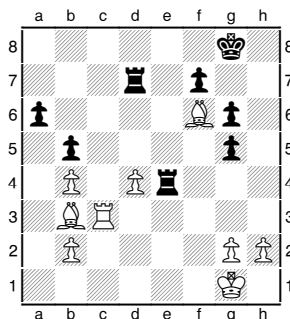
(1) Colligan,Joe (2002) - Mills,Michael (1746) [E61]

(1), 11.11.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 c5 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Na6 8.Re1 Bd7 9.Bd2 Re8 10.d5 e6 11.e4 exd5 12.exd5 Nc7 13.a4 a6 14.a5 Bg4 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Qb6 Qd7 17.Bf4 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Bf8 19.Bg5 Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Nce8 21.Na4 h6 22.Bxf6 Qxa4 23.b3 Qd7 24.Bh4 f5 25.h3 g5 26.Bg3 Nf6 27.Re6 Ne8 28.Bh5 f4 29.Bh2 Qg7 30.Rg6 Nf6 31.Rxg7+ Kxg7 32.Qc7+ 1-0

(3) Linscott,John (1846) - Soldatenkov,Sergey (1603) [C77]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 b5 7.Bb3 Bc5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Bd5 Nxf2 10.Rxf2 d3 11.cxd3 Bxf2+ 12.Kxf2 Rb8 13.Nc3 0-0 14.Bg5 Qe8 15.d4 Nb4 16.Bb3 d6 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.a3 Bxe4 19.axb4 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 h6 21.Bf4 dxe5 22.Bxe5 Qc8 23.Qg3 Qf5+ 24.Kg1 g6 25.Rf1 Qg5 26.Qxg5 hxg5 27.Bxc7 Rb7 28.Be5 Rd7 29.Bf6 Re8 30.Rf3 Re4 31.Rc3 1-0 Final Position below.



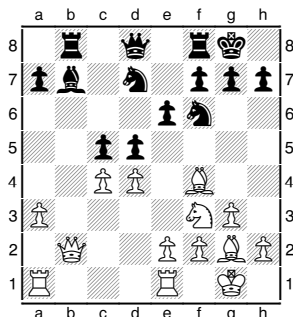
(4) Lyons,Ben (1814) - Kalyanasundaram,Kailash (1579) [D12]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 Bg6 8.0-0 Be7 9.c5 b6 10.b4 bxc5 11.bxc5 Qa5 12.Bb2 Rb8 13.Bxg6 Rxb2 14.Na4 Rb8 15.Bc2 0-0 16.a3 h6 17.Qd2 Qxd2 18.Nxd2 Rb7 19.Rab1 Rfb8 20.Rb3 Rxb3 21.Nxb3 Bd8 22.Rb1 Be7 23.f4 g6 24.Nd2 Rxb1+ 25.Bxb1 Nh5 26.g4 Nh6 27.Bd3 Nb8 28.Kf2 Nfd7 29.Nf3 Kg7 30.Nc3 f5 31.g5 h5 32.Bc2 Ba5 33.Na2 Kf7 34.Ba4 Ke7 35.Nc1 Bc3 36.Nd3 Nf8 37.Nfe5 Kd8 38.Bxc6 Kc7 39.Be8 a6 40.Nxg6 Kd8 41.Nxf8 Kxe8 42.Nxe6 Kf7 43.Nc7 a5 44.Nxd5 Nd7 45.Nxc3 1-0

(11) Hartmann,John (1851) - Lyons,Ben (1814) [E11]

(2), 11.11.2017

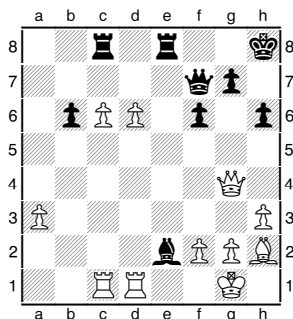
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Bxd2 d5 7.g3 Nbd7 8.Bg2 c6 9.Qc2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Rfe1 Rc8 12.b4 c5 13.bxc5 bxc5 14.Qb2 Rb8 15.Bf4 Please see diagram below.



dx c4 16.Bxb8 Qxb8 17.Rab1 Bd5 18.Qxb8 Nxb8 19.dxc5 Nbd7 20.Nd2 c3 21.Nb3 c2 22.Rb2 Rb8 23.c6 Rxb3 24.cxd7 Nxd7 25.Rxc2 Nb6 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rd1 g6 28.Rd3 Rb5 29.Rc7 Ra5 30.Rf3 f5 31.Re3 Kf8 32.Ree7 Rxa3 33.Rxh7 Kg8 34.Rxa7 Rxa7 35.Rxa7 Kf8 36.Ra6 Nc4 37.Rxg6 Kf7 38.Ra6 1-0

(13) Linscott,John (1846) - Colligan,Joe (2002) [C10]

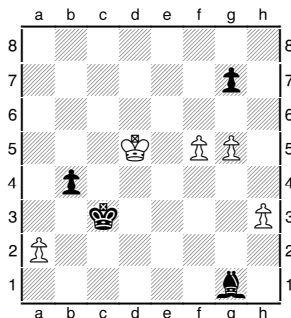
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bf4 b6 13.Qe2 a5 14.Rfd1 Qe7 15.a3 a4 16.Ne5 Bb7 17.Bb5 Nd5 18.Bh2 Rac8 19.Bxa4 Rfd8 20.c4 Qh4 21.cxd5 Qxa4 22.b4 f6 23.Ng6 Qe8 24.bxc5 Qxg6 25.Qxe6+ Kh8 26.c6 Ba6 27.Rac1 Re8 28.Qg4 Qf7 29.d6 Be2 Position after 29.Be2



30.Qxe2! Rxe2 31.d7 Rxc6 32.d8Q+ Re8 33.Qd2 Rce6 34.Bg3 Re2 35.Qb4 Qa2 36.Qxb6 Qxa3 37.Rc7 Re1+ 38.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 39.Kh2 Qa1 40.Bf4 Rh1+ 41.Kg3 Rb1 42.Qc5 Rb3+ 43.Be3 Qb1 44.Qf8+ 1-0

(18) Dutiel, Tony (1890) - Cusumano, Steven (1921) [B50]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 Nbd7 5.Qc2 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Be7
8.Nc3 a6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Bg5 b5 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Rac1 Qb8
14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.e5 dxe5 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 17.Be4 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Qxb7
19.Qe4 Qxe4 20.Nxe4 Rec8 21.Nd6 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 exd4 23.Nxf7+ Kg8
24.Rc7 Kxf7 25.Rxd7+ Ke8 26.Rd6 Ke7 27.Rc6 d3 28.Kf1 Bxb2 29.Ke1
b4 30.Ng5 Bf6 31.Nxe6 Kd7 32.Rxa6 Re8 33.Kd2 Rxe6 34.Ra7+ Kc6
35.Ra6+ Kd5 36.Rxe6 Kxe6 37.Kxd3 Kf5 38.f3 Kf4 39.Ke2 Bd4 40.g3+
Kg5 41.h3 Bg1 42.f4+ Kf5 43.Kf3 Ke6 44.Ke4 Kd6 45.g4 Kc5 46.Kd3
Kd5 47.f5 Kc5 48.Ke4 Kc4 49.g5 Kc3 50.Kd5 later 0-1 An endgame
position worthy of study and analysis. -Editor.



(19) Hartmann, John (1851) - Linscott, John (1846) [E08] Notes by JH.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c6 8.Bf4
b6 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Rfd1 Rc8 11.Qa4?! Nh5 12.Be3 Qc7 13.Rac1 dxc4
14.Qxc4 h6 15.b4 Nhf6 16.Bf4 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.e4 Qe7 19.a3 e5
20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Ng4 22.Qe2 Nxe5 23.f4 Nd7 24.Nc4 Nf6 25.Nd6
Rcd8 26.Nxb7 Qxb7 27.Qc4 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Ng4 29.Qe2 Nf6 30.Bf3 a5
31.Qd3 axb4 32.axb4 Kh8 33.e5 Nd5 34.Bxd5? Rd8 35.Qf5 Rxd5
36.Rxd5 cxd5 37.e6 fxe6 38.Qxe6 b5 ½-½

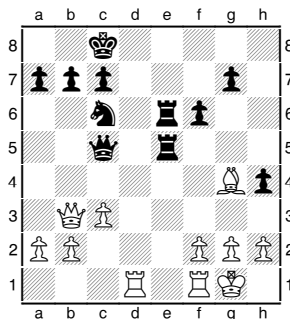
(20) Lyons, Ben (1814) - Stepp, John (1700) [B27]-Notes by JH.

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.c3 b6 5.Be3 d6 6.d5 Nd7 7.Be2 Ngf6 8.Nfd2
h5 9.f4 Qc7 10.0-0 a6 11.a4 Nf8 12.h3 e6 13.c4 Bh6 14.Qb3 Rb8 15.Qd3
exd5 16.cxd5 N8h7 17.Bf3 0-0 18.e5 Bf5 19.Qc3 dxe5 20.fxe5 Bxe3+
21.Qxe3 Rfe8 22.Re1 Rbd8 23.Nc3 Qa7 24.Qf4 Nd7 25.Nc4 Bd3 26.Nd6
Rf8 27.Qe3 c4 28.b3 Qc7 29.bxc4 Bxc4 30.Qd4 b5 31.axb5 axb5
32.Ncxb5 Bxb5 33.Nxb5 Qb6 34.e6 fxe6 35.dxe6 Rf4 36.Qxb6 Nxb6 37.e7
Re8 38.Nd6 Nf6 39.Nxe8 Nxe8 40.Ra8 Nxa8 41.Bxa8 Rf6 42.Bd5+ Kg7
43.Rb1 Rd6 44.Bc4 Rd7 45.Re1 Kf6 46.Re6+ Kf5 47.Kf2 Rc7 48.Bd5
Rc5 49.Bb3 Rc3 50.g4+ Kg5 [50...hgx4 51.hgx4+ Kxg4=] 51.Ba4 Rc8
52.Bxe8 Rxe8 53.Kg3 h4+ 54.Kf3 Kh6 55.Kf4 Kg7 56.Kg5 Kf7 57.Rxg6
Kxe7 58.Kxh4 Rh8+ 59.Kg5 Rxh3 60.Rf6 Rg3 61.Rf4 Ke6 plus moves
1-0

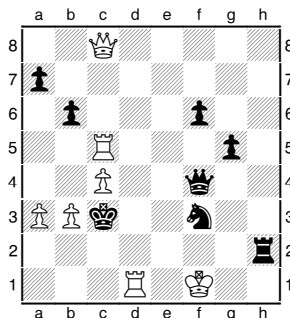
(21) Rajjan, Sanjay (1469) - Mills, Michael (1746) [B02]

(3), 11.11.2017

**1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 Nxd5 4.Nxd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 0-0
-0 8.c3 f6 9.Qc2 e5 10.dxe5 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Qxe5+ 12.Be2 Re8 13.Be3 Bc5
14.Bxc5 Qxc5 15.Rd1 Re5 16.0-0 Rhe8 17.Bf3 h5 18.Qa4 R8e6 19.Qb3 h4
20.Bg4** Please see the diagram below.



**Qe7 21.Bxe6+ Rxe6 22.Qc4 g5 23.Qb3 b6 24.Qc2 Ne5 25.b3 Kb8 26.c4 h3
27.Qd2 Rd6 28.Qe3 hxe2 29.Kxg2 Re6 30.Qc3 c5 31.Rd5 Nc6 32.Qg3+
Kb7 33.Rfd1 Nd4 34.Qd3 Re4 35.f3 Re2+ 36.Kg1 Qc7 37.f4 Qxf4 38.Qh7+
Ka6 39.Qh3 Nf3+ 40.Kf1 Rxh2 41.Qc8+ Ka5 42.Rxc5+ Kb4 43.a3+ Kc3!**
Position after 43. Kc3!



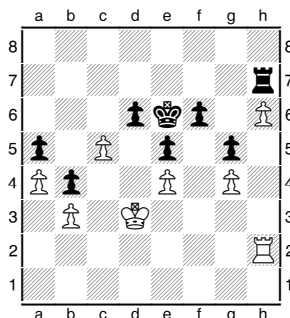
44.Rd3+ Kxd3 45.Rd5+ Nd4+ 0-1

A remarkable game by both players. Sanjay is a very young player with a boat load of talent with a very promising future. Mr. Mills is an improving player with a good fighting spirit, as evidence by the king walk during a complex middle game.

(22) Slominski, Jerry (1740) - McFayden, Drake (1575) [B92]

[Hartmann, John]

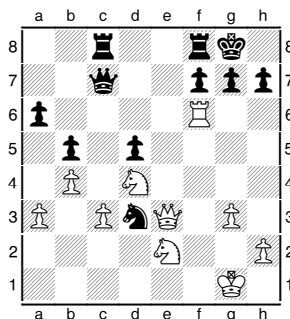
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.f3 b5 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Nb6 14.Qd2 a5 15.Bb5 Be6 16.Qf2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Bg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Bxc4 Bxc4 20.Rfd1 Bxb3 21.cxb3 Qe7 22.Qd2 Rfd8 23.Qd5 Qa7+ 24.Kh1 Qc5 25.Rac1 Qxd5 26.Rxd5 Kf8 27.Kg1 Ke7 28.Kf2 Rac8 29.Rc4 Rxc4 30.bxc4 Rc8 31.b3 Rc5 32.Rd1 h5 33.Kg3 f6 34.Kh4 g6 35.g4 hxg4 36.fxg4 Rc8 37.Kg3 Ke6 38.Rd5 Rc5 39.Rd2 Rc7 40.h4 Rc8 41.h5 g5 42.Rh2 Kf7 43.Kf3 Ke6 44.Ke3 Kf7 45.Kd3 Kg7 46.Rc2 Rc5 47.Ke3 Kf7 48.Rd2 Ke6 49.h6 Rc8 50.Kd3 Rh8 51.Rh2 Rh7 52.c5 Please see diagram below.



d5 53.exd5+ Kxd5 54.c6 Kxc6 55.Ke4 Kc5 56.Kf5 Kd4 57.Kg6 Rh8 58.Kg7 Rxh6 59.Kxh6 e4 60.Kg6 Kd3 plus moves 1-0

(23) Soldatenkov, Sergey (1603) - Nelson, Kent (1808) [B48]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 0-0 10.Qd2 b5 11.f4 d6 12.Rad1 Bb7 13.Bf3 Na5 14.b3 Rac8 15.Nce2 Nxe4 16.Qd3 Nc3 17.Rd2 Nd5 18.g3 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 d5 21.b4 Nc4 22.Rd3 Bf6 23.c3 e5 24.fxe5 Nxe5 25.Qe3 Nxd3 26.Rxf6



Qe5 27.Qxe5 Nxe5 28.Rxa6 Ra8 29.Rb6 Rxa3 30.Nxb5 Nc4 31.Rb7 Ra2 32.Kf1 Re8 33.Nbd4 g6 34.b5 Nd2+ 35.Ke1 Nf3+ 36.Nxf3 Rxe2+ 37.Kd1 Rf2 0-1

(24) Cusumano,Steven (1921) - Hartmann,John (1851) [E05]

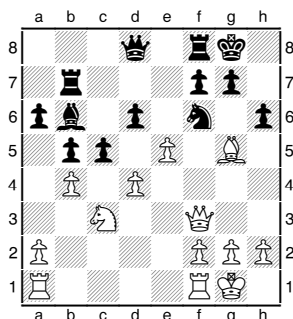
(4), 11.11.2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.d4 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bxc6 Rb8 10.Nc3 Rb6 11.Bg2 Ba6 12.Na4 Rd6 13.Qc2 Qb8 14.Nc5 Bb5 15.a4 Bc6 16.Bxc6 Rxc6 17.Qxc4 Ne4 18.Be3 Qxb2 19.Qb5 Qxb5 20.axb5 Rxc5 21.dxc5 Nxc5 22.Rxa7 Bd6 23.Bxc5 Bxc5 24.Rxc7 Bb6 25.Rb7 Bd4 26.Rd1 e5 27.e3 Bc3 28.Rbd7 Bb4 29.Rd8 f6 30.b6 1-0

(25) Linscott,John (1846) - Lyons,Ben (1814) [C77]

(4), 11.11.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 Bc5 7.Bg5 b5 8.Bb3 d6 9.Bd5 Bb7 10.c3 d3 11.b4 Bb6 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.Bxb7 Ra7 14.Qxd3 Rxb7 15.cxd4 0-0 16.Nc3 c5 17.Qf3 h6 18.e5 Please see diagram below.



Rd7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Nd5 fxe5 21.Nf6+ Kg7 22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.dxc5 dxc5 24.Qg3+ Kh7 25.bxc5 Bxc5 26.Qxe5 Bd4 27.Rad1 Rd8 28.Qf4 Qa7 29.Rc1 Bb6 30.Rc6 Kg8 31.Rxh6 Bd4 32.Qg5+ Kf8 33.Qxd8+ Kg7 34.Qh8# 1-0

(29) Stepp,John (1700) - Soldatenkov,Sergey (1603) [C96]

(4), 11.11.2017

[Hartmann,John]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.c3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d3 Bb7 12.b3 Rc8 13.Nbd2 Re8 14.Nf1 h6 15.Ng3 Re7 16.Bd2 Nc6 17.Qc1 Kh7 18.Qb2 Ng8 19.Rad1 Qc8 20.Rc1 b4 21.a3 a5 22.Nf5 g6 23.Ne3 Nf6 24.Nd5 bxc3 25.Bxc3 Nxd5 26.exd5 Nd4 27.Bxa5 Nxf3+ 28.gxf3 Qxh3 29.Rxe5 dxe5 30.Bxc7 Bxd5 31.Qxe5 Qxf3 32.Qh2 plus moves 0-1

The Wonderful Times and Exciting Moments In The World of Chess Book Collecting!!

by

Robert Woodworth

Contents:

**Writer introduction/chess bio.
The World of Chess Book Collecting
Organizing Your Chess Library
The Future of Chess Libraries etc.**

Your writer has always been extremely interested and involved in the world of collecting chess books. From the early age of 12 (when the game of chess was discovered by myself in my parents' set of encyclopedias) until now at the age of 78, chess books have always held their magic spell over me! The exciting moments of actually holding, reading and learning about the game from old hardback books was a real treat in my youth. (It still is in fact, so much so, that chess books in computer & e-book formats are not on my collecting agenda!)

From my youth onward, I've played many, many tournament chess games either over-the-board or by correspondence but reading about the game itself in all of its aspects is still my most favorite chess activity! In spite of my interests in teaching the game, composing chess problems, reading chess articles on the Internet, playing at our local chess club, involved in chess archive work (as Nebraska's Chess Assoc. Archivist) etc., I'm always being drawn back into that wonderful world of chess books and chess book collecting. (I even believe to this day that I'm probably genetically predisposed to this activity!) Lately, I read an interesting statement about collecting which stated that "one collects chess books to create a sense of security". This may be true

psychologically but in my case it is more for the reading adventures and the love of chess books in general that books provide for me! It is a wonderful world where the building of a chess library really helps in creating a sense of security by collecting all this chess knowledge in one place.

Next, I will recall some of the times and events that have transpired because of my chess book collecting interests. In the early days (and by that I mean the 1940's and 1950's) the publication of a new chess book was a major event in the chess world. Most of the new books were in hardback with a small, select group of authors and reasonably priced. Today, there has been such an explosion of chess literature that I never would have believed in my younger days!

Seven of my early favorite books were: I. Chernev's "Logical Chess Move by Move", Kmoch's "Rubinstein's Chess Master Pieces", Reinfeld and Chernev's "The Fireside Book of Chess", William Winter's "Kings of Chess" and Reuben Fine's "The World's a Chessboard", L. Evans "New Ideas In Chess" and Hannak's "Emanuel Lasker's: The Life of a Chess Master". About 30 years ago, I began to realize that having my books actually autographed by their author(s) opened a whole new aspect of book collecting. I began attending many national chess tournaments where many chess book authors were present. They all were very agreeable in autographing their books and I met and talked with several interesting chess celebrities. I still recall David Bronstein signing a copy of "Zurich, 1953", following Karpov many places in a hotel to have all his books autographed. Boris Spassky was most congenial along with Judit Polgar, Edmar Mednis, Walter Browne and Larry Evans. Victor Korchnoi even signed one of his books for me. (As a side note, I document each signature by placing a sticky note in each book verifying the occurrence.) Also, I try to acquire autographed books which have actually been signed but one needs to be careful here by verifying with a trustworthy and reputable source. (I have one Bobby Fischer autograph plus an A. Alekhine and Emanuel Lasker signed documents. I spent some time verifying their

authenticity which does take time.) Three of my favorite, collected treasures are a signed “Basic Chess Endings” by Reuben Fine, “The Best Games of C.H.O’ D. Alexander” which was signed by each of the players in the Alexander Memorial Tournament at Teesside in Sept., 1975.(Book No. 139 of 200) and the Frank Marshall book entitled “Marshall’s Chess Swindles” and autographed by Marshall.

My chess book collecting habits have changed over the years for now I’m mostly interested in the historical and high quality chess instruction books. (Opening books are not as interesting but chess book author Edmar Mednis once told me that most book publishers are mainly interested in chess openings book contracts because that is what sells the best!!) I still collect many types of chess books by author i.e. Aagaard, Kasparov, Soltis, Nunn etc. My one current interest is in the world of chess problem creations and specifically the Alain C. White’s ‘Christmas Series’ which comprises nearly 30 books. Twenty-five years ago I could have purchased the series for \$700 but today each book must average \$150+ at least!! Many years ago, I presented GM Larry Evans with his(?) book “Evans On Chess” to be autographed. To my surprise he told me that it was not authorized by him since someone had collected and reproduced his newspaper columns in book form and attached his good name!! I still think of that incident today! There also was the time that Judit Polgar refused to sign the Cathy Forbes book about the Polgar family since it was full of many, many, total inaccuracies according to Judit and her father!

I guess that I have never met a chess book that I didn’t like but there are a few published today that are of questionable quality. They lack the character and heart of a good writer! As I mentioned previously about those favorite chess books from my youth, here is a list of those that I have as my current favorites. They are “The Seven Deadly Chess Sins” by Jonathan Rowson, 2001, “Simple Chess” by Michael Stean, 1978 & 2003, “Best Lessons of a Chess Coach” by S. Weeramantry, 1994, “Endgame: The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Bobby Fischer” by

Frank Brady, 2012, “The Joys of Chess” by C. Hesse, 2011, “Essential Chess Endings” by James Howell, 2003, & finally “Timman’s Titans” by Jan Timman, 2016. These 7 newer favorites of mine examine chess with more depth and provide more insight into the game itself. Those favorites from my youth really contained mostly annotated games in Descriptive Notation. Today, the quality and instructional value is much greater since algebraic notation is used and the addition of computers adds a whole new facet to the accuracy and dimension of the writings. Recently, a great, new book that illustrates the big improvement from the books of the 1940’s & the 1950’s is the Jan Markos chess book entitled “Under The Surface”. The depth of the writing with many new concepts plus explaining the impact of computers with chess engines on the game really outclasses any of the older chess books! Today, most of our younger players prefer to study the game with a computer or chess engine anyway. Therefore, the older books in Descriptive Notation are not of any interest. Even the historical chess player bios and chess tourneys of the past are mostly ignored! The art of collecting chess books is actually becoming an activity of the past!

This next section will be on the topic of organizing your own chess library. Every serious book collector needs to do this! Even a chess library with as few as 100 titles or less should be in some logical order. There are many beneficial results from a good reorganization. First, it is much easier to locate specific items especially when doing archive/research work. Secondly, duplicate titles will easily re-surface in the process. Third, an exact count of the no. of titles can be determined for each category as well as an overall count. Fourth, there can be a more efficient use of shelf space etc. A couple years ago in 2016, your writer first attempted to reorganize a chess library created from several years of chess book collecting. The first step was to create about 17 workable categories into which all the chess books would fall. They are: Tactics/Strategy books, Notable Chessplayers, King Pawn Opening books, Queen Pawn Opening books, General Openings books, Endgame books, Middlegame books, Bound periodicals,

Tournament books, Chess History books, Chess Matches books, Pre-1960's chess books, General Instruction books, Very Valuable/Rare chess books, Self-bound specialty project books, Chess Problem/Composition books and Miscellaneous chess books. To further define some of these categories we can start with King Pawn Openings where we have Sicilian Def., French Def., Caro-Kann, Alekhine's Def., Ruy Lopez, Four Knights, King's Gambit, Scotch Opening etc. Note that each book is only for that specific opening. (Any books which are a mixture of 2 or more openings falls under the category of General Openings books.)

Next, Queen Pawn Opening books can start with King's Indian, Nimzoindian Def. Queen's Gambit, Slav etc. Then the English, Larsen's with the Irregular Openings being last. The Pre-1960's books are usually hardbacks and if you consider some to be extremely rare then they are placed in the Vary Valuable/Rare books.

As a side-note, if a prominent author creates a series of books that are treated as a set unit, then these are kept together.

(An example would be the Kasparov books on the past Chess World Champions which were published by 'EVERYMAN'.)

The Miscellaneous chess books are chess novels, Internet-related chess books, computer-related chess books etc., etc.

In a few situations, a chess book can fall into 2 or more categories. I then analyze the basic theme of the book thereby determining the main dominating category which is not easy!

Also, one can organize each category into a sub-category by title, author, publication date etc. whichever one chooses.

I do not have very many foreign language books but they should be placed in the proper category. In my reorganization efforts I found about 1% duplicates along with being amazed as to how many chess openings books I had! Also, I'm not concerned about collecting each published edition or always having the first edition of every book. As a chess archivist, I am very glad that I have reorganized my chess-book library for now locating items is much, much easier.

A final step in this reorganization of my personal chess book library is to enter all the titles for each category in an EXCEL

spreadsheet. This makes a permanent record of every title.

This final section is called The Future of Chess Libraries etc. Many serious chessplayers have at least a small collection of their favorite chess books. The activity of collecting books (or anything for that matter) is not nearly as great as years ago. As I previously mentioned, the art of chess book collecting will be lost as younger players are not at all interested in creating a chess library. Also, the actual market value of used books is in a decline with some rare exceptions. The largest chess book library in the world is the John G. White collection in the Cleveland Public Library in downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

With 35,000+ chess book titles, it is mainly used by researchers and chess book writers in their work. There are a few very impressive personal chess book libraries in the United States. A major problem with personal chess book collections is how are they to be dispersed when their owners cease to exist? There are more books written on chess than all of the other games combined. (It is also possible that there are more new chess books being published each month than for any other given subject! If true, that is really unbelievable!)

Someday, possibly all chess books could be digitized and not in a paper medium. That would really ruin the joy of collecting all these wonderful books that we collectors enjoy holding, opening, reading and taking in with all of our human senses.

Robert Woodworth
April, 2018
Omaha, NE

Nebraska Tournament Announcements.

As of this writing, 6/9/18, there is only one Nebraska chess tournament scheduled in the not to distant future. This tournament is the annual Cornhusker State Games. Details below. Information provided by the CSG web site. Hurry to sign up soon. Entry fees are going up!

General Information

DATES: July 21-22, 2018

SITE: Southeast Community College – Lincoln Campus (8800 O St, Lincoln - [View map](#)) Competition in rooms D2-D10. Participants must park on East side of the building and enter through Entrance F-1 or C-29.

SANCTION: All games will be rated by the United States Chess Federation. USCF membership IS NOT required for this event.

RULES: USCF tournament rules will be used. Announcements made on-site may differ from the sport information listed here. All updates made on-site will be official and final. This is a non-elimination event; all players will compete in every round in their section. Players who withdraw without notifying officials are denying others the opportunity to play. Half point byes will be available for the first half of the tournament upon request. Byes in the last half of the tournament will be available only for emergencies.

EQUIPMENT: Chess sets and boards will be provided for Junior and Scholastic sections. Open and Reserve players must bring their own. A limited number of chess sets and chess clocks may be available.

AWARDS: Custom Cornhusker State Games gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each section. Sections are Open, Open U1800, Open U1600, Reserve Class B/C, Reserve Class D, Reserve Class E & Below (Rated under 1200), Reserve Unrated, Junior Open (Under age 19), Scholastic (Under age 13) Class E (Rated 1199-1000), Scholastic Class F (Rated 800-999), Scholastic Class G (Rated 600-799), Scholastic Class H (Rated 400-599), Scholastic Class I (Rated under 400) and Scholastic Unrated. Additional categories and medals may be added based on number of entries.

NOTE: Age determined as of July 21, 2018.

Events

View the [Complete Event Details](#) for a full list of divisions and events.

Competition Format

Use event code to indicate approximate USCF rating (actual ratings as of the latest rating supplement will be used). If this is your first USCF rated chess tournament, you are unrated. In a Swiss System, winners play winners, losers play losers. There is no elimination.

Open: Five-round Swiss System. Time Control: G 120, d5. Each player has 120 minutes to complete his/her moves plus 5 seconds per move added on. Each game could require up to 4 hours.

Reserve: Five-round Swiss System. Time Control: Game 60, d5. Under 1800. Each player has 60 minutes to complete his/her moves plus 5 seconds per move added on. Each game could require two hours.

Junior: Four-round Swiss System. Time Control: Game 40, d5. Under age 19. Each player has 40 minutes to complete his/her moves plus 5 seconds per move added on. Each game could require one hour and twenty minutes.

Scholastic: Five-round Swiss System. Time Control: Game 30, d5. Under age 13 and rated under 1200. Each player has 30 minutes to complete his/her moves. Each game could require one hour.

Registration Fees & Deadlines

REGISTER BY THE DISCOUNT DEADLINE:

Open:

\$40 per participant until June 21

\$45 per participant until July 6

Reserve:

\$35 per participant until June 21

\$40 per participant until July 6

Junior/Scholastic:

\$25 per participant until June 21

\$30 per participant until July 6

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES: Competition in the 2018 Cornhusker State Games;

White cotton athlete shirt (micro-fiber or soft cotton lightweight tri-blend upgrade available); Pass for free admission to SportFest, the Opening Ceremonies, and all competition venues; Sponsor gifts and coupons.

PAPER ENTRY FORMS: [Paper entry forms](#) will be accepted with a \$5 processing fee. Registering online (online registration available soon!) saves time, money and trees.

Further Information

Sport Specific Questions: Contact Chess Director Michael D. Gooch at 402-333-0722 or mdgooch@cox.net. Visit the Nebraska State Chess Association website: www.nebraskachess.com/nsca/index.nsca.

Online Registration/Website Questions: Contact the Cornhusker State Games office at 402-471-2544 or info@nebraskasportscouncil.com.

Letter from Dr. Loren Schmidt

Hi, Kent!

Looks great!

Minor correction that I noticed in the current Tomas article: To the best of my knowledge, Roger Anderson wasn't part of the tie for NE State Champion in 1972. I only know this because he drew with teenaged me at the end and we both finished with undefeated 4-1, a half point behind the disputed championship trophy. I remember the dispute the same way that John does--that Watson should have been first on tiebreak.

The list of NE State Champions has other questionable listings, such as 1974, when Dan Reynolds and I tied for first with 4.5-0.5 and I lost the trophy by .25 tiebreaks after several of my higher-rated opponents from earlier rounds either withdrew or lost to lower-rated players (one player managing to lose to an opponent 300 points lower by opening 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qc6?? 4.Bb5--funny now 40 years later, but not funny to me at the time!).

(Editor's note. Loren, it was, and still is, funny to me. I was the player with the White pieces. Since I could never draw or beat you, I had some measure of satisfaction by beating some of your opponents! Sorry about the lost tiebreak!) Anyway, the official rule from that period was to list co-champions if only 2 (like in several other entries on the list) but to list only one in the case of big ties (like Rich Chess on tiebreak over a bunch of people including Jack Spence at 4-1 in 1971 when Jon Frankle of Iowa took first overall).

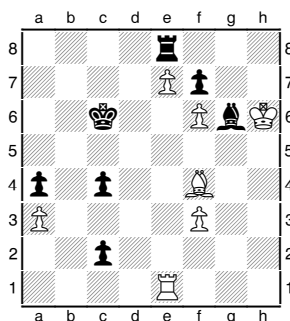
Oh, one more newsy note: I officially won the 14th African-Asian Zonal Championship in ICCF earlier this year (I clinched first in late 2017 but other games were still in progress--link here: <https://iccf.com/event?id=56820>). It was the 2nd event I entered in ICCF back in 2011 but took 6 years to complete because it was a three-stage event (prelims, semi-finals, final). I just started the finals of the 15th African-Asian Zonal two months ago, but it will be my final "African-Asian" zonal because Japan switched zones to the North American-Pacific Zone several years ago. I am currently rated 2415 in ICCF with the CCM (Correspondence Chess Master) title. I have made some IM norms

and missed a bunch by .5, including in the 14th AAZ final. I also just started the 7th World Veterans Cup Final (another three-stage event for players over 60 years old).

Here's one of my games from the 14th AAZ Final:

Schmidt-IM James Henri (Hong Kong):

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6
8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.g3 Bb7 12.Bg2 Qb6
13.exf6 O-O-O 14.O-O c5 15.d5 b4 16.Rb1 Qa6 17.dxe6 Bxg2
18.e7 Bxf1 19.Qd5 Re8 20.Ne4 Bh6 21.Nd6+ Kc7
22.Nxe8+ Rxe8 23.Bxh6 Bh3 24.Bf4+ Kb6 25.g4 Qb7 26.Qxb7+
Kxb7 (This had all been played before, but it seems bad for Black
based on this game + another I won against it.) 27.g5 Rg8 28.Bg3
Bf5 29.Re1 Re8 30.h4 c3 31.bxc3 bxc3 32.Bf4 c2 33.Kg2 Bg6
34.Kg3 Bh5 35.f3 Kc6 36.Re2 Bg6 37.Kg4 Bd3 38.Re1 a5 39.h5
a4 40.a3 Bh7 41.Kh4 Nf8 42.g6 Nxg6+ 43.hxg6 Bxg6 44.Kg5 c4
45.Kh6 1-0**



Final Position-Black Resigns.

The key to the win was the idea 32.Bf4, allowing the B to control Black's Q-side Ps, followed by a K-march.

Regards,
Loren

Notes

Notes

Notes

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE

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