

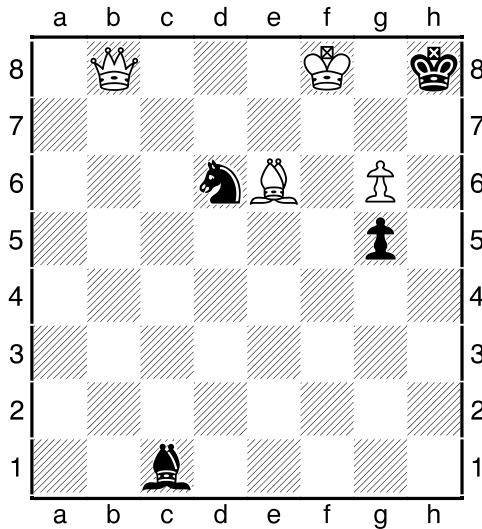
# The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

2018

The Year in Review



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

**Composed by Bob Woodworth (April, 2019)**

**Note: Solution/Keymove can be found on page 1**

## From Kent's Corner

My friends, here is another issue of the *Gambit* for your enjoyment. Please know we have a select few contributors to thank for making this issue possible.

My heartfelt thanks to **Alexander Golubow** for his article. It is comforting knowing I have one friend in Wyoming who really cares about making the *Gambit* a special chess newsletter. That friend is Alex. Thank you Alex!

**Robert Woodworth** really stepped up by providing me great articles during a stretch of time when your editor had nothing to edit! Thank you Bob for giving me enough material to create this issue!

**Ying Tan**, the 3 time consecutive Nebraska State Closed Chess Champion, kindly agreed to do an interview which is in this issue. Thank you Ying! Great stuff!

Special thanks to the man of all chess seasons, **John**

**Hartmann**, for providing me games from 2018 tournaments and for providing a letter from the NSCA president.

My thanks to **Jeff Solheim** for letting know about the tragic news about Jamie Leavitt. Without Jeff's report, I would had no idea what happened.

After many years, I recently heard from **Rauf Aliovsadzade**. Rauf provided me several chess compositions some years ago and he is a sub-editor of a chess publication. There will be a link to this publication, as well has a composed chess puzzle,. elsewhere in the issue. Be sure to check it out.

Please understand, I will strongly consider publishing any material you wish to submit. I told the NSCA board I'm willing to produce 2 issues per year. It's up to you to make sure I have enough material to work on.

Thank you!

Yours in chess.

Kent Nelson Gambit Editor.

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***Gambit*** Editor- Kent Nelson

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

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## **Letter from NSCA President John Hartmann**

Dear Friends:

Once again Kent Nelson has used his time and skill to provide all fans of Nebraska chess with a new issue of The Gambit. It is with great gratitude for all of his hard work that I thank him.

Nebraska Chess is at a bit of a crossroads. Michael Gooch has stepped down from his position as Omaha Vice President, and Michael Mills will now man his post.

Note that I did not say that he will replace him, for no one could replace Michael Gooch in the annals in Nebraska chess. A former NSCA President and Vice President, Mike has been one of a very few organizers and directors in the state, running important tournaments when no one else could or would. His leadership helped build the NSCA reserves, allowing us to support our players at national events. He steered the ship in tough times, and our organization is in solid shape largely because of his long-term efforts.

Thank you, Mike Gooch, for all you've done and all you will continue to do.

Board changes are uncommon in Nebraska chess, so any arrival and departure serves as a reminder that volunteerism is the lifeblood of our work. There is little money or glory in chess organization and boosterism. What reward there is comes from the faces of the kids who win trophies, the parents who see their daughters take their first competitive steps, the friends we make as we play our beloved game.

To put it bluntly: we need YOU to step up now and help us decide what the future of Nebraska chess looks like. The board will be reviewing everything we have done in the past – our bylaws, our Championship, our tournaments and our long-term goals – to try and grow chess in Nebraska. But we are only a handful of people. We need YOU to do your part.

Do you want tournaments to play in, for you or your kids? Become a TD and run a quad. Find space for a tournament, and get a current TD to come and direct. Do you want to see scholastic chess grow? Volunteer your time at a local school and see how you can serve their students.

Do you have ideas to promote the game? Email me or any of the other board members and we'll brainstorm it together.

Now is the time to decide how YOU can help grow chess here in Nebraska. I'm waiting to hear from you, and I'll be looking for you and asking you to contribute. Best regards, John Hartmann

# News and Notes

## In Passing



### Jamie E. Leavitt

November 22nd 1951

November 2nd 2018

Jamie Leavitt was severely burned in an accident (propane tank explosion-Ed) Tuesday, October 30, and died three days later on Friday, November 2. Jamie had not played tournament chess in recent years, but he and I still played once in a while. He leaned toward 1. e4 as White (hoping for a Ruy Lopez), and would play the Sicilian Defense as Black when he could. He also would play Nimzo-Indian as Black with some frequency. He got a bit of a thrill when he won a Bronze medal at his first Cornhusker State Games in 2005. Drew named the June, 2008, JAILERR tournament for Jamie (the Jaimie Leavitt Round Robin).

Information and narrative provided by Jeff Solheim.

Best wishes to **Ben Fabrikant** who now resides in Ecuador. Ben told me he purchased a one way ticket to that country and it's anyone's guess when and if he will return to Nebraska. For those of us who track Ben on Facebook, it appears he is "living the dream" and doing well. Good luck Ben!

Solution to cover diagram is **1. Bf5**.

Congratulations to **John Hartmann** on his new USCF job! John was hired by US Chess as their Digital Editor. He writes for their website, edit materials written by others, etc.. This includes interviews with GMs (Benjamin and Avrukh thus far), does tournament reporting, write historical and educational pieces, and so forth.

# Universal Opening

by

**Alex Golubow**

*"THERE are some truths which are so obvious that for this very reason they are not seen or at least not recognized by ordinary people. They sometimes pass by such truisms as though blind and are most astonished when someone suddenly discovers what everyone really ought to know. Columbus's eggs lie around by the hundreds of thousands, but Columbuses are met with less frequently..."*

Ever since my friend taught me to play chess when I was 15 years of age or so, I wondered what are the right moves to play in the opening stage of the game. To me all possible first moves looked the same and why the chess players were utilizing only a few of them was a mystery for me. I hoped to find an explanation to this question in the chess books, but it was hard at that time to come across a chess book anywhere. So, when a decade and a half later I borrowed a chess opening encyclopedia from one of my friends, I was greatly disappointed by not being able to find a satisfactory explanation for the choice of one or another first move. In fact, there was no reasoning at all why one of the first moves was better than the other. So, I returned the book to my friend, because I did not want to memorize the opening moves without understanding the reasoning behind them.

Throughout my life I played chess only occasionally, when the opportunity to play would present itself to me. And only when I took an early retirement from my state job at an age of 56 I started to devote more time to chess, having not much else to do.

Since the Full Chess, about which I wrote my previous article, is a thing of distant future and meanwhile we still have to play conventional chess, I concentrated my efforts on designing a

Universal Opening which one can use no matter what color of pieces he is to play.

The modern chess strategy in the opening stage of the game is based on two fundamental principles: fight for the occupation of central squares and develop pieces rapidly. While both of these principles make sense theoretically, it is hard to follow them in practice. In my opinion this strategy is successful only because both opponents in a game choose to follow it, thus creating weaknesses in their pawn structures and misplacing pieces.

There is a golden rule in chess: try to place a piece on the board so that it will not require a subsequent repositioning of it. But in the opening stage of the game, when the position on the board is yet undefined, it is difficult to follow this rule.

Another rule is concerned with the development of a solid pawn structure. But, when you advance the pawn two squares ahead on the very first move and your opponent usually does the same, then both of them create weaknesses in their own pawn structures. Since such advanced pawns not only occupy the center, gain space and so on, they also create weaknesses because such pawns can easily be attacked and therefore require some kind of protection themselves. Moreover, the adjacent squares of such advanced pawns (for example, a pawn on e4 square has weak squares d4 and f4) become permanently weak so that an opponent can place his pieces on those squares.

Thus, both opponents get the objects for their attack after the very first moves and the ensuing game is all about the attacking the opponents weaknesses and defending weaknesses in their own position. That's how they have played chess for centuries and even millennia on end.

When I returned to active chess about a dozen years ago I decided not to brush up on the conventional openings I was playing before because I realized that I was way behind in



them. I start my games with a move that nobody plays so that we both would be on equal footing in the ensuing game (or so I thought).

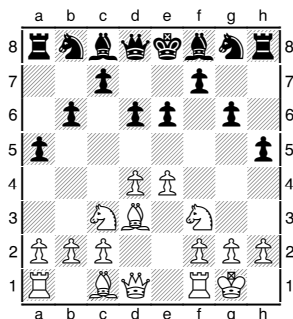
My choice was an inconspicuous 1.a4!?. It is still my favorite first move ever since. I won some games with this first move from opponents having a rating over 500 points higher than mine, but also lost games to opponents with a rating almost 500 points lower than mine. It was not clear to me what to play next after 1.a4.

Then I discovered that some people play an obscure opening called the "Crab Opening", where they play 1.a4 and 2.h4, or vice versa. I played that opening too, but without much success, mostly because I still didn't know what to play next after making those moves.

To make the story short, about a couple of years ago, almost by accident, I started analyzing 3.b3, 4.g3 regardless of the moves by the opposing side. Usually, I was able to make the moves 5.d3, 6.e3 as well before it was necessary to move any of my pieces.

By the way, the same strategy is utilized when playing Black as well, no matter what White would play in the opening. Hence comes the name of this opening - Universal Opening! You may play these initial moves in random order as well, in subsequent games, in order to mask your intentions and to further confuse your opponents.

Here is a diagram after the first six moves of Black: 1.e4 h5 2.d4 a5 3.Nf3 g6 4.Nc3 b6 5.Bd3 d6 6.0-0 e6:



Please note that the moves for White were generated by computer chess program Stockfish 8. As you can see, Stockfish did not proceed rashly with a premature attack, which means that it could not find weaknesses in this unusual opening moves of Black! This, by itself, is a very promising and encouraging sign to play that opening.

**The fact that engine evaluates this position as slightly better for White should not discourage you, since the evaluation criteria of the engine were developed by us, humans and were based on those strategic principles I mentioned before. The engine attributes more value to White's position because White controls the center and has some pieces developed. It cannot comprehend the new strategy, that Black gives up the control of the center deliberately, while taking control of flanks and building a solid pawn structure first, instead of "developing" pieces haphazardly.**

Since the number of positions after 6 moves is over 9 millions (<http://mathematics.chessdom.com/number-of-positions>), this opening provides an enormous amount of fresh play in a chess game ... the game about which we thought we had learned almost everything, that was on the verge of dying from exhaustion!

I think that whoever will take time to study this Universal Opening, learn most of its intricacies, become familiar with its tactics and opportunities (which it provides in abundance) and master it will have a huge advantage over his opponents. It's startling! The more I analyzed it, the more fascinated I became with it.

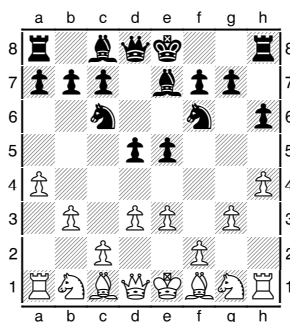
Last year I decided to play it against the latest version of Stockfish on the site 2700chess.com, choosing the level of play with 2000 rating, which was more than 600 points higher than mine at the time.

It was obvious that my opening was unfamiliar to the engine and it made a couple of dubious moves in the opening after which I achieved a big advantage in the ensuing game. By move 30 I had

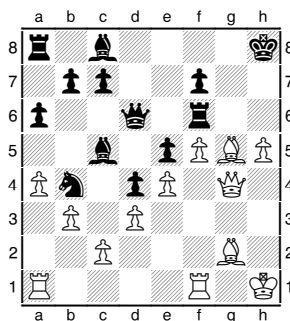
5-6 winning continuations, ranging from +5 to +9 pawns, according to my subsequent analysis of the game with the chess engine! But, smelling "blood" and realizing that I was winning the very first game against a powerful chess engine, I lost my composure, started playing quickly and eventually managed even to lose the game! When I **quickly** made the wrong 31st move without realizing that I didn't have to take the rook immediately (it had nowhere to go), I lost all the advantage I had attained; the position just became fairly equal and a good player probably could have saved it. Here it is, that remarkable game:

Alex Golubow - Stockfish, Level 9 (Elo 2000), September 9, 2017

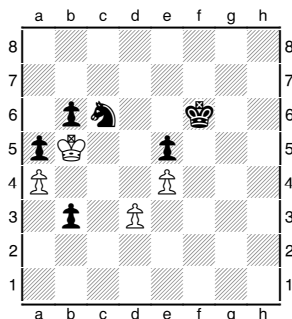
**1.a4 Nc6 2.h4 e5 3.b3 Be7 4.g3 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.e3 d5** Please see position below.



**7.Bg2 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bc5 9.Ne2 a6 10.Bc1 0-0 11.Bb2 d4 12.e4 Ng4 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Nd2 Be6 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Nh2 h5 17.Bc1 Bd7 18.Kh1 Qe7 19.Bg5 Be6 20.f4 Rfd8 21.f5 Bc8 22.g4 hxg4 23.Nxg4 Nb4 24.Ng3 Kf8 25.Nh5 Rd6 26.Nhxf6 gxf6 27.Nxf6 Rxf6 28.Qh5 Kg7 29.Qg4 Kh8 30.h5 Qd6** Please see the position below.



31.Bxf6+ Qxf6 32.Rf3 Be7 33.Rg3 Qh4+ 34.Bh3 Qxg4 35.Rxg4 Kh7  
 36.Rag1 Bf6 37.Rg8 Nc6 38.Rf8 Nd8 39.Rgg8 Bd7 40.Rxf7+ Kxg8 41.Rxf6  
 Kh7 42.h6 Be8 43.Bg4 a5 44.Rf8 Bf7 45.f6 c5 46.Kg2 Kxh6 47.Kg3 Kg6  
 48.Rh8 Rb8 49.Bh5+ Kxf6 50.Bxf7 Kxf7 51.Kg4 Nc6 52.Rxb8 Nxb8 53.Kf3  
 Nc6 54.Ke2 b6 55.Kd2 Nd8 56.c3 Kf6 57.b4 dxc3+ 58.Kxc3 cxb4+ 59.Kc4  
 Nc6 60.Kb5 b3 0-1



Final Position-White Resigned.

After that I played several more games with the computer, but, apparently, it learned quickly from its mistakes and was playing better in the opening stage now. I lost all the games, though, all of them lasted from 40 to 60 moves. Which tells me that my opening is sound. If the powerful computer engine cannot prove it wrong, who else will?...

I'd like to finish this article with some relevant quotes:

[https://chesspro.ru/thesaurus/zaytsev\\_nezrimiy\\_mir\\_geniia](https://chesspro.ru/thesaurus/zaytsev_nezrimiy_mir_geniia)

*"Many years spent by author analyzing chess, brought him to the conclusion that at the time of computer chess engines it is worth to stick to the Alekhine's model of searching for new opening variations. It is worthwhile to analyze not the ways of disproving the popular chess openings, but to search for the fresh ideas with a dash of romanticism and, maybe, even with the touch of conscious adventurousness in the spirit of, say, the 6th game of the 1937 Championship match Alekhine - Euwe, which presents the opponent with unexpected problems and promises an interesting and creative play for both sides."*

In that same article the author says about the play on both flanks: *"It was Alekhine, who opened the way for the most promising strategic method, namely, playing on both flanks (sides) of the board..."*

The opening, I'm presenting in this article means just that! Now, I'm not comparing myself to Alekhine, God forbid, just utilizing his ideas. I'm not saying that my opening is the magic cure for every problem in chess game. But, this Universal Opening is based on the proven ancient principle of war strategy: "If the enemy attacks you in the center, attack him on the flanks, and vice versa". And who will succeed at the end is dependent on countless number of other reasons...

"To surprise is to win! -A. Suvorov –Russian legendary war general.

*Nowadays this old Suvorov formula means a lot in chess, a lot more than in the old times before an advancement of computers. The new move in the chess opening brings chaos and commotion into the mind of an opponent, and almost always the reaction to a new move is one and the same – to avoid the most obvious continuations because they were most likely analyzed throughout by the opponent and to immediately turn to the side path where there is less chances of home analysis of the opponent. At the same time bearing in mind that quality of the side move is lower than that of the more obvious moves."* - GM G. Sosonko

Conclusion:

I see a lot of logic and rationale behind this Universal Opening, which everyone could see and explain better than me provided that one devotes enough time to study the opening...

But, here again I'd like to draw your attention to the quote I begin the article with: *"...Columbus's eggs lie around by the hundreds of thousands, but Columbuses are met with less frequently."* We are passing by the myriad of truths in our daily life without having

time to stop and ponder about one of them. And so it is in Chess, which in itself is a great model of our Life!

*Dixi,*  
Alex



### **About the author - Alexander Golubow**

For those readers not familiar with Alex, Alex lived in Lincoln for 20 years before moving to Wyoming. During this time in Nebraska, I got to know this very interesting man from Russia and shared many conversations with him over food and drink. Alex is a retired Professional Civil Engineer (picture above) and as I quickly learned, he is very generous, well educated and a private and principled man.

One of many aspects of Alex's personality is his original thinking, as evidenced in his Gambit articles and viewpoints. By most conventional standards, his chess views may appear unorthodox by today's norms but his analysis is always well written, thought provoking, supported and entertaining.

This editor is very grateful for Alex's friendship and for his continued support with Gambit article contributions. Alex has also given me a wonderful quote from a previous Gambit article when he wrote. . .

*Arthur Schopenhauer once said: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed, second, it is violently opposed and, third, it is accepted as self-evident."*

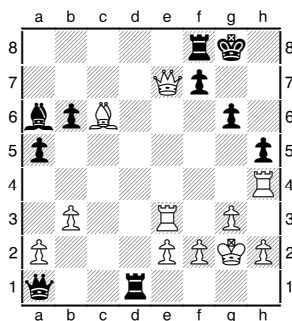
I hope you have enjoyed Alex's article as much as I have.  
Kent.

# The Attacking King!!

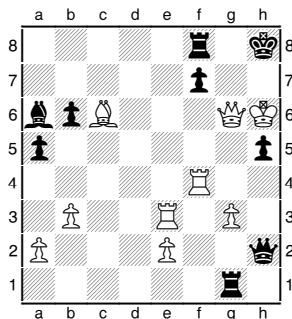
by

Robert Woodworth

In chess, it is very unusual to see the king lead his troops into battle! Usually he stays behind and only ventures out in the end-game phase when it is relatively safe to do so. Attacking kings are also called “wandering king’s. In the next 2 examples they are really not just out for a stroll but are deadly serious! See the following after White’s 28.Bxc6.

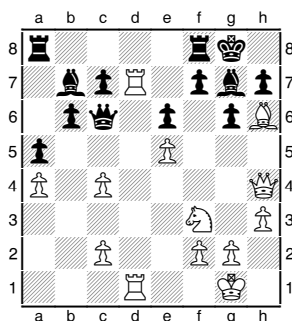


This game between Tiger Hillarp Persson (2544) and Tomas Laurusas (2484) at the 43rd Chess Olympiad in 2018. Black played 28.Rg1+. White flees from the Black checks with 29 Kf3, Qf1 30.Kf4, Qxf2+ 31 Kg5, Kg7 (to stop the further advance of the White king) 32. Rf4, Qxh2? (what else?) 33. Qf6+, Kh7 34.Qxg6+, Kh8 35. Kh6. (1-0)

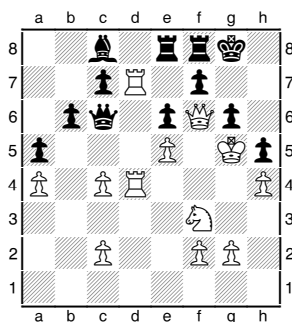


It is amazing to see that Black is quite helpless even though his aggressive play helped push the White king to where he wanted to go. Black, also, during this king wandering, has most of his forces becoming mere spectators and of absolutely no help!!

The next example of a truly brave and adventurous king is from a game between Nigel Short (White) vs Jan Timman (Black) from a 1991 Tilburg tournament. In the following diagram.



Black had just played 26. Ref8 (if instead 26. Qe4 then 27. Rxf7, Kxf7 28. Ng5+ etc.) White then played (after the Black move of 26. Ref8) 27. Bxg7, Kxg7 28. Rld4, Rae8 29. Qf6+, Kg8 30. h4!, h5 31. Kh2!, Rc8?! Now White has a fine attacking position but the immobility of his knight on f3 prevents an immediate knockout. However, Short finds a phenomenal idea to use his king as part of the mating attack with 32. Kg3, Rce8 33. Kf4!, Bc8 34. Kg5! (see diagram below)





(and after 34. Bxd7 35. Kh6 wins) or else 34. Kh7 35. Rxf7+, Rxf7 36. Qxf7+, Kh8, 37.Kh6 and White checkmates next move. (1-0)

What a wonderful strategic idea of Short's when he realized that nearly all of the Black forces were 'shut off' from the king-side and that the White king could safely advance toward the Black king!!

I really hope that the reader enjoyed playing over these 2 examples as much as your writer did. Amazing play by those White Kings!!

Bob Woodworth  
Omaha, Ne  
December, 2018

Reference source: "ChessBase News", October 12th, 2018.  
(titled: "Looking Back to Batumi: Wandering Kings")

## Games Galore!

### 2018 Lincoln City Championship

(3) Cusumano,Steven (1938) - Polacek,Noah (1530) [D11]

(1), 22.09.2018

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 Bf5 5.c4 e6 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.c5 Qa6 8.Nc3 b6  
9.Bf4 Nbd7 10.cxb6 Nxb6 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.0-0 Be7 13.f3 0-0 14.e4 Bg6 15.a4  
Nbd7 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Rfd1 Nh5 18.a5 Rcd8 19.Be7 Rde8 20.Rac1 Qc8  
21.Bf4 Nxf4 22.gxf4 Qa6 23.Qa2 Rb8 24.Bf1 Qb7 25.Na4 Bd6 26.e5 Be7  
27.Rc2 Rfc8 28.Rdc1 a6 29.Nc5 Nxc5 30.dxc5 Ra8 31.Rb1 Qb4 32.Qa3  
Qxf4 33.Qc3 Kh8 34.Re1 Rd8 35.Qe3 Qb4 36.Qc3 Qf4 37.Rd2 Bxc5+  
38.Kh1 Bb4 39.Re4 Bxc3 0-1

(5) Tran,Jacey (1470) - Buckley,Matt (1909) [D53]

1.d4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4  
0-0 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.0-0 e5 12.Re1 exd4 13.Nxd4 Ne5  
14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Qh5 Ng4 16.Bd3+ Nh6 17.Qe5 Qxe5 18.Rxe5 f6 19.Re7  
Rd8 20.Re4 f5 21.Rh4 c5 22.Nxf5 Rxd3 23.Nxh6 gxh6 24.Rxh6+ Kg7  
25.Rh5 b6 26.Re1 Be6 27.h3 Bxc4 28.b3 Bf7 and Black later won.

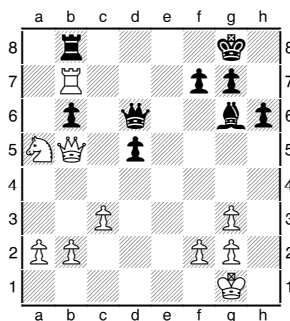
(6) Look,Scott (1624) - Belashchenko,Kirill (1950) [E61]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Be2 c5 8.0-0 h6  
9.Bh4 cxd4 10.exd4 Nb6 11.Bg3 Bf5 12.Nh4 Bd7 13.Qc2 Rc8 14.b3 Bc6  
15.Rad1 d5 16.c5 Nbd7 17.b4 Nb8 18.b5 Be8 19.Rfe1 Nh7 20.Bd3 Bxd4  
21.Bxg6 Bxc3 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Qxc3+ Kxh7 24.Nf5 e5 25.Qxe5 f6  
26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 and White won shortly.

It's nice to have Scott back to playing tournament chess after an absence of many years. -Editor.

(7) Polacek,Noah (1530) - Hartmann,John (1877) [B13]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.Bg5 Nc6  
8.Nbd2 e6 9.Qa4 Bd6 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Rfe1 0-0 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bh4 Rac8  
14.Rac1 e5 15.dxe5 Ndx5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bg3 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Bxg3  
19.hxg3 Rfd8 20.Nb3 Bh5 21.Re3 a5 22.Rce1 Bg6 23.Qb5 b6 24.Re7 Qd6  
25.Rb7 Rb8 26.Ree7 Rxb7 27.Rxb7 Rb8 28.Nxa5!

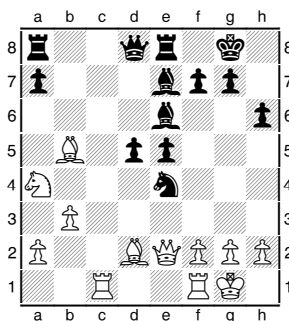


Rxb7 29.Nxb7 Qe5 30.Qxb6 Qh5 31.Qd4 Qf5 32.Qd1 Qd7 1-0

(11) Nelson,Kent (1822) - Tan,Ying (2035) [B44]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6  
8.Bd3 e5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Qe2 d6 12.Rac1 h6 13.Bd2 Re8 14.b3  
Be6 15.Na4 d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Bb5 Nxe4!? (worth an exchange?-Ed)

Diagram below.



18.Bxe8 Qxe8 19.Be3 Bf5 20.Nc5 Nd6 21.Na6 Qb5 22.Qxb5 Nxb5 23.Nc7  
Nxc7 24.Rxc7 Bd6 25.Rxa7 Rb8 26.Ra6 Bf8 27.Rc1 d4 28.Bd2 g6 29.Ra5  
e4 30.Rd5 Bg7 31.h3 h5 32.b4 Re8 33.b5 Be6 34.Rdc5 Bxa2 35.Rc8 Rxc8  
36.Rxc8+ Kh7 37.b6 Bd5 38.Rd8 e3 39.fxe3 dxe3 40.Bxe3 Bb7 41.Bd4 Bh6  
42.Rh8# 1-0

(14) Linscott,John (1812) - Buckley,Matt (1909) [B15]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Ng5 h6 6.N5f3 Bf5 7.Bd3 e6 8.Ne2  
Nbd7 9.0-0 Ne4 10.Re1 g5 11.Bxe4 Bxe4 12.Nc3 Bg6 13.Qe2 Bg7 14.d5  
cxd5 15.Nxd5 0-0 16.Ne3 Rc8 17.c3 Nc5 18.Rd1 Qc7 19.h4 Ne4 20.hxg5  
hxg5 21.Ng4 f5 22.Ngh2 Bf6 23.Nd4 Rfe8 24.Be3 Qc4 25.Qxc4 Rxc4  
26.Nb5 a6 27.Nd6 Nxd6 28.Rxd6 Kf7 29.Rad1 g4 30.Rd7+ Re7 31.Nf1 Rc7  
32.Rd8 e5 33.Bh6 f4 34.R1d6 Bg7 35.Bg5 Re6 36.R6d7+ Rxd7 37.Rxd7+  
Kf8 38.Nd2 plus moves 1-0

(15) Stepp,John (1700) - Belashchenko,Kirill (1950) [C01]

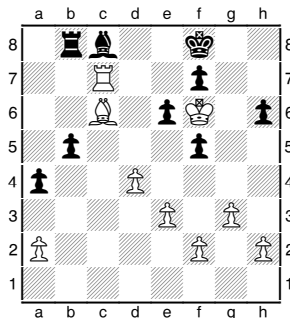
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Be3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Nf3 cxd4 8.Nxd4  
Nxd4 9.Bxd4 Bc5 10.b4 Bxd4 11.Qxd4 f6 12.Bb5 0-0 13.0-0 fxe5 14.fxe5  
Rxf1+ 15.Kxf1 Qg5 16.Bxd7 Qc1+ 17.Kf2 Qb2+ 18.Nd2 Qxa1 19.Be8 Kf8  
20.Bb5 h6 21.Qf4+ Kg8 22.Be8 Qxc3 23.Qf7+ Kh7 24.Qg6+ Kh8 25.Nf3  
0-1

(16) Polacek,Noah (1530) - Nelson,Kent (1822) [B23]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 a6 6.a4 Nge7 7.0-0 g6 8.Qe1 Bg7  
9.e5 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.fxe5 Qd4+ 12.Qf2 Bxe5 13.d3 Qxf2+ 14.Kxf2  
Nf5 15.Ne4 0-0 16.g4 Nd6 17.Nxc5 Nxc4 18.dxc4 b6 19.Nd3 Bd4+ 20.Kg3  
Bb7 21.Rb1 Rac8 22.b3 f6 23.Ba3 Rf7 24.Bb4 a5 25.Bd2 f5 26.Bf4 Be4  
27.Rbd1 Bxd3 28.Rxd3 e5 29.Bd2 Bc5 30.Bc3 e4 ½-½

(19) Cusumano,Steven (1938) - Kolli,Sai (1222) [E04]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c5 5.c4 dxc4 6.0-0 Nc6 7.dxc5 Qxd1  
8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 c3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Nb3 Bb6 12.Nfd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4  
Rd8 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Rac1 Rb8 17.Nc5 f5 18.e3 Bxc5  
19.Rxc5 b6 20.Rc7 Rd7 21.Rdc1 Rxc7 22.Rxc7 a6 23.Kf1 Kf8 24.Ke2  
Ke8 25.Bc6+ Kf8 26.Kf3 b5 27.Kf4 a5 28.Ke5 a4 29.Kf6

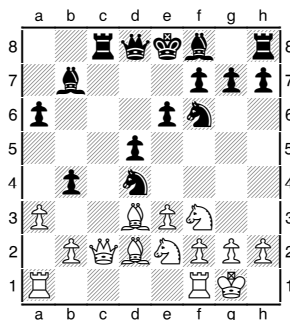


Position after 29. Kf6

a3 30.Rxf7+ Kg8 31.Rg7+ Kf8 32.Rh7 Kg8 33.Ra7 b4 34.Ba4 Rb7  
35.Rxb7 Bxb7 36.Kxc6 Ba6 37.Bb3 Bc8+ 38.Kd5 Kg7 39.Kc5 Kg6  
40.Kxb4 Kg5 41.Bd1 h5 42.Kxa3 h4 43.gxh4+ Kxh4 44.Kb4 Kh3  
45.Kc5 Bd7 46.Kd6 Bc8 1-0

(21) Belashchenko,Kirill (1950) - Cusumano,Steven (1938) [D15]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6 5.e3 b5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Qc2 Bb7  
8.Bd3 Nc6 9.a3 Rc8 10.Bd2 e6 11.0-0 b4 12.Ne2 Nxd4!



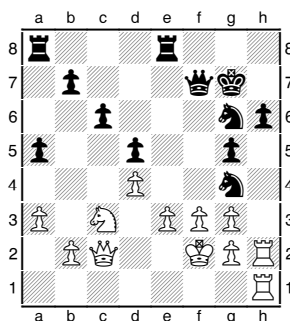
13.Qa4+ Bc6 14.Qd1 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 bxa3 16.bxa3 Bd6 17.Bxa6 Ra8  
18.Bd3 0-0 19.Bb4 Ba4 20.Qd2 Qe7 21.Kh1 Rfb8 22.Bxd6 Qxd6  
23.Nc3 Bc6 24.a4 Qe5 25.f4 d4+ 26.e4 Qa5 27.Nb1 Rxb1 0-1

(22) Tan,Ying (2035) - Polacek,Noah (1530) [A09]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 c5 4.bxc5 Nc6 5.Bb2 e5 6.e3 Bg4 7.Qb3 Bxf3  
8.gxf3 Rb8 9.Bg2 Bxc5 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Qb5 Qd6 12.f4 e4 13.exd4 Bxd4  
14.Ba3 Qxf4 15.Nc3 Ng4 16.Qh5 Bxc3 17.dxc3 Nf6 18.Qc5 Rd8  
19.Rae1 Kd7 20.f3 exf3 21.Rxf3 Qc7 later 1-0

(23) Look,Scott (1624) - Hartmann,John (1877) [D35]

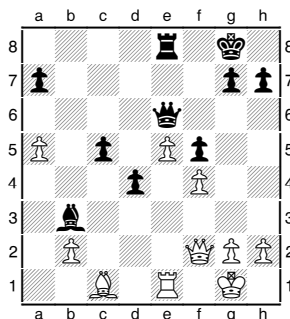
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.Nc3 c6  
8.e3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Re8 11.Rb1 a5 12.a3 Nf8 13.Ne5 N6d7  
14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Bg3 Nf6 17.Qe2 Bd6 18.Bh4 g5 19.Bg3  
Bxg3 20.hxg3 Kg7 21.Bc2 Bg4 22.f3 Bh5 23.Kf2 Bg6 24.Rh1 Bxc2  
25.Qxc2 Ng6 26.Rh2 Qe7 27.Re1 Qf7 28.Reh1 Ng4+ 0-1



Final Position-White Resigns.

(20) Nelson,Kent (1822) - Linscott,John (1812) [C56]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7  
8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nd2 Nxd2 11.Bxd2 0-0 12.c3 c5 13.Nc2 Bb5  
14.Re1 d4 15.cxd4 cxd4 16.a4 Bc6 17.Nb4 Bb7 18.a5 Bxb4 19.Bxb4  
Qd5 20.Qg4 c5 21.Bd2 Qe6 22.Qg3 Bd5 23.Ra3 Rab8 24.Bc1 Rfe8  
25.f4 f5 26.Qf2 Rb3 27.Rxb3 Bxb3 1/2-1/2 Final Position below.

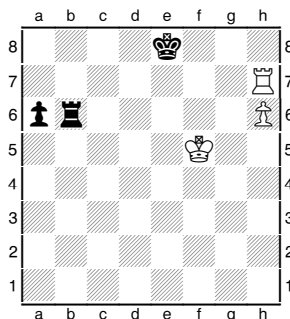


## 2018 Midwest Open

(1) Mills, Michael (1770) - Tan, Ying (2024) [E62]

(1), 10.11.2018

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.g3 e5 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7  
9.0-0 Nd7 10.Ne1 f5 11.Nd3 Nf6 12.Be3 h6 13.c5 fxe4 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Nb4  
Nf5 16.Nc2 Nxe3 17.Nxe3 Qb6 18.Qe2 Bd7 19.a4 Qb4 20.Ned1 Bg4 21.Qe1  
Bf3 22.a5 Rac8 23.Qe3 Qd4 24.Ra4 Qxe3 25.Nxe3 Rc5 26.Rb4 Rf7 27.Bh3  
Kf8 28.Nb5 Be2 29.Nxd6 Bxf1 30.Bxf1 Rd7 31.Nxb7 Rcl 32.d6 Ne8 33.Kg2  
Nxd6 34.Nxd6 Rxd6 35.Rb8+ Ke7 36.Rb7+ Rd7 37.Rb5 h5 38.h4 Ke6  
39.b3 Bf8 40.Bc4+ Kf6 41.Bd5 Bc5 42.Bxe4 Bxe3 43.fxe3 Rd2+ 44.Kh3 Re1  
45.Rc5 Rxe3 46.Rc6+ Kg7 47.Bxg6 Rxb3 48.Bxh5 Rdd3 49.Kg4 Rxc3+  
50.Kf5 Rb7 51.a6 Re7 52.Bg4 Rf7+ 53.Kg5 e4 54.Re6 e3 55.h5 Kh7 56.Kh4  
Rg1 57.Rxe3 Rf4 58.Rg3 Ra1 59.Kg5 Rb4 60.Bf5+ Kh8 61.Rd3 Rxa6 62.h6  
Rb8 63.Rd7 Ra5 64.Rh7+ Kg8 65.Rc7 a6 66.Rg7+ Kf8 67.Rc7 Rxf5+  
68.Kxf5 Rb6 69.Rh7 Ke8  $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



Final Position-draw game.

(2) Tichacek, Jerry (1447) - Buckley, Matt (1911) [B15]

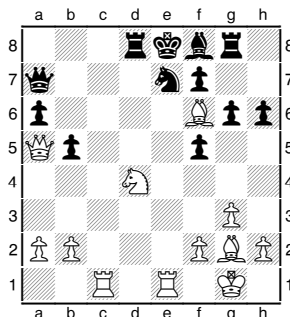
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Be3 Bf5  
8.Bd3 0-0 9.Bxf5 Qa5+ 10.Qd2 Qxf5 11.0-0-0 a5 12.h4 a4 13.d5 a3 14.b3  
Rd8 15.dxc6 Nxc6 16.Qe2 Rac8 17.Nd4 Qe5 18.f4 Qe4 19.Qf2 Nb4 20.Kb1  
Nd5 21.Bc1 Nc3+ 22.Ka1 Bc5 23.Be3 Nxd1 24.Rxd1 Bxd4+ 25.Bxd4 Qxc2  
26.Qxc2 Rxc2 27.Kb1 Re2 28.g3 Re4 0-1

(11) Tan, Ying (2024) - Fabrikant, Ben (2003) [D78]

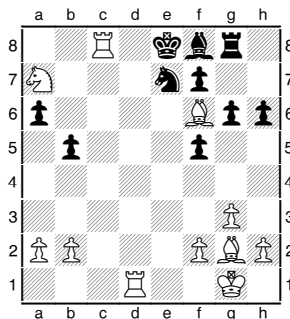
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Ne5 c6  
9.f4 Nxe5 10.fxe5 Nd7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Qb6 14.Kh1 c5  
15.dxc5 Qe6 16.Nf6+ Nxf6 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Bd5 Qe7 19.Bh6 Rd8 20.Qf3  
Bf5 21.Rae1 Qxc5 22.Bb3 Bd7 23.Bxf7+! 1-0

(6) Cusumano, Steven (1931) - van Zandweghe, Henri (1534) [D02]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 c5 6.c4 dxc4 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.Qa4 a6 9.Ne5 Nd5 10.Nxc6 Qd7 11.Qd1 Qxc6 12.e4 cxd4 13.exf5 exf5 14.Qe2+ Qe6 15.Qxc4 Rd8 16.Nf3 Ne7 17.Qa4+ b5 18.Qa5 g6 19.Re1 Qc8 20.Bg5 h6 21.Bf6 Rg8 22.Rac1 Qd7 23.Nxd4 Qa7 Please see the diagram below.



24.Qxd8+! Kxd8 25.Nc6+ Ke8 26.Nxa7 Kd8 27.Red1+ Ke8 28.Rc8+!



Nxc8 29.Rd8# 1-0

(7) Kolli, Sai (1308) - Linscott, John (1836) [C55]

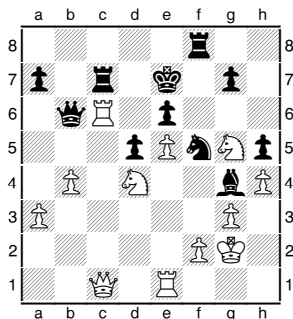
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 d6 6.0-0 a6 7.Be3 Na5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 0-0 10.h3 Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.Qd2 h6 13.Rad1 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qc3 Bxh3 17.Bd2 Bg4 18.Re3 Bc5 19.Ree1 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Bd4 21.Qxc7 Rac8 22.Qa5 Qxf3 23.Be3 Bxe3 24.fxe3 Re6 25.Qd2 Rg6+ 26.Kh2 Rg5 27.Qe2 Rh5+ 0-1

(21) Mills, Michael (1770) - Linscott, John (1836) [C47]

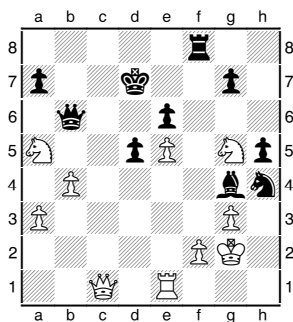
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.exd5 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Qe7+ 8.Be2 Ne5 9.0-0 Nxf3+ 10.Bxf3 0-0 11.Re1 Qd6 12.a3 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 Qf6 14.Rad1 c5 15.dxc6 dxc6 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Rxd4 Be6 18.Red1 Rfe8 19.b4 Rac8 20.Rd6 Kf8 21.Be4 Rc7 22.h3 Ke7 23.R6d4 b6 24.R4d2 c5 25.b5 Kf6 26.Bc6 Ree7 27.Rd6 g6 28.f3 Kg7 29.Kf2 Bc4 30.R1d2 Be6 1/2-1/2

(4) Knapp,Joseph (2011) - Saylor,Dave (1731) [B12]

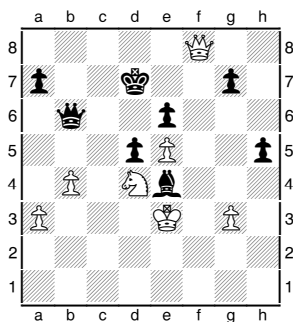
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.a3 Bf5 6.h4 h5 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bg5 Qb6  
9.b4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg4 11.Nbd2 Nge7 12.Qa4 Nf5 13.Bb5 Be7 14.Bxc6+  
bxc6 15.Rc1 Rc8 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Rc5 Rhd8 18.0-0 Rd7 19.Rfc1 Rdc7  
20.g3 f6 21.Kg2 Kf7 22.Nb3 Kg6 23.Nbd2 Kf7 24.Qc2 Qa6 25.Qc3 Qe2  
26.Re1 Qa6 27.Ng1 Ne7 28.Qe3 Bf5 29.Ne2 Ng6 30.Rc3 fxe5 31.dxe5  
Ne7 32.Qg5 Qb6 33.Nf3 Rf8 34.Ned4 Bg4 35.Qc1 Nf5 36.Ng5+ Ke7  
37.Rxc6 Please see the diagram below.



**Rxc6 38.Nxc6+ Kd7 39.Na5 Nxh4+**

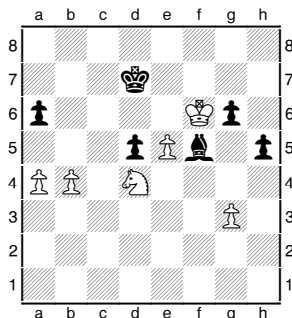


40.Kh1 Nf3 41.Nxf3 Rxf3 42.Qc5 Rxf2 43.Rc1 Bf3+ 44.Kg1 Rd2  
45.Nb3 Rd1+ 46.Rxd1 Bxd1 47.Nd4 Bg4 48.Kf2 Bf5 49.Ke3 Be4  
50.Qf8 Please see the diagram below.





g6 51.Qf7+ Kc8 52.Qe8+ Kb7 53.Qxe6 Qxe6 54.Nxe6 Kc6 55.Nd4+  
Kd7 56.Kf4 a6 57.a4 Kc7 58.Kg5 Kd7 59.Kf6 Bf5 1–0



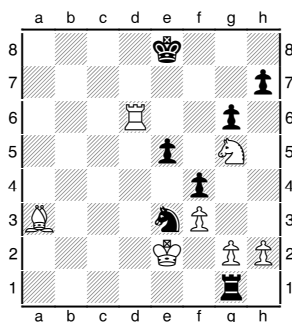
Final Position-Black Resigns

(28) Forsman,Chad (1864) - Cusumano,Steven (1931) [C02]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 c4 7.Be2 Na5 8.Nbd2  
Bd7 9.0–0 Ne7 10.Ne1 Nc8 11.Kh1 Qc7 12.f4 g6 13.g4 Nb6 14.Ng2 Na4  
15.Qe1 0–0–0 16.Qf2 Be7 17.Ne3 Bc6 18.Bf3 h5 19.g5 Nb6 20.Bd1 Ba4  
21.Qe2 Qc6 22.Nc2 Bxc2 23.Bxc2 Na4 24.Qd1 b5 25.Kg1 Kc7 26.Rf3  
Rb8 27.Kf2 ½–½

(10) Sayler,Dave (1731) - Mills,Michael (1770) [E92]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.Nd2  
Ne8 9.0–0 f5 10.f3 f4 11.a3 Rf7 12.b4 Bf8 13.Nb3 Rg7 14.c5 dxc5  
15.Bxa6 cxb4 16.Bxb7 Bxb7 17.axb4 Bxb4 18.Na4 c6 19.Nac5 Qb6  
20.Ba3 Bxc5+ 21.Nxc5 cxd5 22.Rb1 Qc6 23.exd5 Qxd5 24.Rxb7 Qxd1  
25.Rxg7+ Nxg7 26.Rxd1 Nf5 27.Ne4 Rb8 28.Rd7 Rb6 29.Rxa7 Ne3  
30.Rc7 Ra6 31.Rc3 Rb6 32.Rc8+ Kf7 33.Nd6+ Ke6 34.Re8+ Kd5  
35.Rd8 Ke6 36.Ne4 Rb1+ 37.Kf2 Rf1+ 38.Ke2 Rg1 39.Rd6+ Kf7  
40.Ng5+ Ke8 Please see the diagram below.



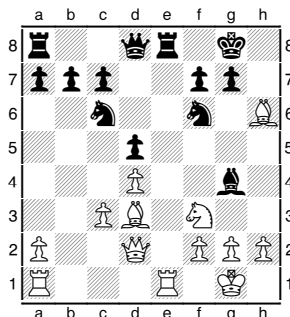
41.Rd2 Rxg2+ 42.Kd3 Rxg5 43.Ke4 Rh5 0–1

(30) Tichacek, Jerry (1447) - Tan, Ying (2024) [E99]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5  
Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Nb5 b6 14.b4 a6 15.Nc3  
Ng6 16.Nd3 Rf7 17.Rc1 Bf8 18.c5 Nf6 19.cxb6 cxb6 20.Na4 Rb8  
21.Rc6 Bd7 22.Rxb6?? Bxa4 23.Rxb8 Bxd1 0-1

van Zandweghe, Henri (1534) - Kolli, Sai (1308) [C54]

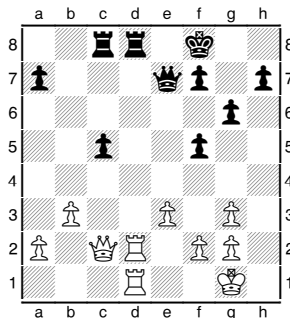
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3  
Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.0-0 d5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Re1 Nf6 12.Bg5 h6 13.Be3  
Re8 14.Qd2 Bg4 15.Bxh6 Diagram below.



gxf6 16.Qxh6 Rxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qd6 19.Kh1 Ne7 20.Rg1+  
Ng6 21.Bxg6 fxe6 22.Rxg6+ Kf7 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Rxf6 Qe7 25.Qg6+  
Kd8 26.Re6 Qf8 27.Qf6+ Qxf6 28.Rxf6 Ke7 29.Rh6 Rg8 30.Rh5 Kd6  
31.h4 b6 32.Rg5 Rh8 33.h5 Ke6 34.f4 Kd6 35.Kg2 c6 36.Rg6+ Ke7  
37.h6 Kf7 38.Rxc6 Rg8+ 39.Kf3 Rg6 40.Rxg6 Kxg6 41.Kg4 Kxh6  
42.Kf5 Kg7 43.Ke6 Kf8 44.Kf6 Ke8 45.Kg7 Ke7 46.f5 1-0

(15) Buckley, Matt (1911) - Reigenborn, Jon (1650) [D02]

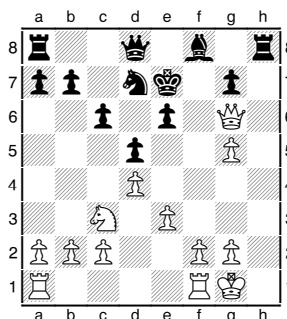
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.Nd2 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.Ng3 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Qb3 b6  
8.Rd1 Nh5 9.Bg3 Nxg3 10.hxg3 c5 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.Bxf5 exf5 13.cxd5  
Nb4 14.0-0 Nxd5 15.Rfe1 Nf6 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Nxc5 bxc5  
19.Qc2 Ne4 20.Rd5 g6 21.Nd2 Nxd2 22.Rxd2 Rfd8 23.Red1 Rac8  
24.b3 Kf8? Diagram below and the game notation on the next page.



25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Qxc5+ Ke8 28.Qe5+ Kf8 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qxd8+ Kxd8 31.Kf1 Kc7 32.Ke2 Kc6 33.Kd2 Kd5 34.b4 f6 35.a3 g5 36.f3 h5 37.a4 a6 38.Kc3 g4 39.Kd3 Kd6 40.Kc4 Kc6 41.b5+ axb5+ 42.axb5+ Kd6 43.f4 Kc7 44.Kc5 Kb7 45.b6 Kb8 46.Kc6 Kc8 47.b7+ Kb8 48.Kb6 h4 49.gxh4 g3 50.Kc6 Ka7 51.Kc7 1-0

(16) Nelson,Kent (1823) - Cusumano,Steven (1931) [D01]

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.e3 c6 5.Bd3 Bg6 6.Nge2 Nbd7 7.Nf4 e6 8.Bxg6 hxg6 9.Qd3 Qa5 10.0-0 Ne4 11.h4 Nxg5 12.hxg5 Qd8 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qxg6+ Ke7 Please see the diagram below.



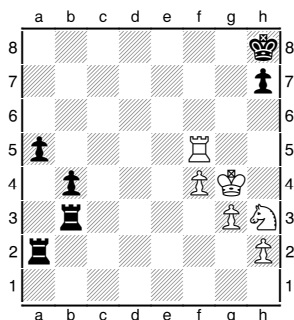
15.f4?? (As Craig Campbell pointed out 15. Ne2 followed by Nf4 was much better, perhaps even winning) Qe8 16.Qd3 Kd8 17.e4 Qh5 18.Qg3 Qh1+ 19.Kf2 Qh4 20.Rh1 Qxg3+ 21.Kxg3 Rxh1 22.Rxh1 Ke7 23.exd5 exd5 24.Re1+ Kf7 25.a3 Bd6 26.Kf3 Re8 27.Rxe8 Kxe8 28.Ne2 Nb6 29.Nc1 Nc4 30.Nd3 b5 31.g4 Nd2+ 32.Ke3 Ne4 33.Ne5 c5 34.dxc5 Bxc5+ 35.Ke2 a6 36.Nd3 Bd6 37.Ke3 Kd7 38.Kd4 Ke6 39.f5+ Kd7 40.Kxd5 Nxg5 41.e4 bxc4 42.Kxc4 Kc6 43.b4 Ne4 44.a4 Nf6 45.b5+ axb5+ 46.axb5+ Kd7 47.g5 Ne4 48.g6 Ke7 49.Kd5 Nc3+ 50.Kc4 Na4 51.Kd5 Bc7 52.Kc6 Bd8 53.Nf4 Nc3 54.Ne6 Kf6 55.Nxd8 Nxb5 56.Kxb5 Kxf5 ½-½

(22) Knapp,Joseph (2011) - Forsman,Chad (1864) [B86]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Nc5 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.g4 Be7 11.g5 Nfd7 12.Qg3 b5 13.f4 b4 14.Nce2 Nxe4 15.Qg4 Ndc5 16.f5 e5 17.Bd5 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.Nf3 f6 20.Qh5+ Kd7 21.Be3 g6 22.Qg4 Kc7 23.e3 gxf5 24.Qxf5 Raf8 25.Bxc5 Nxc5 26.cxb4 Qxb4 27.Nc3 fxg5 28.Nd5+ Kb7 29.Nxb4 Rxf5 30.Nd5 Bd8 31.b4 Ne6 32.a4 Nf4 33.Ne3 Rf7 34.Nc4 Bc7 35.b5 axb5 36.axb5 Rhf8 37.b6 Bxb6+ 38.Nxb6 Kxb6 39.Rfb1+ Kc5 40.Rc1+ Kd5 41.Ra5+ Ke4 42.Nxg5+ Kf5 43.Nxf7 Rxf7 ½-½

**(32) Mills,Michael (1770) - Nelson,Kent (1823) [B31]**

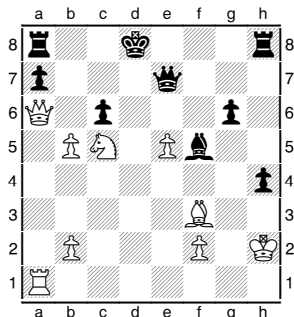
1.e4 c5 2.Be2 e6 3.f4 Qc7 4.d3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.Nbd2 Nge7  
9.Nc4 b5 10.Ne3 b4 11.Bd2 a5 12.Rc1 0-0 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 Qa7 15.Ng4  
f5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.Nf2 Nxd4 18.b3 Kh8 19.Kh1 Nxe2 20.Qxe2 Ba6 21.Qxe6  
Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Rf6 23.Qe1 Nd5 24.Nh3 Qd7 25.Qf2 Rc8 26.Be3 Nxe3  
27.Qxe3 Re6 28.Qd3 Re7 29.Rd1 Rc3 30.Qxd6 Qxd6 31.Rxd6 Rc1+  
32.Nhg1 Bc3 33.Rd5 Be1 34.g3 Bf2 35.Kg2 Bxg1 36.Nxg1 Rc2+ 37.Kh3  
Rxa2 38.Rxf5 Re3 39.Kg4 Rxb3 40.Nh3 Please see the diagram below.



Rxh2? ( I should have played 40. . h6!) 41.Rxa5 Ra3 42.Rb5 Rg2 43.Ng5  
Raxg3+ 44.Kf5 later ½-½

**(33) Buckley,Matt (1911) - Knapp,Joseph (2011) [A80]**

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 f5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nd2 g6 5.Be2 d6 6.h4 h6 7.g4 Qe7 8.g5 Nd5  
9.Nh3 e5 10.Bg3 f4 11.exf4 Bxh3 12.fxe5 Bf5 13.Bf3 c6 14.0-0 hxc5 15.exd6  
Qd7 16.Re1+ Kd8 17.c4 Nf4 18.c5 Nh3+ 19.Kg2 Nf4+ 20.Kh2 b5 21.a4 Nd3  
22.Re3 gxh4 23.Be5 Nxe5 24.Rxe5 Bxd6 25.cxd6 Qxd6 26.Nb3 Kc7 27.axb5  
Nd7 28.Qe1 Nxe5 29.dxe5 Qe6 30.Nc5 Qe7 31.Qa5+ Kc8 32.Qa6+ Kd8



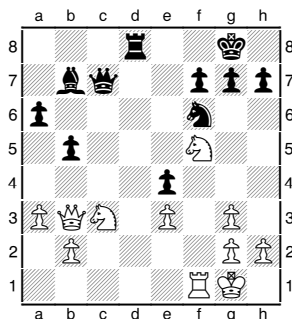
33.Qxc6? (Rd1+ was better, followed by Q:c6+) Qxe5+ 34.Kg1 Ke7 35.Ne4  
Rhc8 36.Qb7+ Qc7 37.Qd5 Qf4 38.Re1 Kf8 39.Nd6 Qg5+ 40.Kh1 Qf6  
41.Nxc8 Rxc8 42.Qb7 Be6 43.Rxe6 Qxe6  
0-1

(37) Tichacek, Jerry (1447) - van Zandweghe, Henri (1534) [C89]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Nf6 13.Qxd8 Bxd8 14.Bf4 c5 15.Bd6 Re8 16.Rxe8+ Nxe8 17.Bxc5 Bg5 18.Bd5 Bc1 19.a4 Rb8 20.Ba7 Rb7 21.Bxb7 Bxb7 22.axb5 axb5 23.b3 f5 24.Na3 Bb2 25.Ra2 Bxc3 26.Nxb5 Bb4 27.Bd4 g5 28.Ra4 Bd2 29.b4 h5 30.Be5 g4 31.Nd6 Nxd6 32.Bxd6 h4 33.b5 Bd5 34.b6 g3 35.hxg3 hxg3 36.Bxg3 Bc6 37.Rc4 1-0

(39) Slominski, Jerry (1795) - Cusumano, Steven (1931) [D15]

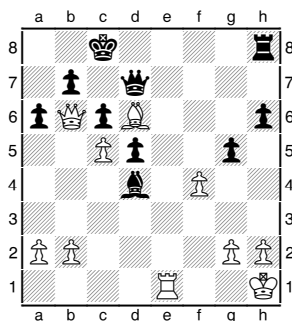
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 e6 7.Bg5 Nbd7 8.e3 Qa5 9.Nd2 Bd6 10.Be2 b5 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Bh4 0-0 13.a3 Rac8 14.Bg3 Bxg3 15.fxg3 Qb6 16.Bf3 Rc7 17.Ne2 Rfc8 18.Rac1 Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Rxc7 Rxc7 21.Nc3 Nf6 22.Qd1 e5 23.Nb3 exd4 24.Nxd4 Rc8 25.Qb3 Qc7 26.Nf5 Rd8 Please see the position below.



27.Nh6+ Kf8 28.Qb4+ (g4-Ed) Qe7 29.Qxe7+ Kxe7 30.Nf5+ Kf8 31.Nd4 1/2-1/2

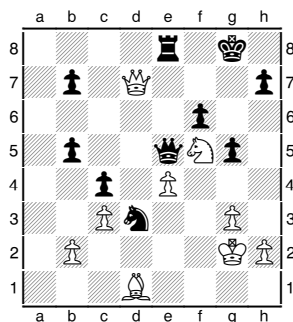
(42) Tan, Ying (2024) - Knapp, Joseph (2011) [A85]

1.Nf3 f5 2.c4 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Nxe4 fxe4 7.Nd2 h6 8.Bf4 Bg7 9.Nxe4 Nc6 10.e3 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Qd5 Nc6 13.Bd3 Ne7 14.Qb5+ Bd7 15.Qb3 Bc6 16.0-0 Qd7 17.c5 d5 18.Nc3 0-0-0 19.Nb5 Bxb5 20.Bxb5 c6 21.Bd3 g5 22.Bd6 Nf5 23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Qa4 a6 25.Qa5 Qd7 26.Qb6 Rde8 27.f4 Rxe3 28.Rae1 Bd4 29.Kh1 Rxe1 30.Rxe1 Diagram. . . Qxd6! 0-1



(41) Forsman,Chad (1864) - Linscott,John (1836) [C45]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bc4 d6  
8.0-0 Qg6 9.Nb5 0-0 10.Bxc5 dxc5 11.Nd2 Ne5 12.Bb3 Bh3 13.g3 Bxf1  
14.Qxf1 c6 15.f4 cxb5 16.fxe5 c4 17.Bc2 Nc6 18.a4 a6 19.Nf3 Rad8  
20.Qe2 Qe6 21.Rf1 Rde8 22.Qe3 Nxe5 23.Nd4 Qd7 24.axb5 axb5  
25.Nf5 f6 26.Rd1 Nd3 27.Qf3 Rd8 28.Qg4 Qc7 29.Nd4 Ne5 30.Qf4 Qc5  
31.Kg2 Rd6 32.Nf5 Rxd1 33.Bxd1 Nd3 34.Qg4 g5 35.Nd4 Qe5 36.Nf3  
Qc5 37.Nd4 Re8 38.Qd7 Qe5 39.Nf5

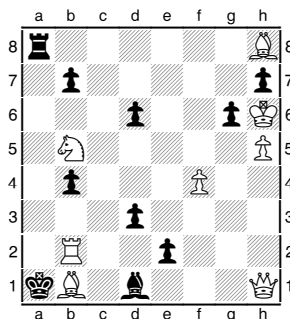


**Qxe4+ 40.Bf3 Ne1+** (John mentioned to me his missed 41. . Q:f3+ followed by . . Ne5+ and . . N:d7 winning )**41.Kh3 g4+ 42.Kh4 Nxf3+ 43.Kh5 Qxf5+ 44.Qxf5 0-1**

# A Fantastic Chess Problem Given to GM Vishy Anand By GM Vladimir Kramnik

By  
Robert Woodworth

Most chess players are not very interested in any form of chess compositions and specifically those chess problems which require a checkmate in a set number of moves. However, this writer believes that in solving checkmate problems, a chess player will improve his tactical vision and gain a better recognition of the various checkmating patterns that are quite unusual & very unique. (Please see the diagram below.)



White to move & mate in 3 moves.

In the chess problem shown here, which was given to GM Anand by his predecessor GM Vladimir Kramnik, it is White to move and mate in three moves. It is important to note that the bishop on h8 is 'hanging'. The rook on a8 attacks it and we have to find a way to ensure that it is not captured. Also, it seems that the rook on b2 plus the bishops on b1 and h8 along with the knight on b5, there is enough material for White to weave a mating net. Why is there a White Queen on h1?? GM Anand was conducting a 2-day workshop in Pune, India when he presented Kramnik's problem to his students along with 3 GM's and 7 IM's. Everyone was 'racking' their brains, more or less unsuccessfully. A couple of the solutions that were suggest involved moving the queen 1. Qd5. Also, the move 1.Qxb7 was mentioned. Anand then showed why these

solutions do not work. (Note: the reader can try to find these refutations which can be good analysis practice.) Because the real attempt of this article is to show some checkmating patterns, the actual, real solution is of lesser importance. The keymove, or the correct first move for White is **1. Qc6!!** This is the only solving move for this problem. The real strategy here is to clear the b-file for the White Rook after Black's 1.bxc6. There then follows **2.Na3!** for if 2.bxa3 then 3 Rb8 is checkmate!! Also, it is very important to note that White's first move 1.Qc6 prepares for an eventual **2.Qc1.** which, if allowed, lets White checkmate on the last (3rd) move. There is a possible try at a correct first move for White which is 1.Na3. There follows 1. Rxa3 2. Rb3 mate but this is refuted by 1.bxa3 2.Qxb7 2. Bb3 etc. Your writer was confused because of the discovered & potential double-check by the White Rook on the a or b-files dependent on the Black reply to 1.Qc6. This vertical mating pattern with the bishop on h8 was very hard to grasp since it was very unusual to utilize and comprehend if the h8-bishop was captured. This unique chess problem was composed in 1904 by Valentin M. Llovet and he received a first prize for the composition. Also, this problem is very clever in having the necessary defensive Black moves which really tests our calculating abilities in determining if we have found the correct solution/keymove.

Robert Woodworth  
March, 2019  
Omaha, NE

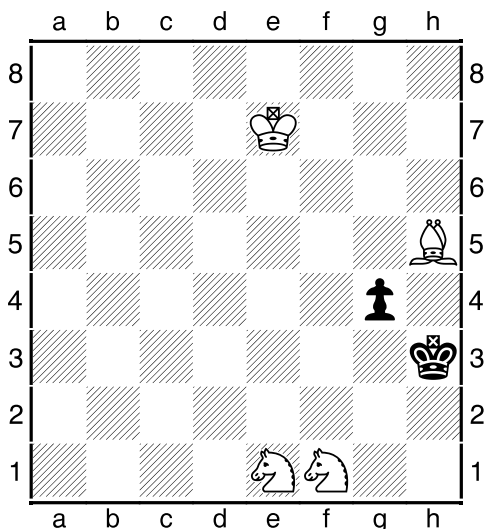
Source: "ChessBase News" for February, 25, 2019.



## Letter from Rauf Aliovsadzade

I recently heard from Rauf Aliovsadzade after an absence of many years. Rauf is a chess composer and an example of his work in given below. It is White to move and mate in six.-Ed

**Solution on page 70.**



White to play and mate in 6 moves.

Dear Kent, sure, attached is the latest issue of 'StrateGems' for you. It is not a newsletter, as a matter of fact. It is a full-scaled magazine on chess composition, and it is very popular in the rest of the world. I don't edit the whole thing, by the way, I am just one of the sub-editors (for the Three-movers section).

I can send you more of my original (not published yet) compositions for '*The Gambit*'. I am sending you also a link for one of latest publication (online Polish publication):

<http://pzszach.pl/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/16-IV-2019-1743-1748-1.pdf>

Good luck with the new issue of '*The Gambit*'!—Rauf.  
Thanks Rauf, it's good to hear from you again!—Ed.

## Steve Cusumano

2017 and **2018 Player of the Year Champion!**



**The results below are not official. The *Gambit* editor takes no responsibility for determining POY prize winners and procuring prizes for the winners. It is up to the NSCA board to “officially” determine the winners—Kent Nelson *Gambit* Editor.**

2018 Player of the Year	
1st place	Steve Cusumano
Runner-up	Kent Nelson
Top “B” Player	Mike Mills
Top Reserve	Sai Kolli
Top Scholastic	Noah Polacek

2017 Player of the Year	
1st place	Steve Cusumano
Runner-up	Ying Tan
Top “B”	Mike Mills
Top Reserve	Could not determine.
Top Scholastic	Could not determine.

## 2018 Player of the Year Final Standings

Player	Corn 5	LCC 4	OCC 4	MWO 5	GPO 5	TOTAL
Cusumano, Steven	3.5	3	3	3	3	15.5
Nelson, Kent	3	3	2.5	3	3	14.5
Linscott, John	3	3.5		3.5	3	13
Hartmann, John	3.5	3	2	3.5		12
Tan, Ying	3.5	3		3	2	11.5
Buckley, Matt		2.5	3	2.5	2	10
Fabrikant, Ben			3	3	4	10
Belashchenko, Kiril	3.5	2			3	8.5
Polacek, Noah		2.5	3		3	8.5
Knapp, Joseph				4.5	4	8.5
Kolli, Sai		2	2.5	1	2	7.5
Mills, Michael			2	2.5	3	7.5
Forsman, Chad			3	3		6
Tichacek, Jerome	2			3	1	6
Slominski, Jerry			2.5	3		5.5
Caplan, Eylon		1	2	2		5
Wagner, Jacob			4			4
Reeves, Neil	3.5					3.5
Koeppel, Ian	3.5					3.5
And several others players that space doesn't allow to document.						

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

## Interview with Ying Tan



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

**I was born in early 80s in Chengdu, China. It's the biggest major city in south west of China, famously known as the “hometown of panda”. I am the only child in my family, and I have master degree in Computer Science. I currently work as the lead developer for a small tech-company.**

KN—Ying, who taught you chess? What age did you learn? Other hobbies besides chess?

**I started to play chess when I was 7 at a local chess school back in Chengdu. My first chess teacher is a local chess club teacher. There were not many chess tournaments back in the day in my hometown, but I tried to play as much as I can when I was in the elementary school. I played much less when I get into middle school and completely quit playing after high school. Besides chess, I like reading books, travel and movies.**

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

**I can not remember my first tournament back in China. But I do remember the first tournament I participated after I come to US. It was the 2015 Lincoln City Championship, which I decided it was time to get my kids involved in chess and**

maybe it's also the time for me to pick up chess again after 20 years. I came completely not prepared and surprisingly drew all my 4 games against Gregory Revesz, Tony Dutiell, Steven Cusumano and Jerry Slominski. After that, I got my first preliminary USCF rating of 1815. BTW, one fun fact is China does not have rated chess tournament until around 2009, so even though I played quite a few chess in my childhood, I don't have any ratings. So before this tournament, I have no idea what my playing strength was and how strong were the local players, and very curious to find it out. Luckily, Nebraska has very strong local players and my chess strength was close to them.

KN—Ying, 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 tournaments are 2017-2018 state closed championship tournaments, which I won and defend the state champion title. I have more “worse” tournaments for sure. I think I am a positional player, or say I like positional play to be more accurate. I generally like all stages of the game, but probably prefer middlegames and endgame more as it's just playing the chess game. I prefer longer time control, the longer the better, for example, 90 minutes plus 30 seconds increments, then a 2nd time control when reach move 40 -- even though we usually don't have many tournaments here take this time control. :)**

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

**I have many games I am satisfied that I in general did not make big mistakes and made good decisions over the board, if those games happens to face strong opponents and I ended up winning, that's even better! I do hate the times when I made silly mistakes / blunders and lose a good game in the end. That being said, all the games I won over a National Master I think they have their places in my best games collection. And my first ever won over a National Master was facing the Iowa**

**NM Tim Entee in 2017 Great Plains Open. My favorite local player is Joseph Knapp, which I think he has great insight over complex positions and great calculations too. Internationally, I like Chinese player Liren Ding and French player MVL a lot. For chess books, I like Bobby Fisher's My 60 Memorable Games.**

KN—Ying, who is the most difficult local player for you to face over the board? **My most difficult local player is our beloved editor Kent Nelson. Believed or not, I have won almost every other local players in Nebraska except Kent. And I still get a minus score against him.** Note-Ying beat me at the recent Nebraska state closed championship on April 4/6/19.-Ed

KN—Ying, why do you play chess? And what are your chess goals?

**Chess is simple enough for anyone to learn quickly and take a lifetime to master it. I like chess in both the simplicity and complexity combined perfectly together. Needless to say, you can also have lifetime friends playing and improving chess with you. My current goal is to become a National Master.**

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

**I do think playing speed chess would help improving your chess skills. Playing speed chess on the Internet is definitely one of the many ways to improve chess, and I do recommend everyone to give it a try. I can definitely see it's not for everyone, so you have to try it out and see if this fits you or not.**

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

**Thank you for giving this interview, Kent! I always admire all your work and contribution to Nebraska Chess community. Keep the good ones coming!**

Thank you Ying!-Kent Nelson

# **You Never, Ever Stop Learning in this Amazing Game!!**

by

**Robert Woodworth**

Your writer will be 80 years young in another year or so. I have been playing this game of chess from about the age of 13. I'm always reading, writing or playing the game nearly everyday in my retired life. What is very, very true is that I'm constantly realizing that I will always be learning something new about this game. It seems that the longer I live the more I realize how little I actually knew about the game itself!! Hard to believe, but very true!

Below I've listed some of my newer chess realizations.

Maybe the reader of this article will find something here of interest which they can then add to their chess knowledge.

The first three items concern the en passant move. The rule states that if the capture can be legally made, it must be done immediately or else the move is never possible between those 2 pawns that are involved. Why is this?

It is because if the en passant move is not accomplished, a piece for the opposing side could possibly move onto the square immediately behind the pawn (that just made its initial move of 2 squares) and then with the en passant capture + the normal piece capture, TWO chessmen could be captured at the same time in a single move!! (Too crazy of a situation to actually be allowed.)

Secondly, in regards to the 3-move repetition of the same position with the same side on the move each time, the en passant capture possibility will cause a unique 'twist' to the 'drawn game' outcome rule. If it occurs as the 1st move in the series leading to a possible claim of a draw due to a 3-fold repetition, the position must then be repeated a 4th time since it was illegal for the en passant to be accomplished on the 2nd repeat of the position!! Even some chess masters are not aware of this rule! Thirdly, the en passant move is the only case where the captured chessman is not replaced on the square on which it resides!

Next, I had my style of play analyzed by a very strong,

master-quality player and I realized that I was a RE-ACTIVE-TYPE chess player versus a PRO-ACTIVE chess player. I preferred to wait (even with the White pieces) to see what my opponent would play. Counter play with little risk & solid play was my style. Practical, calculated risks are necessary to win games!!

Also, I always assumed that my opponent would play the 'best move' in a given position and not realizing that I should actually give him a position where he could easily go wrong. A good case of this is where MULTIPLE CAPTURES are possible. Multiple threats (or the possibility thereof) also can be confusing. Also, when the time-limit (or 40 moves) are finally reached, there is a good chance for a major error by one or both chess players.

In regards as to how the rules of chess are to be applied, I didn't realize that for many years it was assumed that the newly promoted piece would have 'take on' the same color as the promoted pawn itself. A few years ago, this oversight in the rules was corrected. Also, in the move of 'castling', sometimes the rules omit the fact that the King must move first and horizontally along the same rank that the Rook occupies.

In regards to the intended movement of the KNIGHT (which is one of the few chess pieces to never have its move altered historically), I learned that it isn't really an 'L-shaped' move but actually a 1-square Rook move followed by a 1-square Bishop move & away from the starting square. This was the original intention of the creators for this unique chess piece.

When one compares the 3 major, historical board games, the game of chess is the most balanced overall. The game of CHECKERS (or DRAUGHTS) is primarily tactical in nature. The ancient game of GO is positional in the way it is played while the game of chess is a perfect blend of both the positional and the tactical. It is also interesting that the use of 'computer play' in these 3 games has had the least effect on the game of chess. The chess 'solving algorithms' aren't quite as strong vs. those in the 8x8 checkers and the game of GO. The 8x8 checkers game has been 'solved', so now it is played on a 10x10 board. However, the play of computers is far stronger than the best human chess players. (Your writer never, ever expected computers to be this powerful in play!)



So, in conclusion for all the readers of this article, just remember a final tidbit of chess knowledge that it took your writer a lifetime to realize and completely appreciate and that is ALL PAWN MOVES IN A GAME ARE FOREVER!!! ( There is no way to 'undo' them as one can with the other chess pieces.)

Robert Woodworth

March, 2019

Omaha, NE

**Here is some bio information about Robert Woodworth that I requested from him. We owe Bob a lot for his wonderful articles and I thought Gambit readers would like to learn about him as well as from him!-Ed**



**A Game for Life**  
(by Robert Woodworth)

My interest in the game of chess started with the discovery of the game in my parents set of Britannica encyclopedias at the age of 12. A further discovery in the pages of "Boy's Life" (a monthly Boy Scout magazine) of an advertisement to join the U.S. Chess Federation really 'opened the doors' for me 'chesswise'. It was amazing all the many different aspects of the game so I started playing chess by mail. The enjoyment of playing people all over the U.S. became a big part of my life as well as playing in many over-the-board tournaments. Playing 'team chess' in college meant enjoyable trips to several universities as well as meeting many new, interesting people. Also, in college, my first simul playing against former World Champion GM Max Euwe was unforgettable. In what other sport can one play a World Champion? (In 2005 I was also very lucky to play in a simul vs. former World Champion GM Boris Spassky!) In retirement, playing at our local club, doing chess archive work and writing for our Nebraska State Chess Association, collecting chess books and teaching chess to homeschooled children is very rewarding. Discovering the game in those old encyclopedias was such a blessing that I have never, ever regretted!—Robert Woodworth.

## 2018 Tournament Summaries and Results.

1. **The 2017 Midwest Open** was actually held on January 13th and 14th 2018. This 35 player event with a G/90, +30 time control was by chess master, Bob Holliman, with 4.5 points out of 5. Bob's only draw was against your editor, Kent Nelson, who to this day, regrets not playing on for the win. Sho Glashausser (1891) and Ankith Sheshappa (1880) took 2nd and 3rd with a 4-1 score. John Hartmann was the tournament director and this event was held in Omaha.
2. **The January UNO** was a 4 section, 37 player event directed by John Hartmann. The 10 player Open section was won by Steve Cusumano (1939) and Tom Gaul (1925) each with a 3-1 score. In the 4 player, Reserve section, Sanjay Rajjan (1448) won with a perfect 4-0 score. Tyler Richardson (1161) won the under 1200 Section, with a perfect 4-0 result. Ten players were in that section. In the 12 player, under 800 section, Thomas Tisby took top honors with a perfect 5-0 score. He was followed by Caleb Vancura and Kevin Lloyd with 4 points. The tournament took place on 1/20/18.
3. **The Brownell Talbot Spring #1** was a 7 player event that took place over a span from 1/24 to 2/10/18 and was won by Vijay Kumar with 3.5 out of 4 points. Cooper Morris and Connor Combs followed with 3-1 scores. John Hartmann directed.
4. **The 2018 K3, K6, K8 Team** tournament was held in Omaha on 2/10/18 with Michael Gooch as the chief TD. A total of 67 players competed in 3 sections. In the 11 player, K3 section, Kenton McGill and Miles McGill won with a perfect 4-0 score. Vijay Kumar and Francesca Vidal scored a perfect 4-0 to win the 34 player K6 section. There was a 4 way tie in the 22 player K-8 section. Jacey Tran, Alex Simetich, Luke Hellbusch and Corbin Brandl each scored 4 points.
5. **The Brownell Blitz #1** drew 6 players in a 4 round game/5 event that was directed by John Hartmann. Francesca Vidal won with a perfect 4-0 score. Vijay Kumar followed with 3-1, losing only to Vidal.

6. **The Nebraska HS Team** was held on March 4th with Drew Thyden directing a 19 player section. With a time control of game/60 with a 5 second delay, Khoa Ngugen took top honors with a perfect 5-0 score. He was followed by Noah Polacek and Ben Truesdell with 4-1 scores.
7. **The Brownell Talbot Spring #2** had 8 players in 2 sections. In the game/15 section, Connor Combs won with 3 points and in the game/5 section, Vijay Kumar scored 3-0 to win.
8. **The UNO March** was held on March 24th and was directed by Drew Thyden with Mike Gooch assisting in. This event had 4 sections and 41 players. In the 9 player open section, Chad Forsman and Ben Lyons, both “A” players, tied for 1st place with 3-1 scores. In the 10 player, Reserve section, Keith Prosterman and Cole Sater took top honors with 3.5 out of 4 point scores. In the 10 player, under 1200 section, Nicholas Kopetzky and Jacob Haday scored 3.5 out of 4 points to win. In the under 800 section Isabella Tan, Duncan McCollough and Mitt Eischens had 4-1 scores in their 12 player section.
9. **The 2018 Nebraska State Closed Chess Championship** took place Lincoln on April 7th and 8th with Mike Gooch directing. As reported in the previous Gambit issue, Ying Tan repeated as champion with a 4.5-.5 score. He was followed by Matt Buckley and Michael Mills with 2.5 points with Steve Cusamano and John Hartmann earning 2.0 and John Linscott finishing with 1.5 points. Congratulations to Mr. Tan for defending this title.
10. **The April UNO** took place on April 28th and drew 45 players who competed in 5 sections. In the 4 round, 10 player Open section, Gregory Revesz and Steve Cusumano each scored 3-1 to tie for 1st place. In the 9 player Reserve section, Noah Polacek took 1st with a perfect 4-0 score and he was followed by Ken Brewer who finished 2nd with a 3-1 score. In the 11 player, U1200 section, Vijay Kumar took 1st with a 4-0 score and he was followed by Janek DeGuzman and Isabella Tan with 3 points. In the 15 player U800 section, William Anderson and Andrew Yue Lu scored 4 out of 5 points to win. John Hartmann directed.

11. **The BT Blitz** drew 8 players on May 2nd and was divided into 3 sections. In the G/15, Action section, Vijay Kumar won over 6 players. In the 6 player Blitz section, Cillian Rochling score a perfect 3-0 to win. In the Blitz #3 section, Vijay Kumar and Connor Aidan each scored 3-0 to win. John Hartmann directed.
12. **The Unofficial Rapid and Blitz** was held in Omaha on May 5th and drew 12 players in 2 sections. In the 11 player, 4 round Rapid section, Steve Cusumano scored a perfect 4-0 to win. He was followed by Ying Tan with 3 points. In the 10 round, Blitz section, Ying Tan won with 7.5 points and he was followed by Debaditya Dutta with 7 points. The tournament was directed by Steve Cusumano with assistance from Michael Mills.
13. **The Nebraska State Chess Association or (NSCA) Individual** was a 5 section, 39 player event held in Lincoln. In the 6 player K-12 section, Noah Polacek won going away with a perfect 4-0 score. The 7 player K-8 section was won by Jacey Tran and Sanjay Rajjan with 3.5 out of 4 points with a draw in their individual game. K6 section had a 12 player, 5 round format with Janek DeGuzman winning with a perfect 5-0 score. In the K-3 section, Max Carde scored 5-0 to top the 9 player field. In the first ever Senior section (that I'm aware of) Kent Nelson, David Raines and Keith Prosterman tied for 1st place with 2 out of 3 points with Nelson winning on tie breaks. Due to other commitments, Prosterman represented Nebraska in the National Senior Open. Keith's result in the national event is not known. Special thanks to Michael Gooch for directing this busy event.
14. **The Brownell-Talbot Training #1** drew 8 players in 2 sections and was held on June 23rd. In a reference to Star Wars, (I believe) the 2 sections were named Jedis and Padawns. John Hartmann and Michael Mills won the Jedis section with 2 points out of 3 to top the 4 player field. In the 4 player Padawans section, Ben Truesdell won with a perfect 3 points. John Hartmann was the master TD.

15. **The 2018 Cornhusker State Games** was held the weekend of July 21st and 22nd and drew 63 players in 4 sections. In the 23 player Open section, there was a log jam of top finishers with 3.5 points out of 5. Here is a list of the players, not necessarily in tiebreaking order. Ying Tan, Kirill Belashchenko, Steve Cusumano, Neil Reeves, John Hartmann and Ian Koeppe. Your editor finished with a undefeated 3-2 score and a kidney stone condition throughout the tournament as well as the entire month of July! The 20 player, Reserve Section, was won by Doug McFarland 4.5 out of 5 points. He was followed by Larry Harvey and Jacey Tran with 4 points. In the 6 player Junior section, Ben Truesdell, Danny Le and Tomas Tisby finished with a 4-1 score. The 14 player Scholastic Section had Timofei Prakashchuk winning top prize with 4.5 points and Jamie Tran scoring 4 points and Della Ux finishing with 3.5 points. Mike Gooch was the tournament director. Medal winners could be listed on the CSG's web site.
16. **The Riverfront Quad 1** took place on September 8th and drew 4 players. Steve Cusumano won with 2.5 points and Steve also directed.
17. **The Lincoln City Chess Championship** took place on September 9/22 and drew 33 players in 2 sections. The championship section had 15 players and was won by John Linscott with 3.5 out of 4 points, his only draw against editor, Kent Nelson. John also organized this tournament. John's nearest competitors were Ying Tan, Steve Cusumano, John Hartmann and Kent Nelson with 3 points. The 18 player, 4 round RBO section had an unrated player, Matthew Naumann, winning with a perfect 4-0 score. He was followed by Sophie Tan, Isabella Tan, Jamie Tran and Mengdie Hu with 3 points. John Hartmann directed this tournament.
18. **The 2018 Omaha City Championship** was held on October 14th and drew 25 players in 1 section. This event was won by Jacob Wagner with a perfect 4-0 score. Jacob achieved an expert's rating with this result. Congratulations Jacob! 5 players finished with 3 points. This tournament was directed by John Hartmann.

19. **The 2018 Midwest Open** took place on November 10th and 11th and drew 18 players in the open section and 13 players in the U1200 section. The open section was won by Joe Knapp with a hard fought 4.5-.5 score. Joe who had not played in an over the board event for nearly a year, admitted to me he *“was in trouble in all his games”* but Joe being Joe, still found a way to win despite the layoff. Good for you Joe! Lincoln City champion, John Linscott, took clear 2nd with a 3.5 point score. 7 players finished with 3 points. Thomas Tisby, Carson Jackson and Bella XU shared 1st in the 13 player U1200 section. John Hartmann directed this event.
20. **The 2019** (as listed on the USCF tournament web page) **GPO RBO** was actually held on December 8th 2018 and had 32 players participating in 1 section. Mengdie HU won the section with a perfect 5-0 score. 5 players finished with 4 point scores. The players are Michael Hanus, Nicholas Kopetsky, Vijay Kumar, Bella XU and Janek De Guzman. Michael Gooch was the tournament director.
21. **The 2018 Great Plains Open** was held in Lincoln on December 8th and 9th. With John Linscott organizing and Bill Broich directing, this event drew 26 players. When the smoke cleared, Tim Mc Entee, Joe Knapp, Ben Fabrikant and Ankith Sheshappa finished with 4 points out of 5 to claim top honors.
22. **The BT Nov and Dec** took place on November 7th and December 19th and drew 12 players in 2 sections. Vijay Kumar won the game 15 section with 3.5 points and then turned around and won the 9 player Blitz section with a perfect 5.0 score. Good work by Vijay! John Hartmann directed.
23. **The Last Chance Chess for 2018** was held in Omaha and drew 27 players with John Hartmann directing. The Open section was won by Nathan Klatt and Abhinav Suresh each having a 4-1 score. Austin Rogers and Francesca Vidal won the 14 player, U1400 section with a 4-1 score. The 13 player Blitz section had Abhinav Suresh winning outright with a 8 out of 10 points.



## **The Lowly (!) Pawn**

By

Robert Woodworth

This article is about the smallest, weakest, most plainly designed of all the chessmen, the PAWN. They are the most numerous and most underrated with a material equivalent of only one on the 1-9 scale of chess piece values (where the Knight and Bishop equal 3 each, the Rook equal to 5, the Queen equal to 9 and the King having a value of infinity.) In the game of chess they represent the infantry or more particularly armed peasants or pike-men per their Wikipedia definitions.

The meaning of the word 'pawn' is fairly obscure but is derived from the French word 'paon' which comes from the medieval Latin term for 'foot soldier'. The early chess theorist, Philidor, called them "the soul of the game". Your writer, upon researching for this article, also calls them the "heart" of the game and also the most enduring, important and exquisite of all the chessmen!!

In an interesting side-note (per a Wikipedia reference), there was an attempt to give each pawn the name of a commoner's occupation many, many years ago. Thusly, from the White queen's rook file on the left to the king's rook file, the names for each pawn were: Gambler/messenger, City guard/policeman, Innkeeper, Doctor (always the queen's pawn), Merchant/money changer (the king's pawn), Weaver/clerk, Blacksmith (in front of the knight) & Worker/farmer (rook's pawn). Today we use the algebraic description by giving each pawn the letter/name of the file upon which it stands i.e. a-pawn, c-pawn, h-pawn etc.

In a single game the pawns are the only chessmen that can never return 'home' to their starting squares plus they have the most complex movements of all the chessmen. They can only move forward 1 square (2 square option if it is their initial move) and capture differently by moving only 1 square forward diagonally. They also are involved in 2 of the 3 most special, unique moves in chess. These are pawn promotions, and the en-passant captures (which are the most difficult for beginning players to understand) but are not in the movement called 'castling'. Pawns also do more

than their fair share of “dirty work” on the chessboard. They are required to protect key squares and files, protect the priceless king and endure the trauma of battle assaults/tactics-hopefully until the end of the game! Pawns have such an overall impact on the game that there are a countless number of chess terms that apply to their types, names and structures. Most of these are listed below and lightly defined therein. They are:

ISOLATED PAWNS (Pawns situated without any friendly pawns on an adjacent file)

DOUBLED PAWNS (two friendly pawns located on the same file)

TRIPLED PAWNS (3 pawns on the same file or quadrupled with 4 on the same file)

BACKWARD PAWNS (not capable of having immediate, direct pawn protection)

PASSED PAWN (no enemy pawns capable of blocking or capturing the pawn)

FREE PAWN (same as a passed pawn, see above)

HANGING PAWNS (abreast on 2 adjacent center files w/o any pawn protection)

MAROCZY-BIND PAWNS (White pawns on c4 and e4 with the ‘bind’ on d5)

CENTRE PAWNS (the king’s and queen’s pawns on the e & d-files)

SMALL PAWN CENTRE (no ctr. pawns beyond the 3rd rank White, 6th rank for Black)

BROAD PAWN CENTRE (3 or 4 pawns abreast on adjacent files)

FORWARD PAWN (a pawn at the very front of a pawn chain)

BASE PAWN (the last pawn in a chain and is the weakest link in the chain)

POISONED PAWNS (having indirect protection usually from a queen’s attack)

GAMBIT PAWNS (sacrificed pawns usually in the opening phase of a game)

ADVANCED PAWNS (usually located on the last 2 ranks for each side before queening sq.)



CONNECTED PAWNS (two or more pawns of same color on adjacent files)

UNITED PAWNS (same as CONNECTED PAWNS, see above)

CAPTURED PAWNS (dead ‘troops’ that gave their lives in the chess battle)

BLOCKED PAWNS (pawns ‘paralyzed’ and unable to move forward)

PINNED PAWN (a pawn incapable of movement-see above BLOCKED PAWNS)

FIXED PAWN STRUCTURES (pawn setups where there is little or no mobility)

FLUID PAWN STRUCTURES (structures where future pawn movement is likely)

PROMOTED PAWNS (survivors and victorious with honors in a chess battle)

UNDER-PROMOTED PAWNS (pawns promoted to other than a queen)

WEAK PAWNS (usually with no pawn protection and in need of piece protection)

‘TALL’ PAWN (term for a bishop that is completely blocked and immobilized)

MARKED PAWN (sometimes denoted with a ‘ring’ over the top. It is used in the ultimate handicapped game where this pawn must deliver mate.)

CAPPED PAWN (see MARKED PAWN above)

CEREMONIAL PAWN (1st move made by a 3rd party to start an import match)

HALF-PASSED PAWN (a pawn on a half-open file but not entirely a passed pawn.

PROTECTED PASSED PAWN (a passed pawn protected by another friendly pawn)

OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN (a passed pawn on the flank far from any other pawns)

REMOTE PASSED PAWN (an advanced, outside passed pawn usually on a rook file)

CHECKMATING PAWN (a pawn delivering a checkmate to the opposing king)

ALPHABET PAWNS (algebraic designated pawns i.e. a-pawn, b-pawn, c-pawn etc.)

DESCRIPTIVE PAWNS (descriptive notation for pawns i.e. QRP, QNP, KP, QP, KBP etc.)

COLOR-CHOICE PAWN (1 White & 1 Black pawn to be chosen randomly for colors)

Also, there are many unique and descriptive terms which define pawn formations, pawn movements and activities.

They are:

PAWN CHAIN (a diagonal string of like pawns protecting one another)

PAWN WEDGE (two connecting pawn chains at a common, advanced point)

PAWN ISLAND (a smaller, separated, distinct grouping of pawns)

PAWN DUO (two connected pawns on adjacent files. See ‘hanging pawns’)

PAWN MAJORITY (having a greater no. of pawns on one side of the chessboard)

PAWN PUSH (a pawn advancing into battle)

PAWN AVALANCHE (3 or 4 pawns abreast in endgame & completely free to move. See PAWN SYMPHONY)

PAWN BREAK (pawn movement to attack an enemy formation as a freeing move)

PAWN CONTROLS (pawns having the greatest influence on the center squares)

PAWN OUTPOST (square safe in enemy position from pawns & guarded by friendly pawn)

PAWN RACE (pawns for each side simultaneously racing to the queening square)

PAWN MATE (pawn checkmating a king and called ‘shame’ mate in olden days)

PAWN LEVERS (two opposing pawns each capable of capturing one another)

PAWN CONTACT (another term for PAWN LEVERS)

PAWN STRUCTURE (the configuration of all pawns for each side)

PAWN FORMATION (same as PAWN STRUCTURE)

PAWN SKELETON (usually the pawn configuration for either White or else Black)

PAWN FORK (a pawn simultaneously attacking 2 chess pieces)

PAWN PASSER (movement of a pawn to become a passed pawn)

PAWN ROLLER (two pawns together moving up the board by gaining tempos)

PAWN PHALANX (two or more pawns of same color situated on the same rank)

PAWN STORM (grouping of pawns on adjacent files attacking the opposing king)

PAWN GRAB (the act of capturing a defenseless pawn. See poisoned pawns)

PAWN SNATCHING (capturing pawns at the expense of one's position)

PAWN ADVANCE (same as PAWN PUSH)

PAWN SAC (the sacrifice of a pawn to gain an objective or the initiative)

PAWN 'SQUARED' (endgame geometric calc. to catch a passed pawn with a King)

PAWN QUADRANT (see PAWN 'SQUARED'-marking area to catch a passed pawn)

PAWN OUTPOST (a square no pawns can attack but is defended by a pawn)

PAWN 'LUFT' MOVE (giving a castled king an escape square)

PAWN UNDOUBLING (a pawn capture move whereby 2 pawns are un-doubled)

PAWN 'FINACHETTO' MOVE (letting a bishop access the longest diagonal)

PAWN PROTECTION (pawns protecting a King or a key piece or square)

PAWN CENTRE (pawns based in the center of board primarily on d4, e4, d5, e5)

PAWN BARRIER (pawns directly protecting the king from attack)

PAWN MOBILITY (pawns having freedom of movement vs. being blocked)

PAWN SURVIVORS (pawns still on the chessboard. See PAWN COUNT)

PAWN INTERERENCE (moving a pawn such to interfere with piece activity)

PAWN WEAKNESS (a pawn that is on an unprotected or backward square)

PAWN TRADE (an equal exchange of two pawns of opposite color)

PAWN 'HOOK' (a pawn advancement that can be exploited to create open lines)

PAWN ROOK 'LIFT' (advancing rook-pawn to develop a rook via the a-file or h-file)

PAWN MASS (a large grouping of pawns on only 2 or 3 files with some doubled.)

PAWN UMBRELLA (a pawn shielding his king from annoying checks.)

PAWN ENDINGS (endings with only kings and pawns still on the chessboard)

PAWN PROMOTION (the act of promoting a pawn Q,N, R or B)

PAWN COUNT (the exact number of pawns for each side still on the chessboard)

PAWN & MOVE (handicapped game by removing the f7 pawn and playing Black with White making first move.

PAWN & 2 MOVES (handicapped game by removing the f7 pawn and playing Black with White commencing with first 2 moves versus 1)

PAWN SYMPHONY (3 connected, healthy pawns free to advance to the 'queening squares)

In all of chess literature there have been very few chess books solely devoted to the element of pawns, their play and structures within the game itself. Keeping in mind the above descriptions etc., there was one unique book published in 1959 entitled "Pawn Power in Chess" by Hans Kmoch and published by the David McKay Company, Inc. This book was the first to explain the chess strategies based on the details of pawn play itself. He devised terms to describe the fundamental elements of pawn play and their formations

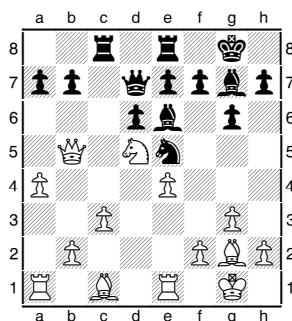
which he called ‘the ram’, the ‘stop’, ‘lever’, ‘siege’, ‘trio and quart’, the ‘sealer and the sweeper’ etc. He explained that the proper use of pawns is of paramount importance in chess strategy which even experienced players can be puzzled by! Today, we don’t use such esoteric, descriptive terms for pawns but we still follow the basic principles of proper pawn play and strategic planning in our games as described in Kmoch’s ground breaking book.

Currently, there is a very outstanding book by GM Sam Shankland entitled “Small Steps to Giant Improvement” with the subtitle “Master Pawn Play in Chess”. He states that “pawn moves are forever”. On the back cover he reminds us “In chess you cannot take a pawn move back but you can always return a misplaced piece to its former square. Pawn moves in chess are truly permanent decisions. They are among the most difficult aspects of chess strategies. That is one reason few books have been written about pawn play!”

About 50 high-lighted guidelines are sprinkled throughout the book. Some examples are: Can my opponent exploit the squares I weaken with a pawn push? If I advance a pawn beyond my 4th rank, will it be safe? It is really amazing how a position can massively change with just one, single, bad pawn move!

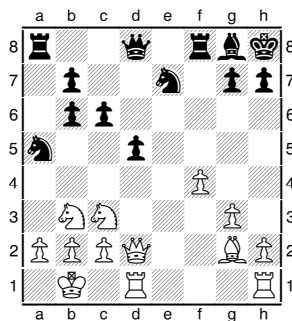
Shankland’s book is divided into 4 main sections with Part I: Pawns Can’t Move Backwards, Part II: Compelling Enemy Pawns Forward, Part III: Pawns Seldom Move Sideways and Part IV: Compelling Enemy Pawns Sideways (captures).

He also mentions that winning concepts in the endgame nearly always involves the strategies of promoting a pawn. This is most certainly true in decisive games between elite players. It was really instructive to assimilate how the decisions being made regarding pawn moves actually determines the correct and most practical line of play during a game! (This was a real ‘eye opener’ for your writer.) Below are two examples illustrating some pawn strategy concepts from the book: The 1st is from a game S. Tiviakov vs. O. R. Sanchez. (See diagram on the next page.)



It is Tiviakov's move as White and he cleverly played 16. Bg5. He is compelling Black to advance his f-pawn with 16. f7-f6. White is enticing Black to play this weakening pawn move which Black indeed played! If White had played the aggressive 16.f4 instead, Black would not have been put in the situation of making a poor move which would have weakened his position!

In this 2nd example here Black does not need to be concerned with his doubled b-pawn for it is free to advance thereby being protected by a neighboring pawn. This is an application of a Shankland guideline which states: "If making doubled pawns results in a structure where the further-advanced doubled pawn cannot be defended by another pawn, be wary about doubling the pawns."



As mentioned above, there are very, very few chess books dealing with all of the many aspects of pawn play in relation to how one

chooses the best strategies and piece configurations in every position. Shankland's book is extremely instructive in this regard!

Another very good book concerning pawn play is GM Dragan Barlov's entitled "PAWNS, TIME AND SPACE IN MODERN CHESS". He states that "It is very important to know how to use the pawns and their characteristics, which are quite numerous: they can support the pieces, they can be active in attack and they can limit the opponent's pieces. It is incredible that such a weak foot soldier can complete so many tasks, but the strength of the pawn lies in its ability to 'hang around' with its seven brothers. "United and well-structured pawns are a very powerful weapon." Also, "every pawn move forms future weaknesses that need to be controlled during a game. It is not a coincidence that the perfect set-up of the pawns is their starting position, because they control all the squares in their vicinity without any problems."

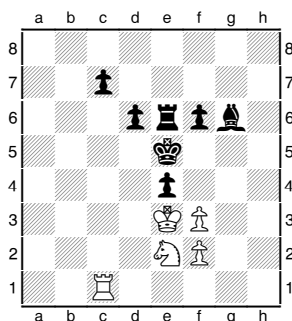
GM Barlov also states Philidor's principle "that the pawn configuration is a very important factor in a game of chess, fundamentally changed the game and gave it its main strategic characteristic. A future plan can easily be constructed when the pawn structure is taken into account." (Note: weak squares where a piece can infiltrate, creating more space with pawn moves, evaluating king safety and resolving pawn wing-majorities to enter the endgame phase etc. etc.)

Some chapter hi-lights from this book are PAWN CHAINS and their role in acquiring space, their weaknesses and dynamic possibilities, Secondly, TYPICAL PAWN STRUCTURES and types of pawn configurations. Thirdly, TIME AND SPACE which is concerned with the types of positions in a game that are not forced and those that are forced. Also, SPACE itself and the importance of the central squares, of development & material advantage and the spatial advantage of a passed pawn.

Finally, now at the end of this article your writer decided to finish on a lighter more entertaining note as apposed to the heavier theory of pawn play and the planning and creation of game strategies.

Here is a composed study by Irving Chernev from his book "Chessboard Magic." Before the solution is shown, try to pick out the actual pawn that administers the final checkmate. This

composition really shows the supposedly 'lowly pawn' in all of its deserved glory!!



SOLUTION: 1.f4+ 1.Kd5 (else 1.Kf5 and 2.Nd4+ wins the rook) 2.f5 2.Bxf5 3.Nf4+ 3.Ke5 4.Rd1 (threatening mate of d5) 4.c6 5.Rd5+ 5.cxd5 6.Nd3+ 6.exd3 7.f4 checkmate!!

In conclusion, we started this article with a list of all the chess terms that relate in any way to the pawns, their movement and their structures in a chess game. Just the large, total number of pawn references makes one realize that the term 'lowly pawn' is really just a chessic oxymoron!?! This relatively long list of terms and phrases relating to only the pawns far exceeds all of the chess terms relating to all of the other chess pieces i.e. doubled rooks, a rook 'lift', opposite colored bishops, a knight on the 'rim', a centralized queen etc. The fact that the longer list relating to pawns really shows the greater impact and importance that pawns have on a game of chess!

In the book entitled "Keene On Chess", published by Cardoza Publishing in 1999, on page #25 there is a quote: "Pawns add a much needed strategic element to what would otherwise be an almost purely tactical game. You can build your whole game around pawns. Indeed, many more chess games are won through exploiting weaknesses in the enemy pawn structure than through direct attacks against the opposing king".

A world famous grandmaster once remarked "that the longer he plays chess, the more that he realizes the value of the pawns".



(My own personal thought that I realized when researching this article was “BECAUSE PAWNS EXIST, THEREFORE, THIS UNIQUE GAME OF CHESS EXISTS!”).

So, when you set up the chessmen in your next game, take a good, hard look at the pawns and realized that they are more than the ‘soul of the game’, they are in fact, the ‘true heart’ and ‘actual backbone’ of this wonderful game we play!

Bob Woodworth  
April, 2019  
Omaha, NE

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## Trifecta!

### Ying Tan powers his way to his 3rd consecutive State Closed Championship!

by  
Kent Nelson

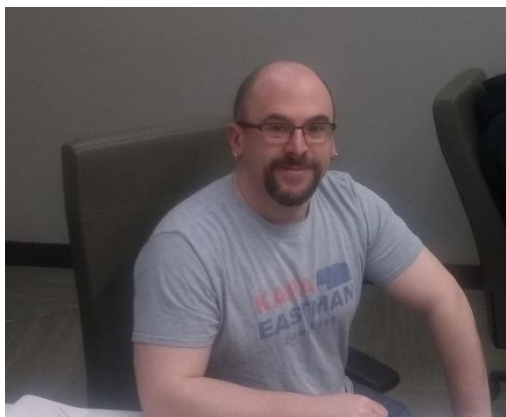


**Ying Tan** (pictured above) defended his state championship title for the 3rd consecutive year by earning a very hard fought victory with a 4.5 out of 5 point score.

It wasn't easy for Ying, despite the run away score. Ying played all five games, yielding only a draw to Nebraska Player of the Year champion, Steve Cusumano, in a brutal, marathon game. Ying also overcome a controversy about playing colors that was clearly upsetting to him prior to playing John Hartmann in the last round. More on this controversy, along with details of a major controversy involving tournament participant, Matt Buckley, later in the story.

First, here is some details about the tournament. The event was held in Lincoln, the weekend of April 6th and 7th 2019 at John Linscott's business offices. The tournament participants included the 2 time defending state chess champion, Ying Tan, along with 2017 and 2018 Player of the Year champion, Steve Cusumano. John Linscott, the tournament's wonderful host and the 2017 and 2018 Lincoln City champion played hard despite a terrible cold that plagued him the entire tournament. NSCA President, John Hartmann, along with *Gambit* editor, Kent Nelson and Matt Buckley rounded out the field. The tournament was directed by Michael Mills, who was dealt a very tough assignment.

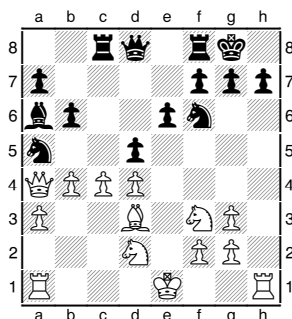
## The 1st round games



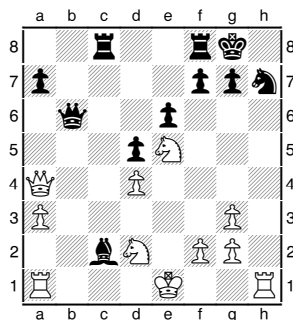
My game against John Hartmann (above) turned out to be my only true win in the entire tournament. Prior to playing John, I had the most anxiety about facing him over anyone else in the field. After some early success against John, he has steadily improved to the point that I considered drawing him with our last few games a fortunate outcome. Would this event result in John's first victory over me? Lucky for me, John was distracted for various reasons and his game suffered from lack of focus.

2019 Nebraska State Championship: John Hartmann vs. Kent Nelson

**1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bg3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.Nbd2 Ba6 8.c4 c5 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.a3 cxd4 11.exd4 Rc8 12.Qa4 Bxg3 13.hxg3 Na5 14.b4?** Please see the diagram below.



**Bxc4 15.Bxh7+ Nxh7 16.bxa5 Bd3 17.axb6? Qxb6 18.Ne5 Bc2**

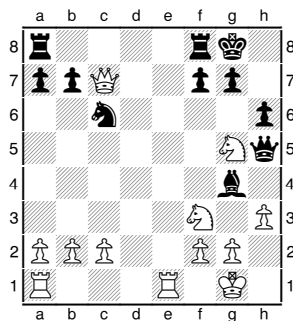


**19.Qd7?? (After Qb4 it's still a hard game) Qxd4 0-1**

The Cusumano vs. Linscott game was amazing. It was a spectator's delight and a fun game to submit to computer engines. If the notation was correct, Steve may have missed a mate in five with 27. Qd1+ instead of 27. g4+. No matter, John resigned after 27. g4+.

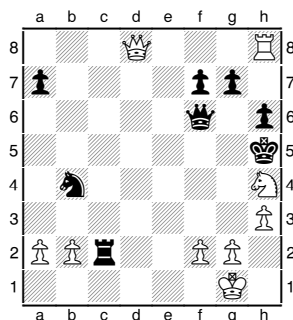
**2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship:  
Steve Cusumano vs. John Linscott**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5  
7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qh5 9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Nxe7  
12.Qxd4 0-0 13.Neg5 Nc6 14.Qf4 Bg4 15.Qxc7 h6 16.h3!**



Position after 16. h3!

**Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Rfc8 18.Qxb7 Rab8 19.Qd7 Nb4 20.Re5 Qg6  
21.Rae1 Rxc2 22.Re8+ Rxe8 23.Rxe8+ Kh7 24.Qd8 Qf6  
25.Rh8+ Kg6 26.Nh4+ Kh5** Please see the diagram on the next page..

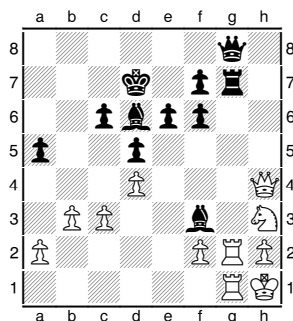


**27.g4+ 1-0**

The Matt Buckley vs. Ying Tan was a hard fought game with Tan winning with killer B's and deadly pins.

### **2019 Nebraska State Championship: Matt Buckley vs. Ying Tan**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.c3 e6 7.Nd2 Qb6 8.Qe2 cxd4 9.exd4 a6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Ndf3 a5 12.Qc2 Ba6 13.Ne2 Rb8 14.Rb1 Qb5 15.b3 Ba3 16.Rd1 Bd6 17.Rd2 h5 18.0-0 h4 19.Re1 Ke7 20.Kh1 Rbg8 21.Neg1 Kd7 22.Nh3 Rg4 23.Rdd1 Rhg8 24.Qh7 R8g7 25.Qh5 Rxg2 26.Qxh4 Qb8 27.Rg1 Be2 28.Rxg2 Bxf3 29.Rdg1 Qg8** White Resigns, diagram below.



The above game turned out to be quite pivotal. For the second year in a row, after losing to Ying Tan, Matt Buckley withdrew from the state closed championship! I for one, witnessed Matt gathering his chess equipment and leave the premises without saying a word. Being an eternal optimist, I

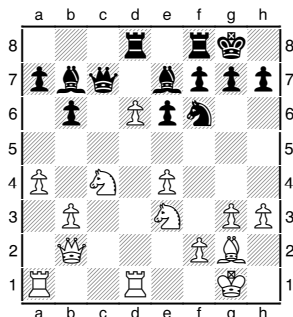
figured Matt just plugged out for a quick bite and would return to play yours truly but others correctly predicted he was gone for good. This was confirmed when either John Hartmann or Mike Mills or both, received an email or text message from Buckley saying he withdrew due to “unforeseen circumstances”. Due to this critical development, it created changes in terms of the tournament format and color assignments. Mike Mills, the TD, consulted the USCF rule book and restructured the tournament in accordance with the rules. All tournament changes were communicated to all players with one major exception. More details on this later. . .

### **2019 Nebraska State Championship: Kent Nelson vs. M Buckley** **Round 2**

Time forfeit win for Nelson

### **2019 Nebraska State Championship: Ying Tan vs. John Linscott**

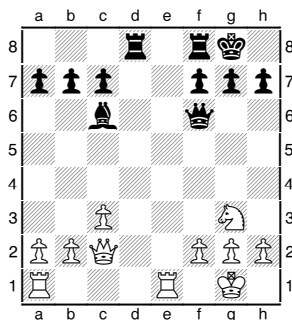
**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.a4 c5 6.Na3 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Be7 8.d3 0–0 9.0–0 Nd5 10.e4 Nb4 11.Qe2 b6 12.Rd1 Ba6 13.Bf4 Nf6 14.b3 Nc6 15.Qb2 Nd4 16.Be3 Ng4 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.h3 Nf6 19.Nxd4 Bc5 20.Nc2 Qc7 21.d4 Be7 22.N2e3 Bb7 23.d5 Rad8 24.d6** Diagram below.



This move ends the game. Black soon resigned.

### **2019 Nebraska State Championship: Cusumano vs. Hartmann**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.0–0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qd7 9.Nxe4 Be7 10.Bg5 0–0 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Nxd4 Bd7 13.Ng3 Qf6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.c3 Rad8 16.Qc2** Drawn  
Please see the diagram on the next page.



Final Position-Drawn  
**Round 3**

### 2019 Nebraska State Championship:

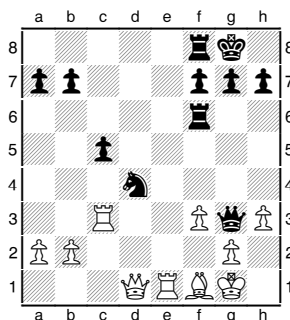
Bye win for Cusumano

Entering my game against Ying, I felt very confident. I enjoyed a undefeated plus score against Ying in 4 previous games with 3 wins and 1 draw. With that said, however, I knew Ying was a monster in state championship play and straight away, I was unsettled when he replied to my e4 with e5. I expected the Sicilian and his e5 move shot down hours of preparation. This surprise, along with forgetting the main line in the Italian game led to a dismal opening position for me and being a pawn down to boot! Still, I felt I was in the game until my major blunder on White's 25th move. Toward the end of the game, I played some spite checks which would have saved the game except for White's queenside pawns. You'll see what I mean if you play over the closing moves. Congratulations to Ying for his resounding victory over me. After Saturday's games, he was 3-0 and well on his way to another championship!

### 2019 Nebraska State Championship: Kent Nelson vs. Ying Tan

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+  
7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bb3 Bg4  
12.Nc4 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nxd4 14.Qd1 c5 15.Re1 Qf6 16.Ne5 Rad8

17.Bc4 Nf4 18.Qa4 Nfe2+ 19.Bxe2 Qxe5 20.Bf1 Qf4 21.Qd1 Rd6  
22.Rc1 Rh6 23.h3 Rf6 24.f3 Qg3 25.Rc3?? Diagram below.

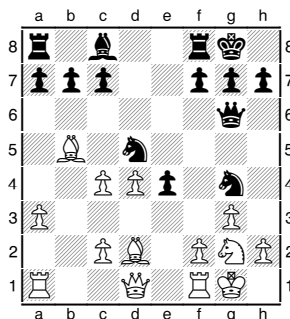


(Wrong rook, Re3 holds) Nxf3+ 26.Rxf3 Rxf3 27.Qxf3 Qxe1  
28.Qxb7 h5 29.Qxa7 Qe3+ 30.Kh2 h4 31.Qa6 Re8 32.Qc4 Qf2  
33.Qb5 Re1 34.Qb8+ Kh7 35.Bd3+ g6 36.Bxg6+ fxg6 37.Qc7+  
Kh6 0-1

### 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship:

John Linscott vs. John Hartmann

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.a3 Bxc3+  
7.bxc3 0-0 8.0-0 Ne7 9.Nh4 d5 10.exd5 Nexd5 11.Bd2 e4 12.g3  
Qd6 13.d4 Ng4 14.Ng2 Qg6 15.c4 Diagram below.

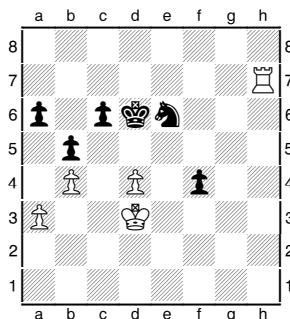


Position after 15.c4

Qh5 16.h4 Ndf6 17.Bb4 Qf5 18.f3 exf3 19.Rxf3 Qe4 20.Bxf8 c6  
21.Ba4 Be6 22.Qd3 Rxf8 23.Bb3 Rd8 24.Rd1 h6 25.Qxe4 Nxe4  
26.c5 Bxb3 27.cxb3 Nxc5 28.b4 Ne6 29.Rfd3 Nf6 30.Ne3 Nc7  
31.Kg2 Kf8 32.Kf3 a6 33.g4 Nfd5 34.Nxd5 Nxd5 35.h5 Rd6  
36.Re1 Rf6+ 37.Kg3 Rd6 38.Rf3 [38.Kf3 Nf6] 38...Nf6 39.Rd3  
Nd5 40.Re5 Rd8 41.g5 hxg5 42.Rxg5 Nf6 43.Re5 Nd5 44.Rf5  
Rd6 45.Kf2 g6 46.hxg6 Rxg6 47.Rdf3 f6 48.Rh5 Rg4 49.Rh7  
Rg7 50.Rxg7 Kxg7 51.Ke2 Kf7 52.Kd2 Ke7 53.Rh3 Kd6 54.Rh7



b6 55.Ra7 Nc7 56.Kd3 f5 57.Rb7 b5 58.Rb8 Kd5 59.Rf8 Ke6  
60.Rc8 Kd6 61.Rh8 Ne6 62.Rh6 Kd5 63.Rh7 Kd6 64.Ke2 Nf4+  
65.Kd2 Ne6 66.Kc3 f4 67.Kd3 Diagram below.



**Kd5?? 68.Ra7? f3? 69.Rd7# mate 1-0**  
Time pressure was a big factor in this game-Ed

#### Round 4

**2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship:**  
Bye win for Hartmann



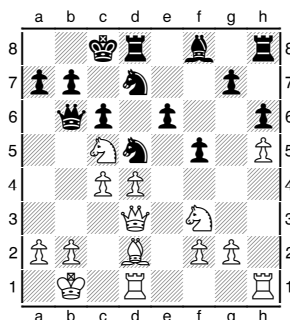
#### 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship

##### John Linscott vs. Kent Nelson

John Linscott (pictured above) and I have a long history of playing against each other, dating back to the early to mid nineties. After some early success against John, he rapidly improved into the strong player he is now. John was very hard to prepare for because he knows my pet lines so well. So, my selection of the Caro-Kann defense was literally a spur of the

moment decision. During the tournament, John was sick with a cold and I seriously considered forfeiting to him to avoid catching one myself. But I decided to play against John hoping the game would be short and germ free. I was concerned about getting into a long “grinding game” which John excels in, but as it turned out, the game was short and ended up a draw. But best of all, I didn't come down with a cold afterwards!

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bf4 e6 12.0–0–0 Qa5 13.Kb1 Nd5 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Ne4 0–0–0 16.c4 f5? 17.Nc5!**



**Bxc5 18.cxd5 Be7 19.dxe6 (I was more worried about d:c) Nf6 20.Qxf5 Rd5 21.Qc2 Nxe5 22.g4 Nf6 23.g5 Ng4 24.gxe6 Nxe6 25.Bxe6 Rxe6 26.Rxe6 gxe6 27.Rg1 Rd8 28.Rg7 Qb5 29.Rxe7** Draw. (Black plays 29. . Q-f1+ 30. Qc1. . Q-d3+ followed by 31. . Q:f3 and it's a hard game, especially in time pressure).

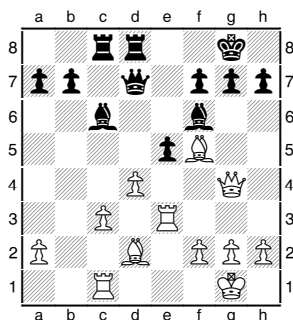
## 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship. Rd 4.

The following game between these two champions was amazing and one of the most hard fought, interesting games I've ever witnessed. As *Gambit* editor, I hope to sit down with these gladiators and get their input and insights about this game and re-publish with detailed annotations from them. For now, I will insert diagrams to illustrate key moments in the game.

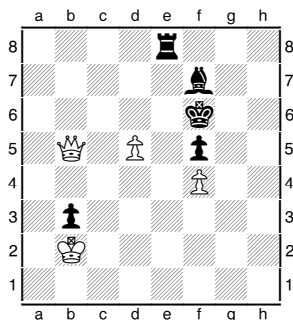
### Ying Tan vs. Steve Cusumano

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nd7 12.Re1 Nxe5**

13.Rxe5 Bf6 14.Re1 Qc7 15.Qe2 Bd7 16.Bd2 Rac8 17.Bd3 Bc6  
18.Rac1 Rfd8 19.Qg4 Qd7 20.Re3 e5 21.Bf5 Diagram below.

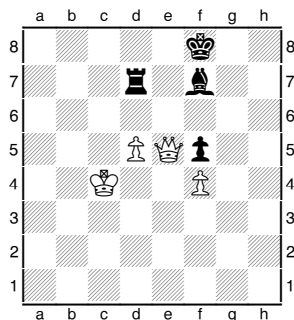


exd4!! (It took guts to play a move like this!!) 22.Bxd7 Bxd7 23.Qe2  
dxe3 24.Qxe3 Bc6 25.h3 Re8 26.Qxa7 Ra8 27.Qc5 Rxa2 28.Be3 Be7  
29.Qc4 Raa8 30.Bd4 Bf8 31.Rb1 Rac8 32.Qa2 Ra8 33.Qd2 Rad8  
34.Qg5 Rd6 35.f3 Rg6 36.Qf5 Rge6 37.Rb2 Rg6 38.h4 Rge6 39.Kf2  
g6 40.Qf4 Bg7 41.h5 gxh5 42.Qg5 Rg6 43.Qxh5 h6 44.Qf5 Rd8  
45.Rd2 Rgd6 46.Qg4 Rg6 47.Qf4 Re6 48.Qg4 Rg6 49.Qh4 Rd5  
50.Qe7 Rdg5 51.Qd8+ Kh7 52.g4 Rd5 53.Qc7 Rd7 54.Qf4 Rgd6  
55.Kg3 Bxd4 56.Rxd4 Rxd4 57.cxd4 Kg7 58.Qe5+ f6 59.Qe3 Bd5  
60.Qe8 Bc6 61.Qe3 Bd5 62.Kh4 Bf7 63.f4 Rd5 64.Kg3 b5 65.Qc3 h5  
66.Kh4 hxg4 67.Kxg4 Kf8 68.Kf3 Ke7 69.Qc7+ Kf8 70.Ke3 Kg7  
71.Ke4 f5+ 72.Ke3 b4 73.Kd3 b3 74.Qb6 Rd7 75.Kc3 Rd5 76.Kb2  
Rd7 77.Qb8 Re7 78.Qb5 Kf6 79.d5 Diagram below.

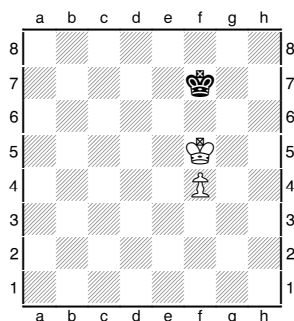


Position after 79. d5

Re8 80.Kxb3 Rd8 81.Qb6+ Ke7 82.Qc7+ Rd7 83.Qe5+ Kf8 84.Qh8+  
Ke7 85.Qe5+ Kf8 86.Kc4 Diagram on the next page.



**Rxd5 87.Qxd5 Bxd5+ 88.Kxd5 Kf7 89.Ke5 Kf8 90.Kf6 Ke8  
91.Kg5 Kf8 92.Kf6 Kg8 93.Kxf5 Kf7** Draw game. Final position  
below.



Credit goes to both players for their fighting spirit and skill!-Ed

## Round 5

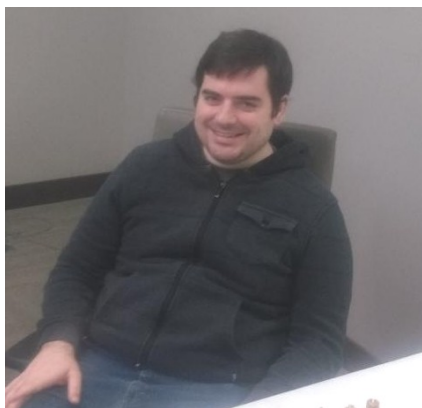
### 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship:

Bye win for Linscott

The marathon game between Tan and Cusumano was just ending when the 5th round game was scheduled to start. When the pairings were posted, Ying Tan was upset to learn he was scheduled to have the Black pieces against Hartmann. Ying was expecting to have the White pieces against John as arranged prior to the tournament. However, when Buckley dropped out, tournament director Mike Mills, after consulting the USCF rule book, had to make different color assignments resulting from Buckley's tournament abandonment. Problem was, Ying was not told about this change and he was justifiably upset. Now in fairness to TD, Mike Mills, he

was very apologetic for this oversight and I'm sure he will learn from this mistake and may handle similar situations with written postings, better communication etc. In any event, being a former TD myself, I know it's a thankless job and that is why there is so few TDs. Mistakes come with the territory and it is my sincere hope this situation won't result in long term animosity and resentment. We all have teaching moments, this is how we learn and grow.

As reference above, Steve and Ying just finished their 4th round game when the 5th round was scheduled to start. After a short break, Steve was ready to play. I must admit, I didn't expect Steve to play hard and I was expecting an early draw. I was ready to go home and open a cold one. However, Steve, being the weekend warrior he is, really made me work to earn a split point.



**Steve Cusumano**

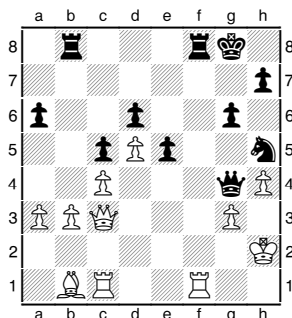
## **2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship**

### **Kent Nelson vs. Steve Cusumano**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Be3 d6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.c4 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Rc1 Rb8 12.b3 Qc7 13.Qe2 e5 14.Na4 c5 15.Nc3 Bd7 16.Bg5 Be6 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Bb1 Ne8 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5? ( I thought this capture was best since it increases the range of my light-squared**

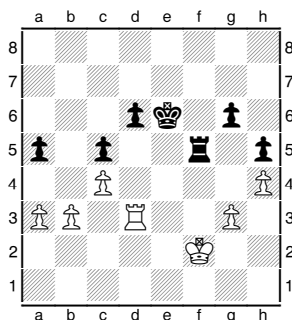
bishop but it was inferior to the other captures of 21 R:d5 or c:d. Now Steve whips up a strong attack and makes me suffer).

**Qd7 22.Qf3 g6 23.h4 Ng7 24.g3 f5 25.Kg2 Rf8 26.Qc3 f4 27.a3 fxg3 28.fxg3 Qg4 29.Rf1 Nh5 30.Kh2** Diagram below.



Position after 30 Kh2

**e4 31.Qe3 Rf3 32.Rxf3 exf3 33.Rg1 Rf8 34.Qe6+ Qxe6 35.dxe6 Rf6 36.Be4 Kf8 37.Bd5 Ng7 38.Rf1 Nxe6 39.Bxe6 Rxe6 40.Rxf3+ Ke7 41.Kg2 a5 42.Kf2 Re5 43.Rd3 Ke6 44.Rd2 h5 45.Rd3 Rf5+ 46.Ke2 Re5+ 47.Kf2 Rf5+ 1/2-1/2**



Final Position-Draw game.

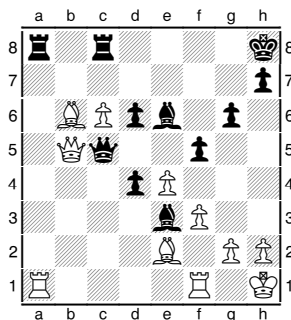
Considering Ying had played everyone without a bye break and just came off a marathon game against Cusumano it is remarkable he had any fight left, let alone against a well rested, determined John Hartmann. And yet, the 2nd time Nebraska State Closed champion played with fighting spirit and endurance and found a way to win this game resulting in his 3rd consecutive championship!

**Congratulations Ying. You really earned this one!**

## 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship

### John Hartmann vs. Ying Tan

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6  
 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 a5 10.Ba3 axb4 11.Bxb4 b6 12.a4 Ne8 13.Nd2 f5 14.f3  
 Bh6 15.Nb5 Kh8 16.a5 c5 17.dxc6 Nxc6 18.Bc3 bxa5 19.Qa4 Nc7  
 20.Nb3 Nxb5 21.cxb5 Be6 22.bxc6 Qb6+ 23.Nd4 Be3+ 24.Kh1 exd4  
 25.Bxa5 Qc5 26.Qb5 Rfc8 27.Bb6



Position after 27 Bb6.

Qxb5 28.Bxb5 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Rb8 30.Ra6 d3 31.Bxe3 Rxb5 32.Bd4+  
 Kg8 33.Ra8+ Kf7 34.Ra7+ Ke8 35.Ra8+ Ke7 36.Ra7+ Kd8 37.Bf6+  
 Kc8 38.h4 Rb1+ 39.Kh2 d2 40.c7 d1Q 41.Bd8 Qg1+ 42.Kg3 Qxa7  
 0-1

### Final Standings 2019 Nebraska State Closed Championship

No	Player	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Ying Tan	2012	W 6	W 4	W 3	D 2	W 5	4.5
2	Steve Cusumano	1860	W4	D 5	X	D 1	D 3	3.5
3	Kent Nelson	1810	W 5	X	L 1	D 4	D 2	3.0
4	John Linscott	1834	L 2	L 1	W 5	D 3	X	2.5
5	John Hartmann	1842	L 3	D 2	L 4	X	L 1	1.5
6	Matt Buckley	1900	L 1	F	F	F	F	0-0

## What a difference a hundred years makes!-Ed

### Historical Article

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*

Sunday, July 7, 1918

### CHESS

by H.E. Ohman.

### The Coming Match.

It was announced in this column some weeks ago that a match for the championship of the United States between **F. J. Marshall**, the present title holder, and **Oscar Chajes** of New York was a possibility. It is now almost a certainty. Mr. Chajes challenge was practically accepted by Mr. Marshall, the latter, however, stipulating certain conditions, which he, as present champion, has a right to demand.

Since chess matches of such importance are very rare in the United States our readers perhaps are not familiar with the methods of play and we quote below the conditions proposed by Mr. Marshall in his reply to his challenger as given in the American Chess Bulletin:

1. The match to be won by the player who first wins eight games, drawn games not to be counted.
2. The purse to be played for shall not less than \$2,000. Of the amount to be raised for the purse, Marshall as fee for defending his title, shall receive 20 percent. The sum then remaining shall be divided as follows; 60 per cent to the winner and 40 per cent to the loser.
3. The agreement to be signed on or before August 1, 1918. The players to jointly be the owners of all the games played.
4. The first game to be played October 2, 1918.
5. Time limit to be thirty moves the first two hours, and fifteen moves each hour thereafter. A game to be started each alternate day. Adjourned games to be continued on the following day and daily until finished.
6. A minimum of six hours straight play.
7. The match to be played in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other cities to be agreed upon later.

Think of the mental strain placed upon two chess players struggling six straight hours a day for perhaps two or three weeks! A man must have physical as well as mental ability to withstand a chess match of such proportions.



As to the winner there is little doubt. Chajes is a very fine player—possibly the strongest in the United States with one exception. But the exception is Marshall. It is the general opinion in chess circles that Marshall stands head and shoulders over any other player in the country. In the whole western hemisphere he is second only to the great Capablanca of Cuba. Marshall and the Cuban are in a class by themselves over here and Chajes doubtless leads the second class composed of such masters as Kupchik, Hodges, Michelsen, Showalter and Whitaker.

Marshall has had a great deal of experience in Europe. He has contested in international tournaments, Lasker, Rubinstein, Alechine, Blackburne and others. He has played long matches against Capablanca, Lasker and Janowski the latter while the French champion was in his prime.

Chajes has had none of this hard, strenuous experience and he will be handicapped to that extent. He may do the unexpected, however, and this much is certain, that Marshall will have to extend himself to the limit in order to win. If Chajes should win, he will have wrested laurels that have indisputable belong to the present champion since 1909. The match will be eagerly awaited by all chess enthusiasts.

**Editor's note—According to Andy Soltis's great book on Frank Marshall, nothing came of the Chajes challenge. Page 255.**

**And Hundred Years later . . .**

#### **Source**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Chess\\_Championship\\_2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Chess_Championship_2018)

**The Championship match** between **Magnus Carlsen** and **Fabiano Caruana** was held from 9 to 28 November 2018 in London at the Cochrane Theatre of The College in Holborn.

#### **Match regulations**

The match was organized in a best-of-12-games format. The time control for the games was 100 minutes for the first 40 moves, an additional 50 minutes added after the 40th move, and then an additional 15 minutes added after the 60th move, plus an additional 30 seconds per move starting from move 1. Players were not permitted agree to a draw before Black's 30th move.

The tie-breaking method consisted of the following schedule of faster games played on the final day in the following order, as necessary:

Best-of-four rapid games (25 minutes for each player with an increment of 10 seconds after each move). The player with the best score after four rapid games is the winner. The players are not required to record the moves. In the match, Carlsen immediately won three games in a row, securing the championship.

If the rapid games had been tied 2–2, up to five mini-matches of best-of-two blitz games (5 minutes plus 3 seconds increment after each move) would have been played. The player with the best score in any two-game blitz match would be the winner.

If the blitz matches had failed to produce a winner, one sudden death “**Armageddon**” game: White receives 5 minutes and Black receives 4 minutes. Both players receive an increment of 3 seconds starting from move 61. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the color. In case of a draw, the player with the black pieces is declared the winner.

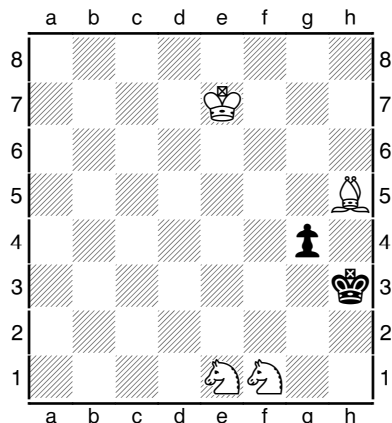
### **Prize fund**

The prize fund was 1 million Euros net of all applicable taxes. Had the match been decided in the classical portion it would have been divided 60% vs 40% between winner and loser. As the match went to a tiebreak the split was more even at 55% vs 45%.

## **Tournament Announcements**

1. There is a **UNO tournament** in the works. Please mark your chess calendar for Saturday, **June 15th 2019**. Please watch for details on the NSCA web site as they become available.
2. The **Cornhusker State Games** is scheduled on **July 20th and 21st 2019** in Lincoln. Please type the following address for details. <https://www.cornhuskerstategames.com/sports/chess/>
3. Please keep in mind the following tournaments will be scheduled at some point. The **Omaha** and **Lincoln City** chess championships. The **Midwest** and **Great Plains Open**. The Nebraska class championships in addition to other tournaments. Please keep your eye's peeled for upcoming event details!

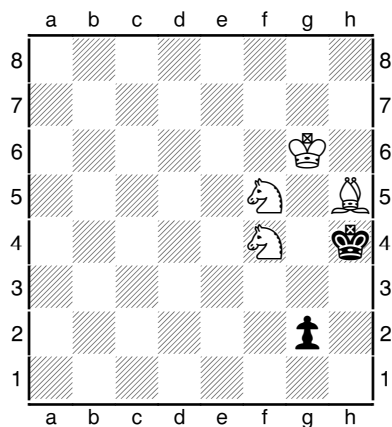
## Solution to puzzle from page 28



White to play and mate in 6 moves.

**1. Kf6. .Kh4** (g3 leads to a shorter mate) **2. Kg6. .g3**  
 (2. .Kh3 to a shorter mate) **3. Ng2+. . Kh3** **4. Nf4+. . Kh4**  
**5. Ne3. .g2** **6. Nf5++ mate!**

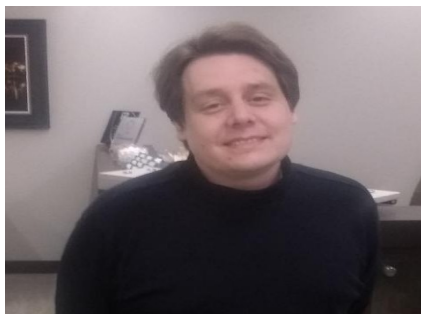
The idea, (the theme) of this composition is in initial position, two of the same kind of White pieces (in this case Knights) stand on adjacent squares on the rank.



In the final position, same White pieces should stand on adjacent squares as well, but on a file. —*Rauf Aliovsadzade*.

## Notes

Rauf points out in reference to Bob's cover diagram 1. Bg8? has to be shown as a try which is refuted by 1...Nf5! (try play in modern two movers has become almost mandatory). And then the right move 1.Bf5!



## Michael Mills

Congratulations to Michael for winning the April UNO event with a perfect 4-0 score. Michael who also directed the State Closed chess championship, earned a class "A" rating as the result of his performance. Way to go Michael!

Note from Alex. . .

Kent, I thought, you might intersperse the Gambit here and there with some of Magnus's quotations. The guy is simply genius!...

Looking at computer games it's clear that we still have a very long way to go when thinking about long term compensation and such things, because simply we misjudge positions and we draw our conclusions too early. It's not clear exactly how you can improve these things, but it's very, very clear to see that we've only still scratched the surface of what is possible to do in chess, because we are human and we make mistakes.

"If I ever do something else, I'll make sure that I spend a lot of time on it and be humble. I know how much time I've spent on chess to be at this level and I know how much it's about hard work to be good at anything. I respect people who work hard."

@MagnusCarlsen

**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson**

**4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE**

**68510**