

# The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

2019

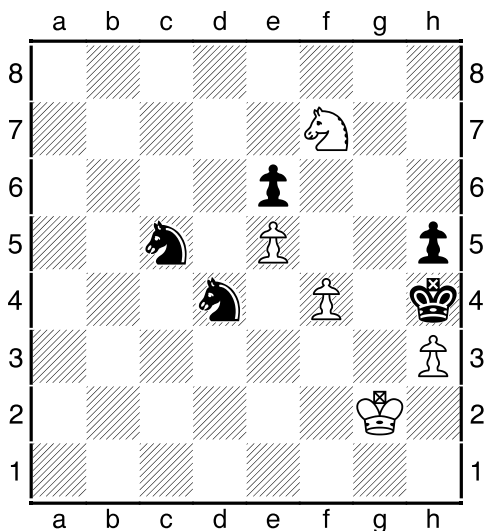
The Year in Review

## ‘My Kingdom for a Horse’

Shereshevsky, Mikhail

Buslaev, Alexander

Tbilisi 1973



White lost this game. It would have been enough to find one move in order to win it.

Do you see which one?

Diagram submitted by Robert Woodworth.

Source: “Invisible Chess Moves” by Neiman + Afek, New In Chess, 2011, pg. 139

## From Kent's Corner

My friends, welcome to another issue of the *Gambit*. This issue was difficult to produce for a number of reasons but I hope the final product is worth the wait.

This issue would not have been possible without the help and support of **Robert Woodworth**. Bob provided a number of articles and he did so with very short notice. Thank you Bob for saving the day not to mention the issue!

Much appreciation to **John Hartmann** for his games and comments from the NSCA President. John performed very well during last year's U.S. Open, winning the class "B" prize and making all of Nebraska chess proud of him. John's U.S. Open games are included in this issue, along with very detailed annotations. John had a recent job promotion. Way to go John! I have a number of new contributors to thank. Special thanks to **Noah Polacek** for giving a great interview. Noah provided me a great answer on why scholastic players give up chess upon adulthood. Check out his reply. My thanks to **John Stepp** for providing a number of his games for this issue. **Jeff Solheim** has written some great tournament reports. Thank you Jeff! **Craig Campbell** and **Dennis Wasson** have provided material with much appreciation. Thank you gentlemen! NSCA game editor, **Steve Cusumano**, has been wonderful in providing timely tournament game databases to this editor which includes great annotations. Thanks Steve!

Thanks goes to **Rauf Aliovadzade** for his *Gambit* letter. **Kirill Belashchenko** was kind enough to provide some of his recent games. Many thanks goes to him.

Regarding future issues of the *Gambit*, I'm unclear when and if this will happen, at least with yours truly as editor. A lot will depend on the duration of the virus and the completion of my book on Howard Ohman. However, if you wish to submit a "chess story" and I get a good collection of stories from you, the reader, I will consider creating an issue with that theme.

Please be careful everyone!

Kent Nelson  
*Gambit* Editor.

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## Letter from NSCA President John Hartmann

Dear friends:

We should celebrate victories these days, whatever size they may be. And the completion of another edition of *The Gambit* is certainly something worth celebrating.

Kent Nelson has put together another outstanding issue of our state journal for you to enjoy. My thanks, personally and as President, go out to him for his continued efforts at documenting the history of Nebraska chess.

Over-the-board play is at a standstill right now, as is so much of what we took for granted as normal American life. None of us know how our time in COVID purgatory is going to play out, and were I a betting man, I'd wager that over-the-board play will be severely diminished until we reach herd immunity or until a viable vaccine emerges.

We chess fans are fortunate, however, because our game is very well suited to the two dimensions of screens. And people are beginning to adapt their chess lives to the online world. Chess.com and Lichess are showing record numbers of players coming to the site. Chess24 is hosting big-name, big-money tournaments. Twitch chess streams are multiplying like weeds in the spring.

The NSCA is trying to do its part too. Currently there are weekly blitz tournaments at Lichess (Monday nights) and chess.com (Thursday nights) for Nebraska players and friends. The chess.com tournaments may soon be US Chess rated. It's not the same as going to the club and kibitzing with friends, but it's what we've got right now, and I encourage you to check it out. Head to [nebraskachess.com](http://nebraskachess.com) for the latest details.

More than that, I highly encourage you to renew your US Chess membership when it comes due, and not just because I work for the Federation. The organization is working through some creative ideas to help members enjoy their chess in these trying times, with online seminars, video presentations, and an expanded online rating system in the works. Your membership renewal will help US Chess weather this storm and continue its work promoting chess in the United States.

I hope you are staying safe, wherever you are reading this, and I hope you're working on your game. This, too, will pass, and when it does, I can't wait for the first tournament where we can all be together again.

Best regards,  
John Hartmann  
NSCA President

## **News and Notes with a little editorial mixed in**

### **The Virus**

As I write this on Thursday, March 19th 2020 the entire world is being turned upside down by the threat of the Coronavirus. Future readers will have a better perspective on this, but for now, the virus has caused an unprecedented change in all aspects of our culture, community and lifestyle. In the world of Nebraska chess, let it be known that tournaments have been postponed, in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus from large gatherings of people. It is very possible the *Gambit* issue for the annual year in review for 2020 will have no content due to no OTB Nebraska chess activity during this crisis. Time will tell, but for now, most of us are fearful of the future and expect things to get worse before it gets better. Of course, I hope and pray I am wrong about this. I record this for future researchers so they know the current state of Nebraska chess.

### **Mike Chess**

I learned with great sadness about the passing of Mike Chess from cancer. Mike was a impact chess player in the 1970s and 80s and I had the pleasure of knowing Mike when he lived in Lincoln. He was quite a character and his physical bearing was very impressive to one and all. This is based on Mike's total devotion to physical fitness and healthy habits. But despite his very tough exterior, he was a gentle giant in my opinion. I remember Mike's passion for earning money and he was very frugal with his income. An example of this occurred when I picked up Mike at this Lincoln apartment on a hot, blistering summer day. Despite having air conditioning, Mike and his roommate were sweltering in the heat. I asked Mike why he didn't have the AC on and he told me he didn't want to pay extra money to run the AC. Apparently his roommate had the same philosophy. Mike would often discuss with me the merits of investing and he was very proud of his ownership of Berkshire Hathaway stock and other investment vehicles. He loved money. As mentioned above, Mike loved working out and he was very instructive in teaching me how to do a proper workout, especially with weights. He once told me about the positive feedback he received from a physical

therapist when he was breaking rehab records recovering from a injury. Anyone who knew Mike would completely understand, he was the very definition of a physical specimen.

In terms of chess, I think Mike had a love-hate relationship with the game. He was a very aggressive player and notched many impressive victories and along with his brother, Richard Chess, was master strength in my opinion. Losing (which was rare for him) was very upsetting to Mike and may have been a significant factor in Mike's discontinuance of the royal game, along with chronic time pressure.

Mike was a computer programmer by trade and his profession require him to move out of state. I lost touch with Mike when he moved to Atlanta, Georgia. I understand Mike returned to Omaha before passing away shortly thereafter. Regrettably, I knew nothing about Mike's condition and I was very upset to learn about his passing on Facebook. And what compounded my grief and shock was knowing Mike lived a very healthy lifestyle. He ate right and he followed a workout routine to the letter. I figured Mike would outlive all of us but as Richard Perry once told me, cancer doesn't discriminate. Finally, the one remembrance I have of Mike has to do with ice cream of all things. Often, after brutal workouts, Mike and I and others would become starving Marvin's and we would go to the nearest buffet restaurants. After the main course, Mike and I would go get ice cream for desert. Now Mike had a special technique in pouring out the soft ice cream from the machine into a small dish. The ice cream he poured out looked like works of art, without any visual imperfections or flaws. Despite many demonstrations on Mike's part, I could never acquire the skill for ice cream perfection like he could.

There is a nice write up about Mike in the Colorado State chess news letter. Here is the link

[http://www.coloradochess.com/informant/January\\_2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Uk-](http://www.coloradochess.com/informant/January_2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Uk-)

[RmsvMeqUltiZLbi1PKqRt\\_9CnGya3x7TkzV5zWGKGiJs5-ZuRyiPw](http://www.coloradochess.com/informant/January_2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Uk-RmsvMeqUltiZLbi1PKqRt_9CnGya3x7TkzV5zWGKGiJs5-ZuRyiPw)

Page 31.

The Nebraska chess community offers it's deepest condolences to Mike's brother, Richard Chess, and Mike's other family members. I will miss Mike and will think of him often.

## **Tom Cook**

My friend and chess master, Craig Campbell, notified me a few weeks ago about the passing of Tom Cook in his home in Germany. From what I understand, Tom was not feeling well and passed away shortly after a family member checked on him.

Tom was a predominate player in the 1980s and lived in the Council Bluffs/Omaha metro area. He was a high class “A” player and chess expert. I had the pleasure of knowing Tom in many game encounters which he won the majority of the time. My only game I won against Tom was perhaps one of the best games I ever played, which, was required, to beat a player of Tom’s caliber. Unfortunately for me, the game score was destroyed by a vengeful ex-wife.

Several things I remember about Tom. During one game (which he won) he asked me afterwards why I didn’t trade queens (when I had an opportunity to do so) in order to break his attack. Quite frankly, I didn’t consider it at the time but I certainly look for that possibility during similar game situations nowadays.

Another little side note was Tom would often place a couple of penguin figurines about the size of salt and pepper shakers by the board prior to game start. He always made sure the 2 little penguins were touching beak to beak. I couldn’t make this up if I tried folks.

Tom also had a pet variation of the black side of the Sicilian dragon involving the “b” pawn which he played to perfection. Tom won countless games with it. In fact, he was so confident in the game’s outcome, he would often circle himself as the game winner on his score sheet **before** the game was over! What confidence! What conceit! but after doing this, he never had to change his score sheet!

As of this writing, Tom’s funeral arrangements/memorial stateside are pending.

## **Kevin Clinefelter**

I read the obituary of Kevin Clinefelter in the Lincoln paper back in August. Kevin was a active player in the Lincoln chess community in the 1970s and 80s before moving out of



state. He was one of the players who represented the University of Nebraska (4th board) during Pan American Intercollegiate Team championships in the 1970s.

Kevin was rated a class “C” player and all my games with Kevin were very competitive and close.

Kevin and I drove to Wichita, Kansas in the early 1980’s for the Kansas Open which I won 5-0. He was a honorable travel mate who paid his fair share of expenses and drove when asked. We got along fine.

Details about Kevin’s untimely death can be found in the link below. Apparently, after moving away from Nebraska, Kevin traded his chess board for running shoes. Our condolences to Kevin’s daughter, Heidi. Copy and paste into browser.

<https://www.runnersworld.com/runners-stories/a28703023/rochester-pacer-dies-during-half-marathon/>

### **The Lincoln Chess Foundation**

I would like to give public notice that I (Kent Nelson LCF President) have been given permission by foundation meeting attendees to pull the plug on the Lincoln Chess Foundation, due to lack of interest. In short, I couldn’t establish a base of support. It is regrettable this situation has occurred, given the long and rich history of the Foundation but I no longer have any incentive or desire to preside over an organization that no one wants to be a part of, or commit too.

If, however, someone who is very dynamic, with lots and lots of contacts and who has exceptional communication and leadership skills, is willing to take over as President, now is the time to contact me. Otherwise, the plug will be pulled and all tax filings and reports to the government about the foundation will be discontinued and LCF will be no more.

### **Tournament Announcements**

As of this writing 3/28/20, all tournaments are postponed with the possible exception of the **Cornhusker State games** scheduled for July 18th and 19th. Check the NSCA web site for updates.

Stay safe everyone. I don’t want to update this page-Ed.

## TWO ENORMOUS LOSSES IN THE WORLD OF CHESS!!

by

**Robert Woodworth**

Sadly, in the past 5 months or so, the chess world has seen the passing of the last two major chess entrepreneurs who made their livelihoods by writing, publishing, and promoting the game of chess. They both wore many 'chess hats' and are the last of their kind in the United States.

In Sept., 2019 we saw the passing of **Dale Brandreth** from Hockessin, Delaware. Dale authored, published and sold many historical chess books, pamphlets etc.

In his working days he was an engineer at DuPont but in later life he was a prominent creator and seller of a vast array of chess publications and materials!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> major chess businessman was **Robert "Bob" Long** of Davenport, Iowa.

Bob was senselessly murdered during a home invasion on January 7<sup>th</sup> of this year. He also was totally immersed in the business of chess publishing, writing, sales and promoting many unique, yearly, chess events near his home in Davenport.

Your writer had known Bob from the early 1980's through the many 'Chess Festivals/Clinics' that he held. Bob was always developing new ideas and projects to expand his chess business. He constantly interacted with his customer base by presenting new chess titles and historical chess research projects plus developing a personal relationship with each of his customers. He would review new chess books, evaluate & settle chess estates, organize used chess book 'swap meets' and write/produce many unique, self-published, historical chess books + create many online pdf's pertaining to the many interesting areas of the game itself.

Bob was so unique and diversified in the chess business world that we will probably never see the likes of him again! Chesswise and business-wise, your writer cannot begin to list all of the interesting and diverse areas where he worked to expand and develop his independent, self-employed chess business. Bob Long, at his best, was a tournament rated, Expert chessplayer. He really loved and also sold in his business, some very high-quality tournament chess sets.

Bob knew nearly all of the chess strengths and areas of expertise for most of his regular customers. To say that he was ‘one-of-a-kind’ is barely scratching the surface! He had a very strong mind and knew exactly what he wanted businesswise. If one would offer a suggestion to him for another approach or improvement, he would very sternly and sharply let you know why it wouldn’t work! In the end he was usually right for he always stayed true to his business beliefs.

Bob had a strong faith but also some very, very bad luck in his life. His strong faith kept him going, where to most people, it would overwhelm them emotionally. He lost his first wife to cancer, went through a divorce, lost his home due to a bad business decision, had a bad car accident due to a stroke, lost his sister, Rita Long who had worked for him for many years, had a failed, major chess festival cancelled which was a huge loss financially and finally being assaulted in his own home which cost him his life!

What really drew me to Bob and doing business with him, was his very dynamic interest in the game of chess itself. Sure, he made his living at the game but his overall deep devotion and caring for the game and its history was tremendous and beyond reproach. I can honestly say that outside of playing the game, Bob Long really kept me interested in chess through the research of chess history and studying its notable players!! Bob’s death was a terrible loss to chess & independent chess publishing. I always enjoyed my personal talks with him which included learning about his latest chess projects and helping him with an occasional chess research question! I was extremely lucky to have known him as he was a wonderful friend to me in our common interest in the royal game!! He was a very interesting, highly productive and unique individual. He will be sorely and greatly missed! As someone recently commented, Bob Long’s true and lasting legacy will reside on the bookshelves in the private libraries of chess book collectors everywhere.

Well done, Bob and Rest In Peace Forever!

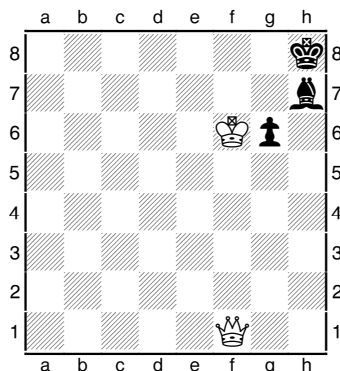
Robert Woodworth  
January, 2020  
Omaha, NE

# Some Very Clever, Light-Weight Chess Problems

By  
Robert Woodworth

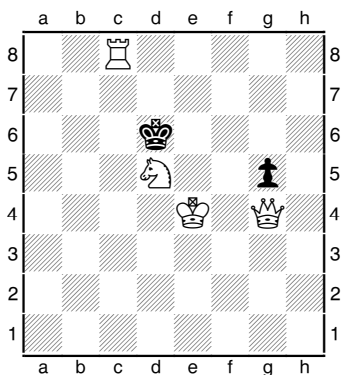
As many readers of the annual “GAMBITS” notice, the title page usually has a light-weight, 2-move chess problem composed by the writer of this “GAMBIT” article. Below I have collected some ‘light-weights’ to test the solving abilities of our chessplaying readers. These problem examples are easy to look at plus they contain some very clever maneuvers which result in a checkmate provided that the ‘keymove’ (1st move) is correct! It is always for White to move & mate in a specified number of moves. Many chessplayers disparage and even reject chess problems in general. They see the positions to be extremely cluttered and not resembling any realistic game positions. In solving the following selected positions, it can be very good practice in finding tactical themes plus locating all the checkmating moves the composer has incorporated into each problem. Well constructed problems usually have a quiet, completely unexpected first move by White. As a rule, keymoves are never checks or captures as these are considered to be too strong and not very artistic. Chess problems are of two main types i.e. ‘threat’ or threatening mate on the next move and the ‘waiting’-type where mate is not threatened but where every Black response results in a checkmate by White. It is to be noted that there is one and only one correct keymove to solve a good chess problem!

The first example is from the great American composer, Sam Loyd.  
(Note that White checkmates in two moves using a very quiet keymove which does threaten checkmate on the next move via 2. Kf7 mate.)



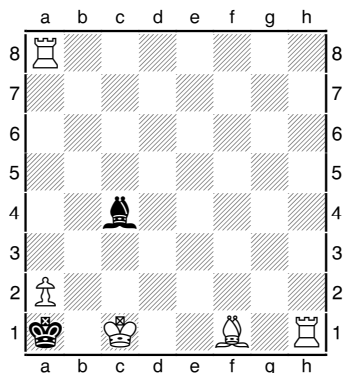
The solution to the above problem is 1.Qa1 where Black (who is not in check) must move thereby allowing White to checkmate in several different ways depending on the defensive move that Black chooses. The reader should try to find all of the checkmating moves for each of the Black responses. Mr. Loyd was considered to be a genius, problem composer plus he was a great puzzle-maker especially for all non-chess types of puzzles!

The next ‘miniature’ problem was also composed by Mr. Loyd. It contains a very subtle, quiet keymove which gives the Black King more freeing, defensive moves. (Hint: Giving the Black King more squares to move to is considered a strong trait of a good keymove. The solution is given at the end of this article.) It is for White to move and mate in 2 moves.

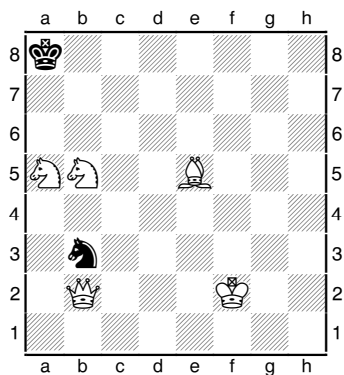


The next light-weight problem made a big impression on this writer because of the many Black defensive moves-all of which were cleverly thwarted by White! It is White to move & mate in two moves. This problem was really enjoyed by your writer because of the quiet keymove plus all of the checkmates after each Black move. (The keymove even allows Black to attack the White King via TWO different checking moves!!)

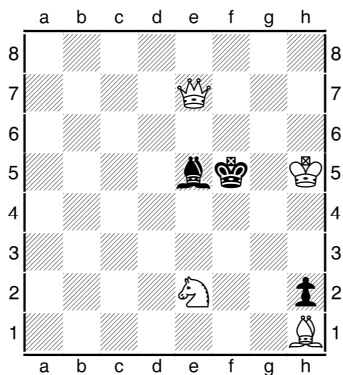
Please see the diagram on the next page.



Your writer has one of his own creations shown below which first appeared in a 2009 issue of “The GAMBIT”. It is White to move & mate in two moves, with a ‘waiting type’, ‘impossible-looking’ key-move. (Even my “Fritz-16” PC program is not able to determine the one, correct solution to this chess problem!! Fritz tries to solve the problem in 3 moves versus the 2 moves that are required.)



Finally, this last chess problem is a 2-mover by C. Mansfield & which is considered to be a ‘threat’- type (vs. a ‘waiting’-type) where White threatens mate by 2.Qg5 after the correct keymove by White is made.



I hope that these chess problems examples were enjoyed by our readers and that the art of chess problem composition can be appreciated by all chessplayers.  
 (The solutions to all the above problems can be found on the next page where the sources for each problem are listed.)

Bob Woodworth  
 January, 2020  
 Omaha, NE

**SOURCES OF THE 5 CHESS PROBLEMS IN SUCCESSIVE  
ORDER** and with all the correct solutions are:

First problem by Sam Loyd with the solution being 1. Qa1. The source is from the book “Miniature Chess Problems From Many Countries”, by Colin Russ, published in softback by Unwin Paperbacks 1987, pg.68.

2nd problem is by Sam Loyd with the solution 1.Kf5. The source is from the book “Sam Loyd and His Chess Problems”, by Alain White, published by Dover in 1962 (as a reprint of the 1913 edition), pg. 156.

3rd problem is by Kabe Moen, ‘waiting move’ 1. Kc2, “StrateGems”, 2018 pg. 132.

4th problem is by R. Woodworth, the solution is the ‘waiting’ move 1.Bb8, “The GAMBIT”, 2009, cover page diagram.

5th problem is by Comins Mansfield with keymove 1.Nf4, “Miniature Chess Problems From Many Countries”, by Colin Russ, published in softback by Unwin Paperbacks 1987, pg. 11.



## Interview with Noah Polacek



*Editor's note—Noah Polacek came to my attention during the 2018 Lincoln City Chess championship. I was paired against this young man and after some opening struggles, Noah played well to draw. Since that event, I've been paired against Noah during the 2018 and 2019 Omaha City Championships with Noah playing me toe to toe resulting in draws. I've been very impressed with Noah's play and Noah has knocked off some very strong players including 2017 and 2018 Player of the year champion, Steve Cusumano, and NSCA president, John Hartmann. During the 2019 Cornhusker State Games, Noah defeated teenage superstar and chess expert, Gregory Revesz, to hand Gregory his only loss in the tournament. I recently sat down with Noah to analyze our recent draw and found him to be a well spoken, polite young man who is currently rated an "A" player. What a difference a year makes . . . Noah was rated as a "C" player a year ago.*

*Kent Nelson—Noah, please tell me a little about yourself, if I understood correctly, you recently graduated from Wahoo High school . . . is that correct? Are you currently going to college or plan too? Please tell me a little about your family and what it was like growing up in Wahoo?*

I was born in Lincoln in March of 2001, and I lived in the small town of Milford until I was in kindergarten. I moved to Wahoo in 2006, where I stayed until I graduated from Wahoo High School in 2019. Currently, I am enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and my major is Elementary Education, and I am also involved with the University Honors Program. I'm working to attain a 4.0 GPA, and so far, my grades haven't suffered.

I am the second oldest out of six children, and I try to be a good role model for my younger siblings; I hope to inspire them to follow their dreams, and I attempt to give them chess lessons. I'm the only one in my family who competes in chess, but I hope to eventually change that. My parents have always been so encouraging to me, in whatever activity I'd randomly join—they were especially supportive when I started to play chess. They've traveled with me to Wisconsin and Florida for a myriad of tournaments, and I couldn't thank them enough for all they've done for me. Wahoo was an interesting town for many reasons, but one thing that stood out to me was the close-knit community. Everyone knew each other, and everyone was friendly towards each other. Word got around fast in Wahoo; you wouldn't believe how quickly 4,000 people learn about something. The entire town goes out to support the local high school's athletics, and there's an elaborate support system—nobody ever suffers or celebrates alone. I've noticed that these feelings aren't seen in Omaha, and it's always a breath of fresh air when I return to Wahoo.

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

A very, very, long time ago, in the summer of 2015, I was bored out of my mind. I was 14, so I couldn't occupy myself with a job, and nothing interesting was happening in the small town of Wahoo. For some reason, I realized my dad knew how to play chess, and I had nothing else to do, so I asked him to show me a few moves. I got completely trounced, but that one game kindled a fire inside me. I

felt like I found my calling, something to distinguish me from others. Wahoo didn't exactly have a bustling chess scene, so I decided to play online whenever I could—at lunch, in the wee hours of the morning, and I would even play in the middle of class. I wasn't involved in Wahoo's chess club until a hot day in September. During cross country's weekly hill workout, Tyler Timm, one of the seniors, decided to slow down and talk to me for a while. We eventually started talking about chess, and he invited me to "check out" the chess club. I accepted his request, and I never looked back. I am infinitely grateful that he decided to tell me about the chess club; I wouldn't be where I am today without that kind gesture.

I am involved with the UNO Marching Band, and I play the trombone in it. Ever since marching band got done, however, my roommates and I have started training to run a marathon. I've always enjoyed running—I was even a captain for my high school's cross country team—but I never was super fast.

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

After a few months of playing online, I traveled with my school's chess club to play in the 2015 Omaha City Championship. I was in the U1000 section, and I had fairly high hopes going in. Unfortunately, I ended up getting 16th place out of 17 entrants, and the only person who I beat out withdrew after losing the first round. I was only able to get a draw during the final round. Despite this, I was optimistic about continuing with chess. I ended up getting a provisional rating of 438; I didn't know what the rating meant, but I was glad to finally get a rating after playing online for so long.

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

My best tournament would probably be the 2018 Lincoln City Championship. After competing in the 2018 Denker Tournament of High School Champions, I felt that I could hang with the best players in Nebraska. I just wanted to test my mettle and play high-quality games. At the beginning of the tournament, I told myself that I was only there to learn. I didn't care about the results; I was expecting to lose all of my games, maybe draw one if I was lucky. Thankfully, this didn't happen. In the first round, I somehow beat Steven Cusumano, even when my rating was 400 points less than his. After that victory, I didn't think that I would be able to win again, but I got another win against John Hartmann. I ended up going 2.5/4 and I got 130 rating points, and I felt that I was finally one of the elites in Nebraska.

On the other hand, my worst tournament would be the 2018 Cornhusker State Games. After an entire summer of training for the Denker Tournament, I was ready to wreak havoc in the reserve section. Objectively, it didn't seem like a terrible tournament, I went 3.5/5. However, things didn't exactly go to plan; I had sub-par positions in all the games I played in, even when I was playing people who were rated 1000—I was 1500. The biggest blow was that I wasn't able to finish out Larry Harvey, rated 1677, after I had a winning position. It was a big hit to my ego, and it made me realize that I couldn't coast with my training if I'd hope to improve.

I'd like to say that I have a flexible style of play. I can play many different positions, however, I'd much rather be attacking than defending. I can play in a positional style, but I'd rather create some complications. I like positions that are semi-sharp, where there are many different decisions for the opponent to make; convoluting my opponent's mind and giving them chances to mess up are essential weapons for me. I can't win a game alone, my opponent has to help me! Due to this, my favorite stage of chess would be the middlegame; these have an intricate feeling that is unlike any other stage of the game. In the middlegame, there are always many different ways to play the position. In other stages of the game, there are fewer roads to go down, and being forced to play only one way is unlike the way I play.

My preferred time controls would probably be longer games with increment. I enjoy games where one always has time to think; it's a testament to one's skills to win a game where no punches are pulled. In shorter games, however, the game isn't truly chess—it merely becomes a game of moving pieces quickly. While I do play some fast games on the internet, I believe that blitz and classical deserve to exist as two different entities. Winning a classical game in a time scramble isn't based on one's classical skills; a true game of chess ensues from a plenitude of time.

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

One of my best games would be against Gregory Revesz in the 2019 Cornhusker State Games. After being attacked for the entirety of the game, I ended up consolidating a material advantage to win after a long and arduous counterattack. I was especially calm during the latter half of the game, even when we were both under ten minutes. I was proud of how I handled his attack, and I never got overconfident about my own ability; I would have been trounced if I disregarded him for even one move. This was also my highest rated win.

I was Nebraska's 2018 and 2019 high school state champion, and I represented the state of Nebraska at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in those years. I ended up placing about 30th both years, and I stood my ground against higher rated opposition to show how strong a chess player from Nebraska can be. Lately, I was even the 2018 Scholastic Player of the Year. I hope to gain some more titles in the coming years!

One of my favorite international players is the Iranian grandmaster Alireza Firouzja. As a 16-year-old, he consistently fights toe-to-toe with the best players in the world, and he shows me that age and experience doesn't always matter in chess. In the 2019 World Cup

in Khanty-Mansiysk, he fought world number three Ding Liren to two draws, surprising everyone. His flamboyant style of play also inspires me to play the same way.

At the beginning of my chess career, I didn't use any books. I thought getting chess books was redundant since everything I needed was online; however, I couldn't have been more wrong in that assessment. While there was a plethora of information available on the internet, I felt that there was something missing. For the Christmas of 2017, the item at the top of my list was *How To Reassess Your Chess* by Jeremy Silman. It showed me the tools and the importance of making a plan and it highlighted intricate positional concepts that one must know to compete at elite levels. This book opened my eyes to the world of positional chess and made me less reliant winning based on blunders people made at the lower ratings. In the two tournaments I played in after I read it, my rating improved from 1303 to 1497.

*KN—Noah, who is the most difficult local player for you to face over the board?*

Steven Cusumano would probably be the most difficult player that I've faced in Nebraska. Even though I have a plus score against him, I always seem to get entangled into a worse position whenever I play him. His solid style of play is always tough to crack, and it's very difficult to get any positional advantages against him.

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

I mostly play chess because it's a fun way to exercise my brain. There's so much that I don't know, and the thought of that excites me. In high school, chess was one of the main ways I distinguished myself from my peers, but I continued to play because it's so fun. In my opinion, chess is one of the most refined games in the world; everyone can play it, regardless of age, physical condition, ethnicity, or place of origin. The only thing that matters in chess is the ability to play better than the person sitting in front of you. It is

something that can stick with someone for their entire life, it's not like other games where one's skill deteriorates with each passing year. Chess has become a part of my identity. It would be a crime for me to desert chess after working so hard on it.

Ever since I started playing chess, one of my main goals was to be better than my peers who I faced over the board. I always tried to improve my chess so I could climb the rating ladder and play higher opposition. As of now, I'm among the top players of Nebraska, and I hope to eventually become the state champion. Attaining this peak is of utmost importance to me; I was the state champion for high school two years in a row, and I hope to repeat this at the highest level of Nebraska chess.

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

In my opinion, playing blitz and bullet chess can be beneficial, but it shouldn't be the main weapon for someone who's trying to improve. If one wants to get better at chess, they should play to emulate long tournament games. Playing speed chess can help build a sense of intuition and calmness during time pressure, but there's normally plenty of time in tournament games. If one relies on habits made during blitz, they'll always get positions where they're worse. Vladimir Kramnik once said, "Playing rapid chess, one can lose the habit of concentrating for several hours in serious chess. That is why, if a player has big aims, he should limit his rapid play in favor of serious chess." Speed chess should follow after one accumulates a proper skill set in classical chess. You can't use speed alone to get out of a worse position, I've tried. Classical chess and blitz chess are two different beasts, one must treat them differently.

However, playing on the internet is very beneficial to the improving player. The main benefit of online chess is the convenience of it—one doesn't need to devise a specific time to play. You don't even need a board; in fact, I didn't have a chess set until I was rated 1500. Playing online has also opened many doors for me. I've played against many titled players, and I even have

some wins against them. The pool of players online is unlike those in Nebraska; there's such a variety of playing styles not seen here. Again, if one desires to improve, then they should play 15-30 minute games; they should stray away from the faster games until they attain proper skills.

KN—*Noah, thank you for your interview responses. Finally here is another question that has me mystified. Why do scholastic players quit playing chess after becoming adults?*

I feel that scholastic players quit chess due to the amount of new, unfamiliar obligations becoming an adult brings. When working becomes integral to survival or when school becomes more important, one won't have the same amount of energy towards chess than before. Becoming an adult saps the energy from formerly animated players. For some, this paradigm shift is too much; they burn out and begin to disregard things that may not be as important to them. If chess isn't considered valuable, then it'll be discarded. If we hope to quell this issue, we need to make chess important to the youth—we need to make it something more than a game.

[Event "2019 Cornhusker State Games"]

[Site "Lincoln, NE"]

[Date "2019.07.20"]

[Round "1"]

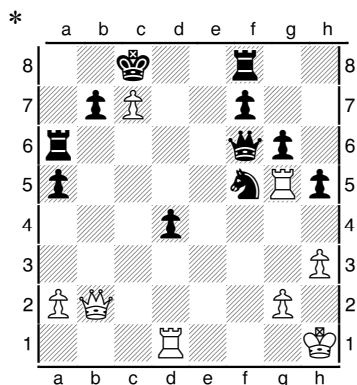
[White "Gregory Revesz"]

[Black "Noah Polacek"]

[Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "1999"] [BlackElo "1728"]

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Ba5 6. d4 exd4 7. Qb3 Qf6 8. O-O Bb6 9. Ba3 Na5 10. Qa4 Nxc4 11. Qxc4 dxc3 12. Nxc3 Qc6 13. Qb4 d6 14. Ne5 a5 15. Qb3 dxe5 16. Rac1 Be6 17. Nd5 Bxd5 18. exd5 Qf6 19. Qb5+ Kd8 20. d6 Nh6 21. dxc7+ Kc8 22. Rfd1 Bxf2+ 23. Kh1 Bd4 24. Bb2 Qb6 25. Qd5 Qe6 26. Qb5 Nf5 27. h3 h5 28. Rb1 Qc6 29. Qd3 g6 30. Bxd4 exd4 31. Rdc1 Qd5?! 32. Rb5 Qd6 33. Qf3 Ra7 34. Rd5 Qe7 35. Qb3 Qe6 36. Qb5 Ra6 37. Rb1 Qc6 38. Qb3 Ne3 39. Rg5 Rf8 40. Qb2 Nf5 41. Rc1 Qf6** {I decided to stop notating at this point.} \* Please see the diagram on the next page.





[Event "Denker Tournament of High School Champions"]

[Site "Orlando, FL"]

[Date "2019.08.03"]

[Round "1"]

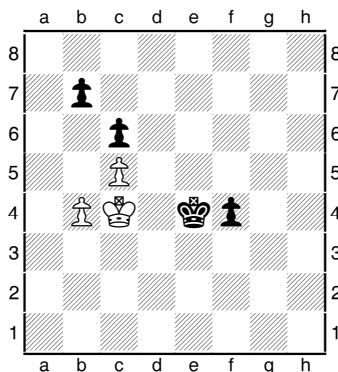
[White "Noah Polack"]

[Black "NM Dex Webster"]

[Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "1799"] [BlackElo "2226"]

1.d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. g3 c6 4. Bg2 Bf5 5. O-O e6 6. c4 Nbd7 7. Nbd2 Bd6 8. Re1 Ne4 9. Qb3 Rb8 10. Nxe4 (10. Nh4 Nxd2 11. Bxd2 Be4 12. f3 Bg6) 10... Bxe4 11. Bd2 O-O 12. Bb4 Bxb4 13. Qxb4 Nb6 14. c5 (14. cxd5 Qxd5) 14... Nd7 15. Qa4 Qc7 16. Bh3 (16. b4 a5 (16... e5 17. Bh3 Bxf3 18. exf3 exd4 19. Re7 Rbd8 (19... Rfd8 20. Rae1)) 17. a3) 16... a5 17. a3 Ra8 18. Rac1 Rfc8 19. Nd2 Bg6 20. e4 Bxe4 21. Nxe4 dxe4 22. Rxe4 Nf6 23. Re5 Rd8 24. Qc4 Rd5 (24... Qd7 25. Rxe6 Qxd4) 25. Rxd5 Nxd5 26. Bg2 Rd8 27. b4 axb4 28. axb4 h5 29. h4 (29. b5) 29... Qd7 30. Rd1 Nc7 31. Qe2 g6 32. g4 hxg4 33. Qxg4 e5 34. Qg5 exd4 35. Bh3 (35. h5 Ne6 36. Qg3 Qc7 37. hxg6 Qxg3 38. gxf7+ Kxf7 39. fxg3) 35... Qe8 36. Bg2 (36. h5 Rd5 37. Qg3 Rxh5 38. Qxc7 Rxh3 39. Rxd4 Qe1+ 40. Kg2 Qh1#) 36... Kh7 37. Qg4 Qe5 38. Bf3 Ne6 39. h5 Qg5 40. hxg6+ Kxg6 41. Kf1 Qxg4 42. Bxg4 f5 43. Be2 Kf6 44. Bc4 Nf4 45. Ke1 d3 46. Kd2 Re8 47. Kc3 Re2 48. Rd2 Ke5 49. Rxe2+ dxe2 50. Kd2 Kd4 51. Bxe2 Nxe2 52. Kxe2 Ke4 53. f3+ Kd4 54. Kd2 f4 55. Kc2 Ke3 56. Kc3 Kxf3 57. Kc4 Ke4 0-1

Final Position on the next page. White Resigns. A very hard fought game from both players!-Kent Nelson-Ed.



Final Position. 0-1

[Event "Denker Tournament of High School Champions"]

[Site "Orlando, FL"]

[Date "2019.08.05"]

[Round "5"]

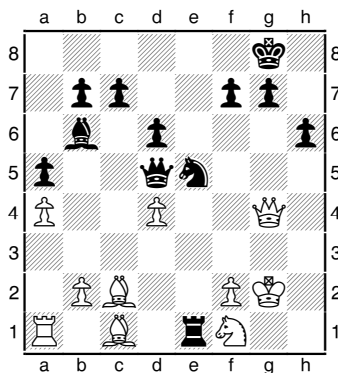
[White "Jacob Nathan"]

[Black "Noah Polacek"]

[Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "1946"] [BlackElo "1798"]

[TimeControl "90+30"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. O-O O-O 7. a4  
a5 8. Nbd2 Bb6 9. h3 Ne7 10. Re1 Ng6 11. d4 h6 12. Bb3 exd4 13.  
cxd4 Re8 14. Bc2 Be6 15. Nb1 Qd7 16. Nc3 Bxh3 17. gxh3 Qxh3 18.  
Nd5 Qg4+ 19. Kh1 Nxd5 20. exd5 Qh5+ 21. Nh2 Qxd5+ 22. Kg1 Nh4  
23. Rxe8+ Rxe8 24. Qg4 Re1+ 25. Nf1 Nf3+ 26. Kg2 Ne5+ 0-1



Final Position 0-1. A nice crush by Noah!-Ed.

## In Step with John Stepp

John recently turned his games from the Nebraska Class championship held this fall. Thanks for the submission John!--Editor.

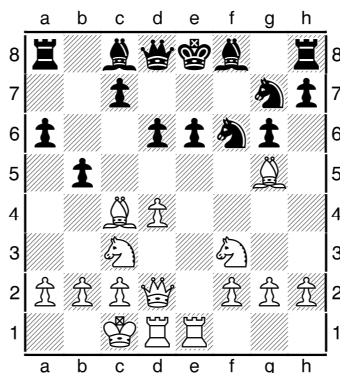


**John Stepp**  
**Nebraska Class “B” Chess Champion.**

Raines-Stepp.

Round 1..

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 a6 4.Bf4 Nbd7 5.e4 Nh5 6.Qd2 g6 7.Bh6 Ng7 8.Bc4 e6 9.0–0–0 Nf6 10.e5 Ng4 11.Bg5 f6 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Rhe1 b5** Please see the diagram below.



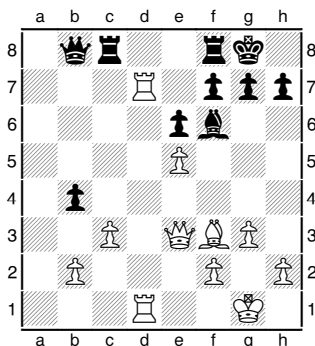
**14.Bb3? b4 15.d5?? bxc3 16.Qxc3 Be7 17.dxe6 Bb7 18.Ne5 Ne4 19.Ba4+ Kf8 20.Qf3+ Nf5 21.Bh6+ Kg8 22.Nf7 Nxh6 23.Rxe4 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Nxf7 25.exf7+ Kxf7 26.Re1 Bf6 27.Qe6+ Kg7 0-1**

(Not sure if John is a religious man or not but he can thank the heavens for winning this one! -Editor.)

## Stepp-Mills

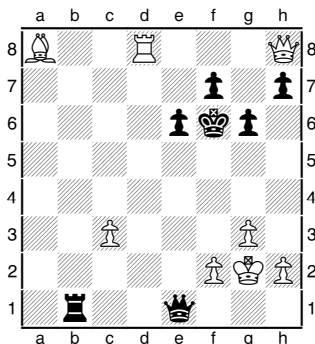
### Round 2

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Bg5 e6 8.Na3 Be7 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Rad1 Ne5 11.Be2 Qa5 12.Bh4 Ng6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Nxd6 Ne5 16.Nxc8 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Raxc8 18.Qb3 b6 19.Qb5 Qb8 20.a3 Rc5 21.Qa6 Ra5 22.Qe2 Rc5 23.g3 a5 24.Rd7 b5 25.Rfd1 b4 26.Qe3 Rcc8 27.axb4 axb4 28.e5



Position after 28. e5.

Bxe5? (Q:e5) 29.Rb7 Qa8 30.Qxe5 bxc3 31.bxc3 Qa3 32.Rc7 Rb8 33.Qc5 Qa2 34.Kg2 g6 35.Rdd7 Rb2 36.Ra7 Qb1 37.Bb7 Qe1 38.Ra8 Rxa8 39.Bxa8 Rb1 40.Rd8+ Kg7 41.Qf8+ Kf6 42.Qh8+ and mate later 1-0



Position after 42. Qh8+

If 42. . Ke7, it's mate in 13 moves.

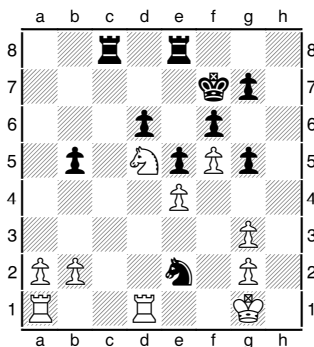
If 42. . Kf5, it's mate in 10 moves.

If. 42. .Kg5, it's mate in 6 moves.

Work it out!

### Look vs Stepp. Rd.3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.e4 c5 8.Bg3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 e5 10.Nc2 Nc6 11.Be2 0-0 12.0-0 Be6 13.Re1 Qb6 14.Qd2 Rac8 15.Ne3 Nd4 16.Bf1 Rfe8 17.Kh1 Nh5 18.Ncd5 Nxc3+ 19.hxc3 Qd8 20.f4 Nc6 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.f5 Bd7 23.Nd5 Qg5 24.Qxg5 hxc5 25.Be2 Nd4 26.Bd3 Bc6 27.Ne3 b5 28.Kg1 f6 29.cxb5 Bxb5 30.Bxb5 axb5 31.Red1 Kf7 32.Nd5 Ne2+ 33.Kf2 Nd4 34.Kg1 Ne2+ 35.Kf2 Nd4 36.Kg1 Ne2+ Final Position below. Draw game.

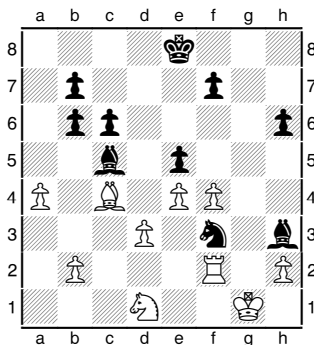


Congratulations to John for winning the Nebraska class “B” championship! Way to go John!-Editor.

Regardless of the result, John is very good about making copies of his games and sharing them with me for *Gambit* publication. During a recent OTB tournament held on March 7th in Lincoln, John handed over a game he lost with a written comment---**Youth Usually Wins!** You don’t see many examples of humility nowadays. A good lesson and blessing for all of us. Good for you John!

### Friar vs Stepp

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Qe7 4.Bc4 h6 5.Nc3 c6 6.a4 Nd7 7.0-0 Qf6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Ne1 g5 10.Nd3 Ne7 11.Be3 Ng6 12.g3 Rg8 13.Kh1 Nb6 14.Bxb6 axb6 15.f4 gxf4 16.gxf4 Bh3 17.Rf2 Rd8 18.Qh5 Qh4 19.Qxh4 Nxh4 20.Rg1 Rxg1+ 21.Kxg1 Rxd3 22.cxd3 Bc5 23.Nd1 Nf3+ and later 1-0





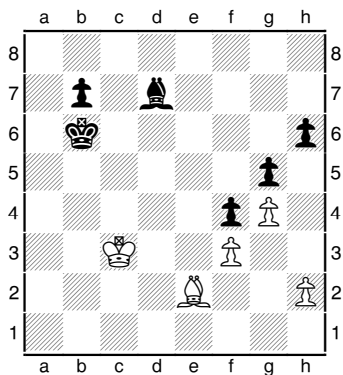
**Kirill Belashchenko** (pictured above during the Midwest Open) is now a regular tournament participant in Nebraska events. Kirill, a strong class “A” player, lives in Lincoln and teaches at UNL. The Nebraska chess community welcomes Kirill and wishes him all the best, on and off the board.

Kirill was kind enough to submit this games from the Cornhusker State Games. Kirill finished with a 4-1 score with Greg Revesz and earned a silver medal.

## (2) Ying Tan - Kirill Belashchenko

Lincoln, NE USA Lincoln, NE USA (2), 20.07.2019

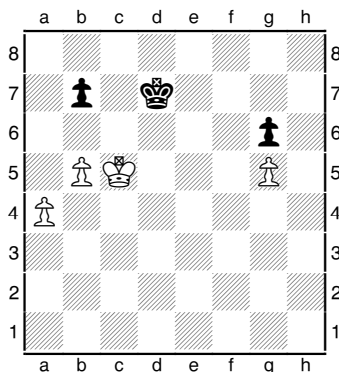
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be2 Be7 8.dxc5 0-0 9.0-0 Bxc5 10.a3 Bf5 11.b4 Bb6 12.Bb2 d4 13.exd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Qb3 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Ne4 17.Rfd1 Qg5 18.Bd4 a6 19.Be3 Qf6 20.Bd4 Qg5 21.Qb2 Rac8 22.f3 Nf6 23.Rac1 Rfe8 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Qd2 Qg6 26.Rc1 Rxc1+ 27.Qxc1 Nd5 28.Bc4 Ne7 29.Qe3 Be6 30.Bd3 Qh5 31.Qf4 Qd5 32.Qb8+ Bc8 33.Qe5 Qxe5 34.Bxe5 Nc6 35.Bd6 Be6 36.Kf2 f5 37.Ke3 Kf7 38.a4 Kf6 39.b5 axb5 40.axb5 Ne5 41.Bxe5+ Kxe5 42.g3 g6 43.Be2 Kd5 44.Kf4 h6 45.g4 g5+ 46.Ke3 f4+ 47.Kd3 Bd7 48.Kc3 Kc5 49.b6 Kxb6 0-1 Final Position below.



## Kirill Belashchenko - Neil Reeves

Lincoln, NE USA Lincoln, NE USA (3), 20.07.2019

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Be3 exd4 7.Bxd4 Nc6  
8.Bxb6 Qxd1+ 9.Rxd1 axb6 10.a3 Be6 11.Nb5 Rc8 12.Nf3 g6 13.Be2 Bg7  
14.b4 Ke7 15.0-0 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.f4 Bf6 18.Rf3 c5 19.Re3 Rhd8  
20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.g4 Kf8 22.Kg2 Rd2 23.Kf3 Bd7 24.g5 Bc6+ 25.Kg3 Bg7  
26.Bf3 Bd4 27.Nxd4 cxd4 28.Rb3 Rc2 29.b5 Bxf3 30.Kxf3 Rc3+ 31.Rxc3  
dxc3 32.Ke3 f6 33.Kd3 Kg7 34.Kxc3 h6 35.h4 hxg5 36.hxg5 Kf7 37.Kd4  
fxg5 38.fxg5 Ke6 39.c5 bxc5+ 40.Kxc5 Kd7 41.a4 and later 1-0

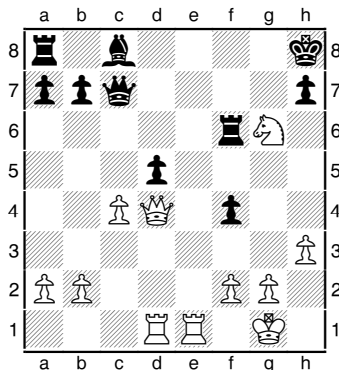


Position after 41. a4--White later won.

## (4) Kirill Belashchenko - Matt Buckley

Lincoln, NE USA Lincoln, NE USA (4), 21.07.2019

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ndf6 6.Ng3 g6 7.Bc4 Nd5  
8.h3 Bg7 9.0-0 Ngf6 10.Re1 0-0 11.Qe2 Re8 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Rad1 Nf4  
14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.Ne5+ Kg8 16.Bxf4 Nd5 17.Bc1 Rf8 18.c4 Nf4 19.Qe4 g5  
20.Nf3 Bf6 21.Nf5 e6 22.Nh6+ Kh8 23.Ng4 Be7 24.d5 cxd5 25.Qd4+ e5  
26.Nfxe5 Bf6 27.Nxf6 Rxf6 28.Bxf4 gxf4 29.Ng6+ (D) and white later won.

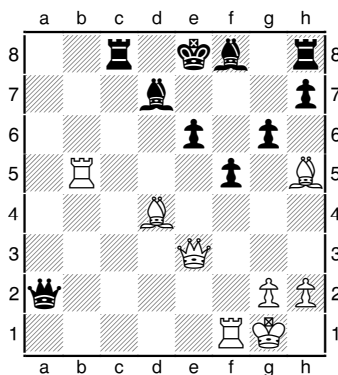


## 2019 Cornhusker Championship Game Open Section

**Gregory Revesz - Kirill Belashchenko**

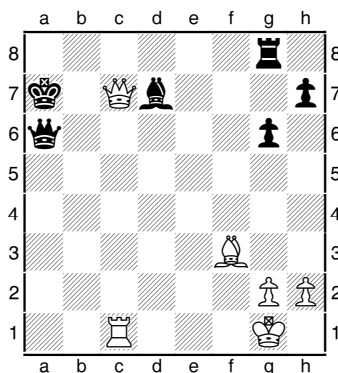
Lincoln, NE USA Lincoln, NE USA (5), 21.07.2019

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nb6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Be2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Rc8 12.0-0 a6 13.Qe3 Na4 14.Nxa4 Bxa4 15.b3 Bd7 16.c4 dxc4 17.bxc4 Qa5 18.Rab1 b5 19.cxb5 axb5 20.f5 Qxa2 21.Rxb5 exf5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Bh5+ g6 (D)**



Position after 23..g6

**24. Rbxf5! Rc2 25.R5f2 Rg8 26.Qf3 e5 27.Bxe5 Bc5 28.Bd4 Bxd4 29.Qe4+ Qe6 30.Qxd4 Rxf2 31.Qxf2 Kd8 32.Re1 Qc6 33.Bf3 Qa6 34.Qh4+ Kc8 35.Rc1+ Kb8 36.Qf4+ Ka7 37.Qc7+ 1-0 Final Position below. A good fight!-Ed.**



As the result of this game, Gregory Revesz won the gold medal over Kirill Belashchenko each with 4-1 scores.-Editor.



## Games Galore!

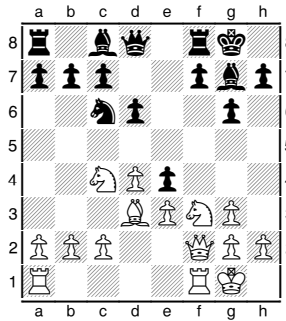
I'm pleased to announce the NSCA board has chosen **Steve Cusumano** to be our newly created games coordinator. Steve has risen to the challenge by providing entire game databases from Nebraska chess tournaments to yours truly and others. Next time you see Steve, be sure to thank him for this service!

### Games from the 2019 Omaha City Championship.

**Rajjan, Sanjay (1568) - Hartmann, John (1863) [A48]**

21.09.2019

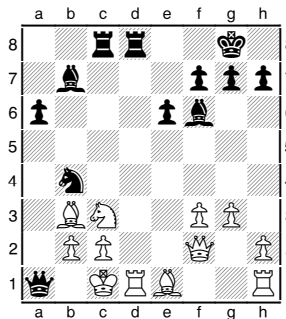
**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d6 6.Nbd2 Nh5 7.Bg3 Re8 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.0-0 Nxd3 10.fxd3 e5 11.Qf2 Rf8 12.Nc4 e4!** Please see the diagram below.



**13.Bxe4 d5 14.Bxd5 Qxd5 15.Ncd2 Bg4 16.c4 Qd7 17.a3 a5 18.Ne4 b6 19.Rac1 Qf5 20.Ned2 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 Rae8 22.Rfe1 Re4 23.Qd2 Rfe4 24.Rc3 Nxd4 25.Nxd4 Bxd4 26.Rd3 Bc5 27.Kh1 Qg5 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4 Bf8 30.Rd5 Rxe3 31.Rf1 Qe7 32.Rd7 Re1 0-1**

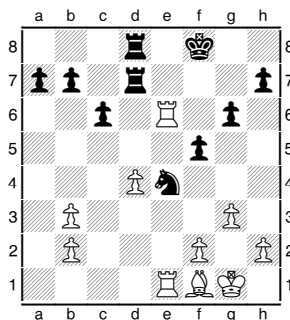
**(2) Hamilton, Walt (1371) - Nelson, Kent (1832) [B21]**

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.f3 Nc6 4.Ne2 e6 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be3 Qc7 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.a3 b5 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.0-0-0 b4 12.axb4 Nxb4 13.Bc4 Rc8 14.Bb3 d5 15.exd5 Nfxd5 16.Bd2 0-0 17.g3 Bf6 18.Qf2 Rfd8 19.Nde2 Qa5 20.Be1 Nxc3 21.Nxc3 Qa1+ 0-1** Please see the diagram below. Final Position.



Polacek, Noah (1812) - Revesz, Gregory (2008) [A17]

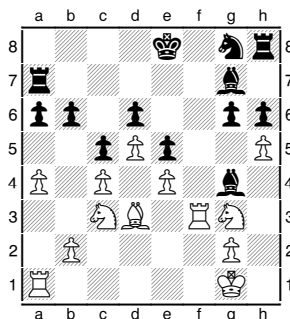
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.Nd2 0-0 10.e4 dxe4 11.Ndxe4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Bxe4 f5 14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.Bg2 Qc7 16.Bd2 Nf6 17.Bb4 Rad8 18.Rad1 Qb6 19.Bxd6 Qxb3 20.axb3 Rxd6 21.Rfe1 Rfd8 22.Re7 R6d7 23.Rde1 Kg8 24.Bh3 g6 25.Bf1 Kf8 26.R7e6 Ne4 Please see the diagram below.



27.f3 Nd2 28.R1e3 Rxd4 29.Re7 Nxf1 30.Kxf1 Rd1+ 31.Kf2 R8d2+ 32.Re2 Rxe2+ 33.Rxe2 Kf7 34.Ke3 Ke6 35.h4 Ke5 36.h5 gxh5 37.Rh2 Rd5 38.Rxh5 Rb5 39.f4+ Ke6 40.Kd4 Rxb3 41.Rh6+ Kf7 42.Rxh7+ Kg6 43.Rh8 Rxb2 44.Ke5 a5 45.Ra8 Rb5+ 46.Ke6 Rd5 47.Rg8+ Kh7 48.Rg5 a4 49.Kf7 Rd7+ 50.Ke6 Rg7 51.Rh5+ Kg8 52.Rxf5 b5 53.Kd6 a3 54.Rc5 a2 55.Rc1 b4 56.f5 b3 57.f6 b2 58.Rxc6 b1Q 59.Rc8+ Kh7 0-1 This time, Gregory won. If both young players continue to play chess in Nebraska, I predict they will become rivals. -Ed.

Cusumano, Steven (1860) - Stepp, John (1700) [A42]

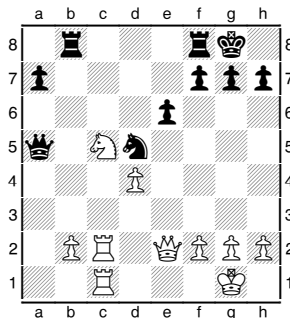
1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e6 5.Be3 a6 6.Bd3 b6 7.Nge2 Nd7 8.0-0 Bb7 9.f4 c5 10.d5 e5 11.f5 Ne7 12.Ng3 Nf6 13.Bg5 Neg8 14.Qf3 Ra7 15.a4 Bc8 16.h4 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.fxg6 fxg6 19.h5 Qxf3 20.Rxf3 Bg4



21.hxg6 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Ne7 23.Nf5 Nxe6 24.Nxd6+ Kd8 25.a5 bxa5 26.Rxa5 Nf4 27.Bf1 Bf6 28.Nf5 Rhh7 29.Na4 Rab7 30.Rxa6 Be7 31.d6 Bxd6 32.Nxd6 Rhg7+ 33.Kf2 Rb8 34.Nb5 h5 35.Rh6 1-0 Nice exchange sac! -Ed

Revesz, Gregory (2008) - Buckley, Matt (1890)

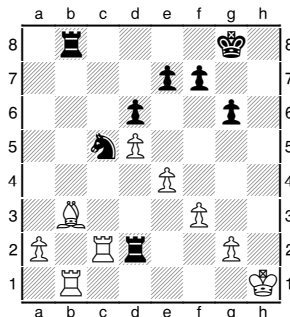
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3 e6 7.Bd3 Bd6  
8.Qe2 b5 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Ne5 Bb7 11.Bg5 Nbd5 12.Bxb5 0-0 13.Bxc6 Bxc6  
14.Nxc6 Qb6 15.c4 Qxc6 16.cxd5 Nxd5 17.Rac1 Qb6 18.Rc4 Qa5 19.Ne4  
Bf4 20.Bxf4 Nxf4 21.Qf3 Qxa2 22.Rfc1 Nd5 23.Qe2 Rab8 24.R4c2 Qa5  
25.Nc5 Diagram below.



Qb5 26.Qxb5 Rxb5 27.Nd7 g6 28.Nxf8 Kxf8 29.Kf1 Rb3 30.Rd2 Ke7  
31.Ra1 Rb7 32.Ke2 Kf6 33.Rc2 Nb4 34.Rc4 Nd5 35.Ra2 a5 36.Rca4 Rxb2+  
37.Rxb2 Nc3+ 1-0

Hartmann, John (1863) - Cusumano, Steven (1860)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.f3 g6 5.e4 d6 6.cxb5 a6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Bc4 0-0  
9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 c4 12.Bc2 axb5 13.Nxb5 Qb6+ 14.Nbd4  
Ba6 15.Kh1 Nd3 16.b3 Nxc1 17.Rxc1 cxb3 18.Bxb3 Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Nd7  
20.h4 Nc5 21.Rb1 Qa5 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Rfb8 24.h5 Qb4 25.Qxb4  
Rxb4 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Rfc1 Rab8 28.Bc2 Rb2 29.Bb3 Rd2 30.Rc2? (D)

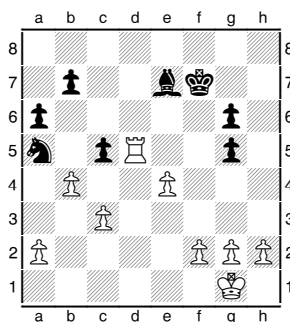


**30. .R:b3! 0-1**

A nice shot by Steve at the end!-Editor.

Kolli, Sai (1530) - Look, Scott (1663)

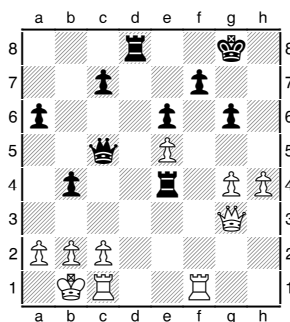
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.0-0 a6 5.Bxd7+ Bxd7 6.c3 g6 7.Re1 e5  
8.d4 Bg7 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nc4 0-0 12.Ncxe5 Bc6 13.Bg5 f6  
14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.Nf7+ Rxf7 16.Qxf7 fxg5 17.Nxg5 Qf8 18.Qxf8+ Bxf8  
19.Rad1 Re8 20.Rd8 Kg8 21.Red1 h6 22.Rxe8 Bxe8 23.Rd8 hxg5  
24.Rxe8 Nc6 25.Rc8 Na5 26.Rd8 Kf7 27.Rd5 Be7 28.b4 (D)



cx b4 29.Rxa5 bxc3 30.Ra4 Bf6 31.Rb4 time forfeit 0-1 A tough game to lose on time-Ed.

Linscott, John (1857) - Hartmann, John (1863)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 f5  
8.Nc3 a6 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Qe2 Qd6 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Kb1 b4  
14.Na4 Be6 15.Nc5 Nxc5 16.dxc5 Qxc5 17.Rhe1 0-0 18.Ne5 Bf6 19.f4  
Rfd8 20.g4 Bxe5 21.fxe5 f4 22.Qd2 Bf3 23.Rc1 Rd4 24.Rf1 Be4  
25.Qxf4 Bg6 26.Qg3 Rad8 27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.h4 Re4? (D)

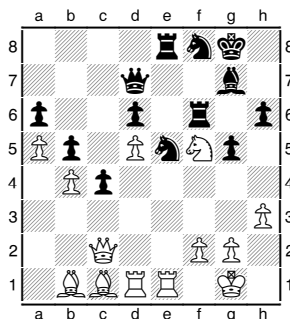


29.Qf3 Qxe5 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 31.Qxg6 Red4 32.Rf7 1-0

28. .Re4? cost Black the game. Perhaps time pressure was a factor.-Ed.

(15) Look, Scott (1663) - Stepp, John (1700)

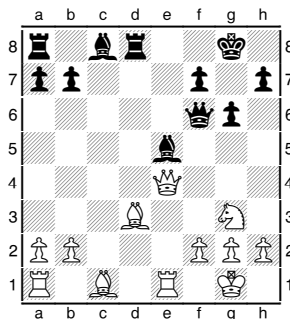
1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bf4 Nd7 6.e3 h6 7.Bd3 e6 8.Qc2  
Ne7 9.0-0 b6 10.b4 Bb7 11.Nd2 f5 12.h3 0-0 13.a4 e5 14.Bh2 exd4  
15.exd4 Bxd4 16.Nb3 Bg7 17.Rae1 Nc6 18.Nd5 Nce5 19.Nd4 Bxd5  
20.cxd5 Qf6 21.Ne6 Rfc8 22.Qd2 c5 23.Bb1 c4 24.Qc3 b5 25.a5 Nf8  
26.Nd4 Nf7 27.Rd1 Re8 28.Bf4 g5 29.Bc1 Ra7 30.Qc2 Ne5 31.Qxf5 Rf7  
32.Rfe1 Qe7 33.Qc2 Qd7 34.Nf5 Rf6 (D) Plus moves.



Black later won.

(16) Cusumano, Steven (1860) - Revesz, Gregory (2008)

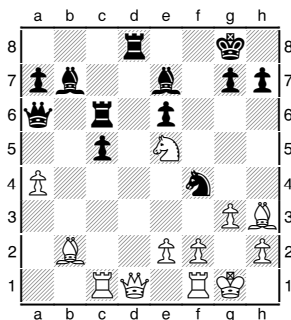
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.e4 e5 8.cxd5  
cxd5 9.exd5 0-0 10.0-0 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nb6 12.Nf5 Be5 13.Qf3 Nbxh5  
14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Qf6 16.Ng3 Rd8 17.Qe4 g6 18.Re1? (18 Rd1 or  
Bc4 may save the piece.)



Bxg3 19.hxg3 Bf5 20.Qxb7 Bxd3 21.Bf4 Ba6 22.Qb3 Rac8 23.Be5 Qf5  
24.Qf3 Qxf3 25.gxf3 Bb7 26.f4 Rc2 27.Bc3 Kf8 28.Re3 Bc8 29.Rae1  
Be6 30.a3 Rd5 31.f3 Ke7 32.R3e2 Rxe2 33.Rxe2 Rd3 34.Kf2 Kd6  
35.Rd2 Rxd2+ 36.Bxd2 Kd5 37.Ke3 Kc4 38.Bc3 f5 39.Bd4 a5 40.Bc3  
a4 41.Bg7 h5 42.Bf6 Bd5 43.Bc3 Be6 44.Bf6 ½-½

(19) Solheim, Jeffrey (1569) - Look, Scott (1663)

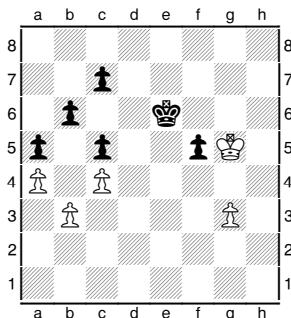
1.b4 e6 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.a3 c5 4.c3 b6 5.d3 d5 6.Nd2 Nbd7 7.g3 Bb7 8.Bg2  
Be7 9.Ng3 Rc8 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 e5 12.bxc5 bxc5 13.c4 Qc7 14.cxd5  
Nxd5 15.d4 Qb6 16.Nc4 Qb5 17.dxe5 Rfd8 18.Bh3 Rc6 19.a4 Qa6  
20.e6 fxe6 21.Nfe5 Nxe5 22.Nxe5 Nf4!



23.Bxe6+? (either 23.Q:d8+ followed by g:f or 23 g:f . .R:d1 24 Rf:d1  
offered more resistance.) Rxe6 24.Qxd8+ Bxd8 25.gxf4 Rg6+ 26.Nxg6  
Qxg6# 0-1

Kolli, Sai (1530) - Polacek, Noah (1812)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Be7 6.Nxc6 dxc6  
7.Qxd8+ Bxd8 8.Bg5 0-0 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Be2 Ng4 11.Bxd8 Raxd8 12.f3  
Ne3 13.Rxd8 Rxd8 14.g3 Nc4 15.b3 Nb6 16.Rd1 Rxd1+ 17.Kxd1 f6  
18.Bd3 Kf7 19.Ne2 Nd7 20.Nf4 Ne5 21.Nxe6 Kxe6 22.Be2 c5 23.f4 Nc6  
24.Bg4+ Kd6 25.Kd2 g6 26.a3 Nd4 27.Bc8 b6 28.Ba6 Nf3+ 29.Ke3  
Nxe2 30.Be2 h5 31.f5 gxf5 32.Kf4 fxe4 33.Kxe4 Ng4 34.Kf5 Ke7  
35.Bxg4 hxg4 36.Kxg4 Ke6 37.Kf4 f5 38.c4 a6 39.a4 a5 40.Kg5 Ke5  
41.Kg6 Ke6 42.Kg5 Ke5 43.Kg6 Ke6 44.Kg5 ½-½ (Diagram below)

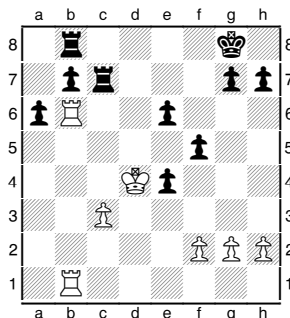


A good game by Sai, who shows great promise!-Ed.

## Games from the Lincoln City Chess Championship

(2) Kolli, Sai - Cusumano, Steven Notes by Cusumano.

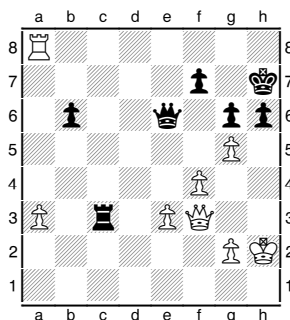
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.Be2 Bb4 9.a3?? [9.f3] 9...Nxe4 10.Qd3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 d5?! [11...Ne5! 12.Qd1 (12.Qxe4?? Qxc3+ 13.Kd1 Qxa1+ 14.Bc1-+) 12...Nxc3+-] 12.Bf3? This allows the Ne5 idea again. 12...Ne5 13.Qd1 Qxc3+ 14.Ke2 Bd7 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qd2 Bb5+ 17.Nxb5 Qc4+ 18.Ke1 Qxb5 19.Qe2 Qb2 20.Rd1 Qc3+ 21.Qd2 Qxd2+ 22.Rxd2 Nc4 23.Rd1 Nxa3 24.c3 Nc2+ 25.Ke2 Nxe3 26.Kxe3 f5 27.Rb1 Rb8?! 28.Rb6 0-0 29.Rhb1 Rfc8 30.Kd4 Rc7 Diagram.



31.Rxe6 31...Rbc8 32.Reb6 Rxc3 33.Rxb7 R3c7 34.Rb8 Rxb8 35.Rxb8+ Kf7 36.Ra8 Rc6 37.g4 fxg4 38.Kxe4 Rf6 39.Ke3 h5 40.Rb8 Kg6 41.Rb1 a5 42.Ra1 Ra6 43.Ra4 Kg5 44.f4+ Kf5 0-1

(1) Buckley, Matt - Solheim, Jeff

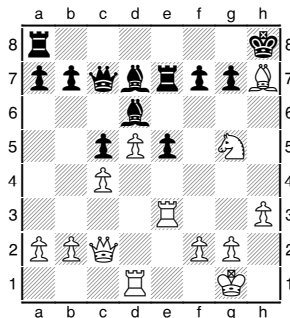
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Nd2 Nbd7 4.e3 e6 5.Ng3 Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.a3 0-0 8.Bd3 Qe8 9.0-0 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bh4 Be6 14.Bg3 Ng4 15.cxd5 Bxd5 16.Bf5 Be6 17.Nc4 Bxc4 18.Qxc4 Nf6 19.Qb3 b6 20.Rad1 Bxg3 21.hxg3 Qe5 22.Bd7 c5 23.Rd2 Rad8 24.Rfd1 Nxd7 25.Rxd7 Rxd7 26.Rxd7 c4 27.Qb4 Rc8 28.Rxa7 c3 29.bxc3 Rxc3 30.Qf4 Rc1+ 31.Kh2 Qh5+ 32.Qh4 Qd1 33.Ra8+ Kh7 34.Qe4+ g6 35.g4 Qd6+ 36.f4 Qf6 37.Qf3 Rc3 38.g5 Qe6 Later 0-1



Solheim went on to win this game. 0-1

Revesz, Greg - Look, Scott

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 exd5 4.exd5 d6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.Re1 Nbd7 9.c4 Re8 10.Nc3 Nf8 11.h3 Ng6 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Re3 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Rd1 Bd6 20.Ng5 Re7

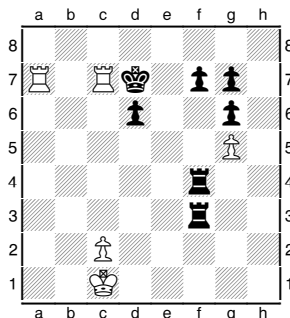


21.Bg8!!

.f5 22.Be6 e4 23.Qe2 g6 24.h4 Kg7 25.h5 Rh8 26.Rh3 Bf4 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Ne6+ Rxe6 29.dxe6 Qxe6 30.hxg6 Rxh3 31.gxh3 Qxg6+ 32.Kh1 Qc6 33.Rd5 b5 34.Qh5 bxc4 35.Qxf5 e3 36.fxe3 Bxe3 37.Qd7+ Qxd7 38.Rxd7+ Kf8 39.Rxa7 1–0 White's 21Bg8 was a very “pretty” move!-Ed.

Caplan, Eylon - Polacek, Noah

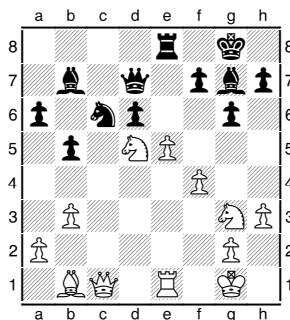
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Bxd4 6.Bxd4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 Qf6 8.e5 Qg6 9.Qd3 Ne7 10.Nc3 a6 11.Qxg6 hxg6 12.0–0 b6 13.Bc4 Bb7 14.Nd5 Rc8 15.Nxe7 Kxe7 16.f3 Rh5 17.Rde1 Rch8 18.h3 b5 19.Bb3 Rh4 20.Re2 a5 21.a3 a4 22.Ba2 b4 23.Rd1 bxa3 24.bxa3 R8h5 25.Bd5 Bxd5 26.Rxd5 Ke6 27.Red2 d6 28.g4 Rxe5 29.R5d4 Rxh3 30.f4 Ree3 31.Rxa4 Rxa3 32.Rc4 Kd7 33.Re2 Rae3 34.Rd2 Rhg3 35.g5 Rh3 36.Rd5 Rh4 37.Ra5 Rf3 38.Ra7 Rhxf4 39.Rcxc7+ 0–1 Final Position below. Perhaps white overstepped his time limit. Still a lot of play left from the diagram-Ed.





**(8) Solheim, Jeff - Linscott, John [C97]**

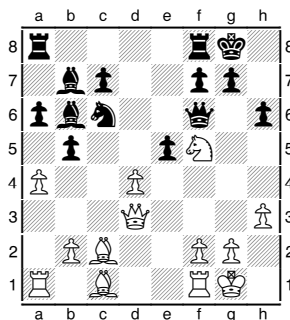
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 Na5 9.Bc2 c5 10.d4 Qc7 11.Re1 b5 12.h3 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3 g6 15.Bg5 Be7 16.b3 cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4 18.Nxd4 Bb7 19.Rc1 Nc6 20.Bb1 Qd7 21.Nde2 Rac8 22.Nf4 Ne5 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Nd5 Bg7 25.f4 Rxc1 26.Qxc1 Nc6 27.e5? Jeff is a very aggressive player but e5 is premature against a rock solid player like John Linscott-Ed.



dx5 28.Rd1 Nd4 29.Nc3 b4 30.Nce4 Bxe4 31.Bxe4 exf4 32.Qc4 f3 33.Bc6 Ne2+ 34.Qxe2 Qxc6 35.Qd3 Qc5+ 36.Kh1 Qe3 37.Qf1 Qf2 0-1

**Knapp, Joe - Polacek, Noah**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 5.c3 b5 6.Bc2 d6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.h3 h6 10.0-0 Nge7 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Ne2 Ng6 13.a4 Bb7 14.Ng3 Nh4 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.Nf5 Qf6 17.e5 dxe5 18.Qd3 Diagram below.



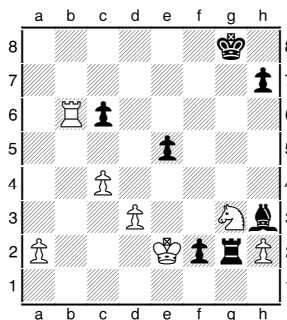
Rfe8 (maybe . . e4 first) 19.Nxh6+ gxh6 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Bxh6+ Ke7 22.Bg7 Qd6 23.dxe5 Nxe5 24.Bxe5 Bxf2+ 25.Rxf2 Qxe5 26.Rd1 Bd5 27.Qh4+ Kf8 28.Qb4+ Kg8 29.Rf4 Re6 30.Rg4+ Kh8 31.Rh4+ Kg7 32.Rh7+ Kf6 33.Qh4+ Qg5 34.Rh6+ Ke7 35.Qxg5+ Kf8 36.Rh8# 1-0

An intriguing game between one of Nebraska's premier attacking player in Joe Knapp against up and coming player in young Noah Polacek who defends quite well. Credit goes to both players for a hard fought game.-Ed.

Iacono, Leo - Mills, Mike

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

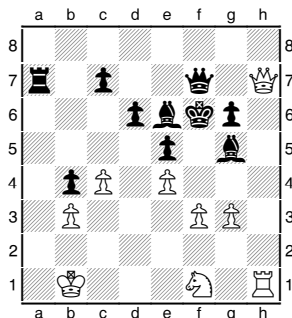
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 d6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0-0 Nf6  
8.d3 0-0 9.Qe1 e6 10.e5 Nd5 11.Ne4 dxe5 12.fxe5 Qb6 13.c4 Ne7  
14.Qe3 Nf5 15.Qxc5 Rd8 16.Qxb6 axb6 17.Rd1 Ra7 18.g4 Nd4  
19.Nxd4 Rxd4 20.Be3 Bxe5 21.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 22.Kf1 Bxb2 23.Rab1 Bd4  
24.Rd2 e5 25.Kg2 f5 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Ng3 Rg7 28.Kf1 f4 29.Ne2 Bh3+  
30.Ke1 Be3 31.Rdb2 Rg2 32.Rxb6 Bxb6 33.Rxb6 f3 34.Ng3 f2+ 35.Ke2



Rxg3 [35...f1Q+ 36.Kxf1 Rb2+--] 36.Kxf2 Rg2+ 37.Ke3 Rxa2 38.Rxc6  
Kf7 39.Rc7+ Kg6 40.Ke4 Bf5+ 41.Kxe5 Bxd3 42.Kd4 Bf5 43.Ke5 Rxh2  
44.Rc6+ Kg5 45.Rc7 Re2+ 46.Kd6 Re6+ 47.Kd5 h5 48.Rg7+ Kf4  
49.Rg1 h4 50.Rf1+ Kg5 51.Rg1+ Kf6 52.Kd4 h3 53.Rh1 Re2 54.c5 Ke6  
55.c6 Kd6 56.Rf1 h2 57.Rc1 Kc7 58.Rf1 Kxc6 0-1

Look, Scott - Caplan, Eylon (Notes by Steve Cusumano)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nd2 d6 5.Ng3 Nh5 6.Bg5 0-0 7.c3 a6  
8.Bd3 Nd7 9.Qc2 b5 10.Be4 Ra7 11.Bd5 Nhf6 12.Bc6 Nb8 13.d5 Nxc6  
14.dxc6 Qe8 15.e4 e5 16.h4 Qxc6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Ng5 Bb7 19.0-0-0  
a5 20.Nxh7 Kxh7 21.h5 Bg5 22.f3 Kg7 23.Kb1 Rh8 24.hxg6 Rxh1  
25.Rxh1 fxg6 26.Nf1 b4 27.c4 Ba6 28.b3 a4 29.g3 axb3 30.axb3 Bc8  
31.Qh2 Qe8 32.Qh7+ Kf6 33.Nh2 Be6 34.Nf1 Qf7??

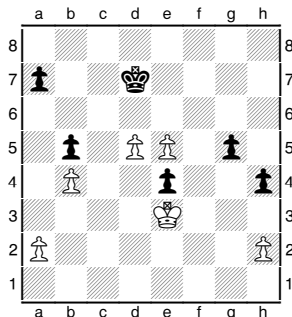


This allows a drawing sequence from white. 35.Qh8+! Qg7 36.Qb8??

This move gives black the win once again. [36.Qd8+! Qe7 (36...Kf7  
37.Qxg5=) 37.Qh8+ Qg7 38.Qd8+=] 36...c5 37.Rh8 Bh6 38.Rxh6 Qxh6  
39.Qxa7 0-1

## Reichenbach, Matt - Kolli, Sai

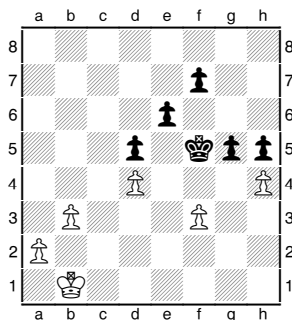
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 0-0 7.e3 c6 8.Be2  
 Qe7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rc1 Re8 11.Qc2 Nf8 12.Ne5 N8d7 13.Rfd1 g5 14.Bg3  
 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Na4 Bd7 18.Nc5 b6 19.Nxd7 Qxd7  
 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.Ba6 Ne4 22.Qc6 Qxc6 23.Rxc6 Red8 24.Rdc1 Rd6  
 25.Rc8+ Rd8 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.Rc7 Kf8 28.Bb5 Nd6 29.Bc6 Rc8 30.Rxc8+  
 Nxc8 31.g4 Nd6 32.b4 b5 33.f3 Ke7 34.e4 dxe4 35.fxe4 f5 36.gxf5 exf5 37.e5  
 Ne4 38.Bxe4 fxe4 39.d5 Kd7 40.Kf2 h5 41.Ke3 h4 1-0



Final Position-Black resigns

## Linscott, John - Knapp, Joe

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.0-0-0 Nd7 7.h4 h5 8.f3 Bb7  
 9.Kb1 c5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Nxb5 Nxe4 12.fxe4 axb5 13.Bxb5+ Kf8 14.Bd4  
 Bxe4 15.Nf3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qa5 17.Bxg7+ Kxg7 18.Bc4 Qxd2 19.Rxd2 Nh6  
 20.Re2 Nf5 21.Ree1 e6 22.Bd3 Kf6 23.c3 Rhc8 24.Bxf5 Kxf5 25.Re4 d5  
 26.Rd4 Rc4 27.Rhd1 Raa4 28.b3 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.cxd4 g5 0-1

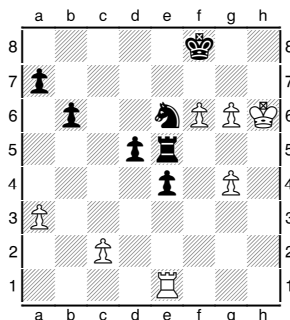


Final Position. White resigns. Black wins the pawn race-Ed.

## Revesz, Greg - Cusumano, Steven

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Qd3 Qxe5+ 11.Ne2 dxc3 12.Bf4 Qf5 13.Qxc3 Nbc6 14.h4 Bd7 15.Rb1 b6 16.g3 Rc8 17.Bh3 Qh7 18.Bg5 Na5 19.Qf6 Nec6 20.0-0 Rg6 21.Qf4 Nc4 22.Nc3 Qg7 23.Nb5 f6 24.Nc7+ Rxc7 25.Qxc7 fxg5 26.Rfe1 N4e5 27.hxg5 Nf3+ 28.Kg2 Nxe1+ 29.Rxe1 e5 30.Bxd7+ Qxd7 31.Qxd7+ Kxd7 32.f4 e4!? Probably a bad practical choice with little time left on the clock. It would have been better to have played exf4 since it is easier to stop 2 pawns instead of 3 pawns. 33.Kh3 Ne7 34.Kg4 Re6 35.f5 Re5 36.f6 Ng6 37.Kh5 Nf8 38.Kh6 Ne6 39.g6 Ke8 40.g4 Kf8?? Diagram below.



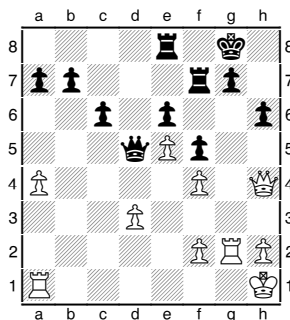
[40...Rg5!! I thought about this move during the game but was worried about white playing c4 and thus having an open file to check my king and queen his dangerous pawns. However, c4 is 1 tempo too slow as white's king is in a mating net himself. 41.c4 Rxg4 42.Kh5 (42.cxd5 Rh4#; 42.Kh7 Kf8 43.g7+ Kf7 44.Rh1 dxc4-+) 42...Rg5+ 43.Kh6 Rg2 44.f7+ Kf8-+] 41.Kh7? [41.c4!! d4 42.c5!!= This is equal according to stockfish but I don't know exactly why. If white is able to get an open file for his rook then he is likely winning because black's king is in a mating net. One line may be the following. 42...d3 43.cxb6 axb6 44.Rc1 Rc5 45.Rxc5 bxc5 46.Kh7 Ng5+ 47.Kh8 Nf7+ 48.Kh7 Ng5+ 49.Kh8= I can't blame anyone for missing such a difficult to see forced draw.] 41...Ng5+? [41...Rg5-+] 42.Kh8 Nf7+ 43.Kh7 Ng5+ 44.Kh8 ½-½

(24) Mills, Mike - Caplan, Eylon Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.h4 Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.Be2 h6 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 c5 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Bf3 Qb6 10.Qb3 Re8 11.Nge2 e5 12.Bg5 Qxb3 13.axb3 hxg5 14.hxg5 Nh7 15.Nd5 e4 16.Nc7 Re7 17.Nxa8 exf3 18.Rxh7 Kxh7 19.gxf3 b6 20.0-0-0 Nc6 21.Nf4 Be6 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.cxd5 Ne5 24.d6 Rd7 25.f4 Nc6 26.Nc7 Nb4 27.e4 f6 28.gxf6 Bxf6 29.e5 Bd8 30.e6 Rg7 31.Ne8 Rb7 32.d7 Nc6 33.Nd6 Rc7 [33...Rb8=] 34.Nf7 Be7 35.d8Q Bxd8 36.Nxd8 Nxd8 [36...Nd4=; 36...Nxd8 37.Rxd8+-] 1-0

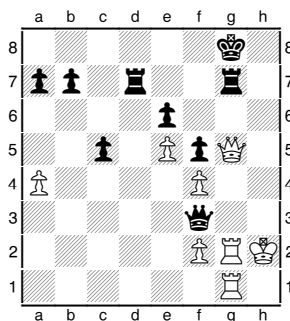
Cusumano, Steven - Mills, Mike Notes by Steve.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Bf5 5.Nf3 [5.Qf3<sup>2</sup>] 5...e6 6.Bf4  
Bd6 7.Bg3 Nf6 8.Bd3 Bg4 9.Be2?! [9.Ne4] 9...c6 10.a4 0-0 11.Qd2 Bb4  
12.Bd3?! [12.0-0] 12...Nbd7 13.0-0 Qa5 14.Qe3 [14.Ne5] 14...Bxc3  
15.bxc3 Nd5 16.Qg5 Bxf3 17.gxf3 h6 18.Qh5 Qxc3 19.Rfd1 f5 20.Rab1  
N7f6 21.Qh4 Rf7 22.Be5 Qa5 23.Ra1 Re8 24.Kh1 Nd7 25.Rg1 Nxe5  
26.dxe5 Nb4 27.f4 Nxd3 28.cxd3 Qd5+ 29.Rg2



**Qxd3?**

It is unnecessary for black to give up the h6 pawn and give white attacking chances. [29...b5! 30.Qxh6?? Qxg2+ 31.Kxg2 gxh6-+] **30.Qxh6 Qe4**  
**31.Qg5 Rd7 32.h4 Red8 33.h5 Qf3 34.Kh2 Rf8 35.Rag1 Rff7 36.h6 c5?**  
[36...Rd4=] **37.hxg7 Rxg7** [37...Rd4=]

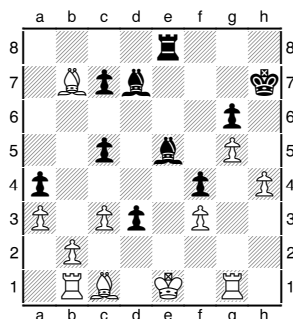


**38.Qh6**

[38.Qxg7+ Rxg7 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 (39...Kf8 40.Rg8+ Ke7 41.R1g7#)  
40.R7g3 Qxf4 41.Kg2 Qe4+ 42.f3 Qc2+ 43.Kh1 f4 44.Rh3+ Qh7  
45.Rxh7+ Kxh7+-] **38...Qg4 39.Rxg4 fxg4 40.Qxe6+ Kh8 41.Rxg4 Rde7**  
**42.Rh4+ Rh7 43.Qxe7 1-0**

Solheim, Jeff - Roldan, Jeremy Notes by Steve.

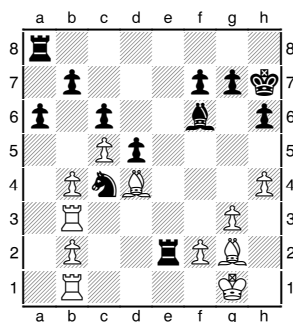
1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Bg5 f6 5.exf6 gxf6 6.Bc1 d6 7.e3 Bh6  
8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bb5 Qg7 10.Rg1 Nge7 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.Qh5+ Qg6  
13.Qxg6+ hxg6 14.Ne4 Kf7 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Ba4 f5 17.Bb3+ Kg7  
18.Ng3 Bg5 19.h3 a5 20.a3 Bf6 21.Ne2 a4 22.Ba2 Rab8 23.c3 e5 24.Nf4  
Rb7 25.Ne6+ Kh7 26.g4 Re8 27.g5 Bh8 28.h4 Nc6 29.Nf4 Be5 30.Nd3  
f4 31.e4 Na5 32.f3 Nb3 33.Rb1 d5 34.Bxb3 dxe4 35.Bd5 exd3 36.Bxb7  
Please see the diagram below.



Bxc3+ [36...Bd4+ 37.Kf1 Bh3+ 38.Rg2 Re2=] 37.Kd1 Ba5 38.Bd2 Bb6  
39.Be4 c4 40.Rh1 Rxe4 41.fxe4 Bg4+ 42.Ke1 f3 43.Rf1 Kg7 44.Rc1 Kf7  
45.Rxc4 Ke6 46.Rxa4 Ke5 47.Rb4 Bh5 48.Rc4 Bg4 49.b4 1-0

Polacek, Noah - Iacono, Leo

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 h6 7.Qb3 Qb6 8.Nc3  
Nbd7 9.c5 Qxb3 10.axb3 Be7 11.Bd2 Ne4 12.Ra3 0-0 13.Rfa1 a6  
14.Be3 Bf6 15.h3 e5 16.b4 Rfe8 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 Nxc3 19.Nxf5  
Nb5 20.Rb3 Nc4 21.Rb1 Kh7 22.h4 Re5 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxe2

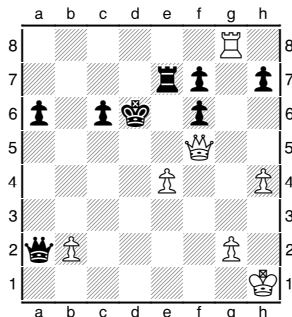


25.Bxf6?Nd2 26.Rd3 Nxb1 27.Bd4 Nd2 28.Bh3 Nc4 29.b3 Ne5 30.Rd1  
Nf3+ 31.Kf1 Nxd4 32.Rxd4 Rb2 33.Rd3 Re8 34.Bg4 g6 35.Bf3 Rb1+  
36.Kg2 Ree1 37.h5 Rb2 38.Bg4 f5 39.hxg6+ Kxg6 40.Bh3 Ree2 41.Rf3  
Re5 42.Rd3 Re4 43.Rf3 Rxb4 44.Bxf5+ Kg7 45.Be6 R2xb3 46.Rf7+  
Kg6 47.Rf8 Rb2 48.Rg8+ Kf6 49.Bg4 d4 50.Rf8+ Ke5 51.Re8+ Kd5  
52.Re6 0-1

**(29) Belashchenko, Kirill - Revesz, Greg [B92]**

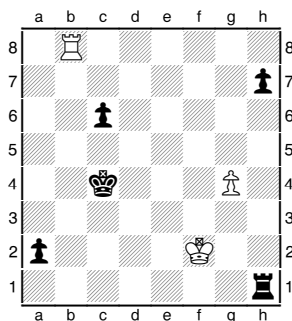
Notes by Steve.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6  
8.Be2 Nbd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.f4 exf4 11.Bxf4 Ne5 12.Kh1 0-0 13.Nd4 Qd7  
14.Nxe6 Qxe6 15.Qd4 Rac8 16.Bd3 Rc5 17.Rad1 Rfc8 18.Nd5 Nxd3  
19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.cxd3 d5 21.Bg5 dxe4 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.dxe4 Re5  
24.Rf4 Rc2 25.Rdf1 Rc6 26.h4 Rce6 27.Rg4+ Kf8 28.Rc1 Rc6 29.Rxc6  
bxc6 30.Qe3 Qe6 31.Qh6+ Ke7 32.Rg8 Qxa2? [32...Qd7] 33.Qf8+ Ke6  
34.Qc8+ Kd6 35.Qf8+ Re7 36.Qd8+ Ke6 37.Qc8+ Ke5 38.Qf5+ Kd6



**39.Rd8+**

[39.Qxf6+! Re6 40.Qd4+ Kc7 41.Qd8+ Kb7 42.Qb8#] 39...Kc7 40.Qc8+  
Kb6 41.Qb8+ Rb7 42.Qf4 Qxb2 43.Qe3+ Kc7 44.Qd3 Qb1+ 45.Kh2  
Qxd3 46.Rxd3 Rb4 47.Ra3 Kb6 48.Rf3 Rxe4 49.Rxf6 Rxh4+ 50.Kg3  
Rh1 51.Rxf7 a5 52.Rf4 Kb5 53.Kf2 a4 54.g4 a3 55.Rf8 a2 56.Rb8+ Kc4  
0-1



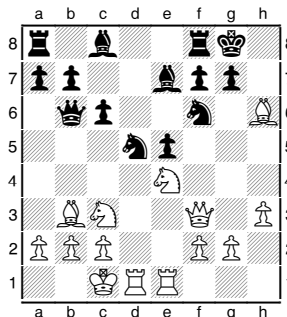
Final Position-White Resigns.

## Games from the 2019 Midwest Open-12/28/19

Belashchenko, Kirill - Look, Scott

Notes by Steve Cusumano. NSCA games coordinator.

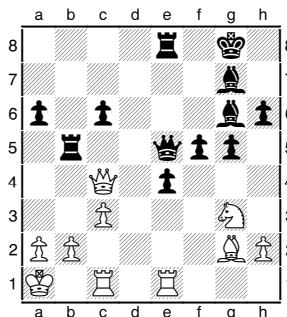
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.h3 Qa5 5.Bd2 Qb6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Bc4 e5 8.Ng5 d5 9.exd5 Qxd4 10.Bb3 Nxd5 11.Qf3 [11.Qh5 g6 12.Qf3+-] 11...N7f6 12.0-0 -0 h6 13.Nge4 Be7 14.Rhe1 0-0 15.Bxh6! Qb6 Diagram below.



16.Bg5?! [16.Nxf6+ Nxf6+ looks to be the final blow. Some lines include the following. 16...Bxf6 (16...Nxf6 17.Rxe5 gxh6 18.Rxe7+-) 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.Nxd5+-] 16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Qc7 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Ng5 Nd5 20.Qe4 g6 21.Bxd5?! [21.Qh4 White should keep up the pressure. 21...f6 (21...Kg7 22.Qh7+ Kf6 23.Ne4+ Ke7 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Rxd5+-) 22.Rxd5 cxd5 (22...fxg5 23.Rd7+-) 23.Bxd5+-] 21...cxd5 22.Rxd5 Bf5 23.Qe2 Rac8 24.c3 Qc4 25.Qxc4 Rxc4 26.Rdxe5?? f6 27.Rxf5 gxf5 ½-½

Peters, Lee - Wagner, Jacob

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.g3 g5 10.f5 Bg7 11.Nce2 0-0 12.g4 Nc6 13.c3 d5 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Ng3 dxc4 16.Qe2 exf5 17.gxf5 Bxf5 18.Bg2 Bg6 19.0-0-0 Qf4+ 20.Kb1 f5 21.Rhf1 Qe5 22.Ka1 Rab8 23.Rc1 Rfe8 24.Rfe1 Rb5 25.Qc4+ Diagram.

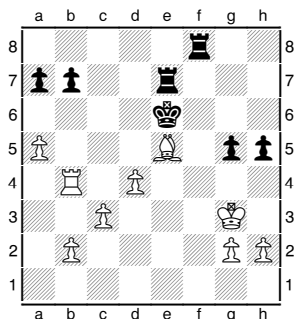


Bf7 26.Qf1 Qe6 27.b3 Rc5 28.Ne2 f4 29.Nd4 Qd5 30.Red1 Rxc3 31.Rxc3 Bxd4 32.Rdc1 f3 33.Bh3 Bxc3+ 34.Rxc3 Qd4 35.Qc1 Rd8 36.Kb1 Qd1 37.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 38.Kc2 Rh1 39.Bf5 Rxh2+ 40.Kd1 Bd5 41.a4 Kg7 42.Re3 Re2 0-1 It's good to have Mr. Peters playing again after a long absence.



Mills, Michael - Nayak, Anurag

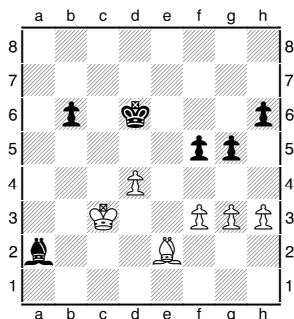
1.e4 c5 2.Be2 d6 3.f4 Nc6 4.c3 e5 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 Qc7 8.Kh1 h6 9.Na3 Be6 10.f5 Bd7 11.Nc2 d5 12.Nd2 0-0-0 13.Qe1 Bd6 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Ne4 Be7 16.Ne3 Nf4 17.Rxf4 exf4 18.Nd5 Qe5 19.Nxe7+ Nxe7 20.Qf2 g5 21.fxg6 Nxc5 22.Nxc5 Rde8 23.Bf1 Qe1 24.Kg1 Qxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Bc6 26.d4 Rhg8 27.Nd3 Re4 28.Be2 Bb5 29.a4 Bxd3 30.Bxd3 Re7 31.Bxg6 fxg6 32.Bxf4 Rf8 33.Kg3 g5 34.Be5 Kd7 35.a5 h5 36.Ra4 Ke6 37.Rb4 Diagram below.



Plus moves. Nayak went on to win this game in time trouble. 0-1

Chandrasekar, Haresh - Hartmann, John

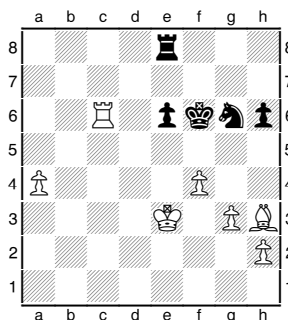
1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 dxc4 9.e3 b5 10.Qc2 Bb7 11.Be2 Nbd7 12.h3 g5 13.Bg3 Be4 14.Qd2 Qe7 15.0-0 c6 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Nd7 18.f3 Bg6 19.Bh2 Rfd8 20.Bc7 Re8 21.Ba5 Nb6 22.Bxb6 axb6 23.Qb2 Ra5 24.a4 Rea8 25.axb5 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 27.Qxa1 cxb5 28.Qa8+ Kg7 29.Qc6 Qa3 30.Qxb5 Qxc3 31.Qxc4 Qxc4 32.Bxc4 Bc2 33.Kf2 Kf6 34.e4 Ke7 35.Ke2 Kd6 36.Kd2 Ba4 37.Kc3 Bd1 38.Ba6 f6 39.Kd2 Bb3 40.g3 f5 41.exf5 exf5 42.Kc3 Bd5 43.Be2 Ba2 Diagram.



Plus moves. Chandrasekar went on to win. 1-0

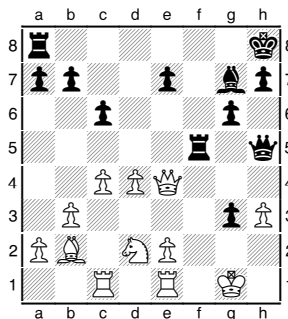
## Knapp, Joseph - McFayden, Alexander

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 b5 5.cxb5 a6 6.bxa6 Bxa6 7.Bg2 c5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nc3 Qb6 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.a3 e5 12.Bg5 e4 13.Be3 Qa5 14.Nd4 Ne5 15.b4 Qc7 16.Rc1 Nc4 17.Qa4+ Qd7 18.Qxd7+ Kxd7 19.Bh3+ Ke8 20.Bg5 Rd8 21.a4 Bxb4 22.Nc6 Ba3 23.Nxd8 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Kxd8 25.Bxf6+ gxf6 26.Nxd5 Ne5 27.Nxf6 Ke7 28.Nxe4 Bxe2 29.Rc7+ Kf8 30.f4 Ng6 31.Kf2 Ba6 32.Ng5 h6 33.Ne4 Kg7 34.Nc5 Bc4 35.Ne6+ Kf6 36.Rxc4 fxe6 37.Rc6 Re8 38.Ke3 1-0 Final Position below. Black resigns.



## Polacek, Noah - Revesz, Greg Notes by SC.

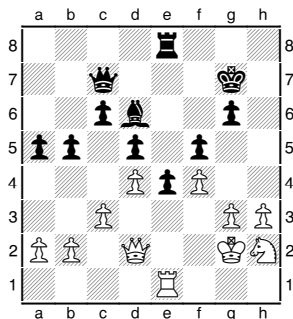
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d5 6.b3 Bf5 7.Bb2 Qc8 8.Nbd2 Bh3 9.c4 c6 10.Rc1 Qg4 11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Qc2 Ne4 13.Bxh3 Qxh3 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Ng5 Qh5 16.Nxe4 f5 17.Nd2 f4 18.Qe4 Nf6 19.Qe6+ Kh8 20.Kg2 Ng4 21.h3 Nxf2 22.Kxf2 fvg3+ 23.Kg1 Rf5 24.Qe4?!



[24.Nf3 Qxh3 This e4 move is the only way to thwart black's speculative attack. (24...Rxf3 25.exf3 Qxf3 26.Rf1+-) 25.e4!!+-] 24...Qxh3 25.Qg2 Qh6 26.Nf3 Qe3+ 27.Kf1 Raf8 28.Rc3 Qxd4 29.Qxg3 Qd2 30.Kg2 Qxb2 31.Re3 Bd4 32.Rxe7 Rxf3 33.Qh4 Rf2+ 34.Kh1 Rf1+ 35.Kh2 R8f2+ 36.Kh3 Qc3+ 37.e3 Rf3+ 38.Kg4 h5+ 39.Kg5 Bf6+ 40.Kh6 Bxh4 41.Rxf1 Bxe7 42.Rxf3 Qg7# 0-1

Nayak, Anurag - Cusumano, Steven

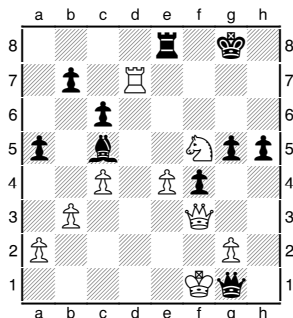
1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Be2 c6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Nh2 Bg6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Ng4 Nbd7 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Ne2 Kg7 17.f4 f5 18.g3 Rh8 19.Kg2 Rae8 20.Ng1 Re3 21.Qd2 Rhe8 22.Rae1 R3e4 23.Nf3 f6 24.c3 a5 25.Rxe4 fxe4 26.Nh2 f5 27.Re1 b5 Please see the diagram below.



[27...g5! 28.fxg5 (28.Rf1 gxf4 29.gxf4 Kf6-+ Opening up white's king looks to give me a winning advantage.) 28...Bxg3-+] 28.Nf1 b4 29.Ne3 bxc3 30.bxc3 Rb8 31.Qc2 Qb7 32.Re2 c5 33.Qd2 c4 34.Qc2 Qc6 35.Re1 Qb5 36.Re2 a4 37.Nd1 a3 38.Ne3 Kf6 39.Kf2 Ke6 40.h4 Qb2 41.Nd1 Qxc2 42.Rxc2 Rb1 43.Ke2 Bc7 44.Kd2 Ba5 45.Rc1 Rxc1 46.Kxc1 e3 47.Nxe3 Bxc3 48.Nc2 Bb2+ 49.Kd2 Kd6 50.Ke2 Kc6 51.Kd2 Kb5 52.Ke2 Plus moves. ½-½

Lacroix, Nick - Knapp, Joseph

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5 8.0-0 Nxd3 9.Qxd3 e5 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.b3 0-0 12.Bb2 h6 13.Rad1 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Qf7 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Re2 Rae8 17.Rde1 Ne4 18.f3 Nc5 19.Qd2 g5 20.e4 f4 21.Nd5 c6 22.Nb4 a5 23.Nd3 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 d5? 25.Ba3 [25.cxd5! cxd5 26.e5+-] 25...dxe4 26.fxe4 Bg4 27.Bxf8 Bxe2 28.Rxe2 Bxf8 29.Nf5 Qf6 30.Rd2 Qa1+ 31.Kf2 Bc5+ 32.Ke2 Qg1 33.Qf3 Qxh2 34.Rd7 Qh1 35.Rd1 Qh2 36.Kf1??-+ h5 37.Rd7

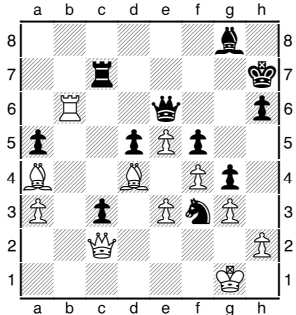


**Qg1+??** This intuitive check gives back the advantage. [37...Kf8 38.Nh6 Re6-+ White's checkmating sequence is no longer possible.] **38.Ke2 Qb1** [38...Qa1 39.Nh6+ Kh8 40.Nf7+ Kg8 41.Nh6+=] **39.Nh6+ Kh8 40.Qc3+ 1-0**

**Perry, Richard - Nelson, Kent**

Game note by Steve Cusumano.

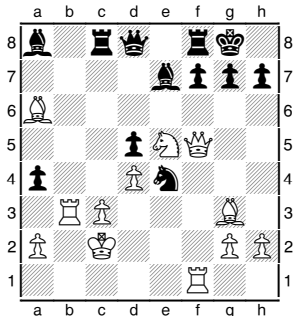
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.b3 Bf5 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.g3 e6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.Nbd2 0–0 9.0–0 Nbd7 10.a3 a5 11.Ra2 Qc7 12.Qa1 Rfe8 13.Rc1 Bf8 14.Bc3 Bg6 15.Qb2 Bh5 16.e3 Bg6 17.Ne1 Ng4 18.Ndf3 f6 19.d4 f5 20.Nd3 Ngf6 21.Nfe5 Nxe5 22.Nxe5 Bh7 23.f3 Bd6 24.Qa1 Nd7 25.cxd5 exd5 26.f4 Nf6 27.Rac2 Ne4 28.Bb2 Qe7 29.Qa2 Kh8 30.Bf3 Bxe5 31.dxe5 Qe6 32.Bd4 Rg8 33.Rg2 g5 34.Rcc2 g4 35.Bd1 Rg7 36.Bc3 Bg8 37.Rc1 c5 38.Ba1 b5 39.Be2 c4 40.Bd4 Rc8 41.bxc4 bxc4 42.Rb1 Rc6 43.Bd1 Kh7 44.Ba4 Ra6 45.Rgb2 Rc7 46.Rb8 c3 47.Qc2 Nd2 48.R1b6?! [48.R1b7+-] 48...Rxb6 49.Rxb6? Nf3+!! Draw agreed.



Rich Perry and your editor go way back to high school some 45 years ago. After winning 3 Nebraska State Chess championships, Richard and his wife, Janet, moved to Texas where Richard gave up over the board competition for the most part. My draw offer was an attempt to encourage Richard to play in over the board tournaments again. It worked, Richard went on to win the 2019 Midwest Open--his 4th Midwest Open title and he is resuming tournament play in Texas. Richard might defend his title with the upcoming March Midwest Open which turned out to be postponed. -Editor.

**Buckley, Matt - Belashchenko, Kirill**

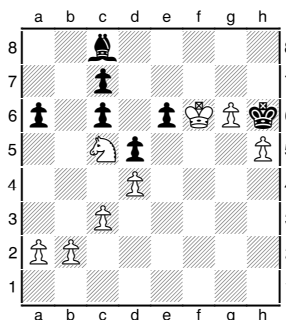
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 b6 4.Nbd2 Bb7 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 d5 7.Ne5 0–0 8.Bg3 Nbd7 9.f4 c5 10.c3 Ne4 11.Qh5 Ndf6 12.Qh3 Nxd2 13.Kxd2 b5 14.f5 exf5 15.Qxf5 cxd4 16.exd4 b4 17.Rhf1 bxc3+ 18.bxc3 Rc8 19.Rab1 Ba8 20.Rb3 a5 21.Ba6 Ne4+ 22.Kc2 a4! Diagram below.



23.Rb5 Rxc3+ 24.Kb2 Qd6 25.Nc4 Qxa6 26.Rb4 Bxb4 0–1

## Wagner, Jacob - Chandrasekar, Haresh

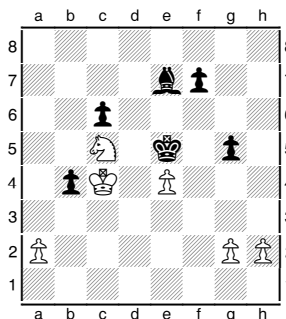
1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 fxe4 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.Nxe4 Qg6 7.Ng3 h5  
8.Bd3 Qh6 9.h4 d5 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Kf7 13.Rae1 Be7  
14.Bb5 Bf6 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Ne5+ Bxe5 17.Rxe5 g6 18.Ne2 Ba6 19.Ng1  
Rae8 20.Nf3 Kf6 21.Rh3 Re7 22.Rg5 Bb7 23.Ne5 Rh6 24.Rf3+ Kg7  
25.Rfg3 Kh7 26.Rxg6 Rxg6 27.Rxg6 Rg7 28.Rxg7+ Kxg7 29.Ke3 Kf6  
30.Kf4 a6 31.Nd7+ Kg6 32.Nc5 Bc8 33.Ke5 Kf7 34.f3 Ke7 35.g4 hxg4  
36.fxg4 Kf7 37.h5 Ke7 38.g5 Kf7 39.g6+ Kg7 40.c3 Kh6 41.Kf6 1-0



Final Position-Black resigns.

## Look, Scott - Hartmann, John

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Nbd2 d6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.c3 Nh5  
8.Bg5 Qe8 9.Qc2 e5 10.0-0-0 c6 11.Ne4 d5 12.Nd6 Qe6 13.dxe5 Nxe5  
14.Nxc8 Rfxc8 15.Nd4 Qe8 16.f4 Nxd3+ 17.Qxd3 Nf6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.f5  
Qe4 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Qxe4 dxe4 22.Rhf1 Bg5 23.Kd2 Rd8 24.Ke2 Rd5  
25.Nc2 Rad8 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Rd1 Rxd1 28.Kxd1 Kf8 29.Kd2 Ke7 30.c4  
Kd6 31.b4 Bd8 32.Kc3 a5 33.Kd4 axb4 34.Kxe4 Kc5 35.Kd3 b5 36.cxb5  
Kxb5 37.Nd4+ Kc5 38.Nb3+ Kd5 39.e4+ Ke5 40.Nc5 Be7 41.Kc4 g5 (D)



Look lost on time in a drawn endgame. 0-1

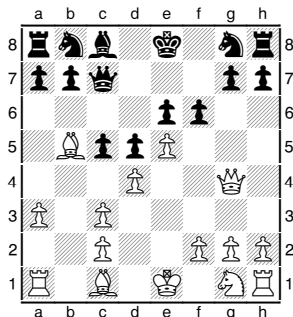
# Featured Game

## 2019 Midwest Open

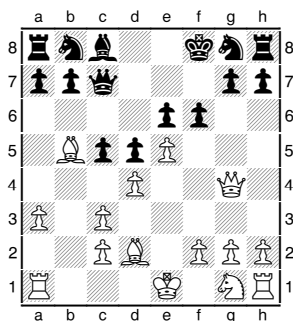
Notes by Steve Cusumano

Cusumano, Steven - Perry, Richard

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Qg4 f6 8.Bb5+

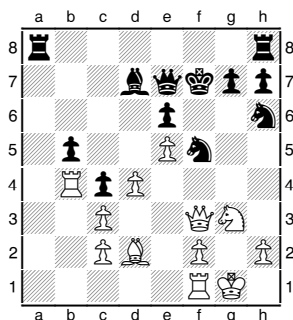


[8.Nf3 c4 a) 8...cxd4 9.Bb5+ Nc6 (9...Kf8 10.Qxd4) 10.cxd4 fxe5; b) 8...Nc6 9.Bb5 I believe that these 8) Nf3 are safer alternatives.; 9.Be2] 8...Kf8 9.Bd2

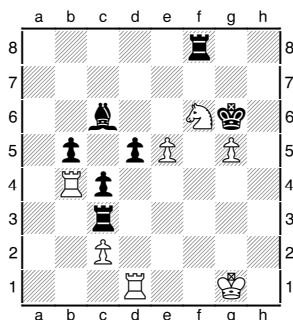


I was worried about hanging on to the c3 pawn, but, as it turns out, 9) ... c4 already traps my b5 bishop. [9.Qg3 cxd4 (9...c4 10.a4 a6 11.Ba3+ Kf7 12.Bd6 Qd8 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Bc7 Qe7 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.Bxb8) 10.exf6 Qxc3+ (10...Qxg3 11.hxg3 Nxf6 12.cxd4) 11.Qxc3 dxc3 12.fxg7+ Kxg7 13.Ne2; 9.a4 cxd4 10.Ba3+ Kf7 11.Ne2 fxe5 12.Qg3 dxc3 Unclear. I would like to avoid putting my bishop on b5 next time while black still has the possibility of playing c4 to trap it.; 9.Nf3 c4 to trap the bishop is apparently no longer possible because white's attack will be too strong. 9...Qa5 (9...c4 10.a4 a6 11.Ba3+ Kf7 12.Ng5+ Kg6 (12...fxg5 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qf3+ Nf6 15.Qxf6+ Kg8 16.Qf8#) 13.Be8+ Qf7 14.Nxf7#) 10.Rb1 Qxc3+ (10...a6 11.Be2 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qxc2 13.Rc1 Qg6 14.Qxg6 hxg6 15.Rxc5 This is not ideal for white. I think it is better to simply not place the bishop on b5 in the first place.) 11.Kd1 a6 12.Ba4 b5 13.Bb3 Qa5 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.dxc5 f5 This type of line is unclear to me.] 9...c4 10.Nf3 a6 11.Bxc4 f5 12.Qh4 dxc4 13.0-0 Nc6 14.g4 Nge7 15.Ng5 Nd8

16.Rab1 Qd7 17.gxf5 Nxf5 18.Qf4 Nf7 19.Ne4 Qe7 20.Ng3 N7h6 21.Rb4 b5  
22.a4 Bd7 23.axb5 axb5 24.Qf3 Kf7? (diagram below.)



25.d5! Rhf8 26.Bxh6 gxh6 27.Nxf5 Qg5+ 28.Ng3+ Kg8 29.Qh5 exd5  
30.Qxg5+ hxg5 31.Nh5 Bc6 32.Nf6+ Kg7 33.h4 h6 34.f4 Ra3 35.hxg5 hxg5  
36.fxg5 Kg6 37.Rd1? [37.e6 My only chance but maybe still not enough.]  
37...Rxc3



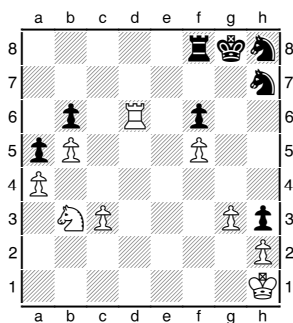
Plus moves. Perry went on to win. This game was very frustrating because I was immediately was down a piece due to a side-line opening trap which my opponent knew very well. I then work hard to win back a piece seemingly out of nowhere but fail to hold to draw due to terrible time trouble at the very end.  
0-1

**A game worthy of careful study and analysis. Both players deserve credit for a hard fought game with a fast time control.**

**Mr. Cusumano should be commended for his very detailed annotations, especially from a game which he experienced a very tough loss.-Editor.**

Turek, Josh - Ballen, Francisco

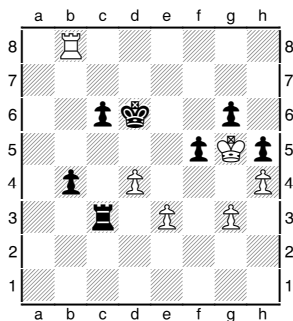
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.c3 d6 7.b4 Bb6 8.a4 a5  
9.b5 Ne7 10.Nh4 d5 11.exd5 Nexd5 12.Kh1 0-0 13.f3 g5 14.Qd2 Be3 15.Qe1  
Bxc1 16.Qxc1 gxf4 17.Qxh6 Nh7 18.Qh5 Nf4 19.Qxe5 Qg5 20.Qxg5+ Nxg5  
21.Re1 h3 22.g3 Ng6 23.Nd2 Be6 24.f4 Bxc4 25.dxc4 Rad8 26.Rad1 Nh7  
27.f5 Nh8 28.Nb3 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 b6 30.c5 f6 31.cxb6 cxb6 32.Rd6  
(Diagram)



Re8 33.Re6 Rd8 34.Nd4 Ng5 35.Rxb6 Nf3 36.Nxf3 Rd1+ 37.Ng1 Nf7  
38.Rxf6 Ne5 39.Rh6 Nf3 40.Rxh3 Rxg1# 0-1 Pins do win!-Ed.

Sater, Cole - Belashchenko, Kirill Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qe7 7.0-0 Bxd2  
8.Qxd2 0-0 9.Nc3 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Rfe1 Nbd7 12.e3 Ne4 13.Qc2 Rac8  
14.Nd2 Ndf6 15.Rac1 Rfe8 16.Ndxe4 Nxe4 17.Qb3 Qd7 18.a4 Qf5 19.Nxe4  
dxe4 20.Rc3 Bd5 21.Qc2 c6 22.b4 a6 23.Rc1 b5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra1 Re7  
26.Bf1 Rb7 27.Ra5 Rcb8 28.Rca3 g6 29.Qc5 Qc8 30.Ra7 Qf8 31.Qxf8+  
Kxf8 32.Be2 h5 33.h4 f5 34.Kg2 Ke7 35.f3 Kd6 36.fxe4 Bxe4+ 37.Bf3 Kd5  
38.R7a6 Rb6 39.Rxb6 Rxb6 40.Rc3 Bxf3+ 41.Kxf3 Ra6 42.Rc5+ Kd6  
43.Rc3 Ra4 44.Rb3 Kd5 45.Rb2 Ra3 46.Rc2 Rb3 47.Rc5+ Kd6 48.Kf4  
Rxb4 49.Kg5 Rc4 50.Re5 b4 51.Re8 Rc3 52.Rb8



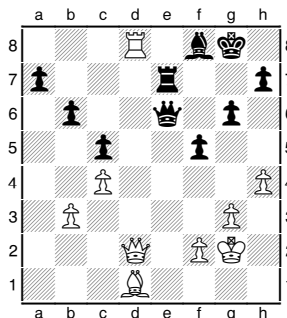
Rb3?! [52...b3!→ 53.Kxg6 Rxe3 54.Kxf5 Rxg3] 53.Kxg6 Rb1 54.Kxf5 Kc7  
55.Ra8 Plus moves. ½-½



## Polacek, Noah - Cusumano, Steven

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

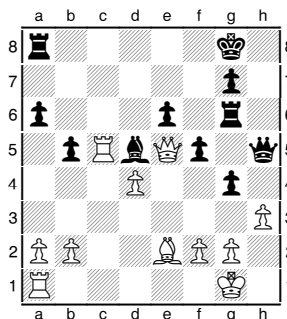
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.g3 Bg4 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.c4 0-0 8.Qb3 b6 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Rxe4 Bf5 13.Re1 Rc8 14.Be3 Re8 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Nd2 e5 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 exd4 19.Bxd4 Nc5 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Qd3 g6 22.Qf3 Re6 23.Bd3 Rce8 24.Rxe6 Rxe6 25.a3 Bf8 26.h4 Bg7 27.b3 Qe7 28.Kg2 Qxa3 29.Be4 Qc5 30.Rd8+ Bf8 31.Rd7 f5 32.Bc2 Re7 33.Rd8 Rc7 34.Qc3 Qe7 35.Qd4 c5 36.Qd5+ Qf7 37.Qd2 Kg7 38.Qc3+ Kg8 39.Qd2 Re7 40.Bd1 Re8 41.Rd7 Re7 42.Rd8 Qe6?!



After this dubious move, I am in a slightly worse position despite being up a pawn because my pieces will become very uncoordinated trying to parry the Bd5 pin. **43.Bf3 Kg7** Noah played well and didn't give me any chances during this game. ½-½

Lacroix, Nick - Revesz, Greg Notes by Steve Cusumano with edits by Ed.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.e3 e6 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Bd7 10.e4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Rxe4 a6 13.Bd3 f5 14.Re1 Qe8 15.Bc4 Rf6 16.Ng5 Nd8 17.Qb3 Qh5 18.h3 Qg6 19.Bd2 b5 20.Bf1 h6 21.Nf3 Bc6 22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.Rxe5 Nf7 24.Rc5 Bd5 25.Qg3 Qh5 26.Bf4 Rg6 27.Qe3 Ng5 28.Bxg5 hxg5 29.Be2 g4 30.Qe5??

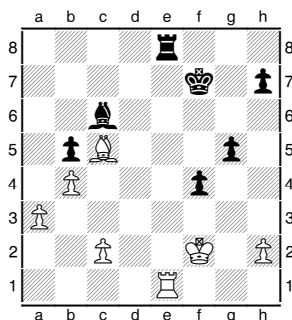


30.hxg4 fxg4 31.Rac1= Now the Bxg2 shot does not work because the d5 bishop is pinned to the queen. Additionally, white queen is better positioned to defend the white king and the rooks protect each other. **30...Bxg2! 31.Kxg2 Qxh3+ 32.Kg1 g3 33.fxg3 Rxg3+ 34.Qxg3?** and later 0-1

## Wasson, Dennis - Prakapchuk, Timofei

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.d4 d5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Bb5 dxe4 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.f3 exf3 7.Nxf3 e6  
8.0-0 c5 9.Be3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Bxd4 c5 12.Be3 Nf6 13.Rad1 Be7  
14.Ne5 0-0 15.Nc6 Re8 16.Nxe7+ Rxe7 17.Rd8+ Re8 18.Rxe8+ Nxe8  
19.Bxc5 g6 20.Rd1 Bb7 21.Rd7 Be6 22.Rd2 Rb8 23.b4 Nc7 24.a3 Nb5  
25.Nxb5 axb5 26.Kf2 f5 27.Ke3 e5 28.g3 Kf7 29.Rd6 Rc8 30.Rd1 g5 31.Re1  
f4+ 32.gxf4 exf4+ 33.Kf2 Re8 Diagram below.

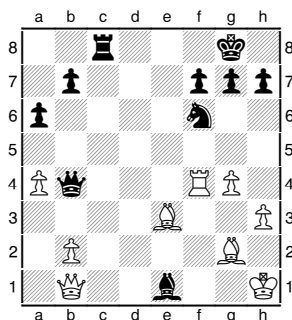


Wasson resigned in this position but I'd bet he would have good drawing chances in a bishop of opposite color ending. 0-1

## Solheim, Jeff - McFayden, Alexander

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

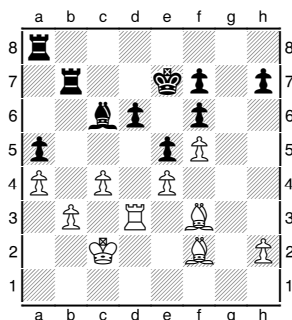
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4  
Nc6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nb5 Qb6 11.a4 a6 12.Na3 Rd8 13.e3 Bg4 14.h3 Bh5  
15.g4 Bg6 16.Nc2 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 d4 18.exd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4 20.Ra3  
Rac8 21.Qb1 Bxf2+ 22.Kh1 [22.Rxf2 Rd1+ 23.Bf1 (23.Kh2 Qxf2-+)  
23...Rxc1-+] 22...Re8 23.Rf3 Re1 24.Rxe1 Bxe1 25.Be3 Qb4?! [25...Qa5  
26.Rf5 b5=] 26.Rf4 Diagram below.



[26.Rf4 Black can win back a piece by force but will likely lose the endgame since the b7 pawn will fall. 26...Qa5 27.b4 Qe5 28.Qxe1 Re8 29.Rc4 (29.Rf3 Nd5 30.Rf5 Qxe3 31.Qxe3 Nxe3 32.Rc5 Nxc2 33.Kxc2 g6=) 29...Qxe3 30.Qxe3 Rxe3 31.Bxb7] 1-0

**Belashchenko, Kirill - Nelson, Kent** Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 Nc6 7.Be3 Nf6  
 8.f4 d6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.0-0 Rc8 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bc6 13.Bf3 e5  
 14.Be3 b5 15.g5 b4 16.gxf6 bxc3 17.Qxc3 gxf6 18.f5 Qb7 19.Qb3 Qd7  
 20.Rd2 Ba4 21.Qd5 Bc6 22.Qa5 Qb7 23.Qb6? Qxb6 24.Bxb6 Bh6  
 25.Rhd1 Ke7 26.b3 Rhg8 27.c4 Bxd2+ 28.Rxd2 Rg5 29.Rd3 Bb7  
 30.Kd2 Rc6 31.Be3 Rg8 32.Bf2 a5 33.a4 Rb8 34.Rd5 Ra6 35.Rd3 Bc6  
 36.Kc3 Rb4 37.Kc2 Ra8 38.Be1 Rb7 39.Bf2 (Diagram below)

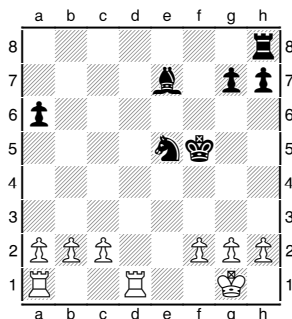


Plus moves. Belashchenko held on for the draw. ½-½

### 2019 Midwest Open Championship game

**Wagner, Jacob - Perry, Rich**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 Nf6 6.Bc4 Qh5 7.0-0 Nc6  
 8.Nb3 cxd4 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qc5 11.Qd3 Bd7 12.Be3 Qd6  
 13.Qb3 Qb4 14.Ne5 a6 15.Rfd1 Rc8 16.Nxd7 Nxd7 17.Bxe6 fxe6  
 18.Qxe6+ Qe7 19.Qg4 Rc6 20.Bg5 Ne5 21.Qf5 Rf6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6  
 23.Qc8+ Kf7 24.Qxb7+ Be7 25.Qd5+ Kg6 26.Qe4+ Qf5 27.Qxf5+ Kxf5



Perry went on to win with both players in extreme time trouble despite Wagner have a much stronger position for most of the time scramble. However, Perry was moving much faster and sometimes speed will overcome a material or positional disadvantage. 0-1

# **A TRICKY CHESS QUIZ TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE GAME**

by

**Robert Woodworth**

**A couple years ago I presented some very subtle chess questions but I now have refined the listing and included some new samples to test one's knowledge of the rules of the game. There are only 11 questions given here and mostly involve (hint!) the 3 'special moves' in chess. The following tricky questions apply to the standard/classical way in which chess is played under normal tournament rules/conditions.**

(A). Is it possible for a single square on the chessboard to be occupied by TWO different chessmen of the same color & within the same move for one side?? (Yes or No)?

(B). According to the rules, does the King always move only one square in any direction provided it is a legal move? (True or False)?

(C). When a capture is made in chess, the captured chessman is always replaced by the capturer on the square of the captured chessman? (True or False)?

(D). Is it possible for any of the chessmen to be legally removed from the chessboard without being captured during a game? Assume normal tournament conditions without any game handicaps. (Yes or No)?

(E). The Rook always moves in a straight line until it encounters another piece or pawn in its path?? (True or False)?

(F). During a game, can a single Knight simultaneously ‘fork’ an opposing King and an opposing Queen without having moved?? (Yes or No)?

(G). Regarding an ‘en passant’ capture in a game, why must the capture be made IMMEDIATELY AFTER the captured pawn’s, 2-square move or else NOT at all??

(H). When a pawn is ‘promoted’ in a game, what was an important part of the rule that was omitted for many years before the omission was discovered??

(I). Can an ‘en passant’ capture that is declined be counted in the position being repeated for a 3rd time draw possibility if it occurs as the first move in the series leading to a claim of a draw by repetition?? (Yes or No)?

(J). Is it legally possible for an ‘en passant’ move to be a forced move in a game?? (Yes or No)?

**And now for the final question which will require some concentrated thought to determine the correct answer.  
GOOD THINKING!!**

(K). Is a double-check possible without the moved chessman giving check? (Yes or No)?

If the reader was able to answer ALL of the above questions correctly, then you are to be congratulated for great insight into those 3 ‘special’ chess moves that are most unique in this wonderful game of chess that we all enjoy!!

Bob Woodworth  
December, 2019  
Omaha, NE

**Chess quiz answers are on the next page-Ed**

## **ANSWERS TO THE CHESS QUIZ:**

- (A) Yes, this occurs when a pawn moves to the ‘queening’ square where this pawn is then replaced by a new Queen. (First, the pawn occupies the ‘queening square’ and then is replaced by the new Queen.)
- (B) False, for the King always moves 2 squares in ‘castling’.
- (C) False, the exception here is in the case of the ‘en passant’ capture.
- (D) Yes, in the case of a pawn promotion the promoted pawn is always just removed from the chessboard and replaced by the new Queen.
- (E) False, because the Rook ‘jumps over’ the King in the ‘castling’ move.
- (F) Yes, when a pawn ‘underpromotes’ to a Knight creating the ‘fork’.
- (G) Because a piece could move onto the square the pawn had ‘passed over’ and on a future move there could be 2 captures made in 1 move!! The pawn in question could be captured by ‘en passant’ and the piece that had just moved in behind the pawn could be captured the normal way.
- (H) A pawn must promote to a piece of the same color.
- (I) No, because the position must repeat for a 4<sup>th</sup> time since the ‘en passant’ capture was declined and not possible in any of the repeating positions.
- (J) Yes, if no other legal moves are possible.
- (K) Yes, this can be done with an ‘en passant’ capture by setting up the position as described here with a White pawn

on h5, a White bishop on e3, a White rook on h3 and a White king on e8. Also, with a Black pawn on g7 and a Black king on h6 where it is Black to move 1.g5 to block the 'check' wherein White replies 2.hxg6 e.p.++.

## Gregory Revesz

### 2019 Player of the Year Champion!



**Congratulations to chess expert and teenage superstar, Gregory Revesz, for winning the 2019 Nebraska Player of the Year championship. Gregory earned clear 1st place with 16.5 out of 22 points outscoring his nearest rivals by 2.5 points!**

<b>2019 Player of the Year Final Results</b>	
1st place	<b>Gregory Revesz</b> With 16.5 points.
Runner-up	<b>Kent Nelson</b> <b>Steve Cusumano</b> <b>Kirill Belashchenko</b> each with 14 points.
Top “B” Player	<b>Scott Look</b> with 9.5 points.
Top Reserve	<b>Sai Kolli</b> with 6.5 points.
Top Scholastic	<b>Noah Polacek</b> with 8.5 points.



## 2019 Player of the Year Final Standings

Player	CSG	Omaha	Lincoln	Plains	Midwest	TOTAL
<b>Gregory Revesz</b>	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	3	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Cusumano, Steven</b>	2	3.5	3.5	3	2	<b>14</b>
<b>Belashchenko, Kirill</b>	4	2	2	3.5	2.5	<b>14</b>
<b>Nelson, Kent</b>	3.5	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	<b>14</b>
<b>Linscott, John</b>	3.5	2.5	2.5	3		<b>11.5</b>
<b>Look, Scott</b>	3	2	1	2	1.5	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Polacek, Noah</b>	3.5	2	1.5		1.5	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Solheim, Jeff</b>		1	3	2	2	<b>8</b>
<b>Mills, Michael</b>	2		2	2	1.5	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Roldan, Jeremy</b>	3		2	2		<b>7</b>
<b>O'Connor, Tom</b>	3			3.5		<b>6.5</b>
<b>Kolli, Sai</b>	2	1.5	0.5	2.5		<b>6.5</b>
<b>Buckley, Matt</b>	2.5	1	0	2.5	0.5	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Fabrikant, Ben</b>			1.5	4.5		<b>6</b>
<b>Knapp Joe</b>			3.5		2.5	<b>6</b>
<b>Caplan, Eylon</b>	3		1	1.5		<b>5.5</b>
<b>Hartmann, John</b>		1		2.5	1.5	<b>5</b>
<b>Lacono, Leo</b>			2	2		<b>4</b>
<b>Lyons, Ben</b>	3.5					<b>3.5</b>

And several others players that space doesn't allow to document.  
All in all, roughly 50 Nebraska players participated in Open section events!

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

# MULTI-PURPOSE CHESS MOVES

By  
Robert Woodworth

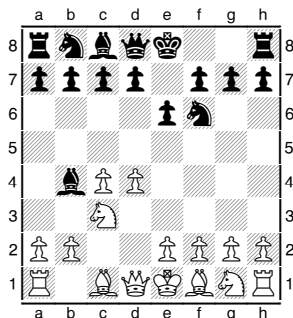
As chessplayers, we all know the basic rules of chess. We are required to move alternately with one legal move per side with White moving first to start the game. What should be realized is that WITHIN each legal move there can be elements of future strategies and planned future moves. Most of the time a good chessplayer will select a move with these future ideas in mind. This is where the term ‘MULTI-PURPOSE MOVES’ is defined.

Many very good moves in a chess game can contain a depth of possible future plans & strategies. Some examples of this are seen in the very first move by the White side when 1.e4 is played. The movement of the e-pawn ‘stakes’ a claim in the center of the board, frees two pieces for future development, prepares for the next move 2. d4 (if Black will allow it?) giving White excellent development. Compare this with the first move of White’s bring 1.a4. It is difficult to find any depth to this move whereby it could even be called a multi-purpose move!. It also must be remembered that not all good moves in chess are of the multi-purpose type!

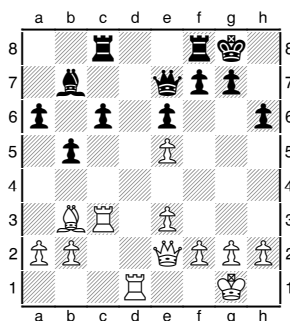
Some examples of this are obvious re-captures, preventing a mate-in-one move threatening one’s King and some tactical replies. The ‘castling’ move is a very good multi-purpose move since it removes the King from the center of the board and helps the Rook to develop from a remote corner square. However, it seems that many excellent multi-purpose moves tend to be more positional in nature. Below are some examples from actual play with the multi-purpose moves being explained in some detail. Consider the following diagram after the first 3 moves in a standard Nimzoindian Defense where Black has just played 3.Bb4. This is an excellent multi-purpose move for it develops the bishop thereby giving Black the option of castling king-side. It pins the c3-knight which prevents an immediate e4 move by White + threatening to capture on c3 thereby doubling White’s pawns.

(Ques. Now, what is a good, multi-purpose move for White’s 4th move?)

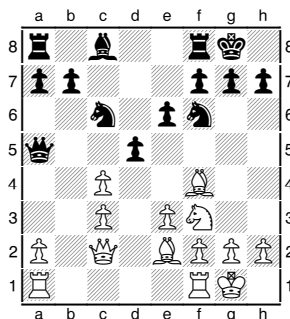
(Idea: 4. Qc2 + why?)



This next example shows White playing White playing 18. Rcd3 with the following multi-purpose ideas in mind. He takes control of the d-file, threatens to win a piece by 19. Rd7 and doubles his rooks without a loss of time. (If Black opposes the White rook on d3 with 18. Rfd8 then White has the strong move 19.Rd6 with a rook trade giving White a passed pawn on d6.)

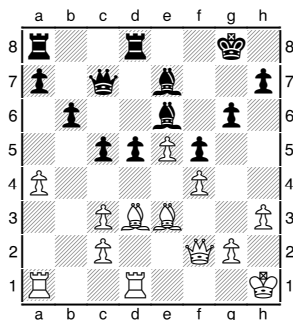


This next example of a multi-purpose move is very instructive for on the surface it appears to waste a move by only attacking a protected enemy pawn! It is for White to move in the diagram given below.



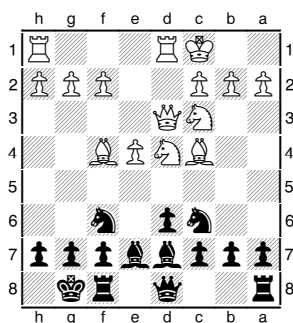
White played 12.Rab1 which is simple and quiet with the following multi-purpose concepts in mind. It exerts uncomfortable pressure on Black's queen-side, makes normal developing moves difficult and can create weaknesses when Black tries to free his queen-side. Black will eventually have to play the b6-move which leaves the c6-knight unprotected and blocks a retreating diagonal for the Black queen.

Finally, see the following diagram (on the next page) from a game between GM Nikita Vitiugov and Wesley So. Vitiugov (playing White) is to make his 18th move.



He played 18.Qe1 which is a multi-purpose queen maneuver since it supports the idea of the exchange of the dark-squared bishops by Be3-f2-h4 and prepares for the eventual doubling or tripling of the heavy White pieces on the d-file. (Note that the White queen was originally on the f3-square on move # 13, moved to the f2-square so that the white-squared bishop could move to the f3-square.)

Your writer attempted to locate a good multi-purpose move from his own gamescores and found a possibility from an unrated, informal club game. See the following diagram with Black to move.



Black played 9.Ne5 aggressively activating the knight. This move will force a trade for one of White's good bishops plus freeing the Black queen-side pawns to begin advancing. White replied 10. Bxe5 forcing 10. dxe5 opening the d-file and giving Black a stronger position in the center plus the two bishops.

In conclusion, it must be stated that finding good, practical ideas behind any potential multi-purpose moves can be somewhat elusive at times. One good hint to locating these ideas in a game can easily occur in those positions when one 'senses' a 'turning point' in a game. Every

chess game has several of these ‘turning points’ where the proper path must be found. Many times good multi-purpose moves occur as positional ideas in a game where the more tactical possibilities are in the background. I guess it then falls upon a player’s skill level to recognize these strategic ‘turning points’ and determining the best, solid reasons for defining and playing a good multi-purpose move. However, it must be remembered that good tactical ideas can also be part of determining and formulating a strong multi-purpose move.

Bob Woodworth  
January, 2020  
Omaha, NE

#### SOURCES:

“Logical Chess Move by Move”, Irving Chernev, 1st algebraic edition, Batsford Publishing, 1998. (The above 2nd and 3rd diagrams)

“New in Chess” magazine, 2019, No. 7, pg.19.  
(N. Vitiugov/Wesley So)

R. Woodworth gamescore, Camelot Chess Club, Sept., 2019.  
(last diagram)

## Letter from Rauf Aliovsadzade

Hello Kent,

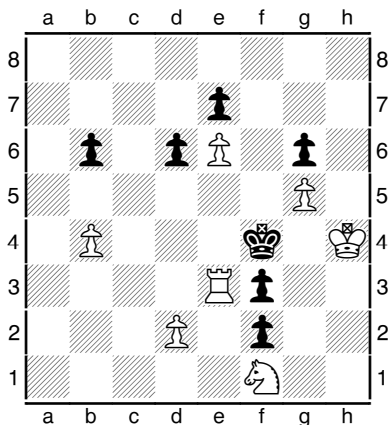
How have you been doing?

As promised, I am sending you another original (not published yet) composition for *The Gambit*.

It is a joint problem. My co-author from Russia, Alexander Melnichuk, is two times World Champion in composing three-mover miniature problems (2010,2012)

Have a nice weekend!

Rauf.



Mate in 4

Key 1.d4!

And two variations:

1...b5 2.d5 Kf5 3.Ng3+ Kf4 4.Re4#,

1...d5 2.Re5 b5 3.Ne3 f1Q 4.Sxd5#.

## 2019 Tournament Summaries and Results.

1. **The BT March** tournament was held on March 6th 2019 and drew 11 players in 1 section called the “quick” section. Time controls were game/15 with a 5 second delay. This event was won by Francesca Vidal (941) with a perfect 4-0 score. Connor Combs took second with 3-1. The tournament was directed by John Hartmann.
2. **The 2019 Team Tournament** took place from March 2nd to March 9th and drew 90 players in 4 sections. In the 6 player K-12 section, Khoa Nguyen (1582) Kailash Kalyanasundam (1492) and Haresh Chandrasekar (683) took top honors. In the 34 player K-8 section, Jacey Tran won it outright with a perfect 4-0 score. She was followed by Vijay Kumar and Caleb Vancura with 3.5 points. In the 31 player, K-6 section, Sophia and Jamie Tran each scored 4-0 to share 1st place. In the 19 player, K-3 section, Ethan Hardin and Matthew Duong shared top honors with identical 4-0 scores.
3. **The April JCC** took place on April 7th in Omaha. This tournament drew 25 players in 3 sections and was directed by Drew Thyden. Joe Knapp won the 4 player Open section with a perfect 3-0 score. In the 4 round, 14 player, Beginner’s section, Haresh Chandrasekar took top honors with a perfect 4-0 score. He was followed by Mengdie Hu, Francesca Vidal and Yuyan Julia Hu with 3-1 scores. In the 7 player under1600 section, Sanjay Rajjan blew away the competition with a perfect 4-0 score. Sanjay Rajjan is a talented young player that bears watching.
4. **The 2019 State Closed Championship** was held on April 6th and 7th in Lincoln and was won by Ying Tan for his 3rd consecutive state closed championship title. For a full report on this event, please check out page 53 of the 2018, The Year in Review issue of the *Gambit*.
5. **The April Open and Reserve** took place on April 20th with John Hartmann directing 17 players in 2 sections. In the 12 player Open section, Michael Mills (1760) defeated one “C” player and 3 strong “A” players to win with a perfect 4-0

score. As a result of his outstanding performance, Michael earned a post rating of 1863, a gain of 100 rating points. Congratulations Michael on your breakout tournament and result!

6. **The April UNO U1200 and U800** drew 21 players in 2 sections and took place on April 20th. With John Hartmann and Drew Thyden directing, the 8 player, Under 1200 section had Haresh Chandrasekar winning with a perfect 4-0 score. Finishing in 2nd place with a 3-1 score was Janek Guzman. Janek only loss was to Haresh. In the 13 player, Section 2 event, Timur Guliev went 5-0 to win outright. He was followed by Sumeet Chokkara with 4 points.
7. **The BT April** was held from April 25th until May 8th and drew 10 players in 2 sections. The 4 round Raiders section, with the time control of game 15 with a 5 minute delay was won by Vijay Kumur with 3.5 points. Vijay also won the 8 player, 5 round Blitz section with 4 out of 5 points along with Francesca Vidal also with 4 points. John Hartmann was the TD.
8. **The BT Blitz** took place on May 11th and drew 8 players in one game 5 time control. Tournament director, John Hartmann won with a perfect 3-0 score.
9. **The 2019 NSCA Individual Scholastic** was held on May 14th and drew 36 players in 4 sections. In the 6 player, 4 round, K-12 section, Noah Polacek and Sanjay Rajjan each scored 3.5 points to share top honors. In the 10 player, 4 round K-8 section, Vijay Kumar scored 3.5 points to win. He was followed by Sai Kolli who finished second with 3 points, losing only to Kumar. The 5 round, 13 player K-6 section, Timur Guliev was champion with a 5-0 score. He was followed by Jamie Tran with 4 points, losing only to Timur. Kolby Tran and Hudson Brandi won the 7 player, K-3 section with 4 out of 5 points. Michael Gooch was the chief TD.
10. **The 2019 NSCA Senior Championship** was won by Scott Look with 2.5 points out of 3. 7 old timers took part, including your editor who finished with 2 points. Congratulations to Scott for winning this championship.



11. **The 2019 UNO Prime** was held on June 15th and drew 33 players in 5 sections. The 8 player Open Section was won by Steve Cusumano with a perfect 3.0 score. Steve beat Chad Forsman, Jerry Slominski, and Noah Polacek who finished tied for second place with a 2 point score. In the under 1627 section, Tyler Richardson took top honors with a perfect 3.0 score. 4 players were in this section. The 11 player, under 1627 section, Tyler Richardson took top honors with a perfect 3.0 score. 4 players took part. The U1229 section drew 11 players and had a 4-way tie for 1st place. Daniel Willis, Haresh Chandrasekar, Owen Hill and Bella XU all had 3 points out of 4 to win. The U827 section had 7 players with Chance Rohda scoring 4 points to win. Finally the K-3 section, Aarya Siva Kumar scored a perfect 3 points to take top honors. Michael Gooch was the chief TD.
12. **The 2019 Cornhusker State Games** was held in Lincoln the weekend of July 20th and 21st. The event drew 74 players in 4 sections. The 25 player Open section was won by Gregory Revesz and Krill Belashchenko each with 4 out of 5 points with Gregory winning the gold medal by head to head tiebreak over Krill. 3 players finished with 3.5 points. The 29 player Reserve Section was won by Jacey Tran with a perfect 5-0 score. Doug McFarland, Dale Ruzicka and Joseph Wilson turned in 4 point scores. Congratulations to Jacey for this outstanding result! The 7 player Junior section was won by Michael Kang with 3.5 out of 4 points. Sneha Selvaraj, Mischa Lunquist, took 2nd and 3rd with 3 points. In the 13 player Scholastic section, Jamie Tran smoked the competition with a perfect 5-0 score. The Cornhusker was a special tournament for the Tran sisters! Timofei Prakashchuk scored 4 points and Janek Guzman finished with 3.5 points.
13. **The Kumar Chess Classic** took place on July 28th and drew 4 players in 1 section. John Hartmann won with 3 points. John also directed.
14. **The Bellevue Summer** tournament was held on August 3rd and had 14 players in one section. Gregory Revesz won with a perfect 3.0. Chad Forsman was 2nd. Mike Mills directed.

15. **The End of Summer Quick** was directed by Tony Dutiel and was held on August 25th. This 15 player, G24/d5 event was won by Nathan Klatt with 3.5 out of 4 points yielding only a draw to John Hartmann. John and Steve Cusumano finished 2nd and 3rd with 3 points.
16. **The Omaha City Championship** was held on September 21st and drew 49 players in 5 sections. In the 14 player, Open section, Gregory Revesz and Steve Cusumano tied for 1st with 3.5 out of 4 points, drawing their individual game. I believe Steve was declared Omaha city chess champion due to his residency in Omaha but the title could be split. The K3 section was won by Mansi Adduri. The 8 player, U1600 section was won by Anurag Nayak with a perfect 4-0 score. The 10 player U1200 section was taken by Jacob James with 3.5 out of 4 points. The U800 section was won by Justin Wisnieski with a perfect 4-0 score. There was 13 players in this section. Mike Gooch was the chief TD.
17. **The Bellevue Fall Tournament** took place on Sept 21st. This event was won by Chad Forsman with 2.5 out of 3 points. Michael Mills directed.
18. **The 2019 Nebraska Class Championship** took place on October 19th and 53 players in 9 sections took part. The **Class “A”** championship was won by Anurag Nayak with a perfect 3-0 score. **Class “B”** was won by John Stepp with 2.5 points out of 4. **Class “C”** had 4 players winning the section with 5 players! The winner list is Aaron Beaver, Jeffery Solheim, Sai Kolli and Arnold Schulze. **Class “D”** had no participants. **Class “E”** was won by Haresh Chandrasekar and Austin Rodgers. **Class “F”** was won by Owen Hill. **Class “G”** was won by Mischa Lunquist. **Class “H”** had Andrew Schickner and Matthew Duong as winners. **Section 8** was won outright by Prentiss Butler. Well attended section, it had 17 players. **Section 9-Misc** was won by Eylon Caplan who seems to have this editor’s number in over the board play! The tournament directors were Mike Gooch as the chief TD, followed by Drew Thyden and Venkata Kolli as support TDs.

19. **The 2019 Great Plains Open RBO** took place in Lincoln on November 2nd and was held along with the Great Plains Open. The RBO section was won by Joaquin Casteneda with 4.5 points out of 5. Bella Xu, Timofei Prakapchuk and Trenton Kerger followed with 4 points. 24 players took part. The GPO extra was won by Jerome Tichack. The tournament was directed by the combine efforts of Michael Gooch, Daniel Lee Willis and Venkata Kolli. The Great Plains Open section was won outright by several time Nebraska State Chess champion, Ben Fabrikant with 4.5 out of 5 points. He was followed by Tim McEntee and Ankith Sheshappa with 4 points. 32 players took part. The tournament was organized by John Linscott and was directed by Bill Broich.
20. **The 2019 Lincoln City Championship** was held on December 7th and drew 44 players in 3 sections. Three players tied for 1st. Joseph Knapp, Gregory Revesz and Steve Cusumano all scored 3.5 out of 4 points. Gregory Revesz was declared Lincoln City Chess champion, one of many titles for this upcoming superstar. John Hartmann directed.
21. The final Nebraska tournament for 2019 was **The Midwest Open** and it took place on December 28th in Omaha. The 24 player open section was won by Richard Perry with 3.5 points out of 4. Many Nebraska players remember Richard. He is a 3 time Nebraska State Chess champion back in the days when the Midwest Open determined the state title. Richard lives in Texas now but he does visit his mother who lives in Omaha and decided to play during his visit. Tied for 2nd place was Anurag Nayak, Gregory Revesz, Jacob Wagner and Haresh Chandraseker with 3-1 scores. In the under 1400 section, Francisco Ballen scored 3.5 out of 4 points to win the 7 player section. Bella Xu took 2nd with 3 points. John Hartmann was the TD.

**Special thanks to all the organizers, directors and players that make Nebraska tournament chess possible.**

## Jeff Solheim's tournament reports and endgame pointers



### The Des Moines Fall Classic

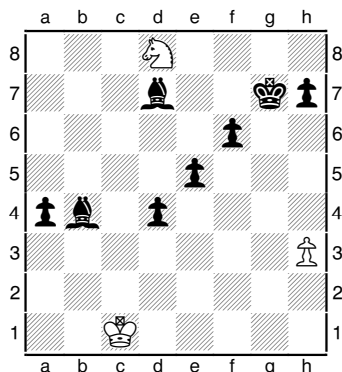
The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Des Moines Fall Classic chess tournament was played November 16 and 17, 2019, at the Holiday Inn near the Des Moines International Airport. (See <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201911174262>.) The 28 players in the Open section represented 8 different states, and 4 of these 28 were from Nebraska. Gregory Revesz was the top-finishing Nebraskan in the Open section, garnering 4 out of 5 points. Fourteen players (including 3 Nebraskans) representing 4 different states participated in the Reserve section, the 4 rounds of which were completed Saturday, November 16. This author (Jeff Solheim) was the top-finishing Nebraskan in the Reserve section with 3.5 out of 4 points. The Open section was FIDE-rated, whereas the Reserve section was not.

This Holiday Inn was a great location for this tournament, in this author's opinion. Both food and a lounge were available on-site. Between games, time permitting, one could nap beside the indoor pool (as your author did once). Those players who desired could rent rooms and avoid an early-morning or late-night drive. (This author opted for both drives, however.)

Mr. William Broich again did a very fine job directing this tournament. (Mr. Broich also directed the Great Plains Open held November 2 and 3 in Lincoln.)

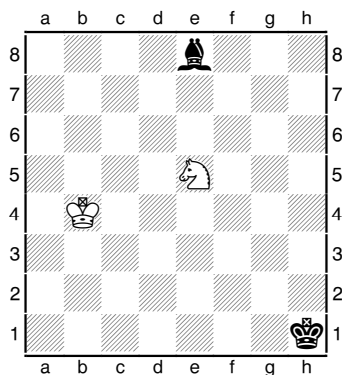
## The Relationships between Bishops and Knights

At one point in this author's Round 2 game with Don Britton Grove (Grove playing White), the following position occurred:



In this position, the Bd7 is at a square vertically adjacent to the Nd8. Note how this prevents the Knight from moving to either c6 or e6. The Kg7 prevents the Knight from moving to f7. The Knight's only hope for counterplay must therefore begin at b7. However, notice the relationship that would exist between a Knight at b7 and Black's Bb4. The Bb4 would prevent White's Knight from moving to any of a5, c5, and d6. So, acting together, Black's two Bishops and his King prevent White's Knight from escaping and generating any sort of counterplay.

Just as a Bishop can restrict the movement of a Knight, a Knight can similarly restrict the movement of a Bishop. Consider the following hypothetical position:



Here, Black's Be8 can move to only one square (h5) without being

subject to immediate capture. Notice how White's Ne5 keeps guard over squares c6, d7, f7, and g6.

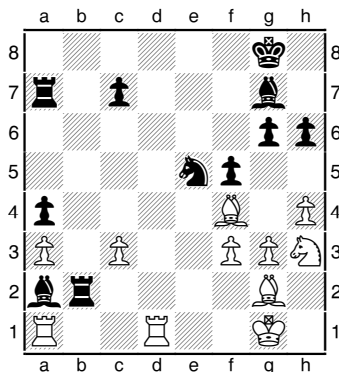
These examples illustrate that one must be aware of the sorts of relationships that may exist between pieces. (One might ask, what is chess but relationships between pieces?)

## **The Carl Dunn Memorial**

Carl Edwin Dunn of Burlington, Iowa, was an avid chess player and served a term as President of the Iowa State Chess Association. The weekend of February 8 and 9, 2020, the Carl Dunn Memorial Chess Tournament was held at "The Loft" in Burlington (see <http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202002096952>). This excellent tournament, organized by Eric Golf Vigil and directed by William Broich, featured three different sections (Open, Reserve, and Rated Beginners Open). The picturesque city of Burlington was a wonderful place for a tournament; the downtown area features several beautiful churches whose spires will have one looking toward the heavens.

The Open section was a very strong one, with 34 players, of whom 21 were rated 1800+. The highest rated player was Grandmaster Timur Gareyev, who came into the tournament rated 2694. Open section players came from Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, Florida, plus two from Nebraska: Steven Cusumano and your author, Jeffery Solheim. Mr. Cusumano was paired against Grandmaster Gareyev in round 1. Alex Richter of Iowa won the Open section, defeating Grandmaster Gareyev in round 4.

Here is a position from your author's round 1 game against Anish Lodh. Black (Lodh) has just played **26...Rxb2**. Find the combination that nets White significant material gain.



Work it out!-Ed.

## **To the Victor(s) goes the Spoils**

**The 2017 and 2018 Player of the Year award Ceremonies.**

**During the Great Plains Open on November 2nd and 3rd 2019, The Nebraska State Chess Association presented plaques to the winners for both the 2017 and 2018 Player of the Year competition.**

**NSCA President John Hartmann, was the Master of Ceremonies and as usual, did a great job with this event.**

**Below are some pictures from the award ceremonies.**



**John Hartmann-Sai Kolli**



**Kent Nelson-John H**



**Steve Cusumano-John H**



**John H-Michael Mills**

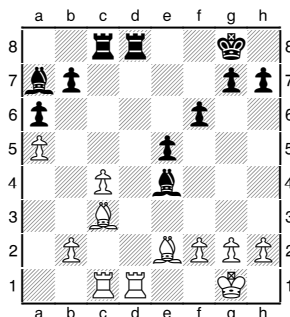
**Plaque winners not pictured--Ben Lyons, Ying Tan, Kailash Kalyansundaram and Noah Polacek.**

# U. S. Chess Open games by John Hartmann

(1) Hansen, Martin (2225) - Hartmann, John (1762) [C07]

(1), 03.08.2019 [Hartmann,John]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nb3 Nf6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4** [10.Nxd4 a6 is the main line.]  
**10...Qxd4 11.Nxd4 Bd7 12.Bf4 Rc8 13.Be2 Bc5 14.Nb3 Bb6 15.c4 0-0** [15...Ne4! Moskalenko] **16.a4** [16.Bd6 Rfe8; 16.Rac1 Rfd8 17.Rfd1 Ba4 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Bf3 Bc6 20.Bxc6 Rxc6 21.Nd4 Rc8 22.Nb5 a6 23.Nd6 Rc7 24.f3 Rd7 25.g4 Be7 26.c5 1/2-1/2 (26) Joshi,G (2272)-Kotsur,P (2568) New Delhi 2010] **16...e5! 17.Bd2 a6 18.a5 Ba7 19.Bc3** [19.Be3 Bxe3 20.fxe3 Bg4 21.Rxf6 Bxe2 22.Rb6 Rxc4 23.Rc1 g6 24.Rxc4 Bxc4 25.Rxb7 Bd5 0-1 (50) Nelikov,N-Ustinov,M (2154) Rybinsk 2000] **19...Rfe8 20.Rac1 Ne4 21.Be1 Red8 22.Nd2 Bc6?! 23.Nxe4 Bxe4 24.Bc3 f6 25.Rfd1**



Position after 25.Rfd1

**Bf5?!** Imprecise. I was worried about Be2-g4, but this ignores other concrete features of the position. [25...Bd4 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.Bd3 Bxd3 28.Rxd3 Rd5!] **26.b4f Kf7 27.c5! Bb8 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.c6 Be4 30.cxb7 Bxb7 31.b5 axb5 32.Bxb5 Ke6 33.Bc4+ Bd5 34.Rd1 Bc7 35.Be2 Ra8? 36.Bg4+ f5 37.Bxf5+ Kf6? 38.Rxd5 1-0**

(2) Hartmann, John (1762) - Theriot, Troy (1495) [D06]

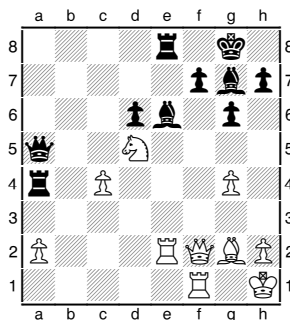
(2), 04.08.2019 [Hartmann,John] **1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c6 7.Bf4 Nd7 8.e3 Be4 9.Bc4 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 h6 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Bc7+ Kg8 13.Bxd8 Rxd8 14.Rb1 Nb6 15.0-0 Rd6 16.Rfc1 Rf6 17.Qe4 g6 18.c4 Rh7 19.d5 c5 20.Rb5 Nc8 21.Rxc5 Nd6 22.Qd3 Rhf7 23.Rf1 Kh7 24.e4 b6 25.Rc6 e5 26.dxe6 Rxe6 27.e5 Nxc4 28.Rxe6 Na5 29.Qxg6+ 1-0**



### (3) Hartmann, John (1762) - Chen, Ryo (2197) [A36]

(3), 05.08.2019 [*Hartmann,John*]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 Ne8  
9.Be3 Nc7 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Ne6 12.Nxc6?! [12.Nde2] 12...bxc6 13.Rc1  
Rb8 14.b3 c5 15.Qd2 Nd4 16.Kh1 a5 17.f4 Bd7 18.f5 a4 [18...gxf5 19.Bh6  
fxe4 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Bxe4 f5] 19.bxa4 Rb4 20.f6 exf6 21.Nd5 [21.Bxd4  
cxd4 22.Nd5 (22.Qxd4) 22...Rxa4 23.Qxd4] 21...Rxa4 22.Bxd4 cxd4 23.Qxd4  
f5 24.Qd2 [24.Qb6 fxe4 25.Qxd6 Be6 26.Qxd8 Rxd8 27.Bxe4<sup>3</sup>] 24...fxe4  
25.Bxe4 Re8 26.Bg2 Be6 27.Qf2 Qa5 28.Rc2 Bf5 29.g4 Be6 30.Re2



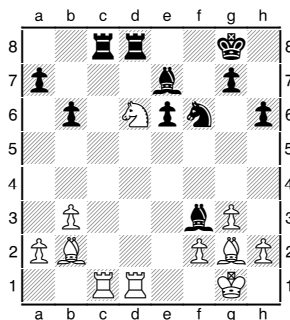
Position after 30. Re2.

[30.g5!?] 30...Rxc4? 31.Rxe6! Rf8 [31...Rxe6 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qxe6;  
31...fxe6? 32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Qxe8+ Bf8 34.Qxf8#] 32.Rxd6 [32.Re8!]  
32...Rxc4 33.Nf6+ Bxf6 34.Rxf6 [34.Rxf6 Qc7 35.Bd5+-] 1-0

### (5) Hartmann, John (1762) - Mennella, Jim (2000) [E09]

(6.22), 08.08.2019 [*Hartmann,John*]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c6 8.Nbd2  
h6 9.Rd1 Bd6 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Nf6 13.Qe2 Qc7 14.b3  
Rd8 15.Bb2 Be7 16.Rac1 b6 17.Ne5 Bb7 18.Qf3 Rac8 19.d5! cxd5 surprised  
me [19...exd5 20.cxd5 c5 21.Qf5; 19...c5 20.Nxf7! Kxf7 21.dxe6+ Kxe6  
22.Qxb7] 20.cxd5 Qd6 21.Nxf7? Bxd5 [21...Kxf7 22.dxe6+ Qxe6 (22...Kxe6  
23.Rxd6+) 23.Qxb7] 22.Nxd6 [22.Rxc8! Bxf3 23.Rxd8+ Qxd8 24.Rxd8+  
Kxf7 25.Rc8] 22...Bxf3



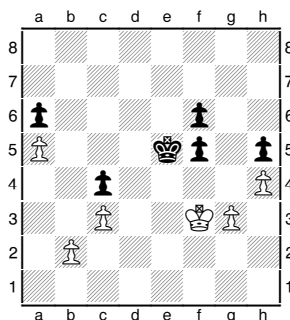
Position after 22. . Bxf3

**23.Rxc8?** Played way too fast. Threw away the game. [23.Nxc8! original intention, saw a phantom, forgot how to count 23...Bxd1 scared by this (23...Bxg2? 24.Nxe7+ 24.Nxe7+ Kh8 (24...Kh7 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Rc7) 25.Ng6+)] **23...Bxd1 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8 25.Bh3 Ng4 26.Nb5 a6 27.Nd6 Be7 28.Ne8 Bf8 29.Nc7 Kf7 30.Nxa6 Bd6 31.Bc3 Nf6 32.Bg2 Nd5 33.Bxd5 exd5 34.Nb4 d4 35.Bd2 Bf3** [35...Bxb4 36.Bxb4] **36.Nd3 h5 37.Nb2** [37.Bf4 (Lawrence) 37...Bxf4 38.Nxf4 g5 39.Nd3] **37...Be4** [37...Bc7 38.Kf1] **38.Nc4 Bc7 39.Kf1 Bb1 40.Ke2 Bxa2 41.Kd3 Bxb3 42.Kxd4 Bxc4 43.Kxc4 Ke6 44.h3 Kf5 45.Kd5 g5 46.Kc6 Bd8 47.Kd7 Bf6 48.Kd6 Bd4 49.g4+ [49.f4 gxf4 50.Bxf4 Bf2 51.Kc6 Bc5 52.Bc7 Bf2 53.g4+ hxg4 54.hxg4+ Kxg4 55.Bxb6] 49...hxg4 50.hxg4+ Kxg4 51.f3+ Kf5 52.Kd5 Bf6 53.Kc6 Bd4 54.Kd5 Bf2 55.Kc6 Kf6 56.Kd5 Bc5 57.Kc6 Kf5 58.Kd5 g4 59.fxg4+ Kxg4 60.Kc4 Kf5 61.Kb5 Ke6 62.Bf4 Kd7 63.Be5 Kc8 64.Bf4 Kb7 65.Be5 Bg1 66.Bf4 Kc8 67.Be5 ½–½**

**(6) Durand, Phillip (1959) - Hartmann, John (1762) [C13]**

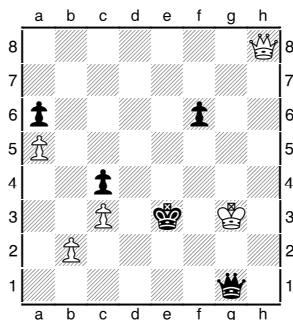
(8.66), 10.08.2019 [*Hartmann, John*]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 f5 8.Ng3 c5 9.c3 a6 10.Ne2 Nc6 11.g3 cxd4 12.Nexd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Qxd4 14.Nxd4 e5** Two bishops + f5/e5 pawn duo and I felt like I had an edge.  
**15.Nf3** [15.Nc2 Be6 16.0–0–0 [%cal Rf2f4]] **15...Bf6 16.0–0–0 Be6 17.Kb1 b5 18.Bg2 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Re1 e4** [20...Re8!? 21.b3 Bd7<sup>3</sup>] **21.Nd4 Bxd4 22.Rd1 Kc7 23.Rxd4 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Kxd8** I thought I had an advantage here with a closer king and more active bishop. But it's also a bad bishop and White can always get his bishop moving with f2–f3. Probably a miseval on my part. Black might be the worse side of equal in reality. **25.Kc2** [25.b4!? Kc7 26.Bf1 Kd6 27.a4 Bd7 (27...Bc4? 28.Bxc4 bxc4 29.b5) 28.axb5 axb5 29.Kc2 Ke5 30.c4 bxc4 31.Bxc4 f6 32.b5 f4 33.b6 Bc8 (33...Bc6?) 34.gxf4+ Kd6=] **25...Kc7 26.a3 Kd6 27.Kd2 Ke5 28.Ke3 Bc4 29.Bh3 Be6 30.Bf1** [30.f4+ Kd5 31.Bf1 Kc5] **30...Bc4 31.Bxc4 bxc4 32.h3 h5 33.h4 f6 34.f3 Kd5 35.a4?** [35.Kf4 exf3 (35...e3?) 36.Kxf3 Ke5 37.Ke3 f4+ 38.gxf4+ Kd5 (38...Kf5 39.Kf3) 39.a4 a5 40.Kf3 f5 41.Ke3=] **35...Ke5<sup>TM</sup>** [35...exf3? 36.Kxf3 Ke5 37.Ke3 f4+ (37...a5 38.Kf3 f4 39.gxf4+ Kf5=) 38.gxf4+ Kf5 39.Kf3 a5 looks like it should win, but... 40.Ke3 Kg4 41.Kd4 Kxh4 42.Kxc4 Kg3 43.b4!! h4 44.b5 h3 45.b6 h2 46.b7 h1Q 47.b8Q=] **36.a5** [36.f4+ Kd5–+] **36...exf3! 37.Kxf3**



Position after 37. Kxf3.

**f4!! 38.g4** [38.gxf4+ Kf5 Note the key difference between 35...exf3 and this variation - b2-b4 no longer creates a passer. 39.Ke3 Kg4 40.Ke4 Kxh4 41.Kf5 (41.f5 Kg3) 41...Kg3] **38...hgx4+ 39.Kxg4 Ke4! Key idea - shouldering 40.h5 f3 41.Kg3** [41.h6 f2 42.h7 f1Q 43.h8Q Qg1+ is the same] **41...Ke3 42.h6 f2 43.h7 f1Q 44.h8Q Qg1+** [44...Qg1+ 45.Kh4 Qh1+] **0-1**

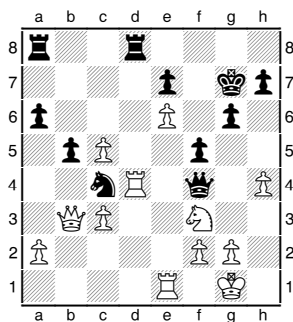


Final Position-White Resigns

(7) **Hartmann, John (1762) - Ares, Luis (2013) [D85]**

(9.40), 11.08.2019 [Hartmann,John]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.Be3 Rab8 13.Qa4 Ra8 14.Rfc1 a6 15.Qb3 b5 16.e5 Nb6 17.dxc5 Nc4 18.e6 f5 19.Bd4 Bh6 20.Re1 Rfd8 21.Rbd1 Bg7 22.h4 Qf4 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Rd4**



Position after 24. Rd4

[24.Rd7 Kf6 25.Qd1! Qb8 26.Qd4+] **24...Qc7 25.Red1 h6 26.Qb4 [26.h5] 26...Kf6 27.Rd7 Rxd7 28.Rxd7 Qc6 29.Nd4 Qe4 30.c6 Nd6 31.Qc5 Qe1+ 32.Kh2 Qxf2 33.c7 [33.Rxd6? Qf4+-+] 33...Qxh4+ 34.Kg1 Qe1+ 35.Kh2 Qh4+ 36.Kg1 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 g5 38.Rxd6 Qh4+ 39.Kg1 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qh4+ 41.Kg1 ½-½**



## Craig Campbell

23rd Des Moines Open Rd 4  
12/6/88

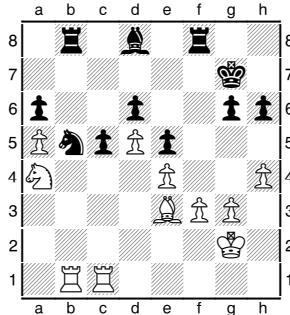
White.

Black.

Craig Campbell (2314)

S. Bondari (2272)

1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.d3 e5 7.Nge2 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0  
9.a3 Bg4 10.h3 Be6 11.Nd5 Qd7 12.Kh2 f5 13.f3 h6 14.Bd2 Kh7 15.Rb1  
Bg8 16.Qa4 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Nb8 18.Qxd7 19.b4 Rfc8 20.Rfc1 b6  
21.Nc3 Bf8 22.Nd1 Rab8 23.h4 fxe4 24.dxe4 Rd8 25.Bf1 Be7 26.Be3 Bf7  
27.Bh3 Nf6 28.Nf2 Be8 29.a4 Bd7 30.Bf1 Kg7 31.Kg2 Rdc8 32.bxc5 bxc5  
33.a5 Ne8 34.Ba6 Rd8 35.Nd1 Nc7 36.Bf1 Bb5 37.Nc3 a6 38.Kf2 Bxf1  
39.Kxf1 Nb5 40.Na4 Rf8 41.Kg2 Bd8 (D)



Position after 41...Bd8

42.Bxc5 dxc5 43.Nxc5 Rf7 44.Nxa6 Ra8 45.Nc5 Nd4 46.a6 Be7 47.Ne6+  
Nxe6 48.dxe6 Rff8 49.Rb7 Kf6 50.Rcc7 Rfe8 51.a7 Kxe6 52.Rb6+ Kf7 53.f4  
exf4 54.gxf4 Red8 55.h5 gxh5 56.Rxh6 Rh8 57.Rb6 Rhg8+ 58.Kf3 Rge8  
59.e5 Kg8 60.Ke4 Bf8 61.Rbb7 h4 62.Kf3 h3 63.Kg3 h2 64.Kxh2 Re6  
65.Kg3 Ra6 66.Kg4 Re8 67.Kf5 Ra4 68.Rc2 Ra5 69.Rg2+ Kh8 70.Rb8  
Black Resigns

This editor is very thankful for Craig's friendship and support. And chess players beware, Craig is training hard for an eventual return to OTB play!

## **Welcome Back Dennis Wasson!**



### **Dennis Wasson re-introduction by Dennis Wasson!**

From 1983-1998, I was involved in directing more than 200 chess tournaments. These were done the old-fashioned way - all on paper. At many of these, I was the tournament organizer.

In 1983-1985 in Omaha, you could pretty much play in an event on most weekends. On the 1st/3rd Saturday we played at the Recreation Center on Offutt AFB. The 1st Saturday was Quads, and the 3rd was a Swiss.

The 2nd/4th Saturday would be at the W. Dale Clark Library. The last event I directed at Offutt was in March 1985.

I recall showing up at the gate, and they wanted a list of names of the players that would be attending. I could not provide that (maybe a list of the 'usual suspects' :-)), but I told them the best I could do is: if they say they are going to the Recreation Center to play chess and had a USCF membership card - those are pretty good odds. It wasn't.

Some notable tournaments where I helped direct:

The 1989 U. S. Open in Chicago, where there 600+ players & \$33,000 in prizes.

The 1990 National HS Team Championship in Kansas City, 900+ players.

1986 Council Bluffs Invitational - 8 player round-robin, 2100+ average rating.

The 1985 Region VII Championship (IA, NE, IL, MO) in Omaha, with over 200 participants.

Eighteen State Championship Tournaments from 1986 through 1990, in three different states (Iowa - 12, Nebraska - 3, Kansas - 3).

When I put on Facebook recently that I have re-certified as a Tournament Director (TD), there were several folks who asked if the 'Boarder Wars' would be returning, so here is a bit of the history of that event (sorry - I lost my cross-tables in the flood of 1993 in Manhattan KS - check the Iowa or Nebraska state publication for Sept/Oct for the years indicated)

1985--- Mitch Weiss and Matt Mahowald tie at 4.5 - 0.5 in the IASCA Region 7 Warm-up (the Boarder Wars predecessor), drawing with each other in round 4. Bob Holliman finished 3rd. There were 26 players in the event.

1986--- Bill Paulson gets clear first with a 4.5-.5 score. Tied for second were John Mac Arthur and Mike Dreiger. The top finishing Iowan was Jay Ver Hoef at 3.5 - 1.5. There were 32 players in the event.

1987--- Mike Blankenau wins with a 4.5 -.5, a half-point ahead of the trio consisting of Mitch Weiss, Dan Vasto, and Bob Holliman. There were 34 players. 1988--- Bob Holliman gets clear first with 4.5-.5, Mark Sokolowski got second with a 4-1. 26 players participated.

1989--- IM Mike Brooks won with 4.5-.5, drawing with Dan Harger in the final round. That gave Dan 2nd at 4-1, ahead of a pack at 3.5 which included Paul Rohwer, Dave Schmidt, Joe Colligan, Kevin Fleming, Brent Walker. 24 played. 1990--- There were 53 players

An interesting note about the tournament was it was both a Nebraska player of the year, and an Iowa Grand Prix event. If an Iowan happened to play a Nebraskan, it would count towards a State Association cash prize. I don't recall, but it might have been in the \$25-\$50 range.

Anyway, I think I will try and get the Boarder Wars tournament together again.

Now that I have weekends off, I will be able to play and get back into directing. Thanks to John Hartmann for letting me observe him running a tournament all on computer, as I have not yet done that. I would like to help those who are interested in becoming a Tournament Director. I was recently reminded that more TD's are needed - with the passing of Bob Long in Dubuque Iowa in January of 2020 (who was murdered by someone wanting to steal his car). It got me thinking of the TD's that have passed – and what enormous talent and experience has been lost. Others my age might recall Gary Marks of Lincoln NE, Craig Collister of Council Bluffs IA, Roger Gotshall of Ames IA, Carl Dunn of Burlington IA, Jack Spence of Omaha NE, and of course John Osness [Iowa Chess Man] of Waterloo IA – all are now gone. I have fond memories of playing in their events. Apologies if I have missed some TD's. Please see me at an event and let me know if you are interested in being a Tournament Director.

**Editor's comment---As you can see Dennis has a very impressive resume, including, record keeping and is very good on what he does. It's great to have Dennis return to Nebraska & Iowa chess after an absence of many years. NSCA would do well to hire him for upcoming events.**

## **A SUGGESTION TO ELIMINATE ‘CASTLING’ IN CHESS!!**

by

**Robert Woodworth**

In a “ChessBase News” article dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, there was an intriguing suggestion by former World Chess Champion, Vladimir Kramnik to eliminate the ‘castling move’ in chess. This sounds like heresy to the game, but GM Kramnik firmly believes that it will add some life to the game and especially at the top levels of play. Doing away with castling would be the only change to the game. Everything else would stay the same. This ‘ChessBase News’ article states that “the high drawing percentage has become a menace at top level chess...particularly in the opening phase of the game”. (It is also possible that GM David Bronstein proposed this idea of ‘No Castling Chess’ many years ago.)

GM Kramnik states that he doesn’t have any financial stake in making this change but to him it is not the huge number of draws at top level chess but it is more the content of the games themselves. Computer analysis has taken much of the creativity out of the opening phase of the game. He further states that at the lower levels of amateurs and club players there is not this problem but which he does see at the highest levels of play.

Historically, ‘castling’ was developed in its present form during the 17<sup>th</sup> century which was about 100 years after the modern rules of en passant and the 2-square pawn moves were introduced. Prior to this new ‘castling move’, a player could ‘castle by hand’ wherein the King would move forward one rank, the rook would then move away from the corner square and then the King would return to his original rank. (Usually, 3 or 4 moves were required to do this maneuver.)

GM Kramnik firmly believes that eliminating the ‘castling move’ would make the game more complex and the decision to take one’s King either to one side or the other or leaving it in the center makes for more interesting play. Presently, current opening theory would need to be revised in regards to King safety and pawn structure.



As a side note, Kramnik's idea was tested in a 5-minute tournament where thirteen very strong, young players with an average rating of 2457 were entered. The final result was that 89% of the games had a definite winner! Today, GM Kramnik is retired from serious tournament chess but recently he said that he would participate in a classical tourney to test this concept of 'No Castling Chess'. This would make for a very interesting test of his idea.

In conclusion, it must be stated that the game of chess has undergone many rule changes over the centuries. From its original development in India to where the Queen was the weakest chess piece to where the Bishop was given a long-range capability, the pawn was given an initial 2-move option and the ability to be promoted, the introduction of the 'en passant' move-we have seen about 500+ years pass to the current way that we now play the game.

What is in store for chess in the next 500 years?? Will a giant technological break through in the field of 'quantum' computers lead to our game being 'solved' (as has happened to the 8x8 game of checkers) such that even more changes/additions will need to be made to our wonderful game?? Just this writer's humble question!

Bob Woodworth  
February, 2020  
Omaha, NE

Source: "ChessBase News" for 12-9-2019 and 01-19-2020

## **Historical Article(s)**

### **About Alekhine**

From excerpts from Kent's unfinished book about Howard Ohman.

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*

Sunday, December 16, 1923

#### **CHESS**

**Howard Ohman, Editor.**

#### **Alexander Alekhine.**

The American tour of Alexander Alekhine, Russian chess master, being well under way, local players are doubtless interested in his various characteristics. The Brooklyn Eagle representative obtained some impressions that give us a good idea of the man and these we are pleased to offer as follows:

"A six-footer, of military bearing, with light hair and clear, blue, kindly eyes, which nevertheless reflect the powerful intellect that enables him to play twenty-one games blindfolded at the same time. Alekhine has a winning personality that will make hosts of friends for him wherever he may go. His straight figure and board shoulders bespeak that athlete rather than the mental gymnast that he is, but one suspects with good reason that he is a combination of the two. One is forced to the conclusion that if this young visitor, in the prime of his manhood, sturdy and robust, with intelligence far above the average, is unable to defeat Capablanca when he opportunity to encounter him offers, then truly the great Cuban may retire on his laurels and forever after be regarded as absolutely invincible.

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*

Sunday, January 27, 1924

#### **CHESS**

**Howard Ohman, Editor.**

#### **A Record Performance.**

What appeals to us as the greatest feat at chess performed in this country in a decade occurred last week in New York City. The shining light is none other than Alexander Alekhine, Russian chess master and challenger for the world's championship, who is touring the United States.

The place of hostilities was the specious headquarters of the Manhattan Chess club. There Alekhine undertook to play ten of the strongest players of that wonderful club at the same time and to do while blindfolded! Anyone familiar with current chess news knows that the following ten players who faced the Russian master are among the cream of the nation's chess ability, M. A. Schapiro, twice champion of the Manhattan Chess club; M.

M. Phillips, M. Schroeder, L. W. Schwartz, A. Link, L. W. Stephens, H.G. Cunningham, A. Roszkowski, Samuel Katz and R. G. Wehrberg. The conclusion of this strenuous exhibition brought tumultuous applause among the 2 hundred spectators for Alekhine emerged with a score of eight victories, two draws, and not a single loss!

Alekhine's program is completed up to February 15th when he plays in St Louis. He is then free and desirous of giving an exhibition against 40 players in Omaha, two of these games while blindfolded. It is a question whether Omaha will be able to accept this invitation. Alekhine proposes to raise the necessary funds for his match with Capablanca by means of the money derived from his tour. To take care of his requirements in Omaha would involved an expenditure of \$2.00 apiece on the part of 50 players. Are there that many in Omaha who would care to see Alekhine perform here? Several have already offered their \$2.00. Of course those who do contribute would be entitled to take a board against the master. The editor, as secretary of the local chess club, is handling the matter and any desiring to help bring Alekhine here and to play against him are requested to notify the editor this week.

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*  
Sunday, February 3, 1924

### CHES

Howard Ohman, Editor.

### Alekhine vs. Schapiro.

We mentioned last week the great performance put on by Alexander Alekhine when he played ten of New York's strongest players while blindfolded a short time ago with a result that he won eight and drew two. We are pleased to submit today the score of the game he won from Schapiro, champion of the Manhattan Chess club for two years. The game gives an excellent idea of how skillfully Alekhine can maneuver despite his tremendous handicap.

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

Alekhine.	Schapiro.
White.	Black.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Rc1 b6  
8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bb5 Bb7 10.0-0 a6 11.Ba4 c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Bxd7  
Qxd7 14.Na4 Qb5 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.b4 (a) Rfc8 17.bxc5 Rab8 18.Nd4  
Qe8 19.Nf5 Kh8 20.Qg4 Bf8 21.Nb6 Rc6 22.Nxd5 Re6 23.c6 Bc8  
24.Nc7 Re4 25.Nxe8 Rxe4 26.c7 Rb6 27.f3 Rgb4 28.e4 h5 29.Rfd1 Ra4  
30.Ned6 Rxa2 31.Nxc8 Rbb2 32.Nh4 Black Resigns. (a) Very fine,  
Black's best reply is probably P-B5, after which the Knight enters at Q4  
with good effect.

Continued on the next page-Ed.

From the Sunday, *Omaha World-Herald*  
Sunday, February 17, 1924  
**CHESS**  
**Howard Ohman, Editor.**

In view of the marvelous exploits in blindfold play recently staged by Alexander Alekhine, that famous Russian master was asked just how he did it. His reply was that after diligent effort, he had gained a thorough knowledge of theory of the game so that he felt he was able to play blindfold chess quite as well as over the board. In this respect he resembles Pillsbury, who was in his element when opposed to picked players. As Alekhine makes a move he dismisses the position entirely from his mind and calls up the next one. He does not employ visualization; at least, he does not recognize his process as such. He trusts implicitly to a well trained memory, which, when in doubt, enables him to recall all of the moves of a game up to any given point. After the interview in which these comments were made, Alekhine proceeded to call off the moves of four games he had played while blindfolded over thirty hours before. He did so quickly and without error.



1924 Drawing of Alexander Alekhine.  
Source unknown but found in UNO repository.

In my research for the Howard Ohman book, I could find no reference to the 1918 Spanish flu and how it impacted Nebraska chess.

## Notes

## Notes

**The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson**

**4014 “N” St. Lincoln, NE**

**68510**