

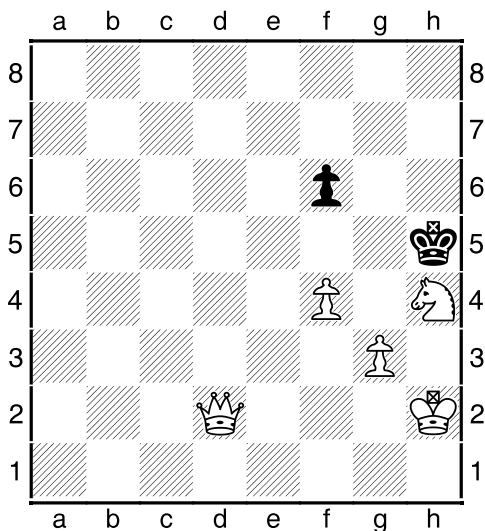
The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

2022

The Year in Review



White to play & mate in 2 moves.

Composed by Bob Woodworth

**Bob won the 1st Commendation award in
“StrateGems” chess problem magazine’s
Memorial composing tourney entitled
“R. A. Lincoln-85” for miniature two-moves.**

Congratulations Bob!

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

From Kent's Corner

Hello Friends, It's been a couple of years since I've written you. It feels good to connect with my readers and contributors and produce another issue of the Gambit. I hope the issue is worth the wait.

My thanks as always to **Robert Woodworth** for his support and material. I think you'll find Bob's pawn article an amazing piece of research and work.

Rauf Aliovsadzade who has recently retired from his editing work for *Strategems* magazine has provided Gambit readers a number of chess puzzles some of which, were composed by our own, Robert Woodworth! Thank you Rauf!

Steve Cusumano, who is our new NSCA President and the 2022, Player of the Year champion, has been very helpful in providing tournament game databases, along with, his own games for publication. I appreciate Steve's patience also.

JJ Lang has been very helpful to me in procuring game databases too. Thanks JJ.

Special thanks to **Rod Malpert** for agreeing to an interview. I'm sure Gambit readers will enjoy reading about Rod's life and chess career.

This editor is very thankful to **Loren Schmidt's** willingness to submit articles, both past and present, for your enjoyment. His contributions have greatly enhanced this issue of the Gambit. Thanks Loren!

On a side note, I would like thank **fredthebear** who wrote a very nice article about yours truly on **Chessgames**. mobile version. The article was written on October 17th 2020. I discovered it a few months ago. Please know it meant the world to me. Please come forward so I can thank you personally.

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Gambit Editor- Kent Nelson

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NSCA Officers-Updated 4/23

President: Steve Cusumano
Vice President (Lincoln): John Linscott
Vice President (Omaha): Michael Mills
Vice President Western Nebraska: Vincent Jodoin
Secretary: Jonathan Lang
Treasurer: Jenny Tricker
Historical Archivist: Bob Woodworth
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Gambit Editor: Kent Nelson

Letter from incoming NSCA President, Steve Cusumano

I would like to first thank our previous NSCA President Michael Gooch. He has helped put Nebraska Chess back on track for the past year of his tenure and has been willing to lend a helping hand at my monthly UNO tournaments over the past year. I know Mr. Gooch and his Omaha Chess Community will continue to provide great support for Nebraska Chess in the future.

I am greatly honored to have been elected NSCA President by my fellow board members. I will do my best to keep Nebraska Chess going strong.

The popularity of chess has exploded for the past 3 years due to the COVID pandemic and the Netflix series “The Queen’s Gambit”. Chess streamers and you tubers now have millions of subscribers and followers, chess events are live streamed to a host of enthusiastic chess fans, and a copious amount of online and over-the-board tournaments are played by the greatest chess players of our era such as Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Ding Liren, etc. There are so many places online to play, learn, solve tactics, and connect with chess players such as chess.com, lichess.org, chesstempo, and chessable. We are truly in the internet age and social media age of chess.

All of these developments in recent years have improved the quality of chess across the world and Nebraska alike. In my 10 years in the Nebraska Chess scene, now is the most exciting time to be playing chess in Nebraska and I expect it to become even better in the years to come. The monthly UNO tournaments are popular and well attended, John Hartmann’s Spence Chess club is back in full force, and the Midwest Open is back for the first-time post-pandemic. The number of new players recently has been terrific. I had a friend comment at a recent tournament that he knew less than half the players there, whereas, 4 or 5 years ago it was always the same Nebraska Chess crew at every tournament. And these new chess players are not just new, they are often very good. None of the Nebraska veterans can take a single opponent for granted anymore regardless of the opponent’s rating.

As NSCA President, I will continue to run frequent tournaments to harness the current chess renaissance we are experiencing. I would very much like to see Nebraska Chess grow in terms of size and in playing ability. I want to see experts and masters playing in Nebraska on a regular basis. I will do my best to make this a reality.

Cordially,

Steven Cusumano

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 I am wrong about this. I record this for future researchers so they know the current state of Nebraska chess.

The Virus

Update

4/6/22 & April 2023

As I write this, just over 2 years from my previous editorial, the Covid-19 virus has killed over 5 million worldwide and created countless heartache, division and strife.

Right now, the virus devastation is waning and things are returning to pre pandemic conditions. Indeed, judging by tournament attendance, the virus is no longer a major threat. However it's best to be vigilant as variations of the virus will come and go.

Gary Colvin, John Hartmann, Craig Campbell and John Watson.

I want to thank you guys for your help and support when I was suffering from the virus during October 2020. Your calls of encouragement and well wishes were very much appreciated.

Diagram cover solution--1.Qd8 (with 3 different checkmates by the White Queen depending on Black's reply.) -Bob Woodworth.



Mark Scheidies, age 65, passed surrounded by his family, in Longmont, Colorado on April 30, 2020, after being paralyzed in a fall a few days earlier. He was born in Minden, Nebraska on August 19, 1954 to Roberta (Meyer) and LaVern “Jiggs” Scheidies, and raised on a nearby farm. Mark graduated co-valedictorian from Minden High School in 1972, and received a full Regents scholarship to the University of Nebraska where he graduated in 1976 with degrees in Math, Physics, and Computer Science. There, he met the love of his life, Jennifer Marcy, and they married in 1976.

Mark worked as a computer programmer and software tester for the Kansas City, MO Police Dept until 1983 and for StorageTek in Longmont and Louisville until the early 1990s. He then stayed home to raise his children, before joining his wife at her dental office, where they made a great team.

Mark was a lifelong student. He earned an expert ranking in tournament chess and was Colorado Postal Chess Champion. He played in over 1,000 Trivia competitions and made it into the Jeopardy contestant pool six times. He loved hiking and spending time with his family in their mountain cabin. In his younger days, Mark climbed Longs Peak and ran a marathon in under three hours. In 2013, he decided to walk every street in Longmont in one year. It took 1.5 million steps, but he met his goal and chronicled every mile on www.longmontstreetwalker.com.

Mark was a kind and gentle man. He delivered Meals on Wheels, shoveled snow, and lent a helping hand to all in need. He loved to travel and took his family to Europe, on cruises, and countless road trips. He and Jennifer also acted at Jesters, California Actors Theatre, and Longmont Theatre. In 2011 he received a Henry nomination for his role as Lenny in Mice and Men. But his favorite role was being an amazing father to his three children and Grandpa to his three grandsons.

Mark is preceded in death by his mother, Roberta Meyer Scheidies, and niece Nikki Scheidies. He leaves behind his wife, Jennifer, daughters Tiffany (Brian) Lierman, Crystal (David) Wrisley, and son Nick (Kari) Scheidies. He will be missed by his “Little Buddies,” Colton Lierman, Mason Lierman and Paxton Scheidies. He leaves so many behind who loved him, including his father LaVern Scheidies, brothers Keith (Carolyn), Randy (Nancy), Tim (Lisa) and sister Rhonda McCarthy, in-laws Steve (Katy) Marcy, Sue (John) Marken, Linda Marcy (Rod Wiles) and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials to Mark’s Grandchildren Education Fund, 500 Cherrywood Drive Longmont CO 80501; or to Meals on Wheels, 910 Long Peaks Ave, Longmont CO 80501. Memorial services to be held at a later date.

My thanks to John Drexel for letting me know about Mark. My thanks to *Longmont Times* for the reprinting of Mark’s obituary.

The Return of Rodney Malpert

The Nebraska Chess community is very fortunate to have native son, Rod Malpert, back in Nebraska, at least part-time residentially. Rod, who is a rated chess master, has provided instruction and analysis during last year’s Cornhusker State Games and most recently, in an event held in Omaha. Rod has kindly given his time and patience for an interview in this issue of the *Gambit*. Welcome home Rod!

John Stepp

This editor wishes to thank **John Stepp** for sending me emails of his on-line games and for his support during the pandemic. John and I have a shared history, we are the same age and have played chess since high school. It's hard to reconcile over 50 years have passed when John and I started playing chess, during the Fischer boom.

John Hartmann

Special thanks to *Chess Life* editor, **John Hartmann**, for his service to Nebraska Chess and for chess in general. John was the driving force behind a January 2022 *Chess Life* article about yours truly. Check out [My Best Move](#) in back of the issue. Robert Woodworth, appeared in the same featured article dated December 2022. It's great knowing individuals in high places like John!

John Watson

Congratulations to **John Watson**. John was inducted into the United States Chess Hall of Fame last year. I can't think of everyone more deserving of this honor than John. Way to go John!

Gary Colvin

Special thanks to my life-long friend, **Gary Colvin**, for his great support, encouragement and help before, during and after the pandemic. I don't know what I would have done without Gary's friendship on and off the board.

Mike Gooch

Special thanks to Mike Gooch for his service as NSCA president and for all he does for Nebraska chess. Nebraska chess is very fortunate to have Mike talents. Mike's final letter as NSCA President is on the proceeding pages.

Hello NSCA Board and Important Allies.

Item One: Officers/Board Members.

Date:3/23/23.

From Mike Gooch.

Yesterday, John Linscott informed me that he is reconsidering his willingness to serve as NSCA President at this time. He also told Steven Cusumano. If John declines, I think Steven would make an excellent NSCA President. However, if any of you or anyone you know might be interested in serving as NSCA President, now is the time to nominate them.

My term ends on April 4, 2023, a date selected at random but easily justified as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April one year after my 'reelection'.

And, Venkata Kolli, NSCA Secretary, has tendered his resignation effective on April 4, 2023. J. J. Lang has indicated a willingness to serve as Lincoln Vice President (if John stops serving in that role) or perhaps as Secretary. J. J. should definitely be on our Board based on his commitment to Nebraska chess.

Our Treasurer, Jenny Tricker, esq., has shepherded NSCA into becoming a corporation. She is now working with our attorneys to obtain § 501(c)3 non profit status. Her efforts are truly valuable to the well being of NSCA. Now that we are incorporated, we should be able to obtain a bank account. Thank you Jenny for your persistent and successful efforts on behalf of NSCA.

Item Two: Tournaments

NSCA is required to ensure at least six chess events are held. The 2022 Closed was held on January 7-8 with Nick Lacroix winning clear first. NSCA aspires to have the 2023 Closed during 2023.

Yesterday the Omaha City Chess Championship was held. When rated, the Open section cross table will be used to establish the POY chart by Steven Cusumano. Next up will be the Mid West Open being held April 22-23. The flyer is on the website. Third will be the Cornhusker State Games being held on July 22-23 at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

John Linscott is organizing the Lincoln City and Great Plains Open. Sixth, the 2023 Closed should be held this year.

NSCA is also holding the State Individual Scholastic and Qualifier Event (Denker, Barber, Haring, and Senior) on April 29th. We are planning to have a State Class event in December.

In addition, between NSCA and Omaha Chess Community, we have been seeing at least one rated chess tournament each month. There have actually been more than that, including events run by Gustavo Perez del Pino and by Vincent Jodoin. I missed being introduced to a person who has been running rated events in Omaha yesterday and omit her name only because of own ignorance.

Trenton Kerger, Abraham Lincoln High School chess coach, has organized and run the Metro League with 8 teams competing and participating in both a kickoff event and a post league champions tournament. This successful model has spurred several middle schools to ask about having a similar program for younger students. And there has been a large number of parents asking if NSCA or Omaha Chess might organize a non-rated scholastic event in the model developed by Drew Thyden at Omaha Central High School.

Final notes: NSCA has 15 certified TDs and Omaha Chess has 16 certified TDs, although not all of them have been active. Our reigning state champion missed the Omaha City Championship so he could make an appearance in Grand Island at an event there.

Rod Malpert, Senior National Master, who is moving to Nebraska, came to Omaha to play a simul and give a chess lesson to the high school players at the Metro League kickoff event. Rod also came to the Cornhusker State Games last year to go over games of any player who notated their game. Such resources are priceless and provide a reason for great optimism for Nebraska chess.

Best wishes to Chess in Nebraska-Mike Gooch

Steve Cusumano

**2017, 2018 and now 2022 Player of the Year
Champion!**



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

2022 Player of the Year Final Results	
1st place	Steve Cusumano With 15.75 points.
Runner-up	Nicolas, Lacroix each with 15 points.
Top “B” Player	Scott Look and Mat Nauman with 12 points.
Top Reserve	Information not available at press time.
Top Scholastic	Information not available at press time.

2022 Player of the Year Final Standings

Player	Omaha	Summer	Corn	Lincoln	Plains	TOTAL
Cusumano, Steven	TD (2.75)	3	3.5	3.5	3	15.75
Nicolas, Lacroix	3.5	4	3.5		4	15
Look, Scott	1.5	3.5	3	2	2	12
Matthew, Nauman	1	3	3	3	2	12
Tony Dutiel	TD (2.6)	3.5		2	3.5	11.6
Solheim, Jeff	1.5	2	3.5	2	2.5	11.5
Ryan, Pen Dong		2.5	3	2.5	3	11
Jonathan, Lang			4	3.5	3	10.5
John, Reigenbord	2	2	3		3	10
Kirill, Belashchenko			4.5		4	8.5
Eric Armstrong	3		4.5			7.5
Bingi, Wang	2	2		3		7
Chad, Forsman	2.5	4				6.5
Sai, Koili	3.5		3			6.5
J, Siado Castaneda			2.5	1.5	2	6
John, Davidson		2.5	3			5.5
John, Linscott				2.5	3	5.5
Trevor, Smailys			3.5	1.5		5
Leo, Iacono			2.5	2.5		5

And several others players that space doesn't allow to document.
All in all, roughly 63 Nebraska players participated in Open section events!

Key—Omaha City-Summer Open-Cornhusker Games-Lincoln City-Great Plains-Midwest

2021 and 2022 Tournament Summaries and Results.

1. **The 2020 NSCA Scholastic Team** was held on February 22nd 2020 and drew 78 players playing in 3 sections. There was 17 players in the K-3 section and it was won by 4 players with a perfect 4-0 scores. Mat Son Duong, Garret McGill, Kolby Tran and Hudson Brandi all went home co-champions. The 25 player K-6 was won by Kenton McGill and Mat Hellbusch with perfect 4-0 scores. K-8 drew 36 players and was won by Sanjay Rajjan and Sal Kolli with perfect 4-0 scores. This tournament was directed by Mike Gooch with assistance from Venkata Kolli and Daniel Willis.
2. **The Southeast Community College** took place in Lincoln on March 7th 2020. It had 2 sections for a total of 32 players. The 22 player Open section was won by Joe Knapp and Joe Friar with 3.5 points out of 4. The 10 player U1200 section was won by Logan Henning with 3.5 points out of 4. Mischa Lunquist and Andrew Chen tied for 2nd and 3rd with 3 points. John Hartmann directed.
3. **The Cornhusker State Games** was held the weekend of July 17th & 18th 2021 and it appears just one section with 44 players was held. The open section was won by Kirill Belashchenko and Matt Buckley with 4.5 out of 5 points. Mike Gooch and Venkata Kolli directed the event.
4. **The Open Omaha Open** took place on September 4th and 5th 2021 and had 33 players in 2 main sections--The Elite and Premier sections. In the 6 player Elite section, Jonathan Lang emerged the winner with a perfect 4-0 score. The 27 player Premier section was by Max Cao with a perfect 4-0 score. 7 players had 3 points. I understand Lawrence Cohen was the TD.
5. **The Nebraska State Closed** took place in Lincoln on October 23rd and 24th 2021. John Linscott and Kent Nelson tied for 1st place with a identical 3.5-1.5 scores.

6. **The Oktoberfest** was held on October 30th and drew 78 players competing in three sections. The 12 player Open section was won by Nichols Lacroix with a perfect 4.0 score. The Reserve section was won by Logan Henning with a perfect 4-0 score. 16 players took part in this section. The 50 player RBO section had two players with perfect 5-0 scores. Ms. Katelynn Jo Marie Schroller (apologies if I botched this name) and Samanvi Kanem earned top honors. 6 players had 4-1 scores. Mike Gooch was the chief TD with Venkata Kolli and Joaquin E Siado Castaneda assisting.
7. **The UNL** tournament was held in Lincoln on November 3rd 2021 and drew 26 players. In the open (G/30 section, Wesley Gizel won the event with a perfect 5-0 score and in addition to winning the tournament, Wesley earned over 100 rating points (1560-1662) in the process! Congratulations Wesley! 4 players had 4-1 scores. The event was directed by Jonathan Lang and Joaquin E. Siado Castaneda.
8. **The UNO Booster 21** took place on December 11th 2021 and had 59 players participating in 4 sections. In the 17 player Open section, there was a 3 way tie between Nicholas Lacroix, Doug Grande and John Baltaro with each player earning a 3-1 score. The U1600 section had 16 players and was won by Joaquin E Siado Castaneda with a 3.5 score. 3 players followed with 3-1 scores. In the 10 player U1200 section, Daniel Willis scored a perfect 4 points to earn top honors. The U800 section had 17 players in attendance with Royce Zhang, Naveen Kumar Kanem and Drone Juyanti each winning with a 4-1 score. The tournament was directed by Venkata Kolli with assistance from Mike Gooch and Joaquin E Siado Castaneda.
9. **The 2022 Covid Classic** was held on February 5th and the rating report has the tournament taking place in Lincoln. This event had 83 players in 5 sections. In the 24 player open section, chess expert, Nicholas Lacroix won with a perfect 4-0 score. Steve Cusumano and John Davidson finished 2nd and 3rd with a 3.5 point score. In the 14 player U1600 section, Matthew Matuszesli prevailed with 3.5 points out of 4 to win clear 1st place. In the under 15 player

U1200 section, Darin Schlautman won with a perfect 4-0 score. 3 players had 3-1 scores. Mansi Adduri won the 16 player U800 section with a perfect 5-0 score. Dustin Hans won his 13 player U400 section with a perfect 5-0 score. Joaquin E Siado Castaneda is listed as the chief TD with Michael Gooch and Venkate Kolli assisting.

10. **The March UNO** tournament was held on March 19th and drew 67 players competing in 5 sections. In the 20 player Open section, Jonathan Lang won with a perfect 4-0 score. He was followed by Lacroix, Forsman, Polacek and Beavor with 3-1 scores. In the 15 player, U1600 section, Keith Prosterman won with 3.5 points, followed by Dustin Hans, Anthony Robinson and Siva Kolli with 3-1 scores. Thomas Tisby won the 15 player U1200 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Conner Elliott won the 9 player U800 section with a perfect 4 points. The 8 player U400 section was won by Zachary Mendez with (you guessed it!) a 4-0 score. Tony Dutiel was the chief tournament director with assistance from Daniel Willis.
11. **The April 2nd UNL** tournament drew 44 players in 3 sections. The Open section was won by Nicholas Lacroix with 4.5 points out of 5. He beat out 14 other players in his section. In the 29 player U1600 section, Karthik Jella, a 1370 player took 1st place with a 4.5 score. This was followed by 4 players with a 4-1 score. Justin Powers won the 4 player extra section. Jonathan Lang was the chief TD and he was assisted by Joaquin E Siado Castaneda.
12. **The Omaha 2000+** had 4 experts competing for bragging rights in this exclusive invitational only event. The tournament took place in Omaha on 4/16/22 and when the smoke cleared, Nicholas Lacroix (2040) took 1st with a 2.5 score. He was followed by Jonathan Lang (2107) with 1.5 points, Anurag Nayak (2230) and Jacob Wagner (2016) finished with 1 point. Drew Thyden directed.
13. **The UNO April** took place April 23rd and drew 58 players in 4 sections. Jonathan Lang and Nicholas Lacroix won the 18 player, open section with each scoring 3.5 points.

Doug Grande and Sai Kolli finished in 3rd and 4th places with 3-1 scores. In the 16 player, U1600 section. Thomas Lilly Jr. emerged victorious with a perfect 4-0 score. Kyson Bloomingdale won his 12 player, U1200 section with 3.5 points and finally, Elian Bares, won the 14 player U800 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Daniel Lee Willis and Michael Mills were the tournament directors.

14. **The Nebraska State Chess Association Championships** was held in Lincoln on May 5th and had 32 players taking part in 4 sections. In the 2 player, K-12 section, Aydin Larsen won his match over Mihir Maruvada. Sai Kolli won his 11 player, K-8 section with a perfect 4-0 score. In the 12 player, 5 round, K-5 section, 3 players tied for 1st place with 4-1 scores. Karthik Jela, Siva Kolli and Mansi Adduri were the winners. Nebraska State co-champion, John Linscott, added to his list of titles by winning the Senior Open with 2.5 out points. John outscored 6 old timers. Congratulations John!
15. **The 2022 Omaha City Championship** was held on May 14th and drew 55 players competing in 6 sections. In the 23 player Championship section, there was 3-way tie for 1st place with Nicholas Lacroix, Eylon Caplan and Sai Kolli each scoring 3.5 out of 4 points. Congratulations to these Omaha city co-champions! In the 11 player, under1600 section, Karthik Jella won with 3.5 points out of 4. In the 11 player, U1200 section, there was a 3-way tie for 1st place with Adarsha Ganesan, Mansi Adduri and Brant Abeln each scoring 3-1. Lachlan O'Keefe won the 6 player U800 section with a perfect 4-0 score. The 4 player under 399 section was won by Prayag Gundabolu with 2.5 points.
16. **The Nebraska Summer Classic** was held in Omaha the weekend of June 25th and 26th. The tournament drew 41 players competing in 4 sections. In the 16 player, 5 round, open section, chess expert Nicholas Lacroix and class B/A player, Chad Forsman each scored 4-1 to take top honors. Congratulations to both players, especially Chad Forsman, who is a very dangerous attacking player in this editor's opinion. In the 10 player, U1600 section, Zenith Sharma and Thomas Lilly Jr. tied for 1st with 3.5 out of 4 points. The 7

- player U1200 section was won by Taylor Gurney with 3.5 points. In the U800 section, Michael Gibson blew away his competition with a 4.5/5 point score. Three players followed with 3-2 scores in this 8 player section. Dan Willis was the chief TD with Mike Gooch assisting.
17. **The UNO July** tournament was held on July 9th and drew 42 players in 4 section. The 10 player Open section was won by Steve Cusumano with a perfect 4-0 score. Kyson Bloomingdale won the 13 player, U1600 section with a 3.5/4 point score. Cameron Shively won the 7 player U1200 section with a perfect 4-0 score. And finally, rounding out the winner circles was Joshua Kruse scoring 5-0 to win the 12 player U800 section. John Hartmann directed with Michael Mills assisting. Good to have you directing tournaments John and Mike!
 18. **The Mike Cole Memorial** took place in **Beatrice, Nebraska** and had 6 player in one section. Tony Dutiel and Charles Carlson tied for 1st with identical 3.5/4 point scores. Tony also directed. For information on the late Mike Cole, his obituary is posted on the internet.
 19. **The 2022 Cornhusker State Games** was played during the weekend of July 16th and 17th and drew 39 players in one **rated** section. The tournament was won by Kirill Belashchenko and Eric Armstrong with each player scoring 4.5 out of 5 points. The event was directed by Mike Gooch with Venkata Kolli and Joaquin E Siado Castaneda assisting. **Rod Malpert** formerly of Lincoln and a very strong chess master was on hand to help with game analysis.
 20. **The August UNO** event was held on August 6th and drew 57 players in 6 sections. The 22 player open section was won by Nicholas Lacroix and Jack Rankin with 3.5/4 point scores. In the 9 player, U1600 section, Thomas Smith Lilly Jr. won with a 3.5 point score. In the U1200, 8 player section, Taylor Gurney and Austin Rogers took top honors with 3-1 scores. The U800, 11 player section was dominated by Ajay Pasupuleti with a perfect 5-0 score. There was a 3 way tie in the 7 player, U400 section with Matthew Marlow, Yuxuan Yuan, and Prayag Gundabolu each scoring 4-1. The event was directed by Tony Dutiel and Steve Cusumano.

21. **The 2022 Lincoln City Chess Championship** took place on Saturday, August 27th and drew 38 players in 2 sections. The 27 player open section resulted in a 3 way tie with Jonathan Lang, Steve Cusumano and Iren Jiao Fei all scoring 3.5 points to share 1st. The 11 player, 3 round Rated Beginners Open, had Ajay Pasupuleti and Samanvi Kantem each scoring 3-0 to share 1st place. John Linscott organized the event and Michael Mills directed.
22. **The September UNO** event took place on 9/24 and drew 45 players in 5 sections. In the 18 player open section, Jonathan Lang and Jerry Slominski won top honors with a 3.5 point score. The 7 player U1600 section, Thomas Smith Lilly won with 3.5 out of 4 points. Ajay Pasupuleti won the 4 player U1200 section. The 11 player U800 section had 3 players scoring 3-1 to earn a tie for 1st place. The players are Colton Renken, Elian Bares and Lasya Kalamadugu. Finally in the U399 section, Rakshith Seethareman scored a perfect 4-0 to top the field of 5 players. The tournament was directed by Tony Dutiel with assistance from Steve Cusumano.
23. **The 9th Spence Quad** was held on September 14th & 28th and drew 17 players in 3 sections. Abhinav Suresh won his quad with a perfect 3-0 score. Mr. Suresh, rated 1913 defeated Lacroix (2030) Cusumano (1912) and Fernandes (1844). Not a bad day's work Abhinav! Chad Forsman (1765) won his quad with 2.5 points over Mills, Li, and Hartmann. Finally, in the 9 player small swiss section, Matt Matuszeski took top honors with a perfect 3-0 score. John Hartmann directed.
24. **The PBC October Blitz** was held on October 6th in Lincoln. Jonathan Lang won this speed tournament with a perfect 8-0 score. The event was directed by Joaquin Castaneda.
25. **The 11th Spence Action** took place October 5th and 12th and drew 15 players in one section. The 6 round Action Section was won by Nicholas Lacroix and Abhinav Suresh with 5.5 points out of 6 points. John Hartmann directed.

26. **The October UNO** was held on October 15th. In the 14 player Open section, Nick Lacroix (2017) won with 3.5 points with Chad Forsman earning 2nd place with 3 points. Chad's only loss was to Lacroix. The Under 1600 section had 11 players and was won by Frank Bowers with a perfect 4-0 score. The 5 player Under 1200 section was won by Colton Renken with 3.5 score. The U800 section had 17 players and was won by Aaryan Dhanda with a perfect 4-0 score. Daniel Willis directed.
27. **The Festival of Lights** chess tournament took place in Omaha on October 22nd and drew 15 players in 4 sections. The under 1200 section had 5 players and was won by Mansi Adduri with a perfect 4-0 score. In the 9 player, 5 round under 800 section, Shreakar Addula, took top honors with a 4.5 score. Some extra games took place that are not recorded here. Venkata Kolli directed.
28. **The GPO RBO** was held in Lincoln on November 13th and drew 24 players in one section.. Michael Gibson and Kolby Tran tied for 1st place with identical 4.5 scores. Michael Gooch directed.
29. **The 2022 Great Plains Open** took place the weekend of November 12th and 13th. This strong event drew 27 players and was won by chess master, Bob Holliman, with a 4.5 score. Nicholas Lacroix and Kirill Belashchenko tied for 2nd and 3rd with 4-1 scores. John Linscott was the event's organizer and Bill Broich directed.
30. **The 2022 Jack Spence Championship** was held in Omaha from October 19th to November 16th. Nicholas Lacroix and Chad Forsman tied for 1st place with 4-1 scores from a field of 15 players. John Hartmann and Michael Mills directed the event.
31. **The PBC November Blitz** took place in Lincoln on November 11th and was won by Tony Dutiel with a undefeated 9 out of 10 score. Tony's victory was from a field of 12 players. The event was directed by Joaquin E Siado Castaneda and Josh Mans.
32. **The UNL Fall Classic** was held on November 19th and drew 18 players in 2 sections. In the 12 player, Open section, Tony Dutiel walked away with top honors with a

- 4.5 score. Michael Schaal and Josiah Manson tied for 1st with 4-1 scores in the 6 player under 1600 section. Jonathan Lang directed.
33. **The Blitz tournament** was held in Omaha on November 30th. In this Spence chess club event, Jacob Wagner won going away with 11 out of 12 points. 13 players made up the field with John Hartmann directing. Congratulations and welcome back Jacob!
34. **The Nebraska Class Championship** was held in Lincoln on December 10th. The event had 41 players in 12 sections. Here is a list of the section winners...Jonathan Lang won the above 2000 section. Ryan Dong won the U1800 section. Sai Kolli won the U1600 section. Karthik Jella, Matt Matuszeski, Ajay Pasupuleti and Joaquin E Srado Castaneda shared 1st place in the U1400 section. Cameron Shively won the U1200 section. Michael Schaal won the U1000 section. Luke Hengen won the U800 section. Mr. Sajeesh won the U600 section. Siddharth Parthasaray and Jax Bruss won the U400 section. Venkata Kolli won the section 10 extra. Matthew Matuszeski won Section 11 extra 2. And finally, Jonathan Lang won the section 12 extra 3. Michael Gooch directed.
35. **The 10th Spence G40** was held on December 14th and was won by Chad Forsman with 3.5 points out of 4. John Hartmann directed. 13 players took part in the last rated Nebraska tournament for 2022.

Apologies in advance if I misspelled your names which is likely with some tournament summaries. -Kent Nelson

Summaries of Nebraska 2023 tournaments will be in the next Gambit issue-Kent Nelson.

Games Galore!

I believe the NSCA board has chosen **JJ Lang** to be our games coordinator replacing Steve Cusumano. Both Steve and JJ have provided entire game databases from Nebraska chess tournaments to yours truly and others. Next time you see Steve and JJ, be sure to thank him for this service!

The 2021 Cornhusker State Games

The CSG produced a number of upsets of top players. In the game below, Steve fought hard to defend but his weak d pawn and his dark square weakness was too much to overcome.

Cusumano, Steven - Henning, Logan [C54]

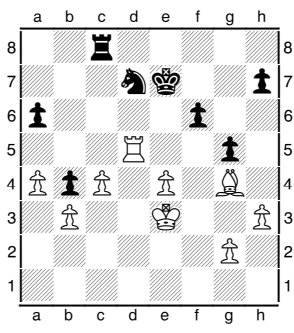
(2), 17.07.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Ne7 11.Nc3 c6 12.Bd3 Bf5 13.Ng5 Nxg5 14.Bxg5 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Qd7 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Ne2 f6 18.exf6 Qxf6 19.Rad1 Rae8 20.Ng3 Re6 21.b4 Qh4 22.Rd2 Rh6 23.h3 Rhf6 24.Nh1 Bc7 25.Re1 Rg6 26.Rde2 Bb6 27.Re8 Rgf6 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Rd1 Re8 30.Ng3 g6 31.a4 Bc7 32.Nf1 Re4 33.f3 Re6 34.a5 Qe7 35.Rd2 Qxb4 36.a6 b6 37.Ne3 Qd6 38.Ng4 Re1+ 0-1

(6) Henning, Logan - Knapp, Joe [B06]

(1), 17.07.2021

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.a4 Nc6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.d5 Nd4 10.Be2 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Ne7 12.0-0 Qd6 13.Ne2 0-0 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 16.Qxd4 Nc6 17.Qd2 Ne5 18.b3 Rad8 19.Kh1 b5 20.Qa5 b4 21.Be2 Ra8 22.c4 e5 23.dxc6 Nxc6 24.Qd5 Qc7 25.Rf6 Ne5 26.Rd1 Rfd8 27.Rd6 Rxd6 28.Qxd6 Qxd6 29.Rxd6 Kf8 30.Kg1 Ke7 31.Rd5 f6 32.Kf2 Rc8 33.Ke3 g5 34.h3 Nd7 35.Bg4!



Position after 35 Bg4!

Rc7 36.Bxd7 Rxd7 37.Rxd7+ Kxd7 38.Kd4 Kc6 39.g4 Kd6 40.c5+ Ke6 41.Kc4 1-0 Who is this Henning guy? He knocked off 2 very strong players in a row.-Editor.

(7) Petersen,Andrew - Kolli,Sai [A22]

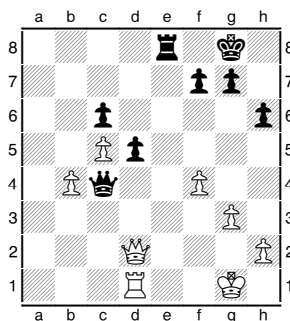
(1), 17.07.2021

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.e4 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.d4 Bb4
8.Nge2 Qa5 9.Bd2 Bxc3 10.bxc3 exd4 11.cxd4 Qd8 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Qd2
Be6 14.g3 Ndb4 15.Bg2 Qa5 16.0-0 Nd5 17.Rfd1 Rd8 18.Qxa5 Nxa5
19.Be4 Nc4 20.Rd3 b6 21.a4 Nd6 22.Nc3 Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Bf5 24.f3 Bxe4
25.fxg4 Nxe3 26.Rxe3 Rxd4 27.Kf2 Ke7 28.Ke2 Re8 29.Kf3 Rc8
30.Raa3 Rcc4 31.a5 b5 32.Red3 g6 33.Rxd4 Rxd4 34.Ke3 Ra4 35.Rb3
Rxa5 36.Kd4 Ra4+ 37.Kd5 b4 38.Kd4 a5 39.Kc4 Kd6 40.Kd4 f6
41.Rf3 b3+ 42.Kc3 Rb4 43.Kb2 0-1

(13) Reigenborn,Jonathan - Lacroix,Nick [B13]

(2), 17.07.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Bf4 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4+ 7.Nbd2 0-0
8.a3 Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.c5 Qc7 11.Ne5 Nc6 12.Ndf3 Nd7 13.Nxc6
bxc6 14.Bd3 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.0-0 Bg4 17.Be2 Rfe8 18.Nxe5 Bxe2
19.Qxe2 Rxe5 20.Qd2 Rae8 21.Rfe1 h6 22.g3 Qe7 23.Rxe5 Qxe5 24.f4
Qe2 25.Rd1 a5 26.b4 axb4 27.axb4 Qc4 See Position below.



28.Re1 Rb8 29.Rb1 Ra8 30.Rc1 Ra2 31.Qe3 Qxb4 32.Re1 Qb2 33.Qf3
Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 Qc2 35.Re2 Qxe2+ 36.Qxe2 Rxe2 37.Kxe2 f5 38.Kd3
Kf7 39.Kd4 Ke6 0-1

(17) Stepp,John - Erickson,Adam [B21]

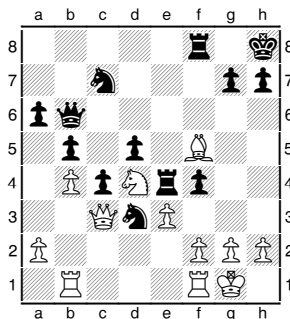
(2), 17.07.2021

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 e6 4.Nf3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Bb4 6.Qd4 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3
Nf6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 d6 10.b4 a6 11.a4 0-0 12.Rd1 e5 13.Ba3 Bg4
14.Bc2 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nd4 16.Qd3 Rc8 17.Rac1 Rc3! 18.Bb2 Rxd3
19.Bxd3 Qb6 20.Ba3 Ng4 21.Rf1 Rd8 22.Kh1 Nb3 23.Rc2 Qd4 24.Bc4
Nd2 25.Bc1 Nxf1 26.Bxf1 0-1

(19) Look,Scott - Downing,Kenneth [A80]

(2), 17.07.2021

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 f5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.Be2 b6 6.0-0 Bb7 7.c4 c5 8.Nc3 0-0
9.Nb5 Ne8 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 d6 12.Rc1 a6 13.Nc3 Nd7 14.Qd2 b5
15.Ne1 Ndf6 16.Bf3 Ne7 17.Bg5 Qd7 18.Nc2 Rae8 19.b4 Kh8 20.Rcd1 c4
21.Ne2 Nfxd5 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Nf4 Nxf4 24.Bxb7 Nd3 25.Rb1 d5 26.Qc3
Qd6 27.Nd4 Qb6 28.Be6 Re4 29.Bd7 f4 30.Bf5 Position after 30 Bf5.

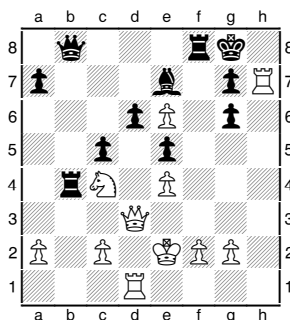


Rxd4 31.exd4 Rxf5 32.Rbd1 f3 33.Rxd3 cxd3 34.Re1 Kg8 35.Qxd3 Rf4
36.h3 fxg2 37.Re7 Ne6 38.Qe3 Rf6 39.Qg3 Qxd4 0-1

(31) Lacroix,Nick - Mills,Michael [A45]

(3), 17.07.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nd2 Nxe5 6.hxe5 e5 7.g6 fxg6 8.e4
Qf6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Qg4 Bxb5 11.Qc8+ Qd8 12.Qxb7 Nd7 13.Qxb5 Rb8
14.Qd3 Rxb2 15.Nc4 Rb7 16.Nf3 Be7 17.Ng5 Nf8 18.Ne6 Nxe6 19.dxe6
0-0 20.Rd1 Qb8 21.Ke2 Rb4 22.Rxh7! Please see the diagram below.



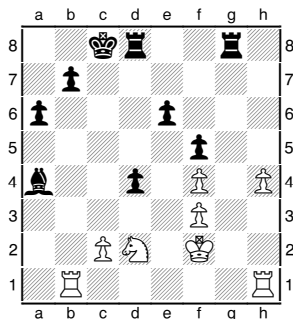
Bg5 23.Qh3 Rxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Qf8+ 25.Ke2 Bh6 26.Rxh6 gxh6 27.Rf1 Qa8
28.Qxh6 Qxe4+ 29.Ne3 1-0 Nick Lacroix is the real deal folks.-Ed.

(32) Caplan,Eylon - Belashchenko,Kirill [C18]

(3), 17.07.2021

Notes by Steve Cusumano.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7
8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Qd3 [10.Ne2] 10...Nbc6 [10...Qxe5+ 11.Ne2]
11.cxd4 Nxe5 12.Qd1 Qc3+ 13.Bd2 Qxd4 14.Ne2 Qe4 15.Be3 N7c6 16.Nc3
Qh4 17.g3 Qd8 18.Bd2 Nd4 19.Be2 Qf6 20.Bf4 Ng6 21.Bd2 Bd7 22.Rb1
Bc6 23.a4 Nxe2 24.Qxe2 a6 25.h4 d4 26.Ne4 Qe5 27.f3 f5 28.Bf4 Nxf4
29.gxf4 Qa5+ 30.Qd2 Qxd2+ 31.Nxd2 0-0-0 32.Kf2 Bxa4



Belashchenko offered a draw which was accepted. He was down 3 minutes vs 40 minutes and didn't want to risk playing under time pressure with only a 5 second delay. Objectively, black is close to winning on the board but it may take some time and accurate moves to convert. ½-½

Mr. Caplan is a very tough, tenacious player. His future is very bright.-Ed

(34) Lilly,Thomas - O'Connor,Tom [B34]

(3), 17.07.2021

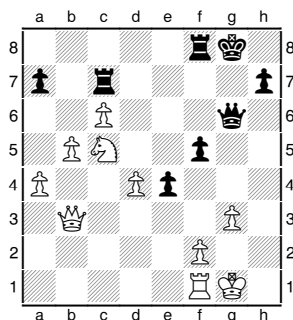
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Be2
d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.c3 Bf5 13.0-0 Rfd8
14.Qb3 e5 15.Bg5 Be6 16.Qc2 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 f6 18.Bh4 Bf5 19.Bc4+ Kh8
20.Qb3 Qxb3 21.Bxb3 Rd2 22.g4 Bd3 23.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Be2 25.Rd6
Bxf3+ 26.Kg1 g5 27.Bg3 Bxg4 28.h4 gxh4 29.Bxh4 f5 30.Kf2 h5 31.Bd5 e4
32.Ke3 Re8 33.Bg5 h4 34.Bxh4 f4+ 35.Kxf4 Be5+ 36.Kxg4 Bxd6 37.Bxb7
Rf8 38.Bg5 Re8 39.Bc6 Rg8 40.Kf5 Rc8 41.Bxe4 Rc5+ 42.Kg4 Rc4 43.Kf3
Kg7 44.Be3 Bc5 45.Bd5 Bxe3 46.Bxc4 Bc1 47.Bd5 Bxb2 48.c4 Ba3 49.Ke4
Kf6 50.Kd4 Ke7 51.c5 Kd7 52.Kc4 Kc7 53.Kb5 a6+ ½-½

A hard fought, see saw game.-Ed.

(35) Osborne,Will - Henning,Logan [D02]

(3), 17.07.2021

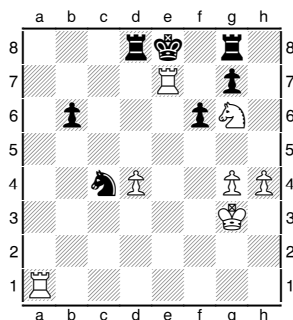
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c3 d5 6.Nbd2 Nh5 7.Bg5 f6
8.Bh4 g6 9.Bb5 Bd6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.g4 Ng7 12.Ne5 0-0 13.Nxc6 bxc6
14.Bxc6 Rb8 15.b4 Bd6 16.Bg3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Qd6 18.b5 Qc5 19.Rc1
Bb7 20.Bxb7 Rxb7 21.a4 e5 22.Nb3 Qd6 23.0-0 f5 24.c4 d4 25.exd4 e4
26.c5 Qd5 27.c6 Rc7 28.Rc5 Qd6 29.Re5 Ne6 30.gxf5 gxf5 31.Rxe6
Qxe6 32.Nc5 Qg6 33.Qb3+ Please see the diagram below.



Rcf7 34.Ne6 f4 35.Nxf4 Qg4 36.Qe6 Qg5 37.c7 Kh8 38.Qxf7 Rxf7
39.c8Q+ Qg8 40.Qxg8+ Kxg8 41.Rd1 1-0 A nice win by Will.-Ed.

Iacono, Leo - Etheredge, Christopher [B13]

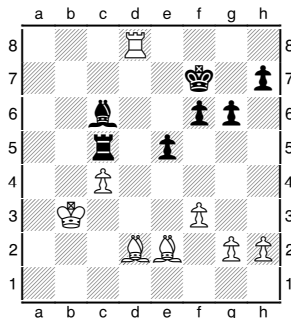
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Qb6 7.Qb3
Qxb3 8.axb3 Bg4 9.Na3 e6 10.Nb5 Kd7 11.h3 Bh5 12.g4 Bg6 13.Bxg6
hxg6 14.f3 a6 15.Ne2 Be7 16.Na3 Bd6 17.Nc2 Bxf4 18.Nxf4 g5 19.Nd3
b6 20.Ncb4 Nxb4 21.Nxb4 a5 22.Nd3 Ke7 23.Kd2 Nd7 24.f4 Nf6
25.fxg5 Ne4+ 26.Ke3 Nxc3 27.Nf2 f6 28.h4 Nf7 29.Nd3 Nd6 30.Nf4
Kf7 31.Nd3 Rae8 32.b4 axb4 33.Nxb4 Nc4+ 34.Kf2 Nxb2 35.Ra7+
Re7 36.Ra6 Nc4 37.Kg3 Ree8 38.Rha1 e5 39.Nxd5 exd4 40.cxd4 Rd8
41.Ra7+ Kf8 42.Nf4 Rg8 43.Ng6+ Ke8 44.Re7# 1-0



Final Position-1-0

(45) Jordan, Asaru - Tichacek, Jerome [B34]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.f3 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Qd2 d5 9.0-0 a6 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Be6 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8 15.Rxd8+ Rxd8 16.b3 Bc3 17.Be2 Kf8 18.Rd1 Rc8 19.a4 a5 20.Bh6+ Kg8 21.Bd2 Bb4 22.Bxb4 Bxb3 23.Kb2 Bxa4 24.Bc3 Rb8+ 25.Kc1 Rc8 26.Rd4 Be8 27.Bxa5 Kf8 28.Rd8 Rc5 29.Bd2 f6 30.Kb2 Kf7 31.Kb3 Bc6 32.c4 e5 A rather usual position. White to play and embarrass Black's rook.

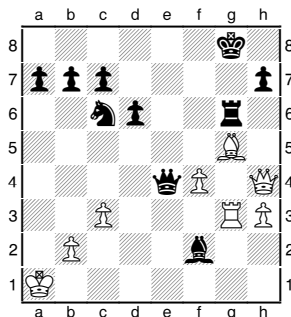


33.Kb4 1-0

(48) Knapp,Joe - Iacono,Leo [C63]

(4), 18.07.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.Bg5 Bc5 7.Nc3 d6 8.Nd5 0-0 9.Nxf6+ gxf6 10.Bh6 Rf7 11.Bc4 Bg4 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.c3 Qd7 14.h3 Be6 15.Ng5+ fxg5 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxg5+ Kh8 18.Qf6+ Kg8 19.0-0-0 Qf7 20.Qh4 Bxa2 21.Rhf1 Bc4 22.f4 Be3+ 23.Kb1 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 exf4 25.g3 Qg6 26.gxf4 Qxe4+ 27.Ka1 Re8 28.Rf3 Re6 29.Rg3+ Rg6 30.Bg5 Bf2 0-1

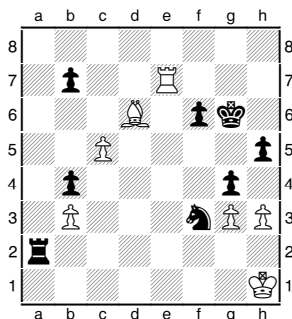


Final Position 0-1. A wonderful game. Black survived White's attack and turn the tables with good defense and the bishop pair. Well done by Leo!-Ed.

(53) Osborne, Will - Lacroix, Nick [D00]

(4), 18.07.2021

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Qb3 c4 6.Qc2 Nc6 7.Nd2 Bg4 8.b3
cxb3 9.axb3 e6 10.Be2 Bf5 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Rc8 13.Ne2 Be7 14.h3
0-0 15.0-0 Na5 16.Rfb1 a6 17.c4 Bb4 18.c5 Qb5 19.Qxb5 axb5 20.Nf3
Ra8 21.Ne5 Ne4 22.Nd3 Bc3 23.Nxc3 Nxc3 24.Rb2 Nc6 25.Rc1 Na2
26.Rcc2 Nab4 27.Nxb4 Nxb4 28.Rd2 Ra1+ 29.Kh2 Rfa8 30.f3 f6 31.e4 g5
32.Bd6 h5 33.exd5 Nxd5 34.g3 b4 35.f4 g4 36.f5 Ne3 37.Re2 Nxf5 38.Rxe6
R8a2 39.Rbe2 Nxd4 40.Re8+ Kf7 41.R8e7+ Kg6 42.Rxa2 Rxa2+ 43.Kh1
Nf3 0-1

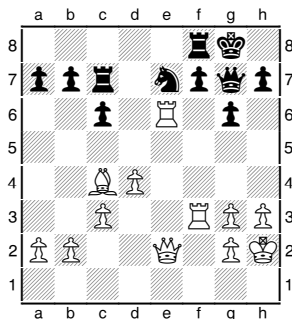


Final position- White Resigns. A hard fought game that ended abruptly. -Ed.

(54) Belashchenko, Kirill - Solheim, Jeff [B17]

(4), 18.07.2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4
Bf5 8.c3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Bf4 0-0 11.Re1 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nd5
14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Re4 Bxg3 16.fxg3 Qf6 17.Qe2 Qg5 18.Kh2 Rac8 19.Re5
Qh6 20.Rf1 Rc7 21.Rh5 Qe3 22.Qc2 g6 23.Re5 Qh6 24.Rf3 Qg7 25.Qe2
Ne7 26.Rxe6!! Please see the diagram below.



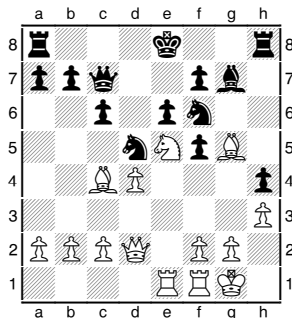
fxe6 27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Rxf8+ Qxf8 29.Qe5+ Qg7 30.Qxc7 Qf6 31.Qb8+
Kg7 32.Qxb7 Kh6 33.Qb8 Nf5 34.Qf4+ g5 35.Qf3 Kg7 36.Bd3 Ne7
37.Qxf6+ Kxf6 38.Bxh7 1-0

A very nice combination by Kirill starting with the rook sac on move 26. -Ed.

(55) Caplan,Eylon - Buckley,Matt [B15]

(4), 18.07.2021

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bg7 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Ng3 Nf6 8.0-0 Nd5 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Qd2 h5 11.Rae1 N7f6 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.Ne5 e6 14.h3 h4 15.Nxf5 gxf5



16.c3?? (allowing the f6 knight to enter the game with decisive effect-Ed) Ne4! 17.Qc1 f6 18.Ng6 Nxf5 19.Nxh8 Bxh8 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.Qd1 0-0-0 22.Qh5 Rg8 23.Re3 f4 24.Re2 f3 0-1

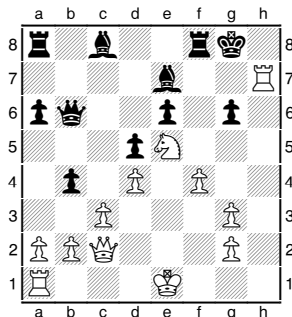
(59) Henning, Logan - Stepp,John [B06]

(4), 18.07.2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.a4 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 Ne7 9.e5 d5 10.Ne2 c5 11.c3 c4 12.Bc2 Nbc6 13.Qe1 Nf5 14.g4 Nh6 15.h3 Qd7 16.Qh4 Qe7 17.Ng3 Qxh4 18.Nxh4 Ne7 19.f5 gxf5 20.gxf5 Nhxf5 21.Nhxf5 exf5 22.Nxf5 Nxf5 23.Bxf5 Bc8 24.Bxc8 Rxc8 25.Bg5 Rc6 26.Kh2 Rg6 27.Rf5 Rg8 28.Raf1 Bf8 29.Bc1 Rg2+ 30.Kh1 R2g3 31.R5f3 Be7 32.Kh2 Rg2+ 33.Kh1 R2g3 1/2-1/2

(60) Look,Scott - Lilly,Thomas [D02]

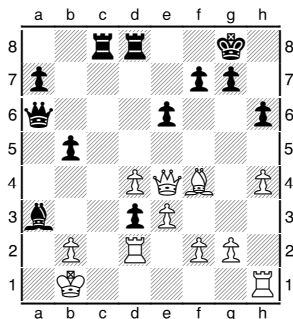
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 d5 6.e3 Nh5 7.Bg3 Nxf3 8.hxf3 Be7 9.Bd3 cxd4 10.exd4 g6 11.Qe2 a6 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Qxe5 Bf6 14.Qe2 b5 15.Nf3 Qb6 16.Ne5 0-0 17.f4 b4 18.Qc2 Be7 19.Bxg6 fxf6 20.Rxh7! See position below.



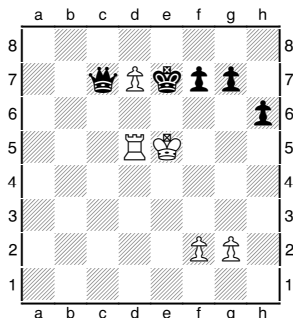
Rf5 21.Rxe7 and White later won. 1-0 The London system can create some nice attacks if Black isn't vigilant as evidenced by this game.-Ed.

(62) Lacroix,Nick - Belashchenko,Kirill [A45]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 h6 4.Bf4 d5 5.Nd2 Bf5 6.Nxe4 dxe4 7.e3 Qd7 8.c3 e6 9.Qb3 b6 10.Rd1 c6 11.c4 Na6 12.Ne2 Bg4 13.Rd2 Bxe2 14.Rxe2 Bb4+ 15.Kd1 0-0 16.Kc1 Rfd8 17.a3 Be7 18.Rd2 Rac8 19.Qa4 Qb7 20.Kb1 b5 21.cxb5 Nc5 22.Qe2 Nd3 23.Bxd3 cxb5 24.Qd1 exd3 25.Qf3 Qa6 26.Qe4 Bxa3 Please see the diagram below.



27.bxa3 Qxa3 28.Qxd3 Rc3 29.Qe2 Rdc8 30.Rb2 b4 31.e4 b3 32.Rc1 Rxc1+ 33.Bxc1 Rc6 34.Qd3 Ra6 35.Qxb3 Qa1+ 36.Kc2 Rc6+ 37.Kd3 Rxc1 38.d5 Rd1+ 39.Ke2 Re1+ 40.Kf3 exd5 41.exd5 Qa6 42.Qc3 Re8 43.Rd2 Rc8 44.Qe3 Qd6 45.Qxa7 Rc3+ 46.Ke2 Ra3 47.Qd4 Qa6+ 48.Rd3 Ra2+ 49.Kf3 Ra4 50.Qe3 Qf6+ 51.Ke2 Qxh4 52.d6 Re4 53.d7 Rxe3+ 54.Kxe3 Qd8 55.Ke4 Kf8 56.Ke5 Ke7 57.Rd5 Qc7+ 0-1 The final position is below. A very hard fought battle and a very enjoyable game to look at. -Ed..



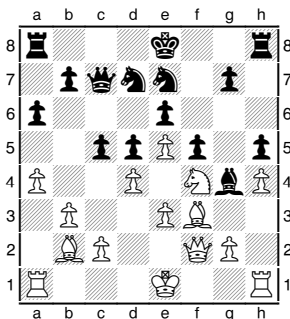
(64) Knapp,Joe - Look,Scott [A55]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.d4 Nbd7 4.Nc3 e5 5.e4 c6 6.b3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Qb6 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qb1 Ng4 10.Nd1 Nf6 11.Bd3 Bg4 12.b4 Ncd7 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Nh4 Bxd1 15.Qxd1 cxd5 16.cxd5 Qc3+ 17.Ke2 Qb2+ 18.Qd2 Qxd2+ 19.Bxd2 0-0 20.Nf5 h6 21.a4 g6 22.Ne3 Be7 23.b5 Kb8 24.Bb4 Rc8 25.Rhc1 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Rc8 27.Rxc8+ Kxc8 28.Nc4 Ne8 29.g3 f6 30.f4 Kc7 31.h4 Ng7 32.a5 Nh5 33.Kf3 Ng7 34.Bc2 Ne8 35.b6+ axb6 36.axb6+ Kc8 37.Ba4 exf4 38.gxf4 f5 39.e5 Bxh4 40.Bxd6 Bd8 41.Bxd7+ Kxd7 42.e6+ Kc8 43.e7 1-0

(65) Lang,JJ - Osborne,Will [A03]

(5), 18.07.2021

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bf5 3.e3 e6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c5 6.Ne5 h5 7.Nc3 a6 8.a4
Bd6 9.Bd3 Bxe5 10.fxe5 Bg4 11.Be2 Nh7 12.h4 f5 13.d4 Nd7 14.Qd2
Nhf8 15.Bf3 Ng6 16.Qf2 Ne7 17.Ne2 Qc7 18.Nf4 Please see the
diagram below.



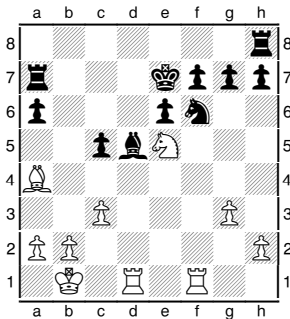
Kf7 19.Bxg4 hxd4 20.e4 g5 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.exd5 Kg6 23.d6 Qa5+
24.b4 Qxb4+ 25.c3 g3 26.Qd2 1-0

It's not very often I get to input a game with the Larsen's opening. -Ed.

(66) Stepp,John - Caplan,Eylon [C01]

(5), 18.07.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Be3 dxe4 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.f3 exf3 6.Ngxf3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7
8.Qe2 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 c5 10.c3 Qc7 11.Kb1 Nd5 12.Rhf1 Bd6 13.g3
N7f6 14.Nc4 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Bd5 16.Nxd6+ Qxd6 17.Bb5+ Ke7 18.Ne5
a6 19.dxc5 Qxc5 20.Qxc5+ bxc5 21.Ba4 Ra7?

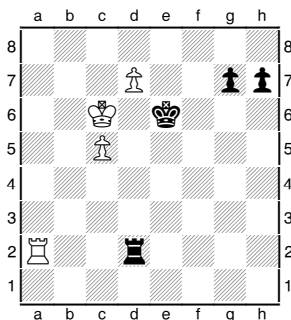


22.Rxd5! exd5 23.Nc6+ and White later won. -Ed.

(68) Buckley, Matt - Ward, John [D10]

(5), 18.07.2021

1.d4 c5 2.c3 cxd4 3.cxd4 d5 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Qb3 Qd7 6.Qxd5 Nf6
7.Qxd7+ Nbx d7 8.Bf4 e6 9.e3 Bb4 10.Bb5 Nd5 11.Nge2 Nxf4 12.Nxf4
a6 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Nxd3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Rc8 16.Kd2 0-0 17.Rhb1 b6
18.a4 a5 19.Rb5 f6 20.Nf4 Kf7 21.Nd3 Rc6 22.Rc1 Rfc8 23.Nb2 e5
24.d5 Rd6 25.e4 Nc5 26.f3 f5 27.Nc4 Nxe4+ 28.fxe4 Rxc4 29.exf5
Rxa4 30.c4 Ra2+ 31.Rc2 Rxc2+ 32.Kxc2 Kf6 33.g4 Kg5 34.h3 a4
35.Rb1 Kh4 36.Kd3 a3 37.Ke4 Kxh3 38.Kxe5 Rd8 39.d6 Kxg4
40.Rxb6 a2 41.Ra6 Re8+ 42.Kd5 Re2 43.d7 Kxf5 44.c5 Rd2+ 45.Kc6
Ke6 46.Rxa2! Please see the diagram below. The point is if 46..R:d7
37.Re2+ and Black wins the rook. An important maneuver to remember
in rook endgames! -Ed.

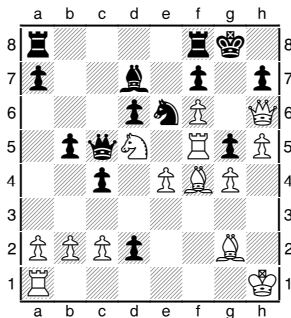


Rxa2 47.d8Q 1-0

(70) Solheim, Jeffrey - Erickson, Adam [B24]

(5), 18.07.2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 e6 6.Nh3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4
Qb6 9.Ne2 c4+ 10.d4 e5 11.Kh1 exd4 12.Nf2 Ng4 13.Nxg4 Bxg4 14.h3
Bd7 15.g4 g6 16.f5 Bf6 17.Nf4 Qc5 18.Nd5 Be5 19.f6 Nd8 20.Qd2 Ne6
21.Qh6 b5 22.h4 d3 23.h5 g5 24.Rf5 Bf4 25.Bxf4 d2 1-0



Final Position-White won. I couldn't make up this final position! -Ed.

Games from the 2020 Nebraska State Closed Championship.
Event held on 10/24/21 due to the Pandemic year.

(1) Solheim,Jeff - Linscott,John [C55]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 a6 7.Bb3 Na5 8.Bc2 c5 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Re1 Nc6 11.Nf1 Qc7 12.Ne3 b5 13.h3 Re8 14.Nh2 Be6 15.Nhg4 Nhg4 16.hxg4 Bf8 17.Qf3 f6 18.Nf5 Rad8 19.g5 fxg5 20.Bxg5 Be7 21.Qg4 Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Rf8 23.Re3 d5 24.Rg3 Bxf5 25.exf5 Qe7 26.Qh5 Qf6 [26...Rf6] 27.Rf3 Rd6 28.g4 Qh6 [28...g6 29.fxg6 Qxf3 (29...Qxg6) 30.Qxh7#] 29.Rh3 Qxh5 30.Rxh5 g6 31.Rg5 h6 32.Rxg6+ Rxg6 33.fxg6 Kg7 34.Re1 Rf4 35.Bd1 Kxg6 36.Kg2 Rf7 37.Bf3 Re7 38.c4 Kf6 39.Bxd5 Nb4 [%cal Gb4d5] 40.f4 [40.Be4 Nxa2 41.Ra1 [%cal Gala6] 41...Nb4 [%cal Gb4a6] 42.cxb5 axb5 43.Ra5 Rd7 [%cal Gd7d3,Gb4d3] 44.Rxb5 Nxd3 [%cal Gd3c5,Gd3e5] 45.Bxd3 Rxd3 46.Rxc5; 40.Bf3 Nxa2 41.Ra1 Nb4 42.cxb5 axb5 43.Ra5 Rb7] 40...Nxd5 41.fxe5+ Ke6 42.cxd5+ Kxd5 43.Re3 Rxe5 44.Kf3 [44.Rh3 Re2+ 45.Kf3 Rxb2] 44...Rxe3+ 45.Kxe3 Ke5 46.a3 a5 47.b3 a4 48.bxa4 bxa4 49.Kd2 [49.Ke2 Kf4; 49.Kf3 Kd4 50.Ke2 Kc3 51.Ke3] 49...Kf4 [49...Kd4 50.Ke2 Kc3 51.Ke3 Kb3 52.Ke4 Kxa3 53.Kd5 Kb4] 50.Kc3 Kxg4 51.Kc4 h5 52.Kxc5 h4 53.d4 h3 54.d5 h2 55.d6 h1Q 56.d7 Qh8 0-1

(2) Belashchenko,Kirill - Nelson,Kent [B39]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 e5 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Bd3 d6 12.Nd5 Be6 13.0-0 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Qe7 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.Rxc8 Rxc8 17.Bb1 Qc7 18.f4 Qc4 Draw agreed 1/2-1/2

(3) Polacek,Noah - Cusumano,Steven [D02]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 Bg4 5.0-0 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 e6 7.c4 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.a3 a5 10.Qb3 Qc7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.f4 Nc5 14.Qc3 Qb6 15.Kh1 Bf5 16.e4 dxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Bxe4 19.Bxe4 Rfd8 20.Qc2 Qd4 21.Bxh7+ Kf8 22.Kg2 g6 23.Bxg6 fxg6 24.Qxg6 Qxc4 25.Qh6+ Kf7 26.f5 Qe4+ 27.Kf2 Bc5+ 28.Kf1 Rd1# 0-1

(4) Linscott,John - Cusumano,Steven [C77]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021
[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 [5...Nxe4 6.Qe2] 6.0-0 Be7 7.e5 Nd5 [7...Ne4 8.Nxd4 (8.Re1) 8...0-0] 8.Bb3 Nb6 9.Bf4 0-0 10.Nxd4 d6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nc3 d5 13.Re1 Be6 [13...Bf5 14.Ne2 c5] 14.Ne2 c5 15.c3 a5 16.Bc2 Re8 17.Ng3 Qd7 18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh6 Bf8 20.Qg5 Be7 21.Qh6 Bf8 22.Qh4 Be7 23.Bg5 Bxg5 24.Qxg5 Qe7 25.Qh6 Qf8 26.Qg5 Qe7 27.Qf4 Nd7 28.Qd2 c6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

(5) Nelson,Kent - Solheim,Jeff [B17]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021
[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bb3 h6 9.N5f3 c5 10.c3 Bd6 11.Nh3 0-0 [11...Kf8] 12.0-0 Qc7 [12...cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bd7] 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rad1 Qc7 17.Ne5 Nbd7 18.Nxf7 Nc5 [18...Rxf7 19.Bxe6 Nc5 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 (20...Qxf7 21.Rd8+ Kh7 22.Rfd1)] 19.Nd6 Nxb3 20.axb3 Bd7 21.Nb5 [21.c4] 21...Qb6 22.Nd4 Rae8 [22...e5 23.Qxe5 Bxh3 24.gxh3 Rae8 25.Qg3] 23.Qc4 Kh8 [23...Rc8 24.Qd3 (24.Qe2 Rce8 25.Qc4) 24...e5 25.Nf5 Bb5 26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Ng6+] 24.Nf4 Kh7 25.Qd3+ Kg8 26.Ng6 Rf7 27.Ne5 Rfe7 28.Rfe1 Bc8 29.Qg6 [29.Re3] 29...Rf8 30.Rd3 Nd5 31.Rg3 Rf6 32.Qc2 Re8 [32...Nb4 33.cxb4; 32...Nf4] 33.Ng4 [33.Ng6 Rf4 (33...Rf5)] 33...Rf4 34.Nxh6+ Kf8 35.Qh7 Rf7 36.Qg8+ 1-0

(6) Polacek,Noah - Belashchenko,Kirill [E18]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021
[<https://lichess.org/@/IamZex>]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 b6 5.0-0 Bb7 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Nd2 Nbd7 9.e4 dxe4 10.Ndxe4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 c6 [11...Qc8] 12.Qa4 Nf6 13.Rd1 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Qc8 15.Qc2 h6 [15...g6 16.Bh6 Rd8; 15...f5 16.Bf3 Rf6] 16.c5 Rd8 17.Be3 Bf6 18.Rac1 b5 19.Qe2 Qc7 20.Qf3 Bg5 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Qh5 f5 23.Bb1 g4 24.h3 gxh3 25.Qxh3 Rf8 26.Re1 Rf6 27.Re3 Rh6 28.Qg2 Kf7 29.Rce1 Rah8 30.Bc2 Bc8 31.Bb3 Bd7 32.Re5 Rf6 [32...Rh1+ 33.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 34.Kxh1 Qc8 35.Rxf5+ Kg6 36.Rfe5 Qh8+] 33.Qf3 g6 34.Qe3 Qc8 35.Kg2 Rh7 36.Rh1 Rxh1 37.Kxh1 Qh8+ 38.Kg2 Qh5 39.d5 cxd5 40.Bxd5 Bc8 [40...exd5] 41.c6 Kg7 42.Bf3 Qh8 43.Qxa7+ Rf7 44.Qd4 Kg8 45.Qd6 f4 46.g4 b4 47.Rb5 Qxb2 48.Rb8 Rf8 49.Rxc8 1-0

(7) Nelson,Kent - Linscott,John [A15]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[\[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex\]](https://lichess.org/@/IamZex)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 c6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 0-0 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Bd3 Re8 10.Rc1 Nf8 11.0-0 N6d7 12.Bf4 Nf6 13.Ne5 Bd6 14.h3 Ng6 15.Nxg6 draw agreed. ½-½

(8) Cusumano,Steven - Belashchenko,Kirill [D38]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[\[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex\]](https://lichess.org/@/IamZex)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 [4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c5 6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nxd4 [%csl Gc4][%cal Gg2b7,Gd1a4]] 4...Bb4 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 0-0 8.c5 [8.a3] 8...b6 9.cxb6 axb6 10.Be2 Rd8 11.0-0 Bb7 12.a3 Bf8 13.Qb3 Nc6 14.Rac1 Na5 15.Qa2 Ba6 16.Bxa6 Rxa6 17.Ne5 c5 18.b4 Nb7 19.b5 Raa8 20.a4 Na5 21.Rfd1 Bd6 22.Nc6 Rdc8 23.Nxa5 Rxa5 24.e4 Qg5 25.exd5 [25.dxc5 Rxc5 [%csl Ga4,Gb5][%cal Gf7d5]] 25...cxd4 [%cal Gd5e6,Gc3e2,Gc8c1,Gg5c1] 26.dxe6 [26.Ne2 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 d3 28.Rc8+ Kh7 29.Qb1 [%cal Gb1h7] 29...Qd2] 26...Rxc3 27.exf7+ Kf8 28.Rxc3 dxc3 29.Qe6 Qe5 30.Qc8+ [30.Qxd6+ Qxd6 31.Rxd6 Rxa4 32.Rd1 c2 33.Rc1 Rd4 [%cal Gd4d1]] 30...Kxf7 31.Qd7+ Be7 32.f4 Qc5+ 33.Kf1 Rxa4 34.Rd5 Rxf4+ 35.Ke2 Qc4+ 36.Kd1 c2+ 37.Kc1 Rf1+ 0-1

(9) Solheim,Jeff - Polacek,Noah [C53]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 23.10.2021

[\[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex\]](https://lichess.org/@/IamZex)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 Bg4 10.Ne4 Bb6 11.Ng3 Re8 12.h3 Be6 13.Re1 Nf4 14.Bc2 Qf6 15.Be3 Rad8 16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Re3 Rd7 18.Qe1 Red8 19.Ne4 Qg6 20.Nh4 Qh5 21.f3 f5 22.g4 Nxh3+ 23.Kh2 fxg4 24.fxg4 Qxg4 25.Rg3 Qf4 26.Ng6 Qf7 27.Qe3 Nf4 28.Rf1 Bf5 29.Nxf4 exf4 30.Rxf4 Qh5+ 31.Kg1 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Rf8 33.d4 Kh8 34.Qd3 g5 35.Re6 Rdf7 36.Rf6 Re8 37.Rxf7 Qxf7 38.Rf3 Qd7 39.Kf2 Draw agreed.[39.Rf6 Ne5 (39...Re6 40.Rf8+ Kg7 41.Qh7+) 40.Rxh6+ Kg8 41.Bb3+ Kf8 42.Rh8+ Ke7 43.Rh7+ Kd8 44.Rxd7+ Nxd7] ½-½

(10) Cusumano,Steven - Nelson,Kent [B39]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

[\[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex\]](https://lichess.org/@/IamZex)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 Ne6 [9...e5] 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.Qd2 Bd7 13.Rac1 Bc6 14.Nd5 Nc5 15.f3 e6 16.Nc3 a5 17.Rfd1 Be5 18.Nb5 [18.f4 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Nxe4] 18...Bxb5 19.cxb5 b6 20.b3 Qh4 21.g3 21...Qe7 [21...Bxg3 22.hxg3 Qxg3+ 23.Kf1 Qh3+ 24.Ke1 (24.Kg1) 24...Qg3+ (24...Qh1+ 25.Bf1 Qxf3)] 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Qd7 Ra7 24.Qxe7 Rxe7 ½-½

(11) Linscott,John - Polacek,Noah [C77]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Qe7 7.0-0 d6 8.Bd5 Bb7 9.c3 g6 10.Re1 Bg7 11.Bg5 0-0 12.Nbd2 Rfe8 13.a4 Qd7 14.Bb3 h6 15.Bh4 exd4 16.cxd4 Nh5 17.Nf1 Na5 18.Bc2 Nc6 19.Qd2 a5 20.Bd3 b4 21.Bb5 Ba6 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.d5 Ne5 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.f3 c5 26.Ne3 Raa8 27.Ng4 Kg7 28.Qxh6+ Kg8 29.Nxe5 Rxe5 30.g4 Ng7 31.Bf6 Ne8 32.Qh8# 1-0

(12) Belashchenko,Kirill - Solheim,Jeff [B14]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Be3 b6 [11...h6 12.a3 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bd7] 12.a3 [12.Bg5] 12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bb7 14.Bg5 Rc8 15.Qc2 h6 16.Bh4 Na5 17.Ne5 Qd5 18.f3 Rc7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Ng4 Kg7 21.Be4 Qg5 22.Bxb7 Nxb7 23.Qd3 Rfc8 24.Rac1 Na5 25.Ne3 Nc4 26.f4 Qa5 27.Rf3 f5 28.d5 Nxe3 29.Qd4+ Kh7 30.Rxe3 Qxa3 31.Rc2 Rd7 32.c4 Qc5 33.Qxc5 Rxc5 34.dxe6 fxe6 35.Rxe6 b5 36.Ra2 bxc4 37.Raa6 c3 38.Rxh6+ Kg7 39.Rhc6 Rc7 40.Rxc5 Rxc5 41.Rxa7+ Kf6 42.Ra6+ Ke7 43.Ra1 c2 44.Rc1 Kd6 45.Kf2 Kd5 46.Ke3 Rc3+ 47.Kd2 Kd4 48.Rxc2 Rd3+ 49.Ke2 Re3+ 50.Kf2 Rb3 51.Re2 Rb4 52.Kg3 1-0

(13) Polacek,Noah - Nelson,Kent [A45]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex]

1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.c4 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nc3 c6 [7...e5] 8.b3 e5 9.Bb2 e4 10.Nd2 d5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Rc1 a6 13.Na4 Re8 14.e3 Nb6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6 16.Rc3 Bg4 17.Qc2 Rac8 18.Rc1 h5 19.Nb1 Rxc3 20.Nxc3 Qe6 [20...Qd6] 21.Na4 [21.Ne2 Bh3 22.Nf4] 21...Qf5 22.Qc7 Bh6 23.Qd6 Bf3 24.Bf1 Ng4 25.Rc3 Be2 [25...Bh1 26.Kxh1 Qxf2 27.Bg2 Qe1+ 28.Bf1 Qxf1#] 26.f4 exf3 27.Bh3 f2+ 28.Kg2 Qf3# 0-1

(14) Solheim,Jeff - Cusumano,Steven [C55]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

[https://lichess.org/@/IamZex]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Bg4 8.c3 a6 9.Nbd2 Qd7 10.Nf1 Rfe8 11.Ne3 g6 12.b4 Bf8 13.Bb2 Bg7 14.b5 Na5 15.bxa6 bxa6 16.Nxg4 Nxg4 17.Ba2 Rab8 18.Bc1 Rf8 19.d4 exd4 20.cxd4 c5 21.h3 Nf6 22.e5 dxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxd4 24.Bd2 Ne4 25.Rxe4 Qxe4 26.Nd7 Qd4 27.Bxa5 Qxa1 28.Qxa1 Bxa1 29.Nxb8 Rxb8 30.Bc4 Bd4 31.Bc7 Rb4 0-1

(15) Linscott,John - Belashchenko,Kirill [C15]

Nebraska State Championship <https://lichess.org/study/vcUx>, 24.10.2021

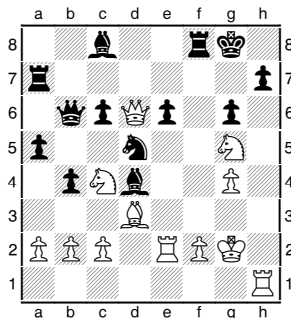
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 [3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2] 3...Bb4 4.Nge2 dxe4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Bb5 Qd6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.d5 exd5 [10...e5] 11.Qxd5 f5 12.0-0-0 Bd7 13.Qxd6 cxd6 14.Rxd6 0-0-0 15.Rhd1 Kc7 16.Be2 Be6 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Re1 Rg8 19.g3 Nd4 20.Nb5+ Nxb5 21.Bxb5 Kd6 22.Kd2 a6 23.Be2 Ke5 24.Ke3 Rc8 25.c3 Bb3 26.Bd1 Bd5 27.Re2 f6 28.Rd2 Rc7 29.Be2 Rd7 ½-½

Games from the May, 2022 UNO tournament.

(1) Nick LaCroix (2080) - Scott Look (1600) [B07]

open (1), 14.05.2022

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Qa5 5.h3 Nxe4 6.Bd2 Nxd2 7.Qxd2 Nd7 8.Bd3 g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Rae1 Nf6 11.Re2 e6 12.Qf4 Qc7 13.Ng5 0-0 14.Rfe1 Re8 15.g4 b5 16.h4 b4 17.Nce4 Nd5 18.Qxd6 Qb6 19.h5 Bxd4 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.Kg2 a5 22.Rh1 Ra7 23.Nd2 Rf8 24.Nc4



Nf4+?? 25.Qxf4 Qc5 26.Qd2 1-0

(2) Herbert Wolfe Jr (1601) - Ben Fabrikant (2003) [C17]

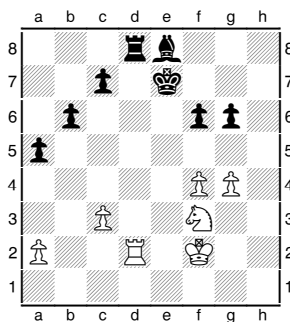
open (1), 14.05.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 cxd4 7.axb4 dxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Bf4 Nge7 10.Bd3 f6 11.Qe2 Nxb4 12.0-0 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Ng6 14.Qe3 Nxf4 15.Qxf4 Qxc3 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Qd6 Qe7 18.Qf4 Bd7 19.Ne5 Qf6 20.Qe3 a6 21.Rfb1 Bc6 22.Nxc6 bxc6 23.Qb6 0-0 24.Qxc6 Qxf2+ 25.Kh1 Rae8 26.Qxa6 Qxc2 27.Rf1 0-1

(3) Matt Buckley (1872) - Matthew Naumann (1514) [A45]

open (1), 14.05.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nd2 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Bc4 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Be5 Nc6
8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.c3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Ne2 Nxc4 12.Nxc4 Re8 13.0-0 Bg4
14.Re1 Rxe2 15.Rxe2 Nf4 16.f3 Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nxe2+ 18.Kf2 Nxc3 19.bxc3
Be6 20.Na5 b6 21.Nb3 a5 22.Rd2 h5 23.Nd4 Bd7 24.h3 Kf6 25.f4 Ba4 26.Nf3
Ke7 27.Ne5 Be8 28.g4 hxg4 29.hxg4 f6 30.Nf3 Rd8 1-0

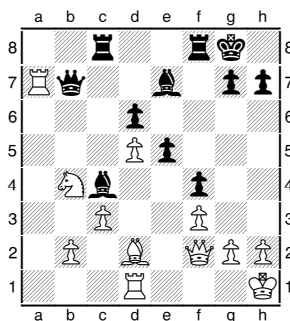


Still a lot of play left. Perhaps Black overstepped the time limit. -Ed

(4) Eylon Caplan (1534) - Douglas Grande (1820) [B32]

open (1), 14.05.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Be7 8.Nc4
b5 9.Ne3 Nf6 10.f3 Be6 11.Be2 Nd4 12.0-0 Rc8 13.a4 Qb6 14.axb5 axb5
15.Kh1 0-0 16.Ncd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bd7 18.c3 Nxe2 19.Qxe2 f5 20.Bd2 f4
21.Nc2 b4 22.Nxb4 Bb5 23.Qf2 Qb7 24.Rfd1 Be4 25.Ra7 1-0



Final Position. Eylon is hell on old timers-I've lost to him too. Outplayed-Ed.

(5) Chad Forsman (1771) - Steven Behrens (1519) [B10]

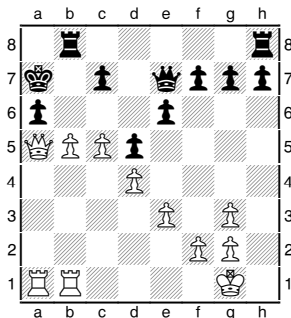
open (1), 14.05.2022

1.e4 c6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.d4 d5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 0-0 8.0-0 b5
9.Bb3 Nbd7 10.Be3 b4 11.e5 bxc3 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.bxc3 Bb7 14.Rb1 Rb8
15.Bf4 Nb6 16.Bxb8 Qxb8 17.Re1 Rd8 18.Qc2 Nd5 19.Bxd5 Rxd5 20.Qb3
Rb5 21.Qc2 Qc7 22.Ne5 Ba8 23.Qe4 Be7 24.Rxb5 cxb5 25.Qxa8+ Bf8 26.g3
f6 27.Qc6 Qe7 28.Nd7 Kf7 29.Nxf8 1-0

(6) Sai Kolli (1523) - Travis Elisara (1723) [D00]

open (1), 14.05.2022

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nc6 3.e3 a6 4.c3 Bf5 5.Bd3 Bg6 6.Nf3 e6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Bg3 Bxg3 9.hxg3 Qd6 10.Qe2 Nf6 11.Nbd2 Ne4 12.c4 Nb4 13.Bb1 0-0-0 14.c5 Qe7 15.Ne5 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Bxb1 17.Rfxb1 Nc6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qa5 Kb7 20.a4 Ka7 21.b4 Rb8 22.b5 cxb5 23.axb5 1-0



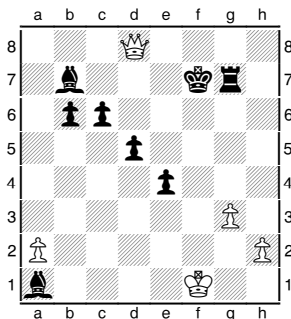
Black Resigns.

Quite a pawn storm on Sai's part.-Ed

(11) Ben Fabrikant (2003) - Eylon Caplan (1534) [D78]

open (2), 14.05.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Nd2 Nb6 9.c5 Nbd7 10.f4 b6 11.cxb6 Nxb6 12.Nf3 Bb7 13.Ne5 Nfd7 14.Be3 f6 15.Nd3 Nc4 16.Bf2 Rc8 17.Na4 e5 18.Nac5 Nxc5 19.Nxc5 Qe7 20.Bh3 Rc7 21.Ne6 Nxb2 22.Qc2 Nc4 23.Nxf8 Qxf8 24.dxe5 fxe5 25.f5 e4 26.fxg6 Bxa1 27.Bb6 Qxf1+ 28.Bxf1 axb6 29.gxh7+ Rxh7 30.e3 Nxe3 31.Qd2 Nxf1 32.Qg5+ Rg7 33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.Kxf1 ½-½



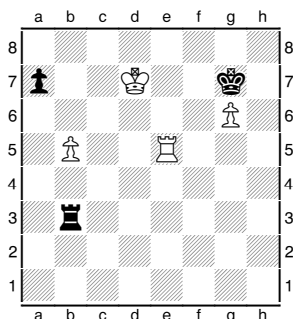
Final Position-draw game.

Not for the faint of heart.-Ed.

(23) Eylon Caplan (1534) - Chad Forsman (1771) [B76]

open (4), 14.05.2022

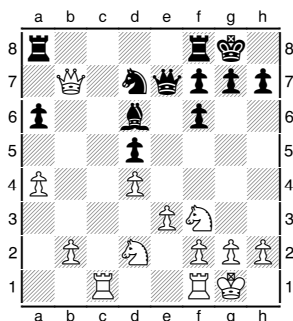
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.g4 b5 12.Bxb5 Qa5 13.b3 Rab8 14.Ba4 Rfc8 15.g5 Nh5 16.Bxg7 Nxg7 17.Nd5 Qxd2+ 18.Rxd2 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Rc3 20.Rd3 Rbc8 21.Rxc3 Rxc3 22.Rf1 Ne6 23.Kd2 Rc5 24.f4 Kg7 25.h4 f5 26.Bd7 Nd4 27.c3 Rc7 28.cxd4 Rxd7 29.exf5 gxf5 30.h5 e5 31.fxe5 dxe5 32.Rxf5 Rxd4+ 33.Ke3 Rd5 34.Ke4 Rd2 35.Rxe5 Rxa2 note: this move is written but perhaps not played, as the last move of the game is 45. a5 36.Re7+ Kg8 37.Kf5 Rf2+ 38.Ke6 Re2+ 39.Kd7 Rg2 40.Re5 Rg3 41.b4 Rh3 42.g6 hxg6 43.hxg6 Rb3 44.b5 Kg7 and black resigns after 45. a5. 1-0



Apparently White won. Notation likely missed up. I'm sure time pressure was a factor in game outcome.-Ed.

(25) Eric Armstrong (1524) - Jonathan Reigenborn (1685) [D00]

1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 Bf5 3.Nf3 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.c4 Nd7 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Qb3 Nb6 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Rc1 0-0 12.0-0 Qe7 13.a4 a6 14.Bxd7 Nxd7 15.Qxb7

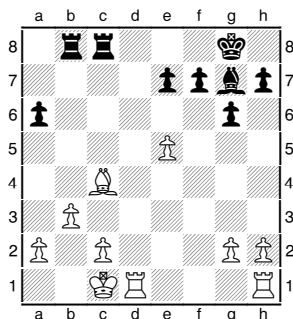


Normally it's dangerous for a queen to take an enemy pawn deep in your opponent's territory, but, in this instance, it worked out well for White.

Rfb8 16.Qxd5 Nb6 17.Qc6 Qe6 18.Ne4 Rd8 19.Nxd6 Rxd6 20.Qb7 g6 21.Rc7 Rad8 22.Rfc1 Kg7 23.Re7 Qb3 24.h3 Rd5 25.Rxf7+ 1-0

(26) Michael Mills (1621) - Jay Hu (1518) [B34]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 d6 8.f4 Nf6 9.Be2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 b5 11.0-0 b4 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Bg7 14.Qxb4 Be6 15.e5 0-0 16.Qb6 Qxb6 17.Nxb6 Rab8 18.Nc4 Rfc8 19.b3 dxe5 20.fxe5 Bxc4 21.Bxc4 (D)



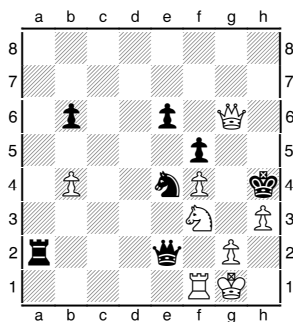
Jay missed a good chance to win. Instead of taking the e-pawn with his bishop, he could have played . . . Bh6+ winning at least the exchange. -Ed

Bxe5? 22.Rhe1 Bf6 23.Rd7 Kf8 24.Red1 Rc6 25.Ra7 Rbb6 26.Rd8+ Kg7 27.Raa8 Bg5+ 28.Kd1 Rd6+ 29.Rxd6 Rxd6+ 30.Bd3 Rf6 31.Rxa6 Rf2 32.g3 Rxd2 1-0

(27) Herbert Wolfe Jr (1601) - Matthew Neumann (1514) [B18]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 e6 9.Bf4 Ngf6 10.0-0 Be7 11.c4 0-0 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Nf6 14.Qe3 Re8 15.Rad1 Qb6 16.Qc3 h6 17.c5 Qd8 18.Be5 Nd5 19.Qc4 b5 20.cxb6 axb6 21.a3 Qd7 22.Bg3 Rec8 23.Ne5 Qe8 24.Rc1 Bg5 25.Rc2 c5 26.Qd3 cxd4 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Qxd4 Ra5 29.Nc4 Rc5 30.Nd6 Qc6 31.Ne4 Rc4 32.Qd3 Be7 33.h3 f5 34.Nd2 Rc2 35.Be5 Bf6 36.Bxf6 Nxf6 37.b4 Rc3 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Nf3 Rxa3 40.Ne5 Qb5 41.f4 Ra2 42.Nf7 Qe2 43.Qh8+ Kg6 44.Ne5+ Kh5 45.Qxg7 Ne4 46.Qg6+ Kh4 47.Qxh6+ Kg3 48.Qg6+ Kh4 49.Nf3+ 1-0

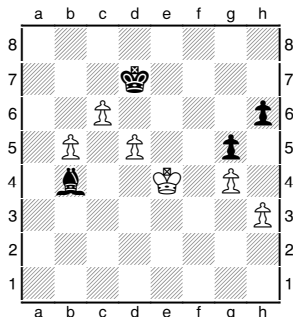
It's nice to have Mr. Wolfe playing chess again. Welcome back!



Final Position. White won.

(30) Dennis Wasson (1563) - Taylor Gurney (1099) [D01]u1600 (1), 14.05.2022

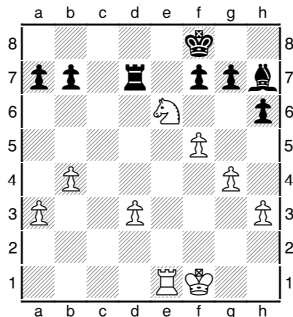
1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Ne2 cxd4 7.Nexd4 Be7 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.c3 0-0 10.Qc2 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 e5 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ne2 Rac8 15.0-0-0 Rfe8 16.f3 Qe6 17.Kb1 Bg5 18.e4 d4 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Rxd4 Red8 21.Rhd1 Rxd4 22.Rxd4 Rd8 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.Qd3 Bf6 25.Qb5 h6 26.Qxb7 Qd6 27.Qd5 Qxd5 28.exd5 Kf8 29.Kc2 Ke7 30.c4 Kd6 31.b4 Be5 32.h3 f5 33.Kd3 g5 34.g4 fxg4 35.fxg4 a6 36.Ke4 Bc3 37.a3 Bb2 38.c5+ Kd7 39.a4 Bc3 40.b5 axb5 41.axb5 Bb4 42.c6+



Kc7? (Kd6 may have offered more resistance) 43.Ke5 Kb6 44.d6 Bxd6+ 45.Kxd6 1-0

(31) Karthik Jella (1354) - Kyson Bloomingdale (1193) [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.d3 e6 7.Bd2 c6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nd5 Qd8 10.Nxe7 Qxe7 11.h3 Bh5 12.a3 0-0 13.d4 Nbd7 14.Bb4 c5 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Qd4 Rac8 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 18.Qxc5 Rxc5 19.Nd2 Rd8 20.b4 Rc7 21.Bd3 Nd5 22.Ne4 Nf4 23.Rac1 Nxd3 24.cxd3 Rcd7 25.Nc5 Rc7 26.Nxe6 Rxc1 27.Nxd8 Rc7 28.g4 Bg6 29.f4 h6 30.f5 Bh7 31.Re1 Kf8 32.Kf1 Rd7 33.Ne6+ Diagram below.



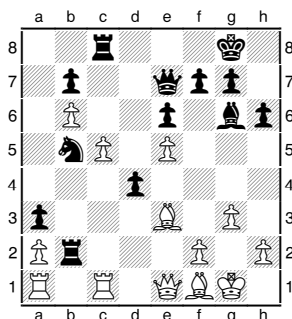
Ke7?? Taking the knight on e6 with f.e should win a piece unless the score sheet notation is messed up or the flag was hanging. Now White wins on the spot. **34.Nc5+ 1-0**

Games from the June 25 and 26th UNO event. Also referred to as the Summer Classic Open.

(1) Michael Mills (1636) - Nick Lacroix (2063) [D11]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (1), 25.06.2022

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 h6 6.c4 c6 7.b3 Bd6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Ne5 a5 10.Bb2 a4 11.c5 a3 12.Bc3 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nfd7 14.b4 Na6 15.e4 Bg6 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Nb3 Nc7 18.Qe2 Qe7 19.Nd4 Nb8 20.Rfe1 Nc6 21.b5 Nxd4 22.Bxd4 Ra5 23.b6 Nb5 24.Qd2 Ra4 25.Be3 Rc8 26.Qd1 Rb4 27.Qe1 Rb2 28.Bf1 d4(D)



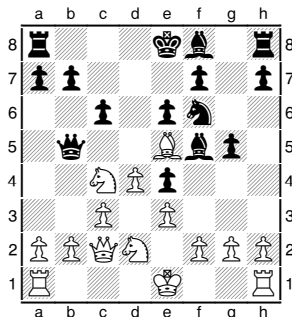
Position after 28..d4

29.Bd2 Rxc5 30.Bb4 Rxc1 31.Bxe7 Rxe1 32.Rxe1 d3 33.Rd1 Nc3 34.Rxd3 Bxd3 35.Bxd3 0-1 A hard fought game. Black's d pawn was a strong ant!-Ed.

(3) C Scott Look (1600) - Matt Buckley (1853) [D00]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (1), 25.06.2022

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.e3 e6 6.Bd3 Ne4 7.Qc2 Nd7 8.Nfd2 g5 9.Bg3 Qb6 10.Bxe4 dxe4 11.Nc4 Qb5 12.Nbd2 Nf6 13.Be5 1-0



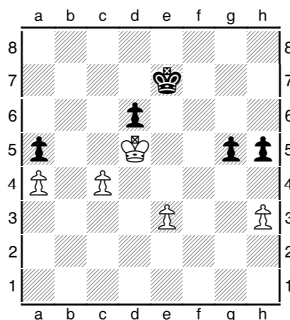
Final Position.

White's 13. Be5 was a quiet killer. The f6 and d6 squares cannot both be protected except for Ke7-Ed.

(7) Jay Hu (1557) - John Davidson (1774) [C47]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (1), 25.06.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Bxe4
Bd6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.d3 0-0 10.h3 Qe7 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Re1 f6 13.Bf4 Qf7
14.Bd2 c5 15.c3 Rab8 16.b3 Rbd8 17.c4 Rfe8 18.Re3 e4 19.dxe4 Rxe4
20.Rxe4 Bxe4 21.Qe2 Bd3 22.Qd1 Qe7 23.Qe1 Qe2 24.Qxe2 Bxe2 25.Re1
Bxf3 26.gxf3 Be5 27.Be3 Bd4 28.Rd1 Kf7 29.b4 Rd6 30.bxc5 Bxc5
31.Rxd6 cxd6 32.Kg2 Ke6 33.f4 g5 34.fgx5 Bxe3 35.fxe3 fxg5 36.Kf3 h5
37.Ke4 a5 38.a4 Kf6 39.Kd5 Ke7 (See diagram below)

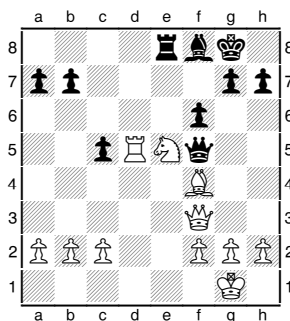


40. Ke4 (The engines suggest Kd4 with good drawing chances). **40...Ke6**
41.Kf3 Ke5 40.Ke4 0-1

(8) Nick Lacroix (2063) - Tony Dutiel (1767) [A43]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (2), 25.06.2022

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be2 Bxe2 6.Ngxe2 e6 7.0-0 exd5
8.exd5 Be7 9.Bf4 0-0 10.Ng3 Re8 11.Re1 Na6 12.Qf3 Nc7 13.Nf5 Bf8
14.Rxe8 Qxe8 15.Nxd6 Qd7 16.Nc4 Ncxd5 17.Rd1 Re8 18.Ne5 Qf5
19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.Rxd5 f6 (Please see diagram below.)



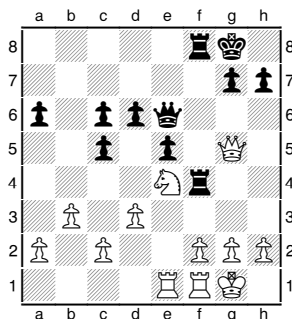
21.Nd3 Qxd3 22.Qxd3 1-0

A hard fought game between two great tacticians. Well played at the end by Nick.-Ed.

(9) Chad Forsman (1731) - Steven Cusumano (1946) [C49]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (2), 25.06.2022

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 d6 7.Bg5 a6
8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nd5 Qd8 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nxb4 c5 12.Nd5 c6 13.Ne3
Rb8 14.b3 Be6 15.Nd2 f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 Rxf5 18.Ne4 Qe7
19.Qg4 Rbf8 20.Rae1 Rf4 21.Qg5 Qe6** Please see the diagram below.

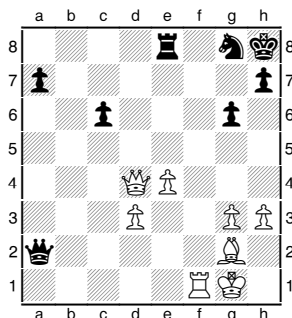


**22.Nxc5! dxc5 23.Qxe5 Qg4 24.Qe6+ Qxe6 25.Rxe6 R4f6 26.Rxf6 Rxf6
27.Re1 Kf7 28.f3 Rf5 29.Kf2 h5 30.Re4 Kf6 31.Ke3 Re5 32.h4 Kf5
33.Rxe5+ Kxe5 34.g4 g6 35.c3 a5 36.a4 Kf6 37.Kf4 Kg7 38.Kg5 1-0**
A well played game by Chad who ended up winning the tournament! -Ed.

(11) Jeff Solheim (1597) - Ryan Dong (1356) [B26]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (2), 25.06.2022

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.h3 Bg7 7.Be3 e5 8.Qd2
0-0 9.Bh6 Nd4 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Nge2 Bd7 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Ne2 Bc6
14.0-0 Re8 15.f4 Rc8 16.Rf2 Qb6 17.Raf1 c4 18.f5 Ng8 19.fxg6 fxg6
20.Rf7+ Kh8 21.Qf4 Re5 22.Rf8 Rxf8 23.Qxf8 Re8 24.Qxd6 Qxb2
25.Nxd4 cxd3 26.cxd3 Qxa2 27.Nxc6 bxc6 28.Qd4+ 1-0** Final Position
below.



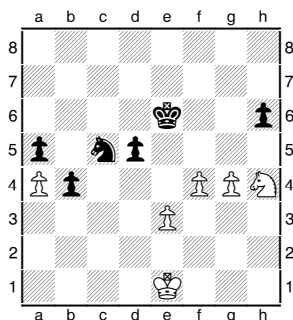
Black resigns.

Jeff crushed me playing the white pieces of English many moons ago. Jeff is a very dangerous attacking player, especially with the white pieces. -Ed.

(13) John Davidson (1775) - Nick Lacroix (2063) [D36]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (3), 25.06.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 c6 8.Qc2 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 10.Nge2 b5 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.a3 Nb6 13.b3 a5 14.a4 b4 15.Nb1 Bd7 16.Nd2 Rc8 17.Ba6 Rc7 18.Bg3 Ra7 19.Bd3 Nh5 20.Nf3 Nxc3 21.hxc3 Bd6 22.Bf5 c5 23.dxc5 Rc7 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 25.Qd3 Bxc5 26.Rac1 Rec8 27.Nfd4 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 30.Nxc1 Qc6 31.Ne2 Nd7 32.Qd2 Nf6 33.f3 Kf8 34.Nd4 Qc5 35.Kf2 Nd7 36.Ke2 g6 37.Kd1 Qd6 38.f4 Nc5 39.Qe2 Ne4 40.Qc2 Nc3+ 41.Ke1 Qd7 42.f5 Qd6 43.Qf2 Ne4 44.Qf4 Qxf4 45.gxf4 Ke7 46.fxg6 fxg6 47.Nc6+ Kd6 48.Ne5 Nc5 49.Nxg6 Nxb3 50.Nh4 Ke6 51.g4 Nc5 ½-½

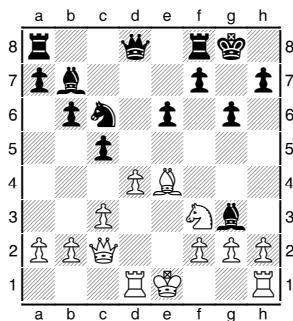


Draw agreed. A very good outcome, especially for John Davidson against the current Nebraska State chess champion, in the person of Nick Lacroix!-Ed

(14) C Scott Look (1600) - Steven Cusumano (1946) [D00]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (3), 25.06.2022

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Bg3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.Bd3 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Bb7 12.Qc2 g6 13.Rd1 Bxg3 Diagram.

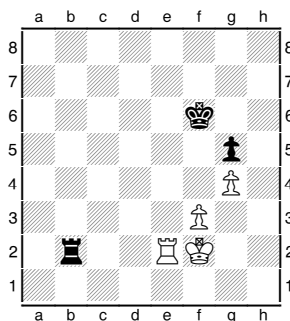


14.dxc5? Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Qc7 16.Qd2 bxc5 17.Qh6 f5 18.Bc2 Rae8 19.Rhe1 e5 20.Bb3+ Kh8 21.Ng5 Qe7 22.Ne6 Rf6 23.Nf4 c4 24.Bc2 Qf8 25.Qxf8+ Rxf8 26.Nd5 Rd6 27.Nc7 Rfd8 28.Rxd6 Rxd6 29.Nb5 Rd5 30.Nc7 Rd2+ 31.Re2 Rxe2+ 32.Kxe2 e4 33.Ke3 Ne5 34.h3 Nd3 35.Nb5 Nxb2 36.Kd4 Kg7 37.Nxa7 Kf6 38.Nb5 Kg5 39.a4 Kf4 40.a5 e3 41.Nc7 e2 42.Ne6+ Kg3 0-1

(17) Jay Hu (1567) - Ryan Dong (1356) [C54]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (3), 25.06.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 Bb6 7.a4 a6 8.0-0 0-0
9.h3 Ne7 10.Re1 Ng6 11.a5 Ba7 12.Nbd2 c6 13.Nf1 b5 14.axb6 Bxb6 15.Be3
d5 16.Bxb6 Qxb6 17.exd5 cxd5 18.Bb3 e4 19.Nd4 Nf4 20.dxe4 Nxe4 21.Qc2
Qg6 22.Ng3 Re8 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Nxe4 Bxh3 25.Ng3 Bd7 26.Qxg6 fxe4
27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Nge2 Re4 29.f3 Re3 30.Kf2 Rd3 31.Rxa6 Nxc3 32.Rd6
Be8 33.Rd8 Kf7 34.Nxc3 Rxc3 35.b5 Ke7 36.Rb8 Rc4 37.Rb7+ Kd6 38.Ke3
Rb4 39.Rxg7 Bxb5 40.Nxb5+ Rxb5 41.Rxh7 Ke5 42.Re7+ Kf6 43.Re4 g5
44.g4 Rb3+ 45.Kf2 Rb2+ 46.Re2 Rb3 47.Re3 Rb2+ 48.Re2 Rb3 49.Kg3
Rd3 50.Kf2 Rb3 51.Re4 Rb2+ 52.Re2 ½-½



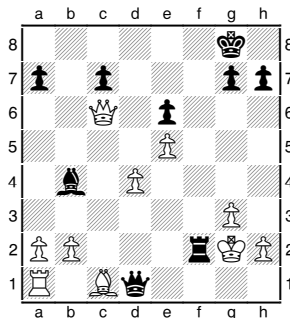
Final Position-Draw game.

A hard fought game between two upcoming players!-Ed.

(19) Nick Lacroix (2063) - Chad Forsman (1731) [A40]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (4), 26.06.2022

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Ne5
Ne4 9.Nc3 Qa5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nxe4 fxe4 12.Bxe4 0-0 13.Qc2 Qh5
14.Bxc6 Rb8 15.e4 Ba6 16.Re1 Rb4 17.e5 Rc4 18.Qe4 Bb4 19.Rf1 Rxc6
20.Qxc6 Bxf1 21.Kxf1 Qd1+ 22.Kg2 Rxf2+ !! Forcing the perpetual check.



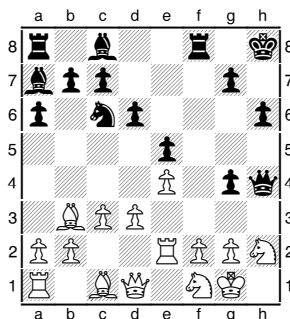
23.Kxf2 Qe1+ ½-½

A very nice rook sac to force the perpetual check. Well played by Chad.-Ed.

(20) Steven Cusumano (1946) - John Davidson (1774) [C50]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (4), 26.06.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 a6 6.c3 d6 7.Bb3 Ba7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1 Ng4 10.Re2 Kh8 11.Nf1 f5 12.h3 h6 13.hxg4 fxg4 14.N3h2 Qh4 (Diagram below)



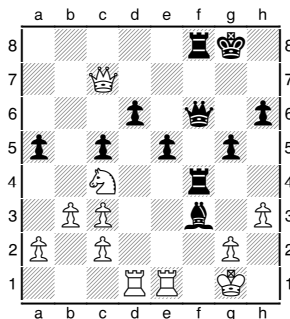
15.Be3 Bxe3 16.Nxe3 g3 17.fxg3 Qxg3 18.Qe1 Qg5 19.Rf2 Bd7 20.Qe2 Ne7 21.Raf1 Rxf2 22.Qxf2 Ng6 23.Nf3 Qf4 24.Nd5 Qg4 25.Nh2 Qg5 26.Qe3 Qh5 27.Nxc7 Nf4 28.Nxa8 Qg5 29.Qf3 h5 30.Kh1 g6 31.g3 Bg4 32.Qf2 Bh3 33.gxf4 exf4 34.Rg1 Qf6 35.Qd4 1-0

After Black launched a dubious kingside attack against White's kingside, Steve played very accurately to defend his position and converted his material advantage to a win. A nice displayed of Steve's defending skills! -Ed.

(22) Chad Forsman (1731) - John Davidson (1774) [C49]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (5), 26.06.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0-0 Bxc3 6.dxc3 d6 7.Qd3 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 a6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Rad1 Bb7 12.h3 c5 13.Rfe1 Qe7 14.Nd2 Qe6 15.b3 a5 16.Nc4 g5 17.Bg3 Nh5 18.Qf3 Nxc3 19.Qxc3 f5 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Qg4 Qf6 22.f3 Rf4 23.Qd7 Rf8 24.Qxc7 Bxf3 Diagram.



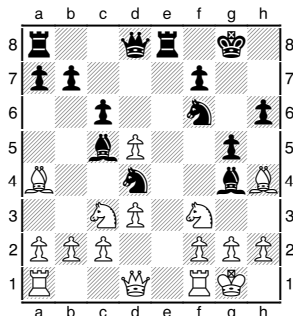
25.Rxd6 Qf5 26.Ne3 Qe4 27.gxf3 Rxf3 28.Ng2 Qxc2 29.Qxc5 Rg3 30.Qd5+ Kg7 31.Qxe5+ Kg8 1-0

What a dogfight! A game both players can be very proud of. -Ed.

(23) Steven Cusumano (1946) - Tony Dutil (1767) [C48]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 Open (5), 26.06.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Ba4 Bc5 6.d3 0-0 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.Nxe5 d5 10.0-0 Re8 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.exd5 g5 (Please see the diagram below)



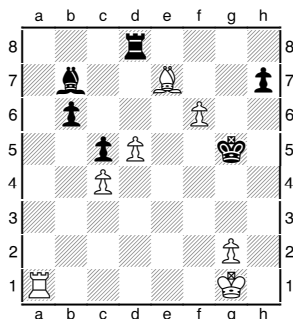
13.dxc6 gxh4 14.cxb7 Rb8 15.Bxe8 Qxe8 16.Re1 Qf8 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Qg7 19.Rxg4 Qxg4 20.Nxd4 Qxd4 21.c3 Qxf2+ 22.Kh1 Qf4 23.Qe2 Bd6 24.g3 hxg3 25.Rg1 Qh4 26.Rg2 Rxb7 27.Qe8+ Kg7 28.Kg1 Re7 29.hxg3 Bc5+ 30.d4 Bxd4+ 0-1

These championship games are not for the faint of heart. A hard battle between two champion players.-Ed.

(30) Zenith Sharma (1343) - Anthony Robinson (1268) [D20]

Nebraska Summer Classic 2022 U1600 (3), 25.06.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 e6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Bxc4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Be7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 Qd7 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.a4 Na5 12.Ba2 b6 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Bxg5 Bb7 15.Be3 Qc6 16.f4 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Qxc4 18.f5 exf5 19.Rxf5 Bc8 20.Rh5 g6 21.Rh4 Ba6 22.Rc1 f6 23.Bh6 Rf7 24.Qe4 Re8 25.e6 Qxe6 26.Qxe6 Rxe6 27.d5 Re5 28.Rd4 Rd7 29.c4 g5 30.a5 c6 31.axb6 axb6 32.Ra1 c5 33.Rg4 Bb7 34.h4 Kf7 35.hxg5 Kg6 36.Bf8 Rd8 37.gxf6+ Rg5 38.Rxg5+ Kxg5 39.Be7 1-0 Final Position below. A good contest.-Ed.



Games from the Great Plains Open November 12th & 13th 2022

Games have some slight edits for formatting purposes-Ed)

Great plains open: Solheim (1550) - JJ

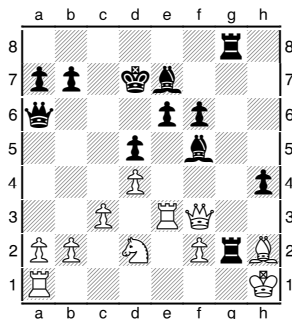
35.Kxg2 Ne3+ 36.Kf3 Nxd1 37.Rxd1 f5 0-1

Great Plains Open: John Linscott (1849)

Kc7 30.Qb7+ 1-0

Pretty much curtains after 29.dxc6-Ed.

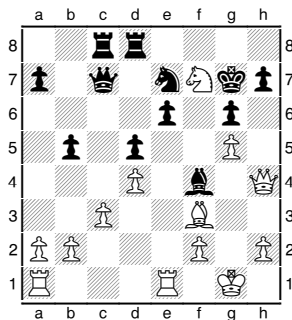
Great Plains Open: Fei - Bob Holliman (2 <https://lichess.org/study/JbS7>
1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c3 Bd7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.h3 h6
9.0-0 cxd4 10.exd4 g5 11.Bh2 g4 12.hxg4 Nxg4 13.Bg3 Qb6 14.Qc2 Rc8
15.Rfe1 Nb4 16.Qb1 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Bb5 18.Qc2 Qa6 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.Bxe5
Bd3 21.Qd1 f6 22.Qh5+ Kd7 23.Bg3 Rcg8 24.Qf3 h5 25.Bh4 Rg4 26.Bg3
Rhg8 27.Re3 Bf5 28.Kh1 h4 29.Bh2 Rxc2 Please see the diagram below.



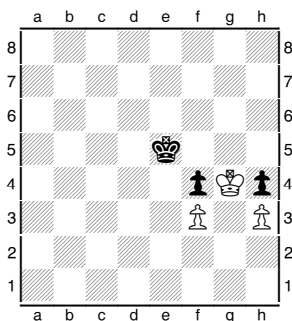
30.Ree1 (trading the queen for both rooks might be a better option for white. With this said, however, after losing to Bob for decades now, I'm sure Bob had it all calculated in his favor!-Ed) **Bd6 31.Bf4 R8g4 32.Rg1 h3 33.Bxd6 Qxd6**
34.Rxc2 Rxc2 35.Nf1 Be4 36.Qd1 Rxf2+ 37.Kg1 Rg2+ 38.Kh1 Rg5+ 39.Qf3
Bxf3# 0-1

Great plains open: Lang - Linscott (18 <https://lichess.org/study/TEDL>
 (Analysis from Mr. Lang I presume-Ed).

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.Ne5 cxd4 7.Nxg4 Nxg4 8.e3
Nf6 9.exd4 e6 10.c3 Be7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Nd2 b5 13.g4 g6 14.Nf1 Qc7 15.Ne3
Rfd8 16.g5 Nh5 17.Ng4 Rac8 18.Nh6+ [18.Qf3; 18.a3 Bd6 19.Re3 Kf8 20.Rf3
Bf4 (20...Ne7 21.Bf1 a6 22.Rh3 Bf4 23.Qf3 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Nf5 25.Re1 Re8
26.Rxh5 gxh5 27.Nf6) 21.Bxf4] 18...Kg7 19.Qg4 Bd6 20.Qh4 Ne7 21.Bf3 Nf4
22.Bxf4 Bxf4 23.Nxf7 (Please see the diagram below. Buckle up butter cup. The fireworks are about to began! The rest of the game score is on the next page-Ed



Nf5 24.Nxd8 Nxh4 25.Nxe6+ Kh8 26.Nxc7 Nxf3+ 27.Kf1 Rxc7
[27...Nxe1 28.Nxd5 Nc2 (28...Nd3 29.Ke2 Rd8 30.Kxd3 Rxd5 31.h4)
29.Rd1 Bxg5 30.Ke2 Re8+ 31.Kd3 Ne1+] 28.Re8+ Kg7 29.Rd8 b4
30.Rxd5 bxc3 31.bxc3 Nxg5 32.Rc5 Rxc5 33.dxc5 Ne6 34.Re1 [34.Rd1
Nxc5 (34...Kf6 35.Rd7 Nxc5 36.Rxh7) 35.Rd5] 34...Kf7 35.Re4 a6 36.h3
Ke7 37.Ra4 Bc7 38.Rxa6 Nxc5 39.Ra7 Kd6 40.Ke2 g5 41.c4 h5 42.Ra8
h4 43.Kf3 Ke5 44.a4 Kd4 45.a5 Kxc4 46.a6 Nxa6 47.Rxa6 Kd4 48.Kg4
Bf4 49.Ra4+ Ke5 50.Rxf4 gxf4 51.f3! 1-0



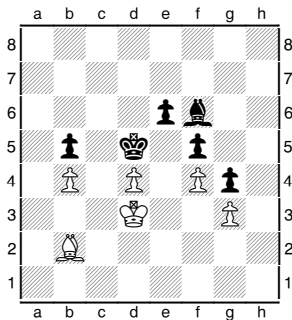
Final Position after 51 f3.

A real slugfest from two powerhouse players!-Ed

Great Plains Open: Dutiel - Lacroix <https://lichess.org/study/USY8>

[\[https://lichess.org/@/ChessLifeOnline/\]](https://lichess.org/@/ChessLifeOnline/)

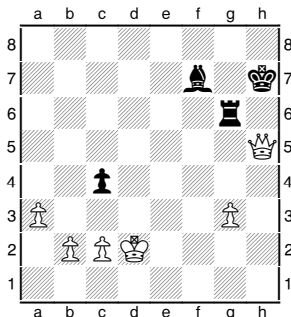
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0
dxc4 9.Bxc4 a6 10.Be3 b5 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Rc1 Nbd7 13.Ng5 h6
14.Nge4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.Nxe4 Nf6 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Rc5 Rc8
19.Qc2 Be7 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Rc1 Qxc2 22.Rxc2 Rd8 23.Rc6 Rd6
24.Rxd6 Bxd6 25.Kf1 Kf8 26.Ke2 Ke7 27.Kd3 f5 28.g3 Kd7 29.Bd2 Kc6
30.a3 g5 31.f4 g4 32.Ba5 Be7 33.Bd2 Kd5 34.b4 h5 35.Bc3 h4 36.Bd2
Kc6 37.Be3 hxg3 38.hxg3 a5 39.Bd2 axb4 40.axb4 Kd5 41.Bc3 Bf6
42.Bb2 draw



Final Position-Draw agreed.

Great Plains Open: Cusumano - Look (1–0) <https://lichess.org/study/JbS7>

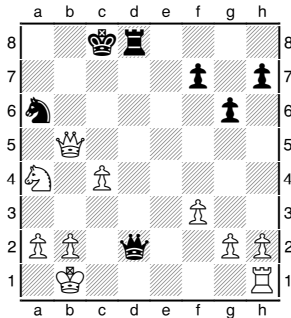
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0–0 Be7 8.Kh1
0–0 9.a3 b5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.Be3 Ng4 13.Bg1 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bc5
15.Qxg4 Bxd4 16.Bxd4 Qxd4 17.Qg3 Ne5 18.Rad1 Qc5 19.Nd5 cxd5
20.Qxe5 Bb7 21.exd5 Rae8 22.Qg5 g6 23.Rf5 f6 24.Rxf6 Rxf6 25.Qxf6 Qxd5
26.Qf2 Rf8 27.Qe2 Rd8 28.Bc4 bxc4 29.Rxd5 Bxd5 30.h4 Rf8 31.h5 gxh5
32.Kg1 Bf7 33.Qe3 Bg6 34.Qe6+ Bf7 35.Qa6 Rd8 36.Qxa7 Rd1+ 37.Kh2
Rd2 38.Qb8+ Kg7 39.Qe5+ Kf8 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qxh7 Rd4 42.Kg3 Rg4+
43.Kf2 Kf6 44.Qh8+ Kg6 45.g3 Bd5 46.Qe8+ Bf7 47.Qc6+ Kg7 48.Qc5 Kf6
49.Qd6+ Kg7 50.Ke3 Rg6 51.Qe5+ Kh6 52.Kd2 Kh7 53.Qxh5+ 1–0



Final Position. White won.

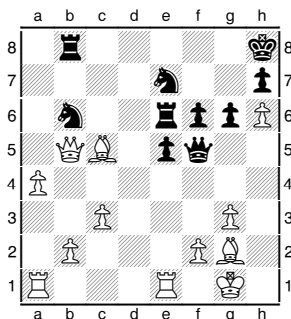
Great Plains Open: Ryan Dong (1738) - Ar <https://lichess.org>

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qd7
8.Nge2 Nc6 9.Bf4 0–0–0 10.0–0–0 g6 11.d5 Nb4 12.Qc4 Na6 13.Nd4 Nxd5
14.Ndb5 e6 15.Nxa7+ Kb8 16.Nab5 Bg7 17.Na4 e5 18.Bg3 c6 19.Na3 b5
20.Qe2 Qd6 21.Nxb5 cxb5 22.Qxb5+ Kc7 23.c4 Qb4 24.Rxd5 Rxd5 25.Qxd5
Rd8 26.Bxe5+ Bxe5 27.Qxe5+ Kc8 28.Qb5 Qd2+ 29.Kb1 Qd3+ 30.Kc1
Qd2+ 31.Kb1 Diagram below. Draw by perpetual check.



Great Plains Open: Matthew Naumann

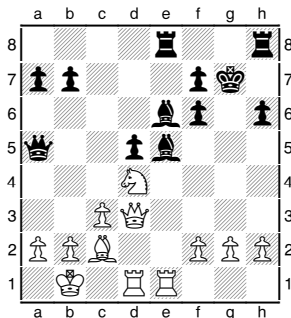
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d3 Bf5 6.c3 e6 7.Nbd2 Bd6
8.Re1 0-0 9.e4 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 dxe4 12.dxe4 Qc7 13.Qe2 Nd7
14.Be3 Rad8 15.a4 a5 16.Nd2 e5 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 Rfe8 19.h4 Ne7
20.Bh3 Nb6 21.h5 Qc6 22.h6 g6 23.Nc4 Kh8 24.Nxa5 Qxe4 25.Bg2 Qf5
26.Nxb7 Rd7 27.Nxd6 Rxd6 28.Bxc5 Re6 29.Qb5 Rb8



30.a5! e4 31.axb6 Rxb6 32.Qxb6 Rxb6 33.Ra8+ Ng8 34.Bxb6 Qh5
35.Bd4 Qg5 36.Bxe4 Black Resigns. A nice win by Matt.-Ed

Great Plains Open: Holliman - Chen (1-0) https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E/

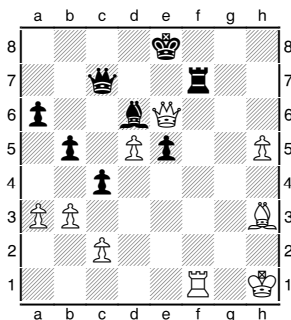
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3 e6 4.Bg5 d5 5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4 Bd6 7.Nbd2 0-0
8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Qc2 h6 10.Bh4 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Nf3 Bd6
14.0-0-0 Qa5? 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Kb1 Bd7 17.Qd2 Kg7 18.Bc2 Be6
19.Qd3 Rh8 20.Nd4 Rae8 21.Rhe1 Be5 (Please see the diagram below).



22.Nxe6+ Rxe6 23.f4 Bc7 24.Rxe6 fxe6 25.Qg6+ Kf8 26.Qxf6+ Kg8
27.Bg6 1-0

Great Plains open: Kirill Belaschenko [https://lichess.org/study/TEdL/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/TEdL/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E])

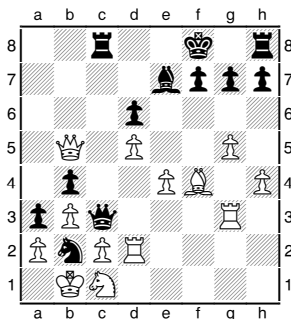
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 b5
8.g4 h6 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Ng3 Rc8 12.Re1 Qc7 [12...g6]
13.a3 Nb6 14.Re2 Nc4 [14...g6] 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 g6 17.b3 Nb6
18.f4 Qc3 [18...Nbd7; 18...Nfxd5 19.Bxd5 Nxd5 20.Qxd5 Qc3 21.Ne4
Qxa1 22.Kg2; 18...Nbx d5 19.fxe5 (19.Bxd5 Qc5+ 20.Be3 Qxd5 21.Bd4
Be7) 19...dxe5 20.Bxd5 Qc3 21.Bf4 Bc5+ 22.Kh2 Bd4] 19.Be3 Nbd7
[19...Nbx d5 20.Bd4 (20.fxe5 Nxe3 21.exf6 Kd7) 20...Qxg3 21.fxe5 Nf4
22.exf6+ Kd7] 20.g5 hxg5 21.fxg5 Nh5 22.Ne4 Qc7 23.Rc1 Qb8 24.Rf2
Be7 25.Qg4 Ng7 26.Rcf1 Nf5 27.Rxf5 gxf5 28.Qxf5 Rf8 29.h4 Nc5
30.Nxc5 Rxc5 31.Bxc5 dxc5 32.Bh3 Qc7 33.Kg2 Bd6 34.h5 Rg8 35.g6
Rg7 36.Kh1 c4 37.gxf7+ Rxf7 38.Qe6+ (Please see the diagram below-
Ed.)



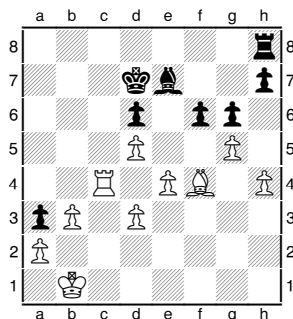
Kf8 39.Rxf7+ Qxf7 40.Qxd6+ Kg7 41.Qxe5+ Kh6 42.Qe6+1-0

Great Plains Open: Melhaff - Dong (1-0) <https://lichess.org/study/>

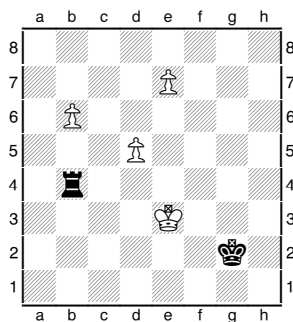
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6
8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.h4 Rc8 12.0-0-0 b4 13.Nd5 Bxd5
14.exd5 a5 15.g5 Nh5 16.Kb1 a4 17.Nc1 Qc7 18.Bd3 e4 19.Bxe4 Ng3
20.Rhg1 Nxe4 21.fxe4 Ne5 22.Rg3 Nc4 23.Qd3 a3 24.b3 Nb2 25.Qb5+
Kf8 26.Rd2 Qc3 27.Bf4 (Please see the diagram below and the rest of
the game score on the next page.)



Nd1 28.Nd3 g6 29.Rgg2 Nb2 30.Qxb4 Nxd3 31.Qxc3 Rxc3 32.Rxd3 Rxd3 33.cxd3 Ke8 34.Rc2 Kd7 35.Rc4 f6 (Diagram below)



36.Rc2 fxe5 37.Bxe5 Bxe5 38.hxe5 Rf8 39.Rd2 Rf1+ 40.Kc2 Rh1 41.Kc3 h5 42.gxh6 Rxh6 43.Kb4 Ke7 44.Kxa3 Kf6 45.Kb4 Rh3 46.Kc4 g5 47.Kd4 Rh8 48.a4 Rb8 49.Kc3 Kg6 50.b4 Kh5 51.b5 g4 52.Kd4 Ra8 53.Ra2 g3 54.Ke3 Kg4 55.b6 Kh3 56.d4 g2 57.Rxg2 Kxg2 58.e5 dxe5 59.dxe5 Rxa4 60.e6 Rb4 61.e7 Black Resigns.



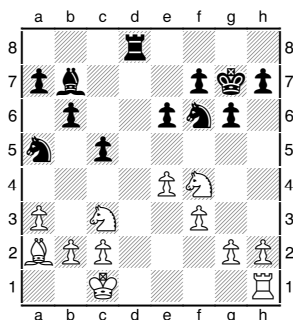
Final Position. 1-0

Great Plains Open: Schaal - Reigenborn ([https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E/](https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E/)]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c6 9.0-0 Re8 10.Qc2 h6 11.Bh4 Nh5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Rac1 Nh6 14.Ne2 Nf8 15.h3 Ne6 16.Ne5 Nd7 17.Nf3 Ng5 18.Nxg5 Qxg5 19.Ng3 Nf6 20.Bf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Qxf5 22.Nxf5 Re6 23.a4 Ne4 24.b4 a5 25.b5 cxb5 26.axb5 Kf8 27.Rc7 a4 28.Rxb7 a3 29.b6 a2 30.Ra7 Rxa7 31.bxa7 Ra6 32.Ra1 Rxa7 33.Kh2 Nd2 34.Kg3 Nb3 White Resigns.

A very good, instructive game that illustrates the power of a passed pawn-Ed.

Great Plains Open: Look - Siado (1–0) [https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E])
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Qd2 b6 5.e4 d6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nge2 Nb4 8.Bc4 Bb7 9.f3 e6 10.a3 Nc6 11.Bh6 0–0 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Nf4 Re8 14.0–0 Na5 15.Ba2 c5 16.dxc5 dxc5 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8
 Please see the diagram below.



19.Bxe6! g5 20.e5 gxf4 21.exf6+ Kxf6 22.Ba2 Rg8 23.b4 cxb4 24.axb4 Nc6 25.Nd5+ Kf5 26.b5 Rxg2 27.bxc6 Bc8 28.Ne7+ Black Resigns.

A very nice tactical sequence from Scott, resulting in winning a piece. -Ed.

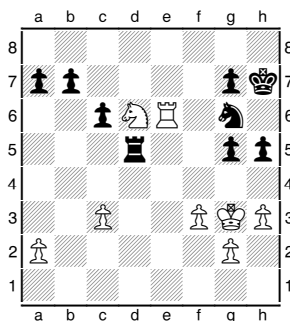
Great Plains Open: Lacroix - Look (1–0) [https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E])

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Qa5 5.Bd2 e5 6.Bc4 Nbd7 7.0–0 Be7 8.Ng5 0–0 9.a4 Qc7 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Qxb2 14.Rf3 Qb4 15.Bxf7+ Rxf7 16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.e5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Bg4 19.Rb1 Rd8 20.Qxd8 Qxb1+ 21.Nxb1 Bxd8 22.Rb3 b6 23.c4 Nd7 24.Bd4 Bd1 25.Rg3 Nf6 26.Nc3 Bc2 27.c5 Bf5 28.Rf3 Bg4 29.Rf2 Ke6 30.Rb2 bxc5 31.Bxc5 Ba5 32.Bb4 Bb6 33.h3 Bh5 34.g4 Bg6 35.Re2+ Kd7 36.Re7+ Kd8 37.Rxg7 Ne4 38.Nxe4 Bxe4+ 39.Kh2 Bc7+ 40.Kg1 Bb6+ 41.Kf1 Bd4 42.Rg5 Bd3+ 43.Ke1 Bc2 44.a5 Bf6 45.Rc5 Be4 46.Bc3 Bh4+ 47.Ke2 Kd7 48.Rh5 Bd8 49.Bd4 a6 50.Ke3 Bg6 51.Rc5 Be7 52.Rc3 Bb4 53.Rc1 Bxa5 54.Ra1 Bb4 55.Rxa6 Bd6 56.h4 Bc2 57.h5 Ke6 58.Rxc6 Black Resigns

After winning the exchange, White had to work hard to convert this material advantage into a win. Black's bishop pair made White's task difficult. -Ed.

Great Plains Open: Chen - Dutiel (0–1) [https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E])

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 Na5 7.Bd3 d5
8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Nbd2 Bg4 10.Be4 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Qd7 12.dxe5 Nc6 13.Nc4
Bc5 14.0–0 Nge7 15.Rd1 Qe6 16.Bd3 0–0 17.Qh5 Ng6 18.Be3 Bxe3
19.Nxe3 Qxe5 20.Qxe5 Nxe5 21.Be4 c6 22.Bxg6 fxg6 23.Rd2 Rf7
24.Rad1 Raf8 25.f3 Re7 26.Kf2 g5 27.Rd8 Ref7 28.h3 h5 29.Kg3 Kh7
30.R1d6 Rf4 31.Rxf8 Rxf8 32.Re6 Ng6 33.Nc4 Rf7 34.Nd6 Rd7 35.Ne4
Rd5 36.Nd6? Please see the diagram below.



Nf4! 37.Re7 Rxd6 38.Rxb7 Rd2 39.Kh2 Rxc2+ 40.Kh1 Rxa2 41.Rc7 Ra6
42.Kh2 Kg6 43.Rd7 Kf6 44.Rc7 Ne6 45.Rc8 c5 46.Rb8 Ra2+ 47.Kg1 Ra3
48.Rb7 a5 49.Ra7 Ke5 50.Kf2 g6 51.Ke3 Rxc3+ 52.Kd2 Ra3

White Resigns

A good example of overloading. White's rook was pinned down protecting the knight and Tony exploited this and ended up winning a piece-Ed

Great Plains Open: Reigenborn - Linscott [https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/JbS7/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E])

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 d6 6.h3 a6 7.a3 0–0 8.Be3
Na5 9.Ba2 c5 10.0–0 Nc6 11.Ne2 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Nc3
Qd8 15.Re1 f6 16.Ne2 Qc7 17.c3 Be6 18.Qc2 Rac8 19.Rac1 Qb8 20.Qb1
Rfd8 21.d4 cxd4 22.cxd4 Bd5 23.dxe5 Bxf3 24.exf6 Bxf6 25.gxf3 Ne5
26.Qe4 Nd3 27.Bf4 Qa8 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Rd1 Re8 31.Qb3
Nxb2 32.Rd2 b5 33.Rxb2 Bxb2 34.Qxb2 Qxf3 35.Be3 Qxh3 36.Nf4 Qf3
37.Qd4 Qa8 38.Nh5 Qb7 39.Bd2 Qf7 40.Bc3 Qg6+ 41.Kf1 Qb1+ 42.Kg2
Qg6+ 43.Kf1 Draw by perpetual check.

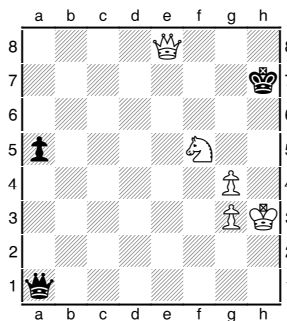
A good dog fight between good friends and business associates-Ed.

Great Plains Open: Solheim-Chen (1/2–1 [https://lichess.org/study/\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E]))

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Nd7 6.0–0 h6 7.Nbd2 Ne7 8.Nb3 g5 9.Bd2 Bg7 10.Rc1 Qc7 11.c4 a5 12.a4 f6 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.exf6 N7xf6 15.Ne5 0–0 16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.Nxd3 Ne4 18.Qe1 Nxd2 19.Qxd2 Nf4 20.Rfe1 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Qf4 22.Qe3 Rae8 23.Rc5 e5 24.Qxf4 exf4 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Kf1 Rd8 27.Rc4 Kf7 28.Ke2 b5 29.axb5 cxb5 30.Rc5 a4 31.Nd2 Bxd4 32.Rxb5 Re8+ 33.Kf3 Re1 34.Rb4 Bg7 35.Rxa4 Bxb2 36.Ne4 Draw agreed.

Great p(l)ains open: NM Bob Holliman (22 [https://lichess.org/study/TEdL\[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E\]](https://lichess.org/study/TEdL[https://lichess.org/@/K_A_L_E]))

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3 d5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3 Qb6 6.Qb3 c4 7.Qc2 Bf5 8.Qc1 e6 9.Be2 h6 10.Nbd2 Rc8 11.0–0 Be7 12.Bd1 Qd8 13.Bc2 0–0 14.Qb1 Bxc2 15.Qxc2 b5 16.Bg3 Nh5 17.e4 dxe4 18.Qxe4 Qd5 19.Qe2 Nxc3 20.hxc3 b4 21.Rfc1 bxc3 22.bxc3 Na5 23.Ne5 Ba3 24.Rc2 Rc7 25.Rb1 Rfc8 26.Ng4 Rb7 27.Ne3 Qd7 28.Rxb7 Qxb7 29.Qf1 Qb5 30.Qe2 Be7 31.Qf1 Bg5 32.f4 Be7 33.Qc1 Qa4 34.Qb1 Bd6 35.Ne4 Ba3 36.Rf2 Nc6 37.f5 Rb8 38.Qe1 Rb2 39.Nc5! Qb5 40.Rxb2 Bxb2 41.fxe6 Nxd4 42.exf7+ Kxf7 43.Qf2+ Kg8 44.cxd4 Bxd4 45.Ne6 Bf6 46.Nc7 Qc5 47.Ncd5 Bd4 48.Qf3 Kh8? [48...c3 49.Ne7+ Qxe7 50.Qd5+ Qf7 51.Qxd4 Qxa2 52.Qxc3] 49.Kh2 c3 50.Qe4 Bxe3 51.Nxe3 Qh5+ 52.Kg1 Qe2 53.Qf3 Qxa2 54.Qf8+ Kh7 55.Qf5+ Kh8 56.Qc8+ Kh7 57.Qxc3 Qb1+ 58.Kh2 Qb5 59.g4 a5 60.Nf5 Qb8+ 61.Kh3 Qa7 62.Qd3 g6 63.Nh4 Qg7 64.Qa6 Qc3+ 65.Nf3 Qc7 66.Nh4 Qc3+ 67.g3 Qa1 68.Qxg6+ Kh8 69.Qxh6+ Kg8 70.Qe6+ Kh8 71.Qe8+ Kg7 72.Nf5+ Kh7



73.Kh4 73...Qf6+ 74.Kh5 Qb2 75.Qe7+ Kh8 76.Kg6 Qb6+ 77.Qf6+ Qxf6+ 78.Kxf6 a4 79.Nd4 a3 80.Nc2 a2 81.g5 Kg8 82.g6 Kh8 83.g7+ Kg8 84.Na1 Black Resigns

Referring to the diagram above, the engines had a field day. For example, instead of 73.Kh4 for white, if white plays 73 Qf7+ it's forced mate in 27 moves. Qd7+ and mate in 30. Qe7+ it's mate in 31 moves. Qh5+ and mate in 33 moves. What a hoot!-Ed

TO STANDARDIZE & ORGANIZE THE RANDOM
STARTING POSITIONS IN Chess960 (or FISCHER
RANDOM CHESS) :

by

Robert Woodworth

This article is an attempt to bring more clarity to the problem of excessive randomness when determining the starting/initial positions in Chess960. In many instances this attempt at randomizing the initial setups leads to some positions which border on many strange and unappealing layouts. Castling and its difficult rules also makes for some very odd situations when applied! Bobby Fischer's idea of randomizing the starting positions of ALL the pieces is a good idea that is accepted by many chessplayers. It stops the memorizing of opening systems and the use of prepared computer-engine opening analysis. It adds the element of skill and originality to playing the first few opening moves in a game of chess.

When one studies a wide variety of chess openings from either the Black or White sides, one can easily see that within the first 15 moves or so, most of the moves are made by either the Pawns and the minor pieces i.e. Knights and Bishops. (Sometimes there will be a single Queen move or in the case of castling, a Rook move.) Most opening systems involve the Bishops, Knights and Pawns interacting to form the basis for all the chess openings in the initial phase of the game.

So, with this concept in mind and the practice of randomizing the starting positions of the chess pieces, it makes sense to only randomize the initial positions of the minor pieces, the Knights and the Bishops since they are the most active in the opening portion of each game. There are several ways to accomplish this randomization. First, the starting positions of the Knights & Bishops can be reversed with the Bishops standing next to the Rooks.

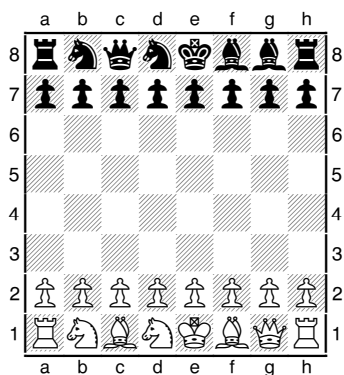
Also, since there are 4 squares occupied for each side, the Bishops could be only on the King-side & the Knights occupying the Queen-side of the board. This could also be reversed with both Knights starting on the King-side and with the Bishops on the Queen-side. In these scenarios the major pieces i.e. the Rooks the Queen (plus the King) would stay in their standard, usual positions with the Bishops on opposite colors and the Pawn layouts NOT being changed.

This would retain the standard way of ‘castling’ in a game and avoid the very odd and strange ‘castling’ movements that one sees occasionally in Chess960. Note that one improvement in the standard way of castling would be to have the Queen-side ‘castled’ King always moving to the ‘b’ file with the Rook free to ‘jump over’ and occupy ANY of the open squares up to and including the open square of the departed King. (King-side castling is not changed except that the Rook can remain next to the King or jump to the e-file.)

Regarding the nomenclature for the special arrangements of the two Knights and the two Bishops on either the King-side or the Queen-side, a possible description could be ‘Double King-side Knights/Double Queen-side Bishops’ and the reverse being ‘Double King-side Bishops/Double Queen-side Knights’. Also, included as an opening layout would be the reversal of the Knights and Bishops in the current standard, starting position with the Bishops next to the Rooks as previously mentioned in this article.

One final possibility using these 3 shuffling ‘Knight/Bishop’ initial layouts, is to have White select his own starting position and then have Black select the layout of his choice with or without copying White’s initial setup! This may help Black since White always has the first move in a game. (As a side-note it is also possible to have initial layouts with 4 Knights vs. 4 Bishops for each side which can be very unique and interesting but probably just for entertainment!!)

In conclusion, this writer believes that the 9 possible combinations of randomizing the minor pieces will offer enough possibilities to remove the factors of opening memorization and chess-engine prepared opening analysis. By standardizing the randomness of the starting positions in this way, it will be much, much easier to apply and create good initial layouts for all chessplayers plus greatly simplify the efforts of tournament directors/organizers. If this 'Knight-Bishop' randomization becomes the norm, then the players can determine the initial layouts and NOT have the starting positions determined by the officials which currently is the practice. Hopefully this randomizing of the minor pieces is a good compromise between the complete Fischer randomizing of ALL the pieces versus keeping the standard chessboard setup without any randomizing.



Article written by
Robert Woodworth
December, 2020
Omaha, NE (U.S.A.)

After completing the above article on improving the game of 'Chess960', I had a 2nd thought where the QUEEN could also partake in the randomizing process which would greatly increase the no. of starting positions vs. the system where ONLY the bishops & knights are randomized. This extra step is described here.

The Queen would be placed on one of 4 possible squares with opposite-colored bishops being added next. The knights would then occupy the remaining two squares. This would complete the randomization process for the queen + the 4 minor pieces. (NOTE: The Kings & Rooks are NEVER shuffled in this process.)

As stated previously, the White forces could set up their randomized pieces & then Black would do the same only with the stipulation that the starting layouts DO NOT HAVE TO MATCH.

All the pieces must be randomized in this scenario with White having the first move in the game as usual. Having Black set up his pieces LAST could help somewhat offset the advantage that White has in making the first move in the game. Just an idea.

Robert Woodworth
October, 2022
Omaha, NE (U.S.A.)

A possible NEW title for this game could be: “NEWCHESS” or SHUFFLECHESS” or “QNBCHES” or “ONBSHUFFLECHESS” ??

My Experiences As a Chess Teacher (or “What are Pawn Islands? & Who was Henri Grob”?)

By **Robert Woodworth**

It all started in 1996 when a head-librarian called me in regards to teaching a beginner’s chess class at a local library. I inquired about how they found my name and my interest in the game. Apparently it was because I had ‘checked out’ a few chess books at the library.

My first class included 7-13 year-old children and was held in the basement of the small library and consisted of about 10 students. I was amazed at their acute interest in this old board game since video games were all the craze at the time.

In teaching chess, one interesting and perplexing concept is the ‘en passant’ pawn capture rules. In every chess class that I have taught, ‘en passant’ is easily the most difficult for students to grasp. A pawn capturing a pawn by moving to an empty square and doing it immediately or not at all. It really does take some explaining and still baffles many students. (I don’t even mention the ‘three-position repeated’ draw rule where if one of the 3 moves is an ‘en passant’ capture then it requires for the position to be repeated again and without this capture being considered since ‘en passants’ can only occur once with those same 2 pawns and not possible if not done immediately or else not at all!)

During each & every class I would always ask if there were any questions and occasionally I would be surprised at what was asked. In one instance, which I will never forget, two sisters, where one asked “What are pawn islands?” & the second asked “Who was Henri Grob?” When their mother arrived to take them home, I asked her how they were able to ask such advanced questions?? She replied that they were severely restricted from watching too much television and were required to spend most of their free time reading! (I then thought to myself that this was a real, good lesson for the chess teacher also!)

After some of my classes are finished, many students will always thank me for teaching chess plus hand me gift cards and/or hand-drawn 'thank you' notes.

I believe that the best gift I ever received was a very heartfelt 'THANK YOU' from the mother of a student who told me that her son had started to take notes in the chess class where before school it was too great a challenge for him. Instances like this far surpass any material gifts and make teaching chess extremely satisfying and most worthwhile!!

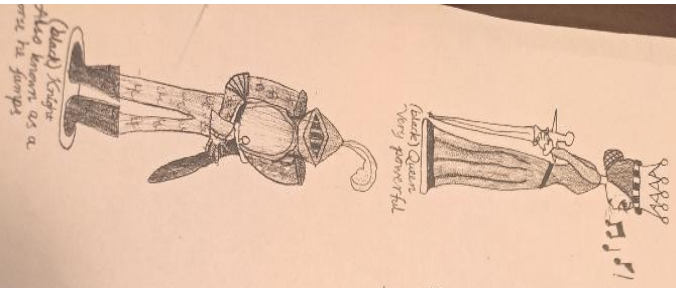
In conclusion, studying the game and learning to play can greatly develop many of the good attributes that we value in a person. Such as patience, applying one's self by concentrating, being responsible for one's decisions, using one's imagination, developing attention to details and planning etc.etc. Everyone likes to win all the time but playing chess makes one realize that there is much more to chess than over-emphasizing the importance of winning as our society tries to have us believe.

Robert Woodworth
April, 2022
Omaha, NE

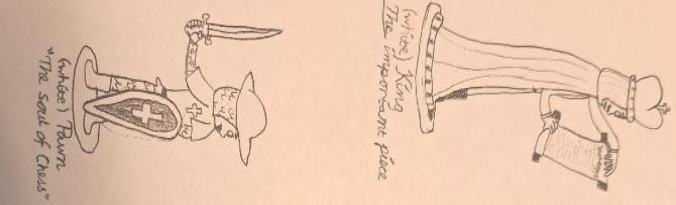
Note: Pawn Islands are separated, groupings of pawns and Henri Grob was a Swiss International Master who died in 1974. He developed the Grob chess opening 1.g4 for White.

Also, attached here is a wonderful, comprehensive chess-themed drawing which one of my art-talented students gave to me as a gift for teaching them the game. This chess pencil drawing amazingly contains many of the lessons from the class! Many, many thanks to this excellent student!!

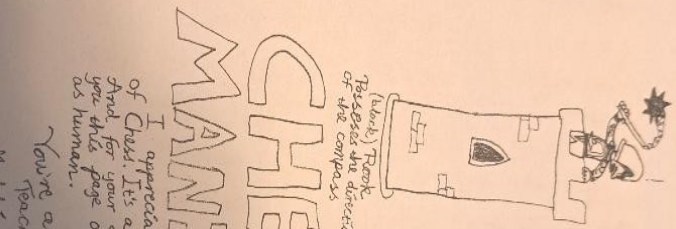
(R. Woodworth)



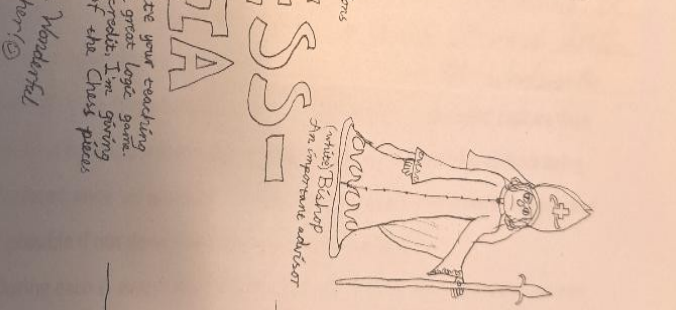
(black) Queen
very powerful



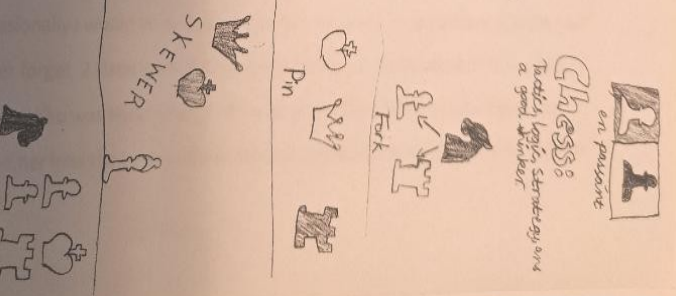
(white) King
The important place



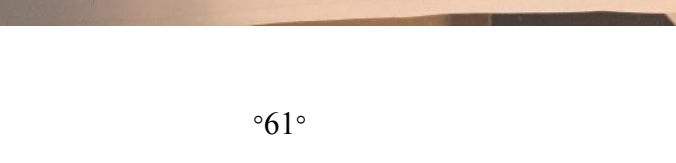
(black) Trade
Business and directions
of the compass



(white) Bishop
An important advisor



Chess:
on passion
Teaches logic, strategy and
a good character



SKEMER

Pin

Fork

ChetMare

CHES- MANIA

I appreciate your teaching
of Chess. It's a great logic game.
And for your credit I'm giving
you this page of the Chess pieces
as human.

You're a wonderful
teacher! @
Modeline

Interview with Rod Malpert



Editor's note--Rod Malpert has returned to Nebraska, albeit, not full time residentially but he does live in Lincoln between travel intervals required by his job. For those readers not acquainted with Rod, he is a strong chess master dating back to his teen years. Rod was part of the Fischer boom in the early 70's that impacted many of us, including your editor. Rod was one of two dominant Lincoln and Nebraska players with the other player named Loren Schmidt. I had a number of competitive games with Rod from the Lincoln city championships and scholastic play. With the exception of our last game, a 14-move win by Rod, (I never should have taken that poison "d" pawn!) I did have some success against him. Rod and I will be forever linked with the Nebraska scholastic high school chess championships in 1976 and 77. Rod and I scored a perfect 5-0 to share top honors in the 1976 championship and we played for the sole championship in 1977. It was a hard game and I thought I had it won only to discover Rod had calculated better to win by force. As a result, Rod became Nebraska high school champion. Rod was kind enough to contact me this past summer and offered his time to provide chess analysis during the Cornhusker state games. Rod graciously agreed to be interviewed for the Gambit as well. Thank you Rod and welcome home!--Kent Nelson

Rod, please tell us a little about yourself and how you got started with chess masterly?

My early years (born 1960) were in Northeast Lincoln, where I went to Dawes Elementary in the shadow of the Goodyear plant. Despite how remote we were living in Lincoln, the kids rode around from afar on their bikes and told each other stories not only about Johnny Rodgers but the worldly superstars Mohammed Ali and Bobby Fischer! One day in Summer 1971 we rode our bikes to Easterday Recreation Center to see a neighborhood legend, one Loren Schmidt of Lincoln Northeast, hold court. I had just started playing chess and knew enough to be in awe. I still remember exactly where I was standing while watching Loren. That put me on the course of chess obsession.

I played and studied through fifth grade and then went to the Lincoln Chess club for the first time in May 1972 at the Bennet Martin library. My first game was against Ivan Bislow who showed me how to use the clock. Then erudite University of Nebraska English Professor and great local player, Bud Narveson, was kind enough to play me. During the game Loren came in and I said in awe, “have you ever played Loren?” I remember a smiling yes from Bud, who was perhaps stronger than Loren at that early time. But then a huge encounter was with organizing legend and friend of Bobby Fischer (back to the 1956 U.S. Junior in Lincoln), Alex Liepniks. Mr. Liepniks encouraged me to play in the upcoming Memorial Day tournament, the Jerry Spann Memorial, which was probably the most famous tournament in Nebraska history along with the U.S. opens in 1969 and 1975. Arpad Elo (yes that Elo) attended a formal banquet. There is a famous picture that has John Watson, Rich Chess, Loren Schmidt, Dan Reynolds, and me at 11, along with many others who became backbones of the Nebraska chess scene in the 1970s. I went 0-5 despite thinking I was great from elementary school games where I was the only one who understood to play e4-d4-Nf3-Nc3-Bc4 Bf4, which I called the Box Opening. The first game was a loss to state champion Dan Reynolds, who played a

closed Sicilian. As White I experimented and learned that 1 f4 e5 2 fxe5 d6 3 exd6 Bd6 4 b3 loses quickly. I was crushed emotionally and spent six months playing only in the club—no tournaments.

During those months I remember us analyzing the adjournment of game 1 of the Fischer-Spassky match to determine whether Fischer could hold a draw. It is a hazy memory, but I remember mostly Bud, Anton Sildmets and Mr. Liepniks. Roughly at that time Larry Harvey and Gary Marks (same night) started coming to the club, Gary in shorts and Larry barefoot. Mark Kitchin started coming too, and shortly after Kent Nelson. Mike Mathews was there too and became like an older brother.

Finally in January 1973 I felt confident enough to play in the Lincoln City championship. I scored 2.5/5.0 and was off to my chess career! In August 1973 mom let me take a Greyhound to Milwaukee with Loren and Mike to play in the U.S. Junior. I remember mom picking me up from the club late one night and talking to Mike about taking care of me on the trip. Mike definitely did. He had quite a quandary about whether to let me go with him and Loren to see Jesus Christ Superstar given its PG-13 rating, but finally decided it was OK. Thanks Mike! I still know the songs. Ironically after that PG-13 event, I won the national under 13 trophy at that tournament and still have it.

Another great memory of those early years was Jude Acers' simultaneous exhibition tour at one of the malls in Omaha. He was charismatic and indistinguishable from a world class GM to us even though "only" 2399. In those days meeting a strong master was a major event. I remember Mike Blankenau following him around writing the lyrics of Hey Jude. Great early memories also were Jack Spence, the tournament director who passed away too early, and his speed chess tournaments at the club in

Omaha using a 10 second clock that beeped and everyone had to move in unison before another beep two seconds later. Very stressful! I remember those 10-second rhythms along with the nervous clicking by John Tomas of his pen. John was another charismatic idol and very strong player, especially tactically.

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

Back then we were all autodidacts. Nobody had a coach and it was rare to see a master, much less play and analyze with one. But we all studied the best books and developed strength in every phase, with orthodox styles as if we had been trained by the Soviet School of Chess! I even used to get the Soviet weekly called “64” mailed to me from Moscow. The FBI probably had a file on me when I was 12! When I look back I’m amazed at how we all developed. If we had lived in New York or some other place with lots of coaches and titled players I’m sure Loren Schmidt, John Watson, Rich Chess, Mike Blankenau and I would have become Grandmasters, and in some cases even strong Grandmasters. As it was we all taught ourselves up to perhaps the 2350-2600 range by current USCF standards, won various national championships and ranked very high on national junior lists. And there were many others who became at least experts and likely could have become titled players. That such success came from a bunch of self-taught guys in Lincoln and Omaha is as amazing to me as Nebraska’s having a football dynasty.

We studied the great books of the time, and they or similar new ones are still key: My System and Pawn Power in Chess for the middlegame, Basic Chess Endings (or Dvoretsky now), and autobiographical collections of games by the great players to learn various styles. The Middle Years of Paul Keres taught me deep and tenacious analysis. Alekhine’s My Best Games of Chess, Tal’s My Life and Games, and of course Fischer’s My 60 Memorable games

also stand out. I developed openings and a style probably most like Fischer, which was common at the time. We all played the Najdorf and King's Indian and as white 1 e4. Elliot Winslow, who was an icon and colorful strong master from St. Louis and tenacious opening researcher, also played those openings and taught me a lot about how deep opening analysis could be.

I am an imaginative attacking player and calculate deeply, which fit that style. Loren was an exception with 1 d4, the Alekhine and Queen's Indian. He was a great positional player, as if he had studied with Botvinnik, and very difficult to play for self-taught players. Rich Chess was a fabulous endgame player who would grind you down like Carlsen. His late brother Mike Chess wasn't as strong but occasionally pulled off brilliant attacking games, including a famous sacrificial crushing of Winslow's Najdorf. Mike Blankenau and Mark Kitchin also contributed to a rich Najdorf and King's Indian culture. Being so steeped in the Najdorf paid off for me in the 1976 National Junior High Championship where I defeated future GM and U.S. Champion Michael Wilder. Wilder was on the cover of *Chess Life* that very month as a child prodigy. I was jealous and took great satisfaction in the win. I improved on Gligoric on move 20 in a Bg5 Najdorf. I had already played it in blitz against Kitchin! Imagine two kids in Lincoln 20+ moves deep in perhaps the most difficult opening, and we knew the Dragon too.

A fun memory is my interaction with Grandmaster William Lombardy. He was at the U.S. Open in Lincoln in 1975 with legendary chess coach John Collins. Collins taught Lombardy and one Bobby Fischer and had a famous book out called "My Seven Chess Prodigies." Before the tournament my chess buddy Mark Kitchin (a master-strength talent and Kings Indian specialist) and I got the front desk to tell us the room number (it is the Graduate Hotel now) and we knocked

on the door and got the book autographed after they graciously talked to us. I still have it. Fast forward to the rest day after round 6. I had a strong 4.5 points and got the chance to play blitz games on local television with GM Lombardy. He beat me about 5-1 but I did get that one win with a Goring Gambit! The next year at age 15, I played GM Lombardy at the 1976 U.S. open on board 1 in round 4 and lost a fascinating black side of the 6 Bg5 Najdorf. He played a novelty piece sacrifice on move 11, but John Watson and I had just looked at it a couple days before. I responded almost instantly with great confidence, but Lombardy had analyzed more deeply and won a nice game. Afterward we analyzed it with GM and former Candidate Pal Benko (whom Loren had drawn the previous year in Lincoln) and GM Walter Brown. What a heady experience! A couple weeks later I stopped at Bennet Martin library before Lincoln chess club and checked the big city chess columns as always. This time Isaac Kashdan had Lombardy-Malpert as the feature game in the Los Angeles Times! But the most amazing part is that I ran into Lombardy in Washington Square Park around 2010 and we went over the game again. He revealed that he and Bobby Fischer had analyzed the line to death in preparation for the Spassky match. So I actually lost to Bobby Fischer!

KN—Rod, please tell us about your best tournaments? What is your style of play? Do you like openings? middlegames? endgames? How about your preferred time controls?

I never finished my chess development. I for the most part quit playing seriously in 1977 after winning the State Championship at 16 with Loren. I won a nice sacrificial game against Blankenau in the penultimate round and then held a very solid draw as black against Loren to split the title. Around then I had roughly reached Loren's level and we were the strongest players in a several state region. In Summer 1977 I had a good U.S. Open and World Open, for example drawing former USSR

champion GM Shamkovich. After 1977, I played a few tournaments in Lincoln and then in a couple tournaments in college in Oklahoma, where I won the Oklahoma State Championship in 1983. I sent the newspaper story to Cornell Law School, where I was on the wait list, and they admitted me because of it!

After that I made a big push in 1992 living in New York. In that vibrant atmosphere I started the year as a rusty 2200+ and by the end of the year was a 2400+ Senior Master having consistent 2500+ performance ratings. The culmination was finishing second to Joel Benjamin in the New York championship after drawing GM Rhode and winning some very nice games. The loss to Joel was a great game that Robert Byrne analyzed in the New York Times. It was a great joy to get my Senior Master Certificate signed by then USCF President Al Lawrence, who was a Lincolnite at the peak of our chess scene in the mid 1970s. A great game from then was my sacrificial Smith-Morra win over IM Bruce Rind and Fide 2375 at the World Open. That game has been featured and heavily analyzed online.

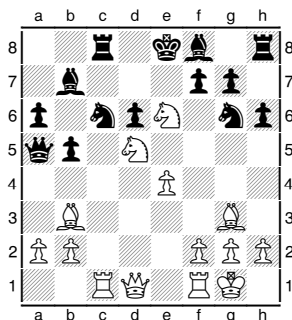
After that I played only a few fast time control tournaments in the early 2000s in Dallas and lost a lot of rating points. For some reason my relative strength increases dramatically as the time control increases, even though I calculate quickly. I guess my positional intuition isn't fast enough or I rely too much on deep calculation. That probably is a vestige of not having had a coach in the early years.

Many years later In 2018 I was in San Diego to play at the club and saw a sign that the club was closed for a big tournament nearby. On a lark I drove over in time to join the tournament. It was very strong with grandmasters and our very own John Watson and Keaton Kiewra. I had been playing casually on line and was in decent shape. So somehow I had a great

tournament at age 57 with a performance rating of about 2450 and was on board 1 in Round 5 and almost beat the GM. And I had a very satisfying Najdorf win against a master, which tied my youth and older age together and made me sentimental. So I have a bit of the bug again and plan to start studying and playing again in 2023. I hope to get back to 2400ish strength and play in national senior tournaments to see if I can catch up to some of the guys from my day who were friends and stuck with it such as Joel Benjamin. I would also like to organize a Legends tournament and do it up right and bring some legends back to Nebraska to play and give simuls and lectures. We were something special!

**Malpert, Rodney - Rind, Bruce (2375) [B21]
World op 20th Philadelphia, 1992**

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 a6 7.0-0 b5 8.Bb3 Nge7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Qa5 11.Nd5 .Ng6 12.Bg3 d6 13.Rc1 Bb7 14.Nd4 Rc8 15.Nxe6! Please see the diagram below.



fxe6 16.Qh5 exd5 17.Qxg6+ Kd8 18.exd5 Ne7 19.Qxd6+ Ke8 20.Qe6 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Qd2 22.Rd1 Qg5 23.d6 1-0

Rod's next selected game is a battle against Nebraska Legend, Loren Schmidt from an article Loren wrote for the Gambit titled Miracles and Mismatches. The article appeared in the December, 1973 issue of the Gambit.-Ed

Miracles and Mismatches

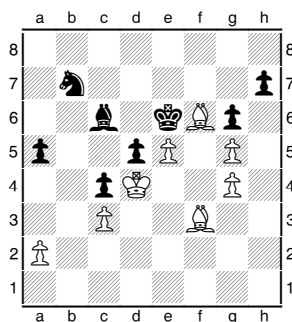
by Loren Schmidt

One of the top young players in Nebraska today is Rod Malpert of Lincoln. Although only 13 years old, he has already earned a Class B rating. This summer he showed his strength at the Lincoln Insanity, placing an undefeated second to yours truly with a 4.5-1.5 score. He led for most of the tourney after scoring the following victory. (Which is both a miracle and a mismatch.)

L. Schmidt (1971)-Malpert (1558) Lincoln, 1973

Notes by Loren.

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.e4 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nf6 7.Bd3
(More usual Qd3) Qa5 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Ne2 Bd7 10.0-0 b5 11.Bh6 bxc4
12.Bxc4 Re8 (Why not c8?) 13.Bd3 Qa4 14.Qb1 c4! (else Qb7 is in the
air) 15.Bc2 Qa5 16.f3 Na6 17.Qc1 Nc5 18.Be3 (looking for a more
usual diagonal) Rec8 19.Bd4 Rab8 20.g4 Qd8 21.g5? (Sheer arrogance!
White expects Black to fold up. Of course Ng3 first is better.) Nh5
22.Ng3 Nxc3 23.hxc3 e5! (Black knows what's coming and clears his
2nd for defense.) 24.dxe6 e.p. fxe6 25.Bf6 Qf8 26.Rf2 Rc7 27.Rh2
Be8! (else e5 wins) 28.e5 d5 29.g4 (Persistent but useless) Nd3 30.Qd2
Rb2 31.Rb1!? Rxb1+(unwilling to try R:a2 Rb8 with chances for both
sides) 32.Bxb1 Qa3 33.Re2 Qc1+ 34.Qxc1 Nxc1 35.Rb2 Kf7 36.Kf1
Nd3 37.Rb8 Nc5 38.Ke2 Rb7? (Dubious, as now White builds a
zugzwang) 39.Rxb7+ Nxb7 40.f4 Bd7 41.Ke3 Nc5 42.f5 Nb7 43.Kd4
a6 44.Bc2 Bc6 45.fxe6+ Kxe6 46.Bd1 a5 47.Bf3?? Diagram below.



(Missing a4, when Black is out of moves. I.E. . . .Kd7 48 Bf3 B:a4 49. B:d5
and Black is busted) a4 48.Bg2 a3 49.Bf3 Na5 50.Kc5 Ba8 51.Bg2 Nb3+
52.Kb4 (a:b might prove embarrassing.) Nc1 53.Kxa3 Nd3 54.Ka4 Nxe5
55.Bxe5?? (Giving up all winning chances. After Kb5, White's rook pawn
probably wins) Kxe5 56.Kb5?? (The crowning blunder. What was an easy
win is now a loss as the King marches to doom!) d4 57.Kxc4 dxc3! (not
B:g2 c:d+ and a draw is possible) 58.Kxc3 Bxg2 59.a4 Kf4 0-1

The following game was also part of Loren's column with the only change being a switch to algebraic notation.-Ed

Miracles and Mismatches

by Loren Schmidt

Last Minute Flash!!

We now have in our possession several of Rod Malpert's games from the National Junior High and City Finals. (See how well we live up to our promises? Annotations are Rod's.

Wilder (2247)-Malpert (1975) Rd 7, National Jr. Hi.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5! Bxg5+ (After Nc5, White has a small advantage.) 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Qe7 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Qe2 Kg7 20.Nd5 Qa7! (Not knowing any more of the line, I think I found a good alternative to the usual Qd8.) 21.h4 Bh6 22.Bh3 Rhf8 23.Qe1 Qc5! (Taking Qc3 and Qb4 away from the White Queen, posting the Black Queen well and clearing a7 for the QR.) 24.Qa5 Ra7 25.Rhf1 Nf3 26.Bg2 Nd4 27.Nb4 Raf7 28.Rxf7+ Rxf7 29.c3 Nc6 30.Nxc6 (On Q:a6, N:b4 31 c:b4 Q:b4 32 Q:d6 Q:d6 33 R:d6 R-f2.) Qxc6 31.Qd8 Bf4 32.h5 Qd7 My play the next few moves is poor. I was playing very passively, just trying to make the time control. My flag was hanging.) 33.Qh4 Qe7 34.Qh3 Qd7 35.Qh1 Qg4 36.Bf3 Qe6 37.Qg2 g5 38.Bg4 Qf6 39.Rd5 Be5 40.Bf5 h6 41.Qg4 (The time control is passed and Black has thrown away the advantage he had. The game must be won again.) b4 42.cxb4 Bxb2 43.Qg3! Rc7 44.Rd1 Ba1 45.Rd2 Qe5 (Black has no follow up, so he must protect the QP.) 46.Qb3?? (Refusing to take the draw by QxQ. Now he won't get another chance.) Bc3 47.Rc2 Qd4 48.Qa3 (White is playing the best defense.) Rc4 49.Be6 Rxb4+ 50.Bb3 a5 51.Qc1 Qd3 52.Qg1 Rb7 53.Kc1 a4 54.Bd5 Bd2+ 0-1-End of Loren's article.

For historic reasons, the 1977 Nebraska High School Championship game is given below. I thought I had Rod beat, but Rod, as he so often does, proves to be a better calculator at the end-Kent Nelson.

White-Rod Malpert

Black-Kent Nelson

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qg4 Nf6 5.Qxg7 Rg8 6.Qh6 Rg6 7.Qe3 Nxe4 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.Bd2 Nxd2 10.Nxd2 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Qf6 12.0-0-0 c5 13.Nf3 c4 14.g3 b5 15.Nh4 Rg8 16.f4 a5 17.Bh3 b4 18.Qe1 Qe7 19.f5 Nb6 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Qe2 Na4 22.Rde1 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 Ra6 24.Rhf1 Rb6 25.Rf5 Qh6 26.Rh5 Nc3+ 27.bxc3 bxc3+ 28.Ka1 Qf8 29.Bxe6 Bxe6 30.Re5 1-0
A game I'll never forget.-Kent.

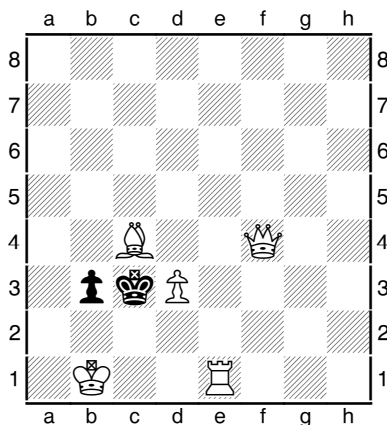
Give-and-Take Key

by

Rauf Aliovsadzade

(Lincoln)

(first publication)



Mate in Two

Give-and-take keys in chess problems aren't rare.

In this two-mover, if we look at the initial position ,Black has a strong defense 1...Kb4 after which there is no checkmate.

So let's try this first 1.Bg8? which is a thematic try.

White takes control of b4 square and gives the black King another flight on d3. 1...Kxd3 is met by 2.Qe3#, but the refutation 1...b2 ruins White's intention.

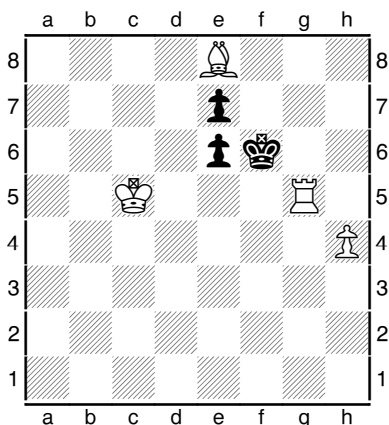
1.Qb8! is the right choice. Again, taking control of b4 square and giving still two other flights to the black King:

1...b2 2.Qxb2#, 1...Kd2 2.Qb4#, 1...Kd4 2.Qe5#.

Thanks, Kent!

My pleasure Rauf!

Here is another of Rauf's compositions.



White to play and mate in 6 moves.

1.Kd4 e5+ 2.Ke4 e6 3.Rg8 Ke7 4.Kxe5 Kd8 5.Kd6 Kc8 6.Bc6x.

Nebraskan on World Stage

by Rauf Aliovsadzade

The international composing tourney for miniature two-mover chess problems dedicated to the memory of the greatest ever miniature two-movers American composer, Robert Lincoln, has come to an end.

The tourney was organized by 'StrateGems' magazine.

49 problems by 14 participants from 8 countries were submitted to this big international event.

Only eleven compositions were awarded by the judges, and among them three compositions by our own Robert Woodworth!

Congrats, Bob!!

And we wish you more success in the future!

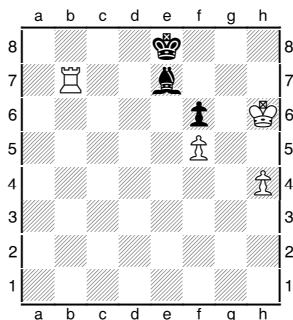
Games from Steve Cusumano

The *Gambit* is very thankful to Steve Cusumano for his service to Nebraska Chess. As of this writing-4/2/23, Steve is currently President of the Nebraska State Chess Association. In addition, Steve, is a very active tournament player and has won the 2017, 2018 and the 2022 Nebraska Player of the Year competition. Steve has provided this editor, entire game databases from Nebraska events which, is very much appreciated. Steve recently provided a number of his games for your enjoyment. The games below are from a Olathe, Kansas tournament called “Back to School”. Steve mentioned his game against Sophia Sun with the shot, 27...B:g3 may have been his best single move he ever played. Outstanding! Thank you Steve! -Kent Nelson, Ed.

(1) Ohly, Oliver (1630) - Cusumano, Steven (1935) [E05]

(1), 17.09.2022 [*Cusumano, Steven*]

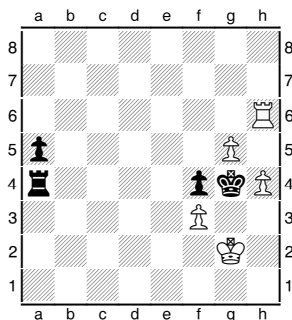
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Ne5 Bc6 10.Nxc6 Nxc6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qxc4 Qd5 13.b3 Rfb8 14.Nd2 Bd6 15.Rb1 Rb4 16.Qc2 Rxd4 17.Nc4 Ne4 18.Be3 Ng5 19.f3 Bc5 20.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 21.Kg2 e5 22.h4 Ne6 23.Rfd1 Qc5 24.Qd3 Qe7 25.e3 Bc5 26.Nxe5 Bd6 27.Nxc6 Qf6 28.Qd5 Re8 29.Nd4 Qg6 30.g4 Nxd4 31.Qxd4 Qc2+ 32.Qd2 Qc5 33.Rbc1 Qe5 34.f4 Qe4+ 35.Kg3 h5 36.gxh5 Qxe3+ [36...Qf5] 37.Qxe3 Rxe3+ 38.Kg4 Rxb3 39.Rd4 a5 40.Rc6 f6 41.Ra6 Rb4 42.Rxb4 axb4 43.a5 Kf7 44.Rc6 b3 45.Rc3 Bb4 46.Rxc7+ Ke6 47.Rb7 Bxa5 48.Rxb3 Bd8 49.Rb7 Be7 50.f5+ Kf7 51.h6 gxh6 52.Kh5 Ke8 53.Kxh6 1-0



Final Position 1-0

(2) Cusumano, Steven (1935) - Armstrong, Eric (1795) [B01]

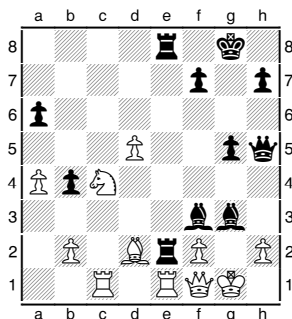
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Ne5 c6 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qxe5 12.Re1 Qc7 13.a4 e6 14.Qf3 Bd6 15.a5 a6 16.Be3 Nd7 17.Ne4 Bb4 18.c3 Bxa5 19.Bf4 e5 20.Nc5 f6 21.Nxb7 Qxb7 22.Rxa5 0-0 23.Qxc6 Qxc6 24.Bxc6 exf4 25.Bxd7 Rfd8 26.Bc6 Rab8 27.b4 Bd3 28.Rc5 Rb6 29.Rd1 Kf8 30.Be4 Rbd6 31.Bxd3 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 Rxd3 33.Kg2 Kf7 34.h4 Ke6 35.Rc7 g6 36.Rxh7 Rxc3 37.Rg7 Rb3 38.Rxg6 Kf7 39.Rh6 Rxb4 40.Rh5 Ra4 41.Rf5 a5 42.g5 Kg6 43.Rxf6+ Kh5 44.Rh6+ Kg4 45.f3+ See diagram below.



[45.g6?? f3+ 46.Kh2 Ra2 47.g7 Rxf2+ 48.Kh1 Rf1+ 49.Kh2 Rf2+ 50.Kg1 Rg2+ 51.Kf1 Kf5] 45...Kf5 46.Rf6+ Ke5 47.h5 Ra2+ 48.Kf1 Rh2 49.h6 a4 50.Ra6 Kf5 51.g6 Rxh6 52.g7 Rxa6 53.g8Q a3 54.Qc8+ Re6 55.Qc5+ Re5 56.Qxa3 Kg5 57.Qf8 Rf5 58.Qg7+ Kh4 59.Qg4# 1-0

(3) Sun, Sophia (1582) - Cusumano, Steven (1935) [C89]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6 13.Re1 Qh4 14.g3 Qh3 15.Qf3 Bg4 16.Qg2 Qh5 17.Be3 Rae8 18.Nd2 Re6 19.a3 Rfe8 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.a4 b4 22.c4 dxc4 23.Nxc4 Bf3 24.Qf1 Bc7 25.Rac1 g5 26.Bd2 Re2 [26...Be2 27.Qg2 Bxc4 28.Rxe6 Bxe6 29.Rxc7 Qd1+ 30.Qf1 Qxd2-+] 27.d5 Bxg3!! (D)

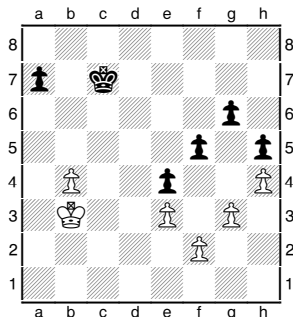


28.h3 Bxf2+ 29.Qxf2 Qxh3 30.Rxe2 [30.Qxe2 Qh1+ 31.Kf2 Qg2#] 30...Qh1# 0-1

(5) Un, Sam (1749) - Cusumano, Steven (1935) [E32]

(5), 18.09.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Bg5 d5 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 Ba6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.exd5 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 exd5 12.Nge2 Nd7 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Nxc3 c6 15.Rac1 Qd6 16.a3 Nf6 17.Rc2 Rfe8 18.Rfc1 Ng4 19.g3 Rac8 20.h3 Nf6 21.Kg2 Qd7 22.Rd1 Ne4 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Qe2 Rc7 25.Rdc1 Rec8 26.b4 Qd5 27.Qg4 h5 28.Qe2 g6 29.h4 f5 30.Qc4 Qxc4 31.Rxc4 Kf7 32.Kf1 Ke6 33.Ke2 Kd5 34.Kd2 Kd6 35.Kc3 c5 36.dxc5+ bxc5 37.Kb3 cxb4 38.Rxc7 Rxc7 39.Rxc7 Kxc7 40.axb4



Kc6 41.Ka4 Kb6 42.Kb3 Kb5 43.Kc3 Ka4 44.Kc4 a6 45.Kc3 Ka3 46.Kc4 Kb2 47.Kd4 Kb3 48.Kc5 Kc3 49.Kb6 Kxb4 50.Kxa6 Kc3 51.Kb6 Kd2 52.Kc5 Ke2 53.Kd5 Kxf2 0-1

(4) Cusumano, Steven (1935) - Drippe, John (1965) [C03]

(4), 18.09.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 c5 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.dxc5 Qxc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Nb3 Qc7 11.Bg5 b6 12.Bh4 Bd6 13.Bg3 Bxg3 14.hxg3 Bb7 15.c3 e5 16.Ba6 Bd5 17.Rfd1 Rad8 18.Bb5 e4 19.Nfd4 Ne5 20.Nf5 Nfg4 21.Ne3 Nxe3 22.Qxe3 f5 23.Nd4 Qe7 24.Ne2 g5 25.Ba4 Ng4 26.Qc1 Be4 27.Bb3 Bxb3 28.axb3 e3 29.f3 Nf2 30.Rd4 f4 31.gxf4 gxf4 32.Rxf4 Rxf4 33.Nxf4 Rd1+ 34.Qxd1 Nxd1 35.Rxd1 e2 36.Re1 Qe3+ 37.Kh1 Qxf4 38.Rxe2 Kf7 39.Kg1 h5 40.b4 h4 41.Kf2 Qg3+ 42.Kf1 b5 43.f4 Kg6 44.Rf2 Kf5 45.Rf3 Qg8 46.Kg1 Qc4 47.Rf2 Qe4 48.Rf1 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 Qe2 50.Rf3 Qxb2 51.Kh3 Qe2 52.Kh2 Qxf3 0-1

PAWNS & MORE PAWNS

by

Robert Woodworth

This article concerns all of the myriad types of pawns, their movements, formations, activities etc.etc. This writer spent several months in developing the two separate listings shown below. (The first listing concerns the types of pawns while the 2nd comprises pawn movements plus various pawn activities and structures.)

The REAL REASON for these 2 pawn listings is TO HAVE THE READER CLOSELY EXAMINE EACH & EVERY ENTRY FOR ANY OBVIOUS ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. This writer will greatly appreciate any help in this matter such that a REWARD/PRIZE of a new Magnus Carlsen chess book will be freely given to the FIRST reader who finds a very viable improvement/correction. It is greatly hoped that someone will find more types of pawns which were omitted from the first listing shown below plus any corrections needed from the 2nd listing also shown below. GOOD LUCK TO ALL THAT ARE INTERESTED IN ATTEMPTING THIS AND “THANK YOU”!!

ISOLATED PAWN

(a pawn situated without friendly pawns on either adjacent file)

DOUBLED PAWNS

(two friendly pawns of same color located on the same file)

TRIPLED PAWNS (3 pawns of the same color on the same file)

QUADRUPLED PAWNS

(4 pawns of the same color on the same file)

QUINTUPLED PAWNS ??

(5 pawns of the same color on the same file)

BACKWARD PAWNS

(not capable of having immediate, direct pawn protection)

BACKWARD, DOUBLED PAWNS

(doubled pawns w/o any easy direct protection)

SEMI-ISOLATED PAWN

(having pawns on adjacent files unable to be protective)

DOUBLE, ISOLATED PAWNS

(two sets of isolated pawns with no pawn protection)

DOUBLED, ISOLATED PAWNS

(two doubled pawns that are also isolated)

TRIPLE, ISOLATED PAWNS

(see above definition for these 3 pawns)

SEPARATED, DOUBLED PAWNS

(2 sets of doubled pawns separated by a file or 2)

QUADRUPLED, ISOLATED PAWNS (see above definition for these 4 pawns)

QUINTUPLED, ISOLATED PAWNS ?? (see above definition for these 5 pawns)

ARTIFICIALLY, ISOLATED PAWNS (having pawn protection that is temporarily blocked from being effective.

See SEMI-ISOLATED PAWN)

SEPARATED PAWNS

(two pawns of same color separated by at least one file)

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

UNSTOPPABLE PASSED PAWN

(a separated pawn with a clear path to 'queen')

ADJACENT, PASSED PAWNS (on adjacent files with each protected by the possible advancement of the other)

DISCONNECTED PASSED PAWNS

(separated by 2 or more files.

See SEPARATED PASSED PAWNS.)

TRIPLE, CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS

(3 passed pawns on files next to each other)

UNPROTECTED PASSED PAWN

(a passed pawn without any friendly protection)

OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN

(a passed pawn on or near the edge of the chessboard)

PROTECTED, OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN

(see above definition where this pawn is protected)

INOFFENSIVE PAWNS

(usually occupy the same colored squares as their bishop)

BALANCED PAWNS

(same no. of pawns per side incl. per king-side & queen-side)

EXTRA PAWN

(having a one-pawn advantage in the overall pawn-count per side)

UNBALANCED PAWNS

(pawn count different between the king & queen sides)

UNBALANCED PAWN STRUCTURES

(for EACH side where there are UNBALANCED PAWNS. See above definition.)

FLEXIBLE PAWNS

(having many different pawn-move options being available)

FREE PAWN (an unprotected pawn that can easily be captured)

COUNTER-PLAY PAWN

(pawn move with counter-tactics as a responsive play.

See PAWN TEMPO)

RESERVE PAWN

(pawn move held-back until the time or tempo is right)

RESERVE PAWN MOVE

(see also definition for a RESERVE PAWN)

SELF-PROPELLED PAWNS

(coordinated pawn movement with no enemy response)

See RUNNING PAWNS)

HANGING PAWNS

(2 abreast on 2 adjacent center files and usually not passed)

ISOLATED, HANGING PAWNS

(hanging pawns totally isolated with no protection)

ISOLATED QUEEN PAWN

(most common isolated pawn from center pawn trades)

MAROCZY-BIND PAWNS

(White pawns on c4 and e4 with the 'bind' on d5)

CENTRE PAWNS

(the king's and queen's pawns on the e & d-files)

QUEEN-SIDE PAWNS

(the starting 3 pawns on the queen's side of the board)

KING-SIDE PAWNS

(the 3 starting pawns on the king's-side of the board)

LOWLY PAWNS

(a mis-applied term since ALL pawns are important & valuable)

RETREATING PAWNS

(a non-sensical term since pawns NEVER retreat!)

SMALL PAWN CENTRE

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

BROAD PAWN CENTRE

(3 or 4 pawns abreast on adjacent center files)

MOBILE PAWN CENTRE

(centrally, located pawns which have good mobility)

LOCKED PAWN CENTRE

(blocked, central pawns with no mobility)

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

BASE PAWN

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

POISONED PAWNS

(having good, indirect protection usually from a queen's attack)

“DOG’S-EAR” PAWNS

(Siegbert Tarrasch term for pawns on the h3 or h6 squares.)

MISSING PAWN (left out and NOT found in an old, rarely used chess set)

GAMBIT PAWNS

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

LONELY PAWN

(a single, separated, isolated pawn in a game position)

ADVANCED PAWNS

(usually on the last 3 ranks for each side before queening sq.)

FAR ADVANCED PASSED PAWN

(passed pawn almost at the ‘queening’ square)

DANGEROUS PAWNS (well-supported ADVANCED PAWNS)

‘RENEGADE’ PAWNS

(pawn moves that break the accepted chess concepts/laws)

CONNECTED PAWNS

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

BLOCKED PAWN PAIR

(2 adjacent, connected pawns unable to move)

DISCONNECTED PAWNS

(like pawns separated by one or more files)

OBSTRUCTING PAWN PLAY

(pawn maneuvers that gain a positional advantage)

ADJACENT PAWNS

(single, opposing-sides pawns on 2 adjacent files)

UNITED PAWNS (same as CONNECTED PAWNS, see above)

CAPTURED PAWNS

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

BLOCKED PAWNS

(pawns ‘paralyzed’ and unable to move forward)

PINNED PAWN

(a pawn incapable of movement – see above BLOCKED PAWNS)

ENEMY PAWNS

(pawns in the pawn structure of one’s opponent)

‘FRIENDLY’ PAWNS

(ones own pawns or an enemy pawn hampering his own forces)

FIXED PAWN STRUCTURES

(pawn setups where there is little or no mobility)

FLUID PAWN STRUCTURES

(structures where future pawn movement is likely)

FLEXIBLE PAWN STRUCTURE

(has many pawns freely capable of easy movement. (See FLEXIBLE PAWNS)

MUTUAL PAWN PROMOTION

(each side promoting a pawn simultaneously)

BENONI PAWN FORMATIONS

(typically a wedge formation of center pawns)

ROLLING PAWNS (see definition below for PAWN ROLLERS or MOBILE PAWNS)

MOBILE PAWNS

(pawns not restricted in any way regarding their movements)

HUMBLE PAWNS

(any silent, hard-working, dedicated pawns on the chessboard)

DEADLY PAWN

(a pawn by its position and/or tactics which wins the game)

SOLID PAWNS

(having more than adequate protection of all types)

FIXED PAWNS

(usually solid pawns ‘locked’ onto their respective squares)

LAZY PAWN (a pawn not living up to its full potential.

See LONELY PAWN)

‘EN PASSANT’ PAWNS

(both pawns involved in the ‘en passant’ captures)

PROMOTED PAWNS

(survivors and victorious with honors in a chess battle)

UNDER-PROMOTED PAWNS

(pawns promoted to OTHER than a queen)

WEAK PAWNS

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

BAD PAWNS

(similar to WEAK or LAZY PAWNS or poorly positioned pawns)

HEALTHY PAWNS

(pawns together on the same rank and NOT doubled or weak)

LAST PAWN

(the final pawn on the board in a King vs. King & Pawn endgame)

GRANITE PAWN

(a most solid pawn that cannot be captured without a loss)

UNDERMINING PAWN

(a pawn striking at the base of a pawn chain or weakness)

SOFT PAWN

(same as a weak pawn and a pawn which may be easily endangered)

‘TALL’ PAWN

(term for a bishop that is completely blocked and immobilized)

BIG PAWN (same as the above defined ‘TALL’ PAWN)

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

CAPPED PAWN (see MARKED PAWN definition above)

CEREMONIAL PAWN

(1st move made by a 3rd party to start an important match)

WINNING PAWN

(usually a promoted pawn & also definition of a DEADLY PAWN)

DECIDING PAWN

(same as WINNING PAWN & DEADLY PAWN definitions)

IMPORTANT PAWNS (having the highest positional pawn-value in a game.

See definition for WINNING/DEADLY PAWN)

KING’S BISHOP’S PAWNS

(the weakest pawns in the initial chessboard position)

HALF-PASSED PAWN

(a pawn on a half-open file but not entirely a passed pawn)

UNTOUCHABLE PAWNS

(cannot be captured else a zugzwang position would occur)

PROTECTED PASSED PAWN

(a passed pawn guarded by one's own friendly forces)

CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS

(2 passed pawns capable of protecting one another)

WELL-ADVANCED CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS

(See Advanced Pawns + Far Advanced Passed Pawns)

SEPARATED PASSED PAWNS

(opposite of CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS-see above)

OUTSIDE DISTANT PASSED PAWN

(a passed pawn on the flank far from any other pawns for either side)

DISTANT PASSED PAWNS

(see OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN or FLANK PAWN below)

HIDDEN PASSED PAWN

(a blocked pawn made free to move by a pawn capture)

TARGET PAWN

(a pawn with a strong potential to become a passed pawn)

POTENTIAL PASSED PAWN

(see definition for TARGET PAWN)

CANDIDATE PAWNS (see definition for TARGET PAWNS)

SPLIT PAWNS

(2 pawns vs.1 in a King & Pawns endgame with the 2 pawns a file apart)

UNITED PASSED PAWNS

(See CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS)

FLANK PAWN

(usually a passed pawn located at or near edge of chessboard)

'FORTRESS' PAWN MOVE

(a pawn move that helps create a fortress position)

'UMBRELLA' PAWNS (see definition for PAWN UMBRELLA)

ACTIVE PASSED PAWN

(has good freedom to move and a threat to 'queen')

MINORITY PAWN ATTACK (aggressive pawn moves on wing w/lesser no.of pawns)

MAJORITY PAWN ATTACK

(aggressive pawn moves on wing w/greater no.pawns)

REMOTE PASSED PAWN

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

SYMMETRICAL PAWNS

(2 matching White-Black pawn formations on either wing)

ASYMMETRICAL PAWNS

(directly opposite of SYMMETRICAL PAWN formations)

MISPLACED PAWN

(a pawn in an incorrect place in the overall pawn structure)

FREEING PAWN

(a pawn able to create a breakthrough in the position)

THREATENED PAWN

(a pawn which eventually may be possibly captured)

‘CROSSHAIRS’ PAWN

(a pawn that is attacked & forced to move in an ending)

QUEEN’D PAWN

(the ultimate goal/promotion that a passed pawn can achieve)

CORRESPONDING PAWNS (part of endgame theory w/king & pawn strategies involving the theory of corresponding squares)

WRONG ROOK PAWN (in a ‘bishop’ endgame the color of the promoting square not matching the color of the bishop’s squares)

PASSIVE PAWN

(a bystander pawn not currently active in the position)

DISTANT PAWN (See FLANK PAWN)

DANGEROUS PAWN STRUCTURE (advanced pawns have moved deeply into the position. See DANGEROUS PAWNS)

DANGEROUS PASSED PAWNS

(easily capable of winning a game)

‘CHECKING’ PAWN

(attack on a king by a pawn. See CHECKMATING PAWN)

TECHNICAL PAWNS (chess problem/composition term for pawns that exist only to make a problem position sound & viable)

UNBLOCKING PAWN MOVE

(capture that allows a blocked pawn to move)

‘TRAITOR’ PAWN

(pawn which is forced to move thereby losing the game or a friendly pawn working against its own forces)

DISCOVERED-CHECKING PAWN

(pawn-move checking using shielded piece)

DOUBLE-CHECKING PAWN

(usually involving a pawn capture and a rook)

EMBEDDED PAWN

(protected pawn deep into opponent's position)

'TORTOISE' PAWN

(one sq. pawn move to place opponent in zugzwang)

DISAPPEARING PAWN

(a promoted pawn itself leaving the chessboard)

ULTIMATE PAWN MOVE (a pawn promoting by capturing a piece & safely check mating the opponent's king all in ONE move!)

DESPERADO PAWN MOVES

(a continuous pawn-capturing movement)

ZWISCHENZUG PAWN MOVE

(an in-between, surprise, tactical pawn move)

DRAWING PAWN MOVE

(a pawn move leading to a drawn position/result)

KEY PAWNS

(essential pawns that are holding a position together)

TARGET PAWNS (See IMPORTANT PAWNS)

DEEP PAWN

(See DANGEROUS PAWNS or OVEREXTENDED PAWN)

MULTI-PAWN ENDGAMES

(complex endgame positions with many pawns)

UNTAKEABLE PAWNS (See UNTOUCHABLE PAWNS)

CENTRAL PAWN STRUCTURES

(involves the center pawn formations/files)

FIXED PAWN FORMATION (usually a locked pawn structure)

SAFE PAWNS (See SOLID PAWNS or GRANITE PAWNS)

STRAY PAWNS

(loose, usually unprotected pawns. See FREE PAWN)

LOCKED PAWNS

(See BLOCKED PAWNS or LOCKED PAWN CENTRE)

OPPOSING PAWNS

(a pawn for each side located on same file. See also PAWN COUPLE)

OVEREXTENDED PAWN

(advanced too far to be safe. See OVERLOADED PAWN)

CENTRAL PASSER

(a passed pawn located on a central, chessboard file)

BLOCKED, ISOLATED PAWN

(a very weak pawn. See BLOCKED PAWNS)

MUTUALLY SUPPORTING PAWNS (See PAWN

PHALANX)

RUNNING PAWNS (See PAWN RACE or ROLLING

PAWNS)

SAME-SIDE PAWNS

(pawn movement replies on same wing/flank)

BOTH-SIDE PAWNS

(pawn movement replies on both flanks.)

ROOK PAWNS (the pawns for each side on the a & h-files)

WRONG PAWN

(a pawn promoting on the wrong color/wrong square)

‘ZUGZWANG’ PAWN (pawn move that creates a zugzwang.

See PAWN SQUEEZE)

CHECKMATING PAWN

(a pawn delivering mate to the king called a ‘shame’ mate)

ALPHABET PAWNS

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

SQUARE-NAMED PAWNS

(pawns designated by the squares they are residing on)

ROOK-KNIGHT-BISHOP-QUEEN-KING PAWNS

(also descriptive pawn designations)

DESCRIPTIVE PAWNS (descriptive notation for pawns
i.e.QRP,QNP,KP,QP,KBP or Queen’s Rook pawn, Queen’s
Knight pawn, King’s pawn etc. etc.)

COLOR-CHOICE PAWN

(1 White & 1 Black pawn to be chosen randomly for colors)

‘CAPABLANCA’ PAWN (fixing a backward pawn plus another
pawn with a SINGLE pawn move such that BOTH enemy
pawns are held back)

‘PANOV’ PAWNS

(pawns in a semi-closed center in a Queen’s Gambit opening)

‘STONEWALL’ PAWNS (pawns advanced 1 sq. in the
Stonewall Defense opening)

OVERLOADED PAWN (a pawn with too many responsibilities i.e. protecting weak squares, other pawns/pieces, the king etc.,etc.)

‘CARLSBAD’ PAWNS

(pawns in a special Queen’s Gambit/Queen’s Pawn opening formation/structures)

WHITE PAWNS (color of the 8 pawns at start of a game for White)

SEE PAWN SET)

BLACK PAWNS (color of the 8 pawns at the start of a game for Black)

SEE PAWN SET)

‘RETI’ PAWNS

(pawns in the most famous Richard Reti endgame composition)

BAHR’s PAWNS (rules governing play with two outside blocked pawns on 1 wing and a single, isolated pawn on the other wing.)

“SOFT PAWN”

(book title by William Hartston about cheating in chess)

‘MORPHY’ PAWN

(the checkmating pawn in Paul Morphy’s only chess problem)

“The PAWN”

(title of an Iowa state chess publication which ran for a year or so)

“PAWN ATTACKS”

(book titles by Richard Palliser regarding Colle-Zukertort, Barry, opening attacks etc.)

“DEATH BY PAWNS”

(title of a comprehensive overview of pawn usage in chess)

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

They are:

PAWN CHAIN

(a diagonal string of like pawns protecting one another)

PAWN ‘WING’ CHAINS

(smaller pawn chains on either side of the chessboard)

PAWN CENTRAL CHAIN

(chain of pawns across 3 or 4 central files)

PAWN WEDGE

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

PAWN ISLAND

(a smaller, separated/isolated, distinct groupings of pawns)

PAWN DUO (two connected pawns on adjacent files. See

‘hanging pawns’)

PAWN MAJORITY

(having a greater no. of pawns on one flank of the chessboard)

PAWN MINORITY

(having a lesser no. of pawns on one flank of the chessboard)

PAWN ADVANTAGE

(having an extra pawn for either the White or Black side)

PAWN EDGE

(having a better pawn in a position.

Also see PAWN ADVANTAGE)

PAWN DYNAMICS

(activity usually composed of pawn attacks & pawn breaks etc.)

PAWN ENERGY

(related to PAWN DYNAMICS. See above definition)

PAWN PUSH (a pawn advancing into battle. See PAWN

PLAY)

PAWN MARCH

(the advancement of a passed pawn to the queening square)

PAWN PROPHYLAXIS

(keeping key squares under good pawn protection)

PAWN RAM

(an aggressive movement by a pawn or two opposing pawns that are blocked. See PAWN PUSH)

PAWN CAPTURE

(the diagonal, one square forward-capturing move by a pawn)

PAWN TRANSFER

(see above definition for PAWN CAPTURE)

PAWN CANDIDATE (a pawn which is part of a majority but not obstructed by an enemy pawn on the same file)

PAWN AVALANCHE

(3 or 4 pawns abreast in endgame & completely free to move)

PAWN MOVEMENTS (moves 2 sqs. on initial move, one sq. thereafter. Can promote when reaching last rank to Q,R,N,B. Also see PAWN CAPTURE)

PAWN MANEUVERABILITY

(using mobile pawn movement to gain an advantage)

PAWN BREAK

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

PAWN PAIR

(2 pawns with the freedom to protect each another.

See PAWN DUO)

PAWN CONTROLS

(pawns having the greatest influence on the center squares)

PAWN OUTPOST

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

PAWN RACE

(pawns for each side simultaneously racing to the queening squares)

PAWN OFFER

(a sacrificed pawn or a pawn sacrifice.

See also 'GAMBIT PAWNS')

PAWN MATE

(pawn checkmating a king and called a 'shame' mate in olden days

SEE CHECKMATING PAWN)

PAWN LEVERS

(two opposing pawns each capable of capturing one another)

PAWN TENSION

(see PAWN LEVERS + the possibilities of creating passed pawns)

PAWN EXCHANGES (a pawn capture replied by a pawn capture or a PAWN TRADE)

PAWN CONTACT (another term for PAWN LEVERS)

PAWN SACRIFICE

(a pawn given away to gain an advantage. See PAWN SAC)

PAWN COVER (see definition for PAWN PROTECTION)

PAWN CHOICE (a pawn capable of capturing one or the other enemy pawns. Also selecting a concealed pawn to determine the side/colors to play)

PAWN SQUARE-COLORS

(majority of one's pawns on either black or white sqs.)

PAWN STRUCTURE

(the configuration of ALL the pawns for each side)

PAWN FORMATION (same as PAWN STRUCTURE)

PAWN SHIFT

(a pawn trades which greatly alter the pawn structure)

PAWN SENTRY

(a strongly supported pawn holding one's position together)

PAWN TRIANGLE

(3 adjacent pawns with center pawn not on the same rank)

PAWN TEMPO

(a pawn move gaining time w/capture threats etc.)

PAWN MARGIN

(the overall positional strength or/plus no. of pawns per side)

PAWN REDUCTION

(the act of capturing pawns thereby reducing their number)

PAWN MATERIAL

(total no. of pawns per side in a game. See PAWN MARGIN)

PAWN DOWN

(behind materially by one pawn vs. the opposition)

PAWN UP (ahead by one pawn vs. one's opponent.

See PAWN MATERIAL)

PAWN DEFICIT (see above definition for PAWN DOWN)

PAWN SUPPORT

(a solid piece with pawn protection from a pawn or pawns)

PAWN PLAY

(the advancement of pawns forward or involved in exchanges)

PAWN DEPLOYMENT

(the placing/development of one's pawns in a game)

PAWN DISTRIBUTION

(the structure/layout of pawns in a position.

See PAWN DEPLOYMENT)

PAWN QUARTGRIP

(4 healthy, opposing pawns in curved formations. Term coined by Hans Kmoch in his book "Pawn Power In Chess")

PAWN SEALER

(a pawn which hampers its own pieces. Also a 'Hans Kmoch' term)

PAWN SWEEPER

(a pawn by moving or sacrificing itself to vacate a square for its own pieces. Also, a 'Hans Kmoch' term.)

PAWN SKELETON

(usually the pawn configuration for either White or else Black

SEE PAWN STRUCTURE)

PAWN FORK

(a pawn simultaneously attacking 2 enemy chess pieces)

PAWN PASSER

(movement of a pawn to become a passed pawn)

PAWN BREAKTHROUGH

(a pawn is sac'd in order to create a passed pawn)

PAWN ROLLERS

(two or more pawns moving together gaining tempos & space

SEE RUNNING PAWNS)

PAWN PHALANX

(two mobile pawns of same color situated on the same rank)

PAWN STORM

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

PAWN GRAB

(the act of capturing a defenseless pawn. See POISONED PAWNS)

PAWN BIND

(pawns constricting opponent's space/position. See PAWN WEDGE)

PAWN ACTION (usually pawn movements/captures to seize the initiative)

PAWN ATTACK (see above definition for PAWN ACTION)

PAWN TRAP

(pawn move trapping a bishop that was restricted by its own forces)

PAWN BLOCK

(pawn movement to blockade pieces or lock pawn structures)

PAWN ANCHOR

(the pawn solely protecting a piece. See PAWN SUPPORT)

PAWN SNATCHING

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

PAWN SQUEEZE

(pawn movement which places opponent in zugzwang)

PAWN VULNERABILITY

(a weakness in the pawn structure with a weak/bad pawn)

PAWN ADVANCE (same as PAWN PUSH)

PAWN SAC

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

PAWN ‘SQUARED’

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

PAWN QUADRANT

(see PAWN ‘SQUARED’-marked rectangular area to catch a passed pawn)

PAWN OUTPOST

(a square no pawns can attack but may be defended by a pawn)

PAWN ‘LUFT’ MOVE

(giving a castled king an escape square in a one-sq. advance)

PAWN ‘UBER-LUFT’ MOVE

(an advancing pawn ‘luft’ move of 2 sqs. versus 1 sq.)

PAWN UNDOUBLING

(a pawn capture move whereby 2 pawns are undoubled)

PAWN ‘FIANCHETTO’ MOVE

(letting a bishop access the longest diagonal)

PAWN DISCOVERED ATTACK

(pawn move which uncovers a threatening piece)

PAWN PROTECTION

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

PAWN PLACEMENT (keeping one’s pawns on opposite color of the enemy bishop or placing one’s pawns in a strategic position etc.)

PAWN CENTRE

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

PAWN BARRIER (pawns directly protecting the king from attack. Note: see above PAWN PROTECTION, Also can be a wider barrier of pawns)

PAWN PROTECTION. Also can be a WIDER PAWN BARRIER.)

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

PAWN POWER

(the expansion of pawn promotional powers into the endgame)

PAWN OPTIONS

(pawns that have many functions available & are unrestricted)

PAWN DECOY (passed pawn needing the attention of opponent's pieces)

PAWN SURVIVORS

(pawns still on the chessboard. See PAWN COUNT)

PAWN INTERFERENCE (moving a pawn such to interfere with piece activity. See PAWN PROPHYLAXIS)

PAWN DEFLECTION

(a pawn tactic/move which creates winning chances. See PAWN VULNERABILITY)

PAWN TRADE

(an equal exchange between two pawns of opposite color)

PAWN 'HOOK'

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

PAWN ROOK 'LIFT'

(advancing rook-pawn to develop a rook via the a-file or h-file)

PAWN MASS

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

PAWN UMBRELLA

(a pawn shielding/covering the king from annoying checks.)

PAWN SHIELD

(see above definition for PAWN UMBRELLA)

PAWN ENDINGS

(endgames with only kings and pawns still on the chessboard)

PAWN PROMOTION

(act of promoting a pawn to Q, R, N or B and of same color)

PAWN UNDER-PROMOTION

(see definition for UNDER-PROMOTED PAWNS)

PAWN BAYONET ATTACK

(a tactically sharp pawn advance to seize the initiative)

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

(See PAWN MATERIAL & PAWN MARGIN)

PAWNS VALUE (pawns = 1 where knight & bishop = 3 each, rook = 5, queen = 9)

PAWN & MOVE

(handicapped game by removing the f7 pawn and playing Black)

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

PAWN ARTISTRY

(the capability of producing brilliant, composed pawn endgames)

PAWN MASTERY

(talent required to produce efficient, correct pawn play)

PAWN

(the word derivation of: from the word ‘peons’ or lowly workers)

PAWN PRIYOMES (Russian concept for strategic positions where associated techniques/maneuvers exploit pawn structures with tactics. This word is pronounced ‘pree-ohms’.)

PAWN-IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE (peshka)

PAWN BEACONS (sub grouping of composed pawns endings where all is decided before the queens are involved in the position)

PAWN SWAP (See PAWN TRADE)

PAWN SIMPLIFICATION

(pawn trades that strategically clarify the position)

PAWN ESCORT

(usually by a queen who guides a pawn to queening square)

PAWN RECAPTURE

(a pawn recapturing, reply move. See PAWN CAPTURE)

PAWN WORK

(strong, thoughtful, efficient, active play by pawns)

PAWN COUPLE

(2 different, opposing, blocked pawns on the same file)

PAWN RELINKING

(2 pawns reconnecting after being separated by a file)

PAWN COMPLEX

(structure with the c & d pawns dominating the center)

PAWN SET

(complete set of 8 pawns per side to start a chess game)

PAWN RANK

(chess problem term with many pawns aligned along a rank)

PAWN LINES

(many pawns aligned along files. See PAWN RANK)

PAWN CARNAGE

(very active rook captures of many unmoved pawns)

PAWN DEFINITION

(a good foot soldier. See PAWN Derivation)

PAWN NAMING CONVENTION

(from Indian word PADATI. See PAWN)

PAWN TENSION

(many future pawn captures & threats are very possible)

PAWN PRACTICE

(a game with only 4 unmoved pawns/side on the chessboard where the winner 'queens' first)

PAWN BREAKTHROUGH STRUCTURE (where a passed pawn can be created on a flank WITHOUT a pawn majority)

PAWN POPULATION

(See PAWN STRUCTURE or PAWN MATERIAL)

PAWN POTENTIAL (See PAWN PROMOTION)

PAWN TSUNAMI (See PAWN STORM)

PAWN'S DOUBLE MOVE

(a pawn's initial, 2-square, first move in a game)

PAWN'S ZONE

(3 squares to the left or right of a blocked pawn)

PAWN 'LIMITS' (3 squares on each side of a pawn & on pawn's own rank.

See the above PAWN'S ZONE)

PAWN STUDIES

(composed king & pawn endgames only.

See PAWN ENDINGS)

PAWN HIERARCHY (where an a-pawn is less valuable than b-pawn, b-pawn less valuable than c-pawn, c-pawn less valuable than a d-pawn, f-pawn less than an e-pawn etc., etc.)

PAWN HEAD-UNDERMINING (separating the head of a pawn chain from the rest of the chain usually with a pawn sacrifice.

See also UNDERMINING PAWN)

PAWN RESTRICTING (fixing your opponent's pawns for non-movement and/or keeping enemy pawns on same color as their bishop and keeping pawn captures to a minimum.

Also, fixing enemy pawns to become targets.)

PAWN WEAKNESSES (doubled, isolated, backward pawns etc. fixed on very weak squares. See WEAK PAWNS)

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Note: After creating these listings defining pawns & their activities
& formations, it was very easy to conclude that pawns are truly the
‘HEART & SOUL’ of the game. So many different types of pawns,
their structures and movements plus their total effect on all aspects
of the game. They may only have a value of 1 on the scale of 1 thru
9 but they are actually priceless in their contributions to the game of
chess itself! (Bob W.)

Finally, a Philidor quote “the Pawns: They are the very Life of this
Game.”

Bob Woodworth
NSCA Archivist
email: caroleandbobwoody@cox.net
Omaha, NE
Oct., 2022--Jan., 2023

Mark Scheidies gift to me.

**by
Kent Nelson**

It was with great sadness and sorrow to learn about the passing of Mark Scheidies, due to a fall.(Please see Mark's obit on pg 2).

Mark and I were about the same age and played against each other, during the late 70's and early 80's.

Mark was always a class act. I think during the whole time I knew Mark, he never said anything negative about anyone.

Mark and I played some very competitive games. The three games I remember most took place in Lincoln and Arapahoe, Nebraska. The Arapahoe game was a comedy of errors, resulting in a draw. Another game between us took place during The 1976 Lincoln City Finals. Mark had the Black pieces and played the Winawer French against my e4 pawn opening.

It was a well played game. I remember Mark grinding me down and converting his advantage into a winning kingside attack. I still recall how Mark stymied any counter play, I attempted, as if, he was reading my mind.

Regrettably, I could not find the score sheet of Mark's win. But, I will continue to look for it.

My third game against Mark took place during the 1982 Nebraska scholastic championship, Open section.

Going into the last round, I had a perfect 4-0 score. Mark had 3 points. I was paired against Mark who needed to win in order to join a log jam of players with potential 4-1 scores. All I needed was a draw to top the field of 37 players.

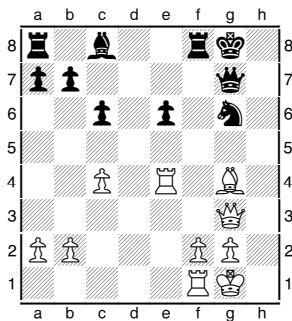
Here is my third and final game against Mark Scheidies.

White: Nelson

Black: Scheidies

1982 Scholastic Open Rd 5 Championship game

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 e6
8.c4 Ne7 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Nf6 12.Bd3 c6 13.Qc2 Nh5
14.Ne2 g5 15.Bg3 Nxb3 16.Nxb3 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Rad1 Qh4
19.Qc3 f5 20.Be2 g4 21.hxg4 fxg4 22.Rd4 h5 23.Re4 Ng6 24.Nxh5
Qxh5 25.Bxg4 Qh8 26.Qg3 Qg7 Draw agreed. Final Position below.



There is quite a story about how this game finished. After Mark played 26..Qg7, I half jokingly asked Mark for a draw, which was totally inappropriate, because, the establish protocols (as everyone knows) is the player finishing his or her move, then, afterwards, the draw offer is appropriate and proper.

Mark gave me a half grin and said “no” and resumed his study on the board. I did too and for some reason the only move I was considering was **B:e6**. I knew in my heart of hearts, that taking the e6 pawn was inferior. I would be down material and my “attack” would fizzle.

Well, just at the moment I was reaching for the bishop to play bishop takes pawn, Mark looked up and said “Draw?” I remember my hand being detoured from touching the bishop to being rerouted, to shake Mark’s hand.

All this happened in a split second.

The move I didn't consider that caused Mark to offer a draw was **Bh5**. I remember the position with **Bh5**, prompted a lot of study and analysis, including expert analysis from none other Craig Campbell, himself, a chess master. The general census was the game would likely end up a draw with best play. However, my intended **B:e6** was a real turkey. It would have led to a loss.



(Kent Nelson holding the 1982 trophy Mark “gifted” to me)

So, with the draw, I won the open section of the 1982 State Scholastic with 4.5 out of 5 points. The playing field included powerhouse Nebraska players like **Mike Mathews**, **Anton Sildmets**, **Wayne Pressnall** and **Mark Scheidies** himself. Each of these legends scored 4 points. Of course, without Mark's timely draw offer, and with my intended **B:e6** blunder move, I would have been part of that 4 point group.

So, with all the chess memories I have, this is one of my favorites. Now, with Mark's untimely passing, it will be a remembrance.

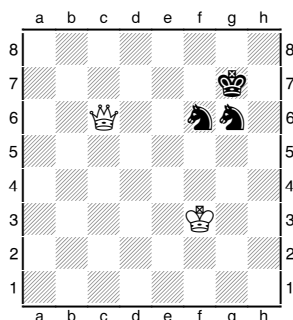
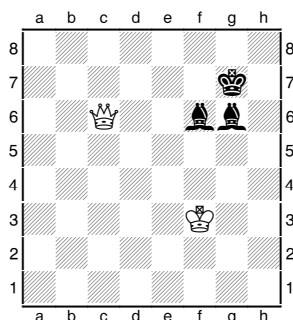
Thank you for your gift Mark. I will never forget you.

Welcome to My Fortress!

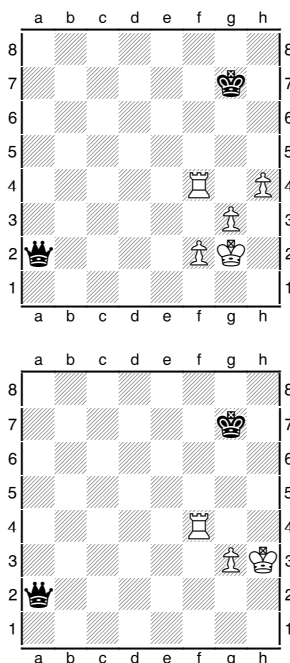
by
Loren Schmidt

We all know the idea from science fiction, fantasy, and samurai movies: a safe place, heavily defended and hard to approach. The villain or feudal lord hides in his castle and the enemy cannot enter, so the villain or lord is safe! In chess, a “fortress” means a position where the enemy’s material advantage does not matter because the King cannot be attacked.

For example, there are positions in the endgame where a Q cannot win against two Bs or two Ns. In these two positions, White is up 3 points but cannot win because the 2Bs or 2 Ns keep the White K from helping with the attack:

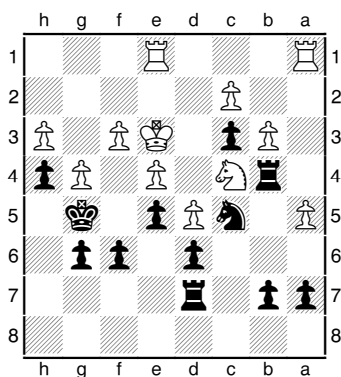


Similarly, in some positions a R+P(s) keep the Q at bay. Here's a simple fortress from one of my OTB games for the Japan team at the OTB Asian Olympics in 1989. I even tried to win with White for a few more moves since White cannot lose, but the game ended in a draw. The next position shows that I did not need many Ps to keep a draw!



I like fortresses because they are artistic, showing the triumph of mind over mere material. In a recent ICCF game, I had the artistic pleasure of creating one of the most fanciful fortresses in my chess career. This position arose in my game vs. SIM Alan Ludgate (2478) in the 43rd World CC Championship Semi-Final:

Please see the next page for diagram.



After the game, my opponent shared his computer's evaluation of the position: White +1.49 at 38 ply. So, looking 19 moves ahead, his computer judged the position as a probable win. We can see why: Black has a weak, "artificially -isolated" P on c3. If White can win the P (with moves like Kf3/Re3/Rxc3) followed by an advance of the Queenside Ps, a White win seems likely. However, the possibility of locked Ps on the Kingside made me look at whether I could build a fortress. Try to see whether you can find my plan. First, how do you lock the Kingside? Second, how do you then lock the Queenside and complete the fortress?

The first part is easy to see, but I had to do a little analysis to make sure that White could not interfere with my plan.

1. Kh6!

(This prepares g5, but I had to look at 2.f4, trying to break the blockade before I can play g5. Black has several equalizing replies, including 2...exf4+ 3.Kxf4 b5 and 2... b5 immediately. White's P on e4 becomes a target and Black is safe.)

2. Kf2

(His computer now thought White was +1.62 at 41 ply! Does his move really bring him closer to a win? We will see. He could have tried 2.g5+. That avoids the fortress but also leads to an equal position.)

2...Kg7!

(Black must be careful. The “obvious” g5 would let White redeploy the N from c4 to f5 before continuing the encirclement of the P on c3. That would avoid my planned fortress. Therefore, I now had to consider whether 3.g5 would undermine my fortress. I had looked at 3....f5, which may be playable, but then I found the better idea 3....fxg5 4.Re3 g4! when White must play 5.hxg5 and the passed P on h4 gives enough counterplay to hold a draw. Instead, White played the obvious move, which his computer rated as +2.47 at 41 ply, expecting Kf7 4.Rxc3 Ke7.)

3.Re3!? Rxc4!

4.bxc4 g5!

(Closing the last door on the Kingside. His computer now said +3.94 at 61 ply!)

5. Rxc3

(The last desperate try would be 5.a6, but after b6! followed by Rc7/Rc8, White cannot even organize a sac of the Exchange by putting R on b5 and K on b4 because as long as Black recaptures with the R, the K still cannot penetrate. Meanwhile, throwing away a P with f4!? would still not break the fortress.)

6. . . a6!

(Pulling up the ladder into the fortress. His computer still said +3.94.)

7. Rb1 1/2-1/2

(Drawn on White’s offer. My opponent is smarter than his computer and can see that White has no way to make progress. He can offer his R on b3, but Black just ignores it. He cannot attack the N on c5 without losing a whole R, and if he puts a R on b6 and marches the K to b4, hoping to play Rxd6 and Kxc5, Black stops everything with Kf7-e7, protecting d6 with the K.)

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did. Fortresses are not always possible, but sometimes they will save you in the endgame.

About Loren Schmidt



Though born in the Little Apple (Manhattan, KS), I moved to Lincoln before I was one year old, so I grew up there. I learned to play chess from my father sometime before I was six, but for years thereafter played only with my siblings and neighbors (especially my older brother Wes) because my dad (who had played in his college club) quit when my oldest sister and I both beat him the same day when she was 12 and I 6. I remember playing Brad Resz regularly at lunch in junior high; we attended Culler, where Rod Malpert later went as well. Back then, the only youth event was the State HS, but I didn't even play in that in 10th grade because it conflicted with a wrestling meet. However, this was the advent of the Fischer Boom. As a Boy Scout, I avidly read Fischer's column in *Boy's Life* in the late 60s, learned notation, and checked out books like *My 60 Memorable Games* from the library. That summer, Wes and his LNE teammate John Herstein decided to go to the

South Dakota Open, so I tagged along. I expected to get crushed, but I went 3-2, beating three 1500 players and earning a 1629 rating. I played one event that fall and then in 1971 finished 1st on tiebreak in the State HS, my 3rd tournament. That plus good results in two open tournaments pushed my rating to the 1800 range, where it stagnated until the end of the next school year. At the Jerry Spann in 1972, I began my next breakthrough, drawing in Rd. 1 with the top-rated player Stephan Popel (see discussion of how I should have won in previous issues of *The Gambit*), drawing in Rd. 2 with the third-rated player, and only losing in Rd. 3 after again being a P up on the fifth-rated player, master Aleks Liepnieks.

In the summer of 1973, now at UNL, I won or placed high in a series of events around the region, culminating at the US Junior in Milwaukee that Rod mentioned. While he was winning the Under-13 title, I went undefeated, tying for 4th and pushing my rating over 2000. That Christmas, I played 2nd Bd. for UNL between master Richard Chess and his brother Mike at the Pan-American Intercollegiate. In 1974, that same team (also featuring future FM Mike Blankenau) took 4th place, losing a close match to Harvard for the US title in the last round. We weren't to be denied in 1975, as a team of me (now a master after going undefeated for over 100 games from Rd. 7 of the 1974 US Open until Rd. 5 of the 1975 US Open in Lincoln, where I drew GM Pal Benko and finished as Top Nebraskan), master Curt Carlson, Rich Chess, and 4th board prize winner Mike Chess took first. In spring of 1976, I won the American College Unions U.S. Championship in Madison, WI.

By the time I left Nebraska in 1978 to attend graduate school at Purdue University, I had played 1st Bd. for the Lincoln teams in the National Chess League, won multiple Nebraska State Championships (several flavors), multiple Lincoln City Championships, tournaments in the neighboring states, and pushed my rating over 2300 in tying for 1st with IM William

Martz in the Organizers' Invitational. At Purdue, my teammates included IM Leonid Bass, future masters Jack Young and Dave Rosenau, and future ICCF GM Dan Fleetwood, and I was able to play regularly in stronger events, where I scored wins against Bass as well as Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, IM Calvin Blocker, and others.

My rating was now solidly in the 2400s when I finished my doctorates in English and Philosophy from Purdue in 1984 and took a job with the University of Maryland (now UM Global) that sent me to Okinawa, Japan. My final events in the US and on US bases in Okinawa pushed my USCF rating to its peak of 2501. However, I then was lured to Tokyo by UM's sister school, Kyorin University. Once in Tokyo, I started playing in local Japanese clubs, and in 1987-8 won the Japan Open Championship and the Japan Championship and was invited to play for the Japanese National Team at the Chess Olympics in Thessaloniki, Greece. I didn't even have to change my chess nationality because I had NEVER played in a FIDE-rated event in the US (none existed in either NE or IN in those days!) Over the next four years I played 1st Bd. for Japan in multiple Olympics, Asian Olympics, Asian Cities, a Zonal in Malaysia, and the Bi-Continental Rapid in Hong Kong. At the latter (won by Anand), I qualified for the unfortunately-destined-to-be-canceled World Rapid in Mexico. I played many IMs and GMs in these events and scored a number of wins and draws, gaining my FM title.

In 1993, now with three children in tow, we elected to return to the US. I spent the spring in Lincoln, winning another Lincoln City title, before heading to the Yakima Valley in Washington as department chair at Heritage University. I have been there for thirty years now and will likely retire soon. While I played a bit here in the Pacific NW, having a passel of kids (raised five, all of whom played scholastic chess with some success but are now

grown with one grandson and one granddaughter) and teaching in UG/GR programs year round with many evening/weekend classes, my OTB chess wound down in the late 1990s, though I continued to teach kids, something I started in Lincoln, where my first student was future WIM Alexey Root (Rudolph). I played one season (not particularly well, messing up several good positions) for the Seattle team in 2007, my last semi-OTB event to date, though I hope to play more in the next few years as I retire.

A previous article in *The Gambit* discussed taking up correspondence chess around 2010 or so. Since that article, I have won multiple Japanese Championship events, qualified for the Veterans World Cup finals (finished 6th, missing my last IM norm and a bronze medal when I couldn't quite squeeze out a win in my last game), took 1st in the 14th and 15th Africa Asia Zonal Championships, played for the Japan National Team in multiple events, and so on. Though I reached my primary goal in 2021 (IM title), I have a good chance to qualify for the WCC Candidates from my current WCC semi-final, so I suppose that (and returning to OTB play) are my current goals.

P.S. to Rod's great interview: I played the Benoni and Benko with Black back in the day, not the Queen's Indian. I actually played the first tournament QIDs and Nimzos of my life in the last decade when I decided that the Benko/Benoni complex was almost unplayable in CC.

Final ICCF International Master Norm

by

Loren Schmidt

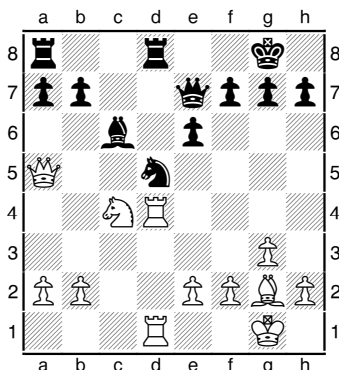
When I wrote an article for the *Gambit* several years ago, I indicated that my primary goal in starting correspondence play was to gain the International Master title. It took me some time (with many times missing a norm by 0.5 points, including my 1st place finishes in the 14th and 15th Africa-Asia Zonal Championships. However, I persevered and made my final norm in the 44th World Correspondence Chess Championship Semifinal, which ended at the end of 2021. I would like to share two games from that event:

The first game was a key victory where I got an early advantage, allowing me to avoid risks in other middlegames and endgames.

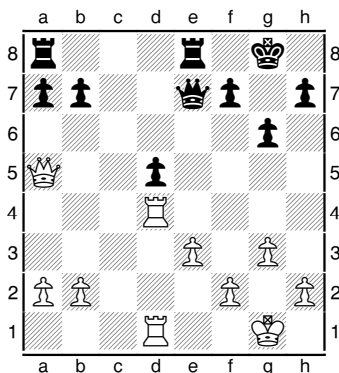
Schmidt - SIM Guy Jose Bendana Guerrero [E11]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Bxd2+ 5.Qxd2 d5 6.g3 0-0 7.Bg2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Qe7 (Standard moves thus far. White delays Nc3 to leave the option of Na3-xc4 in reply to dxc4 in addition to the typical Catalan move Ne5. Most sources recommend that same Ne5 move here, leading to a minimal White advantage. However, I decided to try something else. Most of my wins in CC come from convincing my opponents' computer to recommend a P snatch that creates an unbalanced position where I may occasionally evaluate the resulting position more accurately. Notably, some of my losses in CC come from opponents doing the same to me! The move played should lead to an equal position, but . . .)
10.Nc3 dxc4 11.Ne5 Nb6!? (. . . my opponent wonders how I will get the P back. He told me after the game that he expected me to try 12.a4 a5 13.e4 or 12.e4 with some vague Catalan attacking ideas, but neither he nor his computer predicted my next:) **12.Nb1** (Intending Nd2 or Na3 to regain the P. Now White has a slightly larger advantage, but Black

isn't in trouble yet.) **Rd8** (Nfd7 may be best.) **13.Na3 c5**
14.Qa5 cxd4 15.Naxc4 Nfd5?? (The losing move! My
opponent didn't like returning the P with Nxc4 16.Nxc4 b6!
17.Nxb6 Rb8 18.Nc4 a6! due to potential attacks on the a and d
Ps and White's Q-side majority, so he opts to return the P with
a more intact pawn structure. However, his lack of
development proves problematic.) **16.Rxd4 Nxc4 17.Nxc4**
Bd7 18.Rad1! (After Bxd5 Bc6!, Black is doing the pinning.)
Bc6



19.Ne3! (He missed or underestimated this move in playing
Nfd5.) **Re8** (b6 20.Qd2 just puts another piece on the pin.
Black hopes to salvage a P down ending, but White is in no
hurry and plays to avoid immediate R+P or Q+P endings since
those often offer drawing chances.) **20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5**
exd5 22.e3 g6



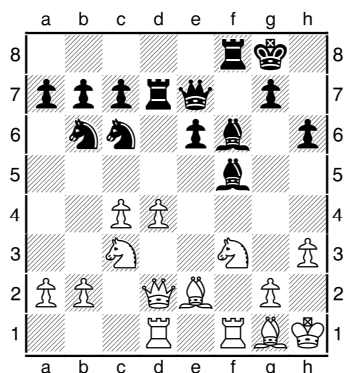
23.Qxd5! (Controlling the file.) **Rac8** (While 23...Rad8 24.Qxd8 Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kg7 26.R8d7 Qb4 27.b3 might offer drawing chances over the board--though I have won MANY such positions over the last fifty years!--in CC, it would be resignable since Black has no possible perpetuals and cannot stop the Rs from doubling on the 7th rank.) **24.Qf3 Rc7 25.h4 h5 26.Qf4** (Black has no compensation for the P and d-file.) **Kg7 27.Rd5 b6 28.b3 Rb7 29.Rc1** (My computer didn't like this move, but when I forced it to play this line, it eventually came around to my way of thinking. White intends to triple on the d-file again, only with the Rs in front: **Rc6, Rcd6, Qd4+**. If immediately 29.Rd6. Black could try Qe5, exchanging on a slightly better square. Note that Black cannot swap Rs for tactical reasons, so:) **Qf6 30.Qxf6+ Kxf6 31.Kf1** (Simple plan: transfer the K to the center under the shelter of the Rs and force a decisive penetration.) **Re6 32.a4 Ree7 33.Ke2 Rbc7 34.Rc4 34...Ke6** (It turns out that 34...Rxc4 35.bxc4 makes White's task even easier since the White K can threaten penetration on d4 or b4 and thus create a passed P on the Q-side with the Black K completely cut off by the R. For example, 35...Rb7 36.Kd3 Ke6 37.e4 f6 38.Kd4 Ke7 39.f4 Ke6 40.a5 Ke7 41.axb6 Rxb6 42.Ra5 Rd6+ 43.Kc3 a6 44.c5 Rc6 45.Kc4 Ke6 46.Kd4 and Black is out of moves.) **35.Rdd4 f6!?** **36.Re4+ Kf7 37.Rxe7+ Rxe7 38.b4 Rd7 39.b5 Kg7** (Over the board, I might have played this differently. At first glance, it looks as if Black has some chance to hold since White must advance the e and f Ps to create a passer and Black may be able to blockade that eP. Unfortunately for Black, 35...f6 made such defenses impossible because of the new weakness on g6--and advancing any K-side P just makes it worse.) **40.e4 Kf7 41.Ke3 Ke7 42.Rc6 Kf7 43.f4 Re7 44.Rd6 Rc7 45.Kd4 Ke7 46.e5 fxe5+ 47.fxe5 Rc1** (Usual last-ditch try in R+P endings: give up Ps to get your R active. Too late!) **48.Rxg6 Ra1 49.Kd5 Rxa4 50.Rh6 a6 51.Rh7+ Kd8 52.bxa6 Rxa6 53.Rxh5 b5 54.Rh8+ Ke7 55.Rh7+ Kd8 56.h5 Ra1 57.Rb7 Rd1+ 58.Ke6 Kc8 59.Rxb5** (I could now claim a tablebase win, but I was trying to be polite and let him resign gracefully.) **Kc7 60.Rb4 Rh1 61.Rc4+ Kd8 62.g4 Rh3 63.Kf6 1-0.**

The second game illustrates another odd phenomenon. In the old days, people told me that I should write a book about the Alekhine Defense, which I've played since taking it up in Lincoln events during the 1970-71 school year. I haven't had time for that amount of chesswork in the last 30 years, but in a strange way I have become one of the most-cited authorities on the opening! Three books on the Alekhine were published in the last five years, and all of them include many of my games and ideas (better than the 1990s, when two of my famous losses to GMs Anand and Johanson showed up everywhere!). In some variations, almost all of the key games are either mine or the Russian IM Pavlov's. Many of those involve my attempts to improve on theory in the Voronezh and Modern Variation Kengis/Alburt lines. I expected when I started CC that I would need to give up the Alekhine (everyone told me it would be unsound in CC play), but I have been able to improve on my lost games--many from just trying weird new ideas and P sacs) and keep playing it. However, a couple of years ago, I ran into an unexpected problem with a line I have played for 50 years in the Four Pawns Attack. I got surprised by a new move deep into my favorite line and could only extricate myself for vague drawing chances by sacrificing a P. Luckily for me, my opponent made a few weak moves and then went for an unclear idea instead of taking a draw, so I actually won the game. My post-game analysis showed me that I had been about 90% busted. I then spent about three events trying various alternatives and losing several games. My next three events, I played the Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian and drew all games easily. In the meantime, I was prepping for something I had never done before: play the main line of the Four Pawns Attack with Be7, 0-0. and f6. I avoided this OTB for decades because, well, it's drawish and why play the Alekhine if you want draws? I then played it three times in this event, drawing all three. Here's an example.

Please proceed to next page. -Ed

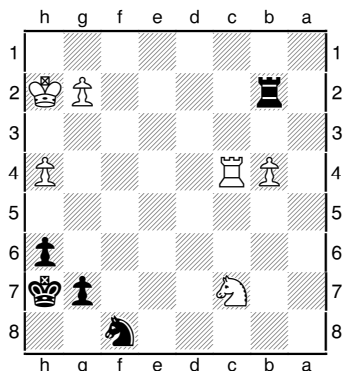
SIM/GM Saskiran - Schmidt (Yes, that's the OTB GM Saskiran of India. I've played him twice in CC, drawing both, including this one.)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 Bf5 6.Nf3 dxe5 7.fxe5 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 (First time I've played this, the most common move, in a real game!) **9.Be3 Nc6 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 f6** (The idea behind Be7: attack the tip of the pawn chain. Black gets some play, but the weak eP makes it difficult to play for a win unless the opponent blunders.) **12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qd2 Qe7 14.Kh1 Rad8 15.Rad1 h6 16.h3 Rd7 17.Bg1** (So far, so theory. Now my prep kicks in:)



Bxd4! 18.Bxd4 e5 (The obvious point: Black hopes to equalize by exchanging his isolated eP for the dP.) **19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.c5 Nc6 21.Qe3 Nxd4 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Rxd4 Nd7 24.Bc4+ Kh7** (I've reached this position in multiple games in this and subsequent tournaments and held using the same ideas as here. White can reach a number of R+N+P, R+P, or N+P endings, some even a P up, but they all seem to be draws. As someone at Chesspublishing.com suggested when I was spying on their forums, "Schmidt seems to have worked this out to a draw." So far, anyway! Now back to the game:) **25.Kh2 Ne5 26.Bb3 Ng6 27.h4 Be6 28.Rxf8 Nxf8 29.Bc2+** (The immediate Ra4 leads to a slightly-different drawn ending.) **Kg8 30.Ra4 a6 31.c6 b5 32.Rxa6 b4**

33.Ne4 Bd5 34.Ng3 Re1 (The key to drawing these endings is to get the R to the 7th or 8th rank and get behind the Ps.) **35.Ra4 Rc1 36.Nf5 Rxc2 37.Ne7+ Kh7 38.Nxd5 b3 39.axb3 Rxc6 40.Rc4 Rd6 41.Nxc7 Rd2!** (See note above.) **42.b4 Rxb2** (White is now up a P but has no winning chances.)



43.Nd5 Kg6 44.Nf4+ Kf7 45.Nd3 Rb1 46.Rf4+ Ke7 47.Re4+ Kf7 48.Kg3 Nd7 49.Kf3 Nf6 50.Rc4 Ke6 51.Ke3 Rh1 52.Nc5+ Ke5 53.Nd3+ Ke6 54.g3 Rg1 55.Kf3 Rf1+ 56.Kg2 Rb1 57.Rc8 g5 58.Kf3 Rf1+ 59.Ke2 Rg1 60.Kf2 Ra1 61.Rc6+ Ke7 62.Rc1 Rxc1 63.Nxc1 Kd6 64.Nd3 gxh4 65.gxh4 [Tablebase Draw] ½-½

End of article.

Thank you Loren!-Ed

Tournament Announcements

It is recommended by this editor to the reader who is interested in upcoming Nebraska chess tournaments, to check out The Nebraska State Association web site or (NSCA) for event details.

Here is a tournament summary from former NSCA President, Mike Gooch written on March 23rd 2023. Some of the letter contents is outdated.

Item Two: Tournaments

NSCA is required to ensure at least six chess events are held. The 2022 Closed was held on January 7-8 with Nick Lacroix winning clear first. NSCA aspires to have the 2023 Closed during 2023.

Yesterday the Omaha City Chess Championship was held. When rated, the Open section cross table will be used to establish the POY chart by Steven Cusumano. Next up will be the Mid West Open being held April 22-23. The flyer is on the website. Third will be the Cornhusker State Games being held on July 22-23 at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

John Linscott is organizing the Lincoln City and Great Plains Open. Sixth, the 2023 Closed should be held this year.

NSCA is also holding the State Individual Scholastic and Qualifier Event (Denker, Barber, Haring, and Senior) on April 29th. We are planning to have a State Class event in December.

In addition, between NSCA and Omaha Chess Community, we have been seeing at least one rated chess tournament each month. There have actually been more than that, including events run by Gustavo Perez del Pino and by Vincent Jodoin. . .

Mike's full letter is published on page 3.

Again, check out the NSCA web early and often for upcoming events!

Notes and acknowledgements

I like to give credit where credit is due. To this end, I would like assistance from Gambit readers to answer the questions listed below.

- Who won the Top Reserve and Top Scholastic sections from the 2022 Player of the Year completion?
- Some of the games from the Great Plains Open held late last year, is missing names of opponents, round numbers etc. I regret this as editor. I believe the incomplete information stems from my old Chessbase software and antiquated computer. For example, my computer uses Windows XP operating system. I hope Santa comes to my rescue.
- I would like to learn more about Chessbase--especially the newer versions. It's never too late to teach an old dog, new tricks. If there is anyone out there willing to teach at a reasonable rate, please let me know.
- Proper credit should be given to Rod Malpert's photograph. If anyone has information about that picture of Rod, please let me know.

Thanks all!

Kent Nelson-Ed.

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

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