

# The Gambit

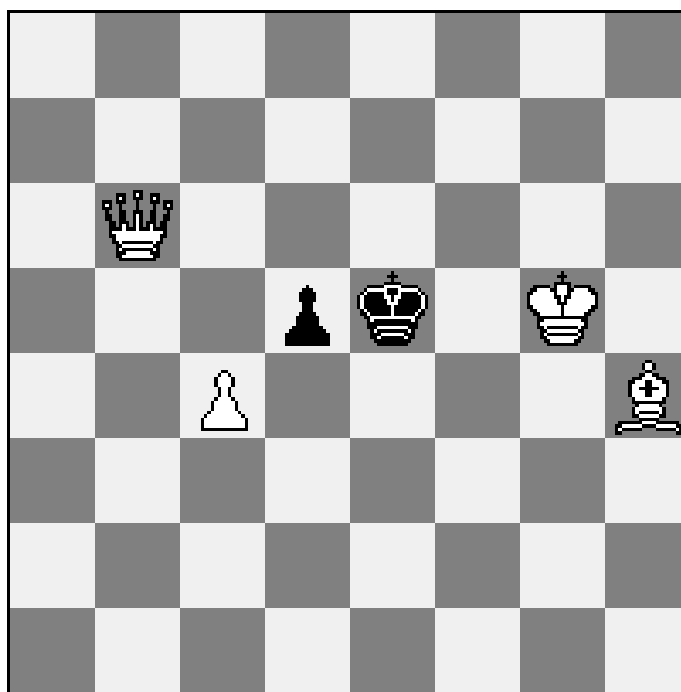
Nebraska State Chess Archive

Nebraska State Chess Association

2023 Year in Review

Part I: January 1-March 31

R. Aliovsadzade



Mate in Four

1. Bf2! dxc4 2.Qf6+ Kd5 3.Kf5 c3 Qe6++

There is a try 1.Kg4? dxc4 2. Bf6+ Kd5 3. Bc3 Ke4 4. Qd4++, that fails to 1...Ke4!

Thanks to Rauf for continuing to provide chess problems to include in this publication.

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Gambit Editor- Bruce Draney. The Gambit serves as the official publication of the  
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Welcome to the newest edition of the Gambit 2023 year in review Part I issue which will cover the first 3 months of 2023.

It's been over 20 years since I was involved in USCF or NSCA rated chess events, but last year around February, I got the urge to start playing again and began attending a chess club that met on Friday nights in Springfield, MO and when I returned to Omaha, the urge continued and I began showing up at Camelot Chess Club on Friday afternoons as well as starting to get acquainted with the new leaders of chess here in Omaha and the state of Nebraska.

In early August I renewed my USCF membership, and my old affiliate and began publishing my Omaha Chess Archive newsletter. Many of my friends from the 1990's were still around including long time chess buddy, Kent Nelson who was still editor of this newsletter (some things never change). After finding the Hall of Fame had been discontinued during my absence, I restarted it and appointed a 3-person committee to select new honorees.

I'm proud to welcome the following Nebraska greats into the 2023 Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame:

Kent B. Nelson

Rod Malpert

Alexey Rudolph Root

Keaton Kiewra

Kent Nelson's computer crashed and his new computer cannot utilize the software he had been using to produce the Gambit, so this past week I offered to temporarily take over as Gambit Editor and put out our annual 2023 yearbook edition in 4 quarterly installments instead of one giant one. This particular issue will feature tournaments, games, and news from January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. I can't guarantee it will be up to the high standards that Kent has set over the years but this is just a temporary fix and once Kent has his software working again, I will happily return the reins to him. Until then I hope this quarterly issue meets your expectations.

Bruce Draney

## Nebraska Chess Information Page

Lincoln Chess Foundation

4014 N ST

Lincoln NE 68510

President-Kent Nelson

Secretary-Treasurer-Bruce Draney

Directors: Andrea Draney, Daniel Draney, Jim Walla

## Nebraska State Chess Association

President-Steven Cusumano

Omaha VP-Michael Mills

Lincoln VP-John Linscott

Outstate VP-Vince Jodoin

Secretary-JJ Lang

Treasurer-Jenny Tricker

## Active Nebraska Chess Clubs

### OMAHA:

Spence Chess Club-Meets on Wednesday night from 7-10 for rated events

Location: West Hills Church basement 3015 S 82<sup>nd</sup> AVE Omaha, NE-John Hartmann

Camelot Chess Club-Meets on Friday afternoon 12-4PM for unrated casual play

Location: Camelot Community Center 9270 Cady AVE Omaha, NE-John Bagley

Millard Chess Club-Meets on Sunday afternoon 2:30-4:30 for unrated casual play

Location: Millard Public Library 13214 Westwood LN Omaha, NE Doug Grande  
402-850-1157

Increase the Piece Chess Club-Meets on Monday night 4-7:30 PM for unrated play

Location: Washington Library 29<sup>th</sup> & Ames AVE, Omaha, NE Jerome Helm

International Café-2416 Farnam ST Omaha, NE 68131 Thursday and Saturday 4-8 PM Richard Hudrin.

## LINCOLN:

SCC Chess Club-Meets on Wednesday nights at SE Community College 89<sup>th</sup> & O ST, Lincoln, NE for casual unrated play. Leo Iacono

Capital City Chess Club-Meets on Tuesday 5-8 PM at Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso, 1624 South ST and Thursday 6-9 PM at The Post 2001 N ST in Lincoln, NE  
Chris Etheredge

## OUTSTATE:

Beatrice Chess Club-Meets on Tuesday 6-8 PM at Beatrice Public Library 100 N 16<sup>th</sup> ST, Beatrice, NE 68310, Crystal Bartles 402-446-2723

Nebraska City Chess Club-Meets on Thursday 4:30-6:30 PM at Morton James Public Library, 923 1<sup>st</sup> Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410, Kyle Madison 712-520-0859

Grand Island Competitive Chess Club-Meets on Saturday, 11-3PM at Grand Island Public Library 1124 W 2<sup>nd</sup> ST, Grand Island, NE 68801, Zach May

Kearney Nebraska Chess Club-Central Nebraska Chess Club-Meets on Saturday 2-5 PM at Kearney Public Library, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> AVE, Kearney, NE 68847 Eric Ring 308-240-1793 or Alexander Maiwaldt 308-293-9116

Davenport Chess Club-Davenport Public Library 109 N Maple AVE, Davenport, NE 68335 Jack Roegner 765-407-0895

## Nebraska Chess Related Websites:

NSCA Website-[www.nebraskachess.com](http://www.nebraskachess.com)

Facebook:

Nebraska Chess Community group

Nebraska Chess History group

National Online Chess Playing Sites

Chess.com

Lichess.com

Shaking off the Rust and Returning to Chess After 21 years by Gambit Editor, Bruce Draney

In the spring of 2002, my son Heath graduated from high school and went on to attend college at Chadron State out in northwestern Nebraska. Since he and I had been constant chess travel companions for 10 years, going to Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, all over Nebraska, and even to the U.S. Open in St. Paul in 2000, his departure to the far reaches of the state marked an end (at least temporarily) to my rated tournament chess play.

My last actual rated event was February 2002 in Columbus. I did play in an unrated event at Chadron State in Heath's Senior year (tying for first place with him) but I let my membership at USCF lapse and walked away.

I should mention that I've done this before. In 1982, I stopped playing tournament chess for a period of 9 years after going 2-3 in the Open section of the Nebraska State Scholastic in February of that year. Things were going well as I won my first game and then upset many-time State Champion Richard Perry in round 2 before losing my last 3 games. I walked away the first time after that.

Although I didn't play rated chess after the 2002 Columbus event, I did still keep track of friends and acquaintances that I'd made in the 1990's, including people like Tony Dutiel who was a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student in my chess club at Papillion Junior High years ago, Kent Nelson, who I've been friends with since the mid 1970's and Wayne Pressnall of North Platte who passed away in July of 2023.

I started chess clubs every year at Benson High, where I was a teacher, and several of my students played in Drew Thyden's Central High's scholastic events held every November. I made visits to chess clubs and tournaments to check in on the goings on. I remember going to UNO, Camelot Chess Club and the Omaha Chess Inc. club at Lewis and Clark Middle School. I still remember deciding to stop by Brownell-Talbot to check in on the Closed one year. I just happened to get there as it had ended and none other than John Watson was coming out of B-T and he knew me even though we had never met in person. John had moved back to Nebraska for a time, but alas is now back in San Diego.

Former NSCA President Michael Gooch even talked me into playing a simul against some kids attending a chess event at what was then called the Qwest Center and trying to coax me back into chess with sample BBQ at River City Roundup one year. I was sorely tempted as good BBQ is definitely an Achilles heel. 😊

I will confess that I walked away for a number of reasons, but now I'm back with regenerated enthusiasm to leave a mark on the Omaha and Nebraska chess world. I'm happy to say that chess in Nebraska is thriving as the page long list above of active chess clubs all over the state is proof. Tournaments are being organized and run every month and I've never seen such enthusiasm for both scholastic and open chess events. If anything, the true difficulty is finding an available weekend to hold a tournament without encroaching on another organizer's event.

I only knew three of the principal organizers and directors of chess events when I returned to the state this past spring: Tony Dutiel who is now a certified Senior TD, Michael Gooch who still heads Omaha Chess, and Kent Nelson.

Unfortunately, in my 21-year absence a number of friends and chess players have died including greats like Mike Chess, Mark Scheidies, Gary Marks, Craig Collister, Tom Cook and one of my closest friends, Wayne Pressnall of North Platte. My tribute to Wayne will be published in the July-September edition of this Gambit.

Since my return, my primary focus has been on the rich history of chess in our state and I was delighted to find that I still had my Omaha Chess Archive bound editions that I wrote from 1992 until 2000. They contain games, stories, cross tables and articles from 30 years ago. In late July I created a Facebook discussion group that focuses on Nebraska Chess History and many friends including Loren Schmidt, Kent Nelson, Richard Perry, John Drexel, Dennis Wasson, Craig Wilkins, Bob Holliman and numerous others who share the interest in Nebraska chess history have joined the group and contributed to the discussions. As I write this, I have returned to directing and organizing, having organized the Hall of Fame Memorial Tournament in December of 2023, and just having directed the Open section of the Winter Open in February of 2024.



## NEBRASKA STATE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 CALENDAR YEAR

The State Closed Championship for the 2022 calendar year was held in Lincoln, Nebraska on January 8-9, 2023. Six players competed for the title of Nebraska State Champion, including Matt Naumann, Scott Look, Tony Dutiel, Nick Lacroix, Steven Cusumano and 2020 defending Nebraska Co-Champion, John Linscott. Due to the pandemic, there was no Championship held in 2021, but Linscott and Nelson had tied for the championship at the very beginning of 2020 before the pandemic canceled the rest of the chess schedule for the year.

When the two-day event ended, Nick Lacroix emerged as the new Nebraska State Champion with 4.5-.5. Tony Dutiel finished a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3-2, Cusumano had 2.5, Linscott 2.0, and Look and Naumann both had 1.5.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	LaCroix	2023	W6	W3	W5	W2	D4	4.5
2	Dutiel	1845	W4	D5	D6	L1	W3	3.0
3	Cusumano	1843	W5	L1	D4	W6	L2	2.5
4	Linscott	1842	L2	L6	D3	W5	D1	2.0
5	Look	1611	L3	D2	L1	L4	W6	1.5
6	Nauman	1588	L1	W4	D2	L3	L5	1.5

The NSCA made some changes to the qualifying system as this was possibly the weakest State Closed Championship field in many years, featuring only one player rated over 1900 and one Class B and one Class C player. New POY rules were developed to emphasize quality results over simply participating in multiple events and accumulating POY credits. The 2023 qualifiers would come from the Cornhusker State Games Open winner, the Midwest Open Winner, the Great Plains Open Winner, the defending champion and the top two POY winners.

## Games from the 2023 Closed for the 2022 Calendar Year

### Round 1

#### Nauman-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 Be7 5. Bf4 O-O 6. e3 Nbd7 7. c5 c6 8. Bd3 Nh5 9. O-O Nxf4 10. exf4 b6 11. b4 a5 12. bxa5 bxc5 13. Qe2 Qxa5 14. Nd1 Ba6 15. f5 Bxd3 16. Qxd3 Bf6 17. Re1 Bxd4 18. fxe6 fxe6 19. Rxe6 Bxa1 20. Ng5 Nf6 21. g3 h6 22. Qg6 hxg5 23. Re7 Nh7 24. h4 Ra7 0-1

#### Cusumano-Look

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 g6 5. a4 Nbd7 6. e5 dxe5 7. dxe5 Ng4 8. e6 fxe6 9. Ng5 Nxf2 10. Kxf2 Qa5 11. Qd4 Qf5+ 12. Kg1 Nf6 13. Bd3 e5 14. Bxf5 exd4 15. Bxc8 Rxc8 16. Nce4 Nxe4 17. Nxe4 e5 18. Bg5 Be7 19. g3 Bxg5 20. Nxc5 O-O 21. Kg2 Rf5 22. Ne4 Rcf8 23. Rhf1 Rxf1 24. Rxf1 Rxf1 25. Kxf1 Kf8 26. Nd6 Ke7 27. Nxb7 Ke6 28. Ke2 Kd5 29. b3 e4 30. Na5 Kc5 31. Kd2 Kd5 32. Nc4 c5 33. c3 g5 34. a5 h5 35. h4 g4 36. a6 Ke6 37. Nb6 Kd6 38. Nc8+ Kc7 39. Nxa7 Kb6 40. Nb5 Kxa6 41. Nxd4 1-0

#### Linscott-Dutiel

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3 Bc5 5. O-O d6 6. c3 O-O 7. h3 Ne7 8. Nbd2 Ng6 9. b4 Bb6 10. Nc4 c6 11. Nxb6 Qxb6 12. Ba4 d5 13. Qe2 Nh5 14. Be3 Nhf4 15. Qc2 Qc7 16. Bb3 Bxh3 17. Bxf4 Nxf4 18. gxh3 Qd7 19. Nxe5 Qxh3 20. f3 Rae8 21. Ng4 f5 22. Qh2 fxg4 23. Qxh3 gxh3 24. exd5 cxd5 25. Rae1 Kf7 26. Kh2 Kf6 27. d4 b5 28. Rg1 g5 29. Re5 Rxe5 30. dxe5+ Kf5 31. Bc2+ Kxe5 32. Rxc5+ Ke6 33. Bxh7 Rh8 34. Bc2 Ne2 35. Bb3 Nxc3 36. Rg7 Rf8 37. Rg3 Rf4 38. Rxh3 Rxb4 39. Rh6+ Ke5 40. Ra6 Kf4 41. Kg2 Rd4 42. Rxa7 Rd2+ 43. Kf1 Kxf3 44. Rf7+ Ke3 45. Re7+ Kd3 46. Rh7 Re2 47. Rh5 d4 48. Rh3+ Kd2 49. Rh4 d3 0-1

### Round 2

#### Lacroix-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 Ne4 3. h4 d5 4. Nd2 Nxd2 5. Bxd2 Bf5 6. e3 e6 7. g4 Be4 8. f3 Qd6 9. Rh3 Nc6 10. fxe4 dxe4 11. Bb5 O-O-O 12. Qe2 h5 13. Bxc6 Qxc6 14. O-O-O hxg4 15. Qxg4 f5 16. Qg2 Qa4 17. Kb1 Rd6 18. b3 Qa3 19. Bc1 Qa5 20. Qd2 Qa6 21. Qh2 c5 22. Ne2 g5 23. Nc3 g4 24. Qe5 Rh7 25. Rhh1 cxd4 26. Rxd4 Rxd4 27. Qxd4 Bg7 28. Qc5+ Qc6 29. Qxc6+ bxc6 30. Ne2 Be5 31. Bb2 Bxb2 32. Kxb2 Kd7 33. Kc3 e5 34. Kc4 Ke6 35. h5 Rh6 36. Kc5 Kf7 37. c4 Kg7 38. Ng3 Rf6 39. h6+ Kh7 40. Rh4 a5 41. a3 f4 42. Nxe4 Rg6 43. Rxc4 Kxh6 44. Rxc6+ Kxc6 45. exf4 exf4 46. Kxc6 Kf5 47. Kd5 1-0

## Linscott-Nauman

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. exd6 cxd6 6. Nc3 g6 7. h3 Bg7 8. Nf3 Nc6 9. Be2 O-O 10. O-O e5 11. d5 Nd4 12. Nxd4 exd4 13. Nb5 Qf6 14. Bd3 a6 15. Na3 Bf5 16. b3 Bxd3 17. Qxd3 Nd7 18. Bb2 Rfe8 19. Nc2 Ne5 20. Qg3 d3 21. Bxe5 Qxe5 22. Qxd3 Qf4 23. Rae1 Be5 24. g3 Qf6 25. Re3 h5 26. Rfe1 h4 27. f4 hxg3 28. Re4 Kf8 29. Qxg3 Bc3 30. Qg5 Qxg5+ 31. fxg5 Bxe1 32. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 33. Nxe1 and Resigns 0-1

## Dutiel-Look

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. g3 Bf5 6. Bg2 Nb4 7. Na3 d3 8. O-O dxe2 9. Qxe2 Bd3 10. Qd2 Bxf1 11. Kxf1 c6 12. Nd4 Bc5 13. Nf5 Qd3+ 14. Qxd3 Nxd3 15. Nd6+ Bxd6 16. exd6 Rd8 17. c5 Nxc5 18. Be3 Ne6 19. Rd1 a6 20. Nc4 Nf6 21. Bb6 Rc8 22. d7+ Nxd7 23. Nd6+ Ke7 24. Nxc8+ Rxc8 25. Be3 Rd8 26. Ke2 Nf6 27. Rxd8 Kxd8 28. Kd3 Kd7 29. Bd2 Nd5 30. Be4 Nc5+ 31. Kd4 Nxe4 32. Kxe4 Ke6 33. Kd4 Kd6 34. Kc4 c5 35. a4 Kc6 36. a5 f5 37. b3 g6 38. Be1 Nf6 39. f3 Ne8 40. Kd3 Kd5 41. Bf2 Nc7 42. Be3 Ne6 43. Kc3 Nd8 44. Kd3 Nc6 45. Bd2 Ne5+ 46. Ke2 c4 47. bxc4+ Kxc4 48. Ke3 Nd3 49. g4 f4+ 50. Ke4 g5 51. Kf5 h6 52. Ke4 Nf2+ 53. Kf5 Kd3 54. Bxf4 gxf4 55. Kxf4 Kd4 56. h4 Nd3+ 57. Kf5 Ke3 58. g5 hxg5 59. h5 Kxf3 60. h6 g4 61. h7 g3 62. h8=Q g2 63. Qh3+ Kf2 64. Qh2 Kf1 65. Qh3 Nf2 66. Qc3 g1=Q 67. Qc4+ Ke1 68. Qc3+ Kf1 69. Qc4+ Kg2 70. Qg8+ Kh2 71. Qh7+ Nh3 72. Qc7+ Qg3 73. Qxg3+ Kxg3 74. Ke5 Kf3 75. Kd6 Ke4 76. Kc7 Kd5 77. Kxb7 Nf4 78. Kxa6 Kc6 79. Ka7 Kc7 80. Ka6 Kc6 81. Ka7 Nd5 82. Kb8 Ne7 83. a6 Kb6 84. a7 Nc6+ 85. Kc8 Nxa7+ 1/2-1/2

## Round 3

### Lacroix-Look

1. d4 d6 2. e4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 g6 5. h3 Bg7 6. Be3 Qa5 7. Qd2 O-O 8. Bd3 e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. O-O Nbd7 11. a3 Qc7 12. Bc4 Nb6 13. Bb3 Bd7 14. a4 Rad8 15. a5 Nc8 16. Qe2 Nh5 17. Rfd1 Nf4 18. Bxf4 exf4 19. a6 b5 20. Rd3 b4 21. Na4 c5 22. Rd5 Bxa4 23. Rxd8 Rxd8 24. Bxa4 Bxb2 25. Rb1 Bc3 26. Bb3 Nb6 27. Bc4 Nxc4 28. Qxc4 Kg7 29. h4 h6 30. Qe2 Qc6 31. e5 c4 32. g3 fxg3 33. fxg3 Qxa6 34. Rf1 Qe6 35. h5 Qg4 36. Rf2 b3 37. cxb3 cxb3 38. hxg6 fxg6 39. e6 Qxg3+ 40. Rg2 Qd6 41. Qe4 Qc5+ 42. Kh1 Rd1+ 43. Kh2 Qh5+ 44. Kg3 Rh1 45. Qb7+ Kf6 46. Qf7# 1-0

#### Dutiel-Nauman

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. d4 d6 5. exd6 cxd6 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. Be3 g6 8. Nc3 Bg7 9. Nge2 O-O 10. a3 a5 11. O-O e5 12. d5 Ne7 13. Qb3 Nd7 14. Nb5 Nf6 15. a4 Nf5 16. Nec3 Nxe3 17. fxe3 Nd7 18. Ne4 Qb6 19. Rae1 Nc5 20. Nxc5 Qxc5 21. Qa3 Qxa3 22. Nxa3 Bd7 23. Nb5 Bxb5 24. axb5 1/2-1/2

#### Cusumano-Linscott

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Be7 5. O-O O-O 6. c3 d6 7. Nbd2 a6 8. Bb3 Na5 9. Bc2 c5 10. Re1 Nc6 11. Nf1 Re8 12. Ne3 Bf8 13. Nf5 h6 14. a4 Kh7 15. Ne3 Rb8 16. Bb3 Be6 17. Nd5 g6 18. Nxf6+ Qxf6 19. Bxe6 Qxe6 20. Be3 d5 21. Qe2 dxe4 22. dxe4 Na5 23. Nd2 Red8 24. f3 1/2-1/2

#### Round 4

##### Dutiel-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 e6 5. Nc3 Nf6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3 O-O 9. Qc2 Nc6 10. a3 Re8 11. Be3 a6 12. O-O-O Bg4 13. h3 Bxf3 14. gxf3 b5 15. Kb1 b4 16. Ne2 Qb6 17. axb4 Nxb4 18. Qb3 a5 19. Nc3 a4 20. Nxa4 Qa5 21. Bc2 Nxc2 22. Nc3 Nxe3 23. fxe3 Reb8 24. Qa2 Qxc3 0-1

#### Nauman-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 O-O 5. e4 d6 6. Ne2 e5 7. Be3 c6 8. Ng3 Nbd7 9. Be2 c5 10. dxe5 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 dxe5 12. Qa4 Qc7 13. O-O b6 14. f4 Bb7 15. Rad1 Rfd8 16. fxe5 Bc6 17. Qc2 Nxe5 18. Rxf6 Rxd1+ 19. Qxd1 gxf6 20. Nh5 Qe7 21. Qf1 Nd7 22. Bg4 Qxe4 23. Bf4 Qg6 24. Bxd7 Bxd7 25. Qf3 Re8 26. Bg3 f5 0-1

Look-Linscott 1. c3 d5 2. Nf3 c5 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. d3 e5 6. Nbd2 Be7 7. e4 d4 8. Qc2 O-O 9. O-O Ne8 10. Nc4 f6 11. a4 Be6 12. Nfd2 Nd6 13. Nxd6 Qxd6 14. a5 b5 15. Nf3 a6 16. Nh4 Qd7 17. f4 Rfd8 18. fxe5 Nxe5 19. Nf5 dxc3 20. bxc3 Bf8 21. d4 cxd4 22. Nxd4 Bc5 23. Rd1 Rac8 24. Be3 Ng4 25. Bf2 Nxf2 26. Qxf2 Bf7 27. Kh1 Qc7 28. Bh3 Rb8 29. Qf5 Bxd4 30. cxd4 Qe7 31. Rac1 b4 32. d5 Qe5 33. Qxe5 fxe5 34. Rc7 Bg6 35. Bf5 b3 36. Rb1 Bxf5 37. exf5 Rxd5 38. Rb2 Rxa5 39. Rd2 Ra1+ 40. Kg2 Ra2 41. Rxa2 bxa2 42. Rc1 Rb1 43. Rc8+ Kf7 44. Rc7+ Kf6 45. g4 a1=Q 46. Rc6+ Kg5 47. Rc2 Rg1+ 48. Kh3 Qf1+ 0-1

## Round 5

### Look-Nauman

1. d3 b6 2. Nf3 Bb7 3. e4 e6 4. Nbd2 d5 5. c3 Nf6 6. e5 Nfd7 7. d4 Ba6 8. Bxa6  
Nxa6 9. Qa4 Nb8 10. Nf1 Be7 11. Ng3 a6 12. h4 b5 13. Qc2 h6 14. Nh5 Bf8 15. Be3  
g6 16. Nf4 Qe7 17. Rh3 Bg7 18. Rg3 Nf8 19. Ke2 Nbd7 20. Nh5 gxh5 21. Rxg7 Ng6  
22. Qd2 Nxb4 23. Bxb6 Nf5 24. Rg5 O-O-O 25. Rxh5 Rdg8 26. Rah1 Rxg2 27. Bg5  
Rxh5 28. Rxh5 Qf8 29. Bh6 Nxb6 30. Qxb6 Qg8 31. Qh8 Kb7 32. Qxg8 Rxg8 33. Rh7  
b4 34. cxb4 Kc6 35. Rxf7 Rb8 36. Nd2 Rxb4 37. Nb3 Nb8 38. Rf6 Kd7 39. Nc5+ Kc8  
40. Rf8# 1-0

### Cusumano-Dutiel

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. g3 Be6 6. Nbd2 Qd7 7. Bg2 Nge7 8. O-O  
Ng6 9. Ng5 Ngxe5 10. Nxe6 fxe6 11. a3 Be7 12. Qc2 d3 13. exd3 Qxd3 14. Bxc6+  
bxc6 15. Qxd3 Nxd3 16. Ne4 Nxc1 17. Raxc1 Rd8 18. Rfd1 Kf7 19. Kf1 Rhf8 20. Ke2  
c5 21. f3 Rd4 22. Rxd4 cxd4 23. c5 e5 24. Kd3 Ke6 25. Kc4 Rxf3 26. Re1 h6 27. a4  
a6 28. b4 Ra3 29. a5 c6 30. g4 Bh4 31. Re2 g6 32. Rc2 Be1 33. Nd6 Rc3+ 34. Rxc3  
dxc3 35. Kd3 c2 36. Kxc2 Bxb4 0-1

### Linscott-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ exf6 6. c3 Bd6 7. Bd3 O-O 8.  
Ne2 Be6 9. Nf4 Nd7 10. O-O Re8 11. Bd2 Qc7 12. Qf3 Nf8 13. h3 Ng6 14. Nxe6 fxe6  
15. Rfe1 e5 16. Qh5 exd4 17. Bxg6 Rxe1+ 18. Rxe1 hxg6 19. Qxg6 Qd7 20. cxd4  
1/2-1/2

Special thanks to NSCA Omaha VP Michael Mills for providing me with the link to the Lichess site with these games. In this case rather than annotating the games, I wanted to post all 15 of them without annotations.

## UNO JANUARY SWISS

The first Open tournament of 2023 was held on January 14, 2023 at UNO. The event was organized by NSCA President Steven Cusumano and was directed by Dan Willis. There were 4 sections and the event attracted a total of 43 players, including 10 in the Open, 10 in the Under 1600 section, 13 in the Under 800 section and 10 in the Under 400 section. Chad Forsman, John Davidson, Ryan Peng Dong and Thomas Smith Lilly, Jr. tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Open section with 3-1, Leo Iacono of Lincoln took 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 1600 section with a perfect 4-0 score, Harshith Yelle and Siddharth Parthasarathy tied for first in the Under 800 section with 3.5-.5, and Taylor Shedivy won the Under 400 section with 3.5-.5.

The UNO events drew very well and were well run throughout the 2023 calendar year. For most of the year they were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Milo Bail Student Center on UNO's campus but in November they moved to the CPACS building near the belltower. Thanks to Michael Gooch, Steven Cusumano, Michael Mills and others who organize or direct these fun and well attended chess events at a reasonable cost. Below are cross tables of the event.

### UNO January Swiss Open Section 1/14/2023

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Forsman	1844	W7	W5	W3	L2	3.0
2	Davidson	1772	W6	L3	W7	W1	3.0
3	Ryan Peng Dong	1733	W4	W2	L1	W5	3.0
4	Lilly Jr.	1408	L3	W10	W8	W9	3.0
5	J. Slominski	1726	W10	L1	W6	L3	2.0
6	Solheim	1541	L2	W9	L5	W8	2.0
7	Sai Kolli	1651	L1	W8	L2	D10	1.5
8	Rankin	1688	W9	L7	L4	L6	1.0
9	Stegman III	UNR	L8	L6	W10	L4	1.0
10	Brady Thomas	UNR	L5	L4	L9	D7	0.5

# UNO JANUARY SWISS 1/14/2023

## UNDER 1600 SECTION

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Iacono	1598	W3	W6	W2	W4	4.0
2	Wixom	1461	W8	W5	L1	W7	3.0
3	R. Seetharaman	971	L1	W8	W5	D6	2.5
4	Kalinowski	1487	L6	W10	W7	L1	2.0
5	Ajay Pasupuleti	1292	W9	L2	L3	W10	2.0
6	Luke Hengen	944	W4	L1	D8	D3	2.0
7	Aaryan Dhanda	1022	W10	W9	L4	L2	2.0
8	Mansi Adduri	1146	L2	L3	D6	W9	1.5
9	Drona Jayanti	764	L5	L7	W10	L8	1.0
10	L, Kalamadugu	670	L7	L4	L9	L5	0.0

## UNDER 800 SECTION

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Harshith Yelle	595	W6	W9	W3	D2	3.5
2	S. Parthasarathy	425	W13	W4	W8	D1	3.5
3	Pranit Subhas	549	W7	W12	L1	W6	3.0
4	Volz	656	W10	L2	W12	W7	3.0
5	Bartlett	535	D8	L7	W13	W11	2.5
6	Yandra	UNR	L1	W13	W9	L3	2.0
7	Morales	UNR	L3	W5	W10	L4	2.0
8	P. Gundabolu	477	D5	W11	L2	D10	2.0
9	S. Sarathkumar	424	W11	L1	L6	W12	2.0
10	Chong	412	L4	BYE	L7	D8	1.5
11	Addula	730	L9	L8	BYE	L5	1.0
12	Anish Subhas	241	BYE	L3	L4	L9	1.0
13	Pawar	UNR	L2	L6	L5	BYE	1.0

## UNO JANUARY SWISS UNDER 400 SECTION

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Shedivy	276	W2	D4	W8	W3	3.5
2	Murugan	101	L1	W7	W10	W5	3.0
3	Lanka	110	BYE	W10	W6	L1	3.0
4	Mayfield	UNR	W7	D1	L5	W6	2.5
5	Wemhoff	UNR	W8	L6	W4	L2	2.0
6	Vinothkumar	101	W9	W5	L3	L4	2.0
7	R. Seetharaman	142	L4	L2	D9	W8	1.5
8	R. Gundabolu	201	L5	W9	L1	L7	1.0
9	Chong	110	L6	L8	D7	D10	1.0
10	Kalamadugu	101	½	L3	L2	D9	1.0

## FEBRUARY OF 2023

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the NSCA sponsored a Rapid and Blitz Event here in Omaha. The event was directed by NSCA Omaha VP, Michael Mills and it attracted 20 players to both the Rapid G/10+2 event, and Blitz 3/+2 event. Winner of the G/10+2 event was Luke Miller (2183) of Iowa with a perfect 6-0 score. Top Nebraskan was Ryan Peng Dong (1665) who scored 5-1. Matt Buckley (1671) and Jeffrey Solheim (1466) both finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 4-2. Four players had 3.5-2.5 including Nick Lacroix (1936), Chad Forsman (1726), Rama Raju Kalidindi (UNR) and Trevor Smailys (1103).

In the Blitz 3/+2 event, it was a double Swiss System of 6 rounds (12 games) and Miller (2174) won with 10.5-1.5 losing only one game against Chad Forsman and drawing Ryan Peng Dong (1508). Ryan took clear 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 9-3. Nick Lacroix (1931) took clear 3<sup>rd</sup> with 8.5-3.5. There was a 4 way tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place between Kalidindi (UNR), Lilly (1467), Castaneda (1339) and Hatfield (UNR) all with 7-5.

Three other sections were held concurrently including an Under 1200, an Under 800 and an Under 400 section. All in all the event drew a nice crowd of 59 players in the 5 sections.



## CHESS IN NEBRASKA 50 YEARS AGO THE 1973 NEBRASKA STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP.

Back in September of 1963, a group of Lincoln chess enthusiasts that included businessmen B. Frank Watson, a Lincoln attorney, Aleks Liepnieks, Lincoln's strongest player and organizer, and UNL English professor, Robert "Bud" Narveson decided to create the Lincoln Chess Foundation which was Nebraska's first 501c3 non-profit whose mission was to promote chess.

Two years after the LCF was founded, Bud Narveson decided to organize an annual state high school chess tournament called the Nebraska State Scholastic. Since Bud was a UNL professor, the first events were held every year on campus at the UNL Student Union in the big ballroom upstairs.

Bud invited high schools from all over Nebraska to send teams of 4 players to participate. In order to accommodate schools that had more than 4 interested players Bud created a Championship section for the top 4 players and a Challenger Division for any other interested players that still wanted to participate but couldn't make the "A" team. The Championship section was USCF rated, and the top team and top individual would become Nebraska State High School Champions, but the winners of the Challenger Section earned complimentary USCF memberships as a prize.

It was also in the 1960's that the first issue of the Gambit was produced. It was hand typed and mailed with the Lincoln Chess Foundation's non-profit bulk mailing label to interested subscribers. Note that the NSCA didn't even exist yet and really the only real coordination of chess events and activities came from communication between Lincoln and Omaha chess organizers.

Fast forward now to the year 1973. Fifty years ago, I was a Senior in high school at Lincoln East High. I was President of the Lincoln East Chess Club and in February I led our team in the State Scholastic this time in the Championship Division. I unfortunately do not have a cross table of the event but can tell you that Omaha Central blew everyone away in 1973, with a team composed of Mike Blankenau, John Milton, Mark Seitzer and Kevin Waterman.

All 4 of them were rated over 1600 while still in high school. I do remember losing to Seitzer in either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> round but this Central team, might have been the greatest high school team in Nebraska history. Both Blankenau and Milton became Masters and also won one or more State Championships. Central's team went to the National High School in 1973 and although they didn't win, I'm pretty sure they did well.

The Lincoln Chess Foundation gave the top high school champion each year, a small stipend to help them attend the National High School tournament held each summer at the Hotel McAlpin in New York City. Eventually, the National High School was replaced by the Denker Tournament of Champions where each state could send one high school champion to compete.

Central repeated in 1974 as Blankenau was only a Junior in 1973. Over the last 50 years the nature and structure of the Nebraska State Scholastic has changed and obviously the huge expansion of scholastic chess all the way down to the Kindergarten-level has transformed the event. Although the Denker still exists for the top high school champion from each state, USCF has added national scholastic invitationals for middle school, and elementary school as well as for top woman and senior in each state.

The year, 1973, was probably the high-water mark for chess in Nebraska, not only in scholastic chess but for Open events as well as in October of 1973, over 100 players played in the Midwest Open in a single section won by Dan Reynolds of Omaha. Bobby Fischer hysteria had brought a huge number of interested players into USCF and many of them like me started their rated chess playing careers with the February Scholastic of 1973.

(Editor's Note: The following corrections were made to the original article. The original founders of the LCF were actually B. Frank Watson, Aleks Liepnieks and Bud Narveson and did not include Bennett Martin. It was Martin and not Watson that owned the Lincoln Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> and P. )

## HUMOROUS CHESS STORIES: THE LORD OF THE BOARD OF THE FLIES-THE 1988 MIDWEST OPEN.

Beginning with this issue, I plan to feature a funny but true chess story involving myself or other Nebraska chess players who shared the stories with me. My first story comes to me via two good friends, Kent Nelson and the late Wayne Pressnall of North Platte who passed away in July. Wayne first told me the story, but later on Kent shared the same story in his biography of the late Anton Sildmets.

In 1988, the Midwest Open was held in the fall in Lincoln at the Best Western Airport Inn. The event attracted over 40 players and was won by Kevin Fleming who went on to win the Closed for that calendar year, but the funny story really had nothing to do with the chess tournament but rather with a pesky invasion of the tournament hall by what Kent described as “killer flies”.

The weather on this fall weekend was so pleasant that someone decided to open the doors to the playing room to let in fresh air. Unfortunately, not just the fresh air came in while the doors were open but hundreds of flies which became such a distraction and annoyance by the 4<sup>th</sup> round on Sunday that the director (most likely Gary Marks) asked everyone to stop their clocks grab a newspaper or fly swatter and go ballistic on the pests.

Wayne Pressnall in particular was one of the best relators of funny stories and he had such a unique way of telling them that they just made you laugh all the harder. According to Wayne, everyone agreed that longtime friend and Gambit Editor, Kent Nelson won the record for most flies killed on that fateful day. To this day Kent’s modesty prevents him from bragging up the accomplishment but he doesn’t dispute the claim either.

## 2023 OMAHA CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 Omaha City Championship was held on March 18, 2023 in Omaha and was directed by Tony Dutiel who is now Nebraska's most active Senior TD. The event featured the Open, an Under 1600, Under 800 and Under 400 in addition to a Rapid Championship. Steven Cusumano is Omaha City Champion for 2023 with a score of 4-0.

<a href="#">1</a>   <a href="#">STEVEN JOSEPH CUSUMANO</a>	4.0	W	10   W	18   W	4   W	3
NE   15197583 / R: 1895						
<a href="#">2</a>   <a href="#">CHAD FORSMAN</a>	3.0	L	7   W	12   W	15   W	6
NE   13248291 / R: 1861						
<a href="#">3</a>   <a href="#">MATT BUCKLEY</a>	3.0	W	19   W	16   W	5   L	1
NE   12874977 / R: 1828						
<a href="#">4</a>   <a href="#">RYAN PENG DONG</a>	3.0	W	11   W	8   L	1   W	10
NE   30404955 / R: 1751						
<a href="#">5</a>   <a href="#">DOUGLAS P GRANDE</a>	3.0	W	12   W	7   L	3   W	11
NE   12469375 / R: 1715						
<a href="#">6</a>   <a href="#">MICHAEL MILLS</a>	3.0	W	17   W	13   W	14   L	2
NE   15765452 / R: 1701						
<a href="#">7</a>   <a href="#">AURORA EVELYN SATER</a>	3.0	W	2   L	5   W	21   W	16
NE   14646254 / R: 1511						
<a href="#">8</a>   <a href="#">JEFFERY A SOLHEIM</a>	2.5	W	23   L	4   D	9   W	18
NE   13283751 / R: 1550						
<a href="#">9</a>   <a href="#">RAMA RAJU KALIDINDI</a>	2.5	L	18   W	19   D	8   W	17
NE   30401942 / R: Unrated						
<a href="#">10</a>   <a href="#">FRANK BOWERS</a>	2.0	L	1   W	23   W	13   L	4
IA   14539176 / R: 1513						
<a href="#">11</a>   <a href="#">CAMERON DANIEL SHIVELY</a>	2.0	L	4   W	20   W	18   L	5
NE   15556578 / R: 1138						
<a href="#">12</a>   <a href="#">LUKE O HENGEN</a>	2.0	L	5   L	2   B	W	19
NE   30728935 / R: 1092						
<a href="#">13</a>   <a href="#">MR. COURTNEY L HOUSTON</a>	2.0	B	L	6   L	10   W	22
IA   30228952 / R: 946P17						
<a href="#">14</a>   <a href="#">JOHN LINSKOTT</a>	1.5	W	22   D	15   L	6   U	
NE   12593670 / R: 1818						
<a href="#">15</a>   <a href="#">JONATHAN J REIGENBORN</a>	1.5	W	21   D	14   L	2   U	
NE   14893598 / R: 1616						
<a href="#">16</a>   <a href="#">MATTHEW NAUMANN</a>	1.5	W	20   L	3   D	17   L	7
NE   16787714 / R: 1588						
<a href="#">17</a>   <a href="#">RAKSHITH SEETHARAMAN</a>	1.5	L	6   B	D	16   L	9
NE   17314901 / R: 1047						
<a href="#">18</a>   <a href="#">C SCOTT LOOK</a>	1.0	W	9   L	1   L	11   L	8
NE   12059950 / R: 1640						
<a href="#">19</a>   <a href="#">STEVEN BEHRENS</a>	1.0	L	3   L	9   W	20   L	12
NE   13643404 / R: 1479						
<a href="#">20</a>   <a href="#">HAMEED HOSSEINI</a>	1.0	L	16   L	11   L	19   W	21
NE   31113339 / R: Unrated						
<a href="#">21</a>   <a href="#">BENNETT SCHLIESSER</a>	1.0	L	15   W	22   L	7   L	20
NE   31024554 / R: Unrated						
<a href="#">22</a>   <a href="#">PHILIP THOMAS MCKEONE</a>	1.0	L	14   L	21   W	23   L	13
NE   31097417 / R: Unrated						
<a href="#">23</a>   <a href="#">JOSUE ANTONIO AFANADOR</a>	0.0	L	8   L	10   L	22   U	
NE   31140426 / R: Unrated						

## OMAHA CITY CHAMPIONSHIP CONT'D.

The Under 1600 City Championship was shared by Dominic Zeisler, Ajay Pasupuleti, and Tyler Hatfield, all with 3-1.

1	Zeisler	UNR	W7	W6	W3	L2	3.0
2	Pasupuleti	1223	W8	L3	W4	W1	3.0
3	Hatfield	1051	W5	W2	L1	W4	3.0
4	Sharma	1374	L6	W7	L2	W8	2.0
5	Kalinowski	1275	L3	W8	L6	W7	2.0
6	Abeln	1200	W4	L1	W5	L3	2.0
7	Benetz	1200	L1	L4	W8	L5	1.0
8	Almaghrebi	UNR	L2	L5	L7	L4	0.0

Under 1200 City Champion was Curtis Holsinger with 4-0.

Under 800 City Champion was Harshith Yelle with a perfect 5-0 score.

Under 400 City Champion was Liam Ash with a perfect 5-0 score.

G/15 Quick Open Champion was Luke Hengen with 3.5-.5

The Omaha City Championship is an Open tournament and is a POY event, meaning positive scores from the Open section count in the Player of the Year Standings. Basically a person's overall score in a POY event is calculated by subtracting losses in an event from wins and dropping draws. So if a person scores 3-2 in a POY event they get 1 point in the standings. If they score 3.5-1.5 they get 2 points in the standings. The system was changed to reward quality performances rather than volume.

Persons not residing in Omaha are not eligible for the title of Omaha City Champion, but obviously may still play in the event. The event drew 60 players in 5 sections. Congratulations to the winners. The 2024 event is already on the schedule for March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS (FOR NOW)!

This issue was designed to cover the first quarter of last year (2023). When I agreed to do the editing, I promised to get something out there for our readers, but there was no way I could produce a 117-page yearbook sized issue as that would take a lot of time and material that I don't really have. Expect quarter 2 of 2023 which will cover April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> in the next few weeks, followed by quarter 3 covering July 1<sup>st</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup> after that and eventually, quarter 4, covering October 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mainly I need material to fill in the pages. If you have games, articles or stories you'd like to see in print, message me or email me and attach things and I will definitely get it in an upcoming issue as long as it's chess related and is interesting. My email address is [gambiteer49@yahoo.com](mailto:gambiteer49@yahoo.com). You can also reach out to me on Facebook either by instant messenger or by joining my Nebraska Chess History Group there.

In the 1990's when I was NSCA President we used to have a nice feature called "My Terrific Tournament" where individuals could tell us about their favorite event where they did well and feature a game where they beat a very good player. I would be happy to revive that feature if I get anyone to submit anything.

Other than the Closed, this issue is short on games, because frankly speaking I have none from any of the tournaments that are covered in this issue and I can only work with what I have. Look for Volume 2 of the 2023 Gambit year in review covering April 1-June 30 in the next few weeks, and please send me games, stories or chess related materials so I can fill it up with interesting things. Until then goodbye for now.