

The Gambit

The Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

2023 Year in Review

Part IV: October 1st-December 31st, 2023

R. Aliovsadzade

The problem on the diagram is by the American chess problems composer Harry A. Boardman (1863-1935).

It was first published in 'Detroit Free Press' newspaper in 1887.



Mate in two

W: Kc3 Qb7 Bb8 Nd5 (4)

B:Kc5 Re6 Pe3 Pf6 (4)

The nice key **1.Nc7!** gives the black King a flight on d6 and threatens 2.Nxe6#.

The three defenses block the squares around the black King. Thus, 1...Rd6 2.Qb5#, 1...Rc6 2.Qb4#, 1...Rb6 2.Qd5#.

Note the two tries 1.Ne7? (threat 2.Qb4#) and 1.Nb4? (threat 2.Nd3#) refuted respectively by 1...Rxe7! and 1...Rd6!

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Gambit Editor- Bruce Draney. The Gambit serves as the official publication of the
Nebraska State Chess Association



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Lincoln Chess Foundation
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Bruce Draney-Secretary-Treasurer

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Letter from Gambit Editor Bruce Draney

Here we go folks. This will be the 4th and final issue chronicling Nebraska chess in the 2023 calendar year. After this issue we will be ready to take on the first 6 months of 2024 and we should be completely caught up in the next few months. This issue would have come out sooner but my time and attention has been taken up by getting ready for the Hall of Fame Champions Celebration coming up now in a few weeks. I'd like to thank the following people for helping provide information that I can use in these issues:

Rauf Aliovsadzade who is always willing to contribute his chess puzzles. Rauf gives our readers a brand-new problem, which adorns the cover of this issue.

NSCA Secretary JJ Lang who has provided games from the 2023 Great Plains Open and Lincoln City Championship from the Lichess database.

Hall of Fame Inductee Rod Malpert who has financially backed major chess events in Nebraska including the Midwest Open held in April and the HOF Champions Celebration coming up on June 1-2.

Lincoln Chess Foundation President and Hall of Fame Inductee Kent Nelson who always supports chess in so many ways through playing, writing and contributing to chess here in Nebraska. Kent has a new book on Nebraska's greatest player ever, Howard Ohman that he has just published.

Heath Draney who provides us with another humorous chess cartoon in this issue.

Gary Slominski who designed an amazing professional looking flyer for the Champions Celebration.

Hall of Fame Inductee and 1989 U.S. Women's Champion Alexey Root who has promoted the Champions Celebration online and has agreed to come and play in the event in Lincoln on June 1-2.

Allison Hengen who provided a professional grade press release for the Champions Celebration released to the media throughout Nebraska on April 30th and earned chess philanthropist Rod Malpert a personal interview on KETV Channel 7 now set for Thursday May 30th.

Loren Schmidt who is the original source for this issue's humorous chess story about a chess player from Indiana with a very unusual name that often confused his opponents.

Nebraska Chess Information Page

Lincoln Chess Foundation 4014 N ST Lincoln NE 68510

President-Kent Nelson

Treasurer-Bruce Draney

Secretary Andrea Draney, Director Daniel Draney

Omaha Chess Community

President-Michael Gooch

7215 N 162nd ST Bennington NE 68007

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

Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame 14002 Frederick CIR Omaha NE 68138

President-Bruce Draney (gambiteer49@yahoo.com)

HOF Selection Committee: John Drexel, Loren Schmidt, Richard Gardner JR.

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 82nd 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 29th & Ames AVE, Omaha, NE Jerome Helm

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

LINCOLN:

SECC Chess Club-Meets on Wednesday nights at SE Community College 89th & 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

Cigarz Chess Club-Meets on Monday Nights at Cigarz Lounge, STE 104 800 Q, Lincoln NE 402-904-3460

OUTSTATE:

Beatrice Chess Club-Meets on Tuesday 6-8 PM at Beatrice Public Library 100 N 16th 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 1st 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 2nd 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 1st 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

Facebook: Nebraska Chess Community group, Nebraska Chess History group

National Online Chess Playing Sites

Chess.com

Lichess.com

2023 Great Plains Open Cross Table 10-15-16 2023

The 29th Great Plains Open was held in Lincoln at the Fairfield Inn and Suites on North 27th Street on October 15th and 16th. It was the final state qualifying tournament of 2023, and the top Nebraska resident gained a slot in the 2024 Closed Championship. Former Nebraskan Ben Fabrikant and Joe Knapp of Omaha tied for 1st with 4.5-.5. Knapp won the slot in the Closed since Fabrikant now lives in Uruguay. The event was directed by Tony Dutiel. A rated beginners open was held on Saturday only and was directed by Michael Gooch.

#	Name	Rating	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3	Rnd 4	Rnd 5	Total
1	Fabrikant	2003	W11	W14	W8	D4	W7	4.5
2	Knapp	1971	W15	W10	H-	W5	W4	4.5
3	Peng Dong	1784	W21	L7	W22	W17	W12	4.0
4	Lacroix	2094	W28	W17	W7	D1	L2	3.5
5	Suresh	1905	W16	W23	D9	L2	W13	3.5
6	L. Hengen	1702	L22	D13	W23	W20	W15	3.5
7	Belashchenko	1920	W18	W3	L4	W9	L1	3.0
8	Osborne	1891	W24	W22	L1	L12	W19	3.0
9	Linscott	1785	W25	H	D5	L7	W22	3.0
10	J. Deseck	1726	W27	L2	D20	D11	W18	3.0
11	Solheim	1598	L1	W24	H	D10	W17	3.0
12	T. Jessop	1641	L23	W19	W27	W8	L3	3.0
13	Cusumano	1919	D19	D6	D15	W16	L5	2.5
14	Baker	1794	W26	L1	D16	L15	W23	2.5
15	Iacono	1582	L2	W25	D13	W14	L6	2.5
16	Ravichandran	1488	L5	W21	D14	L13	W24	2.5
17	Davidson	1855	W20	L4	W18	L3	L11	2.0
18	Lin	1537	L7	W26	L17	W27	L10	2.0
19	Pasupuleti	1528	D13	L12	D24	W21	L8	2.0
20	R. Seetharaman	1408	L17	W28	D10	L6	D25	2.0
21	Kantem	1321	L3	L16	Bye	L19	W27	2.0
22	Hosseini	1039	W6	L8	L3	W25	L9	2.0
23	Schaal	997	W12	L5	L6	WF	L14	2.0
24	Parthasarathy	1476	L8	L11	D19	W26	L16	1.5
25	Adduri	1333	L9	L15	W26	L22	D20	1.5
26	Leboeuf	1403	L14	L18	L25	L24	Bye	1.0
27	Savage	1055	L10	Bye	L12	L18	L21	1.0
28	Look	1628	L4	L20	H	F	WD	0.5

Games from the 2023 Great Plains Open

Round 1

Iacono 1582

Knapp 1971

1. e4 c5 2. d3 Nc6 3. Be2 Nd4 4. c3 Nxe2 5. Nxe2 d5 6. O-O e5 7. Re1 Be7 8. f4 dxe4 9. Qa4+ Bd7 10. Qxe4 Nf6 11. Qxb7 e4 12. dxe4 Rb8 13. Qxa7 Bc6 14. Qa6 Bb5 15. Qa7 Bxe2 16. Rxe2 Qd1+ 17. Kf2 Ng4+ 18. Kg3 Qxe2 19. Qxb8+ Bd8 20. Qc8 Qd3+ 21. Kxg4 h5+ 22. Kf5 Qd6 23. Qxd8+ Kxd8 24. e5 Qg6# (0-1)

T. Jessop 1641

Schaal 997

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. e5 d4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Bb5 Bd7 6. Qa4 a6 7. Bxc6 Bxc6 8. Qc4 Bxf3 9. gxf3 Rc8 10. a4 e6 11. d3 Qd5 12. Qxd5 exd5 13. cxd4 cxd4 14. Nd2 Bb4 15. Ke2 Rc2 16. Kd1 Rc6 17. Nb3 Ne7 18. Nxd4 Rg6 19. Nc2 Ba5 20. b4 Bc7 21. d4 O-O 22. Be3 Nf5 23. Kd2 f6 24. f4 fxe5 25. fxe5 Rg2 26. Raf1 Bb6 27. Ne1 Nxe3 28. Kxe3 Rg5 29. f4 Rg4 30. Nd3 g5 31. Rhg1 gxf4+ 32. Nxf4 Rxf4 33. Rxf4 Rxc1 34. Rf6 Bc7 35. Kf4 Rf1+ 36. Kg5 Rxf6 37. Kxf6 Kf8 38. Ke6 Ke8 39. Kxd5 Ke7 40. Ke4 b5 41. axb5 axb5 42. h4 h5 43. Kd5 Bd8 44. Kc6 Ke6 45. Kxb5 Bxh4 46. Kc6 Bd8 47. b5 h4 48. b6 Bxb6 49. Kxb6 h3 50. Kc6 h2 51. d5+ Kxe5 52. d6 h1=Q+ (0-1)

Round 2

Knapp 1971

Deseck 17261. Nf3 g6 2. e3 Bg7 3. c4 Nf6 4. Nc3 O-O 5.

Be2 d5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. O-O c5 8. Qc2 Nc6 9. a3 a6 10. Na4 b6 11. d4 Bb7 12. dxc5 Rc8 13. e4 Nf6 14. Nxb6 Rc7 15. Rd1 Qe8 16. Bf4 e5 17. Bg5 Nh5 18. Rd6 h6 19. Be3 Nf4 20. Bc4 g5 21. Rad1 g4 22. Nh4 Nd4 23. R6xd4 exd4 24. Bxf4 Rxc5 25. Bd6 Bxe4 26. Qb3 Rc6 27. Bxf8 Bxf8 28. Re1 Qe7 29. Nf5 Qf6 30. Ng3 Bxg2 31. Nd7 Qf3 32. Bxf7+ Kh8 33. Nxf8 d3 34. Qb8 Kg7 35. Nh5+ Kxf7 36. Qe8+ Kg8 37. Ng6+ Kh7 38. Re7+ (1-0)

Round 3

Belashchenko 1920 Lacroix 2094

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O dxc4 8. Nc3 Nbd7 9. Qc2 Rb8 10. Nb5 a6 11. Na7 Nb6 12. Nxc8 Rxc8 13. a4 c5 14. a5 Nbd5 15. Qxc4 Ne4 16. dxc5 Nxd2 17. Nxd2 Rxc5 18. Qa4 Qc7 19. Be4 Bf6 20. Ra2 Rc8 21. Kg2 g6 22. Bd3 Qc6 23. Ne4 Be7 24. Raa1 f5 25. Qxc6 R5xc6 26. Nc3 Nxc3 27. bxc3 Rxc3 28. Rfb1 R8c7 29. f4 R3c5 30. Rb6 e5 31. fxe5 Rxe5 32. Ra2 Bc5 33. Rb1 Bd4 34. Ra3 Bc3 35. Rab3 Ree7 36. Ra3 Kf7 37. Rbb3 Be5 38. Ra4 Ke6 39. Rb6+ Kd7 40. Bc4 Kc8 41. Be6+ Kb8 42. Bc4 Ka7 43. Rb3 Rc5 44. Bd3 Bc7 45. Rba3 Ree5 46. Rd4 Bxa5 47. Rd7 h5 48. Rg7 Re6 49. Kf3 Rc7 50. Rg8 Bd2 51. e4 fxe4+ 52. Bxe4 Rf7+ 53. Ke2 Bc1 54. Ra4 Rfe7 55. Kd3 Rd6+ 56. Rd4 Rxd4+ 57. Kxd4 g5 58. Rh8 Bb2+ (0-1)

Osborne 1881 Hosseini 1039

1. d4 g6 2. Nf3 d6 3. e4 Bg7 4. Nc3 a6 5. Bf4 Bg4 6. Qd2 Nc6 7. d5 Ne5 8. Nxe5 dxe5 9. Be3 Nf6 10. f3 Bd7 11. Bc4 O-O 12. Bh6 c6 13. dxc6 Bxc6 14. Qxd8 Rfxd8 15. Be3 Rd6 16. Bc5 Rd7 17. Bb6 Rc8 18. Bb3 Nh5 19. g3 Bh6 20. Rd1 Rxd1+ 21. Kxd1 Kf8 22. Ke2 Ng7 23. Rd1 e6 24. a4 Bg5 25. Na2 Ke8 26. Nb4 Bd7 27. Nd3 Bf6 28. Ba5 b5 29. axb5 Bxb5 30. Bc3 Rd8 31. Ra1 Kd7 32. Ba4 Kc6 33. Bxb5+ Kxb5 34. Ra5+ Kb6 35. Ra3 Rc8 36. Rb3+ Ka7 37. Kd1 Ne8 38. Bd2 Nd6 39. Be3+ Ka8 40. Rb6 Nc4 41. Rxa6+ Kb8 42. Bf2 Rd8 43. Ke2 Rc8 44. b3 Nb2 45. Nb4 Rc7 46. Ra2 Rb7 47. Na6+ Kc8 48. Rxb2 Be7 49. Nc5 Rc7 50. b4 Rc6 51. Ra2 Rb6 52. Ra8+ Rb8 53. Rxb8+ Kxb8 54. Kd3 Kc7 55. Kc4 Kb8 56. Nd7+ (1-0)

Round 4

Linscott 1785 Belashchenko 1920

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Ne2 dxe4 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Nxc3 Nc6 7. Bb5 Ne7 8. Qg4 O-O 9. Qxe4 Qxd4 10. Be3 Qxe4 11. Nxe4 a6 12. Be2 e5 13. O-O-O b6 14. h4 Nf5 15. Bd2 Ncd4 16. Bd3 Bb7 17. Kb1 Rfd8 18. h5 Nd6 19. Nxd6 cxd6 20. Be3 Bxg2 21. Rh4 b5 22. h6 g6 23. c4 bxc4 24. Bxc4 Nf5 25. Rh2 Be4+ 26. Ka1 Bf3 27. Rd2 Nxe3 28. fxe3 d5 29. Ba2 Rac8 30. Bb1 Rc1 31. Ka2 Rb8 32. Rhf2 Bg4 33. Rc2 Rc8 34. Rxc8+ Rxc8 35. Bc2 Be6 36. b3 Rc3 37. Re2 Bg4 (0-1)

Knapp 1971

Suresh 1901

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. e3 b6 4. Nc3 Bb7 5. b3 c5 6. Qc2 Nc6 7. Bb2 Be7 8. Be2 d5
9. cxd5 exd5 10. Bb5 O-O 11. Bxc6 Bxc6 12. d4 Rc8 13. O-O Re8 14. Rfd1 Qc7
15. Rac1 Qb7 16. dxc5 bxc5 17. Ne5 Red8 18. Nxc6 Rxc6 19. Ne2 Qc7 20. Nd4
Ra6 21. Nf5 Bf8 22. Bxf6 Rxf6 23. e4 Qe5 24. Ne3 Rg6 25. Rxd5 Rxd5 26. Nxd5
Bd6 27. g3 h5 28. f4 Qd4+ 29. Kf1 Re6 30. Rd1 Qxe4 31. Nf6+ gxf6 32. Qxe4
Rxe4 33. Rxd6 Kg7 34. Rc6 h4 35. Kf2 hxg3+ 36. hxg3 Kg6 37. Kf3 Rd4 38.
Rxc5 Rd3+ 39. Kg4 Rd7 40. Ra5 Rb7 41. Ra6 Rc7 42. Kh4 Kf5 43. Ra4 Kg6 44.
g4 Kg7 45. f5 Rb7 46. Ra6 Rc7 47. b4 Rb7 48. a3 Rc7 49. b5 Rb7 50. a4 Rc7 51.
Rc6 Rb7 52. Rc8 Rd7 53. Ra8 Rb7 54. Kg3 Kh6 55. Kf4 Re7 56. a5 Kg7 57. Rb8
Rd7 58. a6 Rd4+ 59. Kf3 Ra4 60. Rb7 Ra5 61. Ke4 Kf8 62. Kd5 Ke8 63. Kd6 1-0

Round 5

Hengen 1702

Iacono 1582

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. Bg5 c6 5. e3 Qa5 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. h4 c5 8. Nf3 d6
9. Qd2 Bg7 10. O-O-O Nc6 11. Nd5 Qxa2 12. Nc7+ Kd8 13. Nxa8 Qa1+ 14. Kc2
Bf5+ 15. Bd3 Qa4+ 16. Kb1 Nb4 17. Bxf5 Qa2+ 18. Kc1 gxf5 19. Qc3 Qa4 20.
Kd2 Na2 21. Qc2 Qxc2+ 22. Kxc2 Nb4+ 23. Kb3 Na6 24. Ng5 Kd7 25. Nb6+
axb6 26. Nxf7 Rg8 27. Ng5 Bf6 28. Nxb7 Rxb7 29. Nxf6+ exf6 30. h5 Rg7 31.
Rdg1 Rh7 32. h6 (1-0)

Lacroix 2094

Knapp 1971

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O dxc4 8.
Qc2 a6 9. a4 c5 10. dxc5 Qc7 11. Na3 Bxc5 12. Nxc4 Nc6 13. Bf4 Qe7 14. Rfd1
Nb4 15. Qb3 Nbd5 16. Bg5 Bxf2+ 17. Kxf2 Ne4+ 18. Kg1 Nxb5 19. Nxb5 Qxb5
20. Bxd5 exd5 21. Nb6 Rb8 22. Rxd5 Qe7 23. Nxc8 Rbxc8 24. Qd3 Rfe8 25. Rd1
h6 26. b3 Qb4 27. Qf3 Qb6+ 28. Kf1 Re6 29. Kg2 Rce8 30. R1d2 Re3 31. Qf2
Qxb3 32. Rd8 Qe6 33. Rxe8+ Qxe8 34. Rd8 Rxb3+ 35. hxg3 Qxd8 36. Qc5 Qe8
37. Kf2 Qc6 38. Qb4 b6 39. e3 Qe6 40. e4 b5 41. axb5 Qb6+ 42. Kg2 Qxb5 43.
Qe7 Qb2+ 44. Kh3 Qf6 45. Qe8+ Kh7 46. Kg2 Qe6 47. Qa4 h5 48. Kf3 g6 49.
Qd4 Qb3+ 50. Kf4 a5 51. g4 h4 52. Kg5 h3 53. Qd2 a4 54. e5 a3 55. e6 Qxe6 56.
Qc3 Qe7+ 57. Kf4 h2 58. Qh3+ Kg7 59. Qxh2 Qc7+ 60. Kg5 f6+ (0-1)

The Lincoln City Championship was the final POY event of the 2023 Calendar year and was held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites on North 27th Street in Lincoln on November 4th. Former Nebraskan Joseph Wan 2354 won the event with 3.5-.5 but the title of Lincoln City Champion was shared by JJ Lang and Kirill Belashchenko who both finished with 3-1. Joe Knapp and Abhinav Suresh both of Omaha tied for second with 3-1. A rated beginners open was held in addition to the Open and was won by Alan Zhuang with 3.5-.5.

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Wan	2354	D14	W23	W10	W2	3.5
2	Lang	2121	W8	W11	W3	L1	3.0
3	Knapp	2016	W9	W13	L2	W14	3.0
4	Belashchenko	1923	D17	D14	W21	W10	3.0
5	Suresh	1904	D16	W17	D7	W11	3.0
6	Lacroix	2100	W15	L10	W12	D7	2.5
7	Cusumano	1881	W21	D12	D5	D6	2.5
8	Solheim	1659	L2	W22	W20	H	2.5
9	Parthasarathy	1498	L3	D19	W17	W13	2.5
10	Davidson	1819	W18	W6	L1	L4	2.0
11	Dong	1803	W22	L2	W15	L5	2.0
12	Linscott	1784	W24	D7	L6	H	2.0
13	Forsman	1752	W19	L3	W16	L9	2.0
14	Naumann	1663	D1	D4	W23	L3	2.0
15	Pasupuleti	1529	L6	W18	L11	W21	2.0
16	Adduri	1322	D5	D20	L13	W22	2.0
17	R.Seetharaman	1482	D4	L5	L9	W23	1.5
18	Castaneda	1256	L10	L15	W19	H	1.5
19	Kruse	1242	L13	D9	L18	Bye	1.5
20	Fei	1805	H	D16	L8	WD	1.0
21	Kantem	1321	L7	W24	L4	L15	1.0
22	Shively	1232	L11	L8	W24	L16	1.0
23	Afanador	631	W25	L1	L14	L17	1.0
24	Benetz	1200	L12	L21	L22	H	0.5
25	Look	1600	L23	WD	WD	WD	0.0

Games from the 2023 Lincoln City Championship 11/4/2023

Round 1

Solheim 1659 Lang 2121

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 e6 4. Nf3 Be7 5. O-O O-O 6. d3 c5 7. Nc3 d4 8. Nb1 Nc6 9. Nbd2 e5 10. Ng5 h6 11. Nge4 Nh7 12. Nb3 Qb6 13. a4 a5 14. h4 Be6 15. Kh2 f5 16. Ned2 Nf6 17. Qc2 Ng4+ 18. Kg1 Rf6 19. Nf3 Raf8 20. Nh2 Nxf2 21. Kxf2 Rg6 22. Bd2 Bxf2 23. gxf2 Qd8 24. Rh1 Qxf2+ 25. Kg1 Qg4 26. Rh2 b6 27. f3 Qg3 28. Be1 Qg5 29. Bh4 Qe3+ 30. Bf2 Nb4 31. Qc1 Qxe2 32. Qd1 Qxd3 33. Nd2 e4 34. Ra3 Qc2 35. Qe2 Qxb2 36. Rb3 Qc1+ 37. Be1 Nd3 38. Rb1 Nf4 39. Qf1 Qc2 40. Rxb6 e3 41. Nb3 Bxc4 42. Rxf6 Bxf1 (0-1)

Benetz 1200 Linscott 1784

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. d3 Nc6 4. Bg2 Bg4 5. O-O Qd7 6. Nbd2 O-O-O 7. a3 h5 8. c4 Bxf3 9. Nxf3 dxc4 10. Ng5 e5 11. Bxc6 Qxc6 12. Nxf7 Bd6 13. Nxd8 Rxd8 14. Bg5 Rh8 15. Bxf6 gxf6 16. h4 f5 17. Rc1 f4 18. Rxc4 Qd7 19. Kh2 Rg8 20. Rg1 Rg4 21. e4 Qf7 22. Qe1 Qf6 23. Rc1 f3 24. Kh3 Be7 25. Rxc7+ Kxc7 26. Qa5+ Kb8 (0-1)

Round 2

Davidson 1819 Lacroix 2100

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 O-O 7. Bd3 Re8 8. Qc2 Nbd7 9. Nf3 c6 10. O-O h6 11. Bf4 Bf8 12. Rab1 Nh5 13. Be5 Nxe5 14. Nxe5 Bd6 15. Bh7+ Kf8 16. Nxf7 Bxf7+ 17. Kxf7 Qh4+ 18. Kg1 Kxf7 19. Bg6+ Kf8 20. Bxe8 Kxe8 21. Qg6+ Kf8 22. e4 Nf6 23. Qg3 Qh5 24. f3 dxe4 25. Nxe4 Nd5 26. Rbe1 Kg8 27. Nd6 Bd7 28. Re5 g5 29. f4 Rf8 30. fxf5 Rxf1+ 31. Kxf1 Qg6 32. Kf2 h5 33. Ne4 Bg4 34. Rxd5 cxd5 35. Nf6+ Kf7 36. Qc7+ Kf8 37. Qd8+ Kf7 38. Qe8+ Kg7 39. Qg8# (1-0)

Wan 2354

Afanador 631

Not a misprint, Wan suffered a draw in Round 1 and so was paired against the lowest rated player with 1-0 in round 2.

1. d4 e6 2. e4 Nc6 3. Nf3 d5 4. e5 f6 5. Bd3 Be7 6. c3 f5 7. h4 g6 8. Bf4 b6 9. Qc1 Qd7 10. h5 gxh5 11. Rxh5 Bb7 12. Qc2 O-O-O 13. Rxf5 Qe8 14. Rg5 h6 15. Rg3 Qf8 16. Be3 Bg5 17. Nxg5 hxg5 18. Nd2 Rh1+ 19. Nf1 Rh5 20. Rxg5 Rg5 21. Bxg5 Re8 22. Ne3 Nd8 23. O-O-O Nf7 24. Bh4 Qh6 25. g3 Rf8 26. f4 Ne7 27. Bxe7 Re8 28. Bh4 a6 29. Kb1 Qf8 30. Ng4 Kb8 31. Nf6 Bc6 32. Nxe8 Qxe8 33. Bf6 Ba4 34. b3 Bc6 35. g4 Nh6 36. g5 Nf7 37. Bxa6 Bb5 38. Bxb5 Qxb5 39. g6 Nd8 40. g7 Kb7 41. g8=Q (1-0)

Give him credit he lasted 41 moves against a Master.

Round 3

Knapp 2016

JJ Lang 2100

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 d5 3. e3 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Qb3 Nb6 7. d4 Be6 8. Qc2 Nc6 9. Bb5 Bd7 10. a3 O-O 11. O-O a6 12. Be2 e5 13. d5 Ne7 14. Rd1 Nbc8 15. e4 Nd6 16. Be3 h6 17. Nd2 g5 18. a4 Ng6 19. a5 f5 20. Bc5 f4 21. Nc4 f3 22. Bd3 fxg2 23. Ne2 Nh4 24. Ng3 Bg4 25. Be2 Qd7 26. Bxd6 Bxe2 27. Qxe2 cxd6 28. Ra3 Rad8 29. Ne3 Nf3+ 30. Kxg2 Nd4 31. Qg4 Qxg4 32. Nxg4 Rf4 33. Ne3 h5 34. Nxf5 Rxe4 35. f3 Rh4 36. Nxg7 Kxg7 37. Rxd4 Rxd4 38. Nf5+ Kf6 39. Nxd4 exd4 40. Rb3 Rd7 41. Kg3 Ke5 42. Kg4 Kxd5 43. Kxg5 Kc4 44. Ra3 Rg7+ 45. Kf4 Rg1 46. h4 Re1 47. h5 d3 48. Ra4+ Kd5 49. Ra3 Kc4 50. Ra4+ Kc5 51. Ra2 Kb4 52. b3 Kc3 53. Kf5 d2 54. Rxd2 Kxd2 55. f4 Kc3 56. Kf6 Kd4 57. h6 Ke4 58. Ke6 Kxf4+ 59. Kxd6 Kf5 60. h7 Rh1 61. Kc7 Rxh7+ (0-1)

Solheim 1659

Fei 1805

1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. O-O c6 7. d3 b6 8. a3 Bb7 9. b4 Nbd7 10. Bb2 Rc8 11. Qb3 Qc7 12. Rac1 Qb8 13. cxd5 cxd5 14. Rc2 a6 15. Rfc1 Qa8 16. Nd1 Qb8 17. Ne3 Rfd8 18. Rxc8 Rxc8 19. Rxc8+ Qxc8 20. Qc3 Qxc3 21. Bxc3 b5 22. Ne5 Nxe5 23. Bxe5 Nd7 24. Bc3 Nb6 25. Ng4 f6 26. h4 h5 27. Ne3 Kf7 28. Nc2 e5 29. e3 Ke6 30. Kf1 g5 31. Ke2 gxh4 32. gxh4 Bc6 33. Bf3 Be8 34. Ne1 f5 35. Ng2 Kd6 36. Kd2 e4 37. Be2 Bf7 38. f3 (1-0)

Round 4

Belashchenko 1923 Davidson 1819

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. d3 d6 9. h3 Na5 10. Nc3 Nxb3 11. axb3 Bb7 12. Be3 c5 13. Qd2 Qc7 14. Bg5 b4 15. Nd1 h6 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17. Ne3 Rfd8 18. Qe2 d5 19. exd5 Bxd5 20. Ng4 Re8 21. Nxf6+ gxf6 22. Nh4 Be6 23. Qh5 Kh7 24. Nf5 Bxf5 25. Qxf5+ Kg7 26. Re4 Qc6 27. Rg4+ Kf8 28. Qh7 Ke7 29. Rg7 Qd5 30. Qxh6 Rg8 31. Re1 a5 32. Re4 a4 33. bxa4 Rxc7 34. Qxc7 Rxa4 35. f4 Ra1+ 36. Kh2 Qe6 37. fxe5 f5 38. Re2 Kd7 39. Qf8 Kc6 40. Qd8 Ra2 41. b3 Rxc2 42. Rxc2 Qxe5+ 43. g3 Qe3 44. Qf6+ Kb5 45. Qxf5 Qd4 46. Qe4 Qd6 47. Qb7+ Ka5 48. Ra2# (1-0)

JJ Lang 2100 Wan 2354

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Bxc4 a6 6. a4 b6 7. Nc3 Bb7 8. Qe2 Bb4 9. Bd2 Nbd7 10. O-O Qe7 11. Rfc1 O-O 12. Bd3 c5 13. e4 cxd4 14. Nxd4 Ne5 15. Bc2 Rfd8 16. Bf4 Ng6 17. Be3 Bxc3 18. bxc3 Nxe4 19. Qg4 f5 20. Qh5 f4 21. Bxe4 Bxe4 22. Bxf4 Nxf4 23. Qe5 Rxd4 24. cxd4 Ne2+ 25. Kf1 Nxc1 26. Qxe4 Rc8 27. Qe3 Qc7 28. Qxe6+ Kh8 29. Qe3 Qc4+ 30. Kg1 Ne2+ 31. Kh1 Qxd4(0-1)

Suresh 1904 Dong 1803

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5 Be6 9. Be3 g5 10. Nbd2 Be7 11. Nxe4 dxe4 12. Bxe6 fxe6 13. Nxc5 Qxd1 14. Raxd1 Bxc5 15. Bxc5 Ne7 16. Rfe1 Rg8 17. Bxe7 Kxe7 18. Rxe4 Rg5 19. g3 h5 20. h4 Rf5 21. f4 Rg8 22. Rd3 Rd8 23. Rxd8 Kxd8 24. Kf2 Kd7 25. Rd4+ Kc6 26. Rd8 a5 27. Rg8 Rf7 28. Rg5 Rh7 29. Ke3 Kd5 30. Rg8 c5 31. Rd8+ Kc4 32. Rd6 Re7 33. f5 exf5 34. Kf4 a4 35. Kxf5 a3 36. bxa3 Kc3 37. Kf6 Ra7 38. e6 (1-0)

Naumann 1663 Knapp 2016

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. Qc2 bxc4 5. e4 d6 6. Bxc4 Nbd7 7. h3 g6 8. Nf3 Nb6 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10. Bxd7+ Nfxd7 11. O-O Bg7 12. Bf4 O-O 13. Nc3 Rb8 14. Rab1 Qc8 15. Rfe1 Nc4 16. Nd2 Qa6 17. Qd3 Ndb6 18. b3 Bxc3 19. Qxc3 Na3 20. Rbd1 f6 21. h4 Nb5 22. Qg3 Nd4 23. Bh6 Ne2+ 24. Rxe2 Qxe2 25. Rf1 Rf7 26. Qc3 Qh5 27. Be3 Nd7 28. Bf4 Qxh4 29. Bg3 Qg4 30. f4 Rb4 31. Nc4 Nb6 32. Na5 Nd7 33. Nc6 Rb7 34. Nd8 Rb4 35. Nxf7 Kxf7 36. e5 Nb6 37. exd6 exd6 38. f5 Qd4+ 39. Qxd4 cxd4 40. fxg6+ hxg6 41. Bxd6 Rb5 42. Be5 Rxd5 43. Bxf6 Ke6 44. Bh4 Nd7 45. Rd1 d3 46. Rd2 Nc5 47. Bf2 Ne4 48. Rd1 a5 49. a4 Ke5 50. Be3 g5 51. Kf1 Ng3+ 52. Kf2 Ne4+ 53. Kf1 g4 54. Bd2 Kd4 55. Ke1 Rh5 (0-1)

The Hall of Fame Memorial event was my first experience at directing a rated chess tournament in over 20 years. The event was primarily a trophy event, although I ended up giving away some nice cash awards as well due to a fine turnout of 32 players. It was held in Omaha at the AmericInn hotel at the Westroads and it specifically honored the 3 members of our Hall of Fame who had died since I left the chess scene in 2002, Gary Marks, Wayne Pressnall, and Anton Sildmets. The tournament displayed their photos as well as our brand-new Hall of Fame plaque. Steven Cusumano and Luke Hengen won the event with 3.5 points. Although I directed the event, I ended up playing the last 2 rounds to avoid byes.

HOF MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT 12/30/2023

Name	Post Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1 Cusumano	1893	W17	W14	W16	D3	3.5
2 Hengen	1733	W18	W24	W13	½	3.5
3 Pasupaleti	1681	W4	W27	D5	D1	3.0
4 Knapp	2002	L3	W9	W11	W16	3.0
5 Mills	1638	W22	W12	D3	D6	3.0
6 Dutiel	1731	W30	D11	W23	D5	3.0
7 Dong	1768	L12	W20	W26	W15	3.0
8 B. Draney	1917	½	½	W12	W14	3.0
9 Forsman	1771	D20	L4	W30	W13	2.5
10 Nelson	1800	W19	L13	D21	W20	2.5
11 Zeisler	1581	W15	D6	L4	D19	2.0
12 Abeln	1278	W7	L5	L8	W25	2.0
13 Parthasarathy	1645	W25	W10	L2	L9	2.0
14 Bruggeman	1575	W31	L1	W24	L8	2.0
15 Manley	1188	L11	W18	W17	L7	2.0
16 Gurumoorthi	1535	W29	W26	L1	L4	2.0
17 R. Seetharaman	1528	L1	W31	L15	W21	2.0
18 Alagankancharla	893	L2	L15	W22	WF	2.0
19 Kantem	1291	L10	D22	W29	D11	2.0
20 L. You	992	D9	L7	W28	L10	1.5
21 McGowan	1023	L27	W25	D10	L17	1.5
22 Qiang	798	L5	D19	L18	W29	1.5
23 J. Slominski	1747	W28	½	L6	WD	1.5
24 Tripathi	653	BYE	L2	L14	WD	1.0
25 Wrubel	629	L13	L21	WF	L12	1.0
26 S. Dave	1246	WF	L16	L7	WD	1.0
27 Grande	1699	W21	L3	WD	WD	1.0
28 Benetz	1200	L23	D29	L20	½	1.0
29 Cafferty	784	L16	D28	L19	L22	0.5
30 G. Slominski	1017	L6	½	L9	WD	0.5
31 Nag	784	L14	L17	LF	WD	0.0
32 Look	1600	LF	WD	WD	WD	0.0

Shaking off the Rust and Winning my first Rated Game in over 20 years by Gambit Editor Bruce Draney (Reprinted from the January 2024 issue of the Omaha Chess Archive)

Hall of Fame Memorial Round 3 12/30/2023

Draney 1913 AbelN 1220

Caro-Kann Advance Variation

1. e4	c6
2. d4	d5
3. e5	Bf5
4. Bd3	Bxd3
5. Qxd3	e6
6. Nf3	c5
7. c3	Nc6
8. 0-0	Qb6
9. a3	Be7
10. dxc5	Bxc5
11. b4	Be7
12. a4	Qc7
13. Re1	Rc8
14. Na3	Bd8? *Loses material a6 best
15. Nb5!	Qb8
16. Nd6+	Kf8
17. Nxc8	Qxc8
18. Nd4	h5
19. Nxc6	Qxc6
20. b5	Qc7
21. Ba3+	Ke8
22. Bd6	Qc8
23. Rfc1	Nh6
24. c4	dx4
25. Qxc4	Qd7
26. Qc8	Nf5
27. Qxd7	Kxd7
28. Bc5	Kc7
28. Rd1	Bg5
29. Bxa7 ?!	Ra8 ? *b6 is better
30. Bc5	h5
31. a5	Bf4
32. Bb6+	Kc8
33. Rd8++	

HUMOROUS CHESS STORIES PART III: The Man Who Lost by Forfeit to Bye.

This story originally appeared in my Omaha Chess Archive back in the 1990's but was told to me by longtime friend and Nebraska Hall of Fame great, Loren Schmidt. Despite the bizarre title, the story is true and led to many wisecracks and jokes over the years.

Back in the 1970's, there was an active chess player from Indiana named Charles Bye. He's still listed in the USCF database with a rating of 1500, but I'm sure that he hasn't played in decades. Mr. Bye used to show up for tournaments which sometimes led to very confusing situations.

Loren recounts that one day he showed up for a tournament in Iowa and in one of the early rounds, his opponent saw on the pairing sheet his own name and "Bye" and just assumed he had a full point bye that round. So, he left the tournament figuring he had hours to burn before the next round. Richard Bye, however, showed up, started his opponent's clock and after an hour when the person still had not shown up for the game, he got up, circled his name and put "WF" next to the result so the director would know it was not a played game and was a forfeit win.

So, when the next round was about to start, the opponent who had left thinking he had a bye noticed that he had been given a forfeit loss instead. He only then discovered that his opponent in that previous round was actually named, Bye.

Whenever Mr. Bye was playing in a tournament, directors needed to inform the players that, there was an actual player named Bye and that they needed to make sure their opponent was not an uppercase Bye as opposed to a lowercase bye.

Loren later quipped to me that it was even funnier when Bye got a bye himself and the pairing sheet literally read, "Bye-bye". Had Mr. Bye been a strong player, it probably would have been less of an issue, but because he was pretty much a lifetime C-D player it added to the confusion.

The Truly "Open" Tournament by Heath Draney



The Edmar Mednis Memorial Invitational was a 10 player round robin invitational held over 5 days here in Omaha from November 15th-19th. To the best of my knowledge, it was the first FIDE norm event ever held in the state of Nebraska. It was organized by Elite Chess of Chicago and directed by FIDE Arbiter Bill Buklis. The event was a success and drew a strong field that included one GM, John Fedorowicz, and two IMs. Six of the participants were rated over 2300 and Fedorowicz was over 2400. The remaining three were all over 2200.

Chess Life Editor John Hartmann did an outstanding writeup of the event and published several of the event's best games. Although no one earned a norm in the event, Adam Dorrance of Canada and Augusto Cesar Campos tied for first place with 5.5-3.5. Dorrance lost only 2 games, one to Torres and another to Canty. Campos had no losses but ended up drawing 7 of his 9 games. Fedorowicz finished third with 5-4, but was bothered by a head cold through much of the event.

There is a reasonable chance that more such events will be held here in the future for several reasons. One is the affordable cost of playing sites especially compared to places like New York, Chicago or Los Angeles and another is the centralized location and easy accessibility to Omaha by air and a high-quality airport only 5 minutes from downtown.

EDMAR MEDNIS MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL 11/15-11/19/2023

Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7	Rnd8	Rnd9	Tot
Dorrance	2366	L5	W9	W10	D3	W8	D2	W4	D6	L7	5.5
Campos	2324	D3	D8	W7	W4	D6	D1	D5	D9	D10	5.5
Fedorowicz	2444	D2	D4	W6	D1	D5	D9	D10	D7	D8	5.0
Oberoi	2309	W10	D3	W8	L2	W7	D6	L1	W5	L9	5.0
Torres Jr.	2384	W1	D7	W9	L10	D3	D8	D2	L4	D6	4.5
Xie	2302	D9	W10	L3	D8	D2	D4	D7	D1	D5	4.5
Canty III	2259	D8	D5	L2	W9	L4	D10	D6	D3	W1	4.5
Kretchetov	2252	D7	D2	L4	D6	L1	D5	D9	W10	D3	4.0
Yanayt	2203	D6	L1	L5	L7	D10	D3	D8	D2	W4	3.5
Kunka	2394	L4	L6	L1	W5	D9	D7	D3	L8	D2	3.0

Chess in Nebraska 30 Years Ago, the 1993 Midwest Open.

For over 50 years, the most prestigious open chess tournament in Nebraska was the Midwest Open, which began in 1948 and was then called the Nebraska Open. It was really started by the major chess organizers of that time from North Platte, Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha. Previous State Championships while they had been held were only drawing fewer than 15 players to compete and they were often either round robins or double round robins. So, the Nebraska Chess Association, the predecessor of the NSCA, decided to hold an open Swiss system event to appeal to a wider number of players from all over the state and to increase competition. The event was originally held on Labor Day weekend and was 6 rounds. The first one was held in North Platte in 1948. The second was held in Hastings and the third was held in Omaha.

After the third event, they decided to change the name to the Midwest Open, but it was really the same event, with a new name. Then, in 1951, the first actual Midwest Open by that name was held also in North Platte. As the years went by the event was reduced to five rounds and sometimes it was held in early September, while in others, it was held in October and even in a couple of years in November. Until 1981, the top Nebraskan in the event earned the title of Nebraska State Champion. To avoid controversies of high rated players impacting our state championship, the NSCA established the Closed and so the final Midwest Open to decide our state champion was 1981 and Richard Perry claimed that honor. Just to be fair the NSCA recognized two champions in 1981. Perry was the Midwest Open champion, while Andrew Hood won the very first Closed in that same year. For those interested in learning more about the history of this event, and all the greats who played in it over the years, I have done a series on the tournament's history in my Nebraska Chess History group on Facebook.

So, we turn to the October 2-3, 1993 event which was held 30 years ago. The event was held in Omaha and was directed by yours truly. It drew a modest but strong crowd of 30 players. The event was won by NM Paul Rohwer, then still in high school at Brownell-Talbot with 4.5-.5. There was a 4-way tie for 2nd place between Michael Dreiger, Joe Kruml, Kent Nelson and Bruce Draney all with 4-1. Ten of the 30 players were rated Expert or higher and there were 2 Masters. In

addition there were four A players and another B player who jumped into Class A as a result in this event. In other words, 50% of the field was rated 1800 or above by the end of the tournament, a testimony to how prestigious this tournament still remained to players inside and outside of Nebraska.

Here is a cross table of the 1993 Midwest Open held 30 years ago

45th Anniversary Midwest/Nebraska Open 10/2-10/3/1993

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	P. Rohwer	2311	W14	W10	W16	W2	D3	4.5
2	M. Dreiger	2137	W18	W4	W9	L1	W11	4.0
3	J. Kruml	2099	W15	W6	D7	W13	D1	4.0
4	K. Nelson	2002	W23	L2	W19	W12	W7	4.0
5	B. Draney	1864	W30	L9	W21	W16	W10	4.0
6	M.Blankenau	2293	W25	L3	W17	D7	W13	3.5
7	Z.Kilibarda	2201	W19	W24	D3	D6	L4	3.0
8	K. Fleming	2222	D12	L13	W22	D24	W20	3.0
9	J. Ellis	2133	W20	W5	L2	L11	W18	3.0
10	E. Battistella	2068	W22	L1	W25	W18	L5	3.0
11	R. Holling	1926	W29	L16	W20	W9	L2	3.0
12	R. Nilssen	1727	D8	W26	D13	L4	W22	3.0
13	E. Hamelrath	1795	W27	W8	D12	L3	L6	2.5
14	L. Klink	1754	L1	L22	D26	W28	W30	2.5
15	L. Peterson	1492	L3	L17	W30	D25	W23	2.5
16	J. Drexel	2100	W21	W11	L1	L5	F----	2.0
17	D. Remer	1800	F---	W15	L6	W21	F----	2.0
18	M. Daley	1678	L2	W29	W24	L10	L9	2.0
19	K. Drexel	1689	L7	W28	L4	L22	W25	2.0
20	R. Mitchell	1679	L9	W30	L11	W26	L8	2.0
21	M. Anzalone	1522	L16	W27	L5	L17	W26	2.0
22	D. Cahalan	1418	L10	W14	L8	W19	L12	2.0
23	C. Moseley	1283	L4	L25	W27	W28	L15	2.0
24	W. Pressnall	1978	W28	L7	L18	D8	F----	1.5
25	D. Raines	1789	L6	W23	L10	D15	L19	1.5
26	T. Walsh	1275	H--	L12	D14	L20	L21	1.0
27	D. Finney	1103	L13	L21	L23	W30	L28	1.0
28	C. Bath	1060	L24	L19	L23	L14	W27	1.0
29	P. Callaghan	UNR	L11	L18	F---	F----	F----	0.0
30	D. Frey	UNR	L5	L20	L15	L27	L14	0.0

OTHER CHESS EVENTS 10/1/2023-12/31/2023

There were plenty of smaller chess events held throughout the 4th Quarter of 2023. Here is a summary of many of them:

Spence Chess Club

October 2023-The Spence Club held a rated championship Swiss event that lasted from late September until late October. The winner was Nick Lacroix with a perfect 5-0 score. Alan Easey finished a strong second with 4-1. In all 18 players took part.

November 2023-On 11/1/2023 the club held a 6 round double Swiss 3/+2 blitz event that drew 12 players. Winner was Nick LaCroix with 10-2. Second was Abhinav Suresh with 9-3.

On 11/8/2023, the club held an G24/d5 3 round action Swiss that drew 11 players. Abinhav Suresh and Steven Cusumano tied for 1st with 2.5-.5.

On 11/15/2023, the club held a 4 round Quick Chess G/12 d3 event that drew 8 players and was won by Nick Lacroix with 4-0.

December 2023-On 12/20/2023, the Spence club held another G/3+2 blitz event that drew 11 players and was won by Nick Lacroix with 11.5-.5. Abhinav Suresh took 2nd.

Central Nebraska Chess Club of Kearney

The Central Nebraska Chess Club of Kearney hosted a tournament on 11/23/2023 that drew 12 players in the rated section. Thomas Jessop won the 3 round rated section with a score of 3-0. Tony Dutiel finished 2nd with 2.5-.5.

Chess Rockerz hosted a number of events in this quarter of 2023. One event on 10/13-14/2023 was for players rated below 1600. On 10/21/2023 there was another event that had an Open section in addition to sections for lower rated players. Although there were no rated events in November, the club hosted an event on 12/16/2023. The Open section was won by Rakshith Seetharaman. The final event of the calendar year was a Holiday Open on 12/23/2023 won by Chris Savage.

UNO Chess hosted two major events in this period. The first were rated quads that drew 22 players and the top Quad was won by Nick Lacroix. Two quads were combined together into a 3 round Swiss which was won by Ajay Pasupuleti and Rakshith Seetharaman both with 2.5-.5. In December, UNO hosted the NSCA Class Championships on 12/2/2023, which drew a very respectable 51 players and then the NSCA Rapid and Blitz Championships on 12/9/2023 which drew 55 players. FM Nathan Solon swept the Rapid and Blitz championships and also won the Expert & Above Quad.

NSCA 2023 CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS 12/2/2023

Master/Expert section:

Nathan Solon	2437	W3	W2	W4	3.0
Nick LaCroix	2085	W4	L1	W3	2.0
Joe Knapp	2009	L1	W4	L2	1.0
J.J. Lang	2128	L2	L3	L1	0.0

Class A:

Kirill Belashchenko	1914	W3	W2	D4	2.5
Chad Forsman	1713	W4	L1	W3	2.0
John Davidson	1836	L1	W4	L2	1.0
Abhinav Suresh	1903	L2	L3	D1	0.5

Class B:

Luke Hengen	1701	W3	W2	D4	2.5
Jeffrey Solheim	1690	W4	L1	W3	2.0
Michael Mills	1661	L1	W4	L2	1.0
Siddharth Parthasarathy	1521	L2	L3	D1	.5

Class C:

Dominic Zeisler	1548	W4	W3	D2	2.5
R. Seetharaman	1513	W5	W4	D1	2.5
Ajay Pasupuleti	1539	W6	L1	W5	2.0
Jerome Tichacek	1400	L1	L2	W6	1.0
Mansi Adduri	1401	L2	D6	L3	0.5
Ken Brewer	1403	L3	D5	L4	0.5

FILLING THE SHOES OF KENT NELSON HAS BEEN CHALLENGING, BUT THIS ISSUE COMPLETES THE REVIEW OF THE 2023 NEBRASKA CHESS YEAR. STAY TUNED FOR 2024 COMING SOON.

Well, it took me four months, but I have finally caught us up to the start of 2024. This issue comes in at 22 pages which was about the average for the 4 quarterly issues I was able to complete since mid-February.

The biggest challenge in keeping up has been the amount of editing that needs to be done on 22 pages or more of written material. The Omaha Chess Archive is only 6 pages normally so editing 22-27 pages is a big challenge and one doesn't want to make a grammatical or typing error and then have to resubmit the entire issue because you made a mistake.

As long as I'm continuing to do the editing, I would ask you the readers for games, articles or other chess related materials that would be of interest to our readers. Obviously, I have plenty of material if necessary but don't want people to feel that I won't publish their articles. I only need you to send them to me at gambiteer49@yahoo.com. If you want to annotate a game, I promise I won't correct your analysis which is kind of a faux pas in the chess world. Just like me, you need to double check your notation and make sure the moves in the game are complete and accurate. If you submit a story or article I would only correct spelling errors or grammatical errors not your opinions or analysis.

One thing that has been taking up a lot of my time has been the planning of the Hall of Fame Champions Celebration which is now only about a week away as I write this. I hope that many of you who haven't yet registered will play in this very special event which is one of a kind. My partner, Rod Malpert and I have put in a great deal of work and preparation to make this the coolest chess event in Nebraska in a generation. I will see you all in about a month when I should be ready for the first quarter of 2024.