

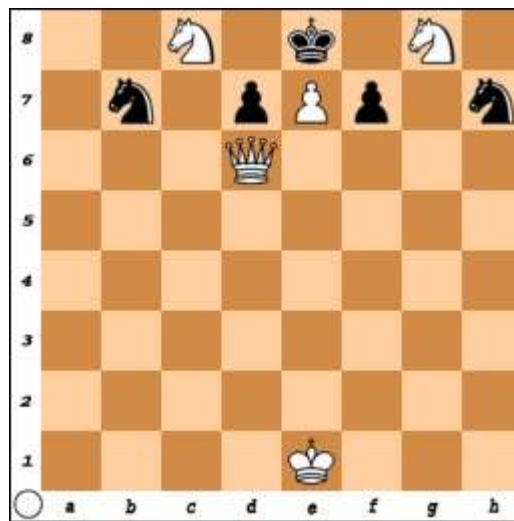
The Gambit

The Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

Volume 1: January 1st-March 31st 2024

William A. Shinkman



Mate in Two

This two-mover by the famous American chess problems composer William A. Shinkman was first published in 'The Chicago Daily Tribune' in 1903.

The key is not obvious due to the Queen's long-range move.

1.Qd1! puts Black in waiting with four following variations:

1...Pd-any 2.Qa4#, 1...Pf-any 2.Qh5#, 1...Nb-any 2.Nd6#, 1...Nh-any 2.Nf6#.

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Gambit Editor- Bruce Draney. The Gambit serves as the official publication of the
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Lincoln Chess Foundation
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Letter from Gambit Editor Bruce Draney

Here we go folks. We are now publishing the first issue of 2024 and we are only, (after this issue), three months behind from being current. Kent Nelson has generously offered to allow me to continue to edit the Gambit, so for the foreseeable future these issues will be my responsibility and will be in my own particular style which might be different from Kent's or other past editors, of which there have been many. As usual, it's time to thank people for helping me to produce this newsletter and also for helping me pull off the finest chess event I've ever had the pleasure of organizing, which just concluded on June 2nd. The Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame Champions Celebration was the most prestigious and locally organized and supported chess event ever held in the state and although it only drew 69 players, well short of the record 110 that played in the 1973 Midwest Open, it offered a prize fund that ended up being \$14,150.00 and had all the feel of a national event. A full report on the event will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Gambit. In the meantime, I'd like to thank the following people:

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.

Chess Life and Chess Life Kids Editor John Hartmann who not only played in the event but also attended the HOF Induction Banquet and had some very nice words for all of us involved. John also won one game award and shared a second.

Hall of Fame Inductee Rod Malpert whose financial support and enthusiasm were absolutely essential in pulling off the Champions Celebration. Rod not only received our Diamond Patron Award at the banquet but also emceed the first half of the program along with fellow Hall of Famer and longtime friend Loren Schmidt.

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. John Hartmann said it best in a speech accepting one of the first ever Jack Spence Excellence in Journalism awards, when he said, "No one deserves the honor of being in our Hall of Fame more than Kent Nelson." Kent has been State Champion, Lincoln and Omaha City Champion and Gambit Editor for so many years I've lost count.

Hall of Fame Inductee and 1989 U.S. Women's Champion Alexey Root who not only attended the induction banquet, but played in the event, conducted a joint simul with Keaton Kiewra on Saturday night and did a short lecture on Sunday afternoon.

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 as well as two articles in the Lincoln Journal Star that promoted the event.

Loren Schmidt who attended the event, emceed part of the Induction Banquet program, played a joint simul on Saturday night with Rod Malpert and as he laughingly said, donated rating points to the young players attending the event.

IM John Watson who spoke live via a Zoom connection at our HOF Induction Banquet and had some very insightful thoughts about the value of playing chess in person. I am doing an article in this issue about my own feelings about how treasured the over the board experience has been in my own life.

NM John Tomas who also spoke live via Zoom at the banquet and gave his own insights into what Nebraska chess has meant to him and his fond memories of Nebraska.

NM John Drexel who joined us live via Zoom from Michigan at the banquet and did 4 of our special eulogies to Nebraska chess greats from the 1970's who had died. John also has helped by serving on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee and offering both advice and financial assistance to Nebraska chess. John is indeed a great guy.

NM Rich Perry who attended the banquet and gave two eulogies one about Charlie Graham that was very moving and another on HOF legend Delmar Saxton. Rich also has won 4 Nebraska State Championships, the Nebraska High School Championship and he also played in the event to boot.

NM Rich Chess who attended the banquet gave two eulogies, one on David Ackerman and another very moving one on his brother Mike. Rich also played in the event won both a game award as well as a share of 3rd place with a score of 3-1.

Craig Wilkins who received a Platinum Patron Award for his support of this event and of the Lincoln Chess Foundation. 3

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 Harral 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

NICK LACROIX AND JACOB WAGNER SHARE 1ST IN 2024 STATE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP IN OMAHA ON JANUARY 20th-21st.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Lacroix	2108	W5	W3	D4	D2	D6	3.5
2	Wagner	2034	L3	W4	W6	D1	W5	3.5
3	Belashchenko	1931	W2	L1	D5	W6	D4	3.0
4	Suresh	1872	W6	L2	D1	W5	D3	3.0
5	Knapp	2002	L1	W6	D3	L4	L2	1.5
6	Cusumano	1893	L4	L5	L2	L3	D1	0.5

On a bitterly cold morning in January, six of the state's top players who had qualified, showed up at the riverfront here in Omaha to compete for the State Closed Championship over two days. Competition was fierce and the parity of playing strength became apparent as four of the six participants scored at least 3 points and 5 of the 15 games resulted in draws. Eventually defending champion Nick Lacroix and Omaha Expert Jacob Wagner, tied for 1st with 3.5-1.5. Here are some of the games from the event courtesy of JJ Lang who inputs them into the Lichess database.

Round 1

Lacroix-Knapp

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 Bb4 6. e3 h6 7. Bh4 g5 8. Bg3 Ne4 9. Rc1 h5 10. f3 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Nxc3 12. hxc3 Qd6 13. f4 Nc6 14. Rxc3 Rg8 15. Nf3 Bg4 16. Rh1 O-O-O 17. Bd3 Rde8 18. Kf2 Kb8 19. Qc2 Bxf3 20. gxf3 Qe7 21. Rce1 Rh8 22. Qd2 Qf6 23. e4 dxe4 24. fxe4 Rh6 25. e5 Qh8 26. Kg2 gxf4 27. Qxf4 Rxc3 28. Rxc3 Qg8 29. Bc4 Qg6 30. Bxf7 Qc2+ 31. Qf2 Qe4+ 32. Kg1 Qb1+ 33. Qf1 Qxf1+ 34. Kxf1 Rf8 35. Ke2 Nd8 36. Bc4 a5 37. Rh7 c6 38. a4 Re8 39. Kd3 Ne6 40. Rh6 Nc7 41. Bf7 Re7 42. e6 b5 43. axb5 Nxb5 44. g4 Nd6 45. g5 Nxf7 46. exf7 Rxf7 47. Rxc6 Kb7 48. Rf6 Rg7 49. g6 Kc8 50. Rf8+ Kd7 51. Rf7+ Rxf7 52. gxf7 Ke7 53. Kc4 Kxf7 54. Kb5 (1-0)

Suresh-Cusumano

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd3 Be7 8. O-O-O O-O 9. f4 a6 10. Nxc6 bxc6 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. Qxd6 Qb6 13. Rd3 Rd8 14. Qa3 Rxd3 15. Bxd3 Qe3+ 16. Kb1 Qxf4 17. Qc5 Qc7 18. Rf1 Rb8 19. Na4 Qxh2 20. Nb6 Qc7 21. Nc4 Rb5 22. Qe3 Qb8 23. b3 a5 24. e5 Bxe5 25. Qe4 Rd5 26. Qxh7+ Kf8 27. Qh8+ Ke7 28. Nxe5 Qxe5 29. Qxc8 Qd6 30. Qg8 Qe5 31. Rxf7+ (1-0)

Wagner-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bd3 c5 6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. O-O O-O 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Ne4 11. c4 Nxc3 12. hxg3 dxc4 13. Bxc4 Qxd1 14. Rxd1 Nc6 15. Nc3 Bg4 16. Rd5 Be7 17. Rb5 Rab8 18. Ne5 Nxe5 19. Rxe5 Bf6 20. Re3 Rfe8 21. Nd5 Bd4 22. Ree1 Kf8 23. Rxe8+ Rxe8 24. Kf1 Rc8 25. Bd3 Bxb2 26. Re1 Be6 27. Rb1 Bxd5 28. Rxb2 Rc1+ 29. Ke2 Rc3 30. f3 Ra3 31. Bb1 a6 32. Rb6 Bc6 33. g4 Ke7 34. Rb2 Kd6 35. Rd2+ Kc5 36. Rd1 Bb5+ 37. Kd2 Ra4 38. Rh1 Bc4 39. Rxh6 Bxa2 40. Be4 b5 41. Rc6+ Kb4 42. Kc2 Be6 43. Kb1 a5 44. Rb6 Bc4 45. Bc2 Ra3 46. Rd6 Kc3 47. Rc6 b4 48. Be4 Kb3 49. Bc2+ Kc3 50. Be4 Kd4 51. Rd6+ Ke3 52. Rc6 Bd3+ 53. Bxd3 Kxd3 54. Rc5 a4 55. Rxc5 Rc3 56. Rd5+ Kc4 57. Rf5 Kb3 58. Rxf7 a3 59. Ra7 Re3 60. Kc1 a2 61. Kd2 Rc3 62. g5 Kb2 63. f4 Ra3 64. Rb7 Ra4 (0-1)

Round 2

Knapp-Cusumano

1. Nf3 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. b3 c5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. Bb2 Bf6 8. Qc2 O-O 9. h4 Nc6 10. Ng5 g6 11. Nge4 Be7 12. h5 f5 13. hxg6 hxg6 14. Nxd5 exd5 15. Rh8+ Kf7 16. Rh7+ Ke8 17. Nxc5 Qd6 18. Rc1 Nb4 19. Qc3 Nxa2 20. Bb5+ Kd8 21. Qa5+ Qb6 22. Qxa2 Qxb5 23. b4 f4 24. Qxd5+ Ke8 25. Qe4 Rf7 26. Qxc6 (1-0)

Belashchenko-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. Qg4 Nd7 6. Bb5 Ne7 7. Nf3 Ng6 8. b4 a5 9. c3 Be7 10. Be3 O-O 11. Bd4 axb4 12. cxb4 b6 13. c6 Bxb4+ 14. Kf1 Nb8 15. h4 Ba6 16. Bxa6 Rxa6 17. h5 Ne7 18. Rh3 Nbxc6 19. a3 Bc5 20. Bb2 Na5 21. Nbd2 b5 22. Nh4 Nc4 23. Nxc4 bxc4 24. Rg3 g6 25. Qf4 d4 26. Rd1 Nf5 27. Nxf5 exf5 28. Bxd4 Rxa3 29. Rxa3 Bxa3 30. hxg6 fxg6 31. Ra1 Be7 32. Rc1 Bg5 33. Qg3 Bxc1 34. Qc3 Qd5 35. e6 Bg5 36. Kg1 Rd8 37. Bh8 Qd1+ 38. Kh2 Qh5+ 39. Kg3 f4++ (0-1)

Suresh-Wagner

Round 3

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Rg1 h5 7. h3 h4 8. Bg5 e6 9. Qf3 Be7 10. g4 Qa5 11. Bd2 Qb6 12. Nb3 g6 13. O-O-O Qc7 14. Bg2 Nc6 15. Qe2 Ne5 16. f4 Nc4 17. f5 Bd7 18. Rge1 Rc8 19. g5 Nh5 20. f6 Bf8 21. Nd5 exd5 22. exd5+ Ne5 23. Bc3 Qc4 24. Rd3 Nf4 25. Qf3 Nxc2 26. Qxc2 b6 27. Qg1 Qc7 28. Nd4 Kd8 29. Rde3 Qc5 30. Qg2 Kc7 31. Nb3 Qb5 32. Nd4 Qa4 33. Kb1 Kb7 34. Re4 Rxc3 35. Nb3 Rc4 (0-1)

Cusumano-Wagner

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. Nc3 Nf5 9. Na4 Qa5+ 10. Kf1 Bd7 11. Bd2 Bb4 12. Bxb4 Nxb4 13. Nc5 Bb5 14. g4 Bxe2+ 15. Qxe2 Nxd4 16. Nxb7 Nxe2 17. Nxa5 Nf4 18. a3 Nbd3 19. b4 Rc8 20. Nb3 Rc2 21. Nbd2 Ke7 (0-1)

Lacroix-Suresh

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. e3 e6 4. c4 cxd4 5. exd4 b6 6. g3 Bb7 7. Bg2 Bb4+ 8. Nbd2 O-O 9. O-O Re8 10. a3 Bf8 11. b4 a5 12. b5 d6 13. Re1 Nbd7 14. Bb2 Qc7 15. Rc1 Ra7 16. Rc2 (1/2-1/2)

Belashchenko-Knapp

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. g3 d5 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. exd5 Qxd5 8. Qxd5 cxd5 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10. Bxd7+ Kxd7 11. Nc3 Rb8 12. Ke2 Bb4 13. Na4 Ne7 14. a3 Bd6 15. Be3 Nc6 16. Rhd1 Ke7 17. f4 Rbc8 18. b4 a5 19. c3 h5 20. h4 axb4 21. axb4 Kf6 22. Nb6 Rc7 23. Ra6 Kf5 24. Kf3 Ne7 (1/2-1/2)

Round 4

Cusumano-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. Nc3 Nf5 9. Na4 Qa5+ 10. Kf1 Bd7 11. Bd2 Bb4 12. Bxb4 Nxb4 13. Nc5 Bb5 14. g4 Bxe2+ 15. Qxe2 Nxd4 16. Nxb7 Nxe2 17. Nxa5 Nf4 18. a3 Nbd3 19. b4 Rc8 20. Nb3 Rc2 21. Nbd2 Ke7 (0-1)

Knapp-Suresh

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 d6 5. g3 c5 6. Bg2 Bd7 7. b3 Bc6 8. Bb2 a6 9. O-O O-O 10. e3 h6 11. Ne2 Nbd7 12. Rab1 b5 13. d3 e5 14. e4 Nb8 15. Nh4 Bd7 16. Nf5 Be6 17. Bc1 Nc6 18. a3 Ba5 19. f4 Rb8 20. Nxb6+ gxh6 21. f5 Bd7 22. Bxb6 Ng4 23. Bxf8 Qxf8 24. h3 Ne3 25. Qc1 Nxf1 26. Kxf1 Qg7 27. g4 Bd8 28. Ng3 Bg5 29. Qd1 Qh6 30. Nh5 f6 31. b4 Nd4 32. cxb5 axb5 33. bxc5 dxc5 34. Qe1 Be8 35. Qa5 Bxb5 36. Qc7 Rf8 37. gxh5 Be3 38. Rb2 Qxh5 39. Ke1 Qh4+ 40. Kd1 Qg3 41. Qxc5 Qh2 42. Qd5+ Kg7 (0-1)

Wagner-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Be2 Bf5 6. Nf3 e6 7. O-O h6 8. Be3 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nxd4 10. cxd4 Ne7 11. Qa4+ Nc6 12. Bb5 Qb6 13. Rc1 Rc8 14. Nd2 Be7 15. Nc4 dxc4 16. d5 Bc5 17. Bxc5 Qxc5 18. dxc6 bxc6 19. Rxc4 Qxe5 20. Qb4 f6 21. Re1 Qd5 22. Bxc6+ Rxc6 23. Rxc6 Qxc6 24. Qb8+ Kf7 25. Qxh8 Be4 26. f3 Qc5+ 27. Kh1 Bxf3 28. Rf1 Bxg2+ 29. Kxg2 Qg5+ 30. Kf3 Qf5+ 31. Ke2 Qe4+ 32. Kf2 (1/2-1/2)

Round 5

Suresh-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 dxe4 6. Qg4 Nf6 7. Qxg7 Rg8 8. Qh6 Rg6 9. Qh4 Rg4 10. Qh6 Rg6 11. Qh4 Rg4 (1/2-1/2)

Lacroix-Cusumano

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Bb7 5. Bg2 Be7 6. Nc3 Ne4 7. Nxe4 Bxe4 8. O-O f5 9. b3 Bf6 10. Bb2 d6 11. Qd2 Nd7 12. Rad1 O-O 13. Bc3 a5 14. Qb2 Qe7 15. Rd2 g5 16. Rfd1 h5 17. Ne1 Bxg2 18. Nxc2 Qg7 19. f3 Rae8 20. e4 fxe4 21. fxe4 e5 22. d5 g4 23. Ne3 Bg5 24. Nf5 Qg6 25. Rf2 Rf7 26. Rdf1 Ref8 27. Bd2 Nc5 28. Bxg5 Qxg5 29. Qc2 Kh7 30. a3 Nd7 31. b4 axb4 32. axb4 Nf6 33. Qe2 Ng8 34. c5 bxc5 35. bxc5 dxc5 36. Qb2 Nh6 37. Qxe5 Nxf5 38. exf5 Qf6 39. Qxf6 Rxf6 40. Rc2 Rxf5 41. Rxf5 Rxf5 42. Rxc5 Rf7 43. Rc6 Rd7 44. h3 Rxd5 45. Rxc7+ Kg6 46. hxg4 hxg4 47. Rc4 Kg5 48. Kg2 Rd2+ 49. Kg1 Kf5 50. Rf4+ Kg5 (1/2-1/2)

Knapp-Wagner

1. e3 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. b3 Nbd7 5. Bb2 Bd6 6. Nc3 O-O 7. Qc2 a6 8. Be2 Re8 9. Rg1 dxc4 10. Bxc4 b5 11. Be2 c5 12. Ne4 Be7 13. g4 Bb7 14. Ng3 Rc8 15. g5 Nd5 16. h4 c4 17. bxc4 bxc4 18. Bd4 c3 19. a3 Qa5 20. Kf1 cxd2 21. Qxd2 Qxd2 22. Nxd2 e5 23. Bg4 Red8 24. Rb1 Ba8 25. Ba1 Rc2 26. Nde4 Nc5 27. Bf5 Ra2 28. Bxe5 g6 29. Nf6+ Nxf6 30. gxf6 Bf8 31. Bd4 gxf5 32. Nxf5+ Kh8 33. Ne7 h6 34. Bxc5 Be4 35. Rg8+ Kh7 36. Rxf8 Rxf8 37. Rb4 Bf3 38. Kg1 Rd8 39. Bd4 Rxa3 40. Kh2 a5 41. Rb5 a4 42. Rb1 Ra2 43. Rg1 Rxf2+ 44. Kg3 Rg2+ 45. Rxc2 Bxc2 46. Bc5 Be4 47. Kf4 Bb1 48. e4 Rd3 49. Nf5 a3 50. Bd4 Rd1 51. Bc3 a2 52. e5 Rf1+ (0-1)

When it was over, there was a tie for the State Championship between Jacob Wagner and defending champion Nick Lacroix. Jacob played exceptionally well after losing his opening round game to Kirill Belashchenko. Jacob defeated Suresh, Knapp and Cusumano and drew Lacroix.

Although Jacob and Nick will share the title, Nick had the better tiebreaks and thereby won the defending champion slot in next year's Closed. Suresh and Belashchenko tied for 3rd place with 3-2. Joe Knapp managed only 1.5. Steven had a rough tournament losing a thriller to Suresh in round one and finishing with .5. Steven's draw, however, had a huge impact on the standings in that it occurred in round 5 and was against Nick. Had Nick been able to win, he would have won the event instead of sharing the title with Jacob.

2024 NSCA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS 02/03/2024

Even though the 2023 Class Championships were held in November the NSCA decided to frontload the 2024 event to February due to a much more crowded tournament calendar in the later part of the year.

There were enough players to hold contested events in Expert, Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, Class E and all the way down to Under 400. SM Nathan Solon repeated as the Expert Champion. Abhinav Suresh took Class A, Jerry Slominski took Class B, Raskshith Seetharaman took Class C, Grant Nordby won Class D, Curtis Holsinger won Class E, Nikshith Alagankancharla won the Under 1000 Class, Emmett Stingley won the Under 800 section and Prayag Gundabolu took the Under 600 Award. His brother Rohan won a playoff for top player Under 200.

Expert Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Nathan Solon	2442	W4	W3	W2	3.0
2	Nick Lacroix	2107	D3	W4	L1	1.5
3	Joe Knapp	1974	D2	L1	W4	1.5
4	JJ Lang	2100	L1	L2	L3	0.0

Class A Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Abhinav Suresh	1914	W2	W3	D4	2.5
2	Kirill Belashchenko	1953	L1	W4	D3	1.5
3	Steven Cusumano	1859	W4	L1	D2	1.5
4	John Davidson	1807	L3	L2	D1	0.5

Class B Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Jerry Slominski	1747	H	W3	W2	2.5
2	Luke Hengen	1697	W6	W4	L1	2.0
3	Guru Gurumoorthi	1654	Bye	L1	W6	2.0
4	Chad Forsman	1807	W5	L2	WD	1.0
5	Jeff Solheim	1699	L4	D6	WD	0.5
6	Ajay Pasupuleti	1681	L2	D5	L3	0.5

Class C

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Rakshith Seetharaman	1608	W7	W6	W2	3.0
2	Matthew Koppinger	1542	W4	W3	L1	2.0
3	Phillip Schiff	1427	W8	L2	W5	2.0
4	Mansi Adduri	1452	L2	W8	H	1.5
5	Dominic Zeisler	1581	L6	W7	L3	1.0
6	Vishwa Ravichandran	1453	W5	L1	L7	1.0
7	Cameron Shively	1405	L1	L5	W6	1.0
8	Jerome Tichacek	1400	L3	L4	Bye	1.0

Class D

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Grant Nordby	1365	D3	W4	D2	2.0
2	J Siado Castenada	1269	W4	L3	D1	1.5
3	Siva Kolli	1136	D1	W2	L4	1.5
4	Ken Brewer	1362	L2	L1	W3	1.0

Class E

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Holsinger	1109	W2	W3	W4	D6	3.5
2	McGowan	1024	L1	W7	W5	W4	3.0
3	Zhuang	1084	W7	L1	W6	W8	3.0
4	Hastings	UNR	W5	W6	L1	L2	2.0
5	Hoffman	1080	L4	W8	L2	W7	2.0
6	Parshall	1109	W8	L4	L3	D1	1.5
7	Manley	1188	L3	L2	W8	L5	1.0
8	Harrington	1025	L6	L5	L7	L3	0.0

The Winter Open. The Winter Open was held on February 18-19th, 2024 in Omaha at the Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites near 174th and Maple. The event was a POY event and was organized by Seetharaman Renganathan and directed by yours truly. There was an RBO on Saturday only and a blitz event on Sunday between round 4-5. There was a tie for first in the open section between Abhinav Suresh and Luke Hengen who drew a hard fought game in round 5 to both finish with 4.5.

Winter Open Open Section:

#	Name	Rating	Total	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5
1	ABHINAV SURESH	1937	4.5	W 17	W 8	W 5	W 4	D 2
2	LUKE O HENGEN	1721	4.5	W 24	W 18	W 3	W 12	D 1
3	NICHOLAS PAUL LACROIX	2111	4.0	W 11	W 10	L 2	W 9	W 7
4	JOSEPH A KNAPP	1994	4.0	W 26	W 13	W 9	L 1	W 11
5	AARON S PEEKSMEASE	1594	4.0	W 31	W 7	L 1	W 6	W 13
6	CHAD FORSMAN	1798	3.0	X	L 9	W 26	L 5	W 14
7	RYAN PENG DONG	1768	3.0	W 20	L 5	W 15	W 10	L 3
8	MITCHELL MUND	1743	3.0	W 32	L 1	W 20	L 11	W 21
9	GURU GURUMOORTHY	1660	3.0	W 29	W 6	L 4	L 3	W 20
10	OWEN LIN	1665	3.0	W 21	L 3	W 18	L 7	W 19
11	THOMAS JESSOP	1636	3.0	L 3	W 24	W 29	W 8	L 4
12	JOHN DAVIDSON	1789	2.5	D 16	W 22	W 23	L 2	U -
13	THOMAS GAUL	1700	2.5	W 25	L 4	D 17	W 16	L 5
14	JEFFERY A SOLHEIM	1683	2.5	L 18	W 19	H	W 17	L 6
15	MICHAEL MILLS	1688	2.5	D 30	W 16	L 7	D 19	D 18
16	R. SEETHARAMAN	1625	2.5	D 12	L 15	W 22	L 13	W 25
17	MATTHEW KOPPINGER	1560	2.5	L 1	W 32	D 13	L 14	W 24
18	GRANT NORDBY	1360	2.5	W 14	L 2	L 10	W 22	D 15
19	CHRIS SAVAGE	1525	2.0	Z	L 14	W 30	D 15	L 10
20	PHILIP ROSS SCHIFF	1472	2.0	L 7	W 21	L 8	W 29	L 9
21	ASHER DAVID BALDWIN	1163	2.0	L 10	L 20	B	W 26	L 8
22	EDWARD LUCAS JESSOP	974	2.0	B	L 12	L 16	L 18	W 29
23	JERRY SLOMINSKI	1776	1.5	H	W 30	L 12	U	U
24	VISHWA RAVICHANDRAN	1445	1.5	L 2	L 11	D 25	W 30	L 17
25	JEROME W TICHACEK	1400	1.5	L 13	L 26	D 24	B	L 16
26	C SCOTT LOOK	1600	1.0	L 4	W 25	L 6	L 21	U
27	DRONA VENKAT JAYANTI	1083	1.0	U	U	U	U	W 30
28	ALAGANKANCHARLA	1028	1.0	U	U	U	U	W 3
29	GABE HOFFMAN	1075	1.0	L 9	B	L 11	L 20	L 22
30	SAMIRUL ISLAM	UNR	0.5	D 15	L 23	L 19	L 24	L 27
31	STEVEN CUSUMANO	1863	0.0	L 5	U	U	U	U
32	JOHN SCHICK	1329	0.0	L 8	L 17	U	U	U
33	CLOVER HENGEN	873	0.0	U	U	U	U	L 28

CUSUMANO RIVERFRONT INVITATIONAL I 3/9/2024

#	Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Tot
1	Suresh	1963	W10	D4	W5	2.5
2	Belashchenko	1943	D7	W8	W4	2.5
3	Cusumano	1842	L4	W10	W6	2.0
4	Lacroix	2101	W3	D1	L2	1.5
5	Lang	2095	W9	D6	L1	1.5
6	Davidson	1782	W8	D5	L3	1.5
7	Slominski	1754	D2	L9	W10	1.5
8	Knapp	1992	L6	L2	W9	1.0
9	Hengen	1822	L5	W7	L8	1.0
10	Dong	1774	L1	L3	L7	0.0

NSCA President Steven Cusumano had a really cool idea to invite many of Nebraska's strongest players to a small invitational 3 round Swiss system on Saturday, March 9th at the same location where the Closed was held in January. People enjoyed the first event so much he held a second one in May which will be covered in next quarter's issue.

Although several strong players declined, he did attract 10 players all rated at least 1700 and up to Expert strength. The field included Experts, JJ Lang, Nick Lacroix, and Joe Knapp, A players, Steven Cusumano, Kirill Belashchenko, Abhinav Suresh, John Davidson, and Luke Hengen, Nebraska Senior Co-Champ, Jerry Slominski, and up and coming junior star, Ryan Peng Dong. It was directed by Michael Mills.

Competition was fierce and the games and competitive spirit had all the makings of a Closed. When it was over, no one escaped unscathed but Suresh and Belashchenko tied for 1st with 2.5-.5. The event was directed by NSCA Omaha Vice President Michael Mills. This type of event has intriguing possibilities and more such events could be planned in the future. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Games from the 1st Riverfront Invitational

Round 1

Suresh-Dong

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3 Bc5 6. c3 d6 7. h3 b5 8. Bb3 O-O 9. O-O Bb6 10. Re1 Re8 11. a4 Be6 12. Ng5 Qd7 13. Nxe6 fxe6 14. Bg5 Qf7 15. Qf3 Rad8 16. axb5 axb5 17. Na3 b4 18. Nc4 Bc5 19. Ba4 Ne7 20. Bxe8 Rxe8 21. Rad1 bxc3 22. bxc3 Rf8 23. d4 exd4 24. cxd4 Bb4 25. Re2 Qg6 26. Bxf6 Rxf6 27. Qb3 Qh5 28. g4 Qb5 29. Rb2 c5 30. dxc5 dxc5 31. Rd8+ Rf8 32. Ne5 Rxd8 33. Qxe6+ Kh8 34. Nf7+ Kg8 35. Nh6+ Kh8 36. Qg8+ Nxc8 37. Nf7# (1-0)

The Philidor smothered mate doesn't occur often but does in this event.

Lang-Hengen

1. d4 g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. e4 e5 5. d5 Ne7 6. Nf3 O-O 7. h4 Bg4 8. Be2 h6 9. Nd2 Bd7 10. g4 f5 11. c5 Na6 12. c6 Bc8 13. b4 fxg4 14. Qa4 Nb8 15. cxb7 Bxb7 16. Bxg4 c6 17. Nc4 cxd5 18. Be6+ Kh7 19. exd5 Nf5 20. h5 Qf6 21. Ne4 Qe7 22. hxg6+ Kxg6 23. Bxf5+ Rxf5 24. Nxd6 Bxd5 25. Nxf5 Kxf5 26. Ne3+ Ke6 27. Nxd5 Kxd5 28. Bxh6 Qc7 29. Rd1+ Ke6 30. Qe8+ Kf6 31. Bxg7+ Qxg7 32. Rd6+ (1-0)

Davidson-Knapp

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 Bb4 6. e3 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Qa4+ Nc6 9. Bb5 Bxc3+ 10. bxc3 O-O 11. Nf3 Qg6 12. Ke2 Bd7 13. Bd3 Qxg2 14. Rhg1 Qxf3+ 15. Kxf3 Ne5+ 16. dxe5 Bxa4 17. Rg3 Kh8 18. Rag1 Rg8 19. c4 Bc6 20. Kf4 dxc4 21. Bxc4 Raf8 22. h4 h5 23. Kg5 g6 24. Kf6 Rg7 25. Rg5 Rh7 26. f4 Be4 27. Ke7 Kg7 28. f5 Rhh8 29. f6+ Kh7 30. Bxf7 Rd8 31. Bxg6+ Bxg6 32. Rxc6 Rhe8+ 33. Kf7 Rxe5 34. Rg7+ Kh8 35. Rg8+ Rxc6 36. Rxc6+ Kh7 37. Rg5 (1-0)

Cusumano-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 c5 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. O-O Bf5 8. Nc3 h6 9. Bf4 c4 10. b3 Bb4 11. Bd2 Bxc3 12. Bxc3 b5 13. bxc4 bxc4 14. Ne5 Rc8 15. Qa4 Qb6 16. Nxc6 Qxc6 17. Qa3 Rc7 18. Rfe1 Kd7 19. Rad1 Re8 20. Ba5 Rb7 21. e4 Nxe4 22. f3 Nd6 23. Rxe8 Kxe8 24. Re1+ Kf8 25. Bb4 Rd7 26. Qe3 Kg8 27. Qe5 Bd3 28. Bc5 Rd8 29. Rc1 Nb7 30. Bxa7 Re8 31. Qf4 Qa6 32. Bc5 Qxa2 33. Qh4 Qd2 34. Rf1 Bxf1 35. Bxf1 Nxc5 36. dxc5 Qe3+ (0-1)

Riverfront Invitational I Round 2

Dong-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 O-O 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 d5 7. Bg5 Nbd7 8. f3 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bf2 b6 11. cxd5 Nxd5 12. Qc6 Ba6 13. Qa4 Bb7 14. e4 Nf4 15. g3 Ng6 16. Bg2 c5 17. Ne2 cxd4 18. Nxd4 Nc5 19. Qd1 Ba6 20. Bf1 Bxf1 21. Kxf1 Rc8 22. b4 Nb7 23. Qb3 Qf6 24. Rd1 Rfd8 25. Kg2 Nd6 26. Nc2 Rc3 27. Qb1 Qxf3+ 28. Kg1 Qxe4 29. Rc1 Rdc8 (0-1)

Hengen-Slominski

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 c6 4. e3 Bf5 5. Nc3 e6 6. Ne5 Bb4 7. g4 Bg6 8. f3 Qa5 9. Qd2 Nbd7 10. h4 h5 11. Nxc6 fxc6 12. g5 Ng8 13. Bh3 Kf7 14. O-O Ne7 15. e4 c5 16. exd5 Nxd5 17. Bxe6+ Kxe6 18. Qe2+ Kf7 19. Nxd5 Rae8 20. Qc4 Re6 21. Nc7 Qb6 22. c3 cxd4 23. Qxe6+ Qxe6 24. Nxe6 dxc3 25. bxc3 Bxc3 26. Rac1 Ba5 27. Bc7 Bd2 28. Nd8+ Ke8 29. Rcd1 Be3+ 30. Kg2 Bc5 31. Rfe1+ Be7 32. Nxb7 (1-0)

Belashchenko-Knapp

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. g3 a6 7. Bg2 Nf6 8. O-O Nxd4 9. Qxd4 Bc5 10. Qd3 Ng4 11. Qe2 h5 12. Bf4 Ne5 13. h3 d6 14. a4 Bd7 15. Rfd1 Rc8 16. Bxe5 dxe5 17. Rd3 h4 18. Kh2 g5 19. Rad1 Bd4 20. R1d2 Kf8 21. Qg4 Rg8 22. Ne2 Bxa4 23. Nxd4 exd4 24. b3 Bc6 25. Rxd4 Ke7 26. Rd6 Qa5 27. Qd1 Rcd8 28. b4 Qc7 29. e5 Bxc2 30. Kxc2 b6 31. Qf3 Rc8 32. Qf6+ Ke8 33. c4 Qb7+ 34. Kh2 Qe7 35. Qf3 Kf8 36. Rd7 Qe8 37. Rb7 b5 38. Rdd7 Rg7 39. c5 Kg8 40. Re7 Qc6 41. Qf6 Rf8 42. Rb6 hxg3+ 43. Kxc3 Qe4 44. Rxa6 Qh4+ 45. Kg2 Qxb4 46. Rc6 Qe4+ 47. Qf3 Qxe5 48. Rcc7 b4 and black lost on time (1-0)

Round 3

Slominski-Dong

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. Nxe5 Nxe5 9. dxe5 Be6 10. Nd2 Nc5 11. f4 Qd7 12. c3 Bg4 13. Nf3 c6 14. Bc2 Qc7 15. Qe1 Qd7 16. Be3 Bf5 17. Bxf5 Qxf5 18. Nd4 Qd7 19. f5 Nd3 20. Qg3 Nxb2 21. e6 Qc8 22. exf7+ Kxf7 23. Ne6 Nc4 24. Bd4 c5 25. Nxc5 Rg8 26. Ne6 Bd6 27. Ng5+ Ke8 28. Rae1+ Kd7 29. Qh3 Kc6 30. Re6 h6 31. Nf7 Qc7 32. Nxd6 Nxd6 33. Be5 Rad8 34. Qg3 Rge8 35. Bxd6 (1-0)

Belashchenko-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. Qg4 h5 6. Qf4 Bxc5 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. Be2 Qc7 9. O-O Nge7 10. Bd3 Bd7 11. a3 a6 12. b4 Bb6 13. Bb2 d4 14. c4 dxc3 15. Nxc3 Nd5 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. Qg5 Bg4 18. e6 Bxe6 19. Bxg7 Rg8 20. Bh7 Rxxg7 21. Qxxg7 O-O-O 22. Rac1 Kb8 23. a4 Ba7 (1-0)

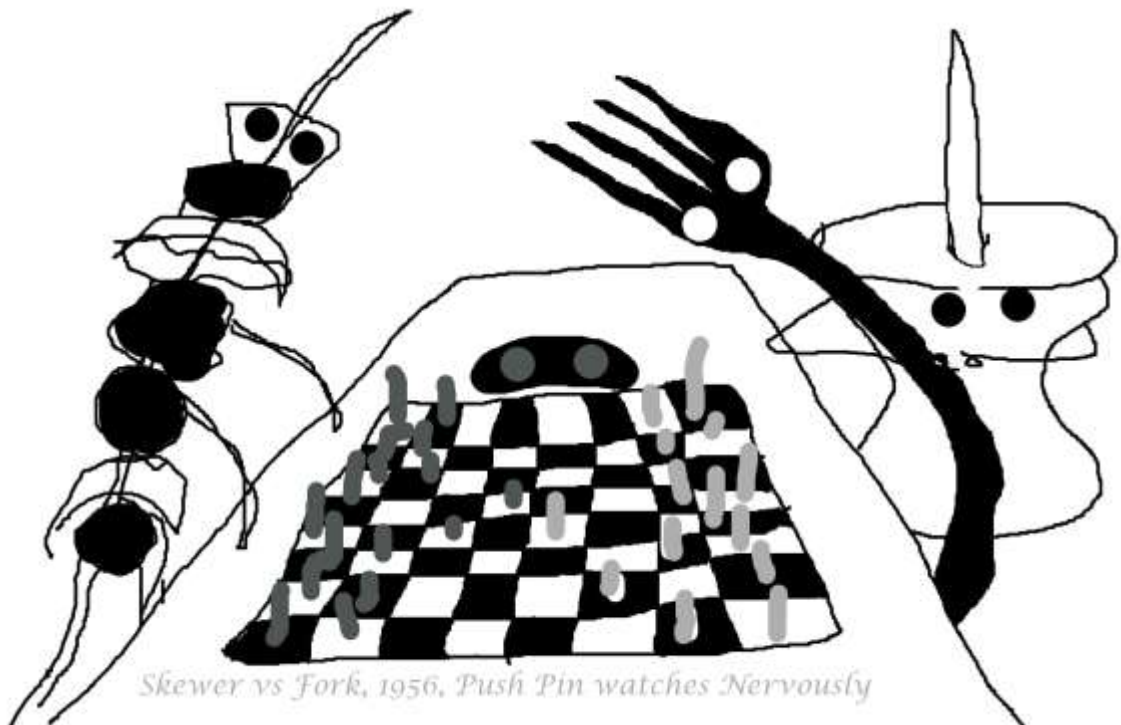
Lang-Suresh

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 c5 5. d5 b5 6. e4 bxc4 7. Bxc4 Nxd5 8. Bxd5 exd5 9. Qxd5 Nc6 10. Ne2 Ba6 11. Kf2 O-O 12. Rd1 Re8 13. a3 Ba5 14. Be3 Rb8 15. Rd2 Ne5 16. b4 Bb7 17. Qb3 c4 18. Qa2 Bb6 19. Nd4 d5 20. Kf1 Nd3 21. Na4 Rc8 22. Nxb6 axb6 23. Nf5 dxe4 24. Bd4 e3 25. Bxg7 exd2 26. Qxd2 Ne5 27. Qf4 Ng6 28. Qg4 c3 29. Rc1 Qd2 30. Bh6 Ba6+ (0-1)

Cusumano-Davidson

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 Bf5 5. Nc3 e6 6. Nh4 Be4 7. f3 Bg6 8. Nxxg6 hxxg6 9. Qb3 Qb6 10. c5 Qxb3 11. axb3 Nbd7 12. Bf4 Nh5 13. Kf2 Nxf4 14. gxf4 Be7 15. e3 O-O 16. Bd3 b6 17. b4 bxc5 18. bxc5 Rfb8 19. Rhb1 g5 20. fxxg5 Bxxg5 21. f4 Bf6 22. Ra6 Rc8 23. Rba1 Rc7 24. b4 g6 25. R1a3 Bh4+ 26. Kf3 Be1 27. b5 Nb8 28. R6a4 cxb5 29. Nxb5 Re7 30. Ke2 Bh4 31. Nxa7 Kf8 32. Nb5 Rxa4 33. Rxa4 Nc6 34. Nd6 Ra7 35. Bb5 Rxa4 36. Bxa4 Na7 37. Be8 Be7 38. Ba4 Bd8 39. Kd3 Ke7 40. e4 dxe4+ 41. Kxe4 f5+ 42. Ke3 Bc7 43. Nc4 Nc8 44. Ne5 Kf6 45. Bd7 Ne7 46. Kf3 Nd5 47. Bc6 Ne7 48. Bb7 Ba5 49. Nd7+ Kf7 50. Nb6 Kf6 51. Nc4 Bc7 52. Ne3 g5 53. fxxg5+ Kxxg5 54. h3 Kh4 55. Ng2+ Kxh3 56. Nf4+ Kh4 57. Nxe6 Bh2 58. d5 Nxd5 59. Bxd5 Bb8 60. c6 Kh5 61. c7 Bxc7 62. Nxc7 Kg6 63. Nb5 f4 64. Nc3 Kf5 65. Ne2 Ke5 66. Bb7 Kf5 67. Nxf4 Ke5 68. Ke3 Kf5 69. Bc8+ Ke5 70. Bh3 Kf6 71. Ke4 Kg7 72. Ke5 Kf7 73. Bf1 Kg7 74. Bc4 Kf8 75. Kf6 Ke8 76. Ne6 Kd7 77. Nd4 Kd6 78. Nb3 Kd7 79. Kf7 Kd6 80. Kf6 Kd7 81. Ke5 Ke7 82. Nc5 Kf8 83. Kf6 Ke8 84. Bf7+ Kd8 85. Ke6 Kc7 86. Be8 Kb6 87. Kd6 Ka5 88. Nd3 Kb6 89. Kd5 Kb7 90. Bd7 Kb6 91. Nb2 Ka5 92. Kc5 Ka6 93. Nc4 Kb7 94. Kd6 Ka6 95. Kc6 Ka7 96. Bc8 Kb8 97. Nd6 Ka7 98. Nb5+ Kb8 99. Ba6 Ka8 100. Bc8 Kb8 101. Bg4 Ka8 102. Kb6 Kb8 103. Bf5 Ka8 104. Nc7+ Kb8 105. Na6+ Ka8 106. Be4# (1-0) A very rare K-B-N vs K mate.

A Pin, a Fork and a Skewer Walked into an Analysis Room One Day- A Chess
Cartoon by **Heath Draney**



The 2024 Omaha City Championship was held on March 30th at UNO. The Open section was a POY event. It attracted 28 players from Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas. Top finisher was Kansan Sam Mehlhaff with 4-0. Omaha City Champion titlist was Abhinav Suresh with 3.5. Lacroix, Forsman, Seetharaman and Zeisler all had 3.0.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Mehlhaff	1726	W25	W7	W3	W6	4.0
2	Suresh	1994	W10	W8	D11	W9	3.5
3	Lacroix	2090	W5	W4	L1	W11	3.0
4	Forsman	1769	W23	L3	W16	W12	3.0
5	Seetharaman	1687	L3	W23	W13	W19	3.0
6	Zeisler	1553	W13	W21	W12	L1	3.0
7	Cusumano	1860	W16	L1	W15	D8	2.5
8	Gurumoorthi	1683	W24	L2	W22	D7	2.5
9	Koppinger	1586	D26	W17	W18	L2	2.5
10	Gizel	1570	L2	W24	D14	W20	2.5
11	Kantem	1286	W15	W26	D2	L3	2.5
12	Knapp	1967	W27	W14	L6	L4	2.0
13	Gordon	1856	L6	W20	L5	W22	2.0
14	Davidson	1805	W22	L12	D10	H	2.0
15	Pasupuleti	1613	L11	W28	L7	W23	2.0
16	Parthasarathy	1531	L7	W25	L4	W24	2.0
17	Hengen	1844	D19	L9	L20	W28	1.5
18	Gaul	1702	D20	W19	L9	U	1.5
19	Adduri	1449	D17	L18	W26	L5	1.5
20	Hilgenberg	1328	D18	L13	W17	L10	1.5
21	Buckley	1829	W28	L6	U	U	1.0
22	Ravichandran	1417	L14	W27	L8	L13	1.0
23	Leboeue	1363	L4	L5	W25	L15	1.0
24	Etheredge	1310	L8	L10	W28	L16	1.0
25	Schliesser	1223	L1	L16	L23	Bye	1.0
26	Belashchenko	1972	D9	L11	L19	U	0.5
27	Look	1600	L12	L22	U	U	0.0
28	Schiff	1519	L21	L15	L24	L17	0.0

Games from the Omaha City Championship

Round 1

Lacroix-Seetharaman

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Ne5 e6 6. Nxc4 Nxc4 7. e4 Nf6 8. cxd5 cxd5 9. e5 Nfd7 10. Bd3 Nc6 11. Be3 Ndx5 12. dxe5 d4 13. Bd2 dxc3 14. Bxc3 Qd5 15. O-O O-O-O 16. Be2 Qxd1 17. Rfxd1 Bb4 18. Bxb4 Rxd1+ 19. Rxd1 Nxb4 20. a3 Nc6 21. f4 Rd8 22. Rxd8+ Kxd8 23. Kf2 f6 24. exf6 gxf6 25. Bd3 h6 26. Kg3 Ke7 27. Kh4 Kf7 28. Kh5 Kg7 29. g4 e5 30. g5 hxg5 31. fxg5 fxg5 32. Kxg5 Nd4 33. Be4 b6 34. h4 a5 35. h5 Ne6+ 36. Kf5 Nf4 37. Kxe5 Nxc5 38. Kd6 b5 39. Kc5 b4 40. a4 Ng3 41. Bd3 (1-0)

Suresh-Gizel

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 dxe4 6. Qg4 Nf6 7. Qxg7 Rg8 8. Qh6 Rg6 9. Qh4 c6 10. Ne2 Qa5 11. Bd2 Nbd7 12. Ng3 Rg4 13. Qh6 Rg6 14. Qe3 Nd5 15. Qxe4 N7f6 16. Qe5 Qa4 17. c4 Ne7 18. Bd3 Nd7 19. Qe2 Rg8 20. Bxh7 Rh8 21. Bd3 b6 22. Ne4 Nf5 23. Nc3 Nxd4 24. Nxa4 Nxe2 25. Kxe2 c5 26. Bc3 f6 27. Be4 Rb8 28. Rad1 Ke7 29. Bc6 Rh4 30. Nb2 e5 31. g3 Rh5 32. h4 Nf8 33. Bf3 Rh8 34. Nd3 Ba6 35. Bd5 Rd8 36. Ke3 Ne6 37. f4 Nd4 38. Bxd4 cxd4+ 39. Ke4 Kd6 40. fxe5+ fxe5 41. Rhf1 Rhf8 42. Nxe5 Rfe8 43. Rf6+ Kc7 44. Rdf1 Bc8 45. Rf7+ Kb8 46. Kxd4 Rxe5 47. Kxe5 Re8+ 48. Kd4 Re2 49. Kd3 Rh2 50. Rf8 Rh3 51. Rxc8+ Kxc8 52. Be6+ Kc7 53. Bxh3 (1-0)

Gordon-Zeisler

1. e4 e6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. Bf4 f6 9. Qe2 O-O 10. Bg3 fxe5 11. O-O-O e4 12. Nxe4 dxe4 13. Bxe4 Qe7 14. h4 h6 15. h5 Nf6 16. Bd3 Bd7 17. Bh4 Nb4 18. Bc4 Kh8 19. Ne5 Be8 20. Bxe6 Rd8 21. Bb3 Rxd1+ 22. Rxd1 Bxh5 23. Qxh5 Nxc5 24. Ng6+ Kh7 25. Bxe7 Bxe7 26. Nxf8+ Bxf8 27. Rd7 Bc5 28. Rxb7 Bb6 29. Bf7 Nf6 30. a3 Nc6 (0-1)

Round 2

Forsman-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. g3 O-O 6. Bg2 Nbd7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. O-O c6 9. Bg5 Re8 10. e3 h6 11. Bxf6 Nxf6 12. Ne5 Bf5 13. Rc1 Nd7 14. Nd3 Bd6 15. Re1 Nf6 16. Na4 Re7 17. Nac5 b6 18. Nb3 Qd7 19. Na1 Rae8 20. Nc2 Bg4 21. Bf3 h5 22. Bxg4 Nxc4 23. Ncb4 Re6 24. Nxc6 Bxg3 25. hxg3 Rxc6 26. Qa4 Rec8 27. Rxc6 Rxc6 28. Nb4 Qf5 29. Rf1 Rc1 30. Qe8+ Kh7 31. Qb5 Qxf2+ (0-1)

Zeisler-Buckley

1. d4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. Bd3 O-O 7. O-O Nbd7 8. b3 b6 9. Bb2 Bb7 10. Rc1 Ne8 11. Qe2 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Nd6 13. Bd3 Re8 14. Rfd1 c5 15. Nb5 Qb8 16. dxc5 Nxc5 17. Bxg7 Nxd3 18. Qxd3 Ba6 19. Be5 Bxb5 20. Bxd6 Bxd3 21. Bxb8 Be2 22. Rd7 Raxb8 23. Rxa7 Kg7 24. Nd4 Bd3 25. h3 Kf6 26. Rc6+ e6 27. Rcc7 Rf8 28. a4 e5 29. Rc6+ Kg5 30. Nf3+ Kf5 31. g4+ Ke4 32. Ng5+ Kd5 33. Rcc7 e4 34. Nxc7 Rfc8 35. Rxf7 (1-0)

Round 3

Mehlhaff-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bf4 O-O 6. e3 Nbd7 7. c5 c6 8. b4 Nh5 9. Bg3 Nxc3 10. hxg3 g6 11. e4 dxe4 12. Nxe4 Bf6 13. Be2 a5 14. b5 Bg7 15. Rc1 e5 16. d5 cxd5 17. Qxd5 Nf6 18. Qxd8 Rxd8 19. Nd6 e4 20. Ng5 Be6 21. Nxe6 fxe6 22. Nxb7 Rdb8 23. c6 Nd5 24. a4 Bc3+ 25. Kf1 Be5 26. Nc5 Nb6 27. Bd1 e3 28. f4 Bd6 29. Nxe6 Re8 30. Bb3 e2+ 31. Kxe2 Kf7 32. Rxh7+ Kf6 33. Rh6 Rxe6+ 34. Bxe6 Kxe6 35. Rxc6+ Ke7 36. Rg7+ Kf8 37. Rb7 Re8+ 38. Kf2 Nxa4 39. c7 Nc5 40. Rb8 Bxc7 41. Rxe8+ Kxe8 42. Kf3 Bb6 43. f5 a4 44. g4 Nb3 45. Rc8+ Kf7 46. Kf4 a3 47. Rc2 Bd4 48. Ra2 Bb2 49. b6 Nc5 50. Ke3 Ke7 51. Kd2 Kd6 52. Kc2 Ne4 53. Rxb2 axb2 54. Kxb2 Kc6 55. Kc2 Kxb6 56. Kd3 Nf2+ 57. Ke3 Nxc4+ 58. Kf4 Nf6 59. g4 Kc6 60. g5 Nd5+ 61. Ke5 Ne7 62. f6 Ng6+ 63. Ke6 Nf8+ 64. Kf7 Nd7 65. g6 Ne5+ 66. Kg7 Kd7 67. f7 (1-0)

Pasupuleti-Cusumano

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. Qf3 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bc5 7. Nxe4 dxe4 8. Qxe4 O-O 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. Nf3 Be6 11. c3 Bd5 12. Qg4 f5 13. Qg3 f4 14. Qg4 Bc4 15. d4 Qd5 16. Kf2 Bb6 17. Re1 c5 18. Bxf4 cxd4 19. cxd4 Bxd4+ 20. Kg3 Bxb2 21. Rad1 Qc6 22. Rd7 g6 23. e6 Rae8 24. Qh4 Bg7 25. Bh6 Bf6 26. Ng5 Bxe6 27. Rxe6 Qxd7 28. Bxf8 Bxg5 (0-1)

Round 4

Mehlhaff-Zeisler

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg5 O-O 7. e3 Bg4 8. Bd3 Nbd7 9. O-O c6 10. h3 Bh5 11. Rb1 Bd6 12. b4 h6 13. Bxf6 Nxf6 14. Be2 Re8 15. b5 Qd7 16. Qa4 Ne4 17. Nxe4 dxe4 18. Ne5 Rxe5 19. dxe5 Bxe2 20. Rfe1 Bd3 21. exd6 Bxb1 22. Rxb1 cxb5 23. Qxe4 Qxd6 24. Qxb7 Qb8 25. Rxb5 Qxb7 26. Rxb7 a5 27. a4 Ra6 28. g4 g6 29. Kg2 Kg7 30. f4 Rc6 31. Rb5 Ra6 32. Kf3 Kf6 33. h4 Kg7 34. g5 hxg5 35. hxg5 Kf8 36. Re5 Kg7 37. e4 Kh7 38. Kg4 Kg7 39. Rd5 Re6 40. Kf3 Ra6 41. Kg4 Re6 42. e5 Ra6 43. Rd6 Ra7 44. Rb6 Ra8 45. f5 gxf5+ 46. Kxf5 Ra7 47. Rb8 Ra6 48. Rb7 Kf8 49. Rb5 Kg7 50. Rd5 Ra7 51. Rd6 Ra8 52. g6 fxc6+ 53. Rxc6+ Kf7 54. e6+ Kf8 55. Kf6 Ra6 56. Rh6 Kg8 57. Rh5 Ra7 58. Rd5 Ra8 59. Ke7 Ra7+ 60. Rd7 Ra6 61. Rd6 Ra7+ 62. Ke8 Ra8+ 63. Rd8 Ra7 64. e7 Kg7 65. Rd4 Ra8+ 66. Kd7 Ra7+ 67. Ke6 (1-0)

Koppinger-Suresh

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Nd5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. c4 b4 12. Nc2 a5 13. g3 Ne7 14. Nxf6+ gxf6 15. Bg2 Bb7 16. Ne3 f5 17. exf5 Bxg2 18. Nxc2 Nxf5 19. O-O O-O 20. Qg4+ Ng7 21. h4 f5 22. Qf3 Rc8 23. Rac1 Rc5 24. Rfd1 Ne6 25. Ne3 Nd4 26. Qh5 f4 27. gxf4 Rxf4 28. Rxd4 exd4 29. Qh6 Rxh4 30. Qe6+ Kh8 (0-1)

The Immeasurable Value of Playing Over the Board Tournament Chess by Gambit Editor Bruce Draney

The Hall of Fame Champions Celebration turned out to be the most prestigious and enjoyable event I've ever been involved in. The event began on Friday May 31st in Lincoln at the Graduate Hotel which has an historic chess history itself.

There were people at the banquet I hadn't seen in 50 years and many of them not only came to the event, but they played despite not having played for decades. At the end of the banquet, we inducted our four newest Hall of Fame members, Alexey Root, Keaton Kiewra, Rod Malpert and Kent Nelson. We also had a special program before the awards ceremony emceed by Rod Malpert and Loren Schmidt.

We had Zoom appearances by Nebraska greats, John Drexel, John Tomas and John Watson. Some things that John Watson said in his Zoom appearance really hit the mark with me and led to me deciding to write this article.

During his talk, Watson spoke about the camaraderie, the friendships, the traveling and the irreplaceable experiences of playing in live tournaments against real people that you can actually see, meet, talk to and even go over games with.

This was so profound that it hit me just how much the experience of over the board play has meant to me personally. Hundreds of friendships, many fun trips with friends and acquaintances and a chance to visit other cities and meet chess players really from all over the world.

On Saturday night I was asked to give a "lecture" on chess, but I decided rather than talk at people I would share 4-5 of my funniest and most memorable chess stories that happened at live over the board tournaments from 1973-the present. The stories drew a lot of laughter and further demonstrated just how profound the words of John Watson were.

People can sit and play 1000 games of rapid or blitz chess but they are just quickly forgotten chess games and have virtually none of the joy that can be experienced by playing in over the board tournaments. They will NEVER replace that.

Chess in Nebraska 50 Years Ago, the 1974 Nebraska State Scholastic.

Possibly the strongest Nebraska High School chess team in history was the 1974 Omaha Central team which romped to a rout of every other high school team in the state in February of 1974. The team was led by future Masters and State Champions, Mike Blankenau and John Milton, but Mark Seitzer was already a strong 1700 player by 1974 and the other team member was D. Saville who had replaced Kevin Waterman from the 1973 team.

This Central team so thoroughly dominated the rest of the field that they only lost one game out of their 20 and drew another to finish with an incredible 18.5 points. Only Rich Perry who won the event in 1975, spoiled the party by upsetting Mike Blankenau in Round 4. Perry then lost to Milton in Round 5 but finished 4th.

Milton and Seitzer both went 5-0. Saville had 4.5 and Mike Blankenau who was actually the highest rated player on the team scored 4-1. Burke's team finished a distant second with 13.5-6.5. The 1974 event attendance was only 48, a far cry from the barn busting numbers that played during Fischer's quest for the World Championship, but the event still drew players from all over the state including Omaha, Lincoln and North Platte.

One of the things that has disappointed me most is seeing the virtual disappearance of high school team chess. Not only was there no state team scholastic at all this year, the Omaha Metro High School Chess League folded in late October. Lincoln to the best of my knowledge abandoned team chess years ago and the only high school chess coach I could get to come to our banquet and celebration was Omaha South's coach, who is just in his first year of running a team at South.

I have been in contact with some organizers, teachers and parents about jump starting the Metro Chess League and of course would love to organize a state high school team championship that would attract the same interest and participation that it did way back in 1965 when Bud Narveson organized the very first one at UNL.

1974 Nebraska State Scholastic Cross Table

#	Name	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Milton	W36	W37	W7	W10	W4	5.0
2	Seitzer	W31	W43	W12	W23	W14	5.0
3	Saville	W33	W26	W9	W15	D6	4.5
4	Perry	W30	W13	W16	W5	L1	4.0
5	Blankenau	W45	W21	W8	L4	W12	4.0
6	Kluch	L27	W38	W30	W18	D3	3.5
7	Prachensky	W44	W19	L1	W13	D8	3.5
8	Wilkins	W38	W27	L5	W17	D7	3.5
9	Malpert	W35	D28	L3	W16	W23	3.5
10	Dutch	D15	W41	W25	L1	W22	3.5
11	Kirk	W34	L12	W37	D22	W25	3.5
12	Drexel	W32	W11	L2	W19	L5	3.0
13	Strong	W20	L4	W24	L7	W29	3.0
14	Petersen	L26	W33	W36	W21	L2	3.0
15	Chumley	D10	D39	W45	L3	W31	3.0
16	B. Smith	W46	W24	L4	L9	W30	3.0
17	Brown	L24	W46	W29	L8	W32	3.0
18	Essay	L19	W42	W32	L6	W27	3.0
19	Harano	W18	L7	W43	L12	W28	3.0
20	Warner	L13	L30	W44	W35	W40	3.0
21	Cady	W48	L5	W27	L14	W38	3.0
22	Alperson	L23	W44	W26	D11	L10	2.5
23	Teusau	W22	D25	W28	L2	L9	2.5
24	Bresette	W17	L16	L13	D26	W39	2.5
25	Brodkey	W42	D23	L10	W39	L11	2.5
26	Lee	W14	L3	L22	D24	D33	2.0
27	Pistillo	W6	L8	L21	W37	L18	2.0
28	Archer	W29	D9	L23	D31	L19	2.0
29	Koneck	L28	W35	L17	W36	L13	2.0
30	Zimmer	L4	W20	L6	W42	L16	2.0
31	Bunderson	L2	D40	W41	D28	L15	2.0
32	J. Nelson	L12	W34	L18	W45	L17	2.0
33	Waldmann	L3	L14	W48	D40	D26	2.0
34	Langford	L11	L32	L42	W41	W45	2.0
35	Meisel	L9	L29	W46	L20	W42	2.0
36	Spinar	L1	W47	L14	L29	W46	2.0
37	Volcek	W47	L1	L11	L27	W44	2.0
38	Wolk	L8	L6	W47	W43	L21	2.0
39	Olson	D41	D15	D40	L25	L24	1.5
40	St. Haacke	L43	D31	D39	D33	L20	1.5
41	Schulte	D39	L10	L31	L34	W47	1.5
42	Onnen	L25	L18	W34	L30	L35	1.0
43	Chong	W40	L2	L19	L38	U	1.0
44	Echols	L7	L22	L20	Bye	L37	1.0
45	J. Stepp	L5	W48	L15	L32	L34	1.0
46	Teeple	L16	L17	L35	W47	L36	1.0
47	McNeely	L37	L36	L38	L46	L41	0.0
48	Schlitt	L21	L45	L33	U	U	0.0

Humorous Chess Stories: Rod Malpert and the Great Elevator Races of 1973.

The years of 1972-1973 were two of the greatest years for rated chess in U.S. History as Bobby Fischer swept through the Candidates Matches in unbelievable fashion and rose to become 1972 World Champion by defeating Boris Spassky. The year 1973, also happened to be one of my most active years in over the board chess playing and this is the year that I met Hall of Fame legend Rod Malpert who was only leaving 6th Grade at the same elementary school I went to (Meadow Lane). Rod was (and still is) an amazing chess talent and impressed nearly everyone at the Lincoln Chess Club.

We played a number of times over the years and although I was able to beat him when he was still a youngster not even in Junior High yet, he later rose to become a Senior Master and won championships in both the State Scholastic and the Midwest Open which at that time determined our State Champion every year.

Rod often hung out with Mark Kitchin who was older but also was a rising talent. Many times, Mark and Rod would team up on pranks, games and hijinks between and after rounds at tournaments. Thus, it was in 1973, that Jack Winters of Kansas City decided to run a big 3- day event over Labor Day weekend called the Show Me Open. The Show Me Open offered the biggest prize fund in the region and it attracted many strong players from all over the Midwest. In 1973, a whole group of us made the trip down to KC to participate. The group included, me, Loren Schmidt and of course Rod and Mark eager to travel to a big out of town event.

There are many funny stories surrounding this event (and other Show Me Opens in subsequent years). This one however involved Rod and Mark getting bored between rounds and deciding to entertain themselves with elevator races. This was not actually getting into separate elevators and seeing which one reached the top floor first, no that would have been too boring. These were kid versus machine races. One of them would get into the elevator and the other one would say, "go". The one in the elevator would push the top floor button and the one outside the elevator (often Rod), would run up the stairs as fast as possible, punch the button on each floor and see who got to the top floor first.

While this was apparently a lot of fun for the boys it was kind of annoying to everyone else and eventually, I think the hotel stepped in and shut the game down.

I should mention that although Rod and Mark both plead innocent to this, another “game” they played in 1973 at the Show Me Open was ashtray collecting. Back in the 1970’s smoking was not only allowed at chess tournaments it was actually the norm. Players like Delmar Saxton, (cigarettes), Anton Sildmets, and Jack Spence, (pipe) and Marvin Katz (cigars) would smoke right at the board while playing.

It was not always a pleasant experience to play in a smoke-filled tournament hall where your clothing would stink afterwards. The Ambassador hotel tried to accommodate the smokers by placing hotel ashtrays with the Ambassador name on them at every board. By Sunday, a lot of those ashtrays disappeared and everyone wondered why? It turns out that Rod and Mark decided to play another game by seeing who could collect the most ashtrays. Eventually they were caught red handed with stacks of pilfered Ambassador Hotel ashtrays, counting them to see who won?

These were such fun memories to recount and Rod still laughs today about the elevator races although he still denies the ashtray collecting. Eventually he gave up the elevator races but not until he traveled with Loren Schmidt and Brad Resz to the U.S. Junior Open and Rod tried to beat Mike Mathews in a race. Mike got to the first floor before Rod did, got out of the elevator and hid around the corner. When Rod raced around the corner he jumped out and scared the heck out of him and he never played the game again.

Many other funny things happened at this and subsequent Show Me Opens. In 1973, Jack Winters got complaints from non-smokers and Jack put out a proposal to pair smokers against smokers and non-smokers vs. non-smokers which of course would have been totally unworkable although a noble idea. Omaha great David Ackerman was paired against an unrated guy in round one named Mucinic. Ackerman was unaware the guy was only unrated by USCF but was a Master in what was then the country of Yugoslavia. Ackerman got slaughtered but rebounded to win 5 games in a row and take home a nice cash prize.

Nebraska Hears from Hall of Fame Legend John Tomas at our Hall of Fame Banquet.

If you were around and playing chess in Nebraska in the late 1960's and early 1970's you would definitely have been familiar with one of our greatest players ever, John Tomas. John began playing rated chess in high school as a student at Creighton Prep. He finished 6th in the very first Nebraska State Scholastic in Lincoln in 1965.

After graduating from Creighton Prep, John went on to get his college degree at Creighton University. (Note my original article on John many years ago erroneously said he attended UNL so I am finally correcting this mistake albeit years later).

By 1967, he was already becoming a dominant force finishing 2nd to Randy Mills of Kansas in the Midwest Open but earning his first of 4 consecutive Nebraska State Championship titles, a feat only accomplished by a few very talented people in our history. He also captured consecutive Omaha City Championships in 1971 and 1972.

In 1972, John finished tied for 2nd in the Jerry Spann Memorial which was won by Stephen Popel of North Dakota. In the spring of 1973, he tied for first with Blankenau with 4.5 in the 24th Swenson Memorial one of 7 Swenson championships in his career. He won the Open Section of the Nebraska State Scholastic in 1973 with a score of 4-0, besting a field of 27 that included Loren Schmidt. He played in the Burkley-Graham Cornhusker Classic Open section in 1973, finishing clear first with 4.5-.5.

Although John left the state in 1974 and moved to Chicago where he earned his PhD in English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago in 1991, he returned occasionally and played in chess tournaments in the mid 1970's. He also won the Chicago City Championship in 1978. John was a contributing editor to Chess Life from 1981-1988, served as Captain of the 1981 U.S. Amateur Team, and Captain of the Chicago team in the 1981 World Youth tournament. John left an indelible mark on Nebraska chess and remains to this day one of our finest players. In July of 2001, John was elected to the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame.

If you would like to write an article for the Gambit, please feel free to contact me at gambiteer49@yahoo.com. Obviously, I can fill up issues like this one with games, cross tables and my own articles about chess but I would gladly print your articles, games and stories if you send them to me.

Our next issue will cover April 1-June 30th of 2024. Obviously major tournaments will receive more coverage than small club events but space permitting I try to cover many different tournaments going on all over the state and not just happenings in Omaha and Lincoln.

The tournament calendar is becoming quite crowded and we need much better communication about when people are planning events so they don't plan one right on top of someone else's and end up spoiling attendance for both.

Expect the next issue out in about a month and it will prominently feature games and cross tables from the Midwest Open (April 2024), the HOF Champions Celebration (June 1-2, 2024) and the Summer Open (June 29-30, 2024).

For those organizers or directors out in the central or western part of the state, please feel free to send me the results of your events, rated or not. I know that there is a was a simul just held on Wednesday July 10th in Beatrice and that Nate Solon is giving a special presentation in Kearney the week after the Cornhusker State Games.

Information about response, attendance and results would be much appreciated. The Gambit is everyone's chess publication, not just Bruce Draney's chess publication. If I don't know results, however, it's pretty hard for me to report them.

Our next issue should catch us up to being current as the third quarter doesn't end until August 30th. It's great to see so much support and enthusiasm for chess in our state and we can only hope it will continue. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer.