

The Gambit

The Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

Volume 4: October 1st-December 31st, 2024

This two-mover is by American composer Charles William Sheppard.

It took part in a tourney in 'American Chess Bulletin magazine in 1951 and was awarded a 3rd prize.



Mate in Two

1. Qh4! - threat 2. Qxe4#.

1...Rxf3 2. Ba7#,

1...exf3 2. Qd4#,

1...Kxf3 2. Qxg3#,

1...Rgxf3 2. Qe1#,

1...Rg4 2. Qf2#,

1...Re6 2. Qf4#.

Nice key giving the black King a flight on f3.

Four captures on f3.

Altogether there are seven checkmates.

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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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Kent Nelson-President

Bruce Draney-Treasurer, Andrea Draney-Secretary

Board Members at Large Dan Draney and Aaron Peeks Mease

Send all games, articles, and editorial materials for the 2024 editions to:

Bruce Draney

14002 Frederick Cir

Omaha, NE 68138

gambiteer49@yahoo.com

Editor's Notes and Acknowledgements. As usual, there are numerous people that I'd like to thank in this, my 8th issue of the Gambit.

Rauf Aliovsadzade-Rauf continues to supply me with a chess puzzle and I always place it on the front cover of all of the issues I edit. He obliges us again with a contribution.

Kent Nelson-I'd like to thank Kent for many things, but especially for nominating me to the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. Kent and I have been friends for 50 years and he continues to support me and Nebraska chess in oh so many ways. A simple thank you is inadequate.

NSCA Historical Archivist Bob Woodworth-Bob joins me and 8 others as one of the new inductees into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. Bob continues to collect, document and archive hundreds of games, cross tables and biographical chess information about our chess history. He has been the Archivist since 1995 and is a most deserving new addition to our Hall of Fame. His documents have been absolutely essential to my historical research.

Gary Colvin-Gary and I have also been friends for 50 years and he joins me and Bob in this year's class of inductees. Gary also contributes an article this issue about a mostly forgotten chess tournament called the Rapid Transit Championship. Great Reading.

FM Loren Schmidt-Loren is another friend for 50+ years who not only contributes this issue's humorous chess story, but has now served for two years on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Loren made it back to the Champions Celebration to play and participate this past summer. Loren also wrote my biographical information for my Hall of Fame selection.

SM Rod Malpert-Rod continues to support Nebraska chess in oh so many ways and not only held a tag team simul with me at the Millard Library Chess Club on December 29th, but also contributed money to the prize fund of the Hall of Fame Memorial tournament on December 28th.

NSCA President Steven Cusumano-Steven offers us an article this issue on his trip to Italy to play in an international chess tournament. Nebraska is lucky to have this guy as our President.

Omaha Chess Community President Michael Gooch-Mike has worked closely with me and the Lincoln Chess Foundation to jumpstart scholastic team chess statewide. We held a team scholastic unrated event on Saturday November 2nd at UNO and the Omaha Metro High School league is now up and running. His prior knowledge of scholastic chess in the Omaha area has been invaluable.

Seetharaman Renganathan-Seetharaman has run several major events in this quarter including one on National Chess Day and two in Council Bluffs that were FIDE rated and drew strong players from throughout the region.

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, Director Aaron PeeksMease

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) 2023-2024 HOF Selection Committee:
John Drexel, Loren Schmidt, Richard Gardner JR, Rod Malpert.

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 Library Chess Club-Meets on Sunday afternoon 2:30-4:30 for unrated and occasional rated play. Location: Millard Public Library 13214 Westwood LN Omaha, NE. Bruce Draney (402) 312-6335 or Scott Look (402) 889-1779

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:

SCC Chess Club-Meets on Wednesday nights at SE Community College 89th & O ST, Lincoln, NE for casual unrated or occasional G/10+2 events. 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, Stacy Williams

UNL Chess Club-Meets on Monday Nights at UNL Student Union Food Court B on 14th & R Lincoln, NE, from 6-8 PM Julia Haller or Max Vitek

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, Central Nebraska Chess Facebook Group, UNO Chess Group

National Online Chess Playing Sites

Chess.com

Lichess.com

Spence Chess Club Hosts Its Annual Club Championship September 4th-October 9th.

The Spence Chess Club is the only chess club in the state that runs USCF rated events every week on Wednesday nights at the West Hills Church on about 82nd and Hascal Streets here in Omaha. This year the club held its annual club championship event with one round per night over the six weeks from Wednesday September 4th-October 9th. The championship attracted a strong field of players including 2022-2023 State Closed Champion Nick Lacroix and Nebraska State High School Champion Dominic Zeisler. Other strong players included Chris Kisicki, Omaha and Lincoln City Champion Abhinav Suresh and up and coming prodigy Sidd Parthasarathy. In addition, NSCA Omaha VP Michael Mills and Chess Life Editor John Hartmann who runs the club played and directed.

When the event ended, the champion was Nick Lacroix with a score of 5.5-.5. Second place was shared by Abhinav Suresh and Sidd Parthasarathy. Below is a cross table of the event which drew 21 players.

SPENCE CLUB 2024 CHAMPIONSHIP

#	NAME	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3 [BD1]	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Tot
1	Lacroix	W14	W12	W5	D2	W6	D3	5.0
2	Suresh	W9	W6	W4	D1	L3	W7	4.5
3	Parthasarathy	W19	L5	W16	W12	W2	D1	4.5
4	Kisicki	W21	W10	L2	W8	½	½	4.0
5	Hengen	W11	W3	L1	L6	D8	W14	3.5
6	Seetharaman	W17	L2	W10	W5	L1	D9	3.5
7	Dutiel	D20	W16	L8	W14	W13	L2	3.5
8	Zeisler	½	W20	W7	L4	D5	D10	3.5
9	Koppinger	L2	W17	L13	W19	W12	D6	3.5
10	Look	W15	L4	L6	W20	W17	D8	3.5
11	Alagankancharla	L5	W19	L12	D16	W18	W17	3.5
12	Mills	W18	L1	W11	L3	L9	W20	3.0
13	Hartmann	L16	W21	W9	½	L7	U--	2.5
14	Schiff	L1	D18	W15	L7	W20	L5	2.5
15	Sarathkumar	L10	Bye	L14	L17	D19	WF	2.5
16	Mastny	W13	L7	L3	D11	½	U--	2.0
17	C. Hengen	L6	L9	W21	W15	L10	L11	2.0
18	Sh Sarathkumar	L12	D14	L20	Bye	L11	D19	2.0
19	Ri. Seetharaman	L3	L11	Bye	L9	D15	D18	2.0
20	Manternach	D7	L8	W18	L10	L14	L12	1.5
21	Katta	L4	L13	L17	½	½	LF	1.0

A History of the Nebraska State Rapid Transit Championships

by Gary Colvin

Nebraska has a long history of state chess championships, with the first one being played in 1899. F. M. Biddle won the tournament and became Nebraska's first State Champion. Other events were started after this, and in 1957 a Rapid Transit Championship was inaugurated. This was a speed chess event, quite different than the ones we have today which use clocks for each match or are conducted online. This tournament used one large clock and used sound to mark the time for the players. After eight seconds, a high-pitched 'beep' would sound to alert the players that the time control was coming soon. After 10 seconds, a low-pitched 'beep' signified that the move had to be completed before the sound ended. You can ask 'Did people get into arguments that a player didn't complete his move before the end of the beep?' and the answer is yes! However, the players managed to deal with this and the game would continue.

Why did the event use one clock for the tourney rather than have everyone use a clock, as is done today? In the 1950s, a number of players did not have clocks, as generally you had to order them by mail and they were expensive so only the one clock was used. The Rapid Transit tournament continued to run until 1980. It ended because it had always been conducted in Omaha at the downtown YMCA and the Ohman Chess Club's lease of the superb site was terminated. The main reason the chess club had the site was due to the influence of Jack Spence. However, he died and that also soon ended the chess club's tenure in the building.

This event is probably not known to anyone who started playing chess after 1980. It should be recognized because it was a state championship and it was an incredibly strong tournament. The top players from the state would play every summer at the 'Y' for the title. Even though it ran for only 23 years, ten of the fourteen unique winners of the event are in Nebraska's Hall of Fame!

The first title went to the Rev. Howard Ohman. The most successful of the winners was the nationally titled Correspondence Champion Richard McClellan, who won the first of his 4 crowns in 1958. Jack Spence, 'Mr. Omaha Chess' in the 1970s, won titles in 1959 and 1970. During the 1970s he organized and directed this annual event. David Ackerman, a strong Omaha player, won 2 titles in a row starting in 1961. Richard Vincent, a member of the Air Force stationed at Offutt AFB in Bellevue, won his trophy in 1963. The Lincoln Expert Richard Moore won in 1965. Before he became an International Master, Omahan John Watson won the tourney in 1967 and 1972. The event was not held in 1968 due to the moving of the Omaha Chess Club from the old to the new YMCA building. In this interim period, Rev. Ohman died. The series started up again in 1969 in the newly renamed Ohman Chess Club.

Another 2-time champion was Creighton University student John Tomas whose first victory was in 1969. Anton Sildmets, also a National Correspondence Champion, won the 1971 version of the event. The only tie in the series was in 1973. After a long day playing in the preliminaries and tying in the finals, John Tomas and Lincolnite Loren Schmidt played a 4-game tiebreaker to determine the Champion. After again tying the match, it was decided due to the lateness of the hour

and tiredness of the participants to declare the two players co-Champions. Omahan Mike Blankenau topped the finals in 1974, while Rich Chess won the first of his titles in 1975. Another lapse in the series came in 1976 due to Jack Spence's poor health. Resumed again in 1977, the Bellevue Master Bob Grande emerged as the winner. Spence was again ill in 1978 and the event was cancelled. He died later that year but the event continued on for 2 more years. Rich Chess won his 2nd title in 1979, while Gary Colvin of Lincoln won the last event in 1980 overcoming both Chess and Grande.

Due to the popularity of 5-minute speed chess (along with other short time controls) the series of Rapid Transit tournaments is almost certainly at an end. An era that connected the best of the post-war chess players with the new players from the Fischer era has finished. We who participated in the events had lots of fun and enjoyed our yearly bouts of 'beep-beep' chess.

*Editor's note: FM Loren Schmidt disputes the results of the 1973 event. Loren claims to have defeated John in a 2-game playoff match, however Jack Spence didn't recognize Loren's claim and awarded the title to both Tomas and Schmidt. The controversy led to Loren never playing in the event again which was unfortunate.

Nebraska Rapid Transit Blitz Champions

1957-Howard Ohman	1969-John Tomas
1958-Richard McLellan	1970-Jack Spence
1959-Jack Spence	1971-Anton Sildmets
1960-Richard McLellan	1972-John Watson
1961-David Ackerman	1973-Loren Schmidt-John Tomas *see note above*
1962-David Ackerman	1974-Mike Blankenau
1963-Richard Vincent	1975-Rich Chess
1964-Richard McLellan	1976-No Event Held
1965-Richard Moore	1977-Bob Grande
1966-Richard McLellan	1978-No Event Held
1967-John Watson	1979-Rich Chess
1968-No Event Held	1980-Gary Colvin

Lincoln City Championship 10/26/2024

The annual Lincoln City Championship was held in Lincoln at the Country Inn and Suites Conference Center on North 27th Steet on Saturday October 26th. The event was organized by NSCA Lincoln VP John Linscott, and directed by Tony Dutiel. The event drew a fairly modest but strong crowd of 23 players. An RBO drew another six. The eligibility rules for who can actually be Lincoln (and also Omaha) City Champion have changed significantly over the last 20 years. Abhinav Suresh won the tournament and the title, as even though he lives in Omaha the rules were liberalized to allow any Nebraskan to be Lincoln (or Omaha) City Champion. In fact, Abhinav who is likely to be Nebraska's next expert is also Omaha City Champion having won that title last spring. Congratulations to Abhinav for making Nebraska history.

2024 Lincoln City Championship 10/26/2024

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Suresh	1975	W13	W10	W11	½	3.5
2	Belashchenko	1973	W14	L7	W15	W3	3.0
3	PeeksMease	1781	W18	W8	W7	L2	3.0
4	Naumann	1749	W17	L12	W16	W11	3.0
5	Osborne	1882	½	D6	W14	D7	2.5
6	Nelson	1800	D16	D5	W22	½	2.5
7	Gordon	1700	W21	W2	L3	D5	2.5
8	Iacono	1646	W22	L3	D17	W10	2.5
9	Seetharaman	1840	L15	D16	W19	D17	2.0
10	Parthasarathy	1816	W23	L1	W18	L8	2.0
11	Zeisler	1727	W19	W15	L1	L4	2.0
12	Solheim	1603	W20	W4	WD	WD	2.0
13	Kantem	1648	L1	L19	W23	W22	2.0
14	Adduri	1567	L2	W21	L5	W18	2.0
15	Schiff	1477	W9	L11	L2	W19	2.0
16	Alagankancharla	1426	D6	D9	L4	W20	2.0
17	Shaal	1295	L4	W20	D8	D9	2.0
18	Hoffman	1296	L3	W23	L10	L14	1.0
19	Tao	1159	L11	W13	L9	L15	1.0
20	Jueneman	UNR	L12	L17	W21	L16	1.0
21	Fiedler	1081	L7	L14	L20	W23	1.0
22	Coleman	838	L8	Bye	L6	L13	1.0
23	Burroughs	961	L10	L18	L13	L21	0.0

Games from the Lincoln City Championship 10/26/2024

Round 1:

Adduri-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 c4 7. Bc2 Bd6 8. O-O O-O 9. Re1 Bg4 10. b3 b5 11. a4 b4 12. Bg5 Nbd7 13. Re3 a5 14. bxc4 dxc4 15. Nbd2 Qc7 16. Qe1 Nd5 17. Re4 N7f6 18. Bxf6 Nxf6 19. Re2 b3 20. Bd1 Bf5 21. Ne5 b2 22. Ra2 b1=Q 23. Nxb1 Bxb1 24. Rab2 Rab8 25. Rbd2 Nd5 26. Bc2 Bxc2 27. Rxc2 Nf4 28. Re4 Bxe5 29. dxe5 Nd3 (0-1)

Suresh-Kantem

1. Nf3 d5 2. c4 e6 3. e3 Nc6 4. b3 Nf6 5. Bb2 Be7 6. g4 h6 7. Rg1 g5 8. Be2 Rg8 9. Na3 a6 10. Nc2 Bd6 11. d4 Ne4 12. Ne5 Nf6 13. Rh1 Nb4 14. a3 Nc6 15. Qd3 Rh8 16. O-O-O Ne4 17. Rdf1 Qe7 18. Nxc6 bxc6 19. c5 Bb7 20. cxd6 cxd6 21. f3 Nf6 22. h4 Kd7 23. hxg5 hxg5 24. Qd1 Rhg8 25. Bd3 Rg7 26. e4 Rc8 27. e5 Ne8 28. Qe2 Nc7 29. a4 Ne8 30. Ba3 Ra8 31. Rh8 a5 32. Qh2 (1-0)

Schiff-Seetharaman

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 e5 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Bb4+ 5. c3 dxc3 6. Nxc3 Nf6 7. O-O d6 8. Nd5 Nxd5 9. Bxd5 O-O 10. a3 Bc5 11. b4 Bb6 12. Bb2 Ne7 13. Ba2 Ng6 14. Qd2 Bg4 15. Qc3 Qf6 16. Qc2 Qe7 17. Nd2 Be6 18. Bb1 a6 19. Kh1 f5 20. exf5 Bxf5 21. Ba2+ Kh8 22. Qc3 Rae8 23. Nc4 Be6 24. Rae1 Qf7 25. Rxe6 Rxe6 26. Nxb6 Re3 27. Qxe3 Qxa2 28. Qc3 Ne5 29. Nd7 Re8 30. Nxe5 dxe5 31. h3 c6 32. Re1 Qd5 33. Rxe5 Rxe5 34. Qxe5 Qxe5 35. Bxe5 Kg8 36. Kg1 Kf7 37. f4 g6 38. Kf2 Ke6 39. Ke3 Kd5 40. Kd3 c5 41. bxc5 Kxc5 42. Kc3 b5 43. g4 a5 44. f5 Kd5 45. f6 Ke6 46. g5 Kf7 47. Bc7 b4+ 48. axb4 axb4+ 49. Kxb4 Ke6 50. Kc5 Kf7 51. Kd6 (1-0)

Round 2:

PeeksMease-Iacono

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5 Ne4 4. Be3 Bg7 5. Nbd2 d5 6. g3 O-O 7. Bg2 Nd7 8. O-O e5 9. Nxe4 dxe4 10. Ng5 exd4 11. Bf4 d3 12. c3 dxe2 13. Qxe2 Re8 14. Qc4 Qe7 15. Qxc7 Nf6 16. Qc4 h6 17. Nh3 Bf5 18. Rfe1 Rad8 19. Rad1 Rxd1 20. Rxd1 Rd8 21. Qe2 Rxd1+ 22. Qxd1 Qe6 23. Qd8+ Kh7 24. Bg5 Nd5 25. Nf4 Nxf4 26. Bxf4 Qxa2 27. Qd2 Qa1+ 28. Qc1 Qxc1+ 29. Bxc1 a5 30. Bf1 Be6 31. Be3 f5 32. Bb5 Bb3 33. Bb6 a4 34. Kf1 Kg8 35. Be8 Bf7 36. Bxa4 Be5 37. Ke2 Bc4+ 38. Ke3 Kf7 39. Bd4 Ke6 40. Bc5 g5 41. Bf8 h5 42. Be8 h4 43. Bh6 hxg3 44. hxg3 Bf6 45. g4 Ke5 46. gxf5 Kxf5 47. Bd7+ Kg6 48. Bf8 Bd5 49. Bc5 Be5 50. Bc8 Bf4+ 51. Kd4 Bc1 52. Kxd5 (1-0)

Zeisler-Schiff

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bf4 c6 6. e3 O-O 7. Bd3 Nbd7 8. O-O Nb6 9. b3 Ba3 10. Qe2 Nh5 11. Bg5 Nf6 12. e4 dxe4 13. Nxe4 Be7 14. Nxf6+ Bxf6 15. Qe4 g6 16. Qh4 Bxg5 17. Nxc5 h5 18. g4 Qxd4 19. Be2 f6 20. Nh3 hxg4 21. Rad1 Qe5 22. Bxg4 f5 23. Bf3 Kg7 24. Ng5 Rh8 25. Qxh8+ Kxh8 26. Nf7+ Kg7 27. Nxe5 Kf6 28. Rfe1 Rb8 29. Bg2 a5 30. c5 Nd5 31. Bxd5 cxd5 32. f4 b6 33. c6 g5 34. Nd7+ Bxd7 35. cxd7 Rd8 36. fxc5+ Kxc5 37. Rxe6 Rxd7 38. Rxb6 Kf4 39. Rb5 d4 40. Rxa5 d3 41. Kf2 Ke4 42. Ra4+ Rd4 43. Rxd4+ Kxd4 44. h4 Kc3 45. h5 Kc2 46. Rxd3 (1-0)

Round 3:

Coleman-Nelson

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 e6 4. e3 Bd6 5. Nge2 O-O 6. f3 a6 7. Qd2 b5 8. a3 Bb7 9. Bxd6 Qxd6 10. Ng3 Nbd7 11. O-O-O c5 12. h4 Qxg3 13. Ne2 Qc7 14. g3 Nb6 15. Nc3 b4 16. axb4 cxb4 17. Nb1 Rac8 18. Bd3 Nc4 19. Bxc4 dxc4 20. Qxb4 Bxf3 21. Nd2 Nd5 22. Qa3 Bxd1 23. Rxd1 c3 (0-1)

Suresh-Zeisler

1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 e6 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 exd5 5. d4 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bg4 7. Qa4 Bd7 8. O-O Bd6 9. Re1+ Nge7 10. dxc5 Bxc5 11. Bf4 O-O 12. b4 Bb6 13. Qb3 Bxf2+ 14. Kxf2 Qb6+ 15. Be3 Qxb5 16. Na3 Qd3 17. Rad1 Qg6 18. Bc5 Rfe8 19. b5 Bg4 20. bxc6 Bxf3 21. gxf3 Qh6 22. Rxe7 Qh4+ 23. Kg2 Rxe7 24. Bxe7 (1-0)

Round 4:

PeeksMease-Belashchenko

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c3 g6 4. Bg5 Bg7 5. Nbd2 O-O 6. Qc2 d6 7. e4 fxe4 8. Nxe4 c6 9. Ng3 Be6 10. Bd3 Nbd7 11. h4 Bf7 12. h5 Qe8 13. Nh4 gxh5 14. Ngf5 Bg6 15. O-O-O Qf7 16. Rde1 Rfe8 17. Re2 c5 18. Rhe1 Bf8 19. Nxc6 hxg6 20. Nh4 Qd5 21. Bxf6 Nxf6 22. Nxc6 Bh6+ 23. Kb1 e6 24. dxc5 Rad8 25. Qd1 dxc5 26. Bc2 Qc4 27. Rd2 Rxd2 28. Qf3 Nd5 29. Ne5 Qf4 (0-1)

Parthasarathy-Iacono

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ Bd7 7. Qe2 Be7 8. Nf3 O-O 9. Bxd7 Qxd7 10. Nxe5 Qxd5 11. O-O Bd6 12. Nf3 Rfe8 13. Qd1 Nc6 14. Nc3 Qh5 15. d3 Re6 16. h3 Rae8 17. Be3 Ne5 18. Nd4 Qxd1 19. Raxd1 R6e7 20. Nf5 Re6 21. Nxd6 Rxd6 22. Bf4 Rde6 23. Nb5 Rc6 24. c3 a6 25. Nd4 Rb6 26. Rfe1 Ng6 27. b3 Nxf4 28. Rxe8+ Nxe8 29. Re1 Kf8 30. Re3 Nd5 31. Re5 Nxc3 32. a4 Rd6 33. Nc2 Rxd3 34. Rc5 Ne4 35. Re5 Rd1+ 36. Kh2 Nxf2 37. Rf5 Rd2 38. Ne3 Ne4 39. Re5 N8d6 40. Ng4 Rb2 41. Ne3 Rxb3 42. Nd5 f6 (0-1)

Zeisler-Naumann

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. Nf3 Bg7 8. h3 O-O 9. Bd3 Re8 10. O-O a6 11. a4 Nbd7 12. Re1 Ne5 13. Bc2 Nxf3+ 14. Qxf3 Nd7 15. Ra3 Ne5 16. Qd1 Bd7 17. Nb1 Nc4 18. Ra2 b5 19. axb5 axb5 20. Rxa8 Qxa8 21. b3 Nb2 22. Qd2 c4 23. Nc3 Qa1 24. Nd1 Nxd1 25. Qxd1 c3 26. Be3 Qxd1 27. Rxd1 Ra8 28. Kf1 Ra2 29. Rc1 b4 30. Ke2 Bb5+ 31. Ke1 Kf8 32. g3 h5 33. h4 Ke7 34. Kd1 Bd7 35. Ke1 f5 36. f3 fxe4 37. fxe4 Bg4 38. Bf4 Bd4 39. Bg5+ Kf7 40. Bf4 Bf3 41. Kf1 Bc5 42. Ke1 Rxc2 43. Rxc2 Bxe4 44. Rc1 Bxd5 45. Rb1 Be4 46. Rc1 Ke6 47. Ke2 d5 48. Bd2 d4 49. Bf4 d3+ (0-1)

My Travels to Italy to Play Chess by Steven Cusumano

The idea to travel outside the US for a chess tournament started when Joe Knapp and I were at the Chicago Open this year in May. I had mentioned to Joe that I had gotten a passport in 2023 and was thinking about traveling abroad, mostly for vacation, however, a chess tournament in the middle of my travels wouldn't bother me at all. I predicted that I would do better than usual, because 1) I believe Nebraska has very deflated ratings at the moment in my opinion (my online ratings go up but my USCF stays stagnant) and 2) being in a stress-free relaxing atmosphere playing 1 game a day could be conducive to playing my best possible chess. I felt that many of my bad results here in Nebraska have been a result work-related stress and the additional stress of organizing my own tournaments. Joe and I thought we would very much like to vacation and play chess in a relaxing, stress-free environment.

At first, Joe had found the Piacenza chess festival on the FIDE website in Piacenza, Italy which was in late September in Northern Italy. Joe and I were okay with this possibility, but were possibly wanting a better, warmer location. I left the Chicago open about 50/50 whether or not I would like to play a tournament abroad.

In early July, Joe Knapp had informed me that he had found another tournament in Montesilvano, Italy, a small beach town on the Adriatic Coast in the Abruzzo region. The Adriatico International tournament ran from September 8th through the 15th and was 9 rounds with 1 game per day (2 games for one day in the middle of the tournament). (Joe and I had to play in the "B" section for 1700-2000 FIDE as section A required a FIDE rating of 2000.) We both thought this would be a much better location with better weather. What could beat hitting the beach in the morning and playing chess in the afternoon.

At this point, Joe and his girlfriend Lacey were fairly certain that they were going to go and wanted me to go as well to help split the costs. I agreed once work allowed me to take the time off - 17 work days in total. We created an itinerary that lasted from our arrival on September 4th to our departure on September 25th which included Rome, Montesilvano, Bologna, Florence, Naples, and the Amalfi Coast.

Overall, it was a great experience. Great weather, great food, great beaches, good company, and a wonderful chess result.

Some observations about the chess:

- I believe that my prediction about the players being overrated in comparison to Nebraskans definitely was on the spot, by about 100 points in my opinion, a 1950 FIDE player in the Montesilvano tournament would be about 1850 FIDE in Nebraska.
- The style of chess I encountered was very solid, pragmatic, and perhaps slightly lacking in opening preparation. For the strong Nebraskan chess players, I generally have to be very booked up, prepared for sharp openings and tactics and always need to be cognizant of my opponent's swindling opportunities. At the Adriatico International, most of my opponents generally played solid openings, although not the most critical lines. They tried to play more pragmatic, "correct" chess instead of trying out the sharper, trendier opening lines followed up with sharp middlegame play. These observations may be because most of my opponents were older gentlemen, but it may be a younger generation vs older generation style difference, but it may also say something of different chess styles between Nebraska and the Abruzzo region of Italy.
- My opponents had very good time management in comparison to Nebraskans or Americans. I'm used to several Nebraska players who try to make all of their moves very quickly. I have also experienced this behavior at the Chicago Open several times. In Montesilvano, regardless of rating, players took their time and used their time effectively. This may have to do with the more relaxed environment and culture and the 1 game per day standard. Also, they are used to FIDE's 30 second increment for every tournament they play in which allows them to take their time more.

Round 8 Montesilvano Italy Tournament 9/14/2024

Cusumano USA – Zinani-ITA

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. e4 Nc6 | 28. Re2 Qf7 |
| 2. d4 d5 | 29. Bc5 Nd7 |
| 3. e5 Bf5 | 30. Bd4 Rh6 |
| 4. c3 e6 | 31. Qe3 Rh5 |
| 5. Bd3 Nge7 | 32. Bxg7 Rf5 |
| 6. Ne2 f6 | 33. Bd4 b6 |
| 7. f4 h5 | 34. Qh6 Nf8 |
| 8. b4 Qd7 *1 | 35. Qxh4+ Kd7 *7 |
| 9. a4 a5 *2 | 36. Nf3 Ng6 |
| 10. b5 Na7 | 37. Qe1 Kc8 |
| 11. Ba3 Nac8 *3 | 38. Ne5 Nxe5 |
| 12. O-O h4 | 39. Bxe5 Qd7 *8 |
| 13. Bxf5? Nxf5 (Nc1 is best) | 40. Bxc7 Qxb5 *9 |
| 14. Bxf8 Ne3 *4 | 41. Bd6 Kb7 |
| 15. Qd3 Nxf1 | 42. Re7+ Ka6 |
| 16. Ba3 Nb6 | 43. Re8 Rf7 |
| 17. Kxf1 Nxa4 | 44. Qe2 Qxe2 *10 |
| 18. Nd2 Kf7 | 45. Rxe2 Kb5 |
| 19. Kg1 Nb6 | 46. Rb2+ Kc6 |
| 20. Rf1 Rag8 | 47. Be5 b5 |
| 21. f5 exf5 *5 | 48. g4 Kc5 |
| 22. Nf4 fxe5 | 49. g5 Rf5 |
| 23. dxe5 Re8 | 50. Bf6 Rf4 |
| 24. e6+ Rxe6 | 51. Rg2 Kc4 |
| 25. Nxe6 Qxe6 | 52. g6 Rxf6 |
| 26. Rxf5+ Ke8 | 53. g7 (1-0) |
| 27. Rf2 Kd8 *6 | |

Annotations by Steven Cusumano

*1 After f6 and h5 I don't believe my opponent can safely castle kingside any longer. With this in mind I played 8. b4 to start a queenside attack in case my opponent castled there.

*2 After9 0-0-0, 10 0-0 this would have been an exciting opposite side castling game. I believe this would have been better for my opponent than leaving his king in the center as he did in the game.

*3 My idea is to play Bxf5 Nxf5 Bxf8 and then the black king would forfeit the right to castle upon recapturing, or, at least, black would waste time by removing his rook from the h file.

*4 The computer doesn't like my maneuver, but I think it is a good practical try. I also enticed him to play Ne3 to fork my queen and rook, but since I am already up the bishop I just captured. I have time to retreat my dark squared bishop and win his trapped knight to have the 2 piece to rook advantage. Be3?? Blunder, Rxf8 was best.

*5 f5! A strong pawn sacrifice. It makes room for my knight to go to f4 and then push 36 with a fork.

*6 Rf2? Mistake. Nf3 was best. Too slow. It would have been stronger to play Nf3 against a Qe1 invasion with the threat of Re5.

*7 I couldn't decide between 35 Qxh4 and Qc6 during the game. Ultimately, I went for the material because I couldn't work out if I would have a decisive blow after Qc6.

*8 Bxe5 I took with the bishop because I wanted the bishop to be pointed at the c7 pawn.

*9 Bxc7 My dark-squared bishop has been busy this game: capturing my opponent's bishop on f8, rescuing itself to a3 and sacrificing itself for a pawn on both g7 and c7!

*10 Qe2 The endgame is clearly winning, so why risk sharp play with queens still on the board?

*11 Bf6 At this point I saw the idea of Rg2, followed by g6, g7, g8 (Q) not minding if my bishop was captured along the way as g7 prevents his rook from getting back to f8. Another feather in the cap for my valiant dark-squared bishop.

Montesilvano Italy Tournament 9/14/2024

Knapp USA vs Petcu ITA

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6
6. Bc4 Nbd7
7. Be3 Qc7
8. Qe2 Nc5
9. Nd5 Nxd5
10. exd5 b5
11. Bd3 Nxd3+
12. Qxd3 Bb7
13. O-O Rc8
14. Rfd1 g6
15. Nb3 Qc4
16. Qxc4 bxc4
17. Na5 Ba8
18. Bd4 Rg8
19. Bb6 Bg7
20. c3 Kd7
21. Rd2 h5
22. Re1 Rb8 ?? (Rge8 was best)
23. Nxc4 Rgc8? (Rbc8 was best)
24. Ba7 Bh6
25. Rde2 Bg5
26. Rd1 Kd8
27. Bxb8 Rxb8
28. b3 Rb5
29. Ne3 a5
30. c4 Rb6
31. Nc2 Bf6
32. Rd3 Bb7
33. g3 Bc8
34. Ne3 Bh3
35. c5 Ra6? (dxc5 was best)
36. c6 Kc7
37. a4 Ra8
38. Nc4 Bf5
39. Rde3 Kd8
40. Na3 Rc8
41. Nb5 g5
42. f3 Ra8
43. Nxd6
44. Nxf7+ Ke8
45. Nd6+ Kd8
46. Nb5 Bf5
47. d6 e6
48. Rxe6 Bxe6
49. Rxe6 Bb2 ?? (Checkmate is now unavoidable. Rc8 was best.)
50. Nc7 Bd4+
51. Kh1 (1-0)

INTRODUCING THE NEW HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024.

The Hall of Fame Committee selected the largest class of new inductees ever in late September. A total of nine of our greatest players, champions, directors, organizers or writers were chosen and all were unanimously picked by our committee which was composed of FM Loren Schmidt, NM John Drexel, SM Rod Malpert and veteran Omaha chess player, Richard Gardner. This final issue of the year, features short biographies highlighting their many chess accomplishments written by one of the committee members or me. When provided there is a photo of them as well on the following page.

Kevin Fleming by Hall of Fame President, Bruce Draney

Kevin Fleming is one of the most decorated chess players, journalists, directors, organizers, teachers and leaders to ever grace our state. Appearing in the State Closed in 1984, Kevin won his first of a nearly unprecedented 6 state championships, a feat only exceeded by Howard Ohman and Keaton Kiewra. Kevin won the Closed again in 1989 as a co-champion with Gary Colvin, and then back-to-back in 1991 and 1992 and again back-to-back in 1996 and 1997. Kevin also won two Lincoln City Championships in 1987 and 1988, and finished as high as 2nd in an Omaha City Championship. Kevin won many other chess tournaments and achieved a National Master title during his time here in our state.

Kevin was far more than just a chess player. He was a teacher and mentor and was one of Keaton Kiewra 's first teachers. He also was a director, an organizer, a Gambit Editor, and an officer in both the NSCA and the Lincoln Chess Foundation.

Kevin was one of the strongest over the board chess players I ever faced and I think I only beat him once in many tries and achieved one draw. For me, being paired against Kevin in the last round of an event usually spelled doom for me.

Kevin filled in for me to help lead the NSCA in the late 1990's when I resigned as President in order to concentrate on important career and family matters. More importantly Kevin was a first-class individual, always respectful, friendly and willing to go over games win or lose with his opponents. Kevin left Nebraska and moved to Texas in early 2002, but his Nebraska chess legacy makes him an absolutely essential addition to the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame.

Mike Blankenau by Senior Master Rod Malpert

Since the 1970s, Mike Blankenau has been among the strongest players in Nebraska history. He emerged as first board for the legendary Omaha Central teams and graduated to the powerhouse UNL Pan Am team, while making the top 25 under age-21 list. In the 1970s Mike became one of the rare masters in a multi-state region. He peaked at about 2400 strength and became a Life Master. He won consecutive state championships in 1993-94, the Omaha championship three times (once in high school in 1973) and a Lincoln championship while at UNL. Outside Nebraska, Mike defeated and drew many titled players in top national tournaments. Nebraska young players learned a lot from Mike, including Paul Rohwer and Keaton Kiewra, and he coached at Brownell Talbot. Mike is known for his sharp style and blitz ability. His skills also made him an accomplished tournament backgammon and poker player.

Bart Lewis by FM Loren Schmidt

Barton (“Bart”) Lewis contributed to Nebraska chess primarily as an organizer (and raconteur), but he also had a long history as a player in the 1950s-1980s. As a teenager, he battled against many Nebraska legends in the Midwest Open, Lincoln City Championship, and other events and scored wins and draws against them as well. Notably, he finished 5-5 in the 1954 US Junior Open in Lincoln, right next to Robert J. Fischer in the cross table, and he defeated young Fischer in the Rapid Transit (10 second a move) event. Bart’s delightful sense of humor comes through in the many wonderful stories he has shared about this era and those legends, only some of which have been published, though Bruce Draney is eliciting more of them as I write these words. While Bart played less as he completed his schooling and launched a highly-successful career as the head of a major ad agency in Lincoln, he continued to play in Nebraska events in the next 2+ decades, achieving a peak rating in Class A (1800-1999) in an era when that was an accomplishment.

However, Bart’s most notable contributions came as a chess promoter. He was a key member of the Lincoln Chess Foundation team in this Golden Age of Nebraska chess. He used his business connections to help raise funds for the major events of the 60s and 70s, such as the 1969 and 1975 US Opens and the 1978 Organizers Invitational and concurrent Chess and the Humanities conference. He helped sponsor the Lincoln teams in the National Telephone Chess League, including locating a playing site and telephone connection, and he was instrumental in raising funds for the UN-L teams that had a run of Top Ten finishes in the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships in the 70s, including the 1975 win. Bart even contributed his elegant home as a playing site for matches between Lincoln and Omaha! In all, Barton Lewis fully merits inclusion in the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame.

Gary Colvin by FM Loren Schmidt

Gary Colvin has contributed to Nebraska chess as a player, organizer, director, and even editor. Like many of our new inductees, Gary Colvin got his start playing in Nebraska High School championships, Midwest Opens, and city championship events. After high school at Omaha Westside, Gary attended UN-L, where he became a member of Nebraska ACU-I regional and Pan-Am teams, including an outstanding 6.5-1.5 on Board 4 for the UN-L team that tied for 2nd in the 1977 Pan-Am as well as playing Board 1 for teams in the early 1980s. He was likewise a team member for Lincoln teams in the National Telephone Chess League in that era. After college, Gary continued to play and pushed his rating to the high 2100s, winning a state championship, a Cornhusker State Games gold, and winning or placing high in many open events around the state, region, and nation.

In addition to exceling as a player, Gary contributed to Nebraska chess as an organizer and director for more than 60 tournaments, and events, especially in the 1980s and 1990s. Gary also took on the role of Lincoln Chess Foundation President as well as other offices in LCF and NSCA, including serving as an editor/contributor to *The Gambit*. He was honored for his contributions by the LCF in 1985.

Mike Mathews by SM Rod Malpert

Mike Mathews was a mainstay of Nebraska Chess in the 1970s and 80s. As a player, he won many local tournaments and even a US Class B Championship. Most notably he was Nebraska champion in 1978 and Lincoln champion in 1980. Mike also was on the Lincoln Logs telephone league team that performed well against major cities, and two Pan Am collegiate teams for UNL. He reached an expert rating. Mike was a major organizer from the beginning. He started as the President and early developer of the prolific Lincoln East High club. He went on to be the Lincoln Chess Club President, Lincoln Chess Foundation President, and NSCA President and voting representative for Nebraska to the USCF. Mike also directed many tournaments and was Editor of *The Gambit*. Few have contributed so broadly to Nebraska chess.

Bruce Draney by FM Loren Schmidt

Like many of the new Hall of Fame members, Bruce Draney has contributed to Nebraska chess as a player, organizer, director, and editor. Bruce got his start playing for Lincoln East in Nebraska High School championships and Lincoln HS Leagues in the early 1970s before moving up to Midwest Opens and city championships. He attended UN-L, where he became a member of Nebraska ACU-I regional teams with teammates like Mike Chess and HOFers Loren Schmidt and Gary Colvin. His chess career has covered more than 50 years and more than 300 tournaments, all as a Nebraska-based player, where he earned an Expert rating and won four Omaha City Championships while qualifying for multiple Nebraska Closed Championship finals. Notably, he shared the 1976 National Class B title with fellow HOF inductee Mike Mathews.

While Bruce's chess career is significant, it comprises only a small part of his contribution to Nebraska Chess. Bruce has toiled away for most of those 50 years as a tournament organizer and director, an officer holding key positions, and an editor. Bruce is currently the editor of both *The Gambit* (the Lincoln Chess Foundation and Nebraska State Chess Association flagship publication) and Omaha Chess Archive. In 1991, he founded the Southwest Suburban Omaha Chess Association affiliate, which has run more than 113 events since then, including the Great Plains Open, a major NE annual event. Bruce also took on leadership roles at the Lincoln Chess Foundation and Nebraska State Chess Association, serving as President as well as other offices, including NE's USCF National Delegate. He founded the Hall of Fame itself, organizing the initial Hall of Fame induction events in the 1990s. Bruce returned as Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame president and revived it a year ago and, with HOFer Rod Malpert, organized a spectacular event this past summer.

In short, Bruce Draney ticks almost every box on the "NE Chess Influencer" scorecard and fully deserves his selection to the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame.

Richard Perry by National Master John Drexel

Richard grew up in Omaha and started playing chess during the Fischer Boom of the early 70s. During his Junior and Senior years of high school his game really flourished. In 1975 he won the Nebraska Scholastic High School championship as a student at Burke High school in Omaha. After High School he continued to improve and won 4 consecutive State Championships in 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982, a feat only exceeded by Howard Ohman and IM Keaton Kiewra. Had he not moved to Texas for work he would no doubt have won more State Titles. He earned the rare National Master rating and remains one of Nebraska's strongest players. Bravo Richard!

Paul Rohwer by National Master John Drexel

Paul started playing chess in the late 1980s and quickly became a strong player. While attending Brownell-Talbot he won many State and National honors and became a National Master. He won the State High School Championship 3 times in 1992, 1993, and 1994. In 1991 he won the National Junior High Championship and in 1994 he was the Denker National High School Co-Champion. He also won many local chess tournaments. After High School Paul went to College at Indiana and achieved a peak rating over 2300. Paul was the youngest player in Nebraska history to reach Master while still in high school. Well done, Paul!

Bob Woodworth by HOF President Bruce Draney

Bob is one of the elder statesmen of Nebraska chess. He has spent his entire career here which is a claim that only a few of us can make. For years Bob has played in major national events both here in Nebraska and also in other states. He has met and played simul against many famous Grand Masters. He also played in both the 1969 and 1975 U.S. Opens here in Lincoln. He has traveled to both the National Open and the Western States Open numerous times over the last 26 years where he met and interacted with many famous chess personalities. Bob has also earned a rating of over 1800 in correspondence chess. His peak over the board rating was in the 1900's. Bob has been a huge asset to Nebraska chess and I'm proud to see him inducted as he is also just an all-around nice guy, always friendly and ready to strike up a conversation with you.

Bob's contributions to Nebraska chess include dozens of articles about his travels and simul experiences published in the Gambit, and serving for over 25 years as our Nebraska State Chess Association Historical Archivist. Bob also produced dozens of chess puzzles over the years that appeared in various issues of the Gambit.

After taking over from Bob Holling and before that Jim Jirousek, as Historical Archivist, Bob collected and preserved literally hundreds of bound copies of our state and local newsletters. He provided bound copies of many of these newsletters to the State Historical Society in Lincoln which have proven to be essential to people like me who have used them to research our chess history. Although Bob is now in his late 80's, he continues to serve Nebraska chess as our Historical Archivist and is a great source of information about past chess events and personalities. Bob is also one of the original members of the Camelot Chess Club, the oldest chess club in the state.

Some Final Thoughts

Because the Hall of Fame was dormant for over 10 years and no new members were added, the committee made the decision to put in a very large class this year. Even adding nine new members in a single year, only brings us up to a total of 28 members.

Except for Paul Rohwer all the new inductees are 50 or older and 7 of them are over 65. Two of them are over 85. The committee felt that it was far more important to elect great and deserving nominees while they are still alive rather than sharply restricting numbers when some of the nominees are not in great health.

As you can see by the biographies written by committee members, every single one of these gentlemen deserves the honor being bestowed upon them. Even with 28 members now, the Hall of Fame has only averaged one inductee per year as it was begun in 1996, and this is technically the 28th year of its existence.

I'd like to once again thank the committee members for all their hard work and deliberations. Beginning next September, Loren, John and Richard are ending their two-year term and are being replaced by Gary Colvin and me. Rod will serve a full two years as he was only added in late July of this year. Going forward our intention is to keep the classes small so as not to overflow the Hall of Fame with too many members and thereby diluting the honor to a certain extent.

When we originally started the Hall of Fame in 1996, we had a Hall of Honor that allowed for people who had done great things but were not yet quite qualified to be inducted, to be honored as potential future inductees. One plan is to return to this idea so that we can honor more people without naming too many to the Hall of Fame itself.

There are a number deserving candidates that even those of us from the 1970's never personally knew and yet they made a huge impact on Nebraska chess. I'd like to at least consider some of those individuals in the future even though finding out a lot of information might be difficult. There was a gentleman named Mockett for example that won 6 State Championships, the same number as Kevin Fleming. Another man once defeated both Capablanca and Alekhine in simultaneous exhibitions that Howard Ohman and Jack Spence wrote about in their newsletters. People like this deserve a look despite living more than a century ago. We also have a large number of great chess promoters that are deceased but made major contributions to Nebraska chess like Charlie Graham, Abe Bennett Martin and B. Frank Watson.

If you would like to nominate someone for consideration to either the Hall of Fame or the Hall of Honor, contact me, Gary Colvin or Rod Malpert who will begin deliberations on deserving 2025 nominations next September after the nine new members are formally admitted at a reception and banquet on Friday night, May 30th, 2025 in Lincoln. Most likely the banquet will be held at the Graduate Hotel again as it was last year.

Hall of Fame Photo Gallery Class of 2024



LM Mike Blankenau



Bart Lewis



Gary Colvin



Mike Mathews



Bruce Draney



NM Richard Perry



NM Paul Rohwer



Bob Woodworth

Scholastic Team Kickoff Event draws 50 players on 11/2/2024

Michael Gooch of the Omaha Chess Community and I decided to jumpstart scholastic team chess which had kind of just died out last year. Part of this effort has involved getting the Metro Omaha High School Chess League going again and we did get 4 schools involved in the early stages and held the first head-to-head matches in early November. For the lower grades, a series of scholastic team events are the plan and our first tournament was reasonably successful drawing 50 players from a dozen different, public, Catholic or home school groups. A rated quad drew 4 players but the rest of the sections were all unrated so entry fees were low to encourage participation.

Scholastic Team Kickoff Tournament Winners:

Rated Quad: Rakshith Seetharaman

High School Team: Omaha Metro Home School (Hengen)

Middle School Team: LaTere Academy Home School Hybrid

Elementary School Team: Aldrich Elementary Millard

The Middle School section drew 22 players representing six different schools including three separate home school teams.

The Elementary School section drew 14 players from 5 different schools in the metro area.

The High School Section drew 10 players from 3 high schools including two separate home school teams.

Gabe Hoffman and Luke Hengen both scored 4-0 to help the Hengen Home School Team win the title.

Shannor Qiang of Elkridge won the Middle School section with a perfect 4-0 but LaTere Academy won the team title with 11.5 points.

Adrith Pallepatti of Reagan Elementary won the Elementary section with a perfect 4-0 score but he was the only player from the school and the Aldrich team made up of Thanush Bokka, Advait Lanka, and Rohan and Prayag Gundabolu scored 11.5 points to easily win the title in that section.

Considering there was not any easy way to get the word out the tournament was a success and everyone who attended seemed to enjoy competing. Another event is planned right now for January in Council Bluffs at Lewis Central High School. Dates and details are still being finalized.

RIVERFRONT IV ATTRACTS 6 ON NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024.

NSCA President Steven Cusumano held another invitational tournament at his condo building on the riverfront on Saturday November 9th. Six invitees showed up to play a 3 round Swiss. The participants in Riverfront IV were Kirill Belashchenko, Steven Cusumano, John Davidson, Jerry Slominski, Nick Lacroix and Rakshith Seetharaman. Steven emerged as the winner with 2.5-.5. Lacroix was 2nd with 2 and Belashchenko and Rakshith had 1.5. Davidson finished with 1 and Slominski had .5.

#	Name	Rating	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
1	S. Cusumano	1909	D6	W4	W3	2.5
2	N. Lacroix	2020	D4	D3	W5	2.0
3	K. Belashchenko	1963	W5	D2	L1	1.5
4	R. Seetharaman	1801	D2	L1	W6	1.5
5	J. Davidson	1785	L3	W6	L2	1.0
6	J. Slominski	1770	D1	L5	L4	0.5

Here is the decisive Round 3 Game between Steven and Kirill that decided the championship.
Round 3: Riverfront Invitational IV 11/09/2024

Cusmano 1909-Belashchenko 1963

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. Bxh6 Qxb2 9. Nbd2 gxh6 10. O-O Qb6 11. Rb1 Qc7 12. Qb3 Rg8 13. Rfc1 Be7 14. Qe3 Bg5 15. Nxc5 hxc5 16. Qh3 Rg7 17. Qh6 Kf8 18. Nf3 Qe7 19. Bd3 Kg8 20. h3 Kh8 21. Rb3 a6 22. Bb1 Na5 23. Rbc3 Nc4 24. h4 gxh4 25. Nxc4 Qg5 26. Qxc5 Rxc5 27. Rh3 Rh5 28. f4 Bd7 29. Bd3 Rg8 30. Kf2 Bb5 31. Be2 Rh6 32. g4 f6 33. Rch1 Rg7 34. f5 Kg8 35. fxe6 fxe5 36. Nf5 Rf6 37. Bxc4 dxc4 38. dxe5 Rf8 39. Ke3 Rc7 40. e7 Rxf5 41. gxf5 Rxe7 42. Kf4 Bd7 43. Rg3+ Kf8 44. Rhg1 Rf7 45. Rg8+ Ke7 46. R8g7 b5 47. Rxf7+ Kxf7 48. e6+ Bxe6 49. fxe6+ Kxe6 50. Rh1 Kd5 51. Ke3 Kc5 52. Rxh7 Kb4 53. Kd2 Ka3 54. Kc3 Kxa2 55. Ra7 b4+ 56. Kxb4 Kb2 57. Kxc4 (1-0)

Nick Lacroix 2020-Davidson 1785

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Bf4 g6 7. e3 Nh5 8. Qa4+ Bd7 9. Qe4+ Qe7 10. Bxd6 Qxe4 11. Nxe4 b6 12. Be5 Rg8 13. Be2 f5 14. Nc3 Bg7 15. Bxg7 Nxc7 16. Nf3 Ke7 17. O-O Ne8 18. e4 fxe4 19. Nxe4 Bf5 20. Ng3 Nd7 21. Rfe1 Kd6 22. Bb5 Nc7 23. Nxf5+ gxf5 24. Bxd7 Kxd7 25. Re5 Raf8 26. h4 h6 27. Rae1 Rf7 28. h5 Re8 29. Rxe8 (1-0)

Slominski 1770-Seetharaman 1801

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 Bf5 4. Be2 h6 5. c4 e6 6. Nc3 Be7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Qb3 Nc6 9. O-O O-O 10. Bd2 Nb4 11. Rac1 Nd3 12. Rcd1 c5 13. dxc5 Nxc5 14. Qb4 Bc2 15. Ra1 Nb3 16. Qxb7 Nxa1 17. Rxa1 Be4 18. Nd4 Bc5 19. Nb3 Rb8 20. Qc6 Bd6 21. Nxe4 Nxe4 (0-1)

CENTRAL NEBRASKA CHESS CLUBS ATTRACTS 28 TO KEARNEY ON SATURDAY 11/9/2024.

Eric Allan and the Central Nebraska Chess Club hosted their first major event of the year on Saturday November 9th in Kearney, Nebraska. The tournament featured rated, unrated and both adult and scholastic play in 4 sections. The Open Rated section was won by Thomas Jessop with a perfect score of 4-0. This section drew 5 players.

The high school and adult casual sections were combined into an unrated section and attracted 9 in total. Winner was Ryan Shearer with a 5-1 score. Jeremiah Schroer was top high school finisher also with 5-0. The middle school section drew only 4 players who played a double round robin. Rowen Morse took first place with a perfect 6-0 score. The elementary school section drew 10 and was won by Zane Jaeger with a perfect 6-0 score. It would be great to see a rekindling of well-run tournaments in central and western Nebraska and Eric should be applauded for his efforts.

USCF Rated Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rnd 5	Total
1	T. Jessop	1704	W5	W3	W4	W2	Bye	5.0
2	H. Denton	675	Bye	W5	W3	L1	L4	3.0
3	A. Maiwald	761	W4	L1	L2	Bye	W5	3.0
4	R. Speck	UNR	L3	Bye	L1	W5	W2	3.0
5	D. Contreras	UNR	L1	L2	Bye	L4	L3	1.0

Casual Adult/High School Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
1	R. Shearer	UNR	W4	L7	W6	W8	W2	W3	5.0
2	J. Schroer	UNR	W5	W8	W7	W3	L1	W9	5.0
3	K. Wysocki	UNR	W6	W4	W8	L2	W9	L1	4.0
4	M. Blinde	UNR	L1	L3	W9	W6	W8	W7	4.0
5	F. Blume	UNR	L2	Bye	Bye	Bye	Bye	----	4.0*
6	J. Bennetts	UNR	L3	W9	L1	L4	W7	W8	3.0
7	R. Rizk	UNR	Bye	W1	L2	L9	L6	L4	2.0
8	T. Landrum	UNR	W9	L2	L3	L1	L4	L6	1.0
9	J. Hubbell	UNR	L8	L6	L4	W7	L3	L2	1.0

Middle School Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
1	R. Morse	UNR	W2	W3	W4	W2	W3	W2	6.0
2	A Blinde	UNR	L1	W4	W3	L1	W4	Bye	4.0
3	S. Borer	UNR	W4	L1	L2	W4	L1	W4	3.0
4	K. Lavassaur	UNR	L3	L2	L1	L3	L2	L3	0.0

Elementary School Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
1	Z. Jaeger	UNR	W9	W8	W3	W2	W7	W5	6.0
2	G. Lush	UNR	Bye	W7	W5	L1	W3	W10	5.0
3	M. Rizk	UNR	Bye	W5	L1	W4	L2	W7	4.0
4	E. Kremer	UNR	L5	W6	W8	L3	W10	W9	4.0
5	J. Jaeger	UNR	W4	L3	L2	W6	W8	L1	3.0
6	R. Hubbell	UNR	L7	L4	W10	L5	W9	W8	3.0
7	M. Saalfeld	UNR	W6	L2	D9	W10	L1	L3	2.5
8	C. Bilancini	UNR	W10	L1	L4	W9	L5	L6	2.0
9	J. Lavasseur	UNR	L1	W10	D7	L8	L6	L4	1.5
10	B. Blinde	UNR	L8	L9	L6	L7	L4	L2	0.0

VI. God's Children Memoir Excerpt

Loren Schmidt

This is an excerpt from a longer memoir called "An American Gambit," which details three weeks of my life in August 1974 when I traveled from Nebraska to East Coast to play in the U.S. Open Chess Championship in NYC. I wasn't a master yet, and in fact winter and spring results had dipped my rating slightly below the "Expert" (these days called "Candidate Master") status I had reached with my 4th place finish at the US Junior Open the previous summer, giving me some hopes of winning a "Class Prize" for players rated 1800-1999.

During the event, I was staying with Larry Gier, a friend who had recently completed his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Nebraska and landed a job in the Princeton area. I was staying in the Old Bridge/East Brunswick area and commuting by bus to the Port Authority Terminal in NYC. From there, it was a bit over a mile to the tournament site at the Statler Hilton. The day before the event started, my friend Larry showed me how to get there. We caught a bus at a convenience store a couple of miles from his apartment, rode it to the PAT, where (good fortune!) I happily retrieved the backpack and sleeping bag the Greyhound had driven off with the previous day (an earlier episode of this tale), visited the tournament site (where I checked in), and then caught a Mets game at Shea Stadium. As I say at the beginning of this memoir, "This is pretty much exactly what happened. Some of it you could check. As for the rest—well, you'll have to take it on trust, I guess."



Statler Hilton Hotel, Manhattan Demolished 2021-2

The first day of the tournament dawned, but I didn't need to rush off to NYC. The Open played one round a day, starting at 7 pm, with adjournment at midnight. I very much hoped to avoid that, since the adjournments would be played off at 10 am the next morning and would require a quick turnaround since I didn't have the money to check into a hotel overnight. Larry was off to work already, so I ate a late breakfast and packed my clock, my knife, writing utensils, and a Big Chief tablet in my rucksack. After a moment's thought, I wadded up my maroon windbreaker (decorated by my NRA rifle patches and my Boy Scout 50 Mile Hike patch) and stuffed it in the top. I only brought a few dollar bills plus one ten-dollar traveler's check since that would cover my round-trip bus ticket and a "supper" of two McDonald's burgers and a carton of milk for a couple of days. The only other things in my wallet were my ID and draft card.

I made the hike to the store, bought my ticket, and caught the bus with no difficulties. I walked down to the Hilton and checked my pairing. The tournament was a 12-round Swiss System, meaning that every round they matched the top half versus the bottom half of each score group. No one is ever eliminated; you just keep playing opponents at or near your current score. Since this was Round 1, everyone stood 0-0.

Begin Chess Interlude the First

As expected, I was in the top half of tournament ratings and got to play a much lower rated player, an older local man with a vaguely European accent. I decided to play my normal game and opened with the Queen's pawn. He countered with the King's Indian Defense, to which I replied with an early pawn to f3, the Saemisch Variation. We followed standard "book" play in the Saemisch Byrne line for about ten moves, but he did not respond accurately to my aggressive pawn thrust h4-h5, instead allowing me to open a line for my Rook to threaten his King and leaving me with a strong attack. I relaxed. Easy, now just run him over. Without much thought, I slid my Bishop to d3, imagining that I could now take a couple of moves to reposition my Knight for a sacrificial jump to f5, opening lines for my Bishop on d3 and my other Rook. He thought for a few minutes, shrugged, and put own Knight on h5, blocking my Rook's line and inhibiting my own Knight's prospects. I played the Knight out as planned, but he immediately slid his Rook over to its own open file, preparing to support his Knight's return from the flank. I impulsively pushed my Pawn up to attack the Knight anyway, and it settled in the newly-created hole on f4.

I shouldn't have done that. My attack and my advantage had completely vanished after my three thoughtless moves. It was equal. I went back to work and grimly tried to generate winning chances. I tripled my Queen and both Rooks on my open file, but he countered by triple defending along his second rank. *What now? Get rid of my bad Bishop?* I returned that Bishop I had optimistically placed on d3 earlier in the opening back to its home square and then brought it out the other way to exchange for his Bishop. I tried multiple ideas to generate threats, but he simply moved his Rooks back and forth. He seemed content play for a draw, daring me to try something, so I finally did, maneuvering my pieces to support my backward Pawn forward from f3 to f4. He just traded, and I still had a backward Pawn, just on e4 now rather than f3. *Still got nothing.* I continued to probe his position, looking for an entry. We were both playing quickly now because it was after 11 pm and neither of us really wanted to adjourn. Finally, he gave me just a tiny sliver of hope by moving his K away from the action. I hopped my Knight into the hole on f6 and tried to remain impassive. *Deep breaths . . . deep breaths.* He should move his own Knight into the hole on e5, keeping a likely draw, but he forced the issue, trading Knights and giving me a passed Pawn. He moved his Queen over to block it, probably thinking his King and Queen could surround it, but I firmly pushed up my backward Pawn from e4 to e5. He grimaced and thought for a few minutes, but he had no choice other than taking it. He now had two passed Pawns himself, but my two were much closer to becoming Queens than his. He couldn't even trade Queens since the King could not catch the more distant Pawn. I pushed my newly-passed Pawn and kept it up. He pushed his own Pawns in response for a few moves, then threatened a check with his Queen, hoping for a draw by perpetual check. Unfortunately for him, my Pawn metamorphized to a Queen and permitted only a single check. Rather than make the spite check, he resigned and we avoided adjournment.

End Chess Interlude the First



I trucked back through the warm NYC night to the Port Authority Terminal, passing various drunks and ladies of the very late afternoon, found my platform, and caught the 1 a.m. bus back to Jersey. As we drove through the night, I alternated between looking over my just-completed game on my magnetic folding set and looking out at what passed for scenery under a half moon rising in the sky above intermittent patches of fog. I had been lucky in the end, so I made notes calling out my sloppiness to leave for Larry's entertainment the following evening when he returned from work.

At what I thought was the right moment, I put my set and tablet away, put my rucksack over my shoulder, got up, and told the driver, "Drop me at Browntown, please!" He obligingly pulled over, and once again I foolishly trusted a bus driver. As I looked around in the aftermath, I found myself somewhere around the middle of nowhere. The temperature had dropped to the 60s, so I pulled out my windbreaker and put it on. There was a crossroad, all right, but despite the helpful moon, I detected no lights, no buildings, no nothing but a lot of fog, trees, and bushes. Since I knew which side of the highway Larry's apartment lay on, I chose that direction and started walking. At another crossroad, I discovered in the pale moonlight that I was on "Flood Road" (which I later learned was a road through the drainage area of the northern Jersey swamps—you know, where they bury the bodies). It was like one of those scenes from a monster movie: fog, with crickets and frogs sounding from the swampland around me. Occasionally, the fog would clear a bit and I could even see my moonshadow following me down the road. I thought I heard a dog in the distance. *Gotta be a dog; no wolves in Jersey, are there? Chaising down a hoodoo, I imagine.*

After a few miles, I finally saw some lights in the distance. Turned out to be a 7-11. Salvation! But when I went to the (locked) door, I encountered a cryptic sign: "Back soon." So I looked around the area and saw an entrance to "Cheesequake State Park." I knew what a cheesesteak was, but cheesequake? I spied a pay phone on the side wall of the store and tried calling Larry (ah, the days of the pay phone outside the convenience store!) to see if he had any idea where I was. For some reason, he didn't answer his phone ringing at about 3 am. I had few other options but to sit and find out when "soon" was.



Photo: State of New Jersey, Dept of Parks and Forestry

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/cheesequake.html>

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After about a half hour, a VW van pulled up and disgorged a bunch of people in their teens and twenties in bellbottoms and tie-dye, including a few girls in halter tops (one of teenage me's greatest weaknesses). They checked the door and sign and then came over to where I was sitting. One, probably mid-20s judging by his long blond hair and impressive mustache, introduced himself as Mike and asked how long I'd been waiting. They sat down on the curb and commenced chatting. Mike explained that they were from a religious group staying nearby in the park and were on a snack run. We waited awhile together, chatting about this and that.

A car pulled up about another half hour later, and the driver hopped out and apologetically opened the store. My new friends picked out their purchases while I tried calling Larry again. No luck. I asked the clerk how far it was to Larry's apartment complex, and he showed me on one of the roadmaps for sale at the counter. Turned out I was more than five miles away. Great. I was gearing myself up for another hike through the swamp when Mike invited me back to their camp for a bite and promised a ride back to Larry's. I took him up on it. Once we got to their site in the camp, I saw a hodge-podge of tents and maybe a dozen more group members around a fire. They had a big kettle of stew on the fire, so I got a bowlful from another young lady with long, straight dark hair, dark eyes, and what was even then known as a 'hippie chick' vibe. She had bare feet and was wearing . . . a blue halter top dotted with yellow flowers. She introduced herself as Katie. She handed me a second bowl. "What's this one for?" I wondered. "Just pass it on," she told me with a wink and a half smile. I took it back to the campfire and started to hand it to someone, but he indicated a person across from us and said, "Nah, man, give it to her—I gotta play now!" He picked up a guitar and strummed dramatically. I obliged, sat down, and began to eat. It was mostly potatoes, carrots, and onions but was good and filling. They started singing some songs I knew from church camp or choir, so between bites I occasionally joined in.

When I finished, Mike took me aside for a short "talk." He explained who they were (which I won't get into here, but my friend Tom later showed me some of their recruiting manuals). "You really gotta go back tonight? You would really fit in here, man. We could use a guy like you. Just take it day by day. And Katie says she really likes you." I was curious how he divined that, but didn't ask. Alas for my potential future in a cult, I had a chess tournament to get back to, so as promised, Mike revved up the van and gave me a lift back to Larry's. I never saw Mike, Katie, or the Children of God again. Thus ended Day One of my NYC US Open.

ANNUAL GREAT PLAINS OPEN DRAWS 25 IN LINCOLN ON 11/16-17/2024

The last POY Event and the final State Closed Qualifier for the year was the Great Plains Open which was held in Lincoln at the Country Inn and Suites on North 27th Street on Saturday and Sunday November 16th and 17th. It was organized by NSCA Lincoln Vice President John Linscott and directed by Tony Dutiel. Although there was an RBO on Saturday that drew 12 players, the Open section drew 25. Competition was fierce and many players took half point byes during the event, quite a few of them in round 3.

Because of this when the smoke cleared after 5 rounds there was a 4-way tie for first place between Nick Lacroix, Kirill Belashchenko, Luke Hengen and Oliver Ohly. Nick has already qualified for the Closed, so Kirill will qualify as this event's qualifier, but Luke Hengen will also qualify as one of the top two POY qualifiers. Based on the NSCA's POY tiebreak system Rakshith Seetharaman earned the 6th spot in the Closed.

Great Plains Open 11/16-17/2024, Lincoln, Nebraska

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	R5	Total
1	N. Lacroix	2016	W25	D8	½	W11	W6	4.0
2	K. Belashchenko	1957	W13	W9	½	W10	D4	4.0
3	L. Hengen	1954	W16	L11	W18	W12	W7	4.0
4	O. Ohly	1903	W18	W22	D10	W7	D2	4.0
5	W. Osborne	1876	W23	½	D8	W13	D10	3.5
6	J. Knapp	1936	W17	L10	W24	W8	L1	3.0
7	S. Cusumano	1919	W20	W12	W11	L4	L3	3.0
8	R.Seetharaman	1813	W24	D1	D5	L6	W18	3.0
9	J. Linscott	1781	W15	L2	½	D17	W16	3.0
10	S. Parthasarathy	1764	W19	W3	L7	L1	½	2.5
11	T. Jessop	1755	W21	W6	D4	L2	D5	2.5
12	N. Gordon	1716	W14	L7	W22	L3	D15	2.5
13	L. Iacono	1653	L2	W23	W15	L5	D14	2.5
14	C. Klein	1633	L12	W20	½	D16	D13	2.5
15	N Alagankancharla	1460	L9	W17	L13	W21	D12	2.5
16	J. Solheim	1616	L3	W19	½	D14	L9	2.0
17	M. Adduri	1568	L6	L15	W23	D9	½	2.0
18	P. Schiff	1510	L4	W21	L3	W24	L8	2.0
19	A. Aurelia	909	L11	L16	½	W22	D20	2.0
20	S. Kantem	1596	L7	L14	L21	W23	D19	1.5
21	J. McCormick	UNR	L10	L18	W20	L15	D22	1.5
22	C. Hengen	1311	Bye	L4	L12	L19	D21	1.5
23	J. Tichacek	1400	L5	L13	L17	L20	W24	1.0
24	C. Holsinger	1343	L8	W25	L6	L18	L23	1.0
25	M. Mills	1652	L1	L24	WD	WD	WD	0.0

Games from the Great Plains Open 11/16-17/2024

Round 1:

LaCroix-Mills

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nf6 3. cxd5 Qxd5 4. Nc3 Qd8 5. e4 e6 6. Nf3 Bb4 7. Bd3 h6 8. O-O O-O 9. Be2 b6 10. e5 Nh7 11. Qd3 f5 12. exf6 Nxf6 13. Bxh6 Ba6 14. Qg6 Qe7 15. Ng5 Bxc3 16. bxc3 Bxf1 17. Rxf1 Kh8 18. Re1 gxf6 19. Qxh6+ Kg8 20. Bb3 Nh7 21. Rxe6 Qxg5 22. Rg6+ Kh8 23. Qg7# (1-0)

Iacono-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. Ngf3 c5 5. g3 Nc6 6. Bg2 Be7 7. O-O Qc7 8. Re1 O-O 9. Nf1 Rd8 10. e5 Nd7 11. Bf4 b5 12. h4 Bb7 13. N1h2 a5 14. h5 Bf8 15. Ng4 h6 16. Qd2 Ne7 17. Bxh6 gxf6 18. Nxf6+ Bxh6 19. Qxh6 Nf5 20. Qg5+ Kh8 21. g4 f6 22. Qf4 Nxe5 23. gxf5 Nxf3+ 24. Qxf3 e5 25. Qe3 Qg7 26. Qg3 Rg8 27. Kh2 Qh7 28. Qh3 Rg5 29. Bf3 Rxf5 30. Re2 Rg8 31. Rg1 Rgg5 32. Rxg5 Rxg5 33. Qe6 Qg7 34. c3 c4 35. dxc4 bxc4 36. Rd2 d4 37. Qe8+ Kh7 38. Bxb7 Qxb7 39. f4 Rg8 40. Qe6 Qe4 41. Qf7+ Rg7 42. Qxf6 exf4 43. Qxd4 Qf3 44. Qd5 Qg3+ 45. Kh1 Qg1# (0-1)

Round 2:

Parthasarathy-L. Hengen

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Nxd7 5. O-O Ngf6 6. Re1 e6 7. c3 Be7 8. d4 O-O 9. Nbd2 b5 10. b3 Rc8 11. Bb2 c4 12. bxc4 bxc4 13. Qe2 Qc7 14. Ba3 Rfe8 15. Rab1 Nb6 16. Qe3 Nfd5 17. exd5 Nxd5 18. Qe4 Nxc3 19. Qc2 Nxb1 20. Rxb1 Rb8 21. Rc1 d5 22. Bxe7 Qxe7 23. Ne5 Qa3 24. Rb1 Qd6 25. h3 Rxb1+ 26. Qxb1 Rb8 27. Qc2 Qa3 28. Ndf3 Qb2 29. Qa4 c3 30. Nd3 Qb1+ 31. Nfe1 h6 32. Qc6 Qa1 33. Kh2 Rb1 34. Nf3 Qxa2 35. Qxc3 Qc4 36. Qd2 a5 37. Nde5 Qc7 38. Qa2 Rc1 39. Qa4 Kh7 40. Qe8 a4 41. Qb5 f6 42. Qe8 fxe5 43. Nxe5 Qc2 44. Nf7 Qc8 45. Qxa4 Rc4 46. Qd1 Qc7+ 47. Ne5 Rb4 48. Qd3+ Kg8 49. Qg6 Qe7 50. Nc6 Qc7+ 51. Ne5 Rb8 52. Qxe6+ Kh8 53. Qxd5 Rd8 54. Qxd8+ (1-0)

Knapp-T. Jessop

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. b3 d5 5. Bb2 O-O 6. Bg2 a5 7. c4 c6 8. O-O b5 9. Nc3 bxc4 10. bxc4 Nbd7 11. Ne5 Bb7 12. f4 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Qb6+ 14. Kh1 Ng4 15. Bc1 Nf2+ 16. Rxf2 Qxf2 17. e3 Rfd8 18. Bd2 Ba6 19. cxd5 cxd5 20. Nxd5 Rxd5 21. Bxd5 Rd8 22. Bxa5 Be2 23. Qe1 Qxe1+ 24. Rxe1 Rxd5 25. Rxe2 Rxa5 26. Kg2 f6 27. exf6 Bxf6 28. e4 e5 29. Rc2 Ra4 30. Kf3 Ra3+ 31. Ke2 exf4 32. gxf4 Bd4 33. e5 h5 34. h4 Kf7 35. Rc7+ Ke6 36. Rc6+ Kf5 37. Rf6+ Ke4 38. Rxg6 Rxa2+ 39. Kd1 Kd3 40. Rg3+ Be3 (0-1)

Round 3:

Cusumano-Parthasarathy

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bf5 6. Ne5 c6 7. Nc4 Qd8 8. Be2 e6 9. Bf3 Be7 10. O-O O-O 11. a4 Nbd7 12. a5 Qc7 13. Re1 Rad8 14. g3 Nd5 15. Bxd5 cxd5 16. Ne3 Nf6 17. Nxf5 exf5 18. Bf4 Qd7 19. Qd3 Ne4 20. f3 Nxc3 21. Qxc3 Bf6 22. Qd3 Rfe8 23. c3 g6 24. Be5 Bxe5 25. dxe5 Qc6 26. Qd4 a6 27. Ra4 Rc8 28. Rb4 Re7 29. f4 Qc5 30. Rd1 Rd7 31. Qxc5 Rxc5 32. Rbd4 Rxa5 33. c4 Ra4 34. cxd5 Rxd4 35. Rxd4 Kf8 36. Kf2 Rc7 37. d6 Rc2+ 38. Ke3 Ke8 39. Rd2 Rc6 40. Kd4 Kd7 41. Kd5 b6 42. b4 Rc1 43. Ra2 Rd1+ 44. Kc4 Rc1+ 45. Kd3 Rd1+ 46. Ke2 Rb1 47. Rxa6 Rxb4 48. Ra7+ Ke8 49. Re7+ Kf8 50. Rc7 Rd4 51. Rc8+ Kg7 52. Rb8 f6 53. Rb7+ Kf8 54. Rxh7 fxe5 55. fxe5 Re4+ 56. Kd3 Rxe5 57. Kd4 Re8 58. Kd5 Kg8 59. Rc7 Re2 60. d7 Rd2+ 61. Ke6 Re2+ 62. Kf6 Rd2 63. Rc8+ Kh7 64. d8=Q Rxd8 65. Rxd8 b5 66. Rb8 b4 67. Rxb4 Kh6 68. Rb8 Kh7 69. h4 Kh6 70. Rh8# (1-0)

L. Hengen-Schiff

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. e3 Bb4 5. Qc2 O-O 6. a3 Bxc3 7. Qxc3 d6 8. Be2 Bg4 9. O-O e4 10. Nd4 Bxe2 11. Nxe2 Nd7 12. f3 exf3 13. Rxf3 Nce5 14. Rg3 Nc5 15. Qc2 Ncd3 16. Nf4 Nxc1 17. Rxc1 Ng6 18. Qc3 c6 19. Qd4 Qe7 20. Rf1 Qe5 21. Qd3 Rad8 22. Ne2 b6 23. Nd4 Rc8 24. Nf5 Rcd8 25. Qe2 f6 26. d4 Qe8 27. h4 Rf7 28. h5 Ne7 29. Nh6+ Kh8 30. Nxf7+ Qxf7 31. e4 h6 32. e5 dxe5 33. dxe5 Qe6 34. Qg4 Qxg4 35. Rxg4 fxe5 36. Rf7 Rd7 37. Rgxc7 Nf5 38. Rh7+ (1-0)

Round 4:

Belashchenko-T. Jessop

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Nxd7 5. O-O Ngf6 6. Qe2 c5 7. c3 Be7 8. d4 a6 9. a4 O-O 10. Na3 cxd4 11. cxd4 exd4 12. Nxd4 d5 13. e5 Ne4 14. Bf4 Bg5 15. Bxg5 Qxg5 16. f4 Qg6 17. Nac2 f5 18. Ne3 Ndc5 19. Nxd5 Qf7 20. Nxf5 Kh8 21. Nfe3 Rad8 22. b4 Rxd5 23. Nxd5 Qxd5 24. bxc5 g5 25. Rae1 Qxc5+ 26. Qe3 gxf4 27. Qxc5 Nxc5 28. e6 Re8 29. e7 Kg7 30. Rxf4 Nd3 31. Rg4+ Kf6 32. Re3 Ne5 33. Rf4+ Kg5 34. Rfe4 Ng6 35. Rb4 b5 36. axb5 axb5 37. Rxb5+ Kf6 38. Rh5 Kg7 39. Reh3 Nxe7 40. Rxh7+ Kf6 41. Re3 (1-0)

Ohly-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Ba6 5. Qc2 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Be7 7. Bg2 c6 8. O-O d5 9. b3 O-O 10. Bf4 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Nh5 12. e4 Nxf4 13. gxf4 Nf6 14. Ne5 Rc8 15. Bf3 Bb4 16. Rfd1 Bxd2 17. Rxd2 Qc7 18. Rc1 dxe4 19. Bxe4 Rfd8 20. Bxc6 Bb7 21. Bxb7 Qxb7 22. Qd3 Ne4 23. Re2 f5 24. f3 Nc5 25. Qe3 Nd7 26. Nxd7 Qxd7 27. Rd1 Rc6 28. Qe5 Rd6 29. Red2 g6 30. Rd3 Qg7 31. R1d2 Kf7 32. d5 exd5 33. Rxd5 Rxd5 34. Rxd5 Qxe5 35. fxe5 Re8 36. f4 g5 37. fxc5 Kg6 38. Kg2 Kxg5 39. Kf3 Re7 40. b4 Rc7 41. c5 bxc5 42. bxc5 Rc6 43. h4+ Kxh4 44. Kf4 h5 45. Kxf5 Kg3 46. e6 h4 47. e7 Rc8 48. Rd8 Rxc5+ 49. Ke6 (1-0)

Round 5:

Lacroix-Knapp

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nc3 O-O 6. Nf3 d6 7. O-O Ne4 8. Qc2 Nxc3 9. Qxc3 a5 10. Nd2 Nc6 11. d5 Bf6 12. Qb3 a4 13. Qd1 Ne5 14. Rb1 Qe8 15. b4 Kh8 16. Bb2 exd5 17. cxd5 Qb5 18. Qc2 Bd8 19. a3 f4 20. Be4 Bh3 21. Rfe1 Ng4 22. Nf3 fxc3 23. hxc3 Rf7 24. Rbd1 Qe8 25. Bxh7 Qf8 26. Bg6 Re7 27. Qf5 Qxf5 28. Bxf5 Rf7 29. Be6 Rf8 30. Rc1 Ra6 31. Rc4 Nxf2 32. Kxf2 Bxe6 33. dxe6 c5 34. Rg4 Bf6 35. e7 (1-0)

Hengen-Cusumano

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. e3 Bb4 5. d4 exd4 6. exd4 d5 7. a3 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 O-O 9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Bd2 Re8+ 11. Be2 Qe7 12. c4 Bg4 13. cxd5 Bxf3 14. gxf3 Nxd4 15. Be3 Nf5 16. O-O Nxe3 17. fxe3 Qg5+ 18. Kh1 Rxe3 19. Bd3 Rd8 20. Be4 f5 21. Rg1 Qf4 22. Qd4 g6 23. Qf6 Rd6 24. Qxf5 Qxf5 25. Bxf5 Rxf3 26. Be6+ Kg7 27. Rgf1 Rf6 28. Rfc1 c6 29. Rab1 cxd5 30. Rxb7+ Kh6 31. Bg8 Kg5 32. Rxh7 d4 33. Rxa7 Rf2 34. Rg1+ Kf5 35. Rf7+ Rf6 36. Rxf6+ Kxf6 37. Bc4 Rb2 38. Rd1 Ke5 39. a4 Rb4 40. Bb5 Ke4 41. Kg2 Ke3 42. Kg3 Rb3 43. Kg4 d3 44. Rxd3+ (1-0)

Solheim-Linscott

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bc4 e6 7. O-O Be7 8. Qe2 a6 9. Rd1 Qc7 10. Bf4 e5 11. Bg5 Nbd7 12. Rac1 O-O 13. Bb3 Qb8 14. Nd5 Nxd5 15. exd5 Bxg5 16. Nxc3 Nf6 17. Qc4 h6 18. Ne4 Nxe4 19. Qxe4 Bd7 20. Bc2 f5 21. Qh4 Qd8 22. Qb4 Bc8 23. Rd3 a5 24. Qc4 Qf6 25. Rc3 f4 26. Be4 Bf5 27. Qd3 Bxe4 28. Qxe4 Qg5 29. Qf3 Rae8 30. Re1 Kh8 31. Rc7 Rc8 32. Rec1 e4 33. Qh3 Rxc7 34. Rxc7 Qxd5 35. Qg4 Qd4 36. h4 Qxb2 37. Rc8 Qa1+ 38. Kh2 Qf6 39. Rc7 e3 40. fxe3 fxe3 41. Rxb7 Qe5+ (0-1)

Seetharaman-Schiff

1. c3 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. cxd4 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. d5 Nce7 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. e4 d6 8. h3 g6 9. Bf4 Bg7 10. Bd3 Qb6 11. Nb5 O-O 12. Bxd6 Re8 13. Bc7 Qa6 14. Nd6 Qxd6 15. Bxd6 Nexd5 16. O-O Nb4 17. Bxc5 Nxd3 18. Qxd3 Rxe4 19. Rfe1 Bf5 20. Rxe4 Nxe4 21. Qa3 b6 22. Bd4 (1-0)

Ohly-Belashchenko

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 c6 7. O-O O-O 8. Qc2 Nbd7 9. Bf4 b6 10. Nbd2 Bb7 11. e4 dxe4 12. Nxe4 Nxe4 13. Qxe4 Nf6 14. Qe2 Rc8 15. Rfd1 h6 16. Rac1 Bd6 17. Bxd6 Qxd6 18. c5 Qe7 19. b4 Nd5 20. a3 Rfd8 21. Ne5 b5 22. h4 a5 23. Bxd5 exd5 24. Qf3 a4 25. Re1 Re8 26. Re3 Qc7 27. Rce1 Re7 28. Nd3 Rce8 29. Rxe7 Rxe7 30. Rxe7 Qxe7 31. Qe3 Qxe3 32. fxe3 (1/2-1/2)

January

2025

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Lewis Central MetroArea Team Scholastic
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Nebraska State Closed	25 Nebraska State Closed
26 Nebraska State Closed	27	28	29	30	31	

February

2025

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 CNCC Winter Classic-Kearney
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March

2025

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 State Scholastic team Championship (Pending Approval)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Winter Open
9 Winter Open	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NE Year End Open 12/06-12/08/2024

The Nebraska Year End Open was the last multiple day large tournament of the year and was held just across the river at the Holiday Inn Ameristar in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The event was organized by Seetharaman Rengenathan of Chess Rockerz and was directed by FIDE Arbiter Ben Bratz of Des Moines, Iowa. The event was both FIDE and USCF rated. Due to somewhat disappointing numbers the Open and Reserve section were combined into a single section of 21 players. The winner was Nick Lacroix of Omaha with 4.5-.5. Joe Knapp of Omaha took clear 2nd with 4-1. There was an Under 1000 Section that drew 16 and was won by Nathan Sandquist, Zach Bitterman, and Zach Larson all with 4-1. A Sunday blitz event drew 10 and was won by David Buckley with 8-2.

NE Year End Open 12/06-08/2024 Open & Reserve Merged, Council Bluffs, IA

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	R5	Total
1	Lacroix	2033	W15	W11	W2	W4	D3	4.5
2	Knapp	1916	W13	W5	L1	W6	W9	4.0
3	L. Hengen	2002	W16	W6	L4	W13	D1	3.5
4	RaSeetharaman	1762	W18	W7	W3	L1	D5	3.5
5	Voynov	1619	W9	L2	W12	W7	D4	3.5
6	Look	1600	W10	L3	W17	L2	W15	3.0
7	Solheim	1616	W19	L4	W8	L5	W12	3.0
8	Puliadi	1052	L11	W15	L7	W19	W13	3.0
9	C. Hengen	1225	L5	½	W16	W14	L2	2.5
10	RiSeetharaman	910	L6	W16	½	L12	Bye	2.5
11	Machi	1824	W8	L1	W14	WD	-----	2.0
12	Tichacek	1400	W20	L13	L5	W10	L7	2.0
13	Makeeff	1412	L2	W12	WF	L3	L8	2.0
14	Hoffman	1336	W21	½	L11	L9	D16	2.0
15	Sarathkumar	1075	L1	L8	Bye	WF	L6	2.0
16	Kantem	1588	L3	L10	L9	Bye	D14	1.5
17	Dhanda	1001	Bye	LF	L6	LF	----	1.0
18	Hamik	804	L4	Bye	LF	-----	----	1.0
19	Danielson	745	L7	½	LF	L8	WD	0.5
20	R. Seetharman	1762	L12	WD	----	----	----	0.0
21	Talasila	1698	L14	WD	----	---	----	0.0

NE Year End Open 12/07/2024-U 1000 Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	R5	Total
1	Sandquist	UNR	W4	L3	W11	W10	W6	4.0
2	Bitterman	921	W12	W11	W10	W6	L3	4.0
3	Larson	797	W13	W1	L6	W8	W2	4.0
4	Danielson	739	L1	W13	W12	D5	W9	3.5
5	Andukuri	537	L6	W14	W9	D4	W10	3.5
6	Ri Seetharaman	989	W5	W15	W3	L2	L1	3.0
7	Christensen	UNR	L15	L12	W16	W11	W8	3.0
8	Sarathkumar	518	½	W16	W15	L3	L7	2.5
9	Freerksen	752	W16	L10	L5	W13	L4	2.0
10	Bruce	667	W14	W9	L2	L1	L5	2.0
11	Bokka	603	Bye	L2	L1	L7	W12	2.0
12	Sama	486	L2	W7	L4	W15	L11	2.0
13	Bourampeta	349	L3	L4	W14	L9	W16	2.0
14	Chanda	276	L10	L5	L13	W16	D15	1.5
15	Freerksen	111	W7	L6	L8	L12	D14	1.5
16	Mukka	324	L9	L8	L7	L14	L13	0.0

Games from the Year End Open

Round 1

Tichacek-Rakshith Seetharaman

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Bd7 5. f4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Nh6 7. a3 cxd4 8. cxd4 Qb6 9. Nc3 Nf5
 10. Na4 Qa5+ 11. b4 Nxb4 12. axb4 Bxb4+ 13. Kf2 b5 14. Bxb5 Qxb5 15. g4 Ne7 16. Bb2 Nc6
 17. Qc2 Na5 18. Nc5 Nc4 19. Rhb1 Bxc5 20. dxc5 Qxc5+ 21. Bd4 Qc7 22. f5 exf5 23. gxf5
 Bc6 24. e6 f6 25. Rg1 a5 26. h4 Ne5 27. Nxe5 fxe5 28. Bxe5 Qb6+ 29. Kf1 Rc8 30. Qd1 Bb5+
 31. Kg2 Qe3 32. Re1 Qh6 33. Rxa5 Bc6 34. Kh3 Rd8 35. Ra7 Rg8 36. Qg4 d4 37. Rxg7 Rxg7
 38. Bxg7 Qd2 39. Qh5+ Ke7 40. f6+ Kd6 41. Qe5# (1-0)

Sarathkumar-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Bf4 Nc6 7. Be2 e6 8. Ne5 Bxe2 9.
 Nxe2 Qb6 10. c3 Be7 11. Rb1 O-O 12. O-O Qa6 13. a3 Na5 14. Ng3 Nc4 15. Nxc4 Qxc4 16.
 Qc2 Rfc8 17. Rfc1 b5 18. b4 a5 19. Qb3 h6 20. h3 Ra6 21. Nf1 Ne4 22. Ne3 Qc6 23. Nd1 Bg5
 24. Bxg5 hxg5 25. Rc2 Rca8 26. Ra1 Qc4 27. Qb2 Qd3 28. f3 Nd6 29. Nf2 Qg6 30. Qb3 axb4
 31. cxb4 Nc4 32. Rca2 Qf6 33. Qd3 Qf4 34. Ng4 Ra4 35. Qc3 R8a7 36. Qd3 g6 37. Qc3 Kg7
 38. Qd3 Rc7 39. Re1 Qd6 40. Ne5 Nxe5 41. Qxb5 Nxf3+ 42. gxf3 Qg3+ 43. Rg2 Qxe1+ 44.
 Kh2 Rxa3 45. Qb8 Rxf3 46. Qxc7 Rxh3+ 47. Kxh3 Qh4# (0-1)

Round 2

Voynov-Knapp

1. e4 e6 2. Qe2 c5 3. g3 Nc6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. d3 Be7 6. Bg2 b6 7. Nh4 d5 8. O-O Nd4 9. Qd1 dxe4 10. dxe4 Ba6 11. Re1 Ne2+ 12. Kh1 Qxd1 13. Rxd1 Ng4 14. Be3 Bg5 15. Bf3 Nxe3 16. fxe3 Bxe3 17. Bxe2 Bxe2 18. Re1 g5 19. Rxe2 Bc1 20. Nd2 Bxd2 21. Rxd2 gxh4 22. gxh4 Rd8 23. Rad1 Rxd2 24. Rxd2 Ke7 25. Kg2 Rg8+ 26. Kf3 Rg1 27. b3 b5 28. c4 b4 29. Kf4 Rf1+ 30. Kg4 Kf6 31. Re2 Ke5 32. Kg5 Rf4 33. h5 Rf6 34. h6 Rf4 35. h4 f6+ 36. Kh5 Rxe4 37. Rg2 Kf4 38. Rg4+ Kf3 39. Rxe4 Kxe4 40. Kg4 f5+ 41. Kg3 Ke3 42. Kg2 Ke2 43. Kg3 e5 (0-1)

Round 3

Knapp-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. f3 dxe4 4. fxe4 e5 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Bc4 Nd7 7. c3 b5 8. Bd3 Ngf6 9. Be3 Bd6 10. Qc2 O-O 11. Qf2 Qe7 12. Nbd2 a6 13. Nh4 exd4 14. cxd4 c5 15. d5 c4 16. Bc2 Nc5 17. Nf5 Bxf5 18. Qxf5 Rfe8 19. O-O Ncxe4 20. Nxe4 Nxe4 21. Rf3 Nf6 22. Kh1 Qe5 23. Qh3 Qxh2+ 24. Qxh2 Bxh2 25. Bg5 Be5 26. Rb1 Rad8 27. Bxf6 Bxf6 28. Rf5 Re2 29. Bd1 Rxb2 30. Rxb2 Bxb2 31. Rf2 Bd4 32. Rd2 Rxd5 33. Bf3 Rd6 34. Re2 Rh6+ (0-1)

Kantem-Clover Hengen

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 Nd7 5. Bc4 e6 6. h3 h5 7. Be3 b6 8. d5 e5 9. a4 a5 10. Na2 Ne7 11. b4 f5 12. Rb1 Ba6 13. Bxa6 Rxa6 14. b5 Ra8 15. Ng5 Bf6 16. Ne6 Qc8 17. exf5 Nxf5 18. Bg5 Bxg5 19. Nxc3 Nf6 20. c3 Qb7 21. c4 e4 22. Nc3 e3 23. fxe3 O-O 24. Qd3 Rae8 25. Ne6 Rf7 26. Ne2 Nh4 27. O-O Rxe6 28. g3 Re4 29. gxh4 Rxh4 30. Qxg6+ Rg7 31. Rxf6 Rxc6+ 32. Rxc6+ Kf7 33. Nf4 Rxf4 34. exf4 Kxc6 35. Re1 Kf5 36. Re6 Qc8 37. Kf2 Kxf4 (0-1)

Round 4

Luke Hengen-Makeeff

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. e3 Bb4 5. d4 e4 6. Nd2 Bxc3 7. bxc3 d5 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Bc4 Nf6 10. Ba3 Na5 11. Qa4+ c6 12. Qb4 Nxc4 13. Nxc4 Nd5 14. Qc5 Qe7 15. Nd6+ Kd7 16. Qa5 Qe6 17. c4 Nc7 18. O-O b6 19. Qg5 Rg8 20. Rfd1 f6 21. Qf4 Ba6 22. d5 cxd5 23. cxd5 Nxd5 24. Nxe4 f5 25. Nc3 Bb7 26. Rxd5+ Bxd5 27. Rd1 g5 28. Qa4+ Kc7 29. Nxd5+ Kb7 30. Nb4 Rgd8 31. Qa6+ Kc7 32. Rc1+ Kd7 33. Qb7+ Ke8 34. Qxh7 a5 35. Nc6 Qxc6 36. Qe7# (1-0)

CAMELOT CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2024.

The Camelot Chess Club Championship began on Friday November 1st and concluded on Friday December 27th. In all 14 players signed up to play this year and the format was changed to a four round Swiss System event with each round lasting 2 weeks at the club on 91st and Cady here in Omaha. This year's event was set up to avoid the unworkable nature of last year's event which was a 17-player double round robin where most of the people never even played 10 of their games. People who failed to play in round one, were immediately withdrawn from the event.

Despite all attempts to avoid it, the event was not without controversy as some confusion arose between players over the two-week window to get in their games. Eventually it was straightened out but next year we will need to explain everything better to avoid problems.

Tony Dutiel was going for his 3rd straight title but competition was stiffer this year with Bruce Draney 1835, Richard Gardener 1750 and unrated but talented Sam Kachala all playing in addition to club regulars like Arnie Schulz, Tony Benetz, Nate Schwab, John Bagley, Johnnie Jones, and Warren Hunter among others. This year we decided to award a Reserve Champion as well as an overall Club Champion.

At the end of the event, Bruce Draney and Sam Kachala tied for first with 3.5-.5 to share the championship. Warren Hunter took the Reserve Champion title with 2.5-1.5. Bruce had to defeat Tony in Round 4 to secure his share of the title. The event was not USCF rated but was played under USCF rules and this year clocks and notation were required with a time control of G/60;d5.

Camelot Chess Club Championship 11/1/2024-12/27/2024

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Draney	1835	W10	D2	W4	W3	3.5
2	Kachala	1700	W12	D1	W10	W6	3.5
3	Dutiel	1760	W7	W6	X1/2	L1	2.5
4	Hunter	720	WF	W9	L1	D7	2.5
5	Gardner	1727	WF	W8	X1/2	WD	2.5
6	Schulze	1300	W11	L3	W8	L2	2.0
7	Kuhlman	1396	L3	D11	W9	D4	2.0
8	Hruska	1265	W9	L5	L6	W11	2.0
9	Schwab	1650	L8	L4	L7	W10	1.0
10	Jones	1410	L1	W12	L2	L9	1.0
11	Benetz	1200	L6	D7	W12	L8	1.5
12	Bagley	1269	L2	L10	L11	Bye	1.0
13	Look	1600	LF	WD	WD	WD	0.0
14	Houston	970	LF	WD	WD	WD	0.0

2nd Annual Hall of Fame Memorial 12/28/2024

The final Nebraska weekend Swiss System tournament was the 2nd Annual Hall of Fame Memorial which was held on Saturday, December 28th here in Omaha, at the Double Tree Hotel on 72nd and Grover. Although 29 players signed up, only 27 actually showed up to play including Hall of Famer Bruce Draney who directed the event and former State Closed Champions Nick Lacroix and Joe Knapp. Guru Gurumoorthi took clear first with a perfect 4-0 score. Nick Lacroix took clear 2nd with 3.5-.5. Kirill Belashchenko took the 1st A trophy, Tony Dutiel and Scott Look took 1st B, and Zach Larson who came in with a 797 rating had an amazing performance scoring 3-1 winning the C & Below prize money as well as the Class E trophy and also winning the Upset Prize. Games will appear in the first Gambit of 2025.

2nd Annual Hall of Fame Memorial 12/28/2024-Omaha

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	G. Gurumoorthi	1895	WF	W12	W11	W3	4.0
2	N. Lacroix	2026	W20	W6	D9	W10	3.5
3	K. Belashchenko	1971	W21	W7	W4	L1	3.0
4	W. Osborne	1876	W17	W13	L3	W11	3.0
5	J. Knapp	1936	W15	L11	W20	W9	3.0
6	T. Dutiel	1743	W25	L2	W21	W12	3.0
7	S. Look	1600	W24	L3	W17	W13	3.0
8	Z. Larson	797	L12	W23	W26	W22	3.0
9	S. Parthasarathy	1764	W23	W16	D2	L5	2.5
10	J. Slominski	1747	½	W26	W18	L2	2.5
11	S. Kantem	1596	W14	W5	L1	L4	2.0
12	M. Adduri	1568	W8	L1	W16	L6	2.0
13	A. Pasupuleti	1565	W27	L4	W14	L7	2.0
14	S. Qiang	931	L11	W15	L13	W20	2.0
15	N. Alagankancharla	1326	L5	L14	W24	W23	2.0
16	M. Savage	1063	W22	L9	L12	W21	2.0
17	T. Benetz	1200	L4	W27	L7	½	1.5
18	G. Slominski	1127	½	W22	L10	WD	1.5
19	B. Draney	1839	½	½	½	WD	1.5
20	T. Lombard	1400	L2	W25	L5	L14	1.0
21	G. Hoffman	1336	L3	W24	L6	L16	1.0
22	J. Solheim	1616	L16	L18	W25	L8	1.0
23	B. Thomas	1099	L9	L8	W27	L15	1.0
24	A. Pallepati	946	L7	L21	L15	W27	1.0
25	K. Fiedler	1071	L6	L20	L22	W26	1.0
26	J. Monroe	1112	½	L10	L8	L25	0.5
27	T. Bokka	592	L13	L17	L23	L24	0.0
28	R. Tao	1207	LF	WD	WD	WD	0.0

Draney and Malpert Team Up for an End of the Year Tag Team Simultaneous

Yours truly and Senior Master Rod Malpert held a special free end of the year simultaneous chess exhibition at the Millard branch of the Omaha Public Library on Sunday December 29th. Although we had some walk-ins who we had room enough to give them playing slots, everyone else signed up in advance as we only had the space (and time) to play 20.

In a tag team simul, two people without consulting, alternate moves as they move around the inside of the tables, which are usually set up in a rectangle or square with the players on the outside all playing the black pieces. In all we had 19 participants which was fantastic.

People of all ages participated including children as young as 8 or 9 and adults in their 60's. A number of parents watched as the event unfolded. The event had to end a little prematurely as the library closed at 5 PM and some of the games were still in progress. Because of this Rod and I had to quickly finish the games or simply declare them lost, drawn or won. Rod who is a Senior Master probably saved a couple games that could have been lost but he estimated we won 13, lost only 4 and drew 2.

I gave away free chess boards from the Hall of Fame Champions Celebration last June to the people who defeated us. I definitely had a lot of fun doing it and appreciated the strong support for the event from players and parents alike.

Rod messaged me later on in the evening and told me how much fun he had and I thanked him for adding a special prestige to the event. The idea of doing a tag team event like this really stemmed from this past summer's Hall of Fame Champions Celebration where we held 2 tag team simuls at the same time on Saturday night. Loren Schmidt and Rod Malpert took on 20 and IM Keaton Kiewra and WIM Alexey Root took on another 20 at the event.

I would love to do more special events like this in the future as they are fun and different from just a weekend chess tournament. Playing a lot of people at once gives beginners and weaker players a chance to play champions and Masters and gives them a chance to see that even good players make mistakes if they don't concentrate and think for long periods of time.

Closing Thoughts by Gambit Editor Bruce Draney.

This closes the book on what was a very successful chess year here in Nebraska. The year began with Nick Lacroix and Jacob Wagner tying for first in the State Closed and saw a huge growth of chess at all levels here in the state.

The NSCA added 4 new POY events to their schedule including the Winter Open in February, the Hall of Fame Champions Celebration in early June, the Summer Open in late June, and the Wilkins Cup in early August. The Midwest Open in April, the Summer Open in late June, and the Cornhusker State Games in July all drew nice crowds of players and there was a revival of team chess at all three scholastic grade levels with metro league high school play and a November team scholastic raising interest among parents and children.

Central Nebraska got involved as well running local events in Davenport, Carleton, Beatrice and Kearney. A number of club events were held at local clubs like the Spence, Millard Library, SCC and Camelot CC, and strong players held simuls and lectures at various locations throughout the state in Beatrice, Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.

Rod Malpert and Craig Wilkins became major chess patrons supporting big events in conjunction with the Lincoln Chess Foundation and the Omaha Chess Community. The Hall of Fame inducted 4 new members with a formal banquet and ceremony on May 31st in Lincoln at the Graduate Hotel.

This, my eighth issue of the Gambit since taking over as editor, is my largest yet produced and has a lot of information in it. The Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame chose nine new members including yours truly. I can't tell you what an honor it is to have my name included with all these other Nebraska legends both living and deceased. While this year's class was exceptionally large, future classes will be much smaller and we want the honor to be exceptionally special. While there are still many deserving people out there to consider we are still considering a Hall of Honor as a prelude to putting in new members so that people will know they are at least under consideration for the ultimate honor.

In the meantime, while the year was successful there are some warning signs out there that need to make us a little cautious. USCF has announced a 20% across the board dues increase set to kick in on January 1st. In the past whenever major dues increases were passed, membership dropped, attendance suffered and chess tournament organizers had trouble even breaking even on their tournaments. Presently the chess calendar is oversaturated with events and with more than 18 directors or organizers who would like to try running events it's getting harder to schedule dates that are not two weeks away or even on the same day as other events. The prices of hotels and rental spaces suitable for hosting tournaments has risen dramatically and many sites now demand proof of liability insurance even for a chess tournament. Presently only the Omaha Chess Community can provide these binders and even then, they are not free and cost the organizer about 70 additional dollars on top of the hotel fees. Still the future is bright right now and here's wishing a very happy 2025 to the entire chess community.