

# The Gambit

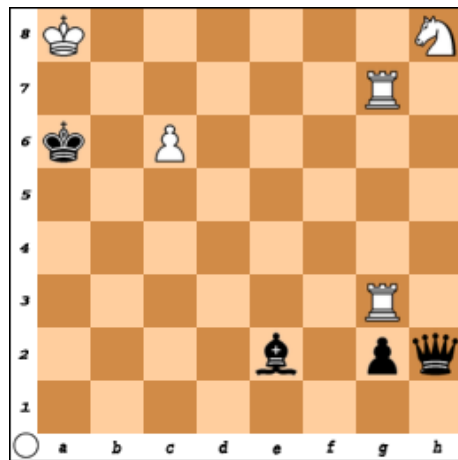
## The Nebraska State Chess Archives

## Nebraska State Chess Association

## Volume 3: July 1-September 30, 2025

Many thanks to the composer from Greenbelt, Maryland, Daniil Yakimovich who has sent us an original (not-published yet) study.

Daniil Yakimovich



White begins and draws

The material is equal, and both sides have passing pawns, but Black's is farther, and the white King is cornered, which gives Black an advantage. Also the white Knight is hanging. How to save it?

If 1.Ng6? Qxg3! and 1.Rg8? Bf3! Checks offer White little. 1.Ra7+? Kb7 2.Rb7+ Kxc6, or 1.Ra3+? Kb7

2.Rb3+ Kxc6, White loses his pawn, and Black will queen his.

**1.Nf7!** (only this move doesn't lose outright)

g1Q! (Black sacrifices his pawn to get a mating attack) 2. Rxg1 Qc7 3. Ra1+ Kb6 4. Rb1+ Bb5 5. Rxb5+

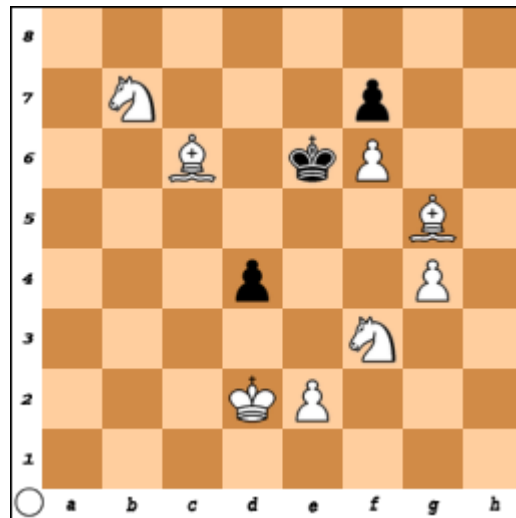
Kxb5 6. Nd6+! (But White has his own plan) 6... Qxd6 7. Rb7+ (7. c7? Qf8+ 8. Kb7 Qxg7) 7... Ka6 (7... Kc5 8. c7 Qa6+

9. Kb8) 8. Ra7+ Kb6 9. Rb7+ Kxc6 10. Rb6+! Kxb6, stalemate.

A more mover this time.

Rauf Aliovsadzade

(first publication)



Mate in Four

A flight-giving key 1.Ne1! puts Black in waiting, and two variations follow.

If 1...d3 then 2.e4 Ke5 3.Bd5 Kd4 4.Nf3#.

And if 1...Ke5 then 2.Nd3+ Ke6 3.Nd8+ Kd6 4.Bf4#.

Black King gets checkmated on two different squares.

\*Editor's note: No, you are not seeing double. Due to my error last quarter's puzzle from Rauf was a duplicate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter puzzle so I am putting in two puzzles this month so that people can enjoy Rauf's hard work.

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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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## **Nebraska Chess Information Page**

### **Lincoln Chess Foundation 4014 N ST Lincoln NE 68510**

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### **Omaha Chess Community**

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### **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](mailto:gambiteer49@yahoo.com)) 2025-2026 HOF Selection Committee: Gary Colvin, Bruce Draney, Rod Malpert.

## **ACTIVE NEBRASKA CHESS CLUBS**

### **OMAHA:**

**Spence Chess Club**-Meets on Wednesday night from 7-10 for USCF rated play. West Hills Church basement 3015 S 82<sup>nd</sup> AVE Omaha, NE-John Hartmann

**Camelot Chess Club**-Meets on Friday afternoon 12-4 PM 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 casual play  
Location: Washington Library 29<sup>th</sup> & Ames AVE, Omaha, NE Jerome Helm

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

**LINCOLN SCC Chess Club**-Meets on Wednesday nights at SE Community. College 89<sup>th</sup> & O ST, Lincoln, NE for casual and occasional rated 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, for casual and occasional rated play. Nicholas Burroughs or Tim Coleman.

**Cigarz Chess Club**-Meets on Monday Nights at Cigarz Lounge, STE 104 800 Q, Lincoln NE 402-904-3460, for casual play. Stacy Williams

**UNL Chess Club**-Meets on Monday Nights during the school year in the Brace Laboratory Building at 510 Stadium Drive in Lincoln, NE, from 6-8 PM for casual play. Julia Haller or Max Vitek

### **OUTSTATE:**

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

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

**Kearney Nebraska Chess Club**-Central Nebraska Chess Club-Meets on Saturday 2-5 PM at Kearney Public Library, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> AVE, Kearney, NE 68847 for casual and occasional rated play Eric Ring 308-240-1793 or Alex Maiwaldt 308-293-9116

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

### **Nebraska Chess Related Websites:**

NSCA Website-[www.nebraskachess.com](http://www.nebraskachess.com), Leo Iacono Webmaster

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

## EDITOR'S NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By Gambit Editor Bruce Draney

It's hard to believe we are already past the half way point of 2025 and this will now be my 13<sup>th</sup> issue as editor since taking over from my good friend Kent Nelson. This issue will cover the major (and minor) chess events happening between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> and this quarter promises to be packed with important event results and games. Of course, there will also be other articles and features too, as variety is the spice of life. As usual, here are some of the people I would like to thank before we get started:

**Rauf Aliovsadzade**, who continually supplies me with challenging chess problems. Due to my error, I accidentally put the same chess problem in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter issue that I'd put in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter issue, so this month I put in two of his problems instead of just one.

**Eric Ring** of the Central Nebraska Club has rejuvenated chess in central Nebraska, particularly in Kearney where he organized the first Nebraska POY event in over a decade on August 16-17. This was also the first Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame event ever held outside of Omaha or Lincoln. The event was directed by me and supported by Rod Malpert and the Hall of Fame.

**Craig Wilkins**, who made the 2025 Wilkins Cup a rousing success for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. This year we held the event at the Ovation Heartwood Preserve, an upscale senior living facility and offered a guaranteed prize fund of \$2500.00, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest prize fund in the state this year.

**JJ Lang and Kent Nelson** both won Chess Journalists of America Awards for their writing. JJ won for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row as Chess Journalist of the Year and Kent won for his self-published book on Howard Ohman.

**Seetharaman Renganathan**, who organized the U.S. G/30, G/60 Championships, the first National Championships in the region in 50 years on September 27-28 in Council Bluffs.

**Jack Roegner** who ran a small traditional blitz event this quarter in Davenport.. His events are always casual and fun for all.

**Rod Malpert**-Rod continues to support Nebraska chess, not only financially but by attending events all over the state, including the Cornhusker State Games and the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Crane City Open in Kearney. Rod also appeared at the G/30 National Championship in Council Bluffs.

**Gary Colvin**-Gary not only helped plan the U.S. Open 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, he came out to Kearney to help support the Crane City Open event. Gary also helped select our new HOF class.

**Nick Lacroix**-Nick inputs all of the key games he has copies of for major tournaments into the LiChess database so that I am able to put them into the gambit without having to play through them myself. This is fairly labor intensive work and he always promptly responds well before my publication deadlines.

## CHESS IN JULY AROUND NEBRASKA

**On Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>**, two action tournaments took place, one in Omaha at the Spence Club and the other in Lincoln at SCC. The Omaha event was a G/12;d3 and drew 12 players. Winner with 5-0 was Nick Lacroix. Luke Hengen finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4-1. The SCC tournament was a G/10;d2 and drew 8 players. Due to the small number of players, it was held as a round robin won by Michael Riegsecker with a perfect 7-0 score.

**On Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>**, the Millard Library Chess Club held a G/10;d2 team event. The winning team was Bruce Draney/Eric Antonson with a score of 5-3.

**On Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup>**, The Post Chess Club in Lincoln completed a 5 round Open event that had begun back on June 6. The format was one game per week with a time control of G/45+5. The event drew 12 and was won by Wesley Gizell with a perfect 5-0. Zach Bitterman was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3.5-1.5.

**On Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>**, Jack Roegner held his annual unrated double round robin blitz tournament in Davenport Nebraska. The event drew six players, most of them locals and it was won by Bruce Draney with a score of 10-0. Bob Reinke was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 7-3.

**On Saturday and Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** The annual Cornhusker State Games was held in 4 sections at SCC in Lincoln on 8900 O. The Open was not only a POY event but was also a state qualifying event. Luke Hengen won the Open section with a perfect 5-0 score. See the full report that includes a cross table and games from the Open later in this issue.

**On Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the Spence Club concluded a 3 week long split Swiss event that drew 15 players in an upper and lower section. The upper section was won by Luke Hengen with 2.5-.5, which comes on the heels of his 5-0 performance in the Cornhusker State Games Open section. The lower section was won by Gabe Hoffman with a perfect score of 3-0.

**On Friday July 25<sup>th</sup>**, the Camelot Club concluded a 3 week long unrated Swiss event at the club on 93<sup>rd</sup> and Cady. The time control was G/45+5 and the event began on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Draney won the event with 3-0. Tony Dutiel took 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2.5-.5 and Tony Benetz won the first Under 1400 medal. The event experienced a lot of byes, forfeits and no-shows as players who told me they would play didn't keep their word.



## Riverfront Invitational VI: July 12<sup>th</sup>-Omaha.

On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, Steven Cusumano hosted another invitational tournament at his riverfront condo. This particular event hosted 8 players all of them rated 1700 or above in a 3 round Swiss. Winner of the event with 2.5-.5 was Joe Knapp who has been playing exceptionally well, going 5-0 in the Summer Open at the end of June. Joe is a former Nebraska State Champion and has regained his Expert rating with his fine performances of late.

Below is a cross table of the event followed by some of the games.

### Riverfront Invitational VI July 12, 2025

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Tot
1	Knapp	1954	W8	D2	W5	2.5
2	Lacroix	2079	W6	D1	D4	2.0
3	L. Hengen	2035	L4	W8	W6	2.0
4	Cusumano	1888	W3	D5	D2	2.0
5	Zeisler	1766	W7	D4	L1	1.5
6	Osborne	1912	L2	W7	L3	1.0
7	Belashchenko	2003	L5	L6	D8	0.5
8	Dutiel	1757	L1	L3	D7	0.5

### Games from Riverfront VI

#### Round 1:

##### Dutiel-Knapp

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. cxd4 Nc6 6. Nc3 e6 7. Nxd5 exd5 8. Nf3 Bb4+ 9. Bd2 Qa5 10. Be2 O-O 11. a3 Bxd2+ 12. Qxd2 Qxd2+ 13. Kxd2 d6 14. Rac1 dxe5 15. dxe5 Bg4 16. Rhe1 Rfe8 17. Bb5 Rec8 18. Rc5 Na5 19. Rxc8+ Rxc8 20. Nd4 a6 21. h3 axb5 22. hxg4 Nc4+ 23. Ke2 Nxe5 24. Kf1 Nd3 25. Re3 Nxb2 26. Nxb5 h6 27. Rb3 Rc1+ 28. Ke2 Rc2+ 29. Ke1 Nc4 30. Rd3 Ne5 31. Rxd5 Nxc4 32. Rd8+ Kh7 33. f3 Ne3 34. Rb8 Nxc2+ 35. Kf1 Ne3+ 36. Ke1 h5 37. Rxb7 h4 38. Nd4 h3 39. Rb5 h2 40. Rh5+ Kg6 41. Nxc2 Nxc2+ 42. Kf2 Kxh5 43. Kg2 Ne1+ 44. Kxh2 Nxf3+ 45. Kg3 Ne5 46. Kf4 Nc6 (0-1)

## Lacroix-Osborne

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Bf4 Nc6 6. e3 a6 7. Bd3 Bg4 8. Nf3 Bxf3 9. Qxf3 e6 10. O-O Bd6 11. Bg5 Be7 12. Rac1 O-O 13. Na4 Nd7 14. Bxe7 Qxe7 15. Rc3 Rfc8 16. Rfc1 Na7 17. e4 Rxc3 18. Nxc3 Qb4 19. exd5 Qxb2 20. Rb1 Qd2 21. Ne4 Qxa2 22. Ng5 Nf6 23. dxe6 fxe6 24. Qxb7 Rf8 25. Qxa7 Ng4 26. Qxa6 Qxf2+ 27. Kh1 Qe3 28. Qxe6+ Qxe6 29. Nxe6 Re8 30. Bc4 Kh8 31. d5 (1-0)

## Cusumano-Hengen

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. h4 Bd7 10. Qg3 Kh8 11. f4 Nxd4 12. Rxd4 Qb6 13. Rd2 Rfc8 14. e5 Rxc3 15. Qxc3 Ne4 16. Qd3 Nxd2 17. Qxd2 f6 18. Bd3 Qd4 19. Qe2 Be8 20. exf6 Bxf6 21. c3 Qa4 22. Qxe6 Bh5 23. Qe4 Qxe4 24. Bxe4 Rb8 25. Bxf6 gxf6 26. Rg1 Bg4 27. Kd2 b6 28. Bd5 Kg7 29. Re1 Kf8 30. Be6 Bxe6 31. Rxe6 Kf7 32. Rxd6 Rg8 33. Rd7+ Ke6 34. Rxh7 Rxg2+ 35. Ke3 Rxb2 36. Rxa7 Kf5 37. Ra4 Rh2 38. Rb4 Rxh4 39. Rxb6 Rh2 40. a4 Rh3+ 41. Kd4 Rf3 42. c4 Rxf4+ 43. Kd5 Rf1 44. c5 Ra1 45. Rb4 Kg5 46. c6 Rd1+ 47. Rd4 Rc1 48. Rc4 Rd1+ 49. Kc5 (1-0)

## Belashchenko-Zeisler

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 dxe4 5. Bxf6 gxf6 6. Nxe4 f5 7. Ng3 Nc6 8. Nf3 Bg7 9. c3 Bd7 10. Bd3 Qe7 11. O-O O-O-O 12. Re1 Qd6 13. b4 h5 14. h4 Bf6 15. a4 Qf4 16. a5 Bxh4 17. Nxb4 Qxh4 18. a6 b6 19. d5 Ne7 20. Qf3 c6 21. c4 Qg4 22. d6 Qxf3 23. gxf3 Ng6 24. c5 b5 25. Kf1 Nf4 26. Bc2 h4 27. Ne2 Nd5 28. Reb1 h3 29. Ke1 Rh4 30. f4 Nxf4 31. Nxf4 Rxf4 32. Ke2 Rh8 33. Ra3 h2 34. Rg3 Rxb4 35. Ra1 (0-1)

## Round 2:

### Osborne-Belashchenko

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Nf6 6. Bd3 Bb7 7. f3 d5 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Ne2 O-O 10. O-O Re8 11. Ng3 c5 12. Qd2 Nbd7 13. Bb2 h5 14. Rae1 Qc7 15. Qf2 Nf8 16. Re2 Re6 17. Rfe1 Rae8 18. Bf5 R6e7 19. Bd3 Re6 20. h3 g6 21. Nf1 N8h7 22. Nd2 Ng5 23. Qh4 Nfh7 24. e4 c4 25. Bb1 dxe4 26. fxe4 b5 27. Bc1 Qe7 28. Kh1 Kg7 29. e5 Bd5 30. Qg3 h4 31. Qxh4 Rh8 32. Ne4 Nxe4 33. Bh6+ Kg8 34. Qxe7 Ng3+ 35. Kh2 Rxe7 36. Kxg3 Nf8 37. Bxf8 Kxf8 38. Be4 Rd7 39. Bxd5 Rxd5 40. Rf1 Ke7 41. Rf6 a5 42. Ref2 Rf8 43. Rb6 Rfd8 44. a3 R8d7 45. Rb2 (1-0)

## Hengen-Dutiel

1. c4 f5 2. Nc3 e5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. d3 Nf6 5. g3 d5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. Bg2 Nxc3 8. bxc3 Be6 9. Rb1 Rb8 10. O-O Be7 11. Qa4 O-O 12. Be3 a6 13. Rfd1 Bf6 14. d4 exd4 15. Nxd4 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 Bxd4 17. Rxd4 Qe8 18. Rxb7 Qf7 19. Qxa6 Ra8 20. Qxe6 (1-0)

## Round 3

### Zeisler-Knapp

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Nf3 a6 6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 c5 9. dxc5 Bxc5 10. O-O Bb7 11. Qc2 Nbd7 12. a3 Rc8 13. b4 Bd6 14. Bb2 O-O 15. Qe2 Qc7 16. e4 Ne5 17. h3 Rfd8 18. Nxe5 Bxe5 19. Rac1 Qb8 20. f4 Bxf4 21. Rc2 Be5 22. Qf3 Bd4+ 23. Kh1 Qe5 24. Rfc1 Nh5 25. g4 Nf4 (0-1)

### Osborne-Hengen

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. Bf4 Nf6 5. e3 Nc6 6. Nc3 a6 7. Be2 Bf5 8. Nf3 e6 9. Qb3 Bd6 10. Bxd6 Qxd6 11. O-O O-O 12. Rfc1 b5 13. a3 Rfc8 14. Qd1 Na5 15. Nd2 Nc4 16. b4 e5 17. dxe5 Qxe5 18. Nf3 Qd6 19. Qd4 Rd8 20. Rd1 Qe7 21. Qf4 Bg6 22. Nd4 Rac8 23. Nb1 Ne4 24. Ra2 Rd6 25. Nf5 Bxf5 26. Qxf5 Rcd8 27. Bf3 Rf6 28. Qh5 Rh6 29. Qf5 g6 30. Qf4 Rh4 31. g4 f5 32. h3 Ne5 33. Bxe4 fxe4 34. Qg3 h5 35. g5 Nf3+ 36. Kg2 Qe6 37. Nd2 d4 38. Rc2 dxe3 39. fxe3 Rd5 40. Nxf3 exf3+ 41. Qxf3 Rxd1 42. Qxd1 Qxh3+ 43. Kf2 Qh2+ 44. Kf3 Qh3+ 45. Ke2 Qg2+ 46. Kd3 Qd5+ (0-1)

## **Cornhusker State Games 7/19-20/2025**

The Cornhusker State Games chess tournament now, in its 30<sup>th</sup> year since chess was first included in the competition, was held on July 19-20, 2025 in Lincoln NE, at SE Community College. The event was directed by Michael Gooch with assistance from Sy Kolli and Usha Kantethy. There were four sections of chess including the Open which was USCF rated and was a state qualifier as well as a POY event, the Reserve which was open to players rated under 1800, the Junior which was open to players under the age of 19 and the Scholastic which was open to players in grades K-12. The Open drew a strong field of 42 players and the winner was Luke Hengen with a perfect score of 5-0.

The Reserve was 5 rounds on Saturday only and drew 20. It was won outright by Rui Tao of Lincoln with 4.5-.5. Long time Lincoln resident Larry Harvey took clear 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4-1. There was a three-way tie for third between Siva Kolli, Anika Vanaparti, and Shannor Qiang.

The Junior section drew a somewhat disappointing 10 players and was shortened to only 4 rounds. Clear winner was Landon Purvis with 3.5-.5. Tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3-1 were Michael Gurnsey and Aaryan Dhanda.

The Scholastic section drew a respectable 23 players and there was a tie for first between Kolby Tran and Arjun Andukuri both with 4.5-.5. There was a 3-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place between Michael Cooksley, Sashwitha Alagankancharla, and Vaibhav Nandan Alla all with 4-1.

The event was directed by the able team of Michael Gooch, and his team from Omaha Chess Community. Michael did express concern about a 15% drop in attendance in comparison to last year. Open attendance was down 6 from the two previous years, but discussions are under way about how to address what seems to be a statewide phenomenon. Rod Malpert and I had a lot of fun talking and as always it was enjoyable watching Rod go over games with players, win or lose.

I am including all 4 cross tables this year as I got copies of the unrated sections before leaving on Saturday evening. The cross tables and games from the Open section are included on the next several pages. Thanks again for everyone who played, directed or supported the event.

# Cornhusker State Games July 19-20, Lincoln, Nebraska Open Section

	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Total
1	Luke Hengen	2044	W15	W14	W8	W6	W7	5.0
2	Will Osborne	1911	D23	WF	1/2	W12	W16	4.0
3	Rashith Seetharaman	1874	W25	W24	W4	D7	D5	4.0
4	Nicholas Lacroix	2064	W17	W13	L3	1/2	W21	3.5
5	Joseph Knapp	2028	W33	W19	L6	W18	D3	3.5
6	Steven Cusumano	1926	W38	W22	W5	L1	D11	3.5
7	Siddharth Parthasarathy	1929	W29	W18	W11	D3	L1	3.5
8	Benjamin Lyons	1898	W30	W21	L1	D19	W20	3.5
9	Neil Reeves	1802	W37	L11	W23	D20	W19	3.5
10	Aaron PeeksMease	1781	L24	W39	1/2	W33	W22	3.5
11	Samanvi Kantem	1518	W27	W9	L7	W26	D6	3.5
12	Kirill Belashchenko	1960	W28	W26	1/2	L2	D13	3.0
13	John Davidson	1757	W31	L4	D22	W24	D12	3.0
14	Leo Iacono	1738	W34	L1	W17	L16	W28	3.0
15	Philip Schiff	1644	L1	W34	L26	W36	W32	3.0
16	Michael Carney	1624	D39	D20	WF27	W14	L2	3.0
17	Jeffery Solheim	1542	L4	W25	L14	W31	W30	3.0
18	Jonathan Reigenborn	1538	W35	L7	W38	L5	W29	3.0
19	Nicholas Gordon	1730	W42	L5	W28	D8	L9	2.5
20	Nikshith Alagankancharla	1690	D32	D16	W29	D9	L8	2.5
21	Scott Look	1600	W36	L8	D24	Bye	L4	2.5
22	Matthew Koppinger	1561	W40	L6	D13	W23	L10	2.5
23	Michael Schaal	1446	D2	W32	L9	L22	W35	2.5
24	Gabriel Hoffman	1272	W10	L3	D21	L13	W33	2.5
25	Will Cooney	1310	L3	L17	D35	W41	W36	2.5
26	Matthew Naumann	1751	W41	L12	W15	L11	WD	2.0
27	Marquis Jefferson	UNR	L11	W37	LF16	U---	W38	2.0
28	Michael Aspinall	1499	L12	W31	L19	W39	L14	2.0
29	Jerome Tichacek	1413	L7	W35	L20	W38	L18	2.0
30	Thomas Lombard	1400	L8	W41	1/2	D34	L17	2.0
31	Clover Hengen	1275	L13	L28	W40	L17	W37	2.0
32	Rithvik Seetharaman	1151	D20	L23	1/2	W37	L15	2.0
33	Frederik Ohles	1451	L5	WF42	1/2	L10	L24	1.5
34	Zachary Bitterman	1188	L14	L15	L37	D30	W39	1.5
35	Tyler Johnson	991	L18	L29	D25	W40	L23	1.5
36	Nicholas Burroughs	902	L21	Bye	D39	L15	L25	1.5
37	Joaquin Siado Castaneda	1389	L9	L27	W34	L32	L31	1.0
38	Lane Hermance	1327	L6	W40	L18	L29	L27	1.0
39	Tim Coleman	861	D16	L10	D36	L28	L34	1.0
40	Kyle Stewart	UNR	L22	L38	L31	L35	W41	1.0
41	Alex Hansen	1110	L26	L30	1/2	L25	L40	0.5
42	Shayd Otis	1113	L19	LF33	WD	WD	WD	0.0

## Cornhusker State Games Reserve Section July 19, 2025

	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Total
1	Rui Tao	1313	W14	W11	W3	W6	D2	4.5
2	Larry Harvey	1648	W12	D17	W13	W7	D1	4.0
3	Siva Kolli	1297	W9	W13	L1	D11	W6	3.5
4	Annika Vanaparti	1107	W19	W7	L6	W10	D8	3.5
5	Shannor Qiang	1275	U---	W14	D12	W17	W11	3.5
6	Joseph Wilson	1382	W18	W16	W4	L1	L3	3.0
7	Jesse Zogorski	1437	W15	L4	W17	L2	W14	3.0
8	Stratton Williams	872	L13	WF20	W15	D12	D4	3.0
9	Alvaro Torres	UNR	L3	L12	W18	W16	W15	3.0
10	Sunny Verma	UNR	L17	W18	WF20	L4	W12	3.0
11	Jake Neumeister	UNR	W20	L1	W16	D3	L5	2.5
12	Aryan Vanaparti	896	L2	W9	D5	D8	L10	2.0
13	Richard Owen III	1458	W8	L3	L2	L15	W17	2.0
14	Chanse Walker	UNR	L1	L5	W19	W18	L7	2.0
15	Richard Owen II	UNR	L7	W19	L8	W13	L9	2.0
16	Ronald Coulter	835	Bye	L6	L11	L9	W19	2.0
17	Jeff Pitzl	1280	W10	D2	L7	L5	L13	1.5
18	John Perez	UNR	L6	L10	L9	L14	Bye	1.0
19	Kyle Madison	UNR	L4	L15	L14	Bye	L16	1.0
20	David Buckley	1410	L11	LF8	LF10	WD	WD	0.0

## Cornhusker State Games Junior Section July 19, 2025

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Landon Purvis	UNR	W10	W3	W2	D4	3.5
2	Michael Gurnsey	UNR	W4	W5	L1	W9	3.0
3	Aaryan Dhanda	UNR	W6	L1	W8	W5	3.0
4	Asher Christensen	588	L2	W9	W7	D1	2.5
5	Supun Fernando	UNR	W7	L2	W6	L3	2.0
6	Liam Ossium	UNR	L3	W10	L5	W8	2.0
7	Mahkailli Jefferson	UNR	L5	L8	L4	W10	1.0
8	Bram Salistean	UNR	U---	W7	L3	L6	1.0
9	Easton Gaines	UNR	U---	L4	W10	L2	1.0
10	Hudson Jansen	UNR	L1	L6	L9	L7	0.0

# Cornhusker State Games Scholastic Section July 19, 2025

	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Total
1	Kolby Tran	879	W14	W21	W3	D2	W5	4.5
2	Arjun Andukuri	814	W10	W22	W9	D1	W6	4.5
3	Michael Cooksley	614	W11	W4	L1	W20	W7	4.0
4	Sashwitha Alagankancharla	550	W7	L3	W14	W12	W9	4.0
5	Vaibhav Nandan Alla	UNR	W15	W20	W13	W8	L1	4.0
6	Nandhan Reddy Sama	641	W17	W18	D8	W13	L2	3.5
7	Advith Bourampeta	640	L4	W10	W18	W16	L3	3.0
8	Will Orton	UNR	W18	W17	D6	L5	D13	3.0
9	James Backhus	UNR	W20	W16	L2	W15	L4	3.0
10	Owen Yuan	UNR	L2	L7	W19	W21	W15	3.0
11	Michelle Lin	142	L3	Bye	L15	W17	W14	3.0
12	Abhijay Ponamgi	363	WF24	L13	W21	L4	W16	3.0
13	Yashas Kiran	607	W23	W12	L5	L6	D8	2.5
14	Viaan Rddy Mukka	278	L1	W19	L4	W22	L11	2.0
15	Sri Pavan Sathi	UNR	L5	WF23	W11	L9	L10	2.0
16	Flint Antonson	320	W19	L9	W22	L7	L12	2.0
17	Shreshth Verma	UNR	L6	L8	W23	L11	W21	2.0
18	Ellison Chapek	229	L8	L6	L7	Bye	W22	2.0
19	Jett Johnson	UNR	L16	L14	L10	W23	W20	2.0
20	Sreeman Komatireddy	191	L9	L5	Bye	L3	L19	1.0
21	Ramcharan Raghu	124	WF25	L1	L12	L10	L17	1.0
22	Anirudh Ponamgi	120	WF26	L2	L16	L14	L18	1.0
23	Virinchi Kantem	UNR	L13	LF15	L17	L19	Bye	1.0
24	Jaxon Bruss	631	LF12	WD	WD	WD	WD	0.0
25	Grant Zimmer	UNR	LF21	WD	WD	WD	WD	0.0
26	Eoghan Nolan	UNR	LF22	WD	WD	WD	WD	0.0

## Games From the Cornhusker State Games Open Section

\*Editor's Note: Luke Hengen and Gabe Hoffman's games are printed in a later article by Gabe.  
Round 1:

### Solheim-Lacroix

1. c4 c5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. e4 d6 6. Nge2 O-O 7. O-O Nc6 8. d3 a6 9. Nf4 Rb8 10. Nfd5 b5 11. Nxf6+ Bxf6 12. Bh6 Re8 13. f4 Bd7 14. f5 bxc4 15. fxg6 Bd4+ 16. Kh1 hxg6 17. dxc4 Rxb2 18. Ne2 Bg4 19. Bf3 Bxf3+ 20. Rxf3 Rxe2 21. Qf1 Ne5 22. Rf4 Bxa1 23. Qxa1 Qa8 24. h4 Rxe4 25. Kh2 Re2+ 26. Kh3 Qg2# (0-1)

### Aspinall-Belashchenko

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e4 Bb7 5. Qc2 Qh4 6. Bd3 f5 7. Nf3 Qg4 8. O-O Bxc3 9. h3 Qh5 10. bxc3 Nf6 11. d5 fxe4 12. Bxe4 O-O 13. Ba3 d6 14. Rad1 Nbd7 15. Nd4 Nxe4 16. Nxe6 Nef6 17. Nxc7 Rac8 18. Bxd6 Rf7 19. Bg3 Nc5 20. Nb5 Ra8 21. Rd4 a6 22. Nc7 Rc8 23. Ne6 Nxe6 24. dxe6 Re7 25. Re1 Qe8 26. Qf5 Rc5 27. Qd3 Qc6 28. Rd8+ Ne8 29. f3 Rxe6 30. Rd1 Rg5 31. Bf4 Rgg6 32. Qd5 Qc5+ 33. Qxc5 bxc5 34. R1d7 Bxf3 35. Kf2 Bc6 (0-1)

### Knapp-Ohles

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Be2 Nc6 6. exd6 exd6 7. O-O Be7 8. c4 Nb6 9. b3 O-O 10. Be3 Bf6 11. Nbd2 Re8 12. a3 d5 13. c5 Nd7 14. b4 Ne7 15. h3 Bxf3 16. Nxf3 Nf5 17. Qd2 Nxe3 18. fxe3 Qe7 19. Kf2 a5 20. b5 Nxc5 21. dxc5 Bxa1 22. Rxa1 Qxc5 23. Qd4 Qd6 24. Bd3 c5 25. bxc6 bxc6 26. Rc1 Re6 27. Rc5 h6 28. e4 dxe4 29. Qxd6 Rxd6 30. Bxe4 Ra6 31. Ke3 g6 32. Nd4 f5 33. Bxc6 Rf6 34. Bd5+ Kf8 35. h4 Ke7 36. Nc6+ Kd6 37. Kd4 g5 38. hxg5 hxg5 39. Nxa5 f4 40. Nc4+ Ke7 41. Ke5 Rh6 42. Rc7+ Kd8 43. Rg7 Rhg6 44. Rxg6 Rxg6 45. a4 Ke7 46. Kf5 Rg7 47. a5 (1-0)

## Round 2:

### Lyons-Look

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d6 3. c4 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. e4 O-O 6. Be2 Nbd7 7. O-O e5 8. Be3 Ng4 9. Qd3 Nxe3 10. fxe3 c6 11. b4 a5 12. a3 c5 13. Nb5 exd4 14. exd4 Qb6 15. bxc5 dxc5 16. Rad1 cxd4 17. Nfxd4 Ne5 18. Qc2 Qc5 19. Kh1 Bg4 20. Nb3 Qe3 21. Bxg4 Nxg4 22. Nc7 Rad8 23. Nd5 Qh6 24. g3 Be5 25. Rf3 b6 26. Nd4 Bxd4 27. Rxd4 Rfe8 28. Ne7+ Kf8 29. Rxd8 Rxd8 30. Nd5 Rd6 31. Qb2 g5 32. Qh8# (1-0)

### Cusumano-Koppinger

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Qe2 Be7 7. Nxe5 O-O 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. O-O Bf6 10. c3 Qd6 11. Nd2 Bd7 12. Ne4 Qe7 13. Qf3 Be5 14. d4 Nb6 15. Bd3 f5 16. Nc5 Bd6 17. Nxd7 Qxd7 18. Bd2 c5 19. dxc5 Bxc5 20. Bf4 Kh8 21. Bc2 Qb5 22. b3 Rad8 23. a4 Qd7 24. Rad1 Qe7 25. a5 Nc8 26. Rxd8 Rxd8 27. Bxf5 Nd6 28. Bc2 g5 29. Bg3 Rf8 30. Qd5 (1-0)



### Knapp-Gordon

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. c3 Nc6 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 d6 7. exd6 Qxd6 8. Nc3 g6 9. Bc4 Nb6 10. Bb3 Bg7 11. Be3 O-O 12. O-O Bg4 13. Ne4 Qd7 14. h3 Bxf3 15. Qxf3 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 Qxd4 17. Rfd1 Qxb2 18. Rac1 e6 19. Rc2 Qa3 20. Nf6+ Kh8 21. Nd7 Nxd7 22. Rxd7 Qb4 23. Rcc7 Qe1+ 24. Kh2 Be5+ 25. g3 Bxc7 26. Rxf7 Rxf7 27. Qxf7 Qe5 (0-1)

### Round 3:

#### Rakshith Seetharaman-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. a3 Bxc5 6. Qg4 Bf8 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. Bd3 h5 9. Qf4 Nh6 10. Nc3 g6 11. Bd2 Bd7 12. Nb5 Nf5 13. Bxf5 gxf5 14. O-O-O Qb6 15. Nd6+ Bxd6 16. exd6 O-O-O 17. Be3 Qa6 18. Ne5 Rh7 19. Nxc6 Bxc6 20. Qe5 Kb8 21. Bg5 Rd7 22. Bf6 Ka8 23. Qg3 (1-0)

#### Knapp-Cusumano

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 Bc5 4. Nf3 d6 5. c3 Nbd7 6. Qb3 O-O 7. d4 Bb6 8. Qc2 exd4 9. O-O dxc3 10. Nxc3 Ng4 11. Bg5 Qe8 12. Nd5 c6 13. Ne7+ Kh8 14. Nf5 Nde5 15. N3h4 Nxc4 16. Qxc4 Bxf5 17. Nxf5 Qe5 18. g3 Nxf2 19. Kg2 Nxe4 20. Rae1 d5 21. Qe2 f6 22. Bc1 g6 23. Nh6 Qe7 24. h4 Bc7 25. h5 Qg7 26. hxg6 Bxg3 27. Qh5 Bxe1 28. Rxe1 Qxg6+ 29. Qxg6 hxg6 30. Ng4 Rf7 31. b4 Kg7 32. Bh6+ Kg8 33. Be3 Rh7 34. Bd4 Kf7 35. Rf1 Rah8 36. a4 Rh4(0-1)

#### Schaal-Reeves

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 Na6 6. Bg5 c5 7. d5 Qa5 8. Qd2 h5 9. a3 Nh7 10. Rc1 Nxc3 11. Qxc3 Bh6 12. Qg3 Bxc1 (0-1)

#### Stewart-Clover Hengen

1. g3 d5 2. d4 c6 3. Bg2 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. O-O Nf6 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. c4 Be7 8. Ne5 Bd6 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Qa4 O-O 11. Re1 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Bxe5 13. Nf3 Bd6 14. Bg5 h6 15. Bf4 Bxf4 16. gxf4 Ne4 17. Nd4 Bg6 18. f3 Nf6 19. f5 Bxf5 20. Nxf5 exf5 21. f4 Ng4 22. Qb3 d4 23. Rad1 Qd6 24. h3 Ne3 25. Bf3 Nxd1 26. Rxd1 Qxf4 27. Kf2 g5 28. Qd5 Rfd8 29. Qxb7 g4 30. hxg4 fxg4 31. Qc6 gxf3 32. exf3 Qe3+ 33. Kg3 d3 34. Qxh6 Qxh6 35. Kf2 d2 36. Ke2 Rac8 37. Rg1+ Kf8 38. Kd1 Rc1+ 39. Ke2 Re1+ 40. Kf2 Rxc1 41. Kxc1 d1=Q+ 42. Kf2 Qh2+ (0-1)

### Round 4:

#### Osborne-Belashchenko

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Bb7 6. Qg4 Nf6 7. Qxg7 Rg8 8. Qh6 Bxg2 9. Bxg2 Rxg2 10. Qh3 Rg6 11. Ne2 Qe7 12. Qf3 Nc6 13. Nf4 Rg7 14. a4 e5 15. Ba3 Qd8 16. Nd5 Rg6 17. Be7 Nxe7 18. Nxf6+ Kf8 19. Nxd7+ Qxd7 20. Qxa8+ Kg7 21. Qe4 f6 22. dxe5 f5 23. Qd4 Qe6 24. O-O-O c5 25. Qd6 Qxc4 26. Qxe7+ Kh6 27. Kb2 Qe2+ 28. Kb3 Qxf2 29. Rhf1 c4+ 30. Ka3 Qc2 31. Qh4+ (1-0)

### Iacono-Carney

1. e4 c5 2. d3 e6 3. Nf3 Be7 4. g3 Nc6 5. Bg2 Bf6 6. O-O d6 7. Re1 Nge7 8. c3 Ng6 9. d4 e5 10. d5 Nce7 11. a4 Ng8 12. Nbd2 Be7 13. h4 h6 14. Nc4 Bg4 15. Ne3 Bd7 16. Nd2 h5 17. Ndc4 Nf6 18. Bf3 Qc8 19. Ng2 Nf8 20. a5 Bb5 21. Na3 Bd7 22. Bg5 g6 23. Nc4 N8h7 24. Bxf6 Nxf6 25. Nge3 O-O 26. Kh1 Ne8 27. Rg1 Ng7 28. Qe2 Bb5 29. b3 Qh3# (0-1)

### Reigenborn-Knapp

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Nf3 c5 5. c3 Nc6 6. Bd3 cxd4 7. exd4 Nh5 8. Be3 Bd6 9. Ne5 g6 10. g4 Ng7 11. Nd2 Bxe5 12. dxe5 Nxe5 13. Bc2 Nc6 14. Bh6 O-O 15. Nf3 e5 16. h3 Re8 17. Qe2 e4 18. Nd2 e3 19. Bxe3 d4 20. cxd4 Nxd4 21. Qd3 Rxe3+ 22. fxe3 Qh4+ 23. Kf1 Nxc2 24. Qxc2 Bxg4 25. Kg2 Rc8 26. Qe4 Qd8 27. hxg4 Qxd2+ 28. Kg3 Re8 29. Qxb7 Rxe3+ 30. Kh4 Qd8+ 31. g5 Nf5+ 32. Kg4 Rg3+ 33. Kf4 Qd6+ 34. Ke4 Re3# (0-1)

### Round 5:

### Carney-Osborne

1. e3 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. d4 Bf5 5. f3 e6 6. Qb3 Qc7 7. Bd2 Nbd7 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Rc1 Qb6 10. Na4 Qxb3 11. axb3 Bd6 12. Nh3 Bxh3 13. gxh3 O-O 14. Bg2 Rfe8 15. O-O Rac8 16. Rfe1 c5 17. dxc5 Nxc5 18. Nxc5 Rxc5 19. b4 Rcc8 20. Rxc8 Rxc8 21. Bc3 Be7 22. Rd1 Rd8 23. e4 dxe4 24. Rxd8+ Bxd8 25. fxe4 Nd7 26. Bf1 Bf6 27. Kg2 Kf8 28. Be2 Ke7 29. Bxf6+ Kxf6 30. Kf3 Ke5 31. Ke3 Nf6 32. Bd3 Ne8 33. b5 Nd6 34. b3 b6 35. b4 f6 36. h4 h5 37. h3 g6 38. Bb1 Nxb5 39. Ba2 Nd6 40. Bg8 a5 41. bxa5 bxa5 42. Bh7 g5 43. hxg5 fxg5 44. Kf3 a4 45. Bg8 Nxe4 46. Bh7 Nc3 (0-1)

### Lacroix-Look

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Be2 Nbd7 7. O-O e5 8. h3 a5 9. Be3 Re8 10. Qc2 c6 11. Rad1 Qc7 12. Rd2 Nf8 13. Rfd1 Ne6 14. d5 Nd4 15. Nxd4 exd4 16. Bxd4 c5 17. Be3 Qe7 18. Bf4 Kh8 19. Bg3 Bh6 20. e5 Bf5 21. exf6 Qxf6 22. Bd3 Bxd2 23. Qxd2 Rad8 24. Bxf5 Qxf5 25. Nb5 Qf6 26. Qxa5 Qxb2 27. Nxd6 Ra8 28. Qxa8 Rxa8 29. Be5+ Qxe5 30. Nxf7+ (1-0)

### Gordon-Reeves

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 Bg4 7. f3 Bf5 8. Bxf6 exf6 9. cxd5 Nb4 10. Bb5+ Bd7 11. Qe2+ Be7 12. d6 Bxb5 13. Qxb5+ Qd7 14. Qxb4 Bxd6 15. Qb5 O-O-O 16. Qxd7+ Rxd7 17. Nge2 Re8 18. O-O f5 19. Nc1 Bf4 20. Nb3 b6 21. Rfd1 h5 22. g3 Bb8 23. a4 a6 24. a5 b5 25. Nc5 Rd6 26. b4 Re3 27. Rac1 Rxf3 28. Ne2 h4 29. Ne4+ Kd7 30. Nxd6 Bxd6 31. Rb1 hxg3 32. hxg3 g5 33. Kg2 Ra3 34. d5 f4 35. gxf4 gxf4 36. Rf1 Ra2 37. Kf3 Ra4 38. Nxf4 Bxb4 39. Kg4 Bxa5 40. Ra1 Bb4 41. Rxa4 bxa4 42. Ra1 a3 43. Ra2 Kd6 44. Kf5 a5 45. Ke4 Kc5 46. Nd3+ Kc4 47. Nxb4 axb4 48. d6 b3 49. Rxa3 b2 50. Ra4+ Kb5 51. Rd4 b1=Q+ 52. Ke5 Qe1+ 53. Re4 Qc3+ 54. Kf5 (0-1)

## WE DIDN'T KNOW JACK, BUT OTHERS KNEW HIM WELL by Bruce Draney

When I started playing tournament chess in 1972 as a Junior at Lincoln East High School, all I knew about Jack Spence was that he was an older guy from Omaha, heavily involved in chess but mostly focused, I thought, on Omaha, the city where he lived. In 1973 when I became quite active, Jack struck me as set in his ways, indifferent towards players he didn't really know that well and tending to show favoritism to certain Omaha players most of whom were about 6-10 years older than me.

He also seemed to me to be kind of bad tempered and cranky and not very approachable to players about my age from Lincoln. This was more likely an age difference issue rather than a valid feeling. Although my impressions were a bit unfair, other Lincoln players held similar opinions of Jack as well and many of us chose to stay away from his monthly tournaments in favor of playing for weird trophies at Terry Cain's events in Lincoln. Why drive 100 miles for virtually no chance to win a cash prize when you could stay in Lincoln and play for a trophy with a pig, cow or fish on it? What's more Jack was only giving back 50% of the entry fees in prize money at his tournaments, and many of us thought he was using the other 50% to make money. Jack had no family, no wife, no children, no siblings and was an attorney, although none of us knew much about what kind of lawyer he was. John Tomas elaborates on this later on in this article. He was way out of my league as he was a strong player, an Expert at his peak.

My interactions with Jack were therefore confined to the years when the Midwest Open was played in Omaha at the YMCA or on occasions where Jack would travel to Lincoln to play in a Midwest Open. Jack died in 1978 at the age of only 58, meaning he wasn't REALLY that old in 1973, but to us 18-21-year-olds he was "ancient" or at least it seemed to us.

Well in retrospect, I can safely say that we didn't really know Jack, if you'll pardon the expression, but there were a number of other people many of them still alive that knew him and appreciated him a lot more than we young Lincolniters did. Three of those people were Hall of Famers John Tomas, Bart Lewis, and Kent Nelson.

I recently asked John, Bart and Kent to reflect on their impressions and feelings about Jack Spence and they responded with their personal recollections that showed beyond a doubt that many of us didn't know "jack" about the real Jack Spence.

John Tomas began playing tournament chess while in high school at Creighton Prep and he began showing up at the Omaha Chess Club at the YMCA in downtown Omaha, after graduating from Creighton University. The club was run by Howard Ohman the greatest player in Nebraska history. Ohman was a minister, by trade but a strong chess player. Had there been a rating system in the 1920s and 1930s he probably would have been Master strength. John told me that while his moral compass and political philosophy aligned more closely with Ohman, he really enjoyed Jack more as a person to hang out with and play chess against.

He told me something I never knew before, that Ohman and Spence had a bit of a falling out for several possible reasons. One was lifestyle choices, and another was whether or not to allow rated games at the YMCA club. Since Ohman ran the club the stronger players like Jack and Richard McLellan who wanted to play rated tournaments did not come to the club as frequently while Ohman was in charge. Tomas said, that in his opinion, Ohman's adamance in keeping the club restricted to unrated events only, stifled club attendance and kept a lot of the stronger players away. John felt that this to some extent hindered his progress as a young player. After Ohman died and Jack began running the club, attendance skyrocketed.

After Jack took over running the club at the YMCA on Howard in downtown Omaha. John and Jack became closer and Tomas told me that he used to go to Jack's law office and just sit and marvel at the collection of chess books, journals and newsletters that Jack had there. He said it was almost impossible to describe it accurately in terms anyone would understand without seeing it.

To people like John, Kent, and others like Bart Lewis who even knew Jack from the 1950's, Jack was a really fun person to be around, not at all like the cranky old man image many of us younger Lincoln people had of him. Bart relayed a story in a past Gambit about the 1954 Midwest Open where Aleks Liepnieks shared cocktails with Jack the night before he was going to play Bart the next day. Bart said, Jack was hungover the next day and made a blunder allowing Bart to win the game.

Jack was a strong player, an Expert at his peak. He won the State Championship in 1951 and again in 1959 as Midwest Open Champion. He directed hundreds of tournaments in his career, and was Nebraska's greatest chess writer, author and journalist ever. Jack unbeknownst to us Lincoln youngsters spent much of his time chronicling chess at the local, state, regional, national, and international level. Many of his publications, called Jack Spence Limited Editions became highly prized publications by even the strongest players in the world as the sole source of games played in these events. He authored more than 60 bulletins on famous tournaments in history including many U.S. Opens. He authored or co-authored books, he published two separate chess newsletters one from 1947-1959 called the Nebraska Chess Bulletin which predated the Gambit by over 16 years and reached back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, chronicling chess in the early years after Nebraska became a state, and the Ohman Chess Newsletter which continued from 1968 until his untimely death in late 1978.

But what was Jack like? I remember he often wore a bowler hat and smoked either a pipe or a cigar. I don't recall him being tall, but he wore glasses and was always well dressed. But what were his tastes, what did he enjoy doing outside of chess? How was he so much unlike the person those of us who didn't know him thought he was? For answers to these questions, I turned to three aforementioned Nebraska Hall of Famers who knew Jack well both as a player but more importantly as a person. John Tomas, Bart Lewis and Kent Nelson, all provided me with some personal recollections of Jack dispelling all of the false misconceptions many of us in Lincoln had.

John Tomas writes in part about Jack Spence in an earlier Gambit article,

“Jack Spence was one of the most gregarious of all the chess players I have ever met. He was a fixture at just about any tournament within 100 or so miles of Omaha. I remember him with a smile on his face and a perpetually unlit cigar in his mouth. Jack had an enormous fund of ready stories almost all of them humorous, and most often the joke was on Jack himself.”

“During the 1959 US Open in Omaha a number of the stronger players evinced a desire for paid female companionship, and Jack undertook to provide them with it. He succeeded to such an extent that at the end of the tournament director George Koltanowski grouched that he didn’t know whether he was directing “a chess tournament or a Roman orgy!”.

“Jack had his degree in law from Creighton and he spent his whole life practicing in Omaha. Like many a “small town” lawyer he did not specialize but dabbled in just about everything from divorces, bankruptcies to the occasional criminal case. (My own family had occasion to use his services when my father died in 1963). Howard Ohman once confided to me that he thought Jack was an excellent lawyer; his problem was that his criminal defendants were always guilty!”

“Jack had his law offices in the old Securities building on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, an edifice that looked like it stepped out of a Raymond Chandler novel in depression-era Los Angeles. Jack had mild political ambitions (he regularly ran as an elector for conservative presidential candidates) and he took his daily meals at the Northrup Jones Cafeteria, then the informal center of Omaha political activity.”

“From the very beginning of his tournament play, Jack was a dyed-in-the-wool attacking player who loved gambits of all sorts. He was particularly fond of the Vienna Game which was a specialty of Weaver Adams 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4 Nxe4 4. Qh5. Unlike other attacking players, his style never really matured.”

Hall of Famer Bart Lewis contributes these recollections of Jack Spence,

“I first met Jack Spence when we were paired in the opening round of the 1954 Midwest Open. I was 19 years old and this was my first big tournament. I won a rather uninspired game but finished only 3-3 while Jack ended 4-2.”

“But most importantly, the game began a lifelong friendship. I always enjoyed my subsequent games with Jack, all of which were drawn by the way. If you were to ask me who I felt best deserved the title of “Mr. Chess Nebraska” in the mid-1950s there would be no hesitation in naming Jack.” The vitality of chess in Nebraska today is very much due to the efforts of that one man. Player, organizer, author, publisher, and friend. That was Jack Spence. He did it all.”

Kent Nelson adds this impression of Jack.

“When I was still a young and upcoming Lincoln player, I didn’t play in the tornadoes which I thought were too fast, but I did play in at least one of the big Omaha events directed by Jack. I didn’t do very well probably scoring only 2 points but Jack took down my membership information and sent in the money to pay for my USCF membership not just for one year but for two to three at his own expense. I never forgot this act of kindness and generosity by Jack for a young player he didn’t really know.”

After Jack died in 1978, Richard Hervert tried to keep the Omaha club going for a couple years, but soon the YMCA asked the Omaha Chess Club to leave and all the leadership shifted to Lincoln. No more tornadoes, no more Ohman Chess Newsletters, no more centralized chess club in Nebraska’s largest city at least not for several years.

Even the Omaha City Championship, which Jack had renamed the Ludwig Memorial in honor of Nebraska Hall of Famer Al Ludwig, ceased to be held as did another tournament Jack promoted called the A.C.R Swenson Memorial. Other than the Gambit there were no more fascinating articles to read about for chess historians like me 30-50 years later. We really didn’t know Jack and we very much panned his influence or contributions to chess when we were young, but had we known all of the great stuff he was doing, we would have had a far different impression of the man, the myth, the legend. In 1996, when I created the Hall of Fame, Jack was among the first 7 people to go in.

I never had the opportunity to personally play Jack in a chess tournament, as my chess playing career was sporadic with lots of play in 1973, but almost no play in 1974 or most of 1975 due to my weekends and nights usually being taken up with a job managing a Lincoln theater. Although we both played in the 1973 Midwest Open we were not paired together.

Most of my play during this time was in Lincoln or out of state. I never played in any of the many tornadoes at the YMCA and not all of it had to do with Jack. I didn’t play in any of the Burkley-Graham Cornhusker Classics either. For one thing I was in college and was working at a theater although not yet a manager in 1973. Theaters tended to have non-compatible hours with chess tournaments since most theaters did their largest amount of business on nights and weekends. Jack’s tornadoes had what I thought were ridiculously fast time controls of 40/1. His tornado prizes were strictly cash which was unappealing to a 1300-1400 player. Plus, driving to Omaha and back was 100 miles and as mentioned earlier in this article, Terry Cain ran trophy tournaments with a much better time control of only 30/1 right down the street from me.

Well, this was my loss, because as Bart, John, and Kent pointed out Jack was dramatically different from my totally incorrect impression as I never knew the man like so many others did. In retrospect, I didn’t know “jack” about the real Jack Spence.

## 2025 Wilkins Cup 8/2/2025-Omaha

**2025 Hall of Fame Wilkins Cup Draws 41 to Omaha's Ovation Heartwood Preserve on Saturday 8/2/2025.** The event was won by Ryan Deering of Missouri, Faris Gabbara of Michigan and Nick Lacroix of Nebraska all with 3.5-.5. There was a large 7-way tie for 4<sup>th</sup> that included 1 Master, 4 A players, 1 B player and a C Player. The event went smoothly and we barely had enough room for the larger than expected turnout to enjoy favorable playing conditions. Yours truly directed and Ryan Deering claimed the Wilkins Cup trophy.

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Deering	1927	W12	W27	W15	D4	3.5
2	Lacroix	2079	W31	W21	W5	D3	3.5
3	Gabbara	2018	W32	W18	W6	D2	3.5
4	Blankenau	2234	W17	D7	W11	D1	3.0
5	Parthasarathy	1909	W22	W19	L2	W18	3.0
6	Cusumano	1888	W34	W20	L3	W17	3.0
7	Polacek	1733	W41	D4	D16	W19	3.0
8	Belashchenko	1960	W23	L15	W35	W13	3.0
9	Adduri	1588	L11	W33	W22	W16	3.0
10	Rak Seetharaman	1861	W33	L11	W31	W15	3.0
11	Mora	870	W9	W10	L4	D24	2.5
12	Qiang	1275	L1	W29	W21	D14	2.5
13	Schaal	1446	W38	D16	W28	L8	2.5
14	Gordon	1700	L20	W34	W32	D12	2.5
15	Kantem	1550	W39	W8	L1	L10	2.0
16	Osborne	1911	W25	D13	D7	L9	2.0
17	Zogorski	1437	L4	W26	W20	L6	2.0
18	Koppinger	1561	W29	L3	W23	L5	2.0
19	Siado	1376	W28	L5	W37	L7	2.0
20	Fowler	965	W14	L6	L17	W32	2.0
21	Alagankancharla	1688	W36	L2	L12	W33	2.0
22	Savage	1272	L5	W40	L9	W35	2.0
23	Vitek	1280	L8	W39	L18	W36	2.0
24	Holsinger	1267	D37	L28	W34	D11	2.0
25	Hoffman	1272	L16	W38	L27	WF37	2.0
26	Rith Seetharaman	1020	L30	L17	W40	W31	2.0
27	Solheim	1542	W40	L1	W25	WD	2.0
28	Marcelino	2149	L19	W24	L13	1/2	1.5
29	Christensen	588	L18	L12	Bye	D39	1.5
30	Draney	1800	W26	1/2	-----	-----	1.5
31	Tao	1313	L2	W41	L10	L26	1.0
32	Katta	1296	L3	W36	L14	L20	1.0
33	Bitterman	1118	L10	L9	W39	L21	1.0
34	Sarathkumar	1263	L6	L14	L24	Bye	1.0
35	Jacobs	1422	1/2	D37	L8	L22	1.0
36	Jayanti	881	L21	L32	W38	L23	1.0
37	Sanchez	1908	D24	D35	L19	LF25	1.0
38	Gibbons	UNR	L13	L25	L36	W40	1.0
39	Alla	UNR	L15	L23	L33	D29	0.5
40	Ossian	UNR	L27	L22	L26	L38	0.0
41	Tyler Johnson	991	L7	L31	WD	-----	0.0

## Games from the 2025 Wilkins Cup

### Round 1:

#### Zogorski-Blankenau

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 b6 4. c4 Bb7 5. Nc3 Be7 6. Be2 d6 7. a3 a5 8. Bd2 Nbd7 9. O-O O-O 10. Re1 c5 11. a4 Rc8 12. b3 Ne4 13. Bd3 f5 14. Nb5 Ndf6 15. Bc3 Nxc3 16. Nxc3 Ne4 17. Bxe4 fxe4 18. Nd2 cxd4 19. exd4 d5 20. Re3 Bg5 21. Rg3 Bh4 22. Qg4 Qf6 23. Ne2 Qxf2+ 24. Kh1 Bxg3 25. hxg3 Rf6 26. Nf4 Qxd2 27. Nh3 Rg6 (0-1)

#### Marcelino-Siado

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. cxd4 e6 7. a3 d6 8. Bd3 dxe5 9. dxe5 Be7 10. O-O O-O 11. Qc2 g6 12. Qe2 Qb6 13. Qe4 f5 14. exf6 Bxf6 15. Nc3 Nxc3 16. bxc3 Qc7 17. Bh6 Bg7 18. Bxg7 Kxg7 19. Rfe1 Bd7 20. Ng5 Rae8 21. Nxh7 Rf5 22. g4 Rh8 23. gxf5 exf5 24. Qg2 Rxh7 25. Qg3 Qxg3+ 26. fxg3 Kf6 27. Re3 Ne5 28. Bf1 Ng4 29. Re2 Bb5 30. Rd2 Bc6 31. Re1 Ne5 32. Bg2 Bxg2 33. Kxg2 Rxh2+ 34. Kxh2 Nf3+ 35. Kg2 Nxd2 36. Rd1 Nc4 37. Rd7 Nxa3 38. Rxb7 a5 39. Rb6+ Kg5 40. Ra6 Nc4 41. Rc6 Ne5 (1-0)

#### Gabbara-Katta

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nc6 5. Bc4 Be7 6. O-O Nxe4 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7 8. Nxe4 Rf8 9. fxe5 Kg8 10. exd6 cxd6 11. d4 d5 12. Ng3 Qb6 13. c3 Bg4 14. Kh1 Bd6 15. Qb3 Qxb3 16. axb3 Bxg3 17. hxg3 Rf7 18. Bf4 h6 19. Rae1 g5 20. Be5 Raf8 21. Bd6 Rd8 22. Ba3 Na5 23. Ne5 Rxf1+ 24. Rxf1 Be2 25. Rf2 Bd1 26. Nf7 Re8 27. Nxh6+ Kh7 28. Nf7 Re1+ 29. Kh2 g4 30. Ne5 Bxb3 31. Nxg4 Bd1 32. Nf6+ Kg6 33. Nxd5 Nc4 34. Bf8 Bb3 35. Nf4+ Kh7 36. Nd3 Rb1 37. g4 Ne3 38. Kg3 Nf1+ 39. Kf4 Bc4 40. Ne5 Be6 41. c4 Rd1 42. d5 Rd4+ 43. Kg5 Bxg4 44. Nxg4 Ng3 45. Nf6+ Kh8 46. Kg6 (1-0)

### Round 2

#### Lacroix-Alagankancharla

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Bf4 Qb6 6. a3 Bd7 7. Qd2 e6 8. e3 Bd6 9. Bxd6 Qxd6 10. Nf3 Nc6 11. Bd3 a6 12. b4 b5 13. O-O O-O 14. Ne2 Ne4 15. Qb2 f5 16. Nd2 g5 17. Nb3 a5 18. f3 Nf6 19. Nc5 Nb8 20. bxa5 Na6 21. Nxd7 Nxd7 22. Bxb5 Nc7 23. a4 Rxa5 24. Rfc1 Nxb5 25. axb5 Rfa8 26. Rxa5 Rxa5 27. Rc6 Qb8 28. Nc3 Kf7 29. g3 Nb6 30. Qb4 Ra1+ 31. Kg2 Nc4 32. b6 Ra6 33. Rc7+ Kg6 34. Qe7 Qg8 35. b7 Rb6 36. Rc8 Rb2+ 37. Kg1 Qf7 38. Qxf7+ Kxf7 39. b8=Q Rxb8 40. Rxb8 Nxe3 41. Rb7+ Kg6 42. Nb5 Nc4 43. Na7 h6 44. Nc6 Kf6 45. Ne5 Nxe5 46. dxe5+ Kxe5 47. Rh7 g4 48. fxg4 fxg4 49. Rxh6 Kf5 50. Kf2 e5 51. h4 gxh3 52. Rxh3 Kg4 53. Rh4+ Kf5 54. Kf3 e4+ 55. Ke3 Ke5 56. Rh5+ Ke6 57. Kd4 (1-0)

#### Belashchenko-Kantem

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. Nc3 Nxc3 6. dxc3 Be7 7. Be3 Nc6 8. Qd2 Be6 9. Bd3 h6 10. O-O-O O-O 11. h3 a6 12. g4 f6 13. Nh4 Ne5 14. f4 Nxd3+ 15. Qxd3 Bf7 16. Rhg1 c6 17. g5 hxg5 18. Nf5 Bg6 19. fxg5 Bxf5 20. Qxf5 fxg5 21. Qe6+ Kh8 22. Rg4 Rf6 23. Qe4 d5 24. Qg2 Rf5 25. h4 Re5 26. Bxg5 Bxg5+ 27. hxg5 Qe7 28. g6 Rh5 29. Rh1 Qe3+ 30. Kb1 Kg8 31. a3 Qh6 32. Re1 Rf8 (White lost on time) (0-1)



## Round 3

### Gabbara-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 O-O 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 Ne4 7. Qc2 d5 8. Bf4 c6 9. f3 Nf6 10. e3 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Nd5 12. Nh3 Qa5+ 13. Kf2 Nxf4 14. Nxf4 e5 15. b4 Qc7 16. dxe5 Qxe5 17. Bd3 g6 18. h4 Rd8 19. h5 Bf5 20. hxc6 hxc6 21. Bxf5 Qxf5 22. Qc3 Kf8 23. Rh8+ Ke7 24. Rxd8 Kxd8 25. Rd1+ Ke7 26. Qh8 Nd7 27. Qxa8 Qc2+ 28. Ke1 Qc3+ 29. Ke2 Qc4+ 30. Nd3 (1-0)

### Parthasarathy-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ exf6 6. c3 Bd6 7. Bd3 O-O 8. Ne2 Qc7 9. Qc2 h6 10. h3 Nd7 11. O-O c5 12. Be3 a6 13. Qd2 cxd4 14. cxd4 Re8 15. Nc3 Nb6 16. Rfc1 Nc4 17. Nd5 Nxd2 18. Nxc7 Bxc7 19. Rxc7 Ne4 20. Bxe4 Rxe4 21. d5 Re8 22. d6 Rd8 23. Rd1 Rd7 24. Bb6 Kh7 25. b4 Kg6 26. g4 f5 27. gxf5+ Kxf5 28. Be3 g5 29. Rdc1 Rd8 30. a4 Be6 31. Rd1 Rd7 32. Bc5 Rad8 33. Rxd7 Bxd7 34. a5 Re8 35. Rd3 Kf4 36. Kg2 Bc6+ 37. Kh2 Re1 38. Be3+ Kf5 39. f3 Ke6 40. Bc5 Kd7 41. Re3 Rxe3 42. Bxe3 Bxf3 43. Kg3 Bc6 44. h4 f6 45. Bd4 Ke6 46. hxc5 hxc5 47. Bc5 f5 48. Bd4 Bd7 49. Kf3 f4 50. Bg7 Kf5 51. Bh6 g4+ 52. Kf2 g3+ 53. Kg1 f3 54. Be3 f2+ 55. Kf1 Bb5+ (0-1)

## Round 4

### Belashchenko-Schaal

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. a3 Bxc5 6. Qg4 g6 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. Nf3 Qb6 9. O-O Bd7 10. Nc3 Nd4 11. Ng5 h6 12. Nxf7 Kxf7 13. Bxg6+ Kf8 14. b4 Be7 15. Qf4+ Nf5 16. g4 Bg5 17. Qf3 Kg7 18. gxf5 exf5 19. Bh5 Be6 20. Na4 Qc6 21. Nc5 Ne7 22. Bb2 Rac8 23. Bd4 b6 24. b5 Qxb5 25. Nxe6+ Kh7 26. Nxc5+ hxc5 27. e6 g4 28. Qe3 Rhg8 29. Bf7 Rgf8 30. Qg5 (1-0)

### Koppinger-Parthasarathy

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 h6 9. Bh4 Qc7 10. O-O-O Nbd7 11. f5 e5 12. Nb3 b5 13. a3 Bb7 14. Bd3 Rc8 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Rhe1 Nc5 17. Nxc5 Qxc5 18. Kb1 b4 19. axb4 Qxb4 20. Nd5 Bxd5 21. exd5 O-O 22. Re4 Qb7 23. Ra4 e4 (0-1)

### Jayanti-Vitek

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. Bf4 b6 6. e3 Bb7 7. Bd3 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 Ne4 9. Ne5 d6 10. Qh5+ g6 11. Nxc6 Nf6 12. Qh6 Rg8 13. Nh4 Nbd7 14. Nf3 Qe7 15. Qh3 O-O-O 16. Nd2 (0-1)

### Cusumano-Zogorski

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 c5 6. O-O Be7 7. c4 Nc6 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Nc3 c4 10. b3 Bb4 11. Bd2 Qa5 12. Rc1 Nge7 13. bxc4 dxc4 14. Bxc4 O-O 15. d5 Nd8 16. Nd4 Qc5 17. Nce2 Ba3 18. Qb3 Bxc1 19. Rxc1 Qb6 20. d6 Nec6 21. Nxf5 Nxe5 22. Qg3 Ng6 23. Bc3 Ne6 24. Ne7+ Kh8 25. Nxc6+ hxc6 26. Qh3+ Kg8 27. Bxe6 fxe6 28. Qxe6+ Kh8 29. Bd4 Qd8 30. Rc3 Rf5 31. Qxc6 Qf8 32. Rh3+ Kg8 33. Qh7+ Kf7 34. Qxf5+ Kg8 35. Qe6+ Qf7 36. Rh8+ (1-0)

## **The U.S. Open 50 Years on and a Report from the 2025 Open in Madison WI**

It was 50 years ago in August of 1975 that Nebraska last played host to the prestigious U.S. Open in Lincoln at the Hilton Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> and P, now called the Graduate Hotel. The Lincoln event believe it or not was not the first U.S. Open to be held in Nebraska. In fact, it was not even the first to be held in Lincoln. In 1949 and 1959, the city of Omaha hosted the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the oldest Open tournament in the United States. In 1969, Lincoln hosted its first Open and in between 1969 and 1975 some major fundraising and promotion took place. The Hotel Lincoln which had been the site for the 1969 Open was demolished and a brand-new Hilton was built in the same exact location on 9<sup>th</sup> and P. Former Lincoln mayor Bennett Martin had partial ownership in the new hotel and he was a prominent backer of chess in the Capital City.

Lincoln chess enthusiast and player Bart Lewis owned an advertising agency and he was a major force in drawing the tournament back to Nebraska for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 30 years. He and his partner published a slick color publication about Lincoln night life called Around Town. George Koltanowski perennial U.S. Open director commented on what a fabulous hotel the new Lincoln Hilton was when he first arrived.

The 1975 Open was a full 12-day long event with one round per day held in the early evening. Time controls were very liberal and there was no such thing as sudden death. If your game was not done by the nightly cutoff the game was adjourned and players were required to play it out the next day in the early afternoon.

Although Lincoln was a relatively small city with a small airport in 1975, the event drew 370 players from all over the country including three titled GMs, Arthur Bisguier, Pal Benko and William Lombardy. Two future young superstars played and did fairly well, Yasser Seraiwan and Joel Benjamin both just beginning their illustrious careers. Yasser actually upset GM Bisguier, effectively knocking him out of contention. Quite a few Nebraskans played in the event including Hall of Famers like John Watson, Loren Schmidt, Bud Narveson, Anton Sildmets, Bob Woodworth, Rich Chess, Richard Perry, Mike Mathews, Kent Nelson, Gary Colvin, Wayne Pressnall, Bart Lewis, Gary Marks, and Mike Blankenau. Although I couldn't play because I worked nights, I went down most nights and watched the end of each round.

Nebraska players scored some major upsets with Bill Alexander of Omaha drawing GM Lombardy with the center-counter in round 2 and Loren Schmidt of Lincoln drawing GM Benko in round 5. In the end, Watson who by this time was no longer a resident of Nebraska scored the highest of our Nebraska players, followed by Schmidt and Blankenau both with 8-4. Rich Perry won an award for top Nebraska junior and Rich Chess finished with a positive score. Benko and Lombardy won the event with 10-2. That was it, 50 years have passed and we've never hosted another U.S. Open. This past summer we did hold a special Hall of Fame commemorative 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tournament which drew the strongest field of players ever to our state.

On Friday May 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, we held our Hall of Fame induction banquet and many of those people who played in 1975 or were involved returned to be a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In all at our event, we drew 4 GMs, 3 IMs and a host of former Nebraska State Champions and Hall of Fame members. Two Nebraskans, Luke Hengen and Guru Gurumoorthi, tied for first with 4-1 and Keaton Kiewra and Paul Rohwer both past young Nebraska superstars also scored 4-1. While it's true that there are many more GMs living in the United States than there were in 1975, we still like to brag that we got four GMs and the Open only got 3 back in 1975.

At the banquet, Rod Malpert a legend in his own right and once a young super star himself crowned 5 of our most promising young players as "young Reshevskys" a reference to Sammy Reshevsky being a child chess prodigy already at age 10. So how did our young players do at THIS year's Open in Madison, Wisconsin? I'm glad you asked or I did anyway.

### **A Report from the U.S. Open and National Invitationals in Madison, Wisconsin**

A strong contingent of Nebraskans made the 430-mile trip to the suburbs of Madison, Wisconsin the week of July 28-August 3 to play in either the 9 round U.S. Open or the National Invitational Tournaments held the first 4 days of the 7-day long event now days shortened to only 9 rounds from the 12 played in 1975. Although anyone can play in the Open, the invitationals are closed to all but state champions in elementary, middle school, high school, girls K-12 and seniors 60 years or older. Our representatives won the right to play by finishing first in the Nebraska Individual Championships on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

All five of our champions made the trip and Luke Hengen and Sidd Parthasarathy also played in the Open after finishing the Denker and Rockefeller Invitationals. Jerry Slominski was our senior representative and he scored a big upset drawing a strong Florida Master. Mansi Adduri was our Girls K-12 Champion and she won an award for top player under 1600. Sidd Parthasarathy one of Rod's "young Reshevskys" who at one point earlier this year was 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation among 8-year-olds was our Elementary Champion and finished tied for 7<sup>th</sup> with 4-2 but most of the players who finished ahead were 5<sup>th</sup> graders and Sidd is only a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. Sidd played 5 games in the Open and finished 3-2. Our Middle School champion was Shannor Qiang who overperformed for his rating and won a prize for biggest upset for beating an Expert. Several other Nebraskans (or former Nebraskans) also made the trip including Joe Knapp, Guru Gurumoorthi and Hall of Famer Alexey Root who also came to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Irene Fei of Des Moines, a frequent participant in Nebraska events actually won the National Girl's K-12 Championship called the Haring with 5.5-.5.

Sidd, Mansi, and Shannor not only represented us in Madison they returned home in time to play in the Wilkins Cup a few days later on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with Mansi and Sidd tying for 4<sup>th</sup> with some very strong players and Shannor winning the Class D section with 2.5-1.5. Have we come full circle in 50 years? Are we seeing the rise of potential future stars right before our eyes? Time will tell.

# October

2025

Subtitle

## Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Kickoff Team Scholastic- Omaha (Scholastics sections are unrated.)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Lincoln City Championship -Lincoln
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# November

# 2025

Subtitle

## Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 UNO Tournament TBD
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Cornucopia Team Scholastic in Lincoln
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Kearney Fall Classic
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Great Plains Open- Lincoln-POY and State Qualifier
23 Great Plains Open-Lincoln POY and State Qualifier	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Black Friday	29
30						

# December

## 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	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Hall of Fame Memorial
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

## CUSUMANO SHINES IN ITALY

This just in, NSCA President Steven Cusumano traveled in early September to Imperia, Italy to play in a FIDE rated event. He decided to play in the B section (FIDE 1700-2000) which turned out to be a great decision as he scored an outstanding 7-1 and took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Steven remains one of Nebraska's strongest and most consistent players sporting a rating of over 1900.

I asked him if this tournament would be USCF rated as well so he can get credit on his USCF rating and he said that it would eventually although not until mid-October. Steven was able to put his games on LiChess so I have included a couple of them below to showcase his fine play.

### Round 6

Jamous FIDE 1730-Cusumano FIDE 1881

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6 5. Bg5 dxc4 6. e4 b5 7. e5 h6 8. Bh4 g5 9. Nxc4 hxc4 10. Bxc4 Be7 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. exf6 Qxf6 13. g3 Bb7 14. Bg2 Na6 15. Nxb5 O-O-O 16. Nxa7+ Kb8 17. Nxc6+ Bxc6 18. Bxc6 Nb4 19. Qf3 Nc2+ 20. Kd2 Qxf3 21. Bxf3 Nxa1 22. Kc3 Nb3 23. axb3 cxb3 24. h4 Rd7 25. Ra1 Rc8+ 26. Kxb3 Rxd4 27. Ra8+ Kc7 28. Ra7+ Kd6 29. Rxf7 Rd3+ 30. Ka4 Rd2 31. b4 Rxf2 32. h5 e5 33. b5 e4 34. Rf6+ Ke7 35. Re6+ Kxe6 36. Bg4+ Rf5 37. b6 Rb8 38. Bxf5+ Kxf5 39. Ka5 e3 (0-1)

### Round 8

Cusumano-FIDE 1881-Buccaris FIDE 1991

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Be2 Bg7 6. O-O O-O 7. Bg5 Re8 8. Qd2 b5 9. a3 a5 10. Bd3 Bb7 11. Ne2 Qb6 12. c3 Nbd7 13. Ng3 e5 14. dxe5 dxe5 15. Bc2 c5 16. Rfd1 c4 17. Qd6 Bc6 18. b4 cxb3 19. Bxb3 Ng4 20. Qd2 a4 21. Ba2 Bf8 22. h3 Ngf6 23. Be3 Bc5 24. Ng5 Re7 25. Bxc5 Qxc5 26. Qd6 Qxd6 27. Rxd6 Rc8 28. Rad1 h6 29. Nxf7 Rxf7 30. f4 Kg7 31. Bxf7 Kxf7 32. fxe5 Nxe4 33. e6+ Ke7 34. Nxe4 Bxe4 35. exd7 Rd8 36. Rb6 Bf5 37. Rxb5 Rxd7 38. Rxd7+ Bxd7 39. Rb6 Be8 40. Kf2 Kd7 41. Ke3 Kc7 42. Rf6 (1-0)

## PAWNS & MORE PAWNS

This article concerns all of the myriad types of pawns, their movements, formations, activities etc. etc. This writer spent several months in developing the two separate listings shown below. (The first listing concerns the types of pawns while the 2<sup>nd</sup> comprises pawn movements plus various pawn activities and structures.) The REAL REASON for these 2 pawn listings is TO HAVE THE READER CLOSELY

EXAMINE EACH & EVERY ENTRY FOR ANY OBVIOUS ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. This

writer will greatly appreciate any help in this matter such that a REWARD/PRIZE of a new Magnus Carlsen chess book will be freely given to the FIRST reader who finds a very viable improvement/correction. It is greatly hoped that someone will find more types of pawns which were omitted from the first listing shown below plus any corrections needed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> listing also shown below. GOOD LUCK TO ALL THAT ARE INTERESTED IN ATTEMPTING THIS AND “THANK YOU”!!

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

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

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

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

QUINTUPLED PAWNS ?? (5 pawns of the same color on the same file)

BACKWARD PAWNS (not capable of having immediate, direct pawn protection)

BACKWARD, DOUBLED PAWNS (doubled pawns w/o any easy direct protection)

SEMI-ISOLATED PAWN (having pawns on adjacent files unable to be protective)

DOUBLE, ISOLATED PAWNS (two sets of isolated pawns with no pawn protection)

DOUBLED, ISOLATED PAWNS (two doubled pawns that are also isolated)

TRIPLE, ISOLATED PAWNS (see above definition for these 3 pawns)

SEPARATED, DOUBLED PAWNS (2 sets of doubled pawns separated by a file or 2)

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

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

ARTIFICIALLY, ISOLATED PAWNS (having pawn protection that is temporarily blocked from being effective. See SEMI-ISOLATED PAWN)

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

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

UNSTOPPABLE PASSED PAWN (a separated pawn with a clear path to ‘queen’)



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

DISCONNECTED PASSED PAWNS (separated by 2 or more files. See SEPARATE PASSED PAWNS.)

TRIPLE, CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS (3 passed pawns on files next to each other)

UNPROTECTED PASSED PAWN (a passed pawn without any friendly protection)

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

PROTECTED, OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN (see above definition where pawn protected)

INOFFENSIVE PAWNS (usually occupy the same colored squares as their bishop)

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

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

UNBALANCED PAWNS (pawn count different between the king & queen sides)

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

FLEXIBLE PAWNS (having many different pawn move options being available)

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

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

COUNTER-PLAY PAWN (pawn move with counter-tactics as a responsive play. See PAWN TEMPO)

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

RESERVE PAWN MOVE (see also definition for a RESERVE PAWN)

SELF-PROPELLED PAWNS (coordinated pawn movement with no able response)

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

ISOLATED, HANGING PAWNS (hanging pawns totally isolated with no protection)

ISOLATED QUEEN PAWN (most common isolated pawn from center pawn trades)

MAROCZY-BIND PAWNS (White pawns on c4 and e4 with the 'bind' on d5)

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

QUEEN-SIDE PAWNS (the starting 3 pawns on the queen's side of the board)

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

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

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

SMALL PAWN CENTRE (no ctr.pawns beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank White, 6<sup>th</sup> rank for Black)

BROAD PAWN CENTRE (3 or 4 pawns abreast on adjacent center files)  
 MOBILE PAWN CENTRE (centrally, located pawns which have good mobility)  
 LOCKED PAWN CENTRE (blocked, central pawns with no mobility)  
 FORWARD PAWN (a pawn at the very front of a pawn chain)  
 BASE PAWN (the last pawn in a chain and is the weakest link in the chain)  
 POISONED PAWNS (having good, indirect protection usually from a queen's attack)  
 "DOG'S-EAR" PAWNS (Siegbert Tarrasch term for pawns on the h3 or h6 squares.)  
 MISSING PAWN (left out and NOT found in an old, rarely used chess set)  
 GAMBIT PAWNS (sacrificed pawns usually in the opening phase of a game)  
 LONELY PAWN (a depressed pawn & isolated in a game position)  
 ADVANCED PAWNS (usually on the last 2 ranks for each side before queening sq.)  
 FAR ADVANCED PASSED PAWN (passed pawn almost at the 'queening' square)  
 DANGEROUS PAWNS (well-supported ADVANCED PAWNS)  
 'RENEGADE' PAWNS (pawn moves that break the accepted chess concepts/laws)  
 CONNECTED PAWNS (two or more pawns of same color on adjacent files)  
 BLOCKED PAWN PAIR (2 adjacent, connected pawns unable to move)  
 DISCONNECTED PAWNS (pawns separated by one or more files)  
 OBSTRUCTING PAWN PLAY (pawn maneuvers that gain a positional advantage)  
 ADJACENT PAWNS (single opposing-sides pawns on 2 adjacent files)  
 UNITED PAWNS (same as CONNECTED PAWNS, see above)  
 CAPTURED PAWNS (dead 'troops' that gave their lives in the chess battle)  
 BLOCKED PAWNS (pawns 'paralyzed' and unable to move forward)  
 PINNED PAWN (a pawn incapable of movement – see above BLOCKED PAWNS)  
 ENEMY PAWNS (pawns in the pawn structure of one's opponent)  
 FRIENDLY PAWNS (ones own pawns or enemy pawn giving us good protection)  
 FIXED PAWN STRUCTURES (pawn setups where there is little or no mobility)  
 FLUID PAWN STRUCTURES (structures where future pawn movement is likely)  
 ROLLING PAWNS (see definition below for PAWN ROLLERS or MOBILE PAWNS)  
 MOBILE PAWNS (pawns not restricted in any way regarding their movements)  
 HUMBLE PAWNS (any silent, hard-working, dedicated pawns on the chessboard)  
 DEADLY PAWN (a pawn by its position and/or tactics which wins the game)  
 SOLID PAWNS (having more than adequate protection of all types)  
 FIXED PAWNS (usually solid pawns 'locked' onto their respective squares)  
 LAZY PAWN (a pawn not living up to its full potential. See LONELY PAWN)

‘EN PASSANT’ PAWNS (both pawns involved in the ‘en passant’ captures)  
 PROMOTED PAWNS (survivors and victorious with honors in a chess battle)  
 MUTUAL PAWN PROMOTION (each side promoting pawns simultaneously)  
 UNDER-PROMOTED PAWNS (pawns promoted to OTHER than a queen)  
 WEAK PAWNS (usually with no pawn protection and in need of piece protection)  
 BAD PAWNS (similar to WEAK or LAZY PAWNS or poorly positioned pawns)  
 HEALTHY PAWNS (pawns together on the same rank and NOT doubled or weak)  
 LAST PAWN (the final pawn on the board in a King vs. King & Pawn endgame)  
 GRANITE PAWN (a most solid pawn that cannot be captured without a loss)  
 UNDERMINING PAWN (a pawn striking at the base of a pawn chain or weakness)  
 SOFT PAWN (same as a weak pawn and a pawn which may be easily endangered)  
 ‘TALL’ PAWN (term for a bishop that is completely blocked and immobilized)  
 BIG PAWN (same as the previously defined ‘TALL’ PAWN)  
 MARKED PAWN (sometimes denoted with a ‘ring’ over the top. It is used in the ultimate handicapped game where this pawn must deliver mate.)  
 CAPPED PAWN (see MARKED PAWN definition above)  
 CEREMONIAL PAWN (1st move made by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to start an important match)  
 WINNING PAWN (usually a promoted pawn & also definition of a DEADLY PAWN)  
 DECIDING PAWN (same as WINNING PAWN & DEADLY PAWN definitions)  
 IMPORTANT PAWNS (having the highest positional pawn-value in a game. See definition for WINNING/DEADLY PAWN)  
 KING’S BISHOP’S PAWNS (the weakest pawns in the initial chessboard position)  
 HALF-PASSED PAWN (a pawn on a half-open file but not entirely a passed pawn)  
 UNTOUCHABLE PAWNS (cannot be captured else zugzwang position would occur)  
 PROTECTED PASSED PAWN (a passed pawn protected by a friendly chessman)  
 CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS (2 passed pawns capable of protecting one another)  
 WELL-ADVANCED CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS (advanced + see above definition)  
 SEPARATED PASSED PAWNS (opposite of CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS-see above)  
 OUTSIDE DISTANT PASSED PAWN (a passed pawn on the flank far from any other pawns for either side)  
 DISTANT PASSED PAWNS (see OUTSIDE PASSED PAWN or FLANK PAWN below)  
 HIDDEN PASSED PAWN (a blocked pawn made free to move by a pawn capture)

TARGET PAWN (a pawn with a strong potential to become a passed pawn)  
 POTENTIAL PASSED PAWN (see definition for TARGET PAWN)  
 CANDIDATE PAWNS (see definition for TARGET PAWNS)  
 SPLIT PAWNS (2 pawns vs. 1 in a King & Pawns endgame with the 2 pawns a file apart)  
 UNITED PASSED PAWNS (See CONNECTED PASSED PAWNS)  
 FLANK PAWN (usually a passed pawn located at or near edge of chessboard)  
 ‘FORTRESS’ PAWN MOVE (a pawn move that helps create a fortress position)  
 ‘UMBRELLA’ PAWNS (see definition for PAWN UMBRELLA)  
 ACTIVE PASSED PAWN (has good freedom to move and a threat to ‘queen’)  
 MINORITY PAWN ATTACK (aggressive pawn moves on wing w/lesser no.of pawns)  
 MAJORITY PAWN ATTACK (aggressive pawn moves on wing w/greater no.pawns)  
 REMOTE PASSED PAWN (an advanced, outside passed pawn usually on a rook file)  
 SYMMETRICAL PAWNS (2 matching White-Black pawn formations on either wing)  
 ASYMMETRICAL PAWNS (directly opposite of SYMMETRICAL PAWN formations)  
 MISPLACED PAWN (a pawn in an incorrect place in the overall pawn structure)  
 FREEING PAWN (a pawn able to create a breakthrough in the position)  
 THREATENED PAWN (a pawn which eventually may be possibly captured)  
 ‘CROSSHAIRS’ PAWN (a pawn that is attacked & forced to move in an ending)  
 QUEEN’D PAWN (the ultimate goal/promotion that a passed pawn can achieve)  
 CORRESPONDING PAWNS (part of endgame theory w/king & pawn strategies involving the theory of corresponding squares)  
 WRONG ROOK PAWN (in a ‘bishop’ endgame the color of the promoting square not matching the color of the bishop’s squares)  
 ROOK PAWNS (the pawns for each side on the a & h-files)  
 WRONG PAWN (a pawn promoting on the wrong color/wrong square)  
 ‘ZUGZWANG’ PAWN (pawn move that creates a zugzwang. See PAWN SQUEEZE)  
 CHECKMATING PAWN (a pawn delivering mate to the king called a ‘shame’ mate)  
 ALPHABET PAWNS (algebraic designated pawns i.e. a-pawn, b-pawn, c-pawn etc.)  
 SQUARE-NAMED PAWNS (pawns designated by the squares they are residing on)

ROOK-KNIGHT-BISHOP-QUEEN-KING PAWNS (also descriptive pawn designations)

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

COLOR-CHOICE PAWN (1 White & 1 Black pawn to be chosen randomly for colors)

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

'PANOV' PAWNS (pawns in a semi-closed center in a Queen's Gambit opening)

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

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

'CARLSBAD' PAWNS (pawns in a special Queen's Gambit/Queen's Pawn opening formation)

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

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

'RETI' PAWNS (pawns in the most famous Richard Reti endgame composition)

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

"SOFT PAWN" (book title by William Hartston about cheating in chess)

'MORPHY' PAWN (the checkmating pawn in Paul Morphy's only chess problem)

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

"DEATH BY PAWNS" (title of a comprehensive overview of pawn usage in chess)

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

PAWN CHAIN (a diagonal string of like pawns protecting one another)

PAWN 'WING' CHAINS (smaller pawn chains on either side of the chessboard)

PAWN CENTRAL CHAIN (chain of pawns across 3 or 4 central files)

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

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

PAWN DUO (two connected pawns on adjacent files. See 'hanging pawns')

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

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

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

PAWN EDGE (having a better pawn in a position. Also see PAWN ADVANTAGE)

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

PAWN ENERGY (related to PAWN DYNAMICS. See above definition)

PAWN PUSH (a pawn advancing into battle. See PAWN PLAY)

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

PAWN PROPHYLAXIS (keeping key squares under good pawn protection)

PAWN RAM (an aggressive movement by a pawn See PAWN PUSH)

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

PAWN TRANSFER (see above definition for PAWN CAPTURE)

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

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

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

PAWN MANEUVERABILITY (using mobile pawn movement to gain an  
advantage)

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

PAWN PAIR (2 pawns with the freedom to protect each another. See PAWN DUO)

PAWN CONTROLS (pawns having the greatest influence on the center squares)

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

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

PAWN OFFER (a sacrificed pawn or a pawn sacrifice. See also 'GAMBIT  
PAWNS')

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

PAWN LEVERS (two opposing pawns each capable of capturing one another)

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

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

PAWN CONTACT (another term for PAWN LEVERS)

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

PAWN COVER (see definition for PAWN PROTECTION)

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

PAWN SQUARE-COLORS (majority of one's pawns on either black or white sqs.)

PAWN STRUCTURE (the configuration of ALL the pawns for each side)

PAWN FORMATION (same as PAWN STRUCTURE)

PAWN SHIFT (a noticeable change in the pawn structure)

PAWN SENTRY (a strongly supported pawn holding one's position together)  
 PAWN TRIANGLE (3 adjacent pawns with center pawn not on the same rank)  
 PAWN TEMPO (a pawn move gaining time w/capture threats etc.)  
 PAWN MARGIN (the overall positional strength or/plus no. of pawns per side)  
 PAWN REDUCTION (the act of capturing pawns thereby reducing their number)  
 PAWN MATERIAL (total no. of pawns per side in a game. See PAWN MARGIN)  
 PAWN DOWN (behind materially by one pawn vs. the opposition)  
 PAWN UP (ahead by one pawn vs. one's opponent. See PAWN MATERIAL)  
 PAWN DEFICIT (see above definition for PAWN DOWN)  
 PAWN SUPPORT (a solid piece with pawn protection from a pawn or pawns)  
 PAWN PLAY (the advancement of pawns forward or involved in exchanges)  
 PAWN DEPLOYMENT (the placing/development of one's pawns in a game)  
 PAWN DISTRIBUTION (the structure/layout of the pawns in a position.

See above PAWN DEPLOYMENT)

PAWN QUARTGRIP (4 opposing, healthy pawns each in a curved formation.  
 Term coined by Hans Kmoch in his book "Pawn Power In Chess")  
 PAWN SKELETON (usually the pawn configuration for either White or else  
 Black)  
 PAWN FORK (a pawn simultaneously attacking 2 enemy chess pieces)  
 PAWN PASSER (movement of a pawn to become a passed pawn)  
 PAWN BREAKTHROUGH (a pawn is sac'd in order to create a passed pawn)  
 PAWN ROLLERS (two or more pawns moving together gaining tempos & space)  
 PAWN PHALANX (two or more pawns of same color situated on the same rank)  
 PAWN STORM (grouping of pawns on adjacent files attacking the opposing king)  
 PAWN GRAB (the act of capturing a defenseless pawn. See POISONED PAWNS)  
 PAWN BIND (pawns constricting opponent's space/position. See PAWN WEDGE)  
 PAWN ACTION (usually pawn movements/captures to seize the initiative)  
 PAWN ATTACK (see above definition for PAWN ACTION)  
 PAWN TRAP (pawn move trapping a bishop that was restricted by its own forces)  
 PAWN BLOCK (pawn movement to blockade pieces or lock pawn structures)  
 PAWN ANCHOR (the pawn solely protecting a piece. See PAWN SUPPORT)  
 PAWN SNATCHING (capturing loose pawns at the expense of one's position)  
 PAWN SQUEEZE (pawn movement which places opponent in zugzwang)  
 PAWN VULNERABILITY (a weakness in the pawn structure with a weak/bad  
 pawn)  
 PAWN ADVANCE (same as PAWN PUSH)  
 PAWN SAC (the sacrifice of a pawn to gain an objective or the initiative)  
 PAWN 'SQUARED' (endgame geometric calc.to catch a passed pawn with a King)  
 PAWN QUADRANT (see PAWN 'SQUARED'-marking area to catch a passed  
 pawn)

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

PAWN ‘LUFT’ MOVE (giving a castled king an escape square in a one-sq. advance)

PAWN ‘UBER-LUFT’ MOVE (an advancing pawn ‘luft’ move of 2 sqs. versus 1 sq.)

PAWN UNDOUBLING (a pawn capture move whereby 2 pawns are undoubled )

PAWN ‘FIANCHETTO’ MOVE (letting a bishop access the longest diagonal)

PAWN DISCOVERED ATTACK (pawn move which uncovers a threatening piece)

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

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

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

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

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

PAWN POWER (the expansion of pawn promotional powers into the endgame)

PAWN OPTIONS (pawns that have many functions available & are unrestricted)

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

PAWN SURVIVORS (pawns still on the chessboard. See PAWN COUNT)

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

PAWN DEFLECTION (a pawn tactic/move which creates winning chances)

PAWN WEAKNESSES (pawns that are on unprotected or backward squares. See PAWN VULNERABILITY)

PAWN TRADE (an equal exchange between two pawns of opposite color)

PAWN ‘HOOK’ (a pawn advancement that can be exploited to create open lines)

PAWN ROOK ‘LIFT’ (advancing rook-pawn to develop a rook via the a-file or h-file)

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

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

PAWN SHIELD (see above definition for PAWN UMBRELLA)

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

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

PAWN UNDER-PROMOTION (see definition for UNDER-PROMOTED PAWNS)



PAWN CAPTURE-PROMOTION (a pawn capturing a piece & promoting in the same move.)

PAWN BAYONET ATTACK (a tactically sharp pawn advance to seize the initiative)

PAWN COUNT (the exact number of pawns for each side still on the chessboard.  
See PAWN MATERIAL & PAWN MARGIN)

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

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

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

PAWN ARTISTRY (capability of producing brilliant, composed pawn endgames)

PAWN MASTERY (talent required to produce efficient, correct pawn play)

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

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

PAWN-IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE (peshka)

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

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

NOTE:

Some extra definitions to be added to the above, main listing:

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

PAWN SWAP (See PAWN TRADE)

PAWN SIMPLIFICATION (pawn trades that strategically clarify the position)

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

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

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

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

PAWN RELINKING (2 pawns reconnecting after being separated by a file)

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

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

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

PAWN LINES (many pawns aligned along files. See PAWN RANK)

PAWN CARNAGE (very active rook captures of many unmoved pawns)

PAWN DEFINITION (a good foot soldier. See PAWN Derivation)

PAWN NAMING CONVENTION (from Indian word PADATI. See PAWN)

PAWN TENSION (many future pawn captures & threats are very possible)

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

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

PAWN POPULATION (See PAWN STRUCTURE or PAWN MATERIAL)

PAWN POTENTIAL (See PAWN PROMOTION)

PAWN TSUNAMI (See PAWN STORM)

PAWN'S DOUBLE MOVE (a pawn's initial, 2-square, first move in a game)

PAWN'S ZONE (3 squares to the left or right of a blocked pawn)

PAWN 'LIMITS' (3 squares on each side of a pawn & on pawn's own rank. See the above PAWN'S ZONE)

PAWN STUDIES (composed king & pawn endgames only. See PAWN ENDINGS)

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

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

PAWN RESTRICTING (fixing your opponent's pawns for non-movement and/or keeping enemy pawns on same color as their

bishop and keeping pawn captures to a minimum. Also, fixing enemy pawns to become targets.)

PASSIVE PAWN (a bystander pawn not currently active in the position)

DISTANT PAWN (See FLANK PAWN)

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

DANGEROUS PASSED PAWNS (easily capable of winning a game)

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

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

UNBLOCKING PAWN MOVE (capture that allows a blocked pawn to move)

‘TRAITOR’ PAWN (pawn which is forced to move thereby losing the game)

DISCOVERED-CHECKING PAWN (pawn-move checking using shielded piece)

DOUBLE-CHECKING PAWN (usually involving a pawn capture and a rook)

EMBEDDED PAWN (protected pawn deep into opponent’s position)

‘TORTOISE’ PAWN (one sq. pawn move to place opponent in zugzwang)

DISAPPEARING PAWN (a promoted pawn itself leaving the chessboard)

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

DESPERADO PAWN MOVES (a continuous pawn-capturing movement)

ZWISCHENZUG PAWN MOVE (an in-between, surprise, tactical pawn move)

DRAWING PAWN MOVE (a pawn move leading to a drawn position/result)

KEY PAWNS (essential pawns that are holding a position together)

TARGET PAWNS (See IMPORTANT PAWNS)

DEEP PAWN (See DANGEROUS PAWNS or OVEREXTENDED PAWN)

MULTI-PAWN ENDGAMES (complex endgame positions with many pawns)

UNTAKEABLE PAWNS (See UNTOUCHABLE PAWNS)

CENTRAL PAWN STRUCTURES (involves the center pawn formations/files)

FIXED PAWN FORMATION (usually a locked pawn structure)

SAFE PAWNS (See SOLID PAWNS or GRANITE PAWNS)

STRAY PAWNS (loose, usually unprotected pawns. See FREE PAWN)  
LOCKED PAWNS (See BLOCKED PAWNS or LOCKED PAWN CENTRE)  
OPPOSING PAWNS (a pawn for each side located on same file. See also PAWN COUPLE)  
OVEREXTENDED PAWN (advanced too far to be safe. See OVERLOADED PAWN)  
CENTRAL PASSER (a passed pawn located on a central, chessboard file)  
BLOCKED, ISOLATED PAWN (a very weak pawn. See BLOCKED PAWNS)  
MUTUALLY SUPPORTING PAWNS (See PAWN PHALANX)  
RUNNING PAWNS (See PAWN RACE or ROLLING PAWNS)  
SAME-SIDE PAWNS (pawn movement/formation replies on one wing/flank)  
BOTH-SIDE PAWNS (pawn movement/formation replies on both flanks.)

\*Editor's Note: This article, originally published in the Gambit in 2022, is the result of the fine work of NSCA Historical Archivist Bob Woodworth. Kent Nelson has submitted the article to the CJA (Chess Journalists of America) for consideration as best article for 2025. SM Rod Malpert recently strongly recommended that young players improve their game by studying pawn formations. Books like Pawn Power in Chess by Hans Kmoch is a classic study of pawns, but Bob's article creates a virtual dictionary of terms all related to pawns to help the average player to have a better understanding of the power of the pawn in a chess game. Bob was rewarded for a lifetime of contributions to Nebraska chess by being inducted into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame for the class of 2024 on May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year at the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet in Lincoln.

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## The Crane City Open in Kearney 8/16-17/2025

The Crane City Open was the first major POY event outside of the Lincoln-Omaha metro area in over a decade and it drew 27 players in two sections. The Open section was USCF rated and drew a healthy crowd of 16. The Casual section was Saturday 8/16 only and drew 11 players. SM Rod Malpert, former State Champion Gary Colvin and Hall of Fame President Bruce Draney all attended on Saturday. Organizer of the event was Eric Ring of the Central Nebraska Chess Club. Kirill Belashchenko and Matt Koppinger shared 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Open with 3.5-.5

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Belashchenko	1960	W6	W4	W3	D2	3.5
2	Koppinger	1561	W16	W8	W11	D1	3.5
3	Knapp	2028	W13	W7	L1	W6	3.0
4	Schiff	1644	W9	L1	W12	W7	3.0
5	Lombard	1400	W15	1/2	L8	W13	2.5
6	Eric Ring	953	L1	W9	W10	L3	2.0
7	Foster	1609	W10	L3	W14	L4	2.0
8	Gordon	1730	W14	L2	W5	U---	2.0
9	S. McCord	303	L4	L6	W15	W12	2.0
10	Purvis	UNR	L7	W13	L6	W14	2.0
11	B. Draney	1800	W12	1/2	L2	U---	1.5
12	Aryana Vanaparti	896	L11	W15	L4	L9	1.0
13	Anika Vanaparti	1107	L3	L10	W16	L5	1.0
14	Contreras	517	L8	W16	L7	L10	1.0
15	Stritt	UNR	L5	L12	L9	W16	1.0
16	Jacob Ring	UNR	L2	L14	L13	L15	0.0

## Crane City Open Casual Section 8/16/2025

#	Name	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd7	Rd8	Total
1	Mahesh	W8	W3	W6	W7	W5	W2	D4	W9	7.5
2	Schroer	U---	U---	W9	W4	W6	L1	W3	W5	5.0
3	Slocum	W9	L1	W5	W6	W7	L4	L2	D8	4.5
4	M. Rosno	U---	L5	W10	L2	W9	W3	D1	W11	4.5
5	T. Rosno	U---	W4	L3	W8	L1	W7	W6	L2	4.0
6	Nuxoll	W11	W9	L1	L3	L2	W8	L5	Bye	4.0
7	Rick	U---	W11	W8	L1	L3	L5	Bye	W10	4.0
8	Albrecht	L1	Bye	L7	L5	W10	L6	W11	D3	3.5
9	C. McCord	L3	L6	L2	W11	L4	Bye	W10	L1	3.0
10	Lavassaur	U---	U---	L4	Bye	L8	W11	L9	L7	2.0
11	C. Ring	L6	L7	1/2	L9	Bye	L10	L8	L4	1.5

## Games from the Crane City Open

### Round 1

Draney 1800-Aryana Vanaparti 896

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 c3 dxc3 5 Nxc3 Bc5 6 Bc4 d6 7 0-0 Nf6  
8 e5 Nxe5 9 Nxe5 dxe5 10 Qxd8+ Kxd8 11 Bxf7 Ke7 12 Bb3 Bf5?! 13 Bg5 c6  
14 Rfe1 Bd4 15 h3 b5?! 16 Be3 Bxe3 17 Rxe3 Nd7 18 f4 Kf6 19 fxe5+ Nxe5  
20 Rf1 Nc4 21 Bxc4 bxc4 22 g4 g6 23 gxf5 gxf5 24 Ref3 Ke7 25 Rxf5 Rhf8?  
26 Rxf8 Rxf8 27 Rxf8 Kxf8 28 Kf2 Ke7 29 Kf3 Kf6 30 Kf4 a6 31 h4 h5 32  
Ne4+ Kg6 33 a4 a5 34 Nd6 Kf6 35 Nxc4 Ke6 36 Nxa5 Kd5 37 Nxc6 Kxc6  
38 b4 Kb6 39 Kg5 Resigns. (1-0)

### Round 3

Knapp 2028-Belashchenko 1960

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 a3 c4 7 Nbd2 Na5 8 Be2 Bd7  
9 0-0 Ne7 10 Rb1 Qc7 11 Re1 h6 12 h4 Nc8 13 Nf1 Nb6 14 Qd2 0-0-0  
15 Qf4 Ba4 16 Ne3 f5 17 h5 Be7 18 Qg3 Be8 19 Nh4 g5 20 hxg e.p. f4  
21 Qxf4 Bxh4 22 Qxh4 Bxg6 23 Bd2 Bxb1 24 Rxb1 Nb3 25 Be1 Qh7 26 Rd1  
h5 27 Qh3 Qg6 28 Bf3 Kb8 29 Nf1 Na4 30 Nd2 Nxb2 31 Nxb3 cxb3 32 Rc1  
Nc4 33 Qg3 Qf5 34 Qh3 Qg6 35 Qg3 Qh7 36 Resigns (0-1)

Koppinger 1561-Draney 1800

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 c4 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nc3 Ng4  
8 Qxg4 Nxd4 9 Qd1 Nc6 10 Be2 0-0 11 0-0 d6 12 Qd2 f5 13 Bh6 fxe4 14 Bxg7  
Kxg7 15 Nxe4 Qb6 16 c5 dxc5 17 Qc3+ e5 18 Nxc5 Qb4 19 Qxb4 Nxb4 20 Bf3  
Rb8 21 a3 Nc2 22 Rac1 Nd4 23 Bd1 Bf5?! 24 g4 b6?! 25 Na6 Bd3 26 Nxb8  
Bxf1 27 Nd7! Ne2+? 28 Bxe2 Bxe2 29 Nxf8 Kxf8 30 Re1 Bxg4 31 Rxe5 Kf7  
32 Kg2 Bd7 33 Kg3 b5 34 b4 h6 35 h4 Kf6 36 Kf4 a6 37 Rc5 Ke6 38 Rc7  
Kd6 39 Ra7 Bc8 40 Rg7 Bf5 41 Rg8 Bb1 42 Ra8 Kd5 43 Rxa6 Kc4 44 Ke5  
Kb3 45 Kd4 Bf5 46 Kc5 Bd3 47 f4 g5 48 fxg5 hxg5 49 hxg5 Resigns (0-1)

Matt played really well and outplayed me although my bad choice on move 24 helped him out as I overlooked he would be attacking my rook with Nd7 and I would have two pieces en prix. I might have been able to just drop the e pawn but instead blundered an exchange into a lost ending. He went on to tie for first in the event.

## Round 4

Foster 1609-Schiff 1644

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6 6 Nxc6 bxc6 7 Bd3 d5  
8 exd5 exd5 9 Bg5 h6 10 Qe2+ Be6 11 Bd2 Be7 12 0-0 0-0 13 h3 Re8  
14 Nd1 Bc5 15 Qf3 Nd7 16 Qg3 Qf6 17 Re1 Nf8 18 Bc3 d4 19 Bd2 Bd5  
20 Rxe8 Rxe8 21 Qf4? Re1+!! 22 Bf1 Qxf4 23 Bxf4 Bc4 24 Ne3 dxe3 25  
Resigns (0-1) A very nice tactical shot by Philip S.



## **An Insider's Report on the Cornhusker State Games by Gambit Intern Gabe Hoffman.**

Hello, hello! Welcome back to another article. This time, I am recording my experience from playing in the Cornhuskers state games. The Cornhusker State Games Chess event took place on July 19-20 and was held at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska. The event was directed by Michael Gooch, with assistance from Joaquin Siado and Nick Lacroix. The event drew 42 players and was 5 rounds long with a time control of G120, d5.

In this article, I will be including not just my games but also Luke Hengen's, who took clear first in the event, and will include some of his thoughts.

### **Round 1:**

#### **Luke Hengen (2044) – Phillip Schiff (1644)\***

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Bb4 3. Qc2 Bxc3 4. Qxc3 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. b3 (D)

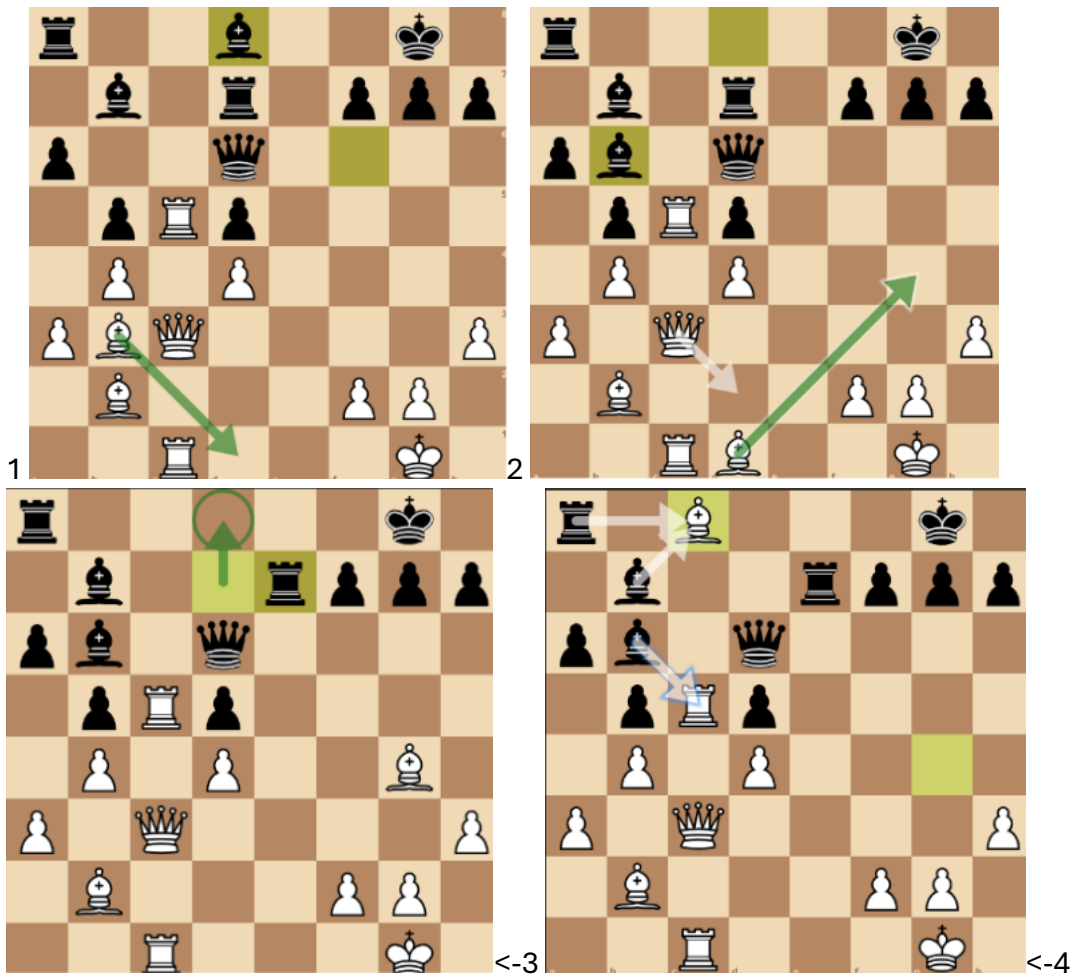


In this position, Luke stated that 6. B4 was probably better than B3, as it is more aggressive and grabs more space.

6. ...Nf6 7. Bb2 Bf5 8. d3 O-O 9. g3 Qd7 10. Bg2 Bh3 11. O-O Qg4 12. c5 Nd5 13. Qc4 Nf4 14. Bxh3 Nxh3+ (14... Nxe2+? 15. Kg2 Nf4+ 16. Qxf4!!) 15. Kg2 Nf4+ 16. Kh1 d5 17. Qa4 e4 18. gxf4 Qxf4 19. dxe4 dxe4 20. Qc4 Kh8 21. Qc3 f6 22. Nd4 Nxd4 23. Qxd4 Rad8 24. Qe3 Qxe3 25. fxe3 Rd2 26. Bd4 Rxe2 27. Rf4 f5 28. Rg1 Rf7 29. Rgf1 h6 30. Rxf5 Re7 31. Rf7 Black resigned (1-0)

#### **Gabe Hoffman (1272) – Aaron Peeksmease (1781)**

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. c4 Nf6 6. Nc3 e6, 7. a3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 a6 9. O-O Be7 10. b4 b5 11. Bb3 O-O 12. Bb2 Nd5 13. Rc1 Bb7 14. Re1 Bf6 15. Nxd5 exd5 16. Rc5 Nb8 17. Ne5 Nd7 18. Nxd7 Qxd7 19. Qf3 Rfd8 20. Rec1 Qd6 21. h3 Rd7 22. Qc3 Bd8 (D1) 23. Bd1 Bb6 (D2) 24. Bg4 Re7(D3) 25. Bc8 Bxc5 (D4)



The above positions are moves 22 – 25. I unintentionally trapped my rook, but found a nice tactic that I remembered from a chess life magazine issue on rerouting my pieces to the other side of the board. After Bc8, Aaron spent 30 minutes calculating here.

26. Bxb7 Rxb7 27. dxc5 d4 28. Qf3 Qe7 29. Bxd4 Rbb8 30. c6 Rc8 31. c7 Qd7 32. Be5 Re8 33. Rd1 Qe6 34. Bg3 Qe4 35. Qh5 h6 36. Qc5 f5 37. Rd4 Qe7 38. Qd5+ Qe6 39. Qf3 g5 40. Bd6 Qf7 41. Bc5 Rac8 42. Qc6 Qe6 43. Rd6 Qe5 44. Rg6+ Kh7 45. Rxh6+ Kg8 46. Qg6+ Qg7 47. Qh5 Qxc7 48. Rg6+ Kf7 49. Qh7# (1-0)

At the end of this game, Aaron was in serious time trouble with the clock reading at the end 14 seconds.

## Round 2

### Leo Iacono (1738) – Luke Hengen (2044)

1. e4 c5 2. d3 d6 3. Be2 Nc6 4. f4 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. O-O e6 7. c3 a6 8. a4 bd7 9. Kh1 Nf6 10. Qe1 O-O 11. Qh4 Nh5 12. Qxd8 Rfxd8 13. g4 Nf6 14. h3 b5 15. a5 Ne8 (With ideas of f5 and Nc7) 16. Be3 f5 17. g5 (Luke stated that the computer likes Nbd2, not touching the pawns) ...e5 18. Nbd2 fxe4 19. Ng1 exd3 20. Bxd3 Nc7 21. Ne4 Nd5 22. Bc1 Bf5 23. c4 bxc4 24. Nf6+ Bxc6 25. Bxc4 Be4+ 26. Kh2 Bg7 27. Re1 Kh8 (The bishop can't move otherwise Bxd5 27...Bf5? 28. Bxd5+) 28. Rxe4 Nxf4 29. Bxf4 exf4 30. Bd5 Rac8 31. Rae1 Bxb2 32. Bxc6 Rxc6 33. Re8+ Rxe8 34. Rxe8+ Kg7 35. Re7+ Kg8 36. Re8+ Kf7 37. Rh8 Bxh8 White resigned (0-1)

### Gabe Hoffman (1272) – Rakshith Seetharaman (1874)

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. c4 Nf6 6. Nc3 e6 7. a3 Be7 8. b4 a6 9. b5 axb5 10. Nxb5 O-O 11. Be2 dxc4 12. O-O Na5 13. Bf4 Nd5 14. Bg3 Bd7 15. Rb1 Bxb5 Rxb5 Nc3 17. Qc2 Nxb5 18. Rd1 Nxa3 19. Qe4 Nb5 20. Rc1 Qd5 21. Qg4 Qf5 22. Qxf5 exf5 23. h3 Bf6 24. d5 rfd8 25. Ne5 Bxe5 26. Bxe5 Re8 27. Ra1 rxe5 28. Bxc4 nd6 29. Bb5 Nxb5 30. h4 Rxd5 31. h5 h6 32. Kh2 Rdd8 33. Kh3 Nc6 34. Rb1 Rd5 35. f4 Rad8 36. Kh4 Ncd4 37. Rc1 Ne2 38. Re1 Nxf4 39. g4 Ng2+ 40. Kh3 Nxe1 41. Kg3 fxg4 42. Kh4 Rd3 43. Kxg4 g6 44. hxg6 fxg6 45. Kf4 R8d5 46. Ke4 Nc3+ 47. Kf4 b5 48. Kg4 R5d4#

After my first game, I had no time to get lunch and played poorly in this game.

## Round 3

### Luke Hengen (2044) – Benjamin Lyons (1898)

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. e3 Be7 5. b3 O-O 6. Bb2 c5 7. cxd5 exd5 8. d4 Nc6 9. Be2 Bf5 10. O-O Qd7 11. Ne5 Qc7 12. Nxc6 bxc6 13. dxc5 Bxc5 14. Rc1 Qd6 15. Bd3 Ng4 16. g3 Qh6 17. h4 Nxe3!! 18. fxe3 Qxe3+ 19. Kh2 Bxd3 20. Rf3 Qh6 21. Qxd3 Bd6 22. Kg2 Rae8 23. Nd1 Bb4 24. Ne3 Qe6 25. Qd4 Qh6 26. Nf5 Qd2+ 27. Qxd2 Bxd2 28. Rc2 Re2+ 29. Rf2 Rxf2+ 30. Kxf2

### Scott Look (1600) – Gabe Hoffman (1272)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 b6 3. Nbd2 Bb7 4. e3 e6 5. b3 Bb4 6. Bd3 O-O 7. O-O c5 8. Bb2 Bxf3 9. Nxf3 cxd4 10. exd4 Qc7 11. c4 d5 12. Ne5 dxc4 13. bxc4 Nc6 14. f4 Rfd8 15. Qf3 Rac8 16. d5 exd5 17. cxd5 Nxd5 18. Qh3 h6 19. Rac1 Bc5+ 20. Kh1 Nxe5 21. Bxe5 Qb7 22. Qg4 Bf8 23. Be4 Rxc1 24. Rxc1 Ne3 25. Qf3 Rc8 26. Rxc8 Qxc8 27. Qxe3 Qa6 28. Qf2 Bc5 29. Bd4 Qa4 30. Bxc5 Qxe4 31. Bd6 Qb1+ 32. Qg1 Qxa2 33. Qc1 a5 34. h3 a4 35. Qa3 Qb1+ 36. Kh2 b5 37. Qb4 Qd3 38. Qa3 Qd5 39. Kg3 Qf5 40. Bb4 Qd5 41. Qf3 Qf5 42. Qg4 Qd3+ 43. Kh4 Qd4 44. Qc8+ Kh7 45. Qc2+ Kg8 46. Qd2 Qe4 (D) Draw by agreement (1/2-1/2)



At this point, it was 9:30 pm, we were both tired, and no progress had been made. Even though I am down a piece, my two passers are absurdly strong, containing the bishop and limiting the queen.

#### Round 4

##### Steven Cusumano (1926) – Luke Hengen (2044)

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. h4 Bd7 10. Qg3 Nxd4 11. Rxd4 Kh8 12. f4 Qb6 13. Rd2 Rfc8 14. e5 Rxc3 15. Qxc3 Ne4 16. Qd3 Nxd2 (Luke stated that he has played this exact same position against Steve before; this time he improves with Bxe7, last time he played Qxd2.) 17. Bxe7 Nxf1 18. Rxf1 Bb5 19. Qf3 Bxf1 20. Qxf1 Qe3+ 21. Kb1 dxe5 22. fxe5 Qxe5 23. b3 Rc8 24. Ba3 Qe4. White resigned (0-1)

##### Gabe Hoffman (1272) – John Davidson (1757)

This was arguably my worst game of the year.

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Bc5 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. Bc4 O-O 8. O-O d6 9. Re1?? Ng4 10. Be3 Bxe3 11. fxe3 Qh4 12. Qf3 Qxh2+ 13. Kf1 Ne5 14. Qe2 Bg4 15. Qf2 Nxc4 16. Ne2?? (Blundering mate) Nd2# (0-1)

## Round 5

### Luke Hengen (2044) – Siddharth Parthasarathy (1929)

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Qxd4 Nc6 4. Qd3 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Nf3 a6 7. Be2 b5 8. O-O Bb7 9. a4 b4 10. Nd5 e6 11. Nxf6+ Qxf6 12. Bg5 Qg6 13. Qe3 (D1) (Trying to invade the b6 and threatening to trap black's queen with Nh4) 13 ...Ne5? (D2 + D3)



The problem with Ne5 is that the knight can be taken.



Whereas the other option... 3 Nd8! Black now threatens to take on e4 and doesn't allow the knights to be traded.

14. Nxe5 dxe5 15. Qb6 Qxg5 16. Qxb7 (Bb5+ would have been better, but he stopped calculating after 18. Rfd1+ instead, if he had seen Qxb7, he would have had a very strong attack.  
16. Bb5+ axb5 17. Qxb5+ Kd8 [18. Rfd1?? Kc8] 18. Qxb7! Rc8 19. Rfd1+ Bd6 20. Rxd6+ Ke8 21. Qxc8+ Ke7 +-)  
16 ...Rd8 17. Bxa6 Be7 18. Bb5+ Kf8 19. Rfd1 g6 20. Rxd8+ Bxd8 21. a5 Bxa5 22. Rxa5 Kg7  
23. Ra7 Rf8 24. Bf1 Qd2 25. Qc7 Qd4 26. Ra5 Kf6 27. Qc5 Rd8 28. Qxd4 Rxd4 29. f3 Rd2 30.  
Rb5 Rxc2 31. Rxb4 Rc1 32. Rb7 Rb1 33. b4 Kg5 34. b5 Kf6 35. b6 Kg5 36. Kf2 f5 37. Rb8 Kf4  
38. h4 Rb2+ 39. Be2 fxe4 40. Rf8#

They played each other again in the last round of the split Swiss at the Jack Spence Chess Club on Wednesday, and that game ended in a draw.

### **Frederik Ohles (1451) – Gabe Hoffman (1272)**

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 d5 4. e3 b6 5. b3 Bb7 6. Ne2 Nbd7 7. Bb2 Nc5 (Threatening to invade via Nd3) 8. d4 dxc4 9. dxc5 Qxd1+ 10. Kxd1 bxc2 11. Rg1 Bf3 12. Ke1 Bxe2 13. kxe2 cxb3 14. axb3 Bxc5 15. Nc3 O-O 16. h3 Rfd8 17. Nb5 a5 18. Rgd1 Nd5 19. e4 c6 20. Nd4 Nb4 21. Bc3 Bxd4 22. Rxd4 Rxd4 23. Bxd4 Nc2 24. Rd1 Nxd4+ 25 Rxd4 Kf8 26. Kd3 Ke7 27. Kc4 a4 28. b4 a3 29. Rd1 a2 30. Ra1 Kd6 31. f4 Ra3 White Resigned (0-1)

### **\*All ratings listed are the pre-event ratings according to the USCF event summary.**

I ended this tournament with a 2.5 out of 5 final score, and I won the greatest upset trophy. My rating jumped from 1272 to 1412. Overall, not a bad day at the office. I hope you enjoyed this article. I look forward to writing more for the Gambit in the future! Special thanks to Luke Hengen for letting me include his games and thoughts.

### **\*EDITOR'S NOTE\***

Gabe is a special contributor to the Gambit this year and the Lincoln Chess Foundation and the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame awarded him a \$1,000.00 scholarship at the end of the last school year to help him continue his education. He is currently enrolled at Metro Community College here in Omaha and has agreed to supply me with articles about his chess “adventures”. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> offering (his first was about his experiences at Super Nationals back in May). Gabe is a frequent participant in events at the Spence Club which meets every Wednesday night here in Omaha at West Hills Church at about 82<sup>nd</sup> and Hascal.

Gabe is also capable of playing quite well and is not afraid to take on even the toughest opponents. Even in losing Gabe uses it to improve which is exactly the right approach for any player to take. Rod Malpert even says, you learn a lot more from your losses than you do from your wins, because sometimes the wins are against inferior players.

Thanks also go to Luke Hengen who contributed his analysis and his games to this article. Luke is only 15 and just exceeded the 2100 barrier making him the highest ranked K-12 player in the state. Luke is defending State Co-Champion and also won the Cornhusker State Games with a perfect 5-0 score, which is no easy task, considering the Games are usually one of the strongest tournaments of the year.

Expect more articles from Gabe in the future as he is showing a talent for chess journalism. Perhaps he's a future Jack Spence, Kent Nelson or Bruce Draney in the making.

## SMALLER CLUB OR LOCAL EVENTS IN NEBRASKA IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER

**Spence Club**-The club always runs rated events and in August, three different events were held on the 4 Wednesdays in the month. On August 6<sup>th</sup> Quick Quads with a time control of G/20;d5 attracted 12 people. The top quad was won by Sidd Parthasarathy with 2-1, the 2<sup>nd</sup> quad was won by Chris Kisicki with 2.5-.5 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quad was won by Matt Koppinger with 3-0. On August 13 and August 20<sup>th</sup>, a series of two game matches were held with players matched against opponents close in rating. Each player had one white and one black and the time control was G/85;d5. On Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup>, the club held an action Swiss that drew 14 and was won by Nick Lacroix and Luke Hengen both with 4.5-.5.

**Chess Rockerz**-Seetharaman Renganathan ran two back to school tournaments on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>. The first event drew 14 and had 3 sections, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one drew only 11 players. Rakshith Seetharaman won the Open section in both events.

**Nicholas Gordon** ran a special memorial G/15 action event in memory of his father on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. The event was directed by Joaquin Siado, drew 14 players and was won by Nick Lacroix with 5.5-.5

**The Millard Library Chess Club** held a double round robin team FRO Blitz event called the Nebraska Volleyball vs Nebraska Football FRO. Chris Kisicki took first with 6-0 and the VB team of Kisicki, Draney and Palapati won the team title 11-7.

**On Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the SCC chess club** hosted another G/10 action event. It drew 19 players and was won by Kirill Belashchenko with 5-0.

**On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Post** held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Classical Chess Tournament. It drew 13 players and was won by Nick Lacroix and Wesley Gizel both with 3-0.

**Spence Club** activity in September included a 2-week long G/35 Swiss that drew 13 and was won by Sidd Parthasarathy with 4-0 on Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The annual club championship began on September 17<sup>th</sup> and will conclude in October.

**On Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>**, Jerry Slominski organized a chess tournament at the Bellevue Public Library. The event was directed by Bruce Draney and drew a total of 10 players and was won by Cesar Marin Silva with 3-0.

## NSCA Action/Blitz championships 9/13/2025

The NSCA State Action and Blitz Championships were held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at UNO in Omaha and were directed by John Hartmann. The G/10+2 drew 19 players and the G/3+2 drew 15 players. The Nebraska State Action (G10+2) Champion is Luke Hengen who scored 5-1. The Nebraska State Blitz (G/3+2) Champion is Rakshith Seetharaman with 8-4.

### NSCA G/10+2 Action Championship 9/13/2025

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
1	Hengen	1891	W11	W13	W8	W6	W4	L3	5.0
2	Aa Wadhwa	1913	L4	W12	D13	W18	W6	W8	4.5
3	An Wadhwa	1819	W15	D7	D4	W10	D8	W1	4.5
4	Rak Seetharaman	1647	W2	W9	D3	W16	L1	W7	4.5
5	JJ Lang	2020	L13	W15	L16	W19	W10	W9	4.0
6	Knapp	1766	W14	D16	W7	L1	L2	W13	3.5
7	T. Jessop	1655	W17	D3	L6	W13	W16	L4	3.5
8	Polacek	1673	W19	W18	L1	W9	D3	L2	3.5
9	Buckley	1710	W12	L4	W17	L8	W18	L5	3.0
10	Dutiel	1708	L16	W14	W11	L3	L5	W17	3.0
11	Mills	1641	L1	W19	L10	L14	Bye	W16	3.0
12	Koppinger	1580	L9	L2	D14	W17	D15	W18	3.0
13	Parthasarathy	1717	W5	L1	D2	L7	W14	L6	2.5
14	Zeisler	1598	L6	L10	D12	W11	L13	Bye	2.5
15	Gordon	1550	L3	L5	L18	Bye	D12	W19	2.5
16	Sandquist	1423	W10	D6	W5	L4	L7	L11	2.5
17	Rith Seetharaman	1306	L7	Bye	L9	L12	W19	L10	2.0
18	Mora	931	Bye	L8	W15	L2	L9	L12	2.0
19	Katta	1184	L8	L11	Bye	L5	L17	L15	1.0



## NSCA G/3+2 State Blitz Championship 9/13/2025 Double Swiss

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
1	Aa Wadhwa	1994	W11x2	W15x2	D2x2	W6x2	W9x2	W8-D8	10.5
2	An Wadhwa	1845	W10x2	W12x2	D1x2	L9-w9	W5x2	W6-D6	9.5
3	RaSeetharaman	1551	L5-W5	W4-L4	W12x2	W9-L8	W7-L7	W9x2	8.0
4	Zeisler	1454	D7-L7	L3-W3	L10x2	W12x2	W14x2	W11x2	7.5
5	Hengen	1828	W3-L3	W7x2	L9x2	W11x2	L2x2	W10x2	7.0
6	Polacek	1753	W14x2	W9-L9	Wfx2	L1x2	W8-L8	L2-D2	6.5
7	Knapp	1773	D4-W4	L5x2	W11-L11	W10-L10	L3-W3	W13x2	6.5
8	Parthasarathy	1627	L9x2	W13x2	W14x2	L3-W3	L6-W6	L1-D1	6.5
9	JJ Lang	1936	W8x2	L6-W6	W5x2	W2-L2	L1x2	L3x2	6.0
10	Jessop	1567	L2x2	L11-D11	W4x2	L7-W7	W13x2	L5x2	5.5
11	Dutiel	1700	L1x2	W10-D10	L7-W7	L5x2	W12x2	L4x2	4.5
12	RiSeetharaman	967	Byex2	L2x2	L3x2	L4x2	L11x2	W14x2	4.0
13	Koppinger	1416	L15x2	L8x2	Byex2	W14-L14	L10x2	L7x2	3.0
14	Mora	UNR	L6x2	Byex2	L8x2	L13-W13	L4x2	L12x2	3.0
15	Buckley	1763	W13x2	L1x2	Lfx2	-----	-----	-----	2.0

\*Aayush Wadhwa and Ananya Wadhwa are from Kansas so they are ineligible to be Nebraska State Blitz Champions even though they finished 1 and 2 in the standings.

## Bellevue Library Tournament 9/20/2025

Jerry Slominski organized and Bruce Draney directed a 3 round G/30;d5 tournament at the Bellevue Public Library on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. An unrated section drew 5 players. Winner was Cesar Marin Silva who outlasted Scott Look in Round 3, winning on time.

#	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Total
1	Silva	1449	W9	W4	W3	3.0
2	J. Slominski	1791	L4	W8	W7	2.0
3	Look	1600	W7	W5	L1	2.0
4	Holsinger	1304	W2	L1	W6	2.0
5	G. Slominski	1330	W10	L3	W8	2.0
6	Schaal	1527	L8	W9	L4	1.0
7	Bitterman	1173	L3	W10	L2	1.0
8	Mora	1112	W6	L2	L5	1.0
9	Pallepati	1010	L1	L6	W10	1.0
10	Mahesh	425	L5	L7	L9	0.0

National G/30 and G/60 Championships Council Bluffs, IA 9/27-28/2025

National G/30 Championship 9/27/2025 Directed by NTD CJ Armenta

Open Section

#	Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	McEntee	2200	W17	W18	W7	W4	D3	4.5
2	R. Seetharaman	1905	L10	W17	W18	W8	W5	4.0
3	Rana	1983	L18	W15	W10	W11	D1	3.5
4	Buckley	1783	W16	D11	W13	L1	W7	3.5
5	Zulic	1900	L11	W16	W14	W13	L2	3.0
6	Patel	1828	L14	W9	L8	W19	W11	3.0
7	T. Jessop	1788	W9	W10	L1	W12	L4	3.0
8	Singh	1476	W15	L12	W6	L2	W13	3.0
9	Desai	1464	L7	L6	Bye	W18	W14	3.0
10	Kantem	1690	W2	L7	L3	D15	W19	2.5
11	Sama	1664	W5	D4	W12	L3	L6	2.5
12	Makeeff	1396	1/2	W8	L11	L7	W15	2.5
13	Imada	1746	W19	W14	L4	L5	L8	2.0
14	Voynov	1580	W6	L13	L5	W17	L9	2.0
15	Kisicki	1812	L8	L3	W16	D10	L12	1.5
16	Kuhlmann	1380	L4	L5	L15	Bye	1/2	1.5
17	Gaul	1739	L1	L2	W19	L14	U---	1.0
18	Gordon	1700	W3	L1	L2	L9	U---	1.0
19	Karunaiprakasam	1321	L13	Bye	L17	L6	L10	1.0
20	Kesharwani	873	D14	L6	L11	L12	L21	0.5

U.S. G/60 National Championship Open Section 9/28/2025

#	Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	McEntee	2200	W7	W4	D2	D3	3.0
2	Seetharaman	1930	W5	D3	D1	W6	3.0
3	Parthasarathy	1963	D6	D2	W5	D1	2.5
4	Patel	1797	W8	L1	W6	1/2	2.5
5	Koppinger	1683	L2	W8	L3	Bye	2.0
6	Gaul	1703	D3	W7	L4	L2	1.5
7	Imada	1714	L1	L6	W8	1/2	1.5
8	Evans	1603	L4	L5	L7	U--	0.0

#	Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Glasnapp	1111	W6	W9	W14	W8	W2	5.0
2	Mills	1685	W19	W27	W18	W3	L1	4.0
3	Nguyen	1653	W28	W17	W7	L2	W9	4.0
4	Look	1600	D16	D5	W20	W13	W14	4.0
5	Sebesta	UNR	D15	D4	W19	W7	W6	4.0
6	Lauser	1642	L1	W30	W16	W18	L5	3.0
7	Fuller	1618	W11	W10	L3	L5	W20	3.0
8	Morales	1600	W20	L18	W12	L1	W16	3.0
9	Pleso	1567	W21	L1	W23	W10	L3	3.0
10	Gomez	1476	W13	L7	W21	L9	W22	3.0
11	Nair	1067	L7	D25	W30	D17	W23	3.0
12	Velin	976	W25	L14	L8	W30	W18	3.0
13	Vikram	899	L10	W22	W27	L4	W17	3.0
14	Sarkar	1421	D30	W12	L1	W15	L4	2.5
15	Su Nguyen	1281	D5	L16	W25	L14	W27	2.5
16	Paupoo	994	D4	W15	L6	W27	L8	2.5
17	Slominski	1362	W23	L3	1/2	D11	L13	2.0
18	Holsinger	1304	W22	W8	L2	L6	L12	2.0
19	Katta	1263	L2	W24	L5	L22	W28	2.0
20	Schuck	1051	L8	W29	L4	W24	L7	2.0
21	Kumar	972	L9	Bye	L10	L23	W30	2.0
22	Verma	UNR	L18	L13	W29	W19	L10	2.0
23	Gurnsey	UNR	L17	W28	L9	W21	L11	2.0
24	Vargas	UNR	L26	L19	W28	L20	W29	2.0
25	Ramkumar	841	L12	D11	L15	L29	Bye	1.5
26	Makeef	1396	W24	WD	-----	-----	-----	1.0
27	Seetharaman	1356	W29	L2	L13	L16	L15	1.0
28	Dhanda	1188	L3	L23	L24	Bye	L19	1.0
29	Medel	UNR	L27	L20	L22	W25	L24	1.0

#	Name	Rtg	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Gomez	1459	W17	W9	D6	W4	3.5
2	Kantem	1627	W10	L4	W13	W6	3.0
3	Pleso	1541	W12	D13	D8	W10	3.0
4	Adduri	1543	W16	W2	W11	L1	3.0
5	Qiang	1449	W14	L6	W15	W11	3.0
6	Schiff	1541	W7	W5	D1	L2	2.5
7	Holsinger	1404	L6	D14	W18	W13	2.5
8	Look	1609	W15	L11	D3	1/2	2.0
9	Lauser	1609	L11	L1	W14	W16	2.0
10	Sarkar	1484	L2	W16	W12	L3	2.0
11	Seetharaman	1263	W9	W8	L4	L5	2.0
12	Mora	1161	L3	W18	L10	W15	2.0
13	Nguyen	1680	W18	D3	L2	W7	1.5
14	Medel	851	L5	D7	L9	Bye	1.5
15	Suri Nguyen	1292	L8	W17	L5	L12	1.0
16	Bitterman	1167	L4	L10	Bye	L9	1.0
17	Nair	1203	L1	L15	1/2	U---	0.5
18	Jacobs	1400	L13	L12	L7	U---	0.0

There was a G/5 Blitz tournament held on Saturday after the main event ended. It was 7 rounds and there was a 3-way tie for first between Rana Oliver, Mark Barber and Rakshith Seetharaman all with 5.5-1.5. Jessica Lauser took 4<sup>th</sup> with 5-2.

There was a Rated Beginners Open (RBO) held on Saturday only. An RBO is open to any players rated under 1300 although they usually attract larger numbers of children and young people. The winner of the RBO was Edward Lucas Jessop with a perfect score of 5-0. There was a 4-way tie for second place between Rhudra Pittala Jr., Avery Van Ess, Thanush Bokka and Seetharaman Renganathan all with 4-1.

While the overall numbers were decent, the lack of high rated players participating in two national championships was a concern. Why did almost all of Nebraska's Masters, Experts and A Players not play? Was the entry fee too high? Was it just a bad weekend for people who had plans? Were people scared off by the fast time controls? Did people dislike the organizer, director or playing site? Since Nebraska's football team was on a bye this could not have been the reason. For me there was a family conflict involving a major wedding. I also refuse to play G/30, although I probably would have played in the G/60. Anyway, thanks to Seetharaman Renganathan for organizing the event and NTD Armenta for directing.

## FINAL THOUGHTS BY GAMBIT EDITOR BRUCE DRANEY

This wraps up the largest Gambit issue I've ever produced spanning 58 pages. I've tried to cover about every base here from cross tables and games, to articles by guest contributors like Gabe Hoffman and Bob Woodworth.

Some very exciting news has recently happened. This past week, Gary Colvin, Rod Malpert and I chose three new people to join the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame in the class of 2025.

Two of the three are still living and both have been formally notified of the honor. One of them is Michael Dreiger who won two State Closed Championships and earned a National Master title. Michael has also won numerous tournaments over the course of his 40-year Nebraska career and has spent his entire chess playing career in the state. The other one is Roger Anderson who will be 90 in May. Roger shared a state title for the 1972 Midwest Open and also captured an Omaha City Championship in 1965, defeating Howard Ohman. Roger is responsible for starting the oldest Nebraska Chess Club still in existence called the Camelot Chess Club which has met on Friday afternoons for over 20 years at the Camelot Community Center. Roger will join Bart Lewis, Bob Woodworth and Bud Narveson as our 4 most senior members of the Hall of Fame. Roger's entire career spanning 6 decades has been spent in Omaha.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> inductee is John Hobbs Mockett Jr. of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mockett is one of Nebraska's strongest players in history that very few of us really know much about. He won a total of 6 Nebraska State Championships at the turn of the century. He won 4 in a row from 1907-1910 and then returned after 4 years to win two more in a row in 1915-1916. In 1917, Reverend Ohman dethroned him and proceeded to win the next 24 years in a row, which is probably why Mockett was sort of forgotten. Mockett also served as President of the original NSCA in 1908 and had there been a rating system back then he probably was Master level strength. His 6 State Championships are the 3<sup>rd</sup> most ever in Nebraska history behind only Howard Ohman and Keaton Kiewra.

I hope you enjoy this issue and although I've proofread and tried to double check, let me know if you see any glaring errors in games, cross tables or content.

See you at the end of December,

Bruce