

The Gambit

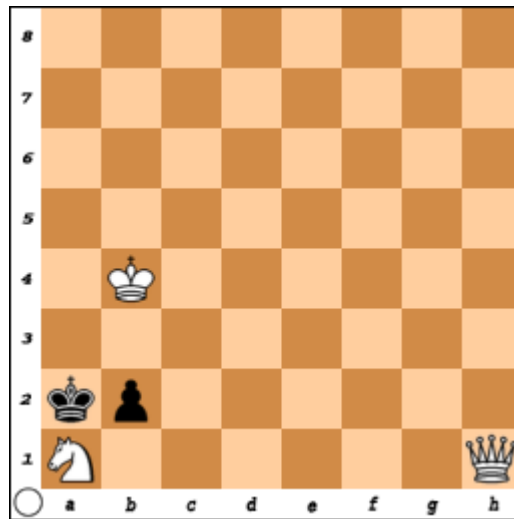
The Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

Volume 4: October 1st-December 31st, 2025

Rauf Aliovsadzade

This problem was first published at Bakupages.com in 2023.



Mate in Four

1.Qg2! (waiting).

If 1...Kxa1 then 2.Qa8+ Kb1 3.Kc3 Kc1 4.Qh1#.

And if 1...Kb1 then 2.Nb3 Ka2 3.Kc3 Ka3 4.Qa8# (3...Kb1 4.Qxb2#).

Note the Queen's sweeping moves.

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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

President-Kent Nelson, Treasurer-Bruce Draney, Secretary Andrea Draney,
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Omaha Chess Community

President-Nick Lacroix
Omaha, NE

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Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame 14002 Frederick CIR Omaha NE 68138

President-Bruce Draney (gambiteer49@yahoo.com) 2025-2026 HOF Selection
Committee: Gary Colvin, Bruce Draney, Rod Malpert, Loren Schmidt.

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

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

LINCOLN SCC Chess Club-Meets on Wednesday nights at SE Community College 89th & O ST, Lincoln, NE for casual 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 is President.

OUTSTATE:

Beatrice Chess Club-Meets on Tuesday 6-8 PM at Beatrice Public Library 100 N 16th 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 1st 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 1st 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, Leo Iacono Webmaster

Facebook: Nebraska Chess Community group, Nebraska Chess History group, Central Nebraska Chess Club Group, UNO Chess Group

National Online Chess Playing Sites

Chess.com Lichess.com

EDITOR'S NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is my 14th issue as editor of the Gambit. I've now chronicled Nebraska chess news (and history) for 5 years including two retrospective issues covering the Covid 19 years of 2020 and 2021. We have returned to a quarterly publication schedule so that news is more current. As always, I like to take the time at the beginning of each issue to thank people who have worked with me to keep this publication interesting and timely and who help me to promote chess in various ways.

Rauf Aliovsadzade-Rauf continues to supply me with chess puzzles to adorn the cover of every issue.

Gary Colvin-Gary served on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for the past year and not only helped select the new nominations for this year's class of 2025, Gary also donated money and time to promoting the Hall of Fame. Gary is leaving the committee as of December 31st but gave out awards to our new members on December 27th at the Hall of Fame Memorial here in Omaha.

Rod Malpert-Rod continues to support Nebraska chess in oh so many ways not only financially but by attending events like the Crane City Open in Kearney in August and the G/30 National Championship in Council Bluffs on September 27th.

Nick Lacroix-Nick is invaluable to me as editor as he puts many of the games from major Nebraska events into a Lichess database so I can quickly copy and paste them into the Gambit next to the cross tables.

Leo Iacono-Leo is in charge of the NSCA website and people don't realize how great it is to have a website with current news and information that is updated frequently. Leo puts my Gambits up on the website within a week of my sending them to him.

Jerry Slominski, Leo Iacono, Tony Dutiel, Eric Ring, and Joaquin Siado who all organize and direct dozens of chess tournaments. Jerry and Leo have both just started directing by getting their club director certificate and taking the Safe Play training required.

Local Events in Nebraska in October

October 6th-Monthly G/10 Action event at SCC in Lincoln drew only 6 players so it was a six player round robin. Winners were Nick Gordon and Michael Schaal both with 3.5-1.5.

October 10th-National Chess Day Kickoff Scholastic and Open in Omaha at UNO, drew 31 players in 4 sections. Team champions were Millard North High School, Middle North Middle School and Lincoln Chinese Academy. A La Tere Academy took 2nd in the high school, East Butler took home 2nd in the middle school, and Reagan Elementary of Millard took 2nd in the elementary. The Open was won by Rakshith Seetharaman with 3-0.

October 11th-The Chiefs-Lions team blitz event was held at the Millard Public Library in Omaha and drew 7 players. The Chiefs were led by Josh Kruse who won the event with a 4-0 score. Bruce Draney led the Lions and finished 2nd overall with 2.5-1.5. The final round was just paired as a regular Swiss since the Chiefs only had 3 players.

October 18th-The annual Lincoln City Championship was held in Lincoln on Saturday October 18th. It drew a respectable 28 players in the Open section and another 4 to a small RBO. Co-Champions were Rakshith Seetharaman and Sidd Parthasarathy. The RBO was won by Aryana Vanaparti with 3-0. The event was organized by John Linscott and directed by Tony Dutiel.

October 22nd-The Spence Club in Omaha concluded its six-week long club championship. The event drew 21 and was won by Luke Hengen and Sidd Parthasarathy both with scores of 5-1.

October 26th-The Millard Library Chess Club concluded its 2-week long 1st ever club championship. The event drew 9 players although one player failed to show for rounds 3 and 4. The winner was Nikshith Alagankancharla with a score of 4-0. Nikshith beat both me and Scott Look and he wins a traveling trophy which he can keep for one year. A plate with his name on it will be attached to the plaque, showing him as 2025 Club Champion.

Lincoln City Championship 10/18/2025-Lincoln, Nebraska, organized by NSCA
Lincoln Vice President John Linscott, and directed by Senior TD Tony Dutiel

Open Section Standings

#	Name	Rtg	R1	R2	R3	R4	Tot
1	Sidd Parthasarathy	1966	W13	W11	W10	D2	3.5
2	Rakshith Seetharaman	1959	W17	W8	W7	D1	3.5
3	VanDeGraaff	2094	W20	L7	W16	W12	3.0
4	Lacroix	2059	W21	D9	W19	D5	3.0
5	Cusumano	1962	D16	W26	W9	D4	3.0
6	Osborne	1883	D14	W27	1/2	W11	3.0
7	Linscott	1766	W24	W3	L2	W15	3.0
8	Koppinger	1684	W15	L2	W18	W10	3.0
9	Thomas Jessop	1790	W23	D4	L5	W19	2.5
10	O'Connor	1800	W18	W12	L1	L8	2.0
11	Iacono	1698	W25	L1	W20	L6	2.0
12	Nikshith Alagankancharla	1681	W28	L10	W13	L3	2.0
13	Kantem	1655	L1	W25	L12	W26	2.0
14	Adduri	1564	D6	L19	W26	D21	2.0
15	Farajov	UNR	L8	W17	W21	L7	2.0
16	Solheim	1513	D5	W22	L3	1/2	2.0
17	Schiff	1528	L2	L15	W24	W25	2.0
18	Schaal	1467	L10	W28	L8	W23	2.0
19	Gordon	1700	D27	W14	L4	L9	1.5
20	Look	1602	L3	W24	L11	1/2	1.5
21	Riegsecker	1604	L4	W23	L15	D14	1.5
22	Grant Johnson	1235	1/2	L16	W27	U---	1.5
23	Ri Seetharaman	1321	L9	L21	W28	L18	1.0
24	Savage	1291	L7	L20	L17	W27	1.0
25	Edward Jessop	1162	L11	L13	Bye	L17	1.0
26	Aryana Vanaparti	854	Bye	L5	L14	L13	1.0
27	Rui Tao	1291	D19	L6	L22	L24	0.5
28	Luke Johnson	UNR	L12	L18	L23	U--	0.0

Lincoln City RBO

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Aryana Vanaparti	852	W3	W4	W2	3.0
2	Sama	592	W4	D3	L1	1.5
3	Iyer	335	L1	D2	W4	1.5
4	Rai	444	L2	L1	L3	0.0

Games from the Lincoln City Championship

Round 1:

Riegsecker-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bf4 Bf5 4. e3 e6 5. Nf3 c6 6. Ne5 h6 7. Bd3 Bxd3 8. cxd3 Nbd7 9. O-O Be7 10. e4 O-O 11. Nxd7 Nxd7 12. Qd2 Rc8 13. Rfe1 Bf6 14. e5 Be7 15. Rac1 Kh7 16. Na4 c5 17. dxc5 Nxc5 18. Nxc5 Bxc5 19. d4 Bb6 20. Rxc8 Qxc8 21. Rc1 Qd7 22. Qc3 Qa4 23. Be3 Qxa2 24. Qb4 Re8 25. Qb5 Rg8 26. Qd7 Qxb2 27. Qxf7 Bxd4 28. Qxe6 Bxe3 29. Qf5+ Kh8 (0-1)

Kantem-Parthasarathy

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bc4 e6 5. d4 cxd4 6. Nxd4 a6 7. a3 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. Bb3 Re8 10. h3 b5 11. Qe2 Bb7 12. Rd1 Qc7 13. a4 b4 14. Na2 Bxe4 15. Nxb4 Qb7 16. f3 Bg6 17. Qe1 e5 18. Ne2 Qb6+ 19. Kh1 Nc6 20. Nd5 Nxd5 21. Bxd5 Bxc2 22. Rd2 Bb3 23. a5 Qb7 24. Be4 d5 25. Bxd5 Bxd5 26. Rxd5 Nd4 27. Nc3 Nc2 28. Qd1 Nxa1 29. Rd7 Qb3 30. Qe2 Qc2 31. Bd2 Rad8 32. Rxd8 Rxd8 33. Qxe5 Bf6 (0-1)

Round 2:

Koppinger-Rakshith Seetharaman

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. Nf3 Nd7 8. h5 Bh7 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 e6 11. Bd2 Ngf6 12. Qe2 Be7 13. O-O-O O-O 14. Kb1 a5 15. Ne4 Nxe4 16. Qxe4 Nf6 17. Qe2 a4 18. g4 Qd5 19. g5 hxg5 20. Bxg5 a3 21. c4 Qf5+ 22. Qd3 Qxd3+ 23. Rxd3 axb2 24. Kxb2 Ra4 25. c5 Rd8 26. Re1 Bxc5 27. Red1 Be7 28. Rb3 Rda8 29. Rxb7 Rxa2+ 30. Kb3 R8a3+ 31. Kc4 Rc2# (0-1)

Linscott Van De Graaff

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d4 Nxe4 4. Bd3 d5 5. Nxe5 Bd6 6. O-O O-O 7. Re1 f5 8. c4 c5 9. cxd5 cxd4 10. Nf3 Nf6 11. Bg5 h6 12. Bxf6 Qxf6 13. Nbd2 g5 14. Nb3 a5 15. a4 Bb4 16. Qc2 Bxe1 17. Rxe1 Na6 18. Bxa6 Rxa6 19. Nfxd4 Qf7 20. Nb5 Qxd5 21. Rd1 Rc6 22. Nc3 Qe5 23. Qd2 Re8 24. h4 f4 25. Nb5 g4 26. Nxa5 Rf6 27. Nc4 Qc5 28. Ncd6 Rd8 29. b4 Qh5 30. Qd4 g3 31. fxg3 fxg3 32. Rd3 Rg6 33. Qc4+ Be6 34. Qd4 Qe2 35. Rf3 Bh3 36. Qd5+ Kh8 37. Rf1 Qe3+ 38. Kh1 Bxg2+ 39. Qxg2 Rg4 40. Qb2+ Rg7 41. Qxg7+ Kxg7 42. Nf5+ Kg6 43. Nxe3 Kh5 44. Kg2 Kxh4 (1-0)

Games from the Lincoln City Championship 10/18/2025

Round 3:

Thomas Jessop-Cusumano

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. O-O O-O 7. h3 h6 8. Re1 a6 9. a4 Ba7 10. Nbd2 Re8 11. b4 Be6 12. Bb2 Bxc4 13. dxc4 Ne7 14. Nf1 Ng6 15. g3 Nf8 16. Bc1 Qe7 17. Qc2 Qe6 18. Kg2 Qxc4 19. g4 Ne6 20. g5 hxg5 21. Nxcg5 Nxcg5 22. Bxcg5 Qe6 23. Ng3 g6 24. h4 Ng4 25. f3 f6 26. Bd2 Nf2 27. Rh1 Nxc1 28. Rxc1 Kf7 29. h5 Rh8 30. hxg6+ Kxc6 31. Qd1 Kf7 32. Rxc8 Rxc8 33. Nf5 Rg8+ 34. Kh2 Ke8 35. Bh6 Qf7 36. f4 Qa2+ (0-1)

Iacono-Look

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Bd3 Bg7 6. Qe2 Qa5 7. Bd2 e5 8. O-O Qc7 9. a4 O-O 10. h3 Nh5 11. Be3 a5 12. Rac1 Nd7 13. Qd2 Nb6 14. dxe5 dxe5 15. b3 Nf4 16. Ne2 Bxc3 17. Nxf4 exf4 18. Bxf4 Qd7 19. gxh3 Qxc3 20. Qe3 c5 21. Ng5 Qg4+ 22. Qg3 Qd7 23. Bb5 Qd4 24. Rfd1 (1-0)

Round 4:

Iacono-Osborne

1. e4 c6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 e5 4. Ngf3 Bd6 5. d4 exd4 6. exd5 Nf6 7. dxc6 Nxc6 8. Bb5 O-O 9. O-O Bg4 10. h3 Bh5 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. g4 Nxc4 13. hxg4 Bxc4 14. Ne4 Bc7 15. Qd3 Re8 16. Bg5 Qd5 17. Rfe1 Re6 18. Bd2 Rg6 19. Kh1 Qh5+ (0-1)

Gordon-Thomas Jessop

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 h6 8. Bh4 Bd7 9. Ndb5 Qb8 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. Nd4 a6 12. g3 Bg7 13. Qd2 f5 14. Nf3 fxe4 15. Nxe4 d5 16. Nc3 b5 17. O-O-O Qb6 18. Bg2 Qa5 19. Kb1 O-O 20. Ne2 Qb6 21. Rhe1 a5 22. Ned4 Nxd4 23. Nxd4 b4 24. Nf3 Rfc8 25. Ne5 Be8 26. Bh3 a4 27. Qd4 Qb5 28. Qd3 b3 29. cxb3 axb3 30. a3 Qb8 31. Qe3 Rc2 32. Rd2 Qc7 33. Qe2 Ba4 34. Rxc2 bxc2+ 35. Kc1 Rb8 36. Qa6 Bb5 (0-1)

OMAHA METRO HIGH SCHOOL CHESS LEAGUE CONCLUDES ITS FALL SEASON.

This year, 8 high schools in the Omaha metro area participated in our Metro High School Chess League. The winner after the 7 round, round-robin event was Millard North who finished with 6.5-.5. Omaha Central was a close 2nd scoring 6-1. The schools participating this year in the fall league were Elkhorn South, Elkhorn Mount Michael, Westview, Skutt, Lewis Central, Millard North, Omaha Central and Omaha Home School.

Right now, there is enough enthusiasm to play a winter schedule after Christmas/Winter break. Millard North, who is defending champion has opted out, so we will need a replacement for Millard North and we are looking for a high school in the area with a chess club that would be interested. Below is a round-robin cross table of the event results and standings. The kids are having fun meeting and competing against other high schools which is the most important thing.

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Millard North	X	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	6.5
Omaha Home School	0	X	1/2	1	0	1	1/2	1/2	4.5
Skutt	0	1/2	X	1/2	1	1/2	0	1/2	3.0
Westview	0	0	1/2	X	1	1	0	0	2.5
Lewis Central	0	1	0	0	X	0	0	1	2.0
Elkhorn Mount Michael	0	0	1/2	0	1	X	0	1	2.5
Omaha Central	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	1	X	1	6.0
Elkhorn South	0	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	0	X	2.0

THE RETURN OF THE CORNUPCOPIA SCHOLASTIC 11/8/2025- LINCOLN AT THE UNL STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

This event was the first scholastic team event in Lincoln in many years. It was sponsored by the Lincoln Chess Foundation and the UNL Chess Club which generously offered the Union Ballroom, the very same site where the first State Scholastic High School Championship was held in 1965. The event was directed by Gabe Hoffman of Omaha and organized by LCF Treasurer Bruce Draney. Thirty-one players took part which was a decent turnout. Only the Open was USCF rated but all section cross tables are included here.

Cornucopia Open Section 11/8/2025

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total	Prize
1	Revesz	2086	W4	W2	W3	3.0	1 st Place
2	Brás	1752	W6	L1	W5	2.0	1 st University Student (UNL)
3	Adduri	1564	W8	W5	L1	2.0	1 st Nebraska Woman
4	Look	1602	L1	W6	W7	2.0	2 nd Place
5	Haller	1246	W7	L3	L2	1.0	
6	Rui Tao	1291	L2	L4	W8	1.0	1 st U1400
7	Kantem	1655	L5	W8	L4	1.0	
8	A. Cook	1055	L3	L7	L6	0.0	

Cornucopia Scholastic 9-12

#	Name	School	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total	Prize	Team
1	Wang	MNorth	UNR	W3	W5	W6	W4	4.0	1 st	1 st Alatere
2	Ashcraft	Alatere	380	Bye	L4	W5	W6	3.0	2 nd	2 nd Millard North
3	S. Tran	Alatere	1132	L1	Bye	D4	W7	2.5		
4	Nigro	Alatere	433	D6	W2	D3	L1	2.0		
5	Martens	Alatere	706	W7	L1	L2	Bye	2.0		
6	Grimes	Alatere	UNR	D4	W7	L1	L2	1.5		
7	Miller	Columbus	UNR	L5	L6	Bye	L3	1.0		

Cornucopia Scholastic 6-8

#	Name	School	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Tot	Prize	Team
1	Adduri	MNMS	1564	W8	W4	W5	W7	4.0	1 st	1 st Place Team MNMS
2	Kantem	MNMS	1655	W7	W3	L4	W6	3.0	2 nd	
3	K. Tran	NAML	879	W5	L2	W6	W4	3.0	2 nd	
4	Yuan	LCA	UNR	W6	L1	W2	L3	2.0		2 nd Place Team LChinese Academy
5	M. Wang	LCA	820	L3	W8	L1	Bye	2.0		
6	Jansen	COLU	UNR	L4	W7	L3	L2	1.0		
7	J. Liu	LCA	UNR	L2	L6	Bye	L1	1.0		
8	Chapek	E But	229	L1	L5	U--	U--	0.0		

Cornucopia Scholastic K-5

#	Name	School	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total	Prize	Team
1	E. Xie	LCAA	UNR	W6	W4	W5	W8	4.0	1 st	1 st Place Team LCA (A)
2	O. Gao	LCAA	UNR	W4	W8	W7	W5	4.0	2 nd	
3	J. Liu	LCAA	UNR	W8	W5	W6	L4	3.0		
4	Will. Pan	LCAB	UNR	L2	L1	W8	W3	2.0		2 nd Place Team LCA (B)
5	N. Liu	LCAB	UNR	W7	L3	L1	L2	1.0		
6	Win Pan	LCAB	UNR	L1	D7	L3	D7	1.0		
7	E. Niu	LCAA	UNR	L5	D6	L2	D6	1.0		
8	D. Wang	LCAB	UNR	L3	L2	L4	L1	0.0		

*Lincoln Chinese Academy sent the only two teams to compete in the Elementary section so the A team took 1st and the B team took 2nd.

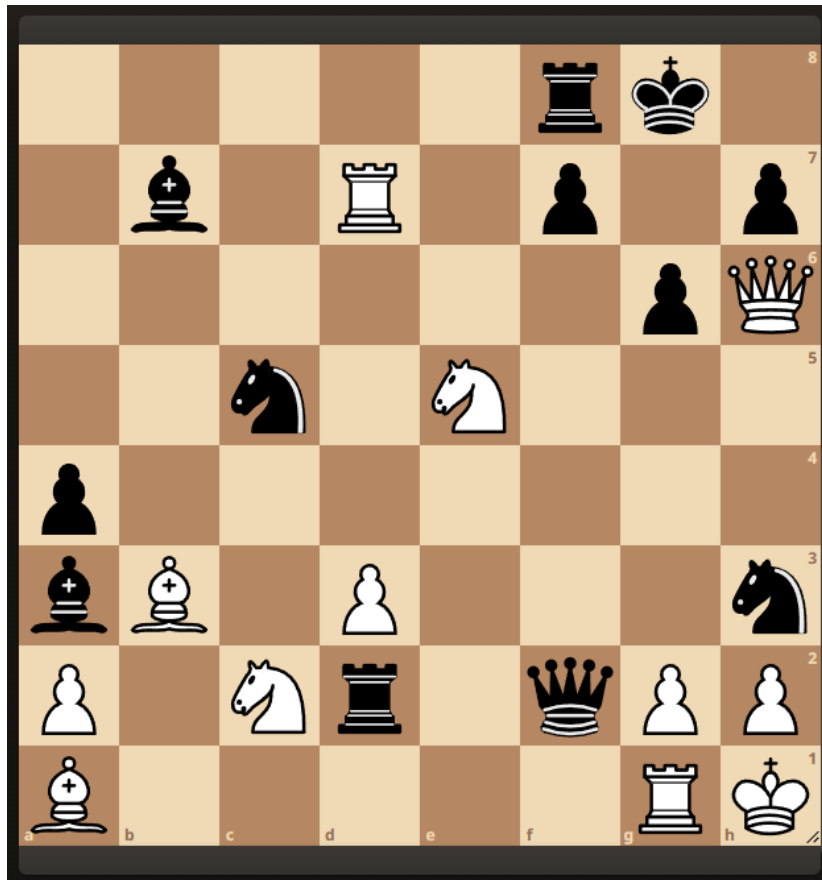
I was hoping for over 50 but 31 was respectable. Special thanks to Gabe Hoffman for directing on about 12 hours' notice and volunteering to direct solo. Also, thanks to Julia Haller and Max Vitek of the UNL Chess Club for hosting us and to Scott Look who drove to my house at 10:30 PM and picked up the 17 trophies sitting in my car so he could get them to the tournament. Thanks to the parents and children who supported the event or played. This is the first time I've ever missed a curtain call for a chess tournament.

GABE'S CORNER, BY GAMBIT INTERN, GABE HOFFMAN.

Hello there, and welcome back to another article written by yours truly, Gabriel Hoffman!
(For reference, I don't get paid to make these articles; I do so because it's quite enjoyable) :)

For this Quarter, I will be introducing to you guys a simple puzzle I created, and a collaboration between me and Nick Lacroix. Mr. Lacroix and I got together to determine the best games from the Jack Spence Chess Club, 2025 Annual Championship Tournament.

Section 1: The Puzzle



In this rather unique position, it's white to move and win. You have a mate in 5. Good Luck! (The solution is at the end of the article)

Section 2: The Tournament

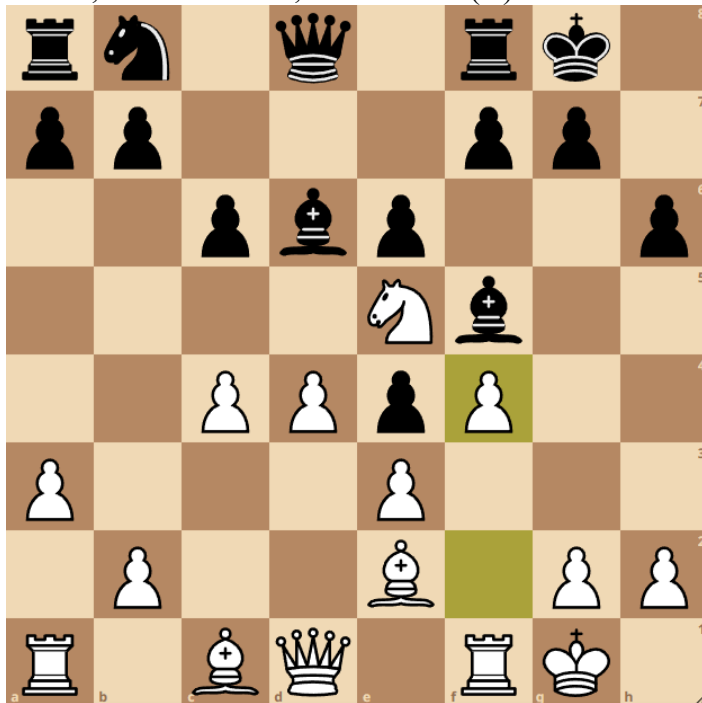
The Jack Spence Championship tournament was 6 rounds of G80, d5, running from 9/17/25-10/22/25.

The Championship tournament is held annually at the Jack Sence chess club. Historically, we have played 5 rounds; this year, we had enough players for 6 rounds.

Now onto the best games! The determination for the best game of each round came down to the factors, of which games were most interesting, informative, and or were exceptional. Ultimately, we decided to cover one game from each round with a couple of Honorable Mentions.

Round 1: Scott Look vs Joe Knapp D04 Queen's Pawn Game: Colle system, Anti-Colle

1. d4, d5 2. Nf3, Nf6 3. e3, Bf5, 4. Nbd2, e6 5. a3, Bd6 6. c4, c6 7. Be2, h6 8. O-O, O-O
9. Ne5, Ne4 10. Nxe4, dxe4 11. f4 (D)



This is the first rather interesting position. f4 seems like it would help black as after ...exf3 e.p., the light-squared bishop can see more squares; however, it also allows white to start opening up an attack towards Black's king and more room.

11 ...exf3 e.p. 12. Nxf3, Nd7 13. b4, Nf6 14. Nh4?, Be4 15. Nf3 (Scott was proud of this move, correcting his mistake), a5 16. C5, Bc7 17. b5, Nd5 18. Qe1, cxb5 19. Bxb5, a4 20. Bd2, Qb8 21. Qh4, f5 22. Qh5, Nf6 23. Qh3, Ng4 24. g3, b6 25. Bd7, Rf6

Black has played very well up to this point, gradually activating their pieces while white's pieces still struggle. The bishop on d7 is a paper tiger and all of white's other pieces are stuck on defense.

26. c6, b5 27. Qg2, e5?

Unfortunately, forcing the issue when there wasn't a need to rush. The calm Rg6 maintains the bind on the position and sets up nasty threats on g3.

Fortunately, white in return missed 28. h3! trapping and winning the knight on g4 when it becomes a very unclear position.

28. dxe5, Nxe5 29. Bc3, Nxf3+ 30. Rxf3, Rxc6?

Again, rushing to force the issue, and here things get ugly for black.

31. Bxc6, Bxc6 32. Qa2+! (D)



This move unpins the rook with tempo and lets white launch a devastating attack. Although, the f5 pawn is hanging and can be taken for free after the king moves, which is what Scott did in the game. He missed an absolutely crushing move.

32...Kh8, 33. Rxf5 (D1, D2)



This move looks like it should be winning still for white, however, the engine says it's 0.0 after ...Qe8. The better option, unfortunately overlooked:



This critical move is crushing for white. Black cannot take the rook as white is threatening mate with *Qxh6+*, *Kg8*, *Qxg7#*. Black's best try is *Qf8*, which drops the c6 bishop, after *Qxh6+*, *Kg8*, *Qxc6*. *Qe6* is the critical move in this position. *Qf7*, for instance, seems like it has the same idea threatening mate on g7 one move sooner, but it's actually winning for black now, because of the stunning *...Be5!* White no longer has an attack and is struggling to defend.



33...Bxg3?? (*Rxf5* threw away the entire advantage, and this move gives it all back, going from 0.0 to +4.9!) 34. *Bxg7+*!, *Kh7* 35. *Qf7*, *Ra7* 36. *Be5+*, *Rxf7* 37. *Rxf7+*, *Kg8* 38. *Rg7+* *Kh8* 39. *Bxb8*, *Bxb8* 40. *Rg6* *Bd5* 41. *Rxh6+*, *Kg7* 42. *Rh5*, *Bc4* 43. *Rd1*, *Kg6* 44. *Rh4*, *Kg5* 45. *Rhd4*, *Kf5* 46. *h3*.

More moves were played, and white eventually won. White won **1-0**

Round 2 Luke Hengen vs Rakshith Seetharaman

A20 English Opening: King's English Variation

1. *c4*, *e5* 2. *g3*, *Nc6* 3. *Bg2*, *Nf6* 4. *a3*, *d5* 5. *cxd5*, *Nxd5* 6. *b4*, *Be6* 7. *Bb2*, *a6* 8. *Nf3*, *Bd6* 9. *O-O*, *O-O* 10. *d3*, *f5* 11. *Nbd2*, *Bf7* 12. *Nc4*, *Re8* 13. *Nxd6*, *cxd6* 14. *Rc1*, *Rc8* 15. *Bh3*, *Qf6* 16. *e4*, *Nde7* 17. *Nh4*, *Be6* 18. *f4*,

White picks the right moment to start tearing at black's center and things start to become quite difficult to defend.

Nd4 19. *Rxc8*, *Rxc8* 20. *fxe5*, *Qxe5?* (D)



This isn't the right idea. Black needed to hold the center together with the much better 20...dxe5. The point is that Black cannot afford to self-pin the queen to the knight, as the knight is helping to defend the weak f5 pawn and is preventing white from breaking through. Self-pinning here essentially leaves black down a piece.

21. Ba1, g6 22. Re1, Bd7 23. exf5, Qxe1+ (Forcing the major pieces off the board) 24. Qxe1, Rc1 25. Qxc1, Ne2+ 26. Kf1, Nxc1 27. Bg2, Nxf5 28. Nxf5, Bxf5 29. Bxb7, Bxd3+ 30. Kf2, Bb5 31. Bd5+, Kf8 32. Ke3, Nd3 33. a4, Nxb4 34. axb5, Nxd5+ 35. Ke4, Nb4 36. Bc3, Na2 37. b6!, Nxc3+ 38. Kf3, Nd5 39. b7, Ne7 40. b8=Q+

Black resigned, White won 1-0

Round 3 Mike Anzalone vs. Jim Busby

A25 English Opening: King's English Variation, Reversed Closed Sicilian

1. c4, e5 2. Nc3, Nc6 3. g3, d6 4. Bg2, Bd7 5. e4, Nf6 6. Nge2, Be7 7. O-O, O-O 8. d3, Bg4 9. f3, Bc8 10. Be3, a6 (Ten moves for each player, and we've got what might superficially appear to be a fairly typical closed middlegame structure. However, white is currently the only one with the pawn breaks. With either d4 or f4 looming, white stands to be better.) (D)



11. a3, Qd7 12. b4, Rd8 13. Qb3, b6 14. a4, d5? (Right idea, wrong order, Black needed to play Nxb4 first. The point is that after 14...Nxb4 15. Qxb4, d5! 16. Qb2, d4! Getting the piece back.) 15. cxd5, Nxb4 16. Rfd1, a5 17. Rac1, Ba6 18. d4, exd4 19. Nxd4, Nd3 20. Rc2, Nc5 21. Qa2, Nd3 22. Re2, Ne5? (Going back with Nb4! is the better idea. It looks like a waste of time at first because the knight wants to be centralized. However, it works, because the Knight attacks the Queen and black's bad bishop suddenly sees the White rook, not only letting Black trade off their worst piece but also being up an exchange.) (D)



23. Ndb5, Bb4 24. Rc2, Qe7 25. Ne2, Bxb5 26. axb5, Nfd7 27. Rxc7, Bd6 28. Rc2, Bc5 29. Bxc5, Nxc5 30. Nd4, Ncd3 31. Qa1, Nb4 32. Rc3, Rac8 33. Nc6, Qd6 34. Qb2, Nexc6 35. bxc6, h6 36. Rdc1, Rc7 37. Qb3, Rb8 38. f4, Qd7 39. e5, Qd8 40. d6 (And white wins in style. Overall, I thought it was a pretty interesting maneuvering game. Central control was the main theme - black never contested the center and eventually got blown off the board.)

Black resigned, White Won **1-0**

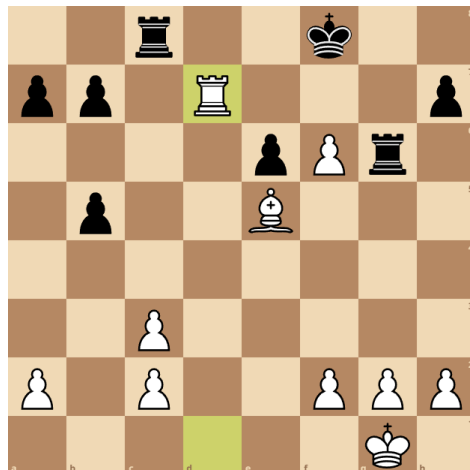
Round 4 Gabe vs Matthew **C49 Four Knights Game: Spanish Variation, Double Spanish**

1. e4, e5 2. Nc3, Nc6 3. Nf3, Nf6 4. Bb5, Bb4 6. d4, exd4 7. Nxd4, Bd7 8. Bg5, Bxc3 9. bxc3 Ne7 10. Qf3, c6 (D)



Playing with fire. Black has already wasted a tempo with Ne7, and now by wasting another tempo with c6, permanently ruins their structure and king safety. Black's best try is 10. ...Bxb5, 11. Nxb5, Nd7 12 Bxe7, Kxe7. Losing castling rights is inevitable, but at least black doesn't drop a rook this way.

11. Bxf6, cxb5 12. Bxg7, Rg8 13. Bf6, Rc8 14. Rfe1, Qc7 15. Nf5, Ng6 16. Rad1, Bxf5 17. exf5+ Ne5 (The knight desperately tries to hold the center together, but the rook sac is inevitable.) 18. Qd5, Kf8 19. Rxe5, dxe5 20. Bxe5, Qb6 21. f6, Rg6 22. Qd7, Qc6 (D)



22...Qe6 23. Qxe6, fxe6 24. Rd7 White's positional advantage is so strong that even going into the endgame down the exchange would still favor white. (D2)

23. Qe7+, Kg8 24. Rd8+, Rxd8+ 25. Qxd8+ Black resigned. White won 1-0.

Round 5 Nick Lacroix vs Rakshith A45 Trompowsky Attack

1. d4, Nf6 2. Bg5, d5 3. Bxf6, exf6 4. e3, c6 5. c4, Be6 6. cxd5, Qxd5 7. Nc3, Qa5 8. Bd3, Nd7 9. Nf3, Bd6 10. O-O, Bg4 11. a3, O-O-O(D)



Trying too hard to make something happen. Much more principled is to castle kingside as usual and utilize the doubled f-pawn to clamp down on e4. 11... Qh5: We both underestimated the force of this move, which basically forces a boring endgame. (D2) 12. h3, Bxf3 13. Qxf3, Qxf3 14. gxf3, g6 15. f4, f5 16. Rfd1, Ke7.

12. h3, Bh5 13. b4, Qc7 14. Rc1 (14. Nb5, cxb5 15. Rc1, Bc5 16. Bxb5! This is the critical move. By delaying the capture, white picks up an extra pawn and threatens the nasty Bd7, removing the defender of the bishop and threatening to win the Queen.) 14...Nb6 15. Nb5, Qe7 16. d5, Nxd5

(16...Bxf3 Blacks bishop is very weak and sad on the edge of the board and should be exchanged to relieve at least some danger.) 17 Qa4 (And with the queen getting to a4, the attack breaks through) 17...a6 18. Na7+, Kb8 19. Nxc6+, bxc6 20. Nd4, Rc8 21. Nxc6+, Rxc6 22. Qxc6, Rd8 23. Bxa6 (Here, Lacroix wrote that he had let the attack slip through his grasp, but that the endgame should still be favorable to him. White is up in the exchange with an extra pawn against a very weak king. I think that white didn't let up on the attack, and the engine agrees, saying that the difference between Qxa6 and Bxa6 is 0.5. White is either sitting at +3.8 or +3.3, absolutely crushing.)

23...Qd7 24. Qxd7, Rxd7 25. g4, Bg6 26. Rfd1, Nc7 27. Be2, Kc8 28. Bf3, Be5 29. Rxd7, Kxd7 30. a4, Bb2 31. Rd1+, Kc8 32. b5, Be5 33. b6, Ne6 34. a5, Nc5 35. Rc1, Bd6 36. a6.

Black resigned, White won **1-0**

Siddarth and Tony HM C42 Petrov's Defense: Classical Attack, Mason Variation

This game is an honorable mention; it wasn't quite the best in round 5, but was notable enough for its own spot. Honorable mentions will not have diagrams for the sake of space but will still include comments.

1. e4, e5 2. Nf3, Nf6 3. Nxe5, d6 4. Nf3, Nxe4 5. d4, d5 6. Bd3, Be7 7. O-O, O-O 8. Re1, f5 9. c4, c6 10. Qb3, Kh8 11. cxd5, cxd5 12. Nc3 Nf6 (This waste of tempo has given White a decent positional edge. Still, though, Black defends this quite well.) 13. Bg5, Nc6 14. Bf4, Bd6 15. Bxd6, Qxd6 16. Nb5, Qf4 17. Qa3, Bd7 18. Qd6, Qxd6 19. Nxd6 Ne4 20. Bxe4, dxe4 21. Ne5, Be6 22. Nxc6, bxc6 23. Nb7, Bd5 (Basically an equal endgame as they shuffle their pieces around for many moves.) 24. Ne5, Rad8 25. Rad1, kg8 26. b3, Rf6 27. G3, h5 28. h4, Rf7 29. Re2, Kh7 30. Kf1, Kg6 31. Ke1, Kf6 32. Kd2, Re7 33. Kc3, f4 (The hardest thing to do in a drawn endgame is to do nothing. Okay, maybe not literally, but it's a common problem I see among many players, especially myself. This is such a benign-looking move to mess up white's pawn structure, and yet it marks the beginning of the end.) 34. Rde1, Rde8 35. gxf4, Kf5 36. Nd3, Re6 37. Ne5, Kxf4 38. Rg1, c5 (At this point, Black's centralized king is a liability, and the position is losing by force.) 39. Ng6+, Kf5 40. Rg5+ Kf6 41. Nf4, cxd4+ 42. Kxd4, Bb7, 43. Nxe6, Rxe6 44. Rxh5, Rd6+ 45. Kc3 Rd1, 46. Rc5, Rh1 47. Rd2, Rxh4 48. Rd7, Rh3+ 49. Kb2, Ba8 50. Rxa7, Rh8 51. Rca5, Bc6 52. R7a6, Rc8 53. Rc5.

Black resigned, White won **1-0**.

Round 6 Phillip vs Mills

B21 Sicilian Defense: Smith-Morra Gambit Accepted, Paulsen Formation

1. e4, c5 2. d4, cxd4 3. c3, cxd3 4. Nxc3, e6 5. Bc4, Nc6 6. Nf3, a6 7. a3, Nf6 8. O-O, b5 9. Ba2, Be7 (Both sides are oblivious to white's main idea, e5, and it'll take a while before black finally stops that push.) 10. Qe2, O-O 11. Rd1, Qc7 12. h3, Bb7 13. Be3, b4 13. Na4, Ne5 (D)



Now, black has gotten things pretty well under control. Whites knight is a little awkward on a4, but it's alright for now.

15. Nd2, Bc6 16. Nb6, Rab8 17. f4, Rxb6 18. fxe5, Nxe4 19. Bxb6, Qxb6+ 20. Kh2, Nxd2 21. Rxd2, f5 (Black would have been with 21...Bg5 22. Rd6 bxa3 23. bxa3, Qc5 24. Re1, Bf4+ 25. g3, Bb5 26. Qf3, Bxe5) 22. exf6, Rxf6, 23. Rad1, Rg6 24. Qh5, Qb8+ 25. Kg1, Bc5+? (D)



Unfortunately, a one-move blunder takes the victory away from Black. Credit though that he didn't give up after this and was able to fight back for a draw.

26. Qxc5, Qg3 (trying to create threats) 27. Qf2, Qxh3 28. Rf1 (Now White threatens mate and is up a rook; however, Black can trade the bishop and rook for the queen, not ideal, but it gives better drawing chances.) (Instead of Rf1, Lacroix suggested Bxe6+ for white to keep playing for a win, which looks good as the bishop can't be taken by the rook, as that loses the queen, the pawn can't take and neither can the king move because both allow mate. However, Black isn't lost because the Queen can take the bishop! Qxe6! Only move) 28...Rxc2+! 29. Qxc2, Bxc2 30. Rxc2, Qe3+ 31. Rgf2, g6 32. axb4, Qg3+ 33. Kh1, Qh4+, 34. Kg1, Qg4+ 35. Kh1, Qh4+. Draw by agreement ½-½

Nick Lacroix vs Siddarth HM **B15 Caro-Kann Defense: Tartakower Variation**

Mr. Lacroix requested that this game be included, as this game let Siddarth tie Luke for first in score.

1. e4, c6 2. d4, d5 3. Nc3, dxe4 4. Nxe4, Nf6 5. Nxf6+, exf6 6. c3, Bd6 7. Bd3, O-O 8. Ne2, Re8 9. O-O, Qc7 10. h3, Nd7 11. Qc2, h6 12. Be3, c5 13. Bh7+ Kh8 14. Be4, cxd4 15. Nxd4, Bf4 16. Rfe1, Nc5 17. Bxf4, Qxf4 18. Bd5, Be6 19. Bf3, Bc4 (Things have been mostly fine up to this point, but I started getting ahead of myself here. I tried too hard to prove an advantage where it didn't exist.) 20. Rxe8+, Rxe8 21. B4, Nd3, 22. Qa4, b5 23. Nxb5 Qd2 24. Nd6, Re7 25. Qa5, Re1+ 26. Rxe1, Qxe1+ (The game finally slips away from black, trying to prove an advantage where there wasn't one. Black invited spicy tactics when he needed to retreat and consolidate, and recognize that he had nothing better than a draw.) 27. Kh2, Ne5 28. Qd8+, Kh7 29. Be4+, f5 30. Bxf5+, g6 31. Nxc4, Nxc4. White eventually won. **1-0.**

Link to the Study: <https://lichess.org/study/qOuzGEHa>

Puzzle Solution from page 13: 1. Qg7+ Kxg7 2. Ng4+, Bb2, 3. BxB, Qd4 or Qf6 4. BxQ+ , Kg8 5. Nh6#.

***Editor's Note: Gabe Hoffman is our regular chess columnist and contributor to the Gambit.**

SMALLER CHESS EVENTS AROUND THE STATE IN NOVEMBER

Saturday November 1st-A UNO Tournament drew 28 players to the CPACS Building on the campus of UNO. It was directed by Michael Mills and there was competition in 3 sections. The Open drew 11 and was won by Nick Lacroix with 4-0. There was an U1200 section that drew 8 and was won by Arjun Andukuri with 3.5 and there was an U800 section that drew 9 and was won by Sathvik Sarathkumar with 3.5.

Wednesday November 5th-The Spence Club concluded a 2-week long action event. The winners were Nick Lacroix and Luke Hengen both with 5-1. The club held a 6 round double 3/2 blitz event on **November 12th** won by Sidd Parthasarathy with 10.5-1.5. Nick Lacroix was 2nd with 8.5-3.5.

Wednesday November 5th-SCC hosted its monthly G/10 action event at the college on 8900 O Street in Lincoln. The event drew 10 and first place was shared by Ethan Riegsecker and Jonathan Reigenborn both with 4.0.

Saturday November 15th-The Central Nebraska Chess Club in Kearney hosted its fall classic at the Harmon Park Activity Center in Kearney. The event drew 20 players in three sections. The Open/USCF rated section drew 6 and was won by Ezekiel King of Wyoming with a score of 4-0. Everitt Marshall won the casual/Unrated section with 6-0 and Matheus Rizk and Callum McCord tied for first in the Elementary section with 5-1. Eric Ring organized and directed.

Saturday November 15th-Jerry Slominski ran a 2-round match play tournament at the Bellevue Public Library. Players played a two-game match against others approximately their own strength. The event drew 12 players and 6 two game matches were played with each player getting one white and one black. Another Riverfront Invitational was also held in Omaha, won by Nick Lacroix with 3-0.

Friday November 21st-The Camelot Chess Club Championship concluded with Tony Dutiel winning this year's title with a score of 3.5-.5. To say the November chess calendar was crowded with events is an understatement. While it would be nice to have fewer events that draw better, it's hard to tell people not to run events as we have at least two new directors who just got certified, (Leo Iacono and Jerry Slominski). We are doing a good job of avoiding holding major simultaneously.

ANNUAL GREAT PLAINS OPEN NOVEMBER 22-23RD-LINCOLN, NE.

The Great Plains Open which was begun by me in 1993 and is now in its 23rd year was held on Saturday and Sunday November 22nd-23rd in Lincoln at the Country Inn and Suites on North 27th Street. The event was not only the final POY event of the year but the top Nebraskan also qualified for the Closed in January. It was organized by John Linscott, directed by Tony Dutiel.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Lacroix	2134	W8	W22	W14	W3	W4	5.0
2	Seetharaman	1981	W12	W15	D3	W14	D5	4.0
3	Revesz	2088	W24	W7	D2	L1	W11	3.5
4	Parthasarathy	2019	W20	D5	W22	W6	L1	3.5
5	Jessop	1826	W17	D4	D10	W16	D2	3.5
6	Fabrikant	1967	W19	W10	1/2	L4	D7	3.0
7	Osborne	1903	W13	L3	1/2	W17	D6	3.0
8	Kantem	1555	L1	L16	WF24	W18	W12	3.0
9	Adduri	1596	L14	W21	L17	W15	W16	3.0
10	Baker	1742	W18	L6	D5	L12	W17	2.5
11	Alagankancharla	1725	W21	L14	1/2	W19	L3	2.5
12	Schiff	1639	L2	W23	D19	W10	L8	2.5
13	Tichacek	1424	L7	D24	L18	Bye	W20	2.5
14	Cusumano	1943	W9	W11	L1	L2	U---	2.0
15	Koppinger	1667	W23	L2	L16	L9	W21	2.0
16	Hoffman	1570	L22	W8	W15	L5	L9	2.0
17	Kruse	1472	L5	W20	W9	L7	L10	2.0
18	Ri Seetharaman	1311	L10	L19	W13	L8	W23	2.0
19	Pasupuleti	1614	L6	W18	D12	L11	U---	1.5
20	Look	1600	L4	L17	1/2	W23	L13	1.5
21	Bitterman	1120	L11	L9	1/2	WF24	L15	1.5
22	Knapp	1907	W16	L1	L4	U---	U---	1.0
23	Sarathkumar	1197	L15	L12	Bye	L20	L18	1.0
24	Albright	1711	L3	D13	LF8	LF21	U--	0.5

Games from the Great Plains Open 11/22-23/2025

Round 1:

Kantem-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c3 Nf6 5. Bd3 Nc6 6. Bf4 Bg4 7. Nf3 e6 8. Nbd2 Bd6 9. Bxd6 Qxd6 10. h3 Bh5 11. Rc1 O-O 12. O-O a6 13. Re1 b5 14. Qb3 Bg6 15. Ne5 Na5 16. Qc2 Bxd3 17. Qxd3 Nc4 18. Qc2 Rfc8 19. Ndxc4 bxc4 20. f3 Rab8 21. Qf2 Rb6 22. Rc2 Rcb8 23. Ree2 a5 24. a3 R8b7 25. g4 Ne8 26. g5 Qd8 27. f4 Nd6 28. Ng4 Qb8 29. Qh2 Nf5 30. h4 f6 31. gxf6 h5 32. Ne5 gxf6 33. Nf3 Kh7 34. Rcd2 Rg7+ 35. Rg2 Rg4 36. Kh1 Qxf4 37. Rxc4 Qxc4 38. Qc7+ Kh6 39. Qxb6 Qxf3+ 40. Kg1 Qe3+ 41. Rf2 Qe1+ 42. Kg2 Nxh4+ (0-1)

Cusumano-Adduri

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 h6 6. b4 Bb6 7. b5 Na5 8. Nxe5 O-O 9. Bxf7+ Rxf7 10. Nxf7 Kxf7 11. O-O d6 12. Be3 Qd7 13. Bxb6 axb6 14. c4 Qg4 15. Qxc4 Bxc4 16. Nc3 c6 17. h3 Be6 18. f4 Kg8 19. a4 Nb3 20. Rae1 Nd4 21. e5 dxe5 22. Rxe5 c5 23. f5 Bd7 24. Nd5 Nxd5 25. Rxd5 Bxf5 26. Rxd4 cxd4 27. Rxf5 Rxa4 28. Rd5 Ra8 29. Rxd4 Rf8 30. Rd7 Rf7 31. Rd8+ Kh7 32. Rd6 Rf6 33. Rxf6 gxf6 34. Kf2 Kg6 35. Ke3 Kf5 36. d4 Ke6 37. Kf4 f5 38. g3 h5 39. Kg5 (1-0)

Round 2:

Osborne-Revesz

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. e3 axb5 6. Bxb5 Ba6 7. Bxa6 Rxa6 8. Nc3 g6 9. e4 d6 10. Qe2 Bg7 11. Qb5+ Nfd7 12. Nf3 O-O 13. O-O Ra5 14. Qe2 Na6 15. Nd2 Nc7 16. Nc4 Ra6 17. Bf4 Qa8 18. Rfd1 Nb6 19. Nxb6 Rxb6 20. Rac1 Rfb8 21. b3 Bxc3 22. Rxc3 Nb5 23. Rh3 Nd4 24. Qg4 Qxa2 25. Qh4 h5 26. Be3 Qe2 27. Rf1 Rxb3 28. g4 Qxc4+ 29. Kh1 Qxh4 30. Rxh4 Nf3 31. Rh3 Ne5 32. Kg2 Ng4 33. Re1 Nxe3+ 34. Rxe3 Rxe3 35. Rxe3 e5 36. Ra3 Rb7 37. Ra6 Rd7 38. Kg3 Kf8 39. f4 exf4+ 40. Kxf4 f6 41. Rb6 Ke7 42. Ra6 Rc7 43. Ra3 Kf7 44. h4 c4 45. Rc3 Kg7 46. Ke3 g5 47. hxg5 fxg5 48. e5 dxe5 49. Ke4 Kf6 50. Rf3+ Kg6 51. Kxe5 g4 52. Rf6+ Kg5 53. Rc6 Re7+ 54. Re6 Rd7 55. Rc6 g3 56. Rxc4 h4 57. Rc8 Rg7 58. d6 g2 59. Rc1 h3 60. Rg1 Kg4 61. Ke6 Kg3 62. d7 Rxd7 (0-1)

Seetharaman-Koppinger

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Nd7 4. d4 cxd4 5. Qxd4 a6 6. Bxd7+ Bxd7 7. O-O e6 8. Nc3 Nf6 9. Bg5 Bc6 10. Rad1 Be7 11. h3 Qc7 12. Rfe1 b5 13. a3 Rd8 14. Qe3 O-O 15. Nd4 Bb7 16. Qg3 Ne8 17. Bxe7 Qxe7 18. Re3 Nf6 19. Rde1 Qd7 20. Rf3 Ne8 21. Rd3 e5 22. Nf5 Qe6 23. Nd5 Bxd5 24. Rxd5 Qg6 25. Ne7+ (1-0)

Round 3:

Lacroix-Cusumano

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. c4 e6 4. g3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O a6 8. Ne5 Nbd7 9. Nc3 c6 10. e4 dxc4 11. Nxc4 b5 12. e5 bxc4 13. exf6 Bxf6 14. Bxc6 Rb8 15. Ne4 Bxd4 16. Bg5 Qb6 17. Ba4 Qxb2 18. Bxd7 Bxd7 19. Rb1 Qxb1 20. Qxb1 Rxb1 21. Rxb1 f6 22. Be3 e5 23. Nd6 Be6 24. Rd1 c3 25. a3 Bxe3 (0-1)

Knapp-Parthasarathy

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. e3 Be7 7. Bd3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 b5 9. Bd3 Bb7 10. O-O O-O 11. Rc1 a6 12. Ne5 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Nd7 14. Bxe7 Qxe7 15. f4 Nc5 16. Bb1 Rad8 17. Qc2 g6 18. a3 a5 19. b4 axb4 20. axb4 Nd3 21. Ne4 Nxc1 22. Nf6+ Kg7 23. Rxc1 Qxb4 24. Qf2 Qd2 25. Qxd2 Rxd2 26. Ne4 Rdd8 27. Nc5 Ba8 28. Be4 Rd2 29. Bf3 Rfd8 30. Ra1 Rc2 31. Ne4 c5 32. Nd6 Bxf3 33. gxf3 b4 34. Ra7 Kg8 35. Rb7 Ra8 (0-1)

Round 4:

Lacroix-Revesz

1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. c4 Qd8 6. Nc3 Bb4 7. Bf4 O-O 8. Bd3 c5 9. O-O cxd4 10. Nb5 a6 11. Nbx4 Nbd7 12. Qe2 Re8 13. Rad1 Qe7 14. a3 Bc5 15. Rfe1 e5 16. Nf5 Qf8 17. Nxe5 Nxe5 18. Bxe5 Rxe5 19. Qxe5 Bxf2+ 20. Kh1 Bxe1 21. Rxe1 Bxf5 22. Qxf5 Rd8 23. h3 Qd6 24. Bc2 g6 25. Qf3 Rd7 26. c5 Qc6 27. Qc3 Kg7 28. b4 Qc7 29. Rf1 Qd8 30. a4 Rd4 31. b5 axb5 32. axb5 Qd5 33. Bb3 Qe5 34. c6 Ne4 35. Rxf7+ Kh6 36. Qe3+ g5 37. Kg1 bxc6 38. bxc6 Qc5 39. Rf3 Rd8 40. Qxc5 Nxc5 41. Rc3 Nxb3 42. Rxb3 Rd1+ 43. Kf2 Rc1 44. Rb6 Kg6 45. Ke3 Kf5 46. Kd4 Rd1+ 47. Kc5 Ke6 48. c7+ Kd7 49. Rd6+ Rxd6 50. c8=Q+ Kxc8 51. Kxd6 Kd8 52. Ke6 Ke8 53. Kf6 Kf8 54. Kxg5 Kg7 55. h4 Kf7 56. Kh6 Kg8 57. h5 Kh8 58. g4 Kg8 59. g5 Kh8 60. g6 Kg8 61. g7 (1-0)

Seetharaman-Cusumano

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. a4 Bb7 9. d3 d6 10. a5 Nd4 11. Nxd4 exd4 12. Nd2 c5 13. Nf1 Re8 14. Ng3 Bf8 15. Nf5 Bc8 16. Qf3 Bxf5 17. Qxf5 Qd7 18. Qxd7 Nxd7 19. Bd5 Rab8 20. Bg5 Be7 21. Bf4 Nf6 22. Bb3 Nh5 23. Bd2 Nf6 24. h3 h6 25. g4 g5 26. Kg2 Kg7 27. Rf1 Nd7 28. f4 f6 29. Bd5 gxf4 30. Bxf4 Ne5 31. b3 b4 32. Bxe5 dxe5 33. Rf5 Bd8 34. h4 Rf8 35. Bc4 Bc7 36. Raf1 Bxa5 37. Ra1 Bd8 38. Rxa6 Rb7 39. Kg3 Rc7 40. Rf1 Be7 41. Rfa1 Rfc8 42. R6a2 Rh8 43. Be6 Rc6 44. Bd5 Rc7 45. Ra7 Rhc8 46. R7a6 Rd8 47. Rb6 Rd6 48. Rb8 Rd8 49. Rb5 Rdd7 50. Rba5 Rd8 51. Be6 Rd6 52. Bf5 Rd8 53. Ra8 Rxa8 54. Rxa8 Bf8 55. Be6 Re7 56. Bd5 Rc7 57. Ra6 Re7 58. g5 hxg5 59. hxg5 fxg5 60. Kg4 Kh7 61. Kxg5 Rg7+ 62. Kf5 Rg2 63. Kxe5 Rxc2 64. Rc6 Rh2 65. Rc7+ Kg6 66. Be6 Rd2 67. Bc4 Rh2 68. Kd5 Rh5+ 69. Kc6 Re5 70. Rd7 Re7 71. Rd8 Kg7 72. Bd5 Re5 73. Rxf8 Kxf8 74. Kxc5 Re8 75. Kxd4 Rc8 76. Bc4 Ke7 77. Kd5 Rh8 78. Kc5 Rb8 79. d4 Kf6 80. e5+ Kf5 81. e6 Kf6 82. d5 Rc8+ 83. Kd6 Rxc4 84. bxc4 b3 85. e7 b2 86. e8=Q b1=Q 87. Qe7+ Kg6 88. Qe6+ Kg7 89. Qd7+ Kf8 90. c5 Qb8+ 91. Qc7 Qb3 92. Qe7+ Kg8 93. Qe6+ Kh8 94. c6 Qb8+ 95. Kd7 Qa7+ 96. c7 Qa4+ 97. Kd8 Qh4+ 98. Qe7 Qh5 99. d6 Qf7 100. Qe8+ (1-0)

Round 5:

Parthasarathy-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. Bd3 Ngf6 8. O-O e6 9. c4 Bd6 10. Re1 O-O 11. Bxg6 hxg6 12. Ne5 c5 13. Nxd7 Qxd7 14. dxc5 Bxc5 15. Qf3 Qc6 16. Qxc6 bxc6 17. Be3 Bxe3 18. fxe3 Rfd8 19. Rad1 Ng4 20. e4 Ne5 21. b3 Kf8 22. h3 Ke7 23. Kf1 a5 24. Ke2 Rxd1 25. Kxd1 a4 26. Re2 axb3 27. axb3 Ra3 28. Kc2 Nxc4 29. bxc4 Rxc3 30. e5 f6 31. exf6+ gxf6 32. Kd2 e5 33. Ke1 Ke6 34. Kf2 Rc3 35. Re4 f5 36. Rh4 e4 37. Rh6 Kf6 38. Rh8 Rxc4 39. Ke3 Rc3+ 40. Kd4 Rg3 41. Kc4 Rxc2 42. h4 Ke5 43. h5 gxh5 44. Rxh5 Rd2 45. Rh8 e3 46. Re8+ Kf4 47. Kc3 Rd5 48. Rh8 e2 49. Re8 Kf3 50. Kb2 Kf2 51. Ka2 e1=Q 52. Rxe1 Kxe1 53. Kb3 Kd2 54. Ka2 Kc3 55. Ka1 Kb3 56. Kb1 Rd1# (0-1)

MEET OUR THREE NEW INDUCTEES TO THE NEBRASKA CHESS HALL OF FAME.

In mid-September, the Hall of Fame Selection Committee composed of Gary Colvin, Bruce Draney, and Rod Malpert chose 2 living and 1 deceased Nebraska chess player, to be formally inducted into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame. Our 2025 class by design was considerably smaller than past classes given that we inducted 9 last year and 4 the year before that. The three newest members are John Hobbs Mockett 1860-1944, Roger Anderson, and Michael Dreiger.

John Hobbs Mockett Jr. lived and dominated Nebraska chess at the turn of the century, capturing state championships in four consecutive years, 1907-1908-1909-1910. He returned in 1915 and 1916 and won two more, tying him with Hall of Famer Kevin Fleming for 3rd on the all-time list with 6 championships. The only people with more than 6 are Hall of Famers Howard Ohman and IM Keaton Kiewra.

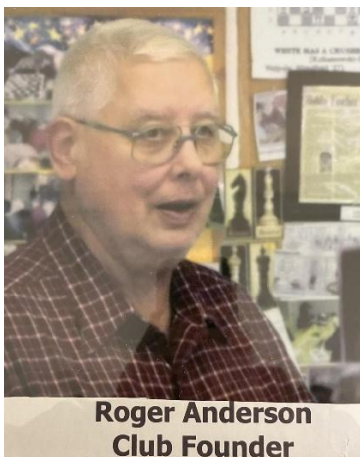
Eventually, Mockett moved to the Denver area to start a mining business in 1917. Mockett also served as President of the original NSCA in 1907 and was active not only in chess politics but also in Lincoln and Nebraska politics serving on the Lincoln City Council and in the Nebraska legislature.



Michael Dreiger has spent nearly all of his chess career in Nebraska other than a stint in the U.S. Navy. Michael has earned a Master's title and has won 2 state titles in his career. He also finished first in the Pacific Region Naval Chess Championship in an event that drew almost 100 players. Michael has also won many tournaments over the course of his long career, including the Midwest Open and the Cornhusker State Games and has been Nebraska Player of the Year.



Roger Anderson-Roger has also spent his entire chess career in the Omaha area winning the Omaha City Championship in 1965 as well as tying for 1st in the now infamous 1972 Watson-McLellan trophy dispute. Since Roger had an identical score to both McLellan and Watson, we should probably consider him a state co-champion in 1972. Roger's other big accomplishment was starting the Camelot Chess Club over 20 years ago and which still meets on Friday afternoons every week, making it the oldest Nebraska chess club in the state. Roger is also an accomplished correspondence chess player as well. Roger, who will be 90 next spring joins Bart Lewis, Bud Narveson, and Bob Woodworth as honored members of the Hall of Fame all over age 85.



January

2026

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



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

February

2026

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 State Closed	2	3	4	5	6	7 Archway Classic Kearney
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Nebraska State Scholastic Team - Boystown Omaha

March

2026

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 Omaha City Championship- Omaha-POY*(Tentative based on 2025)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

RIVERFRONT INVITATIONAL VII DRAWS 9 STRONG PLAYERS ON SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 15TH.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Lacroix	2094	W6	W8	W5	3.0
2	Hengen	2149	1/2	D4	W8	2.0
3	Osborne	1903	W4	D5	1/2	2.0
4	Parthasarathy	2007	L3	D2	Bye	1.5
5	Cusumano	1953	W9	D3	L1	1.5
6	Belashchenko	1937	L1	W9	1/2	1.5
7	Davidson	1774	L8	Bye	1/2	1.5
8	Knapp	1920	W7	L1	L2	1.0
9	Zeisler	1751	L5	L6	U---	0.0

*The invitational was organized and directed by NSCA President Steven Cusumano.

B Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Parthasarathy	2012	U--	W4	U--	1.0
2	Mills	1717	W3	U--	U--	1.0
3	Davidson	1754	L2	U--	U--	0.0
4	J. Slominski	1762	U--	L1	U---	0.0

Games for Riverfront Invitational VII 11/15/2025

Round 1

Osborne-Parthasarathy

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e4 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Nd7 6. Nf3 Ngf6 7. Nc3 Bd6 8. g3 O-O 9. Bg2 e5 10. O-O exd4 11. Nxd4 Nb6 12. b3 Be5 13. Nde2 Bg4 14. f3 Bf5 15. Bf4 Qe7 16. Bxe5 Qxe5 17. Qd4 Qe7 18. Rfe1 Rad8 19. Qf4 Qc5+ 20. Kh1 Rfe8 21. Rad1 Bd3 22. Ne4 Nxe4 23. fxe4 f5 24. Qh4 fxe4 25. Nf4 Qa5 26. Bh3 g5 27. Qh5 Bc2 28. Be6+ Kh8 29. Qh6 Rg8 30. Qf6+ Rg7 31. Rxd8# (1-0)

Lacroix-Belashchenko

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. e3 Ne4 6. Qc2 O-O 7. Bd3 f5 8. O-O c6 9. Ne5 Nd7 10. Nxd7 Bxd7 11. f3 Nxc3 12. bxc3 Bd6 13. a4 b6 14. Ba3 Bxa3 15. Rxa3 Qe7 16. Raa1 c5 17. e4 dxc4 18. Bxc4 Kh8 19. Rad1 cxd4 20. cxd4 Rac8 21. Qb3 e5 22. dxe5 Qxe5 23. Kh1 Bc6 24. exf5 Qa5 25. Ra1 Rcd8 26. Be6 Rd4 27. Qa3 Rfd8 28. Qe7 Qe5 29. Rfe1 Qf4 30. Bd7 Rg8 31. Bxc6 Qxf5 32. Qxa7 Rh4 33. Qxb6 Qf4 34. Qg1 Rh6 35. Bd5 Rf8 36. a5 Ra6 37. Bb7 (1-0)

Round 2

Davidson-Mills

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bc4 O-O 8. Ne2 c5 9. O-O Nc6 10. Be3 Qa5 11. Rb1 a6 12. Qc1 e6 13. Qb2 b5 14. Bd3 Rd8 15. Bc2 b4 16. d5 bxc3 17. Qb6 Qxb6 18. Rxb6 Nd4 19. Bxd4 cxd4 20. Rd1 exd5 21. exd5 Rxd5 22. Be4 Be6 23. Bxd5 Bxd5 24. Nc1 c2 25. Rd2 Rc8 26. g3 Bf3 27. Rd6 Re8 (0-1)

Belashchenko-Zeisler

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Be3 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Qb6 9. Qd2 Qxb2 10. Rb1 Qa3 11. Rb3 Qa5 12. Rb5 Qc7 13. Be2 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 a6 15. Rb1 Be7 16. O-O f6 17. exf6 Nxf6 18. Kh1 Bd7 19. Qe3 O-O 20. f5 Qc8 21. fxe6 Bxe6 22. Rb6 Ne4 23. Rxf8+ Bxf8 24. Nxe4 dxe4 25. Qxe4 Bf7 26. Bd3 Bg6 27. Qd5+ Bf7 28. Bxh7+ Kxh7 29. Qxf7 Qxc2 30. Rb3 Kh6 31. Rh3+ Kg5 32. Be3+ (1-0)

Round 3

Lacroix-Cusumano

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 12. d4 Bd6 13. Re1 Qh4 14. g3 Qh3 15. Qf3 Bg4 16. Qg2 Qh5 17. Bxd5 cxd5 18. Be3 Bf3 19. Qf1 f5 20. Nd2 Bg4 21. f3 Bh3 22. Qd3 f4 23. Bf2 Rf6 24. g4 Qg5 25. Re5 Bxe5 26. dxe5 Bxg4 27. fxg4 Qxg4+ 28. Kh1 Re6 29. Qxd5 Re8 30. Nf3 Kh8 31. Rg1 Qf5 32. Ng5 R6e7 33. Bd4 h6 34. Qe4 Qxe4+ 35. Nxe4 Kh7 36. Kg2 Rxe5 37. Bxe5 Rxe5 38. Kf3 g5 39. Rd1 a5 40. Rd7+ Kg6 41. Rd6+ Kg7 42. b3 a4 43. bxa4 bxa4 44. c4 a3 45. c5 Kf7 46. Rxh6 Rd5 47. Rd6 Rxd6 48. cxd6 (1-0)

Hengen-Knapp

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nbd7 4. g3 c6 5. Bg2 e5 6. Nge2 Be7 7. O-O Qc7 8. h3 b5 9. Be3 O-O 10. f4 Bb7 11. Kh2 b4 12. Nb1 c5 13. d5 c4 14. Nd2 Rfe8 15. f5 Nb6 16. g4 c3 17. bxc3 bxc3 18. Nb1 Nc4 19. Bc1 Nb2 20. Qe1 Na4 21. Nbxc3 Nxc3 22. Nxc3 Rec8 23. Bd2 Qc4 24. Rg1 Bd8 25. g5 Nh5 26. Bf3 Nf4 27. Qf1 Qd4 28. Rd1 Rxc3 29. Bxf4 Rxc2+ 30. Rg2 Rxg2+ 31. Qxg2 Qa4 32. Be3 Qa3 33. Bc1 Qa4 34. g6 Rc8 35. gxf7+ Kxf7 36. Bg5 Rc2 37. Rd2 Bxg5 38. Rxc2 Bf4+ 39. Kh1 Qa5 40. Qf2 Kg8 41. Rb2 Qc7 42. Qc2 Qa5 43. Kg2 Ba6 44. Rb8+ Kf7 45. Bh5+ g6 46. fxg6+ hxg6 47. Bg4 Kf6 48. Qf2 Kg5 49. Rh8 Qd2 (1-0)

3rd Annual Hall of Fame Memorial Draws 29 Players on 12/27/2025

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Mehlhaff	1837	W15	W3	W8	W5	4.0
2	Dutiel	1746	W17	W9	D7	D6	3.0
3	J. Meduna	1490	W29	L1	W12	W14	3.0
4	Perry	2000	L13	W16	W19	W7	3.0
5	Hoffman	1555	W26	W23	W18	L1	3.0
6	Buckley	1807	1/2	W20	W13	D2	3.0
7	Shrinidhin Senthilkumar	1580	W25	W12	D2	L4	2.5
8	Look	1619	W16	W14	L1	1/2	2.5
9	Schaal	1467	W24	L2	W22	D10	2.5
10	Nelson	1800	L12	W25	W24	D9	2.5
11	Gordon	1700	1/2	L21	W28	W18	2.5
12	Sarathkumar	1228	W10	L7	L3	W26	2.0
13	Rui Tao	1264	W4	D18	L6	D19	2.0
14	Lemon	1400	W22	L8	W23	L3	2.0
15	Gurnsey	1254	L1	W29	L20	W24	2.0
16	Shrijit Senthilkumar	1152	L8	L4	W29	W22	2.0
17	Mora	1218	L2	L22	W25	W23	2.0
18	Koppinger	1713	W27	D13	L5	L11	1.5
19	Savage	1291	L23	W26	L4	D13	1.5
20	J. Slominski	1764	1/2	L6	W15	U-	1.5
21	Draney	1800	1/2	W11	U--	U--	1.5
22	Bernard	UNR	L14	W17	L9	L16	1.0
23	Dennis Andersen	UNR	W19	L5	L14	L17	1.0
24	C. Meduna	UNR	L9	W27	L10	L15	1.0
25	Pittala	953	L7	L10	L17	W29	1.0
26	W. Jackson	576	L5	L19	W27	L12	1.0
27	Benetz	1200	L18	L24	L26	1/2	0.5
28	Annapureddy	UNR	U--	1/2	L11	U--	0.5
29	Lindner-Salinas	UNR	L3	L15	L16	L25	0.0

Games from the Hall of Fame Memorial

Round 1:

Shravan Senthilkumar-Nelson

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 a6 4. a3 Qc7 5. d4 cxd4 6. Nxd4 Nc6 7. Be3 Nf6 8. h3 Be7 9. Be2 0-0 10. 0-0 d6 11. Bf3 Bd7 12. Re1 Rac8 13. Qd2 Na5 14. Be2 Nc4 15. Bxc4 Qxc4 16. Qd3 Rfd8 17. Red1 Be8 18. Rd2 Nd7 19. Re2 Ne5 20. Qd2 Qc7 21. Rb1 Nc4 22. Qd1 Bf6 23. Qd3 b5 24. Bd2 g6 25. Reel Qb6 26. Be3 Nxe3 27. fxe3 Bg7 28. Rf1 Rc4 29. Rbd1 Be5 30. Rf3 Qc7 31. Rff1 Qe7 32. Qd2 Qh4 33. Qf2 Bg3 34. Qf3 Be5 35. Nxe6! Rc8 36. Nd4 Qg3 37. Qxg3 Bxg3 38. Nd5 Kg7 39. Nb6! Rxc2 40. Nxc8 Rxc8 41. Rc1 Rxc1 42. Rxc1 Be5 43. Nd4 Resigns (0-1)

Round 2:

Draney-Gordon

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 Nc6 4. Be2 Qc7 5. Nc3 a6 6. 0-0 Nf6 7. h3 Be7 8. a3 0-0 9. d4 cxd4 10. Nxd4 d6 11. Be3 Bd7 12. Qd2 Rfd8 13. b4 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Rac8 15. Qe3 Re8 16. Rfd1 Bd8 17. e5! dxe5 18. Bxe5 Qb6? 19. c5! Qc6 20. Rd6 Nd5 21. Nxd5 exd5 22. Rxc6 Bxc6 23. Qa3 f6 24. Bg4! Ra8 25. Bd6 a5 26. Rb1 b5 27. f4 axb4 28. axb4 Ra2 29. Re1 Rxe1+ 30. Qxe1 f5 31. Qe6+ Kh8 32. Qxf5 Resigns (1-0)

Round 3:

Holsinger-Schaal

1. e4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. cxd5 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nxd5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Bc4 Nb6 8. Bb3 g6 9. d4 Bg7 10. Be3 0-0 11. 0-0 Bg4 12. Re1 Bxf3 13. Qxf3 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Bxd4 15. Rad1 Bxf2+? 16. Qxf2 Qc7 17. a4 e6 18. a5 Nd7 19. Ba4 Nc5 20. Bc2 Qxa5 21. Qf6 Qb6 22. Na4? Nxa4+ 23. Kh1 Nc5 24. h4 h5 25. Bxg6! fxg6 26. Qxg6+ Kh8 27. Qxh5+ Kg7 28. Re3 Rf5 29. Rg3+ Kf6 30. Qg6+ Ke5 31. Qg7+ Resigns (1-0)

Round 4:

Koppinger-Gordon

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Nc6 6. Be3 Qc7 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. 0-0 Ne5 9. Bf4? d6 10. Be2 Be7 11. a4 0-0 12. Nf3 Rd1 13. Qd4? Nxf3+ 14. Bxf3 e5 15. Qd2 exf4 16. Rad1 Be6 17. Qxf4 Rac8 18. Resigns (0-1)

Lincoln Chess Foundation Announces the CCC (Cornhusker Chess Circuit) Tournament Participation Program With \$1800.00 in Guaranteed Prizes for Playing in More Tournaments.

You heard that correctly, beginning in January of 2026, the Lincoln Chess Foundation is offering \$1800.00 in guaranteed cash payouts to players that win the most points in CCC chess tournaments held in Nebraska throughout the 2026 Calendar year.

The CCC (Cornhusker Chess Circuit) program is NOT a part of the POY nor will it have any impact on any current programs being run by the Nebraska State Chess Association. All of the scoring and standings will be kept track of independently by the Foundation and this program will strictly reward playing in Nebraska events and will have nothing to do with selecting State Closed participants.

If you are a director and wish to include your event in the CCC standings making it more attractive to lower rated players to come and play then you simply need to notify me in advance and note that all CCC events must be at least 4 rounds, open to all Nebraska players, and must have time controls of at least G/60 with delay figured in. All CCC events must require the top section to be USCF rated. Only the top section of the tournament will be eligible for earning points.

All of the following tournaments are automatically included in the CCC standings without the director having to do anything:

Omaha City Championship
Midwest Open
Wilkins Cup
Summer Open
Cornhusker State Games
Crane City Open
Lincoln City Championship
Great Plains Open
Hall of Fame Memorial

Players, this program is set up to encourage you to participate in as many major chess events as possible and scores in the event are only one way that you can earn points.

If you play in every one of the above events and don't take any 1/2-point byes or withdraw in the middle you would earn 40 points (one for every round played). You will also score points for your score in these events so a person rated 1100 who plays in the Midwest Open and scores 1.5-3.5 will earn 6.5 points in the standings. Even if they score zero in the event, they will still earn 5.0 points for supporting a 5-round event.

Only Nebraska players are eligible to earn CCC points and no one player can win more than one cash award.

Here is the breakdown of the cash prizes:

1st place in overall points \$150.00

Most active overall \$150.00

1st Class B in overall points \$150.00

Class B most active overall \$150.00

1st Class C in overall points \$150.00

Class C most active overall \$150.00

1st Class D in overall points \$150.00

Class D most active overall \$150.00

1st Class E and Below in overall points \$150.00

Class E & Below most active \$150.00

Regional at least 50 miles from Omaha or Lincoln \$150.00 most overall points

Born 1966 or earlier \$150.00 most overall points

Total Prizes \$1800 just to play in more tournaments.

There are no fees to the directors or players as this is a totally free program to boost attendance statewide in major events. Players may advance to play in a higher class during the year but must request to do so before June 30th. If your tournament is not on the list above but you would like it to be email me at gambiteer49@yahoo.com with your proposed tournament details. If your event is already on the list above you are included in the program automatically. Remember, only the top or Open/USCF rated section counts.

SMALLER CHESS EVENTS IN DECEMBER

December 3rd-The Spence Club finished the 3rd and final round of a split Swiss regular rated event on Wednesday December 3rd. The event drew a total of 14 players in three sections. The upper section was won by Sidd Parthasarathy and Nick Lacroix both with a score of 2.5-.5. the middle section was won by Shravan Sarathkumar with a score of 3-0. A filler section featured one game between Tony Dutiel and Matthew Koppinger with Tony winning.

December 3rd-SCC held its final Action event of 2025 on Wednesday December 3rd. The event drew 6 players and was won by Ben Fabrikant with a score of 5-0. Leo Iacono directed and finished 2nd with 4-1.

December 10th-The Spence Club held a G/12;d3 action Swiss on Wednesday December 10th. Six players took part and the event was won by Nick Lacroix with a perfect 5-0 score in the round robin.

December 17th-The Spence Club held its final rated event of the year. It was a blitz event and it drew 11 players. The winner was Sidd Parthasarathy with a score of 11-1.

December 21st-On Sunday December 21st, the Millard Library Chess Club sponsored another chess talk mini-seminar. Bruce Draney did a talk on the importance of the King getting to the 6th rank before the pawn, while Scott showed a game by Tarrasch that illustrated the importance of space in a chess game.

December 27th-The third annual Hall of Fame Memorial drew 29 players. It was won by Samuel Mehlhaff of Kansas with a score of 4-0. The Hall of Fame also inducted Roger Anderson, Michael Dreiger and John Hobbs Mockett as our three newest Hall of Fame members. Gary Colvin of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee emceed the ceremony and a beautiful Capablanca Staunton style chess set was raffled off to Richard Perry for playing in the tournament and for staying to attend the ceremony. A number of Hall of Fame members attended and/or played in the event including Rich Perry, Bruce Draney, Kent Nelson, Michael Dreiger, Bob Woodworth and Rich Chess.

FINAL THOUGHTS BY EDITOR BRUCE DRANEY

This wraps another chess year here in Nebraska and it was a fairly amazing year dotted with all sorts of major events and accomplishments. Here is a month-by-month summary of the year's happenings.

January-Luke Hengen captured his first state championship, tying with Nick Lacroix with 3.5-1.5, but winning the title on tie breaks. Will Osborne captured the first ever B Closed title. The Lewis Central Scholastic was held in Council Bluffs at Lewis Central High School on January 11th. The NSCA Class Championships were held in Omaha at UNO. Class winners were: Cusumano, Parthasarathy, Alagankancharla and Kantem, and Castenada and Katta in Class D.

February-Kearney's CNCC hosted a winter tournament won by Rafael Sanchez and Michael Schaal both with 3-1.

March-Millard North High School, Millard North Middle School, and Aldrich Elementary School all won the State Scholastic Team titles on March 1st at UNO. First place was shared by Nick Lacroix, Kirill Belashchenko, Chris Kisicki, and Jerry Slominski in the Omaha City Championship on March 15th. The Winter Open was held at the Fort Omaha Campus of Metro on March 8th-9th. It was directed by Seetharaman Renganathan and Bruce Draney. Winner was Luke Hengen with 4.5.

April-The Midwest Open was held in Omaha at the Regency Marriott. It was won by Nick Lacroix who became the 2nd qualifier for next year's Closed.

May-The Nebraska Individual Championships were held at UNO, directed by Michael Gooch. Irwin qualifier was Jerry Slominski, Denker qualifier was Luke Hengen, Haring qualifier was Mansi Adduri, Barber qualifier was Shannor Qiang, and Rockefeller qualifier was Sidd Parthasarathy. On Friday May 30th, 9 new members were inducted into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony at the Graduate Hotel in downtown Lincoln. Bruce Draney, Mike Mathews, Mike Blankenau, Bob Woodworth, Rich Perry, Bart Lewis, Gary Colvin, Paul Rohwer, and Kevin Fleming all joined an elite group of our greatest, champions, writers, directors, organizers or promoters. The big Hall of Fame tournament began on Saturday May 31st called the Hall of Fame 50th U.S. Open Anniversary Tournament and it attracted 4 GMs (the most ever at one time to visit Nebraska).

Also, 3 IMs and a host of former and current city and state champions including 5 of the previously mentioned new inductees, Perry, Draney, Rohwer, Fleming, and Blankenau played. FM Loren Schmidt and SM Rod Malpert who emceed Friday night's program also played in the event. The final results were a somewhat amazing 13-way tie for first place that included all 4 GMs, 2 of the IMs, and 7 others including Rohwer, Luke Hengen, Guru and others.

June-The Summer Open was held at the Comfort Inn and Suites near 72nd and Grover in Omaha on June 28th-29th. Winner was Joe Knapp with a perfect 5-0 score.

July-The annual Cornhusker State Games were held in Lincoln on July 19-20 at SCC on 89th and O. Open winner was Rakshith Seetharaman who qualified for the Closed.

August-The 2nd Annual Wilkins Cup drew a maximum crowd of 41 players to the Ovation Heartwood Preserve Senior Living Facility in west Omaha. Ryan Deering won the event with 4.5-.5. CNCC of Kearney hosted the first ever Crane City Open a two-day POY event at the Harmon Park Activity Center on the 16th and 17th. Winners of the inaugural tournament were Matt Koppinger and Kirill Belashchenko both with 4.5-.5.

September-The 2nd annual Omaha Metro High School League began play this year with 8 teams including defending champion Millard North, Omaha Central, Skutt Catholic, Elkhorn Mount Michael, Elkhorn South, Lewis Central, Omaha Westview, and Omaha Home School. Millard North won the fall league edging out Omaha Central by a half point. U.S. G/30, G/60 Championships came to Council Bluffs on September 27th-28th. U.S. G/30 Champion was Tim McEntee and U.S. G/60 Champions were McEntee and Rakshith Seetharaman.

October-The first unrated team scholastic of the school year was held at UNO on October 11th. It drew 31 players. Team winners were A La Tere Academy in 9-12, Millard North Middle School in 6-8 and Lincoln Chinese Academy in K-5. The Lincoln City Championship was held on October 18th in Lincoln and drew 28 players. Lincoln Co-Champions for 2025 were Sidd Parthasarathy and Rakshith Seetharaman. The Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced that John Hobbs Mockett, Michael Dreiger and Roger Anderson are the Class of 2025.

November-This turned out to be the busiest chess month of the year with 6 regular rated events held over 4 of the 5 Saturdays of the month. On Saturday November 1st, a UNO tournament was won by Nick Lacroix with 4-0. On Saturday November 8th, Greg Revesz won the Open section of the Cornucopia. A la Tere Academy took 1st in the 9-12 section; Millard North Middle School won the 6-8 section and Lincoln Chinese Academy won the K-5 section. On November 15th no fewer than three rated events occurred. The Riverfront Invitational VII was won by Nick Lacroix with a perfect 3-0 score. In Bellevue, 6 two game matches were held at the Bellevue Public Library. In Kearney, CNCC held its fall city championship event. Winner of the Open section was Rafael Sanchez of Wyoming with 4-0. On Saturday and Sunday November 22nd-23rd, the Great Plains Open was held in Lincoln. Nick Lacroix scored an amazing 5-0 to take clear 1st. Gregory Revesz of Lincoln won the slot in the Closed with a score of 3.5-1.5. The Camelot Championship concluded on Friday November 21st with Tony Dutiel taking the title with 3.5-.5. Warren Hunter repeated as club Reserve Champion with 3-1.

December-The final major tournament of the year was the Hall of Fame Memorial held in Omaha at the Double Tree Hotel on 72nd and Grover. The event drew 29 players and the winner was Samuel Mehlhaff of Topeka, Kansas with a perfect 4-0 score. There was a 5-way tie for second between Richard Perry, Matt Buckley, Tony Dutiel, Gabe Hoffman and Julius Meduna all with 3-1. The State Closed field is now tentatively set unless someone should decide not to play. The State Championship will be won by one of these six qualifiers: Luke Hengen, Nick Lacroix, Rakshith Seetharaman, Gregory Revesz, Kirill Belashchenko, or Will Osborne.

All in all, 2025 was a very successful chess year with major events held in all three regions of the state including the first POY event outside of Omaha or Lincoln in years as the Central Nebraska Chess Club hosted the first annual Crane City Open. Eric Ring is doing a fine job of growing chess in central and western Nebraska.