

The Gambit

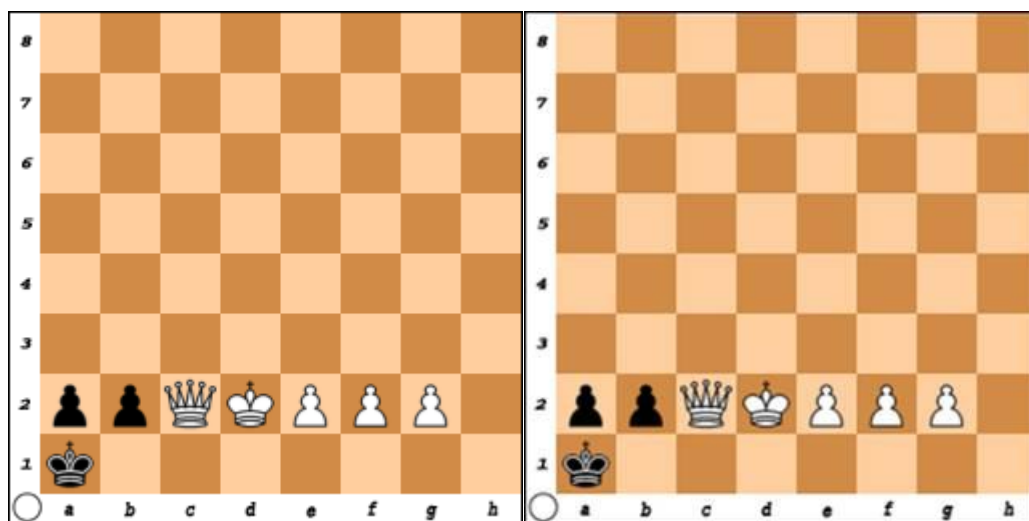
The Nebraska State Chess Archives

Nebraska State Chess Association

Volume 1: 1/1/2026-3/31/2026

Rauf Aliovsadzade

This problem by Samuel R. Barrett (American composer) was first published in 'Dubuque Chess Journal' in 1874.



Mate in 12

1.Qc3! Kb1 2.Qd3+ Ka1 3.Qd4 (White has to keep the Pawn on b2 pinned throughout) Kb1 4.Qe4+Ka1 5.Qe5 Kb1 6.Qf5+ Ka1 7.Qf6 Kb1 8.Qg6+ Ka1 9.Qg7 Kb1 10.Qh7+ Ka1 11.Qh8 Kb1 12.Qh1#.

Note Queen's step-by-step moves.

This idea is called 'Ladder'.

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i-Cover Page and Chess Puzzle by Rauf Aliovsadzade

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Nebraska Chess Information Page

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Omaha Chess Community

President-Nick Lacroix
Omaha, NE

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) 2025-2026 HOF Selection Committee:
Bruce Draney, Rod Malpert, Loren Schmidt.

Central Nebraska Chess Club-President Eric Ring, Kearney, Nebraska

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

Anderson Chess Club at Camelot-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

Northside Chess Club-Salvation Army 2424 Pratt Street, Omaha NE, Wednesday 1-3, Free Lunch 12-1. Richard Gardner Jr.

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 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. Dylan Dell-Haro

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 every other Saturday 3-4:30 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 Chess Related Groups:

Nebraska Chess Community group-Vince Jodoin,

Nebraska Chess History group-Bruce Draney

Central Nebraska Chess Club Group-Eric Ring,

UNO Chess Group

Lincoln Chess Foundation & Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame Group-Bruce Draney

National Online Chess Playing Sites

Chess.com

Lichess.com

Editors Notes by Bruce Draney

Welcome to 2026 and my 15th issue of the Gambit as editor. As usual, I would like to take the time to acknowledge and thank a number of people who contribute to chess here in Nebraska and also help make my job easier and the state of chess here better by their various contributions, whether it be leading, promoting, directing, reporting or playing.

Gary Colvin-Gary and I have known each other for more than 50 years and he spent 2025 and part of 2024 on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Gary helped not only in the planning and execution of the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame 1975 U.S. Open Anniversary Celebration and induction banquet last May; he also was involved in selecting three new Hall of Fame members last year and his final contribution was emceeding the induction ceremony of our new members on Saturday December 27th here in Omaha. Gary officially left the committee as of December 31st, but I wanted to thank him for his time and efforts.

Rod Malpert-Rod continues to support Nebraska chess both financially and in his attendance at Nebraska events throughout the year. Rod's latest efforts are to sponsor the new Cornhusker Chess Circuit player participation incentive program as well as a new program to get UNL students to play in more Nebraska events. Rod also anchored our team at USATE 2026.

Dennis Wasson-Dennis who hails from Council Bluffs, has contributed an article this issue on his tournament organizing and directing in the 1980s which will make for interesting reading.

Steven Cusumano and Sidd Parthasarathy-Together with Rod Malpert and me, the four of us made up the Ohman Empire Team at USATE 2026 in Parsippany, New Jersey on February 14-16. An article on our performance is included on page 20 of this issue.

Nick Lacroix-Nick has taken on the monumental task of succeeding Michael Gooch as the new President of the Omaha Chess Community. Although Michael still plans to direct occasionally, he is giving up the Presidency of the OCC. Nick also supplies me with games from major Nebraska events every issue. Nick also helped me direct the state team scholastic on 2/28/26.

Luke Hengen and Sidd Parthasarathy-Luke won the Closed Championship on February 28th for the 2nd year in a row with 4.5-.5 and Sidd won the B Closed with 5-0.

Dmitriiy Khots-Dmitriiy has generously supported Nebraska chess by offering the facilities at Boys Town to run the State Team Scholastic and also next summer's LCF Chess Camp.

Bob Woodworth-Bob who has served for over 25 years as our NSCA Historical Archivist has submitted an article about the changing movement abilities of the pieces and a new puzzle.

Roger Anderson-Roger who was just inducted in December into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame died at the age of 89 on February 22nd. Five chess players showed up at his funeral to pay homage to him. A short article on his life and achievements is included in this issue.

Chess Around the State in January

January 7th-Spence Club held its first event of 2026 with a G/20 Swiss. Attendance was light but the event did attract 6 players. Winner was Sidd Parthasarathy.

January 10th-Lewis Central High School held its 3rd Annual Team Scholastic and Open event. Organizers of the event were LCHS chess coach Troy Stolp and outgoing OCC President Michael Gooch. Chief directing duties were handled by incoming OCC President Nick Lacroix. The event drew 31 but surprisingly 22 of those were in the Open section. Only 9 people played in the scholastic section. Lewis Central took 1st in the High School section. A Omaha Home school family took the Elementary School section and there was not a team entered in the middle school section although 3 players did play. Top quad winner in the Open was Michael Mills with 2-1. The Under 1500 section was won by Daryan Mora with 3-0, and the Under 1000 section was won by Krish Goje with 4-0.

January 11th-On Sunday January 11th, the Millard Library Chess Club held its first FRO (For Rating Only) double round robin team blitz tournament of the year. Bruce Draney and Elijah Jamal took 1st with 11-5. Nathan Sandquist and Scott Look took 2nd with 10-6.

January 14th-Spence Club began a 4 round Swiss event that lasted 4 weeks and concluded on Wednesday February 4th

January 30th-February 1st-The A & B State Closed Championships were held at Steven Cusumano's Riverfront condo here in Omaha. A winner was Luke Hengen and B winner was Sidd Parthasarathy. Gregory Revesz took 2nd with 4-1. A full round by round report with games and final standings is included on page 6.

2026 Nebraska State Closed Championship 01/30-02/01/2026

State Championship

#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Luke Hengen	2136	X	1/2	1	1	1	1	4.5
2	Greg Revesz	2088	1/2	X	1	1	1/2	1	4.0
3	Kirill Belashchenko	1938	0	0	X	1/2	1/2	1	2.0
4	Nick LaCroix	2135	0	0	1/2	X	1	0	1.5
5	Rakshith Seetharaman	2038	0	1/2	1/2	0	X	1/2	1.5
6	Will Osborne	1903	0	0	0	1	1/2	X	1.5

B Closed

#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Sidd Parthasarathy	2025	X	1	1	1	1	1	5.0
2	Matthew Koppinger	1605	0	X	1	0	1	1	3.0
3	Thomas Jessop	1826	0	0	X	1	1	0	2.0
4	Steven Cusumano	1943	0	1	0	X	0	1	2.0
5	Joe Knapp	1907	0	0	0	1	X	1	2.0
6	Samanvi Kantem	1555	0	0	1	0	0	X	1.0

All 12 invited participants showed up to play in the A & B Closed, held this year at the Regency Marriott here in Omaha. This year for the 2nd year in a row, the first round was held on Friday night January 30th so that the Saturday schedule was less grueling.

Here is a round-by-round summary of the results for both sections:

State Championship: Round 1

Greg Revesz defeated last year's state co-champion Nick Lacroix, returning state co-champion Luke Hengen fended off a strong attack from Kirill Belashchenko to pull out a win, and Will Osborne and Rakshith Seetharaman played to a hard-fought draw.

B Closed: Round 1

NSCA President Steven Cusumano bested Samanvi Kantem, while Sidd Parthasarathy defeated Matthew Koppinger and Thomas Jessop from the small town of Edward Nebraska defeated Joe Knapp.

State Championship Round 2

Nick Lacroix rebounded from his first-round loss and survived a brutal attack from Rakshith Seetharaman to even his record at 1-1. Luke Hengen bested Will Osborne, and Greg Revesz defeated Kirill Belashchenko.

B Closed Round 2

Sidd Parthasarathy moved to 2-0 with a win against Samanvi Kantem. Thomas Jessop went to 2-0 defeating Steven Cusumano and Matthew Koppinger evened his record with a win over Joe Knapp.

State Championship Round 3

Greg Revesz and Luke Hengen both continued to roll, with Luke defeating Rakshith Seetharaman, and Revesz besting Will Osborne. Kirill Belashchenko and Nick Lacroix played into an opposite-colored bishop draw.

B Closed Round 3

Sidd Parthasarathy moved to a perfect 3-0 defeating Thomas Jessop. Joe Knapp defeated Steven Cusumano and Matthew Koppinger defeated Samanvi Kantem.

State Championship Round 4

Luke Hengen moved closer to a 2nd consecutive title going to 4-0 with a win over last year's co-champion, Nick Lacroix. Rakshith Seetharaman and Greg Revesz fought to wild draw and Kirill Belashchenko defeated Will Osborne.

B Closed Round 4

Sidd continued to roll defeating Steven Cusumano, while Koppinger upset Jessop and Knapp bested Kantem.

State Championship Round 5

Luke needed only a draw to clinch his 2nd title in a row this one undisputed. He was able to draw Revesz to finish with 4.5-.5. Osborne upset Lacroix, Kirill and Rakshith agreed to a draw.

B Closed Round 5

Sidd wrapped up the B championship by defeating Joe Knapp. Cusmano came back to top Koppinger to finish with 2-3 and Kantem upset Jessop to avoid getting shut out.

Games From the Closed

Round 1:

Revesz-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Ng3 h5 6. h4 g6 7. Bc4 Bg7 8. Bg5 O-O 9. Qd3 b5 10. Bb3 Nd5 11. Nf3 Nd7 12. O-O a5 13. Bxd5 cxd5 14. Rfe1 Nf6 15. Qxb5 Qc7 16. Qc5 Qxc5 17. Dxc5 Ne4 18. Nxe4 dxe4 19. Rxe4 Bxb2 20. Rb1 Bf6 21. Bxf6 exf6 22. Nd4 Rd8 23. c3 Bf5 24. Nxf5 gxf5 25. Rc4 Kf8 26. c6 Rdc8 27. Rb5 Ke7 28. Rxf5 Ra6 29. Rxh5 Raxc6 30. Rxc6 Rxc6 31. Rxa5 Rxc3 32. A4 Ke6 33. Kh2 f5 34. F4 Kf6 35. Ra6+ Kg7 36. a5 f6 37. H5 Rc4 38. G3 Rc5 39. Ra8 Rc2+ 40. Kg1 Rc3 41. Kf2 Rc2+ 42. Ke1 Rg2 43. a6 Rxg3 44. a7 Ra3 45. Kd2 Kh7 46. Kc2 Kg7 47. Kb2 Ra6 48. Kb3 Ra5 49. Kb4 Ra6 50. h6+ Kh7 51. Kb5 Ra3 52. Kc6 Ra5 53. Kd6 Ra6+ 54. Ke7 Ra4 55. Kxf6 Ra6+ 56. Kxf5 Ra5+ 57. Kf6 Ra6+ 58. Ke7 Ra4 59. f5 Kxh6 60. Rh8+ Kg7 61. a8=Q Re4+ 62. Qxe4 Kxh8 63. f6 Kg8 64. Qg6+ Kh8 65. Qg7# (1-0)

Belashchenko-Hengen

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Nxd7 5. O-O Ngf6 6. Qe2 e6 7. c3 Be7 8. d4 O-O 9. Bf4 d5 10. e5 Ne4 11. Nbd2 Nxd2 12. Bxd2 a6 13. a4 Qc7 14. Bg5 Bxg5 15. Nxc5 h6 16. Nf3 c4 17. Nh4 b5 18. f4 Rfb8 19. f5 Nf8 20. Qh5 Kh7 21. fxe6 fxe6 22. Rf7 Qd8 23. Nf3 Kg8 24. Rf1 bxa4 25. g4 Rxb2 26. g5 Qe8 27. Nh4 Rb1 28. Rxf8+ Qxf8 29. Rxb1 Qf4 30. Ng2 Qxg5 31. Qxg5 hxg5 32. Rb4 a3 33. Ra4 Rb8 34. Rxa3 Rb3 35. Rxa6 Kf7 36. Ne1 Rxc3 37. Kf2 g4 38. Ra7+ Kg6 39. Re7 Kf5 40. Rxg7 Rh3 41. Kg2 Rb3 42. Kf2 Rb2+ 43. Kg3 Rb3+ 44. Kf2 Rb2+ 45. Kg3 Re2 46. Ng2 c3 47. Nh4+ Ke4 48. Rxg4+ Kd3 49. Kf3 Re1 50. Rg2 c2 51. Rxc2 Kxc2 52. Kf2 Re4 53. Nf3 Kd3 54. h4 Rf4 55. Kg3 Ke3 56. Ng5 Rxd4 57. H5 Rd1 58. h6 Rg1+ 59. Kh4 Rh1+ 60. Nh3 Kf3 61. h7 Kg2 62. Kg5 Rxh3 63. Kg6 d4 64. Kg7 d3 65. h8=Q Rxh8 66. Kxh8 d2 (0-1)

Round 2:

Seetharaman-Lacroix

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. E5 c5 4. dxc5 e6 5. a3 Bxc5 6. Qg4 Ne7 7. Nf3 O-O 8. Bd3 Ng6 9. O-O Nc6 10. Re1 Qc7 11. Qh5 Bd7 12. Nc3 Nce7 13. Ne2 a5 14. Ng5 h6 15. Nf3 Qb6 16. Rf1 Bb5 17. Ng3 Bxd3 18. cxd3 Rfc8 19. Bd2 Qxb2 20. d4 Bxa3 21. Bxh6 gxf6 22. Qxh6 Nf5 23. Nxf5 Bf8 24. Qh5 exf5 25. Ng5 Bg7 26. e6 Ra6 27. exf7+ Kf8 28. Rae1 Bxd4 29. Qh7 Ne7 30. h4 Be5 31. Qh5 a4 32. Re2 Qd4 33. Nf3 Qg4 34. Qxg4 fxg4 35. Nxe5 Ng6 36. Nxc6+ Rxg6 37. Rfe1 Rc7 38. Re8+ Kxf7 39. Ra8 Ra6 40. Rxa6 bxa6 41. Re3 Rc1+ 42. Kh2 d4 43. Rd3 Rc4 44. Rd1 a3 45. Kg3 a2 46. Ra1 Rc2 47. Kxg4 Rxf2 48. Kg3 Re2 49. Kf3 d3 50. g4 Rb2 51. g5 d2 52. Ke3 Rb1 53. Rxa2 d1=Q 54. Rf2+ Kg7 (0-1)

Hengen-Osborne

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. H3 Nc6 6. c3 g6 7. Nf3 Bf5 8. O-O Qc7 9. Ne5 Nxe5 10. dxe5 Qxe5 11. Bb5+ Bd7 12. Bxd7+ Nxd7 13. Re1 Qd6 14. c4 Bg7 15. Nc3 Nb6 16. Bg5 f6 17. c5 Qxc5 18. Be3 Qd6 19. Bxb6 axb6 20. Nxd5 e5 21. Qb3 O-O-O 22. Nxb6+ Kb8 23. Red1 Qc7 24. Rdc1 Qd6 25. Qb5 Qd3 26. Rc4 Rd6 27. Rac1 Rc6 28. Qa5 Rxc4 29. Rxc4 Qd1+ 30. Kh2 (1-0)

Revesz-Belashchenko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. dxc5 Bxc5 5. Qg4 Bf8 6. Nf3 Qc7 7. c3 Nc6 8. Bb5 Bd7 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. O-O Ne7 11. Nbd2 Ng6 12. Re1 Be7 13. b4 a5 14. Bxa5 h5 15. Qd4 c5 16. Qe3 Rxa5 17. c4 d4 18. Qd3 Nf4 19. Qf1 h4 20. Nb3 g5 21. Nxa5 Qxa5 22. Rb1 Qa8 23. Bxf4 gxf4 24. h3 Bc6 25. Qd3 Rg8 26. Kf1 Rg6 27. Qb3 Qa6 28. Rec1 Kf8 29. Qb8+ Kg7 30. Qc7 Bxf3 31. gxf3 Qa3 32. Rd1 Qxf3 33. Qb7 Qxh3+ 34. Ke2 Bd8 35. Qe4 Qg4+ 36. Kd3 Qh3+ 37. f3 Qh2 38. Rd2 Qg3 39. Rh1 Qg5 40. a4 Qh6 41. Ra2 Rg3 42. a5 Qh5 43. Rf1 h3 44. Qxf4 Rg5 45. a6 Bb6 46. a7 Bxa7 47. Rxa7 Qg6+ 48. Qe4 Rf5 49. Ra2 Qg3 50. Raa1 Kh6 51. Qg4 Qxe5 52. Rfe1 Qf6 53. Qxh3+ Rh5 54. Qg4 Rg5 55. Rh1+ Kg7 56. Qxg5+ Qxg5 57. Rag1 Qxg1 58. Rxg1+ Kf6 59. Ke4 Ke7 60. Ra1 f6 61. Ra6 Kd7 62. f4 (1-0)

Round 3:

Hengen-Seetharaman

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Qc7 6. Na3 a6 7. Nc2 e6 8. Nf3 Bd6 9. O-O Nge7 10. Re1 O-O 11. Ne5 f6 12. Nxc6 Nxc6 13. Qh5 g6 14. Qh4 Qf7 15. Bh6 Re8 16. f4 Bf8 17. Ne3 Bxh6 18. Qxh6 Qg7 19. Qxg7+ Kxg7 20. Nxd5 Rb8 21. Nb6 Kf7 22. Re3 Ke7 23. Rae1 Kd6 24. Bc4 e5 25. Dxe5+ fxe5 26. Bb3 (1-0)

Osborne-Revesz

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Nf3 g6 7. Nd2 Bg7 8. e4 O-O 9. Be2 Re8 10. O-O b6 11. Qc2 Ba6 12. Bxa6 Nxa6 13. f3 Nb4 14. Qb1 Nh5 15. Nc4 Rb8 16. Be3 b5 17. Nd2 Bd4 18. Bxd4 cxd4 19. Ne2 d3 20. Nc3 Nc2 21. Nd1 Qg5 22. Rf2 Nf4 23. Kh1 Nxd5 24. exd5 Qxd2 25. h3 Qe1+ 26. Kh2 Nxa1 27. Qxa1 Re2 (0-1)

Round 4:

Lacroix-Hengen

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bf4 O-O 6. e3 c5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. Nxd5 Qxd5 9. dxc5 Qxc5 10. Bd3 Qa5+ 11. Ke2 Nc6 12. Qb3 e5 13. Bg3 Be6 14. Qxb7 Bd5 15. Qb5 e4 16. Rhd1 exd3+ 17. Qxd3 Rfd8 18. Qc3 Bb4 19. Qc2 Qa6+ 20. Rd3 Bc4 (0-1)

Belashchenko-Osborne

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. d4 Bg4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. c4 e6 7. g5 Nh5 8. Nc3 c5 9. Be3 Be7 10. f4 Na6 11. Nf3 cxd4 12. Nxd4 Bc5 13. Qa4+ Kf8 14. O-O-O exd5 15. Bg2 Rc8 16. Bxd5 Bxd4 17. Rxd4 Nc5 18. Qa3 Qe7 19. Ne4 b5 20. Nxc5 b4 21. Nd7+ Kg8 22. Qb3 Qxd7 23. Rhd1 h6 24. Be4 Qe6 25. Bxg6 fxg6 26. gxh6 gxh6 27. Qd3 Kh7 28. Rd7+ Ng7 29. B3 Rhe8 30. Bxa7 Qf6 31. Bd4 Qxf4+ 32. Kb1 Rc7 33. Bxg7 Rxd7 34. Qxd7 Qe4+ 35. Ka1 Re7 36. Qd4 Qf3 37. Bf6 Ra7 38. Qxa7+ (1-0)

Seetharaman-Revesz

1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 d5 4. e5 f6 5. Bd3 fxe5 6. dxe5 Be7 7. A3 Nh6 8. Bxh6 gxh6 9. Nc3 O-O 10. h4 Rf4 11. Qd2 Qf8 12. Ne2 Rg4 13. Ng3 Bd7 14. Qe2 Qf4 15. Nh5 Qf7 16. Ng3 Nd4 17. Nxd4 Rxd4 18. O-O-O Rxh4 19. Kb1 Kh8 20. Nh5 c5 21. Rxh4 Bxh4 22. g3 Be8 23. gxh4 Qxh5 24. Qd2 Qxh4 25. Rg1 c4 26. Qb4 Bc6 27. Be2 Rg8 28. Rg4 Qd8 29. Rd4 Qc7 30. f4 Be8 31. Qd2 Bg6 32. Bf1 Bf5 33. Ka2 Rg1 34. Qf2 Qg7 35. Bxc4 Qg4 36. Be2 Qg2 37. Qh4 Qxe2 38. Qd8+ Kg7 39. Qe7+ Kg6 40. Qe8+ Kg7 41. Qe7+ Kg6 42. Qe8+ Kg7 43. Qe7+ Kg6 (1/2-1/2)

Round 5:

Revesz-Hengen

1. e4 c5 2. f4 d6 3. Nf3 g6 4. Bc4 Bg7 5. O-O e6 6. d3 a6 7. Bb3 h6 8. g4 Nc6 9. Qe1 Nge7 10. f5 gxf5 11. gxf5 Nd4 12. fxe6 Bxe6 13. Nxd4 Bxd4+ 14. Kh1 Qd7 15. c3 Be5 16. Bxe6 Qxe6 17. Qf2 Qh3 18. Bf4 Bxf4 19. Qxf4 Rg8 20. Rf2 Rg4 21. Qxf7+ Kd7 22. Qf3 Qxf3+ 23. Rxf3 Rag8 24. Nd2 Rg2 25. Rd1 Nc6 26. Nc4 b5 27. Nb6+ Ke8 28. Nd5 R8g7 29. Rf6 Ne5 30. d4 Nd3 31. Rdf1 Rxb2 32. Rf8+ Kd7 33. R8f7+ Rxf7 34. Rxf7+ Ke8 35. Re7+ Kf8 36. Re6 Rxa2 37. Rxd6 cxd4 38. cxd4 Nf2+ 39. Kg1 Nxe4 40. Rxh6 Kg7 41. Rb6 Ng5 42. Nc7 Nf3+ 43. Kf1 Nxb2+ 44. Ke1 Nf3+ 45. Kd1 Ra1+ 46. Kc2 Nxd4+ 47. Kb2 Ra4 48. Rxa6 Rb4+ 49. Kc3 Rc4+ 50. Kd3 Rxc7 51. Kxd4 Rb7 52. Ra3 b4 53. Rb3 Kf6 54. Kc4 Rc7+ 55. Kxb4 Rb7+ (1/2-1/2)

Osborne-Lacroix

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 O-O 7. Bd3 c6 8. Nge2 Re8 9. Qc2 Nbd7 10. O-O Nf8 11. F3 Be6 12. Rad1 Rc8 13. e4 dxe4 14. fxe4 c5 15. Bb5 Bd7 16. Bxd7 N8xd7 17. Kh1 cxd4 18. Nxd4 Qa5 19. Nf5 Bb4 20. Qf2 Bxc3 21. Bxc3 Nxe4 22. Qh4 Rc5 23. Ne7+ Rxe7 24. Bxe7 Rh5 25. Qxe4 Re5 26. Qb4 (1-0)

B Closed Games of Interest

Jessop-Knapp Round 1

1. b3 c5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. F4 e6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. E3 b6 6. Be2 Bb7 7. O-O d5 8. Ne5 Bd6 9. Bb5 Rc8 10. D3 O-O 11. Rf3 Ne7 12. D4 c4 13. Bxc4 a6 14. C5 bxc5 15. Be2 Qb6 16. Ba3 Ne4 17. Nd7 Qa5 18. Nxf8 Kxf8 19. Bd3 Kg8 20. Dxc5 Bxc5 21. Bxc5 Qxc5 22. Nd2 Qc3 23. Nb3 Nf5 24. Qe1 d4 25. Exd4 Qxe1+ 26. Rxe1 Nc3 27. Rf2 Bd5 28. Nc5 Nxd4 29. Nxa6 Bxa2 30. Nb4 Bc4 31. Ra1 g6 32. H3 h5 33. Kh2 h4 34. Rd2 Nf5 35. Bxf5 exf5 36. Rd7 Ne2 37. Raa7 Be6 38. Rdc7 Rd8 39. Nd3 Ng3 40. Re7 Rb8 41. Ne1 Bd5 42. Rad7 Be6 43. Rd1 Ne2 44. Nd3 Rc8 45. Rd2 Ng3 46. Kg1 Ra8 47. Rd1 Ra2 48. Rc7 Ne4 49. Nc5 Bd5 50. Nxe4 Bxe4 51. Rc1 Kf8 52. Kf2 Ra3 53. Rd7 Rc3 54. Rd2 Ke7 55. Rb1 Bxc2 56. Rc1 Rc4 57. Rdxc2 Rxf4+ 58. Ke3 Re4+ 59. Kf3 g5 60. Re1 Re6 61. Rc7+ Kf6 62. Rxe6+ fxe6 63. Ke3 e5 64. Rc6+ Kf7 65. Kd3 Kg7 66. Kc4 g4 67. Kd5 (1-0)

Koppinger-Knapp Round 2

1. e4 d6 2. D4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be3 O-O 6. Qd2 Ng4 7. Bf4 e5 8. Bg5 Qd7 9. O-O-O f6 10. Be3 Nxe3 11. Qxe3 Qf7 12. Kb1 c6 13. dxe5 dxe5 14. Rd6 Be6 15. B3 b5 16. Be2 Rc8 17. Rhd1 Nd7 18. H3 Bf8 19. R6d2 Bb4 20. Nh2 Qe7 21. Ng4 Nf8 22. Qg3 Kg7 23. Rd3 a5 24. f4 Bxg4 25. Bxg4 Rd8 26. fxe5 Bxc3 27. Rxc3 Rxd1+ 28. Bxd1 Rd8 29. exf6+ Qxf6 30. Be2 Rd7 31. e5 Qd8 32. B4 axb4 33. Rd3 Qe7 34. Bg4 (1-0)

Jessop-Cusumano Round 2

1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 c5 3. E3 Nc6 4. Bb5 Bd7 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. O-O e6 7. Bxc6 Bxc6 8. Ne5 Bd6 9. Nxc6 bxc6 10. d3 Qc7 11. h3 Be5 12. Nc3 O-O 13. f4 Bd6 14. Qf3 e5 15. f5 d4 16. Nd1 Nd5 17. e4 Nb6 18. f6 gxf6 19. Nf2 Nd7 20. Qh5 Kh8 21. Ng4 Rg8 22. Bc1 Rg6 23. Bd2 Rag8 24. Rf5 Bf8 25. Raf1 Qd6 26. Qh4 Bg7 27. Rh5 Nf8 28. Rff5 Qe6 29. A4 Qd6 30. Rf2 Qe6 31. Nh6 Bxh6 32. Bxh6 R8g7 33. Bxg7+ Kxg7 34. Kh2 h6 35. Rf3 Nh7 36. Qf2 Ng5 37. Rg3 Qe7 38. Qd2 Qe6 39. h4 Nxe4 40. Qxh6+ Kg8 (1-0)

Parthasarathy-Jessop Round 3

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. D4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Nxc6 bxc6 7. Bd3 d5 8. O-O Be7 9. Re1 Rb8 10. Qf3 Nd7 11. Exd5 cxd5 12. Bf4 Rb6 13. Qg3 Rxb2 14. Nxd5 O-O 15. Nxe7+ Qxe7 16. Bd6 Qf6 17. Bxf8 Nxf8 18. Qc7 Bb7 19. Qe5 Bd5 20. Qxf6 gxf6 21. Reb1 Rxb1+ 22. Rxb1 Nd7 23. Rb5 Bxa2 24. Ra5 Bd5 25. c4 Bc6 26. Ra6 Ne5 27. Be2 Be8 28. c5 Nc6 29. Bf3 Ne5 30. c6 Nxf3+ 31. gxf3 Kf8 32. c7 Bd7 33. Rc6 Bc8 34. Rd6 Ke7 35. Rd8 Bd7 36. c8=Q (1-0)

Selected Games from the B Closed

Knapp-Cusumano Round 3

1. Nf3 d5 2. E3 c5 3. B3 Nc6 4. Bb2 Nf6 5. D4 e6 6. A3 cxd4 7. Exd4 Bd6 8. Bd3 O-O 9. Nbd2 b6 10. O-O Bb7 11. Re1 Rc8 12. Ne5 Qc7 13. Re3 Ne7 14. Rc1 Nf5 15. Rh3 Ne4 16. Ng4 Bf4 17. Bxe4 dxe4 18. D5 e5 19. Nxe4 f6 20. Ne3 Nd6 21. Nxd6 Qxd6 22. Nf5 Qd7 23. Qg4 Kh8 24. C4 Bxc1 25. Bxc1 Bxd5 26. Rxh7+ Kxh7 27. Qh3+ Kg8 28. Nh6+ gxh6 29. Qxd7 Bf7 30. Bxh6 (1-0)

Cusumano-Parthasarathy Round 4

1. e4 e6 2. D4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Bd3 c5 7. O-O cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nxe4 9. Bxe4 Nc5 10. Bf3 Be7 11. C3 e5 12. Nb3 Qc7 13. Nxc5 Qxc5 14. Be3 Qc7 15. Qb3 O-O 16. Rfd1 Bc5 17. Bxc5 Qxc5 18. Rd5 Qc7 19. Rb5 Rb8 20. Qd5 Re8 21. Rc5 Qb6 22. Rb5 Qf6 23. Re1 Be6 24. Qxe5 Bd7 25. Rxb7 Rbc8 (0-1)

Knapp-Kantem Round 4

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 h6 7. Bh4 Nbd7 8. Bd3 O-O 9. O-O Qc7 10. Rc1 a6 11. A3 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Rd8 13. Qc2 e5 14. Dxe5 Nxe5 15. Nxe5 Qxe5 16. Bg3 Qf5 17. e4 Qg5 18. h4 Qg6 19. Bc7 Rd7 20. Bb6 Nh5 21. Be3 Bxh4 22. e5 Qxc2 23. Rxc2 Rd8 24. Be2 g6 25. g4 Ng7 26. Bxh6 f6 27. exf6 Bxf6 28. Ne4 Be5 29. f4 Bd4+ 30. Kg2 Be6 31. Kg3 Bb3 32. Rd2 c5 33. Bg5 Re8 34. Bf3 Rab8 35. Rh1 Ne6 36. Bf6 Be3 37. Rh8+ (1-0)

Koppinger-Cusumano Round 5

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. Re4 g5 16. Qf1 Qh5 17. Na3 Bf5 18. Qe2 Qg6 19. Bxd5 cxd5 20. Re3 g4 21. Bd2 Be4 22. Re1 f5 23. Nc2 Rae8 24. Nb4 f4 25. gxf4 Bxf4 26. Nxd5 Bxd5 27. b3 Bxh2+ 28. Kf1 g3 29. Rxe8 g2# (0-1)

Jessop-Kantem Round 5

1. f4 Nc6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e3 Nf6 4. B3 e6 5. Bb2 Be7 6. Bd3 O-O 7. O-O h6 8. Ne5 Nxe5 9. fxe5 Nd7 10. Qh5 f5 11. exf6 Nxf6 12. Bxf6 Rxf6 13. Nc3 Bd7 14. Nxd5 exd5 15. Qxd5+ Be6 16. Qe4 Kf7 17. Qxb7 Bd5 18. Qa6 Qd6 19. Qa5 Qc6 20. Rxf6+ Bxf6 21. Rf1 Rd8 22. Rf2 Qb6 23. Qxb6 cxb6 24. e4 Ke7 25. exd5 Bd4 26. Be4 Rf8 27. Bf3 g5 28. h3 h5 29. Bxh5 (0-1)

Parthasarathy-Knapp Round 5

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be2 Bg7 7. Be3 Nbd7 8. O-O a6 9. a4 b6 10. a5 b5 11. Nd5 Bb7 12. Bf3 Ne5 13. Nxf6+ Bxf6 14. c3 h5 15. Nc2 d5 16. exd5 Nxf3+ 17. Qxf3 Bxd5 18. Qf4 e5 19. Qb4 Rc8 20. Bc5 Bxg2 21. Rfd1 Qc7 22. Kxg2 Qc6+ 23. f3 Qxc5 24. Qxc5 Rxc5 25. Rd6 Ke7 26. Rad1 Ra8 27. Nb4 Bg5 28. Rxa6 Rxa6 29. Nxa6 Rc6 30. Nb4 Rd6 31. Nd5+ Ke6 32. a6 (1-0)

Way back in 1986 By Dennis Wasson

As we recently turned the clock back an hour, I'm turning the calendar back chess-wise 40 years in this article, as 1986 was a busy year for local chess tournaments. I can only say that on a personal level as the TD of these events and keeping my own records. Somehow the USCF has lost their records (from what I have heard) prior to 1991-ish. I've no idea of what Gary Marks, Mike Nolan, or Craig Collister directed that year unless a search of periodicals of the time reveals their events.

My year as a TD started with 'Wasson's 50th tournament' on January 11 a one day 3 round event and it drew 22 players. It was followed in February with my only 'category R' tournament held over 2 weekends. An 8-person round robin with an average rating of just under 2100:

Craig Campbell-2259, Robert Grande-2136, Mansour Eshragh-2135, Matt Mahowald-2132, Gary Colvin-2109, Mike Blankenau-2062, Neil Reeves-2013, Mike Crooks-1940

As a side note – my assistant TD was John Mac Arthur – who later got a Master rating and is a FIDE Trainer. I did a few tournaments where I was co-chief TD or assistant TD and/or they were out of the CB/Omaha metro. First number is the number of rounds; 2nd is the number of players:

Iowa Class Championships 5-55, 21st Des Moines Open 5-52, Cornhusker St. Games (Jr) 5-20, 32nd Iowa Open/Reserve 5-53, Ames Chess Festival II 5-42, 1st Harlan Pawn Classic 3-6. A special note about the Harlan tournament: Dan North was the organizer and had a big wooden pawn turned out on a lathe – I think it was about 12 inches tall. NM and 1985 Iowa champ Siamack Bondari from Ames claimed that prize.

It also seemed to be a hot year for folks playing matches or a 3 way 'match':

Russ Stultz-Dennis Wasson Match, Shennum-Nilssen-Dostal, Nilssen-Shennum II a 40 game marathon, Nilssen-Shennum III, Nilssen-Wasson Match, Grande-Shennum Match, Grande 9 Mac Arthur 7

Now for the 'biggie' two-day events in the CB/Omaha metro. Once again, first number is the number of rounds, 2nd is the number of players:

Metro Chess Championship 5-42 in June, Boarder Wars 5-39 in September, Metro Class Championship 4-18 in December.

It was at the Metro Class championship in December when the players presented me with a trophy and a bottle of bubbly. As I recall, Mike Dreiger and John Drexel were the main ‘instigators’ of the presentation, as I was possibly moving out of town when I found a job.

We used to have events at a person’s home quite frequently. I recall being in Craig Collister’s basement playing in events. I hosted these in my apartment in 1986:

Highland Acres 86 Quad # 1 in May, Highland Acres Swiss in Aug, Highland Acres Sept Swiss, Highland Turkey Shoot-1 in Nov, Highland Turkey Shoot-2 in November, Highland Turkey Shoot-3 in November, Pearl Harbor Quad and Emanuel Lasker Memorial, both in December.

I have a few events where I don’t recall the location:

Metro Tornado # 7 4-8 on May 3rd, Bill’s Weekend Tournament 3-12 on June 8th, Shennum’s Double Double RR 12-4 in August, R.O.E. Open 3-12 on Oct 18th.

I was invited to be the TD at Central High – the event was held on the 10th with the open section drawing 10 players, and the scholastic section had 8 players.

For me – the real ‘mainstay events’ ones you could count on were held at the W. Dale Clark library. Early in 1983 I went out to social settlement and met an older guy and played some chess. I mentioned that I was a TD – and he got the ball rolling at the library. We found that an organization could get a meeting room once per month, so the ‘Omaha Chess Team [O C T]’ was created as one organization and reserved the 2nd Saturday. The Council Bluffs Chess Club reserved the 4th Saturday. Here are my 1986 records. Once again first number is the number of rounds, 2nd is the number of players:

O C T Mar Tournament 3-18, Omaha March Quads 3-8
O C T Apr Tournament 3-14, Omaha April Swiss 3-6
Omaha May Quads 3-8, O C T Jun Tournament 3-17,
O C T Jul Tournament 3-15, Omaha July Tourney 3-20
O C T Aug Tournament 3-24, Omaha Aug Quads 3-12
O C T Sep Tournament 3-15
O C T Oct Tournament 3-13, Omaha Oct Quads 3-8
O C T Nov tournament 3-8, Omaha Nov Quads 3-8
Omaha Dec Quads 3-10

Any gaps mean Craig Collister or Hal Cleminson might have been the TD or library was closed due to a holiday or weather.

So, 1986 – 48 events and well over 1000 players total & all through the year whomever I talked to at USCF assured me that I would get partial credit for those events where I was the assistant or co-chief TD as far as the ‘most active TD’ competition – wrong-o, as I wasn’t listed at all in the April 1987 Chess Life (based on 48 events – 5th place), oh well and for 1987 I did get on the list for the 1st time in 16th place with 26 events & also made the list in 88, 89, and 90.

*Editor’s note, Dennis Wasson was THE most active tournament director in western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska throughout the 1980s. Dennis who lives in Council Bluffs ran events in Carter Lake, Omaha, Council Bluffs, and the surrounding communities, throughout this period and was a Senior Level Tournament director. Dennis also ran a series of events that collectively became known as the “Boarder Wars”. This is Dennis’ first contribution to the Gambit since I took over as editor. As you can see from this article 1986 was a banner year as Dennis organized dozens of tournaments and even ran a high rated round robin that compared quite favorably to the Riverfront Invitationals that Steven Cusumano ran over the last couple years at his condo on the riverfront in Omaha.

Archway Open in Kearney 2/7/2026. Directed by Eric Ring

Archway Open 2/7/2026 Kearney, Nebraska directed by Eric Ring

The Central Nebraska Chess Club hosted the first of its 3 major chess events in the year on Saturday February 7th at the Harmon Park Activity Center in Kearney, Nebraska. The tournament had 4 sections, one of which was an Open Rated section. There was an adult casual unrated section as well as a middle school and an elementary school section. The Open section drew 7 and was won by Tony Dutiel with 3.5-.5.

The other three sections drew 26 players of all ages and abilities including 7 in the adult/casual section, 8 in the middle school and 11 in the elementary school. Adult casual section champion was Marshal Everitt with a perfect 6-0. Middle school Champion was Noah Myers also with a perfect 6-0. Elementary school Champion was Adam Risinger also with a perfect 6-0 score. I would like to commend the Central Nebraska Chess Club for all they are doing to promote chess in the western region of the state, as up until now, no one had stepped in to fill the void after Richard Olson and Wayne Pressnall stopped running events in that part of the state.

Archway Open Rated Section

#	Name	Rating	R1	R2	R3	R4	Tot
1	Dutiel	1746	1/2	W6	W2	W4	3.5
2	King	1353	W5	W4	L1	W7	3.0
3	Ring	965	W7	U	L4	W6	2.0
4	DeLeon	UNR	W6	L2	W3	L1	2.0
5	Denton	676	L2	W7	1/2	U---	1.5
6	McCord	749	L4	L1	W7	L3	1.0
7	Shearer	UNR	L3	L5	L6	L2	0.0

Archway Open Casual Adult Section

#	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Tot
1	M Everitt	W4	W2	W3	W6	W6	W7	6.0
2	K Everitt	W6	L1	L4	W7	W3	W4	4.0
3	Ritter	W5	W7	L1	W4	L2	D6	3.5
4	Rothenberger	L1	W6	W2	L3	W7	L2	3.0
5	Morgan	L3	Bye	Bye	Bye	U--	U--	3.0
6	Bickford	L2	L4	W7	L1	L1	D3	1.5
7	Scott	Bye	L3	L6	L2	L4	L1	1.0

Archway Open Middle School Section

#	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Tot
1	Myers	W8	W2	W4	W3	W5	W6	6.0
2	Borer	W7	L1	W5	W4	W6	L3	4.0
3	Smets	W6	L4	W7	L1	W8	W2	4.0
4	Dryer	D5	W3	L1	L2	W7	W8	3.5
5	Divis	D4	W6	L2	W8	L1	W7	3.5
6	Nuxoll	L3	L5	W8	W7	L2	L1	2.0
7	Rowling	L2	W8	L3	L6	L4	L5	1.0
8	Sanger	L1	L7	L6	L5	L3	L4	0.0

Archway Open Elementary School Section

#	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Tot
1	A Risinger	L6	W9	W5	W3	W2	W4	5.0
2	McCord	W11	W3	W6	W7	L1	W5	5.0
3	Jacobsen	W4	L2	W10	L1	W8	W7	4.0
4	Scott	L3	Bye	W9	W6	D7	L1	3.5
5	Miller	Bye	D7	L1	W11	W6	L2	3.5
6	A. Everitt	W1	W8	L2	L4	L5	W11	3.0
7	Bickford	W10	D5	W8	L2	D4	L3	3.0
8	J Risinger	W9	L6	L7	W10	L3	Bye	3.0
9	Ritter	L8	L1	L4	Bye	W11	D10	2.5
10	Turner	L7	W11	L3	L8	Bye	D9	2.5
11	E. Ring	L2	L10	Bye	L5	L9	L6	1.0

Metro High School Winter League Finishes 2026 Season

After the Fall season concluded with Millard North winning the championship, seven of the eight schools decided to resume playing after the Christmas holidays. Millard North opted out of the winter season so every school got a bye at some point during the season.

Metro Winter League Final Standings in ranked order of finish:

#	School Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1	Omaha Central	X	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	5.5
2	Skutt	0	X	1	1	1	1	1	5.0
3	Omaha Home School	1/2	0	X	1	1	1	1	4.5
4	Lewis Central	0	0	0	X	1	1F	0	2.0
5	Elkhorn Mount Michael	0	0	0	0	X	1F	1	2.0
6	Westview	0	0	0	0F	0F	X	1	1.0
7	Elkhorn South	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	1.0

I would like to expand the league next year to include possibly 10 or even 12 teams. Requirements to join the league are quite simple. You must have a coach or sponsor who works at the high school in some capacity and you must be able to field a team of 4-5 players. Although schools are allowed to play with as few as two students, it is not conducive to winning very many if any matches. Joining the league is free and the Lincoln Chess Foundation can even help your high school get a club going if you request our help. We can donate boards and sets to your school if you make a commitment to play in the league for a full year.

Schools in the league normally play one match per week and the default night to play is on Wednesday night but coaches are free to arrange to play on a different night if they consult with the coach from the other team. The visiting team gets white on Boards 1 and 3 and if both sides have five players in attendance Board 5 as well. The home team gets white on boards 2 and 4. If one team has 4 players and the other has 3, then the team with 4 gets one forfeit point. Please contact me by email if you think your high school would like to play in the league next year. When a team member wins it scores as 1 point, if they draw it's a half point and a loss counts as zero points. Matches are scored as a win-draw or loss based on the board scores. The table above merely shows the match results not the individual board scores for each match.

I'd like to congratulate Skutt Catholic. Skutt finished a close 2nd behind Omaha Central scoring 5-1 and losing only to league champion Omaha Central. Considering this was only their 2nd year in the league that is quite an accomplishment.

Smaller Chess Events Around Nebraska in February

February 1-The Millard Library Chess Club held its first FRO event of the calendar year on Sunday February 1st. The tournament was a rated G/5;d2 team event. Elijah Jamal and Jaxon Lindner-Salinas won the event with 5-3. Bruce Draney and Sachin Rai took 2nd with 4-4. Scott Look and Redit Rai managed 3-5.

February 4th-The 18th Spence Swiss chess tournament concluded a four-week long G/80;d5 event where one round was played each Wednesday beginning on January 14th. It was won by Sidd Parthasarathy with 4-0.

February 4th-The first rated event of 2026 at the SCC Chess Club in Lincoln was held on Wednesday evening, February 4th. The event drew 18 players and was won by JJ Lang with a score of 5-0.

February 7th-The Archway Open was held on Saturday February 7th in Kearney, Nebraska. See the results from page 16 in this issue.

February 11th-The Spence Club held a Quick/Action G/12;d3 Swiss that drew 14 and was won by Samanvi Kantem with 4.5-.5.

February 18th-The Spence Club held a double round robin G/3+2 blitz event won by our new State Champion Luke Hengen with a perfect 14-0 score.

February 25th-The Spence Club held G/20;d5 Quick Quads that drew 13 players. Luke Hengen, Cesar Silva and Srini Kachala won their respective sections.

THE OHMAN EMPIRE INVADES USATE IN PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

The team of Rod Malpert, Sidd Parthasarathy, Steven Cusumano, and Bruce Draney traveled to ParsIPPany, NJ on Valentine's Day weekend to play as the Ohman Empire team in the United States Amateur Team East (USATE).

For those who have never been to USATE it is the largest and strongest of the 4 regional amateur team tournaments and it is held every year in ParsIPPany, New Jersey at the Hilton Hotel. This year 336 teams took part composed of at least 4 players and many teams had at least one alternate in case a team member would be unable to play. Teams can have two GMs on their team but their overall average of their top 4 players has to be under 2200 thus the amateur nature of the event.

The event is run by long time New Jersey chess organizer Steven Doyle who also happens to be head of the U.S. Chess Trust. With alternates there were 1419 players who played at least one game in the tournament making this the largest non-scholastic Open tournament I've ever played in.

The tournament began on Saturday February 14th and it was paired as a team vs. team tournament but also in Swiss System format based on average ratings and the first two rounds were accelerated meaning top quarter played 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter played 4th quarter and in the 2nd round winners of the top two quarters played each other and losers of the top two quarters played winners of the bottom two quarters.

Since we were ranked 59th out of 336 we were in the top quarter and faced a team rated about 1550. Rod played board one and lost, but Sidd, Steven and I all won to win the first match 3-1. In round 2 however, we faced a tough team with an average of over 2100. They had a young FIDE Master on Board 1 rated over 2300, and a high rated 2290 player on board two and two experts on Boards 3 and 4. Rod lost again to the FIDE Master, Sidd also lost, but Steven managed a draw and I upset the Expert I was playing. We lost the match 2.5-1.5 and finished day one at 1-1.

On day two, we faced another team rated about 1600 overall. Rod won, Sidd won and Steven won and I blundered away an easy win and had to settle for a draw. We won the match 3.5-.5. In round 4 on day two we faced another underrated team and Steven and I both drew, while Sidd lost to a very strong 1900 player and Rod saved a tie for us by winning his best game of the event. Steven had to fight hard to draw as he dropped a piece but found a way to pull it out. So at the end of 4 rounds, we were sitting at 2.5-1.5 with chances to finish fairly high in the standings.

Day three saw us play our worst match of the event as again the ratings didn't reflect the strength of our opponents. Rod lost, Steven lost and I lost and Sidd managed a draw to avoid us being shut out but we lost 3.5-.5. My opponent was way underrated as he upset two 1900

players an 1800 player and a 1600 player and gained over 300 rating points going from 1270 to 1570 so obviously he was no ordinary 1270 player. Going into round 6 we now sat at 2.5-2.5 and needed a win to at least score above .500 in the event.

In round 6 we were paired against another team rated around 1600 but we had already learned that team ratings were not necessarily accurate. Rod drew, Sidd drew and Steven won leaving me as the one hope for a match win. I was in a tough position against another 1200 player who was playing way above his head. I sacrificed an exchange for a king side attack but he gobbled up my queenside pawns meaning if my attack failed, he would win. He made a mistake and I found a nice shot sacrificing a rook but instead of taking the rook he declined it and I took his rook and had a mate in one unless he dropped a rook and traded queens in the process. My rook picked off his pawns and stopped his a-pawn from queening and I claimed a win to win us the match. We finished at 3.5-2.5

It was a fun experience, although we could have and should have done better. Steven and I finished with scores of 4-2, Sidd was 3.5-2.5 and Rod ended up with 2.5-3.5. He confided to me that he had not played this badly since he was in elementary school, but really Board 1 is THE toughest board to play because you are going to always face the strongest player from the opposing team.

USATE NORTH DRAWS SIX NEBRASKANS TO SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS ON FEBRUARY 20-22

A week after the USATE, another amateur team tournament USATN was held in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg, Illinois. Six Nebraskans took part in this event including Chess Life Online Editor, JJ Lang and the Chess Rockerz team of Sidd Parthasarathy, Rakshith Seetharaman, Philip Schiff, Rikvith Seetharaman, and Seetharaman Renganathan. Although they didn't do too well as a team, the Chess Rockerz team did score some individual wins. For those who have never played in a team versus team tournament it's an incredible experience especially when there are over 100 or more teams playing.

RIP Roger L. Anderson

Roger Anderson was a staple in Omaha and Nebraska chess for over 60 years. In 1965, Roger captured the Omaha City Championship, besting some of Omaha and Nebraska's greatest players of the time.

Roger played in both the 1969 and 1975 U.S. Opens in Lincoln and tied for 1st place in the State Championship at the Midwest Open in 1972. Roger was often the forgotten man in the famous dispute between Richard McLellan, John Watson and Jack Spence over the Nebraska residency of John Watson. Roger and Bob Ascher of Denver also had identical scores to McLellan and Watson at 4.5-.5.

One of Roger's greatest accomplishments was establishing the Camelot Chess Club in 2004 that meets on Friday afternoons to the present day at the Camelot Community Center near 93rd and Cady here in Omaha making it the oldest Nebraska chess club still in existence.

Roger was a strong player in his prime, rising to above 1900 at one point. In Nebraska holding a rating this high was challenging but Roger was up to the task.

In September of 2025, the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame Committee composed of Rod Malpert, Gary Colvin and Bruce Draney unanimously selected Roger to be inducted into the Nebraska Chess Hall of Fame recognizing his lifetime of contributions to chess in the state. Although Roger was unable to attend the induction personally due to an injury, he was aware of the honor and was grateful for being selected. He was about 3 months short of his 90th birthday when he passed away on Sunday February 22nd here in Omaha. He will be missed.

*Photo credit-Woodlawn-Hillcrest Funeral Home.



CHESS AROUND NEBRASKA IN MARCH

March was a busy month this year for chess tournaments with lots of club events in addition to the NSCA Class Championships and the Omaha City Championship.

March 4th-The SCC Chess Club hosted another monthly G/10;d2 Action/Quick tournament in Lincoln at Southeast Community College at 8900 O Street. This month's event drew 8 players and was won by Nicholas Gordon with 4-1. Wesley Gizel and Michael Schaal tied for 2nd with 3.5-1.5.

March 7th-The NSCA Class Championships were held at the UNO CPACS building at 6200 Dodge Street here in Omaha. The event drew 35 players who played players of approximately their own rating class. There were no Masters and only one Expert and one A player who took part, which is somewhat disappointing. There was also only one E player which is very perplexing. Winners were Sidd Parthasarathy (Expert), Thomas Jessop (A) both by default, Dominic Zeisler (B), Joaquin Siado (C), Garret Moore (D), and Nick Burroughs (E).

March 8th-The Millard Library Chess Club held an FRO G/5;d2 team blitz event at the Millard Library on 132nd and Westview Lane. It was called the March Madness Warmup Blitz. Five teams of two took part each one named after a major NCAA major basketball conference. The SEC team of Micah Cosgrove and Scott Look won the event with Micah scoring 4-0 and Scott scoring 3-1. The Big 10 led by me and Jaxon Lindner-Salinas took 2nd with 5 total points.

March 18th -The Spence Club held a three week long split Swiss even that began on Wednesday March 4th and ended on March 18th at West Hills Church on 82nd and Hascal here in Omaha. This event drew 13 players and was split into an upper and lower section. The upper section drew 6 and Luke Hengen and Sidd Parthasarathy tied for first with 2.5-.5. The lower section drew 7 and was won by Nicholas Gorman with 2.5-.5.

March 22nd-The Hindu temple here in Omaha hosted its annual spring chess tournament which was organized and directed by Naveen Kantem. There were 3 sections of chess. The Open section drew 6 and was won by Samanvi Kantem with a score of 2.5-.5. The RBO section drew 30 players and was won by Rudhra Pittala with a score of 5-0 and an unrated section drew approximately 20 players but because the event was unrated, I don't have a record of who won that section.

March 25th -The Spence Club held its last event of the month which was a G/3+2 blitz event. It drew 8 players and was won by Luke Hengen with 13.5-.5. Nick Lacroix was 2nd with 12.5-1.5.

March 28th-The Omaha City Championship was held at UNO in the CPACS building. Full results on page 35.

March 28th-Jerry Slominski ran a 2 game match series at the Bellevue Library that drew 8 players.

March 29th-Millard Library hosted an FRO G/10 Blitz event won by Bruce Draney with 4-0.

BOYS TOWN AND THE LINCOLN CHESS FOUNDATION SCORE A BIG HIT WITH THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE TEAM SCHOLASTIC ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

This year, the Nebraska State Team Scholastic and Open/College championships were held in Omaha at the Headquarters building of Boys Town. While last year's event only drew 52 players, this year that number nearly doubled with 85 participants in 4 sections. State Team Champions were Omaha Central in 9-12, Millard North Middle School in 6-8, and Walt Disney Elementary in the K-5 section. 2026 Nebraska Collegiate Champion was Matthew Leholm of UNL. The event was organized and directed by Bruce Draney but I had a lot of help from Omaha Chess Community President Nick Lacroix and Dmitriy Khots and the staff from Boys Town who assisted. They are all to be thanked for helping pull off an outstanding event.

Open/College Section

#	Name	College	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Total
1	Samanvi Kantem		1526	W15	W22	W9	W4	4.0
2	Tony Dutiel		1758	W18	D3	W7	W9	3.5
3	Michael Schaal		1470	W23	D2	W10	W12	3.5
4	Eric Nay		1574	W24	W8	W12	L1	3.0
5	Daryan Mora		1281	L22	W21	W14	W16	3.0
6	John McElderry		1155	L9	W15	W11	W13	3.0
7	Matthew Leholm	UNL	1013	W10	W11	L2	W17	3.0
8	Christopher Nelson	UNL	985	W19	L4	W18	1/2	2.5
9	John Machi		1784	W6	W13	L1	L2	2.0
10	Edson Bras	UNL	1741	L7	W17	L3	W21	2.0
11	Bruce Smith		1611	W20	L7	L6	W22	2.0
12	Gabe Hoffman	MCC	1621	W21	W14	L4	L3	2.0
13	Michael Gurnsey		1258	W16	L9	W22	L6	2.0
14	Tim Coleman		852	BYE	L12	L5	W23	2.0
15	Arthur Wang		1355	L1	L6	W20	W19	2.0
16	Garrett Moore	UNL	1226	L13	W20	W19	L5	2.0
17	Ephraim Franklin		1142	1/2	L10	W23	L7	1.5
18	Andrew Cook		1038	L2	D23	L8	WF24	1.5
19	Scott Look		1600	L8	W24	L16	L15	1.0
20	Luke Johnson	UNL	891	L11	L16	L15	BYE	1.0
21	Sachin Rai		318	L12	L5	W24	L10	1.0
22	Luis DeLeon		1167	W5	L1	L13	L11	1.0
23	Raymond Belmaster		730	L3	D18	L17	L14	0.5
24	Hayden Berg	UNL	101	L4	L19	L21	LF18	0.0

Nebraska State High School Team Championship 2/28/2026

#	Name	High School	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd 5	Total
1	Dominic Zeisler	Central	1778	W17	W12	W7	W6	W14	5.0
2	Nathan Sandquist	Central	1297	WF23	W15	W6	W7	L8	4.0
3	Amelia Eastwood	Central	1155	W20	W16	W14	W8	L6	4.0
4	Imran Msami	Central	914	W13	L8	W15	W16	W17	4.0
5	Mading Bol	Central	1029	W18	L7	W19	W13	W15	4.0
6	Sai Kolli	Elkhorn South	1564	W22	W9	L2	L1	W3	3.0
7	Silas Tran	A La Tere	1132	W10	W5	L1	L2	W9	3.0
8	Asher Christensen	Lewis Central	586	D14	W4	D13	L3	W2	3.0
9	Vincent Zeisler	Central	UNR	W19	L6	W12	W10	L7	3.0
10	Luciano Roberts	Chesterton	UNR	L7	W22	W18	L9	W20	3.0
11	Dustin Awe	Lewis Central	UNR	L15	L13	W22	W20	W16	3.0
12	Cason Griffith	Chesterton	UNR	W21	L1	L9	W19	W22	3.0
13	Elijah Jamal	Chesterton	934	L4	W11	D8	L5	W21	2.5
14	Kolbe Buonomo	Chesterton	412	D8	W21	L3	W18	L1	2.5
15	Aiden Nigro	A La Tere	433	W11	L2	L4	W21	L5	2.0
16	Xavier Ashcraft	A La Tere	380	BYE	L3	W21	L4	L11	2.0
17	Ayden Robinson	Lewis Central	UNR	L1	W19	L20	W22	L4	2.0
18	Rome Martens	A La Tere	706	L5	W20	L10	L14	LF19	1.0
19	Cameron Fletcher	Boys Town	UNR	L9	L17	L5	L12	WF18	1.0
20	Zion Redhorn	Boys Town	UNR	L3	L18	W17	L11	L10	1.0
21	Gavin Lopez	Boys Town	UNR	L12	L14	L16	L15	L13	0.0
22	Montavious Smith	Boys Town	UNR	L6	L10	L11	L17	L12	0.0
23	J. Salinas Lindner	Fremont	345	LF2	U-	U--	U---	U----	0.0

State High School Team Champion-Omaha Central 17 points

2nd Place Team-Chesterton Academy 11 points

3rd Place Team-A La Tere Academy 8 points (Lewis Central also had 8 points)

Individual High School 1st Place-Dominic Zeisler 5.0

Nebraska State Team Middle School 6-8 Championship

#	Name	Middle School	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd 5	Total
1	Mansi Adduri	Millard North	1596	W16	W9	W15	W14	W10	5.0
2	Samanvi Kantem	Millard North	1634	W17	W15	W10	W9	W13	5.0
3	Rudhra Pittala	Millard North	945	W13	W12	W9	W15	W14	5.0
4	Ruthvik Kandukuri	Millard North	765	W18	W21	W13	W12	W15	5.0
5	Advith Bourampeta	Millard North	704	W11	W16	W19	W17	W18	5.0
6	Nandhan Sama	Millard North	566	W19	W18	W12	D13	W20	4.5
7	Thanush Bokka	Millard North	669	W10	W14	W17	W16	L9	4.0
8	Yashas Kiran	Millard North	536	L14	BYE	W21	W18	W17	4.0
9	Calvin Mangelsen	Platteview	UNR	WF	L1	L3	L2	W7	2.0
10	Kyle Dilts	Lewis Central	UNR	L7	W20	L2	W21	L1	2.0
11	ThomasClatterback	Trinity Acad.	UNR	L5	L17	L16	W19	W21	2.0
12	Carsen Grimes	Trinity Acad	UNR	W21	L3	L6	L4	WF16	2.0
13	Brayden Binau	Lewis Central	UNR	L3	W19	L4	D6	L2	1.5
14	Casey Renes	Elkhorn Grnd	UNR	W8	L7	1/2	L1	L3	1.5
15	Alex Olson	Trinity Acad	UNR	W20	L2	L1	L3	L4	1.0
16	Anika Naik	Brownell-Tal	UNR	L1	L5	W11	L7	LF12	1.0
17	Zayas Redhorn	Boys Town	UNR	L2	W11	L7	L5	L8	1.0
18	Theodore Dryer	Platteview	UNR	L4	L6	W20	L8	L5	1.0
19	Tessa Hunley	Boys Town	UNR	L6	L13	L5	L11	Bye	1.0
20	S. Cisneros-Cruz	Boys Town	UNR	L15	L10	L18	Bye	L6	1.0
21	Kieran Knott	Boys Town	UNR	L12	L4	L8	L10	L11	0.0

Nebraska State Team Middle School Champion-Millard North Middle School 20 points

2nd Place-Trinity Classical Academy 5 points

3rd Place-Lewis Central Middle School 3.5 points

Individual Middle School 1st place-Mansi Adduri on tiebreaks 5.0 (All four of Mansi's teammates from Millard North Middle School also scored 5-0.

Nebraska State Team Elementary K-5 Championship

#	Name	School	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd 5	Total
1	Arqam Shaik	Disney	800	W10	W8	W9	W3	W4	5.0
2	Nihanth Kandukuri	Disney	479	W19	W17	L4	W12	W9	4.0
3	Divam Kumar	Sunset Hills	302	W15	W16	W5	L1	W10	4.0
4	Rohan Gundabolu	Aldrich	278	W16	W7	W2	W8	L1	4.0
5	Prayag Gundabolu	Aldrich	790	W11	W12	L3	L9	W14	3.0
6	Teertha Pittala	Disney	669	W13	L9	L10	W17	W11	3.0
7	Devansh Kalamadugu	Cather	417	W17	L4	W15	L10	W16	3.0
8	Khyaati Misra	Anchor PT	341	WF	L1	W19	L4	W12	3.0
9	Ridit Rai	Anchor PT	371	W14	W6	L1	W5	L2	3.0
10	Atul Grandhi	Woodbrook	191	L1	W15	W6	W7	L3	3.0
11	Anir Grandhi	Woodbrook	103	L5	Bye	W17	W19	L6	3.0
12	Viaan Mukka	Cather	370	W18	L5	W14	L2	L8	2.0
13	Dhyuth Gogineni	Aldrich	105	L6	L14	Bye	L16	W19	2.0
14	Lucas DeMontjoye	Montessori	UNR	L9	W13	L12	W18	L5	2.0
15	Everett Dobbertin	Montessori	UNR	L3	L10	L7	Bye	W18	2.0
16	Anish Malik	Montessori	UNR	L4	L3	W18	W13	L7	2.0
17	Sebastian Elliott	Montessori	UNR	L7	L2	L11	L6	Bye	1.0
18	Virinchi Kantem	Aldrich	UNR	L12	W19	L16	L14	L15	1.0
19	Elijah Natarajan	Blue Sage	UNR	L2	L18	L8	L11	L13	0.0

Nebraska State Team Elementary School Champion-Walt Disney Elementary 12 points

2nd Place Elementary Team- Aldrich Elementary 10 points

3rd Place Elementary Team-Montessori Children's Room-7 points

Individual elementary champion-Arqam Shaik-5.0

NSCA Class Championships Draw 35 on March 7th, at UNO

The event drew a somewhat disappointing crowd of only 35 players and there were no Masters, only one Expert and only one A player. In addition, there was one D player which was quite strange and only one or zero competitors in 5 of the 11 classes. The event was ably directed Nick Lacroix who was chief TD for his first rated tournament. Michael Gooch assisted and after a large number of late entries delayed the start of the event, things went smoothly. The NSCA might want to look at ways to better promote this event or consider possibly changing the format. Ideas and thoughts are being discussed.

Master-Vacant

Expert-Sidd Parthsarathy Uncontested

Class A-Thomas Jessop Uncontested

NSCA Class B Championship 3/7/2026

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Dominic Zeisler	1785	W5	W4	W2	3.0
2	Samanvi Kantem	1635	Bye	W6	L1	2.0
3	Gabriel Hoffman	1582	L4	W5	D6	1.5
4	Jerry Slominiski	1714	W3	L1	U--	1.0
5	Nicholas Gordon	1701	L1	L3	Bye	1.0
6	Scott Look	1600	1/2	L2	D3	1.0

NSCA Class Championships Class C 3/7/2026

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Joaquin Siado	1542	W8	W10	W3	3.0
2	Michael Schaal	1582	W4	W6	W7	3.0
3	Mansi Adduri	1597	W5	W7	L1	2.0
4	Shravan Sarathkumar	1561	L2	W9	W8	2.0
5	Nicholas Gorman	1481	L3	W11	W10	2.0
6	Jeffery Solheim	1541	W9	L2	U--	1.0
7	Philip Schiff	1509	W11	L3	L2	1.0
8	Curtis Holsinger	1422	L1	W12	L4	1.0
9	Jerome Tichacek	1400	L6	L4	Bye	1.0
10	Daryan Mora	1278	W12	L1	L5	1.0
11	Camden Spyers	UNR	L7	L5	W12	1.0
12	Aurora Sater	1500	L10	L8	L11	0.0

NSCA Class Championships Class D/E-3/7/2026

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Garrett Moore	1226	W2	Bye	W3	2.0
2	John McElderry	1347	L1	W3	Bye	2.0
3	Nicholas Burroughs	1058	Bye	L2	L1	1.0

Class E: Nicholas Burroughs Uncontested

NSCA Class Championships Class F (800-999)

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	William Jessop	980	W4	W2	W3	3.0
2	Tim Coleman	866	W3	L1	W4	2.0
3	Luciano Roberts	886	L2	W4	L1	1.0
4	Calvin Mangelsen	894	L1	L3	L2	0.0

NSCA Class Championships Class G/H (600-799/400-599)

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Nandhan Sama	618	W4	W2	W3	3.0
2	Sathvik Sarathkumar	596	W3	L1	W4	2.0
3	Ritvik Mahesh	425	L2	W4	L1	1.0
4	Bhavik Bolisetty	UNR	L1	L3	L2	0.0

Class G: Nandhan Sama Uncontested

NSCA Class Championships Class I: (100-399)

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Khyaati Misra	380	W3	W2	W4	3.0
2	Divam Kumar	536	W4	L1	Bye	2.0
3	Dhyuth Gogineni	110	L1	W4	U---	1.0
4	Virinchi Kantem	105	L2	L3	L1	0.0

SOME UNUSUAL FACTS YOU MAY NOT REALIZE ABOUT THE CHESSMEN

By Nebraska Chess Historical Archivist Bob Woodworth

The movement of the knight in chess originated in the ancient game of Chaturanga which is the forerunner of our modern game. The move today is always described as 1-square horizontally and 2-squares vertically or vice-versa. (This 1-square, 2-square, 2-square, 1-square is taught in today's chess instruction classes etc.) However, in my parent's 100 year old set of encyclopedias (where I first discovered the game) the knight move is described as a combination of a 1-square rook move followed by a 1-square bishop move all in a single movement and away from the starting square. Today, when playing I still envision the knight's move this way as a combined rook + bishop movement.

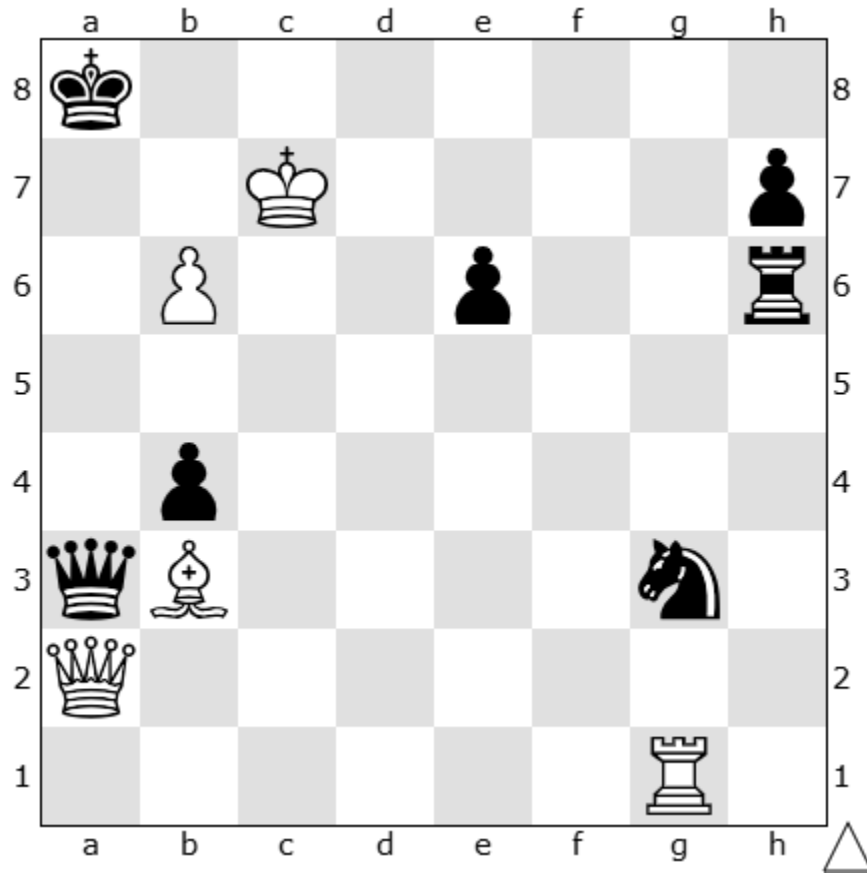
The most difficult chess move to understand by today's beginning chess players is the En Passant (in passing) capturing pawn move. (It is the only capturing move made to an empty square!!) Another strange aspect of this move is **WHY MUST THE CAPTURE BE MADE AFTER THAT INITIAL PAWN MOVE OR NOT AT ALL??** There are some reasons for this. For example what if a piece accidentally moved onto the 'empty' square where the En Passant capturing pawn would have moved, would it now be possible to capture two chessmen in a single move? (One capture of that newly moved piece the normal and the En Passant pawn capture the other way!!) Also, if the En Passant capture was declined initially and then the '2-move pawn' advanced one more square on his next move, could it still be captured En Passant?? So, therefore in order to avoid these unintended situations, it was decided to require the En Passant capture to be made immediately or not at all.

Finally, a declined En Passant capture can affect the 'draw by a 3-time' exact repeat of the position rule. It is because the two positions are not the same if the earlier position allows an En Passant capture and the latter does not though all the chessmen stand on the exact same squares in both positions.)

As mentioned in the first paragraph of this article concerning the movement of the knight, all of the other chessmen have undergone rule changes concerning their ways of moving on the chessboard except the knight! It is amazing that the knight with its 'odd' way of moving has never had its movement changed at least as the historical records indicate. The pawn went from the option of moving one or two squares on its first move, the Bishop originally was restricted to only a 2-move diagonal move, the Queen, who was the weakest of all could only move one square diagonally. The King went from a 1-square move to 2-squares when castling was introduced. Also, the Rook by way of castling could 'jump over' the King. (And everyone now believes that only the Knight can 'jump over' other chess men!)

In conclusion, creating new chess rules can be very tricky at times. A very good example of this concerned promoting a pawn. It wasn't until the 1930's that someone realized a promoted pawn could change its color as a piece for the other side. This was legal since the rule assumed that the new chess piece would be the same color as the promoting pawn!! AMAZING! I sincerely hope that this article contains some new interesting and unique chess examples and thoughts.

BOB'S LATEST CHESS PUZZLE



White to move and mate in 2 moves. Answer at the bottom of the page.

(Solution: Ba4!! If Qxa2, then Bc6++, if Qxa4 then Qxa4++)

April

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 Midwest Open POY and State Qualifier at Omaha Regency Marriott
19 Midwest Open POY and State Qualifier at Omaha Regency Marriott	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

2026

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Nebraska State Individual Championships at UNO
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

2026

Subtitle

Nebraska Chess Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 3 rd Wilkins Cup at Ovation Omaha POY
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Deshler Days in Deshler NE Bob Reinke
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Omaha City Championship 3/28/2026

The annual Omaha City Championship was held on Saturday March 28th, at the UNO CPACS Building here in Omaha. It drew 31 players in the Open and Dominic Zeisler and Samuel Mehlhaff tied for first both scoring 4-0. Since Mehlhaff is from Kansas, Dominic is top Nebraskan and wins the Omaha City Championship title. The event was directed by Tony Dutiel.

City Championship Open Section 3/28/2026

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	S. Mehlhaff	1856	W28	W13	W5	W4	4.0
2	D. Zeisler	1778	W21	W24	W3	W11	4.0
3	N. Lacroix	2101	W15	W6	L2	W12	3.0
4	T. Jessop	1811	W14	W22	W12	L1	3.0
5	M. Koppinger	1700	W26	W17	L1	W16	3.0
6	C. Kisicki	1720	W9	L3	W24	W13	3.0
7	K. Belashchenko	1946	D10	W30	D11	W18	3.0
8	A. Scharosch	1744	W25	L12	W26	W15	3.0
9	D. Mora	1281	L6	W23	W22	D14	2.5
10	P. Schiff	1499	D7	L11	W31	W25	2.5
11	S. Cusumano	1903	D16	W10	D7	L2	2.0
12	C. Silva	1532	W27	W8	L4	L3	2.0
13	J. Reigenborn	1553	W29	L1	W17	L6	2.0
14	R. Tao	1361	L4	W27	D19	D9	2.0
15	S. Kantem	1528	L3	W20	W29	L8	2.0
16	M. Schaal	1470	D11	D19	W30	L5	2.0
17	J. McElderry	1155	W18	L5	L13	W24	2.0
18	B. Smith	1611	L17	W31	W25	L7	2.0
19	K. Nelson	1800	D31	D16	D14	1/2	2.0
20	Z. Bitterman	1106	L22	L15	Bye	W27	2.0
21	S. Kachala	1305	L2	L26	D23	W31	1.5
22	S. Sarathkumar	1561	W20	L4	L9	1/2	1.5
23	G. Hoffman	1621	L24	L9	D21	W29	1.5
24	V. Katta	1255	W23	L2	L6	L17	1.0
25	A. Gilson	1300	L8	W28	L18	L10	1.0
26	G. Johnson	1271	L5	W21	L8	U---	1.0
27	M. Cosgrove	UNR	L12	L14	W28	L20	1.0
28	T. Klahn	1392	L1	L25	L27	Bye	1.0
29	A. Pallepati	1063	L13	Bye	L15	L23	1.0
30	A. Dhanda	1053	Bye	L7	L16	U--	1.0
31	T. Coleman	852	D19	L18	L10	L21	0.5

2026 Omaha City Championship U1200 Section on 3/28/2026 in Omaha at UNO

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Edward Jessop	1151	W5	W2	W4	D3	3.5
2	William Jessop	980	W7	L1	W5	W4	3.0
3	Arqam Shaik	800	Bye	L4	W6	D1	2.5
4	Vivash Kumar	970	W6	W3	L1	L2	2.0
5	Amelia Eastwood	UNR	L1	W7	L2	Bye	2.0
6	Jackson Roth	UNR	L4	Bye	L3	W7	2.0
7	Mattias Espinosa-O'Hara	UNR	L2	L5	Bye	L6	1.0

2026 Omaha City Championship U400 Section on 3/28/2026 in Omaha at UNO.

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Sachin Rai	318	W12	W3	W2	L5	W7	4.0
2	Divam Kumar	302	W6	W8	L1	W9	W5	4.0
3	Ramcharan Raghu	131	W5	L1	W4	W10	W9	4.0
4	Rohith Cheedella	194	W13	D7	L3	W11	W10	3.5
5	Viaan Mukka	370	L3	W10	W7	W1	L2	3.0
6	Bhavik Bolisetty	UNR	L2	W11	D12	D8	W13	3.0
7	Jaivardhan Iyer	338	W9	D4	L5	W12	L1	2.5
8	Virinchi Kantem	UNR	W11	L2	L9	D6	Bye	2.5
9	Dhyuth Gogineni	105	L7	Bye	W8	L2	L3	2.0
10	Thanishka Iyer	104	Bye	L5	W13	L3	L4	2.0
11	Caleb Mehlhaff	216	L8	L6	Bye	L4	W12	2.0
12	Tanish Gaddam	UNR	L1	W13	D6	L7	L11	1.5
13	Aarav Vinodh	UNR	L4	L12	L10	Bye	L6	1.0

Omaha City Championship 2026 U800 Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Thanush Bokka	609	W10	W6	D2	W5	W3	4.5
2	Nihanth Kandukari	479	W11	W9	D1	W12	W6	4.5
3	Sathvik Sarathkumar	595	W14	W15	W5	W4	L1	4.0
4	Ridit Rai	371	W19	W7	W9	L3	W10	4.0
5	Ruthvik Kandukari	765	W18	W12	L3	L1	W11	3.0
6	Vankata Cheedella	494	W21	L1	W20	W8	L2	3.0
7	Nandhan Sama	565	W20	L4	L8	W18	W14	3.0
8	Ritvik Mahesh	425	D13	1/2	W7	L6	W17	3.0
9	Advith Bourampeta	704	W16	L2	L4	W14	D12	2.5
10	Ollie Mehlhaff	429	L1	W21	W17	D11	L4	2.5
11	Cheng Zhong	UNR	L2	W16	W18	D10	L5	2.5
12	Yashas Kiran	652	W22	L5	W15	L2	D9	2.5
13	Teertha Pittala	669	D8	L17	L14	W15	W16	2.5
14	Khyaati Misra	341	L3	Bye	W13	L9	L7	2.0
15	Devana Kalamadugu	454	W17	L3	L12	L13	Bye	2.0
16	Durga Chanda	445	L9	L11	W21	W19	L13	2.0
17	Sadie Mehlhaff	626	L15	W13	L10	W20	L8	2.0
18	Lohitaksh Peddi	454	L5	W22	L11	L7	W20	2.0
19	Henry Mehlhaff	626	L4	L20	W22	L16	W21	2.0
20	Aadarsh Daniel	UNR	L7	W19	L6	L17	L18	1.0
21	Ayden Daniel	UNR	L6	L10	L16	W22	L19	1.0
22	Aaron Kancharla	UNR	L12	L18	L19	L21	1/2	0.5

*Editor's note: Ratings shown are pre-tournament official ratings. Official ratings do not always match the ratings shown after a tournament, because they are only published once a month. The closing date for the monthly official ratings is usually 7-10 days before the end of the month so this event will not reflect on official ratings until May since it was played within 3 days of the end of the month, after the ratings batch for March had already been run so that April ratings will come out on April 1st.

Initial POY and CCC Standings For 1st Quarter 2026

The annual POY competition is sponsored and run by the NSCA who sets all the rules and conditions. POY scores are plus scores which subtract losses from wins and discard draws, and are used to determine qualifiers for the Closed and the B Closed.

The annual CCC competition is sponsored and run by the Lincoln Chess Foundation and has been set up to encourage players to play in more Nebraska chess tournaments. Unlike the POY competition, the CCC competition counts all rounds played and also the scores in those events in the standings and awards 8 different \$150.00 cash prizes at the end of the calendar year.

All POY events are also CCC events as well, but the CCC reserves the right to add additional tournaments to the circuit that may or may not be POY events. The first event of the year to be both a POY and a CCC event was the Omaha City Championship. The NSCA also gave the winner of the B Closed (Sidd Parthasarathy) five points for scoring a perfect 5-0 in that event. CCC standings will differ from the POY standings since they utilize a completely different method of calculating scores. The tables below show the current standings as of March 31st in both competitions.

POY Standings as of 3/31/2026

#	Name	Rating	BClosed	Omaha City	Total
1	Sidd Parthasarathy	2041	5	X	5
2	Dominic Zeisler	1778	X	4	4
3	Nick Lacroix	2101	X	2	2
4	Thomas Jessop	1811	X	2	2
5	Matthew Koppinger	1700	X	2	2
6	Chris Kisicki	1720	X	2	2
7	Kirill Belashchenko	1946	X	2	2
8	Daryan Mora	1281	X	1	1
9	Philip Schiff	1499	X	1	1

*POY Scores are determined by subtracting losses from wins with draws not counting. So, if a person scores 3-1 in a 4-round event, he earns 2 POY points (3-1=2)

CCC Standings as of 3/31/2026 Rounds Played Only + event score (Excluding 1/2-point byes)

#	Name	Omaha City
1	Dominic Zeisler (B)	4+4=8
2	Nick Lacroix (EXP)	4+3=7
3	Thomas Jessop (A)	4+3=7
4	Matthew Koppinger (B)	4+3=7
5	Chris Kisicki (B)	4+3=7
6	Kirill Belashchenko (A)	4+3=7
7	Daryan Mora (D)	4+2.5=6.5
8	Philip Schiff (C)	4+2.5=6.5
9	Steven Cusumano (A)	4+2=6.0
10	Cesar Marin Silva (C)	4+2=6.0
11	Jonathan Reigenborn(C)	4+2=6.0
12	Rui Tao (D)	4+2=6.0
13	Samanvi Kantem (C)	4+2=6.0
14	Michael Schaal (C)	4+2=6.0
15	John McElderry (E)	4+2=6.0
16	Bruce Smith (B)	4+2=6.0
17	Kent Nelson (A)	3+1.5=4.5
18	Zach Bitterman (E)	4+2=6.0
19	Srini Kachala (D)	4+1.5=5.5
20	Shravan Sarathkumar (C)	3+1=4.0
21	Gabe Hoffman (B)	4+1.5=5.5
22	Vamsi Katta (D)	4+1=5.0
23	Grant Johnson (D)	3+1=4.0
24	Micah Cosgrove (E)	4+1=5.0
25	Tanner Khlan (D)	4+1=5.0
26	Adrith Pallepatti (E)	4+1=5.0
27	Aryan Dhanda (E)	3+1=4.0
28	Tim Coleman (E)	4+.5=4.5

CCC Class Leaders

Class	Place	Name	Rds	Score	Total Score
M/E/A	1 st	Lacroix, Belashchenko, Thomas Jessop	4	3	7.0
Class B	1 st	Zeisler	4	4	8.0
Class B	2 nd	Koppinger, Kisicki	4	3	7.0
Class C	1 st	Schiff	4	2.5	6.5
Class C	2 nd	Silva, Reigenborn, Kantem, Schaal	4	2	6.0
Class D	1 st	Mora	4	2.5	6.5
Class D	2 nd	Rui Tao	4	2	6.0
Class E	1 st	McElderry, Bitterman	4	2	6.0
Class E	2 nd	XXX			
Out State	1 st	Thomas Jessop	4	3	7.0
Out State	2 nd	XXX			
Senior	1 st	Chris Kisicki	4	3	7.0
Senior	2 nd	Bruce Smith	4	2	6.0

CCC Standings as of 3/31/2026 Total Points (Rounds played + scores excluding 1/2-point byes)

Lincoln Chess Foundation K-12 Summer Chess Camp

July 27-31, 2026

At Boys Town National Headquarters

Join a fine cast of experienced teachers including special guest GM Viktor Matviishen USCF 2621 at this summer's chess camp on July 27th-31st from 9AM-3PM daily at Boys Town National Headquarters here in Omaha at 14100 Crawford ST. This event will be open to players in K-12 of all skills and abilities and your entry will include a commemorative T-Shirt and lunches provided all five days at 11:30. Space is limited so once all slots are filled no more applicants will be accepted. No on-site/late registration.

Schedule:

Sessions M-F AM from 9:00-11:30, lunch 11:30-12:30 and PM sessions from 12:30-3:00 PM. Parents should drop their children off no sooner than 8:15 daily and should pick them up no later than 3:45 PM.

Students will be grouped based on rating and estimated chess ability but the director will consider requests to be placed in a different group depending upon age and student and parent requests. Space in the advanced group will be limited to players with significant chess skills and abilities. All 4 groups will have a chance during the week to play against and interact with GM Matviishen

4 Groups of chess instruction being offered with recommendations based on rating:

Beginners-Players should at least know how the pieces move and how to set up the board and some basic knowledge of how to play the game. Suitable for players that are unrated or rated as high as 799.

Advanced Beginners-Players who are rated between 800 and 1200 and have played in rated tournaments. Players in this group have a basic knowledge of checkmates and how to play the game and hope to improve their rating in the future.

Intermediate-Players rated from 1201-1699 and are experienced in playing in Open tournaments as well as scholastic events. Players who have only played in RBOs should consider either the advanced beginner's group or this group if they want to take the next leap forward.

Advanced-Players in this group must be given permission or have a rating of at least 1700. They will be working extensively with GM Matviishen throughout the week. Space in this group is limited to no more than 10.

Fees: \$299.00 per person if by July 1st, 2026. \$325.00 after July 1st until all slots are filled.

How to Register: You can register online and pay by PayPal at www.kingregistration.com, or you can pay by check and mail or email me the registration form on the next page. My address is 14002 Frederick Cir, Omaha, NE 68138 and my email is gambiteer49@yahoo.com. There has not been a chess camp in Nebraska for at least 7 years, so the Lincoln Chess Foundation is hoping you'll help us make this camp highly fun and successful. All proceeds go to the Lincoln Chess Foundation which is a 501c3 tax exempt organization whose mission is to support chess throughout Nebraska. Use this form to register your child for the Lincoln Chess Foundation Summer Chess Camp from Monday July 27th-Friday July 31st. If you wish to register more than one child, please fill out separate forms for each child.

Name of Child participating _____

Grade just completed in school as of June 2026 _____

Age of Child _____

USCF Rating if applicable _____

Mark an X in the group or section the child is registering for:

_____ **Beginner**-Limited or only basic knowledge of chess. Beginners should minimally know the names of the pieces and how they move and their value in points. This group is open to unrated players with no tournament experience or to players with ratings below 800 (100-799).

_____ **Advanced Beginner**-Players in this group should have a rating of at least 800-1200 and some tournament experience. They know how to find simple checkmates and combinations.

_____ **Intermediate**-Players in this group should have ratings of at least 1000 but recommended for players rated from 1200-1600. They should have fairly extensive tournament experience. Older high school students who have lower ratings may register for this group if they feel comfortable being with older kids.

_____ **Advanced**-Players in this group must be rated above 1700 or with special permission as space is limited to no more than 10. K-12 Students with A or Expert ratings will be given first consideration.

T-Shirt Size Please list your child's T-Shirt size for the complimentary camp t-shirt included in the entry fee

Food allergies: Does your child have food allergies that we need to be aware of Yes _____ or No _____. If yes, please list _____.

Cell phone policy: Cell phone use will not be permitted during the instructional time (9-11:30; 12:30-3:00). Students will be permitted to use their phones during lunch but will be expected to turn them off the rest of the time until the day ends at 3:00 PM.

Discipline: Please note that the teachers are there to teach your kids chess not to babysit or administer discipline as this is not a school but a chess camp. Unruly or disruptive students will be asked to leave and refunds will not be issued once the camp has started. We want this to be a fun experience and not one where children are ruining it for everyone else.

Lunches: Complimentary lunch is included each day with your fee, but children may bring a lunch if they prefer or parents can take their child to lunch if they wish although afternoon sessions start back up at 12:30.

Parent or Guardian Signature (By signing I acknowledge I have read the above policies regarding food allergies, cellphones, discipline, lunches and required drop off and pick up times for the camp:

Name of Parent Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Meet Lincoln Chess Foundation's special guest instructor at the Boys Town Summer Chess Camp July 27-31st, [Viktor Matviishen](#).

Viktor (USCF 2621, FIDE 2523) began his chess career in his native country of Ukraine at the age of 6 and after joining a chess school he began competing in regional events, winning his first national competition in the Under 10 category. He proceeded to win the Ukrainian Youth Championship title in the Under 12, Under 14, and Under 16 age categories, and managed to capture championships in all three time control settings (Classical, Blitz and Rapid). He reached an ELO of 2400 at age 12 and won the European Youth Championship for Under 12 twice in 2013 and 2014. He placed 2nd in the World Championship Under 16 as well.

He moved to the United States in 2021 to pursue a degree at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and became an active player on Alex Onischuk's Chess Team. He earned his GM title in 2022 and his most recent major accomplishment was tying for 1st in last year's National Open in Las Vegas along with GM Zhou and GM Bellahcene with a score of 7-2. He is currently rated over 2600 at age 24.

We are extremely excited to welcome him to Omaha and look forward to him teaching our very talented juniors all week. In addition, he will be available to interact with all of our students at the camp during the week that he is here.

GM Viktor Matviishen



Closing Thoughts from Gambit Editor Bruce Draney

The reader will notice that this issue contains fewer games than past issues. This is partly because the Omaha City Championship occurred two days before this issue was published, so I didn't have any of those games to include in this issue. Even so, I have printed most of the decisive games from the Closed and B Closed which consumed quite a few pages. I like to include all sorts of relevant chess news and materials in this publication and not just dozens and dozens of chess games.

This issue comes in at 45 pages counting the cover and table of contents making it one of the bigger issues I've produced. My number of contributors is increasing which is excellent as since taking over as editor I have received articles from Gary Colvin, Gabe Hoffman, Bob Woodworth, Tony Dutiel, and Dennis Wasson.

This issue was actually so crowded I had to save Gabe's next article for the 2nd quarter issue which will be out at the end of June. This next issue will include results and games from the Midwest Open in April, the Individual Championships, the Wilkins Cup and other smaller events.

If you would like to see an article of your own published, send me the article and I will try to get it into one of the next issues, space permitting. If you submit a game, be sure and double check your own notation as I have enough trouble getting my own notation correct. 😊

You can also submit an article about a major tournament out of state you played in or some other story with an interesting chess theme. It doesn't have to include games as long as it's entertaining or relevant.

The POY and CCC have both begun with the Omaha City Championship on March 28th, 2026 at UNO. Attendance thus far has been ticking up compared to last year although the Class Championships on March 7th were a little disappointing. The State Team Scholastic went from 52 last year to 85 this year, and the aforementioned Omaha City Championship drew one more player than last year in the Open but over 20 more all totaled in the other three sections.

See everyone next quarter at the end of June. In the meantime, enjoy the first quarter issue of 2026.

Bruce