



“Age Cannot Wither”:

The 1981 Lehigh Valley Invitational - Part II

by Martin Simsak, with Neil Brennen

(Part I of this article appeared in the February 2007 Pennswoodpusher.)

One thing that changed through my years of chess playing were openings. If you were to ask me in the 1930's what openings I would play, I would say “King Pawn” or “Queen Pawn”. Nowadays even a tyro when asked this question gives the name of a variation and a detailed description of the subvariation he likes. These “kids” were very booked-up. As a result, I had to sometimes make up my own opening when I faced something with which I had no experience. For example, I had never seen something like the Benko Gambit in the 1930's. And that's just what Mike Turcotte, one of the rapidly rising juniors of the Allentown Chess Club, played against me in the fourth round. Bruce Alberston, annotating the game in *The Pennswoodpusher*, noted I got the worse of the opening. Fortunately, I was able to show Turcotte that there's more to chess than the opening.

Martin Simsak - Michael Turcotte

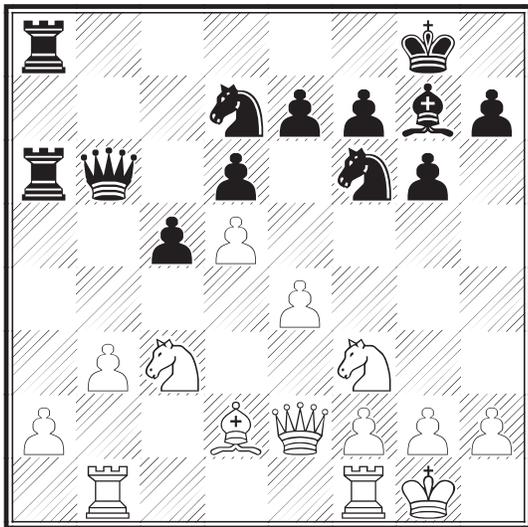
Lehigh Valley Invitational, Round 4, Allentown, 8/17/1981

Annotations by Bruce Alberston

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.exb5 a6 5.Nc3 d6

The more accurate move here for Black is 5...axb5 and after 6.Nxb5 (6.e4 b4 7.Nb5 with a complicated game offering approximately even chances) 6...Ba6 7.Nc3 d6 Black is a tempo up on normal lines.

6.e4 Nbd7 7.Nf3 g6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.O-O O-O 10.Bd2 axb5 11.Bxb5 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Rxa6 13.Qe2 Qb6 14.b3 Rfa8 15.Rab1



15...Ng4

The position reached is very typical for the Benko Gambit. For the minus pawn Black has real pressure against White's queenside. The text move, however, gives White a chance to neutralize this pressure by bringing a knight to b5, clogging up the a and b-files. The correct move was 15...Ne8 and in the event White plays 16.Nb5, Black plays 16...Nc7.

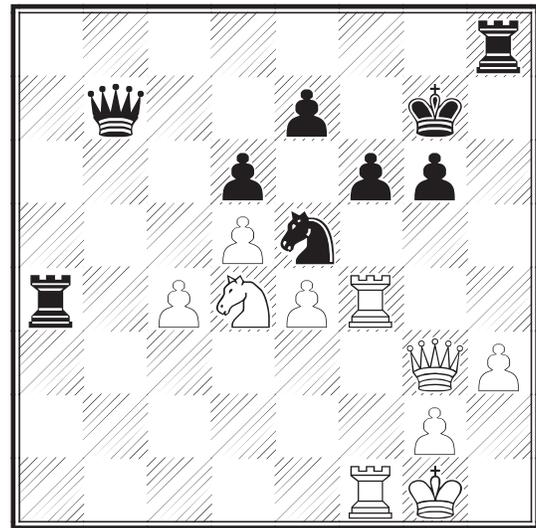
16.a4 Rb8 17.Nb5 Qb7 18.h3 Nge5 19.Nxe5

Here I would prefer 19.Nh2 threatening to play f4. Every exchange eases Black's cramped position.

19...Nxe5 20.f4 Nd7 21.Bc3

With this move and also his 23rd, White begins to rush things and as a result loses much of his advantage. 21.Kh1 was a perfectly good move here, putting his house in order before undertaking any definite action.

21...Bxc3 22.Nxc3 Nb6 23.f5 Nd7 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Qe3 Kg7 26.Rf4 Rh8 27.Rbf1 Ne5 28.Nb5 f6 29.Qg3 c4 30.bxc4 Rxa4 31.Nd4



31...Qb6

With 31...Qa7, putting the Queen on a protected square, it is difficult to see how White could force a win. Now Simsak is able to wind up the game in dashing style.

32.Qf2 Nxc4 33.Rxf6 exf6 34.Qxf6+ Kh7 35.Rf4 Qb1+ 36.Kh2 Qe1 37.Rh4+ Qxh4 38.Qxh4+ Kg8 39.Qd8+ Kh7 40.Qd7+ 1:0

The Pennswoodpusher, February 1982

It's spring cleaning time! And for you PSCF members, that means it's time to check to make sure that your club(s) are listed in this publication and on the PSCF website (<http://www.pscfchess.org/clubs/>) with accurate information. If there is a new club in town, please let us know! If your club now meets at a different time, please let us know! If a club has folded, please let us know!

Thank you to those who replied to my email or telephone call. There were a few clubs that either did not respond, or for which we did not have accurate contact information. Unless someone contacts us and tells us that these clubs still exist, they will be deleted. They are:

- Northeast Shotokan Chess Club
- Pottstown
- York Youth Chess Club

Thank you very much!

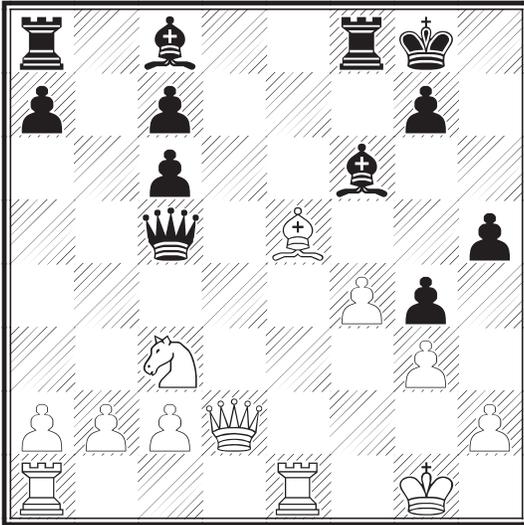
- Joe Mucerino

After that win against that unusual opening, I managed two draws on more familiar ground.

Bruce R. Davis - Martin Simsak

Lehigh Valley Invitational, Round 5, Allentown, 1981

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.Re1 Nd7 10.Be3 Ne5 11.Be2 f5 12.f4 Ng4 13.Bxg4 fxe4 14.g3 Bf6 15.Qd2 Qe7 16.Bd4 h5 17.e5 dxe5 18.Bxe5 Qc5+

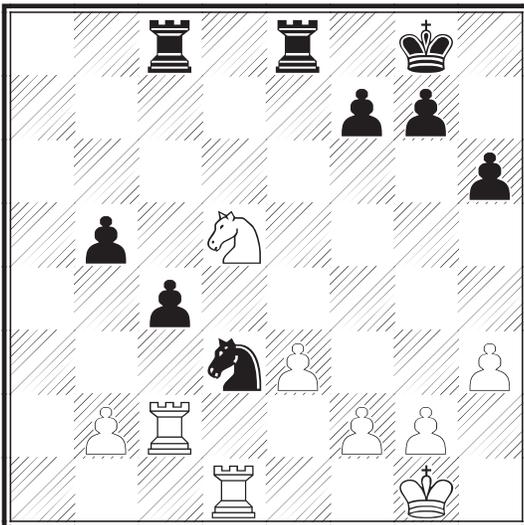


19.Qe3 Qxe3+ 20.Rxe3 Bf5 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Ne4 Kf7 23.Rae1 Rfe8 24.c4 Rad8 25.b3 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Rd2 28.a4 Rb2 29.Re3 c5 30.Kh1 a5 31.Kg1 Rd2 32.Kh1 Rd6 33.Kg1 Rd2 34.Kh1 ½:½

Martin Simsak - Robert L. Esch

Lehigh Valley Invitational, Round 6, Allentown, 1981

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.Rc1 O-O 7.e3 c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 h6 10.Bh4 c4 11.Bb1 Re8 12.O-O a6 13.a4 b5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Ng4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.h3 Nxe5 18.Nxd5 Qd6 19.Nf4 Qc6 20.Qd5 Bb7 21.Be4 Qxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Nxd5 Nd3 24.Rc2 Rac8 25.axb5 axb5 26.Rd1



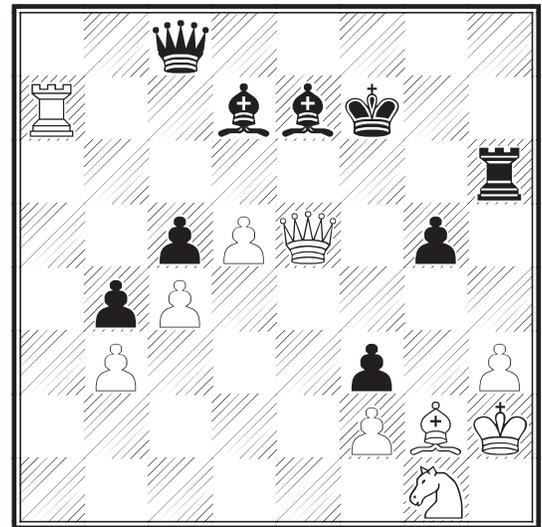
26...b4 27.Nb6 b3 28.Rxc4 Nxb2 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Rb1 Rc2 31.Nd5 Nd3 32.Rxb3 Rc1+ 33.Kh2 ½:½

The last round brought a showdown between myself and David Kistler for first place. Nothing less than a win would serve. Bruce Alberston, who annotated the game for the *Journal of the Allentown Chess Club*, quotes me as saying I was “going for the bundle” in this game. Alberston noted my sacrifice of the h-pawn is not entirely correct; I won’t argue with Bruce.

David Kistler - Martin Simsak

Lehigh Valley Invitational, Round 7, Allentown, 9/7/1981

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.Nb3 Bb7 14.Be3 Rad8 15.d5 Nb8 16.Nbd2 Nbd7 17.Nf1 Rfe8 18.Ng3 g6 19.Nh2 Bf8 20.Qf3 Bg7 21.Bg5 h6 22.Be3 Nf8 23.Bxh6 Bxh6 24.Qxf6 Nh7 25.Qf3 Ng5 26.Qe2 Bc8 27.Nf3 Qe7 28.Nxg5 Bxg5 29.a4 Qb7 30.axb5 axb5 31.Qf3 Kg7 32.Ra5 Bd7 33.Rea1 Ra8 34.Qd1 Rxa5 35.Rxa5 Bd8 36.Ra1 Rh8 37.Qf1 Bg5 38.Ne2 Rh4 39.Kh2 Qc8 40.Ng1 Qh8 41.g3 Rh6 42.Ra6 Qb8 43.Ra1 Qh8 44.Bd1 Qc8 45.Bf3 f5 46.Bg2 f4 47.Ra7 Be7 48.gxf4 exf4 49.Qe2 Kf6 50.c4 b4 51.b3 g5 52.Qb2+ Kf7 53.e5 dxe5 54.Qxe5?? f3!



55.Qe3 fxe3 56.Kxg2 Ra6 57.Rxa6 Qxa6 58.Nf3 Qf6 59.Ne5+ Ke8 60.Nd3 Qd6 61.Ne5 Qf6 62.Nd3 Qd4 63.Qe2 Bf5 64.Qh5+ Kf8 65.Ne1 Qh4 66.Qf3 Qe4 67.Kg3 Qxf3+ 68.Nxf3 Bd6+ 69.Kg2 Be4 0:1

The Pennswoodpusher, February 1982

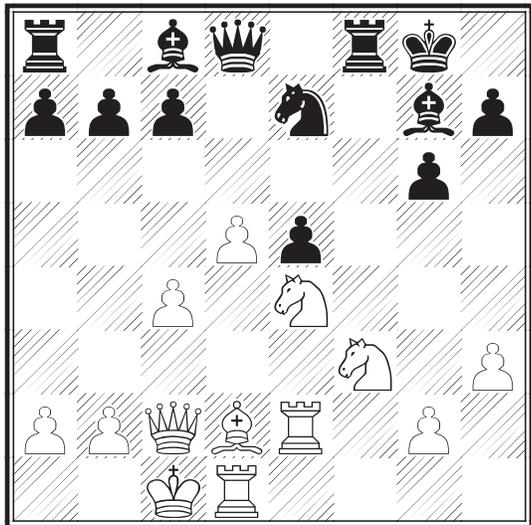
With this game, I clinched first place in the 1981 Invitational. So, in the same year that Ronald Reagan was sworn in as our oldest President, an old-timer became the champion of the Lehigh Valley. Shortly after this my health began to deteriorate, and I wasn’t able to play this well consistently. I did play, however, and I found I could still pull off finishes from time to time like in the following game.

Martin Simsak - John McCarthy

US Amateur Team Championship, Rd 1, Somerset, NJ, 2/13/1982

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.f4 Nf6 8.Be2 O-O 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.Nf3 Ng4 11.Bd2 f5 12.h3 Nf6

13.Qc2 Nh5 14.O-O-O Ng3 15.Rhe1 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe2+ 17.Rxe2



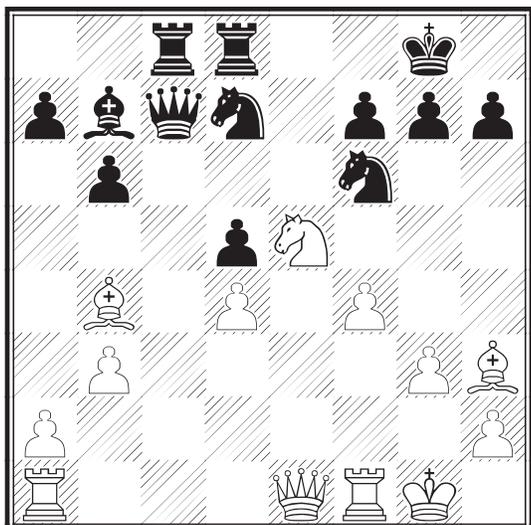
17...Bxh3 18.gxh3 Rxf3 19.Ng5 Rg3 20.Ne6 Qd7 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Qe4 Kf7 23.Qxe5 Rxh3 24.Rde1 Nf5 25.c5 c6 26.d6 Qd8 27.Qe6+ Kf8 28.Bc3 Qc8 29.d7 Qc7 1:0

I won the 1990 Allentown-Bethlehem championship, my last hurrah so to speak. I was featured in the *Allentown Morning Call* one Sunday. *Chess Life* even published my game, as part of an article on me, called "Seven Decades of Success", written by a new Lehigh Valley master, Eric Johnson. It was the first time I was ever featured in the USCF magazine.

Here is the game Eric used in his article. The combination is a little speculative, but it's a nice game anyway.

Martin Simsak - Donald E. Woodhouse
Allentown-Bethlehem City Championship, 1990

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 O-O 7.O-O d5 8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.f4 c5 10.e3 Qc7 11.exd5 exd5 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.Nc3 Rd8 14.b3 cxd4 15.exd4 Bb4 16.Bb2 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Qd6 18.Qe1 Rac8 19.Bb4 Qb8 20.Bh3 Qc7



21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Qe6+ Kg6 23.Bf5+ Kh6 24.Bd3 g5 25.fxg5+ Kg7 26.g6 Ne4 27.Qf7+ Kh8 28.g7# 1:0

I continued to play for a few years after this, despite being over the age of 80 years. There was a group of players who met at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, and I became a regular there. I also played again at the Allentown Chess Club before it closed in 1992, as well as the "new" Center City Chess Club.

My last chess game was played as part of a 50 board simul against GM Alexander Shabalov at the Center City Chess Club. I had a worse position, and although I might have drawn it by playing on, I decided to show my respect for him and resign.

Rapid games. Sudden death time controls. Databases and computers. Chess on the Internet. The game has changed a lot since I learned it in 1927. Its changed in ways I never could have imagined.

And yet, 74 years later, I remember a boy in Homestead who learned the moves from a school friend one afternoon. I remember that boy going to the Homestead library and reading the Hastings 1895 tournament book, and wanting to play games like the ones in that book. And today at 91, I still know how that boy felt. I still have the same feelings about chess that he did. And I hope I always will.

PA TODAY

Tournament and Club News from around the Keystone State
by Joe Mucerino, Roving Reporter
patzerpounder@hotmail.com

12th Rausch Memorial New Year's Eve Insanity

ALLENTOWN, 12/31/2006-1/1/2007 - Once again, Allentown was the place to be for chessplayers ringing in the New Year. Twenty-one players took part this year in this marathon eight-round G/30 contest, including defending champion Dan Yeager. But missing were Jack Mongilutz and David Elliott, who religiously attend many Allentown events. Eric Johnson also decided not to play, and only direct.

Things began as predicted with only one upset of note in round two, when William Bybel beat Derek Fisher. Everyone got down to business in round three. I lost to Greg Nolan when I missed a win in time pressure. Yeager defeated Bybel to be the only other perfect score. Nolan and Yeager met in round four, with Nolan emerging victorious. At the end of 2006, Nolan was leading with four points, and Yeager, Fisher, Bybel, and Larry Cesare all had three. Nolan drew his first game in 2007 against Fisher. Yeager beat Cesare to close the gap to half a point, and I also made up ground by defeating Bybel. Bybel lost again in round six, to Nolan. I also lost, this time to Yeager, and Fisher won against Cesare. Richard Blank was really the last player who could stop Nolan, but he failed in the penultimate round. Yeager beat Fisher, I defeated Michael Cox, and Bybel bested Matthew Thanakit. The final round began sometime after three o'clock in the morning. All of the top players already had already played against one another, so the final round pairings could have passed as first round pairings. Nolan won the tournament by defeating Kevin Thanakit. Yeager took second, losing only to Nolan, by defeated Bruce Davis, Sr. Tying for third with 5½ points were Derek Fisher, who scored a point against Jonathan Qin, and myself, who won against Cesare.

Due to the difficulties in making pairings by hand in the latter rounds, Eric Johnson is thinking about having the 2007-2008 edition be a ran-

dom pairing Swiss, where names are literally picked out of a hat. Players are able to play the same opponent multiple times, and also may play the same color in every single game. Random pairing Swisses are always very interesting.

39th Annual Liberty Bell Open

PHILADELPHIA, 1/12-15/2007 - One of the traditions of the Liberty Bell seems to be that there is at least one day during the event where we get inclement weather. This year though, wonderful weather with fall temperatures prevailed throughout the event, which may be one of the reasons for the great turnout. The Continental Chess Association reported 328 entries (15 of those were re-entries) and the prize fund was raised seven percent.

The usual suspects were back in action in the Open section. It was nice to see IM Dr. Edward Formanek return and play on the top boards. New Jersey's FM Boris Privman, who was surprisingly absent from last year's National Chess Congress, was also back. Three juniors, Dan Yeager, and the Garden State's Andrew Shvartsman and Rahul Swaminathan, stepped up into the Open section and did well.

But the four grandmasters who entered finished in the top four spots on the wallchart. Jaan Ehlevest and Alexander Ivanov both tied for first with 5½/7. Ehlevest had a particularly easy outing. He entered the two day schedule, and not only was he only grandmaster in that schedule, I believe that he was the only person with any kind of FIDE title in that section. He beat four players rated in the 2200-2350 range, and then made three short draws once the schedules merged to tie with Ivanov.

Tying for third were GMs Alexander Shabalov and Sergey Kudrin, along with FM Bryan Smith and MacKenzie Molner. They all scored five points. Other scores: Rodion Rubenchik and Formanek 4½; Yeager, Peter Minear, and Lorand Bela Kis 4; Adam Weissbarth, Alisa Melekhina 3; and from New Jersey, Privman and Victor Shen 4 points; Michael Katz 3; Andrew Shvartsman 2½; Swaminathan 2.

"Joe, what are you doing in the two-day U2200 section?" I had to answer this question several times during the event. The four-day schedule was out because I was scheduled to play at the North Penn Chess Club on Friday night (postponing that round-robin game would not have fit very well into my schedule). Over New Years at the Rausch Memorial Tournament in Allentown I won a raffle and received a free entry fee to their quads on January 13, so I decided to take advantage of that. That left me with the two-day schedule as the only possibility. I had entered the Open section, but someone at Continental Chess must have misread my entry, and put me in the U2200 section. I was going to have that changed, but I developed a cold on January 11, so I decided to take it easy and play "down" in the lowest possible section for me, instead of the Open, where I normally play. Things started off well when I drew Luka Glinsky and beat Evan Post, but then I tired, and only scored half a point from the remaining three games on Sunday. I almost withdrew, but I did not want to be seen as a quitter, so I stayed in. My play was better on Monday, but I could still only score two draws, so I finished with 3/7.

The winners:

Open: Jaan Ehlevest, Alexander Ivanov 5½/7
Top PA: Alexander Shabalov, Bryan Smith 5
Top NJ: Mackenzie Molner 5

U2200: Udayan Bapat 6
Top PA: Luan Elezi 5½
Top NJ: Hana Itkis 4½

U2000: Christopher Ventura, Gary Rubright 5½
Top PA: Rubright
Top NJ: Ventura

U1800: Teme Sejko 6
Top PA: Sejko
Top NJ: Attila Fabian 5½

U1600: Tim Alles 6. The top five were all Pennsylvanians!
Top PA: Alles
Top NJ: Douglas Schwetke, Douglas Proll 4

U1400: Christian Zarate 6
Top PA: Mayen Bior, David Blumin 5½
Top NJ: Jeffrey Wu 4

U1200: Mark Melvin, Gabrielle Rivkin, Timothy Wolf 6
Top PA: Melvin, Wolf
Top NJ: Scott Esbrandt 5½

PA State Team Championship - West

PITTSBURGH, 2/3/2007 - On Saturday February 3rd, the 2007 PA State Team Championship - West was held at the William Pitt Union at the University of Pittsburgh. Ten teams competed in the Open section while six participated in the Scholastic Reserve section. The final standings are posted at: <http://www.pscfchess.org/results/>

In the Open section, the top three seeded teams took the top three places, albeit in reverse rating order. All teams had to have an average rating of 2200 or less with players in rating order. The Washington Chess Club (WCC) took clear first place with 3½/4 team match points, followed by the Seniors? with 3/4, and His Majesty's Secret Service (HMSS) with 2½/4, edging out Ceargie Mloeln Unisvteiry (CMU sic) on game points.

The Seniors?' Tom Magar, CMU's Blaze Iliev, and yours truly from WCC each had perfect 4/4 scores on the day. Joe Elsleger had the only individual 3½/4 score of the tournament with an exciting draw against HMSS's Franklin Chen. The words *exciting* and *draw* are rarely used in conjunction, but when you add a close game, time trouble, and a piece sacrifice exchange in a Bishop and pawns vs Knight and pawns endgame, *exciting draw* might even be an understatement.

On the topic of draws, I would like to congratulate Zac Taylor (1465) on his individual performance as board one of the Greater Canonsburg Public Library Gravediggers team. Zac had draws in each round for a total of two points against stiff competition and ended the tourney with a 1653 performance rating. Well done, my friend.

The Mohigans from Morgantown, West Virginia captured first place in the Scholastic section with an undefeated 4/5 score. The only two perfect 5/5 individual scores in the scholastic section came from the Mohigan's Tudor Crihalmeanu and Jonathan Hensel. The Phalanx Bishops won second place on tiebreak with three team match points, Sterrett Classical Academy also had three as did the Phalanx Knights,

Watch for IM Igor Khmel'nitsky's Chess Coach column returning in our next issue. Until then, you might want to order his brand-new book *Chess Exam #2: Tactics* at: <http://www.ChessExam.com/>

followed by the Phalanx Indians as the Top U1000 and Luna's Lunatics as the Top U800 team.

Special thanks for organizing and directing the tournaments goes to Tom Martinak. On behalf of everyone who played in this and every other tournament at the University of Pittsburgh, we thank you for your continued efforts.
- Joshua J. Mankey

MasterMinds Quads

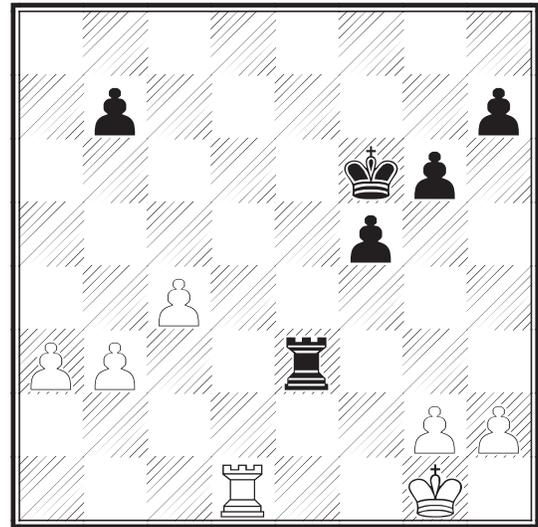
PHILADELPHIA, 2/14/2007 - After not being held in January, due to electrical work being done at Blair Christian Academy, the popular quads and scholastic events were back in their normal time slot, the second Sunday of the month. There were three quads this time, and the top quad was dominated by David Paulina (who had just tied for third in the U2200 section of the Liberty Bell Open) and your author (who failed to make fifty percent in the same section of the same tournament). We both won our first two games, and in round three, Paulina became the 1,000th different chess opponent that I have played a tournament game against. I blundered a pawn in the middlegame, but my rook had penetrated into the back rank in a rook and bishop ending. It created just enough havoc for Paulina to fall into a draw by three-fold occurrence (Paulina disagreed, but director Leteef Street sided with me). Quentin Guy emerged as the winner of the closely contested second quad, and Daniel Bell swept quad three. In the scholastic sections, Walter Fu was the clear winner of the five-player U1100 section with 3/4, but he was only a point ahead of the tailenders, and Morris Saxe-Smith swept the U750 K-6 with a perfect 4-0 score.

West Chester Chess Club Championship

WEST CHESTER, 2/1-3/1/2007 - What a difference a year makes! In 2006, this event could only draw ten people. But in the year since then, many new members, including several scholastic players, have joined the club, and this year's edition of the club championship boasted twenty-one players!

The first round was routine enough, with one exception. Charles Jay (1500) was white against the defending champion NM Michael Bury (2213). For some reason, Jay has given Bury more difficulty than just about anyone else in the club. Jay again had Bury in big trouble, with two queens, a knight, and three pawns against a lone rook. But then, Bury found a stalemate trap, which Jay fell into head first, and the point was split. In the second round, your author, Bury's predecessor as champion, became lax in a very innocuous middlegame, and blundered a piece to Larry Saxby. Saxby's victory also netted him the upset prize. Roy Eikerenkoetter also upset Keith Johnson, and Mel Ross beat Don Anderson to join Saxby with two points. At the half-way mark, Eikerenkoetter scored his second upset of the tournament against Ross, while Bury defeated Saxby, and I rebounded against James Merickel's Dutch Defense. In the penultimate round, Eikerenkoetter had white against Bury, but Bury won a pawn and his queen and rook landed on the back rank and did heavy damage. This gave Bury the lead with 3½/4. Johnson, Saxby, and your author all won to tie Eikerenkoetter at three. The final round's Bury-Mucerino game was anticlimactic. I played a poor game and was worse from the opening bell. My time pressure became so great that I thought I was only down the exchange when in reality I was down a full rook. When reality set in, I handed Bury his second straight title. Johnson and Saxby won again to tie for second. Andrew Fleming's fourth place finish of 3½ points won him the U1600 prize, and Peter Mason, with 2½ points, was the top player under twelve years of age.

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Gregory S. Shaffer West Chester Chess Club Championship, Round 4, 2/22/2007 Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.



White has obtained a winning position, but things are not quite as easy as they appear.

29.Rd6+ Ke5?!

29...Kg5 puts up more resistance, because Black's rook will be able to return to e7 and protect the pawn on b7. The text gives White three connected passed pawns.

30.Rb6 Re2 31.Rxb7 Kd4 32.Rxh7 Rb2 33.Rb7 g5 34.a4

Fritz liked 34.h3. I was afraid that after 34...g4, Black would manage to get a pawn to g3 in order to set up some mating threats. What I did not see at the time was the plan to relocate my rook to a1 and then push my a-pawn, which appears to be White's easiest way to win. I was running a bit short on time in the first time control (40/80 SD/30), and I did not want to give up my b-pawn unless I had to, so I tried to make some conservative moves.

34...g4 35.Rf7 Ke4 36.Re7+ Kd4 37.Rd7+ Ke3 38.Re7+ Kd4 39.Kf1 f4 40.Rd7+ Ke3 41.Re7+

On any of the last couple of moves, I could have brought my rook back to the first rank and then swung it to the a-file. I just threw in the checks to make time control.

41...Kd3 42.Re1 Rxb3 43.Ra1 Kxc4

Losing the two pawns is not bad for White, because now the a-pawn is mobile and dangerous.

44.a5 Kd3 45.a6 Rb8 46.a7 Ra8 47.Kf2 Ke4 48.Ra4+ Kf5 49.Ke2

49.Ra5+ was Fritz's choice.

49...Ke5

49...Re8+ is only a spite check that does not gain anything for Black.

50.Kd3 Rd8+ 51.Kc4 Ra8

51...Ke4 is not better, i.e. 52.a8=Q+ Rxa8 53.Rxa8 is winning for White.

52.Kb5 f3 53.gxf3 gxf3 54.Kb6 f2 55.Ra1 Rf8

If 55...Kf4, then 56.Kb7 Rxa7+ 57.Kxa7 Kf3 58.Rf1 Kg2 59.Rxf2+ Kxf2 60.h4 queening.

56.Rf1 Rf6+ 57.Kb5

Not 57.Kc5?? Ra6.

57...Rf8 58.Rxf2 Rxf2

Black had nothing better.

59.a8=Q Rf5

Wise. Of course, if 59...Rxb2, then 60.Qb8+ picks up the rook; 9...Rb2+ accomplishes nothing and, more importantly, on the next move Black has no way of protecting his rook with his king. In king and queen verses king and rook endings, it is very important for the side with the rook to protect it with its king. If they are separated, there is a chance that the queen will fork the two and snag the rook.

60.Qh8+

To protect the pawn.

60...Kf4+ 61.Kc6

It is essential for the king to join in the attack.

61...Kg5 62.Qg7+ Kh5 63.Kd6 Rg5 64.Qf7+ Kh6 65.Qf4

Pinning the rook to the king, and thereby forcing a king move, is a very common idea in endings like this.

65...Kg6 66.Ke6 Kh5 67.Kf6

With Black's king on the edge of the board and White's king nearby, White should be able to force the rook to move away from the king, giving White the possibility of forking Black's king and rook as well as creating mating threats. White must not be careless and allow Black to pin the queen to the king, or fall into a stalemate trap.

67...Rg6+ 68.Kf7 Rg5

Black might as well try 68...Rg7+ hoping for 69.Kxg7 stalemate.

69.h3 Rg6??

Again, 69...Rg7+ was a better try. For example, 70.Kf8 Rg5 71.Qe4 (to give the queen more "punching room") 71...Kh6 72.h4 Rg6 73.Qe5 and Black must move the rook away from the king as 73...Kh7 74.Qh5+ Rh6 75.Qf7+ Kh8 76.Qg7#.

70.Qf5+ Kh4

Or 70...Rg5 71.Qh7#; 70...Kh6 71.Qxg6#

71.Kxg6 1:0

Not 71.Qxg6?? stalemating.

North Penn Chess Club Winter Round Robin

LANSDALE, 1/5-3/3/2007 - The North Penn Chess Club annually offers what I believe to be the largest rated round robin event in Pennsylvania: an eight player, seven round tournament that stretches over two months. Miss it, and you will have to wait until almost spring until you can play at North Penn again. This year's top section was probably the weakest it has been since I began playing in this event in 2000. Two of the three co-winners from last year, Curtis Schwartz and Nigel Mitchell, were absent, leaving your roving reporter (the third co-winner) and Eric Funk as the sole experts in the field. Still, anything can happen when the lowest rated player in the section is a 1700.

But what did happen was highly predictable. Funk and I began with 3½/4, drawing each other. Father Joseph Farrell held Funk to a draw in round five. That gave me a chance. I was up a pawn against Terry Thomasco, but it was backward, and he should have drawn fairly easily. But he erred, and I was able to push my weak pawn, which truly gave me a one pawn advantage. Thomasco then missed a check that cost him a full rook, and that gave me a half point lead over Funk. There was a disturbance in the next round when the fire alarm sounded. Apparently, a child who was at the church for another function was simply curious if the fire alarm would actually work. The Lansdale Fire Department will be happy to know that yes, the fire alarm at St. John's United Church of Christ really does work. It brought back memories for me of the fire alarm that was triggered at the 1996 National High School Championship. After a five minute pause, the games resumed. Funk and I both won, to keep that half point gap between us.

In a round robin contest, where everyone has to play against everyone else, it is necessary to have a few makeup weeks because many players cannot make every single Friday. There are two makeup weeks at the end of the tournament (players can also play at the club Thursday night or arrange to play anytime outside of the club). Funk and I both had a makeup game, but, due to the players' schedules, they would be played on separate weeks. The first week would be Mucerino-Preston Ladson, and the second week would see Thomasco-Funk. Historically, Ladson has been a difficult customer for me, but in recent years I have gotten the better of him. Even so, if I lost and Funk won, I would lose a lot of money. So I played very solidly against Ladson, and we agreed to a quick draw when we obtained a closed middlegame position. I was hoping that Thomasco could hold Funk to a draw, but he could not, and Funk caught up to me, and we shared the first and second place prizes with a score of 6/7.

Section two was a more closely fought affair. John Frisk and Joe Kennedy tied for first, but they both lost two games en route to their 4½/7 scores. Four players were a point or less behind them, and even the tailender managed 1½ points. There were four players in the bottom section. Usually in this kind of situation, a double round robin is played, but according to the crosstable only four rounds were played, with Jeffery Kleinfeld and George Murphy sharing top honors.

9th Pennsylvania State Quick Chess Championship

CARLISLE, 3/2/2007 - After nine years, this event is still popular with ninety-four players taking part in three sections. Many of the top finishers from last year's event were back to contest the title once again. The biggest absentee was Dan Yeager, who tied for second last year. A year ago, he won the K-12 Open section after taking a half-point bye in round one so he could compete in this event. Realizing that it is more difficult to defend a title than it is to win it, he missed this year's event to concentrate on retaining the most prestigious scholastic title in Pennsylvania (he did successfully retain his title with a perfect 6-0 score).

The favorite had to be Gerald Bailleau, who has won this tournament four years running. Four other masters were in the field: Peter Minear, Lorand Bela Kis, Adam Weissbarth, and Tom Magar. Strong experts Franklin Chen and Rene Phillips were also expected to challenge. Speed chess is not my game, so I was just happy to be there.

Nothing sensational happened in the first two rounds, although Phillips did score a minor upset against Kis. Masters and experts began to battle it out in round three. Bailleau beat Magar, Minear defeated Weissbarth, and Phillips defeated Chen to give the winners the only perfect scores. Bailleau once again beat Minear to take sole possession of first place. I had won two straight after losing to Bailleau in round two. Joining me with three points were Minear, Kis, Phillips, Weissbarth, and Vincent Waters. In the penultimate round, Bailleau defeated Kis to guarantee himself a share of first. Minear bested Phillips, Chen won against Waters, and my time pressure against Weissbarth turned a win into a draw. The final round was no real surprise: Bailleau won the title for the fifth straight year when he beat Weissbarth. My final game in my grey "CHESS" T-shirt was a draw against old high school rival Minear. He won clear second with 4½/6. Tying me for a share of third a half point back were Kis, who won his final game against Michael Cox, Phillips, who was took a point against Donald Thompson, and Richard Blank, who had a rocky start but finished with three straight wins including a final round upset of Chen.

There was a four way tie in the U1500 section with 5/6 with the cash being divided between Alex Chen, Cory Ruck, Sam Lamonto, and Daniel O'Brien. Frankie Chan swept the U1100 section 6-0. Be sure to play in next year's tenth edition of the Pennsylvania State Quick Chess Championship!

Pennsylvania State Bughouse Championship

CARLISLE, 3/3/2007 - For the first time since moving to Carlisle, a bughouse tournament was held as a side event on Saturday night. Twenty scholastic teams entered, with prizes available for first through third, top U1000 team, and top U700 team (each team member took home a trophy). Some people were afraid that this six double round event would run late (each team played two matches against their opponents. Instead of switching colors after the first game, one team would switch seats, and face the opposing team member that they did not play in the first game with the opposite color they had in the first match, while the opposing team had the same color in both games). However, the prize ceremony was over before eleven o'clock. The event ran smoothly because the board and pieces were already set up for the players, saving time because the players did not have to pack and then unpack their sets numerous times.

Director Steve McLaughlin announced the pairings at the beginning of the round, and then ran around the room to collect the results. It was a very relaxed atmosphere, with lots of talking (communicating between the teammates was allowed) and no disputes, although some players told their teammate how stupid they were. Touch clock rules were used (taking back a move was legal), capturing the opponent's king was allowed, and the time control was the normal bughouse G/5 with no time delay.

There was a tie for first between Brokeback Mountain Boys (Chris Blaise and Julian Smyth), who won on tiebreaks, and Yeager/Ma (Dan Yeager and Andrew Ma). Both teams swept four matches and split two others (including their head-to-head meeting) for a score of 10/12, but Brokeback Mountain Boys barely edged out Yeager/Ma on tiebreaks. Third place a point back was Your Face!!! (Josh Bowman and Steve McLaughlin, Jr.). Rome (Terrell Bennett and Jimmy Dormer) scored six points and took home the U1000 trophies, and Meatballs (Kody Blouch and Mike Sors) was the top U700 team.

Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championships

CARLISLE, 3/2-4/2007 - Top scholastic winners at Carlisle:

- K-12 Open:** Individual: Dan Yeager
School Team: Julia R Masterman School
Club Team: Montgomery Youth Chess Club
- 7-12 U1300:** Individual: An Nguyen and Brad Elias
School Team: Pocono Mountain East High School
Club Team: Monroeville Chess Club
- 7-12 U1000:** Individual: Jua Thomas, Robert Kim & Derrick Kuhn
School Team: High School of Engineering and Science
Club Team: Chambersburg Chessmen
- K-9 U1000:** Individual: Andre Curtis
School Team: Providence Heights Alpha School and Pocono Mountain East Intermediate School
Club Team: Monroeville Chess Club

K-8 Open: Individual: Peter Weida
School Team: Julia R. Masterman School
Club Team: Montgomery Youth Chess Club

K-6 Open: Individual: Danny Balter
School Team: Murray Avenue School
Club Team: Huntindon Valley Chess Society Juniors

K-6 U800: Individual: Natan Luehrman, Jack Mo, Daniel Warszawski & Ruben Ramanathan
School Team: The Philadelphia School and Julia R. Masterman School
Club Team: Challenging Heads

K-3 Open: Individual: Alexander Zhang
School Team: The Philadelphia School
Club Team: Challenging Heads

Carlisle Open

CARLISLE, 3/4&5/2007 - Scholastic players are not the only ones who flock to Carlisle at the end of winter. Adults, eighty-one of them this year, came to take part in the Carlisle Open. Last year's winner, Omar Rivera, has moved to Florida, but FM Rodion Rubenchik was back in action after being away for a few years. The was only one real upset in round one: unrated Carlos Cruz defeated the 1756 rated Duane Smith. Also, Tamara Corey held me to a draw, and Tim Alles and Randall Sears did the same thing to Michael Jones and Federico Garcia, respectively. Cruz made it two straight shockers when he beat near-expert Todd Hennard. People were beginning to ask who this Cruz was. Vincent Waters also held Tom Magar to a draw in this round. In round three, although the pairings were becoming closer to being even rating-wise, the higher rated player still managed to win. I was held to my second draw during this round:

Vincent G. Waters, Sr. - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Carlisle Open, Round 3, 3/3/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e3 O-O 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 c5 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.exd4 Nc6

Black already has a bit of an advantage.

11.Ne2 e5

Stronger is 11...Qa5+. White will either have to give up the right to castle or the d-pawn.

12.d5 Ne7

More accurate is 12...e4 13.Nd2 (If 13.dxc6 exf3, then White's kingside pawn structure will be compromised, leaving him with no safe place to castle.) 13...Na5. Black can play e4 on the next couple of moves too.

13.Nc3 Bf5

13...Bg4 is also good, but I wanted to prevent a future Ne4.

14.O-O Rc8 15.Qe2 Ng6 16.g3 Bg4 17.Bb3 Re8

I was trying to make the crazy 17...Nh4 work, but it doesn't.

18.Ne4 Qb6

I spent a long time on this move, because I was unsure how to continue. Fritz suggests 18.Qd7. Somewhere around here Black's advantage begins to be whittled away and White obtains the upper hand.

19.Rfd1 Bd8 20.d6

"Don't underestimate that pawn" - Fritz. Earlier when White played 12.d5 I was hoping the pawn would become isolated and weak. I was wrong.

20...Rf8 21.Kg2 Kh8 22.h3 Bxf3+ 23.Qxf3 f5 24.Nc3 f4 25.Na4

Qa6

Fritz says this is equal. I would prefer White.

26.Qe4 fxd3 27.fxd3 Qc6 28.Rd5 Bb6

Trying to land a rook on f2.

29.Nxb6 Qxb6 30.Qe2 Qc6 31.h4 Rf6

Better is Fritz's idea of 31...Rfd8 32.Qb5 Rxd6 33.Qxc6 Rxc6 34.Rxd6 Rxd6 35.Rf1.

32.h5 Rxd6 33.Rc1!? Qxd5+??

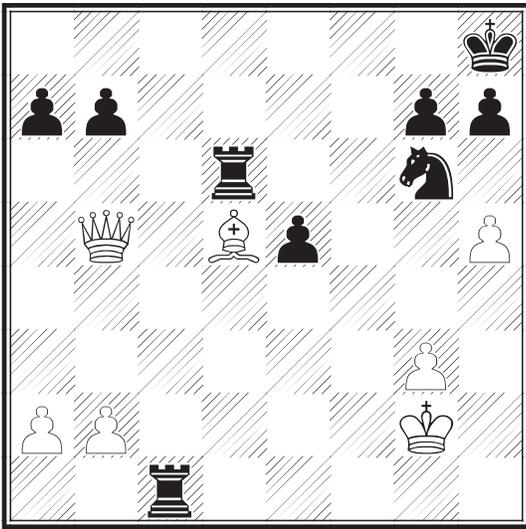
I thought that White had too much central control. After Fritz's line of 33...Qxc1 the best chance is 34.Rxd6 Ne7 35.Qxe5 Rf8, but Black may get some shots at White's exposed King.

34.Bxd5

Now White is winning, according to Fritz. When one side has two rooks against a queen, the coordination of the rooks is vital.

34...Rxc1 35.Qb5

35.Bxb7 is dubious because it allows Black to coordinate his rooks with 35...Rc7 36.Bf3 Rcd7.



35...Nf8 36.Qe8 Rf6 37.Bf7!

I missed this move. Now I thought Black was sunk.

37...Rc2+

This was intended to be a final spite check before resignation.

38.Kh3 Rc8

I saw this at the very last moment. It allows Black to play a few more moves.

39.Qxc8 Rxf7 40.Qe8 Kg8 41.Qxe5 a6 42.a4 h6 43.Qe8 Rf6

Black is trying to keep everything safe and set up a fortress.

44.b4 Rf7 45.Kh4 Rf6 46.Qe5 Rf7 47.Qd5 g5+?

With time beginning to wind down, I missed the super easy 47...Nh7. I thought that the weakening of Black's pawn structure gave White a technically won game.

48.hxg6 Nxg6+ 49.Kh5 Kg7 50.Qe6 Rf6 51.Qd7+ Rf7

52.Qd4+ Rf6 53.Qg4 Rd6 54.Qf5

White, who was also running low on time, missed 54.Qc8, which wins a pawn.

54...Rf6 55.Qd7+

55.Qe4 now wins, because Black cannot protect against both 56.Qxg6 and 56.Qb7.

55...Rf7 56.Qc8

56.Qg4 Rf6 57.Qe4 is the same as the last note.

56...Kh7 57.Qc1

White attacks the right target, but in the wrong way. White wins the h-pawn with 57.Qe6 Rg7 58.Qe3.

57...Rf5+ 58.Kg4 Rf7

58...Rg5+ does not help Black's cause, and, if anything, hurts Black's drawing chances.

59.Qc2 Kg7 60.Qc3+ Kh7 61.Kh3

Waters and I are both somewhere around the five minute mark. After being unsuccessful on the kingside, he decides to transport his King to the queenside and try to break through there. While I cannot be completely sure all of the remaining moves are correct (I began to scribble around here and the last few moves are reconstructed) the text should be close to being correct.

61...Re7 62.Qd3 Rf7 63.g4 Kg7 64.Kg3 Re7 65.Qc3+ Kh7

66.Kf2 Rf7+ 67.Ke1 Re7+ 68.Kd1 Rd7+ 69.Kc2 Re7 70.b5

axb5 71.axb5 Rf7 72.b6 Re7 73.Kb3 Rf7 74.Kb4 Rf4+ 75.Kb5

Rf7 76.Qc7?? Kg7??

A time pressure double blunder. It was safe to capture the Queen with 76...Rxc7 because the queening square is protected after 77.bxc7 Ne7. White's king cannot force the Knight away from the protecting the queening square (the Knight will just circle the pawn a la ring around the rosy), while Black's King captures the g-pawn and queens the h-pawn.

77.Kc5?? Re7??

77...Rxc7+ again wins.

78.Kd6 Rf7 79.Qc3+ Kh7 80.Qc2 Kg7 81.Qd2 Kh7 82.Ke6

Kg7 83.Qd4+ Kg8 84.Qd8+ Kg7 85.g5?

I thought that this was a good move at the time, because now White will not have to worry about the fifty move draw rule (of course, this pawn will have to be captured). But there is a problem.

85...Nf4+

With about two minutes to go, I missed 85...Re7+ followed by 87...hxg5. If White exchanges on e7, then 86.Qxe7+ Nxe7 87.gxh6+ Kf8! and the game will end in a draw.

86.Ke5 Ng6+ 87.Kd6 hxg5 88.Qxg5 Kh7 89.Qc5 Kg7 90.Qc7

Kf8 91.Qd8+ Kg7 92.Kc5 Rf5+ 93.Kd4 Rf7 94.Qg5 Rd7+

95.Kc4 Re7 96.Kd5 Rf7 97.Ke6 Rf8 98.Qg2 Rf6+ 99.Kd7

Rf7+

In the time pressure, I did not even realize that capturing on b6 was even possible. Fritz says that it is safe to do so, but White still has an edge.

100.Kc8 Re7 101.Qxb7?

This draws. Waters probably thought that his King would be able to keep the Knight away. Fritz gives White a nearly two pawn advantage, prior to this move, but it was unable to win after I simply moved my King and Rook back and forth just as I did in the game.

101...Rxb7 102.Kxb7 Ne7 103.Kb8 Nc6+ 104.Kc7 Na5 ½:½

On Sunday morning, there was a shock. Rubenchik, who swept his first three games (although he had a tough outing against Rene Phillips in round three) had to withdraw because of a personal emergency. Rumors that he was ill were totally unfounded. That changed the entire dynamic of the tournament. Franklin Chen-Peter Minear matched the only two remaining perfect scores in the event, and Chen won an exciting rook and pawn ending. Garcia won his third straight game in an upset over Magar. I defeated Ryan Ferguson to join a large group of players with 3/4. In the final round, despite having black, Chen has a huge favorite against the class A rated Garcia. Chen needed only a draw to win the event, and everyone was sure he could do that with ease. Chen's pieces had entered Garcia's position at the cost of a few

pawns, but Garcia beat off the attack and won the tournament for himself with the extra material. Minear eked out a win against Waters to tie for second with Chen and Todd Hennard, who won his third straight game against John Hathaway, and I joined them with this victory:

Carlos E. Cruz - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Carlisle Open, Round 5, 3/4/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.g3 Bd6 7.Bg2 O-O 8.O-O Bf5 9.Nh4 Bg4 10.f3 Bh5 11.Nf5 Bc7 12.Qb3 Bb6 13.Na4 Bg6 14.Nxb6 axb6 15.Nh4 Re8 16.Nxg6 hxg6

So now we have the bishop pair against the knight pair. White should open up the position as much as possible to increase the bishops' scope so that they can rake across the board.

17.e4 dxe4 18.fxe4 Ra5

Fritz says that Black can equalize with 18...Qxd4+ 19.Be3 Qa4 20.Qxb6. I think that White has the initiative in this line. The queen attacks b7, and White's bishops are superbly placed. Instead, I decided to focus on development.

19.Qd3 Na6

Trying to hop into c5 and then munch on e4.

20.e5 Raxc5 21.Qc4 Re2 22.Bf3 Re1 23.Bf4 Rxa1

Black captures this rook so that when White recaptures, the rook is poorly placed on a1.

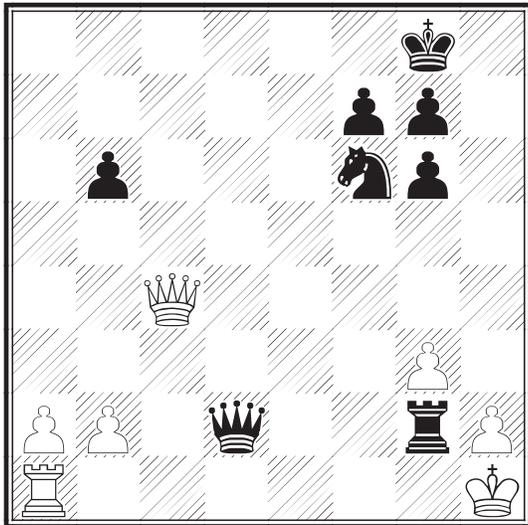
24.Rxa1 Nc7 25.Bxc7 Qxc7 26.d5 Qe5 27.dxc6 Qe3+ 28.Kg2 Qd2+ 29.Kh1 bxc6 30.Bxc6?

This is the beginning of the end for White. This capture allows the rook to decisively enter at e2. Had White captured the pawn with the queen, he would still be in the ballgame.

30...Re2 31.Bg2?

White believes that he has a tactic to protect the bishop. Fritz believes that the only sensible way to prevent mate is 31.Rf1.

31...Rxc2



32.Qc8+

With the idea of 32...Kh7 33.Qh3+ Kg8 34.Qxg2, winning an exchange. But...

32...Ne8! 0:1

It is very rare when putting a piece en prise with check forces resignation. If White captures the knight, there is no way to maneuver

the queen so it can prevent checkmate.

This tournament also crowns the state collegiate champion. Sadly, only two college players entered the open section, and Andrew Tichenor's three points were two more than Matthew Farley's.

There was a tie in the U1500 section between Marc Miller and Ernest Sharif, Jr., who both scored 4½/5. There were three collegiate players in this section, with Cory Ruck edging out Scott Tata and Joseph Collins. Here are two games by the co-winner:

Marc R. Miller - David R. Power

Carlisle Open, Round 5, 3/4/2007

Annotations by Marc R. Miller & Tom M. Martinak

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Qd2 Qc7 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.e3 Nd7 9.Rc1 Ngf6 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 h6 12.O-O O-O 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Rfe1 Rfe8 15.Re2 Re7 16.b4?

Grabbing space on the queenside.

16...b5?

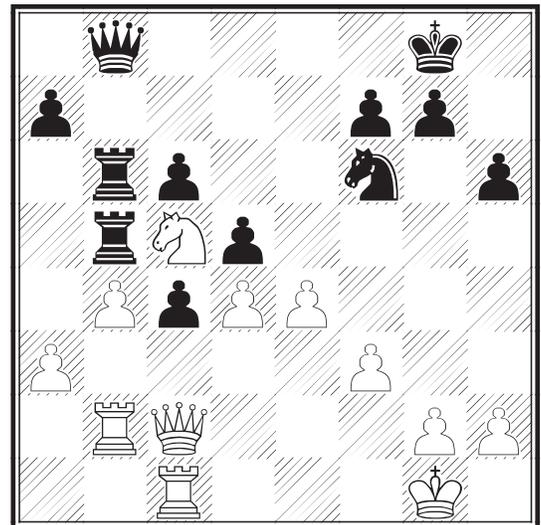
If 16...Qxb4! then White was planning 17.Rb1 with the idea of regaining the pawn and seizing control of the b-file with doubled rooks. But Black has a tactic 17...Qa5 18.Rxb7 Nc5!! winning at least an exchange after 19.Rb5 Qxb5 20.Qxb5 cxb5 21.dxc5.

17.Rb2 Ne4 18.Ne2 Nb6 19.Ne5 Nc4 20.Nxc4 bxc4 21.Qc2 Rb8 22.Qa4 Rb5 23.a3 Reb7 24.f3 Nf6 25.Nc3 R5b6 26.Qc2 Qb8

Black has tripled on the semi-open file, but unless he succeeds in playing either the c5 or a5 pawn breaks his heavy pieces will end up misplaced and cramped.

27.Na4 Rb5 28.Nc5 R7b6 29.e4!

The immediate tactical threat is e5 which drives away the Knight currently preventing a fork at d7. Positionally, it follows the standard principle: "When attacked on the wing, counterattack in the center!"



29...Qc7 30.Re1 Qd8 31.Qb1 a5 32.Na4 Rb8 33.Nc3 R5b7 34.b5 Qb6

Threatening the d-pawn.

35.Qd1 cxb5 36.Nxb5 Qc6 37.a4

Securing a great outpost for the Knight.

37...c3 38.Rc2 Rxb5

Black loses patience, but passive defense after the loss of the c-pawn also seems hopeless.

39.axb5 Rxb5 40.Qd3 Rb3 41.e5 Nd7 42.Rec1 Nb6 43.Rxc3 Rxc3 44.Rxc3 Nc4 45.Rb3 Nb6 46.Qb1 1:0

Black resigns with only a few seconds left on his clock.

Cory M. Ruck - Marc R. Miller

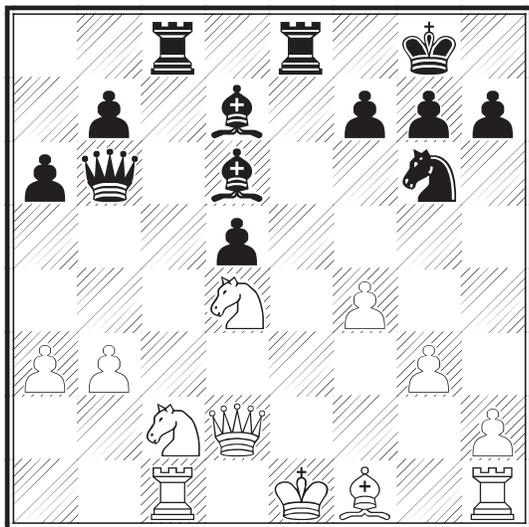
Carlisle Open, Round 4, 3/4/2007

Annotations by Marc R. Miller

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be3 Qb6 7.b3 cxd4 8.Bxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4

White doesn't want to open the c-file.

9...Rc8 10.Qd2 Ne7 11.Na3? Ng6 12.Nac2 Nxe5 13.f4 Ng6 14.c4 Bd6 15.g3 O-O 16.Rc1 a6 17.a3 Rfe8 18.cxd5? exd5+



19.Kd1 Re4 20.Qd3 Bxa3! 21.Ra1 Bc5 22.Bg2 Bg4+ 23.Kd2 Bb4+ 24.Kc1 Rxd4 25.Rxa6 bxa6 0:1

The entire state scholastic festival will be back in Carlisle in 2008 and 2009, so I hope to see you then.

2nd Annual Morgantown Spring Open

MORGANTOWN WV, 3/10/2007 - Entries were up from last year's Spring Open by more than 50%, which led to a really nice-sized tournament field and an increase in the number of prizes.

Heading into the fourth and final round, only two players had scored 3 points and they were paired: Joe Busche and Joe Elsleger, both from the Washington Chess Club of Washington, PA. A draw would have secured at least a share of first place for both the Joes, but it was not to be. Busche pressed in a Four Knights Opening, (temporarily) sacrificing a piece, and eventually won the game to take clear first place with 4 out of 4. Byron Funkhouser attempted to take sole possession of 2nd place in the final round, needing a win to finish 3½/4, but was denied by the play of Shih-Houng Young, who by winning finished tied for second place.

A total of six players finished with 3/4 for a share of second place: Joe Elsleger, Mark Heimann, Shih-Houng Young, Markle Butcher, Jeff Reynolds, and Ryan Tootle. Additional prizes were also awarded to Jim Eakins, Sid Parhi, and Tim Tootle for the Best Scholastic and U1300 classes. A complete crosstable, games, pictures, and upcoming events for the Morgantown Chess Club can be found on their website at <http://morgantownchess.org/>

- Joshua J. Mankey

62nd Pittsburgh Metropolitan Open

PITTSBURGH, 3/10&11/2007 - The Pittsburgh Chess Club has found a new home for its weekend tournaments - The House of Chess, a store just outside of Sears on the second level of the Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh (actually, the mailing address is Pittsburgh, but the mall is north of the city). The store is co-owned by Lary Rust (you may have seen him selling books at a Continental Chess Association event) and GM Alex Shabalov. This spacious store, which previously was a DSW shoe outlet, opened in the fall of last year. It is the second Chess House store opened by Rust (the other is a smaller store in Cleveland) and he wants to open four more, one at a time. Since the store is open mall hours seven days a week, it has plenty of time to hold various events. Annual membership rates are \$60 for adults and \$50 for children under age nineteen. Various activities members enjoy are free classes with NM Bill Hughes on Wednesday nights, free Shabalov lectures on Thursday nights, free Friday night scholastic events, and discounts for tournaments, lessons, and merchandise. The store is more popular than one may think. Parents have found that it is cheaper to have their children participate in the scholastic events than it is to hire a babysitter. Husbands relax there instead of being dragged all over the mall by their wives. With seven tables comfortably fitting fourteen boards, it is a nice place to relax with a friendly game to chess.

Adding to the atmosphere, besides the large assortment of books, magazines, and other fine accessories, are four of Shabalov's trophies that he has won over the years. The most impressive one is the trophy he took home for winning the 2003 US Open. It stands at least three feet tall, and it has his name engraved on it. Another is a first place trophy at the 2002 Curacao Open, and two trophies, a first place trophy from 1999 and the other a nice glass second place trophy from 2006, are from the Offene Internationale Bayerische Schach Meisterschaft. I forgot all of my German from Lebanon Valley College (my professor, Dr. Lang-Hambour, would tell me to pull up my socks - meaning to get my act together), so the reader will have to translate for him or herself (unless our editor is a German scholar. *No, only Latin - editor*).

Most of the store's entrance from the mall is sealed off by glass, so noise was not a major factor. The tables were moved so they were as far away from the entrance as possible to try to keep disruptions to a minimum, but I think a few tables should have been placed in the front of the store so that the general public could see the games being played up close. Just as the general public stops at pet stores to look at the little doggie in the window, I think some people would stop to watch some of the action. If kids saw other kids playing chess, they would probably say, "Hey, I want to do that too!" The best way to sell a product is to show it at work up close.

There were two sections for the tournament: Open and Reserve (U1800). Former and future master Alex Heimann (his rating dipped down into the high 2100s but it will not stay there) easily swept the tournament 5-0. Gabriel Petesch had a good tournament, finishing in second place and defeating NM Tom Magar and your author but losing to Heimann to finish with four points. Top-seed Magar managed only two wins and two draws to take clear third. I was also not in great form, winning only one and drawing three to be in the logjam for fourth place with 2½ points. There was a three-way tie for first in the Reserve section, with Bob Waruszewski, Kevin Mo, and Robert Kramer all scoring four points.

The Chess House has had a successful opening, and, if promoted correctly, could become a major chess center not just in Pennsylvania but in this part of the country as well. If you are in the Pittsburgh area, stop at the store and check it out.

Clarks Summit Fourth Saturday Quads

CLARKS SUMMIT, 3/24/2007 - According to my records, this was the 500th tournament that I have entered! Although the turnout was down a bit (there were ten players, making one quad and a six man Swiss), everyone had a great time. I was expected to win the quad fairly easily, but Michael Kagel easily drew me in the first round, while James Joline downed Bernard DeLuca. In round two, I defeated the leader Joline, while Kagel kept up by winning a hard fought game against DeLuca. In the finale, I had to sacrifice a bishop for some pawns to attack DeLuca's uncastled King. DeLuca probably could have drawn by repeating moves, but he decided to vary, and wound up resigning only four moves later. Meanwhile, Kagel beat Joline to tie for first with me.

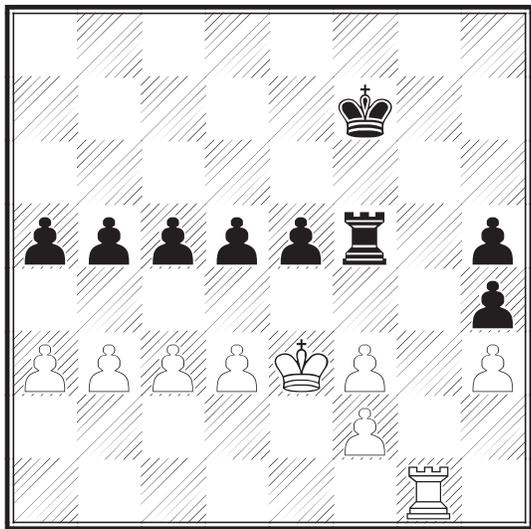
In the Swiss, the big news of the event was that the top seed Antonio Scalzo, who outrated the field by about 300 points, was upset by fast improving Michael Kizis in round two. Kizis has performed exceptionally well in his short career, and he is definitely someone to watch out for in the future. He wound up sweeping the tournament by winning his last game against Larry Tremmel. Scalzo also had bad luck in the final round, by drawing Robert Monninger. Tremmel tied those two for a share of second.

Even in small, short tournaments, interesting things can occur. I saw this position after my last game was over, and said, "This is *Pennswoodpusher* material".

S. Russell Davis - Lou Dorse

Clarks Summit Fourth Saturday Quads, Round 3, 3/24/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.



This is drawn, of course, but the way the game ended was very instructional. Both players had less than ten minutes left on their clocks.

1...b4 2.axb4 cxb4 3.cxb4 axb4 4.Ke2 Rf6 5.Rg5

Although this forks two of Black's pawns, after 5...Ke6 and 6...Rf4, White will only win one of Black's doubled h-pawns, which is not a problem for Black.

5...Ra6?? 6.Rxe5

Winning a critical pawn. Black must have thought that if he won the pawn on b3, he would be winning.

6...Ra2+ 7.Ke3 Rb2 8.Rxd5 Rxb3?

Black decided not to spend a tempo and guard his h-pawn with 8...Kg6,

but he should have, because White has time to take that pawn and prevent Black from queening.

9.Rb5?

A waste of time. White can take a lump on h5, then another on h4, and still prevent Black from queening.

9...Rb1 10.Rxb5 b3 11.Rxb4??

Now White does not have time to capture this! He has to return to b5 to keep an eye on Black's pawn.

11...Re1+ 12.Kd2 b2! 13.Kxe1 b1=Q+ 14.Ke2 ½:½

Black only had about five minutes left, and did not feel he could win. I would have at least checked White a few times to see if I could pick up the loose rook. While Black may be able to win a few pawns, it is a very difficult win, especially with only five minutes on the clock. Even if Black won all of the pawns, king and queen against king and rook, although it is a technical win, it requires some technique and more than five minutes on the clock for most non-masters to win. So, perhaps a draw is a fair result.

DuBois Spring Tornado

DUBOIS, 3/31/2007 - I was fortunate to learn about this event, because it was held on the eve of the PA State G/29 Championship in Pittsburgh, so I could spend the whole weekend in the western part of the state. Luckily, my play was not affected from my lack of sleep. It did not make sense to drive an hour east to Douglassville after my Friday night game in the Lancaster County Championship, sleep for only four or five hours, and then drive back west again. Instead, I decided to drive straight from Lancaster to the rest area on I80 in Snow Shoe, tried to sleep (I do not sleep very well in cars, and it did not make sense to pay for a hotel for just a few hours), and then made my way to DuBois.

This unrated event was divided into three sections: Pro (basically anyone over 1399), Novice (under 1400) and Youth. In the Pro section, after a routine first round, the second round saw the seemingly annual Mucerino-John Caliguire confrontation. After emerging from the opening with a better position, I went astray in the middlegame, and Caliguire and I were both fighting for the initiative. In time pressure, I was able to win a rook and trade off all of the remaining pieces to give me the win. Meanwhile, Dr. Vernon Ordiway upset the other first round victor, Jeff Warner, to give me the lead. In the third frame, local expert Charlie Leach entered the event and was immediately paired with me. This is what happened:

Charlie K. Leach - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

DuBois Spring Tornado, Round 3, 3/31/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6 5.d4 Qe7?!

It has been a long time since I played the Icelandic Gambit, and was able to play 5...Bb4+. However, ChessBase 9.0 has ten games with this move, with six of those played by masters. The results were mixed.

6.Qe2 Qb4+ 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.d5

The critical line. White wins material but his King is stuck in the center while Black has a lead in development.

8...O-O-O 9.dxc6

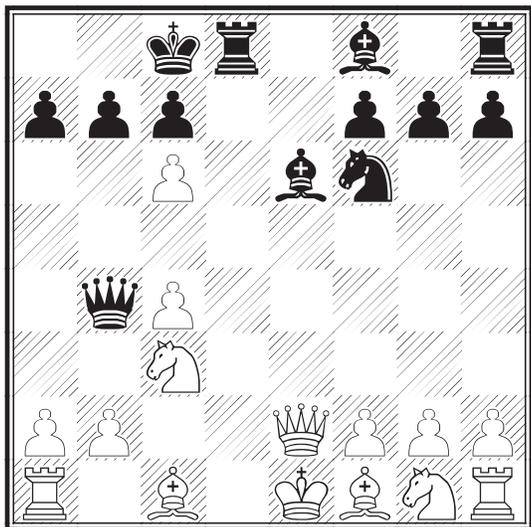
The Knight is usually captured in this type of position. Capturing the Bishop is "weaker" according to Fritz, and it gives the line 9.dxc6 Nd4 10.Qd3 Nxe6, although it believes that White is still winning.

Hazleton Open

570-455-9261

Saturday June 9

jem023@ptd.net



9...Bc5 10.Be3 Bg4 11.Nf3 Rhe8

Both rooks usually find their way to the central files to harass the White King and Queen.

12.h3 Bf5 13.Rd1 Bxe3 14.fxe3 Ne4

Eyeing the weak g3-square and applying pressure to the knight on c3. Leach and I talked about the game afterwards, and we both thought that we were lost at this point. He thought that Black had too much pressure, and I thought that although Black may win some material back, White should be able to hang on. Materialistic Fritz of course prefers White. I will let the readers judge for themselves.

15.a3

The computer liked capturing on d8, and I agree with it.

15...Rxd1+ 16.Kxd1?

If White captures with the Queen, castling is still possible.

16...Qb3+

Fritz gave this a question mark and suggested chasing the King around a bit with 16...Nxc3+ 17.bxc3 Qb1+ 18.Kd2 bxc6. It seems that White should be able to survive with his extra piece in this line. Therefore, I played the text move, which set a trap.

17.Qc2?? Nxc3+ 0:1

This avenged a 2001 loss to Leach, and guaranteed me a tie for first place.

Also in this round, Caliguire got back on track by beating Warner, and Ordiway won his second straight game against Jason Sullenberger. That made Ordiway my final round opponent, and I won fairly easily with white. Caliguire lost to Leach, and Warner won against Sullenberger. Finishing in quartet for a tie for second place was Caliguire of Punxsutawney, Leach of Reynoldsville, and Ordiway and Warner, both from Ridgway.

There was a big shock in the first round of the Novice section, when the reigning Pennsylvania State Booster Champion, Jason Smith of Punxsutawney, was upset by the unrated Will Ratzel of Brockway. Ratzel followed that by scoring a second point in the next round against Ridgway's Jean Paraigiana. But his luck finally ran out in the third round when he faced the top seeded Blase Hodgson of Rossiter. Hodgson finished the tournament with a perfect score against Brockport's Thomas Crosley. Smith rebounded by winning his last three games to take second place. Ratzel had to share third place when he lost in the final round to Richard Latta, another Punxsutawney player.

The Youth section was dominated by two sisters from Brockport: Rachel Crosley won the event with 3½ points, while sister Crystal took clear second with three points. Nathan Buganza and Buddy Shaffer, also of Brockway, divided third place.

The event was, as always, well directed by Glenn Lindberg, assisted by Dan Lines.

Pennsylvania State G/29 Championship

PITTSBURGH, 4/1/2007 - After driving from DuBois to New Castle to spend the night at my cousin's house, it was time to head east(!) to Pittsburgh for this annual contest. Most of the usual suspects were back again, including the defending champion Franklin Chen, but Donald Meigs was missing.

Perhaps the biggest upset of the entire event occurred in the very first round, when second-seed Tom Magar missed a mate on h2 against rising star Ben Molin. It was Chen's turn in the second round, when he lost to the solid Phillip Cacurak. In round three, with black, I made an error in the opening against Joseph Elsleger and had to fight for my half point. At the end of this round, the only two players remaining with perfect scores were top seeded FM Robert Sulman and speed demon Gabriel Petesch. Round four's Sulman-Petesch game looked pretty drawish after the queens were quickly exchanged, but later Petesch's pieces were not well coordinated and Sulman wound up winning. I tricked Kevin Green early which gave me a ticket to the top board in the final round. Elsleger drew another big name, Magar, and Chen stayed in contention when he defeated Robbie Kleinmuntz. The final round's Mucerino-Sulman game was a hard fought but pretty dull draw, with a bishop of opposite color and a rook each ending. That gave Sulman the title. Petesch defeated Daniel Kirk to tie for second place with me. Elsleger finished his great tournament with a draw against Chen, and the two of them joined Magar and Greg Yoest for a tie of fourth place.

In the scholastic section, Austin Henninger and Maria Hoffman drew each other in round three and defeated everyone else en route for a tie of first place. Jack Mo finished in clear third, when he started out with a 4-0 score but lost to Hoffman in the final round.

2007 Danville Open

DANVILLE, 4/14/2007 - The 2007 Danville Open was organized by a trio of PSCF members: Joe Mucerino, Sam Lamonto, and Ira Lee Riddle. Sam did the spade work, contacting the facility and arranging for its usage. Joe got out the publicity, as did Sam. Ira directed the event and took care of the TLA and rating fees. Except for the small number of players, it was a tremendous success. Nineteen players competed through the event, with no drop-outs! Sam was pressed into service for the final round so that no unrated/new player need receive a bye. Thus, all of the brand new players got to play their four games necessary to get an official rating.

Tieing for first were Joe Mucerino, Jr., and Vince Waters. Eric Brandt and Tamara Corey split third place and top Under 1900. Jeff Hoskavich and Michael Kizis were the top Under 1700, and Debra Rothman of New York took the top Under 1200/Unrated prize. We did have some spectators, and one of them anonymously donated \$35 towards the fund to help out.

Due to the distance from Warminster, Polly and I had to spend the night prior to the tournament in a local Hampton hotel. Nicely, this did not affect the tournament finances, as I had enough points in their

mileage/points account to get a free night's room in Danville. The tournament ended with enough time for all to get home before the deluge was to begin. Around Quakertown, the rains began but not very hard.

The only drawback to the event was a lack of food on-site. Thus, Sam volunteered to make a few food runs, taking orders from anyone who did not have enough time to go out themselves.

Overall, this was a fine example of teamwork making a successful tournament. - Ira Lee Riddle

How to Play a Bad Opening

by FM Alex Dunne

What happens when you play a bad opening? If it's correspondence chess, you usually lose. If it is OTB chess against a player rated 2300 or more, you usually lose, too. But if you don't want to just fold, there are things you can do: 1) Recognize that you have a poor position; 2) Find your opponent's threats and defuse them; 3) Constantly try to set problems for your opponent; 4) Don't lose heart - a chess position has deep saving resources; Finally 5) Keep alert to when the value of the position changes. The following team game illustrates these points.

Alex Dunne - J. Pitt
Annotations by Alex Dunne

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.c3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Qf3

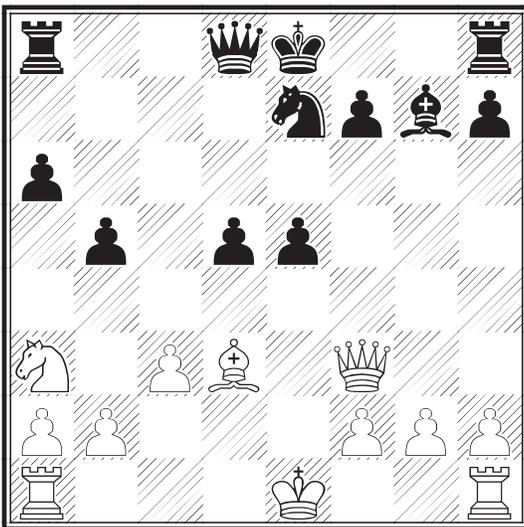
White's problems in the opening stem from this move. Sounder is 13.Nc2 and Nce3 to strengthen White's grip on d5.

13...Be6 14.Bd3 Bxd5!

I had underestimated the strength of this exchange, after which Black has a mobile center and the advantage.

15.Qxd5 Ne7 16.Qf3 d5

White stands poorly. His pieces lack coordination. His center is gone. White now fights with small problems to occupy Black before he can organize his forces.



17.Qg4 O-O 18.O-O f5 19.Qh4 Rf6

Naturally Black wants to attack with his center control, but 19...Ng6! would offer Black strong endgame chances.

20.Nc2 e4?!

Black should bring his forces into battle before this committal advance which weakens his center.

21.Be2 Ng6 22.Qg5 Qf8

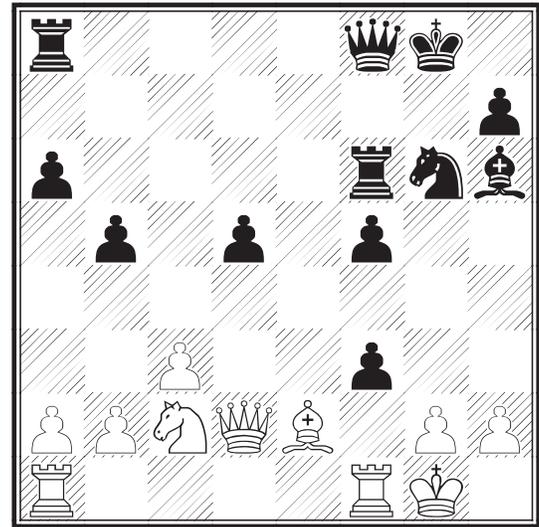
Black is working on CT's (Cheap Threats) instead of keeping his dark squares strong with 22...Qc7. Now White has fought back to equality and can start to think about profit.

23.Qd2! Bh6

Black doesn't recognize that the advantage has slipped away and "sacrifices" a pawn. Better was 23...Qd6 when White has a small edge. Now White could take the d-pawn, but Black would have dangerous threats on the kingside. Instead White has an easy line to keep his King safe.

24.f4!? exf3?

After this slip, Black never recovers although White has some dangerous moments. Now Black's center disintegrates.



25.Qxd5+ Kh8 26.Qxf3 Re8 27.a4 Qg7 28.axb5!?

Stronger and safer is 28.Rf2!? but I had calculated through Black's coming sacrifice that White would be better after 30.Kh1.

28...Nh4 29.Qf2 Nxc2 30.Kh1! Nf4 31.Bf3 axb5 32.Ra7 Qg5 33.Qd4 Rg8 34.Rfa1 Ne2 35.Qf2 Rfg6?

Black, who has had to solve problem after problem, has run short of time. With 35...Nc1!? Black stays in the fight. Black sees that 36.Qxe2? Qg1+! mates, but there is the simple...

36.Bxe2 Bf8 37.Nd4

Finally this Knight comes back into play, and the game is over.

37...Bd6 38.Nf3 Qf4 39.Qh4 Qxh4 40.Nxh4 Re6 41.Bd3 Bc5 42.Bxf5 Rh6 43.Rc7 Bf2 44.Nf3 Rf6 45.Rxh7# 1:0

2006-07 Mason-Dixon Chess League

by Vince Kowalski

The 2006-2007 season will be remembered as one of the most competitive in years. In the North, Gettysburg put together a very balanced squad and pulled away from a tight field that saw a resurgent Biglerville and a young, but hungry Waynesboro team challenge them throughout the season. Gettysburg, despite losing their excellent 1st board to graduation, won some key matches down the stretch to earn a trip back to the championship match for the first time since the 2003-2004 season. In the South, there was some concern about a 2, 3 or even 4-way tie. However, a very strong Handley team, bolstered by

several returning players, pulled away from a very "game" Jefferson squad to win the South for a 2nd year in a row.

North		South	
1. Gettysburg	9-1-0	1. Handley	5-1-0
2-3. Biglerville	6-3-1	2. Jefferson	4-2-0
2-3. Waynesboro	6-3-1	3. James Wood	2-4-0
4. Bermudian	6-4-0	4. Sherando	1-5-0
5-6. New Oxford	1-9-0		
5-6. CVCS	1-9-0		

In the final championship match of the season, Gettysburg made the long trip to Handley. In an incredibly close match, Gettysburg narrowly edged Handley 3-2 to claim the title of Mason-Dixon Chess League Champions for 2006-2007. Congratulations are in order to Jason Herron and his Handley team for winning the South for the 2nd year in a row. And congratulations to John Dolly and his "Warrior" team for taking the North and defeating Handley in a tough match to bring the traveling trophy back to the North.

Gettysburg	3-2	Handley
1. An Nguyen	1-0	Blair Simpson
2. Anh Nguyen	1-0	Daniel Carlton
3. Ben Baldwin	1-0	William Proffitt
4. Holly Hess	0-1	Jack Himelright
5. Chris Haun	0-1	Danny Cruz

Philadelphia Area All Girls Chess Tournament

Saturday June 2

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze8nn3r/>

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

June 23. 4th Western Pennsylvania Junior Open. 4-SS. G/40. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. Open to ages 20 & under. 5 sections: **Championship**, open to all. **Premier**, open to U1200. **Reserve**, open to U900. **Booster**, open to U700. **Amateur**, open to U500. **All: EF:** \$15 postmarked by 6/15, \$25 later. Reg ends Noon. Rds 12:30pm - 2pm - 3:30pm - 5:30pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. Trophies to top 7 in each section. Trophies to top 2 Schools & Clubs. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Avenue, New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W.

July 14 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2007 PA State Action Chess Championship. 5-SS. G/30. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$25 postmarked by 7/6, \$35 after. \$\$ (690G): 200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies to Top 3 under 1400, Top 3 under 1200, and Top 3 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 7/6, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** Trophies to 1st-2nd School and Club teams. Reg ends Noon. Rds 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm - 5:45pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W.

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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN

- (1) Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm
 (2) Lehigh Valley Chess Association; Bruce Davis 610-821-4320

ALTOONA

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

BLOOMSBURG

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

BRIDGEWATER

The Copper Dog, 234 Bridge St; Tues 7-9 pm, Jim Scibilia 724-728-8044

BRADFORD

- (1) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Oct-Mar
 (2) 78 Main St Fl 3; Sun 1-5 pm, Wed 6-10 pm Mar-Sept, Greg 814-368-4197

CHAMBERSBURG

Chessman; 600 Miller St; Thurs 7-10 pm, 717-261-9132, 717-263-2836

CHESTER

J Lewis Crozer Library, 620 Engle St; Tues 5:30-7:30 pm, 610-364-1212

COATESVILLE

Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy; Thurs 5-10 pm, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

COUDERSPORT

High School, 698 Dwight St; Fri 3-4:30 pm, Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

DOUGLASSVILLE:

Amity CC, St Paul's UCC, 1312 Old Swede Rd; Fri 7-10 pm, 610-385-6324

ERIEZurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 348;
Fri 6:30-10 pm, James Walczak 814-870-7763**GLADWYNE**Main Line CC; Waverly Hts Ret Comm Game Room, 1400 Waverly Rd;
Tues 7 pm, Dan Heisman 610-649-0750**HARRISBURG**

Calvary United Methodist Church, 700 Market St (Rear), Lemoyne; Mon 7-10 pm, Brian Sheinfeld 717-761-3151

HATBOROChaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, County Line Rd W
of Blair Mill Rd; Thurs 8 pm, 215-794-8368**HAZLETON**Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamp Post, Rt 940; Tues & Thurs 8-11 pm,
Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122**HUNTINGDON VALLEY**Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625
Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm**JOHNSTOWN**

Starbucks, 109 Town Centre Dr; Tues 7-8:30 pm, 814-467-9759

LANCASTER

Rodney Park, Crystal & Rodney St; Wed 6:30-9 pm, 717-892-6612

LANSDALE

- (1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts; Thurs
and Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418
 (2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

LEBANON

Library, 125 N 7th St; Wed 6-8 pm, Rene 717-279-7030

MAHONEY CITY

Library, 19 W Mahanoy St; Sat Noon - 2 pm, Tom 570-773-3250

MONROEVILLE

Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Delbert Tyler 412-824-5015

MURRYSVILLE

First Presbyterian Church, 3202 N Hills Rd; Wed 7-11 pm, Jay 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE

Lawrence County CC; Moose Lodge, 29 S Mercer St; Thurs 6:30-9 pm

PECKVILLE

Valley Community Library, 739 River St (Rt 247); Sat 1-4 pm, 570-487-1125

PETERS TOWNSHIP

CRC, Peterswood Park, 700 Meredith Dr; Wed 6-7 pm, Eric 412-221-2394

PHILADELPHIA

- (1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs 1-9 pm, Fri & Sat 1-
Midnight, 215-496-0811
 (2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm
 (3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town
Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285
 (4) Jardel Recreation Center, 1400 Cottman Ave, Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat
Noon-4 pm
 (5) Inglis House, 2600 Belmont Ave, 1st & 3rd Mon 6 pm
 (6) Temple Univ; SAC Dining Area, Mon/Wed 6-7 pm, Tues/Thurs 12-3
pm, 267-973-0765

PITTSBURGH

- (1) Univ of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union; Tues & Thurs 7-11 pm, 412-908-0286
 (2) Pittsburgh CC; Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway St;
Wed 1-9 pm, Sat Noon-10 pm, 412-421-1881
 (3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford; Sat 9 - Noon, 412-922-4234
 (4) Hill Branch Library, 419 Dinwiddie St; Mon & Thurs 3-7 pm, Sat 1-5
pm, 412-361-6170
 (5) CMU CC; University Center Commons; Thurs 6-8 pm
 (6) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics:1st/3rd Mon Sept-May,
Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912

POTTSTOWN

YMCA, 724 N Adams St; Fri 6:30-8:30 pm, Michael Mullin 610-323-7300

READINGMillion Youth Chess Club; Olivets Boys & Girls Clubs; 677 Clinton, Mon
5-7; 1161 Pershing, Fri 6:30-8:30 pm; Mike 610-373-3061**RIDLEY PARK**Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 E Dupont St; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm,
610-586-8205**SHIPPENSBURG**

Health Care Center, 121 Walnut Bottom Rd; Wed 6-9:30 pm, 717-477-0645

SKIPPACK

Hidden Staircase Used Books Fl 2, Rts 73 & 113; Thurs 5-8 pm, 610-277-0540

STATE COLLEGE

- (1) PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) Schlow Library, 211 South Allen St; Sat 1:45-4:45 pm, 814-571-9629

STROUDSBURGYMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-476-8939 or Jim 717-992-5475;
& Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm**SWARTHMORE**

121 Park Ave; Sat 7-9 pm

VANDERGRIFT

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 714 Wallace St; Mon 6-9 pm, 724-567-6580

WARMINSTER

WREC, 1101 Little Ln; Tues 6:30-8 pm, 215-443-5428

WASHINGTON

1st Lutheran Ch, 92 West Walnut St; Thurs 8:30-11:30 pm, 724-743-4350

WEST CHESTER

- (1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Ch, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Rm 254; Tues 5-7:30 pm

WILKES-BARRE

199 S Main St; Fri 8:30-Midnight, George Trent 570-740-7662

WYNCOTEMontgomery Youth CC; Calvary Presbyterian Church, 217 Fernbrook Ave;
Wed 7-8:30 pm, Steve McLaughlin 215-784-5938**YORK**

- (1) York Emporium, 343 West Market St; Thurs 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368
 (2) Youth CC; Grace Brethren Church, Newberry & Parkway; Wed, 2-5:30
pm; & Light of Life Arts, 41 Cherry, Seven Valleys; Fri 6-9:30 pm, 717-
852-8434

<http://www.pscfchess.org/clubs/>

Vote

JOE LUX

for the USCF Executive Board

YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT IN THE JUNE CHESS LIFE

Joe Lux is a life member of the USCF and has been an active over-the-board player since 1969. He has been a National TD since 1979. He is presently a member of the USCF's Tournament Director Certification Committee. He is former President of the New York State Chess Association, and is a current member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Chess Federation (NJSCF). During the past 14 years he has taught, coached, directed and organized scholastic chess for a living.

Joe is concerned about the financial survival of the USCF, which has run large deficits in 9 of the last 11 years. The most recent financial report shows a \$120,000 loss for the present fiscal year (June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007) as of the end of March 2007. Joe will be a voice for conservative projections of revenues and restraint in expenditures. We must stop the wasteful spending of our scant resources.

Joe spoke in favor of chess players and against the imposition of the rule that you must write down your move BEFORE playing it on the board. He narrowly lost the vote at the US Open Business Meetings in Chicago in August, 2006 which mandated this new rule in order to accommodate a manufacturer of electronic scorekeeping devices. Joe feels that the rights of all of us were sacrificed for the commercial profits of a few. He will continue to fight to get this rule change reversed.

JOE LUX IS ENDORSED BY

Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, Editor, *Delaware Chess Newsletter*, former Editor *Pennswoodpusher*, former President and current Vice President of the PSCF: "I've known Joe for many years and have enjoyed working with him... He is extremely well-qualified and has my full support."

Tom Martinak, President, PSCF

Joe Ippolito, President, NJSCF.

Bill Goichberg, President, CCA

Beatriz Marinello, Dr. Leroy Dubeck, E. Steven Doyle, and Dr. Tim Redman, all former USCF Presidents.

This ad paid for by friends of Joe Lux