



The PENNSWOODPUSHER



September 2008

A Quarterly Publication of the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation

Push Us and We'll Topalover

by Bruce W. Leverett

That was the name of our team in the US Amateur Team East last February. Jeff Quirke and Bryan Norman organized the team, and then recruited me, and I then recruited Federico Garcia. Our team average rating was 2191, close to the legal limit of 2199.75. The name was chosen, according to Jeff, because "I like ridiculous puns".

The USATE is like the Pittsburgh Chess League, but about 6 or 7 times as large - 291 teams, 1251 players - and all jammed in to one long weekend. It was held at the Parsippany Hilton, in New Jersey. We all climbed into Bryan's minivan and rode there on Friday afternoon and evening, and returned late Monday night.

No other big tournament has quite the same atmosphere as the USATE. The organizer, Steve Doyle, has been at it for 35 years. Before each round, he walks up to the mike and starts giving away odd prizes for odd achievements. Before the first round, I won a digital clock for showing him the old BHB clock that I had won at the 1991 USATE. Federico also won a prize this way, a coupon good for some free food at a nearby Mexican restaurant, for something or other having to do with his ability to speak Spanish. Before one of the late rounds, there are elections for "best team name" and "best team costume/gimmick", chosen by loudness of applause, after the finalists had been selected by a committee. We were finalists for best name. The best name winner was "No Longer Searching For Bobby Fischer". This was a worthy winner, but the team whose name really cracked me up was "Digging For Bobby Fischer". But as Jeff pointed out, names that are in really bad taste probably never make it past the committee.

Most of the teams were from nearby, including our first round opponents, "Knightmare". Here is Federico's game from this round; not exactly a titanic struggle, but due to the low-rated opposition he faced in this tournament, it was probably his best game.

Federico Garcia - John G. Blumberg

US Amateur Team East, Round 1, Parsippany, NJ, 2/16/2008

Annotations by Federico Garcia

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.f4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Bg4?!

White's plan is to play Ne2, h3, g4, Ng3, etc. Black's text move doesn't do anything against that. It even encourages White to start his plan - and with tempo.

8.Ne2 O-O 9.h3 Bd7?

In any case, 9...Bxf3 would be more annoying. 9...Bd7 just adds one more tempo to the total tempo loss.

10.g4!?

Completing development with 0-0 and Be3 was my first intention. But Black can play 10...e5, postponing White's pawn-storm for a little bit. With 10.g4!?, White prepares to respond with 11.f5. If Black plays precisely, I will slow down and secure my King.

10...e5?! 11.f5 Rc8?

But the Black Rook has no business on the c-file. The plan for Black would be to use the b-file, although with the White pawns already reaching the fifth rank, all Black can do now is defend.

12.Ng3 Qc7 13.g5 Nh5 14.Nxh5 gxh5 15.Nh4 d5 16.f6 Bh8

Of course 16...Bxf6 would lose, but it would have been the only way of attempting a liberation.

17.c3

White's only defensive move in the game. There's not much to be afraid of, but there's also plenty of time to prepare a timely transfer of the Queen to the kingside without allowing the Black Knight to d4.

17...d4

This is actually good: White has to be prevented from replacing the e-pawn by a bishop, which would (and will) be deadly.

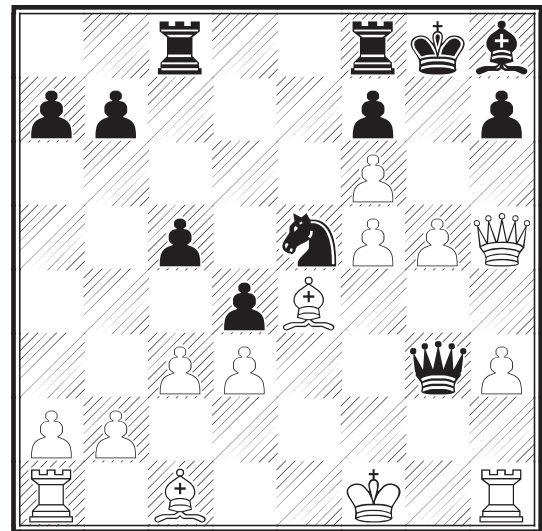
18.Qxh5 Qd6?! 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 e4

And e4 is free for the Bishop.

21.Bxe4! Qg3+

There is no follow up to this enthusiastic check, and the Queen on the g-file is actually good for White.

22.Kf1 Ne5



23.Rg1 Qh2 24.g6 fxxg6

Or 24...hxg6 25.fxxg6 fxxg6 26.Bxxg6 Nxxg6 27.Qxxg6+ Bg7 28.Qxxg7#.

25.Bd5+!

But not 25.fxxg6?? Rxf6+.

25...Rf7 26.fxxg6 Nxxg6 27.Rxxg6+! 1:0

In the second round, we faced "the dreaded stacked team". A team with three players rated about 2600 and one player rated less than 1000 can squeak in under the 2200 limit, and this team didn't just squeak in - their fourth board was rated 178. The top three boards were Zviad Izoria, Eugene Perelshteyn, and Roman Dzindzichashvili, all Grandmasters. A team made up this way is almost certain to beat a "normal" team, and in fact, in the last 20-plus years, about half the USATEs have been won by teams with similar "stacked" makeup. It's kind of like a loophole in the under-2200 rule, and the other team championships - North, South, and West - have closed that loophole by setting a maximum 1000-point difference between the third board and fourth board ratings, but Doyle has never gone for that.

We got flattened in the usual way, with Federico winning a rather surreal game against the elementary school kid on board four. Bryan's

game at least was interesting; he held his own against Perelshteyn well into the endgame, but mis-evaluated a knight endgame and panicked.

GM Eugene Perelshteyn - Bryan A. Norman

US Amateur Team East, Round 2, Parsippany, NJ, 2/16/2008

Annotations by Bryan A. Norman

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Ne7

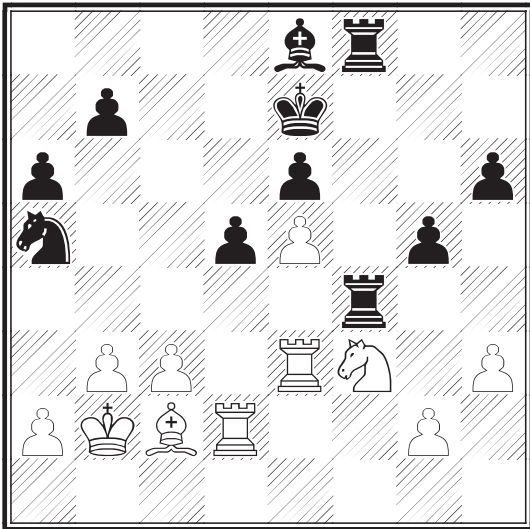
5...Nh6 is a nice alternative to 5 Ne7 for Black.

6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 O-O 8.f4 cxd4 9.Nf3 Nbc6 10.Bd3 f6 11.O-O-O a6 12.Nbxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Nc6 14.Nf3 Qa5

Fritz considers 14...fxe5 to be the main alternative.

15.Qxa5 Nxa5 16.Rhe1 fxe5 17.fxe5 Bd7 18.b3 Rf4 19.Kb2 h6 20.c3 g5 21.h3 Raf8 22.Bc2 Kf7 23.Rd2 Ke7 24.Re3 Be8

Fritz assesses the position as pretty equal here.



25.Nd4 Rf2 26.Kc1 Nc6 27.Nf3 Rxd2 28.Kxd2 Rf4

28...h5.

29.g3 Rf8 30.Ke1 Rg8 31.g4 Bg6 32.Bxg6 Rxg6 33.Kf2 Rg7

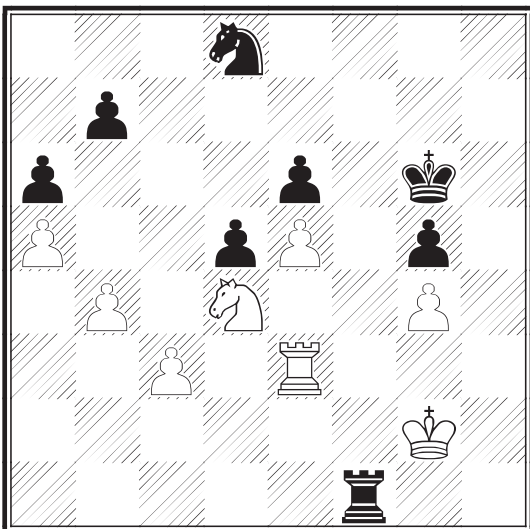
34.Kg3 Kf7 35.h4 Kg6 36.Re1 Rd7

36...gxh4+.

37.hxg5 hxg5 38.Rf1 Nd8 38...Rc7. 39.Nd4 Rf7 40.Re1 Rf4

41.b4 Rf7 42.a4 Rc7 43.Re3 Rf7 44.Re1 Rc7 45.Re3 Rf7 46.a5

Rf1 47.Kg2



47...Rc1

47...Rf4.

48.Rf3 Nc6 49.Rf6+ Kh7 50.Rf7+ Kg8 51.Rxb7 Nxd4 52.cxd4 1:0

I don't have the score from here. I think that I played ... Rc4. Then he played b5, I played axb after which he played a6 and I resigned.

In the third round, we faced "Chess Neurons", who seemed to be mostly of Filipino extraction, and in the fourth round, "IS 318 Kings", a team of middle schoolers. These were not close matches, but the IS 318 third board scored a noteworthy upset against Jeff. In the fifth round, we were held to four draws by "El Gran Combo", a team of young Hispanic guys. What they may have lacked in chess knowledge, they made up for in stout-heartedness, as Jeff's draw shows:

Oscar Santana - Jeffrey L. Quirke

US Amateur Team East, Round 5, Parsippany, NJ, 2/18/2008

Annotations by Jeffrey L. Quirke

1.b4

This is the first time I've faced this move in 23 years of tournament competition!

1...e5

I thought for 8 minutes on my first move, trying to recall what I knew about this variation.

2.Bb2 Bxb4

I remembered that this move is the 'acid test' of the Sokolsky. The unnerving aspect is that White ends up with one, and often two, extra central pawns. However, Black gets good development and tactical chances down the d & e-files.

3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.Nf3 O-O 5.e3 Re8

I did remember a recommendation from a book that Black should forstall the obvious Nc6 in deference to the text move, which puts more pressure on White.

6.Be2 d5 7.O-O Bg4

Not just hoping for the cheapo if 8.c4?? Bxf3 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Bxf3 Qxa1, but I had a notion of developing the Queen's Knight to d7 and wanted to get the Bishop into play first.

8.Bb2 c6 9.Qc1?!

I was happy to see this move, which leaves the bishop on e2 undefended. This becomes relevant in a few moves!

9...Nbd7 10.c4 Nb6 11.a3 Ba5 12.cxd5?!

I thought this move was too compliant, allowing my pieces to get sorted out a bit.

12...Nbx5 13.d3?

Allowing the thematic tactic for this variation to be carried out. Nc3 is better, when Black has a small advantage.

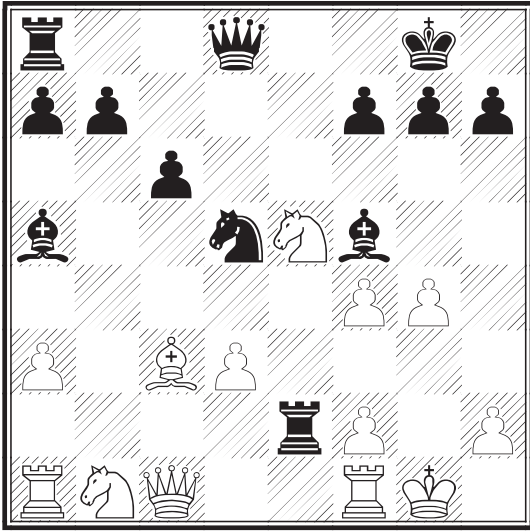
13...Nf4! 14.exf4 Rxe2 15.Ne5

The Knight does a decent job of holding White's position together. I thought for a long time here, and fortunately could not find a way for White to trap my Rook effectively, so I was expecting to win.

15...Bf5 16.Bc3 Nd5 17.g4

I expected this move, and here I missed my chance at a brilliancy. I admit I didn't even consider the correct move. This is a great 'Black to move and win' position. I'm still kicking myself for missing it, because opportunities like this don't come around too often!

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**17...Nxc3?**

17...Qh4!! There are a lot of lines, but all lead to death for White. My favorite is 18.Bxa5 Rxe5! 19.fxe5 Qxg4+ 20.Kh1 Qf3+ 21.Kg1 Nf4 and White must give up his Queen for not nearly enough compensation. **18.Nxc3 Rxe5 19.fxe5 Bxg4**

Even though I missed a quick win, my exchange sacrifice wasn't too bad a way to continue. My Bishops should shred the Rook and Knight on the open board.

20.Ne4!

The best move in a difficult position.

20...Qxd3 21.Qf4 Qf3 22.Qxf3 Bxf3 23.Ng5 Bd5

Black has a winning advantage. Time to get the queenside pawns rolling!

24.Rab1 b5 25.Nh3 Bc3 26.f4 a5?!

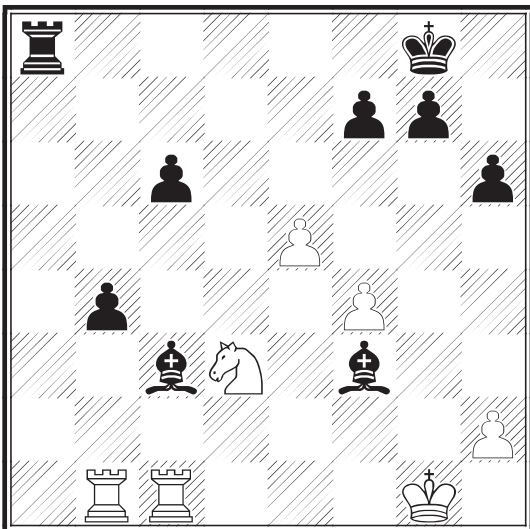
The first misstep. Better was 26...Bd4+ 27.Nf2 Be3 bagging the f-pawn.

27.Rfd1 b4 28.axb4 axb4 29.Nf2 h6?!

Another inaccuracy. Kf8 was better.

30.Nd3 Bf3 31.Rdc1

Here I saw the correct move, but thought the winning line was a little too risky. Since I was in time trouble, I thought I worked out a 'safer' way to win. Stupidity. The first rule of chess is to stay as active as possible, and I failed in that respect.

**31...Be4?**

This move allows White to liquidate into only a slightly worse ending. The correct line is 31...Bd4+ 32.Kf1 Ra2! 33.Rxb4 (33.Nxb4 Bg2+ 34.Ke1 Bf2+ 35.Kd1 Bf3#) 33...Be3!

32.Rxb4! Bxb4 33.Nxb4 Kf8?

I admit I was so disgusted with myself for missing the win that I failed to play the best move now. My best chance for a grind-it-out win was 33...Ra4 34.Nxc6 Bxc6 35.Rxc6 Rxf4 36.e6 fxe6 37.Rxe6 though objectively White should draw.

34.Kf2 Ke8 35.Ke3 Bd5 36.Kd4 g6 ½:½

I was miffed with myself and offered a draw. Not a stellar game, but certainly an entertaining one!

In the last round, we beat "Rook of Gibraltar". This was not a close match, but Bryan's game and especially my game went the distance, ensuring that we would get back to Pittsburgh as late as possible. (As a matter of fact, when I finally pulled into my driveway, it was 5am on Tuesday. And I went to work that day, but kind of late.) Here's my dour struggle:

Bruce W. Leverett - Sandi Hutama

US Amateur Team East, Round 6, Parsippany, NJ, 2/18/2008

Annotations by Bruce W. Leverett

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3 g6 8.g3

When the Benko Gambit first came out, around 1970, I used to play 7.e4 or 8.e4, allowing Black to play Bxf1, when White loses the castling privilege. Those lines have been all but forgotten.

8...Bg7 9.Bg2 O-O 10.O-O Nbd7 11.Qc2 Qc7

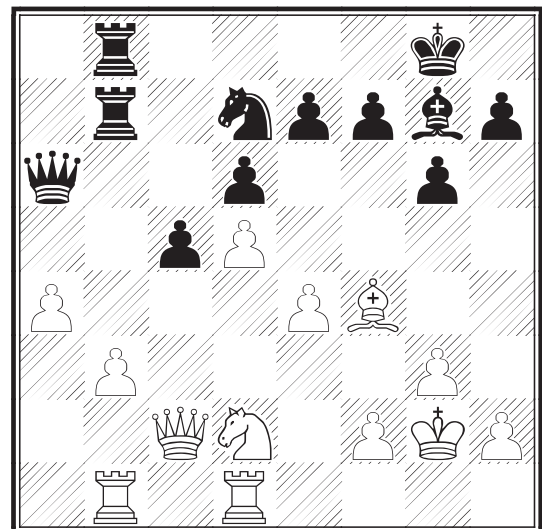
11...Qa5 is also good.

12.Rd1 Rfb8 13.Rb1 Nb6 14.b3

When White plays this, Black will immediately start looking for chances to play his pawn to c4, pressing the attack on the queenside. In the game I was ready to answer 14...c4 with 15.b4.

14...Ra7 15.e4

This move and the next one, as well as White's 12.Rd1, seem rather aimless. Probably I should have developed my Bishop to b2, and relocated my Knight from f3 to d2, before deciding how to make progress.

15...Nfd7 16.Bf4 Nc8 17.a4 Rab7 18.Bf1 Bxf1 19.Kxf1 Qa5 20.Nb5 Na7 21.Nxa7 Qxa7 22.Nd2 Qa6+ 23.Kg2

23...Qe2

The position was a standoff. I couldn't make progress by putting a piece on c4; that is, 23.Nc4 Nb6 is fine for Black. But Black can't push his pawn to c4 either. The text move is not really bad, but it suggested that my opponent was getting impatient, something that I confirmed a couple of moves later.

24.Re1 Qa6 25.h3

I wanted to see what strange idea my restless opponent might come up with; also, this enables me to shift my King off the potentially sensitive long diagonal.

25...Rb4? 26.Nc4 R4b7

26...Nb6 27.Bd2.

27.Bd2 Ne5 28.Na5

28.a5 sets a trap: 28...Nxc4 29.bxc4 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Rxb1 31.Qxb1 Qxc4 32.Qb8+ Bf8 33.Bh6 Qxe4+ 34.Kh2 (thanks to White's 25th move), and White wins. But Black can interrupt this sequence with 29...Rb2, for example 30 Qd3 Bd4, with plenty of play.

28...Rc7 29.f4 Nd3 30.Re3 Nb4 31.Bxb4 Rxb4 32.Nc6 Rb6 33.Ree1 e6 34.Qc4 Qa8 35.a5?

My turn to be impatient. 35.Kh2 is the obvious preparatory move. Black can't take advantage of the free move because 35...f5 36.exf5 exd5 37.Qxd5+ Kh8 38.Ne7 is good for White.

35...exd5 36.exd5 Rbxc6 37.dxc6 Rxc6 38.Re2 Ra6+ 39.Kh2 Rxa5 40.Rbe1 Ra2 41.Rxa2 Qxa2+ 42.Re2 Qa1

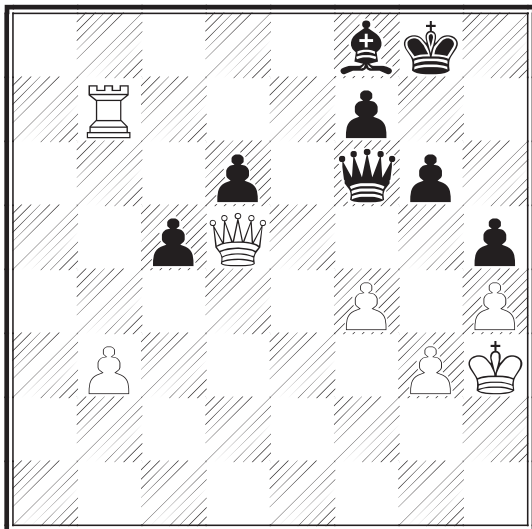
43...Bd4 is in the air.

43.Re7 Qb2+ 44.Kh1 Qa1+ 45.Kg2 Qf6 46.Rb7 h5 47.h4 Qb2+ 48.Kf3 Qf6 49.Qe4

Threatening 50.Qe7.

49...Bf8

I wanted to hide my King on the queenside, but couldn't get it there.

50.Ke2 Qb2+ 51.Kf3 Qf6 52.Qd5 Qc3+ 53.Ke2 Qc2+ 54.Kf1 Qc1+ 55.Kg2 Qb2+ 56.Kh3 Qf6**57.b4**

I didn't know if this would achieve anything, but it was the only thing to try.

57...cxb4 58.Rxb4 Kg7?

A pleasant surprise. I expected 58...Qa1 or 58...Bg7. I would first shelter my King, then try to pry the kingside open with my f-pawn.

59.Qd4 Qxd4 60.Rxd4 f5

White would now like to sacrifice the Rook for Bishop and d-pawn.

But it isn't easy because the Rook must keep an eye on the pawn on g3.

61.Kg2 Kf6 62.Kf3 Ke6 63.Ra4 Bg7 64.Ke2 Bc3 65.Ra3 Bb4 66.Re3+ Kf6 67.Kd3 Bc5 68.Re2 Bb4 69.Kc4 Bc5 70.Kd5 Kf7 71.Kc6 Bb4 72.Kd7 d5 73.Rb2 Be1 74.Rb3 d4 75.Kd6 Bf2

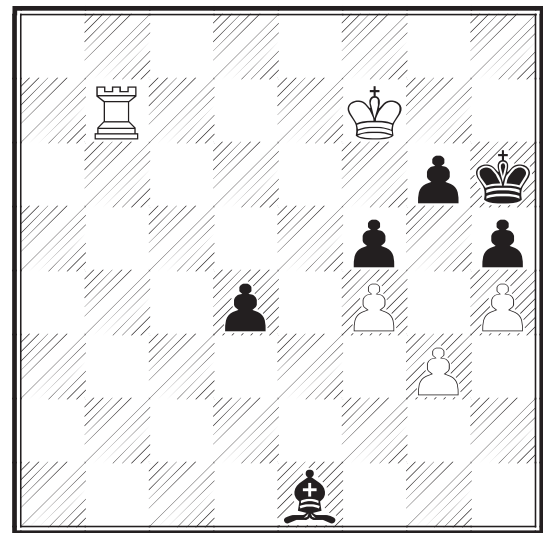
Black can try to hold the opposition by 75...Kf6. White will use zugzwang to pry the King loose: 76.Kd5 Be3 77.Rb6+ Kf7 78.Ke5 d3 79.Rb7+ Kf8 (or 79...Ke8 80.Ke6) 80.Re7 d2 81.Kf6 Ke8 82.Rd3 Bf2 83.Rxd2 Bxg3 84.Kg5 etc.

76.Ke5 Kg7 77.Ke6 Be1 78.Rf3 Bd2

I had been hoping for something like 78...Bc3 79.Rd3 Bb2 80.Kd5 with Rxd4 coming. But even in that variation, Black can play 79...Be1, which after 80.Rb3 is similar to the game.

79.Rb3 Be1 80.Rb7+ Kh6 81.Kf7

The crucial cheapo. Now 81...Bxg3 82.Kg8 threatens 83.Rh7 mate, and 82...g5 doesn't help after 83 Rb6 mate.

**81...Kh7 82.Kf6+ Kh6 83.Rb8 Kh7 84.Kg5 d3 85.Rb7+ Kg8 86.Kxg6 Kf8 87.Rd7 1:0**

Our result didn't exactly set the world on fire. But that's not the end of the story! Tuesday evening, Federico had to face Franklin Chen in the deciding round of the Pittsburgh Chess Club championship. He wrote afterwards: "I won my game against Franklin! It was a very crazy game in every sense, but as I was playing I could feel the influence of the weekend in Parsippany: from Bryan I learned that sometimes you just have to think it through, so I did spend a lot of time at key moments (much longer than I usually do). And for some crazy, risky variations that I was tempted to go into, I could hear all of you laughing at my exposed king positions, so I stayed away from it... So hanging out with you guys certainly made me a little better." A happy ending!

(Crosstables, prizewinners, games and more about the US Amateur Team East are available on the New Jersey State Chess Federation website at:

<http://www.njscf.org/home.php>

Push Us and We'll Topalover was the top Pennsylvania team.

-editor)

Rizzo wins “Beach Towel Swiss” in Allentown

by Eric C. Johnson

Phil Rizzo played the notorious Swiss Gambit, riding his round one half-point bye to an undefeated first place finish at the “Beach Towel Swiss” held July 19th in Allentown. Rizzo scored 3½ out of 4 to claim the top spot. He scored wins over Linda Kleinfeld, Tom Fang and veteran expert Jack Mongilutz. A total of 16 players participated.



Allentown is known for quirky prizes and this event was no different - in addition to the small cash prizes (Rizzo grabbed \$30 for first place), there were inflatable beach balls aplenty at this event. To your left, Doug McMickle (visiting from Oregon) won the “beach towel” giveaway after round three.

Linda Kleinfeld (shown below contemplating her fourth move of the annotated game) faced Rizzo in round

two because of her big upset draw in round one:

Linda K. Kleinfeld - Douglas R. McMickle

Beach Towel Swiss, Round 1, Allentown, 7/19/2008

Annotations by Eric C. Johnson

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3

Reaching an Alekhine’s Defense by transposition.

3...Nxd5 4.Bc4 Nxc3

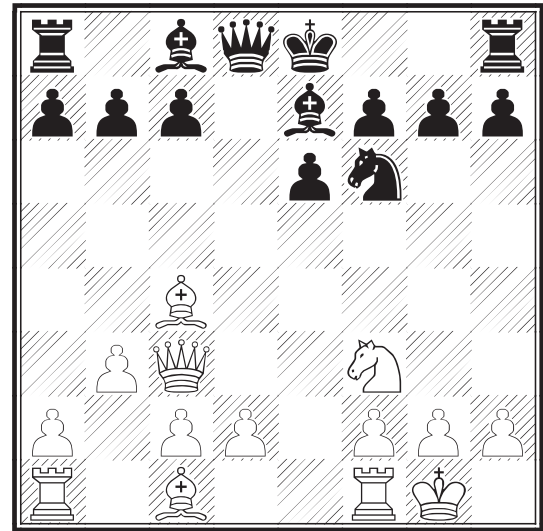
5.Qf3 e6 6.Qxc3

White’s zwischenzug with 5.Qf3 is reminiscent of Black’s option in the Scotch Game (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6! etc.). In both cases, the more common recapture would be with the d-pawn (here 6. dxc3) to speed development.

6...Nd7 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.O-O Be7 9.b3

This has all been played before. A quick search of chesslab.com turns up a game between Vladimir Akopian

and Alex Yermolinsky from 1994. Akopian played the more normal 9.d4 here and the game was drawn in 23 moves. Linda’s 9. b3 tries to set up a threatening Q+B battery on the long diagonal. The chesslab.com site had no examples of this move - possibly other players feared an eventual skewer by a Black bishop on f6.



9...O-O 10.Bb2 b6 11.Rfe1 Bb7 12.Ng5?! Bd5 13.Re3 h6 14.Bxd5! Qxd5 15.Ne4

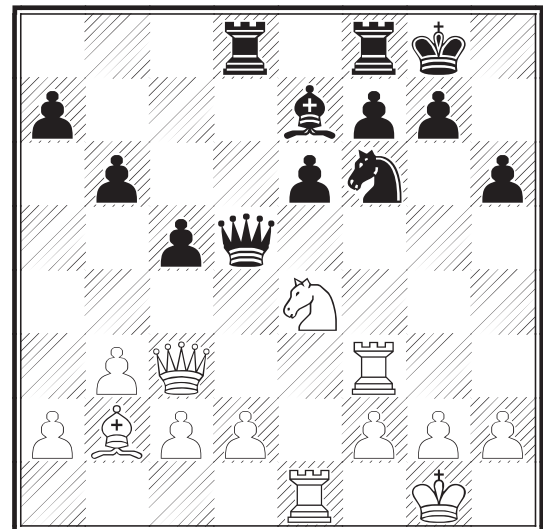
Black has played indifferently and now Linda’s battery really seems quite threatening.

15...c5 16.Rae1 Rad8 17.Rd3

Here, Linda misses a chance to pile on the pressure with 17. Rg3! (targeting the g7-square).

17...Qf5 18.Rf3 Qd5??

McMickle misses a chance to shore up his defense with 18...Qh7. That is why Linda’s 17th move was not the best. His move is a blunder - notice the positioning of the Kg8 and Qd5.



19.Nxf6+

This wins material but 19.Rxf6!! was even stronger.

19...Bxf6 20.Rxf6 Qxd2

A critical moment. Linda has won material, but now she makes a common slip by rushing to trade pieces. Within a few moves, she gives back several pawns and finds doubled rooks on her second rank.

21.Qxd2??

21.Rf3 wins easily.

21...Rxd2 22.Rf3 Rxc2 23.Rb1 Rd8 24.Rg3?? g6??

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Black missed 24...Rxb2 (Ouch! That back rank). Within a few moves, the players consider the threat of the Bishop landing on f6 so compelling that they soon make peace through a repetition.

25.h3 Rdd2 26.Bc3 Rxf2 27.Rd1 Kf8 28.Be1 Rfe2 29.Bc3 Rf2 30.Be1 Rfe2 31.Bc3 Rf2 32.Be1 ½:½

(See more photos of this and other events along with a complete schedule of activities at the new Allentown Center City Chess Club website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/allentowncentercitychessclub>

-editor)

PA TODAY

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

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship

WEST HAZLETON, 4/19&20/2008 - Forty people turned out for the fourth edition of this event (up by ten from last year), and an additional sixteen players took part in the scholastic section. Most of the usual suspects took part, including defending champion Richard Harry.

There was only upset in the opening round. Fast rising local talent Joe Fassari beat tough James Drasher in a time scramble. Fassari showed that was no fluke by drawing the veteran Russell Palkendo in round two. There were a few minor upsets in this round, and I conceded a draw to William LeBoeuf in a seesaw game on board one. At the halfway point, second seed Shihong Khor defeated Michael Kizis, Robert Feldstein beat Donald Jennings, and Michael Polites brought down defending champion Harry to give the trio a perfect score.

On Sunday, Khor easily defeated Feldstein, while this was very difficult:

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Michael Polites

PA State Amateur Champ, Rd 4, West Hazleton, 4/20/2008

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nbd2 c5 4.e3

4.e4 is also possible, but I prefer the text because if Black exchanges on d4, I want to recapture with the Pawn on e3, not the Knight. White's Bishop will find its way to d3, pointing down to h7, and its scope would be blocked with a pawn on e4.

4...b6 5.Bd3 Bb7

The queenside fianchetto is quite popular these days.

6.Qe2 d6

6...d5 fights for control of e4, but loses control of e5. Take your pick.

7.O-O Be7 8.c3 Nc6 9.e4 d5 10.e5

Fighting for the e5 square is a popular theme for Colle-type openings.

10...Nd7 11.Re1

I would prefer to play 11.Ne1 with the idea of 12.f4, 13.Rf3 etc., but that would drop a pawn on d4 in this position.

11...Qc7

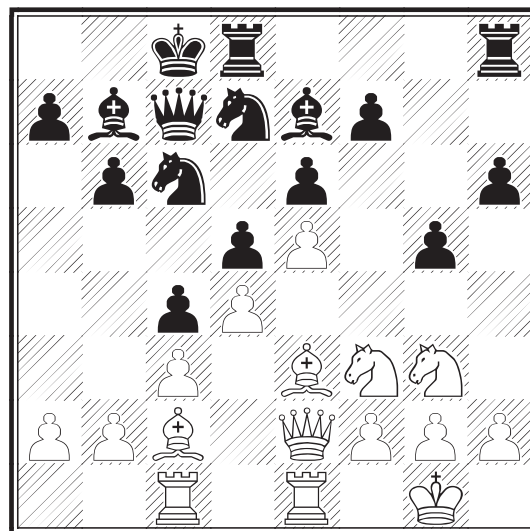
With White's bishops pointing towards the kingside, Black wisely decides to prepare queenside castling.

12.Nf1 h6 13.Be3 g5 14.Rac1 c4

Black wants to lock up the queenside to keep his King safe, and then attack me with a pawn storm on the kingside.

15.Bc2 O-O-O 16.Ng3

Looking at the weak h5 square. Once the Knight makes it there, the other Knight will try to find its way to g4, and they will attack f6 in tandem.



16...Kb8 17.Nh5 Rdg8 18.Nd2 Ba6 19.h3

Not only does this control g4, but now the knight on d2 can reach g4 via f1 and h2.

19...f5 20.exf6 Nxf6 21.Nf1 g4?

Black gives up a pawn to open lines, which can be a good thing, but I do not believe Black gets enough for his pawn here.

22.Nxf6 Bxf6 23.hxg4 Bc8 24.Ng3 e5

Fritz preferred 24...Bh4 25.Nh5 e5 with equality.

25.Bf5 e4

Trying to cramp White.

26.Nh5

With the sneaky threat of 27.Bf4, winning material.

26...Bg5 27.b3

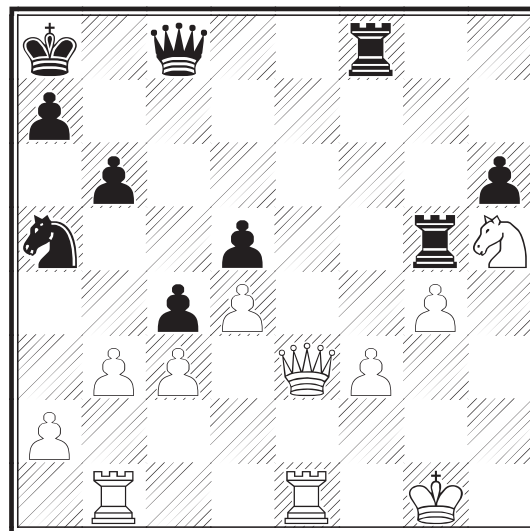
I did not see how to make any further progress on the kingside, so I tried to open lines on the queenside.

27...Na5 28.Rb1 Bxe3 29.Qxe3 Rg5

Threatening 30...Bxf5 31.gxf5 Rxh5.

30.Bxc8 Qxc8 31.Qf4+ Ka8 32.f3 Rf8 33.Qe3 exf3 34.gxf3

Now White must constantly watch for sacs on g4 and h5.



34...Qc7

34...Rxb5 35.gxh5 Qh3 is equal according to Fritz.

35.Kg2

I was afraid of 35...Qf7, threatening f3 and a sac on h5. The text reinforces f3 and now a rook can swing to h1 to fortify the Knight.

35...Qf7 36.Rh1 Qg6

Sneaky tactics! Black wants to play 37...Rxb5 38.Rxb5 Qxb1.

37.Rb2 cxb3 38.axb3 Nxb3

Stealing a pawn: 39.Rxb3 Qc2+.

39.Nf4 Qh7??

This throws the game away. A better try is 39...Qf5 40.Kg3 Na5.

40.Ne6 Qe7 41.Rxb3 Rf6 42.Re1 Qh7

At the board, I thought 42...Rgg6 would win the knight back, Fritz found a great shot: 43.Rxb6! axb6 44.Ra1+ and 44...Kb7 45.Nc5+ wins the queen, or 44...Kb8 45.Qe5+ Kc8 46.Ra8+ winning.

43.Nxg5 Qc2+ 44.Re2 Qxb3 45.Qe8+ 1:0

White will win the Rook on f6.

LeBoeuf stayed only a half point behind Khor by upsetting Michael Cox. Richard Harry bounced back by winning against Bernard Sporcko, and Glenn Buyo also had 3/4 when he defeated Roy Eikerenkoetter.

Many players were disappointed that the final round's Khor-Mucerino pairing was a short draw. It was not as short as many people think; the game did last seventeen moves. The old adage is that if you want a draw, then play for a win. That is not quite true; you should play for a win *in a solid system*. If you are white and want a draw, you do not play 1.e4 and allow a Sicilian. Khor played 1.d4 and the game became a Torre Attack, and we traded off most of the minor pieces. The final position was dead equal, and Fritz confirmed that. With a free entry fee for this year's State Championship in Harrisburg on the line for second place, and trophies for second and third, accepting a draw in a drawn position seemed like a good idea.

Only LeBoeuf could tie Khor if he beat Feldstein, but Feldstein won a nice game. Tying with Feldstein and myself for second were the defending champion Harry, who beat Michael Kagel in the final round, and Glenn Buyo who bested Larry Noone. Khor was the clear winner, and I took second on tiebreaks, giving us both a free entry to the State Championship in Harrisburg. Harry took home the third place trophy. Top U1800 was Polites; Fassari, the discovery of the tournament, played up all five rounds and scored two wins, one loss, and two draws to take the top U1600 prize. William Gates was the best U1400, and Matthew Deitert was the best U1200. The top team was Bucknell, which was no surprise because they were the only team!

In the scholastic section, which was only on Saturday, Samuel Roelke conceded only one draw and finished in clear first with 3½/4 points. There was a four way tie for second a half point back between Jacob Heybey, Neil Mattern (top U1000), Manuel Lorenzino-Sepp, and Nathan Wood (top U800/unrated). York Home School Association was the top team, beating out Wilkes-Barre Area for top honors.

48th Annual Golden Triangle Open

Pittsburgh, 4/19-20/2008 - As it usually happens, the warm spring weather draws more chess players to its corresponding possibilities than a two-day weekend tournament indoors. The Open section for the 48th Golden Triangle Open was no exception, drawing only four players - merely a fraction of the 12 contestants at last year's event. The Under-1800 Reserve section attendance was also slighted by the warm weather with 14 players fighting over the boards, down 10 from last year's 24 player turn-out.

Thankfully, the Pittsburgh Chess Club is positioned in such a place that is easily accessible to a number of members, and more than a few were on hand to play as 'house-players' to fill out spots in the open section, so as to not have anyone sitting idle for a round. For their efforts, time, and consideration, I'd like to thank the house-players: Franklin Chen, John Lokmer, and tournament director Mike Holsinger.

In the Open section, Alexander Heimann dominated with a perfect 4/4 score and increased his rating to a personal best of 2274. Hibiki Sakai placed second with three points, lamenting only a first round loss to Heimann.

The Reserve section was a closely-contested battle that wasn't decided until the last two games of the tournament were finished. Entering the tournament without a rating, Shiva Maheshwaram sat down with the white pieces and a 3/3 score against Dale Lipinski to determine who would win, or at least share, first place in the section.

Lipinski won a rook in the middlegame and pressed his advantage diligently, but Shiva provided tenacious defense with the help of a massive time advantage on the clock. In the end, however, Black's advantage proved fruitful and Lipinski won the point. On board two of the same section, Glenn Brown bested James Roy Provins in what appeared to be a position taken from an endgame manual. Brown scored the point and finished with a 3½/4 score to tie Lipinski for first place in the Reserve section. Shiva and Kevin Mo shared third place in the section with 3 points each.

Full results and crosstables can be found linked through the University of Pittsburgh Chess Club website <http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/>

- Joshua J. Mankey

Erie Blitz Tournament

ERIE, 5/9/2008 - A few months ago, I was interested in how many different towns in Pennsylvania I had played chess tournaments. I thought twenty-five, maybe thirty. I was quite shocked when the total turned out to be fifty-seven different places! And out of all of the towns that I had not visited, Erie was the place where I wanted to play the most. Gas prices may be outrageous, but before they became unaffordable, I made the six-and-a-half hour (without rest breaks), 370 mile (from Douglassville, of course) trek to the local Barnes & Noble bookstore to play in a blitz tournament. Thus, Erie became the 58th Pennsylvania town in which I have played in a tournament.

Of course, I did not go all that way just to play chess. When I arrived at the fourth most populated city in the Commonwealth (according to the 2000 census, behind Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and, perhaps surprisingly, Allentown, with the state capital ranked only eleventh) I spent a few hours on beautiful Presque Isle and had a wonderful view of the lake. In fact, not too many people were on the Isle on this pre-Memorial Day weekday, and I had one of the many beaches all to myself.

After walking a lap around nearby Millcreek Mall, and a quick snooze, it was gametime. I was surprised to learn that the Erie Chess Club has been continuously running events all the way back to 1918. Today, most of the club's tournaments take place at Gannon University, but this one-night event was at the Barnes & Noble, and the bookseller offered discounts to the players. Before play began, the prizewinners of the Erie City Championship received their trophies. They were:

Erie City Champion:	Craig Schneider
Top Junior:	Luka Glinsky
Top Senior:	Richard Kalfas

Top Class B& C: Nicholas Pallotto
 Top Class D & Below: Connor Unice

Eighteen players paid one big dollar to take part in this non-rated event. The players were divided into two round robin sections of nine players each based upon rating. The winner took home all of the entry fee money from his section. Sadly, while many of the club's stronger players did attend, many of the top local junior talent, including Glinsky, the Oppenheim brothers, Evan and Ethan, and Unice, were all absent.

The tournament was a bit informal. While pairing colors were made by the USCF rulebook, the rounds were played out of order. When a game finished, the players simply found someone they had not already played against and immediately began the next game. I believe this really sped up things up, and it took less than two-and-a-half hours to complete the eight-round contest.

In the very first round, I had white against the Champion of Erie, Craig Schneider. Schneider was a bit better in the early middlegame, with both bishops fianchettoed on long, open diagonals, but he fell short of time and blundered material allowing me to win. For the first four rounds, I think my experience of playing numerous games at a plethora of time controls paid off, because my opponents, who may have less blitz experience than I do, blundered quite a bit of material.

My first serious challenge was in round five, when I was white against Joseph Chromik. I faced Chromik once before, in the final round of the Cambridge Springs Centennial Celebration tournament back in 2004. I was under pressure in that game, and had to scramble for a draw. This time, I thought that in blitz, I would have an easier time against the veteran player. Wrong! Chromik played solidly, and was better in the final position, when he lost on time.

Erie is not far away from New York, and a few players from the Empire State are regular players of the club. After having five Pennsylvania opponents, I finished with the three New Yorkers in the event. In round six, I had my biggest crisis against Mark Clark. Clark was very close to my perfect score, so it would be a critical game. I was on the black end of a Reti Opening, and I was a pawn up (although it did not mean too much) when I miscounted and blundered an exchange. He had king, rook, and pawns and I had king, bishop and pawns. His rook gobbled up my queenside pawns like Pac-Man, and, although he blundered one of his three connected passed pawns, I was forced to give up my bishop for a pawn that had just queened. Normally I would resign down a rook, but Clark was down to single seconds, and the players had agreed not to use time delay before the tournament began, so Clark lost on time in a completely won position.

With a perfect 6-0 score, I decided not to risk too much in the final rounds. Round seven's Mucerino-Richard Kalfas pairing was an ugly looking draw, and Robert Johnson missed my blunder which would have won him the exchange in the final round, and instead we halved the point with the rook pair, a knight, and pawns remaining on the board. I won my first ever tournament in Erie with a 7/8 score, and pocketed nine dollars for my effort. Clark was second, a point back. Had he defeated me, he would have won the tournament. Kalfas was a half point further behind.

In the lower section, Ian McKenzie swept everyone and marched to a perfect 8-0 score. He was two points clear of Tony Groh. Tying for third place were Logan McKenzie and Brian Pitzer, who both scored five points.

I deeply enjoyed my trip to Erie. If my schedule and gas prices permit, I hope to go back!

Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Quick Champ

CAMP HILL, 5/5-12/2008 - The Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club left Lemoyne when the church they used to meet at raised the rent, and moved to the YMCA in Camp Hill, just a few miles down the road. It was the first time in five years that I played in Camp Hill, and I was happy to be back. Despite high gas prices, I wanted to check out the new place, and it looks like a good place to play. This was a five double round (you play both colors against your opponent) G/10 tournament, which traditionally follows the club championship. Eleven players entered, and there were no upsets in round one. In round two's David Brogan-Mucerino game, I was up three connected passed pawns, but then in time pressure I dropped a rook so quickly I am still not sure how it happened. But Brogan messed up what looked like an easily winning king and pawn verses king ending, so we drew. I beat Brogan with white in the second game of the match. Vincent Waters scored two wins over tough Christopher Walls, and Michael Liebner Sr. went 2-0 against Tom Smith to become co-leaders. Waters swept Liebner in round three, whereas I dropped a half point against Nate Carabello when I screwed up my move order in the middlegame. Brogan beat Walls twice to stay in contention.

I began the following Monday a full point down against Waters. In my first game against him, with black I employed my Englund Gambit (1.d4 e5) and Waters fell into a trap early on. I then used my extra material to win a tense game. Now we were tied for first place. But with white I threw away my gains by playing poorly and blundering into a mate during the middlegame. Brogan swept Liebner, and Walls did the same to Sam Lamonto. In the final round, I won two difficult games against Walls. It was now up to Brogan to see what he could do against Waters. Brogan lost the first game, but found a brilliant queen-winning check in their second game, and then converted the easy win. So Waters and I tied for first place with identical 8/10 scores. Brogan was in third place a half point back. Christian Grau, the lowest rated player, scored an impressive six points and tied for fourth place with Carabello and Liebner.

Hatboro Open

HATBORO, 4/17-5/15/2008 - Like last year, this tournament proved to be an extremely strong club event, with no less than three masters participating! Alisa Melekhina did not take part this year, but New Jersey's Thomas Bartell entered to keep the event very strong. Returning from 2007 were Daniel Yeager and defending champion Rodion Rubenchik.

No upsets were recorded in the first round, although many of the games on the top boards were closely contested. The big news in round two was not about this tournament - it was about Yeager winning the National High School Championship the previous weekend! Congratulations, Dan! Ronald Stokes had the honor of losing to the new champion in this round. Again, no upsets, although Joseph Rossi and your author were held to draws by Dan Tecker and Arthur Cencetti, respectively.

Things got interesting in round three. Rubenchik-Bartell was a short draw. Lorand Bela Kis-Yeager was a long game which Yeager won to give him the only perfect score. Mucerino-Adam Weissbarth was drawn. White was up two pawns but had tripled isolated pawns and with bishops of opposite colors and no clear gameplan, opted to take a draw. Cencetti beat Kyle Cameron to give himself two-and-a-half points, and Tecker continued his wonderful tournament with a win over veteran Robert Leonards.

In round four, Yeager took control of the tournament by defeating Bartell with a late game breakthrough. Bartell withdrew after this round. Rubenchik stayed in the hunt with a win over Cencetti. Kis won, but Weissbarth took a half-point bye. I stayed on the peripheral by turning a lost game against Tecker into a win.

The tournament was lengthened this year, so there was still one round to go. The top board's Rubenchik-Yeager pairing lasted less than twenty moves but took two hours to play out. The half point clinched the tournament for Yeager. Weissbarth beat Rossi, and in the longest game in the final round, Kis outlasted me in a game that ended at 12:30 am. Rubenchik, Weissbarth, and Kis all tied for second. Jorge Amador and Arthur Cencetti tied for fifth.

Early Bird Blitz

SCRANTON, 6/7/2008 - Tournament director Bernie Sporko told me before this event that he had been playing since 1980, and he could not recall an event ever being held in Scranton, so he decided to run one himself. I never competed in that city before, so Scranton became the 59th different Pennsylvania town that I played chess in.

This was the first of two tournaments on the same day. Sporko had a great idea: if you are going to run slower (G/60) quads, why not begin the day with blitz quads? Eight players entered this inaugural double-round (you play your opponent twice) edition. In the top quad, former five-time PA State Quick (G/10) Champion Gerald Bailleau swept 6-0, a massive 3½ points ahead of NM Terry Panetta. I was a half point further behind, and Glenn Buyo was a further half point back.

Sporko himself won quad two, only surrendering a half-point to Michael Kagel, who finished in second place. Lawrence Tremmel and Michael Haboubi were third and fourth, respectively.

Scranton - Carbondale June Quads

SCRANTON, 6/7/2008 - The second event of this double header was G/60 quads. Ten players took part, with some players opting to play in either the blitz tournament only or the G/60 quad only. Your author won the quad, defeating Phil Rizzo and Antonio Scalzo and holding NM Terry Panetta to a draw with black in the final round. Rizzo gave me a great assist by defeating Panetta in the second round to give me a clear first. Michael Kagel won the six man Swiss with a perfect score. TD Bernie Sporko and Lawrence Tremmel tied for second.

This is the first of what will hopefully be quarterly events in Scranton. The next is a four round Swiss on September 6. You can also go to the Carbondale club on Thursday nights for additional chess action.

Pennsylvania State G/45 Championship

PITTSBURGH, 6/21/2008 - Another state title was offered for the first time. With the William Pitt Union now closed on Sundays during the summer, Tom Martinak is limited to holding Saturday-only events for a few months, so he created this tournament. The usual suspects entered, with FM Robert Sulman, who won the G/29 Championship earlier in the year, as the highest rated player.

Everything went as expected in the opening frame, except for Josh Mankey nicking Thomas Magar for a draw. In round two, the higher rated players on the top two boards both had accidents: Sulman lost a time scramble with Shih-Houng Young, and Daniel Malkiel had to halve the point with Zachary Thompson. That left your author and Donald Meigs with the only perfect scores. Meigs-Mucerino was a

wild shootout, with Black finding a nice idea in White's time pressure. Thompson upset Magar, and Malkiel won, so they were both now a half point back of me. The final round's Mucerino-Malkiel was a very boring closed game. Malkiel looked like he had a dangerous attack towards the end, but he had to force a draw because he had no follow up and I was threatening to win a piece. Sulman defeated Thompson to give me clear first. Sulman, Malkiel, Young, and Caleb Aites were tied in a logjam for second place.

In the premier section, there was a logjam for first between Mark Stuckel, Ben Molin, Paul Lucarelli and Charles Constantine. Lucarelli and Constantine drew in round two; Stuckel and Molin split the point in the final round. Carter McCutchan won the scholastic section, winning his first three games and securing the victory with a final round draw. A total of sixty players participated.

This was my first ever tournament victory in Pittsburgh. I have had some seconds and thirds over the years, but never a first place. It was also my fourth state title, and I am honored to be Pennsylvania's inaugural G/45 State Champion.

Philadelphia International

PHILADELPHIA, 6/26-30/2008 - Thirty-nine players took part.

1st: Parimarjan Neig 7/9

2nd: Arun Prasad 6½

3rd: Julio Becerra, Geetha Gopal, Eesha Karavade, Gabriel Battaglini 6

Top PA: Daniel Yeager 4

Top NJ: Dean Ippolito 5½

36th Annual World Open

PHILADELPHIA, 6/30-7/6/2008 - The World Open moved back to Philly after King of Prussia played host a year ago. Attendance rose from 1,068 players in 2007 to 1,262 this year. The winners were:

Open: Parimarjan Negi, Alexander Moiseenko, Evgeny Najer, Lubomir Ftacnik 7/9

Top PA: Alexander Shabalov 6

Top NJ: Dean Ippolito 5

U2400: Igor Schneider, Igor Sorkin, Elliott Liu, Robert Hungaski, Louie Jiang 7

Top PA: Gerald Bailleau, Norman Rogers 6

Top NJ: Mikhail Zlotnikov 6½

U2200: Conrad Holt, Gevorg Vardanyan 8½

Top PA: Luan Elezi 7

Top NJ: Vladimir Lipman, Yaacov Norowitz 6½

U2000: Khine Tun Kyaw, Makaio Krienke, James Wu 7½

Top PA: Nigel Mitchell, Alex Guziak 6

Top NJ: David Hua 6

U1800: Michael Granata 8½ (The largest section with 237 players.)

Top PA: David Miller 7

Top NJ: Mark Kapengut 7½

U1600: Molson Hart 8

Top PA: Jorge Caicedo 6

Top NJ: Volodymyr Romanchuk 7

U1400: Khalee Ward, John Sefton 7½

Top PA: Michael Sliozberg 7

Top NJ: Ward

U1200: Vladimir Klimenko 8

Top PA: John Sample 6

Top NJ: Jonathan Capalbo 7

U900: Oliver Hu 8

Top PA: Akbar Kholbaev 7½

Top NJ: Matthew Danielson 6

U600: Derek Leung, Michael Lim 7½

Top PA: Leung

Top NJ: Lim

Unrated: Vladimir Kokorev, Jaime Hamilton 7½

Top PA: Hamilton

Top NJ: Scott Andreacci 5

PA State Action Championship

PITTSBURGH, 7/12/2008 - Long time *Pennswoodpusher* readers would not be surprised that after winning the inaugural state G/45 three weeks earlier, I was back in Pittsburgh looking for another state crown. Also back were Gabriel Petesch, who had been inactive for about a year, and Arthur Traldi, formerly from Easton, now a lawyer in Pittsburgh, who played in his first tournament after a six year absence. It was nice to see them back at the board. Missing were NM Tom Magar and Daniel Malkiel, who were unable to attend. Only 28 players participated in the open section, which seemed to be low.

Nothing shocking happened in the first round, but I was shocked in round two by fast rising Adonis Turner, who handed me the 500th defeat of my career. All of the other top players left me behind. Even at the half way point, while the matchups were more competitive on paper, the higher player still emerged victorious. In round four, on the top board, Traldi blew several winning opportunities against top seeded FM Robert Sulman before losing. Petesch was the only person who joined Sulman at 4-0 when he beat Mike Kobily, who was having a fine tournament. Four players, including myself, were tied for third with three points. In the final round, Petesch won a long game against Sulman to take the title. Traldi beat Turner, and I won against Donald Meigs to tie with Sulman for second place. Not only was my victory over Meigs the 1,500th of my career, but I was now +1,000 for my career, with a record of +1,500 -500 =586.

Twenty-one contestants played in the U900 section, which was won by Elton Hartman III with a 4½/5 score. Tying for second with four points were Darek Dinkel and Conrad Kosowsky.

39th Annual Susquehanna Valley Open

BLOOMSBURG, 7/26&27/2008 - This extremely popular tournament was back again for the second time in this reincarnation. Twenty-eight players took part; more than last year, but not quite the thirty entrants that was expected. No one can understand why more players do not participate. There is free food, cheap (\$40/night) lodging, and a wonderful atmosphere. Next year, I think, there will be a bigger push by those who entered this year to try to get others to come out.

There were a lot of tough games in the first round, and the higher-rated Gary Rubright and Richard Harry were forced to concede draws to Jeffery Hoskavich and Robert Graham, respectively. Harry was again

forced to give up half a point in the second round to Robert Reed. The big news was that the third-seeded NM Terry Panetta was held to a draw by the provisionally rated Robert Liu. Not going unnoticed was the big upset of Donald Myers over popular TD Sam Lamoto. I spoke with Mr. Myers after the game and he was absolutely delighted.

Things began to get serious at the halfway mark. I moved into the small conference room where the top two boards were seated and was white against FM Rodion Rubenchik on board one. After some unpleasant moments for myself, I was able to obtain a draw by repetition. Board two's Peter Minear-Glenn Buyo was even closer. They reached a bishop and pawn ending, but, in time pressure, Buyo placed some of his pawns on the same color as Minear's bishop, and last year's winner had the only perfect score on Saturday. Rubright won his second game in a row, and Panetta was also victorious, and they joined Rubenchik and myself with two-and-a-half points.

Sunday began with Lamonto selling some books (not all related to chess) and giving discounts to some players who could answer some trivia questions. Since the books were very reasonably priced, a few players walked out with a stack of them. While Minear-Rubenchik was underway on board one, White arrived about twenty-five minutes late in Panetta-Mucerino. White sacrificed the exchange in the middlegame, but did not get any compensation, and resigned when a pin cost him a piece in time pressure. Minear managed to liquidate down to a draw. Rubright drew Harry, and Buyo won, to keep them all high on the wallchart.

Like last year, the game on board one in the final round was Minear-Mucerino. But instead of a quick draw like last year (which was all that Minear needed to win that time), because we were tied for first this year, we slugged it out. Things were about equal, but then I blundered a pawn. I thought it was tactically protected, but there was a hole in my analysis. Even still, I got a bit of an attack, but in time pressure, I dropped a few pawns one by one and Minear emerged as the tournament winner for the second year running. Buyo-Rubenchik was a difficult win for Black, and Rubright defeated William Weller, who had a good tournament, and they tied for second place with four points. Harry upset Panetta to tie with me for fourth place.

The Susquehanna Valley Open is an extremely fun tournament, thanks to TD Sam Lamonto and the Bloomsburg University student apartments that host us. Personally, I see it more as a vacation than as a hard struggle, and I think many of the other players feel the same way as well. If you have not played in the Susquehanna Valley Open before, then I strongly encourage you to come out and see why it is a favorite event for many players.

6th Holly Heisman Memorial

WYNNEWOOD, 8/3/2008 - Well, last year I wrote that the fifth edition of this event would be its last. Thankfully, Dan Heisman found a new tournament organizer in Dr. Prashanth Ramachandra, MD, who put together this year's event and apparently will continue to do so in the future. This is, of course, a charity event, designed to raise money for the Holly Heisman Memorial Fund, which helps women in need. All of the prizes were donated from a plethora of sponsors, and over \$2,000 was raised this year. Last year one of the top prizes was a trip to Howard Stern's radio show, and this year that prize was auctioned off to raise even more money. The winning bid was \$475.

As usual, there were three sections to choose from in this five round G/30 no entry fee event. The Open section more than doubled in size

from last year, from 16 to 35! Defending champion FM Daniel Yeager was missing, representing Pennsylvania proudly at the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions (where he tied for first!) and the U.S. Open, both held in Dallas, TX. Topping the wallchart was Pennsylvania State Champion, IM Bryan Smith.

No upsets of note in round one, and the only minor surprise in round two was Jonathan Phillips, who can be a tough customer for higher-rated players, defeating Greg Nolan. In the middle round, Mucerino-Smith was an easy win for the state champion, while on board two, White fought back from a material deficit to win in Rodion Rubenchik-Joshua Bowman. Also with perfect scores were NM Peter Minear, who was victorious against Pennsylvania Collegiate Champion Stanley Hwang, and Adam Weissbarth, who defeated Phillips.

The sensation of the tournament occurred in the penultimate round when Weissbarth downed the state champion with the black pieces. At one point I looked and Smith appeared to be better, and then later when I looked again, Weissbarth was up a pawn - although he had doubled pawns. In a rook and pawn ending, Weissbarth found a great tactic that gave him a passed pawn that ensured victory. Black also scored a full point in Minear-Rubenchik, which set up the final round Rubenchik-Weissbarth showdown. Still in round four, I was paired with my friend Joshua Anderson, who played in his first event in eleven years. I lost to Anderson in his final event before his hiatus (the Bensalem Sunday Quad), but this time my Center Counter defeated him quite quickly. Also with 3/4 were Lawrence Pugh, Larry Saxby, Nolan, Bowman, and Hwang.

In the finale, Rubenchik proved to be too strong for Weissbarth, who led a large group of players with four points which also included Smith, Minear, Nolan, and myself. David Lakata also tallied a perfect score in the U1500 section, with a three-way tie for second between David Sosenko, Eric Guo, and Kevin Zhou. The K-8 U900 section was shortened to four rounds this year, with Sanjana Friedman sweeping the section. Sharing second were Andrew Luo, Andrew Jones, and Allan Gorbulsky. A total of eighty players took part in one section or another.

MasterMinds Quads

PHILADELPHIA, 8/10/2008 - Sadly, there was only one quad at this month's MasterMinds quads. Usually two quads is the bare minimum. Your author won it by defeating Francis Brady and Leteef Street, and by drawing second place finisher Preston Ladson, who had lost to Brady in round two, in the final round. Street directed.

2nd Gary Waters, Sr. No Entry Fee Chess Tournament

HARRISBURG, 8/23/2008 - This was the second edition of what apparently will become a monthly, nonrated, five round G/15 (a straight G/15 with no time delay used) tournament, with a *free* entry fee, \$145 in cash prizes, and three scholastic trophies, put up by Vincent (he goes by his middle name "Gary") Waters and Jack Clauser! The event took place at the Camp Curtain YMCA on 6th Street, near the Farm Show Building. I was delighted to go, because this was my first event in the state capitol in fourteen years (although I have played close to Harrisburg many times since).

Eighteen players took part, a slight decrease from the inaugural edition on a Thursday night in June. One of the things I really enjoy about nonrated events is that non-USCF members (and especially those with expired memberships) have a chance to play an over-the-board tournament, as opposed to skittles or Internet chess.

Only one upset in the first round, when Carroll Travers took down Jack Clauser. After an uneventful second round, things got serious in round three. TD Brian Sheinfeld beat Waters, and I lost to David Brogan, to give both victors a perfect score. Brogan took control by defeating Sheinfeld in round four. Waters and I both won, and we joined Sheinfeld with three points. In the last round, Brogan achieved a perfect score when he bested Waters. I had to come from behind to win on time against Sheinfeld. After this round, there were seven players tied for third and fourth places with three points and it was decided to hold a playoff round for them, with random pairings, to ease the logjam. The playoff winners were Waters, Sheinfeld, Richard Taylor, and Jimmy Crawford.

32nd Pittsburgh Summer Open

PITTSBURGH, 8/24/2008 - On a sweltering late-August Sunday, the Pittsburgh Chess Club (PCC) hosted their Summer Open for the 32nd time in the company of 27 participants. While one-day tournaments are usually held on Saturdays, Caïssa smiled on Pittsburgh's chess playing Steeler fans and allowed us to watch the third pre-season game the preceding evening instead. Calling the event an Open is perhaps a misnomer, with players divided into eight-player sections (octets, or octos), however, the format has worked well in the past and was once more considered a success. Pairing players grouped by rating rather than an all out free-for-all, the typical swiss-style first round disproportionate match-ups were avoided. The four round tournament had a time control of 75 minutes per game or 70 minutes with a five-second delay.

Due to the odd number of entrants, only the first two octos were restricted to exactly eight players, while the third section was comprised of eleven contestants. Tournament Director (TD) Mike Holsinger and PCC Vice-President Clyde Kapinos both filled in as "house-players" during rounds where there were an odd number of players, thus guaranteeing that no one had to sit idly by and miss out on a rated game. Your reporter would like to personally thank both gentlemen on behalf of all players for their magnanimity.

In the highest-rated Octo, it was no surprise that top-seeded Franklin Chen won clear first place and the title of PCC Summer Open Champion with a score of 3½ out of 4 possible points. It was a surprise though, that he was nicked for a draw in third round by yours truly. That draw paved the way for me to be included in a three-way tie for second place along with Hibiki Sakai and Daniel Gordon, each scoring 2½/4.

The intermediate Octo winner, Adonis Turner, turned in the only perfect score of the day with an impressive 4/4 result. Over the last two years, Turner's rating has more than doubled, and it doesn't appear that he's showing any signs of slowing down either. Dale Lipinsky lamented his only loss of the day at the hands of Turner in the second round to finish clear second with a score of 3/4. I did not get to view their game, but having played each of them, I know for a fact that Lipinsky is tactically gifted and it could not have been an easy task to defeat him.

The remaining section consisting of eleven players had a tie for first place with a 3/4 score for each participant. Paul Lucarelli and James Imes had three wins apiece and split the combined first and second place prizes. Also, since there was a superfluous amount of players in the concluding Octo, TD Holsinger announced prior to the start of the tourney that the highest-scoring player seeded 7th-11th would receive a class prize. That competitor, with a 2/4 score, was Eli Frye.

For the complete crosstable, information about the PCC, and upcoming events, please visit their website at <http://www.pittsburghcc.org/>

- Joshua J. Mankey

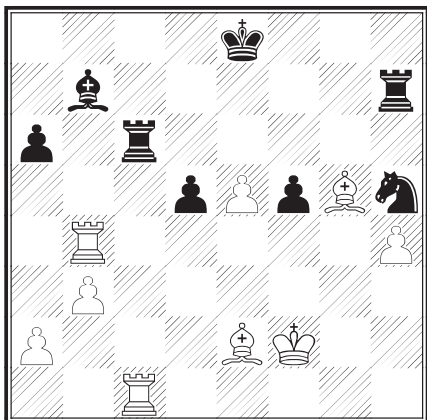
Mucerino Mindbenders

by **Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.**

1. Mucerino - Wayne H. Housum

32nd Susquehanna Valley Open
Round 3, Bloomsburg, 7/24/1993

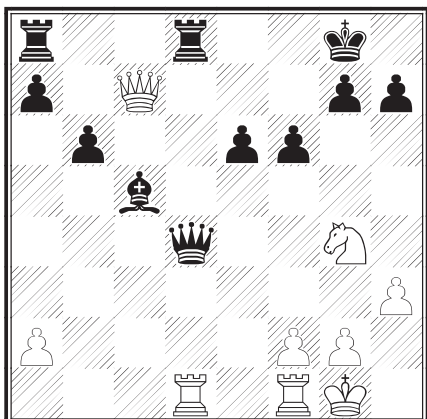
White's 37th move?



2. Jeffrey A. Wiemann - Mucerino

30th PA State Scholastic Champ
Round 5, Bloomsburg, 3/12/1995

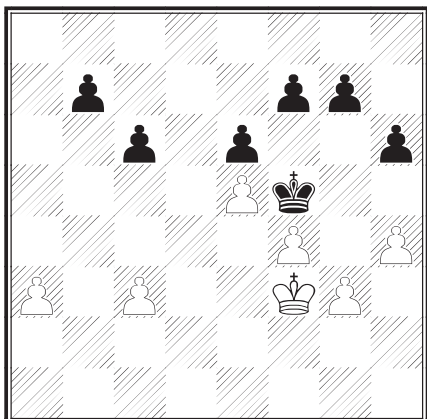
Black's 25th move?



3. Mucerino - Leteef Street

HVCSJ Spring Open Scholastic
Round 3, Warminster, 3/25/1995

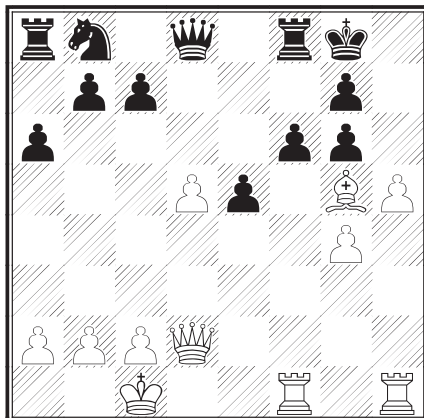
White's 35th move?



4. Mucerino - Andrew J. Read

18th Annual NPCC Fall Open
Round 5, Hatfield, 9/27/1998

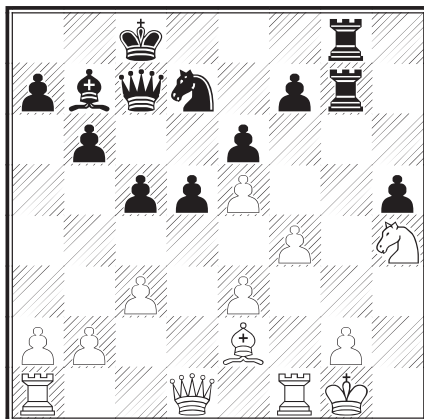
White's 20th move?



5. John F. Hathaway, Jr. - Mucerino

PA G/30 Championship
Round 3, Philadelphia, 2/27/1999

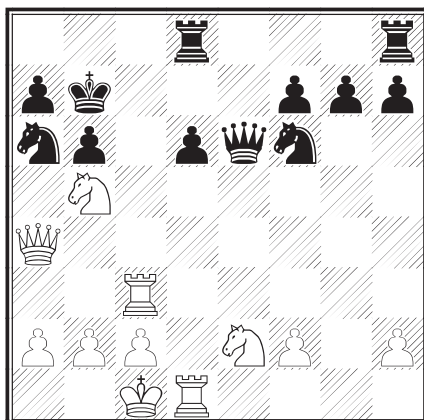
Black's 21st move?



6. Justin J. Papariella - Mucerino

1st PA State Quick Chess Champ
Round 2.2, Bloomsburg, 3/5/1999

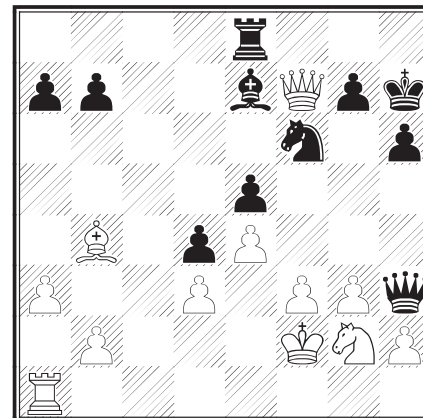
White's 22nd move?



7. Eric C. Johnson - Mucerino

Allentown June Open
Round 4, Allentown, 6/16/2001

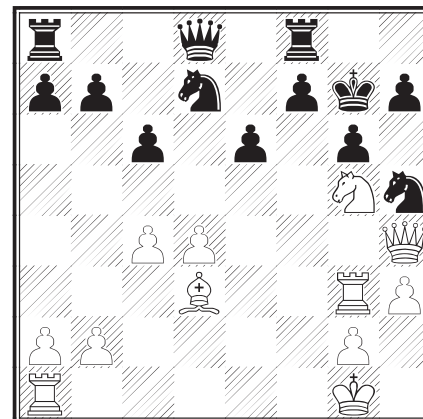
Black's 24th move?



8. Mucerino - Anthony Koppany

NPCC Summer Round Robin
Round 3, Lansdale, 8/9/2001

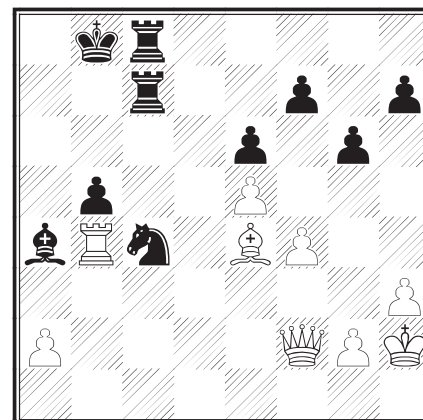
White's 18th move?



9. Mucerino - Kurt H. Schneider

NPCC Fall Class Tournament
Round 3, Hatfield, 10/6/2001

White's 37th move?

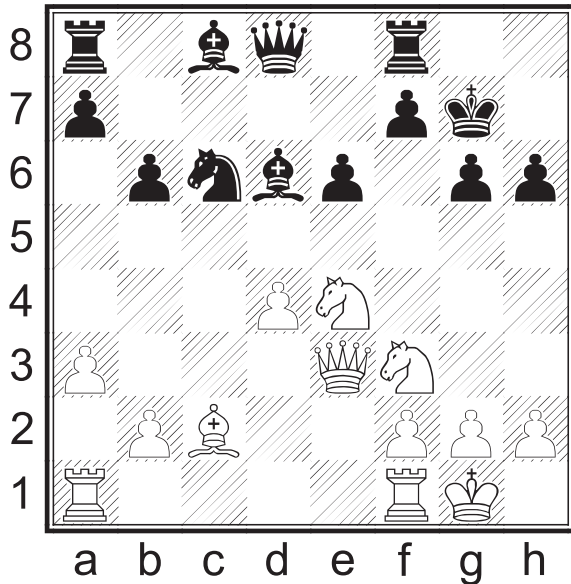


Coaches Corner: The *b*-pawn: Responsibilities and Possibilities

by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

Recently I was reviewing some games played by one of my students and, among other things, noticed an interesting pattern that we later discussed during the training session. Before I get into specifics, consider the following three examples from his games.

Black just played 1...b7-b6. What is your assessment of this move?



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answer.

My student wanted to activate his Bishop, currently at c8, whose mobility was limited by the pawn at e6. However, as a result of 1...b7, the Knight at c6 was temporarily left unprotected. White (who was higher-rated by some 600+ points) responded with the explosive 2.d5 which immediately exploited this opportunity by creating a threat of forking the King and Knight with 2.Qc3+. Black is worse, but not losing yet. Possible is 2...Ne5 or even 2...exd5 2.Qc3+ f6. However, probably shocked by White's move, Black panicked and quickly collapsed.

PSCF News

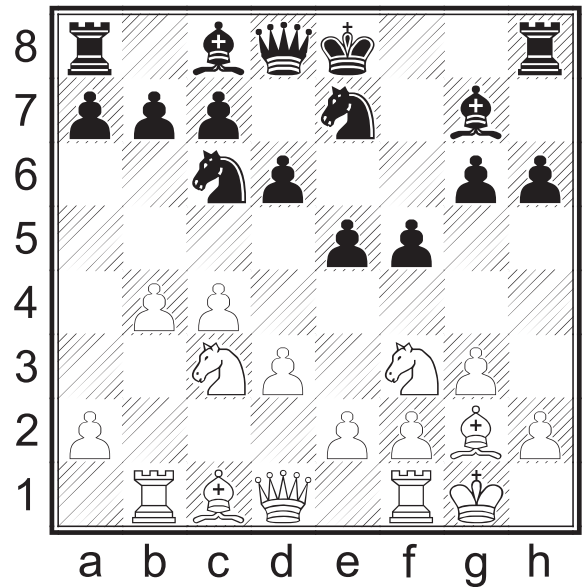
by Tom M. Martinak

Please note my recent address change. PSCF membership, tournament entries, articles, etc. should now be sent to:

PSCF
C/O Tom M. Martinak
25 Freeport Street
Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245

There have occasionally been expressions of interest in a correspondence chess championship for Pennsylvania. Dr. Ira Lee Riddle had organized such events for years, but entries had reached a level where it was no longer possible to run. If players are now interested, let me know at the above address or via email at martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com of your interest and the format that you would prefer - postal mail, email, webserver, etc. If there are sufficient numbers we will try to organize some type of event.

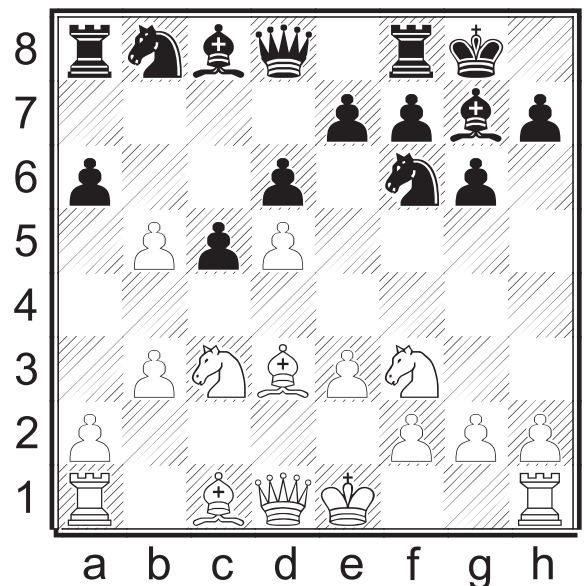
White just played 1.b2-b4. What is your assessment of this move?



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answer.

Now playing white, my student was attempting to execute a standard plan in the English Opening - advancing his pawns on the queenside. However, after 1.b4, the Knight at c3 is hanging. Black has a discovery attack with 1...e4 winning one of the two attacked knights. White was left with the insufficient compensation of two pawns for a knight. White did put up a fight, but soon resigned.

White just played 1.b2-b3. What is your assessment of this move?



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

Finally, in this example where my student was playing black, he continued with normal development (1...Nbd7?) instead of seizing the opportunity that White presented with his last move. After, 1...Nxd5 Black wins a pawn and then more because of the pin along the a1-h8 diagonal.

So, by now you have probably guessed that the subject of conversation with my student was the advance of the b-pawn: **Benefits vs. Dangers.**

There are many opening variations where you would like to have your bishop developed on the long diagonal a1-h8 (or the corresponding a8-h1 for black). This is especially true when you have already placed a pawn on e3 (e6). Some examples are the: Caro-Kann; Queen's Gambit for black; Benko Gambit; and some lines in the Sicilian for White.

Even though your Bishop might look much better on the long diagonal, you always must keep in mind that the b-pawn has certain responsibilities and advancing it may give some tactical possibilities to your opponent.

The b-pawn has the following responsibilities:

- Defends the squares a3 (a6) and c3 (c6), along with any piece or pawn that is sitting there;
- Covers the long diagonal, and especially the a1 (a8) square as well as the rook that is often still there;
- Covers the square c1 (c8) from an attack from a3 (a6).

Below is a list of some more common tactical possibilities (motifs) after the b-pawn advances in the format:

Target: What possibilities to examine.

Knight on c3 (c6): double attack, pin, discovered attack.

Rook on a1 (a8): double attack, discovered attack, skewer, trap.

c3 (c6) Square: a great outpost for a knight or bishop; or, when fighting for the c-file, for a rook.

a3 (a6) Square: when there is a fight for the open c-file, one can place a bishop here to drive the opponent's rook from c1 (c8).

The above list is somewhat general. When working on your own opening preparation, make sure that you familiarize yourself with the specific ideas that are most likely to happen in your games.

Finally, don't forget that you need to practice these ideas for both sides. You might be planning on playing b3/b4 (b6/b5) in one game and then considering what to do against those moves when your opponent plays them in another.

(For comments, questions, training or to order an autographed copy of *Chess Exam and Training Guide*, which was declared the 2005 Best Chess Book by the Chess Journalists of America, or *Chess Exam and Training Guide 2: Tactics*, please contact IM Igor Khmel'nitsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

Games From PSCF Members

Jeffrey G. Schragin - Donald J. Meigs

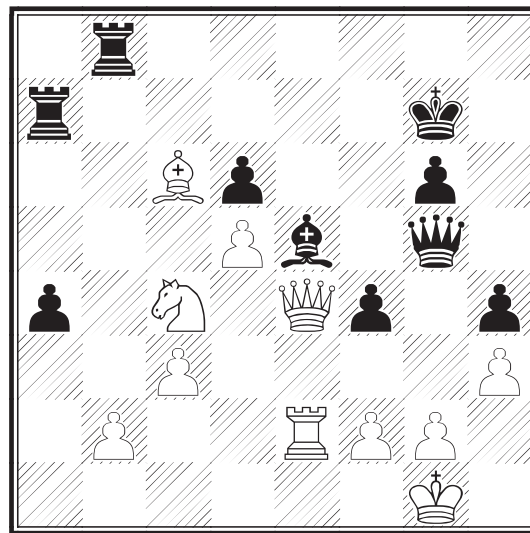
William M. Byland Memorial, Round 5, Pittsburgh, 4/11/2006

Annotations by Bruce W. Leverett

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.Bc4 c6 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 a5 7.a4 e6 8.Bg5 Qc7 9.c3 h6 10.Bf4 Ba6 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Nbd2 Ne7 13.d5 13.c4!?

13...cxd5 14.exd5 e5 15.Be3 Nf5 16.Ne4 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 f5 18.Ned2 Nc5 19.Nd4 bxa4 20.Bxa4+ Kf7 21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.Bxb5 Rhb8 23.Bc6 Ra7 24.Nc4 e4 25.Qc2 Bf6 26.Rd1 h5 27.Ree1 h4 28.Qe2 Kg7 29.Qe3?! 29.f3

29...Nd3 30.Rxd3 exd3 31.Qxd3 Be5 32.Qe3 f4 33.Qf3 Qe7 34.h3 Qf6 35.Qe4 a4 36.Re2 Qg5



37.Nxd6 Bxd6 38.Qd4+ Kh6 0:1

On 39.Qxa7 follows f3.

Mucerino Mindbenders Solutions (from page 12)

1. Mucerino-Housum: 37.Rxb7! wins a piece and the game.

2. Wiemann-Mucerino: Black won the game with 25...Qxd1 26.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 27.Kh2 Bd6+.

3. Mucerino-Street: After 35.h5! there is no way to prevent 36.g4 mate. 35...g5 36.g4#.

4. Mucerino-Read: The winning move is 20.hxg6! threatening 21.Rh8+ Kxh8 22.Qh2+ mating. Black tried 20...Re8, and, after a long thought, I found that 21.Rh8+ still wins. The game finished 21...Kxh8 22.Qh2+ Kg8 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Rxf6+! and Black resigned. Black has three options: 1) 24...gxf6 25.Qf7 mate; 2) 24...Ke7 25.Qxg7 mate; 3) 24...Qxf6 25.Bxf6 Re7 (necessary to prevent mate) 26.Bxe7+ winning.

5. Hathaway-Mucerino: White must lose material after 21...Qd8! The former state champion tried 22.Qe1 but lost after 22...Rg3! 23.Nf3 Rxc2+ 24.Kh1 R2g3 25.Rf2 d4 26.Kh2 Bxf3.

6. Papariella-Mucerino: 22.Rc7+! destroys Black. The game finished 22...Nxc7 23.Qxa7+ Kc6 24.Ned4+ Kc5 25.Qxc7+ Kb4 26.a3+ Ka4 27.Qa7#

7. Johnson-Mucerino: Winning is 24...Rf8 when White should give up his Queen for the Rook and Bishop with 25.Qxf8 Bxf8 26.Bxf8. In fact, the game continued 25.Qxe7 Ng4+ 26.Ke1 Rxf3 and White resigned because the Knight is lost and Black has a winning attack.

8. Mucerino-Koppány: White crashed through with 18.Qxh5! Black then compounded his error with 18...h6?? and White followed up with 19.Nxe6+ Kf6 (19...fxe6 20.Qxg6+ mates) 20.Rxg6+! fxg6 21.Qxg6+ Ke7 22.Nxd8 and Black resigned.

9. Mucerino-Schneider: 37.Rxc4! wins a piece, because if the Rook is recaptured, then 38.Qb6+ forces mate. So Black resigned.

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

October 18 **GPP:6** **Pennsylvania**
2008 PA State Game/60 Championship. 4-SS. G/60. Ballroom, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 3 sections, \$\$ (695G): **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$30 postmarked by 10/10, \$40 after. \$200-100, U2000

\$75, U1800 \$50. **Premier:** Open to unrated or rated under 1600. EF: \$25 postmarked by 10/10, \$35 after. \$\$ \$90-60, U1400 \$50, U1200 \$40, U1000 \$30. Trophies to Top 2, Top 2 under 1400, Top 2 under 1200, and Top 2 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 10/10, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from all sections. Reg ends 10am. Rds 10:30am - 1pm - 3:15pm - 5:45pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport St., Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245.

A Heritage Event

November 8 & 9 GPP:10 Pennsylvania 2008 Pennsylvania State Championship. Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Hall, 7193 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg PA 17112. 4 sections. **2-day Sections:** 5-SS. G/120. Reg 9 - 9:30am. Rds Sat 10am - 2:30pm - 7pm, Sun 10am - 2:30pm. **Open,** open to all: EF: \$40 by 10/23, \$50 later. \$\$ (680 Guaranteed): 350-150, U2100 \$70, U2000 \$60, U1900 \$50. **Premier,** open to those rated under 1800: EF: \$30 by 10/23, \$40 later. \$\$ (420 b/20): 150-90, U1700 \$70, U1600 \$60, U1500 \$50. **Reserve,** open to those rated under 1400: EF: \$20 by 10/23, \$30 later. \$\$ (280 b/20): 100-70, U1200 \$60, U1000 \$50. **Saturday-only Scholastic,** open to those in grades K-12 rated under 1000 or unrated: 5-SS. G/30. Reg ends 11:30am. Rds Noon - 1:15pm - 2:30pm - 3:45pm - 5:30pm. EF: \$15 by 10/23, \$25 later. Trophies to Top 5, Top 2 U600, Top 2 U300, Top 2 Unrated; Trophies to top 2 schools. (Any number may be on a team, team score is sum of top 4 scores.) **All:** PSCF required \$5 OSA. **HR:** Mention "PSCF". 1-4 per room: \$63 by 10/23. Super 8 Motel - Harrisburg/Hershey NW, 7500 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg PA 17112, 717-652-0101. **Local Info:** slam.dk@verizon.net, 717-730-4461. **TD:** 412-908-0286, martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport St., Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245. Checks payable to PSCF.

November 22 & 23. 2008 Welsh S. White Pennsylvania State Senior Championship. 5-SS. G/120. Dining Room A, 1st Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. **Open to ages 50 & Up.** \$\$ (450G): 150-80, Ages 65 & Up \$70, U1800 \$60, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$40. Trophies to Champion & Top Ages 65 & Up. **EF:** \$25 postmarked by 11/14, \$35 later, PSCF required \$5 OSA. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds 10am - 2:30pm - 7pm, 10am - 2:30pm. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport St., Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245.

November 22 & 23. 2008 Pennsylvania State Junior Championships. 5-SS. 53 Trophies! (49 Individual, 4 Team) Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 7 sections: **2-day (Sat & Sun):** Ages 16 to 20 Open, Ages 13 to 15 Open, Ages 9 to 12 Open. **EF:** \$18 postmarked by 11/14, \$28 later. Time Control: Game/90. Reg ends 9:30am. Rds: 10am - 1:30pm - 5pm, 11am - 2:30pm. **1-day (Sun only):** Ages 8 & Under Open, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U900, Ages 9 to 20 Rated U600 or Unrated, Ages 8 & Under Rated U600 or Unrated. **EF:** \$15 postmarked by 11/14, \$25 later. Time Control: Game/40. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds: 11am - 12:30pm - 2pm - 3:30pm - 5pm. **All:** Trophies to top 7 in each section, additional medallions. State Champion Title for each age in an Open Section. Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from all sections. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286, <http://www.pscfchess.org/pajuniorchamp/>. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport St., Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245. Checks payable to PSCF.

Watch for the latest information on PSCF tournaments on our website:

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

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PSCF Website: <http://www.pscfchess.org/>

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Kent C. Weber

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Dues are \$5 for students/adults/clubs, \$100 for Life memberships. The PSCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Address Corrections & PSCF Memberships should be sent to: Tom Martinak; 25 Freeport Street, Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245; 412-908-0286; martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com

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 CA; St James Evangelical Lutheran Church, 710 N 11th St; Sat 12:30 pm, 610-821-4320

ALTOONA

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

BLOOMSBURG

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

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, 814-368-4197

CARBONDALE

Public Library; 5 N Main St; Thurs 6 pm, 570-282-2793

CHAMBERSBURG

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

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

DUNCANVILLE/ALTOONA

Lois Kaneshiki 814-693-9390

EPHRATA

Ephrata Public Library, 550 S Reading Rd; Tues 4-8 pm, Brandon Keath 717-733-9657

ERIE

Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafra, 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

West Shore YMCA, 410 Fallowfield Rd, Camp Hill; Mon 7-10 pm, Brian Sheinfeld 717-761-3151

HATBORO

Chaturanga 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; Fri 7 pm-1 am, 215-699-8418
 (2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10 am

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

Borders, 200 Mall Blvd; Wed 6:30-9:30 pm, Tom Magar 412-823-4493

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) Drexel Univ CC; Creese Student Center, Bookstore Lobby, Wed 5-8 pm

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) Duquesne Univ; Union Bldg; Wed & Fri 4-6 pm

READING

Million Youth Chess Club; Mike 610-373-3061

RIDLEY PARK

Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 E Dupont St; Mon 6:15-11 pm, 610-586-8205

SCRANTON

Northern Light Espresso Bar, 536 Spruce St; Sun 3-7 pm, Mike Evancovich 570-903-4031

SHAMOKIN

Shamokin CC; Mon 7 pm, Don Myers 570-648-8681

SHIPPENSBURG

Shippensburg Public Library, 73 W King St; Wed 6:30 pm, 717-477-0645

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

STROUDSBURG

YMCA, 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; Thurs 5 pm

WYNCOTE

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

YORK

York Emporium, 343 West Market St; Thurs 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368

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