



The PENNSWOODPUSHER



November 2006

A Quarterly Publication of the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation

Junior Gems

by Dan Heisman

Odette Moolten is one of the top female players in the US for her age. Although only 9, she already rates 44th on the US Girls Under-13 list.

Odette Moolten - Long Xu

Greater Philadelphia Open U1400, Rd 5, Haverford, 3/26/2006

Annotations by Daniel E. Heisman

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3

A popular modern way of playing against the Najdorf Sicilian.

6...Nc6

A rare line. Most popular are 6...Ng4, 6...e6, and 6...e5.

7.f3 e6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.O-O-O

This type of setup against the Sicilian is called the "English Attack". White plans to storm the kingside with pawns.

9...O-O 10.g4 Ne5 11.h4 Qc7 12.h5

This is a good idea. If 12.g5 first then that gives Black the option of blocking the pawns with 12...Nh5.

12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Qxc4 14.g5 Ne8 15.Rdg1

Thanks to White's aggressive play, his attack on the king is faster than Black's.

15...g6?

Making it easy to open up lines.

16.hxg6

16.Qh2 first is even better, but White has the right idea - blast open the King! 16.h6? would be completely wrong.

16...fxg6 17.Qh2 Rf7

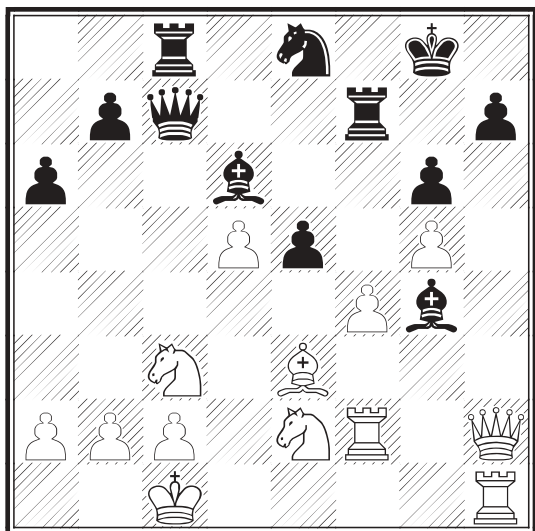
Only move.

18.Rg3

Somewhat better is 18.f4. Now Black can almost equalize with 18...e5, but...

18...Qc7 19.Nde2 d5 20.exd5 Bd6 21.f4 e5 22.Rf3 Bg4 23.Rf2

Rc8



24.fxe5 Bxe5 25.Rxf7

This counterattack is the only way to retain the advantage. Since the 18th move, both sides have played well and White has retained a nice advantage.

25...Bxh2 26.Rxc7 Bxc7

White has an extra pawn, but Black has the bishop pair, which on the average is worth about half a pawn.

27.Nf4 Be5 28.Nce2 Bf5 29.c3 b5 30.Bd4 Bd6

Wisely retaining the bishop pair.

31.Rd1 Be7 32.Rg1 b4 33.Ng3 Nd6 34.Nxf5

The bishop pair is gone!

34...Nxf5 35.Be5 bxc3 36.Bxc3

White should take with the pawn, giving her connected passed pawns in the center. Now the game is about even.

36...Bc5 37.Rf1 Bd4 38.Kd2 Ne3?

After 38...Be3+ 39.Kd3 Rd8 the game remains about even.

39.Re1

Now the White rook makes a dangerous infiltration.

39...Nc4+ 40.Kd3 Bf2?

Black's last chance was 40...Bxc3 but White is much better. Now Odette gets a chance to show off a tactic or two and the game is over.

41.Re7 Nd6 42.Rg7+ Kf8 43.Rxh7 Nb5 44.Rh8+ 1:0

(Players in grades 12 and under are encouraged to send us their instructive games to be analyzed by Dan Heisman and presented to our readers. - editor.)

Local Player Shows How to Make a Big Upset

by Eric C. Johnson

Here in Allentown, we try very hard to hold events that appeal to players of all levels - beginners, class players and players over 2000. We offer goofy prizes and make our weekly events fun. Nearly all of our events are mixed tournaments (we don't hold scholastic-only events).

Our younger players show no fear when playing adults or higher-rated players (because it is so natural for them). Every so often, we hold one-section events to force all players to mix together.

Linda Kleinfeld (age 11) and her brother Jonathan have been attending our events for about three years. Linda has won against several 1600+ players and her new rating will be close to 1300. She is a hard worker at the board and, as you can see from the game, she understands that a lead in development is the foundation for all good tactics.

This game is the counter-argument for anyone tournament veteran who ever complained about having to play all those "easy games" at the beginning of a rated tournament. The game annotations are by Linda with my few notes marked ECJ.

Linda K. Kleinfeld (1080) - Michael K. Cox (2000)

Allentown Swiss, Round 1, 7/1/2006

Annotations by Linda K. Kleinfeld

I wanted to share my most exciting game and biggest upset of my (short) chess career. The game was played in the first round of one of our local club Swisses. It began as a Philidor's Defense (but is classified

as C50 Hungarian Defense or Giuoco Pianissimo through transposition by the computer program Fritz).

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d4

Trying to crack open the center.

4...exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.O-O g6 7.Bg5

The immediate capture on c6 was perhaps stronger.

7...Bg7 8.Nc3 O-O 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Re1 Bb7 11.e5

Looking to open up the center files for my rooks.

11...dxe5 12.Rxe5 Qd6 13.Re1

Here, Linda could highlight the difference in development and piece activity by the simple (and safe) 13.Qxd6 cxd6 14.Re7 taking command of the e-file and the 7th rank (oh, that poor bishop on b7). - ECJ

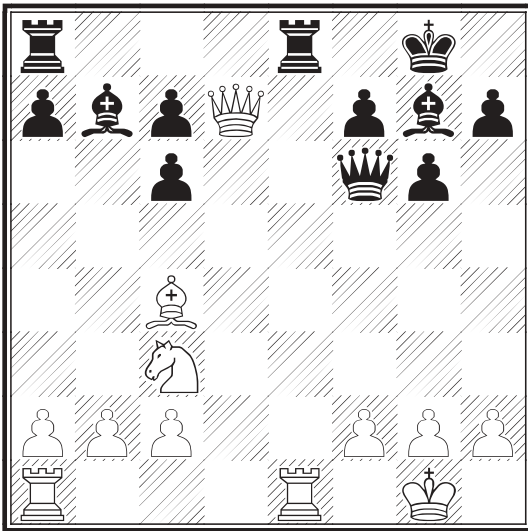
13...Rfe8

I watched this game as it was played. Black could have made a bit more trouble with 13...Qc5, keeping the queens on the board while hitting both bishops on g5 and c4. Linda makes the Bxf6 trade willingly, so perhaps it wouldn't have changed things too much. - ECJ

14.Bxf6 Qxf6

Black could have achieved equality here by first playing 14...Rxe1+.

15.Qd7



White gains a slight advantage, threatening a possible checkmate or winning a rook if Black doesn't respond correctly.

15...Red8?

Again, better for Black would have been 15...Rxe1+.

16.Qxc7+-

White has now won a solid pawn and has an advantage.

16...Rab8 17.Rad1

Bringing the other rook into the fight.

17...Ba8??

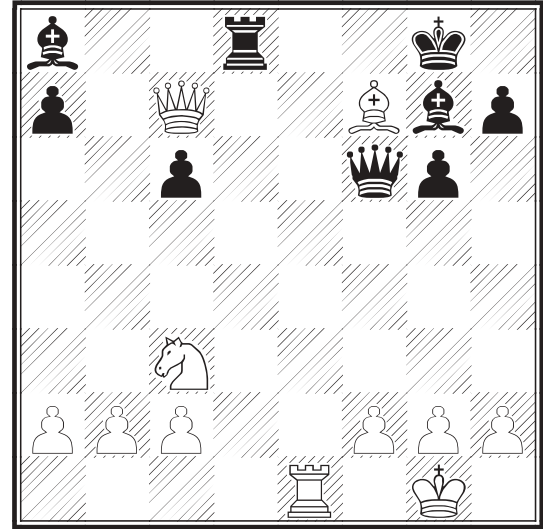
This compounds Black's problems. Better to chase away the troublesome Queen with 17...Rdc8.

18.Rxd8+

I played this with the following combination in mind, though Fritz

suggests 18.Ne4 cinches the win.

18...Rxd8 19.Bxf7+!



19...Kf8

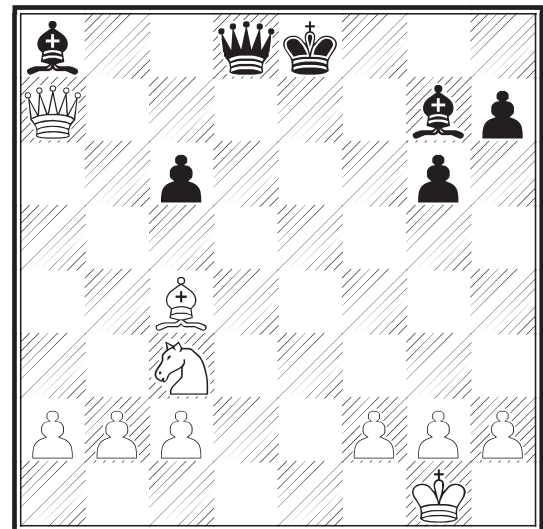
Winning another pawn, since 19...Qxf7 is met by 20.Qxd8+, winning at least the exchange.

20.Bc4 Re8

Here I was very proud of the tactic I found which becomes apparent on move 23.

21.Rxe8+ Kxe8 22.Qb8+ Qd8 23.Qxa7

This move wins the bishop on a8 by force due to the mate threat on f7.



23...Qd7 24.Qxa8+ Ke7 25.Qa3+

Trying to reposition the queen favorably.

25...Kd8 26.Qa5+

Here Fritz reminds me to bring my knight into the game.

26...Ke7 27.Qg5+ Bf6 28.Qe3+ Kf8 29.b3

Wanting to reposition my knight in order to force a trade of pieces.

29...Qd6

Allowing the bishop to be pinned.

30.Qf3 Qd4 31.Ne4 1:0

Better late than never getting that knight to e4. Fritz was right!

PA State Scholastic Championships
March 2 to 4, 2007

Carlisle

PA TODAY

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

Coatesville Third Saturday Swiss

COATESVILLE, 7/15/2006 - After a few months hiatus, Rodion Rubenchik has returned to directing tournaments in Coatesville, and now the events will be held monthly on the third Saturday of the month. Eighteen players took part this time around. The first round was predictable, but in round two Robert Jones was upset by Aaron Jones (no relation), Andrew Spore beat Robert Feldstein, and I messed up a slightly better position to draw Ron Gross on his birthday. Top seeded Peter Minear had some difficulty in defeating Ron Raush but did get the job done. He again had some problems in the next round, this time against Spore, but again prevailed in the end. Robert Jones was completely winning against Gross, but gave him his biggest birthday present of all, by allowing Gross to smother mate him. I drew my second game in a row, and Aaron Jones won his third in a row, against Mel Ross. In the final round, Minear defeated his student Aaron Jones to chalk up a perfect score. Raush beat Gross in a tense game, I had a horrible position against Ross before turning it around to win, and Spore edged out the fast-rising Mitchell Hoffman. Raush, Spore, Aaron Jones and your author tied for second with three points.

Pennsylvania State Championship

PITTSBURGH, 7/22&23/2006 - Once again, the three year rotation of the state championship ends at the University of Pittsburgh. Only sixty-seven players turned out to play in the main sections. While there were several out-of-state players, only two Pennsylvanians who lived in the eastern half of the state were in attendance. One was Nike Colton, who won the *Top PA Junior* trophy in the Booster section. I will leave it to the reader to figure out who the other was.

The Open Section had a bloodbath in the first round. There were nine boards, and there were four upsets and three draws! Top-rated Bruce Leverett and Franklin Chen were the only favorites to win. Your author was not so fortunate:

Hibiki Sakai - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Pennsylvania State Championship, Rd 1, Pittsburgh, 7/22/2006
Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Qxe2 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.c3 O-O-O 8.O-O h6 9.Na3 e6 10.Nc4 Bd6

10...Be7 is playable for those of you who like to keep the bishop pair.

11.b4 Qh5 12.Nxd6+ cxd6

Capturing with the pawn keeps the knight out of e5.

13.b5 Ne7 14.a4 Kb8

The king is safer here than on the semi-open c-file and White can no longer play Qc4 with check.

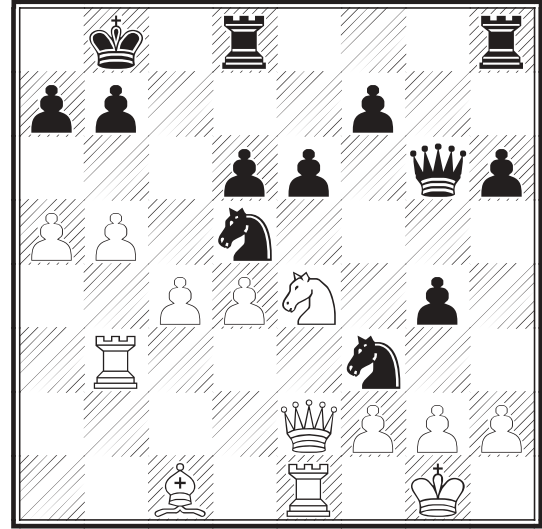
15.a5 Nf5 16.Re1

If White wants to continue with his pawn storm, he should choose 16.a6. Obviously, Black should lock the pawn structure with 16...b6, but what this does as opposed to 16.b6 a6 is place Black's pawns on the same color as White's bishop and also opens up the h1-a8 diagonal for the queen.

16...g5 17.Rb1 Nd5 18.Rb3 g4 19.Nd2 Nh4 20.Ne4!

I thought that I was building up my attack slowly but surely, but this really puts a stop to things. If I put a rook on g8, 21.c4 drives the knight from d5 and then 22.Nf6 forks.

20...Qg6? 21.c4! Nf3+?



This is probably the decisive mistake. White gives up a little material but gets a blistering attack.

22.Rxf3 gxf3 23.Qxf3 Nc7

Fritz suggests 23...f5. I played the text move because I was afraid of moving the knight anywhere else and allowing 24.Nxd6 Rxd6 25.Bf4.

24.Bf4 Qf5 25.b6 Qxa5

Praying that Sakai would miss the fact that his rook is en prise. The rest of the game is simply cleanup for White.

26.bxc7+ Kxc7 27.Rc1 e5 28.Bd2 Qa4 29.Qxf7+ Qd7 30.Qd5 Qc6 31.dxe5 dxe5 32.Qxe5+ Kc8 33.Bf4 Rhg8 34.g3 a6 35.Nf6 1:0

In round two, Leverett and Chen both won again. Two of last year's co-state champions, Bryan Norman and Mark Eidemiller, scored their first victories over Benjamin Weaver and Donald Meigs respectively. Mark Heimann also got on the board with his first win. Sakai continued his strong performance with a draw against Joseph Winwood. Mucerino - Thomas Birdas was a dull draw, but it got us on the board.

At the halfway point, Chen-Leverett was draw, which allowed Norman to catch up when he defeated Sakai. Winwood held Eidemiller to his second draw. Heimann scored his second win against Craig Schneider. Birdas fell further behind by losing to Meigs, who was having a great tournament. The roving reporter finally scored a full point with this game:

Benjamin W. Weaver - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Pennsylvania State Championship, Rd 3, Pittsburgh, 7/22/2006
Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

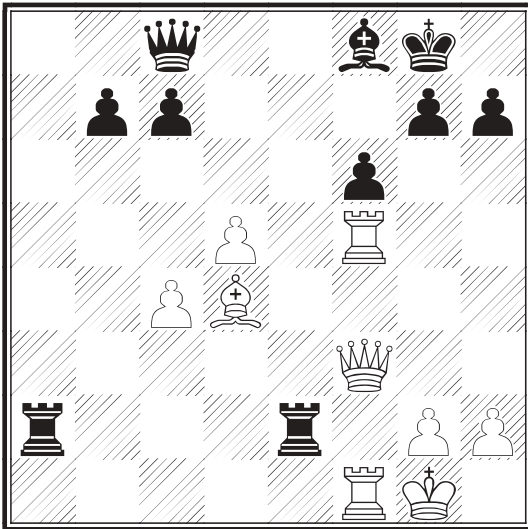
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.c4 e6 7.dxe6 Bxe6 8.d5 Bf5 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 O-O 11.Nge2 Ne5 12.O-O a6 13.Qd4 Nd3 14.Ne4 Nxb2 15.Qxb2

White can save a pawn with 15.Bxa6 bxa6 16.Qxb2 Nxe4 17.fxe4 Bxe4.

15...axb5 16.Qxb5 Nxe4 17.fxe4 Bxe4 18.Ng3 Bg6 19.Bd4 Qc8

This move covers b7, prevents Nf5, and allows the queen to possibly come to g4.

20.Qb2 Ba3 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rf3 Re8 23.Raf1 Bf8 24.Nf5 Bxf5
There is no need to allow White the possibility of sacrificing on g7.
25.Rxf5 Rxa2 26.Qf3 Ree2



27.Kh1

Fritz found 27.Rg5! which restores equality. Of course the rook cannot be taken because of a mate in three.

27...Rxc2 28.Qxc2?

White can cut his losses with 28.Bf2.

28...Rxc2 29.Kxc2 Qe8

This should be a technical win for Black, although it is not easy.

30.Kf3 Qa4 31.Rc1 Qb3+ 32.Ke4 Qh3 33.Rf2 Bd6 34.Rcf1
Bxh2 35.Rf3 Qg4+ 36.Kd3 h5 37.Re3 Be5 38.Bxe5 fxe5
39.Rfe1 Qd4+ 40.Ke2 Qxc4+ 41.Kf2 Qf4+

I should have captured the pawn just to eliminate any possibility that White will queen a pawn.

42.Kg2 h4 43.Rxe5 Qg3+ 44.Kh1 h3 45.R1e2 Qf3+ 46.Kh2
b5 47.R5e3 Qxd5 48.Kxh3 c5 49.Kg4 b4 50.Re5 Qd7+ 51.Kf4
c4 52.R2e4 Qc7 53.Ke3 b3 54.Kd2 c3+ 55.Kc1 Qa7 56.Re8+
0:1

Bryan Norman took control of the tournament on Sunday by defeating Leverett with black. Heimann scored a hat trick by defeating Tom Magar. Eidemiller stayed in contention by winning against Chen. Winwood continued his great tournament by beating Jens Madsen from West Virginia. I had a bad accident against Meigs:

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Donald J. Meigs

Pennsylvania State Championship, Rd 4, Pittsburgh, 7/23/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.h3 c6 6.Bf4 d6 7.e3 Be6
8.Be2 h6 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.e4

I was bored and wanted to open up the position. I did not want to castle, because if I castle queenside, Black's bishops have my king in their crosshairs, and if I castle kingside, Black can pawnstorm quickly.

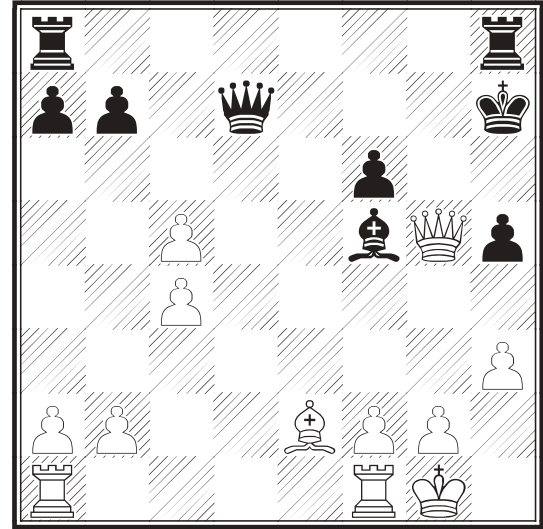
10...fxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Bf5 13.Qe3 g5? 14.Bxd6 Kf7
15.Bb4

Not only does this protect the bishop, but it covers the diagonal from a check from the queen.

15...c5 16.Bc3 Qc7 17.O-O Bf6 18.Ne5+ Kg7 19.Nxd7 Qxd7
20.dxc5 h5?

Fritz suggests 20...Qe6.

21.Qxc5+ Kh7 22.Bxf6 exf6



23.Rad1??

Whoops! I wanted to simplify the position, so I threatened 24.Qxf5 Qxf5 25.Bd3. I saw that Black's queen protects the bishop, but I missed that the bishop protected the queen. If White plays the obvious 23.Qxf6, Fritz says he is up the equivalent of five and a half pawns.

23...fxg5 24.Rxd7+ Bxd7 0:1

Fittingly, in the final round, the two defending co-champions met on board one. Norman-Eidemiller was drawn, assuring Norman of a piece of the title again. Heimann won his fourth game in a row against Winwood, which allowed him to tie for first with Norman. They are the new co-champions, and Heimann was the top junior player. Meigs met his match against Leverett, and Chen beat Magar, thereby giving Leverett, Eidemiller, and Chen a tie for third with 3½ points. I drew Madsen in the final round to finish with two points.

In the Premier (U2000) section, Donnie Tillman took home the top cash prize, but since he is from Ohio, the title was awarded to Joseph Elsleger, who finished in clear second with four points. Luka Glinsky was the top junior in this section. There were three co-champions in the Reserve (U1700) section with Joshua Mankey, Kevin Fitzgibbons, and Michael Black all scoring 3½ points. Mankey took home the trophy on tiebreak, and Kevin Mo took the top junior trophy. Jason Smith won the Booster (U1400) section with four points, and Nike Colton was the top junior in this section.

There were also three one-day scholastic sections on Sunday, with a total of thirty-seven kids taking part. Brendan Coulson took the premier section with 4/5, half of the reserve section scored 3½ points to tie for first. They were Kyle Bird, Tyler Shick, Gregory Kaniecki, and Sergio Machaca (travelling all the way from Chalfont). The only perfect score of the whole weekend was tallied by Yehuda Rosenberg in the booster section, with a perfect 5-0 sweep.

Club and school team titles were also awarded. The top club was the Washington Chess Club with fourteen points, and the top school was Providence Heights Alpha School with one point less.

Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship
March 2, 2007
Carlisle

4th Annual Holly Heisman Memorial

WYNNEWOOD, 8/6/2006 - Once again this charitable tournament raised money for women in need. To date, over \$10,000 has been raised for this great cause! The many sponsors of this event donated over a thousand dollars in cash and other merchandise to be awarded as prizes. (Among the sponsors were Main Line Speech Consultants, Kaiserman Jewish Community Center, BookUp, House of Staunton, Internet Chess Club, IM Igor Khmelnsky, Chessville, Douglas Schwetke, Peter Winkler, Plunder Chess, John Bain, Phillip Simpkins and New in Chess. -editor)

Despite a free entry fee, attendance was down this year, but it was still a strong turnout with seventy-eight players. Even Dr. Ira Riddle, playing in his first rated event in four years, did double duty by playing and selling books at the same time.

The twenty-player Open was the smallest of the three sections. The first round went as expected, although Elizabeth Lakata upset Teme Sejko, and Jonathan Phillips had Adam Weissbarth beat but first threw away a win and then a draw before losing in time pressure. In round two, rising star Arlington Wilson upset Robert Feldstein, and all else was quiet. The top contenders began meeting each other in round three. Top seed FM Rodion Rubenchik edged out Weissbarth in the clash of the two highest rated players. Peter Minear defeated Wilson, and I won against Feldstein to give us all a perfect score.

This was the game on the top board in the penultimate round:

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Rodion V. Rubenchik Holly Heisman Memorial, Round 4, Wynnewood, 8/6/2006 Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Interestingly, while Rubenchik is not the player I have played the most games with (Eric Funk and Jack Mongilutz share that distinction with twenty-one encounters each with me), I have played against Rubenchik in more different towns than anyone else. In thirteen games, we have played in nine different places: Allentown, Bradford, Carlisle, Gladwyne, Hatfield, Philadelphia, Seven Valleys, West Chester, and Wynnewood. Heading into this game, he had the best score against me of anyone in the world: 12-0, no draws. Would this game be an unlucky thirteen?

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.Nbd2 Nf6 7.O-O O-O 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 h6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.b4 Bb6?!

The bishop points at the f2-pawn, but it is a bit misplaced here. It would stand better on d6 or e7.

12.a4 a6 13.Bb2 Ng4 14.exd5 exd5 15.h3 Nge5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bc2?!

White's light squared bishop is an important piece in these kinds of positions, because it points at h7. If White does not want to spend a tempo saving it, then he should consider 17.c4 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 dxc4 19.Nxc4.

17...Re8 18.c4?

Normally it is not a bad idea to give up a pawn to open lines to your opponent's king, but White misses a tactic here.

18...dxc4

Stronger is 18...Bxh3! connecting Black's rooks. After 19.gxh3 Nxc4 wins the bishop on b2.

19.Ne4

White might also consider 19.a5 Ba7 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Qxc4 Qxc4 22.Nxc4 with a slight edge to Black.

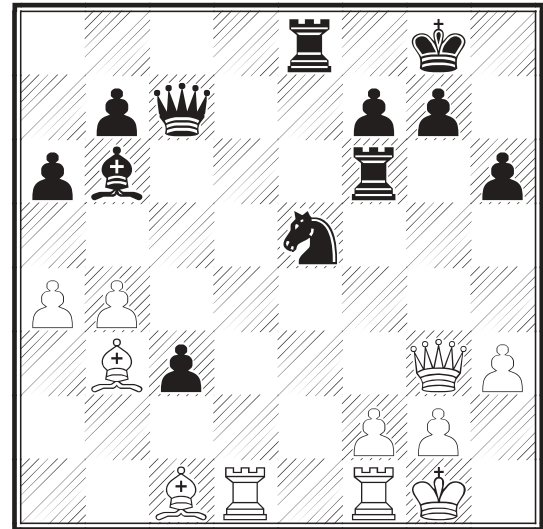
19...Bd7 20.Rad1 Bc6 21.Qh5 Bxe4

Fritz found a great tactic: If Black had played 21...c3, the pawn cannot

be captured by White. If 22.Bxc3 Bxe4 wins a piece, or if 22.Nxc3, Black has the fantastic 22...Nf3+!! The knight must be captured because of 23...Qh2 mate. Obviously, if 23.Qxf3 Bxf3 wins, or if 23.gxf3 Qg3+ wins the queen after 24.Kh1 Bxf3+.

22.Bxe4 c3 23.Bc1 Re6 24.Qf5 Ng6 25.Bd5 Rf6 26.Qg4 Re8 27.Bb3 Ne5 28.Qg3

Fritz now says it was time to play 28...c2. If 29.Rd2 Nf3+ wins the exchange, because White loses his queen because of the pin after 30.gxf3 Qxg3+. If 29.Rd5 Nf3+ 30.Kh1 (again, 30.gxf3 loses the queen) 30...Qxg3 31.fxg3 Nd2!! and White gets mated (watch this!) after 32.Rxf6 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Bg1+ 34.Kh1 Bf2+ 35.Kh2 Nf1+ 36.Kh1 Nxc3+ 37.Kh2 Rh1 mate! Time was running short on both sides, so I had to reconstruct the finish of the game. It may not be perfect, but it gives a good idea of what happened.



28...Rg6 29.Qf4 Re7

Black does have time to play 29...Qc6. If 30.Rd5 Nd3! 31.Qf3 Ne1! hitting the queen and g2. Or White can forfeit a pawn with 30.Bd5 Qxa4.

30.Be3 Rf6

30...c2 still wins. If 31.Rc1 Qc6 32.f3 Nd3. Or if 32.g4 Nf3+ and things look nasty for White.

31.Qg3 Nf3+

You guessed it, Fritz liked 31...c2 32.Rc1 Nf3+ 33.Kh1 Qxg3 34.fxg3 Rxe3. Black remains a piece up after 35.gxf3 Rxb3. Similar to play in the earlier lines, if White plays 33.gxf3 then Qxg3+.

32.gxf3

With about thirty seconds on my clock, I judged this to be the lesser of two evils. I rejected 32.Kh1 Qxg3 33.fxg3 Rxe3 34.gxf3 Rxf3.

32...Rg6??

Any other day in the week (no, make that any other day in the year) this would have worked for Rodion. I was expecting 32...Qxg3+ 33.fxg3 Rxe3, which is still winning for Black. Rubenchik only had about nine seconds when he made this move.

33.Qxg6

I was in so much shock by the change in events that I did not know how much material I was up!

33...c2 34.Qxc2

Desperately hoping for 34.Bxc2?? fxg6.

34...Qe5 35.Bxb6 Qg5+ 36.Kh1

36.Kh2 would needlessly expose the king to checks.

36...Re5 37.Rd8+ 1:0

In my own time pressure, I almost played 37.Qc8+, with the idea of 38.Qg4, but this wins instantly.

This win made me the only person with a 4-0 score and guaranteed me a tie for first place. Weissbarth defeated Minear, giving them both three points. Phillips, after losing in the first round, won his third game in a row against Yiran Zhang, who was having a great tournament herself.

It all came down to the final round. Minear-Mucerino was the marquee matchup. My Center Counter Defense gave me equality for much of the game, but I blundered in time pressure and Minear trapped one of my knights. Weissbarth beat Sejko, who had one three in a row. Perhaps the most shocking result was that Rubenchik lost again, this time with white against Phillips. So, there was a four-way tie for first between (in tiebreak order) Minear, Weissbarth, Phillips, and myself. I became the first repeat winner of the Open section; I also tied for first in the inaugural edition in 2003.

Matthew Slesinski had a great result in sweeping the U1500 section 5-0. He was only one of two players in any section to go undefeated (David Sosenko, in the same section, scored one win and four draws). There was a logjam of winners in the U900 section, with Manuel Sepp, Kimmy Ding, Tim Mamrol, Michael Miller and Andrew Jones all scoring four points.

For those who weren't able to make the tournament and who wish to make a donation please make checks payable to "The Philadelphia Foundation" with "Holly Heisman Memorial Fund" in the memo field and mail them to The Philadelphia Foundation, 1234 Market Street Suite 1800, Philadelphia PA 19107.

150th Allentown Second Saturday Quads

ALLENTOWN, 8/12/2006 - There was heavy attendance for this very special occasion at Allentown, the 150th edition of their very popular quads. In fact, there were thirty-seven players, nearly equaling the record of thirty-nine, and a long way from the only eight players who played in the first edition back on December 18, 1993, when it was known as the "Allentown Third Saturday Cash Quads 1". Before play began, there was an awards ceremony honoring the players who had the best score each year, and three very prestigious prizes for the iron men (or women) who religiously attended the first 142 editions of this event (2006 was not included since the year is not over). Greg and Sascha Fink returned after a few years' absence to give out the following prizes:

Most points scored by year:

- 1994: Tim Warren (includes the quad in 1993)
- 1995: Jeff Faust
- 1996: Bob Dawson
- 1997: Jeff Faust and David Locke
- 1998: Matthew Traldi
- 1999: Jack Mongilutz
- 2000: Greg Fink
- 2001: Jack Mongilutz
- 2002: Jack Mongilutz (the most points of any of the annual winners with 24½ points).
- 2003: Jack Mongilutz
- 2004: Dan Yeager and Chris Rhodes
- 2005: Larry Tremmel and Michael Kagel

Most 3-0 Scores: Jack Mongilutz with 18.

Most Points Overall: Jack Mongilutz with 181 points out of a possible 297 in 99 quads.

Top Attendance: David Elliott played in 120 out of the first 142 quads.

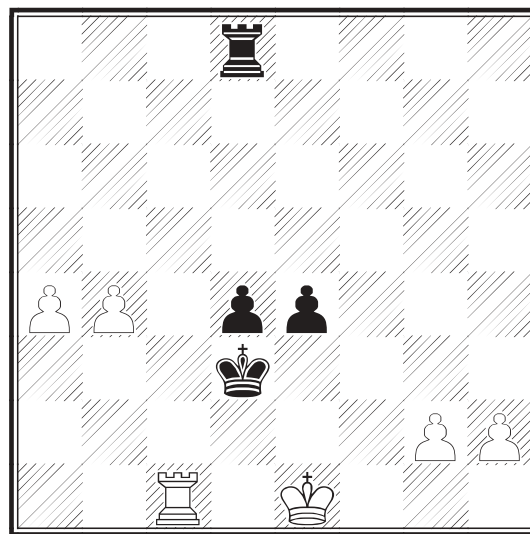
Eric Johnson directed this event as well as the very first quad back in 1993 (He did not direct all 150 editions, however). The winners of the 150th quads were Quad 1: Richard Blank; Quad 2: Phil Rizzo; Quad 3: Ronald Rausch and Donahue Scott; Quad 4: Mark Knerr and Erica McLaughlin; Quad 5: Larry Cesare; Quad 6: Steve McLaughlin, Jr.; Quad 7: Laverne Gildner; Quad 8: Yiran Lin; Quad 9: Luis Vargas.

I had an interesting endgame in round 1:

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Jack Mongilutz

150th Allentown 2nd Saturday Quads, Rd 1, Allentown, 8/12/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.



Mongilutz and I both only had about 90 seconds left, so of course we both were going to make gross errors. I had Fritz play five games against itself, and White scored 60% (+2 -1 =2). One of those five games ended King versus King: 42.b5 Ke3 43.h4 d3 44.Rb1 Rf8 45.Rb3 Rf2 46.b6 Ra2 47.Rb1 d2+ 48.Kd1 Kf2 49.Rb4 e3 50.Rf4+ Kxg2 51.Ke2 Ra1 52.Rg4+ Kh3 53.Rd4 Re1+ 54.Kf3 d1=Q+ 55.Rxd1 Rxd1 56.a5 Rb1 57.h5 Rb5 58.h6 Rxa5 59.b7 Rf5+ 60.Kxe3 Rf8 61.Kd4 Rb8 62.h7 Kg4 63.Ke5 Kf3 64.Kd6 Rh8 65.Kc7 Rxh7+ 66.Kc8 Rh8+ 67.Kc7 Ke4 68.b8=Q Rxb8 69.Kxb8 ½-½.

42.Ra1?

I misjudged the position. I thought that Black's pawns were more threatening, because they were farther advanced than my queenside pawns, they were supported by the Black king, and Black has the Rook behind the d-pawn. White "has a promising position" after 42.a5. And 42.b5 must be pretty good too, since that is the move Fritz played against itself above.

42...Kc2

With equality, according to the computer. Not with a minute and a half on the clock it's not!

43.Ke2?

This should give Black the game. After 43.Ra2+ Kb3 44.Ra1 d3 the position is still equal according to Fritz. Probably because Black's King has moved away from the pawns.

43...Rf8?

Black wins with 43...d3+ 44.Ke3 d2.

44.a5?

44.Ra2+ is still equal, as in the note to White's previous move.

44...e3

Winning.

45.a6

45.Ra2+ no longer saves the game because of 45...Kc3 46.Ra3+ Kc4, when Black has threats such as 47...Rf2+ or 47...Kxb4.

45...Rf2+ 46.Ke1 Rxc2??

A very costly sortie. 46...d3 (threatening 47...d2 mate) ends the game after 47.Ra2+ Kc1 48.Rxf2 d2+ 49.Rxd2 exd2+ 50.Kf2 d1=Q.

47.Ra2+ Kc1 48.Rxc2 d3 49.a7??

Giving up half a point. The correct idea is to protect the queening square with 49.Rg1!, so that after 49...d2+ 50.Ke2+ the d1-square is covered. If Black's pawn was already on d2 and White's King was already on e2, this would have been a very obvious move, but, in time pressure, I missed it.

49...d2+ 50.Rxd2 exd2+ 51.Kf2 d1=Q 52.a8=Q 1/2:1/2

and the game was eventually drawn because I could not use my Queen to cover Black's checks. This was confirmed by Fritz.

30th Pittsburgh Summer Open

PITTSBURGH, 8/27/2006 - A fairly large crowd of thirty-four players, made up of a nice mix of local players and out-of-towners, participated in this long running event. These were advertised as octos, but if someone withdrew or took a 1/2-bye, a houseman was added to the section.

Nicholas Barber, returning from Tennessee, easily swept the top octo a point and a half in front of the pack. His path went through Don Meigs, Bryan Johnson, your author, and Franklin Chen. Jacob Oet of Ohio also posted a perfect score in Octo B, and picked up fifty-three rating points against the strong but underrated group of Adam Ratana, Kevin Mo, Edwin Borden, and Hibiki Sakai. The bottom two octos had ties, with Joshua Mankey and Kevin Gaughen splitting C and James Imes, Mikhail Oet, and William Hoppmann sharing Octo D.

Clarks Summit Third Saturday Quads

CLARKS SUMMIT, 9/16/2006 - It is very difficult to find a chess tournament north of Interstate 80 these days, especially on the weekend. So when I saw this quad, I knew that I had to play in it. A lack of tournaments does not mean that there is a lack of players. An enthusiastic sixteen players were all surprised that there were four quads in this inaugural edition. It is extremely easy to get to Clarks Summit; it is right off exit 194 of Interstate 81 and it is at the very end of the Northeast Extension heading north.

Most of the games were very closely contested. Pat Walker and I drew each other in round one and we both won our other two games to tie for first. Michael Kagel won quad two, Antonio Scalzo won a ten dollar bonus on top of his \$35 prize for sweeping quad three, and Edward Buisch and James LaBarr shared top honors in quad 4.

Director David Lee was delighted with the turnout, and he will begin to direct third Saturday events in the future. He prepared a survey for the players asking what time control, type of event (quad, Swiss, match)

**Carlisle Open & Pennsylvania Collegiate Championship
March 3 & 4, 2007
Carlisle**

and day(s) of the week they preferred. I do not know the results at press time, but I am sure we will find out as time will go on. There will be no event in December (presumably because it is too close to the holidays), but otherwise there should be a monthly event. If you cannot find an event advertised in *Chess Life*, David Lee's contact information can be found in our club listings under Peckville.

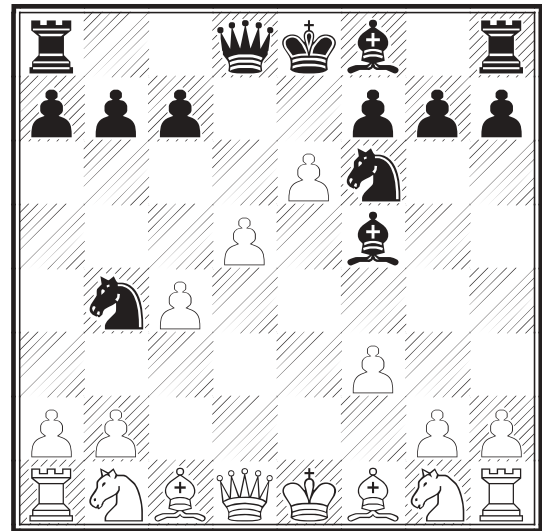
Bucks County Renaissance Faire Quads

WRIGHTSTOWN, 9/17/2006 - A Renaissance Faire is a very unusual place to hold a chess tournament, but of course that did not stop your roving reporter from attending. Wrightstown is located north of Philadelphia, but just enough north that it is in the middle of nowhere. Since the tournament was a part of the faire, the building we played in had its two large doors open so that people could come in and spectate. Yes, we could hear all of the noise from outside, which made the tournament somewhat informal, but the eight players all had a good time. Dan Yeager and Brian Bucher were the winners of the two quads, and they both won via the 3-0 route.

Ari M. Oxman - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Bucks County Renaissance Faire, Rd 2, Wrightstown, 9/17/2006
Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.c4 e6 6.dxe6 Nc6 7.d5 Nb4

**8.exf7+?**

White is asking for trouble when he captures on f7 in this line. White may be up two pawns, but he has not yet moved a piece, while Black is way ahead in development, and a rook will land on e8 to boot. Some sources say that White is lost after capturing on f7. I will not go quite that far, but White will have to survive a severe attack in order to win.

8...Kxf7 9.Na3 Bc5 10.Bf4 Re8+ 11.Kd2 Nfxd5!

Black must keep the attack going!

12.cxd5 Qxd5+ 13.Kc3

No help is 13.Kc1 Nxa2+ 14.Rxa2 Qxd1+ 15.Kxd1 Rad8+ 16.Kc1 Re1#

13...Nxa2+!

A very unusual way to win White's Queen.

14.Rxa2 Qxd1 15.Bc4+ Be6 16.Nh3 Bd4+ 17.Kb4 a5+ 18.Kb5 c6# 0:1

North Penn Chess Club Membership Drive

LANSDALE, 9/8-10/6/2006 - The NPCC's big Friday night event was once again a five-round Swiss beginning on the Friday after Labor Day. It effectively serves as the club championship. There were only twenty-two players this year. A few players have moved away, and a few of the stronger players did not attend. The two most notable absentees were Curtis Schwartz (2107), who tied for second place last year, and Tony Koppany, who finished with 3½/5 last year, and, at age 88, is the oldest active player in Pennsylvania, now that the 89 year old Peter Chopping has been inactive since January 2005. Watch out for Koppany though. His current rating of 1866 is the second highest it has been in six years!

The favorites to win this year were the defending champion Nigel Mitchell, your author, expert Eric Funk, and Preston Ladson, who has been playing well recently. Terry Thomasco, a class A player who has returned to chess after a long layoff, could also possibly factor into the final results.

In round one, 2000 and 2003 winner Funk was held to a draw by another veteran, Roy Eikerenkoetter. Thomasco took a half point bye, but the biggest surprise was Robert Kampia being held to a draw by Jeffrey Kleinfeld. John Frisk played very well against me, but instead of making a simple draw, he played a more complicated line and lost a piece. Mitchell and Ladson also opened with wins. Mitchell then took two half point byes, which hurt his chances of winning the tournament. Things did not get better for Funk in round two, as he was again held to a draw, this time by Joseph Kennedy. Ladson drew his buddy William Duley, and I had a tough win against Stephen Brod, which surprisingly gave me the only perfect score after two rounds. About half of the games in round two were drawn, including Thomasco's game with Eikerenkoetter.

The big showdown at the halfway mark was Ladson-Mucerino. Only a few weeks earlier, I lost to Ladson for the first time in six years at a MasterMinds quad. Ladson tried to make it two straight, but we traded off the pieces for a steadily played draw. Thomasco scored his first victory against Kleinfeld. Fast improving Father Joseph Farrell beat Kennedy to give him 2½ points and a share of the lead. Duley beat Don Funk to join the leaders, and Eric Funk took a half-point bye and was now out of the running. Roy Eikerenkoetter defeated Jonathan Rumpf to keep himself in contention.

Mitchell was back in the lineup in round four and beat Duley. Ladson beat Brod, Thomasco defeated Kampia, and Eikerenkoetter continued his good tournament against Don Funk. I was white against Father Farrell, who has given me problems in all three of our previous encounters (I scored +1 =2). Again, Farrell put up great resistance. In a double-edged position, where we both had passed pawns, Farrell missed the fact that he was in check and made a rook move. He had to retract that move of course, and he did have a legal move with the rook to block the check, but since I could capture the rook with a pawn, Farrell resigned. I don't think it was a case of divine intervention, but one never knows.

Entering the final round, the scores were: Mucerino 3½, and Ladson, Mitchell, Thomasco, and Eikerenkoetter all had three points. Mitchell-Mucerino was the featured matchup, and since I had never defeated Mitchell with black before, I decided a draw would be a good result. Mitchell built up a great attack, and I was sure I was going to lose. Having being squashed by Brian Polka the night before in the Chaturanga Chess Club Championship, it looked like I was going to

score two goose eggs in as many days. Mitchell could have won my h-pawn, but he decided against it, because some pieces would come off the board and his attack would not be nearly so strong. A very long and stressful game ensued. With the heavy pieces still on the board and time running down in the first time control, Mitchell moved his king into the center. I was able to win a pawn and simplify into a position where I had a rook, two e-pawns and a f-pawn, against Mitchell's rook and pawns on g2 and h2. He offered a draw. I thought I had some winning chances (although it would have been very difficult), so I looked at the other key games. Thomasco-Ladson was drawn, and Eikerenkoetter was about to lose to Farrell, so I accepted the draw that gave me first place, and my third win in the NPCC Membership Drive, to add to my victories in 2001 and 2002. It was one of those rare times when four points gives you clear first in a five round Swiss. Ladson, Mitchell, Thomasco, and Farrell all tied for second with 3½ points.

ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament

PHILADELPHIA, 10/7/2006 - Okay, let me define what we are talking about here. This is the After School Activities Partnership (a program in Philadelphia public schools) - Pennsylvania State Chess Federation (your beloved state chess organization) - Community College of Philadelphia (the playing venue) Tournament. Got it? Good.

This is the first of six events that Dr. Ira Riddle will be running at the CCP during the school year. The events will have several scholastic sections, rated and non rated, and rated quads for adults. There were only six players in the quads, so there was a Swiss, with Leteef Street and I sharing first. Dandridge Worthington swept the eight player Scholastic Open section 4-0, and Christian Trinidad did the same in the seven player Scholastic U800 section. The non-rated section was quite large with sixty-three players, thanks to the success of the after school program. Kyle Tribble was the big winner with a perfect 5-0 score. Mosheh Ivey and Mast Baum tied for second a half point back, and nine players scored four points.

PA State Action Championship

PITTSBURGH, 10/14/2006 - This year's edition of the action championship began quite predictably, when the four highest rated players, NM Mark Eidemiller, NM Tom Magar, Franklin Chen, and your author were the only perfect scores after three rounds. The four met in round four. Eidemiller-Mucerino should have been an easy win for white, but I hung in there. Mark fell short on time, and could not find the win that had to be there. He then forced a draw by repetition. Franklin Chen beat Magar to move into sole position of first place. In the final round, he beat Eidemiller with black to take the title and add it to the G/29 title he won in April. Magar beat me to tie with Andrew Miller and Robbie Kleinmuntz for second place with four points. Adonis Turner had a perfect 5-0 performance in the scholastic section.

2006 Greater Philadelphia MS/HS Championship

ARDMORE, 11/5/2006 - Over 100 students participated at the 2006 Greater Philadelphia Middle School and High School Chess Championship held at Lower Merion High School on Nov. 5. Players from four states participated in this event, which determines the area middle school and high school individual and team champions. The sponsors of this event were the Ardmore Rotary, Main Line Speech Ltd., M&T Bank, and host Lower Merion HS.

The clear winner in the High School Championship section was Teme Sejko of Central HS. Sejko was one of three players with a perfect score entering the final round. On top board, eighth grader Andrew Shvartsman of Medford Memorial Middle School and 2005-06 PA Middle School Champion Josh Bowman (of Wissahickon HS but representing Montgomery County Youth Chess Club) also were 3-0, but finished 2nd and 3rd respectively after playing to a hard-fought draw. Top-rated expert and 2005 US Amateur Team East Champion Dan Yeager was upset in the first round by freshman Ben Fisher, with Fisher eventually finishing fourth and Yeager 8th. The top school trophy went to Pocono Mountain East, in a close race over defending state champion Conestoga. The top club trophy went to Montgomery County Youth Chess Club.

In the High School U1100 section the winner was Yutong Wang of host Lower Merion High School. Wang and four other Lower Merion residents won savings bonds donated by sponsor Ardmore Rotary. Walter Fu of Radnor HS finished in second place. The Top School prize was won by Lower Merion High School, beating out its district rival Harriton High School.

The Middle School section was won by seventh grader Matt Slesinski of Cedarbrook, representing the Montgomery County Youth Chess Club. Slesinski edged out fourth grader (!) Odette Moolten, who represented Masterminds Chess Club. Tied with Moolten for 2nd-7th was Lenny Wainstein of Masterman MS, Udit Gupta of Thomas Grover MS in NJ, David Lakata of Murray Avenue MS, Jacob Kelly of Masterman, and Isaac Cohen, representing Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors. Masterman won the team honors, closely followed by Murray Avenue and Strath Haven MS. The club prize ended in a tie between Montgomery County Youth Chess Club and Masterminds Chess Club, with the former taking the trophy on tiebreak.

- Dan Heisman

Denker Invitational of High School Champions By Daniel A. Yeager

The Denker Invitational tournament was a good experience and different from most other tournaments. The time controls were very long, 3 hours for each player. I was able to meet many different people from different states and almost everyone there was friendly. (*Daniel qualified by winning the PA State Scholastic Championship in Carlisle last March. - editor.*)

Daniel A. Yeager - Tony X. Chen

Denker Invitational, Round 3, Oakbrook, Illinois, 8/8/2006

Annotations by Daniel A. Yeager

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.h3 Bd7 8.Ne2 e5!? 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Qxe5 11.c3 O-O-O
At this point I thought I had a bad position. Black is better developed and is ready to exploit the pin along the d-file.

12.Qc2 g5?

I was surprised at this move. This stops Bf4, but it allows a new idea of transferring the Bishop to e3 and then d4, which is very good positionally for White. Black is then caught in a pin and White can increase the pressure by playing his Knight to g3 with threats of continuing to any of e4, f5 or h5.

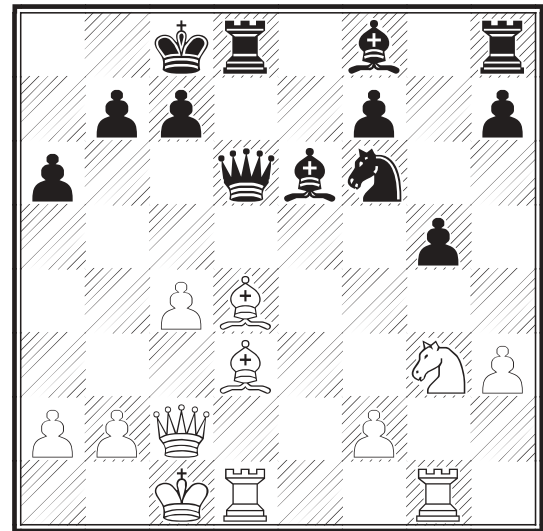
13.Be3 Bc6 14.Bd4 Qe7 15.O-O-O Bxg2 16.Rhg1?

I should have simply played 16.Rhe1.

16...Bd5

16...Bxh3? loses to 17.Bf5+ Bxf5 18.Qxf5+.

17.Ng3 Qd6 18.c4 Be6



19.Nf5

19.Bxf6 Qf4+ would be horrible for White. The pin on the Knight is White's compensation for his pawn, and at the moment it seems to be worth more than that pawn.

19...Qf4+ 20.Be3 Qe5 21.Bxg5 Rxd3?!

Black actually had a surprising option in 21...Rg8. If 22.Bxf6 (A better choice would be 22.f4 Qc5 23.Rge1 with advantage.) 22...Qxf6 then 23.Rxg8 Bh6+ 24.Nxh6 Qxh6+ wins back the Rook.

22.Qxd3 Bc5 23.Rge1!

Winning a piece via the fork on move 26.

23...Qxf5 24.Qxf5 Bxf5 25.Bxf6 Rg8 26.Re5 1:0

Robert M. Lao - Daniel A. Yeager

Denker Invitational, Round 2, Oakbrook, Illinois, 8/7/2006

Annotations by Daniel A. Yeager

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.O-O Nf6 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.c3 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Rd1 Be7

I thought that 9...dxc3 was risky because my Queen would be misplaced on d7, White would have a big lead in development, and the pawn advance to e5 could become a major threat.

10.Nxd4

I thought 10.cxd4 was more natural, but then 10...d5 11.e5 Ne4 would be a pretty good position for Black.

10...O-O 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 a6 13.c4 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc6

A good square from which the Queen eyes both White pawns on c4 and e4.

15.a4?

Losing a pawn.

15...g5 16.Bg3 e5 17.Rd1 Qxe4 18.Qf1 Rac8 19.b3 Ne8?

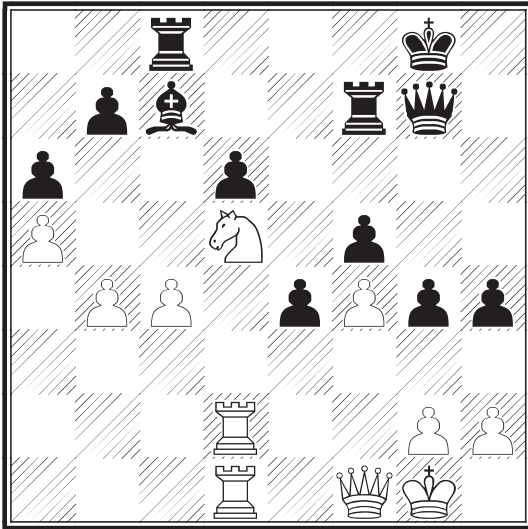
I chose the wrong plan of action. I thought that if I let White trade knights, I couldn't get anything going and it would be a draw. However, this is worse because his Knight is much stronger than either of my minor pieces and White is actually better, even though down a pawn. I should instead have exchanged when his Knight reached d5. Better was 19...Nh5 or 19...Qc2.

20.Nc3 Qg6 21.Nd5 Bd8 22.f3 f5 23.Ra2 h5 24.Bf2 Rf7 25.Rad2

It is hard to see where Black went wrong. It seems that he is still better with an extra pawn and a kingside attack, but that White Knight on d5 is just waiting to show his true worth.

25...g4 26.f4!

I did not see this idea. Now White achieves a positional advantage due to the fact that he has more squares that he can occupy.
26...e4 27.b4 h4 28.Bd4 Ng7 29.Bxg7 Qxg7 30.a5 Bc7



31.Qe1!

White could have won a pawn with 31.Nxc7 Rfxc7 32.Rxd6 and if 32...Rxc4 33.Rd8+ Kh7 34.R1d7 Rc1 35.Rxg7+ Kxg7 36.Rd1 then White is winning. However, Black could refrain from taking the c-pawn and then would have finally gotten rid of that potent Knight on d5.

31...Bd8 32.Qe2

Understandably White does not want a draw. His pieces are much better placed than their Black counterparts.

32...Qh6 33.Rc2 h3 34.g3 Qg7 35.Kf1 Kf8 36.Qe3 Rd7 37.Qd2 Rc6 38.Ne3 Qf6?

I should not have allowed White to exchange queens. He then wins by taking the f-pawn followed by the rest of Black's weak pawns on the kingside and in the center. In such positions with completely locked pawns, the knight is much stronger than even a 'good' bishop. A better move was 38...Qg6.

39.Qd4 Kf7 40.Qxf6+ Kxf6 41.Rd5

With the coming win of the f-pawn, White has a large advantage. And he still has that d5 outpost available for his Knight's eventual return.

41...b6 42.Rxf5+ Ke6 43.Rh5 bxa5 44.bxa5 Re7 45.Nf5 Rb7??

This loses easily. 45...Rc5! was a better try.

46.Nd4+ Kd7 47.Rh7+!

Simplifying the position.

47...Kc8 48.Rxb7 Kxb7 49.Nxc6

This endgame is an easy win for White.

49...Kxc6 50.f5 Bg5 51.Rb2 Bd8 52.Ke2 Bxa5 53.f6 Kd7 54.Rb7+ Ke8 55.Ke3 Bc3 56.f7+ Kf8 57.Kxe4 Bf6 58.Kf5 Be5 59.Ke6 d5 60.Kxe5 d4 61.Kf6 d3 62.Rb8# 1:0

Coaches Corner: Improving Your Calculation Technique!

by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

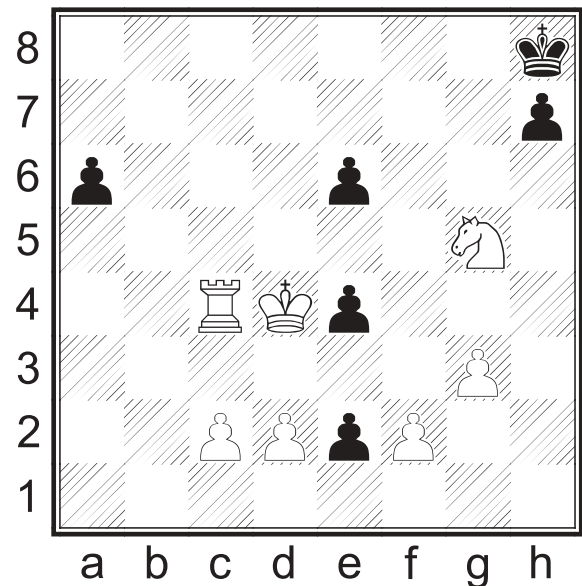
The common theme in the feedback that I am getting from those who took my Evaluation Exam is how shocked they are with their rating estimate in the **Calculation** subcategory. With those who submitted their results for my personal review or had a phone training session with me, I was able to investigate further.

I've discovered many different issues, some specific to the person and some general enough to be applied to everyone. I'd like to share with you today one of these common issues. Humans can't compete with pure calculators, whether mathematical or chess, without certain strategies, rules, principles, and standard ideas that can help the "mechanics" of their calculation. I am calling it a personal "knowledge base". The bigger your knowledge base is, the easier it will be for you to calculate. As you will:

- discover candidate moves much faster;
- eliminate the less promising lines more easily; and
- assess the position at the end of each variation more accurately.

I recently came across this position :

White to move



What do you think? Take 15 to 20 minutes and then compare your ideas with mine.

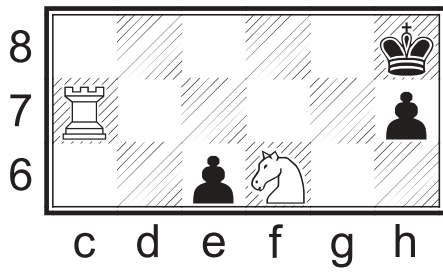
Let's take a look together now:

- Quick Assessment: White is dominating materially, but can't stop Black's e-pawn.
- Ideas: Attack the Black King while also seeking ways to catch the e-pawn.
- Candidate Moves: Nxe6, Rc8+. Let's start calculating...

Well, if these were your initial steps (precisely in the order shown) - excellent. I would say you were thinking at Expert to Master level. Although it is not likely lead you to a solution of this clever study. One can easily get lost in the lines with multiple ideas of White and Black. For example: good for White is **1.Nxe6 Kg8 2.Rc8+ Kf7 3.Ng5+ Ke7 4.Nf3!! exf 5.Rc5 e1-Q 6.Re5+ winning**. And not so good is **1.Nxe6 h6 2.Rc8 Kh7 3.Rc7 Kh8 =**. But wait, in this second line, what about **2. Nc5 e1-Q 3.Nxe4** ? How to assess this position...Oh, my head is spinning...

What is missing? Finding **the idea of getting the White King involved** while letting Black promote his e-pawn to a Queen and then even making some Queen moves.

When I studied this position, **1. Ke5** was one of my original candidate moves and was the first one that I studied. White is planning to meet **1...e1-Q** with **2.Kf6**. The problem is **2... Qxf2+** breaking the mating



Here is something to add to your “knowledge base”. This is the one potential mating position from Knight + Rook vs. King. There are no other mating setups to use as a spring board in calculation in this particular example. And this one can’t be reached without Black’s cooperation! And since you shouldn’t expect your opponent to cooperate, you’ll need to look for ways for your King to help in the attack.

setup. And there is no way, even at the expense of the Knight (3. Nf3 Qxf3+) to stop it. Oops... at the expense of Knight.... Hmm... So I don’t really need the Knight, as long as I can play Kf6. How about 1.Nf3 ? Not just trying to give up the Knight, but rather trying to block the f-file.

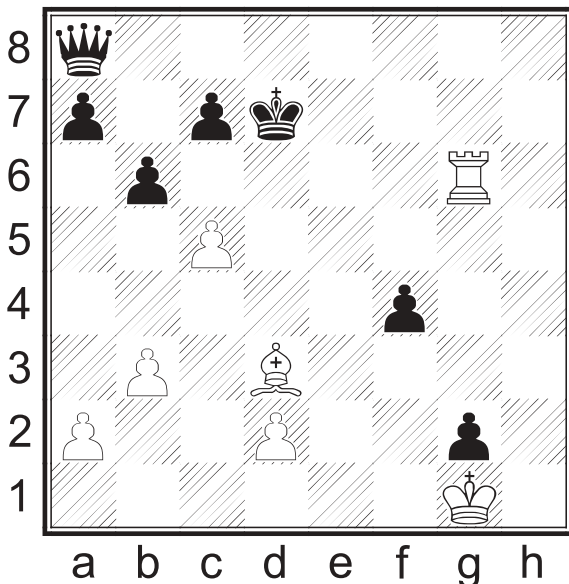
The rest is an easy calculation: 1...exf2 2.Ke5 e1-Q (else 3.Re4) 3.Kf6 Qa1+ (3...h6 4.Kg6) 4.d4! (4.c3? h6 5.Kg6 Qb1+) h6 5.Kg6

This is a study by Platov brothers (Vasily and Mikhail) published in 1924. It is also probably busted because of the possible second solution (a no-no for studies!) after 1.Nxe6 h6 2.Nc5 and 3.Nxe4 when White might have practical winning chances.

A very difficult study! Probably impossible to solve, unless you search for ideas first.

Well, now that you know to look for ideas before starting to calculate, see what you can do with this one:

White to move



What do you think? Take 15 to 20 minutes and then compare your ideas with mine.

Ideas: Bad Queen => attack the King and also look for pins and skewers. Candidate moves (‘checks’): 1.c6, 1.Bf5, 1.Bb5 1.Rg7.

Using the process of elimination, I find that the best bet is 1.Rg7+ Ke6 (only!) 2.Rg8!! Qf3 (2...Qxg8 3.Bc4+ is hopeless) 3.Be2 and anywhere the Queen goes, she can’t find peace.

Unlike the Platovs’ study - this one is ‘clean’ with nice tactical ideas!

Remember to search for ideas before going deep into calculation! It can make your life much easier! Also, aim your training at expanding your knowledge base!

(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, please contact IM Igor Khmel'nitsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

Prison Chess

by FM Alex Dunne

Chess is one of the few contacts that many prisoners have with the Free World (non-prison people). The play can be spotty, as many prisoners have little chess experience. Their one advantage is time to think. Lots and lots of time. Here the time is not enough.

Alex Dunne - B. Byrnes

Correspondence, 2006

Annotations by Alex Dunne

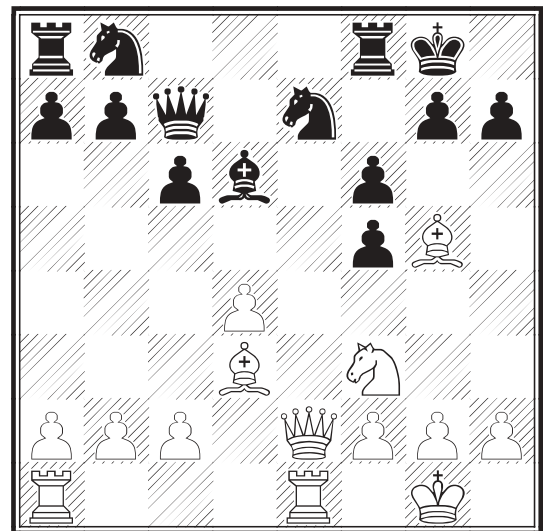
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 e6 6.Nxf5 exf5?! Black should play 6...Qa5+ 7. Bd2 Qxf5, but White has the smoother game and the two bishops.

7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bd3 Ne7 9.O-O Qd7

Black’s Queen is ill-placed here, taking away an important square from the knight on b8.

10.Re1 O-O 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Bg5 f6

Black has to let the f-pawn go. His reluctance to do so speeds up his loss. Best was 12...Re8 13. Bxf5 Na6 but White would be happy.



13.Bf4!

Black’s key piece is the Bishop on d6. With it gone, White invades Black’s position.

13...Bxf4 14.Qxe7 Qxe7 15.Rxe7 b6 16.Rae1

White has a wonderful position with all his pieces on strong squares. Still, it is a bit surprising how quickly Black’s game collapses.

16...Bd6 17.Nh4! a5

Black cannot take the Rook, 17...Bxe7 18. Bc4+ Kh8 19. Ng6+! hxg6 20. Re3 and White mates.

18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.R1e3 b5

Black allows the mate, but 19...Bf4 20. Rh3 Bh6 21. Nxf5 is too harsh for Black to contemplate.

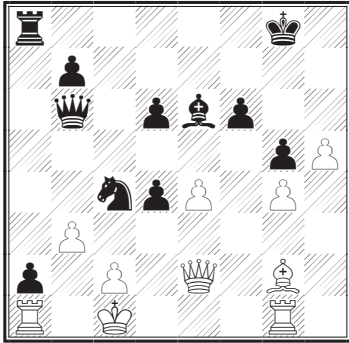
20.Ng6+ hxg6 21.Rh3# 1:0

Play It Forward

by **Ken Hamilton**

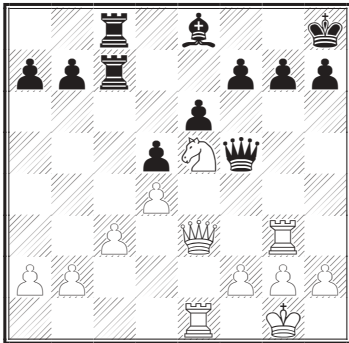
Your powers of visualization will (I hope) be severely tested by this issue's selection from games played over the course of the last 114 years.....

1. Jacques Mieses - Joseph H. Blackburne
DSB Kongress, Dresden, 1892



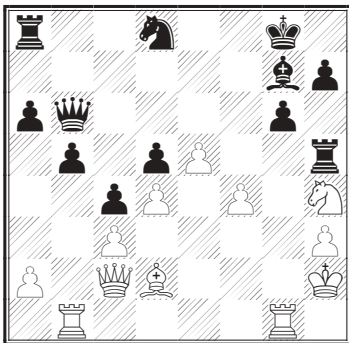
31... d3
32.cxd3 Qxg1+
33.Bf1 Bxg4
34.Qe1 ?

2. Joseph Blackburne - Mikhail Chigorin
Berlin, 1897



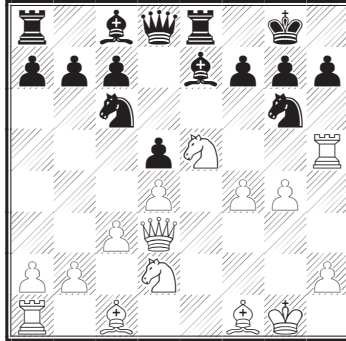
22.Qd2 h6
23.Ng4 Kh7
24.Ne3 Qe4
25. ?

3. Jose Capablanca - Joseph Blackburne
St Petersburg, 1914



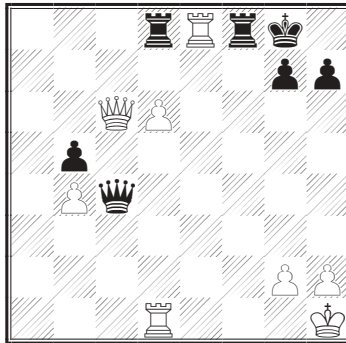
26.Nxg6 hxg6
27.Rxg6 Qb8
28.Rxg7+ Kxg7
29.Rg1+ Kf8
30. ?

4. Fox - Johann Bauer
Washington, 1901



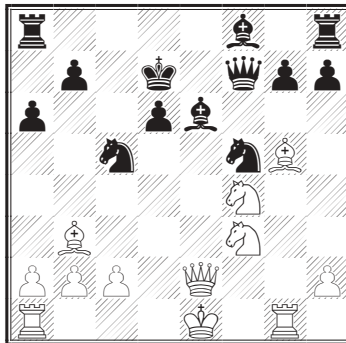
17.Ndc4 dxc4
18.Qxg6 hxg6
19. ?

5. Miguel Najdorf - Julio Bolbochan
Buenos Aires, 1948



35.Rxd8 Rxd8
36.Qb6 Rf8
37. ?

6. Robert J. Fischer - Jacek B. Bednarski
Olympiad, Havana, 1966

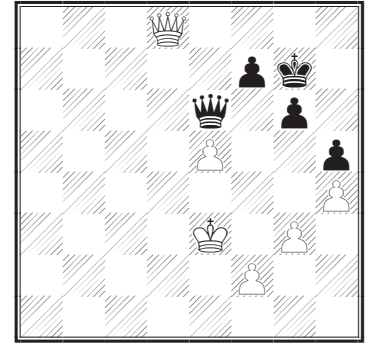


19.O-O-O Qe8
20.Bxe6+ Nx6
21. ?

(I'll make it really easy for you – here's a clue: look for loose pieces).

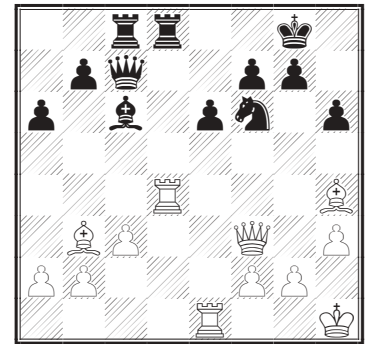
7. Viktor Korchnoi - Andrei M. Lukin
33rd Rilton Cup, Stockholm, 2003

Korchnoi amazed the ICC kibitzers in the following position - having engaged in queen maneuvering for nearly 50 moves....



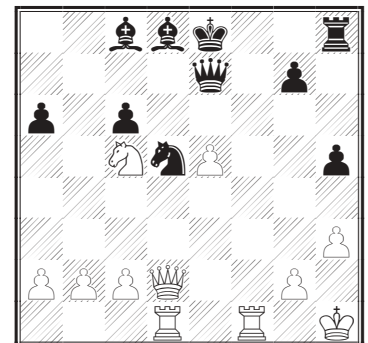
82. ?

8. Michael Adams - Evgeny Bareev
Corus, Wijk aan Zee, 1/17/2004



21.Qe3 Rxd4
22.Qxd4 Qd8
23.Bxf6 Qxf6
24.Qxf6 gxf6
25. ?

9. Alexei Shirov - Ivan Sokolov
Corus, Wijk aan Zee, 1/20/2004



23.Ne4 Qxe5
24.Rde1 Be7
25.c4 Bb4
26. ?

For solutions, see page 14.

So You Think You're The Only Chess Player Who Is Struggling To Keep Up With Main Line Opening Theory?

You're wrong! There are many like you, players who love a snappy game of chess, but who only have a limited amount of time to prepare. That's why we at New In Chess have created a convenient shortcut, so you can play the opening like a pro, without spending nearly all your free time trying to memorize stuffy theory.

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ChessToday

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Play It Forward Solutions (from page 12)

- 1. Mieses-Blackburne: 34... Qd4** and White is ruined.
- 2. Blackburne-Chigorin: 25.Rg4** and the Black Queen is trapped.
- 3. Capablanca-Blackburne: 30.Qg6.** There followed **Rxh3+ 31.Kxh3** and the notorious "Black Death" resigned, since nothing can be done to avoid mate in a few moves after **31...Qc8+** (or **31...Nf7**) **32.f5**.
- 4. Fox-Bauer:** Black paid for his greed in accepting the knight sacrifice on c4. **19.Nxg6** spells curtains after **19...fxg6 20.Bxc4+ Kf8 21.Rh8#**. Had Black captured the Queen with **18...fxg6** then **19.Bxc4+ Kf8 20.Nxg6+** followed by **Rh8#** - same deal.
- 5. Najdorf-Bolbochan:** Black could have lasted a few moves longer with **36...Qc8**, when **37.d7** wins, which is played anyway - **37.d7 Rf1+ 38.Qg1!**, since after **38....Rxg1+ 39.Kxg1** he has no way to stop **40.d8=Q**.
- 6. Fischer-Bednarski: 21.Qe4** Fischer: "Centralization with a vengeance!" Black continued **21...g6 22.Nxe6** and Black resigned, for "On **22...Qxe6 23.Qxb7+ Ke8 24. Rfe1!** wins everything."
- 7. Korchnoi-Lukin: 82.Qf6+!** Over the previous 47 moves both sides took turns in offering and avoiding the exchange of queens. Virtually every kibitzer on ICC with anything to say proclaimed the game drawn and continued to do so after Korchnoi forced the queen exchange, giving back his extra pawn in the process. However, after **82...Qxf6 83.exf6+ Kxf6 84.Kf4 Ke6** (no better was **84...Kg7 85.Ke5 Kh7 86.Kf6 Kg8 87.f4 Kf8 88.f5 gxf5 89.Kxf5**) **85.Kg5 Ke5 86.f3 Ke6 87.f4** Black resigned, for **87...Ke7** would be met by **88.f5** winning.
- 8. Adams-Bareev: 25.Rxe6** and Bareev resigned, considering the ending hopeless after **25...fxe6 26.Bxe6+ and 27.Bxc8**.
- 9. Shirov-Sokolov: 26.Nc3** goodbye Black Queen.

(Reprinted from the March 2004 *Chess IN Indiana*. For more information on the Indiana State Chess Association visit their website at <http://www.indianachess.org/portal/>)

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

January 20. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. Great Hall, Wynett Building, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA 19130 (2nd building south of the corner of 17th & Spring Garden). 4 Sections: **Open Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$50 to 1st in each quad. **Scholastic Open:** 3-SS (or 4-SS depending upon entries). G/60. EF: \$10. Trophies to Top 3 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Scholastic U800:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Trophies to Top 5 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Open Non-rated:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Not USCF-rated. Medallions to winners. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **All:** Reg: 8:30-9:30am. Rds 10am and then as quickly as possible. PSCF required \$5 except for ASAP students. \$5 entry fee discount for ASAP students. **Info:** Steve Shutt 215-978-6867, 215-299-3474.

February 3. 2007 Pennsylvania Open Team and Scholastic Team Championships - West. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Open Team Championship:** average rating U2200. 4-SS. G/75. EF: \$60/team by 1/26, \$80 later. Reg 9-9:30am. Rds 10am - 1pm - 4pm - 7pm. \$\$: (700/b16 teams, 350G): 250-100, U2000 \$95,

U1800 \$90, U1600 \$85, U1400 \$80, Trophies (4/team) for Top School, Top Scholastic Club. **Scholastic Reserve:** average rating U1200, don't have to attend same school. 5-SS. G/40. EF: \$40/team by 1/26, \$60 later. Reg 9-9:30am. Rds: 10am - 11:30am - 1pm - 2:30pm - 4pm. Trophies (4/team) for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Top U1000, Top U800. **All:** December 2006 ratings used. 4-player teams, no alternates. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/pateamwest/>, 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. Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

February 3. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. Great Hall, Wynett Building, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA 19130 (2nd building south of the corner of 17th & Spring Garden). 4 Sections: **Open Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$50 to 1st in each quad. **Scholastic Open:** 3-SS (or 4-SS depending upon entries). G/60. EF: \$10. Trophies to Top 3 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Scholastic U800:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Trophies to Top 5 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Open Non-rated:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Not USCF-rated. Medallions to winners. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **All:** Reg: 8:30-9:30am. Rds 10am and then as quickly as possible. PSCF required \$5 except for ASAP students. \$5 entry fee discount for ASAP students. **Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle Irlee@aol.com, 215-674-9049.

March 2 GPP:6 Pennsylvania (QC) 2007 Pennsylvania Quick Chess Championship. 6SS, G/10, T/D3. Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 3 sections, EF rec'd by 2/12: **Open:** \$12. **U1500:** \$10. **U1100:** \$8. \$5 (730G): **Open:** 175-100-50, U1800 \$45, U1600 \$40. **U1500:** 125-75-50, U1200 \$40, Unrated \$30. **U1100:** Trophies to 1st-5th, Top U800, Top U600, 1st-2nd Unr. **All:** EF: \$20 after 2/12, PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg: 6-6:30pm. Rd 1: 7pm. February 2007 Regular ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$65 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** paquick@pscfcchess.org W.

A Heritage Event
March 2 - 4. 2007 Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championships. 142 Trophies!! (With 107 Individual and 35 Team Trophies). Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 8 sections (Sat & Sun 3/3 & 4 unless indicated): EF: **K-3 Open:** (Sat 3/3 only) \$29. **K-6 U800:** (Sat 3/4 only) \$27. **K-9 U1000:** (Sun 3/4 only) \$27.25. **K-6 Open:** \$30.50. **K-8 Open:** \$31.50. **7-12 U1000:** \$28.50. **7-12 U1300:** \$29.50. **K-12 Open:** (Fri, Sat & Sun 3/2-4) \$32.50. **All:** EFs if rec'd by 2/12, \$10 more rec'd 2/13-2/26, \$20 more after 2/26. PSCF membership included. February 2007 ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. \$\$ for College scholarships (amount to be determined) for top boy and girl in K-12 Open, for Castle Camp (scholarships) & (if possible) 1st team, player in K-6, K-8 & K-12 Opens for Nationals, Denker, Polgar. Reg Fri 3/2 6-10pm, Sat 3/3 9:30-10:15am, at site entries on day of 1st rd get 1/2-bye. Send name, USCF ID & exp, section, grade, school/club, birthday, gender, address, phone, email + EF. \$5 charge for changes/refunds after 2/12. Rds (Sat 3/3 1-day sections): 5-SS. G/40 T/D5; 10-11:45-2-3:45-5:30; (Sun 3/

4 K-9 U1000): 5-SS. G/40, T/D5; 9-10:30-12:30-2-3:30; (2-day sections): 5-SS. G/90, T/D5; 10-2-5:30, 9-1. (Fri, Sat & Sun 3/2-4 K-12 Open): 6-SS. G/90, T/D5; 8, 10-2-5:30, 9-1. **Bughouse:** Reg until Sat 3/3 8:30pm. Rds begin Sat 3/3 8:45pm. EF: \$20/team. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$65 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** <http://www.pscfchess.org/pascholasticchamp/>, Steve McLaughlin: zugzwang1@erols.com 215-784-5938; Dan Heisman: danheisman@comcast.net 610-649-0750. W.

March 3 & 4 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2007 Carlisle Open & Pennsylvania Collegiate Championship. 5SS, G/90, T/D5. Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013, Exit 52A NB/Exit 52 SB off I-81, Exit 226 off PA Turnpike. 2 sections: **Open & U1500.** \$\$ (1260G): **Open:** 180-120, U2200 \$110, U2000 \$100, U1800 \$90, U1600 \$80; **U1500:** 150-100, U1400 \$90, U1200 \$85, U1000 \$80, Unr \$75. **All:** College Trophies: 1st-2nd in each section, 1st-2nd team (4 players combined over both sections). EF: \$29 rec'd by 2/12, \$39 after, PSCF \$5 OSA. Reg: 8:45-9:30pm. 10-2-5:30, 9-1. February 2007 ratings used. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd 2. **HR:** Mention "PA States" for best rate as early as possible; Hotel Carlisle & Convention Center 800-692-7315 \$65 (Stay at the tournament site!). **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. **Info:** carlisleopen@pscfcchess.org W.

March 17. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. Great Hall, Wynett Building, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA 19130 (2nd building south of the corner of 17th & Spring Garden). 4 Sections: **Open Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. EF: \$20. \$\$50 to 1st in each quad. **Scholastic Open:** 3-SS (or 4-SS depending upon entries). G/60. EF: \$10. Trophies to Top 3 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Scholastic U800:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Trophies to Top 5 per section. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **Open Non-rated:** 4-SS (or 5-SS depending upon entries). G/30. EF: \$5. Not USCF-rated. Medallions to winners. (Depending upon entries, this may be further divided into smaller sections). **All:** Reg: 8:30-9:30am. Rds 10am and then as quickly as possible. PSCF required \$5 except for ASAP students. \$5 entry fee discount for ASAP students. **Info:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle Iralee@aol.com, 215-674-9049.

April 1 GPP:6 Pennsylvania (QC) 2007 PA State Game/29 Championship. 5-SS. G/29. Ballroom, 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 3/24, \$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 3/24, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** PSCF required \$5 OSA. Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from both sections. Reg ends 10:30am. Rds 11am - 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm. **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. *Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

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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; 549 13th Ave; New Brighton PA 15066-1208; 412-908-0286; martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN

Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm

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) Univ of Pitt-Bradford Commons Building; Tues 8-11 pm

(2) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm

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, Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

DOUGLASSVILLE:

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

ERIE

Zurn 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

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

East Hills Rec Comm, 445 Schoolhouse Rd; Mon 6 pm, 814-255-8614

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

LOWER BURRELL

Volunteer Fire Co 3, 3255 Leechburg Rd; first Sun 2-4 pm, 724-448-7521

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 Griffin

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, 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 Noon-9 pm, Fri & Sat Noon-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

READING

Million Youth Chess Club; Olivets Boys & Girls Clubs; 677 Clinton, Mon 5-7; 1161 Pershing, Fri 6:30-8:30; 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

STATE COLLEGE

(1) PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 7 pm

(2) Schlow Library, 118 S Fraser St; Sun 2-5 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 6-9pm, 724-567-6580

WARMINSTER

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

WASHINGTON

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

WEST CHESTER

(1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Church, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm

(2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Room 112; Thurs 11 am - 2 pm

WILKES-BARRE

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

WYNCOTE

Montgomery 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/>