



Western PA Interscholastic Chess League by Bruce Leverett

For the 2006-7 season, the league adopted a format like that of the NFL, with regional sections ("North/West" and "East"). Each team played two matches against each of its section opponents, but only one match against each team from the other section. This added some complexity to the schedule, and I didn't know who was leading until the end of the season. In North/West, Fox Chapel and Upper St. Clair were tied in match points, with Fox Chapel getting the tie break by winning both their individual matches. This complete season was a milestone for Upper St. Clair, which has had talented players for years, but only this year managed to finish a full schedule. In the East, Central Catholic and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf were tied in match points, and also split their individual matches, each winning one match by a 3-2 score.

Final Standings

North/West		East	
Fox Chapel	6-1-0	Central Catholic	5-1-0
Upper St. Clair	6-3-0	Western PA School for the Deaf	5-2-0
Vincentian	3-3-0	Oakland Catholic	0-8-0
Quigley	1-8-0		

A Simul at Coal Township by John V. Waters

On January 27, 2007 at the State Correctional Institute at Coal Township, our chess club sponsored a simultaneous exhibition. We were very lucky to test ourselves against USCF-rated expert Vinko Rutar of Exton.

This was a first-time effort for both our club and Vinko, so we were not sure what would happen. We were limited to only about 2½ hours to complete the event that Saturday afternoon and we made every effort to be ready. Our Staff Advisor, Dan Diehl, along with our Chairs, Jim McKnight and Don Billman, knew that they could not anticipate all eventualities, but what could be done, would be done! The result was an exciting and fun event for all the participants. Our chess club would also like to thank Joe Mucerino, the PSCF's Roving Reporter, who was kind enough to pass on to Vinko our dire need for a sacrificial victim ... err, I mean chess player.

Our club picked 16 members to go up against our opponent. The rules were: Vinko would play white on all boards; He would make a move and then proceed to the next board; and When he returned, either you made your move or said "pass". If there was enough time, a second game with Vinko as black would be played.

Vinko Rutar - John V. Waters

Simultaneous Exhibition, Coal Township, 1/27/2007

Annotations by John V. Waters & Tom M. Martinak

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3

I had been trying to play a Nimzo-Indian, but that is no longer a possibility. I had not taken the time to completely prepare, so now I had to "wing it".

3...Nc6

With Black's plan to play d5, it would be better to do so immediately, developing the knight to d7 and leaving c6 for the c-pawn. That leaves the White Bishop "biting on granite".

4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.d4 Be6 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.O-O h6 9.a3

White needs to find a plan for developing his queenside bishop.

9...Ba5 10.Bd2 Bb6 11.e3 a6 12.Rc1 Qd7 13.Re1

Necessary to save his kingside bishop. If White is forced to trade his fianchettoed bishop, his King will be in serious danger.

13...Bh3 14.Bh1 Rd8 15.Na4 Ba7 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.Rxc5?

Better is 17.dxc5 giving the Bishop an eventual home on the a1-h8 diagonal. Black cannot open the center now with his King there.

7...Ne4

White's cornered white-squared bishop doesn't look all that good to me! And his dark-squared bishop gets much worse before it gets better.

18.Rc2 f6 19.Qc1 g5 20.Bc3 h5 21.Ree2 h4 22.Nd2 hxg3 23.fxg3 f5 24.Nxe4 fxe4 25.Rf2 Rf8 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Rf2+ Kg7 28.b4 b5

While this blocks in the bishop, it leaves the c-pawn backwards on a semi-open file. Better is to activate the knight, leaving the possibility of playing c6 and a solid queenside (with the base of the pawn chain safely hidden at b7).

29.Bd2 Ne7 30.Qc5 Qd6 31.Be1?

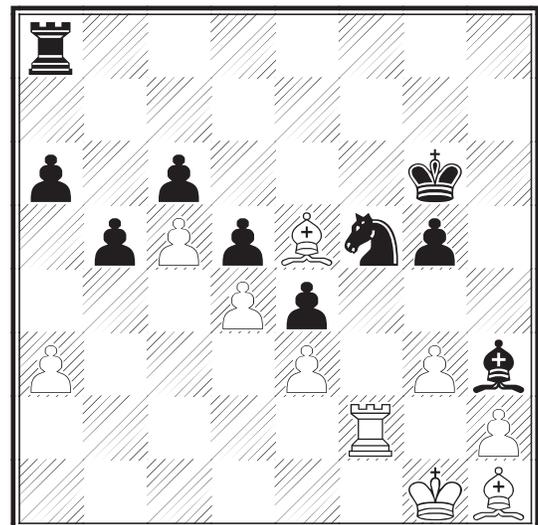
Going into the endgame favors the second player.

31...Qxc5

But it's probably better for Black to wait. If White trades, his bishop on e1 has no prospects.

32.bxc5 c6 33.Ba5 Ra8 34.Bc7 Kg6 35.Be5 Nf5

Now White is forced to play passive defense and the black knight will be significantly better than White's bad bishop. The two bishops are normally very strong, but they need an open board, not a locked pawn structure like here.



36.g4? ½:½

Due to the time, I offered Vinko a draw and he quickly agreed. I knew

the game couldn't be finished - Vinko had to leave - and I wanted to "score". I was happy to draw against an expert, even though Black has solid winning chances.

Vinko's final score was 10 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw with 3 games unfinished. No board went to a second game. Vinko said that he was losing on two of the unfinished games.

There was just enough time left to take pictures with Vinko and to begin planning our next encounter. Unfortunately I was transferred to another institution shortly thereafter, so I won't be able to play, but I did want to wish everyone else good luck in organizing another challenging event.

PA TODAY

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

Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship

LEMOYNE, 2/12-4/9/2007 - I made some personal history in this tournament. This was the first tournament that I won four years in a row. This year was very difficult; four of my opponents finished in the top five on the wallchart! My first round opponent, Tom Smith, was pretty easy, but then he went on a tear, won his last four games, and tied for second! Not bad for someone who finished with a minus score last year. In the second round I was paired with Michael Liebner, Sr., who I struggled to beat in the final round of last year's championship (see the August 2006 *Pennswoodpusher* for that game). I had black this time around, and my Center Counter gave me an advantage right out of the opening, but I could not figure out how to follow up. Liebner took advantage of my confusion and fought back, and it was anyone's game for a while. But, with both clocks running low on time, I won an exchange which I converted into a point. Liebner lost to the second-seed Vincent Waters in the final round, but won all of his other games to tie for fourth.

My biggest crisis came at the halfway mark, against Liebner's son, Michael Liebner II:

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Michael A. Liebner, II

HWSCC Championship, Rd 3, Lemoyne, 3/12/2007

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bg5 Bg4 4.c3 Nc6 5.e3 a6 6.Bd3 Qd7 7.h3 Bf5 8.Bf4 Bg7 9.Bxf5 gxf5 10.O-O f6 11.Bh2 e5 12.Nfd2 O-O-O

Finally, I have a clear target.

13.b4 Na7 14.a4 Qe6 15.Qe2 Ne7 16.Nb3 Rhg8 17.b5 Bh6 18.bxa6

Fritz suggests the even stronger 18.Nc5.

18...b6

The computer preferred recapturing with the Queen.

19.Kh1

Fritz wants to dive in with 19.a5, but I think I was afraid of 19...f4, and Black starts to get a bit of an attack.

19...f4 20.exf4 Rxf2?

This should not work, but it is easy for White to crack under the strain of an attack.

21.Kxg2 Rg8+ 22.Bg3??

Now White has big problems. Fritz says White is winning after 22.Kh1

Qxh3 23.f3 Bxf4 24.N1d2. It does not look like fun for White, but he should hold.

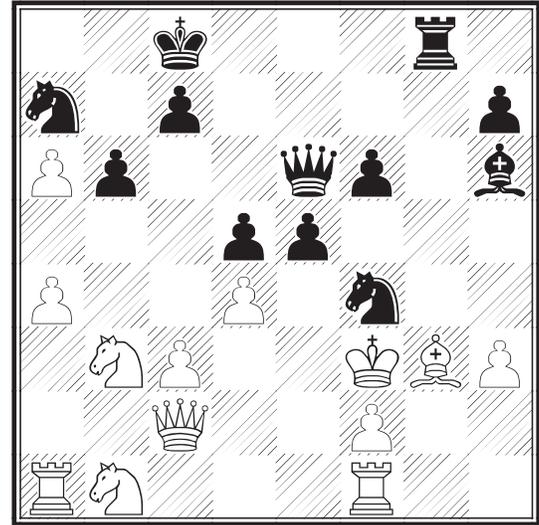
22...Ng6

This is the move I missed. Now Black is better.

23.Qc2??

Played after a long thought. Of course I did not want to be forked by 23...Nxf4, but the pawn on h3 was also a big worry for me. Fritz suggests the not so obvious 23.Kg1 Nxf4 24.Qf3, with advantage for Black.

23...Nxf4+ 24.Kf3



24...e4+

A computer line is 24...Qxh3 25.Ke3 Rxf3+ 26.Kd2 Nd3+ 27.Ke2 Re3+ 28.fxe3 Qg2+ 29.Kd1 Qxf1+ 30.Kd2 Qf2+ 31.Kxd3 Qxe3#.

25.Ke3 Qxh3 26.N1d2 Nd3+

Missing 26...Rxf3+, which terrified me. Now Fritz gives 27.fxg3 Qxg3+ 28.Rf3 Qg2 29.Nxe4 Nd3+ 30.Ng5 Bxg5+ 31.Rf4 Bxf4+ 32.Kxd3 Qf3#.

27.Ke2 Qg4+

27...Rxf3 is again strong.

28.f3 Qxf3 29.Kd1 Qh3 30.c4?? Qh2

We both missed the incredibly simple 30...dxc4 31.Qxc4 Nb2+. Since 31.Qxc4 is impossible, if White moves the Knight on b3, then 31...Bxd2 and 32...Qxf1.

31.cxd5 Rg1

31...Rg2 may be even stronger.

32.d6??

I was running short of time now. Best according to Fritz is 32.Qc3 Rxf1+ 33.Nxf1 Nb2+ 34.Ke1 Qh4+ 35.Ke2.

32...c6

Black could have won the Queen with the very nice 32...Rxf1+. After 33.Nxf1 Nb2+, and either 34.Qxb2 Qxb2 or 34.Ke1 Qxc2. Computers never miss shots like this.

33.Qc3 Rxf1+ 34.Nxf1 Qf2

Black is still better, but the worst has passed for White. Now we are both in time pressure, and Black loses control.

35.Nfd2 Bxd2 36.Nxd2 Qg1+ 37.Kc2 Qg5 38.fxe4 Kd7 39.Qxd3 Qa5 40.Nc4 1:0 on time.

The Waters-Mucerino game was played in round four. Waters basically cruised through his first three games, so I was quite worried. True to

his style, he built up a quick attack, although he left his king uncastled. I was able to neutralize his attack, and, after he castled, I was able to force him to weaken his king position enough to have me crash through with a winning attack. Waters won his other games to tie for second with Smith.

I was black again in the final round against Nate Carabello. He played his beloved Grob Opening, but made an error which allowed me to win a pawn. Carabello did have compensation in the form of greater development. This, along with the fact that my queenside looked like it would be difficult to develop, made me offer a draw, which is all I needed to win. Carabello accepted, and while he tied for fourth with three points, I took my fourth club title in a row.

Greater Philadelphia Championship

Haverford, 4/20-22/2007 - It was not the best of years for this popular event. For the first time in the tournament's history, there was a decrease of the number of people in attendance. There were eighty-four players this year (eighty-two paid), down from just over a hundred a year ago. Despite a \$1,000 guaranteed first prize, no grandmasters entered the event. (They do not get a free entry fee and then have it deducted out of their prize like other tournaments. They have to pay to get in like everyone else.) The tournament was also "bumped" by Haverford College (Remember, do not confuse with Haverford School. You want the educational institution where the speed limit on campus is thirteen miles per hour!) from the extremely nice Founder's Hall to the basement of the dining center. Finally, in the three sections this tournament has to offer (Open, U1800, and U1400), I counted no less than ten forfeits over the course of the event. The Open section alone had a forfeit in every round except, surprisingly perhaps, the final round.

The two big heavyweights who entered the Open section were IM Bryan Smith and FM Raymond Kaufman. Smith played a great game against Rich Pariseau in the opening round, but Kaufman was upset by Jorge Amador's Bird's Opening. FM Boris Privman was handed a one point bye when TD Craig Klein forgot to switch his opponent to the two-day schedule. Todd Bryant and I both had forfeit wins when our opponents did not show. In fact, my opponent, Haotian Zheng of Connecticut, did appear - half an hour too late! By that time I was almost back home in Douglassville.

On Saturday, Peter Minear, the highest rated player in the two-day schedule of the Open section, started with only a half-point in two games. In the three-day schedule, there were already some big matchups. Smith defeated Dan Yeager, Privman drew WFM Alisa Melekhina, and I blew what was probably an even position against NM Adam Weissbarth. The two schedules merged in round three, and Smith took sole possession of the lead by beating Weissbarth. Privman, Melekhina, and Shinsaku Uesugi were a half point behind. Kaufman had a most unfortunate tragedy. He arrived at the board early for his game against Nicole Maffeo. He placed his jacket on his chair and then left - and then returned only after he was forfeited. It turned out that he went somewhere that was apparently very comfortable and inadvertently fell asleep! When he woke up, it was too late. Whether he was forfeited after an hour or after all of his time in the first time control (30/90 SD/60) was used up (because he had placed his jacket on the chair), I am not sure, but he did withdraw after this incident.

On Sunday, Smith, with black, took control of the tournament with a long victory over Privman. Uesugi defeated Melekhina to move into second place. NM Lorand Bela Kis and Andrew Swartsman were tied

for third with three points. The final round's Smith-Uesugi game was a lightning fast draw. Kis beat Swartsman to tie with Uesugi for second and third. Yeager, Privman, and Melekhina all won their final round games to tie with 3½ points. I drew my final three games to finish at fifty percent, but did take home some dough.

Glenn Buyo, despite beginning with a draw, won his final four games to win the U1800 section by a full point. Tying for second were Leteef Street, Shinan Jin (who drew Buyo), Mark Furey, and Robert Colanzi. In the U1400 section, Joshua Bloom and Sebastian Lara both began with 4-0 scores and then drew each other in the final round to tie for first. Bloom received a gift in round four. Although it is not reflected on the wallchart, his opponent, who was also 3-0 at the time, forfeited the game because he missed his train and arrived late. David Power, Israel Riley, and Alexander Kimmerly were only a half point back.

On Sunday, Edward McKenney was inducted into the Philadelphia Chess Hall of Fame. Ed is a long-time member of the Chaturanga Chess Club who coached first George Washington High School and then later Pennsbury High School to numerous state and national titles. Currently, Ed is teaching in the Silver Knights chess program. He is the seventeenth person to be enshrined into the modern (post 1950) Philadelphia Chess Hall of Fame.

Haverford College will host the State Championship this year on October 13-14 (with a blitz tournament on October 12). If you are planning on attending and have never been to Haverford College before, remember two things. First, do not confuse this with Haverford School (look at the speed limit signs!) and second, the parking lot is at the far end of the campus, and it is probably close to a ten minute walk to get from there to the playing hall, so arrive early.

April Showers

Bryn Mawr, 4/28/2007 - No, it did not rain. In fact, the weather was wonderful for this event, which was located only a few miles away from the previous week's Greater Philadelphia Championship in nearby Haverford. Adam Weissbarth's Silver Knights organization has added an Open section to go along with its popular scholastic sections. The turnout was pretty impressive for the first time; ten players, including IM Bryan Smith, two masters, and two experts, competed for the \$100 guaranteed first prize in this 4SS G/30 tournament. There were no upsets in the first round, but in round two, there were some heavyweight matches. Smith defeated State K-12 Champion Dan Yeager for the second time in as many weeks. Gennadiy Geyler - Peter Minear saw Black win some pawns and then the game. In Stephen Brod - Mucerino, White opened lines to Black's King, but with limited material (a queen, bishop, and pawns each) could only drive the Black King to c4 before forcing a draw by repetition. In the penultimate round, Smith took the lead by besting Minear. I surprised myself when I beat Yeager, and Geyler stayed in the hunt when he defeated Heiang Chien Cheung.

In the final round, I had the white pieces against Smith. In our only previous encounter, I played a respectable game against him with black at the Pennsylvania State Quick Championship before losing (see the May 2004 *Pennswoodpusher*). While obviously Smith is a great player, I thought that playing at faster time controls was not quite his forte. That may be correct, because after a somewhat dubious opening by myself, I was able to more or less equalize by move twenty. I offered a draw, which is all Smith needed to win the \$100 first place prize. He refused. Then we traded down into an ending with a rook, knight, and four pawns each, but my a pawn was passed. Slowly, and in mutual

time pressure, I was able to push it to the sixth rank. Then Smith offered a draw. That was pretty tempting because drawing an IM is not an everyday occurrence. However, I thought I had some winning chances, and since I have never defeated an IM before, and because I wanted the hundred bucks for myself, I decided to press on. Of course, there is a sad ending. I missed a check in time pressure, and wound up trading off my strong passed pawn for Smith's not so strong e-pawn. A second blunder put me a pawn down, and, after trading the knights, I may have had drawing chances in the rook and pawn verses rook ending, but with seconds on my clock, I offered virtually no resistance. So Smith won his final tune-up before heading to Oklahoma for the U.S. Championship. Minear defeated Brod to take second, and my two and half points was good enough for a clear third place.

Both scholastic sections were won by rising stars with perfect scores. Pranav Ranganathan swept the K-3 section. He did not just beat anyone either; his victories were against numbers two, three, four, and six on the crosstable! Manuel Lorenzino Sepp took home the largest trophy offered in the K-8 section, where he also scored four points.

The Silver Knights have been running tournaments in many towns in Southeastern Pennsylvania. For a list of upcoming events check out <http://www.silverknightschess.net/>

47th Golden Triangle Open

PITTSBURGH, 4/28-29/2007 - The traditional Golden Triangle Open, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chess Club (PCC), was held over the last weekend of April at Pittsburgh's newest chess club and retail store, the House of Chess.

Thirty-four players competed in two sections in this year's event, which was expanded to five rounds from the usual four. Tournament director Mike Holsinger acknowledged that the number of entries was improved slightly compared to other recent events held at the PCC, so one would hope that the turnout would ensure that more events like this one be held at the House of Chess.



Joseph Kamon

In the Open section, Luka Glinsky went undefeated with three wins and two draws to capture sole possession of first place. Tom Magar and Leo Sukiennik tied for second place with 3½-1½ scores, a full point ahead of the rest of the field.

Elder Joseph Kamon, who not only scored a perfect 5-0 but also raised his regular rating by nearly 150 points(!), dominated the Under-1800 Reserve section. Junior Kevin Mo garnered

second place with 4 points, lamenting only his loss to Zac Taylor in the third round.

As always, the full list of Western PA results can be found on the University of Pittsburgh Chess Club (<http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/>) website, as well as on the new and improved USCF MSA site. More information about the House of Chess (<http://www.thehouseofchess.com/>) is available at their website.

- Joshua J. Mankey

2007 Morgantown May Day

MORGANTOWN WV, 5/5/2007 - The occasional scattered rain showers helped create a perfect chess-playing day on Cinco de Mayo for the 2nd annual Morgantown Chess Club May Day tournament. The number of entries was down slightly from last year, but the strength of the playing field had increased considerably. Although initially scheduled to include two sections, the surprising number of Open entries forced TD Jens Madsen to combine all entries into one Open section, while preserving the overall prize fund.

David Hines avenged last year's loss against the tournament's co-defending champion, Tom Magar, in the 3rd round on his way to scoring the only 4-0 score of the day and a clear first place. Three players had entered the fourth and final round with perfect scores, but Hines notched the only win for the top money spot. While Hines was besting Ben Good for his 4th point, Joe Busche fell to Jens Madsen, and the ensuing conclusion of games led to Magar, Madsen, Busche, Benjamin Good, Joe Elsleger, and Michael Felton knotted for second through seventh place with 3-1 scores.

On an interesting side note, of the 44 games contested, only one game did not have a decisive result.

For more information on this and future events, visit the Morgantown Chess Club (<http://www.morgantownchess.org/>) website.

- Joshua J. Mankey

Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship

WEST HAZLETON, 5/5-6/2007 - This popular tournament was back yet again, with fifty players taking part (thirty in the Open and twenty in the Scholastic section). Upsets were the norm in the first round, with the three highest rated players in the event only managing to score a half point among them. On the top board, your author, the defending co-champion (with Bennett Lynn) from last year, was the first casualty when I missed a move and was mated by the up-and-coming Mark Weiner. On the board next to me, Larry Tremmel's bristling attack forced second-seed Mike Cox to resign. Glenn Buyo, who won the U1800 section of the Greater Philadelphia Championship two weeks prior to this event, almost made it three upsets on the top three boards, but Phil Rizzo hung on to a draw by the skin of his teeth. Michael Kagel also had an oversight which netted him a goose egg against Shawn Mitchell.

Round two was much more predictable, although I had another hallucination and returned the pawn that I was ahead against Michael Kizis. Kizis missed a very strong move which would have put him a pawn ahead with a wonderful position. But he missed his opportunity, and resigned after I trapped a rook. Weiner continued his great tournament by drawing Eric Brandt. The halfway mark would show us who the real contenders were. Defending co-champion Lynn went down to

Bernard DeLuca, and Richard Harry beat tough Larry Noone to be the only two perfect scores left. Weiner scored his second upset of the day against Cox, to give him 2½ points. Anyone who could knock off the two highest-rated players had to be a contender. James Joline drew Buyo, giving Joline 2½ points, and Buyo was one of many players tied with two points.

On Sunday, Richard Harry defeated Bernard DeLuca on board one to take control of the tournament. Weiner somehow made Joline blunder in a drawn position for his third upset! I shattered Eric Brandt's pawns and won a long game to keep my chances of winning a trophy alive. Lynn drew Buyo, hurting both players' chances of going home with hardware. Noone, Kagel, and Bernard Sporko all won and had three points.

The top board pairing of the final round was Mark Weiner - Richard Harry. Weiner had 3½ points, Harry had a perfect score, so one of them was going to score at least 4½ points and win the tournament. I was white on board two against Kagel, keeping an eye on the championship contest. If Harry and I both won our games, there was a chance that I would take second place on tiebreaks, if not outright. Things were looking good for Harry. He played aggressively, won some material, and had a commanding position. Realizing that he could not win the game, Weiner offered a draw. After verifying that all he needed was a draw to win the title, Harry accepted. That put more pressure on me, since Weiner was guaranteed a piece of second place. That pressure eased a bit when DeLuca and Noone drew, giving them both 3½ points. In my game, I won one pawn, then a second, and then forced resignation when Kagel was going to lose his Queen.

Richard Harry, who has always finished high in the standings in this event, finally broke through and won. Weiner took second place on tiebreaks over me. His rating went from 1524 to 1710! Tying for fourth with 3½ points were Lynn, DeLuca, Noone, and Buyo. Pocono Mountain East High School was the only team that entered, and, quite obviously, they won the team prize.

The one-day Scholastic section was back after not being held last year, and there was a tie for first between Jamie Yang and Susanne Winkelman, who both posted perfect 4-0 scores. Five teams were represented in this section, and East Stroudsburg South High School won ahead of Jersey Shore, State College, Cumberland Valley Christian School, and Pocono Mountain East High School. Pictures from this event are posted at <http://www.pscfchess.org/results/07050506.htm>

Chaturanga Spring Swiss

HATBORO, 4/26-5/17/2007 - The Chaturanga Chess Club transformed its annual spring Swiss into a Grand Prix Tournament with the hope of attracting more players to the event. In that sense, the event was successful: twenty-seven people took part in this event that was held over four consecutive Thursdays, as opposed to only fifteen last year. But with \$800 in guaranteed prizes, and an advance entry fee of only \$20 (\$5 more at sight and \$5 less to club members), the club lost money on the event. The prizes did successfully draw several strong players from the area (one FM, one NM, and several experts), making this a very special club tournament.

The tournament did not, however, create many upsets. There were no real surprises for the first half of the tournament, although Jorge Amador's loss to Kazimierz Werc was a minor upset. Mucerino-Rodion Rubenchik was played on the top board in round three, and I hung on for a while before being ground down. Daniel Yeager-Alisa Melekhina

was an interesting junior matchup. In a double edged position, White decided to play it safe and force a draw by repetition. This draw made Rubenchik the only player with a perfect score. He drew Yeager in the final round to win the tournament and the \$300 first place prize. Melekhina also drew again, this time against Gennadiy Geyler, and they both tied with Yeager, Joseph Rossi, and Dennis Baluk for a huge second place tie with three points.

Wyomissing Friday Night Quads

WYOMISSING, 5/18/2007 - Wyomissing used to be the rival school of the high school I attended, Daniel Boone, and my old high school rival, Peter Minear, has begun to hold Friday night quads there about once a month during the school year. This was my first trip back to "enemy" territory in eleven years, and I had a good time.

This was a small, local event, made up mostly of players from Wyomissing's chess team. Six were in attendance, but since Alex Guziak had to leave after round two, I played a two game match with him, which I won 1½-½. Matthew Herman swept the quad 3-0, defeating Wyomissing coach Curtis Minich en route.

Hazleton Open

HARLEIGH, 6/9/2007 - This tournament, which has been played in several different locations over the last few years, was held at Zola's Lamp Post Restaurant and Lounge, the home of the Greater Hazleton Area Chess Club. Sadly, attendance has been dropping, and only twelve people entered this year. Also, the lighting in the room where we played was not very good, so most of the games were played close to the window (thankfully, it was a sunny day).

Your author won, having a difficult time defeating expert Herman Chiu in the penultimate round, but that win gave me a one point lead and the luxury of only needing a draw in the final round to win the event. I did just that, halving the point against Ed Chong. Chiu and Antonio Scalzo tied for second with three points each, and Chong was in sole fourth place with 2½ points.

37th Fred Thompson Memorial

PITTSBURGH, 6/9/2007 - The Pittsburgh Chess Club's 37th version of the Fred Thompson Memorial took place on June 9th, a Saturday in late spring, but the weather outside more closely resembled an idyllic mid-summer day. Perhaps it was the warm temperatures that kept a majority of chess players away from the quiet confines of the Wightman building in Squirrel Hill, but it could not keep some of the area's most avid players from attending. In fact, the tournament was not only comprised of some of the regular seasoned players, young and not-so-young, but it was also contested, and won, by a new guy to the Pittsburgh chess-scene: International Master Alex Matros.

IM Matros comes to Pittsburgh from Kazakhstan via Moscow and teaches economics at the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland. An extremely congenial and disarming fellow away from the board, Alex is a very serious and concentrated competitor over the squares, as displayed in his 4-0 rout of the majority of the top of the field in the Open section. Hibiki Sakai, Jacob Oet, and Don Meigs shared a distant second place with 2½ points.

In the Reserve Under 1600 section, Mikhail Oet and Dale Lipinski shared first place with 3-1 scores with Oet winning their individual encounter in the second round.



IM Alexander Matros

For more information on this and future events, visit the Pittsburgh Chess Club (<http://www.pittsburghcc.org/>) website.

- Joshua J. Mankey

35th Annual World Open

KING OF PRUSSIA, 6/26-7/4/2007 - The largest chess tournament in Pennsylvania left downtown Philadelphia for a year and moved twenty miles west to the Valley Forge Convention Plaza. Why was the move necessary? In 2005, when the Adams Mark Hotel closed on City Line Avenue and the World Open moved to the Wyndham (now the Sheraton) Hotel in downtown Philadelphia, the Continental Chess Association (CCA) made a contract with the new site to hold the World Open, the Liberty Bell Open, and the National Chess Congress there for the rest of the decade. When the hotel checked their records, there was a problem: the space had already been sold for Independence Day 2007. So, for just this one event, the CCA needed to find an alternate site.

The move may have attributed to the decrease in attendance. According to the crosstable there were only 1068 entrants (and not all were paid in full of course, for example grandmasters had a free entry fee). This is a drop of 247 from last year's total of 1315. There are a few explanations of why this happened. First, because the festival began on a Thursday and ended on the following Wednesday, there was no two weekend schedule. There was a new four-day schedule offered, but it did not appear to match the popularity of the two weekend schedule. The CCA also reintroduced the U2400 section, perhaps to entice more people to come out, but it only shrunk the Open section from 237 players in 2006 to only 92 this year, with 131 entrants in the U2400 section.

Second, I have been told that it is fairly difficult to get public trans-

portation to King of Prussia from Philadelphia, which may have discouraged out-of-towners as well as native Philadelphians from coming out. Finally, with the US Open in Cherry Hill, NJ, this year, some players may have decided to play there and give the World Open a miss.

Those who decided to give the World Open a miss, missed out. The site was fantastic. The location, only a few miles from Pennsylvania Turnpike exit 326, was easy to find. Parking was free and plentiful. The King of Prussia Mall is only one mile down the road, and you could find any kind of food that you desired. The Valley Forge National Historical Park is just as close.

All of the games were contested in one large room. The boards could have been spaced out a little bit better, but I think the CCA was expecting 1,300 people and they decided not to alter their original floorplan after it was that clear they would not be approaching that mark. My biggest complaint is that there were many metal tiles, which I believe had electrical outlets underneath, in the playing room. Whenever anyone walked on one there would be a metallic bang. The layout probably could have placed the tables in such a fashion to cover most of those metal tiles.

There were two restrooms on the far side of the room with three stalls and two urinals each. If they were full, there was another restroom elsewhere on the same floor. Right outside of the playing hall in another large room were the registration desk, vendors, skittles area, and wallcharts. I think that a few events (lectures, etc.) were held on the floor above.

The top twelve boards were roped off. This year, instead of the magnetic wallboard, Zeljka Malobabic, a Croatian representative from MonRoi (which is French for "my king"), handed a MonRoi device to stronger players in the Open Section. When the players entered a move, not only was it stored in the machine so a scoresheet could be printed later, but, with the help of a computer, the moves were shown live on the Internet. Zeljka also had a projector which showed the positions of the three highest boards that were still in progress. I thought the boards were a bit narrow, and, naturally, they were only projector quality, but one nice feature was that once one game finished, Zeljka could close the window for that game and immediately open a window for another game that was still in progress.

One concerned *Chess Life Online* reader inquired whether the MonRoi could be used in cheating. After all, if the games are being shown live all over the world, the cheater only needs a text message or some kind of communication from a co-conspirator to provide him or her with the correct move to play. I have to agree with the reader. Perhaps a one or two hour time delay between the time the move is played and when it is shown on the Internet, or simply put the games online only when the round is over.

Jerry Hanken was pitching the contraption (he is being paid by MonRoi), and he, quite incredibly, stated that next year, half of the players in the room would be using the device. They were available at the bookstore for \$359 plus \$21.54 in sales tax for a total of \$380.54. Sorry, but I think I will use the free score sheets and then enter my games on Chessbase. None of the players who sat around me had a great desire to run out and buy one either. Sorry, Jerry, but next year I think you will still be the only person using one.

In his article on the Foxwoods tournament in the July 2007 issue of *Chess Life*, Mr. Hanken "boldly" predicted that this year's World Open will be "the least controversial one in the history of that great CCA

event". <Cough! Cough! GAG!!!> How naive! Sorry again, Jerry, but whenever a large amount of prize money is offered, there will always be someone who will try to beat the system and walk off with a five-figure payday. Of course there was cheating this year! But it should be noted that, in my opinion, the CCA took a much more proactive stance against cheating, whereas from what I heard about last year (when I did not attend), they were more reactive, assuming they took any action at all.

I personally overheard one person who was rated 899 try to enter the U1100 section (which had a first place prize of \$7,000). Bill Goichberg would not allow him to enter, because he had a 1232 rating in the April supplement and had lost every single game he played since. Our ex-Central PA Vice President, Greg Vaserstein, who was an assistant TD, showed me a gizmo that looked like a small Geiger Counter that was used to detect radio waves. Any suspected cheaters played on a table which was separated from the rest of the tournament, and play on under constant director supervision. Assistant TD Mike Atkins wrote on *Chess Life Online* that cheating consisted of "...from radio waves to multiple players assuming one identity to one person assuming a different ID to throw games in the final round, enough drama to keep a soap opera addict tuned in". So much for Jerry Hanken's prediction!

The CCA implemented some special rules, including, "players with a score of 80% or more in round 3 or after may not use headphones, earphones, cell phones, or hearing aids, or go to a different floor of the building, without the Director permission. They must also submit to a search for electronic devices...". How strictly this was enforced, especially the leaving the floor rule, is unknown. There was also a \$2,000 prize limit for players whose rating from June 2006 to present ever went twenty points above the maximum rating allowed in their class. Four players had their prizes capped at \$2,000 because of this anti-sandbagging rule. Two players tied for first in the U1400 section. One was awarded \$2,000; the other took home \$8,774.00!

We have to be honest. In big money events, there will always be cheaters and sandbaggers. It is the responsibility of the tournament organizers to try to stop them. In my opinion, the CCA apparently did pretty much everything they could to make sure that the event was as fair as possible. Last year, that perhaps was not the case. This time was different. I would advise that anyone who boycotted this year's event because of the CCA's lax attitude towards cheating to return to the tournament in 2008. I believe that they will see a difference.

There was a nine-way tie in the Open Section. GM Varuzhan Akobian defeated GM Alexander Stripunsky in a playoff and was declared the champion. All of the co-winners scored 6½/9, but Akobian and Stripunsky had the best tiebreaks, mainly because they both entered the strong five-day schedule, so they both advanced to the Armageddon game. It is very difficult to follow everything that is happening in all of the various schedules every round, so I will simply present you with the list of winners:

Open: Varuzkan Akobian (playoff winner), Alexander Stripunsky, Hikaru Nakamura, Sandipan Chanda, Leonid Yudasin, Evgeny Najer, Victor Mikhalevski, Alexander Shabalov, Julio Becerra 6½/9
Top PA: Shabalov
Top NJ: Victor Shen 4½ (Dean Ippolito withdrew after round 7)

U2400: Mikhail Zlotnikov, Tegshsuren Enkhbat, Anton Del Mundo, William Morrison, Ilye Figler 7
Top PA: Daniel Yeager 6
Top NJ: Zlotnikov

U2200: Chris Mabe 8

Top PA: Tegrun Shadoyan 6

Top NJ: Yaacov Norwitz, Chayim Goodman 6½

U2000: Sevan Toroussian 8½

Top PA: Derek Fisher 6

Top NJ: Sameer Mujumdar, Bill Zebrowski, Arthur Antler 6

U1800: Steve Cramton 8½

Top PA: Anatoliy Popov, Benjamin Fisher, Stuart Keckler 5½

Top NJ: Mitchell Stern 6½

U1600: Nicholas Oblak 8

Top PA: Luis Caicedo 5½

Top NJ: Steven Himel 7½

U1400: Crystal Liu, Dru Knox 7½

Top PA: Yuhao Xu, Mayen Bior 6½

Top NJ: Liu

U1100: Ian Morton 8

Top PA: Patrick Donnelly 6½

Top NJ: Charles Corbezzolo 6½

Pennsylvania State Action (G/30) Championship

PITTSBURGH, 7/14/2007 - The usual suspects played in this event, and it was no surprise that the only two masters, FM Robert Sulman and NM Tom Magar, dominated. Sulman defeated Magar in the final round to add this state title to the G/29 title that he won in April. Tying with Magar for second place were Jens Madsen, Donald Meigs, Hibiki Sakai, and Edwin Borden. The Scholastic section was swept by Anthony Ciarlante III 5-0.

38th Susquehanna Valley Open

BLOOMSBURG, 7/21-22/2007 - Some tournaments come and go, while others hang around forever. It is fairly rare for a tournament that has fallen by the wayside to be revived years later. The Susquehanna Valley Open, for several decades a popular tournament in Bloomsburg, was brought back to life by the PSCF after being dormant for nine years.

It is believed that in 1962, the first edition of this great event was organized by James Terwilliger of Bloomsburg, who was the President of the Bloomsburg YMCA Chess Club, and in future years Gerry Dullea took over the reins. During that great age, when everything was a weekend Swiss and quads did not exist, this tournament drew as many as ninety players from far and wide, including such respected players as Dr. Eric Marchand, Edgar T. McCormick, Richard Pariseau, Tim Taylor, Robin Cunningham, Michael Bury, Craig Jones, Rodion and Vladimir Rubenchik, Ray Cornell, Zakhar Fayvinov, Michael Mazock, and Marty Frank. The tournament continued to draw well through 1995, when 58 players entered, but in its final three years, it drew only 40, 29, and 34, respectively. I recall Dr. Dullea saying in 1997 that the tournament lost \$75, which meant that about forty players needed to enter break even. Bob Ross soon retired from Bloomsburg University, and, after three years of not making a profit, Dr. Dullea decided to leave, and that was the end of the tournament. Ray Cornell won the final edition, the thirty-seventh, in 1998.

The Susquehanna Valley Open had been a favorite tournament of many players, including me. But Bloomsburg University raised its site fees (which is one of the reasons why the PSCF moved the State Scholastic Championship from Bloomsburg to Carlisle), and no one wanted to direct it, so it looked like it would never be revived.

The rebirth began, somewhat strangely, at the Danville Open in April. Sam Lamonto, who helped Dr. Ira Lee Riddle direct that event, was talking to one of the players, Scott Helfrich. Mr. Helfrich was the community manager at the Honeysuckle Student Apartments at a university, and he had a space that was large enough to hold a tournament. On top of that, during the summer, the players could lodge at the apartments for a low price. Would the PSCF be interested in holding a tournament there? Sure, Sam said. Between rounds, Sam told me about this. I asked what university are we talking about. By a sheer coincidence, or by the grace of Caissa, it was Bloomsburg University. Well, when I heard this, I knew that the name of the tournament would have to be the Susquehanna Valley Open. Name recognition alone would draw many people. It also made sense to pick up the numbering where it had left off, so after checking that the 1998 edition was the thirty-seventh, the 2007 tournament would be the thirty-eighth.

Dr. Riddle and Lamonto directed the comeback edition (although Dr. Riddle went home after the first day to save expenses). I was a little disappointed at the turnout. Twenty-four players entered, but two withdrew before the start, leaving twenty-two. I really thought that thirty was obtainable, but because of USCF deadlines, we could only advertise in one issue of *Chess Life*, which may have hurt the turnout.

Those who did attend were treated to a fine tournament. The site was fairly spacious, well lit, and comfortable, and Mr. Helfrich, in an effort to make this event as fantastic as possible, purchased a large spread of cold meats, chip, and sodas which fed everyone for both lunch and supper on Saturday, and also three boxes of Dunkin Donuts for breakfast on Sunday. Sam bought seven pizzas for lunch out of his own pocket, and many people were more than happy to pitch in to help pay for the expense. The whole weekend seemed more like a vacation than a chess tournament. It was nice to see three members of the Bloomsburg University Chess Team from the 70s, Gordon Clapp, Russell Palkendo, and Leonard Thomas, take part. Also, a few players who used to play in this part of the state, but stopped coming when the tournament folded, returned for the revival edition. Very nice indeed.

There was almost a major upset in the first round, when the second seed, NM Peter Minear, arrived fifty-five minutes late for his game against Palkendo. Minear got lost on his way to Bloomsburg, and then had a difficult time finding the apartments when he did arrive in town. But he made it just in the nick of time, and went on to win his game. The biggest upset was Gordon Clapp's draw against me. I simply could not get anything going with my Benko Gambit. Round two saw some upsets when fast improving Tim Alles beat the State Amateur Champion Richard Harry, and Tamara Corey defeated Robert Feldstein of New York.

The biggest shakeup was in round three. Corey was white against the top rated FM Rodion Rubenchik. Rubenchik had castled queenside, had a knight on d5, and pawns on a7, b6, and c7. Corey had her queen on e4 and a bishop on e3. Rodion touched Corey's bishop intending ...Nxe3. One problem. It allowed Qa8 mate. Rubenchik resigned and withdrew from the tournament. On board two, Minear won his third game, a tough one against Michael Kagel, to become the only other perfect score. After Alles gave me a free knight, I was in clear third a half point back, with many players having two points after the first day.

Sharing the apartment with me were Lamonto, Corey, and Jeff Prindle. One slight advantage to rooming with the TD is that you get to see the pairing before everyone else does. Board one was Corey-Minear and second board was Mucerino-Feldstein. I always defeat Feldstein when I have white against him, so I was not concerned with my pairing. However, if Corey could upset Minear, that would make a final round

Mucerino-Corey pairing (she would have to be black to avoid three whites in a row), which would be a easier pairing for me than having to play Minear. So, I was inclined to give Tamara some advice on how to play against Peter, who I first played literally a few days before I turned fifteen (back in 1993, if you have to know). This was in the Berks County Interscholastic Chess League (he was the top board for Wyomissing and I starred for Daniel Boone), in which I played prior to my first USCF-rated event!

I showed Tamara the opening moves of a recent Mucerino-Minear game. We went over the line a few times, and then played a blitz game to give Tamara some practice (she won the blitz game). Sure enough, about an hour later, for the first seven or eight moves, Peter played exactly what I had expected. Tamara was delighted, and when we made eye contact, she flashed me her Miss America smile. At one point, Peter and I were pacing back and forth in the adjoining room, and he commented that he could not stand looking at such a boring position. That was also part of the plan; Minear (who hates facing Queen Pawn openings) likes more tactical positions, which is Corey's main weakness, while she excels in positional games. I thought that if I could get Tamara into a solid middlegame position, she would have decent drawing chances. Later on, I looked at Peter, and could tell by his facial expression that he was working hard. But, Tamara lost a pawn, and her position began to crumble, and she lost. I won, but Feldstein made things difficult by creating a closed position. Once I opened it up, my bishop pair and protected passed pawn gave me an easy win. Kagel defeated Roy Eikerenkoetter to give him three points, Harry drew Palkendo, and Alles drew Ron Evans, who is having a terrific year, to give everyone in that quartet two and a half points.

Between rounds, Minear and Corey were analyzing their game. I sat in. "Tamara played your opening, Joe," Peter told me. Tamara and I looked at each other and giggled. Peter had no idea that we conspired against him, and he probably will not find out until he reads this. Sorry, Pete. Anyway, Tamara missed a move that Peter said he feared, and it looked like, yes indeed, Tamara missed slaying her second master.

The final round's Minear-Mucerino game was a short draw. Minear only needed a draw to win the tournament, while a draw guaranteed me a slice of the second place prize money. If I had been white, I would have made a fight out of it, or if the time control was something like G/30 I might have played it out, but based on my prior games against Peter, winning with black in a long time control did not really seem possible, so I saw no reason why I should jeopardize a sure prize. Corey defeated Kagel to tie with me for second and win the U1800 prize. She gained nearly a hundred rating points in this tournament, and is clearly the second strongest female player in the state, behind Alisa Melekhina. Alles and Evans defeated Palkendo and Harry, respectively, to tie for fourth. Lamonto and Prindle split the U1600 prize, and Richard Crago took home the U1000/unrated prize.

It was a great time, perhaps even better than the old Susquehanna Valley Opens. Once word spreads on how wonderful the tournament was this year, I think it will grow and flourish. It is not too early to mark you calendar for next year's edition. It has been tentatively set for July 26-27, 2008.

27th Allegheny Chess Congress

PITTSBURGH, 7/21-22/2007 - After a year's hiatus, the Allegheny Chess Congress returned to the July Pittsburgh chess calendar. The current incarnation of the tournament was held at the new location of recently-crowned US Chess Champion GM Alexander Shabalov's House of Chess on the lower level of the Ross Park Mall.

The two-day, Game/110 minutes, four round swiss-style tournament drew a fairly large Under-1700 Reserve section with 22 players, while the Open section required only four boards for the players to sort out a winner.

Surprisingly, even after falling five players short of fulfilling the based-on number for the tourney, TD Mike Holsinger announced, before the last round, that 90% of the entry fees would be returned to the section and class winners. A very respectable and encouraging move on his part.

Luka Glinsky bested the small, but fiercely contested Open section and stood alone at the end of four rounds in first place with an undefeated 3½-½ score. The only blemish on his otherwise perfect score was the 2nd round ½-bye requested before the tournament. Andrew Rea and Hibiki Sakai tied for second place with 3 points.

In the Reserve section, your author offered and received a 4th round draw to finish half a point ahead of a four-way tie for second place with a 3½-½ score. My final round opponent, Glenn Brown, along with Joe Kamon, Jim Provins, and Kevin Fitzgibbons, completed the tourney with 3-1 scores to tie for second to fifth places.

- Joshua J. Mankey

Games From PSCF Members

Durwood writes "Williams is from the Philadelphia area. This was a really good battle."

Michael L. Williams - Durwood B. Hatch

Penn State University Spring Open, Rd 2, University Park, 4/4/1992
Annotations by Durwood B. Hatch

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 Na5
7.Bb5+ c6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 Qe7 11.c3 Bb6
12.Na3 h6 13.Re1 O-O 14.Nc2 Bd7 15.Ne3 g6? 16.Nc2 Kh7
17.d4 Ng8 18.Be3 Rfd8?

Perhaps 18...f5 should have been played.

19.Qd2 Qf6?

This loses a pawn.

20.dxe5! Bxe3

If 20...dxe5 21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.Qxd7 wins a piece.

21.Qxe3 dxe5 22.Rxa7 Rxa7

Possibly better is 22...Qd6.

23.Qxa7 Be6 24.b4 Re8

The e-pawn needs more protection.

25.Qc5 Bb3 26.Ne3 h5

To prevent Ng4 which would attack the e-pawn yet again.

27.Ra1 Kh6

To stop Ng5 which hits the key square e6.

28.Ra6 Re6 29.h4

29.Nd2! would force the win of another pawn, but his mind is set on King-side attack.

29...Ne7 30.Ra7 Kg7 31.Ra8 Rd6

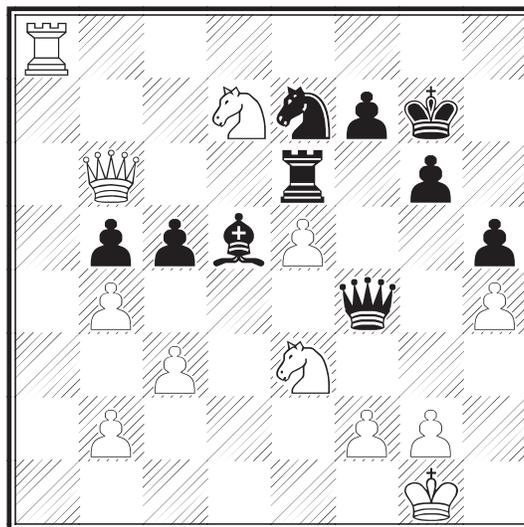
Inviting the capture of the e-pawn in order to obtain counterplay and complicate the position.

32.Nxe5 Re6 33.Nd7 Qf4 34.e5 Bd5 35.Qb6

Heading for a mating attack. If 35.Nxd5 cxd5 36.Qxb5 Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Qf4+ 38.g3 Qxf2+ 39.Kh3 (39.Kh1 Nf5 40.Rg8+ Kxg8 41.Qb8+ Kh7 42.Nf6+ Rxf6 43.exf6 Nxg3+) 39...Nf5 40.Qd3 Ne3; An immediate 35.Nf6 won't do, because of the defense 35...Qxe5 36.Qb6 Qxf6 37.Qd8 Kh7!

35...c5!!

Surprise, the victim isn't dead yet! This is the critical position.



36.Qd8

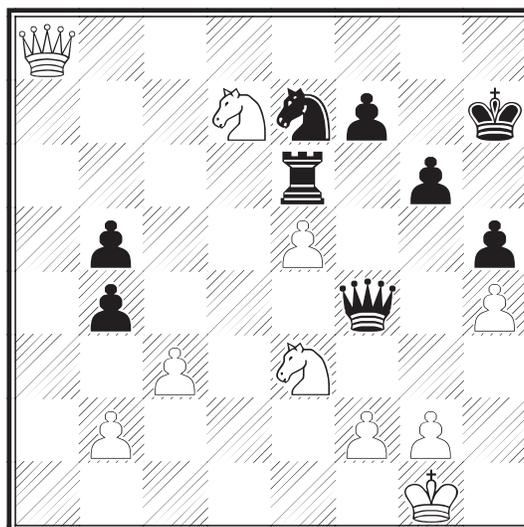
36.Nxd5 Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Rxb6 38.N7xb6 (38.N5xb6 Qf4+ 39.Kg1 cxb4 40.Re8 Qxh4 41.Nf6 Nc6 42.Rg8+ Kh6 43.Nbd5 bxc3 44.f4 c2 45.Rh8+ Kg7 46.Rh7+ Kf8 47.Rh8+ Kg7 is drawn.) 38...Nxd5 39.Nxd5 Qe1 40.Re8 Qxf2 41.Nf6 Qxh4+ 42.Kg1 cxb4 White's queen-side pawn majority must be addressed. 43.Rg8+ Kh6 44.Rh8+ Kg5.

36...Bxa8 37.Qf8+ Kh7 38.Qxa8

38.Nf6+ Rxf6 39.exf6 Qxf6 40.Qxa8 cxb4=

38...cxb4!

Willing to return the exchange, rather than risk White's bxc5 and the resulting strong passed pawn. Black cannot try to return the exchange with a win of a pawn by 38...Rxe5 39.g3! Qh6 and the Rook is lost for nothing. (And not 39...Qe4 40.Nf6+ winning the Queen.); Or if 38...Qxh4 39.Qf8 Qf4 40.Nf6+ Rxf6 41.exf6 Qxf6 42.bxc5 wins.



39.Nf8+

39.g3! Amazing how White's pieces control every central square! 39...Qh6 40.Nf6+ Kg7 41.Ned5 Qh8 42.Ne8+ White doesn't want to trade queens now. 42...Kh6 43.Ndf6 Rxf6 White threatens to transfer his Queen to e4 and then play Qf4+, so now is the best time to return

the exchange. 44.exf6 bxc3 (Risking all. 44...Nf5 is safer.) 45.fxe7 cxb2 (Or alternatively 45...c2 46.Qa1 Qd4 47.Nc7 Qd1+ 48.Qxd1 cxd1=Q+ 49.Kg2 (49.Kh2 Qe2 50.e8=Q Qxf2+ with perpetual check.) 49...Qd7 50.e8=Q and I can't take his Knight because of my unfortunate King position. So White wins.) 46.Qa2 Qxe8 (If 46...Qc3 47.Qxf7! b1=Q+ 48.Kh2 Qh8 49.Qf4+ Kh7 50.Nf6+ Kg7 51.e8=Q Qxe8 (51...Qf8 is answered by 52.Nxh5+; While 51...Qf5 loses to 52.Qxh8+ Kxh8 53.Qh6#) 52.Nxe8+ Kg8 53.Qf6 mating.) 47.Qxb2 Kh7 (Not 47...Qxe7? 48.Qh8#; 47...b4 48.Qd4 b3 49.Qd8) 48.Qf6 b4 49.Qd6 b3 50.Qd8 wins.; White might also try 39.Qf8 Rxe5 forced 40.Nxe5 Qxe5 41.Qxf7+ Qg7 42.Qxg7+ Kxg7 43.Nc2 bxc3 44.bxc3 Nc6 45.Na3 (But not 45.Nd4 as 45...Nxd4 46.cxd4 b4 wins.) 45...b4 draws.

39...Kg7 40.Nxe6+ fxe6 41.cxb4 Qxb4 42.Qf3

Eyeing f6 as I am in serious time trouble now.

42...Qxh4 43.Nc2 Nf5 44.Qb7+ Qe7 45.Qxb5 Qc7 46.Qe2 Qb8 47.Ne1 Qb3 48.Nf3 Ne7 49.Ng5 Nf5

I intended 49...Nd5, but his last move prevented it.

50.Qd2 Qd5

I can't afford to let his Queen invade on d7 or d8.

51.Qxd5 exd5 52.Kf1 Kf8 53.Ke2 Ke7 54.Kd3 Kd7 55.Nf3 Ne7 56.Kd4 Kc6 57.Nh4 g5 58.Nf3 Nf5+ 59.Kd3 g4 60.Nd4+?? Nxd4 61.Kxd4 h4 62.Ke3 h3 63.gxh3 gxh3 64.Kf3 d4 0:1

I eventually mated him with less than 20 seconds left. I was in great time trouble for some time, and could only check off the moves rather than record them. He too was in time trouble, but not as bad as mine, and he had hope that I couldn't mate him before my time ran out. An exciting game, with many chances for both sides.

Mr. Weissbarth moved to Pennsylvania from Arizona last summer. I would like to welcome him by printing this interesting game.

Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr. - Adam Weissbarth

Main Line CC July Open, Round 3, Gladwyne, 8/1/2006

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 d5 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.c3 e6 7.Qa4+ Nbd7 8.Ne5 Bh5 9.Bg5 a6

This move is necessary, because without it 10.Bb5 would win a piece.

10.Na3

Castling, although solid, would lose the initiative. The initiative is very critical during an attack. That is why I was willing to sacrifice a piece to try to maintain it.

10...b5 11.Nxb5 axb5 12.Qxb5

12.Bxb5, giving up the queen, looks plausible at first glance, but Black can return the queen and maintain a large material advantage. Despite Black's extra piece, because his king is stuck in the center, the position is still roughly equal.

12...Bd6 13.Qc6 Bxe5 14.dxe5 h6 15.exf6 hxg5 16.fxg7 Rg8 17.O-O Rc8 18.Qa4 Rxc7 19.Bb5 Bg6 20.Rfe1 Rh7 21.Rad1 Rh4 22.c4

Trying to open up lines.

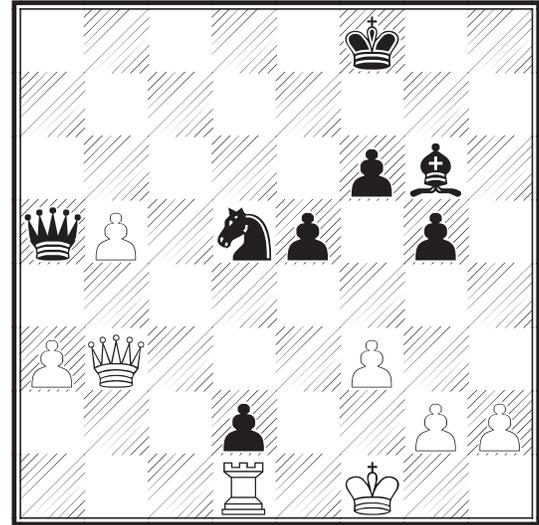
22...Rhxc4 23.Bxc4 Rxc4 24.Qb5 Rc5 25.Qe2 Rc2 26.Rd2 Rxd2 27.Qxd2 Kf8 28.Qc3?!

Around here, my play becomes passive. Passed pawns must be pushed: 28.a4.

28...e5 29.b4 d4 30.Qb2 Nb6 31.b5 Qd6 32.Rc1 Be4 33.a3 d3

Now Black is clearly better.

34.Qd2 f6 35.Rc3 Qd5 36.f3 Qd4+ 37.Kf1 Bg6 38.Rc1 Nd5 39.Re1 Qa4 40.Qb2 Qa5 41.Qb3 d2 42.Rd1



42...Bc2!

I missed this in time pressure. Of course the bishop cannot be captured because of 43...Ne3+.

43.Qxd5 Bxd1 44.Qd6+ Ke8 45.Qc6+??

With only ten seconds left on my clock, I missed a perpetual check. If 45.Qe6+, Black must move his king queenside, because if he goes kingside, White will always be able to check with the queen along the sixth rank. Fritz gives 45...Kd8 46.Qd6+ Kc8 47.Qe6+ Kc7 48.Qc6+ Kb8 49.Qe8+ Ka7 with White checking along the c6-e8 diagonal.

45...Kd8??

This does not get out of the perpetual check. The winning line is 45...Ke7! 46.Qc5+ Kf7 47.Qd5+ Kg7 48.Qd7+ Kh6 49.Qh3+ Kg6.

46.Qd6+ Kc8 47.Qc6+??

Again, 47.Qe6+ draws.

47...Kb8??

Black can block the checks with 47...Qc7

48.Qd6+??

Now, White misses the perpetual check beginning with 48.Qe8+

48...Qc7 49.Qxd2

Although I was happy to get rid of this guy, it was not enough.

49...Ba4 50.Qb4 Bc2 51.b6 Qd8 52.a4 Bd3+ 53.Kf2 Qd4+ 54.Qxd4 exd4 55.a5 Kb7 56.Ke1 Ka6 57.Kd2 Bf1 58.Ke1 Bxg2 59.Kf2 Bh3 0:1

Andrew Ng - Daniel A. Yeager

Greater Philadelphia Junior Invitational, Rd 6, Haverford, 6/24/2006

Annotations by Daniel A. Yeager

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 O-O 9.Be4 Bd7 10.O-O-O Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.h5 Nxh5 15.g4 Nf6 16.Nde2 Re8 17.Bg5 Qa5 18.Kb1 Be6 19.Bxf6

The Bishop gives itself up in order to provoke 19...Bxf6 and a Queen invasion on h6 and h7. However, that is really not so dangerous for Black.

19...Bxf6 20.Qh6

Best here might have been 20.Nd5 Qxd2 21.Nxf6+ exf6 22.Rxd2 with a reasonably balanced endgame. Black has an extra pawn, but the pawn on d6 is very weak.

20...Rec8

Getting ready to sacrifice two exchanges on c3! The point is to not

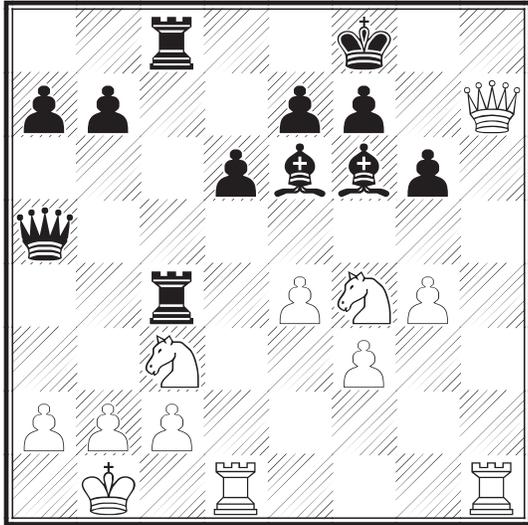
give up the powerful bishop on f6.

21.Qxh7+

This looks dangerous, but really isn't. The bishop on f6 defends everything.

21...Kf8 22.Nf4

22.Rd3 was a better defensive try, but 22...Rb4! would still be winning for Black.



22...Rxc3

Of course taking with the Rook is better than with the Bishop. 22...Bxc3? 23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.bxc3! and Black would have more troubles with his weakened King position.

23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.Rc1

24.bxc3 Qxc3 does not inspire.

24...Ra3 0:1

If 25.bxa3, then 25...Qb6#. The only try for White seems to be 25.Qxg6 Rxa2 26.c3 Ra1+ 27.Kc2, but now 27... Rxc3+! leads to mate.

Coaches Corner: What should you do with your king - and why!

by IM Igor Khmelnsky

In almost every game we have to deal with the question: "What should I do with my king?"

The basic plan is to castle as soon as possible. Why? Well, the purpose of castling is to both activate the rook (getting it into the game) and to place the king in a safer position. And as a bonus - you get to move two pieces at once.

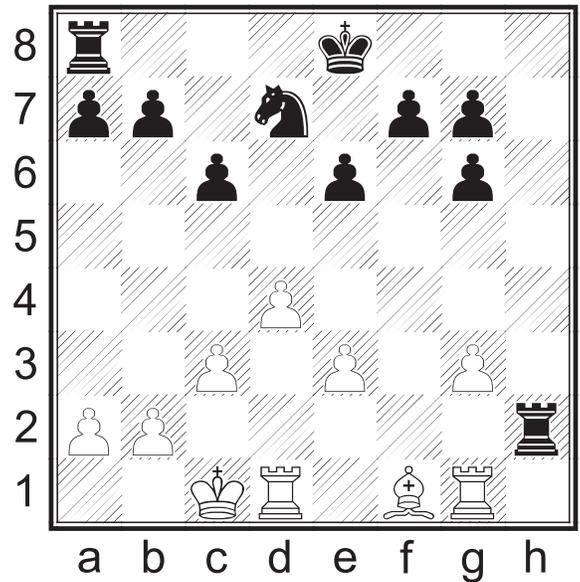
As you improve your chess skills, you should certainly be looking for better reasons and for tips that would help you to make better decisions about your king.

We will be taking a look at several positions and considering the following two questions:

1. Whose position do you prefer and why?
2. What should you do with your king?

The first example is from a game played by one of my adult students, who is rapidly progressing and is now rated around 1400.

Black to move



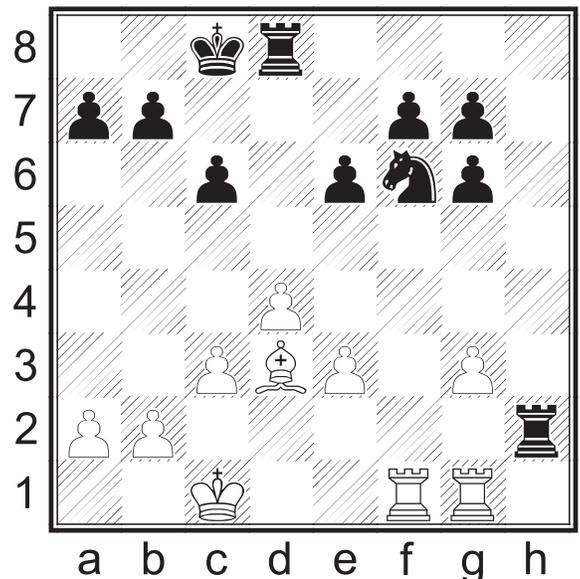
Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

Black has advantage - he has an extra pawn and White has no compensation. Since this is an endgame, the first option for the black king that I would consider is 19...Ke7. Note that this is an ideal spot for the king:

1. The king is safe - protected by his pawns and the white bishop cannot create any threats.
2. The king is also close to the center and equally distant from both the queenside and the kingside. With so few pieces left, if one pair of rooks is gone (and certainly if all of the rooks are traded) the king will be able to start his advance into enemy territory.

In the game, Black played 19...0-0-0?!, and after 20.Bd3 Nf6 21. Rdf1 reached this position.

Black to move



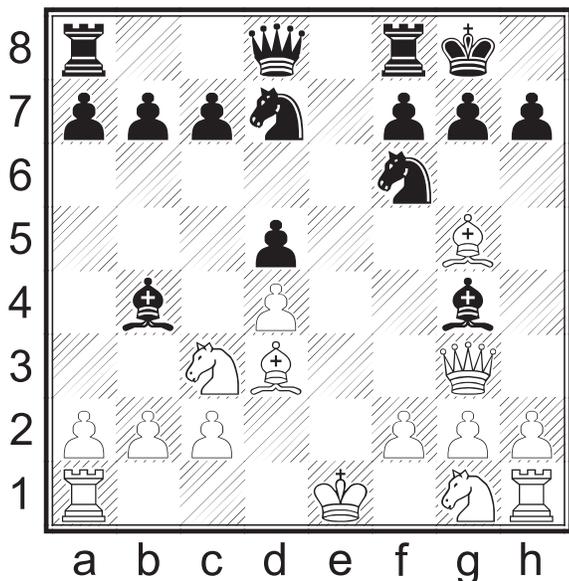
Again consider our original two questions and spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

Black still has a solid advantage, but it is not as easy to find an active plan. This is because the white rook on f1 is pinning the black knight on f6. Once Black realized that the f-pawn needed protection, he made a correct adjustment. Remember, the king is not only a target of attack. The king is also a solid defender. Black's best assignment for his king is to go to e7 in order to protect the f-pawn and free the knight.

One of the key rules of many static endgames is "No Rush". Once Black realized that he had made a mistake with 19...0-0-0?!, he correctly adjusted his strategy and played 21...Kd7! Eventually the king made his way to e7 on move 26 - some 7 moves later that it should have gone there (the preferred 19...Ke7 in the first diagram). However, "better late than never" and Black went on to win the game.

The third position is from my game against GM Gregory Kaidanov in the 1995 US Invitational Championship. This was my very first game in my very first US Championship. This event was a round-robin invitational where I would face the top 13 players in the country. My opponent is a super GM, who in 1995 had already won several major American tournaments.

IM Igor Khmel'nitsky - GM Gregory Kaidanov
US Invitational Championship, Rd 1, Modesto, 11/18/1995



White to move

Again consider our original two questions and spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

This position is nearly equal, with White holding only a minimal advantage due to some pressure on the kingside. The open e-file is certainly a bad place for my king.

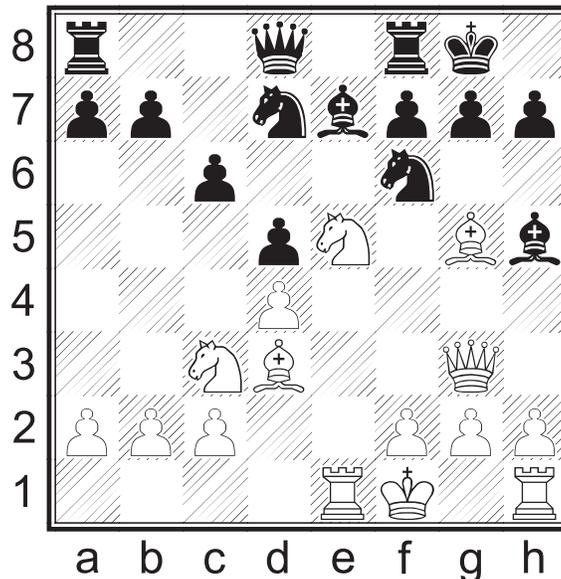
As I was considering what to do about my King, I immediately dismissed a future queenside castling (after playing f3) because my king would be in danger there. I have very little piece protection for him on that wing. Black could consider disrupting my pawns with Bxc3, and after a timely c7-c5, the queen could join the attack (via a5 or b6). In addition, the c-file could be opened for his rooks.

I do have some pressure on the kingside with several of my pieces controlling a great deal of space. My king will feel very safe there protected by the pawns and pieces. Thus, the decision was made. But what about the execution? Well, after 9.Nf3 or 9.Nge2 and a future 0-0, what would my plan be? Double up on the e-file, trade the rooks

there, trade some minor pieces, and then a draw is almost certain. I decided that the rook would be much more productive if it remained on h1 and supported the advance of my h-pawn.

So, I played 9.Kf1! My King is safe on f1, and, if necessary could go to g1. My rook will be active on the h-file or can get out via h3 and g3. The game continued 9...c6 10.Nf3 Bh5 11.Ne5 Be7 12.Re1.

White to move



Consider this position compared with that of three moves earlier. White has clearly gained some space and improved his pieces, while Black is retreating. The rook at h1 will soon enter the game (after the h-pawn is advanced to h4).

I had so much respect for Gregory, that I offered him a draw, but I hoped that he would decline and soon "burn his bridges". I was surprised and disappointed when he accepted and the game ended. I wish we did have some rules prohibiting short draws, as this could have been an exciting game.

To summarize these lessons:

1. Seek the best possible squares for your king and your rooks.
2. For the king, consider the location where there will be a balance between safety and usefulness. The more pieces that are left on the board, the more the emphasis should be on safety. With fewer pieces left on the board, the focus should shift to usefulness.
3. For the rooks, consider what are the best opportunities and then consider what effort is involved in getting your rook there.

(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 the recently released *Chess Exam and Training Guide 2: Tactics*, please contact IM Igor Khmel'nitsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

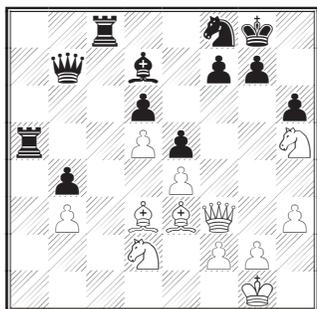
October 13 & 14
2007 Pennsylvania State Championship
Haverford College

Play It Forward

by Ken Hamilton

Visualize how world champs - or their opponents - finished off these games.

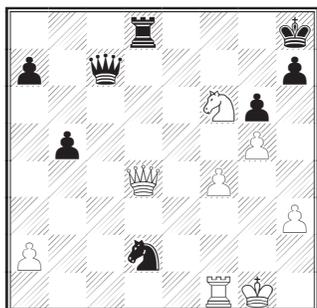
1. Boris V. Spassky - Artunian
IV Spartakiad, Moscow, 1967



- 30. Bxh6! Nh7
- 31. Nxc7 f5
- 32. exf5 Kh8
- 33. Nh5 Rg8
- 34. ?

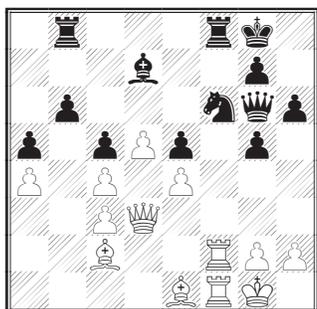
Boris Spassky was a fine sportsman, and a great, imaginative player. He had Bobby Fischer's number - until Reykjavik 1972.

2. Boris V. Spassky - Robert J. Fischer
Olympiad, Rd 6, Siegen, 1970



- 35. Nd5+ Kg8
- 36. Rf2 Nc4
- 37. Re2 Rd6
- 38. Re8+ Kf7
- 39. ?

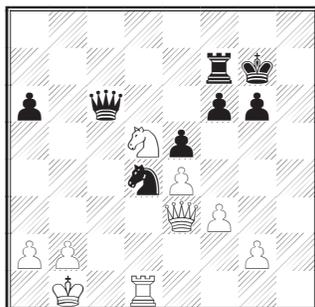
3. Boris V. Spassky - Robert J. Fischer
World Ch, Rd 5, Reykjavik, 1972



- 23... Nh5
- 24. Rxf8+ Rxf8
- 25. Rxf8+ Kxf8
- 26. Bd1 Nf4
- 27. Qc2 ?

Bobby's 27th move was simple enough - but how many of us patzers would have given it a second thought?

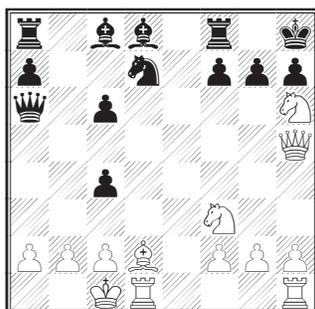
4. Carlos Bielicki - Vasily Smyslov
Capablanca Mem, Havana, 1964



- 29... Rc4!
- 30. Qb2 ?

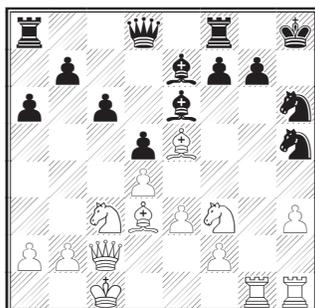
Vasily Smyslov won the world championship by beating Mikhael Botvinnik in 1957 - only to lose it in a return match a year later. Smyslov's refined, positional style is the envy of most who play through his games but it was unable to withstand the onslaught of the soon-to-be new champion in the following game.

5. Mikhail Tal - Vasily Smyslov
Candidates, Bled, Yugoslavia, 1959



- 17... Qxa2
- 18. Bc3 Nf6
- 19. ?

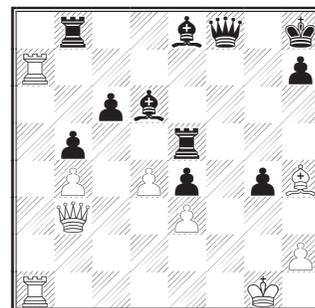
6. Mikhail Botvinnik - Vladimir Alatorstev
Leningrad Championship, 1934



- 18. Qe2 Bf5?
- 19. Bxf5 Nxf5
- 20. ?

Spassky, Tal and of course Bronstein brought artistry and imagination to the chessboard. Botvinnik's renowned "Iron Logic" was barely sufficient for him to survive in his tied championship match with Bronstein in 1951.

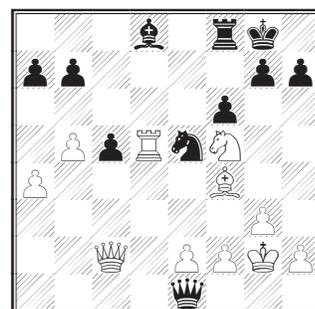
7. David Bronstein - Mikhail Botvinnik
World Ch, Rd 22, Moscow, 1951



- 35. dxe5 Bxe5
- 36. Rf1 Qg8
- 37. ?

In 1935 Alexander Alekhine lost the world championship to Max Euwe. Although he was reputedly under the influence of alcohol for most of the match, he arrived for this first game stone cold sober and wearing a natty tux.

8. Alexander Alekhine - Max Euwe
World Ch, Rd 1, Amsterdam, 1935



- 27. Bxe5 fxe5
- 28. Rd7! Bf6
- 29. ?

In 1937, a more-or-less teetotaler Alekhine obtained vengeance, regaining the world championship. But here's a game he lost in 1935 - called the "Pearl of Zandvoort".

9. Max Euwe - Alexander Alekhine
World Ch, Rd 26, Zandvoort, 1935



- 41. Nc6 Re8
- 42. e7 b5
- 43. Nd8 Kg7
- 44. Nb7 Kf6
- 45. Re6+ Kg5
- 46. Nd6 Rxe7
- 47. ?

For solutions, see page 14.

Play It Forward Solutions (from page 13)

1. Spassky-Artunian: 34.f6! The culmination of a splendid combination. The capture of White's bishop by 30...gxf6 would have resulted in mate by 31.Qf6 and 32.Qg7. 31...f5 was a futile attempt to defend against 32.Qg3 by 32...f4. After 34.f6! Black has no defense against f7 or Bg7+, e.g. 34...Raa8 35.Bg7+ Rxd7 36.hxg7+ Kg8 37.Qe4 Ng5 38.Qg6 and 39.Nf6#.

2. Spassky-Fischer: 39.Rf8! forces resignation, as after Kxf8 40. Qh8+ wins Black's queen.

3. Spassky-Fischer: For those of us who are old enough to have followed the battle for the championship game-by-game, the winning move **27...Bxa4!** is engraved in memory - as it startled not only Spassky but most of us watching the game wherever we could get to a TV set. Described, nonetheless, as a "simple tactical shot" by Ivo Nei, co-author with Robert Byrne of *Both Sides of the Chessboard* (NYT Book Company, 1974) it threatens 28.Qxa4 Qxe4! with mate on either e1 or g7. Ignoring the sac with 29.Qb1 leaves White minus 2 pawns after 29...Bxd1 30.Qxd1 Qxe4 and it is hard to see how White can avoid losing a third on c4.

4. Bielicki-Smyslov: White avoided 30.Qxc4? which would have been met with 30....Rd2 and mate on g2 or h1, but found no solace in 30.Qb2 **Rg4!** With the unstoppable threat of 31...Rxd3 32.hxg3 h2; if 31.Be5 Rg1+ and mate on g2.

5. Tal-Smyslov: Well done if you found the eye-popping **19.Qxf7!** If 19...Rxf7 20.Rxd8+ Ng8 21.Nxf7#. Black opted for **19...Qa1+ 20.Kd2 Rxf7 21.Nxf7+ Kg8 22.Rxa1 Kxf7 23.Ne5+ Ke6 24.Nxc6 Ne4+ 25.Ke3 Bb6+ 26.Bd4 1-0.** Both Tal and Smyslov lost return matches to Botvinnik. Each reigned less than a year and are called "The Winter Kings".

6. Botvinnik-Alatortsev: 20. Nh4! Nxh4 21.Qxh5+ Kg8 22.Rxg7#; If 20...Nf6 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22. Nxf5 is good enough.

7. Bronstein-Botvinnik: 37. Bg3! Bg7 38. Qxg8 1-0. 37...Bxg3 runs into 38.Qc3+!

8. Alekhine-Euwe: 29.Nh6+! Kh8 30.Qxc5 and Alekhine explains: 31...Re8 31.Qd5! gxf6 32.Qf7 Be7 33. Rxe7 followed by mate.

9. Euwe-Alekhine: 47.Nxe4+ game over.

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

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

September 22. 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.

October 7 GPP:6 Pennsylvania 2007 Western Pennsylvania Open. 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 9/28, \$40 after. \$200-100, U2000 \$75, U1800 \$50. **Premier:** Open to unrated or rated under 1600. EF: \$25 postmarked by 9/28, \$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 9/28, \$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, 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.*

October 12 (QC). 2007 Pennsylvania State Blitz Championship. 5-double-SS. G/5. Dining Center, Haverford College, Haverford PA 19041. 2 sections. Regular ratings will be used for pairing and prize purposes. **Open,** open to all. **U1500,** open to those rated under 1500: **EF:** \$15 by 10/5, \$20 later, PSCF required \$5 OSA. \$\$ 75% of EFs to be returned as prizes, structure to be determined based upon entries. **All:** Reg 6:30 - 7pm. Rds 7:30pm - 8pm - 8:30pm - 9pm - 9:30pm. **Info:** 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com **Ent:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Rd., Warminster PA 18974-5208.

A Heritage Event

October 13 & 14 GPP:10 Pennsylvania 2007 Pennsylvania State Championship. Dining Center, Haverford College, Haverford PA 19041. 5 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 10/5, \$50 later. \$\$ (680 Guaranteed): 250-150-100, U2200 \$70, U2000 \$60, U1800 \$50. **U1800,** open to those rated under 1800: EF: \$30 by 10/5, \$40 later. \$\$ (420 b/20): 170-100, U1600 \$60, U1400 \$50, Unrated \$40. **U1400,** open to those rated under 1400: EF: \$20 by 10/5, \$30 later. \$\$ (280 b/20): 100-60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40, U700 \$30. **Saturday-only Scholastic:** 4-SS. G/45. Reg 10 - 10:30am. Rds 11am - 2pm - 4pm - 6pm. EF: \$10 by 10/5, \$15 later. Organized into groups of 10 to 20 with equipment and book prizes per group. **Sunday-only Quads:** 3-RR. G/60. Reg 10 - 10:30am. Rds 11am - 1:30pm - 4pm. EF: \$20. \$\$ 50 to 1st in each quad. **All:** PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** 215-674-9049, iralee@aol.com **Ent:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Rd., Warminster PA 18974-5208.

October 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:** Dr. Ira Lee Riddle Iralee@aol.com, 215-674-9049.

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November 17. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. See the September 22 and October 20 events for the same details.

November 17 & 18. 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.** \$\$ (480G): 150-80, Ages 65 & Up \$70, U1800 \$60, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$40, U1200 \$30. Trophies to Champion & Top Ages 65 & Up. **EF:** \$25 postmarked by 11/9, \$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, 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.*

November 17 & 18. 2007 Pennsylvania State Junior Championships. 5-SS. 53 Trophies! (49 Individual, 4 Team) Ballroom, 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 11/9, \$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 11/9, \$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, 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.*

December 8. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. See the September 22 and October 20 events for the same details.

January 26. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. See the September 22 and October 20 events for the same details.

February 9. ASAP-PSCF-CCP Tournament. See the September 22 and October 20 events for the same details.

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 (2) Lehigh Valley Chess Association; Bruce Davis 610-821-4320

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Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

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Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

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

BRADFORD

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

CHAMBERSBURG

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

CHESTER

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

COATESVILLE

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

COUDERSPORT

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

DOUGLASSVILLE:

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

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 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

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

LANCASTER

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

LANSDALE

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

LEBANON

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

MAHONEY CITY

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

MONROEVILLE

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

MURRYSVILLE

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

NEW CASTLE

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

PECKVILLE

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

PETERS TOWNSHIP

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

PHILADELPHIA

- (1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs 1-9 pm, Fri & Sat 1-Midnight, 215-496-0811
 (2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm
 (3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285
 (4) Jardel Recreation Center, 1400 Cottman Ave, Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat Noon-4 pm
 (5) Temple Univ CC; SAC Dining Area, Mon/Wed 6-7 pm, Tues/Thurs 12-3 pm, 267-973-0765
 (6) Drexel Univ CC; Bookstore Lobby, Most Thursdays 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) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics: 1st/3rd Mon Sept-May, Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912

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

SHIPPENSBURG

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

SKIPPACK

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

STATE COLLEGE

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

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, Rm 254; Tues 5-7:30 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/>