

PennsWoodpusher



Spring, 2013

News and Notes by Joshua Anderson

FM Dov Gorman starts this issue out with the World Junior League(WJL). To follow, we will see such varied work as Leteef Street's report on Phiona Mutesi to GM Suat Atalik's analysis of his win over IM Chiel Van Oosterom. In between, we get tournament reports of state championships and small events, far and wide, from Joseph Mucerino, Boyd Reed, and others. I have an editorial. We have a few other articles and, sadly, a few passings to report.

I would like to make a quick apology to Dick Mesirov, for misspelling his name in the last issue. He was of great help putting together the history of the Main Line Chess Club, and though we don't a club history article for this issue, I hope to have more of them in the future.

One thing we do have in this issue is a stylistic change from the formatting of the last few years. There will likely be a few more stylistic adjustments as we settle into a new format. If you have any questions or ideas for articles or presentation style, please feel free to contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com.

Philadelphia Masterminds Reaches Final Four of World Junior Chess League (WJL).

By FM Dov Gorman

The World Junior League (WJL) is a new initiative featuring on-line chess leagues for teams of juniors around the world. The league has three sections based on age groups; under 10, under 14 and under 18 years old. With the help of the Internet Chess Club (ICC), WJL is able to bring junior competitors together from anywhere with an Internet connection. The ICC provides accounts and electronic boards for all players, while the tournament director makes sure each team and player follows the official WJL rules and regulations. The WJL league matches consist of five player teams with two sessions per season. A session typically consists of three rounds per day and last approximately 4 hours. Time control during the regular season is 30 minutes per game and 1 hour for playoffs games.

The playoffs are an international final-four style showdown, all with ONE goal. – to be crowned the WJL champion. Right from the start, we were hit with an unexpected twist. The two favorites coming in, Philly Masterminds (the highest rated team) and Israel The Force (undefeated throughout the season), both lost in their very first match.

Brazil was able to upset the Masterminds. The two teams faced each other during the regular season when the Masterminds routed Brazil 4-1. However, the final four has its own rules. The match looked promising for Philly after an early win by Chris Yang on board one; but on board 5, Philly's Ryan Schiller ran out of time in a crucial position. Draws on board 2 and 4 left the score all tied up at 2. On board 3, it was the MVP performance by Brazil's Thiago Carstens Dobuchak who brought the point home to secure a 3-2 victory, as well as a spot in the finals. In the other semi-final match, the Virginia Swindlers defeated Israel 3-2 with a very strong

Guilherme de Borba (Brazil) – Chris Yang (Philly Masterminds)
(Annotations by Chris Yang)

(1) de Borba,Guilherme - Yang,Chris [B56]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bb5 [I never saw 6.Bb5 before] **6...Bd7 7.Be3 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6** [White gave up the bishop pair] **9.0-0 g6** [I was preparing for a dragon-like setup.] **10.Qd2** [White should play f3 first] **10...Ng4 11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3** [The bishop did not have a good square to go.] **12...Bg7 13.Rab1** [Should put this rook on the d1 instead of b1.] **13...0-0 14.h3 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Rb8** [Put my rook on the open file] **16.Nb3 c5** [16...Qb6 This is probably better. I can double my rooks on b file. 17.Qd2] **17.Qd3 Re8 18.Rfe1** [18.Qxa6? This would fail 18...Bxc3 19.bxc3 Bb5] **18...Qc8 19.Kh1??** [Blunder. Missed fork. Should play 19. Nd2] **19...c4 20.Qe3 cxb3 21.cxb3 Qb7 22.Red1 Bc6 23.Nd5 Bxd5** [23...e6!? is even better. But since I was up by a piece, I wanted to trade other pieces. 24.Nc3 Bxc3 25.bxc3 Bxe4 26.Rbc1 Bxg2+ 27.Kh2] **24.Rxd5 Rec8 25.Rd2 Rc5** [Prepared to double the rooks on c file.] **26.f4 Rbc8 27.Re2 Qc7 28.Ree1 Rc2 29.Re2 Rc1+ 30.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 31.Qxc1 Rxc1+** [I traded to an endgame with a piece up. Game should be over now.] **32.Kh2 Rb1 33.e5 dxe5 34.fxe5 e6** [34...Rxb2! This would be even better. A nice bishop fork. 35.Rxb2 Bxe5+ 36.Kg1 Bxb2 37.Kf2] **35.Kg3 Rd1 36.Kf4 Rd5 37.b4 g5+ 38.Kf3 Rxe5 39.Rxe5 Bxe5** [After trading off the rooks, it

performance by top board, Justin Lohr.

That placed Brazil Bom Jesus against the Virginia Swindlers in the championship match. The nail biter finale ended in a 3 to 2 victory with Brazil Bom Jesus claiming the WJL championship title. Israel The Force took 3rd place over Philly Masterminds in a stunning finish. Congratulations once again to Brazil Bom Jesus and coach – WIM Regina Ribeiro for winning the World Junior Chess League Championship this summer and goodluck to Philadelphia Masterminds in future seasons!

should be an easy win.] **40.b3 Bc3 41.a3 f5 42.Ke3 e5 43.Kd3 Bd4 44.a4 Kf8 45.b5 axb5 46.axb5 Ke8 47.b4 Kd7 48.Kc4 Kc7 49.Kd5 Kb6 50.Kc4 Bg1 51.Kd5 e4 52.Kc4 e3 53.Kd3 Kxb5 54.Ke2 Kxb4 55.Kf1 Bf2 56.Ke2 Kc3 57.Kf1 Kd2 58.g4 fxg4 59.hxg4 e2+ 60.Kg2 e1Q 61.Kf3 Qe3+** [Summary of the game: I did not think that white played the right opening. Then he simply missed the pawn fork to lose a piece at move 19. I missed the nice move 34....Rxb2!]

Philadelphia Second in U.S. Chess League

The PennsWoodPusher would like to congratulate the Philadelphia Inventors on their fine season. The Inventors had a strong regular season (1st place in the Eastern Division with a 7.5 – 2.5 score) and ended up second after the playoffs when they lost the championship to the Seattle Sluggers. All of the games can be found at the U. S. Chess League website, <http://www.uschessleague.com>.

Around the State (mostly by Joseph Mucerino)

Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship (June 7 – August 5) (Unless otherwise noted, these event reports are by Joseph Mucerino.)

CAMP HILL – A dozen players contested in this year's club championship, up from only two players a year ago.

Two with strong credentials: experts Ilya Shvartsman (soon after a master!) and Jonathan Gottehrer.

Winning my ninth consecutive club title had just gotten much more difficult.

No surprise, the three 2000+ players were all 2-0 halfway through the tournament. In round three, Gottehrer defeated fourth seed Randall Sears, while the marquee matchup was Shvartsman-Mucerino. Shvartsman was a man I had never defeated, and had a poor +0 -4 =2 lifetime record against, including a loss with white just a few weeks earlier at the PA G/45 Championship in Pittsburgh. I knew what I was up against.

Shvartsman plays 1.d4 and 1.e4 about equally against me, so I had to prepare for both. On gameday, Shvartsman moved his kingpawn forward two squares, and I replied with my inevitable Center Counter.

The final round's Mucerino-Gottehrer was a quick draw. I was in no mood to risk the prize money or the title, which I did not mind sharing this year.

Shvartsman beat Michael Liebner, Sr., to take clear third. Michael Liebner II's 2.5 points gave him a clear fourth place. May next year's championship will be as close, and as exciting, as this year's!

Ilya Shvartsman (2188) – Joseph Mucerino (2086)

Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship, Camp Hill, Round 3, 7-5-2012

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Nf3 Qxd5 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nc3 Qf5 9.Be3 9.g4!? leads to complications, but is probably a draw in the end. **9...0-0-0 10.Ng5 Bxe2 11.Nxe2 Nd5 12.Nf3 Be7 13.c3 g5 14.Qb1 Nxe3** While this move is not bad, objectively, it would have been best to trade queens. I wanted to keep the ladies on, so I played the text move. Although I took the bishop, white now has two pawns in the center, more fluid pawns, and my queen wound up wandering aimlessly on the queenside. **15.fxe3 Qb5 16.Qc2 g4 17.hxg4 h5 18.a4 Qc4 19.b3 Qa6 20.b4?!** This allows black's queen to re-enter the game. Houdini says 20.g5 and 20.gxh5 are roughly equal. 20.g5 tries to keep lines closed, but even if they open, it is not too dangerous because black's queen is currently out of play. **20...Qc4 21.b5 Nb4 22.Qd2 hxg4?** Desperate. The obvious **22...Nd3** is best, but I was afraid the knight would get stuck there and be out of play. I was going for broke at this point. **23.Ne5 Qd5 24.Nxf7** If 24.cxb4 Qxe5! and things are back to equal. **24...Bd6 25.Nxh8 Qh5** Again, capturing the knight was best, but I was throwing caution to the wind. **26.Nf4?** White lost a big chunk of his advantage with this move, although he is still better. 26.Ng6 or 26.Nf7 were better. As we will see, I was able to capture this knight with the rook, which is a constructive move. After 26.Ng6, if black wanted to capture the knight, he would have to move his queen to an undesirable square, and the black knight on b4 is hanging to boot. **26... Bxf4 27.Rxf4 g3??** 27...Rxb8 is best. Grab the material now, and threaten **28...Qh1+**. **28.Re1??** That's the ballgame. Black's rook and knight suddenly join into the attack. **28...Rxb8 29.Kf1 Nd5 30.Qd1? Nxe3+! 0-1**

<p>PA G/45 Championship (June 16) PITTSBURGH – This year’s PA G/45 had to be the most closely contested in its history. Six people tied for first place with 3-1 scores: Kevin Mo, Gabriel Petesch, Thomas Magar, Ilya Shvartsman, Daniel Malkiel, and Seth Rokosky! No one was a perfect 3-0 entering the final round, so the field was bunched tightly throughout the event. The exact opposite was true in the two lower sections, which both had clear winners. Ben Molin swept the U1600 section 4-0, and the U900 was won by Aral Muftuoglu with the same score.</p>	<p>MasterMinds Chess Club Championship (June 23-24) PHILADELPHIA - Only a few days before and just a few short blocks from where the Sheraton Hotel was going to host the World Open, the Watermark, a retirement community, held the MasterMinds Club Championship. The defending champion Leteef Street directed the 24-player event. Everything went as expected in round one, but there were some surprises in the next round. I could only draw Street with white. But the big eye opener was Dandridge Worthington’s upset over tough Ken Horan.</p> <p>Sunday morning, David Miller and Alexander Wlezien, two of the top favorites, met on board one, and Miller emerged as the winner after a long struggle. I had an interesting game with Worthington, holder of the third perfect score. I gave up a piece for three pawns (two of them were connected passed pawns.) Complacency and miscalculation allowed the opportunity for Worthington to win a decisive amount of material. He seemed to realize his good fortune, but miscalculated himself, and my pawns won the day.</p>
<p>PA G/30 Championship (July 14) PITTSBURGH – A strong field with many Class A players, experts, and a sprinkling of masters contested the state action championship. Three players had three points after three rounds: NM Gabriel Petesch, Gaibo Yan, and your author. In the penultimate round, Petesch defeated Yan, and I bested expert Jesse Nicholas, to set up the final round’s Petesch-Mucerino game, which was drawn. We were caught by John Ahlborg, who finished his tournament by defeating NM Thomas Magar and David Donohoe. We shared the money with him, but since he is from the Buckeye State, the title was only split in half. There was also a three way tie in the scholastic section between Austin Kuntz, Aaron Coplan, and Venkat Daita.</p>	<p>Before the fourth and final round, we took time out to sing Happy Birthday to Robert Sigmond, who celebrated his 92nd birthday just a few days before. Sigmond only played the two games on Sunday, and by doing so became (to my knowledge) the third oldest active player in Pennsylvania, behind Dr. Winsor Schmidt and Art Mease.</p> <p>In the final, I was black against Miller, who, after Street drew Wlezien, only needed a draw for the title. I was satisfied with the opening my Center Counter brought me, but I lost control. At one point, I had to give up the exchange. I won two pawns, but Miller took them back later. We arrived in an endgame where Miller had a rook and two pawns and I had a knight and two pawns. After Miller missed a final hour win, I was able to construct a sequence where everything was going to be traded off, thanks to a knight fork, so we agreed to a draw.</p> <p>Miller won the title with 3.5 points. Street, Worthington, Vanita Young, Christopher Copeland, and I all tied for second place – a nice mix of veterans and upcoming talent. Melanie Brennan’s experience won her the reserve section. Hopefully we will have another good turnout next year.</p>
<p>Philadelphia Junior Invitational (July 26 – 29) by Joshua Anderson</p> <p>Sunday July 29, 2012 Sunday evening saw the end of the 2012 Philadelphia Junior Invitational, hosted by Chestnut Hill College. This event brings together the top eight scholastic players from the Philadelphia region. All of whom are in the top 3% of juniors in the entire country!</p> <p>By luck of the draw, the two highest rated players, Andrew Ng and Rahul Swaminathan, had played, and drawn, on the first night. This allowed two first time participants, Josh Hernandez – Camen and Greg Whitehorn, to take the early lead. By the end of the second round Josh, one of three 13 year olds, found himself in clear first, being the only person to win his first two games.</p> <p>As the rounds progressed, the four highest rated players began to separate themselves from the bottom four. As is common in a round robin event, where everyone plays everyone, the stronger players mostly drew against each other and beat the weaker players. The weaker players aim for draws against the stronger players and to beat each other. This is</p>	

largely what happened, as neither the winner, Ng, nor the second place finisher, Swaminathan, lost a game.

The third and fourth place finishers, Yuhao Xu and Chris Yang, each won two games and lost one. Josh and Nathaniel Kolo, finished fifth and sixth respectively. Gregory Whitehorn lost several close games and beat the tail ender to finish seventh, and Kimberly Ding finished last. The tournament benefitted from great support from local Chestnut Hill businesses, the Chestnut Hill Business Association, Chestnut Hill College and the Dan Heisman Chess Support Fund. The Junior Invitational is in their debt, and we hope for and look forward to continued support from the Dan Heisman Chess Support Fund. Others who are interested in supporting this great event, please contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com.

43rd Susquehanna Valley Open

(July 28-29)

BLOOMSBURG – This popular summer contest attracted 31 players, including 2 new strong experts: Erick Garcia and Eric Funk. The top seeds went unscathed in the first two rounds, but at the halfway point all seven players with a perfect score drew their games. There was a slight sort out in the penultimate round when state champion NM Peter Minear defeated state amateur co-champion Ed Chong, former state champion FM Rodion Rubenchik defeated one of the other amateur co-champions (me), and Don Funk lost to New York expert David Kistler. Garcia and Eric Funk drew their game. In the final round, Rubenchik-Minear was a fairly short draw. Eric Funk defeated Tom Ostrosky and Garcia defeated Kistler in a long game, to tie them with four points.

As usual with the SVO, there was always plenty to eat all weekend, and players could spend the night in the student apartments at a reasonable rate. These factors help make it one of the favorite tournaments the players take part in all year!

10th Holly Heisman Memorial (August 5) (by Joseph Mucerino and Joshua Anderson)

WYNNEWOOD - For the past ten years, this charity tournament has raised money for the Holly Heisman Memorial Fund, which helps battered women, women with breast cancer, and runaway teenagers. Approximately \$10,000 has been raised towards this good cause in the tournament's history, with over \$75,000 having been raised by the fund overall! The 5SS G/25 d5 tournament is free to enter, although donations are strongly recommended. Such generous benefactors as chess.com, the internet chess club, Everyman publishing, and many individuals were recognized and thanked for their generous donations. Seventy seven players in three sections (open, U1500, and K-9 U900) took part.

A big shock came in round two when Chris Yang, fresh off his fine result in the Philadelphia Junior Invitational, took down state champion Peter Minear. In the next round, former state champion Rodion Rubenchik went down to Matthew O'Brien. Yours truly was the defending champion, and I was held to a draw by Steve McLaughlin, Jr. Perfect going into round four were NM Stanislav Busygin, Greg Nolan (who just beat Yang), and O'Brien. Busygin took the lead when he defeated Nolan, and I drew O'Brien in time pressure in a highly imbalanced position. In the final, Busygin, who has seemingly won everything this year, added this tournament to his collection when he beat O'Brien. Tying for second were Minear, Rubenchik, Nolan, and Alex Graeffe, all losing one game apiece.

In the U1500 section, Shawn Wang, student of TD Joshua Anderson, celebrated his one year anniversary in tournament chess, by winning the biggest tournament of his career so far. Tying for second were Robert Lakata, Alex Allen, and Douglas Cox, who had a fine tournament himself, picking up over 350 rating points and losing only to Wang. The four round K-9 U900 section was swept by Tykiem Gresham. Second place was split between Manas Dhawan, Kevin Hemingway, Kevin Koerner, and David Huang.

On August 4th, 2013, this tournament will once again be at the Jewish Community Center in Wynnewood, PA. An article about this tournament is scheduled for the July, 2013, Chess Life.

4th Annual Monroeville Chess Club Summer Sizzler (August 11) (by Thomas Magar)

MONROEVILLE - This tournament was held on August 11 at the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville. Eighteen players entered and played in the five-round tournament. Several new players joined our club and became USCF members as well. The winner of the event was Joe Mucerino, an expert from

Chaturanga Chess Club Championship (September 6 – October 4)

HATBORO – A whopping 27 players, up 7 from last year, participated in this year's club championship. FM Rodion Rubenchik was the strongest newcomer. The tournament was reasonably predictable, with defending champion FM Karl Dehmelt starting 3-0. A half point behind were Rubenchik, who took a half point bye in the middle round. I was nicked for

eastern Pennsylvania. He scored 5-0 to take the first place trophy. Joe has played in events in more chess clubs than any other player in Pennsylvania chess history. Tying for 2nd-3rd place with 4-1 scores were Jim Flaherty and Kurshad Muftuoglu. There was a large tie at 3-1 for the other trophies. Andrew Casile won the U1500 trophy. Anthony Qin was Top U1300. Aral Muftuoglu was Top U1100. Rohil Senapati was Top U900. The top U Age 12 prize went to Praneel Varshney.

a draw in the same round by Chris Farmer. Strong Class A player Alan Lindy had the same score, and Joe Schneider upset veteran Robert Leonards to join the group with 2.5 points. Things got serious in the penultimate round when Rubenchik won with black against Dehmelt. I beat Schneider, and Lindy continued his great tournament by defeating Farmer. In the final round, Rubenchik-Mucerino was drawn, and Dehmelt ground down Lindy for a three way tie at the top with four points. Tying for fourth a half point back were Lindy, Farmer, and Stan Booze, who also had a great tournament.

North Penn Chess Club Membership Drive (September 7 – October 5)

LANSDALE – Eighteen players attended this year’s membership drive, which doubles as the club championship. That may sound like a relatively small number, but it is up four players from last year. Your author was the defending champion, and I started out with a 3-0 score, putting me a half point in the lead. Then I had black against tough A player Douglas Kern, who has joined the club in the past year and who was coming off a draw with expert Eric Funk in the previous round. My Center Counter gave me an advantage out of the opening, but I made some inaccuracies and then a terrible oversight and <POOF!> my advantage was gone. The game was drawn. Funk beat Bill Campion to put him a half point behind. In the final round, Kern beat Donald Funk (Eric’s father) to assure himself at worst clear second place. I had white against Eric Funk, and blundered in the middlegame, but he missed it, and I won a long sixty-two move bishop verses knight ending to defend my title. Third place was split by Robert Kampia and Thomas DiMarco.

Bob Johnson Memorial (October 20)

NORTH EAST – This team tournament is named in honor of a New York player who passed away in 2009 at the age of 47. Most of the tournaments he played in were in southwestern New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. This event is currently one of the largest tournaments in the area, with 33 players spread over 2 sections in a 3-round G/90 Swiss. Most played on a team, but independents, such as myself, were allowed to play. The Erie Chess Club hosted the event in North East, which, incidentally, is the northernmost town in Pennsylvania.

In the upper section, the top players swept the lower rated ones in the first round. The same can be said in round two, except I could not turn my advantage against Erie City Champion Richard Kalfas into a win. Instead, the point was halved. With NM Barry Davis, Craig Schneider, Douglas Dubrose, and Michael Jones all having perfect scores entering the final round, I thought I was out of it. I won fairly quickly against New York expert Mark Clark in the final round, and left thinking I tied for second or third. But the four players with perfect scores all drew each other, so I joined the quartet as a tournament winner. In the lower section, Jerome Green was having none of that, and he swept 3-0. The Buffalo Thundering Herd scored nine points to win the team competition. Second was the Grove City Wolverines, and the Buffalo Blizzard were third.

West Grove Tournament (November 17)

WEST GROVE – When the editor of this publication told me about this tournament, I became excited. Not only was West Grove going to become the 74th town in Pennsylvania that I have played in, but it set the record as the most southernmost town in the Commonwealth where I have played, just edging out Gettysburg.

Eugene Seibert is the pastor of Chatham United Methodist Church, and he was gracious enough to let us use his church for the event. It was not the best advertised event in the history of chess, so only eight players attended. I won the tournament, but the young and provisionally rated Enoch Seibert gave me a good run for my money, and Pastor Seibert gave me a good game too. Hopefully more events will be held here in the future. (Ed. Note: More events are indeed being planned there, perhaps longer G/60 quads for sometime in early summer.)

November – Month of Champions

It is common for many organizations to hold their yearly championships in the fall. This is near the end of the year, but avoids the end of the year holidays and inclement weather. This year, because of the weather, four championships were decided. These were the Main Line Chess Club, the strongest club in the Philadelphia area; a scholastic event in Huntingdon Valley called the Philadelphia Metropolitan; the state championship, held this year in Pittsburgh; and the official scholastic championship for the city of Philadelphia.

Main Line Chess Club Championship (October 2 – November 13)

GLADWYNE – The Main Line Chess Club has bragging rights this year for having the largest turnout in Pennsylvania for a club championship. Fifty one people played at least one game, up by six from a year ago. The prizes were silver bowls for the top three overall, top junior and class prizes. Yours truly was trying to win his third first place bowl in a row and fourth overall.

Contenders Vinko Rutar and Runya Xu began with a half point bye, and Charles Pearson had a great result, drawing strong Class A player William Chen. Xu took another half point bye in the following round, as did Edmund Kline. It was my turn to draw, and I had the worst end of it against Preston Ladson. Things began to get sorted out in the middle round, when NM Stanislav Busygin beat Dennis Baluk, Ed Roche downed Larry Saxby, and Marcin Maciaszek won against Alex Graffe. Those winners all had perfect scores. In the penultimate round, Busygin took the lead when he won with black, and my Center Counter nicked Roche for a draw.

The last round was delayed because of Hurricane Sandy and the presidential elections. The championship round would be held three weeks after round four. In that round, Busygin continued his wonderful year by defeating Rutar, who had won three straight, to take the title. Baluk took clear second place a point by winning against Luis Rodriguez. A logjam of players scored 3.5 points and tied for third: Rutar, Roche, Graeffe, Kline, Xu, and myself. I won the third place bowl on tiebreaks. I have three first place bowls and one second place bowl. Now I have at least one of each of the top three places. Class prizes: Roche was the top U2000, Adam Serota U1800, Nimesh Soni U1500, John Bayley U1200, and Xu was the top junior.

6th Annual Philadelphia Metropolitan Scholastic Chess Championship – (November 3) – by Joshua Anderson

This event was smoothly run and had 69 players, including 17 from local high schools. Over all 28 trophies were awarded and the winners of each section were as follows:

K to 3 – Harrison Sandford, Taylor Brown, Paolo Arthur Marchiano, and Nihal Bankula

K to 6 – Zachary Kingsley and Manas Narula

K to 8 – Tykiem Gresham

K to 12 – Angelo Dellomargio

116th Pennsylvania State Championship (November 3-4)

PITTSBURGH – The Pennsylvania State Championship rotates from the eastern, central, and western part of the Commonwealth every three years. This year, Pittsburgh played host for the 21st time. The University of Pittsburgh housed the event rather than the usual William Pitt Union, which was unavailable. Instead, the O’Hara Student Center was the championship site.

Attendance was pretty good, with 65 players, the highest turnout since the same number of participants played in Harrisburg in 2008. There were five players in the open section from eastern PA to give the tournament a true *state* championship feel. Defending state champion Peter Minear and Matt O’Brien traveled crossed the 300 miles or so with me in the Mucerinobile, and FM Rodion Rubenchik and Chris Farmer came separately. The five highest rated players were Rubenchik, Minear, Tom Magar, Dan Malkiel, and me.

Tough David Donohoe scored an opening round draw against Magar. But in round two, there was a more stunning result: defending state champion Minear lost to John Ahlborg of Ohio. Rubenchik took a half point bye in round three, and the only other perfect scores were Malkiel, Ahlborg, and myself. This was the board one matchup:

Malkiel v. Mucerino Rd, 4

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 0–0 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 10.Nf3 Ne4 11.Bxe4 Bxh4 12.Bh7+ Kf8 After the game, Malkiel and I thought 12...Kh8 would have been better, but Houdini says they are equally as good. **13.g3 Bf6 14.Bf5 Bxf5 15.Qxf5 Qb6?!** Not a horrible move, but I think black’s problems begin about here. 15...Qd7 would have been better. **16.0–0–0 Re6?** Now black really does have problems. Necessary was 16...Kg8 to keep the queen out of black’s position. **17.Qh7 Ke7** Compounding the previous error. 17...g6 gives up a pawn but black’s king is more protected. Now white opens up the center and wins easily. **18.Rhe1 Na6 19.e4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Re8 21.Nxf6 Kxf6 22.Ne5 Qb4 23.Re3 Rxe5 24.dxe5+ Rxe5 25.Rxe5 Qc4+ 26.Kb1 Kxe5 27.Qxg7+ Kf5 28.Qh7+ Kg5**

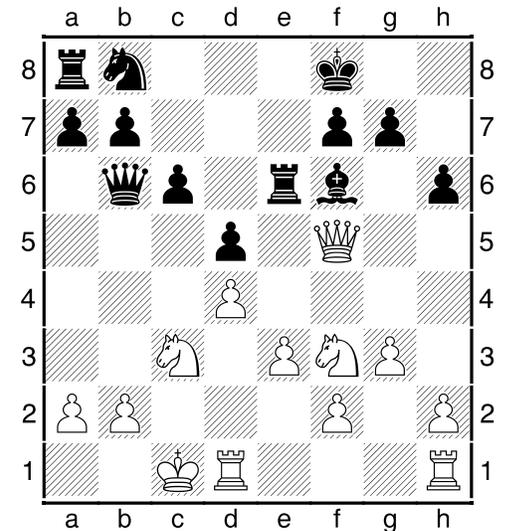
In the meantime, Ahlborg and Magar drew, giving Malkiel the lead. Rubenchik and Ahlborg were a half point back.

Sunday morning, Malkiel was able to make what looked like a fairly comfortable draw with black against Rubenchik. Ahlborg beat me to earn a spot on board one in the final round. In that final round, Malkiel won a very long game against Ahlborg to win the title. He becomes the first nonmaster to win the title since Mark Heimann (not yet a master!) did it in 2006, also in Pittsburgh. Four players tied for second a full point back: Minear, Magar, Ahlborg, and Joseph Winwood, who, after losing to Minear in round one, scored 3.5/4.

In the U1800 section, there was a three way tie between Jingshu Xu, William Griffin, and Danny Inzinga. Griffin is from Maryland so he splits the prizemoney but not the title. Sonark Vajir, an unrated player, scored 4.5 points to take clear first in the U1400 section. There were two, one-day scholastic sections on Sunday, with Aral Muftuoglu winning the U1100 section with 4.5 points, and Kuba Kowalewski scored the only 5-0 sweep of the weekend in the U700 section.

The 2013 state championship will be in Frazier, PA. See you there!

29.Re1 Nb4 30.Qg7+ 1-0



2012 Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Championship (November 10) by Joshua Anderson

Seventy – five people arrived at Maple Glen hoping to win one of three City Chess Championships. In the K-3 section, Aneesh Raparla went 5 – 0. Risa Azim and Jack Lieberman both were 4 – 1 and only lost to Aneesh. Eight players went 3 – 2. The top team was Whitmarsh Elementary with 7 game points.

In the K-6 section, Tate Park scored a perfect 5 – 0 result. Three players, Julien Mackensen, John Sachenic, and Peter Kimball, each scored 4 – 1. There were 9 players that went 3 – 2. The top team was Bridge Valley, which scored 12 game points.

In the K-12 section, three players, Angel “Josh” Hernandez-Camen, Andy Weng, and Adam Serota all scored 3.5 points. Josh won first place and the invitation to the Philadelphia Junior Invitational this summer. With Josh and Adam not yet in high school, both have many more years to fight for this championship again. Eight players were within a game of the three winners. The top team was Pocono Mountain East.

Round 4 Greater Philadelphia 2012 K-12

White: Adam Serota

Black: Runya Xu

The enclosed game is the last round encounter between Adam Serota and Runya Xu. The notes are by Fritz 13 and Joshua Anderson.

Adam Serota – Runya Xu Rd. 4

B14: Caro-Kann: Panov-Botvinnik Attack with 5...e6 and 5...g6

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.exd5 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd5 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 Bg7 9.Nf3 last book move according to Fritz 13. **9...Bg4** 9...Nc6 is given an equal sign from Fritz 13. **10.Bxf7+!Kf8?** Kf8 is bad because of Ng5+, King has to move and queen takes bishop. **11.Bb3 Nc6 12.Be3 Bf6 13.Ne4 Kg7 14.Nc5 Qc8? 15.h3 Bf5 16.g4 Bd7 17.g5 Rf8 18.gxf6+ Rxf6** [18...exf6 doesn't do any good 19.Rc1 Kh8 20.d5+–] **19.d5 Kf8** [19...Na5 is the last straw 20.Bd4 Kg8 21.Bxf6 Qxc5 22.d6+ Nxb3 23.Qxb3+ Qd5 24.Bxe7 Qxb3 25.axb3 Bc6+–] **20.dxc6 Bxc6 21.Ng5 Bxh1 22.Nxh7+ Kg7 23.Nxf6 exf6 24.Ne6+ Kh7 25.Qd6 Qe8 26.Nc7** [!26.Qf4 ends the debate 26...Qf7 27.Ng5+ Kg7 28.Nxf7 Nd5+–] **26...Qf8 27.Qxf8** [27.Qf4 and White has prevailed 27...g5 28.Qf5+ Kh8 29.Nxa8+–] **27...Rxf8 28.Ke2** [28.Rd1 keeps an even firmer grip 28...g5+–] **28...Be4** [28...Bc6 is not the saving move 29.Rd1 Rc8 30.Ne6+–] **29.Bxb6** [29.Rd1 makes it even easier for White 29...Bc6+–] **29...axb6 30.Bd5 Bf5 31.Bxb7 Rf7 32.Rc1 g5** [32...Re7+ doesn't improve anything 33.Kf3+–] **33.Bd5** [33.Bg2 and White can already relax 33...Re7+ 34.Kf3 Kg7+–] **33...Re7+ 34.Kf3 Bxh3 35.Nb5 Bd7 36.Rc7 Kg6 37.Bc6 Bxc6+ 38.Rxc6 Rb7 39.Nd6 Ra7 40.Ne4 Rxa2 41.Rxf6+ Kg7 42.Rxb6 Ra5 43.b4 Re5 44.b5 Kf7 45.Rb8 Ke7 46.b6 Kd7 47.Ng3 Kc6 48.Kg4 Rb5 49.f3 Rb3 50.Ne4 Rb4 51.Kxg5**

The Queen of Katwe visits Philly Queens by Leteef Street

Phiona Mutesi, the young chess prodigy from Uganda (featured on the cover of the November 2012 Chess Life magazine) visited the Queens Academy in Philadelphia on December 1 st. The Queens Academy is an all-girls class organized by After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) and taught by Jennifer Shahade and myself. Phiona's story is the subject of the new book, "The Queen of Katwe" by Phiona visited with her coach Robert Katende and Rodney Suddith, the President of the Sports Outreach Institute (SOI). SOI is a Virginia based nonprofit organization that uses sports to connect with youth in impoverished parts of the world. Phiona told us her story of growing up in the slums of Uganda and how she found the game of chess in the SOI program. She has not only excelled at the game of chess, having represented Uganda in international chess competitions, but chess has help create the opportunity for her to receive an education, an opportunity many children in her community do not. After a question and answer period in which the girls and the coaches questioned Phiona, Robert and Rodney about their experiences, Jennifer taught a lesson from a couple of Phiona's games. This was followed by some casual play in which Phiona played a mini-simul with three of the Philadelphia girls.

65th Lancaster County Championship (December 1-2)

LANCASTER - A large number of scholastic players entered this popular weekend tournament to raise the number of entries to 32, the largest turnout in six years. Most of the usual suspects attended, and former state champion FM Rodion Rubenchik entered to make things interesting.

Due to the large number of scholastic players, almost every adult was paired with a student in the first round. Although most of the games ended fairly quickly and expectedly, there was one standout. On board one, Joshua Lewis was black against Rubenchik. Although a piece down, Lewis took his time (the time control was G/90), and did a great job to hang in there despite his material deficit. He earned the respect of all of the competitors in the tournament.

Despite some close games, the three highest rated players of Rubenchik, Marty Frank, and your author, all went 3-0 after the first day. Sunday morning saw Frank-Rubenchik on board one and Ed Chong-Mucerino on board two. I was very happy with my position with Chong out of the opening, but as soon as we reached the middlegame, I made an elementary blunder and walked into a knight fork. I pressed my attack anyway, but got nowhere with my material deficit, and lost badly. As soon as Frank realized I was going down in flames, he offered Rubenchik a draw, which was accepted.

Despite my debacle, I moved up to board one for the final round, because Rubenchik had already played Frank and Chong. Rubenchik ground me down pretty easily. Frank also defeated Chong, so the two tied for first place. I believe that Frank won the Lancaster County title for an amazing thirteenth time! Rubenchik is not from Lancaster County, so he shared prize money but not the title. Francisco Terry and Joe Desmond also had great tournaments to finish in a tie for third, a half point back, and Ron Raush finished in clear fifth.

MasterMinds Quads (January 12)

PHILADELPHIA – This monthly event in the Germantown section of Philadelphia had three quads and a huge scholastic section for its first edition of 2013. The top quad featured four veterans. In round one, Larry Saxby defeated Keith Thompson. I was doing well against Preston Ladson until I suffered a huge mental error.

In round two, the first round winners met, and Saxby downed Ladson. I was upset at myself, so I made a risky move against Thompson, and lost quickly. In the final round, Saxby could have offered me a quick draw and went home counting the first place prize money. But Saxby does not like short draws. We played a real

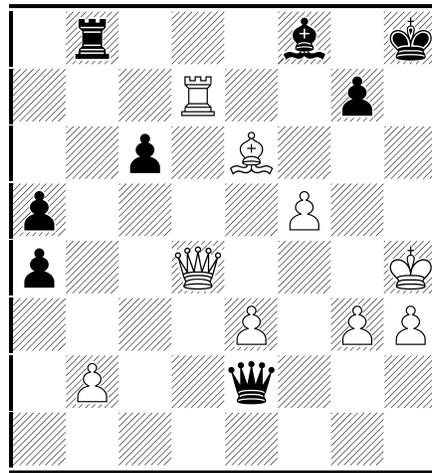
Joseph Mucerino (2108) – Preston Ladson (1911)

MasterMinds Quads, Philadelphia, Round 1, January 12, 2013.

White is winning (see diagram below.) I decided to trade pieces with **43.Rd8** and was shocked when Ladson replied **43...Rb4**. I was embarrassed because I missed this move and hit the panic button. I figured why n t **44.Rxf8+ Kh7**. I still thought I was busted, so I desperately tried for a perpetual check with **45.Bg8+??** In fact, prior to that move, I had a mate in five. Houdini found **45.Kg5!** with the idea of **46.Bg8+ Kh8 47.Bf7+ Kh7 48.Bg6+ mate**. For the record, the game finished, **45...Kh6 46.Qf4+ Rxf4+ 47.gxf4 Qxe3 48.Kg4 Qe2+ 49.Kg3 Qe3+ 50.Kg4 Qg1+ 51.Kf3 Qf1+ 52.Kg4 Qg2+ 53.Kh4 Qf3 0-1**

game, and I wound up winning with the black pieces. That gave Ladson and Thompson the opportunity to split the pot with Saxby, but they wound up drawing, and Saxby came in clear first anyway.

Ken Horan swept quad 2, and Dan Bell did likewise in quad 3. Harrison Sanford won 4-0 in the twenty-seven player scholastic section.



CB Cares Quads

#3 (January 26)
WARRINGTON – The sectional winners of the Central Bucks Cares Quads #3 were: quad 1, Joe Mucerino; quad 2, Evan Meyers, Jack Lieberman, and Michael Rehmet; quad 3, Calin Blauth; Swiss, Julie Sellers. The next edition is scheduled for June 1.

Bye, Bye Aristo Liu Swiss (February 2)

ALLENTOWN – One of our top young scholastic players has moved to Ohio, but before departing for the Buckeye State, the Allentown Center City Chess Club held a farewell tournament in the honor of the 2012 State Scholastic K-3 Champion. Prizes were unique in this 3SS G/40 event. In all three games where Liu participated, \$10 would be at stake. If either Liu or his opponent won, they pocked the money. In a draw, the club kept it.

You author was fortunate enough to be paired with Liu in the opening round. In an even position, I blundered a piece for two pawns, and it looked like I would go down in flames. But a few moves later, Liu made a blunder of his own, and I emerged two pawns up and later collected my \$10. All of the other top players won too. In the middle round, Liu took home a \$10 bounty by beating Joe Sackey. When the round was over, NM Peter Minear, Michael Turcotte, and your author were all 2-0. I withdrew because it was snowing in Allentown and laying on the streets, which apparently were not salted. Minear defeated Turcotte to take first place. Liu drew James Strobel in his final round game.

Good luck in Ohio, Aristo!

15th Pennsylvania State Quick Championship

(March 8)
CARLISLE – The State Scholastic Championship weekend always begins with this popular event, the only tournament over the weekend where the adults and the scholastic players can bump heads. The big news was that NM Peter Minear arrived late, forfeited his first round game, and then won his remaining five games to take clear first and the title. There was a four way tie for second between FM Karl Dehmelt, NM Ilya Shvartsman, Gabriel Tkach, and your author, a half point back. In the U1500 section, Rushawn Martin started out 4-0 and then coasted with two draws to take home first place. In the U1100 section, Tykiem Gresham

Carlisle Open (March 9-10)

CARLISLE – Those of us who grow old and cannot play in the scholastic sections anymore have the opportunity to play in the Carlisle Open. This year, the tournament was divided into three sections (open, U1800, and U1400) as opposed to the open and U1500 sections that had been used for years. Attendance rose by four players from last year!

Some strong players who played last year were missing this year (including FM Rodion Rubenchik, Marty Frank, Steadroy Lloyd, Steve McLaughlin, Jr., Antonio Scalzo, Bennett Lynn, Doug Burgwin, Aaron Nicely, and Chris Pumarejo), but some other strong players took their place (such as NM Solomon Francis, NM Ilya Shvartsman, Jonathan Pfefer, Erick Garcia, Alex Hallenback, Advait Patel, and Ken Horan). But one thing that did not change was the winner, former state champion NM Peter Minear, faced a difficult schedule and once again

<p>was nearly perfect, scoring 5.5 points to win.</p> <p>Due to a change in USCF rules, this event, G/7 with a three second delay, was blitz rated, although it was for the State Quick Championship. Next year, the event will probably become G/8 with a three second delay so it will be, once again, quick rated.</p>	<p>came out on top. Tying for second a full point back were Francis, Shvartsman, Matt O'Brien, and Pfefer. Alexandre Quantin won the U1800 by half a point over Thuc Kien Vu, and Jedidiah Hall and Toan Do shared with U1400 section with 4.5 points.</p> <p>Everyone seemed to like the three section format, so it will probably be repeated next year. Reminder: next year, this tournament will double as the Pennsylvania State Championship, which is due to be in central Pennsylvania, so don't miss it!</p>
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<p>St. Patrick's Day Quad (March 17) FRAZER – The editor of this wonderful publication you hold in your hands will also direct this year's Pennsylvania State Championship July 20-21 at the Aloha Mind Math company in Frazer (space is limited to 60 so enter early!). This event was held just to try the place out. Since I had never played in Frazer before, it became the 75th town in Pennsylvania that I have played chess in.</p> <p>Only five players entered, and, after the first round, one child was not feeling well so withdrew. TD Josh Anderson decided to count the first round as an extra game and make a quad from those who remained. I won 3-0 over some talented young junior players, but let me tell you they were not easy! Aneesh Raparla, the highest rated seven year old in all of Pennsylvania, came in second.</p> <p>See you at the State Championship in July (7/14 for the blitz and 7/20-1 for the individual championship!)</p>	<p>Amity Chess Club Tournament (March 22) DOUGLASSVILLE – After some cancellations due to winter weather, we finally had a rated event in my hometown of Douglassville. There was a four man, blitz rated double round robin tournament, won by NM Peter Minear by a perfect score. Matt O'Brien was second, I was third, and Ernesto Cachuela (who looked great after having some medical problems) was fourth. Club president Richard Jokiell won the nonrated section 3-0.</p>
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<p>If the state quick championships is the hor devours, and the Carlisle Open is the desert (in a sense), then the main course is the many sectioned State Scholastic Championship. This event is designed to not only find the top K-3, K-6, K-8, and K-12 players, but it even has several under sections. This allows every child in the state to find at least once section to play in.</p> <p>For results can be found at http://www.pscfchess.org/results/</p> <p>Often in these large events, we see the top rated player get nicked with a draw or loss and because of the size of the event, they never get a chance to regain first. This was not the case this year. Starting in K-3, many of the top seeds won their section. What we do often see, that did play out this year, is that many players do not get a chance to play many of the strong players, but are still able to get trophies.</p> <p>In K-3, Shawn Wang, sat down on the top board and never left. After dispatching Ryan Pethick, who would go on to be 1st grade champion, and Paolo Marchiano, he three players who finished in the top 11. A win against Risa Azim, who finished 8th, led to a taut battle with Aneesh Raparla. After winning a rook and pawn ending, he beat Luke Weiland, the 2nd highest rated player to become the K-3 state champion.</p> <p>The top school was The Philadelphia School with 13.5 points. The third place school, Penn Alexander, scored 8.5 points, but did so with only 2(!) kids – Neel Jay who came in</p>	<p>Xu,Yuhao (2069) - Mo,Kevin (2353) [B86] 2013 PA State High School Championship (5), 03.10.2013 <i>[Mo]</i></p> <p>1.e4 [After winning the High School State Championship in 8th and 9th grade, I was not as successful in 10th and 11th grade (Losing to Will Fisher in the last round in 10th grade followed by a serious beating with white against Hibiki Sakai in the 4th round last year). After butchering my last two attempts to play Denker, I decided to give myself one last chance to qualify for Denker. (Editor's Note: The Denker is the a tournament that consists of the scholastic state champion from each state.)] 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Nbd7 8.Bg5 Qa5 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0-0-0 Nc5 [10...h6 probably more precise as now white's bishop does not have many good squares 11.Bxf6 (<i>11.Be3 Ng4 12.Bf4 Nc5</i>) 11...Bxf6] 11.Rhe1 Qc7 12.f4 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Kb1 Bd7 [not the most useful move especially since on b7, the Bishop would hit a weak e4 square. The main idea of the move is to prepare for b5] [14...0-0 probably what I should have played. With the dark square bishop defending my king, the attack should not be that lethal 15.g4 b5 16.g5 hxg5 17.fxg5</p>
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2nd and Risa Azim who came in 8th. The top club was Downingtown Regional Chess Club, who just barely edged out Chess Masters of Delaware, 13.5 to 13.

The first undersection to be decided was the Saturday Only K to 6 U800. In this section, which had 135 players, there were 3 players to go undefeated. A new unrated section (see notes from coaches meeting below) section should help to alleviate this problem, by potentially pulling out over 50 of the 135 players.

The three players with a perfect score were Gabe J. Tiday, Thomas Barbaro, and Noah A. Riccardi. The Philadelphia School was again the top team, dominating the field with a score of 17.5. Chess Masters of Delaware won top club with 16.5 points.

The K to 6 two day is the only championship section where one of the top two players didn't win the section. In this case, it was the third seed. Adam Serota and Torin Kuehnle tied for 1st with 4.5 points, with Serota winning the section on tie breaks. Serota was nicked for a draw by Jamieson Wade in the 2nd round, but Torin Kuehnle, drew Remington Zheng in the 3rd round. In the fourth round, Serota bested Zheng and Kuehnle beat Wade, and then both finished with another win to tie at 4.5. The top team was the Julia R. Masterman School and the top club was MasterMinds.

The K to 8 two day had 4 players over 1850 and then not another player over 1575. Not surprisingly the top 4 seeds finished in the top four places. Alexander Wlezien had 4 wins and a draw against top seed Christopher X. Yang, to finish first with 4.5 points. The other three top seeds, Yang, Srisa Changolkar, and Angel "Josh" Hernandez-Camen scored 4.0 points, placing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, respectively.

Of those 4 players, 3, Wlezien, Changolkar, and Hernandez-Camen belong to the same school and club. So, not surprisingly, their school, Julia R. Masterman, almost doubled the score of the next team, The Philadelphia School. Their club, MasterMinds, almost *tripled* the score of the Paul Robeson Chess Club, which finished as the second club.

The final one day section is the K to 9 U1000 section. This section had 133 players with 3 players having a perfect score. Ibrahim Muhammad, James S. McAllister, and Richard Martin, were 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively. The top team was Mastery Charter School Shoemaker Campus with 15.0 points. The top club was the Paul Robeson Chess Club, which scored 18.5 points.

There are three two day high school sections, the U1000, U1300, and Open. Each section had at least 50 people, with the U1000 section having 185! Amazingly enough, there were only 2 perfect scores in the 185 player section. These perfect scores were Dusty Meyers, first on tiebreaks, and Kurt Schlosser. Abington High School won top team title with 16.5 points, just edging out Exeter High School, which had 16.0 points. The top club was Chess Masters of Delaware who beat Lenfest Center Chess Club on tiebreaks, as both club teams had 14.0 points.

Be5 18.Nf3 Bb7; 14...b5 15.Ncxb5] **15.Nf3!** [A very strong move with e5 in mind] [15.g4 b5] **15...Be7 16.e5 d5 17.f5 Nxb3** [17...0-0-0 Missed this move. I originally thought 18. Bxd5 wins but missed 18...Bc6! 18.Bxd5] **18.axb3** [18.cxb3! With the idea that black can no longer castle queenside 18...Rc8 19.f6 Bf8 This is not a pretty position for black!] **18...0-0-0 19.Nd4** [After a pretty scary last few moves, I have escaped unscathed. It is true my light square bishop is bad, but i also dont have any weaknesses besides e6 while his e5 pawn will always need something to protect it] **19...Kb8 20.g4 Rdf8 21.Qe3 g6** [My last few moves merely serve to resolve the tension on the kingside.] **22.f6** [After this move, black gets free play on the queenside and White already begins to suffer] **22...Bb4 23.Qd3 h5 24.g5 Rc8 25.Re3 b5 26.h4 Qb7 27.Qe2 Rc7 28.Qf3 Rhc8 29.Nce2 a5 30.Red3 Bc5 31.Rc1 Qb6 32.Rcd1** [While black has slowly improved his position, White has been able to accomplish nothing; he has no counterplay.] **32...a4** [for better or worse, white cannot afford to open up the b-file] **33.bxa4** [33.Qf4 Qa6] **33...bxa4 34.Kc1 Rb7 35.b3 Ba3+** [35...Qc7!! Simply hitting e5 and b3 36.Qg3 axb3 37.Rxb3 Ba4 38.Rxb7+ Kxb7 39.Rd3 Bxc2-+] **36.Kd2 Qa5+ 37.Ke3 Bc5 38.bxa4 Qxa4 39.c3 Rc6 40.Kf4 Rcb6 41.Kg3 Rb2 42.R3d2 Qa2 43.Qd3** [43.Rxb2 Rxb2 44.Rd3] **43...Ba4 44.Rxb2 Rxb2 45.Rg1 Bd7** [45...Bb5 Missed this move, but victory is inevitable at this point. White had only seconds left on the clock even if the position has become a little unclear 46.Nxb5 Bxg1 47.Nd6 Bb6; 45...Kc8] **46.Rf1 Kc8 47.Kf3 Kd8 48.Kg3 Bc8** [And now white flagged.] **0-1** (Ed. Note: Congratulations to Kevin Mo and we wish you good luck at the Denker this summer!)

Weiland, Luke (1185) Wang, Shawn (1403)

2013 PA Elementary Championship (5), 03.09.2013

[Shawn Wang and Joshua Anderson]

A common teaching tactic is for the teacher to go over the tournament games of his student. Here, I have included some of the notes from our discussions about this game. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Be3 c4 6.Nc3 Nge7 7.Be2 Nf5** [Shawn (S): - Black has only 2 pieces developed, but both knights are very active.] **8.Qd2 Qb6 9.Rb1 Bd7** [S: - I wanted to play Ba3, but the pawn can take because the knight on c3 defends the rook.] **10.0-0 Bb4 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3** [S and Joshua (J): - I was pleased that Luke played pawn takes as I felt the doubled pawns and the a3 pawn would be weak and he wouldn't get much compensation from the half-open b file.] **12...Qc7 13.Rb2 0-0 14.Bg5 h6** [(J) - When first going over the game I suggested g4. My thinking was based on the idea that white has many pieces around blacks king and black has just a few so

The U1300 section is much smaller with 65 players. There was a clear first and second in this section. First went to Malubu Chongolola who scored a perfect 5 – 0 score.

Benjamin D. Kruger scored 4.5 for second. High School of Engineering and Science won top school team with 15.5 points. The top club was Chess Masters of Delaware with 11 points.

The High School Open went down to the wire, with NM Kevin Mo and Yuhao Xu both won their first 4 games to meet for the state championship in the 5th round. This game is included and was won by Kevin Mo, giving him the state championship with the only perfect score. Xu, won 2nd on tie breaks, followed by Gregory L. Whitehorn, Suyash Hodawadekar, and Andy Weng, all with 4 points. The top school team was Pocono Mountain East High with 12.5 points. The top club was the Pittsburgh Chess Club with 11 points.

This year there was a coach's meeting on Sunday morning. This meeting proved very productive and accomplished numerous items. First, it was decided that we should find a way to have someone go over the games with the kids. Steve Shutt is working on getting IM Greg Shahade to come down and fill the post that used to be filled by NM Alex Dunne. If IM Shahade is unavailable, we will try to get someone of similar skill.

Second, a new section will be added next year, an Unrated K-6 section. This section would hopefully lead the way to an Unrated K- 12 section in 2015. These sections should help bring in more students and also allow the players in the rated sections a better chance to play strong opposition.

Third, an attempt would be made to find a different hotel, assuming it could be done at reasonable price. While good success is being made for moving the event in 2015 (though no contracts have been signed), we are having much more trouble finding a new place for 2014. By the time you read this a decision will have had to be made and we will quite likely have to be back at the Hotel Carlisle for one more year.

white should play aggressively. Shawn pointed out that Nfe7 Bxh6, gxh6, Qxh6, Ng6 Ng5 leads to mate. Fritz 13 likes the concept of playing aggressively on the kingside, but with Bf4 and then a combination of pushing the g and h pawns. Especially for those beginners playing along, what is black's best response if white plays g4? (See answer at the end of the game.)

15.Bh4 Nce7 16.Rfb1 Bc6 (J: Giving purpose to the "problem child" of the French – the bad light square bishop **17.Qf4 Ng6** (J: If black plays g5, black can play Qg4, pinning the pawn on g5 and then move the bishop to g3. The sacrifice on g5 looks appealing, but Nxc5 is met by Ng6 and Bxc4 is met with Ng6 and then Qg4 hxc5.) **18.Qg4 Ngxh4 19.Nxh4 Nxh4 20.Qxh4 Qa5 21.Qe7 Qxc3 22.Qc5 Rfc8** [J: Many young players might play Rac8, but Shawn recognizes that all the action is on the queen side, so both rooks should be placed in that area. **23.Rb3 Qd2** [S: "Tactics, tactics, tactics, as my coach would say." J: Rb3 looks good because of the pin of the c4 pawn, but ends up being bad, when the queen is able to move and attack the bishop while also unpinning the pawn. Black can simply take the c2 pawn, but Shawn poses a problem to Luke, knowing he could take the c2 pawn on the next move if Luke doesn't find Re3. Fritz gives either line more than a 3 pawn advantage for white.] **24.Bxc4 dxc4 25.Qxc4 Bd5** [S and J: Luke now plays a fine move that saves his queen and rook.] **26.Qd3 Qxd3 27.Rxd3 Rxc2 28.h3 Rac8 29.Rdd1 Kh7 30.Kf1 Ra2** [S: Looking to double the rooks on the 2nd file.] **31.Rd3 Be4 32.Rbb3 Rc1+ 33.Rd1 Rxd1#** (Solution to puzzle: If **17. g4**, then **Nxc4, Nxd4, Nxd4**. If **cxd4**, then **c3** forking the Queen and Rook. If **Qxd4, hxc5**, and white is a pawn down with many pawn weaknesses.)

Shabalov's Sensational Simul by Boyd Reed

On February 17, 2013, Pittsburgh chess enthusiasts were treated to a simultaneous exhibition from Grandmaster Alexander Shabalov. Shabalov, a four-time US champion and the highest rated player in the state, played 35 opponents, including two where he was "blindfolded". His opponents included eight players rated 1800 or higher.

The final result for "Shabba" was 30 wins, 1 loss and 4 draws. The loss was to 1900-rated Michael Booth. The four draws were against John Ahlborg (blindfold opponent), Stephen Boak, Glenn Brown and Joseph Eisen.

Dr. Alex Sax organized the event at the Sha'are Torah Congregation in Pittsburgh. Spectating was free; participants paid \$10 to play. The event drew about as many spectators as players.

Here's the score of Shabalov's most memorable game: GM A. Shabalov - GM I. Smirin, Manila Olympiad, 1992: 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. O-O-O O-O 9. f4 h6 10. h4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 a6 12. Be2 Qa5 13. Bf3 Rd8 14. g4 Bd7 15. Bxh6 gxh6 16. g5 Ne8 17. Rdg1 h5 18. Bxh5 Bf8 19. f5 Qe5 20. Qd2 exf5 21. g6 fxg6 22. Rxc6 Kh7 23. Rhg1 fxe4 24. Rh6 Bxh6 25. Bg6 Kg7 26. Bxe8 Kh7 27. Bg6 Kg7 28. Bxe4 Kf7 29. Qxh6 Rh8 30. Bd5

The simul ran for approximately five hours, and GM Shabalov was engaging throughout. He played a mix of e4 and d4, and was generous on passes, even though Dr. Sax announced a limit of two passes per player at the start of the exhibition.

Shabalov took some questions from his opponents before he started play. Here's a brief sample of the interchange.

Q: "How do you beat a GM?"

A: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice!"

Q: "When's your next big tournament?"

A: "My next really big tournament is the US Championship later this year. Then, of course, there's the World Cup in Norway, which is just two steps from the World Championship match."

Q: "What's the most memorable game you ever played?"

A: [long pause] "I won the third brilliancy prize at the Olympiad, twenty years ago."

Ke8 31. Qd2 Kd8 32. Re1 Qh5 33. Ne4 Qh6 34. Ng5 Kc7 35. Re7 Rae8 36. Qa5 b6 37. Qc3 Kd8 38. Rxd7 Kxd7 39. Qc6 Ke7 40. Qc7 Kf6 41. Qxd6 Kf5 42. Qd7 Ke5 43. Bf7 Qf8 44. Qd5 Kf6 45. Qf3 Ke7 46. Qb7 Kf6 47. Qxb6 Kf5 48. Qf2 Ke5 49. Qg3 Kf6 50. Qf4 Ke7 51. Qc7 Kf6 52. Qc6 Ke5 53. Qd5 Kf6 54. Qf3 Ke7 55. Qb7 Kd8 56. Qb8 Ke757. Qa7 Kd8 58. Qa8 Ke7 59. Qa7 Kd8 60. Qb6 Ke7 61. Qe6 Kd8 62. Qb6 Ke7 63. Qxa6 Rb8 64. Qa7 Kd6 65. Qd4 Kc666. Bd5 Kd7 67. Nf7 Rh6 68. Qg4 Kc7 69. Qf4 Rd6 70. Qxd6 Qxd6 71. Nxd6 Kxd6 72. Bf7 Rf8 73. Bg6 Rf1 74. Kd2 Rf2 75. Ke3 Rh2 76. h5 Ke5 77. Kd3 Kd5 78. Kc3 1-0

Four for the Money at Pittsburgh

Open by Boyd Reed

The 2013 Pittsburgh Open was held March 1-3 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Green Tree, Pennsylvania.

This year, 146 players came to support the tournament, including three grandmasters - hometown hero Shabalov, GM Alex Yermolinsky, and a surprise in Turkish GM Suat Atalik. In usual fashion, the Pittsburgh Open delivered its share of surprises and upsets in the final results.

IM Chiel van Oosterom, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, held GM Atalik to a draw in round 2. This set up a third round matchup on Board 1 between Shabalov and FM Thomas Bartell during which Shabalov won to move to 3-0. He was joined on 3 points by NM Kristopher Meekins of Ohio, who beat two-time US champion Yermolinsky.

Going into Sunday's fourth round, Meekins was paired on board 1 against Shabalov, while the first all-GM game of the tournament featured Atalik as white against Yermolinsky on board 2. Meekins managed to draw against the four-time US champion as they both retained their lead, and Atalik beat Yermolinsky to put himself in the lead pack.

In the last round, Shabalov and Atalik drew quickly on board 1 to reach 4 points. On board two, van Oosterom had white and 3 points against Meekins's 3.5 points. Meekins, seeded 10th at the start of the event, held the draw against van Oosterom and

(3) Atalik,S (2600) - Van Oosterom,C (2375) [A80]

Pittsburgh Open Pittsburgh (2), 02.03.2013

[Atalik]

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.e3 Be6 5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 g6 7.Ne2 Bf7 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Rc1 c6 10.c4 0-0 11.Qb3 Ne4!? [11...Qb6 12.Qa3 Rfe8=] **12.Qxb7** [12.cxd5 h6 13.Bf4 Nb6,,] **12...h6** [12...dxc4 13.Bxc4 (13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Nd2 Rb8 15.Qxc6?) 13...Bxc4 14.Rxc4 Nd6 15.Qb4 (15.Qxc6 Nb6! (15...Nxc4 16.Qxc4+ Rf7±) 16.Rb4 Rc8 (16...h6 17.Rxb6 (17.Bh4 g5 18.Bg3 Rc8 19.Rxb6 Qxb6 20.Qd5+ Rf7 21.Ne5 Bxe5! 22.Bxe5 Nc4÷) 17...axb6 18.Bf4?) 17.Rxb6!) 15...Nxc4 16.Qxc4+ Rf7 17.Nf4 Nb6 18.Qxc6±; 12...Nd6 13.Qxc6 dxc4 14.Bc2±] **13.Bh4 g5 14.cxd5! gxh4 15.dxc6 Nb6?** [15...Ndc5! 16.dxc5 Qxd3 17.Nf4! (17.Ned4 Bxd4 18.Nxd4 (18.exd4 h3) 18...Nxf2) 17...Qd8 18.Nxh4 e6,,; 15...Ndf6 16.c7+—] **16.Nxh4?** [16.c7! Qd7 17.Nxh4 Bd5 18.c8Q Raxc8 19.Qxd7 Nxd7 20.Nf4±] **16...Bd5?** [16...e6±] **17.Nf4 Nd6 18.Qa6 e6 19.Nhg6 Rf7 20.b4!?** [20.a4 Ne8 21.Qa5±; 20.Rc5!?) **20...Rc7 21.b5 Ndc4 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Bxf5?** [123.Nf4+—] **23...Qg5 24.Bc2??** [24.Be6+ Kh7 25.Nf4 Bxd4 26.g3 Be5 27.Nxd5+—] **24...Re8 25.Rcd1?** [25.g3 Nd2 26.Qa3 Nxf1 27.Rxf1±] **25...Bf8??** [25...Rxe3! 26.fxe3 (26.h4! Qg4 27.Qb7! (27.Rfe1 Re2!— (27...Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Bxd4 29.Re7 (29.Qb7 Rxb7 30.cxb7 Nd7 31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Re7+ Kf6 33.Rxd7 Qg3) 29...Qg3! 30.Rxc7 Qxf2+ 31.Kh2 Be5+ 32.Nxe5 Qxh4+ 33.Kg1 Qe1+ 34.Kh2 Qxe5+ 35.Kg1 Qxc7 36.Qb7 Qf4±)) 27...Rxb7 28.cxb7 Re8 29.Rfe1 Rb8 30.Bf5 Qxd1 31.Rxd1 Rxb7—) 26...Nxe3 27.Nf4 Nxc2 28.Qa5! (28.Rd3 Bxd4+) 28...Ne3 29.g3 Nxd1 30.Rxd1©] **26.g3! Rg7 27.Ne5!?** [27.Nf4 Bd6] **27...Nxe5 28.dxe5 Qxe5 29.Bb3 Bc5 30.Rd3** [30.Qa5? Bxe3] **30...Kh8 31.Qa5 Qe4**

solidified his spot in the winners' circle. For Meekins, the 2010 US high school champion, this was a fine tournament result.

This left NM Safal Bora to try and win against Cleveland veteran NM Pappu Murthy on board 3. The final game ended with Murthy resigning. Shabalov, Meekins, Atalik and Bora tied for first overall. They each won \$664.25. Shabalov played by far the toughest schedule (he played against all of the other 4-pointers), so he collected the \$86 winner's bonus.

In the Under 2100 section, John Ahlborg recorded the only 5-0 score in the entire tournament. In the Under 1800 section, Mark Milkovich swept his first four games, then shook hands quickly in round 5 to lock up that first prize. In the Under 1500 section, Tony Qin won his last-round game to take undivided first place. Finally, Pradeepraj Thiyagarajan and Michael Mount used their 4.5-0.5 scores to split top prize in the Under 1200 section.

The Continental Chess Association sponsored the tournament. Andrew Rea and Boyd Reed were the tournament directors. Lary Rust and The House of Chess provided the chess concession. CCA looks forward to next year's Pittsburgh Open.

Please enjoy some critical games from the tournament, including Atalik's annotated win over van Oosterom. A complete list of prize winners and some other games can be found at <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/full/12113/141/>. Complete tournament standings and prize amounts are at <http://www.pittsburghopen.net>. Pictures from the event are at <http://www.facebook.com/PSCFChess>.

Meekins,Kristopher (2213) - Shabalov,Alexander (2629) [C06]

Pittsburgh Open Pittsburgh (4), 03.03.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bd3 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.0-0 a5 9.Re1 a4 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bc2 f5 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf1 0-0 14.Be3 b6 15.Ng3 g6 16.Rb1 Ra7 [Shabalov spent 28 minutes on this move, and then...] ½-½

(1) Shabalov,Alexander - Bartell,Thomas [B12] Pittsburgh (3), 02.03.2013

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 f6 7.h4 fxe5 8.h5 Bf7 9.dxe5 Be7 10.Bf4 Nh6 11.Bh3 g5 12.Bg3 Nd7 13.Qd2 Bg8 14.Nd4 Nf8 15.0-0 Nf7 16.Nce2 h6 17.c4 dxc4 18.Qc3 Qd5 19.Bg2 Qc5 20.Rfc1 Bh7 21.b4 Qxb4 22.Qxb4 Bxb4 23.Rxc4 a5 24.a3 Be7 25.Rxc6 bxc6

32.Rfd1?? [32.Qc3+–] **32...Bb4 33.Qa6 Reg8??** [33...Rf8+–] **34.Rd4 Qe7 35.Bxd5 Nxd5 36.Rxd5 Qe6 37.Rd7??** [37.Qa4+–; 37.Rd8+–] **37...Rxxg3+!** **38.hxxg3 Rxxg3+ 39.fxxg3** [39.Kf1!? Qc4+– (39...Qh3+ 40.Ke2 Qh5+ 41.Kd3 Qf5+! (41...Qxd1+? 42.Kc4±) 42.Kd4 Rg4+ 43.f4 Rxf4+ 44.exf4 Qxf4+–) 40.R1d3 Qc1+ 41.Rd1 Qc4+ 42.R7d3 Rg1+ 43.Kxxg1 Qg4+ 44.Kf1 Qh3+ 45.Ke2 Qh5+–] **39...Qxe3+ 40.Kg2 Qe2+ 41.Kh3 Qh5+ 42.Kg2 Qe2+ 43.Kh3 ½-½**

(4) Atalik,S (2600) - Yermolinsky,A (2507) [E73] (on clo)
Pittsburgh Open Pittsburgh (4), 03.03.2013
[Atalik]

[Ed. Note: I try not to publish things that have already been published. However, since Saut Atalik was kind enough to annotate two games, I wanted to allow our readers to benefit from all of his work (this game can also be found on Chess Life Online.)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Na6 9.Qd2 Nc5 10.f3 Nh5 11.g3 [11.Bd1 f5 12.Bc2; 11.0-0-0 Kh7 12.g3] **11...Kh7 12.0-0-0 a5 13.Re1** [13.f4 Nf6 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.Nf3 f] **13...c6!N 14.Bd1!?** [14.f4 Nf6 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Nf3 Nd7 (16...exf4 17.gxf4) 17.h4,; 14.Rd1!? Ra6!? Yermo] **14...cxd5 15.exd5 Bd7** [15...b6 16.Nge2 Ba6 17.g4 Nf4 (17...Nf6 18.g5 hxxg5 19.Bxxg5 Bxc4 20.Bc2 b5 21.h4 b4 22.h5!!,) 18.Nxf4 exf4 19.Bd4 Bxc4 20.Bc2 (20.Bxxg7 Nd3+ 21.Kb1 Kxxg7) 20...b5 21.h4 b4 22.Bxxg7 Kxxg7 23.Qd4+ Kg8 24.h5!!,) **16.Bc2** [16.Bxc5 dxc5 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxxh5 gxxh5 19.gxf4 (19.Qd3+?! Kh8 20.Nge2÷ (20.gxf4?! Qf6)) 19...Bf5 20.Nf3,] **16...a4 17.Nge2 Qa5?** [17...Qb6 Yermo 18.g4 Nf4 19.Nxf4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Qb4 (20...a3 21.b3 Qb4 22.Ne4) 21.a3 Qxc4 22.Bxd6 Rfe8©] **18.g4 Nf4 19.Nxf4 exf4 20.Bd4! b5 21.Bxxg7** [21.h4 a3 (21...b4 22.h5 (22.Ne4 Nxe4 23.Rxe4 b3©) 22...bxc3 23.bxc3 Nb3+ 24.axb3 axb3 25.hxxg6+ Kg8 26.Bxb3 Qa3+ 27.Qb2 Rfb8 28.gxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qxa3 Rxa3 30.Bc2 Bxd4 31.cxd4 Rb4 32.Rxxh6 Ba4!,,) ; 21.Re7 bxc4! ...22.Bxc5? Qxc5 23.Rxd7 a3+–; 21.Bxxg6+ Kxxg6!! (21...fxxg6? 22.Re7 Rg8 23.Bxc5 dxc5 24.Rxd7±) 22.Qc2+ f5 23.gxf5+ Bxf5 24.Qg2+ Kh5 25.Qxxg7 Nd3+,,] **21...Kxxg7 22.Qd4+ Kg8 23.cxb5** [23.g5!? h5 24.Bxxg6 a3 25.Re7÷; 23.h4 bxc4 24.h5 Qb6 25.Kb1 Rfb8 26.Nd1 Nd3,,] **23...Bxb5 24.Re7 Rae8 25.Rhe1** [25.Rxe8?! Rxe8 26.h4 Re3 27.h5 g5 f] **25...Rxe7 26.Rxe7 Qd8 27.Re1** [27.Qf6 Bd3 28.h4 Bxc2 29.Kxc2 f] **27...Qb6** [27...Qh4? 28.Rd1+–] **28.Rd1** [28.Kb1 Rb8 29.Ne4 Nd7!,, (29...Nxe4? 30.Rxe4 (30.Qxb6 Nd2+!)) ; 28.Qb4 Rb8 29.Qxb5 Qxb5 30.Nxb5 Rxb5 31.Re8+ Kg7 32.Rd8 Rb6 33.Rc8 Kf6 34.Rc6 Rb8 35.Rxd6+ Ke5©] **28...Rb8 29.h4??** [29.Ne4 Be2 30.Nf6+ Kf8 31.Rd2 Bxf3=; 29.Qb4 Na6 30.Qd4 Nc5=] **29...Bd7?** [29...Bd3! 30.Rxd3 Qxb2+ 31.Kd2 Rb4 32.Qf6 Nb3+!–+; 29...Bc4!? Yermo 30.Nxa4 (30.Qxc4? Qxb2+ 31.Kd2 Rb4+–) 30...Nxa4 31.Bxa4 Qb4 32.Bc2² Be2 33.a3 Qb7,,] **30.Ne2!** [30.Ne4 Nxe4 31.Bxe4 (31.Qxb6 Rxb6 32.Bxe4 Rb4) 31...Qa6!,,] **30...Qa5 31.h5 g5 32.Qf6 Qb4 33.a3** [33.Rd2,] **33...Qb6** [33...Qc4 34.Nc3+–] **34.Nxf4! gxf4 35.g5 Qxb2+?!** [35...hxxg5 36.h6 Qxb2+ 37.Qxb2 Rxb2 38.Kxb2 f5 39.Rh1+–] **36.Qxb2 Rxb2 37.Kxb2 hxxg5 38.Rg1!+– f6 39.h6 Bb5 40.Kc3 Kh8 41.Rb1 Nb3 42.Bxb3**

26.Bxc6+ Nd7 27.Bxa8 Nfxe5 28.Nxe6 Kf7 29.Bd5
Kf6 30.f4 gxf4 31.N2xf4 Nb6 32.Ba2 Nf3+ 33.Kf2
Ng5 34.Nxg5 hxg5 35.Rc1 Rd8 36.Rc6+ Rd6
37.Nd5+ 1-0

[42..Bf5!?, 42.Re1!?] **42...axb3 43.Rxb3 Be2 44.Kd2** [44.Kd4+—]
44...Bc4 45.Rb6 Bxd5 46.Rxd6 Bxf3 47.Rxf6
1-0

Joe Mucerino was kind enough to submit his loss to GM Atalik as well:

From Joe Mucerino

I had the opportunity to play a grandmaster in round 3. I did pretty well... for awhile.

Joseph Mucerino (2090) – GM Suat Atalik (2668)

14th Annual Pittsburgh Open, Round 3, March 2, 2013

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c6 4.c4 Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Bh5 11.Bd2 Rad8
12.Na4 Qc7 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Bb4 Bxb4 15.Qxb4 a5 16.Qc3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Rfe8 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Qxc5 Rd6 20.Bf1?** Up
until here, things have been more or less equal. I thought this bishop retreat would help cover my king and protect my
pawns. Houdini thought I should have retreated with the queen instead. Black now enjoys a small but significant plus.
20...Nh5 21.Rac1 Qd8 22.Bg2 Rde6 Hoping to play 23...Nf4, trying to trade off my bishop and putting pressure on my
h pawn. **23.Red1 Qh4 24.Rf1??** Houdini says white still has a pulse after 24.f4. **24...Rg6 25.Kh2? Rxe3! 0-1** That
rook cannot be captured because of 26...Qg3+ and 27...Qxg2+ mate. On top of that, black is currently threatening
26...Rxg2+ and 27...Nf4+ mating. There is no sensible way to prevent that, so I threw in the towel.

Beginner's Battle by Joshua Anderson

[The majority of our readers are young players just beginning to play chess. As such, I am going to start a new column that takes a submitted game and tries to explain that game for our players rated between about 300 and 800. If you have a game that you feel would be excellent for young students, please submit it to me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com. This game is going to demonstrate the "fork trick" as well as several pins and some of the reasons that pins can cause problems. The game was played online by Tom Nordeman, who was black.] **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3** [White more often plays 2.Nf3 because the knight immediately attacks the pawn on e5. Here with no need to defend, so black has more options.] **2...Nf6 3.Bb5 c6 4.Bc4 Nxe4** [Here we see a variation of the "fork trick." This is a tactic in which one player gives up a piece (...Nxe4), usually a knight or bishop for a pawn. Then, the opponent recaptures (Nxe4), and the first player attacks (in this case with ... d5) the piece that has just moved (the knight on e4) and another piece (the bishop on c4.)] **5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bxd5** [By moving the Bishop to d3, white would lose a knight for a pawn, but black wouldn't have such strong pawns in the center of the board.] **6...cxd5 7.Ng3 Bc5** [Black is now clearly winning. He is ready to castle, all of his pieces can easily get out, and he has firm control of the center thanks to his bishop on c5 and pawns on d5 and e5.] **8.d3 0-0 9.Nf3 Re8 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Bd2 Bg4 12.Qc1** [This unpins the knight, providing the knight freedom since white can move the knight without losing his queen, but now the queen no longer protects the knight and is out of the action. White was quite probably afraid of black playing 12. ... e4 if white didn't deal with the pin right away. Instead of moving the queen, white could have played 12. h3] **12...Qf6** [Instead of ... Qf6, Bxf3 is also possible. Bxf3 would force gxf3, leaving white's king exposed and allowing black moves such as Nd4 and Qf6 to attack the weak doubled pawns.] **13.Bg5 Qg6 14.Nh4 Qe6 15.h3 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Nf3** [Here white makes his final mistake. Nhf5 would have allowed white to keep playing. By playing Nf3 there is no protection for the knight on g3, so black simply takes.] **17...Qxg3+** [White is unable to recapture the queen because the pawn on f2 is pinned to the king by the bishop on c5. I hope everyone has enjoyed the game and learned more about the fork trick and pins.]

Editorial by Joshua Anderson

Proper decorum. This was a phrase that my high school principal liked to use; however, I have never had to write about it until now. Then again, I have also never been to a chess event with such an abhorrent display of behavior as that exhibited in the in the one day sections of the Pennsylvania State Scholastic Championship. So, I am going to spell out a few of the behaviors that need to be avoided and some of the things that can be done by everyone to have a smoother event.

There is NO need to rush.

By my count there were three incidents of children being knocked to the floor while people rushed to get to their pairings. Further, there were no time scrambles in any round of the three tournaments (and only one instance of someone maybe running out of time as a clock was quite possibly set incorrectly.) So, even in the unlikely event that we started before someone with a clock (most games do not have them) was seated, it is quite unlikely that they would run out of time.

There is NO need for physical contact.

Children should not be pushed, hit, or kicked at a chess tournament. Tournament director(s) should not be pushed, hit, or kicked. This is basic common sense and courtesy. As uncomfortable as I was with some kid pressing his hands into my back, I was even more concerned when he told me he couldn't let go because he was being pushed into me. This occurred during Sunday's event when I was also being kicked in my swollen ankle/stepped on by a few other children! I would like to express my gratitude at this point to a club called The Assassins, ironically named in this case. They and their coach led the effort to spread the children out to the sides of the room, rather than a crushing mass pushing towards the pairings.

Adults should set an example for acceptable behavior.

While this type of mob behavior is not acceptable, it is understandable that children may sink into this mentality. They are, after all, children. What is neither acceptable nor understandable, however, is adult chaperones pushing tournament staff as wall charts are being attached to the wall. While I understand that parents and coaches are interested in checking a wall chart for errors, and in some cases they don't have much time as they are chaperoning many children, pushing the staff is never the answer. The staff are simply doing as they have been asked. I am sure that you or another chaperon (assuming the coach of many children) has at least a minute or two to walk up to the wall chart and check whatever information you need.

Do not be a distraction.

It is also neither acceptable nor understandable for children and adults to stand outside a closed tournament hall and spend the last half hour or so before the next round interrupting the last few games going on by wandering into the room, poking their head into the room and calling out, or even just opening the door every five seconds. This simply distracts the players playing and slows them down. Plus, it is incredibly rude, you wouldn't want people doing it to you, so don't do it to those still playing. The times of the rounds are posted in many places, and we do not start the rounds early, so just be ready to enter the room when the round time arrives and if the doors are open, come on in.

How we can all improve.

Now that we have established the sort of behavior that needs to be avoided, what can we do to make things go smoothly? The tournament directors will continue to post an alphabetical pairing list for the students (we started this midway through Sunday's event.) This list is useful because the throng is divided into two groups. Also, many younger children or players in their first event can find their name, but are unsure how to read a normal pairing list. The reason that 5 or 6 lists are not put out is that the more lists mean the more places kids will put results and the harder it is for the chief tournament director, who is running the computer and is responsible for pairing over 800 players each round. The tournament directors will also continue to open the doors to the playing area when we want you in there, so everyone knows when they can come in and people aren't confused if the round is still ongoing. We will not be paying for self defense classes for the tournament staff, so please don't push them!

Coaches, you clearly spend a lot of time and effort arranging everything and preparing your students, and that is both understood and appreciated. But, please take 5 minutes to have them practice reading a pairing list and teach them the basic context clues that can help them find their name quickly. The two most obvious context clues being that if you were white last round, you are probably black this round; and if you are winning most of your games you are near the top of the list and if you are losing most of your games, you are near the bottom of the list.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this essay or the event as a whole (I am now the Pennsylvania Scholastic Coordinator), please don't hesitate to contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com.

There were several major CCA events in Pennsylvania since the last PWP. Joe Mucerino compiled the lists.

40th Annual World Open (July 1-8)

PHILADELPHIA – According to the MSA, there were 1,220 players. The results:

Open: Ivan Sokolov, Alexander Shabalov, 7/9, Top PA: Shabalov (+5 -0 =4)

U2400: Carl Boor, Miles Ardaman, 7.5, Top PA: Iryna Zenyuk, 6

U2200: Lorand Bela Kis, 8, Top PA: Kis

U2000: Jesus Orozco, 8, Top PA: Justin Papariella, Robert Gist, Peter Moss, Marcin Maciaszek, Angel Hernandez-Camen, 5.5

U1800: Eimer Romero, 8, Top PA: Nick Formosa, 7

U1600: Ryan Arab, 8.5, Top PA: Robert Wade, Xiaojun Xu, 6.5

U1400: Manuel Then, 8, Top PA: Evan Mossman, 7.5

U1200: Efthymios Papageorgiou, Jason Lawson, 7.5, Top PA: Willie Seymour, 6

U900: James Snee V, 8, Top PA: Ithan Sandoval-Lorenzo, Anthony Ernish, 6

43rd Annual National Chess Congress (November 23-25)

PHILADELPHIA – A strong turnout this year, with 474 players and ten Grandmasters. Six of the ten sections had a Pennsylvanian at least tie for first place! The results:

Premier: Sergey Erenburg, Aleksandr Lenderman, 5/6, Top PA: Erenburg (+4 -0 =2)

U2200: Jessica Regam, 5.5, Top PA: Regam

U2000: David Brodsky, 5.5, Top PA: Jack Mo, Roman Cano, Gabriel Tkach, Jerome Works, Adrian Benton, Srisa Changolkar, 4

U1800: Andrew Meyer, 6, Top PA: Glenn Brown, Nathan Stoltzfus, 5

U1600: Delonta Richardson, 6, Top PA: Francis McDyer, 5

U1400: Evan Betzenberger, 5.5, Top PA: Betzenberger

U1200: Selim Caner, 6, Top PA: Caner

U1000: Evan Meyers, 5.5, Top PA: Meyers

U800: Kevin Cui, Ohm Shah, 4.5, Top PA: Cui and Shah

U600: Isaiah Cerilo, 6, Top PA: Joshua Lewis, Tahvon Hughes, 4.5

45th Annual Liberty Bell Open (January 18-21)

PHILADELPHIA – The Liberty Bell Open moved from the Sheraton Hotel to the Sonesta Hotel on Market Street. Sectional winners were:

Open: Tamaz Gelashvili, 6.5/7, Top PA: Alexander Shabalov, 5

U2300: Richard Selzler, 6, Top PA: Hibicki Sakai, 5

U2100: David Apelo, 6, Top PA: Jack Mo, Runya Xu, 5

U1900: Adia Onyango, Jerome Works, Rakeem Jeter, Jon Rigai, 5.5, Top PA: Works, Jeter

U1700: Nicholas Katz, 6, Top PA: Teddy Willis, Daniel Shevelev, 5.5

U1500: Mathew Martello, Jay Regam, Benjamin Kenney, 5.5, Top PA: Martello, Regam, Kenney

U1300: Peter Tu, 6, Top PA: Alex Wang, 5.5

U1100: Jiachen Zhang, Aneesh Raparla, 6, Top PA: Zhang, Raparla

U900: Douglas Ownbey, 7 (the only perfect score in the tournament!), Top PA: Jack Carideo, 6

14th Annual Pittsburgh Open (March 1-3)

PITTSBURGH – Winners of the Pittsburgh Open were:

Open: Suat Atalik, Alexander Shabalov, Safal Bora, Kristopher Meekins, 4/5, Top PA: Shabalov

U2100: John Ahlborg, 5, Top PA: Charlie Leach, 4

U1800: Mark Milkovich, 4.5, Top PA: Jason Lee, 4

U1500: Tony Qin, 4.5, Top PA: Qin

U1200: Pradeepraj Thiyagarajan, Michael Mount, 4.5, Top PA: Thiyagarajan, Mount

In Memorium ...

Anthony Lee Owoc – compiled by Eric Johnson, Joe Mucerino, and Joshua Anderson

ANTHONY OWOC Anthony Lee "Tony" Owoc, 53, of North Wales, passed away June 29, 2012. Tony was an engineer and lover of Penn State University and the Pittsburgh Steelers. This devoted Catholic family man participated in the Allentown Center City Chess Club in the early 1990s and most recently in the Lansdale area.

Joe Casey by Dan Heisman

Dan Heisman sent in an obituary of a longtime student of his, Joe Casey. Unfortunately, due to space constraints it is not included. I am including the link where Dan's obituary and an example of Mr. Casey's play can be found. The link is http://www.chess.com/blog/danheisman/joe-casey-chess-player?_domain=old_blog_host&_parent=old_frontend_blog_view

Joseph Kennedy (1933-2013) We are deeply saddened to announce that veteran tournament player Joseph Kennedy has passed away at the age of 79. He had been a member of the Chaturanga Chess Club and the North Penn Chess Club for decades. He also played postal chess for several years. In 1993, he won the Pennsylvania State Reserve Championship in East Stroudsburg (the two players he tied with were from outside PA, so they did not share the title). A true gentleman who was well liked by everyone. He will be deeply missed.

Joseph Kennedy (1688) – Joseph Mucerino (2095)

Chaturanga Chess Club Championship, Hatboro, PA, Round 2, September 13, 2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Qc2 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.b3 Rc8 10.Qb2 Ne4 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Ng1 Qg5 14.g3 cxd4 15.cxd4 0-0 16.Ne2 e5 17.Nc4 exd4 18.Nxd4 Nc5 19.0-0 Rfd8 20.Qa3 Ra8 21.Rad1 Nd3 22.f4 Qh5 23.Qe7 Bd5 24.Nd6 Qg6 25.N6f5 Rf8 26.Qh4 Kh8 27.g4 Rad8 28.Nb5 Rd7 29.Qg3 Rc8 30.Nbd4 Bb7 31.h4 h5 32.gxh5 Qxg3+ 33.Nxg3 Rdc7 34.Ngf5 Ba6 35.Rd2 Rc1 36.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 37.Kh2 Ne1 38.Nd6 Bd3 39.Nxf7+ Kh7 40.Kg3 Rc5 41.Ne6 Rc1 42.Neg5+ Kg8 43.h6 gxh6 44.Nxh6+ Kg7 45.Nf5+ Kg6 46.Kg4 Rc5 47.h5+ Kf6 48.Nd6 Rc6 49.Ndx4+ Kg7 50.Ng3 Rd6 51.h6+ Rxh6 52.Rxd3 Nxd3 53.Nf5+ Kg6 54.Nxh6 Kxh6 55.Kf5 Kg7 56.Ne6+ Kf7 57.a4 Ke7 58.Nd4 Nc5 59.e4 a6 60.e5 Kd7 61.Kg6 b5 62.axb5 axb5 63.f5 Ke7 64.Kg7 Nd7 65.f6+ Ke8 66.e6 Nf8 67.f7+ Ke7 68.Nc6+ 1-0

Ruben Shocron (1921-2013) by Joe Mucerino

On March 8, Pennsylvania lost one of its former state champions at age 92. Born in Buenos Aires, he played in South America for several decades. For most of the years 1921-1952, the championship of Argentina was decided not by using a tournament, but a match between the champion and a challenger, similar to a world championship match. In 1952 Shocron became the challenger for the national title, but the following year lost the championship match to the legendary Miguel Najdorf by a score of 4½ - ½. In 1959, he played his most famous game, a loss to a sixteen year old named Bobby Fischer. Fischer was so impressed with this encounter, he made it game #6 in *My 60 Memorable Games*. Because that game is easy to find and has been annotated by Fischer himself, I decided to show another game from that same tournament, against Najdorf, who tied for first place with Ludek Pachman (Fischer was a half point behind).

Shocron emigrated to the United States, and won the state title in three different states: Georgia (1972), New Mexico (1982), and Pennsylvania (ties in 1986 and 1992). In the latter years of his playing days, he played the majority of his tournaments in the Harrisburg area, especially at Richard Brown's outstanding events in the bingo room of the B'nai B'rith apartments.

He was an outstanding player, and an outstanding man, and he will be missed.

Ruben Shocron – Miguel Najdorf

Mar del Plata; Mar del Plata, Argentina, Round 4, March 26, 1959
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 6.Nge2 c6 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 exd4 9.Nxd4 d5 10.exd5 cxd5 11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 a6 13.0-0 b5 14.Bb3 Bb7 15.Rad1 Nbd7 16.Qf2 Qc7 17.Rc1 Qe5 18.Nc2 Rac8 19.Bd4 Qh5 20.Rcd1 Rfe8 21.g4 Qh3 22.Qg3 Qxg3+ 23.hxg3 Ne5 24.Nb4 h6 25.Nbd5 Nxd5 26.Bxd5 Bxd5 27.Nxd5 a5 28.b3 Re6 29.Kg2 a4 30.bxa4 bxa4 31.Rf2 Rc4 32.Bb2 Nc6 33.Bxg7 Kxg7 34.Rdd2 Nd4 35.Rb2 Rc1 36.Rfd2 Nc6 37.Rbc2 Ree1 38.Rxc1 Rxc1 39.Kf2 Ne5 40.Ne3 Rc3 41.Rc2 Nd3+ 42.Kf1 Rxc2 43.Nxc2 Kf6 44.a3 ½-½