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Editor's Note

Platinum. This is the metal associated with 70th anniversaries, the anniversary year the USCF is now celebrating. Advertisers link platinum with wealth (think “platinum credit cards” for example) and this serves nicely as a metaphor for the USCF’s 70th year as we celebrate our greatest wealth: The USCF member.

In an issue later this year we will profile seven USCF members examining how the USCF has been important to them and for this we need your help. Would you like to be profiled? Do you know someone who should be profiled? If you were born in the year 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, or 1999 and you are willing to be interviewed and have your photograph published in Chess Life, please contact us at letters@uschess.org. If you don’t have e mail access, please see our address on p. 2.

As part of our anniversary celebrations we introduce a new Chess Life department in this issue, “USCF History,” penned by former USCF Executive Director Al Lawrence. Each month through the July issue we will look at one decade of USCF history. For this first month, Lawrence looks at the years 1939-1948, a time of Reshevsky and Steiner and of beginnings: both Chess Life and the Golden Knights correspondence chess tournament began this decade. For even more history, see former USCF President John McCrary’s write up on p. 8 of the organizations that preceded the USCF.

If you wish to purchase the USCF a 70th anniversary gift, use your platinum credit card (or just your run of the mill card!) at uschess.org to join the USCF or to extend your membership. You and the USCF will be glad you did. ~Daniel Lucas

January Contributors:

Dr. Alexey Root, WIM (“Looks at Books”) is the author of Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving | Al Lawrence (“USCF History”) is a former USCF Executive Director | GM Ian Rogers (“World Championship”) is a frequent contributor of international chess reports | FM Mike Klein (“Kaidanov”) is a frequent contributor to Chess Life | GM John Fedorowicz (“World Youth”) has long been one of America’s top GMs and scholastic coaches | WGM Jennifer Shahade (“Hip Hop Variation”) is the editor of Chess Life Online at uschess.org

January on uschess.org

Best of CLO
A year of original articles and interviews will be ranked in the second annual “Best of CLO Awards.” Last year’s top articles were written by GMs Jesse Kraai, Josh Friedel and Alex Onischuk. This year’s judges will include a mix of top players, journalists and fans.

Indian Problem-solving
Gary Kevin Ware’s January CLO problem column deals with the Indian theme. The “Double Indian,” to the left, a mate in 4 composed by Don French, stumped GM Walter Browne. Can you solve it?
Go to Chess Life Online for the answer!

Mate in 4

Mate in 4

Ask GM Joel
In January, Joel responds to a reader who wants an opinion on his strategy of playing drawish openings against higher rated players and sharper openings against lower rated players. Send Joel your own inquiries to askgmjoel@uschess.org.

Holiday chess weekend
Martin Luther King Day weekend sees two major Grand Prix on both coasts, the Liberty Bell Open in Philadelphia and the Western Class Championships in Agoura Hills, California. Check out CLO coverage of both, by CLO editor Jennifer Shahade in Philly and Jerry Hanken in California.
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GM Gregory Kaidanov outside of the U.S. Chess School in Lexington, Kentucky.

Cover Photo: Matt Barton

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Anand is Matchless
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By GM John Fedorowicz
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That mysterious knight move
I am surprised that Frank Camaratta’s interesting article on the origin of the knight move does not raise two issues (“The Mysterious Knight Move,” October 2008). The first derives from the fact that in modern chess, the knight is the complement of the queen. That is, if the knight attacks the queen, the queen does not attack the knight, and vice versa. Try placing seven queens on a chessboard so that they do not attack one another. Hence, if the original king, queen (adviser), bishop and rook moved as Mr. Camaratta defines them, the knight would be a complement to their combined motions, now embodied in a single piece, the modern queen.

A second issue is one of color. To use Hans Kmoch’s terminology, most of the original chess pieces, at least as Mr. Camaratta defines them, were color bound or monochromic. Not only were bishops confined to squares of one color, but so were the original rooks (advisors) and the original fers, if they could move only two squares, not one. Kmoch termed the knight rotochromic, changing colors with each move, a property the original king and non capturing pawns shared if the pawns could only advance one square on the first move. Color complex strategy could have been quite different in primordial chess as Mr. Camaratta has reconstructed it, making winning the knight pair a priority.

James S. Morgan
Haddonfield, New Jersey

Frank Camaratta responds:
This stems from the very nature of the thesis that from a given square, each of the chessmen would attack a unique square. There would be no overlap in the “span of control” of each piece. There can be no doubt that in the game as originally posed, the knight was by far the strongest piece. Unfortunately, this also had the drawback that the rooks and bishops could not attack each other and made the game somewhat “laborious.” The game became much more “playable” once the powers of the rooks were expanded.

On the question of color, I believe that the original game was played on the “points” not the squares and I also believe that the squares on the earliest chessboards were all the same color. The game was, in effect, played on a grid, much like Chinese chess, Shogi or Go. —Frank Camaratta

Modern chess typos
Chess Life devoted its front cover and a feature article to the 15th edition of Modern Chess Openings (September 2008). I turned to my copy MCO 15 to see what it had to say about a variation of the 6...Bc4 Najdorf. It gave (p. 264):


Not only do the moves 15. Qg4 and 17. Qf4 leave the queen en prise, but the moves 16...Nxe5 and 17...b4 are patently impossible. Because of this editorial carelessness, I’ll never know what Nick de Firmian is referring to when he concludes “a sharp position with chances for both sides.”

Soon thereafter I bought a copy of Jeremy Silman’s Complete Endgame Course. Silman advises us to “put aside all other endgame books and trust your endgame study to Silman’s Complete Endgame Course” (p. xiv).

I was eager to sample this self proclaimed greatest of all endgame primers that I had just purchased, so I sat down in the bookstore and turned to the first example in the Bobby Fischer chapter (p. 211). I was disappointed when I got to the first annotation:

3. g5 Kh7 4. g4 Kg5 5. Bf6 Kf6, =.

Without even seeing the diagram it is evident that 4. g5 and 4...Kf5 are impossible. It turns out that 5. Bf6 is also. What a disappointment to have plunked down $25 for a sloppily edited chess book. If a move or two is misprinted or omitted it is often possible to piece together the intended meaning. However, the above examples were so badly botched that I could not recreate the intended sequence of moves.

It appears that in the rush to get out the next hot selling chess book publishers are not spending enough time on proof editing for obvious errors. As a result, the chess student gets deprived of what he or she paid for.

Denny Helmuth, life member
via e-mail

EGOists
The article written by Michael Jeffreys (“Is Your EGO Costing You Your ELO?” October, 2008) points out pitfalls all chess players have to go through. I have played tournament chess for over 30 years, and would like to share some of my own experiences that were beyond my control.

In 1993, I was up against a grandmaster and was playing well when another player in the room dropped dead at his board! The emergency personnel were summoned, and all the games had to be stopped. Upon resumption, I blundered away a knight, and my game was over.

In 1994, I was paired against a grandmaster in the first round, but on the morning I was to leave for this tournament, I lost my job. I made the trip anyway, and promptly got slaughtered.

In 1998, I had all kinds of problems with the playing site as it was a circular room on a hotel’s roof. That night, severe weather headed in our direction, and I just simply did not feel safe playing there and promptly lost in 15 moves.

The point is to place more credence in objective rather than emotional thought because your ego will get to you. Block out the extenuating circumstances, and your ego will definitely be in check.

David Cole, life member
via e-mail

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See TLA this issue (Nationals section) for detailed tournament information.
Before the USCF: Early American Chess Associations

As we celebrate this 70th anniversary year, a former USCF president answers, “What came before?”

By John McCrary

As we celebrate 70 years of the USCF, let us look at the various national chess associations in the U.S. that preceded the USCF. Between 1857 and 1939 Americans tried to federate themselves on a national level on at least nine occasions, but all those organizations ceased to exist, although the last two merged to create our USCF in 1939.

It began on October 19, 1857, when the American Chess Association was voted into existence by participants at the First American Chess Congress in New York. Paul Morphy nominated Colonel Charles D. Mead of New York to be its first president. That first American Chess Association was among the first of its kind in the world.

The American Chess Association was evidently only the third national organization started for any sport in the U.S., following horse racing and cricket. Base ball began its national organization in March 1858.

Why did Paul Morphy nominate the first president of that first American Chess Association? The answer may be found in the sectional tensions of that time. The likely candidates for the presidency were Judge A.B. Meek of Alabama and Charles Mead of New York. Asking Morphy, a southerner, to nominate the northern candidate (with Meek’s blessing) was thus a gesture of unity that began the new association on a good footing despite the sectional tensions of the day.

Unfortunately that first American Chess Association died quickly, although a rare copy of its brief periodical is exhibited at the World Chess Hall of Fame in Miami. Subsequently, there was a long succession of failed attempts to create new American chess associations. Following is a brief list of such attempts:

In 1871, another American Chess Association was created in Cleveland at the Second American Chess Congress. After its fund raising appeal was apathetically received, it died.

In 1874, yet another American Chess Association (same name again) was started in Chicago at the Third American Chess Congress. That association tried to organize the Fourth American Chess Congress in 1876 in Philadelphia, but dissolved itself after losing a power struggle with the Philadelphia chess club over control of the Congress.

In 1880, the Chess Association of the United States of America was established. Despite its longer name, it did not enjoy a long tenure.

In 1888, the United States Chess Association was established in Cincinnati. It was created at the behest of “six established State Chess Associations, namely those of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, Indiana, and Ohio,” according to Steinitz. This association thrived briefly but died out by 1897.

In 1897, discussion began for the establishment of another national organization, and by 1899 The Chess Association of the United States was functioning. It had the new feature of emphasizing clubs, rather than individuals, as members, although it allowed individual members. That organization also failed to thrive, despite the efforts of World Champion Emanuel Lasker, who published its constitution in his Lasker’s Chess Magazine, November 1904, in order to “bring new life into the organization.”

In 1921, the United States Chess Association was formed, adopting the constitution of its predecessor of the late 1890s. Although it was communicating with Jose Capablanca as late as 1922 regarding conditions for future world championship matches, it does not seem to have remained active for much longer.

In 1926 a major step toward a permanent national chess organization occurred when the National Chess Federation of the USA was established, affiliating with the world chess federation (FIDE), which was also newly formed. It survived long enough to gain control of the U.S. championship and, then in 1939 to merge with yet another national organization, the American Chess Federation, which had been formed out of the Western Chess Association. The result of that merger is the modern USCF.

The USCF began in September 1939, the same month that World War II began. As late as October 1943, the USCF had only 299 members, but it grew to its record membership of around 95,000 members in early 2003. The USCF owes many things to all those failed predecessors. The idea of inexpensive dues in order to be accessible to all social classes was established as early as 1857. Support of scholastic chess came early, as did the sanctioning of national competitions in an effort to regulate disputed title claims. In time, the USCF would become pioneers in developing ratings for over-the-board play worldwide, and in helping to bring chess computers into homes around the world.
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Dues slashed for age 20-24!

The membership category previously called “Youth” has been renamed “Young Adult,” and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. As a result, annual dues for those aged 20 through 24 have been almost cut in half, from $49 to $25!

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Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of Chess Life for any tournament between April and June 2009. If no TLA for such an event appeared in 2008, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline, the 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

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USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS. See www.uschess.org/forums for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

USCF The First International Chess Symposium, concerning former World Champion Bobby Fischer, seeks scholarly papers, films and presentations from psychologists, sociologists, historians and chessplayers for a symposium that will discuss and analyze Bobby Fischer’s contribution to chess, his psychology, and his political views. March 6th and 7th at the Marshall Chess Club, 23 West 10th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011. For possible acceptance, send a 500-word abstract by February 1, 2009 to Dr. Frank Brady at bradyf@stjohns.edu.

Dues slashed for age 20-24!

The membership category previously called “Youth” has been renamed “Young Adult,” and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. As a result, annual dues for those aged 20 through 24 have been almost cut in half, from $49 to $25!

RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS SPRING!

Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of Chess Life for any tournament between April and June 2009. If no TLA for such an event appeared in 2008, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline, the 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

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NEW! USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT. A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or a quad that offers at least one per section.

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL. A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

RBO. Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include “Rated Beginners Open” or “RBO.”

BLITZ. Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as “USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm” are accepted.
We've come to expect a lot from our USCF: hundreds of school and community clubs, thousands of tournaments each year with timely rating adjustments, and a professionally prepared, monthly Chess Life. Even the sky is no longer the limit; U.S. school children, with voting tallied by USCF, are now sending moves into space, playing against orbiting U.S. astronaut Gregory Chamitoff. With that gravity defying feat in mind, it seems doubly appropriate to recall Sir Isaac Newton's humbling reminder that we can see so far only because we stand on the shoulders of giants. Over the next eight issues, we'll briefly recall some of those giants of USCF, looking this month at its first decade.

On December 27, 1939, the National Chess Federation and the American Chess Federation merged to form USCF, with yearly dues of one dollar and fewer than 1,000 members. USCF's first president, George Sturgis of Boston, set his sights on 2,000—a goal not realized for 15 years. In 1940 Reuben Fine bested 27 others to win USCF's first U.S. Open in Dallas (where the first USCF business meeting was also held). An ominous event in 1941 reminds us of the state of their world: Hitler's bloody invasion of Russia put an end to its national chess championship prelims.

Sheltered in the U.S., aging legends took their leave of the Earth: Emanuel Lasker, longest reigning chess king; José Raúl Capablanca, the once dashing idol of the gilded age; Frank Marshall, U.S. champ for nearly three decades. A future champ was born, Bobby Fischer.

In 1942 Mona May Karff, born in czarist Russia, won her second U.S. women's championship title in a row, ending the back and forth with Belgian born Adele Rivero. The 1940s ended with the rise of the astonishing Gisela Kahn Gresser.

Discovering the Swiss System was the invention of the tournament chess wheel. Texan J.C. Thompson, at the advice of George Koltanowski, ran the 1942 South west Open as a Swiss. Before this, large events were unwieldy, requiring many games to determine a winner. When Thompson organized the 1947 U.S. Open in Corpus Christi, won by Isaac Kashdan and directed by "Kolty," he made it a Swiss, and ingenuity became tradition.

In September 1945, three weeks after VJ Day brought peace to a war exhausted world (lest we forget, the dead numbered 70 million), 10 of our best players took on the U.S.S.R.’s stars in a double round robin played by radio. On boards one and two, Botvinnik blanked Denker and Smyslov shut out Reshevsky. Overall, the Soviets won 15½ to 4½. (An in person match the next year in Moscow saw the U.S. lose by an improved but still lopsided score.) Also in 1945, C.F. Rehberg won the first USCF Golden Knights correspondence tournament.

New Yorker Sammy Reshevsky dominates the decade's U.S. championships; only exceptions—Arnold Denker wins in 1944, and Hollywood’s Herman Steiner in 1948.

1944: Chess Review flooded with letters debating the change in notation from “Kt” to “N.”

Chess Life begins as a newspaper in 1946.

1948: Fine declines to play in the world championship tournament; Botvinnik wins, beginning the long Soviet domination of world chess.

Trivia: Two of the three U.S. champs who ruled USCF's first decade were promising young boxers—Steiner and Denker knew their way around the board and the ring.
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Fischer Secrets

By GM Andy Soltis

It’s been a year since the most secretive of world champions was laid to rest. Now some of his secrets can be told.

Bobby Fischer had few acquaintances, fewer friends and one rule: Never talk about my private life. But since his death last January, people allowed to know him have been breaking their silence.

One was Vassily Smyslov. The former world champion recalled Bobby’s behavior at an international tournament in April 1970, shortly after he resurfaced after a mysterious absence from chess. Bobby was in fine form until the eighth round, when he was crushed in 30 moves by an untitled Yugoslav. It was traumatic. Fischer hadn’t lost a chess game in three years. Worse still, he was White and was beaten by an opening he regarded as simply bad, the French Winawer.

Despite the defeat, Bobby was in fine form until the eighth round, when he was crushed in 30 moves by an untitled Yugoslav. It was traumatic. Fischer hadn’t lost a chess game in three years. Worse still, he was White and was beaten by an opening he regarded as simply bad, the French Winawer.


As much as Fischer cherished extra material he rarely played “computer moves” like 24. ... Na5?.

25. e6 fx6 26. Qxe6+ Kh8

Black can neutralize the attack (27. Bxc6 Rxc6 28. Rxb4 Qc8! but not 28. ... Bxb4?? 29. Bd4 mate).


Another rare glimpse of Fischer came from patron Bessel Kok. In 1990 Kok was the prime mover in the grandmasters’ association and Bobby was living under ground in the U.S. Fischer called Kok out of the blue and said he wanted to talk to him in person about the future of chess.

Kok agreed to Bobby’s conditions- a first class airplane ticket, five star hotel room and $2,500 in cash on arrival. Fischer flew to Belgium. He checked into the Brussels Sheraton for five days and was disappointed when he could only take on mere masters and grandmasters.

“When Bobby and his sister Joan appeared we presented them with a trans
2008 U.S. Championship

When Yury Shulman won the 2008 U.S. Championship he joined a rapidly expanding group of players to hold the national title. There have been 13 different grandmasters who won or tied for first place in the U.S. championship in the last 13 years. That brings the total to 29 champs in the 73 years since the modern championship began in 1936. Last year’s tournament in Tulsa provides us with six quiz positions. In each of the following positions you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. Usually this will mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions, see Page 71.

Vasiukov presented his analysis to Paul Keres, one of the four Soviet candidates headed for Curacao. But Keres said he never played the Pirc. Mikhail Tal and Tigran Petrosian also refused. However, Viktor Korchnoi said, “This suits me!” When they met in the fifth round at Curacao Fischer went straight into the Vasiukov analysis. After: 11. Nb3 Qb6 12. a4 Nb4 He played: 13. g4??

And was lost soon after:


Despite the gift point, Korchnoi finished fifth at Curacao, just below Bobby. The real beneficiary of the game was Vasiukov. He was rewarded by Soviet officials with a rare invitation to a strong tournament in Berlin. His first prize there was his greatest achievement in chess. Almost none of the grandmaster broth erhood had contact with Fischer in his later years. But when he was jailed in Japan during 2004–2005 in a strange passport dispute, Smyslov composed a White to play and draw study and ded icated it to Bobby. “I sent it over the Internet to the jail in Japan. I don’t know if it reached him or not,” he said.

And at least one grandmaster kept in close contact with Bobby by e-mail and phone. Pal Benko told 64: “Fischer and I talked about a week before his death, Evidently he didn’t know his health was in such a serious condition. We discussed the possibility of organizing a match with Judith Polgar …”
Among Paul Morphy’s contributions to chess was his understanding of the importance of fighting for the initiative by building a lead in development. Game after game he would find little ways to get out all his pieces, often with his opponent still having unmoved pieces in the final position. Nor would having to play defense for a bit deter him. In this game from 1859, for instance, Morphy must ward off Black’s early threat, but somehow winds up turning it around and completing his development, leaving several black pieces collecting dust. It all began as a Queen’s Pawn Counter Gambit:

Latvian and Elephant Gambits (C40)
Paul Morphy
Augustus Mongredien
Paris, 1859, 6th match game

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d5

Your starting position

Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White’s next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also rewarded for second best moves, and there may be bonus points or deductions for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that the note to Black’s move is over and White’s move is on the next line.

3. exd5 Par Score: 5

Also 3. Nxe5 (4 points part credit) is reasonable. The pawn capture (e4xd5) was approved by the books of the day (it still is). Morphy also had some previous experience playing it against Paulsen two years earlier.

3. ... e4

After White takes at d5, Black still has to do something about his attacked e5 pawn. If 3. ... Qxd5 then 4. Nc3 (1 bonus point) loses time with the queen. And with 3. ... Bd6, the Elephant Gambit, Black’s position doesn’t stack up too well when White reacts vigorously in the center, 4. d4 e4 5. Ne5 (1 bonus point). That leaves pushing the pawn.**

4. Qe2 Par Score: 6

Black saved his pawn, advancing it to attack the knight. If White then casually moved his knight away, say 4. Nd4 (accept only 2 points part credit), then Black follows with 4. ... Qxd5, recovering his pawn with a fine game. General development principles frown on early queen moves, especially those that block in the f1 bishop. However, every position is subject to its own special rules and the player is expected to make the adjustment. Here the queen pins the e pawn and threatens to take it. If Black guards the pawn by 4. ... f5 or 4. ... Nf6, White’s intention is to attack it again by 5. d3 (1 bonus point).

4. ... Qe7

Black guards the pawn and unpins it so that the knight is threatened once again.**

5. Nd4 Par Score: 4

5. ... Qe5

With this move Black attacks the knight once again as well as the d5 pawn. White could retreat 6. Nb3 (accept only 3 points part credit), answering 6. ... Qxd5 with 7. Nc3, attacking the queen and e pawn, but it wasn’t Morphy’s style to move back ward when he could go forward.**

6. Nb5 Par Score: 5

Saves the knight and indirectly pro tects the d5 pawn with the e7 attack. Take 1 bonus point for having seen that 6. ... Qxd5? fails to 7. Nxc7+.**

6. ... Bd6

Black guards c7 and now threatens to remove the d5 pawn.**

7. d4 Par Score: 5

By vigorous play in the center Morphy is able to maintain his advantage. On 7. ... exd3 e.p. follows 8. Nxd6+ cxd6 9. Qxe5+ dxe5 10. Bxd3 (2 bonus points), preserving his extra pawn with a fine game. And if 7. ... Qxd5 White has two good moves: 8. Nc3 and 8. c4 (1 bonus point for either). Both moves lead to the win of the e4 pawn while gaining ground in the center.

7. ... Qe7

8. c4 Par Score: 5

White aims to trap the bishop by 9. c5 (1 bonus point). This induces Mongredien to trade his bishop before it gets lost.

8. ... Bb4+

Black avoids the trap with a gain of time.**

9. Bd2 Par Score: 5

With so many points under White’s observation (b4, c7, c4) Black decides to reduce some of his responsibilities.
ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month’s game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 71.

January exercise: In these days of perfidious opening study players often hope to escape the “book” by employing black systems for white, judging the extra move to give the first player an edge. Thus we see a plethora of King’s Indian Attacks. Yet that opening has been analyzed to death and no longer is a revelation. To explore less trodden paths try practicing the Caro Kann, French, and Modern Defenses in reverse, say, against chess software. You may be surprised by how many doors of keen perception opens.

In each case, Black is to move. The key positions in this month’s game.

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**Problem I**

Fork

**Problem II**

Trapping

**Problem III**

Removing the guard

9. ... Bxd2+
   A question to keep in mind is which player winds up gaining time on all this.**  
10. Nxd2 Par Score: 4
   Clearly, Morphy has benefited. Black traded a bishop already developed and Morphy was able to develop and exchange a bishop in the process. At the end, White also gets his queen knight developed.
11. Nc3 Par Score: 4
12. 0-0-0 Par Score: 5
   Here White could consider the under mining move, 12. g4 (3 points part credit), but what Morphy comes up with (castling) is even stronger. The idea is to pin the e4 pawn by Re1, then pile up and win it after f2 f3. Accept 1 bonus point if this was your plan too.
13. Re1 Par Score: 5
14. f3 Par Score: 5
   From White’s perspective everything is going according to plan. The e pawn is still pinned. If 14. ... exf3? then 15. Qxe7 (1 bonus point); nor can the e pawn be sufficiently protected. If 14. ... Re8 then 15. fxe4 fxe4 16. Nxe4 (threat 17. Nxf6+).<br>   16. ... Nxe4 17. Qxe4 Qxe4 18. Rxe4 Rxe4 19. Nxe4, emerging two pawns ahead (2 bonus points). The reason for 16. Nxe4, rather than 16. Ndx4, is to avoid 16. ... Nxe4 17. Qxe4 Qxg5+ by discovering on the queen (1 bonus point).
15. ... b5
16. fxe4 Par Score: 5
   If White takes 15. cxb5 (no credit), he plays into Black’s hands. It would lead to the opening of the a file and a weakening of the d5 pawn.
17. ... fxe4
   If Black doesn’t take, White will push on to e5 (1 bonus point), driving the knight from f6. And the insertion of 15. ... b4 doesn’t really change anything. White will move his attacked knight to a4 and then settle in on c5 (1 bonus point).**
18. Qxc4 Par Score: 5
19. Qb4! Par Score: 6
   Naturally, 22. ... Qxb4 allows a back row mate after 23. Re8+. And the attempt to save the bishop, 22. ... Qc8, fails for a similar reason after 23. Qxb7. Accept 1 bonus point for seeing each variation.
22. Black resigned.

Scoring box on page 71.
Pokétactics

Chess Life columnist GM Lev Alburt releases his second Chess Training Pocket Book.

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

Pocket sized monsters. They come in a variety of sizes and strengths, yet each Pokémon fits inside the same size Pokéball. So when a trainer throws a Pokéball at you, it could contain any one of 400+ Pokémon.

GM Lev Alburt and Al Lawrence, chess trainers, throw 320 Pokéballs, metaphorically speaking, at readers. And the reader does not know, from one Pokétactic (pocket tactic) to the next, whether the solution will be extremely hard or merely difficult. Compounding the challenge, about 10% of the Pokétactics are not tactics but strategic or quiet moves. This really confuses the reader, who has become used to looking for tactics.

Therefore, to be ready for Alburt and Lawrence’s Pokéball barrage, you should first master Reinfeld’s 1001 Winning Chess Sacrifices and Combinations and 1001 Brilliant Ways to Checkmate. Like Alburt and Lawrence, Reinfeld offers chess problems in diagram form. In other words, board and pieces are not necessary. Unlike Alburt and Lawrence, however, Reinfeld’s problems are organized by themes. Reinfeld has several pages in a row of queen sacrifices, several pages of discovered checks, etc. Thus, less experienced players know what type of solution to look for on particular pages.

Alburt and Lawrence mix and match types of problems and difficulty levels on each four diagram page. Although the cover of Pocket Book II says the book is for all players, this categorization is unrealistic. Alburt and Lawrence write, “Under analytic training conditions [of spending 20 minutes on each problem], the goal for an expert player is to score at least 50% correct.” Therefore, this book is not suited for players rated below 1500, who would likely get one or no problems right after spending 80 minutes on a page. Alburt and Lawrence write that it is fine to get problems wrong, or to spend less time on problems, as long as the ideas become part of one’s repertoire. But I think lower rated players (especially children) would get discouraged by being consistently wrong.

Pocket II is an improvement over Alburt’s Pocket I (2000). Pocket I replicated many positions from other books. Of the 300 positions in Pocket Book I, only nine were from 1980 or later. In contrast, Pocket II has many positions that are not yet available in other books. 75 of the Pocket II positions are from 1980 or later, including 50 from 2000–2008. Pocket II adds a new chapter, “Tactics: the dirty dozen,” which clearly defines the 12 most important tactics. From this chapter I learned the difference between deflection (“diverts an enemy piece from a particular square”) and decoy (“diverts an enemy piece to a certain square”).

Both Pocket I and Pocket II index positions by tactical theme (pin, desperado, etc.) Opposite from each four diagram page are the corresponding answers and the game from which the position was taken. Listing the game source of each Pokétactic appeals to me, especially when I know the players involved. Thus “Youngworth [sic] Seirawan, 1979” caught my eye.

I know Yasser Seirawan, and my husband Doug played against both players. According to Doug, before this particular game Perry Youngworth had been leading the 1979 U.S. Junior Championship, an invitational event. After Youngworth lost to Seirawan, Seirawan ended up winning the tournament.

Seirawan later reflected, “I won the 1979 U.S. Junior Championship, which was to propel my career significantly. That victory sent me on to win the World Junior Championship.” Here is Seirawan’s Pokétactic, which I would classify as an average difficulty Pokétactic for Pocket Book II:

Black to play

Solution: “1. ... Rc1! (deflection) 2. Qxc1 Qf3+ 3. Kg1 Nh3, mate.”

As illustrated by Youngworth Seirawan, Alburt and Lawrence’s game citations allow the reader to research the stories behind each Pokétactic. But the main point of Pocket Book II is chess improvement. For those rated 1500 and up, studying this Pokébook’s 320 Pokétactics should help you on the road to mastery.
26th Sands Regency Western States Open
By GM Larry Evans

252 Compete In Reno
Despite a dismal economy and a reduced turnout (88 fewer players than 2007) indomitable organizer Jerry Weikel awarded $26,000 in prizes. GM Sergey Kudrin took clear first at 5 1 in the top section of 43 (including eight grandmasters and five international masters). Jaan Ehlvest, Melik Khachiyan and Enrico Sevillano trailed by a half point. In keeping with tradition every October, I kicked off the event with a lecture on the Anand Kramnik title match. Solutions on page 71.

Readers are invited to send their positions in for possible consideration in this column. Send to whatsthebestmove@uschess.org or mail to Chess Life, c/o What’s The Best Move, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

1. White moves
(a) Rxd7 (b) Qh3 (c) Rxf8+

2. White moves
(a) Qxa7 (b) Bxd7 (c) Nh5

3. Black moves
(a) Qb7 (b) Qc6 (c) c2

4. Black moves
(a) Bd7 (b) Bc8 (c) Ne5

Thank You, U.S. Chess Trust!
The World Chess Hall of Fame in Miami thanks the U.S. Chess Trust for funding both the travel and hotel expenses of all three 2008 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductees and their wives. The U.S. Chess Trust’s support made possible the recent public celebration of the careers of GMs Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Nick de Firmian.

The U.S. Chess Trust is an independent 501(c)(3), non profit organization. Created in 1967, the Trust was organized to promote, stimulate and encourage the study and play of the game of chess as a means of intellectual development. Its trustees act without compensation, and are dedicated to the U.S. Chess Trust’s mission. Your valuable contributions help make a difference!

Joel Benjamin receives his Hall of Fame plaque from U.S. Chess Trust chairman Harold Winston (r.) and then World Chess Hall of Fame executive director Al Lawrence (l.)

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In a career lasting more than two decades, India’s Viswanathan Anand had won almost every title worth winning, including world championships in lightning, rapid, knock out and tournament formats. The one title missing from Anand’s résumé was the most prestigious—the match title which has been recognized as deciding world champions from 1886 until the present day. Anand had earned a single title shot in 1995 but had himself been shot down in flames by Garry Kasparov, 7½ 10½.

In October 2008, Anand had a second chance to make history, taking on Vladimir Kramnik in a 12 game match in Bonn, Germany. Kramnik had held the world match title since deposing Kasparov in 2000 and had hung on to the crown in two nail biting title defenses in 2004 and 2006. As most readers will already know, Anand beat Kramnik 6½ 4½ to become the 15th world champion. However, few understand the intense year long preparation and teamwork that goes into a world title fight. Fortunately, the day after his victory in the Bonn world championship match, Viswanathan Anand explained to Ian Rogers:

How I Beat Kramnik

Even before Viswanathan Anand won the FIDE world championship in Mexico City in September 2007 he already knew that the winner would probably be required to play a world title match against Vladimir Kramnik in Germany in 2008.

To win such a match would require more than the help of his trusty lieutenant Peter Heine Nielsen, Anand’s regular second since 2002; a much larger team was needed and Anand started creating Team Anand long before the contract for the match against Kramnik was officially signed.
“Surya [Ganguly] I asked pretty early, in November 2007. In December I got Radek [Wojtaszek]’s details at a German Bundesliga match. I am not sure if he knew why at the time. Rustam [Kasimdzhanov] was added in April; to get a former world champion on the team was great. Not since the match against Kasparov in 1995 have I worked with such a large team of seconds.

“At first we had a structure — certain tasks for each person, but it just didn’t work out that way; everyone was helping each other. The seconds must trust each other and get on with each other. Fortunately everyone got along splendidly.

“Most of our training camps were held in Frankfurt, lasting two to three weeks. In April I had a camp with Surya and [other top Indian players].

“I decided to play 1. d4 against Kramnik already last year. You can’t compensate for Vlad’s years of 1. d4 experience with a few months work, but I thought that if he had spent, say, 60% of his preparation on 1. e4, that would balance the chances. If he had spent 80% of his time on 1. e4, even better. Also it was interesting and new work for me, which is important when you are working so hard.”

Anand wasn’t too disappointed by his awful last place in the Bilbao Grand Slam Final just before the championship match.

“I was able to put the Bilbao result in perspective. When you lack focus you need some luck. I think if I had won an early game I might still have done well in Bilbao but after I lost to Topalov I couldn’t [do anything]. I had been working on 1. d4 so my 1. e4 was very weak.

After Bilbao I did some work with [Norwegian wonder boy] Magnus Carlsen. However he couldn’t come to Bonn.

When Team Anand arrived in Bonn they took up residence in a wing on the third
floor of the Bonn Hilton. Anand and his wife/manager Aruna occupied a suite with his seconds having rooms nearby. A separate ‘war room’ was set up with computers and it was here that Anand and his seconds would do their work.

A typical Anand day before the match would involve time in the gym, work with seconds, lunch, work, dinner, work, finishing at around 11:00 at night. However, once the match started, Anand and his seconds’ workloads altered dramatically.

“One problem is that you can’t work too hard yourself, especially not working too much with computers. You have to keep energy for the game and not get too used to playing ‘advanced’ chess during a game you can’t just push the space bar.” (This is a reference to a ChessBase habit; pressing the space bar causes the computer engine’s suggested move to appear on the board.)

“The night before a game I would discuss what I wanted to play the next day and my seconds would work and in the morning show me the problems and their solutions. There were a lot of all-nighters. Only when I left for the game did my seconds have time to catch up on sleep.”

“There seemed to be an informal competition within the seconds as to who would go to bed last, with Nielsen and Ganguly seemingly able to survive on no sleep at all on some occasions.

“I don’t know who worked on what. Sometimes they worked together, sometimes individually whatever works. If there was a major crisis then they would all come on to it.”

“The Nimzo Indian lines, 4. f3 and 4. Qc2 we worked out well in advance but there are always last minute problems. You look at a variation for months but five minutes before the game the variation collapses. And sometimes you see things during the game that you didn’t see before working with computers. Maybe you are more concentrated.”

“Chess problems don’t break out in an easy order but when a problem arose, we solved it. Chess gives its mysteries away at its own pace.”

Anand’s first scoreboard breakthrough came in game three, a game watched nervously by Anand’s team from the Hilton to see if their opening work would hold up in practice it did.

“I had my successes in the opening, choosing 8. ... a6 rather than 8. ... Bb7 [in game 3] was one.”

If 1. d4 had ruined 60% of Kramnik’s preparation with Black, Anand’s choice of variation in the Semi Slav, when he himself was Black, was another. A yet bigger shock for Kramnik was to come on move 14 of game 3 with the gambit 14. ... Bb7.

“I found ... Bb7 myself but then I discovered that Rustam had worked on it independently last year; he had done much more work on it. Before hand I had decided to play 15. ... Rg8 but just before the third game I changed my mind.”

Even with 15. ... Rg8 ready to go in game 5, it was nerve wracking for Anand and his team when Anand played the Semi Slav line a second time, knowing that Kramnik’s team would have subjected it to intensive scrutiny over the previous two days.

“I was very nervous in the fifth game, playing it again. Most variations have a short shelf life nowadays.”

At the Hilton, Team Anand forewent sleep and there was great relief and happiness when Anand obtained a satisfactory position and finally triumphed thanks to a Kramnik blunder.

The next few games went smoothly for Anand “In the Vienna [game eight] I got my idea in first.” but then came a nervous game 9 and a disastrous loss in game 10.

“18. Re1 was a big hit he got me with 18. Re1. I didn’t understand his idea; the plan Be3 f4 e3 is pretty impressive.

“I was very concentrated during the games. Before the games I was very tense but my mind didn’t wander. Well, once; when playing 22. ... Bg4 in game 10 my mind wandered. Then when he played 23. Qa6 I woke up.”

Still needing only a draw in the final two games, Anand endured a painful rest day wondering what Kramnik would try with black in game 11.

“When your opponent is in kamikaze mode he could go anywhere. I played 1. e4 partly because his normal openings the Petroff and the Berlin were not possible [given the match situation].”

After Kramnik had offered the draw which gave the title to Anand, Anand’s

Team Anand

Peter Heine Nielsen, Denmark, grandmaster, age 35, rating 2662
Radoslaw Wojtaszek, Poland, grandmaster, age 21, rating 2599
Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Uzbekistan, grandmaster, age 28, rating 2672
Surya Ganguly, India, grandmaster, age 25, rating 2603
seconds raced to the playing hall, for the first time in the match. A bleary eyed Ganguly gave Anand a giant bear hug before watching the final press conference with his fellow seconds and Aruna. Team Anand celebrated that evening by eating at an Indian restaurant in Bonn, with teetotaller Anand even raising a glass of champange.

The next day, while Anand did a never ending round of media interviews, Ganguly expressed a feeling of emptiness. “We worked for Anand for 18 hours a day,” said Ganguly. “It was a tremendous responsibility and a pleasure. We haven’t come to terms with the fact that we are not working now.”

Anand’s Opening Surprise: 1. d4

Nimzo-Indian Defense, Classical Variation (E34)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2783)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2772)
Bonn 2008, Game 6

1. d4!

By now, game 6, Kramnik would have been well aware that Anand’s move from his life long favorite 1. e4 to the queen pawn opening was not just a one off.

What Kramnik could hardly have realized were the number of surprises Anand had in store for Kramnik’s favorite Nimzo Indian Defense.

1. ... Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2

Varying from 4. f3 which Anand played in game 2.

4. ... d5 5. exd5 Qxd5 6. Nf3 Qf5 7. Qb3? Nc6 8. Bd2 0-0

“I spent time looking for something direct but in the end could not find any thing better than the queen exchange [which follows],” said Anand. “The endgame is a little awkward for Black as the c pawn is a bit weak.”


15. Bd2 Nf6

A very calm move which accepts that White will have a small but persistent advantage. 15. ... f5? was less healthy but also more testing for White.

16. Rg1 Rac8 17. Bg2 Ne7?! 18. Bd2 c5?

The passive 18. ... Rfc8 was necessary. Now after ...

19. dxc5 Rfd8 20. Ne5

... Anand was a safe pawn ahead, which he converted into a point 27 moves later.

Anand’s New Gambit

Semi-Slav, Meran System (D49)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2783)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2772)
Bonn 2008, Games 3 and 5


Black’s b5 pawn is under attack and, until this match, in almost all previous games Black has chosen to protect or move the pawn. However, Anand and Kasimdzhanov both realized that Black might be able to get away with ...

14. ... Bd6 15. Bb5

It Gets Worse For Kramnik ...

... and now in game 3 Anand tried 15. ... Bb6 and won a spectacular game see the end of this article while in game 5 he tried the even more ambitious:

15. ... Rg8?

That game was very tense until Kramnik walked into a spectacular combination, starting at the diagrammed position ...

White to play

29. Nxd4??

A tricky idea, but there is a sting in the tail which Kramnik has missed. 29. Nd2! was playable.

29. ... Qxd4! 30. Rd1! Nf6! 31. Rxd4 Nxd4 32. Rd7+ Kf6 33. Rxb7 Rc1+ 34. Bf1

The previous four moves had been played almost instantly but now Anand’s hand reached out to move his knight. Just before moving, Anand hesitated whereupon Kramnik saw, far too late, what was about to befall him and slumped back into his chair.

34. ... Ne3!! 35. fxe3 fxe3, White resigned.

Kramnik’s Big Hit

Kramnik reminds Anand why he is such a tough opponent and that this is, after all, a world championship match:

Nimzo-Indian (E20)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2772)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2783)
Bonn 2008, Game 10

(see diagram next page)
Anand is very familiar with this position; not only did he successfully defend it against Garry Kasparov in 2000 but his “secret assistant” Magnus Carlsen is also experienced in the line. However Kramnik is now able to unleash his first big novelty of the Championship.

18. Re1!?

A ridiculously subtle new move. “This is a novelty; not a crushing one but it offers Black a choice. Normally White commits his bishop immediately to e3 or f4. There are a lot of nuances in the position. Even for top players it is difficult to understand,” explained Kramnik.


“It looks as if I lost a lot of tempi with my Be3 f4 e3,” said Kramnik, “but I have managed to get Black’s pawn to e5 and his pieces are not coordinating well.”

22. ... Bg4?!

The first of two mistakes which leave Black’s position in dire straits. “Actually, I had no idea what he was doing,” admitted Anand later “I thought I’d take control of c4 and be fine.”

23. Qa6! f6

24. a4! Qf7 25. Bf1! Be6 26. Rab1!

Now all the tactics work in White’s favor, e.g. 26. ... Bc4 27. Bxc4 Qxc4 28. Rxb6! or 26. ... Rc7 27. Rxb6! or Kramnik’s spectacular line 26. ... Kh8 27. a5 Nc4 28. Rb7 Qg8 29. Bh6!! gxh6 30. Bxc4. Depressed Anand races to his doom.

26. ... cd 27. a5 Na4 28. Rb7 Qe8 29. Qd6!, Black resigned.

An early resignation but Anand realized that after 29. Qd6 Bf7 (On 29. ... Nxc3 30. Re7 wins the bishop.) 30. Qb4 his knight is completely trapped and material loss cannot be avoided, e.g. 30. ... Qc6 31. Rd1 Rd8 32. Rdx8+ Rd8 33. Rx7 and Black’s cause is hopeless.

The 2008 World Championship match produced one magnificent game, the third, which may in retrospect have decided the match psychologically. Anand sacrifices a pawn, Kramnik ups the ante with a multiple piece sacrifice and Anand eventually returns the material and more for a withering attack. Eventually Kramnik makes an unforced error and Anand scores a key point with the Black pieces. Kramnik, like Roger Federer after his epic loss to Rafael Nadal in Wimbledon in July, must have wondered how he could play so well and not win. The answer is that his opponent simply played better.

Semi-Slav, Meran System (D49)
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2772)
GM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2783)
Bonn 2008, Game 3


Anand had previously tried 8. ... Bb7 against Kramnik last year.


“A novelty at least to me,” Kramnik admitted. 14. ... b4 and 14. ... Ba6 have been standard until now.

15. Bxb5 B6 16. Rd1

The first tough decision for Kramnik, one which cost him half an hour. At first sight 16. Nxd4! looks attractive but 16. ... Qxd4 (also playable after 16. ... Rd8 17. g3) 17. Rd1 can be well met by 17. ... Bxh2+ (17. ... Qc5 18. Be3 Qc7 19. Rac1 Qb7 20. Bxd7+ Kxd7 21. Qb5+ 18. Kxh2 Qh4+ 19. Kg1 Bxg2! when Black has at least a draw.

16. ... Rg8 17. g3

17. ... Rg4!?

The first new move, obliging serious material sacrifices. 17. ... Bc5 18. b4! was disastrous for Black in the only other game to have reached this position, D’Israel Gerbelli, Americana 2000, which White won in 24 moves.

18. Bxf6

Another half an hour disappeared on this inspired move, leaving Kramnik an hour behind on the clock. All the Internet kibitzers were crying out for 18. Nd2, their computer masters missing at first that Black can reply 18. ... Ke7!! 19. Bxd7 (19. Qxg4 Qxb5 gives Black excellent light squared play for the Exchange.) 19. ... Rg8 and a sacrifice on g3 is coming, e.g. 20. Bb5 d3 21. Qxd3 (21. Bxb3 Rxb3!) 21. ... Rxd3+ 22. hxg3 Rxd3+ 23. Kf1

18. ... Bxf4

“I spent a long time on 18. ... Rxf4 19. gxf4 Ke7 but after 20. Nf5! I think I am better,” Kramnik explained.

19. Nxd4!


20. Nxe6!


20. ... fx6 21. Rxd7 Kf8!

Refusing to be tempted by the tricky 21. ... Ba6?! which gives Black a slight mate anywhere for White.

Now it was Anand’s turn to think, using up 40 minutes on this move; “I considered practically every legal move ... Rg5, ... Rg6, ... Rg8, but it seemed useful to have the pawn on ... h5.”

21. ... Rg7!

Anand’s second long think brought him level on the clock with Kramnik, both players now having just over 40 minutes to reach the time control at move 40. Kramnik considered the text move to be almost forced but Anand realized that he could force a draw if he wished by playing 22. ... Bxg3 23. hxg3 h4 when 24. Qd6+ Qxd6 25. Rxd6 Rx4 26. Bc6 is dead equal.

22. Qg7?

“23. Rd1! was also very interesting but I couldn’t figure out what was going on,” admitted Kramnik.

23. ... Kxg7 24. gxf4 Rd8 25. Qe2

Played instantly, although 25. Qb3? was a viable alternative. “My intuition tells me that White is OK with two extra pawns but of course my king is not so safe,” Kramnik said.

25. ... Kh6 26. Kf1 Kg8 27. a4!

“I was intending 27. f5 but I had missed 27. ... Bg4+ 28. Ke1 Bxh3 when I couldn’t make it work for White,” Kramnik explained. Kramnik’s intuition was right, even if his analysis was not perfect. In the variation Kramnik gives, White would still be alive after 29. Rd1 but in fact Black can force a win after 27. f5 Bg2+ 28. Ke1 with 28. ... Bc6! 29. Qd2+ Kh3 30. Bxc6 Qxc6 and the white king is too exposed to survive, e.g. 31. Ke2 Qb5+ 32. Kf3 Qg4 33. Re1 Qc6+ 34. Ke2 Qc4+ 35. Kf3 Rd1! 36. Qxd4 Qxh4 37. fxg3 Qxg4 when Black wins the e pawn and the game.

27. ... Bg2+ 28. Ke1 Bf3! 29. Ra3?

“Maybe the decisive mistake,” bemoaned Kramnik. “I was looking at 29. Rd1 and didn’t see anything clearly wrong with it.”

After 29. Rd1! Anand should probably try 29. ... Rg1+, since the endgame after 29. ... Bg4 30. Qe3 Qxe3+ 31. fx3 Bxd1 32. Kxd1 Rg2 33. Kc1! Rxb2 34. Bc6! offers chances mostly for White.

However even after 30. Kd2 Rg2 White can hold, by a whisker, after 31. Qe3 Rxf2+ 32. Be2 Qa5+ 33. Qc3 Qf5 34. Qb4! with 35. Qf5+ to follow.

29. ... Rg1+ 30. Kd2 Qd4+ 31. Kc2 Bc4?

“I couldn’t see a forced win after 31. ... Bf5+ 32. Kb3 Rc1 33. a5! Rc2 34. Qxc2 Bxc2+ 35. Kxc2 Qc5+ 36. Kb1 Qxb5 37. a6! and I certainly looked hard enough! so I decided to try 31. ... Bg4 first,” Anand explained.

30. f3

“After 32. Rd3?! Bf5 33. Kb3 I keep good drawing chances the Exchange down,” Kramnik opined. However whether this is a better practical chance than the game continuation is a moot point, since 33. ... Bxd3 34. Bxd3 Qd4 35. Qxe6 Qxd2 will not be simple for White to defend.

32. ... Bf5+

With only a couple of minutes left on the clock, Kramnik blunders and allows Black a choice of winning methods. On 33. Kb3? Kramnik feared 33. ... Rc1 34. a5? but Anand believed that after 35. Ra4! White was still well in the game. “35. ... Qc5 is very difficult for White but I am not sure it is a forced win for me.” (Anand was right 36. Bc4! should hold.) “34. ... Qd5+ also flashed through my head, but it was all getting out of control.” Anand admitted that he might well have played 34. ... Rc2, as in the note to 31. ... Bg4, “when I can win the queen and if necessary take an immediate perpetual.” However with five minutes to reach move 40, Anand might just have found the forced win which was available with the move which flashed through his head 34. ... Qd5+, when play could continue 35. Bc4 Qb7+ 36. Bb5 (36. Ka4 Rc2) 36. ... Rc2!! 37. a6 Qb6 38. Qf1 Qe3+ 39. Ka2 Qd2! 40. Qa1 (On 40. Rb3 Rc1! ensnares the white queen.) 40. ... Qd5+ 41. Rb3 and now, with the time control reached, Anand would have had time to find 41. ... Rc5!! leaving White helpless.

33. ... Bh3

Crushing, though 33. ... Bxd3+ 34. Rxd3 (34. Qxd3 Rg2+?) 34. ... Qc4+ 35. Kd2 Qc1 mate was simpler.


See another Anand game from 1987 in our profile of GM Gregory Kaidanov on page 26. More dispatches from the World Championship by Ian Rogers (including more annotated games) can be found on Chess Life Online, October archives. The website uschess.org is now running on a faster server.
The short list of famous Russians living in Lexington, Kentucky, begins and ends with Gregory Zinovyevich Kaidanov. His circuitous path to bluegrass pastures landed him half a world from his homeland, but he would not have it any other way. The grandmaster, 49, is eternally bearded with an unassuming smile that hides his complexity. Tournament photos of him are unique in that he is almost never straining while at the board. Kaidanov’s breadth of experience, euphoric and deflating, on the chess board and off, have endowed him with a unique perspective on how to manage the inner world of competition—a skill he is slowly branding on America’s top junior players, and which he hopes will one day be his lasting legacy.

Kaidanov, once ranked as high as a top 16 world player, has seamlessly transitioned to America’s premier chess trainer. At elite camps or at his home chess office, his approach to students is based on pedagogical techniques usually reserved for patients, not players. “I emphasize the importance of psychology,” Kaidanov said of his methodology. “I hope that is something that will be my contribution to chess teaching.”

Of course, Kaidanov covers the traditional areas too, but as he sees it, there is a chasm between chess teachers’ roles as providers of the game’s skillful elements and students’ needs for deeper analyses of recurrent mental weaknesses. He said his worldly adventures have substituted for any specific training in psychology. “Everybody has a different personality,” Kaidanov explained. “The approach should be completely different. Time trouble is a purely psychological problem. Depending on the reason you have to correct it differently. It is very hard to separate psychological problems from chess problems. They are usually linked together. It is kind of a difficult process to get into the mind of a student.”

“T“I draw on my experience from all my previous life. As a player and teacher you travel all over the world and interact with hundreds, if not thousands of people.” Kaidanov’s teaching acumen presents itself best when he combines his experiences with charming anecdotes, though he will remain honest in his assessments. (When asked midway through the recent chess olympiad if he was satisfied with the play of the women’s team, which was 4 1 at the time, he said laconically, “No.”) A setting seemingly tailored to his gunny sack of skills is the U.S. Chess School, where Kaidanov has instructed since the inaugural meeting in 2006.

IM Greg Shahade, the founder of the program, has hired Kaidanov for five of the sessions, which last about one week each and provide intensive chess training to America’s burgeoning young talents. “Gregory is very good at putting himself in the students’ shoes,” Shahade said. “Perhaps his best quality is his understanding of chess psychology, which is great, because this is the kind of thing that you don’t need to be very strong at chess to understand, thus making him easily accessible to all levels.”

This is not your Eastern European, dogmatic, sit and listen type oratory. Kaidanov does not hold forth from a lectern. He engages the student with personal stories and innovative approaches,
Ntuckian

resumés in American chess.
The path to Kentucky began in Berdichev, Ukraine, where Kaidanov was born in 1959, thus making his life journey similar to that of the town’s most famous son, Joseph Conrad (though with not any Heart of Darkness). Like the peripatetic novelist, Kaidanov began traveling early, as his family soon moved to Kaliningrad, then Moscow, where he spent his formative years. His father taught him the game at age six and two years later he became a regular visitor to the Pioneer’s Palace, which he said had less mystique than most Westerners’ conceptions would suggest. “There is a big myth of the Soviet chess school people think of it as very structured,” Kaidanov said. “It was not.” The invitation only Botvinnik Chess School might fit this mold better, but Kaidanov never attended. He compared Pioneers Palace to a community center, where children could come after school to do a variety of different activities, of which chess held no more standing than knitting. The teacher there, a woman on the short side of expert by today’s standards, was more of an organizer and story teller. “Like many GMs, we never had a formal coach. You can compare this to the culture of basketball in this country. If you are playing in the school team, you may not necessarily have a coach that is great, but you are playing with other people all the time and getting better.”

Even so, recent research suggests that an osmotic approach alone is generally not enough to achieve Kaidanov’s level of success. In Malcolm Gladwell’s recent book, Outliers: The Story of Success, the statistical guru drew on the research of neurologist Daniel Levitin to postulate that it takes good, old fashioned hard work to become great in any field. He admitted fault and apologizing, then amassing 10,000 hours to assimilate the elements to reach mastery, whether the activity is music, computer programming or chess (Gladwell bluntly defines chess success as the grandmaster [GM] title). Gladwell’s math works out to be three hours per day for about ten years after he began his chess studies. Twenty one years at nine hours per week equates to 9,828 hours nearly a perfect fit. Of course Kaidanov may have reached the threshold sooner had he not gone to college to study railroad engineering (he also married wife Valeria and had a daughter, Anastasia, in 1983), but the formula likely would not have changed he may have received the title sooner, but roughly the same amount of actual study time would be required.

Gladwell’s model continued: “The thing that distinguishes one performer from another is how hard he or she works. That’s it. What’s more, the people at the very top don’t just work much harder than everyone else. They work much, much harder.” Certainly the chess world contains exceptions to Gladwell’s outliers, but his point is clear. Kaidanov, like other subjects in the book, including Bill Gates and The Beatles, reached his field’s zenith with the typical but exhausting formula of time plus dedication.

Kaidanov said his work ethic comes from his parents and from an incident when he was 14. “One of the masters moved into town. He gave me a notebook with his annotated games. This was a life changing experience and I saw how much work was involved. That’s what I do with my students. Unfortunately only a few can do this work.” He cited all the distractions of today’s children “Kids have too many interests. We didn’t have all this liberal arts education.” Accordingly, the privation of Russian youth may have been one of the leading catalysts of the glut of Soviet GMs.

The gap between making master in 1978 and international master (IM) in 1987 involved a “lot of frustration.” Still, he turned professional in 1985, and after making IM, ascended to GM only one year later, which was not exactly a formality back then. Consider Kaidanov’s impressive performance at a tournament in Moscow in 1987. “This was like a miracle tournament for me,” Kaidanov recalled. Though he won with a +5 score and he beat two young IMs named Viswanathan Anand and Alexander Khalifman, both of whom went on to become world champions, his performance was not even good enough for a GM norm.

Considering the competition and the stunning coup de grâce, his win against the Indian super GM remains his most famous game ever. Played in a round robin tournament in Moscow, the lineup consisted of some prominent grandmasters such as Evgeny Sveshnikov and a group of young IMs including Anand and Khalifman.
**Queen’s Gambit Declined, Semi-Tarrasch (D42)**

IM Gregory Kaidanov (FIDE 2420)
IM Viswanathan Anand (FIDE 2500)
Moscow, Russia, 1987

Notes by Kaidanov

Despite being one of the lowest rated players in this event, I managed to win the tournament outright with seven wins, three losses and four draws.

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nc6

“Vishy” played incredibly quickly in those days, very rarely spending more than 20 minutes on the entire game. Needless to say, it led to a lot of mistakes. It’s amazing that despite this he still was already very strong! As Vishy acknowledged after the game, he intended to play 4...Nf6, but touched the wrong knight.

5. cxd5 Qxd5 6. Nf3 e6 7. Nc3 Qd8 8. Bd3 Nf6 9. 0-0 Be7 10. a3 0-0 11. Re1

Now we reach a position which very often arises after different move orders, such as in the c3 Sicilian.

11. ... b6 12. Bc2 Ba6

A new move for me at the time, though a database search shows that it was played quite frequently.

13. b4 Bc4 14. b5 Na5 15. Ne5 Rc8 16. Re3

16. ... Rc7

Vishy belongs to the group of players called “intuitive.” It means that they choose the majority of their moves based on intuition, not calculation. Karpov is another example of such a player.

On the other hand, Kasparov was a player who tended to start examining a position by calculating enormous amounts of variations. It doesn’t mean that Kasparov’s intuition was bad, it just shows a different approach to chess.

By the way, Vishy’s calculation is incredibly fast. Anyone who has a chance to discuss variations with him can confirm that it is very hard to keep up with his speed. His last move is a pure “intuitive” decision. The rook is ready to protect f7 and can also be transferred to d7 if the white knight leaves e5.

17. Rg3 Re8 18. Bh6 Bf8

Now we can see the point of 16...Rc7. 19. Bg5 Be7 20. Bxf6

Nowadays I would probably prefer 20.h4 but back then I had less patience. This is not always a bad thing, sometimes a lack of patience is simply the reverse of hesitation.

20. ... Bxf6 21. Bxh7+ Kxh7 22. Qh5+ Kg8 23. Ne4

23. ... Bd5

The immediate 23. ... Kf8 was also possible. 24. Nxf6 gxf6 (White wins after 24...Qxf6 25. Rf3 Be2 26. Ng6+ Qxg6 27. Qxg6 Bxf3 28. Qg3.) 25. Rd1 The position remains unclear. Black should have no problems with White’s attack after 25. Qh6+ Ke7 26. Nxd7 Qxd4.

24. Rh3 Kf8

Played instantly. 24. ... g6 25. Nxg6 fxg6 26. Qxg6+ Bg7 27. Ng5 Kf8 28. Nh7+ Kg8 29. Ng5 should lead to a draw. Black loses if he tries to play for a win. 29. ... Qc8 30. Rh8+ Kxh8 31. Qh7 mate.

25. Qxf7+, Black resigned.

At this point Vishy looked up at me. There was so much pain in his eyes that I remember this look until today.

A brilliancy for the new GM

In 1988, newly crowned GM Kaidanov played a game that he said changed his life. Against countryman GM Mark Taimanov, his queen’s rook performed a “Prefontaine” run from a8 to h2. The brilliant maneuver sparked a spirited attack and the game won the brilliancy prize.

“I received $4,000 and at the time it was like a huge amount of money,” he cheerfully reminisced. The Kaidanovs now numbering four as Valeria Kaidanov had recently given birth to one year old Boris used the winnings to buy a new apartment in Moscow. “This game really kind of set my whole life on track.”

English Opening (A13)

GM Mark Taimanov (FIDE 2480)
GM Gregory Kaidanov (FIDE 2535)
Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1988

Notes by Kaidanov

This game has an interesting story behind it. In the mid 1980s Garry Kasparov created the GMA (The Grandmaster Association). This organization held a series of very strong Swiss tournaments. Belgrade was the first one. In a short period between the second and fifth round I played Mark Taimanov, Samuel Reshevsky and Efim Geller. One of the participants jokingly noted that instead of the popular Informants (major preparation tools back then) I should have brought Bronstein’s book *Zurich 1953*.


We all know this principle: “In the opening don’t move the same piece twice.” However, it doesn’t look so inappropriate here. After all, White creates an attack on c6.

8. ... 0-0

Black decides to sacrifice a pawn for an advantage in development.


Played after some deliberation. GM Taimanov would rather attack than defend. Accepting the pawn sac was indeed dangerous.


10. ... Re8

Analysis after 19. ... Rh2

Despite being down a pawn he is probably better. After 10. Be2, White hopes after castling to exploit the weakness of the c5 pawn.
One of the reasons I like this game is that all of Black’s moves (up to a certain point) could be explained by classical chess principles. Here, after developing his minor pieces and castling, Black simply puts his rooks on open files.

11. 0-0 Rb8

During my lessons I constantly emphasize the importance of open files and activity of the pieces. Unfortunately, the majority of club players worry about such things as doubled pawns and weak squares, but they don’t worry about the fact that their pieces are passive.

12. d3

White’s plan now is to play Nd2, Rc1, Ba3 in a hope to win the pawn on c5. The problem is that he doesn’t have time for that.

12. ... Rb7

The queen’s rook is the only Black piece which is far away from the kingside. Black’s last move poses a dilemma for White: either to undouble Black’s pawns with 13. d4 or allow the rook to join the attack.

13. Nd2

A risky decision. 13. d4 exd4 14. exd4 (14. Bxd4 c5 with a good game for Black) 14. ... Rb7 and the rook finds a new place of employment.

13. ... Rh4 14. g3

After both 14. h3 Bxh3 and 14. Nf3 Rh6 Black would have a strong attack. Still, it probably would be better than the game continuation.

14. ... Ng4

Already here I saw my 18th move.

15. Bxg4 Bxg4 16. f3

Both the rook on h4 and bishop on g4 are under the attack. Which one to save? The answer is: neither one!

16. ... Rxe3 17. fxe3

If 17. Kxh2, then ... Qh4+ 18. Kg1 Qxf3+ 19. Kh1 Qh2 mate.

17. ... Rxh3+

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17. ... Rxh3+

The answer is: neither one!

18. Bf6

Then he looked around as though asking: “Did everyone see this move?” I was lucky to see one move further.

18. ... Rh3

As loud of a statement as White’s previous move was (a long bishop move, made with a knock), it is answered by a quiet and unassuming Black response (a very gentle one square move). The consequences are, however, devastating for White.

19. Rf3


White is down three pawns, about to lose the fourth one, so he resigned. This game was awarded a brilliancy prize of $4,000, at the time the largest in chess history.

A tough transition to the west

Even with the extra cash, the economic climate of the Soviet Union mitigated his newfound wealth. “There was no food in the stores,” Kaidanov said. “Compared to other people we had a pretty good life in Moscow. Other people suffered more. We had money but the problem was you could not buy anything.” It was time to explore more of the world and he jumped at the chance to take his game to the West. In 1990, Kaidanov and his wife traveled to New York City. The grand master entered a tough round robin tournament at the now defunct Manhattan Chess Club, in which he sensationally shared first place by beating the tournament leader, GM Efim Geller, in the last round.

The celebration was short lived. At dinner the following evening, the Kaidanovs had all of their luggage stolen from the trunk of a car. The losses included ten years of chess analysis and Valeria’s entire wardrobe. “The most valuable things,” Kaidanov joked when asked whose loss was greater. The calm retelling of the incident almost embarrasses the grand master – the robbery has superseded the tournament in fame, which is not entirely undeserved when you consider what happened the very next day at the corner of 42nd Street and Broadway.

“We were walking down the street and I am sure we were behaving like typical tourists, stopping all the time,” Kaidanov said. A circle of men formed around them, and in a pre-Giuliani Times Square, that could only mean one thing. “It was kind of funny because the robbers took all the dollars but they left the English pounds because they didn’t know what they were.”

These stories have reached folklore status. The Russian fish out of water story resembles Robin Williams in Moscow on the Hudson. The incidents tested the resolve of the Kaidanovs, who now had no clean clothes, very little money and no plane tickets (they were scheduled to fly to Chicago in a few days). So when the grandmaster tells his students he knows adversity, he may not explicitly cite these two days in New York, but he can be trusted nonetheless.

“I am still missing those notes,” Kaidanov said. “Right now it is maybe not so much practical. It is more emotional attachment. I still have notebooks with games as a little kid. Holding those notebooks in my hand is very special.” He sometimes brings his remaining childhood analysis to U.S. Chess Schools, hoping the sight of his earliest annotations will have the power to inspire his students like an early Picasso sketch.

The real test on that first sojourn to the U.S. was the days and weeks that followed. Others in the same situation have taken the easy road by packing up and going home. Instead, Kaidanov, with GM Dmitry Gurevich and others, took his £300 and chess skill and engineered the oft-told American success story. He convinced the airline to reissue his tickets to Chicago. Gurevich phoned friend Ken Troutman in Kentucky to arrange a few exhibitions to make back his stolen money and possessions. Kaidanov entered a tournament in Louisville and then played a simultaneous in Lexington. Troutman told the Kaidanovs, “perhaps you will only be robbed here once."

“Visiting Kentucky after Chicago and New York was a completely different experience, but I felt that I had to continue playing chess.”

Kaidanov traveled to New York City. The grand master entered a tough round robin tournament at the now defunct Manhattan Chess Club, in which he sensationally shared first place by beating the tournament leader, GM Efim Geller, in the last round.
Gravitated toward Kaidanov. His presence was still needed. When the team for the first time in a decade. But hisVaruzhan Akobian meant missing the rise of young GMs Hikaru Nakamura and 2006, had his rating dip below 2600. The percentage of any team member at Turin, one. Kaidanov, who scored the highest win in New York with a trifecta in the summer of 1992 he won both the World Open and the U.S. Open outright (the first player ever to accomplish that in the same year), after beginning his run with a split of the National Open title. Kaidanov was to American chess what Garry Kasparov was to international chess in 1992 unbeatable.

An American on the world stage

From there he began to represent the U.S. in various team competitions. In 1993, Kaidanov helped the Americans to victory in his first event under the Stars and Stripes. Their win in the World Team Championships remains the only world title the U.S. has won as a team in more than 30 years. He went on to compete in six straight Olympiads for the U.S. From 1996 2006 he won three team medals and an individual silver in Calvia, 2004. Throw in another few medals at successful World Men’s Team Championships, including a personal gold medal in 1997, and you have the most decorated American team player since Isaac Kashdan’s run ended in the 1930s.

This year, the Dresden Olympiad reduced the number of male players by one. Kaidanov, who scored the highest percentage of any team member at Turin, 2006, had his rating dip below 2600. The rise of young GMs Hikaru Nakamura and Varuzhan Akobian meant missing the team for the first time in a decade. But his presence was still needed. When the American women needed a coach, they all gravitated toward Kaidanov.

“I have to say that it was not an easy decision for me,” Kaidanov said. “Finan
cially I am probably better off sitting at home giving chess lessons. I kind of felt I had to honor their request.” He spoke effusively about the unity of the team and his pride in his selection, and has also said previously that he would continue teaching even if there were no money in it.

GM Sam Palatnik, himself a past coach of U.S. teams, sat in on several of Kaidanov’s preparation sessions in Dresden. “I am not very optimistic about it,” he said of competing in Dresden. “In order to do that I am sure I have to give up my teaching. You have to work a lot of hours, and as you get older you have to give even more hours than when you were younger.”

So the students will continue to call and e-mail. Kaidanov will cull all the stories he has learned about his students. He will

den. He praised the coach’s style, saying Kaidanov is “good mannered and trusted” in his approach, strongly suggesting but never forcing information on his charges (Kaidanov would often stay away until 3:00 a.m. preparing e-mail dossiers for his players). He knows when to motivate and when to give more specific guidance. “He won’t crush their fighting spirit,” Palatnik said.

For all of Kaidanov’s ease at the board, he resembled something closer to a nervous father in the playing hall of the Olympiad, pacing slowly, with folded arms and a pensive brow. Shortly before one round, his anxiety was evident when one player came close to forfeiture by nearly arriving late. After she hurried in, Kaidanov relaxed for a second, gave her a “you almost broke curfew” smile, and then resumed his paces.

When Kaidanov returns to Lexington after Dresden, he will have only one child left living at home. Daughter Sonya was born eight years after Boris and is now 13 (both his son and Anastasia are away at college; all three children have nominal ratings).

His students will eagerly phone and e-mail to catch up on missed lessons. Kaidanov accepts students of all levels and says he is nearly booked solid, despite the grandmaster’s Herculean willingness to sometimes teach for more than ten hours at a stretch.

At the next Olympiad, in Khanty Manysk 2010, Kaidanov likely will be left off the squad again. While he might still be physically able his peak FIDE rating of 2646 was reached only six years ago after he beat four score of GMs to win the Aeroflot Open (and his highest USCF rating of 2749 was only four years ago) his love for teaching is beginning to trump personal ambition.

The incidents tested the resolve of the Kaidanovs, who now had no clean clothes, very little money and no plane tickets.

Chess fans will still see him reemerge and play in the occasional tournament. Kaidanov thinks chess teachers should stay active to remain attuned to the game’s practical considerations.

“Obviously I achieved some success as a player but I am hoping that what I am doing as a teacher is kind of unusual for a grandmaster,” he said, as though fully acquiescing to the second stage of his chess life. He is now ensconced as a Kentuckian, perfectly content to spend most days teaching from home.

“Professional chess is brutal.”

The Kaidanov coached Women’s Olympiad team won a bronze medal in Dresden, finishing behind winner Georgia and runner up Ukraine, and beating Russia and Poland for the bronze on tiebreaks.

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Chess Life — January 2008 31
Once again I had the pleasure of being a coach at the World Youth Championship. The 2008 edition was hosted by Vietnam in the small seaside resort of Vung Tau from October 20-30. I’ve been traveling for chess many years now, but never this far. I took one look at my aisle seat and wondered if I’d survive!

My flight on Cathay Pacific Airlines from New York’s JFK to Hong Kong was scheduled to take 15½ hours, followed by a two hour flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Amazingly, the travel came off without a hitch. A lot of boredom for sure, but zero problems. While waiting for my second flight, I even made two new friends, Glenn and Jonah Lee of Canada.

Getting my Vietnam visa took awhile, but I didn’t mind. It was good not to be on an airplane. The three of us (Glenn, Jonah and I) were met outside the airport and immediately driven to our hotel. The drive took just over two hours through Ho Chi Minh City. The traffic jams would’ve made New York at rush hour look tame; never have I seen so many motor bikes, most disobeying the traffic laws! I’ve never been one to adjust to the time difference quickly (11 hours from EST) so arriving three days early was a must. Flipping the TV remote control I was pleasantly surprised to see the baseball playoffs live. That provided me with some pre tournament entertainment.

Now onto some chess! I wasn’t sure what to expect from our young and relatively inexperienced team but I thought we had good medal chances in several age groups. Darwin Yang and last year’s world youth champion Daniel Naroditsky were two of my favorites, along with Sarah and Jonathan Chiang, Simone Liao, Daniel Ludwig and Sam Shankland. We definitely had one of the strongest support groups. The six coaches consisted of FIDE Senior Trainer (FST) Michael Khodarkovsky, FM Aviv Friedman, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, GM Dmitry Gurevich, GM Sam Palatnik, and myself.

At the coaches’ meeting, we divvy up the players (five per coach) according to rating and private students. We also consult each other on opening problems and game analysis. My daily routine started with Dan Ludwig at 9 a.m. and ended with Caroline Zhu at 11:30 a.m. A half hour per player isn’t a lot of time for preparation, but it had to suffice.

The players started their games at 3 p.m. while the coaches set up headquarters in the lobby at 4:30 p.m. for game analysis. From past world youths, we noticed a trend where other countries would prepare based on our earlier games. This made patching up the opening or correcting middlegame problems of great importance.

Let’s now discuss our top finishers. Of our medal winners, Darwin Yang, who was ranked third in the boys under 12, had the highest expectations. Darwin raced out to 6½/7 including this fine fifth round win over eventual gold medalist Sayantan Das.
Ruy Lopez, Archangel and Moller Defense (C77)
FM Darwin Yang (FIDE 2182)
Sayantan Das (FIDE 2112)
2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam


This safe move avoids a large body of Ruy Lopez theory including the Berlin and Archangel.

5. ... b5 6. Bb3 Bc5

The Archangel variation has become very popular and seriously theoretical in the past few years. Since White has already played d2 d3, the normal 6. ... Be7?! is close to equal.

7. 0-0 0-0 8. c3 d6 9. Nbd2 Bb6

This feels like a waste of time; the bishop is fine on c5.

10. Re1 Bb7?!

The bishop looks useless here. 10. ... Bg4! 11. h3 Bf5 12. Nf1 and after White chases down the h5 bishop, White gains control of the light squares. Black's best is 10. ... Be6?!

11. Nf1 Ne7 12. Ng3 Ng6 13. Nf5 d5?!

Black decides unwisely to sacrifice material. Keeping an eye on the f5 knight with 13. ... Be6? is an idea this also keeps open a ... Be6 idea.

14. exd5 Nxd5 15. Nxe5 Bx2+ 11. ... Qxh2 22. Nf3 Qg3 23. Be3.

Entering into a very confusing situation where Darwin has seen a little further. 15. ... Nxe5 16. Rxe5 and Black has little compensation in a Marshall Attack like position.

16. Kxf2 Qf6 17. Bxd5!? Bxd5 18. Qh5 Be6 19. g4 Nxe5

Good for White is 19. ... Bxf5 20. Qxf5 Qh4+ 21. Kf1 Qxh2 22. Nf3 Qg3 23. Be3.

20. Rxe5! g6

Not 20. ... Qxe5?? 21. Ne7+.

21. Qg5


21. ... Qxg5 22. Bxg5 fxg5


23. Bh6 Re8 24. gxf5 Bd7 25. Rg1+ Kh8 26. Bg7+ Kg8 27. Rc5 h5 28. f6 Bg4 29. Rxf4!, Black resigned.

After Black recaptures with 29. ... hxg4, 30. Rh5 mates.

Unfortunately for us and Darwin the last four rounds saw him score only three draws and a loss. His final score of 8.5 was good enough for the bronze.

Once a very pleasant surprise was Sam Shankland’s tying for first place and winning Team USA’s second bronze medal. Sam is already an experienced player despite his young age of 17. He has played previously in world youth tournaments, not to mention the U.S. championship. Starting off ranked 17th in the boys under 18 made him a long shot, but Sam’s toughness and his patience showed up in the end. Sam’s strengths are his opening preparation and his intuitive approach to the game. This 10th round rout of his Indian opponent gave Sam an international master norm and put him into medal contention.

12. Bb7

The Semi Slav is an extremely solid system for Black.

5. a4

Otherwise Black keeps the pawn with ... b7 b5.

5. ... Bf5 6. e3 e6 7. Bxc4 Nbd7 8. Qe2 Bb4 9. 0-0 0-0 10. e4

White should play more slowly with 10. Rd1!?, yielding a slight edge.

10. ... Bg4+ 11. e5?

Shankland criticized this move, but it’s White’s next that caused the problems.


11. ... Nd5 12. Na2?


12. ... Ba5

(see diagram top of next column)

At this point I prefer Black because of his better minor pieces.

13. Bxd5?! Solving one problem in the short term, but opening up another can of worms.

13. ... Qe4?! puts White near equality.

13. ... exd5?!

The most aggressive reply. Along with Dmitry and Shankland, I liked 13. ... cxd5. Black would use the open c file and bishop pair.

14. h3 Bh5 15. g4?

White goes hog wild opening up his own king! 15. Qe3 breaking the pin is more prudent.

15. ... Bh6 16. h4 h6!

This calm move rebuffs White’s intentions.


35. Rf1 Rfx2 36. Rxf2 d2 ends matters.

Two of our brighter hopes of the future are Jonathan Chiang and his sister Sarah. Jonathan finished in fifth place with eight points, while Sarah finished in 13th place on tiebreaks with seven points. Jonathan’s excellent score propelled the U.S. to a silver medal in the open under 18. In this round 10 game Jonathan finished off his opponent with some nice fireworks.

Pirc Defense (B07)
Jonathan Chiang (FIDE 1535)
Dinh Nguyen Anh Le (FIDE Unrated)
2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Be3 Nf6 5. f3?

This is a very dangerous system vs. the Pirc. White sets up a Yugoslav Attack.

After 12. ... Ba5


This safe move avoids a large body of Ruy Lopez theory including the Berlin and Archangel.
2008 World Youth

Black looks to lockdown the entire board with an equal position.
5. ... a6?!

Already Black is struggling to find the proper idea. With 5. ... c6!? Black prepares ... b7 b5 counterplay and gets the queen involved.

6. Qd2 Nc6 7. 0-0-0 e6 8. d5?!

Jonathan locks the center, which he must reopen later. 8. Nge2 keeps things fluid and allows White to start the pawn storm.

8. ... Ne7 9. g4 b6

Black is wasting time. With 9. ... h5!? Black looks to lockdown the entire board with an equal position.

14. Bh3!

Jonathan is preparing f3 f4, his only break.

16. ... Ra7

With the action on the kingside, it’s as if Black is down a rook.

17. f4

Now White is clearly on top.


For my student Reva Singh, this was her first big international tournament, and she played very well. Her 6½ points was a main reason for our bronze medal in the girls under 8. She was very proud of this game where she exhibits a good feel for attack.

Ruy Lopez (C77)

Shiri Binder (FIDE Unrated)

Reva Singh (FIDE Unrated)

2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam


Already Reva is faced with a tricky mixture of ideas. 5. 0 0 b5 6. Bb3 Be7 7. Re1 is the usual routine, which we’ve seen millions of times.

5. ... b5?!

Black reaches a safe position with 5. ... Nxd4 6. Nxd4 b5 7. e5 Ne4 8. Qxd4 Nc5.

6. Bb3 exd4 7. 0-0 Bc5?!

I’ve warned Reva about keeping gambit pawns! 7. ... d6!? looks like a solid choice. 8. Nxd4?? Nxd4 9. Qxd4 c5 followed by ... c5 c4 falls for the famous “Noah’s Ark” trap.

8. Re1?!

After sacrificing a pawn, White must be more aggressive. Now Black is fine. 8. e5! is very tough to deal with. 8. ... Ng4 (8. ... Ne4 9. Qe2 d5 10. exd6 f5 11. dxc7 Qxc7 12. Ng5 and Black’s king has no safe haven) 9. Bxf7+ Kxf7 10. Ng5+ Kg8 11. Qxg4 and Black is in difficulties.


As Aviv pointed out, this helps Black unravel. 11. h4?! is more accurate followed by h4 h5, putting White in control.


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After 13. ... Kh8

Anticipating White’s Bxf6. Doubled pawns in front of the king isn’t always bad.

15. Bxf6 gxf6 16. Rf4 Rh8

Who’s attacking now? Reva has turned the tables on her opponent. Black’s development, bishop pair, open g file and extra pawn spell trouble for White.

17. Rh4

White is struggling to find a plan.

17. ... Qe7 18. Qd3 Rg6

Easily sidestepping the mate threat.

19. Nbd2 Re8 20. b3 Ba5!

Threatening to eliminate White’s defenders on d2 and f2.

21. h3 Bxd2

Winning.

22. Qxd2 Bxf3 23. Qd3 Qe1+!
... Qxg7?!  
Snatching this pawn allows Black an enduring initiative. 13. a3? is safe and sensible. 13. ... 0 0 14. Bh6 Ne8 15. Rad1 Rd8 16. Rd3 (16. Bg5) 16. ... Kh8 17. Bg5 Bxg5 18. Qxg5 Nf6 19. Qd2 Rd7 was about equal in Dolmatov Polugaevsky, Moscow TV 1987.  
13. ... Rg8 14. Qh6 0-0-0 15. f3  
Black’s king is safe and White will be on the defensive for a long time.  
15. ... Rg6 16. Qh3 Kb8 17. Be3 Rdg8 18. g3 h5 19. Ne2 Qe8 20. Nf4 Rg5

Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen/Najdorf (B87)  
 Mikhail Antipov (FIDE 1887)  
 David Adelberg (FIDE Unrated)  
 2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam  
 MnSicilian Defense, Scheveningen/Najdorf (B87)  
 Mikhail Antipov (FIDE 1887)  
 David Adelberg (FIDE Unrated)  
 2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam  

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 2008 World Youth, Vung Tau, Vietnam  

After 23. ... Qe1+  
Finishing the game with style!  

David Adelberg was a surprise medal contender for most of the tournament, but tailed off at the end. His round eight victory showed his attacking skills in an extremely sharp Najdorf. David’s fine performance helped Team USA to a team bronze in the boys under 12.

The Najdorf is considered a very aggressive response to 1. e4.  
6. Bc4  
The Sozin was a favorite of Bobby Fischer and numerous other grandmasters.  
6. ... e6 7. 0-0  
By not playing 7. Bb3 White avoids the ... Nbd7 c5 idea. 7. ... Nbd7 8. f4 Nc5 9. Qf3 b5 gives Black good counterplay.  
7. ... b5 8. Bb3 Be7 9. Qf3 Qc7 10. Qg3 Nc6 11. Nxc6 Qxc6 12. Re1 Bb7  
Opening the diagonal for the c8 bishop.  
31. Rxd6 exf4 32. Rb6+ Ka7 33. Rg6 Qxg6 34. Qxc5+ Qb6  
Forcing everything off the board makes it easy for David.  
35. Qxb6+ Kxb6 36. Rg3 fxg3  
The rest is a simple mop up operation.  

After getting settled in I did one important thing. I found the tournament hall. It was located 1½ miles away from the hotel, and with the heat and humidity was a tough walk. It was an indoor arena similar to where a small time college basketball team would play. It easily housed the large group of players that came for battle. The pairings were always up on time. They could be found online or posted outside the hotel. Games of that day’s opponent could be found online as well. This aided our preparation greatly. Good “prep” gives our player more confidence, and every little thing counts.  
The beach was right across the street along with a very large pool. Most of Team USA stayed at the Hotel Dic Star, a five star hotel. The food was pretty good with a lot of choices. I thought the tournament was very well organized considering all the things that could go wrong. Buses left before each round from the hotel and returned at regular intervals.  
I have a couple of gripes. My first one is the tournament hall’s air conditioning. In countries where the climate is very hot, a lack of air conditioning could prove to be unhealthy and dangerous. They tried hard to cool us, but even the fans and air conditioning were not enough. In the future FIDE needs to address this type of situation and keep it from occurring again. At our team meeting, players were told that they must be seated at their board five minutes before the start of the round. If this rule wasn’t followed, they would forfeit! This rule is being used in the Dresden Olympiad as well. I’m interested in whether this stupidly will be enforced. Another wonderful job by FIDE. Maybe they should think about more important matters.  
The most impressive country this year was India. Dominating the medal count with an unbelievable four world championship ships, I guess India is going through an “Anand Boom” where chess may be supplanting cricket as the top sport. While the USA is going through no such boom, we still have a very large and strong group of youngsters. With players like Darwin Yang and Daniel Naroditsky leading the way, we hope in the future of competing with countries like India.  
In closing I would like to thank a number of people. I’ll start off with Michael Khodarkovsky, our FIDE senior trainer, for dealing with all kinds of problems chess and otherwise. The other coaches were a lot of fun to hang out with as were Kimberly Doo, Sharon Senkiewicz, and Diane Parry. My friends Glenn, Jonah, Anna, Semen, William and Elizabeth kept me busy as well. With some good inter- national chess experience under their belts, Team USA should return next year with renewed determination and hope. Till next year in Antalya, Turkey, play well and study hard!  
See more reporting from Vietnam on Chess Life Online, October archives.
For over a year, rumors have swirled in the chess world that RZA, a founder of the rap group Wu Tang Clan, is serious about chess and wants to earn the master title. In addition to wanting to improve and inspire youth, RZA, who is interested in Asian culture and philosophies, sees chess as a way to self improve: “64 squares lined up in eight columns, we sit and meditate and calculate life problems.”

RZA is not like a stand up comic who can’t stand being funny in real life he is a word artist on and offstage. Pretentious terms became simple while plain language is spiced up: RZA called team chess “doubles splash” and rejected “adjust” and “J’doube” in favor of, “Fix it.”

I wrote a couple of articles for Chess Life Online about Hip Hop Chess Federation (HHCF) events such as the October 2007 King’s Invitational in San Francisco, which RZA won. I couldn’t find any game scores but was hoping to give CLO readers an idea of his strength, so I asked IM Josh Waitzkin about RZA’s approximate ELO [rating]. Josh was promoting his book The Art of Learning at the HHCF events, which combine chess, martial arts and music. Josh wrote back with an estimate that he admitted might be generous but said: “I kind of have this feeling that it kills the vibe to slap a number on them.”

I got a chance to see RZA’s chess skills for myself in a series of events hosted this summer by a non profit I co founded (see note at end of article), 9 Queens and WuChess, a hip hop chess server. At the 9 Queens knockout, a promotional event in Chelsea, New York, RZA started with the two hours late opening, a variation that is common for musicians but is offensive to chessplayers, who despite their propensity for sleeping in, know to be punctual when the clock is set. Despite the fools’ mate of a start, RZA was both charming and charmed when he arrived. He got a chance to meet an idol of his own GM Maurice Ashley, and because it was RZA’s birthday, he received a triple decker chess set from thechesspiece.com. He explained that his interest in founding WuChess and collaborating with 9 Queens was not just as an aspiring chess player, but also as a spokesperson for anti violence and foresight; “In our community ... if people think before they do ... they could avoid teenage pregnancy ... avoid crime, the penal institution; a lot of guys are in jail for 25 to life because they didn’t think before they did it. It was too spontaneous.”

RZA and I played a tandem chess game (two partners take turns making moves, consultation is forbidden) against Brittanie Uddin and Jasmine Fermin from I.S. 318, the junior high school championship Brooklyn team coached by Elizabeth Vary. I knew that the girls were probably underrated at 1400 and 1500. The 318 girls probably would have beat us if they played more quickly, because RZA seemed to be constantly searching for the perfect moves. Some may attribute his unhurried pace to too much herbal tea. I don’t think any of us were that experienced in team chess or the unusual 12 minute time control, but I also think RZA lacked confidence about his obvious natural talent. Jasmine and I started first and then switched moves. In the opening/ mid game, RZA played well, with the exception of the purposeless 14. ... b6. 14. ... Na5 or 14. ... Rc8, immediately seizing the initiative against White’s main weakness (the c4 pawn) were preferable.

King’s Indian Defense (A48)
Jasmine Fermin/ Brittanie Uddin
Jennifer Shahade/ Bobby Diggs (aka the RZA)


Move 22 was the most interesting of the game. RZA began to think for over 30 seconds then he passed the one minute
Jennifer Shahade and The RZA playing tandem chess in Camden, New Jersey.
mark. I stared nervously at the clock just like in bughouse, getting low on time is a strategic disaster in team chess. Besides, it seemed to me the only reasonable move was 22. ... Qxd5, regaining our pawn. According to the rules of team games or “tandem chess,” talking to your opponent is strictly forbidden. But when RZA finally moved his fingers toward the d pawn, I heaved an audible sigh of relief that was as close as I could get to cheating. When I came home and began to reconstruct the game, I discovered that RZA correctly sensed a critical position. There actually is a far superior choice to 22. ... Qxd5 Black can play 22. ... Ne5!, winning! The move defines mind boggling, and I’m pretty sure that in a quick time control, most players would lose in a few moves to variations such as 23. Qxd8 Nxf3+ 24. gx f3 Rx d1+ 25. Kg2 Rxd8 or 23. Qa3 Nxf3 24. gx f3 Qg5+. The least losing move is the sad 23. Rxc8 Qxe7 24. Rxf8+ Qxd8 25. Rxe5 when Black should win even more easily than usual with the queen vs. rook and knight in quick chess. Instead the game continued ...

22. ... Qxd5 23. Qxa7 Qd3 24. Rce1 Ra8 25. Qe7

... and the position is balanced, but we were up almost two minutes at this point and won on time.

To my shock ... I discovered that RZA correctly sensed a critical position.

A few days later, RZA played some games with my father, FM Michael Shahade at a “Learn Chess” day in Camden, New Jersey. My father started out with two great opening lines: “Who should I tell people I met today?” (repeated about four times) and “Let’s play for one of those” (pointing to the rocks on RZA’s fingers that looked like they could cover a down payment on a Manhattan loft). RZA laughed at both questions and chose an offbeat but creative line against my father’s trusty English. He kept his king in the center and launched an ultimately unsuccessful attack with h5, h4, Qc8, Bh3 and so on.

I think RZA has the talent to become an expert chessplayer but the only way he can do that is to get in the trenches and play in real tournaments. His real name is Robert Diggs. You may find yourself across the table from him at your next local tournament.

RZA’s ties with chess go way back. RZA learned chess at the age of 11, to a girl who became more than just a girlfriend. On Wu Tang Clan’s 1993 debut album, Enter the Wu Tang (36 Chambers), the song, “Da Mystery of Chessboxin’” begins: “The game of chess, is like a swordfight; You must think first, before you move.” The chessboxing title was prescient in more ways than one not only did the leader of the Wu Tang get more and more into the violent rumble and tumble of
chess as a sport, but chessboxing now has a federation based in Berlin (World Chess Boxing Organization, WCBO), competitions, titles, even a newswire. Although the sport has yet to hit the U.S. big time, Andreas Dilschneider of the WCBO predicts that there will be a more vibrant chessboxing scene here soon.

David ‘doubleD’ Depto is from Los Angeles, where a future fight is planned, and the WCBO met with the Wu Tang in Berlin to discuss a U.S. collaboration. Wu Tang Clan’s new album, 8 Diagrams (2008) includes even more references to chess including songs such as “Windmill” and “Weak Spot.”

The attention that RZA brought to the game this summer is part of what seems to be a movement toward more aggressive promotional chess events. Imagine this: RZA plays a team game with Hikaru Nakamura in a spaceship where the pieces are shuffled in the back row. Their opponents U.S. Women’s Champ Anna Zatonskih and T.V. detective Monk are playing their game on the bottom of the ocean while scuba diving. Meanwhile, Maurice Ashley and I comment on the action in a cave.

Everything alluded to in that paragraph actually happened, just not all at once. While at the Curacao Chess Festival, Anna played a 30 minute game against the Dutch IM Robin Swinkels underwater the whole time and using scuba gear. NASA challenged USCF scholastic players to a chess game against astronauts in space, hosted on uschess.org. The hit USA detective show Monk featured a chess related murder mystery, “Mr. Monk and the Genius.” Belizechess, a non profit organization founded by former New York chess coach Ella Baron, organized a cave chess match deep in the Belizean jungle. Hikaru Nakamura won a 960 tournament in Mainz, Germany, coming ahead of 44 grandmasters, including Rustam Kasimdzhanov and Sergei Movsesian.

All these events offer one good photo op after another, throwing a knockout punch to the typical chess photos of “one vs. one” that show nobody’s face. The future of chess is obviously coming, and it’s going to become the present at the 2009 U.S. Championship set for the new and elegant Saint Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center. I hope we’ll get to see Gata, Hikaru and “Alex O.,” our 2700+ triad, all vying for the 35K grand prize. I’m rooting for a lot of chess boxing on the board.

“The game of chess is like a swordfight; you must think first before you move.”

9 Queens (9queens.org) is a non profit organization that Jean Hoffman (from Tucson) and I founded in 2007. The name refers to the potential of all children and pawns to reach their eighth rank.
Volunteer of the Month:
Dave Gavin

This month the USCF is pleased to name David P. Gavin, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army retired, our Volunteer of the Month. Dave Gavin, or known to some as “Big Dave” (standing at 6 foot, 7 inches), had started directing USCF events as far back as 1965 and has been instrumental in the growth of U.S. military chess.

Something Dave always strived for was Pittsburgh Chess Club director Bill Byland’s approach to chess: never make a spectacle of himself, always get the job done in a quiet, determined manner. This inspired confidence. As Dave states, even Bobby Fischer couldn’t rattle Bill.

In Dave’s recent years, he would be called upon by a local base to be their tournament director (TD) for a base championship, Armed Forces qualifying event, or a scholastic event, and he would only request a Mountain Dew in return for his services. Dave always felt his meager contribution was the best way he could support the troops and kids. Dave’s innovation and organizational leadership as a volunteer organizer helped to double the attendance of the Armed Forces Open chess championship in the recent years. Dave always found directing and organizing enjoyable, especially for the military and the kids.

Some of Dave’s accomplishment’s over the years have been:

- 1965-1967—High school team captain and club president
- 1965—Started directing USCF events (before certification program)
- 1968-1969—Membership director of the Pittsburgh Chess Club
- 1969-1970—President, Pittsburgh Chess League
- 1973-1976—TD at the Tainan Air Base Recreation Center in Taiwan
- 1978-1981—Vice president of the European Chess District (USCF affiliate) directing events all over southern Germany
- 1980—Led U.S. military (Army & Air Force) at the NATO team championship
- 1982-1990—Located and identified strong Army chess players and assisted in getting into Army events leading to higher-level events
- 1987-1988—Wrote the selection procedure that is still used today in deciding selection to the U.S. Army championship
- 1994-1995—Secretary of the Masonic Postal Chess Club
- 2003-2008—Assisted in building up the U.S. Armed Forces Open chess championship tournament

Unfortunately just this past year, Dave was diagnosed with cancer, seriously curbing his volunteer organizational activities, among other things. Dave should be remembered for being kind, considerate, and always ready to volunteer. He’s always been the U.S. Armed Forces giant, believing that chess is more than just a game or an art form, and that it is a tool to help people under stand each other. Dave believes he owes a lot to the Pittsburgh Chess Club and their library of chess books from when he was a kid, so he currently plans on donating his extensive chess library to them so that someone else may benefit the way he had.

~John Farrell

The USCF Volunteer of the Month is named by a different member of the executive board each month. This month, Jim Berry named our honoree.

Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)
More details and MAP standings will appear more frequently at main.uschess.org/go/MAP. Top standings will appear every two months in Chess Life.
USCF Membership Rates
Premium (P) and Regular (R)
(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

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Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online only access to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids; TLA Bulletin will be mailed to adults bimonthly and to scholastic members three times per year. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice.

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The winner of this month’s award, Michael Coon (the namesake of the 8th World Champion; “Mikhail” being the Russian spelling of the great Archangel’s name) knew little of Smith Morra theory when he employed this gambit on a friend’s advice. But Michael’s instincts were just fine.

W rites Mr. Coon:
I am 54 years old. This tourney was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 7, 2008. My ranking was 1418 on the label of the September Chess Life magazine. My opponent was Michael Dang, rated 1588. This was the third round game. We were each 1 1.

(As usual, Lev’s comments will be in italics).

Sicilian Defense,
Smith-Morra Gambit (B21)
Michael Coon (1418)
Michael Dang (1588)
Ann Arbor, MI, 9/2008

1. e4 c5

The Sicilian again. My first round opponent, a 1612, had soundly thrashed me when my attack failed. But I was determined to play better this time.

2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3

After 4. Nxc3

I played a gambit suggested by a friend of mine who said it fit my attacking style.

For his pawn, White gets several tempos a knight on c3, open lines for the queen and both bishops.

4. ... d6 5. Bc4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Nf6

7. 0-0

So far, so good. I castled at this point so my attack could not be ruined later on by a surprise check that would bail out my opponent. Also this would eventually enable me to develop my rook to e1 where it can be useful in controlling the center.

Black’s sixth move is viewed as inaccurate, as it allows 7. e5!, with some advantage for White. Black, of course, shouldn’t lose a queen after 7. ... Nxe5? 8. Nxe5 dxe5 9. Bxf7+; but even more stubborn 7. ... dxe5 8. Qxd8+! Nxd8! (8. ... Kxd8? 9. Ng5!) and 7. ... Ng4 8. exd6 (opening the position while ahead in development is usually good; 8. e6 also is promising) all favor White. Mr. Coon, not knowing the theory, follows opening principles (early castle) the right strategy under such circumstances!

7. ... g6 8. Ng5

Here I jumped on the opportunity to start to attack.

After 7. ... g6 (safer was 7. ... e6, transferring to "normalcy") 8. e5 gains even more in strength, compared to 7. e5 (as in my earlier comment).

8. ... Ne5 9. Qb3

9. ... Nxc4

This loses. The only defense was 9. ... e6.

10. Qxc4

He traded pieces but the threat is still there.

Two threats and there is no way to stop both.

10. ... e6

He shut the door on that threat but ...

11. Nb5

Protecting the bishop and bringing another piece to bear on his f7 pawn.

The other knight rides into battle, threatening the rook and king fork. I did not see a way for him to counter this and was sure I would at least win the
Exchanging Black could try 11... Rb8, but White’s position will be overwhelming after either 12. Be3 (taking the a7 square and thus the rook) or 12. Rd1.

11. ... d5

A queen threat will usually put a temporary halt to things while the queen is moved to safety.

Black’s counterattack required White to play accurately, and boldly and White did.

12. Nc7+

The knight’s quest was not going to be delayed; besides, I wanted his king stuck in the center where I could easily get at him.

Excellent!

12. ... Ke7


13. exd5

I considered checking the king again, but after he moves it, my queen is endangered again and I lose a tempo. If you are an attacker like me, sometimes a tempo is worth more than a minor piece and certainly more than a pawn.

The moves 13. Qc5+ Kd7 14. Qb5+ transfer into my comment to Black’s 12th move (White wins). But 13. exd5 is equally strong.

13. ... Nxd5 14. Nxa8

Mission accomplished.

Well done!

14. ... Bd7

After 14. ... Bd7

15. Bf4

I wanted to send the message “take the knight now or risk losing your chance forever.”

After accomplishing an important mission, a natural human tendency is to relax (just a bit) on well deserved laurels. To be truly successful, this tendency must be fought tooth and nail search for the best move as hard as you can! Why surrender your brave knight so easily? After the simple 15. Qc5+ and 16. Qxa7, the game would be practically over. Of course, 15. Bf4 also wins, but more effort would be required.

15. ... Qxa8

The temptation was too great. Now I have his queen virtually out of the game at a8. This should give me a couple of moves to operate before she can return to the action. Tempo is gold.

16. Rfe1 Nxf4

Playing Black, I’d try here 16. ... b5.

17. Qxf4

The attack has returned to f7, and the king’s rook on e1 is sure to come in handy later.

17. ... Qe8

Now the mighty queen is tied down to a lowly pawn and still is of no use as an offensive threat.

18. Rad1

Grabbing the open file, threatening the bishop, and cutting off the king’s later retreat.

18. ... Bc6

After 18. ... Bc6

Hoping to somehow untangle his pieces.

19. Ne4

Threatening mate with the queen by covering the king’s escape route and freeing the white queen for action.


19. ... Bxe4 20. Rxe4

Well, there goes another mate threat. But if I can double my rooks on the d file, I can still cause some mischief.

White is ahead in material (an Exchange for a pawn) in addition to the black king being stuck in the center. Not surprisingly, White is winning.

20. ... Qc6 21. Red4

The rooks are doubled up and it’s three against one. The black queen, finally out of her hole, is alone against the white queen and two rooks. The black rook and bishop are still in the starting blocks.

21. ... f5

22. Qg5+

The lights are starting to flicker as the black king fights for his life.

The final assault is coming.

22. ... Kf7 23. Rd7+ Kg8

King to e8 would have been the end. Yes, after 24. Qd8, checkmate.

24. Qf6

Now Qf7 is mate.

24. ... Qxd7 25. Rxd7 Be7

Delaying the inevitable.

26. Rxe7 h5 27. Qg7 mate.

The king is dead, long live the king!
The 2008 Women’s World Championship

By GM Pal Benko

As a conflict took place between Russian and Georgian troops, the women’s world championship lost competitors to the political fallout. One consequence is the imprecision of many of the championship-level endgames.

The 2008 Women’s World Championship began in controversy as six Georgian participants declined to play in Nalchik, Russia due to their nation’s conflict with Russia. Instead of 64 players, only 53 started. The Georgians called on others to follow their boycott, which two time U.S. women’s champion IM Irina Krush joined, while our current women’s champion, IM Anna Zatonskih, and WGM Katerina Rohonyan participated.

Russian GM Alexandra Kosteniuk, who lives in Miami, Florida part of each year, became the champion with zero losses over the course of the event. However, it was not a precision effort as she missed some winning opportunities during some of her endgames.

Passed pawns
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510)
IM Tatiana Kosintseva (FIDE 2511)
Nalchik, 2008


The knight dominates, permanently keeping pressure on the feeble e6 pawn. This assures a long term advantage for White.

26. ... Re8 27. f4 Ree7

There are no better moves. 27. ... Kc8 does no good since taking on a6 is not a threat due to the simple Rb8 mate.

28. Bb6!

Prevents ... Nc6 and puts further pressure on e6.

28. ... h6 29. g3 Re8 30. R6d Ree7 31. Bf1!

The target remains e6.

31. ... Bd7

Here 31. ... Re8 would have put up more resistance. For example: 32. Bh3 Rce7 33. Rb6 Bd7 34. Bxe6 Nc6 35. Rxb7+ Kxb7 36. Rxd7+ Rxd7 37. Bxd7 Rd8 38. Bc6+ Kh6 39. Ne6 Rg8 40. Bxd5 and White should win too but it takes much longer with practical difficulties along the way.


In this same round the surprise girl of the event, the 14(!) year old Chinese Yifan Hou, was fighting for much longer against

Rb6

Kosintseva is not satisfied with a draw, but better here is 42. ... Na4 since after 43. Nxe5 Nxe5 44. Bxa4 Nxf3+ may have come. However, either 43. Ra1 or 43. c4 could have been playable for White.

45. Kf2 Na4? 46. Nxe5! Nxe5 47. Bxa4 Rh6

Now White is better because of the connected passed pawns, though 48. Bxb5 Rb6 49. c4 was simpler.

48. ... Rxb6 49. Rd5

More accurate is 49. Be2 since now 49. ... Rh1 was a possible alternative.

49. ... Rb6 50. Be2 Rd6 51. Kf2 Bf5 52. Kg3

With three connected passed pawns arrayed against her, Black is in trouble.

55. ... b5 56. e5

Here 56. c3 57. Kf3 is simple but strong.

56. ... Ke7 57. Bxe6 Nxe6

In case of 57. ... Rxa6 58. Rxa6 Nxa6 59. cxb4 Nxb4 60. f5 wins.

58. cxb4?

Missing the win that comes with further centralizing the king: 58. Ke5! For example, 58. ... b3 59. Rh1 b2 60. d6+ Rxd6 61. Rh7+ Kf8 62. e7+ wins.

58. ... Ke6!

This blockade assures the draw since 59. b5 can be answered by 59. ... Nc7 as satisfactory defense.

59. e7 Kxe7 60. R1e1+ Kd7 61. f5 Nxb4 62. Rh1 Rd6 63. Rh7+ Kd8 64. Ke4, Draw.

Feeble Pawn
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510)
GM Pia Cramling (FIDE 2544)
Nalchik, 2008
the Indian Koneru Humpy (2622). Hou finally defeated her in the lightning games after two regular and another two rapid games finished tied. In the finals, there were four regular games to play. Hou lost the first and was in trouble in the following two games as well, but she succeeded in saving the draws.

Three Pawns Down
GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE 2510)
GM Yifan Hou (FIDE 2557)
Nalchik, 2008

White to play

The queens have just been exchanged and White snags a second extra pawn and so should win but ...

38. cxb5 Nxe2 39. bxc6

Not bad but even stronger was the intermediate move 39. Nxf5!.

39. ... Nd4 40. Rf1 Kc7 41. Nxf5 Nxf5 42. Rxf5 Kxc6 43. Re5

The rook ending can be won in any of several ways but White plays inacurately. The best here is 43. Kc1 (if 43. Kc2 Rh6 or 43. Rf4 Kd5; 43. Rg5 Rd2).

43. ... Rd4 44. Kc1

The right path here was either 44. Rg5 or 44. Kc2 Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 since after 46. ... e3 47. Rf4! could have come.

44. ... Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 Ke6 47. Rf4 Ke5 48. Rg4?

Once again it is proven true that it is not the quantity of pawns, but their quality that is most important. After this greedy capture, Black’s last pawn becomes a super power. The position was still possible to improve by playing 48. Rb8 Rd6 49. Re8+ Kf5 50. Rb8 Rh6 51. Kd2 Rxe2+ 52. Kc2 Rg2 53. Rb5+ Ke6 54. Kxe4, with winning chances.

48. ... Rd4 49. Kc1

The right path here was either 44. Rg5 or 44. Kc2 Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 since after 46. ... e3 47. Rf4! could have come.

44. ... Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 Ke6 47. Rf4 Ke5 48. Rg4?


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44. ... Kd6 45. Re8 Kd7 46. Rf8 Ke6 47. Rf4 Ke5 48. Rg4?

Black had sacrificed a pawn but should retrieve it with two white pawns under fire.

30. Rd1?

After 30. Bd4! White could have the upper hand (netting a pawn) 30. ... Bxg4 31. Bxe5 (31. Nxe5+ fxg5 or even 31. ... Kg6 does not give much for White) 31. ... Rxe5 32. Re1 f5 33. Nf6+ Ke6 34. Rxe5+ Kxe5 35. Nxc4+ Kd4, winning a pawn, though the black king becomes quite active.

30. ... Rb8!

After this it is White who must struggle to survive.

31. b3 cxb3 32. axb3 Rxb3 33. Bd4 Bxg4 34. Bxe5 Bxe5 35. Nxe5+ Kd4, winning a pawn, though the black king becomes quite active.

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2008 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX SUMMARY
World Chess Live sponsors $20,000 at the 2008 Grand Prix!

Welcome, USCF Members!

Welcome to World Chess Live (WCL), a new family-friendly service with special benefits for USCF members. WCL is pleased to sponsor USCF’s 2008 Grand Prix (GP) and 2008 Junior Grand Prix. We’re providing prize funds of $20,000 and $7,500 (in cash, merchandise, and memberships), and will also be running online grand prize satellite events throughout the year.

In 1991, American long-jumper Mike Powell leapt an incredible distance of 29 feet and 4.4 inches at the world championship in athletics, held in Tokyo, Japan. Seventeen years later, in 2008, GM Alexander Shabalov leapt from tenth place in the World Chess Live Grand Prix to fifth place in a single month. And keeping in that same leap-frog spirit, Shabalov did it in a single tournament—the 17th Annual King’s Island Open in Cincinnati, Ohio! This 120 Grand Prix Point tournament ended in a three-way tie, giving Shabalov the points he needed to continue his Grand Prix rampage.

Shabalov has earned his Grand Prix points from scoring big wins in big-ticket item tournaments. Amazingly, all of his 159.91 points came from just four events! He received major prize money early in the year at the Eastern Class Championships (100 GPP) and kept rolling ahead with Foxwoods (200 GPP). He didn’t score again, however, until he shared first at the U.S. Open in Dallas, Texas this August. His King’s Island win catapulted him ahead of a grandmaster-packed Grand Prix field to put him back in the limelight.

Other major jumpers include the current front-runner, GM Sergey Kudrin—who let loose and tore through the scoreboard, going from 204.54 to 251.21—and GM Jaan Ehlvest, who moved from a disappointing 11th place last month to a respectable seventh this time around. As these chess athletes prepare for their final sprint to the finish line, the question is: Who will leap the farthest? You can follow the action at www.uschess.org/database/GP-standings.php. For more on Shabalov’s win at the King’s Island Open, see Tim Moroney’s article in the November Chess Life Online archives.

~Jonathan Hilton

2008 WORLD CHESS LIVE GRAND PRIX STANDINGS
The following point totals reflect all rated event information as of November 25 for the 2008 World Chess Live Grand Prix. All Grand Prix updates are unofficial and subject to change during the year or until year-end tabulation is complete.

OVERALL STANDINGS

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<tr>
<td>1. GM Sergey Kudrin</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>251.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. GM Alexander Ivanov</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>235.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. GM Julio Becerra</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>205.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. IM Alex Lenderman</td>
<td>NY</td>
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<td>5. GM Alexander Shabalov</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>159.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. GM Sergey Erenburg</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>150.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. GM Jaan Ehlvest</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>150.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. GM Melikset Khachian</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<td>9. IM Enrico Sevillano</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<td>10. GM Mark Paragua</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>141.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. GM Alex Yermolinsky</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>136.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. GM Kirill Kuderinov</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>131.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SENIOR CATEGORY

Players born 1943 and before:
1. FM John Curdo | MA | 26.00 |
2. GM Anatoly Lein | OH | 18.66 |
3. FM Isay Golyak | NY | 14.66 |

Players born 1943-1944:
1. FM Daniel Yeager | PA | 26.25 |
2. IM Robert Hess | NY | 26.80 |
3. FM Warren Harper | TX | 26.00 |

Players born 1945-1947:
1. FM Mark Heimann | PA | 36.50 |
2. IM Salvijus Bercys | NY | 48.58 |
3. IM Alex Lenderman | NY | 205.76 |

Players born 1948 and after:
1. IM Ray Robson | FL | 88.01 |
2. GM Alejandro Ramirez | TX | 98.50 |
3. IM Robert Hess | NY | 98.80 |

JUNIOR CATEGORIES

Players born 1995 and after:
1. FM Daniel Naroditsky | CA | 26.25 |
2. FM Daniel Yang | TX | 12.00 |
3. IM Alex Lenderman | NY | 205.76 |

Players born 1993-1994:
1. IM Salvijus Bercys | NY | 48.58 |
2. IM Robert Hess | NY | 98.80 |
3. IM Ray Robson | FL | 88.01 |

The first place JGP winner will also receive U.S. Open entry and a plaque from the USCF. 1st 10th place winners will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships; 11th 20th place winners will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships. Each state JGP winner will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships and a $20 WCL store gift certificate.

www.worldchesslive.com

Real chess. Real people. Real fun!

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

$12,000 IN CASH PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $5,000 !
2nd: $2,500 3rd: $1,000 4th: $800
5th: $700 6th: $600 7th: $500
8th: $400 9th: $300 10th: $200

$4,000 IN MERCHANDISE PRIZES!

11th: $200 12th: $200 13th: $150
14th: $150

Top 60 non titled players: 1 year WCL membership worth $50. (FIDE titled players are always free on WCL)

$7,500 IN JUNIOR GRAND PRIX PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE: $1,000 !
2nd: $600 3rd: $300 4th: $200
5th: $150 6th: $100 7th: $75
8th: $50 9th: $25

The first place JGP winner will also receive U.S. Open entry and a plaque from the USCF. 1st 10th place winners will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships; 11th 20th place winners will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships. Each state JGP winner will receive 1 year WCL junior and USCF Young Adult memberships and a $20 WCL store gift certificate.
A new family-friendly online chess service from the Internet Chess Club, is pleased to welcome our friends from the U.S. Chess Federation.

To celebrate its launch, this year WCL will be:

• Sponsoring the USCF’s 2008 Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix
• Running weekly and monthly Online Grand Prix tournaments
• Giving every USCF member a free six-month subscription to WCL
  • And more...

For details, go to www.worldchesslivelive.com/uscf
Mark Dvoretsky’s Master Library!
Probably the most original theoretical thinker writing on chess today, Mark Dvoretsky is producing ground-breaking works for the serious student.

Dvoretsky’s Analytical Manual
1356 $34.95/$32.95

Dvoretsky’s Endgame Manual, 2nd Edition
1640 $29.95/$27.95

Secrets of Opening Preparation
(with Artur Yusupov)
1324 $39.95/$37.95

School of Chess Excellence 1: Endgame Analysis
1304 $29.9/$28.95

School of Chess Excellence 2: Tactical Play
1401 $35.00/$33.95

School of Chess Excellence 3: Strategic Play
1443 US $35.00/US $33.95

School of Chess Excellence 4: Opening Developments
1647 $29.95/$28.95

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How to Get the Edge against the Grünfeld
by Konstantin Sakaev, 166pp.
For players of either side of the Grünfeld. Focuses on the line 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxe3 6 bxc3 Bg7, and then 7 Bc4, followed by Ne2 for White. Complete games illustrate contemporary ideas in this system, forged by Soviet greats Bronstein and Geller and used with deadly precision by world champ Spassky. Sakaev is a leading theoretician and his analysis offers a unique insight into the theory of the Grünfeld.

#RSM27 $12.95/$9.95 Save $17!

Chess School 3 – More Advanced Combinations
by Alexander Mazia, 183pp., (HC)
The ability to calculate variations quickly and deeply is the hallmark of a strong chess player. The best way of acquiring this skill is the systematic, purposeful training that lifelong trainer Alexander Mazia offers you. Work through his 750 positions to become a winning tactician! Exercises are grouped by category: ◆ Accurate calculation of short variations ◆ Lengthy forcing calculation ◆ Rational choice of candidate moves ◆ Finding strong moves during calculation ◆ Taking account of the opponent’s resources ◆ Searching for unusual solutions ◆ Complicated calculation ◆ Solutions. Instructions are given in English, Spanish, German, and Russian.

#SSM27 $14.95/$9.95 Save $13!

P.O. Box 5460, Milford, CT 06460  1-800-388-KING (5464)  www.USCFsales.com
Lots more books for under $10—see our $9.95 Sale page in this issue!
Organizing a 2009 Grand Prix Event

To qualify, an event must be USCF rated (regular or quick) and meet these criteria:

- All USCF rated players over 2199 must be eligible to play in the top (or only) section.
- The prize fund for which all masters are eligible must equal or exceed $300 guaranteed.
- Class prizes for Under 2300 or a higher rating requirement qualify towards GP points, but if they exceed 25% of the total qualifying Grand Prix money, they count as 25% of the total.
- Other than entry fees and USCF dues, no additional points can be awarded because the bonus would be guaranteed (or if a Grand Prix event’s prize fund is based on entries, only the absolutely guaranteed minimum payout is guaranteed).

- Only players who are USCF members during the tournament may earn GP points. Foreign GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WMs can play without being members, but they will not obtain Grand Prix points unless they join.
- Conditions concerning USCF Grand Prix tournaments are subject to review and adjustment by the USCF Executive Director.

The top prizes must be unconditionally guaranteed (or if a Grand Prix event’s prize fund is based on entries, only the absolutely guaranteed minimum payout counts for point awards) and announced in Chess Life.

Even if prizes are raised at the tournament, no additional points can be awarded because the bonus would be unfair to players who may otherwise have entered. If you have questions about the Grand Prix, please contact Chuck Lovin good at clovingood@uschess.org or 931 787 1234 ext. 148.

Tournament Directors

The tournament director has the right to shorten the basic time control, in minutes, by the time delay used, in seconds. Example: Clocks for G/60 with 5 second time delay (t/d5) may be set at 55 min instead of 60.

There is no requirement to advertise this option in advance. It may also be used for games starting later than the official starting time of any particular round even when not used otherwise.

Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates

To speed up the processing of rating reports, USCF now asks that wherever possible these reports have IDs for every player. If you collect a new membership, do not submit your rating report until your disk and paper reports include that player’s ID number.

To assist TDs in doing this, we have made several enhancements to our web server which will speed up online membership processing and give TDs a quick way to obtain USCF IDs for new members.

We also recommend that TDs use the Member Services Area to check for member IDs. The search capabilities of MSA have been enhanced to assist TDs in finding existing member IDs.

For more details, please check the USCF website: www.uschess.org/rigchange.php.

Professional Players Health and Benefits Fund

Many Grand Prix tournament organizers will contribute $1 per player to the Professional Health & Benefits Fund. All Grand Prix tournaments that participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category, for example, a 6 point tournament would become a 10 point tournament. Points in the top category are promoted 50%.

No Tournaments in your area? Why not organize one?

It’s not much work to hold a small tournament, and there is little risk if you use a low cost site and avoid guaranteed prizes. You might even make a profit! Either based on Swiss with projected prizes up to $500, a Quad format, or a trophy tournament will virtually guarantee taking in more in fees than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just $40 a year. You will receive the annual rating supplement and have access to the TD/Affiliate area of our website.

Remember, you can both run and play in a small event. Many of them wouldn’t be held if the organizer/TD couldn’t play. Want to know more? Contact Joan Du Bois at joandubois@uschess.org.

We’ll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess!

Submissions

If at all possible, please e-mail your TLAs. This will help to reduce errors.

tla@uschess.org
fax: 931 787 1200
TLA Department
U.S. Chess Federation
PO Box 3967
Crossville, TN 38557

TLAs received after the 10th of the deadline month will not appear in the issue currently being processed.

USCF Membership Rates

Premium (P) and Regular (R) (U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>1 yr</th>
<th>2yr</th>
<th>3yr</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult P</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<td>Adult P (online punch)</td>
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<td>Adult R</td>
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<td>Senior (65+)</td>
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<td>Young Adult P (U25)</td>
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<td>Youth P (U16)</td>
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<td>Scholastic P (U13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholastic R (U13)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online only access to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids; TLA Bulletin will be mailed to adults bimonthly and to scholastic members three times per year. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice.

Chess Life TLA Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover date</th>
<th>TLA must be received by</th>
<th>tournaments beginning</th>
<th>expected release</th>
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<td>March Jan. 10</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>End Feb.</td>
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<td>April Feb. 10</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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<td>May March 10</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>End April</td>
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<td>June April 10</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>End May</td>
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<tr>
<td>July May 10</td>
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<td>End June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. June 10</td>
<td>Aug. 15</td>
<td>End July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. Sept. 10</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>End Oct.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Points involved divided equally (rounded to two decimal points) among tied players.

uschess.org

Chess Life — January 2009 49

Tournament Life

Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates

Guaranteed Grand Prix points awarded for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Prizes</th>
<th>Type 1</th>
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<th>Type 3</th>
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<td>$500-$499</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ (Enhanced)</td>
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Points involved divided equally (rounded to two decimal points) among tied players.

Chess Life TLA Deadlines

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<tr>
<td>Nov. Sept. 10</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>End Oct.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information for Players

USCF Membership is required for all events.

If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry fee at site.

U.S. Championship Qualifier. Tournament in which qualification spots for the U.S. Championship are awarded.

American Classic. Generally, an event that has been held by one organizer for the last three years and has attracted more than 400 players each year.

Heritage Event. Tournament held for at least 25 years.

Quick Chess. Tournaments with time controls of G/5 to G/29. There is a separate “quick” or “overall” rating system that includes these events, and games played in the tournaments will not affect a player’s regular rating. Games played with a time control of G/30 through G/60 will be rated in both the quick/overall system and the regular system.

Rating Classes

In most events, you do not have to win the tournament to win a prize — you can win a class prize as a top scorer of your rating group, or a section prize in a section restricted to your rating group. These rating groups are:

- Senior Master - 2400 & up
- Master 2200-2399 Class C 1400-1599 Class G 600-799
- Expert 2000-2199 Class D 1200-1399 Class H 400-599
- Class A 1800-1999 Class E 1000-1199 Class I 200-399
- Class B 1600-1799 Class F 800-999 Class J 199/below

Some tournaments use different groups such as 1900-2099, and some have “under” prizes or sections including all below a specified level.

Ratings Information

You never lose your rating, no matter how long it has been since you last played. If you return after a long absence, please tell the director and USCF your approximate rating and last year of play. If you have a FIDE rating, or a rating or category from any other country, no matter how many years ago, you are not unrated. FIDE or foreign ratings may be rejected or have adjustment points added. If details are not announced, players wishing to use such ratings should contact the organizer in advance.

For foreign players with multiple ratings (USCF, FIDE, CFC, FQE, other foreign), the highest rating is used, with possible adjustment points added, unless otherwise announced.

Ratings based on 4-25 games are called “provisional ratings” to indicate they are less reliable than established ratings. However, such ratings are valid for pairing and prize purposes at all USCF rated events, unless otherwise stated.

A Director may assign an estimated rating to any player, and may expel an improperly rated player from an event.

Hotel-Motel Rates

Rates listed are often special chess rates you must request “chess rates” or you will be charged more. The chess rates may be unavailable if not reserved several weeks in advance, or if the block of chess rooms is used up. Hotel desk personnel are often poorly informed about chess rates if that is the case, ask for the Sales Office or contact the tournament organizer.

What to Take to a Tournament

Along with a pen or pencil and your USCF ID card (or current Chess Life), take a chessboard, set, and clock if you have them.

For prizes of $600 or more, bring your U.S. Social Security card. If you have no Social Security number, the organizer must deduct 30% from your prize for the IRS (this includes foreigners).

Warning!
The use of a cell phone in the tournament room is prohibited at most professional tournaments. If your cell phone rings in a tournament room, you will be fined up to the amount of your prize fund. If your cell phone rings in the tournament room, you will be deprived of a game. Mail entrants should mail their withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand. Phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on tournament day, call the site and ask specifically for “the chess tournament.” E-mail withdrawals several days in advance are acceptable if the TD’s e-mail address is listed. Any later than this, both e-mail your withdrawal and call the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his/her e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you may be fined up to the amount of the entry fee.

Tournament Life Abbreviations & Terms

All tournaments are non-smoking without use of mobile phones. Computers allowed. Entries unlimited unless otherwise advertised by S (see below for explanations). QC: Quick Chess events. $50/d: Guaranteed prizes. $55/x: Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to pay full prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of $501 or more must be awarded. Bye: Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.

Computers allowed.

Chess club.

Entry fee.

Enhanced Grand Prix points (see previous page).

Ent: Where to mail entries.

FIDE: Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.

G/: Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.

GPP: Grand Prix Points available.

HR: Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means $60 single, $65 twin, $70/3 in room, $75/4 in room.

JGP: Junior Grand Prix

Memb, reg’d: Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.

Open: A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.

OFA: Other states accepted. Refers to state dues.

PPHBF: Professional Players Health and Benefits Fund.

Quad: 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.

RBO: Rated Beginner’s Open.

Rds: Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5, 9, 3 means games begin 11 a.m. & 9 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.

Reg: Registration at site.

RR: Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).

S: Smoking allowed.

SAF: For more info, send self-addressed stamped envelope.

SD/: Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, SD/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.

Section: A division of a tournament, usually excluding players above a specified rating. Players in a section face only other, not those in other sections.

Sign-up: Sign-up required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.

T/LA: Tournaments that will use a player’s on-line rating.

TLD: Tournaments that do not use a player’s on-line rating.

T/LA ads for entering options. Along with entry fee, send full name, address, USCF ID number, expiration date, and section desired (if any). Also, give your last official USCF rating from your magazine label (first 4 numbers on top row). If you are unrated, or have a rating from many years ago, be sure to indicate this. Your official USCF rating is on the top line of your mailing label: Regular, Quick, and Correspondence.

Mailed entries are usually not acknowledged unless you enclose a self-addressed postcard. If entering online, print confirmation of entry. They are refundable if you withdraw before Round 1 is paired, unless otherwise stated.

For National Events, refund requests must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days after the tournament ends. Any requests made after this date may not be honored.

If You Must Withdraw

If you enter by mail and cannot attend, or must drop out of a tournament in progress, it is important you give notice before pairings are started, so no one is deprived of a game. Mail entrants should send withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand. Phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on tournament day, call the site and ask specifically for “the chess tournament.” E-mail withdrawals several days in advance are acceptable if the TD’s e-mail address is listed. Any later than this, both e-mail your withdrawal and call the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his/her e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you may be fined up to the amount of the entry fee.

Tournament Directors

Tournament Director Certification is an endorsement of professional competence only. Such certification does not in itself render any Tournament Director an agent of the USCF, nor is any Affiliate an agent of the USCF.
USCF National Events

See TLA in this issue for details:

2009 U.S. Amateur Team - South
Feb. 13 15 or 14 15 • Orlando, Florida

2009 U.S. Amateur Team - North
Feb. 13 15 or 14 15 • Waukesha, Wisconsin

2009 U. S. Amateur Team - West
Feb. 14 16 • Woodland Hills, Califor nia

World Amatuer Team & U.S. Team - East - 39th Annual
February 14 16 • Parsippany, New Jersey

2009 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
Feb. 28 Mar. 1 • Anderson, Indiana

2009 SuperNationals IV
April 3 5 • Nashville, Tennessee

2009 All Girls Open Championships
April 24 26 • Dallas, Texas

2009 U.S. Amateur - West
May 23 25 • Tucson, Arizona

2009 U.S. Game/10 Championship
June 4 • Las Vegas, Nevada

2009 National Open Chess Festival
June 4 • Las Vegas, Nevada

Future Events (Watch for details)

2009 U.S. Championship
May 2009 • St. Louis, Missouri

2009 U.S. Cadet
July 6 10 • Crossville, Tennessee

2009 U.S. Junior Open
July 17 19 • Waukesha, Wisconsin

2009 U.S. Junior Closed
July 19 23 • Waukesha, Wisconsin

2009 GM Susan Polgar National
Invitational Tournament for Girls
July 26 31 • Lubbock, Texas

2009 Denker Tournament of State
High School Champions
August 4 • Indianapolis, Indiana

2009 Tournament of College
Champions
August 4 • Indianapolis, Indiana

110th U.S. Open
August 1 9 • Indianapolis, Indiana

2009 National Scholastic K-12
December 11 13 • Dallas, Texas

2010 National Elementary (K-6)
Championship
May 7 9 • Atlanta, Georgia

2010 National Scholastic (K-12)
Championship
Dec. 10 12 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida

2011 National Elementary (K-6)
Championship
May 6 8 • Dallas, Texas

Note: Organizers previously awarded options for USCF National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

Overdue Bids

Bids on the following tournaments are past deadline and will be considered immediately:
2009 U.S. Amateur (South, North, East)
2009 U.S. Senior Open
2009 U.S. G/15 (QC)
2009 U.S. Action G/30
2009 U.S. G/60
2009 U.S. Masters
2009 U.S. Scholastics
2009 National Youth Action
2009 Pan Am Intercolligate
2009 Collegiate Final Four
2010 U.S. Open*

Bids due by June 15, 2009:
2011 U.S. Open*

Bidding Deadlines

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. The USCF recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates.

*USCF reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

ATTENTION AFFILIATES

The United States Chess Federation has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide USCF affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately $265 per year, for a $1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to www.rvnuccio.com/chessfedera tion.html. For event insurance, please go to www.rvnuccio.com.

Tournament Life

The TLA pages “Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates” and “Helping Players” can now be found online at main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo.

Junior Tournament Memberships (JMTs) Available

USCF’s Tournament Membership (TM) program, which allows players the option of joining for only one event at a greatly reduced rate, has been modified. Junior TMs for age 24 or below may be purchased from affiliates and are now available to them for $7 online with rating report submis sions. They include one issue of Chess Life or Chess Life for Kids, and $5 of this fee may be applied to a full membership within 60 days. JMTs not valid for National events.

Many scholastic tournaments exist that are not USCF rated, and the USCF is concerned that is reason is that organizers fear losing players unwilling or unable to pay entry fee plus dues. The availability of a $7 option should cause some of these events to switch to being USCF rated, pro moting membership. The idea behind the TMs is not to sign up a lot of them, but rather to cause more USCF rated tournaments to be held.

More details on uschess.org.

Nationals

All tournaments listed in Tournament Life are USCF rated. USCF MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS. If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry at site.

2010 U.S. Open*
50th Anniversary of uschess.org Chess Life - January 2009

51
See previous issue for TAs appearing January 1-14.
Come celebrate the ‘60s with the most enthusiastic players in the world!

*Best Team Costume* and *Best Team Name* awards, along with surprises and give-aways each round, make this a three day experience you won’t want to miss.

See our TLA for complete details and prizes.

Clock awards supplied by Excalibur.

Boards are supplied, but you’ll need to bring a set and a clock—and THREE friends!

**NEED HELP IN FORMING A TEAM? WANT TO BE ON A TEAM?**

Contact Steve Doyle at esdoyle@aol.com.

Your hosts are the USCF and the New Jersey State Chess Federation.
Grand Jan. 16-19, 17-11 or 18-17, California Southern
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced)
Lanny Strong, LXXII
Note new time controls. 5SS, 40/90, then 5/30 (1-day option), Rd 1, 30/60, G/30; Rd 2, 90/2; Rd 3, 90/2. Advance entries will be posted at chessat.com.

Tournament Life

Grand Jan. 16-19, 17-11 or 18-17, California Southern
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced)
Lanny Strong, LXXII
Note new time controls. 5SS, 40/90, then 5/30 (1-day option), Rd 1, 30/60, G/30; Rd 2, 90/2; Rd 3, 90/2. Advance entries will be posted at chessat.com.

Tournament Life

Grand Jan. 16-19, 17-11 or 18-17, California Southern
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced)
Lanny Strong, LXXII
Note new time controls. 5SS, 40/90, then 5/30 (1-day option), Rd 1, 30/60, G/30; Rd 2, 90/2; Rd 3, 90/2. Advance entries will be posted at chessat.com.

Tournament Life
Gran Prix.
$25.
4000 or toll free 1-888-377-2121)
$79.99 (mention “Charleston Chess Club”) reserve by Jan. 30 (843-722-
Reg.: Fri. 6-7pm, Sat. 8-9am Rd. 1: 10am, then merge with 3day schedule.
Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free!
845-569-9969.
5SS, G/45, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5-6 Ave, NYC:
35th Snowstorm Special
Feb. 6-8, South Carolina
CFCC, 921 N. Thistle Ln., Maitland, FL 32751.
5SS, G/120. Melody Manor, 813 Montana St., Orlando.
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Florida
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
Central Florida Chess Club Championship
$25. $600-190-0.75, 5SS, G/120, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5-6 Ave, NYC:
Above; $60 deducted from any winnings. More $$ per entries.
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 60
Feb. 6-8, New Hampshire
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 10
ICA Winter 2009 Open Championship
Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack NJ 07601. OpenTo All Ages
ICA, CMV, LS, W, USCF, FIDE. FKimBerry@AOL.com.
Ent: 2/5, GMs/IMs free. $300-200-100, U2100 $125.
Half each prize Gtd: $$ 300-200-115, top U2200/unr. $125, U2000 $100, U1800
$70. Free Parking.
St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club
Feb. 17-New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced)
St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club
455, G/30, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5-4 Ave, NYC:
212-477-3716. Online entry at
www.icanj.net). To players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2.5 or more at any CCNY
Saturday and irrevocable. No unrated may win more than $100. Rds. 11-13, 3:30-7; 10-2-6:45; 6-15
Free entry to Masters and
Sun. 7:30pm Buffet dinner free for all participants and spouses. Prize fund Std.
$5000: Open $1000 prize; at 150; at 150. Top un-titled嘘en 1st from East Coast and hotel for 2010. EP: $100, payable on site. Free
9-9:30 am.
1-5; 10, 2:30, 7:30; 10, 1:15. One point bye in rd. 1 to
Rds. 10-2-6:30; 9-1:15.
10-10:45. Rds. 11-3-7; 11-3-7. One point bye in rd. 1 to
9-9:30 pm.
Rds. 10-2-6:30; 9-1:15. One point bye in rd. 1 to
W. NC.
1000 $55, Unr $45. Pals may be reduced below 70%.
Reg Ends at 9 Late Entrants Will Receive 1/2 Point
Not Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 9 Late Entrants Will Receive 1/2 Point
If joining USCF for 1st time, 
make entry irrevocable.
9 months $30, GMs $10 (returned on completion of tournament). For each event,
will be added to the prize fund by the sponsors, St. John’s University, and other generous patrons. Top three prizes guaranteed:
$370 b/32: Open, $235 b/16: NC, CMV, LS, W, USCF, FIDE. FKimBerry@AOL.com.
WCL. JGP.
Feb. 7, Wisconsin
World Chess Live Grand Prix: 10
UN Winter Open
St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club
Feb. 17-New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced)
St. John’s Masters at the Marshall Chess Club
455, G/30, Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5-4 Ave, NYC:
212-477-3716. Online entry at
www.icanj.net). To players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2.5 or more at any CCNY
Saturday and irrevocable. No unrated may win more than $100. Rds. 11-13, 3:30-7; 10-2-6:45; 6-15
Free entry to Masters and
Sun. 7:30pm Buffet dinner free for all participants and spouses. Prize fund Std.
$5000: Open $1000 prize; at 150; at 150. Top un-titled嘘en 1st from East Coast and hotel for 2010. EP: $100, payable on site. Free
9-9:30 am.
1-5; 10, 2:30, 7:30; 10, 1:15. One point bye in rd. 1 to
Rds. 10-2-6:30; 9-1:15. One point bye in rd. 1 to
W. NC.
1000 $55, Unr $45. Pals may be reduced below 70%.
Reg Ends at 9 Late Entrants Will Receive 1/2 Point
Not Be Reduced Below 70%. Reg Ends at 9 Late Entrants Will Receive 1/2 Point
If joining USCF for 1st time, 
make entry irrevocable.
9 months $30, GMs $10 (returned on completion of tournament). For each event,
will be added to the prize fund by the sponsors, St. John’s University, and other generous patrons. Top three prizes guaranteed:
$370 b/32: Open, $235 b/16: NC, CMV, LS, W, USCF, FIDE. FKimBerry@AOL.com.
WCL. JGP.
Feb. 7, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix: 10
22nd Annual Super Saturday Game/50! Deferred!
5-5, G/30, G-Chess Center at the Marshall Club, 23 W 10 St, bet. 5-4 Ave, NYC:
455-569-9969. EP: $40, Club members $30, GMs free (25$ from prize), specified
Greater New York Scholastic prizewinners free $50 250 paid, minimum half each prize Gtd: $500-200-125, top U2000 $125, L000, L000
$80. Limit 2 byes, commit by 2 pm. Re-entry $30. CCCA ratings may be used. Rds.
12-2-4-15-30-7-20-7 pm. Reg. ends 10 min before game. Online entry at
WCL. JGP.
Feb. 7, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix: 10
11th annual FOXWOODS OPEN
April 8-12 (Open), April 9-12 or 10-12 (lower sections), 2009 - Easter Weekend
A spectacular event at the nation's largest and most respected in the world. Players will qualify into Open, U1800, U1500, U1200,
U900, U600, U400. Winners $1,000, $750, $500, $250, $125, $75, $50, $25.
1st Open $10,000. 2nd Open $5,000. 3rd Open $2,500. 4th Open $1,250. 5th Open $750.
All results will be posted on www.chess.base.com. Contact: Michael R. Blonder, 334-241-1774, MBlonder@fairfieldct.com.
3rd annual Saratoga Open
plaque and title 2009 Virginia Open Champ.
$3400 in Two Sections, Open and Amateur (U1900) Top 4 G in Open, rest
remaining! See www.vachess.org/vaopen.htm for online link to register for hotel.
not guaranteed, reserve early!! No Outside Food allowed in Tournament Play-
for Single and Double, reserve before Feb 6. Walk-up chess rate possible, but
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 30
Feb. 27-Mar. 1, Virginia
A Heritage Event!
3-round Swiss System. 9-3:15, 2:30-6, Sun 11-3:30. Unofficial USCF entries post-
below with maximum prize U1900 $600, U1700 $500, U1500 $400, U1300
PLUS: $100, U1200 $75, U1100 $50, U1000 $30. $75 mailed by 2/20, $120 mailed by 2/26;
entry: online at chesstour.com $30, mailed, phoned or paid at site $40. Re-entry
Top 20 all: must commit before rd 3, having under 2 pts. NO RE-ENTRY . May be limited to first 60 players.
requests before rd 2. 1:00-4:00, Sun 9-11-12.
Prizes: $2200: #1-$22-$11-$5; Class A; $1500; B $600, C $300, D $200, E $100. $300, U1100 $200, U900 $100; balance goes to next player(s) in line.
$7 less to rated CalChess members. For unrated: $625 Gtd: 1:00-600-400-200. 1:00-
2:30-6, Sun 11-3:30. 1:00-600-400-200. 1:00-2:30-6. BYES: Only one per tournament; must request before
in 3 sections. $10 for taken by mail only, at site or at Continental Chess Club and Tournaments Club in Harford, MD, W. H. FIDE (OPEN). WCJ. GFP.
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, New York
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 15 (enhanced) 3rd annual Sarasota Open
445, 5-65, Sarasota Hilton Hotel, 534 Broadway 8-7 6-9, 7-9 6:15-7:15 pm on USCF, Saratoga Springs NY 12866. Free parking. $50 11:30. In 2 sections:
Open: $100 1:10-70, U1200 1:10, U1000 1:70. Under 1800/00: $100 1:10-50, U1200 1:70, U1000 1:50. EF: $50 mailed by 2/25, $50 online at chesscon.com by 2/25, $55 phoned by 2/15, $65 at site. Reg. ends Sat 11 am, rds 12-3, Sat 9-1-3. Half point byes OK, all limit, 2 must commit before rd 1. WCL 1124, 998-497-9111, 518-584-4000, reserve by 2/13 or rate may increase. 48 hours notice required for room cancellation. Backup hotel by Courtyard by Mari-
nett, 2 blocks away, 518-256-9318. Ent: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury MD 21837. $15 service charge for withdrawals. Advance entries posted at chesscon.com. WCJ. GFP.

Mar. 6, Pennsylvania
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6 2009 PA Quick Chess Champ. (QC)
10:30-10, U1200 and U900 sections are 655, 0-5-0-50. $1200-600-300-200.
Play 4 games in 2 hours. 3rd annual Saratoga Open. 3 rounds.
February 21, 2009
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6 Winter Seasonal Special
3 rounds Swiss System. 5-6:30-10, 8:30-10:30, 10-11:30. $1400-700.
Online entry: visit www.chesscenter.com thru 2/15; $10 extra to “enter” by phone!
February 21, 2009
World Chess Live Grand Prix Points: 6
Digital Chess Life – January 2009 uschess.org
U1500 $55, U1400 $50, U1300 $45, U1200 $40, U1100 $35, U1000 $30, U900 $25, U800 $20, U700 $15, U600 $10, U500 $5, U400 $1.

All: Unofficial uschess.org ratings based on 4 or more games usually used if otherwise unrated. Special rules: Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Directors. In round 4 after, players with scores of over 65% and their opponents may not use headphones, earphones or earphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. Credit cards OK.

Chaturanga Chess Club members. Write checks to “Chaturanga Chess Club.”

North Garage. 4 – SS, G/120. 2 sections, 10 & 4:30. 4-day & 3-day merge & compete for same prizes.

Scores of over 80% and their opponents may not use headphones, earphones or earphones or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. Credit cards OK.

For U1000 Section, re-entries, GMs, WGMs otherwise unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with Chess Life if paid at chess.com $30, mailed, phoned or paid at site $40. Re-entry: $100, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section.

Spectators free & welcome.

New England Chess Open

U1200 $90, U1100 $85, U1000 $80.

U1800: U1800/Unrated $765 b/40: $250-175-100, Top U1600, HR:

Under 1400:

Under 1200:

Under 1000 Section, re-entries, GMs, WGMs otherwise unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with Chess Life if paid at chess.com $30, mailed, phoned or paid at site $40. Re-entry: $100, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section.

Spectators free & welcome.

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U1200 $90, U1100 $85, U1000 $80.

U1800: U1800/Unrated $765 b/40: $250-175-100, Top U1600, HR:

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Spectators free & welcome.

New England Chess Open

U1200 $90, U1100 $85, U1000 $80.

U1800: U1800/Unrated $765 b/40: $250-175-100, Top U1600, HR:

Under 1400:

Under 1200:

Under 1000 Section, re-entries, GMs, WGMs otherwise unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with Chess Life if paid at chess.com $30, mailed, phoned or paid at site $40. Re-entry: $100, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section.

Spectators free & welcome.
An American Classic!
May 22-25, 23-25 or 24-25, Illinois

World Chess Live Grand Prix
200 (enhanced)
18th annual Chicago Open

$6000-3000-1500-1000-700-500-400-300 (under 2500 $2000-1000. If tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game $8000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-400, clear winner bonus $200, south.) Free parking.

Westin Chicago North
18th annual Chicago Open
May 22-25, 23-25 or 24-25, Illinois
An American Classic!

Prize limit $1500. 3) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over $100.

Under 1500: $3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300-300, top U1100 $800-400.

Under 2400, or Under 900).


Free analysis of your games by GM Sam Palatnik; free lectures of the hotel without Director permission. In round 4 or after, players with scores over 80% and their opponents may use headphones, earphones, cellphones, or go to a different floor of the hotel without Director permission. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 294, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: 845-959-9058, chess.com. You may request “lowest possible section” if May rating unknown. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chess.com.

World Chess Live Grand Prix
200 (enhanced)
2009 U.S. Games10 Championship (GC)
See Nationals.

An American Classic!
June 5-7 or 6-7, Nevada
World Chess Live Grand Prix

2009 U.S. Games10 Championship (GC)
See Nationals.

2009 World Open
9 rounds, Sheraton City Center Hotel, Philadelphia
$250,000 prize fund unconditionally guaranteed!

Also Philadelphia International June 25-29.
See Tournament Life or chess.com/ for details.

Tournament Life

Chess Life — January 2009

uschess.org

See Previous Issue for TLA Apperances January 1-14
Regional Alabama

B’ham M.C.
Mauls Min. nites each wk, 2114 Columbia Rd. (Columbia/Hopping Shop Ch.) B’ham 35205. At 14 hrs & levels weekly W/ N.L.S. USCF rd teams, planted in 09. Mon. quad by request. Vulcan Open May; B’ham City’s Aug. – Magic City Open High School 50 400 60 2d Sat. mo. Details & Byes: R.W. Bima 205-797- 6968, lea@bima.net.

Feb. 7, Golf Skills Scholastics

A Heritage Event
Feb. 20-22, 2009 Rendezvous Chess Tournament
5SS, G/60. IBEW Training Center 5800 B St. Anchorage, AK 99518. (Must meet entrance requirements and chess tournament scholarship criteria – see www.gpsoa.com. Adult Section: $300-$150-$100 in cash prizes, based on 20 paid entries. All sections: EF: $50/1 to 2; $50/3 to 4; $60/5 to 6; $75/7 to 8 after. On Site registration will receive Rds 1/1.2 pt byes. Byes: 1/2 pt must be scheduled by the start of round 2. Schedule: Opening Ceremony 2/20 9:45 am. Rounds: 2/20 10:15-11:45 to 1:30-2/21 9:00-10:30. Side-Events: Puzzle Solving Championship 2/13 1:30pm. EF: $15 by 2/20 after Registration closes 2/20pm. Susan Polgar 64 Board Simultaneous Exhibition 2/21 1:30pm. EF: $25 by 2/21; 2/21 after. Registration closes 2/21pm. Susan Polgar Free Lecture 2/14 12:30-1:30pm. Bizztech Championship 2/14, 5 Double Round Swiss, G/5: 3 Sections: Primary (K); Elementary (3-5); Middle School (6-8), High School / Adults U1600. Prizes: Primary, Elementary, Middle School – trophies to top 10 in each section; High School / Adults: U1600 – trophies to top 5 (2/15 13:30pm – Awards Ceremony). Rounds: 2/14 6:00-7:30 to 8:00-9:30. EF: $35 by 2/15; 2/15 after. Registration closes 2/15pm. Susan Polgar 64 Board Simultaneous Exhibition 2/15 13:30pm. EF: $25 by 2/15; 2/15 after. Registration closes 2/15pm. Susan Polgar Chess Camp (jun) Max 2/16 1:30-2:00pm. EF: $49 by 2/16; 2/16 after. Registration closes 2/16pm. Susan Polgar Chess Camp (jun) 2/17 1:30-2:00pm. EF: $49 by 2/17; 2/17 after. EF: Online registration available at www.chessemporium.com, or mail entry form to Chess Emporium, 10880 N. 33rd St. Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85028. Info: or Phone Credit Card entry: 602-482-4662. E-mail kids@chessemporium.com. Cancellations: No later than Feb 11, 7:00p.m. Refund only after. Other Info: Chief TD: Scott Freeman; Assistant Matthew Okunevich; Pairing Director AJ Pheasant. Accommodation: Hampton Inn, 4949 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382. 486-466-9180 ($34). Holiday Inn Express, 6477 N. 49th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382. 602-733-1113 ($39). Or possible better rates for hotel and air at Diamond Travel at 602-870-9197....ask for Eldon.

Mar. 23-25, 2009 U.S. Amateur – West Championship
See National.

California Southern

LA CHESS CLUB * www.LaChessClub.com

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 18, LACC January Scholastics I & II

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 18, LACC January Scholastics I & II
5SS, G/60. IBEW Training Center 5800 B St. Anchorage, AK 99518. 2nd Fl, 4th Fl. EF: $30 (35 LACC members). Reg: 12:30-2:30pm. Rds: 1, 2, 3, 4. Prizes: (Free entry). Special prizes (every player wins a prize). Free parking on streets. Info: (310) 795-7970 or www.LaChessClub.com.

Jan. 4, 11, 18, LACC January Scholastics I & II
5SS, G/60. IBEW Training Center 5800 B St. Anchorage, AK 99518. 2nd Fl, 4th Fl. EF: $30 (35 LACC members). Reg: 12:30-2:30pm. Rds: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Prizes: (Free entry). Special prizes (every player wins a prize). Free parking on streets. Info: (310) 795-7970 or www.LaChessClub.com.

Jan. 4, 11, 18, LACC January Scholastics I & II
5SS, G/60. IBEW Training Center 5800 B St. Anchorage, AK 99518. 2nd Fl, 4th Fl. EF: $30 (35 LACC members). Reg: 12:30-2:30pm. Rds: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Prizes: (Free entry). Special prizes (every player wins a prize). Free parking on streets. Info: (310) 795-7970 or www.LaChessClub.com.

Jan. 16-19, 17-18, 18-19, 16th annual Western Class Championships
See National.

Jan. 18, Western Class Sunday USCF Bogo Booster Quads
3RR, G/45. Renaissance Hotel (see Western Class). EF: $20. 1st prize each section, choice of 2 year USCF Adult Membership with Chess Life, 3 year USCF Young Adult Membership with Chess Life, or $40. Reg: 10 am-12:30 pm, Rds: 1- 3RR, G/45, Renaissance Hotel (see Western Class). EF: $20. 1st prize each section, choice of 2 year USCF Adult Membership with Chess Life, 3 year USCF Young Adult Membership with Chess Life, or $40. Reg: 10 am-12:30; Rds: 1- 3RR, G/45. 80% refund only.

Jan. 19, Western Class Monday USCF Bogo Booster Quads
3RR, G/30. Renaissance Hotel (see Western Class). EF: $20. 1st prize each section, choice of 2 year USCF Adult Membership with Chess Life, 3 year USCF Young Adult Membership with Chess Life, or $40. Reg: 10 am-12 noon. Rds: 1- 3RR, G/30. 80% refund only.

See National.

California Chess Life — January 2009 59

uschess.org
Colorado
Jan. 21, January G/29 - Colorado Grand Prix Series (OC)

Jan. 24-25, 2009 Boulder Grand Prix
See Grand Prix.

Mar. 6-7, 9, Western Chess Congress (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

Connecticut
UCONN Chess Club

Mar. 29, Connecticut State Chess Association Tournament of Scholastic Champions Finals
Mar. 6-8 or 7-8, 18th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA) See Grand Prix.

Mar. 22, Connecticut State Chess Association K-6 Scholastic State Championship Preliminaries – WEST
Sponsored by the UCONN School of Engineering & UConn CCC, UCONN Castleman Building Rooms 204 & 206, 261 Glenbrook Rd., Storrs, CT 06269. Parking in North Garage, 4 – SS, G/90. 6 Sections: K-6th, K-7th, K-8th, Reserve K-7th, Reserve K-8th, 1st Grade Open. Kindergarten. All EF: $30 $25, $20 if rec’d by March 5, $25 door. $1.2 point available in rounds 1-3 only. $0 last round byes. Please bring a board, set & clock. Info & Entries to: Tom Hartmayer, 963 Mandalay City Rd., Storrs, CT 06269. 860-989-5394, tomhart3@charter.net, www.uconnchess.uconn.edu, UCONN Map admissions.uconn.edu/virtual tour/uccampus.

Mar. 29, Connecticut State Chess Association K-6 Scholastic State Championship Preliminaries – EAST
Sponsored by the UCONN School of Engineering & UConn CCC, UCONN Castleman Building Rooms 204 & 206, 261 Glenbrook Rd., Storrs, CT 06269. Parking in North Garage, 4 – SS, G/90. 6 Sections: K-6th, K-7th, K-8th, Reserve K-7th, Reserve K-8th, 1st Grade Open. Kindergarten. All EF: $30 $25, $20 if rec’d by March 5, $25 door. $1.2 point available in rounds 1-3 only. $0 last round byes. Please bring a board, set & clock. Info & Entries to: Tom Hartmayer, 963 Mandalay City Rd., Storrs, CT 06269. 860-989-5394, tomhart3@charter.net, www.uconnchess.uconn.edu, UCONN Map admissions.uconn.edu/virtual tour/uccampus.

Land of the Sky XXII
January 23-25, 2009
Asheville, NC
$20,000 Projected, $10,000 Gtd! 80 (eligible) Grand Prix Points!
info wildercwad@aol.com

Land of the Sky XXII
January 23-25, 2009
Asheville, NC
$20,000 Projected, $10,000 Gtd! 80 (eligible) Grand Prix Points!
info wildercwad@aol.com
The Secret’s Out!!!

The National Open has moved to:
The South Point Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada
June 5 – 7
LVCHESSFESTIVAL.COM
Tournament Life


Maryland

Silver Knights Chess Tournaments We organize Summer chess tournaments on Saturdays for adults and kids. Free analysis by a National Master at every tournament for the scholastic players. Trophies to top scholastic finishers; 70% of entries returned as prizes in open (adult) sections. To see a list of dates and locations, see our website at www.silverknightschess.com. Phone: 610-446-0818. Email: chesssilverknightschess@gmail.com.

Jan. 9 & 23, 6th, Catonsville Friday Knight Quick #75, #76 & #77 (QC) 5SS, 0/15, Catonsville Chess Club, Bloomery Community Center, 106 Bloomery Ave, Catonsville, MD 21208. EF: $5.00. RDS: 7:30pm. IASCA membership required ($15 Reg, $10 Jr). or OSA. ENTR: Joe Sumpner, jmcoscornt@aol.com or 410-788-1009. www.geocities.com/catonschess. Info: 410-788-1009. Questions: (410)-660-8025. All entry fees $7 extra per player postmarked January 12-16 (no mail accepted on-site registration ENDS 9:15 AM).

Jan. 24, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Atlantic Primary Championship 5/0, 0/0, open to all grades 4/3-12 below. Hilton Pikesville, 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. 2 sections: Primary Varsity, open to all. EF: $30 postmarked by 1/15/09. Trophies to the 8 top-scoring players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated Under 900, and the top 3 Unrated. Primary Novice: rated Under 700 or Unrated. EF: $30 postmarked by 1/15/09. Trophies to top 8 players; top 3 Unrated, top 4 schools, top 5 Unrated. Trophies to top 4 Kindergarten! Any player who scores 4 or more points and doesn’t win a trophy will receive a medal! The Top Individual players in each section also win free entry into Chess Pro weekend chess camps – a savings of hundreds of dollars! All entry fees $5 less per player if 4 or more from same school mailed together in SAME ENVELOPE! Refunds: $10 service charge for each player refund. $10 extra to switch sections. Current USCF Membership is required to participate. TO REGISTER, list each player’s name, USCF ID# and expiration (now players write “NEW”) address, birth date, school and grade. BE SURE TO INDICATE THE CORRECT SECTION! Make checks for entry fees = all USCF fees (1 check for total amount is best) payable and mail to: CHESSPRO, 14 Hartley Circle, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Questions: (410)-660-8025. All entry fees $7 extra per player postmarked January 12-16 (no mail accepted postmarked after Jan.16). On-Site Entry fee: $40 per player at the tournament On-site registration ENDS 9:15 AM.

Jan. 25, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Atlantic High School Championship! 5/0, 0/0, open to all grades 4/3-12 below. Hilton Pikesville, 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. 4 sections: High School Varsity, open to all. EF: $30 postmarked by 1/15/09. Trophies to top 8 players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated Under 1500, and the top 3 Unrated. High School Novice: rated Under 1500 or Unrated. EF: $30 postmarked by 1/15/09. Trophies to top 8 players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated Under 1500, and the top 3 Unrated. High School Varsity: rated Under 1500 or Unrated. EF: $30 postmarked by 1/15/09. Trophies to top 8 players and the 4 top-scoring schools, the top rated Under 1500, and the top 3 Unrated. Any player who scores 4 or more points and doesn’t win a trophy will receive a medal! The Top Individual players in each section also win free entry into Chess Pro weekend chess camps – a savings of hundreds of dollars! All entry fees $5 less per player if 4 or more from same school mailed together in SAME ENVELOPE! Refunds: $10 service charge for each player refund. $10 extra to switch sections. Current USCF Membership is required to participate. TO REG-
Jan. 25, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Atlantic Junior High Championship!

5-SS, G/30, open to all grades 9-12, Octel Milton Paskale, 1736 Rauscherston Road, Baltimore, MD 21230. 2 sections: Junior High Boys, 6 grades 7/8 (each at: $40 postmarked by 1/10/09). Tournament Ends 9:15 AM.

Jan. 31, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 43rd Annual Championship in: Grades K-12. Winner of Championship section will be MD Qualifier to the Greater Mid-Atlantic Championship Event! A State Championship Event!

Jan. 31, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents Greater Mid-Atlantic Junior High Championship!

5-SS, G/30, open to all grades 9-12, Octel Milton Paskale, 1736 Rauscherston Road, Baltimore, MD 21230. 2 sections: Junior High Boys, 6 grades 7/8 (each at: $40 postmarked by 1/10/09). Tournament Ends 9:15 AM.

Jan. 31, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 43rd Annual Championship in: Grades K-12. Winner of Championship section will be MD Qualifier to the Greater Mid-Atlantic Junior High School Chess Championship.

Jan. 17, 16th Annual Mid-Winter Classic


Feb. 1, BCF 2nd Superbowl Quads


Mar. 14-15, UNBC Open - Ahlin S. Mintzes Chess Tournament

See Grand Prix.
New Hampshire

Jan. 24, Amherst Scholarly
455, G/30. Amherst Middle School, 14 Cross Rd., Amherst, NH 03031. 3 Sec-
tions: K-5 (U800), K-8 (U1200), and K-12 Open. Entry fee: Free or paid by 1/28, $5 at site. Reg. 1/19-2/14, 1st Rd. 2/15, 2nd Rd. 2/22. The sports section has a minimum of 12 players. It is free to register and play. For information, contact Stephen Dick, cs@ATKMchess.com, or call 973-262-1395.

Nevada

Max: 6-6 or 7-7, Western Chess Congress (CA-N)
See Grand Prix.

June 4, 2009 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)
See Nationals.

June 5, National Open Scholastic Trophy Tournament

June 7-8, 2009 National Open
See Nationals.

June 6-7, Susan Polgar World Open Championship for Girls and for Boys
5-5, G/45. South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, 7777 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV 89146. 1st section separate for girls and boys: under10, under 15, under 8 and under 6 (last 6 days). In each section 1 place receives a monthly personal Chess Manager. $250-$1000-$50 in chess prizes for 1st thru 5th. Trophies to top 10 individuals, top 3 (1) players/club school teams each section, special medallions for next 10 individuals and next 3 school club teams. Every player receives a special hand-signed certificate from Susan Polgar! Trophies and Medals awarded based in part on performance in this event. Every player receives a special hand-signed certificate from Susan Polgar. Prizes and Tournaments: $30 per day. Registration 2-2:30 p.m. Rounds 2:45-4:00-5:15 p.m. Entrance fee: $10. Info: chess@silverknightschess.com. Phone: 610-446-0818.

New Jersey

Silver Knights Chess Tournaments
2-3 Saturdays per month we run scholastic USCF-rated tournaments throughout the Philadelphia area. Tournament locations include Philadelphia, Mt. Laurel (NJ), Bryn Mason, Horsham, Collegville, and more. Tournaments are open to grades K-12. Free game analysis by a National or International Master at each tournament. We have players of all skill levels compete in our tournaments, from brand-new kindergartners up through some of the highest-rated scholastic players in the state. To see a list of dates and locations, see our website at www.silverknightschess.com. Phone: 610-446-0818. Email: chess@silverknightschess.com.

Wizards of the Mind Chess School
15 Center Street, Springfield, NJ - Lessons on Wednesdays and Saturdays for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Scholastic USCF-rated tournaments. For schedule and information visit our website at www.wizardsoftheminddom.com, email info@wizardsofthemind.com or call 973-262-1395.

New York

Las Vegas Chess Life — January 2009 uschess.org

Las Vegas Chess Festival
And
The National Open
June 5-7
Las Vegas
LVCHESSFESTIVAL.com

Las Vegas International Chess Festival; 283 Chisum Rd., Havreille, NH 03450. 3 Sections: K-5 U800; K-8 U1200; and K-12 Open. Entry fee: Free or paid by 1/28, $5 at site. Reg.: 1/19-2/14, 1st Rd. 2/15, 2nd Rd. 2/22. 4th Annual USCF Trophies and Medals awarded. Trophies will be awarded based in part on performance in this event. See Nationals.

Feb. 7-8, 33rd Queen City Open
See Grand Prix.

Feb. 14, WAMF Empty Scholastic
455, G/30. Wells Memorial School, 235 Chisum Rd., Havreille, NH 03450. 3 Sections: K-5 U800; K-8 U1200; and K-12 Open. Entry fee: Free or paid by 1/28, $5 at site. Reg.: 1/19-2/14, 1st Rd. 2/15, 2nd Rd. 2/22. 4th Annual USCF Trophies and Medals awarded. Trophies will be awarded based in part on performance in this event. See Nationals.

Feb. 16-19, 17-19 or 18-19, 41st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA) clock!
3 RR G/30 t/d5, Quads are grouped by rating. All the King’s Men Chess Shop, 62 S Broadway, Pitman NJ 08071. Email: chess@silverknightschess.com.

Feb. 26-28, 3rd Thursday Quads
1st and 2nd Saturdays of every month from 2-6pm. USCF rated tournaments and free chess lessons available. For schedule and information visit our website at www.pds.org/chess. Info and Register online: www.pds.org/chess. Inquires to Bonnie Waitzkin. Chessteach@gmail.com. Pre-registration $30 (On-site $40). Entrance fee: $15 at site. Info: Ken Thomas, 115 West Moore St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Email: KenThomas, (908) 763-6468. acn@goes.com. NS, NC, W.

Feb. 27, Princeton Day School
650 The Grout Road. Plaques to top 3 school teams and top 6 in each section. Medals to all players. Sections: FUTURE MASTERS and CLOSED begin 10:30. Must preregister. FUTURE MASTERS $60 3 rounds (Players K-12 over 1200, CLOSED $60 3 rounds K-12 over 1200). Participants pay fee on site. Reg.: 11:30-12:30. Rds.: 1, 2, 3, 4pm. (times will be accelerated if possible) 2/28 OPEN (Players K-2 over U800), Reserve (K-12 over 1200), Rookie (K-12 over 1800), Novice (K-1 over 2000), Scholastic USCF-rated (including #2 and #3). FREE ENTRY. Info and Register online: www.pds.org/chess. Inquires to Bonnie Waitzkin. Chessteach@gmail.com. Pre-registration $30 (On-site $40).

Feb. 8, ICA Winter 2009 Open Championship
See Grand Prix.

Feb. 8-9, 2009 Westfield Open

Jan. 17, Somerset County K-8 Scholastic Championship
In 4 sections: Classics Delco Public Library 2356 Linwood Rd Rd (K-20) Bedminster, NJ 07921. Top in each grade will be County Champ. Trophies to top 3 in each section, others go to Mattel. 1st Round at 10:00 am. Then ASAP with lunch break after round #2. #1200 Open to 11:00 am. Entry fee: $9 for K-6 or Open to Unrated Grades 7-5. Open to $499 for $9 & under. Open to Unrated Grades 4-3, $299 for 2-3 in all rated sections. $125 to all USAF members. Beginer/unrated K-8 Section. USAF membership not required. Early entries: $20 by Jan 13, Late registrations $25 at site. First round at 9:00 am. Enter online at entryforms.usaf.com. Ent. Ken Thomas, 115 West Moore St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Info: Ken Thomas, (908) 763-6468. acn@goes.com. NS, NC, W.

Jan. 18, 2009 Westfield Winter Scholastic

Jan. 25, 2009 Westfield Swiss (QC)
5 Rd. game/15 full k (QC) Westfield, NJ 08003. Guaranteed $125/$85/$35 to 1st/under 1800, under 1600, under 1500. $10 each entrance fee: $35. Reg.: 2/3-2:30 p.m. Rounds: 2:45-4:00-4:45-5:30 p.m. Info: Todd Limbo 732-946-7379. www.westfieldchessclub.com.

Feb. 4, ICA Winter 2009 Open Championship
See Grand Prix.

Feb. 8, 2009 Westfield Open
Feb. 6, ICX Winter 2009 Scholastic Championship
4/3 SUNDAY—Every Sunday: GAMES, ALL PLAYERS WITH 2.5+ POINTS OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY!!! Burnage Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hacken-
sack, NJ 07601. Contact: FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP NECESSARY FOR SECTIONS 1 AND 2. Info: 201-787-0250 or 201-833-1741. Email: chess@westfieldchessclub.com. Website: www.westfieldchessclub.com. EF $10 (by Feb 6th). $25 at the door. $30 Reg. ends 1 hr before 1st rate. Late entrants will receive $1.50 point by 1/2 point at $1 and 1/4 point at $2. Sections 1-4: $10 to $24. Open to players rated below 1000 K through 12th grad. Rds. 4/10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM. Section 5: $20 Open to players rated below 1000 K through 12th grad. Rds. 4/10 AM (Tournam end will at approximately 1:15 PM). Section 6: Open to unrated players K through 12th grad. Rds.: 10:00 AM (Tournam end will approximately 2:30 PM). ENTRANCE FEES: Hands-On Games, Hackensack Community Center, 291 Main St., Hackensack, NJ. EF $15. - $50. $12. $5. $5. $5 under 1850, under 1600, under 1350. Checks payable to NJSCF and send to Roger Inglis, 49A Mara Rd., Lake- side, NJ 07601. U.S. CHESS FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR ALL: Advance entertainment, refreshments and snacks, chess sets and boards, chess pieces, chess books, sale. Checks are payable to NJSCF. All: Trophies to top 15 individuals. Trophies for top 3 teams. Trophies to top 3 schools. Prizes include 1 year membership to NJSCF for NJ residents. New Jersey State Chess Federation (NJSCF), PO Box 1012, Elmwood Park, NJ 07404. (908) 852-5925. WCL JGP. EF $16-14. World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East
See Nationals.
Feb. 22, 2009 Westfield Quads
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, NY State Scholastics (out of state welcome)
See New York.
Mar. 1, 2009 Westfield Swiss #7 (OC)
Feb. 28-Mar. 1, NY State Scholastics (out of state welcome)
See New York.
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Feb. 28-Mar. 1, NY State Scholastics (out of state welcome)
See New York.
GOLD AFFILIATES

GOLD
Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are approved in special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliate status costs $350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract $3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or $20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliate status. As of August 8, 2009, by paying an annual payment of $500 (instead of $350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted. SILVER
Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. Silver Affiliates are approved in special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliate status costs $150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract $3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. As of August 8, 2009, by paying an annual payment of $250.00 (instead of $150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.
Feb 7, 22nd Annual Super Saturday Game/46 Deferred! See Grand Prix.


Feb. 22, 10th Annual Greater NY February Under 13 Open! 4-5, G/30, open to all born after 2/22/96, Marshall Chess Club, 2W 10th St, bl 5-6 Ave, NYC. 212-477-3716. EF: $30, $15, $10. Specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. ($62 b/10) paid entry. 150-100, Top U2000 var $95, U2000 $85. Limit 2 byes (less if USCF). Commit by 1/31 before game.
Tournament Life

Trotta, Wayne Rahe, Robert Lardon, Richard Cheshire, Carberry, Mary Alice Burke, Carol Wirtz, James/Jennifer Roth.

Microsoft, WalMart, X3D, Mobil, WaMu, Nugent & Haussler, PC Partners.

Miller, Dr. Rebecca Meyer, Bruce McMaster, Tim Redman, Robert Goodman, Rick Armagost, John Crawford, David Kerkhove, John Fitch, Jeffrey Quirke, Miller, George Berry, Dr. Ed Epp, Peter Dyson, Harold Blajwas, Denis Strenzwilk, Dr. Benton Wheeler, Donald Stetzer, Fred Gruenberg, Barbara Forbes, Lawrence Clark, James Kelley, Jeffrey Davidson, Paul Tomalina, Phyllis Narveson, Brian Bezenek, Robert Emke, Scott Kenyon, Kenneth Rogoff, Hans Morrow, Robert Edward Zatorski, Joe Feagin, Marc Levine, Michael Goodall, Walter Buehl, Jr, GM Susan Polgar/Paul Truong, Dr. Jon E. Quinn, Burton Carpenter, Michael Richard Allen, Norman Forsythe, Clifford Lester, Rick Lester (Ursula Foster Scholarship), Henry Odell, Harold Winston, Steve Doyle, Ann Marks, Drs. Luann John Dozier, Leroy Dubeck, Jim Eade, Leonard Helman, Roger Spero, Sunil Weeramantry (National Scholastic Foundation), Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Graves, King Supporters

NOTE CHANGE:

NOTE CHANGE:

$114-114, 888-999-4718, 518-584-5000, reserve by 2/14

Aetna, Exxon, IBM,

1st $200, 2nd $100; U1900 1st $100;

Info & entries: houseofchess.com, Great Northern Mall, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Phone: (440) 979-1133. I email: info@houseofchess.com. Web: www.thewhitecensus.com/

Feb. 7, 2009 Cleveland Scholastic Open

4SS, G/10, Hampton Inn Downtown, 4660 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114. Open to all players in grades K-12. Rds: 8:45am - 9:30am, Round 1 at 10:00am. Series: K-4, K-3, 7-6, 7-10. EF: $25 if postmarked by 2/12, $30 on entry day. Trophies to top five in each section. EN: Lisa Peterson at lisa.peterson@ohio.edu. Tel: 216-281-3131. Info: Room Bsq451@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 14, 2009 Cleveland Open

4SS, G/45, Great Northern Mall, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Phone: (440) 979-1133. Web: 419-367-9450. WCL. Info:

Mar. 14, 100 Mar Swiss

Open, 455, Rds 1 & 2; 4SS, Rds 3 & 4; 4SS, Marlstown Community College, Ext 311, 14th St, New Lexington, OH, 43764. 1st Prize: $200; 2nd Prize: $100; 3rd Prize: $50 plus tax, 800-843-4341 or 452-6662. Enn: Jim Jagods, 7031 Wilkey Ford Way, Murrayville OH 43057-0156. WILL: 6:00-9:00.

May 22-25, 24-26 or 24-25, 18th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

North Carolina

Mar. 23-25 or 24-25, 2nd Cardinal Open

See Grand Prix.

Ohio

Jan. 23-25 or 24-25, 32nd Cardinal Open

Jan. 21, House of Chess Open


Feb. 7-8, 2009 Cleveland Scholastic Open

5SS, G/2, Quality Inn, I-240 & S Western, Oklahoma City.

Feb. 28, 2009 North Coast Scholastic Open, 4SS, Rnd 1 G/75, Rnds 2-4 G/90. The University of Toledo Health Science Campus, 28000 Willowyck Rd., Maumee OH 43537. 419-367-9450.

Feb. 14, Toledo Swiss Chess

Open, 4SS, G/60, Saturday G/75, 23 W. 10 St., NYC, 212-477-3716. Rnds: 12:30-2:45-4:30pm. NOTE CHANGE: One box available, request at entry.

Mar. 3, Marshall CC New York Experts


8:30-9:15, 11:30-1:15-3:30-5:30. EF: $20 by 3/12, $25, club members $20.

TO ur BLOG

Opening up the season are the Willowyck Open and the Great Northern Open, both in Ohio. Registration for the Willowyck begins at 10am on March 14.


Tournament Life

Trotta, Wayne Rahe, Robert Lardon, Richard Cheshire, Carberry, Mary Alice Burke, Carol Wirtz, James/Jennifer Roth.


Pennsylvania Silver Knights Chess Tournament

2-3 Saturdays per month we run scholastic USCF-rated tournaments throughout the Philadelphia area. Tournament locations include Philadelphia, Mt. Laurel (NJ), Bryn Mawr, Horsham, Collegeville, and more. Tournaments are open to grades K-12. Free game analysis by a National or International Master at each tournament. We have players of all skill levels compete in our tournaments, from brand-new kindergarteners up through some of the highest-rated scholastic players in the state. To see a list of dates and locations, see our web site.
Every 1st Saturday Lehigh Valley Super Quads
396-399, St James Church, 13th & Tilghman St., Allentown, PA 18102. EF: $50. 1/2 point Bye any round. 3 rounds: 8:45-9:45-10:45. All Reg. before 2/17, $10 more rec’d 2/18-3/3, $20 more after 3/3. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd. Rds: 9:45-10:45-11:45p. Entry fees accrue to the amount of the entry fee! NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR
585 each, G/5; 396, St James Church, 11th & Tilghman St., Allentown, PA 18102. EF: $50. 1/2 point Bye any round. 3 rounds: 8:45-9:45-10:45. All Reg. before 2/17, $10 more rec’d 2/18-3/3, $20 more after 3/3. Bye: limit 1, ask by rd.
棋 3/3-9/30-11/30, 2 p.m. to open 2/22/08. Entry fees accrue to the amount of the entry fee! NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR
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Solutions

Chess to Enjoy

Problem I.
1. Rch8! threatens 2. R4h7 mate (1. ... Kf7 2. d5).

Problem II.
1. Bxg7 Kg7 2. b5! threatens both the queen and rook. On 2. ... Rxc4 White has 3. Qb2+! and 4. bx6.

Problem III.
1. Rxf8! Qb2 2. d4! cuts the defense against Rgx7+ and mates. Black resigned after 2. ... Qxe2+ 3. Kh3.

Problem IV.

Problem V.

Problem VI.
1. Be7! Rxf7 2. Bc4! Nxc4 (2. ... Rxe7 3. Rd8+ Bf8 4. Qc3+ mates) 3. Rd8+ Bb8 4. Bxb8 Rxb8 5. Rdx8# wins. If 1. ... Rc8 then 2. Be4! threatens 3. Qxc8+! Bxc8 4. Rd8+ and leads to 2. ... Rab8 3. Qc7! or 2. ... h6 3. Bxg6 and wins. Similarly 1. ... Ra8 2. Bxe4 Rb8 3. Qc7!.

What's The Best Move?

1. B. Jaan Ehlvest (2637) - Cornelius Rubsamem (2273)
A. Indecisive is 1. Rxd7 Qxd7 2. Qxg4+ Rf8. 3. Qxh7+ Kg8.


C. Exploiting the overburdened knight eventually won after 1. Nh5 Nhx5 2. Bxd7 b5 3. Bxb5 Rd8 4. Ba6 regaining the pawn while shattering Black's pawn structure.

2. A. Michael Langer (2315) - Cornelius Rubsamem (2273)

B. The plausible 1. ... Qc6 does not threaten 2. Qxd6, White can hang on with 2. ... Qc5.

C. Okoye is 1. ... c2 2. Ra1 Qc3 but it's still a fight.

2. C. Andrew Karklins (2256) - Michael Langer (2315)
A. Black remains a piece ahead on 1. ... Bd7 2. c3 Bc5.

B. Also adequate is 1. ... Be8.

C. The quietus was 1. ... Ne5! 2. Qf4 (if 2. Qxe7+ Qxe7 3. Nxe7 Nxf3! 4. Nxf3 Nxd2+; or 2. Qg7 Nxf3 3. Rxd4 Nxd4+ wins) 2. ... Qxa3 3. Nxd4 Be3 White resigns.

Endgame Lab – Benko's Bafflers

Problem I.
1. ... Nd1!? 2. Bxd1 Rxd1+ 3. Kxd1 b2 4. Rxc4 b1=Q+ 5. Kxd2 b1=Q+ 6. Rxe7 Qxe7 7. f5+ Kd8 8. f6+ Ke7 9. f7#. The quietus was 1. ... Ng4

2. A. Michael Langer (2315) - Cornelius Rubsamem (2273)
A. The quietus was 1. ... Nd1!? 2. Bxd1 Rxd1+ 3. Kxd1 b2 4. Rxc4 b1=Q+ 5. Kxd2 b1=Q+ 6. Rxe7 Qxe7 7. f5+ Kd8 8. f6+ Ke7 9. f7#. The quietus was 1. ... Ng4

B. The quietus was 1. ... Ng4

C. The quietus was 1. ... Ng4

Problem II.
1. Ke2

A. White can regroup

B. White can regroup

C. White can regroup

Problem III.
1. ... Rg8

A. White can regroup

B. White can regroup

C. White can regroup

Problem IV.
1. ... Qg5+ 2. Kf2 Qxg2+ 3. Kg2 Qxg2 4. f5 Kh8 5. f6 Kxh7 6. f7 Qg5+ 7. Kg2 Qxg2+ 8. Kf1 Qg2 9. f8=Q Qxg8+ 10. Kf2 Kg7 11. c4 Kg8 12. c5 Kf8 13. Ke3

B. White can regroup

C. White can regroup

Problem V.

B. White can regroup

C. White can regroup

Problem VI.
1. ... d5+ 2. Qe3 White can resign, since 3. Qx5 allows 3. ... dxe3=Q mate.

Solitaire Chess – ABCs of Chess

Problem I.
Fork: White loses all hope after 1. ... Bxd4, since 2. Qxd4 meets up with the fork 2. ... Nc2+.

Problem III.
Trapping: With 1. ... c4 White’s bishop has nowhere to go; and if 2. exd5, then 2. ... Qxd3+ is more than good enough.

Problem III.
Removing the guard: The simple exchange 1. ... Qxe2 leaves White with two poor choices: He could take back with the knight, 2. Nxe2, and fall to 2. ... Nf3+; or he could take back with the king, 2. Kxe2, and lose the bishop, 2. ... Nc1+. Some choice.

Problem IV.
Discovery: The check 1. ... Qg5# exposes a discovery to White’s queen. However White replies he must lose material.

Problem V.
Discovery: After 1. ... d3+ 2. Qe3 d2, White can resign, since 3. Qxc5 allows 3. ... dxe3=Q mate.

Problem VI.
Skeuver: The direct attack 1. ... Rf8, backed up by the bishop, skewers queen and rook. The rest is bad for White.

“Solitaire Chess” scores:
Total your score to determine your approximate rating below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Approx. Rating</th>
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<td>2400+</td>
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<td>2200-2399</td>
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<td>1200-1399</td>
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<td>0-05</td>
<td>under 1200</td>
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2-day schedule (U1300 & up): Late entries end Sun 9
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