ICB

ILLINOIS CHESS BULLITEN
MARCH APRIL 08

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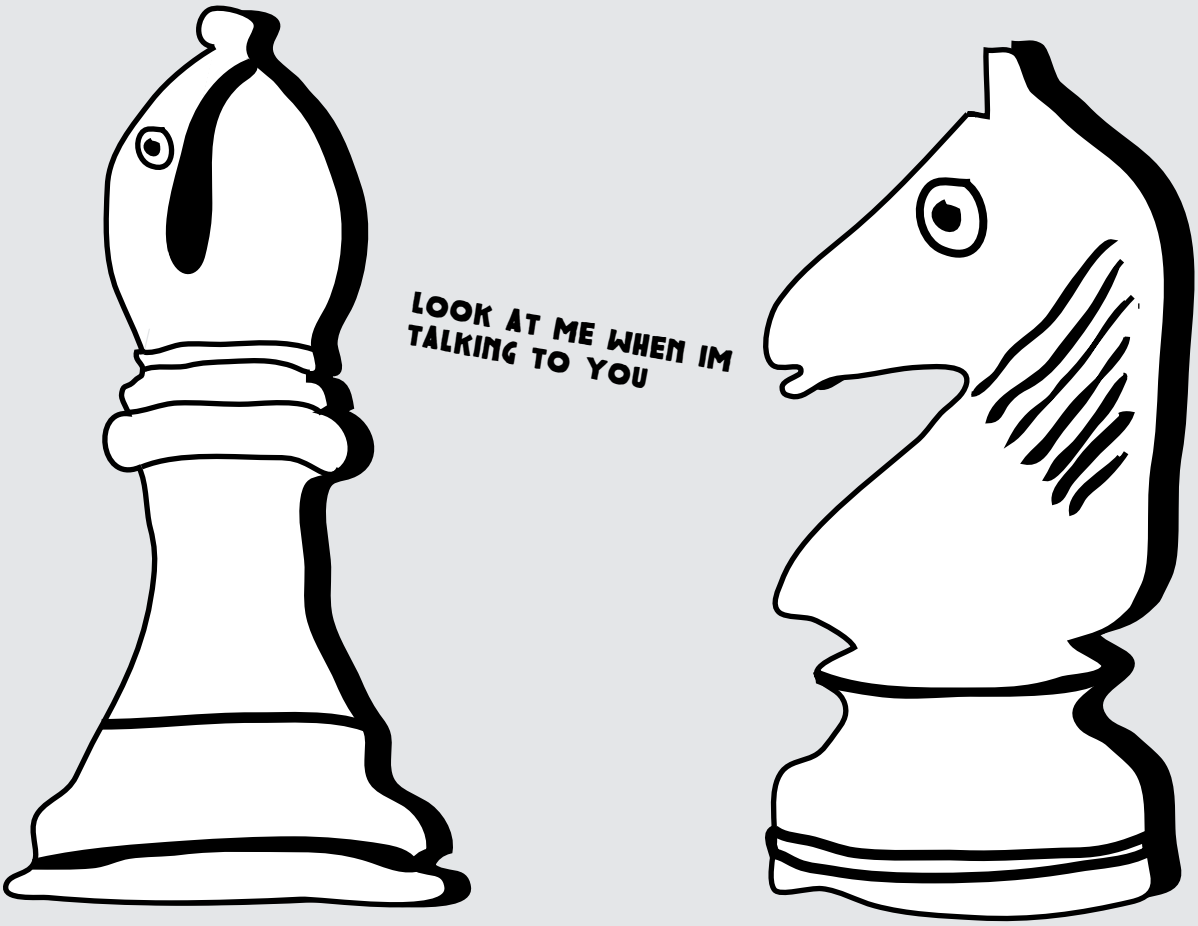


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Pictures Wanted!

Have a digital camera? Take it to your next tournament and send the photos to the ICB! A picture says a thousand words. Preferred format for all digital images is .jpg, but others are accepted.

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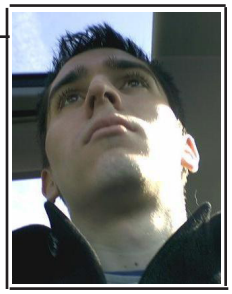
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From the Editor's Desk

e-ICB

http://ilchess.org/e.htm

by Pete Karagianis



A big "Thank you" to scholastic chess! I am very pleased to have a detailed report (from our esteemed president, Dr. Chris Merli) as well as a lovely collection of pictures submitted by Mike Zacate and Betsy Dynako, all from the IHSA State team tournament. I think you'll agree from the two panaroma shots of the room contained herein, it's nice to see so many young players partaking in the game we all enjoy so much. It certainly gives me great hope for the future of the sport (wow, do I sound old?) Congratulations to Lincolnshire for winning the IHSA State Team Chess Championship, and congratulations to all the participants for a well-fought (and well-attended!) event.

Also, I am glad to see the overall number of games in the magazine is going up. One of the largest complaints I received regarding my tenure as ICB editor was that we needed a larger volume of games per issue. In this bi-monthly edition, you will find three fully annotated (including a 130-mover) games from IM Angelo Young, several selected scores from the ICCA Individual Championships, three yellowed scoresheets from the long-lost files of Life Master Len Weber, a continued investigation into playing 1. d4 with aggression, by Henry Getz, and some random nonsensical analysis by yours truly. I do hope you all enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together (I particularly like the cover, for some reason...) and I look forward to seeing more of your contributions next time! It does seem that along with the increased games content, I have also been receiving a larger volume of submissions, but I can never have enough! So please, take that as a call to action, get in front of your computer, and bang out some material, analysis, or just plain fun.

Ricardo Szmetan Wins December Tournament

-David Long

On December 8, the Springfield Chess Club organized what is almost certainly the last tournament to be held at the Signature Inn. 30 chess players plus one houseman participated, continuing the very encouraging upward trend in participation! Ricardo Szmetan, of Champaign, won all four of his games and took first place in the tournament. Two players tied for second place and first in Class A-B. They were Matt Cremeens, of Springfield, and Kevin Cao, of Chesterfield, Mo., each with 3 points.

Turnout in the A-B class was so exceptional that we had enough revenue to create a second place prize in that division, the first time since 2001 that that has happened here. This prize ended up being split eight ways, between Brian Thomas, of Decatur; Derek Sparks, of Middletown; Bruce Michel, of Stonington; Troy Krimmiger, of Collinsville; Dennis Bourgerie, of Normal; William Tong, of St. Louis; and Tobias Simpson and Robert Naiman, both of Champaign. Each scored 2½ points.

2½ points was enough for half of the Class C-D prize. William Kerns, of Franklin, and Cameron Heino, of Champaign, divided it between them. Shelly Rode, of St. Louis, took the Class E prize with 2 points, and Michael Hines, of Champaign, scored 1½ points and won the unrated prize.

For the second straight tournament, the prize fund was raised from 75% of advertised (the minimum required by turnout) to 90%, and after including the second A-B prize and rounding up the ones that were shared, the total payout was actually above the $300 advertised, the first time in over six years that we have been able to do that!
Special thanks to Tobias Simpson, who brought a contingent of eight (including himself) from the Champaign-Urbana area. We hope they, and everyone else who came in from out of town, made it home safely in the ice and sleet that night!

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President's Podium



ICA President
Chris Merli

Reports on the 2008 IHSA Championships

The 2008 IHSA State High School Chess Championships were held at the Peoria Civic Center on February 8 and 9. Over 1200 players and coaches representing 118 teams met in the newly opened ballroom at the Civic Center. This is an excellent site for this event. The area is large and completely carpeted and supplies plenty of skittles areas for the players between rounds. Coaches enjoyed a great view of the city from the large windows in the coach's room. Teams meet in a 8 player match according to rating with the value for a win weighted according to the board. A team winning more than half of the 68 points wins the match.

Each year the teams are arranged according the the reccomendations of the seeding committee that meets two weeks before the state tournament. This year the seeding committee had selected the powerful Niles North team from Skokie as the top seed. This team is led by two experts Ilan Meerovich and Ben Rothchild. However lurking below were several teams looking to knock off Niles.

The first round went as expected for the top teams but trouble started in the second round when number 8 seed Chicago Saint Patrick was upset by Glenbard West from Glen Ellyn. In round three the upsets continued as 4th seeded Barrington was dropped by Cary Grove. Typically the real battles begin in round 4 as the top teams begin to meet. With better than 6 hours of chess behind them the top teams were now facing two hours of all out war in the fading light of evening. On first board Niles North found themselves in trouble against Normal University High School. In the seeding meeting I had predicted that Normal would upset one of the top teams because of their depth but in this match the top two boards from Normal were the big story. Senior Eric Meier and Junior Sean Comerford out dueled the number 1 and 2 from Niles to lead the team to a decisive 48.5 - 19.5 win. This stunning upset threw the entire tournament wide open. Meanwhile 3rd seed Lane Tech from Chicago ran into a battle hardened New Trier from Winnetka. This team plays in the always tough North Surburban League that placed 6 of its teams in the top 20. New Trier lost the top two boards but swept the bottom 6 for a 45 - 23 win. 6th seed Whitney Young from Chicago was the next victim of the Cary Grove team when Cary nailed down a 43-25 win. Finally on board two a pair of 9 time state champions, University High School in Urbana and Evanston Township were each looking to become the first team to ever win 10 state titles. This time University High was the winner eleminating Evanston from the perfect score group. Now only 5 teams remained with perfect scores. Two of them were from the downstate East Central Illinois Chess League, University High School Normal and University High School Urbana. The combined enrollment in these two schools is less than a 900. By comparison the next smallest undefeated scholl Cary Grove has over 1900 students.

In round 5 University High Urbana faced Cary and Lincolnshire Stevenson played New Trier while Normal played down into the next score group against Chicago Lane. Cary Grove, which has been getting coaching from GM Yuri Schulman looked to be in trouble against second seed University High Urbana. Coach Peter Spirzziri even commented to me that it looked like it was all over. But someone forgot to tell the Cary Grove team and they battled back in several games to scrape out a narrow 36-32 win. Meanwhile Liconshire stopped New Trier and Lane ended Normal's perfect run. Only two teams remained in the undefeated ranks going into round 6. The upset minded Cary team which had already faced teams 4, 6, 2 now faced team 5. However the tough road had finally wore them down and they were dominated 58-10 by Lincolnshire. Meanwhile the chase group was warming up for a chance to drag Linclonshire back to the pack. University High Urbana, perhaps deflated by the round 5 loss was upset by Hindsdale Central and ended their title hopes. Now the chase group had to hope one of their members could take down the last perfect score. Because of the tiebreaker situation each team had to hope they could defeat Licolnshire and get the extra tiebreakers. Barrington was selected for the task due to color alternation. Linconshire went into the match knowing that a win or tie would make them the clear state champions. On board 1 Zach Kasiurack got Barrignton off to a good start with a win but his was the only win for Barrignton as Licolnshire won 52.5-15.5.

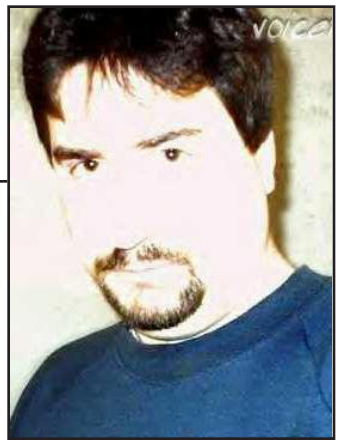
The final standings had Licoclnshire as the new State Champions. Whitney Young recovered from their 4th round loss to finish in second and New trier moved up from 10th seed to take thrid place. The Illinois Chess Coaches Association presented Trophies to the remaining 6-1 teams Niles North, Mudelein Carmel and Chicago St. Patrick. In addition the ICCA also presented awards to schools by enrollment. The 6A award went to Barrington High school. Glenbrook South took home the top 5A prize. In 4A Glenbard West caught up with the weary Cary which had faced 5 of the top 6 seeded teams. Among the 3A schools Illinois Match and Science Acadamy took first place. Meanwhile small schools Normal University (2A) and Urbana Univesity (1A) took home the top honrs in their classes.

A Bloody Nose

A BLOODY NOSE
FROM GROUND ZERO TO
MASTER

A story of a chess journey from absolute beginner at chess to National Master. Second in a series.

By NM Len J. Weber


NM Len J. Weber

The time: About 7PM.

Date: January 11th, 1983.

Location: Thornridge High School, Dolton, Illinois.

Event: Non-conference match between Oak Forest High School, and Thornridge High School.

No one at Thornridge remembered the last time we'd had a winning season in chess. I'd been told last year we were something like, 4-8, if my memory serves me. Mike Zacate was the Secretary Statistician of SICA back then, and if I know anything about him, he probably still has all the records. Am I right, Mike?

Oak Forest was not known to be a powerhouse in chess. The SICA teams spoken of in awe inspiring tones were first and foremost Lincoln-Way, which was said to have 70 players on their roster. Bradley-Bourbonnais, probaby was second, and Stagg was said to be good. In our division, the teams to beat were supposedly TF North and Thornwood (under the epic coach George Beaver.)

But we were optimistic and confident. We had Paul Moore (1460~) on board 1. Jack Simunic (1350~) on 2nd. Matt Bolton (1450~) on 3rd. My nemesis Bill Herman (unr) on 4th. And I was on 5th. My friend "Tim" was on 8th. We had practiced and studied over the holiday break, anticipating the start of the season.

Oak Forest at Thornridge
5th Board
January 11th 2003

Bill Helmold – L. Weber

1. Nf3 Nf6

What's this? I'd seen it a couple times, and not knowing what to do, I'd just copy him. Studying openings was more fun at the beginner level because we only felt we needed to learn something a couple moves deep! Only the top boards seemed to be really into them. Paul Moore, on board one, was always talking about "theory", and we knew he studied "ECO", and had "Informant", which was some mysterious Eastern bloc chess books in which were contained the latest and most current brilliant (usually Soviet) chess analysis. Paul took notation in algebraic (ooooh), and took a long time making his moves, studying the board intently. Us weaker guys moved fairly quickly by comparison.

I should mention that THIS was my first "real" tournament game. It was not USCF rated, but it was the first game played against a stranger, as part of some larger competition. I was extremely nervous.

2. Nc3 e6

Ok, I wasn't going to copy him for long. By now I had a pretty good idea about developing your pieces and castling, so I was going to do that as quickly as possible.

3. d3 d5
4. Bg5 h6

I guess I was still in that mindset of trying to attack things, rather than just develop with …Be7

5. Bf4 Be7
6. Nb5 Na6

I'd learned enough about forks and cheap stuff by now that something that would have worked on me a couple months earlier, like allowing Nxc7+, would not happen now.

7. Ne5 Bd7

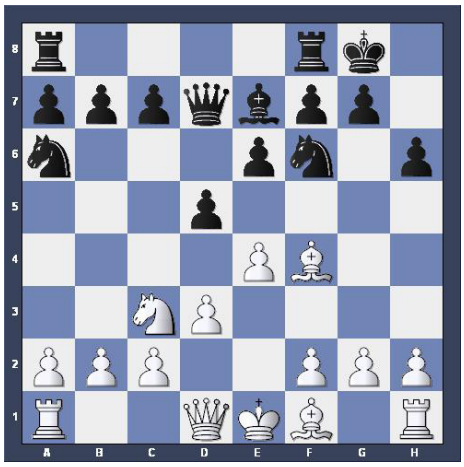
Though he is making forward aggressive moves, White has moved the knights twice each now, against which I have developed a new piece. He also has no center presence, and it not ready to castle, while Black is. White is already behind in development by about 2 moves. Can Black capitalize on this?

8. Nxd7 Qxd7

Now Black has 4 pieces developed, is ready to castle either way, has a presence in the center, compared with two White pieces developed

and still a move or two to castle. Further, Black stands to gain a further developing move because White must either move or defend his Nb5. Interesting, my recollection of this game is not so clearcut, I remember "the material was even" and that was about all I would have thought about assessing the position back then.

9. Nc3 O-O
10. e4 ...



Ok, crucial moment. With a heavy development lead, Black should find a way to continue to develop, avoid trades, break the game open, ideally before White castles, and use the heavier piece availability to create threats, cause weaknesses, try to find a way to convert the temporary time advantage to something concrete and permanent. (For instance a grievous positional weakness or a win of material.) Let's see how Black handles this.

10. ... dxe4

Good.

11. dxe4 Qxd1+

NO!!!! Why go through all that trouble just to let him trade off the offending developed pieces! Because you "hope" he'll take back with the knight and you'll win e4? THINK. How about, instead, 11. ... Qc6. Then if, say, 12. Bb5 Qb6 and White must be very careful not to lose material. Black is threatening to further develop with ...Rd8, or to win a pawn with ...Nxe4.

12. Rxd1 ...

Now White is basically out of danger.

12. ... Rad8
13. Be2 Bb4

White's seemingly tame 13th move is probably actually kind of smart. If he goes for the pawn with 13. Bxa6 bxa6 14. Bxc7, he will have issues of his own after 14. ... Rc8 and Black hitting the c3 Knight, trying to double White's pawns on the now open c file.

14. O-O ...

Now both guys have pieces attacking each other and possible pawns hanging. Castling is not so critical anymore because the Queens are off. Maybe White should just have played f3 to protect e4.

14. ... Bxc3
15. bxc3 Nxe4

A win of a pawn, threatening Nxc3, but there's still a lot of pawns flying around loose for both sides.

16. Rd3 Rxd3
17. Bxd3 Nxc3

Great, up 2 pawns, I didn't understand at the time that those Bishops he has can really wreak havoc against 2 Knights on an open board.

18. Ra1 c6
19. Bxa6 bxa6

I guess HE didn't understand what he should do with those Bishops, either!

20. Be3 Rd8
21. a3 Na2

Hey, I was excited, hoping he'd go for Rxa2 and I back rank him.

22. g3! Nc3

Wow, that was productive.

23. Bxa7 g6?

I'd sure like to know how he was going to answer ...Rd2!

24. Bb6 Rd1+?

ARGH, Rd2 was still good.

25. Rxd1 Nxd1
26. h4? ...

Better was Bd4! Because then the Knight is trapped on d1, and to avoid White's King just walking over and winning it, Black would have to jettison a pawn with ...c5 in order to get the Bishop to release it's grip.

26. ... f5?

Still allows Bd4

27. Kg2? h5?
28. Bd8? e5

Is someone going to try and get their King into the center any time soon?

29. Kf3 Kf7
30. Bg5 e4+
31. Ke2 Nc3+
32. Ke3 Nd5+
33. Ke2? ...

Kd4! Getting to c5 immediately! Now the White K is trapped back there. Black should now get his King to the Queenside. Instead of taking advantage of the brilliantly placed Knight, Black instead feels a trade would be good, since he's up

a pawn, right?

33. ... Nf6?
34. Ke3 Ng4+
35. Ke2 Ke6
36. f3 exf3
37. Kxf3 Ke5
38. c3 Nf6
39. a4 Nh7?

So desperate for that trade, when in fact it is not necessary.

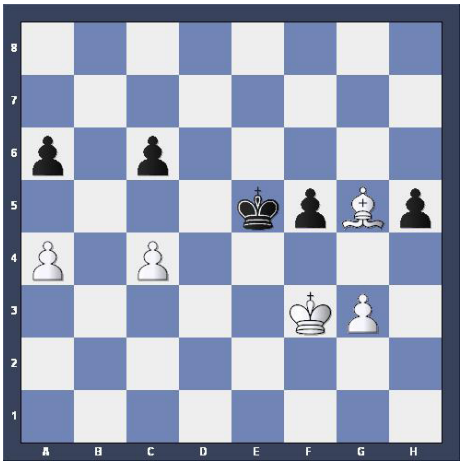
40. Bf4+ Kf6?

Since all Black's pawns are on light squares, there's no need to feel defensive about them, Kd6 is better. I bet my nerves were racing at this point.

41. c4 g5
42. hxg5 Nxg5
43. Kg2 Ke6??????

And there it is. As soon as I made the move, I realized what I had done. I'm sure I visibly sank into my chair.

44. Bxg5 Ke5



But I must play on for my team. I felt I was dead lost and played like it. Truth is, White must be careful here, Black's King is better and none of Black's pawns are targets. The flipside is that White's pawns are targets only as long as they are on light squares.

45. Kf3!? ...

He's already making potential mistakes. Be3 would have locked out the Black King.

45. ... Kd4
46. Kf4 Kxc4
47. Kxf5 Kb3?
48. Ke5? c5

As long as he was going to do that instead of going after the h5 pawn and just queening... better would have been 47. ... Kb4 48. Ke5 Kxa4 49. Kd6 Kb5 and this is not so simple any more...

49. Kd5 c4
50. a5 c3
51. Kc5 c2
52. Kb6 Ka4
53. Kxa6
1-0

Our team won the match, despite my losing, and so it was made better somehow. But I was really let down, not so much because I lost, but because of HOW I lost. Back then, as now, I have always had the attitude that losing was, well, as "okay" as it could be if the guy just flat out beats you, you gave it your best, and he just did it better. But when you just GIVE the game away, and the opponent's play required nothing better than the basics to win, well, that's not competitive. I always felt that not only dishonored yourself, but also dishonored your opponent, to whom you did not give your very best effort. But it was also a disappointment to me, because to throw away a game like that was irresponsible. Fortunately the team won, and so my failure did not cause too much damage.

Yes, that was a lot of pressure for a beginner to put on himself in his first tournament game. But remember, I didn't start when I was 5 years old. I was 16 when this game was played. I was excited to be on this team, and I believed in my teammates. Over the years I would have to say that one of the ways you can tell who is going to advance or at least advance more quickly, is by their attitudes. Happy go lucky people play happy go lucky chess. And that's fine. Many of them play very well. But it's those serious ones you have to keep your eye on. They might not be good right now, but as a rule, time invested into chess DOES show results. Give them a year or two. See what happens.

It was during this time period that the upper boards talked of "H-F". Oh, are you going to "H-F?" Eventually, they started inviting us lower boards to go with them. "H-F" was the legendary Homewood-Flossmoor Chess Club. It was there that our top boards bantered with their conference rivals. There was Jeff Olejnik, board 1 of TF North. Joaquim Godfrey, board 1 of Thornwood. I learned with amazement that there were even stronger high school aged players at H-F, as well as many adult masters.

On one of my first visits, driven along with others by Paul, our 1st board, I picked up this club newsletter. It was called "The Open File", edited by Newton Berry. I still have this newsletter, in my hand, as I write this article. Here is the headline article (reprinted from the Vol.5, No.2, Sept.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 1982 Open File).

TENNANT NEW CLUB CHAMPION

Dr. Steven Tennant is the 1982 champion of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District Chess Club. Scoring 8-2 against a tough field that included the club's defending

titleholder William Harris, Tennant grabbed an early lead and easily outdistanced everyone. Steve lost only once in the 10-game double round robin – to Bob Bain, who also nicked him for a draw. Harris accounted for the other draw.

Big surprise of the invitational was Walter Brown, who finished strong at 6-4 for at least half of second place. With his second game against Peter Bereolos still to be decided, Harris could match Brown's mark with a victory.

Bain finished at 4.5-5.5, Bill Colias at 3-7, and Bereolos at 2.5-6.5 with one game still to make up.

It was at this club that we first got to see the dynamic duo from Indiana, Billy Colias and Peter Bereolos, both about my age, but both over 2100, in person for the first time. The Illinois wonder making appearances was Al Chow, a bit older than them, but streaking like a meteor through the Illinois chess scene, well over 2200. The Illinois answer to Colias and Bereolos was Adam Lief, we heard the name spoken of, but he wasn't from the south parts of the Chicago area, and we never saw him at the club.

The newsletter also mentioned various smaller events at the club, including a ladder tournament won by Brent Chromczak (whose name I knew of as a Thornridge alumni), and with one of our top boards, Jack Simunic, tying for second.

The reason this little history lesson is significant is because I looked at these guys like you newer folks may look at masters and experts right now. The point of it is because later on I would become rivals to some of these guys, like Steve Tennant, with whom I tussled for supremacy at the heir to the H-F club, Orland Park Chess Club, for several years. Unfortunately I could not quite overtake Steve! I got to within 4 rating points at the height of the struggles but couldn't get past him, and could not win the club championship ahead of him. Who would have thought that in 1983?

My second tournament game was the very next week, against Al Crutcher of Shepard High School. I played Board 4, because Paul, our Board 1 was absent. Unfortunately (or fortunately!) this game score is illegible. I was unable to reproduce the game, but the point is I lost and lost badly. My confidence was getting a little shaken. Unfortunately, our team lost this match, if I recall correctly. After my second straight debacle, some of the players on boards below me were starting to grow restless, and they began to entertain thoughts of challenging me for my 5th Board. None developed at this time, so I engaged my friend Tim in a few training games.

One thing I learned early on is that a regular chess rival, against whom you could play matches, is invaluable for improvement. My records show I won this series 4.5-1.5. Then a game against Alan Pekny, the hungry Freshman on the board just below me, who was eyeing my place on the team…

Thornridge H.H. Casual game
Alan Pekny (962) – L. Weber
January 24th 1983

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6

I had now solved my inability to do anything useful in those symmetrical double king pawn all knights out high school games by playing the Sicilian against e4 every game. What little I had learned about it came from a book at the library, the previously mentioned Fischer-Spassky match book. Although I understood little of what was involved in the analysis, it still contained some useful information I could use against my under 1000 rated opponents…

3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6

The Najdorf. I only understood in those days that …a6 was useful in stopping a lot of the silliness that weak players (like myself) would try with Bishop checks and attempted Knight forks on b5.

6. Bg5 e6
7. f4 Be7
8. Qf3 Qc7
9. O-O-O Nbd7
10. g4 b5

Interestingly this is still all book. I'm a little surprised that either of us back then would have known that much.

11. Bxf6 Nxf6
12. g5 Nd7
13. f5 …

White continues to play aggressively, which, I found even then, was a drawback of the Sicilians. Even guys who knew relatively little could often summon strong attacks against it. But I would have to conclude that Mr. Penky (962) had been doing some homework. Maybe he would again fall into some kind of fork, as was his reputation!

13. … Ne5

As many of you Najdorf buffs probably know, Black taking that g5 pawn with check is not always a good idea. Basically all that does is leave another line open for White's superior development to exploit, and it also leaves a piece en prise

(the B on g5) for White to attack a move or so later. While I'm sure I didn't know the intracacies of this at the time, I must have had enough instinct to believe it was too dangerous.

Qf4? ...

This is a bad place for the Queen, it invites things like the text. Better Qh3 or Qh5.

14. ... d5?!

The ?! because it threatens to win the Q, but if White had seen the threat and been able to find a useful place to put the Q, the helping open the center when that was the last safe place for Black's King to hide was ill-advised.

15. exd5??? Nd3+
0-1

Two days later, our first board Paul gave the lower boards a simul.

Simultaneous Display
Thornridge High School
January 26th 1983

Paul Moore (1465) – L. Weber

1. e4 e5 (?)

I remember thinking that Paul, the great student of all these Russian chess books, would know the Sicilian quite deeply. So what do I do? I play an opening that I know even less about, the Philidor. Does that make sense? Folks, if you are studying something and it's getting you relatively good games, don't go away from that out of fear your opponent knows more, and instead go into something you know even less about. Go into your strength, even if it is less strength than your opponent. The worst thing that can happen is you'll learn even MORE about what you're studying. My first chance against our Board 1, and I play something totally alien.

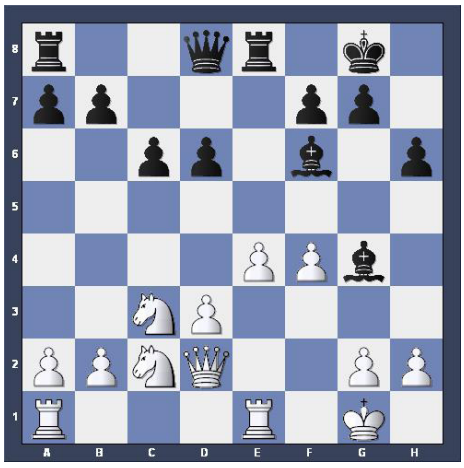
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 exd4??

This gets the blunder mark because the whole POINT of the Philidor is to retain a pawn on e5. This shows how little I knew about it, giving up the center on a whim.

4. Nxd4 Nd7
5. Nc3 Be7
6. Bd3 ...

I didn't realize it at the time, but even our resident demigod was only an "average" player back then. Of course, the Bishop has little scope here.

6. ... Ngf6
7. O-O O-O
8. Bg5 Re8
9. Re1 Ne5?
10. f4 Nxd3
11. cxd3 Bg4
12. Qd2 h6
13. Bxf6 Bxf6
14. Nc2 c6



This is turning out to be a decent game. White has central control, but Black has 2 Bishops. Black must be careful not to get the g4 Bishop hemmed in, but any obvious attempt to win it (such as f5, followed by h3 then g4) would require a gross weakening of the Kingside. ...c6 of course stopped White's attempt to occupy d5.

15. h3 Bh5

I'm thinking it should have gone back to d7. A thing we all learn early is that Bishops to not have to be up close and personal to be effective, like a Knight does.

16. g4 ...

Very aggressive. Probably not sound because White will need to take a number of moves to get pieces over to the Kingside to support the attack and fill all those holes. Black's ability to use Bishops (and Queen) to attack weak points takes far fewer moves.

16. ... Bh4?

Apparently what I have NOT learned by this point is the relative value of pieces verse Rooks. White has some large holes, especially on dark squares at the moment. The idea of giving up BOTH those Bishops for that single Rook, even with the ruining of White's Pawns... well, I wouldn't do that today.

17. gxh5 Bxe1
18. Rxe1 d5

I think maybe Black should play Qh4 and try to pick up a pawn or two.

19. e5 Qh4
20. Kh2 Qxh5
21. Qg2 Qf5
22. Qf3 Re6??
23. Re2? Rae8

Of course, Nd4 would be nice.

24. Nd4 Rxe5?
25. fxe5? Qxf3
26. Nxf3 f6

27. exf6 Rxe2
28. Nxe2
1-0

What I remember coming away from this game was that while I was thumped pretty good, that Paul didn't seem so invincible. I expected his much vaunted opening expertise to crush me, or his heralded attacking prowess. Instead it was just like any other opponent up to that point. He was human.

We were all excited to be going to Fred Gruenberg's Put The Fun Back Into Chess on January 29th, of 1983, held at the Morgan Park Church, if my memory serves. We already discussed my first ever rated game in the article "A Quarter Century of Chess" in the Nov-Dec 2007 ICB. In round one I lost to Brett Howe (1195). In round two of that event, in my second rated game, I played Larry Lewis (unr).

L. Weber (unr) – Larry Lewis (unr)
Put The Fun Back Into Chess
Round 2, table 91

If my recollection is correct, neither of us had a clock, so we had to start the game without one. I think a TD may have brought one over to us later.

1. e4 d5
2. exd5 Qxd5
3. Nc3 Qd6
4. Bc4 Bf5
5. Nf3 Nf6
6. O-O e6
7. d4 Nc6
8. Re1 Be7
9. h3 O-O
10. Be3 Nb4
11. Bd3? ...

I remember that I was down from losing in round 1, and still having never actually won a real tournament game of any kind, I was playing a bit stiffly. Of course Bb3 is much better.

11. ... Bxd3
12. cxd3 c6
13. Ne4 Qc7

Of course he doesn't want to play Nxe4 dxe4 and un-double my pawns.

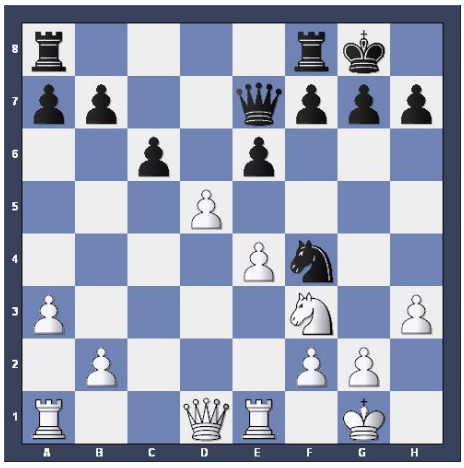
14. a3 Nbd5
15. Bg5 ...

I could have just left it on e3, because if he takes it, fxe3 and instead of isolated pawns on an open file, I'd have some protection.

15. ... Nxe4?

He should just get down to it and start doubling Rooks on the d file and go for those weak pawns.

16. Bxe7 Qxe7
17. dxe4 Nf4
18. d5? ...



Not really sure what the pretty N on f4 was supposed to do. White's attempt with d5 to eliminate that potentially weak pawn using the pin on the e file, while noble, was premature, as demonstrated by Black's intermezzo.

18. ... Rad8

19. Qd2 e5
20. Rad1 f6?

Maybe … Rd6 was better here, doubling on the d file, and preventing the dangerous funny business to follow.

21. d6 Qe6
22. Qb4 b6
23. Re3? ...

Where is it going? Simply Qa4 looks difficult to answer.

23. ... f5
24. Ng4? ...

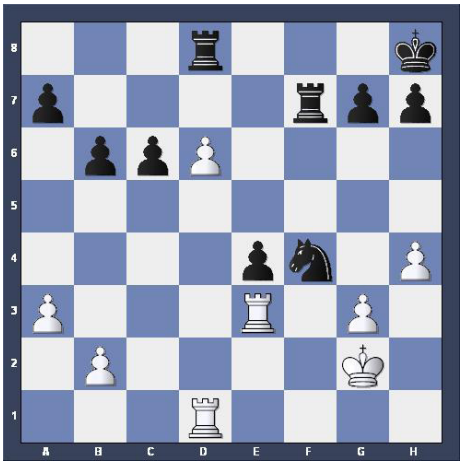
Completely unnecessary. If White was hoping for something on the a2-g8 diagonal, it won't happen because there's a Rook and a Queen protecting f7. Now this is just playing into Black's hands for Kingside play.

24. ... Qg6
25. h4? Qh5?

Boys and girls, you have to slow down and see what is going on. Today I tell my students, just stop and look at the board for a moment. You'll be amazed at what you can find. While this move LOOKS good, seeming to win the h pawn by attacking the Rook on d1, it is actually refuted by the Queen check on b3. Better was 25. … h6. Where is the Knight going to go? If it moves, there's mate on g2. If White plays 26 g3, then … hxg5 and if 27. gxf4 gxf4+ and the Rook falls.

26. Qb3+ Kh8
27. Nf3 Qg4
28. g3 Nh3+
29. Kg2 fxe4
30. Nxe5 Rxf2+
31. Kh1 Qf5
32. Nf7+ Qxf7
33. Qxf7 Rxf7

34. Kg2 Nf4+?



All very interesting, but Black could have tried to save the N with …Nf2. Then if Rf1, he takes the d6 pawn and has a better ending. Frankly I admit I'm a little amazed that when I played Nf7+ I saw the N on h3 was trapped after the trades. I know this was true because there is a little (!) after Nf7+ in my writing on the original scoresheet. Interesting.

35. gxf4 Rxf4
36. Kg3

and the scoresheet becomes illegible, but somehow we both managed not to lose and the game shows drawn on move 64.
½-½

Finally, a non-loss! I wasn't thrilled about it though, a draw to me back then meant about the same as a tie in a football game. I didn't want a draw, I wanted to win!

After a third round loss against Ubaldo Vazquez, I was depressed and very tired. That game, my opponent's father set up the clock. I remember when it was ticking, it seemed to be ticking MUCH faster when it was my move than when it was his. I mean it was so noticeable, it was not my imagination. Real nice. the games lasted 52 moves, and ended up in an endgame with multiple mistakes made by both sides, but I suppose it is true that the winner is always the one who blunders second to last.

There was still one more round to go, but Paul, our ride, thankfully said he was withdrawing, and thus some of us other guys had to do so as well, unless we wanted to walk home!

Paul had a mediocre result, although our boards 2 (Jack) and 3 (Matt), did pretty well. Jack went one win and 3 draws against 1500 rated opposition, which was certain to help out his 1360 rating. It was shortly after this tournament that it was agreed that Jack would be playing 1st Board, and Paul would play board 2.

I later learned that based on my opponents' performances, my first provisional USCF rating would be about 760.

So five tournament games and only a draw with another unrated to show for it! I suspect my teammates had their doubts about where I should be on the team board order, but in casual play at the school, none of the players below me could win many games from me. It seemed so easy for my friend Tim, he was 2-0 on 8th Board, having won both games in less than 7 moves! Must be nice! But he had no illusions about his opposition, because he almost never got a game from me any more.

In these early losses, I recall coming to some conclusions about tournament play, and my own ability to play it.

*I realized the mistakes were often in my head, the products of impatience (moving too fast), nerves or adrenaline (a player must ride beyond the fight or flight reaction and think calmly, especially under pressure), or fatigue. I didn't believe in any of the games the opponents were overwhelming in knowledge or ability.

*I enjoyed chess because it was a game in which both sides started out equally. Anything that happened after that, your result could only be blamed on yourself.

*That I was improving. Even though I was still waiting to win a tournament game, I felt the players I played at the club who were far above me were becoming ever so imperceptably human. And that players I considered equals seemed to be becoming less so. I never actually could feel like I was improving, but I gauged it by the fact that others I played regularly seemed to be getting worse, and I felt that was not likely, so I concluded I was improving.

*I had learned that ratings were not absolute. In fact, other than as a rough batting average, they meant very little at our levels.

I had played in an officially rated tournament, overcome a challenge on a board above me, and increased my confidence against our school's best player. Things, at long last, were looking up.

At this time I was probably spending several hours a day playing chess, and looking at what few books I had. I had gone into my first battles and gotten my bloody noses.

Next time: My first tournament victory!

Instructional GAMES: analysis with IM Angelo Young



photo by Betsy Dynako

[Event "ILLINOIS STATE"]
[White "FM Karklins, A.."]
[Black "IM Young, A.."]
[Result "0-1"]
[ECO "B27"]
[EventDate "2007.09.05"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6

Sicilian accelerated Dragon, one of my early favorites since my child-hood days. It could transpose to a dangerous Sicilian Dragon main line.

3. d4 cxd4 4. Qxd4 Nf6

(4... f6 5. Be3 Nh6 6. h3 Nc6 7. Qd2 Nf7 8. Nc3 Bg7 9. Bc4 O-O {Is also worth a try.})

5. e5 Nc6 6. Qa4 Nd5 7. Qb3 Nc7 8. Bc4 Ne6 9. Bxe6 dxe6 10. Bf4 Bg7 11. Nbd2

{Now I was concerned about Qe3-h4-h5-Bh6 if I castle. So the endgame probably is my best chance.}

11... Qd5 12. h4 h6 !

[Diagram]
A prophylactic move!



13. O-O-O Qxb3

Not waiting for c4 Qa5 Rhe1 with good play for white.

14. Nxb3 b6 ! 15. c3

Up to this point i don't know where white plans to head- queenside , center or kingside. So I just focus on utilizing my pieces normally.

15... Bb7 16. Rhe1 Rc8 17. Kb1 Nb8!

{One of my best moves of the game threatening Bxf3 destroying white's kingside pawn structure.}

18. Re3 Nd7
{Renewing my threat Bxf3.}

19. Ne1 g5! 20. Bh2 gxh4 21. Rd4 f6 22. exf6

(22. Rg4 Kf7 23. f4 Nc5 24. Nd4 Be4+ 25. Ka1 Rhd8 26. Rxh4)

22... Bxf6 23. Ra4 Rg8!

{My kingside attack is more important than protecting my pawns.}

24. Rxa7 Bxg2 25. Rxe6 Bh3! 26. Re3 Bf5+ 27. Kc1 Bg5

28. f4

{This makes the white bishop bad.}

28... Bf6 29. Kd2 Nc5 30. Nxc5 bxc5 31. b3 h3

{The key move to an easy win Now Bh4 -Bxe1- is in the coffing.}

32. Ra4 Bh4 33. Rc4 Rd8+ 34. Kc1 Bxe1 35. Rxe1 Rg2

{White resigns here,The rest might be ...
36. Rxc5 Rc2+ 37. Kb1 Re2+ 38. Kc1 Rxe1+ 39. Kb2 Re2+ 40. Ka3 Ra8+ 41. Kb4 Rxh2 42. Rxf5 Rhxa2
0-1

[Event "ILLINOIS STATE"]
[White "IM Young, A.."]
[Black "Moreno, J.."]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "E67"]
[EventDate "2007.09.05"]

1. d4

{We were both leading the tourna-ment at this point and my oppo-nent just dislodged the only GM in the field GM Mitkov. So I decided on a more prudent approach in the game}

1... Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3

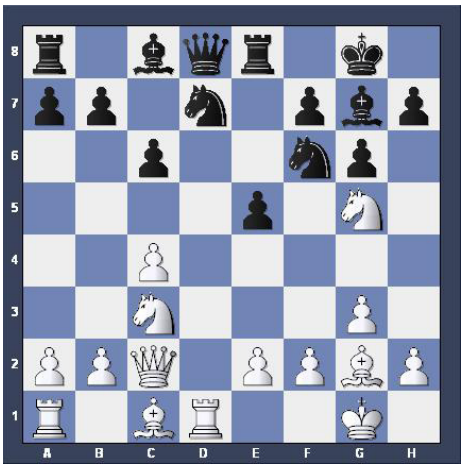
{g3 system is one my main weapon against the King's Indian Defense, Quiet and solid with a lot of venom inside.}

3... Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. O-O d6 6.

c4 c6 7. Nc3 Nbd7

(7... Qa5 8. e4 Qh5 9. Ng5 h6 10. Qxh5 Nxh5 11. Nf3 {IM Young - GM Zapata Miami FL. 2005 1/2-1/2})

8. Qc2 e5 9. Rd1 Re8 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. Ng5!



{Diagram}
Aiming Nge4- Nd6 making its hard for Black to complete his development.

11... Qc7 12. b3

{with ideas like Ba3 - Bd6 .}

12...Bf8 13. Qd2 ?!

{Equal would be: (13. Bb2 h6 14. Nge4 Nxe4 15. Nxe4 f5 16. Rxd7 Bxd7 17. Nf6+ Kf7 18. Nxe8 Rxe8)

13... Be7

{If} (13... h6 14. Nge4 Nxe4 15. Nxe4 f5 16. Qxd7 Bxd7 17. Rxd7 Qb6 (17... Qd8 18. Rxd8 Raxd8 19. Nc3 Bb4 20. Na4 Rd1+ 21. Bf1 e4 22. Bb2) 18. Nf6+ Kh8 19. Rh7# {The motive behind Qd2.}

14. Bb2 Nc5 15. h3

{Preventing Ng4}

15... a5 16. Rac1 a4 17. b4 a3

18. Ba1 Ne6 19. Nxe6

{Much better was.} (19. Nd5! Nxd5 20. Nxe6 fxe6 (20... Bxe6 21. cxd5) 21. cxd5 exd5 22. Qxd5+ cxd5 23. Bxd5+)

19... Bxe6 20. Nd5!

{Diagram}



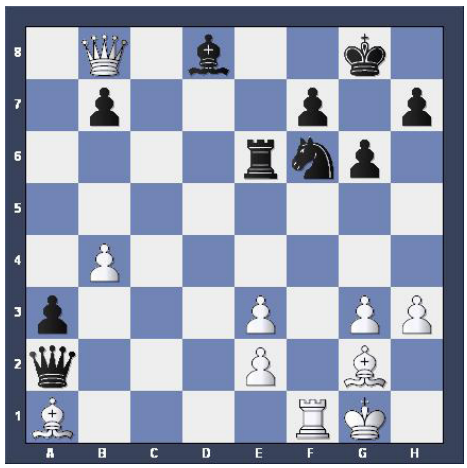
20... cxd5 21. cxd5 Qb6 22. dxe6 Qxe6 23. Qc3

(23. Bxb7 Rab8 24. Bc6 Bxb4 25. Qg5 Re7 26. e3 {white slightly better.})

23... e4 24. Qc7 e3 25. fxe3

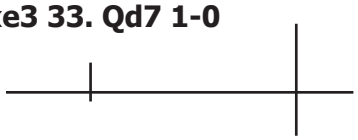
{At first I thought I made a blunder here.}

25... Rac8 26. Qe5 Rxc1 27. Rxc1 Qxa2 28. Rf1 Bd8 29. Qf4 Re6 30. Qb8



Now there are too many threats for black to answer.

30. ...Qd2 31. Bd4 Ne8 32. Qxd8 Rxe3 33. Qd7 1-0



[Event "MCA FIDE"]
[White "IM Young, Angelo"]
[Black "FM Stamnov, Alex"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "A11"]
[EventDate "2007.09.05"]

I don't know how many times me and FM Stamnov have played each other. I have lost count.

1. c4 c6

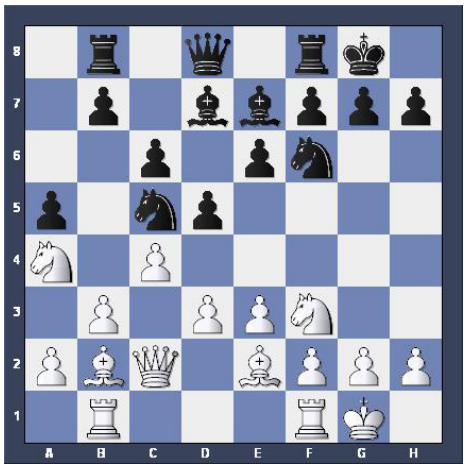
His favorite the Slav set-up.

2. Nf3 d5 3. e3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. b3 Nbd7 6. Bb2 Nc5 7. Qc2 Be7 8. d3 a5 9. Rb1! O-O 10. Be2 Rb8

Black must find a way to open the game in order not to get cramped.

11. O-O Bd7 12. Na4

(12. e4 dxe4 13. dxe4 Qc7 14. e5 Ng4 15. Ne4 Nxe4 16. Qxe4 f5 17. Qf4 Rbd8 18. h3 Nh6 19. Rbd1 {favors white.)



12... Na6

(12... Nxa4 13. bxa4 b6 14. e4 Qe8 15. Ne5 dxe4 16. dxe4 c5 17. Nxd7 Nxd7 18. f4)

13. Be5 Rc8 14. c5 Ra8 15. a3 Be8 16. Bxf6!

{Fritz likes this move too!}

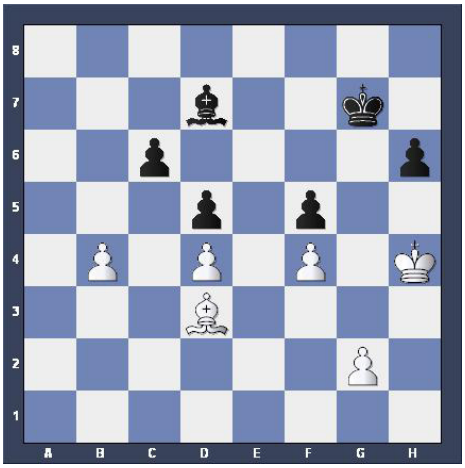
16... Bxf6 17. d4 Nb8 18. Nb6 Ra7 19. Bd3 g6 20. b4 axb4 21. axb4 Nd7 22. Nxd7 Bxd7 23. Ra1 Qb8 24. Qc3 Re8 25. h3

(25. Rxa7 Qxa7 26. Ra1 Qb8 27. Ne5 Bxe5 28. dxe5 b6 29. cxb6 Qxb6 {Is more prefeable than the text.} 30. Ra6)

25... Rxa1 26. Rxa1 e5 27. dxe5 Rxe5 28. Nxe5 Bxe5 29. Qa3 Bxa1 30. Qxa1 b6 31. cxb6 Qxb6 32. Qd4

(32. Qa5 {suggested by Fritz but my line is safer .})

32... Qxd4 33. exd4 g5 34. Kh2 h6 35. Kg3 Kg7 36. h4 f6 37. f4 gxh4+ 38. Kxh4 f5 =



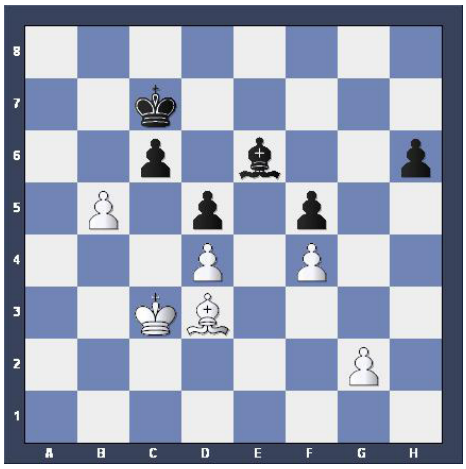
Equal, but there are a lot of ways black could go wrong. For example, he has a couple weak pawns and his bishop is stuck on the white squares.

from move 38 thru move 112 was just mere of finding the right break for white. It would have been nice to have more time here, as well- so the increment came in handy. At this point it was 16 minutes to black and 15 minutes for white.

39. Be2 Be8 40. Kg3 Kf6 41. Kf2 Ke6 42. Ke3 Kd6 43. Kd2 Kc7 44. Kc3 Bf7 45. Kb3 Kb6 46. Bd3 Be6 47. Kc3 Kc7 48. Kd2 Kd6 49. Ke3 Ke7 50. Be2 Bf7 51. Kf2 Kf6 52. Bd3 Be6 53. Ba6 Bd7 54. Kg3 Kg6 55. Kh4 Kg7 56. Bd3 Be6 57. Be2 Bf7 58. Bd1 Be8 59. Be2 Kf6 60. Bd3 Bd7 61. Kh5 Kg7 62. Kh4 Kg6 63. Kg3 Kf6 64. Be2 Be8 65. Kf2 Ke6 66. Ke3 Bd7 67. Bh5 Kf6 68. Kf3 Ke7 69. Kg3 Be8 70. Kh4 Bd7 71. Bf3 Kf6 72. Kg3 Be8 73. Be2 Ke6 74. Kf2 Bf7 75. Ke3 Kd6 76. Kd2 Kc7 77. Kc3 Be8 78. Bf3 Bf7 79. Kb3 Kb6 80. Ka3 Be8 81. Be2 Bf7 82. Bd3 Be6 83. Kb3 Bd7 84. Kc3 Kc7 85. Kc2 Kd6 86. Kc3 Kc7 87. Bc2 Kd6 88. Bb3 Be8 89. Bd1 Bf7 90. Kd2 Ke7 91. Ke1 Ke6 92. Kf1 Kf6 93. Be2 Be6 94. Bh5 Ke7 95. Kf2 Bd7 96. Kg3 Be8 97. Kh4 Bf7 98. Be2 Kf6 99. Kg3 Kg6 100. Ba6 Be6 101. Kf3 Bd7 102. Be2 Be8 103. Ke3 Kf6 104. Kd2 Ke6 105. Kc1 Kd6 106. Kc2 Kc7 107. Kb3 Kb6 108. Bd3 Bd7 109. Kc2 Kc7 110. Kd2 Be6 111. Kc2 Kd6 112. Kc3 Kc7 113. b5!!

The winning move! It will be hard for black to stop the white king from marching inside. At long last, white has found a successful break-through, based on the king invading on the dark squares. The d5 pawn, stuck on a light square, will be the downfall of the black position.

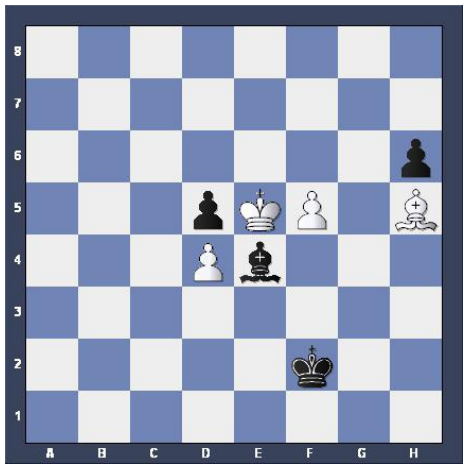
(see diagram next collumn)



113... cxb5 114. Bxb5 Kd6 115. Kb4 Bf7 116. Ka5 Kc7 117. Bd3 Be6

It is important for white to ensure that black does not forget the pawn on f5, too.

118. Kb5 Kd6 119. Kb6 Bc8 120. Bb5 Be6 121. Kb7 Bf7 122. Kc8 Bh5 123. Kd8 Bd1 124. Bd3 Ke6 125. Kc7 Bb3 126. Ba6 Bc2 127. Kd8 Be4 128. g3 Bf3 129. Bc8+ Kf6 130. Kd7 Kg6 131. Kd6 Be4 132. Ba6 Bf3 133. Ke5 Kh5 134. Kxf5 Be4+ 135. Ke5 Kg4 136. Be2+ Kxg3 137. f5 Kf2 138. Bh5



{Black resigned thus allowing me to win the First MCA Fide. I think the right setup to stop the break would have been Black Bd7,c6,d5,f5,h6,Kb6. and play Be8,Bf7,Be6 for tempos.} **1-0**

The Noteboom Attack

P-Q4 for the Non-Boring Player, Continued

by Henry Getz

Alright, apparently people liked the last article I spat up so thought I'd give it another go. I was planning to do a Wayne Zimmerle opening tribute (he's not sick or retiring but just thought it would be a great article… those of you that know how hard Wayne works for downstate chess, his easygoing personality, and his "cutting edge" openings would understand), but I want some more time to dedicate to that so instead thought I would throw some more "queens pawn openings aren't boring" meat on the table.

There's nothing better for that than the Noteboom opening.

The Noteboom is a queens pawn accepted line. It's fundamental, and terribly tactical. GM Sherbakov describes it as not only the sharpest Slav line, but the sharpest line in all of chess, and one opening yet to be completely uncovered. In fact, the opening requires the knights to develop before the e pawn, and many GMs develop the e pawn before the knights with the sole purpose of avoiding the head splitting agony of a noteboom possibility. I've found almost unanimous victories with it and would highly recommend it to anybody who occasionally talks trash, doubts the talents of his fellow man, wants to prove it, and laughs in peoples faces when he does. Although the verdict remains out on the noteboom officially, I'd like to paraphrase Rudolf Spielman, who wrote an incredible book, "The Art of Sacrifice in Chess," -- "Even with a failing attack, at very least, your opponent must dance while you throw hot lead at his feet."

There are few drawing lines here on out.

Noteboom Opening
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4

This is the classical noteboom. The knights must come out before the epawn, allowing black time to play e6 and c6 before the capture.

5.a4

This will likely transpose with e3 lines as can be seen later. Other moves:

[5.Bg5 Be7!?

a) 5...Qc7?!² just to illustrate how delicate stealing a pawn can be, this innocent looking move can lead to lots of trouble, merely by losing a valuable tempo. 6.a4 Bb4 7.e4 b5 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.0–0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 0–0 12.Qc1 Nd7 13.Qh6 Kh8 14.e5 Rg8 15.exf6 Rg6 16.Qh5 Nxf6 17.Qe5 Qxe5 18.Nxe5 Rg7 19.Nxc6 bxa4 20.Bf3 Nd5 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Rfe1 Bd7 23.Ne5 Bb5 24.f4 Re8 25.Kf2;

6.Bxe7 Nxe7 retaking with the knight allows black time since king safety is not an issue with castling imminent, the black squares are now a contest. 7.a4 (7.e4 b5 8.a4 Ba6 (8...Qb6 9.axb5 cxb5 10.b3) 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0 b4 11.Na2 c5) 7...Nd5 8.e4 (8.a5 c5 9.e4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Qc7 11.Qa4+ Bd7 12.Qxc4 0–0 13.Be2) 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 b5;

5.e4 b5 6.e5 Bb7 7.Bg5

Now the important thing to remember is not to move Be7. White is trying to get to d6 with his knight and ruin black's day. Play should involve Qc7 and then Nd7 and Ne7 when the time is right. Black is a pawn up and doing very well. 7...Qc7!! 8.Ne4 (8.Be2 Nd7 9.0–0 Ne7 10.Nd2 Nd5 11.Qc1 Nxc3 12.bxc3 c5 13.a4 a6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Rxa8+ Bxa8) 8...Nd7 noteboompt

5...Bb4 6.e3

[6.e4?! Simply overextending white, does not help. b5 7.Bd2 Nf6!! (7...a5) 8.e5 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Ne4 10.Qb1 Qd5 11.Be2 Bb7 12.0–0]

6...b5 7.Bd2 a5 '!!' ,Henry.

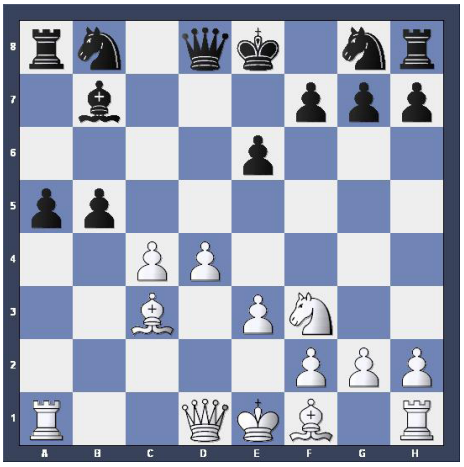
[7...Bb7?! a complicated blunder that even the GMs make. It leads to an inferior endgame after the queens come off the board. Play might follow… 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.d5! f6 (10...Nf6?! 11.dxe6! Qxd1+™ (11...fxe6? 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Nd4) 12.Rxd1) 11.dxe6 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Ne7 13.Nd4!! a6]

8.axb5 8...Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7!!

Here the game becomes critical… there are two difficult lines to be analyzed, the d5 push and the classical bxc4 aiming for a pawn rush for a win for which side yet to be determined. Both make for incredible games.

11.d5

[11.bxc4
Diagram next page

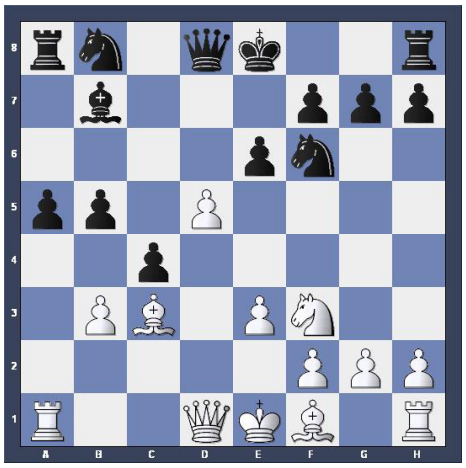


Alright, apparently people liked the last article I spat up so thought I'd give it another go. I was planning to do a Wayne Zimmerle opening tribute (he's not sick or retiring but just thought it would be a great article… those of you that know how hard Wayne works for downstate chess, his easygoing personality, and his "cutting edge" openings would understand), but I want some more time to dedicate to that so instead thought I would throw some more "queens pawn openings aren't boring" meat on the table.

There's nothing better for that than the Noteboom opening.

The Noteboom is a queens pawn accepted line. It's fundamental, and terribly tactical. GM Sherbakov describes it as not only the sharpest Slav line, but the sharpest line in all of chess, and one opening yet to be completely uncovered. In fact, the opening requires the knights to develop before the e pawn, and many GMs develop the e pawn before the knights





with the sole purpose of avoiding the head splitting agony of a noteboom possibility. I've found almost unanimous victories with it and would highly recommend it to anybody who occasionally talks trash, doubts the talents of his fellow man, wants to prove it, and laughs in peoples faces when he does. Although the verdict remains out on the noteboom officially, I'd like to paraphrase Rudolf Spielman, who wrote an incredible book, "The Art of Sacrifice in Chess," -- "Even with a failing attack, at very least, your opponent must dance while you throw hot lead at his feet."

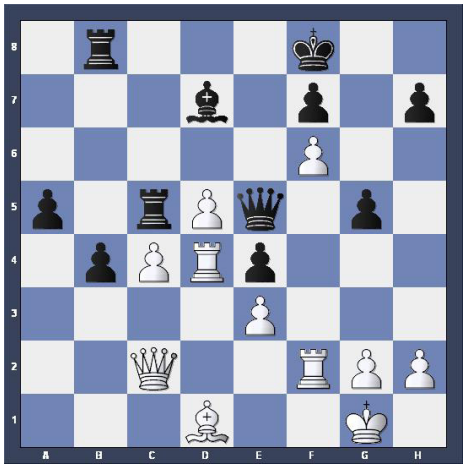
There are few drawing lines here on out.

Noteboom Opening
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4

This is the classical noteboom. The knights must come out before the epawn, allowing black time to play e6 and c6 before the capture.

5.a4

This will likely transpose with e3 lines as can be seen later. Other moves:



[5.Bg5 Be7!?

a) 5...Qc7?!² just to illustrate how delicate stealing a pawn can be, this innocent looking move can lead to lots of trouble, merely by losing a valuable tempo. 6.a4 Bb4 7.e4 b5 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.0–0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 0–0 12.Qc1 Nd7 13.Qh6 Kh8 14.e5 Rg8 15.exf6 Rg6 16.Qh5 Nxf6 17.Qe5 Qxe5 18.Nxe5 Rg7 19.Nxc6 bxa4 20.Bf3 Nd5 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Rfe1 Bd7 23.Ne5 Bb5 24.f4 Re8 25.Kf2;

6.Bxe7 Nxe7 retaking with the knight allows black time since king safety is not an issue with castling imminent, the black squares are now a contest. 7.a4 (7.e4 b5 8.a4 Ba6 (8...Qb6 9.axb5 cxb5 10.b3) 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0 b4 11.Na2 c5) 7...Nd5 8.e4 (8.a5 c5 9.e4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Qc7 11.Qa4+ Bd7 12.Qxc4 0–0 13.Be2) 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 b5;

5.e4 b5 6.e5 Bb7 7.Bg5
Now the important thing to remember is not to move Be7. White is trying to get to d6 with his knight and ruin black's day. Play should involve Qc7 and then Nd7 and Ne7 when the time is right. Black is a pawn up and doing very well. 7...Qc7!! 8.Ne4 (8.Be2 Nd7 9.0–0 Ne7 10.Nd2 Nd5 11.Qc1 Nxc3 12.bxc3 c5 13.a4 a6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Rxa8+ Bxa8) 8...Nd7 noteboompt

Warren Junior Chess Scholars

by Andi Rosen

Top in the Nation

The Illinois Chess Association Warren Junior Scholar Program serves Illinois youth whose chess rating puts them in the top 35 in the nation for their age and/or gender. Players who achieve this elite status have the opportunity to receive financial subsidies for private chess instruction with masters and grandmasters, and to participate in small-group programming and tournaments organized by the Warren program. Warren Scholars in grades K-8 are also presented with a plaque at the state scholastic championships noting their achievement. The program was founded many years ago by former ICA president Helen Warren, with the goal of nurturing the highest-potential Illinois students so they can be competitive on a national and international stage.

Currently, 33 Illinois children are nationally ranked in about the top 35 or higher for their age group. This is a record number of players since the ICA took over the Warren program three years ago. The ICA believes that intensive mentoring at a young age will not only help our talented chess players reach even greater heights in chess, but that it will foster the type of critical thinking skills and perseverance that will propel these students to intellectually contribute to society in many ways as adults.

Thanks to our sponsors:
The Warren Program owes its existence to the generous donations of its sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following businesses and individuals:

$1,000: Chess Education Partners; Zack Fishman, President
$1,000: Mr. William H. Brock, former ICA president
$1,000: Mr. and Mrs. Dominic and Nada Salvino
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$25: Mr. Anthony Jasaitis
$25: Mr. Tim Just
$25: Mrs. Joyce Lohrentz
$25: Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Judi Spizzirri

Congratulations to the 2008 Warren Scholars:

Anshul Adve	Trevor Magness
Michael Auger	Bryce McClanahan
Kayin Barclay	Gavin McClanahan
Alex Bian	Daniel McNally
Jyotsna Bitra	Aakaash Meduri
Tony Cao	Ilan Meerovich
Kent Cen	Gopal Menon
Jason Chien	Chris Nienart
Jack Curcio	Conrad Oberhaus
Josh Dubin	William Radak
Sonam Ford	Eric Rosen
Ian Gilchrist	Ben Rothschild
Zachary Holecek	Gordon Ruan
Zach Kasiurak	Sam Schmakel

Denker Qualifier and the Warren Program:

For the last two years, the Warren Program has been run by the Illinois Chess Association. Andi Rosen has served as program director. In addition to providing subsidies to talented students for instruction, the program for the first time this year is also providing funding for the Illinois High School Denker Qualifier Tournament (see accompanying article). The program continues to seek donors and sponsorships in order to providing programming for the state's top-achieving players. If you are interested in donating or would like more information, please contact Andi at warrenprogram@ilchess.org.

Available for Community Events:
The program also aims to promote chess in the community. For the third year in a row, the Warren Chess Scholars will participate in the annual Taste of Chicago festival in Grant Park. On Saturday, June 28, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Warren Scholars will offer festival visitors simultaneous exhibitions, chess lessons, and the opportunity for informal play. We hope you can visit us there.

The Warren Scholars are also available to participate in other community events. They are a great attraction at neighborhood festivals, company picnics, business grand openings, or other special events. For information on how you can bring the Warren Scholars to your community event, send an email to warrenprogram@ilchess.org.

State High School Denker Qualifier

Twelve of the state's top high school players will vie for the chance to represent Illinois at the U.S. Denker High School Tournament of Champions this August in Dallas, Texas. The five-round qualifying tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 29-30, at the Skokie Holiday Inn.

Grandmaster Pascal Charbonneau will be on hand all weekend to do game analysis with participants in between rounds. The tournament winner will receive a $500 travel stipend from the ICA Warren Junior Program, which is sponsoring the event, as well as an additional $100 from the U.S. Chess Federation. Chicago's Sevan Muradian, the 2007 USCF Chess Organizer of the Year, will direct the Illinois event.

Participants at the national event will compete for the top prize of a full four-year scholarship to the University of Texas Dallas, which boasts one of the country's top chess teams. The U.S. Chess Trust will also award scholarship money to the top five finishers at the national event: $800 for first place, $500 for second place, and $300 each for third through fifth places. For more information about the local qualifier, contact warrenprogram@ilchess.org.

Speaking of Illinois Scholastic chess... here is a photo taken from the IHSA State Tournament, courtesy of Betsy Dynako. Caption: "The Playing Hall"



Pictures from the IHSA State Tournament

Betsy Dynako



Top: "The Games Begin" action from the IHSA main hall

Bottom Left: GM Yury Shulman and Whitney Young Champ Kayin Barclay

Bottom Right: The IHSA Team Champions







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USCF GOLD AFFILIATE

THE ROAD WARRIOR

with NM PETE KARAGIANIS



Keating, Robert - Karagianis,Pete [C45]
Hawkeye Mind Challenge,
Iowa city
[Karagianis, Pete]

how big of a difference does psychology indeed play in chess? In what various ways can psychological factors affect a game? the following match I feel was interesting primarily for reasons unrelated to what was happening on the board. There are several key moments throughouth the game where it is not objectivity- nor chess skill or understanding- but psychology that dictates both the play and outcome of the position.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6

My opponent is Dr. Robert Keating. He is a strong correspondence player- and I believe a former US Correspondence champion of some sort (though I do not know specifically which tournament he won). I entered this game with the pre-conception that a strong correspondence player would by rule be very strong in the opening, and decided therefore to play a side-line of the standard Ruy Lopez, 12. ...Rd8- a variation that I use rarely in serious play.

5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Rd8 13.Nf1 cxd4

All theory to this point. I was a bit surprised after the game when Robert indicated he had not previously seen the plan of opening the center so early. I believe cd4 and ed4 are somewhat standard ideas.

14.cxd4 exd4 15.Nxd4

One of white's ideas is a temporary pawn sac with 15. b3 instead, but i don't think such a move would be any better than the straight forward Nxd4.

15...d5

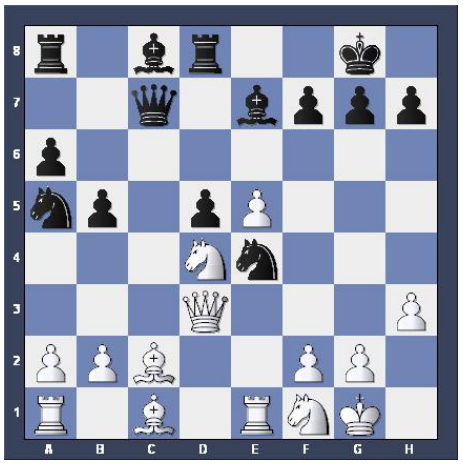
The whole point.

16.e5 Ne4

Here my opponent thought for a very long time, and I began to suspect that we were out of his "book". Even the move 16. e5 he had played relatively quickly. The move he chooses is not accurate, but it is hard to meet nonetheless. Black's knight is in dangerous territory, though it cannot be captured immediately for obvious reasons involving the ensuing pin on the d-file.

17.Qd3 ?!

The more critical continuation is: [17.f3 Despite whatever theoretical discussion one wishes to have, the basic principle behind this line is: can black prove that 13. Nf1 was too passive of a move? 12. ...Rd8 followed by the opening of the center is an extremely active plan, and white still has some developing left to do. Still, black's play hinges on the knight being able to land on e4 safely... and stay there, at least for a couple moves. 17...Bc5 !! I think I originally saw this in a Grischuk game, though I can't be certain. The idea is that 18. fxe4 is met by either Qxe5 or the simple dxe4.]



17...Bc5 !

This move is strong anyway. It is black's first objective to prevent white playing f3... especially since now the knight on e4 cannot be taken. One threat is ...Bxd4 followed by ...Qxc2. Black is still trying to use activity as his main weapon.

18.Be3

It's hard to suggest a better move, but this one isn't exactly great. I felt my momentum growing, as I was playing aggressive moves

and white was now relegated to defense. [18.Rxe4 After the game my opponent mentioned that he had initially planned this move, only to realize his queen would be effectively trapped. Of course, black has to be careful and examine all variations, but it seems he comes out in the clear: 18...dxe4 19.Qxe4 g6 (19...Rxd4 may be possible, but why tempt fate when there are easy moves... 20.Qxh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8+ Ke7 22.Bg5+ Kd7) 20.Qxa8 and now both ...Bb7 and ...Bxd4!! are strong. I think I would prefer Bxd4 here, which was also my preference in analysis during the game. 20... Bxd4 and now both the bishop on c2 and the queen are in trouble... (20...Bb7 21.Qxd8+ Qxd8) 21.Qe4 Bf5]

18...Nc4

[18...Qxe5 was also worth considering, with the idea that... 19.f3 Nf6 seems ok for black, but white probably has something here. Why play risky moves when black can secure a simple advantage?]

19.f4 !

Probably the best move. White can ill-afford to give up the e5 pawn.

19...Nxb2 20.Qe2 Nc4

The knight grabs a pawn and returns to its strong post.

21.Bxe4 dxe4

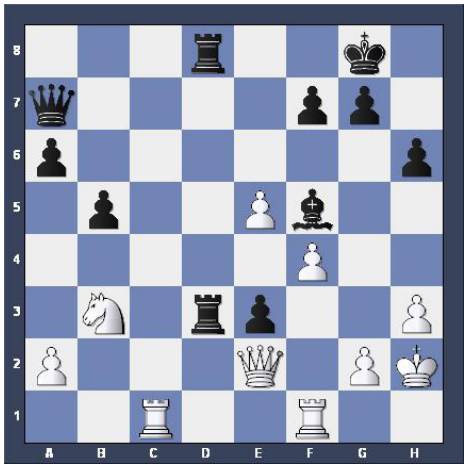
Oddly enough, it is white (down a pawn) who chooses to simplify. At this juncture I felt I would win "by default" with an extra pawn and the two bishops in an endgame, but it is not so easy. Here again, psychology plays its part- do I find "best" moves the rest of the way?

22.Nb3 Nxe3 23.Nxe3 Bb6 24.Rac1 Qa7 25.Kh2 Rd3 26.Ng4 Bf5

Now that g4 isn't possible, my bishop can stay on this diagonal, which also prevents white from playing f5.

27.Rf1 Rad8 28.Nf2 Bxf2 29.Rxf2 e3 30.Rff1

The time control was an odd 30/90 SD/1. Here I blundered in time pressure, not wanting to fall victim to a back rank tactic. 30. ...Be4!, which I saw in the game, is best.



30...h6? 31.Qf3 !

... and now black's task is harder.

31...Be6

Probably best- with a threat to trade off the knight (which has suddenly gained great strength--- via c5 or via Na5-c6) or to go to d5.

32.Nc5 Bd5 33.Qg3 Rd2 34.Rg1 Qa8 !

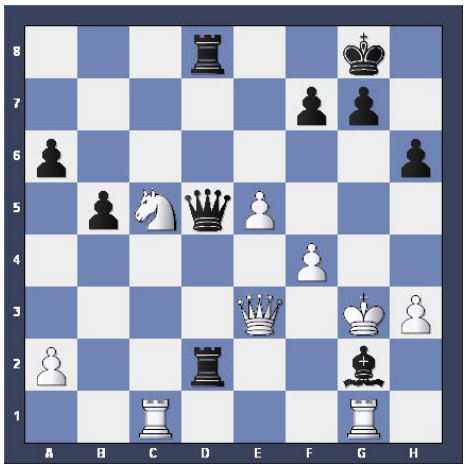
This battery is the main idea behind 31. ...Be6... a move which I spent a good deal of time on.

35.Qxe3 !

... what else?

35...Bxg2 36.Kg3 Qd5

[36...Qc6 Surprisingly, the white king has a safe place on g3... but Qc6! may have cracked the defense. 37.f5 R8d4 with ...Bh1 in mind is a basic idea, though black should be more careful in light of 38. e6.]



37.a3 !

White wisely does not concede even a pawn.

37...Qa2 38.Rc3 Re2 39.Qc1 Ba8 40.Kh4 Rg2

With the king on h4, I overestimate my own position! Trades only benefit the defender. Strange how, when your opponent's king becomes "airy", one often feels he can play whatever he desires and win.

41.Rxg2 Qxg2 42.Qe3 Qg6 43.e6 Qf6+ 44.Kg3 Re8

White's king has arrived at saftey, but the fight is not yet over. Somehow, it is white who now has all the activity, despite his king's open position. Black now must work extra hard to prove the worth of his pawn advantage, which I was able to in mutual time pressure. I felt that to finish this game I almost had to rely on the clock, as white's position is dicier to handle under the distraction of time. A good lesson- do not fall into the trap of getting "too comfortable" simply because your opponent's king has exited its pawn shield.



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Thursday - Thursday Night Thematic @ 7pm (rated)
Friday - Friday Night Fischer Random @ 7pm (non-rated)
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Games from the ICCA Individual

Chris Merli

Fortel,I - Chen,B [D85]
(1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 g6 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bf4 0-0 8.Nf3 c5 9.Rc1 Bg4 10.Be3 Nc6 11.d5 Ne5 12.Bxc5 Qc7 13.Bd4 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Bxd4 16.Bh3 Be5 17.Rc2 e6 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kg7 20.Qh3 Rf6 21.Bd5 Raf8 22.c4 Rf3 23.Qe6 Bc3+ 24.Rxc3 Rxc3 25.Rf1 Qf4 26.Qd7+ Kh8 27.Qa4 Rc1+ 0-1

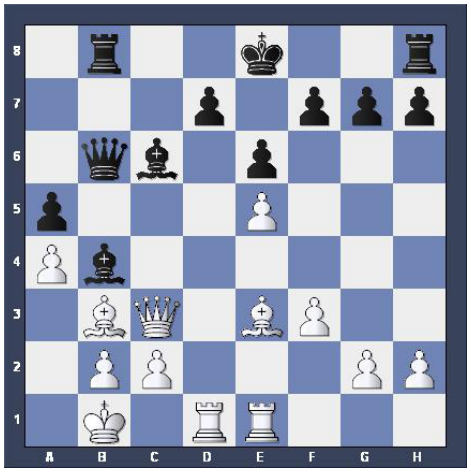
Auger,M - Szulc,M [B03]
(1)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Bf5 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Nb4 9.Kf2 e6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.a3 Nc6 13.Bd3 Bg4 14.Be4 Nxc4 15.Qa4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nb6 17.Bxc6+ bxc6 18.Qxc6+ Qd7 19.Qxd7+ Kxd7 20.Rhg1 g6 21.Ne4 Nd5 22.Rac1 Rhb8 23.Rc2 Nf4 24.Kg3 Nd5 25.Rgc1 c6 26.Rxc6 Rxb2 27.Nf6+ Nxf6 28.Rc7+ Ke8 29.exf6 h5 30.Re7+ Kf8 31.Rcc7 h4+ 32.Kh3 Rb3 33.Rxf7+ Kg8 34.Rg7+ Kh8 35.Rh7+ Kg8 36.f7+ 1-0

Here is a game from the winner of the event, Ben Rothschild.

Rothschild,B - Lieberman,N [B30]
(1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nc3 Nd4 6.Nxd4 Nxc3 7.dxc3 cxd4 8.Qxd4 e6 9.Bf4 Qc7 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Ba4 Bc5 12.Qd2 b5 13.Bb3 Bb7 14.f3 Bc6 15.Kb1 Qb6 16.Rhe1 a5 17.a3 b4 18.a4 bxc3 19.Qxc3 Rb8 20.Be3 Bb4



21.Bxb6 Bxc3 22.Re3 Rxb6 23.Rxc3 Ke7 24.Rc5 Ra8 25.Rd4 f6 26.exf6+ gxf6 27.Rh4 f5 28.Rxh7+ Kf6 29.f4 Rab8 30.g3 Kg6 31.Rh4 Bd5 32.Bxd5 Rxb2+ 33.Kc1 exd5 34.Rxd5 Rb1+ 35.Kd2 R8b4 36.Rd6+ Kf7 37.Rh7+ Ke8 38.Rdxd7 1-0

Pavese,J - Celentano,A [B90]
(1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Qd2 b5 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.g4 Nb6 12.Qf2 Nc4 13.Bxc4 bxc4 14.Nc5 0-0 15.h4 Qc7 16.N5a4 Rab8 17.h5 Qb7 18.g5 Nd7 19.g6 h6 20.Qd2 Nc5 21.Bxh6 Nxa4 22.Nxa4 fxg6 23.hxg6 Bf6 24.Bg5 Bxg5 25.Qxg5 Rf6 26.Rh7 Qb4 27.Rdh1 Kf8 28.Rh8+ Bg8 29.c3 Qxa4 30.Rxg8+ Kxg8 31.Qh5 Kf8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qxg7+ Ke6 34.Rh7 Qe8 35.Qc7 Rc8 36.Re7+ Qxe7 37.Qxc8+ Qd7 38.Qg8+ Ke7 39.Qg7+ Ke6 40.Qg8+ Ke7 41.g7 Qh3 42.Qh8 Qf1+ 43.Kc2 Qe2+ 44.Kc1 Qe1+ 45.Kc2 Rxf3 46.g8N+ Kd7 47.Nf6+ Rxf6 48.Qxf6 ½-½

Bendoraitis,K - Strunk,A [A50]
(1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.Bg5 d5 8.e3 Na5 9.Ne5 Nxc4 10.Nxc4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.0-0 e5 14.Bd5 c6 15.Bf3 Be6 16.Qc2 Rfe8 17.Rfd1 Rad8 18.Rab1 Bc8 19.d5 cxd5 20.Bxd5 Qe7 21.Qb3 e4 22.Rd4 Qc7 23.Rbd1 Rd7 24.Rxe4 Re5 25.Rxe5 Qxe5 26.c4 b6 27.Qb5 Qh5 28.Qb1 Ba6 29.Bf3 Rxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Qg5 0-1

Strunk,A - Rothschild,B [A90]
(2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.g3 f5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 Qe7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Qc1 b6 10.Ba3 Bb7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qa3 Qxa3 13.Nxa3 Nbd7 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.Rfd1 Rfe8 16.b4 a5 17.bxa5 Ra8 18.Nb1 Rxa5 19.Rd2 Rea8 20.a3 Ne4 21.Rb2 Nd6 22.Nfd2 b5 23.c5 Nc4 24.Nxc4 dxc4 25.e4 fxe4 26.Bxe4 Nf6 27.Bg2 Rd8 28.Rd2 Ra6 29.Nc3 Nd5 30.Bxd5 exd5 31.Ra2 Rda8 32.Rca1 Bc8 33.Kf1 Bf5 34.Ke1 Bd3 35.Kd2 R6a7 36.Ke1 Re7+ 37.Kd2 Rae8 38.Rb2 Rf8 39.Nd1 Re2+ 40.Kc3 Rf3 41.Rxe2 Bxe2+ 42.Ne3 Rxf2 43.Re1 Bd3 44.Ng4 Ra2 45.Kb4 Bg6 46.Re6 Bf5 47.Rxc6 Bxg4 48.Rd6 Rb2+ 49.Kc3 Rb3+ 50.Kd2 Rd3+ 51.Kc2 Rxd4 52.Rb6 Rd3 53.Rxb5 Rxa3 54.c6 Ra8 55.Rxd5 Rc8 56.Rc5 Rc7 57.Rxc4 Bf3 58.Kd3 Rxc6 59.Rxc6 Bxc6 60.Ke3 Kf7 61.Kf4 Kf6 62.h3 0-1



March 29, 2008. South Suburban Scholastic Chess Tournament. (Unrated scholastic.) Orland Park Cultural Center, 14760 Park Lane, Orland Park (former Orland Park Library), organized by Mikhail Korenman, International Chess Organizer and Glenn Panner, National TD. 5 Rounds, Game/30 min. Registration: 8:30-9:00 a.m.; events usually finish around noon. Divisions: K-3, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Awards: Individual trophies to top 5 and medals to 6th-20th in each division. Team trophies to 1st and 2nd overall. Entry Fee: $20 for on-line registrations (ends on Thursdays before the events day); $25 on-site 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. To register: on-line at www.intecsus.org ; by email to intecsus@yahoo.com; by mail to Glenn Panner, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423, checks payable to IntECS, Inc.; or on-site from 8:30-9:00 a.m. on event days. Information: (815) 955-4793 or (785) 906-0402. Food concession will be available on site.

March 30, 2008. 2008 Illinois State Girls Chess Championship and Qualifier for the Susan Polgar National All-Girls Championship. Games Analysis for players by IM Irina Krush, reigning US Women's Champion. 5R-SS - G/30. Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore Hotel, 5300 West Touhy Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077. Check-in: 8 - 9am. Rds: 9:30a-11a-12:30p-2p-3:30p. Sections: Open Section (Polgar Qualifier), K-3, 4-5, 6-8. EF: $25 advance, $30 at door. Register: Mail name, section, USCF number, address, phone and email plus check or money order to North American Chess Association, 2516 North Waukegan Road, Suite 342, Glenview, IL 60025. Hotel rate: $99/night www.hiskokie.com.

March 30, 2008 -- 13th Kumbaya Scholastic Chess Tournament. National-Louis University, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL. 60077-4409. Presented by Chess-Ed. 4R-SS G/30. Schedule: Check in 10:30AM, Round 1 at 11:00AM, progressing ASAP. Sections: Rated Sections for K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, K-12/+1000; plus an unrated section. Awards, each section: Top 5 individuals, top 3 teams (top3 scores/2 player min. for teams); remembrances for all players. Entry Fee: $25.00 post marked by Monday, March 24, 2008, $30.00 if received afterwards, FREE to players rated over 1400 (must mail in registration to qualify). No on-site registration. Register: On-line at www.eventbrite.com/org/23735997 . Or mail in and if siblings play take $5 off, and if team list sent in take $5 disc for each team member. Send check payable to Chess-Ed., c/o A. Holt, 729 Colby Ct., Gurnee, IL. 60031. Information/registration form: aholt729@earthlink.net .

March 30, 2008. CU Scholastic Chess Tournament. Illini Union on the campus of the University of Illinois, 1401 West Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801. 4/SS G/30. Sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8. Entries: Deadline 6 pm March 28. Register by email clmerli@insightbb.com; include name grade USCF ID number and school, or on the BNASC website www.bnasc.org. Entry Fee: $15. Check in and all changes are due by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. You must be checked in by 8:30 or you will not be paired for the first round. Starting Time: First round will start at 9:00 with subsequent rounds to follow as soon as possible. Food Service is available in the Illini Union and at several nearby restaurants. Day of tournament contact 217-778-3334

March 30, 2008. (TMCC IV) G/45, 4SS Open to all. Limit to 28 Players EF: $25, (TMCC members $15) $300 b/20 players $100 $60 U1800 $80 & U1400 $60 USCF Rated. ICA Membership required. Reg. 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm. Rounds: 1 pm-2pm - 3pm - 4pm -5pm. Bring your chess clock and sets. NO SMOKING.. Touch Move Chess Center. 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com 773-627-2759. www.tmchesscenter@blogspot.com

April 4, 2008. TMCC Friday Night Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. EF: $10 Top 5 prizes (Based on 10 paid players) (GM, IM & FM FREE) 1st $35 2nd 25 3rd 15 4th $10 5th $5 Round starts between 7:00pm - 7:15pm every Friday Bring your clock and sets. Touch Move Chess Center. 5639 N.

Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com 773-627-2759. www.tmchesscenter@blogspot.com

April 5, 2008, Arnett C. Lines Scholastic Chess Tournament, 217 John Snow Avenue Barrington, IL, sponsored by Yury Shulman's Chess Without Borders. 5/SS. Schedule: Round 1 begins at 10:00 am, other rounds ASAP, tournament ends approx. 3.00 pm. USCF rated sections: 1. Primary (Grades K-3), 2. Elementary (Grades 4-5), 3. Middle School, (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), and Adults. Unrated sections: All grades and adults. Awards: Top 6 Individual trophies for each section. Top 3 Individual trophies for each grade, Top 3 Team trophies in each section, Top 10 trophies in Unrated section. Entry Fee: $25 if postmarked by March 20th; $30 if received after March 20th. A portion of the proceeds will go towards a non-profit program. Registration: Advance registration only! (No on-site registration!) Make checks payable to: Yury Shulman's Chess Without Borders. Mail along with registration form to: Yury Shulman's Chess Without Borders, 428 Waverly Road, Barrington, IL 60010. For more information contact GM Yury Shulman at 312-375-7475 (yushulman@yahoo.com), Kiran Frey at 847-382-5410 (kiran47@hotmail.com), or visit www.shulmanchess.com

April 5, 2008. 4th Touch Move Scholastic Chess (Tournament of Champions) (USCF rated) Touch Move Chess Center, G/30 min. 5 rounds SS. Limited to 30 players, K-2 through K-8 Scholastic players, (Unrated welcome). Send your check or money order to IM Angelo Young (TD) 5639 N. Ashland Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759.On-site registration must add $5. Round start: 10 am, 11 am., 12 :00 pm - 12:30 lunch break Rd.3 at 12:30 pm and each round thereafter. Entry fee is $30/per player. Bring your chess clock, Boards and Sets are provided,. Prizes are as follows: 1st Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 2nd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 3rd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 4th Trophy + Chess Book, 5th Trophy + Chess Book, TMCC medals to the rest of participants. Monthly winner will be seeded to December Final (Tournament of Champions). Email us: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com or check our site www.tmchesscenter@blogspot.com

April 6, 2008. Chess Education Partners Championship Cup Series # 12 (Scholastic), Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S. Kenwood, Chicago, IL 60615, phone 773-643-4062. On site entry 8:00 - 8:40 AM, check in for proper seeding in round 1 by 8:45 AM, 1st round at 9 AM, trophies for 1st individual and team and participation awards for everyone at approx 1:30 PM. Open to all players grades K-8. Four sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8; 4 rounds g/30, USCF rated (membership available on site). After the awards are over we are hosting a blitz tournament, USCF blitz rules to apply, five rounds g/5, ending around 3 PM. Entry fee is $20 per player and includes both tournaments. Online entry & directions at www.ChessTeachers.org. Points earned in all CEP tournaments will count towards the Chess Education Partners Championship Cup. For more information call 847-987-3091, 312-927-4290 or visit www.ChessTeachers.org. Food will be available.

April 11-13, 2008. Park Forest 50th Anniversary Chess Tournament. 5-SS. T/L: 50/100, SD/50 [2-Day Rd 1: G/50]. Double Tree Hotel, 1909 Spring Rd, Oak Brook, IL. $10,000 [b/200, 70% Guaranteed] in 3 Sections. PREMIER SECTION [Open to players rated 1900 & above, NO Unr]. EF: $100 if rcvd by 3/26/08, $110 if rcvd by 4/03/08, $120 at site; $70 off to GM/IM. ReEntry $70. PRIZES: $1300-800-400-200, U2350 $450-300-150, U2150 $425-250-125, U2050 $225. RESERVE SECTION [Open to players rated 1300-1949, NO Unr]. EF: $83 if rcvd by 3/26/08, $92 if rcvd by 4/03/08, $100 at site. ReEntry $60. PRIZES: $650-400-250-150, U1750 $350-225-125, U1550 $300-200-100, U1450 $175. BOOSTER SECTION [Open to players rated U1350 & Unrated]. EF:$62 if rcvd by 3/26/08, $71 if rcvd by 4/03/08, $80 at site; $40 off for Unrated, but may ONLY win Unrated prize. ReEntry $50. PRIZES: $500-350-225-125, U1150 $300-200-100, U950 $250-170-90, UNR $140. ALL: 1/2 point bye [2 max] available any round, but you must request when registering. FREE PIZZA on Sunday for all Players! Registration: 6:30-7:15 on 4/11 &/or 8:30-9:15 on 4/12. Round 1 at 7:30pm on 4/11/08 [2-Day Rd1 at 9:45am on 4/12], other rounds at 12:45-6:30 Sat, 10-3:30 Sun. HR $93 for single-quad until 3/28/08, Doubletree (630) 472-6000 & ask for Chess Rate. ENT: Lawrence Cohen, PO Box 6632 Villa Park, IL 60181. Info: (630) 834-CHSS [2477], & please leave your call back number first; or E-mail inquiries to lscohen60@yahoo.com & put PF 50th in the Subject line.

April 12, 2008. Naperville District Chess Championship. 1300 N. Mill St. Naperville, IL. 8 Sections: K-1, 2, 3 etc. You only play other students in the same grade! Grades K-3, 5 round SS, G/30. Grades 4-5, 5 round SS, G/35. Grades 6-8, 4 round SS, G/45. Awards: 64 Total Trophies! 5 Individual trophies for each section. Medals to everyone who misses a trophy

on tie-breaks. 3 Team trophies for each section, team scores determined by top 4 scores. Schedule: Arrive at 8:30 am, round 1 begins promptly at 9:00 am . Entry Fee: $25 if registered by 4/6/08. $35 if registered by 4/10/08. Register Online at www.illinoischessteachers.com . USCF Membership required! Registration: Advance registration only; No registration on site! No Changes after 5:00 pm, 4/11/08. To register by mail checks payable to Illinois Chess Teachers, Inc. to 605 Waterview Ct. Naperville , IL 60563 . Include Name, address, email, phone # school, grade, and USCF ID. For more information contact Paul Raso (630) 674-3474 paul@illinoischessteachers.com or Blair Machaj (630)204-6245 blair@illinoischessteachers.com .

April 13, 2008. TMCC V G/45, 4SS open to all. Limit to 28 Players. EF: $25, (TMCC members $15) $300 b/20 players $100 -$60 U1800 $80 & U1400 $60 USCF Rated. ICA Membership required. Reg. 9:00 am - 9:45 am. Rounds: 10am then after each game. Bring your chess clock and sets. NO SMOKING.. Touch Move Chess Center. 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com 773-627-2759 www.tmchesscenter@blogspot.com

April 18, 2008. TMCC Friday night Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. EF: $10 Top 5 prizes (Based on 10 paid players) (GM, IM, FM Free) 1st $35 2nd 25 3rd 15 4th $10 5th $5 Round starts between 7:00pm - 7:15pm every Friday Bring your clock and sets. Touch Move Chess Center. 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com 773-627-2759. www.tmchesscenter@blogspot.com

April 20, 2008. Chess Education Partners Championship Cup Series # 13 (Scholastic), Michigan Shores Club, 911 Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091, 847-251-4100. On site entry 8:00 - 8:40 AM, check in for proper seeding in round 1 by 8:45 AM, 1st round at 9 AM, trophies for 1st individual & team, awards for 2nd- 5th individual and participation awards for everyone at approx 1:30 PM. Open to all players grades K-8. Four sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8; 4 rounds g/30, USCF rated (membership available on site). After the awards are over we are hosting a blitz tournament. Five rounds g/5, USCF blitz rules to apply, ending around 3 PM. Entry fee is $30 per player and includes both tournaments and a buffet lunch. This is a private club: food will be available, but you may not bring food or drink into the club. A note on parking: please do not park in member only parking! Park either on the street or follow Lake St. east of the club to free parking at the beach. Online entry and directions at www.ChessTeachers.org. Points earned in all CEP tournaments will count towards the Chess Education Partners Championship Cup. For more information call 847-987-3091, 312-927-4290 or visit www.ChessTeachers.org.

April 26, 2008. South Suburban Scholastic Chess Tournament. (Unrated scholastic.) Orland Park Cultural Center, 14760 Park Lane, Orland Park (former Orland Park Library), organized by Mikhail Korenman, International Chess Organizer and Glenn Panner, National TD. 5 Rounds, Game/30 min. Registration: 8:30-9:00 a.m.; events usually finish around noon. Divisions: K-3, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Awards: Individual trophies to top 5 and medals to 6th-20th in each division. Team trophies to 1st and 2nd overall. Entry Fee: $20 for on-line registrations (ends on Thursdays before the events day); $25 on-site 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. To register: on-line at www.intecsus.org ; by email to intecsus@yahoo.com; by mail to Glenn Panner, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423, checks payable to IntECS, Inc.; or on-site from 8:30-9:00 a.m. on event days. Information: (815) 955-4793 or (785) 906-0402. Food concession will be available on site.

April 26, 2008. 8th Annual April Open. 4SS, G75. Joliet Jr. College. Bldg J. 1215 Houbolt Rd.. (exit 127 off I-80), Joliet, IL $600 b/35, $150-90, A,B,C,D,E/F, Unr. each $60. Top Jr. book. EF: $20 by 4/21, $25 at site, Masters(2200+) FREE, Entry subtracted from any prize won. Two 1/2 pt. byes max.. Reg: 9-9:30 am RDs: 10-12:45-3:30-6:30, Ent/Info: Checks payable to: Stephen Decman, 1418 Devonshire Dr., Joliet, IL 60435, no phone or credit card entries. Info: 815-744-5272 also www.jjc.edu/clubs/chess

April 27, 2008 -- 14th Kumbaya Scholastic Chess Tournament. National-Louis University, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL. 60077-4409. Presented by Chess-Ed. 4R-SS G/30. Schedule: Check in 10:30AM, Round 1 at 11:00AM, progressing ASAP. Sections: Rated Sections for K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, K-12/+1000; plus an unrated section. Awards, each section: Top 5 individuals: top 3 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams); remembrances for all players. Entry Fee: $25.00 post marked by Monday, April 21, 2008, $30.00 if received afterwards, FREE to players rated over 1400 (must mail in registration to qualify). No on-site registration. Register: On-line at www.eventbrite.com/org/23735997, Or mail in and if siblings play take $5 off, and if team list sent in take $5 Disc for each team member. Send registration and check payable to Chess-Ed., c/o A. Holt, 729 Colby Ct., Gurnee, IL. 60031. Information/registration form: aholt729@earthlink.net .