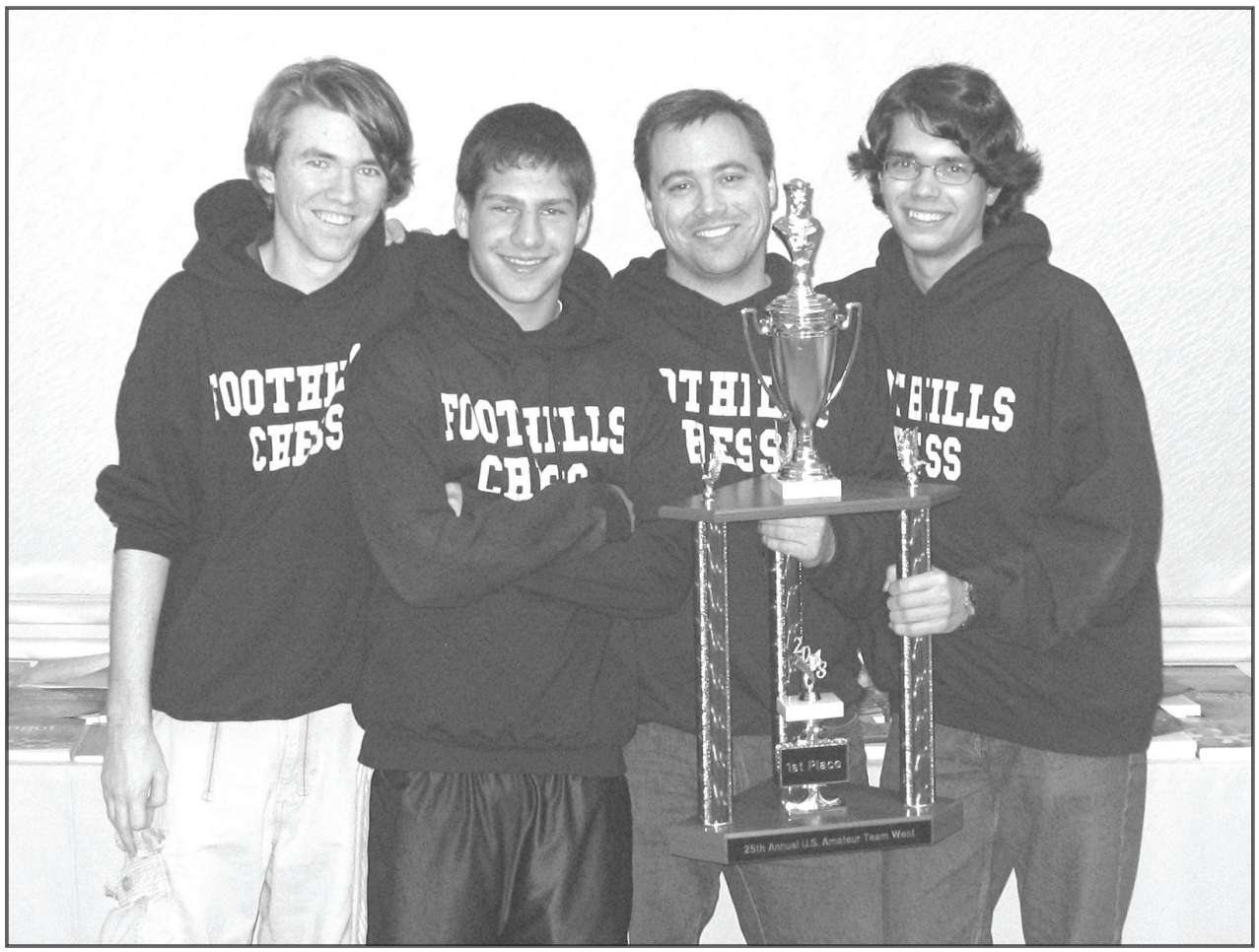
Rank & File

March-April 2008 Volume XXXI, No. 2 $3.00

25th Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West



Ben Marmont, Jonathan Cox, Robbie Adamson and Landon Brownell

SCCF

6th Annual

Western Pacific Open

March 28-30, 2008

$10,000 Prize Fund

(based on 200 players, 50% of each prize guaranteed)

LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045

5-SS, 3-day schedule 40/2, SD/1; 2-day schedule rounds 1-2 G/75

Open

1st: $1600

2nd-5th: $1000-$800-$400-$200

U2400: $300

U2300: $200

U2200: $700-$500- $300

Premier

(Under 2000)

$700-$500-$300-$100

U1800: $400-$200- $100

U1600: $400-$200- $100

Amateur

(Under 1400/Unrated)

$$400-$200-$100

U1200: $100

Unrated: $100

Best Game Prize: $25 (all sections eligible)

Full details on page 26, or go to ***www.westernchess.com***

10th Annual

Los Angeles County Open

May 3-4

5-SS, rds. 1-3 30/85, SD/30, rds 4-5 40/2, SD/1

Sierra Vista Park

311 N Rural Dr. at E. Emerson, Monterey Park, CA 91755

Prize Fund

1st $300 2nd $200

U2200 $100	U1600 $100	
U2000 $100	U1400 $75	
U1800 $100	U1200 $75	Unrated $50

Entry fee: $30 if received by 5/1, $40 at door. Special Entry Fee: Juniors not eligible for cash prizes $10 (trophies to top 5). Full details on page 27.

Around the Nation

What Happens In Las Vegas...

... Shouldn't *always* stay in Las Vegas! A number of Southern Californians had fine performances in the annual post-Christmas North American Open (which drew over 600 players), and they should be publicized!

In the Open section, where GM Hikaru Nakamura and IM David Pruess tied for first, our FM Alexandre Kretchetov scored 5 of 7 to finish in a tie for third with GMs Alex Shabalov and Julio Becerra, ahead of nine GMs, earning $2421. Alex played something of a "Swiss gambit," drawing two of his first three games, but upset GM Ildar Ibragimov and IM Enrico Sevillano (who in a favorable position underestimated White's attack) and drew GM Jesse Kraai enroute to a super performance.

GM Varuzhan Akobian finished with 5, losing to Pruess in the finale. Sevillano and Ilya Serpik scored 4½, and FMs Matthew Beelby and Eugene Yanayt, along with Expert David Bennett, were in the group with 4.

The "odd hundred points" format of the other sections broke the normal routine, no doubt gaining the tournament some entries and costing others. In Under 2100, Armen Arakelov tied for first and second with 6 points. Tianyi He, John Hale, and Shafiq Alam were in the third place tie with 5½. Randy Hough tied for ninth with 5.

A tie for firth in Under 1900 included Kelly Zhang, Dante Tabing, and Armen Samuelian. In Under 1700, Warner Wright and Armen Ambartsoumian tied for fifth with 5½, and Aram Kavoukjian and Boris Kitapszyan were in a ninth place tie with 5.

Carlos Salazar tied for second through fourth in Under 1500 with 6, and Wenbo Du for fifth and sixth with 5½. Alex Kaliannan and Edwin Silva were in the seventh place tie with 5. In Under 1200, Melik Melikyan was clear first with 6½, and Alfred Ross clear second at 6. Elizabeth Tenorio and Scott Xue tied for 9th with 4½. – *Randy Hough*

Matthew Beelby – GM Varuzhan Akobian
North American Open, Las Vegas 2007
D34 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, Tarrasch Variation

1. c4 e6 2. Nf3 d5 3. d4 Nf6 4. g3 c5 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. 0–0 Be7 8. Nc3 0–0 9. Bg5 c4 10. Ne5 Be6 11. b3 Qa5 12. Nxc6 bxc6 13. Qc2 Rac8 14. Na4 h6 15. Bd2 Qa6 16. bxc4 dxc4 17. e4 Rfd8 18. Bc3 Nd7 19. Rae1 Nb6 20. Nxb6 axb6 21. f4 f6 22. e5 f5 23. g4 g6 24. gxf5 gxf5 25. Rd1

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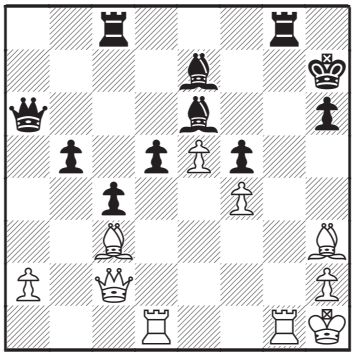
b5 26. Kh1 Kh7 27. Rg1 Rg8 28. d5 cxd5 29. Bh3



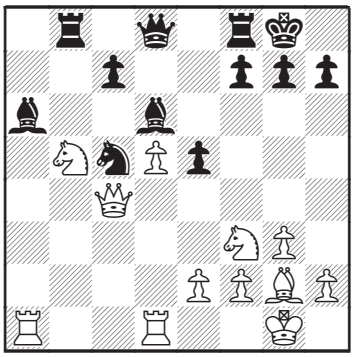
29. ... d4 30. Bxd4 Bd5+ 31. Bg2 Rxg2 32. Rxg2 Be4 33. Rdg1 Bxc2 34. Rg7+ Kh8 35. e6 Be4+ 36. R1g2 Bxg2+ 37. Rxg2+ Kh7 38. Rg7+ Kh8 39. Rg6+ Kh7 40. Rg7+ Kh8 41. Rg6+ ½–½

GM Julio Becerra – GM Varuzhan Akobian
North American Open, Las Vegas 2007
C14 FRENCH DEFENSE, Classical Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bxe7 Qxe7 7. f4 a6 8. Nf3 c5 9. dxc5 Nc6 10. Qd2 Qxc5 11. Bd3 b5 12. a3 0–0 13. Qf2 h6 14. Qxc5 Nxc5 15. b4 Nd7 16. Kd2 f6 17. exf6 gxf6 18. f5 d4 19. Ne2 e5 20. Ng3 Nb6 21. Nh4 Ne7 22. Rhf1 Nc4+ 23. Bxc4+ bxc4 24. Ne4 c3+ 25. Ke2 Bb7 26. Nc5 Bc6 27. a4 Rfb8 28. Ng6 Nxg6 29. fxg6 Kg7 30. Rf5 Rb6 31. g4 Be8 32. a5 Rc6 0–1

Alexandre Kretchetov – IM Enrico Sevillano
North American Open, Las Vegas 2007
D37 CATALAN OPENING

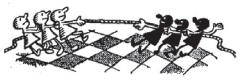
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 Ne4 5. g3 Bb4 6. Bd2 Nxd2 7. Qxd2 dxc4 8. Bg2 Nd7 9. 0–0 0–0 10. Qc2 Rb8 11. Rfd1 b5 12. a4 a6 13. axb5 axb5 14. d5 e5 15. b3 cxb3 16. Qxb3 Bd6 17. Nxb5 Nc5 18. Qc4 Ba6



19. Rxa6 Nxa6 20. Na7 Nb4 21. Nc6 Nxc6 22. dxc6 Qe7 23. Nd2 Bb4 24. Nb3 Rfd8 25. Bd5 g6 26. Kg2 Kg7 27. e4 Ra8 28. Rd3 Rf8 29. g4 Bd6 30. Rg3 Kh8 31. Nd2 Rab8 32. Nf3 Rb2 33. Qc1 Ba3 34. Qh6 Qc5 35. Nd2 Rg8 36. Rf3 Rg7 37. Nc4 Ra2 38. Nxe5 Bc1 39. Qh4 g5 40. Qh6 Bf4 41. Nxf7+ Rxf7 42. Bxf7 1–0

Old is new

Now available on the SCCF web page (www.scchess.com) are ChessBase files of *every game* published in the *Los Angeles Times* chess column from 1881 to 1985. Special thanks to John Blackstone of Nevada for entering the games and providing us with the files.



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25th Annual U.S. Amateur Team West

Twenty-five years and still growing.

The 2008 U.S. Amateur Team West, held at the LAX Hilton February 16-18, proved a resounding success. Forty-nine teams competed in the main event (the most since 2002), and a record 40 in the Scholastic. Of course, we still have a way to go to catch up with the East's 291 ...

Taking clear first with 6-0 was the Arizona team "We Have Cox," with Robby Adamson, Landon Brownell, Jonathan Cox and Ben Marmont. (They had Cox on third board. What did you think it meant?) Initially ranked 10th, they defeated teams 1, 3, 6 and 4 on the way to the Championship, and will now face the other three regional winners in an online playoff April 12.

Five teams tied for second with 5½-½, with tiebreaks giving second to "Sunil! Where's Hikaru?" (Jouaquin Banawa, Joel Banawa, Takashi Iwamoto and Sunil Delalikar), and third to "The Dream Team" (Enrico Sevillano, John Bryant, Michael Yee and Santy Wong). And though they didn't make it on tiebreak, let's not forget "Thank You Prime Trucking (led by GM Sergey Kudrin), "The troJACKs" (top College team), and "Gone Fisching!" A complete list of winners may be found on page 7.

John Hillery and Elie Hsiao directed for the SCCF.

And next year? Wait and see!

Graham Free – Elliott Liu
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B24 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

(Notes by Los Angeles Times *chess columnist Jack Peters)*

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3

The Closed Sicilian.

3. ... g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 Rb8 6. Be3 b5!? 7. Bxc5?!

Correct is 7. Qd2, meeting 7. … b4 smoothly by 8. Nd1.

7. ... b4 8. Na4

Yielding the exchange obtains some compensation, as does 8. Nd5 Qa5 9. Be3 Bxb2 10. Rb1 Qxa2 11. Ne2.

8. ... Qa5 9. b3 d6 10. Be3

Keeping equal material by 10. e5 Nxe5 11. Bd4 Bb7 does not solve White's problems.

10. ... Bxa1 11. Qxa1 Nf6 12. d4

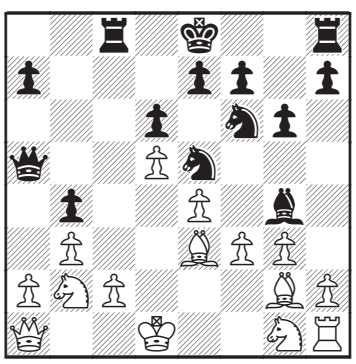
Probably 12. f4 0-0 13. Nf3 improves.

12. ... Bd7 13. d5?

Weak, but the punishment seems too harsh for the crime.

13. ... Ne5 14. Nb2 Rc8 15. Kd1 Bg4+16. f3

Allowing a torrent of sacrifices. However, 16. Kc1 Qc7 17. Qb1 runs into 17. ... Nxd5! 18. exd5 Bf5.



16. ... Rc3! 17. Bd2

Similar is 17. Bd4 Nxe4! 18. fxg4 Qxd5, when 19. Ne2 loses to 19. ... Nf2+ 20. Kc1 Qxg2.

17. ... Nxe4! 18. fxg4

Black refutes 18. Bxc3 by 18. ... bxc3! 19. Nd3 Nxd3, seeing 20. cxd3 c2+! 21. Kxc2 Qd2+.

18. ... Qxd5 19. Nd3 Rxd3 20. Bxe4

Or 20. cxd3 Nf2+, gaining a Rook.

20. ... Rxd2+ 21. Kc1?! Rd1+, White Resigns.

IM Enrico Sevillano – Garush Manukyan
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B13 CARO-KANN DEFENSE, Panov-Botvinnik Attack

(Notes by Los Angeles Times *chess columnist Jack Peters)*

1. e4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. exd5 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nxd5 6. d4 Nc6 7. Nf3

A popular line of the Panov-Botvinnik Attack against the Caro-Kann Defense.

7. ... Bg4 8. Bb5

Theory concentrates on 8. Qb3 Bxf3 9. gxf3 e6 10. Qxb7 Nxd4 11. Bb5+ Nxb5 12. Qc6+.

8. ... Qa5 9. Qd3 Nxc3

Another plan begins 9. … Ndb4!? 10. Qc4 Bxf3 11. gxf3 e6.

10. bxc3 Bxf3 11. gxf3 e6 12. Rg1 a6?

Too slow. Either 12. ... g6 13. Bf4 Bg7 or 12. ... Rc8 13. Rb1 a6. 14 Bxc6+ Rxc6 15. Rxb7 Rxc3 16. Bd2 Rxd3 keeps even chances.

13. Bxc6+ bxc6 14. Bf4

Now Black cannot challenge an

	Name	Score
1	**WE HAVE COX (2173.0)**	6
	ROBBY ADAMSON (2365) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	LANDON BROWNELL (2229) 5.0 Bd: 2	
	JONATHAN COX (2081) 5.5 Bd: 3	
	BENJAMIN MARMONT (2017) 5.5 Bd: 4	
2	**SUNIL! WHERE'S HIKARU? (2179.3)**	4½
	JOUAQUIN B BANAWA (2426) 4.5 Bd: 1	
	JOEL BANAWA (2398) 4.0 Bd: 2	
	TAKASHI KUROSAKI (2129) 5.0 Bd: 3	
	SUNIL DEOLALIKAR (1764) 2.5 Bd: 4	
3	**THE DREAM TEAM (2198.8)**	4½
	IM ENRICO SEVILLANO (2594) 5.0 Bd: 1	
	JOHN DANIEL BRYANT (2257) 4.0 Bd: 2	
	MICHAEL ANTHONY YEE (2022) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	SANTY B WONG (1922) 4.0 Bd: 4	
4	**THANK YOU PRIME TRUCKING (2186.5)**	4½
	GM SERGEY KUDRIN (2629) 5.0 Bd: 1	
	IM ANDRANIK MATIKOZYAN (2523) 5.5 Bd: 2	
	ROBERT FELDSTEIN ESQ (2014) 1.0 Bd: 3	
	RONALD A MORRIS (1580) 3.5 Bd: 4	
5	**THE troJACKSs (2177.3)**	4½
	IM JACK PETERS (2460) 4.5 Bd: 1	
	ETAN J ILFELD (2246) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	SIMON NIELSEN (2081) 5.0 Bd: 3	
	COLIN FIELD-EATON (1922) 4.0 Bd: 4	
	LELAND T FARRAR (1755) 1.5 Bd: 5	
6	**GONE FISCHING! (2183.8)**	4½
	GARUSH MANUKYAN (2356) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	TATEV ABRAHAMYAN (2280) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	CHRISTIAN TANAKA (2143) 4.0 Bd: 3	
	ERIC R ZHANG (1956) 3.5 Bd: 4	
	MATTHEW HERNANDEZ (1872) 2.0 Bd: 5	
7	**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS (2192.3)**	4
	MICHAEL CASELLA (2333) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	ELLIOTT LIU (2305) 4.5 Bd: 2	
	CHRIS LEE (2110) 3.0 Bd: 3	
	VINCENT HUANG (2021) 4.5 Bd: 4	
8	**CARO KANYE WEST AND THE ROOK-A-FELLA CREW (2118.8)**	4
	EUGENE YANAYT (2299) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	GRAHAM N FREE (2139) 4.5 Bd: 2	
	JOSHUA GUTMAN (2088) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	DINGCHAO LU (1949) 3.5 Bd: 4	
9	**AKOPIAN TEAM (2175.8)**	4
	HARUTYUN AKOPYAN (2298) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	MINAS NORDANYAN (2190) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	ALEN MELIKADAMIAN (2174) 5.0 Bd: 3	
	HARUT KESHISHIAN (2041) 3.5 Bd: 4	

IM Enrico Sevillano

invasion on the b-file.

14. ... Qb5 15. c4 Qa5+

Black's position is already very difficult. White meets 15. ... Qb2 calmly by 16. Rb1 Qxa1 17 Kf1. Maybe 15. ... Qf5 16. Qxf5 exf5 17. Kd2 0-0-0 is Black's best chance.

16. Kf1 Rd8 17. Rb1

Intending 18. Qe4. For example, 17. ... g6 18. Qe4 Qa4 19. Bg5! leaves Black helpless, as 19. ... Be7 20. Bxe7 Kxe7 21. Qh4+ f6 22. Qh6 penetrates at b7 or g7.

17. ... Be7

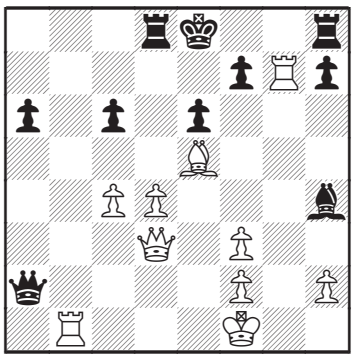
An attempt at counterattack. Trading Queens, by 17. ... Qf5 18. Qxf5 exf5, won't end White's attack. After 19. Kg2, neither 19. ... Rxd4 20. Rge1+ Be7 21. Be3! nor 19. ... f6 20 Rb7! Rd7 21. Rb8+ Kf7 22. d5! cxd5 23. c5 lasts long.

18. Rxg7 Qxa2

No better is 18. ... Bf6 19. Rxh7. If 19. ... Rxd4, White wraps it up with 20. Rxh8+ Bxh8 21. Qh7 Bf6 22. Bh6. Or, if 19. ... Rg8, the brutal 20. Rxf7! Kxf7 21. Qh7+ Rg7 22. Rb7+ Be7 23. Rxe7+ Kxe7 24. Qxg7+ Ke8 25. Bg5 ends resistance.

19. Be5 Bh4

White refutes 19. ... f6 convincingly by 20. Rb7 Bf8 21. Bxf6 Bxg7 22. Bxg7 Rg8 23. Qxh7.



The Winners

1st: **We Have Cox** (Robby Adamson, Landon Brownell, Jonathan Cox, Benjamin Marmont), 6-0

2nd: **Sunil! Where's Hikaru?** (Jouaquin Banawa, Joel Banawa, Takashi Kurosaki, Sunil Deolalikar), 5½-1½

3rd: **The Dream Team** (Enrico Sevillano, John Daniel Bryant, Michael Yee, Santy Wong), 4½-1½

U2100: **Beyond Chess A** (Kong Liang Deng, Tianyi He, Kelly Zhang, Robert Xue, Henry Wang), 4-2

U2000: **Wut Up Narcissists!?!!** (Kofi Tatum, Lonnie Neal, Carl Bolm, Alicia Narducci, Stewart Yanez), 4-2

U1800: **Short and Tal** (Don Cotten, Ryan Yeung, Ray Sollars, Wenbo Du), 3-3

U1600: Crap! We Thought This Was Scholastics ... (Alexander Kaliannan, Anna Karapetyan, Caleb Molitoris, Gavin Greiwe), 3-3

U1400: Vera Menchik Brigade (Michael White, Colette McGruder, Constance McClendon, Debra Rothman), 2-4

College: The troJACKs (Jack Peters, Etan Ilfeld, Simon Nielsen, Colin Field-Eaton, Leland Farrar), 4½-1½

Industrial: Northrop Grumman Advantage in Space (Philip Jacobsen, Robert Potts, David Anthopoulos, Michael Lowe, Michael Hemmat), 3-3

Junior: Beyond Chess B (Richard Yang, Hubert Jung, Jeffrey Ding, Zheng Zhu), 3-3

Senior: The Cardinal Sinners (Precioso Saguisag, Romeo Rodriguez, Jose Romero, Ed Baluran), 3½-2½

Scholastic:

1st: Beyond Qh5, 4-0

Board 1: GM Sergey Kudrin, 5-1
Board 2: IM Andranik Matikozyan, 5½-½
Board 3: Jonathan Cox, 5½-½
Board 4: Ben Marmont, 5½-½
Alternate: Stewart Yanez, 4-1

Team names (*Don't blame us, the players voted for them*):

1st: *Hillery Says Scratch My Barack*

2nd: *My Pimp Hand Is Strong Chess Bitch*

10	**BEYOND CHESS A (2029.3)**	4
	IM KONG LIANG DENG (2479) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	TIANYI HE (2083) 4.5 Bd: 2	
	KELLY ZHANG (1787) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	ROBERT XUE (1768) 3.5 Bd: 4	
	HENRY WANG (1376) 0.0 Bd: 5	
11	**THREE AND A HALF MEN (2128.8)**	4
	RONALD BRUNO (2257) 5.0 Bd: 1	
	ULRIC AERIA (2144) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	RYAN RICHARDSON (2079) 5.0 Bd: 3	
	MARIANO LOZANO (2035) 3.5 Bd: 4	
12	**CAPTAIN O IN URANUS (2086.3)**	4
	DAVID ZIMBECK (2250) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	CRAIG CLAWITTER (2218) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	VANESSA A WEST (2024) 4.0 Bd: 3	
	WAEL SHREIBA (1853) 2.5 Bd: 4	
	MELINDA M WEST (1724) 1.0 Bd: 5	
13	**CHECKMATE ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (2187.5)**	4
	SHIVKUMAR SHIVAJI (2291) 4.5 Bd: 1	
	ALAA-ADDIN MOUSSA (2239) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	RALPH GHOLMIEH (2126) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	MEHRDAD MIRALAIE (2094) 4.5 Bd: 4	
	ESSAM MOHAMED (1913) 0.0 Bd: 5	
14	**WUT UP NARCISSISTS!?!! (1916.0)**	4
	KOFI O TATUM (2093) 2.0 Bd: 1	
	LONNIE NEAL (2014) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	CARL E BOLM (1813) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	ALICIA Y NARDUCCI (1744) 3.0 Bd: 4	
	STEWART H YANEZ (1710) 4.0 Bd: 5	
15	**MARS ATTACKS (1900.5)**	4
	RICHARD L BORGEN (2212) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	LAWRENCE STEVENS (2098) 4.0 Bd: 2	
	TIMOTHY THOMPSON (1909) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	SAUL R PRIEVER (1383) 1.0 Bd: 4	
16	**WHAT'S OUR TEAM NAME? (2196.8)**	3½
	ILIA V SERPIK (2308) 1.5 Bd: 1	
	TAKASHI IWAMOTO (2307) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	VLADIMIR L SERPIK (2222) 3.0 Bd: 3	
	KRISHNA KALIANNAN (1950) 5.0 Bd: 4	
17	**THE WAY OF CHESS (2015.8)**	3½
	ALEXANDRE KRETCHETOV (2376) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	ROBERT AKOPIAN (2170) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	NATHANIEL LAGEMANN (1882) 4.0 Bd: 3	
	DAVID KARAPETYAN (1635) 3.5 Bd: 4	
18	**OUR OTHER TEAM NAME WAS BETTER (2121.3)**	3½
	JULIAN W LANDAW (2342) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	DEREK J TAN (2153) 5.5 Bd: 2	
	AMANDA R MATEER (2017) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	JARED E TAN (1973) 3.5 Bd: 4	

19	**THE CARDINAL SINNERS (2163.5)**	3½
	PRECIOSO SAGUISAG (2291) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	ROMEO E RODRIGUEZ (2218) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	JOSE ROMERO (2145) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	ALEJANDRINO BALURAN (2000) 3.0 Bd: 4	
	ALFRED TABAYOYONG (1755) 0.0 Bd: 5	
20	**CHESSPALACE A (1960.0)**	3
	BARRY J LAZARUS (2004) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	AARON ONG (1666) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	HENRY CASTRO (1976) 1.5 Bd: 3	
	JASON AL GARFIELD (1968) 2.0 Bd: 4	
	MIGUEL R CAYETANO (1892) 3.5 Bd: 5	
	KELE D PERKINS (1576) 1.0 Bd: 6	
21	**NO TOURNEY ... FOUR OLD MEN (2119.0)**	3
	DAN DURHAM (2360) 4.5 Bd: 1	
	ERIC M FERGUSON (2114) 2.5 Bd: 2	
	ROGER DELLACA (2076) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	DARRELL Y YAP (1926) 0.5 Bd: 4	
	RANDY K HIGA (1925) 3.0 Bd: 5	
22	**MY PIMP HAND IS STRONG CHESS BITCH (2039.8)**	3
	RON HERMANSEN (2304) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	JOHN R WILLIAMS (2079) 2.5 Bd: 2	
	RICK BUCARIA (1902) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	GREG BROWN (1874) 2.5 Bd: 4	
23	**OUR PAWNS ARE ON STRIKE (2073.8)**	3
	ROBERT HURDLE JR (2227) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	CRAIG ALLEN FABER (2172) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	CHRIS ROBERTS (1980) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	ABRAHAM WHITE (1916) 2.0 Bd: 4	
	STEVEN B HURDLE (958) 1.0 Bd: 5	
24	**SHORT AND TAL (1775.3)**	3
	DONALD R COTTEN (2039) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	RYAN YEUNG (1908) 4.0 Bd: 2	
	RAYMOND C SOLLARS (1739) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	WENBO DU (1415) 3.5 Bd: 4	
25	**SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER'S TOMBSTONE (1930.8)**	3
	ANDY C LEE (2267) 4.5 Bd: 1	
	DAVID W TAYLOR (1844) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	TAYLOR A CURTIS (1817) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	DAMON MOSK-AOYAMA (1795) 3.5 Bd: 4	
26	**BEST OF THE BEST (1369.5)**	3
	ALEXANDER KALIANNAN (1492) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	ANNA KARAPETYAN (1339) 4.0 Bd: 2	
	CALEB C MOLITORIS (1336) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	GAVIN LYN GREIWE (1311) 2.0 Bd: 4	

20. Kg2!

Most elegant, although 20. Rg2 should win too.

20. ... Bxf2

Or 20. ... Qxf2+ 21. Kh1, with the unstoppable threat of 22. Rg2.

21. Kh3

Again threatening 22. Rg2.

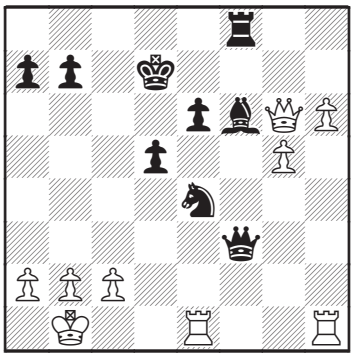
21. ... Bxd4 22. Bxd4 c5 23. Qe4 cxd4 24. Qb7

Forcing mate. Even quicker is 24. Qc6+ Kf8 25. Qc5+! Kxg7 26. Qg5+.

24. ... Rd7 25. Qc8+ Rd8 26. Qc7 Rd7 27. Rb8+ Ke7 28. Qc5+ Rd6 29. Rb7+, Black Resigns.

Robert Hurdle – Garush Manukyan
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B12 CARO-KANN DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nc3 e6 5. g4 Bg6 6. Nge2 h6 7. Nf4 Bh7 8. Bd3 Bxd3 9. Qxd3 Nd7 10. Bd2 Ne7 11. 0–0–0 c5 12. Nb5 Nc6 13. Rde1cxd4 14. Nxd5? exd5 15. e6 Nf6 16. Nxd4 Nxd4 17. Qxd4 Be7 18. h4 Ne4 19. Qxg7 Rf8 20. Bxh6 21. Qg6+ Kd7 22. Bxf8 Qxf8 23. f3 Qf4+ 24. Kb1 Qxf3 25. h5 Rf8 26. h6 Bf6 27. g5



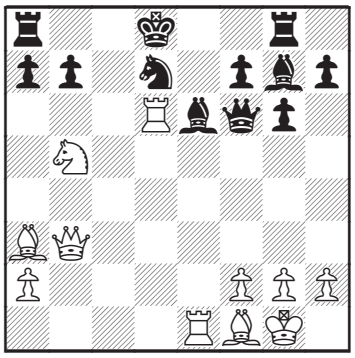
MICHAEL CASELLA

Robert Hurdle

27. ... Bxb2! 28. Kxb2 Qc3+ 29. Kb1 Qb4+ 30. Kc1 Qa3+ 31. Kd1 Nc3+ 32. Kd2 Rf2+ 33. Ke3 Nd1+ 34. Kd4 Qc3# 0–1

IM Kong Liang Deng – IM Jack Peters
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B50 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation Deferred

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. c3 Nf6 4. Be2 Nc6 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 Nxe4 7. d5 Qa5+ 8. Nc3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nb8 10. 0–0 g6 11. Qd4 Rg8 12. Re1 Nd7 13. Bf1 Qc5 14. Qa4 Qxd5 15. Ba3 Kd8 16. Rad1 Qf5 17. Nd4 Nb6 18. Qb3 Qf6 19. c4 Bd7 20. Nb5 21. c5 Be6 22. cxd6 exd6 23. Rxd6+ Nd7



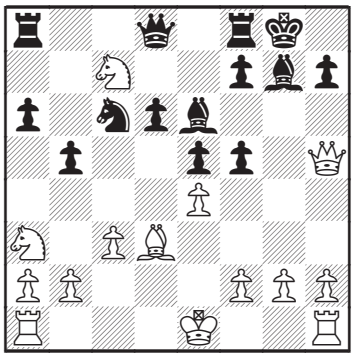
24. Rexe6 fxe6 25. Rxd7+ Kxd7 26. Qd3+ Kc8 27. Qc4+ 1–0

Ron Hermansen – Michael Casella
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B33 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Sveshnikov Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Nd5 f5 11. c3 Bg7 12. Bd3 Be6 13. Qh5 0–0 14. Nc7

27	**IT'S CALLED KNIGHTMARE CHESS. DEAL WITH IT.**	3
	CAU DUONG LE (2185) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	KEVIN M SEVILLA (2022) 1.5 Bd: 2	
	CHRIS ALARCON (1766) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	BRET R STRUNK (1641) 3.0 Bd: 4	
	JEFF LINDLEY (1582) 2.0 Bd: 5	
28	**THE FORKING KNIGHTS (1911.5)**	3
	DAVE E MATSON (2005) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	DANE E HINRICHSEN (2000) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	L GORDON BROOKS (1900) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	JOHN R ANDERSON (1741) 4.5 Bd: 4	
29	**SHIPIN'S MATES (1902.5)**	3
	BOBBY J HALL (1967) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	TED A ROTH (1900) 1.5 Bd: 2	
	STEPHEN A BOAK (1873) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	CHARLES ROSSELLO (1870) 2.5 Bd: 4	
	AL R PENA JR JR (1700) 3.0 Bd: 5	
30	**NORTHROP GRUMMAN ADVANTAGE IN SPACE (1786.8)**	3
	PHILIP S JACOBSON (1953) 2.0 Bd: 1	
	ROBERT L POTTS (1910) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	DAVID ANTHOPOULOS (1722) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	MICHAEL J LOWE (1562) 1.0 Bd: 4	
	MICHAEL HEMMAT (1461) 1.5 Bd: 5	
31	**BEYOND CHESS B (1527.0)**	3
	RICHARD YANG (1615) 2.0 Bd: 1	
	HUBERT JUNG (1612) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	JEFFREY DING (1582) 3.0 Bd: 3	
	ZHENG ZHU (1299) 4.0 Bd: 4	
32	**HILLERY SAYS SCRATCH MY BARACK (1554.0)**	2½
	RANDALL D HOUGH (2023) 4.0 Bd: 1	
	HENRY YAN (1779) 2.5 Bd: 2	
	JIM CHENG LEE (1506) 1.0 Bd: 3	
	TIMOTHY JAO (908) 3.0 Bd: 4	
33	**WHAT AHPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T PLAN (1671.0)**	2½
	STEFAN MARKOV (1785) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	MICHAEL A ROCKE (1707) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	CHARLES C WON (1521) 3.5 Bd: 3	
34	**ALL FORKED UP (1587.5)**	2½
	DANIEL GERTMENIAN (1643) 1.5 Bd: 1	
	AEZED S RAZA (1639) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	STANLEY C CHAO (1564) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	CAREY FAN (1504) 2.5 Bd: 4	
35	**FIVE TO ONE (1554.8)**	2½
	JEFFREY A COHEN (1984) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	JOHN CACHAY (1626) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	ROBERT ZUCHINI (1481) 4.0 Bd: 3	
	JESSE MOYA (1128) 2.0 Bd: 4	
	GLENN S ANDREWS (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 5	

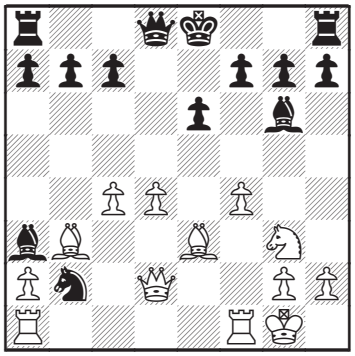
36	**OUR TEAM NAME IS BETTER THAN OUR TEAM (1841.5)**	2½
	BLAKE J PHILLIPS (2075) 3.0 Bd: 1	
	DANYUL LAWRENCE (2059) 3.0 Bd: 2	
	REZA GHOLIZADEH (1734) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	MAYUR GONDHALEKAR (1498) 0.5 Bd: 4	
37	**ELI AVOIDS THE SAC! HE'S STILL LOOKING, LOOKING ... (1785.8)**	2½
	MICHAEL TAYLOR (1913) 2.0 Bd: 1	
	MICHAEL W BROWN (1807) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	RYAN P POLSKY (1746) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	GRANT P YOSENICK (1677) 2.5 Bd: 4	
38	**THE TRIPLE AAA THREAT (1721.0)**	2
	DANIL FEDUNOV (1845) 1.5 Bd: 1	
	ARMEN SAMUELIAN (1716) 1.5 Bd: 2	
	BRENDYN ESTOLAS (1677) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	ARAM KAVOUKJIAN (1646) 3.5 Bd: 4	
39	**CHESSPALACE B (1863.5)**	2
	JESSE VICTORIA (1967) 0.5 Bd: 1	
	DANILO JORDA (1931) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	FERNANDO SEVILLA (1821) 0.5 Bd: 3	
	SERIO PRAGALE (1735) 3.5 Bd: 4	
	ALFRED ONG (1712) 2.5 Bd: 5	
	ALFREDO T ONG (1298) 2.0 Bd: 6	
40	**A KORCHNOI AND 3 CARLSENS (1588.8)**	2
	JAY S STALLINGS (2029) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	CHESTON GUNAWAN (1739) 3.5 Bd: 2	
	JACKSON STALLINGS (1327) 1.0 Bd: 3	
	TYMOTHY BELANGER (1260) 2.5 Bd: 4	
41	**NEVER FEAR, FISCHER IS NOT HERE (1655.5)**	2
	ANTONIO C MARTIN (2100) 3.5 Bd: 1	
	JOSE GOMEZ (1730) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	B HIGINIO GARCIA (1441) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	BONIFACIO J LARA (1351) 4.0 Bd: 4	
	JOSEPH CALDERON (696) 0.5 Bd: 5	
42	**CHESSPALACE C (1598.8)**	2
	PETER HOLZER (1741) 2.0 Bd: 1	
	GEVORG PAPOYAN (1145) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	EREN KARADAYI (1694) 0.0 Bd: 3	
	JOSEPH BELLINGER (1592) 0.5 Bd: 4	
	CARMEN CHILDRESS (1368) 2.5 Bd: 5	
43	**VERA MENCHIK BRIGADE (1372.0)**	2
	MICHAEL B WHITE (1930) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	COLETTE MC GRUDER (1806) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	CONSTANCE MCCLENDON (1259) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	DEBRA R ROTHMAN (493) 3.0 Bd: 4	



14. ... d5 15. exd5 Qxc7 16. dxc6 e4 17. Be2 Qxc6 18. 0–0 Rad8 19. Rad1 Bxa2 20. Qxf5 Bb3 21. Rxd8 Rxd8 22. Nb1 Qg6 23. Bg4 Rd5 24. Qc8+ Bf8 25. Be2 Rg5 26. g3 e3 27. Na3 exf2+ 28. Rxf2 Kg7 29. Kg2 Bc5 30. Rf4 Be6 31. Qd8 Rd5 32. Qh4 Rd2 33. Kf1 Rxb2 0–1

Mariano Lozano – Stewart Yanez
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
B01 CENTER COUNTER DEFENSE

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bc4 Bg4 5. f3 Bc8 6. Nc3 Nbd7 7. Nge2 Nb6 8. Bb3 Nbxd5 9. d4 Bf5 10. Ng3 Bg6 11. 0–0 e6 12. Nxd5 Nxd5 13. c4 Nb4 14. f4 Nd3 15. Be3 Nxb2 16. Qd2 Ba3

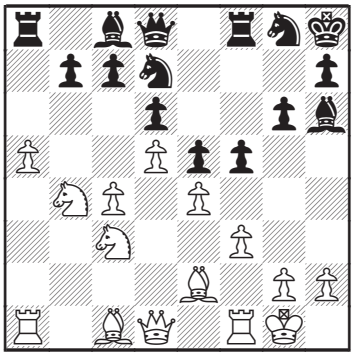


17. f5 exf5 18. Bg5 f6 19. Rae1+ Kf8 20. Nxf5 Qd7 21. Nxg7 Nd3 22. Rxf6+ Kxg7 23. Bh6+ Kxf6 24. Qg5+ Kf7 25. c5+ Qe6 26. Rxe6 1–0

Andy Lee – Michael Casella
USAT West, Los Angeles 2008
E99 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0–0 6. Nf3 e5 7. 0–0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Nd3 f5 11. f3 Kh8 12. a4 a5 13. b4 axb4 14. Nxb4 Ng8 15. a5 Bh6

Trophies? Blitz? Hmmm ...



16. a6 Bxc1 17. Qxc1 Nc5 18. axb7 Rxa1 19. Qxa1 Bxb7 20. Nd3 Nxd3 21. Bxd3 f4 22. Qa7 Ba8 23. c5 dxc5 24. Qxc5 Rf6 25. Rd1 Ne7 26. Ra1 Bb7 27. Nb5 Ba6 28. Nxc7 Bb7 29. Ra7 Qb8 30. Ne8 Qxe8 31. Rxb7 Ng8 32. Qc7 1–0

44	**BISHOPS? WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BISHOPS (1700.5)**	1½
	MICHAEL A PURCELL (1837) 1.5 Bd: 1	
	GARY KEVIN WARE (1700) 1.5 Bd: 2	
	ALEJANDRO RUIZ (1665) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	GARY A SAUER (1600) 3.0 Bd: 4	
45	**?! ... !? (1789.5)**	1½
	DENNIS UCHIMURA (2021) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	LIZ TAYLOR (1800) 1.5 Bd: 2	
	BILL CONRAD (1675) 1.5 Bd: 3	
	JEFF A YEE (1662) 2.0 Bd: 4	
46	**WEST VALLEY CHESS CLUB (1669.3)**	1½
	PATRICK BOLLIG (1786) 0.5 Bd: 1	
	MARK D WITTE (1679) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	JERRY B YEE (1675) 2.5 Bd: 3	
	JABBAR M HICKLIN (1537) 3.0 Bd: 4	
47	**CHESSPALACE D (1628.0)**	1½
	DANIEL V ALVIRA (1802) 0.5 Bd: 1	
	ANTONIO LUCERO (1736) 2.0 Bd: 2	
	RICHARD P CANTOR (1344) 2.0 Bd: 3	
	BRYAN MARTIN (514) 0.0 Bd: 4	
	ALDRICH ONG (1630) 4.0 Bd: 5	
48	**THE KING'S GUARDS (1779.5)**	1
	MATTHEW ROBERTSON (2050) 2.5 Bd: 1	
	JOSHUA J FREELAND (1891) 2.5 Bd: 2	
	ADAM ROTH (1694) 0.0 Bd: 3	
	JONATHAN LAKS (1483) 3.0 Bd: 4	
	DIANNA POCHUE (824) 0.0 Bd: 5	
49	**OH! IT'S TEAMS OF 4 ... (1228.0)**	1
	HENDRIK MAKALIWE (1486) 1.0 Bd: 1	
	DAVID WISS (1083) 1.0 Bd: 2	
	KETHAN TELLIS (unr.) 3.5 Bd: 3	
	MARK MARTINEZ (unr.) 1.0 Bd: 4	
	MARTIN DIEKHOFF (1115) 1.0 Bd: 5	
	BRENDAN FONG (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 6	

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Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 28)

Ibragimov-Rohde, Las Vegas 2007: The hunted Black King is nearing safety, but White strikes first with **1. Qe8+ Nxe8 2. g4+ 1–0**, for he is mated after 2. … fxg4 3. hxg4+ Kh4 4. Bf2#.

Topalov – Gelfand, Corus 2008: The Black Queen is *overloaded* after **1. Ng4 Qg5** (after 1. … Qc7, 2. Nxh6+ Kf8 3. Nxf7 simply leaves White with an extra pawn and a winning attack) **2. f4! 1–0**, not waiting for 2. … Qxh5 3. Nf6+.

Howell – Levitt, London 2005: Black begins a spectacular *King hunt* with **1. ... Rxa3+ 2. Kxa3 Qa1+ 3. Kb4 Qa4+ 4. Kc5 Bd4+ 5. Kd6 Qb4+ 6. Kc6 Qc5+ 7. Kd7 Qa7+ 8. Kd6** (or 8. Kc6 Be5 9. Qxf7+ Qxf7 10. Rxf7+ Kxf7 11. Kb6 Bxb2 12. Kxa6 b4 13. Kb5 Bc3 14. h4 Kg6, or 8. Kc8 Be5) **8. … Qe7+ 9. Kc6 Ke8 0–1**

Western Class Championships

Yotov, Matikozyan, Beelby Atop Western Class

by Randy Hough

Continental Chess's annual Western Class Championships drew 163 players (plus two re-entries) for six rounds of chess at the Agoura Renaissance Hotel over Martin Luther King weekend. The standard problem of how to structure a tournament on a weekend when most, but not all, players are available Monday was addressed with a new solution. The top five sections played through Monday (with four- or three-day schedules offered), but five others battled only Saturday and Sunday. A total of $16,000 in prizes was paid out.

The Master section ended in a tie among IMs Valentin Yotov (18, Valentin is American-born but represents Bulgaria and spends most of his time in Europe) and Andranik Matikozyan and FM Matthew Beelby, with 4½ points. Yotov and Matikozyan both downed the second seed, state champ IM Enrico Sevillano. Yotov beat Beelby in Round One of the sparsely attended Friday night round, but lost to young John Bryant by misplaying what should have been a simple draw (bishop versus bishop and pawn) in Round Two.

Beelby scored four straight wins after the first round (his victims included Bryant and Northern California star Daniel Naroditsky) and drew with Matikozyan in the finale. Matikozyan started with two full-point byes when no one else showed up for the two-day Master schedule (another anomaly of this tournament), but lost to Michael Casella before beating Ron Hermansen and Sevillano. Amazingly, GM Melikset Khachiyan withdrew after four rounds (one win and three draws) while still in the running for first!

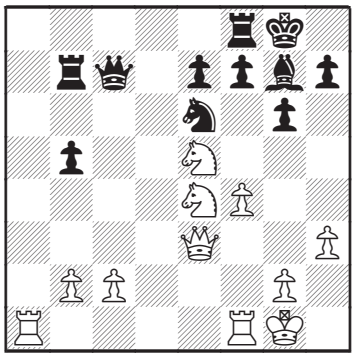
Many of the class winners outpaced the competition by a full point (in one case, a point and a half), though none had perfect scores. A full list of winners appears below. Bill and Brenda Goichberg and Randy Hough directed.

IM Valentin Yotov – Frisco del Rosario
Western Class Championships, Agoura Hills 2008
D57 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, Lasker's Defense

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bg5 0–0 6. e3 h6 7. Bh4 Ne4 8. Bxe7 Qxe7 9. cxd5 Nxc3 10. bxc3 exd5 11. Qb3 Rd8 12. Be2 b6 13. 0–0 Bb7 14. a4 Nd7 15. a5 c5 16. dxc5 Nxc5 17. Qb4 Qc7 18. Nd4 Ne4 19. Rfc1 Rac8 20. Bg4 Ra8 21. Rab1 Bc8 22. axb6 axb6 23. Bf3 Bd7 24. Qxb6 Qxb6 25. Rxb6 Nxc3 26. Rd6 Kf8 27. Kf1 Ne4 28. Rxd5 Nd2+ 29. Ke1 Nxf3+ 30. Nxf3 Rdc8 31. Rdc5 Rxc5 32. Rxc5 Ra1+ 33. Kd2 Ra2+ 34. Rc2 Rxc2+ 35. Kxc2 Bc6 36. Kd3 Ke7 37. e4 h5 38. h4 g6 39. Nd4 Bb7 40. g3 Kd6 41. f4 Bc8 42. Nf3 Ba6+ 43. Kd4 Ke7 44. Ke5 f6+ 45. Kd4 Bb7 46. Nd2 Bc8 47. Nc4 Bb7 48. Nd2 Bc8 49. Nc4 Bh3 50. Ne3 Kf7 51. f5 gxf5 52. exf5 Ke7 53. Kc5 1–0

John Daniel Bryant – Ron Hermansen
Western Class Championships, Agoura Hills 2008
B06 PIRC-ROBATSCH DEFENSE

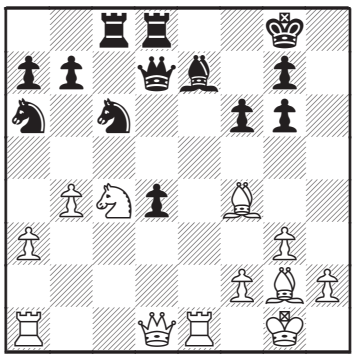
1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. f4 a6 5. Nf3 b5 6. Bd3 Bb7 7. 0–0 Nd7 8. e5 c5 9. Be4 cxd4 10. Bxb7 Ra7 11. Qxd4 Rxb7 12. Qe4 Nc5 13. Qe2 Nh6 14. Be3 Ne6 15. a4 Ng4 16. axb5 axb5 17. h3 Nxe3 18. Qxe3 0–0 19. Ne4 dxe5 20. Nxe5 Qc7



21. Rae1 Bxe5 22. fxe5 Qxe5 23. Qf3 Rbb8 24. c3 Ng5 25. Nxg5 Qxg5 26. Re4 Qc5+ 27. Kh1 Rb6 28. Rf4 f5 29. Ra1 e5 30. Rb4 e4 31. Qd1 Rb7 32. Ra6 Re8 33. Rd4 Rbe7 34. Rd5 Qc4 35. Rd4 Qf7 36. Qe2 f4 37. Ra1 Qf5 38. Qf2 f3 39. Kh2 Rf8 40. Re1 Qe5+ 41. Kh1 e3 0–1

Show Kitagami – Jim Chao
Western Class Championships, Agoura Hills 2008
A08 KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 c5 4. 0–0 Nc6 5. d3 e5 6. e4 Be7 7. exd5 Nxd5 8. Re1 f6 9. c3 Nc7 10. Na3 0–0 11. Nc2 Bf5 12. d4 cxd4 13. cxd4 Qd7 14. Ne3 Bg6 15. Nh4 exd4 16. Nxg6 hxg6 17. Nc4 Na6 18. Bf4 Rfd8 19. a3 Rac8 20. b4



20. ... Ncxb4 21. axb4 Bxb4 22. Qb3 Qf7 23. Rec1 Bc3 24. Qxb7 Bxa1 25. Qxa6 d3 26. Nd6 Rxc1+ 27. Bxc1 Qc7 28. Qa2+ Kh7 29. Ba3 Rxd6 30. Qxa1 d2 31. Bf3 Rd3 32. Bd1 Rc3 33. Bb2 Rc1 34. Qa4 Qe7 35. Kg2 Qb7+ 36. Bf3 Qxb2 37. Qh4+ Kg8 38. Bd5+ Kf8 39. Qh8+ Ke7 0–1

15th WESTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS
January 18-21, 2008
Agoura Hills

Full schedules: **MASTER**: *1st/3rd*: Valentin Yotov, Andranik Matikozyan, and Matthew Beelby (Under 2400), 4½. *4th*: Ron Hermansen (Under 2400), 4. *5th/7th:* Enrico Sevillano, Eugene Yanayt, and Daniel Naroditsky, 3½. **EXPERT**: *1st*: Carlos Garcia, 5½. *2nd/3rd*: Nick Nita and Takashi Kurosaki, 4½. *4th/5th*: Derek Tan and Branko Sretenovic, 4. **A**: *1st:* Kaylen Burleigh, 5 ½. *2nd/3rd*: Mike Schemm and Henry Castro, 4½. *4th:* Joseph Roth and Zoran Djoric, 4. **B**: *1st*: Daniel Karapetyan, 5½. *2nd*: Armen Samuelian, 4½. *3rd*: Hubert Jung, 4. *4th/7th*: Ryan Polsky, Jeffrey Ding, Ed Isler, and Edwin Silva, 3½. **C**: *1st:* Yash Pershad, 5. *2nd/5th*: Richard Martin, Shirolly Anand, Steve Dahl and Anna Karapetyan, 4.

Saturday/Sunday schedules: **1700-1899**: *1st*: Sergey Yurenok (unrated), 5½. *2nd/3rd*: Robert Xue and Michael Mulford, 4. *4th*: David Portwood, 3. **1400-1699**: *1st*: Dennis Neymit, 5½. *2nd/4th*: Terrence Sun, Richard Yang, and Connor Reck, 4. **D**: *1st*: Ellie Simon, 5. *2nd*: Charles Morgan, 5. *3rd:* John Kitapszyan, 4. *4th/5th*: Jan Olderdissen and and Wyatt Duvall, 3½. **E**: *1st*: Sanjay Siddhanti, 5½. *2nd:* Scott Xue, 5. *3rd*: David Halajian, 4½. *4th/7th*: David Alday, Daniel Mousseri, John Gardner, and Robert Gardner, 4. **Under 900**: *1st*: Alexander Blaine, 5. *2nd*: Chantelle Field, 4½. *3rd/4th*: Ernesto Lim and Aaron Green, 4.

Robert James Fischer

1943-2008

On January 17, 2008, Bobby Fischer passed away at a hospital in Reykjavik, Iceland. Los Angeles Times *chess columnist Jack Peters offers this tribute to America's greatest player.*

As a young player in the 1960s, I dreamed of playing chess like Bobby Fischer. Everyone did. Even those he derided as "Commie cheaters" admired his direct style and his relentless search for the secrets of the game. Let's thank Iceland for its compassionate treatment of a man who could not take care of himself in his final years.

GM Melikset Khachiyan, Los Angeles: "Sad news, very sad. Fischer was a real genius. To beat Taimanov and Larsen, 6-0, unbelievable. To me, Fischer is the greatest chess champion in history."

GM Varuzhan Akobian, Los Angeles: "Fischer's results were one of a kind. Many of his games became famous forever. Overall I think he left a positive influence on chess."

GM Gregory Kaidanov, Kentucky: "As a kid growing up in the Soviet Union, I was a big Fischer fan. His uncompromising chess style, his bizarre behavior, everything appealed to me. I felt that by choosing him as my chess hero I am rebelling against surrounding reality."

IM Cyrus Lakdawala, San Diego: "Fischer will be remembered as the Mozart of chess, taking Capa's style and sharpening it. He was my childhood inspiration and is the reason I play chess today. We must separate the man who had repugnant views from the artist."

IM Anthony Saidy, Los Angeles: "Tal called Fischer 'the greatest genius to descend from the chess heavens.' Comparing Fischer to Kasparov is like comparing a lone warrior armed only with his wits to the pampered general of an army."

GM Yasser Seirawan, Seattle: "Bobby Fischer was an inspiration for me and countless others. He was a national hero turned tragic figure. While the decisions he made in life were a mystery, the fact that he died with malice in his heart for his country and people is truly a great tragedy."

GM Dmitry Gurevich, Illinois: "For me and many of my friends in Russia, he was an absolute hero. Fischer's portrait was one of the few personal belongings I brought to this country years ago. Later that portrait was taken down with great sorrow and disbelief."

Bobby Fischer – Oscar Panno
Buenos Aires 1970
A04 KING'S INDIAN ATTACK

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d3

Turning the Sicilian Defense into a King's Indian Reversed.

3. ... Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. 0-0 Nge7 7. Re1 d6

Other plans begin with 7. ... d5 and 7. ... e5.

8. c3 0-0 9. d4

Possibly premature.

9. ... cxd4 10. cxd4 d5?!

The complications of 10. ... Qb6! 11. d5 Bxb2 12. Bxb2 Qxb2 13. dxc6 Qxa1 suit Black after either 14. cxb7

Bxb7 15. Qb3 Bd5 16. exd5 Nxd5 or 14. Qb3 Nxc6 15. Nc3 Nd4 16. Rxa1 Nxb3.

11. e5

White has more space and a secure center.

11. ... Bd7 12. Nc3 Rc8 13. Bf4 Na5 14. Rc1 b5 15. b3 b4 16. Ne2 Bb5 17. Qd2 Nac6

Here or next move, Black should capture on e2.

18. g4 a5?! 19. Ng3 Qb6 20. h4 Nb8 21. Bh6 Nd7 22. Qg5

Threatening 23. Bxg7 Kxg7 24. Nh5+.

22. ... Rxc1 23. Rxc1 Bxh6

Correct is 23. ... f6 24. exf6 Bxf6 25. Qe3 Re8, with only a small disadvantage. If 23. ... f6 24. exf6 Bxh6? 25. Qxh6 Nxf6 26. Bh3, one beautiful possibility is 26. ... Nd7 27. Ng5 Nf6 28. Rc7! Qd6? (tougher is 28. ... Rf7! 29. Nxf7 Qxc7, but 30. Ne5 sets up 31. Nh5) 29. Nh5! gxh5 30. gxh5, winning.

24. Qxh6 Rc8 25. Rxc8+ Nxc8

Black has eliminated danger on the Queenside, but Fischer works wonders with limited forces on the Kingside.

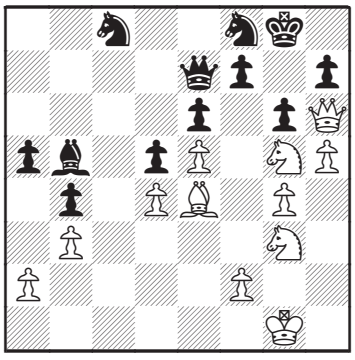
26. h5 Qd8 27. Ng5 Nf8

Now White can harvest pawns by 28. Nxh7 Nxh7 29. hxg6 fxg6 30. Qxg6+ Kh8 31. Qxe6, but Fischer goes for mate.

28. Be4!!

As the Knight reaches f6 after 28. ... dxe4 29. N3xe4.

28. ... Qe7



There is no defense. Black yields "only" a pawn by 28. ... Be8 29. hxg6 fxg6 (not 29. ... hxg6 because of 30. Nh5! gxh5 31. Bh7+ Nxh7 32. Nxh7) 30 Qxf8+!, but that's sufficient.

29. Nxh7!

Also 29. Nf5! exf5 30. gxf5 wins.

29. ... Nxh7 30. hxg6 fxg6

Or 30. ... f5 31. Nxf5! exf5 32. Bxd5+ Kh8 33. Bf7.

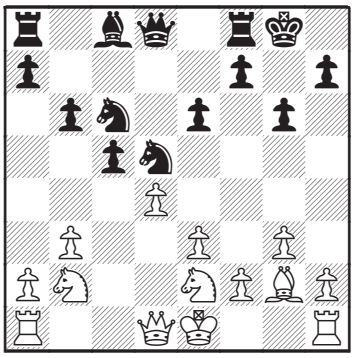
31. Bxg6 Ng5

If 31. ... Nf8 32. Nh5 Nd7, then 33. g5 prepares 34. Nf6+. Both 31. ... Qg7 and 31. ... Be8 lose material to 32. Bxh7+ Qxh7 33. Qxe6+ Kf8 34. Qxc8.

32. Nh5 Nf3+ 33. Kg2 Nf4+ 34. Kg3 Nxg6 35. Nf6+! Kf7 36. Qh7+, Black Resigns.

Vassily Smyslov – Bobby Fischer
Interzonal, Palma de Mallorca 1970
A36 ENGLISH OPENING

1. c4 g6 2 Nc3 Bg7 3 g3 c5 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 b3 e6 6 Bb2 Nge7 7 Na4 Bxb2 8 Nxb2 0-0 9 e3 d5 10 cxd5 Nxd5 11 Ne2 b6 12 d4?



12. ... Ba6! 13 dxc5 Qf6! 14 Nc4 Nc3 15 Nxc3 Qxc3+ 16 Kf1 Rfd8 17 Qc1 Bxc4+ 18 bxc4 Qd3+ 19 Kg1 Rac8 20 cxb6 axb6 21 Qb2 Na5 22 h4?! Nxc4 23 Qf6 Qf5! 24 Qxf5 gxf5 25 h5 Rd2 26 Rc1 Rc5 27 Rh4 Ne5 28 Rxc5 bxc5 29 Ra4 c4 30 h6 Kf8 31 Ra8+ Ke7 32 Rc8 Rxa2 33 Bf1 Rc2 34 Kg2 Ng4 35 Kg1 Rxf2 36 Bxc4 Rf3 37 Kg2 Rxe3 38 Rh8 Nxh6 39 Rxh7 Ng4 40 Bb5 Rb3 41 Bc6 Rb2+ 42 Kg1 Ne5 43 Ba8 Rb8 44 Bh1, and **White Resigns**.

Bobby Fischer – Peter Dely
Skopje 1967
B88 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Sozin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bc4 e6 7. Bb3

A Fischer specialty, the Sozin Attack against the Sicilian Defense.

7. ... a6 8. f4 Qa5

Experimental. Today we consider 8. ... Be7 adequate.

9. 0-0 Nxd4

Fischer suggested 9. ... d5 10. Nxc6 bxc6 11. f5 Bc5+ 12. Kh1 0-0, with an edge to White.

10 Qxd4 d5?!

This freeing advance helps White, who leads in development.

11. Be3 Nxe4

Or 11. ... Ng4 12. Qb6.

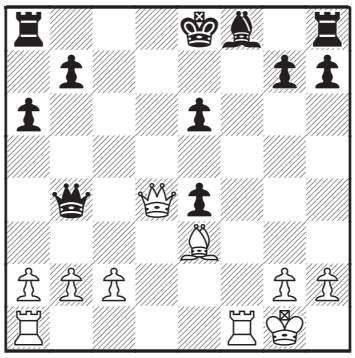
12. Nxe4 dxe4 13. f5!

Sharper than 13. Qxe4 Be7 14. Ba4+. Now Black must cede the Exchange by 13. ... exf5 14. Ba4+ b5 15. Qd5! Qc7! 16. Qxa8 Bc5 17. Bxb5+ axb5 18. Bxc5 Qxc5+ 19. Rf2 0-0, with some hope of drawing.

13. ... Qb4?! 14. fxe6 Bxe6

Black cannot survive 14. ... fxe6 15. Qe5 Qd6 16. Qxe4.

15. Bxe6 fxe6



Maybe Black dreamed of 16. Qe5? Qd6 17. Qxe4 0-0-0.

16. Rxf8+!

Crushing.

16. ... Qxf8 17 Qa4+, Black Resigns.

The finish could be 17. ... b5 18. Qxe4 0-0-0 19. Qxe6+ Rd7 20. Qc6+ or 18. ... Rd8 19. Qc6+ Rd7 20. Rd1 Qe7 21. Rd3, preparing 22. Bc5.

Tactics

by NM Tim Hanks

Robert James Fischer passed away at age 64 in Reykjavik, Iceland on 1/17/2008, leaving many of us with bewilderment and a sense of disappointment. That's because for many of us we owe our love of chess to Bobby and yet he stopped playing and contributing to the game. Soon afterwards he then abandoned our great country with desertion.

One of the biggest questions to me is what would chess be like today if Fischer had still been competing like many of his contemporaries are still doing? There's no debate that his contributions to chess and his professional accomplishments (mostly over 35 years ago) can only be described as extraordinary. Never has an American-born player achieved unparalleled success at chess and remarkably influenced a truly large generation of chess players. The "Fischer Boom" and the dynasty of US chess growth of the mid-70's touched so many of our lives and very well may be the most influential event we know. Bobby was our hero – but in an odd way he was also a victim of his own achievements and accomplishments. He was truly lucky to be rescued by a *zwischenzug* of the Icelandic government when faced with either "taking a draw or resigning to a prison term."

In my youth I knew nothing about chess and did not even touch a single chess piece until I was well in my teens and almost finished high school. I was on the path to becoming a professional bowler and poured much of my time in bowling leagues and practicing on the lanes. Only through Bobby did I discover and decide to explore chess and I feel this was more influential in my life than anything else I've ever learned. When I started to get into chess Bobby had basically already decided to "give it up." To this day, people are always asking me what was wrong with him and why did he quit playing? How do any of us devoted chess players explain his often bizarre remarks and seemingly selfish behavior? In his youth he devoted his entire life to the game, pretty much not showing interest in anything else. His goal was to become the best in the world and for this it required incredible dedication and a driving passion that can easily be described as obsession. In 1972 he did just that and became World Champion by beating a very respectable World Champion, Boris Spassky.

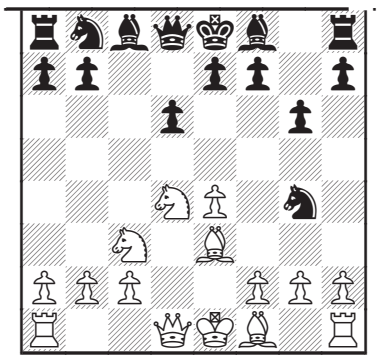
How can anyone work so hard, achieve so much and then just stop and then literally disappear? What happened afterwards to Bobby can only be remembered as a total tragedy and major loss in the history of this great game.

It was truly fascinating to watch Bobby play and he left behind hundreds of beautiful "masterpieces" to learn from and to enjoy over and over. Fischer's style of chess was to crush his opponents and the idea of playing for a draw was rarely in his game plan. Fischer was very mature in his employment of tactics at a young age. When reviewing his games you have a since that his triumphs were more from logical strategic build-ups and obtaining a won game was done with care and in the "classic style" – what I feel is reminiscent of Capablanca. Here is one of my favorites with Fischer playing White against Bent Larsen, Interzonal, Portoroz, 1958. It's a Sicilian Dragon, where Fischer later wrote in the game review of how to assault against the fianchettoed King with "open the King-Rook file and it's sac, sac, mate".

Fischer – Larsen [B77]
Interzonal, Portoroz, 1958
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7

See position no. 1. How would you handle the position if Black had played 6. ... Ng4 instead of 6. … Bg7?

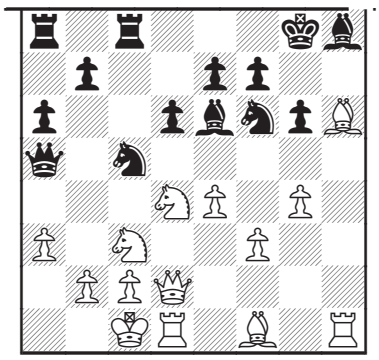
Position No. 1. If Black played 6. … Ng4 then what do you do? It's White to move and win? Can you see how?



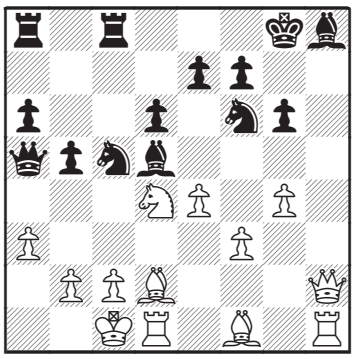
If 6. ... Ng4 then 7. Bb5+ Bd7 8. Qxg4 and White wins a piece since the Black Bishop is pinned. This is a common trap in this line. The game continued –

7. f3 0–0 8. Qd2 Nc6

If Black tries 8. ... Nbd7 then White engages a strong Kingside attack beginning with Queenside castling. One possible line may go 9. 0–0–0 Nc5 10. g4 Be6 11. h4 Qa5 12. a3 Rfc8 13. h5 a6 14. hxg6 hxg6 15. Bh6 Bh8. *(See position No. 2.)*



White continues 16. Qh2 and if 16. … b5 then 17. Nd5 Bxd5 18. Bd2, and Black is completely lost as shown in *Position No. 3:*



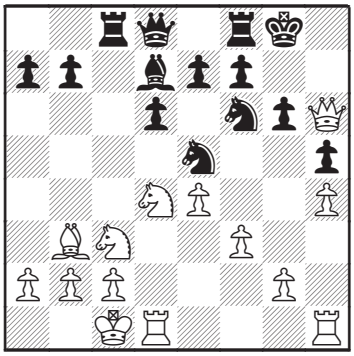
Now back to the game. Fischer played --

9. Bc4

Designed to restrict Black's central break "goal" of d5.

9. ... Nxd4

If 9. ... Bd7 10. 0–0–0 Ne5 11. Bb3 Rc8 12. h4 h5 and Black is doing fine -- if White tries 13. Bh6 Bxh6 14. Qxh6 *(See Position No. 4),*



… Black plays 14…. Rxc3! 15. bxc3 Qa5, 16. f4 Qxc3 17. fxe5 Qa1+ 18. Kd2 Qxd4+ 19. Kc1 Qa1+ 20. Kd2 Nxe4 and Black is winning with a strong attack.

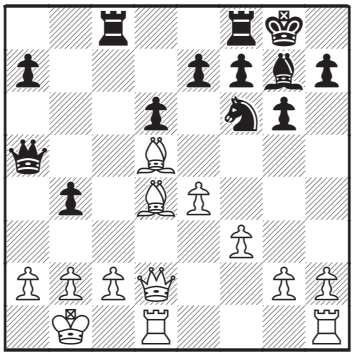
10. Bxd4 Be6 11. Bb3 Qa5 12. 0–0–0 b5

Gligoric praised this move highly, although the position is roughly equal.

13. Kb1 b4 14. Nd5 Bxd5 15. Bxd5?!

Better is 15. exd5, as White achieves a lasting bind and pressure along the e-file with 15. ... Qb5 16. Qd3 Qb7 17. Rhe1.

15. ... Rac8? *(See Position No. 5.)*



Larsen's last move was a mistake and may be considered the losing move in this game. Better was 15. ... Nxd5 16. Bxg7 Nc3+ 17. Bxc3 *(17. bxc3 Rab8 18. cxb4 Qxb4+ 19. Qxb4 Rxb4+ 20. Bb2 Rfb8 21. Ka1 Rxb2 22. Rb1 Rxb1+ 23. Rxb1 Rc8 24. Rb7 Rxc2 25. Rxa7 Kf8)* 17. ... bxc3 18. Qxc3 Qxc3 19. bxc3 Rfc8 20. Rd3 Rab8+ 21. Kc1=.

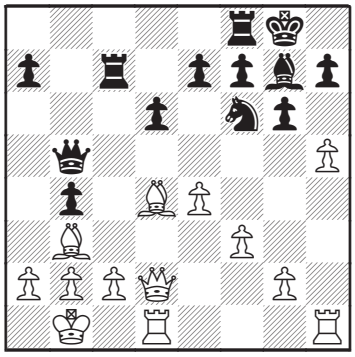
16. Bb3

Whew! Fischer recognized Black's last move had to be a mistake and moves to preserve his strong attacking light-square Bishop. Now it's pry open the King Rook file and sac, sac, mate!

16. ... Rc7 17. h4 Qb5

If 17. ... h5 18. g4 hxg4 19. h5 gxh5 20. fxg4 Nxe4 21. Qh2 (21. Qf4 Bxd4 22. Qxe4 Qe5 *(22. ... Bg7 23. Rxh5+-)*) 21. ... Bxd4 22. Rxd4 Nf6 23. Qd2 Qe5 24. gxh5 Rc5 25. h6 Kh7.

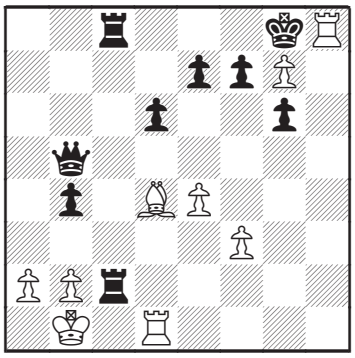
18. h5 *(See Position No. 6.)*



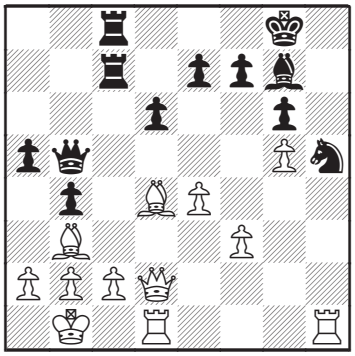
White's Kingside attack is faster than the Black counter-attack on the Queenside. You have to marvel at Fischer's technique in this middlegame.

18. ... Rfc8 19. hxg6 hxg6 20. g4 a5 21. g5 Nh5

If 21. ... a4 then White wins with. ... 22. gxf6 axb3 23. fxg7 bxc2+ 24. Qxc2 Rxc2?? 25. Rh8# *(See Position No. 7.)*



Returning to the game, Black has just played 21… Nh5. It's White to move. How do you proceed?



22. Rxh5

If instead White tries 22. Bxg7 then a4! 23. c4 bxc3 24. Bxa4 Qb7 25. Bxc3 Rxc3 26. Rh3 Qb4 the position is unclear.

22. ... gxh5

The final moves accent the power of having a strong initiative during a wing attack.

23. g6 e5 24. gxf7+ Kf8 25. Be3 d5 26. exd5 Rxf7 27. d6 Rf6 28. Bg5 Qb7 29. Bxf6 Bxf6 30. d7 Rd8 31. Qd6+ 1–0

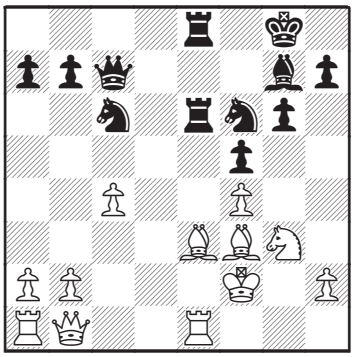
Or 31. Qh6+ Ke7 32. Qh7+ Bg7 33. Qxg7#.

What a nice game to remember for a young Bobby who grew up in Brooklyn, NY playing in what must have been very different place indeed.

Bobby Fischer is gone, but he may have left the last word about the fate of chess. It's very conceivable that he's already looked way beyond what others have considered when he decided to stop playing conventional chess and began "promoting" his "Fischer-Random" style of chess. This very well may be the future of the game especially for more exciting tournaments and matches. Its clear computers will make further advancements towards unraveling some of the "mysteries" of the game in the next decades. Humans will have no chance against them and incredible deep-depth mate in "x-moves" endgame announcements will be customary. Yes, Bobby is gone and he's probably already busy making demands and special requests in his new domain. It's hard to believe there will ever be another person to burst on the chess scene like Bobby did and who will make such a dramatic and everlasting influence on the game. But if there is… then that person will most likely have been inspired by the legacy of Bobby Fischer and what he left to mankind in this our wonderful game of chess!

Improving your ability to calculate and visualize tactical combinations takes practice. Tactical problem solving will help in this development. Avoid moving the pieces when solving problems so as to strengthen your over-the-board play. Be alert, play sharp and of course always remember to do your safety check. Good luck and happy solving! Solutions on page 27.

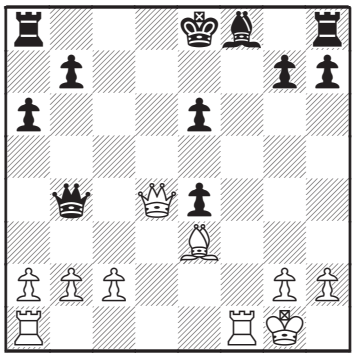
Position No. 1. Black to move.



a) Black is winning.
b) Black is better.
c) White is better.
d) White is winning.

Prove your answer with analysis and a variation.

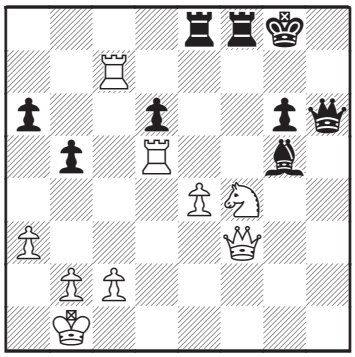
Problem No. 2. White to move.



a) Black is better.
b) White is winning.
c) The position is roughly equal which chances for both sides.

Validate your move selection with analysis.

Problem No. 3. It's White to move and the Knight is pinned on f4. How would you evaluate this position?



a) Black is slightly better.
b) Draw likely.
c) Black is winning.
d) White is winning.

Justify your answer with a variation and / or analysis.

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Registration: 9AM - 9:45 AM 4/19/08, call (619) 239-7166 for more info
Rounds: 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 6:00 PM on Saturday, G/90 with 10 sec delay
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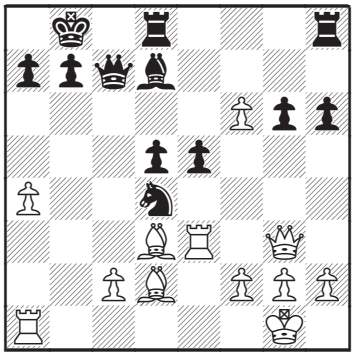
Entry Fee: $50 if paid by 4/18 (or $60 on event day), Special rate for players rated under 1400 is only $25, SCCF membership is required ($18/$10 Jr)
Mail entries to: SDCC, P.O. BOX 120162, San Diego CA 92112
One Half Pt Bye OK in Rounds 1 - 4, must request by rd 1, no last rd bye

Problem No. 4. Black to play. What's your assessment after 1. … e4?



a) Black is slightly better.
b) White is slightly better.
c) Black is winning.
d) White is winning.
e) The position offers chances for both sides.

Prove your answer with a variation.

2008

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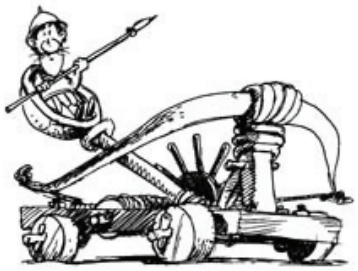
EF: $47 if received by 4/26, $55 at site.
SCCF memb. ($18, under 18 $10) req. for rated S. CA residents. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: limit 1, must be req. w/entry.
Reg: 9-9:45 a.m.
Rds: 10-11:30-1:30-3:15-4:45.
2 Free Parking lots on the SW corner of Santa Monica & Purdue, or in the building basement ($3).
Inf: admin@westernchess.com.
Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com.
GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.

Here & There



35th Annual Morrison Scholastic

This traditional event, held January 19 at St. Paul Church in Orange, drew 101 players. Grade winners included Derro Wilsa (12), Sean Manross (10), Austin Chung (9) Andrew Kao (8), Joanne Koong (7), Chris Siegrist (6), Olivar Chowdhury (5A), Adam Chander (5B), Jonathan Chen (4A), Daniel Yap (4B), Stan Liao (3), Justin Kao (2A), Yuuki Matsumoto (2B), and Robbie Caustin (1). – *Dewain Barber*

Pasadena Chess Club

The Dr. Richard Lewis Memorial, ending in February, with 34 players, was won convincingly by Jesse Victoria with 5½ of 6 in a tournament that marked the club's move back to the Pasadena Senior Center. Randy Hough, Gregg Fritchle and Robert Xue (Under 2000), and Bill Conrad (Under 1800) tied for second. Jason McKeen was top Under 1600 with 3½, and Jaime Luna and Scott Xue split Under 1400 honors with 2½.

The Pasadena Chess Club meets 6:30 p. m. to 11:00 p. m. Fridays in Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. For information, call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809 or Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412. Web site: www. tim-thompson. com/pasadena. html. – *Randy Hough*

Arcadia Chess Club

Winner of the 57-player Winter Open, ending in February, was Craig Faber with 5½-½. Ike Miller took second with 5-1, followed by top Class A Jesse Victoria and top Class B David King, both at 4½-1½.

The Arcadia Chess Club meets at 6:30 p. m. Mondays in the Senior Citizens building, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. For information, call Fred Brock at (626) 331-1638 or Mel Clark at (626) 447-9355. Web site: www. geocities. com/arcadiachess-club.

West Valley Chess Club

Maxim Sorkin won the 2008 club championship of the West Valley Chess Club, scoring 5-1 in the 15-player Open section. Santy Wong was second. Tournament director Jerry Yee led the 37-player Amateur (under-1800) section with 5½-½. Class prize winners included Dennis Neymit, Bob Selvin and Daniel Mousseri.

The club meets 6:30 p. m. to 10:30 p. m. Thursdays in the West Valley Jewish Community Center, 22622 Vanowen St. in West Hills. Contact Jerry Yee at (818) 915-5572 or at jyee6@socal. rr. com. – *Jerry Yee*

Chess Palace

SUPER 2x QUADS attracts multiple groups

The Super 2x Quads held on February 10th attracted 16 players. Shawn Williams scored the most with 3½. Following were Show Kitagami, Jason Garfield, Miguel Cayetano, Chris Heiben, and David Portwood with 3 points. Visit us on the next Super 2x Quad on March 8th and April 12th.

An Amateur Open entertained by Jerry Hanken

On January 13th, Original Life Master Jerry Hanken shared his expertise with the amateurs before their tournament. More than two dozen players, youth and veterans alike participated in the tournament afterwards.

Former expert Charles Kinzie swept the field in the adults section and up-coming star, Joanne Koong of Irvine won the scholastic section. Visit us on the next Amateur Open on March 16th and April 20th.

Chess Palace is located at 12872 Valley View, Suite 5. For hours and schedule of events, call the club at (714) 899-3421 or Alfred Ong at (562) 598-5099. Web site: www. chesspalace. com. – *Anthony Ong*

Hanley Chess Academy

Hanley Chess Academy, located at 7390 Center Ave. in Huntington Beach, held its first scholastic tournament January 5. David Yang, Shelley Anthopoulos, Max Duvall, Craig Hilby and Alison Chou led their sections in the 43-player event. For information on future events, go to www. hanleychessacademy. org.

Exposition Park Chess Club

On January 6, Felipe Rodriguez and Simone Liao topped sections in the monthly free tournament at the Exposition Park Chess Club. On February 3, winners were Marc Conde, Juan Rodriguez, while Vartan Ghazarian, Juan Gonzalez and Jose Quiroz (tied), and Jurado Feliciano, Christian Jaime and Luis Moreno (tied). For photos of the club, see chess. expoparkla. com. The club meets every Sunday afternoon in the public library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. in Los Angeles.

Westwood Winter Open

IM Enrico Sevillano took first in the Westwood Winter Open, held January 27 at the Los Angeles Chess Club. Sevillano scored 4½-½, defeating IM Tim Taylor and IM Anthony Saidy in the 34-player tournament. Taylor took second prize with 4-1. Juan Rodriguez led the Reserve (under-1800) section with 4½ -½. John Hillery directed.

Warner Winter Scholastic

This scholastic event, held February 23 at Warner School in Westwood, saw 53 players compete. Winner of the top (K-12) section was Ricky Demer with 5-0. Other section winners included Ethan Nikfar, Tony DePesa, Jesse Halpern, Jovanni Scagliotti, John Lee, Charlie Meenaghan, Rahul Khiani, and Chadwick Bailey. John Surlow directed.

San Diego Chess Club

In December the club completed the annual Class Championships with 65 players competing in 4 different sections. "The Masters" was won by Expert George Zeigler, the second year in a row a non-Master has won this Section! Previous Master winners include NM Bruce Baker in 2002, NM Ruffo Orihuela in 2003, NM Robert Richard in 2004, NM Carl Wagner in 2005, and then in 2006 Expert Maksim Gusev upset several masters and won the trophy. This year competition was fierce with the lower rated players pulling off many upsets, for instance the 2007 Club Champion John Funderburg had a particularly rough time, drawing with Class A player Esteban Escobedo in round 1 and then with 3 other Experts for 4 draws in a row before finally losing to one of the surprisingly strong new players at the club, Eric Montany. Bruce Baker lost to Carl Wagner, but Wagner had already lost to Alejandro Garamendi in the first round and then drew with NM David Hart in the last. David also allowed draws with Mariano Lozano and Chris Borgan. George Zeigler drew with Lozano and also the young Class A player Jason Qu, who was playing "up" along with Chris Borgan and Esteban Escobedo, but George still came in with the best score of 4 points, followed by 3½ from Hart and Wagner and 3 from Montany.

The Class A trophy was also hotly contested with Alejandrino "Ed" Baluran winning on tie breaks over Mario Amodeo, even though Ed lost to Mario in the last round. Mario had already been defeated by #1 seed Buddy Morris in round 2. Lennart Mathe came in third place with 3½, although there are no actual second or third place prizes in this event, just a very nice trophy for the winner. We use the Class Championships as kind of a fund raiser for the club, after having paid out generous prizes all year. Winners in previous years include Tom Hanak 2002, Tom Fries 2003, Tim McGuiness 2004, Ben Barquin 2005 and Bob Defore in 2006.

The Class B winner was Joel Batchelor with 4 points, edging out Damani Fair with 3½ and Vincent Broman and Robert Henderson with 3. Joel had a first round bye and also drew with Vincent Broman. Vincent was unable to play the last round, or he might have challenged for the trophy. Past winners include Esteban Escobedo 2002, Stewart Spada 2003, Dayne Freitag 2004, Luis Castaneda 2005 and Jason Qu in 2006.

The fourth section is a combined Class C and D, as we just missed having enough Class D players for a separate section, maybe next year, although I said that last year, but we do have a lot of new and beginning players this year and a few more have joined us in the first few months of 2008. Anyway, the Class C trophy winner was David Hall, who went 5-0 for the only perfect score in the event as a whole. Previous winners have been Gene Fernando 2002, Hector Gonzalez 2003, Julian Rodriguez 2004, Helmut Keil 2005 and Rocio Murra in 2006. The Class D trophy winner was Keith Wetterer, who pulled off a huge upset as he was the lowest rated player, other than 2 unrated players. Keith beat Patrick Edwards in the last round to clinch the trophy. Past winners have been Oscar Reyna 2002, Julian Rodriguez 2003, Roger Wathen 2004, Karen Kaufman 2005 and Jachin "Reno" Tyrell in 2006.

Currently the club is near the end of the 2008 Club Championship qualifier, The Alina Markowski Open, with more than 80 players competing for spots in the Club and Reserve (U1800) Championship. The Markowski is unique in that it is a true Open tournament with only one huge section and 7 rounds. We don't have time for 12 rounds like the US Open used to be, but I think they are down to 9 rounds now. Anyway, Ron Bruno currently stands in clear first place with 5½ out of 6 with one round to go, where he will be facing NM David Hart with 5 points. Six other players have 4½, including Bruce Baker, Todd Smith, George Zeigler, Carl Wagner, Alejandro Garamendi, Thirunathan Sutharsan and Eric Montany. 12 other players with 4 points still have a shot to make it

into the Championship round, the highest rated among them being Carl Wagner, Ignacio Sainz, Carey Milton and Jim Humphrey.

The SDCC meets every Wednesday night at 7 PM at 2225 Sixth Avenue in San Diego's famous Balboa Park. Call our Resident Master and Club Manager Bruce Baker at 619-239-7166 for more information or visit our website (See Gambito Open News in this issue). We are also open daily for casual play and have several big events during the year, the next one being the Senior/Junior Open on April 19th and 20th, open to all players but divided into 2 sections, one for OVER 50 years old and one for UNDER 50 years old. – *Chuck Ensey*

Gambito Open News

The January Super Gambito (#353) had 24 players, including 4 Masters and 6 Experts. The Guaranteed Prize fund for the Super Gambito Opens has been increased starting in January, from $600 up to $700, with the extra $100 going into a new U2400 category with a $75 and $25 prizes. The idea here is to encourage more Masters to play. In the past, most masters have had little chance to win much money because of IM Cyrus Lakdawala, who is rated over 2500. Cy would win most of the top money in many cases, unless Enrico Sevillano or some other IM was there to challenge him. The extra prizes help to increase the competitive spirit among the top players, for instance, we have seen less players drop out after a single loss, because now they still have a good chance to win money. The Open Section prize fund now looks like this: 1st Place $125, 2nd Place $75, U2400 $75, 2nd U2400 $25, U2000 $75-$25. There is also a Reserve Section for players rated under 1800 with a 1st Place $75, 2nd Place $25, BU1600 $50 -$25. Also there is a $15 Best Game Prize in both the Open and Reserve Sections. With a $25 entry fee, it takes 30 players to cover the prize fund and the $50 club fee. We often have more players than that, so then the extra money goes to bumping up the prize fund even more, sometimes to even $800 or more. The Super Gambito Opens are 4 rounds of G/45 starting at 10:30 AM and are played on the first Saturday of every month, while all the other Saturdays feature "regular" Gambito Opens with only a $20 entry fee and a variable prize fund based on the number of players. If you are ever in the San Diego area, we strongly suggest you give it a try, it is a lot of fun, trust me. Some players even make the trip down from Los Angeles to participate.

In the first contest of the new year, up and coming strong Expert Eric Montany tied for First Place with Cyrus Lakdawala with 3½ , so each of them won a $100. Ron Bruno and Bruce Baker split the U2400 prize with 3 points for $50 each. Leonard Sussman won the $75 BU2200 prize and the 2nd U2200 prize was split between Dimitry Kishinevsky and Carey Milton. Four players tied for BU2000: Daniel Grazian, Jason Qu, Fausto Robles and Ed Baluran. Romeo Ignacio won the Best Game prize. In the Reserve Section, Pejman Sagart went 4-0 and young Michael Chen won the BU1600. Tom Kuhn and Tim Champion split the 2nd Place prizes. Pejman also won the Best Game Prize.

About twice a year we also have a Special Super Gambito Open with five rounds and a $40 entry fee. This was the case in February when 33 players vied for $1,275 in prizes. John Bryant captured the top prize of $240 by winning all his games except for a draw with Cyrus Lakdawala, who came in 2nd Place after also getting nicked for a draw by Ronald Bruno. Ron came in 3rd Place. Mario Amodeo won the BU2200 prize, with 3½ points, edging out 4 Experts, even though Mario is rated "only" 1970. This allowed yours truly, Chuck Ensey, the lowest rated player in the section, to win the U2000 prize with 3 points ahead of eight other Class A players and one other B player who was also "playing up" in this section. Tying for 2nd U2200/2000 were Raoul Crisologo, Carey Milton, Rick Aeria, Roberto Aiello, Daniel Grazian and Ben Barquin, all with 2½ points. John Bryant also won the Best Game and Roberto Aiello won the upset prize with a 202 point victory over an Expert. In the Reserve Section, Jason Arbeiter ruled the day with 4½ points, winning $160, and allowing only a last round draw to newcomer Jonathan Hecht, who tied for 2nd/3rd with Aaron Ibarra ($60 each). Gene Arnaiz won BU1600 ($120) while Tom Kuhn, Eric Pihl and Aaron Householder tied for 2nd U1600. Jon Hecht won the Best Game and Aaron Chow won the Upset prize, with a 378 point upset. You can see more details, games, photos and upcoming events on the San Diego club website, Groups. msn. com/sandiegochess. – *Chuck Ensey*

John Daniel Bryant (2303) – Romeo Ignacio (2205)
Gambito #357, San Diego 2008
B01 CENTER COUNTER DEFENSE

[Notes by IM Cyrus Lakdawala]

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 c6 5. Bc4 Bf5

I also play this move order in the Center Counter. The idea is to keep the Black Knight off the f6 square so that White doesn't get in Nd5 and Nxf6+.

6. Bd2 Qc7!?

No need for this. White wasn't threatening anything meaningful with a Knight discovery. Better was 6. ... e6 7. d5!? *(7. Nf3)* 7. ... cxd5 8. Nxd5 Qc5 9. Qe2 Nd7, reaching a position I have experimented with as Black.

7. Nf3 e6 8. Bb3

This isn't necessary. He could offer the c-pawn and prepare to castle Queenside with 8. Qe2 Bxc2? 9. Rc1 Bg6 10. d5.

8. ... Nd7 9. Qe2 Be7 10. 0–0–0 Ngf6 11. Ne5 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Nd7

Better 12. ... Nd5! 13. g4 Bg6 14. f4 (14. Nxd5 exd5 15. h4 *(15. f4 Be4*

16. Rhf1 0–0–0=) 15. ... h5) 14. ... 0–0–0 15. Qf2 Nxc3 16. Bxc3 Qb6=.

13. g4 Bg6 14. f4 h5

Or 14. ... Nc5 15. Rhf1 and the threat of f5 gives black problems.

15. f5! exf5 16. e6 fxe6?!

Better was 16. ... Nc5! 17. exf7+ Kf8 18. gxf5 Nxb3+ 19. axb3 Bxf7, with only a small advantage to White.

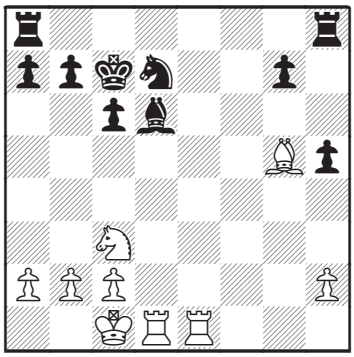
17. gxf5?!

Black should survive now. White had a stronger continuation with 17. Bxe6! Nf6 *(17. ... fxg4?? 18. Bxd7+ Qxd7 19. Bg5 Qc7 20. Rhe1 wins)* 18. gxf5 Bf7 19. Bxf7+ Kxf7 20. Qc4+ Kf8 21. Ne2!, and White's Knight will reach e6 with a winning attack.

17. ... Bxf5 18. Bxe6 Bxe6 19. Qxe6 Qd6 20. Qxd6 Bxd6 21. Rhe1+ Kd8?

The losing move. Instead, 21. ... Be7! still saves Black, even after 22. Nd5! *(22. Nb5?! Kf7!)* 22. ... cxd5 23. Bb4 0–0 24. Rxe7 Rf7 25. Rxd5 Nf6, with only a small edge for White.

22. Bg5+ Kc7



23. Rxd6!

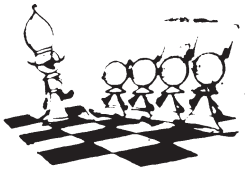
A very well calculated combination.

23. ... Kxd6 24. Bf4+ Kc5 25. Rd1! Nb6

Also 25. ... Kb6 26. Rxd7 is lost for Black.

26. Bd6+ 1–0

It's mate after 26. . ... Kc4 b3+! Kxb3 Rd3#



2007-2008 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are 2007 champion Enrico Sevillano, up to three players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2008 Candidates Tournament.

July 29-July 1	Pacific Southwest Open	Andranik Matikozyan Gregg Small Alaa-Addin Moussa
July 7-15	State Championship	Jack Peters Tim Taylor Julian Landaw Ron Hermansen John Daniel Bryant John Funderburg Reynaldo del Pilar
July 19-22	Pacific Coast Open	Melikset Khachiyan Joel Banawa Jouaquin Banawa Harutyun Akopyan
August 11-12	San Diego County Open	Adam Corper Ulric Aeria Leonard Sussman
September 1-3	Southern California Open	Ganbold Odondoo Christian Tanaka
September 15	San Luis Obispo Cty. Champ.	Vadim Kudryavtsev
October 19-21	Western Pacific Open	Alexandre Kretchetov Tianye He
November 22-25	American Open	Eugene Yanayt Takashi Iwamoto Ryan Richardson
December 8-9	Joseph Ileto Memorial	Eduardo Ortiz Takashi Kurosaki Carlos Garcia Danyul Lawrence
January 18-21	Western Class Championships	Matthew Beelby Michael Casella Joshua Gutman
January 27	Westwood Winter Open	Show Kitagami

Upcoming

Feb. 29-March 2	SCCF High School Championship	Orange
March 28-30	6th Ann. Western Pacific Open	LAX
April 19-20	SCCF Senior Open	San Diego
April 27	Westwood Spring Open	West LA
May 3-4	Los Angeles County Open	Monterey Park
May 24-26	Memorial Day Classic	LAX

Each event qualifies two players (highest scoring Southern California residents not previously qualified) except that 1) In the event of a tie, all tied players will advance; 2) A score of 60% is required to qualify; 3) The SCCF Amateur, SCCF High School and any one-day event will each have *one* qualifying spot; and 4) All one-day tournaments shall require a 75% score and only *one* player shall qualify on tiebreak.

Where to Play Chess

ARCADIA. The Arcadia Chess Club meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the Senior Citizens building, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. Continuous rated tournaments, casual play. Dues: $10/year, $7.50/year for juniors and seniors. Call Fred Brock at (626) 331-1638 or Mel Clark at (626) 447-9355. Web site: www.geocities.com/arcadiachessclub.

ARCADIA. A youth group meets for casual play 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fridays in Diversity Educational Center, Suite A, 1012 S. Baldwin Ave. For students in kindergarten, elementary school and junior high. Occasional Sunday tournaments. Free. Call Roel Sanchez at (626) 254-9951. Web site: www.diversityeducationalcenter.com.

BISHOP. Kava Coffee House, 206 N. Main St., welcomes chessplayers. Chessboards are available at all hours. Call (760) 872-1010.

BURBANK. A group meets Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Joslyn Center, 1301 W. Olive St. (at Griffith Park Drive). Casual play, ages 55 and up only. No dues. Call (818) 238-5353.

BURBANK. A group meets Fridays from 5:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in McCambridge Park, 1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd. Casual play, tournaments possible. Call Emil Klimach at (818) 845-1104.

CARLSBAD. A group meets 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave. Casual play. Most attendees are over age 55, but younger adults are welcome. No dues. Call (760) 602-4650.

CLOVIS. The Maharlika Chess Club meets 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Carlï¿½s Jr. at 818 W. Shaw Ave. in Clovis, CA. Casual play, blitz, occasional tournaments. No dues. Call Sam Roamboa at (559) 222-4354.

COLTON. A group meets 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday nights in a private room at Dennys restaurant, 160 W. Valley Blvd. Casual play, blitz. Call Denny's at (909) 824-2132.

CORONA. Chessplayers are invited to play on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at All About Coffee, 2276 Griffin Way, Suite #108. Casual chess, blitz (bring your clocks). Call Steven Burleson at (951) 549-6710.

COSTA MESA. The Chess Center meets in the Odd Fellows/Rebekah Hall, 2476 Newport Blvd. at 7:30 p.m. Tournaments Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays, casual play Thursdays, monthly Octos tournaments on Saturdays, Chess classes for children, scholastic tournaments, casual play, lectures, lending library of chess videos, chess supplies for sale. For information, call Al Massip at (949) 646-6696. Web site: www.chess-center.com.

ENCINITAS. A group meets 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays in the Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. Casual play, ages 55 and up only. No dues. Call (760) 943-2250.

ESCONDIDO. The Palomar Chess Club meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Escondido Bridge Center, 2427 S. Center City Parkway. Continuous rated tournaments. Call John Goddard at (760) 591-0200 or palomarchessclub@cox.net. Web site: www.sdchess.com.

ESCONDIDO. A group meets noon to 4 p.m. weekdays in the Senior Center, 210 Park Ave. Casual play, ages 50 and up. No dues. For information, call (760) 839-4688.

FRESNO. The Fresno Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to midnight Mondays in Carl's Jr. restaurant, 3820 N. Cedar. Rated tournament in May, non-rated quick chess quads, casual play, chess library, newsletter. Dues: $15/year, $8/year for students, women, and those who live outside Fresno County. Contact Aaron Hise at (559) 228-8089 or send a message to aaron.hise@sbcglobal.net.

GARDEN GROVE. Chess Palace has moved to 12872 Valley View, Suite 5. The club is open 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am to 10:00 p.m. Saturdays, and 11:00 am to 7:00 p.m. Sundays. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Wide variety of rated tournaments, Action chess, youth tournaments, scholastic chess camps, blitz, occasional lectures and simuls, large selection of chess books, computers, and equipment for sale, lending library of chess videos, excellent website. Dues: $3/day or $99/year. Call the club at (714) 899-3421 or Alfred Ong at (562) 598-5099. Web site: www.chesspalace.com.

GLENDALE. The chess park at 227 N. Brand Blvd. is open day and night for casual play. Speed tournaments Friday evening, occasional weekend tournaments.

HEMET. The Hemet Chess Club meets 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Fridays in the clubhouse of Royal Holiday MH Park, 4400 W. Florida Ave. Casual play, rating system, refreshments. Dues: $20/year, less for juniors, first three visits free. Call

Marcos Montes at (951) 252-5926 or Kasandra Smith at (951) 767-0974.

INGLEWOOD. The Inglewood Library Chess Club meets 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays in the public library, 101 W. Manchester Blvd. Children's program with free instruction 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays. Call the library at (310) 412-5380.

IRVINE. A group meets at lunch time (11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Fridays at Knowlwood Restaurant, 14952 Sand Canyon Ave. Speed chess, analysis. Bring equipment. Contact David Zechiel at david@zechiel.com.

JOSHUA TREE. The Joshua Tree Chess Club meets 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays at Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd. in Joshua Tree. Casual play, occasional tournaments, some instruction, junior chess program. Contact Mark Muller at (760) 367-2311 or at muller29@adelphia.net.

LA PALMA: The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St. Rated tournaments, Action chess, casual play. Entry fees: $40 for three months of rated tournament play, $5 less to La Palma residents. Call Mike Henebry at (562) 370-2146 or Leigh Hunt at (714) 635-0448. Web site: www.lapalmachess.741.com.

LAGUNA BEACH. People gather to play chess at the permanent chess table on the boardwalk.

LAGUNA WOODS. The Leisure World Chess Club meets 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays and 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Community Center building in Leisure World. Guests are welcome. Casual play, ladder competition, occasional simul. Call Alan Brown at (949) 206-1039.

LAWNDALE. The Alondra Park Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays at 3850 Manhattan Beach Blvd. Rated six-round tournaments at 7:00 p.m., speed chess or extra rated games on seventh Tuesday, no smoking. Dues: $5/year plus $5/tournament, $2.50/year for juniors. Call Steve Boak at (310) 607-9751. Web site: www.geocities.com/alondra_park_cc.

LONG BEACH. The chess room in Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave., is open for casual play from noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Free.

LONG BEACH. Players gather for casual play at Golden Burger, 2301 E. 4th St., after the chess room in Bixby Park closes. Call the restaurant at (562) 434-2625.

LOS ANGELES. The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mondays in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 11555 National Blvd. Variety of rated tournaments, casual play, simuls, over 50 years in business. Dues: $40/year, free to women and juniors. Call Pete Savino at (310) 827-2789. Website: www.geocities.com/santamonicabaychessclub.

LOS ANGELES. The Exposition Park Chess Club meets 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays in the Exposition Park branch of the public library, 3665 S. Vermont Ave. Casual play, lectures, simuls, instruction, free tournament on the first Sunday of every month. No dues. Call the library at (323) 732-0169 or send a message to the club secretary at expochess07@yahoo.com. Web site: http://chess.expoparkla.com.

LOS ANGELES. A group meets at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Baldwin Hills branch of the public library, 2906 S. La Brea Ave. Casual play, instruction for beginners. All ages welcome, especially children and teenagers. Call the library at (323) 733-1196.

LOS ANGELES. A group of seniors meets Monday and Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in the Freda Mohr Community Building, 330 N. Fairfax Ave. Casual play, no smoking.

LOS ANGELES. The Los Angeles Chess Club (LACC) meets on the second floor of 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., above Javan restaurant. Variety of tournaments and instruction on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Dues: adults $120/year, juniors/seniors $100/year or $5/visit for nonmembers, first visit free. Call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to Mick@LaChessClub.com. Web site: www.lachessclub.com.

LOS ANGELES. The California Chess Club at 11610 W. Olympic Blvd. offers a variety of tournaments and instruction for children and adults. For times and prices, contact Oscar Maldonado at (310) 473-2435 or at echessoscar@aol.com. Web site: www.californiachessclub.com

LOS ANGELES. Tang's Donuts, 4341 W. Sunset Blvd., welcomes chessplayers for casual play and speed chess, especially late at night.

MORRO BAY. A group meets 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays at the big chess board on Embarcadero at Morro Bay Blvd. Chess pieces may be checked out weekdays from the Parks and Recreation Dept. Call Eugene Arcamonte at (805) 528-4079 or Fred Brown at (805) 772-7074.

MURIETTA. A group meets in the early afternoon on the first Sunday of each month at Cloud 9 Coffee, 25395 Madison Ave., Suite 111. Casual play. Free. Call the restaurant at (951) 698-4386.

NATIONAL CITY. The National City Chess Club meets noon to 10:00 p.m. daily at 1341 E. 8th St. Scholastic instruction and casual play Tuesdays, Gambito tournaments every other Saturday. Free instruction for scholastic members ages 7 to 12. Dues: $120/year, $15/month, $1.50/visit, free to masters. Call Jorge Balares at (619) 477-3118 or (619) 788-8395. Web site: www.nationalcitychessclub.com.

OCEANSIDE. The Oceanside Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the North River Road Neighborhood Center, 5306 N. River Rd. Casual play, occasional rated

tournaments. No dues required. Call James Fritz at (760) 967-0717.

ORANGE. The Orange Senior Club meets from noon to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays in the Orange Senior Citizens Community Center, 170 S. Olive St. in Orange. Casual play, all ages welcome. For information, call (714) 538-9633.

PASADENA. The Pasadena Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. Rated tournaments, Quick chess, occasional exhibitions. Dues: $15/year. Call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809 or Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412. Web site: www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html.

PASO ROBLES. The Paso Robles Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the Senior Center, 270 Scott St. Casual play, tournaments. Dues: $15/year. Call Dennis Steele at (805) 227-4444. Web site: www.chessmaniac.com/pasoclub.

POWAY. The North County Chess Club has moved to San Marcos. Contact Mike Nagaran at (858) 285-5901 or at mnagaran@fuhsd.net.

REDLANDS. The Joslyn Center Chess Club meets 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the Joslyn Senior Center, 21 Grant St. Casual play, non-rated tournaments. No dues. Call the Senior Center at (909) 798-7550.

REDLANDS. Another group meets 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays in the Community Center, 111 W. Lugonia Ave. Call (909) 798-7579.

RIDGECREST. The Ridgecrest Chess Club meets 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Kern County Library (west entrance), 131 E. Las Flores Ave. Casual play, occasional scholastic and club tournaments. No dues. Contact Dwight Morgan at (760) 377-0034 or dmorgan@iwvisp.com.

RIVERSIDE. A group meets for casual play and blitz at 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in Back 2 the Grind Cafe, 3575 University Ave. "Quick Thursdays" G/15 quads on the first Thursday of every month, register at 8 p.m. Bring equipment. Call the cafe at (951) 784-0800 or e-mail Tyrone Liddell at TD@TheChessUnion.com. Web site: www.TheChessUnion.com.

RUNNING SPRINGS. The Mountain Chess League meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays in The Fireside, 32031 Holiday Lane. Casual play, must be over age 21. Annual team tournament starts in March. No dues. Call Don La Suer at (909) 867-4994 or send a message to donculo@earthlink.net.

SAN DIEGO. The San Diego Chess Club meets daily in the Balboa Club, 2225 6th Ave. (at Ivy) in Balboa Park. Club opens for casual play at 2:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, and noon Sundays. Rated tournaments at 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. Saturdays, Action chess, speed chess, instruction by master Bruce Baker at 7:00 p.m. Thursdays, Jedi Knights childrens club from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fridays. Dues: $48/year. Call the club at (619) 239-7166. Web site: http://groups.msn.com/SanDiegoChess/.

SAN DIMAS. Coffee Bazaar, 661 W. Arrow Highway, welcomes chessplayers. Bring your chess set. Call (909) 394-1964.

SAN LUIS OBISPO. The San Luis Obispo Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays in the Church of the Nazarene, 3396 Johnson Ave. Casual play, lectures, occasional tournaments. Dues: $5/year. Call Barbara McCaleb at (805) 544-0717 or bmccaleb@calpoly.edu.

SAN MARCOS. The North County Chess Club meets at 7:00 p.m. Fridays in the Woodland Parkway Senior Apt. Complex at 975 Woodland Parkway. Continuous rated tournaments, casual play. Dues: $25/year, $10/year for juniors. Call Mike Nagaran at (858) 245-5901, or e-mail mnagaran@fuhsd.net.

SANTA MONICA. Chess tables are available from sunup to sundown daily at the Santa Monica International Chess Park, on the promenade just south of the Santa Monica pier. Casual chess, blitz, chess bulletin board, large demonstration board, occasional summer tournaments. No dues.

SIMI VALLEY. The YMCA Chess Club of Simi Valley meets 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mondays at the YMCA, 3200 Cochran St. Casual play, instruction, non-rated tournaments. Dues: $5/month, free to YMCA members. Call John Williams at (805) 529-1816.

VENTURA. The Ventura County Chess Club meets on the first Tuesday, the second Monday, and the later Tuesdays each month in the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Rated tournaments, casual play. Dues: $35.00/year, $17.50/year for juniors and military, $2.00/night for non-members. Call Jimmy Sweet at (805) 659-0356 or Chuck Smith at (805) 654-8472. Web site: www.vcchess.com

VICTORVILLE. The Victor Valley Chess Club meets noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Victor Villa Clubhouse, 13393 Mariposa Rd. Non-rated tournaments (rated tournaments possible in future), casual play, instruction. No dues. Write to DonCotten@aol.com.

WEST COVINA. The West Covina Chess Club meets 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. All ages welcome. Casual play, rated and non-rated tournaments on Tuesdays. Bring chess equipment. No speed chess! Call Richard Williams at (626) 966-6311.

WEST HILLS. The West Valley Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Thursdays in the West Valley Jewish Community Center, 22622 Vanowen St. Open to all, continuous rated tournaments, blitz, casual play. One of the largest local clubs. Contact Jerry Yee at (818) 915-5572 or at jyee6@socal.rr.com. Web site: www.geocities.com/freechessclub .

Upcoming Events

March 16

Amateur Open (Chess Palace). Game/45. ChessPalace, 12872 Valley View St. Suite 5, Garden Grove, CA 92845. 2 Sections- OPEN (USCF rated) & BOOSTER (U1500- Non-USCF rated). **Reg** starts at 11:30am. Round 1 at 12:30 p.m. **EF**: $12 (club member): $17 (regular)- $2 less if received 24 hours in advance. Call or email. **Prizes**: Cash Prizes based on entry for OPEN. Trophies for top three in the Unrated section. **Inf**: events@chesspalace.com. www.chesspalace.com. Toll free 1-888-34-CHESS.

March 28-30

6th Annual Western Pacific Open. 5-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds. 1-2 G/75 then merges. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. $$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. **In 3 sections: Open**: 1600-1000-800-400-200, U2400 300-200, U2200 700-500-300. **EF**: $83 if received by 3/28, $95 door. **Premier** (U2000): $$ 700-500-300-100, U1800 400-200-150, U1600 400-200-150. **EF**: $83 if received by 3/28, $95 door. **Amateur** (U1400/Unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 100, Unr 100, unrated may win unrated prize only. **EF**: $67 if received by 3/28, $80 door. **On-line entry**: www.westernchess.com. No checks or credit card entries at door. **All**: $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. One half-point bye if requested with entry, rds 4-5 cannot be revoked. SCCF membership req. of S. Cal. res., $18 reg, $10 junior. **Reg**: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Fri., 9-10 a.m. Sat. **Rds**.: 3-day 7 p.m., 11-5:30, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10:30-1:30 (G/75), then merges. **HR**: $109, (310) 410-4000. Be sure to mention Western Chess. **Parking** $10/day. **Info**: admin@westernchess.com. Web Site: www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. NS. NC. F. **GP: 40. State Championship Qualifier**.

March 30

Western Pacific Scholastics. 5-SS, SD/45. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated, best each grade. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg**: 8:30-9:15. **Rds**: 9:30-11-1:00-2:30-4. **EF**: $16 if received by 3/28, $20 door. On-line ent: www.westernchess.com. **Info**: John Hillery, admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038.

March 30

Western Pacific Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. LAX Hilton, 5711 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 6-player sections by rating. $$40-20-10 each section. **EF**: $20 if received by 3/28, $25 door. **Reg**: 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds**: 10:30-2-5. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles CA 90038. On-line ent: www.westernchess.com.

April 5

Hanley's Chess Academy Scholastic #5. 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92646, 714-925-3195. Two Tournaments: USCF Rated: 5 Rd. SS, G/30, Trophies to top finishers. Non-Rated: 5 Rd. RR, Grouped by Grades, 10 Games. Trophies to 1st and 2nd Place in Each Group; All others win participation medals. **EF**: $20 received by 4/3/08, $25 after. **Reg**: 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. **Rds**: Rated: 9:30-10:45-12:30-1:45-3:00. Non-Rated: 9:30 a.m. to finish; break for lunch from 12:00 noon-12:30 p.m. **Entry**: www.hanleychessacademy.org, click on Tournament and Class Registrations 2008, click on HCA Scholastic #5 **Info**: Joe Hanley; 714-925-3195.

April 6

LACC April Scholastic. 5 SS, G/30, K-12. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd - Second Floor - 4 blocks West of 405 Fwy - LA, CA 90025 Free Parking on the streets; or in the building basement ($3). EF: $20 ($2 off for SCCF members). **Reg**: 1:30-2:00 p.m. **Round Times**: 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00. **Prizes**: Trophies, Medals, Special Prizes! Everybody receives a prize! **Info**: Mick Bighamian: Cell (310) 795-5710; Mick@LaChessClub.com. NS. NC. W.

April 12

Super Double (2x) Quad. 4-SS, "Semi-Swiss." ChessPalace, 12872 Valley View St. Suite 5, Garden Grove, CA 92845. **Reg** ends 11:15 a.m. First 3 rounds based on Quad format, then optional "Championship Round" for 4th game. Game 60 minutes for the first three rounds and G/75 for the Championship round. Round 1 at 11:30 a.m. **Prizes**: based on performance – each 4 point scorer receives $100, 3 pts - $65, 3 pts - $45, and 2.5 pts – free regular entry. **EF**: $27 members, $30 regular. **Inf**: events@chesspalace.com. www.chesspalace.com. Toll free 1-888-34-CHESS.

April 12-13

2008 Western States Scholastic Championships. 6-SS, G/60. Marriott Ventura Beach, 2055 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001. $6/day parking with in/out privileges. 9 sections: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7-8, 9-12. EF: $44 w 3/31 postmark; $59

after or onsite. Onsite reg: 4/11/08 from 4:30-8pm and 4/12/08 from 8:30-9am. Players registered after 4/11/08 receive ½ bye for Rd 1. Trophies to Top 10 in each section. Category trophies also. Mail registrations to AAA Chess Club, Re: 2008 Western States, 5317 Virginia, Los Angeles, CA 90029 or enter at www.aaachessclub.com. Team trophies: Top 5 school teams in K-1, 2-3, 4-6 groups (Top 2 in 7-8 and 9-12); Top 3 Club Teams (Top team in 7-8, 9-12). Download flyer with complete info, including Friday's Blitz & Bughouse at www.cycl.org. More info: Jay Stallings (661) 288-1705 or email: coachjay@cycl.org.

April 19-20

SCCF Senior/Junior Open. 5-SS, San Diego Chess Club, 2225 Sixth Ave San Diego CA 92101. Rds 1-3 G/90 with 10 second delay; Rds 4-5 G/120 with 10 sec delay. $3,200 b/60, 50% of each prize guaranteed. In 2 Sections: Senior Section (must be at least 50 years old): $300-150-50, U2200 $150-50, U2000 $150-50, U1800 $150-50, U1600 $150-50, plus Best over 60 years old $100, over 70 $100, over 80 $100, each player eligible for only one of the above prizes. Junior Section (must be under 50 years old): $300-150-50, U2200 $150-50, U2000 $150-50, U1800 $150-50, U1600 $150-50, plus Best under 20 years old $100, BU 16 $100, BU 12 $100, eligible for only 1 prize. **Entry Fee**: $50 if paid by 4/18, or $60 on event day, special $25 rate if U1400. SCCF membership required $18 Adult, $10 Junior (U18). **Reg**: 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Round 1 will start at 10 a.m. sharp! 1 half point bye in rds 1-4 only, must be requested by round 1. **Rds**: Sat 10 a.m, 2 p.m, 6 p.m (G/90); Sun 10 a.m., 3 p.m. (G/120). **Ent**: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego CA 92112 Info: call Bruce Baker at SDCC 619-239-7166 or email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com. NS, NC, W. **State Championship Qualfier.**

April 27

2008 Westwood Spring Open. 5-SS, G/40. Los Angeles Chess Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, CA 90025, 2nd floor (4 blocks West of 405 Fwy). $$1500 b/50, 80% of each prize guaranteed. In two sections: Open: $400-200-50, U2200 125, U2000 125. Reserve (U1800) $$200-100, U1600 $125, Under 1400/unrated $100, U1200 $75. **EF**: $47 if received by 4/26, $55 at site. SCCF memb. ($18, under 18 $10) req. for rated S. CA residents. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: limit 1, must be req. w/entry. **Reg**: 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds**: 10-11:30-1:30-3:15-4:45. 2 Free Parking lots on the SW corner of Santa Monica & Purdue, or in the building basement ($3). **Inf**: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. **GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.**

May 4

LACC May Scholastic. 5 SS, G/30, K-12. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd - Second Floor - 4 blocks West of 405 Fwy - LA, CA 90025 Free Parking on the streets; or in the building basement ($3). EF: $20 ($2 off for SCCF members). **Reg**: 1:30-2:00 p.m. **Round Times**: 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00. **Prizes**: Trophies, Medals, Special Prizes! Everybody receives a prize! **Info**: Mick Bighamian: Cell (310) 795-5710; Mick@LaChessClub.com. NS. NC. W.

May 3-4

10th Annual Los Angeles County Championship. 5-SS, 30/85, SD/30 (1st 3 rounds), 40/2, SD/1 (last 2 rounds). Sierra Vista Rec Center, 311 N Rural Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91755. $1100 guaranteed: $300-200, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600 each $100, U1400, U1200 each $75, Unrated $50. **EF**: $30 if rec'd by 5/1, $40 at door. Special option for HS/below: $10, 5 trophies only. SCCF membership req'd of So. Californians: $18, $10 jrs. **Reg**: 9-9:40 am, **Rds**: 10-2-6, 10-4. **Info**: Randy Hough (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com. **Ent**: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. **GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.**

Solutions to Tactics by Hanks

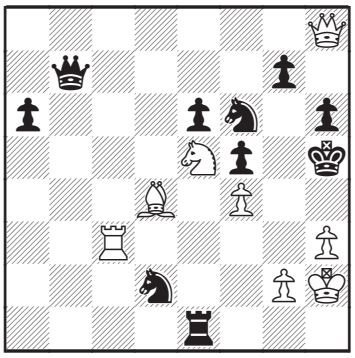
(see page 17)

Problem # 1: **a. Black is winning.** This was Letelier -- Fischer, Leipzig 1960. The main line goes **1. ... Rxe3 2. Rxe3 Rxe3! 3. Kxe3 Qxf4+ 0-1**, as 4. Kxf4+ is answered by Bh6#. Other lines offer no hope for White.

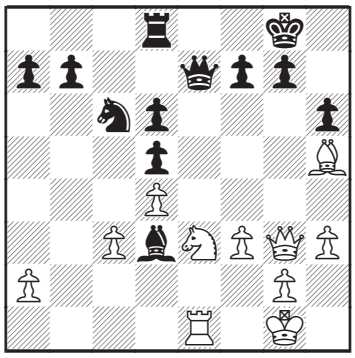
Problem # 2: b. White is winning. Fischer -- Dely, Skopje, 1967. The main line is **1. Rxf8+! Qxf8 2. Qa4+ b5 3. Qxe4 Rd8 4. Qc6+ Rd7 5. Rd1 Qe7 6. Bb6! 1-0** (not 6. Bg5? as then 0-0! and Black holds on), as White will win due to ominous back rank threats.

Problem # 3: **d. White is winning.** Fischer -- Bolbochan, Stockholm, 1962. Fischer eliminates all of Black's threats in one move and creates an unstoppable and winning attack. The main line goes **1. Qb3! Rxf4 2. Re5+ Kf8 3. Rxe8+ 1-0,** for if 3. … Kxe8 then 4. Qe6+ Kf8 5. Qc8+ Bd8 6. Qxd8#. Another line goes (1. Qb3) *Kh8* (trying to hold on) *2. Nxg6+ Qxg6 3. Rxg5 Rf1+ 4. Ka2 Qxg5 5. Qh3+ Kg8 6. Qxf1* with a winning endgame owing to Black's exposed King and material deficit.

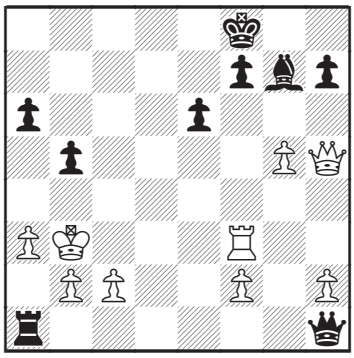
Problem # 4: d. White is winning. This is from the game Fischer -- S. Schweber, Buenos Aires, 1970. The main line goes: **1. ... e4 2. Rxe4! Qxg3 3. Rxd4 Qg4 5. Rxg4 Bxg4 6. Bxg6 Rhg8 7. Bh7 Rh8 8. Bd3 Rde8 9. f7 Re7 10. f8Q+ Rxf8 11. Bb4 Rff7 12. Bxe7 Rxe7 13. f3,** and White is winning, finishing off his opponent with classic technique. As an exercise see if you can beat your computer with the resulting position at move 13.



Ibragimov - Rohde
Las Vegas, 2007
White to move



Topalov - Gelfand
Corus, 2008
White to move



Howell - Levitt
London, 2005
Black to move

Solutions on page 11

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754