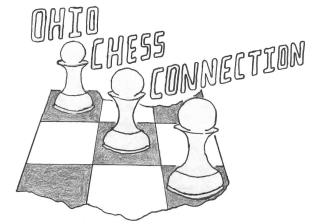


OHIO CHESS CONNECTION

*"Linking together the Ohioan chess community
through quality journalism."*



Volume 1, No. 4

Consecutive No. 4

July/August 2008



THE RETURN OF XIAOBO DONG

Former Scholastic Champion Heads to Ohio for Performance of a Lifetime

Also in this issue:

- **Joe Fogarty on his recently announced retirement from scholastic chess**
- **Ohio Elementary Champion John Hughes defeats his first master player**
- **Lessons in Positional Chess**
- **Mike Neumeier remembers Ed Ernst, former KY Champion**
- **Jerry Hanken's fond memories of Cincinnati**
- **And much more!**

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New Contributors

LM Jerry Hanken is the President of the Chess Journalists of America and a former Cincinnati. He is a professional chess journalist and has written hundreds of articles in his time and is commonly seen writing for *Chess Life* magazine.

IE Phillip Seitzer was formerly known as NE (National Expert) Phillip Seitzer. His new initials, "IE", denote his new status as a self-proclaimed International Chess Expert. (Apologies to FIDE.)

David Washburn finished in 8th place in the U1800 Section of the Gem City Open. He graciously annotated a game from that tournament which is currently being displayed on our website, <http://OhioChessConnection.googlepages.org>.

Mike Neumeier is a long-time member of the Cincinnati Chess Club. His contribution on the late Ed Ernst was a great blessing to this publication.

Christopher Steven Dobbs is a college student currently studying at University of Miami in Oxford. Although known to the editor of this publication for his clear-cut writing for a long time, Dobbs is a newcomer to the chess writing scene. His chess improvement has been rapid, as he has shot up from being rated around 1000 to sporting a 1551 rating in just about two and a half years.

Bill Pursel is a member of the Clermont Chess Club and a chess enthusiast. His attacking win over Mike Neumeier was awarded the title of "Game of the Month" for its enterprising character.

Ohio Chess Connection is published every two months by Jonathan Hilton. One-time publication and subsequent online publication rights have been obtained from contributors. Articles and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Ohio Chess Connection*. Subscription, advertising, and contact information available online at: <http://OhioChessConnection.googlepages.com>.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

LAST JUNE, I UNDERTOOK the somewhat horrifying experience of running my first Grand Prix tournament, the Gem City Open at the Dayton Chess Club. Rest assured that after spending a weekend in club owner Riley Driver's shoes, I will think twice before distracting a tournament director with a question irrelevant to the outcome of my actual games! By the skin of my teeth, I managed to start no round more than fifteen minutes behind schedule—and yet still be available to answer the stream of questions that arose about ratings, air conditioning, eateries, and chess openings.

But the most common question I was asked went something like this: "Why did you schedule Gem City the same day as the Cleveland Open?" The first few times I was asked this question, I patiently explained that there was simply no communication between the Ohio Chess Association—which oversees local tournaments in Ohio—and the Continental Chess Association, which hosts larger events such as the King's Island Open. After what seemed like the twentieth time, however, I found myself irritated to the point where I gave short, polarizing answers. "We published our date first. *They* scheduled *their* tournament over ours." (As I later found out, this claim was almost certainly untrue. Goichberg had taken the proper steps to avoid the date conflict as best he could, and had scheduled his tournament far in advance of Gem City.) I had fallen into the "David versus Goliath", "us versus them" mentality that had been the cause of no small amount of resentment towards the Cleveland Open.

The thinking behind this mentality went something like this: Bill Goichberg, owner of Continental Chess, deliberately ran his tournament on the same weekend as the Gem City Open in the hopes of "stealing" players from an important Ohio tournament. By "carpet bagging", essentially running the local chess establishments into the ground, Continental Chess would then have free reign to create large Open tournaments and monopolize Ohio chess.

Does this view hold water? During the earlier part of this month, July, I decided to find out. After investigating, I discovered that Continental Chess has a much



Posing with prizewinners and prodigies at Gem City.

different philosophy than the grim picture painted above. While running local establishments out of business may have worked for Rockefeller and his oil trust in the 1880s, there is no place for such practices in chess tournament organizing today, according to the Continental Chess Association. Large open tournaments such as those run by Bill Goichberg work only with the support of a strong grassroots chess community. The Cleveland Open, still in its infancy, could not have been successful without the large show of support from members of the Parma, Akron, Vivacity, and other chess clubs.

Thus it was *because* of the strong chess community in Ohio—with its many and diverse clubs—that Continental Chess decided to open a second yearly tournament on our soil. The relationship between strong Open tournaments and the grassroots community is mutually beneficial. In fact, Ohio saw one of the immediate benefits of having a Goichberg tournament only a matter of days after the event ended. Recent High School graduate and Ohio Chess Connection staff writer Joe Fogarty was given his first chance to cover an event for the national chess media!

However, I don't wish to dwell on chess politics all day. There are plenty of more exciting things happening here at *Ohio Chess Connection*. Phillip Seitzer declared himself an International Expert, Joe Fogarty has agreed to help out as an Assistant Editor, and we made our font size smaller so that we could institute cool new flashy graphics and add more content. Although having more content is exciting, it would be best if no one had to strain their eyes too much because of it, so if you find the new print too small to read, please let us know! ♦ ~Jonathan Hilton

OHIOANS AROUND THE NATION

LAS VEGAS: LELKO WINS BIG AGAIN!

Rebecca Lelko defended her title as the Girls Under 19 Champion this June. On June 6-8, Rebecca scored 4.5/5.0 at the Susan Polgar World Open to win a second \$36,000 scholarship to Texas Tech University. According to *The Plain Dealer*, a Cleveland paper, she will be allowed to use *both* scholarships should she choose to attend school there. That's a total of \$72,000—quite an impressive sum!

The field in the U19 Section was comprised of nine players, and Lelko clearly demonstrated the superiority of Ohioan chess by defeating nearly half of them! Lelko had to achieve one upset over eventual number three finisher Janice Chen (rated 1772) to recapture her title. Since Lelko's victory automatically seeds her into the Susan Polgar Championship for Girls this August, Ohio Girls' Co-Champion **Brianna Conley** will go to Dallas as the official representative for Ohio. Congrats to both young ladies!

PHILADELPHIA: PARKINGGATE SCANDAL

At the World Open in Philadelphia, held from June 30 to July 6, editor **Jonathan Hilton** gave away his first official forfeit loss in tournament practice. While on his way to a nearby pizza parlor, Hilton suffered a misstep which allowed a parking gate to close on his head. The young man began having dizzy spells, prompting him to seek medical help shortly before the start of his third round. Though Hilton has made a full recovery, he regrettably had to forfeit his game and withdraw from the tournament. You can find the details of Hilton's accident in his World Open report: <http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8549/141/>

In cheerier news, **Kris Meekins** tied for ninth in the U2200 Section with 6.5/9.0, netting **\$520.00**. Another player frequently seen in Akron, **David Allen Sr.**, was close behind with 6.0/9.0 and a paycheck of **\$160.00**. The only other Ohioan finishing in the money was **Andrew H. Garvin**, rated 644, who won **\$80.00** and a trophy in the U900 Section. **Ken J. Laux** won the third place trophy in the U600 Section.

INTERNET: MOTCF MAKES HEADLINES

The Midwest Open Team Chess Festival, held May 17-18 in Columbus, was newsworthy enough to make the headline of *Chess Life Online* for a day shortly after the Chicago Open coverage was completed. Enjoy some spectacular pictures of Ohioans and learn more about the mysterious and elusive *Morphicon* attendees at:

<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8474/468/>

The chess players' desperate bid to keep the mysterious and wacky Morphicons away from the tournament hall hinged on the sign to the right.



INTERNET: FOGARTY COVERS CLEVELAND

One of our own writers, **Joe Fogarty**, received a special chance to take his chess writing career to the next level when he got to cover the Cleveland Open for *Chess Life Online*. He got the job when **Jerry Hanken**, a former Cincinnati resident and the current president of the Chess Journalists of America, subscribed to *Ohio Chess Connection* and was impressed by the "Fogarty View" columns. On Hanken's recommendation, Fogarty was hired by CLO editor Jennifer Shahade to report on the tournament. Joe's article "Big Time Chess Returns to Cleveland" appears at: <http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8498/463/>

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SPELLING BEE

Anna Cusi Delamerced, an eighth-grade student from Cincinnati and the #5-ranked scholastic women's player in Ohio, made it to the semifinals of the Script's National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., held May 29-30. She aced words such as "metoposcopy" before finally being tripped up by "terzetto" in Round 5, spelling it with two z's. Congrats to Anna! ♦



One Ohioan who has been around the nation a lot in recent times is prodigy Alex Markovits. Here he writes about participating in the Cadet Championship:

EARLIER IN THE YEAR I was invited to play in the Cadet Championships, an invitational event for chess players under age 16. The Cadet took place June 13-18 at the Anatoly Karpov International School of Chess in Lindsborg, Kansas. Players from around the country participated. In addition to myself, there was Conrad Holt (Kansas), Darwin Yang (Texas), Deepak Aaron (New York), Andrew Shvartsman (New Jersey), Richard Tuhim (New York), and Patrick John Tae (Tennessee). It was a round robin event so there were no breaks if you lost: you had to play one great player after another. I was honored to participate.

I ended with a disappointing result, 2.0/6.0, but did have a good time. The local Kansas player, Conrad Holt, won the event with 5.0/6.0. Apart from bragging rights, his win also gave him a four-year scholarship to the University of Maryland at Baltimore, valued at about \$70,000. And by also winning the World Open U2200 in July he showed that his win at the Cadet was no fluke—he is a chess beast.

Lindsborg is a town of about 3,000 people that is also known as “Little Sweden”. Its early settlers were Swedish and a large portion of the population today is still of Swedish descent. The town has Swedish restaurants, Swedish gift shops, Swedish music piped out of loudspeakers on the telephone poles, and even the Swedish pavilion from the St. Louis World’s Fair. The “Anatoly Karpov International School of Chess” seems a little out of place! But there it sits in downtown Little Sweden, right next to an auto parts store.

Here is one of my most interesting Cadet games:

Markovits, A (2090)—Aron, Deepak (2070)
U.S. Cadet Championship 2008 (Round 3)
Annotations by Alex Markovits

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.c3 d6 6.Bb3 Be6 7.Bc2 0–0 8.0–0 d5?! 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nbd2 f5?! 11.Nc4 e4 12.Ng5 Qf6 13.Nxe6

13.dxe4! is overwhelming; if 13...Nxc3? 14.Qh5! h6 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.bxc3 Qxc4 17.Bb3.

13...Qxe6 14.d4 Be7 15.Qe2 Kh8 16.f3 b5 17.Ne3 Nf4 18.Qxb5 Rab8 19.d5!?

19.Qc4 Qg6 20.Kh1 is much simpler and better, but for some reason I feared Black’s attack.

19...Rxb5 20.dxe6 Ne2+ 21.Kh1 f4 22.Ba4 Rh5 23.Bxc6 Rf6

My opponent now threatens 24...Rxb2+!

24.Ng4 Ng3+ 25.Kg1 Bc5+ 26.Rf2 e3

Here I knew that I needed to take on e3. I calculated 27.Nxe3 fxe3 28.Bxe3 Bxe3 29.e7, but as soon as I let go of the knight a slow chill came over me: I had lost my third straight game.

27.Nxe3??

Best for White was 27.Bxe3! fxe3 28.Nxe3! Rxe6 (28...Bxe3? 29.e7!) 29.Rd1!

27...Rxb2 28.Re2 Rh1+ 29.Kf2 Rf1# 0–1. ♦

REMEMBERING ED ERNST

I REGRET TO DELIVER some sad news. **Edward R. Ernst**, chess master and former Kentucky State Champion, of Newport, KY, passed away on Friday, May 30, 2008. He was eighty years old. The news was first heard in the chess world by **George Elgin**, who received a phone call from one of Ed's relatives.

Before the Kaidanov era in Kentucky, you can say that Ed Ernst "owned" Kentucky. At his peak, he broke through the 2300 USCF barrier. He won three consecutive Kentucky State Championships in his early 60s, from 1988-1990. In August 2006, he was ranked #45-49 in the country for active chess-playing seniors over 65.

Ed's last rated tournament was the Cardinal Open in January of 2007. Tim Lake and I traveled with him to participate in the event. Ed's play had been declining in the few years leading up to this last tourney, owing I think probably to age and the fatigue that goes with it—good positions suddenly turned awry with a rushed move, and he suffered a number of glaring oversights—but he never lost his interest and zeal for the game of chess. Occasionally, he could still win an impressive game.

Ed was always an exceptional analyst in *post mortems*. Even when his own games were done, Ed's thirst for chess was unceasing—you would see him prancing from board to board eagerly to observe others' games in progress. Certain ideas he would see instantly and always was he eager to take you aside and whisper in your ear what, in his words, the "sockdolager" was. From Ed's analysis I learned much about chess strategy and tactics.

Another word that used to crop up in his vocabulary a lot was "shenanigans". Speaking of which, many around Cincinnati might remember the green felt hat he used to wear around. It had a feather in it.

Ed's funeral was rather small; it was attended by only about 25 people, mostly friends and co-workers Ed knew from his job working in a grocery store. (Ed worked weekends at the grocery store up until his

death.) A nephew and niece were both in attendance as well. Five chessplayers were there: **John Gilliam**, **Hans Multhopp**, **Alfredo Cherascot**, **Richard Horvitz**, and myself. Both John and I gave short talks about our remembrances of Ed after the eulogy.

As people were leaving the chapel, Ed's niece came up to me and gave me a color photocopy of a very long article and picture of Ed that was in the Kentucky Post about 10 years ago.

Ed had an uncommonly good nature about him. Old age and little money never got him down: he always had good stories to tell. He loved music, particularly the stuff from the old days, when songs and dances still had melody. Ed did like a lot of modern music, however, and he knew the good "Rock n' Roll" from the bad. He had a thorough understanding of classical music and we talked often on those subjects. Once he told me he saw Andres Segovia, the famous guitarist, play at Music Hall in Cincinnati. He said that he was expecting to see a distinguished figure walk on stage and play the guitar. Instead, he said, "To my surprise, here comes walking in this hunched-over old man. But when he sat down on that lone chair in the middle of the stage, that guitar seemed to slide right into his hunched-over figure. He probably got that hunch because all he ever did was play guitar!" Ed went on to say that Segovia was an extraordinary musician.

I'd say around 5 years ago—when Ed was about 75 years in age—I remember a conversation we had about death. I'm still not sure how we got onto the subject; Ed did have an ailment or two that sometimes led him to ponder it, as we all have at times. Without getting into any particulars or philosophical arguments, religion, beliefs or otherwise, he ended up saying something to the effect of, "What the heck! When I die, I'll become some of that twinkling star dust floating around out there. That doesn't sound bad to me at all!" Never again will there be one like him. ♦ ~Mike Neumeier

Look for more on Ed Ernst in the September/October issue, including some of Ed's chess games.

CINCINNATI CONNECTION

This month, Ohio Chess Connection has the honor of receiving a contribution from distinguished chess journalist Jerry Hanken, President of the Chess Journalists of America and a frequent contributor for Chess Life magazine. Jerry, who routinely covers the King's Island Open, is a long-time friend of the editor and a fan of Cincinnati's finest dining: Skyline Chili!

I FIRST MET THE editor of this fine new publication, Jonathan Hilton, at the King's Island Open of 2006. He immediately made an impression upon me as an intelligent young man far more mature than his then sixteen years. He was Cincinnati City Champion at the time and he promised that he would show me something the next day which I would enjoy. As good as his word, the next day, Jon showed up with his Championship trophy and pointed to the second name engraved upon it. This is a perpetual rotating trophy. I looked, and there I was—the second of 47 names!

I had won this championship back in 1958 in a round robin with the best ten players in Cincinnati. Of course, I had not forgotten this; it was a significant milestone in my quest for a Master rating. I had forgotten, however, the permanent rotating trophy which I had kept in my custody for a year. It brought back memories of that pivotal time in my life, and not only as a chessplayer. I thought of those other names on the trophy, former friends now mostly gone. I scored 9-1 in that round robin, with my only loss being to the fine expert **Burt Edwards**, whose name appears on that trophy three or four times. Burt would have certainly have achieved a Master rating had he the opportunities I received with my next year when I moved to the major chess center of Los Angeles.

I mourn Burt's loss, and even more, the loss of my best friend: **Fred Bahr**, an A-player who had me totally busted in that tournament, but let me slip away. Fred died of liver cancer at the age of 48 and I still have trouble coming to grips with that sad fact some 28 years later.

I could mention other names on that piece of wooden and metal nostalgia—my roommate and friend



Hilton and Hanken at Foxwoods, CT earlier this year.

Tom Lajcik, who was best man at my first marriage. He passed of a heart attack when only 58. More tears. Others I recall vividly from those long ago years would be only names to most of you, but others you would know. I was friends with the cheerful **Ed Ernst**, someone who was truly one of a kind. He was someone who was always smiling and had a real thirst for the game of chess—he was always playing or analyzing. “The captains and the kings depart, lest we forget, lest we forget...”

When Jon told me he was launching a new magazine, I promised to write an article for him. The name of the magazine was to be the *Connection*—which is very fitting, since for me, my connection to Cincinnati remains very real and strong. I was born at Jewish hospital in Cincinnati in 1934. Though I left for Los Angeles the next year, the city of Cincinnati still has a place in my heart. I hope to see all or most of you readers of this ambitious publication at the King's Island Open in November. ♦ ~Jerry Hanken

Jerry wishes he had some of the games from that 1959 competition, but they seem to all have been lost. Therefore, he has annotated for you a sad tale from the 2008 World Open, found on page 30.



THE RETURN OF XIAOBO DONG

A Former Ohioan Holds His Own at Gem City

EARLIER IN THIS CENTURY, a young Expert by the name of **Xiaobo** (Sha-BOO) **Dong** was one of the most successful scholastic players in the state of Ohio. After handily winning the 12th grade state championship in 2001 and becoming the first-ever Queen City Classic Champion in 2002, however, Xiaobo disappeared for five years from the chess scene—he'd headed to Baltimore, Maryland to pursue a medical degree at John Hopkins University. In 2007, he decided to try a few “quick tournaments” around the Baltimore scene.

Then, on a return visit home to Ohio, the aspiring doctor decided to see if he “still had it” by entering the 50th Annual Gem City Open in Dayton, Ohio from June 13-15. The outcome? Xiaobo not only defeated NMs **Brian McCarthy** and **Ross Sprague** but also held the legendary GM **Alexander Goldin** to a draw with the Black pieces.

On his way to tying for first place with Goldin and IM **Emory Tate** with 4.0/5.0, Xiaobo picked up no less than fifty rating points and finished with a tournament performance rating of 2517!

What was the key to Xiaobo's success? Although Xiaobo's outstanding performance came as a surprise even to himself, Xiaobo concluded that he arrived at the tournament ready to play. Since finishing his undergraduate degree at college, he had worked on his openings and tactics—the result of which can be seen in his games. Without further ado, here is the story of one man's dream tournament performance, round-by-round!

Round 1: The First Round

Xiaobo's first challenge was defeating A-player **John Martin** on Friday night. Although he had the White pieces and was playing against a lower-rated opponent, the match was in question: would Xiaobo be rusty from lack of chess activity, or did he “still have it”?

Dong, Xiaobo (2077)—Martin, John (1902)
[B01] 50th Gem City Open (Round 1), 6/13/2008
Annotations by Xiaobo Dong

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 g6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Be3 f5?! 10.d5

10.c5?! f4 11.cxb6 fxe3 12.fxe3 axb6 13.0-0 e5 would have been preferable for Black.

10...Ne5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 e6

13...e5!? is possible, with the idea that after 14.Qxe5 Nxc4! White's center is destroyed. If then 15.Bxc4 Re8 is winning for Black. However, it is not clear what Black accomplishes after the simple 14.Qd2.

14.0-0-0!? exd5? 15.c5! Nd7 16.Nxd5 c6 17.Bc4!

A sacrifice Black cannot refuse.

Did Xiaobo “still have it”?

17...cxd5 18.Bxd5+ Rf7 19.Bxf7+ Kxf7 20.Rhe1

Material is even, but Black's king is exposed, he has no queenside development, and all the lines are open for White's rooks.

20...Qf8 21.Qd5+ Kg7 22.Qd6 Qxd6

Forced, because White threatens 23.Re7+. If

22...Nxc5 instead, White plays 23.Re7+ Kg8
24.Qxc5, winning.

23.cxd6 Kf6 24.Re8 Kf7 25.Rd8

White's idea is to play Rd1-e1-e8 and d6-d7, winning.

25...Ke6 26.Re1+ Kxd6

26...Kd5 27.Ree8 Nb6 28.d7 wins.

**27.Rd1+ Kc7 28.R1xd7+ Bxd7 29.Rxa8 a6
30.Rh8**

Black played on for a few more moves before surrendering. **1-0**

The answer? Xiaobo "still had it".

Xiaobo "still had it".

Round 2: The Grandmaster

Saturday morning's games presented Xiaobo with one of his greatest chess challenges of all time. Calmly taking the black pieces against GM Alexander Goldin, Xiaobo Dong awaited his date with destiny. Could he do anything other than lose to the famous Grandmaster? The world found out soon enough...

Goldin, Alexander (2583)—Dong (2077)
[D94] 50th Gem City Open (Round 2), 6/14/2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5

I played this with some trepidation as I knew the GM had something up his sleeve with the move order he played. Surely he was not going to play 4.d4 and transpose into the Grünfeld. I expected 4.g3 or 4.Qb3, moves that I was not well prepared for.

4.d4

Now I have a chance in familiar waters.

**4...Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd2 c5 7.dxc5 Na6
8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxa6 Nxc3**

Not 9...bxa6 10.Rc1, when White avoids doubling his pawns and has a strong extra pawn.

10.Bxc3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 bxa6

Goldin actually reached for his King after 30 minutes of thought, but played instead:

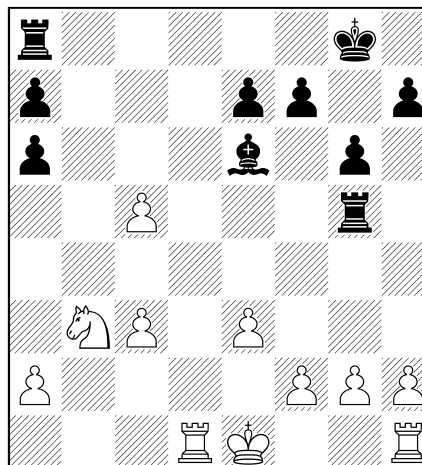
12.Qxd8

If 12.0-0, Black simply plays 12...Qc7 with ideas of playing on the open b- and d-files. Black has sufficient compensation: he has a bishop versus knight in an open position, a lead in development, and a target in White's weak pawns.

12...Rxd8 13.Nd4 Rd5 14.Nb3 Be6!

Goldin complemented me on this move in the post-mortem, hence the exclam. Black retains ideas of ...a6-a5 and has a huge lead in development.

15.Rd1 Rg5



16.h4!?

Here arises a quandary: to trust the GM's analysis of a pawn sac on g2, or to win back the c5 pawn?

16...Rxc3

I spent most of my time on this move, as I reasoned that White was relying on the possibility the g2 rook being trapped. However, White's rook on h1 is still out of the game. 16...Bxb3?! 17.axb3 Rxc5 18.Kd2 gives White a strong position with good winning chances.

17.Rd4

If 17.Nd4, Black plays 17...Bd5. Now: 18.Nf5 (18.Kf1?! e5 19.Nf5 Rxf2+! 20.Kxf2 Bxh1 21.Ne7+ Kf8 22.Nxg6+ hxg6 23.Rxh1 Rc8 is good for Black.) 18...gxf5 19.Rxd5 e6 20.Re5 Rb8, and the 7th rank falls, giving Black decent prospects.

17..Kf1 Rg4 18.Nd4 Bc4+ 19.Ke1 poses no problems for Black.

17...Rc8 18.Ke2

18.Ra4!? might be worth a look.

18...Rg4 19.Kd3 a5

Undermining White's queenside.

20.Rxc3 Bxc3

Here Goldin had 8 minutes to make the 40-move time control and accepted my draw offer. Fritz gives the position an equal to slightly better for black—something I correctly did not risk against a GM! **1/2-1/2**

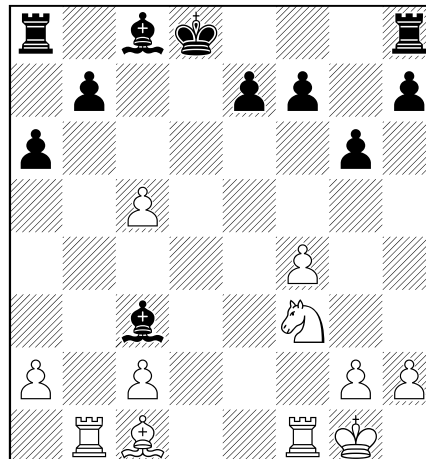
Round 3: Welcome to Masterville

Having successfully held the draw against Goldin, Xiaobo was then pitted against master player Brian McCarthy. Though he had avoided a loss against Goldin, could Xiaobo actually hope to take home a top prize in the strong Gem City field?

Dong, X (2007)—McCarthy, Brian (2233)

[B23] 50th Gem City Open (Round 3), 6/14/2008
Annotations by Xiaobo Dong

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0–0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d5 8.exd5 a6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.d4 Nxd5 11.dxc5 Nxc3 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.bxc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1



Following *Chess Openings for White, Explained*. The authors of that book believe this position holds strong possibilities for White, and I was prepared to put it to the test.

14...Ke8!?

I'm not sure that this is a good idea. Black plans to play ...Kf8-g7, but that only solves the problem of one of his rooks.

15.Rb3 Bf6

I came up with 2 plans here. The first was to trade dark-square bishops, ridding Black of his only active piece. Thus I could neutralize Black's bishop pair and then play on the dark squares. The second plan was to invade on the back rank along the d-file.

16.Re1 Kf8 17.Bb2 Kg7? 18.Rxe7

Not a difficult move to find. I now have control

over the d6 square.

18...Rd8 19.Ng5 Bxb2 20.Rxb2

20.Rxf7+ Kg8 21.Rxb2 h6 22.Rf6 hxc5 23.Rxg6+ Kf7 24.Rxg5 is clearly better for White. I only thought of this variation after the tournament, but it looks like White should win because of his active rooks and three passers.

20...Rf8

20...Rd7 21.Rxd7 Bxd7 22.Rxb7 Rd8 23.c6! Bxc6 24.Ne6+ Kf6 25.Nxd8 Bxb7 26.Nxb7 wins for White.

21.Ne4

A major problem for Black is his queenside. The bishop on c8 is tied to the b7 pawn, which cannot move because the b6 square is fixed by the c-pawn. Maybe this is the reasoning behind White's entire system?

21...Be6 22.Rbxb7 Bxa2

More accurate was 22...Bd5 23.Rbd7 Bxa2 24.Nc3 Bc4 25.Re4 Bb5 26.Nxb5 axb5 27.Rb4 Ra2 28.Rd2, but White is still winning.

23.Nc3! Bc4 24.Re4 Bb5 25.Nxb5 axb5 26.Rxb5

The win here is purely technical.

26...Rfc8

26...Rfd8 27.Kf2 Ra2 28.Re2 Rd4 29.c3 Rxf4+ 30.Ke3 Re4+ 31.Kxe4 Rxe2+ 32.Kd5 wins.

27.Kf2 Ra3 28.Rc4 Ra6 29.Ke3 Ra3+ 30.Rb3

Avoiding one last trap: 30.Kd4?? Rd8+ 31.Ke4 f5+ 32.Ke5 Re3+ 33.Re4 Rxe4#

30...Ra5 31.Kd4 Rd8+ 32.Kc3 Rc8 33.Kb4

Ra6 34.Kb5 Rac6 35.Rd3 R6c7 36.c6 Ra7 37.Rd7 Rb8+ 38.Kc5 Ra5+ 39.Kd6 Kf6 40.c7 Rb6+ 41.Rc6 Rbb5 42.c8Q Kg7 43.Rxf7+ Kh6 44.Rxh7+ Kxh7 45.Rc7+ 1-0

Round 4: The Tournament Leader

After three rounds, the surprise tournament leader was Expert **John Bath**. After winning his first two rounds, Bath had faced off with NM **Sergey Berchenko** in the third round—and won. This gave Bath a half point lead over Xiaobo Dong and a full point lead over GM Alexander Goldin and IM Emory Tate. The latter two had drawn with each other in Round 3 (see “Clash of the Titans”). Emory Tate had taken a half-point bye in Round 1. Now, if Xiaobo could defeat John Bath, he would capture the sole position as leader of the Gem City Open.

Bath, John (2100)—Dong, Xiaobo (2077)

[D93] 50th Gem City Open (Round 4), 6/15/2008
Annotations by Xiaobo Dong

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Qa5 8.Rc1

8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Be5 (9.Qxd5 Bxc3+ 10.Nd2 Rd8 11.Bd6 Rxd6!-+) 9...Nxc3 10.Qd2 Bxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxc5 12.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nd7 is slightly better for Black, owing to a lead in development and White's vulnerable c3-pawn.

8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 Qxc5 10.Bb3 Nc6 11.0-0 Qa5

Avoiding potential discoveries along the c-file.

12.h3 Bf5 13.Qe2

Preparing e3-e4.

13...Ne4!

The best move, stopping White in his tracks.

14.Nxe4 (14. Nd5!? is favored by current theory—Ed) 14...Bxe4 15.Nd2 Bd5 16.Nc4 Qa6!?

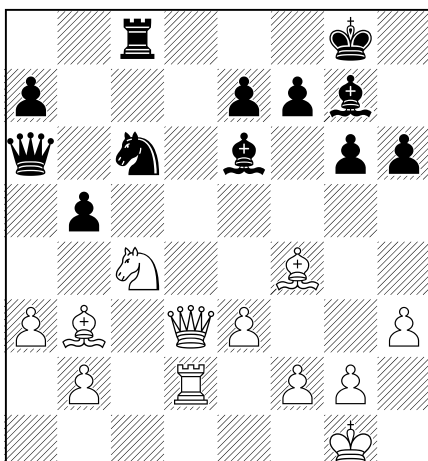
This pin along the a6-f1 diagonal is more uncomfortable than it seems.

**17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Rd2 Be6 19.Rcd1 Rxd2
20.Rxd2 Rc8 21.Qd3 h6**

Adding the possibility of ...Rd8 into the mix.

22.a3 b5?!

Seeing that 22. a3 blocked the last square for the knight, I move in for the kill. It turns out, though, that 22...Kh7! secures the king-side and retains threats of ...Rd8 and ...b5, winning.



23.Nd6! Ne5!

The knight cannot be taken in view of 23...exd6 ? 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Qxg6 e5 26.Bxh6 Rc7 27.Rxd6 and suddenly things are going bad for Black. If Black tries 23...Bxb3?, White wins by playing 24.Nxc8 Be6 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.Qd8+ Kh7 27.Qxe7.

**24.Bxe5 Rc1+ 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 Bxe5
27.Bxe6 Qxd6 28.Qxd6 exd6 29.Bd7 Bxb2
30.Bxb5 Bxa3 1/2-1/2**

With the fireworks over, I'm up a pawn, but the bishops are of the wrong color. A few more moves were played until the draw was agreed.

Round 5: A Quick Tour Through Blunderville

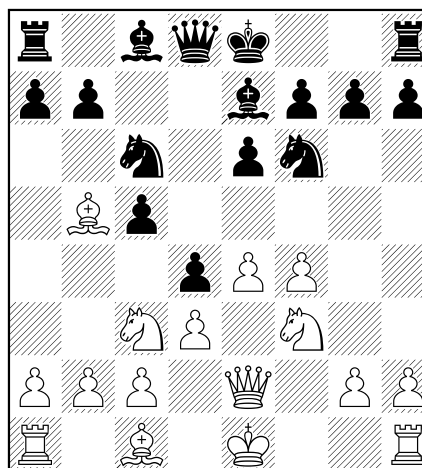
With three points going into the last round, a win by Xiaobo over veteran master **Ross Sprague** would guarantee a share of first place unless John Bath defeated Goldin with the Black pieces. However, Xiaobo's miracle performance was almost ruined when he blundered a piece on move eight...

Dong, X (2077)—Sprague, Ross (2200)

[B23] 50th Gem City Open (Round 5), 6/15/2008
Annotations by Xiaobo Dong

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5
Nf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.d3 d4**

All is well so far before I throw down a scholastic blunder.



8.Nd1??

Correct was 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nd1 with the idea of b2-b3, Nb2-c4 with a reasonable position.

8...Qa5+

The question is: to resign or not to resign?

9.c3

I decided to play on and make him convert.

**9...Qxb5 10.e5 Ng8 11.Nf2 Nh6 12.g4 dxc3
13.bxc3 Qa5 14.Bd2 Qd8 15.Ne4 Nxc4?!**

Activating Rook and giving me some play, while his "extra" c8 Bishop doesn't count yet.

16.Rg1 Nh6 17.Rxc7 Nf5 18.Rg1

Moving the rook to g4 obstructs the queen, and g2 allows the simplification 18...Nh4, hence the text.

18...Bd7 19.Nfg5

Threatening Qh5.

19...h5 20.Nh7!

Making some complications and threatening Qh5 once more.

20...Bh4+

20...Rxc7!? 21.Rg8+ Bf8 22.Nf6+ Qxf6 23. exf6 0-0-0 is unclear, though Black's position is probably still preferable.

21.Kf1 Qb6

Running with the king, but giving up some material.

22.Qxh5 0-0-0 23.Qxf7

In for a penny, in for a pound!

23...c4!? 24.Kg2

Connecting the rooks in order to stave off an eventual Qb2. If 24.d4?! Ncxd4 25.cxd4 Qxd4, Black wins; 24.dxc4?! Qb2 25.Kg2 Qc2 is again easily winning for Black. After the text move however, Black is still winning.

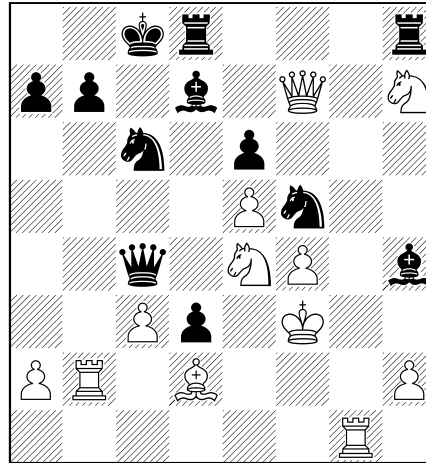
24...cxd3 25.Rab1 Qa6 26.Rb2 Qc4

Much easier is 26...Qa3 27.Rgb1 Qe7.

27.Kf3

The only move. I must keep my strongest piece where it is.

27.Qxf5 exf5 28.Nd6+ Kb8 29.Nxc4 Rxc7 wins for Black.



27...Nxe5+!?

The beginning of a sound winning combination! Black errs in carrying it out, however...

28.fxe5 Bc6 29.Rg4

Again, must support the knight at all costs.

29...Rd7

This position is resignable. The h7 knight falls by force and Black will invade on the light squares.

30.Rg8+

The beginning of the hail Mary. 30.Rb4 Qxb4 31.Qxd7+ Kxd7 32.cxb4 Rxc7 wins for Black—again, that h7 knight!

30...Rxc7?

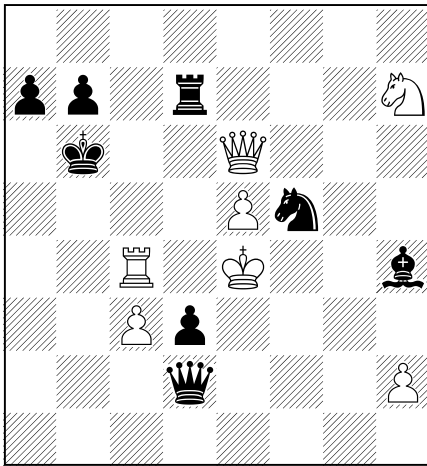
Easier was 30...Kc7!

31.Qxg8+ Kc7 32.Rb4 Bxe4+

Better was 32...Qxa2.

**33.Kf4 Qxa2 34.Kxe4 Qxd2 35.Rc4+ Kb6
36.Qxe6+**

I should not go into the line 36.Qg1+ Qe3+!
37.Qxe3+ Nxe3 38.Kxe3 d2. Black is *still* clearly
winning, however, after the text.



36...Ka5??

36...Nd6+!! wins:

- a) 37.Kf3 Qe2+ 38.Kf4 Qxh2+ 39.Ke3 (39.Kg4 Qg3+ 40.Kh5 Rxh7+) 39...Qe2+ 40.Kf4 Rf7+ 41.Nf6 Qf2+ 42.Kg4 Qg3+ 43.Kh5 Qg5#;
- b) 37.Kd5 Qg2+ 38.Kd4 Qe4#;
- c) 37.exd6 Qe2+ 38.Kd5 Qxe6+ 39.Kxe6 Rxh7 and Black is winning.

37.Qxd7! Qa2

There is no defense against mate or the loss of material by Kf5 and Rh4. Suddenly it's the Black pieces that are vulnerable! 37...Qe3+ 38.Kxf5 Qh3+ 39.Rg4 Qf3+ 40.Kg6 would win for White.

38.Rc5+ 1-0

Epilogue: A Dream Tournament

Xiaobo Dong's performance—which included wins over two masters and a draw with a GM—will go down in the history of the Dayton Chess Club as one of the strongest ever by a non-master. Hopefully, Xiaobo will return once again from Baltimore for another such performance. Until then... ♦ ~Jonathan Hilton

The End

But wait! Want to know even MORE about the Gem City Open?

The Ohio Chess Connection website is the place to go! There are tons of pictures and an annotated game by David Washburn. So check it out:

<http://OhioChessConnection.googlepages.com>

If you have games you'd like to annotate from any Ohio tournament or have pictures and news from any event, we plan on using our web space to feature just such things. Contact KindlyCoach@gmail.com.



POSITIONAL CHESS: THE TALE OF TWO KNIGHTS

Goldin, A (2587)—Patchell, Erik (2069)

[A37] 50th Gem City Open (Round 4), 6/15/2008

Annotations by Jonathan Hilton

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Ne1

An interesting, less-played line. White does not waste time with 7.d3, as in the mainline, but instead heads directly to d5 with the knight via c2 and e3. If there is any drawback to this move, it is that White is slower to get in the b2-b4 break.

7...0-0 8.Nc2 d6 9.Rb1 Be6 10.Ne3!

White again does not waste time with d2-d3. It is important that White not allow Black's ...d6-d5.

10...Qd7

This move in itself is not bad, but it is the beginning of a passive plan by Black. Trading the light-squared bishops only serves to strengthen White's undisputed grip on the d5 square. Black must play actively on the queenside if he wants to avoid winding up in a powerful bind; his play on the kingside is not yet enough to stand by itself. Nowak-Schmidt, Poland 1982, went 10...Rb8 11.a3 a6 12.b4 cxb4 13.axb4 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.Ned5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Ne7 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.d3 d5 with a quick draw in sight.

11.a3 Bh3?! 12.b4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 b6

The blockade on the dark squares cannot be good, as Black's bishop on g7 is soon shut out of the game entirely.

14.d3 f5 15.Ned5 Nxd5 16.cxd5!

This pawn on d5 gives White a huge space advantage. Goldin said of this game in the post-

mortem that the position was "all about the knights". By this he meant that White's pawn on d5 could effectively keep Black's knight at bay, giving White free reign over the board...

16...Ne7 17.e4 f4 18.f3 cxb4 19.axb4 h5 20.Bd2 g5 21.Qa4 Qd8 22.Rbc1 a6 23.Ne2 b5 24.Qa5! Qxa5 25.bxa5 Ra7

White has now reached his ideal endgame bind. It is now time for White to create a weakness on the kingside, following the "rule of two weaknesses".

26.gxf4!

Now the Black h-pawn will be weak. Even more importantly, however, the g-file will be open for invasion by White's rook.

26...gxf4

26...exf4 27.h4 does nothing to help Black.

27.Nc3!

The start of a powerful knight transfer. Note that Black has no good knight maneuvers.

27...Kf7 28.Na2 Ke8 29.Nb4 Kd7 30.Rc2 Rc8 31.Rfc1 Rxc2 32.Rxc2 Bf6 33.Be1!

White's knight and rook are on ideal squares on the queenside, leaving Black tied to that sector. Now White goes after the kingside with his bishop and king.

33...Ra8 34.Kh3 Nc8 35.Bh4 Bxh4 36.Kxh4 Ne7 37.Rg2 Rc8 38.Rg7 Ke8 39.Kg5 Kf8 40.Rh7 Rc1 41.Kf6 Ng8+ 42.Ke6 1-0

Black's position collapses. ♦



On Saturday night at Gem City, the top two seeds faced off on Board 2. On Board 1, John Bath defeated NM Sergey Berchenko, putting the pressure on the top two to fight for the win.

Tate, Emory (2370)—Goldin, A (2583)

[B23] 50th Gem City Open (Round 3), 6/14/2008
Annotations by Jonathan Hilton

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nge7

An excellent response to the Grand Prix attack. White must transpose into an Open Sicilian, as trying to play a closed setup with 5.g3?! d5 would most likely prove ineffective. 6.d3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 would give Black a very comfortable game.

5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Qf2 Bb4 9.Bd2

9.Bd3 is perhaps somewhat more enterprising. In Mallahi-Kekelidze, Sevan 2006, Black showed grave positional misjudgment by opening the center with 9...d5?! 10.0-0 Bxc3?! 11.bxc3 dxe4 12.Bxe4 0-0 13.Ba3 Re8 14.Rad1 Qa5 15.Bc5 Qxc3 16.Rd3, when White's two bishops and active pieces provided more than enough compensation for the pawn. Instead of 9...d5, however, it is likely that Goldin would have followed a plan similar to his move in the game.

9...Qe7!

To my knowledge, a new move. Black's idea is to reinforce his dark-square control before then entering a sharp middlegame with castling on opposite sides.

10.0-0-0 0-0 11.g4

Doesn't White just have free reign to attack on the kingside? Well, yes and no. White is able to take a significant chunk of kingside space with his pawns, but the actual opening of lines is problematic. This is because Black will set up a very flexible position with pressure on the center.

11...a6 12.h4 b5 13.h5 Bb7 14.Bd3 Rac8 15.Kb1

15.g5 right away would probably have been preferable to prevent Black's next move, though White's king is probably beginning to feel uncomfortable on the c-file in view of ideas such as ...Bxc3 and ...b5-b4-b3 or ...Nc6-b4. Even so, after 15.g5 Black can still try 15...f6! 16.gxf6 Qxf6 with counterplay.

15...f6! 16.Qe1

The first sign White is beginning to find it difficult to open lines. This multi-purpose queen move is mainly designed to prepare g4-g5.

16...d6 17.Rg1

White is now ready to open the file, but Black takes the initiative first.

17...Bc5! 18.Rg3 Nb4 19.Ne2 d5! 20.exd5 Nxd3 21.cxd3 Bxd5

Goldin said after the game that he felt he had a good position, and it is hard to disagree. Black's bishops are well-placed and his pawn structure is solid. Here, however, is where Tate's energy and genius comes into play. He soon is able to turn this position around and begin to give a time-troubled Goldin a run for his money!

22.g5!

The dust of Black's initiative has seemingly cleared, so now White's own play begins.

22...fxg5 23.Rxg5

White has four pawn islands but retains a decent grip on the position. His pawn on d3, rather than being weak, is actually a key player holding down the b1-h7 diagonal. His pawns on f4 and h5 also keep out Black's active pieces.

23...b4 24.Qg3 Rf5

Black aims to trade off White's best attacker, the rook on g5. It was also possible to play dynamically with the bishop pair, for instance, ...Qe7 and ...Be7 or ...Qa7 and ...Bf2. Goldin's plan, however, is straightforward and good. After the trade of rooks, Black will have a free hand to attack White's king on the light squares with moves like ...Qe8 and ...Qa4.

25.Be3 Rxc5

Surprisingly, allowing White to "un-isolate" his pawns does not hurt Black's chances. Black is able to keep his bishop pair with tempo.

26.fxg5 Bd6 27.Qg4 Qe8?!

A slight error at the approach of time pressure is all it takes for White to essentially equalize the game. Black's move is logical, preparing ...Qa4. However, this was undoubtedly the time to play 27...b3!, preventing White's next move. White cannot keep his pawn shield intact; 28.a3!? Bxa3! wins an important pawn.

28.b3!

White has preserved his pawn shield. Now most of Black's winning chances evaporate. Black's next move, preparing an exchange of queens to head into a drawish endgame, confirms this.

28...e5 29.Ng3 Qe6 30.Qxe6+ Bxe6 31.h6!

Tate plays with energy until the end. White's position is coming together in this endgame: his knight and bishop will soon be very well coordinated.

31...Be7 32.Bc1! gxf6 33.gxf6 Rf8

Black wisely makes no effort to hold onto his e5 pawn. Instead, Goldin masterfully steers the game to a draw by activating his pieces, despite having only a few minutes left on an analog clock to reach the time control.

34.Bb2 Rf3 35.Ne4 Bf5 36.Kc2 Kf7 37.Bxe5 Ke6 38.Bd6!?

A very colorful move, taking advantage of the fact that Black must guard against Ne4-g5+. In reality, both sides are swapping down each other's active pieces in preparation to split the point.

38...Rh3 39.Bxe7 Kxe7 40.Re1 Rh2+

Goldin, having made the time control with this move, offered a draw. Tate decided to make Goldin prove it.

GAME OF THE MONTH

This month's "Game of the Month" comes from Bill Pursel, who won an exciting attacking game against Mike Neumeier at the Midwest Open Team Chess Festival.

Bill Pursel (1871)—Mike Neumeier (1898) MOTCF (Round 4), 5/18/2008

For some reason, I seem to have Mike's number. We have played several exciting games over the past 5 years, and he has yet to defeat me—although every game has been very exciting, and usually double-edge, like this one. Mike is at least as strong of a chess player as I am, but I seem to match up well against him.

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bg5 d5

This is the defense that my good friend Brandon Bradshaw has played against me several times, so I know this opening line well.

4. Nf3 e6 5. e3 Be7 6. Ne5 0-0 7. Be2 Nfd7

7...Nbd7 looks more natural.

8. Bxe7 Qxe7 9. f4 Nxe5 10. dxe5 a6 11. Qd2 c5 12. 0-0-0

This was a critical move for me, and I decided to castle queenside, inviting the double-edged game that would follow. As it turned out, both sides continued their respective attacks on the castled kings for the rest of the game.

12...Nc6 13. g4 d4 14. Na4 b5 15. Nb6 Rb8 16. Nxc8

With this move, I am trading my active knight for his passive bishop—but I had no choice.

16...Rbxc8 17. gxf5

Time to open up the g-file.

17...exf5 18. Rhg1 Qe6 19. Kb1 Nb4 20. b3 Rfd8

20...Nd5, which Black does play in a few moves, is probably stronger here.

21. e4!

Fritz loves this move, and so do I. If 21...fxe4, then 22. Bg4 wins the exchange, and is followed by Qg2 with threats of the pawn push f5-f6.

21...Qb6 22. a3 a5 23. exf5

Continuing play on the kingside, as opposed to 23. axb4.

23...Nd5 24. Rc1 Nc3+ 25. Kb2 c4

Black opts to continue attacking on the queenside, but the defensive 25...Kh8 is better.

26. f6 g6

26...Rc7 is a better defense, but Mike was extremely low on time.

27. f5 b4 28. Qh6 bxa3+ 29. Ka1 Rd7 30. fxc6 cxb3

At this point, we both made time control with under a minute to play. White has a forced mate, beginning with any of the following moves: 31.Bc4+, 31.f7+, 31.gxh7+. I was leaning towards pushing the f-pawn, deep in analysis, when Black resigned. **1-0** ♦ ~ *Bill Pursel*

Think your game should become the next "Game of the Month"? Email KindlyCoach@gmail.com!

Mate the Beatles!

with Bob Basalla

Attack

(Sung to the tune of "Get Back")

Those that play chess scared
Will never win an open,
Making like a little lass.
Won't get anywhere
With groveling and hopin'.
Get yourself cahone brass.

Attack! Attack!
Attack down to your final pawn.
Attack! Attack!
Attack 'til one of you is gone.
Attack, go go

Attack! Attack!
Attack when it will surely shock.
Attack! Go sac
And smack him 'fore he starts the clocks.
Go whacko!

Those that are too cautious
Never will have brilliance,
Pulling back their ev'ry man.
It won't make you nauseous,
Essay sharp Sicilians,
Not those boring Caro-Kanns!

Attack! Attack!
Attack until your foe lies stiff.
Attack! No slack!
With Black or White it makes no diff.
Attack, go get 'em!
Go flow.

Attack! Attack!
Attack and let your pieces fly.
Attack! And crack
His back like that Jacques Miseses guy!

Attack, you better.
You're rating's waiting for you

Promising high yield fuel

For a low ranked debtor.

Get that zone, you better.

Alas! Alack, attacking is beyond you, son.
Oh you hack! You lack the knack, oh yeah.
So slow...

Art's One Member Only Chess Club Clan

(Sung to the tune of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band")

It was years ago on his birthday,
Art the prep nerd taught himself to play.
It is hard to gauge his strength or style
Since he's played himself the whole darn while
By founding an exclusive group,
In fact he's owned it all these years:
Art's One Member Only Chess Club Clan!

He's Art, the Member Only Chess Club man,
His chess he so enjoys solo.
Art, the Member Only Chess Club's fan
Sits back and lets each meeting go.
Art's the Member Only,
Bars new members, oh me!
Art's One Member Only Chess Club band.

It's wonderful to be him,
So certain of his skill.
Perennial Club Champion,
Round robins quads and ladder wins,
All trophies takes he home!

He don't really want the club to grow
'Cause he's got a right tight ego.
If he brings in just a single "pawn"
Might not stay atop as king that long.
So ere old Art precludes our dues
We'll have to calm his silly fears.
Art's One Member Only Chess Club clan!

Silly fears... ♦ ~Bob Basalla

The Cleveland Open: *a personal history*

with INTERNATIONAL EXPERT
Phillip Seitzer!!!

Since OCC's own Joe Fogarty did such a wonderful job covering the Cleveland Open for Chess Life Online, this month we decided to let Phillip Seitzer write whatever he wanted about that same tournament. The result of this experiment follows.

WHEN MOST PEOPLE FIND themselves at the end of their lives, they become reflective; indulging themselves in memories of younger, better times. *Things were different back then*, they might think, or, *What I wouldn't give to go back and do it all again*.

This year's **Cleveland Open** qualifies as one of those unforgettable memories I plan to tearfully relive during my final days. Instead of acknowledging my wife of sixty years or my children or grandchildren, I hope to sink into a deep fog of senility, focusing only on the five colorful chess games I was fortunate enough to play during the weekend of June 13–15, 2008. "Eat your peas, grandpa", my grandchild will say to me, as I lie in an uncomfortable bed in the terminal illness ward of the hospital. "I don't want any (*an expletive was deleted here—Ed*) peas," I'll respond, and push the peas back, spilling green, mushy slop all over myself and bed sheets. My dutiful wife will silently mop up the mess, desperately wishing that all those years ago she had married my younger, cuter brother instead of me.

I played in the 3-day section, which meant I started my tournament at 7:00 P.M. on Friday night. Paired as White against NM **John Stopa**, I was excited to try a bit of opening preparation I had worked on. I suppose my preparation did not quite run deep enough:

IE Phil Seitzer—NM John Stopa
Cleveland Open (Round 1), 6/13/2008
Annotations by IE Phillip Seitzer

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5
5.Be3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5
Bxe3**

At this point, I believed the only move was 9.fxe3, but 9.exf6 is an interesting possibility: 9.exf6 Bh6 10.fxg7 Bxg7 and here one possible setup might be Qd2, Be2, 0-0-0, and White would then try to deal with Black's two bishops and open b-file exchange for Black's stranded king and ruined pawn structure.

9.fxe3 Nd5

The pawn sacrifice is the only real option here.

10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Qxd5 Qh5+ 12.Kd1

This was the position I was hoping to achieve. White takes on a doubled, isolated, extra e-pawn with hopes to head towards an endgame. However, a relevant feature of this position is Black's uncastled king and undeveloped pieces, which White should attempt to take immediate advantage of.

Note how 2382-rated David Smerdon correctly handles the position against 2461-rated Dimitrios Mastrovasalis: 12...Rb8 13.Qd4 Rb4 14.Qc5 Rxb2 15.Bc4 Qh5+ 16.Kd2 Rb6 17.Raf1 f6 18.e4 Rc6 19.Qd5 Qg5+ 20.Kd3 Bb7 21.Rb1 Rb6 22.Qf7+



*Phillip Seitzer:
“Compare that...
with my handling of
the position.”*

Kd8 23.Rxb6 axb6 24.e6! Kc8 25.Qxd7 Kb8 26.e7 Qe5 27.Bd5 f5 28.Qd8+ Ka7 29.Qxh8 and White went on to win. Compare that game with my handling of the position:

12...Rb8 13.Bc4 0-0 14.Rf1 Bb7

Somehow I just missed this move when I played 13.Bc4. Oops!

15.Qd4 Qxh2 16.Qxa7 Qxg2 17.Qc5 18. Bf3+ Kc1 19.Be7 Ba6 20.Rb6 0-1

Black picks up a piece and continues with a dangerous attack. That was good enough to force my resignation.

The next day went well for me. I managed to win both of my games, putting me with a score of 2.0/3.0. I celebrated by staying up much later than anyone ever should playing blitz chess and half-seriously analyzing opening lines. At roughly 9:45 AM the next morning, I felt my cell phone buzzing in my pocket, so I flipped it open and had the following conversation with NM **Ananth Pappu**:

Phil: *(groggily)* hello?

Ananth: Phil? Where are you, man?

Phil: What? Where am I? What time is it?

Ananth: Dude, the round started 45 minutes ago. You’d better get over here as fast as you can.

Phil: What? Oh, no, no ... *(falls out of bed, drops cell phone on floor. Picks up cell phone)*

Phil: okay, okay, thanks for calling me, oh no, I can’t believe this, okay, I’ll be right over, oh, no, this isn’t happening, no, no...

Ananth: Hurry!

I quickly threw on some clothes, ran out of the house and into the car, and sped to the tournament site traveling at treacherous, illegal, and unreasonable speed. Having just woken up, I did not feel altogether mentally composed; and no doubt endangered my own life and many other innocent lives in my frenzied rush to make it to the round on time.

“Two security guards approached me... I turned away from them, and without saying anything, ran into the hotel, their angry cries following after me.”

I arrived at the tournament site at 9:58 am, leaving me 2 minutes to park my car, run inside, find my board, and make a move, lest I should lose by forfeiture. I should mention at this point that this year’s Cleveland Open was held at the Sheraton Airport, and, being tied to an airport, the hotel’s parking situation was confusing and inconvenient. I had no time for parking complications this morning, and so I illegally parked my car directly in front of the hotel. As I scrambled out of my car, two security guards approached me and informed me that it was, in fact, highly unacceptable to park my car directly in front of the hotel entrance. Instead of moving my car, as they advised, I turned away from them, and without saying anything, ran into the hotel, their angry cries following after me.

I found my pairing and burst into the tournament room. I was panting and sweating uncontrollably. I found my opponent, NM **Oliver Koo**, shook hands, and shakily made my first move. Following this, I immediately left the tournament room to remedy my parking situation. When I finally returned, a significant amount of time on my clock had ticked down, so I decided to blitz through the opening in the following game:

NM Oliver Koo–WGE Phillip Seitzer
Cleveland Open (Round 4), 6/15/2008
Annotations by WGE Phillip Seitzer

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0
9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1**

The moves so far have been well-known Sicilian Dragon theory, but 12.Kb1 is the move I was worried about. I knew the two main moves were 12...Nc4 and 12...Re8, I thought I would play Re8 and try to figure out the theory over the board...

12...Re8 13.h4 h5 14.Bh6 Bh8?!

This move is very risky! White's attack is coming very fast; he will just push his h-and g-pawns towards Black's king.

15.g4 hxg4 16.h5 Nc4

I was hoping for 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.hxg6 fxg6, after which I would try to find a haven for my king on f7. Life is still tough for Black in that position, though.

17. Qd3

A surprise. What was the point of that move?

17...Ne5 18.Qe3

So, White wants to repeat the position? Sitting at the board that morning, pressed for time and still rattled by my late arrival, I could not understand the difference between this position and the one before my sixteenth move.

18...Nc4 19.hxg6!

Now the capture of the queen is no longer with check.

18...Nxe3 20.Bxf7# 1-0

Maybe I should have just slept in after all?



*Phillip was checkmated in Round 4 and lost.
Photo Divya Rachakonda*

I drew my last round game, finishing with a score of 2.5/5. I failed to earn any prize money with this score, but had a great time anyway, thanks to the excellent direction of Bill Goichberg and the Continental Chess Association. ♦

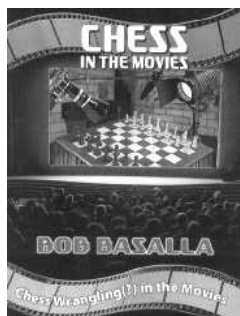
Be sure to check out these other articles on the Cleveland Open:

- Big Time Chess Returns to Cleveland by Jerry Hanken:
<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8498/463/>
- Erenburg and Mitkov Top Cleveland by Joe Fogarty:
<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8504/463/>

THE FOGARTY (RE)VIEW: CHESS IN THE MOVIES

THE FOCUS OF MY ridiculous spiel this issue is on **Bob Basalla's** book Chess in the Movies. Now, I know what you all are thinking. You just turned to your favorite department of your favorite publication and you run into a *book review*. It's like you were told you were going to Disney World and instead wound up at the dentist. Luckily, however, this dentist has candy. Basalla's book is like chocolate. (Only apparently it's less cool to give to your girlfriend.)

Now, if you're anything like me, you have been watching a movie with a group of friends when suddenly a chess game comes on screen. For some reason, you decide that it is a good idea to pause the movie so that you can undertake a thorough analysis the position—probably to the chagrin of others trying to enjoy the film for its non-chess attributes. I know I've done this at least three times in my life.



Chess in the Movies by Bob Basalla is published by Thinker's Press Wonderworks. \$34.95, 422 pages, ISBN-10 1888710284. Available from author or at Amazon.com.

But if you think three times is a lot, note that Bob Basalla has done this an astounding *two thousand* times. In his splendid manuscript, Basalla painstakingly takes movies that have some sort of a chess scene and discusses the positions that occur, evaluates their credibility, and place them into the context of the movie. While this book would make a tough read from cover to cover, it is excellent for reference and makes for a very fun perusal.

Reading through parts of Chess in the Movies was a delightful experience for several reasons. First, there are movies in here that I had no idea involved any sort of chess scene, such as Dead Poets Society. Secondly, there is so much detail in this book regarding the positions on the board. Whether the position in a movie is



Sir Joe (pictured above) gives chocolate, not chess books, to his girlfriend. It's been that way since the 1500s, apparently.

impossible—there's the archetypal king-queen swap from the opening position, bishops on the same colored squares, wildly unlikely pawn structures, and “check!”s declared that are clearly not check—or a position from an actual known chess game, Basalla is sure to describe it in-depth.

I also learned of a fair share of higher-budget movies that employed a real chess player to create a plausible position. For example, Jeremy Silman was actually the mastermind behind the game played by Ron in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Another specific entry that I found to be interesting was the entry on Casablanca, which contains a position clearly arising from an Alekhine-Charard Attack in the French Defense. This makes sense when Basalla goes on to explain that Bogart was an avid chess player who actually played the French Defense.

I would recommend this book to anyone who finds him or herself occasionally pausing the television to glance at the chess board in the backdrop, or who wonders from time to time how decent chess finds its way onto the big screen. Perhaps, after reading Basalla's book, you'll find you've developed a keen eye for evaluating chess positions in films.

As for me, I decided to try my hand at evaluating the chess positions in those classy pictures of Alexandra Kosteniuk. Unfortunately, as have many other self-respecting male teenagers, I failed miserably. Of course, these pictures are filled with unfair distractions. ♦ ~Joe Fogarty

COLUMBUS OPEN

In this article, Sycamore High Junior Sukhada Kulkarni tells of her experiences at the Columbus Open, held July 11-13 of this year.

THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN was home to the Columbus Open this year, making for a lively and enjoyable venue. Outside the playing hall was a charming little café, complete with tables and chairs which were perfect for analyzing a game after a round. In addition, the hotel lobby sported a small pond, complete with plastic rocks and fake fish. Later on, I heard an amusing story about how an unwary chess player, undoubtedly preoccupied with the complicated lines in his game, fell into the five-inch deep pond! Who says chess isn't a dangerous sport?

I was playing in the two-day competition, and joined others like me in our first round on Saturday morning, which promptly began at 10 am. It was during the second round, however, that I first caught a glimpse of the many masters that were playing in the Open Section: two FMs, three IMs, and GM **Anatoly Lein**. It was indeed a great privilege to even catch a glimpse of such talented chess players' games. **John Lodger Hughes**, a 12-year-old who played up in the Open Section, got an opportunity to not just watch, but actually *play* GM Lein after winning against a 2200 and drawing a 2300. This was absolutely incredible, as this was John's first Open tournament! Two of his best games are highlighted on pages 26-28.

After a horrible start to the tournament on Saturday, I decided that the only thing that would help improve my mood was a couple of blitz games. Just playing these games helped improve my mood, and after the youngest people in the Premier section repeatedly asked me to join them in a game of bughouse ("Just one, we promise!"), I couldn't say no to their adorable, cherubic faces. Once we started playing, our opponents had an unfair advantage: they formed a three person team, which communicated primarily in Chinese. My partner and I had no chance against these sly tactics, but managed to laugh it off. When the games started to turn into "atomic chess" (where pieces "explode" when taken), I decided it was time for me to

retire. I was admittedly in a much better mood than before.

In the morning, I found myself playing Black against a Bird's Opening. Unfortunately, I had to scramble to make all my moves before time control, and had about a minute and a half to make my 30th move, which I played with relief. Eventually the game simplified into an opposite bishop endgame, where both of us had a rook, but I had an extra pawn. However, as I was down on time, I was reasonably pleased with a draw.

I walked into the fifth round determined to win. As I was extremely tired of losing, I decided that this game was "do or die".

Kulkarni, Sukhada—Friscoe, Lou
Columbus Open 2008 (Round 5), 7/18/2008
Annotations by Sukhada Kulkarni

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 f5 3.exf5 Nf6

I had never seen this move before, so I wasn't sure exactly what to do. I decided to try and attack Black's weak kingside, which didn't work very well.

4.Be2

I played this with the idea of 5. Bh5+, which prevents Black from castling, but Black's king is actually quite safe on the f8 square.

4...Be7 5.Bh5+ Kf8 6.d3 d5 7.Bg5 Bxf5 8.Be2

Backwardization, as there is no way to develop my knight to a good square now that the bishop requires protection. Better would have been 8.Qf3, followed by 9.Nge2.

8...Nc6 9.Nf3

Black has a slightly better position here as he has a stronger center.

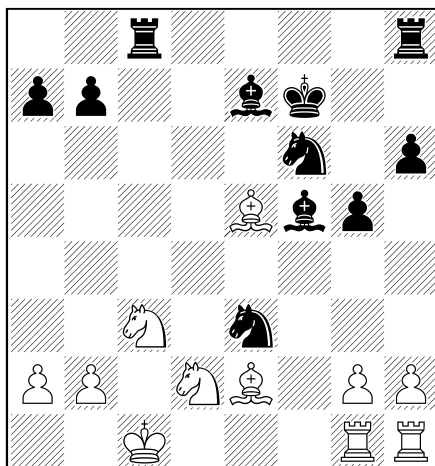
9...h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 e4?

This move allows me to exchange pawns and therefore weakens his center. 11...d4 would have been better.

12.dxe4 dxe4 13.Qxd8+

Better is 13.Nd2 or 13.Nd5 without exchanging the queen.

13...Rxd8 14.Nd2 Nd4 15.0-0-0 Nxc2 16.Bxc7 Rc8 17.Be5 e3 18.fxe3 Nxe3 19.Rdg1 Kf7



20.Bd4

20.Bf3 was better, because the text can be defused by 20...Bc5! Luckily, my opponent missed this.

20...Ned5 21.Bc4 Rhd8 22.Rf1

22...h4 is better, as the text allows Black to play 22...Kg6, improving his kingside.

22...Kg6 23.a3

I weaken the kingside even more!

23...Nf4

23...Nxc3 is better, so after 24. Bxc3 Rxd2 25. Kxd2 Rxc4, Black has two pieces for a rook.

24.Bxa7 Rxd2 25.Kxd2 Rxc4 26.g3 N4d5 27.Nxd5 Nxd5 28.Rc1 Re4 29.Rhe1 b6

This allows me to gain some play as I am winning the b6 pawn after my next move.

30.Rc6+ Kh5 31.Bxb6 Rxe1 32.Kxe1 Nxb6?

Black's fatal mistake. After this, I have a rook and two passed pawns versus two bishops, and it will be difficult for Black to prevent me from advancing my pawns.

33.Rxb6 Bh3 34.b4 Bf8 35.Rb7 Bg2 36.Rf7 Bd6 37.Kf2 Be4 38.Ke3 Bg6?

Black loses one of his bishops to a tactic.

39.Rf6 Be7 40.g4+ Kxg4 41.Rxg6 1-0

Winning the last round made me happier about the tournament, but **Frank Donoghue** of the Reserve section was probably happier still; he won the Reserve section outright, with a perfect score of 5.0/5.0! Following him in second place was **Adam Neubauer**, who finished with 4.5 points. The Premier section was equally as tough, with **Andrew Walker** coming in first with 4.5 points, followed by a five-way tie for second place! **Patrick Collins, Roger Johnson, Anthony Coleman, Josh Osbourn, and Mark Parvin** all split the prize for 2nd place and U1800 1st and 2nd places. The Open section's 1st through 3rd prizes were shared by IM **Marek Stryjecki**, GM **Anatoly Lein** and NM **Carl Boor** who all had 4 points. The U2200 prize was won by **Carl Bixel** with 3.5 points.

The 2008 Columbus Open was undoubtedly a success, with people coming from as far as New Jersey and South Carolina to play chess in Ohio's capital city. I definitely enjoyed this tournament, and look forward to playing in it next year as well! ♦ ~*Sukhada Kulkarni*



John Hughes: My First Masters

THE COLUMBUS OPEN IS one of my favorite tournaments. It is the biggest tournament in my home town, it is always well run, and it draws great competition. I decided that it was the perfect choice for my first try at the open section of a major tournament. I had never played a master before, but before the five round tournament was over I had played three masters and a grandmaster. Somehow I managed to score 2.5/5.0.

My second round was my first tournament game ever against a National Master. My opponent was **John Stopa**, who, along with many others at the Muligan Chess Club, has really helped me improve my game—and always beat me while doing so!

Stopa, John (2202)—Hughes, John (1772)
[B23] Columbus Open (Round 2) 7/12/2008
Annotations by John Lodger Hughes

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Qa4 Be6 9.0-0-0

Here I am already pessimistic about my position because the d5 pawn will be very hard to defend.

9...Be7 10.Bg2 Qb6

I think this is my only try to stir up a little bit of confusion with my somewhat active pieces.

11.Be3 Bc5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5 13.Qb5 Qxb5 14.Nxb5 0-0-0 15.Nf3 Ne4 16.Rhf1 Kb8 17.Nfd4

White has played well and has a lot of pressure. His plan is simply to develop his pieces in and around the center, and my d5 pawn will give me some difficulties.

17...Nc5 18.Nc3 Rhe8 19.Rd2 Ne5

My plan is to go to g4 and then to f6 to help defend the pawn.

20.b3 Ng4 21.h3

I am not threatening to take the pawn on h2 anyway, since he will play Rh1 and win the h7 pawn. However, White is aiming to create pressure in the center and has little interest in opening the wing files.

21...Nf6 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Re1 a6 24.f4

This is an important move to lock the e6 pawn as a permanent target. It is now difficult to find a plan for Black, and my position starts to drift.

24...Nh5 25.b4!

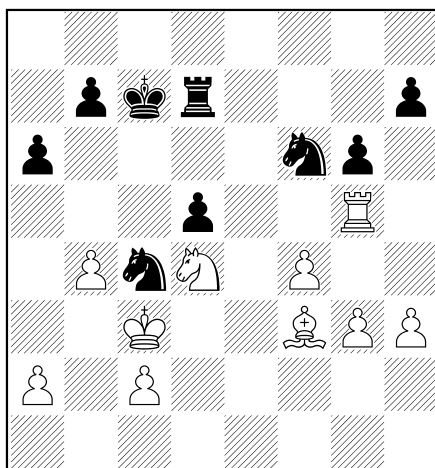
This is the only move that doesn't lose a pawn except for 25.Ne2, which would tangle up White's pieces temporarily and may eventually allow me to push...e6-e5.

25...Nd7 26.Ne2 Nb6 27.Bf3 Nf6 28.Nd4 Rd6 29.Rde2 Na4

White has a powerful bind. It's possible that 29...Rc8 would have been a little bit better than my move; I need to generate some activity. For instance if 30.Rxe6 Rxe6 31.Rxe6 Rc4 32.Nf5 Rc3. Now if White does not play 33.Re3, his pieces may become a bit tangled. If he does play it then his bit of pressure goes away. Unfortunately, I would still just be down a pawn!

30.Rxe6 Rxe6 31.Rxe6 Rd7 32.Kd2 Kc7 33.Re5 Nb6 34.Kc3 Nc4 35.Rg5 g6

I spent about 30 minutes on this move hoping that White would fall into one of the traps.



36.f5??

This move almost immediately drops the exchange. 36.Bxd5 Nxd5+ 37.Kxc4 Ne3+ 38.Kd3 Nd1 and White is just winning. 36.Ne6+ with the idea of going to c5 also works for White.

36...Ne5! 37.Bg2 Nf7!

Now Black has all of the chances.

38.Rg4 Nxc4 39.hxc4 Kd6 40.Ne6 gxf5 41.gxf5 Ke5 42.Nc5 Rc7 43.Kd3 Kxf5?

I gave White a chance to get back in the game with this move when instead there was a free pawn waiting to be devoured. 43...Nh6! 44.f6 Ng4! would secure the win.

44.Bxd5 Nd6 45.Be6+ Kf6 46.Bd5 Ke5 47.c4 Rg7 48.Ke2 b6 49.Nd3+

White returned my earlier favor by also not taking a free pawn. 49.Nxa6 Kd4 is still winning for Black, though.

49...Kd4 50.Nf4 Rxc3 51.Ne6+ Ke5 52.Nf8 Rg7

This may not have been the quickest route to victory, but it took care of any pawns with bad thoughts of promotion and was provided an un-forkable location for my rook.

53.a4 b5 54.axb5 axb5 55.Bc6 bxc4 56.b5 h5 57.b6 Nb7 58.Nd7+ Kd6

This ended any hope for White of clearing a path for his pawn.

59.Bxb7 Rxd7 60.Bf3 h4 61.Kd2 Kc5+ 62.Kc3 Rd3+ 0-1

I was still pumped up about my first win over a master when the next round pairings were posted and I found out that I would get to play the current Ohio champion, NM **Carl Boor**. Now the adrenaline was really flowing.

Hughes, John (1772)—Boor, Carl Jr. (2311)
 Columbus Open (Round 3) 7/12/2008
Annotations by John Lodger Hughes

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5!?

I can only think that Black was trying to get me out of book, thinking that with the difference in our ratings I would become rattled. I just took what he gave me.

3.Bc4 Be7?

This is another odd move because white can just win a pawn with my next move.

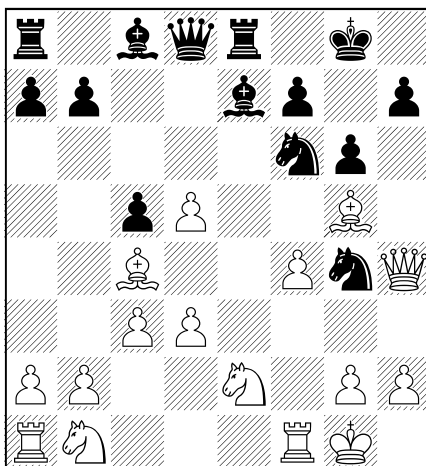
4.Qh5 g6 5.Qxe5 Nf6 6.d3 Nc6 7.Qg3 0-0 8.Ne2 d5 9.exd5 Bd6

This move gets an active bishop, but makes it harder to win the d5 pawn back. I think taking the pawn would have simply been better, Black's active pieces provide some compensation for the pawn.

10.Qh4 Ne5 11.0-0 Re8 12.Bg5 Be7 13.f4!?

The disruptive 13.Bb5! would have been even better

13...Neg4

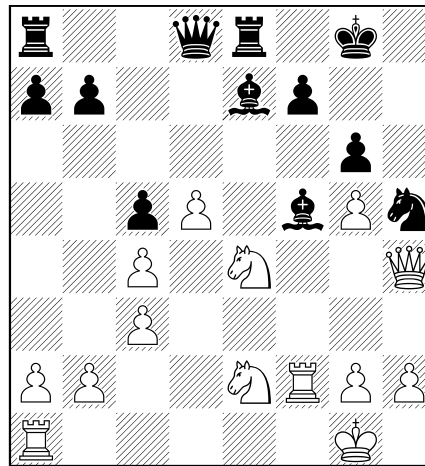


14.Nd2?!

This move allows Black to get back in the game with a simple tactic. (*Fritz here suggests 14.f5!? Bxf5 15.Ng3 Nxd5 16.Nxf5 Bxg5 17.Qxg4 gxf5 18.Qh5 with a clearly better game for White. Alternatives include 14.d6!?, 14.Ng3, and 14.Bb5, all of which give White good prospects.—Ed*)

14...h6 15.Rf3!? hxg5 16.fxg5 Nh5 17.Ne4 Ne5 18.Rf2 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Bf5?

White can achieve a big advantage that is probably enough to win by force from here, starting with an exchange sacrifice.



20.Rxf5! gxf5 21.Qxh5 fxe4 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.g6?

I was quick to see the immediate draw and eventually decided to take it. The rook lift provides a winning line for White, though, but I did not see the line deeply enough. 23.Rf4! Bxg5 24.Rg4 f6 25.Qg6+ Kh8 26.Rg3! Qd7 27.Rh3+.

23...fxg6 24.Qxg6+ 1/2-1/2

This completed my first day of play ever against masters with a 1.5/2.0 score for the day. The best part is that my whole family, my coach, **Alan Casden**, and many of the Mulligan Chess Club members were there to share it with me. ♦ ~John Lodger Hughes

MASTER CERTIFICATES: FAQ'S

THE DAY MY RATING reached exactly 2200, I was ready to declare myself a National Chess Master. I'd been working for nine years to reach that point in my chess career, and I couldn't wait to slap those initials "NM" in front of my name for good. A few months later, my rating was once again below 2200, and I began to become uneasy as to whether I could still put those two initials by my name. How could I know for sure I was still a master? I was briefly plagued by this question and other similar questions, so without further ado, here are the FAQ's about USCF mastership.

Q: What is required to become a National Master?

A: One must have *one* official published rating of 2200 or above. After that, you may put the initials "NM" in front of your name for life. However, the rating must be from an official supplement—for this reason, it is not uncommon for someone to avoid playing rating chess for a month to allow his or her master rating to become "official" without risking losing it before the supplement.

Q: Who awards the title?

A: The title is awarded by the United States Chess Federation. It is a national title, *not* an international one. It is not generally recognized at an international tournament. Other national federations have their own requirements for "National Master" titles; for instance, a master title in Mexico is often reported as being equivalent to an Expert title (2000 USCF) in the United States.

Q: Is there some sort of certificate or plaque?

A: Yes, everyone who has achieved the title of National Master is eligible to receive a National Master certificate from the USCF. The certificates used to be mailed automatically to anyone achieving a 2200 rating. Nowadays, however, you must phone in a request to the USCF Office in Crossville, TN asking for one. The number to call is listed on the inside front cover page of *Chess Life*. You will probably be most successful if you dial the extension for the Director of Business Operations.

Q: If someone has a rating floored at 2000, does



A National Master Certificate.

that mean he or she was a master at some point?

A: No. By having won a certain sum of money—usually \$2000—in an U2000 Section, a player can be given a 2000 floor without having become a master. This is designed to prevent "sandbagging", intentionally losing rating points to be eligible to compete once again in lower class sections.

Q: What is a "Life Master"?

A: A Life Master is someone who has maintained a rating over 2200 for 300 games. The games do not have to be consecutive. The title "LM" is occasionally used to denote a Life Master. During the early 1990s, the LM title was also awarded on a system of "norms" which was later discontinued. Those who had earned their titles through the 300-game method were then awarded the title "Original Life Master" to differentiate between the two methods.

Q: How does the USCF keep track of how many games you have played over 2200?

A: With some degree of difficulty, since ratings records before 1991 have mostly been lost. Those who were close to having the LM title—for instance, those who had 200+ games rated while over 2200 before 1991—may still have that recorded somewhere, however. The best way is to call the USCF office and find out! ♦ ~Jonathan Hilton

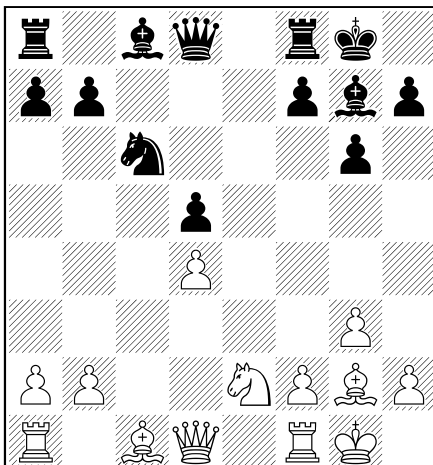
JERRY HANKEN: "THE BEST GAME I EVER LOST"

THIS WAS A TRAGIC game by Your Humble Reporter. (YHR, as I used to be known to the chess public. *Chess Life* Editor Daniel Lucas won't let me call myself that anymore in his hallowed pages as it is too frivolous for a high class publication. My editor—Ye Kindly Editor, or YKE—here, is more indulgent!) The game was a six hour battle between an 18-year-old WIM with one real GM norm to her credit, and a nearly 74-year-old O.L.M. (Not an OLD Life Master, as the kids like to derisively say, but an ORIGINAL Life Master!)

I am now on my 2200 floor and playing about 2000-rated chess in reality. I could let my rating drop to its natural place or, in this World Open, I could have played under 2400, but I am just too proud. I know, it's an ego thing, but at my age, I don't mind being called an egomaniac!

LM Hanken, Jerome—WIM Mohanty, Kiran
[A36] World Open (Round 2), 2008
Annotations by Jerry Hanken

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.e3 e6 6.Nge2 Nge7 7.O-O O-O 8.d4 cxd4 9.exd4 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5



It is always a problem when Black plays a symmetrical variation like this. Theory says "He who breaks the symmetry should get an edge." OK, so I forced a break in the symmetry but what is my move to get this edge? Either 12.Re1 or 12.Be3 has to be better than what I played. Now the Indian princess takes the initiative.

12.Nf4?!

Now *Black* winds up with the extra move.

12...Nxd4 13.Nxd5 h5 14.Ne3

I thought a long time about this move and concluded that I simply could not let her gain a tempo with her Queen bishop by ...Bg4.

14...Qb6 15. Nd5 Qd8 16. Ne3

Of course I am more than happy to take a draw. In my situation, a draw is fine as it means I won't lose all my games!

16...Rb8

I didn't think so. A first-round draw with a lower-rated player is unacceptable for such a strong player. Thus begins a long and harrowing defense by me.

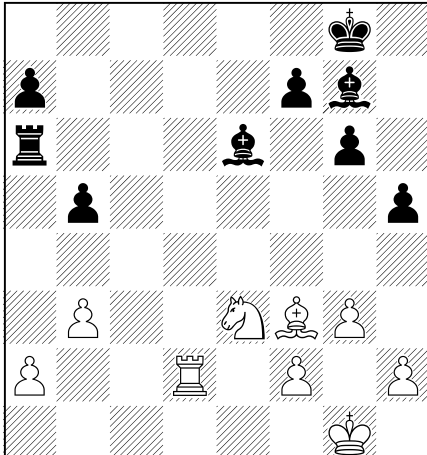
17.Bd2 Be6 18.Bc3 b5 19.Qd2 Qb6 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.Ba5 Nf3+

21...Ne2+ 22.Kf1 Rxd2 23.Bxb6 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Nxe3+ and it seems that Black wins a pawn. Therefore, I must take with 22.Qxe2 and give her the two bishops after 22...Qxa5; not a big edge in this position, but the kind of position in which titled players routinely grind down the likes of YHR.

22.Bxf3 Rxd2 23.Bxb6 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1

Rxb6 25. b3 Ra6 26.Rd2

My queenside will be under siege for quite a while. The next is the only move to protect the a-pawn.



26...Bh6

And now she creates a serious pawn weakness in my pawn placement on e3. This would not be a surprising ending for White to lose. I have far too many pawn islands.

27.Kf1 Bxe3 28.fxe3 Kf8 29.Ke1 Ke7 30.Be2 Ra5 31.b4 Ra4 32.Bxb5 Rxb4 33.Bd3 Kf6 34.Kd1 Ke5

Major problems must be solved here. Blacks' king threatens to invade and White must decide what color the three pawns must occupy. I decided that flexibility was the key to the defense.

35.Kc1 Ra4 36.Bb1 Ra3 37.Re2 Rc3+ 38.Kb2 Rc7 39.Rd2 Rb7+ 40.Ka1 Rb4 41.Bc2 h4 42.a3

Only now does this pawn move to a dark square.

42...Rg4 43.gxh4 Rxh4 44.Kb2 Rh3 45.e4

The only move to defend the e-pawn. Unfortunately, it also puts the pawn on the color of the

bishops. White is under a great deal of pressure.

45...Rh8 46.Kc3 Rb8 47.Rg2 Kf4 48.Kd4 Rb2

I was more afraid of 48...Kf3 than this pin, because I now have the opportunity to put my rook on the f-file, after which I am hanging on.

49.Rf2+ Kg5 50.Kc3 Rb7 51.Kd4 Rb2 52.Kc3 Ra2 53.Kb4

Again, this seems to be the only move.

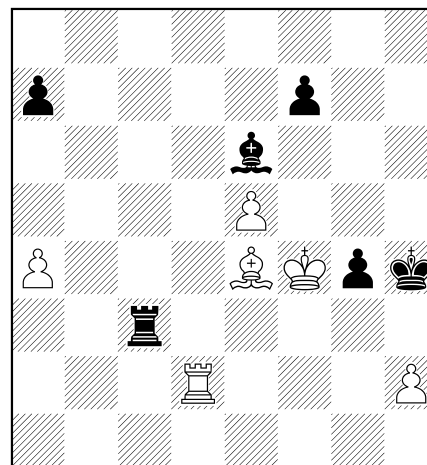
53...Kh4 54.Rd2 g5 55.a4 g4 56.Kc3 Kh3 57.e5!

Finally I can get this pawn off of a light square.

57...Ra3+ 58.Kd4 Ra1 59.Bd1

This keeps her from piling up on my h-pawn.

59...Rc1 60.Ke3 Rc4 61.Bc2 Rc3+ 62.Kf4 Kh4 63.Be4!



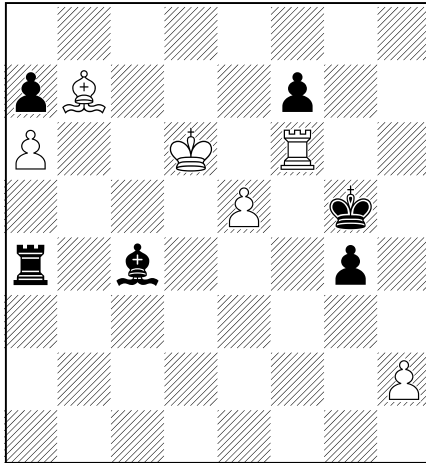
Now I am safe. The two-move veiled mate threat of Rook to the 8th and a threat of Rook mates on h8 demands that she retrench.

63...Kh3 64.a5 Rc1 65.a6 Ra1 66.Bb7 Rf1+ 67.Ke3 Re1+ 68.Kf4 Rf1+ 69.Ke3 Rf5

70.Bg2+

This little discovered check trick saves my h-pawn once again. I am hanging on like grim death.

70...Kh4 71.Kd4 Rf4+ 72.Kc5 Rc4+ 73.Kd6 Kg5 74.Rf2 Ra4 75.Bb7 Bc4 76.Rf6



76...Bxa6

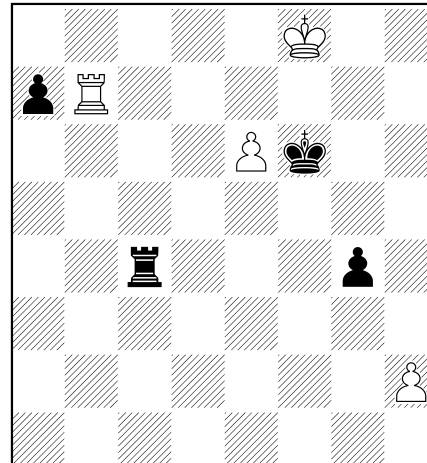
76...Ra2 77.Bc8 Rxb2 78.Rf5+ Kh4 79.Rf4 and all the winning chances are on Whites side!

77.Rxf7 Bxb7 78.Rxb7

Now she could have conceded the draw. The reader may notice that most of the time throughout this lengthy heroic defense, if either the Rooks or the Bishops, or, for that matter, both, were traded, White would have been lost. But now the second time control began to wind down. I was very tired and was laboring under the false impression that we had time delay. It was her digital clock and I am used to my Cronos with the five second delay. Of course, you may point out (as the directors rightly did later) that I certainly should have noticed this in 80 moves that have already gone by, but this mindset was a classic gestalt.

78...Kg6 79.e6 Rd4+ 80.Ke7 Rc4 81.Kf8 Kf6

If the Rook checks on c8, the game is still a draw.



82. Ke8??

What a comedy of errors! I was so shocked to see that 82.e7 was an easy win, I froze for a few seconds. Then I looked at my clock and it showed one second left! In utter panic, I reached for the e-pawn and instead made this horrible clunker with the King. It didn't matter as my flag fell after she grabbed my poor little e pawn. But after the next move, in my pitiful confusion, I remembered" that there was a five-second time delay.

82...Kxe6 83. Kd8 a5 0-1

"[S]he said... 'What five-second delay?'"

At this point, she called my flag but I am lost anyway. She herself had only about twenty second to go. Wayne Clark, the director, Johnny-on-the-spot as always—though this was the last lonely game of the round still going—confirmed my loss. "What happened to my five second delay," I whined. The young lady's English was quite good and she said the equivalent of "What five-second delay?" She later explained that they never use this time control in India and this was

the first time she had ever heard of it! In my despair, I shamefully accused her of misleading me, which she never did, and appealed the ruling to Bill Goichberg.

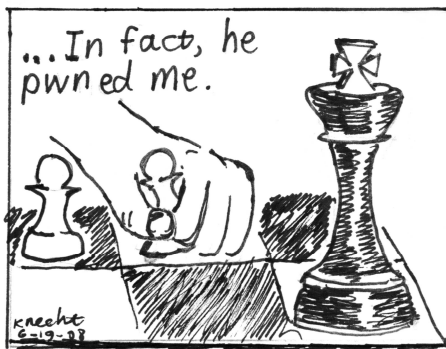
While he was on the way, I realized what had happened and what a fool I was making of myself. I apologized profusely to my opponent and to Wayne. I accepted my loss, but it hurt really badly. In my decrepitude, I have come to accept losses more philosophically than in my youth when I was known to scream while beating the hood of my car. But this was probably the greatest defensive ending I have ever played in 53 years of tournament chess.

I have come to accept losses more philosophically than in my youth...

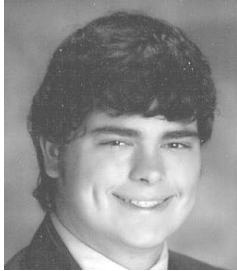
Once again, we are reminded of what a cruel mistress is the goddess Caissa. For those of you who had the sturdiness to actually go through this exercise in catharsis on my part, I thank you! Perhaps you might have picked up a couple of endgame ideas. I hope so. The only real consolation from a game like this is the fact that I am well-known enough as a writer that I can get it published! **0-1 ♦ ~Jerry Hanken**



Many thanks to Jerry Hanken, one of the country's most prominent chess journalists, for writing an article for "Our Humble Publication" (OHP)!



DOBB'S DIAGNOSIS: SHOW ME THE MONEY



THE OTHER NIGHT I was aimlessly flipping channels because, like most men, I didn't want to see what was on TV: I wanted to see what *else* was on TV. I paused my random search for entertainment on a commercial for a pay-per-view boxing match, with a prize of five million dollars to the winner. I thought to myself, "Geez, for that kind of money *I'd* fight the guy." Then I realized that nobody would pay to see a slightly overweight college student get punched in the face once and cry.

However, it made me think: if there is such competition to sponsor sports teams and prize-fights, why are there are so very few sponsors for chess? Just like any other sponsored sport or game, surely chess has a competitive edge, with its fierce rivalries (Topalov and Kramnik, anyone?). It also has a large international following. Must we all undergo the crossover to a more physical activity (hopefully chess-boxing gains popularity, since that is only halfway unfamiliar territory) before we see some serious money?

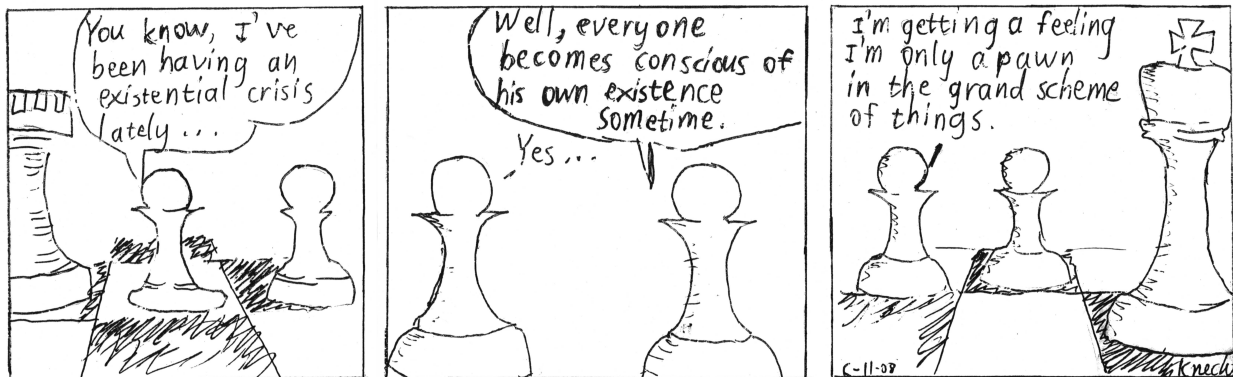
The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this lack of sponsorship is severely detrimental to our beloved game. We have all heard of players using, or attempting to use, earpieces or tiny computers to win games. Do they do this for the fame and supermodel

girlfriends that come with being good at chess? No, they do it in an attempt to take first place and the money that comes with such a feat.

These "chess cheaters" also attempt to gain monetarily by sandbagging. We have also now heard of anti-sandbagging rules; regulations set in place to deter players from intentionally losing games and lowering their rating, thus enabling them to play in a weaker section where they have a better chance of taking first place. Several years ago, I myself lost a game, and consequently first place, in the final round of a tournament against a player who had only months before been rated over 200 points higher than the rating he boasted at the tournament.

Nobody wants to stop playing chess, but it certainly strains the wallet just as much (if not more than!) the mind. Even Grandmasters are not immune to the impoverished state of chess. How many times have we seen short draws in order to secure a certain placing, rather than a complex, fighting game that risks ending out of the money?

Although this may come as a shock to some readers, the phrase "Grandmaster Draw" has nothing to do with Mikhail Tal's face in a coloring book or Viktor Korchnoi's silhouette being the solution to a connect-the-dots puzzle. To quote GM Nigel Davies, "I feel no guilt about having no 'anger to win,' I'm very cold blooded about these things. These days I gauge tourna-



ment success very much in terms of the overall financial returns; for me this is the only perspective a professional player should have.”

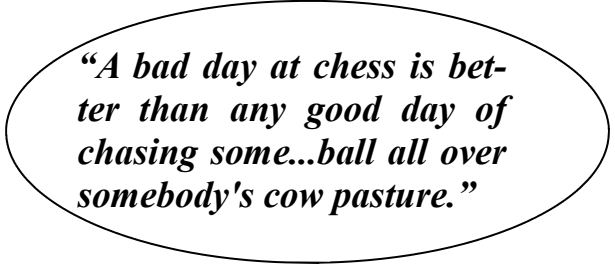
No matter how many Sofia Rules we create or how many “Most Fighting Chess” awards we dream up, there will always be short draws in chess. There will always be players who will take a draw to enter a five-way tie for a money-prize just to alleviate the expenses of that tournament, rather than play some less-than-concrete sacrifice or novel combination and risk going home without earning back a cent.

However, one can't help but to think that if there were more money in chess that there would be far more fighting games. If a player knew that even though he would probably end out of the money at the current tournament, he was playing in another high-money Swiss the following weekend, he would have much more incentive to play at his full strength. He could enjoy the game, rather than fret over his financial situation. If you have more chances at big money in future tournaments, there is no need to enter a tie for third just to make back half of what you have spent at the current one. The pressure to earn some semblance of a prize at every tournament would be gone; each tournament could be a unique opportunity to reap a worthwhile emolument, enough to compensate for the expenses of numerous other, lost tournaments.

The simple fact is that until chess proves to be a profitable endeavor, we will be constantly awash in unsupported and horrendously implausible rumors of players cheating in every way imaginable to grab a portion of the tiny prize fund, from earpieces smaller than the human eye can detect, to hypnosis, to secret computers in bathrooms that no one else knows about. With larger prize funds, people will still attempt deceit to have a share of the money, but at least they won't be doing it because they think it is the only way they can continue to play chess without filing bankruptcy. Until we, the players, can find sponsorship to transform chess into one of the massive money-makers that football and even golf have become, we will have to deal with top players agreeing to split the point after a mere

ten moves of theory instead of showing us the extreme gifts that enabled them to reach the highest pinnacle of chessic greatness. Until chess becomes a respectable, lucrative profession that can also just be played for fun, like any other sport, it can never blossom into its full potential at every level, with the professionals setting the example and risking it all in every game.

You may now be thinking, “Great, I agree with you that we need a lot more chess sponsorship, but how can this be accomplished?” Well, I regret to inform you that I do not know. How to gain chess sponsors is one of the two questions that keep me awake at night, the other being whether a hippopotamus is actually a hippopotamus, or just a very fashionable *popotamus*. Believe me, if I knew the secret method to acquire chess sponsors I would have already employed it. There are certainly tactics we can try, but few of them will win decisive material, or chess wouldn't be in the predicament it is currently in.



“A bad day at chess is better than any good day of chasing some...ball all over somebody's cow pasture.”

Until next time, may Caissa shine her good fortunes upon your game, and may you always remember the immortal words of White: “A bad day at chess is better than any good day of chasing some silly little dimpled ball all over somebody's cow pasture.” ♦ ~Christopher Dobbs

Christopher Dobbs is a chess essayist attending college at University of Miami at Oxford, Ohio. If you have a topic you'd like to see Dobbs cover, email KindlyCoach@gmail.com.

JOE FOGARTY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM SCHOLASTIC CHESS

or

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

BY THE AGE OF ten, Garry Kasparov was the most promising student of the Mikhail Botvinnik chess school, Roger Federer was hitting astounding forehand winners against people three times his size, and Muhammad Ali was training to beat up the kid who took his bike. By the age of ten, I was consuming ice cream, throwing air balls at the wrong basket, playing pokémon, and avoiding girls. So began the legacy of Joe Fogarty.

My father taught me how to play chess at the age of five (opening with 1.e4!, which I have played religiously my entire life), but I did not play in my first tournament until 7th grade, when I achieved the astounding USCF rating of 757. After about 18 months of constant tournaments and lessons from NM **Aleksandr Kitsis** I was rated 1621. I was very proud of this rapid progression from the “it moves like an L” stage to the “The girl at the board next to me is cute” stage (yes, this puts me on par with Shabalov). During this time I became inseparable friends with my longtime sparring partner, **Viktor Kitsis**, with whom I played over 100 of my first 500 tournament games.

Entering high school, I had high aspirations and a lot of confidence in my chess game, and I carried this confidence into what I considered to be my breakout tournament, the 9th Grade State Championship in Akron on November 20th, 2004. This was a very significant tournament in my chess career simply because it was my first really big win. Apart from winning all five of my games, this tournament is where I became acquainted with **Jonathan Hilton**, the beginning of a long and very strange relationship that includes highlights such as 4:00 A.M. online conversations and articles like this that are actually being written *during* the deadline. Ironically, my clock reads 12:00 A.M. midnight right now and this is, in fact, my deadline. Of course, this is the second deadline. The first deadline

was sometime last week.

It was also at this tournament that my high school chess team began to make a splash with myself and **Matt DelBrocco** nearly winning the 9th grade section despite only have two people. (We finished with a collective 9-1 record.) A final noteworthy moment is that the *de facto* championship game of the tournament was the 4th round match between myself and **Bobby Steen**, starting a friendly rivalry that would decide multiple state championships, a national placing, and several Open tournament games.

My confidence continued to swell as 9th grade rolled on. The Notre Dame Cathedral Latin chess team began to experience success, as I won almost all of my games at first board, DelBrocco won most of his games as the #2, **Jeff Sustarsic** was undefeated at #3, and **Danny McDonnell** won all the time at #4. We lost only to Rocky River High School, when Expert **Paul Nemeth** laid a hefty beating on me. Of course, we were unable to achieve truly dominate skill until the next year, when **Rebecca Lelko** took over 2nd board and everyone else slid down. Unfortunately, NDCL would never conjure up the necessary participation until my senior year, when the aforementioned individuals convincingly won the Northeast Ohio Team Championship.

My first national tournament was at the 2004 grade level championships in Orlando. This was back when it was held at the luxurious Dolphin Resort. The Colorado Springs resort is nice, but is totally lame by comparison. This weekend proved to be one of the most memorable of my life. I played some pretty good chess and had a slight rating increase, but having the whole December weekend free with myself, Viktor, and Rebecca proved to be a more relaxing, crazy, and hilarious than anything I could have imagined.

Up to this point, my scholastic chess life has been a fairy tale. Well, this is where the prince dies or something similar. Remember that 1621 rating I achieved at the end of 8th grade? Well, midway through 11th grade, I was 1619. Although I continued to learn more and more and gain a deeper understanding of chess, my ability to perform was totally shot. There are probably several things to blame here; an addiction to blitz, an addiction to the Max Lange Attack; overconfidence; a short attention span; and quest for chess that was too good to be played. By this last item, I mean that I was often looking for the absolute best moves and would settle for nothing less, wasting large amounts of clock time and playing with too many reservations. It was almost as if I had gotten so caught up in trying to play *good* chess that I forgot how to play *any* kind of chess.

These years of high school were not all bad, however. In 10th grade I achieved a rating of 1786, which would be the highest rating I would get for over 2 years. There are many noteworthy moments that I can also dabble into during this time period. At grade level championships in 10th grade, I gave up a nasty draw to **Westley Russell** that I still have not forgiven myself for to this day. I had a king, rook, and two pawns against a lone king and rook. The pawns were connected and in the g- and h-files. In case you have not figured it out yet, Westley's king wound up stalemated on h1 following an obvious rook sacrifice. I did perform pretty well at High School Championships in 10th grade, however, scoring 4.5 out of 6 and losing only to Jonathan Hilton.

However, the 11th Grade State Championship hosted what was, by far, the most painful chess loss of my life. True, the tournament did start 8:00 A.M. the night after my high school prom. Despite my blood-shot eyes, after 4 rounds, I was the only player with 4 points. I played a player with 3.5 points in the last round and had a thoroughly winning game, but made one terrible blunder and lost. I lost the game, I lost the title, I lost my confidence. The player that beat me? It was Bobby Steen of course, whom I was also to meet in the last round of Nationals several weeks later. This meeting between us was fairly inconsequential however, because we were only in the middle of the field.

12th grade was the year I finally got my feet back on some solid ground. It opened up with another epic



Joseph Fogarty is getting to old for this kind of chess. In Black and White photographs, even his beard appears to be graying.

state title, this one being a much more emotional experience than the first. Steen was upset in the first round by **Zel Caldwell**, but I still had to score wins against Westley Russell and **Benjamin Burkholder** while holding a last round draw with **Justin Hale**.

After winning, I called my family to let them know how I had done. Then I immediately went outside into frigid temperatures and yelled celebrations at the top of my lungs. This seems weird in retrospect, but it seemed appropriate at the time. During my senior year in high school I also picked up \$600 for winning first at the Cardinal Open U1800 section and \$1200 for winning first at the Cleveland Open U1800 section. Of course, these were only possible due to rating drops resulting from really awful scholastic tournaments, such as that year's High School Championship. But nonetheless, I'm the guy with the dough.

Conclusively, (that's right, English professors, I opened a final paragraph with "conclusively.") my scholastic chess career has been very rewarding, although it has had spotty success and is the epitome of unachieved potential. Of course, I accept that this is entirely my fault, and, as a wise man wrote in my graduation card, "The will to win is important, but not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win." ♦
~Joe Fogarty

To wish Joe off to a happy life playing collegiate chess, we now recap three great games from his scholastic chess career.

Fogarty, Joe (1748)—Barbin, Joseph (1798)
[B24] World Open (Round 4), 7/2/2006
Annotations by Joe Fogarty

This game is from the World Open in 2006. White opens with reserved development, switches to a powerful pawn storm, switches to quiet maneuvering, then ends with a rook sacrifice.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 e6 5.d3 Nf6 6.f4 Be7

If Black is to play 4...e6, he should have his bishop on g7 and his knight on e7. This style of development is too passive because white's kingside attack will undoubtedly prove to be more consequential than black's queenside play.

7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Qc7 9.h3

I prefer h2-h3 before Be3 in order to avoid ...Ng4 annoyances, support the g2-g4 push, and eventually consider a Nh2-Ng4 maneuver.

9...a6 10.Be3 Rb8

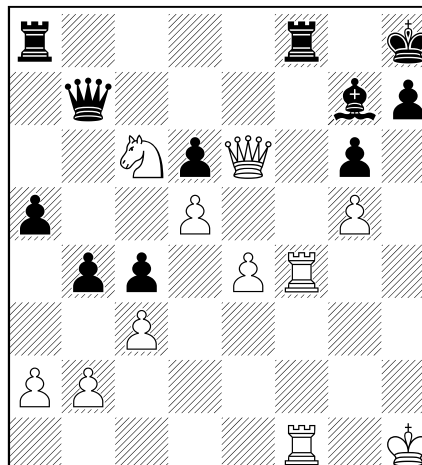
Black has already played ...a6 and does not need to play ...Rb8.

11.g4 b5 12.Ne2 Re8 13.g5 Nh5 14.Nh2 g6 15.Bf3 Ng7 16.h4 e5 17.Ng4 Bxg4 18.Bxg4 Bf8 19.Ng3 exf4 20.Bxf4 Ne5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Qf3 Ne6 23.c3 Bg7 24.Ne2 Nd8 25.Nf4 Nc6 26.Nd5 Qa7 27.Kh1 Ree8 28.Rad1 Ne5 29.Qh3 c4 30.d4 Nxc4 31.Qxc4 Re6 32.Rf4 Qb7

Intending 33...Rxe4 and White will have to work harder to win.

33.Nb4 a5 34.d5 Ree8

34...Rxe4 35.Rxe4 axb4 was probably the better.
35.Nc6 Ra8 36.Rdf1 Rf8 37.h5 b4 38.hxc6 fxg6 39.Qe6+ Kh8 40.Ne7!



I rarely give myself exclamation marks, but this is just so cute.

40...Rxf4 41.Rxf4 Be5 42.Rf7 bxc3 43.Rxh7+ Kxh7 44.Qxg6+ Kh8 45.Qh6# 1-0

Fogarty (1707)—Russell, Westley (1840)
[B19] 12th Grade State Champ. (4) 12/1/2007
Annotations by Joe Fogarty

This game is from the 4th round of the 12th grade State Championship Tournament and was the *de facto* championship game.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4 Ngf6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Qe2 b5

This creates weaknesses without doing very much.

14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nd5 16.Qg4 Qa5 17.Kb1

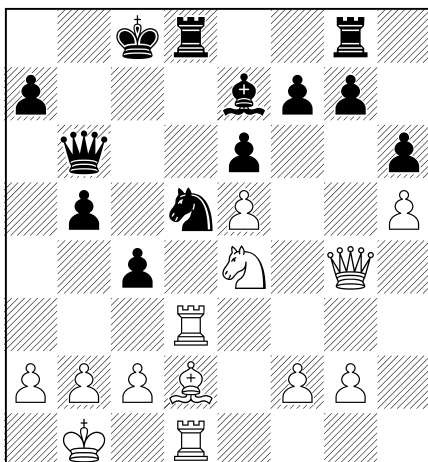
17.Qxg7 Rf8 18.Rxd5! cxd5 19.Kb1 wins for

White.

**17...0-0-0 18.Bd2 Qb6 19.Ne4 Rhg8
20.Rh3 c5 21.Rd3**

21.Rg3!? was also possible, for instance 21...c4
22.Qf3 f6 23.exf6 Nxf6 24.Nxf6 Bxf6 allows
White's queen to penetrate to the a8 square with
advantage.

21...c4



22.Ba5!! Qc6

The point is that if 22...Qxa5 White has 23.Rxd5.
22...Nc3+ 23.Nxc3 Qxa5 is playable but does not
relieve the pressure on Black's position.

23.Rf3??

An awful follow-up to an otherwise brilliant shot.
23.Rg3, allowing the White queen to still defend
the rook on d1, is necessary. White would then
have tremendous pressure on the Black position.
But now my opponent blunders in time trouble,
allowing me a quick win. He can instead take the
advantage immediately with 23...Nf6!! 24.Nd6+
Bxd6 25.exf6 Bc7.

**23...Nc3+?? 24.Nxc3 Rxd1+ 25.Nxd1 f5
26.exf6 Bxf6 27.Rxf6 gxf6 28.Qxg8+ Kb7**

29.a3 Qd5 30.Ne3 Qxh5 31.Qxe6 1-0

Fogarty (1798)—Coleman, Anthony (1661)

[B25] Cleveland Open (Round 3), 6/14/2008

Annotations by Joe Fogarty

This game demonstrates a common theme of
many of my games. My opponent makes mis-
takes in the opening; I attempt to exploit these
mistakes and fail miserably; I get lucky and win!

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3
d6 6.f4 Nf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Ne8 9.Nd5 f5
10.c3 Nc7 11.Ng5?!**

I intended 12.Nxd5 followed by 13.Qb3

**11...e6 12.Nxc7 Qxc7 13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Re1
e5 15.Bd5+ Kh8 16.Qf3 Nd8 17.Be3 h6
18.Nh3 Be6 19.Be4 Rf6 20.Nf2 Qd7 21.d4
d5**

Now it is apparent that whatever edge I used to
have is now gone. I did not want to have spatial
trouble after 21.Bc2 e4, so I came up with some-
thing more clever.

22.dxe5!? dxe4 23.Nxe4 Qc6??

Possibly rattled by the weird nature of my mate-
rial exchange, my opponent forgot to move his
rook. 23...Rf7 24.Nd6 Re7 25.Bxc5 Rb8 26.Rad1
and White seems to have more activity but an
interesting battle would surely ensue.

**24.exf6 Bxf6 25.Bxc5 Bd5 26.Bd4 Bxd4+
27.cxd4 Nf7 28.Qd3 Re8 29.Nc5 Rd8
30.Rac1 Bh1 31.Ne4 Bxe4 32.Qxe4 Qb6
33.Red1 Qxb2 34.Qxg6 Qxa2 35.Rc7 Qe2
36.Qf6+ 1-0 ♠**

*Watch for more on Joe Fogarty as he enters the colle-
giate world of chess later this year at Case Western
University!*



Listen to the archive of the July 17th Dan Heisman Chess.FM Radio Show at the link below and hear OCC editor Jonathan Hilton talk about his recent journalistic endeavors!

Also, watch for his upcoming Chess.FM video lecture series on **Wojtkiewicz**, coming soon!

http://webcast.chessclub.com/Heisman/2008_07_17.Heisman.wma

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