



Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ June 2008

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For more info on chess in Alberta visit
www.albertachess.org

HANSEN NEW ALBERTA CHAMPION

Eric Hansen of Calgary went undefeated to win the 2008 Alberta Championship. At 15 years of age, Eric is likely the youngest winner of this event in Alberta history! Read Vlad's report on page 3.

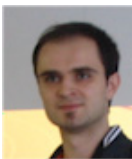


#	Name	Old	Perf	New	Results	Tot
1	Hansen, Eric	2326	2541	2347	X 1 1 1 = =	4.0
2	Huber, Gregory	2348	2457	2358	0 X 1 = 1 1	3.5
3	Reeve, Jeff	2325	2381	2330	0 0 X 1 1 1	3.0
4	Gardner, Robert J.	2279	2230	2275	0 = 0 X = 1	2.0
5	Kaminski, Victor	2291	2228	2285	= 0 0 = X 1	2.0
6	Kazmaier, Daniel	2262	1994	2236	= 0 0 0 0 X	0.5

ALBERTA CHESS LEGEND DIES

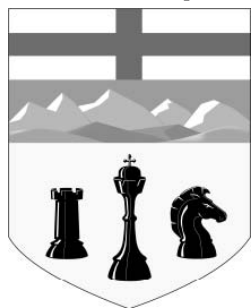
Canadian and Albertan chess legend Walter Holowach of Edmonton passed away on April 9, 2008 at the age of 98. Mr. Holowach was accomplished in many fields, including music and chess, and was also a track and field athlete in his youth. Walter was also a team-mate of the late G.M. Abe Yanofsky during the 1939 Chess Olympics in Buenos Aires where Canada tied with Iceland for the Silver Cup. Walter lived a rich and varried life, and will be missed by all who knew him. A complete report will appear in the next edition of the ACR.

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN



The first Calgary International wound up over the Victoria Day weekend. This seven round swiss featured three international masters, \$2,500 in prizes and some fighting chess! The top rated players didn't exactly run away with things as anticipated. Victor Kaminski was the real story as he defeated two of the masters and drew the other! Had Victor survived his last round encounter against Rob Gardner he could have had clear first all to himself. In the end it was John Donaldson who captured the big prize taking clear first with 5.5, with 2nd through 4th being split between Day, Kaminski, and Gardner. Both Donaldson and Day annotate in this issue. Look for this tournament again next year.





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The Alberta Chess Association in partnership with the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, provides a more active lifestyle to Albertans by providing programs to enhance living through playing chess. The ACA greatly acknowledges the support provided by ASRPWF

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

Calgary Chess Club

New site of the Calgary Chess Club is: #274, 3359—27th St. NE Hours: Thursdays from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

(Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Dean Chess tournaments held the second Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 11 p.m. Thursday of each month, starting 7:00 p.m. Friday nights from 6:30 -11 p.m. More information: www.calgarychess.com

Edmonton Castle Downs

Castledowns Public Library program room, 106 Lakeside Landing, 15379 Castle Downs Road. Tuesdays 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Casual chess - no clocks, no ratings; open to all ages, up to 16 players involved.

Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840-124 St., (780) 424-0283 Mondays and Thursdays, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Edmonton Casual Chess

For general information or if you are interested in setting up a new casual site in Northern Alberta, contact: Bruce Thomas (780) 474-2318. Email: rovingchessnuts.com

Blackspot Café: 15120 Stony Plain Road Sundays, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sets are available.

ChessMart: 12015-76 St., open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some evenings and weekends. Casual games can be arranged and evaluation of players of all ages.

Millwoods: Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods Town Centre Mall, Thursdays, starting 1 p.m.

University of Alberta: HUB Mall, Garneau Lounge. Mondays 7:20 p.m. Contact Stephen Stone, Email: StephenRStone@gmail.com or phone (780) 436-3402.

Grand Prairie Chess Club

Golden Age Centre 10222-101 Avenue. Hours: Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dean Chess tournaments held the second Thursday of each month, starting 7 p.m.

Hanna Chess Club

Contact Jon (403) 854-3412 United Church on Centre St. at 6:30 p.m.

Hinton

Contact: Peter Bundscherer
Phone: (780) 865-5050
Queen's Bakery and Café, 124 Market St.

Lethbridge

Contact: Kent Karapita
Email: kentkarapita@hotmail.com

Lloydminster

Contact: Eugene, (780) 875-6352

Medicine Hat Chess Club

Contact: Bill Taylor, (403) 526-5484. Hours, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Southridge Village, 550 Spruce Way SE

Okotoks Chess Club

Contact: Richard Bradley
Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca

Sherwood Park

Contact: Les Jones, (780) 467-7393 Second Cup on Baseline Road, Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to closing time.

Wainwright Chess Club

Contact: Allen Tinio, (780) 842-4123. Email: amtinio@telus.net. Hours: Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Showtime Video, #701 10 Main St.

Add your site to this list: email tficzere@telus.net

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The Alberta Chess Report is published quarterly in March, June, September, December. Deadline for submission of articles and changes is one week prior to the month of publication.

We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they pertain to the province of Alberta.

Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif.

All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

Submit your request by email to: tficzere@telus.net or fax to: 403-568-7173 To speak to the editor, call 403-568-7173, please leave a message. If you wish to receive the ACR by email, let me know by emailing tficzere@telus.net

Editor: Tony Ficzere, 58 Martin Crossing Court NE, Calgary, AB, T3J 3P3

ERIC HANSEN WINS 2008 ALBERTA CLOSED by Vladislav Rekhson

This year's Alberta Chess Championship was the first time that the event took place in the new Edmonton Chess Club. Traditionally, besides the main event we also had the Alberta Reserves, which was an open to all Swiss system tournament, as well as for the first time in three years we organized the Alberta Women's championship.

It all started on a Friday night as the Alberta Championship got under way. This year's event was among the strongest in history. The average rating was 2305 CFC and it had a very interesting mix of players. The tournament included 3 juniors; Eric Hansen, Victor Kaminski and Daniel Kazmaier, as well as three veterans; FIDE Master Greg Huber, Jeff Reeve and Rob Gardner. All the participants had very similar ratings as only 86 points separated the first ranked from the outsider. Still, the pre-event forecasters focused mainly on three people: FM Greg Huber, who was the rating favourite, the defending champ Jeff Reeve and the fast rising youngster-Eric Hansen, who had a 15 game winning streak going into the tournament. The predictions seemed to work this time as heading into the last round those three were occupying the top three positions. Eric Hansen was ahead of the pack with 3.5/4 as he just beat FM Greg Huber to knock him off the lead. Eric had black pieces against his nemesis Victor Kaminski. Victor, is another Calgarian junior who was very much against giving Eric a free ride. Jeff Reeve was second and he had the black pieces against FM Greg Huber who had 2.5/4 and

could still hope to catch up to Eric, if Eric lost his last game. Eric and Victor battled hard and in the end it was a draw. Jeff Reeve on the other hand had a great chance to join Eric for first place which would force a playoff match, however he missed a winning plan and went on to lose the game. All of that allowed Eric Hansen to become arguably Alberta's youngest ever champion at a tender age of 15.

AB Championship Final standings and prize winners:

1. Eric Hansen 4/5 \$300 plus a free trip to the Canadian Championship
2. FM Greg Huber 3.5/4 \$180
3. JeffReeve 3/5 \$120
4. Rob Gardner 2/5

Victor Kaminski 2/5
6. Daniel Kazmaier 0.5/5
On Saturday, March 22nd two more events have gone under way. The Alberta Reserves had 26 players including one master and 6 experts. In the end there was a three way tie between National Master Nic Haynes and experts; Micah Hughey and Roy Yearwood. A special mention has to be given to Aaron Sequillion who had 5 tough games against higher rated opponents (all of those games were among the last to finish) and all of which ended in draws! That must be some kind of record by itself!

AB Reserves prize winners...

- Open:
Nic Haynes 4/5 Micah Hughey 4/5 Roy Yearwood 4/5, \$100 each.
Best under 2000:
Ahmet Yamach 3/5 Geoff Newton 3/5 \$40



Eric Hansen secures a spot in the next Canadian Championship

each.

Best under 1800:

MarioGonzalez 2.5/5 \$23.33 each Jonathan Mrugala 2.5/5 Aaron Sequillion 2.5/5, \$23.33 each.

Best under 1600:

Mike Sekuloff 2.5/5 \$55

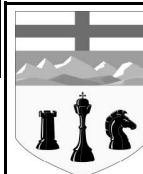
And last but not least after 3 years we had the first women's championship. The first prize of \$100 and a name on the AB Women's Championship trophy was contested by an Edmontonian Srivalli Indrani and a Calgarian Nicka Kalaydina. Even though Srivalli's rating was slightly higher she couldn't hold off Nicka who ran away with 3 consecutive wins to clinch the title and make her arguably the youngest Alberta Women's Champion at the age of 11! Now, when you add up the ages of the Alberta Champion and Alberta Women's Champion we come up to 26. As they say
(continued on page 4)

Chess Federation of Canada Changing

After years of operating as many players know it, the CFC is undergoing some major changes to help keep afloat. Changes were required to stop the organization from bleeding money due to decreasing memberships and sales revenues. The most recent governors letter (available on line at the CFC site: www.chess.ca) gives some details of the possible restructure. In a nutshell, the plan calls to contract out memberships and ratings to an organization that calls itself "TKS" or "Three Knights Services". The magazine would cease to be printed and would only be available on-line

if the deal goes through. The plan also discusses the sale of the CFC office building, a condo in a business park in Ottawa. Although the president of the CFC, Hal Bond awarded the contract to TKS, the governors had different designs and forced the president to put the motion up for an emergency vote. The governors voted against awarding the contract to TKS, and now the CFC executive will seek other tenders for their essential services.

One thing for certain is that the CFC will no longer operate as it has in the past, and changes were long past due.



**2008 ACA
BOARD MEETINGS**

**AUGUST 24
RED DEER**

**NOVEMBER 30
RED DEER**

Visit www.albertachess.org

the world sure does belong to the young!

Gardner, Rob (2279)

Hansen, Eric (2326)

A02 2008 Alberta Closed (Rnd 2)

Annotated by Eric Hansen

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7

I don't have any preparation against 1.f4, as last time I had a comfortable position against Rob when we went into this line.

4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 c5

I had decided that I wanted to play on the dark squares and the queenside and felt this was the best approach.

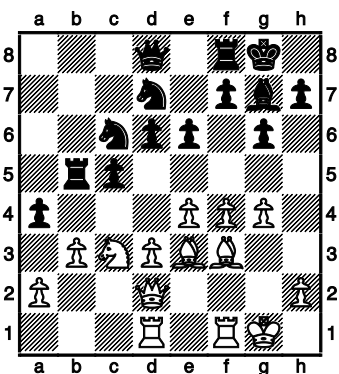
7.d3 Nc6 8.Be3 Bg4 9.Qd2

Not sure if this is the right spot for the queen, as I would be pretty happy with f5 for white allowing me to get strong outposts on e5 and d4.

9... Bxf3 10.Bxf3 e6 11.Ne2 Nd7 12.g4

Rb8 13.Rd1 b5 14.b3 a5 15.0-0 a4 16.

cxb5 Rxb5 17.Nc3



Very happy to see this move as I was willing to trade my dark squared bishop for the initiative.

17... Bxc3 18.Qxc3 axb3 19.axb3 Qb6

20.Rb1 Rb8 21.Bd1 Nd4

Taking the nice outpost and keeping white on the defensive.

22.Rf2

22.Bxd4 cxd4 23.Qd2 Nc5 =/+ . Rob did not want my last knight coming into c5, but after the text 24.f5 gives white good

counterplay.

22...Nxb3 23.Rfb2

White tries to get some counterplay for the pawn, but the only thing that happens is a major trade of pieces.

23... Nd4 24.Bxd4 Rxb2

Fritz says that black is winning after cxd4, but I couldn't find a clear win and decided to allow him to keep the queens on the board. 24...cxd4 25.Rxb5 Qxb5 26.Rxb5 dxc3 27.Rxb8+ Nxb8. I was willing to go into this variation as I felt I could grind him out. This is Rob's best try however to stay in the game.

25.Rxb2

25.Qxb2 Qc7 26.Qc2 Rxb1 27.Qxb1 cxd4.

25...cxd4 26.Rxb6 dxc3

Transposes into the same winning variation as noted above if white trades off rooks.

27.Rb3 Rxb3 28.Bxb3 Nc5 29.Bc2 Na6 0-1

I was pretty happy with my game as I did not give up my advantage and was consistent with my play.

TRIBUTE TO VONNIE ENG by John Piera

At the Annual Meeting of the Calgary Junior Chess Club on May 11, the role of Past President currently held by Vonnice will come to an end, and her presence and contributions will be missed. Over the past 10 years, she has brought vision, enthusiasm, intelligent decision making and passion, and the CJCC is better for it. During this time, she served as Board Member, President and Past President and helped organize many tournaments.

Vonnice shared her vision for what the CJCC could be and continually encouraged us to remain independent and continue to develop. She saw the importance of registering as a society with the Gov-

ernment of Alberta and eventually seeking Charitable Status even when other members didn't appreciate the importance of this. She recognized that Calgary had several talented junior players including Victor and Thomas Kaminski, Eric Hansen, Daniel Kazmaier and her own boys Brandon and Lucas Eshleman, and we could successfully host national and international tournaments like the Pan-Am Games. She was part of the team of Calgary volunteers that helped host the Chess and Math National Tournament in 2000 and made many friends across the country with parents. She recognized that we could be more than a small insignificant club and we could contribute to the broader chess community.

She has boundless energy and at tournaments she was willing to help out to do thing. She took time to call up newspapers to get publicity and place ads. One of her ads in the Neighbors section of the Calgary Herald was the reason that my family got involved in the chess community! At tournaments she helped out where ever she was needed from ordering trophies, setting up chess sets, to recording results and being Tournament Director. She continually introduced herself to parents and recruited them to help out as volunteers. She was the one who recruited me onto

the CJCC board! Her enthusiasm resulted in the highest participation rates in the history of the CJCC.

She helped the CJCC make good decisions because she has a sharp mind and brought to the table lots of experience with different organizations. She helped new volunteers understand how the CJCC related to the Calgary Chess Club, Alberta Chess Association, Chess and Math Organization and the Canadian Chess Federation. She understood and taught many volunteers how to run tournaments. She knew the rules and proper etiquette would not tolerate any behaviour to the contrary.

Her passion started with her desire to make sure her sons had every opportunity to be the best chess players possible but extended well beyond that to helping CJCC even after her boys stopped playing in chess tournaments. For an additional three years, Vonnice contributed behind the scenes. For example, she arranged for Brandon to come to the CJCC tournaments and offer free group lessons. She helped developing players find coaches through her many contacts. She would call or email board members with suggestions on who to recruit or how to handle a situation. On behalf of the Calgary Junior Chess Club, I thank you Vonnice for all your contributions.

NEXT CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

There is a very good chance that the next Canadian Championship will be held in Alberta. The CFC is currently seeking bids, and the ACA is submitting a bid for the event.

This event is a Zonal, and the winner will qualify to the next cycle of the World Championship to be held in Siberia. The date for this event has not been confirmed, but it will be sometime in 2009. Watch the ACA website for developments.

25th ANNUAL TRUMPETER CLASSIC by Tim Pradzinski

One of the longest running tournaments in Alberta celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2008. This year's Trumpeter Classic also had the largest prize funds in its history with over \$4000 in cash and prizes given away thanks in part to the generous support of the Alberta Chess Association. Contestants came from 3 provinces to compete in this tournament: British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. All in all, there were 34 people playing in the tournament and competing for the \$1000 first prize. The tournament winner with a perfect 5-0 score was Eric Hansen of Calgary. We had coverage of the local media present to take a picture of the event. The tournament was held at the beautiful Stonebridge Hotel in Grande Prairie (formerly the Trumpeter Hotel) and the accommodations were outstanding. The hotel even put out desert squares for everyone on both Saturday and Sunday when they heard we were celebrating our 25th

Anniversary.

The tournament was organized and directed by Tim Pradzinski with help from Phil Lefkowitz.

The results from the tournament were as follows:

Open Section:

- 1st - Eric Hansen - 5/5 - \$1000
- 2nd - Anastasia Kazakevich - 4/5 (3 wins & 2 draws!) - \$375
- 2nd - Vlad Rekhson - 4/5 - \$375
- 2nd - Roy Yearwood - 4/5 - \$375
- 2nd - Micah Hughey - 4/5 - \$375

Under 2000 Section:

- 1st - Adrien Regimbald - 3.5/5 - \$190
- 1st - Tim Pradzinski - 3.5/5 - \$190
- 3rd - Richard Pua - 3/5 - \$18
- 3rd - Rick Pedersen - 3/5 - \$18
- 3rd - Nandor Tot - 3/5 - \$18
- 3rd - Wade Caughlin - 3/5 - \$18
- 3rd - Steve Panteluk - 3/5 - \$18
- 4th Prize - Kasparov's Greatest Games - Volume 1 goes to Nandor Tot on Tie

Break Points

Under 1700 Section:

- 1st - Larry Stutzman - 3/5 - \$190
- 1st - Stephen Stone - 3/5 - \$190
- 3rd - Phil Lefkowitz - 2.5/5 - \$30
- 3rd - Roland Schech - 2.5/5 - \$30
- 3rd - Chris White - 2.5/5 - \$30
- 4th Prize - Kasparov's Greatest Games - Volume 2 goes to Phil Lefkowitz on Tie
- Break Points
 - Phil switched his 4th place prize with Nicholas Merrit so Phil got the Bocce Ball set instead

Under 1400 Section:

- 1st - Alex Pradzinski - 2.5/5 - \$125
- 1st - Stan Longson - 2.5/5 - \$125
- 3rd Prize - Bocce Ball Set goes to Nicholas Merritt on Tie
- Break Points
 - Nicholas switched his 3rd place prize with Phil Lefkowitz so Nicholas got the Kasparov book instead
- 4th Prize - Chessmaster 10th Edition goes to Justin Apotre on Tie

2008 LETHBRIDGE OPEN by Tony Ficzer

The 2008 Lethbridge Open was a great success. In all, 21 players took part, a record for Lethbridge. Of those 21, 9 players were brand new to tournament chess! The event also marked my return to tournament directing. This was my first event directing in over five years so mistakes

were not confined to the board. I did make a few mistakes but thankfully the event ran smoothly inspite of my rust.

Roy Yearwood, Micah Hughey tied for first with 4 points to split 1st & 2nd. Graham Sorgard took 3rd with 3. Even though Aaron Sequillion tied for first with 4

points, he qualified for the highest \$\$ prize which for him was 1st in the Under 1800 section. Aaron had an impressive "no loss" streak going and kept it alive inspite of playing the top two rated players in the event, drawing both those games. Jack Davie, Josh Willie and Mike Zeggelaar split 2nd/3rd with 3 points.

In the Unrated section, 1st went to Slave Ilnytsky, 2nd went to Roy Zhang, 3rd was Seyed Mahmoud Soraj. Roy Zhang would have taken first had he not forfeited in the final round.

Also of note was the fantastic hospitality shown by Dr. Paul Viminitz. The good doctor invited any and all to his place after the third round for wine, cheese, and beer! As could be expected, the conversation that evening was slightly chess oriented (no kidding). Paul will be heading to Italy for the next several months to relax and enjoy the Italian countryside. Look for this tournament next year, you won't be disappointed!

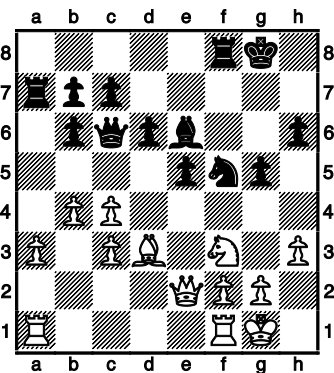
BEST GAME FROM CALGARY CLOSED

by Jim Daniluk

The following game was voted as "Best Game" from the Alberta Closed. It should not be confused with what is commonly known as the "Brilliancy Prize" which is another distinction altogether. Here you go!

White: Robichaud, Martin (2143)
Black: Haessel, Dale (2242)
C42 2008 Calgary Closed (Rnd 5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3 5.dxc3 Nc6 6.Bd3 h6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 d6 9.h3 Be6 10.b4 Nd7 11.c3 Ne7 12.Nh4 Nb6 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Be3 g5 15.Nf3 f5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.Qe4 Qc6 19.Qe2 Ra7?



20.Nd4 Qd7 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Qe4 Qd7 23.g3 Rf6 24.Kh2 Qc6 25.Qg4 Ng7 26.Qe8+ Kf7 27.Qb8 Qf3 28.Bh7 c6 1-0
 Nice game Martin, and congratulations on your \$50 endowment!

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2008 SCHLEINLICH MEMORIAL by Jim Daniluk

What a great tournament! Most players came looking for a fight and many games went 50-60 moves. This tenacity paid off big for Greg Huber as he scored an incredible 4.5/5 against master level competition. At least twice he squeezed out wins from the slimmest of advantages and did it with about 1 minute on his clock, playing on increment only. A very gutsy performance and a well deserved pay-day. The "Young Lions" were clustered around the middle of the crosstable with the best performance coming from Victor Kaminski who went undefeated at +2. He's once again nudging 2300. Two rusty veterans found themselves struggling to keep up. Both Knut and Sean had some promising (winning?) positions but had trouble converting in the end. Eric on the other hand, had some bad openings but used his superior calculating ability to avoid disaster. Dan was very steady, and should be pretty happy overall.

Section "A"

- 1.Greg Huber 2323 - 4.5
- 2.Knut Neven 2305 - 1
- 3.Eric Hansen 2288 - 2.5
- 4.Victor Kaminski 2275 - 3.5
- 5.Dan Kazmaier 2251 - 3
- 6.Sean Perron 2190 - .5

What a bizarre scenario in Section "B". MacKinnon blundered badly against Thomas Kaminski in round 1 and went on to win the section! Karmali won in round 1 after Roy botched a near winning end-

game, then lost 4 straight. Roy had trouble recovering from this loss and blew another better position against a very determined Robichaud. He settled for two draws on day two to finish at -2. Robichaud lost in round 1 then won 3 straight before falling to Mackinnon in round 5. Anyone who knows Martin's style will not be suprised that he had no draws. Thomas and Stephan had the steadiest (relatively) results.

Section "B"

- 1.Roy Yearwood 2150 - 1.5
- 2.Martin Robichaud 2143 - 3
- 3.Thomas Kaminski 2110 - 3
- 4.Keith MacKinnon 2036 - 3.5
- 5.Stephan Vasilev 2028 - 3
- 6.Hafiz Karmali 1995 - 1

Section "C" was not kind to the top seeds. Paul Usselman played his first tournament in years, but certainly hoped for more. Ron has also not played much lately and seemed a little too peaceful with 3 draws. The highly unpredictable Art Milne had an excellent weekend scoring an undefeated +2. The real story was recent newcomer Artur Wojtas. He was seeded fifth but scored a very impressive +2 also undefeated. Artur has been working hard on his game and the results are showing. The same is true of young David Zhang who was lowest ranked by far but scored an excellent 50%.I was originally concerned when David was seeded "up" into this group, but he proved he's ready. Bill Bentley started slowly but finished strongly to

finish +1.

Section "C"

- 1.Paul Usselman 1969 - 1
- 2.Ronald Hinds 1960 - 1.5
- 3.Art Milne 1886 - 3.5
- 4.Bill Bentley 1786 - 3
- 5.Artur Wojtas 1774 - 3.5
- 6.David Zhang 1662 - 2.5

The total ages of the six players in Section "D" isn't much higher than my age (depressing, eh?)! Elder Statesman Simon Ong scored an undefeated 4/5 beating his brother in the last round. Nicka also went undefeated and finished with an excellent 3.5/5. Top seed Tony Cai had a somewhat disappointing 2.5/5 but he'll be back strong, I'm sure. The bottom finishers Diwen and Gordon are both very young and are gaining valuable experience. The next Kaminski or Hansen may come from this group.

Section "D"

- 1.Tony Cai 1659 - 2.5
- 2.Simon Ong 1565 - 4
- 3.Nicka Kalaydina 1488 - 3.5
- 4.Raymond Ong 1466 - 2.5
- 5.Diwen Shi 1376 - 2
- 6.Gordon Cheung 1092 - .5

I very much enjoyed directing this tournament and sitting out for a change. The tournament ran very smoothly with no disputes. Thanks to all the participants who made my job easy.

2008 ALBERTA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

May 17-19	Calgary International Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
May 17-19	Canadian Chess Challenge Finals	Bruce Thomas	Edmonton
Jun 8 or 15	Winston Churchill Sq Chess Festival	Bruce Thomas	Edmonton
Jun 28-29	Battle At The Border	Jamin Gluckie	Lloydminster
July 31 -Aug 4	Edmonton International Chess Festival	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton
Aug 16	Battle of Alberta	Jim Daniluk / Micah Hughey	Red Deer
Aug 30-31	Over / Under 1800	Anastasia Kazakevich	Edmonton
Sept 13-14	Medicine Hat Open	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 11-13	Alberta Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Oct 25	Junior Battle of Alberta	Bruce Thomas	Red Deer
Nov 1-2	Alberta Junior	Richard Pua	Edmonton
Nov 15-16	Southern Alberta Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Dec 13-14	WBX Team Tournament	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN by Tony Ficzer

The Calgary Chess Club can now add another important event to their schedule. The first Calgary International Open was a resounding success from a participants point of view, at least according to several of players I spoke with. The hard work paid off for the club organizers who spent countless hours making sure everything would go just right. Special thanks should go to Jim Daniluk who was responsible for most of the organizing. My duties were limited to helping line up the top players, a pleasure at best as the three I.M.'s who we invited proved to be crowd pleasers for the rest of the players.

The weather for the event was excellent, not that anyone noticed. Very warm temperatures along with a clear blue sky can often distract your typical chess player. This was certainly one reason why attendance was just a bit short of what the club was hoping for. This should not be looked on as a negative as those in attendance rated the event highly.

The headliners for this years edition were all International Masters. Top ranked Igor Zugic traveled from Toronto. Igor spoiled chess fans first by doing a lecture at the Calgary club specifically designed for juni-

ors. Igor gave the players more than they bargained for, speaking for nearly three hours with a very professional presentation. To top that off, Igor gave a simul as a fundraiser for the Calgary Interfaith Foodbank the following afternoon in downtown Calgary at the PetroCan Centre. Boards were fully occupied for most of the three hour schedule. Both money and food donations were collected. Igor also provided a radio and a television interview to CBC. To make this an international event, you need to have players from other countries. This years tournament featured only one player from south of the border. International Master John Donaldson of San Francisco was a great addition. Everyone found



John to be very professional, and personable. On the evening of his arrival, John made himself available to members of the club for a lecture on Alberta born chess legend Frank Anderson. John is currently working on a book about Anderson, and he has certainly done his research. John is known for writing on obscure chess topics, and his written at least thirty seven books to date. It was evident from the beginning that John came to play. He thoroughly prepared for each game when possible and in the end won clear first. It wasn't until after the tournament finished that John actually sat back to relax. Our third titled player was none other than Canadian legend Lawrence Day. Lawrence also lives in Toronto (Weston to be more precise). Lawrence was on stage after Mr. Donaldson to give a lecture on his recent book "Nick's Best". Lawrence picked one game from the book, and as an added treat, he went over another game that is not in the book. It was an experience to have both I.M.'s at the club for the lecture at the same time as it made for some interesting conversation between the two.

On Friday morning Jim Daniluk and I treated our visiting masters to a trip to

2008 Battle at the Border

Lloydminster, AB (specific location in Lloydminster TBA)

June 28/29

Registration: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday June 28

Sections: Open, U1800

Format: 4 Round Swiss (accelerated pairings in first two rounds in either section if >17 players)

Round Times: 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Saturday); 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (Sunday)

Time Control: 120 minutes + 30 seconds / move

CFC and FIDE Rated

Entry Fee: \$30 (save \$5 by preregistering)

Prizes: Projected prize fund of \$1,500 (cash and prizes), based on number of entries.

TD: Jamin Gluckie

Misc: To pre-register you may send an e-mail to Jamin Gluckie at jgluckie@gmail.com. Among those already preregistered are Robert Sasata (2372), the highest rated player in Western Canada, and Jamin Gluckie (2114). More information about this event can be found at <http://scc.saskchess.com> under the Upcoming Events section.

Event Introduction

The Battle at the Border was held for the first time in October 2007 and it was an outstanding success by any measure. 30 players from 10 cities across Alberta and Saskatchewan traveled to Lloydminster to compete for over \$1200 in prizes. Because of this overwhelming response, organizers for the Battle decided to make it an annual event.

The BATB is a unique event in many ways. For example, there are only 4 rounds, but the time control is longer than normal (G/120 + 30s/mov). This is done to eliminate the typical Saturday grind that plagues most weekend swisses, and as a result increase the quality of chess being played.

The Battle at the Border is also known for its large prize fund. Just like last year, corporate sponsorship has been secured for the 2008 tournament and the projected prize fund is an estimated \$1,500. In addition, this year the BATB will feature door prizes that will be given away to all participants.

We hope you will consider playing in the 2008 Battle at the Border.

Banff for some leisure and sight-seeing. The surroundings were spectacular and we made good use of our limited time at one of the most breathtaking parks in Canada.



Friday at 6 p.m. marked the start of the tournament. TD Richard Kaminski used accelerated pairings so the first round wasn't a walk in the park for the top ranked. Note that I have collected over fifty games in Chessbase which will be put up on the web in due course. Please take the following light game annotations with a grain of salt, keeping in mind that on a good day, I am an 'A' class player at best!

Round One

With a \$2,500 prize fund, you can be sure that fighting chess was on the agenda. Board one had Nguyen against Zugic and the Alekhine defense. Nguyen had the extra pawn but was unable to convert the full point, hung tuff and a draw was the result. Board two saw John Donaldson face Roy Yearwood. As John put it, he knew Roy when he was Imlach! Roy was not up to the task and went down on move 26 however, there is no shame in a loss to a player of John's caliber. Board three had Sean Perron facing Lawrence Day. Hard to tell who was better throughout this struggle. Fritz seemed to like the white pieces for most of the game. Sean played solid and drew.

Round Two

As John won his first game, he moved up to board one. This time Victor Kaminski had white against Donaldson in a Sicilian. The play seemed even throughout, and a peaceful draw was agreed upon at move 37. Board two had Igor facing Alex Yam. Igor outplayed Alex, won a pawn on move 26 and took the full point at move 42. Lawrence had the white pieces against Kim Nguyen and played a fine king side attack to win by move 32.

Round Three

Donaldson faced Dale Haessel on board

one. This was a very hard fight throughout with a very interesting middle game. Although it didn't seem that obvious to me, John and Fritz both liked 25.Nd5 but the computer still gives black the edge here. By move 30 it was white who was better as the black knight was stuck to the side of the board and out of play. John pulled off the win at move 51. Board two saw another tough battle between Neven and Zugic with Knut playing the 3. Bb5 Sicilian. Igor won a pawn on move 27 and his better endgame technique won the game by move 54. Lawrence had a quick round when he mated Paul Usselman on move 17.

Round 4

Zugic was once again on top board, this time with the white pieces against Victor Kaminski. Victor chose the Benoni as his defense and was probably equal by the 15th move. Victor won a pawn on move 22 creating an outside passed pawn to boot. Kaminski's accurate play won him the full point when Igor resigned on move 54. A tough loss by Igor, but a fine win by Vic-



tor. Lawrence Day met John Donaldson on board two and the result was a peaceful draw by move 26. It seemed both players were conserving their energy for the next round. As three of the days featured two games per day, this was probably a wise tactic. Board three had Elmer Pasadilla versus F.M. Greg Huber. Greg had a healthy advantage by move 19... d5, and earned the win by move 31.

Round 5

Things were starting to heat up a bit. Victor was alone in the lead with 3.5 and showing no sign of letting up. Close behind at 3 points were Donaldson, Day, Haessel, Huber, Vasilev, and Mike Zeggelaar. The TD's choice of running the first three rounds as accelerated created some unique pairings to say the least. Victor played board one against Haessel and it

was agreed drawn by move 19. Donaldson versus Zeggelaar on board two was instructional, for Zeggelaar. Gentleman John won by move 39. Board three featured the only tough battle of the top boards where Huber faced Day with the English. Day pressed with his kingside attack and forced Huber to resign by move 42.

Round 6

The final day of play. With two rounds to go the only players to remain undefeated were Victor Kaminski, John Donaldson, and Lawrence Day, each with 4 points. Igor was close behind at 3.5 after winning round five against Roy Yearwood. Board one featured Zugic against Donaldson. Igor opened 1.e4 and the Sicilian was Donaldson's reply. According to Fritz, the position was dead even at move 26 but a few short moves later Donaldson obtained a dangerous looking passed 'a' pawn that might decide the game. Igor made a mistake with 29. Kf1 which likely cost him the game. John took the point at move 33. Meanwhile, Day played Kaminski on board two. Day played his "come and get me" style and Victor obtained the big centre. Victor played aggressive chess this round, and Day played his queen to a2 at one point which looked a little risky. Victor's queenside attack won the Day so to speak. The Haessel vs. Neven game managed to escape my eagle eye, but it was Haessel who emerged the winner on board three.

Round 7

The final round. Donaldson and Kaminski were alone with 5 points on the leader board. Dale Haessel accumulated 4.5 points while Rob Gardner worked his way around the room to get to 4 points with Day and Huber. On board one, Donaldson played Huber to the shortest draw of the tournament when they shook hands at move 13. That left John with 5.5. If Victor could win his last round against the Rocket, he would take clear first and all the beans. Victor had white on board two and the ball was clearly in his court. Rob played for the kingside attack and soon had a queen and rook battery on the h file, in front of his pawn chain. Sure didn't look like a draw would be the outcome. By move 20 Rob's attack moved to the g file but Fritz still liked Victor. Kaminski tried to combine defense with attack but it wasn't enough. The Rocket uncorked his rook sac with 29... Rxc4! and claimed victory on move 33. Day made it look easy on

board three against Haessel (with a little help from Dale). The Falkbeer Counter Gambit was Haessels choice, but Dale gave up a piece early and resigned by move 19.

After the dust settled, John Donaldson captured clear first place with 5.5, followed by Lawrence Day, Victor Kaminski, and Robert Gardner with 5. Zugic won his last round game to finish in the money as well along with F.M. Greg Huber and Dale Haessel with 4.5. Sean Perron and Stephan Vasilev drew in the last round and split first place in the Under 2200 section with 4.5 points. Kim Nguyen and Thomas Kaminski took the remainder of the prize money in this section with 4 points. In the Under 2000 section, Rick Pedersen claimed clear first with 4 points, and six players, Brian Miller, Aaron Sequillion, Paul Usselman, Elmer Pasadilla, Art Milne and Adam Harris took the rest of the cash at 3.5 points. Mike Zeggelaar, Raymond Ong and Eoin Dunne split the Under 1600 prize money each scoring 3 points.

A very exciting finish indeed, and we can't wait until next year to see it again. The nice thing about a tournament like this is that it gives all the players a chance to meet, talk, and play with the seasoned veterans. This is the distinguishing factor between the Calgary International, and the Edmonton International, the latter designed to provide FIDE norm opportunities. Although Donaldson was the clear and deserved winner of the event, the real story of the tournament was the exceptional play of young Victor Kaminski. Victor managed to play all three international masters, defeating two of them, and drawing with the tournament winner. Quite an accomplishment indeed. This must have been sweet consolation for Victor coming off his unexpected poor showing at the Alberta Championship back in March. I am sure we will be seeing more great chess from this talented junior in the years to come. Another aspect of this tournament that should not go unnoticed was the sportsmanship of the three international masters. Many players were surprised at just how down to earth all three were for the duration of the entire tournament. Even though by his own standards Igor didn't have a great tournament, you wouldn't have known it as he was as gracious in defeat as he was in victory. What can you say about Lawrence Day that hasn't been said before. He's a great guy all around, and is a walk-

ing encyclopedia of chess knowledge willing to share a story with anyone within earshot. John Donaldson was quite impressive. His professional approach and self discipline was visible to all, and he set an example for all players at the tournament. A full crosstable is available on the ACA website (www.albertachess.org) as well as the CFC site (www.chess.ca). John Donaldson and Lawrence Day have graciously analyzed some of their games. Enjoy!

**Kaminski,Victor (2285)
Donaldson,John (2518)
B34 Calgary International (Rnd 2)
Notes by John Donaldson**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6
7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 d5 is the idea behind the Accelerated - ...d7-d5 in one go instead of ...d7-d6-d5 as in the Dragon. To combat this the advance ...d5 White needs to put a pawn or Bishop on c4 or try the text.

7...bxc6 8.e5
Trading on c6 is usually not dangerous for Black in the Sicilian but the text is what makes it possible - Black must sacrifice a pawn or lose time with his Knight.

8...Ng8
Both Fischer and Kasparov (both playing against computers!) preferred this move to 8...Nd5.

9.Bd4 f6 10.f4 Qa5 11.Qe2
The pawn sac 11.Qd2 has also been tried.
11...fxe5 12.Bxe5 Nf6 13.0-0-0
Another possibility is 13.Qc4 trying to stop Black from castling. After 13...Qb6 14.0-0-0 d5 15.Qa4 0-0 16.Bd4 play was equal in Ulibin-Serper, Tbilisi 1989.

13...0-0
The great Accelerated Dragon Expert Sergei Tiviakov chose to prevent White's next move with 13...d5 (14.Qe1 0-0 15.Be2 Rf7 16.Bf3 Bf5 17.a3 Qb6 18.h3 Raf8 19.g4 Bc8 20.Na4 Qb5 21.Be2= Volokitin-Tiviakov, Copenhagen 2002, but has more recently preferred to castle and retain the option of ...d7-d6.

14.Qc4+
14.Bd4 is the main line getting out of the way of ...d6 - 14...d5 (14...e6 15.a3 Nh5 16.g3 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 d5 18.Bh3 Ng7 19.Qe5± Martinez,R -Tiviakov, Bratto 2007.) 15.Qe1 Rb8 (15...Rf7 16.a3 Nh5 17.Bxg7 Nxf7 18.Bd3 Rb8 19.Qe5 Rb7 20.Rhf1= Kurnosov-Tiviakov, Krasnoyarsk 2003.) 16.a3 Rb7 17.Nb1 Qxe1 18.Rxe1=

Kovchan-Vokarev, Swidnica 1999.
14...Kh8 15.Bd3?

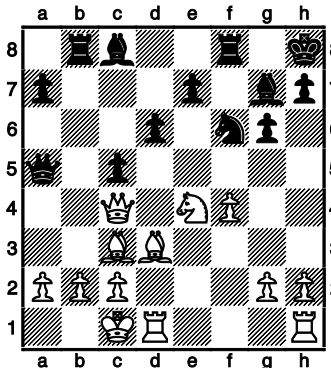
The text looks natural but now White's lost of control on the d-file should be decisive. Better is 15.Be2 d6 16.Qxc6 Rb8 17.Bd4 Qb4 18.Nb1 Bf5 19.a3 Rfc8 20.axb4 Rxc6 21.Be3 Rxb4 22.Bf3= Szoen -Fedorov, Warsaw 2005.; 15.h4?! is too ambitious. 15...d6 16.h5 dxe5 17.h6 Bxh6 18.Rxh6 Rb8 19.fxe5 (19.Re1 Qb6 20.Nd1 Ng4?) 19...Ng4?

15...d6 16.Bd4
The difference between Be2 and Bd3 becomes clear - Black's picks up an important tempo: 16.Qxc6 Rb8 17.Bd4 Rb4 18.Be3 Bd7 with a decisive initiative.

16...Rb8!
16...c5 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 (17...exf6 18.f5) 18.Nd5
17.Ne4
17.Ne2 was relatively best to clear c3 for the Bishop as in the game, but without allowing Black some decisive blows.

17...c5?!
17...Rb4 18.Qc3 Qa4! the move Victor and I missed 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 with a winning position for Black who is attacking f4 and e4 with b2 a target as well.

18.Bc3



18...Qb6?
A serious mistake. Victor and I both were under the illusion that 18...Nxe4 led to a draw after 19.Bxa5 Bxb2+ but in fact Black's wins with the following pretty sequence: 20.Kb1 Bd4+ 21.Kc1 (21.Qb3 Rxb3+ 22.axb3 Nf2) 21...Be3+ 22.Bd2 Bxd2+ 23.Rxd2 Rb1+!

19.Nxf6 Bxf6 20.Rde1!
Well played as the natural 20.Rhe1 runs into 20...d5! when White is in trouble: 21.Qxd5 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Bg4 23.Be2 (23.Qe5+ Rf6 24.Qxe7 Re6) 23...Qb2+ 24.Kd2 Rbd8
20...e6
20...d5 21.Qxd5 Bxc3 22.bxc3 is now okay for White.
21.Bxf6+ Rxf6 22.Qc3 Kg7 23.a3

23.g4 Qb4 was Black's idea.

23...Qc7

23...d5 24.Qe5 c4 leads to a draw after 25.g4 cxd3 26.g5 d2+ 27.Kxd2 Qf2+ 28.Kd1 Qf3+ 29.Re2 Qxh1+ 30.Kd2 Kg8 31.gxf6 Qg1 32.Qxb8 Qd4+

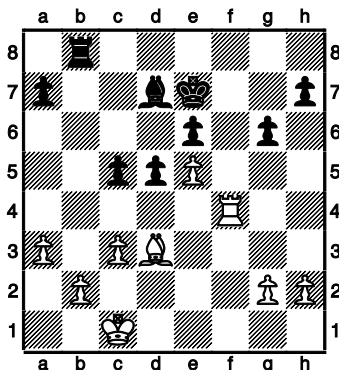
24.Rhf1 d5 25.Qe5

Getting low on time White steers for a slightly better ending.

25...Qxe5 26.fxe5 Rf7

Black wants the choice of where to put his King and ...Rfb7 is an idea.

27.Rxf7+ Kxf7 28.Rf1+ Ke7 29.c3 Bd7 30.Rf4



30...Bb5

This gets rid of Black's problem child. The Rook and not the Bishop ending is what Black should be seeking.

31.Bxb5 Rxb5 32.Rh4 h5 33.g4 Kf7 34.gxh5 gxh5 35.Rf4+

35.Rxh5 Kg6 allows Black's King too much activity.

35...Kg7 36.Rf6 Rb6 37.Kc2

After 37...c4 neither side can do anything constructive. I was very impressed with Victor's play in the tournament. Alberta chess has two very promising juniors in him and Eric Hansen. ½-½

Donaldson, John (2518)

Haessel, Dale (2235)

D76 Calgary International (Rnd 3)

Notes by John Donaldson

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Nb6 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.e3 Re8 10.d5 Na5 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.e4 c6 13.Bf4 cxd5 14.exd5 Rc8 15.Re1

White's other option is 15.Rc1. The text envisions placing the Rooks on d1 and e1 but the Knight on c3 is less protected.

15...Nbc4 16.b3 Qb6

I remembered P.H. Nielsen-Carlson, Germany 2005, where White won brilliantly after 16...Nb2 17.Qd2 Nac4 18.bxc4 Nxc4 19.Qd3 Nb2 20.Qe3 Nc4 21.Qe4! f5 22.

Qd3 Nb2 23.Qd2 Nc4 24.Qd1! Nb2 25.Qb3! Bxd4 26.d6+ This is the point! 26...e6 (26...Kg7 27.Qxb2 Bxc3 28.Be5+-) 27.Nd5!

17.Nce2 Ne5

This hasn't been played before but Dale, who is always exceptionally well-prepared, said it had been suggested. Usually the Knight goes to d6 so I my thought was that White should be better here as the Knight looks loose. It turns out things are not so simple.

18.Qd2 Red8 19.h3

19.Rad1 is also possible but I wanted to take away g4 from Black's pieces.

19...e6

This is Black's plan. He wants to dissolve the pawn on d5 to bring his Knight on a5 back into the game.

20.Be3

During the game I was kicking myself for not inserting 20.Bg5 with the idea of forcing ...f6 and then retreating to e3 but both Fritz 10 and Rybka think Black should sacrifice the exchange with 20...exd5 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 with reasonable play.

20...Qa6 21.Bh6

21.Rad1 looks more consistent. One important line is 21...exd5 22.Nc3 Be6 23.f4 Nec6 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Bf1 Bxc3 26.Qxc3 d4 27.Qc5 d3 28.Bd2 and White has a very dangerous initiative.

21...Bh8 22.Nc3?

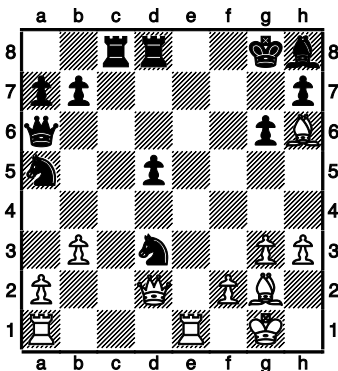
22.Bg5! Re8 (22...f6 23.Bh6) 23.dxe6 Bxe6 24.Nxe6 Rxe6 25.Rac1 was the right continuation with a clear advantage for White.

22...Nd3 23.dxe6??

Although the text is tricky it should meet with a simple refutation. 23.Bf1 is objectively better with a slight edge for Black.

23...Bxe6 24.Nxe6 fxe6

And not 24...Bxc3?? 25.Nxd8 Bxd2 26.Re8#] **25.Nd5 exd5?**



25...Nxe1 26.Rxe1 Bc3! which we both missed was a clean win.; 25...Rxd5 fails to

26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rad1 Bc3 28.Qg5 Qc6 29.Rxd3 Bxe1 30.Qe7 but

26.Re8+

Now the fun starts.

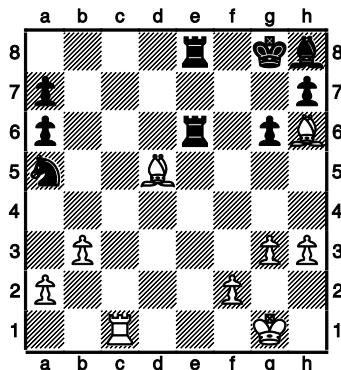
26...Rxe8

26...Kf7 27.Rxh8 Rxh8 28.Bxd5+ is not advisable for Black.

27.Bxd5+ Re6 28.Qxd3 Rce8?

This innocent move throws away Black's winning chances were still very much in the cards after 28...Kf7!

29.Qxa6 bxa6 30.Rc1



Black for the moment has an extra Rook but his pieces are completely tied up and the Knight on a5 is falling.

30...Kf7 31.Re5 Nb7 32.Bxb7

With a pawn for the exchange and Black having doubled a-pawns as targets White is no longer worse and can play without risk. Unfortunately for Dale his old Achilles heel, time pressure, which has which has already influenced play the past few moves, becomes even more acute as he plays on not much more than the increment of 30 seconds each move.

32...Bd4 33.Rc4 Rd6 34.Bf3 Re7 35.Kg2 Bg7 36.Bf4 Be5 37.Be3 Rd3 38.Ra4 Bb8 39.Be4 Rd1 40.Kf3 Re6 41.Ke2 Rd7 42.Bd3 Kg7 43.Bc4 Red6 44.Bxa6 Re7 45.Be4 h5? Things were already difficult but creating a weakness on g6 spells the end. **46.h4 Rdd7 47.Kf3 Rd8 48.Ra6 Rf8+ 49.Kg2 Rd7 50.Be2 Re7 51.Bd3 1-0**

Huber, Greg (2235)

Day, Lawrence (2265)

A10 Calgary International (Rnd 5)

Suttles System

Notes by Lawrence Day

Greg and I had played two draws previously, at Kingston 1992 and Edmonton 1996. Both started with 1.e4 so this time is something different.

1. c4 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 Nc6 4. Nc3 d6 5. d3

Miles-Suttles, Hastings 1973 went 5.Rb1 a5 6.a3 f5 7.e3 Nf6 8.d3 O-O 9.Nge2 Ne5 10.O-O Nf7 11.b4 axb4 12.axb4 c6 13.b5 Bd7 with a long draw. Suttles-Piasetski, Vancouver Futurity 1984 went 5.Rb1 a5 6.f4 f5 7.Nf3 e5 8.d3 Nf6 with an interesting struggle. Filipovich-Day, Canadian Closed, Scarboro 1991 went 5.e3 Bd7 6.b3 a6 7.Nge2 b5 8.Rb1 Rb8 9.d3 Qc8 10.Bb2 bxc4 11.dxc4 Nd8 12.Nd5 f6 13.e4 c6 14.Ne3 c5 15.h4 Nh6 16.h5 g5 17.Qd2 Nc6 18.Rd1 Nf7 when White needs 19.f3! to avoid 19.Nc3? g4! with a ferocious boa constrictor grip and White's over-extended h5-pawn an untenable target.

5..Bd7
Bilek-Suttles, Venice 1974 tried 5..Nh6!? which challenges White to attempt to take advantage by 6.h4. Instead Bilek played passively with 6.e3 Bd7 7.Nge2 Qc8 8.h3 a6 with Black healthy and eventually successful. The incidental target at h3 prevents the natural 0-0 which in turn keeps the R/h1 from participation in queenside line-openers. This is game 100 annotated deeply, a whole chapter, in Harper and Seirawan's "Chess on the Edge" Vol. 1, 100 Selected Games of Duncan Suttles. A young Kevin Spraggett also tried this development in the early '70s, winning a key Swiss game against Jan Krotki. Of course Black also has the 'normal' 5..Nf6 as in Petrosian-Taimanov, USSR Championship 1958: It slithered 6. Rb1 a5 7. Nf3 O-O 8. O-O Bd7 9. a3 Qc8 10. b4 axb4 11. axb4 Nh5 12. Qd2 Bh3 13. b5 Bxg2 14. Kxg2 Nd8 15. Bb2 and finally Black occupied the centre by ..e5 with even chances.

6. e4
There is a big choice here. 6.Bd2!? Qc8 7. Qc1 is interesting monkey tactics successful in Ree-Taimanov, Euroteams, 1965. Both sides can keep the e-pawn's advance as a deferred option. But Taimanov played 7..e5 and answered 8.h4 h5 with rough equality. 6.Rb1 a6 7.Bd2 Qc8 8.Qc1 h5 9. h4 Ne5!? 10.b4 Bc6!? 10.f3 Nh6 12.b5 axb5 13.cxb5 Bd7 14.Nd5!? Kd8! 15.d4 Be6 16.Nxe7 Nxf3+ favours Black but produced a chaotic up and down and up again time scramble in Cummings-Day Brighton 1981. Another interesting idea is John Watson's 6.Qd2!? which he surprised me with at the Ed Lasker Memorial, New York, 1981: 6..a6 7.b3 h5 8.h3 Rb8 9.Bb2 e5 10.Nf3 Nd4!? 11.Ng1!? Ne6!? etc. Theoretically Black could just repeat the position with 11..Nc6 instead. Spraggett-Day, Canadian Open, Calgary, 1996 went 6.e3 Qc8 7.h3 a6 8.Nge2 Rb8 9.b3 b5 10. Rb1 b4 11.Nd5 Nd8 12.e4 c6 13.Ne3 c5 14.d4 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nb7 16.h4 Nf6 17.

Nd5 Bg4 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qd2 Nc5 20. Bb2 was about equal but 20..Bxd4?! gave White the edge.

6..Nd4!?
6..e5 worked a couple of times for Suttles in the 1960's, notably against Sliwa and Sahovich, but in the 1980s Spraggett was so effective with the "Botvinnik Wall" of c4-d3-e4 that Taimanov's simpler 6..Nd4 from 1965 now seems probably best.

7. Be3 c5
Leaving the long diagonal open is positionally logical.

8. Nge2 e6 9. O-O Ne7 10. Qd2 h6
It is important to keep the dark-squared Bs on the board even though the pressure on h6 prevents castling.

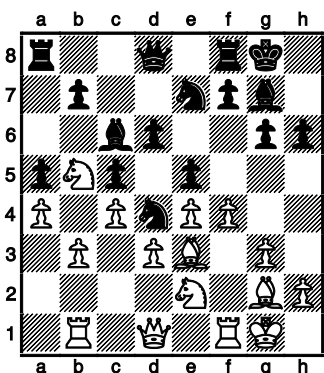
11. Rab1 a5 12. f4
12.f3!? was interesting.

12..Bc6 13. a4
This surprised me. I expected 14.Bf2 after which 15.Nxd4 would become possible.

13..Nb3
Playing to win the a-pawn by 13..Nxe2+ 14.Qxe2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qd7 would leave the dark squares very weak.

14. Qd1 Nd4 15. Nb5!?
Bravely avoiding repetition.

15..e5 16. b3 O-O



17. fxe5!?
Scarier was 17.f5!? gxf5 18.Bxd4 exd4 19. exf5 but Black holds things together with 19..Bf6!

17..dxe5 18. Nbc3
Wrong Knight to aim for d5 probably.

18..Bd7 19. Qd2
After 19.h3 f5 20.Qd2 Kh7 Black's kingside pawn majority gives active play.

19..Bg4!
Defending h6 by a counterattack keeps White off balance.

20. Nc1 Kh7 21. h3 Be6 22. Nd5 Bxd5
The straight-forward move. 22..f5 also kept some advantage.

23. cxd5
After the safer 23.exd5 Nef5 24.Bf2 h5 25. Qe1 f5 26.Ne2 White is not too badly off.

23..Nc8
This Knight will be excellently placed on d6 blockading White's passed pawn while supporting f7-f5 and pressuring e4. In contrast White's N/c1 is out of orbit for the 'perfect' c4-square.

24. Ne2 Nd6 25. Rf2
This accomplishes little while precluding Nxd4. A calmer defence was 25.Nxd4 cxd4 26.Bf2 although with ..Qb6 Black keeps a slight edge.

25..Qd7 26. Kh2 f5 27. h4?!
There is danger in allowing an entry point at g4. 27.Qb2 was a better move.

27..fxe4 28. dxe4 Qg4!?
At the time I thought this the winning move.

29. Nc3 Rxf2 30. Bxf2 Rf8 31. Qe3?!
Silicon suggests 31.Be1 with the trap 31.. Rf3?? 32.Bh3 freaking the Q. Under pressure from the clock White missed this idea. Play might have gone 31..h5!? 32.Qd1 Nf3+ Bxf3 Rxf3 34.Kg2 Rxc3!? with excellent compensation for the exchange gambit. For example after 35.Bxc3 Qxe4+ 36.Kh2 b6 37.Rc1 Nf5 38.d6 Ne3 39.Qg1 Qd3 White's weak King position prevents him from exploiting the advanced passed pawn.

31..b6
As White has no play Black can quietly improve his position by cementing the Queenside pawns and activating the B/g7.

32. Rb2 h5
Gradual progress. 32..c4!? also had points. After 33.Bh3 Nf3+ 34.Kg2 Nxf4+ 35.Kh2 Nf3+ 36.Kg2 Qg5 37.Qxg5 Nxg5 Black is still better, but White's Bishop would have become dangerous so there is natural counterplay.

33. Qe1 Bh6 34. Qd1?
Necessary was 34.Bxd4 followed by 35. Nd1 enabling 36.Nf2 to drive back the Queen. White might still hold except for the clock problem.

34..Nf3+ 35. Bxf3 Rxf3 36. Qe1 Rd3
Also 36..g5 won. The possible error would be to waste too much clock time choosing which win was better.

37. Rc2 Qf3 38. Kg1 Bd2
38..Nxe4 was fancier.

39. Rxd2 Rxc3 40. Qf1 Nxe4 41. Rd1 Nd6 42. Qh3 Nf5 0-1

The Calgary International will be back next year. The organizers learned a great deal this year and will apply this knowledge to bring you an even better tournament next year. Thanks to all involved!



JULY 31 THROUGH AUGUST 4, 2008

EDMONTON CHESS CLUB

#204, 10840 124 st. Edmonton, Alberta Canada

9 ROUND SWISS SYSTEM

I.M. & G.M. norms possible

ELIGIBILITY

All FIDE titled players and Alberta Masters (Albertans rated 2200+ CFC or FIDE) are allowed to participate. A few spots may be available to high rated FIDE untitled players from outside the province. Please notify the organizers of your intent to play by email for instructions how to do so.

ENTRY

Free for G.M.'s, I.M.'s and W.G.M.'s.

Before July 1st: F.M.'s, W.I.M.'s, W.F.M.'s, juniors 18 and under \$120. All others \$150

After July 1st: F.M.'s, W.I.M.'s, W.F.M.'s, juniors 18 and under \$140. All others \$170

Full refunds are available until June 15, payments can be made in Canadian Dollars, or in US Dollars for people sending cheques outside of Canada.

ROUND TIMES

July 31st: 7:00 pm. August 1st: 11:00 am, 7:00 pm. August 2nd-4th: 11:00 am, 7:00 pm.

TIME CONTROL

Game 90 for the first 40 moves, plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with 30 seconds increment added to each move starting from move 1.

ANTI-DRAW RULES

Games may not be agreed to a draw before move 30.

Participants of games in which a draw was achieved quickly by a three-fold repetition and finished in a well known theoretical position may be asked to replay the game.

A penalty for violation of those would be a 10% reduction in any prize fund winning

PRIZES

\$2500 Canadian Guaranteed

1st: \$1000 2nd: \$500 3rd: \$250

Best under 2400 (FIDE): \$400

Best Albertan: \$350

The prizes are expected to increase with fund-raising activities and they are expected to include some class prizes

ADVANCED ENTRIES

GM Alexander Shabalov (2633, USA)

GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2614, India)

GM Jesse Kraai (2509, USA)

IM Josh Friedel (2484, USA)

IM Edward Porper (2482, Israel)

IM John Donaldson (2414, USA)

FM Bindi Cheng (2294, Burnaby, BC, Canada)

Eric Hansen (2241, Calgary, Canada)

FM Greg Huber (2236, Calgary, Canada)

Dale Haessel (2142, Calgary, AB Canada)

Sponsored by: Edmonton Chess Club, The Alberta Chess Association, The City of Edmonton,
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