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NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The New York State Chess Association, Inc., America's oldest chess organization, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting chess in New York State at all levels. As the State Affiliate of the United States Chess Federation, its Directors also serve as USCF Voting Members and Delegates.

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December 15 for the Winter Issue
March 15 for the Spring Issue
June 15 for the Summer Issue
September 15 for the Fall Issue

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2012: The Year For Chess

A new year is here, and it's another exciting year for chess. On the international level, one of our former champions, Hikaru Nakamura, is lighting up the world stage and hopefully working toward a threat on the world title. It's hard to believe that 2012 will mark the 40th anniversary of New Yorker Bobby Fischer winning the world title.

New Yorkers fill the ranks of the All-American Chess Team and the United States contingent of International Grandmasters. New York City remains the port of entry for titled chess players of the world to come to America and join our ranks.

While we hate to lose any member of our New York chess family, it is a source of pride when a new chess program starts in Texas, they come to New York to hire a Susan Polgar or Ronen Har-Zvi to fill their ranks. Despite the dreams of USCF Executive Director Bill Hall of a Texas-centric chess world, it doesn't happen the other way around.

We continue to take bids for the 2013 New York State Scholastic Championship, with a cutoff date of January 31. So far, there are at least three interested parties in the Scholastic Championship. As one of our two showcase events, it is a great pleasure to have new interest and be able to bring the world's longest-running scholastic tournament to new venues across the state. In strength every year, our state scholastic and the Greater New York City Scholastic rivals the Nationals.

The same is true of our State Championship. As the longest-running event of its kind across the country, it is one of the highlights of the "National Chess Weekend" on Labor Day. Believe it or not, the first time a NYSCA press release was posted on the USCF web site on the State Championship results, there actually was opposition from people at USCF that the publicity was unfair.

That changed for the better. In 2012, you can make your piece of the chess world change for the better too. All it takes is you!

EMPIRE CHESS

“The magazine of America’s oldest chess organization”
Volume XXXIV, Number 4 – Winter 2011-12

Cover: *The winners of the Buffalo Holiday Classic surround Archangel 8 Chess Academy organizer Michael McDuffie (courtesy Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner).*

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Spring issue is March 15, 2012**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Correction from Fall Issue: On page 7 of the last issue a move was missing from the Chandran - Treger game. Omitted was 42...Qd5+ 43 Qe4. Thank you to Harold Stenzel for noting the error, and we apologize for it.

Prieto Stubbornly Challenges Kistler's Northern Rule

by Don Klug

Watertown Chess Club Chess Expert Dr. David Kistler, cruised past 10 players and the 2011 36-game tournament schedule with an impressive record of +30-3=3. His closest opponent, Adolfo Prieto, finished a distant second to qualify as the challenger to Dr. Kistler for the four game club championship match, currently in progress. During the long March to November season, Dr. Kistler out-pointed Mr. Prieto 7.5-0.5 in their eight individual tournament games. The 2011 Club Championship appeared to be "in the bag".

GAME 1-November 29, 2011

Dr. Kistler won an intense first-round game, playing the White side of the exchange version of the Ruy Lopez. Kistler slowly built a slight positional edge and then sprung a nice combination to trade down pieces with 24. Ne7+!. White's capture on 26. Rxd7 landed the White Rook on the seventh rank and forced the loss of the now backward black c6 pawn. Black resigned when White's King reached Black's back rank with 62.Kb8, guaranteeing a new White Queen. Dr. Kistler now appeared ready to cruise to a second championship. A second win or two draws would clinch the championship. Mr. Adolfo Prieto, a Category 1 player and the 2008 and 2009 club champion, didn't seem to get that memo.

Kistler, David (2046) - Prieto, Adolfo (1900) [C68]
WCC 2011 Championship Match Watertown, NY
(game 1)

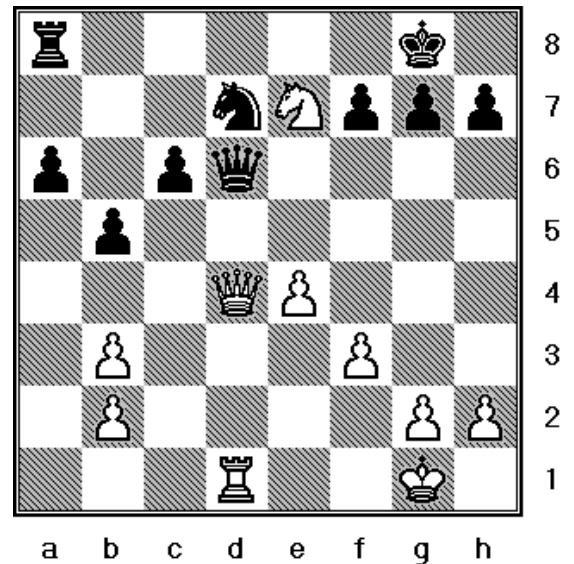
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6

Recommended by long time member Mr. F. Barrett
4...bxc6 5.0-0 (5.Nxe5 Qg5 6.Nf3 Qxg2 7.Rg1 Qh3=)
5...Qf6 6.c3 c5 7.d3 Ne7 8.Bg5 Qe6 9.Nbd2 Ng6
10.Nc4 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.d4 exd4 13.cxd4 cxd4
14.Qxd4 0-0=]

**5.0-0 Qd6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5 8.Nb3 Be6 9.Be3
Qc6 10.Nc3 Nf6 11.f3 Be7 12.Qe2 b5 13.Qf2 Bxb3
14.axb3 0-0 15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Ne2 Rd7 17.Rxd7
Nxd7 18.Nc3 c4 19.Nd5 Bf6 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4
Qd6 22.Rd1 cxb3 23.cxb3 c6**

[A. 23...Re8 24.Qa7 Nf6 25.Qxc7 Qe6 26.Nxf6+
Qxf6 27.Rd6; B. 23...c5 24.Ne7+ Qxe7 25.Qxd7
Qxd7 26.Rxd7 Kf8 may have been the better option,
allowing Black to hold the "c" pawn.]

24.Ne7+!



**24...Qxe7 25.Qxd7 Qxd7 26.Rxd7 Kf8 27.Rc7 Ke8
28.Rxc6 Kd7 29.Rc5 Rb8 30.b4 Rb6 31.Kf2 Rd6
32.Ke3 Ke6 33.f4 g6 34.Re5+ Kf6 35.Rd5 Rc6
36.Rc5 Re6 37.g4 Ke7 38.Kd4 Rd6+ 39.Rd5 Rc6
40.Re5+ Kd7 41.Rd5+ Ke7 42.Rc5 Rd6+ 43.Ke3
Rd1 44.Rc6 Rb1 45.Rc2 Ra1 46.Kd4 a5 47.bxa5
Rxa5 48.b4 Ra3 49.Kc5 Re3 50.e5 Re4**

*Fritz suggests [50...g5 51.f5 Rxe5+ 52.Kd4 Re1
53.Rc7+ Kf6 54.Rc6+ Kg7 55.h3 Rd1+ 56.Kc5 Rd3
57.Kxb5 Rxh3 58.Ka6 but White still Queens the "b"
pawn.]*

51.Rf2 f6+-

*Fritz again suggests 51...g5 52.Kxb5 gxf4 53.Kc5
Ke6 54.b5 Kxe5 55.b6 Re1 56.b7 but the "b" pawn
still Queens.] 52.exf6+ Kxf6 53.Kxb5 Ke6 54.Kc5
Re1 55.f5+ gxf5 56.gxf5+ Kf6 57.b5 Rc1+ 58.Kb6
Rc3 59.Kb7 h5 60.b6 [60.Ra2 Kxf5 61.b6 h4 62.Ka7
Rb3 63.b7 Kg4 64.b8Q Rxb8 65.Kxb8+-
60...h4 61.Ka8 Ra3+ 62.Kb8 1-0*

GAME 2-December 6, 2011

Mr. Prieto, playing White in game two, seemed surprised by Dr. Kistler's "Old Benoni" defense to 1.d4 with 1...c5. By move 11, an even position had settled in. By move 22, Mr. Prieto had built a slight positional edge, holding the center while Dr. Kistler's bishops countered with their long-range control. However, as we have all experienced, the superior position disappear in a heartbeat. Mr. Prieto's move 23. f4 followed later by 25. fxg5 seemed to overreach and the battle was on. It appeared Dr. Kistler would exploit yet another seemingly logical attacking move and sweep the tournament. Dr. Kistler had the potential killer move of 23....d5 24. Ne5 Re6 25. fxg5, and now the punishing pawn move 25...d4 would force the White Queen Knight to the back rank. Now 26....hxg5 27 Bxg5 liberates Black's Queen with 27...Qd5

and White's King position would be under great stress.

Not so fast! In a tactical position nightmare Dr. Kistler's capture 25. hxc5 allowed White to escape certain disaster and regain a brief advantage. Time pressure took a great toll on both players in this seesaw game as both erred down the stretch. Black missed the opportunity to invade with his Rook by 36...Nf6 37 Rg5 Rd2 and then on the move 39...b5? which again should have been 39...Nf6, he lost a piece to the Knight fork. White, also suffering time pressure with less than 3 minutes on his clock missed the win, giving back the piece with 45. Nxc5 Bd4+. White, under heavy time pressure accepted Black's draw offer, leaving Dr. Kistler one draw from another title.

Prieto, Adolfo (1900) - Kistler, David (2046) [A70]
WCC 2011 Championship Match (game 2)

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 Nf6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.h3 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.cxd5 Nbd7 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bg5

11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Be3 b6 gives White a passed pawn.

11...Nxd3 12.Qxd3 h6 13.Bf4! a6 14.a4 Re8 15.Rfe1 b6 16.Nd2 Re7 17.Nc4 Ne8 18.Qg3 Rd7 19.e5

19.a5 bxa5 20.Na4 g5 21.Bd2 Rb7 22.Bxa5! Qe7 23.e5 dxe5 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.Rxe5 Qf8 26.Bb6 Ng7 27.Bxc5 Qd8+-

19...g5 20.Bd2 Bb7 21.e6 fxe6 22.dxe6 Re7 23.f4? d5 24.Ne5 Rxe6 25.fxc5 hxc5

If Black instead responds with 25...d4 26.Nd1 hxc5 27.Bxc5 Qd5 White's King is under heavy stress and Black's passed "d" pawn should become the instrument to win the championship.

26.Bxc5 Qc7 27.Bf4 d4 28.Nf3=

White chooses to address Black's Queenside pawn attack. [The irony of White attacking the Black King gives Black the edge: 28.Ng6 Rxc6 29.Qxc6 Qxf4 30.Rxe8+ Rxe8 31.Qxe8+ Kh7 32.Qh5+ Kg8 33.Nd1 Qe4 34.Qf3 Qxf3 35.gxf3 Bxf3 36.Kf2 Bh5?]

28...Qc6 29.Rxe6 Qxe6 30.Re1 Qd7 31.Ne4 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Nf6.

Black's powerful "d and c" pawns are compensation for his exposed King.

33.Re5 Re8

Both players are encountering time pressure.

34.Rg5?

34.Bh6 will hold White's slight advantage. 34...Rxe5 35.Nxe5 Qb7 36.Bxc7 Nh5 37.Qg5 Nxc7 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Ng4±

34...Ne4 35.Qg4 Qxc4 36.Rxc4 Kh7?

36...Nf6 37.Rg5 Re2 38.b3 Rb2

37.Rh4+ Kg6 38.Rg4+ Kf7 39.Bc7

Gives away Whites advantage.[39.Be5 Bxe5 40.Rxe4

Bf6 41.Rxe8 Kxe8 42.b

39...b5?

A time pressure error [39...Nf6]

40.Rxe4 Rxe4 41.Ng5+ Ke7 42.Nxe4 d3 43.axb5 axb5 44.Ba5 Bxb2 45.Nxc5?

45.Kf2 Bd4+ 46.Ke1

45...Bd4+ 46.Kf1 Bxc5 47.Ke1 Be3

Under heavy time pressure, White accepts Black's draw offer. ½-½

GAME 3-December 20, 2011

Game 3 was delayed a week due to Dr. Kistler's professional schedule. Mr. Prieto used the time wisely to review game one. Dr. Kistler again opened with the Ruy Lopez line 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6, and a repeat of game one was in the offering. Mr. Prieto found an improvement to his seventh move of game one with 7...Bd7, allowing a Queenside castle on 8...0-0-0. Dr. Kistler needed to adjust his game plan and attack the Black King: for instance, moving 13. N4b3 instead of the pawn push 13.f5 would have forced the exchange of the dark squared Bishops and offered a White attack on the diagonal g1-a7. White's move 14.c3 again should have been 14.N4b3 forcing the exchange of the Bishops. White's position, by now quite cramped, was further aggravated by move 15.N4f3. Black captured the Knight with 15...Bxf3, leading to his advantage of two minor pieces for a rook. At this point, with White trying to extradite himself from his somewhat cramped position, Black waited for just the right moment to spring into further action. White's 23. Rg1 was the right moment for Black's 23...Ng3+, forcing White to trade his Queen for the two Black minor pieces. Now Black, just needed to mop up for the upset win.

(6) Kistler, David (2046) - Prieto, Adolfo (1900) [C68]

WCC 2011 Championship Match (game 3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Qd6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Be3 0-0-0 9.Nd2 Qg6 10.f4 Bc5

The alternative Bishop move favors White 10...Bg4 11.f5 Qh5 12.Qe1 Bc5 13.c3=

11.Qf3 Bg4 12.Qf2 Nf6 13.f5

13.N4b3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 and White has the needed counter attack on the Black King.

13...Qh5 14.c3

White must move 14.N4b3 now. 14...Bd6 15.h3 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Bf4 Qg4+ 18.Kh1 g5 19.Bxd6 cxd6 20.Rae1 Qh3+=.

14...Rhe8 15.N4f3?

Is a disaster for White. [15.h3 Be2 16.g4 Qxh3 17.Qxe2 Qg3+ 18.Kh1 Qh4+ 19.Kg2 Nxe4 20.Nxe4

Rxe4 21.Rf4 Rde8.

15...Bxf3 16.gxf3

16.Bxc5 Ng4 17.Qg3 Be2 18.h3 Nf6 19.Qxg7 Bxf1
20.Rxf1 Rxd2 21.Qxf6 Rg8 22.Bf2 Qxh3 0-1

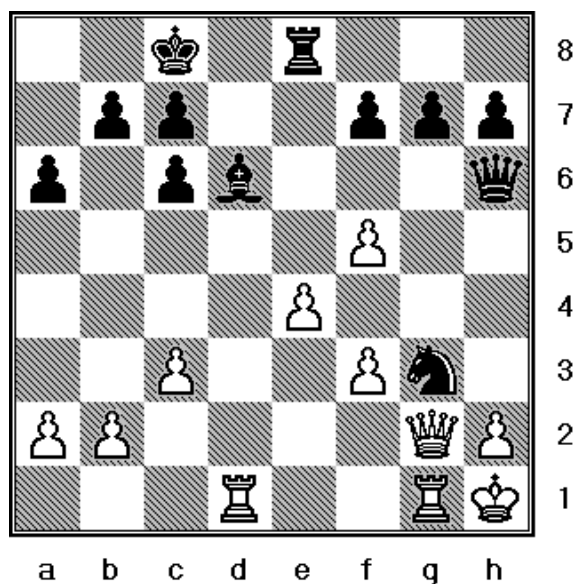
16...Rxd2 17.Qxd2 Qg5+ 18.Kh1

Black will have a substantial lead with the 18...Bxe3 capture.(even the line: [18.Qg2 Bxe3+ 19.Kh1 Qxg2+ 20.Kxg2 g6 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Rad1 Bf4 23.h3-+ White still suffers from the exchange deficit of two minor pieces for the rook.

18...Bxe3 19.Qe2 Nh5 20.Qg2 Qh6 21.Rad1 Bf4
22.Rfe1 Bd6

Black is playing a waiting game.

23.Rg1? 23.Qf2 23...Ng3+!



24.
Qxg3 Bxg3 25.Rxg3 g6 26.fxg6 hxg6 27.Rg2 Qe3
28.Rf1 Rd8 29.Rgf2 Rd2 30.Kg2 Rxf2+ 31.Rxf2 g5
32.a3 Qf4 33.h3 a5

Black begins to mobilize the Queenside pawn majority attack.

34.Re2 b5 35.Rf2 Kb7 36.Re2 Kb6 37.Rf2 c5
38.Re2 b4 39.axb4 cxb4 40.cxb4 axb4 41.Rf2 c5
42.Re2 c4 43.Rc2 Kb5 44.Rf2 c3 45.bxc3 bxc3
46.Re2 Kc4 47.e5 Kd3 48.Rf2 c2 0-1

GAME 4 –January 10, 2012

Now the Watertown Chess Club Championship comes down to one game, delayed due to Mr. Prieto's schedule, until January 10, 2012. A Dr. Kistler win or draw gives him a repeat club championship. Mr. Prieto, after losing eight of nine games this season to Dr. Kistler, could still surprise with a win, giving him a third club championship.

It's clear that Adolfo Prieto didn't get the memo. The match stands at 1 ½.-1 ½. Check back for our memo in the spring issue of *Empire Chess*.

Central New York News

by Karl Heck

Thirty-seven players contested the Louis Mariani Memorial Scholastic Chess Championship on December 10th at Syracuse's Henninger High School. The closely contested K-12 section ended in a four-way tie for first place with 3-1 scores. The four winners were Fabius-Pompey's Evan Himes and Tim Vales, Daniel Renner of Fayetteville-Manlius, and Thomas Brock of Watertown. Watertown, the school from furthest away in the section, won the Top Team prize with 8 ½ points.

Jamesville-DeWitt's Billy Leiker won the K-6 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Teammate David Chen, along with Andre Goldberg of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, tied for second with 3 points, both losing in the first round and winning their last three games. J-D won the Top Team Trophy with seven points.

The K-4 section, the tournament's largest with 18 players, ended in a two-way, perfect score tie between Jonathan Morky of Fayetteville-Manlius and Southside Academy's Asha Qaddourah. Morky won the speed playoff to win the first place trophy. Lu Haserwickle of F-M, Jade Ragner of Southside, and Watertown's Sebastian Garib tied for third with three points each. Haserwickle and Ragner lost to Morky, while Garib went undefeated with two draws. Manlius Pebble Hill won the Top Team Trophy with 10 ½ points.

The annual event, which is held in honor of a former Henninger student, was organized by the Henninger High School chess club and directed by Bob Nasiff.

November means chess in Skaneateles, and 48 players come to the "stress-free" village to contest the annual Thanksgiving Championship on November 6. Daniel Renner of F-M won the 15-player K-12 section with a perfect 4-0 score to sweep the field. Four players tied for second with three points each: Max Whiff and Ethan Goldstein of the host school, Evan Himes of Fabius-Pompey and Thomas Brock of Watertown. The home team won the Top Team Trophy with 11 ½ points.

James Lyons and Billy Leiker tied for first with 3 ½ points in the 13-player K-6 section, with Lyons winning the first-place trophy on tiebreak. Tyler Gorman of Fabius-Pompey was clear third with a 3-1

score, losing to Lyons in the second round. Jamesville-DeWitt won the Top Team Trophy with 7 ½ points. Abby Kambhampaty of Manlius Pebble Hill won the 20-player K-4 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Her teammate, Grace Del-Pino was clear second with 3 ½ points. Five players tied for third with 3-1 scores: Brian Leiker of J-D, Sebastian Garib of Watertown, Jonathan Morky of Fabius-Pompey, and two Skaneateles players, Trenton Pearson and Matthew McClellan. Manlius Pebble Hill won the Top Team Trophy with 13 ½ points.

The tournament was organized by the Waterman Elementary Chess Club and directed by Bob Nasiff.

Ken Frieden, a Syracuse-area Expert, and Karthink Kuber, won the 14-player Syracuse University Fall Open held on October 15 with 3 ½ points each. They drew in the last round after each won their first three games. Joshua Rofrano, a Rochester expert, former SU professor Jan Ondrich and Cedron Durgin, all tied for third with 3-1 scores, with Durgin winning the class prize in his first rated tournament. The event was organized and directed by Joe Ball.

David Kolb, a local player from the Utica area, won the Utica Four Seasons Fall Open with 3 ½ points, which was enough for clear first place in the eight-player event by half a point. His only draw was with Capital District player Peter Henner in the last round. Richard J. LoCash was clear second with a 3-1 score, losing in the first round to Henner, and then winning three straight. The tournament was organized and directed by Joe Ball.

The December 3rd Syracuse University Open was a perfect score triumph for Dr. Jose Angel Fernandez, who reached the Expert level for the first time in the 12-player event. Kenneth Chamberlain, a long-time Syracuse player, was clear second with three points, losing only to Fernandez in the third round. Three players tied for third with three points: Ken Frieden, Thomas Barkley and Lance Winters. The tournament was organized and directed by Joe Ball.

Expert Sam Barsky won the eight-player 34th Binghamton Monthly Open held on October 23 in the Parlor City with 3 ½ points, which was enough for clear first in the closely-contested tournament. Barsky drew Binghamton Expert Ed Kelley in the last round. Kelley finished fourth, half a point behind Kenneth Chamberlain of Syracuse and local player John Cardinale. Cardinale lost to Chamberlain in the second round, and Chamberlain lost to Barsky in the

third. John Cordisco directed for Cordisco's Chess Center in Binghamton.

Ed Kelley and Kenneth Chamberlain, two long-time combatants, tied for first in the 35th Binghamton Open held on November 23rd without playing each other. Kelley lost in the first round to Pennsylvania's Alan Yeomans before winning three straight, while Chamberlain lost to fellow Syracusan Tom Barkley in the third round before beating Yeomans in the last game to tie for first. Barkley and Yeomans tied for third in the closely-contested tournament, which was run by John Cordisco.

Dr. David Kistler is the 2011 Jefferson County Champion, winning the eight-player tournament held on October 29 in Watertown with a perfect 4-0 score. Kistler, an Expert, beat second-place finisher Adolfo Prieto in the second round. Prieto finished with a 3-1 score. The tournament was organized by the Watertown Chess Club and directed by Don Klug.

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Andrew Ryba Dominates Queens Chess Club Championship

By Ed Frumkin

This year's championship was once again hindered by the loss of site for one week in the middle of the event, with the resulting stretching out of the tournament to the day after Thanksgiving, leading to many last round byes and a true "Black Friday" for some players

We had only 24 participants, the lowest total in years and the schedule helped contribute to multiple forfeits as well. The field was strong, with two National Masters (many-time champ and New York State Chess Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin (2401) and 2009 tri-champion Andrew Ryba, a newly-minted master (2201) off his strong result in the World Open's Under 2200 section) and seven experts. Unlucky Mulazim Muwwakkil (1850) missed the cut and got Black against Bonin in a round with no upsets.

Seven additional players came in for Round 2 (Round 1 conflicted with Yom Kippur). The only real surprise was Zoltan Sugar (1747) forgetting about the round and working late, forfeiting to former Empire Chess editor Carrie Goldstein (1400). A mild upset was Joe Felber (2000) winning with Black against Ed Frumkin (2043) in a battle of the New York State Chess Hall of Fame Class of 2011 most assumed would be drawn quickly. Round 3 came with only three perfect scores, forcing the Ryba brothers (2171-rated Nicholas with White) to meet early on, with Felber drawing as White against Sam Barsky (2170), who had a Round 1 bye.

New Queens player Eric Bautista (1400, formerly from NJ) no-showed for a second time (although he appeared for Round 2), this time against Marcus Francis (1286) in a theoretically favorable matchup. Bonin had a bye to play the full schedule at the Marshall Championship, but ironically was paired there with a player who had requested a Round 1 bye in that tournament. After three rounds Bonin, the Rybas, Bill Arluck (2090) and Joe Felber all had 2½-½, but since Joe had already played the top two in the 2-1 group, Bill was dropped instead.

Bonin-Nicholas Ryba and Andrew Ryba-Felber were both wins for White, while Barsky-Arluck was forfeited by White, who falsely claimed not to know the TD's number (he had called it the previous week

to confirm that there would be no play on October 28). After four rounds, the leaders were now IM Bonin, Andrew Ryba and Bill Arluck with 3½-½ and Frumkin the only 3-1. Marcus Francis had pulled off the tournament's biggest upset when Sugar avoided an easy draw and lost (a 461 point gap). In Round 5 Andrew beat Bonin and Frumkin beat Arluck, so Andrew's 4½-½ led Frumkin's 4-1. Frank Drazil upset Muwwakkil and Francis collected another forfeit win from Barsky.

In Round 6 Andrew beat Frumkin, opening up a full point lead over his younger sibling and Bonin, who beat Brian Lawson (2041) and Arluck, respectively, to reach 4½-1½. By now Andrew had pretty much run out of opponents and was paired down two points to Arluck in Round 7, while Bonin had committed to a bye to play at the National Congress and Nicholas was paired with Frumkin. Nicholas and Frumkin drew quickly, so Nicholas and Bonin reached 5-2 to split 2nd and 3rd places (\$250 each) while Andrew had clinched first (\$500), even if he lost (he drew). Edgar Cimfranca (1911) took the \$150 Under 2000 prize with 4½-2½ by winning a head-to-head matchup from Ken Cruz (1750). Philip Mathew (1467) was Top Under 1500 (\$100) with 3½-3½. Ed Frumkin and Joe Felber directed.

Bring it home!

Bring the excitement of a New York State Chess Championship to your community.

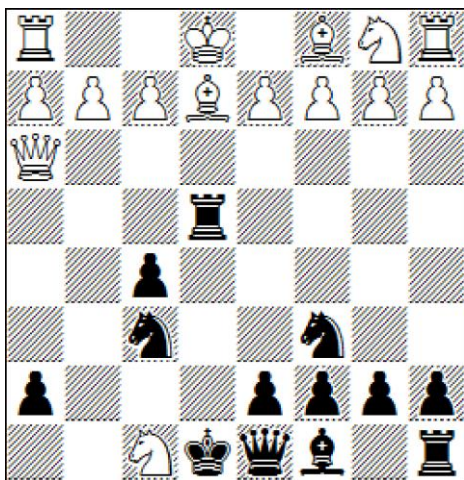
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Blunders –

The Scholastic Column

By Zachary Calderon

Let's face it, we have all made a move, hit the clock, then did a massive face palm and considered quitting chess. Maybe you hung your Queen, or fell for a mate in two. It happens to everyone.



I had the Black pieces in this position. The game was at a team tournament in Connecticut, and after having to play against two English Openings, I was relieved to play against someone who played 1. e4, and, bursting with energy, played my favorite Latvian Gambit. I was so excited, the game was going great so far! What I *should* have played is the position above was **1...Kxf8** and I would have had plenty of compensation.

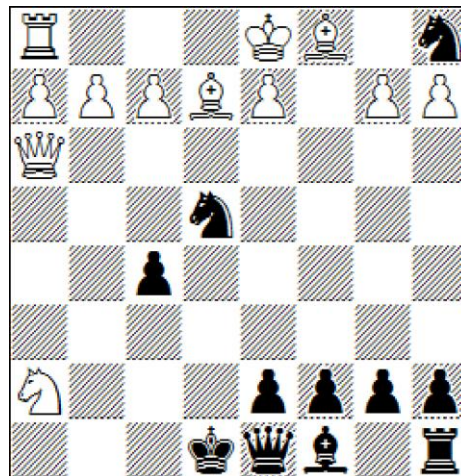
However, excited he had played just the line I wanted him to, I played **1...Nd4??**

Stupid! Stupid stupid stupid! There was the piece, sitting right there, and I ignored it! I was over-ambitious and went right for the kill.

2. Nc3 Nxc2+ 3. Kd1 Nxa1

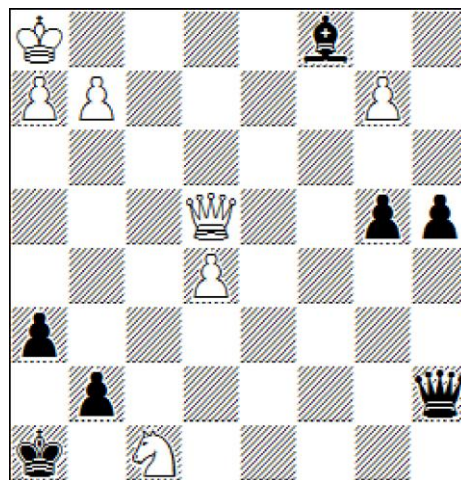
Maybe I still had a chance to salvage something and play 3...Rxe2, which would have clearly been much better.

4. Nxe5 Nxe5 5. Nxh7!



Duh! I had totally overlooked this move! His Knight escapes, grabs a pawn, and the Queen gets ready to invade the eighth rank. I struggled on, trying to find something, but in the end lost.

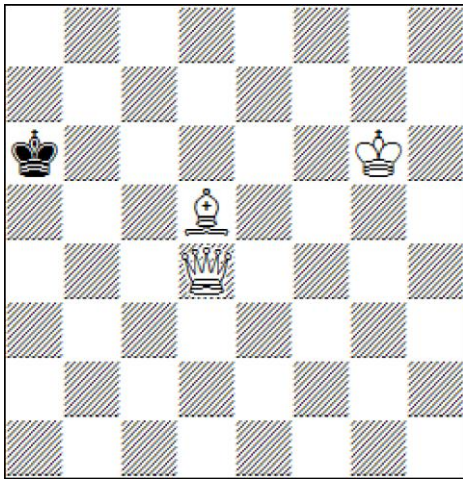
That was an example of being blinded by over-ambition and excitement. But don't worry, you aren't the only one. GM and former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik made an incredible blunder against the famous computer Deep Fritz, blundering a mate in one!



GM Kramnik had worn the machine down to this position, but shocked the world by playing **1...Qe3??** and the machine instantly replied **2. Qh7#**.

Can you imagine? What a shock for Kramnik!

An even better blunder (or worse!) is one by another former World Champion, GM Garry Kasparov! Yes, Kasparov stalemated another very lucky Grandmaster in an "endgame" that pretty much anyone with a basic knowledge of chess would know how to win.



Indeed, here Kasparov did play **78. Qc5??** stalemating Georgiev. Honestly! I could have easily had the Black pieces and drawn this!

I think the Grandmaster examples show just how easily you can blunder a game! So, next time you drop a piece, fall for a simple tactic, a back rank mate, just think of these guys, both former world champions.

Buffalo Niagara Chess News *From staff reports and Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner*

2011 HOLIDAY CLASSIC RESULTS

The 2011 Holiday Classic attracted 33 players in the Open, Under 1500 and Scholastic sections on December 17, 2011 at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo for the Queen City's monthly Grand Prix tournament.

The 2011 Buffalo Stars Scholastic Undefeated Champion is James Lyon. Corey Spencer from Lockport Knights was second, and James Shippens and Ruby Soudant from the Olmsted Golden Knights placed third and fourth. The Top Female Award was Laura E. Cohn, Urban Queens Chess Club. The 2011 Holiday Classic Under 1500 champion was Adam Chelpinski with a perfect 4-0 score in the 12-player section. Clear second place was newcomer Sandipan Kundu from the University of Buffalo, who scored 3-1 in his first to obtain a 1473 performance rating.

The 2011 Holiday Classic Open Champion was local expert Barry Davis, who won the 10-player section with 3 ½ points, drawing only in the last round the Douglas DuBose. Long-time Buffalo-area organizer Tom Warner was clear second with a 3-1 score, losing only to Davis in the second round. Under 2000

Class Prize winner was Erik W. Lubas, senior at Kenmore West High School, with 2 ½ points.

Thanks should also be given to all the parents who helped served pizza, refreshments, Dr. should James Paul for the chocolate desserts. The Archangel 8 Chess Academy ran the event.

Armed Forces Day Tournament

The November 19th Armed Forces Day tournament was another triumph for Barry Davis, who won the event with a perfect 4-0 score, beating second-place finishers Marijan Procyk and Erik Lubas in the last two rounds. Justin Craddock also joined the second-place group with three straight wins after a first-round loss to Lubas, gaining almost 80 rating points on the day.

Glenn Conlin won the Scholastic section with a perfect 4-0 score, besting 10 other challengers and gaining 148 rating points to end the day at 1437. Adam Chelpinski and Lucas Seybold tied for second with 3-1 scores, with Chelpinski losing to Conlin in the first round, strangely enough.

The monthly Grand Prix event was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie.

27th USA Jr Chess Olympics

Owen Shriver of 12 Corners School in Rochester won all five games to win the grade 7-12 section of the 27th USA Jr. Chess Olympics held at Pioneer Middle School December 3, gaining over 100 rating points in the process to finish the day at 1563. Shriver beat Ethan Yung in round 4 and Expert Abraham Glasser in round 5 to win the Trophy and gold medal. There was a seven-way tie for second in the 46-player section of players with 4-1 scores among Glasser, Yung, Kevin Roulhac, Garrett Thompson, Christian Garwood, Api Tharmalingam and Ethan Celli. Ryan Madden and Philip Wood tied for ninth with 3 ½ points.

Shriver, Yung and Glasser also combined to win the team gold medal, for 12 Corners School, edging out Pioneer central by one half-point. Keshequa Central from Nunda, NY got the bronze, with the champions shown on the next page.

In the 14-player K-6 section Jacob Chen, another Rochester player, dominated going 5-0 to win the gold. Andy He, who got up early and traveled for two



hours from Horseheads, NY to play, won the silver with four straight wins after a first-round loss to Roman Castle. Sam Santora from Kenmore got the bronze in a tie-break over Anoop Sankara. Both players lost to Chen and they drew each other in the second round, but Santora beat higher-ranked players to get the nod.

It was a three-way tie for first in the team competition with the Home School from the Buffalo area winning on tiebreaks. French Road School and Mendon School, both from Rochester, got the silver and bronze.

Nageeb Umar, Kamal Ali, both of Global Concepts Charter School of Lackawanna, and Jeff Schalberg from Pioneer tied for first in the unrated section. After an exciting blitz playoff, Umar came away with the Gold, Ali the silver and Schalberg the bronze. Long-time Jamestown Expert Mark Clark won the Adult section, going undefeated 4-0. 80 kids participated in the event this year, and a lot of interesting and excellent chess was played.

The USA Jr. Chess Olympics was started by Dr. Robert Ferguson, long-time Bradford, PA chess organizer. In recent years, the event moved to the Buffalo area due to Dr. Ferguson's declining health. It is good that the event has not only continued, but grown in its new home in New York.

Copeland wins in Sardinia

Sam Copeland won the 12-player Open section of the November 5 Sardinia Open with a perfect 3-0 score. Ryan Madden, who lost to Copeland in the

last round, headed a group of four players with 2-1 scores, which also included Albert Patterson, Michael McDuffie (in a rare opportunity to play and not organize) and Paul Kielich. McDuffie won the Top Under 1600 prize.

In the Scholastic section, Max Peters had a fine tournament and won with 3 1/2 points. Bradley Schrock was clear second with three points in what turned out to be a very evenly-played section.

Tom Warner directed for the Southtowns Chess Club

Robert C. Johnson Memorial Team Tournament

Forty players on seven teams participated in the Robert C. Johnson 2011 Memorial Team Tournament hosted by the Erie, PA Chess Club. Robert C. Johnson was from Bemus Point, New York and his friends now host the Third Annual USCF-rated Team Tournament that bears his name. Buffalo Thundering Herd was the 2010 Team Champions and in the first year of the tournament Team Bradford were the 2009 Team Champions.

The Team results are as follows, 2011 Team Champions - Chautauqua with 10 points, Second Place was won by Buffalo "B" with 9 points was Buffalo "B" Team, 3rd Place - Bradford, PA with 8 points. Players fill the room getting ready in the picture below:



Buffalo had 10 players and Team Captain Robert Simpson was asked to split the teams. Members from Buffalo were Captain Robert Simpson(1428), Barry Davis(2172), Marijan Procyk(2047), Douglas Dubose(2023), Harish Srinivasan(1953), Samuel Santora(1262), Brian Sayers(1302), Vic Bahl(964), Justin Craddock(1542) and Michael McDuffie(1219).

Buffalo "B" Team members were Captain Robert Simpson, Esq., Marijan Procyk, both of whom finished with 2.5 points in three games, Vic Bahl with 1 point, Harish Srinivasan with 2 points and Mc Duffie with 2 points.

Special Thanks to Captain Robert Simpson for organizing and supporting the team. Thanks for all the players who took time to make the journey to represent Buffalo - Niagara Falls, New York to support this New York-Pennsylvania event.

WORLD CHESS FEDERATION FIDE FALL FESTIVAL 2011 RESULTS

The World Chess Federation Fall Chess Festival was a triumph for IM Kenneth W. Regan. The SUNY-Buffalo professor with 4.5 points out of 5 games, with the IM winning all four of his played games and taking a half-point bye in the third round. Sam Copeland and Erik Lubas tied for second with 4-1 scores, with Copeland's loss to Regan in the fourth round ultimately deciding the tournament winner. Barry Davis and Emory Parish tied for fourth with 3-2 scores.

Co - Champions in the World Chess Federation - Under 1500 Section were Kevin Roulhac from the Urban Knights Chess Club and Lucas Seybold from Fredonia, NY, both with 4-1 scores in the six-player round-robin. Roulhac lost in the last round to Tamas Gemes while Seybold was defeating Sam Santora to force the tie. Third place winner was Adam Chelpinski with three points.

The Scholastic K - 6th Section overall winner were undefeated Champion, James Lyon, 2011 Mayor's Cup K-6th Buffalo Champion and Top Catholic School Champion. Second place went to Colton Kuzdzal from Fredonia, and third and fourth places went to two players from the Chess Club of Buffalo, Alexis Schlaak and Benjamin Rummell,

Trophies were awarded by grade as well. Top First Grader was Alexis Schlaak from Chess Club of Buffalo. Top Fourth Grader was Colton Kuzdzal. and Top 6th Grader was James Lyon. Welcome to Ashton William, 1st grader from the Stars of India Chess Club pictured with Alexis J. Schlaak. Medals were awarded to Matthew S. Schlaak, Chess Club of Buffalo and Benjamin Rummell, Chess Club of Buffalo.

News from the Marshall (continued from page 27)

A total of 43 players came to the Marshall on November 13 to contest the monthly Grand Prix tournament. Three players tied for first with 3 ½ points: GM Mikheil Kekelidze, IM Jay Bonin and NM James Black, Jr. Kekelidze and Black drew in the last round in a tense Board One battle, while Bonin drew New York Expert George Berg in the first round, and then worked his way back through the field with three straight wins.

Four players tied for fourth with three points: Pennsylvania Master William Fisher, New Jersey junior and NM Christopher Wu, and Experts Vladimir Polyakin, Jr, and Frank Paciulli.

Dr. Marcus Fenner and James Frawley directed.

Thirteen players prepped for the Marshall Championship by playing in the October 18 Marshall Masters. GM's Giorgi Kacheishvili and Mikheil Kekelidze, along with IM Jay Bonin, tied for first with 3-1 scores in the closely-contested event. All three players were undefeated with two wins and two draws, and the two GM's drew in the last round with the money on the line, while Bonin was defeating IM Irina Krush.

NM Michael Bodek, who also went undefeated with three draws against top-five players before a last-round win against Ramon Manon-Og, Jr. in the final round, tied for fourth with NM Oliver Chernin. Both players had 2 ½ points. Chernin also had one win and three draws, though against a less intense schedule of players.

Matthew Morales directed.

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Albany vs. Schenectady: A Tradition Reborn

by Bill Townsend

On October 13, an annual tradition was continued as the Albany and Schenectady chess clubs held their big annual match at the Schenectady site in Niskayuna. Last year the match was also held at Schenectady, but it was decided that the Albany site was too small to hold 20-plus players so Albany again traveled to Schenectady, even though they were technically the home team, playing White on the odd numbered boards.

Last year the result was a 6-6 tie on 12 boards, and this year there were also 12 boards but Schenectady decisively won by a score of 8 to 4. The individual games, with Schenectady players on the left:

1. Patrick Chi 1, Dean Howard 0
2. Ashok Aaron 1, Jon Leisner 0
3. Philip Sells 0, Gordon Magat 1
4. John Phillips 1, Tim Wright 0
5. Mike Mockler 1, Peter Henner 0
6. Bill Townsend ½, Bill Little ½
7. David Finnerman 1, Jon Lack 0
8. Dilip Aaron 0, Glen Perry 1
9. Richard Chu ½, Arthur Alowitz ½
10. Matt Clough 1, Charles Eson 0
11. Cory Northrup 1, Chris Caravaty 0
12. Zachary Calderon 0, Akhil Kamma 1

The first game to finish was Zach Calderon-Kamma on board 12. Akhil Kamma is an unrated player, but his actual rating is clearly 1600 or better. The match was brought back to an even score when Matt Clough beat Chuck Eson on board ten. This result was hardly a surprise since Clough had nearly 600 rating points on Eson.

The rest of the games in board order went as follows. The story of Howard-Chi is featured below. Ashok Aaron seemed to have only a slight pull in his game against Jon Leisner until the latter made a couple of dubious exchanges giving Aaron a powerful phalanx of center pawns. Philip Sells has been recently having a number of good results against Gordon Magat, but that trend was reversed here on board three with Sells having a lost game soon out of the opening. Something also went wrong in the opening for Albany's Tim Wright against Schenectady's John Phillips with the latter having a widening advantage as the game progressed. Mike Mockler seemed lost

against Albany's Peter Henner but late in the game Henner must have blundered, handing the game over to his opponent. The game between Bill Little and myself was even until Little blundered a pawn, and then cannily gave up his Queen for two minor pieces. The game probably should have been won for me, but eventually I had to settle for a draw with only 13 seconds left on my clock.

The contest between Jon Lack and Dave Finnerman on board seven was the last one to finish with Lack perhaps resigning in a bad position that wasn't quite lost. Both players were down to bare seconds. By contrast the game between Dilip Aaron and Glen Perry was one of the early finishers with Aaron sacrificing material then misplaying his attack. Schenectady club president Richard Chu was clearly winning against Art Alowitz, but a couple of blunders turned the game into a draw. Caravaty-Northrup was one of only two games I didn't get the score of, with Cory apparently being too embarrassed about the quality of his play to let me see it.

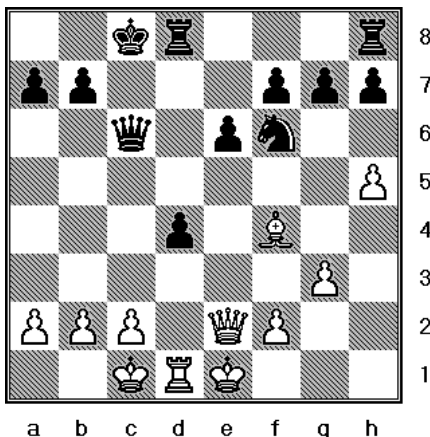
Overall I'd have to say that it was probably a mistake for me to agree to a time control of game in 90 minutes rather than game in 105 – several of the games were mangled in time pressure, including my own.

The chess rivalry between Albany and Schenectady has a long history, going back over a century – the first match between the two I know of took place in 1907. These huge matches between the entire clubs also have a lengthy pedigree as well – I have records of them happening in the mid-1930s. For many years they used to be an annual fixture of local chess until discontinued in 1997. When the Albany club obtained its current site in 2010, the series was started up again.

Here is the game that was contested on board one of this match, and it just so happens that both players are the reigning champions of their respective clubs. Howard, playing White, played an opening gambit that followed opening theory a long way. After a general exchange, white was simply a pawn down. Patrick continued to have a nice advantage, but after a certain point the players got down to less than five minutes and the game ended at a furious tempo. The contest ended abruptly when Howard's king was forced against the back rank and he missed a mate in one.

Dean Howard (2030) – Patrick Chi (2124)
 Caro-Kann [B19]
 Schenectady vs. Albany, board 1
 Niskayuna, NY, October 13, 2011

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6
 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3
 e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.0-0-0 Ngf6 14.Ne4
 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qe2 0-0-0 17.g3 Bd6 18.Ne5
 c5 19.Nc4 cxd4 20.Nxd6+ Qxd6 21.Bf4 Qc6
 22.Rhe1



This is what I would call mindless development. This seems like a good square for the Rook, but it really accomplishes nothing here. Sometimes moves like this are harmless, but here it allows Black to trade off his weak pawn, leaving him a pawn up. Instead after 22.Rh4 d3 23.Rxd3 Rxd3 24.Qxd3 Rd8 25.Qe2 the position is more evenly balanced because of the uneasy position of Black's King. An example of what can happen: 25...Nd5?? 26.Bxh6! gxh6 27.Rc4 and White wins.

**22...Rd5 23.Be5 Rhd8 24.Qf3 d3 25.Rxd3 Rxd3
 26.Qxc6+ bxc6 27.cxd3 Rxd3**

With hardly any pieces left on the board to threaten the Black King, White has almost no compensation for his pawn minus.

**28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.Re4 Rf3 30.Rg4 Rf5 31.Rg7 Rxh5
 32.Rxf7 Rf5 33.f4 a5 34.Re7 e5 35.fxe5 Rxe5
 36.Rf7**

Black has a winning ending after 36.Rxe5 so White can never trade Rooks.

**36...Rf5 37.Rh7 h5 38.Kc2 Rf2+ 39.Kc3 Rf3+
 40.Kc4 Rxc3 41.Rxh5 Rg4+ 42.Kc3 Rg5 43.Rh7
 Rd5 44.Rf7 f5**

The fact that Black's King is trapped on the back rank makes this position close to even for White, however I'd be willing to bet that Black had a major advantage on the clock here – Patrick tends to play very quickly.

45.Kc4 Kd8 46.Rf6?!

White should make the Black King fight for every step he takes forward. Something like 46.a3 is indicated.

**46...Kc7 47.Rf8?! Kd7 48.Rf7+ Ke6 49.Rc7 Kd6
 50.Rf7 Rb5 51.Rf6+? Kc7 52.Kd4? Rxb2 53.Rxf5
 Rxa2 0-1**

With both players down to less than five minutes each, Patrick stopped writing down the moves. With two extra pawns Black has major winning chances - it is possible for a Rook to draw against Rook and two pawns, but the likelihood of accomplishing this at blitz speed is very small. What happened instead was that Black eventually forced the White King to the back rank. White was in terrible time pressure and when he failed to notice a mate in one, he was duly mated.

Robert Alan Feldstein

December 15, 1956 – October 18, 2011

Born, raised and educated in the Bronx, Robert Feldstein was taught to play chess by his father at the age of seven and continued to play at Bronx House, a youth program for Bronx preteens and teens. By the time he was in high school (Christopher Columbus High School), Robert was already a tournament player and frequently hitch-hiked to tournaments throughout the East Coast, and sometimes further away, on Friday afternoons. Robert played on the Lehman College Chess Team and represented Lehman College at the Pan-American tournament throughout his college years and as an alumnus for several years after his graduation. No matter what his health or employment situation, chess has been the constant in his adult life as well.

Robert is best known in the chess world for his extensive chess-related travel. He has played tournament games in every US State and in every Canadian province and territory (except for Nunavut, which was created after Robert had completed this record). He has also played at chess tournaments in England, Spain, Australia, Israel, Peru, and Mexico, and probably other countries I have forgotten to mention. In addition to formal tournaments, as long as his health permitted, he participated in a self-sponsored traveling tournament called "County Seat Chess Fever," where he played rated games with opponents he brought with him or found locally. Games were played in coffee shops, small motels, fast food restaurants, parks, zoos, and even a (legal) brothel in Nevada. In recent years, his health did not permit him to travel abroad nor for long periods of

time, but he still managed to keep busy playing in tournaments throughout the East Coast and occasionally as far away as Chicago.

In addition to chess, Robert's passions included politics (he was most concerned about issues of individual rights and civil liberties), popular music (he knew the tunes, lyrics, and songwriters of virtually every song between 1955 and 1995 and created a personally narrated collection of music from this era), and animals (he loved animals of all species and sizes and in all settings). He worked in various civil service jobs, as a substitute teacher, and occasionally as a criminal lawyer (he held a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan and was licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania).

According to the USCF web site, Feldstein ended his career with a regular rating of 2000 and a Quick rating of 1900. From 1991 to 2011, Feldstein played 3,888 rated games, winning 2,310 of them. He won 48 games in 2011 before his death. His most active year was 2002, when he won 530 of 663 games played. His last New York tournament was October's Arkport Open, as well his last rated victory, a last-round win over Bob Wagner.

Since 1981, except for his law school years in Michigan, Robert lived in Brooklyn, New York. He is survived by his wife, Debra (Debbie) Rothman and our three cats, who still live in the Brooklyn apartment, as well as his father, Jerry Feldstein, and his sister, Ellen (Feldstein) Friedman.

--- Debbie Rothman 11/5/11

Here is one of his games against another famous chess traveller, IM Igor Ivanov:

IM Igor Ivanov - Robert Feldstein New York 1990 English Opening [A15]

1. Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 Bg7 8.Bg5 O-O 9.Qd2 a5 10.Nc3 a4 11.Rc1 Qa5 12.O-O Ra6 13.Rfd1 Qb4 14.a3 Qc5 15.Be3 Qh5 16.Bf3 Qh3 17.Bg2 Qh5 18.f3 d6 19.h4 h6 20.Bd4 e5 21.Bf2 Qf5 22.Nb5 Ne8 23.e4 Qf6 24.c5 Bd7 25.Nc3 Be6 26.Nd5 Qd8 27.Bf1 Ra5 28.Nb6 Ra7 29.cxd6 Bb3 30.Rc8 Qxd6 31.Rxe8 Qxd2 32.Rxf8+ Bxf8 33.Rxd2 Ra5 34.Rd8 Kg7 35.g4 Bc5 36.Rc8 Bd6 37.Bc4 Bd1 38.Rd8 Bxz3 39.bxa3 Bxf3 40.g5 hxg5 41.hxg5 Bxe4 42.Be1 Rc5 43.Nd7 Rxc4 44.Nf6 Rc8 1-0

Capital Region News

by Bill Townsend

Summer is a drowsy time for chess in New York's Capital District, but with the coming of Fall the free scholastic tournaments start again and the local clubs have their annual organizational meetings and the club championships begin.

At this point each of the championships of the three major local clubs (Schenectady, Albany and Saratoga Springs) have been running for two to three months, and while one of them is close to completed, none of them have produced a winner yet. Unfortunately they all have one thing in common – all of them are smaller than last year's contests, and two of them are missing their defending champions – Patrick Chi in Schenectady and Steve Taylor in Saratoga.

In the Albany club championship, a ten-player round robin, four players have emerged as front runners, while the rest are potential spoilers. Leading the pack are Peter Henner with an undefeated 4-1 and Gordon Magat with 4-2. Right behind them is defending champion Dean Howard with 3½-1½, and a half-point behind is Art Alowitz with 3-2. The winner will almost certainly be one of these four. While I would consider Alowitz something of a long shot because of his lower rating, he has done very well against his higher-rated opponents and seems a shoo-in to win the Under 1800 prize. The rest of the field: Chris Caravaty (2-3), Jon Lack (1½-1½), Cory Northrup (1½-3½), Tim Wright (1½-4½) and Jason Denham (1-4). The tenth player, super-unrated Akhil Kamma, has dropped out because he is leaving the area. Since he had only played two games this isn't so significant, but his departure has a big effect on the Schenectady championship, as we shall see.

The Saratoga club championship began as a double round-robin among six players, but became a five-man race when scholastic player Jeff Hrebenach dropped out. As of this writing, there are only three games left to play, but they are all important. Currently leading is club treasurer Alan LeCours with 5-1, while right behind him are Gary Farrell (4½-2½) and Jon Feinberg (4-2). LeCours has one more game with each of the other two leaders, and the championship will be decided by their result.

The Schenectady championship consists of two preliminary sections with seven players each, with the top three finishers graduating to a final section

that will begin in January, it is hoped. Each section only has a couple of games left to play, and while some of the qualifiers have been determined, others are still up in the air.

In the "A" section, Philip Sells and Carlos Varela have finished their playing schedules with 5-1 records, and they are the first two qualifiers. The third will either be Zachary Calderon or Dilip Aaron, who are both at 3-2. As of this writing the game between these two hasn't been played yet, and that will decide matters.

In the "B" section things are much more unsettled. A few weeks ago, unrated Akhil Kamma completed his playing schedule with a 4-2 record, essentially becoming the first qualifier. However since then Kamma has moved out of the area. While he has finished all his games so his results still count (unlike in the Albany championship) he obviously can't be one of the three qualifiers, so this leaves the third spot up for grabs. The first qualifier is John Phillips, at 5-0 the only undefeated player left in the championship. Barring a major upset, Alan LeCours (2½-1½) will probably be the second qualifier. The third qualifier seems likely to be club president Richard Chu (2-3) who still has an outstanding game with LeCours. However he could be caught by David Connors (1½-2½) who still has two unfinished games, unfortunately against Phillips and LeCours, the two highest rated players in the section. Out of the running are Herman Calderon and Matt Clough who finished their playing schedules with 1½-4½ records.

As the Schenectady championship preliminaries draw to a close, John Phillips in the "B" section still has the only perfect record in the entire championship. While his experience and high rating make this not terribly surprising from a statistical point of view, the plain fact is he's had a couple of lucky breaks and he gets several of them in this game. Akhil Kamma is a player who was competing in both the Albany and Schenectady championships until his abrupt departure from the area. He may be unrated, but he clearly isn't a novice: I would guess his real rating is about 1800. However as this game shows, he needs a bit more tournament experience to learn how to handle the clock better. In the second half of the game the shortness of time had him quite agitated and he missed quite a bit. His opponent, John Phillips, has probably been in time trouble in hundreds of tournament games, and so he managed to turn a loss into a win.

It's a shame that so much of this game was played at blitz speed, but I can't really fault the players for their oversights: I was watching the game myself as they were playing, with no pressure from the clock, but I missed a lot of the tactics as well. For example, I utterly overlooked Black's win on move 31, in spite of the fact that the players weren't even playing quickly at that point.

**John Phillips (1924) – Akhil Kamma (UNR)
Queen's Gambit Declined [D15]
Schenectady CC-championship prelim-B, round 3
Niskayuna, NY, Oct. 27, 2011**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 b4 8.Ne4 Bf5 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.Bxc4 e6 11.h4!? h6 12.h5 Bh7 13.Qb3 Be7 14.Bxd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 cxd5

This position is not very good for White: his sole Bishop is bad and d4 is looming as a potential weakness.

16.Be3 Nc6 17.Rc1 Rc8 18.Nd2 Bd3 19.f4 0-0 20.f5?!

Opening the position like this does not improve matters for White. Black only has a small advantage after 20.Nb3. 20...exf5 21.Ne2 Rc7?

Black can force the win of the d-pawn with: 21...Bg5! 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.Nf3 g4 24.Nfg1 Bxe2 25.Nxe2 Nxd4 and White can't take the Knight without losing material.

22.Nf4 Be4 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.d5!

Now it is White who wins material - the Knight is pinned.

24...Rfc8 25.dxc6 Rxc6 26.Ke2?

When I saw this I immediately felt it was a mistake. In a superior position it's generally best to trade off at least one pair of Rooks because of their drawing possibilities. White looks to be winning after 26.Rxc6 Rxc6 27.Nd5.

26...Rc2+ 27.Kd1 b3 28.Ne2 Rd8+ 29.Ke1 Rxb2 30.Kf2 Rd3 31.Rb1?

This move allows a winning tactical shot. Instead, the game would be close to even after 31.Rc8+.

31...Ra2?

Black wins with the shocking 31...Bh4+! and no matter what White does he's lost: 32.Rxh4 Rxb1 and white has no good way to stop the b-pawn, or 32.g3 Bxg3+ 33.Kxg3 Rxe3+, etc.

32.Bxa7 Rdd2?!

32...f4!, threatening to win the Knight with ...f3, is much stronger here. Time was starting to be a factor - White had 11 minutes left, Black had 17.

33.Rhe1 f4 34.Kf1 Bh4 35.Bf2 Bxf2 36.Kxf2 g5?

Black was using up a lot of clock time, trying to feel

his way forward in this very complicated situation, but this is the wrong way to go. Black's only saving move here is: 36...b2! and White almost has no moves to make. The game might have continued: 37.Kf1 e3 38.g3 f3 39.Nc3 Rf2+ 40.Kg1 Rg2+ and Black can at least force a draw because 41.Kh1? loses: 41...Rc2 42.Nxa2 f2 43.Rf1 e2, etc.

37.hxg6 fxc6

The time situation has now reversed: White has more than nine minutes while Black has a little less than five.

38.Rxb3 g5 39.Rb7 g4 40.Kf1 f3! 41.gxf3 exf3 42.Nf4? Rh2! 43.Kg1?? g3?

Black has a forced mate after 43...f2+ 44.Kxh2 fxe1Q+.

44.Rb8+ Kh7 45.Rb7+ Kg8 46.Rb8+ Kg7 47.Rb7+ Kf8 48.Ng6+ Ke8 49.Re7+ Kd8 50.Rd1+ Kc8?

Black has a forced mate, so White has to keep chasing the Black King. Black could have put a stop to this with 50...Rad2! 51.Rxd2+ Rxd2 with a mate in two.

51.Re8+ Kc7 52.Rc1+?

52.Re7+ is a perpetual check.

52...Kd7?

Again, 52...Rac2 wins.

53.Re7+?

White now has only one path to a win, and with time so short I don't think he could have calculated it: 53.e6+! Kd6 (53...Kxe8 54.Rc8, mate.54.Rd8+ Kxe6 55.Rc6+ Kf5 56.Ne7+ Ke4 57.Re6+ Kf4 and the Black King is in a mating net.)

53...Kd8 54.Rd1+ Kc8? 55.Re8+ Kb7 56.Re7+ Kc6 57.Rd6+ Kc5 58.Rc7+ Kb4 59.Rd4+ Ka3?

The game should have been a draw by perpetual check, but bringing the king to the third rank allows white to turn the tables and win.

60.Rd3+ Kb2? 61.Rxf3 Rxa4

With the f-pawn gone, the game belongs to White now, but the time situation is critical: White had 36 seconds while Black had 24.

62.Rxg3 Re2 63.Rg2?

This throws away White's Knight, but this ending still should be won for White.

63...Rxg2+ 64.Kxg2 Re4?

Black is playing in panic mode, or else he would have seen 64...Rg4+.

65.Kf3 Re1 66.Kg4 Rh1 67.Kf5 h5 68.e6 h4 69.Nxh4

Not necessary, but white is trying to simplify his winning position.

69...Rxh4 70.Kf6 Rf4+ 71.Kg7 Re4 72.e7 1-0

Finally the players were moving too fast for me to copy down the moves. Black lost on time a few moves later with White about to Queen his pawn.

The Schenectady Club had its annual meeting on September 22 at its usual quarters: the basement of the Niskayuna Community Center on Aqueduct Road. The club elected a new slate of officers, which was actually the same set of officers they had last year. In fact these four people have held the same jobs since 2005. Returning were: Richard Chu (President), Philip Sells (Vice President), Brij Saran (Secretary-Treasurer) and Bill Townsend (Tournament Director). Added to these was a new officer: Bill Little, club librarian. I should also point out that this is the twenty-second time that Richard Chu has been elected club president. Right now the club is flourishing, and the general feeling seemed to be: if it works, don't fix it.

The Saratoga Stanton Club held its annual organizational meeting on October 2. Returning as President was Gary Farrell and returning as Secretary-Treasurer was Alan LeCours. Jonathan Feinberg was elected Vice President.

The Schenectady Chess Club began its fall season with a Blitz Championship, held at the club on Sept. 15. Only 11 people participated, but the event was very strong, with four of the area's top ten players participating. The winner, with 9½ out of 10 was Ashok Aaron, father of Deepak and Dilip, who both also played. His only draw was to Zachary Calderon. He played Deepak, the highest rated player by over 200 points, in one of the early rounds and beat him fairly easily. I made a remark to Dilip late in the event that his father must play a lot of blitz, and he just laughed and said: "That's all he plays."

Deepak was second with 9-1, his only loss being to his father. Schenectady champion Patrick Chi was third with 8-2, his only losses being to Ashok and Deepak. The rest of the field was substantially behind the leaders. Zachary Calderon was fourth with 5½-4½, winning the Under 1800 prize. Zach drew Ashok, lost to Patrick and Deepak, as well as Bobby Rotter and his father Herman. These results don't match the ratings of the players – in fact the finishing order seemed to be determined by how much blitz they played. I know that Zachary, Dilip and Bobby all play a lot of blitz, and in between rounds I even saw Zach playing three-minute games.

I should mention that blitz games are played with five minutes on each player's clock, but there is an important difference from regular tournament games in that time delay is not allowed, so no extra time is added. Therefore, if you have a winning position

with two seconds left on your clock you will lose unless you have a mate on the board.

I decided to try an experiment to see if I could actually record some of the games as they were being played. To my surprise I found that I was able to take down the games, if I could get past the opening moves played at lightning speed. It took me a couple of games to get the proper rhythm, and so I wasn't able to record the round two game between Deepak and Ashok, alas. Also, in blitz atypical blunders occur more frequently: for example, in the much-anticipated game between Patrick and Deepak in round four, Patrick simply dropped a piece in the opening, so the game itself was of little interest.

Here is one of Deepak's better wins, against Bobby Rotter (White) from round ten:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 d3 6.Bxd3 d6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1 Re8 10.Nf1 Bg4 11.h3 Be6 12.Ng3 Qd7 13.b4 Bb6 14.a4 a6 15.Bf4 Ne7 16.Qd2 Ng6 17.Be3?!

Awkward for Black would be 17.Bg5! Qe7 18.Nh5.

17...Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Re7 19.Nd4 Rae8 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.f4?

Misses an important tactical point. The game would still be even after a move like 21.Rad1.

21...Nd5 22.Qf3 Ndx4 23.Bc4 Rf6 24.Qe3 Nxe2?!
 Tempting, but this gives away a chunk of Black's advantage.

25.Kxg2 Nf4+ 26.Kg1 Qxh3 27.Bf1?

While watching the game I expected 27.Ra2! but after 27...d5 White is still on top.

27...Qg4 28.Bg2 Rg6 29.Rf1 Qxg3 30.Qxg3 Ne2+ 31.Kf2 Nxe3 32.Rfe1 Nh5 33.Bf3 Nf4 34.b5?
Another oversight, but this just shortens the agony.

34...Nd3+, and White resigned.

In round seven, Deepak (White) played very aggressively against Bill Little's Pirc Defense: **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.0-0-0 c6 8.h4!?**

The Pirc is a solid opening with a long history, so a direct refutation like this shouldn't work - but then again lots of things that aren't supposed to happen occur in blitz games.

8...b5 9.Bh6 b4 10.Nb1 a5?!

Black can mix attack and defense with 10...Qa5.

11.h5 c5 12.hxg6 fxe6 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.e5 14.Qh6+ is even better: 14...Kh8 15.e5 cxd4 16.exf6 Nxf6.

14...Ng8 15.Nh3 cxd4?! 16.Ng5!

Now White's attack looks unstoppable.

16...Nxe5 17.Rxe5+ Kf6 18.Qf4+ Bf5 19.Nd2 d5

20.g4?!

This lets Black back into the game. Instead White has 20.Nde4+! dxe4 21.Nxe4+ Ke6 22.Nc5+ Kf6 23.g4 and Black is about to be mated.

20...e6??

20...Qc7! and Black is surviving: 21.Nge4+ dxe4 22.Nxe4+ Ke6 23.gxf5+ gxf5.

21.gxf5

This wins of course but White has a mate in two: 21.Nge4+ dxe4 22.Nxe4, mate. 21...exf5 22.Qxd4 Ne7 23.f4 N7c6 24.fxe5+ Nxe5 25.Ndf3 Qd6 26.Rd7 1-0

26...Qxd7 27.Qxe5, mate.

In round 11, former club champions Deepak Aaron (White) and Phil Sells clashed:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.Bb3 Na6 8.Be3 Nc5 9.f3 0-0 10.Qd2 Nxb3 11.axb3 b6? 12.0-0-0

White could win a pawn here with 12.Nc6 Qd7 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Bxb6.

12...Bb7 13.g4 Nd7 14.h4 a6 15.g5 b5 16.h5 Rc8 17.g6 Bf6

It seems as if Black can just ignore what White is doing on the Kingside: 17...Qa5 18.Kb1 b4 19.Nce2 Ne5 20.gxh7+ Kxh7 and the position looks even.

18.h6 fxe6?!

There is an old saw about how you should always make pawn captures towards the center, but this move has a tactical refutation. 18...hxg6 is better, but White still has an attack: 19.hxe6 Bxe6 20.Bh6 b4 21.Na2 Qa5 22.Kb1 Qc5 23.Nxb4 a5 24.Na2 Bxd4 25.Bxf8 Kxf8.)

19.hxe6 Rf7?

Black wants to get rid of that annoying g-pawn, but it's better to hold onto e6 with 19...Re8 20.Qh2 h5 21.Qxd6 Ne5 22.Nxe6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Nxf3 and White has the advantage, but it's better for Black than the game.

20.Qh2 Rxe7?

Black had to play 20...h5. Now he's just lost.

21.Nxe6 Qe7 22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.Qxd6 Ne5 24.Bd4 Rc6 25.Qb8+

25.Qd5+ is better, but White gets around to it eventually.

25...Rc8 26.Qd6 Rc6 27.Qd5+ Kh8 28.Bxe5 Rc8 29.Bxf6

This works, but even better is 29.Rxe7+! Kxe7 30.Rh1+ Qh6+ 31.Rxe6+ Kxe6 32.Bxf6.

29...Qxf6 30.Qxb7 and Black resigned.

Two weeks later, on September 29, the club held its annual Handicap Blitz tournament. Like the blitz tournament, the players just had ten minutes to finish

the entire game, with no time delay added. The difference here was that time was distributed unevenly according to rating, so if a player was out-rated by 200 points he'd have six minutes to his opponent's four, while a 400 point difference would make the time seven to three.

While this shift in time is a great equalizer, nevertheless the three highest-rated players finished at the top in rating order. Club champion Patrick Chi, the event's highest rated player at 2099, won with a 9½-1½ score. His only loss was to Matt Clough and his only draw was to second place finisher Ashok Aaron. Aaron scored 9-2, losing only to Bill Little (see the game below) and drawing with Chi and Matt Clough.

The rest of the field was quite a ways behind the two leaders. Jon Leisner and Zach Calderon tied for third with 7-4. Peter Henner was fifth with 6-5, Bill Little and Cory Northrup tied for sixth with 5-6, Herman Calderon eighth with 4½-6½, John Phillips and Robert Ellsworth tied for tenth with 4-7.

A handicap blitz tournament is sort of a strange event, and a number of strange things happened. In a number of games one of the players started with only two or three minutes all sorts of oversights occurred. There were several games that were over before move fifteen and at least four of them were decided by the King being captured – something that can be legal in a blitz game but not in a regular tournament game.

Bill Little, whose fine win over Ashok Aaron is featured below, lost his first four games, then hit his stride and won four in a row. Matt Clough finished near the bottom with only 3½ points, but most of his points were scored against the top four finishers: he was the only player to beat Patrick Chi, he drew Ashok Aaron, and he beat Zach Calderon. This tournament was directed by John Barnes.

Here is one of the pivotal games in the handicap blitz, in fact it was the only game lost by Ashok Aaron, who won the club blitz championship two weeks before. You could say that it was won by three rating points: if Bill Little had been rated 1884 the game would have been played with even time instead of six minutes for Little and four minutes for Aaron.

Since my trying to copy down the games as they were being played worked out well for the blitz championship, I decided to repeat the experiment

here, with mostly positive results. However, it should be remembered that this is a blitz game, and in their hurry to avoid losing on time, the players make a few mistakes that they'd ordinarily never make.

**Bill Little (1881) – Ashok Aaron (2083) [C01]
SCC Handicap Blitz-championship, round 6
Niskayuna, NY, Sept. 29, 2011**

1.e4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Qe7+ 6.Qe2 Bg4 7.f3 Bf5 8.Bf4 dxc4 9.Qxe7+ Nxe7 10.Bxc4 c6

A perfectly understandable way to play: Black wants to control the square in front of White's d-pawn so it can't advance, and therefore becomes a weakness.

11.Nge2 0-0 12.0-0 Nd7 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nb6 15.Bb3 Rfe8 16.Bd2 Ned5 17.Rfe1 Bd3 18.Nf4 Bc4 19.Bc2 Nxf4 20.Bxf4 Nd5 21.Bd2 Kf8 22.Kf2?

Here's a surprise: White can actually take the h-pawn here. If Black tries to trap the bishop he gets a nasty shock: 22.Bxh7 g6?? 23.Bh6, mate.

22...h6 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Re1 Rxe1 25.Kxe1 Nc7 26.Ba4 Ke7 27.Bf4

White has the two Bishops here, which should give him an advantage, but the d5-square is such a good outpost for the Knight that I would say the position is just about equal.

27...Nd5 28.Bd2 Ke6 29.g3 f5 30.Kf2 g5 31.h4 Kf6 32.Bc2 f4 33.hxg5+ hxg5 34.Be4 fxg3+

Black can actually allow White to win the f-pawn, but it gives an opposite colored Bishop ending that would be very drawish: 34...b5 35.gxf4 gxf4 36.Bxd5 cxd5 37.Bxf4 Kf5 38.Be5 a6 39.Kg3 Be2

35.Kxg3 Nc7 36.Kg4

With the speed of erosion, the game is beginning to turn against Black. Not a good situation for someone with only about one minute twenty seconds left on the clock. To compare, White has a little over three minutes.

36...Ne6 37.Bc1 Bb3 38.Bd3 b5 39.Bd2 Bd5 40.Be4 a5 41.Bc2?

This allows Black an opportunity which both players miss. After 41.Bd3, White is still on top.

41...Bc4

Unfortunately here Black overlooks a cute tactic 41...b4! 42.cxb4 axb4 43.axb4 Bxf3+ 44.Kxf3 (It's actually better for Black to play 44.Kg3) 44...Nxd4+ 45.Kg4 Nxc2 46.Bxg5+ with a probable draw.

42.Be4 Bd5 43.Be3 b4?

Now this desperate play just makes things worse.

44.axb4?
44.Bxd5! cxd5 45.cxb4 axb4 46.axb4 and Black is lost. He must eventually give up the g-pawn in order to stop the b-pawn.

44...axb4 45.cxb4 Ke7 46.Bf5?

Again 46.Bxd5 cxd5 sets up a similar situation to the last note.

46...Kd6 47.Bxe6 Bxe6+ 48.Kxg5 1-0

Now the players were moving too fast for me to record the moves, but Black lost on time in a couple more moves. With unlimited clock time, this opposite-colored Bishop ending is probably a draw, i.e.: 48.Kxg5 Kd5 49.Kf6 Bh3 50.Bf2 Bc8 51.Kg5 Bd7 52.f4 Ke4 53.Bg3 Bc8 54.Bf2 and White can really make no progress.

The first Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of the 2011-12 school year was held on October 1 at Giffen Elementary in Albany. Counting from the beginning back in 2005, this was tournament number 55. Overall about 82 players competed in the seven sections.

One of the recent features of the Make the Right Move tournaments is the AWE section which is short for All Welcome. This mixed ages section gives scholastic players the chance to compete against adult players, including some of the strongest players in the area. The winner of this section was former Schenectady champion Philip Sells with a 3½-½ record. Sells' sole draw was with RPI player Brian Furtado who tied for second with Brian Osgood at 3-1. Tied for fourth with 2½-1½ were Gordon Magat and Zachary Calderon. Tied for sixth with 2-2 were: Ken Evans, Carlos Varela, Bill Matters, Christopher Caravaty and Sreenivas Alampalli.

In the top scholastic rated section, Nova Wang was the clear winner with a perfect 4-0 score. Sumanth Gajjala was sole second place with 3-1. Third through sixth with 2-2 were: Danny Diaz, Yogi Kanakamedala, Jonathan D'Alonzo and Pu Dakshinamurthy.

In the section for players rated 1000 and below, Shamanth Murundi won on tiebreaks over Joseph D'Alonzo. Both scored 3½-½. Jovanna D'Alonzo was third with 2½-1½, although she could have won the section had she beaten her brother in the final round. She had a win on the board, but ran out of time. A lesson from that game: if Jovanna had managed to get Joseph's last two pawns off the board before her flag fell, the game would have been drawn since you need mating material, even if it's only one pawn, to win on time. Adam Carr and Antonio Lacy tied for fourth with 2-2.

Deepti Aaron, sister of Deepak and Dilip, dominated

the Under-600 section, winning it with a perfect 4-0 record. Abhinev Gudapati was clear second with 3-1. Third through fifth with 2-2 were: Nathaniel Cotto, Gowth Puviararasu and Srikanth Tumati.

In the top unrated section, Ar'Rion Johnson won with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were Nate Matteson, Nigel Galla and Thomas Schouten. Fifth and sixth with 2½-1½ were Thomas Burgess and Ashutosh Yaligar. Tied for seventh with 2-2 were: Julian Galla, Andrie Galla, Marc Schiffres and Jimmy Lentz.

The unrated section for players in grades three through five is usually the largest section, and this was no exception. Brian Stewart took the first place trophy on tiebreaks over Sandeep Alampalli. Both scored 3½-½. Third and fourth with 3-1 were Job Foulks and JanKarl Galla. All alone in fifth place with 2½-1½ was Abhijeet Gudapati. Michael Cheng was the winner of the unrated section for players in grades two and below, with a perfect 4-0 score. Hariharan Conji was second with 3-1 while Sayyed Ayube and Harni Conji were third and fourth with 2-2.

The East Greenbush Chess Club, last season's top team, continued their winning ways by taking the first-place trophy with 12 points. Kingston was second with 10 while Rensselaer Boys and Girls Club was third with 9 points.

The second Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of this school year and the 56th overall, took place on Nov. 5 at the Henry Johnson School in Albany. Eighty-eight players competed in the seven sections.

In the All Welcome section, Niskayuna's Dilip Aaron came in clear first with 3½-½. His key third round win over Carlos Varela is today's featured game. Second through fourth with 3-1 were Varela, Brian Osgood and Sreenivas Alampalli. Fifth through eighth with 2-2 were: Christopher Caravaty, Christopher Conroy, Dharani Marundi and Daks Puviararasu.

In the top-rated scholastic section Jonathan D'Alonzo was the clear winner with 3½-½, although some luck was involved because he was clearly lost in his last round game with Nitin Obla. Second through fourth with 2½-1½ were: Sumanth Gajjala, Joseph D'Alonzo and Christopher Bouchard. Nitin Obla and Yogi Kanakamedala were tied for fifth with 2-2.

In the rated Under-1000 section William Vetrano and Killian Whyte were first and second with 3-1. Vignesh Pernati was third with 2½-1½ while Manthan Vasavada was fourth with 2-2.

In the Under-600 section Kenneth Etwaru dominated with a perfect 4-0 score. Josh Sigsby and Michael Cheng were second and third with 3-1. Gowtham Puviararasu was clear fourth with 2½-1½. Tied for fifth with 2-2 were: Abhinev Gudapati, Phillip Anderson, Enkhbileg Besuud and Srikanth Tumati.

In the highest non-rated section Sherwood Ludwig was clear first with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Julian Galla, Aaron Salisbury and Anthony Raimo. Aubrey Nooks was fifth with 2½-1½. Tied for sixth with 2-2 were Nigel Galla, Aidan Moore, Thomas Burgess and Michael Raimo.

The non-rated section for players in grades three through five was the largest as usual, and it had two perfect scores at the top. First on tiebreaks was Sandeep Alampalli followed by Ashutosh Yaligar. Third through sixth with 3-1 were: JanKarl Galla, Ben Noland, Abhijheet Gudapati and Tamia Cousins. Tied for seventh place with 2½-1½ were RayAmalet Reynoso, Bella Mein and El-Sire Douglas. In the non-rated section for grades two and below Vinishasree Thumilan took first on tiebreaks over Harni Conji with 3-1. Pretesh Prakash and Hariharan Conji were third and fourth with 2½-1½.

Top team was East Greenbush with 13 points. Host school Henry Johnson edged out Albany Academy on tiebreaks for second place. Both teams scored 11 points. For the last couple years I've been offering a cash prize for the Most Interesting Game played at the November Make the Right Move tournament, in memory of the Capital District Scholastic Championships that used to take place every year around Halloween. This year I had a tough decision between two very different games, so I decided to split the prize and give it to both of them.

One of the winners was Nitin Obla who won this miniature against Joseph D'Alonzo in round two with a classic combination. Obla(1115)-D'Alonzo(1014): **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Nxd5 Qc6??**

Here D'Alonzo seemed to be trying to make up his mind between 10...Qd6 and this move, and he chooses the wrong one. 11.Bb5!! I doubted that Obla

would find this move, but he played it pretty quickly. 11...Qxb5 12.Nxc7+ Ke7 13.Nxb5 Rb8? 14.Qd6+ Ke8

I now thought that White would pick up the loose rook on b8, but he has a better idea.

15.Nc7, mate.

Here is the other winner of the Most Interesting Game prize, from the winner of the Open section, Dilip Aaron.

A few weeks ago the Sicilian Dragon Variation was being discussed at the Schenectady Chess Club, and I remembered Bobby Fischer saying he had beating the Dragon down to a science from playing against it in hundreds of blitz games. Here, in the same way, Dilip Aaron takes apart the Dragon and makes it look easy. However, this game is actually a replay of a game by the same opponents from the Schenectady Championship preliminaries played just a few weeks before, and in that game white lost. The plain fact is that the Dragon is a very tactical and heavily analyzed opening and there's plenty of bear traps for either side to step on.

I'd like to thank Carlos Varela for providing me with the game score.

**Dilip Aaron (1793) – Carlos Varela (1705) [B34]
Make the Right Move No. 56, round 3
Albany, NY, November 5, 2011**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 Qa5 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.0-0 a6 11.g4!

This doesn't make the game unique, but it's pretty close. Up until now this game has been identical to another game between these players from the Schenectady Chess Club championship, played just a few weeks before. That game continued: 11.Bh6 b5 12.g4 d6 13.h4 Ne5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.g5 Nh5 16.f4 (even better is 16.Nd5) 16...Nc4 17.Qf2 (17.Bxc4 is better) 17...Bb7 18.Be2 Rac8 and White has a modest advantage, but later went on to lose when he made a wrong turn in a tactical melee. The text seems to be a clear improvement over this game.

11...b5 12.h4 d6

Black finally makes the move to turn the game back into an ordinary Dragon, and strangely enough it makes the game unique. The move 12...b4 seems like a better way for Black to continue.

13.h5 Be6 14.Bh6

14.hxg6 is stronger for White, the next note explains why.

14...Rfd8?

This move seems harmless, and even well-principled since Black is obviously planning the thematic ...d6-d5 break, but in fact it loses - after this White's attack is irresistible. Instead Black draws White's fangs by seemingly sticking his head in the tiger's mouth with 14...Bxb6! 15.Qxh6 Bxb3 16.axb3 e6 and White still has an attack, but Black's position looks survivable 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.g5 Nh5 19.Rxh5 gxh5 20.Bh3 Nd8, etc.

15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.Qh6+ Kg8

17...Kf7 is slightly better but 18.g5 is still deadly.

18.g5 Nh5 19.Rxh5 gxh5 20.Qxe6+

White is winning here - he's picked up two minor pieces for a Rook, and nuked Black's kingside in the bargain.

20...Kh8 21.Nd5 Qa7 22.Bd3 Rf8 23.f4 Rac8

My computer suggests the clever 23...Rxf4 24.Nxf4 Qe3+ 25.Kb1 Qxf4, but Black is still losing.

24.g6?!

A small slip. Much deadlier is 24.e5 followed by Rd1-h1.

24...Nd4?

This is Black essentially throwing himself on his sword. 24...Rcd8 is better.

25.Nxd4 Qxd4 26.Qxe7 Qg7 27.gxh7 Rf7 28.Qxd6 Qxh7 29.Qxa6

29.Rh1 is more to the point, but taking a free pawn certainly doesn't hurt.

29...b4??

Black misses that his Rook is en prise, but he's totally lost anyhow: 29...Re8 30.e5 Qg7 31.Rh1 Kg8 32.Qb6 Kf8 33.Rg1 and Black can resign.

30.Qxc8+ 1-0

The last Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of 2011, in fact the last major Capital District chess event of 2011, took place on December 3 at the Sacandaga Elementary School in Scotia. This was a new venue for the Make the Right Move tournaments, but the turnout was a very healthy 94 players in the seven sections.

In the "All Welcome" section, the winner was Niskayuna student Dilip Aaron with 3½ points out of four. He drew fellow scholastic player and *Empire Chess* columnist Zachary Calderon in round three but in the final round Dilip won his game while Zach lost. Second through fifth with 3-1 were: Bill Matters, John Luvotsky, Chonji Kothandan, and Adrian Galla. Tied for sixth with 2½-1½ were Ken Evans and Zachary Calderon.

In the top rated section, Yogi Kanakamedala was the

clear winner with 3½-½. Joseph D'Alonzo was second with 3-1 and Nitin Obla was third with 2-2.

In the rated section for players rated below 1,000 William Vetrano edged Kyle Matters on tiebreaks, with both players scoring 3-1. Third through sixth with 2-2 were: Jovanna D'Alonzo, Antonio Lacy, Shreyas Raman and Gowtham Puviararasu.

The rated section for players rated under 600 was won by Michael Cheng with 3½-½. Kenneth Etwaru was clear second with 3-1. Third through fifth with 2½-1½ were: Abhinev Gudapati, Nathaniel Cotto and Brian Stewart.

The unrated section for players in grades six and above was won by Nigel Galla with a perfect 4-0 record. Second through fifth with 3-1 were: Joey Mercado, Aaron Salisbury, Ben Verdai-Davidson and Julian Galla.

The unrated section for players in grades three through five is always the largest, and here it was so big that it ended with two perfect scores at the top, with their places decided by tiebreaks. JanKarl Galla edged out Thomas Burgess to take the first place trophy. Third through ninth with 3-1 were: Ashutosh Yaligar, Samir Ishaque, Sandeep Alampalli, Saathvik Narra, Dylan Lonergan, Abhijeet Gudapati and Ben Noland. Alika Jackson-Bergin was clear tenth place with 2½-1½.

Finally, the unrated section for players in grades two and below also ended with two tied at the top with 4-0: Hariharan Conji edged out sibling Harni Conji for the first place trophy.

Top team again this month was East Greenbush with 16 points, which is the highest score possible – they had four players with perfect 4-0 scores. Schenectady's Martin Luther King was second with 11½. Rennselaer Boys & Girls Club was third with 11 points while Giffen Elementary was fourth with 8½.

Special mention should be made of the Calderon family who helped bring this tournament to Scotia for the first time. I understand that Zach Calderon is doing a lot to support chess in the Scotia school district by running informal chess classes and giving lessons.

All three of these tournaments were organized and directed by Brother John McManus for the Make the

Right Move Chess Foundation.

In spite of all this there is more going on besides the clubs and the scholastic events. On Saturday October 15, former New York State Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron held a simultaneous chess exhibition on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Due to some confusion about the venue the turnout was somewhat light: only 14 players were there to face the champion.

I was there watching the games and I was able to obtain the scores of most of them. A few of the players were able to get good positions but eventually they were outfoxed or simply ground down. For example, here is a tactical slugfest between Deepak and Uncle Sam club member Elihue Hill:

Aaron-Hill: 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.e4 Bg4 6.Be3 a6 7.Bxc4 e6 8.e5 Nd5 9.Bxd5 exd5 10.h3 Bh5 11.g4 Bg6 12.Qb3?

This doesn't turn out well. 12.a3 was a better idea.

12...Nb4! 13.Rc1

White has to give up the exchange to keep his Queen from being trapped with 13...Bc2.

13...Nd3+ 14.Kd2 Nxc1 15.Rxc1 b5 16.Nxd5 Rc8?!
Black has a material advantage, but his development and King safety are rocky. Now the way to continue is 16...c5! 17.Bg5 Qa5+ 18.Ke2 h6 and Black still has the advantage.

17.Bg5! Qd7 18.Re1 h6??

The losing move. Black had to play something like 18...Qe6 with a more modest advantage for White.

19.e6! fxe6 20.Rxe6+!

At the time I thought this was rather risky, but later analysis showed it to be 100% correct. Black is lost.

20...Qxe6 21.Nxc7+ Kd7 22.Qxe6+ Kxc7 23.Bf4+ Kb7 24.Qxg6 Bb4+ 25.Ke2 Rhg8 26.Ne5 Be7 27.Qf7 Rce8 28.Qd5+ Kc8 29.Qd7+ 1-0

Looking at a mate in two, Black gave up.

Typically Deepak wins exhibitions like this with a perfect score but as the event was winding down he unexpectedly lost a game. At one of the boards was a serious-looking RPI student that I hadn't seen before. Glancing at the game Deepak seemed to have things well in hand, so I wasn't paying that close attention. Suddenly the game was over. I assumed that Deepak had won, but he had accidently fallen into a mating trap. As it turns out the sole winner, Jeffrey LaComb, was Deepak's highest rated opponent at this event.

Aaron (2288) - La Comb (1930): Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 Bd7 9.f3 Nc6 10.Qd2 Na5 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.Kb1 Nxb3 13.cxb3 b5 14.g4 b4 15.Nce2 a5 16.g5 Nh5 17.f4 e5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Nf3 Qc7 20.Nxe5 Be6 21.Nd3 0-0 22.Nef4 Nxf4 23.Nxf4 Qe5 24.Qg2 Bxg5? 25.Nxe6?!

25.Nd3 Qb5 26.Bxg5+-

25...Bxe3 26.Nxf8 Kxf8 27.Rhe1 Bf4 28.Qh3 Qc5 29.Qd3 g6 30.Rf1 Qc7 31.h4 h5 32.Qf3 Bh6 33.e5 f5!? 34.exf6??

Deepak falls into the trap cunningly set by Black's last move. He wins after 34.Qd5 Re8 (34...Qc2+ 35.Ka1 Bc1 36.Qd6+ Kg7 37.Qf6+ Kh6 38.e6) 35.e6. 34...Qc2+! 35.Ka1 Bc1! 0-1

Among the other players present were: Brother John McManus, Michael Chang, RPI students Max Katz, Brian Furtado and Ron Adamako; Carlos Varela and his two daughters Catalina and Tatiana; Albany club members Tim Wright, Christopher Caravaty, Charles Eson and Akhil Kamma. RPI student Brian Furtado organized the event. Entry was free but participants brought a tableful of canned goods that went to St. Joseph's House and Shelter in Troy.

The Capital Region Open was played on October 30 at the Studio of Bridge and Games in Schenectady. Overall 35 players competed in the four sections, which doesn't sound like too many, but the Studio definitely seemed full of people.

The Open section was won by Schenectady Chess Club Champion Patrick Chi with a perfect 4-0 score. My readers may remember that when a similar event, the Schenectady Open, was held at the Studio back in June. Patrick also won that with a 4-0 score. However, it's not easy being near the top of the rating pile: Patrick only picked up 18 rating points for his clean sweep.

In clear second place with 3-0 was the event's highest rated player, downstate expert Sam Barsky. Tied for third with 2-2 were: Dean Howard, Randall Gay, Robert Campbell, Jeffrey LaComb and Chen Qu. These last three named players split the prize for best player under 2000.

Another scholastic player, Koushik Pernati, dominated the Under-1800 section, winning his first three games then drawing in round four to finish with 3½-½. Some players expressed astonishment that a player rated only 1529, in fact the lowest rated player in the section, should do so well. The truth is that

Pernati has been steadily improving and is one of the regulars at the Make the Right Move scholastic tournaments. This is obviously his breakout tournament and he picked up over 130 rating points from this victory. Tied for second with 2½-1½ were Brian Osgood and Cory Northrup. Dilip Aaron and Christopher Caravaty tied for fourth with 2-2.

The bottom rated player winning his section doesn't happen very often, but it happened again in the Under-1400 section as Jonathan D'Alonzo, rated only 1037, scored a perfect 4-0. Sumanth Gajjala was clear second with 3-1 and Yogi Kanakamedala was third with 2½-1½. Jeffrey Young and John Femia tied for fourth with 2-2.

While the top three sections all had clear winners, the opposite was the case in the Under-1,000 section as four players tied for first with 3-1. Since this section had trophies not cash prizes, the final places were decided by tiebreaks. The two top players were so evenly matched that their positions were only decided by half a tiebreak point in the third tiebreak used. Philip Thibault edged out Gowtham Puviararasu for the big trophy while Joseph D'Alonzo and Jovanna D'Alonzo were third and fourth. Kenneth Etwaru and Shreyas Raman were first and second under 800 while Kennedy Etwaru and Tatiana Varela were first and second under 600.

Once again, it was good to see chess played again at the Studio of Bridge and Games, the site of regular monthly tournaments from the mid-1970s to 2009, run by Studio director Normal Shelly. This event was directed by Steve Immitt for the Continental Chess Association.

As I was entering the playing room at the end of round three, I saw Patrick Chi exiting the hall looking as if he had just lost his game, but this turned out not to be the case. Phil Ferguson, who had been watching the game, said that it contained some crazy tactics and that he managed to capture it using a novel method: he took a photo of Patrick's scoresheet with his mobile phone. However, when Phil and I looked at the game later it seemed like a pretty straightforward win for Patrick. His opponent had a dangerously passive position out of the opening and then desperately sacrificed a piece to get some play, which simply didn't work.

Patrick Chi-Randall Gay: Pirc-Modern
1.d4 d6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Qc7 4.e4 e5 5.d5 f5 6.Bd3 f4
Phil tells me this is not a good idea in this opening.

7.g3 f3 8.h3 9.Nf6 10.Be3 Be7 11.f3 Nbd7 12.Qd2 Nf8 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.g4 h6 15.Ng3 Bxg4?!

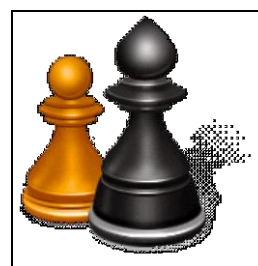
Sheer desperation, but the play that Black gets from this move fizzles quickly.

16.f3 Nxg4 17.Nf5 Bf6 18.Qg2 h5 19.Rxh5 Rxh5 20.Qxg4 Rh2?! 21.Qxg6+ Kf8 22.Qg1 Rxb2 23.Qh1 Rd8 24.Be2 g6 25.Qh6+ Bg7 26.Qxg6 Qf7 27.Qxg7+ Qxg7 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Rb1 Rxb1+ 30.Nxb1 c5 31.Nd2 Rh8 32.Nf1 Rh3 33.Kf2 Kf7 34.Bg4 Rh4 35.Be6+ Kf6 36.Kf3 Kg6 37.Bf2 Rf4+ 38.Ke3 Rf8 39.Ng3 a6 40.Nf5 b6 41.Nxd6, and Black resigned.

Save the Dates!

March 3-4, 2012

New York State Scholastic Chess Championship



Saratoga Springs, NY

It's the March place to be!

News from the Marshall

From staff reports

The 95th Marshall Chess Club Championship was a triumph for GM Mikheil Kekelidze, who won the 30-player tournament and \$2,000 in prize money with a 7-2 score. The event was held from October 21-30 at the strongest chess club in America.

Only at the Marshall could the club champion lose rating points for a clear triumph in the “local club championship.” In this case, the GM’s rating went from 2537 to 2534. Kekelidze played the second through sixth finishers in the event, winning two, drawing two and losing to veteran New York Master Yefim Terger, who placed sixth.

Rising New Jersey junior Christopher Wu was clear second with 6 ½ points. Wu took a half-point bye in the first round and then won four straight before losing to Kekelidze in the sixth round in what proved to be the decisive encounter. Wu was actually leading the tournament going into the final round, but a second loss to FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy cost him the championship. For his efforts, Wu won \$1,000 and became a National Master, with his rating rising from 2182 to 2250.

Ostrovskiy and fellow FM Leif Pressman tied for third in the closely-contested tournament with 6-3 scores. Somewhat surprisingly, they did not face each other in the event, and both won in the last round to leapfrog into the top places.

New York State Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin, NM Yefim Terger and NM James Black, Jr. tied for fifth with 5 ½ points.

Bonin had a most unusual path in this tournament. He received a full-point bye in the first round on a forfeit after taking a bye in the Queens CC Championship (mentioned elsewhere in this issue), defeated Connecticut Master Oliver Chernin in the sixth round, and drew his remaining seven games to be the tournament’s only undefeated player. Bonin also was the only player to only play opponents who finished in the top half of the tournament, with his lowest-ranked opponent finishing 13th with an even score.

NM Levy Rozman and Benjamin Katz shared the class prize with five points. The tournament was organized by the Marshall, and directed by Dr.

Marcus Fenner with assistance from James Frawley.

Christmastime in the City means the Marshall Masters gets an influx of players from out-of-town as well as the locals. The December 20 22-player tournament was a triumph for GM Timur Gareyev, who normally lives in Texas and tied for first alongside “local” GM Mikheil Kekelidze. Both players scored 3 ½ points.

Gareyev won his first three games, and then conceded a draw to IM Vladimir Romanenko in the last round to allow Kekelidze to catch up with a last-round win over GM Sergey Kudrin. Kekelidze drew IM Jay Bonin in the second round.

Romanenko, IM Justin Sarkar, and rising junior NM Justus Williams tied for third with 3-1 scores. Romanenko was undefeated, while both Sarkar and Williams lost to the aforementioned Kudrin in the first two rounds of the tournament.

Matthew Morales directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Kudrin was not denied victory in the December 4th Marshall Grand Prix tournament though. The former U.S. Champion and Connecticut GM swept the 32-player field with a perfect 4-0 score, defeating IM Jay Bonin in the final round to complete the victory.

NM’s Yefim Treger and James Black, Jr. tied for second with 3 ½ points. Black took a half-point bye in the last round, while Treger drew Jason Marinetto in the first round. George Berg was clear fourth with three points and won the class prize.

Dr. Marcus Fenner directed.

Sixteen players contested the November edition of the Marshall Master on the 15th, and GM Giorgi Kacheishvili won the tournament with 3 ½ points. The 2676-rated GM drew GM Sergey Kudrin in the third round, and won his other three games, defeating GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the final round to secure victory while Kudrin was drawing against IM Jay Bonin.

Kudrin and Bonin tied for second in the event with three points, with both players going undefeated with two wins and two draws. Matthew Morales directed.

(continued on page 12)

Mid-Hudson News

by *Ken Evans*

Kingston High School was the site for the annual scholastic five-round tournament which brought together 106 players from 25 schools on November 19, 2011.

The top three winners in the 30-player rated section were Naor Izak (5-0), Corey Sansola (4-1), and Dharshan Ram (4-1), three students who hone their chess skills at the Vassar-Chadwick chess club. Izak's win over Sansola in the fourth round was decisive. Sansola beat Ram in round three. A surprising five players tied for fourth with 3 ½ points: Jonathan and Joseph D'Alonzo, Michael Liu, John darling and Miles De Martino.

In the non-rated section for grades 7-12, Kingston players Tom Schouten, Nate Matteson were co-champions with 5-0, followed by teammate Alexei Rigaud (4-1). Also undefeated were Andrew Nachamkin of Haldane and and Stephan Donmg of St. Joseph's who tied for first in the large (40 players) section for grades 4-6. Five players in that section had 4 points: Rowan Jones and Uriel Calixto of St. Joseph's, Nicholas Moffitt of Netherwood Elementary, Andrew Gauspohl of the Rockin' Rooks club in Rhinecliff, and Jan Galia of Ichabod Crane.

Co-champions in the K-3 section were Alexander Ober (Woodstock Day School) and McCready Kearney of the Rockin' Rooks after they drew in round 3, and in third place was Eiton Neustadt of the Rockin' Rooks with 4-1.

The top five team trophies went to Kingston HS, the Rockin' Rooks, St. Joseph's Mighty Pawns, Woodstock Day School, Haldane, and Ichabod Crane. The annual event which began in 1973 (nearly 40 years!) was organized by Ken Evans and John Franklin, with computer pairings handled by Br. John McManus and Sreenivas Alampalli.

Noah Kulick won the November Swiss at the Vassar Chadwick Chess Club with an impressive perfect score result that included beating the three players directly beneath him in the standings of the 12-player event. David Antonucci, Jr. was clear second with a 3-1 score, and Ken Evans, Michael Mendez, Jr. and Michael O'Connor all tied for third with 2 ½ points. O'Connor was the tournament director for the club.

The October Fall Swiss brought 18 players to Poughkeepsie to brawl for it all just before Halloween at the Vassar Chadwick Chess Club. The event was a triumph for Ernie Johnson, the veteran player of the Mid-Hudson Valley, who swept the field with a perfect 4-0 score. Tournament Director Michael O'Connor and Michael Mendez, Jr. tied for second with 3-1 scores. Mendez lost to Johnson in the first round, while O'Connor went undefeated, drawing David Antonucci and Scott Strattner.

Noah Kulick enjoyed the Dutchess Community College National Chess Day tournament on October 8 with a victory in their 14-player event. Kulick drew second-place finisher Daniel Rosa in the second round, and won his other three games. Rosa was clear second with three points, drawing Michael Mendez in the last round as well as Kulick. Ernie Johnson, Craig Fisher, and Mendez tied for third with 2 ½ points. Scott Strattner directed the tournament.

Seven players played in the Thanksgiving Blitz tournament at the Vassar Chadwick Chess Club on November 21. Fast-rising junior Jonathan Richman swept the first round-robin with a perfect 6-0 score. Craig Fisher was clear second with five points, and David Antonucci was clear third with four points, as the event followed place protocol with no draws, which is highly unusual for a quick chess tournament.

Richman also won the second round-robin, though with only 4 ½ points, losing to Noah Kulick and drawing Jayenth Mayur. David Antonucci and Kulick tied for second with 4-2 scores. Michael O'Connor directed for the Vassar Chadwick club.

**Watch for the new www.nysca.net –
coming in 2012!**

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

January 28: 3rd Annual Broome County Championship/Francis Cordisco Memorial!

4-SS, Rds. 1-3 G/65 Rd.4 G/75. Entry: \$59. Cash only at site. Reg.: 8:45 to 9:15 AM. Rds.: 9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 4:45. Open: \$250, \$200, \$100. Reserve: \$200, \$150, \$100. Trophies: 1st - 4th, both sections. Make checks payable to: Cordisco's Corner Store, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901. (607) 772-8782. cordiscos@stny.rr.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

January 29-30, 2012: Greater New York City Scholastic Chess Championships - Sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation

5-SS, G/30 in four separate one-day tournaments at the New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street, New York City. Guaranteed individual and team prizes in all sections, with trophies to the top 12 individuals and top six schools in each section. Round times for all tournaments are 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 3:30 and 5:15 p.m.

The Primary (K-3) and Junior High Championships (K-9) will be held on Saturday, January 29 and the Elementary (K-6) and High School Championships (K-12) will be held on Sunday, January 30. All tournaments except the Primary are conducted in Varsity, Junior Varsity and Novice sections. The Primary will be held in Varsity, Junior Varsity and K-1 sections.

For complete information and online registration, contact www.chesscenter.cc.

March 3-4, 2012: New York State Scholastic Chess Championship, Saratoga Springs, NY. See the ad on the back page for complete information, or www.chesstour.com.

March 16-18 or 17-18, 2012: Long Island Open, Ronkonkoma, NY. 5-SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2G/75, d/5), Holiday Inn Long Island - Islip Airport, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma NY 11779. Free parking, free shuttle from LIRR or Islip Airport. Prizes \$12,000 based on 150 paid entries, \$8000 minimum (2/3 each prize) guaranteed; re-entries & \$50 off entries count as half entries. In 4 sections. Open: \$1500-800-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top U2300/Unr \$600, U2200/Unr \$500. FIDE. Under 2100: \$1000-600-400-300, top U1900 \$500, U1800 \$400. Under 1700: \$900-500-300-200, top U1500 \$450, U1400 \$350. Under 1300: \$800-400-200-100, top U1100 \$300. Unrated may not win over \$200 in U1300 or \$400 in U1700. EF: 3-day \$103, 2-day \$102 mailed by 3/8, all \$105 online at chesstour.com by 3/13, \$110 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/13 (entry only, no questions), \$120 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site. GMs free; \$100 deducted from prize. EF for Under 1000 or unrated in U1300: \$50 less. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with Chess Life if paid with entry. Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. Re-entry \$60; not available in Open Section. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6:30 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 10:30 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: \$75-75, 631-471-0401, reserve by 3/2 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

March 31-April 1, 2012: 34th Marchand Open, Rochester, NY. The Upstate Classic moves to a new location at the Strong National Museum of Play, a classic in its own right at One Manhattan Square in Rochester. 5-SS, \$10,750 Guaranteed in four sections: Open, Under 1800, Under 1400 and Under 1000. 30/60, 60/SD with a five-second delay. 120 Grand Prix Points. Open section prizes are \$2000-\$1300-\$850-\$550-\$330, with Under 22900 and Under 2000 class prizes. EF \$55. Registration is from 8:30-9:15 a.m. at the site. Rounds are 10 a.m., 2:15 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on Sunday. IM's and GM's if registered by March 17.

For further information, please contact www.nychess.com or 585-442-2430.

The second Saturday of every month. Jennifer Woods Grand Prix: 4-SS, rounds 1 & 2 G/60, rounds 3 & 4 G/90 @Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Drive, Rochester. Guaranteed Prizes: \$150-90-60 class \$80. Reg: 8:30-9:15. Rounds. 9:30-12-2:15-5:30 EF: \$30 Advanced Entries/Info: Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Drive, Rochester, NY 14610. (585)442-2430.

Most third Saturdays of month there will be the Monthly Buffalo Grand Prix Events at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo.4-SS, TL: Rounds 1 & 2,G/45, Rounds 3 & 4 G/60 Prizes: 1st-2nd Guaranteed \$250-150-100, Class \$75. Reg.: 8:30-9:15 a.m., Rounds.: 9:30-11:20-1:10-3:30 EF: \$50. U1600 EF: \$35, \$150-90-60, ALL PRIZES EXCEPT 1st & 2nd in OPEN, BASED ON 20 ENTRIES. Scholastic EF: \$15, Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Adv. Entries/Info: Archangel 8 Chess Academy, arcangel8chess@yahoo.com, 60F Guilford Lane, Buffalo, NY 14221. See www.buffalochess.blogspot.com for future dates and details.

Third Tuesday of each month. Marshall Masters at the Marshall Chess Club. 4-SS, G/30. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2100 (plus all players scoring 2 ½ or more from CCNY at the Marshall's Thursday Night Action) EF: \$40, members \$30, GMs \$10 (returned on completion of tournament). Top three prizes guaranteed. \$\$Guaranteed 250-150-100. Top Under 2400 and Top Under 2300 prizes. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg.: 6:15-6:45. Rounds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 p.m. One bye available, rounds 1 or 4 only.

Practically every Thursday night at the Marshall Chess Club...Four Rated Games Tonight (10 Grand Prix Points Tonight the last Thursday of the month)! 4-SS, G/30, Chess Center at Marshall Club, 23 W 10th St, NYC: 212-477-3716. May be limited to 1st 36 entries. EF \$30, Club membs \$20, specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free. \$\$ (480 b/32 paid): 150-100-50, Top U2200/unrated \$95, U2000 \$85. Limit 2 byes (1 bye if U2000), commit by 8:15. Re-entry \$15, counts half. Reg. ends 10 min. before game. Rds. 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 pm. Phone entry often impossible! \$5 extra if entering under 10 min. before game. Check www.marshallchessclub.org for additional information.

May 18-20: 20th New York State Open, Lake George, NY. 5-SS, 30/90, SD/1 in four sections. Tiki Resort, 2 Canada Street, Lake George, NY. Further information in the Spring issue or at www.chesstour.com.

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New York State Updated Chess Club Directory

Western New York

Rochester Chess Center

221 Norris Drive
Rochester, NY 14610
Ron Lohrman, 585-442-2430
Monday and Wednesday: 7:30-10 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m-10 p.m.
www.nychess.org

Niagara CC Chess Club

Building G, Room 244
Wednesday, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Harish Srinivasan
harish.srinivasan@gmail.com

University of Buffalo CC

Student Union Room 145
Friday, 5-7 p.m.
Tom Kessler
Kessler5@buffalo.edu

Lakeshore Chess Club

Lake Shore Library
Route 5, Hamburg
Mondays, 5-8 p.m.
Tom Warner
warner689@cs.com

Villa Maria College

Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Peg@ex-webit.com

Jamestown Chess Club

Chautauqua Chess Assoc.
111 W. 2nd St., Suite 210,
Jamestown
Mark Clark, 716-763-6825
Thu., 6-9 pm, . Sat. 10:30-3.

buffalo.chess.blogspot.com
for additional information.

Southern Tier

Hornell Chess Club

Hornell Intermediate School
Park Street, Hornell
(Summer: Arkport Community
Room) Fred Harris, 607-295-9858
Fharris3@stny.rr.com
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Elmira/Corning Chess Club

Manos Diner, Monday
118 College Ave. Elmira
Raynesford Taylor Bacorn
607-734-8602
Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Thu. Barnes & Noble, 821 CR 64,
Big Flats

Cornell Univ. Chess Club

Goldwin Smith Hall, Room 164
Monday & Wednesday, 5 p.m.
rso.cornell.edu/chess

Central New York

Seymour Library Chess Club

Seymour Public Library
176 West Genesee Street,
Auburn
Second Saturday of the Month,
1-4 p.m.
Tom McKellop
315-252-3789
tom_mckellop@hotmail.com

Watertown Chess Club

HSBC Building
120 Washington Street
Watertown
Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m.
Don Klug
315-408-1850

Sullivan Chess Club

707 Legion Drive, Chittenango
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
John Wolf, 315-687-3356

Capital Region

*For Capital Region and Hudson
Valley clubs, go to:*
www.enyca.org

East Greenbush Chess Club

Sunshine Day Care, across from
Greenbush Reformed Church,
East Greenbush
14 Hayes Road
Wednesdays 6:30-10 p.m.
Bill Matters, 518-477-2820

Greenwich Chess Club

Greenwich Free Library,
Greenwich
Thursday, 7 p.m.
John Hartnett,
jhartnet@twcap.rr.com

Saratoga Staunton Chess Club

Saratoga Springs United
Methodist Church
(5th Avenue and Hennings Road)
Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Lee Battles
lee_battles@aol.com
Alan LeCours, 518-583-0400

Schenectady Chess Club

Niskayuna Community Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Bill Townsend, 518-346-6595
wtownsen@nycap.rr.com

Hudson Valley

King's Knight CC

Rosendale Café
435 Main St., Rosendale
Ken Evans, 845-331-8186
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Margaretville Chess Club

Methodist Church, Margaretville

Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Tom Delehanty,
tdelehanty@catskill.net

Middletown Chess Club

Walkill Comm. Center
Route 211, E. Middletown
Lonnie Kwartler, 845-469-4451
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Vassar-Chadwick CC

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
Monday 7 pm
Craig Fisher, 845-462-5630
Craig.fisher@marist.edu
www.vassar-chadwick.com

Walden Chess Club

Josephine-Louise Public Library
5 Schofield St, Walden, 10am-
2pm, 845-778-7621

New York City/Westchester

The Bob Peretz Chess Club

(Formerly The Bronx-Yonkers
Chess Club)
White Plains YMCA
250 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601
914-831-3707 Alan Abrams –
Treasurer
TheBobPeretzChessClub.blogspot.com
Mondays 7:45PM – Midnight

Westchester Chess Club

Trinity Lutheran Church
25 Crane Road, Scarsdale
Wednesday, 7:30-10:50 p.m.
John Marino
914-723-7363
jdmario@alumni.princeton.edu
www.westchesterchessclub.com

Brooklyn College CC

2900 Bedford Ave.
Tue. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30
Contact: Fedor Khrapatin,
frkn81@aol.com

cell: 646-239-0783
<http://bccchess.tripod.com>

Marshall Chess Club

23 W 10 St, NYC
Jim Frawley, Manager
212-477-3716
Weekdays, 1:00-12:00 pm
Weekends, noon – midnight
Marshallchessclub.org

Polgar Chess Club

103-10 Queens Boulevard,
Forest Hills, Queens
Susan Polgar, 718-897-4600
M-F 4:30-9:30 p.m., Sat 12-8
p.m., Sun. 12-7 p.m.
www.susanpolgar.com

Queens Chess Club

All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Avenue,
Jamaica
(w) Friday, 7:30 pm to Sat 12:30
am; events start at 8:15 pm
Ed Frumkin, 212-677-3224
Efrumkin@nyc.rr.com
www.queens-chess.com

Staten Island Chess Club

Holy Child Forum
Lew Fraser, 718-948-2284
LewFraser@si.rr.com
Tuesday, 7 pm

Max Pavey Chess Club

Recreation Center
48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff
Sal Catalfamo
Friday, 7 p.m.

Long Island

Neal Bellon
Long Island Chess Club
United Methodist Church
470 East Meadow Ave.
East Meadow, NY11554
Thursdays, 6:45 – 10:30 PM
www.lichessclub.com

Huntington Chess Club

Huntington Library
338 Main Street
718-829-7770
Saturday, 10-5, (informal)

Long Island Chess Nuts

Old County Rd., Garden City
Margarita Lanides
mlanides@chessnuts.org
516-739-3907
Thu. & Fri., 4-6 pm
Many Scholastic locations

Nassau Chess Club

1st Presbyterian Church of
Mineola
Main & First Sts. Mineola
Harold Stenzel,
631-218-4440
captahal@optonline.net
Monday, 7 - 11:30 p.m.

Syosset Chess Mates

Walt Whitman Elem. School
Woodbury, NY 11797
Randi Gertler / Marc Berger
(516) 381-1755
Gertler@aol.com

**Chess Clubs are the lifeblood of
chess activity in New York.
Support your local club.**

***Supporting your local chess club
allows chess activities in your
community to flourish in ways
that Internet chess will never be
able to replace.***

***Be part of your chess
community, and make your
chess club part of your
community! Check
www.nysca.net for updated
chess club information.***

Open Lines -- Tidbits about the Chess World

By Karl Heck

- GM Hikaru Nakamura is now up to sixth in the world rating-wise on the latest FIDE rating list. The New York native is currently leading the prestigious Reggio Emilio tournament in Italy. Nakamura is the highest-rated player in the United States with a 2848 USCF rating, likely marking the first time a Missouri player has led the country in rating due to the GM's recent move to St. Louis to be part of the Chess center and Chess Hall of Fame in the Gateway City. Two other New Yorkers are in the top five in rating, with Gata Kamsky (2804) currently second and Robert Hess (2717) currently fifth. Nakamura's 2799 Quick rating also tops the USCF charts. Somewhat surprisingly, only GM Ron Henley (2579) represents New York in the top 10, ranking ninth in the country. New York State Chess Hall of Famer and current New Jersey resident Joel Benjamin (2584) is eighth.
- New York has three of the top six women in the country on the December list, with current US Champion Anna Zatonskih (2563) leading the way and IM Irina Krush (2510) being second on the national list. Rusudan Goletiani (2337) is sixth. FM Asa Hoffmann (2298) is fifth in the 65 and Over category.
- GM Robert Hess is the leader in the Top Under 21 category. At age 19, Hess will likely be the leader on the Under-21 board for all of 2012. Marc Tyler Arnold (2566), age 18, is fourth, and Parker Bi Guang Zhao (2491) is ninth at age 17 after an extremely productive year.
- NYU was an impressive fourth at the Pan-Am Intercollegiate Chess Championship held in Dallas over the Christmas break. The Violets had 4 ½ match points, and placed fourth on tiebreaks behind Texas Tech and ahead of the University of Texas-Brownsville, both of whom are coached by recent immigrants from New York. Susan Polgar is coaching up the Red Raiders of Texas Tech, while Ronen Har-Zvi works with Texas-Brownsville. NYU will represent the Empire State in the Final Four of College Chess, which will be held in Herndon, Virginia on March 31 and April 1. The NYU team was Zhe Quan on Board One, Andrew Shvartsman on Board Two, Evan Rosenberg on Board Three and Kyle Cameron on Board Four. Congratulations!
- Next year's Pan-Ams will be quite accessible to New Yorkers, as it will be held at Princeton December 27-30. No flight to Texas this time, so it is a perfect opportunity for a great chess break and a chance to kick some Lone Star butt on the East Coast for a change. If you have a college team, get organized and get down there!
- The New York Knights are the 2011 US Chess League Champions. The team, which was GM Giorgi Kacheishvili, SM Matt Herman, IM Irina Krush and John Fernandez, had a 6-4 regular season in the 10-round league, and then did what they had to do to get through the playoffs. They got past the Boston Blitz in a tie match where they had draw odds and advanced. Kacheishvili and John Fedorowicz lost on the top two boards, but Herman and NM Michael Bodek won on the bottom two to get the Knights through. The semi-final was all New York, as the Knights eliminated the Manhattan Applesauce (GM Alex Stripunsky, IM John Bartholomew, FM Farai Mandizha, NM James Black) 2 ½ -1 ½. NM Justus Williams and IM Irina Krush were winners for the Knights. In the final, the Knights put out the Chicago Blaze, with Kacheishvili and Herman winning and Krush drawing for the final margin.

The Knights also won the 2009 US Chess League Championship.

45th annual
NEW YORK STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 3-4, 2012 -- Saratoga Springs, NY
A USCF and NYSCHA HERITAGE EVENT

Open to grades K-12 in any state (top New York State player & team in each section are State champions). Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY. Free parking. Team prizes based on top four scores from same school. No combined school teams allowed even if one school "feeds" another. Teams of 2 or 3 players allowed, but are at a disadvantage.

In 8 sections. Each is a six-round Swiss System, G/61 except K-1 is 5-SS, G/30 playing Sunday, March 4 only. **All advanced entry fees based on check being mailed by February 10. Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix Points available (except K-1 Section).**

High School, open to grades K-12. Advance Entry fee \$38.20.

High School Reserve, open to grades K-12 under 1200/unrated, Advance EF \$38.

Junior High School, open to all in grades K-9. Advance EF \$37.90.

Middle School Reserve, open to all in grades K-8 rated under 1000/unrated. Advance EF \$37.80.

Elementary, open to all in grades K-6. Advance EF \$37.60.

Elementary Reserve, open to all in grades K-5 rated under 800/unrated. Advance Entry fee \$37.50.

Primary, open to all in grades K-3. Advance Entry fee \$37.30.

K-1, Grades K-1 (Sunday, March 4 only). Entry fee \$37.10.

Postmarked 2/11-21: All entry fees \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 2/21. No credit card mailed entries.

Online at chesstour.com, all sections: Entry fee \$40 by 2/10, \$50 by 2/27. No online entry after 2/27.

Phoned to 406-896-2038, all sections: Entry fee \$55 by 2/27. No phone entry after 2/27.

Entry fee at site: all \$60.

USCF membership required. See online shopping cart for special USCF dues with paper magazine.

Trophies to top 15 players and top seven teams in each section, top three Unrated in Primary, K-1, and each Reserve Section, and Top Under 1500 and 1300 (High School), Under 900 and 700 (High School Reserve), Under 1200 and 1000 (Junior High School), Under 700 and 500 (Junior High School Reserve), Under 1000 and 800 (Elementary), Under 500 and 300 (Elementary Reserve).

Speed playoff if perfect score tie. Free entry to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2012 (Albany), to top player each section.

Schedule: Late registration ends Saturday 10 a.m., rounds Saturday 11 a.m., 2 & 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m., 12 and 2:30 p.m. Awards 5:30 p.m.

K-1 schedule: Late registration ends Sunday 9 a.m., rounds Sunday 10 a.m., 12, 1:30 & 4:30 p.m. Awards 5:45.

Half point byes OK all, limit two, must commit before round two.

Hotel rates: \$117-117, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, reserve by 2/18 or rate may increase. 48 hours notice required for room cancellation. Backup hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, two blocks away, 518-226-0538. **Special car**

rentals: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633.

Mail entry: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Include name, rating, USCF ID, USCF expiration (non-members enclose dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15** per player service charge for refunds. **\$10** extra to switch sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$60. Questions: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. **Bring equipment** if possible, none supplied.