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One thing Americans understand is that they have the right to vote. It is important that every eligible USCF member in New York register on the USCF website

Every few years, the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) makes changes in their voting and management procedures. Sometimes the changes are due to changes in not-for-profit law, and other times they are due to changes in not-for-profit management practices.

For instance, for many years, only delegates voted for the then-Policy Board in USCF elections. A change about 10 years ago let to One Member One Vote, with candidate statements and ballot attached to *Chess Life*, in a similar manner to the voting procedure of NYSCA.

The most recent change involves Internet voting. Even if you are a USCF member, you have to register to vote in the election on the USCF website under your rating profile by March 31 for the annual election. You also have to be a member during May, and then you will receive a ballot for the USCF election.

Delegates also must affirm their status with the USCF office via e-mail or snail mail. Delegates are once again appointed at the annual NYSCA meeting. If you are a delegate and haven't registered, please do so with Cheryl Bruce at the main office in Tennessee.

USCF starts with U. If you don't register to vote, you are giving your voice to somebody in Texas or Tennessee. I am sure you don't want to do that. Register today.

EMPIRE CHESS

“The magazine of America’s oldest chess organization”
Volume XXXIV, Number 1 – Spring 2011

Cover: Tiss Doci (on the left wearing the hat) of Kingston High School and John Darling of Cornwall High School battle in the deciding game of the Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League championship. Photo by Larry King.

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Justus Williams and Ben Gershenov win 44th NYS Scholastic Championship

Williams gets trophy on tiebreaks; Connecticut's Kapil Chandran wins Junior High section, Patrick Chi gets state title

by Bill Townsend

The 44th New York State Scholastic Championships took place in Saratoga Springs on February 26 and 27. Overall about 390 youngsters competed in the eight sections, a significant improvement over last year's turnout of 358. Just like last year, there was a heavy snowstorm right before the tourney although it didn't have the bad effect on turnout last year's did. I suspect that it's because this winter has been so snow-filled that people are no longer fazed by huge amounts of stuff falling from the sky.

The way the honors were handed out in the top High School and Junior High sections was a bit complicated, as you will see. As it turns out each of the two sections had multiple "winners."

There were two players at the top of the 38-player High School section with 5-1: NM's Justus Williams and Ben Gershenov. Williams got the state title on tiebreaks, but it is actually Gershenov who will represent New York State at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. This is because Williams is only in seventh grade, and the rules state that the tournament is only open to players in grades nine through twelve. It seems a little unfair to penalize Williams for being remarkable, but it appears that he will instead represent the state at the new Middle School version of the Denker, the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, to be played later in the year. The highest-rated player in New York in the May rating supplement will be the pick, and as Williams is now a National Master, he is the prohibitive favorite to represent the Empire State.

Amazingly, New York has not had a Denker winner since the early days of the event, though 2009 Denker Champion is now a student at Columbia University in

New York City.

The other big story in the High School section was who didn't win it. Defending champion NM Deepak Aaron of Niskayuna was trying to become the first player to win the tournament three times and was the highest-rated player entering the tournament at 2313, but suffered an upset draw to Jehron Bryant in round three and was firmly knocked out of contention by a loss to Linda Diaz in round four. In third through sixth places with 4½-1½ were: NM Michael Bodek, Jehron Bryant, James Black and NM Deepak Aaron.

In seventh through tenth with 4-2 were: Kostya Shetekauri, Nigel Bryant, Danny Feng and Max Steinberg. Eleventh through seventeenth with 3½-2½ were: Linda Diaz, Ben Altman-Desole, Andrew Zigmont, Shawn Swindell, George Ladouceur, David Kim and Vadim Libo. Aleksandr Kim (3-3) was top player under 1500 while Shannon McCullough (2½-3½) was top player under 1300.

Williams did get top billing in the Team Championship though. Top team here was Intermediate School 318 of New York City with 17 points (Williams, Black, Feng, Swindell, David Kim). Solomon Schechter School of Hartsdale was second with 15 points (Gershenov, Bodek, Max Steinberg and Hannah Steinberg). Edward R. Murrow of Brooklyn was third (Libo, Valicio Palha, Markel Brown, Aleksandr Kim).

Diaz will be representing New York State at the All-Girls Nationals for the second straight year.

This year the tournament was organized a little differently in that each of the school sections had a "reserve" section for lower-rated players. Julian Rodriguez from Browning School was the clear winner of the 29-player High School Reserve section with an undefeated 5-1 record. Second through fifth with 4½-1½ were: Griffin Bassman, Gidon Eydelnant, Ethan Kue and John Nelson. Sixth through eighth with 4-2 were: Alfonso Laffont, Sam Fragola and Nathaniel Kue. Matthew Rzeznik (3-3) was top player under 900, Nathani Rosenthal (2-4) was first under 700 and Zachary Bodeck (1½-4½) was top unrated.

Top team was New York City's Browning School with 16½ points (J. Rodriguez, Griffin Bassman, Laffont, Brennan Bassman). Edward R. Murrow High School, from Brooklyn (Eydelnant, Isaac Lee, Jalil Buie, Nallely Rosales), was second with 15 points. Buffalo's Bishop Timon-St. Jude High

School was third with 14 points (Nelson, Matthew Leahy, Tim Leahy, Matthew Rzeznik).

The 58-player Junior High Championship was won by Kapil Chandran from Pierrepont School with a score of 5½ out of six. He won the trophy, but not the title of New York State Junior High Champion because he's a Connecticut resident. In second through fourth place with 5-1 were: Patrick Chi, Alex Yung and Kyle Moon. Chi and Chandran drew in the fifth round, and Chi and Yung drew in the third round. Since Patrick had the best tiebreaks, he became the new state Junior High champion, after winning the Elementary tournament last year. However, as stated above he won't represent the state at the upcoming K-8 national championships, Justus Williams will. Actually Patrick has a chance, if his rating surpasses Williams' before the cutoff date, but Williams is so far ahead (2215 to 2041) it's unlikely Patrick will catch him.

Tied for fifth to eighth place with 4½-1½ were: Alexander Spinnell, Anthony Panat, Randy Rivera and Jonathan Spinnell. Tied for ninth to fourteenth place with 4-2 were: Jermaine Cooper, Michael Ainsworth, Abraham Glasser, Aleem Awan, John Garcia and Lilia Poteat. Kevin Marin (3-3) was top Under 1200 and Sumanth Gajjala (2-4) was top Under 1000.

Top team was Intermediate School 318 of Brooklyn with 16½ points (R. Rivera, Cooper, Awan, Garcia). Westport, Connecticut's Pierrepont School (Chandran, Noah Arthurs, Zachary Filler, Jacob Klegar) was second with 14½ points. East Side Middle School of New York City finished third with 14 points (Alexander Spinnell, Jonathan Spinnell, Alisa Kikuchi, Anne-Gail Moreland).

The 29-player Middle School Reserve section ended in a four way tie at 5-1. In tiebreak order the players were: William Weinstein, Edgar Chang, Samson Lin and Phili Raftopoulos. Weinstein and Lin went undefeated, and drew each other in the last round. Fifth through twelfth place with 4-2 were: Trevor Cohn, Austin Will, Sam Tillinghast, Christian Chandy, Inigo Rivera, Phillippe Laffont, Jovanna D'Alonzo and Noah Lindsell. Jaquece Elliott (3-3) was top player under 700 and Alexander Chernjavsky (3-3) was top player under 500. Albert Davis (1½-4½) was top unrated.

Top team here was New York City's Geneva School with 15½ points (Rivera, Lindsell, Chandy, Han).

Browning School was second with 12 points despite only having three players, Raftopoulos, Laffont, and Adam Brown..

The 73-player Elementary championship was the largest of the tournament, and had a clear winner in Daniel Kostovetsky who scored 5½ points out of six. Kostovetsky's only draw was in the last round to Gabriel Katz, who was part of the second through fifth tie with 5-1 along with Spencer Ha, Nicholas Vucelic and Hal Rives. Sixth through tenth with 4½-1½ were Matthew Zafra, Jonathan Baccay, Sean Chung, Eric Zhang and Derek Yu. No fewer than thirteen players scored 4-2, taking places 11 through 23: Brandon Huang, Jonathan Aiyathurai, Connor Riddell, Kyle Chan-Shue, Reddy Lee, Leon Lai, Ben Goldstein, Jonathan Kogan, William Shaffer, William Chin, Ricky Wu, Stephen Moon and Will Chapin. Anoop Sunkara (3-3) was top player under 1000 and Nicky Lerner (2-4) was top player under 800.

Top school here was PS 124 with 17 points (Sean Chung, Derek Yu, Ricky Wu, William Chin). Dalton School was second with 16 points (Ben Goldstein, Reddy Lee, Kyle Chan-Shue, William Chapin), with all four players scoring four points. Manhattan's Columbia Grammar School was first with 13 points (Jonathan Kogan, Noah Rubinstein, Jason Levine, Jayrene Shaw)..

Adam Perlstein was at the top of the 68-player Elementary Reserve Section with the only perfect 6-0 score of the entire six-round tournament. Second through fifth with 5-1 were: James Lyon, Mikael Mongroo, William Leiker and Alexander Liptak. Sixth through tenth with 4½-1½ were: Peter Gornik, Kyle Liptak, Benjamin Chermjavsky, Carol Chen and Joseph D'Alonzo. Eleventh through twentieth with 4-2 were: Nitin Obla, Paul Papey, Adam Carr, Austin Stapleton, Ishmael Bento-Simon, Alesander Raftopoulos, Duncan Hruska, Dick Li (who was also top under 500), Antonio Lacy and Christopher Hurst. Dylan Reddish (3-3) was top player under 300 while Leo Xu (2-4) was top unrated.

Browning School of New York City was top team with 17½ points (Alexander Liptak, Kyle Liptak, Austin Stapleton and Alexander Raftopoulos). PS 139 of Brooklyn was second with 16 points (Mikael Mongroo, Ishmael Bento-Simon, Aaron Idemudia, Cianni Smith). Columbia Grammar School was third, led by the tournament champion, along with Theodore Levine, Max Rothenberg and Danielle Levine.

The Primary Championship drew 53 players and also had a clear winner with Max Chung scoring 5½-½. Second through fourth with 5-1 were Maxwell Beem, Hugh Chapin and Katherine Davis. Fourth through seventh with 4½-1½ were: Jacob Chen, Edwin Jin, and William Hu. Eighth through sixteenth with 4-2 were: Hudson Beaudoin, Michael Manta, Daniel Levkov, David Brodsky, Eitan Genger, Jonathan D’Alonzo, Rishi Basu, Aaron Seth and Gavriel Genger. Andrew Gilman was top unrated with 2-4,. Surprisingly low for a section that often features inexperienced players.

Top team here was the Dalton School with 15 points (Hudson Beaudoin, Aaron Seth, Sam Pozner, Jacob Ehrenkranz, Auggie Bhavsar). Colonial School of Pelham was second with 12 points (Rishi Basu, Aidan Resnick, Maxwell Resnick, Ryan Chang, Christian Shiels).

The 41-player Primary K-1 section was run a little differently than the other sections: it had five rounds and not six, and was only held on Sunday. Wesley Wang won the section with a perfect 5-0 score. In clear second with 4½-½ was Mateos Haile-Manas. Third through sixth with 4-1 were: Harris Lencz, Jonathan Manta, Juliana Avedisian and Maxwell Menin. Seventh through ninth with 3½-1½ were: Benjamin Cole, Joshua Peck and Mia Chandy. Akari Hunte was top unrated with 2-3.

Top team was Dalton School with 16 points (Mateos Haile-Manas, Juliana Avedisian, Maxwell Menin, Joshua Peck) Columbia Grammar School was second with 13 points (Harris Lencz, Blake Margolis, Theo Kogan, Theodore Levine, Arthur King).

The chief tournament director was Steve Immitt for the New York State Chess Association and the Continental Chess Association, along with a large and capable staff, including section leaders Hector Rodriguez III, Bill Townsend, Hector Rodriguez IV, Harold Stenzel, Walter Brown, Jr., Sophia Rohde, Steven Flores and Polly Wright.

In addition to the trophy prizes, the winners of each section received a free entry to the 2011 New York State Championship, to be held in Albany on Labor Day weekend.

While not an official part of the tournament, the annual Saturday night Bughouse Championship is a highlight of the event. Nineteen teams competed in

the event, where two-player teams work together to get checkmate on one board with a five-minute time limit.

The Masters (John Garcia and D’Andrea Day) lived up to their name in winning the event with five straight wins after taking a half-point bye in the first round. Black Fang, the highest USCF-rated team in the tournament, (Danny Feng and James Black) were clear second with 4 ½ points, losing only to The Masters in the fifth round.

Three teams tied for third with 4-2 scores: Angus United (Tim Leahy and John Nelson), Collegiate (David and Stephen Moon), and Dynamite (Carlos Tapin and Kevin Marin).

Typically there aren’t a lot of games available from scholastic tournaments. Young players are either reluctant or not used to turning in their scoresheets, and in this case they weren’t helped by the fact that there were no scoresheets available that made copies. An additional problem is that in a tournament like this with a fast time control (G/65 minutes) many games end with one or both of the players in time trouble and the ends of the games aren’t written down. I was able to get two games from new New York State Junior High Champion Patrick Chi from Niskayuna, both of them important to the final result, but alas both of them are incomplete. In the first one you can see that white is clearly winning, but in the second a draw doesn’t seem to be where the game is heading.

The first game is the game that wound up deciding the state title. The player of the black pieces, Michael Ainsworth, hails from White Plains.

Patrick Chi (2048) – Michael Ainsworth (2020)
[E27] Nimzo-Indian Defense
NYS Scholastic Championships
Junior High Section, round six
Saratoga Springs, NY, Feb. 27, 2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.e3 Nbd7

This move has not done well for the second player. More popular and successful are 7...c5 and 7...c6.

8.Bd3 Re8 9.Ne2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bd2 c5 13.Ng3 cxd4?!

Black relieves the tension in the center, prematurely I believe, and this makes the game unique. Instead a golden oldie, Flohr-Ribera Arnal, Hamburg Olympiad 1930 continued: 13...Qc7 14.Qe1 cxd4?!

(Again, this seems to be a bad idea 15.cxd4 Rac8 16.Qf2 Nf8 17.a4 a5 18.e4 g6 19.e5 with a big advantage to White, who later won.

14.cxd4 Nf8 15.Qb3 Ne6 16.Rfe1 Qd7 17.Rac1

This is a very pleasant position for White to play. He has more space and can take his time arranging e3-e4 which has the potential to give him a central pawn roller. Black has to constantly watch out for danger in the center, and his queenside pawn majority is all but useless.

17...Rec8 18.Nf5 g6 19.Ng3 Bc6 20.Qb2 Rab8 21.Bc3

White has an interesting pawn sacrifice here with 21.e4 dxe4 22.fxe4 Nxd4, and Black is in a lot of trouble after 23.Bc3 Ne6 24.Red1 Ne8 25.Ba6.

21...Ne8 22.e4 Nf4 23.Bf1 Nd6 24.Qd2 Ne6 25.e5 Nb5 26.Bb2 Qe7? 27.Qe3?

Here White misses the chance to win two pieces for a rook: 27.Rxc6 Rxc6 28.Bxb5 Rc7 29.Nf1 and White is winning.

27...Bd7 28.f4 Ng7 29.f5

This is Black's nightmare - White's central pawns are poised to crush him.

29...Nxf5 30.Nxf5 gxf5

Black trying to save his pawn structure would drop a piece: 30...Bxf5? 31.Bxb5.

31.a4 Nc7 32.Ba3 Qe6?! 33.Qg5+

Even stronger was 33.Bd6! and now Black can't play 33...Rb7 because of 34.Bxc7 Rbxc7 35.Rxc7 Rxc7 36.Qg5+ Qg6 37.Qd8+ winning a Rook.

33...Qg6 34.Qe7 Qe6 35.Qh4 Ne8 36.Rxc8 Rxc8 37.Re3 Ng7 38.Rh3 Qg6?

This loses, but Black's position is crumbling.

39.Rg3 Qe6 40.Qf6

Even nastier is 40.Be7 and Black will have to give up Queen for Rook.

40...Qxf6 41.exf6 Be6 42.Rxg7+

White has won a piece, and should have an easy win, but I imagine that the clock was already pressing both players.

42...Kh8 43.Rg3 Rc2 44.Bd6 Ra2 45.Ra3 Rxa3 46.Bxa3 h6 47.Bd6 Kh7 48.Bb8 a5 49.Bc7 Bd7 50.Bxb6 Bxa4 51.Bxa5 Kg6 52.Bd8 Bc2 53.Bb5 f4 54.Kf2 Kg5 55.Be8 Bg6 56.h3

And now time was so short that Patrick had to stop writing down the moves, but white has a fairly easy win. The game might have continued: 56.h3 h5 57.h4+ Kxh4 58.Bd7 Kg5 59.Be6! h4 60.Bxd5, etc.

1-0

Here is Patrick's game with tourney winner Chandran. Black is worse through much of this game, and strangely white misses several opportunities to put him away. Probably pressure

from the clock caused the players to agree to a draw.

**Kapil Chandran (2147) – Patrick Chi (2048) [B12]
NYS Scholastic Championships
Junior High Section, round five
Saratoga Springs, NY, Feb. 27, 2011**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.c3?

How can a mild, reasonable move like this be a mistake? It is when the first player has something like 7.Bxf7+! Kxf7 8.Nxe5+ Kg8 9.Nxg4 and white is close to winning.

7...Nbd7 8.Bg5

8.Qb3 looks very strong here.

8...Bd6

8...exd4 is a good deal more challenging. For example after 9.cxd4 Qa5+ White has to play 10.Bd2 or he loses material.

9.Nbd2 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Qc2 Rfe8 12.Rae1 h6 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Bf4 Qc5+ 16.Be3 Qd6 17.b4 Ne5 18.Bc5 Qc7 19.Bb3 Bh5 20.Nc4 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 Bg6

Black could avoid what's coming with 21...Ng4 22.g3 Ne5 and he has a small advantage.

22.Rxf6! gxf6 23.Qf2 Qe5?

23...Kh7 24.Qxf6 Qe5 and Black seems to be OK.

24.Bd4 Qg5?

Black had to play something like 24...Qe7 but still things are not looking hopeful for him.

25.Bxf6?

This seems obvious, but White has better. After 25.h4! Qg4 26.Qxf6 Black has a lost game: 26...Kf8 27.Rf1 Qh5 28.Rf4 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Qh5 30.g4, etc.

25...Qg4 26.h3 Qd7 27.Qh4 Qd2 28.Re2?

White wins after 28.Qg3! Kh7 29.Bxf7.

28...Qc1+ 29.Kh2 h5 30.e5 Qh6 31.g4 Qf4+ 32.Kg1 b5 33.Bb3

Here Patrick stopped writing down the moves and the game was eventually drawn. However, in this final position White seems to be winning: 33.Bb3 Qc1+ 34.Re1 Qh6 35.gxh5 Qxh5 36.Qxh5 Bxh5 37.Re4 and the best Black has to stave off a catastrophe on h8 is giving up the exchange with 37...Re6.

1/2-1/2

Greater NY Scholastic: Two Days, 672 Players.

The end of January in New York City can only mean one thing: the annual Greater New York Scholastic Chess Championship sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation. The tournament is the oldest scholastic event contested in America, and many years it is one of the strongest as well. The 2011 edition brought 672 players over two days to play in 11 sections at the New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan for the 45th renewal of this American Classic.

Thirty-four players contested the High School Varsity section, and a varsity tournament it clearly was. The first 13 players on the crosstable were rated Expert and above, and additional Experts were also sprinkled through the rest of the table.

Raven Sturt, New York's latest addition to the Senior Master ranks, tied for first in the section with FM Alec Getz with 4 ½ points out of five. The two scholastic stars drew in the last round after sweeping through the field.

FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy tied for third with Expert Joshua Colas. Ostrovskiy was nicked for a second-round loss by Expert Miles Hinson, who ultimately finished 19th in the tournament with an even score. Colas only lost to the tournament's highest-rated player, IM Marc Arnold. Arnold lost in the fourth round to Sturt and then withdrew, finishing sixth overall. Richard Tuhrim was clear fifth with 3 ½ points. David Aduboffour won the Top Under 1700 prize with two points.

Hunter High School won the Top Team Trophy by 5 ½ points with an impressive 14 ½ point result. Frederick Douglas Academy was second with nine points.

The 61-player Junior High Varsity produced two perfect scores. Danny Feng and Kyle Moon both finished with perfect 5-0 scores, and the eighth-grader Feng was able to win the playoff for the first-place trophy.

A cluster of six players tied for third with 4-1 scores: Eve Zhurbinskiy, Alexander Spinnell, Lilia Poteatt,

Joshua Colas (yes, the same player as in the High

School. The format of the tournament places the High School and Junior High on different days, so it is possible to play in both events if you are in junior high school and have a lot of energy), Azeez Alade and NM Justus Williams. Williams had a forfeit in the first round, and then swept four straight.

I318K, with Feng and Williams leading the way, won the Top Team Trophy with 16 points. Stuyvesant was second with 11 ½ points and the Trinity School was third with 10 points.

Max Wiegand was the uncontested 5-0 winner of the Elementary Varsity section. The sixth-grader defeated four players who finished in the top eight of the 65-player tournament in a dominating performance. The Massachusetts player raised his rating from 1473 to 1623 on one extremely good day in Manhattan.

Thomas Knoff, the highest-rated player in the tournament at 1751, was clear second with 4 ½ points, conceding only a second-round draw to Ricky Wu, who finished 11th. Sean Chung, Warren Wang, Justin Kim, Hal Rives and Rishi Rajendran tied for third with 4-1 scores.

PS 124, with all four players having plus scores, won the Top Team Trophy with 14 points. The Browning School won second on tiebreaks over PS 166, with both schools ended with 11 ½ points.

Max Chung swept the 50-player Primary Varsity tournament with its only 5-0 score. Jeffrey Rodriguez, Jr. was clear second with 4 ½ points, yielding only a third-round draw to Jesse Goodman, who finished ninth. Katherine Davis, Michael Manta, Max beam, Hudson Beaudoin, Auggie Bahvsar and David Brodsky all tied for third with 4-1 scores.

The Dalton School won the Top Team Trophy with 14 points. NEST School was second with 13 points, and the Browning School was third with 11.

The tournament was organized by the Chess Center of New York and directed by Steve Immitt.

Western New York News

from staff reports

Doug Dubose, playing in his first tournament in over a year, tied for first with Jamestown expert Mark Clark in Sardinia in the monthly tournament on March 5. Doug, who is "getting ready for the Mayor's Cup" in June (the Buffalo area's most prestigious tournament), won all three games while Mark upset Barry Davis in round three as in a completely winning position Barry hung a rook! I think we can all say, been there, done that!

Austin Kossow and Sam Santora split the Under 1500 prize in the 14-player Open section.

Sam Santora won the scholastic section for the second month in a row by going undefeated 6-0 in the seven-player round-robin. Santora's impressive sweep bested the field by 2 ½ points.



Is it possible to win two chess tournaments in the same day? The answer is yes!

Third grader Sam Santora did it at the Sardinia February tournament, tying Pat Patterson for first in the Open section and winning the Scholastic section outright. (the winners are pictured above).

In the Open section, Santoro received a first-round bye and then won the last two games in the nine-player section to end up in first place. Patterson, the section's highest-rated player, was nicked for a draw by Nathan Palmisano in the first round, and then won his last two games. Both won their next two games to split first place in the Open.

In the scholastic section Sam edged out Chris Darling, going 6-0 in the 10-player section. Chris Darling, Todd Thompson and James Lyon tied for second with 5-1 scores. The tournament was modified to accommodate the players participating in both sections. It is valuable experience for the scholastic players to get the opportunity to play in the Open as well.

Congratulations to Sam for his fine performance, for which he gained over 100 rating points in one day, going from 1186 to 1292. Thanks also to Luke Grisanti, Todd Thompson, and Wes and Chris Darling who also played in both adult and scholastic sections. Nine games in one day is a lot of chess. Tom Warner directed both events for the Southtowns Chess Club.

A total of 41 players in three sections contested Archangel 8 Chess Academy's Valentine's Day 2011 chess tournament on February 19 at Main Place Mall in Buffalo.

The 10-player President section was won by NM Lionel Davis and Expert Barry Davis, both finishing with 3 ½ points. They drew in the third round, and beat the remainder of the field. Ryan Madden and area organizer Tom Warner tied for third with 2 ½ points.

The 17-player Sweetheart section was won by Ontario's Vinay Sharma with a perfect 4-0 score. Sharma is a regular in Buffalo, and earned 136 rating points in his triumph. Undefeated James Paul was clear second with 3 ½ points, drawing in the third round. Nathan Palmisano was clear third at 3-1, only losing to Sharma.

The Whitfield scholastic section was won by Karl White in his third tournament with 4 ½ points. White was nicked for a draw in the third round by Zachary Madden and won his four other games. Austin Will was clear second in the 14-player section with a 4-1 score, losing only to the champion in the second round.

The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie. A record number of 49 chess players turned out for the first tournament of 2011 in Buffalo, which was the January 17th Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial tournament at the Main Place Mall.

Three players tied for first in the closely-contested 13-player Open section: NM Lionel Davis, Barry Davis and Erik Lubas, all with 3-1 scores. The Davises were undefeated, drawing each other in the second round, and both getting fourth-round draws, while Lubas battled back from a first-round loss to David Miller to tie for first.

Randy Gugino and James Davis tied for first in the Under 1500 with 3 ½ points, drawing in the last round after sweeping the field. James Paul and former Empire Chess correspondent Mark Mieth tied for third with 3-1 scores, with Paul going undefeated. Mieth survived a first-round upset to Reagan Lyle, who finished 16th in the 19-player section, to end up a prizewinner. With two lawyers and two doctors winning the prizes, this was likely one of the most intellectually strong sections in some time.

There were two 4-1 scores in the 12-player scholastic section, with Trevor Cohn and Kevin Roulhac splitting top honors. Roulhac beat Cohn in the last round to force the tie, his fourth consecutive win after a first-round loss to James Lyon. The five round format does allow the opportunity for a comeback in the tournament.

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

Meanwhile in Rochester, the chess action is as fast and furious as ever. Chess leagues for all ages, weekly tournaments and the monthly Grand Prix events make every day in the Flower City a chess day.

A familiar face topped the leader board at February's Jenifer Woods Grand Prix: FM Igor Nikolayev. He tied for first in the event with Douglas Spence and Charles Kelly in most unusual fashion: two wins and two half-point byes. Even so, he beat fellow tri-champion Douglas Spencer in the third round. Charles Kelly also joined the tie with three consecutive wins after a first-round loss to FM Isay Golyak.

Golyak and fellow tournament veterans Sherman Cunningham and Blake Gianniny tied for fourth in the closely-contested 16-player tournament with 2 ½ points.

January's Jenifer Woods Grand Prix brought FM Nikolayev to the top of the table in more familiar fashion by playing all of the games. His 3 ½ points

effort did include a first-round upset draw to 1877-rated Abraham Glasser before winning the last three games of the tournament.

Expert Matt Slomski was clear second with three points, losing only to Nikolayev in the final round. The tournament has four players tied for third with 2 1/2 points: FM Isay Golyak, Galsser, Meghseh Pansari and Keith Kerrigan.

Both events were organized by the Rochester Chess Center and directed by Mike Lioni.

In other news, the weekly Rochester Chess Center league has been re-named by Dr. Rawle Farley, who died late last year. The league is ongoing, and information is available at www.nychess.com.

The Rochester Chess Center also has regular weekly tournaments every Saturday. The March 5 event drew 14 players and ended in a three-way tie between FM Isay Golyak, a club fixture, and Experts Matt Slomski and Eric Luce. All three players scored 2 ½ points, with Golyak taking a third-round bye, while Slomski and Luce drew in the second round.

February's last Saturday tournament drew a robust 27 players coming in out of the cold to enjoy an afternoon of chess.

The three-round was a triumph for FM Igor Nikoyalev with a perfect score. FM Isay Golyak and Sherman Cunningham tied for second with 2 ½ points, both taking half-point byes in the final round.

Ethan Celli won the Youth Section with four points. Pahz Cherelin was second in the six-player round robin. Michael Lioni directed for the Rochester Chess Center.

The picture is courtesy of Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner, an excellent source of chess information and knowledge on the Niagara Frontier. You can check them out at buffalochess.blogspot.com.

Rochester Chess Center information can be found at www.nychess.com. They are also Upstate New York's leading supplier of chess books and equipment, and run two interscholastic chess leagues. Watch for the full report on them in the summer issue.

A Ten-Gallon Marchand Open

By Karl Heck

Before New York State Hall of Famer and Life Master Dr. Erich Marchand died, he said to play chess in any memory. The 33rd anniversary of Dr. Marchand's tournament took place on March 12-13 on the campus of St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, a suburb of Rochester.

The Good Doctor (he was a professor of optics at the University of Rochester for many years, and was long a fan of mystery novels) played for many years in his signature event before passing on. Since then the Marchand has been one of Upstate New York's largest and richest events.

In 2011, 117 players participated in the tournament. The 2011 Marchand Open co-champions were GM Timur Gareyev of Texas, a student from Uzbekistan who attends the University of Texas at Brownsville (incidentally, UTB's chess team is coached by former Albany-area GM Ronen Har-Zvi), and New York City Grandmaster Mark Paragua, who hails from the Philippines. The two GM's drew in the fourth round, which happened to be the first Sunday round.

Former New York State Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron, now the Capital Region's highest-rated player, was clear third with four points despite having a cold throughout the tournament. His only loss was to Gareyev in a college vs. high school matchup in round three.

Here is a matchup of Upstate New York scholastic titans, from round four of the Marchand:

Date: 2011.03.18

Round 4, Marchand Open, Pittsford, NY

White: Aaron, Deepak

Black: Parry, Matthew

[Result "1-0"]

[ECO "C45"] Scotch Game

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Nb3 Bb6 6. Nc3 d6 7. g3 Be6 8. Bg2 Qd7 9. h3 Nge7 10. Qe2 O-O 11. Be3 Kh8 12. O-O-O f5 13. f4 fxe4 14. Bxe4 Nf5 15. Bxf5 Bxf5 16. Bxb6 axb6 17. g4 Be6 18. f5 Bg8 19. Rhf1 Qd8 20. Kb1 Qh4 21. Qg2 Rae8 22. Nd4 Nxd4 23. Rxd4 Re3 24. Nd1 Rxh3 25. Qxb7 Qf6 26. Ra4 Qe5 27. Qxc7 Qb5 28. Raf4 Bxa2+ 29. Kxa2 Ra8+ 30. Kb1 Rha3 31. Kc1 Ra1+

32. Kd2 Qd5+ 33. Kc3 Rxd1 34. Rxd1 Qxd1 35. Rd4 Qe1+ 36. Kb3 h5 37. Qxd6 Qe3+ 38. c3 h4 39. f6 Qh6 40. g5 Qxg5 41. Rd5 Qg6 42. fxc7 Kxg7 43. Qe5+ Kg8 44. Qf4 Qf7 45. Qg4+ Kf8 46. c4 Ra5 47. Qc8+ Kg7 48. Rd7 Rh5 49. Rxf7+ Kxf7 50. Qc7+ Kg8 51. Qxb6 h3 52. Qg6+ 1-0

Five players tied for fourth at 3 ½-1 ½: GM Mikheil Kekelidze who lives in New York City, NM Ben Dean-Kawamura of Rochester, Buffalo Expert Barry Davis, Expert Sam Copeland (who was playing in his first event in four years), and Syracuse-area Expert Viktor Levine. Levine and Dean-Kawamura both had four games.

Local player Bowranigan Tharmalingam won the Under 1800 section with 4 ½ points, and achieved a rating over 1800 post-tournament for the first time. His draw was in the final round against Anne Pier Salverda, one of four players to tie for second with 4-1 scores. Salverda was undefeated, while Chau Nguyen, Jr. (in his first tournament!), Patrick Robinson and Dilip Aaron, the younger brother of third-place finisher Deepak also had four points.

Two players tied for sixth in the 34-player section: William McKay, who was undefeated with three draws, and David Gluchowski, who also was undefeated with a forfeit loss in round four.

The 28-player Under 1400 section was won by Justin Craddock with the tournament's only perfect 5-0 score. David Chadwick was clear second with four points, going undefeated with a draw and half-point bye, and James Paul was clear third with 3 ½ points. The somewhat unusual nature of the scoring meant that none of the three leaders played each other during the tournament. Craddock and Paul both achieved post-tournament ratings over 1400.

Relative newcomers Matt Coyle (he had 17 rated games entering the Marchand) and Garrett Thompson (23 games) won the Under 1000 with 4 ½ points, drawing each other in the last round and earning the points to leave this section. Owen Shriver was third with a 4-1 score, losing only to Thompson in the second round and also earning the points to move up. Patrick Chernjavsky was clear fourth with 3 ½ points, with a half-point bye and a third-round loss to Coyle.

The Marchand Open was run by the Rochester Chess Center in their normal excellent style, as has been the case for the 21 years the Chess Center has been in business. Ron Lohrman directed.

Central New York News

By Karl Heck

Local players Ken Frieden and Thomas Barkley tied for first in the 12-player Syracuse University Open held on February 19 in the heart of the Salt City. Barkley used a half-point bye in round two, while Frieden drew fourth-place finisher Ken Chamberlain in the third round. Barkley beat Chamberlain in the last round to force the tie at the top.

Lance Winter, another class-A player in the closely-balanced tournament, was clear third with a 3-1 score. He lost to Barkley in the third round.

John Allen Gay won the class prize with two points, winning his final two games in his third tournament. The event was organized and directed by Joe Ball.

Jarrold Tavares won the January Central New York tournament, held in the suburb of Minoa. Tavares had 3 ½ points, and a first-round draw to Ken Chamberlain being a bit of a “Swiss Gambit” in the closely-contested event. Tavares then beat the two players who tied for second in consecutive rounds, Tom Barkley and Jan Ondrich. Both players finished with 2 ½ points.

The event was organized and directed by Joe Ball.

The end of winter also brought the annual Onondaga County Scholastic Chess Championship, an event that dates back to the 1960's (and notably, I won the Junior High section back in 1979...). A total of 46 players contested this year's event.

The K-4 section ended in a perfect score tie between Jeffrey Shi of Marcellus and Andrew Dettor of Jamesville-DeWitt. The Marcellus player won the title in the playoff. Ben Fish, Brian Leiker, Andrew Goldberg and Ben Catania all tied for third with 3-1 scores.

Manlius Pebble Hill, buoyed by depth, won the Top Team Trophy with 12 ½ points, besting Jamesville-DeWitt by half a point.

Luke Qi of Fayetteville-Manlius and Billy Leiker of neighboring Jamesville-DeWitt tied for first in the K-6 section with 3 ½ points, drawing each other in the third round while sweeping through the rest of the 14-player section. Qi won the County title on tiebreaks over Leiker. Alex Wulff was clear third

with three points, and Ethan Goldstein and Ibrahim Qaddourah tied for fourth with 2 ½ points.

Fayetteville-Manlius won the Top Team Trophy with eight points.

Home-schooled student Mathew Hall won the K-12 section with its only perfect 4-0 score for the third consecutive tournament, and is the 2011 Onondaga County Scholastic Champion. Hall's third-round victory over Jason Liu of Fayetteville-Manlius proved decisive. Liu and Evan Himes of Fabius-Pompey tied for second overall with three points.

Fabius-Pompey also won the Top Team Trophy with nine points.

The event was directed by Bob Nasiff, with organizational support from Anton Ninno and the Southside Academy Chess Club in Syracuse.

Sixty-five players in three sections contested the annual scholastic tournament at Moses DeWitt school in the Syracuse suburb of DeWitt. Over half of those players (34) were in the grades K-4 section, and Brian Leiker of the home district and Ben Fish of Manlius Pebble Hill tied for first with perfect 4-0 scores. Leiker won the speed playoff for the first place trophy.

Five players tied for third with 3-1 scores: Andrew Goldberg, Andrew Dettor, Liam Kaplan, Ben Catania and Connor Ball. By having five of the top seven players in the section, Jamesville-DeWitt won the Top Team Trophy with 16 points, besting second-place Manlius Pebble Hill by 2 ½ points.

The 19-player K-6 section came down to a speed playoff between Luke Qi of Fayetteville-Manlius and David Pinker of West Genesee. Qi won the playoff and the first-place trophy. Billy Leiker and Thomas Eckert-Budis tied for third with 3-1 scores.

West Genesee won the Top Team Trophy with 9 ½ points.

Matthew Hall swept the K-12 section with a perfect 4-0 score, the only one in the 13-player section. Evan Himes, Jason Liu and Daniel Renner all tied for second with 3-1 scores, all losing to Hall in what was a dominating performance.

Fabius-Pompey won the Top Team Trophy with seven points. The tournament was directed by Bob

Nasiff, with organizational support from the Jamesville-DeWitt chess club.

January's 73-player Manlius Pebble Hill Scholastic chess tournament was the largest of the year in Central New York.

Home schooler Aletheia Ieta won the speed playoff in the 33-player K-4 section over Andrew Dettor of Jamesville-DeWitt after both players had perfect scores in the section. Six players tied for third with 3-1 scores: Brian Leiker, Ben Fish, Maxwell Fung, Andrew Goldberg, Emily Neumer and Aiden Usher.

Jamesville-DeWitt won the Top Team Trophy in a closely-contested battle with the host school, winning 15 to 14.

J-D's Billy Leiker won the K-6 section with the 22-player event's only perfect score. Jacob Rolnick and Ethan Goldstein tied for second with 3 ½ points, drawing in the third round. Alex Wulff, Luke Qi and Tyler Gorman tied for fourth with 3-1 scores.

Fayetteville-Manlius won the Top Team Trophy with 11 ½ points.

Matthew Hall won the K-12 section with a perfect 4-0 score in the 18-player event, winning by a full point. Jilin Song, Eric Marlow (from Malone, over three hours from Syracuse!), Nick Guarino and Jason Liu all tied for second with 3-1 scores.

Fabius-Pompey won the Top Team Trophy with 10 points, besting Fayetteville-Manlius by 1 ½ points.

Monthly tournament chess also continues in Binghamton, thanks to the efforts of Cordisco's Chess Center, housed into Cordisco's General Store in the Parlor City.

The February edition drew 14 players in two section. Antonio Scalzo, a visitor from neighboring Pennsylvania, won the Open section with 3 ½ points, drawing third-place finisher Ed Kelley in the last round. Rob Drake was clear second with a 3-1 score, losing to the champion in the third round.

The Reserve section was won by Joel Wald, a Binghamton University student from Connecticut, in his fifth tournament with a perfect 4-0 score. By raising his rating from 1570 to 1739, Wald is rapidly working his way out of the Reserve into the Open. Mark Dreher was clear second with three points,


losing to Wald in the third round.

John Cordisco directed.

Fifteen players contested the 27th Binghamton Open at Cordisco's Chess Center in January, and both sections were closely contested. Three players tied for first with 3-1 scores in the Open section: long-time Binghamton Expert Ed Kelley, Pennsylvania's Antonio Scalzo and Ken Chamberlain of Syracuse. Scalzo beat Kelley, Chamberlain beat Scalzo in the last round to force the tie, and Chamberlain lost to fellow Syracusan Tom Barkley in the second round. Another Binghamton-area stalwart, John Cardinale, was clear fourth with 2 ½.

Larry Patterson and the host and TD, John Cordisco, tied for first in the Reserve with 3-1 scores. Cordisco yielded draws to both third-place finishers, Steve Cashman and Michael Sedlacek, before beating Patterson in the last round to force the tie.

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News from the Marshall

From staff reports

The March version of the Marshall Masters brought 27 players to the world-famous club. GM Leonid Yudasin, SM Yaccov Norowitz and IM Irina Krush all tied for first with 3 ½ points inside the halls of the world's most famous chess club. Yudasin and Krush drew in the third round, while Norowitz also drew in the third round, with GM Mark Paragua.

Georgian Grandmaster Mikheil Kekelidze, now based in New York City and NM Juan Sena tied for third in the tournament. Sena beat Kekelidze in the second round, but lost to Yudasin in the final round.

James Frawley directed the tournament for the Marshall.

The First NYC Senior Championship was held at the Marshall on March 13 and the 21-player event was a triumph for Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin, who scored 3 ½ points. His one draw was in the second round to 2011 Hall of Fame inductee Ed Frumkin. NM Yefim Treger, Vladimir Polyakin and Edward Kopiecki tied for second with three points in the James Frawley directed event.

GM Leonid Yudasin, a fixture at the Marshall Chess Club, won the February Marshall Masters along with rising scholastic star Raven Sturt. Both players had 3 ½ points in the 16-person event. The tournament marked Sturt's welcome into the Senior Master category, as he earned 41 rating points to achieve a post-tournament rating of 2423. In the more rarefied air of high-level chess, it is extremely unusual for a player to blast through a major milestone in this fashion. Yudasin and Sturt drew in the last round of the Game/30 event.

GM Yaacov Norowitz and former New York State Champion IM Jay Bonin tied for third with 3-1 scores. Norowitz won their individual meeting in round two, but then lost to Yudasin in the third round.

The class prize was won by NM's Miro Reverby and Evan Rosenberg with 2 ½ points each. James Frawley directed the monthly Grand Prix event for the Marshall.

Once a month, the longest-running weekly chess tournament in America goes from Four Rated Games

Tonight to 10 Grand Prix Points Tonight, run by the indefatigable Steve Immitt of the Chess Center of New York. Forty players contested the February 17 edition.

Two IM's ended the tournament with perfect 4-0 scores: veteran campaigner Jay Bonin and IM Justin Sarkar. Bonin defeated GM Mark Paragua in the last round to rise to the top, while Sarkar got the best of rising scholastic star Raven Sturt.

NM Yevgeni Margulis took a half-point bye in the first round, then won three straight to take clear third with 3 ½ points and being the master class winner. Paragua, Sturt and Expert Michael Layevskiy (another user of the half-point bye) tied for fourth with 3-1 scores. Steve Immitt organized and directed this event for the Chess Center of New York at the Marshall, as he has done for over 20 years.

The January version of 10 Grand Prix Points tonight drew 27 players to the Marshall, and was won by NM Leif Pressman with a perfect 4-0 score. Pressman the Chessman defeated three players who finished in the top ten in the tournament on the way to winning the tournament title. IM Jay Bonin and FM Asa Hoffman, both veterans of the Marshall chess scene, tied for second with 3 ½ points, drawing each other in the last round.

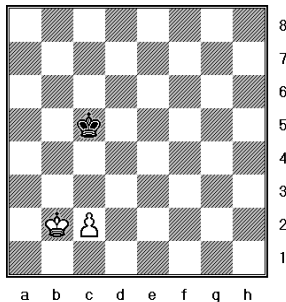
Connecticut NM Oliver Chernin, Moshe Uminer and Joel Hernandez tied for fourth with three points. Dr. Marcus Fenner directed the tournament for the Chess Center of New York at the Marshall.

The January Marshall Masters held on the 18th was won by a true master, GM Aleksandr Lenderman. The former state champion blitzed the field by a full point, scoring 3 ½ - ½ while allowing only a draw to Yaccov Norowitz in the second round. Norowitz and Justin Sarkar tied for second in the tournament with undefeated 2 ½ -1 ½ scores in the small but strong event. James Frawley directed for the Marshall.

The Scholastic Column: Pawn Promotions

By Zach Calderon

When we reach a position in which we have a passed pawn, we must try to capitalize on that advantage. In the endgame, pawn promotions will ultimately decide the outcome of the game. Lets take a look at the basic position below where white is trying to promote is remaining pawn.



Your first instinct might be to play **1. c3?**

This, unfortunately, leads to a draw after

1...Kc4 2. Kc2 Kc5! 3. Kd3 Kd5!

Keeping the opposition to the White King.

4. c4+ Kc5 5. Kc3

And these moves will repeat until Black is stalemated on the eighth rank.

Instead, the correct move is **1. Kc3!**

Since there is an odd amount of spaces between the Kings and it is Black to move, White has the opposition.

1...Kb5

1...Kc6 2. Kc4 Kc7 3. Kc5 Kc8 4. Kc6 and the Black King must step aside anyways.

2. Kd4

White maintains the opposition. Now the King controls c3, c4, and c5.

2...Kc6

Black can play 2...Kb4, but 3. c4 Ka5 4. Kc5 and the White King will remain in front of the pawn until the very end of the board. For example, 4...Ka6 5. Kc6 Ka7 6. Kc7 Ka8 7. c5 Ka7 8. c6 Ka8 9. Kd7 and the White pawn simply marches forward.

3. Kc4 Kc7 4. Kc5 Kb7 5. Kd6 Kb6 6. c4!

Only now does the White pawn move. It cuts off the b5 square from the King.

6...Kb7 7. c5 Kc8 8. Kc6

This forces the Black King to commit to one side or the other. White will seize whatever space is left behind.

8...Kd8 9. Kb7 Kd7 10. c6+ and since the pawn's path is totally covered by the White King, it can walk

forward unobstructed to Queen and win the game.

So a quick review.

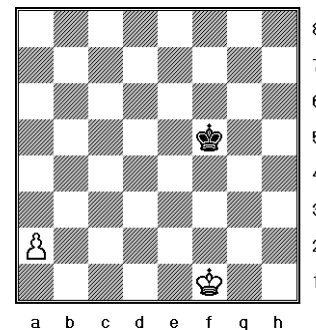
1. White will only advance his pawn once the three squares are covered.

2. White must maintain the opposition if he wants to win.

3. The only exception to these rules is a rook pawn. If the enemy King can get in front of the rook pawn then it is drawn.

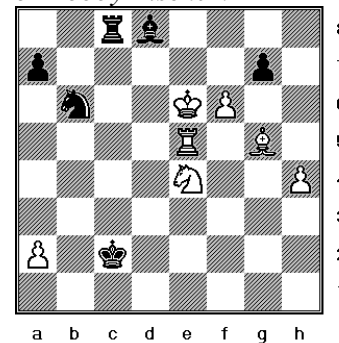
But what if it is a mad dash between the pawn and the King? How can you tell who will win?

Please consider the diagram below.



The square of the pawn looks like this. You take the diagonal that the pawn is on by the King, make a mental line, and form a square around that. Here, the pawn starts at a2. You make a mental line from a2 to g8. Then you put a square around it. Now, if the enemy King is within the square or can step within it on his move, then he can catch the pawn, like shown above. If it cannot step inside, it cannot catch the pawn, and the pawn will promote.

Let's take a look at this nice example of pawn promotion in one of the last scenes in the movie *Searching For Bobby Fischer*.



Black played 1...gxf6 2. Bxf6 Rc6+ 3. Kf5 Rxf6!

A series of exchanges takes place on f6 now.

4. Nxf6 Bxf6 5. Kxf6 Nd7+ 6. Kf5 Nxe5 7. Kxe5 a5
Now the pawn race takes place. Notice how Black lured the White King onto a deadly diagonal. The

pawns now begin to run down the board.

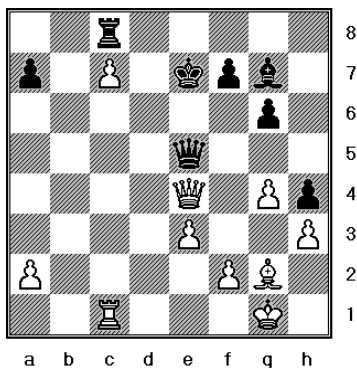
8. h5 a4 9. h6 a3 10. h7 a2 11. h8=Q a1=Q+

A skewer, snagging the White Queen.

12. Kf5 Qxh8 0-1

Black wins the Queen, and with it, the game.

Sacrifices can also be made to promote pieces. In the following game, between Ivanchuk and Carlsen.



Ivanchuk had a dangerous passed pawn, and quickly capitalized on it, removing the defender of the c8 square and forced Carlsen to resign.

GM Ivanchuk, Vassily

GM Carlsen, Magnus

European Club Cup 1, October 2008

Ivanchuk played

38. Qb7 Qe6

Carlsen protects his rook, but Ivanchuk ignores it completely!

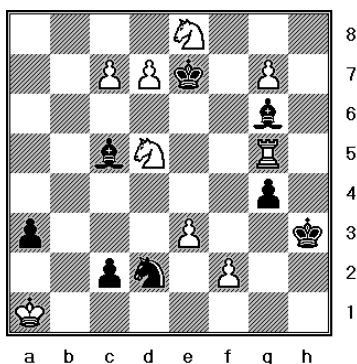
39. Qxc8! 1-0

If 39...Qxc8 40. Bb7 and the pawn will promote.

We have seen examples with promotions to a Queen, but what about under-promotions? This occurs when you promote a pawn to a piece besides a Queen, and there are many beautiful studies done with this theme. I would like to show you one.

1937 Study V. Korolkov

White to play and win



No, there was no problem with the editing, there are three White pawns about to promote and one Black one about to.

If White immediately goes ahead with **1. d8=Q??**, *this loses instantly after the under-promotion 1...c1=N+! 2. Ka1 Ndb3#.*

So White must focus on stopping mate.

He plays **1. Rh5+!! Kxh5**

If 1...Bxh5 2. d8=Q+ and White Queens with check and wins the game. If 1...Kg3 then 2. Rh1, stopping c1=N+, then will have a free pick as to which pawn he will promote.

2. Nf4+ Kh6.

If 2...Kh4, White can again promote his d-pawn with check.

3. g8=N+!!

White has three knights on the board, all surrounding the Black King, making a mating net, bringing the king closer.

3...Kh7

Again, the h4-d8 diagonal is taboo to the Black King, since it allows White to promote d8=Q with check.

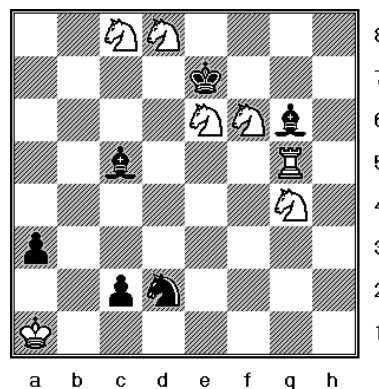
4. Ngf6+ Kh6 4...Kh8 5. Nxc6# 5. Nxc4+ Kh7

Once again, 5...Kg5 allows 6. d8=Q+

6. Nef6+ Kg7

If 6...Kh8, then White can promote a pawn with check.

7. Ne6+ Kf7 8. d8=N+!! Ke7 9. c8=N#!!



That position deserves a diagram. Always look for ways to promote your passed pawns, and always examine all your promoting options! Thanks for reading, and I am looking forward to writing for Empire Chess.

2010-11 Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League Season Recap

by Larry King

Final 2010-11 Standings						
<i>Fischer Conference</i>						
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	MP	GP
Middletown High School	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	34.0
Cornwall Central HS 1	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	35.5
Marlboro Central HS	5.0	2.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	14.0
Highland Falls Middle School	5.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	6.5
James O'Neill HS 2	5.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	14.5
<i>Kasparov Conference</i>						
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	MP	GP
James O'Neill HS 1	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	32.0
Kingston High School	5.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	3.5	29.5
Cornwall Central HS 2	5.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.5	28.0
Gidney Avenue School	5.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	13.5
Monroe-Woodbury	5.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	12.5

NOTES:

Top Individuals with the most match points during the season: John Darling (Cornwall Team 1) 13.0; James Leahy (Cornwall Team 1) 11.0; Alexander Ho (Cornwall Team 2) 9.5; Javier Diaz (Middletown) 9.5; Denthew Learey (James O'Neill HS Team 1) 9.5; Ben Wells (Cornwall HS Team 1) 9.5; Kostya Shetekauri (Monroe-Woodbury) 8.5; Michel Liu (Kingston) 8.5; David Sanz (James O'Neill Team 1) 8.0; Chris Irizarry (Middletown) 8.0

Playoffs

Semi-Finals

Cornwall High School Team 1 vs James O'Neill High School Team 1: John Darling and James Leahy led Cornwall Team 1 to a 5.5 – 3.5 victory. Ben Wells also contributed with one win and one draw. Tim Mills scored 1.5 points for James O'Neill.

Kingston High School vs Middletown High School: Jorge Restrepo's two wins for Middletown were not enough as Kingston won the match 5-4. Tiss Doci and Michael Liu each had two victories for Kingston.

Consolation Match

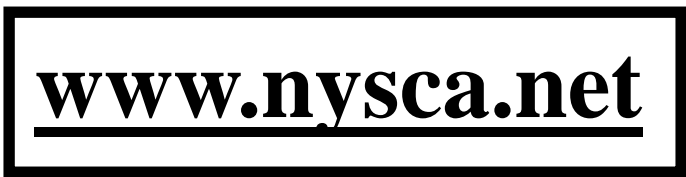
Jorge Restrepo's three wins and Javier Diaz's two wins lead Middletown to a 7-2 match victory over

James O'Neill Team 1. Josh McDonald had the only win for James O'Neill, and Tim Mills and David Sanz drew for O'Neill.

Championship Match

Third-set victories by John Darling and Ben Wells, and a draw by James Leahy rallied Cornwall from a 4-2 deficit to tie the match at 4.5. The coaches agreed before the playoffs started that if a match was tied, he would chose one person to play a five-minute, sudden-death blitz game.

The Championship Cornwall High School team from left to right: John Darling, Doug Stack (Chess Coach, Cornwall HS Teacher, and MHSCCL President), Ben Wells, James Leahy (on next page).





Final Playoff Standings:

Cornwall HS Team 1 (first place); Kingston HS (second place); Middletown HS (third place); James O’Neill HS Team 1 (fourth place).



The second-place Kingston High School chess team. From Left to Right: L to R Tom Schouten, Ken Evans (Coach and former Kingston Teacher), Tiss Doci, Michael Liu, John Franklin (Assistant Coach and Kingston HS Teacher), Nate Matteson.

If the match were still tied, a coach would choose a different player, like a shootout in the NHL where the extra rounds continue until somebody wins or all the players on both sides are used up. John Darling (Cornwall) defeated Tiss Doci (Kingston) in the five-minute blitz game in the fourth set to help Cornwall retain its title.

Though Cornwall was second in their conference during the regular season, they did lead the league in

game points, so it is not a complete surprise that they came through the playoffs with the victory. Based on the game points, there was a clear distinction between the playoff schools and the rest of the league in 2010-2011.

Five-Round Swiss-Tournament

A five-round, 29-player Swiss tournament was held while the post-season matches were played. Kostya Shetekauri (Monroe-Woodbury) finished in first, scoring 4.5 points. Alex Ho (Cornwall), Ishman Chowdhury (Monroe-Woodbury), Matt Lee (Monroe-Woodbury), Irfan Chowdhury (Monroe-Woodbury) each had 4.0 points. Nick Matteson finished in sixth place with 3.5 points.

Team results: Monroe-Woodbury 16.5 points (first); Cornwall 13.0 points (second); Highland Falls Middle School 9.5 points (third), and Gidney Avenue School 9.0 (fourth place over Marlboro because of better tiebreaks). Despite Monroe-Woodbury finishing tied for last in their conference, the playoff swiss salvaged a victory from the season for them.

Please go to mhsc1.lktechnodude.com for more information on the league.



The winning Monroe-Woodbury team from the five-round Swiss tournament. From left to right, L to R: Ray Hodges (Monroe-Woodbury teacher and chess coach), Ishman Chowdhury, Nick Czarniawski, Kostya Shetekauri, Matt Lee, Irfan Chowdhury.

The MHSC1 will return in 2011-2012 for another season of chess excitement in the school of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The Check Is in the Mail (incorporating the 65th Square)

By FM and ICCM Alex Dunne

INTRODUCING IM BJAZEVIC ICCM Pavao Bjazevic and wife

Pavao Bjazevic is an International Correspondence Chess Master living in Florida. Pavao was born in Ecuador but is now a U.S. resident. Pavao was asked in an interview what he thought of correspondence chess compared to internet blitz chess. He replied, "I would say that the most important is that correspondence chess lets you interrelate with your opponent and cultivate a beautiful friendship. Of course this doesn't happen with everybody but more often than not my e-mail opponents after our long games invite me to their homes, show me the pictures of their family, that's it. You get a really close relation with another human being from elsewhere in the world, something completely opposite to what happens in blitz chess on the net."

Pavao operates a website where interested readers can find free chess programs at www.freechesstools.com

GAME OF THE MONTH

Thematic tournaments are very popular events in some chess organizations. Everybody plays the same opening, once from the White side and again from the Black.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E76)

White: Pavao Bjazevic (2245)

Black: Gregor Netolitzky (2263)

King's Indian Thematic, Final, 2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4

This was the required starting position in this the final round of a King's Indian Four Pawns Attack. White claims a great amount of space at the cost of development.

5...c5

Black could accent his developmental advantage by first playing 5...0-0. Instead he has a Benko Counter Gambit Pawn sacrifice in mind.

6.d5 b5 7.cxb5 a6 8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Bd2 0-0 10.a4 Qb4

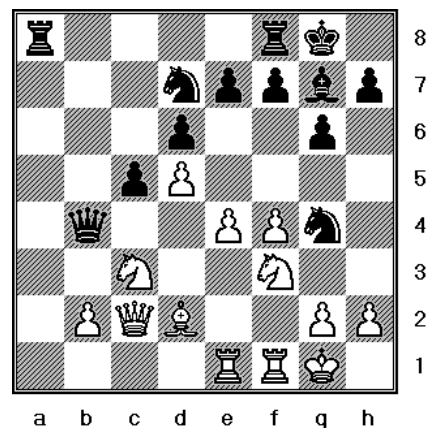
Black scores very badly with this continuation. Better at least statistically is 10...axb5.

11.Qc2 axb5

A catastrophe was 11...Nfd7 12. Nd1 1-0 as in Gasperi-Costantini, Lido Estensi 2002.

12.Bxb5 Bd7 13.0-0 Bxb5 14.axb5 Nbd7 15.Rae1

Ng4



Black had to try the standard maneuver here of ...c4 ...Nc5 and ...Nd3 to gain some counterplay. Now White just takes over.

16.h3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+ 18.Kh2 Qc4 19.Nxd4 cxd4 20.Rxf2 dxc3 21.Bxc3 Qxb5

White is a healthy Pawn to the good, a sharp looking Bishop against a dull Knight and a Black Kingside weakness to contemplate. White is winning.

22.f5! Ne5 23.Qc1 Qb6 24.Ref1 Ra4 25.fxc6 Nxc6 26.Rf3 f6 27.Qh6 Qb5 28.b4

The conclusion could be 28...Ra2 29. Re1 Rc8 30. Rg3 Qe8 31. Rb1 Qb5 32. h4 with an irresistible attack.

28...Ra2 29.Re1 Rc8 30.Rg3 Qe8 31.Rb1 Qb5 32.h4 1-0

I have finished writing and proofing my new book *The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the USCF 1976-2009*. What happens next is unclear. I have offered it to the USCF for publication (right of first refusal) but no decision on this has yet been made.

BOOK REVIEW

Chess on the Edge by Bruce Harper and Yasser Seirawan

Duncan Suttles of Canada is one of the few players ever to earn a Grandmaster title for both OTB and CC play. Famous for his handling of the Rat Defense with 1...g6, the first volume of this three-volume set contains some of his correspondence games. The annotations are clear and plentiful, and though only a handful of his CC games appear in Volume 1 (I haven't yet read Volumes 2 and 3) for players interested in slightly offbeat lines, this should be a good guide.

KING'S FIANCHETTO (B20)

White: Duncan Suttles

Black: Stevan Letic

Eino Heilimo Memorial 1978

1.g3 c5 2.Bg2 Nc6 3.e4 g6 4.Ne2 Bg7 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 Nf6 7.d4 0-0 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Be3 Nd7 10.f4 Qc7 11.a4 Rd8 12.Na3 a6 13.Qc2 b6 14.b4 Bb7 15.Rab1 Rab8 16.Rfd1 Na7 17.b5 Nf6 18.h3 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 axb5 20.axb5 Ne8 21.Qd3 Nd6 22.e5 Nf5 23.Bf2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Bf8 25.Qd7 Qb7+ 26.Qxb7 Rxb7 27.g4 Ng7 28.Bh4 h6 29.c4 Ne6 30.f5 Ng7 31.Ng3 g5 32.Bxg5 hxg5 33.Rd8 f6 34.Ne4 fxe5 35.Nb1 Rc7 36.Nbc3 Rc8 37.Rd7 Ra8 38.f6 Nc8 39.fxg7 Kxg7 40.Rd8 e6 41.Nxg5 Be7 42.Rd7 Ra7 43.Nxe6+ 1-0

USA Under 2100 vs. Rest of the World

The rest of the world took this 54-board match by a score of 58 ½-49 ½. The U.S. lost it on the last seven boards when it was outscored 13-1. Here is U.S. vs. South Africa.

PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)

White: Gregory Cross (2091)

Black: Grzegorz Dlugolecki (2097)

USA vs. Rest Of World Board 1 2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bg4 12.Rb1 Qc7 13.h3 Bd7 14.Qb3 Bc6 15.c4 dxc4 16.Qxc4 Qd7 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Re8 19.Re1 Qd5 20.Qxd5 Bxd5 21.Rd1 Bc6 22.f4 Nd7 23.Ba3 g5 24.g3 Nb6 25.Bd6 gxf4 26.gxf4 Nd5 27.Rf1 Rac8 28.Rf2 Kh8 29.Rc1 Nc7 30.Kh2 Ne6 31.f5 Ng5 32.e6 f6 33.Bc5 Rcd8 34.Rc3 Nf3+ 35.Kg3 b6 36.Be3 Ne5 37.Rd2 b5 38.Be2 Rg8+ 39.Kf2 Rxd2 40.Bxd2 b4 41.Rc5 Be4 42.Bf4 Nd3+ 43.Bxd3 Bxd3 44.Bd6 Rg5 45.Ke3 Bb1 46.Kf4 Rg1 47.Rc8+ Rg8 48.Rc6 Re8 49.Bxb4 Bxa2 50.Bc3 Kg8 51.Bxf6 a5 52.Ke5 Rb8 53.Rc7 a4 54.Rg7+ Kf8 55.Rxh7 1-0

8th Olympiad Women's Final

Playing First Board Roselle Estey scored the only points for the US team. Here is her win over of Ilda Miranda of Portugal.

RUY LOPEZ (C72)

White: Roselle Estey (1979)

Black: Ilda Miranda (2129)

Ladies Olympiad 8 Final ICCF, 2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d4 b5 8.Bb3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nf6 10.c3 Na5 11.dxe5 Nxb3 12.axb3 dxe5 13.Rd1 Nd7 14.b4 Qf6 15.Nd2 Qxf3 16.Nxf3 Bd6 17.Be3 Nf6 18.Ng5 0-0 19.Ra5 Rfd8 20.Rda1 Be7 21.Kf1 Nh7 22.Nxh7

Kxh7 23.Ke2 f6 24.Rxa6 Rxa6 25.Rxa6 Rd6 26.Rxd6 Bxd6 27.Bc5 g5 28.Bxd6 cxd6 29.c4 bxc4 30.b5 f5 31.exf5 1-0

SCOTCH GAME (C45)

White: Gary Walters (2111)

Black: Sergio Ribeiro (2244)

North Atlantic Team Tournament VI 2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2 dxc6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Qf4 Be6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Na4 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Kxd2 0-0-0+ 13.Bd3 b6 14.Rae1 Kb7 15.Nc3 Rhg8 16.g3 c5 17.Kc1 Nc6 18.Re3 h5 19.Rf3 Ne5 20.Rxf6 Nxd3+ 21.cxd3 Rxd3 22.Rd1 Rd4 23.b3 Rg6 24.Rf4 Rg4 25.Rxd4 cxd4 26.Ne2 Rxf4 27.gxf4 c5 28.f5 Bd7 29.h4 Kc7 30.Ng3 Kd6 31.f4 b5 32.Nxh5 Ke7 33.f6+ Kf8 34.f5 c4 35.Ng7 c3 36.e5 d3 37.h5 Bc6 38.e6 d2+ 39.Kc2 Bf3 40.e7+ Kg8 41.e8Q+ Kh7 42.Qd8 d1Q+ 43.Qxd1 Bxd1+ 44.Kxd1 Kh6 45.b4 Kg5 46.Kc2 Kxf6 47.h6 1-0

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE (D45)

White: Charles Jacobs (2275)

Black: Juraj Beres (2168)

Swift Quad 2010

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cxd4 11.Ne4 Nd5 12.0-0 Bb7 13.a4 Nb4 14.Bg5 Qb6 15.axb5 h6 16.Bh4 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Nc5 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 19.Nd2 0-0 20.Nb3 axb5 21.f3 Bd5 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.Nxc5 Qxc5 24.Rd1 Qc7 25.Qxd4 Ra4 26.b4 Qc2 27.Be1 Ra2 28.Rd2 Qb1 29.Rd1 Qg6 30.Bg3 Qc2 31.Bf2 Rb2 32.Re1 Qb3 33.Ra1 Qxb4 34.Qxb4 Rxb4 35.Bc5 Rb3 36.Rd1 b4 37.Bd4 Ra3 38.Rb1 b3 39.Ra1 Ra2 40.Rxa2 bxa2 41.Kf2 Kf8 42.Ke3 Ke7 43.Kd3 f5 44.exf6+ gxf6 45.Bb2 e5 46.Kc2 Ke6 47.Ba1 f5 48.Kd2 f4 49.Ke2 e4 50.fxe4 Bxe4 51.g3 f3+ 52.Ke3 Kf5 53.Kf2 Kg4 54.Bd4 Kh3 55.Kg1 h5 56.Be5 Bf5 57.Kf2 Bg4 58.Kg1 h4 59.gxh4 Kxh4 0-1

ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

The 2011 Absolute Championship has started with a prize fund of \$1035 first, \$690 second, and \$345 third, thanks to generous donations from Corky Schakel, Keith Rodriguez, Robert Rizzo, Abe Wilson, David Sogin, Bernard Rosenthal, Joan DuBois and several anonymous donors. Participants in rating order are John Menke (2445), Stephen Van Enk (2436), Hugo Concha (2398), Abe Wilson (2383), Walter Brower (2379), Dana Daves (2366), Daniel Woodard (2365), Robert Rizzo (2363), Harry Ingersol (2356), New Yorker Sandy Greene (2318), Keith Rodriguez (2314), Capital Region player

Gordon Magat (2288), and Alex Dunne (2215).

An exchange sacrifice on Move 26 brings all White's pieces to focus on d6 – a square that remains unconquered even after the Black King abdicates.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E15)

White: Tansel Turgut (2610)

Black: Sergey Sabaev (2475)

World Championship 24 Final 2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 c5 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 Bb7 8.Bg2 Nxd5 9.0–0 Be7 10.Rd1 Qc8 11.a3 Nf6 12.Bg5 0–0 13.Nc3 Rd8 14.Nh4 Bxg2 15.Nf5 Nc6 16.Kxg2 Qb7 17.e4 d6 18.Qa4 Kf8 19.Rac1 a6 20.h4 h6 21.Bf4 b5 22.Qc2 Ne5 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.Rxd5 c4 25.Rcd1 Nd3 26.R1xd3 cxd3 27.Qxd3 Qc6 28.Qf3 Qc8 29.Qg4 g6 30.Bxh6+ Ke8 31.Ng7+ Kf8 32.Qf3 Kg8 33.h5 Ra7 34.hxg6 fxe6 35.Nh5 Re8 36.Qe3 gxe5 37.Qxa7 Qe6 38.Rxh5 Qxe4+ 39.Kh2 Qg6 40.Rh3 Bf6 41.Be3 Re7 42.Qa8+ Kf7 43.Qd5+ Re6 44.Rh6 Qe4 45.Qh5+ Kg8 46.Qh3 Kf7 47.b3 Bg7 48.Rh4 Qd5 49.Qg4 Re7 50.Bg5 Re5 51.Qd7+ Kg8 52.Qc8+ 1–0

The next time you wonder why you took geometry in high school, remember this game.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B23)

White: Shan Siddiqi (0000)

Black: Robert Fass (2343)

2008 Electronic Knights

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0–0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d5 8.exd5 a6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.d4 c4 11.Qe2 b5 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.f5 0–0 14.fxe6 hxe6 15.Bg5 Nxd5 16.Rae1 Nf6 17.Qe3 Ng4 18.Qf4 Nxe5 19.dxe5 f6 20.exf6 exf6 21.Qg4 fxe5 22.Qe6+ Kh7 23.Qh3+ Bh6 24.Rxf8 Qxf8 25.Qd7+ Bg7 26.Qxb7 Qc5+ 27.Kh1 Qf2 28.Qe7 Rf8 29.h3 g4 30.Nd1 Qg3 31.hxe4 Rf7 32.Qe3 Be5 33.Qxe5 Rf1+ 34.Rxf1 Qxe5 35.Nc3 b4 36.Na4 Qe2 37.Rf7+ Kg8 38.Ra7 Qf1+ 39.Kh2 Qf4+ 40.Kh1 Qh6+ 0–1

White shows survival skills equal to an Eagle Scout's.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B25)

White: Gillmore Hoefdraad (2050)

Black: Bruce Holler (2460)

2006 Electronic Knights semifinal

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Nh3 Nf6 7.0–0 Bg4 8.f3 Bd7 9.Be3 0–0 10.Qd2 a5 11.Bh6 Bxh6 12.Qxh6 Bxh3 13.Bxh3 a4 14.Rab1 Nd4 15.Rf2 e6 16.Nd1 Nc6 17.Ne3 d5 18.a3 b5 19.Re1 d4 20.Ng4 Nxe4 21.fxe4 Ne5 22.Qf4 Qd6 23.g5 b4 24.Bf1 bxa3 25.bxa3 Rab8 26.Ra1 Rb7 27.h3 Rfb8 28.Kg2 Rb1 29.Rxb1 Rxb1 30.h4 Rb7 31.g4 Qb8 32.Kh3 Nc6 33.Qf3 Na7 34.e5 Nb5 35.Bg2 Rc7 36.Qf6 Qf8 37.Rf1 Nxa3 38.Ra1 Nxc2

39.Rxa4 Ne3 40.h5 c4 41.h6 Rc8 42.Be4 c3 43.Ra7 c2 44.Bxg6 hxe6 45.h7+ Kxh7 46.Rxf7+ Qxf7 47.Qxf7+ Kh8 48.Qf6+ Kh7 49.Qf7+ ½–½

EDWARD DULIBA WINS 17th USCCC

Undefeated, a point ahead of the field, GM Edward Duliba has won the 17th United States Correspondence Chess Championship. News of his victory has been delayed in “The Check Is in the Mail” due to a long-lasting game that is still at this writing unfinished.

As ICCF no longer has an end date for its tournaments, “The Check” will change its reporting to announce the “end” of a tournament when a clear winner is determined. Andrew Gach and David White shared second and third place.

CATALAN OPENING (E04)

White: Edward Duliba (2549)

Black: Ted Brandhorst (2479)

17 USCCC (Notes by GM Duliba)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Bg2 a6 6.0–0 Nc6 7.e3 Bd7 8.Nc3 Nd5

I now think 9. Qe2 would be a better try for an advantage.

9.e4? Nxc3 10.bxc3 Be7 11.Bf4

I wanted to test 11. Bf4, but I was in time pressure here for the next series of moves.

11...0–0 12.Qe2 Na5 13.Rad1 Ba3 14.d5 Qc8 15.Bh3 b6 16.Ne5 Ba4 17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Qg4 Kh8 19.Nf3 Bxd1 20.Rxd1

White is out of time pressure hereafter.

20...Be7 21.Nd4 e5 22.Qxc8 Rxc8 23.Bxe5 c5 24.Bxc8 cxd4 25.Be6 d3 26.Bc7 Bc5 27.Kf1 Ra7 28.Bf4

The Bishop will revisit f4 again and again.

28...b5 29.Bd5 Re7 30.Rb1 h6 31.Ke1 g5 32.Bb8 g4 33.Bf4 Kg7 34.h3 gxe3 35.Kd2 Bxf2 36.Rh1 Nb7 37.Rxh3 Nc5 38.e5 Rd7 39.Bf3 Ne6 40.Bxh6+ Kg8 41.Be4 Rd8 42.Bf4 b4 43.cxb4 c3+ 44.Kxc3 Be1+ 45.Bd2 Rc8+ 46.Kxd3 Rd8+ 47.Ke2

White has taken some risks probing, but the draw becomes clear.

47...Bxd2 48.Bd3 Bg5 49.Bc4 Kf7 50.Bb3 Rd7 51.Rh7+ Ke8 52.Rxd7 Kxd7 53.Kd3 Bc1 54.Bc4 Ba3 55.Kc3 Nc7 56.g4 Ke8 57.Kb3 Bc1 58.Ka4 Kd7 59.Ka5 Bd2 60.a3 Bc1 61.Bxa6 Nxa6 62.Kxa6 Bxa3 63.b5 Ke6 Draw

My opponent wondered why I did not use "if" moves. It is my policy never to proffer a conditional for two reasons. Firstly, it provides information to the opponent. That can only benefit the opponent and never the player. Secondly, it speeds up the game.

Capital Region News

by *Bill Townsend*

The main chess activities in the Capital District during the winter months center around the monthly free scholastic tournaments and the club championships finishing up from the fall. As winter turns to spring, the matches for the Capital District League begin. In March the three main clubs, Schenectady, Saratoga and Albany, concluded their club championships, or nearly so.

The Schenectady Chess Club has a new champion, 12 year old Patrick Chi of Niskayuna. He is the youngest champion in the club's history, but not by much. He was exactly two days younger than Deepak Aaron was when he was crowned champion in 2007. Even though Patrick was born substantially later in the year than Deepak, the 2010 finals finished more than a month and a half before the 2007 championship did (March 10 versus April 26). However Deepak won the 2007 championship with a perfect 5-0 score, whereas Patrick barely squeaked home with 3-1. In fact, early in the finals I would have bet money that Patrick was not going to win. There were a lot of twists and turns in this year's championship, so let me start from where the previous Capital District News left off in December.

Back in October, 19 members of the club were divided into two sections of roughly equal strength with three players from each section graduating into a six-player final section.

In the "A" section Patrick Chi (8-1) was clear first, only giving up two draws to Mike Mockler and Bill Little. John Phillips was second with 7-2, losing only to Chi and giving up draws to Brij Saran and Mockler. Chi's draw with Bill Little (6-3) turned out to be fateful because it allowed former champion Little the opportunity to qualify ahead of Mike Mockler (5½-3½).

Little lost to John Phillips and had an unexpected upset loss to Zachary Calderon, and another draw with Mockler. One of the highest rated players in the section, Mockler was preoccupied with non-chess issues, having no fewer than five draws, plus an upset loss to club president Richard Chu. Ever the erratic

player, Chu (5-4) was one of the early leaders, but was dropped back by late losses to Phillips, Saran, Chi and Little.

The "B" section had one less player, but for some reason the results were more complex. Defending champion Philip Sells dominated the section with a perfect 8-0 result. In second place was Saratoga attorney Al LeCours with 6-2, losing unexpectedly to Richard Moody as well as Sells. Former champion John Barnes was third with 5-3, losing to Sells and LeCours as well as a big upset loss to Matt Clough. His final game, against LeCours, was doubly demoralizing because postgame analysis showed that Barnes, surprised by an unexpected move, had resigned in a position where he wasn't even close to losing.

Barnes then withdrew from the tournament leaving the final qualification spot between Dilip Aaron (Deepak's younger brother) and Richard Moody, both 4½-3½. During the tournament both players lost to Barnes and Sells. Aaron had an upset win in his game against Moody, and Moody made the point back by beating LeCours, who beat Aaron. Moody gave up an upset draw to David Connors, while Aaron gave up one to Jeff Capitummino. I was looking forward to the playoff game between the two but work commitments made Moody miss the game, giving Aaron the place by forfeit. So this left the six finalists as: Chi, Phillips, Little, Sells, LeCours and Dilip Aaron.

I was rather disappointed when the luck of the draw paired the top two seeds, Sells and Chi, against each other in the first round. These two players won their respective sections and seemed to be playing on a level above anyone else. Understandably, I felt that whoever won this game would probably wind up as the 2011 champion. That feeling was reinforced by the fact that Sells won it in fine style, giving another incredible display of clock handling, making the last seventeen moves of the game with just one second left on his clock. Quite frankly, I think that if Philip's time hadn't been so precarious, Patrick would have agreed to a draw rather than pressing him. Here is that game:

Patrick Chi (2048) – Philip Sells (1964)
[E27] Nimzo-Indian Defense
Schenectady Chess Club Championship 2010-2011
Final section, round one
Niskayuna, NY, February 3, 2011
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3

This game begins as a Gheorghiu variation and transposes into the Samiesch variation (4.a3).

4...d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.e3 c5

7...Nbd7 8.Bd3 Re8 9.Ne2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 is Chi-Ainsworth, presented in full in the report on the NYS Scholastics

8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Ne2 b6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Rb1 Qe7 13.Ng3 Rac8 14.Qe1 Qc7 15.Bd2 Rfe8 16.Qf2 Na5 17.Nf5 Nc4?! 18.Bc1?!

After 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.e4 cxd4 20.cxd4 White has what looks like a pretty strong attack, but I can certainly understand him not wanting to trade off his light-squared Bishop.

18...Nd6 19.e4?!

The right idea, but the wrong time.

19...Nxf5?!

Black would win a significant pawn with 19...dxe4 20.Nxd6 Qxd6 21.fxe4 Bxe4.

20.e5 Ne4?!

I wonder if Black knew he was giving up the exchange with this move. He doesn't seem to get enough for it. The game would be close to even after 20...Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nd7.

21.fxe4 dxe4 22.Bb5! g6 23.Bxe8 Rxe8 24.Be3 cxd4 25.cxd4 Qc3 26.Rfe1 Bd5 27.g4 Nxe3 28.Qxe3 Rc8 29.Qxc3 Rxc3 30.Ra1

Black is still down the exchange, but White's rooks are so passive that the game is almost even.

30...Rd3 31.Red1 Bb3 32.Rdb1 Be6 33.Rb4?!

33.g5 Rxd4 34.Rb4 was a better idea.

33...Bxg4 34.d5 Rxd5 35.Rxe4 Bf5 36.Re3 Kf8

Now time is starting to become an issue: White has 18 minutes left while Black only has 8.

37.Rc1 Ke7 38.Kf2 Bd7 39.Rc7 a5 40.Kg3 Ke6 41.Rb7 b5 42.Rb6+ Ke7 43.Ra6 b4

43...a4 would be a bit better, but now Black has only 4 minutes left to White's 15.

44.axb4 axb4 45.Rb6 Rd4 46.Rb3 Re4 47.Rd3 Be6 48.Kf3 Rxe5 49.Rxb4 h5 50.Rc3 g5 51.Rb8 Bd5+ 52.Kf2

The game is now roughly even, but Black is down to less than two minutes. Originally White tried to play 52.Kg3 but didn't take his hand off the piece, and it's a good thing he didn't: 52...Re2! 53.Rb5 Rg2+ 54.Kh3 Rd2 and Black is winning.

52...Be6 53.Rg8 Kf6 54.Rd8 g4 55.Kg3 Kg5 56.Rg8+ Kf6

The time situation has reached crisis stage: White has six minutes while Black has only three seconds.

57.Rd8 Kg5 58.Rh8 Rf5

Black now has only one second left on his clock. Incredibly he manages to play another seventeen moves.

59.Rd3 Ra5 60.Rc3 Rb5 61.Re3 Ra5 62.Rg8+ Kf6

63.Re4 Ra3+ 64.Kg2??

White blunders in Black's time pressure, losing a rook. White had to play 64.Kf2. After his next move Sells gave out with a little sigh, indicating that he now knew he had to try to win the game, rather than merely shuffling pieces around as fast as he could.

64...Bd5 65.Rge8 Ra4 66.Kg3 Rxe4 67.Rd8 Be6 68.Rd3 Ke5 69.Ra3 Kd4 70.Kh4 Re3 71.Ra4+ Ke5 72.Ra5+ Bd5 73.Kxh5 f5 74.Kg5 Rh3 75.Ra2?? Bxa2 0-1

Having lost a second rook, White is now only a few moves away from checkmate, so he resigns.

This was such a strong performance that I was all but certain that Sells was going to claim his third club championship in a row. Well, I've been wrong before. After the second round, veteran player Bill Little withdrew from the finals. A longtime area player and a four-time former club champion (in four different decades, no less: 1977, 1983, 1991 and 2004) Little was having a string of disappointing results recently. He finally concluded that he no longer had the stamina to play chess to his satisfaction after the second hour, and this was borne out by his 0-2 record in the finals so far: losses to Aaron and LeCours.

Since the tournament wasn't yet half-over, this sad event removed Little's results from the table, making the final section now a five-player round robin. Incidentally, after round two Sells was the only player with a 2-0 score.

Then came the shocker: Sells lost to John Phillips in round three, essentially throwing the field wide open again. Both Sells and Phillips were short of time at the end of the game, but Sells's position was too bad to be saved by his usual temporal brinkmanship. Sells's last game was against Saratoga attorney Alan LeCours, and also featured another heart-stopping time scramble. The advantage was traded back and forth as the players got down to their last seconds, then Sells lost on time in an even position, with LeCours just a second or two behind him. This result gave Chi the undisputed championship. The final scores: Chi 3-1, John Phillips 2-2, Philip Sells 2-2, Alan LeCours 1½-1½ and Dilip Aaron 1½-1½.

I also have to mention Dilip Aaron's spectacular result. He essentially was seeded into the finals as an alternate and his rating was more than 350 points below everyone else's. Statistically, it wouldn't have been surprising for him to go 0-5, and yet he won 2½ out of the five games he played. Plainly this is a

young man who is going places, like his national master brother.

The Albany Area Chess Club Championship was run along the same lines as the Schenectady Championship, but with a couple differences. Starting on November 10, the club was divided into two sections of roughly equal strength with the winners of each section meeting in a two-game final match to determine the championship. Unlike Schenectady, these two sections held six players each.

The first section was plainly a two-man race as Gordon Magat and defending champion Timothy Wright drew each other and beat all the other players to finish with 4½-½. The two then contested a playoff game which Magat won.

The second section was more of an unruly brawl, but it also ended with two players tied at 4-1. Top rated Dean Howard suffered an upset loss to Glen Perry, then won all the rest of his games. Peter Henner had a perfect score, until a late loss to Howard. In the playoff game, Howard won, going on to the final match.

In the two-game finals I would have bet on Magat, but Howard clinched the match 2-0, becoming the first new Albany Chess Club Champion since 2008. There was also a playoff match held between the two highest scoring players in the bottom half of the rating chart, and from the last report I got, Art Alowitz was leading Glen Perry 1-0.

Very little progress has been in the Saratoga Staunton Club Championship, relatively little progress has been made since my last report three months ago. Steve Taylor is the new champion with a 6-0 score with one game still unplayed. Veteran player Lee Battes still has three outstanding games, but health issues are keeping him sidelined.

On February 16, the Albany Area Chess Club held a King's Gambit Accepted thematic at the club and the turnout was surprisingly strong. In clear first with 4-0 was Uncle Sam club member Phil Thomas, who is well known as being a deadly player at fast time controls. Jon Leisner was clear second with 3½-½. In third through seventh place with 2½-1½ were: Dean Howard, Peter Henner, Bill Little, Tim Wright and Art Alowitz. Alowitz and Perry were first and second for players rated under 1800.

Besides the club championship, every year the

Schenectady Chess Club sends teams down to the World Amateur Team Championship, held in Parsippany, NJ over Presidents' Day Weekend.

One of the great things about the World Amateur Team Tournament is that it gives ordinary players a chance to try their skill against some of the best players this part of the world has to offer. Here new NYS Junior High champion Patrick Chi faces off against three-time former New York State Champion IM Jay Bonin and manages to come away with a draw. IM Bonin has an advantage for most of the game but Patrick hangs tough and the master can't seem to find a win. I can't really fault Bonin for this – I couldn't find one either.

IM Jay Bonin (2352) – Patrick Chi (2048)

[D23] Slav Defense

US Amateur Team Championship East, Rd. 4

Parsippany, NJ, February 20, 2011

Table 21, Board 1: #16 Bad to the Bone vs. #89

This is a Bad Name

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.Nbd2 e6 7.g3 h6 8.Bg2 Nbd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qb3 Qb6 11.Nc4 Qxb3 12.axb3

With the Queens coming off, I would say Black has at least equalized.

12...Be4 13.Bf4 0-0 14.Rfc1 Bd5 15.Na5 c5

My computer's suggestion of 15...g5 16.Be3 Rfb8 seems like a better idea for Black.

16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ne4 18.f3 Ng5 19.e4 Bc6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.h4 Nh7 22.Be3

Both sides have doubled pawns on an open file, but White has a pretty sizable advantage here. He's been able to expand while pushing the Black pieces around and he has the Bishop pair while Black's Knight is a sorry sight.

22...Rfb8 23.Rc3 c4

Although this pawn is a goner, jettisoning him does not help Black's cause. Better was bringing the Knight to the center with 23...Nf8.

24.Rxa7 Rxa7 25.Bxa7 Rb7 26.Be3

26.Bf2 was a better place to retreat to, because in some lines Black's Rook winds up on b3.

26...Rxb3 27.Rxb3 cxb3 28.Bf1 Nf8

The position has improved a bit for Black: he now has a Queenside pawn majority, but White's pieces are still much better.

29.Kf2 Nd7 30.f4 Nc5 31.Kf3 Na4 32.Bc4 Nxb2 33.Bxb3 Nd3 34.Ba4 Nb4 35.Ke2 Kf8 36.h5 Ke8 37.g4 Kd8 38.f5 exf5 39.gxf5 f6 40.exf6 Bxf6 41.Bc5 Bc3 42.e5

If White wants to win the c-pawn he has to give up

the Bishop pair, which leaves him with an opposite colored Bishop ending which is probably not winnable.

42...Nd5 43.Bd6

My computer recommends 43.e6 which at first glance seems much stronger, but after 43...Ne7 44.Kd3 Ba1 45.Ke4 Bf6 46.Bd1 Kc7 47.Be2 Nd5 48.Bf3 Ne7, it's not clear how White can make any progress. In fact, this seemed to be the problem with most of the lines I looked at from this point on: White has the advantage, but he can't break into the Black position.

43...Ne7 44.Bc2

Another promising line for White that peters out is: 44.Kd3 Bb2 45.Ke4 Ke8 46.Bb3 (46.Bxe7 Kxe7 47.Bxc6 and we have that opposite colored Bishop ending again.) 46...Nc8 47.Bc5 Ne7 48.Be6 Bc3 49.Bd6 Ba1 50.Kd3 Nd5 51.Kc4 Nf4 52.Bg8 Kd7 53.Bf7 Bb2 54.Bg6 Nd5 and White is getting nowhere.

44...Nc8 45.f6?!

White lashes out in frustration, but this just speeds the draw. Even with a chess computer and all the time in the world, I can't find any winning method for White.

45...gxf6 46.Bf8 Bxe5 47.Bxh6 f5 48.Bxf5 Ne7 49.Be6 Nd5 50.Kf3 Ke7 51.Bg8 Nf6 52.Bg5

White can't win so he may as well agree to a draw now: 52.Bg5 Kf8 53.Bc4 Nxh5 and his last pawn is gone. ½-½

Although not playing in the local club championships previous New York State Scholastic Champion and former Schenectady club champion Deepak Aaron has been keeping up a busy schedule of tournaments all over the country. In the last couple months he has played in tournaments in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and even Wisconsin, as well as the occasional event at the Marshall Chess Club down in New York City. All this hard work has been paying off: recently his rating has topped the 2300 mark. To put this in perspective, the last time I remember a locally-produced player topping 2300 was when Steve Taylor did it in the mid-1980s. GM Ronen Har-Zvi brought his title with him from Israel.

Probably the most high profile of Deepak's recent results took place in January at the 43rd Liberty Bell Open, held down in Philadelphia. Playing in the Open section Deepak finished clear fifth with 5-2, just a half a point behind the leaders. This is a very strong result for Deepak, especially since he was playing up a section, and this was the tournament that put his rating over 2300 for the first time. Incidentally the winners with 5½-1½ were: GMs

Alexander Shabalov and Sergey Kudrin, IM Marc Esserman and FM Farai Mandizha. There is a video article about the event on the U.S Chess website, and Deepak is prominently featured.

There is a lot of scholastic chess played in the Capital District, and that's generally centered around the free monthly scholastic tournaments run by the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation. The tournaments are becoming even more important because now players of all ages are welcome in the top section.

The first Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of 2011, the 49th overall, was held on January 15 at Albany High School. Overall 103 players competed in the seven sections, the best turnout in some time.

In the Adults Welcome Unrated section, Kingston's Ken Evans was clear first with 3½-½. Second and third with 3-1 were Zachary Calderon and William Matters. John Scanlon was fourth with 2½-1½ and Sreenivas Alampalli was fifth with 2-2.

In the top-rated scholastic section, Koushik Pernati and Sai Chilukoori were first and second with 3-1 records. George Ladouceur and Sumanth Gajjala were third and fourth with 2-2.

There were also two players atop the Under-900 section as Shamanth Murundi and Joseph D'Alonzo both scored 3½-½. Vignesh Pernati was clear third with 3-1. Nova Wang and Kyle Matters were fourth and fifth with 2½-1½ scores.

Gowth Puviararasu was the clear winner of the Under-600 section with a perfect 4-0. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Heath Glasgow, Killian Whyte and Deepti Aaron.

The unrated section for players in grades 6-12 was won by Curtis Farmer with 3-½ and Rafael Romero was second, also with the same score. Third through fifth with 2-2 were: Keshwan Persaud, Kumane Persaud and Nasir Mayfield.

The unrated section for players in grades 3-5 was by far the largest, and it had two perfect 4-0 scores at the top with Mara Strich and Sandeep Alampalli finishing first and second on tiebreaks. Third through seventh with 3-1 were: Adam Aleksic, Brian Stewart, Jonathan Robles, Jeffrey Lembo and Ellisol Strich. Fifth through twelfth with 2½-1½ were: Devyan Chase, Camilo Mosquera-Ferry, Henry Thomas,

Reeve Churchill and Ramya Summerville.

In the unrated section for players in grades two and below, Cenza Lembo and Arthav Agashe were first and second, both with 3½-½. Silas Strich was clear third with 3-1.

Among the top teams there were three pairs of schools with identical scores whose places had to be determined by tiebreaks. First with 11½ points was Delaware Community School, and second was East Greenbush. Third with 10½ was Schenectady's Martin Luther King Elementary.

Here is one of the games played in the Adult section in the last round of this Make the Right Move tourney. In it, rising scholastic star Zach Calderon upends John Scanlon in a fiery Smith-Morra Gambit to get a share of second place. The Smith-Morra has a dubious reputation, but Calderon shows that he knows how to make its basic themes work for him.

Zachary Calderon (1518) – John Scanlon (1848)
[B21] Sicilian Smith-Morra
Make the Right Move #49, round 4
Albany, NY, January 15, 2011

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 h6?

Up until now the players have been following the main line, but this deviation is not good for Black. In a situation where White is building pressure on the center while Black is trying to develop and consolidate, a wasted move like this is a big help to the attacker since 9.Bg5 isn't much of a threat. The main line continues 8...Be7 9.Rd1 e5 with chances for both sides.

9.Rd1 a6 10.e5!

This is the move that the main line is trying to prevent. It makes the game unique, but it's a clear improvement over 10.Bf4.

10...Nd7 11.exd6 Nf6

White has his gambit pawn back, at least temporarily. The long term prognosis for the pawn on d6 is not good, but right now it is badly blocking Black's development. "A nail in the knee" is what Siegbert Tarrasch called a piece like this.

12.Bf4 g5 13.Bg3 Bg7 14.Ne5 Nxe5

14...Bd7 seems better but White still has serious problems after 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 and now White just wins a pawn with 16.Bxe6! because if Black takes the Bishop he's just lost: 16...fxe6 17.Qxe6+ Kf8 18.d7, etc.

15.Bxe5 0-0 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bb3 Bd7 18.Bc2 Bg7

19.Qd3

While watching the game I thought that 19.Qe4 was better, threatening mate and the pawn on b7. However, as it turns out White can't take the pawn: 19...f5 20.Qxb7 Rb8 21.Qc7 Rxb2 and the game is even.

19...f5 20.Rac1 b5 21.g4!?

A no-holes-barred attempt to win, but it has the downside that if White isn't winning he'll probably be losing. A little saner was 21.a3.

21...Qb6?

This sets up some threats along the f-file, but this is not a good posting for the Black Queen. Instead after 21...Kh8 Black might even be a bit better.

22.gxf5 Rxf5 23.Qe2 Raf8?

The losing move. Black sees that White's last move defends f2, but he misses that it also unmasks the Bishop's attack on the rook on f5. Instead after 23...Rf7 24.Bg6 Rf4 25.Ne4 White has only a small advantage.

24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.Ne4 Rf4?

Better was bringing the Queen back to defend with 25...Qd8 but Black's game is falling apart.

26.Nc5

Even deadlier is 26.Rc7!

26...Rf7?

After this it's pretty much all over. Black had a last ditch attempt to complicate with 26...Bd4 and now White would have to find 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.Nxd7 Qxd6 29.Ne5 and White wins.

27.Nxd7! Rxd7 28.Qxe6+ Rf7 29.Rc8+ 1-0

Here Black resigned. The game might have continued: 29.Rc8+ Bf8 30.Qg6+ Rg7 31.Qxh6 Rf7 32.Qg6+ Rg7 33.Qe6+ Rf7 34.Rd2 and black is all tied up, awaiting execution.)

The second Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of 2011, the 50th overall, was held at Albany High School on February 12. Overall 103 players competed in the seven sections, the same turnout as January and a continued excellent start to 2011 in the region.

Players of all ages and ratings are welcome in the top unrated section, and this one featured three of the Capital District's strongest competitors. John Scanlon and Schenectady champion Philip Sells won their first three games, then played to a hard-fought draw in the final round, with Sells taking first place on tiebreaks. That game is featured below. In third and fourth place were expert John Morse and Kingston's Ken Evans. Bill Matters was clear fifth with 2½-1½.

In the top scholastic rated section, Niskayuna's

George Ladouceur was clear first with 3½-½. Second through fourth with 2½-1½ were: Koushik Pernati, Sai Chilukoori and Anvesh Mateti. In the section for players rated 601 and above, Nitin Obla was clear first with 3½-½ and Shamanth Murundi was second with 3-1.

The Under-600 section was won by Manthan Vasavada with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through seventh with 3-1 were: Zachary Wesolowski, Killian Whyte, Joseph Vemezia-Kamen, Nathaniel Cotto, Deepti Aaron and Billy Vetrano.

The unrated section for players in grades six and above was won by Michelle Britt-Bussler, with a score of 3½-½. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: I-Negus Kippins, Alessio Fasullo and Earl Co. Nasir Mayfield was clear fifth with 2½-1½.

As usual the unrated section for players in grades three to five was by far the largest. The winner was Sandeep Alampalli with a perfect 4-0 score. Second and third with 3½-½ were Adam Alekski and Brian Stewart. Fourth through seventh with 3-1 were: Jonathan Robles, Colin Patricelli, Mara Strich and Dylan Cho, who won the trophy for top fourth grader. Longeran won the trophy for top third grader.

The unrated section for players in grades two and below was won by Athav Agashe with a perfect 4-0 score. Second and third with 3-1 were Kearney McCready and Goran Cabuhat.

Top team was Shaker High School with 13½ points out of a possible 16. Second was Albany Academy with 11½. St. Joseph Mighty Pawns was third with 10½ while East Greenbush was fourth with 10, a extremely closely-contested result.

Both tournaments were organized and directed by Brother John McManus for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

Here is the game played on board one in the final round between then-Schenectady champ Philip Sells and John Scanlon. After some opening misadventures, Sells emerges with a strong attack and after he sacrifices a bishop to open up the white king it seems the win is in the bag. However in a complicated position he loses his way and was forced to "bail out" into a draw, as he put it.

John Scanlon (1828) – Philip Sells (1953)
[E20] Nimzo-Indian Defense

Make the Right Move #50, round 4
Albany, NY, February 12, 2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2

The central idea of the Nimzo-Indian is that Black is willing to trade Bishop for Knight, in return White has to weaken his queenside by playing bxc3. This move tries to get around that, but in a rather awkward way, so it's not seen very often.

4...0-0 5.Qc2

White is sort of mixing systems here - more consistent is 5.a3, but he is concerned about ...Ne4 after the pieces were traded.

5...d5 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Nf3 c6 8.Bd3 h6 0-0 Re8?

Now was the time for 9...dxc4. The move played has a tactical refutation that both players miss.

10.a3?

Very strong is 10.Nxd5! with White picking up a pawn no matter how Black recaptures: 10...exd5 (or 10...Bxd2 11.Nxf6+) 11.Bxb4.

10...Bd6 11.c5 Bc7 12.b4 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bf5?

Essentially offering to trade his good Bishop for Black's horrible Bishop. Better was 15.Rad1.

15...Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Rad1

Of course the pawn is immune: 17.Qxe4?? Bxh2+

17...Qh4

Black now seems to have a winning attack.

18.g3 Qh3?!

This allows White to save himself by grabbing the e4-pawn. Instead after 18...Qh5! 19.Nxe4? (19.Qxe4 Bg4 wins the exchange; best seems to be 19.f4 but things look grim for Black after 19...exf3 20.Rf2 Bf5) 19...Qf3! White has to give up a lot of material to prevent mate on g2.

19.Nxe4 Bf5 20.f3 Bxg3!

This sacrifice is correct, and seems to give Black a strong attack.

21.hxg3?

Black is winning after this. White best chance to hold on was 21.Bc3.

21...Bxe4 22.fxe4 Qxg3+ 23.Kh1 Re6?

*Alas, here Black loses his way, missing the win that his previous play earned for him. Instead after 23...Qh3+ 24.Kg1 Re6! White is going to have to give up material to save his King: 25.Kf2 Rf6+ 26.Ke2 Qg2+ 27.Kd3 Rxf1 28.Rxf1 Qxf1+, etc.) **24.Bc3 Qh4+?!***

Black could still keep the upper hand with 24...Rg6! and White's best seems to be 25.Rf4 Qxe3 26.Be5 Re8 and Black has a small advantage, but is far from winning.

25.Qh2 Qxe4+ 26.Qg2 Qh4+ 27.Qh2 Qxh2+? *Black should probably take the draw with 27...Qe4+*

Adolfo Prieto wins Watertown Chess Club Invitational

by Don Klug

Adolfo Prieto won the Watertown Chess Club Invitational Tournament with a record of 3-0-1, drawing against Don Klug, in the fourth round. Mr. Klug finished second at 2-0-2.

The Watertown Chess Club holds an un-rated Invitational Tournament annually and invites non-USCF area players to participate. The December event, held after the club's tournament season, hosted seven players.

Mr. Prieto's game against Mr. Klug follows.

Prieto, Adolfo (1869) - Klug, Donald (1717)
WCC 2010 Invitational, Watertown, NY (Rd 4),
16 Dec 2010
Gruenfeld Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 [5...dxc4 6.e4 Bg4 7.Bxc4 c5? 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.e5 Nh5 10.Qd5? (10.Bxf7+ Kf8 11.Bd2 Nc6 12.e6 Rd8 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nd4 15.Qd1 Qa6 16.Rc1 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Nxe6 18.Qf3 Nd4 19.Qe4 Kxf7).10...0-0 11.Qxb7 Nd7 12.Bxf7+ Kh8 13.Bd2 Nxc5 14.Qxe7 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nd3+ 16.Kf1 Qb6 17.Ne4 Nxe5 18.Bb3 Nxf3 19.Be3 Qa6+ 20.Kg2] 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Qa4+
An improvement for White would be: [7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qxd5 Bxc3+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qxc5 11.Rc1 Qf5 12.Nd4 Qd7 13.Qh6 Nc6 14.Nb5+/= (14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qg7 Rf8 16.Qc3 Bb7 17.Rd1 Qe6+/=) 14...Qd8 15.e3 Qa5+ 16.Nc3 Bg4 17.Bb5 Rd8 18.0-0 a6 19.Bxc6+ bxc6 20.h3 Bf5 21.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qe5 23.Rd4 Qf6 24.Rb4+/- Kd7 25.e4 Be6 26.Qd2+ Kc7 27.Qe3 Rc8 28.Qb6+ Kd7 29.Qxa6 Qg5 30.Rd4+ Ke8+/-] 7...Qxa4 8.Nxa4 dxc4 9.e3 Be6 10.Rc1 Nc6 11.Bxc4 Nd5 12.a3 Nxf4 13.exf4 Bxc4 14.Rxc4 0-0 15.0-0 Rfd8 16.Re4 e6 16...Rd3 17.Re3 Rad8 18.Rfe1 R3d7= 17.g3 Rd3 18.Re3 Rad8 19.Rfe1 Na5 19...R3d7= 20.Ne5 R3d4 21.b4 Nc4 22.Rc3 22.Nxc4 Rxc4 23.Kg2= 22...Rd1 23.Kf1 Nxe5 24.fxe5 Bxe5 25.Rce3 Bg7 26.Ke2? R8d2+ 27.Kf3 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Bd4 29.Re2 Rd3+ 30.Ke4 Rxa3 31.Kxd4 Rxa4 32.Kc4 a5 33.Kb5 Rxb4+ 34.Kxa5 Rb1 35.Re4 Kf8 36.Rb4

Rxb4 37.Kxb4 Ke7 38.Kb5 Kd7 39.Kb6 Kc8 40.f4 f6?

[40...h6 41.c6 bxc6 42.Kxc6 Kd8 43.Kd6 Ke8 44.g4 g5 45.f5 exf5 46.gxf5 Kf8 47.f6 Kg8 48.Ke5 Kh7 49.Kf5 g4 50.Kxg4 Kg6 51.Kf3 Kxf6 52.Kf4 h5 53.Kg3 Kg5 54.Kf2 Kf4 55.Ke2 Ke4 (55...Kg4 56.Kf2 f5 57.Kg2 h4 58.Kf2 Kf4 59.Ke2 Ke4 60.Kf2 Kd3 61.Kf3 h3 62.Kf2 Kd2 63.Kf3 Ke1 64.Ke3 Kf1 65.Kf3 Kg1 66.Kg3 f4+ 67.Kxh3 f3 68.Kg4 f2 69.Kh4 Kxh2 70.Kg5 f1Q) 56.Kf2 h4 57.Ke2 f6 58.Kf2 f5 59.Ke2 f4 (59...Kf4 60.Kf2 Kg4 61.Kg2 f4 62.Kf2 Kh3 63.Kg1 f3 64.Kf2 Kxh2 65.Kxf3 h3 66.Kf2 Kh1 67.Kg3 h2 draw) 60.Kf2 f3 61.Kg1 h3 62.Kf2 Kf4 63.Ke1 Ke3 64.Kf1 draw]

41.c6 bxc6 42.Kxc6 e5 43.fxe5 fxe5 44.Kd5 1/2-1/2

Prieto Wins 2011 WCC Blitz Championship 12-0
 Mr. Adolfo Prieto won the inaugural 2011 Watertown Chess Club Blitz Championship, a quadruple round-robin event, with a 12-0-0 record. Robert Kratzat finished second with eight wins in twelve games.

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Nicholas Ryba Tops Queens January Open

By Ed Frumkin

Queens Chess Club started 2011 with a four-round non-Grand Prix Swiss. We started with 16 on January 7 and added two more the next week. There were no surprises in week one and the closer games began on the 14th, with Nicholas Ryba (2076) over Ed Frumkin (2014), Bill Arluck (2031) over Joe Felber (2005) and Brian Lawson (2024) over Jack Edelson (1975) on the top three boards.

Former club secretary Jay Kleinman (1880) returned in week two after a hiatus of over a year (marriage and two young kids will do that) and drew with Edwin Cadorniga (1899), the bottom-rated winner from week one. In week three, Nicholas beat Bill while Brian could only draw Louis Lima (1932), who had taken a bye in week two. Ira Cohen (1740) held Ed to a draw. Marcus Francis (1034) missed week three with an unintended long nap. Nicholas drew with Brian in round 4 to wrap up the \$115 first prize while Bill beat Louis and Jack beat Joe to catch Brian at 3-1. Bill and Brian split the \$60 2nd prize, with Jack taking the \$50 Under 2000 prize.

Philip Mathew (1415) beat Anthony Cadorniga (1331) to reach 2-2 and he was matched by Marcus, who upset Mindy Conyers (1480), so they split the \$45 under 1500 prize (\$23 each). The severe winter weather that started with the December 26 blizzard kept down the turnout, as it was extremely difficult to find parking spots (Ed's regular ride, Henry Milerski, didn't move his car for nearly two months, not returning to the club until February 25. Even in New York City, it happens). Ed Frumkin and Joe Felber directed.

Bill Arluck Takes February G/45

A four-round G/45 with two games each week took place on February 4 and 11, leading up to the U.S. Amateur Team East hiatus. We started with only 12 and were surprised to get two more players in week two. Ken Cruz (1726) beat Ed Frumkin (2031) in Round 1. The only other surprise in week one was an up and down Round 2 game between Bill Arluck (2071) and Jack Edelson (1968) in which Bill went from a pawn up to two pawns down and still drew

miraculously. Brian Lawson (2024) and Joe Felber (2015) drew fairly quickly in Round 3 (not surprising, since they would be teammates the following weekend) after their round two wins from Ken Sasmor (1919) and Ken Cruz to reach 2.5-0.5 and were caught by Bill (win over Frumkin) and Jack (win from Edwin Cadorniga (1926), a week two entrant). Bill swindled a win from Joe with a Knight fork while Jack and Brian had a comedy of errors that ended drawn. Jack and Brian were caught at 3-1 by Ken Sasmor and Sundar Swaminathan (1874) with their wins from Cruz and Edwin Cadorniga. Anthony Cadorniga (1500), Philip Mathew (1473) and Ruth Arluck (1086) reached 2-2 with last round wins over Mindy Conyers (1467), Marcus Francis (1139) and Carrie Goldstein (1400). Bill won \$70 for finishing clear first. Brian, Jack, Ken Sasmor and Sundar divided the \$40 second and \$35 Under 2000 prizes, taking home \$19 each. Anthony, Philip and Ruth split the \$30 Under 1600 prize three ways. Ed Frumkin and Joe Felber directed.

The Queens Chess Club meets weekly on Friday nights from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the All Saints' Lutheran Church on Goethals Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, near St. John's University. The Club provides a variety of tournaments, skittles and other chess-related events. Annual dues are \$50 per year, and \$40 for juniors under 19, women and seniors. The club contests several events during the year, including the annual fall Queens Chess Club Championship, which attracts players of a wide variety of strengths.

Ed Frumkin is the long-time organizer of this club, which is named for a borough of well over two million people.

www.nysca.net

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

April 15-17 or 16-17, 6th annual Empire State Open GPP: 30 Enhanced, 5-SS, 40/2, SD/30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60). Saratoga Hilton Hotel, 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Free parking. \$\$ 6000 based on 100 paid entries (unrated & re-entries count as half entries), \$4000 (2/3 each prize) minimum guaranteed. In 4 sections. Open: \$1000-500-300, top Under 2110/Unr \$300. Under 1910: \$700-400-200, top Under 1710 (no unrated) \$250. Under 1610: \$600-300-200, top Under 1410 (no unr) \$200. Under 1310: \$500-250-150, top Under 1110 (no unrated) \$150. Unrated may not win over \$150 in U1310 or \$300 in U1610. EF: 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 mailed by 4/7, all \$84 online at chesstour.com by 4/13, \$85 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 4/13 (entry only, no questions), \$90 at site. \$50 less to unrated. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine 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 \$50; not available in Open. GMs free, \$60 deducted from prize. All: No checks at site, credit cards OK. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6:30 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 9 & 2:15. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10:30 am, rds Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 9 & 2:15. Bye: all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3. HR: \$109-109, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, reserve by 4/1 or rate may increase. Car rental: 800-331-1600, use AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Inquiries: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. \$15 service charge for refunds. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 20-22 or 21-22, 19th annual New York State Open GPP: 30 Enhanced, 5-SS, 30/90, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60). Tiki Resort (formerly Howard Johnson), 2 Canada St., Lake George, NY 12845. \$\$G 4000. In 3 sections. Open: \$\$ 600-300-150, top Under 2010 \$280-140, top Under 1810/Unr \$260-130. Senior, open to under 1910 or unrated born before 5/22/61. \$\$ 400-200-100, top Under 1710 \$240-120. Under 1610: \$\$ 300-200-100, Under 1410 \$180-90, Under 1210 \$140-70. No unrated may win over \$250 in Senior or \$150 in Under 1610. All: 1 year NYSCA membership to NY residents who are not members. EF: 3-day \$78, 2-day \$77 mailed by 5/13, \$79 online at chesstour.com by 5/18, \$85 phoned by 5/18 to 406-896-2038 (payment only, no questions), \$90 at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK. \$40 less to unrated in U1610 or Senior sections. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine 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 \$40, not available in Open Section. GMs free, \$60 deducted from prize. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6:30 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 11:30 am, rds Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. Half point byes OK all, must commit before rd 2; limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye towards U1810 or U1210 prizes). HR: 65-65 (poolside), 75-75 (regular), call 518-668-5744 Mon-Fri 9 am-4pm, reserve by 5/5 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 27-30, 28-30 or 29-30, The New Yorker Open! GPP: 30 Enhanced 7-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75; 2-Day, rds. 1-4 G/45). New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, New York. NOTE CHANGES, including increased \$10,000 prize fund b/250 paid entries, (U1200 Section & Unr. in U1600 & re-entries count 1/2), minimum half of each prize Guaranteed! 5 sections. Open: \$1,200-600-300-200. FIDE. Under 2400: \$1,000-500-250-150, top U2200 \$400-200. FIDE. Under 2000: \$1,000-500-250-150, top U1800 \$400-200, \$300 limit to Unr. Under 1600: \$850-400-200-100, top U1400 \$300-150, \$200 limit to Unr. Under 1200: \$400-200-100, \$100 limit to Unr. EF: 4-Day \$97, 3-Day \$98, 2-Day \$97, if postmarked by 5/19, \$100 on-line thru 5/24 at www.chesscenter.cc, \$110 by phone thru 5/24, \$120 at site, \$60 less to unrated players in Under 1600 Section (only players with 3 games or less are unrated), \$60 less to all in Under 1200 Section, GMs free (\$80 from prize), free to specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners! Re-entry \$70; \$15 charge for refunds. 4-Day Schedule: reg. ends Fri 6 pm. Rds Fri. 7, Sat. 11 & 6, Sun. 11 & 6, Mon. 10 & 4:30. 3-Day Schedule: Reg. ends Sat. 10 am. Rds. Sat. 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun. 11 & 6, Mon. 10 & 4:30. 2-Day Schedule: Reg. ends Sun 9 am. Rds. Sun. 10, 12, 2, 4, 6, Mon. 10 & 4:30. All schedules merge and compete for same prizes. Limit 3 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. HR: 212-971-0101. Questions, chesscentr@aol.com or 845-569-9969 (credit card phone entries thru 5/24: 406-896-2191, 24 hours, no questions). After 5/24, enter at site only (no checks, credit cards OK). CCA

ratings may be used. Ent: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553. Bring sets, clocks, boards - none supplied! W. Chess Magnet School JGP.

June 12: Schenectady Open, Studio of Bridge and Games, 1639 Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, NY. 4-SS, G/40, \$1,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund. For further information, check www.chesstour.com

August 17-21, 18-21, 19-21, 20-21: Manhattan Open, New York, NY: Summer in the city with 200 chesslecture.com Grand Prix points available at the New Yorker Hotel. Full details in the summer issue or at www.chesstour.com.

September 2-5, 3-5, or 4-5: New York State Championship, Albany, NY. America's longest-running chess tournament returns to the Albany Marriott. Full details in the summer issue. The NYSCA Annual Meeting and Election takes place during this event.

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.

Register to vote in the USCF Elections!

www.uschess.org and click on your rating profile.

19th ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE OPEN

May 20-22 or 21-22, 2011 - Lake George, NY

\$4000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND

Includes SENIOR SECTION for Under 1910 or unrated!

ChessLecture.com Grand Prix Points: 30 (enhanced)

Five-round Swiss, 30/90, SD/1 (2-day option, rounds 1-2 G/60), Tiki Resort (formerly Howard Johnson), 2 Canada St, Lake George NY 12845. Prizes \$4000 unconditionally guaranteed. Tournament run in 3 sections.

Open Section: \$600-300-150, top Under 2010 \$280-140, top Under 1810/Unrated, \$260-130.

Senior Section: *Open to under 1910 or unrated born before 5/22/61:* \$400-200-100, top Under 1710 \$240-120. No unrated may win over \$250.

Under 1610 Section: \$300-200-100, top Under 1410 (no unrated) \$180-90, top Under 1210 (no unrated) \$140-70. No unrated may win over \$150.

All: One-year \$12 NYSCA membership to NY residents who are not members.

Entry fee: Three-day \$78, two-day \$77 if check mailed by 5/13, both \$79 **ONLINE** at chesstour.com by 5/18, \$85 phoned by 5/18 to 406-896-2038 (payment only, no questions), \$90 at site. \$40 less to unrated in Under 1610 or Senior Section. No checks at site, credit cards OK. No mailed credit card entries.

All sections: Special one-year USCF dues with magazine 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 \$40, not available in Open Section. GMs free, \$60 deducted from prize.

3-day schedule: Registration ends Fri 6:30 p.m., rounds, Friday 7 pm, Saturday 12 noon & 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

2-day schedule: Registration ends Sat 10:30 a.m., rounds Saturday 12 noon, 3 p.m. & 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Half point byes OK in all sections, must commit before round two; limit two byes (limit 1 bye towards U1810 or U1210 prizes).

Hotel rates: \$65-65 (poolside), 75-75 (regular), 518-668-5744 Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, reserve by 5/5 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through **www.chesstour.com**. **Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied!**

Ratings: May official USCF rating list used. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. Unofficial ratings are not used if you have an official rating. Foreign player rating info.

Entry: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. **JGP (Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix points available).**