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EMPIRE CHESS

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A Proud Legacy

New York has had a long history of being the chess center of the United States, and Fall 2016 was a perfect exponent of that fact. The World Chess Championship was held at South Street Seaport, with Magnus Carlson and Sergey Karjagin playing a hard-fought match that went to overtime before the World Champion retaining his title.

New York schools were also triumphant at the National K-12 School Grade Championship, held in Nashville the weekend of December 16-18, particularly in the elementary grade sections where New York schools swept the podium in the Second, Third and Fourth Grade sections. Jack Levine in Sixth Grade and XXXX in Fourth Grade executed perfect 7-0 sweeps in their sections. As is traditionally been the case, New York brought the most players to the School Grades.

The 100th Edward Lasker Memorial, the Marshall Chess Club championship, was conducted in December. The Marshall is the second-oldest club in the United States, and its proud legacy includes players such as Jose Capablanca, Bobby Fischer and Gata Kamsky. Today's champions consider the Marshall a must stop in their chess career in the same way great champions of the past did. It is truly a beacon of chess in Manhattan.

This year's Empire City Open in Manhattan drew 400 players despite being a mid-week tournament. Manhattan is obviously a tough venue for large chess tournaments due to the cost and availability of space, but the high turnout is another success for Steve Immitt and his crew, and shows the vast potential and draw of chess in New York.

Unlike many legacies, New York's chess legacy is a living one, with GM Hikaru Nakamura in the world top ten, and GM Gata Kamsky being a recent World Championship challenge. Fabiano Caruana also played in New York during some of his formative years. When you run a tournament in New York, you never know for sure if a future champion is playing or not. That is our legacy which continues on to the present, excellence in chess.

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Cover: WFM Martha Samadashvili (right) and her mother Noni at the World Cadet Chess Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia. Photo by Bill Matters

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NM Paciorkowski Wins CCCR Championship

by Jim Trowbridge

The Community Chess Club of Rochester (CCCR) held its 20th Annual Championship at the Rochester Chess Center in the fall. The tournament ran for five weeks, from October 5 to November 2, with a round on each Wednesday night. At the end National Master Lev Paciorkowski, a senior at Brighton High School, stood at the top of the heap with a perfect 5-0-0 score.

While the result was not a given, it was also not entirely unexpected. Paciorkowski was the top seed going into the tournament with a USCF rating of 2310, almost 200 points higher than his nearest rival, last year's Rochester champion and candidate master Cliff Kharroubi, who came into the tournament rated at 2122. A number of players identified Paciorkowski as the favorite to win at the start of the tournament.

Finishing in second place with 4½ points was Daniel Johnston, another candidate master who was just coming off of a first-place finish with a perfect score in the 21st Arkport Open on October 1. With a 2114 rating, Johnston allowed only one draw against his four wins, nicked for the half-point by veteran Jamshed Ahmed in the second round, who was punching up with a 1783 rating.

Paciorkowski made his five-game sweep look almost easy even as he and Webster Kehoe (who tied for first in the Under 2100 section of the 2016 New York State Championship in Saratoga Springs in March) headed for a final-round showdown as the only two remaining undefeated players. Just to make things a little tougher for Kehoe, who had himself won the club championship in 2014 with a perfect 4-0-0 score, he had the Black side. In the end, enjoying an almost 250 rating point advantage and the white pieces, Paciorkowski steadily pulled the planks from Kehoe's position, and routed him in 61 moves, though there seemed to be little doubt from the 26th move how the game would end.

While Paciorkowski's and Kehoe's game approached the third hour someone came into the skittles room at the Chess Center and said (incorrectly) that it looked as if the ending was drawn. Kharroubi, owning his

title for another few, final minutes, sat at a table casually playing five-minute chess. Turning from the board to address everyone, Kharroubi said, "Then it's winning for Lev. You look at the clocks. He's beating you on time. And then he's just waiting for you to make a mistake. Which you will. That's a won game for Lev."

Moments later the two players emerged from the tournament room validating Kharroubi's prediction. While Kehoe appeared a little worn as he chatted, Paciorkowski immediately squeezed into the "Marchand Room" (named after one of Rochester's greatest players of the 60s, 70s and 80s, New York State Chess Hall of Famer Dr. Erich Marchand) and took a seat at a table where games of bughouse suddenly broke out. Of course. What better way for a young champ to celebrate victory than to play more chess?

Kehoe's defeat landed him in third place behind Johnston, who ensured his second-place finish by his final-round defeat of David Campbell with the white pieces. The three winners are shown below, with Johnston at the left, Paciorkowski in the center and Kehoe on the right (Photo by Mike Lioni)



Matt Slomski finished fourth on tiebreaks. Slomski had been cruising undefeated for three rounds until his game with Paciorkowski in round four. Slomski,

defending a position with white in which he was already down a (passed) pawn, either hallucinated or accidentally touched his King at move 36. As a King move necessitated the loss of a Bishop, Slomski resigned.

A post-mortem between the two players showed that even before the apparent *fingerfehler* Slomski had virtually no chance to win and his drawing chances were dwindling. Yet another example of how talent and luck can be as thick as thieves in chess.

Campbell's overall score of 3½ points, which included a draw with Kharroubi and a win over veteran Expert Randolph MacKenzie, while not enough to place him among the top five finishers, was good enough to clinch the Under 2000 prize.

Kenneth McBride, a newly appointed officer to the CCCR this year and an assistant tournament director for the event, rounded out the fifth place, also with a 4-1 score, having lost his third round game to Slomski. It should be noted McBride was the only player to finish in the top five *not* in his twenties or teens, which goes to show how powerful the youth element is in the Rochester chess scene.

The Under 1800 prizewinner was John Frearson, while the Under 1700 prize was claimed by Matt Nesci, who scored three points, including a victory over the aforementioned Ahmed.

The final Under 1400 and Under 1200 prizes went to Hanan Dery and Stephen Blazak, respectively. Blazak, who started the tournament with a 1069 rating, defeated both Jan Tarwid, rated in the 1500s, and Edwin Rosenberg, 1651, and saw his rating balloon from 1074 to 1213.

Paciorkowski has been very active this year. In March he finished 10th in the New York State Scholastic championships held in Saratoga Springs, and fifth in the New York State Championship Open section. At the 22nd Northeast Open in Connecticut he earned a draw against Grandmaster Sergej Kudrin.

As the winner of this year's CCCR championship, Paciorkowski will give a chess simultaneous exhibition later this year at the Rochester Chess Center. This will be the fourth annual simultaneous exhibition given by the year's club champion.

Paciorkowski earned a trophy, \$130 cash and a \$20 gift certificate for his success. Johnston won \$100 cash and a \$20 gift certificate, and Kehoe took home \$80 cash and \$20 gift certificate. Each of the top five finishers received a trophy.

The Chief Tournament Director for the event was Ron Lohrman, long a vital force for chess not only in Rochester but for New York State. Mike Lioni was Chief Assistant Tournament Director. Kenneth McBride and Michael Runnells were Assistant Tournament Directors. Lohrman and Lioni have together fulfilled the rolls of TD and Asst. TD for all twenty years of the championship.

Kehoe and Paciorkowski shake hands at the end of their game deciding the Championship (Photo by Mike Lioni)



Here are two games annotated by NM Lev Paciorkowski. A selection of other games follow.

NM Lev Paciorkowski (2310) –Webster Kehoe (2046)

[A46]

Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th Championship Round 5

Queen's Indian Defense (by transposition)

Rochester, NY November 2, 2016

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 Bb4+ 4. Nbd2 O-O 5. a3 Bxd2+ 6. Qxd2 d6

More common is the immediate fianchetto 6. ... b6.

7. g3 Nbd7 8. Bg2 Rb8 9. O-O b6 10. b4 Bb7 11. Bb2

White is slightly better with two bishops and more space, but black's position remains very solid. Kehoe's next move loses some of that solidity and afterwards black is just worse.

11... c5!?

11. ... Qe7 12. Ra1 Rfe8 13. Rfd1 e5 Is usually the best attempt for Black equalize in these Queen's Indian positions, although White remains slightly better after 14. dxe5 Nxe5 15. Nxe5 dxe5 16. Bxb7 Rxb7 17. f3

12. Rfd1 Ne4 13. Qc2 f5 14. dxc5 bxc5 15. b5 Qe7 16. Nd2 Ndf6 17. f3 Nxd2 18. Rxd2 Nh5 19. e4

Other good continuations for White include 19. Rad1 and 19. e3

19...fxe4 20. fxe4 e5 21. Qd3 Rbd8 22. Bc3 Nf6 23. Ba5 Rd7 24. Re1 g5?!

With time pressure already creeping in, Black lashes out, but this only weakens the Kingside. 24. ... Qe6 +=

25. Rf2 h5 26. Ref1 Kg7 27. Qe2 Qe8 28. Bd2 Qg6 29. Rf5

By this point White is more or less winning-Black has too many weaknesses to hold

29...Nh7 30. Be3 g4 31. Qd2 Bc8 32. Bh6+!

Forcing a won endgame for White.

32...Qxh6 33. Qxh6+ Kxh6 34. Rxf8 Nxf8 35. Rxf8 Bb7 36. Kf2 Kg6 37. Ke3 a6 38. Rh8 axb5 39. cxb5 c4 40. Bf1!?

40. a4 is easily winning--the Kingon e3 stops the c pawn while White's own duo marches up unstoppably **40...c3**

More resistance could be put up with 40. ... Kg7! 41. Re8 Kf7 42. Rb8 d5 but white is still very much better after 43. exd5 Bxd5 44. b6

41. Bd3 Rc7 42. Bc2 Rc5 43. a4 Kg5 44. Rb8 d5

Desperation.

45. Rxb7 d4+ 46. Kd3 h4 47. Rg7+ Kh5 48. Rh7+ Kg5 49. Rxh4 Rc7 50. Rh8 Rf7 51. Ke2 Rf3 52. h4+ Kg6 53. Rg8+ Kh5 54. Rg5+ Kh6 55. Rxd4 Re3+ 56. Kd1 d3 57. Bxd3 Rxd3+ 58. Kc2 Rd4 59. Kxc3 Rxa4 60. Kb3 Ra5 61. Kb4 1-0

John Manning (1836) – NM Lev Paciorkowski (2310) [E32] Queen's Indian Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th Championship Round 2 Rochester, NY October 12, 2016

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 O-O 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 b6 7. Bg5 Bb7 8. Nf3

More testing for Black is 8. f3; another common line is 8. e3 d6 9. Ne2 Nbd7 10. Qc2

8...d6 9. e3 Nbd7 10. Be2 a5 11. O-O a4 12. Rfe1 Ra5

A nifty idea that is good to know in these positions. For those interested look up the game Hikaru Nakamura vs. Vadim Milov, Santo Domingo 2003

13. Bxf6 Nxf6 14. b4!?

14. Nd2 c5 15. Bf3=

14...axb3 15. Reb1 Qa8 16. Rxb3 Ne4 17. Qb2 f5

Black is a little better thanks to White's weakened Queenside structure.

18. c5?

18. Rb5 Bc6 19. Rxa5 Qxa5 =+

18...Bd5

Also good is 18. ... dxc5

19. cxd6

White must sacrifice the exchange to have any hope of playing on, but there is not enough compensation.

19...Bxb3 20. Qxb3 cxd6 21. Qxe6+ Kh8 22. Qb3 Rc8 23. Qxb6 Rxa3 24. Rxa3 Qxa3 25. g3 h6 26. Nh4? Qc1+

27. Kg2 Qe1

Now Black is completely winning

28. Bc4 Qxf2+ 29. Kh1 Rxc4 30. Ng6+ Kh7 31. Nf8+ Kg8 32. Qb1 Nd2 0-1

Other games from the championship.

Daniel Johnston (2114) – David Campbell (1945) [B06] Pirc-Modern

Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th Championship

Round 5 Rochester, NY November 2, 2016

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Be3 a6 5. Nf3 b5 6. Bd3 Nd7 7. e5 dxe5

Black has tried a number of moves here but White seems to retain a slight edge. 7...Bb7 8. e6 fxe6 9. Ng5 Nf8 10. O-O Anand-Svidler, Linares 1998 (with compensation for the material – GM Curt Hansen).

8. dxe5

8. Be4! Rb8 9. dxe5 Bxe5? 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Qxd8+ Kxd8 12. Ba7 and Black will be tortured until he resigns.

8...Nxe5 9. Nxe5 Bxe5 10. Be4 Bd7 11. Bd4 Bxd4 12. Qxd4

Funny position. It's only the 12th move and neither of Black's Rooks have moved, yet they're both under attack. White's down a Pawn but not for long.

12...Nf6 13. Bxa8 Qxa8 14. O-O O-O 15. Rfe1 Be6 16. Qc5 Nh5

There are too many weaknesses to defend in Black's position.

17. Qxc7 b4 18. Ne4 Rc8 19. Qxe7 Nf4 20. Qg5 Qb8 21. Rad1 Bh3 22. Qh6 Qe5 23. Ng5 1-0

Jamshed Ahmed (1783) – Daniel Johnston (2114)
[A25] English Opening
Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th
Championship
Round 2 Rochester, NY October 12, 2016

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. O-O Re8 7. d4 exd4 8. Nxd4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 d6 10. Bg5 Nd5 11. Bxe7 Nxe7 12. Rad1 Be6 13. b3 Nc6 14. Qd2

14. Qf4 Qc8 15. c5 dxc5 16. Bxc6 bxc6 just is not sane. Same thing with 14...Qe7 15. c5 dxc5 16. Bxc6. Which means I would play both lines from either side.

14...Qc8 15. Rfe1 Bh3 16. Bh1 Re6 17. Nd5

17. Bd5 Re8 18. Qf4 Ne5+=.

17...Ne7? 18. Nf4 Rh6 19. f3

19. c5 is also possible when 19...dxc5? 20. Bxb7 and Black can either lose his Queen or get checkmated. Black should play instead 19...Bd7 20. cxd6 cxd6 21. Rc1 Bc6 with maybe a slight advantage for White.

19...Bd7 20. Nd5 Nxd5 21. cxd5 c5 22. e4 a5 23. e5 a4

23...dxe5 24. Rxe5 Qd8 25. f4 or even 25. d6 with the upper hand for White.

24. f4 axb3 25. axb3 Qc7 26. Qc3 Qb6 27. Re3 Ra3 28. Ra1 Qa7 29. Rxa3 Qxa3 30. b4 Qa2 31. Bg2 Bh3 32. Bf3 Bf5 33. Re2 Qb1+ 34. Re1 cxb4 35. Rxb1

Both players have made mistakes in this part of the game, but what a great struggle. White misses an opportunity here with 35. Qd2 Qd3 36. exd6! Qb5 (the only move) 37. Qxb4! Bd7 with a big advantage.

35...bxc3 36. Rxb7 Kf8 37. Rc7 c2 38. g4 Bd3

This still looks scary for both players.

39. Rc3 dxe5 40. fxe5 Rb6 41. Kf2 Rb1 42. Rc8+! Ke7 43. d6+ Kd7 44. Rc7+ Ke6?

44...Kd8 was necessary!

45. Ke3?

Time pressure no doubt. White misses the mate in one – 45. Re7#.

45...c1=Q+ 46. Rxc1 Rxc1 47. Kxd3 h6 48. Ke4 f6
The initiative has gone over to Black, but I'm guessing he knows how close he came to losing and would rather fight another day. 1/2-1/2

Edwin Rosenberg (1651) – Stephen Blazak (1074)
[B22] Sicilian Defense

Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th
Championship

Round 1 Rochester, NY October 5, 2016

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nc6 3. d4 e6 4. Nf3 cxd4 5. cxd4 d6 6. Bb5 Qa5+ 7. Nc3 Bd7 8. Bd2 a6 9. Nd5 Qd8 10. Bxc6 Bxc6 11. Nc3 Nf6 12. Bg5 Be7 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. Qb3 h6 15. O-O O-O 16. d5 exd5 17. exd5 Bd7 18. Qxb7 Bg4

18...Rb8 19. Qxa6 Bxc3 20. Bxc3 21. Bb5 winning the exchange.

19. Ne1?

Losing material. Of course White has to play 19. Nd2 and then it's up to Black to show his two Bishops are superior to the two Knights.

19...Bxc3 20. bxc3 Be2 21. Nc2 Bxf1 22. Rxf1 Qa5 23. Nb4 Qa3 24. Qc6 a5 25. Na6 Rac8 26. Nc7 Rb8
Black flounders a bit. He should keep the pin on the Knight with his Rook and grab the a-Pawn instead.

27. Nb5 Qxa2 28. Nxd6 Rb1

It seems like a pretty good idea to exchange the Rooks and push the a-pawn.

29. g3 Rxf1+ 30. Kxf1 Qc2

30...a4 is better.

31. Nb5 Qd3+ 32. Kg1 a4 33. d6 Qe2 34. Nd4 Qa2 35. d7 a3 36. Qd6 Qb1+ 37. Kg2 Qe4+ 38. f3 Qa8 39. Nc6?

39. Nf5 Kh7 40. Qe5 f6 41. Qe7 Rg8 42. Qf7 a2 43. d8=Q Qxd8 44. Qxa2 and White still has chances.

39...a2 40. d8=Q Rxd8 41. Ne7+ Kh7 42. Qc5 Rd2+ 43. Kh3 a1=Q 44. Qf5+ Kh8 45. Qxf7 Qf1+ 46. Kh4 Qa4+ 47. f4 Rxb2+ 48. Kg4 Qd7+ 49. f5 Qh3+

Black overlooks the mate with 49...Qdd1# but it's really no matter.

50. Kf3 Qd3+ 51. Kf4 Qh3# 0-1

Clifton Kharroubi (2122) – Chris Brown (1869)
[C14] French Defense

Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th
Championship

Round 2 Rochester, NY October 12, 2016

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. h4

Alekhine's famous move which he uncorked at Mannheim 1914 vs Hans Farhrni.

6...a6

It's perfectly playable to take the extra Pawn by 6...Bxg4 but White will get an attack. Black probably didn't want to challenge White's tactical skills. With 6. h4 White signals he's in an aggressive mood.

7. Qg4 h5

7...Bxg5 8. hxg5 c5 9. g6 f5 with an advantage.

8. Qg3 g6

8...Bxg5 9. hxg5 g6 10. O-O-O is another line known to theory.

9. O-O-O c5 10. Nf3 Nc6 11. dxc5 Nxc5 12. Bc4

This looks a little risky. White can hold off on the decision of where to put his KB and still keep an advantage by 12. Nd4 Bd7 13. Kb1 Qc7 14. Bxe7.

Black has a good response to the text.

12...Qa5 13. Bb3 Nxb3+ 14. cxb3 Bd7 15. Kb1 O-O-O

15...O-O is out of the question as White would open the kingside with something like 16. Bxe7 Nxe7 17. Qg5 Qe8 18. g4!

16. Rc1 Kb8 17. Na4 Rc8 18. Be3 d4 19. Nxd4 Nxd4 20. Bxd4 Bxa4 21. bxa4 Qxa4

After a bellicose opening in White's favor Black has managed to equalize.

22. Qf4

22. Qe3 can be a tricky line. 22...Rxc1+ 23. Rxc1

A) 23...Rc8? loses on the spot to 24. Ba7+.

B) 23...Bxh4 is very double-edged. If 24. Qe4 (threatening both Bxa7+ and Qxh4) then 24...Qb5 25. Qxh4 Qd3+ 26. Ka1 g5 is probably drawn.

C) 23...Qd7 24. Bc5 Bxc5 (but look out for 24...Bxh4? 25. Bd6+! Kh1 26. Rc7 Qb5 27. g3 wins the Black's Bishop.

22...Qe8 23. Rxc8+ Kxc8 24. Rc1+ Kb8 25. Bb6 Qd7?

You can't give pawns to Kharroubi. He'll take 'em.

26. Qxf7 Qd3+ 27. Ka1 Bd8 28. Qxe6 Bxb6 29. Qxb6 Qe4 30. Qd6+ Ka8 31. g3 Re8 32. a3 Qxe5 33. Rc8+ Ka7 34. Qxe5 Rxe5 35. Rf8 Rf5?

This exchange is fatal. Black's only chances are in the Rook endgame. From here it's a pretty elementary win.

36. Rxf5 gxf5 37. Kb1 Kb6 38. Kc2 Kc5 39. Kd3 Kd5 40. b3 f4 41. gxf4 Ke6 42. Ke4 Kf6 43. f5 a5 44. a4 b6 45. Kf4 1-0

Blaze Veljovski (1512) – Michael Runnells (1326)

[B43] Sicilian Defense

Community Chess Club of Rochester 20th Championship

Round 2 Rochester, NY October 12, 2016

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. h3

I've noticed (mostly through online experience) that an early h3 in the Sicilian by white gets played a lot in Under 1800 games. Generally it doesn't seem to accomplish very much. 7. Bd3 or 7. Qd2 are the most usual moves.

7...Bb4! 8. Qd3 b5

8...Nxe4! 9. Nde2 (9. Qxe4? Bxc3+ 10. bxc3 Qxc3+ and Black won't miss the World Series game after all) 9...Nxc3 10. Nxc3 d5 -+.

9. f4 Bb7 10. O-O-O Bxc3 11. bxc3

White has to play 11. Qxc3 although Black picks up a pawn and leaves White with a wrecked pawn structure with 11...Qxc3 12. bxc3 Bxe4.

11...Bxe4 12. Qd2 Nd5 13. f5

13. Ne2 is still losing but may give Black more chances to go wrong in the attack.

13...Qxc3 14. fxe6?

Oops. 14. Qxc3 Nxc3 15. Re1 (15. Rd2 O-O or even 15...Nxa2+) and Black has to be careful, for example 15...Nd5!? (15...Bd5 seems correct) 16. Bg5 h6 17. Bxh6 Rxh6 18. Rxe4 and White still has some play.

14...Qa1# 0-1

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IM Jay Bonin Regains Queens Chess Club Champion's Title

By Edward Frumkin

The 2016 iteration of the Queens Chess Club seven-round championship event took place from October 7 to November 18. The prize fund was based on 24 players and 31 participated, plus one house player. Seven former champions, IM Jay Bonin (2413), NM Andrew Ryba (2353), NM Payam Parhami (2221), Ed Kopiecki (2050), Brian Lawson (2024), New York State Chess Hall of Famers Ed Frumkin (2007) and Joe Felber (2002)) took part, as well as another four Experts and nine class A players. For accounting convenience prizes were raised 25% across the board.

The Round One cut left Ken Sasmor (1855) across the table from IM Bonin, who ground out a win in a Rook ending. On Board Two, 10-year-old Charles Hua (1840), who nearly won last year's event, held NM Ryba to a draw, and on Board 5 Tony Lorenzo (1800) defeated blitz whiz Lev Zilbermintz (2066) to take a lead for the upset prize that he maintained for the entire month and a half. In Round 2 Frank (1594) and Paul (732) Drazil joined in and unsurprisingly lost to Ryba and Hua. Lorenzo pulled off another, milder upset by drawing with Lawson, even missing a win. Bonin, Parhami, Bill Arluck (2071), Kopiecki, and Dick Murphy (2014) defeated Felber, Mulazim Muwwakkil (1908), Ira Cohen (1859), Frumkin and Jay Kleinman (1957) to lead at 2-0, with Ryba, Lawson, Hua and Lorenzo at 1½.

Lev Zilbermintz (2066) – Antonio Lorenzo (1800)[B07]

Queens Chess Club Championship (1), 07.10.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.f3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 c6 6.Nc3 b57.Bh6 0-0 8.g4 e5 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.h4 h5 11.g5 Ng812.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Rd1 Rxd1+ 15.Kxd1Be6 16.Bh3 Bxh3 17.Nxh3 Nd7 18.Ke2 Kf8 19.Rd1Ke7 20.Ke3 Rd8 21.b3 Nc5 22.Nf2 Rxd1 23.Ncxd1 f6 24.f4 exf4+ 25.Kxf4 Ne6+ 26.Kg3 fxe5 27.hxe5 Nxe5 28.Kf4 Ne6+ 29.Ke5?? Nf6 30.Ne3 Nd7#

Charles Hua (1840) – NM Andrew Ryba (2353) [B22]

Queens Chess Club Championship (1), 07.10.2016
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 d5 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Be3 e6 11.h3 Bh5 12.0-0 Be7 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Kh1 Rc8 15.Rg1Na5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Nd2 Nxb3 18.axb3 f6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.f4 Qd7 21.Qf3 Be7 22.Qg3 Bd6 23.h4 Qf7 24.Rcf1Bd3 25.Rc1 Ba6 26.Rce1 Rce8

27.Qf3 Bxf4 28.b4Bxe3 29.Qxe3 Nc4 30.Nxc4 Bxc4 31.Na4 Qe7 32.Nc5Qxh4+ 33.Kg2 Qxg4+ 34.Qg3 Qxg3+ 34...Qxd4
35.Kxg3 b6 36.Nxe6 Rf6 37.Nf4 Ref8 38.Ne6 Rg6+ 39.Kh4 Re8 40.Rxg6 hxe6 41.Re5 Bd3 42.Kg5 Be4 43.Kf4 Re7 44.Ng5 Kf8 45.Ne6+ Kf7 46.Ng5+ Ke8 47.Ne6 Kd7 48.Nf8+ Kd6 49.Rxe7 Kxe7 50.Nh7 Kd651.Ng5 Bg2 52.Ke3 Ke7 53.Kf4 Kd7 54.Ke3 Be455.Nh3 Ke6 56.Kf4 Kd6 57.Ke3 a6 58.Ng5 Bf5 59.Nf3Ke6 60.Ng5+ Kf6 61.Kf4 Be4 62.Nh7+ Ke6 63.Ng5+Kd6 64.Ke3 Bb1 65.Nh3 g5 66.Nxe5 Ke7 67.Kf4 Kf668.Nf3 Bc2 69.Ng5 Bd1 70.Nh3 Ke6 71.Ng5+ Kd672.Ke3 Bg4 73.Nh7 Bf5 74.Ng5 Kc6 75.Kd2 Kb576.Kc3 Be4 77.Nh3 Kc6 78.Kd2 Kd6 79.Ke3 Ke7 80.Kf4 Kf6 81.Ng5 Bf5 82.Nf3

Black was very short of time and, although the computer gives him a large advantage, there is no obvious win. ½-½

(1800) – Brian Lawson (2028)

[A03] Bird's Opening

Queens Chess Club Championship (2), 14.10.2016
1.f4 d5 2.e3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 b67.Nbd2 Ba6 8.Ne5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 c5 10.c3 Qc7 11.b3 Nbd7 12.Ba3 Rfc8 13.Rac1 a5 14.g4 a4 15.b4 c4 16.g5 Ne8 17.b5 Nd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Nc6 Nb8 20.Nxb8 Raxb8 21.Nf3 Qd7 22.Rb1 Qg4+ 23.Qg2 Qxg2+ 24.Kxg2 f6 25.h4 Kf7 26.Ne1 Ra8 27.Nc2 Ra5 28.Ne1 Ke6 29.Nf3 Kf5 30.Nd2 h6 31.Kg3 Rc7 32.Rfe1 e5 33.e4+ dxe4 34.Nxe4 hxe5 35.fxe5 fxe5 36.Nxe5 exd4 37.Rf1+?

37.Re8! Be5+ 38.Kh3 d3 39.Rf1+ Bf4 40.Re4+– 37...Ke5 38.cxd4+ Kd5 39.h5 c3 40.hxe6 Re7 41.Rf5+ Kxd4 42.Rb4+ Kd3 43.Rd5+ Kc2 44.Nf3 Raa7 45.Kf2Bh6 45...Rad7 46.Ne1+ Kc1 47.Nd3+ Kd2 46.Ne1+ Kc1 47.Nd3+ Kc2 ½-½

In Round Three, Arunas Simonaitis (2029) and Jonathan Phanstiel (1709) entered play with two byes each (the limit was three). Bonin and Arluck drew, Kopiecki beat Parhami and Ryba beat Murphy to leave Kopiecki as sole leader. Lorenzo got another draw, this time with Simonaitis, and Charles Hua somehow held off Lawson with Knight vs. Bishop and two. Al Casanova (1780) beat Muwwakkil to take the lead for the Under 1800 prize and Philip Mathew (1373) beat Guy Rawlins (1530) to take the lead for the Under 1500 prize. In Round Four, Ryba

had to take a bye for a work-related function, leaving him half-a-point behind Bonin after Jay knocked Kopiecki out of the lead. Bill Arluck kept pace with Jay by beating Parhami while Frumkin and Felber stayed in the picture with 3-1 scores after their Round Two losses.

IM Jay Bonin (2413) – William Arluck (2071)
[A01]

Queens Chess Club Championship (3), 21.10.2016
1.b3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bb2 c6 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.d4 Bf56.Bd3 Bg6 7.Ne2 e6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.c4 Nd7 10.Nbc3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 f5 12.f3 Qh4 13.g3 Rg8 14.Rf2 a6 15.Rg2 Qh5 16.e4 fxe4 17.fxe4 Qg6 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Qf3 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Be7 21.Rc1 Qg4 22.Qxg4 Rxg4 23.Nf4 Nf6 24.Nf2 Rg5 25.Rc7 Rb8 26.N2d3 Rb5 27.Rgc2 Bd8 28.R7c4 Bb6 ½-½

NM Payam Parhami (2221) – Edward Kopiecki (2050) [A45]

Queens Chess Club Championship (3), 21.10.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 Nh5 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bh4 g5 5.e3 Nf6 6.Bg3 Bg7 7.Nd2 b6 8.Ngf3 Bb7 9.c3 d5 10.Ne5 Nbd7 11.Bd3 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Qd7 13.a4 0-0 14.0-0 Ne4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.f4 c5 17.Nf3 f6 18.Qe2 Qg4 19.Qe1 a5 20.h3 Qh5 21.Nh2 f5 22.Qe2 Qe8 23.Nf3 g4 24.Ne5 gxh3 25.gxh3 Kh7 26.h4 Rg8+ 27.Kh2 Qf8 28.Rg1 Qf6 29.Qh5 Rxg1 30.Rxg1 Rg8 31.Rxg8 Kxg8 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Kh3

33.*Bxe4 dxe4.*

33...Nd6 34.Qh5 Bc8 35.Qf3

The rest of the score was undecipherable. 0-1

Brian Lawson (2028) – Charles Hua (1840)
[A15] Reti

Queens Chess Club Championship (3), 21.10.2016
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.d3 c5 8.a3 Be7 9.b4 a6 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Qb3 0-0 12.Rab1 Rab8 13.Rfc1 d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Ne4 N5f6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.Qa4 Bc6 19.Qxa6 Ra8 20.Qc4 Bd5 21.Qf4 Qxf4 22.Bxf4 Rxa3 23.Bd6 Rc8 24.Bxc5 Rb3 25.Rxb3 Bxb3 26.Be3 Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1 Bd1 28.Kf1 Nb6 29.Ke1 Bb3 30.e4 Bc3+ 31.Bd2 Bf6 32.Ba5 Nd7 33.Kd2 Ne5 34.Bc3 Be7 35.Ke3 Bc2 36.Bb4 Bf8 37.d4 Nd7 38.Bxf8 Kxf8 39.Bf1 Nf6 40.e5 Ng4+ 41.Ke2 Be4 42.h3 Nh6 43.Ke3 Bd5 44.Bd3 Ke7 45.Be4 Bb3 46.Ng5

46.g4

46...f6 47.exf6+

47.Nxh7 Nf5+ 48.Bxf5 exf5 49.Kf4 Bg8

50.Ng5 fxc5+ 51.Kxg5+-

47...gxf6 48.Nf3 f5 49.Bb7 Nf7 50.Ne5 Nd6 51.Bg2 Kf6 52.Kf4 Nb5 53.Ke3 Bc2 54.Nd7+ Ke7 55.Nc5 Kd6 56.Bf1 Nc7 57.Kd2 Bb1 58.Bc4 e5 59.Kc1 exd4 60.Nb7+ Kc6 61.Kxb1

61.Na5+ Kb6 62.Kxb1 Kxa5 63.Kc2 Kb6 64.Bd3+-

61...Kxb7 62.Bd3 Kb6 63.Bxf5 h6 64.Kc2 Kc5 65.g4

65.f4

65...Nd5 66.h4 Ne7 67.Be4 Kd6 68.f4 Ng8 69.Kd3 Kc5 70.g5 hxg5 71.fxc5 Kd6 72.Kxd4 Ke7 73.Bh7 Nf6 74.Bc2 Kf7 75.Ke5 Nd7+ 76.Kf5 Kg7

77.h5 Nf8

78.Ba4?!

78.h6+ Kh8 79.Kf6 Nd7+ 80.Ke6 Nf8+ 81.Kf7 Nd7

82.Bf5 Ne5+ 83.Kf6+-

78...Kh8 79.Bc6 Kg7 80.h6+ Kh7 81.Be8 Kh8

82.g6 Nxg6 ½-½

In Round Five, Bonin and Ryba drew while Kopiecki beat Arluck and Frumkin and Felber drew. Dave Spigel (1899) beat Zilbermintz to reach 3½-1½ after byes in Rounds Two and Three, and a draw with Murphy. Lorenzo defeated his Bronx buddy Murphy to catch Bonin and Kopiecki at 4-1. In Round Six, Lorenzo finally lost one to Bonin while Kopiecki lost to Ryba. Felber beat Arluck to catch Ryba at 4½-1½ but Frumkin was held to another draw by Spigel.

Going into the final round the leaderboard read Bonin 5, Ryba and Felber 4½, Parhami, Kopiecki, Frumkin, Spigel and Lorenzo 4. Casanova led the Under 1800 group with 3, followed by Phanstiel and Frank Drazil at 2½.

IM Jay Bonin (2413) – NM Andrew Ryba (2353) [E18]

Queens Chess Club Championship (5), 04.11.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ne1 Bxg2 10.Nxg2 d5 11.Qa4 dxc4 12.Rd1 Qd7 13.Qxc4 c5 14.Be3 cxd4 15.Rxd4 Qc6 16.Qd3 Bf6 17.Rd6 Qa4 18.Qb3 Qa5 19.Rc1 Na6 20.Nf4 Nc5 21.Bxc5 bxc5 22.Nd3 Rab8 23.Rxc5 Qd2 24.Qc2 Rxb2 25.Nxb2 Qxd6= ½-½

Richard Murphy (2014) – Antonio Lorenzo (1800) [A37]

Queens Chess Club Championship (5), 04.11.2016
1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bg2 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Rb1 d5 8.d3 0-0 9.Bd2 d4 10.Ne4 b6 11.h4 f5 12.Neg5 h6 13.Nh3 e5 14.Ne1 Rb8 15.b4 cxb4 16.Bxb4 Nxb4 17.Rxb4 Qd6 18.Qb3 Be6 19.Qb1 Qd7

20.c5
 20.f4 e4 \neq
 20...f4 21.Kh2 Nc6 22.Rb2 fxg3+ 23.Kxg3 e4
 24.dxe4 Qc7+ 25.f4 bxc5 26.Rxb8 Rxb8 27.Qd3
 Bxa2 28.e5 Nxe5
 28...Ne77!\$
 29.fxe5 Qxe5+ 30.Kf2 Rb3
 31.Qe4
 31.Nf3<\$
 31...Qxe4 32.Bxe4 Rxh3 33.Nf3 Bf6 34.Ra1 Bxh4+
 35.Kg2 Be6 36.Bd5 Rg3+ 37.Kh2 Bxd5 38.Nxh4
 Re3 39.Nxg6 Rxe2+ 40.Kh3 Kg7 41.Nf4 Re3+
 42.Kg4 Re4
 42...Bf3+ 43.Kf5 d3
 43.Rxa7+?!
 43.Kf5 Bb7 44.Ne6+ Kh8 45.Nxc5 Re7 46.Kf6 Rc7
 47.Rxa7 Rc6+ 48.Kf7 Rxc5 49.Rxb7 Rc6 50.Rd7 Kh7
 51.Rxd4 h5 \neq
 43...Kf6 44.Ra6+ Ke5 0+1

In Round Seven, the last round of the tournament, Bonin narrowly defeated Parhami while Ryba beat Felber, Kopiecki beat Spigel and Frumkin drew with Lorenzo. Bonin thus finished first at 6-1 to win \$400, Ryba was second at 5½ for \$240, and Kopiecki finished third at 5 for \$160. The \$144 Under 2100 prize was split four ways among Frumkin, Felber, Sasmor (last round win from Arluck) and Lorenzo with 4½ (\$36 each). The \$120 Under 1800 prize was split among Casanova, Rito Ilao (1698) and Rawlins with 3 (\$40 each). Philip Mathew took the \$96 Under 1500 prize with 2, which included byes in the last two rounds and Tony Lorenzo never relinquished the lead for biggest upset (\$40).

Kenneth Sasnor (1855) – William Arluck (2071)
 [E61] QP Game
 Queens Chess Club Championship (7), 18.11.2016
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 d6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.exd4 g6
 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 0+0 8.0+0 a6 9.h3 b6 10.Bg5 Nbd7
 11.Qd2 Re8 12.Rab1 Bb7 13.b4 Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4
 15.Rbd1 Qc7 16.Qe3 Bb7 17.Bh6 Bh8 18.Rc1 e5
 19.d5 a5 20.a3 axb4 21.axb4 Ra4 22.c5 bxc5
 23.bxc5 Nxc5 24.Bb5 Rea8 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.Rfd1
 Qc8 27.Qe2 Qa8 28.Qb5 Ra5 29.Qb6 Ra6 30.Qc7
 Bf6 31.Ng5
 31.Nxe5 Bxe5 32.Rxc5 Bg7 (32...dxc5 33.Qxe5+-)
 33.Bxg7 Kxg7 34.Rb5 Bc8 35.Rb8.

31...Bxg5 32.Bxg5 Kg7 33.Rxc5 dxc5 34.Qxe5+
 Kg8 35.Bh6 f6 36.Qe7 1+0

Edward Frumkin (2007) – Antonio Lorenzo (1800)[A25] English
 Queens Chess Club Championship (7), 18.11.2016
 1.g3 e5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Nf3 d5
 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nxe5 Nxc3 8.Nxc6 Nxd1 9.Nxd8
 Nxf2 10.Kxf2 Bxd8 11.d4 c6 12.e4 Bb6 13.Be3 0+0
 14.Rac1 Be6 15.d5 Bxe3+ 16.Kxe3 Bd7 17.Rhd1
 Rfe8 18.Kf2 Re5 19.Rd4 Rc8 20.b4 Kf8 21.Rdc4
 Ree8 Drawn.

IM Jay Bonin (2413) – NM Payam Parhami (2221) [A80] [Stockfish,7.64] Dutch
 Queens Chess Club Championship (7), 18.11.2016
 1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.d5 Nf6 4.dxe6 d5 5.Nd4 g6 6.Bg5
 Bg7 7.c4 h6 8.Bf4 Nh5 9.Bc1 0+0 10.cxd5 Qxd5
 11.e3 Nc6 12.Nc3 Qc5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Qb3 Qe7
 15.Bc4 Re8 16.0+0 Bxe6 17.Bxe6+ Qxe6 18.Qxe6+
 Rxe6 19.Bd2 Rd8 20.Rfd1 Red6 21.Be1 Rxd1
 22.Rxd1 Rxd1 23.Nxd1 Kf7 24.Kf1 Ke6 25.Ke2
 Be5 26.h3 Nf6 27.f3 h5 28.Kd3 Nd5 29.Kc4 Bd6
 30.Bf2 a6 31.Nc3 Nb6+ 32.Kd3 Be5 33.Ne2 Nd5
 34.Nd4+ Kd7 35.Kc4 Bb6 36.g3 Nf6 37.b4 Kd6
 38.Nb3 Nd7 39.Kd3 Ne5+ 40.Ke2 Kd5 41.Nd2 Ke6
 42.f4 Nd7 43.e4 Bxf2 44.Kxf2 c5 45.bxc5 Nxc5
 46.Ke3 Nd7 47.Kd4 fxe4 48.Nxe4 Kf5 49.Ke3 c5
 50.a4 Ke6 51.g4 hxg4 52.hxg4 Kd5 53.Kd3 c4+
 54.Ke3 Nb6 55.Nc3+ Kc5 56.Ke4 a5 57.g5 Kd6
 58.f5 gxf5+ 59.Kxf5 Ke7 60.g6 Nc8??
 60...Nd7=
 61.Ne4 Kf8 62.Kf6 Kg8 63.g7 Nb6 64.Kg6=
 Nxa4??
 64...Nd5 65.Ng3 c3 66.Nf5 Nf4+ 67.Kh6 Nd5;
 64...Nd5 65.Ng3 c3 66.Nf5 Nf4+ 67.Kh6 Nd5
 68.Kg6=
 65.Nf6# 1+0

The Club thanks all our participants and especially house player Long Hua (1431) for making full-point byes unnecessary. This was our maiden voyage with SwisSys, whose suggested pairings we frequently couldn't justify and ended up changing. Ed Frumkin, Jay Kleinman and Joe Felber directed. Games can be accessed through our website www.queens-chess.com. This was Bonin's 11th Queens Chess Club title and seventh won outright, in 17 attempts.

A Travelogue: Martha Samadashvili in Georgia

By Bill Matters

I am the Director of the East Greenbush Chess Community, just outside of Albany. I have worked with WFM Martha Samadashvili for years.

It has been a fascinating experience for me since arriving here in Georgia ten days ago. We arrived in Tbilisi from Istanbul after midnight on the morning of October 9th. I came here with Martha Samadashvili and Nino and Zaza, Martha's mom and dad. We spent two days in Tbilisi before Zaza and I went to Telavi, Zaza's birthplace and home growing up. It lies in the heart of the Kakheti wine-making region. Georgia is famous for its over 400 varieties of grapes and has been making wine for over 8,000 years. (That's 3 zeroes, not 2.) I stayed with Zaza and his mother, Laura.

Laura is the one who started Martha on her amazing chess journey that led to where we are today, at the 2016 World Cadet Championships in Batumi. Martha will be competing in the Girls Under 12 category.

Not so fast. So why is Martha competing in the U12 section if she is already 12 years old and what is this "Cadet" stuff, anyway?

The World Youth Chess Championships only consider your age on January 1st of the year of the competition. As for the "Cadet" stuff, "Youth" refers to 13 years and above up to 18. "Cadet" refers to 12 and under. For several years now the World Youth Chess Championships and the World Cadet Chess Championships were combined and called World Youth Chess Championships. For logistical reasons, they split them up into distinct competitions this year. So how did Laura start this journey and how did Martha end up here??

For those of you not familiar with Martha Samadashvili, a little history should help your understanding...

Laura came to Albany to visit her son, Zaza, and his family. Laura is Georgian, of course, and everybody plays chess in Georgia – including the women. On this visit Laura decided it was time to teach seven-year old Martha the sport.

Afterwards, Martha continued to learn and play games in the family and within a year, she enrolled in

one of Brother John's The Right Move chess tournaments. She won all four games of her first tournament. Brother John recommended the East Greenbush Chess Community (EGCC) and soon the family was coming to East Greenbush every Wednesday night to attend meetings.

When Martha was eight, she started getting coached professionally by International Master Parmen Gelazonia, a Georgian, of course. She participated in more tournaments and eventually competed in the New York State Championship in Albany. She came in fourth place Under 1200. By now her rating was over 1000.

When she was nine, she started playing at the Marshall Chess Club and competed there until her rating rose to over 1500. Her coaching continued and she was getting really serious with her studies, so she competed in the 2013 North American Youth Chess Championships (NAYCC) in the Girls Under 10 section in Toronto. Martha won first place and the title of Women's Candidate Master.

Later that year she travelled to the United Arab Emirates to compete in the 2013 World Youth Chess Championships (WYCC). She ended up in 22nd place, two points behind the winner. This was respectable for a couple of different reasons. This was her first experience competing internationally overseas and she had the disadvantage of playing girls that were over a year older than her. (The youth chess championships are sectioned off in two-year intervals: Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, etc. Martha didn't have a realistic shot at winning for at least another year.) Still, her rating had reached 1863 by the end of the year. She was now in the A-section of USCF's rating system.

The next year she competed in the 2014 NAYCC held in Tarrytown, NY. Martha was now using the NAYCC tournament as practice for her more serious ambition, the WYCC. While she was designated to compete in the Girls Under 10 section, she took on the challenge of playing older girls by competing in the Girls Under 12 section instead. When the dust had settled, she walked away with first place and the Women's FIDE Master title.

12 Seeking more practice, Martha went to Mexico City

to compete in the 2014 Pan-American Girls Under 10. She not only won 1st place, but she had won all nine games in a totally dominating performance.

Towards the end of the year, Martha travelled to South Africa to compete in the 2014 WYCC Girls Under 10. She walked away with 8th place, much better than the year before. She was still learning, but now would have to wait another two years before she would have the advantage of competing against girls her own age.

After South Africa, she switched coaches. Now she was being coached by Grandmaster Giorgi Kacheishvili, another Georgian, of course. Giorgi lives in New York City and this required weekend trips to the city before she eventually earned his trust enough to use Skype for her training. Giorgi is an exceptionally reputable coach with numerous championship students under his tutelage.

In 2015 she travelled to Greece to compete in the WYCC Girls Under 12 section. She scored an impressive seventh place – even though she was once again playing girls a year older than her. Furthermore, Martha not only got a draw with the winner, but she also got a draw with the previous year's winner!

Since then Martha continued to study and compete. Earlier this year she earned a draw against Alexander Lenderman, the number 7th ranked player in the United States. Just last year Lenderman played for the US team in the 2015 World Team Chess Championship and won the gold medal on the second board. Then he won the 2015 World Open, so not getting crushed by Lenderman is a statement about just how far Martha has come.

This summer she travelled to Windsor, Canada, to compete in the 2016 NAYCC tournament. Once again she used this as practice for the world championships. Instead of competing in the Girls U12, Martha competed in the Girls-Under 18 – high school girls – and walked away with the second place trophy!

Her current USCF rating is now 2160, just 40 short of the Master's category.

So now her journey has taken her here to Batumi, Georgia. Here she will compete in the 2016 World Cadet Championships in the Girls U12 section. Her coach, Grandmaster Giorgi Kacheishvili, could not

make it, so he made an agreement with Grandmaster Tamaz Gelashvili, another Georgian, of course, to be her coach during the tournament. Giorgi and Tamaz are best of friends.

We are on the eve of an eleven-round grueling marathon that will begin tomorrow. There will be only one day off after today – a brief, mid-tournament stress break before the last round of competition on October 30th.

Martha is in good spirits. Her rating has jumped 200 points in the past year because of her coach's intensive training. Everything since last year's WYCC in Greece has been done in preparation for Batumi. And this year, she will not be playing girls a year older than her.

So here Martha is in Georgia – her family's country of heritage – with family, friends, and a good coach supporting her.

And it all happened because of a very special visit to Albany from her grandmother a few years back.

Round One

Today was a very stressful day. It was the start of the tournament, so this created a problem because the pairings didn't come out until 3 hours before the tournament.

When they did, Martha found out she would be playing the Black pieces against Armenia's Marieta Khachatryan. Although Martha played her in South Africa in 2014 and won, a lot can change in a player's strength in two years.

At 3PM everyone gathered in the main playing hall and an adjacent smaller hall. Adults are allowed in the halls for a few minutes before the start to take photos. I got stuck on my floor waiting for an elevator and actually sneaked in as virtually all of the parents and adults associated with 642 kids were whisked out of there. Because it was the start of the tournament, some professional photographers were gathered around the dignitaries while I took a couple of pictures of Martha just before playing time. Then I got out of there quickly and made my way back to my room. With all of the parents and families in the hotel, it was insane.

Now it was time for Nino and I to wait. Four and a half hours later, Martha and Marieta walked out. There were only a couple of games going

on when they left.

They had agreed to a draw. Martha was visibly shaken by this.

In the first round, she was playing a lesser rated player and everyone fully expected a win.

Below: Getting ready to play in the tournament hall.



Round Four

The game took 5 hours and 40 minutes. Martha's goal all year has been to finish in the top 3 in this championship. In the past, she played a very, very solid positional game and accumulated advantages wherever her opponents allowed. In chess, this is a solid strategy with the idea that as you collect these advantages they will eventually add up to a bigger game-winning advantage. But this style, championed by former World Champion Tigran Petrosian, a Soviet Armenian Grandmaster, took few risks and led to lots of draws. It also leads to many solid performances in tournaments, but fewer results that takes a player to the very top.

Martha has been in training to fight harder, play more aggressively, and take a few more chances to make something happen. She came into this game having already lost a half-point in the first round and that left a smaller margin available for errors in the latter rounds where she is more likely to draw or worse. I think she felt a tremendous amount of pressure to score wins now because it will only be more difficult to do so later against the stronger opponents.

Indeed, she was fighting for a win from the very beginning. Having prepared for a Sicilian response from the Minnesotan, Nastassja actually replied to 1.e4 with a French Defense, and opening designed as

a counterattack for Black against White's center. Martha turned down two draw offers she managed to keep her center while grabbing a significant space advantage in the process. She even sacrificed a pawn to blockade Black's counterplay on the kingside where Martha had castled. Her opponent had castled on the queenside which Martha kept closed until her kingside felt secure. Eventually she pushed her b pawn and opened up a line against the Black King. Nastassja's queen was committed to the kingside and out of play for a while until more of the pieces were exchanged. Eventually it was Queen and Bishop and pawns against Queen and Bishop and pawns, but Martha was the only one who had winning chances.

I did not see exactly where it happened - a lot of Georgian conversation - but Martha had blundered and lost the game. Tamaz showed her various ways to have won that endgame where she was the only one with the advantage. He said it was a psychological mistake that cost Martha the point.

Martha is not out of contention yet, but she will need exceptional play until the end to reach top 3. Last year she lost two mid-round games and finished out with a string of wins that took her to Board #1 in the championship's final game where she drew with the champion to finish in 7th place.

The climb up the mountain got a little steeper after today.

Round Seven

Today's game took roughly 4 hours and 15 minutes. Quite frankly, I was flabbergasted.

Martha played the Latvian Gambit. Martha is a positional player. This is her most well known strength. This is her comfort zone. This is where she is so difficult to beat. So here she is at the WCCC and she pulls out a *gambit!*?

In this game, Martha was down the exchange of a rook for a pawn and a knight. In exchange, her opponent, Ananya, had poorly placed pieces and trouble with developing to get them involved in the game. If she can withstand the attack, her material advantage should overtake control of the game and prove superior.

Ananya also had an advanced pawn threatening to Queen. The game continued and after a forced exchange of Queens, Ananya eventually did get all of her pieces into the game. From then on the struggle was about whether or not she could promote the advanced pawn to a Queen. Martha tenaciously defended while Ananya maintained her advantage.

They say that the winner in chess is the next to last person to make a mistake. On move 49, Ananya did just that and Martha pounced on the opportunity to double attack her rook and her king with check. Then Martha captured the rook and the advanced pawn and now it was she who held the winning endgame. The game ended on move 81.

Martha is playing for a top 3 result. Because she had a slow start, she must play for a win every single game to continue her ascent. Tamaz and Martha knew a positional approach by White would more likely end in a draw, so Martha was coached by Tamaz to go for the gambit. She paid the price and was in an inferior position until move 49. She luckily got away with the full point and avoided a step backwards by getting a draw. After 7 rounds, Martha now has 5.5 points.

The Lion's Den is within sight.

Round Eight

Well, today's game was a fairly short game. It was over in 29 moves.

It was clear from the start that Martha is still playing to win. When Kaiyu Ning, China's top player ranked fourth on the wall chart, opened with a French Defense, Martha avoided the lines of her Round 4 game with Nastassja and instead opted to open the center by playing the Exchange Variation. She was already feeling Kaiyu's pressure by move 8 and by move 13, she was down 4 points after having lost a rook and a pawn for a bishop. I was sweating profusely by then.

As they say in baseball, the game ain't over until the fat lady sings.

In exchange for the material, Black's a8 Rook and b8 Knight were undeveloped and all of Martha's remaining pieces were developed, so Martha went on the attack against Black's King. (*It's like Kaiyu is now playing without a rook and a knight and there were no pieces in the vicinity to protect her king.*) Martha forced Kaiyu to severely weaken her castled position by having to advance her pawns in front of her castled King. Then she captured one of the pawns with a bishop to open the h-file and followed that up by repositioning that bishop along the a2-g8 diagonal to stare straight into the King's fortress. This is a light-squared bishop and Black's light squared Bishop was already gone!

Martha had a very strong attack and by the time it was over, she had about 30 minutes on her clock and Kaiyu was virtually out of time.

Below: Marths taking on an Indian player in Round Seven.



Martha passed her first major test today against China's top player. Kaiyu was ranked 4th at the start of the competition and was the 3rd ranked player going into Round 8.

After 8 rounds Martha now has 6.5 points.

Round Ten

Now she must face Asadi Motahare of Iran currently in 4th position in the standings. It turns out that there is some history here...

At the 2014 World Youth Chess Championships in South Africa in the Girls Under 10 section, Martha faced Asadi in Round 11 and lost. In the final standings she finished in 8th place, Asadi finished ahead of her in third.

And then at the 2015 World Youth Chess Championships in Greece in the Girls Under 12 section, Martha faced Asadi in Round 5 and lost again. In the final standings she finished in 7th place, Asadi again finished ahead of her in 6th.

Martha is in a must win situation. If she wins, she is still in the conversation for a top 3 result. With only 1 more round after today, anything less than a win means waiting 2 more years before getting the age advantage in her age group.

In both of her previous games, Asadi had the White pieces.

Today, Martha has the White pieces.

This is the time to pull out all the stops.
This is the time to seek revenge.

Martha opened with 1.e4. Determined not to let Asadi create early opening opportunities from Black, she responded to Black's Sicilian Defense with a Closed Sicilian of sorts. After a dozen moves, Martha had good control over the game and Asadi was struggling with her pieces. They were cramped, uncoordinated and lacked purpose. Eventually she tried to rearrange a knight and Martha pounced on the opportunity and won a Bishop for a pawn while also making Asadi lose her castling privileges by move 19.

Asadi moved her king out of the center to seek safety on the Queenside and then offered a temporary sacrifice of a knight for a pawn on move 25 in an attempt to open up a diagonal for her trapped fianchettoed g7 bishop. Martha would have none of it and swiftly moved her bishop to b7 attacking a rook on c8. Asadi could not move the rook or it would be mate so Martha then won the exchange of a rook for the bishop. They soon exchanged Queens and played just a few more moves before Asadi resigned.

Martha used 37 moves to put Asadi out of her misery in 2 hours and 47 minutes. She also exacted sweet revenge for her losses against the Iranian in the last two championships.

After 10 rounds, Martha has 7.5 points.

Round Eleven

After losing to her in the prior two World Championships, Martha severely punished Iran's Asadi Motahare yesterday and tossed her down the mountain. This set the stage for today's final contest against India's highest remaining competitor, Mrudul Dehankar, in Martha's bid to finish in the top 3. Mrudal currently is in 2nd place. Martha is in a 4-way tie for 3rd place and ranked 6th in the standings after tiebreak.

During the first 10 rounds, each player has had the White pieces five times and the Black pieces five times. Therefore, players getting the White pieces today were determined (electronically, I'm sure) by coin toss.

Only the top six players are in contention for a second or third place finish. They are all paired against each other on the top 3 boards and below. The first player in each contest has the White Pieces.

Bibisara Assaubayeva has already clinched first place and is the new World Champion. She won it last

year, too. In fact, she had already won three world championships by the time she was 9, so this is at least her fifth world championship crown. She is a special case. Home schooled, she has been practicing 6 hours each day since she was a little girl. She had been playing for her home country, Kazakhstan, but eventually Russia gave her carte blanche financial support to compete for them.

The game, another Closed Sicilian of sorts - went well initially and had a lot of similarities to Martha's game where she defeated Asadi yesterday. It resembled a Sicilian Grand Prix Attack except that while White's light-squared bishop is often exchanged for Black's c6 knight in the Grand Prix, it sits on e2 in this setup. In addition, the c6 knight remains to strengthen Black's hold on the dark center squares. This plays a role later in the game.

Martha moved her Queen to the kingside early to launch an attack. Mrudal used age-old wisdom to counter her offensive: "When there is an attack on your flank, attack the center!" Soon Black *almost* forced White to advance her e4 pawn to e5. Although this blocked Black's g7 bishop, Black was not concerned because her c6 knight compensated for the bishop's lack of control on d4.

Black was now ready to open things up. White, with her Queenside pieces still in their original squares (all the way up until move 21, in fact,) was stuck reacting to Black's initiative. After a couple of exchanges Black had a powerful attack and Martha's underdeveloped position could not withstand the pressure. Eventually Mrudal leveraged a tactical maneuver that caught White with insufficient defenders and, being forced to lose a piece with no worthwhile compensation, Martha resigned.

I do not know what Martha's final position in the standings will be. With a loss today, there are others just below her who are likely to jump ahead of her if they win, for example. The finality of it all, however, just leaves me with a 'could care less' attitude about her final result.

What I am so satisfied about is that it has been an amazing journey to get here and it has been an amazing ride with Martha's fighting spirit and never surrender attitude in the face of 97 other competitors.

To watch her climb back up to the top - where luck *always* plays a role at the summit - has provided me with all the satisfaction I need for coming to Georgia with Martha and her family.

Thanks for reading. I hope you enjoyed the ride as much as I have.

Prieto Wins Watertown Club Championship

By Don Klug



Robert Kratzat, left and Adolfo Prieto, right record moves in game four

Adolfo Prieto won Game Four of the 2016 Watertown Chess Club Championship Match to claim a hard fought 2.5-1.5 victory over Robert Kratzat on December 13th. It was his first club championship since 2009. Mr. Prieto entered the four-game match with draw odds based upon his 2016 season club record of +26-1=7, superior to Mr. Kratzat's record of +17-9=8. Mr. Kratzat had surprised top-seed Prieto with a first-round win and used a stunning sacrifice in Round 3 to draw by perpetual check, allowing the match to remain tied.

With the match tied at 1.5 -1.5 each, Mr. Kratzat needed a win to claim the title. He attempted to surprise with the unusual flank opening 1. b4, the Sokolsky or Polish Opening. Mr. Prieto was prepared and guided the game towards the Exchange Variation with 1... e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3. Bxe5 Nf6 4. c4 O-O. Mr. Kratzat's 5. a3, stepped out of the obscure opening

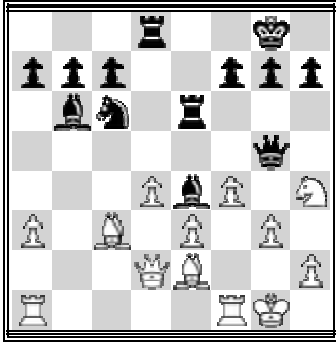
lines and left both to their own over-the-board prowess. From this point on Black was able to develop with threats causing White to back pedal. By the time White castled on Move 11, Black was able to fully develop his pieces with 11... Bf5. White still had a Knight on his back rank. White, still feeling pressured ten moves later attempted 21. f4 to gain space and drive away Black's Queen. He was left with a backward King pawn that became Black's invasion target.

The game follows:

Kratzat,Robert (1710) - Prieto,Adolfo (1906)
[A00] Polish Opening
WCC 2016 Championship Match (game 4),
Dec.13, 2016

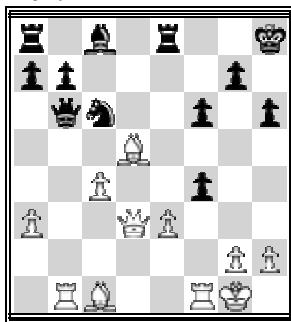
1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 0-0 5.a3 Ba5
6.Nf3 Re8 7.e3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Bb2
Qd6 11.0-0 Bf5 12.Qb3 Bb6 13.Nc3 Be6 14.Nxd5
Bxd5 15.Qc3 Qh6 16.d4 Rad8 17.Qd2 Be4
17...Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nxd4!

18.Bc3 Qg6 19.Nh4 Qg5 20.g3 Re6 21.f4 (see diagram)



21...Qd5 22.Bf3 Rde8 23.Rae1 Na5 24.Bxe4 Rxe4
 25.Ng2 Nc4 26.Qc1 c5 27.dxc5 Bxc5 28.Rd1 Qc6
 29.Bd4 Bxa3 30.Qc3 f6?
 30...Bb2 31.Qc2 Bxd4 32.Rxd4 Rxd4 33.exd4 b5
 31.Rfe1 a5 32.Rd3?? Bb4 33.Qa1 Bxe1 34.Qxe1 b5
 35.Kf2 a4 36.Qa1 a3 37.g4 R4e7 38.Nh4 Qe4
 39.Rc3 Rd7 40.Nf5 g6
 40...Rxd4 41.Nxd4 Nxe3 42.Nf3 Nxe4+ 43.Kg3 Ne3
 44.Kf2 b4
 41.Ng3 Qe6 42.f5 Qd5 43.Qc1 Kf7 44.fxe6+ hxe6
 45.Qc2 Nd6 46.h4 Ne4+ 47.Nxe4 Qxe4 48.Qb3+
 Kg7 49.Qxa3 Qxe4 50.Qa6 Rxd4 51.Rc7+ Kh6
 52.Qa7 Qxe4+ 53.Ke2 Qh2+ 54.Kf3 Qh3+ 55.Kf2
 Qxe3+ 56.Kg2 Rd2+ 57.Kh1 Qh3+ White resigns
 0-1, Black wins Match 2.5-1.5

In Round One of the match, Mr. Kratzat stunned Mr. Prieto with a come-from-behind victory after Mr. Prieto's uncharacteristic poor move 21.Bc1, which left White's Rooks disconnected and his pieces uncoordinated. Game One position, Prieto-Kratzat, game after 21. Bc1:

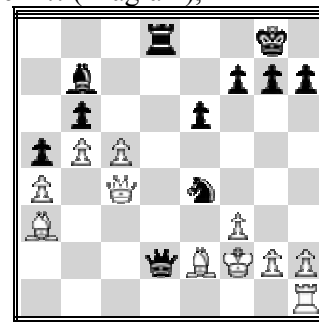


What a poor location for this Bishop. If instead White had played 21.Bd4 Qd8 22.Rxf4 His position would have been much stronger due to his coordinated pieces in the center. The actual game continued
 21...Qc7 22.Qg6
 Either 22.exf4 or; 22.Rxf4 ...keeps the position balanced.
 22...Be6 23.Be4 Bg8 24.exf4 Ne7

Strong move, forcing the menacing Queen away. If Black had played 24...Re6 25.Re1 Rae8 26.Bd2 White would be in control in spite of his loose pawns.

25.Qh5 Nc6!
 Now we see the power behind 24... Ne7
 26.Bg6
 26.Bd5 ...seems to be the best White can offer.
 26...Re7 27.c5?
 Moving the c1 Bishop to b2 prevents 27... Nd4. 27.Bb2.
 27...Nd4 28.Bb2 Ne2+ 29.Kh1 Nxf4 30.Qg4?
 Mr. Prieto is often in time trouble and has less than 3 minutes left.
 30...Nxe6 31.Qxe6 Bh7 32.Qh5 Bxb1 33.Rxb1 Rae8 34.Bc3 Qc6 35.Rf1 Re2 36.Qg6 Qe4 Forcing the Queen trade.
 37. Qg3
 White has just two minutes left for the game against Black's 23 minutes.
 37...Re3
 White resigns, 0-1 and Mr. Kratzat gained the early lead in the match 1-0.

Adolfo Prieto won Game Two of the match, playing the Black side of the Scotch Game, a favorite of Mr. Kratzat. A series of trades left the White Kingside with doubled pawns at f3 and f4. This weakness tied down White's King and Bishop to their defense allowing Black unfettered queenside access. Black's free Knight led his passed pawn to victory. Kratzat-Prieto Game Two final position and a tied match at 1-1: In game three Mr. Kratzat sacrificed his Knight with 23...Nxe4+!! (Diagram),



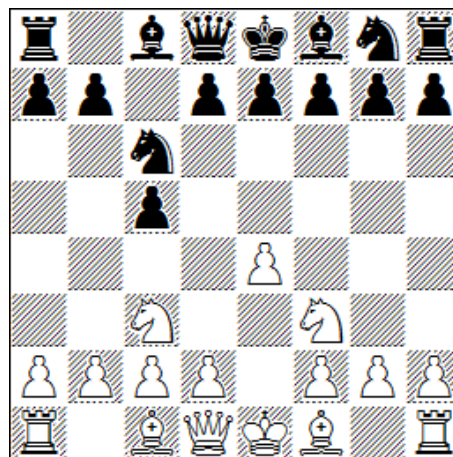
...leading to perpetual check against Mr. Prieto's very uncoordinated White pieces.
 24. fxe4 Qf4+ 25.Ke1 Qd2+ 26.Kf2 Qf4+ 27.Ke1, game ½-½, leaving the match tied 1.5-1.5.

For complete game scores go to <http://watertownchessclub.com/category/wcc-championship>

Move Ordering The Sicilian

By Zachary Calderon

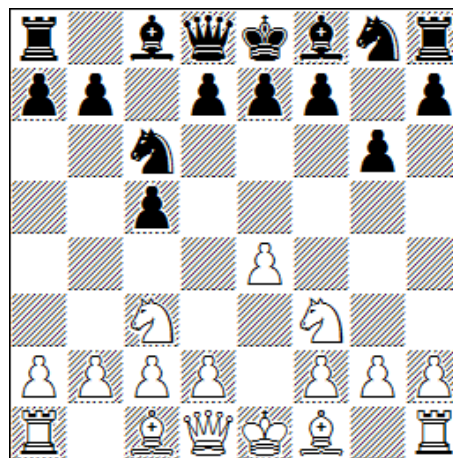
The Sicilian Defense (1. e4 c5) is one of the most dreaded Black defense in the entire game of chess. Black immediately offsets the position, and shows that he is just as determined to set the pace of the game as White. The question is, how do you respond? You can of course learn the Open Sicilian after 2. Nf3 and 3. d4, but then you must have adequate responses to all the major Black variations, such as the Najdorf, Scheveningen, Classical, Dragon, Accelerated Dragon, Kan, Taimanov, and Sveshnikov, as well as some lesser played lines such as the Kalashnikov, Lowenthal, Four Knights, and Pin variation.



Black even has some tricky second move alternatives, such as the O'Kelly with 2...a6, the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon with 2...g6, and the Nimzowitsch variation with 2...Nf6. Now, you can devote a lifetime to learning all of this, or you can try one of the many Anti-Sicilians that have been developed as easy alternatives to the Sicilian labyrinth such as the Alapin Sicilian with 1. e4 c5 2. c3, the Smith-Morra Gambit with 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3, or the tricky Czerniak Sicilian with 2. b3. Even the absurd moves 2. Na3 and 2. a3 are playable. 2. Nc3 leads to two of the most common Anti Sicilians, with the Grand Prix (3. f4) and the Closed Sicilian (3. g3).

Another main benefit to this is that it is extremely flexible. Indeed, there is very little preventing White from simply playing an Open Sicilian if he wants, knowing that he may have very well already taken Black out of his comfort zone. The only move that may discourage White from play 4. d4 is the move 3...g6.

All of that is enough to overwhelm anyone. Learning the Open Sicilian is a full-time job, and there are so many Anti-Sicilians out there, how do you pick? I have one that has the best of both worlds. It has the soundness of the Alapin Sicilian, and the surprise value of, say, 2. Na3. I want to give a glimpse into our Anti Sicilian, a system that Nigel Davies has dubbed "Sicilicide". The system is a reaction-based System that goes **1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nf3**.



The benefits of this system are numerous. For one, it gives White a psychological edge. If the Black player plays a Sicilian system where he avoids playing ...Nc6 and prefers ...Nbd7, he may already be panicking, as it appears that White is preparing to go back into a normal Sicilian with 4. d4.

Now, after 4. d4, White has out-move ordered himself! He would find himself in an Accelerated Dragon having ruled out White's main weapon against the line, the Maroczy Bind, which involves the c2 pawn being on c4. Of course, these positions are playable for White, but may not be fun. However, the Sicilicide repertoire is extremely fun! Here White can play the insane-looking **4. h4!**

(Continued on page 24)

Open Lines..tidbits about the chess world

By Karl Heck

-- New York City was the host of the 2016 World Chess Championship, and most of the games were sold out at the arena constructed especially for the match at South Street Seaport in Manhattan. The high turnout is a tribute to New York chess fans, the world's best.

-- New York is strongly represented on the 2017 US Chess Federation All-American Chess Team sponsored by Trophies Plus, with 10 members of the 68-player team. The team is made up of scholastic players from Age Eight and Under to Age 18, with minimum rating levels for each age group. Team members were presented with their team jackets and plaques at the 2016 National K012 Grade Championship December 16-18 in Nashville, Tennessee. The New York players on the All-American Chess Team for 2017 are:

Age 18 (minimum rating 2500): IM Michael Bodek

Age 17 (minimum rating 2450): IM Joshua Colas

Age 15 (minimum rating 2400): FM Ethan Li

Age 14 (minimum rating 2350): FM Nicolas Checa

Age 13 (minimum rating 2300): FM David Brodsky

Age 11 (minimum rating 2200): NM Wesley Wang

Age 9 (minimum rating 2000): Nathaniel Lande ShumanH

Nico Werner Chasin, Davis Zong, Jr.

Age 8 and Under (minimum rating 1900): Adi Murgescu (only player in age group)

Congratulations to all of our team members.

-- Harold Scott, who recently founded the Long Island Chess Center on his return to the Island, was one of the big winners at the Eastern Chess Congress held in Basking Ridge, New Jersey over Halloween weekend. Scott ties for first in the Under 2100 section with 4 ½ points, winning \$1,050. Scott played this excellent game which he annotated for Chess Life Online and is reproduced here.

October 30, 2016

Basking Ridge, NJ

David Hauge (2137) –Harold Scott (2035)

Closed Sicilian *Annotated by Harold Scott*

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6

A modern move order of the Closed Sicilian normally preferred my Najdorf or Kan players. As Black is not inconvenienced if White transposes back into the Open Sicilian with 3.Nf3 and 4.d4.

3.g3

3.f4 is the second most common alternative.

3...b5

Early expansion on the Queenside is the main idea of the 2...a6 move order.

4.Bg2 Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.f4 Nf6 7.Nf3 b4 8.Ne2 d5 9.e5 Nfd7

The battle is beginning to take shape. The structure bears some similarities to a line in the King's Indian Attack where Black thrusts his pawn to ...d5, ...c5, ...b5, and ...a5. What is clear to me is White is going to play actively and aggressively on the kingside and Black will do the same on the queenside. Black will have to play accurately in defense as his king will under fire. But, all in all, it is the perfect sharp struggle that I am hoping for with Black in an important last round game.

10.O-O Be7 11.Qe1 Nc6 12.g4 Qc7

With Black's configuration, it will be difficult for Black to play the natural f4-f5 thrust as the e5-pawn will fall.

13.Ng3 a5 14.c3 Ba6

Re-routing the Bishop to a more active diagonal.

15.Qe2 O-O 16.c4 Nb6 17.b3 a4 18.Be3 d4 19.Bf2

White Black's play on the queenside is well under way, it seems that White's minor pieces will get in the way of creating attacking lines against the Black King. 19.Bd2 is better as the bishop is not accomplishing anything on a diagonal that is opposed by pawns on ...d4 and ...c5.

19...Bb7

The Bishop belongs back on the a8-h1 diagonal now that the structure has become fixed on the Queenside.

20.Ne4 Ra7

Beginning a plan of doubling Rooks on the a-file and taking control of that file once Black plays ...axb3.

21.Nfd2

21.f5 ! would be best for White. Black needs to be careful of his Queen should he go pawn-grabbing. i.e. 21...Nxe5 ? 22.Nxe5 Qxe5 ?? 23.Bg3 +-

21...Rfa8 2.Rab1 axb3 23.axb3 Ra2

Taking the seventh can't be bad.

24.g5 Nb8 25.Qh5 N8d7 26.Be1 Nf8

A defensive maneuver used by Petrosian in the past. In fact, I believe Bent Larsen said, "I can never get mated with a Knight on f8."

27.Rf3 27...Ra1

Exchanging the lone defender of the back rank.

28.Rxa1 Rxa1 29.Kf1 Nbd7 30.Rh3 Bxe4 31.Nxe4 Rb1 32.Nd2 Rc1 33.Be4 g6 34.Qe2 Qa5 35.Rg3 Qa1

36.Bg2 Qb2 37.h4 h5 38.Bf3 Bd8 39.Rg1 Bc7 40.Rg2 Nb6 41.Ne4 ??

Allowing me to win the b-pawn is the losing moment.

41...Qxb3 42.Nf6+

My opponent is all-in with this move. 42.Nxc5 is the alternative.

42...Kh8 43.Bxh5!

Had to anticipate this sacrifice when playing 37...h5. But I easily saw that pinning his Bishop on the back rank while running my b-pawn down the board was faster.

43...Qb1

Black gets mated quickly if he recaptures on h5. 43...gxh5 44.Qxh5+ Kg7 44...Nh7 45.Qxh7# 45.Qh6#

44.Bf3 b3 45.Ne4 Rc2 46.Qd1 Rc1 47.Qe2 b2 48.Nd2 Qc2 49.h5 Na4 50.hxg6 Ba5 !

50...Kg7, 50...Nxc6, 50...fxg6 are all solid alternatives as well. 50...fxg6 was my initial thought which would have prevented any thoughts of Qh5+.

51.Be4 Bxd2 ??

A costly slip-up by me that could have allowed my opponent to secure a draw via perpetual check. Simple and winning is: 51...Rxe1+ ! 52.Qxe1 52...Qc1 53.Re2 53...Bxd2 54.Rxd2 54...Qxe1 + 55.Kxe1 55...b1=Q+ +-

52.Qh5+

The only explanation that I have for allowing this move besides moving too quickly was that initially I was not concerned about this move as the Bishop was blocking the Queen from this square while on f3. When my opponent played 51.Be4 I became concerned about ideas of Rh2+ and how the Bishop could factor-in by controlling the h7-square. I should have taken a moment more to see the real threat of 51.Be4. No excuse!

52...Kg8 53.gxf7+ Kg7 54.Qh6+ Kxf7 55.g6+ ??

55.Qf6+! Kg8 56.Bh7+ Nxh7 57.Qxe6+ Kf8 58.Qh6+ \$11 and a draw is unavoidable.

55...Kg8 56.g7 Rxe1+ 0-1

- The National K-12 School Grade Championship, held December 16-18 in Nashville, was a comprehensive triumph for several New York players and teams. Jack Levine in fourth grade and Sumit Dhar in sixth grade swept their sections. Dhar's 7-0 sweep in the 155-player Sixth Grade section included wins in the last two rounds against higher-rated players. Levine's 7-0 sweep included an unplayed win in the first round, along with three wins against players won finished in the top 10 of the 225-player section.

Jack Nathaniel Yang won the 158-player Second Grade Championship outright with 6 ½ points, yielding a

sixth-round draw to Varun Gadi of Georgia. In the money round, though, Yang dispatched fellow New Yorker Brewington Hardaway to win first prize.

Three New Yorkers were part of an impressive nine-way tie for first place in the 163-player Fifth Grade section. Nathaniel Shuman, Gus Huston and Henry Burton joined six others in the logjam at the top. Shuman and Huston both drew the section's only National Master, Maximillian Lu of Connecticut, to force the tie at the top. Liu won the first-place trophy on tiebreak.

Evelyn Zhu and NM Wesley Wang tied for first in the 142-player Seventh Grade Championship, sweeping the rest of the field by a full point with 6 ½ points. The two co-champions did not play each other, but swept out the rest of the field.

The team championships were also a great weekend for New York. Long-time star team Stuyvesant High School won the 12th Grade team championship with 15 points (William Yen, Daniel Yasse and Andrew Yukai Zheng all scored five. The School Grade has a three player per team format) In the 11th Grade Championship, Scarsdale's Edgemont High School (William Graif 6, Alexander Crump 4.5, Andy Chen and Yura Law Lenin 4) was second with 14/5 points, and Stuyvesant (Daniel Regassa 5, Zachary Yu 4 ½, Charlie Parker Reeder 4) was third with 13 ½ points. Perennial power Dalton High School (Daniel Challenger 4, Reedy Young-Jai Sohn Lee, 4, Tristan Sollecito, 3 ½, Chan Shue Kyle Ruben 3 1/2) was second with 11 ½ points. Stuyvesant also won the Ninth Grade section with 11 points (Sophie Morris-Suzuki, 4 ½, Arjun Kai 3 ½, Hilary Zen, 3 1.2).

The middle school sections were a comprehensive triumph for New York schools as well. IS 318 of Brooklyn won the Eighth Grade with 15 points (Justin Dalhouse, 5, Marcus Sutton 5, and Laessan Joseph 5), with Dalton of Manhattan second with 12 ½ points (Tyler Roonprapunt 5 ½, Hudson Beaudoin 3 ½, Atticus Young-Chang Lee 3 ½). Success Academy of Harlem was third with 12 points to complete the New York sweep of the podium (Ethan Moses 4, Elliot James Keny Deutou 4, Fatou Mbaye 4). Long Island's Jericho Middle School won the Seventh Grade Championship with 17 ½ points (Evelyn Zhu 6 ½, Wesley Wang 6 ½, Joshua Dong 4 ½). Columbia Grammar was third with 14 points in a closely-contested section (Dnail Levkov 5, Harris Lentz 5, Theo George Kogan 4). Dalton won the Sixth Grade Championship with 15 ½ points (Sumit Dhar 7, Davyn Ari DeJonge 4 ½, Dylan Challenger 4, Hamilton Shillingford 4), IS 318 of Brooklyn was third with 13 ½ points (Tashi Sherpa 5, Sunny Yang 4 ½, Robbie Galfern 4).

Dalton won the Fifth Grade Championship with an impressive 17 points, with Nathaniel Shuman and Gus Huston scoring six, and Julia Kaitlyn Miyasaka and Veda Rose Zafranek scoring five. Hunter College Campus School was third with 14 points, with Henry Huston scoring six, Noah Robert Kay scoring five and Lee Walker Watson scoring three. New York schools swept the podium in the Fourth Grade Championship, with Speyer Legacy School winning the team trophy with 16 points (John Kian O'Neill and Jame Youngli Oh scoring 5 ½, and Nathan Brown scoring five), Dalton was second with 14 ½ points (Charlie Bear Kim scored 5 ½, Alexander Weinberg scored 5, and Jonathan Henkin, Maxwell Rein Silvers and Ollie Feder each scored 4 ½). Hunter College Campus School was third on tiebreak over PS 41 of Manhattan, with both schools scoring 14 points. Sean Kaloudis scored five points for Hunter College Campus, with Joshua Ethan Chong and Jake Taylor Quan scoring 4 ½. Tournament winner Jack Levine scored a perfect seven for PS 41, with Aeneas Merchant adding 4 ½ and Suzanne Guerrier scoring 2 1/2.

New York schools also swept the podium in the Third Grade Championship, laying a world of hurt on the other 49 states. Dalton won the section with 14 points (Alexander Rubinstein Mash and William Zafranek scoring five, and Jonathan Weinberg scoring four). Chelsea Prep was clear second with 13 points (Ian Nicholson 5, Simone Morden 4, Logan Chen 4, Alex Agrawal 4). The Speyer Legacy School was third on tiebreak with 12 ½ points (Alexander Morris Berman 5 ½, Gabriel Rhodes 4m Ripley Golden 3). The Second Grade section was a similar New York sweep, with Dalton winning the section with 16 ½ points (Jack Nathaniel Yang with 6 ½, Logan Newby and Jonathan Nallengara with five), PS 77 – Lower Lab

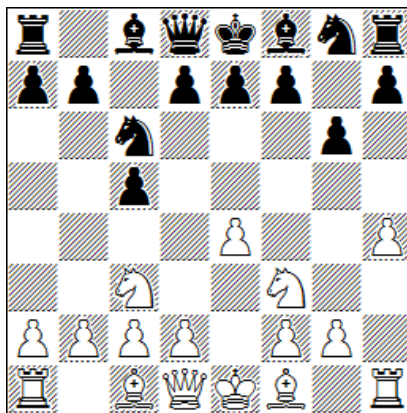
School was clear second with 16 points (Royal Buchanan and Morgan Kenzo Mairaj scored 5 ½, and Noah Gillston scored 5), NEST+m School was third with 15 points (Spencer Chin 6, Romir Mukherjee 5 ½, Rhys Malcolm Black 3 ½).

The Collegiate School won the First Grade Championship with 15 points (Xan Meister 5 ½, Ranbeer Arora 5, Kabeer Arora 4 ½). Hunter College Campus School was third on tiebreaks over PS-77 Lower Lab School, with both schools scoring 13 ½ points. Max Chang scored five for Hunter College Campus School, with Lisa Sun, James Tiger and Amy Burdon each scoring 4 ½. David Menzer and Aliana Fausto scored five for PS 77, and Reid Phillip Segarra added 3 ½. Avenues: The World School was second in the Kindergarten Championship with nine points (Elliott Levinsky 3 ½, Robbie Adam 3, Christopher Danie Meyers 2 ½).

New York schools also placed well in the Blitz Championships. IS 318 was second in the K-12 Blitz Championship with 24 points (Jeremy Zhens 8 ½, Marcus Sutton 8 and Steven Xue 7 ½), and Stuyvesant High School was third on tiebreaks with 22 points (Zachary Yu 8, Daniel Yassry 7 ½, Daniel Regassa 6 ½). The Speyer Legacy School won the K-6 Blitz with 26 points (Ryan Herada Peterson and Kiren Vivek Nasta 9, Alexander Morris Berman 8). Dalton was third on tiebreaks over Hunter College Campus School, with both schools scoring 24 ½ points. Gus Huston scored 10 for Dalton, with Nathaniel Shuman scoring 9 ½ and Bowe Harper Siegelson adding five. Henry Burton led Hunter College Campus School with nine, with Joshau Ethan Chong scoring eight and Benjamin Segarra scoring 7 ½).

Congratulations to all of the parents, coaches and players that spent the time and money to go to Nashville and show the country what New York chess is all about.

Calderon (from page 19)



I have always had a lot of fun with this move. White immediately takes a can opener to Black's Kingside. It can very often lead to a quick White victory, should Black not defend properly.

Against other Black second and third move alternatives, you have two choices. You can either play an Open Sicilian with the knowledge that you may or may not have pulled Black out of his normal Sicilian, or you can continue down the road less traveled. After 1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nf6, the move 4. e5!? is better than its reputation would suggest. After 3...e6, 4. Bb5 allows White extremely rapid development. And after 2...d6 3. Nf3 Nf6, 4. e5 once again gives White some positional pressure. That system in particular was played quite frequently by Keres, and so certainly cannot be bad.

Overall, I think you will have a lot of fun playing this tricky move order with White. It is extremely sound, and also not well known at all

News from the Marshall by *Frank Romano*

Thirty-seven players contested the historic 100th Edward Lasker Memorial, which has been the Marshall Chess Club Championship almost since the Club opened.

The nine-round tournament contested from December 9 to 18 was a triumph for GM Yaroslav Zherebukh, who won outright with 7 ½ points, yielding only three in an impressive undefeated performance that included beating the second and third-place finishers. Zherebukh won \$4,000 for his efforts.

SM Raven Sturt was clear second with seven points, losing only to Zherebukh. Sturt took half-point byes in the second and third round. GM Irina Krush, seven-time US Women's Champion, was clear third with a 6-3 score.

There was a significant logjam for the class prizes, with FM Leif Pressman, IM Jay Bonin, NM Anton osinenko, NM Mohammed Dilshad and NM Daniel Vasserman, all with 5 ½ points. GM Sergey Kidrin also scored 5 ½-3 ½ in the tightly-contested event.

Grogory Keener directed the tournament for the Marshall, with assistance from Oscar Garcia.

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili, GM Aleksandr Lenderman, and GM Alexnader Stripunsky tied for first in the December Marshall Masters with 3 ½ points. Lenderman and Stripunsky drew in the last round, while Kacheishvili drew with NM Majur Kuac separately in the last round in a significant upset.

Juac and NM Anton Osinenko tied for fourth with three points, with Juac going undefeated.

Bryan Quick directed the tournament for the Marshall.

The Marshall Chess Club ran the annual Jerry Simon Amateur from December 2 to 4 at the world-famous club. NM Mohammed Dilshad, fast-rising All-American Chess Team members Nico Werner Chasin, and Davis Zong, Jr. tied for first in the event with 4 ½-1/2 scores. Dilshad and Chasin drew in Round Four, which Zong gave up a last-round draw to Expert Luca Dona in the last round after winning his first four games in the 56-player event. Dona was clear fourth with an undefeated 4-1 score.

Experts George Berg, Eddy Tian, Edward Kopiecki, Gus Huston, Bora Yagiz and William Hu, all tied for fifth with 3 ½ points. Berg and Huston were undefeated.

The tournament was directed by Oscar Garcia for the Marshall.

Though the legendary Steve Immitt run Four Rated Games Tonight is no longer part of the Marshall schedule, the Marshall has resumed its Thursday night action chess series. The first Thursday of the month is a Special Action tournament with additional prizes.

The December 1 Special Action drew 24 players and was won by New York State Chess Hall of Famer and chess legend IM Jay Bonin with 3 ½ points. Bonin drew Norwegian FM Ole Moen in the third round, and won his remaining games in order to win the tournament by half a point. Bonin defeated Norwegian IM Kjetil Stokke in the last round, who finished with 2 ½ points.

GM Justin Sarkar, FM Boris Privman, Moen and NM Mohammed Dilshad tied for second with 3-1 scores. All four players were undefeated, which is highly unusual for an Action Chess event of this time.

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

IM Jay Bonin also was one of the top finishers in the December 15 Marshall Action, along with NM Jeremiah Smith. The two top finishers drew in the last round FM Boris Privman was clear third with three points, losing to Bonin in the third round.

Raven Sturt directed the tournament for the Marshall.

The November 17 Marshall Action tournament was won in a upset by Expert Tyrell Marriott, who won the event with 3 ½ points. Marriott won three games and drew FM Boris Privman in the third round to secure the victory in the 18-player tournament.

IM Jay Bonin, Privman, and NM Mohammed Dilshad tied for second with 3-1 scores. Bonin was undefeated, drawing Privman and Expert Chirstopher Yoo. Privman was also undefeated, drawing the top two players. Dilshad lost to Bonin in Riund One and won the last three games.

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

In honor of the World Chess Championship being in New York during Novmeber, a special WCC version of the Marshall Masters was held on November 15 during the World Chess Championship.

The 28-player tournament was won by three

Grandmasters: Giorgi Kacheishvili, Aleksandr Lenderman and Maxim Dlugy, all with 3 ½ points. Dlugy and Lenderman drew in the last round, while Kacheishvili drew veteran FM Asa Hoffmann in the first round, and then rolled through the last three rounds in a semi” Swiss Gambit” kind of finish.

IM Yaacov Norowitz, and NM Raven Sturt tied for fourth with 3-1 scores.

Bryan Quick directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Fifty-four players participated in the Marshall WCC Blitz, which occurred on November 11 on Veteran’s Day after the first round of the World Chess Championship.

The nine-round tournament was a comprehensive triumph for GM Maxim Dlugy, who won the tournament by a point and a half with an 8 ½-1/2 score. Dlugy’s only draw was in Round Eight to Israeli Grandmaster Anatoly Bykhovsky.

GM Aleksandr Lenderman and GM Irina Krush tied for second with 7-2 scores. Both lost to Dlugy. Kirush took a half-point bye in the first round and allowed a draw to GM Giorgi Kacheishvili in Round Five. Lenderman drew GM Bykhovsky and Canadian IM Raja Panjwani.

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili and NM Anton Osinenko tied for fourth with 6 ½ points.

Bryan Quick directed for the Marshall.

The November 3 Special Action tournament drew 24 players and was won with a perfect 4-0 score by GM Mark Paragua, the tournament’s highest-rated player. Four players tied for second: FM Kyron Griffith, FM Boris Privman, Tyrell Marriott, and Mohammed Dilshad

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Thirty-four players participated in the October 28 FIDE Blitz tournament. The event was won by GM Aleksandr Lenderman with a 7 ½ -1 ½ score. Lenderman lost to French Expert Guillaume Gras in the first round in a major upset, and then won six straight to take control of the tournament.

NM Anton Osinenko And IM Jonathan Tayar tied for second with 6 ½ points. Former New York State Champion Nicolas de t Checa, FM Asa Hoffmann, NM Tyurell Marriott and NM Robert Shlyakhtenko tied for fourth with six points.

Gregory Keener directed the tournament for the Marshall.

IM Jay Bonin won the October 27 edition of the Marshall Action tournament with 3 ½ points. Bonin drew in the last round against Expert Tae Kim with a commanding lead in the 13-player event. FM Brois Privman and Evan Kauffmann tied for second with 3-1 scores, with Privman n losing to Bonin and Kauffmann losing to Privman.

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

The October 18 edition of the Marshall Masters drew 19 players and was won by six players with 3-1 scores: SM Raven Sturt, Canadian IM Raja Panjwani, New York State Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin, NM Adam Maltese, FM Anthony Renna and FM Asa Hoffmann

Sturt lost to Maltese in the second round, while the other three winners were nicked for third and fourth-round draws in the closely-contested tournament. Bonin and Panjwani drew in the last round, as did Maltese and Renna.

Gregory Kenner directed.

Friday Night Blitz is a regular tradition at the Marshall which attracts some of the strongest players in the country for nine rounds of Blitz chess.

The October 14 edition of the tournament was won by Canadian IM Raja Panjwani with 7 ½ points. The International Master yeeldeda last-round draw to Expert Soram Singh in the last round, and battled back through the field after a second-round loss to NM Tyuell Marriott.

Italian Grnadmaster Roberto Mognanzini NM Anton Osinenko tied for second with 6 ½ points, with both losing the Panjwani along the way. NM Harshal Shaai, and Marriott tied for fourth with 6-3 scores.

Ron Anderson directed for the Marshall.

The October 6 Marshall Special Action drew 17 players and was won in a perfect score sweep by GM Roberto Magranzini. He defeated FM Brois Privman in the last round to clinch the sweep.

Privman, IM Jay Bonin and Expert Ryan Ruiz tied for second with 3-1 scores in the 17-player tournament, with Bonin also losing to the Italian GM.

Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

Evans Gambit: Normal Position

by Richard Moody Jr.

The “Normal Position” of the Evans Gambit was called this because of its routine appearance in 19th Century games. It was eclipsed by an early Qb3 in more modern games. In terms of practical results, just like other variations of the Evans Gambit, White scores quite well here. However, GM Sammy Reshevsky when I contacted him with an Evans Gambit question thought that Lasker's Defense refuted the Evans Gambit. Lasker's Defense is another name for the Normal Position. Unless otherwise indicated these games come from Mark Ishee's *Evans Gambit Games*.

Here is a try by Black to drive back the Bishop without waiting for d5.

9.Nc3 Na5 10.Bg5 Ne7?! (f6 =/+) **11.Bxf7+! Kxf7 12.Nd5 Re8 13.Bxe7 Rxe7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qh5 h6 16.Qg6.**

Black cannot escape the checks. Analyzed by Chigorin from the game Gunsberg-Chigorin Havana, 1890.

Black can try an early Bg4 to stifle the White King Knight.

9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Bb5

In my book The Evans Gambit Revolution I recommended 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qb3 Na5 12.Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Qd1 [A suggestion of GM Lev Alburt] Kxf7 14.Ng5+ Kf8 15.e5 and it is not clear if White has enough for the piece)

10...Kf8

From ECO.

11.Be3

11.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Ba3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qg5+ 15.Kh1 Ne7 16.Rg1 Qf6 17.Qd3 Kg8 18.Bc1 h6 19.f4 Kh7=)

11...Nge7 12.a4 a5 13.Bc4 Bh5 =

White can try an early h3 to prohibit Bg4:

9.h3 Nf6 10.Re1 O-O 11.Nc3 h6 12.Bf4 Ba5 13.Rc1 Ne7 14.Bd2 c6 15.Qc2 d5 16.e5 Ne8 17.Bd3 Nc7 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Bd3

Inviting a draw by repetition but Black is slightly better and should decline the draw.

19...Ne6 20.Ne2 Bd7 21.Qb2 Qb6 22.Qa3 Bxd2 23.Nxd2 Rfe8 24.Nb3 a5 25.Nc5 Nxc5 26.Rxc5

Black has his extra pawn with useful simplification. This is =/+ but a long way from a decision.

White can try to get in an early e5. Here is some analysis from Harding, *Evans Gambit and a System Versus Two Knights' Defense*,

9.Nc3 Na5 10.Bd3 Nge7 11.e5 Bg4 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Ne4 Qd7 14.Neg5 O-O-O *is critical according to Harding. Actually this throws away most of Black's advantage. After 14...Bxd4 15.Rb1 f6 16.Qc2 fxe5 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Re1 Nac6 19.Rxb7 O-O -/+*

Here are some additional games:

Neumann-Hirtler, Berlin, 1866:

4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Ba5 6. d4 exd4 7. O-O d6 8.cxd4 Bb6 9. d5 Nce7 10. e5 Bg4 11. Qa4+ Kf8 12. Nbd2 dxe5 13. Nxe5 Bd4 14. Nxe4 Bxa1 15. Ba3 h5 16. Rxa1 hxe4 17. Re1 a6 18. Bb3 b6 19. Qf4 Rh6 20. d6 Rf6 21.dxe7+ Nxe7 22. Qe4 c5 23. Bb2 Rf5 24. Nc4 b5 25. Nd6 c4 26. Nxf5 Nxf5 27. Qxf5 cxb3 28. Qh7 f6 29. Ba3+ Kf7 30. axb3 1-0

Here we see a defensive gem from Anderssen-Steinitz, London, 1862

9. d5 Nce7 10. e5 Ng6 11. Bb2 N8e7 12. Qa4+ Bd7 13. Qa3 dxe5 14. Nxe5 O-O 15. Qc3 Nf5 16. Nxd7 Qxd7 17. g4 Bd4 18. Qc2 Bxb2 19. Qxb2 Nfh4 20. f3 Nxf3+ 21. Kh1 Nfe5 22. Bb3 Qxg4 23. Nd2 Nd3 24. Qc3 Nh4 0-1

In this game White did not have adequate compensation for the pawn for much of the middlegame, but one blunder by Black and it was game over.

Anderssen-Zukertort, Barmen, 1869:

9.d5 Na5 10. Bb2 Ne7 11. Bd3 O-O 12. Nc3 Ng6 13. Ne2 c5 14. Qd2 f6 15. Kh1 Bc7 16. Rac1 Rb8 17. Ng3 b5 18. Nf5 b4 19. Rg1 Bb6 20. g4 Ne5 21. Bxe5 dxe5 22. Rg3 Rf7 23. g5 Bxf5 24. exf5 Qxd5 25. gxf6 Rd8? 26. Rcg1 Kh8 27. fxg7+ Kg8 28. Qh6 Qd6 29. Qxh7+ Kxh7 30. f6+ Kg8 31. Bh7+ Kxh7 32. Rh3+ Kg8 33. Rh8#

Consultation games often yield higher quality chess

due to the ability of both players to avoid blind spots leading to blunders. Here we see four Grandmaster level players where White made one positional mistake that Black exploited ruthlessly:

Staunton/Barnes-Bird/Owen: London, 1858
9.d5 Na5 10.Ne2 Ne7 11.Bb2 f6 12.Qd2 O-O 13.Nd4 Ng6 14.Kh1 Bd7 15.f4 c5 16.Nc2?
16. Ne6 Bxe6 17. dxe6 Nc6 18.Nc3 +/-
16...Rc8 17.Nba3 Bc7 18.Rae1 Re8 19.Bf3 b5 -/+
The c-pawn proved unstoppable.

Here is the game Morozevich-Adams, Wijk aan Zee, 2001

5.c3 Ba5 6.O-O d6 7.d4 Bb6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qb3
9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Nxe5 Be6 11.Be2 Ne7 12.Nc4 Ndc6 13.Bf4 = Anageliev-V. Ivanov, Ashgabat, 1995, from MCO 15.
9...Qf6 10.Bg5 Qg6 11.Bd5 f6 12.Bxg8 fxe5 *Here is a nice win by the former World Champion: Kogan-Anand, Venaco Rapid, 2005 13.Nxg5 Kf8 14.Ne6+ Kxg8 15.Nxc7+ Kf8 16.Nxa8 Bh3 17.g3 Qxe4 0-1 =/+*

Here is Zukertort-Anderssen, Breslau, 1865:
9. d5 Na5 10. Bb2 Ne7 11. Bd3 O-O 12. Nc3 Ng6 13. Ne2 c5 14. Qd2 f6 15. Kh1 Bc7 16. Rac1 Rb8 17. Ng3 Rf7 18. Nf5 Bxf5 19. exf5 Ne5 20. Nxe5 dxe5 21. Be4 Qd6 22. Rc3 b5 23. Qe2 c4

Both sides prosecute their respective plans; White a Kingside attack and Black pushes his Queenside pawns.

24. Rh3 h6 25. f4 b4 26. Rff3 c3 27. Bc1 Nb7 28. fxe5 fxe5 29. Rfg3 Kf8 30. Rg6 Rf6 31. Bxh6 Rxe6 32. fxe6 gxe6 33. Qf3+ Ke7 34. Qf7+ Kd8 35. g7 1-0

According to Botterill, Black is slightly better in this move order:

5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.O-O Nge7 8.cxd4 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Ba3 Be6 11.Bb5 f6 12.Qa4 Bb6 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Qxc6 Kf7 =/+

White can steer for complications that does not turn out well

5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.O-O Nge7 8.Ng5 d5! 9.Bxd5? Nxd5 10.Qh5 g6 11.Qh6 Be6 -+ Estrin-Kondali, Corr. 1971 From BCO 2

When I had Deep Fritz 14 play both sides of the position, it picked up a pawn in the middlegame and endgame without any winning chances because it was a Rook and Pawn endgame where there was no way to Queen the pawn. If White plays aggressively Black never gets to mobilize his Queenside pawns, thus I would tend to prefer to play White. There is no reason either side should avoid the Normal Position; it's a matter of taste.

Will there be over a thousand players?

Come and find out.

**The 50th New York State Scholastic
March 11-12, 2017.**

Saratoga Springs: the March place to be.

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

JAN. 7, 124, 21, 28 FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25 MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25 Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments

3-SS, G/60 d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$15, RCC members \$13. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. **Reg.:** 1-1:45 pm. **Rds.:** 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.nychess.org. Also, Youth tournament, G/30 d5, every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. **EF:** \$5.

JAN 17, FEB 21, MAR 21 Marshall Masters

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

3- SS, G/25 d5. Open to 2000+ players. FIDE Rapid rated. **\$750 GTD:** 250-150-100. Top U2400 125, Top U2300 100, Biggest upset \$25. **EF:**\$40, MCC Mbrs \$30. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org.

JAN. 9 77th Nassau Action

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

4-SS, G/25 d5 or G/30 d0. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st & Main Sts., Mineola. **EF:** \$35 by 1/3, \$42 at site, non-memb + \$5. **\$\$** (775 b/25, top 2 G) 200-100, U2100, 1900, 1700, 1500, 1300/UR each 95. 2 byes 1-4. **Rds.:** 7:15-8:20-9:25-10:30. **Ent:** Harold Stenzel, 80 Amy Dr., Sayville, NY 11782. captahal@optonline.net

JAN 5, 19, 26 FEB. 2, 16, 23 MAR. 2, 16, 23 Marshall Thursday Action=

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$375 b/25): \$150-100, U2200: \$75, U1900: \$50. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$25. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org.

JAN. 23, 30, FEB. 6, 13 28th Nassau G/60 Championship

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

8-SS, G/55+5sec or G/60. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st & Main Sts., Mineola. **EF:** \$40 by 1/20, \$47 at site, non-memb \$10 more. **\$\$** (700 b/20, top 2 G) 180-120, U2100, 1850, 1600, 1350/UR each 100. 4 byes 1-8. **Rds.:** 7:15-9:25 each Mon. Captahal@optonline.net **Ent:** Harold Stenzel, 80 Amy Dr., Sayville, NY 11782.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

JAN. 28-29 8th Annual Broome County Chess Championship - Francis Cordisco Memorial

6 Round Swiss, G/75 d5. Cordisco's Chess Center, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901, (607) 772-8782. \$500 Prize Money b/20. Two sections: **Open Section:** \$150 - \$75 - \$50 trophies 1st – 3rd; **Reserve Section:** \$125-\$60-\$40 (under 1700) trophies 1st – 3rd. US Chess Federation Membership required. **Entry Fee:** Open- \$40, Reserve- \$35 (cash only). Non Broome County residents welcome. **Schedule:** Registration on site: 9:00-9:45AM Sat. 1/28/16. Rounds: 10AM – 1PM – 4PM both days. Non Broome County residents welcome- 1st place trophy Broome residents only.

FEB. 3 2nd Annual Greater NY Scholastics Friday Night Blitz Booster (BLZ)

4SS, G/5 d0, double-round, 8 games, NY Marriott At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St., Brooklyn (see Greater NY Scholastics: 2/4-5). **EF:** \$30, parents, alumni & those with Greater NY Scholastics \$20. Trophies: top 3, Top U1800, U1500/Unr. **Reg.** on-site 6-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-7:30-8-8:30 pm. Bye OK rd. 1. Blitz-rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings, prizes. W.

FEB. 4 and/or 5 Greater NY Scholastic - Parents & Friends Tournament!

2 separate tmts, each 4SS, G/30 d5. NY Marriott At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St., Brooklyn (see Greater NY Scholastics: 2/4-5). **EF** each day: \$30, parents, alumni & those with Greater NY Scholastics \$20. Trophies: top 3 each day. **Reg.** on-site until 20 min before game. **Rds.:** 12-1:15-2:30-3:45 pm. Limit 2 byes, commit by 1:30. W.

An American Classic

A Heritage Event

US Chess Junior Grand Prix

FEB. 4 or 5 or 4-5 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 51st Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, US Chess Longest-Running Scholastic!

NOTE IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS! Beautiful hotel site: NY Marriott Hotel At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street (near Borough Hall), Brooklyn, NY. Nearby subway stations: Jay Street Metrotech (A, C, F & R trains), Borough Hall (2, 3, 4 & 5 trains). Online entries at www.gnyscc.com: \$60 thru 1/20/17, \$70 1/21-1/30, \$80 1/31-2/2. For details on mail or phone entries see www.gnyscc.com or www.chesscenter.cc. On-site entry fee: \$100 the day before your game (starting 7 pm 2/3), \$120 on day of event until 90 minutes before 1st game. In 14 sections! Each section has its own age, grade and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under grade and age limits; unrated allowed all sections). The 5 Championship sections are each 2 days (High School Championship, Junior High Championship, Elementary Championship, Primary Championship and K1 Championship): 6-SS, G/60, d/10. Rounds: 10 am-1-4 pm Sat; 9 am-12-2:45 pm Sun. Awards ceremonies about 5:30 pm Sun. The 9 non-Championship sections are each 1-day, 5-SS, G/30, d5. Important Note: Playing on Saturday this year are: High School Under 1900, High School Under 1200, Elementary Under 1500, Elementary Under 1100, Elementary Under 700: 10 am-12-1:30-3-4:30 pm, Awards about 6 pm. Now playing on Sunday with earlier starting times are: Junior High Under 1300, Primary Under 1000, Primary Under 600 and K1 Under 400: 9-11 am-12:30-2-3:30 pm Sun. Awards about 5 pm. Both K-1 sections open to grade 1/below born after 2/5/09. All 3 Primary sections open to grades 3/below born after 2/5/07. All 4 Elementary sections open to grades 6/below born after 2/5/04. Both Junior High sections open to grades 9/below born after 2/5/01. All 3 High School sections open to grades 12/below born after 2/5/97. Trophies to top 15 in all Championship plus Elementary, Primary and K1 sections; top 10 in each High School and Junior High 1-day section, top 3 U1500 in High School U1900, Top 3 U900/Unr in High School U1200 and Junior High U1300; Top 3 U1300 in Elementary U1500; top 3 U900 in Elementary U1100; top 3 U800 in Primary U1000; top 3 Unr. in Elementary U700, Primary U600 and K1 U400. Trophies also to top 6 teams each section (top 4 scores from same school = team, all on team must attend same school: no combined teams, even if one school "feeds" another). Grade plaques: top 3 Kindergartners in each K1 section, top 3 scorers below 7th Grade in Junior High U1300, Top 3 below 9th grade in High School U1200 (you can win both plaque + trophy). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in Championship) who don't win a trophy receive a medal! Speed playoff for 5-0 or 6-0. Individual free entry prizes (each Championship section): Free entry to specified Continental Chess tournaments thru 1/20/18 to 1st, thru 10/10/17 to 2nd, thru 8/20 to 3rd, thru 6/15 to 4th. Individual free entry prizes (each non-Championship section): Free entry to specified Continental Chess tmts. thru 11/15/17 to 1st, thru 8/20 to 2nd, thru 6/15 to 3rd, thru 4/25 to 4th. Team free entry prizes: free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/20/17 to 1st team, thru 6/15 to 2nd team each section! Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA tmts. with 100% unconditionally guaranteed prize funds. Free entries do not include NYS Scholastics in Saratoga. See www.chesscenter.cc or www.gnyscc.com or www.chesstour.com for complete details and restrictions. High School Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes (best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all 3 High School sections after 5 rounds): free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/20/17 to 1st team, thru 6/15 to 2nd, thru 4/15 to 3rd. Team average must be U2200; Mixed Doubles teammates may play in different sections and may attend different schools; teams must register on-site (no extra charge!) before rd. 3; teammate pairings avoided but possible. All: February 2017 official ratings used, except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$10 extra charge per player after 1/30, \$20 extra 2/2-2/3. \$15 service charge for each player refund. TD reserves right to reassign sections for advance entries with incorrect or unclear registrations. Limit 2 byes (limit 3 in Championship), commit before rd. 3. HR \$169, call 877-513-6305 or 718-246-7000 by 1/13 (rooms may sell out early), mention chess. Help with entries, parking, etc: www.gnyscc.com Questions: director@gnyscc.com or 347-201-2269, 917-691-1729 (leave message but email is better; on Feb 4-5 only call 718-246-7000). Team rooms: teamrooms@gnyscc.com. Sets provided by Little House of Chess-- bring clocks! W. Info: www.gnyscc.com. To contact us by mail: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553. Note: US Chess Junior Grand Prix (Championship sections only).

US Chess Junior Grand Prix

Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2, 9 6th Long Island CC Late Winter Open

5SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$(b/20 pd. ent.):** \$110-90. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$60 ea. **EF (cash only):** \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 6:45 - 7:15 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. **Info:** www.lichessclub.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix (Top 3 Championship Sections)

A State Championship Event!

FEB. 25-26 or 26. The First NY State Girls Championship

Open to all girls. The Hewitt School, 45 East 75th Street (bet. Madison & Park), NYC. **Near 77th St. subway** (6 train). **Online entries at www.littlehouseofchess.org:** \$48 thru 2/20/17, \$60 2/21-23, \$80 later or at site, at least 1 hour before game. **For details on mail or phone entries see www.littlehouseofchess.com or www.chesscenter.cc. In 7 sections.** Each section has its own age, grade and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under grade and age limits; unrated allowed all sections). K-12 Championship, K-6 Championship and K-3 Championship are each **2-days:** 6-SS, G/60, d/10. **Rounds:** 10 am-1-4 pm each day. K-12 Under 1200, K-6 Under 900, K-3 Under 600 and K-1 Championship are each 5-SS, G/30, d5. **Rounds:** 10 am-12-1:30-3-4:45 pm **Sunday.** **K-1** open to grades 1/below born after 2/26/09. **Both K-3 sections** open to grades 3/below born after 2/26/07. **Both K-6 sections** open to grades 6/below born after 2/26/04. **Both K-12 sections** open to grades 12/below born after 2/26/97. **Trophies** to top 12 each section and top 3 Unr. in each 1-Day section. **Grade plaques:** top 3 K/below in K-1 section, top 3 scorers below 9th Grade in K-12 U1200, top 3 below 4th grade in K-6 U900, and top 3 below 2nd grade in K-3 U600 (you can win both plaque + trophy). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in 2-Day sections) who *don't* win a trophy receive a medal! Speed playoff for 5-0 or 6-0. **Plaques also** to top 4 teams each section (top 3 scorers from same school = team, all on team must attend same school: no combined teams, even if one school "feeds" another). **Individual free entry prizes** (in each 2-Day Championship section): **Free entry** to 2 *specified* Continental Chess tournaments thru 12/31/17 to 1st! Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA tmts. with 100% unconditionally guaranteed prize funds. Free entries do not include NYS Scholastics in Saratoga. See www.chesscenter.cc or www.chesstour.com for complete details and restrictions. **All:** February 2017 official ratings used, except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used *if otherwise* unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$10 extra charge per player after 2/23. \$15 service charge for each player refund. TD reserves right to reassign sections for advance entries with incorrect or unclear registrations. Limit 2 byes (limit 3 in 2-Day sections), commit before rd. 3. **HR:** see travel websites for nearby hotels in NYC. Help with entries, parking, etc: www.littlehouseofchess.com. **Questions:** chesscentr@gmail.com, littlehouseofchess@gmail.com or **347-201-2269** (leave message but email is better). **Team rooms:** littlehouseofchess@gmail.com. Sets provided by Little House of Chess-- **bring clocks!** **Info:** www.littlehouseofchess.com. To contact us by mail: **Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.**

US Chess Junior Grand Prix

Feb. 26 71st Binghamton Open

NEW ENTRY FEE - \$10.00. 4SS, G/65 d5. Cordisco's Chess Center, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901, (607) 772-8782. EF: \$10. Two sections: Open & U1700. PRIZES: Winner of each section will receive a free entry into a future tournament! REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE. Schedule: Reg. on site 8:45-9:15AM. Rounds: 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. Please bring clocks, none supplied.

An American Classic!

A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

A State Championship Event!

MAR. 11-12 50th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)

6SS, G/60 d10, open to grades K-12; top NYS player & team in each section are NY champions. In 11 sections. HS Championship and HS Reserve at Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Ave., Saratoga Springs NY 12866. Other 9 sections 2/5 mile away at Saratoga Hilton and adjacent Saratoga City Center (connected by indoor walkway), 534

Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. **Team prizes** based on top 4 scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school "feeds" another. Teams of 2 or 3 players allowed, but are at a disadvantage. **Online entry fee** at chessaction.com, **all sections:** \$45 by 2/18, \$55 2/19-3/4, \$70 3/5 to 3/10. **Entry fee at site**, all sections: \$70. **High School**, open to grades K-12 born after 9/1/97. EF \$48.20 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions, top NYS grade K-12 girl qualifies for National Girls Tournament of Champions. **High School Reserve**, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$48 mailed by 2/18. **Junior High**, open to all in grades K-9. EF \$47.90 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade K-8 born after 9/1/01 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions. **Middle School Reserve**, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$47.80 mailed by 2/18. **Elementary**, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$47.60 mailed by 2/18. **Elementary Intermediate**, open to grades K-6 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$47.50 mailed by 2/18. **Elementary Reserve**, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$47.40 mailed by 2/18. **Primary**, open to grades K-3. EF \$47.30 mailed by 2/18. **Primary Reserve**, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$47.20 mailed by 2/18. **K-1**, open to grades K-1. EF \$47.10 mailed by 2/18. **K-1 Reserve**, open to grades K-1 under 400 or unrated. EF \$47 mailed by 2/18. **Postmarked 2/19-3/1:** All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 3/1. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Trophies** to top 10 players and top 7 teams each section, top 2 unrated in each reserve section, and top 2 each U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300 (HS), U1000, U800, U600 (HS Reserve), U1800, U1600, U1400 (JHS), U900, U800, U600, U400 (MS Reserve), U1700, U1500, U1300 (Elem), U1100, U1000, U900, U800 (Elem Intermediate), U700, U600, U500, U400, U300 (Elem Reserve), U1400, U1200, U1000 (Primary), U500, U400, U300, U200 (Primary Reserve), U800, U600, U400 (K-1), U300, U200 (K-1 Reserve). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2017 (Albany), to top player each section, if not already qualified for free entry from another event. **Mixed doubles prizes** for HS Championship/Reserve combined. **Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2, 5, Sun 9, 12, 3. **Awards** 5:30 pm. **Half point byes** OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **HR:** Hilton \$129-129, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, or use link at chesstour.com. Courtyard \$132-132, 866-210-9325, or use link at chesstour.com. Two nights minimum at both hotels. 7 days notice required for room cancellations. Both hotels will sell out a few months before the tournament, but may again have availability in the final week before the event due to late cancellations. For other backup hotels see chesstour.com. Free parking at Courtyard; free parking for overnight guests at Hilton. 7 days notice required for room cancellation at both. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **Online entry:** www.chessaction.com. **Mail entry:** Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, USCF ID, USCF expiration (non-members include dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch** sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$60. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US (At = @), 347-201-2269. **Bring clock** if possible- none supplied. **Bring set & board** for HS Championship, HS Reserve & JHS Championship; set & board supplied for other sections. **March official ratings used** (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). TD reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-USCF ratings.

A Heritage Event -- US Chess Junior Grand Prix

APRIL 1-2 49th Annual Marchand Open

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)

Dr. Erich Marchand "requested that his friends play chess in his memory." 5-SS, G/115, d5. **Location:** Strong National Museum of Play, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607. **\$16,440 Gtd. Open Section:** \$3000-2000-1300-800-500-300. Under 2200 & U2000 each \$750-450. FIDE Rated. EF: \$85. **U1800 Section:** \$1100-750-450. Under 1600 \$750-450. EF: \$70. **U1400 Section:** \$500-300-200. Under 1200 \$300-200. EF \$60. **U1000 Section:** \$400-250-160. Under 800 \$200-130. EF: \$50. Unrated players in the U1800 section can only win \$375, in U1400 \$175 & U1000 \$125. No limit in Open. Balance to next prize winners. EF refunded and \$100 appearance award to all GM and IM if paid by 3/20/2017. **All:** EF add \$20 after 3/20/2017. NYSICA members deduct \$3. All sections USCF rated. Ratings as in April Supplement. Bring sets, boards, and clocks – none provided. Food court and chess books & equipment sales available onsite. No smoking allowed on The Strong campus. Free parking. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15am. **Rounds.:** Sat. 10-2:15-6:30, Sun. 10-2:15. One 1/2 point bye available in rd. 1, 2, 3, or 4 if requested at entry. Optional first round Friday, 3/31/2017 at 7pm played at Rochester Chess Center (register by 6:30pm). **Info:** 585-442-2430. **Mail entry to:** Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. Web: nychess.org. Store: chessset.com.

50th annual New York State Scholastic Championships

March 11-12, 2017

6-SS, G/60 d10, open to grades K-12; top NYS player & team in each section are NY champions. In 11 sections, at Saratoga Hilton and adjacent Saratoga City Center (connected by indoor walkway), 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. **Team prizes** based on top 4 scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school “feeds” another. Teams of 2 or 3 players allowed, but are at a disadvantage. **Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections:** \$45 by 2/18, \$55 2/19-3/4, \$70 3/5 to 3/10. **Entry fee at site, all sections:** \$70.

High School, open to grades K-12 born after 9/1/97. EF \$48.20 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions, top NYS grade K-12 girl qualifies for National Girls Tournament of Champions. **High School Reserve**, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$48 mailed by 2/18.

Junior High, open to all in grades K-9. EF \$47.90 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade K-8 born after 9/1/01 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions.

Middle School Reserve, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$47.80 mailed by 2/18.

Elementary, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$47.60 mailed by 2/18.

Elementary Intermediate, open to grades K-6 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$47.50 mailed by 2/18.

Elementary Reserve, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$47.40 mailed by 2/18.

Primary, open to grades K-3. EF \$47.30 mailed by 2/18.

Primary Reserve, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$47.20 mailed by 2/18.

K-1, open to grades K-1. EF \$47.10 mailed by 2/18.

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Trophies to top 10 players and top 7 teams each section, top 2 unrated in each reserve section, and top 2 each U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300 (HS), U1000, U800, U600 (HS Reserve), U1800, U1600, U1400 (JHS), U900, U800, U600, U400 (MS Reserve), U1700, U1500, U1300 (Elem), U1100, U1000, U900, U800 (Elem Intermediate), U700, U600, U500, U400, U300 (Elem Reserve), U1400, U1200, U1000 (Primary), U500, U400, U300, U200 (Primary Reserve), U800, U600, U400 (K-1), U300, U200 (K-1 Reserve). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2016 (Albany), to top player each section, if not already qualified for free entry from another event. **Mixed doubles prizes** for HS Championship/Reserve combined.

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HR: \$129-129 at Hilton, two nights minimum, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, or use link at chesstour.com. Backup hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Ave (2/5 miles from Saratoga Hilton), two nights minimum, \$129-129, 866-210-9325 or use link at chesstour.com. 7 days notice required for room cancellations. Both hotels will sell out a few months before the tournament, but may again have availability in the final week before the event due to late cancellations. For other backup hotels see chesstour.com. Free parking at Courtyard; free parking for overnight guests at Hilton. 7 days notice required for room cancellation at both. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633.

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Questions: DirectorAtChess.US (At = @)), 347-201-2269. **Bring clock** if possible- none supplied. **Bring set & board** for HS Championship, HS Reserve & JHS Championship; set & board supplied for other sections. **March official ratings used** (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). TD reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-USCF ratings.