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Enter Ms. Jean Hoffman

In the last editorial, we bid adieu to Bill Hall, former USCF Executive Director. Mr. Hall has played in a couple tournaments since leaving his post in Crossville, but has not been active in the organizational side of the chess world. Our understanding is that he is looking for non-chess employment in Crossville, and we wish him well in that endeavor.

USCF has hired Jean Hoffman, an Arizona organizer of the 9 Queens scholastic chess organization, to replace Mr. Hall. Even with the proviso that the new Executive Director would not be forced to live in Crossville, only 15 people applied for the position, according to a USCF Executive Board member.

Ms. Hoffman will be familiar to some New Yorkers as a former Manager of Teams and Tournaments and an Instructor in the Chess-in-the-Schools programs in New York. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Yale and a Master's from Harvard. We are greatly encouraged that Ms. Hoffman has experienced chess in our region and will use the power of the national office to support chess throughout the country.

Though Mr. Hall had a degree from MIT and lived in the Boston area throughout college, his reign in Crossville was highlighted by declining membership and an ambition to saturate the South with national tournaments. We hope and trust that Ms. Hoffman will have a wider vision than that.

Upon taking the job, Ms. Hoffman said in a USCF press release, "This is an exciting time for the USCF and chess. I am thrilled and honored to join the USCF during such a pivotal time."

With the Sinquefield Cup in September being the highest-rated tournament ever held on American soil (and featuring two players with New York roots), and a record turnout for the Supernationals fueled by a flood of New York players, we couldn't agree more. Welcome aboard, Ms. Hoffman!

EMPIRE CHESS

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Cover: Our representatives at the Scholastic Invitationals are pictured. National Girls Invitational Representative Lilla Poteat (l), Denker High School Champions representative Joshua Colas (c) and new New York State Champion Nicolas Checa (r) stand together in Madison, WI. Photo courtesy Nicolas de Checa.

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Winter issue is December 15, 2013**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Check out www.nysca.net, and we are now on Twitter! #nystatechess.

135th New York State Championship at Albany

11-year-old Nicolas Checa becomes youngest New York State Champion ever

GM Alexander Ivanov wins tournament with 5-1.

by Bill Townsend

The 135th New York State Championship was held from August 30 to September 2 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road in Colonie. This is the eighth year in a row the tournament has been held at this site, but you can't argue with success: 210 players competed in the five sections making this the best turnout at the state championship in some time. To give you an idea: last year's total was only 171, and the nearest peak I can find is 202 in 2010.

However, that's not the big story here. At the top of the 43-player Open section crosstable were three grandmasters, all rated over 2600 and all former winners of this event. GM Alexander Ivanov was co-winner in 2007, GM Alexander Stripunsky was clear first last year and GM Joel Benjamin has been New York State Champion a record nine times and is a member of the New York State Chess Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, the other thing these three Grandmasters have in common is that none of them are New York State residents, and thereby hangs a tale.

Clear first with 5-1 was GM Ivanov, with four wins and two draws, including the last-round clincher against Benjamin. Tied for second with 4½-1½ were: GM Stripunsky, GM Benjamin, Nicolas Checa, Stanislav Busygin and FM Igor Nikolayev. Of the five only Checa and Nikolayev were New York State residents, so only Checa and Nikolayev were eligible to become the 2013 champion. The two players split the \$100 money for top-scoring New Yorker, but Checa edged Nikolayev on tiebreaks to win the State title. Both took half-point byes in the last round, so the fight was effectively over after round five, with the critical exception of tiebreaks.

Here is the remarkable thing: Checa is just 11 years old, making him by far the youngest state champion ever. This easily beats Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, who was 14 when he won the title in 2010. I'd like to say that this record will probably never be broken, but I've been at this long enough to know that's a foolish

prediction to make. Checa is the first New York State Champion, and perhaps the first State champion in the country, born in the 21st Century. His only loss was to GM Stripunsky in the third round.

I heard one of Checa's opponents say that they thought he looked very young for his age – from his level of play they had assumed he was in his mid-teens. No, he looks young because he IS young!

To continue with places from the Open section, tied for seventh with 4-2 were: Patrick Chi, Barry Davis and New York State Chess Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin. Tied for tenth place with 3½-2½ were: Isaac Barayev, Yefim Treger, FM Ben Dean-Kawamura, Ontario player Yuanchen Zhang and Zachary Tanenbaum. Barayev, Zhang and Tanenbaum split the prize for top player under 2200.

Rifeng Xia was the top player in the Under 2100 section, which turned out to be the largest section at the tournament with 56 players. Xia had 5 ½ points, with his only draw being in the third round to Connecticut Expert Michael Pascetta. Tied for second with 5-1 were New Hampshire's Arthur Tang and David Miller of Pennsylvania.

There was quite a traffic jam for fourth place as no fewer than 10 players scored 4-2: Joshua Rubin, Hall of Famer Leonard Chipkin, Brian Karen, David Campbell, Hall of Famer Edward Frumkin, Nikita Panasenko, Phil Thomas, David Kolb, Philip Sells and Gabriel Katz. Tied for fourteenth place with 3½-2½ were: John Kennedy, Hall of Famers Harold Stenzel and Joseph Felber, Jeremy Berman, Henry Oi, Jayson Flores, Webster Kehoe and Dilip Aaron. The last three named players split the prize for best player under 1900.

Sarah Ascherman won the 45-player Under-1800 section with a undefeated 5-1 score. As chief tournament director Steve Immitt pointed out – this is the first time he (or anyone) can remember women

winning two sections of the state championship – the other was Rifeng Xia in the Under-2100 section.

Tied for second with 4½-1½ were: Darius Jafary, S. Warren Lohr, Ernest Wang, Xiaoyu Xu and Brandon Wang. Tied for seventh with 4-2 were: Scott Gorman, Thomas Levine, Andrew Palmer, Alexander Wei and Gaetano Bompastore, who won the prize for best player under 1600.

The 29-player Under-1500 section was won by Thomas Clark who won his first five games then drew in the last round, gaining over 160 rating points in the process. Ansgarius Aylward was second with 5-1 while Larry Fredette and Sandeep Alampalli tied for third with 4½-1½, however Alampalli got some extra money as best player under 1300. Tied for fifth place with 4-2 were: Charles Hua, Nate Stevens, Nitin Obla and Douglas Cox. Tied for ninth with 3½-2½ were: Andrew Elsinger, Michael Lioni, Pranav Venkataraman, Jeffrey Young and Thomas Ghita.

Finally the 43-player Under-1200 section was won by Ronghai Gong with 5½ points, with Gong only conceding a last-round draw to clinch the title. Elisha Danzig and Daniel Louzonis tied for second with 5-1, but Danzig got the majority of the prize money since Louzonis was unrated, therefore limited in the amount of cash he could win. Tied for fourth place with 4½-1½ were: Giridhar Murali, Sreenivas Alampalli and Vincent Abate. Tied for seventh place with 4-2 were: Boris Lazarev, Matthew Franklyn, Philip Thibault, Henry Olynik, Nat Solomon, Charles Bryant, Derin Gumustop and Nathan Saint ours. The last named player won the Under-800 prize. Thibault won the prize for best player under 1000. Top unrated player was Hani Ahmed with a 3-3 record.

This year the organizers tried something a little different – they offered prizes for the best Mixed Doubles team. Each team had to consist of one female and one male player, and the average of their ratings had to be below 2200. Since scores in all sections counted the same you'd imagine that a lower rated team would do better, but you'd be wrong – top team consisted of FM Igor Nikolayev (who tied for second overall) and Rifeng Xia, who won the Under 2100 section. Tied for second place with 9½ points were two teams. Sarah Ascherman (who won the Under 1800 section) and GM Alexander Stripunsky formed one team, while Xiaoyu Xu and Arthur Tang made up the other.

Chief tournament director was Steve Immitt for the New York State Chess Association. Bill and Brenda Goichberg also directed.

GM Joel Benjamin always makes a point of turning in his scoresheets, God bless him. Here is the last round “money game” between him and tournament winner Ivanov. Black gets an apparent advantage out of the opening, which soon dissipates leaving a drawn position.

GM Joel Benjamin (2640) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2609) [C65] Ruy Lopez
135th New York State Championship, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 2, 2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.h3 Ne7 8.d4 Bb6 9.Re1 Ng6 10.Nbd2 c6 11.Bd3 Re8 12.b3 d5!?

If Black can get away with this, and it looks like he can, the game should be at least equal for him. However it's difficult to find an improvement for White before this.

13.exd5 exd4 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8 15.Nxd4 Nxd5 16.Bb2 Ngf4 17.Bf1!?

After this things start to get annoying for white. He seems to have less of a problem simply allowing black to trade the Bishop with 17.Qc2.

17...Bxd4 18.cxd4 Bf5 19.Nc4 Rd8

Over the last few moves Black's advantage seems to slowly leak away. A possible improvement here is 19...Qe6 20.Ba3 Rd8 21.Qe1 Qg6 and Black has some pressure on the Kingside, but it looks like White can defend without much trouble.

20.Qd2 f6 21.Kh2 Qg6 22.Ne3 Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Nd5 24.Qg3 Qxg3+ 25.Kxg3

Now things look fairly even - Black's superior piece placement and pawn structure counterbalance White's two Bishops.

25...Re8 26.Bc4 h5 27.Rc1 Kf7 28.Ba3 g5 29.f3 h4+ 30.Kf2 b5 31.Bf1 Ne3 32.Re1

The players are left with an opposite colored bishop ending after 32.Re1 Nxf1 33.Rxe8 Kxe8 34.Kxf1, so they decide to call it a draw. ½–½

Here is the other GM vs. GM game I have – GM Benjamin seems to be getting the worst of it here too, but again he holds the draw.

GM Alexander Stripunsky (2651) – GM Joel Benjamin (2640) [A21] English Opening

**135th New York State Championship, round 4
Colonie, NY, Sept. 1, 2013**

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Qb3 Nc6 4.e3 Bxc3 5.Qxc3 Nf6
6.Nf3 d6 7.b4 0-0 8.Bb2 Re8 9.b5 Ne7 10.Be2 a6
11.a4 axb5 12.axb5 Rxa1+ 13.Bxa1 c5 14.bxc6 Nxc6
15.0-0 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.d3 Qd7**

White is clearly better here, but I wouldn't exactly call his advantage overwhelming.

18.Rb1 Ra8 19.Qc2 h6

19...e4! looks like a better idea here.

**20.Bc3 Ra7 21.Rb5 Qe8 22.Qb3 Nd7 23.Qd1 Nf6
24.Bb2 Qd7 25.d4 e4 26.Nd2 Bxe2 27.Qxe2 d5
28.cxd5 Ne7 29.Qc4 Nc8 30.Qb3**

It seems that pressuring the Black b-pawn isn't quite the right approach here. Instead after 30.Qc5 Ra6 31.Rb3 Nd6 32.Ra3 Nb5 33.Rxa6 bxa6 34.Ba3 Qxd5 35.Qc8+ Kh7 36.Qxa6 White is a pawn up with every chance of winning.

30...Nd6 31.Rc5 Qa4 32.Rc3?!

This seems to throw away the majority of White's advantage. Not much better is 32.Qxa4 Rxa4 33.Bc3 Ra2.

**32...Qxb3 33.Rxb3 b5 34.f3 exf3 35.gxf3 Nxd5 36.e4
Nf4 37.d5 Nc4**

37...Nxb3+ 38.Kh2 Ng5 seems safer for the second player.

**38.Nxc4 bxc4 39.Rb8+ Kh7 40.Be5 Nd3 41.Bd4 Ra2
42.d6 Rd2 43.d7**

Here the players agreed to a draw. White can Queen a pawn, but can't escape perpetual check: 43.d7 Ne1 44.d8Q Nxf3+ 45.Kf1 Nh2+ 46.Ke1 Nf3+ etc. 1/2-1/2

Here, alas, is the game that kept GM Benjamin out of the winner's circle at the end of the tournament, but it is a fine performance by Capital District scholastic star Patrick Chi. A frustrating note – Patrick was very, very close to being the first Capital District player in the tournament's 135-year history to become champion. In the final round he faced GM Stripunsky and if he had drawn that game he would have finished with 4½ and as near as I can calculate he might have had the best tiebreaks. According to spectators he may have missed a draw in that very tense encounter. But anyway here he is, holding GM Benjamin to a draw the round before. It seemed that the grandmaster had a winning attack, but it would have taken a lot of brain power to find it.

**GM Joel Benjamin (2640) – Patrick Chi (2209)
[B10] Caro-Kann**

**135th New York State Championship, round 5
Colonie, NY, Sept. 2, 2013**

1.e4 c6 2.c4

For Caro-Kann players who like closed positions, this gets them out of their comfort zone in a hurry.

**2...d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6
7.Bb5 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.Bd3 Bf6
12.Be4 g6?!**

An unnecessary weakening that GM Benjamin immediately jumps on. White only has a modest advantage after 12...h6.

13.Bh6 Bg7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Qb3
Now both players have isolated d-pawns, but the White pieces have a lot more freedom.

16...b5 17.Rac1

White can win a pawn, but Black gets a good deal of compensation for it: 17.Qxd5 Qxd5 18.Nxd5 Bb7 19.Ne3 Rfd8 20.Red1 Ne7 and White may be better off than in the game.

**17...Be6 18.Ne2 Qd6 19.Qe3 Rac8 20.h3 Rfe8 21.Ne5
Bf5?!**

Black had just about equalized, but this careless move gives White an immediate attack.

22.Qh6+! Kg8

Losing is 22...Kxh6 23.Nxf7+ Kh5 24.Nxd6.

23.Ng3 Be6 24.Nh5!?

A somewhat speculative attack. Another idea here is 24.Rc3!? Ne7 25.Rce3 Nf5 26.Nxf5 Bxf5 27.Nxf7!? Rxe3 28.Nxd6 Rxe1+ 29.Kh2 Rf8 30.Qd2 Re7 31.Kg3 Rf6 32.Qb4 and White seems to be better, but I don't know if you could say he was winning here.

24...gxh5

Forced.

25.Rc3 Ne7 26.Rg3+?!

This obvious move seems to throw away the win. Instead White keeps up the pressure with: 26.Nxf7! Kxf7 27.Qxh7+ Kf6 28.Rf3+ Nf5 29.g4 hxg4 30.hxg4 Qd7 31.Qh6+ Kf7 32.Rxe6 Rxe6 33.Rxf5+ Ke7 34.Qg5+ Ke8 35.Qg8+ Ke7 36.Rf7+ and White wins, but this is a lot to see with the clock ticking.

26...Ng6 27.Nxg6 fxg6 28.Rxg6+

White now sees he has to settle for a perpetual check. Everything else just loses.

**28...hxg6 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Qg6+ Kf8
32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ 1/2-1/2**

Here is Patrick upending former champion FM Anthony Renna. This game seemed set to be a draw as well, but in an even position FM Renna missed a cute combination that his opponent did not.

Patrick Chi (2209) – FM Anthony Renna (2372)
[D50] Queen's Gambit Declined
135th New York State Championship, round 3
Colonie, NY, Aug. 31, 2013

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 dxc4 5.e3 Be7
6.Bxc4 0–0 7.Nge2 a6 8.a4 c5 9.0–0 cxd4 10.Nxd4
Bd7 11.Qe2 Nc6 12.Rfd1 Qa5 13.Nf3 Rad8 14.e4 h6
15.Bf4 Bc8 16.e5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nh7 18.Qe4 Rd8
19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Be2

Plainly 20.Bd3 is better – White corrects this next move.

20...Nc6 21.Bd3 Nf8 22.Ne2 Qb4 23.Qxb4 Nxb4
24.Be4 Nd7 25.Bd2 Kf8 26.Nc1 Nc5 27.Bxb4 Nxe4
28.Bxe7+ Kxe7 29.a5 f6 30.Kf1 fxe5 31.Nxe5 Kd6
32.Ncd3 Nc5?

A moment of inattention, and Black is lost. The problem he doesn't see - his Bishop is trapped. The game would still be even after 32...Bd7.

33.Nc4+! Kc6 34.Nxc5 Kxc5 35.Nb6 Kb5 36.Nxc8
Kxa5 37.Ke2 Kb4 38.Kd2 Kb3 39.Kc1 b5 40.Nd6 b4
41.Ne4 1–0

Although Patrick did very well, he isn't the hero of the hour – Nicolas Checa is. Very kindly Nicolas provided me with two of his games, both wins over master strength opponents. In this first game he gets an advantage out of the opening against veteran master Lonnie Kwartler and never lets it go. Pictured below is the new champion playing at the Barber K-8 Championship in Madison, Wisconsin.



Nicolas Checa (2273) – Lonnie Kwartler (2202)
[E18] Queen's Indian
135th New York State Championship, round 5
Colonie, NY, Sept. 2, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0–0
0–0 7.Nc3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne5

In typical Queen's Indian fashion, White already has a nice advantage.

9...Nbd7?! 10.Qa4! Nb8

White wins a pawn after 10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd7 12.Nxd5 Nc5.

11.Rd1 c6 12.Bf4 Nh5 13.Bd2 Nf6 14.Rac1 Nfd7
15.Nd3 f5?!

Black has a passive, cramped position, and this loosening move doesn't help matters.

16.b4 a6 17.Qb3 Kh8 18.a4 Nf6 19.Bf4 b5 20.Nc5
Bxc5 21.dxc5 Re8 22.f3

Stronger is 22.Qc2.

22...Qe7 23.e4 fxe4 24.fxe4 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 dxe4
26.Re1 Nd7 27.Rxe4 Qf8 28.Bd6 Qg8 29.Qxg8+
Kxg8 30.Rce1 Rxe4?

Black is still surviving after 30...Nf6. Now White just wins.

31.Rxe4 bxa4 32.Re7 a3 33.Bf1

The a-pawn, Black's last hope, isn't going anywhere, so he gives up.

1–0

This second game is not so much won by young Nicolas as it is lost by his opponent who is unrelenting in his aggression, even if the position doesn't justify it.

Nicolas Checa (2273) – Barry Davis (2200) [A60]
135th New York State Championship, round 2
Colonie, NY, Aug. 31, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6
6.Nc3 0–0 7.Bg5 Re8 8.e3 a6 9.a4 Bc7 10.Be2

The move 10.d6 looks very strong here.

10...Ba5 11.0–0 d6 12.Nd2 Re5?!

Black's hyper-aggression begins here. The more mellow 12...Nbd7 seems like a better idea.

13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Nc4 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Rg5?!

Again, the wiser course would be to retreat with 15...Re8 but Black is having none of that sissy stuff.

16.f4!

Now Black is going to lose some material.

16...Rg6 17.Nb6 Bh3 18.Bf3?!

Better is 18.Rf2 Ra7 19.Bh5

18...Ra7 19.Kh1 Nd7?!

Best seems to be 19...Bd7 but as we've seen, retreating

is something that Black just doesn't do.

20.a5 Nxb6 21.axb6 Ra8 22.gxh3 Qxc3 23.Qe1

White is now up a piece for a pawn, to win all he has to do is consolidate and watch out for crazy attacking ideas from Black.

23...Qb2 24.Rb1 Qf6 25.h4 Re8 26.h5 Rh6 27.Qf2 Qf5 28.Rg1 Rf6 29.Rbe1 h6 30.Qg3 g6 31.hxg6 Rxc6 32.Qh4 Kh7 33.e4 Rxc6?

As it turns out this fatally compromises Black's King position, but he doesn't have much to look forward to after 33...Qf6 34.Qxf6 Rxf6.

34.Rxc6 Rxe4!?

Black's last desperate try. He's hoping for 35.Bxe4 and the game would be drawn after 35...Qxe4+ 36.Rg2 Qb1+, etc. White, however, is having none of that.

35.Qg3! 1-0

After 35...Qg6 36.Qxc6+ fxc6 37.Bxe4 Black will be mated soon, so he gives up.

Capital District players Phil Thomas and Philip Sells can usually be counted on to play entertainingly complex games and that is the case here. After the round the two went over their game in the directors' room, with several other players kibitzing. It was theorized that 34.Rb3! would have won for white, and as it turns out that was correct. Besides being a study in attacking chess, games with mixed material are always fun to look at.

**Phil Thomas (1986) – Philip Sells G (1954) [A37]
135th New York State Championship, round 2 Reti
Under 2100 section, Colonie, NY, Aug. 31, 2013**

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nc3 d6 8.Rb1 0-0 9.a3 a5 10.Ne1 Be6 11.Nc2 d5

It looks like Black has equalized here.

12.b3 d4 13.Ne4 b6

This seems perfectly logical and consistent, but sometimes it's not best to play in an orderly fashion. 13...Qb6! would stop white's next move long enough for Black to whip up some counterplay.

14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 cxb4 16.Nxb4 Nxb4 17.Rxb4
Black now has a permanent and serious weakness on b6, and White will make a lot of hay out of that.
17...Ra6 18.Qb3 Qc7 19.Bd2 Nc6 20.Ra4 Na5 21.Qb2 Nxc4 22.Rxc4 Bxc4 23.dxc4 Qxc4

Black has traded two pieces for a Rook and a pawn - a slightly disadvantageous trade, but it was his best option. Unfortunately his extra pawn is the weakling on b6.

24.Rc1 Qa2 25.Qb5 Qa4 26.Qd5 Raa8 27.Bg5 Qa2

28.Qb5 Qe6 29.Bd2 h6 30.Bb4 Rfc8 31.Rb1 Ra7?

Over the last few moves the players have been matching each other blow for blow, but this is a serious error that allows white a winning attack. Instead Black could hold the balance with 31...Bf8 32.Bxf8 Rxf8 33.Qd7 Rae8.

32.Nd6! Rb8?

Another slip. Somewhat better was 32...Rd8 33.Bd5 Qf6 34.Ne4 (The tempting 34.Qxb6 allows Black to equalize with 34...Rad7!) 34...Qf5 and White is still on top, but not as much as in the game.)

33.Bd5! Qf6 34.Ne8?

In the post-mortem this was identified as the moment when White's promising attack began to peter out. A little searching turned up 34.Rb3! and Black, even with best play, seems to be lost: 34...Kh7 35.Rf3 Qg5 36.Rxf7 Rxf7 37.Nxf7 Qf5 38.Nd6, etc.

34...Qd8?! 35.Nxc6?!

Trading this monster knight for Black's bad Bishop really lets Black off the hook. White still has the whip hand after 35.Bc6.

35...Kxc6 36.Bf3 Qf6 37.Rc1 Qf5

37...Qg5 was better. A few moves later this will cost Black the b-pawn.

38.Bd6! Ra5 39.Qb2 Re8 40.Qxb6 Ra2 41.Qb5 Re6 42.Bd5?

Again on the cusp of a win, White falters. 42.Qb8! and Black is practically forced to play 42...Rxd6 43.Qxd6. 42...Rxe2 43.Qxe2

A curious improvement is 43.Bf8+! Kxf8 44.Qxe2 Re7 45.Qc4, with better piece placement for White than in the game.

43...Rxd6 44.Be4 Qd7 45.Bd3 Qe7 46.Rc5 Re6 47.Rc8 e4 48.Bc4 d3 49.Qb2+ Qf6 50.Qxf6+ Rxf6 51.Rd8 Rc6

Just like that White's advantage is all but gone - Black's pawns are far enough advanced to make them worth a Bishop.

52.Bb3 Rc3 53.Ba4 Ra3 54.Bc6 f5 55.g4 Kf6 56.gxf5 gxf5 57.Kg2 Rc3 58.Bb7 Rc7 59.Ba6 Rc6 60.Bxd3
Essentially conceding the draw, but White really didn't have better.

60...exd3 61.Rxd3 Ke5 62.Kf3 Rc4

Drawn on Black's offer. 1/2-1/2

Usually the Under 1200 section doesn't have much to offer in terms of games – a lot of the players there are just learning how to hang onto their pieces. With that in mind you get games like this:

NN -NN [C20]

135th New York State Championship, round 6

Under 1200 section, Colonie, NY, Sept. 2, 2013

1.e4 e5 2.d3 Bc5 3.Bd2 Qf6 4.Ne2?? Qxf2, mate! 0-1

Yes, here in 2013 Scholar's Mate still happens. On the other hand, you can get some interesting, decently played games like this win by Hani Ahmed, who won the top unrated prize. Sure there are a fair number of tactical oversights, but the players wind up grappling with some pretty sophisticated stuff. For example after Ahmed drops his Bishop, he doesn't become demoralized and instead concentrates on his remaining advantage – his passed pawns.

Adithya Narayan (1007) – Hani Ahmed (UNR)

[C02] French Defense

135th New York State Championship, round 3

Under 1200 section, Colonie, NY, Sept. 1, 2013

1.e4 e6

There seemed to be a lot of French Defenses played at this tournament - I have no idea why.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Qb6 5.c3 Nh6 6.Bxh6?!

The reason why Black can get away with 5... Nh6 is that Bxh6 is not good for White. It's always nice to be shown exactly why certain moves are good and bad.

6...Qxb2 7.Nbd2?!

Better is 7.Bxg7, but the key idea is that Black has won an important Queenside pawn.

7...gxf6 8.Qc1?!

Trading Queens can only help Black. Better is trying to open up the Black King with 8.c4!

8...Qxc1+ 9.Rxc1 c4

Usually sealing the pawn chain like this isn't a good idea for Black, and I saw a number of players in the lower rated sections do that. Here, however, it's just the right idea, squelching White's counterplay.

10.g3 Bd7 11.Bg2 Ba4 12.0-0 Nc6 13.Rb1 b5 14.Nh4 Rb8?!

Black is clearly planning on advancing his b-pawn, and while this is a decent plan, this move sets up some tactical problems for Black. A better try was 14...Ba3.

15.a3 Bxa3?! 16.Ra1?

Remember those tactical problems I mentioned in the last note? Here's what I was talking about: 16.Nxc4! and now neither pawn can take the Knight: 16...bxc4 (16...dxc4 17.Bxc6+) 17.Rxb8+ Nxb8 18.Ra1 and White is still worse, but much better than the game.

16...Be7 17.Bf3 b4?

Finally Black makes a real mistake - this costs him a piece.

18.Rxa4 bxc3 19.Nb1?

Again 19.Nxc4 is the move for White, but the tactics are rather complex.

19...c2 20.Na3 Bxa3 21.Rxa3 Rb1 22.Ra1 Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Nxd4 24.Be2 Ke7 25.Rxa7+ Kf8 26.Ra1 Kg7 27.Rc1 Rb8 28.Ke1 Rb1 29.Kd2 Rxc1?

After playing very well, Black misses the opportunity to cash in: 29...Nb3+ 30.Kxc2 Rxc1+.

30.Kxc1 Nxe2+ 31.Kxc2 Nd4+ 32.Kc3 Nb5+ 33.Kb4 Nc7

Of course 33...c3 34.Kb3 d4 works.

34.Nf3 Kg6 35.g4 h5 36.h3 hxg4 37.hxg4 h5 38.Nh2 hxg4 39.Nxg4 Kf5 40.f3 Kf4 41.Nh6 Kxe5 42.Nxf7+ Kf4 43.Nd8 Kxf3 44.Nc6 Ke3 45.Kc3 Nb5+ 46.Kc2? Nd4+ 47.Kc3? Nxc6 0-1

Now there are some missing moves, but you get the idea - Black has an elementary win here. He checkmated White around move 62.

December 27- 29

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NYSCA's Discount Program – A New Direction for Membership

The NYSCA annual meeting approved a new way for affiliates and organizers of the New York State Championship and New York State Open to support NYSCA events. Organizers that offer a significant entry fee discount for the NYSCA events as well as other tournaments that the organizer holds. The State Scholastic Championship, which is the largest funder of NYSCA, is unchanged by this change in membership criteria. It is worth noting that the traditional membership-required model remains in effect, and may be used by any organizer, as has been the case throughout NYSCA's history.

There are two goals with the change. One is to make the State Championship a profitable tournament. The long-time organizer of the tournament has reported that the tournament, NYSCA's flagship event, has lost money since membership costs were absorbed into the entry fee. There has been a slow decline in the entries at the State Championship even with the current entry fee structure, so an increase may well lead to a further decline in entries. The pool of potential sites to hold the State Championship is not particularly large on Labor Day weekend, and by and large, the membership is satisfied with the Albany Marriott and the Capital Region location for the tournament. Therefore this new direction is being tried.

In 2013, membership at the State Championship and State Open will not be required, but members will be offered a \$7 discount on their entry fee to the event. Continental Chess Association (CCA) is also offering a \$5 discount at its other tournaments in New York, including the Long Island Open and Manhattan Open. It should be noted that CCA revived the New York State Open in May in Lake George, and the event has been a success for NYSCA. NYSCA is willing to work with any other organizer on other NYSCA events.

NYSCA wants to work with organizers to expand the discounts. Organizers that offer the discounts will have their events advertised in Empire Chess, posted on the NYSCA web site and advertised through NYSCA's facebook and twitter feeds. By accessing NYSCA's group of committed tournament chess players, the discounts in entry fee will more than pay for itself with increased entries and the ability to obtain entries from further away. NYSCA is also working on internet options for membership verification and purchase.

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Open Lines..tidbits around the chess world

by Karl Heck

- The First Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis was the highest-rated tournament in the world, and half of the four-player field has New York roots. GM Gata Kamsky, a former NYSCA Director, lives in New York City, and GM Hikaru Nakamura is a former New York champion who grew up in White Plains. Nakamura finished second in the tournament with 3 ½ points, and drew both of his games with World Championship Challenger GM Magnus Carlsen of Norway, who won \$70,000 with an undefeated 4 1/2- 1 ½ score.

Though it is a provisional rating, Carlsen became the first person ever to publish a 3000 USCF rating. His current rating is 3004, based on 16 games. After the World Championship, let's get GM Carlsen to make his 3000 rating official here in New York! Offered a draw in the last round by Armenian GM Levon Aronian that would be clinched first place in the tournament, Carlsen turned it down and won the game to win the tournament by a full point.

U.S. Champion GM Kamsky, the oldest player in the tournament at 39, finished fourth with a 1 1/2-4 ½ score. Kamsky, a former World Championship challenger and the lowest-rated player in the tournament, lost three of his first four games before drawing out the tournament. GM Kamsky was the lowest-rated player in the event, though leaving St. Louis with a 2811 rating isn't exactly slacking it.

It is anticipated that the Sinquefield Cup will become an annual event in St. Louis. The first event definitely generated worldwide attention. Below are the two draws between GM Nakamura and GM Carlsen.

Sinquefield Cup, Saint Louis 2013

White: Carlsen, Magnus

Black: Nakamura, Hikaru

King's Indian Defense

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1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 O-O5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.O-O Rb88.Bf4 a6 9.Rc1 h6 10.b3 g511.d5 gxf4 12.dxc6 fxf3 13.hxg3 b514.cxb5 axb5 15.b4 d5 16.Qd3 Qd61 7.Nd4 Qxb4 18.a4 Ne419.Ndxb5 Nxc3 20.Nxc3 Bxc321.Rxc3 Bf5 22.Qxd5 Qxc323.Qxf5 Rfd8 24.Bf3 Ra8 25.Qe4 Qf626.Qb4 Ra7 27.Kg2 Rda828.Qg4+ Kf8 29.Qd7 e6 30.Rd1 Qe531.Rh1 Kg7 32.Rb1 Rxa433.Rb7 R4a7 34.Qe7 Rxb735.cxb7 Rb8 36.Qd7 c5 37.Qc6 Kf638.Kh2 Ke7 39.Kg2 f5 40.Qc8 Qd641.e3 Kf6 1/2-1/2
```

Sinquefield Cup, Saint Louis 2013

White: Nakamura, Hikaru

Black: Carlsen, Magnus

Ruy Lopez

```
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be77.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 O-O 9.Nc3 Ne810.Nd5 Bd6 11.Re1 c6 12.Ne3 Bc713.Nf5 d5 14.Ne7+ Kh8 15.Nxc8 Rxc816.g3 Nd6 17.Bh3 f5 18.d3 Qf619.c3 Rce8 20.Bd2 Nf7 21.Rxe8 Rxe822.Qf1 f4 23.Re1 Rf8 24.Qe2 h625.Kh1 Ng5 26.Bg4 Bd6 27.h4 Nh728.Kg2 Qg6 29.Bh5 Qf5 30.Bg4 Qg631.Bh5 Qf5 32.Bg4 Qg6 1/2-1/2
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- The U.S. Chess League is back for another season, and all of the games are available live this season on chess.com and at uschessleague.com. New York is represented in the 16-team league with two teams: the New York Knights and the Manhattan Applesauce.

The Knights are currently in first place in the Atlantic Division. Their roster of New York stars includes

GM Tamaz Gelashvili, GM Pascal Charbonneau, IM Irina Krush, SM Matt Herman, FM Michael Bodek and NM junior star Justus Williams. New York State Champion and NM Nicolas Checa is also on the Knights roster.

The Applesauce are led by GM Zviad Izoria, a mainstay of Marshall Chess Club tournaments. Joining him are GM Robert Huganski, IM Eli Vovsha, IM Dmitry Schneider, IM Farai Mandizha, and FM Rico Salimbagat.

GM Joel Benjamin, a New York State Chess Hall of Famer, is one of the leaders of the New Jersey Knockouts, who also play in the Atlantic Division. FM Alec Getz, a New Yorker who has a scholarship to study at the University of Texas-Dallas, is on the Dallas Destiny.

The Connecticut Dreadnoughts might as well be annexed to New York as well. The roster is former New York Scholastic Champion GM Robert Hess, GM Mikheil Kekelidze, New York State Hall of Famer GM Michael Rohde, IM Justin Sarkar, Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and FM Leif Pressman.

The teams in the USCL field 10-player rosters, and four play every week. The action is on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, with the conferences alternating on the nights. The Applesauce have been in the USCL since 2007, while the Knights are an original member from 2005.

Another member of the New York delegation of the USCF euologized on the USCL website. You learn chess in New York; you can play anywhere.

* **FM Ronald Simpson's Chess Autobiography (courtesy Chess Life Online)**

by FM Ronald Simpson

Born - February 1, 1960

I grew up in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn in New York City. I learned to move the pieces at about the age of six from a neighbor. My cousin Clive Tulloch and I played almost every weekend. Clive was self-taught, and he introduced me to the Sicilian defense. He was my mentor, and I learned to think freely with his guidance. I learned my first opening from another cousin, Leopold Hall. It was a basic King pawn opening, filled with fundamentals.



I was competitive and very hungry to play chess but there weren't many kids playing chess in the late sixties. I was about ten years old when my mother took me to Melvin Brady's barbershop for a haircut, and to my surprise this was where the men in the community played chess. It was like a local chess club. Many of men in the neighborhood would stop in just to play a quick game before going home. I remember many times they would keep one eye on their watches and the other eye on the board, while constantly glancing out of the barbershop window (hoping their wives wouldn't catch them playing chess). Melvin and Herman Hacksaw (aka: Rock) had a great effect on me through my teenage years. Rock had a flashy style of playing. He played the *Orangutan*, or Polish opening, and Melvin had a solid conservative style, 1.e4 or 1.d4. These two men were my chess mentors and friends. I learned so much from them.

The chess boom hit in 1972 when Robert James "Bobby" Fischer won the World Chess Championship and suddenly everyone was aware of chess. Chess went from a fun game to play to serious competition. I was no longer the kid who played chess well. I was a chess player who happened to be a kid. The transition matured me and prepared me for the tournament world of chess. I won many local tournaments in Brooklyn, but I will always relish the memory of winning the Malcolm X memorial tournament in the mid seventies. I beat Master Paul Robey, John Evans, and Steve Colding to win the tournament. Growing up in New York City allowed me the opportunity to play Chess in New York City's famous Marshall Chess Club, Manhattan Chess Club, Washington Square Park, and in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. I won some very nice games against Grandmasters like Joel Benjamin, Alexander Ivanov, Patrick Wolf, etc...

Enter the Black Bear School of Chess:

The Black Bear School of Chess was the most significant influence in my development in chess. It was led by George Golden, “the Fire Breather.” I met George in 1973, and he introduced me to a group of older men who took chess seriously! There were tournaments, chess study sessions, passionate chess discussions, etc...these were my best years of chess. Looking back provokes extremely deep feelings for me. All of those men were like an extended family. Many of them are no longer with us, but in my heart they all live with every chess thought I have. Our motto : “The will to win is greater than material advantage” has helped me to this day, and its meaning extends beyond the chess board. By the early 1980s the Black Bear School was filled with masters and experts! William Morrison, Steve Colding, Chris Welcome, Mark Meeres, Willy Johnson (Pop), Leon Monroe, and the first African-American Grandmaster, Maurice Ashley!

I first achieved Master level in 1984, and I was awarded the USCF Life Master honor soon after. I achieved Senior Master level in 1991, and I reached my highest USCF rating of 2427 in 1999. The World Chess Federation, known as FIDE (Federation International Des Echecs) awarded me the title of Master in the late 1980s, and I earned a FIDE rating of about 2300.

I am now living and playing chess in North Carolina. The North Carolina Chess Association is a wonderful chess organization and I expect big chess things to happen here in the years to come. I am also teaching chess at the Southern Wake Montessori School. I am amazed at how well their system of teaching fits chess development. The kids are absolutely wonderful and a joy to teach.

It would be extremely difficult to play chess seriously without the support of my wife and kids. I am very blessed to have them.

Edited by Mark D. Stout & Tom Hales

- USCF has appointed Jean Hoffman as the new Executive Director. Jean Hoffman, a graduate of Yale and Harvard who worked previously for Chess-in-the-Schools in New York before going to Arizona and running the 9 Queens chess program. After having endured eight years of Bill Hall's southern-fried leadership, New York will hopefully be getting a fair chance at national events and national recognition. The Civil War is over, and we welcome Ms. Hoffman and her new ideas and focus to USCF.
- Marshall Chess Club regular IM Justin Sarkar moved one step closer to becoming a GM this summer, obtaining his second GM norm at the US Masters tournament held in North Carolina. Sarkar, who described himself on uschess.com as “the most active chess player in the country not named Jay Bonin,” made the norm with this last-round win over Denys Shemlov, as shown on *Chess Life Online*.

US Masters, North Carolina 2013

White: SM Denys Shmelov

Black: IM Justin Sarkar

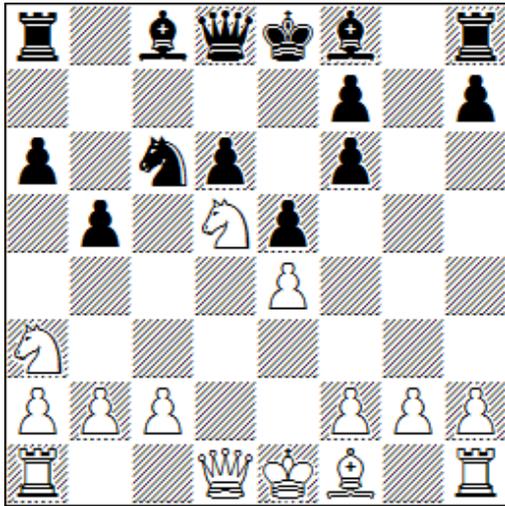
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 O-O 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bd3 d6 7.h3 e5 8.d5 b5 9.a3 bxc4 10.Bxc4 c5 11.g4 Nfd7 12.Be3 Nb6 13.Bd3 c4 14.Bc2 Ba6 15.Qd2 N8d7 16.h4 Qc7 17.h5 Rfc8 18.Ng5 Nc5 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.f3 Nb3 21.Bxb3 cxb3 22.Qh2 Nc4 23.Bc1 Kf8 24.Qh7 Nxb2 25.Bxb2 Qb6 26.Ne6+ fxe6 27.O-O-O Qe3+ 28.Kb1 Rxc3 29.Rhe1 Qf2 30.dxe6 Rc2 31.Bxe5 Rc1+ 0-1

Sarkar also defeated former U.S. Champion Alexander Shabalov in the event on the way to his norm. Sarkar needs one more norm and 45 more FIDE ELO points to reach his dream of becoming New York's newest Grandmaster.

Static vs. Dynamic Advantages: The Scholastic Column

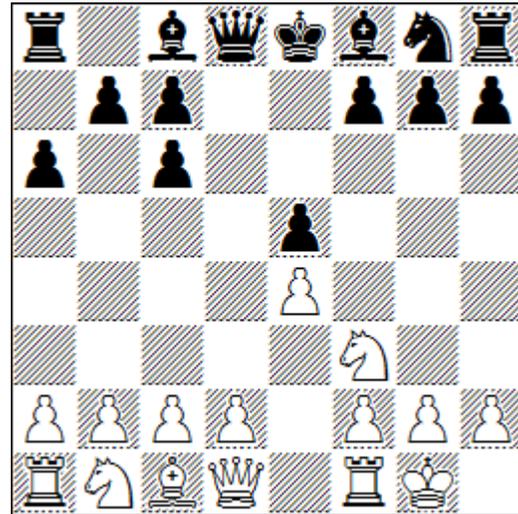
By Zachary Calderon

I want to start this article by showing you the starting position of the Sveshnikov Variation, which I believe is a perfect illustration of the topic of this article.

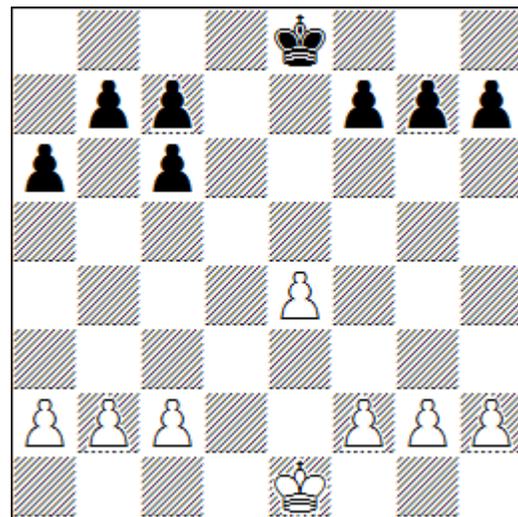


To the beginner's eyes, or to anyone who is not well versed in this opening, White's position looks much better. Black's pawn structure is ruined! His f-pawns are doubled, his d pawn is weak and backwards, and White has an amazing square for his knight on d5. Why would anybody play this as Black? The answer lies in how dynamic his position is. While Black's position appears to be punctured with holes (and believe me, it is) it is also very explosive, and the attack that Black can generate can really shred White to pieces if he isn't careful. Black is preparing to undermine White's center with the move f5. Black also has the bishop pair, and the open g-file to operate on. To this day no one is sure if White can obtain a true advantage against the Sveshnikov Sicilian. White's basic plan is to survive the Black onslaught and trade off into an endgame, where his positional plus will really shine. This is a static advantage for White. That advantage is not leaving, but he can't make anything of it right away either. On the other hand, Black has an advantage that he can cash in right away. However, if he can't make anything of it, he will be at a serious disadvantage. This is the general principle of Static vs. Dynamic advantage.

Another example comes from the Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation. In this line, White again obtains a slight static advantage, but Black has compensation for it in form of a dynamic position.



This is the starting position of the Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation. White's advantage lies in Black's doubled c-pawns. This is White's static advantage. Black, on the other hand, has the Bishop pair, and more rapid development. White's plan will again be to play for a favorable endgame, while Black's will be to go for a quick knockout on the Kingside. White's dream position looks something like this.



In this position, White wins. Black's doubled isolated pawns severely cripple him. However, they do allow for rapid development. Both of his Bishops can quickly come to life, and they provide a little extra shelter on the Queenside should he decide to go all out and castle queenside in order to attack White's Kingside more effectively.

When push comes to shove, there is no telling which advantage is better. It all comes down to the player and how they handle the position. A grandmaster may obtain a static advantage against a class player and weather the storm before beating him later on. Or the grandmaster may get a dynamic position, and instead

of simplifying, simply wipe his amateur opponent off of the board. It is all about the level of the players. However, it plays a very important part in the level of our play, and I strongly recommend to anyone who wants to seriously improve their game to seriously study this idea.

Frumkin Victorious In Queens Chess Club July 2013 Open by Joe Felber

I have heard some fellow players marvel at how Tournament Directors can play quality chess at all --- given the various distractions of a TD's duties.

However, Club President and Chief TD Ed Frumkin (2019) battled his way to victory in the 2013 Queens CC July Open. Ed scored 3.5 out of 4, and took home the first prize of \$80 for his efforts. Ed was fortunate to have a desperado Rook sacrifice to save a draw in his Round 1 encounter with Richard Murphy (1903). But such are the "fortunes of war!"

Ed and Bill Arluck had the same chart rating of 2019 for July – but Ed ended up ranking higher, by virtue of his higher Quick rating (1947 to 1942).

The 4-SS, 20-player event was played at the Queens Chess Club in Jamaica, NY, from July 5 to 26, 2013.

The combined total of the second and third prizes (\$100) was divided evenly among Edward Kopiecki (1981), Andrew Kan (1826), and Club VP / Treasurer Joe Felber (2007). Each player completed the event with a final score of three points out of four.

Joe's last- round victory over Bill Arluck (2019) featured two "creeping Queen moves" in a mating net (the term "creeping move" may be found in Kotov's 1971 book, *Think Like a Grandmaster*).

Finally, the Under 1700 prize of \$50 was split evenly among Marcus Francis (1091), Frank Drazil (1581), and David Randall (1641). Each player finished the event with even scores of 2- 2.

As usual, the 2013 version of the July Open was directed by Ed Frumkin and Joe Felber.

Moody (from page 17)

The last idea about development that should be considered is that if you have a choice between capturing two pieces e.g. Black Bishop on e7, Black Knight on d6 and a White Knight on f5, then Nxd6 is to be preferred because it took multiple moves for the Knight to get to d6, while it takes the Bishop only one tempo to get to e7. Think of it this way: When you capture a piece that has moved multiple times, you are "gaining" the time it took for your opponent to get the piece to that square.

Do Humans Still Have a Chance Against Computers?

by Richard Moody

Top professionals have given up trying to defeat the computers of today, but in the past three weeks, I've managed to win four games and draw fifteen against Houdini 3 at tournament level (120'40 60'20 30). According to the Grandmaster I contacted my machine is running at a good level. I had a computer expert design the computer to meet the systems requirement of the manufacturer of Houdini 3. While it may not be playing at 3300, it is clearly playing at a very high level.

The key to beating computers is to give them human theory. There are some openings that are so poorly evaluated that the computer is dead lost from the first move, such as the Berliner Gambit, the main line of an early edition of *BCO 2* and is incorrectly listed as with compensation in *ECO*. As these two games show, the correct evaluation is +-.

Knights ought to be preferred over Bishops in the opening and early middlegame against computers because multiple Knight moves can gain time but a Bishop, Rook and Queen cannot. If we strip the board of all pieces and pawns, it is readily apparent that the Rook and Queen can access any square on the board with two moves and the Bishop can reach any square of the same color of the Bishop in two moves. Knights on the other hand can routinely gain three or more tempos in the opening. In the annotated game you will note just how powerful the White Knights were even though they were on the first rank.

Opening principle number 1----Always try to determine the optimum locations for your Knights and then try to maneuver them to those squares.

Moody-Houdini 3 Match 2013 Two Knights Defense Berliner Gambit

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nd4 6. c3 b5 7. Bf1 Nxd5 8. Ne4 Qh4 9. Ng3 Bg4 10. f3 e4 11. cxd4 Bd6 12. Qe2 Be6

A suggestions of Dr. Hans Berliner, World Correspondence Chess Champion. Unfortunately for Dr. Berliner, White has 4 winning plans; just run the starting positions through your silicon beast. The winning plans are 13.fxe4, 13.Qf2, 13.Nc3, 13.Qxb5ch. I chose the prettiest win:

13. Nc3 Nxc3 14. dxc3 Bxg3+ 15. hxg3 Qxh1 16. Qxb5+ Bd7 17. Qe5+ Kf8 18. fxe4 Rc8 19. Kf2 Kg8 20. Bf4 Bg4 21. Re1 Qh5 22. Qxh5 Bxh5 23. Ba6 Rb8 24. b3 Rb6 25. Bc4 Bg4 26. Bxc7 Rc6 27. Bf4 h6 28. Bd2 Rf6+ 29. Ke3 Rg6 30. Rc1 Be6 31. d5 Bc8 32. Be1 Rg5 33. Be2 Kh7 34. Kd4 Re8 35. c4 Rge5 36. Bd3 f5 37. c5 a6 38. c6 fxe4 39. Be2 Rf5 40. b4 Rd8 41. Rc5 Be6 42. Bc4 Bc8 43. a4 Rh5 44. b5 axb5 45. axb5 Rh1 46. Ba5 Rf8 47.b6 Ra1 48. b7 * 1-0

Moody-Houdini 3 Match 2013 Two Knights Defense Berliner Gambit

12...O-O is somewhat more resilient, but Black is still dead lost.

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 b5 6. Bf1 Nd4 7. c3 Nxd5 8. Ne4 Qh4 9. Ng3 Bg4 10. f3 e4 11. cxd4 Bd6 12. Qe2 O-O 13. fxe4 Bxg3+ 14. Kd1 c6 15. Nc3 Rfe8 16. Nxd5 cxd5 17. b3 Bf2 18. Bb2 b4 19. Rc1 e3 20. d3 Rac8 21. g3 Qf6 22. Bg2 Qd6 23. Rc2 h6 24. Kc1 Red8 25. Bf3 Rxc2+ 26. Kxc2 Qf6 27. Kb1 g6 28. Rc1 a6 29. Rc5 Qe6 30. Bc1 Kg7 31. Kc2 Bg1 32. Kd1 Rd7 33. Qg2 Bf2 34. Bb2 a5 35. Ke2 Re7 36. h3 Qd6 37. Bxd5 Bxg3 38. Bc4 Kh7 39. Rxa5 Qc7 40. Re5 * 1-0

Is it time to revisit what constitutes “development”? How many players would regard moving a Knight away from the center as a developing move, yet isn't it obvious that in the move sequence Nf3/Ne1/Nd3 that Ne1 is a developing move? How else does the Knight get to the d3 square which is stronger than the f3 square?

Consider the Two Knights' Defense and the following variation:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.c3 b5 7.Bf1

If you were to assign a value to development, this would be a -1 i.e. returning a piece to its original square.

7...Nxd5 8.Ne4 Ne6 = While *ECO* may indicate this is +/-, it is dead equal simply because of the great Black Knights. When we consider that Black has spent five tempos to get his Knights' to great

squares, it is not surprising that Black has full compensation for the pawn.

By the same token, the move sequence Nf3/Ng5/Ne4 gains three tempos, but the move sequence Nf3/Ng5/Ne4/Ng3 only gains two tempos because White can get to the g3 square in two moves i.e. Ne2/Ng3. Again, if we were to assign a numerical value to the sequence Ne4/Ng3 it is worth -1.

What I'd like to do now is provide a more sophisticated example of development based on a game I played against Houdini 3.

Moody-Houdini 3, Match 2013, Game 1: Two Knights Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Bxf7+ 5.Nxf7 is also good, but I was able to win a nice game on the Black side of the 5.d4 variation against Houdini 3. You will note how often Houdini hits the "horizon effect". Many pros probably think that the horizon "problem" has been solved; clearly, it hasn't: 5. d4 d5 6. Bxd5 Nxd4 7. Nxf7? Qe7 8.Nxh8 Bg4 9. Qd3 (Bf7ch Kf8 10.Qd3 Be2 11.Qh3 Bg4 12.Qd3 Be2 =) Nxd5 10. c3 Nb4 11. cxb4 Bxb4+ 12. Nc3 Qd7 13. Kf1 Bxc3 14. f3 Bxf3 15. gxf3 Qh3+ 16. Kf2 Bb4 17. a4 Rd8 18. Bg5 Bc5 19. Qc3 Nb3+ 20. Qxc5 Nxc5 21. Bxd8 Ne6! 22. Rag1 Nxd8 23. Rxc7 Ne6 24. Rg3 Qh6 25. Rg8+ Ke7 26. Rhg1Qxh2+ 27. R1g2 Qh6 28. a5 Qd2+ 29. Kg3 Qxa5 30. Kh2 Qc5 31. R8g4 Nf4 32. Rg7+ Ke6 33. Rd2 Qe3 34. Rdd7 Qf2+ 35. Kh1 Qxf3+ 36. Kh2 Qxe4 37. Rde7+ Kd5 * 0-1) 5...Ke7 6.Bc4!?

While technically this is not a novelty, it is practically unknown; White anticipates an exchange sacrifice on f3 so the retreat Be2 dulls the effectiveness of that sacrifice.

6...Na5?!

Houdini tries to con me into winning the exchange: 7.Nf7? Qe8 9.Nxh8 Nxc4 =/+

7.Bd3!

White demonstrates that the Knight on a5 is misplaced; White holds the e4 pawn in anticipation of h6/Nf3/Nxe4.

d6 8.Nc3 h6 9.Nf3 Be6 10.Be2! Nc6

There is nothing better. From the above examples the reader will readily assign a value of -1 to this move, but the move sequence Bd3/Be2 is worth 0 because White can reach d3 or e2 in one move.

11.d3 +/- a7 12.Na4!

Not to attack the Bishop so much; the main reason is to free the c-pawn.

12...Ba7 13.O-O Kf7 14.h3 Rf8 15.b3!

In order to free b2 for the Knight.

15...Kg8

Look how many tempos Black lost by castling by hand.

16.Be3! Bd4?! 17.c3!

Houdini doesn't like this move.

17...Bxe3 18.fxe3 b5 19.Nb2 d5!

Houdini "knows" it has to attack, yet this straightens out White's pawns.

20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Qc1

Holding c3 and e3 and not blocking the d-file.

21...Qd6 22.Nd1 Rab8 23.c4 bxc4 24.bxc4 Nf6 25.Nf2 Qc5 26.Rd1

Preparing d4.

26...Qa5 27.Rd2 Bf5 28.d4! e4 29.Nh2! Kh8 30.Nf1! Qb4 31.Nd1! Qd6 32.c5 Qe7 33.Rb2 Rxb2 34.Qxb2 Nd5?

This is a programming error; Houdini should force me to win the a-pawn, not just give it for nothing. What the computer doesn't realize is that there is a world of difference between evaluating piece activity vs. the power of a mobile passed pawn.

35.Bxa6 +-

The threat is Bishop retreat, a4/a5/a6, but this is over the computer's horizon so it thinks that other moves give White a lesser advantage; in a game between GM's the phrase you will hear is that, "White's pressure nets him a pawn."

Now that White has a clear edge, the Knights' will go on the offensive. Unfortunately I made a series of fatigue errors and lost, but this does not alter the fact that White gained ground the entire middlegame primarily because of his Knight maneuvers.

Most moves I made between 11.d3 to 35.Bxa6 are developing moves as I define development, but most moves by Black showed Black treading water. Over the span of 20 moves we see the White advantage steadily increasing from +/- to +.

A practical way to think of development is in terms of the Queen. If I play Qe2/Qf3, this gains only one tempo because White can play Qf3 in one move; however, Qe2/Qe3 gains two tempos because it takes a minimum of two moves for Queen to get to e3. If there are no obvious tactics then Qe3 is to be preferred over Qf3 because it gains a tempo.

(continued on page 15)

News from the Marshall *by Frank Romano*

The September 26th Marshall Thursday Action tournament was run by a familiar face, as the long-time organizer of Four Rated Games Tonight, Steve Immitt, has returned to the Marshall to direct.

Twenty-eight players turned out for the homecoming, and the three players at the top were FM Carlos Mena, New York State Chess Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and NM Leif Pressman, all with 3 ½ points. Mena and Pressman drew in the third round, while Bonin gave a draw in the second round to New Jersey FM and Marshall regular Boris Privman.

NM's Nasyr Akyzbekov and Ted Belanoff tied for fourth with 3-1 scores, with both players losing to the tri-winners. Belanoff dropped a second-round game to Mena, while Akyzbekov lost in the last round to Bonin with "draw odds."

Dr. Marcus Fenner was the assistant director of this event for the Marshall.

The September edition of the Marshall Masters was held at the world-famous club on September 17 and the 18-player tournament was won by GM Aleksander Lenderman and New York State Chess Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin with 3 ½ points. The two top players did not play each other, as Lenderman took a first-round, half-point bye while Bonin drew NM Nasyr Akyzbekov in the second round. IM Colomban Vitoux and FM Carlos Mena tied for third with 3-1 scores, with Mena losing to Lenderman in the last round with the title on the line. Gregory Keener directed for the Marshall.

NM's Nasyr Akyzbekov and Alexander King were the co-winners at the September 19th edition of the Marshall's Four Rated Games Tonight. Akyzbekov started the event with a half-point bye and worked through the 32-player section to rise to the top, while King held GM Aleksandr Lenderman to a draw in the third round, and beat new GM Robert Hungaski in the last round to earn his top at the top of the table. King earned 31 rating points in one night, going from 2310 to 2341 with the two upsets. Lenderman, IM Farai Mandizha, and NM's Karai Bhatti and Ted Belanoff tied for third with 3-1 scores. Jermaine Reid directed the tournament for the Marshall.

The September 12th edition of the Marshall Thursday Action tournament drew 28 players and was won by Indian GM Kidambi Sundararajan and former *Empire*

Chess columnist IM Ilye Figler with 3 ½ points. Both top players had the unusual part of yielding first-round draws and working through the field. The Indian GM drew NM Gary Huang, while Figler drew Expert Anthony Norris. Norris surprisingly lost his last three games and nine rating points after drawing the International Master in the first round. Form can be a fleeting thing!

GM Robert Hungaski and NM's Nasyr Akyzbekov and Boris Privman. Akyzbekov upset the new GM in the second round, but lost in the final money round to Sundararajan. Privman lost to FM Carlos Mena in the second round. Mena, FM Leif Pressman, NM's Whee Ky Ma, Oliver Chernin. Gary Huang and former *Empire Chess* columnist James West all tied for sixth with 2 ½ points. Jermaine Reid directed.

The first weekend of September was the date for the Marshall weekend Grand Prix. The 55-player, four-round, two -day event surprisingly yielded no perfect scores. There was a five-player logjam at the top with 3 ½ points, however. IM Justin Sarkar, FM's Carlos Mena and Akshat Chandra, Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and FM Leif Pressman all had three wins and one draw. Sarkar and Mena drew in the fourth round, while Chandra and Pressman drew in the last round on Board One. Bonin had a "Swiss Gambit" tournament, drawing in the first round to Expert Marcus Ming Mikasaka and then winning three straight to get back to the top.

Players with three points were NM Adam Maltese and Expert Jose de Villa and Kadhira Pillai, who shared the Top Under 2000 prize. GM Michael Rohde led the group in ninth with 2 ½ points, along with NM's Boris Privman and Benjamin Katz, and Experts Daniel Kostovetsky, Sam Barsky, and Payam Parhami. Gregory Keener directed for the Marshall.

The September edition of the Marshall Thursday Grand Prix tournament drew 27 players to the Club on September 5th and was won by GM Aleksandr Lenderman with a perfect 4-0 score, besting GM Zviad Izoria in the final round to clinch the perfect score triumph. GM Mikheil Kekelidze was clear second with 3 ½ points after being held to a last-round draw by veteran Hall of Fame GM Michael Rohde. Izoria, FM Leif Pressman, and NM's Nasyr Akyzbekov and Furqan Tanwir tied for third with 3-1 scores. Alexander King was the director for the

Marshall.

The August Marshall Masters was held on August 20, and the 27-player tournament was won by GM Aleksandr Lenderman, and IM's Eli Vovsha and Yury Lapshun, with all three players scoring 3 ½ points. Lenderman and the Israeli IM Vovsha drew in the last round with the title on the line, while Lapshun drew SM Matthew Herman in round three. GM Michael Rohde bounced back from a first-round upset to 2264-rated NM Matan Prilleltensky to lead the group in fourth with 3-1 scores. Also scoring three were IM Colomban Vitoux and FM Carlos Mena. Both Vitoux and Mena lost to the top-ranking IM's. Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall.

The August 11 Marshall FIDE Super Grand Prix drew a chessboard-sized field of 64 players for the weekend event. The tournament was won by Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and FM Luis Carlos de Acro with 4 ½ – ½. De Acro drew director NM Alexander King in the last round of the tournament, while Bonin had a first-round draw to Expert Stephen Jablon, but beat FM's Carlos Mena and Asa Hoffman in the last two rounds to move through the field to the top.

Hall of Fame GM Michael Rohde and NM's Nasyr Akyzbekov and Alexander King tied for third with 4-1 scores. Rohde lost and King drew to de Acro, while Akyzbekov lost to Mena in the third round. King took a third-round, half-point bye for his other half-point "dropped." Ten players tied for sixth with 3 ½ points: Mena, an undefeated NM Boris Privman, FM Asa Hoffman, NM's Nicholas Ryba and Isaac Leon and Experts Major Juac Vladimir Polyakin, Jr., Mahiro Abe, George Berg and Payam Prahmi, who shared the Top Under 2200 prize. Jermaine Reid and Alexander King directed for the Marshall.

The August 8 "regular" 45-player Marshall Grand Prix was won by NM's Seth Rokosky and Juan Sena with perfect 4-0 scores. Rokosky pulled the major upset in the last round, defeating GM Robert Hungaski, to join the tie at the top. Sena beat FM

Leif Pressman in the last round. Expert Han Schut was clear third with 3 ½ points, drawing against class B player Dennis Li in the first round and then winning three straight to work through the field.

Hungaski, Pressman, FM Carlos Mena and Expert Azeez Alade tied for fourth with three points, and Aladae winning the Top Under 2200 prize. Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall.

The July Marshall Masters drew 27 players and had three players tie at the top: GM Mikheil Kekelidze, IM Jay Bonin and FM Leif Pressman, all with 3 ½ points. Kekelidze and Bonin drew in the last round, while Pressman drew NM Levy Rozman in the second round. Rozman was clear fourth with an undefeated 3-1 score, also drawing FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy in the third round. Six players tied for fifth with 2 ½ points: IM and WGM Irina Krush, IM Colomban Vitoux, Ostrovskiy, NM and New York State Scholastic Chess Champion Joshua Colas, and NM's Boris Privman and Matan Prilleltensky. Gregory Keener directed for the Marshall.

The July 11 Marshall Thursday Action was special as it was combined with the Chess Center of New York and directed by Steve Immitt. The event drew an impressive 50 players in the classic Four Rated Games Tonight format, and was a triumph for GM Mikheil Kekelidze with the only perfect score in the event. The Marshall regular defeated FM Eric Rosen in the last round to clinch the outright first prize.

NM's Robert Perez and New York State Scholastic Champion Joshua Colas tied for second with 3 ½ points. Perez drew Connecticut Master Oliver Chernin in the second round, while Colas drew veteran IM Jay Bonin in the third round. Bonin, Rosen, FM's Leif Pressman and Boris Privman, and NM's Levy Rozman, Oliver Chernin, Michael Auger and Gabriel Schoenfeld tied for fourth with 3-1 scores in the closely-contested tournament.

Dr. Marcus Fenner assisted Immitt with the event.

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New York State Scholastic Winners

Compiled by Bill Townsend

As part of NYSCA's efforts to honor its history and champions, we are publishing our list of known champions of the High School section of the State Scholastics. NYSCA would greatly appreciate additions to this listing, and would like to have a complete listing available when America's longest-running scholastic chess championship is held again this March in Saratoga Springs. Additions may be mailed to the Editor at karlpanorama@gmail.com.

Other information, particularly for the more historic events, such as site, approximate number of players as well as champion, would also be appreciated. Vintage photos may be submitted and may run in a future issue of *Empire Chess*.

Like in open chess, New York State was a pioneer in holding a State Scholastic chess championship. Over the years, the tournament and its championship sections have grown considerably, with the current format including High School, Jr. High, Elementary, Primary and the K-1 Championship. In 2014, the K-1 Championship goes to the traditional two-day format for the first time. As New York has innovated in this area, USCF and most other states have copied the "New York" way of having these events, and scholastic chess around the country has boomed as a result.

	Year	Champion	Site
46	2013*	Joshua Colas	Saratoga Springs
45	2012	Deepak Aaron	Saratoga Springs
44	2011*	Justus Williams	Saratoga Springs
43	2010*	Deepak Aaron James Hiltunen	Saratoga Springs
42	2009*	Deepak Aaron Darrian Robinson	Saratoga Springs
41	2008	Matt Parry	Saratoga Springs
40	2007	James Hiltunen	Saratoga Springs
39	2006*	Elina Kats Gregory Kimmel	New Rochelle
38	2005*	Salvijus Bercys (TB) Alex Lenderman	Saratoga Springs
37	2004*	Salvijus Bercys Alex Lenderman	Brentwood, LI
36	2003*	Dmitriy Minevich David Kalita Joshua Weinstein	Rochester
35	2002*	Roza Eynullayeva Pavel Polyak	Brooklyn
34	2001*	Irina Krush	Saratoga Springs
33	2000*	Irina Krush	Pleasantville
32	1999*	Vladimir Miloslavsky	Saratoga Springs
31	1998*	Lily Faerman Ben Dean-Kawamura Calvin Scott	Garden City
30	1997*	Calvin Scott David Long	Ithaca

29	1996	Victor Ying	White Plains
28	1995*	Karl Doering	Brockport
27	1994*	Noureddine Ziane Shearwood McClelland	Pleasantville
26	1993	Alex Kalikshteyn Anna Khan	Binghamton
25	1992	Stanislav Garber Alexander Sidelnikov	Rye
24	1991*	Alon Bochman Alexander Sidelnikov	Albany
23	1990	Anatoly Trubman	Mineola
22	1989	James Schuyler	White Plains
21	1988*	Stephen Lebowitz Evan Turtel	Bethpage
20	1987*	Mike Goodisman Daniel Edelman	East Syracuse
19	1986*	Daniel Edelman James Levine	Queens
18	1985	John Litvinchuk	East Syracuse

2013 – 686 players at this event, an upstate record

2011 – Williams tied for first with Ben Gershenov, but got the trophy on tiebreaks. Williams was only in the 7th grade – does this make him the youngest champion ever?

2010 – Aaron and Hiltunen went 5-0, then drew in the final round. Aaron got the trophy and the trip to the Denker on tiebreaks.

2009 – Aaron and Robinson both went 6-0, with first place being decided by an Armageddon playoff, won by Aaron.

2006 – Connecticut player Ryan Goldberg actually won the event, 5-0, with Kats and Kimmel tying for second. Kats got the trophy on tiebreaks.

2005 – Both finished with 5½-½, Bercys getting the trophy on tiebreaks

2004 – No mention was made of any tiebreaks

2003 – Minevich won the trophy on tiebreaks

2002 – Eynullayeva won the trophy on tiebreaks

2001 – Krush and Pavel Polyak finished with 5-0, with Krush winning a playoff game

2000 – 990 players at this event – a record?

1999 – 444 players at this event – an upstate record?

1998 – All three went 5-0, Faerman got the trophy on tiebreaks

1997 – Scott won on tiebreaks

1995 – Listed as the 28th, Doering was an exchange student from Germany

1994 – Both finished with 4½-½, Ziane getting the trophy on tiebreaks.

1991 – The two were called co-champions but Bochman went to the Denker because of better tiebreaks.

1988 – Winners designated co-champions with Lebowitz going to the Denker and Turtel the alternate.

1987 – Co-champions with Goodisman getting the larger trophy and a trip to the Denker.

1986 – Edelman was the Denker candidate this year.

Capital Region News *by Bill Townsend*

In the summer months are a quiet time for chess in New York's Capital District – the scholastic tournaments are finished and so are the local club championships. However, as last year, there were rating improvement tournaments held at RPI, and the weekly chess meetings were held on Monday afternoons in downtown Schenectady.

But first some unfinished business. In my last report the Capital District Chess League was down to its last few matches but a clear winner still had not emerged. On June 27 the last match was finally played. The Capital District Chess League is a yearly contest between seven four man teams from the various area clubs.

When we last heard from the League there were three teams still in contention: the Schenectady Geezers (Last year's champions), Schenectady A (Champions in 2011 and 2010), and this year's Cinderella story, the Uncle Sam Club, having their best season ever.

The Schenectady Geezers got their hopes dented when they lost to Albany A on May 22 by the score 2½-1½. This was the Geezers' first loss of the season, and while Albany was out of the running with two losses already, this showed that they were still very dangerous.

The Cinderella story of the Uncle Sam club came to an end on May 30 when they suffered a decisive loss to the Schenectady Geezers, 3-1. This was their last match of the year, and with a 4-2 record it was plain that they were going to place, but not win.

The long-delayed match between Schenectady A and the Capital Region team was finally played on June 6, with Schenectady triumphing 3½-½. The only bright spot for the Capital Region team was David Finnerman's draw with Schenectady's Philip Sells on board one.

The number of possible winning teams was now down to two: Schenectady A and the Schenectady Geezers, so all eyes were on the two teams when they met on June 13. Whoever won the match would win the league, while a draw would make the still-outstanding match between Schenectady A and Albany A the decider. As it turned out Schenectady A won by the

narrowest margin possible, 2½-1½, becoming the new league champions. Three of the four games were drawn, but on board three Schenectady A's Bobby Rotter defeated Michael Mockler, and that made all the difference.

The final match on June 27 was a bit anticlimactic since Schenectady A already had 4½ match points and nobody could catch them, but Albany A gave it their best shot. Schenectady started with wins on the bottom two boards, with the final total being 2½-1½ in Schenectady's favor.

Here are the final standings for the 2013 League. The first number after the team name is number of matches won, the second is number of individual games won. Even though Schenectady A was a full point and a half ahead in match points, the Geezers managed to beat them on game points: Schenectady A won a number of very close matches.

1. Schenectady A, 5½, 15½
2. Schenectady Geezers, 4, 16½
3. Uncle Sam, 4, 15
4. Albany A, 3, 12
5. RPI, 2½, 11
6. Capital Region, 1, 8
7. Albany B, 1, 4½

As I said before this was Uncle Sam's best season ever, and they got another feather in their cap: their fourth board, Dr. Chibuzo Ilonze, was this year's Most Valuable Player, the first time player from a Troy team has gotten this award. Dr. Ilonze was the only player to score a perfect 6-0. It was somewhat amusing to note that after his perfect score in league play, Dr. Ilonze's provisional USCF rating was a whopping 2340. While he is clearly at least a strong A-player, I don't think he can maintain a rating like that in tournament play.

Here is one of the games from that last match between Schenectady A and Albany A. On board two Schenectady's Carl Adamec seemed completely lost against Albany's Gordon Magat but manages to swindle his way into a draw.

Gordon Magat (1915) –Carl Adamec (2001)

[A14] Reti

Capital District Chess League 2013

Albany A vs. Schenectady A, board 1

Schenectady, NY, June 27, 2013

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Be7 4.Bg2 0–0 5.0–0 d5 6.b3 a5?!

Here Black can punish White for his reluctance to play d2–d4 with 6...d4 but Adamec has his own ideas here.

7.Bb2 Bd7 8.d3 a4 9.Nbd2 axb3 10.axb3 Rxa1 11.Qxa1 Na6

Adamec likes to play unusual moves, but this is not a particularly happy place for the Knight, as we shall see.

12.Rc1 Re8 13.Ne5 Bf8 14.Ndf3 h6 15.g4?!

Here White forms a plan to attack on the Kingside, a natural idea considering his Queen-and-Bishop battery on the long diagonal, but he can actually make more progress exploiting Black's clumsy pieces on the Queenside: 15.Bc3 c6 16.Rb1 c5 17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.Qa4 Nb4 19.Qb5, etc.

15...Nh7?!

Black is trying to play actively, but this just helps White. Better was 15...Nc5.

16.h4 Bc8 17.Rd1 c5 18.d4! cxd4 19.Bxd4 Nb4 20.Qc1

White gets a strong attack with 20.Qa4! Nf6 21.g5 Ne4 22.gxh6 gxh6 23.Nd2.

20...Be7 21.Qc3 Nf6 22.c5 Nc6 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.Ne5 Qc7 25.g5 hxg5 26.hxg5 Nh5?

A blunder that should cost Black the game. Like it or not he had to play 26...Nd7.

27.Qf3 Bxc5

Making the best of a bad situation.

28.Bxc5 Qxe5 29.Qxh5 Ba6 30.Bf3 Rb8 31.b4 f6 32.gxf6 Qxh5 33.Bxh5 gxf6 34.Kh2 Kh7 35.Rg1 e5 36.Bg6+ Kh8 37.Be7 Kg7 38.Be8+ Kh7 39.Bxc6 Bxe2 40.Bxd5 f5

Now Black doesn't even have an extra pawn for the piece. His game looks utterly hopeless, and yet he plays on, probably just because it was a team match.

41.Bf7 Bg4 42.Bd6 Rb6 43.Bc5 Rh6+ 44.Kg3 Kg7 45.Bd5 Rh3+ 46.Kg2 Rd3 47.Bc6 e4 48.Ra1 Kf6 49.b5 Bf3+ 50.Kg1 Rd8 51.b6 Ke5 52.Bb4 Kd4 53.Rc1

53.Ra8! would immediately force the Rooks off with an easy win, but I'm betting White was very short of time here.

53...Kd3 54.Bb5+ Kd4 55.b7 e3 56.fxe3+ Kxe3 57.Bc5+?! Kd2 58.Rf1??

Around here the game was agreed drawn. White was almost out of time, and after this last blunder he loses his last pawn, making the game close to unwinnable. Instead he had to play 58.Kf2! Kxc1 59.Be3+ Kc2 60.Kxf3 Rb8 61.Bc6 and he is still winning. However after the text: 58.Rf1 Rg8+ 59.Kh2 Bxb7 60.Rxf5 Rg2+ 61.Kh3 Bc8 62.Kxg2 Bxf5 and White can't win unless Black simply drops his Bishop. ½–½

Although there are no scholastic events during the summer months, the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation is not just sitting around waiting for October. They scheduled four rating improvement tournaments, all held at the Student Center on the RPI campus in Troy.

The first of the four events was played on Saturday, July 13. Overall twenty-one players competed in the four-round Swiss System.

There was a tie for first place at 3.5-0.5 between Phil Thomas and Michael Mockler with Thomas getting the trophy on tiebreaks. The two co-champions drew each other in round three, but won all their other games. Third through fifth with 3-1 were: Massachusetts expert Louis Petithory, David Antonucci and Herman Calderon. Sixth through ninth with 2.5-1.5 were: Dilip Aaron, Kun Park, Nigel Galia and JanKarl Galia. Park, an unrated player at the start of the event, was top player under 1,200, with JanKarl Galia right behind him. Nigel Galia was top player under 1,600.

Philip Sells was chief tournament director for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

The second event was played on August 3. This time 12 players competed in one section.

There was a tie for first place at 3-1 between California master James MacFarland and Peter Henner from Clarksville. Henner lost to MacFarland in round two, but won all his other games, while MacFarland gave up draws in rounds three and four to Louis Petithory and Michael Mockler. In third through sixth place with 2½ -1½ were: Petithory, Mockler, Zachary Calderon and Pranav Venkataraman. This last named player was the top player under 1600. Top player under 1,200 was JanKarl Galia.

August 24th was the date for the third Make the Right Move summer tournament. All of these tournaments have been named after a local chess promoter and this

one was named for Albany's Dr. Liz Gialanella. Overall 15 players competed in one section.

Previous tournaments have been four rounds, but this one had only three, and it was won by former Schenectady champion Patrick Chi with a perfect 3-0 score. Patrick is currently the only full-time resident of the Capital District with a master rating. Zachary Calderon also scored 3-0, but was second on tiebreaks. Third through sixth with 2-1 were: Phil Thomas, Jeff LaComb, Zaza Samadashvili and Michael Cheng.

All three of these events were directed by Philip Sells and organized by Brother John McManus for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

The last of the four summer events for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation was played at the Alumni Center on the RPI campus in Troy on Saturday, September 14. The tournament was named "Celebrate Karen Merker" and it had a fine turnout: 31 players competing in three sections.

In the Open section Niskayuna student NM Patrick Chi tied for first with RPI student Jeffrey LaComb with a 3½-½ record. The two drew each other in round two and won all their other games. In clear third with 3-1 was master Christopher Chabris, who was the only player with a perfect score going into the last round where he lost to Patrick Chi. Tied for fourth with 2-2 were Carlos Varela and Zachary Calderon.

Jonathan D'Alonzo won the Under-1600 section with a perfect 4-0 score, vaulting his rating about 1500 for the first time. Second through fourth with 3-1 were Michael Cheng, Nigel Galia and Nitin Obla. Nicholas Tung and Jovanna D'Alonzo tied for fifth with 2½-1½.

The Under-1000 section was won by Uriel Calixto with a perfect 4-0 record. Catalina Varela was second with 3-1. Third through sixth with 2-2 were: Michael Moughan, Nelson Tung, Tatiana Varela, and Nathaniel Mitzel.

Chief tournament director and organizer for this last event was Brother John McManus for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

All summer long there have been the Chess in the City mid-day chess meetings on Mondays under the marquee at Proctors Theater in downtown Schenectady. As summer draws to a close they usually

sponsor a big blitz tournament, and this year it was held on August 12. This is a little earlier than usual, but an accommodation was made so area champion Deepak Aaron could play before he had to head back to college in Georgia.

Deepak was the highest rated player by about 150 points, so it wasn't much of a surprise that he won the event with a 4½-½ score. He won his first four games, then gave up a draw to his younger brother Dilip in the final round. There was actually another master playing in the event, James MacFarland, who was visiting the area from his native California. He tied for second with 4-1. The other second place finisher was something of a surprise: Andrew Swenson of Clifton Park lost his first round game then won all the rest to also finish with 4-1. Swenson had a 1500 rating from back in 1998, but obviously hasn't forgotten how to play.

Tied for fourth with 3½-1½ were Dilip Aaron and Zachary Calderon. Tied for sixth with 3-2 were: Carl Adamec, Bill Townsend, Pranav Venkataraman, Paul Moore and Jonathan D'Alonzo. Mike Mockler was eleventh with 2½-2½.

Top player under 1900 was Dilip Aaron. Top player under 1500 was Pranav Venkataraman and top player under 1000 was James LeDuc.

Even though entry was free there were cash prizes as well as tickets to Proctors shows, courtesy of Proctors Theater and the City Mission. Ashok Aaron organized the event and Brother John McManus of the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation was tournament director and Master of Ceremonies.

Incidentally, Deepak Aaron has had a busy and successful chess summer – back in June he came in second in the U.S. Junior Open, held in Tarrytown, NY, and just before the blitz tournament he came in second in the Continental Open held in Sturbridge, MA. This last event vaulted Deepak's rating above the 2400 mark, making him a Senior Master.

Finally, the Albany Area Chess Club held an unrated Swiss that ended on July 19. Joe Jones was clear first with 2½-½. Tied for second with 1½-1½ were: Jason Denham, Michael Mockler and Bill Little.

Here is a notable upset from the last round of the tournament. Former Albany champ Tim Wright has a promising attack against Art Alowitz, but then

overplays his hand.

**Timothy Wright (1854) –Arthur Alowitz (1564)
[E61] Benoni**

**Albany Area CC Unrated Swiss, round 3
Guilderland, NY, July 17, 2013**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 d6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Nc3
Bg7 7.Be2 0–0 8.0–0 Nc6 9.b3**

*White could immediately make things uncomfortable
for Black with 9.d5.*

9...b6 10.Bb2 Bb7

*The game looks pretty close to equal after 10...e5! but
now White clamps down on the center.*

11.d5! Nb8 12.Qc2

12.Nd4 looks strong here.

12...Nbd7 13.Rad1 Nc5 14.b4 Ncd7 15.Rfe1 Qc7

**16.Ng5 Ne5 17.f4! Ned7 18.Bd3 Rfe8 19.f5 Ne5
20.fxc6 hxg6 21.Rxe5?**

*White's position is clearly superior, so he goes in for
the kill. However, better than this rather impatient
sacrifice is 21.Nb5! Qd7 22.Bxe5 dxe5 23.Rxe5 and
Black is in a bad way.*

21...dxe5 22.Bxg6?

*This second sacrifice is a bridge too far. White has
decent compensation after 22.Nb5 Qd7 23.Bxe5 Rec8
24.Qe2 but no real advantage.*

22...fxg6 23.Ne6?

Again 23.Nb5 seems to be White's best chance.

**23...Qxc4 24.Qxg6 Qg4 25.Ng5 Qh4 26.Qf5 Bc8
27.Qxe5 Ng4! 0-1**

*White is going to lose more material so he gives up.
The best he has is: 28.Qf4 (28.Qc7? Bd4+ mates
soon) 28...Rf8 29.Qg3 Qxg5 with a hopeless position.)*

New York State Chess Hall of Fame Spotlight – Dave Blaisdell

Hall of Fame Spotlight is a new feature in Empire Chess that will inform readers about the history and current status of our New York State Chess Hall of Fame players.

Our first Spotlight is on Dave Blaisdell, long-time NYSCA president and active chess player and organizer from the Syracuse area who was in the first Hall of Fame class in 1993.

Blaisdell worked professionally as a social worker for Berkshire Farms, and used chess as one method to communicate with wayward youth. He also played for many years in the Syracuse area and throughout the State, long maintaining a class-A rating. Blaisdell served as NYSCA president for a decade in the 1970's and 1980's, during a period when the State Association was transitioning from the Fischer boom to the more scholastic-oriented chess scene of the modern era.

Dave also was the long-time president of the Syracuse Chess Club, which was one of the longest-running chess clubs in the United States with a heritage dating back to the mid-1800's. He also was largely responsible for the State Affiliate Support Program (SASP), a program whereby a dollar of USCF dues for each member in the state would be given to the state affiliate for chess promotion. The program died during one of USCF's fiscal crises in the 1990's, but was a main source of support for NYSCA during its operation.

After retirement, Blaisdell moved to the Los Angeles, and continued to play the Royal Game on the West Coast.

Ben Rummel wins in Sardinia!



Ben Rummel made the trip to Sardinia a successful one as he won all three games he played to win the \$50 1st place prize. In the final game, Ben offered his Queen to Chris Darling, who was already up a piece. Chris greedily accepted it and got mated on the next move! Very nice trick Ben! Darling had upset Ryan Madden in round 2. It was a great tournament by both boys. Darling tied for second along with top-rated Ryan Madden and Pat Patterson in the 11-player event. Nathan Schiener won the Under 1400 prize, also with two points.

Keegan Kempf won the rated scholastic trophy and Seth Babbitt won the unrated section. Tom Warner directed the tournament for the Sardinia Chess Club.

Shown below are pictures from the August 22 open house held at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library as part of the Buffalo Chess Summer Festival.

www.nysca.net
Your best source for New York chess news!



Twenty-two players played in the August 24 Pawnmaster International Memorial tournament at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo. The Open section was a perfect-score triumph for NM Thomas Riccardi, a Syracuse player who is a student at Cornell. Buffalo NM Lionel Davis was clear second in the 12-player Open section with three points, losing in the first round to Canadian Ferdinand Supsup. Supsup and Ruperto Frilles tied for third with 2 ½ points.

Sam Santora, a rising Niagara Frontier junior player, won the DWM Under 1500 section with 3 ½ points, raising his rating to 1492 and within sight of leaving this section. Robert Simpson was clear second with an undefeated three points, drawing Santora in the second round and taking a half-point bye in the third round. Robert Hughes and Vic Bahl tied for third with 2 ½ points. Michael McDuffie directed the event for the Archangel 8 Chess Academy.

Twenty players supported the second event of the Buffalo Summer Chess Festival series held at the Main Place Mall on Saturday, July 20, 2013. As America celebrates the anniversary of this historic event, over 198,000 Black soldiers and Native Americans lost their lives during this war. Most were volunteers, although were promised their freedom from slavery and no wage pay, still chose to be volunteers against accepting an later offer for a lower wage of pay and were severely treated if caught by the opposition.

Two Sections were named after the United States Colored Troops and the Confederate Black Soldiers. Medals of Honor were later awarded to Sergeant William Carney, Most distinguished gallantry in action, during the assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina on July 18, 1863. Some of the first military volunteers were the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, Commanded by Robert G. Shaw, and the 1st South Carolina Volunteers Commanded by Thomas Wentworth. Harriet Tubman was also Scout and Nurse for the 2nd South Carolina Volunteers Regiment. Other famous females were Susie King Taylor of Liberty County, Georgia, and Clara Barton from Dansville, NY, who later established in 1905, National First Aid Society, now known as the American Red Cross. Seneca Indian Ely Parker was Commissioner of Indian Affairs under Ulysses S. Grant and scribed the surrender of the south.

I want to express my gratitude towards those players who are registering in advance for the monthly chess events, which greatly helps in planning and preparing for the events. New to the US Chess Federation and these tournaments is William Lobbins, who has been

attending the monthly Buffalo Chess Open House at the Buffalo Central Library.

The official results of the Under 1500 - Confederate Black Soldiers Section was Undefeated Champion - Christopher Roland, with a perfect 4-0 score. Three players tied for second place with three points. They were Russell Wijesiriwardena, 2013 Mayor's Cup Under 1500 Champion, Glenn Conlin and Top Scholastic - Dekayla S. Dubose. Wijesiriwardena and Conlin both lost to Roland.

Official results of the Open section, representing the United States Colored Troops were Co Champions – NM Lionel L. Davis and Barry Davis, both with 3 ½ points. The Davises drew in the third round nad . Third place tie were Top Scholastic Erik Lubas, Kevin Roulhac, David Miller and James P. Davis, Esq., all with two points in the nine-player section.

Albert (Pat) Patterson won all 3 of his games to win the adult section of the Sardinia monthly tournament held last Saturday. Pat defeated Nathan Palmisano and the Darling boys, Chris and Wes, to win the \$50 1st place prize. The Darlings tied for 2nd-3rd while Nathan and Max Peters tied for the u1200 prize. Also competing were Ryan Madden, Brad Schrock, Ethen Warner, Garrett Rumfola, and Sidney Reed.

In the Scholastic section, Ethen Warner won the rated trophy while Samantha Palmisano won the unrated in her very first tournament! Good job Sammy! Sidney Reed, Garrett Rumfola, and Gretchen Rumfola , in her 1st tournament too, also competed.

Thanks to everyone and see you in Sardinia on August 4th!

Join NYSCA and/or buy a membership for a friend this Holiday season!

Support chess from Montauk to Niagara, with a four-issue (\$20) or two-issue (\$12 membership).

Send your check to: Phyllis Benjamin, Secretary, NYSCA, P.O. Box 340969, Brooklyn, NY 11234

New York State Chess Association, Inc.

2012-2013 Treasurer's Report and Adopted Budget

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
Editor Salary	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,900
Magazine Contributors	\$ 750	\$ 560	\$ 750
Printing/Mailing Magazine	\$1,400	\$1,508.62	\$1,600
Plaques	\$ 165	\$ 0	\$ 165
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 75	\$ 67.10	\$ 75
Secretary's Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 124	\$ 125
USCF Membership	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
HS Championship Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 600	\$ 900
Webmaster	\$ 400	\$ 160	\$ 400
Total Expenditures	\$5,890	\$4,859.72	\$5,955

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
Advertising	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Membership/Tournaments	\$5,865	\$6,286	\$5,465
Interest Income	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$6,065	\$6,286	\$5,665

Assets of the New York State Chess Association, Inc. (8/31/13)

Operations Balance	\$4,220.04
<u>Alan Benjamin Builders Fund</u>	<u>\$2,642.12</u>
Total Assets 8/31/11	\$6,716.56
Total Assets 8/31/12	\$6,872.16
Total Assets 8/13/13	\$8,315.44
Net Asset Change	\$1,427.28

MINUTES OF ANNUAL NYSCA BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Benjamin, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 1 by president Bill Goichberg, who called on Karl Heck to give the treasurer's report. He announced that this was a good year, with over 700 participants in the state scholastics. The web site is being upgraded, and we have over \$8000 in the bank. New York State was represented in all the national invitational scholastic tournaments and we subsidized each representative with a \$200 stipend. In the future, in order to avoid non-representation at the Denker, Barber, and Girls tournaments, we need commitments to attend from our winners at the state scholastics or as soon after as possible. Discussion on how these tournaments are structured (only Denker includes 9th grade) which necessitates having our representatives meet these grade requirements.

A motion to raise the \$200 stipend to \$300 for our Denker, Barber, and Girls National representatives for 2014 was passed. The 2013-14 budget was adopted unanimously.

Membership secretary, Phyllis Benjamin, announced the winners of the election:

President: Bill Goichberg, Vice-President: Polly Wright, Treasurer: Karl Heck

Upstate members, Bill Goichberg, William Townsend, Karl Heck, Brenda Goichberg, Ron Lohrman, Shelby Lohrman

Downstate members: Phyllis Benjamin, Joseph Felber, Ed Frumkin, Margarita Lanides, Polly Wright, Sunil Weeramantry, Lenny Chipkin, Steve Immitt, Sophia Rohde, Harold Stenzel, Mark Kurtzman, and Dr. Frank Brady.

Non-NYSCA members who were elected, will be notified by letter, of the necessity to re-join by the Membership Secretary.

We agreed to change the election process to every two years. We will hold elections in 2014, 2015, and then begin to hold them every two years.

Harold Stenzel and Karl Heck were appointed as a Hall of Fame committee to poll the board for yearly recipients to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

A motion was made to reappoint upstate delegates, Karl Heck, Shelby Lohrman, Brenda Goichberg, and downstate delegates, Phyllis Benjamin, Polly Wright, Ed Frumkin, Carol Jarecki, Steve Immitt, Joe Felber, and Sunil Weeramantry.

Discussion for the need to acquire a program for online tournament registration that utilizes shopping cart that checks for NYSCA membership when claiming discount on entry. A motion to approve up to \$400 to secure such a program that includes automatic checking for membership, web hosting and maintaining database, was passed

Future scheduled tournaments include:

L.I. Open (Holtsville?) last weekend in March, organized by Bill Goichberg

State Scholastics Saratoga Springs, first weekend in March, organized by Steve Immitt

Empire City Open: Week between Christmas and New Years organized by Bill Goichberg

State Championship: Albany Labor Day weekend, organized by Bill Goichberg.

As for Seniors and/ or Womens, Steve will find out if Marshall CC is interested in running them or allow him to run it for them.

We will find out if Margarita Lanides is interested in running them alongside a LI scholastic.

The attendance at this board meeting included: Phyllis Benjamin, Bill Goichberg, Ed Frumkin, Karl Heck, Brenda Goichberg, Harry Stenger, Joseph Felber, Harold Stenzel, Ron Lohrman, Robert DeLong, Polly Wright, Leonard Chipkin, Steve Immitt, Josh Rofrano, and Bill Townsend. The meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

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

September 28, October 19, November 9, December 7 (Syracuse U.) Syracuse University Opens:

4-SS. Rds.:1&2 G/60, Rds.3&4: G/90. Syracuse University Hall of Languages Room 101, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. EF: \$30. Prizes:b/20) \$200, 125, Class 100. Registration.: 8:30-9:15. Rds.: 9:30, 12:00, 2:15, 5:30. Contact: Joe Ball 315-436-9008. Chess Magnet School JGP.

OCTOBER 5 18th Annual Arkport Open 4-SS, Rds. 1 & 2 G/60 d5; Rds. 3 & 4 G/90 d5. Arkport Village Hall, 6 Park Ave., Arkport, NY 14807. \$GTD: \$200-100, \$B/25: U1800 and U1600 each \$100-50. EF: \$30 cash at site. Reg.: 9-9:45 a.m., 10/5/13. Rds.: 10, 12, 2:15, 5:30. Director: Ronald Lohrman. Info: 607-295-9858 Ent: F. K. Harris, 1 Northridge Dr., Arkport, NY 14807.

OCTOBER. 19 2013 Jefferson County Championship & Open Chess Tournament

4SS, G/75 d5. H pt bye 1-3. Location American Red Cross, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY. 2nd flr Conference Rm. \$125 Prize fund b/12 total paid entries. \$75-\$25, class \$25. Reg.: 8:30-9:20 AM. Rds.: 9:30 AM, 12:15, 3:00 and 5:30 PM. EF: \$23 pre-registered & \$25 at door, send to Don Klug, 518 Sherman St., Watertown, NY 13601. D. Klug 315-785-8800 or donklug@twcny.rr.com.

NOVEMBER 17 51st Binghamton Monthly Tournament

4SS, G/65 d5. Prizes: \$300 b/26. Open-\$100-\$60-\$30; Reserve-\$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700). Trophies: 1-3 Reserve section. Advance Entry: EF's Reduced! Open-\$20 Reserve-\$15 (U1700) \$5 more on site-cash only on site. Schedule: Registration on site 8:45-9:15 AM. Rounds: 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. Free chess set & board to all new players under 18 years of age. Mail Entry: checks payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com.

DECEMBER 27-29 OR 28-29 32nd annual Empire City Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

6SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/40 d10). New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, New York 10001. \$12,000 guaranteed prize fund. In 5 sections. Open: \$1200-600-300-200, clear or tiebreak win \$50 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr \$500-250. FIDE. Under 2200: \$1000-500-250-150, top U2000/Unr \$500-250. Under 1900: \$1000-500-250-150, top U1700 (no unr) \$400-200. Under 1600: \$800-400-200-100, top U1400 (no unr) \$300-150. Under 1300: \$300-200-100, trophies to first 5, top U1000, U800, Unr. Unrated may not win over \$150 in U1300, \$300 U1600, or \$500 U1900. Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$600-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. Top 4 sections EF: \$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24, \$115 phoned by 12/18 (406-896-2038, no questions), 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 if check mailed by 12/18, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before rd 1. GMs free; \$90 from prize. Under 1300 Section EF: All \$50 less than top 4 sections EF. All: Re-entry \$50, not available in Open. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. 3-Day Schedule: Reg. ends Fri 10 am. Rds. Fri 11 & 5, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. 2-Day Schedule: Reg. ends Sat 9 am. Rds. Sat 10, 12:15, 2:30 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. Half point byes available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd 4. HR:\$279-279-309, 1-800-764-4680, 212-971-0101, reserve by 12/4 or rate may increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. Ent:chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: chessstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at www.chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

March 1-2, 2014: 47th New York State Scholastic Chess Championship: Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY. See ad on back cover for complete details.

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

Labor Day Weekend: the 136th New York State Chess Championship. Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Colonie, NY. America's Labor Day Tradition. See the back cover.

Support National Chess Day on October 12!

Members of the New York State Chess Hall of Fame

1993: Dr. Erich Marchand, William Goichberg, Dave Blaisdell

1994: Daniel LaBarge, Dr. Ariel Mengarini

1995: Ron Lohrman, Harold Stenzel

1996: GM Joel Benjamin, Harold Stenzel

1997: GM Robert Byrne, Sunil Weeramantry

1998: Carl Adamec, IM Jay Bonin

1999: Walter Buehl, GM Michael Rohde

2000: Alan Benjamin

2006: Margarita Lanides

2007: GM Arthur Bisguier, Bill Townsend

2008: Phyllis Benjamin

2011: Joe Felber, Ed Frumkin

2012: Leonard Chipkin, Karl Heck

A Heritage Event!

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MARCH 1-2 47th annual New York State Scholastic Championships

6-SS, G/60 d10, open to grades K-12 in any state (top New York State player & team in each section are NY champions).

Saratoga Hilton, 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.

In 9 sections. Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections: \$43 12/1-2/8, \$53 2/9-2/25, \$60 2/26 to 9 am 3/1. **Entry fee at site**, all sections: \$60. **High School**, open to all in grades K-12. EF \$46.20 mailed by 2/8. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions, top NYS grade K-12 girl qualifies for National Girls Invitational. **High School Reserve**, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$46 mailed by 2/8. **Junior High**, open to all in grades K-9. EF \$45.90 mailed by 2/8. Top NYS grade K-8 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions. **Middle School Reserve**, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$45.80 mailed by 2/8. **Elementary**, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$45.60 mailed by 2/8. **Elementary Reserve**, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$45.50 mailed by 2/8. **Primary**, open to grades K-3. EF \$45.30 mailed by 2/8. **Primary Reserve**, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$45.20 mailed by 2/8. **K-1**, open to grades K-1. EF \$45.10 mailed by 2/8. **Postmarked 2/9-19:** All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 2/19. **Entry at site:** all \$60. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20.

Trophies to top 15 players and top 7 teams each section, top 3 unrated in Primary, K-1, and each reserve section, and Top Under 1500, Under 1300 (High School), Under 900, Under 700 (High School Reserve), Under 1200, Under 1000 (Junior High School), Under 700, Under 500 (Middle School Reserve), Under 1000, Under 800 (Elementary), Under 500, Under 300 (Elementary Reserve), Under 500 (Primary), Under 200 (Primary Reserve, K-1). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2014 (Albany), to top player each section.

Schedule: Late registration ends Sat 10 am, rounds. Sat 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m, Sun 9 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m., awards 5:30 pm. **Half-point byes** OK all, limit 2, must commit before round 2. **HR:** \$129-129, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, reserve by 2/14 or rate may increase. Free parking for overnight guests. 48 hours notice required for room cancellation. Backup hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, 2 blocks away, 518-226-0538. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633.

Online entry: www.chessaction.com, beginning 12/1. **Mail entry: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, USCF ID, USCF expiration (non-members enclose dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player.** Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch** sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$60. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US (At = @), 347-201-2269. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.