

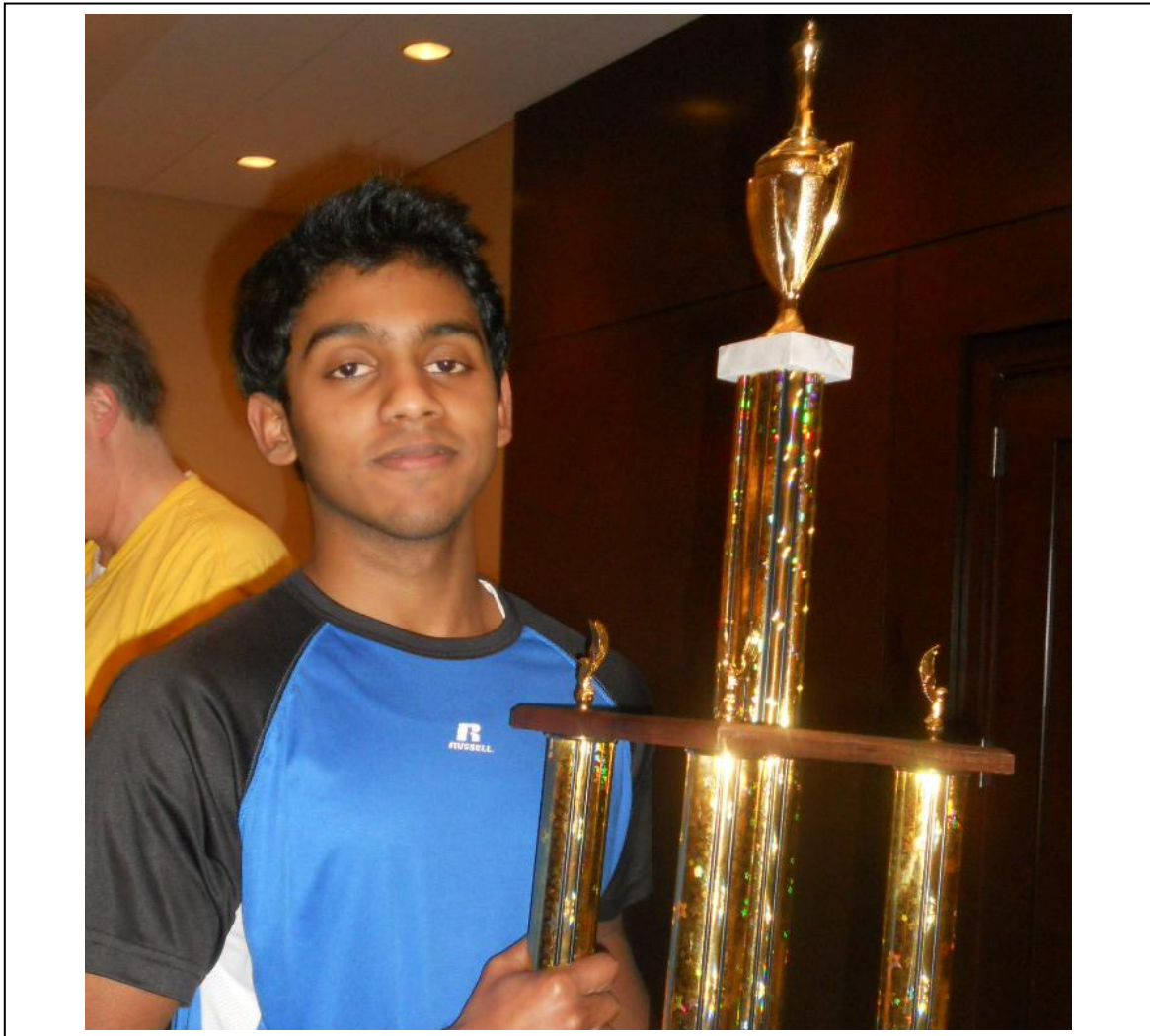
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Three-Pak for Deepak

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NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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

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State Scholastics Sets Records

New York has a three-time scholastic champion for the first time in its history. Deepak Aaron made history in Saratoga early in March winning the State Scholastic for the third time. That is history New York Hall of Famers like Joel Benjamin couldn't generate, and yes, the New York State Scholastic has been around long enough that Hall of Famers are among its champions. Over 500 players made it to the tournament, the most in recent years, and a sign that the recent slow economic times may be coming to an end.

Most of the time in the State Scholastic there isn't a defending champion at all. If a high school senior wins the tournament, they age out and go to college, so a new champion is automatically crowned. Deepak is a senior, so this is it for Mr. Aaron. Congratulations, Deepak!

While Deepak is winning the championship now and representing New York in places like the World Youth Championship, the future is extremely bright for New York scholastic chess. Two of the seven Masters who played in Saratoga were eighth graders: James Black and Justus Williams. Williams is also the reigning Dewain Barber K-8 Champion in the United States, and both players have the talent to make the chess halls of Texas tremble with fear.

Even the Elementary section had two 1800-rated players in it this year. The pipeline of talent in New York State is strong and deep, and we look forward to continuing to top the charts at Nationals, wherever they may be.

Congratulations to all the players at this year's State Scholastics. You played in the strongest scholastic event in the country -- bar none.

EMPIRE CHESS

“The magazine of America’s first chess organization”

Volume XXXV, Number 1 – Spring 2012

Cover: Deepak Aaron holds his trophy from a record-setting third win in the New York State Scholastic Chess Championship.

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Deepak Aaron Wins NYS Scholastic for Record-breaking Third Time

**Lilia Poteat wins JHS
Championship, James Black will
Represent New York at K-8
National Invitational**

by Bill Townsend

The 45th New York State Scholastic Championships took place March 3 and 4 in Saratoga Springs. Overall about 519 youngsters competed in the eight sections. This is a huge improvement over last year's total of 390, and again I think we have the mild weather to thank for that. Is it a record? Not even close – when this event was held downstate it would attract over 1,000 players, and the 2001 championship, also held in Saratoga, had 680 players. I remember that event well – it was insanely crowded and probably will forever hold the record for the largest chess tournament ever held in the Capital District (*or at least until 2013--ed.*)

This is the sixth time in a row this event has been held in Saratoga. Historically the scholastic championship is supposed to alternate between upstate and downstate, but the New York State Chess Association just cannot find a venue large enough with reasonable economics near New York City.

The High School championship was very strong with seven National Masters rated over 2200. To give you an idea of how tough this section was – reigning New York State champion Michael Chiang wound up tied for 13th place with 3½-2½. The winner, with a perfect 6-0 score, was Niskayuna's Deepak Aaron. This is the third time that Deepak has won top state scholastic honors, and according to my records he's the first person to do so. Since 1985 there are five others that have won twice, but no three-peats. Both of Deepak's previous wins were shared, but this time his play seemed to be on a whole different level.

Second through fifth with 4½-1½ were James Black, Levy Roxman, Nigel Bryant and Oliver-Kenta Chiku-Ratte. Defending champion Justus Williams

was sixth with 4-2. Seventh through twelfth, also with 4-2 were: Shawn Swindell, Azeez Alade, Jehron Bryant, Vadim Libo, Kristian Jacome and Brian Arthur. Thirteenth through sixteenth with 3½-2 were: Kostya Shetekauri, Harrison Smart, Linda Diaz and Michael Chiang. Top player under 1500 was Kevin Roulhac with 3-3 and Reagan Lyle was top player under 1300.

Top team in this section was Edward R. Murrow High School from Brooklyn with 16 points. Intermediate School 318, also from Brooklyn, was second with 15½. Bronx College of Science Math was third with 12 points.

Matthew Rzeknik won the High School Reserve section, also with a perfect 6-0 score. Sam Fragola was second with 5-1. Third and fourth with 4½-1½ were Maxwell Truluck and Samson Lin. Fifth through tenth with 4-2 were: Ethan Kue, Mike Rotondo, Aiden McGorry, Wes Darling, Nathaniel Kue and Benjamin Rotondo. Lucas Grisanti and Daniel Gallagher were eleventh and twelfth with 3½-2½. Logan Smith was first under 900 with 3-3 and Shabieko Ivy was top under 700 with 2-4. Jake Dormer and Robert Presser were first and second unrated, both with 2-4.

Fabius-Pompey Junior High from the Syracuse area was top school here with 16½ points. Bishop Timon & St. Jude High from Buffalo was second with 15. Pioneer Central School was third with 9½.

There was another clear winner at the top of the Junior High Championship as Lilia Poteat scored 5½-½. Last year's winner, former Schenectady Champion Patrick Chi, did not play this year, but if he had he would have been the highest rated player by a substantial margin. Second through seventh with 4½-1½ were Anthony Panat, Gabriel Katz, Kyle Moon, Maya McGreen, Jonathan Baccay and Jack Wen. Eighth through thirteenth with 4-2: Kamil Chmielewski, Mariah McGreen, Kevin Marin, Gu Sheng-Ming, Webster Kehoe and Mubassar Uddin. Fourteenth through eighteenth with 3½-2½ were Michael Ainsworth, William Shaffer, Zachary Martin and Dilip Aaron. Vignesh Pernati was top player under 1200 with 2½-3½ and Patrick Phillips was first under 1000, also with 2½.

Top team here, by a substantial margin, was Brooklyn's Intermediate School 318 with 17 points. Wilson Foundation Academy from Rochester was second with 12½. Pioneer Central School was third

with 8½.

Now comes the issue of who will be representing New York at the national invitational championships later in the year. Deepak Aaron, the clear winner of the High School section is obviously the candidate for the Denker Tournament of High School champions. However figuring out the candidate for the De Wain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions was a bit more complicated. You'd think it would be Lilia Poteat who won the Junior High section, but you'd be wrong. According to rules stated before the event, the invitation would go to the K-8 player who finished the tournament with the highest rating, and that was James Black (2,312) who played up a section in the High School Championship. Another 8th grader also playing in the High School section was last year's winner, Justus Williams (2301). By contrast, Ms. Poteat's post tournament rating is only 1958.

To continue with the sections, James Lyon won the Middle School Reserve section with a 5½-½ score. Second through fifth with 5-1 were: Malik Williams, Jason Levine, Jayden Reaves and Malachi Myers. Zachary Madden, Matthew Kue and Justin Chan were sixth through eighth with 4½-1½. There was a sizable crowd at 4-2, taking ninth through nineteenth place: Todd Thompson, Bradley Schrock, Jack Maccoll, Jovanna D'Alonzo, Marquis Brown, Alexander Liptak, Edmond Zhao, Benjamin Rummell, Ian Starnes, Curtis Chung and Samuel Kaplan. Ian Starnes, already mentioned, was top player under 700 while Abdoulaye Diallo was top player under 500 with 3-3. Timothy Carlos and Tyshon Alfred with first and second unrated, both with 3-3.

Top team here was Promise Academy II with 16½ points. Pioneer Central School from Yorkshire was second with 15½ points winning on tiebreaks over New York's Public School 184, also with 15½.

There was another perfect score at the top of the Elementary Championship section as Thomas Knoff was clear first with 6-0. Second and third with 5-1 were Warren Wang and Ben Goldstein. Fourth through tenth with 4½-1½ were: Maury Ahram, David Brodsky, Maxwell Beem, Jonathan Chan, Katherine Davis, Christian Baccay and Spencer Ha. Eleventh through twenty-first with 4-2 were: Edwin Jin, Hugh Chapin, Nicholas Vucelic, Reuben Oneill, Adrian Durkin, Thomas Pannett, Naomi Bashkansky, Christopher Rush, Jacob Chen, Nicholas Neu and

Sean Chung. Philip Raftopoulos was top player under 1000.

Top team here was Browning School with 17½, closely followed by New York City Lab School with 17 points. Dalton School was third with 15 points.

There were two players with 5½ at the top of the Elementary Reserve section, with Ryan Chang nosing out Capital District player Sandeep Alampalli by half a tiebreak point. Third through sixth with 5-1 were: Jayvon Bullock, Benjamini Chernjavsky, Matthew Franklyn and Ronan Schneider. Seventh through tenth with 4½-1½ were: Colin Mandl-Ciolek, Krowker Direny, Tremain Salmons and Robbie Galpern. Eleventh through nineteenth with 4-2 were: Henry Smith, Ali Cisse, Zeke Orlow, Kyle Tau, Jack Morgan, Ethan Inniss, Sezer Benoit-Savci, Reed O'Brien and Jessica MacArthur. In the above group Ethan Innes was top player under 500. Declan Rush was top under 300 while Aletheia Ieta and Yates Wong were first and second unrated. All three scored 3-3.

Top team here was Public School 139 with 18½ points. Browning School was second with 15½ while Brooklyn's Public School 282 was third with 14½ points.

The Primary Championship was the largest of the eight sections, but there was only one player at the top: Lucian Hicks scored a perfect 6-0 to take clear first place. Second through seventh with 5-1 were: Andrew Chen, Nicolas Civantos, Harris Lencz, Aidan Ahram, Daniel Levkov and Stefan Jelenkovic. Eighth through fifteenth with 4½-1½ were: Tyler Roonrapunt, Hudson Beaudoin, William Hu, Erik Brodsky, Michael Chu, Sean Cushman, Christopher Yang and Mateos Halle-Manas. There was a big pileup at 4-2 as the following players came in sixteenth through thirty-fourth: Jonathan D'Alonzo, Atticus Lee, Moses Weintraub, Wesley Wang, Theo Kaubisch, Wendell Lambert, Kyle Miller, Alexander Raftopoulos, Gabriel Tinica, Philip Hoover, Theo Kogan, Haruki Izumi, Mario Tutuncu-Macias, Sam Posner, Akira Nakada, James Lee, Leonard Liu, Nicholas Dingle and Adam Perlstein. Laura Cohn (3½-2½) was top unrated player here with Kyle Skop (2½-3½) second unrated.

Top team here was Dalton School with 18½ points, followed by Columbia Grammar School with 17 points and Public School 41 with 16½ points.

The Primary K-1 championship was only run on one day, Sunday, with five rounds and a faster time control. Turnout was surprisingly strong here with the room set aside for this section being filled almost to capacity. Nevertheless there was only one player with a perfect 5-0 score and that was Jonathan Manta. Second and third with 4½-½ were Teoma Zhigulin and Julian Daniels. Fourth through fourteenth with 4-2 were: Caden Jung, Griffin Cherniss, Hamilton Shillingford, Ryan Katz, Dylan Gerstenhaber, Jonathan Waldorf, Maximus Lu, Frantisek Korda, Rio Arengo, Mason Menin and Arjun Patel. Luis-Joshua Casenas and Timmy Meyer were first and second unrated, both with 3-3.

Dalton School was top team here with 15½ points. Columbia Grammar School was second with 14 points and Nest School was third with 13 points.

The tournament was organized by the New York State Chess Association with Steve Immitt as chief director.

Usually I have little luck getting games from the players at this event. Scholastic players are not big on turning in their game scores anyway, and the fast time control (Game in 61) caused many games to end in frantic time scrambles with nobody keeping score. Nevertheless I received a number of nice games, mainly thanks to Deepak Aaron who emailed most of his games to me after the fact. Even better, most of these games were well worth looking at. Although the games weren't perfect, it seemed to me that Deepak was playing at a level above the rest of his competition, but that may only be local pride talking.

Here is the last round battle between defending High School champion Justus Williams and now current champion Deepak Aaron. Since Deepak was leading by a full point going into the final round Williams obviously felt that a draw was a good as a loss, so he played take-no-prisoners chess, producing a very exciting game with the players each attacking on opposite wings. Williams missed a chance to tilt the balance in his favor, and then was knocked out by a startling rook sacrifice that led into a king hunt that concluded with black resigning.

I sat down with the crosstables, and calculated that even if Deepak had lost this game he would have won on tiebreaks, by the very slimmest of margins. However, prior to the game that would have been impossible to figure out because everything depended on how their previous opponents did in their as-yet-

unplayed sixth round games.

Players in the Primary section get their results recorded.



NM Deepak Aaron (2309) – NM Justus Williams (2314) [B86] Sicilian Defense NYS Scholastic Championship High School Section, round 6 Saratoga Springs, NY, March 4, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.f3 Qc7 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.0-0-0 Nc5

In the Sicilian especially variations are rife with transpositions, and as they ebb and flow into one another the results can shift pretty widely. For example, the addition of this move shifts things very much in Black's favor, with him winning 61% of the time.

12.g4 b5 13.h4 Bd7

This makes the game unique, but it looks like a second-best move. Strongest seems to be 13...b4! and now all three of the games I have with this line are wins for Black.

14.h5 b4 15.Nb1 a5

To be considered was 15...d5! and after 16.g5 dxe4 17.gxf6 Nd3+, White is obliged to play 18.Qxd3. Generally speaking, if Black can get away with playing ...d5 in the open Sicilian he has a good game.

16.g5 Ne8 17.g6 a4

17...h6 initially seems to be the best way to blunt White's attack, but now black has to face 18.Bxh6! a4 (18...gxh6? 19.Qxh6 loses quickly) 19.Bc4 Nxe4 20.fxe4 Qxc4 and White seems to have a winning attack after 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.h6+.

18.Bc4 b3 19.h6

This looks rather risky. Better seems to be 19.gxh7+ Kxh7 20.Na3.

19...fxg6 20.axb3 axb3 21.Nxb3 Bb5?

I got this game from Deepak less than 24 hours after it was played so he didn't have much time to go over it. The one note he made here was that 21...Nxe4! looks very strong for Black, in fact it has been in the air for some time. After 22.fxe4 Qxc4 black seems to be clearly better.

22.hxg7 Rf7?

However, if we are looking for the losing move, this seems to be the real culprit. Instead after 22...Nxc7 23.Bxc5 Bxc4 24.Bxd6 Bxd6 25.Qxd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Bxb3 27.cxb3 Rxf3 Black looks like he has close to a winning ending. 23.Rxh7!

This must have been quite a shock to Black. This sacrifice looks to be a winner, or very close to it.

23...Kxh7?

After this, Black seems to be irretrievably lost. He had to play 23...Bxc4 and now White has to find 24.Nxc5! Rxg7 25.Rxg7+ Nxg7 26.Qc3 with excellent winning chances for the first player.

24.Qh2+ Kxg7 25.Rh1 Bh4

You know things are bad when you have to just throw away a piece like this, but Black has no choice because his King needs a flight square.

26.Qxh4 Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.Bg5+ Kd7 29.Bxb5+
What we have here is an old-fashioned King hunt. The Black monarch ultimately gets away, but at a very high price - Black could resign here.

29...Kc8 30.Qxe8+ Kb7 31.Nxc5+ Ka7 32.Qxe6 Qxc5 33.Qxf7+ 1-0

Below, New York City's Edward R. Murrow School celebrates their championship.



Here is another game from Deepak Aaron. In the first round of Swiss System tournaments, unequal pairings are usually the order of the day, and that was certainly the case here with more than 500 rating points separating the two players. In spite of this, Kristian Jacome gives a good accounting of himself and the game was at least even until some

complicated tactics cost him his Queen. In fact, it might be said that this game is all about the queen, and how dangerous she can be in the hands of a skilled player.

Kristian Jacome (1776) – Deepak Aaron (2309) [D00] QP Game

NYS Scholastic Championship

High School Section, round 1 Saratoga Springs, NY, March 3, 2012

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.c3 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Nbd2 b6

This somewhat unusual development takes the game right out of opening theory, although it transposes back in after a couple more moves. Black seems to be playing somewhat unusual moves to take the game out of what White might know, and since White's setup is not very challenging, Black has the leeway to indulge himself.

7.Ne5 Bb7 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Ndf3 0-0 10.0-0 Ne4 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Ne5 Qe8 13.f3 Nd6 14.e4

Playing e3-e4 is one of the goals of this opening so it's hard to fault White for playing it, but to be considered was 14.Qc2 and now Black has to play 14...f5 to save his h-pawn. In spite of what I said earlier about the London not being challenging, Black can quickly get into trouble if he doesn't take White's Kingside attack seriously.

14...dxe4 15.fxe4 c5 16.d5?!

With the benefit of hindsight, it seems this isn't the best way to proceed. The pawn sacrifice 16.Qg4! looks promising: 16...Bxe4 17.Bxe4 and now Black can't play 17...Nxe4?! because of 18.Bh6.

16...f6 17.Nc4 Rd8 18.Nxd6 Bxd6 19.Bxd6 Rxd6

With three sets of minor pieces traded, White's attacking chances on the Kingside are just about gone, so the game is roughly even.

20.Re1 b5 21.Qb3 Rb6

21...c4? doesn't win a piece: 22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.Qxb7 and White is better.

22.Qa3 c4 23.Qxa7

"Come into my parlor, said the spider to the fly..." White seems to be obliged to take this pawn, but it leaves his Queen in a tight spot.

23...Qd8 24.Bc2 exd5 25.exd5?

This seems like a routine recapture, but in fact it is the losing move. It seems White had to play 25.Rad1 and the game might continue: 25...Qc7 26.Qa3 Ra8 27.Qb4 Re6 and Black is only a little better.

25...Qxd5 26.Be4 Qc5+ 27.Kh1 Ra8

The sting at the end of the tail - White's Queen is trapped.

28.Qxa8+ Bxa8 29.Bxa8

The material difference between a Queen and a Rook and a Bishop is not much - a little more than a pawn - but the Queen is such a tricky piece, and it's so easy for her to attack two weaknesses at once that the side with the Queen nearly always wins.

29...Rb8 30.Be4 Rd8 31.Re2 g6 32.Rae1 Kg7 33.Bf3 Rd7 34.a3 Qg5 35.h3 h5 36.Bc6 Rc7

It was probably better to trade off a pair of Rooks with 36...Rd2 , but Black is winning anyway.

37.Re7+ Rxe7 38.Rxe7+ Kh6 39.Rb7?

This speeds the end. 39.Re2 , trying to set up a fortress, puts up more stubborn resistance.

39...Qc1+ 40.Kh2 Qxb2 41.a4 Qxc3 42.Rxb5 Qd2 43.a5?!

This immediately loses a piece, but Black's advanced c-pawn spells doom for White anyway.

43...Qd6+ 44.Kh1 Qxc6 0-1

As I mentioned above current New York State Champion Michael Chiang had a tough time of it here, finishing with 3½ points. Of course I should point out that he withdrew after round five so he could have tied for second with 4½ had he won his last round game. His woes began early with an almost 500 point upset draw in round one. In point of fact, his opponent was better for much of the game, and when a draw was agreed the position was dead even. The only fault I can find with Ganedi's play is that he could have pressed his advantages a bit more, but what's a master to do when a B-player refuses to blunder?

Chiang's rough road can be a problem in scholastics for the top players, that often are used to playing masters in open/"adult" tournaments. Playing back in the scholastics with weaker players who often deviate from theory early in the game. The lower-rated player's choice of the Giuoco Piano, a sound opening, but one you almost never see at the master level, is a good example of how to throw off booked-up scholastic stars.

Likhit Ganedi (1751) – Michael Chiang (2240)
[C54] Giuoco Piano
NYS Scholastic Championship
High School Section, round 1
Saratoga Springs, NY, March 3, 2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.Nbd2 d6 7.c3 a6 8.Bb3 Ba7 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Kh8 11.Nf1 Ng8 *Knights on the back rank - all the cool kids are doing it!*

12.Ng3 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nxf5 Rxf5 15.Bc2

Since White has the two Bishops opening up the game

with 15.d4 looks strong. The game might continue 15...exd4 16.cxd4 Qf8 17.Be3 and White is better.

15...d5 16.d4 e4 17.Nh2

Since the pawn is double-pinned, White doesn't have to move the Knight yet. My computer recommends 17.Be3 Qd6 18.Nd2 with f2-f3 in the air.

**17...Qh4 18.Qe2 Raf8 19.Be3 R5f7 20.Rad1 **

Practically crying to be played here is 20.f3 which seems to give white a good game, but it takes a bit of nerve since Black has a rook battery down the f-file.

20...Nce7 21.Ng4?! Ng6

Now White can't break on f3, so I would say that Black has equalized here.

22.Qd2 Nf6 23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.dxe5 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Nh5 26.Rxd5 Rxf2 27.Bxe4 Nf4?!

There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with 27...Rxb2.

28.Rd2 Rxd2 29.Qxd2 Qg5 30.Qe3?!

White could hang on to his e-pawn with 30.Kh1 c6 31.Bf3.

30...c6 31.a3 Qxe5 32.Bf3 Qg5 33.Kh2 Qf5 34.Bg4 Qd5

The winning attempt that suggests itself is going after White's Queenside pawns with 34...Qc2. However I'm sure Black looked at it and discovered that White gets a lot of play after 35.Bf3 Qxb2 36.Qc5 Ng6 37.Be4 Rf6 38.Rd1. 35.Qg3

Here the players agreed to a draw - the position is pretty much dead even.

½-½

A happy group from Western New York appears under the NYSCA banner.



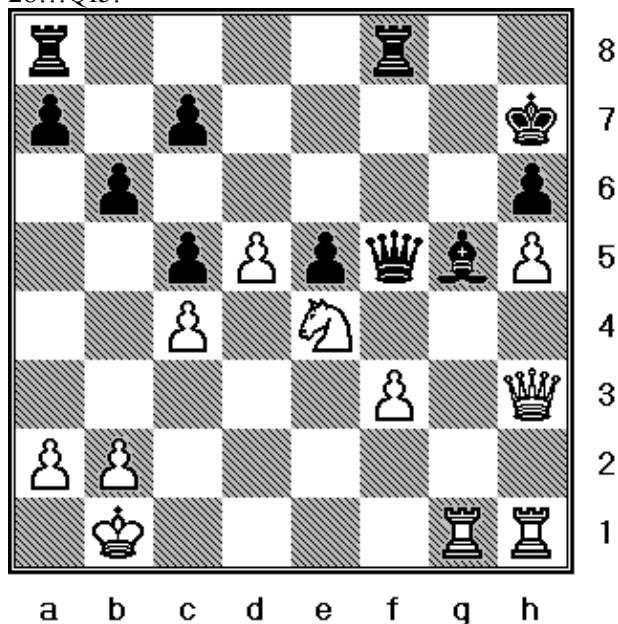
Kistler's Rules Stop Stubborn Prieto

Kistler repeats as Watertown Chess Club
Champion
By Don Klug

Dr. David Kistler was not about to let a stellar 36-game season slip away from him with a repeat Game Three loss to former club champion Adolfo Prieto in the Watertown Chess Club Championship Match. Dr. Kistler had outscored Mr. Prieto 7 ½- ½ during the tournament season and was now tied at 1 ½- 1 ½ in the match. He needed only draw Game Four to repeat his 2010 championship title. Mr. Prieto had other thoughts, but Kistler's "rules" prevailed.

Mr. Prieto spent 21 minutes of the game 90-time control on his 13th move and another 14 on move 20. The resulting time deficit left him vulnerable to Dr. Kistler's late game aggressiveness. The result was that he succumbed to the will of expert Kistler.

Dr. Kistler offered the exchange of Queens on with 28...Qf5.



With less than six minutes to complete the game, Mr. Prieto could not take the time to look at the line 29.Rg3 Bf4 30.Rg4 Rf7 31.Rhg1 Be3 32.Rg7+. Had he had the time, White would have held a small edge, but Mr. Prieto would still have had to find the win. The resulting trade led to Black's counter attack and crumbled White's position. By move 34...Rxc4, Black held an extra pawn and the championship. Mr. Prieto graciously resigned and congratulated Dr. Kistler.

Prieto, Adolfo (1900) - Kistler, David (2046) [E73]
WCC 2011 Championship Match (Game 4, January
10, 2012)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0
6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Nbd7 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.g4 Nc5
11.f3 Ng8 12.h4 f5

White spent 21 minutes assessing the position before making this move, leaving just 51 minutes for the balance of the game.

13.exf5 gxf5 14.gxf5 Bxf5 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Bd3
Ne7 17.h5 Qd7 18.Be4 Bf6 19.Qf2 b6

Black spent 15 minutes of clock time before making this move. White has 37 minutes left to Black's 47 minutes on their respective clocks.

20.Nge2

White lingered for 14 minutes deciding on this move, leaving just 23 minutes for the game. Fritz sees White with a slight advantage. [under consideration was 20.d6 Nc6 21.Qc2 Bd8 22.dxc7 Bxc7 23.Nd5 Bd8 24.Ne2=]

20...Bxe4 21.Nxe4

Capturing with the "f" pawn would strand the White King in the middle of the board.

21...Nf5! 22.0-0-0

White needs a win for the championship. Queenside castling connects the Rooks. [Fritz suggests: 22.Qg1 Bh4+ 23.Kd2 Rg8 24.Qh2=]

22...Qa4

Black finally attacks, but...

23.Qg2!

...counters Black's Queen move.

23...Qe8

[Black need only draw to win the championship. A continued attack could be risky. 23...Qxc4+ 24.N2c3 Kh8 25.Qg6 Bg5+ 26.Kb1?]

24.Rdg1 Qf7 25.Qh3?

White has only 12 minutes left and the alternative seems to look very drawish. [25.Qg6+ Qxg6 26.hxg6+ Kg7 27.N2g3 Nxg3 28.Rxg3 Rad8?]

25...Nd6 26.N2c3?

Behind on time and under pressure White is moving quickly and misses: [26.Nxd6 cxd6 27.Qf5+ Kh8 28.Qg6 the Queen MUST move. 28...Bg5+ 29.Rxg5 hxg5 30.Qh6+ Qh7 31.Qxd6=]

26...Bg5+

[Fritz suggests: 26...Nxc4 27.Qf1 Nd6 28.Qd3 Nxe4 29.Nxe4 Kh8=]

27.Kb1

With only 6:09 left on the clock White makes the right move. [Fritz looked at 27.Nxg5+ hxg5 28.Qg4 Qxf3 29.Qxg5 Qf4+ 30.Qxf4 Rxf4 31.b3 Raf8 but the sequence is a draw at best.]

27...Nxe4

Black has been eyeing the end game pawn structure and anticipates the White "h" pawn as a target. [the alternative sequence favors White 27...Be3 28.Nxd6 cxd6 29.Rg6 Rad8 30.Qg4]

28.Nxe4 Qf5

Black forces the Queen trade and with less than 6 minutes, White is unable to find the correct move.

29.Qxf5+

The Queen trade loses the match for White. [29.Rg3 Bf4 30.Rg4 Rf7 31.Rhg1 Be3 32.Rg7+ and White still would have an edge.]

29...Rxf5 30.Rf1 Raf8 31.Rh3 Rf4 32.Nxg5+ hgx5

...and Black is now in control of the game and match.

33.Re1 R8f5 34.Re3 Rxc4 35.Re4 Rd4 36.Kc2 Rxd5

White resigns **0-1**

Buffalo Niagara Chess News with the assistance of Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner



The March Game-60 Tournament held at the Main Place Mall on Saturday, March 10, which drew 17 players, including several players who participated the previous week in the New York State Scholastics in Saratoga. Players at the March tournament are shown above.

The March Scholastic Champion was Shaka E. Davis, who also received a big hug and big smiles from father NM Lionel L. Davis. Second place and Top Female Award presented to Alexis J. Schlaak, Ashton A. William of the Stars of India Chess Club.

The March Game-60 Open Section had 10 players in one combined section. Expert Barry Davis crept ever closer to restoring his National Master rating with a 3-0 triumph, ending the tournament with a rating of 2194. Gary A. Boye Percy Barbour and college student Tamal T. Biswas all tied for second with 2-1

scores. Boye beat the other two second-place finishers, but lost to Davis in the last round. Top Under 1400 prize winner Glenn P. Conlin also had two points.

The following week, the Irish Shamrock was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy. The Shamrock drew 27 players in two sections on St. Patrick's Day. Barry Davis continued his winning ways, and restored his National Master title by scoring 3 ½ points in the four-round tournament. Davis took a half-point bye in the first round, and then swept the field in the remaining three rounds, beating NM Lionel Davis in the last round to clinch the title. Lionel Davis and Harish Srinivasan tied for second with 3-1 scores. Srinivasan was upset in the first round by Justin Craddock, and then won three straight to come back through the field. Ryan Madden, Craddock and Adam Chelpinski tied for fourth with 2 ½ points.

Steve Bear won the Under 1500 with 3 ½ points, gaining over 100 rating points in the process. His only draw was to James Paul in the third round. Chris Darling, Charles Davis and Lucas Grisanti tied for second with 3-1 scores.



The *In Celebration of Black History Month* tournament drew 19 chess players to Buffalo's Main Place Mall on February 11.

NM Lionel Davis and Expert Sam Copeland tied for first in the Open section with 2 ½ points, drawing in the last round to secure the first-place tie. Barry Davis, Marijan Procyk, Harish Srinivasan and high school student Kevin Roulhac tied for third with two points in the closely-contested 10-player section.

James Paul and James Lyon tied for first in the Under 1500 section using the same path: a half-point bye in the first round and two wins in the nine-player section. Relative newcomer Jerome Green and Steve Baer tied for third with two points. Baer beat Green

in the second round, but then lost to Lyon in the last round.

James Lyon won the Harold S. Wiles and Frank K. Harney Memorial K - 6 Scholastic Medals section. Dekayla Dubose was second and Shaka Davis was third. The event was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael Mc Duffie.

A total of 29 players participated in the President's Day Classic in Buffalo on February 18. NM Lionel Davis and Expert Barry Davis tied for first in the 11-player Open section with 3 ½ points. The two Davises drew in the last round after sweeping through the field in the first three rounds. Long-time Buffalo-area organizer Tom Warner and Lucas Seybold tied for third with 3-1 scores.

The Under 1500 section with a perfect score triumph for Glenn Conlin, who won the event with four points. David Curtis tied for second in his second tournament along with Charles Davis. Both had 3-1 scores, though surprisingly neither one played the section champion. James Paul was clear fourth in the 13-player section with 2 ½ points.

Twenty-eight players helped celebrate the loving memories with the Soudant-O'Leary family in the Main Place Mall on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

The results from the Soudant-O'Leary K-6 Stars Section crowned new USCF member Dekayala S. Dubose, undefeated Champion in her first scholastic chess tournament. Second place went to Ashton William, Heim Elementary for his first scholastic tournament trophy, third place was Ruby Z. Soudant, William J. O'Leary's granddaughter, fourth place was James Shippens and fifth place was Logan Wendt from the Lockport Knights Chess Club.

Maxwell Peters swept the Scholastic section with a 3-0 score. There was a logjam for second place in the 12-player section, with Trevor Cohn, Lucas Grisanti, Todd Thompson, Dylan Teague and Bradley Schrock all scoring two points.

In the Soudant Under 1500 Section, the champion was Steve L. Baer. There was a second place tie between James J. Paul, MD, Michael Skok and Adam Chelpinski. The biggest upsets in the tournament were Michael Skok with 424 pts defeating James J. Paul, MD (1489) and Steve L. Baer with 180 pts defeated Canadian player Vinay Sharma(1384).

In the William J. O'Leary Memorial Open Section Co- Champions were National Master Barry Davis and National Master Lionel L. Davis. The Under 2000 prize winner was Erik W. Lubas.

Top Upset leaders were Brian W. Sayers with 748 points, Kevin N. Roulhac with a 492 point upset, Gary A. Boye with a 313 point upset, and Lucas Seybold with a 116 point upset.

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2011-12 Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League Recap

by Larry King

Final League Standings

Fischer Conference

Team	Matches Won	Matches Drawn	Matches Lost	Match Points	Game Points
Cornwall Central HS Team 1	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	37.0
Middletown HS	3.0	0.0	2.0	3.0	18.0
James O'Neill HS Team 2	2.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	16.0
Monroe-Woodbury HS Team 2	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	14.0
Highland Falls Middle School	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	8.5

Kasparov Conference

Team	Matches Won	Matches Drawn	Matches Lost	Match Points	Game Points
James O'Neill HS Team 1	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	34.5
Kingston HS	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	28.0
The Mount Academy	3.0	0.0	2.0	3.0	23.5
Monroe-Woodbury HS Team 1	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	21.0
Cornwall Central HS Team 2	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	15.5

Top individuals with most points during the season: Kostya Shetekauri of Monroe-Woodbury (15 points out of 15 games). Second through eighth were Timothy Mills of James O'Neill Team 1 (13.5 out of 15), John Darling of Cornwall Central HS Team 1 (13 points out of 14), Nate Matteson of Kingston HS (11 points out of 14 games), Aleks Rosenbaum of Highland Falls Middle School (10 points out of 14 games), Alister Collins of Cornwall HS Team 1 (9 points out of 10 games), Christian Irizarry of Middletown HS (9 points out of 13 games), and Jacob Sizemore of James O'Neill HS Team 2 (9 points out of 14 games played).

Semi-Final Matches

Cornwall Central HS Team 1 vs Kingston HS: John Darling and John Martello each won two games as Cornwall nipped Kingston 5-4. Cornwall Central won two of the three games in the final set to advance to the finals.

James O'Neill Team 1 vs Middletown HS: James O'Neill won the match, 6-3, despite Middletown's Christian Irizarry winning three games. Timothy Mills and Ryan McCabe had two wins apiece, while Dave Sanz and Nick Fischer accounted for the other O'Neill victories.

The champions from Cornwall High School are pictured below with their coach.



Consolation Match

Kingston HS vs Middletown HS: Kingston easily won the match, 8.5-0.5. Tom Schouten and Nathan Matteson won three games apiece, and Michael Liu won twice and drew one game.

Championship Match

Cornwall Central HS Team 1 vs James O'Neill HS Team 1: John Darling's three wins led Cornwall HS to its third consecutive championship, defeating O'Neill HS 7.5-1.5. Alister Collins had two victories, Chase Huestis had a win and a draw, and John Martello won one game. Timothy Mills scored all of O'Neill's points.

End-Of-The-Season Five-Round Swiss

The end-of-season five-round Swiss tournament was held at the same time as the playoffs. The event included players who did not participate in the playoffs. Kostya Shetakuri of Monroe-Woodbury HS won the 23-player section with a 5-0 score. Adrian Burnett, Leroy Meier, and Titus Decker, all The Mount Academy students, each scored four points. Other trophy winners were Shawn Burnett and Ella Collin, each with three points.

The Mount Academy won the team portion of the event, scoring 15 points. Cornwall Central HS finished second with 10 points, Kingston. HS finished third with 9 points, and James O'Neill HS finished fourth with 8 points.

Please go to mhscl.lktechnodude.com for detailed info on the 2011-12 season and the league.

Weak Squares -- The Scholastic Column

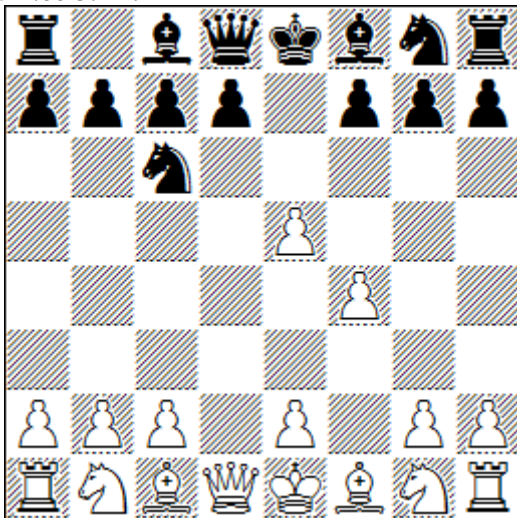
By Zachary Calderon

This is a topic that is incredibly important. All throughout a chess game, what squares you do and don't control can be a matter of winning or losing. Here is a possible example.

1.d4 e5?!

The Englund gambit. A really bad opening, but it contains many traps that White must be aware of before he can seize the advantage. Openings like this tend to be favorites of scholastic players, as they often lead to quick checkmates against the unsuspecting. The higher the player moves up the rating scale, though, the less likely such tactics are going to be effective.

2. dxe5 Nc6 3. f4?



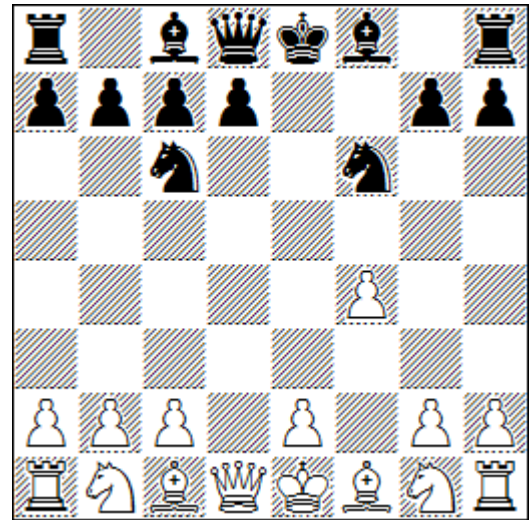
This move unnecessarily weakens the e4 square, as we will see. Better is 3. Nf3, 3. Bf4, 3. Nc3 or even 3. Qd5. 3...f6!

Now that the e4 square has been weakened, Black quickly moves in to take advantage of that weak square and open lines.

4. exf6

Other moves aren't any better, as they allow White's e-pawn to be doubled and isolated in the center. Perhaps White's best try is 4. e6!? with an unclear position.

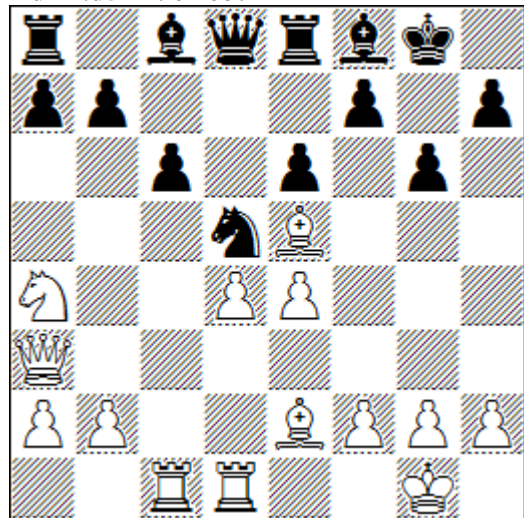
4...Nxf6



We can see why Black's position is preferable, as he has obvious compensation for the pawn sacrifice. White cannot get in the move e4 to free his position, and Black can develop his pieces very fast, having two more pieces developed than White after three moves.. Black is going to play d5, Bf5 or Bg4, Bc5 and castling, all very rapidly. Notice how the moves d5 and Bf5 have such a vice grip on the e4 square. Later in the game, Black can take this square with, say, a Knight.

Let's take a look at an example by former World Chess Champion Max Euwe, where he rips into his opponents position via the f6 square. Let's get to the critical position from a Queen's Gambit Declined Slav Variation.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 g6 5. Bf4 Bg7 6. e3 0-0 7. Qb3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbd7 9. Ne5 Qe8 10. Be2 Nxe5 11. Bxe5 Qd8 12. 0-0 Qb6 13. Qa3 Re8 14. Rac1 Bf8 15. Na4 Qd8 16. Rfd1 Nd5 17. e4 e6?

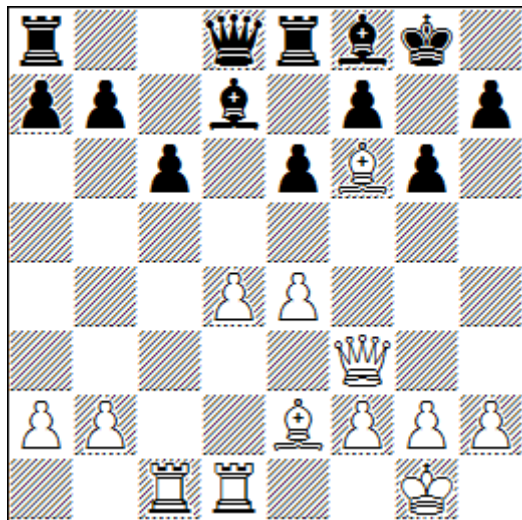


The critical position has been reached. Black played 17...e6?!, allowing the f8 Bishop to attack the Queen. This, however, fatally weakens the f6 square.

18. Qf3

Euwe applies more pressure to the f6 square. With the Knight under threat, the f6 square falls.

18...Nb6 19. Nc5 Nd7 20. Nxd7 Bxd7 21. Bf6



Attacking the Queen, and getting a good grip on f6. If necessary, White could play e5 to enforce his control on that square.

21...Qa5 22. Rc5! Qxa2

The Rook is untouchable. 22...Bxc5? dxc5 and not only is the d7 Bishop under attack from the Rook, the Black King is severely in danger with the dark-squared Bishop gone. Qf4-h6-g7 mate is a serious threat.

23. Rh5!

Once again, the Rook is untouchable: 23...gxh5 24. Qg3+ and mate to follow.

23...e5

Also necessary. White was threatening Qh3. If, say, 23...Qxb2?? 24. Qh3! And now

24...e5 25. Rxh7 and mate on h8 is unstoppable.

24...h5 25. Rxh5! gxh5 26. Qg3+ and mate is coming.

24. dxe5 Be6 25. Qf4

Preparing Qh4.

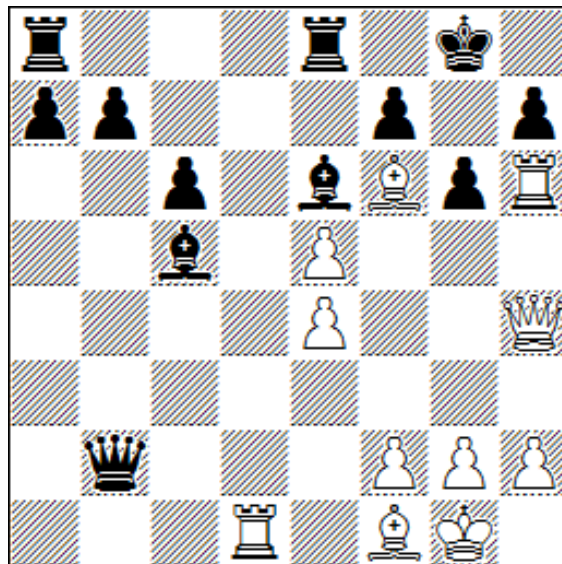
25...Qxb2 26. Bf1 Be7 27. Qh4 Bc5 28. Rh6 (diagram)

There is still time for white to throw away the game.

28. Rxh7? Qxf2+ 29. Qxf2 Bxf2+ 30. Kxf2 Kxh7 and White is suddenly down an exchange and losing.

28...a5 29 Rd3 Bxf2+?

Black is lost. The rest of the moves go without comment.



30. Qxf2 Qxf2 31. Kxf2 a4 32. Be2 Ra5 33. g4 Rxe5 34. Bxe5 Bc4 35. Rdh3 Bxe2 36. Bf6 Re6 37. e5 Bxg4 38. Rxh7 Rxf6 39. exf6 1-0

Black is down way too much material.

The Bishop on f6 had such a strong influence on the g7 and h8 squares, and it allowed White to have a strong attack. A weak square is where no pawns can remove the piece, as seen in both examples. They are also huge advantages to the player who can occupy them. So next time you're playing, watch your opponents moves carefully. Pawns can move forwards, but not back. They are permanent. So watch when he moves his pawns, and see what they left behind.

Kostya Shetakuri (L) of Monroe-Woodbury High School along with Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League President Doug Stack. Kostya won the 5-round Swiss tournament with a 5-0 score, and was the overall point leader during the season.



News from the Marshall

From staff reports

The Marshall's Bobby Fischer Memorial speed chess tournament on Friday, March 23 was a triumph for two Georgian GM's: Tamaz Gelashvili and Giorgi Kacheishvili. The two GM's had undefeated 8-1 scores, winning seven and drawing two. They drew each other in the seventh round of the tournament. The 80-player event attracted six GM's and close to 20 FIDE-titled players, and celebrated the memory of Fischer, one of the fastest-thinking chess players of all time.

Three players tied for third overall with 7-2 scores: GM's Alexandr Stripunsky and Aleksandr Lenderman and IM Irina Krush. Both Stripunsky and Lenderman lost to the top two players, while Krush only had one loss, in the sixth round to GM Mikheil Kekelidze. She drew the top two players.

IM John Bartholomew, top class prize winner FM Leif Pressman and top junior NM Justus Williams tied for sixth with 6 ½ points. Top senior was FM Asa Hoffman with 5 ½ points, and the Top Under 2000 prize went to Jason Ciano with five points. Upstater David Antonucci, Jr., Adrian Durkin and Russell Makofsky tied for the Top Under 1800 prize with four points.

Paul Albert provided financial assistance for the event, which was USCF Quick-rated.

The event was directed for the Marshall by Dr. Marcus Fenner, with assistance from Feliciano Martinez.

Seventeen players contested the Marshall March Masters.

Georgian GM Mikheil Kekelidze won the Marshall Invitational, a nine-round, two-weekend round-robin tournament on the first two weekends of February that offered the opportunity to obtain an IM norm without missing work. Kekelidze was an undefeated 8-1, with a first-round draw to fourth-place finisher Matthew Herman and a fifth-round draw to former U.S. Champion GM Nick DeFirimian the only blemishes on his record. De Firimian was clear second with 6 ½ points, also going undefeated with four wins and five draws.

The last of those draws was to NM Ildar Salakhutdinov, who obtained an IM norm with a 6-3 performance that included four wins, one loss to Kekelidze, and four draws. Salakhutdinov was able to finish off the norm performance with steady draws in the last three rounds. He earned 60 USCF rating points for his efforts, going from 2304 to 2364.

Herman was the tournament's other plus score, with an impressive 5-4 mark. Herman lost in the last round when a win would have secured a norm. In that situation, basically a draw is as good as a loss. Herman nonetheless crossed the 2400 USCF plateau.

The unusual format had one round on the first Friday night, and two rounds each Saturday and Sunday. Financial support was provided by Jeremy Graham, and the event was directed by Dr. Marcus Fenner.

Kekelidze and fellow GM Tamaz Gelashvili tied for first in the Marshall March Masters, held on March 20;. The two GM's drew in the last field after sweeping through the 17-player field at the monthly Grand Prix event at the Marshall. Senior Master Adam Maltese and FM Leif Pressman tied for third with three points. The tournament was directed by Gregory Keelfer.

IM Jay Bonin is the new International Master in residence at the Marshall. Bonin, a former New York State Champion and traditionally one of the most active players in the country, will analyze games every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the world-renowned club. There is a \$10 charge for non-members.

Bonin is still playing in events at the Marshall. At the March 8 Four Rated Games Tonight, he tied for second in the 25-player tournament behind the GM fixture of the club, Mikheil Kekelidze. Kekelidze scored an undefeated 3 ½ points, drawing Bonin in the last round after winning his first three games. Three other players tied with Bonin for second place with three points: NM Sylvain Carre, Michael Hehir and Jonathan Corbblah. Dr. Marcus Fenner directed the event for the Chess Center of New York.

Washington's Birthday was another triumph for Kekelidze in the Marshall February Masters. The Georgian GM scored 3 ½ points, drawing GM Aleksandr Lenderman in the third round of the tournament. Lenderman, IM's Marc Ty;er Arnold and Jay Bonin and NM Levy Rozman tied for second

with three points. Gregory Keener, Jr. directed for the Marshall.

Long Island Open Draws 162 for CCA Event

Continental Chess made a long-awaited return to Long Island on March 16-18 to celebrate spring in Ronkonkoma. A total of 161 players contested the tournament, which was the first CCA chess event on the Island in several years and hopefully a harbinger of things to come.

The closely-contested 37-player Open section ended in a four-way tie for top honors with four GM's getting four points each. They were New York State Chess Hall of Famer Joel Benjamin, Tamaz Gelashvili, Connecticut's Sergey Kudrin and Mikheil Kekelidze. Old foes Benjamin and Kudrin drew in the last round, opening the door for the two Georgians to split the first-place money. SM Michael Bodek, Texan NM Rawle Allicock, and Venezuelan IM Sarai Sanchez tied for fifth with 3 ½ points. Sanchez and Bodek also drew in the last round.

Another Venezuelan IM, Rafael Prasca Sosa, led the group at 3-2 tied for eighth place. The other players in the score group were NM Nathan Resika, NM Yefim Treger, Tim Mirabile and Robert Guevara.

The Under 2100 section was even closer, with a five-player logjam at the top of the 45-player section, with all five players scoring 4-1. Relative newcomer Massino Carini had bookend draws in the first and last rounds, including a pivotal draw against expert Frank Paculli to force the tie. New York State Hall of Famer Joe Felber, Dorothy Teasley and Ed Wielunski were the other players with four points. Wielunski won four straight after losing his first game.

The 44-player Under 1700 section was won by DC player Zachary Clare, who gained over 100 rating points in sweeping the section and leaving the ranks of the Under 1700 players. Relative newcomer Devin Camenares was clear second with an undefeated 4 ½ points, conceding only a fourth-round draw.

Four players tied for third with 4-1 scores: Yangyang Zhao (who drew Camenares in the fourth round), Namchul Shin, Scott Sheff and Luis Miro II. Zhao


also got his rating over 1700 with his undefeated result.

Three players tied for seventh with 3 ½ points: Marylander Christopher Coon, Eugene Vetter and Simon Popkin.

The Under 1300 section was a triumph for Georgia's Rob Ritchea, Jr., who swept the 35-player section with a perfect 5-0 score. Four players tied for second with 4-1 scores: Joel De Palo and K. Eric Crook of Rhode Island, both of whom were undefeated, and Ricardo Minier and Charilaos Aneziris. Carlos Garcia, Xiaoyong Wang and Andrew Yang tied for sixth with 3 ½ points.

The tournament was organized by the Continental Chess Association, with Bill Goichberg being the head tournament director, and Harold Stenzel being the lead assistant director.

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65th Square (including Check is in the Mail)

by FM and ICCM Alex Dunne

GAME OF THE MONTH

Beauty comes in different shapes. There is the beauty of the sacrificial attack, where material seems meaningless. There is the beauty of the positional squeeze where even the squares of the board seem to assist the winner. And there is the beauty of the utilitarian conversion of a Pawn plus in the opening to an endgame victory. Let the beauty begin!

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C58)

White: Alfredo Gotay (2159)

Black: Richard Miller (2041)

2011 Walter Muir

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7

Statistically Black has little reason to avoid the more usual 6...c6.

7.Qe2 Bd6 8.Nc3

Scoring very well here has been 8. b4, but only because Black rarely replies with the strong 8...c6!

8...c6

Morozevich-Sokolov, Sarajevo 1999, continued 8...00 9. Bxd7 Qxd7 10. a3 b6 11. d3 c6 12. b4 Nb7 13. dxc6 Qxc6 14. Nce4 and White went on to win.

9.dxc6 Nxc6 10.0-0

Herbrechtsmeier-Prill, Badenweiser 1988, continued 10. Bxc6 Bxc6 11. 00 00 12. d3 with a sound, safe position and an extra Pawn for White and development, mobility, and the two Bishops for Black.

10...Nd4

Saxlova-Chalupa, Most 1999, saw the more flexible 10...00 but that would most likely transpose into the Herbrechtsmeier game after 11. Bxc6.

11.Qd3 Be7

If Black is to use his lead in development, 11...Rc8 would make more sense. After 11...00 White has 12. Bxd7 Qxd7 13. Nd5! Qf5 14. Nxf6+ gxf6 15. Qxf5 Nxf5 16. Ne4 with chances.

12.Re1 Bxb5?!

This leads to an exchange of Queens and a Pawn plus endgame for White.

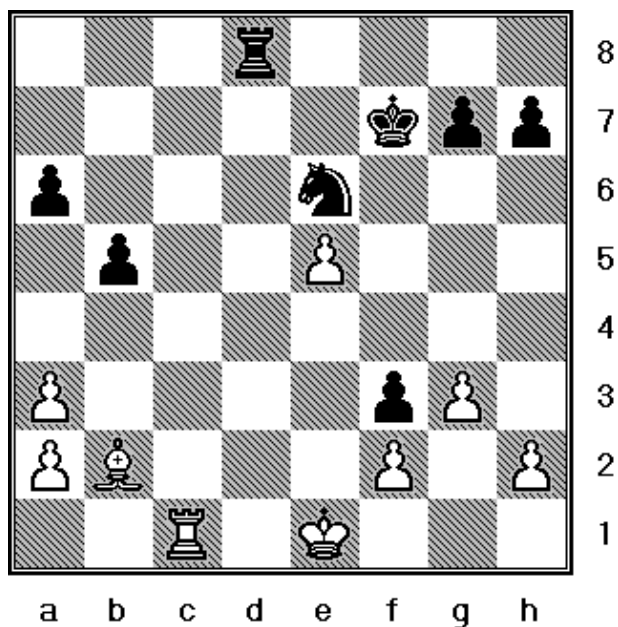
13.Nxb5 Nc6 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 15.Nf3 e4 16.Ng5 a6 17.Na3 0-0 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Rxe4 f5 20.Re3 Bxa3 21.bxa3

Avoiding 21. Rxa3 Nd4 and White loses material.

21...Nd4 22.Rb1 Nxc2 23.Rc3 Nd4 24.Rc7 b5 25.Kf1

Black's problem in this endgame is not so much the Pawn minus -- that is nearly negated by the doubled a-Pawns, it is the passed d-Pawn that hasn't yet moved and a remarkably healthy Bishop despite the fact that shortly almost all White's Pawns will be on dark squares.

25...f4 26.Bb2 f3 27.g3 Rf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Rc1 Ne6 30.Ke1 (diagram)



White has relentlessly simplified away his problems and now stands to win the endgame. The aggressive looking Pawn on f3 is isolated from the Black forces and is a weakness, not a strength. The caged-in White King will soon escape via d1-c2-d3.

30...Rd5?!

Black should probably try emergency aid to f3 by 30...g5!?

31.Rc3 Re5+

This check just seems to help White, but the endgame is already beyond salvation.

32.Kd1 Rf5 33.h4 a5

Helpless flailing now. This advance only gives White another target to shoot for.

34.Kc2 h5 35.Kd3 g6 36.Rc6 Nc5+ 37.Ke3 Nd7 38.Ra6 a4 39.Bc3 Ne5 40.Ke4 Nd7 41.Rd6 Nc5+ 42.Ke3 Ne6 43.d4

At last the d-Pawn begins its march toward queening.

43...Ng7 44.Rd7+ Kf8 45.d5 1-0

At this point Black exceeded the time limit and lost but the battle is hopeless. White will soon play Ke4. Bb4 and Rb7 annexing the queenside Pawns with an easy win.

The following is a Wild West affair with both sides having six guns drawn.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B23)

White: Preston Ladson (2087)

Black: Edward Addis (2163)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 Nf6 9.Qe1 0-0 10.f5 gxf5 11.Qh4 fxe4 12.dxe4 Qd7 13.h3 b5 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Nxe4 16.Rae1 f5 17.Ng5 Nf6 18.Ne6 Rf7 19.Rxf5 Kh8 20.Rg5 b4 21.Rg7 Qxe6 22.Rxe6 Rxf7 23.Ne2 Ng8 24.Qh4 Bxg2 25.Kf2 Rf8+ 26.Ke1 Rf1+ 27.Kd2 Bd5 28.Re3 Bf3 29.a3 Rg2 30.axb4 Rff2 31.bxc5 Bxe2 32.Kc3 dxc5 33.Qe4 Bb5 34.Qe5+ Nf6 35.Qb8+ Be8 36.Kc4 Rxc2+ 37.Rc3 Rxb2 38.Qd8 Rg8 39.Qc7 Bb5+ 40.Kxc5 Rg5+ 0-1

This melee has the reader guessing who is going to win until Move 40.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E99)

White: Gary Adams (2305)

Black: Mark Garner (2051)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Rc1 Ng6 16.Nb5 Rf7 17.Nf2 a6 18.Na3 b5 19.Nc2 Bf8 20.Nb4 Rg7 21.Nc6 Qe8 22.Ba5 h5 23.Kh1 Bd7 24.a4 Ne7 25.axb5 axb5 26.Bb4 Nc8 27.Bxb5 g4 28.Qe2 g3 29.hxg3 Rxf3 30.Ba6 h4 31.Bb7 Ra2 32.Rg1 Kh8 33.Bxc8 Bxc8 34.Ba3 Qh5 35.Nxe5 h3 36.gxh3 Bxh3 37.Rxf3 fxg3 38.Nxh3 Nxe4 39.Nf7+ Kg8 40.Kg2 Nf2 41.Nfg5 Qh4 42.Qe6+ 1-0

The unexpected withdrawal of Bruce Reynolds from the finals deprived us of more games like this one.

ENGLISH OPENING (A25)

White: Bruce Reynolds (2205)

Black: Thomas Connelly (2147)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.e3 0-0 6.Nge2 a6 7.d4 Ba7 8.d5 Ne7 9.d6 Nf5 10.dxc7 Qxc7 11.b3 d6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Qd3 Ne7 14.Bb2 Rfd8 15.Rac1 Bf5 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Qc6 19.Qd3 f5 20.Nc3 Bc5 21.Rfd1 Rf8 22.a3 a5 23.Nb5 f4 24.exf4 exf4 25.g4 f3 26.h3 Rf7 27.Qd2 d5 28.a4 Ng6 29.cxd5 Qb6 30.d6 Nf4 31.Kf1 Rd8 32.Bxg7 Re8 33.Bd4 Qd8 34.d7 Re2 35.Qxf4 Rxf4

36.Bxc5 Rf8 37.Rc3 Rf7 38.Rxf3 Rxf3 39.Kxe2 Rf6 40.Na7 1-0

After Black's slip on Move 11, White is merciless. That's what good chess is all about.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E77)

White: Chuck Cullum (2449)

Black: Mark Garner (2051)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 e5 11.Rb1 Ne8 12.Qd5+ Kh8 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.Bg5 Nxf3+ 15.Rxf3 Nf6 16.Qd2 Qb6 17.Rbf1 Bg4 18.Rxf6 Rxf6 19.Bxf6 Bxe2 20.Nd5 Qa6 21.Qh6 Rg8 22.Bxg7+ Rxf7 23.Rf8+ Rg8 24.Nf6 1-0

The positional squeeze occurs when one side gradually takes over the board one square at a time. In this game, it is the f5 square that starts the squeeze with 23. g4!

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B85)

White: David Porter (2177)

Black: Michael Allard (2146)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4 Nc6 9.Be3 a6 10.Qe1 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Bf3 Qc7 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Ne4 Qc7 18.Qg3 Rad8 19.c3 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Nxg3 gxf6 22.Nh5 Kf7 23.g4! Rg8 24.h3 e5 25.Be3 Kg6 26.Rf5 Kf7 27.Kg2 Rg6 28.Ng3 Nb6 29.Rxd8 Bxd8 30.Rh5 Nc4 31.Bc1 Kg8 32.Nf5 Nb6 33.b3 Nd5 34.c4 bxc4 35.bxc4 Ne7 36.c5 Nxf5 37.Rxf5 Rg7 38.Kf3 Rc7 39.Be3 Kf7 40.Ke4 Ke6 41.Rh5 Rb7 42.Rh6 Rb4+ 43.Kd3 Ra4 44.Rxh7 e4+ 45.Kc2 Rxa2+ 46.Kb3 Re2 47.Bd4 Rd2 48.Bc3 Rd7 49.Rxd7 Kxd7 50.Kc4 Ke6 51.h4 f5 52.h5 Bg5 53.gxf5+ Kxf5 54.c6 Ke6 55.Ba5 Bf4 56.Kd4 1-0

The King and Pawn endgame seemed good for Black, but the draw was well fought. Can a reader find an improvement ?

COLLE OPENING (D05)

White: Robert Kelo (1792)

Black: James Wood (2248)

2005 Golden Knights Semifinal

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2

Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Be7
 11.Qe2 Bd7 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Qe4 g6 14.Bh6 Bg7
 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.Qxe5+ f6 18.Qd6
 Bc6 19.Qxd8 Raxd8 20.Rad1 Rd6 21.Bc2 Rfd8
 22.Rxd6 Rxd6 23.Rd1 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 g5 25.Kf1 f5
 26.Bf3 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Kf6 28.Ke2 Ke5 29.Ke3 Kd5
 30.Kd3 b5 31.b3 e5 32.Ke3 h5 33.Kd3 g4 34.fxg4
 hxg4 35.Ke3 f4+ 36.Kd3 e4+ 37.Ke2 a5 38.Kd2 Ke5
 39.Ke2 Kf5 40.Kf1 a4 41.Kg2 Kg5 42.bxa4 bxa4
 43.c4 Kf5 44.c5 Ke5 45.h4 gxh3+ 46.Kxh3 Kd5
 47.Kg4 Kxc5 ½-½

When White's Queen wanders too far afield, Black turns all his guns onto the other side of the board, resulting in a 0-1 score.

TWO KNIGHTS TANGO (A54)

White: Jiri Kovats (2110)

Black: Wayne Pressnall (2142)

2005 Golden Knights Final

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 e5 5.d5 Ne7 6.e4
 Ng6 7.g3 Be7 8.Bg2 h6 9.h3 Nh7 10.h4 0-0 11.Qb3
 Nf6 12.h5 Nh8 13.Bd2 Bg4 14.Qxb7 Bxh5 15.Qa6
 Bg6 16.Nh4 Bh7 17.f3 Nd7 18.Nf5 Bg5 19.Ne3 Nc5
 20.Qa5 f5 21.b4 Nd3+ 22.Ke2 fxe4 23.Nxe4 Nf4+
 24.gxf4 exf4 25.Ng4 Bxe4 26.fxe4 f3+ 27.Bxf3 Bxd2
 28.Raf1 Bf4 29.Rhg1 Nf7 30.Bh1 Ng5 31.Qa3 Qe7
 32.Qd3 Rae8 33.Rf2 Nxe4 34.Bxe4 Qxe4+ 35.Qxe4
 Rxe4+ 36.Kd3 Ree8 37.Rh1 Bg5 38.Rh3 Re1
 39.Rxf8+ Kxf8 40.a3 g6 41.Nxh6 Rd1+ 42.Kc2 Rd4
 43.Rf3+ Kg7 44.Rf7+ Kxh6 45.Rxc7 Bf6 46.Kb3 g5
 47.Rxa7 g4 48.Rf7 Kg6 0-1

GRUENFELD DEFENSE (D85)

White: James Sawaski (2117)

Black: Frank Taylor (1990)

2007 Electronic Knights Final

Notes by James Sawaski

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.d4

Normally I would play g3 here, but this is the *Electronic Knights Finals* -- wins are a must. All of my databases have this as the most active with some winning percentages in the 60% + area. That was the choice.

5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 g6 7.e4

Again, I decide not to play around with my normal g3 positional stuff. My opponent has chosen an open type of game and I decided to oblige him. There is risk, but again you have to take chances in a finals section like this.

7...Bg7 8.Rb1

Another active move -- and again, the database research has proven like a good poker play, there is a good percentage of success with this line for White.

8...cxd4 9.Bb5+

This move is not listed with the resources I have. However, it did jump out at me as an extra developing move. White has one chance to check the King and develop a piece at the same time. This type of position calls for rapid development for White, look how the doorway to 00 is open as well. The grip on the center is firm. This looks like an e4 type of game now instead of an English. 9. cxd4 is the standard book line.

9...Nd7

I think 9...Nc6 is better. Black was probably worried about Bxc6 and the fear of an isolated c-Pawn might have also been concerning. 9...Nc6 10. cxd4 00 11. Bxc6 bxc6 but there is really nothing for Black to be afraid of -- he can use that isolated Pawn to chip away at the center.

10.cxd4 0-0 11.0-0 Nf6 12.Re1 Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3

White maintains rapid development. If you count the pieces White has developed, it is seven. Black has three pieces developed and if you count the Queen's open posting -- then it is four. The offer of a Pawn sacrifice is suffice in this position.

14...a6

14...Qxd4 15. e5 Ne8 16. Ba3 and White's development will far overwhelm Black.

15.Bf1

The Bishop has to come home. It is possible to move it to d3 or e2, but then the d-Pawn becomes more vulnerable because part of the offer of the sacrifice was to get the Rooks rolling and harass the Queen. So, Bf1 keeps those threats intact.

15...b6

I can't understand my opponent's logic. This move does nothing to improve his position. 15...b5 would have been fine. All I can think of is that he meant b5 and ended up with b6. An error in notation, maybe? b6 does nothing for Black.

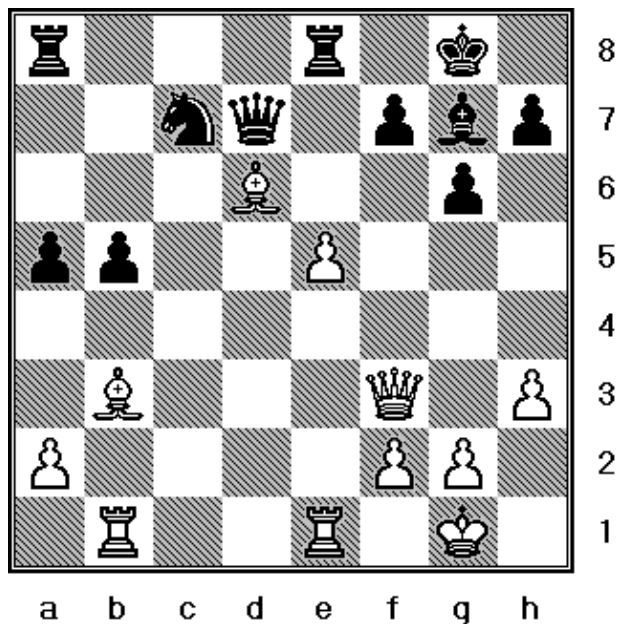
16.e5 Nd5 17.Bc4 Nc7 18.d5 b5 19.Bb3 Qd7 20.Ba3

20. Bg5 mig ht have been better, only because White won't have to deal with a future ...a5 and have Bishops be harassed.

20...a5 21.d6

White must keep up the pressure to win.

21...exd6 22.Bxd6 Rfd8 (diagram)



23.a4

This is clearly a correspondence chess move. Up to this point, including 9. Bb5+, everything has been pretty typical. Yet, I must admit, my intuition was screaming -- "Do not allow ...b4 -- Do not allow ...b4!" In an OTB game I probably would listen to this warning, but here after some careful study -- I welcome ...b4.

23...b4

It's just natural reflex to deeply root a beautiful passed Pawn. Yet, the beauty here is an illusion. The lesson to learn is that intuition can't always be trusted. In correspondence, everything must be examined, no matter how silly or strong it may seem.

24.Rbd1

Black's Queen is now overworked and in a little bit of danger.

24...Ne6 25.Bxb4

And White not only wins a Pawn, but the protected passed Pawn!

25...Qa7 26.Bd6 Rac8 27.h4

White is up a solid Pawn, but his position still calls for attack. Now comes the classic Pawn storm idea.

27..h5 28.g4 hxg4 29.Qxg4 Qd7 30.Re3 1-0

The Rook lift spells doom for Black and my opponent didn't hang around for the fireworks. This was my favorite game of the tournament, although 15...b6 I believe was a pretty flagrant error on my opponent's part. The move 9. Bb5+ and 23 a4 I thought were important moves that helped me win this game and White played an active initiative opening and never released the pressure. A very enjoyable game for White to play.

In the Master category – the finalists are Siddiqi-Fass, March issue and Kinney-Calogridis, Aug. The winner: Michael Calogridis

BENKO COUNTER GAMBIT (A57)

White: Nicholas Kinney (2000)

Black: Michael Calogridis (2246)

2007 Golden Knights semifinal

The Check -- AUG 11

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.a4 0-0 8.Nf3 d6 9.Ra3 Nbd7 10.e4 Ne8 11.Qb3 Rb8 12.Be2 Nc7 13.0-0 axb5 14.axb5 Nb6 15.Rd1 e6 16.dxe6 Bxe6 17.Qc2 Qe7 18.Bf4 Rfd8 19.Qc1 f6 20.Bh6 Rd7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Qb1 Bf7 23.b4 d5 24.bxc5 Qxc5 25.Qb2 Re7 26.Ng5 Bg8 27.exd5 Bxd5 28.Ra7 Bxg2 29.Nxh7 Kxh7 30.Kxg2 Kg7 31.Qd2 Nc8 32.Ra4 Nb6 33.Rh4 g5 34.Ne4 Qd5 35.Qc1 gxh4 36.Rxd5 Ncxd5 37.Qg1 Rg8 38.Kh1+ Kf8 39.Qb1 h3 40.Bf3 Rg6 41.Qb2 Re5 42.Qa1 Rg7 43.Nxf6 Rge7 44.Ne4 Nf6 45.Qd4 Nbd5 0-1

In the non-Master category the nominees are Soricelli-Mahon, January and Iglesias-Cardenas, April. The winner is Gerard Soricelli.

ENGLISH OPENING (A39)

White: Gerard Soricelli (2144)

Black: Richard Mahon (2024)

2009 John Collins

The Check -- JAN 11

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 Rb8 11.Bd2 b6 12.Rac1 a6 13.b4 Be6 14.Nd5 Qd7 15.e4 Rfc8 16.Be3 Bxd5 17.cxd5 b5 18.Rc6 Rxc6 19.dxc6 Qc7 20.h3 e5 21.Rc1 h5 22.Qa3 Ra8 23.Qa5 Qxa5 24.bxa5 Rc8 25.c7 Ne8 26.Bb6 g5 27.a4 d5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Bf1 Nd6 30.exd5 e4 31.a6 b4 32.a7 b3 33.Ba6 b2 34.Rb1 Ra8 35.Bc5 Nc8 36.Bxc8 Rxc8 37.d6 Bf6 38.d7 Rxc7 39.a8Q+ Kg7 40.Bf8+ 1-0

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Capital Region News

by Bill Townsend

In the Winter in the Capital District the chess stories are pretty much the same ones carried over from the Fall – the club championships and the monthly Make the Right Move free scholastic tournaments. This isn't everything of course – but the two biggest chess stories of the spring can't really be reported on here. The first is the New York State Scholastic Championship, held in early March in Saratoga, covered elsewhere in this issue. The second is the U.S. Amateur Team East, which the Capital District sent about a dozen players to this year, but it's an event that wasn't even held in New York State.

As of this writing the three major local club championships all have winners, even if some of them still have a game or two left to play.

The championship of the Saratoga Staunton club started last October as a double round robin among six players, which became five when Jeff Hrebenach dropped out. The last game was played on January 8 between Alan LeCours and Jonathan Feinberg, and with both players tied at 5-2 it was a winner-take-all situation. Feinberg won the game, finishing with 6-2. While this is the first time he has won the Saratoga Championship, he was previously champion of the Albany club in 1994. Club president Gary Farrell was second with 5½-2½ and LeCours was third with 5-3. Also playing were Josh Kuperman (2½-5½) and David Connors (2-6).

Here is the game that decided this year's championship of the Saratoga Staunton club. Everything hinged on this game: Alan LeCours and Jon Feinberg had 5-2 while club president Gary Farrell had finished his playing schedule with 5½-2½. If either Feinberg or LeCours won the game they would be the new champion, but if they drew, the crown would go to Farrell, who had the best tiebreaks among the three of them.

Alas, this was a game that was almost entirely decided by the Fiend With Two Faces, which is to say the chess clock. LeCours had a difficult position to play as his time dwindled, and eventually he lost on time. It's been said that chess is part sport, part art and part science, but with the advent of shorter time limits and sudden death time controls, sporting factors dominate. Playing quickly but soundly and

having nerves of steel now seem to count for more than deep calculation and finding brilliancies at the board.

Jonathan Feinberg (2046) – Alan LeCours (1902)
[A25] English Opening
Saratoga Staunton CC Championship 2011-12
Saratoga Springs, NY,, January 8, 2012

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nd5 0-0 6.a3 Bc5 7.e3 a5 8.Ne2 Re8 9.0-0 d6 10.h3 Bd7 11.b3 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Ne7 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Nf5

A well-motivated exchange - Black gets rid of a piece that is essentially in the way for White's best minor piece.

15.Nxf5 Bxf5 16.Bb2 Qg5 17.Rc1 Be4?!

I consider this move a little shady - Black seems a little too eager to trade off White's pieces. It seems better to await further developments with a move like 17...Qg6.

18.Rc4 Qg6 19.Bxe4 Rxe4 20.Rxe4 Qxe4 21.Qd2

A number of pieces have been traded, but the position remains almost exactly even. It seems a draw is the likely outcome, but this is a situation where, due to the nature of the tournament, if they draw both players lose.

21...f6 22.Rc1 b5 23.Rd1 Qf3 24.Re1 Kf7 25.Qd1 Qxd1 26.Rxd1 f5?!

If one of the players doesn't do something the game will likely be a draw. Well, this qualifies as "something" but it mainly weakens the black Kingside.

27.Kg2 Re8 28.Kf3 Kg6?!

This placement of the King will prove to be unfortunate. Time is now starting to be a factor - White has 23 minutes left, while Black has 16 minutes.

29.Rc1 Re7 30.Rg1!

Finally Black has given White an attacking idea - he will open the Kingside perhaps using his pawn majority there. 30...h6 (30...h5! would stop White's next move.0

31.g4 fxc4+ 32.hxc4?!

Far stronger is 32.Rxc4+ and now Black has to tuck his King away on the edge of the board with 32...Kh7.

32...Rf7+ 33.Ke2 Re7 34.Kd3 Kf7 35.Rg3

Here White could have made Black's life more difficult with 35.g5! and after 35...hxc5 36.Rxc5 g6 37.Rg4 White is still holding all the aces. The problem with this position for Black is that White can make second-best moves and still be OK, but Black is one misstep from disaster.

35...g5 36.f4

An improvement would be 36.Rf3+ Ke8 37.Rh3 Rh7 38.f4 and things are looking dire for Black.

36...gxf4 37.exf4 Re1 38.g5 hxg5 39.fxg5 Kg6

In spite of White finally having a passed pawn, Black is not standing too badly - his Rook can cause a lot of mischief where it is. Black's main problem is now the clock.

40.Bc3 Rd1+ 41.Ke4 b4?

A positional error - in an ending with same-colored Bishops, Black doesn't want to put any more pawns on dark-colored squares. The game is close to equal after 41...a4 42.b4 Bb6.

42.axb4 axb4 43.Bf6 Re1+ 44.Kd3 Rh1 45.Kc4 Rh4+?!

The Rook proves to be misplaced here. Instead Black holds the balance with 45...Rc1+ 46.Kb5 Bf2 47.Rf3.

46.Kb5 Bf2

Black is in an unenviable position - his game seems to be deteriorating and he has just 28 seconds on his clock.

47.Rg2 Be1 48.Kc6 Rh7 49.Re2 Bc3 50.Re6? Kf5?!

My chess computer favors 50...Bxf6 51.gxf6 Rh5 but after 52.Kxc7 Rxd5 53.Rxd6 Rc5+ 54.Kd7 Kf7 55.Rb6 Rc3 56.Rxb4 Kxf6 White seems like he has a won Rook and pawn ending with his King in front of the pawn - but does either player have the time to win it?)

51.Bd8 Rg7

Here Black finally lost on time, but he is lost on the board as well: 51...Rg7 52.g6! and Black's pawns start to fall: 52...Rg8 53.Bxc7 Rc8 54.Kxd6 Ra8 55.Kc5 , etc.

1-0

The Schenectady Chess Club Championship is run in two phases – back in October the club was divided into two round-robin sections of roughly even strength with the top three scorers in each section advancing to a six-player final section. In our last report the two preliminary sections were almost finished. Now, of course, they are completed and the finals just has one game left, but it won't affect any of the top places.

The last game in the preliminaries was played the club on January 19, and that was the last game in the "A" section. Michael Stanley managed to score an upset draw over Jeff Capitummino. The final scores in the section are: Philip Sells (5-1 – lost to Capitummino), Carlos Varela (5-1 – lost to Sells), *Empire Chess* columnist Zach Calderon (4-2 – lost to Sells and Varela), Dilip Aaron (3-4), Jeff Capitummino (2½-4½), Cory Northrup (1-5) and Michael Stanley (½-5½). This made Sells, Varela

and Calderon the three finalists from this section.

John Phillips was the clear winner in the "B" section with the event's only perfect 6-0 score. As predicted, Saratoga's Alan LeCours was second with 4½-1½, having lost to Phillips and given up a draw to Herman Calderon. The third qualifier would have been Akhil Kamma with 4-2, but since Kamma moved out of the area after he finished his last game, his berth in the finals goes to the player who came in fourth. After some twists and turns, that turned out to be club president Richard Chu with 2-4. Bill Little and I were wondering if this was the first time Richard had managed to make it to the finals, and it turns out it isn't – the last time Mr. Chu was one of the six finalists was back in 1999. Tying for fifth in the section with 1½-4½ were: Herman Calderon, Matt Clough and David Connors.

All of this led to a very "class conscious" final section: half of the players were rated over 1900 (Sells, Phillips and LeCours) and the other three were rated under 1700 (Varela, Chu and Calderon). The chess rating system isn't perfect but a gap like that can't be ignored – the 1900+ player all wound up grouped at the top, and the others grouped at the bottom. However, as of this writing there is still one game left to be played: the game between LeCours and Calderon, but this won't change who came in second and first. John Phillips scored 4½-½ to take clear first with surprising ease. He was the only player to make it through the preliminaries with 6-0, but he got a number of lucky breaks in there. Here his superior handling of the clock, helped him defeat his two major opponent, Sells and LeCours. Former champion Philip Sells lost his game with Phillips (see below) but won all his other games to finish with 4-1. Alan LeCours has 2-2 with one game outstanding, the same with Zachary Calderon at 1½-2½. Carlos Varela and Richard Chu both finished their schedules with 1-4 records.

This game, played in the second round, essentially decided this year's championship. Just like the game above, this game was decided by the chess clock. Former champion Philip Sells has a justly deserved reputation as a wizard in time pressure, but here the magic just didn't happen. When time got short for him the position was too complicated, and not in his favor, so blitzing his way to victory seemed unlikely. His opponent, John Phillips, is also no stranger to time trouble, so he was not unsettled when time got tight for the other player. In fact, this game had eerie echoes of their contest from last year's finals when Sells also had an inferior position against Phillips

with close to no thinking time. In that game Sells managed to play over 30 moves with less than 30 seconds on the clock, but still couldn't save the position. It's starting to look like Phillips has become a problem opponent for Sells – in 2009 and 2010 their record was 4-0 in Sells' favor, but in the last year it's been 2½-½ for Phillips.

**Philip Sells (2044) – John Phillips (1918) [B07] Pirc-Modern
Schenectady CC Championship Finals, round 2
Niskayuna, NY (2), January 19, 2012**

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6
6.Be3 Be7 7.0-0 d5**

Black finally stakes his claim in the center. The fact that it took two moves to get the pawn to d5 doesn't seem to have hurt Black at all.

8.Nd2?!

I consider this to be a dubious decision, essentially trading Black's bad Bishop for White's good one. Most frequently seen here is 8.e5.

8...Bxe2 9.Qxe2 0-0 10.e5

A fateful move, as it turns out, since now e4 beckons to both of Black's Knights. It is, however, the most common move in the position, but White's results here have been rather poor - only about 33%.

10...Nfd7 11.f4 c5 12.Nb3

With this, White's winning percentage drops to 8% - 12.dxc5 has to be superior.

12...cxd4 13.Nxd4 Nc6 14.Rad1 a6 15.Rf3

I'm sure that White was looking for attacking ideas and this is what he came up with: a buildup of major pieces on the Kingside. While it has a certain appeal, with the benefit of hindsight we see that it leads nowhere. Looking at some other similar games White does have a thematic attack with 15.f5! it looks like a pawn sacrifice, but it really isn't. The game might continue: 15...Ndxe5 16.fxe6 Bb4 (16...fxe6 17.Rxf8+ Bxf8 18.Nxe6 looks very good for White) 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.Rxf7 Nxf7 19.Ne6 with what looks like a modest advantage for White.)

**15...Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc5 17.Bxc5 Nxc5 18.Rg3 Qb6
19.Kh1 f5!?**

Playing it safe - this absolutely stops any monkey business involving f4-f5. Incidentally, White's b-pawn is poisoned and Black can't take it: 19...Qxb2 20.Rb1 Qa3 21.Qh5 and Black is in trouble.

20.Qh5?! Qc7?!

Actually now Black can play 20...Qxb2 because he can answer 21.Rb1 with 21...Qxc2 and he is two pawns up.

21.Rh3 g6 22.Qh4 Rf7 23.Qe1

Up until now the time situation wasn't too bad, but

white used twelve of his remaining 23 minutes to come up with this. Black, on the other hand, has nearly 30 minutes left. Probably some of this time was spent concluding that his Kingside attack had fizzled.

23...Ne4 24.Rdd3

The Black Knight has reached its dream square, and it's tempting to want to get rid of it, but Black has a dangerous central pawn mass after 24.Nxe4 fxe4.

24...Qc5 25.Rhf3

A pretty straightforward move, but it used up half of White's remaining time, putting him below the five-minute mark. Black had 24 minutes left.

25...Qb4 26.Qc1 Qb6 27.Nd1 Rc7 28.Qe3 Qc5

Black could start his minority attack right away with 28...Qxe3 29.Nxe3 b5 30.Rd4 a5 31.c3.

29.c3 Rac8 30.Qe2 b5 31.Ne3?

31.Rd4 a5 32.a3 was the way to stop Black's onrushing pawns. White was down to about 80 seconds while black had 6½ minutes.

31...a5 32.Nc2 b4 33.Nd4 Kf7 34.cxb4 Qxb4 35.Rf1

White is now down to his last five seconds, but his position is crumbling - he is lost.

35...Rc1 36.Rdd1 Rxd1 37.Rxd1 Rc4

Black wins a piece with 37...Qxd4! 38.Rxd4 Rc1+ 39.Rd1 Rxd1+ 40.Qxd1 Nf2+.

38.Nf3 Qc5 0-1

Here White lost on time, but Black is close to winning anyway. The game might have continued: 38...Qc5 39.Rf1 Rc2 40.Qa6 Rxb2 41.Ng5+ Nxg5 42.fxc5, etc.

The Albany Area Chess Club Championship was the last of the three championships to start, and it only just finished in early March. It started last November as a ten-player Round Robin among the club players, with the championship concluding with a two-game playoff between the two top players overall and the two top players under 1800.

Early on a monkey wrench was thrown into the works by Akhil Kamma withdrawing from the tournament due to moving out of the area. This reduced the event to a nine-player round robin, and it was pretty plain that in many ways this was a contest among equals – a number of players were clustered together at the top.

Peter Henner won the preliminary section with an undefeated 6-2 score, making him the first qualifier for the championship playoff. The next score group below him had three players tied for second with 5-3: Dean Howard, Gordon Magat and Jonathan Lack. Tiebreaks determined the second qualifier: defending champion Dean Howard. In clear fifth place with 4-4

was Chris Caravaty, and he was clearly the first qualifier from the Under-1,800 championship. In sixth place with 3½-4½ was Tim Wright, who was rated over 1800. Immediately behind him were Arthur Alowitz (3-5) and Cory Northrup (2½-5½). Alowitz was one of the early leaders, scoring 2-2 against the top rated players but doing not quite as well later against the weaker players. In ninth place with 2-6 was Jason Denham.

In the two-game playoffs, Howard bested Henner 2-0 to retain his title. For the Under-1800 prize it was Caravaty vs. Northrup since Alowitz bowed out due to upcoming leg surgery. That match was also a 2-0 sweep as Caravaty won both games.

Here is an upset from this year's Albany Area Chess Club championship, played on the club's last meeting date in 2011. Tail-ender Cory Northrup manages to beat Art Alowitz, who at the time was one of the leaders in the nine player round robin. Alowitz had a 2-2 record against the event's four highest-rated players and seemed a shoo-in for at least the Under-1800 prize, but this put him back in the pack with 3-3.

Strangely this is a game with a pair of matching mistakes – both players miss a Knight fork and lose a Rook for a Knight. However, by the time that White won his exchange back on move 43 his game was too far gone to save.

Arthur Alowitz (1680) – Cory Northrup (1566)
[B07]

Albany Area CC Championship 2011-12
Guilderland, NY Dec. 28, 2011

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.f3

This game, which started out as either a Pillsbury Defense (1.d4 d6) or a Pirc Defense (1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6) now drifts into strange waters. Far more popular than the text is 3.Nc3, heading into the Pirc main line.

3...Nbd7

Another unusual choice. Most common is Black voluntarily giving up his ability to castle with 3...e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8.

4.c3!?

This is the move that takes the game off the road map. While you can't deny that White has a solid center, there's a problem in that his Knights have no place good to go. Far more common are 4.c4 and 4.Be3.

4...e5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bc4 0-0 7.Ne2 h6 8.Be3 c6

Black could play 8...d5! right away: 9.exd5 Nb6 and the second player is better.

9.Nd2 b5 10.Bb3 a5 11.0-0?!

Here or on the next couple moves, 11.a4! would throw a monkey wrench into Black's plans.

11...Bb7 12.Qe1 Rc8 13.Ng3 d5 14.exd5 exd4?

Situations with multiple pawn captures are hard to calculate, but this is a tactical mistake. Best for Black seems to be 14...Nxd5 15.Bxd5 cxd5 with a tiny advantage for White.

15.Bxd4 cxd5 16.Nf5! Bc5 17.Qg3?!

Stronger for White is 17.Bxc5 Rxc5 18.Qg3 Nh5 19.Qg4.

17...Bxd4+ 18.cxd4 Nh5 19.Qf2?!

The only way for White to maintain his advantage was with 19.Qd6.

19...Qg5?

After 19...Qf6!, White has to make some difficult decisions. Best seems to be 20.g4 but Black is better after 20...a4 21.Bd1 Nf4.

20.Nd6 Nf4 21.Kh1 Rb8 22.Nxb7 Rxb7 23.Rfe1?

This is just a blunder - White misses that Black's knight can fork his Queen and Rook. Instead Black only has a tiny advantage after 23.g3 Nd3 24.Qe2 Nb4.

23...Nd3 24.Qe3 Nxe1 25.Qxe1

Technically 25.Qxg5 is better, but understandably White wants to keep the Queens on.

25...Nf6 26.Nf1 a4 27.Bc2 Re8 28.Qf2 Rbe7 29.Bd3 Rb7 30.Ng3 Qe3

This makes perfect sense - Black is up material so every exchange brings him closer to a won ending.

31.Qc2 Qxd4 32.Rd1 Qe5 33.Kg1 Rc7 34.Qd2 Rb7 35.Kf1 Qe3

Not bad, but even stronger is 35...b4.

36.Qc2 Qe5 37.Qc6 Rbb8 38.Qc2 Qf4 39.b3 a3 40.Qc5 Rec8

Even deadlier is 40...Ng4!

41.Qxa3 b4 42.Qb2 Rc3?!

This time, a tactical oversight by Black leads to the loss of the exchange, but Black is still winning.

43.Ne2 Qxh2 44.Nxc3 bxc3 45.Qc2

A big mistake would be 45.Qxc3?? Qh1+ 46.Ke2 Qxg2+ 47.Ke3 Re8+ and White can resign.

45...d4 46.Bc4 Rd8 47.Kf2 Nh5 48.Qf5 Qg3+ 49.Kg1 Nf4

The beginning of the end - the Queen and Knight together are a deadly combination.

50.Qc2 h5

This is one way to knock White's house down, but more direct is 50...Re8 51.Kf1 Qh2.

51.a4 h4 52.Qf2?

Black now wins White's Queen, but White was lost anyway: 52.Kh1 h3 53.gxh3 Qxh3+ 54.Kg1 Qg3+

55.Kf1 Qxf3+, etc.

52...Nh3+ 53.Kh1 0-1

The first Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament of 2012, the fourth this season and the 58th overall, took place on January 7 at Albany High School. Overall 96 players competed in the seven sections, each of which had a clear winner.

Top-rated Dean Howard was the undisputed winner of the "All Welcome" section with a perfect 4-0 score. For his last-round win over his closest contender, Dilip Aaron, see below. Second through sixth with 3-1 were: Koushik Pernati, Dilip Aaron, George Ladouceur, Adrian Galia and Joseph Whyte.

Jonathan D'Alonzo won the top rated section with a 3-1 record. Sumanth Gajjala and Nitin Obla were second and third with 2½-1½. Vignesh Pernati was fourth with 2-2.

Joseph D'Alonzo was the clear winner in the Under-1000 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Kyle Matters and Jovanna D'Alonzo were second and third with 3-1. Fourth and fifth with 2½-1½ were William Vetrano and Shreyas Raman.

The Under-600 section had a clear winner as well: Deepti Aaron finished first with 3½-½. Enkhbileg Besuud and Srikanth Tumati were second and third with 3-1. Fourth through sixth with 2-2 were: Abhinev Gudapati, Lakshmi Tumati and Philip Anderson.

The unrated section for players in grades six and above was won by Nigel Galia with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fifth with 3-1 were: Matt Schottenfeld, Sherwood Ludwig, Ben Vardai-Davidson and Julian Galia. Nasir Mayfield and Andrie Galia were sixth and seventh with 2½-1½.

As usual the unrated section for players in grades three through five was the largest, but it also had a clear winner in Vegendra Boodram who scored a perfect 4-0. JanKarl Galia and Sandeep Alampalli were second and third with 3½-½. Fourth through eighth with 3-1 were: Abhijheet Gudapati, El-Sire Douglas, Saathvik Narra, Samir Ishaque and Emilia Vardal-Davidson.

The unrated section for players in grades two and below was won by Martha Samadashvili with a 4-0 score. Pretesh Prakesh was second with 3-1. Mikey Moughan and Sayyed Ayube were third and fourth

with 2-2.

Top team once again was the East Greenbush Chess Club with 13½ points. They were the top team of the 2010-11 season and so far they have been first in every tournament played this season. As Brother John pointed out, they have a winning method: they field a lot of players so they have most of the sections covered. Martin Luther King Magnet School edged out Saratoga for second place – both had twelve points. In fourth was a new team: the Amsterdam Coffee Beanery. They scored 10 points, edging out Albany Academy on tiebreaks.

Here is the game that decided first place in this event, between the tournament's two highest rated players and the only players with 3-0 at the end of the third round. So far this season Dilip has been doing very well, but here he was outclassed by Albany champion Dean Howard.

Howard was trying to take Aaron out of his opening book, but this led to fairly easy equality for the second player. Just as the game was leaving the opening, Black missed a move that would have given him an advantage, albeit in a very complicated position. After that Black seemed to be under the gun, but could still have evened things up with 17...f5! After that Howard was winning, although there was still plenty of tension due to his shortness of time.

Dean Howard (2010) – Dilip Aaron (1753) [B01] Center Counter Defense Make the Right Move #58, round 4 Albany, NY Jan. 7, 2012

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4

In the post-mortem Howard mentioned that he hadn't liked the positions he had been getting recently against the *Scandinavian*, against players like Aaron and Bobby Rotter, so he decided to vary from the main line early. White usually plays 4.d4 here.

4...Nf6 5.Nge2 Bf5 6.0-0 c6 7.d4 e6 8.Re1

A reasonable move, but far more popular here is putting the question to the Bishop right away with 8.Ng3.

8...Nbd7 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.d5 cxd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Be7?

After the game, Howard mentioned that he was afraid of Black playing 12...Bxc2! here. This assessment seems to be totally correct, in fact this move also works at some other points in the next few moves. This also makes the game unique.

13.Bxb7 Rd8 14.Bc6 Qc7

14...Bxc2! still works, but it's not as strong as it was on move 12.

15.Qf3 0-0 16.Bf4 e5!

As it turns out this isn't as bad as it looks, if it's followed up correctly. Black gets his pawn back after 16...Qb6 17.b3 Bxc2 but White still has the better game.

17.Be3 e4?

This just smacks of desperation, but Black is doing fairly well after 17...f5! and now White has to play carefully to keep any sort of an advantage. What might follow: 18.Ne2 Nf6 19.Bg5 e4 with what looks like a balanced game.

18.Bxe4 Bxe4?!

Now two pawns down, Black should avoid exchanges if he can. Better was 18...Ne5.

19.Qxe4 Nf6 20.Bf4 Qa5?

Black is desperately trying to activate his pieces, but this just drops a bishop. However after 20...Bd6 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 all he has to look forward to is defending a lost cause.

21.Qxe7 Rfe8 22.b4 Qa4 23.Qc5 Rf8?!

There's no future in a move like this, but Black was trying to exploit White's time problems - White had less than three minutes left while Black had nearly ten.

24.Bd6 Rfe8 25.Be7 Rc8 26.Qf5 Nd7 27.Bc5 Red8?

A small victory for Black would be 27...Nxc5 28.bxc5 but White is still winning.

28.Re7 Nf6 29.Ne4 Qxc2?

This costs Black his Queen, effectively ending the game. However the best line was pretty joyless for Black: 29...Rc6 30.Rxa7 Qb5 31.a4.

30.Nxf6+ gxf6 31.Qxc2 Rd5 32.Rae1 Rcd8 33.Qe4

White has a forced mate with 33.Re8+ Rxe8 34.Rxe8+ Kg7 35.Bf8+ Kg8 36.Bh6, mate.

33...Kg7 34.Re8

There is another nice mate with 34.Rxf7+! but White's time was too short for trifles like that.

34...R8d7 35.Qg4+ Rg5 36.Qxd7 1-0

Here Black resigned - White had less than a minute left on his clock, but his position is so overwhelming not much thinking time is needed.

The second Make the Right Move of 2012 was held February 11, also at Albany High School. A surprising number of people showed up the day of the event, bringing the total to about 105 players competing in the eight sections.

With each event the All-ages "All Welcome" section has been growing in popularity, so this tournament it was split into two groups. The new All Welcome

section is now USCF rated, but since it was played at a slower time control (Game in 60 minutes, as opposed to 30) it only had three rounds. Nevertheless, it was the last section to finish by a healthy margin.

Winning this section with a perfect 3-0 score was Gordon Magat. In second place was Koushik Pernati, also with 3-0, but one of his games was a forfeit win. Albany champion Dean Howard tied for third with 2-1, along with Dilip Aaron and Carlos Varela.

In the regular non-rated All Welcome section Adrian Galia was clear first with 4-0. Joe Whyte and Peter Sharp were second and third with 3-1. Tied for fourth with 2-2 were Ron Calixto, Christine White and Samantha Giknis.

In the top scholastic rated section, Jonathan D'Alonzo dominated, finishing with 4-0. His brother Joseph D'Alonzo was clear second with 3-1 and Sumanth Gajjala was third with 2-2.

In the Under-1000 section, Shamanth Murundi was clear first with 3½-½. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Vignesh Pernati, Matt Schottenfeld and Joseph Garozzo. Michael Cheng was clear fifth with 2½-1½. Tied for sixth with 2-2 were: Daniel Magat, Jankarl Galia, and Gowtham Puviararasu.

In the Under-600 section there were two perfect 4-0 scores, with Deepti Aaron edging out Sandeep Alampalli on tiebreaks. Josh Sigsby was clear third with 3½-½. Fourth through sixth with 3-1 were: Abhinev Gudapati, Rowan Jones, and Uriel Calixto. Tied for seventh with 2-2 were: Srikanth Tumati, Michael Armonious, Kennedy Etwaru and Tahj Buford.

There were no fewer than three perfect scores in the unrated section for players in grades six to twelve. First through third on tiebreaks were: Tristan Bennett, Nathan Matteson and Herman Vasquez. Zachary Benson was in clear fourth with 3½-½ and Aaron Salisbury was fifth with 3-1. Tied for sixth with 2-2 were: Jimmy Lentz, Julian Galia, Thomas Burgess, Alex Sharp, Johnny Randolph and Frankie Cruz.

In the unrated section for players in grades three to five McCready Kearney and Oliver Pfaum both scored 4-0 to take first and second. Alex Lomasney was third and Danil Teteryatnik was fourth, both

scored 3-1. There was a tie for fifth place with 2½-1½ among eight players: Rey'Amelet Renoso, Naathvik Sarra, Adam Aleksic, El'sire Douglas, Michael Marcellus, Ben Noland, Abhijheet Gudapati and Ligori Karapanxho. Jason Larson and Paul Fields tied for thirteenth with 2-2.

Mikey Moughan was the clear winner of the unrated section for players in grades two and below with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Martha Samadashvili, Jason Swart and Lucas Dentiso.

Two sets of visiting players topped the team standings with the Rockin' Rooks of Rhinebeck first with 14 points and St. Joseph's from Kingston second with 13. The East Greenbush Chess Club has won every other team trophy so far this year, but here they were third with 12½. The host school Albany High was fourth, also with 12½. Saratoga was fifth with 12 while Albany Academy and Eagle point were sixth and seventh, both with 10½.

As always the tournament was organized and directed by Brother John McManus for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

Gordon Magat was the winner of the new rated All Welcome section with a perfect 3-0 score, but he had a close call in round two against Jerry Reubens, one of the coaches of the Rhinebeck Rockin' Rooks. Magat was in control most of the game, until a tactical oversight allowed the white queen inside his position, like a fox in the henhouse. Reubens then had close to a winning game, but pushed his luck a little too far and didn't take a draw in a position he really should have, and so went down to defeat.

Make the Right Move No. 59, Round 2
Albany High School, February 11, 2012
White: Jerry Reubens (1326)
Black: Gordon Magat (1956)

1.e4 c5 2.f4 d5 3.e5 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.Nc3 b5
This move makes the game unique, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. While this position has never been seen before, it seems to be playable by both sides, which is the whole point of the opening anyway.

7.Bd2

By the way, 7.Nxb5? is a bad idea for White: 7...Qa5+ 8.Nc3 d4 and the Knight is lost.

7...b4 8.Ne2 h5 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.h4 Nh6 11.Be2 Ng4 12.Ng5

Although the position is unique, the ideas are familiar Sicilian territory: white attacks on the kingside while black attacks on the queenside.

12...Bf5?!

What seems to be better for Black is offering a pawn with 12...Be7 and after 13.Bxg4 hxg4 14.Qxg4 Nd4 15.0-0-0 Qa5 Black has considerable pressure for his material investment.

13.Bf3?!

With his last move Black was trying to keep from losing a pawn after an exchange on g4, but White was able to win a pawn anyway with 13.Nxh5 Rxh5 14.Bxg4 although the pawn comes at the cost of a rather exposed Kingside.

13...f6 14.exf6 gxf6 15.Nh3

Better seems to be 15.Nxf5! fxg5 (15...exf5? 16.Ne6 Qd6 17.Bxd5 and White is close to winning) 16.Qe2 with a small advantage for White.

15...Nd4 16.c3?!

As a general rule of thumb in a situation where attacks on opposing wings are happening it's a mistake to play on the side of the board where your opponent is attacking. An obvious exception was Black's 13...f6. While that move created a flexible position with several attacking possibilities, 16.c3 just makes weaknesses on White's queenside.

16...Nxf3+ 17.gxf3 Nh6 18.Nxh5 Bxd3 19.cxb4 Nf5 20.Bc3 Rxh5 21.Qxd3 d4!?

This looks a little like Black losing the thread of the position. He has a pretty big advantage after 21...cxb4 22.Bd4 Rxh4.

22.0-0-0 cxb4

22...dxc3? loses to 23.Qb5+

23.Bxd4 Nxd4?

This is an outright mistake that not only lets White back in the game, but gives him the advantage After 23...Kf7 24.Bf2 Qxd3 25.Rxd3 Rc8+ Black still is in control.

24.Qg6+! Ke7 25.Qxh5 Qc7+ 26.Kb1 Qc2+ 27.Ka1 Rd8 28.Rc1! Qd3 29.Rc7+ Rd7 30.Qc5+ Ke8 31.Rc8+

With the benefit of hindsight we can now see that White's surest path to a big advantage is to offer to trade Queens with 31.Qc4 and after 31...Qxf3 32.Rc1 Rxc7 33.Qxc7 Qxh3 34.Qb8+ Kf7 35.Qxa7+ Be7 36.Qxd4 White will probably win.

31...Rd8 32.Rxd8+?

Again 32.Qc4 is very strong.

32...Kxd8 33.Qxf8+

After this White can probably do no better than draw, although I must confess that as I was watching the game I, too, thought a subsequent Rc1 would solve White's King safety problems.

33...Kd7 34.Qf7+ Kd6 35.Qf8+ Kd7 36.Rc1??

White had to take a draw by perpetual check with 36.Qf7+ Kd6.

36...Nc2+ 37.Rxc2

White has to take the Knight or else Black has a classic smothered mate: 37.Kb1 Na3+ 38.Ka1 Qb1+ 39.Rxb1 Nc2, mate. However, in the line played White gets mated even faster because Black doesn't have to recapture the Rook, as I supposed in my earlier calculations.

37...Qd1+ 0-1

2012 WCC Blitz Championship Tied

The Watertown Chess Club kicked off the 2012 Chess tournament Season with the annual Blitz Club Championship, a seven-round single round robin of eight players on March 6th. Adolfo Prieto and Robert Kratzat tied for first with records of +6-1=0. This was a successful defense of Mr. Prieto's 2011 undefeated 12-0 Championship. This was the first club title for Mr. Kratzat. The two players share the early 2012 Club Championship Standings lead with half a point each. New club member Josh Kelsey impressed with a +5-2=0 record.

New Club Web Site

The Watertown Chess Club celebrates the beginning of their fifth year with a new web site. Check it out at <http://www.watertownchessclub.com>.

Benjamin Family Values wins Top Family Prize at World Amateur Team



An all NYSCA family team, consisting of three-time US Champion and New York State Hall of Famer, GM Joel Benjamin, Joel's uncle, expert Martin Merado, Joel's nephew, Jonah Klempner, and his mother, NYSCA secretary, Phyllis Benjamin, won the top family prize at the US Amateur Team East,

played in Parsippany, NJ over the President's Day weekend.

The team received clocks, and an impressive plaque for their victory.

Joel, who scored 6-0 on Board One, received a clock for his efforts. Here is one of his webs, courtesy of Chess Life Online.

J. Hall - Joel Benjamin

USATE, round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.f4 d6 3.c3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4



5.Qb3

5.e4! Nxe4 6.d5 with the threat of Qa4+. Instead, Black has 5. ... e5 or 5. ... d5.

5...Qc8 6.Ng5 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Bg2 [9.d5 Nxd5]

9...h6 10.d5

[10.f5]

10...exd5

10...Nxd5

11.f5 Bxf5 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.gxf5 Ne7 14.Rf1 c6

15.e4 c5 16.Bf4?

16.Nd2 or 16.c4 are better.

16...c4! +/- 17.Qc2 dxe4 18.Bxd6 Ned5 19.Bf4 Nxf4

20.Rxf4 Bd6 21.Rf1 Qc5 22.Qe2 Rad8 23.Nd2

[23.Kd1 Rhe8+-]

23...Bg3+ 24.Kd1 e3 0-1

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Mar. 31-Apr. 1 2012 Marchand Open (34th Annual) GPP: 120 Enhanced

Dr. Erich Marchand "requested that his friends play chess in his memory. 5SS, 30/60, SD/60 5 Sec delay. Location: Strong National Museum of Play, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY. \$\$10,750 Gtd. Open Section: \$2000-1300-850-550-300, Under 2200 & U2000 each \$500-300. FIDE Rated EF: \$70. U1800 Section: \$600-400-250. Under 1600 \$400-250. EF: \$65. U1400 Section: \$400-275-175. Under 1200 \$275-175. EF: \$60. U1000 Section: \$260-190-130-70. Under 800 \$150-90-60. EF: \$55. Unrated players in the U1800 section can only win \$125, in U1400 & U1000 \$55. IM and GM's free if registered by 3/17. Great food available at site. Reg.: 8:30-9:15 am. Rds.: 10-2:15-6:30, 10-2:15. One 1/2 point bye available in rd 1, 2, 3, or 4 if requested at entry. Info: 585-442-2430. Ent: Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. W. Chess Magnet School JGP.

May 18-20 or 19-20 20th annual New York State Open GPP: 20 Enhanced

5SS, 30/90, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rounds 1-2 G/60, d/5). Tiki Resort (formerly Howard Johnson), 2 Canada St., Lake George, NY 12845. \$\$G 3000. In 4 sections. Open: \$\$ 400-200-150, top Under 2010 \$230-120, top Under 1810/Unr \$220-110. Senior, open to under 1910 or unrated born before 5/21/62. \$\$ 300-150-80, top Under 1710 \$120-60. Under 1610: \$\$ 300-150-80, Under 1410 \$120-60, unrated limit \$150. Under 1310: \$100-50, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, Unrated. All: 1 year NYSCA membership prize to NY residents who are not members. EF: 3-day \$78, 2-day \$77 mailed by 5/11, both \$79 online at chesstour.com by 5/16, \$85 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/16 (entry only, no questions), \$90 at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Entry fee \$50 less to all in U1310. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry- online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. Re-entry \$40, not available in Open Section. GMs free, \$60 deducted from prize. 3-day schedule: Registration ends Fri 6:30 pm, rounds. Fri 7, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. 2-day schedule: Registration ends Sat 11:30 am, rounds Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. Half point byes OK all, must commit before rd 2; limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye if under 1810/unr in Open). HR: 65-65 (poolside), 75-75 (regular), call 518-668-5744 Mon-Fri 9 am-5pm, reserve by 5/4 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. www.chesstour.com, Director@Chess.us, 845-496-9658. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

Aug 17-19 or 18-19 11th annual Manhattan Open GPP: 150 (enhanced). 5-SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5), New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St. across from Penn Station, New York 10001. \$35,000 guaranteed prizes. **Open & U2300 Sections are FIDE rated.** In 10 sections: Open: \$2500-1500-1000-700-500-400, clear or tiebreak first \$200 bonus, top Under 2500/Unr \$1200. Under 2300, Under 2100, Under 1900, Under 1700: each \$1500-1000-700-500-400-300. Under 1500, Under 1300: each \$1200-800-600-500-400-300. Under 1100: \$700-400-300-200-100-100. Under 900: Trophies to first 10, top Unrated. Under 700: Trophies to first 10, top Under 500, Under 300, Unrated. Prize limits: 1) If any post-event rating posted at uschess.org 7/19/11-7/19/12 is more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$800. 2) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over \$200 in U1100, \$400 U1300, \$600 U1500, \$800 U1700 or \$1000 U1900. 3) Balance of limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. Top 7 sections EF: 3-day \$163, 2-day \$162 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$165 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$170 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$180 at site. Under 1100 Section EF: 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$85 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$90 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$100 at site. Under 900 or Under 700 Section EF: 3-day \$33, 2-day \$32 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$35 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$40 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$50 at site. No phone entry after 8/13. Online late entry is available between 8/14 and two hours before round 1, with same fee as at site. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF membership with paper magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. No checks at site, credit cards OK. No mailed credit card entries. Re-entry: \$80, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 11 am, rounds Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat. 9 am, rds Sat. 10, 12:45, 3:15 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

3-day & 2-day merge & compete for same prizes. Byes: all; limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. Bring sets, boards, clocks if possible- none supplied. HR: \$175-175-195-210 (rates for 3 or 4 in room are for 2 beds), 1-800-764-4680, reserve by 7/27 or rate may increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. Car rentals: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. Foreign player ratings: Usually 100 points added to FIDE, 100 to FQE, 200/more to most other foreign, no points added to CFC, PR or Jamaica. Some foreign ratings not accepted for U1900 or below. Highest of multiple ratings usually used. Players who fail to disclose foreign or FIDE ratings may be expelled. US player ratings: August list used; FIDE ratings not used. Entry: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: 845-496-9658, www.chesstour.com. You may request "lowest possible section" if August rating unknown. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP

April 22, May 20, June 17 Binghamton Monthly Tourney!

Prizes Increased! \$500 b/26. 4-SS, Rds. 1-3 G/65 Rd.4 G/75. Entry: \$35 Open, \$25 Reserve. Cash only at site. Reg.: 8:45 to 9:15 AM. Rds.: 9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 4:45. Open: \$250, \$200, \$100. Reserve: \$200, \$150, \$100. Trophies: 1st - 4th, both sections. Make checks payable to: Cordisco's Corner Store, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901. (607) 772-8782. cordiscos@stny.rr.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

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

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

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

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

August 31-September 3, September 1-September 3 or September 2-3: 134th New York State Championship.
See back cover for more information.

A Heritage Event

134th annual NY State Championship.

August 31-September 3, September 1-3 or 2-3

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 100 (enhanced)

6-SS, 40/2, SD/1, d5 (2-day option except in Open Section, rounds 1-3 G/45, d5), Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany 12205 (Thruway Exit 24, I-87 north to Wolf Rd, Exit 4). Luxurious hotel with indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, fitness center, free parking, free airport shuttle, many restaurants in area.

\$\$Guaranteed \$12,000. In five sections.

Open: \$2000-1000-500-300, top U2300/Unrated \$700, U2200/Unr \$600. State title and \$100 bonus to top New York State resident. FIDE-rated.

Under 2100: \$1000-500-300-150, Top Under 1900 \$400.

Under 1800: \$1000-500-300-150, Top Under 1600 \$400.

Under 1500: \$800-400-200-100, Top Under 1300 \$300.

Under 1200: \$200-100, trophy to first five, Top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated.

Unrated may not win over \$150 in Under 1200, \$300 Under 1500 or \$600 Under 1800.

All: One-year NYSCA membership to NY residents who list name and address on signup sheet posted at tournament.

Top 3 sections EF: 4-day \$99, 3-day \$98, 2-day \$97 if check mailed by 8/22, all \$95 online at chesstour.com by 8/29, \$105 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/29 (entry only, no questions), \$120 at site. No mailed credit card entries.

"Under 1500 Section EF: All \$20 less than top 3 sections Entry Fee."

Under 1200 Section EF: All \$50 less than top three sections Entry Fee. **All:** Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special one-year USCF dues with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. Re-entry \$60, all sections but Open. GMs, IMs & WGMs free, \$80 deducted from prize. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

3-day schedule: Registration ends Saturday 10:30 am, rounds. Saturday 11 & 6, Sunday 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

4-day schedule: Registration ends Friday 6:30 pm, rounds. Friday 7 pm, Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 11 & 6, Monday 10 & 4:15.

2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sun. 10:30 am, rounds Sunday 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6, Monday 10 & 4:15, no 2-day schedule in Open.

Bye: all, limit 2, Open must commit before round two, others before round four.

Hotel Rooms: \$97-97, 800-443-8952, 518-458-8444, reserve by 8/23 or rate may increase. NYSCA meeting 9 am Sunday. Car rental: 800-331-1600, use AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Out of state welcome. Questions: www.chesstour.com, Director@chess.us,