

Where Organized Chess in America Began

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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.

President

Bill Goichberg
PO Box 249
Salisbury Mills, NY 12577
chesstour@aol.com

Vice President

Polly Wright
57 Joyce Road
Eastchester, NY 10709
Pollychess@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Karl Heck
5426 Wright Street, CR 67
East Durham, NY 12423
sldkth@nyair.net

Membership Secretary

Phyllis Benjamin
P.O. Box 340511
Brooklyn, NY 11234-0511
nyscasec@optonline.net

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chesstour@aol.com

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December 15 for the Winter Issue
March 15 for the Spring Issue
June 15 for the Summer Issue
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See the Editor

2013: A Record-Setting Winter

Both the New York State Scholastic Championships and the Greater New York Scholastics set records for attendance this year. For the Greater New York event, the 942 players was the highest total since 1999 at the world's longest-running scholastic chess tournament.

The States in Saratoga drew an Upstate record of almost 700 players, and was the second-highest attendance for all time.

In a world where Internet chess has supposedly blown up the hub-and-spoke model of chess clubs and face-to-face chess tournaments, what's happening?

More chess is being played than ever, and chess likely has a better public perception than ever before. In a world where "geeks" like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg command billions of dollars and intense public attention, chess has been part of that rising tide. Particularly among youth and schools, where the softer economy and changing need for skills have combined to make chess a more popular in-school and after-school activity. The equipment is cheap, and the link to education and better grades strong.

Brooklyn Castle, a movie that documents the success of New York City's IS 318 chess program, as well as programs like those in Brownsville, Texas, one of America's poorest cities, have shown that chess champions can be created in any environment. For any chess player anywhere, there is the opportunity to dream. It's difficult to say that about a lot of other mass activities.

We hope New York's chess players support their dreams at the two Nationals in New York this year, as well as Supernationals and all of the other tournaments in the state and beyond. When you represent us, we all win.

Finally, our thanks to Steve Immitt at the end of an era. For 25 years, Steve ran Four Rated Games Tonight in various locations in Manhattan, creating America's Action Chess Showcase, with over 1,000 tournaments and millions of memories. The last event was February 14 at the New Yorker Hotel. Thank you for your support of chess in New York, Steve!

EMPIRE CHESS

“The magazine of America’s oldest chess organization”
Volume XXXVI, Number 1 – Spring 2013

Cover: The champions of the Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League show off the hardware1. Photo: Larry King

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Editor: Karl Heck, sldkth@nyair.net.

Webmaster: Daniel Heck, www.nysca.net.

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NYSCA membership now gets you discounts at Continental Chess Association events in New York State and all New York State Championship tournaments.

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

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

46th NY State Scholastics in Saratoga Break Attendance Record

Joshua Colas wins High School; Isaac Bareyev wins Junior High

by Bill Townsend

The 46th Annual New York State Scholastic Championships took place February 23 and 24 in Saratoga Springs. Overall about 686 youngsters competed in the eight sections. That's right, nearly 700. While this isn't a record for the state scholastics overall (there were four-digit totals when it was held downstate) it definitely is a record for upstate. Looking at last year's report on this event, I mentioned that the 2001 total of 680 would probably hold the record "forever" of being the biggest chess tournament ever held in the Capital District. Well, I was wrong and I couldn't be happier about it. Also, remembering how crowded and chaotic the 2001 event was (the director's room was, literally, a closet!) this event went smooth as silk. There was a little lateness and a couple of minor issues, but the tournament was remarkably trouble-free.

The High School section ended in a three way tie at 5-1 among Joshua Colas, FM Alexandr Ostrovskiy and James Black. However, like most scholastics tournaments the prizes here were trophies not cash, so they couldn't be divided. Therefore tiebreaks awarded first to Colas and second to Ostrovskiy. Colas also won the right to represent New York State at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in July. Justus Williams and Alexis Paredes were fourth and fifth with 4½-1½. Williams looked like he was going to sweep the section, being the only player with 4½ at the end of round five, but he lost his last round game to Colas. Sixth through 14th with 4-2 were: Azeez Alade, Tae Kim, Anthony Panat, Shawn Swindell, Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte, Lilia Poteat, Ryan Madden, Jonathan Hidalgo and Kristian Jacome. Kyle Moon was fifteenth with 3½-2½. Aleem Griffith was top under 1500 with the same score. Griffin Bassman was first under 1300 with 3-3.

Top school here was Brooklyn's Edward R. Murrow High School with 18½ points out of a possible 24. I'm not sure it would be possible to do much better than that: Murrow had four of the top six places. Bronx Center for Science and Math was second with

16 points and Browning School of New York was third with 8½.

William Ren won the High School Reserve section with a perfect 6-0 score. He started with a 929 rating, picking up almost 400 points from this fine result. Second through sixth with 5-1 were: Joshua Benham, Anoop Sunkara, Stephen Hedges, Wes Darling and Douglas Ownbey. Kyle Kostek was all alone in sixth place with 4½-1½. Eighth through fifteenth with 4-2 were: Austin Kossow, Zach Rowan, Alexander Campbell, Kareem Hill, Nathan Palmisano, Matthew Rzeznik, Tim Keane and Ryan Palmisano. Andres Flores was first under 900 with 3½-2½, Robert Presser was top under 700 with 2½ and John Distotelle was top unrated with 3-3.

Top team was Bishop Timon/St. Jude High School from Buffalo with 18½. Pioneer High School from Yorkshire, NY was second with 17 points and Promise Academy 2 was third with 13.

The Junior High Championship was won by Isaac Barayev with 5½-1½. Nicolas De T Checa and Amir Moazami were second and third with 5-1. Because Barayev is in ninth grade, Checa will represent New York at the Barber Tournament of K-8 champions. Like the Denker, the Barber will be contested at the U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin at the end of July. Niskayuna's Patrick Chi was the top rated player in the section and was leading the tournament until his last round loss to Barayev. Fourth through eighth with 4½-1½ were: Gabriel Katz, Patrick Chi, Spencer Ha, Warren Wang and David Brodsky. Ninth through fifteenth with 4-2 were: Nicholas Johnson, Brian Arthur, Markus Pond, Dilip Aaron, Jonathan Baccay, Jason Li and Maya McGreen. Justin Hua was top Under-1200 with 2½-3½ while Andrew Kalyvas was best under 1000 with 2-4.

Top school here was Eugenio Maria De Hostos IS 318 from Brooklyn with 16 points. NEST+m School was second with 14 and Pelham Middle School was

third with 11.

Two players topped the Middle School Reserve section with 5½-½ scores. First on tiebreaks was Jason Virasami, followed by Giridhar Murali. Third through sixth with 5-1 were: Carson Guzy, Bennett Boakye, Raymond Wang and Matthew Sherlock. Seventh through ninth with 4½-1½ were Vincente Molina, Edmond Zhao and Marcus Scott. Tenth through fifteenth with 4-2 were: Christian Chandy, Cameron Catana, Alexis Hedvat, Alexander Liptak, Graham Lo and Kyle Liptak. Ryan Tucker (3½-2½) was top under 500 while Ronghai Gong was top unrated with 3-3.

Browning School from New York City was top school here with 16 points. Shuang Wen PS184 was right behind with 15½ points while Success Academy Harlem was third with 14½.

There were also two players atop the Elementary Championship section as Katherine Davis and Maili-Jade Oueliet both scored 5½-½. Third through eighth with 5-1 were: Justin Chen, Zachary Morris, Ananda Saha, Maxwell Beem, Akira Nakada and William Hu. Ninth through fifteenth with 4½-1½ were: Jacob Chen, Thomas Pannett, Run Kun Fan, Lucian Hicks, Nancy Wang, Hudson Beaudoin and Tyler Roonprapunt. Pahz Cherelin was top under 1000 with 3½-2½. Top under 800 was Michael Dunaevsky with 2-4.

New York's Dalton School was top team here with 18 points. Brooklyn's IS318 was second with 17 while NEST+m School was third with 14 points.

Two perfect 6-0 scores were at the top of the Elementary Reserve section, the largest of the eight sections, with Ethan Morgan edging Abraham Brown on tiebreaks. Declan Rush was clear third with 5½-½. Fourth through fourteenth with 5-1 were: Matthew Meyer, Jordan Garcia, Edison Routh, Nathaniel Fox, Sezer Benoit-Savci, Joshua Ogbomo, Skyler Bell, Kevin Li, Ethan Inniss, Sam Korff, and Milo Bucalocarrer. Alexander Fontecchio was fifteenth with 4½-1½. Malcolm Whites was top unrated with the same score. Arjun Patel was top under 500 with 4-2 while Matthew Mitchell was top under 300 also with 4-2.

Top school was Alexine A. Fenty PS139 from Brooklyn with 21½ points. Geneva School and Browning School were second and third with 17½.

The Primary Championship, for players in grades three and below, was won by Harris Lencz and Erik

Brodsky, both with 5½-½. Third through eighth with 5-1 were: Eric Chan, Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, Wesley Wang, Nicolas Civantos, Evelyn Zhu and Daniel Levkov. Ninth through eleventh with 4½-1½ were: Martha Samadashvili, Nicholas Dingle and Michael Jiang. Twelfth through fifteenth with 4-2 were: Mateos Malle-Manas, Oliver Dietz, Achilles Imundi and Benjamin Medina. Melodie Loya, William Opich and Emma Eveleth were first second and third Unrated, all with 2-2.

Dalton School from New York City was top school here with 17½ points. Greenwich Village PS41 and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School were second and third with 16½ each.

The Primary K-1 section only ran on Sunday, and it had five rounds instead of six. There were two players with perfect 5-0 scores with Charles Hua edging Marcus Burchill on tiebreaks. Jordan Leung was clear third with 4½-½. Fourth through fourteenth with 4-2 were: Aidan Turner-Suzuki, Nathaniel Shuman, Audrey Wang, Peter Boris, Oliver Treen, Amanda Phillips, Lucas Civantos, John O'Neill, Dylan Singer, Matthew Wong and Toshinori Underwood. Gus Huston was fifteenth with 3½-2½. Blaise Loya was top unrated with 3-3.

There was a big tie among the top teams at 16 points each, with the placing being settled by tiebreaks. Dalton School of New York was first, NEST+m was second and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School was third. Steve Immitt and his team directed the event for the New York State Chess Association.

It's famously hard to get games from scholastic tournaments like this. Young players can sometimes be not too keen on recording their games, and the fast time controls (Game in 61) means that many games end in non-recordable time scrambles. However, due to the fact that pencils and scoresheets that made copies were available in the High School/Junior High ballroom an unprecedented number of scoresheets were turned in – I got nearly 70 instead of the usual six or seven. That, unfortunately, was the good news. The bad news was that most of them were not really printable – either I couldn't read the moves beyond the opening or play was marred by blunders. It was a little sad that the scoresheet box in the "top boards" room got zero submissions, in spite of being in the most obvious place possible. Frankly I blame those hardcover scorebooks that I see a lot of players use: nobody is going to turn in a game by tearing out a page from one of those.

Anyway, here's a couple examples that will hopefully get my point across. They both feature a couple of novel experiments in the opening that don't turn out so well.

Happy Player – Sad Player [B00]

NYS Scholastic Championship

High School Section, round 1 The Fred

Saratoga Springs, NY, February 23, 2013

1. e4 f5? 2. exf5 Nf6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 Bxf5 5. Bf4 a6
6. Nf3 Nbd7 7. Bd3 Bxd3 8. Qxd3 c5 9. Ng5? h6??

White only has a modest advantage after 9... Qb6. Instead, the game comes to an abrupt end.

10. Qg6, mate 1-0

Oops!

And here's an opening I can only call "Fool's Mate Deferred." How does that Grob you?

Hidebound Traditionalist – Bold Experimenter
[B00] Grob Reserved

NYS Scholastic Championship

Middle School Reserve Section, round 4

Saratoga Springs, NY, February 24, 2013

1. e4 g5!? 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. e5 Ne4 4. Qf3 f5?? 5. Qh5,
mate. 1-0

Young Olivier-Kente Chiku-Ratte was one of many Canadian players at this event, and he was the only master strength player that turned in any games. Here is one of his wins, over Capital District player Koushik Pernati.

Koushik Pernati (1790) – Olivier-Kente

Chiku-Ratte (2294) [B22] Sicilian Defense

NYS Scholastic Championship

High School Championship Section, round 2

Saratoga Springs, NY, February 23, 2013

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6
6.Nf3 d6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nc3 g6 9.Be3 Bg7 10.Bc4
Nb6 11.Bb3 0-0 12.d5 Na5 13.Bxb6 Qxb6 14.0-0
Rd8 15.Qe2 Nxb3 16.axb3 Qxb3 17.Qxe7 Bf5
18.Ng5?

18.Rxa7 Rab8 19.Qc7 and the game looks even.

18...Rd7!

This gives Black a lasting initiative.

19.Qa3 Qxa3 20.Rxa3 Bxc3 21.Rxc3 h6

Black could get away with just picking up the d-pawn: 21...Rxd5 22.Rc7 Rd7, etc.

22.Nf3 Rxd5 23.Rc7 Rb5 24.Nd4 Rxb2 25.Nxf5
gxf5 *In spite of Black's shattered Kingside, his two*

passed queenside pawns should win for him.

26.g3 a5 27.Re1 a4 28.Ree7 Rf8 29.Re3?

White offered a draw here, but this move speeds his demise. He had to play 29.Rxb7 Rxb7 30.Rxb7 Ra8 31.Rb2 a3 32.Ra2 and Black has winning chances, but it's going to take some work.

29...b5 30.Ree7?

30.Ra7 seems best.

30...a3 31.Ra7 a2 32.Kg2 b4 33.Reb7 b3 0-1

I frequently hear older players complaining that younger players are slow to resign, often playing on until checkmate. However, there is a very good reason for this: at lower levels a player with a lost game has chances practically until the very end. Here is one example of this phenomenon.

Alexander Solton (931) – Mason Coleman

(1139) [D02] QGD

NYS Scholastic Championship

High School Reserve Section, round 6

Saratoga Springs, NY, Feb. 24, 2013

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 Bd6 4.Bxd6 Qxd6 5.e3 Bd7
6.Bd3 g6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.c3 e5 10.dxe5
Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.f4?

Should be the losing move - White drops a pawn and a piece. Nobody would blame White for resigning here, but...

12...Qxe3+ 13.Rf2 Qxd3 14.Re2+ Be6 15.Qe1 0-0
16.Re3 Qa6 17.Qg3 Bd7 18.Re5 Qd6 19.c4 c6
20.cxd5 cxd5 21.Rd1 Qc6 22.Qg5?

Gives Black a wealth of tactical opportunities, thanks to the exposed White King. Better was 2.Nb3.

22...Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Rae8

Very strong was 23...Ng4!

24.Nf3 a6 25.b3 Bb5 26.a4 Bd7 27.a5 Qc6 28.Nd4
Qd6 29.Nf5? Bxf5 30.Rxf5 Re6

30...Ne4! picks up more material.

31.h3 Qc6 32.Rd3 Kg7 33.Rg3 Ne4 34.Qg4 Nhg3+
Even better was 34...Nf2+

35.Qxg3 Qc1+ 36.Kh2 Re1 37.Qg5 Rh1+ 38.Kg3
Qe1+ 39.Kf3 Qd1+

Black has a forced mate after 39...Rf1+ 40.Kg4 h5+.

40.Kg3 Qe1+ 41.Kf3 Rf1+ 42.Kg4 Qe2+

42...h5+ forces White to give up his Queen.

43.Kg3 Qe3+ 44.Kh2 Qg1+ 45.Kg3 Rf2 46.Qf6+
Kh6??

A dreadful blunder that should lose immediately. Black is still winning after 46...Kg8.

47.Kg4??

Here White could have turned the tables with the shocking 47.Rh5+!! Kxh5 48.Qg5, mate. But after the text, Black finally puts him away.

47...Rxc2+ 48.Kh4 Qe1, mate 0-1

News from the Marshall

by *Frank Romano*

GM Zviad Izoria won the 24-player March 19 edition of the Marshall Masters with 3 ½ points, winning the section outright with a last-round draw with GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the last round. Kekelidze, fellow GM Giorgi Kacheishvili, New York Hall of Famer IM Jay Bonin and IM Christian Maier all tied for second with undefeated 3-1 scores. Former US Women's Champion IM Irina Krush, FM Ilye Figler, and NM Yevgeniy Margulis tied for sixth with 2 ½ points. The tournament was directed for the Marshall by Dr. Marcus Fenner.

The Thursday Night Marshall Open on March 21 to open spring drew 40 players, and was won outright by GM Giorgi Kacheishvili with a perfect 4-0 score. GM's Zviad Izoria and Boris Kreiman tied for second with undefeated 3 ½- ½ scores, and somewhat surprisingly, they did not draw each other. Izoria drew IM Jay Bonin, while Kreiman drew FM Leif Pressman. Bonin, Pressman, FM Carlos Mena, NM's Boris Privman and James West, and Alex Eydelman all tied for fourth with 3-1 scores. Bonin and Pressman were undefeated. The tournament was directed by Jermaine Reid for the Marshall with assistance from Dr. Marcus Fenner.

Thirty-two players came to the Marshall on March 14 for the Thursday Night Action event. Former New York State Scholastic Champion GM Aleksandr Lenderman won the event outright with 3 ½ points, surviving a first-round draw against Expert Jose Angel Fernandez in the first round by running the table the rest of the way and beating FM Carlos Mena in the last round with draw odds. Mena, IM Farai Mandizha, IM Jay Bonin, NM and current New York State Scholastic Champion NM Joshua Colas, NM Yevgeniy Margulis, NM Boris Privman and Samuel Kahn tied for second with 3-1 scores. Colas and Bonin were undefeated. Jermaine Reid and Dr. Marcus Fenner directed for the Marshall.

Along with hosting several tournaments each week, the Marshall also hosted lectures by GM Michael Rohde on January 29 highlighting games from the 2012 Marshall Chess Club Championship that he won, and on March 12 by former USCF President and current FIDE Vice President WIM Beatriz Marinello, who is running for the USCF Executive Board and organizing the US Junior and Senior Opens in New York this summer. The Club also

hosted a classical music concert by Quentre on February 1, in a bit of a departure from the normal schedule of events.

March 22 marked the first time that the world-famous Marshall has hosted a USCF-rated Blitz tournament, with the new rules USCF recently promulgated rating Blitz tournaments for the first time. The nine-round tournament drew 44 players to the Marshall, and was won by Grandmaster Alexander Stripunsky, who had a provisional rating of 2680 for the first time in years. The GM gained 70 rating points with his 7 1/2-1 ½ performance, besting the field by half a point. GM's Mikheil Kekelidze and Zviad Izoria, both Marshall tournament regulars. Both second-place finishers ended with five wins and four draws, which is quite unusual for a five-minute tournament.

GM's Aleksandr Lenderman and Giorgi Kacheishvili, along with NM Alexander King and FM Asa Hoffmann, tied for fourth with 6-3 scores. Dr. Marcus Fenner was the Chief TD, with assistance from Alexander King.

The March 3 Marshall Open drew 31 players and was won by FM Rawle Allcock with a perfect 4-0 score. Current New York State Champion Raven Sturt was clear second with 3 ½ points, who surrendered a third-round draw to Expert Michael Hehir. Hehir, NM Eric Fleischman, Alexis Pardes and Edward Kopiecki tied for third with 3-1 scores. There was a four-way tie in the Reserve section with 3-1 scores between Joseph Vidal, Martha Samadashvili, Rebecca Agrest, and Benjamin Medina. Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall with assistance from Dr. Marcus Fenner.

The Marshall hosts a Grand Prix every month, and the February event held on February 28 drew 33 players, and was won by three Grandmasters: Aleksandr Lenderman, Zviad Izoria, and Mikheil Kekelidze. Lenderman conceded a draw to FM Leif Pressman in the second round, while the other two GM's drew in the last round with the tournament title on the line.

FM Carlos Mena, IM Jay Bonin and NM Boris Privman tied for fourth with 3-1 scores, each losing to one of the leaders. Jermaine Reid directed for the Marshall.

The February 19 edition of the Marshall Masters drew 15 players and was won by GM Alexander Stripunsky with a perfect 4-0 score, besting the field

by a full point. GM Zviad Izoria was clear second with an undefeated 3-1 score. Four players tied for third with 2 ½ points: GM Mikheil Kekelidze, FM Carlos Mena, IM Jay Bonin and FM Boris Privman. Gregory Keener, Jr. directed for the Marshall.

Valentine's Day was a day for another Marshall Grand Prix, which drew 14 players to the Club and was won by GM Zviad Izoria and FM Carlos Mena, both with 3 ½ points. The co-champions drew in the last round. GM Mikheil Kekelidze and NM Nasyr Akyzbekov tied for third with 3-1 scores, both losing to Izoria. Gregory Keener, Jr. directed.

The February 7 edition of the Marshall Grand Prix brought 28 players to the Manhattan club, and three of them ended up tri-champions: GM's Giorgi Kacheishvili, Zviad Izoria, and Mikheil Kekelidze. All three GM's scored 3 ½ points. Kacheishvili drew IM Marc Esserman in the second round, while Izoria and Kekelidze drew in the last round. FM Carlos Mena was clear fourth with a 3-1 score, losing to Izoria in the third round. Gregory Keener, Jr. directed.

FM Carlos Mena won the January 31 edition of the Marshall Grand Prix with a perfect 4-0 score, besting the 14-player field by a full point. GM Giorgi Kacheishvili and NM Vladimir Bugayev tied for second with three points. Bugayev lost to Mena with the title on the line in the last round. Jermaine Reid directed with assistance from Dr. Marcus Fenner.

North Country News *by Don Klug*

Dr. Kistler wins fifth straight Gouverneur Chess Tournament

Dr. David Kistler scored a perfect 6-0=0 record and won the 10th Annual Henry's Mind Blast Chess Tournament Adult Section on March 9th in Gouverneur. It was his fifth straight Championship. Fellow Watertown Chess Club Member's Don Klug and high school senior Tom Brock won 2nd place awards respectively in the adult and young adult sections. The event had over 30 players involved, traveling from Malone, Canton, Potsdam, Ogdensburg, Massena, Saranac Lake and Watertown. Local event coordinator Steve Coffin directed the non-rated non-USCF event.

Kratzat Charges to 2013 Club Blitz Championship

Bob Kratzat upset co-2012 defending Champion Adolfo Prieto to win the 2013 Watertown Chess Club Blitz Championship on February 26th. The Blitz Game time allowed is just 5 minutes per opponent for all moves in the game. A forfeit occurs when an opponent's time elapses. Mr. Kratzat swept the field of six opponents to win with a score of 6-0=0.

After the 6th round win over Mr. Prieto, Mr. Kratzat needed only win against his last opponent, Linval White. Mr. White nearly pulled off his own upset, but resigned as his clock ticked down towards a forfeit. Mr. Kratzat has completed two successive years as the Club's Blitz Tournament Champion.

New York State Open *Lake George, NY*

May 17-19 or 18-19

**Use your
NYSCA card to
get discounted
entry fee!**

NYSCA's Discount Program – A New Direction for Membership

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

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

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

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

Help us make NYSCA the best chess organization it can be in the best chess state in the country. It will make us better, and your events better as well.

NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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USCF ID: _____

\$20 for four printed issues \$12 for two printed issues (Winter and Summer)

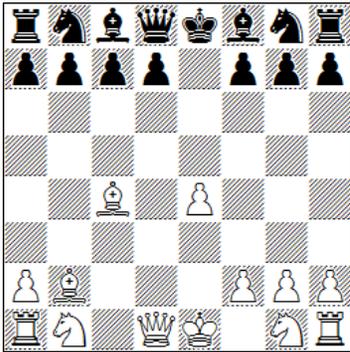
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Material Compensation – The Scholastic Column

by Zachary Calderon

Often times in chess we find ourselves up or down a pawn in the opening, typically through the offering of a gambit. In some cases, we can be up two pawns, or even a piece. The main idea in the opening is balance, though the balance can be having quick development in exchange for having less material. If you are down two pawns, then you need sufficient compensation for those pawns. If you're down one pawn, then you still need compensation, but maybe not as much as you would need if you were down two pawns.

Let's take a look at the starting position of the Danish Gambit below. The opening moves were **1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Bc4 cxb2 5. Bxb2.**



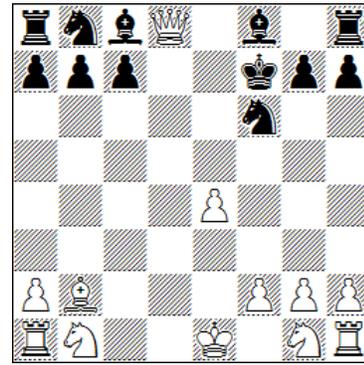
As we can see White is playing very aggressively. He sacrificed two pawns, but already has both his Bishops developed and raking down the board. The position is by no means worse for Black though, and if he can survive the opening stage, the material advantage will prove decisive. An important point to remember is that the advantage in development is often short-term, whereas the material advantage is long-term.

However, defending against these openings is no easy task. Often times Black looks for a way to give back some of that material and liquidate White's attack. The position is full of traps for Black, and he has to tiptoe his way through a minefield before being able to convert his material advantage. However, there is another way for Black to continue. Remember, Black is up two pawns. He starts out by giving one back.

5...d5! 6. Bxd5

Remember, 6. exd5 gives White an isolated d-pawn and blocks the powerful c4 Bishop.

6...Nf6 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7 8. Qxd8



White is up a Queen for a minor piece! Has Black blundered?

8...Bb4+!

Uncovering a discovered attack on the Queen with the Rook on h8.

9. Qd2 Bxd2+ 10. Nxd2

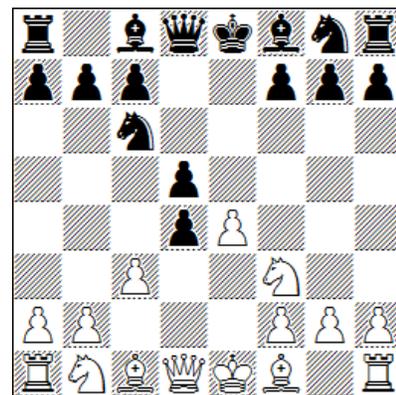
And the material balance is restored with an equal endgame, and White's attack is no more. Having weathered the storm, Black likely has the psychological advantage for the remainder of the game.

So we see in this opening how Black can quickly curb a quick blitzkrieg from White.

Are there other ways to do this in different openings? Lets take a look at a close cousin of the Danish Gambit, the Georing Gambit.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 3. c3

White plans to recapture the pawn immediately with his Knight, sacrificing only one pawn but still getting a very real initiative. If Black feels comfortable with these lines he can of course accept the pawn, or he can decline it and play **3...d5!**

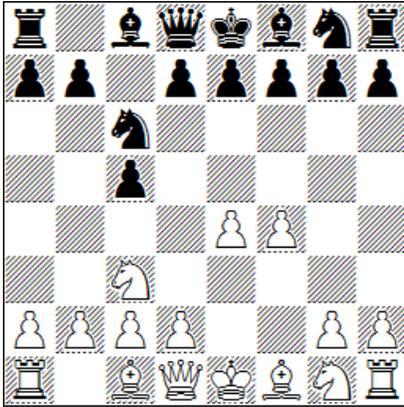


Black refuses to let White have any fun, and instead plays for an initiative himself. Now after **4. exd5 Qxd5 5. cxd4 Bg4 6. Be2 0-0-0** Black has achieved easy equality. He will play ...Bb4 and ...Nf6 with long-term pressure against White's isolated d4 pawn.

But what happens when we get too carried away with

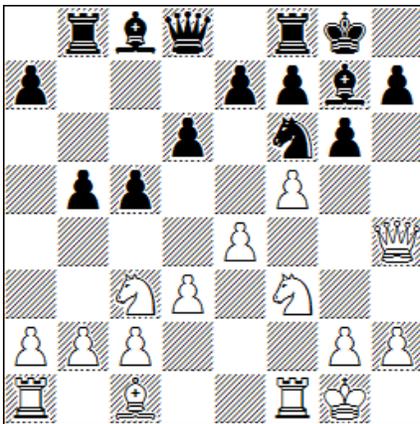
material? What happens when we become so blinded by having more pieces on the board than our opponents? If we can safely go up material, then that's fantastic. But we must be aware what new possibilities that will give our opponent. Remember, everything in chess is cause and effect. If your opponent is missing a pawn, he also has more room for his pieces, or an additional open file or diagonal. This next example demonstrates that very clearly.

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. f4



This move starts what is called the Grand Prix Attack of the Sicilian Defense. It is an anti-Sicilian that sidesteps the mountains of theory needed to play against the regular Sicilian. And although it is not a gambit in and of itself, there are several lines where White sacrifices material to get a strong attack.

3...g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bb5 Nd4 6. 0-0 Nxb5 7. Nxb5 d6 8. d3 Nf6 9. Nc3 0-0 10. Qe1 Rb8 11. Qh4 b5 12. f5!

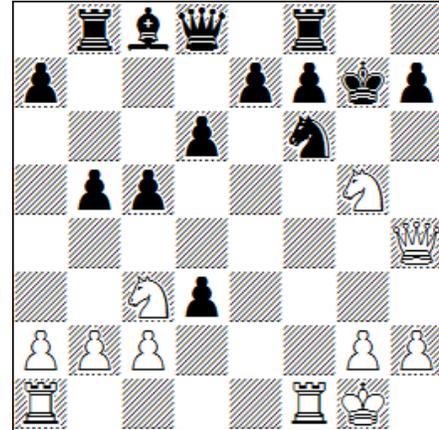


Black seems to have made no mistakes, and has played along with the classical ideas of the Sicilian. But remember, *just because it isn't wrong doesn't make it right*. Black hasn't played any particularly weakening moves, and yet look at the strength of the White attack! White opens the f-file by force, and sacrifices a few pawns in the process.

12...gxf5 13. Bh6! fxe4 14. Ng5! exd3 15. Bxg7

White is down two pawns, and unfortunately for Black, there is no way to return the material safely as his King is open and most of his pieces are on the other side of the board, useless in defense. Now the game is over.

15...Kxg7



Now here comes the killer blow.

16. Rxf6! And Black is lost!

16...Kxf6 (16...exf6 17. Qxh7#)

17. Rf1+ Kg6 (17...Ke5 18. Qe4#) 18. Qxh7+! Kxg5 19. Ne4+ Kg4 20. h3# Black became overwhelmed by White's attack, and too focused on material instead of defense.

By reading this article I hope you have learned a couple things. The first is not to neglect material. If you are up material, fantastic! Don't necessarily give it back for fear of being mated. The second is whether you are up material, down material, or the position is even, always be careful. Lightning attacks like the one above can strike at a moment's notice, leaving you with a headache and not knowing what hit you. And the third point is calculate! Don't throw pawns away and hope that something brilliant will show up. You need a clear plan as to what you will do no matter what the situation.

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Greater New York Scholastic Has 21st Century Record Attendance

By Steve Immitt

The halls of the historic New Yorker Hotel in “the city that never sleeps” were bustling with young chess players on the weekend of January 26-27, as the 47th edition of America’s longest-running, USCF-rated scholastic tournament made its annual appearance in midtown Manhattan. The 528 players who played in the Primary or Junior High Championships on Saturday, coupled with the 414 players who did likewise in the Elementary and High School Championships on Sunday, combined to create a gigantic turnout of 942 entries, representing 178 schools from New York City and as far away as Kingston, NY and Princeton, NJ—the largest turnout this event has had in this century!

In the 66-player Primary Varsity Section, Harris Lencz of Columbia Grammar and Prep School in New York City won all five games en route to the championship, just like GM Hikaru Nakamura did when he won this prestigious event in 1997. Eric Chan and David Yagudayev tied for second with 4 ½ points, and six players tied for fourth with 4-1 scores: David Zhurbinsky, James Lee, Martha Samadashvili, Anthony Wong, Hamilton Shillingford, and Albert Ming. Princeton (NJ) Day School won the team competition with 13 1/2 points.

The gargantuan Primary Novice Section had 153 players, and three players emerged with perfect scores at the end: Evan Kurtz of NYC’s Anderson School, Daniel Rohacs of Princeton’s Johnson Park Elementary School and Stephen Direny of Brooklyn’s PS 282, who finished in the same order in the ensuing playoff.

Adam Sherer and Nikola Rodrigue tied for fourth with 4 ½ points. Eighteen (!) players tied for sixth with 4-1 scores: Joshua Luo, Anna Moon, Dylan Reiner, Henry Smith, Gregory Senat, Jr., Leonardo Liu, Daniel Han, Pedro Espinosa, Lukas Erlichson-Deliz, Nate Long, Amadi Utak, Benjamin Wang, Adi Vidur Jasuja, Emerson Gelboter, Ryan Kim, David Stilwell, Nicholas McQuilling, Cecelia Pierce Haider and Zane Greene. New York City’s Anderson School won the team competition with 16 1/2 points.

The tournament’s second-largest section was the 147-player Primary K-1 Section, which also saw a three-way playoff among perfect 5-0 scores. This time,

Nathaniel Lande Schuman of NY’s Dalton School won over Charles Hua and Jordan Leung, both of the NEST + M school in Manhattan. Lucas Civantos and Eric Yu Tang tied for fourth with 4 ½ points, drawing each other in the fourth round. Eighteen players tied for sixth with 4-1 scores: Robert Shibata, Meredith Feiner, Gus Huston, Julia Miyasaka, Audrey Wang, Ryan Harada Peterson, Marcus Burchill, Oliver Clarke, Ryotaro Enokijima, Evan Altman, Jesse Roonprapunt, Diana Serinova, Tejas Siddaramaiah, Sharvesh Deviprasath, Luis-Joshua Casenas, Neil Dewan, Nicholas Shea, Kyle Dewan and Benjamin Klots.

In the team competition NYC’s NEST + M school racked up an incredible 18 1/2 out of a total possible 20 points—a blistering 93%—over fellow New York powerhouse the Dalton School’s 17 1/2 points.

Thomas Knoff of the Booker T. Washington Junior High in New York City had a perfect result in the 53-player Junior High Varsity Section, winning the section by a full point. Seven players tied for second with four points, including Experts Isaac Barayev, Michael Ainsworth and Amir Moazami, along with Spencer Ha, Brian Arthur, Ben Goldstein, and Raphael Clifton. Ainsworth and Goldstein were undefeated. Brooklyn’s IS 318, the featured National Championship stars of the feature film *Brooklyn Castle*, won the team competition with 14 1/2 points as well.

IS 318 also took home the first-place team trophy in the 62-player Junior High Junior-Varsity Section, and their Board One’s result, another 5-0 picture of perfection by Gabriel Rivera, who won the individual first place honors, helps to explain why. Lauren Handler was clear second with 4 ½ points, and six players tied for third with four points: Justin Dalhouse, Chenkai Luo, Daniel Han, Bhargav Nagalamadaka, William Ren and Aaron Seth.

Robert F. Wagner (NYC) Junior High sixth-grader Jessica MacArthur won six games on Saturday: the first five in the 47-player Junior High Novice Section took her to the playoffs, where she then defeated Stephen Dong of St. Joseph’s School (which came all the way from Kingston, NY), to take home the first-place trophy. Brooklyn’s David A. Boody School (I.S. 228) won the team trophy with 15 points.

On Sunday, Justin Chen of Manhattan’s PS 184 followed the well-tested six-point plan, defeating his five opponents in the 96-player Elementary Varsity Section before defeating Maury Abram of New

York's NEST+M school in the playoffs to emerge as the Elementary Champion after both tied with perfect 5-0 scores. There was a logjam of 13 players tied for third with 4-1 scores: Thomas Knoff, Katherine Shaw Davis, Remington Zheng, Eszter Morvay, Akira Nakada, Aidan Ahram, Sean Idemudia, Nancy Wang, Kirk Jobe, Eldridge Calizte, Max Jiahua Li, Thomas Pannett and Jayrene Shaw.

Brooklyn's IS 318 also continued its indomitable ways as well, winning yet a third team competition in one weekend, with an impressive 16 points.

Johann Hatzius of New York's Collegiate School overpowered the 78-player Elementary Junior-Varsity Section with a perfect 5-0 score. Marius LaBaune and Djuna Mauceri tied for second with 4 ½ points. Manhattan's Richard Rogers School (PS 166) likewise took the team honors with 15 ½ points.

Ian Nan of Manhattan's PS 184 (the Shuang Wen School) and Alexander Halpern of PS 166, Manhattan, had to each win all five games before they would face each other in the playoffs to victory in the 106-player Elementary Novice Section, which then went to Ian. James Adams and Ethan Morgan tied for third with 4 ½ points, drawing each other in the last round.

In the flagship 47-player Varsity section of America's flagship regional scholastic, NM Joshua Colas of White Plains High School (who later won the New York State Scholastic and will represent the Empire State in the Denker Tournament of Champions) and NM Justus Williams of the Bronx Center for Science and Math, both long-time veterans of New York City's Thursday Night Action Chess, faced each other in another classic Action Chess matchup—this time on Board One in the last round. Colas won the game and the tournament, and so adds his name to the illustrious ranks of Greater New York High School Champions. That both of these strong Masters are only freshmen suggests an interesting new and long rivalry for New York City high school chess.

Four players tied for second in the Varsity section with four points: FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, NM Justus Williams, NM James Black, Jr., and Kyle Moon, who went undefeated. Brooklyn's Edward R. Murrow High School also announced their return to the ranks of the currently illustrious, taking the team honors with 15 points.

Aaron Coppa of New York's Stuyvesant High School won the 54-player High School Junior Varsity Section with 4 1/2 points, the only player to win one

of the 12 sections with less than a perfect score. Coppa drew Qian Zhou in the second round, and then won three straight to work back through the field. Zhou (undefeated), Russell Wong, Henry Kingsmore, Eric Nechayev and Dhruva Mulye tied for second with four points. The Christian Brothers Academy of Lincroft, NJ won the top team trophy with 14 points.

Christian Brothers Academy freshman Christopher Wall walloped the 33-player High School Novice Section with another perfect result, leading his teammates in the CBA Juggernaut to another team championship as well, with 14 1/2 points. Marquis Brown, Russel Bruskin, Jaqueuce Elliott and Thomas Sargeant tied for second with four points.

The High School Section featured the debut of a brand new competition within a competition, comprised of two-player "Mixed Doubles" teams. The requirements were that the team of two players had to consist of one boy and one girl, and their average rating had to be Under 1800. There was no requirement that the two players had to be in the same section or even attend the same school.

In the first-ever Mixed Doubles competition, Rochelle Ballantyne of Brooklyn Tech High School in the Varsity Section teamed up with Will Lounsborg-Scaife of the Junior-Varsity Section's first-place school, CBA. The two players' combined score was six points. Meanwhile, two other players in the Varsity Section, Anita Maksimiuk of Brooklyn's Edward R Murrow High School and Miguel Garcia of New York's Stuyvesant High School joined forces and also scored a combined six points. Rochelle and Will's tiebreaks turned out to be superior, and they captured the 12 weeks of free entry prizes, over Anita and Miguel's eight weeks.

An event as large as the Greater New York Scholastics takes a tournament director team to run that is as great as New York City. Steve Immitt was the Chief Tournament Director, with the Chief Assistant Tournament Directors of this 12-section extravaganza being Jabari McGreen, Hector Rodriguez III and NYSCA Director Harold Stenzel. Other members of the Tournament Director team were Aaron Kiedes, Steven Flores, Hector Rodriguez IV, former NYSCA president Joe Lux, Lily Faerman, Matthew Morales, Kofi McGreen and NYSCA vice-president Polly Wright.

The emergence of such a wide-scale breadth of talent, especially in the younger grades, would seem to surely presage an exciting future for Greater New York Scholastic Chess!

2012-13 Mid-Hudson Scholastic Chess League Season Recap

by Larry King

Final Team Standings

Fischer Conference

Team	Matches Played	Matches Won	Matches Drawn	Matches Lost	Match Points	Game Points
James O'Neill HS Team 1	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	34.5
Cornwall Central HS Team 2	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	27.5
The Mount Academy Team 1	5.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.5	22.5
Kingston HS	5.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.5	20.5
Highland Falls Middle School	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	3.0

Kasparov Conference

Team	Matches Played	Matches Won	Matches Drawn	Matches Lost	Match Points	Game Points
The Mount Academy Team 2	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	26.0
Cornwall Central HS Team 1	5.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	34.0
Middletown HS	5.0	2.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	17.0
Monroe-Woodbury HS	5.0	2.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	26.0
James O'Neill HS Team 2	5.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	1.0	13.5

Notes:

(a) James O'Neill HS Team 1 finished first in the Fischer Conference because of its match victory against Cornwall Central HS Team 2.

(b) The Mount Academy Team 2 finished first because of its match victory against Cornwall Central HS Team 1.

2. Individual Point Leaders

Timothy Mills of James O'Neill HS Team One led all players with 14 1/2 points. Tied for second place, each scoring 12 points, were Kostya Shetekuri of Monroe-Woodbury, Chase Huestis of Cornwall Central HS Team One, and Andrella "Ella" Collins of Cornwall HS Team Two. John Martellaro of Cornwall Central Team One finished with 10.5 points. David Sanz of James O'Neill HS Team One and Ian Payne of The Mount Academy Team Two finished with 10 points apiece.

3. Playoff Matches

4. Semi-finals

James O'Neill HS Team One vs Cornwall Central HS Team One: Alister Collins and Chase Huestis won two games apiece, helping Cornwall defeated James O'Neill HS Team One, 5-4. David Sanz won two games for James O'Neill.

Cornwall HS Team Two vs The Mount Academy Team Two: The Mount Academy almost wiped out a 4.5-1.5

deficit after two sets when Ian Payne and Shawn Burnett won their games in the third set. However, Kyle Emanuele clinched the match for Cornwall, defeating Henry Bowman. The final match score was 5.5-3.5. Ella Collins chipped in two wins, and Nelson Singh scored 1.5 points for Cornwall.

5. Consolation Match

The Mount Academy vs James O’Neill HS Team One: The Mount Academy finished in third place, defeating James O’Neill, 5-4. Shawn Burnett and Mateo Wareham each had two points, and Ian Payne drew two games for The Mount Academy. Nick Fischer won two games, and Timothy Mills scored 1.5 points for O’Neill.

6. Championship Match

Cornwall Central HS Team Two vs Cornwall Central HS Team One: The series was tied 4-4, and Chase Huestis of team One was winning the last game against Kyle Emanuele (Team Two). However, Chase’s king could not move because three pawns and rook surrounded it, and Kyle’s bishop controlled the g2 square. Kyle moved his knight to checkmate Chase’s king, clinching the title for Cornwall Team Two, 5-4. Alister Collins (Team One) won three games, including a victory against his younger sister, Ella.

7. Playoff Notes

Cornwall Central HS won its fourth straight championship. There were several firsts in the championship match - It was the first time that a team “two” won; two siblings played each other; and two teams from the same school played each other.

It was the second time two teams from the same school faced each other in the post-season. During the 2009-10 post-season, Cornwall Team One defeated Cornwall Team Two, 5-4 in the semi-finals.

Also, Cornwall was the second school to win four consecutive championships. Newburgh Free Academy accomplished the above from 2004-2007.

8. End-Of-Season Swiss

While the playoffs were held, the five-round End-Of-Season tournament was being played. The event was opened to players not participating in the post-season. Lucas Donnellan of Cornwall won the seventeen-player event by a 4.5 score. Josh Grossbohl of Kingston finished in second with 4.0 points. Third-through-fifth place finishers with 3.5 points (in tie-breaking order) were Samuel Ben-Eliezer of The Mount Academy, Vince Orcullo of Cornwall, and John Gougoutris of Kingston. Aman Patel of Kingston finished in sixth on tiebreaks with 3.0 points.

The End-Of-Season Swiss was a combination of individual and team event. The top four individual scores of players from the same school would count as that school’s “team” points. Kingston HS rallied in the last round, scoring three points, to win the team event with 13 points. The Mount Academy finished second with 12 points, Cornwall HS finished third with 10 points, and James O’Neill HS finished in fourth place with 5.0 points.

Please view mhsc1.lktechnodude.com for additional information on the season and the league.

Central New York News

by *Karl Heck*

The Syracuse University Open was held on February 23rd in the Salt City and the 11-player event was won outright by veteran local player Ken Chamberlain with a perfect 4-0 score, beating second-place finisher and top-rated player Jose Angel Fernandez in the third round. Fernandez, Lance Winters, and 1494-rated Chuck Barber tied for second with three points. Joe Ball organized and directed the event.

The annual Onondaga County Scholastic Championship was once again held in 2013, and this year's edition drew 43 players to Syracuse's Southside Academy and was won by Jamesville-DeWitt player Billy Leiker, who beat Jeffrey Shi on tiebreaks after both players finished tied for first in the 11-player K-12 section with 3 ½ points. David Ahjee of the host Southside Academy and Somil Aggarwal of Jamesville-DeWitt tied for third with three points. Southside Academy won the Top Team Trophy with 9 ½ points.

Host-school player Adham Qaddourah won the K-6 section with 3 ½ points, and Southside Academy also won the Team Trophy in the section.

The largest section of the tournament was the 27-

player K-4 section, which was won by Fayetteville-Manlius player Gene Balian with the section's only perfect 4-0 score. Matthew Roberson and Aiden Usher tied for second with 3 ½ points, and six players tied for fourth with three points: Andrew Yin, Amanda Li, K'ayum St. John, Alex Fung, Eric Li, and Maxwell Fung.

Manlius Pebble Hill won the Top Team Trophy with 14 ½ points, besting Fayetteville-Manlius by half a point in the closely contested competition. Southside Academy was third with nine points. Bob Nasiff organized and directed the Championship.

February 24 brought chess action to Binghamton for the Cordisco's 45th Binghamton Monthly Tournament. The 12-player tournament was won by Pennsylvania Expert Antonio Scalzo with 3 ½ points. Scalzo drew fellow Keystone Stater Bernard Sporko in the first round, and then swept through the three New York players in the section in the remaining rounds. Binghamton-area Expert ed Kelley was clear second with a 3-1 score.

Steve Cashman, tournament director John Cordisco, and Bob McGuinness all tied for first in the Reserve section with 3-1 scores. Cordisco and McGuinness were undefeated, while Cashman lost to Cordisco in the second round. John Cordisco directed.

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Buffalo Niagara News

from Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner

Thirty-one chess players participated in the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Open Chess Classic held in the Main Place Mall in Buffalo on March 16.

Welcome returning USCF members were Nathan Braasch, Malcolm Maast and Robert Hughes, all of whom competed in the Pope Francis 2013 Open Section of play.

The results from the David W. "PawnMaster" McDuffie Scholastic K-9 Section was K-4 Scholastic Champion, Ethen Warner, Pioneer Chess Club in Sardinia. secondnd Place went to Boy Scout Troop 227 - Devon Walsh, Old First Ward Community Center and Top Female was Urban Queen Sidney Reed, Pioneer Chess Club which was her first chess trophy. In the K-9 Section, Undefeated Champion was Shaka E. Davis, the son of NM Lionel Davis, second place went to Jackson Mitchell, Gloria J Parks Chess Club and Top Female was awarded to Nia Worsham from Enterprise Charter Chess Team, which was her first chess trophy as well.

Results in the nine-player Under 1500 section, which was named after the famous African-American businesswoman Maggie L. Walker, in honor of Women's History Month. Ryan Palmisano from Pioneer Chess Club was the undefeated champion with 3 ½ points, drawing second-place finisher Zachary Madden in the third round. Steve L. Baer and Urban Queen Dekayla Dubose in her first outing in the Under 1500 Section, all were awarded cash prizes. The three players had 2 ½ points.

The winners of the Wendy's Restaurant Upset Leaderboard were in the following order; Dekayla Dubose(749) with a 534 point upset draw against Steve Baer.



The Co-champions in the newly elected Pope Francis I 17-player section were Urban Knight Chess members National Master Barry Davis and National Master Lionel Davis, both with 3 ½ points. The two National Masters drew in the third round. There was a third place tie with three points that went to David Miller, Erik Lubas and Urban Knight Chess member Kevin Roulhac. Barry David beat both Roulhac and Miller.

There were several substantial upsets on the Wendy's Restaurant Upset Leaderboard, led by the Chess Ambassador, Michael A. Mc Duffie(1015) with a 648-point defeat of Gary Boye in the first round. The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael Mc Duffie.

February brought 34 players to the Main Place Mall in Buffalo for the David W. Mc Duffie Memorial 2013. National Masters Lionel and Barry Davis tied for first with 3 ½ points in the Open Pawnmaopen section, drawing in the last round after sweeping through the field in the first three rounds. Erik Lubas, Daniel Allen and Tom Warner all tied for third with three points, with all three players losing to the Davises.

The DWM Under 1500 section was won outright by rising junior Sam Santora with 3 ½ points, conceding a draw in the second round to eighth-place finisher Nathan Palmisano. Chris Bieniek and Zachary Madden tied for second with three points. Madden beat Bieniek in the third round, but lost to Santora in the final round with the title on the line. Michael Mc Duffie directed for the Archangel 8 Chess Academy.

Flower City Chess

by Frank Romano

The Rochester and Buffalo-area Interscholastic Chess Leagues have completed their regular seasons, and the April playoffs await.

The winners in Rochester were Brighton in League One with a 10-1 score; Greece Arcadia in League Two with a 12-0 score; Albion and Brockport in League Three with 10-1 scores; Wilson Middle School in League Four with an 11-0 score; Webster Schroeder in League Five with a 10-2 score; and Victor in League Six with a 9-1 score. Despite continued school budget cuts and increased demand on student's time, a total of 29 schools participated in the Rochester League this season. The League is organized to minimize travel time, and also allows schools the opportunity to participate in MasterMinds as well as chess during one session. Match scoring is based on a total of 40 points.

Buffalo had three Leagues with a total of 18 schools in 2012-13. Home School team won League One with a 10-0 score. Pioneer Middle School won League Two with a 10-2 score, besting Canisius by half a point. Bishop Timon won League Three with a 11-1 score.

Both playoffs will be contested in April, with full results in the Summer issue. Albion and Bishop Timon will be back to defend their titles.

The March 16 Saturday tournament, which was the last preparatory tournament for the Marchand, drew 22 players. The Adult section was won by Abraham Glasser with a perfect 3-0 score, with the Expert upsetting FM Igor Nikolayev in the last round to win first prize. David Campbell was clear second with 2 ½ points. Seven (!) players tied for third with two points: FM's Nikolayev and Isay Golyak, Matt

Slomski, Meghesh Pansari, Jimmy Rossi, Derek Linton and John Manning.

Michael Dunaevsky and Silas Ruth tied for first in the Youth section with two points. Ken McBride and Mike Lioni directed for the Rochester Chess Center.

Twenty-four players contested the March 9 Rochester Chess Center Saturday tournament, and the Adult section ended in an odd five-way tie for first with 2 ½ points. FM Isay Golyak won his first two games and then took a half-point bye in the last round. The four other players at two points: Abraham Glasser, Matt Slomski, Jose Angel Fernandez, and Daniel Allen, then all drew, creating the unusual logjam at the top.

Michael Dunaevsky won the Youth section. Ken McBride and Mike Lioni directed for the Rochester Chess Center.

FM Igor Nikolayev won the March 2 Rochester Chess Center tournament with a perfect 3-0 score, sweeping the 19-player field. Eight (!) players tied for second with two points in the closely-bunched field: FM Isay Golyak, Abraham Glasser, Matt Slomski, Joshua Rofrano, Jimmy Rossi, Ken Chamberlain, Derek Linton and John Manning. Golyak, Rofrano and Rossi were undefeated. Michael Lioni and Ken McBride directed for the Rochester Chess Center.

February 16 was the President's weekend tournament, and 21 players visited the Chess Center for the Saturday Scramble. Two players emerged with perfect 3-0 scores: FM Igor Nikolayev and Jimmy Rossi. FM Isay Golyak was clear third with 2 ½ points, and Joshua Rofrano, Derek Linton and Jeffrey Shi tied for fourth with two points. Michael Lioni directed for the Chess Center. The Chess Center is open five days a week and hosts a tournament every Saturday.

Marchand Open Won by Kekelidze and Smith

by Karl Heck

The Marchand Open is a Rochester tradition that turned 35 this year, and 144 players of all strengths came to the National Museum of Play, appropriately enough, to honor the memory and spirit of Dr. Erich Marchand, Life Master and former New York State champion who told people to play chess in his memory. Even the Good Doctor, a former professor of optics at the University of Rochester, would likely not have imagined there being a National Museum of Play in Rochester, or the Marchand Open finding a home there as living testimony to the power of play and games in the United States.

The turnout for the annual Grand Prix event up five players from 2012, and 27 players from 2011. The Marchand had its highest turnout since 2001, part of an encouraging trend in 2013 of higher turnouts at “bricks and mortar” tournaments throughout the State, including the State Scholastic and Greater New York Scholastic, both of which had 21st Century crowds.

The tournament, which is traditionally the highest prize-fund event and turnout in Western New York, was won by New York City GM Mikheil Kekelidze and Pennsylvania IM Bryan Smith, both of whom finished with 4 ½ points. Kekelidze drew former three-time New York State Scholastic Champion and Georgia Tech student Deepak Aaron, while Smith drew GM Zviad Izoria in the final round after winning his first four games. All of the top players are Marchand regulars, as the tournament also serves as a “Western New York” homecoming for players who have left the area to come back and renew old acquaintances.

Izoria, Massachusetts GM Eugene Perelshteyn and Rochester-area NM and former New York State Scholastic Chess Champion Matt Parry tied for third with 4-1 scores, with Izoria going undefeated. Pennsylvania FM Thomas Bartell, FM Igor Nikolayev, Aaron and FIDE Vice-President WIM Beatriz Marinello tied for sixth with 3 ½ points. Bartell lost in the last round to Kekelidze with first place on the line.

Here is one game from the Open section:

Michael Alexander (1924)- Abraham Glasser (2090) Sicilian Defense, Marchand Open 2013 Rochester, NY 1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5 f6 5.Bb5+Bd7 6.Bxd7+Nxd7 7.d4 Qb6 8.O-O f5 9.Qe2 Ne7 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Ng5 cxd4 12.cxd4 Ne7 13.Nc3 h6 14.Na4 Qc6 15.Rfc1 Qxa4 16.Nxe6 Kf7 17.Nc7 Nb6 18.b3 Qb4 19.a3 Qxb3 20.Nxa8 Nxa8 21.Rab1 Qxa3 22.Rxb7 Nb6 23.g3 Kg8 24.Rcc7 Nbc8 25.Qb5 Rh7 26.Qd7 Rh8 27.Rxc8 Nxc8 28.Qe6+Kh7 29.Qxf5+Kg8 30. Qxc8 a5 31. Qe6+Kh7 32.Qxd5 a4 33.e6 Qa1+34. Kg2 a3 35.e7 Bxe7 36. Qf5 Kg8 37. Rb8+ 1-0

Webster Kehoe won the 47-player Under 1800 section with 4 ½ points. Kehoe had a “Swiss Gambit” to start the tournament by drawing Thomas Mcelmurray in the first round and then winning four straight games. Kehoe beat veteran Rochester player and long-time helper at the Rochester Chess Center S. Warren Lohr in the last round to clinch first prize. Lohr, Kevin Roulhac, Connor Wagner, Patrick Robinson and Owen Shriver tied for second in the closely-contested section. Lev Paciorkowski and Aasa Dommalapati tied for seventh with 3 ½ points.

Matthew Rzeznik won the 33-player Under 1400 section with 4 ½ points as well, securing a draw in the last round against David Markakis to secure the prize. Markakis, Robert Pruden and Steve Baer tied for second with 4-1 scores, with Markakis and Pruden going undefeated. Edwin Rosenberg, Anoop Sunkara and Michael Skok tied for fifth with 3 ½ points.

Calvin Houston won the 24-player Under 1000 section with 4 ½ points, drawing second-place finisher Griffin Hess in the second round to win the prize. Hess (undefeated), Pahz Cherelin and Eric Coltrain tied for second with 4-1 scores, with Hess going undefeated. Alexander Chernjavsky was clear fifth with 3 ½ points.

The tournament, as always, was organized by the Rochester Chess Center, and directed by Ron Lohrman, Ken McBride and Michael Lioni, with the help of a large number of volunteers.

Brooklyn Castle: New York Chess Makes the Big Screen

A review by Karl Heck

Brooklyn Castle is a feature film highlighting the chess exploits of IS 318, a National Championship school in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. In the tradition of *Searching with Bobby Fischer*, a feature film that highlighted the chess development of IM Josh Waitzkin, *Brooklyn Castle* highlights team chess of the group that is described as “the Yankees of chess.”

Coached by Elizabeth Vicary (now Spiegel), a Woman FIDE Master, the movie begins with the “disappointment” of placing second at the Junior High Supernationals in Tennessee. While IS 318 is grateful receiving its trophy from USCF Executive Director Bill Hall, it is obvious that the team came for one place only.

The movie features several of the players, including now-Expert Rochelle Ballantyne, who came close to the Expert rating in Junior High, and now National Master Justus Williams. Much of the theme of the movie is how chess lifts up the academic environment of the whole school, and how the chess team works to raise money to go to various tournaments (including the New York State Scholastics in Saratoga Springs) as well as the real-life struggles of allocating funds, selling chocolate and other items to raise money for the outside tournaments, and continuing to excel. The substantial support of Chess-in-the-Schools, a long-established player in New York City scholastic chess that helps fund chess programs in over 50 New York City schools.

The chess kids at IS 318 learn quickly about real-life budget cutting and creatively try to find solutions. One of the results of budget-cutting is the loss of an extra night before the 2010 State Scholastics. With a snowstorm impeding travel, the team arrives half-an-hour late for the first round. Despite the late arrival (and with our banner prominently featured), the 318 team went 16 for 16 in the first round.

While *Brooklyn Castle* does show the gritty environment that many of the students live in, the over-riding theme of the movie is achievement, and learning how to win, and how to lose. Not only do

the chess team members excel over-the-board, they are motivated to take the test for elite New York City high schools like Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech, where less than five percent of the students taking the test are admitted. Some people jump up and down, and some cry, as the results of the specialized high schools are handed out. The chess kids generally take the test and the college conversation begins with these students in the eighth grade. Hardly your typical inner-city school.

In other words, chess is the vehicle that gives these students the confidence to use their minds for other academic pursuits. It's a big-screen argument for the types of classes USCF pioneers such as Dr. Robert Ferguson of Pennsylvania have been making for the last 20 years.

Ironically, the chess classes fall into the special “Shop” category at IS 318, so Ms. Vicary is technically a shop teacher at IS 318. Many of the students make chess class their second home, taking chess classes as many as seven times a week. They do so while at the same time maintaining grades in other classes (a requirement to travel to events). It is noticeable that the parents of the students also become closer to the school and academics seeing the opportunities that chess opens for their children. IS 318's competition at state and national tournament is often private schools that not only have chess programs, but are largely made up of intellectual, geeky players that most Americans would think of as “chess types.”

The success of the chess team has brought students from other boroughs of New York City to IS 318, improving the overall academic environment. The students, largely from neighborhoods where under-achievement is normal and almost expected, emphasize grades and academic success. The school celebrates the chess team with banners and a very large trophy case, like the football team would be celebrated in Texas.

Above everything else, *Brooklyn Castle* is a celebration of chess, and the power the Royal Game has to shape minds and improve lives. It's a movie every chess player in the country should see. It's impossible to have a better message in a movie than the one that Brooklyn Castle presented, which is that it's what you know, and not your status in life, that makes you successful **(continued on page 27)**

Capital Region News

by Bill Townsend

Over the years, one of the rallying points for chess in New York's Capital District was the weekly Chess Corner Column in the *Schenectady (now Daily) Gazette*. It took a while, but the harsh realities of the newspaper business have finally caught up with it – the last Chess Corner was published on February 3, 2013. In a bitter little coincidence, this turned out to be the feature's 41st anniversary – the very first one was published on February 3, 1972 during Bobby Fischer's run-up to the World Championship.

Local chess organizer and Schenectady club champion John Dragonetti was the first Chess Corner columnist. When Dragonetti left the area in 1979, the writing was taken over by Emile Skraly, one of the founders of the Albany Area Chess Club. Dr. Skraly passed away in 1982, and Lin McMullin took over. Amsterdam's Lew DiCaterino replaced McMullin in 1986 and then Joe Weininger, a former president of the New York State Chess Association, took over the helm in early 1988.

I had submitted a couple of my games and analysis to Joe, and was very flattered when he said that he'd want me to succeed him at the Chess Corner when he retired. Of course I didn't think that would actually happen – Joe was doing a fine job and didn't seem likely to quit. However when Dr. Weininger was felled unexpectedly by a heart attack in February 1990, it seemed like the column might end. I submitted a couple of sample pieces to the Gazette, and they agreed to let me continue the feature. I had no idea that I would still be at it nearly 23 years later, with 1,196 columns under my belt.

I can't really blame the Gazette for this decision – everyone knows the newspaper business is struggling these days. In fact, two other long-running Capital District newspapers are hovering on the brink of bankruptcy. This isn't even a crippling setback for local chess, as it might have been just a few years ago. There is a Capital District chess website now – ENYCA.ORG, where bloggers report on local games and results and links can help people find future events.

The usual focal point of chess in the Capital District

in the winter are the chess clubs – the three largest (Schenectady, Albany and Saratoga Springs) have championships that begin in the fall, but conclude in the early months of the New Year.

For the Schenectady Chess Club the championship preliminaries began on October 11, following the usual format of splitting the club into two sections of roughly equal playing strength, with the top three finishers in each section qualifying for a six player final section.

In the "A" section David Finnerman came in first with 6-1, his only loss being to Dilip Aaron. In clear second was Michael Mockler with 5½-1½, who only lost to Finnerman and drew Philip Sells. Third place was something of a surprise as Dilip Aaron (5-2) managed to upset former champion Philip Sells (4½-2½), the highest rated player in the section. Sells only needed a draw to make it through to the finals, but in an even endgame position his king fell into a mating net. The rest of the section: Junior Canty (3-4), Richard Moody (1½-5½), Brij Saran (1½-5½), and Matt Clough (1-6).

In the "B" section, nine-time former champion Carl Adamec was the winner, as well as the only undefeated player, with a 6½-½ score. Adamec's only draw was with Cory Northrup. Peter Henner was second with 5½-1½, his only loss was to Adamec and his only draw was with Carlos Varela. There was a tie for third place between Carlos Varela and defending champion John Phillips, both with 4-3, necessitating a playoff game. It was quite a surprise when Varela upset Phillips in their regular game, then lightning struck twice when he won the playoff game too. The rest of the field: *Empire Chess* Columnist Zachary Calderon (2½-4½), Cory Northrup (2½-4½), Richard Chu (2-5) and Elihue Hill (1-6).

The finals began on January 24, and in first round action Adamec defeated Aaron, Henner overcame Finnerman and Varela lost to Mockler. A point of interest: this year's championship finals and last year's championship finals only have one player in common: RPI professor Carlos Varela. Carl Adamec, the top rated player in the section hasn't played in the club championship since 2009.

On March 14, the last two games in the championship finals were played. Rising junior Dilip Aaron managed to upset Peter Henner of Clarksville while David Finnerman defeated Michael Mockler. This last game left Finnerman with four points out of five, making him the new champion of Schenectady. Mockler, who was leading until this last game, was clear second with 3½ -1½. Just a few weeks before Mockler tied for first in the Albany Chess Club Championship, and had he won or drawn against Finnerman he would have been the first player ever to be champion of both Albany and Schenectady at the same time.

Dilip Aaron was clear third with 2½-2½. Carl Adamec tied for fourth with Carlos Varela at 2-3. Peter Henner was sixth with 1-4, having been the victim of a number of upsets, most notably against Varela and Aaron, but also being the only player to beat Finnerman.

The club traces its history back to 1905 and has had an unbroken string of annual champions since 1936.

Here is new champion David Finnerman's only loss in this year's finals. Peter Henner takes on Finnerman's favorite opening and makes it look easy. After this I thought that Finnerman was out of the running and Henner was one of the favorites. I should know by now not to judge a tournament by the first game.

David Finnerman (1893) – Peter Henner (1908)
[A39] English Opening
Schenectady CC Championship Finals, round 1
Niskayuna, NY, January 24, 2013

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.e4 Qc7 11.Qd3 Be6 12.b3 Ng4 13.Bb2 Qc5 14.h3 Ne5 15.Qc2

Pawns on e4 and c4 are supposed to give White a space advantage, but the Black Knight is raining on White's parade.

15...Nc6 16.Na4 Qh5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Kh2 f6 19.Qc3 Ne5?! 20.f4 Nc6 21.Rae1 Qa5 22.Qxa5 Nxa5 23.e5!

With the exchange of Queens, Black's advantage has dissipated, and this move now gives White the initiative.

23...fxe5 24.fxe5 Rxf1 25.Bxf1 d5 26.Nc5 Bg8 27.e6? A square too far. Instead White should have tried 27.cxd5 and after 27...Bxd5?! 28.Rd1 White has a small advantage.

27...dxc4 28.b4 Rc8 29.Re4 b5 30.a4 Nb3 31.axb5 Nd2 32.Rf4 Nxf1+?

Throws it all away again. White's in trouble after 32...c3! 33.Bd3 Rd8.

33.Rxf1 Rd8 34.Rc1 Rd2+ 35.Kg1 Rd4 36.Ra1?

In general it is better to keep your Rook active, but here it is a losing idea. The game looks even after 36.Rc3.

36...c3 37.Rxa7?

The c-pawn is now going to cost white material. He is lost.

37...c2 38.Nb3 Rxb4 39.Rxe7+ Kf6 40.Rc7 Rxb3 41.e7 c1Q+ 42.Rxc1 Kxe7 0-1

The Albany Area Chess Club championship started on October 24 of last year as an all-play-all round robin among twelve players. This was the same as the previous year's event with one important difference – the 2011-12 event was a prelude to a two-game match between the two top finishers (decided when second place finisher Dean Howard beat top scorer Peter Henner, 2-0) whereas the 2012-13 event was winner take all.

In this very tightly contested event no fewer than five players finished within one point of first place. At the top were Gordon Magat and Michael Mockler with 8½-2½, immediately behind them with 8-3 were Peter Henner and David Finnerman. A further half point behind with 7½-3½ was defending champion Dean Howard, and another half point behind them was former champion Timothy Wright with 7-4.

So who is the new Albany champion? Initially it was thought that Magat beat Mockler on tiebreaks by a mere quarter of a point, so he was declared champion, but a recalculation of the results revealed the two players in an absolute dead heat, so they became co-champions. Incidentally this is the first time that the Albany club has had co-champions since their very first championship in 1978 when Matt Katrein and David Reynolds tied for first. As for Mockler and Magat, this is the first time either one has won a local club championship.

The rest of the field at the Albany championship: Jonathan Lack, seventh with 5½-5½, Jason Denham equal eighth with 4½-6½, Cory Northrup, also eighth with the same score. Arthur Alowitz was tenth with 3½-7½, Chris Caravaty was eleventh with 1-10 and Chuck Eson was twelfth with 0-11.

For top player under 1800, Jason Denham edged Cory Northrup (both at 4½-6½) on tiebreaks. The

tournament was directed by Glen Perry.

Here is an interesting game from the Albany championship featuring two of the leaders throughout:

defending champion Dean Howard and new Schenectady champion David Finnerman. Basically, by playing an unusual variation, Black managed to get a space advantage in the opening and eventually exploited it into a winning position. While there are a couple ways that white could have improved matters, the best advice seems to be: don't let black do this.

David Finnerman (1883) – Dean Howard (2029)
[A13] Reti System
Albany Area CC Championship, round 5
Guilderland, NY, Dec. 12, 2012

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d4!?

Black has actually done pretty well with this uncommon move, as opposed to the main lines. The idea is that Black takes a bigger bite of the center, at the cost of a couple tempos. If he can get away with this, he generally has a good game.

5.0–0 Nc6 6.d3 Be7 7.Nbd2?!

This move, which is typical in positions like this, makes the game unique. The problem is, thanks to Black's pawn on d4, this isn't really a typical position so White has to think atypically. As I said in the previous note, Black is using the d4 pawn to grab more space, therefore if white just sits there and lets him do it, Black gets a good game. A more active way to play is with 7.Na3.

7...0–0 8.b3 h6 9.Bb2 e5

Black has taken two moves to get his pawn to e5, but because the d4 pawn is solidly supported, my chess computer judges Black to already be a little bit better. Over the next few moves the passivity of White's position becomes apparent.

10.a3 a5 11.Qc2 Be6 12.Rad1 Qd7 13.Rfe1 Rad8 14.Nf1

With his last move White appeared to be preparing e2–e3, but if he does it now he loses a pawn: 14.e3 dxe3 15.Rxe3 Ng4 16.Re2 Qxd3.

14...Bf5 15.Nh4

White is trying to play around his central problem - Black's space advantage. If he addresses it straight on he equalizes, but it requires a lot of calculation: 15.e3! dxe3 16.Nxe3 Bxd3 17.Qc1 e4 18.Nd2 Qe6 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.cxd5 Qxd5 21.Nxe4 and White has a lot of play for his pawn.

15...Bh7 16.h3 Bc5 17.Nd2 g5 18.Nhf3 Qd6 19.Ne4?! *This doesn't turn out well for White, but my computer's suggestion is only more passive fiddling*

with 19.Nh2. 19...Nxe4 20.dxe4 Bxa3 21.Bxa3 Qxa3 Black has won a not-terribly-important pawn, but has maintained his firm grip on the center. White is in a bad way here.

22.h4 Qe7 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Bh3 f6 25.Kg2 Nb4 26.Qb1 Na6?!

Perhaps a better idea was ganging up on the e4-pawn with 26...Qd6 and ...Qc6.

27.Rh1 Rf7 28.Rh2 Nc5 29.Nd2 d3!

The right time for this move. White's position is just getting uglier.

30.e3 Nxe4 31.Nxe4 Bxe4+

Black has won his second pawn - he is winning.

32.f3 Bg6 33.e4 Qd6 34.Rdh1!?

My computer recommends 34.c5 but White is lost in that line too: 34...Qd4 35.Be6 d2! 36.Bxf7+ Kxf7 37.Kf1 Qc3 38.Rf2 Kg7 39.Kg1 g4 and Black wins.

34...Rh7 35.c5?!

Now this move just throws away a pawn. White is flailing about, looking for any sort of activity.

35...Qxc5 36.Be6+ Kg7 37.Rxh7+ Bxh7 38.Rxh7+?! *Now White tosses an exchange on the fire, but all he gets for it is a few more checks.*

38...Kxh7 39.Qh1+ Kg7 40.Qh5 Qe7 41.Bf5 Rh8 42.Qg6+ Kf8

The checks are over, and now White can't avoid the exchange of Queens, essentially ending the game.

43.Kf1 Qg7

There was actually a quicker conclusion, but there was no point in being fancy: 43...d2 44.Ke2 Rh2+ 45.Kd1 Rh1+ 46.Kxd2 Qb4+ and White gets mated in a couple moves.

44.Ke1 Qxg6 45.Bxg6 Rh2 46.f4 gxf4 47.gxf4 0-1 *Here White resigned. Black is just a few moves away from getting a new Queen.*

As of this writing I don't have the complete results in the Saratoga Staunton Chess Club Championship, however with only one game still to play the results are pretty obvious.

The championship started in early November as a double round robin among six players. Now, with only one game left unreported it's clear that Jonathan Feinberg has won the 2012-13 championship. He has a score of 8-1, and although his last game is against his closest rival, Alan LeCours (6½-2½), even if he loses he still leads by half a point. Feinberg, the top rated player, is undefeated, having given up two draws to Glen Gausewitz and David Connors. Club president Gary Farrell is third with 5-5, Josh Kuperman is fourth with 4½ - 5½, Glen Gausewitz is fifth with 4-6 and David Connors is sixth with 1-9.

The chess rating system uses time-tested formulae to

rank players, but still upsets happen, even ones with rating differences that border on statistical impossibility. In this case the highest rated player in this year's Saratoga championship draws a game with the lowest rated player.

As I've said before, the fact that it's so easy to spoil a won game with a hasty move, especially in time trouble, is definitely a factor, but that's not what this game is about. The fact is neither player makes any glaring errors, and the game ends before time becomes too much of an issue. Just as every so often a good player will make an unexpectedly bad move, a weaker player will occasionally play a great game. That's what happens here – if you took the names off the game it would be hard to guess which player is the expert, and which is the C-player. David Connors rolls out a game like this from time to time, much to the consternation of his opponents.

David Connors (1497) – Jonathan Feinberg (2055)
[D05] QP Game
Saratoga Staunton CC Championship, round 4
Saratoga Springs, NY, November 25, 2012

1.d4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 d5 4.Bd3 e6 5.c3 Be7 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nbd7 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Bg5 Rfe8 13.Bh4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxh4 15.Nxh4 cxd4 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Rxd4

We are now well into the middlegame, and if White has any kind of opening advantage, it's microscopic. On the other hand, Black doesn't have great attacking prospects, so White has little to worry about.

17...Rac8 18.Rad1 Nc5 19.f4! b5 20.g4?!

While White's last move seemed like a good way to combine attack and defense, this seems a bit reckless. White would continue to have a small advantage after 20.Nf3 a6 21.Qc2.

20...a6 21.Qe3 Qe7

21...Na4 would be rather annoying for White.

22.Ng2 Na4 23.Qe2 Nb6 24.Kf1 Qb7

This is a somewhat subjective suggestion, but considering the rating difference Black should be looking for ways to improve the position of his pieces without allowing White the opportunity to trade them and bring the game closer to a draw. To that end 24...Qc7 suggests itself.

25.Qe4 Qxe4 26.Rxe4 Nc4

With the Queens off the game is almost exactly equal. In view of the rating difference Black would like to stir things up, but his position is passive.

27.Re2 Red8 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.Ke1 Kf8 30.Ne3

Here White offered a draw, which Black, unsurprisingly, decided to pass on.

30...Nb6 31.Rd2 Rxd2 32.Kxd2 Ke7 33.Kd3 Kd6 34.Ke4 f6 35.Nc2?

This move costs White a pawn. 35.b3 was a better idea.

35...Na4! 36.Nb4 Nc5+?

Black passes up his chance. He could have won a pawn with 36...Nxb2 37.Nxa6 Nd1.

37.Kd4 e5+ 38.fxe5+ fxe5+ 39.Ke3 Na4 40.Nxa6?! 40.Nd3 would cover everything.

40...Nxb2 41.Nb4? Na4?

Again, Black wins a pawn with 41...Nd1+ 42.Kd2 Nf2 43.g5 Ne4+.

42.Kd3 Nc5+ 43.Ke3 g5 44.h3 e4?!

Now it's Black who advances rashly, however a draw seemed likely after 44...Na4 45.Kd3.

45.Kd4 h6 46.a3 Na4 47.Na2?!

Now it's White who wins a pawn after 47.Nc2! Nc5 48.Ne3.

47...Nc5 ½-½

Here Black finally agreed to a draw. He was significantly behind on the clock (about 10 minutes to White's 22) and frankly after 47...Nc5 48.Nc1 Na4 49.Ne2, White is better.

The other big chess activity in the winter months are the free scholastic tournaments run by the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation, usually on the first Saturday of the month.

The first Make the Right Move Free Scholastic tournament of the new year, the 69th overall, took place on January 12 at Albany High School. Turnout was very strong as 105 players competed in the eight sections.

There were two All Welcome sections here – the usual one and an Open – a rated version played at a slower time control which featured some of this area's best players. The winner in the Open section with a perfect 3-0 was Peter Henner. Second through fourth with 2-1 were Philip Sells, Dean Howard and Zachary Calderon. Tied for fifth were Cory Northrup and Dilip Aaron, with Northrup winning the prize for top player rated under 1600.

In the unrated All Welcome section David Wang and Joseph Whyte were first and second with 3-1 scores. Dwayne Boss was third with 2½-1½. Fourth through sixth were Bill Matters, Christine Whyte and Adrian Galia.

The top scholastic rated section was won by Michael

Cheng with 3½-½. Matt Schottenfeld was second with 3-1, Pranav Venkataraman was third with 2½-1½ while Vignesh Pernati was fourth with 2-2.

The section for players rated under 1000 was won by Antonio Lacy with a perfect 4-0 record. Second through sixth with 3-1 were: Herman Vasquez, Deepti Aaron, Shreyas Raman, Killian Whyte and Kenneth Etwaru. Julian Galia was seventh with 2½-1½. Tied for eighth with 2-2 were: Justin-cre Regner, Jair Mautone, Joseph Garrozzo, Sarah Dennis and JanKarl Galia.

The reated section for players rated under 600 was won by Uriel Calixto with a 3½-½ score. Second through sixth with 3-1 were: Enkhbileg Besuud, Jax Mautone, Rowan Jones, Tahj Buford and Abhinev Gudapati. Tied for seventh place with 2-2 were: Pretesh Prakash, Abhijeet Gudapati and Stephen Dong.

The top unrated section was won by Ronghai Gong with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were Gordan Thomas, Adam Alexsic, and Sophie Calderon. Fifth and sixth with 2½-1½ were Tyrell Monroe and Devon Gardner. Seventh through eleventh with 2-2 were: Xavier McCarthy, Adam Cherian, Jessica Sorbellini, Vaughn Seninde and Nahcere Clark.

The unrated section for players in grades three through five was won by Gavin Perri with an unblemished 4-0 record. Second through fourth with 3-1 were Michael Moughan, Benjamin Casler and Daniel Brucker. Hailey Krasnikov and Lila Freeman were fifth and sixth with 2½-1½. Tied for seventh with 2-2 were Ligor Karanpankho, Cameron Slutzky and Nathaniel Mitzel.

The section for players in grades two and below was won by Collin Johnson of Menands, who won all four games. Second through fifth with 3-1 were Harold Wang, Peter Dong, Sean Hallinan and Max Moughan. John Lamont and Brady Gardner were sixth and seventh with 2½-1½. Harlan Abrams was clear eighth with 2-2.

Top team overall was St. Joseph's of Kingston with 12½ points out of 16. The East Greenbush Chess Club was second with 12½ while the Guilderland Chess Club was third with 11 points. Host school Albany High was fourth with 9 points.

The tournament was organized and directed by

Brother John McManus and his helpers for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation. The D'Alonzo family were the generous sponsors of the event.

Here is the game that is significant on a number of levels – it decided first place in the Open section of the January Make the Right Move tournament and it was a replay of the finals in last year's Albany Area Chess Club championship. However in this game Albany champ Dean Howard made a mistake in the opening that immediately put him under the gun. Then, just as he had fought back to equality, he blundered away a piece. Many players would have resigned at that point, but Howard played on, and by using the advantages still present in the position very nearly turned the tables, until the game was decided by a second mistake. In spite of the fact that this game was played with double the usual amount of time, an hour for each side, half of the game was played at blitz speed, with the players having less than five minutes left on their clocks.

**Dean Howard (2006) – Peter Henner (1908) [A06]
Make the Right Move No. 69
Open Section, round 3 Reti System
Schenectady, NY, January 12, 2013**

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 c5 3.Nf3

Although this game starts as a Larsen's Opening (1.b3) this turns it into a Reti Opening (1.Nf3 d5).

3...Nc6 4.e3 Bf5

Black wants to make sure the Bishop doesn't get buried after ...e7-e6, but he has done better with the far more common 4...Bg4.

5.d4 Nf6 6.c4?

Bold, but clearly a mistake. Best seems to be 6.Bb5.

6...Nb4!

Black immediately hops on the weak light squares on the Queenside. White is in trouble.

7.Na3

The only way to save the exchange but it seriously hobbles White's development.

7...Qa5 8.Nd2 cxd4 9.exd4 Nd3+?!

Even stronger seems to be 9...Rc8! 10.Be2 e6 and now 11.0-0? is a bad idea.

10.Bxd3 Bxd3 11.f3?

The problem with 9...Nd3+ is that White can now untangle with 11.Qf3! Bg6 12.cxd5.

11...e6 12.Qc1 Bb4?!

This turns out to be an awkward place for the bishop. Better is simply 12...Be7.

13.Nc2 Bd6 14.c5 Bf4 15.a4 Qc7 16.Nb4 Bg6 17.g3 Bh6 18.Qc3

White has managed to mainly repulse the Black

attack, but the second player is still better, due to his Bishop pair.

18...0-0 19.Nd3 Nd7

Time was beginning to become a factor here: White had 10 minutes left while Black had 8.

20.0-0 Be3+ 21.Kg2 Rfe8 22.Rae1 Bh6 23.b4 a6?
After this the game is all but even. It seems Black's best idea for continuing his advantage is the crafty 23...Nb6! because White can't play 24.cxb6? Qxc3 25.Bxc3 Bxd3 and Black is winning.

24.Ne5?! Nxe5 25.dxe5 Qd7?!

Strong is 25...d4! because white loses a piece after 26.Qxd4? Red8.

26.Qa3??

White rushes to save his a-pawn, and in the process loses an entire Knight. In most cases dropping a piece is grounds for resignation, but as it turns out white still has opportunities.

26...Bxd2 27.Re2 Bh6 28.Qb3 Rad8

The rest of this game was played at a blitz pace: both players were down to 4 minutes each.

29.Bd4 Bg5 30.b5 axb5 31.axb5 Qc7 32.Ra2

Both players were now down to 3 minutes. White's looming Queenside pawns are cause for concern, but Black is still winning.

32...Be7

At the time I thought Black should play 32...Ra8 but its not that much of an improvement over the text: 33.Rfa1 Rxa2+ 34.Rxa2 Rb8.

33.Qc3 Qd7?! 34.c6! bxc6?! 35.bxc6 Qc7 36.Ra7 Qc8 37.Rfa1 Bf8? 38.Bb6?

Alas, here is where White misses his big chance. He winds up on top after 38.c7! Rd7 39.Bb6 f6 40.Qc6 Ree7 41.Ra8 Rxc7 42.Rxc8 Rxc6 43.Rxc6.

38...d4!

This implied exchange sacrifice puts Black back on top to stay, but now the time situation is critical - both players only have about 90 seconds left.

39.Bxd4 Rxd4! 40.Qxd4 Qxc6 41.R1a2

Here White offered a draw, which Black declined.

41...Bc5 42.Qc4 Qd5?!

42...Rc8 is clearly better.

43.Qxd5 exd5 44.R7a5 *Black's advantage would be small after 44.Ra8 Kf8 45.Rxe8+ Kxe8 46.Ra5 . In this ending White has all the winning chances, but with only a minute left on the clock a draw is probably the wisest course.*

44...Bd4 45.R2a4 Bxe5 46.Rxd5 f6 47.Ra2?

The final mistake. Black wins the exchange due to a skewer, giving him an easy win.

47...Bf7 48.Rad2 Bxd5 49.Rxd5 Kf7 50.f4 Bc7 51.Kf3 Ke6 52.Rb5 Bd6 53.Ke4 Re7 54.f5+ Kf7+ 0-1 *The game continued on for several more moves, but the outcome is not in doubt. White lost on time*

just a few moves from checkmate, with Black having three seconds left.

The next Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament, No. 70, took place February 2 again at Albany High School. Overall 91 players competed in the eight sections.

Like last time there was a rated All Welcome section played at a slower time control with three rounds instead of four. Zach Calderon and Carlos Varela were clear first with 2½-½ each. Koushik Pernati and Bobby Rotter were third and fourth with 2-1. Fifth through seventh with 1½-1½ were Gordon Magat, Nitin Obla and Dilip Aaron.

In the regular unrated All Welcome section Ken Evans of Kingston was first with 3½-½. Bill Matters was second with 3-1 and Joseph Whyte was third with 2½-1½.

The top rated scholastic section was won by Sumanth Gajjala with an undefeated 3-1. Matt Schottenfeld was second with 2½-1½. Third through fifth with 2-2 were Matthew Sherlock, Pranav Venkataraman and Vignesh Pernati.

In the section for players rated under 1,000 Daniel Magat dominated, winning the section with a perfect 4-0 score. Phillip Anderson and Carson Guzy were second and third with 3-1.

The rated section for players under 600 saw another perfect score as Abhijeet Gudapati won all his games to take clear first. Pretesh Prakash was second with 3-1 while Joey Mercado and Salim Johnson were third and fourth with 2½-1½.

The top unrated section was won by Adam Alecsic with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fifth with 3-1 were: Ronghai Gong, Nikhil Bodduluci, Sophie Calderon and Finnegan Pike. Tied for sixth with 2½-1½ were: Luke Fallati, Harold Wang and Gordal Thomas.

The unrated section for players in grades three to five was won by Ollie Pflaum with a perfect 4-0 score. Tatiana Varela was clear second with 3½-½. Blaise Loya and Melodie Loya were third and fourth with 3-1 while Catalina Varela was clear fifth with 2½-1½.

There was another perfect score atop the unrated section for players in grades two and below as Mikey Moughan won all his games to take clear first. Collin

Johnson was second with 3-1 and Jack Taylor was third with 2½-1½.

The 71st Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament took place March 2 at the Albany Community Charter School. Overall 88 players competed in the eight sections.

In the rated All Welcome section Philip Sells finished clear first with 3½-½, drawing with Zach Calderon in the first round then winning all the rest of his games. Dilip Aaron was second with 3-1 and Zach Calderon was third with 2½-1½.

In the unrated All Welcome section Adrian Galia took clear first with a perfect 4-0 score. Bill Matters was clear second with 3-1. Sandeep Alampalli was third with 2½-1½. Fourth through seventh with 2-2 were David Sherlock, Paul Girdansky, Matthew Dolen and Josh Sigsby.

The top-rated scholastic section was won by Matthew Sherlock with 3-1. Second and third with 2½-1½ were Pran Venkataraman and Nigel Galia.

Killian Whyte dominated the rated Under-1000 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Julian Galia, JanKarl Galia and Justin-cre Regner. Fifth through seventh with 2-2 were: Salim Johnson, Deepti Aaron and Zachary Benson.

The Under-600 section was won by Abhinev Gudapati who just beat out Sophie Calderon on tiebreaks. Both scored 3½-½. Third and fourth with 3-1 were Jade Regner and Ronghai Gong.

The top unrated section had two perfect 4-0 scores at the top with Aaron Salisbury edging Mari Calderon on tiebreaks. Third through fifth with 3-1 were Tyrell Monroe, Johnson Rahzier and Tim Benac. All alone in sixth place was Xavier McCarthy with 2½-1½.

The unrated section for players in grades three to five was won by Harold Wang with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: E.J. Adams, Zachary Swain and Kaizier Griggin. Fifth through seventh with 2½-1½ were: Elijah Anderson-Seymour, Jahcor Brooks and William Hinds.

Collin Johnson won the unrated section for players in grades two and below with a 3½-½ score. John Lamont was clear second with 3-1. Third and fourth with 2-2 were Caleb Meyer-Chabris and Pranav

Puviarasu.

Top team was East Greenbush Chess Club with an impressive 15½ points out of 16. The defending champions, they are currently leading the 2012-13 standings and this result lengthens their lead.

The tournament was organized and directed by Brother John McManus and his team of helpers.

Brooklyn Castle Review

(continued from page 20)

Towards the end of the movie, Rochelle is awarded a four-year scholarship at the University of Texas at Dallas for winning the USCF All-Girls National, and is accepted at Brooklyn Tech, a specialized high school in New York City. Though she graduates from IS 318 ahead of some of the other stars, she still is considered part of the team.

The movie ends with an update on current events, as most of the film footage occurs during the 2009-10 school year. The update includes IS 318 becoming the first middle school in the country to win the National High School championship. The story makes the *New York Times* and gets worldwide media play.

The team's tenuous existence is also highlighted at the end of the movie, with a walk-a-thon and other fundraisers being continuously held to support chess at IS 318. Despite the team's national success, support for the travel tournaments remains a year-to-year tightrope walk. The juxtaposition of IS 318's national success, with students from much wealthier districts being afraid of this Brooklyn powerhouse, and the real-world nature of the budget and largely donated resources, is a powerful theme of the movie.

Brooklyn Castle is now available in various formats through the web site www.brooklyncastle.com. It is also possible for chess groups to arrange a fundraising screening, which is another avenue for clubs looking for a boost for that trip to States or Nationals!

As an afterlude, I'll note that Ms. Spiegel won't be at IS 318 next year, as she will be on maternity leave. Congratulations to her on her baby, and congratulations to IS 318 on all their current and future success!

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 13-14 4th Annual Broome County Chess Championship - Francis Cordisco Memorial

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

6-SS, G/75 d5. CORDISCO'S CHESS CENTER, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901, (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com. \$1000 Prize Money GUARANTEED. Two sections, **Open Section:** \$300-\$150-\$100 trophies 1st – 3rd; **Reserve Section:** \$250-\$125-\$75 (under 1700) trophies 1st – 3rd. US Chess Federation Membership required. **Advance entry fee:** Open- \$40 Reserve- \$30, \$5 more on site- cash only on site. Non Broome County residents welcome. All juniors (under 18) receive **FREE** chess set & board. **Schedule: Registration** on site 9:00-9:30 AM Saturday. **Rounds:** 10AM – 1PM – 4PM both days. **Mail entry:** checks payable to “Cordisco’s Corner Store”, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Non Broome County residents welcome- 1st place trophy Broome residents only.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 20 2013 Watertown Open Chess Tournament

4 -SS, G/75+d /5, H pt Bye 1-3. American Red Cross, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY, 2d Flr. Conference Rm. **\$100 Prize fund** b/8 total paid entries. \$60, first, \$25, 2nd & \$15, class. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:20 AM. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 12:15, 3 and 5:30 PM. **EF:** \$23, \$25 at door (\$20 for WCC members). **Ent:** send to Don Klug, 518 Sherman St., Watertown, NY 13601. D. Klug 315-785-8800 or donklug@twcny.rr.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAY 17-19 OR 18-19 21st annual New York State Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

5SS, 30/90, SD/1, d5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60, d5). Tiki Resort, 2 Canada St., Lake George, NY 12845. \$\$G 3000. In 4 sections. **Open:** \$\$ 400-200-150, top Under 2110 \$230-120, top Under 1910/Unr \$220-110. **Senior**, open to under 2010 or unrated born before 5/20/63. \$\$ 300-150-80, top Under 1810 \$120-60. **Under 1710:** \$\$ 300-150-80, Under 1510 \$120-60, unrated limit \$150. **Under 1310:** \$100-50, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, Unr. **EF:** \$79 online at chessaction.com by 5/15, \$85 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/16 (entry only, no questions), 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 mailed by 5/9, \$90 online until 2 hours before game or at site. **ADVANCE ENTRY OR LATE ONLINE ENTRY \$7 LESS TO NYSCA MEMBERS** (NYSCA dues \$12/year, may be paid with entry fee). No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Entry fee \$50 less** to all in U1310 Section. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry- online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. Re-entry \$40, not available in Open Section. GMs free, \$60 deducted from prize. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6:30 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 11:30 am, rds Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 10 & 3:15. Half point byes OK all, must commit before rd 2; limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye if under 1910/unr in Open). **HR:** 74-74, call 518-668-5744 Mon-Fri 9 am-5pm, reserve by 5/3 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:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.us, 845-496-9658. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAY 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27 3rd Annual New Yorker Open!

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

7-SS, **Open Section time control:** 40/110, SD/30 + 10-second delay (non-delay clocks: 40/110, SD/35), **Under 2000 & Under 1600 Sections time control:** 30/90, SD/1, d/5. All sections: **3-Day Option**, rds. 1-2 G/75 + d/5; **2-Day Option** is only for **U2000 & U1600 Sections: no 2-Day Open** (2-day U2000 & U1600, rds. 1-4 G/45 + d5). Chess Center of New York at the historic New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, NYC. **\$2,500 Guaranteed Prizes!** 3 sections. **Open.** \$400-200-100-50, top U2200 \$200, FIDE. **Under 2000:** \$300-150-70, top U1800 \$160. \$200 limit to Unr. **Under 1600:** \$250-120-60, top U1400 \$140, \$100 limit to

Unr. Trophies to top 3, top U1200, U1000, Unr. **NEW!! Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections:** \$200-100 (teammates' average rating must be U2200 & may play in different sections, teammate pairings avoided but possible, teams must commit before both players have played rd. 4). **EF** if postmarked by 5/17: 4-Day \$79, 3-Day \$78, 2-Day \$77, all \$75 **on-line thru 5/22** at www.chesscenter.cc, current NYSCA members, \$5 off mail or online entries only, all \$80 by phone thru 5/22, \$90 at site; **EF** \$40 less to unrated players in U1600 Section (*only players with 3 lifetime games or less are unrated*), GMs free (\$60 from prize), specified Greater NY Scholastic prizewinners free! Re-entry \$50 except from Open to Open. **4-Day Schedule:** reg. ends Fri 6:30 pm. Rds Fri. 7, Sat. 12 & 6, Sun. 12 & 6, Mon. 10 & 3:30. **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat. 10 am. Rds. Sat. 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun. 12 & 6, Mon. 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sun 9:30 am. Rds. Sun. 10, 12, 2, 4, 6, Mon. 10 & 3:30. All schedules merge and compete for same prizes. Limit 3 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. Balances of all limited prizes go to next eligible player(s). Unofficial ratings at us.chess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. \$15 charge for refunds. **HR:** 212-971-0101. **Questions,** chesscentr@gmail.com or 347-201-CCNY (2269), **credit card phone entries** (no questions) thru 5/22:**406-896-2191**. No checks at site, credit cards OK. CCA ratings may be used. **Ent: Chess Center of NY,** PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553. Help with NYC parking: www.primospot.com, www.iconparkingsystems.com **Bring sets, clocks, boards!** W.

MAY 28-JUNE 2 2013 U.S. Senior Open

6 SS, 40/2, SD/1. Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Tarrytown, 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591. **Chess Rate** \$129 single/double/triple/quad Free Parking, free internet connection. **Reservation:** Call 914-631-5700 or online at www.tarrytown.doubletree.com and enter the group code CHS make a reservation by April 26. **Eligibility:** Open to USCF members born on or before May 27, 1963. Two 1/2-point byes allowed if requested before end of Rd 2. **Prizes and Awards \$5,500 GTD!** 1st \$1,250 2nd 850, 3rd \$600, 4th 300, under 2300 \$500 & \$300, under 2000 \$300 & \$150, under 1800 \$300 & 150, under 1500/unr \$300 & \$150, Top Woman \$350. Plaques for the top 10 players overall. Top finisher born on or before 1/1/53 qualifies for the **2013 FIDE World Senior Championship in Opatija, Croatia**. Info for the 2013 FIDE World Senior Championship can be found at: http://www.fide.com/index.php?option=com_fidecalendar&view=fcalview&aid=880. The USCF will provide a \$500 stipend and the U.S. Chess Trust will provide a \$500 stipend. FIDE Rated. **Schedule:** 6 Day schedule: Rounds 1-5 at 5pm, Round 6 at 9am. 3 Day schedule (First three rounds not eligible for FIDE rating, since its G/60) Rounds 1-3 at 9am, 11:30am, 2pm Merges round 4. Awards Banquet on Sunday, June 2nd at 4pm, \$35, open to all. **EF:** \$95 by April 20th, \$110 by May 10th and \$130 after or at the site. **Mail entry to:** Chess Educators, P.O. Box 160, New York, NY 10028. For more information please call or email Beatriz Marinello at 917-553-4522 or Beatriz@chesseducators.com. Online registration at www.chesseducators.com. **2013 U.S. Senior Blitz Chess Challenge:** 7 rounds G/5, Sunday, June 2 at 8pm. Two Sections: Open, Under 1600. On-site registrations for the Blitz tournament will close at 7:30pm \$20. (70% of total entry fees for Blitz Chess Challenge will be allocated to cash prizes) 50% 1st Place, 30% 2nd Place & 20% 3rd Place.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

MAY 31-JUNE 2 2013 U.S. Junior Open

6 SS, G/120. Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Tarrytown, 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591. **Chess Rate** \$129 single/double/triple/quad Free Parking, free internet connection. **Reservation:** Call 914-631-5700 or online at www.tarrytown.doubletree.com and enter the group code CHS. Make a reservation by April 26th. 4 Sections: U21, U15, U11, U8 (ages as of 1/1/2013). One 1/2 point bye available, except Rd 6, if requested prior Rd1. Individual and Team Awards (schools and clubs). Plaques are decided by tie breaks, cash prizes are divisible. **UNDER 21: Fide rated.** #1 player gets the U.S. Junior Open Champion title, qualifies to play in the 2014 U.S. Junior Closed Invitational, if still eligible by age. Plaque and \$600 #2-5 players: Cash prizes: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$100 Plaques for best player age 18, 17, 16, 15, top Girl, top ratings U2000, U1800, U 1600, U1400, U1200. **UNDER 15: Fide rated.** #1 player gets the U.S. Junior Under 15 Champion title, Plaque and \$400 #2 - 5 players. Cash prizes: \$300-\$200-\$100-\$50. Plaques for best player age 14, 13, 12, 11, top Girl, top ratings U1800, U 1600, U1400, U1200, U1000. **UNDER 11:** #1 player gets the U.S. Junior Under 11 Champion title, Plaque and \$300 #2 - 5 players. Cash prizes: \$200-\$100-\$75 -\$50. Plaques for best player age 10, 9, 8, top Girl, top ratings U 1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, U800 **UNDER 8:** #1 player gets the U.S. Junior Under 8 Champion title, Plaque and \$200 #2-5 players. Cash prizes: \$150-\$100-\$75 -\$50. Plaques for best player age 7, 6, 5, top Girl, top ratings U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, U600. **TEAM TROPHIES AWARDS FOR ALL THE SECTIONS:** (minimum 3

players for team, and winning teams will be selected by the top three individual scores) SCHOOL TEAM AWARDS TOP 5; CLUB TEAM AWARDS TOP 5. **SCHEDULE:** Rounds 1-4 11am & 5pm; Rounds 5-6: 9am & 2pm; and Award ceremony 7pm. **ENTRY FEE AND REGISTRATION** \$60 if registered or postmarked by April 22, 2013, \$70 if registered or postmarked by May 20, 2013, \$80 after May 20 or \$100 at site from 8am-10am. Players registering on site after 10am (Friday) will not be paired for round 1, will receive a 1/2 bye, and will begin play with round 2. **2013 U.S. Junior Open Blitz Chess Challenge:** 7 rounds G/5 Thursday, May 30th at 5pm. Three Sections: Open, Under 1600, Under 1000. On-site registrations for the Blitz tournament will close at 4:30pm. EF: \$20. Trophies to top 5 players in each section. **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beatriz Marinello at 917-553-4522 or Beatriz@chesseducators.com. **REGISTRATIONS:** www.chesseducators.com.

May 19 and every month Binghamton Monthly Tourney!

4-SS, G/65 d/5. **Prizes:** \$300 b/26. **Open-**\$100-\$60-\$30; **Reserve-**\$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700). **Trophies:** 1-3 Reserve section. **Advance Entry - EF's Reduced!:** Open-\$20, Reserve-\$15 (U1700) \$5 more on site-cash only on site. **Schedule:** Registration on site 8:45-9:15 am. **Rounds:** 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. **Free** USCF 90-day membership (call for details). **Free** chess set & board to all new players under 18 years of age. **Mail Entry:** checks payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

JUNE 19-23, 21-23 OR 22-23 6th New York International

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

Playing Site: St. John's University, Manhattan Campus (in TRIBECA) 101 Murray St., New York, NY 10007. **In 5 sections:** A) FIDE Norm Tournament, June 19-23: Open to all players rated 2200 or above (USCF or FIDE) and special invitees. 9- SS, 40/90, SD/30, increment 30. \$12,500 unconditionally guaranteed: \$5000-2500-1500-1000, U2500 FIDE \$1,000, U2400 \$1000, U2300 \$500. **EF:** \$375 in advance, \$425 on site. Players with USCF ratings over 2200 with no FIDE rating: \$325 advance/\$375 at site, Players with USCF ratings over 2200 and FIDE rating U2200: \$275 in advance/\$325 at site. USA players with FIDE ratings over 2200: \$225 in advance, \$275 at site. USA IMs, USA WGMs, and Foreign FIDE rated players: \$175 in advance/\$225 at site. GMs, foreign IMs, and foreign WGMs free; no money deducted from prize fund. All \$25 less for Marshall Chess Club Members. **Rds.:** 6/19: 7 pm 6/19-23: 11 am & 5 pm. Byes: Limit 2, must commit before round 3; limit 1 bye rounds 8-9. FIDE IM/GM norms possible, must play all rounds. **Last year 2 GM and 3 IM norms were achieved!** FIDE Rating used for pairings. Prizes for all sections other than Top section based on 175 entries (U1300 count as 1/2 entries) B) U2200: \$1,500-800-500-200, Top U2100 \$500, Top U2000 \$500. FIDE rated, USCF ratings used for pairings and prizes. C) U1900: \$1,500-800-500-200, Top U1800 \$500, Top U1700 \$500. D) U1600: \$1,500-800-500-200, Top U1500 \$500, Top U1400 \$500. E) U1300: \$1,000-400-200, Top U1200 \$200, Top U1100 \$200, Trophies to Top U1000, U900, U800, unrated. Sections B)-E): 6-SS, 30/90, SD/60, d5. EF: \$129 if received by 6/13 (mail check or online), \$149 if received after 6/13 or at site (credit or cash only). U1300 \$50 less! MCC members \$25 (\$10 in U1300) less. Reentry (counts 1/2) \$80 (U1300 \$60). 2 schedules: **3-day:** Rds: 6/21-23: 12 & 6 pm. **2-day** (Rd.1-2 G/30;d5): Reg. ends Sat 9AM. Rds.: 6/22 9:30,10:45am 12& 6pm, 6/23: 12 & 6pm.**Byes:** Limit 2, commit before rd.2. USCF June rating used (unless FIDE or foreign rating is higher), unofficial USCF rating used if otherwise unrated. **Foreign players:** Usually 100 points added to FIDE or foreign national ratings. No points added to CFC, PR, or Jamaica. Please bring clocks, boards, and sets. **Reg.:** Advance: must be received by 6/13. On Site: One hour before round. Accommodation: St. John's University Manhattan Campus. Private rooms, shared bathrooms: \$70 single, \$90 double (10% discount if reserved by May 15). **Registration and room reservation, please contact:** Marshall Chess Club, 23 West 10th St., New York, NY 10011. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org. **E-mail:** admin@marshallchessclub.org.

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.

April 20 (Syracuse University), May 11 and June 15 (Minoa) Syracuse-Minoa Opens:

4-SS. Rds.:1&2 G/60, Rds.3&4: G/90. Minoa Muncipal Bldg., 240 N. Main St., Minoa, NY (Exit Kirkville Rd. E. from I 481, R. at second light). EF: \$30. Prizes:b/20) \$200, 125, Class 100. Registration.: 8:30-9:15. Rds.: 9:30, 12:00, 2:15, 5:30. Contact: Joe Ball 315-436-9008. Chess Magnet School JGP.

August 2-4: 2013 Manhattan Open: \$15,000 PRIZE FUND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 80 (enhanced) five-round Swiss, Open 40/110, SD/30, d10, other sections 30/90, SD/1, d5. 2-day option in all sections, rds 1-2 G/90, d5. At New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St. across from Penn Station, New York 10001.

In 5 sections:

Open Section: \$1400-700-400-200, clear or tiebreak first \$100 bonus, top Under 2450/Unr \$500-250.

Under 2300 Section: \$1200-600-300-200, top Under 2150/Unr \$500-250.

Under 2000 Section: \$1200-600-300-200, top Under 1850/Unr \$500-250, unrated limit \$900.

Under 1700 Section: \$1200-600-300-200, top Under 1550 \$500-250, unrated limit \$600.

Under 1400 Section: \$500-300-200-100, top Under 1250 \$200-100, unrated limit \$300, trophies to first 3, top Under 1200, Under 1000, Under 800, Unrated.

MIXED DOUBLES BONUS PRIZES: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$600-300. Team average rating must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible.

Top 4 sections entry fee: \$118 at chessaction.com by 7/31, \$125 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 7/31, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 7/24, \$140 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. GMs free, \$100 from prize.

Under 1400 Section entry fee: All \$50 less than above. **Online or mailed entry \$5 less to NYSCA members.**

Details at www.chesstour.com and in the Summer issue of *Empire Chess*.

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

Labor Day Weekend: the 135th New York State Chess Championship. Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Colonie, NY. America's Labor Day Tradition. See the ad on the back page or www.chesstour.com for additional information.

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A Heritage Event

135th annual NY State Championship

August 30-September 2, August 31-September 2 or September 1-2

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 100 (enhanced)

6-SS, Open Section: 40/110, SD/30, d10, Other sections: 30/90, SD/1, d5 (2-day option in Under 2100 through Under 1200 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 \$13,000. In five sections.

Open: \$1500-700-500-300, 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: \$500-250-150-100, plaques to top three, Top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated.

New Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes: Best male-female two-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Team average must be under 2200, teammates may play in different sections, teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin Round 2, teammate pairings avoided but possible.

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

Top Four sections EF: 4-day \$104, 3-day \$103, 2-day \$102 if check mailed by 8/21, all \$98 online at chessaction.com by 8/28, \$105 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/28 (entry only, no questions), \$120 at site. No mailed credit card entries.

Under 1200 Section EF: All \$30 less than top three sections Entry Fee. **All: Online or mailed entries \$7 less to NYSCA members. Join or renew with entry.** 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, \$90 deducted from prize. No checks at site, credit cards OK.

3-day schedule: Registration ends Saturday 11:30 am, rounds. Saturday 12 & 6, Sunday 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

4-day schedule: Registration ends Friday 6:30 pm, rounds. Friday 7 pm, Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 12 & 6, Monday 10 & 3:30.

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. Advanced entries posted at chessaction.com