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Players of All Ages at the Tulip Festival

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NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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The Empire of Chess

After a better than expected turnout, both of Grandmasters and of total players, at the New York State Open in Lake George, organizer Steve Immitt declared that the recently revived tournament is back on the calendar for good. At NYSCA, we are extremely glad to hear that.

New York had another piece of excellent news in June, with the announcement by USCF that five of the eight participants in the 2012 US Cadet in July in Maryland hail from the Empire State. FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy leads the group, which also includes Barber co-champion NM Justus Williams, James Black, Michael Bodek and Joshua Colas. Two of the remaining three players are from New Jersey, and play at the world-famous Marshall Chess Club in Manhattan. Somehow a player from Rhode Island also rated an invite to the New York, I mean US Cadet. Congratulations to all of our fine young players on their achievement. Hopefully the next Bobby Fischer, Joel Benjamin or Hideku Nakamura is among them.

The future of chess in New York is definitely brightening. New York remains the leader in sending players to the National Scholastics, and the state had a champion in all three National Scholastics this season. With New York products like Nideku Nakamura and Gata Kamsky on the world stage, New York is known world-wide for chess excellence.

We look forward to continuing that tradition of excellence at the 134th State Championship in Albany, the longest-running tournament of its kind in the country. See you there!

EMPIRE CHESS

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Volume XXXV, Number 2 – Summer 2012

Cover: *Players of all ages, including Expert John Morse in the center, await their moves from New York State Scholastic Chess Champion Deepak Aaron at the Albany Tulip Festival, held on Mother’s Day weeken (photo courtesy Phil Ferguson)*

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Fall issue is September 15, 2012**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Fifth New York International Another Triumph for NY Chess

For the fifth consecutive year, the Marshall Chess Club organized the New York International chess tournament, which provides an opportunity to earn FIDE norms in Manhattan, where so much of the country's high-level chess is played. The site for this year is the St. John's University Manhattan campus in Tribeca, a truly unique location that allows players to stay in Manhattan for less than \$80 per night.

The nine-round, five-day event maximizes people's chess time and provides a high-quality environment for chess in the city. It is a truly unique environment for a world-class chess tournament, and the New York International is more of a European-style Swiss than a tournament in the United States. Your typical Grand Prix tournament at the Marshall has five or six countries represented. For the New York International, it's a true international, with players from throughout the globe represented. Over 200 players, including 70 in the Open section, participated.

The 200 Grand Prix point tournament was organized in five sections: FIDE-norm, Under 2200, Under 1900, Under 1600 and Under 1300. The norm tournament is a nine-round Swiss, while the remaining four sections are held on the weekend with five rounds.

The world came to New York, but it was the hometown boys that took home the big money. GM's Tamaz Gelashvili and Giorgi Kacheishvili, both resident in New York City, tied for first in the FIDE Norm section with undefeated 7-2 scores, with both players receiving \$3,750 for their efforts. The two heavy hitters drew in the seventh round, and each player scored 1 ½ points out of two the rest of the way to stay ahead of the field. Gelashvili defeated FM (and IM norm recipient) Thomas Bartell of Pennsylvania in round eight, and then drew IM Marc Tyler Arnold. Kacheishvili drew GM Ivan Ivanisevic in the eighth round, and then pulled out a win over IM Conrad Holt in the last round to force the tie at the top. The win was worth about \$2,500 for Kacheishvili.

Three players tied for third with 6 ½ points. One was another GM in residence in the Big Apple, Mikheil Kekelidze, whose fifth-round loss to Kacheishvili was ultimately the difference maker at the top. The other two players received something more valuable than money with their results: FIDE norms. Texas IM Darwin Yang obtained his second GM norm, beating GM Vladimir Romanenk in the last round with the norm on the line to cap an undefeated performance of four wins (three in the first three rounds) and five consecutive draws in rounds four through eight. Yang won one and drew three against GM's in the event.

Victor Shen also became New Jersey's newest International Master with his result securing his third IM norm, wrapping up his norm with a last-round win over IM Mackenzie Molner. The Jersey player also defeated last year's New York International champion, IM Robert Hungaski, in the seventh round and drew co-champion and GM Kacheishvili. Congratulations to both players on norms well deserved!

Five players tied for sixth with six points: GM Ivan Ivanisevic, IM Marc Tyler Arnold, IM Zhe Quan, FM Thomas Bartell and Illinois junior Adarsh Jayakumar. Bartell and Jayakumar earned IM norms for their performance. Jayakumar, who beat two IM's and drew IM Dean Ippolito in the last round to secure his second norm, only recently joined the 2300 rating ranks and lost rating points at his last tournament, the National High School. Go figure!

Veteran Pennsylvania FM Thomas Bartell earned his norm against a very tough field, as he played six games against players who finished 12th or higher, as many as the other two IM-norm winners did combined. Bartell split those six games, beating IM Conrad Holt (11th), and losing to Gelashvili while drawing the other four games. Only Bartell's second-round win was against a non-titled player. A very impressive performance.

Eleven players tied for 11th with 5 1/2-3 ½ scores in this very deep tournament. They are IM Conrad Holt, IM Mackenzie Molner, GM Vladimir Romanenk, IM Dean Ippolito, IM Michael Mulyar, IM Colomban Vitous, FM Eric Rosen, FM Louie Jiang, US Cadet qualifiers NM Michael Bodek and FM Aleksandr Ostrovskii and NM Robert Perez.

Both Holt and Molner lost in the last round, where a win would have garnered a four-figure check and a share of third place. Thus the short distance between victory and not victory in this kind of tournament.

The Under 2200 section of the New York International was won by Furqan Tanwir and William Del Castillo, both of whom scored 4 ½ points in the closely-contested 58-player section. Del Castillo amazingly had a draw in the first round to 55th-place finisher Amir Moazami (which was his only half-point of the event), and then battled back through the field to tie at the top. Tanwir drew Jake Miller in the fourth round. Miller and Sayan Mondal tied for third with undefeated 4-1 scores.

There was a nine-player logjam at 3 ½ points, with Stanislav Busygin, Kola Adeyemi, Sam Alex Barsky, Alberto Angeles, Zachary Weiner and Under 2100 winners Kadhira Pillai, Michael Layveskiy, Zachary Cohn and Ram Gupta. The Under 2000 prizes were won by Jessica Regam, David Steinberg and Stephan Morosvary, each with three points.

David Brodsky swept the 60-player Under 1900 section with a perfect five points (one full-point bye

in the third round) to win by a full point. Five players tied for second with 4-1 scores: Joseph Han, Ariel Shusterman, Fabio Botarelli, Sriniva Ramanujam and Under 1800 winner Brian Beck. Nine players tied for seventh place with 3 ½ points: Isaac Veytsman, Jason Ciano, Szymon Rudowski, Alexandra Wiener, Gordon Moseley, Jonathan Pagan, Daniel Hayon and class winners Alisher Podavonov and Teseo Torras.

Sheen Kaul won the Under 1600 section with 4 ½ points, claiming \$1,315. Having draw odds in the last round, Kaul was able to hold the draw and win the big prize. Ella Papanek, Robert Chen (both undefeated) and Michael Shore tied for second with 4-1 scores. Papanek and Chen drew in the second round, and Papanek drew Kaul in the last round. Chen drew ninth-place Carl Haynes in the third round. Justin Rosales was clear fifth with 3 ½ points.

Feng Ye won the Under 1300 section outright with 4 ½ points, drawing in the last round to secure the prize. Danny Field, Efthymois Papageorgiou, and Jose Jobin tied for second in the 28-player section with four points, with Jobin going undefeated. Joseph Stigliano was clear fifth with 3 ½ points.

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Grandmaster vs. Grandmaster at Lake George

GM Alexander Ivanov wins the 20th New York State Open

by Bill Townsend

The 20th Annual New York State Open took place May 18 to 20 at Lake George Village, about an hour north of the Capital District. Compared to previous years the tournament was very well attended (87 as opposed to 65 last year), and unexpectedly strong. There were eight players rated over the National Master threshold of 2200, and three titled players: GM's Alexander Ivanov, New York State Chess Hall of Famer GM Joel Benjamin and Connecticut FM Nelson Castaneda.

GM Ivanov won clear first with 4½-½. He drew GM Benjamin in round four (see below) and in round five beat master Dale Sharp while GM Benjamin could only draw against Canadian master David Cummings. In fact, GM Ivanov's win was an eleven move crush, which put a lot of pressure on GM Benjamin who watching the whole thing with some dismay from a neighboring board. Incidentally, GM Ivanov won this tournament last year, and in 2009.

Tied for second with 4-1 were GM Benjamin, FM Nelson Castaneda and former Schenectady champion Patrick Chi. Patrick also was undefeated with three wins, a draw and a half point bye. This fine result puts him only about 10 points shy of the master mark, 2200.

Luuk Van Kooten, originally from the Netherlands, and David Cummings were tied for fifth with 3½-1½. Tied for seventh place with 3-2 were: Lonnie Kwartler, Dale Sharp, Randall Gay, Jason Shi, Robert Giroux, Mykyta Panasenko and Daniel Johnston. Shi, Giroux and Panasenko split the prize for best player under 2010 while Johnson was the sole winner of the under 1810 prize.

In the Under-1610 section New Jersey player Daniel Zack drew his first round game, but wasn't satisfied with that, so he re-entered and the won all five games to finish clear first with 5-0. In second place with 4-1 was fellow New Jersey player Todd Jobson with 4-1. Rated only 1347 at the start of the event, Jobson may pick up 140 points from this great result. Tied for third

with 3-2 were Justin Rosales, Alexander Yaskolko, Dain Lewis, Nate Stevens and Steve Ruzbacki. This last named player also had a great tournament, going from 1080 to 1241 and winning the Under-1410 prize.

Two players finished with 4-1 to top the Under-1310 section, with their places determined by tiebreak. Ryan Palmisano was first and Nitin Obla was second. Steve Danko was clear third with 3½-1½. Fourth through ninth with 3-2 were: Nathan Palmisano Austin Kossow, Donald Gregory, Todd Jobson, Lauren Jobson and Fred Lethbridge. Lauren Jobson was top player under 1000. Peter Craig was top unrated with 2-3. I should also mention Christo Harijan (2nd unrated with 1-4) and his sister Rhiannon Harijan, playing in their first tournament.

One of the things that sets this tournament apart is the fact it has a Senior section open to players over 50 years of age. The section was won by Schenectady player Michael Mockler in very dramatic fashion. In the last round decider his opponent, Harold Stenger, was very short of time at the end of the time control. He made his last move, hit the clock and his flag fell – he had been just a fraction of a second too late. This left Mockler clear first with a 4-1 record.

Second through fifth with 3½-1½ were Roger Pedersen, Walter Stephan, Antonio Lorenzo and S. Warren Lohr. The last named player won the prize for top player under 1710. Harold Stenger and Ken Evans tied for sixth with 3-2. Kenneth Straus was second player under 1710 with 2½-2½.

The site was the Tiki Lodge in Lake George Village, a charming reminder of the Polynesian craze of the early 1960s.

The tournament was directed by Steve Immitt for the New York State Chess Association. Impressed by the 25% improvement over last year's event, Immitt declared that "the New York State Open has arrived as

an officially established CCA Important Tournament, and this means you can never not have this tournament in Lake George the weekend before Memorial Day in the future."

Here are the three games that decided the winner at this year's New York State Open. First, the round four battle between the event's two Grandmasters.

Grandmasters and former U.S. Champions Joel Benjamin and Alexander Ivanov were clearly the favorites at the New York State Open, and it was inevitable that they would have to play each other. They were the only players with 3-0 scores at the end of round three so they faced each other in round four. Usually in situations like this a quick draw is likely, but here the players went at it hammer and tongs until the first time control ended at move 30. GM Ivanov seemed to be playing rather provocatively, and although GM Benjamin had an advantage for most of the game, he couldn't seem to turn it into anything tangible. As soon as the time control ended, GM Benjamin played what looked like a mistake and offered a draw, which his opponent accepted. This left the final round to decide matters, which it did as GM Ivanov won while GM Benjamin could only draw.

I'd like to thank GM Benjamin for giving me his copy of this game

**GM Joel Benjamin (2639) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2629) [C67] Ruy Lopez
20th New York State Open, Round 4
Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Rd1+ 9...Ke8 10.Nc3 h6 11.h3 Ne7 12.b3 Ng6

Although Black has lost the ability to castle and White has a development advantage, it is not easy to exploit Black's position with the Queens off, and in fact White's advantage here is small.

13.Bb2 Bd7 14.Rd2 Rd8

Clearly Black's goal is to drain the danger out of the position by trading more pieces. This makes the game unique. In the game Oliveira-Peray, France 2007, Black tried for more with 14...c5?! and was punished for his presumption after 15.Nd5 Rc8 16.Rad1 Be6 17.c4 Be7 18.Kh2 Bd8 19.Nc3 b6 20.Nb5 Ra8? 21.Nxa7 Rxa7 22.Rxd8+ and White eventually won with his superior material.

15.Rad1 Be7 16.Ne4 Bc8

It's natural for White to build up on the d-file since it's the only open file, but this situation frequently leads to drawish games because the Rooks get traded off.

17.Rxd8+ Bxd8 18.Ng3 Nf4 19.Nd4 c5 20.Ndf5 Rh7

At this point I think Black is just trying to be cute. The more normal-looking 20...Rg8 and 20...Ne6 work just as well.

21.Kh2 b6 22.Bc1

In spite of Black's development problems it's not easy for White to find a way to a clear advantage. One try is 22.Ne3 and what might follow: 22...Bb7 23.c4 g6 24.a3 a6 25.Kg1 (25.Nd5 seems like an obvious idea but... 25...Nxd5 26.cxd5 f5 and the game is roughly even.) 25...h5 26.Kf1 h4 27.Ne2 Nxe2 28.Kxe2 f5 29.exf6 Rf7 30.Ng4 Bxg2 31.Rd3 and white is better, but not close to winning.)

22...Ne6 23.Ne4 h5 24.f4?!

This innocuous-looking move causes the assessment of the position to drop to dead even, but what other ideas does White have? 24.a4 h4 25.c3 a5 is no better. The problem is if White opens up the position while trying to win, Black's Bishop pair could become very dangerous.

24...g6! 25.Nfg3 h4 26.Nh1 Bb7 27.Nhf2 Rh5 28.Re1

White finally gives up the d-file - a draw is in the offing.

28...Kd7 29.Ng4 Kc8 30.Nef6 Rh8 31.Re3?! 1/2-1/2

Here the players agreed to a draw. I'm not sure what the point of allowing Black to take the f-pawn is, perhaps it was an oversight now the players are out of the time control. The game might continue: 31.Re3 Nxf4 32.Re1 Ne6 and now Black is a tiny bit better, but the win is a long way off.

In the final round it was expected that the two Grandmasters would beat their non-titled opponents and share first place. Well expectations flew out the window when GM Ivanov crushed veteran master Dale Sharp in just 11 moves. At last year's tournament Sharp won a miniature against Daniel Johnston, but this year the shoe was on the other foot.

NM Dale Sharp (2200) – GM Alexander Ivanov (2629) [B06] Pirc Defense

20th New York State Open, Round 5

Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Qe2 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Rd1 e5! 9.d5?!

Bad Idea #1 - White should probably play 9.dxe5 here. 9...Nd4 10.Qe3??

And that's all, folks. White had to play something like 10.Qd3 or 10.Qf1 with an inferior game.

10...Bxf3 11.gxf3 Nxc2 0-1

All eyes now turned to the battle between Benjamin and Cummings on board one. Benjamin knew he had to win, and he tried to unbalance the position, but wound up with a game he didn't like at all. "I was better for perhaps five minutes there," he quipped after the game. Cummings missed a chance to get a substantially better position, and a draw was agreed soon after that.

**SM David Cummings (2439) – GM Joel Benjamin (2639) [A13] Reti Opening
20th New York State Open, Round 5
Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 a6 4.Bg2 b5 5.0-0 bxc4 6.Qa4 Bb7 7.Na3 Bc6 8.Qxc4 d5 9.Qc2 Bd6 10.d4 0-0 11.Bf4 Be8

11...Bxf4 12.gxf4 leaves black with an unpleasant cramp.

12.Ne5 Ra7 13.Rac1 Nh5 14.Be3 c5 15.Nb1 Rc7 16.Qd2 Qe7 17.b3 Nf6 18.Nd3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 e5

With his rolling pawn center it seems Black has the upper hand, but his pieces are not as well placed as White's.

21.Bc5 Bb5 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.a4 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 Nbd7 25.Nd2 Nc5 26.Qc2 Ne6 27.Bh3 Nd4 28.Qd3 Qb4 29.Kf1 Qa3 30.Qc3 Ne4

My computer thinks that Black has a significant plus after this move, but this proves to be an over-optimistic assessment.

31.Nxe4 dxe4 32.e3!

Like they say, this changes everything. It looks like Black has to lose one of his e-pawns.

32...Nf3

32...Nxb3 33.Rb1 Rb8 34.Kg2 is good for White.

33.Bf5 Qa2 34.Rc2?

After the game, GM Benjamin pointed out 34.Kg2! and White seems to be close to winning: 34...Ng5 35.Qxe5 Qxb3 36.h4 Ne6 37.Qxe4, etc.

34...Qb1+ 35.Rc1 Qa2 36.Rc2

Again, 36.Kg2.

36...Qb1+ 37.Rc1 ½-½

As mentioned above, here is the game that decided the Senior section, a very up and down affair that could have gone either way, but was eventually decided by the clock.

**Mike Mockler (1858) – Harry Stenger (1820) [B07]
New York State Open Senior, round 5
Pirc Defense
Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 a6 7.0-0-0 b5 8.Qf2 Bb7 9.h4 h5 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.Nh3 e5 12.d5 Rc8 13.Ng5 c5 14.Rhg1 Qa5 15.Kb1?

White had to play 15.a3 here.

15...b4! 16.Ne6

Sheer desperation, but it happens to work.

16...fxe6 17.dxe6 Nb6 18.e7 Rfe8?!

The first slip. Better is 18...Rf7 because of 19.Ne2 Ng4!

19.Nd5 Bxd5?!

Another oversight - 19...Nfxd5 is superior.

20.exd5

Nbx5?

Black fails to notice a key pin, so the game goes from winning for him to even again. Best was 20...Rxe7.

21.Bc4 Kh7 22.Bxd5 Rxe7 23.Bg5 Nxd5 24.Rxd5 Rd7 25.Qd2 Qb6 26.g4 c4 27.Be3 Qc6 28.gxh5 gxh5 29.Rg5 Rf8 30.Qd1 Rff7? 1-0

Black made his move, pressed his clock, and his flag fell. 30...Rff7 31.Rxh5+ Kg8 32.Rg5 and White is very much better. Instead, things look pretty even after 30...Kg8 31.Rxh5 Rdf7.

FM Nelson Castaneda of Connecticut (and formerly of Ithaca and Colombia) very kindly e-mailed me all his games after the event. He went 4-1, his only loss being to GM Ivanov in round three. Here is a tactical slugfest from round four.

**FM Nelson Castaneda (2385) – Mykyta Panasenko (1952) [E05] QGD
20th New York State Open, round 4
Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.d4 Be7 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qxc4 Bc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Nbd7 10.Qd3 b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.e4 a6 13.Bf4 Rc8 14.h3 b5 14...c5 was probably a better try.

15.a3 Nb6 16.b4 Nc4 17.Ra2 Nxa3?

Very tricky, but White keeps his cool and winds up on top.

18.e5!

18.Rxa3 Bxb4 19.Raa1 c5 with counterplay.

18...Bxb4 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Bc1 Nc4 21.Ng5!

The only way for White to keep an advantage.

21...fxg5 22.Bxb7 Rb8 23.Bg2

White can get away with 23.Bxa6, but he wants to keep it simple.

23...Rb6 24.Ne4 Be7 25.Qf3 f5 26.Nc5 Bf6 27.Rxa6 Rxa6 28.Nxa6 Bxd4 29.Nc5 Qd6 30.Nb3 g4 31.Qe2 c5 32.Nxd4 cxd4 33.hxg4 Rd8 34.gxf5

White strips the protection from the black king - the end is near.

34...exf5 35.Bg5 Rd7 36.Qe8+ Kg7 37.Re1 Rf7 38.Re6 1-0

Black has to start throwing away material to delay mate, so instead he gives up.

Capital District player David Finnerman didn't have a great tournament, but he did play a very fine game first round against expert Jason Shi. Remember all those old introductory chess books by Fred Reinfeld and I.A. Horowitz where they warned you about the dangers of leaving your King in the center too long? Well, all that old-school advice still applies, as Black finds out.

David Finnerman (1836) – Jason Shi (2009) [D48]
20th New York State Open, round 1 QP Game
Lake George Village, NY, May 19, 2012

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 Nbd7 6.Be2 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Re1 c5 11.e4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Bc2 b4 14.e5 Nd5 15.Na4 15...Nd7?

I don't think Black realized how vulnerable his King was here. He would still be OK after 15...Rc8.

16.Nxe6! fxe6 17.Qh5+ Ke7

17...g6? 18.Bxg6+ hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Ke7 20.Bg5+ and White wins.

18.Bg5+ N5f6 19.exf6+ gxf6 20.Bb3! e5 (20...fxg5 21.Rxe6, mate.

21.Rad1 Qe8 22.Bxf6+ Kxf6 23.Qh4+ Kg7 24.Qg5+ Qg6 25.Rxd7+ Be7 26.Rxe7+ 1-0

Speaking of upsets, here's a rather notable one from round four – B-player Daniel Johnston manages to upend Vermont master David Carter.



**New York State
Senior Championship –
August 25-26/ Marshall**

NM David Carter (2209) – Daniel Johnston (1751)
[B23] Sicilian Defense
20th New York State Open, round 4
Lake George Village, NY, May 20, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d5 8.exd5 a6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.d4 Nxd5 11.dxc5 Nxc3 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.bxc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1 Kc7 15.Rb3 Bg7 16.Bd2 Bf5 17.Ba5+ Kc6 18.Rb6+ Kxc5 19.Nd2 Bc3

Better for Black seems to be 19...Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Bxc2. 20.Nb3+ Kc4 21.Bxc3 Kxc3 22.Rf3+ Kc4

22...Kxc2 would allow 23.Nd4+ Kc1 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Rxb7 with an even game.

23.Rxb7 Rhe8 24.Rc7+ Kd5 25.Rfc3 Rac8 26.R3c5+ Kd6 27.R5c6+ Kd5 28.c4+

I think White could go for a perpetual here with 28.Rc5+ but he obviously wants more.

28...Ke4 29.g3 Ke3 30.Rc5 Rcd8 31.Kg2 Be4+ 32.Kh3 Rc8

This doesn't drop a Rook due to the bishop check on f5. 33.Kh4 Rxc7 34.Rxc7 f5 35.Nc5 e5 36.Kg5 exf4 37.gxf4 h6+ 38.Kxh6 Kxf4 39.Kxg6 Ke3 40.Kf7 Re5 41.Kf6 Rxc5 42.Rxc5!?! f4 43.Ke5??

In spite of the rating difference, Black has been holding his own all through the game. Now it is the master who falters, and Black doesn't let opportunity knock twice. I think the game is probably drawn after 43.Rg5 f3 44.Rg1 f2.

43...f3 44.Rc8 f2 45.Rf8 Bf3 0-1

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**"ED - GRR" WINS 12TH QUEENS CC
TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
by Joe Felber**

Usually in team events, the players seem to fight "just a little bit harder" than in individual competitions. Perhaps that is because the chess competitors in a team event must also consider the welfare of one or more other players, in order to succeed. The tournament was contested with two-player teams

The team of Ed Frumkin (2067) and Edgar Cimafranca (1914) -- called "Ed-Grr," played enterprising chess and scored 3 1/2 match points out of four to win the 12th Queens CC Team Championship. The event was held from April 19 to May 4 at the Club's usual playing site, All Saints Lutheran Church in Jamaica, NY. Ed and Edgar won the \$120 First Place team prize for their efforts.

"Ed- Grr" won the event by a full match point, as the prize for second place team was split evenly among five teams, which scored 2 1/2- 1 1/2. These five teams, winning \$12 each as a team, were: "Hail, Columbia!" -- Matthew Horwitz (2062) and Shaoxiang Wang (1844); "J&R Monster Trucks" -- David Diamond (1924), Dennis Moore (1923) and Michael Parris (1804, Round 2 substitute for Diamond); "Queens Knights" -- Joe Felber (2000) and Al Bucknor (1656); "M to the 4th" -- Mulazim Muwwakkil (1948) and Mikhail Mordukhay (1661) and "Young and Restless" -- Nicholas Ryba (2190), Arunas Simonaitis (2004, Round 4 substitute for Ryba) and Dustin Moy (1354). Many of these names were created by TD Frumkin

when no names were volunteered by the players themselves.

The top Under 1700 team prize of \$72 was won by "Extremely Frank," consisting of Frank Drazil (1587) and Marcus Francis (1264).

The Top Board One prize of \$72 was divided three ways --- among Ed Frumkin (2067), Matthew Horwitz (2062) and Joe Felber (2000) These players all finished the event with three game points out of four.

The Top Board Two prize of \$72 was won by Mikhail Mordukhay (1661). with an outstanding game point score of 3.5 points out of four.

The 2012 Queens CC Team Championship was run according to our prevalent (and most typical) tournament format of a four-round Swiss, with a Game/120 time control. Except for the first round, the pairings themselves were made according to match points scored by a team (the standard procedure for team events). Along with the team awards, individual prizes for the winners on each board were awarded.

The event was directed by President and Chief TD Ed Frumkin, assisted by Assistant TD and VP/ Treasurer Joe Felber, which is the normal directing team for Queens CC events. Counting the several alternates who took part, 28 different players participated in the event. The Queens event is one of the longest-running team events in the country.

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Upstate New York Interscholastic Chess Leagues 2011-12 *from staff reports*

For the 14th consecutive year, the Rochester Chess Center organized and sponsored Interscholastic Chess League in both Rochester and Buffalo. An abortive effort at a league in Syracuse was made this year, though it unfortunately did not work out. The successful formula for the Interscholastic Chess League has been to combine chess with MasterMinds, a popular interscholastic academic activity in Western New York.

For this season, the Rochester League had six divisions with 30 teams participating, and the Buffalo League had three divisions with 18 teams participating. While the Rochester numbers were slightly down from some previous years, the Buffalo numbers were up and overall participation about steady.

League winners in Rochester were Brighton in League One with a 10-2 score, Greece Arcadia in League Two, also with a 10-2 score, Albion was the champion of League Three with a 10-1 score (Brockport was second at 10-2), Victor was an undefeated 8-0 in League Four, Wilson Middle School won League Five with a 11-1 score (Webster Thomas was second at 10-2), and Pittsford won League Six with a perfect 11-0 score.

In Buffalo, the three division winners were the Nichols School in League One with a 10-1 record. Bishop Timon won on tiebreaks over the Home School team in League Two after both teams finished with a 10-2 record. Pioneer "A" swept League Three with a perfect 12-0 record. It is notable in League Three that Pioneer "B" and "C" were second and third, respectively. The three other schools in the division finished behind all of the Pioneer teams.

Fourteen teams qualified for the Rochester playoffs, which were held on April 28 at Fairport High School and won by Albion High School, who had a perfect 5-0 score. Albion's only close call was a third-round 21-19 victory over Wilson Middle School. In the last round with the title on the line, Albion defeated Albion Middle "A" with a perfect 40-0 score. This was Albion's first championship in the Rochester

League, dethroning Wilson Middle School as League Champions.

Wilson Foundation Academy was clear second with four points, losing only to Albion. Pittsford was clear third with 3 ½ points, and the School of the Arts, Webster Schroeder, Albion Middle School, Greece Arcadia and Keshequa all tied for fourth with 3-2 scores in the playoff tournament.

Tim Liu of the Brighton/All-Stars team won the individual honors on Board One with 50 points (5-0 score), Abe Glasser of Pittsford was second with 45 points and Connor Wagner of Wilson Middle was third with 40 points. Webster Kehoe was the Board Two champion with 45 points (four wins and a draw).

Bishop Timon was the champion of the Buffalo League with a perfect 4-0 score in the playoff tournament. Unlike the Rochester League, all of the Buffalo teams participated in the tournament. Pioneer "A" was second, the Home School team was third and Pioneer "B" was fourth. Canisius was fifth. The April 26 playoff tournament was held at Cheektowaga Central High School. The championship was the fourth in the last six years for Bishop Timon, who avenged an upset last year by Pioneer "A" in the Buffalo League.

The Rochester and Buffalo Interscholastic Chess Leagues would be impossible to organize and manage without the support of Ron Lohrman and the Rochester Chess Center. Along with their logistical support across thousands of square miles of Upstate New York, they also hosted the individual championships at the end of the season. They look forward to another great season of chess across the miles in 2012-13.

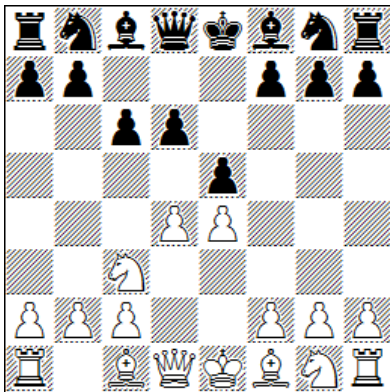
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“Obvious” Moves in the Opening by Zachary Calderon

In the opening, it is all too easy to see an idea and just go for it, without considering the consequences. The move feels like second nature and many players just memorize moves without studying any of the ideas behind them. This feeling can especially come up in lines we are not familiar with. It is a sense of “This line isn’t played too often, this idea must work, right?” Sometimes, this attitude works, and our poor opponent loses. Other times, however, it works in just the opposite way.



This position is reached after **1. e4 d6 2. d4 c6 3. Nc3 e5**.

I don’t know about everyone else, but I used to love exchanging the Queens to make the opponent forfeit the right to castle, and would play here

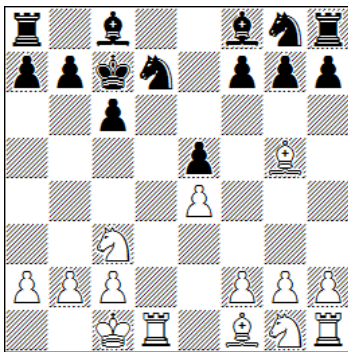
4. dxe5 dxe5 5. Qxd8+ Kxd8.

This position would have thrilled me. I can develop very fast with

6. Bg5+ Kc7 7. 0-0-0

Threatening mate by 8. Bd8#!

7...Nd7



The temporary adrenaline rush of fast development has suddenly been stopped. White has no clear way to seize the initiative. 8. Bc4 f6 allows Black easy play. He will continue ...g5 followed by ...Ne7-g6

with a fast initiative on both the Kingside and Queenside after ...h5 and ...b5. The loss of castling simply isn’t as important in this situation, with the Queens off and no real effective way to directly attack the Black King.

So maybe a different approach?

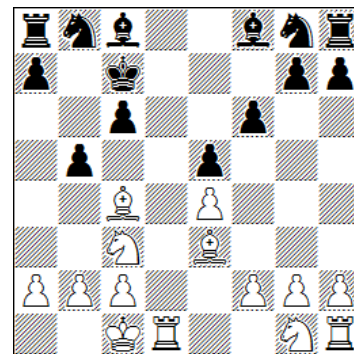
6. Bc4 takes advantage of Black’s misplaced King, however

6...f6 7. Be3 Kc7 8. 0-0-0

White has to have some sort of substantial advantage right? He has three pieces developed, his Rook on an open file, and his king safe but ready to join the endgame action at a minutes notice. However, Fritz only gives White an advantage of less than half a pawn after 8...b5!

How can Black afford to take things so slowly? He hasn’t one single piece developed yet! The answer lies in the solidity of his position. The pawn on c6 is performing two very important and useful functions.

1. It is preventing a Knight from hopping into ...d5 or even ...b5.
2. It is pointing to a Queenside assault with ...b5 and ...a5.



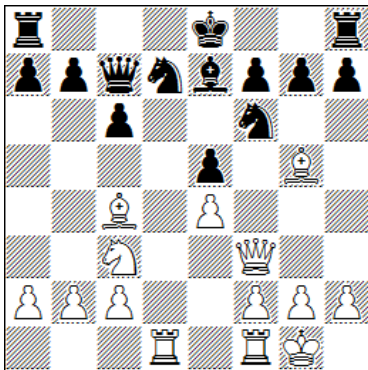
This is a very important concept to learn: *Development isn’t everything, particularly the wrong development.* One would have to be a fool to deny the fact that Black is behind in development. However, his position has no apparent weaknesses. This game will result in a long and grueling endgame where careful maneuvering and pawn breaks will be needed.

So perhaps there is another way to break this cocky defense?

1. e4 d6 2. d4 c6 3. Nc3 e5 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. dxe5 Bxf3 6. Qxf3 dxe5 7. Bc4 Nf6 8. Bg5

White’s next moves appear obvious, but Black’s position soon becomes an impenetrable rock.

8...Be7 9. Rd1 Qc7 10. 0-0 Nbd7



White's obvious moves lead to him facing an incredibly solid position. The Queen on f3 is misplaced, since White's only real hope of play against Black's position lies in the f2-f4 break. Even

Seven Tie at the Top in Rochester's Marchand Open

April's Fools Weekend brought 139 players to Rochester for the 34th Annual Marchand Open, traditionally one of Upstate New York's strongest and most lucrative tournaments.

In 2012, the Open section included four Grandmasters, a considerable number for the Marchand. All four GM's tied for first with 4-1 scores: Tamaz Gelashvili, Sergey Kudrin, Mikheil Kekelidze and Eugne Perelshteyn. The last two rounds of the tournament were a mini-tournament among the GM's, with all games drawn.

Three other players also tied for first in the 47-player Open section: longtime Rochester FM Igor Nikolayev, current New York State Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron and past New York State Scholastic Champion Matt Parry. Nikolayev was also undefeated, drawing in the third and fourth rounds before a last-round win. Aaron and Parry lost to GM's in round three, and both won their last two games to get into the logjam at the top. The seven-way tie at the top is a record for the Marchand.

Three players tied for eighth with 3 ½ points: Rochester-area players Stephen Dygert and Eric Luce, along with British Columbia player Dezheng Kong. Luce lost in the first round to Anthony Badamo, but kept battling and only gave one more draw the rest of the way. Kong lost to GM Kudrin in the second round and drew Badamo in the third, but also won his last two games. Dygert won his first

here, an exchange on e5 is welcome, since Black will recapture with the Knight and gain a tempo on the White Bishop. Furthermore, Black still has Queenside play with the potential ...a5 and ...b5. If White aims for a Kingside attack with Qg3 and f4, Black can either play into it, or castle Queenside, either way only offering White a minimal advantage.

In both these examples, White took the obvious path against Black's play, and in both cases ended up playing a position he was not expecting. These two examples show the importance of preparing well and calculating out lines rather than reaching a position and making assumptions.

three games, then faded with a draw in round four and a loss to Parry in the last round to fall to eighth. Amazingly given the strength of the field, a win by the 2131-rated Dygert over Parry (2262) in the last round would have resulted in Dygert winning the entire tournament.

Among the players at three points, Badamo's performance was noteworthy and earned him almost 70 rating points, to raise his post-rating to 1920. With one win and two draws against players with better scores, he definitely had an impact on the final outcome of the tournament, while finishing ahead of three National Masters. Well done!

The 42-player Under 1800 section was swept by Mark Johnson with a perfect 5-0 score, a far cry in decisiveness from the seven-player logjam in the Open Section. Johnson raised his rating from 1777 to 1848 in the sweep in his first tournament since September. It is also his first time in Class A

Sophie Argetsinger was clear second with 4 ½ points, successfully employing (intentionally or not) a "Swiss Gambit" by drawing in the first round to David Meehan, who ended up finishing 32nd with two points, and then winning four straight games. Argetsinger, a regular in Rochester chess, did not face a player who scored more than 3 ½ points during the tournament. She gained 118 rating points to raise her rating to 1718.

Three players tied for third with 4-1 scores: David Campbell and Ethan Yung, both of whom lost to

(continued on page 30)

Open Lines: tidbits of information on the chess world by Karl Heck

- New York has a number of qualifiers for the 2012 World Youth Championships, which will be held in Maribor, Slovenia from November 7-19. The qualifiers are among Boys Under 8: Erik Brodsky (1627), Daniel Levkov (1621), Corwin Cheung (1558). Boys Under 10: Marcus Miyasaka (1902). Boys Under 12: Alexander Crump (2128), Kadhira Pillai (2072), Amir Moazami (2011). Boys Under 14: NM and current Barber co-champion Justus Williams (2318), NM James Black (2322) and NM Joshua Colas (2320). Boys Under 16: FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2442) and SM Michael Bodek (2407). Boys Under 18: SM Parker Zhao (2491) and SM William Fisher (2436). Among girls, New York's eligible representatives are Girls Under 8: Jessica Rattray (1318) and Carol Chen (1133). Girls Under 12: Katherine Davis (1706). Girls Under 14: Florizelle Songco (1836). Girls Under 16: Jasmine Chen (2013) and All-Girls team member Lilia Poteat (1958). Girls Under 18: NM Alena Kats (2244), Darrian Robinson (2080) and Rochelle Ballantyne (2008). Congratulations to all our scholastic stars on their fine achievement.
- Former New York State Scholastic Champion GM Aleksander Lenderman won the 2012 National Open in Las Vegas on June 19 with 5 ½ points out of six games. This win in the fifth round is indicative of Lenderman's style (courtesy US Chess):

GM Lenderman – GM Bykhovsky (ISR) 1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5.e4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Be3 O-O 10.Qd2 a5 11.f3 a4 12.Rc1 Be6 13. Nd5 Nd7 14.O-O Nc5 15. Rc2 Bxd5 16.cxd5 Qa5 17. Qxa5 Rxa5 18.Rfc1 b6 19. Bd2 Ra7 20.Kf1 a3 21.bxa3 Rxa3 22.Rb1 Rfa8 23.Rxb6 Bd4 24.Rb4 Be3 25.Bxe3 Rxe3 26.Bc4 Kg7 27.Rb1 f5 28.exf5 gxf5 29.Re1 Rxe1+ 30.Kxe1 Kf6 31.Kd2 Ra3 32. Rc3 Ra4 33.Ke3 Rb4 34.Rc2 Ke5 35. g3 h5 36.a3 Rb1 37.f4+ Kf6 38.Ra2 Na4 39.Bd3 Rc1 40.Rc2 Ra1 41.Rc8 Nc5 42.Bc2 Rxa3+ 43.Kd4 Ra2 44.Kc3 Ne4+ 45.Kd4 h4 46.g4 Nc5 47.Bxf5 Ra4+ 48.Ke3 Ra3+ 49.Kf2 Ra2+ 50.Kg1 Ra4 51.Rh8 Rxf4 52.Rxh4 Rd4 53.g5+ Kxg5 54.Rxd4 Kxf5 55.Kf2 Ke5 56.Ke3 Kf5 57.Rf4+ Ke5 58. Rf7 1-0.

According to GM Lenderman in US Chess, the major change he has made in his game is working harder to play for a win, using the soccer system of three points for a win and one for a draw in his head as a guide. When you are a New York champion, after all, there is a world of opponents out there for you to beat! Congratulations to GM Lenderman.

The National Open was founded in 1965 by former New Yorker Col. Ed Edmondson, and is traditionally one of the largest open tournaments in the United States.

- The Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) celebrated their 10th anniversary with a chess festival in midtown Manhattan's Bryant Park, near Radio City Music Hall. The KCF has long been a sponsor of the Greater New York City Scholastic Chess Championships, one of the largest scholastic chess events in the country, and many other events in New York City and other locations across the country.
- The US Cadet Championship, being held in the Washington suburb of Rockville, Maryland, July 21-24, isn't the New York State Scholastic Championship, but it might as well be with five of the eight players hailing from the Empire State, and two others being New Jersey members of the Marshall Chess Club in Manhattan. The five New York participants are FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, SM Michael Bodek, and NM's James Black, Joshau Colas, and Justus Williams. NM's David Hua and Christopher Wu commute to the Marshall from across the river. Somehow, Rhode Island's Christopher Gu also made the tournament.

Live games and information for the NY, I mean US, Cadet will be posted at <http://uscadet.mdchess.com>. The top three players in the Cadet will receive free entry to the Washington International, which starts soon after the Cadet. Both events are part of the 15-day Maryland Chess Summer. Best of luck to our New York players, though there are so many of them that they are can't win in this National Championship.

(continued on page 16)

News from the Marshall *by Frank Romano*

The first Marshall tournament of the summer was the Marshall Thursday Grand Prix, and the 15-player tournament was won by Cuban FM Carlos Pujol in a bit of an upset with a perfect 4-0 score. Oddly for a Swiss, Pujol beat his highest-ranked player in the first round with a win over third-place finisher Max Yarmolinsky, who won his last three games. New Jersey Grandmaster and former U.S. and Soviet Champion Boris Gulko was clear second with 3 ½ points, with Gulko taking a last-round, half-point bye. IM Justin Sarkar and Samuel England tied for fourth with 2 ½ points in the Dr. Marcus Fenner run tournament.

Twenty-two players contested the June edition of the Marshall Masters, held at the world-famous club on June 19. Two players tied for first with 3 ½ point scores: GM Tamaz Gelashvili and IM New York State Chess Hall of Famer Jay Bonin. The two players drew in the last round after sweeping the field. Bonin gained a surprising 34 rating points in the tournament, which is tough to do over 2400. Bonin upset GM Mikheil Kekelidze in the third round.

Kekelidze, New Jersey IM Nikoloz Managadze and NM Leif Pressman all tied for third with three points. Both Pressman and Managadze lost in the first round and battled back, with Managadze's loss being to NM Boris Privman, with almost a 300-point rating difference between the two. Privman, FM Farai Mandizha and IM Justin Sarkar tied for sixth with 2 ½ points. Privman was the Under 2300 winner.

Dr. Marcus Fenner was the tournament director for the Marshall.

Fomer Empire Chess columnist IM Dr. Ilye Figler won the June 14 edition of the Marshall Thursday Grand Prix with a perfect 4-0 score, defeating two of the second-place finishers in the last two rounds of the 24-player tournament. Second place was split six ways among Ontario IM Zhe Quan, NM Joshua Colas, NM Huilian Fan, NM Josue Castillo, NM Juan Sena and NM Oscar Maldonado of Florida. Dr/Marcus Fenner directed.

IM Justin Sarkar and IM Jay Bonin were the big winners in the June Grand Prix, held on June 17 at the Marshall. Bonin was all his games in the first of two undefeated tournaments during the week for the

Hall of Famer, and Sarkar yielded a second-round draw to NM Yefim Terger, and won in the last round over FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy. Ostrovskiy, California Expert Nicholas Karas, George Berg and Frank Paciulli all tied for third with 3-1 scores.

NM Yefim Terger, Kadhira Pillai, Wesley Hellner, Timothy Hoang and Boubacar Barrie, the Under 1800 winner, tied for seventh with 2 ½ points. Gregory Keener, Jr, directed for the Marshall.

The June 7 edition of the Marshall Thursday Grand Prix drew 27 players and was a triumph for Ontario IM Zhe Quan, who upset GM Tamaz Gelashvili in the last round to secure victory. GM Mikheil Kekelidze, a Marshall regular, tied for second with 3 ½ points along with New York NM Joshua Colas. The two players drew in the second round, and continued winning through the remainder of the tournament.

GM Gelsahvili, NM Leif Pressman, and New Jersey provisional player Huilian Fan, in only his second tournament, tied for fourth with three points. The Under 2000 prize was won by Florida player Matt Heflst and Max Yarmolinsky on New York with 2 ½ points. Feliciano Martinex directed for the Marshall.

GM Giorgi Kacheishvili won the May 31 Marshall Thursday Grand Prix with a perfect score of 4-0, besting the 19-player field by a full point. NM Boris Privman, who lost to Kacheishvili in the last round, tied for second along with Virginia's Majur Juac and class prize winner Spencer Ha. Taner Ture, Gabor Schnitzler, Christopher Johnson and Katherine Shaw Davis all tied for fifth with 2 ½ points. Dr. Marcus Fenner directed for the Marshall.

Twenty-four players contested the Marshall FIDE Monday tournament held between April 16 and May 21. The events allow one game a day chess and an opportunity for players to obtain and increase FIDE ratings.

SM William Fisher, IM Jay Bonin, NM Yefim Treger and NM James West won the most recent event with 4 1/2-1 ½ scores. Fisher had two half-point byes, along with one conventional draw and three wins, while Bonin, long one of the most active players in the United States, played every round with three wins and three draws. Terger and West also took two half-

point byes and also went 3 ½- ½ in conventional games.

A six-player logjam for fifth place occurred at 3 ½ points, and the players were Texas NM Rawle Allcock, NM Juan Sena, and experts Robert Guevara, Micael Layevskiy, Sarathi Ray and Empire Chess contributor Ed Frumkin. James Frawley directed for the Marshall. The May edition of the Marshall Masters drew 16 players and was won by GM Tamaz Gelashvili with 3 ½ points. The Grandmaster drew former New York State Champion FM Teddy Coleman in the last round to ensure first prize. Coleman, who was undefeated with a second-round draw to NM Joshua Colas as well as the last-round draw, and GM Mikheil Kekelidze tied for second with 3-1 scores. Kekelidze lost to Colas in the first round, though Colas ended with only 1 ½ points from the three rounds he played.

The May Marshall Grand Prix was held on May 19-20 and won by four players with 3 ½ points: GM Mikheil Kekelidze, IM Jay Bonin, and NM James Black, Jr. (who recently qualified for the 2012 US Cadet in Maryland), and NM Yevgeniy Margulis. Somewhat unusually in the 35-player Swiss, none of the front-runners played each other. Margulis won his first three games and took a half-point bye. Bonin and Black yielded second-round draws, while Kekelidze drew another US Cadet representative, FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, in the third round.

Ostrovskiy and FM Leif Pressman tied for fifth with three points. Ostrovskiy was undefeated, while Pressman fell to Bonin in the last round after leading the tournament after round three. IM Justin Sarkar, NM Yefim Treger, and NM Miro Reverby of Rhode

Island tied for seventh with 2 ½ points. Gregory Keener, Jr. directed for the Marshall.

The May edition of the Marshall Masters resulted in a victory for GM Tamaz Gelashvili, who won the 16-player tournament with a score of 3 ½ points. Gelashvili won his first three games before drawing in the final round against FM Teddy Coleman. Coleman, and GM Mikheil Kekelidze tied for second with 3-1 scores. Kekelidze, a fixture at the Marshall, had a rare first-round slipup against NM and US Cadet qualifier Joshua Colas (2320).

IM Colomban Vitoux, IM Jay Bonin, SM Matthew Herman IM Carl Boor and FM Leif Pressman tied for fourth with 2 ½ points.

Tax Day, which was April 17 for this year, was the date for the April Marshall Masters. The event resulted in a victory for GM Giorgi Kacheishvili and IM Colomban Vitoux, both of whom scored 3 ½ points. They drew in the last round after both players won their first three games in the closely-contested tournament. GM Tamaz Gelashvili, GM Mikheil Kekelidze and FM Teddy Coleman tied for third with three points each. James Frawley directed.

April 29th Marshall April Grand Prix drew 45 players, and four players shared the top spot: IM Jay Bonin, S<M Adam Maltese, FM Asa Hoffmann, and expert Edward Kopiecki. Kopiecki and Maltese drew in the second round, while Hoffmann and Bonin drew in the last round. NM Juan Sena, NM Boris Privman, Pranav Marupudi, and female scholastic standout Darrian Robinson tied for fifth with 3-1 scores. Sena (one half-point bye), Privman and Robinson (two byes) went undefeated. James Frawley directed.

Open Lines (from page 14)

The Memorial Day New Yorker Open debuted Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes, which is believed to be the first time that these prizes have been offered in a major Swiss tournament. Seventeen Mixed Doubles Teams participated out of 189 total entries, so the innovation succeeded in attracting more than the usual number of women to the tournament. The winners on the Mixed Doubles side were FM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy and Alexandra Wiener (there was no requirement the Mixed Doubles teams share names) along with Akshita Gorti and Malik Perry. Both teams scored 10 points. The team of Eve Litvak and Jake Miller was clear third with 9 ½ points.

In the regular tournament, GM Joel Benjamin and Texas GM Anatoly Bykhovsky tied for first with 5 ½ points in the seven-round event, with both players scoring four wins and three draws. They drew each other in round five. FM's Thomas Bartell of Pennsylvania and Aleksandr Ostrovskiy tied for third with 5-2 scores. Along with winning the first Mixed Doubles event, Ostrovskiy also raised his rating over the 2400 barrier, so it was quite a weekend for the young player. New Jersey's David Hua won the Under 2300 section with 6-1, and Malik Perry and Eve Litvak won the Under 2000 section with six points, drawing their individual game. Adam Gilmour won the Under 1600 section (6-1), and Efthymios Papagrorgiou won the Under 1200 section with a 6-1 score. Steve Immitt directed the historic event.

Buffalo Niagara Chess News

From staff reports and Buffalo Niagara Chess Corner

IM Ken Regan, the 28-player tournament's highest-rated player at 2407, won the 2012 Mayor's Cup in Buffalo held June 2-3 with 4 ½ points out of five. Regan drew second-place finisher Sam Copeland, an expert, in the fourth round and defeated all other comers in the event. Copeland was clear second with an undefeated 4-1 score, drawing Regan and fourth-place finisher Erik Lubas in the first round. NM Barry Davis was clear third in the top section with 3 ½ points.

The Zachary Under 1900 section was a triumph for rising junior Ryan Madden, who won the section with 4 ½ points. Madden drew relative newcomer Tamas Gemes in the second round, and then beat second-place finisher Tom Warner and third-place finisher John Zilliox in successive rounds to move into the lead. A last-round defeat of James Davis sealed the prize. Warner was clear second with 3 ½ points, and Zilliox, James Paul and Davis all tied for third in the section with 3-2 scores.

The John White Under 1500 section was won by Sam Santora with an undefeated 4-1 score. Santora had draws in the third round to third-place finisher Chris Darling and Daniel Morgan in the fourth round. With first place on the line, Santora beat Steve Baer to win the section. Baer was second with 3 ½ points along with Darling. Santora is shown below with his prize:



The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie. The tournament sponsors included the Old First Ward

Community Center, Simpson and Simpson LLC, Willie Hutch Jones Educational Sports Clinics, and the Archangel 8 Chess Academy.

May's Sardinia monthly tournament drew 13 players, and was a triumph for Doug Dubose and Pat Patterson, who won the adult section with 2 ½ points in the three-round event. Ryan Madden and Drew Tuck tied for third with 2-1 scores. Todd Thompson and Zack Madden won the Under 1300 prize. Brad Schrock won the Scholastic section with three points.

The event was organized and directed by Tom Warner.

Armed Forced Day brought 25 players to the Main Place Mall in Buffalo for the Private David Evans, Jr. Memorial tournament. The event was a triumph for Ontario expert Jingle Kho, who won the Open section with 3 ½ points. Kho drew Kevin Roulhac in the second round, and then won his last two games to win top prize. Facing draw odds in the last round, Kho beat NM Lionel Davis of Buffalo. Davis, Harish Srinivasan and Erik Lubas all tied for second with three points.

James Paul and Charles Davis won the Under 1500 section with 3-1 scores. Paul was undefeated, taking a half-point bye in the first round and drawing in the last round. Davis lost to Paul in the third round. DeKayla DuBose swept the special Girls section with a perfect 3-0 sweep. The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie.

The April Challenge drew 36 players in two sections, and the Open section was won by NM Lionel Davis and Expert Sam Copeland. Both players finished with 3 ½ points, drawing in the last round after they swept through the competition in the 18-player section. NM Barry Davis and Harish Srinivasan tied for third with 3-1 scores, both losing in the third round to the front-runners. Three Class A players tied for fifth with 2 ½ points: Glenn Westcott, Erik Lubas and Ryan Madden.

David Curtis won the Under 1500 section in his third rated tournament, thereby earning enough rating

points to leave the Under 1500 section with a post-rating of 1504.

Vic Bahl was also undefeated, taking a half-point bye in the second round while winning the three games he played. Bahl's rating rose an astonishing 268 points in one day, from 946 to 1214. Robert Simpson, Chris Darling and Ryan Palmisano tied for third with 3-1 scores. All three 3-1 players lost to Curtis.

The Challenge, one of the largest tournaments in Buffalo in 2012, was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie.

The April Spring Open brought 24 players to the Main Place Mall on April 14 in Buffalo. Owen Miller won the Open section with a perfect 3-0 score. Tamas Gamas was clear second with 2 ½ points, getting

Kratzat Upset Winner of 2012 Watertown Open!

by Don Klug

Local Carthage player Mr. Robert Kratzat, rated 1755 before the tournament, won the 2012 Watertown Open Chess Tournament on April 21st by upsetting expert Dr. David Kistler in round two. This was the eighth Watertown Open held since 1993 and Mr. Kratzat became the eighth different champion. Mr. Kratzat was able to hold the lead over Dr. Kistler by drawing game three against Tournament Director Don Klug and winning game four against Thomas Brock. Dr. Kistler took second place with a score of 3-1=0.

No player has won consecutive Open Tournaments, let alone repeat a previous win. Up and coming local chess player Josh Kelsey once again impressed with a score of 2-21=1, winning the under 1600 prize in his first Open. Mr. Don Klug directed the Watertown Chess Club sponsored event.

Split Watertown Spring Round-Robin Spawns Surprises

The 2012 Watertown Chess Club tournaments seem to be full of surprises. The club has experienced enough of a recent growth spurt to split its annual Spring Round Robin into two equal and balanced sections of five players each.

nicked for a draw in the last round. Longtime Jamestown Expert Mark Clark and Kevin Roullac tied for third with three points. Three players tied for fifth with 2 ½ points, class A players Erik Lubas, Glenn Westcott and Ryan Madden.

In the Under 1500 section, Glenn Conlin won with 2 ½ points, winning his first two games before conceding a third-round draw which allowed him to clinch the top spot. Steve Bear and Percy Barbour tied for second with two points, with Barbour going undefeated. Benjamin Rummell won the Scholastic section with a perfect 3-0 score, with DeKayla Dubose clear second with 2 ½ points. The tournament was organized by the Archangel 8 Chess Academy and directed by Michael McDuffie.

Don Klug, only a third seed in Section A1, surprised by scoring an upset tournament win with a record of +3-0=1. Mr. Klug, a class B player defeated reigning club champion and expert Dr. David Kistler and then held a draw against second seed and quickly improving Army Specialist Joseph Holmok from New Jersey to claim the tournament win. Klug gained 50 rating points in the event.

Adolfo Prieto, Robert Kratzat and Joshua Kelsey each took turns beating each other to finish +3-1=0, and share the Section A2 Tourney title. Mr. Kelsey, playing in just his 17th tournament, knocked off recent Watertown Open Champ Bob Kratzat to raise his USCF rating to 1509. The Watertown Chess Club currently has 12 members with an average USCF rating of 1540.

Watertown Class Championships Offers Few Surprises

The 2012 WCC Class Championships played during June offered few surprises. Dr. David Kistler recovered his Expert rating of 2012 with a 4-0=0 performance and successfully defended his Club Class Expert Title, which he had won in 2010 and 2011. As well, Adolfo Prieto (3-1=0) and Robert Kratzat (2-2=0) each won and defended their 2011 Club Class A and B Titles respectively. The surprise was that both Chester Kubis (USCF1440) and upcoming new player Joshua Kelsey (USCF1534) both upset New Jersey player US Army Spl. Joseph Holmok (USCF 1704) to tie for the Class C Title. Linval White won his first Class D/E title. Don Klug directed the event.

Capital Region News *by Bill Townsend*

In the Capital District this Spring the main chess focus has been on two things, the local chess league, and the monthly free scholastic tournaments. Of course, there is more to it than that – elsewhere in this issue is a report on the New York State Open, held in nearby Lake George.

Last issue I had the results of the local club championships, but one of them wasn't quite done. I reported last time that John Phillips was the winner of the Schenectady Chess Club Championship, having clinched it by beating Alan LeCours on Feb. 9. However, at that point Phillips was the only player to have completed all his games, but with a 4½-½ record nobody could catch him. Phillips was the only player to make it through the preliminaries with a perfect 6-0 record, but he had a number of lucky breaks there. Strangely, in the finals he seemed to have an easier time of it. His ability to keep his head in time pressure enabled him to beat both of his main rivals, LeCours and Sells. Phillip Sells was the second player to finish, and he won all the rest of his games, coming in clear second with 4-1.

The six-player final section seemed very “class conscious” in that the players were divided into two groups according to rating. Sells, LeCours and Phillips were all rated over 1900 while Richard Chu, Zachary Calderon and Carlos Varela were all rated under 1700. It seemed that the final results would reflect that divide, with Phillips, Sells and LeCours finishing in the top three spots, but Calderon unexpectedly beat LeCours in the very last game played, taking third place with 2½-2½.

Traditionally there is always a Consolation tournament running alongside the Schenectady championship, and that was the case this year as well. Usually it's a Swiss, but lack of players reduced it to an eight-player round robin. On April 26 the last outstanding game was played, with Chris Caravaty beating Matt Clough. Dilip Aaron, the younger brother of NYS Scholastic Champion finished first with 6-1. Second place was something of a surprise as Herman Calderon was right behind him with 5½-1½. Herman's only loss was to Dilip and his only draw was to Isaiah Glessner. Chris Caravaty was third with 4½-2½. Calderon, who won the Under-

1500 trophy, defeated Caravaty in their game, in spite of being outrated by a couple hundred points. Cory Northrup was fourth with 4-3 and David Connors was fifth with 3½-3½.

The other main non-club chess event was at the Albany Tulip Festival which was held May 14 and 15 in Albany's Washington Park (see cover photo). Both days there was a chess tent set up and dozens of boards and sets were available for casual games and chess variants. On Saturday New York State Scholastic champion Deepak Aaron gave a simultaneous exhibition against all comers. While Deepak initially faced twenty players, it's estimated that he may have played 50 games or more since as soon as one game was finished another began. In a couple of the games it seemed that Deepak might get nicked for a draw or even a loss, but ultimately he won all the games he played. Among his opponents were Peter Henner, Charles Eson, John Morse, Karl Heck and other local players.

Here is one of the games Deepak played against Chuck Eson. Although Eson is rated only 959 he put up a good fight against the scholastic champion, at least until he had to leave around move 23. Thereafter Peter Henner, who was sitting at the next board, commanded the black pieces, probably because he liked this position better than the one in front of him.

Aaron-Eson: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.f3 0-0 10.Qd2 e5 11.Nde2 Be6 12.0-0-0 Na5 13.g4 Nxb3+ 14.cxb3 Rc8 15.Kb1 Rc6 16.h4 Ne8 17.h5 f6 18.Ng3 Rf7 19.Nf5 Kh8 20.Nd5 Bf8 21.g5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 Rd7 23.Rdg1 23.Nh4! and Black is busted. 23...h6 24.Ng6+ Kh7 25.Nxf8 23...Nc7 24.Qd2 Be7 25.Nxg7 fxe5 26.Nf5 Ne6 27.Nxe7 Rxe7 28.Bxg5 Nxg5 29.Qxg5 Qf8 30.h6 Re6 31.Rd1 Rg6 32.Qh4 Qf6 33.Qh3 Qe6 34.Qh2 Rc8 35.Qd2 Rcg8 36.Rh2 Qf6 37.Qe3 Qg5? Loses a second pawn, essentially deciding the game. 38.Qxg5 Rxg5 39.Rxd6 and White won.

There was no chess tent at the festival last year, and it was assumed that would be the case this year as well, but only two weeks before the festival ENYCA found

out that the chess tent was a go. There wasn't much time to alert the chess community about it, but there was no need to worry – there were plenty of people at the Tulip Festival anyway and the tent was busy both days. Phil Ferguson was chief organizer of the event with help from Brother John McManus, Karl Heck and of course Deepak and Ashok Aaron.

While most of the boards were full at the Deepak Aaron simul at the Tulip Festival, I got very few complete games from the participants – most were not even writing down their games. Thank heavens then for John Morse, probably the strongest of Deepak's opponents, who sent me this game

Morse tends to favor odd openings, but that wasn't in evidence here – in fact this opening has been known for nearly half a millennium. Unfortunately for him, these are openings that Deepak understands very well – he gained control of the center early on, and had an advantage throughout the game.

**Deepak Aaron (2362) – John Morse (2009) [C54]
Tulip Festival simultaneous Giuoco Piano
Albany, NY, May 12, 2012**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 Bg4!? 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.h3 Bxf3?!

I think this may be the beginning of black's troubles. In fact, it makes the game nearly unique because it's much more common for black to retreat the bishop to h5 or e6.

9.Qxf3

This is even stronger than 9.Nxf3 because it takes away the option for black to play ...d6-d5.

9...Ne7

The idea of transferring the Knight to the kingside isn't a bad one, but it takes the game out of opening theory.

10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Bg5 Ng6 12.h4 h6 13.h5!

The best way for White to continue his attack.

13...Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4

This isn't so much about the fact that white can take the weak f4-pawn, but that he has complete control of the center of the board, which is the ideal in most Open Games (1.e4 e5)).

15.d4 c6 16.Bd3 Bc7 17.Rad1 Qc8 18.Qxf4

White doesn't have to take the pawn here, he could continue building pressure with 18.Rfe1.

18...Nhx5 19.Qh4 Nf6 20.f3 Bd8

This seems to fall in with White's plan. It might be better for Black to try playing on the queenside with 20...a5.

21.Qh2 Bc7 22.Nd2 Qd7

White's advantage is pretty small after 22...Qe6.

23.Rfe1 Rae8 24.Nf1 d5?!

Giving White the e5-square makes black's position even more miserable.

25.e5 Nh7 26.Qh5 Qe7 27.f4 Bd8 28.Ng3 Qh4
Black wants to deaden white's attack by trading Queens, but White isn't going to let that happen.

29.Qf3 g6 30.Kf2!

A new avenue of attack opens up for White - the h-file. Black's position is now critical.

30...g5?!

Black's one chance seems to be the unlikely 30...Bg5!? because after 31.fxg5 Nxc5 32.Qe3 f6 Black actually has a viable counterattack. However 31.f5! is an improvement for White.

31.Rh1! Qxf4 32.Qxf4?!

A minor slip - 32.Rxh6 is stronger.

32...gxf4 33.Nf5 Bg5 34.Nxh6+ Bxh6 35.Rxh6 Ng5 36.Rf6 Ne6?!

Even though the Queens are off, Black's King is still in danger. More prudent was 36...Re6.

37.Rh1 Kg7?! 38.Rh7+ Kg8 39.Rh4 Kg7?

This allows a forced mate, but White will win anyway after 39...Re7 40.Rfh6 f5 41.exf6 Rd7 42.Rg6+ Kf7 43.Bf5.

40.Rg4+ 1-0

Black gives up because White has a mate in two: 40.Rg4+ Ng5 41.Rxg5+ Kh8 42.Rh6, mate.

The Capital District Chess League has been run every year since 1991, usually beginning in the spring or late winter. This year the league got off to a slow start, and thereby hangs a tale.

For the last few years there have been eight teams in the league: two each from the clubs in Schenectady, Albany and Saratoga Springs, and two from Troy (RPI and the Uncle Sam Chess Club). However this year there seems to be a shortage of players willing to travel to other clubs to play, so the team captains are scrambling for members. The shortage of adult club players is something that has come into focus in the last year. For example, all three of the 2012 club championships were smaller than the year before, and in two of them the defending champions didn't play.

What are the reasons for this? There are probably a number of factors: tough times give people less free time to play chess, certainly. An unknown number of local players are now playing chess online and it's unclear what effect this is having. There is also a shortage of local tournaments – it was something of a shock when I considered that the Make the Right Move tournament held at Martin Luther King Magnet

School in early March is probably going to be the only non-club chess event held in Schenectady until the summer. All I can say is thank heavens the Make the Right Move scholastic tournaments now have a section for adults to play in, or there would be practically nothing available locally.

All of which brings me back to the Capital District League. Instead of eight teams this year the number has shrunk to six. Most astonishing is the fact that there are no teams from the Saratoga Staunton club at all. Their former "B" team is now known as the "Capital Region Area Players" and isn't based in Saratoga – they play all their matches at their opponent's sites. That team name doesn't make much sense – why have "region" and "area" both in the name? – until you realize that the point of the name is to have their initials spell CRAP. This is the source of endless puns, mainly about being beaten by a CRAP team.

There were only five players in this year's Saratoga championship, and Saratoga A team captain Al LeCours just could not find enough players willing to travel to matches outside Saratoga, so he had to pull the plug on the Saratoga A team. They were a perennial challenger for the top spot, and won back to back championships in 2006 and 2007. Some years ago Saratoga was fielding three teams, and now none. However, Saratoga's loss was other teams gain – LeCours wound up playing for the Schenectady Geezers, making them even more dangerous than last year.

The other casualty was the Albany B team, which also folded due to lack of players. Their top player, Peter Henner, is now playing for the Albany A team.

The first league match of the season was played on February 12 when the Capital Region team travelled to RPI, with the engineers crushing their opponents, 4-0. RPI is very much strengthened by the addition of Jeff LaComb, the only player who managed to defeat Deepak Aaron at his simul at RPI last October. The board by board results with RPI on the left:

1. Jeff LaComb 1, David Finnerman 0
2. Carlos Varela 1, Chris Caravaty 0
3. Brian Furtado 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Nitesh Sankalia 1, Jason Denham 0

More than a month went by before another match was held, with the Capital Region team again

travelling to Troy, this time to face the Uncle Sam club on March 23. This time the Capital Region team pulled out a narrow victory, 2½-1½, mainly due to the fact that the Uncle Sam club was short a member. The results with the Capital Region players on the left:

1. David Finnerman 0, Phil Thomas 1
2. Chris Caravaty 1, Elihue Hill 0
3. Cory Northrup ½, Sylvester Canty ½
4. Jason Denham 1, forfeit 0

The Capital Region players were again on the move, playing the Schenectady Geezers on March 29. Although this was technically a home match for the Capital Region players, it was played in Schenectady because they have no home site. Last year the Geezers tied for second, their best result ever, but this year with the addition of Latham's Jon Leisner on board one, they have to be taken seriously as possible champions. They won the match, 3-1, and here are the individual players, with the Geezers on the left:

1. Jon Leisner 1, David Finnerman 0
2. John Phillips 1, Chris Caravaty 0
3. Mike Mockler 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Richard Chu 0, Jason Denham 1

On March 30, RPI travelled to play the Uncle Sam Club, a journey of just a few blocks. The result was a 2-2 tie, showing how dangerous both these teams are. The results with RPI on the left:

1. Jeff LaComb ½, Phil Thomas ½
2. Carlos Varela 1, Elihue Hill 0
3. Brian Furtado 0, Sylvester Canty 1
4. Ron Adomako ½, Nate Stevens ½

The Albany team is a perennial challenger for top honors – in the 21 years the league has been running they have won 12 times. This year there is only one Albany team, but this has only made them stronger – from Albany B they picked up that team's first board Peter Henner, the runner-up for this year's Albany championship. Therefore it was doubly shocking when, on April 4, the Capital Region team burned them for an upset draw, 2-2. The Capital Region team was technically the "home" team for this match, but it was played in Albany because the Capital Region team has no home site. The players, with Albany on the left:

1. Dean Howard 0, David Finnerman 1
2. Gordon Magat 1, Chris Caravaty 0

3. Peter Henner 0, Cory Northrup 1
4. Glen Perry 1, Jason Denham 0

The two key games in this match for Capital Region were on boards one and three. David Finnerman had some help from the chess clock in beating Albany champion Dean Howard. Cory Northrup played a somewhat dubious opening against Peter Henner's Pirc Defense, but Peter took too many chances and wound up with the short end of the stick.

On April 5 the RPI team travelled to Niskayuna to play the Schenectady Geezers team at home. The result was a 3½-½ win for the Geezers, although the match was not exactly an easy win. Although Mike Mockler quickly defeated RPI's Ron Adomako, the game on board four between Schenectady club president Richard Chu and Nitesh Sankalia had so many ups and downs it could have almost been decided by a coin toss. The players, with the Geezers on the left:

1. Jon Leisner ½, Jeff LaComb ½
2. Alan LeCours 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. Michael Mockler 1, Ronald Adomako 0
4. Richard Chu 1, Nitesh Sankalia 0

Schenectady A, the defending champions, played their first match on April 15 when they travelled to Troy to face the RPI team. The engineers are sometimes a problem team to face since they have the habit of unexpectedly pulling strong players out of thin air. As we were setting up the boards a young man I'd never seen before wandered in, looking lost. This turned out to be RPI's fourth board Matt Klawonn, and even though he was outrated by about 250 points he managed to win against Schenectady's Dilip Aaron. Schenectady was winning 2-1 when I had to leave, and the game on board one between Philip Sells and Jeff LaComb on board one looked drawn, but Sells managed to score the full point. The results, with Schenectady on the left:

1. Philip Sells 1, Jeff LaComb 0
2. Bill Townsend 1, Brian Furtado 0
3. John Barnes 1, Wayne Powers 0
4. Dilip Aaron 0, Matt Klawonn 1

The Schenectady team played its second match just a few days later when, on April 19, they faced the Capital Region team at home. This time Schenectady won 3½-½, but the match was a lot closer than the score would indicate. On board three John Barnes seemed have a comfortable advantage over Cory Northrup, but the other three boards were very unclear. One board one former Schenectady champion Patrick Chi was winning against David

Finnerman, but the latter's stubborn resistance caused the game to be drawn. Capital Region's Jason Denham seemed to be winning on board four against Dilip Aaron until Denham blundered in his opponent's time pressure. Meanwhile the struggle between Philip Sells and Chris Caravaty on board two lasted past move 75. The individual results with Schenectady A on the left:

1. Patrick Chi ½, David Finnerman ½
2. Philip Sells 1, Chris Caravaty 0
3. John Barnes 1, Cory Northrup 0
4. Dilip Aaron 1, Jason Denham

On April 25 the first of the matches among the probable winners occurred when the Schenectady Geezers travelled to play Albany. The match was hotly contested right down to the very last game, but the higher rated Albany team emerged victorious, 3-1. The players, with Albany on the left:

1. Dean Howard 1, John Phillips 0
2. Gordon Magat ½, Jon Leisner ½
3. Peter Henner 1, Alan LeCours 0
4. Glen Perry ½, Michael Mockler ½

The match between the Schenectady Geezers and Albany featured a battle between the reigning club champions on board one. Dean Howard had a real struggle defending his Albany title this year, while Phillips just cruised to a win in the Schenectady club finals. In spite of the rating difference I would have called the game a tossup – the two previous meetings between these two players were both draws. In the early middle game Phillips seemed to have the better game, but he missed a couple of subtleties which allowed Howard to overwhelm him. One thing both these players have in common is a tendency to get in time trouble, but the ability to handle time pressure well. A time trouble duel between these two players would have been fascinating to watch, but they didn't even come close to using up all their time.

**Dean Howard (2013) – John Phillips (1948) [B07]
Capital District League
Albany vs. Schenectady Geezers, board 1
Guilderland, NY, April 25, 2012**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6
Schenectady champ Phillips prefers this hybrid between the Caro-Kann and the Pirc Defense, and in fact to study this opening I had to look at games that were classified as Pirc/Modern (1.e4 d6) and Caro-Kann (1.e4 c6). This isn't as uncommon as you might

think - in my research I was able to find over 11,000 games that continued from this position. 4.Nf3 Bg4 **5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 d5**

So Black has taken two moves to get his pawn from d7 to d5 instead of one. For all that, Black's results with this line haven't been bad, but he must tread carefully since he has allowed White a space advantage.

7.exd5 cxd5 8.Re1 Nc6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Bg5 Be7 11.g4!?

Bold play, but I'm not so sure this is such a good idea. The position is pretty even after 11.Ne5.

11...Bg6 12.Bb5 Rc8!?

Around here Black makes some really subtle mistakes. Strangely this rook doesn't have much of a future on c8, so Black would have been better off castling or playing 12...a6.

13.Ne5 a6?!

Taking a move to force White to do something he was probably going to do anyhow. Simply better is 13...0-0.

14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Qe2 Qb6 16.Na4 Qb5 17.b3 Ne4? *Up until now my computer thought that Black was slightly better here - black hasn't castled but white's position looks rather loose. This move, however abruptly shifts the balance in White's favor. Black is just fine after 17...0-0 or 17...Bb4.*

18.Bxe7 Kxe7 19.c4!

I suspect that Black either didn't see this move, or underestimated its impact. The net effect is that now the position opens up with Black's King still in the middle.

19...Qa5 20.Rac1 Qd2?

Belatedly Black sees the danger and tries to blunt White's attack by trading Queens. Unfortunately his only path to survival is 20...f6! 21.Nxg6+ hxg6 and White is better, but Black is surviving.

21.Nb6! Rcf8

This looks terrible, but Black has no way to avoid material loss, i.e.: 21...Rc7 22.Qxd2 Nxd2 23.cxd5 and neither pawn can recapture.

22.cxd5 Qxe2 23.Rxe2 cxd5 24.Rc7+ Ke8?

This allows White a forced mate, but he was going to win material anyway: 24...Kf6 25.h4 Rd8 26.Re3 and white has too many threats for Black to answer.

25.Nc6 Rfg8 26.Rc8 mate 1-0

On May 1 the Schenectady A team travelled to Troy to face the Uncle Sam club, and the result was a squeaker – a 2½-1½ victory for Schenectady. This is one case where the result was closer than it seemed during the match. Aaron and Barnes seemed to win their games in pretty good form, while my game with Ogundipe should have been a win but I had to agree

to a draw because I was running out of time. The match had already been decided for Schenectady when the game on board one between the two Philips (Thomas and Sells) resulted in a win for the Uncle Sam club. Sells was winning, but was undone by the clock. The games, with the Schenectady players on the left:

1. Philip Sells 0, Phil Thomas 1
2. Bill Townsend ½, Odunayo Ogundipe ½
3. John Barnes 1, Elihue Hill 0
4. Dilip Aaron 1, Sylvester Canty 0

On May 2 Albany hosted the RPI team, and the result was a shocking upset win for the Engineers, 2½-1½. This was a major blow for the Albany team, forcing them into a must-win situation for all their remaining matches. The individual games, with RPI on the left:

1. Jeff LaComb 1, Dean Howard 0
2. Carlos Varela 0, Gordon Magat 1
3. Brian Furtado ½, Peter Henner ½
4. Matt Klawonn 1, Glen Perry 0

The Albany and Schenectady teams have been rivals just about forever, and matches between the two premiere teams of these clubs are always of great interest. Thanks to their loss to RPI the Albany team was in a situation where they had to win, and unfortunately they didn't. While the 2-2 tied match was the first time any team had scored on the defending champions Schenectady A, it had the effect of eliminating the Albany team from contention. The players, with Schenectady A on the left:

1. Patrick Chi 1, Dean Howard 0
2. Philip Sells 1, Gordon Magat 0
3. John Barnes 0, Peter Henner 1
4. Dilip Aaron 0, Glen Perry 1

The Capital District Chess League is down to its last three matches, and the number of possible champions has been reduced to two – only Schenectady A and the Schenectady Geezers can win at this point. These two teams have yet to meet, and that match will decide matters – Schenectady A will win if they draw or win the match but if the Geezers win nobody else can catch them.

Here is a table showing the current standings. The first number after the team name is number of matches won, while the second number is number of individual games won, which is the first tiebreak.

Note that the number of matches played is not the same for all teams: Capital Region and RPI have finished their schedules, Schenectady A and Albany have one match left and the Geezers and Uncle Sam have two each.

1. Schenectady A, 3.5, 11
2. RPI, 2.5, 12
3. Albany, 2, 8
4. Schenectady Geezers, 2, 7½
5. Capital Region, 1.5, 6
6. Uncle Sam, 0.5, 5

The Make the Right Move free scholastic tournaments run from October to June, generally once a month, but a second one was added in February. The Rensselaer Boys and Girls Club was the venue for Make the Right Move tournament No. 64, which was held on February 18 in Rensselaer. The turnout was light, only 50 players in the four sections. This tournament was held only a week after the previous event, and on the same weekend as the U.S. Amateur Team East. The tournament number also needs a bit of explanation, since the previous tournament was No. 59. The tournaments are not numbered in the order they are held, but in the order they are put on the calendar, and this one was organized after the June tournament, No. 63.

The All Welcome section was won by Peter Sharp and Bill Matters, who both scored 3-1. Joe Whyte, Pu Dakshinamurthy and Christine Whyte were third through fifth with 2-2.

Jonathan D'Alonzo dominated the rated section with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through sixth with 3-1 were: Sreeniv Alampalli, Joseph D'Alonzo, Michael Cheng, Kyle Matters and Killian Whyte.

Aaron Salisbury and Alex Sharp were first and second in the unrated section for players in grades six and above with perfect 4-0 scores. Jimmy Lentz was third with 2½-1½.

The unrated section for grades five and below was won by Ben Noland, also with a perfect 4-0 score. Phillip Anderson and Bryce Coss were second and third with 3-1.

Make the Right Move No. 60 was held March 10 at Martin Luther King Magnet School in Schenectady. Overall 77 players competed in the seven sections.

In the All Welcome section the Roscoe family totally dominated, taking the top three spots. Millard

Roscoe was first with 4-0, Sheryl Roscoe was second, Maurice Roscoe was third and Bill Monroe was fourth. All three scored 3-1.

Top rated George Ladouceur scored a perfect 4-0 to capture the top scholastic section. Nova Wang was second with 3-1. Joseph D'Alonzo and Michael Cheng were third and fourth with 2-2.

The section for players rated Under 1000 was won by Kyle Matters with a perfect 4-0 score. Second through fourth with 3-1 were: Jovanna D'Alonzo, Valentine Starnes and Kenneth Etwaru. Abhinav Gudpati won the Under-600 section with 3½-½. Philip Anderson was second with 2½-1½.

Two players topped the unrated section for players in grades six and above as Varshar Persaud and Tom Burgess came in first and second with 3-1.

The same thing happened in the unrated section for grades three to five as Abhijeet Gudapati and Dylan Longstreet both scored a perfect 4-0 to come in first and second. Third through fifth with 3-1 were: Vegendra Boodram, Saathvik Narra and Stelin Poola. Pretesh Prakash won the unrated section for grades two and below, also with a flawless 4-0 score. Pranav Puviararasu was second with 2-2.

Top team, once again, was the East Greenbush Chess Club with 14½ points. Host school Martin Luther King was second with 13 and Saratoga was third with 11.

Make the Right Move free scholastic tournament number 61 was held on March 31 at the New York State Museum in downtown Albany. Traditionally this is the best attended MTRM tournament of the year, and that was the case here with 116 players competing in the seven sections. A good turnout, but it didn't beat last year's record of 122. This is the second MTRM tournament in March, but it really is the tournament for April.

The All Welcome section had a surprise winner as RPI student Brian Furtado scored a perfect 4-0 record to top the all-ages section. Furtado's upset of former Schenectady champion Phillip Sells in round three is today's featured game. Bill Matters of East Greenbush was second with 3½-½. Another RPI student, Wayne Powers, was third with 3-1, and Philip Sells was fourth, also with 3-1. Kingston's Ken Evans was fifth with 2½-1½

The talented D'Alonzo brothers topped the highest rated scholastic section, both with 3½-½ records, with Jonathan taking first on tiebreaks over Joseph. Nitin Obla was clear third with 3-1.

Jan-Karl Galia was the clear winner of the Under-1000 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Michael Cheng was second with 3½-½. Third through fifth with 3-1 were: Miles Demartino, Jovanna D'Alonzo and Sandeep Alampalli.

There was also a clear winner at the top of the Under-600 section as Zachary Wesolowski scored a perfect 4-0. Second through sixth with 3-1 were: Michael Armonious, Jax Mautone, Philip Anderson, Abhinev Gudapati and Tahj Buford.

Another perfect score topped the highest unrated second as Nate Matteson of Kingston scored 4-0. Second and third with 3-1 were Julian Galia and Aiden Moore.

As usual the unrated section for players in grades three through five was the largest, and there were two perfect scores at the top with Henry Johnson's Paul Fields beating out Saathvik Narra on tiebreaks. Third through ninth with 3-1 were: McCreedy Kearney, Ben Noland, Stephen Dong, Abhijeet Gudapati, Julia Wilk, Daniel Bruckner and David Wilk. .

Martha Samadashvili was top player in the unrated section for players in grades two and below with a perfect 4-0 score. Jason Swart and Alexander Ober were second and third with 3-1.

Top team was once again East Greenbush Chess Club with 13½ points. Immediately behind them were two schools that were practically neck and neck, with 13 each. The Saratoga team managed to edge out St. Joseph's Mighty Pawns on tiebreaks. The team scores are calculated by adding together each team's top four players, with the fifth member being used for tiebreaks. These schools were so closely tied, that their places had to be decided by the seventh team member.

So far this season East Greenbush has come in first in every tournament but one, and have opened up a commanding lead over the other schools for top team of the year. So far East Greenbush has 95 while Saratoga is second with 71½ and Rensselaer Boys and Girls Club is third with 62½.

Here is the game that essentially decided first place in the unrated "All Welcome" section in this Make the

Right Move tournament. In round three former Schenectady champion Phillip Sells entered a dubious tactical variation against RPI's Brian Furtado, and was never able to quite recover. Incidentally, the two RPI players present, Furtado and Wayne Powers, didn't bother to submit a team scoresheet, but if they had RPI would have come in eighth.

**Brian Furtado (1651) – Philip Sells (2025) [E30]
Make the Right Move No. 61 AWE, round 3
Albany, NY, March 31, 2012**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 c5

These two players have been here before. In a Capital District League match between Schenectady and RPI, played exactly a year earlier, they continued with: 5...d5 6.e3 0-0 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 b6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 c5 11.Qf3? (A very bad idea. White is just fine after 11.Nf3) 11...g5! 12.Qg3 (12.Bg3 Bg4! 13.Bc7 Bxf3 14.Bxd8 Bxg2 and Black wins) 12...Ne4?! (12...Ng4!) 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.f4 f6 15.Nh3 Rf7 16.fxg5 fxg5 17.Nxg5 hxg5 18.Bxg5 Qd7 19.Bf6+? Qg4! 20.Qd6 Ba6 21.Ra2 Nd7 22.Be5 Nxe5 23.Qxe5 Raf8 24.Qd5 Kh7 25.Rc2 Rf1+ and looking at a mate in two White resigned. 0-1

6.d5 Qa5!? 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qb3!? b5?!

This move is actually one of Black's options on move six, but with the Queen on a5 it's not so good. the game looks close to even after 8...d6.

9.e4 bxc4 10.Bxc4 Rg8 11.g3 Ba6 12.dxe6?!

White is still on top after 12.Nge2 Bxc4 13.Qxc4.

12...Bxc4 13.exd7+ Nxd7 14.Qxc4 Ne5 15.Qb3 Nd3+?!

After the game, Sells opined that this was the critical mistake. While this move isn't good, black is far from lost. Black would have a slight advantage after 15...c4 16.Qc2 f5.

16.Kf1 Nxb2?

If we're looking to place the blame for Black's future problems, this move is the culprit. White would only have a small advantage after 16...Qa6 17.Nge2 Bxc3 18.Qxc3.

17.Nd5!

Now Black must lose at least the exchange.

17...Na4 18.Nxf6+ Kf8 19.Nxg8 Qb5+?!

This doesn't improve matters for Black, since he only makes the King go where it was heading anyway, and pins his own Bishop in the bargain.

20.Kg2 c4 21.Qe3 Kxg8 22.a3 Bc3 23.Rd1 Nb2?!

White was obviously planning Rd5, and this just encourages him. Protecting g7 with 23...Bg7 better, but White is still winning.

24.Rd5 Qb3 25.Qxh6 Bg7 26.Rg5 Qc3 27.Nf3

As White brings his last pieces into play, black's position becomes hopeless.

27...Kf8 28.Qd6+ Kg8 29.e5

29.Nh4!, threatening 30.Nf5 was even deadlier. In this part of the game white makes a number of second-best moves, which gives black the hope to play on.

29...Qd3 30.Qf6 Qh7 31.e6 Kh8 32.Qxf7 Rf8 33.Qb7 Bf6 34.Qxh7+ Kxh7 35.Rb5 c3 36.Ne5 Bxe5 37.Rxe5 Nd3 38.Re3 Nc5 39.Rxc3 Nxe6 40.Re1 Rf6 41.Rxe6

White gives away the exchange to win a pawn, and simplify to a very easily won ending. The players were moving very quickly at this point, and I was expecting white to pin the Black Knight with 41.Rc6 but then Black would have 41...Nf4+! but he's still down four pawns after 42.gxf4 Rxc6 43.Re7+.

41...Rxe6 42.Rc7+ Kg6 43.Rxa7 1-0

Here Black gave up - in such a simple ending there's almost no chance for Black to go wrong, even at five seconds a move.

Make the Right Move Tournament number 62, was held on May 5 at the Henry Johnson Charter School in Albany. Turnout was lower than usual – only 64 players competed in the seven sections. The reason for this doesn't seem to be terribly mysterious – it was a lovely spring day, and perhaps Cinco de Mayo is not the ideal day to hold a chess tournament.

The All Welcome section ended in a four-way tie at 3-1, but since the prizes are trophies not cash, the places were determined by tiebreaks. In order the players were: Bill Matters, Brian Furtado, Philip Sells and Zachary Calderon. All alone in fifth place was RPI student Wayne Powers with 2-2.

Former Schenectady champion Sells would have been expected to win this section easily since he was the top rated player by 400 points, but in the first round he had a mishap against Wayne Powers, who played White here: **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.h3 d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.Nf3 e4 8.Nd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Be2 d4 11.Na4 Qa5 12.b3 Bd6 13.0-0? d3! 14.cxd3 Qe5 15.g3 Qxa1** *Black is winning with his extra material, but the question is: can he get his Queen out?* **16.Nc3 Bxh3 17.Re1 0-0 18.Bf1 Bg4 19.Qc2 Ba3 19...Nd5 20.dxe4 Nb4 and Black wins. 20.dxe4 Bxc1? 20...Rfe8 and ...Nd5 will spring the queen from her prison. 21.Rxc1 Qxc1 22.Qxc1 Bf3 23.Bg2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Rfe8 25.f3 and White won.**

Marquel Nelson of Albany High won the top scholastic rated section with a 3½-½ record. Jonathan D'Alonzo was second with 3-1 and Nitin Obla was third with 2½-1½. The section for players rated under 1000 resulted in a massive five-way tie for first place at 3-1. Again, tiebreaks were used to distribute the three trophies, so unfortunately two players tied for first and didn't even get a trophy. In order, the winners were: Nigel Galia, Tristan Bennett, Manthan Vasavada, Sandeep Alampalli and Kyle Matters. Philip Anderson was the clear winner of the Under-600 section with a perfect 4-0 score. Abhinev Gudapati was second with 2½-1½.

Even though Salim Johnson lost his first round game he nevertheless won the top scholastic unrated section with a 3-1 record. Julian Galia was second with 2½-1½. The unrated section for players in grades three through five is usually the largest, and that was the case here. Undisputed winner was Saratoga's Matthew Sherlock with a perfect 4-0 score. Second and third with 3-1 were Ben Nolan and ReyAmelet Reynoso. Fourth through sixth with 2½-1½ were: Abhijheet Gudapati, Adam Aleksic and Nikhil Bodduluri.

The unrated section for players in grades two and below essentially had only had three players in it, and the winner was Martha Samadashvili with 4-0. Sayyed Ayuba was second with 3-1.

Top team this time was the Saratoga Travel team with 13 points out of a possible 16. The East Greenbush Chess Club, the perennial winners, were second with 11. Albany High School was third with 9½.

All of these MTRM tournaments were organized and directed by Brother John McManus and his merry band of volunteers for the Make the Right Move Chess Foundation.

Here is the third round battle between RPI student Brian Furtado and Bill Matters of the East Greenbush Chess Club. In spite of both players having winning positions in the middlegame this game was decided in the ending. Reconstructing the game with Matters afterwards, he seemed to have a good grasp of endgame principles, even if he was wrong about some of the specifics of the position, and I think that's what gave him the margin of victory here.

**Bill Matters (1536) – Brian Furtado (1651) [B23]
Make the Right Move No. 62 AWE, round 3
Albany, NY, May 5, 2012 Sicilian**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 d5 exd5?! exd5
6.Bb5 Nf6 7.0-0 Bd7 8.Re1+ Be7 9.Bxc6**

I can't help but feel that giving up the Bishop pair so easily is not a good idea. White has a tiny advantage after 9.Qe2.

9...Bxc6 10.Qe2 d4 11.Nb1 Rc8?

Completely lets White off the hook. The best move for the second player is 11...d3! 12.cxd3 Nd5 13.d4 Nxf4 14.Qe3 Nd5 with advantage to Black.

12.Ne5 Nd5 13.Qh5?!

After the game Matters criticized this move because it lets the pressure off the e-file, but White doesn't have much after 13.Nxc6 Rxc6 14.f5. Instead the game looks pretty even after 13.c4 Nb4 14.d3.

13...0-0 14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.d3 Rh6

A good way for Black to exploit his lead in development is with 15...c4! 16.dxc4 Rxc4 17.Qe2 Rc7 with a big plus.

**16.Qf3 f5?! 17.Re5 Nb4 18.Na3 Bd6 19.Re2 Re8
20.Bd2 Rxe2 21.Qxe2 Nd5 22.g3 Nc7 23.Qf3 Qe7?
24.Nc4?!**

There's absolutely nothing wrong with grabbing the loose b-pawn with 24.Qxb7. On his previous move Black should have played on his 23...b5 instead.

24...b6 25.Re1 Re6 26.Rxe6 Qxe6 27.Qc6

Black's advantage has evaporated, and now it is White who has the upper hand.

27...Ne8 28.Kf2 g5?

Lets the White Bishop out. The game looks dead even after 28...Kf7.

29.Nxd6 Nxd6 30.Qa8+ Ne8 31.Qxa7?!

31.fxg5 wins a far more valuable pawn.

31...gxf4?!

A better way to keep a handle on the game would be 31...Qh6 32.Kg1 Qe6 33.Qb8 gxf4 34.Qxf4 Nf6 with a modest advantage for White.

32.Bxf4 Nf6 33.h3 Nd5 34.Qb8+ Kf7 35.Qe5?!

Here Matters is practically forcing a Queen trade, assuming that the ending with an extra pawn is winning for him, which it actually isn't. Better is breaking up the Black pawns with 35.a4.

35...Nxf4?



A grave mistake. The game is all but even after 35...Qxe5 36.Bxe5 Ke6. passed pawn must win. White is still in command after 36.Qxf4 Ke7 37.a4.

36.gxf4?

Another wrong assumption - white gives up his extra pawn to trade queens, thinking that his outside passed pawn must win. White is still in command after 36.Qxf4 Ke7 37.a4.

36...Qxe5 37.fxe5 Ke6 38.a4 Kxe5 39.Kf3 h5?

The losing move, crazy as it seems. Post-game Matters said that he thought he had the opposition because he had more pawn moves, and while this is the key idea in this position, it's not quite true here: 39...f4! 40.Kg4 h6 41.h4 h5+ and the White King has to retreat or the f-pawn sprints to the goal line. The text, however, just gives away two of those vital pawn moves, and that proves fatal.

40.h4!

The only winning move. 40.Kg3 h4+! 41.Kf3 (41.Kxh4? Kf4 and Black wins.) 41...Ke6 42.Kf4 Kf6 and Black may be able to survive.)

40...f4 41.c3!

Again, the only winning move. After Black's mistake on move 39, White plays this ending just about perfectly.

**41...dxc3 42.bxc3 Kf5 43.d4 c4 44.d5 Ke5 45.d6
Kxd6 46.Kxf4 Kd5 47.Kf5 Kd6 48.Kg5 Ke5
49.Kxh5 Ke4**

Black can't box in the White King: 49...Kf5 50.Kh6 Kf6 51.h5 and the White King will run over to the queenside while the Black monarch takes the h-pawn.

**50.Kg6 Kd3 51.h5 Kxc3 52.h6 Kb4 53.h7 Kxa4
54.h8/Q b5 55.Qc3 b4 56.Qxc4 Ka3 1-0**

The last moves weren't recorded in the time scramble, but White won easily.

Below: two shots of players at the Albany Tulip Festival.



Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

August. 17-19 or 18-19, 11th annual Manhattan Open GPP: 150 Enhanced NOTE 2-DAY, U900 & U700 SCHEDULE CHANGES. 6SS, 40/2, SD/1, d5 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/50, d5). Under 900 and Under 700 Sections play 8/18-19 only, G/50, d/5. New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave at 34th St. across from Penn Station, New York 10001. **\$35,000 guaranteed prizes.** Open & U2300 Sections are FIDE rated, except G/50 games. In 10 sections: **Open:** \$2500-1500-1000-700-500-400, clear or tiebreak first \$200 bonus, top Under 2500/Unr \$1200. **Under 2300, Under 2100, Under 1900, Under 1700:** each \$1500-1000-700-500-400-300. **Under 1500, Under 1300:** each \$1200-800-600-500-400-300. **Under 1100:** \$700-400-300-200-100-100. **Under 900:** Trophies to first 10, top Unrated. **Under 700:** Trophies to first 10, top Under 500, Under 300, Unrated. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event rating posted at uschess.org 8/13/11-8/13/12 is more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$800. 2) Unrated (0-3 lifetime games rated) cannot win over \$200 in U1100, \$400 U1300, \$600 U1500, \$800 U1700 or \$1000 U1900. 3) Balance of limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Top 7 sections EF:** 3-day \$163, 2-day \$162 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$165 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$170 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$180 at site. **Under 1100 Section EF:** 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$85 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$90 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$100 at site. **Under 900 or Under 700 Section EF:** 3-day \$33, 2-day \$32 if check mailed by 8/8, all \$35 online at chesstour.com by 8/13, \$40 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 8/13, \$50 at site. **No phone entry** after 8/13. **Online late entry is available** between 8/14 and two hours before round 1, with same fee as at site. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF membership** with paper magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. No mailed credit card entries. **Re-entry:** \$80, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat. 9 am, rds Sat. 10, 12:45, 3:15 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30. 3-day & 2-day merge & compete for same prizes. **Under 900 & Under 700 schedule:** Reg. ends Sat. 9 am, rds 10, 12:45, 3:15 each day. **Byes:** all; limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. **Bring sets, boards, clocks** if possible- none supplied. **HR:** \$175-175-195-210 (rates for 3 or 4 in room are for 2 beds), 1-800-764-4680, 212-971-0101, reserve by 7/27 or rate may increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. **Car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** see www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm. **US player ratings:** August official ratings used; FIDE ratings not used. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** 845-496-9658, www.chesstour.com. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries will be posted at chesstour.com. **Chess Magnet School JGP.**

July 22 August and Sept. Binghamton Monthly Tourney! Prizes Increased! \$500 b/26. 4-SS, Rds. 1-3 G/65 Rd.4 G/75. Entry: \$35 Open, \$25 Reserve. Cash only at site. Reg.: 8:45 to 9:15 AM. Rds.: 9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 4:45. Open: \$250, \$200, \$100. Reserve: \$200, \$150, \$100. Trophies: 1st - 4th, both sections. Make checks payable to: Cordisco's Corner Store, 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901. (607) 772-8782. cordiscos@stny.rr.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

August. 25-26, New York State Senior Championship 4-SS, G/120 d/5, **open to all born before August 25, 1962.** Marshall CC, 23 West 10th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-477-3716. **Entry fee:** \$35. **Prizes \$500/20:** \$200-\$100, 1700-1999 \$70, U1700 \$70, top woman \$60; 1 bye OK, lock in before Rd 2. **Registration:** 11:30-12:15, rounds 12:30-5:30 each day. NYSCA membership required for NYS residents (\$20 printed quarterly *Empire Chess*, \$12 online subscription), other state memberships accepted if out of state resident. Title to top NYS resident. Please bring proof of age.

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

Most third Saturdays of month there will be the Monthly Buffalo Grand Prix Events at the Main Place Mall in Buffalo. 4-SS, TL: Rounds 1 & 2, G/45, Rounds 3 & 4 G/60 Prizes: 1st-2nd Guaranteed \$250-150-100, Class \$75. Reg.: 8:30-9:15 a.m., Rounds.: 9:30-11:20-1:10-3:30 EF: \$50. U1600 EF: \$35, \$150-90-60, ALL PRIZES

EXCEPT 1st & 2nd in OPEN, BASED ON 20 ENTRIES. Scholastic EF: \$15, Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. Adv. Entries/Info: Archangel 8 Chess Academy, arcangel8chess@yahoo.com, 60F Guilford Lane, Buffalo, NY 14221. See www.buffalochess.blogspot.com for future dates and details.

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

4 Rated Games Tonight, Now At The New Yorker Hotel - USCF's Longest Running Action Tournament!
(Thursday nights) 4-SS, G/25 + d/5 or G/30 + d/0, Chess Center at the historic New Yorker Hotel!, 481 8th Ave at 34th St., across from Penn Station, NYC: 845-569-9969. **EF:** \$30, GMs \$25 from prize, free to specified Greater NY Scholastic Prizewinners! Good Customer Loyalty Discounts: \$5 less to those who played in at least 4 “4 Rated Games Tonight!” Thursday Night Actions since Jan. 2011, \$10 less to those who played in at least 10 4RGTs since 1987—*Thank You So Much For Your Support Of This Tournament These Past 25 Years!* \$\$ (480 b/32 paid): 150-100-50, Top U2200/unr \$95, U2000 \$85. **NEW!! \$150 GUARANTEED In Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes!** Best male/female 2-player team combined score: \$100-50 (teammates' average rating must be Under 2200; teammate pairings avoided but possible, teams must declare by 8:15). Choice of 2 schedules! 7:00 Schedule, rds. 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 pm. 7:30 schedule, rd. 1 (G/15 + td/3) at 7:30 pm, score carries over into round 2 of 7:00 schedule at 8:15 pm. Limit 2 byes (1 bye if U2000), commit by 8:15. Re-entry \$15, counts half. Reg. ends 10 min. before game. CCA Minimum Ratings may be used.

Marchand (from page 14)

Johnson, and Patrick Robinson, who lost in the third round to Kevin Roulhac of the Buffalo area. There was a five-player logjam with 3 ½ points among Dilip Araon of the Capital Region, Gary Boye, Rouhlac, Larry Lane and Barret Furton.

Like the Open section, the Under 1400 section also had seven players (20% of the 35 who participated!) tie for first with 4-1 scores. The logjam included relative newcomers Nicholas Sortisio, Jr. and Tongtian Liu, both of whom were participating in their third rated tournament and now have ratings over 1500, along with Daniel Pike, Patrick Chernjavsky (both of whom went undefeated with a fourth-round half-point bye and a fifth-round draw), Steve Baer, Michael Kehoe and Drew Tuck. Kehoe and Tuck were also undefeated in the very competitive section where many players had a chance to win it outright, but none did.

Six players tied for eighth with 3-2 scores (no one was at 3 ½): Jeffrey Shi, David McCormick, Charles Davis, Matthew Rzeznik, David Markakis and Alonso Smajlaj, who raised his rating from 696 to 942.

Joshua Benham won the 21-player Under 1000 with a perfect 5-0 score, gaining exactly 200 rating points to end the day at 1197. Lucas Grisanti and Cezary Posyler of Ontario tied for second with 4-1 scores, both losing to Benham. Samir Farooq was clear fourth in his first rated tournament with 3 ½ points.

Along with the 139 players who participated in the tournament, there is already the memory of one more during Marchand weekend. That is of course Dr. Erich Marchand, the most active player of all time in USCF annuals at the time of his death, and the inspiration for this annual classic. As always, the Marchand was organized by the Rochester Chess Center, with Ron Lohrman being the lead Tournament Director with assistance from Ken McBride and a host of volunteers for the 34th annual edition. May there be many more!

New York State Updated Chess Club Directory

Western New York

Rochester Chess Center

221 Norris Drive
Rochester, NY 14610
Ron Lohrman, 585-442-2430
Monday and Wednesday: 7:30-10 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m-10 p.m.
www.nychess.org

Niagara CC Chess Club

Building G, Room 244
Wednesday, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Harish Srinivasan
harish.srinivasan@gmail.com

University of Buffalo CC

Student Union Room 145
Friday, 5-7 p.m.
Tom Kessler
Kessler5@buffalo.edu

Lakeshore Chess Club

Lake Shore Library
Route 5, Hamburg
Mondays, 5-8 p.m.
Tom Warner
warner689@cs.com

Villa Maria College

Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Peg@ex-webit.com

Jamestown Chess Club

Chautauqua Chess Assoc.
111 W. 2nd St., Suite 210,
Jamestown
Mark Clark, 716-763-6825
Thu., 6-9 pm., Sat. 10:30-3.

buffalo chess.blogspot.com

for additional information.

Southern Tier

Hornell Chess Club

Hornell Intermediate School
Park Street, Hornell
(Summer: Arkport Community
Room) Fred Harris, 607-295-9858
Fharris3@stny.rr.com
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Elmira/Corning Chess Club

Manos Diner, Monday
118 College Ave. Elmira
Raynesford Taylor Bacorn
607-734-8602
Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Thu. Barnes & Noble, 821 CR 64,
Big Flats

Cornell Univ. Chess Club

Goldwin Smith Hall, Room 164
Monday & Wednesday, 5 p.m.
rso.cornell.edu/chess

Central New York

Seymour Library Chess Club

Seymour Public Library
176 West Genesee Street,
Auburn
Second Saturday of the Month,
1-4 p.m.
Tom McKellop
315-252-3789
tom_mckellop@hotmail.com

Watertown Chess Club

HSBC Building
120 Washington Street
Watertown
Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m.
Don Klug
315-408-1850
www.watertownchessclub.com

Sullivan Chess Club

707 Legion Drive, Chittenango
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
John Wolf, 315-687-3356

Capital Region

*For Capital Region and Hudson
Valley clubs, go to:*
www.enyca.org

East Greenbush Chess Club

Sunshine Day Care, across from
Greenbush Reformed Church,
East Greenbush
14 Hayes Road
Wednesdays 6:30-10 p.m.
Bill Matters, 518-477-2820
www.eastgreenbushchessclub.org

Greenwich Chess Club

Greenwich Free Library,
Greenwich
Thursday, 7 p.m.
John Hartnett,
jhartnet@twcap.rr.com

Saratoga Staunton Chess Club

Saratoga Springs United
Methodist Church
(5th Avenue and Hennings Road)
Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Lee Battles
lee_battles@aol.com
Alan LeCours, 518-583-0400

Schenectady Chess Club

Niskayuna Community Center
2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Bill Townsend, 518-346-6595
wtownsen@nycap.rr.com

Hudson Valley

King's Knight CC

Rosendale Café
435 Main St., Rosendale
Ken Evans, 845-331-8186
Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Evanschess@aol.com

Middletown Chess Club

Walkill Comm. Center
Route 211, E. Middletown
Lonnie Kwartler, 845-469-4451
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Vassar-Chadwick CC

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie
Monday 7 pm
Craig Fisher, 845-462-5630
Craig.fisher@marist.edu
www.vassar-chadwick.com

Walden Chess Club

Josephine-Louise Public Library
5 Schofield St, Walden, 10am-
2pm, 845-778-7621

New York City/Westchester**The Bob Peretz Chess Club**

(Formerly The Bronx-Yonkers
Chess Club)
White Plains YMCA
250 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601
914-831-3707 Alan Abrams –
Treasurer
TheBobPeretzChessClub.blogspot.com
Mondays 7:45PM – Midnight

Westchester Chess Club

Trinity Lutheran Church
25 Crane Road, Scarsdale
Thursday, 7:30-10:50 p.m.
John Marino
914-723-7363
jdmario@alumni.princeton.edu
www.westchesterchessclub.com

Brooklyn College CC

2900 Bedford Ave.
Tue. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30
Contact: Fedor Khrapatin,
frkn81@aol.com
cell: 646-239-0783
<http://bcchess.tripod.com>

Marshall Chess Club

23 W 10 St, NYC
Jim Frawley, Manager
212-477-3716
Weekdays, 1:00-12:00 pm
Weekends, noon – midnight
Marshallchessclub.org

Polgar Chess Club

103-10 Queens Boulevard,
Forest Hills, Queens
Susan Polgar, 718-897-4600
M-F 4:30-9:30 p.m., Sat 12-8
p.m., Sun. 12-7 p.m.
www.susanpolgar.com

Queens Chess Club

All Saints Lutheran Church
164-02 Goethals Avenue,
Jamaica
(w) Friday, 7:30 pm to Sat 12:30
am; events start at 8:15 pm
Ed Frumkin, 212-677-3224
Efrumkin@nyc.rr.com
www.queens-chess.com

Staten Island Chess Club

Holy Child Forum
Lew Fraser, 718-948-2284
LewFraser@si.rr.com
Tuesday, 7 pm

Max Pavey Chess Club

Recreation Center
48 Macy Rd., Briarcliff
Sal Catalfamo
Friday, 7 p.m.

Long Island

Neal Bellon
Long Island Chess Club
United Methodist Church
470 East Meadow Ave.
East Meadow, NY11554
Thursdays, 6:45 – 10:30 PM
www.lichessclub.com

Huntington Chess Club

Huntington Library
338 Main Street
718-829-7770
Saturday, 10-5, (informal)

Long Island Chess Nuts

Old County Rd., Garden City
Margarita Lanides
mlanides@chessnuts.org
516-739-3907
Thu. & Fri., 4-6 pm
Many Scholastic locations

Nassau Chess Club

1st Presbyterian Church of
Mineola
Main & First Sts. Mineola
Harold Stenzel,
631-218-4440
captahal@optonline.net
Monday, 7 - 11:30 p.m.

Syosset Chess Mates

Walt Whitman Elem. School
Woodbury, NY 11797
Randi Gertler / Marc Berger
(516) 381-1755
Gertler@aol.com

**Chess Clubs are the lifeblood of
chess activity in New York.
Support your local club.**

***Supporting your local chess club
allows chess activities in your
community to flourish in ways
that Internet chess will never be
able to replace.***

***Be part of your chess
community, and make your
chess club part of your
community! Check
www.nysca.net for updated
chess club information.***

A Heritage Event

134th annual NY State Championship.

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

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 100 (enhanced)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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