

TEXAS KNIGHTS

The official publication of the Texas Chess Association

Volume 48, Number 4

P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023

March-April 2007

Texas Team champions: *Fork, the Other Knight Meat*

Left to right: Francisco Guadalupe II, Mark Dejmek, Chris Land and Robert Plunkett

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TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

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Game annotations if not attributed are a collaboration of NM Selby Anderson and Fritz 5.32.

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Deadline next issue: Apr. 15. All contents of *Texas Knights* © 2007 by the Texas Chess Association, Inc. No part may be reproduced in any way without express consent of the editor. Ad rates: \$50/page, \$35/half, \$20/quarter, \$1/line.

Cover photo: Selby Anderson

A Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the members who supported me in my desire to serve TCA as president again. Just as in 1993-1996, I strongly believe my best contribution to this Association is nothing I do personally, but allowing other excellent people to serve well. In that light, I am overdue in telling you that Barb Swafford, our treasurer, has consistently performed for the TCA above and beyond what could ever be reasonably expected of her, and I would be lost without her. I also owe Drew Sarkisian a tremendous debt of gratitude for taking on the duties of Secretary at my request. Finally, if anyone had any doubt that Selby Anderson would once again create a great magazine, I refer you to the Jan-Feb 2007 issue, with articles to interest everyone from parents of scholastic players to fans of New Orleans chess entrepreneur (hustler?!) Jude Acers – and by the way, 14 pages of FIDE rated games from a round robin tournament.

Effective this month, I have asked Peter Kappler to take over the duties of the TCA webmaster. Peter replaces James Widener, who made a tremendous contribution to TCA by creating the TCA forums. I ask that each of you investigate these forums and address any requests or concerns you have for the organization there. As time progresses, TCA will come to rely more and more on the internet, and I believe the forums will only grow in importance. Here is the URL: <http://forum.texaschess.org/>

As most of you are probably aware, the annual Texas Scholastic Championships are upon us. This year they will return to the metroplex, at the Adams Mark Hotel in central Dallas. Luis Salinas, the Chief Tournament Director, has all the details you need at the tournament website: www.swchess.com/sce/tourney/tsc2007/tsc07.htm

I remember helping direct this tournament in Austin in 1992 – when there were about 225 students in the entire tournament. This year, the primary section alone will have 300 players or more. The growth of "junior chess" (what we called it in the "good ol' days") has been the big story of the TCA in the past 15 years. On that note, I would like to respond to Mr. Robert Rausch's remarks about chess teams (pp. 35 and 20 of the last issue).

I do not know for certain when USCF created its scholastic chess team rules, or what the basis of those rules was. I am more familiar with the TCA rules, which

do not follow the USCF rules strictly. TCA's scholastic team rules were definitely not carved from granite in the 1970s. Those rules have constantly changed up to the present date. For example, the primary section did not exist in 1992, but was added in the 1990s at the suggestion of parents and chess coaches. There were few home-schooled students in the early days of the Junior (now Scholastic) tournament, and the home-school rules came about when those students became a larger percentage of the participants. And the rules that we have today have been created as the best, though not perfect, solutions to problems that Mr. Rausch has addressed, and others that he has not. The rules are a bit complicated, but based on simple principles. Yes, the rules treat some students differently – a sixth grader in a K-6 school will play in the elementary section, while a sixth grader at a 6-8 middle school section has to play in that section. The principle at work in this instance is the idea that a scholastic team, as much as possible, should be composed of students who attend the same school. Since there are many differences in the way Texas school districts divide their students among schools, some students of the same grades will end up playing in different sections. That is not so much TCA's decision as the decision of the local school district, being honored by TCA.

There are other principles at work. The high school section needs to be restricted to high school students because it will determine our participants in the Denker and Polgar tournaments. In addition, some students prefer playing in closed sections. I appreciate Mr. Rausch's concerns about the scholastic team rules, but I do not believe the solution is to redefine a team as including participants that don't go to the same school. Nonetheless, TCA is always tinkering with the scholastic rules and I invite anyone with suggestions for changes to participate in the TCA Junior Chess meeting, which will take place on the Saturday night of the tournament. That being said, please note that any changes will go into effect only at the next junior at the earliest.

My feelings about getting the UIL to sanction chess tournaments are much less ambivalent. Mr. Rausch states that "in spite of our best efforts" chess is not a UIL-sanctioned activity. Actually, it is because of our best efforts that TCA runs the scholastic, rather than UIL. I have to admit a prejudice against the UIL dating from the 80s when Joe Binder and I would take turns being ignored by the UIL at their annual meetings, with no consideration of proposals to include chess among the other scholastic competitions. I remember being called a "chess nut", behind my back of course, by some of the coaches

who now ask their students to be at football practice at 6:30 a.m. But setting my feelings about UIL aside, chess is a bad fit for the type of tournament UIL wants to run. UIL is best at organizing single-elimination athletic tournaments in which one team is defeated every round. What to do, then, with a draw in a chess game? Shall we have black draw-odds, or have a speed game playoff? One is patently unfair, while the other will prolong a round in a system designed to be run on a schedule. That is the most obvious problem to me, but there are many others. It is better for juniors to play several games, rather than half the field only playing one game. Are there enough schoolteachers who know how to play chess – but also how to direct tournaments, set clocks, and the other things TDs have to know? UIL would not follow USCF rules, so the brand of "chess" that UIL tournaments would play would not be conducive to playing real chess. And students would not be able to win money in USCF tournaments because they would be disqualified from the UIL. In short, I don't think a UIL-run chess tournament is a bad idea; I think it's a whole slew of bad ideas.

But we might disagree on that; people often do. If you have some specific ideas to improve junior chess in general, or the scholastic in particular, again, please come to the TCA meeting. It will be held at 8:35 p.m. Saturday Mar. 17 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Dallas, in the Seminar Theater. By the way, if you are going please consider attending Dr. Alexey Root's program on Chess and Education: www.swchess.com/sce/tourney/tsc2007/cied.htm

I hope to see you at the meeting. For now, enjoy the rest of the issue. For the next issue, I'll briefly address the debate Dr. Root has been having with Susan Breeding about class prizes.

Michael M. Simpson

Retired as UTD chess director, not as prof

The last issue of *Texas Knights* [Nov-Dec 2006, p. 29] mistakenly reports that I am retiring from the University of Texas at Dallas. That is not the case.

I did step down after founding and serving for ten years as the Director of the UTD Chess Program. Jim Stallings became the new Director September 1.

I am more active than ever as Professor of Literary Studies, and I remain quite involved in the field of Chess and Education, with the USCF, and with FIDE. I have also resumed tournament play after many years absence, with dismal results so far. Think Tin Woodman when first discovered covered with rust.

Dr. Tim Redman

TCA Treasurer's Report

February 13, 2007

The treasurer information had not changed hands from the old treasurer to the new treasurer when I gave the October 2006 report. I now have more information. Hopefully this report will give a better picture of TCA finances.

Sept. 1, 2006 checking account balance \$ 10,584.81

Income

SW Open fee and memberships – Sept. 2006	\$ 426.50
September memberships	404.00
October memberships	303.00
November memberships	142.50
Texas Grade Tournament – Nov. 2006	705.00
December memberships	120.00
January memberships	105.00
Paypal acct. memberships 7/06-1/07 less fees	199.70
Region 2 2007 scholastic tournament – Jan. 2007	179.00
February memberships (so far)	<u>60.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,644.70

Expenses

<i>Texas Knights</i> Sept-Oct issue	\$ 900.00
Mailing charge - Nelda Rogers	24.49
James Widener - Webmaster - Sept 2006	800.00
<i>Texas Knights</i> Nov-Dec issue	1,194.98
TCA Affiliate membership with USCF (2 years)	80.00
Bank charge	3.00
Anjali Datta 2006 Polgar attendee	600.00
Darwin Yang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Ellen Dai - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Sylvia Yang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Evan Xiang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Ellen Xiang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
<i>Texas Knights</i> Jan-Feb issue	1,075.89
"Seed money" for 2007 Texas Scholastic	1,000.00
Texas Masters tournament - January 2007	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 9,673.36

Feb. 13, 2007 checking account balance \$ 3,556.15
Savings account balance \$ 33,866.04

Respectfully submitted,
 Barbara Swafford

The February issue of *Texas Monthly* features Rio Grande Valley chess prodigies **Fernando Mendez** and **Fernando Spada** of Brownsville ("Check Mates" by Katy Vine). The fourth graders are the nation's #5 and #6 nine-year-olds in the December 2006 USCF Rating List.

Texas team title forked over to Houston

The 2007 Texas team champions are the Houston-based *Fork, the Other Knight Meat*, comprised of FM Francisco Guadalupe, NM Mark Dejmek, NM Chris Land and Robert Plunkett. They defeated last year's champs (*Jimbo's Heros Ride Again*, renamed *Fleet Wood Hacks*: Selby Anderson, John Patty, Jim Rohrbaugh and J.P. Hyltin) and ended with a tie match to *UTD Alumni* (Dennis Rylander, Ali Morshedi, Marc Furhmann, Clemente Rendon and Steve Young) for a winning score of 3.5 out of 4 match points. *UTD Alumni* finished in second place at 3 points, having tied their match with *Fleet Wood Hacks*.

The top Under 1900 team was *Four Horsemen* (Jose DeLeon, David Prevost, Juan Carrizales, Mike LaBelle) with 2 points, on tiebreaks over *Team Conquest* (Gregg Stanley, Martin Gordon, Daniel Lozano, Anthony Lozano). Top board Jose DeLeon (1814) continued his rating advance, drawing experts Shawn Noland and Brad Sawyer.

Fork cleaned up on the lower boards, with Land and Plunkett each scoring 3.5 for the top scores in boards 3 and 4. *UTD* had the best scores (3.0) on boards 1 and 2, with Dennis Rylander winning all three games that he played and Morshedi going 3-1.

There were nine teams, and the prizes (b/12) were cut to 75%. The turnout was about average, despite the lack of a Tournament Life Announcement in *Chess Life*. (We sent the TLA within deadline, but it evidently got lost somewhere in Crossville and we didn't follow up.)

Honorable mention for obscure team name reference goes to *Lonely Day* (Brad Sawyer, Paul Haney, Jesse Lozano and Anthony Guerra). The music video for "Lonely Day" by System of a Down, available on YouTube among other sites; has chess in a minor cameo role. (On a related subject, check out the video of "Unlevel" by San Antonio-based group Buttercup, where chess has more than an incidental role.)

Martin Gordon directed the event, held Jan. 27-28 at the Texas Neurosciences Institute in San Antonio.

PRIZE WINNERS

1st	<i>Fork, the Other Knight Meat</i>	\$337.50 + trophy
2nd	<i>UTD Alumni</i>	\$187.50
U1900	<i>Four Horsemen</i>	\$112.50 + trophy
	<i>Team Conquest</i>	\$112.50

Texas Team Championship San Antonio, Jan. 27-28

Team Standings

#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	Tot.
1	Fork, the Other Knight ...	2194	+5	+4	+3	=2	3.5
2	UTD Alumni	2153	+9	=3	+4	=1	3.0
3	Fleet Wood Hacks	2170	+8	=2	-1	+5	2.5
4	No Time to Lose	2002	+6	-1	-2	+7	2.0
5	Lonely Day	1992	-1	+7	+6	-3	2.0
6	Four Horsemen	1607	-4	B	-5	+9	2.5
7	Team Conquest	1567	B	-5	+9	-4	2.0
8	Return of Huevos Rancheros and a Bagel	1762	-3	-9	B	U	1.0
9	Brainstorm	1713	-2	+8	-7	-6	1.0

Individual Standings

	Name, team #	Rating	1	2	3	4	Tot.
1	Chris Land (1)	2182	+19	+27	=8	+11	3.5
2	Robert Plunkett (1)	2174	+21	+30	=5	+22	3.5
3	Dennis Rylander (2)	2344	U	+16	+14	+15	3.0
4	Ali Morshedi (2)	2287	+10	-7	+9	+17	3.0
5	J.P. Hyltin (3)	2071	+33	=22	=2	+21	3.0
6	Michael LaBelle (6)	1590	+30	B	-21	+37	3.0
7	John Patty (3)	2200	+34	+4	-17	=12	2.5
8	James Rohrbaugh (3)	2200	+36	=11	=1	=19	2.5
9	Paul Chaplin (4)	2125	+28	+17	-4	=20	2.5
10	Shawn Noland (9)	2106	-4	+35	+26	=23	2.5
11	Marc Furhmann (2)	2005	+29	=8	+27	-1	2.5
12	Paul Haney (5)	1978	-17	+20	+28	=7	2.5
13	Juan Carrizales (6)	1618	=27	B	=19	=31	2.5
14	Michael Feinstein (4)	2268	+23	=15	-3	=26	2.0
15	Francisco Guadalupe (1)	2213	+18	=14	=16	-3	2.0
16	Selby Anderson (3)	2208	+35	-3	=15	=18	2.0
17	Mark Dejmek (1)	2207	+12	-9	+7	-4	2.0
18	Bradley Sawyer (5)	2179	-15	+26	=23	=16	2.0
19	Jesse Lozano (5)	1947	-1	+24	=13	=8	2.0
20	Martin Gordon (7)	1936	B	-12	=29	=9	2.0
21	Anthony Guerra (5)	1865	-2	+25	+6	-5	2.0
22	Steven D. Young (2)	1820	+37	=5	=30	=2	2.0
23	Jose DeLeon (6)	1814	-14	B	=18	=10	2.0
24	Daniel Lozano (7)	1160	B	-19	+31	-27	2.0
25	Nathaniel Lozano (7)	1107	B	-21	+37	-30	2.0
26	Gregg Stanley (7)	2066	B	-18	-10	=14	1.5
27	Alexander Balkum (4)	1919	=13	-1	-11	+24	1.5
28	David Prevost (6)	1766	-9	B	-12	=29	1.5
29	Bryan West Taylor (9)	1714	-11	=34	=20	=28	1.5
30	Dylan Scott James (4)	1698	-6	-2	=22	+25	1.5
31	Charles R. Davis (9)	1541	-32	+36	-24	=13	1.5
32	Clemente Rendon (2)	1976	+31	U	U	U	1.0
33	Leroy Jasso (8)	1684	-5	+37	U	U	1.0
34	Adrian Diaz (8)	1764	-7	=29	U	U	0.5
35	Gilbert Davila (8)	1898	-16	-10	U	U	0.0
36	James C. Pemberton (8)	1704	-8	-31	U	U	0.0
37	Quintin Noland (9)	unr.	-22	-33	-25	-6	0.0

Sicilian B27
Francisco Guadalupe 2213
Fork, the other knight meat
Brad Sawyer 2179
Lonely Day

Texas Team 2007 (1)
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6

The hyper- accelerated Dragon. I played 3.c4 in Rd. 4, transposing to a Maroczy Bind.

3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bb5 a6 6.e5 axb5 7.exf6 Nc6 8.Qd3 e6!?

8...b4 9.0-0 e6 = Felgaer-Perelshetyn, World Junior 2000.

9.Qxb5 Ra5
 9...Nb4 10.Qe2 Nxa2! 11.Be3 Bb4+ 12.Nbd2 Nc3! =+.

10.Qb3 Qxf6 11.Bd2 Rd5 12.Nc3 Rxd2 13.Ne4!

Possible but tedious is 13.Nxd2 Qg5 14.g3 Nd4 15.Qa4 Qe5+ 16.Kd1 Bg7 17.Nc4 Qh5+ 18.Kc1.

13...Re2+
 Here too Black denies castling, but now it has only token value.

14.Kxe2 Qf4 15.Qe3 Qf5 16.c4! b5??

Overlooking White's next. Still, after 16...Be7 17.c5! 0-0 18.Rhc1 Black is in an awful bind.

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + | + k t - r (

7+ - + p + p z p '
 6- + n z p z p z &

5+ p w - z q + - %
 4- + P + N z - + \$

3+ - + - Q N + - #
 2 P P + K P P P "

1 R - + - + - + R!
 x a b c d e f g h y

17.g4! Qxf3+
 Or 17...Bc5 18.Nd6+! +=.

18.Kxf3 Ne5+ 19.Kg3 Nxc4 20.Qc3 Bb7 21.Nf6+ Kd8 22.Rhd1 d5 23.b3 Bd6+ 24.f4 b4 25.Qd4 e5 26.Qxc4 dxc4 27.fxe5 1-0

French Winawer C18
Ali Morshedi 2287
UTD Alumni
Shawn Noland 2106
Brainstorm

Texas Team 2007 (1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 (12.cxd4? Nxd4!) **dxc3 13.Nxc3 a6 14.Rb1 Na5** (14...0-0-0? 15.Qxa6!) **15.h4 Nf5 16.Rh3**

White's last is to prevent ...Rh3. When I was in the ninth grade and just starting to get *Chess Life*, I was strongly impressed by an article on the 1969 Raach zonal featuring Uhlmann's French Defense games. I even started to play the French!

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - + k t r + (

7+ p q | + p z - '
 6p + - z p z - z &

5n - w p P n + - %
 4- + - z - P - P \$

3P - N Q + - + R #
 2- z P + - + P z "

1+ R z - K L + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

To this point the players have followed one of those games, Dueball-Uhlmann, which continued 16...0-0-0! 17.h5 Rg4 18.h6 Rh8 19.h7 Rg7 20.Rb4 Nc4 (=+) and White embarked on the flashy but incorrect sacrifice 21.Qxf5!?, losing in nine more moves. (The game is available at ChessGames.com.)

16...Nc4 17.h5 0-0-0 18.Rb4 b5?!

This makes life difficult for the bishop. More flexible is 18...Bc6 19.h6 Rg6 20.h7 Rh8 21.Ne2 Rg7 22.c3 Bb5 with counterplay in Tebb-Quillan, Liverpool 2006.

19.h6 Rg6 20.h7 Rh8 21.Ne2 Qc5 22.c3 Rg7 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.cxd4 Qe7 25.Rh6 Rg6 26.Rxg6 fxg6 27.Qxg6 Rxh7 28.Rb3 Rg7 29.Qh6 Rh7 30.Qg6 Rg7 31.Qh6 Rh7 32.Qg5 Qf7

Black cannot save the game by doubling pawns: 32...Qxg5 33.fxg5 Be8 34.Rh3 Bg6 35.Be2 (a) 35... Re7 36.Rh8+ Kd7 37.Rg8 Be4 38.Bh5+; (b) 35...Kd7 36.Rxh7+ Bxh7 37.Bh5 Bg8 38.g6 +- and the bishop at g8 is permanently snookered.

33.Rg3 Kb7 34.Qf6 a5 35.Bd2 Qe8 36.Bxc4 bxc4 37.Bxa5 Rf7 38.Qh6 Ka6 39.Bb4 Rf5 40.Rf3 Qf7??

Poor 40...Rh5 41.Qf6 +-, but at least the rook doesn't get trapped.

41.g4 1-0

French MacCutcheon C12
Ali Morshedi 2287
UTD Alumni
John Patty 2200
Fleet Wood Hacks

Texas Team 2007 (2)
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5

Inviting 4...Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 with the Alekhine-Chatard attack.

4...Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4 g6 9.Nf3 c5 10.Bd3 Nxd2 11.Kxd2 Nc6 12.Rhb1 Qe7 13.a4 c4 14.Bf1 b6 15.h4 Bd7 16.h5

Sometimes White prefaces this with Nh2, as Ng4-f6 is one of the ideas to the h-pawn push.

An entirely different idea is Qf4-f6, relying on g4-g5 to aid the f6 pawn after Black trades queens.

16...gxh5!?
 Often 16...g5 is seen. Then after 17.Nh2, not 17...0-0-0 18.Qf3! with Ng4-f6 on the way, but 17...f5 with a very good game for Black.

17.Qxh5 0-0-0 18.Re1 Rdf8 19.Re2 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Rae1 Qf4+ 22.Re3 Rf5 23.Qh1 h5 24.g3 Qh6 25.Bh3 Rf6 26.R1e2 Rhf8 27.Ke1??

White covers the f2 pawn but overlooks that c3 is a mate square, so his Re3 is pinned by the queen. .

On the forced 27.Kd1, Black can still maneuver meaningfully while White is in passive hunker mode – chess hell for someone like Morshedi! 27...Kb8 28.Bg2 Ne7 29.Bh3 Ng6 30.Bg2 h4! and if 31.gxh4 Nf4. **27...Rxf3! 28.Bxe6 Bxe6 0-1**

Dutch Leningrad A86
Selby Anderson 2208
Fleet Wood Hacks
Dennis Rylander 2344
UTD Alumni

Texas Team 2007 (2)
1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nc3 d6 6.d5 c6

There go my plans for 7.Nh3, as now Black replies 7...e5.

7.Nf3 0-0 8.Nd4 Qb6 9.Nc2 Nbd7 10.Be3 c5

Not 10...Qxb2?? 11.Na4 Qe5 12.Bd4 (among other moves) ?00

11.f4?!
11.0-0 Ne4 =.

11...Ng4?!
11...Ne4! 12.Bxe4 fxe4 13.Bc1 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qa5 ?p

12.Bd2 Qxb2!?
12...Ngf6 13.Rb1 ?)

13.Rb1 Bxc3 14.Rxb2 Bxb2 15.e4 Nb6 16.Qe2 e6 17.0-0 exd5 18.

exd5 Bd7 19.h3 Nh6 20.Rb1 Bf6

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - + l t k + (

7+ p + - r n z p ' 6- R - p - z p z &

5+ - v P z p + - % 4- + P z - P - + \$

3P - + Q + - P P # 2- z N + - + L K "

1+ - + - + - + - ! x a b c d e f g h y

21.Qd3

I started to play 21.Ba5! but chickened out. It looks foolhardy to part with the good bishop and leave Black's unchallenged, but here goes Fritz: 21...Rfe8 22.Qd3 Nf7 23.Kh2 Re7 24.Bxb6 (at last White cashes in) ...axb6 25.Rxb6 Be8 26. a3 ?!

21...Kf7 22.Bf3

This was the last chance to eliminate Black's troublesome dark square bishop: 22.Bc3! Bxc3 23. Qxc3 Ng8 24.Re1 Nf6 25.Re3 =.

22...Rfe8 23.Ba5 Re7 24.Re1?

24.Bxb6! axb6 25.Rxb6 Rxa2 26.Rxd6 Ba4 and now a snappy idea ia 27.Rxf6+! Kxf6 28.Ne3 Ra1+ 29. Kh2 Ra2+ 30.Ng2 Kf7 31.d6 Rd7 32.Qb1 Rd2 33.Qa1 Bb3 34.Qh8?S **24...Rxe1+ 25.Bxe1 Na4!**

Black's dark square dominance is getting annoying.

26.Qb3 b6 27.g4?

For the sake of "doing something" I endanger my position. 27.Na3 or 27.Bd2 is still ?00

27...fxg4 28.hxg4 Bg7 29.Bg3
29.Ne3 Re8 30.Ng2 =.

29...Re8 30.Kg2 Nc3 31.Qa3 a5 32.Be1 Ne2 33.Bd2 Nxe4 34.Qb3

Nh6 35.Qxb6 Nf5 36.Qxa5 h5 37. Bxe2 Rxe2+ 38.Kf3 Nd4+ 39.Nxd4

Bg4+ 40.Kg3 Bxd4 41.Qc7+ Kg8 42.Ba5 Bf2+

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - t k + (

7+ - Q - + - z - ' 6- + - p - z p z &

5z - p P z - + p % 4- + P z - P l + \$

3+ - + - + - K - # 2P z - + r z - z "

1+ - + - + - + - ! x a b c d e f g h y

43.Kh2??

I was convinced that my choice was moot, so I went for the one that denied a pawn check. Unfortunately

I've cornered my king into a mate net, whereas after 43.Kg2! h4 44. Qb8+ Kh7 45.Qc7+ Kh6 46.Qd8! my own mate threat at h8 breaks his stride: 46...Be3+ (46...Bg3+?? 47. Kg1 ?00 47.Kf1 Rf2+ 48.Ke1 Re2+ =. Black has a perp, nothing more.

43...h4! 44.Qc8+

Not a blunder, just a cheap trick. **44...Bxc8 0-1**

Sicilian B50
Paul Chaplin 2125
Four Horsemen
Ali Morhsedi 2287
Four Horsemen

Texas Team 2007 (3)
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Na3

Many moves have been tried here, in one of the bigger opening crossroads. Starting with the most popular: Be2, Bd3, h3, Bc4, Qc2, d3, e5, Qe2, Qa4, d4, g3, a3, Bb5+. The text is one of the least popular, with only one game in NIC Base.

4...e6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Qe2 a6 7. Ba4 b5 8.Bb3 Bb7 9.d3 Be7 10.0-0

0-0 11.c4

Better is 11.Bg5.

11...bxc4 12.Nxc4 d5 13.exd5?

A fundamental mistake – White gives up the center instead of holding it with 13.Ncd2! when Black has only a trace of an edge..

13...exd5 14.Nce5

This dog has its day, but not for long.

14...Bd6 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Bg5 Rae8 17.Qd1 Qf5 18.Bh4 d4 19. Bg3 Bxg3 20.hxg3?

Better is 20.fxg3 Qh5 21.Ba4! Ng4 22.Nh4! Re5 23.b4 Qg5 24.Rf4 Ne3 25.Qd2 with an unclear game!

20...Qh5 21.Nh2

21.Rc1 Ng4 22.Nh4 Re5 ?.

21...Re2 22.Qc1 Rfe8!?
22...Qf5 23.Bd1 Re5 ?

23.Rb1
23.Bd1 Qd5 24.Nf3 R2e7 ?p

23...R8e3! 24.f3

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - + - ♠ k + (
 7+ l + - + p p p '
 6p + - z - n - z &
 5+ - ♠ - z - + q %
 4- + - ♠ - z - + \$
 3+ L + P r P P - #
 2P P - + r + P N "
 1+ R Q - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
 24...Rxc2+! 25.Kxc2 Re2+ 26.Rf2
 Rxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 28.Kf1 Nh5
 29.Ke1 Qg1+ 30.Ke2 Nxc3+ 0-1

English A16
 Brad Sawyer 2179
Lonely Day
 Jose DeLeon 1815
Four Horsemen

Texas Team 2007 (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5
 Now 4.d4! transposes to the Marshall Defense to the QGD,, not considered fully viable by theory.
 4.Nc3 e6 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5
 Now 6.d4 is the Semi-Tarrasch, typically simplifying with 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+. Sawyer blazes his own trail, but Jose isn't fazed.
 7.Ne5!? a6 8.Rb1 Qc7 9.d4 cxd4
 Also good is 9...b5 =.
 10.cxd4 Nd7! 11.Nc4 b5 12.Ne3 Nb6
 12...Bb7! 13.f3 Bd6 14.g3 0-0 15.Bg2 Rac8 16.0-0 =.
 13. Bd3 Na4 14.Bd2 Bd7 15. 0-0 Be7 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Rfc1 Qa7 18.d5 18.e5! f5 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Bb4 Rfd8 21.Qe4 g6 22.d5! ?^a
 18...exd5 19.Qh5 g6 20.Qh6
 20.Qxd5?! Be6 21.Qe5 Nc5 22. Be2 f6 23.Qf4 Bxa2 24.Ra1 Bf7 ?
 20...Bf6 21. Nxd5 Bg7 22.Qh4 Qd4 23.Bh6 Bxh6 24.Qxh6 Be6 25.Rb4 Qg7 26.Qh4 Bxd5 27.exd5 Rac8 28. Rbb1 Rcd8 29.Be4 Draw

King's Indian E99

Gregg Stanley 2066
Team Conquest
 Shawn Noland 2106
Brainstrom

Texas Team 2007 (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7
 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 a5 13.Nd3 g5 14.c5 Rf6 15. Rc1 Rh6 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Nb5 Qe8 18.h3 Qh5 19.Be1 Nc5 20.Nf2 b6 21.Ng4 Bxg4 22.fxc4 Qg6 23. Rc4 Kh8 24.Qc2 Rf8 25.Bf2 Rf6 26.a3 Qf7 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 f3 29.Bxf3 Rxf3 30.gxf3 Rxh3

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - + - ♠ - k (
 7+ - + - n q z p '
 6- p - p - z - z &
 5+ N n P p - p - %
 4- P R z P + P + \$
 3+ - + - + P + r #
 2- z Q + - z - z "
 1+ - + - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
 31.Bxc5(?)

It looks like White is trying to "preserve momentum" after time control, just when he should slow down. (31.Rc3! Nd7 32.Nxd6 ???): Gregg explained that he was dealing with sleep deprivation at the time. That explains the strange conclusion to a game White had dominated.
 31...bxc5 32.Rf2?
 32.Qg2 should win painlessly: 32...Rh6 33.bxc5 dxc5 34.Rxc5 ???^a
 32...Qf4 33.Nxd6
 Now it's getting tricky: 33.Rg2! cxb4 34.Qd2 Qf6 35.Rf2 Qh6 36. Rh2 Rg3+ 37.Rg2 Rxf3 38.Qxb4 ?
 33...Qg3+ 34.Kf1 Ng6 35.Ke2 Nf4+ 36.Ke3 Ng2+ 37.Ke2 Nf4+ 38.Ke3 Ng2+ 39.Rxc2??
 39.Ke2 =

39...Qxf3+ 40.Kd2 Qe3+ 0-1

QGD Exchange D36

Dennis Rylander 2344
UTD Alumni

Francisco Guadalupe 2213

Fork, the other knight meat

Texas Team 2007 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 h6 7.Bh4 g5
 Extreme stuff!
 8.Bg3 Qa5 9.e3 Ne4 10.Bd3 Bf5 11.Nge2 Na6 12.Qd1 Qb4
 12...Nb4 13.Bb1 Nxc3 14.Nxc3 Bxb1 15.Qxb1 Qa6? 16.a3! Nd3+ 17.Kd2 Nxf2 18.Rf1 ?
 13.0-0 Bg7 14.f3 Nxc3 15.Nxc3 Bg6 16.a3 Qe7 17.Qd2 Nc7

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - + k ♠ - r (
 7p p n - q p z - '
 6- + p z - z l p &
 5+ - w p z - p - %
 4- + - P - z - + \$
 3P - N L P P N - #
 2- P - Q - + P P "
 1R - + - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
 18.f4!

A strong, and perfectly obvious move if one is not locked into stereotyped strategic thinking. Black cannot countenance f4-f5, so he must bring the Rf1 into play.

18...gxf4 19.Rxf4 Ne6

19...0-0 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.Bxf5 Ne6 22.Rg4 Rae8 23.Rf1 Kh8 24. Rf3 Ng5 25.Rfg3 Qf6 26.h4 Qxf5 27.hxc5 Rg8 28.Rf4 Qe6 29.Qf2 ±.
 20.Rf2 Qg5 21.Raf1 0-0-0 22.Nf5 Rd7 23.b4 Rg8 24.Ne2 Bf8 25.Kh1 Bxf5

The knight was annoying, but now the weakness of f7 is too much. (25...Kb8 26.Ng1 Qd8 27.Nf3 Bxf5 28.Bxf5 Bd6 =)
 26.Bxf5 Bd6 27.Bh3!

Squelching counterplay before it starts, and snagging the f-pawn.

27...Rg7 28.Rxf7 Rdx7 29.Rxf7 Rxf7

29...Kb8 30.Rxg7 Nxg7 31.Qd3 ?q

30.Bxe6+ Kc7

30...Rd7 31.Nf4 ?D

31.Bxf7 Qf5 32.Bg8 Qg6 33.Bxd5 cxd5 34.Kg1 Kb8 35.Nf4 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Qb3 37.Qd3 Qb2+ 38.Kf3 Qc1 39.h3 a6 40.Nxd5 Qe1 41.Nf4 h5 42.Nxh5 Ka7 43.Nf4 Qh4 44.g3 Qh8 45.Qf5 Qe8 46.Qd5 Bc7 47.h4 1-0

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

Mark Dejmek 2207

Fork, the other knight meat

Ali Morshedi 2297

UTD Alumni

Texas Team 2007 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10. Nd5 Bg7 11.c3 0-0 12.Qh5 Be6 13. Bd3 f5

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - ♚ - ♔ k + (
7+ - + - + p ♗ p'
6p + n ♝ l ♘ - ♙ &
5+ p ♖ N ♞ p + ♚ %
4- + - ♘ ♡ - + \$
3N - ♠ L + - + - #
2P ♡ - + - ♡ ♡ ♡ "
1R - + - K - + R!
x a b c d e f g h y

14.exf5 Bxd5 15.f6 e4 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Qxd5

17.Bc2 Re5 18.Qh6 b4 19.Nb1 Qg5 20.Qxg5 Rxg5 21.Rg1 Kxg7 22.Nd2 =.

17...exd3+ 18.Kf1 Ne5 19.h4 Rc8 20.Rd1 Rc5 21.Qd4 Qf6 22.f4 Qf5 23.Re1 Rd5 24.Qxd5 Qxf4+ 25. Kg1 Nf3+ 26.Qxf3 Rxe1+ 27.Kf2 Re2+ 28.Kf1 Qc1# 0-1

Sicilian B37

Selby Anderson 2208

Fleet Wood Hacks

Brad Sawyer 2287

Lonely Day

Texas Team 2007 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nc2

Sawyer knows the main line with 7.Be3 in some depth. The text is like Rubinstein's defense to the English, a move ahead.

7...Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 a5 10.Bd2 Nd7 11.b3 Nc5 12.f3 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Ne3 a4 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16. Rb1 axb3 17.axb3 Bd4+ 18.Kh1 e5 19.b4 Ne6 20.Bd3 Qh4 21.Be1 Qh5 22.Nd5 Kh8 23.Bf2

23.b5 Ncd8 24.Bb4 Bc5 =.

23...Ra2 24. Bxd4 Ncxd4 25.Ra1 Rfa8 26.Rxa2 Rxa2 27.Qe1

27.Bb1 Re2 28.Qa4 b5 29.Qa8+ Kg7 30.cxb5 Nxf3 31.Qb7+ Kh8 32.Qc8+ Kg7 33.Qg8+! Kxg8 34. Nf6+ Kf7 35.Nxh5 Nd2 =.

27...f4 28.Bb1 Re2 29.Qd1 Qf7 30.Bd3 Ra2 31.Qb1 Ra3 32.Rf2 [32.Be4] 32...Nc7 33.Be4 Nxd5 34.Bxd5 Qf5 35.Be4 Qc8 36.Qc1 Qa8

36...Ra4 37.Rb2 b5 38.Qe1 Qxc4 39.Rb1 Qf7 40.Qh4 d5 41. Qd8+ Qg8 =

37.Rb2 Qa4 38.h3 Nb3 39.Qe1 Ra1

Draw agreed(?)

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - ♔ - ♚ (
7+ p + - + - ♘ p'
6- + - ♞ - + - + &
5+ - ♖ - ♞ - + - %
4q ♡ ♡ + L ♞ - + \$
3+ n + - + P + P #
2- R - + - + P ♘ "
1R - + - Q - + K!
x a b c d e f g h y

I am finally out of the woods, and my long-suffering bishop can see some action. Fritz says I'm winning, e.g. 40...Rxb1 41.Bxb1 Qd7 42.c5 Qe7 43.Qc3 Nd4 (43...dxc5 44.Qxb3 cxb4 45.Ba2 Kg7 46.Qg8+ Kh6 47.Bc4) 44.cxd6 Qxd6 45.Qc8+ Kg7 46.Qxb7+ Kf6 47.Bxh7 ?00

Region VIII Scholastic HIGHLIGHTS

Notes by IM Daniel Hernandez

Pirc Defense B09

Daniel Hung 1830

Michael Haskin 1850

Region VIII 2007 (4)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 e5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+

This is now the main line. For years 7.e5 was considered best, but Black found a fantastic resource: 7... Ng4 8.e6! fxe6 9.Ng5 Bxb5 10.Nxe6 Bxd4!! 11.Nxd8 Bf2+ 12.Kd2 Be3+. 7...Nbx7

Interesting is 7...Nfxd7 8.d5 b5!

8.d5 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Qb6?!

A dubious move. Better is 10... Qc7 11.Qe2 e6 (11...Rae8 12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Ng4 14.e6 looks better for White) 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.Ng5 Rae8 with a double-edged game; or 10...Rb8 11.Qe2.

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - r k + (
7+ p + n ♞ p ♗ p'
6p ♚ - ♞ - n p + &
5+ - ♞ ♡ + - + - %
4P + - + ♡ ♡ - + \$
3+ - N - + N + - #
2- ♡ ♡ + - + ♡ ♡ "
1R - ♗ Q + R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
11.Kh1 Rfb8?

(Continued on page 25)



Texas Masters & CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas, Jan. 12-14

by NM Selby Anderson

The J.G.'s Old-Fashioned Hamburgers Texas Masters and Texas Class chess tournament was again held at the UT Dallas student union. There was a slight dropoff in attendance with 90 players, down from 115 last March. This year with the state scholastic back in Spring Break, this event got the earlier time slot in mid-January. As luck would have it, this weekend saw travel advisories due to freezing rain throughout much of Texas.

The Masters field was as strong as ever, with three GMs and four IMs, as well as FM-elect Darwin Yang, the #2 nine-year-old in the USCF annual rating list.

IM Marko Zivanic and GM Magesh Panchanathan tied for first with 4-1, each with two draws.

Benjamin Wheeler and Luis Salinas directed for Southwest Chess Enterprises.

STANDINGS

Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	Tot.
1 Marko Zivanic	2569	+21	+9	=7	+6	=3	4.0
2 M. Panchanathan	2526	+15	+19	=3	=7	+9	4.0
3 Alejandro Ramirez	2566	+11	=16	=2	+14	=1	3.5
4 John Bartholemew	2454	+18	=8	-6	+13	+12	3.5
5 Babakuli Annakov	2509	H	=6	+15	=8	+7	3.5
6 Kalin Nonchev	2127	+10	=5	+4	-1	=8	3.0
7 Drasko Boskovic	2526	+25	+14	=1	=2	-5	3.0
8 Alexander Chua	2253	+13	=4	=16	=5	=6	3.0
9 Michael Langer	2346	+24	-1	+17	+16	-2	3.0
10 Peter Vavrak	2450	-6	+18	-12	+21	+15	3.0
11 Yahodhan Gogte	2193	-3	-12	+24	+20	+17	3.0
12 Darwin Yang	1981	-8	B	+19	-4	=14	2.5
13 Darwin Yang	1981	-8	B	+19	-4	=14	2.5
14 Keaton Kiewra	2317	+17	-7	+22	-3	=13	2.5
15 Bradley Sawyer	2179	-2	+20	-5	+19	-10	2.0
16 Jacek Stopa	2436	+12	=3	=8	-9	U	2.0
17 Sam Copeland	2047	-14	+25	-9	B	-11	2.0
18 Lilia Doibani	2134	-4	-10	+26	+22	U	2.0
19 Ali Morshedi	2287	+20	-2	-13	-15	X21	2.0
20 Courtney Jamison	1988	-19	-15	X25	-11	+22	2.0
21 Ryan Milisits	2226	-1	+24	H	-10	F19	1.5
22 K. Parkhomenko	1456	H	=23	-14	-18	-20	1.0
23 Peter Yeh	2203	H	=22	U	U	U	1.0
24 J.P. Hyltin	2071	-9	-21	-11	U	U	0.0
25 Christopher Toolin	2174	-7	-17	F20	U	U	0.0
26 Gene Pershwitz	1831	U	U	-18	U	U	0.0

PRIZEWINNERS

Master	=1st	IM Marko Zivanic	4.0\$	1,125.00
		GM Magesh Panchanathan	4.0\$	1,125.00
	=3rd	GM Alejandro Ramirez	3.5	\$ 83.33
		FM John Bartholemew	3.5	\$ 83.33
U2400		GM Babakuli Annakov	3.5	\$ 83.33
		Kalin Ninchev	3.0	\$ 125.00
		NM Alexander Chua	3.0	\$ 125.00
		FM Michael Langer	3.0	\$ 125.00
U2200		Yashodhan Gogte	3.0	\$ 125.00
	1st	Stanley Yang	4.0	\$ 108.00
	2nd	Alexander Balkum	3.5	\$ 72.00
U2000	3rd	Michael Slepoy	3.0	\$ 36.00
	1st	Stephen Pamatmat	4.5	\$ 106.00
	2nd	Paul Haney	3.5	\$ 71.00
U1800	=3rd	Matthew Liu	3.0	\$ 18.00
		Steven Villarreal	3.0	\$ 18.00
	1st	Robert Haskell	4.5	\$ 78.00
U1600	2nd	Clayton Swafford	4.0	\$ 19.00
	=3rd	Sarah Chiang	3.5	\$ 30.00
		Ellen Xiang	3.5	\$ 30.00
U1400	1st	Angelito Abella	4.5	\$ 171.00
	=2nd	Caroline Zhu	3.5	\$ 57.00
		Andrew Guzman	3.5	\$ 57.00
U1200		Samuel Waranch	3.5	\$ 57.00
	Unr.	Brian Medlock	2.5	\$ 15.00
	1st	Dante Zakhidov	4.5	\$ 78.00
U1000	2nd	Andrew Jones	3.5	\$ 52.00
	=3rd	Michael Perkins	3.0	\$ 13.00
		Teresa Merklin	3.0	\$ 13.00
U1000	1st	Hank Davis	4.5	\$ 63.00
	2nd	Russell Davis	2.5	\$ 42.00
	=3rd	Nikita Shcherbina	2.0	\$ 5.25
U1000		Jordan Pamatmat	2.0	\$ 5.25
		Colleen Dai	2.0	\$ 5.25
		Adam Dickerson	2.0	\$ 5.25
U1000	1st	Lee Ming Zheng	4.0	\$ 42.50
	2nd	Raghuveer Achukola	4.0	\$ 42.50
	3rd	Clara Merklin	3.0	\$ 17.00

Complete results are on the Web at www.swchess.com.

23 lines

NM Ryan Milisits (left) faces IM Marko Zivanic in Rd. 1

Sicilian Sveshnikov B33
Drasko Boskovic 2526
Christopher Toolin 2174
Texas Masters 2007 (1)

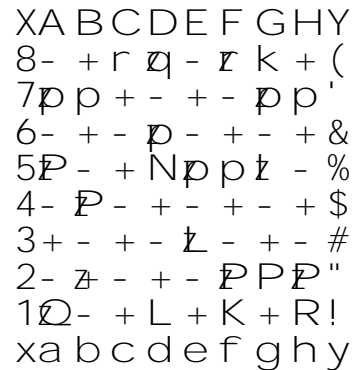
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.a4

A Boskovic specialty. In last year's UTD Grandmaster Invitational, Stopa continued with 7...a6 8.Na3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Bc4 Qb6 11.Qd3 Nb4 12.Qe2 Rc8, and after 13.Bg5!? Bxc4 14.Nxc4 Nxc2+ 15.Qxc2 Rxc4 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Qe2, White's light square domination was worth the pawn.

7...Be6 8.Nd5 Rc8 9.Nbc3 Be7
An game Mednis-Fedorowicz, New York 1977, continued 9...Qa5 10.Nxf6+ gxf6 11.Bd3 Rg8 12.0-0 Bh3 13.g3 Bxf1 14.Kxf1. White's initiative was good to regain the Exchange, but Black's pawn center eventually carried the day: 14...Rg6 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Qh5 Nd4 17.c3 Nb3

18.Bb5+ Rc6 19.Rb1 a6 20.Bxc6+ bxc6 21.Ne3 Qa5 22.Qh3 Qc7 23. f5 Nc5 24.Qxh7 Qd7 25. Qh5 Nxe4 26.Qf3 d5 27.Be3 Qb7 28.Qd1 Qd7 29.Qf3 Qb7 30.Qd1 c5 31.Nh4 Rg8 32.f3 Ng5 33.Qd3 d4 34.Bf2 Rh8 35.cxd4 cxd4 36.b4 Rxh4! (now it is Black who sacs the Exchange, with decisive effect) 37.gxh4 Nxf3 38.b5 Nxb2+ 39.Ke2 a5 40.b6? (40.Rc1 Qg2 ?y 40...Bb4 ?y41.Rg1 Ke7 42. Rg8 Qd5 (Black's queen is like an admiral astride an armada!) 43.Kd1 e4 44.Qc2 Bc3 45.Kc1 Nf3 46.h5 Ne5 47.h6 Nd3+ 48.Kb1 Qc4 49. Bxd4 Qb4+ 50.Ka2 Qxd4 51.b7 Qd5+ 0-1.
10.Be2 0-0 11.Be3 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb4 13.a5 Nfxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxc2+ 15.Kf1 Nxa1 16.Qxa1 Bg5 17.b4 f5 18.Bd1
18... f4?!

(Diagram)



In this case the positional move 18...Bxe3 (trading off a bad bishop), which is also a greedy move to save the a7 pawn, is also the move that best sustains the tempo of attack: (a) 19.Nxe3 Kh8 20.Bb3 f4 21.Nd5 Qh4 22.h3 e4 23.Qe1 e3??; (b) 19.fxe3 Qh4 20.Bb3 Kh8 21.Qe1 Qe4 22. Kf2 f4 23.Qb1 fxe3+ 24.Kg3 Rc4???

Rf7 25.Qe4 Bf4 26.h4 g5 27.Be3 Rg7 28.Bc2 gxf4+?

An idea Black launches too late is 28...Rxc2! 29.Qxc2 gxf4+ 30.Kf1 Qxf3 31.Nxf4 Qxh1+ 32.Ke2 Qc6! 33.Qxc6 bxc6 34.a7 Rg8 = 29.Kf1 Rxc2 30.Nxf4!

Doh! Move order matters. In the previous note, this intermezzo would have been answered with ...gxf4+.

30...exf4 31.Qxc2 fxe3 32.Qc8+ Rg8 33.Qc3+ Rg7 34.Rg1 Qb5+ 34...e2+ 35.Kxe2 Qb5+ 36.Ke1 Qd7 37.Rxg7?? 35.Ke1 exf2+ 36.Kxf2 Qd7 37. Rxg7 1-0

Center Counter B01

Lilia Doibani 2134

John Bartholomew 2454

Texas Masters 2007 (1)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bc4 Bf5 6.Bd2 e6 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxf6+ gxf6 10.0-0 Rg8 11.f3 h5 12.h3 h4 13. Be1 Qc7 14.d5

14.Kb1! is a finesse: 14...Qf4 15. d5 e5 16.Bd3 Bd7 17.Qe4 with an edge to White.

14...cxd5 15.Rxd5

15.Bxd5? Bh6+ 16.Kb1 Qxc2+!

15...Be7 16.Rd4 Nc6 17.Rxh4?

17.Bb5 keeps the balance.

17...0-0-0 18.Bf2?? (18.Nb3 Bc5 ?)

18... Rxc2 19.Qf1 Qa5 20.c3

20.Bd3 Rxf2 21.Qxf2 Bc5+-.

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + k r - + - + (

7 p p + - t p + - '

6- + n + p p - + &

5 q - + - + l + - %

4- + L + - + - R \$

3+ - P - + P + P #

2 P P - + - t r + "

1+ - K - + QNR!

x a b c d e f g h y

20...Qxc3+! 0-1

QP Opening D11

Peter Vavrak 2450

Kiril Nonchev 2127

Texas Masters 2007 (1)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nbd7 7.c4 e6

An enterprising solution is 7... dxc4 8.Bxc4 e5 =.

8.Nc3 Bd6 9.cxd5 cxd5!?

Since this exposes the b7 pawn compared to 9...exd5 10.0-0 0-0 11.e4 dxe4 12.Qxe4 g6 =.

10.0-0 0-0 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Be7 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6

White's extra pawn is more secure after 13...Bxf6 14.Qxb7 Bxd4 15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.Qe4+ and Qxd4. 14.Qxb7 a5 15.Rd1 Nd5 16.Be4 Rb8 17.Qa6 Bf6 18.Qd3 h6 19.b3 Qd6 20.Bd2 Nb4 21.Qf3 Bg5 22. Be1

22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.d5 ???"

22...f5 23.Bd3 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 Qd5 25.Bc3 Rfd8 26.Re1 e5 27.Qxf5

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- r - r - + k + (

7 + - + - + - p - '

6- + - + - + - p &

5 p - + q p Q t - %

4- + - P - + - + \$

3 + P t - + - + P #

2 P z - + - P P + "

1 R - + - R - K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

27...exd4?? 28.Re5??

28.Re8+! and Black can resign.

28...Qf7 29.Bxa5 Qxf5 30.Rxf5

Rd7 31.Rd1 Rc8 32.Bd2 Be7 33.a4

Rb7 34.Rf3 Rc2 35.Rd3 Bf6 36.a5

Ra2 37.f4

37.b4 Kf7 38.Re1 Rc7 39.Re4

Rcc2 40.Be1 Rab2 41.g4 Rb1 42.

Kg2 ?VV

37...Kf7 38.f5 Rb5 39.g4 Ra3 40.

Rb1 Ke7 41.Re1+

41.Kf1 Kd6 42.Ke2 Kd5 43.Kf3

Bd8 44.Bc1 Rxa5 45.Bb2 Bf6 46. Rbd1 Kc6 47.Bxd4 +-.

41...Kd7 42.Re6

42.Ree3! Kc6 43.Rf3+-.

42...Rbxb3 43.Rxb3 Rxb3 44.a6 Ra3 45.Kf2

45.Bxh6 Ra1+ 46.Kf2 (46. Kg2?? gxf6 47.Rxf6 d3-+) 46... Bh4+ 47.Ke2 gxf6 48.Rxh6 Be7 49.h4 Ra3 50.Rh7 Ke8 51.Rh8+ =.

45...Rxb3 46.Ke2

46.Kg2 Ra3 47.Bxh6 d3 48.Bf4 d2 49.Rd6+ Ke7 50.Rxd2 Rxa6?-

46...Ra3 47.Bxh6

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - + - + (

7 + - + k + - p - '

6 P + - + R t - t &

5 + - + - + P + - %

4- + - p - + P + \$

3 r - + - + - + - #

2- z - + K + - + "

1 + - + - + - + - !

x a b c d e f g h y

47...d3+ 48.Ke3??

Stepping into a big fat swindle. A draw results from 48.Kf3 Bc3 49.

Bf4 d2 50.Ke2 Ra1 51.Rd6+ Ke7 52.

Bxd2! Kxd6 53.Bxc3 Ra2+ 54.Kd3

Ra3 55.Kc2 Rxa6 56.Bxg7 Ra4 57.

g5 Ra5 58.Bf8+, etc..

48...Bb2!-+ 49.Kd2 gxf6 50.Rxh6

Bc3+ 51.Ke3 d2 52.Rh1 Rxa6 53.

Ke2 Ra5 54.Kd3 Rd5+ 55.Kc2 Bb4

56.Rb1 Ba3 57.f6 Bc1 58.Kd1 Ke6

59.Rb6+ Kf7 0-1

A San Antonio expert gets tantalizingly close to toppling Langer:

Scotch Game C45

Michael Langer 2346

J.P. Hyltin 2071

Texas Masters 2007 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.

Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.Nb5 Bxc3

7.fxe3 Qh4+ 8.g3 Qd8 9.Qg4 Kf8

Langer lost a game to Onischuk (Stillwater, OK 2005) after 9...g5 10.Qh5!? (10.Qe2 is more circum-spect) 10...Ne5 11.h4 d6 12.Be2 a6 13.Nd4 c5 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.exf5 Nf6! with a difficult struggle. Black later won a rook ending a pawn down – check it out on NIC Base!

10.Qf4 d6 11.N1c3 g5!?

A new move? Hyltin may have known of Black playing this somewhere (see last note), NICBase gives only ...a6, Ne5, Nge7 and Nf6.

A game O. Bernstein-Swidorski (Ostend 1907) continued 11...Ne5 12.0-0-0 Bg4 13.Be2 h5 14.Nd5 g5! with a reasonable play. Black lost because of middlegame errors, much as in the present game.

12.Qf2 Ne5 13.Be2 Nh6

Here or the next move, Fritz prefers 13...Bh3 with an edge to Black.

14.0-0-0 Be6 15.Rhf1 Bh3 16.Nxc7!?

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - ♝ - ♞ - ♟ (
 7 ♡ ♡ ♡ - + ♡ + ♡ '
 6 - + - ♡ - + - ♡ &
 5 + - + - ♡ - ♡ - %
 4 - + - + ♡ + - + \$
 3 + - ♡ - ♡ - ♡ #
 2 ♡ ♡ ♡ + ♡ ♡ - ♡ "
 1 + - ♡ ♡ + ♡ + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

A little shock-and-awe, but is it any good? Equal is 16.Qf6 Qxf6 17.Rxf6 Kg7 18.Rxh6! Kxh6 19.Nxc7, as the d-pawn is next.

16...Qxc7 17.Qf6 Ng6 18.Qxg5 Ng8 19.Rf2 Kg7?

Now the bishop gets trapped. Black stands better after 19...Be6 20.Bg4 Bxg4 21.Qxg4 Rd8 ?♗

20.g4 Qe7 21.Qa5!?

Also good is 21.Qh5 Qh4 22.Qxh4 Nxh4 23.Nb5 ?♗ **21...Nf6 22.Rg1! Rhc8**

22...b6 23.Qb4! Ne5 24.Rg3 ?; 22...Ne5 23.Rg3 Nfxg4 24.Bxg4 Bxg4 25.h3 ?♗ 22...Qe6 23.Qf5 ?♗ **23.Rg3 Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Qd2 Ne5**

25...Qh1+ 26.Qd1 Qxd1+ 27.Kxd1 Bxg4 28.Bxg4 ?♗ **26.Rxh3 Rc5 27.c3 Rd5 28.Qc2 Nd3+ 26.Rxh3 Rc5 27.c3 Rd5 28.Qc2 Nd3+ 29.Bxd3 Rxd3 30.Rhf3 f6 31.Rd2 Qxf3 32.Qxd3 Qxg4 33.Qxd6 Rf8**

33...Re8 is more consequent but equally hopeless: 34.Qd7+ Qxd7 35.Rxd7+ Kg6 36.Kd2 ?♗-

34.Qd7+ Qxd7 35.Rxd7+ Kg6 36.Rxb7 Re8 37.Kd2 Re5 38.h4 a5 39.Rd7 Rb5 40.b3 a4 41.b4 Rf5 42.Ke2 Re5 43.c4 Re4 44.Rd4 Re8 45.c5 Kf5 46.c6 1-0

Sicilian Alapin B22

Sam Copeland 2047

Keaton Kiewra 2317

Texas Masters 2007 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3!?

ECO gives 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qh4 Qe2 14.Nd2 h5! 15.Ne4 Qg4 =.

10...dxc3 11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.axb3 e5

Greedy but good is 13...cxb2!.

14.bxc3 Be7 15.Be3 Nd5 16.Nxa7 Nxe3 17.Nxc6

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r ♝ - + ♞ + - ♟ (
 7 + ♡ + - ♚ ♡ ♡ ♡ '
 6 - + ♡ + - + - + &
 5 + - + - ♡ - + - %
 4 - + - + - + - + \$
 3 + ♡ ♡ - ♡ ♡ + - #
 2 - ♚ - + ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ "
 1 ♚ - + - + ♚ ♞ - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

17...Nxf1 18.Nxb8 Rxa1 19.Qb5+ Kf8 20.h3

Black could take a draw right now with 20...Nd2+ and ...Nf1+.

20...h5 21.Qxb7 g5 22.Nc6 Bf6 23.Nfxe5 Rh7 24.f3 g4 25.fxg4

25.Qc8+! Kg7 26.Qe8 ?♗! Black has to trade his bishop, reducing his chances for counterplay.

25...Bh4 26.Nd7+ Kg7 27.Qb8 Ne3+ 28.Kh2 Nf1+ 29.Kg1 Ng3+ 30.Kf2 Rf1+ 31.Ke3 Re1+ 32.Kd2 Nf1+ 33.Kc2 Rh8 34.Qd6

34.Qf4! Re2+ 35.Kd3 Rd2+ 36.Kc4 Rxd7 37.Nd4 Rc8+ 38.Kd3 Rdc7 39.c4 and the king gets shelter.

34...Ra8 35.Nd4 Bg5 36.h4 Ne3+ 37.Kd3 Rd1+ 38.Ke4

38.Ke2 Rd2+ 39.Kf3 hxg4+ 40.Ke4 Re8+ 41.Ne5??.

38...Re8+ 39.Ne5 Re1 40.Kd3 Bf4 41.g5 Bxe5 42.Qh6+ Kg8 43.g6 Bg7 44.gxf7+ Kxf7 45.Qxh5+ Kf8 46.Qg6 Nd5 47.Kc4

47.Qd6+ Ne7 48.g4 Kf7 49.b4?♗

47...R1e5

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8 - + - + ♚ ♞ - + (
 7 + - + - + - ♚ - '
 6 - + - + - + ♚ + &
 5 + - + ♡ ♚ - + - %
 4 - + ♚ ♡ - + - ♡ \$
 3 + ♡ ♡ - + - + - #
 2 - ♚ - + - + ♡ + "
 1 + - + - + - + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

48.h5??

48.Qc6 R8e7 49.Nf3 Ne3+ ?♗

48...Rc8+ ?♗ 49.Nc6 Ne7 50.Qh7 Rxc6+ 51.Kb4 Nd5+ 52.Ka3 Nxc3 53.g4 Ra5+ 54.Kb2 Nd5+ 0-1

Sicilian B42

Ali Morshedi 2287

Courtney Jamison 1988

Texas Masters 2007 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 d6
8.c4 Be7 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Be3 0-0
11.Ra1 Bd7 12.f4 Rfe8 13.g4

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + r + k + (
7+ p q l z p p p '
6p + n p p n - + &
5+ - + - + - + - %
4- + P N P P P + \$
3+ - N L z - + - #
2P P - + Q + - P "
1+ - R - + R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
13...e5

13...Nxd4 14.Bxd4 ... (a) 14...e5
15.Nd5! Qc8 16.fxe5 Bxg4 17.Qf2
dxe5 18.Bxe5 Bc5 19.Nxf6+ gxf6
20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Rd8 ?; (b)
14...Nxc4! 15.Bxc4 Qc5+ 16.Kh1
h5 17.b4 (17.h3 Kxg7 18.hxg4 Rh8
?) 17...Qxb4 18.Bd4 Qa5 ?;

14.Nxc6 Bxc6
14...bxc6 15.f5 h6 may work out,
but it will be a long siege.
15.g5 Nd7 16.f5 Kh8 17.Rf3 Qd8
18.Rg3 Rf8 19.Qh5 g6 20.Qh6 Re8
21.Rh3 Nf8 22.fxc6 fxc6 23.Rf11-0

Modern Benoni A70
Marko Zivanic 2569
Michael Langer 2346
Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5
5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.h3 Bg7 8.Nf3
0-0 9.Bd3 Nh5 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Re1
In Vavrak-Langer (Stillwater,
OK 2006) White was less successful
with 11.Bg5 Bf6! 12.Be3 Ne5 13.
Be2 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Ng7 15.Be2
Bd7 16.a4 Qa5 17.Qd2 Rae8 18.Bb5
Qc7 19.Rfc1 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Rxe4
21.Bd3 Rxa4 22.Rxa4 Bxa4 23.b4
b6 24.b5 a6 25.bxa6 f6 26.Ra1 Qd7
27.a7 Kf7 28.Bc2 b5 =. The game
was drawn on the 44th move.
11...Ne5 12.Be2 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Nf6

Interesting is 13...Qh4! (shades
of Spasky-Fischer, 1972!) 14.Bxh5
gxh5 15.Nb5 Rd8 16.Qf3 a6 17.Nc3
b5 18.Ne2 Qe7 19.Ng3 h4 20.Nf5
Bxf5 21.Qxf5 ?

14.Bf4 a6 15.a4 Re8 16.e5
If Black has to allow this, maybe
he should rethink 9...Nh5.
16...Nd7 17.exd6 Ne5 18.Ne4 b6
19.a5! Bf5

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - q r + k + (
7+ - + - + p z p '
6p p - P - + p + &
5P - p P n l + - %
4- + - + N z - + \$
3+ - + - + L + P #
2- P - + - P P + "
1R - + QR - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
20.d7

Also good is 20.Ng3 Bc8 21.
Bxe5 Bxe5 22.axb6 Qxd6 23.Rc1
Bb7 24.Ne4 Qxb6 25.Nxc5 Bxb2
(25...Rad8 26.Qa4) 26.Na4 Qd4
27.Nxb2 Qxb2 28.Rb1 Qc3 29.Re2!
20...Qxd7

20...Nxd7 21.Nd6 Rxe1+ 22.
Qxe1 Bxb2 23.Nxf5! gxf5 24.Rb1
Bf6 25.axb6 Nxb6 26.d6 Rc8 27.
Bb7 Rb8 28.Bxa6 Nd5 29.Rxb8
Qxb8 30.Bh2 ?
21.axb6 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Qd6 23.b7
Rab8 24.Qa4 f5 25.Bc2
25.Bd3 a5 26.Bb5 Re7 27.Bc6
???

25...c4 26.Qc6!
26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Qc6 Re7! 28.
Qxc4 Rxb7 29.Rxa6 Bh2+ 30.Kf1
Rxe1+ 31.Kxe1 Qe5+ 32.Kd1 Qxb2
33.d6+ Kg7 34.g3 ?
26...Qb4 27.Bxe5 Bxe5 28.Ba4
Qxb2 29.d6 Red8 30.Qd5+ Kf8 31.
Rab1 Qa3 32.Qxe5, Black resigns
32...Qxd6 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.
Qxh7+ Kf8 35.Red1 Qf6 36.Rxd8+
Qxd8 37.Qxg6 ?Z 1-0

KID Fianchetto E60
Magesh Panchanathan 2526
Ali Morshedi 2287
Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0
0-0 5.c4 d6 6.d4 Nc6 7.d5 Na5 8.
Nbd2 c5 9.a3 b5 10.cxb5 Nxd5 11.
Nb3 Nxb3 12.Qxb3 Nb6!? [12...
Nc7 ??] 13.a4 a6 14.Ng5 Ra7 15.a5
axb5 16.Qxb5 Bd7 17.Qb3 h6 18.
Bd2?!

18.Nh3 c4 19.Qb4 Bxh3 20.
Bxh3 Nd5 21.Qb5 e6 22.e4 Nf6
23.Be3 Rc7! 24.Bb6 Qd7 ?{

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - q - r k + (
7r - + l p p z - '
6- n - p - + p p &
5P - p - + - N - %
4- + - + - + - + \$
3+ Q + - + - P - #
2- P - z P P L P "
1R - + - + R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
18...Na8

18...Na4! 19.Ne4 Qb8 20.Qc4
Qxb2 21.Rxa4 Bxa4 22.Qxa4 d5
23.Bc1? Qd4 24.Qxd4 cxd4 ?.
19.Ne4 Be6 20.Qc2 Ne7
20...f5 21.Nc3 Rxa5 22.Na4 Rb5
?6
21.Bc3 Qb8 22.h4 Qb5 23.Bxg7
Kxg7 24.Nc3 Qd7 25.Na4 Rxa5??
In a rare fit of chess blindness,
Morshedi sheds a rook [25...Bh3=]
26.Qc3+ 1-0

Sicilain B47
Keaton Kiewra 2317
Drasko Boskovic 2526
Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Nf6
8.0-0 h6 9.Be3 Be7 10.h3 0-0 11.a4
d6 12.f4 Bd7 13.Qf3!? [13.Nb3?]

13...Na5 14.Kh2 Rab8 15.Rad1
Nc4 16.Bc1 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.b3
b4 19.bxc4 bxc3 20.e5 Ne8

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- r - + n r k + (
7+ - q l z p p - '
6- + - p p + - p &
5+ - + - P - + - %
4- + P N - P - + \$
3+ - p - + Q P P #
2- z P + - + L K "
1+ - z R + R + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

21.Nc6?

Overestimating White's advantage in an endgame, which turns out to be a negative! The extra pawn is meaningless, so middlegame dynamics should be nurtured: 21.Qxc3! dxe5 22.fxe5 Rc8 (22...Qxe5?? 23.Bf4) 23.Qb3 Qxe5 (23...Qxc4 24.Nf5 ±) 24.Nf3 Qc7 25.Bf4 Bd6 26.Rxd6 Nxd6 27.Rd1 ♀

21...Bxc6 22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.Ba3

24.Rf3 dxe5 (24...Rxc4?? 25.Ba3) 25.Rxc3 f6 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Be3 Bb4 28.Rb3 Rxc4 ♀

24...dxe5 25.Bxe7 Rxe7 26.fxe5 Rc7 27.Rf4 Rc5 28.Re4 Nc7 29.Rd3 Na8 30.Rxc3

White has succeeded with his plan, but further play demonstrates that it was the wrong plan.

30...Nb6 31.Bf1 Rfc8 32.h4 Nd7 33.Rce3 Ra8 34.Bd3 g6 35.g4 Raa5

Black has systematically played on his dark square strength.

36.Kg3 Nxe5 37.Rd4 Ra8 38.Kf4 g5+ 39.Kg3 Rac8 40.hxg5 hxg5 41.Ree4 Kg7 42.Be2?!

42.Kf2 f5 43.gxf5 exf5 44. Re2 Nxc4 45.Re6 Ne5 46.Be2 (46. Bxf5 Rf8) 46...Rh8 47.Kg2 Rh6 ??!

42...f5

0-1

QGD Tarrasch D34

John Bartholomew 2454

Alexander Chua 2253

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 e4 10.Ne5 Be6 11.e3 Nd7 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.b3 Nb6 15.bxc4 Nxc4 16.Qa4 Rfc8 17.Rfe1 Rab8 18.Rab1 Rb6 19.Rb3 h6 Draw

Vienna Game C27

Peter Yeh 2203

Konstantin Parkhomenko 1456

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxe7+ Bxe7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nd5 Bd8 9.Ne2 c6 10.Ne3 a5 11.0-0 Na6 12.c3 Re8 13.Re1 Ne5 14.Bc2 Nde4 15.d4 Na6 16.f3 Nf6 17.Nf5 Bc7 18.Bg5 d5 19.Nh6+ gxh6 20.Bxf6 Re6 21.Bh4 Bd7 22.Bf5 Rxe2 23.Bxd7 Rxb2 24.Bf6 Bd6 25.Rab1 Ba3 26.Rxb2 Bxb2 27.Rb1 Bxc3 28.Rxb7 c5 29.Rb5 Bxd4+ 30.Bxd4 cxd4 31.Rxa5 Rd8 32.Rxd5 Nb4 33.Rxd4 Nxa2 34.Kf2 Kf8 35.Ke3 Ke7 36.Bf5 Rxd4 37.Kxd4 Nb4 38.Bxh7 Kf6 39.Kc5 Na6+ 40.Kd6 Nb4 41.Bb1 Kg5 42.g3 Kf6 43.h3 Kg7 44.h4 Kf6 45.g4 Na6 46.Be4 Nb4 47.f4 Na2 48.g5+ hxg5 49.fxg5+ Kg7

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - + - + (
7+ - + - + p k - '
6- + - K - + - + &
5+ - + - + - P - %
4- + - + L + - P \$
3+ - + - + - + - #
2n z - + - + - + "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

50.Ke7

A win is 50.h5! (using every available tempo) 50...Nc3 51.h6+ Kf8 52.Bc2 Ne2 53.Ke5 Nc1 54.Kf6 Kg8 55.Bb1 Ne2 56.Ba2 Nf4 57.Bxf7+ Kh7 58.Be6 followed by Bf5, Ke5 (chasing the knight) and lastly g6. The knight isn't allowed to sacrifice for the g-pawn with a "wrong bishop" scenario – as soon follows.

50...Nc3 51.Bc6 Ne2 52.Bf3

Or 52.Bd5 Ng3! 53.Ke8 f6 =. And 52.h5 Nf4 53.Bf3 transposes to the game.

52...Nf4 53.h5 Nh3 54.h6+ Kh8 55.Kf6 Nxe5 56.Kxe5 f5 Draw

Nimzo-Indian E45

J.P. Hylltin 2071

Ryan Milisits 2226

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf4 0-0 8.Bd3 d6 9.d5!?

9.Qf3 c6 10.0-0 d5 11.b3 =.

9...e5 10.Nh5 Nxe5 11.Qxe5 g6 12.Qd1 f5 13.b3 Nd7 14.Bb2 Bf6 15.Qd2 Qe7 16.0-0 Rae8 17.f4?

17.f3 e4 18.fxe4 fxe4 19.Bc2! =.

17...exf4 18.exf4 Qe3+ 19.Qxe3 Rxe3 20.Rf3 Bd4! 21.Rxe3 Bxe3+ 22.Kf1 Bxf4 23.Nb5?

Better is 23.h3; the rest is clear.

23...Bxb5 24.cxb5 Nc5 25.Bc2 Bxh2 26.a4 Be5 27.Bxe5 dxe5 28.b4 Nb7 29.Bb3 Nd6 30.a5 Kg7 31.axb6 axb6 32.Rc1 Rf7 0-1

Two Knights Defense C24

Yashodhan Gogle 2193

Nelson Leopz 2123

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3

The chief value of this move is that it avoids sharp analyzed lines.

4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bg5 f6 7.Bd2 Bg4 8.Nc3 Nb6 9.Bb5 Qd7 10.h3 Be6 11.a4 a6 12.a5 Nd5 13.Ba4 Ndb4 14.Ne4 Qd5 15.0-0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Ba4

17.Bxe6 Qxe6 18.Re1 h6 19.
Bxb4 Bxb4 20.c3 Bxa5 21.b4 Bb6 ?
17...Qf7 18.Qe2 h6 19.Rfd1 g5 20.
c3 g4 21.cxb4

Black's offer of a piece is justified: 21.hxg4 Bxg4 22.cxb4 Nd4 23. Qf1 (23.Nxd4 Bxe2 24.Nxe2 f5 25.Nc5 Bxc5 26.bxc5 f4 27.c6 f3 28.cxb7+ Kxb7 29.Ng3 fxg2 30.Rac1 Rxd3?? 23...Bxf3 24.gxf3 Nxf3+ 25. Kg2 f5 26.Ng3 Nxd2 27.Rxd2 f4 28.Ne4 Qh5??).

21...gxf3 22.Qxf3 f5 23.Bxc6 bxc6 24.Ng3 Rg8 25.Qxc6 Rd6

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + k + - z r + (
7+ - p - + q + - '
6p + Qr l + - p &
5P - + - p p + - %
4- P - + - + - + \$
3+ - + - + - NP #
2- P - z - P P + "
1R - + R + - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
26.Qf3?

Fritz gives 26.Qa8+ Kd7 27.Qa7 Bd5 28.b5! axb5 29.a6 f4 30.Rdc1 Rc6 31.Ne4 Qg6 32.g4 fxg3 33.f3 g2, during which its evaluation slowly creeps from ?(?!to??(?!)

26...Bd5?? 27.Qxf5+

27.Qe2 f4 28.Ne4 f3 29.Nxd6+ Bxd6 30.Qf1 Rxd2+ 31.Qxd2 fxg2 ???

27...Qxf5 28.Nxf5 Rxd2+ 29.Kf1 Rf6 30.Ne3 Rxf2+ 31.Ke1 Re2+ 32.Kf1 Rgf2+ 33.Kg1 Bb7 34.Rf1 Rg2+ 35.Nxg2 Rxd2+ 36.Kh1 Rxd2+ 37.Kg1 Rg2+ 38.Kh1 Rxb2+ 39.Kg1 Rg2+ 40.Kh1 Rg7+ 41.Kh2 Bd6, White resigns

The two bishops are wreaking havoc: 42.h4 e4+ 43.Kh3 Kd8 44. dxe4 Bxe4 45.Ra2 Bb7 46.Raf2 Bc8+ and both White rooks will shortly have to commit suicide. 0-1

Sicilian Alapin B22

Courtney Jamison 1988
Bradley Sawyer 2179

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 e6 10.0-0 Nge7 11.Be3 Nf5 12.Qd2 0-0 13.Bg4 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Qa5 15.Qe2 a6 16.a3 b5 17.b4 Qb6 18.Rab1??

You know the saying: analyze every capture. [18.Qd2=]

18...Nxd4! 0-1

French Winawer C17

Chris Toolin 2174
Sam Copeland 2047

Texas Masters 2007 (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 cxd4 7.Nb5 Bc7 8.f4 Bd7 9.Nf3 Bxb5 10.Bxb5+ Nc6 11. Nxd4 Nge7 12.0-0 Bb6 13.Kh1 0-0 14.Nf3 Nf5 15.Bd3 Qd7 16.g4 Ne3 17.Bxe3 Bxe3 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19. Qd3+ g6 20.Qxe3 d4 21.Qe4 Rad8 22.Rad1

22.b5 Na5 23.Qd3 Qd5 24.Rad1 ?G

22...Qd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 24.Ng5+ Kg7 25.Rf3 a5 26.bxa5 Nxa5 27. Rb1 Rc8 28.Rb2 Rc3 29.Rd3 b5 30.Ne4 Nc4 31.Nxc3 dxc3 32.Rxd5 exd5 33.Rxb5 Ne3 34.f5?

34.a4 Nxc2 35.Rxd5 Nb4 36. Rc5 c2 37.a5??

34...gxf5 35.gxf5 d4 36.e6

36.Rb7! Nd5 37.Kg2 d3 38.Rb1 Ne3+ 39.Kf3 Nxc2 40.Ke4 d2 41. Kd3+- Ne3.

36...fxe6 37.fxe6 Nxc2 38.Rf5 Ne3 39.Rf7+

39.e7 c2 40.e8N+ Kg6 41.Rf6+ Kg5 42.Rc6 d3??

39...Kg8 40.Rd7

40.Rc7 Nd5 41.Rc5 Kf8 42.Kg2 d3 43.Kf2 d2 44.Rxd5 c2 ?B

40...c2 41.Rc7 d3 42.Rc8+ Kg7 43. e7 d2 44.Rg8+ Kf6 45.e8Q d1Q+

0-1

Sicilian Scheveningen B85

Drasko Boskovic 2526
Marko Zivanic 2569

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Kh1 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Be3 0-0 11.a4 Bd7 12.Bf3 Rfe8 13.g4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 e5 15.Be3 exf4 16.Bxf4 Be6 17.g5 Nd7 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19. Qxd5 Draw

Petroff's Defense C42

Alejandro Ramierz 2566
Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 Be7 7.Bf4 0-0 8.Qd2 c6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.0-0 b5 11.Kb1 Nb6 12.Ng5 d5 13.Be5 Nc4 14.Qf4 h6 15.Bxf6 hxg5 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Qc1 a5 18.h4

18.Rhe1 Be6 19.Re2 a4 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.a3 Rfd8 (21...Rfb8 22.Kal) 22.Qe3 ?a

18...gxh4 19.g3 h3 20.g4 [20.Ne2=] 20...Qh4?

20...Bxg4! 21.Rdg1 f5 ?G

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + l + - z k + (
7+ - + - + p p - '
6- + p + - + - + &
5p p + p + - + - %
4- + n P - + P q \$
3+ - NL + - + p #
2P P P + - P - + "
1+ K Q R + - + R!
x a b c d e f g h y

21.Rxh3! Qxh3 22.Rh1 Bxg4 23. Rxh3 Bxh3 24.Qh1 Rfe8 25.b3 b4 26.Ne2 Na3+ 27.Kc1 Rxe2 28.Bxe2 Bf5 29.c4 Re8 Draw

30.Bd1 dxc4 31.bxc4 Nxc4 32. Bc2 Bxc2 33.Bc2 = or even 33.Qxc6 Rc8 34.Qa6 with no good discovery.

English Opening A37

Kiril Nonchev 2127

John Bartholomew 2454

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e5 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Ne1 d6 8.a3 Be6 9.Nd5 0-0 10.Rb1 a5 11. Nc2 f5 12.Nce3 f4 13.Nxe7+ Nxe7 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16. cxd5 Qd7 17.Qc2 fxc3 18.hxc3 Qg4 19.d3 Rf5 20.Kg2 Rh5 21.Rh1 Rxh1 22.Kxh1 Qh3+ 23.Kg1 b5 24. e4 h5 25.Bg5 Ra7 26.Qe2 Rf7 27. Re1 Kh7 28.Qe3 a4 29.Rb1 b4(?)

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - + (
7+ - + - + r z k '
6- + - p - + p + &
5+ - p P p - z p %
4p p - + P + - + \$
3P - + P Q - P q #
2- P - + - P - + "
1+ R + - + - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y

After this the tide starts to go White's way. 29...Bf6! gets rid of Black's least active piece, and 30. Bxf6 Rxf6 31.b3 axb3 32.Rxb3 Qd7 is nothing to get panicky about. Black may even stand a little better.

30.axb4 cxb4 31.Ra1 Qd7 32.Qe2 Bf6

Nice try, but the reply says "Hanh-hanh!" Black could play for a draw with 32...b3, trading rooks on the only open file.

33.Be3 Rf8 34.Kg2 Ra8 35.Qc2 Bd8 36.Qc4 Qb7 37.Bd2 a3 38. bxa3 bxa3 39.Ra2 Rc8?

The last chance to save the game is 39...Ba5! 40.Bc1 Rc8 41.Qa4 = and the bishops come off anyway.

The complicated 39...Qb1!? 40. Qc6! works out in White's favor after 40...Ra7 41.Rxa3!! when the Q+B duo can force mate, or 40...

Qxa2 41.Qb7+! Kh8 42.Qxa8 with a queen ending White is winning.

40.Qb4!

The continued presence of bishops is a real tipping factor. Black again flirts with kingside attacking chances, but it all comes back at him with interest.

40...Qd7 41.Qxa3 h4 42.f3 hxc3 43.Kxc3 Qe7 44.Qa7 Rc7 45.Qf2 Kg8 46.Kg2 Rb7 47.Qg3 Qf6 48. Qh3 Rf7 49.Ra8 Rf8 50.Ra7

50.Rb8 Be7 51.Rxf8+ Kxf8 52. Qg4 ?a

50...Rf7 51.Ra8 Rf8 52.Bh6 Rf7 53. Qg4 Kh7 54.Be3 Kg7 55.Ra2 Kh7 56.Ra6 Kg7 57.Bd2 Rb7 58.Bc3 Rc7 59.Rc6 Ra7 60.f4

A bone crusher!

60...Bc7 61.Bxe5 Ra2+ 62.Kf3 dxe5 63.Rxf6 [or 63. Rxc7+] 63... Kxf6 64.Qe6+ 1-0

Ninzo-Indian E32

Babakuli Annakov 2509

Bradley Sawyer 2179

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3 b6

5...d6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.0-0-0 Bxc3 11. Qxc3 Qe7 12.Be2 Re8 = ECO.

6.e4 d6!?

6...d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Bg5 ?\ 6...Bb7 7.Bd3 h6 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 d6 10.Re1 Nfd7 11.Bf4 Qf6 12.Bg3 e5 ?4ECO.

7.e5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 dxe5 9.dxe5 Ne8 10.Qe4 c6 11.Bg5

11.Ba3!? f5 12.Qd4 Qxd4 13. cxd4 Rf7 14.Ng5 Rb7 15.Rb1 ?.

11...f6 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Bd3 f5 14. Qh4 h6 15.Bd8

Maybe 15.Bc1 keeping alive sac chances at h6 is better: 15...c5 16. Qg3 Kh8 17.Nh4 or 16...Kh7 17.h4! 15...Qf7 16.c5 Nd7 17. cxb6 axb6 18.Bc4 Ra4??

Black's patient defense might have been rewarded after 18...b5 19.

Bb3 c5! 20.Be7 e4 21.Bxf8 cxb3 22. Bd6 bxa2 23.0-0 Bb7 ?f]

19.Bxe6 Qxe6 20.Qxa4+- Nxe5 21. Nxe5 Qxe5+ 22.Kf1 b5 23.Qd4 Qxd4 24.Rxd4 Be6 25.a3 c5 26. Rd1 Rf7 27.Bb6 Nf6 28.Bxc5 Ne4 29.Bb4 Bb3 30.Rd8+ Kh7 31.f3 Bc4+ 32.Ke1 1-0

Queens's Indian E14

Peter Vavrak 2450

Nelson Lopez 2123

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e4 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Bd3 d5 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.Bb2 Ne4

Bold but correct play!

9.Qc2 f5 10.0-0 0-0

On 10...Qf6 (a typical move to prevent Ne5) White has 11.c5! ?a

11.Ne5 Bxe5 12.dxe5 Ndc5 13.Be2 dxc4 14.Nxc4 Ng5 15.b4 Be4 16. Qc3 Na4 17.Qc1 Nxb2 18.Nxb2 Nf7 19.Qc3 Qg5

19...c5! 20.bxc5 Rc8 =.

20.f3 Bb7 21.Bc4 Rfe8 22.Rae1 Rad8 23.Nd3 Qe7 24.Nf4 Bd5

24...c5!! 25.Bxe6! cxb4 26.Qc2 Bc8 27.Bxc8 Rxc8 28.Qxf5 =. Less good is 25.Nxe6 cxb4 26.Qb2 Rc8 ?µ

25.Bb5 c6

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - z r + k + (

7p - + - q n p p '
7p - + - q n p p '
6- p p + p + - + &
5+ L + l P p + - %
4- P - + - N - + \$
3+ - Q - + P + - #
2P + - + - + P P "
1+ - + - R R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
26.Bd3

6- p p + p + - + &

5+ L + l P p + - %

4- P - + - N - + \$

3+ - Q - + P + - #

2P + - + - + P P "

1+ - + - R R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

26.Bd3

26.Nxd5! Rxd5 27.Qxc6 Rf8 28.

f4 Qxb4 29.a4 Qe7 30.Rd1 (30.Bc4

Nd8! ?) 30...Rfd8 31.Rc1 Rd2 (31...

Rf8 32.Qc7±) 32.Bc4 Re8 33.Rfd1

Rdd8?.

26...c5 27.a3 c4 28.Be2 Qc7 29. Nxd5 Rxd5 30.f4 g6 31.a4 a6 32. Rf2(?)

Too slow. 32.e4! fxe4 33.Bxe4 Rdd8 34. Ra1 b5 35.Qe3?Å

32...b5 33.Ra1 Nd8 34.e4 Rd7 35. h4?!

35.axb5 axb5 36.exf5 exf5 37. Ra8! =. Vavrak rebels at having his bishop forever challenged by the f5-g6-h7 pawn chain, and pushes the envelope in an effort to blast open the kingside.

35...Qb7! 36.axb5 axb5 37.Re1 Nc6 38.h5 Red8 39.g4

Va banque!

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - r - + k + (
7+q+r+-+p'
6- +n+p+p+&
5+p+-Pp+P%
4- Pp+PP+\$
3+-Q-+-+-#
2- +L+-R-+"
1+-+-R-K-!
x a b c d e f g h y

39...fxg4 40.hxg6 Rd3 41.Bxd3 Rxd3 42.Qc1

42.Qb2 Nd4 43.Kf1! Nf3 44.Ra1 Qxe4 45.Qa2 Qxf4 46.Qa8+ Kg7 47.gxh7 Nd2+ 48.Kg1 Rg3+ 49.Rg2 Qe3+ 50.Kh1 Rh3+ 51.Rh2 Rxh2+ 52.Kxh2 Qh3+ 53.Kg1 Nf3+ 54.Kf2 Qh2+ and Black mates in four.

42...Nd4 43.Re3 g3 44.Ra2

44.gxh7+ Kxh7 45.Rb2 Qa7 46. Kg2 Qa3 47.Rxd3 Qxd3 48.Qf1 Qe3 49.Ra2 c3 50.Ra1 Qxe4+ 51.Kxg3 c2 52.Ra7+ Kg6 53.Rc7 Qe3+ 54. Kg2 Nb3 55.Qxb5 c1Q 56.Rxc1 ??†
44...Nb3 45.gxh7+ Kxh7 46.Qf1 Rxe3 47.Qh3+ Kg7 48.Qg4+ Kf8 49.Qh4 Re1+ 50.Kg2 Qxe4+ 51.Kxg3 Rg1+ 52.Kf2

White then resigned in view of 52...Qe1+ 53.Kf3 Nd4 mate.

0-1

French Defense C06

Michael Langer 2346

Sam Copeland 2047

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.Nf4 Nxd4 10.Qh5+ Ke7 11.exf6+ Nxf6 12.Ng6+ hxg6 13. Qxh8 Kf7 14.b3 Qc7 15.Bb2 Qe5+ 16.Kd1 Ng4 17.Rf1 Qf4 18.Qh7 Ne5 19.g3 Nxd3 20.gxf4 Nxb2+ 21. Kc1 Nd3+ 22.Kb1 e5!

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + l + - z - + (
7pp+-+kpQ'
6- + - + - + p + &
5+ - + pp - + - %
4- + - n - P - + \$
3+ P + n + - + - #
2P + - N - P - P "
1RK + - + R + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

23.Rc1

Black's pieces are partying close to White's king, with ...Bf5 and ...Ba3 ready to slice and dice: 23. fxe5 Bf5 24.e6+ Ke8 25.Qg8 Bxe6 26.Qh7 Bf5 27.Qh4 Ba3! 27.Qxd4 Nxf2+ ?€

23...Nxc1 24.Kxc1 Ba3+ 25.Kd1 Bg4+ 26.f3 Bh5 27.fxe5 Re8 28. Ke1 Nc2+ 29.Kf2 Nxa1 30.f4 Bc5+?

A series of errors bedevils Black in what should be a routine conversion after 30...Bc1 31.Nf3 Bxf4??.

31.Kg3 Nc2 32.Nf3 Bxf3?

It is a crime to release the queen from her jail, when 32...Be7!?? is available to stop the knight.

33.Kxf3 Ne1+?

This knight needs a more solid footing: 33...Nd4+ and 34...Nf5?PFF

34.Kg3 Nd3
34...Re6 35.f5 gxf5 36.Qxf5+ Ke7 37.Qg5+ Kd7 38.Qxg7+ Kc6?p

35.Qh3 Re7?

35...Re6 36.Qg2 Nxe5 37.fxe5 Rxe5 ?e

36.Qg2 d4

36...Bf2+ 37.Kg4 Ke6 38.Qf3 Nxe5+! 39.fxe5 Bd4 =.

37.Qd5+ Kf8 38.Qc4 g5

38...Nxe5 39.Qxc5 Nc6 40.b4?D

39.Qxd3 gxf4+ 40.Kxf4 Bb6 41. Kf5!

The king leads the final charge. A heroic end to a huge swindle.

41...Rf7+ 42.Kg6 Rf2 43.Qh3! Bd8? (43...d3) 44.Qg3?

Missing 44.Qh8+ Ke7 45.Qh4+, catching the rook.

44...Rf1?

44...Rf7 45.Qg4! Re7 46.Qxd4 Bc7 47.Qf2+! Ke8 48.Qxa7 ?P®

45.Qg2! Rf4 46.Qxb7 d3 47.Qd7 1-0

Sicilian Sozin B86

Ali Morshedi 2287

Darwin Yang 1981

Texas Masters 2007 (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2 Qc7 8.Be3 Be7 9.0-0 b5 10.Bb3 Nc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.f5 Nxd4 13. Rxd4 e5 14.Rd2 Rc8 15.g4 b4!?

15...Qb7 16.Bd5 Bc6 =.

16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Bb5 18.Qf2 Bc4 19.Bb6 [19.Kb1 ?†19...Qd7 20. Kb1 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Qc6 22.Rhd1? 22.h4 Qc4 23.Qg2 ?•

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + r + k + - r (
7+ - + - z p p p '
6pzqp-+-+&
5+ - + R p P + - %
4- p - + P + P + \$
3+ - + - + - + - #
2P P P + - Q - P "
1+ K + R + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

22...Bh4!?? 23.Qd2

23.Rxd6 Bxf2 24.Rxc6 Rxc6 25. Bxf2 Rc4 ?C Young Darwin does an excellent job in the technical phase.
23...Qxb6 24.Rxe5+ Be7 25.Qxd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Kxd8 28.Ra5 Kc7 29.Rxa6 Kb7 30.Ra5 Rd8 31.c3 bxc3 32.bxc3 Rd2 33.h3 Rd3 34.Kc2 Rxh3 35. Rd5 Kc6 36.Rd4 Bf6 37.Rc4+ Kb5 38.Rc7 Rg3 39.Rb7+ Kc6 40.Rxf7 Rxc3+ 41.Kd2 Ra3 42.e5 Bxe5 43. Ke2 h6 44.Re7 Bf6 45.Re4 Rxa2+ 46.Kf3 Ra3+ 47.Kg2 Rd3 48.Re8 Kd5 0-1

QGD Slav D18

**Marko Zivanic 2569
Kalin Nonchev 2127**

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 a5 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.g3 Bh5 11. f3 Nbd7 12.Qe2 Nd5 13.Bd2 Be7 14.Ng2 N5b6 15.Ba2 Bg6 16.e4 0-0 17.Be3 Re8 18.Qf2 Bb4 19.Nf4 Bd6 20.Nd3 Ne8 21.Rad1 Qe7 22.Ne5 Nxc5 23.dxc5 Bc7 24.f4 f6 25.Rd2 Na7 26.Rd6 Bf7 27.e5 f5 28.Ne2 Ne8 29.Rd2 Na7 30.Rfd1 Rad8 31. Nd4 Rd5 32.Bxd5 cxd5 33.Rb1 Nc6 34.Nxc6 bxc6 35.b4 axb4 36. Rdb2 d4 37.Bxd4 Ba5 38.Be3 Bh5 39.Bd2 Kf7 40.Bxb4 Bc7 41.Bc3 g5 42.Rb7 Rd8 43.Ba5 Bxa5 44.Rxe7+ Kxe7 45.Qb2 Bf3 46.Qb7+ Rd7 47. Qa8 Bc7 48.Qh8 Bd5 49.Rb7 g4 50.Qc8 1-0

KI Attack A04

**Magesh Panchanathan 2526
Drasko Boskovic 2526**

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.e4 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Be3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.a3 a5 10.a4 h6 11.Nfd2 Be6 12.Na3 b6 13.Ndc4 d5= 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 16.Qf3 Qd7 17.Rad1 Rab8 18.Nb5 Kh7 19.Qg2 f5 20.f4 Rfe8 21.Bc1

Re6 22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.Rfe1

24.d4 cxd4 25.Rxd4 Qe6 26.Qf3 Re4 27.Rxe4 fxe4 28.Qe2 =.
24...Rbe8 25.Qf2 Nf6 26.Rxe5 Ng4 27.Rxe8 Nxf2 28.Rde1 Nh3+
28...Nxd3 29.R8e7 Qd8 30.R1e6 Nxc1 31.Nd6 h5 32.h4 f4 33.Ne8 f3??:
29.Kg2 Qd5+
29...Ng5 30.Bxg5 hxg5 31.R8e3 Qd5+ ?.
30.Kxh3 g5 31.R8e7 g4+ 32.Kh4 Qg2 33.Bxh6 Kg6 34.R1e6+ Bf6+ 35.Rxf6+ Kxf6 36.Bg5+ Kg6 37. Re6+ Kf7 38.Re7+?
38.Rf6+ Kg7 39.Kh5 Qxh2+ 40.Bh4 Qxb2 41.Nc7 ?PP
38...Kg6 39.Re6+ Draw

QGD Slav D17

**Alexander Chua 2253
Babakuli Annakov 2509**

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7 11.Bg2 g5 12.Ne3 gxf4 13. Nxf5 fxx3 14.hxx3 0-0-0 15.Qc2 Kb8 16.Rd1 h5 17.Ne4 Draw

Sicilian B50

**Jacek Stopa 2436
Michael Langer 2346**

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bd3 Nc6 4.0-0 Bg4 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bc2 e6 7.d3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Re1 10.g4 Nxxg4 11.hxxg4 Bxxg4 12.Re1 f5 13.Bb3 Qd7 14.Qe2 Na5 15.Bd1 Qe8 16.Qf1 fxe4 17.Rxe4 Bf5 18.Re3?a
10...b5 11.Nf1 Ne5 12.g4 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Bg6 14.Ng3
14.Qg2 d5 15.f4 c4 16.f5 cxd3 17.Bb3 Bc5+ 18.Be3 Nxe4 =.
14...d5 15.g5 dxe4 16.dxe4 Nd7 17. Rd1 Qc7 18.Qe2 c4 19.a4 a6 20. Kg2 Qc6 21.h4 f6 22.axb5 axb5 23. xa8 Rxa8 24.f4 Rf8 25.Kh3

25.Kh2 fxxg5 26.hxxg5 Nc5 27.f5 Bf7 =.

25...Be8 26.Rg1 Bd6

26...fxg5 27.hxxg5 e5 28.f5 =.
27.gxf6 Nxf6 28.e5
28.b4 cxb3 29.Bxb3 Bg6 30.c4 bxc4 31.Qxc4 =.

28...Bc5 29.Rg2 Nd5 30.Qg4?

30. Nh5 g6 31.Be4 Be7 32.Qf3 Qb7 ??30.Be4! Qd7 31.Qg4 Kh8 =.?1
X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + | r k + (
7+ - + - + - p p '
6- + q + p + - + &
5+ p t n P - + - %
4- + p + - P O P \$
3+ - P - + - NK #
2- P L + - + R + "
1+ - t - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

30...Be3!?? 31.Be4

31.Ne2 Qd7??-
31...Rxf4 32.Bxd5 Qxd5 33.Qg5 Qxx2+ 0-1

Sicilian Najdorf B00

**John Bartholomew 2345
Darwin Yang 1981**

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5

Yang played 13...Bg5+ with ten move moves of theory against me! He repeats a similar feat here.

14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.Rg1 h5 17.Re1 Bb7 18.Bh3 0-0-0 19.Nd5 Qa5 20.a3 Bh6+ 21.Kb1 Qd2 22. Rd1 Qxh2 23.Ne7+ Kd7??

In Kalod-Navara, ch-CZE 2002, Black played 23...Kb8!? sacking the Exchange. White accepted with the wrong knight (24.Ndc6+?) and lost.

Fritz evaluates 23...Kc7! as winning: 24.Qxh5 Be3! 25.Qxf7 Bxd4! (It's counterintuitive to play into the

discovered check, yet it's harmless.)
26.Rh1 Qf2 27.Rhf1 Qe2 28.Rfe1
Qh5, and White's attack soon fizzles
out leaving the deficit of a piece.

24.Qxh5 Rdf8?

Overlooking the main threat, but
24... Kg8 25.Ng6! fxc6 26.Rxg6
Kd7 27.Nxe6! is too hot to handle.

**25.Bxe6+ Nxe6 26.Qxh2 Be3 27.
Nxe6 Rxh2 28.Nxf8+ Kc7 29.Rh1
Rg2 30.Nd5+ Bxd5 31.exd5 Rg8
32.Ne6+ fxe6 33.dxe6 Bg5 34.Rdg1
Kd8 35.f7 Rf8 36.Rxg5 Ke7 37.Rg8
d5 38.Rxf8 Kxf8 39.Rh8+ Ke7 40.
f8Q+ Kxe6 41.Rh6+ Kd7 42.Qg7+
Kc8 43.Rh8# 1-0**

French Winawer B17

Ryan Milisits 2226

Peter Vavrak 2450

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5
5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-
0 8.f4 Qb6 9.Nf3**

9.dxc5 Qxc5 10.Nf3 Bd7 11.
Nbd4 Nbc6 12.Bd3 Nxd4 13.Nxd4
Nc6 (Dubinin-Bondarevsky, USSR
1947) 14.Nb3 Qb6 15.Qf2 + (ECO).
9...Bd7

9...c4 10.a4 a6 11.Nc3 Qxb2 12.
Rb1 Qa3 13.Be2 Ng6 ?TM

10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.Nd6?

This lone ranger is headed for
trouble. [11.Nbd4 Nbc6 12.c3 =]

**11...f6 12.Bd3 Nbc6 13.Nxb7 Qb6
14.Nd6 fxe5 15.fxe5 Rxf3! -+ [15...
Nxe5 ?] 16.gxf3 Nxe5 17.0-0-0
Rb8 18.Qc3 Qxd6 19.Rhg1 Nxd3+
20.Rxd3 Nf5 21.Rd2 Bc6 22.Rdg2
d4 23.Qa5 Bxf3 24.Rf2 Bd5 25.Qa4
Qb6 26. b3 Qc7 27.Kb1 Rc8 28.
Qb5 Be4 0-1**

King's Indian E98

Bradley Sawyer 2179

Ali Morshedi 2287

Texas Masters 2007 (4)

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.**

**d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 10.Nd3 f5 11.f3
f4 12.a4 g5 13.a5 Rf6 14.b4 Rh6**

I'm not up on the 9...Ne8 line,
but it seems Black is supposed to
play ...h5 and prepare ...g4.

15.Ba3 Nf6 16.c5 Qe8 17.Nf2

That ends the threat of attack-
and-sac with ...Qh5 and ...Bxh3.
Black lacks a credible follow-up,
and White controls the play.

17...Bd7

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - + q + k + (

7p p p l n - t p '

6- + - p - n - r &

5P - P P p - p - %

4- P - + P p - + \$

3t - N - + P + - #

2- + - + L N P P "

1R - + Q + R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

18.b5 dxc5 19.Bxc5 Bf8 20.d6 Nc8

21.Nd5 cxd6 22.Nxf6+ Rxf6 23.

Qd5+ Rf7 24.Qxb7 Ne7 25.Bxd6

Ng6 26.Bc4 Bxd6 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7

28.Rfd1 Ke7 29.Rxd6 Kxd6 30.

Rd1+ Ke7 31.Rxd7+ Qxd7 32.

Qxa8± Qxb5 33.Qxa7+ Kd6 34.h3

Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qf1 36.Ng4 Nh4 37.

Qb8+ Kd7 38.Nxe5+ Ke6 39.Qe8+

Kd6 40.Nf7+ Kc5 41.Qe7+ Kd4 42.

Qxg5 Qf2 43.Qg7+ Kd3 44.Ne5+

Ke2 45.Qg8 h5 46.Qa2+ 1-0

QGD Slav D12

Alejandro Ramierz 2566

Marko Zivanic 2569

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5

5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Qb3

Qb6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.g3 Nbd7 11.

Bd2 Be7 12.c5 Qc7 13.f4 g5 14.Be2

gxf4 15.exf4 b6 16.cxb6 axb6 17.0-

0 b5 18.Bf3 Nb6 19.Rfc1 Nc4 20.

Be1 Qb6 21.Ne2 0-0 22.Qc2 Rfc8

23.b3 Nd6 24.Bb4 Qb7 25.g4 Nfe4

26.Ng3 Bf6 27.Ne2 Draw

15 lines

Magesh Panchanathan

Scotch Game C45

Michael Langer 2346

Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.

Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7

7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.Nd2

Theory gives 9.b3 the nod.

9...g6 10. b3 Bg7 11.Bb2 0-0 12.0-

0-0 Rfe8 13.g3 Qb4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - + r + k + (

7p - p p + p t p '

6l + p + - + p + &

5+ - + n P - + - %

4- q P + - + - + \$

3+ P + - + - P - #

2P t - N O P - P "

1+ - K R + L + R!

x a b c d e f g h y

14.Ne4

14.Qf3 Nb6 15.Ne4 d5 16.exd6

Bxb2+ 17.Kxb2 Na4+ 18.Kc2 Rxe4!

?^{RE}

14...Rxe5! 15.Nf6+

15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Qd2 Qa3+ 17.

Kb1 Rb8 18.Re1 Rxb3+ 19.axb3

Qxb3+ 20.Kc1 Nb4 21.f4 Bd4 ?^{PI}

15...Bxf6 16.Bxe5 Re8 17.f4 Bxe5
18.fxe5 Nc3 19.Qb2 Nxd1 20.Kxd1
d6 21.a3 Qa5 22.Bg2 Rxe5 0-1

Kings's Indian A53

Babakuli Annakov 2509
Drako Boskovic 2526

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bf5?!

This move is more respectable once White has played Nf3, e.g. 3...g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nf3 c6 7.0-0 Bf5.

4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 g6 6.e4 Bd7 7.Nge2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Na6 10.Be3 Nc7 11.f4 Qc8 12.Kh2 Rb8 13.Rc1 Na6 14.a3 e5 15.Nb5 Ra8 16.e5 Ne8 17.Nec3 Bc6 18.Qe2 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 dxe5 21.Bxe5 Nf6 22.b4 b6 23.Nd4 Qe8 24.Rfd1 Nb8 25.Nd5 Nxd5 26.cxd5 Qd7 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Qe5+ Kg8 29.b5 Qd6 30.Rc7 Rd8?

30...Qxa3 31.Qxe7 Qa2+ 32.Nc2 Qb2 33.Qb4 ?00

31.Qxd6 exd6 32.Re1 1-0

QGD Tarrasch D30

Kalin Nonchev 2127
Alexander Chua 2253

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.c4 c5 2.g3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.d4 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Nbd4 Qb6 13.b3 h6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Be3 Qa6 16.Qd3 Qc8 17.Ne5 Bf5? [17...Qe6=]

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + q + - r k + (
7p - + - t p p - '
6- + p + - + - p &
5+ - + p n l + - %
4- + - + - + - + \$
3+ P + Q L - P - #
2P + - + P P L P "
1R - + - + K K - !
x a b c d e f g h y

18.Nxc6! Ba3 19.Qb5 Re8 20.Nd4?
20.Nxa7! Qd7 21.Nc6 Rec8 22.
Nd4 Bb2 23.Qxd7 Bxd7 24.a4! Bxa1
25.Rxa1 ?.

20...Be4 21.Qc6 Bb2 22.Qxc8
Raxc8 23.Rad1 Ng4 24.Bc1 Bxg2
25.Kxg2 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Bxd4 27.h3
Nf6 28.Rfd1 Draw

K1 Attack A04

Peter Vavrak 2450
Bradley Sawyer 2179

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d3 Bg7 4.g3 Nc6
5.Bg2 d6 6.c3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3
8.Qxf3 e6 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Nd2 0-0
11.Qe2 b5 12.Nf3 d5 [12...Qd7 =]
13.e5 d4 14.c4 [14.Bg5] 14...bxc4
15.dxc4 Rc8 16.Bf4 Qc7 17.Rfe1
Rfd8 18.Rad1 Qa5 19.a3 Qa4 20.
Nh2 Na5 21.Bf1 Rb8 22.Ng4 Nf5
23.Bg5 Rdc8

23...Rd7 24.Nf6+ Bxf6 =.

24.Nf6+ Bxf6 25.exf6 Qb3 26.Bd2
X A B C D E F G H Y
8- r r + - + k + (
7p - + - + p + p '
6- + - + p P p + &
5n - p - + n + - %
4- + P p - + - + \$
3P q + - + - P P #
2- P - t Q P - + "
1+ - + R R L K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
26...Nb7?

Better is 26...Nc6 27.Bf4 e5 =
or 27.Bc1=. Even 26... Nxc3!? 27.
fxg3 Qxg3+ 28.Qg2 Qxg2+ 29.Kxg2
Rxb2 = is possible.

27.Bf4! Na5

27...Ra8 28.Bg2 ? ? ? ? ? ?

27...Nfd6 28.Rd3 Qxc4 29.Qd1
Rd8 30.Be5 Qd5 31.b4 ?a
28.Bxb8 Rxb8 29.Qd2 Nxc4 30.
Bxc4 Qxc4 31.Re5! 1-0

The threats include 32.Rxf5 set-
ting up Qh6, as well as 32.Rc1.

Even if Black finds 31...Qa6! 32.g4
(or 32.Rxc5) 32...Qd6!, he will still
have to lose the knight after 33.Qf4.

Sicilian B50

Darwin Yang 1981
Keaton Kiewra 2317

Texas Masters 2007 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Qc2 g6
5.Be2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4 cxd4
8.cxd4 Bg4 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Be3 Rc8
11.Rac1 d5 12.e5 Ne4 13.h3 Bxf3
14.Bxf3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Na5 16.Rb1
b6 17.Rb5 e6 18.Be2 Ne4 19.Bxc4
Rxc4 20.Qb2 Qc7 21.Rc1 Rc8
22.Bd2 Bf8 23.Rb3 Ra4 24.h4 Qc4
25.h5 Qa6 26.Ra1 Be7 27.hxg6
hxg6 28.Be3 Kg7 29.Qd2 Rh8
30.Bg5 Qb7 31.Qf4 Bxg5 32.Qxg5
Qc7 33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.g3 Rh5 35.g4
Rh7 36.Kg2 Qc8 37.Rbb1 Draw

500-point upset at DCC

Darwin Yang recently scored a coup at the Dallas Chess Club, defeating IM Marko Zivanic with solid, classical chess. A seemingly blah opening shows its fangs when White gets pushy on the queenside and gets a clear advantage inside of 20 moves.

Modern Defense A41

Darwin Yang 2025
Marko Zivanic 2554

DCC Friday 1-26-07

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.Nbd2 g6 4.h3
Bd7 5.e4 Bg7 6.Bd3 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5
8.Nc4 Nc6 9.c3 Nge7 10.0-0 0-0 11.
Qe2 f6 12.b4 a6 13.a4 Be6 14.Rd1
Qe8 15.Be3 Rd8 16.b5 axb5 17.
axb5 Nb8 18.b6 c6 19.Bc5 Nc8 20.
Bxf8 Bxf8 21.Ra8 Nd7 22.Bc2 Kh8
23.Bb3 Be7 24.Qa2 Nc5 25.Rxd8
Qxd8 26.Bc2 Kg7 27.Nfd2 Qg8 28.
Bb3 Nxb3 29.Qxb3 Qd8 30.Qc2
Be5 31.Qb1 Qd7 32.Ra5 Be7 33.
Ra4 h5 34.Kh2 Bc5 35.f3 Nd6 36.
Qd3 Qe7 37.Ra2 Nc8 38.Rb2 Kh7
39.Rb1 Qg7 40.Rb2 (and...) 1-0

Games from the Ken Smith Memorial

In the last issue we published games by the winner, IM Peter Vavrak. Here are games by other players in the Open. The event was held Nov. 24-26 in Dallas.

Stonewall Attack A48

Bradley Sawyer 2177

Alejandro Ramirez 2579

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 g6 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 b6 7.c3 d5 8.Ne5 Nfd7 9.f4 Bb7 10.Qf3 Nxe5 11.fxe5 f6 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Qh3 Rxf1+ 14.Kxf1 Qd6 15.Nf3 Nc6 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.e4 Rf8 18.Kg1 c4 19.exd5 cxd3 20.dxc6 Qc5+ 21.Kh1 Bxc6 22.Qe6+ Kh8 23.Be3 Qb5 24.Ng5 d2 0-1

Neo-Catalan A13

Adekuni Ogunmefun 2022

Jacek Stopa 2432

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (1)

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.0-0 dxc4 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 Bb7 8.b3 cxb3 9.Qxb3 a6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.d4 Nbd7 12.Nc3 Nb6 13.Bb2 Be7 14.Nd2 0-0 15.Nf1 Rac8 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Rfd8 18.e3 Bf6 0-1

Ruy Lopez C99

Nate Findley 2082

Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.c3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 cxd4 13.exd4 Bb7 14.Nf1 Rac8 15.Bd3 d5 16.exd5

16.dxe5 Nxe4 17.Ng3 f5 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Rcd8 (20...Bxe4 21.Rxe4 Qc2 22.Qd5+ Kh8 23.Ne1 Qc7 24.Bf4 Qa7 25.Rb1 Nc4 26.b3 Rcd8 27.Qe6 Nd2

28.Bxd2 Rxd2 29.Re2 += Aronin) 21.Qe2 h6 ?!(ECO).

16...e4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Bxd5 19.Bf4 Qb7 20.Re1 Rfd8 21.Ne3!?

21.N1d2 Bb4 22.Re3 f6 ?! Verlinsky-Panov, USSR 1944.

21...Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Qxf3 23.gxf3 Nc6?!

23...Bf6 24.Rac1 Nc6 25.d5 Nd4 26.Rxc8 Nxf3+ 27.Kf1 Rxc8 =.

24.d5 Nd4

24...Nb4 25.Rad1 ±.

25.Kg2± Bf6 26.Rad1 h5 27.Bh2 b4 28.d6 Rc5 29.h4 a5 30.Rd2 a4 31.

Red1 b3 32.Rxd4 Bxd4 33.Rxd4 a3

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - ♁ - + ♀ + (

7+ - + - + ♗ ♘ - '

6- + - ♙ - + - + &

5+ - ♚ - + - + ♜ %

4- + - ♞ - + - ♟ \$

3♞ ♞ + - ♠ ♡ + - #

2♝ ♞ - + - ♞ ♠ "

1+ - + - + - + - !

x a b c d e f g h y

Anyone feeling intimidated yet?

34.Rd3!! Rb5 35.axb3 axb2 36.Rd1

Rxb3 37.Rb1 f6 38.Nd1 Rdb8 39.

Bf4 R3b4 40.Rxb2 Rxb2 41.Nxb2

Rb4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - + ♀ + (

7+ - + - + - ♗ - '

6- + - ♙ - ♗ - + &

5+ - + - + - + ♜ %

4- ♚ - + - ♞ - ♟ \$

3+ - + - + - + ♠ + - #

2- ♠ - + - ♞ ♠ + "

1+ - + - + - + - !

x a b c d e f g h y

42.Kg3?

An elegant win is 42.Nd3! Rd4

43.Nc5! Rxf4 44.Ne6! +=.

42...Rd4!

White is in zugzwang.

43.d7 Rxd7 44.Nc4 Kf7 45.Nd6+

White offered a draw.

45...Ke6 46.Ne4 Rd1 47.Kg2 Ra1

48.Bd2 Ra2 49.Bb4 Rc2 50.Bf8

Rc8 51.Bb4 Kd5 52.Bd2 Rc4 53.

Kg3 Rc6 54.Kf4 Ke6 55.Be3 Rc4

56.Kg3 Ke5 57.Bb6 Rc1 58.Kg2

Rc4 59.Kg3 Kd5 60.Be3 Rb4 61.

Nc3+ Kc4 62.Ne2 Rb5 Draw

QGD Tarrasch D34

Alejandro Ramirez 2566

Alexander Chua 2280

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5

exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7

8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 c4 10.Ne5 Be6 11.

b3 Qa5 12.Na4 Rac8 13.bxc4 dxc4

14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bd2 Qd8 16.e3

Re8 17.Rb1 Qd7 18.Bb4 Bf5 19.

Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Rc1 Qa3 21.Rxc4

Qxa2 22.Rc5 Nd5 23.Qa1 Qb3 24.

Rfc1 h6 25.Nc3 Nxc3 26.R1xc3

Qb1+ 27.Qxb1 Bxb1 28.Bxc6 Red8

29. Rb3 Bg6 30.Rb7 Rxc6 31.Rxc6

Be4 32.Rcc7 Bxb7 33.Rxb7 Ra8

The a-pawn is catchable, so it's

game over.

34.Kf1 a5 35.Ke2 a4 36.Kd3 a3 37.

Rb1 Kf8 38.Kc3 Ke7 39.Ra1 Kd6

40.Kb3 Rb8+ 41.Kxa3 Kd5 42.Ra2

Kc4 43.Rc2+ Kd3 44.Rc7 Rf8 45.

Kb4 g5 46.d5 f5 47.d6 Rd8 48.Kc5

Ke2 49.d7 Kxf2 50.Kd6 Kxe3 51.

Ke7 Rxd7+ 52.Rxd7 f4 53.gxf4

gxf4 54.Rd6 1-0

Caro-Kann B15

Michael Langer 2344

Babakuli Annakov

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Be3 d5

5.Qd2 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Nd7 7.Nf3 Ngf6

8.Nxf6+ Nxf6 9.Be4 Ne4 10.Qe2

Nd6 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.

Qxf3 0-0 14.c3 a5 15.a4 Qb6 16.

Ra3 Nf5 17.Bf4 Rae8 18.0-0 e5

19.dxe5 Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.g4

Nh4 22.Qf6 g5 23.Rd1 Qc7 24.Bc4 Rfe8 25.Raa1 Qe7 26.Qxe7 R8xe7 27.Bd3 Kg7 28.Kf1 Nf3 29.b4 b6 30.Kg2 Nh4+ 31.Kf1 h6 32.bxa5 bxa5 33.Rab1 Rc5 34.c4 Nf3 35. Rb6 Ne5 36.Ra6 Rb7 37.Be2 Rb4 38.Rd8 Rxa4 39.Rc8 Ra1+ 40.Kg2 Ng6 41.Kg3 Ra3+ 42.Kh2 Draw

QGD Chigorin D07

Jacek Stopa 2432

Drew Sarkisian 2151

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 Bg4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Bxf3 7.gxf3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 e6 9.Rb1 Na5 10. Qa4+ c6 11.Rg1 f6 12.c4 b6 13.Bd2 Qxd4?? [13...Qc7?] 14.Bxa5 1-0

Sicilian Najdorf B93

Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Michael Nugent 2005

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 e5 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.a4 b6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Kh1 0-0 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Bg5 Rfd8 15.Bc4 Nc5 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Rac8 19.b4 Nd7 20.Qxa6 Qxc2 21. Qb5 Qc7 22.Nd2 Qd6 [22...Nf8 =] 23.Nc4 Qe7 24.Rad1 h6 [24...Nf8 25.Nxb6+] 25.Nd6 1-0

QP Opening D05

Bradley Sawyer 2157

Nate Findley 2082

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.b3 a6 7.Bb2 b5 8.c4 Rb8 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Rc1 Qa5 [10...Bb7 11.0-0 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Bb1 Rc8=] 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Bb1 Nb4 [12...Bb7 13.a3 Qd8 14.0-0?] 13.Ne5! Qd8 14.Rxc5 [14.Bd4 Qd5TM 15.a3 Qxg2 16.Rf1+] 14...Bxc5 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Qh5+ Ke7?? [16...Kg8 17.Qxc5 Qf8=] 17.Qxc5+ Qd6 18.Qg5+ Ke8 19.Qxg7 Rf8 20.Ne4 [20.Be5 Rb7

21.Bg6+- (21.Bxd6+-)] 20...Qe7 21.Qe5 [21.Qxe7+ Kxe7 22.Bd4 Nd5 23.Bc5+-] 21...Nc6 22.Qh5+ Kd8 23.0-0 e5 24.Rc1 Rb6 25.Nc5 Qf7 26.Rd1+ Kc7 27.Bxe5+

Mate in two follows 1-0

Queen's Indian E16

Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Jacek Stopa 2432

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (3)

1.Nf3 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 b6 4.d4 Bb7 5.0-0 c5 6.c4 cxd4 7.Nxd4

7.Qxd4 with an English is a little more enterprising and complex.

7...Bxg2 8.Kxg2 Qc8 9.Qa4!?

This is an attempt to infuse life into a blah position, as 9.b3 Be7 10.Bb2 Qb7+ 11.f3 d5 = (Alekhine) gives Black no trouble.

8...Bc5 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nc3 Qb7+ 12.f3 Nc6 13.Ndb5 a6 14.Nd6 Qc7 15.Nce4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 f5 17.Nc3 Bd4 18.Bd2 Qe5 19.Bf4 Qf6 20. Bd6 Rfc8 21.Rd3 e5 22.Ba3 e4 23. fxe4 fxe4 24.Rxd4

24...Nxe4 Qe5 25.Nc3 Bxc3 -/+. 24...Qxd4 25.Rd1 Qe3 26.Rxd7 Ne5 27.Re7 Qg5!?

27...Qd4 28.c5 bxc5 29.Qb3+ Kh8 30.Qe6 Ng6 31.Rd7 Qe5 32. Qd5 Qxd5 33.Rxd5 c4 34.Nxe4 =. 28.Nxe4 Qh5 29.Qd1 Rd8?

Black has two roads to equality: (a) 29...Nc6 30.Re6 30...Re8 =; and (b) 29...Nxc4 30.Qd4 Qh6 31.h4 Kh8 32.Ng5 Qf6 =.

30.Nd6! ± Ng4

30...Nf7 31.Qd4

31.Qd5+ Qxd5+ 32.cxd5 Nf6 33.e4

The pawns far outweigh the Exchange in this position.

33...Rd7 34.Re6 b5

Black offered a draw.

35.Bc5 Re7 36.b4 h6 37.Nf5 Kf7 38.Kf3 Ne8 39.Rb6 a5 40.e5 axb4 41.Bd4 Rxa2 42.Rxb5 Rxh2 43.e6+ Kg6 44.g4 h5 45.Ne3 Rh3+ 46.Kf4 h4 47.Be5 Rc8 48.d6 Nxd6

48...Nf6 49.d7 +.

49.Bxd6 Kf6 50.e7 g5+ 51.Ke4 Rc3 51...b3 52.Nf5+-

52.Nd5+ Kf7 53.Nxc3 1-0

Nimzo-Indian E32

Babakuli Annakov 2509

Kalin Nonchiev 2107

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3 h6 6.e4 d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Bd3 c5 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Qxe4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nd7 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Nc2 Be7 14.Bf4 a6 15.0-0 b6 16.Rac1 Bb7 17.Qe2 Rac8 18.b3 Bg5 19.Bxg5 hxg5 20.Rfe1 b5 21.Nb1 Qa5 22.Nba3 b4 23.Qd2 Nxe5 24.Qxb4 Qxb4 25.Nxb4 f6 26.Red1 Rfd8 27.Nbc2 Nd3 28.Rxe6 Nf4 29.Red6 Rxd6 30.Rxd6 Bxg2 31.Ne3 Bh3 32.f3 Kf7 33.Nac2 Ke7 34.Rd2 Ng6 35.Kf2 Ne5 36.Nb4 a5 37.Nd3 Nc6 38.a3 Be6 39.Nc5 Ne5 40.Nd3 Nc6 41.b4 Rh8 42.b5 Nd4 43.Nc5 Rxh2+ 44.Ng2 Nf5 45.Re2 Nd4 46.Re4 Kd6 47.Nb7+ Kc7 48.Nxa5 Bh3 49.Rxd4 Rxd4+ 50.Ke3 Rc2 51.Rd2 Rc3+ 52.Rd3 Rxd3+ 53.Kxd3 Bf1+ 54.Kd4 Kb6 55.Nb3 f5 56.a4 g4 57.c5+ Kb7 58.fxg4 fxg4 59.Ke3 g3 60.Nd2 g2 61.Kf2 Bd3 62.Kxg2 Bc2 63.a5 Bd3 64.b6 Ka6 65.Kf3 Bb5 66.Nb3 Bc4 67.Nc1 Bd5+ 68.Kf4 Kxa5 69.Ke5 Ba8 70.Kd6 Kb5 71.Ne2 g5 72.Nd4+ Kc4 [72...Ka6 73.Kc7 g4 74.c6] 73.c6 1-0

English Opening A31

Sandar Kustar 2409

Michael Langer 2344

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (3)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d5 6.cxd5 Bc5 7.N5c3 0-0 8.e3 e4 9.Nd2 Qe7 10.a3 a5 11.Qc2 Bf5 12.h3 Rd8 13.g4 Bg6 14.Bg2 Na6 15.Qb3 h6 16.h4 Nxg4 17. Nxe4 [17.Ndxe4 Ne5 18.Bd2] 17...Ne5 18.h5 Bf5 19.Ng3 Bd3 20.Nf3 [20.f4 Bxe3 21.Nde4 Nc5

22.Nf5 Nxb3 23.Nxe7+ Kf8 unclear]
20...Bc4 21.Qc3 Nd3+ 22.Kf1 Ne5+
23.Kg1 Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Bxd5 25.e4
Be6 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.exf5 Bd4
28.Qxa5 Nb4 29.Qxb4 time 0-1

Bird's Opening A02

Drew Sarkisian 2151

Alexander Chua 2280

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (3)

1.f4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2
Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.0-0 Ne7 7.c4 0-0
8.Nc3 c5 9.Bd2 Nbc6 10.a3 d5
11.cxd5 exd5 12.e4 Ba6 13.exd5
Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bc3 Bxc3
16.bxc3 Qxd3 17.Qc1 Rad8 18.Rf2
Qd6 19.f5 Ne5 20.Qg5 f6 21.Qh4
Kg7 22.Qa4 b5 23.Qa5 Nc4 0-1

Sicilian Najdorf B85

Alejandro Ramirez 2566

Babakuli Annakov 2509

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0
Be7 8.Kh1 0-0 9.f4 a6 10.a4 Qc7
11.Be3 Bd7 12.Nb3 b6 13.Bf3 Rab8
14.g4 Bc8 15.g5 Nd7 16.Bg2 Re8
17.Rf3 Nb4 18.Rh3 Nf8 19.Qd2 d5
20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.Rf3
Ng6 23.Bf2 Bf5 24.Qxd5 Qxc2
25.Rc1 Qe4 26.Re3 Qxd5 27.Bxd5
Nxf4 28.Bc6 Be6 29.Bxe8 Rxe8
30.h4 Rd8 31.Bg3 Nd3 32.Be7 Rd7
33.Rc3 Nxb2 34.Bxb6 Nd1 35.Kg1
Nxe3 36.Bxe3 Rb7 37.Nd4 Rb2
Draw

Scotch Game C45

Michael Langer 2344

Magesh Panchanathan 2526

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2
Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.Qe4 Nb6 10.Bd3 g6
11.0-0 Bg7 12.b3 0-0 13.Bb2 Rae8
14.Re1 f6 15.f4 fxe5 16.fxe5 d5
17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Qe3 Bxd3 19.
Qxd3 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Bxe5 21.Bxe5
Rxe5 22.Nd2 Qe7 23.Rf1 Rxf1+

24.Rxf1 Re2 25.Nf3 Rxa2 26.Re1
Qf6 27.h3 Ra1 28.Rxa1 Qxa1+
29.Kh2 Qf6 30.Qe3 Kg7 31.Kh1 h6
32.Nd4 Kh7 33.Nf3 a5 34.Qe8 Kg7
35.Ne5 d4 36.Ng4 Qd6 37.Ne5 Kf6
38.Ng4+ Kg5 39.Ne5 Kf5 40.g4+
Kf6 41.Qxg6+ Ke7 42.Qf7+ Kd8
43.Qg8+ Ke7 44.Qf7+ Kd8 Draw

Nimzo-Indian E45

Alexander Chua 2280

Bradley Sawyer 2157

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6
5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 d5
8.b3 0-0 9.Bd3 dxc4 10.bxc4 c5
11.d5 Nbd7 12.f4 exd5 13.cxd5 c4
14.Bc2 Nc5 15.0-0 Qe7 16.Re1 Nd3
17.e4 Nxe1 18.Qxe1 Rad8 19.Be3
Rfe8 20.Bf2 Bb7 21.Qb1 Ng4
22.Bd4 f5 23.e5 Bxd5 24.Bxf5 Qh4
25.h3 Qg3 26.Bxh7+ Kh8 27.Be4
Qh2+ 28.Kf1 Qxf4+ 0-1

KI Attack A08

Nate Findley 2082

Sandor Kustar 2409

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 d5
5.Nbd2 Bd6 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0
8.Nh4 g5 9.Nhf3 f6 10.c3 Bc7 11.
Ne1 Ng6 12.Qb3 d4 13.Nc4 Rb8
14.a4 a6 15.Na3 Kh8 16.f4 gxf4 17.
gxf4 Bd7 18.Qd1 f5 19.Qh5 Qh4
20.Qxh4 Nxh4 21.Bd2 Na5 22.Nb1
Be8 23.Ra3 fxe4 24.cxd4 cxd4 25.
dxe4 Bc6 26.Rg3 Nxe2 27.Nxe2
Bxe4 28.Re1 Bd5 29.Nc3 0-1

Sicilian Alapin B22

Courtney Jamison 2002

Gary Simms 2207

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (4)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Be2 Nf6
5.d3 d5 6.Qc2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5
h6 9.Bh4 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Re8
11.Rad1 Re8 12.Rfel d4 13.h3
dxc3 14.bxc3 Be6 15.Qb2 b6
16.Bf1 Nh5 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Nb3
Qf6 19.Re3 Red8 20.d4 Bxb3

21.dxe5 Nxe5 22. Rxd8+ Rxd8
23.axb3 Nf4 24.Nxe5 Qxe5 25.Qc2
Qh5 26.Rf3 Qg5 27. Rg3

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - r - + k + (

7p - + - + p p - '

6- p - + - + - p &

5+ - p - + - q - %

4- + - + - n - + \$

3+ P P - + - R P #

2- + Q+ - P P + "

1+ - + - + L K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

27...Rd2! 28.Qc1

28.Rxg5 Rxc2 29.Rf5 Ne2+ 30.

Bxe2 Rxe2?@b

28...Qd8 29.Rf3 g5 30.Qa3 Rd1

31.Qa6 Qd2 32.Re3 Kg7 33.Qc4

Rc1 34.g4 Rc2 35.Rf3 Qe1 36.e5

Nxh3+ 37.Kg2 Rxf2+ 38.Rxf2 Nxf2

39.Be2 Nd1 40.Bxd1 Qxd1 41.e6

Qd2+ 42.Kf3 fxe6 43.Qxe6 Qxc3+

44.Kg2 Qd2+ 45.Kg1 Qd4+ 46.Kg2

Qf6 0-1

Alekhine's Defense B02

Michael Langer 2344

Alejandro Ramirez 2506

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5

Nd5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nxd5 exd5 7.d4 d6

8.cxd6 cxd6 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Bd3 Bg4

11.0-0 Be7 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Be3 0-

0 14.a3 Bf6 15.Rc1 Rfe8 16.Re1 h6

17.Bb1 g6 18.Ba2 Rad8 19.Rc5

Qe6 20.Bd2 Bxf3 21.Rxe6 Bxd1

22.Rxf6 Kg7 23.Rf4 Ne7 24.Rh4

Nf5 25.Rh3 Re2 26.Rd3 Ba4

27.Kf1 Re7 28.Kg1 Re2 29.Kf1

Re7 30.Kg1 Bc6 31.h3 a6 32.Ba5

Rdd7 33.Bb3 Kh7 34.Rc2 Re4

35.Bb6 Re1+ 36.Kh2 Rde7

37.Rdd2 h5 38.Bc5 R7e6 39.Ba7

Kg7 40.Bc5 g5 41.Rc3 g4 42.Rd1

R1e2 43.Rc2 gxh3 44.Kxh3 Nh6

45.f3 R2e3 46.Rc3 Ng4 47.Rd2

Rxc3 48.bxc3 Ne3 49.Bc2 Bd7
50.Kh4 b6 and Black won 0-1

QGD Seni-Slav D46

Bradley Sawyer 2157

Babakuli Annakov 2509

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0
8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.Rd1 Qe7
11.Bd3 Re8 12.Ng5 Nf8 13.Nge4
Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bc7 15.dxe5 Qxe5
16.Ng3 Bg4 17.Re1 Rad8 18.Bf5
Qa5 19.Rf1 Bxf5 20.Nxf5 Ne6
21.e4 g6 22.Nh6+ Kg7 23.Ng4 h5
24.Ne3 Nd4

White resigned. He lacks any
counterplay after 25.Qb1 Qe5 26.g3
Qxe4 27.Qxe4 Rxe4 28.Kg2 Kf6+
0-1

Neo-Catalan A14

Sandor Kustar 2409

Gary Simms 2207

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2
Be7 5.0-0 dxc4 6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qxc4
Bc6 8.d3 Nbd7 9.e4 0-0 10.Qc2
Bb5 11.a4 Ba6 12.Rd1 c5 13.Bf4
Rc8 14.Nc3 Nh5 15.Be3 e5 16.Bh3
Bd6 17.Bg5 Qe8 18.Nd2 b6 19.Nc4
Bb8 20.Qe2 g6 21.Nd5 f6 22.Bh6
Rf7 23.Rf1 Rd8 24.Rae1 Bc8 25.f4
exf4 26.gxf4 Nf8 27.Bxc8 Rxc8
28.Qg4 Rd8 29.f5 Qc6 30.Re2
Rxd5 31.exd5 Qxd5 32.Re8 Be5
33.Nxe5 fxe5 34.Bxf8 Qd7 35.Rb8
1-0

Bird's Opening A02

Drew Sarkisian 2151

Kalin Nonchiev 2107

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2
Nc6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 e5 7.e4 Nge7
8.Na3 0-0 9.0-0 exf4 10.gxf4 d5
11.Qe1 Re8 12.Qf2 d4 13.c4 f5
14.e5 Nb4 15.Qe2 a6 16.Nc2 Nxc2
17.Qxc2 a5 18.h4 Ra6 19.Bd2 Qc7
20.b3 Bd7 21.Rab1 Rea8 22.a3 Bc6

23.b4 axb4 24.axb4 Ra2 25.Rb2
Rxb2 26.Qxb2 b6 27.Ra1 Qb7 28.
Kf2 h6 29.b5

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - + k + (
7+ q + - n - l - '
6- p l + - + p p &
5+ P p - P p + - %
4- + P p - P - P \$
3+ - + P + N + - #
2- Q - l - K L + "
1R - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

29...Rxa1 30.Qxa1 Qa8 31.Qxa8+
Bxa8 32.h5 gxh5 33.Bh3 Bb7 34.
Nh4 Bc8 35.Kg3 Be6 36.Bg2 Kf7
37.Bf3 Ke8 38.Bxh5+ Kd7 39.Be2
Bf8 40.Bf3 Bg7 Draw

QGD D43

Alexander Chua 2280

Jacek Stopa 2432

Ken Smith Memorial 2006 (5)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Nd7
8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 g6 10.0-0 Qe7
11.e4 Bg7 12.d5 exd5 13.exd5 0-0
14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Qc2 Nb6 16.Bd3
Rb8 17.Rfe1 Qf6 18.Rac1 Nd5 19.
Nxd5 cxd5 20.b3 Be6 21.Qc7 Ra8
22.Ba6 Qb2 23.Re2 Qa3 24.Bb7
Rad8 25.Qc5 Qxc5 26.Rxc5 d4 27.
Rc1 Rd6 28.Be4 Rb8 29.Rd2 a5 30.
Rcd1 Bg4 31.h3 f5 32.hxg4 fxe4
33.Nxd4 Rbd8 34.Nf3 Be5 35.Rxd6
Bxd6 36.Ne5 Kg7 37.Kf1 Bc7 38.
Rxd8 Bxd8 39.Nc4 Kf6 40.Ke2
Kg5 41.Ke3 Kxg4 42.Kxe4 Bc7 43
a3 h5 44.b4 1-0

Region VIII (cont'd from p. 9)

Michael doesn't find the right
sequence of moves. On one hand, he
plays ...Qb6 blocking the potential
...b5 advance; yet on the other hand
he plays ...Rfb8, supposedly with the
idea of pushing ...b5

12.Qe2 Qc7? 13.e5 Ng4 14.e6 Ndf6
15.exf7+ Kh8

15...Kxf7 16.Ng5+ ?@e

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r r - + - + - k (
7+ p q - p P l p '
6p + - p - n p + &
5+ - p P + - + - %
4P + - + - P n + \$
3+ - N - + N + - #
2- P P + Q + P P "
1R - l - + R + K !
x a b c d e f g h y

16.f5! Ne5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.fxg6
hxg6 19.Qd3 e4 20.Nxe4 Qe5 21.
Nxf6 Bxf6 22.Qxg6 Bg7 23.Bf4
[23.Ra3!] 23...Qxd5 24.Rf3

Black resigns.

1-0

Notes by GM Gilberto Hernandez

Sicilian Dragon B78

Charlina Hung 1599

Simon Vasquez 1286

Region VIII 2007 (7)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Bg7 5.Be3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.f3 d6

A Dragon Sicilian for the last
round! At this moment Simon had a
perfect score with 6 out of 6, and
Charlina was half point behind him.
They were fighting for first place!

Better was 7...0-0 8.Qd2 (8.Bc4
Qb6!) 8...d5!

8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0 a6

Passive Theory suggests 10...

Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 h5 13.Bg5
Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 with a sharp
game.

11.Bb3 b5 12.Nxc6! Bxc6 13.h4 a5
14.h5

White uses the Yugoslav Attack,
and opens her h-file for a direct at-
tack

14...Nxb5 15.Bh6

(Continued on page 32)

San Antonio New Year Open

Fifty-three players turned out for the New Year Open, held Dec. 30-31 in San Antonio. Brad Sawyer of Houston won first prize with a 4-0 score. Selby Anderson, who drew Dale Dike in Rd. 2, took clear second place with 3.5. Sawyer tore through Gordon, Noland and Malazarte with superior positional sense and alert tactics.

Total prizes were increased to \$1,000 due to the excellent turnout. Martin Gordon directed at the TNI.

Open: *1st:* Bradley Sawyer, \$242; *2nd:* Selby Anderson, \$121; *U2100:* Dale Dike and Randall Schwarz, \$45.60; *U1900:* Anthony Guerra, Derek Chang, George Qi and Eric Lu, \$22.75 each.

Reserve (U1700): *1st:* Steven Chen, \$151; *2nd:* Raymony Grillo, Charles Davis and Raul Flores, \$33.33 each; *U1500:* Eric Chen \$91; *U1300:* Kevin Xie, \$61; *Unr.:* Jan Van Hummel, \$61.

Sicilian B27

Martin Gordon 1936
Brad Sawyer 2179

New Year Open (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3

If you want to steer clear of the usual Sicilian complications, you might like 2.c4 with a Botvinnik System (Nc3, g3, Bg2, Nge2, d3) – which happens to match what Black does in this game!

2...g6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2

Marty said he was playing in a coffeehouse style inspired by Malazarte. This formation works best if the f-pawn isn't blocked from going to f4.

6...e5 7.Nd5 Nge7 8.Bg5 h6 9. Nxe7 Nxe7 10.Bd2 0-0 11.Bc3 f5

This game is all about pawn play: Black has it, White does not.

12.Qc2 Be6 13.0-0 Rb8

Black's position is so good, he can play 13...b5 14.cxb5 a6?.

14.Nd2 b5 15.cxb5 Rxb5?!

Needlessly speculative. 15...fxe4 15...fxe4 Rxf2 -+, or 16.Rhf1 exd3 17.Bxd3 Nf5?.

16.d4 cxd4 17.Bxb5 dxc3 18.bxc3 Qc7

18...fxe4 19.Nxe4 d5 20.Nc5 Bf5 21.Qb3 Qb6 22.Nd7 Bxd7 23. Bxd7 Qd6?Y

19.Ba4

19.f3! Qc5 20.Ba4 fxe4 21.fxe4 Rf2 22.Bb3 and Black's comp for the Exchange is slim.

19...fxe4 20.Rhf1?

At any rate Black's center is strong, but 20.Nxe4 d5 21.Ng3 must be tried, with Ne2 later to defend the c-pawn.

20...d5 21.Bb3 Qb6 22.Nb1 Rc8 23.Kb2 Nc6 24.Ka1 Nd4 25.Qb2 Nxb3+ 26.Qxb3 Qa6 27.Qb2 d4 28. Rfe1 e3!

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8 - + r + - + k + (
7 p - + - + - l - '
6 q + - + l + p p &
5 + - + - p - + - %
4 - + - p - + - + $
3 + - P - p - + - #
2 P z - + - P P P "
1 K N + R R - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

Black's bishops and pawns make a pleasing impression, like a terrible yet beautiful force of nature.

29.fxe3 dxc3 30.Qc2 e4 31.Rd4

Against neutral moves Black proceeds with Rb8-b2.

31...Bxd4

31...Qd3!! is a cute queen offer, when White should just transpose to the game with 32.Na3.

32.exd4 Qd3 33.Na3 Qxc2

This stretches the game out compared to 33...Rb8!, one point being that the e-pawn is taboo (34.Rxe4? Qf1+ 35.Nb1 Rb2??).

If you can clearly see your way to a winning position, the clarity is an asset – more than a possibly shorter win with lingering doubts.

34.Nxc2 Bc4 35.Ne3 Bd3 36.Rc1 Kf7 37.a3 a5 38.Ka2 a4 39.Ka1 Ke6 40.Ka2 c2 41.Kb2 Rb8+ 42. Kc3 Rb3+ 43. Kd2 Rxa3 44.Re1 Rb3 45.Rc1 Rb1 and ... 0-1

Sicilian Dragon B77

Ernesto Malazarte 2138
Paul Haney 1978

New Year Open (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Qd2 d6 9.f3 Bd7 10.Nxc6?!

There is probably a rule of thumb in the Dragon that says this exchange is always bad. When Anand played it against Kasparov the chess world gasped, and no one was surprised at the outcome.

10...Bxc6?!

Failing to punish White's last move with 10...bxc6, which opens the b-file and takes 0-0-0 out of the question, while gaining control of d5. Fritz says 11.0-0 Be6 12.Bd3 is equal, but I'd put my money on Black's central preponderance.

11.Bb3 e6?

11...a5! 12.Bd5 e6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 ?! The text puts Malazarte in an unusual role – grabbing someone else's pawn sac.
12.0–0 Rc8 13.Qxd6 Qa5 14.Qc5 Qc7 15.Nb5 b6 16.Nxc7 bxc5 17. Na6 c4 18.Bxc4 Bxe4 19.Bc5 Bd5 20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.c4 Bh6+ 22.Kc2 Rxc5 23.Nxc5 Ne3+ 24.Kd3 Nxc2 25.b4 Ne3 26.Kc3 Bg7+ 27.Kb3 Nxd1 28.Rxd1 Rb8 29.Nd7 Rb7 30.c5 a5 31.a3 axb4 32.axb4 Bf8 33.Nxf8 Kxf8 34.c6 Rc7 35.b5 Ke7 36.Kb4 1–0

English Opening A16
Brad Sawyer 2179
Shawn Noland 2106

New Year Open (3)
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 Nxc3 5.bxc3 Bd7 6.Bg2 Bc6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.0–0 e6 9.d4 Be7 10. Qc2 Nf6 11.Re1 Be4 12.Qa4+ c6 12...Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Nxd7 =.
13.Ne5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 h5!?
 [14...Nd7 =] **15.Rb1 b5?**

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - ♝k + - r (
 7p - + - ♚ p p - '
 6- + p + p n - + &
 5+ p + - ♞ - + p %
 4Q+ - ♡ - + - + \$
 3+ - ♡ - + - ♡ - #
 2P + - + P ♡ K P "
 1+ R ♚ - ♞ - + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

After this it's a cleanup job against a weakened position. Better is 15...Qc7 16.Qb3 b6 =.
16.Qa6 Rc8 17.e4 Qc7 18.a4
 Even stronger is 18.Bf4 Bd6 19. c4! Nd7 20.Nxd7 Bxf4 21.Nc5 Bd6 22.cxb5 Bxc5 23.Rec1! ♞♞♞♞
18...0–0 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Qxb6 axb6 21.axb5 cxb5 22.Bd2 b4 23.c4 Rfd8 24.d5 exd5 25.cxd5

25.exd5 may be simpler, since 25...b5 is answered with 26.Nc6.
25...Bd6 26.Nc6 Re8 27.f3 b3 28. Rxb3 Nd7 29.Be3 Ra8 30.Reb1 f5 31.exf5 Ra2+ 32.Kh3 h4 33.Bd4 hxc3 34.hxc3 Kf7 35.R1b2 Rh8+ 36.Kg4 Ra4 37.f4 Rg8 38.Re2 g6 39.fxc6+ Rxc6+ 40.Kf3 Kf8 41.Re6 Rxe6 42.dxe6 Nc5 43.Bxc5 Bxc5 44.f5 Ra1 45.Rd3 Ra3 46.Rxa3 Bxa3 47.f6 b5 48.e7+ Ke8 49.Kf4 b4 50.Kf5 b3 51.Ke6 Bxe7 52.f7+ Kf8 53.Nxe7 1–0

Catalan Opening E06
Selby Anderson 2208
William Ong 2047

New Year Open (3)
1.d4 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0–0 d5 6.c4 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.a3

I am pleasantly surprised to find that ECO likes this move too. The other main try is 9.Qc2, while 9. e4?! Ndb4 is clearly premature.
9...0–0 10.b4 Be7 11.Bb2 f5?!

11...Bf6 12.Qb3 ? ♞ECO. The text is more ambitious, but also more weakening.
12.Qb3 Bf6 13.Nc3 Nce7 14.Rfd1 Qb6 15.Na4 Qb5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17. Nd4 Qa6 18.Nc5 Qd6

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + | + - r k + (
 7p p + - n - + p '
 6- + - ♝ p p - + &
 5+ - ♞ n + p + - %
 4- ♡ - ♞ - + - + \$
 3P Q + - + - ♡ - #
 2- ♚ - + P ♡ L P "
 1R - + R + - ♞ - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
19.Ndxc6(?)

Winning a pawn, betting on winning the R+P ending. I passed on 19.Nxf5! Nxf5 20.e4 for reasons not

entirely clear. 20...Ng7 21.exd5 e5 22.Ne4 Qb6 23.d6+ Be6 24.Qd3 and the passed d-pawn and superior pieces make quite an impression.
19...Bxe6 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Bxd5 Nxd5 22.Qxd5 Rae8 23.e3 Rf7 24. Qxe6 Rxe6 25.Rd5 Re5 26.Rad1 Kg7 27.Kf1 Kg6 28.Ke2 Rc7 29. Rd7 Re7 30.Rxe7 Rxe7 31.Rc1 b6 32.Rc4 Rd7 33.Rd4 Rc7 34.Kd2 Kg5 35.h3 Kg6 36.Rd5 h6 37.h4 Re7 38.Kc2 Rc7+ 39.Kb2 Rc6 40. Rd7 a6 41.a4 Re6 42.Ra7 b5

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - + - + - + (
 7R - + - + - + - '
 6p + - + r p k p &
 5+ p + - + p + - %
 4P ♡ - + - + - ♡ \$
 3+ - + - ♡ - ♡ - #
 2- ♞ - + - ♡ - + "
 1+ - + - + - + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
43.a5!

Preparing Rb7-b6.
43...Kh5 44.Rb7 f4 45.exf4 Re2+ 46. Kc3 Rxf2 47.Rb6 Rf3+ 48.Kd4 Rb3 49.Rxa6 Rxb4+ 50.Kc5 Rb3 51.Rxf6 b4 52.Kc4 Rxc3 53.Kxb4 Rg1 54.a6 Rh1 55.Kb5 Ra1 56. Kb6 Rb1+ 57.Kc7 Rc1+ 58. Kb7 Rg1 59.a7 Rg7+ 60.Kb6 Rg8 61. Rc6 Re8 62.Kb7 Re7+ 63.Rc7 Re8 64.f5 Kxh4 65.f6 1–0

Pirc Defense B06
Jade Arrieta 2014
Larry Moss 2200

New Year Open (3)
1.e4 g6 2.Bc4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.d3 c6 7.0–0 d5 8. Bb3 dxe4 9.dxe4 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bg4 11.Be3 Na6 12.e5 Ne8 13.h3 Bc8 14.Rd8

14.Rd2, keeping more pieces on the board, has better prospects.

14...Nec7 15.Rxf8+ Bxf8 16.Ng5?!
h6! 17.Nge4

17.Nxf7? doesn't lose a piece,
but 17...Be6 18.Bxe6 Nxe6 19.f5
Kxf7 20.fxe6+ Kxe6 does work out
in Black's favor.

17...Be6 = 18.Rd1 Bxb3 19.axb3
Nb4 20.Rd7 Nxc2

20...Ne6! 21.Rxb7 Nxc2 =.

21.Bc5 Ne6 22.Bxe7 Bxe7 23.Rxe7
Nxf4 24.Nd6 Rf8 25.Rxb7

25.Nce4 b5 26.Nf6+ Kg7 27.
Nde8+ (27.Nd7? Nd5 ?) 27...Kh8
28.Rxa7 ?a

25...Nd3 26.Re7 Nd4 27.Nce4! g5
27...c5 28.Rxa7 g5 29.Nf6+ Kg7
30.Nd7 ±.

28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Nd7 Ne6 30.Ne8+
Kh8 31.Nxf8 +- Draw?

Catalan Opening E00

Mitch Vergara 2083

Dale Dike 1978

New Year Open (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 c6
5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.Bg2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0
8.Qc2 Re8

8...Qe7 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4
11.Qxe4 e5 =.

9.Rd1 Qc7?!

This was a good time for ...dxc4.
Now White could lock in a space
advantage with 10.c5! Bf8 11.Bf4
Qd8 12.b4 ?.

10.Bd2?! dxc4 11.a4 12.e3 exd4 13.
exd4 Nb6 14.Bg5 Nbd5 15.Nxd5
Nxd5 16.Qxc4 Be6 17.Qc2 h6 18.
Bd2 a5 19. Bc3 Rac8 20.Qd2 Nxc3
21.bxc3 Bc4 22.Re1 b5 23.Bf1
Rxe1 24.Qxe1 Bd5 25.Nh4 b4 26.c4
Be6 27.Bd3 Be7 28.Qe4 Bxh4 29.
Qh7+

29.Qxh4 Qd7 ?½

29...Kf8 30.gxh4 Qf4 31.Qh8+ Ke7
32.Qxg7 Rd8! 33.d5 cxd5 34. c5
Qxh4 35.Kf1 Qxh2 36.Qd4 Rg8
37.Ke2 Rg4 38.Qh8 Rg5 39.Rf1
Bh3 40.Rc1 Re5+ 41.Kd1 d4 42.c6
Qg1+ 43.Kc2 Rc5+ 44.Kb3 Qxc1
0-1

King's Indian E90

Anjali Datta 1901

Paul Haney 1978

New Year Open (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 Nc6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Be3
e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.g4 g5 11.Be2 Ng6
12.Qd2 Nf4 13.0-0 a6 14.Rdg1
c5 15.Bxf4 exf4

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + l q - r k + (
7+ p + - + p l - '

6p + - p - n - p &
5+ - p p + - p - %

4- + P + P p P + \$
3+ - N - + N + P #

2P P - Q L P - + "
1+ - K - + - R R!

x a b c d e f g h y
16.Rg2

16.h4! Nd7 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.
Rh5 f6 19.Rgh1 ±.

16...b5 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxb5 Ba6
18...Nxe4!! 19.Nxe4 Rxa2 ??,

19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.a3 Nd7 21.h4 c4!
22.hxg5 Nc5 23.Qc2 Nd3+ 24.Kd2
hxg5 25.Ne1 Qb6 26.Nxd3 cxd3 27.
Qb1 Rb8 28.Kxd3 Rxa3 29.bxa3
Qd4+ 30.Ke2 Rxb1 31.Rxb1 Qxc3
0-1

Polish Benoni A43

Ellen Xiang (age 8!) 1614

Martin Gordon 1936

New Year Open (3)

1.d4 c5 2.d5 b5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bg5
Bb7

Also seen are ...Qb6 and ...Ne4.

5.Bxf6 gxf6

5...exf6 with a later ...c4 and
...Bc5 has also been tried.

6.e4 Qb6 7.Nbd2

Less obliging is 7.Nc3 a6 8.Qd2
Bg7 9.Qf4.

7...f5 8.Be2 Bg7 9.c3 c4 10.a4 a6
11.0-0 e6?

11...Qc5! 12.exf5 Bxd5 ?e
12.dxe6 0-0 13.exf5 fxe6 14.fxe6
dxe6 15.Qc2 Qc6 16.Rfe1 Nd7 17.
axb5 axb5 18.Bf1 e5

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - + - r k + (
7+ l + n + - l p '

6- + q + - + - + &
5+ p + - p - + - %

4- + p + - + - + \$
3+ - P - + N + - #

2- P O N - P P P "
1R - + - R L K - !

x a b c d e f g h y
19.Rxa8 Bxa8 20.Ne4

20.b3! and White keeps hacking
away at c4: 20...Rf4 21.bxc4 bxc4
22.Ng5 h6 23.Nge4 Nb6 24.Qa2
Kh7 25.Rb1??;

20...Qg6 21.Kh1?!
21.Nh4 Qh5 22.g3 ?ññ

21...Rf4= 22.Qd1 Bxe4 23.Qxd7
Rxf3 24.Rxe4 Qxe4

24...Rxf2 25.Re1 Qf6 26.Be2
Rxe2 27.Qc8+ Kf7 28.Qd7+ Kg8
29.Qc8+=.

25.gxf3 Qxf3+ 26.Kg1 Qf6
26...Qf7! 27.Qxb5 Qg6+ 28. g2
Qb1 ?ç

27.Bg2 Qg6 28.h3 e4 29.Qxb5 e3
30.Qxc4+ Kf8 31.Qf4+ Bf6 32.
Qxe3??

32.fxe3, with Black's queen tied
down to the bishop, is a cakewalk.

32...Qb1+ 33.Kh2 Qxb2 34.Qh6+
Ke7 35.Qxh7+ Ke6 36.Qe4+ Be5+
37.f4 Qxc3 38.Bf3

38.Qe2 Kf6 39.Qa6+ Kf7 40.
Qh6 Bc7 41.Bd5+ still holds some
winning chances.

38...Qd2+ 39.Kg3 Qxf4+ 40.Qxf4
Bxf4+ 41.Kxf4 Kf6 42.Bd5 Kg6
43.h4 Kh5 44.Kg3 Kg6 45.Kg4
Kh6 46.h5 Kg7 47.Kg5 Kh8 48.
Be4 Kg7 49.Bg6 Kh8 50.Kh6 Kg8

51.Bf7+ Kh8 52.Bg6 Kg8 53.Bf5
Kh8 54.Bg6 Kg8 Draw

Sicilian B21

Ernesto Malazarte 2138
Brad Sawyer 2179

New Year Open (4)

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.e4 Bg7 4.Bc4
Nc6 5.c3

5.Nc3 e6 6.f5 Nge7 is a well-
known line in the Grand Prix attack,
where ...d5 is the counterpunch.

5...e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Bb3 0-0 8.d3
d5 9.Qe2 b6 10.e5

10.Na3 Qd7 11.e5 =.

10...f6 11.d4

11.exf6 Bxf6 12.Na3 =.

11...fxe5 12.Nxe5??

12.fxe5 a5 13.Rf2 Ba6 14.Qd1
Rc8 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 ?D

12...cxd4 13.Re1 Nxe5 14.fxe5 Nc6!
15.c4 Bxe5 16.cxd5 Qh4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + l + - r k + (

7p - + - + - + p '

6- p n + p + p + &

5+ - + P z - + - %

4- + - + - + - Q \$

3+ L + - + - + - #

2P P + Q + P P "

1R N z - R - K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

17.g3 Bxg3 18.dxe6 Bxh2+ 19.Kg2

Ne7 20.Qe4 Rf2+ 0-1

Center Counter B01

Jesse Lozano 1947
Selby Anderson 2208

New Year Open (4)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6
4.g3 Nf6 5.d4 Bf5!?

5...Bg4 6.f3 Bf5 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.
Qxd3 Nbd7=. White's next move
took me by surprise, but no prob.

6.Qf3 Qe6+! 7.Be3 e6 8.Bc4 Qxc4

9.Qxf5 e6 10.Qf3 Bb4

10...Ba3! 11.Bc1 Bb4 ?.

11.Nge2 Qd5! 12.Qxd5 cxd5 13.0-
0-0 Nc6 14.f3 0-0 15.a3 Ba5 16.
Kb1 Rfc8 17.Rd3 Bd8 18.g4 Rab8
19.Bf4 Bc7 20.b3 b5 21.Bxc7 Rxc7
22.a4 b4 23.Nd1 Ne7 24.Rd2 Ng6
25.Nb2 Nh4 26.Rf1 Nd7 27.Nd3 a5
28.Kc1 Rbc8 29.Kd1?

29.Ng3 Rc3 30.Kd1 Kf8 =+.

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + r + - + k + (

7+ - r n + p p p '

6- + - + p + - + &

5p - + p + - + - %

4P p - P - + P n \$

3+ P + N + P + - #

2- z P R N + - + "

1+ - + K + R + - !

x a b c d e f g h y

29...Ng2, White resigns?

The psychological effect of over-
looking the knight invasion explains
resignation better than the variations
can: 30.Rg1 Ne3+ 31.Ke1 and either
way Black takes the c-pawn, one
knight's future is uncertain; he may
become a 'buried treasure' at a3.
Nor is Black unable to own the center
to liberate him. 0-1

Sicilian B25

Dale Dike 1978

Larry Moss 2200

New Year Open (4)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2
Nc6 5.d3 d6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Be3 Nd4
8.Qd2 Ne7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nd1 b6
11.Ne1 Bb7 12.c3 Ndc6 13.Bh6 d5
14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.f4 dxe4 16.Bxe4
Qd7 17.Ne3 f5 18.Bg2 e5 19.Rd1
Rad8 20.Qc2 Qe6 21.Nc4 Ba6 22.
Nxe5 Nxe5 23.fxe5 Qxe5 24. Rf2
Rd6 25.Nf3 Qf6 26.d4 Rfd8 27.Re1
Bb7 28.dxc5 bxc5 29.Ne5 Bxg2 30.
Kxg2 Nc6 31.Nxc6 Rxc6 32.Rd1

Draw

King's Indian E72

Don Sutherland 2182

Paul Haney 1978

New Year Open (4)

1.d4 d6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.c4 Bg7
5.Nc3 0-0 6.e4 Nc6 7.Nge2 e5 8.0-0
exd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be6
11.Qd3 Nd7 12.f4 Nb6 13.b3 Qf6
14.Bb2 Qd4+ 15.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 16.
Kh1 Bxc4 17.bxc4 Nxc4 18.Rfd1
Bg7 19.Rab1 Nxb2 20.Rxb2 Bxc3
21.Rxb7 Ba5 22.e5 Bb6 23.exd6
cxd6 24.Rxd6 Rad8 25.Rdd7 Rxd7
26.Rxd7 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8

Draw

Nimzo-Indian E29

Randall Schwarz 1900

Jade Arrieta 2014

New Year Open (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.Bd3 Nc6
8.Ne2 d6 9.0-0 b6 10.e4 e5 11.d5
Na5

11...Ne7 is far safer.

12.Ng3 Ba6 13.f4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - z - r k + (

7p - + - + p p p '

6l p - p - n - + &

5n - p P p - + - %

4- + P + P P - + \$

3P - P L + - N - #

2- z - + - + P P "

1R - z Q + R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

13...Bxc4?

Now White's attack plays itself.
After 13...Nd7 White still has a
dangerous attack: 14.Nf5 Qc7 15.
Qg4 g6 15.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Qh4 Nb3
19.Bg5! h5 20.Be2! ?P?

Relatively best was 13...Ne8.

14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Bg5 Bxd3 16.
Qxd3 h6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nf5 1-0

OCF North American FIDE Open 2007.....My favorite moments

by **WIM Alexey Root**

As other tournament reports of this event will note, the prize fund was extraordinary: \$11,000 guaranteed. In addition, FIDE (internationally) rated women received appearance fees, paid no tournament entry fees, and got free hotel rooms. FIDE-rated male players didn't have to pay entry fees. Despite these generous conditions, I thought I would have a rotten time in Stillwater, OK, Feb. 17-19. I hadn't played any chess games (casual or tournament) in over 6 months. Nor had I studied chess. So I thought I'd probably make many bad chess moves. My USCF rating is 2003, but I think my current playing strength is down to 1900. My only chess wish for the weekend was to play one interesting chess position.

Before the tournament, I was also resigned to social isolation. Between rounds at tournaments, players hang out, play chess for fun, and go to restaurants together. But I don't know many of the current players, and thus didn't expect to socialize. So I brought along a portable DVD player, five movies, and planned to eat meals in my room. In retrospect, this sounds rather sad. When I planned it in the days before the tournament, though, I thought it seemed like a reasonably pleasant break from my Denton routine of caring for my children, writing, and teaching my online courses for the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

The Saturday morning drive to Stillwater took 3.5 hours. The tournament director, Frank Berry, was welcoming, handing me my \$500 appearance fee and introducing me to a couple of the other players. I settled in to my hotel room, put on a DVD, and ate snacks before round 1

at noon. My first round was an easy win against Melvin "Skip" Fritze (1424). He lost a rook on move 12, and the game was completed by 1:15. I swam in the hotel pool, ate more, and watched my DVD.

In Round 2 I played Renard Anderson (2213), whom I recognized from tournaments in CA almost 20 years ago. After he won, Renard invited me to the legendary Stillwater restaurant Eskimo Joe's. I had a great time. I hoped that some of my later-round opponents would be equally social.

In Round 3, I played Karthik Ramachandran (1945), a tenth grader. After we drew, I joined him, Magesh Panchanathan and Ali Morschedi at The Hideaway (a famous local Italian restaurant) for lunch. Magesh and Ali are students that I recruited as undergraduates to UTD. Both are UTD graduate students now, and I was delighted to hear about their academic and chess accomplishments. Karthik complimented me on bughouse (chess variant) articles that he read in *Chess Life* in 2003. The articles, which I wrote with Eric Wiggins, are available online at www.bughouse.info/academy/essays.html.

Back at the tournament hotel, I got another compliment from Charlie Hughes, president of the Little Rock, Arkansas chess club. Charlie said that those bughouse articles were like "cold fusion" to the bughouse players at his club, completely changing the way that they played their bughouse openings. I was amazed that my four-year-old articles had such a continuing impact.

In Round 4, I was paired with another 10th grader, Jacob Berger (1598). I overlooked his winning my bishop for two pawns. Though I was

in trouble most of the game, and only ended up drawing, I love the position that occurred one move before the end of the game:

Berger – A. Root

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8 - + - + - + - + (
7 + - ♙ - + - + - '
6 ♖ + - + - + - + &
5 ♙ - ♚ - + - + - %
4 ♙ + ♜ + - + - + $
3 + - + - + - + - #
2 - ♝ - + - + - + "
1 + - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y
White to move

```

Here is one possible line: **1.Kc6 Kb4 2.Kxc7 Kxc4 3.Kb6 Kd5! 4.Kxa6 Kc6** and now, despite being a passed pawn ahead, White cannot win. **5. Ka7 Kc7** (Black's king prevents White's King from leaving the a-file. Therefore, the white pawn will never promote on a8). **6.Ka8 Kc8** (etc.).

It was exciting to reach a position that could lead to this particular rook-pawn draw, because I could envision the sequence of moves. Thus, it was similar to winning with a smothered mate (see page 58 in my book *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators*), which also relied on combining my prior knowledge of chess with the particular game's position. The actual end of the Berger-Root game was **1.Kd4 Kb4** (I offered a draw, which was accepted).

Thanks to the Berry brothers (Frank, and USCF Executive Board candidate Jim), all players got to be social before the Sunday night round. The Berrys provided shrimp appetizers and Domino's pizza for

free to every participant. We all ate together in the tournament room before the 7 p.m. round.

My round 5 opponent, Jason Wawrzaszek (1736), resigned on move 13. He could have played on longer, since he was just one pawn behind. I was happy to have the evening off, however. I was able to catch the end of *Desperate Housewives* and swim in the hotel pool before it closed at 10 p.m. I even got to socialize late (11 p.m.-midnight), joining Michael Brooks, Richard (Michael's friend from KC, MO), and Jake (local Stillwater chess player) at a coffeehouse near Oklahoma State University. Michael beat Richard and Jake at checkers, leading all of us to speculate whether his International Master title at chess carried over to checkers too.

In round 6 I played Doyle Lobaugh (1596) and won.

My single biggest moment of tournament excitement came just after round 6. Some background: Grandmaster (GM) Alex Shabalov is rated 2659 and is ranked #10 in the U.S. He was also the top-ranked player at the North American Open. As is common with many players, Alex walks around the tournament hall when it is his opponent's turn to move. Alex had paused and looked at my chess board during two of the previous six rounds.

When Alex saw me after I finished my sixth round, he asked, "May I look at your book?"

I replied, "My scorebook?" I could hardly believe my ears: A top GM wanted to see some of my notated chess games! Wow! For that split second, I think my heart beat an extra three times.

Then Alex replied, "No, the book that you wrote." I retrieved *Children and Chess* from my backpack, and Alex bought it.

Round 7 was my chance to play a game that a GM would notice, as I had 4 points going into the round. A win would put me in a tie for 4th-6th place women's chess prizes, and be worth \$600. A draw would likely have been worth \$250, as more women had 4.5 of 7 and would therefore share in the prizes.

Unfortunately, I lost to Bayaraa Zorigt (2196), a Women's FIDE Master from Mongolia but attending college in Kentucky.

Nimzo-Indian E43

Alexey Root 2003

Bayaraa Zorigt 2196

OCF North American FIDE (7)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.c4 Bb7 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.a3 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Bb2 d6 9.d5 Nd7++ 10.Qc2 Ndc5 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.Nd2 Nf6 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.f3 Nh5 15.Bd3 Qh4 16.Ke2 O-O-O 17.Ne4 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Ba6 19.Qd4 Qe7 20.Kf2 g5 21.h3 Ng7 22.c5 dxc5 23.Qa4 Bb7 24.Qxa7 Rhf8 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.c4 Bxe4 27.Bxg7 Qxg7 28.fxe4 Qb2 29.Kg1 Rd1 30.Kh2 Qe5 31.g3 Qb2 0-1

I didn't play too badly though, missing **25.Ng3**, which would have led to a decent position for me. Instead, I played the mistake **25.Rxd8**. The game score is on the MonRoi Web site <http://www.monroi.com>. My final score of 4 points (3 wins, 2 draws, and 2 losses) out of 7 rounds did not win prize money.

Despite losing the "money" round, I had a great time at the North American Open. The ending position against Berger was memorable, which fulfilled my pre-tournament chess desire. I made new pals and renewed acquaintances, seeing some of Stillwater in the process. In fact, I only had enough time alone in my hotel to watch 2 of my 5 DVDs. The tournament conditions were excellent: rounds ran on time, there were

no disputes, and players kept quiet while games were in progress. I hope to return to other events run by the Oklahoma Chess Foundation's Frank and Jim Berry in the near future. □

An Interesting Experience

By Ellen Xiang

What is your favorite experience? Mine is the World Youth tournament. It was a fun, exciting and a learning experience. Here's the story:

"Yes!" I was excited when I saw my name among the kids who were qualified for the World Youth chess tournament in Georgia. "Atlanta, Georgia?" you may ask. The answer is no. Actually the Georgia I am talking about is near Turkey and Russia. Then a thought popped into my head: What if Georgia did not have many bathrooms and air conditioner like in France last year's World Youth? I had heard the story from a kid who played there. I wish that would not have happened this year. Well, as it turned out my wish came true!

We had just arrived at the hotel I could tell right away that we would have air conditioner and many bathrooms. When we opened the door of our hotel room, I was amazed. What a view! I couldn't wait to sleep on the beds. They were fluffy and comfortable. I didn't wish for anything else. I thought it was already too great. Little did I know there was more to come!

When the tournament just started, I was a kind of nervous. "Were my opponents strong?" was one of the millions of questions I had. After I won my first game, I began to calm down. "That wasn't so hard" I told myself. When the tournament was finished, I had 6.0 out of 11 games. In fact all the girls that represented the US in U10 had 6.0.

The World Youth tournament was a learning experience for me. I came home a stronger chess player. I hope to come back next year and do better. I can't expect too much but work hard. I can't wait until next year!

Notes by Ellen Xiang

QGD Slav Exchange D10

Ellen Xiang

Mukim Madya Anggraini

World Youth 2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5

This is the Exchange Slav.

4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nf3 Bd7 9.0-0 10.a3 Rc8 11.Rc1 Nh5 12.Be5 f6 13.Bg3 Nxc3 14.hxg3 a6 15.Qc2

Forcing my opponent to make another weakness.

15...h6 16.Nh4 f5 17.Ng6 Rf7 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Be2 Qg5 20.Qd1 Na5 21.Bh5 g6 22.Be2 Nc4 23.Bxc4 Rxc4 24.Ne2 Bb5 25.Qd2 Rfc7 26.Nf4 Qf6 27.Rxc4 Rxc4 28.Rc1 g5 29.Rxc4 Bxc4 30.Nd3 Qd8

Now we have an example of a good knight vs. a bad bishop.

31.Ne5 Qc7?!

I think my opponent should have played Qb6.

32.Qc3 Qd6 33.Nxc4 dxc4 34.Qxc4

Now I am up a pawn in a queen endgame.

34...Qd7 35.Qc5 Qc6 36.b4?!

Instead of b4 I should have played Qxc6.

36...Kf7 37.Kf1?!

Here I give away some of my advantage. Better was Qxc6.

37...Ke8?! 38.Qxc6+ bxc6 39.Ke2 Kd7 40.Kd3 Kd6 41.Kc4 h5 42.a4 h4 43.gxh4 gxh4 44.a5 e5 45.dxe5+

The pawn race is won.

45...Kxe5 46.Kc5 Ke4 47.Kb6! Kd3 48.Kxa6 Ke2 49.Kb6 Kxf2 50.a6 Kxg2 51.a7 h3 52.a8Q 1-0

The World Youth Tournament

By Evan Xiang

The World Youth Tournament was a great experience for me. It was exciting and fun, because I learnt a lot from the coaches and the players during the tournament.

It was fun to play with the people around the world, plus I got a souvenir from one of my opponents. My best game from the tournament is my last. I used the opening my coach taught me just before the game. It was funny that whenever my coach shows me an opening, the next game my opponent will play that opening.

It is an honor to represent the United States of America in the World Youth. I want to go again to have more experience.

Notes by Evan Xiang

Sicilian Dragon B76

Evan Xiang

Ketevan Abramishvili

World Youth 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0

This is the Dragon variation of the Sicilian defense

8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0

Yugoslav Attack: I learned this opening the day before this game.

9...Bd7 10.h4

I should have played 10.g4

10...h5 11.Be2

Usually you don't move your light square bishop

11...Rc8 12.Kb1 Ne5 13.Rhg1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Qe2 Rc8 16.g4 Qa5 17.Nb3 Qc7 18.gxh5 Nxh5 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.Bxa7 Be6 21.Bb6 Qd7 22.Be3 Bxd5

Rook takes is a little better.

23.exd5 Ra8 24.Bd4 Bh6 25.Qe4 Rfc8 [25...Bg7] 26.Rg2

26.Rxg6+!! fxg6 27.Qxg6+ Bg7 28.Qxh5+- SKA

26...Qa4 27.a3 Rc4 28.Rdg1 [28.Rxg6+] 28...Bg7 29.Rd1 [29.Rxg6] 29...b5 30.Qe3 b4 31.Bxg7 Kxg7 32.Qxe7 bxa3?!

32...Nf4! 33.Rh2 bxa3 34.Qxd6.

```

X A B C D E F G H Y
8 r + - + - + - + (
7 + - + - Q p k - '
6 - + - p - + p + &
5 + - + P + - + n %
4 q + r + - + - P $
3 p N + - + P + - #
2 - P P + - + R + "
1 + K + R + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y

```

33.Rxg6+!!

This is the killer move

33...Kxg6 34.Rg1+ Kh6 35.Qg5+ Kh7 36.Qxh5# 1-0

Region VIII (cont'd from p. 25)

The reason for this move is to trade this bishop and create some holes in the black king's castle, such as the h6 square, which White could later use for entry for her queen

15...a4 16.Bd5 Bxd5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nxd5 e6 19.g4!

Excellent move! Charlina doesn't waste time moving her knight, she wants to open more lines.

19...exd5 20.gxh5±

White's strong initiative gives her a clear advantage

20...Qf6 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Qh6+ Kf7

The only move.

23.Qxh7+ Ke8

23...Qg7 24.Rxd5 (24.Qh3 a3!) 24...Qxh7 25.Rxh7+ Ke6 26.Rh6 Rxf3 27.Rxg6+ Kf7 28.Rgxd6 with an easily winning ending for white because of the two extra pawns.

24.Qb7 Rd8 25.exd5

25.Qxb5+ Ke7 26.exd5+-

25...Rf7 26.Rde1+ Kf8 27.Qb6!+-

Fritz suggests the same move; White now has a decisive advantage.

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + - r k - + (
 7+ + - + r + - '
 6- Q- p - q p + &
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 4p + - + - + - + \$
 3+ - + - + P + - #
 2P P P + - + - + "
 1+ - K - R - + R!
 x a b c d e f g h y

27...Re8

27...Kg8 28.Re6 Qg5+ 29.Kb1 ??.

28.Rh8+!! Kg7

28...Qxh8 29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30. Qb8+ Ke7 31.Qxh8??.

29.Rxe8 Qf4+ 30.Kb1 Qxf3 31. Qd4+ 1-0

Notes by IM Daniel Hernandez

Sicilian B32

Ian Santos 1428

Daniel Olivares 1103

Region VIII 2007 (7)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nxd4?!

This move allows White's queen to move to d4, where it cannot be moved away without harming Black's position

5.Qxd4 d6 6.Nc3

Another possibility is 6.c4 Nf6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Bg5 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10. Qe3 arriving at a typical Maroczy Bind position that Ian and I have studied for many hours.

6...e5

This move weakens d5 and makes the d6 pawn backward.

7.Qd1

7.Qa4+ Bd7 8.Bb5 Nf6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Qxd7+ Kxd7 13.Nd5 Rhc8 14.c3

where White has a better endgame due to his uncontested knight on d5

7...Nf6 8.Bg5!

Trading off a key defender of the d5 square, paving the way for White's knight to go to d5

8...Be6 9.Bb5+!

Ian has clearly understood the positional characteristics and wants to trade Black's good bishop (the one on e6) while also forcing him to waste time after having moved his bishop to e6 and now back to d7.

9...Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nd5

Excellent understanding. White has a decisive strategic advantage because of his strong knight versus Black's weak bishop (most of his pawns are on the same color as the bishop); also, White has the healthier pawn structure because of Black's doubled f-pawn.

12...Be7 13.Qf3!

White locates Black's weaknesses (the f5 square and the weak f6 pawn and aims to attack both of them with one move

13...0-0-0 14.Qf5

As usual Ian is up to some tricks. 14.0-0-0 Kb8 15.Rd3 Rc8 16.Rhd1 and White is flexible as he can operate on either kingside or queenside. It is important to notice that White does not immediately take the pawn on f6 because he wants to maintain the pressure as long as possible to keep Black uncomfortable.

14...Qxf5?

Better is 14...Kb8 15.g4 ?

15.Nxe7+!

White wins a piece and has an easy endgame. [...] **1-0**

Solution (back cover problem): 1.Rb3 (1...Kxc4 2.Be2#; 1...Kxa6 2.b5#; 1...Ka4 2.Bc6#).

Polgar Nationals held in Corpus Christi

The Susan Polgar National Open Championship for Girls and National Chess Challenge for Boys were held Feb. 16-17 at the Susan Polgar Chess Center in Corpus Christi. A total of 262 players competed.

In the Girls' K-2nd, Hannah Liu was clear first with 5.5 out of 6. Brianna Guillen and Astrid Jeppesen placed 2nd-3rd with 5.0 each. Egly Elementary had the winning team.

In Girls' 3rd-5th, four tied with 5-1: Victoria Zhang, Sarah Sampei, Georgia Olvera, and Alice Dong. The top team was Central Catholic.

In Girls' 6th-9th, Charlina Hung was first with 6-0. Sayaka Foley was second with 5. Faulk Middle School topped STCC on team tiebraks.

In the Girls' Open, Stephanie Guajardo and Ananya Roy tied with 5-1 each. Tiffany Leong and Victoria Bailey tied for 2rd-4th with 4.5.

The Boys' K-2nd ended in a tie with Edgar Santoyo, Tommy Polgar-Schutzman and Kevin Durkin at 5-1. Paredes had the winning team.

Derek Chang won Boys' 3rd-5th with 6-0. Sebastian Alaniz, Chase Ehig and Joshua Flores placed 2nd-4th with 5.0. Canales was top team.

In 6th-9th, Matthew Michaelides won first with 6, ahead of Luke Zhu with 5. T.H. Rogers was top team.

In the Boys' Open (open to adults) there was a three-way tie, with Jesse Lozano, Vicente Flores and Lou Thurston each scoring 5-1. Paredes Elementary was top team.

In the Girls' Blitz, Melinda Shokler of Dallas took first with 6-0. Paul Truong and Matthew Michaelides won the Boys' Blitz with 5.5.

Complete results are linked at Susan Polgar's Chess Blog; or go to www.bisd.us/daas/chess/2k7/feb/16/results.htm

The Myth of Chess and Intelligence

Chess Dad 101 by Robert Rausch

“Put on your jacket!” Mom demanded, “or you’ll catch a cold.” Like most 1970s mothers, Mom held fast to the conventional wisdom that colds were caused by the weather. Truth be known, she probably still doesn’t entirely accept the scientific view that a virus is the more likely culprit. Mom isn’t unlike a number of Americans exposed to myths, “old wives tales”, and urban legends. A long-held belief in popular, unproven conjecture is often more powerful than acquiescence to dry, grueling statistical analysis or an in-depth study using the scientific method.

I was reminded of that a couple of weeks ago when several invitations advertising a “Chess in Education Workshop” came across my email. The literature focused on teaching chess in order to improve cognitive ability – particularly for gifted and talented kids. Like many of you, I have always assumed that playing chess simply “makes you smarter”. Duh – analytical challenges, foresight, stepwise problem-solving: yeah, of course it makes you smarter. Several years ago, I was forced to validate this perception, after approaching our school district officials about adding chess to the curriculum. “Sure!” I bragged. “There are gobs of literature out there that shows playing chess will improve test scores.”

Well, I was partially right: there were certainly gobs of literature relating to chess and intelligence. Surprisingly, though, the pickings were pretty slim when it came to hard science demonstrating what impact chess may or may not have on intelligence. Oh sure, there are all manner of opinions and personal testimonials and rah-rah studies as to the academic benefits of chess. However, not much objective, scientific work exists to suggest that chess actually increases ones intelligence – much less improves test scores. An oft-cited study conducted by the TCA’s own Jim Liptrap in 1994 illustrates the problem. Liptrap gathered three years worth of statistical data comparing TAAS reading and math scores for chess players and non-chess players in the Klein Independent School District (Spring, Texas). The results clearly demonstrate that the chess playing group out-performed the non-chess players in both reading and math. Game over. Checkmate, right?

Not so fast.

Liptrap’s study does not resolve a fundamental question in education research – one known as the “self-selection problem”. That is, did playing chess make the kids smart, or do smart kids simply choose to play chess? The answer is critical to promoting chess in the school curriculum – giving smart kids something to do is fine; but teaching them a game that increases their intelligence? Well, THAT’S the Holy Grail. And like the Grail, the quest for scientific evidence linking chess and intelligence is proving to be just as elusive. Research knights are often plagued by a small volume of data, dubious assumptions, a limited knowledge of statistical concepts and a blinder-guided love of chess. Even Liptrap, who apparently knows a thing or two about statistics, concludes that more chess programs are needed – ignoring the possibility that chess is likely only one of many factors driving the higher test scores. Liptrap’s study begs a number of other interesting questions. For example, if indeed playing chess does improve a child’s TAAS scores, is there a correlation between how much chess a child plays and their TAAS score? Do strong players have higher scores than average players or novices? What impact, if any, does the amount of time spent practicing chess have on test scores?

Most researchers stop short of explicitly declaring that playing chess increases intelligence (as measured by a variety of standardized tests). The implication however, hangs over many published studies like a free piece in the opening: chess players have higher test scores, therefore... The United States Chess Federation references many articles on its website under the heading of “Chess Research”. One such paper by Dr. Stuart Margulies titled “The Effect of Chess on Reading Scores: District Nine Chess Program Second Year Report” definitively concludes that reading score improvement for players receiving computer-enhanced chess instruction outperformed that of the average student in both the district and the nation. Like Liptrap, Margulies clearly understands the statistical concepts needed to analyze the data. However, the skeptical observer will immediately note that the computer-enhanced chess group achieving this level of success consisted of only twenty-two students – compared to over 1,100 non-players in the study. The small number of players leads one to question the validity of the Margulies conclusions and wonder why a follow-up analysis with a larger number of players was not conducted (or published) in the ensuing fifteen years.

While researchers like Liptrap and Margulies attempt to apply a scientific approach (although their conclusions

are debatable), others are simply over-the-top. Another USCF-referenced piece unabashedly titled “Chess Improves Academic Performance” cites a number of “studies” supporting their premise. One concludes that “55% of students showed significant improvement in academic performance” after only twenty days of chess instruction (It’s a miracle!) and “suspension and outside altercations have decreased by at least 60%” (Hmmm, that’s a new one...). The piece includes quotes by a number of Principals similar to: “This is wonderful! This is marvelous! This is stupendous! It’s the finest thing that ever happened to this school.” Rah-rah!

Don’t get me wrong. As a lifelong player, coach and promoter of the game, I would love to find definitive proof of a cause-and-effect relationship between chess and increased intelligence. Such evidence would be a boon for our game and result in a multitude of new players. I’m concerned though, that in our haste to market chess we sometimes let our passion and emotion get the better of us. As promoters of the game in our communities, I believe that we are best served by selling chess for

what it is: a fascinating, intellectually stimulating, and pleasant diversion. When we start speculating as to the relationship between chess and intelligence, however, we may want to put on our jackets. After all, we don’t want to catch a cold. □

Advance TCA Motions for the Spring business meeting

1. Luis Salinas: No Student can play for a school the student does not attend. This is a bylaws change that would affect Article IX, Section 1.E. *[Editor’s note: the portion struck through would be deleted from the Bylaws, and the part in bold would be added.]*

The Middle School section will include fifth through ninth grade. Fifth and sixth graders in a middle school are not allowed to play down into the Elementary section. Ninth graders will be allowed to play up into the High School section. ~~and play for the school they would be attending upon entering the tenth grade.~~ **No player may play for a school that the player does not attend.**

Texas Action Championship

April 29

5 Rounds

Game/30, full K

Texas Neurosciences Institute (TNI), 1st floor conference room
4410 Medical Drive (1 mile north of N Loop 410), San Antonio

Exit north on Fredericksburg Road, turn left on Medical Drive. Free parking. 210-575-6719

Prizes: \$750 (based on 40 players, 2/3 gtd.): **\$250 1st, \$125 2nd**

U2100 \$100, U1900 \$75, U1700 \$75, U1500 \$75, U1300 \$50, Unr. \$50
Unrateds eligible only for top or unrated prizes

Entry fee: \$25 if rec'd by 4/26, \$30 at site. TCA membership required.

Junior U19 or Sr. 65+ entry \$15 by 4/26, \$20 site, counts 2/3 toward “based on”.

Reg.: 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Half point bye** available any one round, notice before Rd. 2

Rounds begin noon with 15 min. breaks, approx. 12 – 1:15 – 2:30 – 3:45 – 5

Entries: San Antonio Chess Club, P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023-0501

Information: 210-695-2324; <http://home.satx.rr.com/sachess/> NS. NC. W.

Hotels nearby at IH-10 and Wurzbach: Motel 6 (210)-593-0013; Holiday Inn (210) 561-9300.

Texas Chess Association
P.O. Box 501
Helotes, TX 78023-0501

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U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 445

See inside front cover for TCA membership information.

Neupauer Kamill
StrageGems, 2001

W _____ W
[wd wd wd wd]
[Owd wd wd w]
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[d w\$ wd Bd w]
[Pd wd wd wd]
[d wd wd wd w]
W- - - - - W

White to move, mate in two
Solution: p. 33

