

TEXAS KNIGHTS

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Warren Harper wins Denker Tournament of High School Champions

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www.texaschess.org

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Texas Chess Association is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting chess in Texas.

Membership Dues (annual): Regular \$10, Junior (18 and under) or Student: \$7.50. Foreign: Canada and Mexico

\$12.50, others \$17.50. Patron: \$25 (receives 1st class mailing and Hall of Honor listing). Family: \$15. Non-

subscribing: \$5. Club: \$25 (includes one free ¼ page ad a year). Scholastic Club: \$10. Foreign Club: \$40.

Send to **TCA Treasurer, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719**. Give name, address, city, state and zip code; also phone and e-mail (optional). Contributions beyond membership fees are tax deductible.

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

Send submissions by e-mail to schachlied@yahoo.com, or mail to P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023 (include phone).

Deadline next issue: Oct. 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.

A Message from the President

The last two months have brought some exciting news to Texas. Warren Harper, the Texas High School Champion, is now the Arnold Denker Tournament champion, after winning the tournament with a rare clear first place.

Warren, whose rating in 2004 was 1479, is 2294 and will probably be over 2300 when you read this. Joe Bradford, who has already had two draws with Warren, opines that Warren has the talent to be a senior master by the time he graduates from high school. Those of you grown ups who got to beat Warren when he was coming up the ladder better frame those scoresheets, because they are going to become rarer and rarer.

Meanwhile, I've asked the Board of Directors to take on an ambitious project for the future: to have the 2010 World Youth Championship held in Texas. This event has recently been held in Crete, France, and the Democratic Republic of Georgia; this year, it will be held in Turkey. To my knowledge, it has never been held in the United States. We've received the support of Susan Polgar, newly elected to the USCF Board of Directors, and later this year, I'll be traveling to Antalya, Turkey, to learn more about the logistics of the event itself and to make personal connections with FIDE officials who have input into the final awarding of the bid. I'll be making a fuller report on this project at the business meeting at the Southwest Open.

By now, you may have visited the new TCA web page. We've also moved the Texas Chess forums to a Texas Chess group, in Google groups. I'm a bit miffed that the groups haven't seen more use. This is a good location to find files relevant to TCA governance, and I hope it will eventually grow into the primary site for discussion of all issues concerning Texas Chess. All you need to join the groups is a Google user ID. Check out the group at <http://groups.google.com/group/texaschess>. I'll buy a free regular membership for the member who starts the best thread in September-October!

And that's it for now. Hope to see you at the business meeting or at a chess tournament near you soon.

Michael M. Simpson
TCA President

TCA Treasurer's Report

Aug. 20, 2007

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

Income

SW Open fee and memberships – Sept. 2006	\$ 426.50
Texas Grade Tournament – Nov. 2006	705.00
Paypal acct. memberships 7/06-1/07 less fees	199.70
Paypal acct. memberships 1/07-607 less fees	64.58
September memberships	404.00
October memberships	303.00
November memberships	142.50
December memberships	120.00
January memberships (incl. Texas Masters)	205.00
February memberships	112.50
March memb. (some monies in state checking a/c)	461.00
April memberships	207.50
May memberships (incl. Teams, State/Amateur)	957.50
June memberships	215.00
July memberships	380.00
August memberships (so far)	10.00
Region 2 2007 scholastic tournament – 1/07	179.00
Region 5 2007 scholastic tournament – 2/07	231.00
Region 6 2007 scholastic tournament – 2/07	305.00
Region 7 2007 scholastic tournament – 2/07	155.00
Chess In Education Workshop - March 2007	415.00
2007 Texas Scholastic – March 2007	85,129.13
Contribution from Julie Blasingame	15.00
Contribution from Robert Nunnally for Texas Polgar Invitational	200.00
Contribution from Dale Coleman for 2007 Denker Tournament of HS Champs	500.00
Texas Knights back issue request	81.00
Total	\$ 92,123.91

Expenses

Texas Knights Sept-Oct issue	\$ 900.00
Texas Knights Nov-Dec issue	1194.98
Texas Knights Jan-Feb issue	1075.89
Texas Knights March-April issue	1215.06
Texas Knights May-June issue	913.15
Texas Knights July-Aug issue	1,007.66
Mailing charge - Nelda Rogers	24.49
James Widener - Webmaster - Sept 2006	800.00
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

(Continued on page 7)

Warren Harper wins Denker Tournament of High School Champions

Warren Harper of Houston won the 23rd Annual Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, held July 29-Aug. 3 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He won a full four-year scholarship to Texas Tech University in Lubbock; however, with a year of high school left he is still deciding on college.

National Tournament Director Francisco L. Guadalupe posted this comment to the US Chess Online report:

Warren played his first rated game three years ago, in June 2004, at the late age of 13. Exactly a year later, he became a rated Expert. Now he is a 2300, US Cadet Co-Champion and Denker Champion! We met Warren and his family two years ago when we moved to Houston. Not only is he an incredible chess player, he is a great student and a very nice and polite young man who comes from a very nice family. My son and Warren quickly became friends, although at tournaments they have been competitors who have played each other over 20 times! (By my last count, Warren held a 12-10 advantage) Their last encounter at the Texas Scholastics Championship, won by Warren, decided our representative to the Denker. While we were disappointed that Francisco finished half a point behind, we were very happy for Warren and told him that he was going to bring the title back to Houston and...he did!

I suspect that Warren will be a 2400 within a year. I also think the IM title will follow within a year after that, if not sooner. I know Tom, Carol and the rest of the family are very proud of him, and so are we!

Notes by NM Warren Harper

French Defense C18

Ethan Peake 1894

Warren Harper 2294

Denker THSC (1)

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.Nxd4 Nc6 10.Ngf3 Nh6 11. Bd3 0-0?

Missing the simple 11... Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxe5 ??;

12.Nxc6! Bxc6 13.Ng5 g6 14.h4 f6!?

Of course Fritz condemns this move, but moves like Kg7 and Rh8 did not appeal to me; this way at least Black obtains an initiative which is not immediately obvious to stop.

15.Nxe6 Qe7 16.Nxf8 fxe5?! 17. Bb2?

17.b5!, followed by Be2, would have made life very difficult for Black.

17...Rxf8 18.Qd2 Ng4!

Now White cannot run to either side of the board; White is in a practical sense lost.

19.Be2 exf4 20.b5 f3 21.bxc6 Bg3+ 22.Kd1 Nf2+ 23.Kc1 Bf4 24. Qxf4 Rxf4 25.cxb7 Qxb7 26.Bxf3 Nxh1 0-1

King's Indian E62

Warren Harper 2294

James Canty III 2081

Denker THSC (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nfd7?!?

A highly unusual move; but after the game, my opponent said that he was equally surprised; he had never seen White fianchetto against the King's Indian Defense ever!

7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e4 e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.b4 h6 11.Ne1 f5 12.f3 f4 13.Nd3

g5 14.Bh3 Nf6 15. Bxc8 Qxc8 16.g4 h5 17.h3 hxg4 18. hxg4 Kf7 19.a4 c6?

Not necessarily a bad move, but after all of his preparation to attack me on the kingside, quite perplexing.

20.dxc6 Nxc6 21.Nb5 Qe6 22.c5 d5 23.Nd6+ Kg6?

And after all of his play in the center, Black still wants to attack me on the kingside! After the simple Kg8, although the position is quite complex, Black would more than likely have slightly better chances. Now white shows the weakness of Black's king:

24.exd5 Nxd5 25.Nf2 Nd4?

Black should have considered e4 or Ne3; now his position proves quite difficult.

26.Rb1!

The exclamation is not for the strength of the move (26.Re1 was possibly even stronger) but for the psychological effect. My opponent sat for nearly 45 minutes (he had only used about 30 minutes for the whole game at this point!). After the game he said he couldn't believe such a quiet move was so strong!

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + - r - + (
7p p + - + - t - '
6- + - Nq + k + &
5+ - Pnp - p - %
4PP - n - pP + \$
3+ - + - + P + - #
2- + - + - N- + "
1+ R t Q+ R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
26...Ne3 27.Qd3+ e4 28.Nfxe4
Nxf3+ 29.Rxf3 Qxg4+ 30.Rg3 fxg3
31.Bxe3 Kh5 32.Qd5 g2 33.Qxg5+
Qxg5 34.Bxg5 Rg8 35.Kxg2 Rxf8

36.Rh1+ Kg6 37.Be3 Be5 38.Rh6+ Kg7 39.Re6 Bxd6 40.Rxd6

White went on to win in time pressure. 1-0

KI Attack A08

Adithya Balasubramarian 2184
Warren Harper 2294

Denker THSC (3)

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.e5 Nd7 9.Re1 Qc7 10.Qe2 b5 11.Nf1 a5 12.h4 Ba6 13.Bf4 b4 14.N1h2 Rfc8 15.Ng4 Qb7

Apparently a novelty to my opponent; he had only seen a4 before. After the game we had a curious discovery: we both had just about opposite records with this opening! He had lost only one game in the past two years, beating two IMs on the way, while I have never lost from this position, scoring about five or six wins against experts. He said he was very confident he would beat me from here, but I have never thought of White's attack as exactly bone-chilling, and in fact it turns out to be an illusion the entire game.

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

16.Ng5 Nf8 17.h5 c4 18.Ne3 cxd3 19.cxd3 Nd4 20.Qd1 b3 21.axb3 Qxb3 22.Qg4 Bxd3 23.Rad1 Rc5 24.Kh2 Nc2 25.Nxc2 Bxc2 26.Rd2 h6 27.Ne4 Bxe4 28.Bxe4 Kh8???

Now it is just a matter of technique.

29.Bb1 Rc4 30.Bd3 Rd4 31.Qe2 Bb4 32.Bc2 Rxd2 33.Bxb3 Rxe2 34.Rxe2 Nd7 35.Bc2 Rd8 36.Bd2 Bxd2 0-1

QGD Slav D12

Warren Harper 2294
Tony Cao 2192

Denker THSC (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg4?!

1

11

21

31

35

6...Bg6 is the normal move.

7.Qb3 Qb6 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bg2 Nbd7 12.0-0 dxc4?

A fatal mistake, quite similar to what Kramnik did against Topalov in their match. Now White has little to worry about.

13.Qxc4 Bd6 14.f4 c5?!

Black is enticed to try breaking up White's center as soon as possible, but Rd8 or 0-0-0 would have

been more prudent.

15.d5 e5 16.f5 gxf5 17. Rxf5 g6 18.Rf2 a6 19.a4 Qa5?

Black feels like he has to justify his a6 move, but this simply wastes a vital tempi. It may not be immediately obvious, but every single one of Black's pawns after b5 prove to be a weakness! I have not had many games where I am up 6 pawns, but here he proved to be quite helpless.

20.Bd2! b5?

Black could have avoided losing immediately with 20...Qd8 21.Raf1 Rf8.

21.Qf1! b4 22.Rxf6 bxc3 23.Bxc3 Qc7 24.Rxf7 e4 25.Rg7 Rf8 26.Qe2 e4

Desperation.

27.Rxg6 0-0-0 28.Rc1 Kb8 29.Bd4 Rc8 30.Bxe4 Nc5 31.Rxc4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- k r + - r - + (

7+ - q - + - + - '

6p + - z - + R + &

5+ - n P + - + - %

4P + R z L + P + \$

3+ - + - + - + P #

2- P - Q - + - + "

1+ - + - + - K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

31...Nxe4 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxd6!

Eliminating any possible counterplay.

33...Nxd6 34.Be5 Rd8 35. Qxa6 Rcd7 36.e4 Kc7 37.Bh2 Kb8 38.e5 Ra7 39.Qb6+ Nb7 40.e6+ Ka8 41.e7 Rc8 42.Qc6

I was shocked that after the game my opponent stated that after 32...Bxc7 instead of ...Rxc7 he would have had counterplay! My opponent was visibly upset, so I told him he should probably look earlier for improvements. I listened while he described imaginary variations where he plays ...Bh2+ and ...Rc2+

and somehow obtains perpetual check. I noted that being up 5, possibly 6 pawns, I could even play d6 or sacrifice somehow. He finally seemed to stubbornly agree with me. I could tell from talking with him that he was quite prejudiced in the line with Black; I could also tell from the way he slammed his pieces half the game. Any case, I still had to calculate a lot to make sure he wouldn't be able to swindle me. At this point I felt very good about my chances in the tournament: I led the field by a half-point with two rounds to go. **1-0**

Nimzo-Indian E25

Tyler Hughes 2203

Warren Harper 2294

Denker THSC (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 e5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 f5 9.Nh3 0-0?!

A novelty introduced to me by a book, but after the game I might prefer the simpler Qa5, with approximate equality.

10.c4 Qh4+ 11.Nf2 Nc7 12.e3 Nc6 13.Be2 Na6 14.0-0 Nxc5 15.Bb2 Rd8 16.Qc2 e5 17.Nd3 Qh6!

My opponent had only seen Nxd3 Bxd3, when White has a slight edge. Now it is the other way around.

18.f4 Nxd3 19.Bxd3 e4 20.Be2 Be6 21.Rad1

After the game, we were both fascinated: Both of us thought the other had the better game! After the game and looking at it more though, we both favored White. However, when I came home and gave it to Fritz, it actually gives black a slight edge.

21...Qh4 22.g4 fxg4 23.Qxe4 Re8 24.Qg2 Bf5 25.Bd3 Bxd3 26.Qd5+ Kh8 27.Qf7 Rg8 28.Rxd3 Rad8 29.Rd7 Rxd7 30.Qxd7

Throughout the game, I was constantly (but incorrectly) thinking that he was better, so here I went for a complicated move that provokes him to go for the draw (my opponent had about ten minutes compared to my hour). Instead, 30...g3! would have set White more problems, e.g. 31.h3 Qh5! 32.Qg4 Qxg4 33.hxg4 Rd8 34.f5 Na5.

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - + r k (

7p p + Q + - p p '

6- + n + - + - + &

5+ - + - + - + - %

4- + P + - P p q \$

3P - + - P - + - #

2- z - + - + - P "

1+ - + - + R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

30...Na5

Still, the strength of this move fascinated us both! During the game we both thought White was better at this point, but here both of us suddenly changed our opinions. Despite White's menacing bishop pointed at my kingside, Black just moves his knight to the edge of the board to force a draw! Quite unusual indeed! Even though I drew, this was probably one of my favorite games of the tournament.

31.Bxg7+ Rxg7 32.Qe8+ Rg8 33. Qe5+ Rg7

Luckily for me, Jeffrey Haskel drew Maxx Coleman, so I retained my half-point lead going into the last round. I could have drawn and at least obtain the title of co-champ, but I wasn't even sure if I would win on tiebreaks. I found it ironic that the same person I defeated for the Cadet title was the same person I would play for the Denker!

Draw

Benoni A43
Warren Harper 2294
Jeffrey Haskel

Denker THSC (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3

After the game he told me he had prepared a bunch of lines in 2.c4 e5, so at least he was thrown off a bit.

2...c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5

Why not play a line that Susan Polgar introduced in *Chess Life* for the Denker championship! (The Polgar was literally taking place side by side).

4...Qa5+?!

I am not even sure if Polgar mentioned this move, but it does not appear to be very good.

5.c3 Bb7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.e4 d6 8.a4 Ba6?! 9.Nbd2 b4 10.Nb3 Qb6 11.a5 Qb7 12.Bxa6

Strangely enough, Nbd2 was even stronger, heading for c4.

12...Nxa6 13.0-0 e6 14.Nc1 0-0-0 15.Ne2 Bh6 16.Ng3 Rhg8 17.Nh5 Bg7 18.Qd3 Nc7 19.a6!

The brave pawn marches forward to certain death, but it proves to be a worthy sacrifice.

19...Qb6 20.Ra4?!

The simple Nd2! was nearly devastating, e.g. 20...Kb8 21.Nc4 Qb5 22.Ra5 Qd7 23.cxb4 ~~???~~
20...f5 21.exf5 Nxd5 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.Ng5

A picturesque position: white has no real space, none too active rooks, and no serious threats, but the invading cavalry proves to be worthy of bringing black's entire army to its knees!

23...Be5 24.Nxe6 Qc6 25.Qf3 Rde8 26.Nef4 Qxa4 27.Nxd5 Qxa6 28.Nhf6

Here my happy opponent sank into thought again, suddenly realizing the dangers of his position. It is against a chessplayer's intuition to rid himself of his strong bishop, but here it was the only defense: 28...Bxf6! 29.Nxf6 Qb7 30.Qh3+ Kb8 31.cxb4 cxb4 32. Nxe8 Rxe8, when white has only a minimal advantage.

28...Qb7

28... Bxf6 29.Nxf6 Qb7 30.Qh3+ Kb8 31.cxb4 cxb4 32.Nxe8 Rxe8 33. Qd3??

29.Nxg8 Rxg8 30.cxb4 cxb4

Moving? Please send you new address to Barb Swafford, roundsie1@dot11net.net

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8- + k + - + r + (
 7 p q + - + - + p '
 6- + - p - + - + &
 5+ - + N z - + - %
 4- p - + - + - + \$
 3+ - + - + Q + - #
 2- P - + - P P P "
 1+ - + - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
31.Rc1+?!

As Mr. Guadalupe pointed out to me after the game, 31.Ne7+ won the Exchange. But after all the knight's hard work, it only seemed fair to let the it dominate on its perch.

31...Kb8 32.Rc7 Qa6 33.g3 Rc8 34.Rxc8+ Qxc8 35. b3 a5 36.Ne7 Qc1+ 37.Kg2 Qc5 38.Qd3 Qc7 39. Qb5+ Qb7+ 40.Nc6+ Kc7 41. Qxb7+ Kxb7 42.Nxa5+ Kc7 43.Nc4 Bc3 44.Kf3 d5 45.Ne3 Kc6 46.Ke2 Kc5 47.Kd3 Bf6 48.f4 Kd6 49.g4 Ke6 50.Nc2 Bc3 51.Nd4+ Kf6 52. h4 Kg6 53.h5+ Kf6 54.Ne2 Ke6 55.Nxc3

Fittingly, the last move of the game is made by white's knight. And amazingly, 22 of White's 55 moves were made by knights! **1-0**

TCA Finanncial (continued from page 3)

Sylvia Yang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Evan Xiang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Ellen Xiang - 2006 World Youth attendee	599.00
Texas HS champion entry to Texas State/Am.	55.00
Courtney Jamison - 2007 Polgar attendee	1,000.00
Courtney Jamison - 2007 World Youth attendee	600.00
Jonathan Chiang - 2007 World Youth attendee	300.00
Sylvia Chiang - 2007 World Youth attendee	300.00
Darwin Yang - 2007 World Youth attendee	600.00
Texas Masters Tournament - 1/07	1,000.00
Event Insurance for 2007 March 2007	939.00

2007 Texas Scholastic Toumament, 3/07	68,044.83
Presidential Trip Expenses to World Youth	2,000.00
Chess In Education Workshop - 3/07	500.00
Texas Polgar Invitational prize fund from Robert Nunnally	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$ 86,348.06
Aug. 20, 2007	
WF checking account balance	\$1,088.23
BOA checking account balance	\$18,498.23
Savings account balance	\$5,913.85
Certificate of deposit (8 mo. @ 5%)	\$25,000.00

Respectfully submitted,
 Barbara Swafford

Seven tie at U.S. Open

. . . Shabalov cools Simutowe streak

There was a seven-way tie in the U.S. Open (Cherry Hill, NJ July 28-August 5). Boris Gulko, Alexander Shabalov, Sergey Kudrin, Benjamin Finegold, Michael Rohde, Michael Mulyar and Anton Del Mundo all scored 7.5/9, good for \$2,263. Gulko won the title on tiebreak.

Texas chess fans were wowed as IM Amon Simutowe, recent UTD grad and 2005 Texas champ, briefly led the tournament (along with Finegold) with a perfect score after defeating GM Nakamura in Rd. 6:

Dutch Defense A89

Amon Simutowe 2455

Hikaru Nakamura 2749

U.S. Open 2007 (6)

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 d6 4.g3 g6
5.Bg2 Bg7 6.O-O O-O 7.Nc3 Nc6
8.d5 Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.e4 f4 11.
gxf4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Nxe4 13.Qc1 e5
14.Be3 Nd6 15.Bg5 Qe8 16.Nb5
Rf7 17.Nxd6 cxd6 18.c5 dxc5 19.
Qxc5 b6 20.Qc4 Bb7 21.Bh3 Kh8
22.Be6 Rf5 23.Qh4 Qb5 24.a4
Qxb2 25.Rac1 Qb3?? [25...Qd4]
26.Rc7?@Bxd5

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

27.Rxg7! Rxg5+

On 27...Kxg7 White has two equally effective wins: 28.Bh6+ Kh8 29.Qe7, or 28.Qh6+ Kh8 29.Bxf5.

28.Qxg5 Bxe6 29. Qf6 1-0

After the leaders drew, Simutowe lost to US Champion Alex Shabalov and missed the winners' circle with a draw to Tegshsuren Enkhbat.

Final Standings

1st-7th: Boris Gulko, Sergey Kudrin, Benjamin Finegold, Alexander Shabalov, Michael Rohde, Michael Mulyar and Anton Del Mundo.

8th-18th: Hikaru Nakamura, Amon Simutowe, Alex Lenderman, Mikhail Zlotnikov, Dean Ippolito, Alexander Barnett, Ronald Henry, Abby Marshall (U2200), Andy May (U2200), Naor Brown (U2000 winner) and Tegshsuren Enkhbat.

QP Zukertort D05

Ralph Zimmer 2243

Amon Simutowe 2455

U.S. Open 2007 (5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3
Nc6 5.O-O d5 6.b3 Qc7 7.Bb2 cxd4
8.exd4 Be7 9.a3 O-O 10.Nbd2 b6
11.Re1 Bb7 12.Qe2 Nd7 13.Rac1
Rac8 14.c4 dxc4 15.bxc4 Nd8 16.
Bb1 g6 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Bf6
19.h4 Bg7 20.Qe2 Nf6 21.d5 Nh5
22.g3?

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

**22...Nxg3! 23.Qd2 Bxb2 24.Qxb2
Nh5 25.Ne5 f6 26.Ng4 e5 27.Ba2
Qd7 28.Re4 Nb7 29.e5 Nxc5 30.
d6+ Kh8 31.Nxe5 fxe5 32.Rxe5**

**Qg7 33.Qe2 Nf4 34.Qe3 Qf6 35.
Rd1 Nh3+ 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2
Nxf2 38.Rd4 Nfd3 39.Re7 Rcd8
40.d7 Rxd7 41.Rexd7 Nxd7 42.Bb1
N3e5 0-1**

Alisa's Poetic Justice

The big side story of the tournament was the "poetic justice" served up by 16-year-old Alisa Melekhina (2205) to FM Braden Bournival. (2387), 19, known for his Internet posts taking a dim view of women's chess ability. (His comment on the US women's championship: "They might as well just flip a coin to decide who is going to win each game, because when women play chess the results are completely random.")

Here it was his turn as Black:

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + - + - + - + (
7+ - + - + - + - '
6- + - + - + - + &
5P - + - + - + - %
4- + - + - k - + \$
3+ P + - + - p p #
2- + - + - + - + "
1+ - + - + - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
69...g2?? (69...Kf3???)?0.Kf2 1-0

Alisa followed this up with a win over Senior Master Thomas Bartell. She finished with 6-3.

It turns out that Bournival had a previous claim to fame, as a former spam king whose Amazing Internet Products hawked male enhancement pills. When America Online won a lawsuit under the CAN-SPAM act of 2003, he had to turn over assets including a Hummer and \$85,000 in gold bars(!) AOL recently had a promotional giveaway of the booty.

Simutowe wins Houston Open

IM Amon Simutowe warmed up for the US Open by winning the Houston Open (July 20-22). The 2005 Texas champ and former UTD student from Zambia held off a credible challenge in the last round from Warren Harper, who had a chance to make it a three-way tie but only came up with a draw.

There were 156 players competing in the cash prize sections, and 77 in the four scholastic sections. Prizes paid were 63.75% of the advertised amount. Juniors counted as one-half and re-entries as one-third.

Francisco L. Guadalupe directed for Cajun Chess.

PRIZE WINNERS

OPEN *1st:* IM Amon Simutowe, 4.5, \$892.50. *2nd:* FM Ali Morshedi, 4, \$510. *3rd-5th+1st-2nd U2200:* Warren Harper, Salvador Infante, Wendell Dematias, Brad Sawyer, Frank Brack, 3.5, \$267.75.

U2000 *1st:* Danny Chen, 4.5, \$510. *2nd-4th* Quaitemes Williams, Jarod Pamatmat, Curtris Fukuchi, 4.0, \$148.75. *5th:* Artur Safin, Ernest Higgins, Jim Polomsky, 3.5, \$10.63.

U1800 *1st:* Patrick Ballard, 4.5, \$510. *2nd-4th:* Antonio Oliva, Joseph LeBlanc, Herbert Baumann, 4, \$148.75. *5th:* Joseph Franklin, 3.5, \$31.88

U1600 *1st:* Moshe Maor, 4.5, \$510. *2nd-5th:* Jesus Sanchez, Danny Purdy, William Fink, Miguel Ceballos, 4, \$119.53.

U1300 *1st-3rd:* Sunay Nanavati, Kevin Christiansen, Sneha Chikkala, 4.0, \$191.25. *4th-5th:* Aaron Gayle, William Riley, Tommy Lu, Eric Liu and Samuel Baker, 3.5, \$19.13.

King's Indian E74

Warren Harper 2289
George Qi 1892

Houston Open (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c5
8.d5 Qa5 9.Nf3 a6 10.0-0 Rb8
11.a4 Qb4 12.Qc2 Qa5 13.Nd2 h6
14.Bh4 e5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Bg3 e5
17.f4 Re8 18.f5 g5 19.Rfd1 Qc7
20.Nf1 Nf8 21.Qd3 Bd7 22.Nd5
Nxd5 23.Qxd5+ Kh7 24.Qf7 Qd8
25.Rxd6 Re7

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- r - q - n - + (
7+ p + l r Q t k '
6p + - R - + - p &
5+ - p - p P p - %
4P + P + P + - + \$
3+ - + - + - t - #
2- P - + L + - + "
1R - + - + N K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
26.Rxh6+! Kxh6 27.Qh5# 1-0

Caro-Kann B13

Brad Sawyer 2137
Salvador Infante 1922

Houston Open (1)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3
Nc6 5.c3 Qc7 6.Ne2 Bg4 7.f3 Bd7
8.Bf4 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bc2 Bd6
11.0-0

11.Qxd5 Bc6 12.Qd2 Nf6
13.Bxe5 Bxe5 14.f4 Bd6 15.0-0-0
16.Nd4 Rfe8?
11...Ne7 12.Nd4 f6 13.Ba4 0-0-0
14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15. Qc2 g5 16.Bg3
h5 17.a4 g4 18.Nd2 h4 19.Bxe5
fxe5 20.Nb5 Bc5+ 21. Nd4 [21.Kh1
Nf5] 21...Nc6?!

21...exd4? 22.cxd4? ξ 21...Qc7!
22.Qd3 gxf3? γ 21...Kb8 22.b4 Bb6
23.a5 Bc7 24.N4b3 gxf3? &

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + k r - + - r (
7p p + q + - + - '
6- + n + - + - + &
5+ - t p p - + - %
4P + - N - + p p \$
3+ - P - + P + - #
2- P O N - + P P "
1R - + - + R K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
22.b4 gxf3 23.N2xf3 Bxd4+?

Better was 23...exd4, keeping the c-file blocked: 24.bxc5 dxc3 25. Qxc3 h3 26.g3 d4 ?

24.cxd4 e4??

White's pressure on the c-file now becomes bone-crushing. Best was 24...Kb8 25.Nxe5 Nxe5 26. dxe5 with an edge to White.

25.Ne5 Qc7 26.Rfcl Rh7 27.Qe2??

The queen should go to f2, d1 or d2. Now Black would wiggle out of losing a piece with 27...Qb6!, when 28.Nxc6 only gives White an edge.

27...Rg8?? 28. b5 1-0

Closed Sicilian B24

Marc Jimenez 2021
Larry Moss 2200

Houston Open (1)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nge2 d6 4.g3
c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.d3 e5 7.Nd5 Nge7
8.Nec3 0-0 9.Be3 Nd4 10.h4 h5
11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.Nd5 Qd8 13.c3
Nc6 14.Bf3 Ne7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.
g4 hxg4 17.Bxg4 f5 18.exf5 gxf5
19.Bg5 Bf6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Be2
Be6 22.Qd2 Rf7 23.0-0-0 Kf8 24.
Kb1 Ke7 25.d4 cxd4 26.cxd4 exd4
27.Qb4 Bd5 28.Rhel Kd7?

Safer is 28...Kf8 29.Rxd4 a5 30. Qc3 Be4+ 31.Bd3 d5 32.Bxe4 dxe4 33. Qc5+?e

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

29.Rxd4
29.Bb5+! Bc6 30.Bxc6+, and a queen check next wins a rook. Or 29...Kc7 30.Qa5+! b6 31.Rc1? ~~29...Kc7 30.Qa5+! b6 31.Rc1?~~
29...Bc6 30.Red1 Kc7 31.Rxd6 Qe5 32.Qd4??
32.Bf3 a5 (32...Bxf3 33.Qc4+) 33.Qb3 Re7 34.Bxc6 bxc6 35.Rxc6+ Kxc6 36.Rc1+ Kd7 37.Qb7+ ??- 32...Qxe2 33.Rxc6+ bxc6 34.Qd6+ Kb6 35.Rc1 Rc8 36.a4 Qe4+ 37. Rc2 Rg7 38.a5+ Kb7 39.b3 Qe1+ 40.Kb2 Rg1 41.Rxc6 Qa1+ 0-1

Sicilian B23

Brad Sawyer 2144
Warren Harper 2289

Houston Open (2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 Ne7 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9.Ne2 0-0 10.Ba4 d5 11.e5 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Bb3 Bd7 14.Kh1 Nc6 15.Bd2 Na5 16.Bb4 Rf7 17.Ng1 Nxb3 18.axb3 a5 19. Bd6 Rc8
19...Qb6 20.Be5 Bxe5 21.fxe5 Rxf1 22.Qxf1 Qc7 23.Qe2 Rc8 24.Rc1 Bb5= 0.21 (Fritz).
20.Nf3

White has all the chances of winning the game, but he did not feel particularly ambitious that morning. **Draw**

QGD D31

Amon Simutowe 2447
Anton Solovyov 2131

Houston Open (2)

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e3 Nd7 5.h3

Simutowe's patent. Note how it discourages a Stonewall: 5...f5 6.g4!

5...Ngf6 6.Qc2 Bd6

Andres Suarez (Tx. State Chp. 2005) played to b4.

7.cxd5 exd5 8.g4 0-0 9.Bg2 Re8 10.Nge2 Nb6 11. b3 Be6 12.a4 a5 13.f3 Qe7

Black should prepare a counter-blow with 13...Rc8, then 14...c5.

14.0-0 Rad8 15.e4 dxe4 16.fxe4 Nfd7 17.Nf4? [17.Be3] 17...Nf8?

Doesn't 17...Bxf4 and 18...Qb4 just win a pawn?

18.Be3 Bxf4 19.Rxf4 Bc8 20.Rf3 Ng6 21.Raf1 Rf8

21...f6 22.Rg3 ?g4-g5 presents White with a ready-made attack.

22.Bf2 Nd7 23.Ne2 Nf6 24.Re3 Rfe8 25.Qc3 Qc7 26.Rc1 Qd7 [26...Nf4!?] 27.Qxa5 Re7 28.e5 Nd5 29.Bxd5 cxd5?

29...Qxd5 30.Qxd5 Rxd5 puts up better resistance.

30.Rec3 Ree8 31.Rc7 Qe6 32.Qd2 f6 33.Nf4 Nxf4 34.Qxf4 fxe5 35.Qg5 Qf6 36.Bh4 1-0

English Opening A37

Ali Morshedi 2324

Amon Simutowe 2447

Houston Open (3)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3

Spassky played this in the 60s, but it is not considered dangerous.

6...e6 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5

This tends to put the bishop pair in jeopardy. A more standard development would be 9.c4 b6 10.b3 Bb7 11.Bb2, or if 9...c5 then 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bc2 Qc7 12.Qe2.

9...Qc7 10.Qd2 b6 11.Rfe1 Bb7 12.Ne5!?

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

12...Nxe5 13.Bxf6 Ng6!

Now 13...gxf6?? when 14.Qh5 f5 15.Rxe5! Qxe5 16.Nh5 has the unanswerable threat of Nf6+..

14.Bg5

14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.Be5 c5 =.

14...Nf4

Black is already better. White tries a direct attack to no avail, and gets hammered in the center.

15.Re4 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 c5 17.Rh4 f5 18.Re1 Rae8 19.Kh1 Qc6 20.f3 c4 21.Qd2 Qc7 22.Ne2 b5 23. Bf4 a6 24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Qg5 e5 26.Qh5 h6 27.c3 Bd5 28.Ng3

28.dxe5 Rxe5 29.Rd4 Rfe8 30. Rd2 Qc5??! Now Black has a nice forced variation to put the game out of reach.

28...Qf6 29.Rh3 Bf7 30.Qxf5 exd4 31.Rxe8 Rxe8 32.Kg1 Qxf5 33. Nxf5 d3 34.Rg3 d2 35.Nxh6+ Kf8 0-1

English Opening A37

Mariano Sana 2284

Warren Harper 2289

Houston Open (3)

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 e5 6.0-0 Nge7 7.a3 a5 8.d3 d6 9.Rb1 0-0 10.Ne1 Be6 11. Nc2 d5 12. cxd5 Nxd5 13.Ne3 Nde7 14.Ne4

14.Bd2 b6 (14...Rb8) 15.b4 cxb4 16.axb4 axb4 17.Ne4 Ba2 18.Rb2 b3

19.Nc3 e4 20.Bxe4 b5 21.Rxb3
Bxb3 22.Qxb3; 14.Nc4 Rb8 15.Bg5
f6 16.Be3 b6 17.f4 Nd5 18.Bd2 f5
19.Kh1 Nxc3 20.Bxc3 Bxc4 21.dxc4
e4?A

14...h6 15.Ng5 Bd7 16.Nc2

16.Bd2 h6 17.Ne4 f5 18.Nc3
Be6 19.b3 Rb8

16...h6 17.Ne4 f5 18.Nc3 Be6

Black's pieces now sweep the
entire board, and White collapses
quickly in his urge to create the
illusion of counterplay.

19.Ne1 Rc8 20.f4

20.Bd2 Nd4 21.b4 cxb4 22.axb4
axb4 23.Rxb4 f4 24.e3 fxe3 25.fxe3
Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 Ndf5=.

20...exf4 21.gxf4 Nd4 22.Nf3

22.b3 Nxb3! 23.Qxb3 Bxb3 24.
Qxb3+ c4! 25.dxc4 Qd4+ ?? - Ed.

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + r Q - r k + (

7+ - + - n - z - '

6- p - + l + p p &

5p - p - + p + - %

4- + - n - P - + \$

3P - NP + N + - #

2- P - + P + L P "

1+ R z Q + R K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

22...Bb3 23.Qe1 Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3

Nc6 25.Bd2 Nd4 26.Bg2 Re8 27.e4

c4! 28.dxc4 fxe4 29.Qg3

Or 29.Bxe4 Bxc4 30.Rf2 Nf5 ??

with ...Bd4 or ...Bd3 to follow - Ed.

29...Bxc4 30.Rfe1 30...e3

Fritz prefers 30...Nf5 31.Qxg6

Qd4+ 32.Kh1 Nh4 (-2.47) or 30...

Bd3 31.Rbc1 Kh7 (-2.44), while the

move played gets only -1.19.

31.Rxe3 Rxe3

31...Ne2+! 32.Nxe2 Qxd2 33.

Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Nc3 Qc2! ????????

32.Bxe3 Nf5 33.Qxg6

White plays for the desperate
attack because he thinks his queen is
lost after 33.Qe1 Nxe3 34.Qxe3! Bd4

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + r Q - + k + (

7+ - + - + - + - '

6- p - + - + p p &

5p - + - + n + - %

4- + l z - P - + \$

3P - N - Q - + - #

2- P - + - + L P "

1+ R + - + - K - !

x a b c d e f g h y

(Diagram) missing the interference

35.Bd5+! Bxd5 36.Qxd4 Bb3 ?

(Fritz). However, Black can improve

with 34...Qd4! 35.Qxd4 Bxd4+ ?%

33...Nxe3 34.Be4 Qf6 35.Qxf6 Bxf6

36.Kf2 Bd4 37.Kf3 Nf1! 38.Nd5

Nd2+ 39.Kg2 Re8

Facing hordes of material loss, in
addition to time trouble (while his
opponent had a comfortable 50

minutes), he resigned. **0-1**

QGD Meran D49

Warren Harper 2289

Jeffrey De Jesus 2196

Houston Open (4)

1.e4 Nf6 2.d4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 e6

5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5

8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cxd4 11.

Nxb5 axb5 12.exf6 gxf6 13.0-0

Qb6 14.Qe2 b4 15.Rd1 [15.Bf4!]

15...e5 16.Bf4?! Be7 17.Bg3 Nc5?!

18.Bb5+ Kf8 19.Nh4 h5 20.h3

Qe6?! 21.Bc4 Ba6 22.Qf3 Bb7 23.

Qxb7 Nxb7 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25. Ng6+

Kf7 26.Nxh8+ Rxh8 27.f4? [27.

a4??0.53 Fritz] 27...e4 28.Rxd4 Be5

29.Bf2 Bxd4 30.Bxd4 Rd8 31. Be3

Rd3 32.Kf2 Nd6 33.Re1 f5 34.Bc5?

34.Rc1! would have set Black a

difficult task.

34...Nc4! 35.Re2 b3

Draw

Closed Sicilian B25

Salvador Infante 2192

Ali Morshedi 2324

Houston Open (4)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d3

0-0 5.e4 d6 6.0-0 c5 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.

h3 e5 9.Be3

9.Kh2 Nd4 10.Be3 b5 11.a3 Bd7

12.Ne2 a5 13.c3 Nxe2 14.Qxe2 =

Smyslov-Moiseev, USSR 1952.

9...Nh5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 f5 12.

exf5 gxf5 13.Bh6 Qf6 14.Bxg7

Qxg7 15.Ne2 Nc6 16.Kh2 f4 17.Nf3

Kh8 18.g4?

18.Rg1 Bd7 19.Raf1 Rg8?†

18...Nf6 19.c3 h5 20.gxh5 Qh6 21.

Rh1 Qxh5 22.Kg1 Rg8 23.Kf1 Bd7

24.Nh2 [24.Ne1 Rxc2!??]

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r + - + - + r k (

7p p + l + - + - '

6- + - p n n - + &

5+ - p - p - + q %

4- + - + - p - + \$

3+ - P P + - + P #

2P P - Q N P L N "

1R - + - + K + R !

x a b c d e f g h y

24...Rxc2! 25.Kxc2 f3+ 26.Nxf3

Rg8+ 27.Kf1 Qxf3 28.Rh2 Nf4 29.

Qe3 Qxe3 30.fxe3 Nxd3 31.Rd1 c4

32.b3

X A B C D E F G H Y

8- + - + - + r k (

7p p + l + - + - '

6- + - p - n - + &

5+ - + - p - + - %

4- + p + - + - + \$

3+ P P n P - + P #

2P + - + N + - R "

1+ - + R + K + - !

x a b c d e f g h y

White resigned in view of 32... Nd5! with more material losses on the way to stave off mate. **0-1**

English Opening A34

Warren Harper 2289

Amon Simutowe 2447

Houston Open (5)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e6

Suspecting I will play as naively as I did at the World Open, he plays the same line. But not quite ...

8.d3 Be7 9.Be3! (Palatnik) 9...Bd7 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 0-0 12.Nxc6?!

12.Rc1! sets Black very difficult problems.

12...Bxc6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8 15.Rac1 Nd5 16.Nxd5 cxd5 17.Rc7 Bd6 18.Rc6 Be5 19.b4 Rdb8 20.Rb1 d4 21.Bd2 Rb6 22.Rbc1 Kf8 23.a4 Rxc6 24.Rxc6 a6 25.f4 Bf6 26.Kf2 Ke8 27.Rc7 Be7 28.Kf3 f5

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + k + - + (
7+ - R - z - p p '
6p + - + p + - + &
5+ - + - + p + - %
4P P - p - P - + \$
3+ - + - + K P - #
2- + - z P + - P "
1+ - + - + - + - !
x a b c d e f g h y
29.e4 dxe3 30.Kxe3?

30.Bxe3 Rb8 31.Ba7!??
30...Rb8 31.Kd4 Bxb4 32.Bxb4 Rxb4+ 33.Ke5 Re4+ 34.Kd6 Rxa4 35.Rxg7 Re4 36.Rxh7 a5 37.Ra7 a4 38.h4 Kf8 39.h5 Kg8 40.h6 Kh8 41.h7 Re3 42.Rxa4 Kxh7 43.Ra5 Kg7 44.Re5 Rxg3 45.Kxe6 Rg6+ 46.Kxf5 Rf6+ 47.Kg4 Ra6 48.Kf5 Rf6+ 49.Ke4 Ra6 50.Rb5 Draw

(Diagram next column)

A horrible way to draw someone!

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

[This is known as Philidor's draw. Black keeps his rook on the sixth, shutting out White's king until he plays f5-f6, when Black deploys his rook to the first rank and gives checks from the rear.]

Sicilian B35

Ali Morshedi 2324

Jeffrey DeJesus 2178

Houston Open (5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.Nb3 Qb4 9.Bd3 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qxe4 12.0-0-0 13.Re1 Qf5

13...Qc4! 14.Qd3 d5?z
14.Nd4 Qa5 15.Rb1 d6
15...Qxc3 16.Rb3 Qc4 17.Nxc6 Qxc6?!

16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Bh6 Re8

X A B C D E F G H Y
8r + l + r + k + (
7p - + - p p + p '
6- + p p - + p z &
5z - + - + - + - %
4- + - + - + - + \$
3+ - P - + - + - #
2P + P + - P P P "
1+ R + Q R - K - !
x a b c d e f g h y
18.Qxd6! Qd5??

18...Qxc3 19.Rxe7 Be6 =.

19.Qf6! Qxg2+ 20.Kxg2 Bh3+ 21.Kxh3 exf6 1-0

Solution (back cover problem): 1.h4 (1...Nxb4 2.Nf4#; if 1...Nf5-other then 2.Ng3#; 1...Ng4-any 2.Nf6#).

Mexico to host world championship

World Champion Vladimir Kramnik will defend his title in Mexico City Sept. 12-Oct. 1, 2007. In a double round robin with \$1.3 million at stake, he faces seven challengers:

- 1 Anand, Viswanathan IND 2792
- 5 Morozevich, Alexander RUS 2758
- 7 Leko, Peter HUN 2751
- 8 Aronian, Levon ARM 2750
- 12 Svidler, Peter RUS 2735
- 13 Gelfand, Boris ISR 2733
- 14 Grischuk, Alexander RUS 2726

(July FIDE top 100 list)

With an average rating over 2750, this will be a rare Category XXI event. Kramnik, who is ranked #3 in the world with a 2769 rating, won a unification match last fall from FIDE world champion Veselin Topalov. Kramnik was the classical world champion, having beaten Kasparov in 2000 and narrowly defended his title against Peter Leko in 2004.

The venue will be the Sheraton Centro Historico, a five-star resort hotel in the heart of Mexico City and 15 minutes from the airport. Travel packages are offered by Especta, the official travel agency for this world championship.

For details see the official event site at www.chessmexico.com. Click "English" in the upper left corner for translation.

Summer Open

by Selby Anderson

Forty players turned out for the Summer Open, held Aug. 4-5 in San Antonio at the Texas Neurosciences Institute.

I won the Open section thanks to a lucky win in the last round against FM Dennis Rylander (2360), recent UTD grad from Sweden now living in Austin. Going into this game, he had a 2-0 record against me. After being roundly outplayed in a QGD Slav, I mixed things up with five moves left to time control. After mutual blunders he flagged as he clocked in his 30th. I finished in clear first with 3.5 out of 4, having drawn Ju Ahn (1812) in Round 2.

Four players tied with 3, including Rylander, Don Sutherland, Gregg Stanley and J.P. Hyltin. Stanley had a chance to tie for first if he had converted his extra pawn against Hyltin in the last round, but there was ample play for the pawn. Kevin Lu and Steven Chen shared the U2000 prize with 2.5.

Special mention goes to Juan Carrizales (1799), who played up just to make the numbers even and avoid byes. He drew (and should have beaten) Dale Dike (2011) and defeated Martin Gordon (1937) in the last round, finishing 2-2.

In the Reserve, three players scored 3.5 to tie for first, second and under-1600 prizes: Andrew Nathanael Lozano, Samuel McLemore and Zhaosu Ye. Joanna Slusarewicz was top U1400 with 2.5. Lloyd Lyssyj won the unrated prize with 2.

Prizes paid were 85% of the advertised amount. Martin Gordon directed. See www.gordonmd.com/Summer2007.html for crosstables.

OPEN *1st*: Selby Anderson, 3.5, \$170; *2nd+U2200*: Dennis Rylander, Don Sutherland, Gregg Stanley J.P. Hyltin, 3.0 \$37.25. *U2000*: Kevin Lu, Steven Chen, 2.5, \$32.

RESERVE *1st+2nd+U1600*: Nathanael Lozano, Samuel McLemore, Zhaosu Ye, 3.5, \$71. *U1400*: Joanna Slusarewicz 2.5 \$43 *Unrated*: Lloyd Lyssyj, 2.0, \$43.

English Opening A16

Daniel Lozano 1389
Rheanna English 1716

Summer Open (1)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.d3 e5 8.Rb1 Rb8 9.b4 Nh5 10.Ba3 f5 11.Qb3

White would like to play 12.c5+, then trade at d6 and lay claim to d5. One good answer is 11...Kh8 and if 12.c5 then 12...dxc5 13.bxc5 c6 =.

11...c5 12.Nb5! Qe7?

Better is 12...Qb6 13.Ng5 Ndf6 14.e3 with an edge for White. 13.Nxa7 e4 14.Ne1 e3 15.f4 g5 16. Bb2 gxf4 17.gxf4 Ndf6?

Poor positions breed errors.

18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Nc6 bxc6 20. Qxb8 Ng4 21.Bxc6 Bh6 22.Bd5+ Be6 23.Bxe6+ Qxe6 24. Qb7 Qg6 25.Qd5+ Rf7 26.Ng2 Nxh2 27.Ba3 Nxf1 28.Rb8+ Kg7 29.Bb2+ Nf6 30.Qd8 Rf8 [30... Bxf4 31.Bxf6+ ?P?] 31.Qxf8# 1-0

French Defense C18

Martin Gordon 1937
Dennis Rylander 2360

Summer Open (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.h4!? (8.Bd3) Nbc6 9.Rh3

9.Nf3 has been the main try. Then 9...Qa5 10.Bd2 f5 11.Qf4 Qa4! and the bridge-burning attack with 12.h5 was all bark and no bite in Faynberg-Pfaff, GER 2006.

9...f5 10.exf6 Rxf6 11.Rg3 Qf8

The obvious tempo moves 11...Nf5 and 11...Rg6 are also strong; the text keeps alive the ...e6-e5 discovery on White's queen.

12.Bg5 e5 13.Qe2 Re6

Also good is 13...Nf5 first.

14.dxc5 Nf5 15.Rf3 Qxc5 16.Qb5

White now develops, but suffers through a typical French endgame where Black's structural superiority (here, his glorious pawn center) is parlayed into a win.

16...Qxb5 17.Bxb5 Nd6 18.Ba4 h6 19. Bc1 Rg6 20.Rg3 Rvg3 21.fxg3 Be6 22.Rb1 b5!?

22...Na5 will have its partisans too: 23.Nf3 Nac4 24.Nd2 Rc8 with a palpable advantage to Black.

23.Bb3 Ne4 24.Ne2 Ne7 25.a4

Seizing on the opportunity for counterplay created by 22...b5.

25...bxa4 26.Bxa4 Bg4 27.Rb7 Nf5 28.Bc6 Rd8 29.Rxa7 Bxe2 30. Kxe2 Rd6 31.Ra8+ Kh7 32.Be8 Nexg3+

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

33.Kf3! (= says Fritz) avoids loss of the h-pawn, and the active king plus the bishop pair counterbalance White's inferior pawn structure.
33...Ne4+ 34.Kg1 Nxh4 35.c4 dxc4 36.Be3 Nf5 37.Ra3 Nf6 38.Bb5 Ng4 39.Rd3 cxd3 40.Bxd3 Ngxe3 41.g4 Rxd3 42.cxd3 Nxg4 43.Kg2 h5 44. Kf3 Nf6 and White resigned in a few moves. **0-1**

French Defense C19

Selby Anderson 2200
Ju Ahn 1812

Summer Open (2)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Qa5 8.Qd2

8.Bd2 is far more popular.
8...b6 9.c4 Qxd2+ 10.Bxd2 Nd7
 10...Ba6= Short-Noguerias, Wijk aan Zee 1987.

11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bb5 0-0 13.c4
 An impulse of the hand saves me from the unsound speculation I was fixated on: 13.Bc6?! Rb8 14.c4 Ne7 15.d5 exd5! 16.cxd5 Re8! 17.0-0 Nxc6 18.dxc6 Nf8?•
13...Ne7 14.Bxd7 Bxd7 15. dxc5 bxc5 16.Rb1 Nf5 17.Ke2 Bc6 18. Be3 Nxe3 19.Kxe3 Draw

QGD D55

J.P. Hyltin 2064
Dylan Smith 1591

Summer Open (2)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Rc1

A staple of chess teachers is Marshall-Burn, Paris 1900: 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.h4 g6?! (better is Rubinstein's 10...Nd7) 11.h5 with a glorious attack against inferior defense: 11...Re8 12.hxg6 hxg6 13. Qc2 Bg7 14.Bxg6 fvg6 15.Qxg6 Nd7 16.Ng5 Qf6 17.Rh8+ 1-0.
8...Bb7 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Rc8 11.a3 Re8 12.Nb5 a6 13.Na7 Ra8

14.Nc6 Bxc6 15.Rxc6 Nf8 16.Ne5 Ne6 17.Bh4 Nf8

17...Ne4 18.Bh5 g6 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Bg4 f5 21.Bf3?.

18.Qc2 Bd6 19.Bg3

19.Ng4! N8d7 20.Bf3 Ra7 21. Rc1 a5 (21...Be7 22.Nxf6+ Nxf6 23. Rxc7??) 22.Bxd5 a4 23.Qf5 Be7 24. Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Ne5+ Nxe5 26.dxe5 Kg8 27.exf6 Bxf6 28.Bxf6 gxf6 29. Qg4+ Kh8 30.Rd1??!

19...Ne4 20.Nd3 Nxg3 21.hxg3

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + - ♘ r n k + (
 7 + - ♙ - + ♙ ♙ ♙ '
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 2 - ♟ Q + L ♟ ♟ + "
 1 + - + - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

21...Nd7
 21...Ng6! 22.Nf4 Ne7 23.Rc3 c6 consolidates Black's game: 24.Rc1 Qd7 25.Bf3 h6, with equality.

22.Nf4 Nf6 23.Qf5 Qc8
 Fritz finds the elaborate defense 23...Bxf4 24.gxf4 Ra7 25.Bf3 Ne4 26.Rfc1 g6 27.Qh3 Nd2 28.Be2?•
24.Qxc8 Rexc8 25.Bf3 Bxf4 26. gxf4 Kf8 27.Rfc1 Ra7 28.Rxb6 Ke8 29.Rbc6 Kd7 30.Rxf6 gxf6 31.Bg4+ Kd8 32.Bxc8 Kxc8 33.Rc6 Rb7 34. Rxa6 Rxb2 35.Rxf6 Rb1+ 36.Kh2 Rb2 37.Kg3 Ra2 38.Rxf7 1-0

King's Indian E72

Dale Dike 2011
Juan Carrizales 1699

Summer Open (2)

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d4?

White gets a good game with the Botvinnik setup 8.d3 Nh5 9.Be3.

The text arrives a move late if White wanted to transpose to the KID, because Black could now play 8...exd4 9.Nxd4 Nxe4! 10.Nxc6 Nxc3 with advantage: 11.bxc3 bxc6 12.Bxc6 Bh3 13.Re1 Bxc3?• This state of affairs exists until 10.d5.

8...a6?! 9.h3?! Rb8?! 10.d5 Ne7

Now several good moves beckon White, for instance 11.b4 answering to both ...b5 and ...c5. Also 11.Be3 and 11.f4!• are possible.

11.a4 Ne8 12.Be3 c5!

Putting a damper on queenside play.

13.Qd2 f5 14.Bh6

Now Black must watch out for his weak dark squares. A sharp alternative is 14.f4!•, to open lines.

14...Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Nf6

15...fxe4! 16.g4!• Nf6 17.Ng3 Kh8 18.Nce4 =.

16.Qd2?

Now White's defensive attitude gets the better of him. It was a perfect time for 16.f4! exf4 17.Nxf4 fxe4 18.g4! taking away f5 from Black's pieces, and the e-pawn is not running away. White's queen is a very unpleasant, obstinate guest.

16...fxe4 17.Kh2 Bf5 18.g4 Bxg4!

X A B C D E F G H Y
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 7 + ♙ + - ♗ - + ♙ '
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 3 + - ♗ - + - + ♙ #
 2 - ♙ - ♗ N ♙ L K "
 1 ♖ - + - + ♖ + - !
 x a b c d e f g h y

An experienced player knows a good "whoopie" attack when he sees it! The extra move required to let out Black's queen makes this especially pleasing: 19.hxg4 Nxg4+ 20.Kg1 (not 20.Kg3?? Nf5+! 21. Kxg4 Qh4

mate) 20...Nf5! 21.f3 exf3 22.Rxf3 Qh4 23.Rh3 Qf2+ 24. Kh1 Nh4 25.Rg1 Nf3 ?@Fritz.

19.Ng3 Bf3 ?? 20.Ncxe4 Nxe4 21. Nxe4 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Nf5 23.Ng5 Nd4 24.f4!??

Anything to mix it up.

24...Rxf4 25.Ne6 Nxe6 26.dxe6 Qg5+ 27.Kh2 Rbf8 28.Rxf4 exf4

Now it is Black who is overly defensive-minded about the e-pawn. 28... Rxf4 29.Rf1 Qh4! and White's options are few. 30.e7 Qxe7 31. Rxf4 exf4 32.Qd5+ Kg7 33.Qf3 Qe3! is an easy win for Black..

In many of these lines Black wins by forcing queens off.

29.Rg1 Qe7 Draw

Black is still winning, e.g. 29. Qd5 f3 30.b3 f2 31.Rf1 Rf6, but it will take some patience.

King's Indian E69

Dennis Rylander 2360 Don Sutherland 2163

Summer Open (3)

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.e4 e5 9.h3 Re8 10.Re1 Qc7!? 11.Be3 b6 12.Qa4 Bb7 13.Rad1 a6 14.Qc2 Rac8 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.b4 Bf8 17.a3 Ra8 18.Rb1 Rec8 19. Red1 a5 20.h4 axb4 21.axb4 Be7 22.Bh3 Rd8 23.Ng5 Nf8? [23...h6 24.Nf3 Bf8?< Fritz] 24.c5 b5?? [24...Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 N6d7 26.cxb6 ?] 25.Qb3 Rxd1+ 26. Rxd1 Bd8

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

27.Rd7! N8xd7 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29. Ne6, Black resigns. A beautiful coup. 1-0

Center Counter B01

Chris Dooley 1836 Selby Anderson 2200

Summer Open (3)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 a6 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Be3 9.Qd2 Be7 10.Bf4

IM Michael Melts in *Scandinavian Defense: the Dynamic* 3...Qd6 gives 10.Rad1 Rd8 11.h3 Bf5 12.a3 0-0 13.Bf4 Qd7 14.Rfe1 Bg6 15. Qc1 Qc8 16.Be3 Rd7 17.Nb1 Rfd8 18.c3 Nd5 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bh4 Bd6 with play for both sides.

10...Qd7 11.Rad1 Rd8 12.Qe3 Qc8 13.Rfe1 Nb4 14.Qc1 e5 [14...Bf5!]

15.a3 Nc6 16.Be3 cxd4 16...Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nxd4 18. Bxd4 cxd4 19.Ne2 0-0 (19...e5 20.Ng3=) 20.Nxd4=.

17.Nxd4 0-0 18.h3 Bxe2 19.Ndxe2 Ne5 20.Bf4 Nc4 21.Ng3? Nxa3!

X A B C D E F G H Y
8- + ♗ ♗ - ♗k + (
7+ ♗ + - ♗ ♗ ♗'
6♗ + - + ♗ ♗ - + &
5+ - + - + - + - %
4- + - + - ♗ - + \$
3♗ - ♗ - + - ♗ ♗ #
2- ♗ ♗ + - ♗ ♗ + "
1+ - ♗ ♗ ♗ - ♗ - !
x a b c d e f g h y
22.Nge4?

The best chance is 22.Nf5!, when I might have gone for 22...Bb4? 23. Nxc7! Rxd1 (23...Kxc7? 24.Bh6+ Kh8 25.Qg5??) 24.Rxd1 Bxc3 25. bxc3 Nc4 26.Bh6??

Instead, Black keeps an edge with 22...exf5! 23.Rxe7 Rxd1+ 24. Qxd1 Rd8 25.Qe2 Nb5?. 22...Nc4 23.b3 Nb6 24.Nxf6+ Bxf6 25.Ne4 Be7 26.c4 Qc6 27.Be5 f6

28.Bd4 Nd7 29.Rd3 e5 30.Be3 Nc5 31.Rg3?? [31.Nxc5 Bxc5?] 0-1

Modern Defense A40

Ju Ahn 1812 Gregg Stanley 2070

Summer Open (3)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nc6 4.Nf3 e5 5.d5 Nd4 6.Nc3

6.Nxd4 exd4 7.Bd3 d6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nd2 0-0 10.h3 Nd7 11.Nf3 c5 12. Bd2?@Korchnoi-Tal, Moscow 1975.

6...c5 7.Bd3 d6 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9. Ne2 f5 10.h4 Nf6 11.f3 Nh5 12. Bg5!?

(12.exf5) 12...Qc7 13.Qc2? 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Qc2 0-0 ?.

13...f4 14.g4 The only way to save the bishop. Now White is systematically hosed.

14...fxg3 15.0-0 0-0 16.Ng1 Bf6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Nh3 Bxh4 19. Bg5 g2 20.Qxg2 Bxh3 21.Rxh3 Bxg5+ 22.Qxg5 Nf4 23.Bf1 Nxb3 24.Bxh3 Qxc4+ 25.Kb1 Qe2 26. Rc1 Qxf3 27.Be6 Qxe4+ 28.Ka1 Qf4 29. Bxf7+ Qxf7 30.Qg2 Rf8 0-1

Ninzo-Indian E24

Steven Chen 1675 J.P. Hytlin 2064

Summer Open (3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.f3 0-0 7.e4 d6 8.Bd3 e5 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.Be3 b6 11. 0-0 Ba6 12.f4!

White makes the most of his chances.

12...Nd7 13.Ng3 g6 14.d5!?

Normally one expects 14.fxe5 first, to force the pawn structure.

14...Na5 15.Qe2 exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne5

Another surprise. The Benoni-style 16...Qe7! establishes piece control of e5, and White's attack is a non-starter: 17.Qg4 Kh8 18.Bg5 f6 19.Qe6 Rae8?e

17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Rf3 f6 19.Nf1 Qe7 20.Ne3 Bc8 21.Raf1 Nb7 22. Qf2 Kg7

X A B C D E F G H Y
 8r + l + - r - + (
 7p n + - q - k p '
 6- p - + - p p + &
 5+ - p P p - + - %
 4- + P + P + - + \$
 3P - P L N R + - #
 2- + - + - Q P P "
 1+ - + - + R K - !
 x a b c d e f g h y
23.Qg3

The minority attack 23.g4! looks promising: 23...Nd6 24.g5 and ...
 (a) 24...Ne8 25.Qg3 h6 26.gxf6+ Nxf6 27.Rf5!?? (b) 24...f5 25.exf5 Qxg5+ 26.Rg3 Qe7 27.fxc6!! Rxf2 28.gxh7+ Bg4 29.Rxf2! ????/Fritz.
23...Nd6 24.Nf5+?

This just leads to bad pawns. 24.Qh4 is at least equal.
24...Bxf5 25.exf5 g5 26.h4 h6 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Qg4 Qf7 29.Rh3 Rh8 30. Kf2 Rxb3 31.gxh3 Rh8 32.Be2 Rh4 33.Qg2 Nxf5 34.Rh1 Nd6 0-1

QGD Slav D11
Selby Anderson 2200
Dennis Rylander 2360

Summer Open (4)
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qb3
 Sometimes Korchnoi played this to steer for Catalan-type positions. A similar idea lies behind 4.Qc2.
4...e6 5.g3 Nbd7 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Re1 a5!

Intending to answer 9.e4 with 9...a4! and White must trade center pawn for flank, at least.
10.a4?

Giving away a vital square. In the Dutch Accepted (4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4) White routinely makes this concession, but he has an advantageous pawn center to balance it.

Better is 10.Bf4 b6 = or 10...a4 11.Nxa4 dxc4 12.Qxc4! b5 13.Qxc6 Rxa4 14.Bc7 Rc4! =

10...Bb4! 11.Rd1?!

Launching a plan that is doomed from the start. A no-nonsense move is 11.Bd2. Black sharpens it up with 11...Nb6! 12.c5 Nc4 13.Bf4 b6 14.cxb6 Qxb6 15.Rd1 Ba6 16.Na2 Nh5 17.Bc1 Bd6 = (says Fritz, but I prefer Black's structure for the ending.)

11...h6 12.Ne1 Qe7! 13.Nd3 dxc4 14.Qxc4 e5

White's fantasies about taking the bishop are over.

15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Qxe5 17.Bf4 Qe7 18.e4 Be6

If only my queen could teleport to c2, everything would be fine. Instead Black gets 'ownage' of the only open file, essentially for as long as he pleases. What is most annoying is the knowledge that Black will win the a4 pawn.

19.Qe2 Bb3 20.Rdc1 Rad8 21.f3 Qe6 22.Bf1 Nd7 23.Bc7 Rc8 24.Bf4 Nc5 25.Be3 Rcd8

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

Now objectively best is 26.Qf2 Nd3 27.Bxd3 Rxd3 28.Ne2Bd2 29.Bxd2 Rxd2 30.Qe3 Red8 31.Nf4 Qe5 32.Qc3 with a superior ending for Black. I had that slippery feeling and wanted a way to mix it up while we were both under five minutes.

26.Nb5!?? Nxe4! 27.Nd4 Rxd4?

27...Nxc3! 28.hxc3 (28.Nxe6 Nxe2+ 29.Bxe2 Rxe6??) 28...Qxe3+ 29.Qxe3 Rxe3 30.Kf2 Bd2 31.Nxb3 Rxb3 32.Rc2 Be3+??!

28.Bxd4 Qd5 29.Qe3??

29.Bf2 Nf6 30.Qd3=

29...Nd6?? (29...Bd2) 30.Qd3 c5

Rylander took a second too long to make this move, and after he pushed the clock I pointed out that the flag icon had just appeared. I immediately apologized. **1-0 (time)**

French Defense C00

Gregg Stanley 2070

J.P. Hyltin 2064

Summer Open (4)

1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Qa4+!?

Similar to an idea in the 2P's Caro-Kann. I have drawn Langer a couple of games after 5.Nc3.

5...Nbd7 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Qb3 Nb6 9.d3 Qd7

Fritz likes 9...a5! 10.a4 Bb4 or 10.Nf3 a4, in either case regaining the pawn with equal play.

10.Nf3 Bc5 11.0-0 Qg4 12.Nb5

12.Bg5! is also annoying. 12...Qf5 13.Rfe1 Bd6 14.d4?!

12...Qh5! 13.d4

13.Nxc7? Bg4 14.Nxa8 Bd6 15.Re1 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qh3 17.f4 Ng4 18.Qc2 Rxa8 ?!?

13...Bd6 14.Nxd6 cxd6 15.Bf4

Casually looking at this position, I thought J.P. was toast.

15...Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Bg4 17.Bxd6 Bxf3 18.gxf3

A beginner trap is 18.Bxf8?? Qg4! and mate in two.

18...Nxd5

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

19.Qb3!?

Again, it's no time for greed: 19. Bxf8? Nf4 20.Rfd1 Re8! 21.Be7! Qxf3 22.Qf1 Rxe7 23.Re1 Re2! and White just can't get a break.

19...Rfd8 20.Be5 b6 21.Rfe1 Ne7 22.Kh1 Nf5 23.Re4

This show of force turns out to be little more than a parade for the heavy artillery. If instead 23.d5, the paradoxical 23...f6! 24.d6+ Kh8 25. Bg3 Nxd6 is more than equal.

23...Kh8 24.Rd1 Rac8 25.Rg4 f6 26.Bg3 Ne7 27.Qd3 Qd5 28.b3 Nf5 29.Re4 Rc6 30.Kg2 Kg8 31.Qa6 Rd7 32.Qa3 Kf7 33.Qb2 Re6 34. Qe2 Rde7 35.Rxe6 Rxe6 36.Qd3 36.Qc4 Qxc4 37.bxc4 Rc6=.

36...g6 37.Bf4 Re7 **Draw**

KI Attack A08

Don Sutherland 2163

Eric Lu 1727

Summer Open (4)

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.e5 Nd7 10.Nf1 f6 11.exf6 Bxf6 12.Ne3 Qb6 13.Nxd5 Qd8 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Be3 Qb6 16.Rb1 e5 17.b4 Qa6 18.b5 1-0

Scotch Game C45

Jesse Lozano 2032

Kevin Lu 1724

Summer Open (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Bd3!? (6.Nc3; 6.a4) **Nf6**

Black usually delays this to avoid the pin Bg5, and plays 6...d6 and 7...h6 first, or else 7...Nge7.

7. 0-0 0-0 8.Kh1 d6 9.Bg5 h6 10. Bh4 Ne5 11.f4 Neg4 12.Qf3 Ne3 13.Re1 Bg4 14.Qg3 Nh5! 15.Bxd8 Nxc3+ 16.hxc3 Raxd8 17.Nc3 d5

17...a6 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 Rfe8?!

18.Na4 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Rfe8 20.Bd3 Nf5 21.Nxb6 axb6 22.Kh2 Nd6

Draw

King's Indian E67

Martin Gordon 1937

Juan Carrizales 1699

Summer Open (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bf4 Nh5 10.Bd2 e5 11. g4? [11.dxe5=] 11...exd4 12.Nxd4 Nhf6 13.g5 Ng4 14.Nxc6 [14.Nf3=] 14...bxc6 15.Bxc6 Be5 [15...Rb8] 16.Bxa8 Bxh2+ 17.Kg2 Nb6 18.Bf3 Be5 19.e4 Nxc4 20.Bxg4 Nxd2 21. Qxd2 Bxg4 22.gxh6 Qd7 23.Rh1 Kh7 24.f4 f5 25.fxe5 fxe4 26.Qxd6 [26.Rh2] 26...Bf3+ 27.Kh2 Qf5! 28. Nd5 [28.e6 Qh5+ with a perp] Qh5+ 29.Kg3 Qg4+? [29...Qg5+ mates in 3] 30.Kf2 Qg2+ 31.Ke3 Qe2+ 32. Kd4 Qd3+ [32...Qxb2+ +=] 33.Kc5 Rc8+ 34.Kb4 Qd2+ 35.Nc3?? [35. Ka4 ♗♘ 35...Qxb2+ 36.Ka4 Rc4+ 37.Ka5 Qxc3+ 38.Ka6 Rc6+ 39. Kb7 Rb6+ 40.Qxb6 axb6 41.Rac1 e3+ 42.Kb8 Qxe5+ 43.Rc7+ Qxc7+ 0-1

Polgar Invitational

by Courtney Jamison

First I would like to thank Texas Chess Association for their great support and funding \$1,000 towards the trip to Cherry Hill, New Jersey. It's a great honor to win the qualifying tournament and be the Texas representative at the Susan Polgar Invitational Chess for Girls. I would also like to thank Luis Salinas for organizing and running the Susan Polgar Qualifying tournament. This tournament in New Jersey is a wonderful experience to meet new people and learn more about chess.

This year in Cherry Hill, NJ was another exciting strong tournament for me. The Polgar was very smoothly and professionally run, just

as one would expect from new board members Paul Troung and Susan Polgar. The Crowne Plaza Hotel was a great playing site, except for the fact that most eating places were an uncomfortable walking distance away. I met up with some friends I hadn't seen since the last Polgar, and I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere during the tournament. Since I decided not to play in the U.S. Open this year, I had more time to prepare for my games and play in the side events.

The rounds started every day at 11 a.m. and ran for six days. I think we had representatives from all 50 states. It was neat to play in the same room with these players, all working extremely hard at the chessboard hoping they would win all their games and be the one to take home the top prize, a four-year scholarship to Texas Tech in Lubbock.

My game play throughout the six rounds was not my strongest, and I gave in too easily in the games I drew. My final result was equal third (sixth on tiebreaks) with 4.5/6, a half-point behind winners Julia Kerr and Eunice Rodriguez. I received a House of Staunton chess set valued at \$200, as did all the other girls in 2nd-25th places.

I won the puzzle solving contest (ten puzzles correctly in about 6.5 minutes) and received a Fritz 9 CD.

I won the bughouse tournament with my partner Sylvia Yang (our team was *Don't Mess With Texas*), and we received another CD and computer game.

I came in second in the blitz tournament, and received a *Learn the Endgame* CD by Susan Polgar.

The whole trip was fun and exciting, as many chess tournaments are, and I look forward to hopefully representing Texas again in Lubbock next year!

Chess becomes teaching tool

By Matthew Zabel / Staff Writer

The Denton Record-Chronicle, Aug. 18, 2007

If your children come home from school and announce that they played chess that day, don't worry. They might have learned something anyway.

It might have been part of that day's math lesson.

Jerry Nash, the scholastic director of the U.S. Chess Federation, told educators who gathered at Texas Woman's University on Friday how chess could teach many math skills to young children.

"Will chess solve all the problems? No, but it is a tool that enables teachers to do more efficiently what they are required to do," Nash told the group. "The math and the critical-thinking skills are inherent in the game."

Nash said he began to see the benefits of chess when he worked as a college minister in Lake Charles, La.

Students with problems would come talk to him, he said, and they would want him to tell them how to make things better.

The problem, he determined, often centered on the students' inability to think for themselves and make intelligent decisions.

However, he found students who could do those things when he taught chess at a school in St. Charles.

"My [college] students didn't know how to think about their future; they didn't know how to think about their past," he said. "The fourth- and fifth- graders I was coaching in chess could out-think my college students."

Such programs should appeal to business, he said, which needs good problem solvers.

Sixteen adults and four children attended the workshop.

While Nash discussed the benefits of chess in teaching geometry, planning, how to read a grid, critical thinking and other lessons, five children sat around a table in the back of the room.

Within one hour, 10-year-old William Root taught three others the game's basic rules.

His "students" had never played before but were all doing well, he said afterward.

"One of my students, she was brilliant," William said. "She could definitely play a chess game and play fairly well."

His mother, Alexey W. Root, a senior lecturer at the University of Texas at Dallas and the associate director of the university's chess program, wrote a book on the subject.

Her book, *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators*, explains how chess can be used as a teaching tool in the classroom, and gives sample lessons.

Root said she had organized a chess program at Evers Park Elementary School and a tournament for Denton's middle schools.

Robert Jackson, a teacher at Seguin Elementary School in Grand Prairie, took an online class that Root taught, he said, and he uses chess in his classroom.

"Usually when I would teach them to read coordinates and grids, I'd go over it and over it and over it, and about half of them still wouldn't get it," he said. "The first time I taught them coordinates and grids with chess, all but one got it. I said 'Yes!'"

Paige Owens, 11, contemplates her next move at a workshop on using chess to teach math skills to children Friday at Texas Woman's University. William Root, who had just taught Paige how to play, watches.

TEXAS GIRLS' SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted in Conjunction with Kingsville Chess Academy, South Texas Chess Center, and the Optimists' Coastal Bend Chess Federation. Sanctioned by the Texas Chess Association.

October 6-7 6 round Swiss system

Bayfront Plaza Hotel, 601 N. Water, Corpus Christi, TX. (361) 883-7271

Mention "girl" for \$69 rate, 4/room, includes hot breakfast. Reserve by Sept. 22.

SIX SECTIONS: K-1, Primary (K-3), Elementary (K-5/6), Middle School (6-8/9), High School (9-12) Collegiate (must be full time student, and able to prove current enrollment)

Check-in: 8:30 a.m. Saturday. **On-site registration** 7:30-9 a.m., requires ½ point bye in Rd. 1

ROUNDS: Saturday (G/45): 9-11-1:30-3:30; Sunday (G/60): 9:30-12 noon followed by awards.

ENTRIES: \$29 in advance, must be postmarked no later than 9/24, or received by 9/29. Proof of USCF membership required, or pay dues. **Any later or on-site entry will cost \$45.** Entries without payment will not be considered officially registered. For school groups contact Eddie R. Rios Sr. (361) 455-3682 or e-mail www.teacher@intcomm.net. Please do not e-mail entries. One half-point bye available if requested before Rd. 2. Byes are irrevocable. All additional byes: zero points. Refunds and cancellations no later than Thursday, 10/4. No substitutions allowed. Pre-registration list available at www.southtexaschesscenter.com. Equipment and tee-shirt sales as well as chess memorabilia will be available throughout the tournament.

PRIZES: Scholastic K-12: trophies 1st -10th, medals to next 10. Team trophies 1st-3rd. (A team is two or more players, top 4 scores used.) UTD will award a scholarship to the top high school player. Details on other pending scholarships will be made available as they are acquired.

Collegiate: trophies 1st-6th, medals to next 6. Team trophies 1st-3rd.

SIDE EVENTS

Open Girls Blitz Tournament: Saturday, October 6, 2007—7 p.m. —5 rounds (G/5)
Prizes—Trophies to top 5—medals to next 10—awards presentation will follow – no onsite.

Open Rated Tournament (boys and adults welcome): Saturday, 4 round G/30. Three Sections: Open, U1100, U500. Prizes: trophies 1st-5th, medals to next 5. EF \$10 advance or \$15 on site with ½ point bye. Rd. 1 at 9:30, others TBA. Check in and late registration 8:30-9 a.m.

Make checks payable to Eddie R. Rios, mail with registration to
Eddie R. Rios Sr., 213 E. Fairview, Kingsville, TX 78363

Info: Eddie Rios, (361) 595-7736 after 6 p.m., cell (361) 455-3682; e-mail teacher@intcomm.net.

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

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See inside front cover for TCA membership information.

S. Radchenko
StrageGems, 2003
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White to move, mate in two

Solution: p. 12

