



LaMoyne Splichal

August 7, 1954-January 27, 2012

LaMoyne died on Friday, January 27, 2012, at his home in Denver, CO.

LaMoyne, also known as Sparrow T. Hawk, has flown home. LaMoyne was born on August 7, 1954, in Dickinson, ND, the son of Steve and Edith (Ridl) Splichal. He grew up and attended schools in Dickinson graduating from Trinity High School in 1972. LaMoyne attended Dickinson State College and graduated in 1977. After graduation from college, he worked at the State Capital Library in Bismarck. Later he moved to Minneapolis, MN where he also worked at a library. He returned to ND for a while and later moved to Denver, CO, where he attended and graduated from Barnes Business College. He did data input for Montgomery Wards, in Denver, until they closed their doors. LaMoyne loved living in Denver and worked various other jobs, including his favorite two jobs as chess tournament director and #1 Colorado Rockies fan. LaMoyne loved to play chess. He always carried a chess board and chess pieces. He enjoyed teaching the game to many young people. He was named to the ND Chess Hall of Fame in 2003. One of his proudest moments was winning the 2002 Edward Levy Memorial Colorado Classic; he won 5 out of 5 games in his division. While at Dickinson State, LaMoyne was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity. After graduation, he continued to be involved with his fraternity. He was a member of the ND Chess Club and a member of the Denver Area Chess Club. He enjoyed playing all kinds of cards and board games. LaMoyne also enjoyed spending time with his nieces and nephews.

Surviving him are: his two brothers, Daryl (Mary) Splichal, Mandan, ND and Jeff Splichal, Clackamas, OR; his three sisters, Stephanie (fiance' Al McGahan) Williams, Fairview, MT, Theresa (Tom) Moltzan, Green River, WY and Bernadette "Bernie" (Jay) Knaebel, The Woodlands, TX; his nieces, Amy Splichal, Ashley (James) Will, Hillary Knaebel, Hana Knaebel and Brandi Dees-Splichal; his nephews, Kyle Splichal and Connor Moltzan; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Steve Splichal, his grandparents and his brother-in-law, Steve Williams.

La Moyne Splichal - Saying Goodbye to Someone Special

Tim Brennan

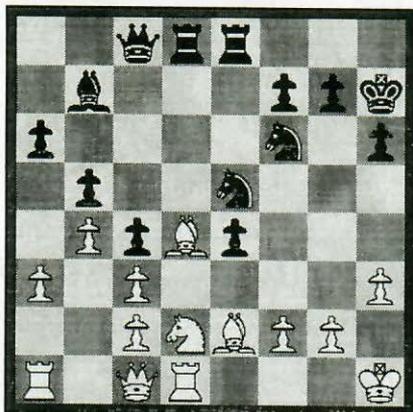
La Moyne was a long time club manager of the Denver Chess club. He was the very first chess player that I met when I started playing in Colorado.

I remember that he greeted me as a newcomer with a smile, and welcomed me.

Later as I got more involved with the Denver chess club, I would assist La Moyne with tournament directing, and organizing events. I would often go over to his apartment at the end of the month, and help him submit the rating reports, and also download the latest rating supplements into the SwissSys pairing software.

You never knew what La Moyne was going to be like over the board. He could be brilliant, and could also blunder. Here is a nice tactic that he missed from one of his games...

(Answer to follow.)



Losol Amarbayasgalan
La Moyne Splichal
Colorado Open 2008
Black to move.

I remember La Moyne winning sole first place at the Edward Levy Memorial tournament, which was a huge Bill Goichberg tournament that was held in Denver. It was the biggest tournament that Colorado

has had in years and years. Everyone was very happy for him.

He won over \$1000 in prizes, going a perfect 5 for 5 in the Under 1600, which gave him a rating floor of 1600, which he was usually close to the rest of his playing career.

I remember doing a lot of fun tournaments with La Moyne, such as the Halloween tournament, where people dressed up in costumes, and the 24 hour tournament, which was 20 rounds from noon Saturday until noon Sunday.

He didn't own a car, so I often would drive him home at the end of the evening, and he often rode with me to out of town tournaments as well.

He was pretty quirky, and liked things done a certain way. I remember when I was the editor of the *Colorado Chess Informant* magazine, I gave him a copy of the magazine, to save some money on postage. But he wanted to get it in the mail, because he liked having the sticker with his name and address on it. lol.

He would also get upset if people wrote "LaMoyne" (without the space) or "Lamoyne" or anything other than the two word version "La Moyne". I always thought this was funny, because it was such an unusual name, that people were bound to get it wrong.

La Moyne was inducted in to the North Dakota Hall of Fame, and I remember him being very proud of that accomplishment.

La Moyne had a really great sense of humor. I still crack up at the sign he made that said "Let's have fun on board one" at Anthea's 24 hour tournament, when Dan Avery (who likes to say "Let's Have Fun" at the beginning of the game) was playing on the first board. He was very creative, and took a lot of pride in the little things of a chess tournament.

You will be missed La Moyne! Thank for you all that you did for Colorado Chess.

Answer to tactic: 24...e3 sets up the dangerous threat of Qxh3 which White must defend against and doesn't have time to save the knight on d2.

Losol Amarbayasgalan (1425)
La Moyne Splichal (1600)

2008 Colorado Open, Round 1
August 30, 2008

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bb4
5.a3 Bxc3 6.dxc3 O-O 7.O-O d6 8.Re1
Be6 9.Bd3 h6 10.Bd2 Re8 11.h3 a6
12.Qc1 Kh7 13.Kh1 Qd7 14.Bf1 d5
15.exd5 Bxd5 16.Be2 Rad8 17.Be3 e4
18.Nd4 Ne5 19.Rd1 c5 20.Nb3 c4 21.Nd2
b5 22.b3 Qc8 23.b4 Bb7 24.Bd4 Re6
25.f4 exf3 26.Nxf3 Nxf3 27.Bxf3 Bxf3
28.gxf3 Qc7 29.Rg1 g6 30.Qf1 Qf4
31.Qf2 Rde8 32.Qg3 Nh5 33.Qxf4 Nxf4
34.Kh2 Re2+ 35.Kg3 Nh5+ 36.Kg4 f5+
37.Kh4 Nf4 38.Kg3 g5 39.h4 Nh5+
40.Kh3 Nf4+ 41.Kg3 Rxc2 42.hxg5
Ne2+ 43.Kh4 Nxe1 44.Rxe1 hxg5+
45.Rxe1 Ra2 46.f4 Rxa3 47.Kh5 Re7
48.Rg6 a5 49.Bf6 Rd7 50.Rh6+ Kg8
51.Kg6 0-1

(From TacticsTime.com)

Rod Santiago

My wife and I are both very saddened by La Moyne's passing. Both my wife and I were active chess players in the Denver Chess Club. It was La Moyne's friendly smile, dedication to managing the DCC Tuesday night weekly casual club rated games, and his easy-going attitude that kept me coming back.

He was not just a great manager but also a great friend. I remember his constant comments about my future wife from the moment she registered for her first Tuesday night game, which is one of the reasons I eventually ended up marrying — thank you. La Moyne. He was also a great



*La Moyne Splichal looks on as
Randy Schine (L) & Steve Sparks play.
(Picture courtesy of Denver Chess Club)*

traveling companion when a few of us DCC chess players went to Moab, UT in 2004. However, I will always treasure the many after-Tuesday night dinners we had at Denny's, where he constantly reminded me of her admiration to our favorite server, Tammy.

It is with the heaviest heart that I bid farewell to you, my friend. I am so sorry I did not come to visit more often after getting married. But again, my getting married is partly your fault! A happy one. I hope that wherever you are now, you have that mini-analysis chess set always with you, you don't forget to hit your timer, and that you don't second-guess your moves. For me, there is no second-guessing that meeting you is one of the most important moments of my life.

Josh Smith

La Moyne Splichal was a friendly face on the Colorado chess scene. I remember a timid man who's handshake you would never fear. His demeanor was kind and handwriting neat and precise. I was sad to hear of his passing...

I put my babies to bed last night and spent the next few hours rummaging through hundreds of old score sheets in search of a better La Moyne tactic. I discovered that we had done battle no less than 5 times, the 1st time was in October of 1996, where we created more comedic errors than brilliancies.

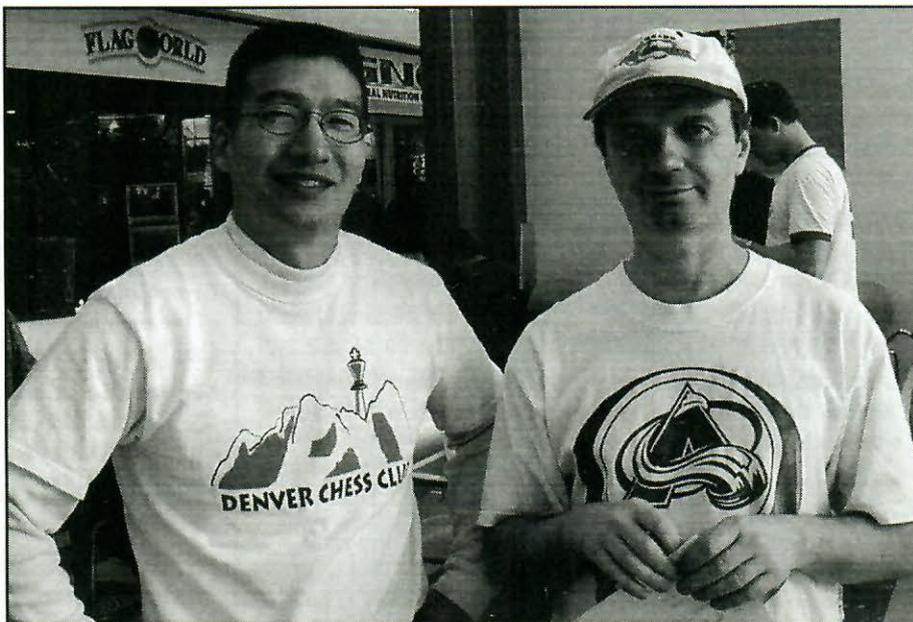
Josh Smith La Moyne Splichal

Colorado Open
September 1, 1997

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 h6
5.Bd2 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 d5 7.e3 0-0 8.Nf3
Nc6 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 b6 11.Rc1 Bb7
12.Qa4 a5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Bb5 Qd6
15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Rxe5 17.Bxe5
Qxe5 18.Rxc7 Qxc7 0-1

A year later I was nearly 400 points stronger and I played a daring positional rook sacrifice (cough) but La Moyne found the only move that won - still not the brilliant tactic I was searching for.

The search continues for the La Moyne Splichal's best tactical shot. David Bowers (2045) was his highest rated draw and Patrick Ramsey (1952) was his highest rated win according to the USCF website.



Paul Grimm & La Moyne at a
Denver Chess Club function in 2004.

Jeffrey Baffo

He was a gentleman and a friend. If you describe someone as "good people" and you know what that truly means, then you know that La Moyne embodied all of that meaning. God rest his soul!

DuWayne Langseth

La Moyne was one of the nicest people you'll ever meet. What a gentle, helpful, dedicated friend, chess player and tournament director. I've known him since I was a teenager in North Dakota where we were both from. He would always inform me of the latest in ND chess, since I

haven't played there in decades. He had plenty of friends there and kept in contact with them.

I've missed seeing him for a couple of years, and have asked around occasionally to see if anyone knew what he was up to, but I don't get to Denver to play that often. I wonder if the North Dakota players (Mike Sailer, Ron Schauer, and others) know he passed on.

He really will be missed and remembered.

Rest in peace, and God bless you buddy.



Bob Klym (L) & Greg Lord with a picture
tribute to La Moyne at his service.
(Picture courtesy of Greg Lord)