

Boulder chess master refereed Kasparov, computer match



Todd Bardwick

Colorado Chess

Boulder computer consultant and International Master, Michael Valvo, was the referee for the February match between World Champion Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer in Philadelphia.

Kasparov won the match easily, 4-2, and the first prize of \$400,000 in this

latest man vs. machine contest. The match's Internet site had more than 7 million inquiries on two different days during the six game match. This year's Superbowl site had about 6 million inquiries.

Valvo is not only one of the world's top computer chess experts, but also an accomplished correspondence chess master.

Here are some of Valvo's chess highlights:

- Minnesota Closed Champion (1992-1994).
- Interviewed about computer chess by Peter Jennings of ABC

News in 1992.

- Tournament arbiter for all major computer chess tournaments (1980-present).

- Demonstrated blindfold chess on *All Night Live* (KOA-TV and KOA radio simulcast) in Denver (1983).

- FIDE International Chess Master title (1980).

- Technical editor of *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess* (1966).

the Scholastic Team Tournament

will be April 14. Call Joyce at 841-4129 for specifics.
 The 1996 Rocky Mountain Chess Camp for ages 6-18 will be Aug. 12-14 at West Middle School. Call 354-8266 for details.

This year's Colorado Closed will be March 16-17, 23-24 at 441 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 230. Spectators are welcome to watch Colorado's top Masters compete in this round-robin event. Call 232-5893 for details.
 The 1996 Colorado Scholastic Qualifiers and Finals for K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 will be in March and

Todd Bardwick is a National Master and a four-time Denver Chess Champion.

Valvo



The diagrammed position is from the 1994 U.S. Correspondence Championships between Richard Benjamin and IM Michael Valvo after **29.Nd2**. Can you find the winning combination for black? Valvo played **29...Qh2!**. **Resigns** (It is mate in 3 after 30.Kh2 Rh8 31.Qh4 Rh4 32.Bh3 Rh3 mate)

Benjamin



INTERNATIONAL CHESS MASTER MICHAEL J. VALVO PASSES

USCF Press Release September 23, 2004

(New Windsor) International Chess Master Michael J. Valvo of Chanhassen, Minnesota passed away on September 18, 2004 at age 62.

IM Valvo was also a frequent arbiter of computer chess events. He was the arbiter of the 1996 ACM Chess Challenge match between Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer. Valvo brought unique experience to this event, having served as commentator for a number of the ACM Computer Chess Tournaments in the 1980's and 1990's. Valvo was also one of the chess commentators for the IBM Deep Blue match held in Manhattan May 1997.

IM Valvo co-authored the book on the legendary 1990 Karparov-Karpov match and was the technical editor of the book, Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess. Valvo was also an expert blindfold chess player and in the early years of computer chess was known for taking on the entire field blindfolded. Within the chess arena, he is probably best known for his 2-0 record in postal chess style matches against Deep Blue's predecessor, Deep Thought.

IM Valvo was also a longtime member of the United States Chess Federation. He achieved an over-the-board rating over 2400 and correspondence chess rating 2367.

Michael is survived by his significant other, Lila Raymond; brother Phillip; sisters, Marie and Rosalie Valvo. Memorial service was held Wednesday at the Eckankar Temple in Chanhassen. Michael was cremated.

Whether you knew Michael through his National accomplishments or through his International achievements the chess world has lost a well-respected, well-accomplished chess master.

Mike Valvo Remembered

Recently Former Colorado Chess Informant Editor Jeff Baffo was bidding on some Chess Life magazines on Ebay from a seller named Marie. When Marie saw Jeff was from Colorado she asked him if she knew his brother. Jeff asked "what was his name". She replied "Mike Valvo".

Jeff responded:
 "My goodness gracious yes! I had played against him in many tournaments in the Colorado area. His love for chess and passion for excellence in playing the game was truly inspiring. It is no exaggeration to say he was not only a Master of the game, but a respected authority who's presence lent celebrity stature to any event he attended!"

Marie wrote back:

"Thank you for your kind words. He passed away in September. It was very difficult and also very interesting to go through the pictures and clippings of him that my mother saved. There are photos of him watching my father play in tournaments when he was 8 years old. In 1954, when he was 12 years old, my father placed 3rd and he placed 6th in the New York State Open. I remember it vividly because we all went and the rest of us were camping while they played. It was the year of Hurricane Carol and the whole camping thing was basically a wash out!



Marie Valvo writes about this picture: "It was actually when Mike was 10 years old, taken in Williamstown, Mass, in 1952. I believe it was the US Open. My father, Frank Valvo, was playing while my brother studied the game."



He was totally enraptured by the game. It became his whole life.

He was first board on the Columbia Student Chess Team that went to Poland in 1964. I believe it was the first USA team to ever attend the World Student Team Chess Championship. Chess and other games like GO were to him like video games are to the younger generation these days!



photos courtesy Marie Valvo

Denver Chess Club Grand Prix Update Compiled by Randy Reynolds as of March 14, 2005

Top 10 Overall				
	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Leonardo Sotaridona	1707	41.95	23
2	Joshua Jex	1931	38.75	20
3	Tyler Hughes	1998	35.74	16
4	Mark McGough	1776	33.73	21
5	Anthea Carson	1614	33.52	23
6	Volodimir Biryukev	1504	32.3	17
7	Andrew Ritchie	1356	31.32	19
8	Peter Short	1451	29.2	16
9	Randy Schine	1526	28.27	16
10	Shannon Fox	1568	27.85	16

Top 10 Active				
1	Anthea Carson	1614	33.52	23
2	Leonardo Sotaridona	1707	41.95	23
3	Bruce Bain	757	13.46	22
4	Mark McGough	1776	33.73	21
5	Michael Varney	588	19.06	21
6	Joshua Jex	1931	38.75	20
7	Paul Kullback	1210	22.07	20
8	Andrew Ritchie	1356	31.32	19
9	Mack McGough	474	9.04	19
10	J.C. MacNeil	1716	22.27	17

Class Leaders				
Expert	Brian Wall	2174	24.94	12
Top A	Joshua Jex	1931	38.75	20
Top B	Leonardo Sotaridona	1707	41.95	23
Top C	Volodimir Biryukev	1504	32.3	17
Top D	Andrew Ritchie	1356	31.32	19
Top E	Michael Varney	588	19.06	21