

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev
1926 - 2020

by Richard "Buck" Buchanan, with scanned picture submissions by Gary Hale-Betchan

Mikhail Philippovich Ponomarev was born on January 23rd, 1926, in Sverdlovsk, USSR to Philipp Ponomarev and Marfa Ponomarev (Musikhina).

At 17 years of age, he enlisted in the Soviet Naval Medical Academy, and served on the frontlines of WWII. He continued his studies at the Academy after the war, and became a Medical Doctor and head physician of his regiment. He also earned his PhD in psychoneurology, and published numerous scientific studies in the top Soviet medical journals about naval aviation and the selection of pilots for different types of aircraft. Mikhail was on the short list for consideration to become the first doctor in space, but got in trouble with Soviet authorities over some of his personal writings in which he was critical of the communist political system. Mikhail went into private practice after serving 20 years in the Soviet military. He continued his writings about the violent founding of the Soviet Union, and continued his criticism of the communist regime, which led to increased legal trouble and eventually landed him in political prison and concentration camps. Mikhail spent a total of 11 years behind bars because of his political views and dissemination of his writings to associates and international correspondents.

Mikhail fathered 3 children, Mikhail (46), Lyuba (44), and Philipp (37), and successfully moved his family to the USA in 1990, two years after filing for Political Asylum through the US Embassy in Moscow during President Reagan's infamous visit. Mikhail became an accomplished author in the US when he began publishing his political writings. Mikhail also became quite successful in his lifelong hobbies of chess and poetry. He earned the title of chess master and Colorado State Chess Champion multiple times, and published several books of poetry, one of which is a trilogy written in the form of Dante's Divine Comedy. Mikhail is survived by his 3 children and four grandchildren, Nicholas, Lucas, Michael, and Nina.

When Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev arrived in Colorado from the Soviet Union in 1990, he immediately became part of the chess scene. One of Colorado's best players, he won many tournaments and could defeat any of the state's best. He played sharp, alert chess, and had his own unique style. He played unusual openings and frequently found himself behind in material; but his tactical alertness and deep understanding of positions earned him many points and tournament prizes.

I spent time with him in his early years here. He wrote an article about his win over now-GM Jesse Kraai that I helped him edit. It was published in the January 1992 *Chess Life* under our pen names.

(Below are a selection of his games while living in Colorado)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (Unrated)

Raymond Haskins (2200)

DCC April Tournament / April 1990 - Round 3

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Qd3 g6 5.e4 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Bg7 7.0-0-0 0-0 8.Kb1 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Nf6 10.Qh4 Qd5 11.Ne2 Ne4 12.Nc3 Nxc3+ 13.bxc3 e5 14.Bf6 Be6 15.c4 Qd7 16.d5 Bf5 17.Bd3 e4 18.Be2 Qd6 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.g4 Qb4+ 21.Kc1 Bd7 22.Qg3 Rfe8 23.Qe3 a5 24.h4 f6 25.g5 f5 26.Qd4+ Kg8 27.h5 Qa3+ 28.Kb1 Qb4+ 29.Ka1 Qd6 30.hxg6 Qxg6 31.Bh5 Qg7 32.Qxg7+ Kxg7 33.Bxe8 Bxe8 34.c5 Rd8 35.d6 cxd6 36.cxd6 Rd7 37.Rd5 Bf7 38.Rd4 b5 39.Kb2 Bc4 40.Rh6 a4 41.Rf6 Bg8 42.Rxf5 *(This was Dr. Ponomarev's first published Colorado win. He was unrated going into the tournament.)* 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (Unrated)

William Engels (2007)

May Daze / May 26, 1990 - Round 2

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Bf5 3.f3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.Nxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 h6 7.Bh4 Ne3 8.Qd3 Nxf1 9.exf5 Nxh2 10.Rxh2 c6 11.0-0-0 Nf6 12.Ne2 Qc7 13.Bg3 Qd7 14.c4 Rd8 15.Nf4 Qc8 16.Re1 Rd7 17.Kb1 Rg8 18.Rhh1 Qd8 19.Bf2 Qc7 20.g3 Kd8 21.Re2 Kc8 22.Rc1 Kb8 23.Be3 Ka8 24.Rc3 g5 25.fxg6 e5 26.gxf7 Rxf7 27.Ne6 Qc8 28.Qf5 exd4 29.Bxd4 Rxf7 30.Bxf6 Be7 31.Nd4 Rg1+ 32.Kc2 Qf8 33.Rxe7 Rxf6 34.Qxf6 1-0

Mike Shedd (2104)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (Unrated)

May Daze / May 27, 1990 - Round 3

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.d4 c6 6.a3 Ne4 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Nd2 f5 9.f3 Bd6 10.g3 exf3 11.Qxf3 0-0 12.c5 Bc7 13.Bc4 Kh8 14.0-0 e5 15.b4 exd4 16.exd4 Nxc5 17.Bb2 Na4 18.Qb3 b5 19.Bd3 Be6 20.Qc2 Nxb2 21.Qxb2 Bb6 22.Nf3 Bd5 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (Unrated)

Raymond Haskins (2213)

May Daze / May 27, 1990 - Round 4

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Qg4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Qc7 7.Qg3 f6 8.exf6 Qxg3 9.f7+ Kxf7 10.hxg3 Nf6 11.Bf4 Bb4+ 12.Nbd2 h6

13.0-0-0 Ng4 14.Rde1 Nxf2 15.Rhf1 Nxd3+ 16.cxd3 Rf8
17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Bd6+ Kg6 19.Bxf8 Ba5 20.Bc5 Nc6 21.Rf8
Bd8 22.Nf3 Bd7 23.Kd1 Rc8 24.Bxa7 Ba5 25.Rxc8 Bxc8
26.Ne5+ Kf6 27.Nxc6 Bxe1 28.Bd4+ e5 29.Nxe5 Bxg3
30.Nc4+ Ke7 31.Ne3 Bf2 32.Ke2 Bxe3 33.Kxe3 ... (And the
game was drawn later.) ½-½

Chris Clevenger (1982)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2346)

1990 Colorado Open / September 1, 1990 - Round 1

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nc3 e5! 6.Be3 exd4
7.Bxd4 Nc6 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Bxb6 axb6 10.Nf3 Bb4 11.Qe3 Qf6
12.Be2 Ra3!! 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxc3 15.Qe4 0-0 16.Bd3 g6
17.Qe2 Nb4 18.Ne5 Nxd3 19.Nxd3 Bxc4 20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Qe5
Rd6 22.Qe8+ Kg7 23.Ne5 Bxf1 24.Rxd6 Qxd6 25.Qxf7+ Kh6
26.Qf4+ g5 27.Nf7+ Kg7 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2346)

Mark Scheidies (2152)

1990 Colorado Open / September 2, 1990 - Round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bh4 Bf5 5.f3 Nbd7 6.Nxd5!
Nxd5 7.e4 Bxe4 8.fxe4 Ne3 9.Qd3 Nxf1 10.Qxf1 g5 11.Bg3 e6
12.0-0-0 Bd6 13.e5 Be7 14.Qb5 Qc8 15.Ne2 c6 16.Qd3 b5
17.Rdf1 Nb6 18.Rf2 Qd7 19.Rhf1 0-0-0 20.Rxf7 Rdf8 21.Qg6
Rxf7 22.Rxf7 Rf8 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.Qg8 Qe7 25.Nc3 Kd7
26.Ne4 Na4 27.Nf6+ Kc7 28.Be1 b4 29.Nh7 Bg7 30.Qa8 Kb6
31.Qb8+ Qb7 32.Qxb7+ Kxb7 33.Bxb4 e5! 34.dxc5 Bxe5
35.Ba3 Bxh2 36.Nf8 Bf4+ 37.Kd1 e5 38.Ne6 Kc6 39.c4 a5
40.Nd8+ Kc7 41.Nf7 h5 42.g3 h4! 43.gxh4 gxh4 44.Nd6 h3
45.Ne4 h2 46.Nf2 Kc6 47.Ke2 e4 48.Nh1 Nxc5 49.b4 axb4
50.Bxb4 Nd3 51.Bd2 Nc1+ 52.Kd1 Bxd2 53.Kxd2 Nxa2 54.Ke3
Nc3 55.Kd4 Na4 56.Kxe4 ½-½

Randy Canney (2345)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2346)

1990 Colorado Open / September 3, 1990 - Round 5

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.c4 e6 4.Qb3 Nc6 5.Bd2 Rb8 6.e3 a6 7.Be2
Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.c5 Ne4 10.Nc3 0-0 11.a3 e5 12.dxe5 Nxe5
13.Rad1 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Nxc5 15.Qxd5 Bd3 16.b4 Bxf1
17.Kxf1 Ne6 18.Qf5 g6 19.Qc2 c6 20.Ne4 Qc7 21.Bc3 Rfd8
22.Bf6 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 Bf8 24.g3 Bg7 25.Qa1 Rd8 26.Bg4 h5
27.Be2 Rc8 28.Bc4 b5 29.Bb3 Kh8 30.Ng5 Nxc5 31.Bxg7+
Kh7 32.Qf6 Ne4 33.Qb2 Nd2+ 34.Qxd2 Kxg7 35.Qd4+ f6
36.Kg2 Rd8 37.Qe4 Qd6 38.h3 f5 39.Qc2 Kh6 40.e4 Qd3
41.Qc1+ Kh7 42.Bc2 Qd2 43.Qb1 f4 44.e5 fxg3 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2346)

Jesse Kraai (2312)

1990 Colorado Open / September 3, 1990 - Round 6

1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Be2 0-0 7.Nd2
Na6 8.0-0 Nc7 9.a4 e6 10.Nc4 exd5 11.exd5 b6 12.Bf4 Nfe8
13.Qd2 Ba6 14.Ne3 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Nf6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4 Qd7
18.Qf3 Nh7 19.Qe2 Rae8 20.Qd3 f5 21.Bg3 f4 22.Bxf4 Rxf4
23.Qxg6 Nf8 24.Qg3 Rf6 25.Nc4 Rg6 26.Qd3 Qg4 27.g3 Qd4
28.Rad1 Qxd3 29.Rxd3 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Nd7 31.Ne3 Ne5 32.Rdd1
Ng4 33.Ng2 Rg7 34.h3 Nf6 35.c4 Ne4 36.Rd3 Ng5 37.f4 Nh7
38.Kf2 Nf6 39.Kf3 h5 40.Ne3 Rd7 41.g4 hxg4+ 42.hxg4 Rf8

43.g5 Nh7 44.Kg4 Rg7 45.Nf5 Rd7 46.Re3 Re8 47.Rfe1 Rxe3
48.Rxe3 Kf8 49.Nh4 Rg7 50.Kh5 Kg8 51.Nf5 Rd7 52.Kh6 a6
53.Ne7+ Kf8 54.Ng6+ Kg8 55.f5 b5 56.axb5 axb5 57.f6 Nf8
58.Ne7+ Kf7 59.g6+ Nxg6 60.Nxg6 bxc4 61.Kg5 Nxd5 62.Rh3
Nxf6 63.Rf3 Ke6 64.Rxf6+ Kd5 65.Kf5 Kd4 66.Ke6 Rb7
67.Rf3 c3 68.Nh4 d5 69.Nf5+ Kc4 70.Nd6+ 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2337)

Timothy Williams (1982)

DCC July Tournament / July 1990 - Round 2

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 Bb4 4.Qg4 Nf6 5.Qxg7 Rg8 6.Qh6 Rg6
7.Qh4 Nxe4 8.Qxh7 Qf6 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Bd2 Nxd2 11.Nxd2
Nxd4 12.0-0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.Bd3 Rxg2 15.Rhg1 Rxg1
16.Rxg1 Ke7 17.Rg8 b6 18.h4 Bb7 19.Rxa8 Bxa8 20.h5 Ne5
21.h6 Nxd3+ 22.cxd3 Qxc3+ 23.Kd1 Kf8 24.f4 Qf6 25.Nf3 Qg6
26.Qh8+ Qg8 27.Qf6 Bc6 28.Ng5 Qg6 29.Nxe6+ Kg8 30.Qd8+
1-0

Sage Mo (1828)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2323)

1991 St Patrick's Open / March 16, 1991 - Round 1

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxd5 4.Bc4 Be6 5.Qf3 c6 6.Nh3 Nc7
7.d3 Nd7 8.Bxe6 Nxe6 9.Ng5 Nxg5 10.Bxg5 g6 11.0-0-0 Qa5
12.Qe3 0-0-0 13.Bh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 e5 15.Rhe1 f5 16.Qg7 Qb6
17.d4 Rhg8 18.Qxh7 exd4 19.Nb1 c5 20.Qf7 Rgf8 21.Qc4 Rfe8
22.Rxe8 Rxe8 23.b4 Qc6 24.bxc5 Re5 25.Qxd4 Rxc5 26.Na3 a6
27.Qd6 Qa4 28.Rd3 g5 29.Qd4 Qc6 30.Qd6 Qa4 31.Qd4 Qxd4
32.Rxd4 b5 33.Kd2 Ne5 34.f3 Kc7 35.Nb1 Nc4+ 36.Kd3 Re5
37.c3 Re3+ 38.Kc2 Re2+ 39.Kc1 Rxc2 40.h4 gxh4 41.Rxh4
Rxa2 42.Rd4 Rf2 43.f4 Kc6 44.Kd1 Ne3+ 45.Ke1 Rb2 46.Na3
Rb3 47.Kd2 Rxa3 48.Kxe3 Rxc3+ 49.Kd2 Rc4 50.Rd8 Rxf4
51.Kc3 a5 52.Rc8+ Kb7 53.Rf8 a4 54.Rf6 b4+ 55.Kb2 Rf2+
56.Kb1 a3 57.Ka1 b3 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2323)

Edwin Schreiber (1984)

1991 St Patrick's Open / March 16, 1991 - Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6
7.Nf3 Bd7 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.c3 g6 10.Qe2 Qe7 11.d5 Nd8 12.0-0-0
Bg7 13.Bc4 exd5 14.Bxd5 0-0 15.Rhe1 Be6 16.Kb1 Bf5 17.Nd4
c6 18.Bb3 Re8 19.Nxf5 gxf5 20.Ng3 Qxe2 21.Rxe2 Rxe2
22.Nxe2 Ne6 23.Rd7 Rb8 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Nf4 e5 26.Nh5 Bh8
27.Ng3 f4 28.Ne4 Bg7 29.Kc2 a5 30.f3 b6 31.Kd3 b5 32.Nd6 c5
33.Ke4 b4 34.c4 a4 35.h4 h5 36.Nf5 Bf6 37.Nh6+ Kh8 38.Kf5
Bxh4 39.Kg6 Rb6+ 40.Kxh5 Bf2 41.b3 axb3 42.axb3 Bd4
43.Kg5 Re6 44.Nf7+ Kg8 45.Kf5 Re8 46.Nd6 Rf8+ 47.Kg6 Ra8
48.Ne4 Ra6+ 49.Nf6+ Rxf6+ 50.Kxf6 e4+ 51.Kg6 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2323)

Jim Burden (2096)

Marathon II / April 27, 1991 - Round 3

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.exd6 cxd6
7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qd2 Re8 9.Bc4 Nc6 10.Bh6 Bh8 11.0-0-0 a6 12.h4
b5 13.Bd5 Bb7 14.h5 Nb6 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7
17.Ng5+ Kg8 18.Qd3 1-0

Dr. Ponomarev & Buck's article that appeared in Chess Life magazine / January 1992 (pages 32-33). (The game score is on the previous page.)

"AM I THINKING CORRECTLY?"

BY MIKHAIL PONOMAREV
translated by Mikhail Volin
and Richard Buchanan

[This is an excerpt from the book Madman, the story of psychologist and chess master Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev. For many years a political dissident in the Soviet Union, Dr. Ponomarev was victimized by the KGB and spent time in prison and in mental institutions. After his emigration he felt a need to demonstrate that he had not been mentally ill, but had been locked up because of his political beliefs.]

When I emigrated to the USA, tearing away from the Soviet country psychojail that had declared me an incurable madman, I chose chess as an objective test about my state of mind. If I could succeed in chess, it would prove that I can think clearly. This was my purpose during my seven and a half initial months in the promised Coloradoland. But I did not give up my literary creative work, my calling, or the renewal of my poetic trilogy *Life* or the publication of this book. At my already beyond-middle age I decided to win the title of Colorado State Champion by the force of my will and mind. I also pledged to myself I would win it without studying chess books. So for the first months in the USA I simply played chess at tournaments in the Denver Chess Club.

And so to the Tournament: the Colorado Open, September 1-3, 1990: 6 rounds, 82 players, six of them Masters.

After 5 rounds I had gathered 4½ points, half a point ahead of James Hamblin and other strong players. At last the sixth round brought me together with the champion of New Mexico, young and well-trained Master Jesse Kraai.

I had to win or at least draw. If I drew, I would still become State Champion even if Hamblin, treading upon my heels, defeated his opponent and equalled my score, because I had better tiebreak points. I collected my points from players who scored higher than Hamblin's opponents. But if I lost, I with my 4½ points would roll away in 3rd-4th place.

BENONI DEFENSE [A43]

Schmid Variation
W: Mikhail Ponomarev [2346]
B: Jesse Kraai [2312]

Colorado Open, 1990

1. d4 e5 2. d5 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. Be2 0-0 7. Nd2

This Knight maneuver is common in openings with a White pawn on d5 and a Black one on e5. The Knight is heading for the active square c4.

7. ... Na6
Black plans ... Na6-c7 to support ... b7-b5, keeping the Knight off c4. But I do not think c7 is a particularly effective square for the Knight.

8. 0-0 Nc7 9. a4
Now the Knight will be secure on c4.
9. ... c6 10. Nc4 exd5 11. exd5 b6
Black intends to exchange his Bishop for the strong

White Knight via ... Bc8-a6.

12. Bf4 Nfe8 13. Qd2
The move Nc3-e4 does not win a pawn, as Black would coolly reply 13. ... Bb7, exchanging his pawn on d6 for the White nail-pawn on d5.

13. ... Bb6 14. Ne3
White prefers to exchange the Bishops, keeping his fighting Knight. However, now the move 13. Qd2 turns out to be a waste of time as White abandons his planned move Bf4-h6.

14. ... Bxe2 15. Qxe2 Nf6
The Black Knights return to the front line, preventing Ne3-c4 because of the attack on d5. Black also plans to exchange his Nf6 for White's Bishop, increasing his pressure on the dark squares.

16. Bg5?
But this is already a positional mistake. Strange as it may seem, White had to choose the fanciful but (in the present situation) quite natural move 16. g4! This move keeps some advantage in position, chiefly because of White's space advantage. It also prevents the exchange of the Bf4, limits the possibilities of Nf6, and for some time bricks up Black's Bishop behind the Knight. White did not play 16. g4 because of dogmatic, abstract apprehensions about the weakening of the castled position. The active movement of this pawn undeservedly has a reputation with positional players as always being adventurous and insecure. I was in fact focusing on a draw and prudence, the enemy of creativity in all kinds of art, prevailed over me.

16. ... h6 17. Bh4
Subsequent developments showed it was better to exchange Bishop for Knight.

17. ... Qd7 18. Qf3 Nb7!
A very strong "quiet" move, threatening after the powerful thrust ... f7-f5 to win White's Bishop. White's only correct reply is 19. g4.

19. Qe2
Intending 20. f4, to withdraw the Bishop from danger.

19. ... Rae8!
A shattering move! If now White plays 20. f4, Black will strike with 20. ... Rxe3 and 21. ... Bd4. White does not foresee Black's next move and hopes to save the piece by withdrawing the Queen from the pin.

20. Qd3 f5
The piece is won for two pawns. The young and slender sportsman playing Black suggests with his eyes and half-smile that it is time for the little old fellow playing White to surrender.

21. Bg3 f4 22. Bxf4 Rxf4 23. Qxg6 (diagram)

Let us stop and appraise the position. Black has a Bishop for two pawns, which are not dangerous as they still stand on their original squares. Many "self-respecting" masters, facing such a material disadvantage at this early stage of the game, would throw in the towel and surrender. However, chess is a struggle! Of

course it would be unseemly to continue the game if White did not have any compensation. Black's Knight on c7 stands out of the fight and Black will have difficulty getting it into action. There is also an important psychological factor: the young master from New Mexico obviously underestimates the old Coloradan. So White decides to play on. I can always resign later if my opponent continues his forceful play. You see, the result of this game is vitally important to me: if I do not lose, I will be able to exploit the results of this tournament and my Champion's title, side by side with my scientific and literary works for my psychiatric rehabilitation.

23. ... Nf8
Oh, but where is the place for the Queen? It is uncomfortable on d3 because of 24. ... Rd4 25. Qe2 Qf7. The move 24. Qh5 is bad due to 24. ... Re4. Only one move remains.

24. Qg3 Rf6 25. Nc4 Rg6 26. Qd3 Qg4

Black forces the exchange of Queens, apparently considering it a great achievement. Thinking dogmatically (as White did 8-10 moves ago), Black wants to simplify the position to realize his material advantage. But the extra pawns on the Kingside can only begin to advance when there are few pieces on the board. In the endgame the King can be a powerful attacker, but in the middlegame it is infirm and stands in need of cover. Therefore Black's best plan consists not in exchanges, but quite the reverse in active piece play. Yes, he should bring the Knight idling on c7 into play by ... Nc7-a6 and ... Na6-b4. And he should attack the White Kingside along the open lines. But he cannot sit and wait, thinking the victory will come by itself.

27. g3 Qd4 28. Rad1 Qxd3 29. Rxd3 Bxc3
Black carries out his plan of exchanges.
30. bxc3 Nd7
Black thought it perilous to play 30. ... Re2 on account of 31. Ne3.

31. Ne3 Ne5 32. Rdd1
Now Black should play 32. ... b5, but he is absorbed with the idea of exchanges, and he offers another one.

32. ... Ng4 33. Ng2
The square f4 is not worse than e3.
33. ... Rg7
Intending 34. ... Re2.
34. h3 Nf6 35. c4 Ne4
Stronger is 35. ... Re2, because after 36. Ne3 or 36. Ne1 the 36. ... Ne4 favors Black.

36. Rd3 Ng5
Black plays without plan. The Nc7 is "forgotten and thrown far away since youthful, young years," as they say in a sad Russian song.

37. f4!
Beginning with this move, White finally takes the initiative. He begins the offensive on the Kingside, where he has an active majority. Capturing on h3 would cost Black his Knight.

37. ... Nh7 38. Kf2
The King is going into battle under the reliable escort of the advancing line of his soldiers. If now Black will transfer his Knight from c7 to the Kingside via e8, he will be able to draw by returning it for two White pawns, whose dynamic force increases

every move. But Black peacefully enjoys himself 38. ... Nf6 39. Kf3 h5

Do not play with pawns on the flank where your opponent is on the offensive.

40. Ne3 Rd7 41. g4 hxg4 42. hxg4 (diagram) 42. ... Rf8

Here Black's complacency ended; he understood all and offered a draw. It was a tardy offer! White has the superiority with his two friendly pawns. Black's extra Knight does not count because it is in the stable.

43. g5 Nh7 44. Kg4 Rg7 45. Nf5 Rd7 46. Re3 Re8 47. Rfe1 Rxe3 48. Rxe3

The e-file is captured, and e8 is taken away from the Knight — super!

48. ... Kf8 49. Nh4
Preventing 49. ... Re7 and making way for the f-pawn.

49. ... Rg7 50. Kh5
The King is attacking! Now it is impossible to play 50. ... Ne8 on account of 51. Ng6+ Kf7 52. Re7+ Kg8 53. Rxe8+.

50. ... Kg8 51. Nf5 Rd7
The only move.

52. Kh6
The King advances in front of his soldiers. Where else do you see such Kings?

52. ... a6
This Queenside counterattack would have been timely 20 moves ago.

53. Ne7+ Kf8 54. Ng6+
Here White cannot win with 54. Kxh7 because of 54. ... Rxe7+ 55. Rxe7 Kxc7 56. g6 Ne8 57. g7 Nf6+.

54. ... Kg8 55. f5 h5 56. axb5 axb5 57. f6
Also 56. Ne7+ wins.

57. ... Bf8
Threatening 58. ... Rh7 mate.

58. Ne7+ 58. ... Kf7
If 58. ... Kh8, then 59. g6 and victory.

59. g6+ Nxc6
He cannot play 59. ... Kxf6 because of 60. g7 and a White Queen appears.

60. Nxc6 bxc4
Of course not 60. ... Kxf6, when 61. Rf3 is mate.

61. Kg5 Nxd5
The Knight comes into play! But it is too late.

62. Rh3 Nxf6
There was no other way to stop 63. Rh7+.

63. Rf3 Ke6 64. Rxf6+ Kd5
The bitter resistance continues.

65. Kf5 Kd4 66. Ke6 Rb7 67. Rf3 c3 68. Nh4 d5 69. Nf5+ Ke4

Or 69. ... Ke4 70. Re3+ and 71. Rxc3.

70. Nd6+, Black resigns
In this game there triumphs creative but not dogmatic strategy. To know how to transgress the principles is often more important for winning than to follow them always unconditionally. This is not extravagant behavior but a modern, healthy style of thinking.

And another thing: other things being equal, there conquers the one for whom the victory is more substantial and vital. The aim gives strength and energy.



After 42. hxg4



After 23. Qxg6

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)**Sean Scott (2141)**

1991 Al Wallace Memorial / November 3, 1991 - Round 4

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bg7 5.c3 Nd7 6.Nf3 Ngf6
7.Bd3 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Nf6 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 c6 11.Re1 h6 12.Ne5
Nd7 13.Ng4 Kh7 14.Qe2 Nf6 15.Ne5 Be6 16.Nxg6 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2280)**Keith Oxman (2025)**

1991 Membership Meeting Open / September 1, 1991 - Round 2

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 e5 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Ne7 6.Nc3 d4
7.Ne4 Nbc6 8.Ng5 Nd5 9.Nxf7 Kxf7 10.Bxd5+ Ke8 11.d3 Bxg4
12.Bf7+ Kd7 13.Qxb7+ Kd6 14.Bd2 Rb8 15.Qa6 Rb6 16.Qc4
Qf6 17.Re1 Be7 18.Ba5 Kd7 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Bd5 Be5 21.Nf3
Bb4+ 22.Kd1 Bc5 23.Qb5 Rc8 24.b4 Bxf3 25.Bxf3 Bxb4
26.Bg4+ Kd8 27.Qd5+ Ke7 28.Qd7+ 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2273)**David Dustin (1936)**

1992 MayDaze / May 2, 1992 - Round 1

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Qd3 e6 5.0-0-0 Be7 6.f3 c6
7.e4 dxe4 8.fxe4 0-0 9.Nf3 Re8 10.e5 Nd5 11.Ne4 Bxg5+
12.Nexg5 Nf8 13.c4 Ne7 14.h4 Qc7 15.h5 h6 16.Ne4 Rd8 17.g4
Kh8 18.Nd6 Ng8 19.g5 Rd7 20.Bh3 hxg5 21.Nxg5 Nh6 22.Rdf1
Re7 23.Qf3 Kg8 24.Rhg1 Rb8 25.Nge4 Bd7 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7
27.Qf6+ 1-0

Michael Shedd (2000)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2273)**

1992 MayDaze / May 2, 1992 - Round 2

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.b3 c5 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4
Bb4+ 8.Bc3 Qa5 9.Bxb4 Nxb4 10.Nd2 e5 11.Nb5 0-0 12.a3
dxc4 13.Bxc4 Nc6 14.0-0 Rd8 15.b4 Qb6 16.Qc2 a5 17.Nf3 Bg4
18.Ng5 Bh5 19.Qb3 Rd7 20.Nd6 Rxd6 21.Bxf7+ Bxf7 22.Nxf7
Rd5 23.e4 Nd4 24.Qa2 axb4 25.exd5 Kxf7 26.Qc4 b3 27.d6+
Kf8 28.Qc7 Qxc7 29.dxc7 Rc8 30.Rfe1 Nc2 31.Rad1 Rxc7
32.Rxe5 Nxa3 33.Re2 Rc2 34.Red2 b5 35.Kf1 b4 36.Ke1 Nc4
37.Rd8+ Kf7 38.Rb8 b2 39.Rxb4 Ne4 40.f3 Ned2 41.f4 b1Q 0-1

Zygmund Mayer (2106)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2294)**

Wyoming Open / May 16, 1992 - Round 1

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bc4 b5 5.Bb3 Bg4 6.f3 Bc8
7.Nc3 b4 8.Ne4 Nxd5 9.d4 e6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Qd2 0-0 12.Ne2
f6 13.Bh4 a5 14.c4 a4 15.Bc2 Nb6 16.Qd3 f5 17.Bxe7 Qxe7
18.Nf2 Ba6 19.b3 axb3 20.Bxb3 c5 21.0-0 Nc6 22.Qe3 Nxc4
23.Bxc4 Bxc4 24.dxc5 Ra3 25.Qd2 Qxc5 26.Rfc1 Qe5 27.Rxc4
Qxa1+ 28.Rc1 Qxa2 29.Rc2 b3!! 30.Rb2 Qa1+ 31.Nc1 Ra2!
32.Nfd3 Rd8 33.Qc3 Rxd3! 34.Qxc6 Rd1+ 35.Kf2 Qxb2+
36.Kg3 Qxg2+ 37.Kf4 Qxh2+ 38.Ke3 Qd2# 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2294)**Michael Mulyar (2306)**

Wyoming Open / May 16, 1992 - Round 2

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Nc6 6.Qe2+ Be7
7.dxc5 Nf6 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Be3 Ng4 10.Nf3 Re8 11.0-0 a6 12.Ba4

Bf6 13.Rad1 Qe7 14.c3 Qe4 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Nbd4 Bd7
17.Rfe1 Qg6 18.Qd3 Re4 19.Nd2 Nxh2 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qc2
Bxd4 22.Kxh2 Be5+ 23.Kg1 Bg4 24.f4! Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Bf6
26.Rd6 Qg3 27.Qd2 Rc8 28.Bf2 Qg4 29.Qe3 Be7 30.Rd2 Qe6
31.b4 f5 32.Qe2 Rd8 33.Be3 a5 34.b5 cxb5 35.Qxb5 Rc8 36.c4
g5 37.Rd5 gxf4 38.Bxf4 Qc6 39.Bd6 Qxb5 40.cxb5 Bxd6
41.cxd6 Kf7 42.b6! Ke6 43.d7 Rd8 44.Rxa5 Rxd7 45.Rb5 Rd8
46.a4 e3 47.Kf1 f4 48.b7 Rd1+ 49.Ke2 Rd2+ 50.Ke1 1-0

David Fletcher (2115)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2294)**

Wyoming Open / May 17, 1992 - Round 4

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4.b3 h5 5.Bb2 h4 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.c4
Nc6 8.Be2 g5 9.0-0 Qe7 10.Nc3 g4 11.Nd5 Qd6 12.Ne1 f5
13.Qc2 Ne7 14.Nxe7 Bxe7 15.d4 Qe6 16.Qd3 Be4 17.Qd2 h3
18.g3 0-0 19.Bd3 Bb7 20.Nc2 d5 21.Rfe1 Rad8 22.Nb4 a5
23.Nc2 Bf6 24.c5 Rfe8 25.b4 axb4 26.Qxb4 Ra8 27.cxb6 cxb6
28.a4 Ba6 29.Qb3 Bxd3 30.Qxd3 Ra5 31.Reb1 Rea8 32.Ne1
Rxa4 33.Rxa4 Rxa4 34.Nc2 Be7 35.Qb3 Rc4 36.Kf2 Qe4!
37.Ne1 Rb4 38.Qxb4 Bxb4 39.Rxb4 Qh1 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2294)**Dan Joelson (2148)**

Wyoming Open / May 17, 1992 - Round 5

1.g4! g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.c4 c5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Qa4 e5 6.e3 Nge7 7.a3
a5 8.Nd5 Ra6 9.Ne2 0-0 10.d3 d6 11.h3 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Ne7
13.Bd2 Bd7 14.Qc2 b5 15.e4 f5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.g5 f4 18.Bf3
Nf5 19.h4 a4 20.Be4 h6 21.0-0-0 h5 22.Rdg1 b4 23.Qd1 Qb6
24.Qc2 Rc8 25.Kd1 Nd4 26.Qc1 bxa3 27.bxa3 Qb3+ 28.Ke1
Qxa3 29.Qxa3 Nc2+ 30.Kd1 Nxa3 31.Bf3 Bf5 32.Bxh5 Bxd3
33.Nc3 Nc4 34.Be2 Nb2+ 35.Ke1 a3 36.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 37.Kc2
Nb4+ 38.Kb3 Rb8 39.Kc4! a2 40.Ne4! Nc2 41.Bc3 Rb1 42.h5
a1Q 43.Bxa1 Rbxa1 44.Rxa1 Nxa1 45.Kb5 Ra2 46.Nxd6 Nb3
47.h6 Nd4+ 48.Kb6! Rb2+ 49.Kc7 Rxf2 50.h7+ Kf8 51.Ra1
Bh8 52.g6 Kg7 53.Rg1 f3 54.Ne8+ Kf8 55.g7+ Bxg7 56.Rxg7
Rh2 57.Rg8+ Ke7 58.d6+ Kf7 59.h8Q Rxh8 60.Rxh8 f2
61.Rh7+ Kf8 62.Rh1 Kxe8 63.d7+ Kf7 64.Rf1 Ne6+ 65.Kd6 1-0

Jeffrey Maguire (2044)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2316)**

Colorado Class Championship / July 25, 1992 - Round 2

1.c4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Be3 e5! 6.d5 Bf5
7.Nc3 N8d7 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Re8 11.Rc1 Bg6
12.Nd2 f5 13.f4 Bf6 14.Bf3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Bxe5 Bxe5
17.Kh1 Qh4 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2316)**Michael Mulyar (2337)**

Colorado Class Championship / July 26, 1992 - Round 3

1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 h5 3.gxh5 Nf6 4.c4 Nxh5 5.d4 exd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6
7.Qe4+ Be7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qc2 Ne5 10.Bf4 Ng6 11.Bg3 Nh5
12.0-0-0 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Rxh1 14.Bxh1 c6 15.f4 Qc7 16.Be4 Nf8
17.Nf3 d6 18.Nd4 g6 19.f5 Bxf5 20.Bxf5 gxf5 21.Qxf5 Qd7
22.Kb1 Ne6 23.Nf3 Nf8 24.Qa5 b6 25.Qa4 0-0-0 26.Ne5 Qf5+
27.Nd3 Kb7 28.e4 Qc8 29.Rf1 f6 30.Rf5 Ne6 31.Qd1 Nc5
32.Rh5 Qe6 33.Qe2 Qg8 ½-½

James Burden (2213)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2320)

Denver Open / June 27, 1992 - Round 4

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Bg4 4.h3 Bf5 5.d3 h5 6.Nbd2 Nf6
7.b3 e5 8.Bb2 Bd6 9.Nh4 Be6 10.e4 Qd7 11.Qe2 d4 12.0-0-0 a5
13.Rdf1 Nb4 14.a3 Na2+ 15.Kd1 Bxa3 16.Ba1 a4 17.f4 Nc1
18.Qf2 axb3 19.fxe5 bxc2+ 20.Kxc2 Qa4+ 0-1

Mark Scheidies (2162)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2318)

Colorado Open / September 6, 1992 - Round 3

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Bg5 Qb6
7.Qd2 Nd7 8.e3 Ngf6 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.a3 Bd6 11.Be2 Ne4
12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Nh4 Be6 14.g3 g5 15.Ng2 0-0-0 16.b4 f5
17.0-0 h5 18.f4 exf3 19.Rxf3 h4 20.gxh4 Qc7 21.Bd3 Bxh2+
22.Kh1 Bg3 23.Bxf5 Bxf5 24.Rxf5 Bxh4 25.Kg1 Bg3 26.Qe2
0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2318)

James McCarty (2360)

Colorado Open / September 6, 1992 - Round 4

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 c6 4.Qd3 Nbd7 5.e4 dxe4 6.Nxe4
Nxe4 7.Qxe4 h6 8.Bd2 Nf6 9.Qd3 g6 10.Nf3 Bf5 11.Qb3 Qb6
12.Bc4 Qxb3 13.Bxb3 Bg7 14.Ne5 e6 15.f3 g5 16.0-0-0 Nd7
17.Nc4 Bf8 18.g4 Bg6 19.h4 gxh4 20.Rxh4 0-0-0 21.Rdh1 Bg7
22.c3 c5 23.Bf4 Bf8 24.Nd6+ Bxd6 25.Bxd6 cxd4 26.cxd4 Nb8
27.Be5 Rh7 28.Rxh6 Rxh6 29.Rxh6 Nc6 30.Bxe6+ fxe6
31.Rxg6 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2296)

Michael Ginat (2364)

Colorado Closed / March 1993

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3
Qb6 8.Ne2 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.a3 0-0
13.Nc3 Bd7 14.Re1 Rae8 15.Bc2 Re7 16.Qd3 Be8 17.Ne5 Bxe5
18.dxe5 Bg6 19.Qe2 Nd4 20.exf6 Nxe2+ 21.Rxe2 Rxf6
22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Bg5 Ref7 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Rae1 Kf7 26.b4 g5
27.Na4 Qa6 28.Nc5 Qxa3 29.Nxb7 Qxb4 30.Nd8+ Kg6
31.Nxe6 a5 32.h3 a4 33.Nc7 Qc4 34.Ne8 Rf4 35.Re6+ Kh7
36.Re7 Re4? 37.Nf6+ Kg6 38.Nxe4 dxe4 39.R1xe4 Qc1+
40.Re1 Qc3 41.R1e6+ Kh7 42.Re3 Qc1+ 43.Kh2 Qc5 44.R7e5
Qc7 45.g3 a3 46.Re7 Qc5 47.R7e5 Qb4 48.R5e4 Qa5 49.Re1 a2
50.Ra1 Qf5 51.Re2 g4 52.hxg4 Qxg4 53.Raxa2 Qf3 54.Re3
Qh5+ ½-½

James Burden (2179)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2296)

Colorado Closed / March 1993

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6
7.Be3 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Bf5 11.a3 a5 12.Re1 Bf6
13.Nb3 Nd7 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 a4 16.Nc1 Re8 17.Qc2 e5
18.d5 Ne7 19.Ne2 b5 20.Red1 bxc4 21.Qxc4 Nf5 22.Qc2 e4
23.Nfd4 Nxe3 24.fxe3 Bg5 25.Qc3 Nb6 26.Nf5 Bf6 27.Qb4 Re5
28.Neg3 h5 29.d6 h4 30.Ne7+ Bxe7 31.dxe7 Qxe7 32.Qxe7
Rxe7 33.Nf5 Re5 34.Rf1 Nd5 35.Rac1 Rb8 36.Rc5 Rbe8
37.Ra5 Nb6 38.Ra7 Rc5 39.Rb7 Nd5 40.Ra7 Re5 41.Nxh4

Nxe3 42.Ra8+ Kh7 43.Rxf7 Rc1+ 44.Kh2 Nf1+ 45.Kg1 Ng3+
46.Kf2 Rf1+ 47.Kxg3 Rxf7 48.Rxa4 g5 49.Nf3 exf3 50.gxf3
Ref5 51.b4 Rxf3+ 52.Kg2 Kg6 53.b5 Rf2+ 54.Kg1 Rb2
55.Ra6+ Kh5 56.a4 Rd7 0-1

Jerry Kearns (2328)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2296)

Colorado Closed / March 1993

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Nc6
7.Be3 e6 8.0-0 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Nxc4 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qa4 Nb6
12.Qxc6+ Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Nc3 f5 15.Rac1 c6 16.Bf4
Bd6 17.Bxd6 Kxd6 18.Rc2 a5 19.Rfc1 Rbc8 20.Kf1 g5 21.Ke2
h5 22.Kd3 Rab8 23.Re1 Nd7 24.Rce2 Re8 25.b3 c5 26.dxc5+
Nxc5+ 27.Kc2 Rec8 28.f3 Rb7 29.Rd1+ Ke7 30.Rd4 Kf7
31.Rc4 Rb4 32.Rd2 Rxc4 33.bxc4 Kf6 34.Nb5 h4 35.Na7 Rb8
36.Nc6 Rb6 37.Nxa5 Ra6 38.Nb3 Rxa2+ 39.Kc3 Ra3 40.Kb4
Rxb3+ 41.Kxc5 h3! 42.gxh3 Rxf3 43.Kd6 e5 44.c5 e4 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2296)

Robert Karnisky (2214)

Colorado Closed / March 1993

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bh4 c5 4.f3 g5 5.fxe4 gxh4 6.Nf3 e6
7.Nc3 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Rg8 9.e5 Nc6 10.Qe4 Bb4 11.Qxh7 Bxc3+
12.bxc3 Rf8 13.Qe4 Qa5 14.Qe3 b6 15.g3 Bb7 16.Rg1 hxg3
17.Rxg3 0-0-0 18.Rg5 Qa3 19.Bg2 Rg8 20.h4 Nb4 21.Qd2
Rxg5 22.hxg5 Qb2 23.Rd1 Nxa2 24.Qf4 Qxc3+ 25.Kf1 Nb4
26.Qxf7 Nxc2 27.Rd3 Qc5 28.Qf4 Nb4 29.Rd1 Nc6 30.Rc1 Qa3
31.g6 Rf8 32.Qh6 Qe7 33.Rc4 Kc7 34.Rf4 Rg8 35.Rf7 Qe8
36.Qh7 Bc8 37.Qh6 Kb8 38.Qd2! Rxg6 39.Qd6+ Kb7 40.Ng5!
Ka6 41.Bxc6 dxc6 42.Qa3+ Kb5 43.Rf4 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2318)

Robert Karnisky (2179)

Colorado Class Championship / July 25, 1993 - Round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bh4 c5 4.f3 Qa5+ 5.c3 g5 6.fxe4 gxh4
7.e3 Bh6 8.Nd2 cxd4 9.exd4 Rg8 10.Ngf3 Qh5 11.Qa4 Bxd2+
12.Nxd2 Nc6 13.Be2 Qg5 14.0-0-0 Qxg2 15.Bf3 Qf2 16.e5 a6
17.Rdf1 Qc3 18.Re1 b5 19.Qe2 Qh6 20.Rhg1 Rg6 21.d5 Na5
22.Be4 Bb7 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Qd3 Nc4 25.d6 Qf4 26.dxe7
Qxd2+ 27.Qxd2 Nxd2 28.Kxd2 Kxe7 29.Rg4 Rh8 30.Ke3 Rh5
31.Kd4 Ke6 32.Rf4 g5 33.Rf6+ Ke7 34.Ref1 Rh7 35.Rg1 Rg7
36.Rh6 g4 37.Rxh4 Bf3 38.Rh6 a5 39.Ke3 Rg8 40.Rb6 Bc6
41.h4 g3 42.Kf4 g2 43.h5 Rh8 44.h6 Rxh6 45.Rxg2 Rh4+
46.Rg4 Rh2 47.a4 bxa4 48.Ke3 a3 49.bxa3 Ra2 50.Rxc6 dxc6
51.Ra4 Rh2 52.Rxa5 Rh4 53.Kd3 Ke6 54.Kc2 Re4 55.Rc5 Rxe5
56.Rxc6+ Kd7 57.Rc4 f5 58.a4 Ra5 59.Kb3 Ke6 60.Kb4 Ra8
61.a5 Kd5 62.Rf4 Rb8+ 63.Ka4 Ke5 64.Rf1 f4 65.a6 Ke4 66.c4
f3 67.Ka5 Rb2 68.Ra1 f2 69.a7 Ra2+ 70.Rxa2 f1Q 71.a8Q+
Ke3 72.Qe8+ Kd3 73.Qd7+ Kc3 74.Qd2+ 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2313)

Paul Connors (2053)

Colorado Open / September 4, 1993 - Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.e5
Qd8 8.Bd3 d5 9.Qd2 b6 10.Ne2 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.h4 h5
13.Ng5 Qd7 14.a3 Nb8 15.Qd3 Nc6 16.Qf3 Bg7 17.0-0-0 Nd8
18.g4 Qe7 19.gxh5 Rxh5 20.Nf4 Rh8 21.Rdgl Bh6 22.Kb1 c5

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Mikhail Ponomarev



State Champion

23.c4 Nc6 24.cxd5 Nxd4 25.Qe4 Qb7 26.Qg2 Bxg5 27.Qxg5
Qa6 28.dxe6 Qc4 29.exf7+ Kd7 30.Qxg6 Nb3 31.Rd1+ 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2313)

Michael Shedd (2000)

Colorado Open / September 5, 1993 - Round 4

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Bf5 3.f3 e6 4.e4 Bg6 5.Nge2 c5 6.exd5 exd5
7.Nf4 Nf6 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.Bg5 c4 10.Qd2 a6 11.g3 Bb4 12.0-0-0
0-0 13.a3 Ba5 14.h4 Qd6 15.Bf4 Qc6 16.g4 b5 17.h5 gxh5
18.g5! Bxc3 19.bxc3 Nh7 20.Rxh5 f5 21.Qh2 Qg6 22.Be2 Re8
23.Rh1 Nf8 24.Be5 Nbd7 25.Rh8+ Kf7 26.f4 Qc6 27.Bxg7!
Kxg7 28.Qh7+! Nxb7 29.R1xh7+ 1-0

Todd Bardwick (2225)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2293)

Colorado Closed / March 1994

1.e3 d5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.d4 e6 5.c3 Be7 6.Bd3 Bh4+ 7.g3
Be7 8.Nbd2 f5 9.Qa4 Bxf3 10.Nxf3 Bf6 11.Ne5 Bxe5 12.dxe5
Qd7 13.Qc2 h5 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 Nge7 16.c4 h4 17.cxd5
exd5 18.Bc3 Qe6 19.b3 g6 20.Be2 Kb8 21.g4 fxg4 22.Rhg1 g3
23.hxg3 h3 24.g4 a5 25.Bf3 h2 26.Rg3 Rh4 27.Qf2 a4 28.b4 d4
29.Bxd4 Nxb4 30.Bh1 Nxa2+ 31.Kd2 c5 32.Rb1 Nb4 33.Qf3
Qa2+ 34.Ke1 Qxb1+ 35.Kf2 Nd3+ 36.Ke2 cxd4 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2293)

Jonathan Revusky (2147)

Colorado Closed / March 1994

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 Be7 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bd2 c5 6.Qg4 g6 7.c4 f5
8.Qg3 Nc7 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.h4 Be7 12.h5 Kf7
13.Ng5+ Kg7 14.Nc3 Qe8 15.0-0-0 h6 16.Nf3 g5 17.Bd3 Qf7
18.Nb5 Nxb5 19.exb5 Nb4 20.Bb1 b6 21.Bc3 Nd5 22.Rxd5 1-0

Todd Bardwick (2239)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2310)

Colorado Closed / April 1995

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.g3 Nd7 7.Bg2
a5 8.0-0 Ngf6 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Na2 Nb6 11.Nxb4 axb4 12.a5 b3
13.Qc3 Nfd5 14.Qe1 Nd7 15.e4 N5f6 16.Bf4 Qe7 17.Ne5 Nxe5
18.Bxe5 Ng4 19.Qc3 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Qc5 21.Rfe1 Rd8 22.Bf1 g6
23.Bxc4 Rd4 24.Bxb3 Qxe5 25.Bc2 Qd6 26.Rd1 e5 27.Rxd4
exd4 28.Qd2 c5 29.Bd3 Be6 30.Qc2 Qc7 31.b4 c4 32.Bf1 Re8
33.Rd1 Qd6 34.b5 Qe5 35.Qa4 d3 36.a6 bxa6 37.bxa6 Qe5
38.a7 Ra8 39.Ra1 Bg4 40.Bg2 d2 41.e5 Rxa7 42.Qe8+ Kg7
43.Rxa7 d1Q+ 44.Bf1 Qxa7 45.Qc6 Bh3 46.Qf6+ Kg8 0-1

Ian MacLellan (1989)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2279)

Denver Open / July 2, 1995 - Round 4

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 d4 3.Nce2 Nc6 4.Ng3 e5 5.Bc4 Na5 6.Bb3 Nxb3
7.axb3 d3 8.Nf3 dxc2 9.Qxc2 Bd6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Qc3 Qf6
12.Ne1 Ne7 13.f4 h5 14.d4 exd4 15.Qc2 Qg6 16.f5 Qf6 17.Nh1
h4 18.Nd3 Nc6 19.Nhf2 Bh5 20.Nh3 Qe7 21.Bg5 f6 22.e5 Bxe5
23.Rfe1 fxg5 24.Kh1 0-0 25.Nxe5 Nxe5 26.Ra5 d3 27.Qc3 Rxf5
28.Raxe5 Qxe5 29.Rxe5 Rf1+ 30.Ng1 Rd8 31.Re7 Bf7 32.Qd2
h3 33.Qxg5 Rxg1+ 34.Kxg1 d2 35.Re8+ Rxe8 36.Qxd2 hxg2
37.Kxg2 c5 38.Qc3 b6 39.Kg3 Re4 40.Qd3 Rb4 41.Qd2 Rxb3+

42.Kf4 Rb4+ 43.Ke5 Rd4 44.Qf2 a5 45.h4 a4 46.h5 Rd5+
47.Kf4 Rxh5 48.Qg3 b5 49.Kg4 c4 50.Qc3 Rd5 51.Qg3 Be6+
52.Kh4 Kh7 53.Qe3 Bf7 54.Qe4+ Kg8 55.Qe1 Rd3 56.Qh1 Rb3
57.Qa8+ Kh7 58.Qe4+ Bg6 59.Qh1 Kg8 60.Qd5+ Kh7 61.Qh1
Bf5 62.Qf1 Kg6 63.Qg1+ Kf6 64.Qd4+ Ke6 65.Qb6+ Ke5
66.Qc7+ Ke4 67.Kg5 g6 68.Qc6+ Kd3 69.Qd6+ Kc2 70.Qh2+
Kb1 71.Qg1+ Ka2 72.Kf4 Rxb2 73.Ke3 c3 74.Kd4 b4 75.Kc4
Rb1 76.Qa7 a3 77.Kb5 c2 78.Qf7+ b3 0-1

Richard "Buck" Buchanan (2103)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2272)

Colorado Open / September 4, 1995 - Round 5

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4
7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.a3 a5 10.0-0 Bd6 11.e4 e5 12.Be3 0-0
13.Ne2 Re8 14.Qc2 exd4 15.Nexd4 Ne5 16.Be2 Nfg4 17.Bg5
Qb6 18.h3 c5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Nxb5 Bxe4 21.Qc4 Qg6
22.Bxg4 Qxg5 23.Rfe1 Bd5 24.Qf1 h5 25.Be2 Qf4 26.g3 Qe4
27.f3 Qe3+ 28.Kg2 h4 29.Rad1 Qg5 30.Kh1 Bxg3 31.Qg2 Qe5
32.Nc3 Bxe1 33.Rxd5 Qe6 34.Bc4 Bxc3 35.bxc3 Qe1+ 36.Kh2
Qxc3 37.Rxc5 Qd4 38.Re7 Qf4+ 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2286)

David Hartsook (2049)

Loveland Open / February 18, 1996 - Round 4

1.d4 f5 2.g4 fxg4 3.e4 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.h3 g3 6.fxg3 Bg7 7.Nf3
Nf6 8.Be3 c6 9.Qd2 Qc7 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.Ng5 Nb6 12.e5 dxe5
13.dxe5 Nfd5 14.e6 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 0-0 16.Re1 Nd5 17.Nxd5
exd5 18.Bg2 b6 19.Bxd5 Bb7 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Nf7 Qd5
22.Kb1 Rac8 23.Rh2 Qb5 24.Qb3 Qc5 25.h4 Qd4 26.h5 Rc5
27.hxg6 hxg6 28.c3 Qd3+ 29.Qc2 Qxc3 30.Reh1 Rf5 31.a3 Qe3
32.Re2 Qf3 33.Rg1 R8xf7 34.exf7+ Kxf7 35.Reg2 Bf6 36.Rxg6
Qf2 37.Qe4 Re5 38.Qc4+ e6 39.Qc7+ 1-0

Brian Wall (2261)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2275)

Colorado Closed / May 1996

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4
7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Ne2 Na6 9.Bc3 Nf6 10.Qd6 Bd7 11.0-0-0
Qxc4 12.Ng3 Qc5 13.Bxa6 Qxd6 14.Rxd6 bxa6 15.Rhd1 Nd5
16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.Bd4 f5 18.Nh5 0-0-0 19.g3 Rg6 20.Be5 Rh6
21.Nf4 Rxh2 22.Nxe6 Re8 23.Nc5 Rxe5 24.Nxd7 Kc7 25.Nxe5
Kxd6 26.Nd3 a5 27.Rd2 h5 28.Kd1 h4 29.gxh4 Rxh4 30.Kc2
Re4+ 31.Kb3 Rd4 32.Kc2 Nb4+ 33.Kc3 Rxd3+ 34.Rxd3+ Nxd3
35.Kxd3 Kd5 36.a4 Ke5 37.Ke3 Kf6 38.Kf4 Kg6 39.Ke5 Kg5
40.f3 a6 41.b3 c5 42.Ke6 Kf4 43.Kf6 ½-½

James McCarty (2382)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2257)

Colorado Open / September 2, 1996 - Round 6

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3
Bf5 8.Nc3 e6 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.Be2 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Qh4+ 12.Bf2 Qf4
13.Qc1 Qf5 14.Qb1 Qxb1+ 15.Rxb1 0-0-0 16.c5 Nd5 17.Nxd5
Rxd5 18.Rd1 Ne7 19.Bd3 Rd7 20.b4 a6 21.a3 Nd5 22.c6 Rd8
23.exb7+ Kxb7 24.0-0 Be7 25.Be4 c6 26.f4 g6 27.Rc1 f5
28.exf6 Bxf6 29.Rfe1 Rhe8 30.Kh1 Rd6 31.Rf1 Ne7 32.a4 Nd5
33.b5 cxb5 34.axb5 axb5 35.Rc5 Rb6 36.Rb1 b4 37.f5 gxf5
38.Bxd5+ exd5 39.Rxd5 f4 40.Rf5 Re4 41.d5 Ra6 42.Bc5 Ra1

43.Rxa1 Bxa1 44.Rf7+ Ka6 45.Ra7+ Kb5 46.Bxb4 Bd4 47.Re7 Rxe7 48.Bxe7 Kc4 49.d6 Bc5 50.Kg2 Kd5 51.Kf3 ½-½

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Renard Anderson (2346)

Colorado Closed / March 1997

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.f3 Nbd7 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nh3 h6 7.Bh4 c6 8.Qd2 Qa5 9.Nf4 Bh7 10.Nd3 e6 11.Bg3 Nb6 12.Ne5 Nfd7 13.e3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 0-0-0 15.Bd3 f6 16.Bg3 Nc4 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.0-0 Bd6 19.Bxd6 Rxd6 20.Ne4 Qxd2 21.Nxd2 Bxc2 22.Nxc4 Rdd8 23.Rf2 Bg6 24.Rc1 Rhe8 25.Rd2 Bf7 26.e4 Kb8 27.Kf2 e5 28.Ke3 exd4+ 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Kxd4 Rd8+ 31.Ke3 Kc7 32.h4 g6 33.Nd2 b6 34.f4 a5 35.a3 a4 36.Rf1 c5 37.f5 g5 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.Rh1 Kd6 40.Rh6 Ke7 41.e5! fxe5 42.Ne4 Rd1 43.f6+ Kd8 44.Nxg5 Bd5 45.Rh8+ Kd7 46.f7 Bxf7 47.Nxf7 Re1+ 48.Kd2 Re4 49.Rh5 Rd4+ 50.Ke3 Ke6 51.Nxe5 b5 52.Nd3 Rxc4 53.Rxc5 Rg3+ 54.Kd2 1-0

Craig Wilcox (2101)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Colorado Closed / March 1997

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 Qc8 6.c4 Bh3 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Nc3 Bxg2 10.Kxg2 Qd7 11.Nb5 a6 12.Ne5 Qe8 13.Nc3 b5 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Qxb5 Ra6 16.Bd2 Nd7 17.Nxd7 Kxd7 18.Qxd5+ Ke8 19.Qb5 e6 20.Rfe1 Bd6 21.Rc2 Kd7 22.Rac1 Qa8 23.e4 Rb8 24.Qd3 Ke8 25.Kg1 g6 26.e5 Bb4 27.Bg5 Be7 28.h4 Bxg5 29.hxg5 Nb4 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Brian Wall (2210)

Colorado Closed / March 1997

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.f4 e6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nf3 exd5 9.Nxd5 Nc6 10.0-0 Nge7 11.c3 0-0 12.Be3 Rad8 13.Qd3 Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 15.Bf2 Rde8 16.a4 h5 17.Rfe1 b6 18.b3 Nf5 19.Ra2 Rxe1+ 20.Bxe1 Re8 21.Re2 Rxe2 22.Qxe2 Kf8 23.Bd2 Qb7 24.Qd3 a6 25.Kf2 b5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Ng5 Ne7 28.c4 bxc4 29.bxc4 Qb2 30.Kg3 Nf5+ 31.Kh3 Qa1 32.Qb3 Qb2 33.Qxb2 Bxb2 34.g4 hxg4+ 35.Kxg4 Ke7 36.Kf3 Nd4+ 37.Ke4 Nf5 38.Kd3 Nd4 39.Be3 Nf5 40.Bf2 Kf6 41.Kc2 Bd4 42.Bg3 Ne3+ 43.Kb3 Ng2 44.Ne4+ Ke7 45.f5 gxf5 46.Bxd6+ Kd7 47.Bxc5 fxe4 48.Bxd4 f5 49.c5 e3 50.c6+ Kd6 51.Bc5+ Kc7 52.Kc3 e2 53.Bf2 e1Q+ 54.Bxe1 Nxe1 55.h4 Ng2 56.h5 Nf4 57.h6 Nxd5+ 58.Kd4 Ne7 59.Ke5 Ng6+ 60.Kxf5 Nf8 61.Kf6 Kxc6 62.Kf7 Nh7 63.Kg7 Ng5 64.Kg6 Ne6 ½-½

Jerry Kearns (2334)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Colorado Closed / March 1997

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.Ne4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Bb7 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Bd3 h6 13.e4 e5 14.Be3 exd4 15.Bxd4 0-0 16.Rc1 a6 17.a4 b4 18.Qb3 Rad8 19.h3 c5 20.Be3 Bf4 21.Rfe1 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Qf4 23.Rc4 Qd6 24.Qc2 Qe6 25.Qe2 a5 26.Rc1 Rfe8 27.Bb5 Bc6 28.b3 Qg6 29.Bxc6 Qxc6 30.Nd4 Qf6 31.Nb5 Qe5 32.g3 Nb6 33.f4 Qe7 34.Qc2 c4! 35.bxc4 Qc5 36.Kf2 Re7 37.Kf3 Red7 38.Re2 b3! 39.Qb2 Nxa4 40.Qa3 Rd3+ 41.Kg2 Qxa3 42.Nxa3 b2 0-1

Randy Canney (2357)

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Colorado Closed / March 1997

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.c4 Nb6 6.c5 N6d7 7.Bc4 e6 8.h3 Bf5 9.Nc3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.b4 b6 12.Bf4 Nc6 13.Qa4 Ndb8 14.Rad1 bxc5 15.dxc5 Qc8 16.b5 e5 17.bxc6 exf4 18.Nd5 Bxc5 19.Rfe1 Be6 20.Ng5 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Bd6 22.Qc2 g6 23.Bb3 Na6 24.Qc4 Rb8 25.Ra5 Rxb3! 26.axb3 Bb4 27.Qxa6 Bxe1 28.Qxc8 Rxc8 29.Rxa7 Bb4 30.Ne4 f5 31.Nf6+ Kf7 32.Nxh7 Be7 33.h4 Bxh4 34.b4 Ke6 35.b5 Kd6 36.Rb7 Ra8 37.b6 Ra1+ 38.Kh2 Bxf2! 39.g4 Bxb6 40.gxf5 gxf5 0-1

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Michael Shedd (2089)

Colorado Open / August 30, 1997 - Round 2

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qd3 b6 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Qe4 c6 11.Bd3 g6 12.0-0-0 Bb7 13.h4 Nd7 14.h5 Kg7 15.Qe3 Rh8 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Qe7 18.h6+ Kf8 19.Be4 Ke8 20.Rd6 f5 21.Bf3 Kf7 22.Rhd1 Rhd8 23.g4 Rxd6 24.exd6 Qf6 25.gxf5 exf5 26.d7 Qe7 27.Qc3! Qg5+ 28.Kb1 Rd8 29.Qg7+ Ke6 30.Qxh7 Qf6 31.Re1+ Kd6 32.Qg7 Qxg7 33.hxg7 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2269)

Renard Anderson (2230)

Colorado Open / August 31, 1997 - Round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Qd3 g6 5.e4 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Bg7 7.Nc3 c6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Be2 Qa5 10.0-0 e5 11.Qd2 exd4 12.Nxd4 Ne4 13.Nxe4 Qxd2 14.Bxd2 Bxd4 15.Nd6 Nb6 16.c3 Bg7 17.Nxc8 Rfxc8 18.Rad1 h6 19.g3 Re8 20.Rfe1 Rad8 21.Kf1 Re4 22.Be3 Rde8 23.a3 Na4 24.Bc1 Nc5 25.f3 R4e7 26.Bc4 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Rd8 28.Be3 Na4 29.Rb1 Nb6 30.Bb3 Re8 31.Kf2 Bf8 32.Rd1 c5 33.Rd2 Kg7 34.Ba2 Be7 35.h4 Rc8 36.b3 Rc6 37.Bb1 c4 38.Be4 Rd6 39.Rxd6 Bxd6 40.Bd4+ f6 41.b4 Be5 42.Bxe5 fxe5 43.Ke3 Na4 44.Kd2 b6 45.Bd5 Kf6 46.Bxc4 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2282)

Randy Canney (2305)

Colorado Closed / March 1998

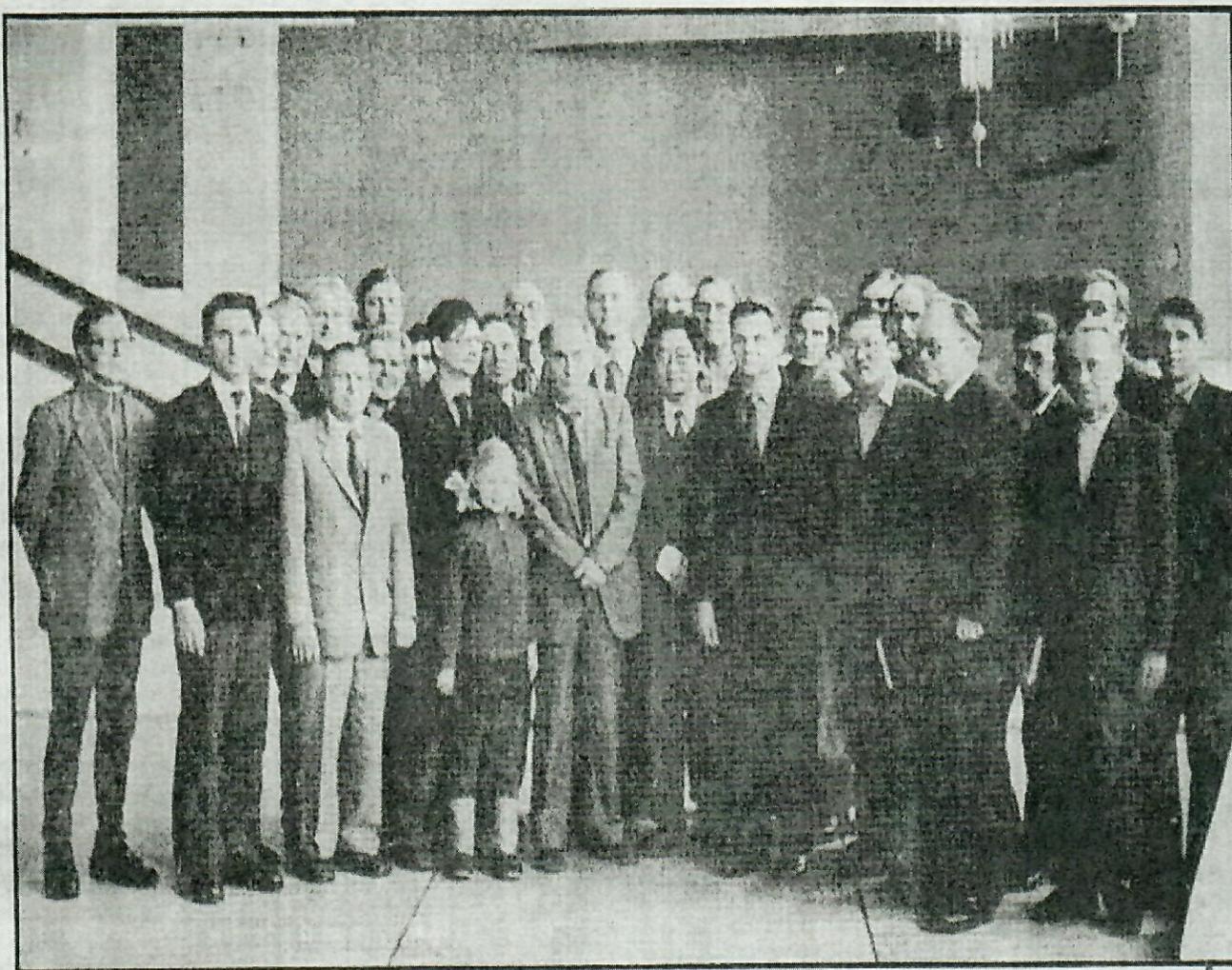
1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.f3 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a3 Qa5 7.b4 Qb6 8.e4 e6 9.e5 Ng8 10.Rb1 a5 11.Nh3 axb4 12.axb4 Ne7 13.Bxe7 Bxe7 14.Be2 Ra3 15.f4 f6 16.Nf2 0-0 17.0-0 Kh8 18.Ncd1 g5 19.fxg5 fxe5 20.g6 Rf4 21.g3 Qxd4 22.Qc1 Ra2 23.gxf4 exf4 24.Rb3 e5 25.Nc3 Ra8 26.Qd1 Qxd1 27.Rxd1 Nf6 28.gxh7 e4 29.Re1 Bf5 30.Bd1 Bd8 31.h3 Bg6 32.Kf1 f3 33.Nb1 Ra2 34.Bxf3 Rxc2 35.Be2 d4 36.Rg3 Kxh7 37.Bg4 Bb6 38.Bd1 Rb2 39.Rb3 Ra2 40.Re2 Ra1 41.Reb2 Nd5 42.Ra3 Ne3+ 43.Kg1 Rxa3 44.Nxa3 d3 45.Kh2 Bd4 46.Rb1 Nd5 47.Ng4 e3 48.Bf3 d2 49.Rh1 Nxb4 50.Kg3 Bd3 51.Nb1 Nc2 52.Rd1 c5 53.Nxd2 exd2 54.Rxd2 c4 (55.Rxd3 draws. Usually Dr. Ponomarev was the aggressor in a wild fighting game like this.) ½-½

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Richard Buchanan, Editor

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Sverdlovsk, 1984

Dr. Ponomarev writes, "My dissident head is the fourth on the left. But my daughter, 7 years old, ignoring the attitude of the powers to me, had dared to be side by side with the charming and affable Tal."

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2282)**Matt Galman (2126)**

Colorado Closed / March 1998

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.exd6 cxd6
7.Nf3 h6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Kh7 10.h4 e5 11.h5 g5 12.0-0-0 Nc6
13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Ne4 f5 15.Nd6 Nf6 16.Bxg5 e4 17.Qf4 exf3
18.Nxf5 hxg5 19.Qxg5 Qc7 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.h6 Bxh6+
22.Qxh6+ Nh7 23.Qxf8# 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2282)**Craig Wilcox (2090)**

Colorado Closed / March 1998

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.Be3 Qa5 5.Qd2 cxd4 6.Bxd4 Bxd4
7.Qxd4 Nf6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.a3 Kg7 11.h3 d6 12.g4 a6
13.g5 Nd7 14.Be2 Nde5 15.Nh4 b5 16.f4 Nc4 17.Bxc4 bxc4
18.Nd5 Bb7 19.0-0-0 Rab8 20.Rhe1 Qb5 21.Qc3+ Kg8 22.Nf3
Qc5 23.Nd4 Rfe8 24.Nf3 Na7 25.Qd4 Rbc8 26.a4 Bxd5 27.exd5
c3 28.b4 Qc7 29.Nh2 Qd7 30.Ng4 h5 31.gxh6 f6 32.Qxf6 exf6
33.Nxf6+ Kf7 34.Nxd7 Rxe1 35.Rxe1 Rc7 36.h7 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2224)**David Landers (2037)**

US West Festival Open / November 14, 1998 - Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6
7.Nf3 0-0 8.c3 Nd7 9.Qc2 b6 10.h4 Bb7 11.Bd3 g6 12.h5 e5
13.hxg6 hxg6 14.0-0-0 exd4 15.cxd4 Kg7 16.Ng3 Bg5+ 17.Kb1
Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nf6 19.Rdgl Nd5 20.Be4 Rc8 21.Bxd5 Qxd5
22.f4 Be7 23.Nh5+ Kg8 24.Rxg6+ Kh8 25.Rh6+ 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2231)**Edward Frumkin (2006)**

US Senior Open / November 10, 1998 - Round 3

1.d4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.e4 c6 4.Bc4 d6 5.a4 Nf6 6.Bg5 Nxe4
7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Nxe4 Rf8 9.Qd2 Qc7 10.Bh6 e5 11.Nf3 Bg4
12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qd6 Qxd6 14.Nxd6+ Ke7 15.Bxg7 Rxf3
16.Nc8+ Kd8 17.Nd6 Ke7 18.Bxe5 Nd7 19.Be3 Rxc3 20.bxc3
Kxd6 21.f3 Re8+ 22.Kf2 Bf5 23.Rhd1+ Kc7 24.Rd2 Nb6 25.g4
Bd7 26.a5 Nc4 27.Rd4 Ne5 28.Re4 Nxc4+ 29.Rxg4 Bxg4
30.fxg4 Re4 31.Kf3 Rc4 32.Ra3 g5 33.h3 a6 34.Kg3 Rf4 35.Ra1
Rc4 36.Ra3 Rf4 37.Rb3 Ra4 38.Kf3 Rxa5 39.Ke4 Ra2 40.Kf5
Ra5+ 41.Kf6 Rd5 42.Kg7 a5 43.Kxh7 Rd2 44.Kg6 Rh2 45.c4
Rxc2 46.Kxg5 Rxc4 47.h4 a4 48.Ra3 b5 49.h5 c5 50.h6 Kb6
51.h7 1-0

Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2231)**IM Igor Ivanov (2426)**

US Senior Open / November 12, 1998 - Round 5

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.Bxf6 gxf6
7.Qg4 c5 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.Qg7 Rf8 10.Nge2 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Qb6
12.Rd1 fxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxb5 14.Ndxb5 Nxe5 15.Nc7+ Ke7
16.Nxa8 Kd6 17.Ke2 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Bd7 19.Rb1 Kc6 20.Rb4
Rxa8 21.Rh4 Rg8 22.Rgl Rg6 23.f4 Nc4 24.g4 Nd6 25.Rb1 f5
26.h3 Ne4 27.Rb3 b5 28.Ke3 Kc5 29.Ra3 Be6 30.Rxa7 Nxc3
31.Rh7 d4+ 32.Kd2 fxg4 33.Rxg4 Rf6 34.Rh4 e5 35.R7xh6
Rxh6 36.Rxh6 e4 37.f5 e3+ 38.Ke1 Bd5 39.f6 Ne4 40.h4 b4
41.Rg6 Bxa2 42.h5 b3 43.f7 bxc2 44.f8Q+ Kc4 45.Rc6+ 1-0

Eric Billaux (2093)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2231)**

Colorado Closed / February 1999

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.c5 N6d7
7.Be4 e6 8.Be3 b6 9.h3 Bf5 10.Nc3 bxc5 11.d5 c6 12.dxe6 Bxe6
13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Ng5 Qe7 15.0-0 Ne5 16.Re1 Nbd7 17.f4 h6
18.Nge4 Nf7 19.Qa4 Nb6 20.Qxc6+ Qd7 21.Qxd7+ Nxd7
22.Nb5 Kd8 23.b3 a6 24.Nbc3 Rc8 25.Red1 Ke8 26.Na4 Nd8
27.Rac1 Rc6 28.Naxc5 Nxc5 29.Nxc5 Be7 30.b4 Rf8 31.g4 g5
32.fxg5 Rf3 33.Re1 Bxg5 34.Bxg5 hxg5 35.Kg2 Ra3 36.Re2
Rb6 37.Rb2 Ke7 38.Ne4 Nc6 39.b5 axb5 40.Nxg5 Ne5 41.Rcb1
Rc6 42.Re2 Nd3 43.Kh2 b4 44.Re3 Rxa2+ 45.Kg3 Ra3 46.Rxb4
Nxb4 47.Rxa3 Kf6 48.h4 Nd5 49.Rf3+ Kg6 50.Nf7 Rc3
51.Ne5+ Kh6 52.Rxc3 Nxc3 53.g5+ Kh5 54.Nd3 Ne4+ 55.Kf4
Kxh4 56.g6 Kh5 57.g7 Nf6 58.Ke5 Kg6 ½-½

Brian Wall (2212)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2225)**

Colorado Closed / March 2001

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 exd6 6.Bd3 Nc6
7.Ne2 Qh4 8.Be3 Nb4 9.Nbc3 Nxd3+ 10.Qxd3 Bd7 11.a4 Qg4
12.b3 Bf5 13.Qd2 Qxg2 14.Rgl Qc6 15.d5 Qd7 16.a5 Nc8
17.Nd4 Bg6 18.a6 c5 19.axb7 Qxb7 20.Nc6 Be7 21.Nb5 0-0
22.Qa5 Bf6 23.Ra3 Qd7 24.Nc7 Qf5 25.Rxg6 fxg6 26.Qd2 Nb6
27.Nxa8 Qb1+ 28.Ke2 Rxa8 29.Nxa7 Nc8 30.Nb5 Rxa3
31.Nxa3 Qxb3 32.Qd3 Qb2+ 33.Kf3 Be5 34.h3 Nb6 35.Nb5
Qb4 36.Nc7 Qxc4 37.Qxc4 Nxc4 38.Bf4 Bxf4 39.Kxf4 Kf7
40.Nb5 Ke7 41.h4 h6 42.Nc7 Ne5 43.Ke4 Ng4 0-1

Stephen Towbin (2083)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2203)**

Colorado Open / September 2, 2001 - Round 3

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 c6 3.g5 e5 4.d3 Be7 5.h4 h6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Nxe5
Be6 8.f4 hxg5 9.hxg5 Rxh1+ 10.Bxh1 Nd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.e4
dxe4 13.Bxe4 0-0-0 14.Be3 Re8 15.Kf2 f6 16.g6 Nh6 17.Bxa7
Ng4+ 18.Kg3 Rh8 19.Qd2 f5 20.Bf3 Rh2 21.Qxh2 Nxh2
22.Kxh2 Qe8 23.Nc3 Qxg6 24.Ne2 Bd5 25.Rgl Qh6+ 26.Kg2
Qh5 27.Nd4 Qg4+ 28.Kf1 Qxf4 29.Ke2 Qe5+ 30.Kd1 Bf6
31.Rf1 g6 32.c3 Kc7 33.Rh1 Bg8 34.Re1 Qa5 35.Bb8+ Kxb8
36.Re8+ Ka7 37.Rxg8 Bxd4 38.cxd4 Qxa2 39.Rxg6 Qxb2 40.d5
Qd4 41.Ke2 cxd5 42.Re6 f4 43.Bg4 Qb2+ 44.Kf3 Qh2 45.Bf5
Qg3+ 46.Ke2 f3+ 47.Kf1 Qg2+ 48.Ke1 f2+ 0-1

Imre Barlay (1905)**Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2200)**

Colorado Springs Open / March 6, 2005 - Round 4

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.Nc3 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Qb3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6
7.Nf3 Na5 8.Qa4+ c6 9.Ne5 b5 10.Qd1 Nc4 11.Nxc4 dxc4 12.a3
Nd5 13.Qd2 a5 14.g3 b4 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Rgl Rb8 17.Bg2
Be4 18.f3 Bg6 19.Kf2 bxa3 20.bxa3 Rb3 21.Bf4 c5 22.e4
Qxd4+ 23.Be3 Qxd2+ 24.Bxd2 c3 25.Be1 c4 26.Rd1 Bc5+
27.Ke1 Ke7 28.Bf1 c2 29.Rd5 Rb1 30.Rxc5 Rxa1 31.Kd2 Rb8
32.Rxc4 f5 33.Bd3 fxe4 34.fxe4 Rd8 35.Kxc2 Rxc1+ 36.Kxc1
Rxd3 37.Rc7+ Kd6 0-1



Letter to the Editor

Chess in Colorado is noticeably rejuvenating (becoming younger). The names of young Colorado chess players are appearing more frequently not only in the middle of rating lists but also at the very top. And 18-21-year olds lead tournaments much more often. The just finished Open championship gave Colorado a new champion, a recently graduated high school student, the very gifted Jesse Cohen. All of this is happening while the number of old masters are shrinking. Most masters, who always shined in Colorado tournaments, have disappeared and are rarely if ever seen in tournaments and chess clubs.

The author of this letter was fortunate to be champion five times beginning from 1990 (at the age of 64): winning the Open twice outright and twice sharing first place, and winning the Closed once. But now the youth is not "allowing" me this opportunity any longer, and this is of course not unusual and quite natural. The time has probably come for me to transfer my abilities to teaching chess. As of yet, my only student has been my son. Successfully joining tournament competition and teaching chess is rejected by the science of psychology and the practice of life...

But I am still capable of giving advice.

And here is my first advice: Colorado must have a single champion (Now is the proper time, for instance, the Internet Chess Club is offering every state to have their champion as a representative in a US Championship qualifier. Who will represent us?). As far as I care to remember we have always had two champions – the winner of the Closed Championship and the winner of the Open Championship. In the first of these tournaments eight players, whose ratings are the highest in Colorado square off against each other. In the Open section of the second tournament the winner must win six games of a Swiss event. The average rating of the Open is usually less than the Closed. It is not clear which of these champions has more right to be considered the State Champion. So I offer to "unleash" these two against one another – the Open Champion Jesse Cohen vs. the Closed Champion, my son Philipp. I consider that this match is necessary and useful. It would attract the interest of all Colorado chess players. The two Champions would agree upon the number of games. A possible venue for this match is the Denver Chess Club. I hope that the Colorado State Chess Association will support my idea.

Hopefully our example will push FIDE to do the same... FIDE would catch on and would finally organize a match to determine the true (absolute) World Champion. Even the World doesn't have a single champion, and awaits us to be the first to take this step...

Mikhail Ponomarev,
Dr. of Psychological Sciences,
Chess Master



Father and
Son Masters:
Mikhail
(left) and
Philipp
Ponomarev
at the
Tattered
Cover.

*Photo by
Stanimir Ilic*

