

Alexander G. Fishbein



Alex Gregory Fishbein was born on May 8, 1968 in Saint Petersburg, Russia (then Leningrad, USSR). He learned the moves at the age of four from his father, Gregory.

In 1975, Alex began studying with Vladimir Zak. Probably the most highly esteemed children's chess coach in the country, Zak had previously worked with Spassky and Korchnoi, and later with Kamsky. Alex credits his lifelong passion for chess to having been guided by a coach for whom chess was the very meaning of life.

The Fishbein family left the Soviet Union in 1979, arriving in Denver on August 23. Only nine days later, Alex and Gregory debuted in the Colorado Open. Gregory tied for second in the Open section. He went on to reach a peak USCF rating of about 2330. Alex took clear first (5.5 out of 6) in the Reserve, achieving a USCF rating of about 1800.

In a few months, he was an expert. In May 1980, Alex moved with his mother, Alla, to Casper, where she found work in the oil industry. Alex won the Wyoming Open and became a master in 1982, and he continued to play frequently in Colorado, moving back here in 1983.

In 1984, the CSCA arranged for GM Dmitry Gurevich to stay with Fishbein before the U.S. Masters Open in Estes Park, where Alex also played. Dmitry became Alex's coach, and results followed quickly.

Alex's rating went over 2400 in the summer of 1985, and as the 1985 Colorado High School Champion, he traveled to and won the inaugural Denker tournament of High School Champions, representing Colorado. That year he also won the Colorado Open for the first time. Alex also won the Colorado Open in 1987 and 1988, the Colorado Closed in 1987, as well as the Denver Open in 1984.

Fishbein attended the University of Colorado at Boulder from 1985 until 1989. He continued to play actively in Colorado as well as nationally and internationally.

In 1990, Fishbein, now an IM, received the Samford award, a fellowship program for talented young players which continues to this day. The Fellowship allowed him to spend two years focusing on chess, and Alex earned the GM title in 1992. His biggest tournament successes during this period were clear first in Stavanger, Norway (his final GM norm, 1992) and equal firsts in Herning, Denmark (1991) and the National Open in Chicago (1991).

In 1993, Fishbein, now living in New Jersey, started working in finance, specializing in mortgage-backed bonds, a career that continues to this day. For the next 20 years, chess took a back seat to work and family responsibilities, but he still played from time to time. His peak rating so far was in 1994 (#150 in the world at 2550 FIDE and #13 in the US at 2648 USCF), but his best results during this period came later.

In 1996, Alex tied for first in the Chicago Open, and then in 1999, in the World Open. He played in the US Championship four times and was competitive each time, with his best result there in 2006 (4th place in one of the two 32-player groups).

In the early 2010s, Fishbein's sons, Samuel and Mitch, exhibited an interest in chess. This proved to be an impetus for Alex's returning to active tournament play. Mitch had talent and passion for the game, and father and son began playing in many tournaments. Mitch became a master in 2019.

Since 2012, Alex has regularly played in the Grand Prix tournaments in the Eastern United States and has many times finished first or tied for first. He moved to Tennessee in 2021.

His best results during the last few years have been: 3rd place tie in the 2021 US Masters; 2nd place tie in the 2018 US Open; 1st place in the inaugural John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions in 2018, and again in 2020; 2019 New Jersey State Championship with 6-0 score, and a threepeat in the Tennessee State Championship (2021, 2022, 2023).

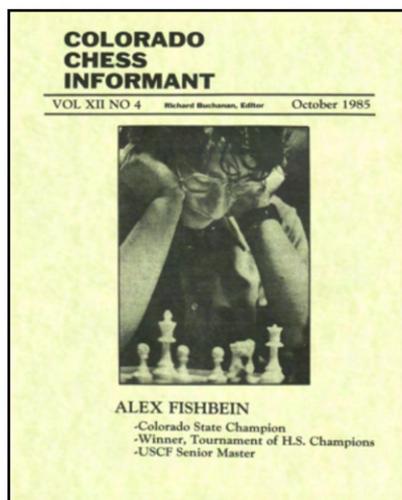
Alex continues to be very active on the tournament circuit, one of only a few American GMs over 50 who still play frequently. He finds it most interesting to play against players several times younger, who have more energy and are quickly improving. Rather than playing mainly against other Seniors, he seeks out opportunities to compete against much younger GMs. Alex Fishbein sees in competitive chess a way to stay mentally sharp at an older age.

Journalist and Author

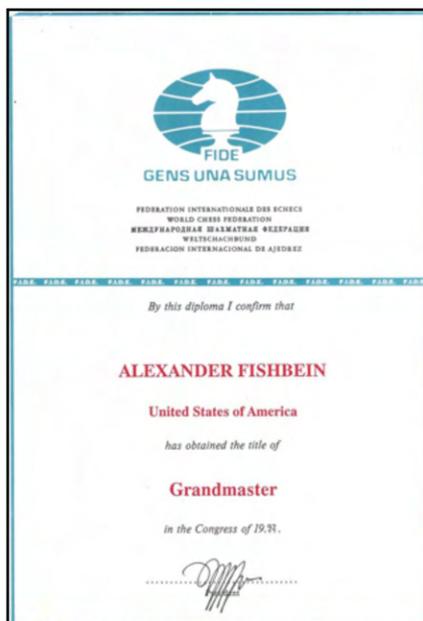
Fishbein has written numerous articles in chess publications like *Chess Life*, *American Chess Magazine*, and *New In Chess*.

Alex is a prolific author. His most recent books, all published by Russell Enterprises, are: *Scotch Gambit* (2018), *Exchange French Comes to Life* (2021), and *Endgame Corner* (2023) (with Karsten Müller). Fishbein's earlier books are *Fischer!* (1996) and *King and Pawn Endings* (1993).

His latest book project, published in April 2024, is a new revision of the classic book *My System*.



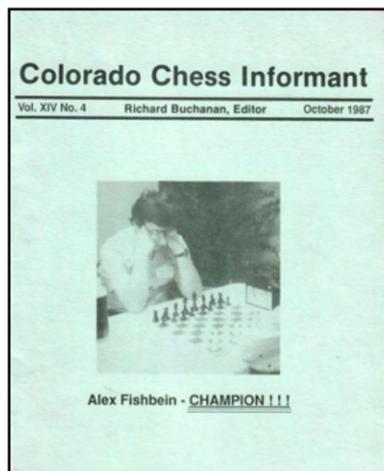
October 1985 Informant Cover



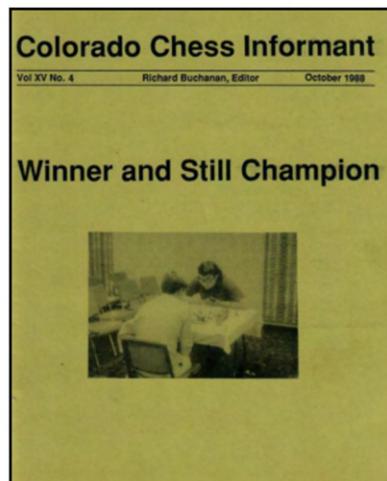
Grandmaster Certificate



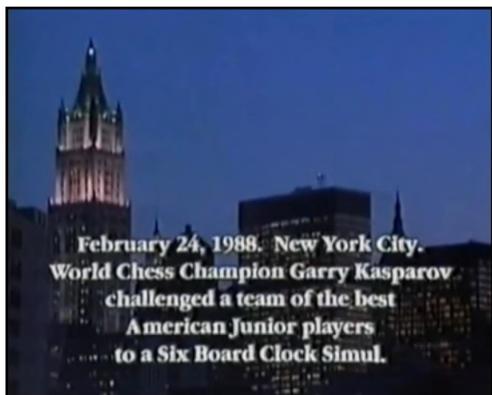
2022 - Best column award



October 1987 Informant Cover



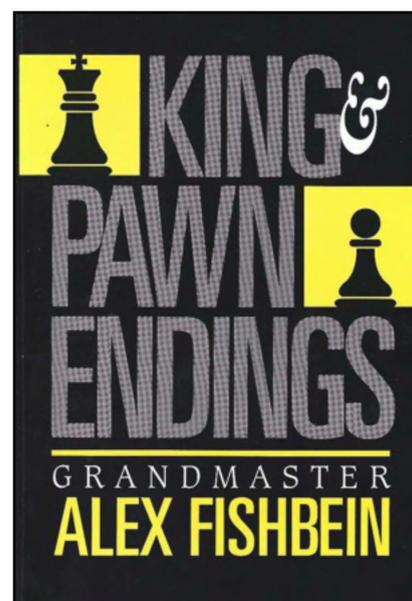
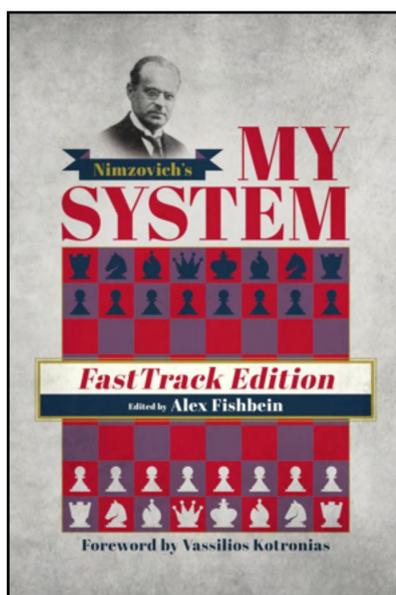
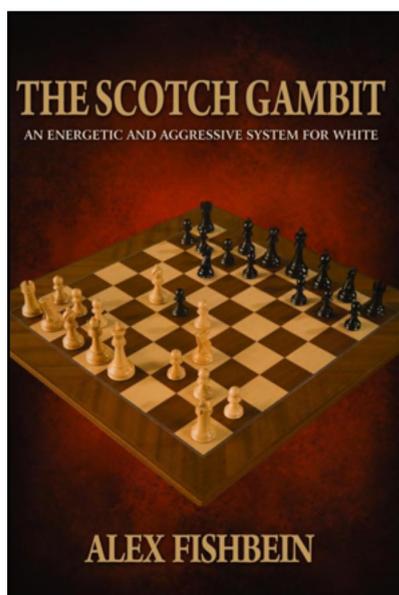
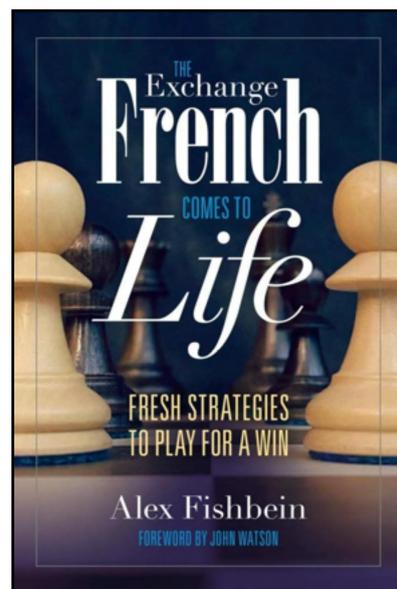
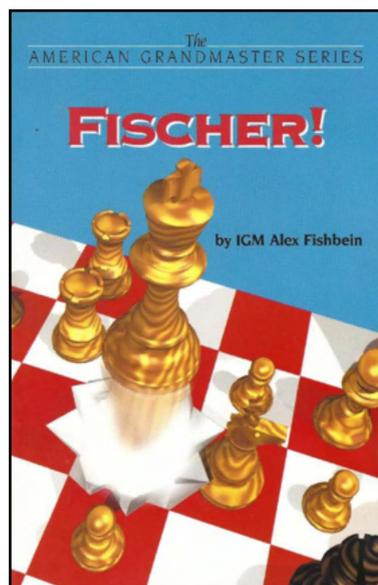
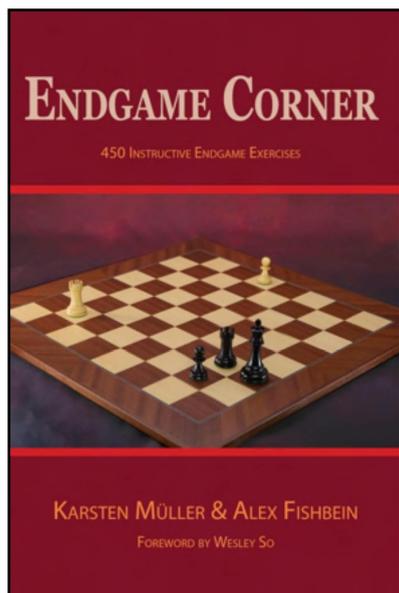
October 1988 Informant Cover



*American Gambit 1988
Kasparov vs. US Junior Team*



Alex Fishbein & Garry Kasparov



All annotations are by Alex Fishbein

{I was proud of this game at the time. I sacrificed a knight to trade for an ending with a rook for two bishops which I evaluated correctly. The pawn promotion combination at the end has some similarities to my game with Shirov which is probably my most famous combination so far.}

[Event "1984 Denver Open"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "July 8, 1984"]

[Round "4"]

[White "John Siddeek (2158)"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein (2250)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 O-O 5. e4 d6 6. Nge2 e5 7. O-O Nc6 8. d3 Be6 9. Nd5 Nd7 10. Be3 Nd4 11. f4 f5 12. Qd2 Nxe2+ 13. Qxe2 c6 14. exf5 Bxf5 15. Nc3 exf4 16. Rxf4 Be5 17. Rff1 Re8 18. Qd2 Bxc3 19. bxc3 Ne5 20. Rxf5 gxf5 21. Rf1 Ng4 22. Bg5 Qd7 23. d4 Qe6 24. h3 Ne3 25. Re1 Nxc4 26. Rxe6 Nxd2 27. Rxe8+ Rxe8 28. Bxd2 Re2 29. Bf4 d5 30. c4 dxc4 31. d5 Rxa2 32. dxc6 bxc6 33. Bxc6 Ra1+ 34. Kf2 c3 35. Bd5+ Kf8 36. Bb3 c2 37. Be6 c1=Q 38. Bxc1 Rxc1 39. Bxf5 a5 40. Ke2 a4 41. Kd2 Rg1 42. Kc2 a3 43. Kb3 Rxb3+ 44. Ka2 h6 45. h4 Ke7 46. h5 Kf6 47. Bd7 Kg5 48. Be8 Rh3 0-1



Position after 24.h3

{Although this game was drawn, it's one of my memorable games in Colorado. David Jellison was a difficult opponent for me and I hadn't figured out how to play against him. I felt that this result was like a win for me because it left me tied for first with a much easier opponent, and a clear path to clear first place. Bob Palmer announced on Channel 4 news that night that I was the favorite and I "delivered".}

[Event "1985 Colorado Open"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "September 2, 1985"]

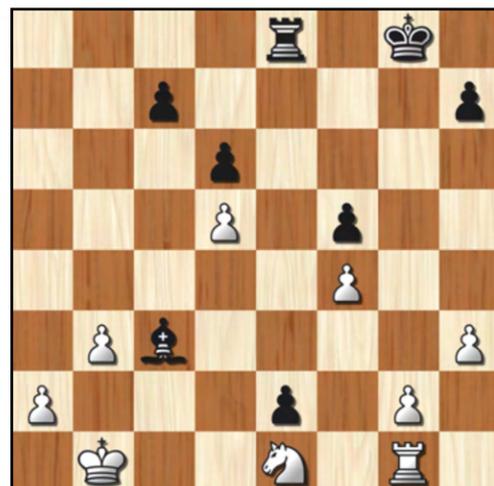
[Round "5"]

[White "David Jellison (2322)"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein (2372)"]

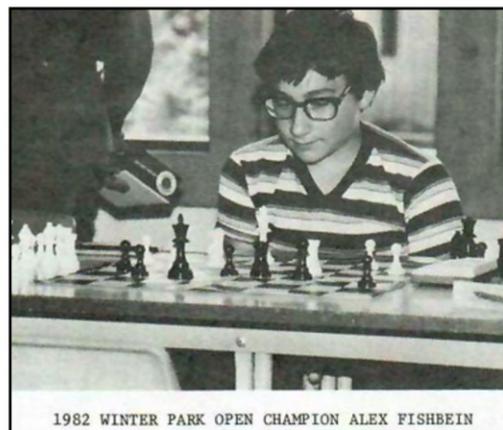
[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 O-O 6. Be3 Nbd7 7. Nh3 e5 8. d5 Nh5 9. Nf2 f5 10. exf5 gxf5 11. Qc2 e4 12. f4 Nc5 13. Be2 Nf6 14. O-O-O a6 15. h3 b5 16. cxb5 axb5 17. Bxb5 Bd7 18. Kb1 Bxb5 19. Nxb5 Qd7 20. Nc3 Rfb8 21. Bd4 Na4 22. Nxa4 Rxa4 23. Rhe1 Qb5 24. Re3 Rc4 25. Rc3 Rxc3 26. Qxc3 Qb4 27. Bxf6 Qxc3 28. Bxc3 Bxc3 29. b3 e3 30. Nd3 e2 31. Rg1 Re8 32. Ne1 Bd4 33. Rh1 Re4 34. g3 Bf2 35. Kc2 Rd4 36. Nf3 Rxd5 37. g4 Kg7 38. b4 Bg3 39. a4 Bxf4 40. Re1 fxe4 41. hxg4 h5 42. Rxe2 hxg4 43. Re4 Bh6 44. Rxb4 Kf6 45. Re4 Rf5 46. Ne1 d5 47. Re8 Re5 48. Rxe5 Kxe5 49. Nd3+ Kd6 50. b5 e5 51. b6 c4 52. Nb4 d4 53. a5 d3+ 54. Kd1 Be3 55. b7 Ba7 56. Kd2 Kc5 57. Nxd3+ 1/2-1/2



Position after 32.Ne1

{David was an immensely talented player, was fun to be around, and a serious student of the game -- in all ways such a blessing to Colorado chess in the time he lived here. Dave is dearly missed.}



1982 WINTER PARK OPEN CHAMPION ALEX FISHBEIN

{James Mann de Toledo lived in Colorado for a short period of time but is well remembered here. He is a talented player who later moved back to Brazil and then back to the United States. This victory over him was key to winning the 1987 Colorado Open. As you can see from the opening, in those days it was possible to take an opponent out of book and get a good position with Black.}

[Event "1987 Colorado Open"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "September 7, 1987"] [Round "5"]

[White "James Mann de Toledo (2346)"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein (2512)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 a6 3. Nc3 e5 4. d5 b5 5. Bg5 b4 6. Bxf6 exf6 7. Ne4 d6 8. e3 f5 9. Nd2 g6 10. Qc2 Bg7 11. g3 O-O 12. Ne2 a5 13. Bg2 a4 14. Rb1 Nd7 15. h3 Ba6 16. b3 Bb7 17. O-O Ra7 18. Rbe1 Qc7 19. f4 Rfa8 20. Nc1 Qd8 21. Re2 axb3 22. axb3 Ra1 23. Bf3 Qf6 24. Nb1 Qe7 25. g4 fxd4 26. hxg4 h6 27. Rff2 Bc8 28. Rg2 Qf6 29. Ref2 Qe7 30. Qd3 Rxb1 31. Qxb1 Ra1 32. Qxa1 Bxa1 33. Re2 Nf6 34. Nd3 Bc3 35. e4 Bd4+ 36. Kf1 Nxd4 37. Bxg4 Qh4 38. Nf2 Bxf2 39. Bxc8 Bd4 40. Rh2 Qg3 41. Ref2 Bxf2 42. Rxf2 Qxb3 0-1



Position after 30.Qd3

{This game was played in a six-board simul: the American juniors vs the world champion. We lost the match 4-2 which was a respectable score. I was lucky to escape with a draw at the end. The other players Kasparov played in the simul were Patrick Wolff, Stuart Rachels, Daniel Edelman, Ilya Gurevich, and Vivek Rao. This event was filmed and a 30-minute 3-part documentary called American Gambit, featuring this simul, can be found on YouTube.}

[Event "New York Simul"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "February 24, 1988"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2435"]

[Black "Garry Kasparov, FIDE - 2750"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qd8 12.Bg5 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 Qd8 14.c4 Nxe4 15.exb5 Be6 16.Nc3 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 Nd4 18.bxa6 Be7 19.Bd3 0-0 20.0-0 d5 21.Nc2 Nxc2 22.Qxc2 e4 23.Be2 f5 24.Nb5 Rxa6 25.Rfd1 Rb6 26.a4 Qb8 27.Qc7 (27.a5! Rxb5 28.Qc6 Qe5! with wild complications, computer says that it is equal.) 27...Bf6 28.Qxb8 Rfxb8 29.Rab1 Kf7 30.b3 Rc6 31.b4 Rc2 32.Bf1 Bb2 33.Nd4 Bxd4 34.Rxd4 Kf6 35.b5 Ke5 36.Rbd1 Ra2 37.Rb4 Rb6 38.Rdb1 g5 39.R1b2 Ra3 40.R2b3 Rxb3 41.Rxb3 d4 42.Rb1 d3 43.a5 Rd6 44.a6 Bc8 45.h3 Bxa6 46.bxa6 Rxa6 47.g3 Rd6 48.Kg2 f4 49.gxf4+ gxf4 50.Rb5+ Kf6 51.Rb1 f3+ 52.Kh2 Ke5 53.h4 Kf4 54.Rd1 h5 55.Kh3 Rd8 56.Kh2 Rd6 57.Kh3 Rd4 58.Kh2 e3? 59.fxe3+ Kxe3 60.Bxd3! Rxd3 61.Ra1 Ke2 62.Kg3 Rd2 63.Rb1 Ra2 1/2-1/2



Position after 26...Qb8

{This game was my first to be published in many magazines internationally. Judit Polgar was 12 years old at the time and already rated #55 in the world.}

[Event "New York Open"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "March 23, 1989"] [Round "4"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2490"]

[Black "Judit Polgar, FIDE - 2555"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nb5 d6 6. Bf4 e5 7. Be3 Nf6 8. Bg5 a6 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. N5c3 f5 11. Be4 Qg5 12. O-O Rg8 13. g3 f4 14. Nd5 Rb8 15. Nbc3 Nd4 16. Kh1 b5 17. Be2 b4 18. Nc7+ Kd8 19. N3d5 Qg6 20. Qd3 f5 21. Nxa6 Rb5 22. a4 Ra5 23. Qc4 Qf7 24. Qxb4 Rxd5 25. Qb6+ Ke7 26. Qc7+ Bd7 27. Nb8 Rc5 28. Qxd7+ Kf6 29. Qxf7+ Kxf7 30. Bh5+ Ke7 31. exf5 Rxc2 32. a5 Bh6 33. Na6 Nxf5 34. Nb4 Rxb2 35. Nd5+ Ke6 36. a6 Rgb8 37. Bf3 Nd4 38. Be4 Re2 39. a7 Rf8 40. Nc3 Rxe4 41. Nxe4 Ra8 42. Rfb1 Nc6 43. Rb6 1-0



Position after 23...Qf7

{David Jellison was always a tough opponent for me, beating me several times including once when I was already above 2400. Looking at my games with him now, I can see that he was a very talented player and had a much more classical style than I thought at the time. I was finally able to figure him out and won several games against him in the late 1980s, including this one which decided the Colorado Open in 1988 and featured a combination which I published in the FIDE Informant.}

[Event "1988 Colorado Open"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "September 5, 1988"]

[Round "6"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein (2568)"]

[Black "David Jellison (2302)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.e3 c5 4.b4 g6 5.bxc5 Nc6 6.exd4 Bg7 7.Bb2 Bg4 8.Be2 Nh6
9.Qb3 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Bxg4 Nxd4 12.Qb5+ Kf8 13.0-0 Qc7 14.g3 Rd8
15.Bxd4 Rxd4 16.Nc3 Rxd2 17.Rae1 Ne5 18.Nd5 Nf3+ 19.Kh1 Qc8 20.Qb3 Qg4
21.Qc3 Rg8 22.Rxe7! Rxd5 [22...Qh3 23.Rxf7+ Kxf7 (23...Ke8 24.Qe3+)
24.Qf6+] 23.Qf6 Rg7 24.Rxb7 Qc8 25.cxd5 Qxb7 26.Qd8# 1-0



Position after 21...Rg8

{This last round must-win in my first international round robin gave me my first GM norm.}

[Event "GM Norm Tournament"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "April 1990"]

[Round "9"]

[White "Bosko Abramovic, FIDE - 2495"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2470"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Qb6 5. Nb3 Nf6 6. Nc3 e6 7. Be3 Qc7
8. Bd3 a6 9. f4 d6 10. Qe2 Be7 11. g4 b5 12. O-O-O Nd7 13. g5 Nb4 14. Rhg1
Nxd3+ 15. Qxd3 b4 16. Nb1 a5 17. Nd4 Nc5 18. Qb5+ Bd7 19. Qc4 Qb7 20. Nd2
O-O 21. f5 Rfc8 22. g6 fxe6 23. fxe6 a4 24. Qf1 b3 25. N2xb3 axb3 26. gxh7+
Kh8 27.Rxg7 Nd3+ 28. Rxd3 bxa2 29. Rg8+ Rxg8 30. hxg8=Q+ Kxg8 31. Qg2+
Kf7 32. Qf3+ Bf6 33. Qh5+ Kf8 34. Bh6+ Ke7 35. Bg5 a1=Q+ 36. Kd2 Qa5+ 0-1



Position after 27.Rxg7

{This category-11 round robin was the strongest I have ever played in, and I made a plus score, defeating the eventual winner, legendary grandmaster Bent Larsen.}

[Event "WFW - GM Norm"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "September 1990"]

[Round "4"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2470"]

[Black "Bent Larsen, FIDE - 2545"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 g6 4. Nc3 d6 5. e4 Bg7 6. Nf3 O-O 7. h3 e6 8. Bd3 exd5
9. exd5 Re8 10. O-O c4 11. Bc2 Bd7 12. Bf4 Qb6 13. Rb1 Na6 14. e5 dxe5
15. Nxe5 Rac8 16. d6 Nb8 17. Qf3 Nc6 18. Nxd7 Nxd7 19. Ba4 Qa5 20. Bxc6
Rxc6 21. Rfe1 Re6 22. Rxe6 fxe6 23. Re1 Qf5 24. g4 Qf7 25. Qe4 e5 26. Be3 a6
27. Qg2 Rxd6 28. Qxb7 Nf6 29. Qc8+ Qe8 30. Qxc4+ Kh8 31. Rd1 Rxd1+
32. Nxd1 h5 33. Nc3 hxg4 34. hxg4 Qd7 35. f3 Qb7 36. Qe2 e4 37. f4 Nd5
38. Nxd5 Qxd5 39. b3 a5 40. Qd2 Qb5 41. Bd4 Qd7 42. Bxg7+ Qxg7 43. Kf2
Qa7+ 44. Qe3 Qd7 45. g5 Kh7 46. Qxe4 Qd2+ 47. Kg3 Qxa2 48. Qe7+ Kg8
49. Qe6+ 1-0



Position after 26...a6

{Alexey Shirov was already #22 in the world at the time and on a fast upward trajectory. After the game, he highly praised my combination starting on move 37, which was based on the weakness of White's first rank. Coming from him, that compliment meant a lot.}

[Event "GM Norm"]

[Site "Kerteminde, Denmark"]

[Date "February 21, 1991"]

[Round "8"]

[White "Alexei Shirov, FIDE - 2615"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2465"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Nd2 a5 10.a3 Nd7 11.Rb1 f5 12.b4 Kh8 13.Qc2 Ng8 14.exf5 gxf5 15.f4 Ne7 16.Nf3 e4 17.Ng5 Nf6 18.Bb2 axb4 19.axb4 c6 20.dxc6 bxc6 21.Rfd1 Qc7 22.Qd2 h6 23.Nh3 Rd8 24.b5 Be6 25.Qe3 c5 26.Qg3 Rg8 27.Rd2 d5 28.cxd5 Nxd5 29.Nxd5 Nxd5 30.Qh4 Bxb2 31.Qxh6+ Qh7 32.Qxh7+ Kxh7 33.Rdxb2 Kh6 34.b6 Nb4 35.Rc1 Ra5 36.Rd2 Bd5 37.Rcd1 e3! 38.Rxd5 Nxd5 39.Rxd5 Ra1+ 40.Rd1 Rxd1+ 41.Bxd1 Rd8 42.Kf1 (42.Be2 c4! 43.Bxc4 Rd1+ 44.Bf1 e2; 42.Ba4 Rd4 43.Bc2 Rd2 44.b7 Rxc2 45.b8Q Rcl#) 42...Rxd1+ 43.Ke2 Rd2+ 44.Kxe3 Rxe2 45.Nf2 Rg6 46.Nd3 Rxb6 47.Nxc5 Rb2 48.Ne6 Rxe2 49.Nd4 Rh3+ 50.Kf2 Kg6 51.Ke2 Ra3 52.Nc2 Ra2 53.Kd3 Ra4 54.Ke3 Rc4 55.Nd4 Rc3+ 56.Ke2 Rc5 57.Nf3 Kh5 58.Ne5 Rc3 59.Kf2 Kh4 60.Kg2 Rb3 0-1



Position after 37.Rcd1

{With this first round win, I was on my way to one of my best results ever, 7 out of 9 against a field that included Peter Heine Nielsen, Victor Bologan and 5 other GMs or future GMs. I thus achieved my third and final GM norm in Stavanger, Norway, a city famous in the chess world now. At the time, however, Magnus Carlsen was 1 year old.}

[Event "1991 Stavanger Open"]

[Site "Stavanger, Norway"]

[Date "December 28, 1991"]

[Round "1"]

[White "Lars Bo Hansen, FIDE - 2510"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2460"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.f4 Nc6 10.Nf3 f6 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Bxc5 b6 14.Ba3 Ng4 15.Rc1 e5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Be2 Nd3+ 18.Bxd3 Rxd3 19.Nd5 Bh6 20.Ke2 Rxd5! 21.cxd5 Ba6+ 22.Kd1 Nf2+ 23.Kc2 Rc8+ 24.Kb1 Bxc1 25.Re1 Bd3+ 26.Ka1 Ng4 27.d6 Ne3 28.Nd4 Bd2 29.Rg1 Nc4 30.Nc6 Rxc6 31.d7 Bg5 0-1



Position after 20.Ke2

{Igor Ivanov frequently played in Colorado in the 1980s and 1990s. I played him many times, across the country and three times in Colorado, with about an even score. This was my only victory against him with Black, in a tournament where I also defeated Michael Mulyar and won with 6-0.}

[Event "Rocky Mountain Chess Rendezvous"]

[Site "Grand Junction, Colorado"]

[Date "May 29, 1994"]

[Round "3"]

[White "Igor Ivanov (2591)"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein (2612)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4. g3 O-O 5. Bg2 d6 6. Nf3 e6 7. O-O Nbd7 8. e4 e5 9. h3 Qb6 10. Re1 exd4 11. Nxd4 Ne8 12. Nb3 a5 13. Na4 Qb4 14. Nd2 Nc5 15. Nxc5 Qxc5 16. Qe2 Be6 17. Rb1 a4 18. Bf1 Nf6 19. b4 axb3 20. axb3 Ra2 21. b4 Qd4 22. Rb3 Nd7 23. Qe3 b5 24. Qxd4 Bxd4 25. Rd3 e5 26. cxb5 Ne5 27. Rxd4 cxd4 28. f4 Nd7 29. Nf3 d3 30. f5 gxf5 31. Bh6 Rc8 32. exf5 Bd5 33. Re7 Bxf3 34. Rxd7 d2 35.Bxd2 Rxd2 36. b6 Rc1 0-1



Position after 25.Rd3

{In this game, I played for a win in an ending that most observers considered slightly worse for me. I turned down many repetitions and eventually prevailed. This game was instrumental in my winning the Bent Larsen prize for fighting chess in this US Championship. As I described several years later in Chess Life's "My Best Move" column, that prize led directly to a promotion at work. I was working in the financial services industry, and my supervisors felt I would be a good risk-taker.}

[Event "2005 U.S. Championships"]

[Site "San Diego, California"]

[Date "November 26, 2004"]

[Round "3"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, 2505"]

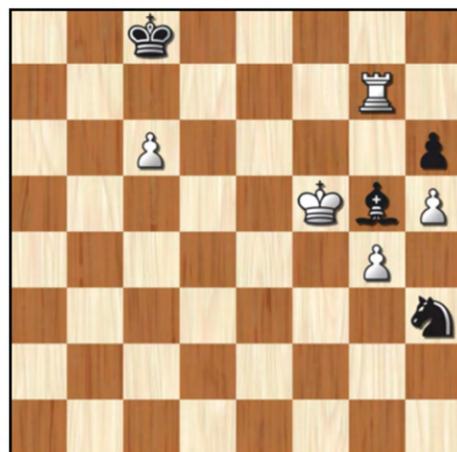
[Black "Bruce Lopez, 2403"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 O-O 6. Be2 e5 7. Be3 exd4 8. Nxd4 Re8 9. f3 c6 10. Bf2 d5 11. exd5 exd5 12. O-O Nc6 13. c5 Nh5 14. Qd2 Be5 15. g3 Ng7 16. Rfd1 Ne6 17. Nxe6 Bxe6 18. f4 Bg7 19. Nb5 Qd7 20. Nd6 Red8 21. Rac1 Bf8 22. f5 Bxf5 23. Qxd5 Bc6 24. Qe4 Qc7 25. b4 a6 26. a4 Bb3 27. Rd3 Bxa4 28. Ra3 Bb5 29. Nxb5 axb5 30. Rxa8 Rxa8 31. Bxb5 Rd8 32. Be3 Bg7 33. Kg2 Qc8 34. Rf1 Re8 35. Qf4 Qe6 36. Be4 Qxe3 37. Bxf7+ Kh8 38. Bxe8 Qxe8 39. Qc4 Nd4 40. Qd3 Qc6+ 41. Kg1 h6 42. Rf4 Ne6 43. Rh4 Kh7 44. Qd6 Kg8 45. Qxc6 bxc6 46. Kf2 Nc7 47. Ke2 Kf7 48. Kd3 Ke6 49. Kc4 Nb5 50. Rf4 Na3+ 51. Kb3 Nb5 52. Kc4 Na3+ 53. Kd3 Nb5 54. Rf2 Bf6 55. Ra2 Nd4 56. Ra8 Nf3 57. Ke4 Nd2+ 58. Kd3 Nf3 59. Ra7 Be5 60. Ke4 Nd2+ 61. Kd3 Nf3 62. Ra2 Kd5 63. Rf2 Ng5 64. Rf8 Ne6 65. Rf7 Nc7 66. Rd7+ Ke6 67. Rd8 Nd5 68. Rg8 Ne7 69. Re8 Kd7 70. Rf8 Nd5 71. Rg8 Ne7 72. Ra8 Nd5 73. Rg8 Ne7 74. Ra8 Nd5 75. b5 cxb5 76. Ke4 Nc7 77. Rg8 Bb2 78. Rxc6 Bc1 79. h4 Ne6 80. Kd5 Nc7+ 81. Ke4 Ne6 82. c6+ Ke7 83. Ke5 Nc7 84. Rg7+ Kd8 85. Rg8+ Ke7 86. Rg7+ Kd8 87. Rd7+ Kc8 88. Rh7 Kd8 89. Rd7+ Kc8 90. Rh7 Kd8 91. Kd4 Bd2 92. g4 Bc1 93. Kd3 Ne6 94. Kc3 Nc7 95. Rd7+ Kc8 96. Kb4 Be3 97. Rf7 Kd8 98. Rd7+ Kc8 99. Rf7 Kd8 100. Ka5 Ne8 101. Rd7+ Kc8 102. Re7 Nd6 103. Kb4 Bf2 104. h5 Bd4 105. Rd7 Be5 106. Kc5 Ne4+ 107. Kxb5 Nf6 108. Rg7 Bf4 109. Rf7 Bg5 110. Kc5 Ne4+ 111. Kd5 Nf6+ 112. Ke6 Ne4 113. Ke5 Nc5 114. Kf5 Nd3 115. Rg7 Bc1 116. Ke4 Nf2+ 117. Kf5 Nh3 118. Rh7 Nf2 119. Rd7 Bg5 120. Rg7 Nh3 121. Rxc6 Nxc6 122. Kg6 Kc7 123. Kxh6 Nf7+ 124. Kg7 1-0



Alex Fishbein at the 2019 Denver Open



Position after 120...Nh3

{This game, featuring a flawless kingside attack starting with move 34, capped my best-ever result in the US Championship (6 out of 9).}

[Event "2006 U.S. Championships - Group B"]

[Site "San Diego, California"]

[Date "March 3, 2006"]

[Round "9"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2519"]

[Black "Yuri Shulman, FIDE - 2581"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5 exd5 5. Ngf3 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bd6 7. dxc5 Bxc5 8. O-O Nge7 9. Nb3 Bd6 10. c3 Bg4 11. Be2 O-O 12. Be3 Re8 13. h3 Bh5 14. Re1 Bg6 15. Bd3 Qc7 16. Bxg6 hxg6 17. Qd3 Rad8 18. Nbd4 a6 19. Nxc6 Nxc6 20. Bg5 Be7 21. Bxe7 Rxe7 22. Rxe7 Qxe7 23. Re1 Qf6 24. h4 Qf5 25. Qe3 Qd7 26. Rd1 f6 27. g3 Kf7 28. Kg2 Qe6 29. Qb6 Rd7 30. Re1 Qd6 31. Nd4 Ne5 32. Qb3 Nc6 33. Rd1 Ne5 34. Qc2 Rd8 35. h5 gxh5 36. Qh7 Qf8 37. Qxh5+ Ng6 38. Re1 Qh8 39. Qg4 Rd6 40. Nf5 Rb6 41. Nh6+ Qxh6 42. Qd7+ Ne7 43. Qxe7+ Kg6 44. Qe8+ Kf5 45. g4+ Kxg4 46. Qe2+ Kf5 47. Qd3+ Kg4 48. Qf3+ Kg5 49. Qe3+ Kg4 50. Qxb6 1-0



Position after 40...Rb6

{My best-ever game so far against a player of this caliber. The exchange sacrifice, which I had foreseen on move 21, surprised my opponent.}

[Event "2013 World Open"]

[Site "Arlington, Virginia"]

[Date "July 4, 2013"]

[Round "3"]

[White "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2504"]

[Black "Batista Lazaro, FIDE - 2689"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 Bb4 7.Nb3 Nf6 8.Bg2 0-0
9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.c4 Qxc4 13.Bb2 Nd7 14.Re1 N7f6 15.Qd2
Bd7 16.Bf1 Qc8 17.c4 Ne7 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rad1 Bc6 20.Qh6 Ng6 21.h4 Rd8
22.Nd4 Ba4 23.h5! Bxd1 24.hxg6 fxe6 25.Nxe6 Qd7 26.Bg2! Kh8 27.Bd5 Ba4
(27...Bg4 28.Nxd8 Rxd8 29.f3 Bf5 30.g4 Re8 31.Kf2 Bc2 32.Qf4 Rf8 33.Re6 g5
34.Qd4±) 28.Nc5 Qd6 29.Nxa4 Qb4 30.Re6 Re8 31.Rxf6 Qe1+ 32.Kg2 1-0



Position after 22...Ba4

{Hans Niemann was not yet a GM, but was certainly that strength already. The transfer of the queen to h6 is reminiscent of a similar maneuver in the famous game Johner - Nimzovich. With this victory, I won the NJ state title with a 6-0 score, a result rarely if ever matched in that tournament, especially against this strong a field (I had also defeated future GM Brandon Jacobson).}

[Event "2019 New Jersey Open"]

[Site "Morristown, New Jersey"]

[Date "September 2, 2019"]

[Round "6"]

[White "Hans Niemann (2507)"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein (2536)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. g3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 O-O 6. Bg2 d6 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. O-O
Re8 9. Nd2 e5 10. d5 Na5 11. Ba3 b6 12. Bb4 Nb7 13. e4 Nc5 14. Rb1 Qd7 15. Bxc5
bxc5 16. f4 Qe7 17. f5 Nd7 18. Rf2 a5 19. Nf1 Ba6 20. Ne3 Qg5 21. Qf3 h5! 22. h4
Qh6 23. Rfb2 Nf6 24. Bf1 Rf8 25. Bh3 Kh8 26. Rf2 Rab8 27. Rbf1 a4 28. Re1 Rb6
29. Bf1 Rfb8 30. Bd3 Bc8 31. Ree2 Bd7 32. Rg2 a3 33. Bc2 Rb2 34. Bb3 R8xb3
35. axb3 a2 0-1



Position after 21.Qf3

{In the 2021 US Masters I had one of my best results of all time, an undefeated 6.5 out of 9, including 4.5 out of 7 against GMs. This game was unique in that the first 29 moves repeated exactly an earlier game I had won against IM Raven Sturt (which was not published in the database).}

[Event "2021 U.S. Masters"]

[Site "Charlotte, North Carolina"]

[Date "November 26, 2021"]

[Round "4"]

[White "Robby Kevlishvili, FIDE - 2495"]

[Black "Alexander Fishbein, FIDE - 2431"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3
Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.a3 h6 13.Bc2 Nb8 14.b4 Nbd7 15.Bb2 a5 16.Bd3 c6
17.Nb3 axb4 18.cxb4 exd4 19.Nbxd4 Nb6 20.Rc1 Nc4! 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.e5 dxe5
23.Rxe5 Rxe5 24.Nxe5 c5 25.bxc5 Bxc5 26.Nxc4 Ne4! =+ 27.Ne3 Qf6 28.Ng4 Qb6
29.Rb1 Rd8 30.Qe1 (30.Qb3? Nd2!-+ was Sturt - Fishbein, US Amateur Team East
2020.) 30...Ba8 31.Nf5 Nxf2! 32.Nfxh6+ Kh7 33.Nxf2 Qxh6 34.Kh1 Qc6 0-1



Position after 31.Nf5